

## Dr. Ted Golden for the Michigan Senate

It is with great pleasure that I announce I will be running in 2010 as a Democrat for the Michigan Senate, District 12, representing Rochester Hills, Auburn Hills, Pontiac, and adjacent communities. Times are bad and Michigan must reorganize starting with the Michigan Constitution. Fortunately, Michigan's Constitution has already placed a proposal on the ballot this coming November asking Michigan voters to authorize a Michigan constitutional convention to rewrite Michigan's Constitution. I am for downsizing and reorganizing Michigan's government in a way that can only be done by rewriting the Michigan Constitution. I am a dermatologist. I feel I am the best person to represent the 12<sup>th</sup> Michigan Senate district.

Michigan's depressed economy has and will continue to be the state's number one problem. No one individual is responsible for our bad economy and unfortunately no one individual has or will be able to turn our economy around. However, Michigan's citizens face many other correctable stresses due to a government that causes us a lot of anxiety. My father who was a very fine internist in Flint, Michigan, taught me not to cause anxiety in the patient. My number one political goal is to reduce and eliminate government induced anxiety through my proposed constitutional changes and legislative action.

The important 2010 political campaign will be educational, enlightening, entertaining, exciting, extensive, exhaustive, and expensive. Hopefully, it will produce innovative new solutions to help Michigan. I will be pointing out problems that face us, and my proposed solutions. I hope the news media gives the candidates adequate coverage. The Internet will be the most important source of information concerning my campaign. My web site is [www.tagolden.com](http://www.tagolden.com) or [www.michiganjustice.com](http://www.michiganjustice.com).

### CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS

Michigan citizens must have more direct and fair control of vital government functions. This can only be accomplished by changing Michigan's Constitution. Voting for a Michigan Constitutional Conventional in 2010 will start the process.

My most important constitutional proposal is the ***Golden Legal Oversight Amendment***. It will create an independently elected board to police the Michigan Legal System, write court rules, and administer Michigan Courts instead of the Michigan Supreme Court. Attorneys should not police themselves. They have never done an adequate job and never will. I feel that the Michigan Supreme Court will not allow the ***Golden Legal Oversight Amendment*** to proceed by a petition and ballot initiative when that route for placing it in the Michigan Constitution is challenged by the legal system. That is why voting for a constitutional convention in 2010 is critical. Of equal importance is voting for non-attorneys to be delegates to the Constitutional Convention. The delegates will write the new Michigan Constitution and attorney delegates will not include the ***Golden Legal Oversight Amendment*** in a new Constitution.

When was the last time you could vote against an incumbent Oakland County Circuit Court Judge? They never have any opposition and are on the bench for life. I propose that the Michigan Constitution give voters the opportunity to vote out Judges they do not want to retain. Michigan should have retention elections of judges like the Illinois' Constitution mandates for Illinois. The incumbent judge runs against himself if he wants another term. The judge will be awarded another term if 60% of the voters approve to retain the judge. Our constitution should establish a Judicial Performance Commission as the Arizona Constitution does in order to give voters unbiased information about judges.

The current Michigan Constitution mandates that the *majority* of all regulatory boards be composed of members of the profession the board regulates. I propose the Michigan Constitution should state the majority of members of all regulatory boards *not* be members of the profession it regulates, including the State Board of Medicine.

I propose a unicameral legislature with a 55 member Michigan House of Representatives, and shrinking the Michigan Supreme Court from 7 to 5 justices in order to reduce the size and expenses of state government.

The Michigan Constitution should start Michigan's fiscal year on July 1, which is the norm in 46 states, but not Michigan, which has an Oct. 1 start. Public school districts should know how much money they will be getting from the state prior to the start of the school year. State school funding was cut in late October, 2009, after the start of the school year.

The Constitution should give the legislature the option of imposing a graduated state income tax. Our state constitution currently mandates a flat state income tax. Most states have a graduated state income tax.

Michigan has gone from the upper tier to the bottom in many areas when compared to other states. My Constitutional proposals will help the citizens of Michigan. More details can be read on my web site, [www.tagolden.com](http://www.tagolden.com).

## **LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

Michigan's budget has and will be the number one item on the legislative agenda. I feel that everyone should be taxed fairly with a graduated income tax. Businesses should not be taxed out of Michigan. Due to the *global economy* Michigan has taken a double hit. Fewer jobs remain. Some jobs are paying less in order for Michigan to retain them. Public services and public employees' compensation should be adjusted to reflect current economic realities. Government should operate to take advantage of economies of scale.

