

Candidate Questionnaire

QUESTIONS

Name:

Federal Court Judges

1. Do you believe it is important that federal judges reflect the diverse communities they serve? Why or why not?

Yes. I believe Democratic systems, including our judiciary, perform best when they are reflective of our nation's diversity. As the judiciary depends on a perception of fairness, it is important that federal judges reflect the diverse viewpoints and experiences of their communities so the public can trust that decisions are unbiased and have considered every angle.

2. Do you think the Senate should confirm judicial nominees to lifetime seats on federal courts if the American Bar Association has found them not qualified? Why or why not?

No. Since the Eisenhower administration, the American Bar Association has provided lawmakers and the public with qualification ratings for federal judicial nominees. These nonpartisan evaluations provide judgments based solely on issues of integrity, professional competence, and judicial temperament--essential qualities for candidates for lifetime judicial appointments.

3. Some say that a Supreme Court vacancy cannot be filled during an election year, while others say it can. What do you believe, and why?

With a vacancy on the Supreme Court, the stakes for Michigan families couldn't be higher: health care protections for people with pre-existing conditions, Roe v. Wade and women's health care, civil rights, voting rights, and workers' rights are on the line. Acting on a lifetime appointment to our nation's highest court with about a month until Election Day would further divide the Senate and our country, particularly as voting is already underway, including in Michigan. Voters should have their voices heard, and there should not be a Supreme Court nomination until the next presidential term begins. We should honor the legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg by letting the people decide and allowing the next President and the next U.S. Senate to fill the Supreme Court vacancy.

Economy

1. What plan do you have specific to the financial recovery after COVID-19?

First things first: we have to continue to listen to the epidemiologists who understand the virus. The economy will come back—but it will take a while for the economy to return to where it was—and it will likely require a slow return from social-distancing. The best thing we can do to speed up our financial recovery is pass urgently needed COVID relief. It will continue to take everyone working together to provide robust federal unemployment benefits for those who lost their jobs through no fault of their own because of this pandemic and to deliver relief for families, small businesses and schools working to safely teach students.

We need more funding for testing, which is critical to containing Coronavirus outbreaks and safely reopening our economy. It is also important we support communities that are on the frontlines of virus response efforts and are facing massive budget shortfalls because of this unprecedented crisis, which may result in cuts to emergency services and layoffs for teachers, firefighters, and law enforcement among others. I will also continue working to advance the COVID-19 Heroes Fund to give a pay raise to essential frontline workers and provide more assistance to state and local governments so they can continue providing vital services.

2. Do you see Pay Equity as an important element of this recovery?

Yes, pay equity is an issue I have long sought to address and will continue looking to advance as we move forward from this pandemic. I am an original cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would improve the Department of Labor's tools for uncovering wage discrimination and provide assistance to businesses implementing equal pay practices. I am also an original cosponsor of the Raise the Wage Act, which would increase the federal minimum wage to \$15 by 2024 and index future minimum wage increases to median wage growth. According to the Economic Policy Institute, the Raise the Wage Act will result in a pay increase for nearly 20 million women, including 32.7 percent of single parents, many of whom are women, and 19.5 percent of women of color.

Health Care/ Reproductive Rights

1. Do you support or oppose the Affordable Care Act?

I support the Affordable Care Act. During my first term in Congress, I helped pass the ACA, which cut Michigan's uninsured rate in half. Since then, I have fought to defend this legislation and have strongly opposed and voted against proposals that would have gutted the ACA and traditional Medicaid and eliminated Medicaid expansion.

2. If you support it, are there changes you would propose?

While I strongly support the ACA, I also recognize that it is not perfect, and have consistently supported fixing portions of the health care law so it works better for Michigan families and businesses. In December, I helped pass provisions as part

of a larger spending bill to permanently repeal the 40 percent excise tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health care plans, often referred to as the “Cadillac tax.” I have also cosponsored legislation that would provide each state expanding its Medicaid program with enhanced federal matching funds, regardless of when it chooses to expand the program. Finally, I have worked to bring down the cost of prescription drugs by passing legislation to fight big pharmaceutical companies trying to monopolize the lower cost, generic drug market.

3. If you do not support it, what health care services do you propose to replace it?

N/A

USPS

1. What plan or ideas do you propose to maintain and improve the USPS’s services to our country?

As Ranking Member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Postal Service, I support comprehensive postal reform to ensure our public Postal Service can continue serving all Americans equally, no matter where they live. Throughout my time in Congress, I have supported postal reform bills that would improve USPS services and sustainability through proposals including amending the prefunding requirement (an unnecessary financial burden not placed on any other public entity or private company), protecting on-time delivery standards, providing innovative new services, and supporting stable rates. I have also worked on various efforts to ensure the Postal Service upholds high standards for swift and reliable mail. Recently, I conducted an investigation of delays in mail service caused by Postmaster General DeJoy’s changes to the Postal Service and have introduced legislation to block the Postmaster General from making any changes that would disrupt service for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Public Education

1. Michigan has settled an historic lawsuit after a federal court ruled that students have a constitutional right to a basic education including literacy. What is your position on extending this decision to all of our states?

Yes, I believe students have a right to basic education including literacy. During my first year in the Senate, Congress came together on a bipartisan basis to pass the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This legislation reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act—a central federal statute protecting equal rights in education since 1965. ESSA addressed issues such as the way we can ensure that all students--no matter their zip code--are receiving an education that meets basic standards. It also strengthens our public school educators’ access to the tools they need to serve all children, including students with

disabilities, English language learners, and youth from low-income communities. I am proud to have voted for this long overdue education reform and will continue to support measures to improve equity in education.

2. Due to Covid19, schools are offering in person, virtual and a hybrid version of education. Do you support or oppose additional federal funds being available for school districts serving disadvantaged students to purchase necessary hardware, software and other educational materials to aid basic education including literacy? Why?

Yes, I believe the federal government must address shortcomings in distance learning and provide disadvantaged students the educational materials and resources necessary to learn remotely. I have therefore urged Congressional leadership to appropriate funds to help provide devices to the 17% of students that do not have them so they are able to fully engage in distance learning. I have also urged Congressional leadership to include funding for broadband infrastructure for the 18% of students lacking access to ensure they are able to fully engage online.