



2018 REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Attached is a questionnaire the RCNMC is inviting candidates in races that impact residents of Northern Macomb County to fill out to provide information about their campaign and message. This information will be used as consideration for endorsement during the primary election by the RCNMC and will be published online at www.rcnmc.com.

Note that completion of this questionnaire does not guarantee an endorsement. The RCNMC may endorse one, multiple or no candidates in any given race for the primary election.

Please complete the questions below and email to info@rcnmc.com. This form can also be mailed to RCNMC, 21754 Kendyl Ct., Macomb, MI 48044.

Deadline for submission is Thursday, May 31, 2018.

Section A: Candidate Information

Name:	Mike MacDonald
Other Names Used (Including Maiden Name): (will not be published -- for endorsement evaluation only)	
Office Running For:	State Senate – 10 th District
Are You the Incumbent for This Office:	No, I am not a professional politician.
Municipality of Residence:	Macomb Twp.
Marital Status:	Married
Current Occupation:	Financial Representative
Contact Email:	MikeMacDonaldforsenate@gmail.com
Contact Phone:	586 277-0141
Contact Address:	13335 15 Mile Road Box 323, Sterling Hts. MI 48312
Website	www.electmikemadonald.com
Social Media Links (Facebook, Twitter, etc.):	www.facebook.com/ElectMikeMacDonald/



2018 REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Section B: Campaign Issues

Why are you running for this office?

I've been a Macomb County resident my whole life and I can tell you that Macomb has not been receiving it's far share. I've seen our past successes and I've seen the decade long recession we just emerged out from under over the last few years. People were packing their moving vans to seek better opportunities elsewhere. Families were broken up with children leaving our state. We've turned the tide so that people are coming back to Michigan - a home they've always loved - now that they can find good paying jobs again. I'm running to make sure we continue those reforms to keep Macomb competitive so that we create more good paying jobs for our children. It's time that we got what we deserve.

What skillsets and real life experience do you have that makes you the best candidate for the role?

I feel my strong background in healthcare administration, doctoral degree (15 years of college education) and working as a financial services representative for Northwestern Mutual Life makes me ideally qualified to tackle two significant policy areas that are in need of reform. The fight to curb the never ending rise in the cost of healthcare requires innovative solutions and long term planning. Even though revenues are up for local governments, many are still struggling to emerge out of debt from unfunded liabilities in their pension and retiree healthcare plans. These issues are not going away anytime soon and will require a laser-like focus to ensure Michigan reins in uncontrolled cost increases that will burden future taxpayers.

What are the top three issues you are concerned with for your district/municipality?

Fixing our roads, lowering auto insurance rates and reforming education to make sure we are addressing the individual needs of our children and preparing them for the skills they will need for good paying jobs when they reach adulthood.

What are the solutions you will bring forward if elected?

A shift in emphasis to funding roads where the majority of the population and economic activity in this state resides needs to be made in Lansing. There are several proposals to help lower the cost of auto insurance. We are paying some of the highest rates in the country, it shouldn't be too difficult to at least get the ball rolling to reducing that burden and closing the gap to make us more competitive with neighboring states. We have a lot of intelligent people who have suggestions to help improve our children's day-to-day learning environment in our public schools. We need to implement those best practices where we have measurable data that confirms their success and replicate those throughout the state so all our children benefit.

What specific measures will you take to maintain low taxes and less expensive, limited government?

Every time I am asked to vote on a bill I will want to know how this will impact job providers. Will anyone lose a job if this bill passes? Will this legislation increase a regulatory or administrative burden on businesses operating in Michigan versus if they located to other states? I also will want to know the effect any legislation has on large corporations versus small businesses since we know that larger companies can absorb more costs while some small businesses are threading a very thin profit margin to make payroll every week. The money is there. The tax structure has been reformed. We just need to prioritize where it is spent. Those policy preferences of what to fund and by how much is the core function of a state lawmaker.

If elected, how will you demonstrate accountability and transparency in government?

I will always stand ready to explain any vote I take. I am always happy to discuss any issue asked of me. My office door will always be open for those who have problems that I can help fix.



2018 REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE



2018 REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Section C: Party Involvement/Issues

Why are you a running as a Republican?

I believe strongly in the concept of free will, and that all things must stem from that conceptually. I believe that when you give people things you make them weak and do a disservice to them. Right now the Republican Party represents the free market and industry, which attracting jobs and talent to the area should be the focal point of all public servants right now; not making people weak by giving them handouts or patronizing them by having them embrace a victimization mind pattern. In the United States you are what you want to be, and the opportunities are endless as long as you believe in yourself as an individual and not merely limit yourself to your group identity.

What is your position on the life/abortion debate?

I am, and always have been, pro-life owing to my strong religious upbringing and personal philosophy.

What is your position on the 2nd Amendment?

The 2nd Amendment is a constitutional guarantee for individuals to defend themselves from those who would do them - and their families - harm. I believe this is an individual right to carry firearms that cannot be infringed.

What prior involvement have you had with the Republican Party or Conservative organizations/candidates?

I've been involved with the Macomb and Oakland County Republican parties for the past three years.

Have you ever publicly affiliated, donated or supported organizations or candidates of political parties other than the Republican Party?

No



2018 REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Section D: State/County/Local Issues

(answer as appropriate for the position you are seeking)

What are the two biggest issues you feel Macomb County is facing today?

Our crumbling roads and bridges are the top priority that needs to be addressed. Macomb County has felt the brunt of this underinvestment in maintenance and new construction. You can't drive down any major road in our county without feeling like you are steering a rover on the lunar surface. The other major issue is the higher than normal cost of auto insurance. Michigan drivers shouldn't be paying some of the highest rates in the nation, double what drivers in neighboring Great Lakes states pay every year.

What would you do to fix the problem of broken down roads in southeastern Michigan and the funding to fix them?

Every year the legislature earmarks significant amounts of General Fund dollars to go along with the taxes collected at the pump to repair and rebuild our roads. The General Fund supplement is run through the PA 51 formula. There is no reason to believe that those funds can't be directed to the more populated areas of our state (such as Southeast Michigan) or to be dedicated to a new formula with an emphasis on lane miles rather than road miles which will also benefit Macomb County due to its high volume of multi-lane roads. The money is already there. We just need the political will to steer it towards where it will do the most good for the most people and the greatest benefit to our state's economy.

Macomb County has been stained with public corruption arrests of elected officials. What steps will you take to prevent this from happening to you?

Stop electing crooks who take bribes in return for government contracts.

What is your opinion on the legalization of marijuana? If it passes, what other considerations should you and your fellow office holders need to consider?

What should be done about the high rates of auto insurance in Michigan? If elected, what would you do to aid auto insurance consumers?

We need to lower auto insurance rates by any means necessary. It will be difficult but we need to find a solution that all stakeholders can agree to and stop this endless bickering that has ground state government to a halt on this important issue.

Do you believe there should be accountability for those receiving government assistance? If so, how should this accountability be applied?

I believe that Senator Shirkey's proposals to enact a limited work requirement for able-bodied recipients of Medicaid health insurance is a very sensible plan. The value of work cannot be understated. It is the primary means to move people towards financial self-sufficiency and improve the quality of their life, their health and their ability to retire without worry.