My personal areas of interest will be to reform the process of divorce in order to protect children's relationships with both parents, bring fairness to the process, reduce conflict between divorcing parties, reduce legal expenses, reduce legal system induced animosity between divorcing couples, and reduce anxiety the current system produces. Standards must be established and maintained for people servicing divorcing parties such as judges,

attorneys, and Friend of the Court workers. These people must be policed by the public in order to enforce the standards. Currently, the divorce system polices itself, which results in needless abuse of divorcing parties who are already stressed out. Bad practices and bad apples in the divorce system must be eliminated. The harsh rigid adversarial process of divorce that is controlled by and benefits the legal system must be changed.

Citizens should not be ambushed in speed traps by police in order for district courts to enhance their revenue. Talk to anyone who has received a speeding ticket under shady circumstances. Feel their anger, stress, anxiety, and the sense of unjustness. I will reduce this type of citizen anxiety. Many speed traps have inadequate signs and means of informing motorists of the posted speed, especially in areas that have speed limits that appear to be on the low side. That is why police chose these areas for their ambushes. I will propose laws to identify speed traps and mandate that better signs and means be used to inform motorists of speed limits in these areas. Speeding tickets will not be valid in areas that have been identified as speed traps without proper posting of the speed as stated in my proposed ***Golden Speed Trap Law***. District Courts will be required to give road departments funds they obtain from traffic tickets in order to improve the posting of speed limits at sites that are identified as speed traps by my ***Golden Speed Trap Law***. Funds collected from traffic tickets should go to the State of Michigan in order to reduce the zealotry of District Courts and police departments in using certain methods of motorist entrapment as a means to fill their coffers. A case in point are the speed traps employed by the Romulus police outside of the Detroit Metro Airport.

The Michigan Supreme Court has eviscerated the Michigan Consumer Protection Act. This Act gave Michigan citizens legal recourse if they were subjected to many types of abusive practices. The Court stated in two important rulings authored by Justice Robert Catch-22 Young that legal recourse for the abused is mainly the job of Michigan's regulatory boards. Our state Constitution mandates the majority of members of all regulatory boards must be from the profession it regulates. The foxes guarding the rights of the turkeys. This is an important reason the Michigan Constitution must be changed concerning the composition of regulatory boards. I will work to reduce stress in this area by supporting a revision of the Michigan Consumer Protection Act that will restore the intent of the Act, and hopefully prevent Justice Young and his colleagues from leaving the abused consumer in a no-win situation. Ideally, strong enforcement of common sense regulation will prevent abuse from occurring.

Michigan's citizens are not healthy. We are near the bottom concerning many health statistics, especially smoking, obesity, and the related sequel of diabetes. Unhealthy life styles result in ill citizens, who drive up medical expenses both in the private and public sectors. We all financially bear the burden. I feel as a physician that I have a responsibility to improve the health of Michigan citizens. Senator Tom George (R), a physician who is running for governor, has made Michigan's unhealthy life styles a center piece of his campaign. Pay attention to Senator Tom George's ideas for improving individual health. He represents a senate district in western Michigan, and is not well known in the Detroit area. His web site is [www.georgeforgovernor.com](http://www.georgeforgovernor.com).

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

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.

Physician privacy should be protected concerning what they prescribe.

Health insurance benefits should be stated to subscribers in a standard easy to read format that can be presented to health care providers.

Health insurance companies should not be allowed to formulate their own interpretations of medical billing codes in order to avoid paying claims.

The scope of chiropractic practice should not be expanded.

Michigan has recently passed legislation in the right direction concerning education. However, much needs to be done since much of the legislation concerns substandard achievement at the lowest level. Michigan ranks near the bottom of states concerning the percentage of its citizens with college degrees. This must be improved if Michigan's per capita income, which corresponds to its college degrees, is to improve. My goal is for each student in Michigan's educational systems to achieve their maximum potential. I will listen to students, parents, and educators. I will not be afraid to borrow ideas from successful schools whether public, private, or parochial. Much has been said and done for the low achievers. I want the same attention devoted to the average and high achiever in order for our students to be the best in the nation.

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.

Michigan and its citizens are doing poorly when compared to other states. Look around you. Talk to your family and friends. What is causing you and others stress and anxiety? We have many problems. I have pointed out some government induced stress producers, and there are others. My goal is to eliminate government induced anxiety by rewriting Michigan's Constitution and through legislative action. I ask for your support and vote.

Thank you,

Theodore A. Golden, M.D.

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