

The Michigan League of Conservation Voters

“Charting the Governors Race”

Detailed Analysis

In order to provide you with a quick, yet comprehensive, guide to the choices in the both the Republican and Democratic Gubernatorial Primaries on August 3rd, we selected a range of issues that are most integral to the protection and proper stewardship of our State’s incredible natural resources.

We wanted to answer one simple question: How do the candidates compare to each other on the important environmental issues facing Michigan?

The following judgments of candidates’ positions were drawn from a combination of sources, but most notably the Candidates Forum hosted by the [Michigan LCV Education Fund on May 12th](#) and the candidates’ own websites and platforms. Also, when appropriate, we let their prior actions and voting records do the talking.

	Mike Bouchard (R) Oakland County Sheriff, former State Senator	Mike Cox (R) Attorney General	Pete Hoekstra (R) U.S. Representative	Tom George (R) State Senator	Rick Snyder (R) Businessman	Virg Bernero (D) Lansing Mayor, former State Senator	Andy Dillon (D) State Representative (House Speaker)
MLCV Lifetime Score	n/a	n/a	10%	39%	n/a	87%	76%
Campaign Website	www.bouchardforgovernor.com	mikecox2010.com	hoekstraforgovernor.com	www.georgeforgovernor.com	www.rickformichigan.com	www.votevirg.com	www.andydillon.com
General Platform	Blueprint for Prosperity	Putting Michigan Back to Work: The First Steps	J.O.B.S	Tom George's Plan to Fix Michigan	Reinvent Michigan: Rick's 10 Point Plan	Issues	Renewing the Michigan Dream

Energy

	Mike Bouchard (R)	Mike Cox (R)	Pete Hoekstra (R)	Tom George (R)	Rick Snyder (R)	Virg Bernero (D)	Andy Dillon (D)	2
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Alternative Energy	Support. “We need to look at innovative ideas promoting alternative sources of energy,” Bouchard’s plan says (p. 16).	Support. Michigan needs to capitalize on any advantage it has to lower energy costs and provide alternative energy sources,” Cox says in his plan (Section 4.20).	Opposed. Although Hoekstra says in a press release that “we need to explore opportunities for renewable and alternative energy,” he voted against the American & Clean Energy Security Act (HR 2454 , 6/26/09) and the Clean Energy Recovery Act (02/13/09).	Opposed. “I’m not convinced, I think the economics are not there yet,” George said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Support. “I think there are outstanding opportunities in alternative energy,” Snyder said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Support. “Part of it is faith in the future [...] We’ve got to continue pushing the envelope,” Bernero explained at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Support. Dillon voted yes on investing in renewable energy on HB 5548 in 2008. His campaign plan says that he wants to “spur Michigan’s clean energy sector” as Governor (p. 32).
10% renewable energy by 2015	No mention	No mention	Oppose. Hoekstra demonstrated his opposition in voting against a Federal version of the bill to have 20% of electricity consumption come from clean, renewable sources by 2020 (HR 2454 , 6/26/09)	Oppose. “What we’ve done is simply raise rates, what we need is competition,” George said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Unclear.* “It’s a balancing act, what progress have we made? At what cost? Energy efficiency is what we need to promote,” Snyder said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Support. “We have an opportunity to diversify our economy, we’ve made some strides and can do much more,” Bernero said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Support. He voted yes on the Michigan state house bill that passed the renewable energy standard of 10% by 2015 (HB 5548).

