

2012 Michigan Senatorial Candidate Questions

Introduction: The Constitutional definition of the role of a United States Senator.

Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution sets three qualifications for senators: 1) each senator must be at least 30 years old, 2) must have been a citizen of the United States for at least the past nine years, and 3) must be (at the time of the election) an inhabitant of the state he or she seeks to represent. The age and citizenship qualifications for senators are more stringent than those for representatives. In Federalist No. 62, James Madison <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Madison> justified this arrangement by arguing that the "senatorial trust" called for a "greater extent of information and stability of character."

The Founders hoped Senators would be more likely to consider the long-term effects of legislation and practice a more mature, thoughtful and deeply deliberative approach in their deliberations

The Senate has several exclusive powers not granted to the House, including consenting to treaties as a precondition to their ratification and consenting or confirming appointments of Cabinet secretaries, federal judges, other federal executive officials, military officers, regulatory officials, ambassadors, and other federal uniformed officers as well as trial of federal officials impeached <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impeachment_in_the_United_States> by the House. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senate

Vetting Questions:

I. Constitutional Duties;

1. What is your understanding of your prescribed constitutional role and duty as a US Senator? Please elaborate.
2. Do any Senate ratified treaties take precedent over the US Constitution? If so why? If not what would you do to repeal their effects?
3. Do you agree that restoring the federal government to its constitutional mandates will reduce adverse manipulation of our capitalistic economy, intrusion on our property rights and shrink the scope of government and its cost to the American People? How do you propose to implement your goals?
4. Are there any executive orders implemented by the Executive, (any of them) that you know are an affront to the Congress and the Constitution?

5. Do you believe the Framers were in error in providing for the election of Senators by the State Legislatures and if so do you believe the 17th Amendment, (ratified during the Wilson administration), is the proper solution. Would you introduce/support a repeal of the 17th Amendment?'
6. Describe your plan for solving Illegal immigration. Are we being invaded on our Southern border? Is the military a probable first step to solving this problem?
7. There have been recent disclosures of agenda driven research on Global Warming/Climate change, do you believe global warming is real? To what extent, would you devote government resources and monies to this area?
8. Describe what you know about Agenda 21 and ICLEI, what is it, who is involved, is it an effort you would support and use Federal monies and resources to further?

II. Judiciary;

1. What are your requirements for judicial appointments? Please discuss the recent appointments of Sotomayor and Kagan.
2. What determines a breach of oath? An impeachable offence? Is a breach of the oath of office an impeachable offence?
3. Will you use the Legislative branch to rein in Judiciary legislative initiatives? Executive branch initiatives?

III. Accountability;

1. How will you communicate with the people who send you to office?
2. Will you pledge to daily post and identify the source of any offerings of gifts, trips, donations to your election/re-election campaign that you are offered from lobbyists, PACS or organizations and whether or not you have accepted them? What have you received to date and from whom?
3. Would you immediately start to reform entitlement programs that have driven the United States to insolvency? How would you do this?

IV. Electability;

- 1.** Currently how many signatures do you have on all nominating petitions?
- 2.** How much money do you have in your campaign?
- 3.** How significant is money in this race?
- 4.** What do you believe is the role of the Tea Party/Patriotic Citizens Groups in American today?
- 5.** If elected as the junior Republican Senator from Michigan, will you break from the party if the party breaks from the Constitution? I.e. the FED, raising the debt ceiling, bailing out private institutions, bailing out foreign institutions, increasing entitlements vs. phase them out?
- 6.** As Nominee, what are the key issues about you, past and present, that the opposition will use against you. Remember that we will also have to defend you so be very thorough.