

Ted Golden, M.D. for Michigan Senate
Speech March 5, 2010

I hope that many of you have visions similar to mine.

One of my grandfathers was placed on a boat to America in 1887 at the age of 12, and he never saw his parents again. His parents were afraid that he would be kidnapped into the Russian army. My father who came from the same area as a child spoke of the abject poverty of his childhood. Both of my late parents were physicians, and both were active in the Flint area promoting social justice. My mother was given many humanitarian awards.

I wanted to be a physician, a politician, and a humanitarian like my mother. That is why I am running as a Democrat for the Michigan Senate. We live in a complex society where social injustices result when an individual or group tries to assert itself upon others due to a tactical or political advantage. The correctable etiology of many of these injustices is the government. The result of these injustices is what I call government induced anxiety. My campaign is about relieving these types of stresses.

The Michigan Constitution is the source of some of these correctable stress inducers. Fortunately, this year we can start the process to remedy these problems by voting to rewrite the Michigan Constitution. I advocate the ***Golden Legal Oversight Amendment***, which will create an independently elected board, the ***Michigan Legal Oversight Board***, to police the Michigan legal system, write court rules, and administer our courts. The Michigan Constitution currently delegates the job to the Michigan Supreme Court. Attorneys should not police themselves, because they will not do a proper job. On motion day we have long waits, because court rules state everyone must appear in court at 8:30 A.M. I once appeared in court with my attorney at 8:30 A.M. By the time I saw the judge three hours later I had already ran up a \$750 legal fee. The legal system does not respect the individual because the individual has no control over the disciplinary process, rules, and court administration. Abuses occur when there is lack of respect. The ***Golden Legal Oversight Amendment*** will restore balance to the legal system. Michigan will be the first state to have such citizen control of its legal system. It will be very good for the citizens of Michigan. This change that we can enact will put Michigan on the map as a political leader. It will change our image from the state with the highest unemployment to the one with the highest legal standards. It will attract jobs.

When was the last time an incumbent Oakland County Circuit Court Judge faced any opposition? No opposition equates to lack of accountability and unacceptable judicial performance. This is especially true in the Family Law Court. The Illinois Constitution mandates retention elections for incumbent judges who want another term. On the Illinois ballot after the judges name the voter is asked, "Should this judge be retained for another term? Yes or No." In Illinois the judge is given another term if 60% approve. Sometimes change is not innovative. Just copying Illinois will be an improvement.

Michigan should follow Arizona. It has the only state constitution to mandate commissions to evaluate in an unbiased manner the performance of all judges, and disseminate the information for the voter to use in retention elections.

Michigan's current 1963 Constitution had a clause inserted, Article V, Sec. 5. It states, *A majority of the members of an appointed examining or licensing board of a profession shall be members of that profession.* I emphasize the word **majority**. I propose changing the wording to: *A majority of the members of an appointed examining or licensing board of a profession shall **not** be members of that profession.*

Justice Robert Catch-22 Young rightfully earns his middle name. He gutted the Michigan Consumer Protection Act in two separate rulings that he wrote. In essence he ruled that the Act does not pertain to many types of complaints because the state licensing boards are the only place to handle many consumer complaints. As your state senator I will support changes to the Act that will give consumers real protection beyond the Catch-22 they currently have with state licensing boards. Oh, speaking of change this November, no Catch-22 type of thinking should be needed, Justice Young must go.

I have titled my proposed rewrite of the Michigan Constitution, ***Michigan Constitution Gold Standard Edition***. It may be seen on my web site, www.tagolden.com. I have written a graduated income tax for Michigan. Michigan is one of seven states that does not have a graduated state income tax.

I have proposed changes to our State Constitution that will empower the Michigan State Board of Education to appoint the members of the boards of all our public universities and colleges awarding bachelor degrees or higher, including M.S.U., Wayne State University, and the University of Michigan. No other state has statewide elections for the boards of its institution of higher education. Besides, this will free up ballot space for the new ***Michigan Legal Oversight Board***.

Citizens want state government to downsize. I propose a unicameral legislature with a 55 member state house of representatives, and length of service limited to five two year terms. The Michigan Supreme Court should be downsized from seven to five justices with two six year terms.

The Michigan Constitution should establish a fiscal year starting July First.

As your state senator I will work hard to reform the process of divorce. The legal system has made the process a battle ground for their benefit at the expense of the family, divorcing parties, and the children caught up in the process.

I propose that all Michigan police officers must periodically pass physical and psychological exams. This is currently not the standard. It should be.

It is time the public takes action against government induced anxiety called speed traps. Many of these speed traps are set on highways with reduced speeds and inadequate or not

enough signs. The police know this, and that is why they have set these ambushes. These speed traps and resulting tickets should not be permitted unless the signs meet the highest of standards. Municipalities should have to give the state a large portion of their ill gotten gains in order to reduce their incentive for this type of highway robbery. The speed traps set by the Romulus Police Department around the Detroit Metro Airport are an example of government abuse of the unfamiliar driver.

Drunk drivers should be required to take Antabuse to help them stop drinking in order to protect the public.

The current medical legal climate must be maintained and improved in order to contain medical costs. Physician fear of medical malpractice suits must be alleviated in order to reduce the expensive practice of defensive medicine.

As a dermatologist I observe and repair surface defects. Many of our roads have blemishes. I feel this problem needs more research and study in order to determine if our roads can be made more durable.

Balancing Michigan's budget will require changes that cause taxpayers to pay a little more, public employees to receive a little less, and unfortunately a reduction in government services.

We live in a changing world, and change has not been kind to Michigan. Michigan citizens will improve their lot if they adapt the changes that I have proposed.

Thank you.

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