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New coal plants	No mention	Support. “As governor, Mike Cox will offer tax incentives and a positive regulatory environment for construction of clean coal and nuclear facilities,” says Cox’s plan (4.20).	Support. Issued a statement that he supported Wolverine Power’s failed bid to build a new coal plant.	Support. George said he supported new coal plants at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Support. “When it’s clean coal replacing old coal...” Snyder said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Unclear. “[I] hope they’re not necessary,” Bernero said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Support. In a Saginaw News article Dillon complained that the DEQ denied Wolverine Power’s bid to build a new coal plant.
Nuclear Power	Support. “We need reliable, available and reasonably priced power now and that includes clean coal and nuclear power,” Bouchard says in his plan (p. 16).	Support. “As governor, Mike Cox will offer tax incentives and a positive regulatory environment for construction of clean coal and nuclear facilities,” says Cox’s plan (4.20).	Support. Hoekstra was upset that “the stimulus package included \$79 billion to support renewable energy development, but nothing for nuclear power.”	Support. George said he supported Nuclear Power at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Support. Snyder said he supported Nuclear Power at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Oppose. The Detroit News reported Bernero is against building another plant in Michigan. He also said that nuclear power is “awfully expensive, [and] hopefully unnecessary” at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Unclear. The Detroit News reported Dillon saying he would leave the decision on new nuclear power plants up to the utilities.
Clean energy job creation	No mention	Unclear. “Michigan needs to capitalize on any advantage it has to lower energy costs and provide alternative energy sources,” Cox says	Opposed. Hoekstra voted no on Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act (HR 6049 , 5/21/08)	Unclear. In a statement on George’s website from 2008, he recognizes that the state is going in the direction of clean energy, but is opposed to	Support. Snyder advocates “[Creating] jobs by making Michigan a leader in emerging technologies for Renewable Energy” according	Support. Bernero expressed his support for clean energy job creation at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th . Bernero noted how much	Support. Part of his jobs platform includes creating more green jobs. “Andy understands that green jobs are vital for capitalizing on our

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		in his plan (Section 4.20).		government intervention.	to his plan (p. 6).	Michigan money is sent away for energy and said, “we have an opportunity to make energy here.”	manufacturing infrastructure, diversifying our economy, and expanding our jobs base,” says his plan (Section 5 p. 9).
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Water

Keeping wetland protection programs at the state level	No mention	No mention	No mention	Support. According to George’s comments at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Support. According to Snyder’s comments at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Support. “...if we needed more money to do it right I wouldn’t be afraid to put the money there” Bernero said in support of wetland protection at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	No mention
Offshore Wind (Wind Farms)	No mention	No mention	Unclear. Uploaded a survey for constituents to voice their opinions on a proposed wind farm, has since issued no statement for or against offshore wind.	Opposed. “I’m skeptical, one of our great resources is our scenery, I fear windmills would hurt tourism and who would pay for them [later]?” George said at the MLCV Education	Unclear. “People are working this pretty hard, like the Offshore Wind Council. If they came up with appropriate rules then the governor should say ‘this is a good idea,’”	Unclear. “Would I rather have a turbine on the Lakes than something much worse, of course I would [...] green energy is important,” Bernero said at the MLCV	Unclear. “It’s more expensive, but ... we don’t want to be dependent on coal ... experts are unsure if they will work in Great Lakes though,” Dillon said at the Wood TV8 .

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				Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Snyder said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Democratic Debate June 21, 2010.
Great Lakes Water Protections	Oppose. Although Bouchard says in his platform, “we need to do everything we can to protect the Great Lakes and our way of life,” (p. 15) his actions as a senator shows us he votes differently. In SB 646 of 1995 Bouchard voted yes to weaker sand dune protections and in HB 4597 of 1995 he voted against a bill that would have protected our lakes and streams from contaminated groundwater.	Support. “As Attorney General, one of Mike Cox’s primary environmental priorities has been protecting our Great Lakes,” Cox says of himself in his plan (Section 6).	Unclear. Voted for Clean Water Funding HR 1262 , 3/12/09) which included \$150 million a year through 2014 to the Great Lakes Legacy Act, but has gone against other clean water funding programs such as HR 5386 (5/19/06)	Unclear. Though George mentions the Great Lakes on his website there are no mentions of how he would specifically protect the Great Lakes.	Support. His plan includes a four step environmental plan to protect natural resources, starting with “prevention” and “early detection” (p.5 of Snyder’s <i>Plan for the Environment</i>).	Support. While in the Senate Bernero regularly voted positively on bills to protect the Great Lakes and other water sources, SB 852 of 2006, and others; see past MLCV Scorecards.	Support. Voted yes on broadening water conservation enforcement (HB 5066), protecting water as a public trust (HB 5067), and other pro-water conservation bills (HB 5068 , HB 5065 , HB 5073).
Inland water extraction protections	Unclear. Bouchard says, “we must remain vigilant to any threat to our protection of the	Unclear. Cox advocates against only “unreasonable water diversions” in his plan	Support. Hoekstra supported the Great Lakes Water Compact , which he says, “manages water withdrawals	Support. “I voted on the Great Lakes compact [and] Michigan was the first state to adopt water	Unclear. “Some of these companies are very thoughtful and know how to do it right. We should work with	Support. “I’m very suspicious of anyone trying to take our water,” Bernero said at the MLCV	Support. Dillon wants to “Prohibit ALL diversions of Michigan groundwater,” according to his

