



## Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

John Bizon (R)

Senate District 19

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### **Q1 What are your goals for your district?**

long term economic prosperity

### **Q2 What issues are most important to you?**

lowering auto insurance, fiscal responsibility in the state budget, improving our healthcare system

### **Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?**

Yes

### **Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?**

Yes

### **Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.**

A community center is often part of what makes a community thrive. It makes sense to use libraries as community centers rather than operating multiple buildings on what is often valuable commercial real estate.

### **Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?**

Yes. Literacy is essential.

### **Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.**

Literacy is the foundation for the rest of a person's education. It is hard to learn other subjects if you are unable to read. Being illiterate or having only basic literacy will haunt a person the rest of their lives.

### **Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?**

Healthcare costs, 46% of the state budget is spent on health and human services. And that is in addition to what local governments, private individuals and companies spend on healthcare. If we don't find a

way to control the drastic increases every year we will be unable to afford even basic government services within 20 years.



## Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Scott Dianda (D)

Senate District 38

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### **Q1 What are your goals for your district?**

I believe that every family in the UP should be able to afford food on their table, a new set of tires for their car, and a new roof on their house. That means we need to invest in good-paying jobs and find a way for our young people to stay here to start their lives.

### **Q2 What issues are most important to you?**

Tax fairness, education, and job creation.

### **Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?**

Yes. The Michigan Constitution states that we provide for the good and welfare of the citizens of this state. Public entities like libraries are an essential part of that.

### **Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?**

Yes, I would.

### **Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.**

I believe that government support for libraries is very important, and agree that they are places where people of all backgrounds and opinions can meet, mingle, agree, disagree, and share ideas. They are important venues that allow for civil discourse in our society.

### **Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?**

Yes.

### **Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.**

This is one of my top campaign priorities. We need to bring our priorities in this state back in line with what is important to it's citizens. This means focusing on things like education and literacy and giving our

students the resources that they need to learn and compete for good jobs, and placement into the best colleges and universities

**Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?**

The most challenging issue faced by my constituency is the lack of good-paying jobs in our district. Anyone who is willing to work should have access to a good job, that pays a living wage. That is lacking in the Upper Peninsula, which has been left behind in our economic recovery.



## Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Ian Haight (D)

Senate District 21

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### **Q1 What are your goals for your district?**

To start giving the people here a voice in Lansing. We have been misrepresented for a very long time.

### **Q2 What issues are most important to you?**

Education, Infrastructure, and our Economy.

### **Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?**

Yes, my MA is in Library and Information Science so I understand the importance of public libraries.

### **Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?**

Yes.

### **Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.**

As a Township Clerk I learned that our township enjoyed the services of our closest city's library but we didn't contribute at all to it. I pushed hard and got funding passed to support the local library.

### **Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?**

Yes. It is rare for adults to suddenly gain a passion for reading. That is something we have to instill in our youth.

### **Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.**

As a former teacher, education is the most important thing I want to fix in Lansing. It defines everything about us and it is the only thing that gives us a chance to better ourselves. Literacy is a key component of education and the state has recently pushed hard to promote 3rd grade literacy.

### **Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?**

Partisanship. Politics has become such an "Us vs Them" divide that it will be difficult to pass legislation that benefits us all because a "Democrat" wanted it so half of my constituents will think it is bad.



## Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Curtis Hertel, Jr. (D)

Senate District 29

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### **Q1 What are your goals for your district?**

My main goals are to fix our roads and crumbling infrastructure, improve and invest in our education system, and protect and invest in our workforce.

### **Q2 What issues are most important to you?**

Investing in education, protecting healthcare, protecting our workforce, investing in our infrastructure.

### **Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?**

Yes

### **Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?**

Yes

### **Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.**

I absolutely agree libraries serve an important role in our communities in supporting literacy and providing a space for community gathering. I believe we need to continue providing libraries the resources and funding they need to succeed.

### **Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?**

Yes

### **Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.**

Over the last decade, Michigan went from having some of the best schools in the nation to being ranked in the bottom ten in every category. This is unacceptable. We need to make sure our schools are not only properly funded, but our students and teachers have all the resources they need to meet literacy levels and other benchmarks.

**Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?**

Today Michiganders are paying their government more and receiving less in return. Wages have remained stagnant while the cost of living and healthcare have continued to rise. Now more than ever, we need to invest in education and training programs, invest in our workforce, and protect affordable healthcare for Michiganders.



## Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Kim LaSata (R)

Senate District 21

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### **Q1 What are your goals for your district?**

To provide quality representation and constituent services and keep it a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

### **Q2 What issues are most important to you?**

Auto no-fault reform, fixing our roads, reforming our education system, and attracting jobs and talent to our area.

### **Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?**

Yes, I would.

### **Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?**

Depending on other budget pressures, I would support an increase.

### **Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.**

Libraries are important gathering places and informational hubs that I believe should be maintained.

### **Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?**

I have a Master's in Literacy Studies so I am a firm believer that time with books can truly help children succeed. I would support assisting libraries in need with their youth services and literacy programs.

### **Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.**

Education and literacy in my district is incredibly important. If our area will be one that people want to raise families in, then we need to be able to provide quality education and literacy services to the kids.

### **Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?**

The City of Benton Harbor is struggling right now. The community is reeling from a string of shootings and murders and the Benton Harbor public school system has been failing for years and continues to produce graduates who lack proficiency in any areas. I believe the first issue is a product of the second and that both need to change immediately.



## Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Pete Lucido (R)

Senate District 8

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### **Q1 What are your goals for your district?**

Common sense solutions which put families first and serve the needs of constituents of Macomb County including parents, children, our seniors and veterans

### **Q2 What issues are most important to you?**

Water quality and infrastructure, insuring our drinking water is safe, our beaches are clean and our infrastructure is in good condition. Auto insurance, competitive market and choices which provide affordable insurance for all. Roads, solutions which result in affordable solutions providing Macomb County thier fair share of State Funding

### **Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?**

I support continuing to maintain the current requirements

### **Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?**

Yes

### **Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.**

Public Libraries continue to provide a needed service to the community by encouraging literacy and providing a source for information. I continue to support Library funding as a place for citizens to learn about thier community and about government

### **Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?**

Yes

### **Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.**

Public Libraries continue to provide a needed service to the community by encouraging literacy and providing a source for information. I continue to support Library funding as a place for citizens to learn about thier community and about government

**Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?**

There are many issues which need to be addressed in a thoughtful way. The process to change laws is complicated and the electorate needs to be educated on the issues and what it takes to make change.



## Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Jason Noble (D)

Senate District 19

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### **Q1 What are your goals for your district?**

Focus on education, infrastructure and wages.

### **Q2 What issues are most important to you?**

Focus on education, infrastructure and wages.

### **Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?**

Yes

### **Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?**

Yes

### **Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.**

Education is important to being able to have life, liberty and pursue happiness. Some basic services to help Americans realize their potential are important.

### **Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?**

Yes

### **Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.**

We need comprehensive reading, writing and comprehension through good standards and funding of teachers and schools.

### **Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?**

An education and jobs to succeed after school and school debt.



## Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Julia Pulver (D)

Senate District 15

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### **Q1 What are your goals for your district?**

Increasing access to affordable healthcare, fully funding our public schools, and repairing our crumbling infrastructure.

### **Q2 What issues are most important to you?**

Healthcare, education, clean water.

### **Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?**

Yes, libraries are a vital public resource.

### **Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?**

As needed, yes.

### **Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.**

Libraries serve as community hubs for public learning and attaining a greater understanding of the world around us. They provide so many services that may not be seen by the public, but that does not mean they are not valuable. Libraries are an ancient institution, and deserve to remain the corner stone of our enlightened society.

### **Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?**

Yes

### **Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.**

Education, including literacy, is a right that every person in Michigan should enjoy. This is not the dark ages; literacy should not be reserved for just those with means. A solid public education, which includes literacy, is enshrined in our Michigan constitution, because we understand that an educated society is a healthy society.

**Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?**

Lack of access to healthcare, higher education, job training, affordable childcare, elder care and reliable transportation.



## Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Jim Runestad (R)

Senate District 15

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### **Q1 What are your goals for your district?**

My top goal for the 15th State Senate district is to give my constituents a true voice in the Legislature. I plan to do this by making their collective voices, my voice. I will be advocating for a long term road funding solution to fix our roads, I will be working to lower our auto insurance rates, and I will be working to ensure our students are career ready through skilled trades whenever they decide to enter the workforce.

### **Q2 What issues are most important to you?**

As previously mentioned, my top issues that I will be focusing on include: fixing our roads, lowering auto insurance rates, and increasing access to skilled trades for our students.

