



# VOTER GUIDE - League of Women Voters of Michigan Education Fund

## Michigan Governor

Primary Election: August 5, 2014

You may **VOTE in ONLY ONE PARTY'S PRIMARY** – either Republican or Democratic – for **ALL partisan offices** on ballot. *Candidates are ordered below within each office by party with Republicans preceding Democrats.*

**Candidates on the ballot: 1 Republican and 1 Democrat**

**Duties:** The state's executive powers are vested in the Governor.

**Qualifications:** Governors may serve a maximum of two full terms. A Governor must be at least 30 years of age and a registered voter in Michigan for at least 4 years.

**Term: 4 years VOTE for ONE (1)**

### **Rick Snyder, Republican**



**Campaign Website:**

[www.rickformichigan.com](http://www.rickformichigan.com)

**Occupation / Current Position:**  
Governor

**Education:** J.D. University of Michigan, 1982; M.B.A. University of Michigan, 1979; B.G.S. University of Michigan, 1977

**Qualifications / Experience:** Governor, CPA, Venture Capitalist, CEO, Chairman of the Board

#### **Questions:**

**1. PRIORITIES:** *What are your top three state priorities? Why did you select them?*

**A:** - no response -

**2. EDUCATION:** *The test scores of Michigan students, once among the highest in the country, have dropped, making Michigan one of the lowest achieving states. What measures would you support to improve educational results?*

**A:** - no response -

**3. ECONOMY:** *What should the state government do to strengthen the state's economy, reduce unemployment, and address the widening income gap?*

**A:** - no response -

### **Mark Schauer, Democrat**



**Campaign Website:**

[www.markschauer.com](http://www.markschauer.com)

**Occupation / Current Position:**  
Democratic Candidate for Governor

**Education:** BA, Albion College; MPA, West Michigan University; MPS, Michigan State University

**Qualifications / Experience:** After college, I ran a nonprofit that provided essential services to kids, seniors and unemployed workers. I then served on the Battle Creek City Commission and served in the Michigan House and Senate, where I was Democratic Leader. In Congress, I fought to pass tougher Buy American laws, rescue the auto industry, ensure quality health care for millions, and worked to make college more affordable.

#### **Questions:**

**1. PRIORITIES:** *What are your top three state priorities? Why did you select them?*

**A:** **JOBS:** The state should invest in high-tech research to attract jobs. We should expand small business lending to spark the next generation of workers, innovators and job creators right here in Michigan. **EDUCATION:** We must reverse Gov. Snyder's \$1 billion cuts to education, which have raised class sizes, hurt school quality and made it harder for our kids to compete for 21st century jobs. **RETIREMENT SECURITY:** Snyder's unfair tax on retirement income and property tax hike on seniors are hurting retirees. As governor, I will work to repeal Snyder's pension tax and fight to protect seniors' hard-earned retirement income.

**2. EDUCATION:** *The test scores of Michigan students, once among the highest in the country, have dropped, making Michigan one of the lowest achieving states. What measures would you support to improve educational results?*

**A:** We need to improve our schools by: putting the state on a path to universal preschool; investing in teacher training; setting standards for maximum class sizes; and making sure students have access to specialized curriculum such as computer skills and financial literacy. Additionally, we need to stop using the School Aid Fund as a "piggy bank" for state government and only use it for K-12 and preschool purposes. Finally, we should remove the profit motive from charter schools and conduct an adequacy study to determine the true cost of educating a child.

**3. ECONOMY:** *What should the state government do to strengthen the state's economy, reduce unemployment, and address the widening income gap?*

**A:** To promote economic fairness and create ladders into the middle class, we must work to grow the economy from the bottom up and the middle out, not from the top down. We should cut taxes for the middle class by restoring the child tax credit, increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit, and eliminating the Snyder Retirement Tax. To ensure big corporations start paying their fair share, we must end tax breaks for companies that outsource Michigan jobs. Additionally, we should repeal "right-to-work for less," which is designed to destroy Michigan's unions and drive down wages and job security for the middle class.