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	lakes from diversion” in his plan, though he proposes no mechanism by which to do actually do so. (p. 15).	(section 6.28).	and diversion.”	withdrawal assessment process,” George said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	them, not discourage them,” Snyder said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	plan (p. 34). Voted yes on HB 5065 , & HB 5072 , bills that created tough regulation for commercial water bottlers
Protecting the Great Lakes from Asian Carp	Support. “This has been a problem coming for four, five, six years, there’s a great deal of things we can do,” Bouchard said during the Wood TV 8 Republican Debate . He also outlines his plan on page 15 of his platform.	Support. “[Cox’s] efforts led to wins in federal court, new state legislation regulating ocean going ships, and a movement in Congress to regulate the treatment of ballast water discharges and to force the EPA to change its rules,” according to Cox’s plan (Section 6.27).	Support. However he has said , “(Closing the locks) is a short-term solution that is not a very effective fix to the problem.”	Support. “I voted to ban ballast discharge, but that’s insufficient,” George said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Support. “Asian Carp is a poster child for invasive species because it’s not ending there,” Snyder said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Support. “We need to get together to apply all pressure possible,” Bernero said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Support. Dillon “believes it’s vital to protect the Great Lakes against pollution and invasive species such as the Asian Carp,” according to his plan (p. 34).
Ban Drilling in the Great Lakes	Support. Bouchard made it clear that he opposed drilling in the Great Lakes by Canada at the Mackinac Policy Center’s Debate on June 4, 2010.	Support. Cox made it clear that he opposed drilling in the Great Lakes by Canada at the Mackinac Policy Center’s Debate on June 4, 2010.	Support. He supported a bill that included a moratorium on new drilling in Great Lakes H.R. 2311 (6/28/01).	Support. “We banned it in Michigan waters, but Michigan alone can’t protect all of the Great Lakes” George said at the Mackinac Policy Center’s Debate on June 4, 2010.	Support. Snyder expressed his views against drilling in the Great Lakes during the Mackinac Policy Center Debate on June 4, 2010.	Support. “We need to be much better stewards of the environment,” Bernero said at the Mackinac Policy Center Debate on June 4, 2010.	Support. “We have to look at creative solutions,” Dillon said at the Mackinac Policy Center’s Debate on June 4, 2010.