### **Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?**

Absolutely! Public libraries are vital to strong, vibrant communities. They are a true asset!

### **Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?**

Yes, I believe public libraries help to foster learning in our youth in addition to what they learn in schools. Libraries also provide life long learning opportunities to residents of all ages.

### **Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.**

As previously mentioned, I believe public libraries are absolutely vital to a vibrant, strong community as they provide places for residents of all ages to continue learning and for life long friendships to be formed with other members of the community. I am a big supporter of public libraries as I believe it is one of the top investments communities can make.

### **Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?**

Yes, 100% I would support this!

**Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.**

Education and literacy is critical for our students to be able to obtain the jobs that they want in the future. Nothing is more fundamental to the foundation of a students education than literacy. Being able to read can set a student up for success for the rest of their life. That is why it is so important to make these investments in education and public libraries.

**Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?**

I honestly believe the top issue facing residents in my district today is the deplorable state of our roads. I believe we need to re-evaluate PA 51, the state's primary road funding mechanism, to see if there is a more equitable solution to funding our roads.



## Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Poppy Sias-Hernande (D)

Senate District 34

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### **Q1 What are your goals for your district?**

My primary goals are strong public education, affordable health care and supporting a modern workforce. The people in our community deserve the opportunity to raise healthy families, access a quality education and provide for those they love. Public education is the cornerstone of building and maintaining thriving communities. Current education policy is doing more to dismantle the systems needed to support K-12 than to ensure the success of our students. People will always want to choose where their children attend school, but we have to work to ensure that our public schools are performing so well that it makes it easy to choose their publically funded neighborhood school. We are all connected through our public school systems. Education is the very glue that bonds our society. Since our country was founded, Americans have lived in search of opportunity and success. The essence of America is that you can come from humble circumstances and do great things. All we seek is an enduring commitment to equality. Education is the great equalizer in our society. Education is key to the American Dream and adjusting the way that we look at it will help ensure that more kids will graduate and want to continue to educate themselves for the rest of their lives.

### **Q2 What issues are most important to you?**

Our current healthcare system is not working for all and we have the means to fix it. Incremental changes will not be effective in meeting people's healthcare needs – we must embark upon comprehensive changes that address coverage current gaps while controlling costs. Adequate health care is a human right and it is essential to ensuring a thriving education system and economy. • We must create layered systems of support for mental health needs including substance abuse treatment. • We must ensure ease of access to link people in the community to essential needed services. • We must fund prevention and education services which work to decrease overall medical needs. Among the needed prevention efforts must be women's health services. Access to healthcare must be non-discriminatory. I have an urgency to addressing the needs of Michiganders regarding healthcare because poor healthcare is a barrier to achieving a high quality of life.

### **Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?**

Yes, I proudly support community libraries. The very 1st Michigan Constitution of 1835 identified libraries as an essential aspect of our culture. Today virtually every county, city and village proudly boasts of a community library. My hometown of Muskego

**Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?**

Yes, libraries hold a unifying place in our communities. A space to gather, learn, explore new ideas and engage in citizenship. Funding increases are a bipartisan issue spearheaded in part by retiring Senator, Geoff Hansen. The FY 2019 State of Michi

**Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.**

My professional background is steeped in education. I was privileged to spend over three years working for the Muskegon Public Schools as a special projects director and board liaison. I have direct experience with the transformative power hold by libraries as cornerstone of community information and a venue for self-expression. Government is charged with providing for the “wealth and welfare” of the citizens. Libraries hold a vaulted position as institutions of knowledge, respect, common ground and safe spaces in our society. Our 21st century digital technology revolution under-scores the continuing need for libraries.

**Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?**

The Library of Michigan is a role model for youth services: Summer Reading and NASA @ my library and are inspiring programs. I applaud the Youth Services Programming toolkit as a tangible resource available online. I was intrigued by the Saint Tammany Par

**Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.**

West Michigan is a district marred educational deficiencies; many of them are structural. Our students read and write at below state and national averages-which is completely unacceptable. We have one failing school district and several of notable concern. Now, more than ever libraries are NEEDED-for the sake of our students. Evidence is abundance that libraries connect early language and literacy to life-long reading. I applaud the Literacy Center of West Michigan’s Community Literacy Initiative. But unfortunately this project does not reach the most marginalized communities in Muskegon, Oceana and Newaygo Counties. We simply must do better for our children...libraries are THE essential keystone of community literacy.

**Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?**

Job insecurity is a threat to the vast majority of West Michigan residents. The backbone of a robust economy is a thriving workforce. In order for West Michigan workers and families to flourish they need to receive fair wages, earned paid sick time, family leave, and eliminate the gender and racial wage gap. The very backbone of my campaign of, by and for the community is meeting people on their front porch- I have taken my campaign to the streets every day! One home, one family, and one vote at a time we are winning the trust of Muskegon, Oceana and Newaygo residents. Endless hard working families

have repeated stated that employment insecurity is the most critical issue. Stresses and pressures of extended family, quality health care, child care and job insecurity threatens Michiganders daily. Together we can and will make a difference. I am not a professional or career politician. I believe in change driven by community voices. I am humbly seeking to be a voice for all families in Michigan's 34th Senate District. I am frustrated with asking legislators to do right by women and families. It is our time to take a seat at the table. We can no longer afford to wait for an invitation to be included in the decision-making that profoundly impacts our lives. I am grateful to the Michigan Library Association for requesting and examining my views. Thank you! Sincerely, Poppy Sias-Hernandez Michigan 34th Senate District Nominee



## Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Mike Taillard (D)

Senate District 35

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### **Q1 What are your goals for your district?**

Save our district from economic decay, as our main industries struggle to compete in a market as a result of a total lack of tools, resources, and properly informed representation to prevent the 35th Senate District from becoming a series of ghost towns inhabited exclusively by retirees.

### **Q2 What issues are most important to you?**

Transparency in government (libraries can help with), expanding conflict of interest laws to elected officials, and creating an environment in which young people and specialized professionals can pursue the development of small businesses that stimulate innovation and improve the volume and quality of employment in Northern Michigan's labor market (also something libraries can be a vital component of).

### **Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?**

Yes, absolutely.

### **Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?**

Yes, libraries play a critical role in education, labor markets, community/political engagement, and reference. All these things are vital to Michigan's future, and libraries will play a critical role in that.

### **Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.**

Libraries are a vital part of keeping the public informed and engaged in the goings-on of the community, the state, and the nation. They offer critical tools to the public, such as reference centers, publications on the happenings in government to improve transparency, and even basic necessities of the modern era such as broadband internet (which so many people in Northern Michigan lack).

### **Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?**

Yes. The research published by the American Economic Association definitively shows that involvement in educational programs outside the classroom which focus on specific topics from which students can choose based on what interests them, engages them, a

**Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.**

We've had companies reject investing in our district because of the lack of proper education necessary to form a qualified labor force. That is utterly unacceptable, and will eventually cause the end of our district if not resolved quickly, according to modern exogenous economic growth models.

**Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?**

Total lack of opportunity.



## Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Henry Yanez (D)  
Senate District 10  
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### **Q1 What are your goals for your district?**

My overall goal is to be a voice in my community for the voiceless and to work on behalf of working families and to fight for economic opportunity for all through greater investment in education, early childhood intervention, and job training. As someone who has spent his career serving the public, first as a firefighter/paramedic and now as state representative, I continue to dedicate myself to protecting the health, safety, and well-being of my community as well.

### **Q2 What issues are most important to you?**

The primary issues facing my local community are protecting Medicaid and the Healthy Michigan plan to ensure that seniors and other low-income residents have access to quality and affordable healthcare. Also, investing in our crumbling roads, and our public system of K-12 education which has been underfunded leading to Michigan students falling behind on math, reading, and science is another top priority. Macomb County also has the highest per-capita incidences of opiate abuse and overdose in the state. We need to enact policies that address drug use as a mental disorder, and not a criminal offence. As state representative, I have fought tirelessly to provide more essential funding for Macomb County Mental Health. The other big issue in my community is the excessive cost of auto insurance. We need to enact policies that benefit the average family and senior citizen who pays over 180% the national average on auto-insurance.

### **Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?**

Absolutely, public libraries are essential to ensuring that everyone has access to important information. Libraries also are a great hub that bring communities together.

### **Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?**

Yes

### **Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.**

As state representative, I voted in support of legislation that became a public act in December of 2016 that prohibited Tax Increment Financing Authorities from capturing revenues levied to fund libraries to help protect library funding.

**Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?**

Yes, early childhood intervention is the most effective and cost-effective means to improve education outcomes in children.

**Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.**

See the answer to 6.

**Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?**

The rising cost of auto-insurance.