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Land

Ban Exploration of U.P. mining	No mention	No mention	Unclear. Though Hoekstra has not made recent remarks on mining in the UP, he has voted in the past against harsher regulations on hard rock mining (HR 3809 , 6/21/01).	Oppose. “Permits [for plants] can be issued if plants follow proper rules,” George said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Oppose. “We’ve put in very tough standards, if people will live up to that standard we can let them,” Snyder said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Oppose. “As long as there are environmental standards we’re enforcing and we have funding for enforcement,” Bernero said during the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	No mention
Ban Oil/natural gas extraction	No mention	No mention	Oppose. Hoekstra has voted in support of natural gas drilling in the rest of the US (Peterson’s House Amendment 172 , 5/19/05), and the revitalization of oil refineries (HR 4517 6/16/04). He has said , “we need an energy policy that enables us to fully develop American sources of oil and natural gas.”	Oppose. “If you haven’t noticed we’re in economic [hardship], current law I think is sufficient,” George said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Oppose. Snyder advocated, “refilling the natural resources trust fund,” with the money earned from oil and natural gas extraction in Michigan, during the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Support. “I’m not willing to take any chances with the Michigan I love. I would be most cautious,” Bernero said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	No mention. However he does advocate, “[ending] tax loop holes for oil and gas companies” in his plan (p. 13).
Smart Growth	Oppose. Bouchard voted against an	Support. Cox discusses “consolidating	No mention	Support. George advocated for a redevelopment	Support. Major part of plan is to “restore cities and	Support. Bernero is a strong proponent of	Support. A major part of Dillon’s plan is his urban .

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	amendment to SB 904 in 1998 to protect farmland and open space.	green spaces in cities: grey to green,” and other measures in his plan (Section 18.88).		authority to foster revitalization in Metro Detroit.	control urban sprawl,” according to his Central Cities platform.	Michigan’s cities, as Mayor of Lansing he has worked to revitalize the city. He also voted against urban sprawl as a State Senator (SB 1275 of 2000).	agenda , which discusses making cities more sustainable and combating urban poverty (p. 36-38).
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Other Important Environmental Issues

Full funding for Environmental Agencies	Oppose. In general Bouchard voted against increased spending to protect the environment. He voted no on the 1995-1996 Department of Natural Resources & Environment (DNRE) budget bill that would have increased funding for groundwater protection, he also voted no on another funding bill in 1997, SB 904 .	No mention	Unclear. However Hoekstra demonstrated a pattern of opposition to an increase in funding for the state Department of Natural Resources & Environment (DNRE) as he voted “no” in past bills dealing with funding for federal environmental agencies (amendment to the Financial Services appropriations Bill 7/16/09 and H.R. 2996 6/26/09).	No mention	Support. Snyder acknowledges that the state currently has inadequate funding for conservation efforts, and advocates “developing sustainable funding through public and Private partnerships” in his plan for the environment (p. 5).	No mention	No mention
Full funding for	No mention	Support. “The	No mention	Oppose.	Support. We “can	Support. Bernero	Support. “It

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Pure Michigan campaign		Pure Michigan ads are bringing money to Michigan from out-of-state and need to be continued,” Cox says in his plan (section 16.80).		“[Money’s] not there, can’t do it,” George said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	get \$2.20 for every \$1.00 we spend” Snyder said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	expressed his support during the Wood TV 8 Democratic Debate on June 21, 2010.	provides a return on investment,” Dillon said at the Wood TV8 Democratic Debate on June 21, 2010. In his plan he calls the campaign “highly successful” and says he wants to “ensure a steady stream of funding” in the future (p.16).
Toxic Cleanup and Prevention	Oppose. He voted yes on SB 728 of 1995 which allowed industries to hide evidence of toxic spills. Voted no on an amendment to SB 904 in 1997 to raise money for cleanup of environmental and indoor lead contamination.	Support. In section 6.26 of Cox’s plan one of his Great Lakes goals is to “monitor water quality at all Great Lakes beaches and aggressively defend against contamination.”	Support. On his Congressional website he says he wants to “continue the vision of the Great Lakes Legacy Act and the clean-up of toxic ‘hot spots’ in the Great Lakes Region.”	Unclear. George’s plan says, “Michigan can participate once again in iron, metal, and timber production without endangering [...] natural resources through the application of modern, scientific ‘harvesting techniques.’” No specific mention of cleanup.	Support. Snyder’s Four-step environmental threat plan starts with “prevention” and “early detection” (p. 5).	Support. In the past, Bernero voted to hold polluters accountable and prevent further pollution (SB 252 of 2004).	Support. “Andy supports ongoing efforts to reduce pollution affecting the Great Lakes through close monitoring of mercury and lead levels, constraints on livestock runoffs and reducing the impact of urban sprawl” his plan says (p. 34).
Safer Children’s Products	No mention	No mention	No mention	No mention	Support. “Michigan needs to be proactive in safeguarding our	Support. Bernero has been an advocate for children’s access	No mention

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					children and families against preventable diseases caused by toxic Chemicals,” Snyder says in his plan for the environment (p. 6).	to healthcare and positive school nutrition in Lansing according to his campaign website. He also voted as a State Rep. to ban Mercury Thermometers which posed a safety risk, especially for children (HB 4599 of 2001).	
Full funding for State Parks	Support. Bouchard voted yes on HB 5426 in 1993, a bill that enabled Michigan voters to support the creation of a permanent State Park Endowment Fund .	Unclear. Cox advocates “free state park weekends to MI residents,” and “[identifying] corporate partners to create resort-style offerings at select Michigan State Parks.” No other mention for increased revenue for parks is mentioned in his plan (Section 16.78).	Unclear. He voted “no” on the National Landscape Conservation System Act (HR 2016 , 4/09/08) and Land Conservation Funding (HR 701 , 5/11/00), but is a sponsor of HR 4558 Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Conservation and Recreation Act	Support. He voted “yes” on SB 388 and 389 of 2009 designating new revenue to Michigan State Parks.	Support. “This network [of parks] represents a significant natural, aesthetic, and economic asset that needs to be utilized, maintained, and where appropriate – completed” Snyder says in his plan for the Environment (p. 7).	No mention	No mention. His plan does not discuss supporting state parks and Dillon was absent on a vote for increased revenue to State Parks (HB 4677) and the Recreation Passport (HB 4678) this past year.
Stricter CAFO (Factory Farm) Standards	No mention	Unclear. However, Cox’s agriculture plan	Unclear. He voted yes on several farm conservation bills	No mention	No mention	Support. Bernero has voted in the past to control	Unclear. Dillon’s plan mentions that he supports

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		asks for regulatory “relief” (Section 1.2).	(HR 2624 4/18/02, 5/2/02) that cap large subsidies to agribusinesses and give money to conservation efforts.			factory farm pollution (SB 205 of 1999).	“constraints on livestock runoffs,” but that’s the extent of specifics on this particular issue (p. 34).
Environmental Justice	No mention	Unclear. No specific mention, though he does have plan to “consolidate green spaces in cities: grey to green” (Section 18.88).	Opposed. Again, his voting pattern speaks to this issue: He voted against the Low-Income Energy Assistance Bill (House Roll Call #66 , 03/16/2006). Also voted against an amendment on HR 6 The House Energy Bill that identifies the impacts of programs on minority and low-income populations. (4/21/05).	Unclear. “Laws should be based on science not emotion, lead abatement, for instance, occurs disproportionately in urban areas and I voted for that” George said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Support. “Restoration of central cities is one of my priorities” Snyder said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Support. “It’s a real issue, investment in energy efficiency will help those areas” Bernero said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 th .	Support. He advocates for “more sustainable cities” and affordable/healthy food options in urban areas (5 p. 36-38).

Contact the Candidates

Contact Information	Mike Bouchard contact form	contact@mikecox2010.com	tellpete@hoekstraforgovernor.com	Tom George contact form	Rick Snyder contact form	virg@votevirg.com	Andy Dillon contact form
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***What's the deal with "unclear" and "no mention"?** Wherever possible, a solid position is noted as either "support" or "oppose." However, when a candidate's actions on an issue were ambiguous or contradictory, there was no attempt made to declare a position for them or put words in their mouth; in that case, it is simply listed that their stance is "unclear." When there is a "no mention," it is to signify that the candidate's platform does not specifically reference the issue in question. Although we employed a thorough list of public sources and documents in researching this chart, a "no mention" is not meant to imply that a candidate does not have opinion on a subject. In these instances, we encourage you to directly email the candidates to ask them to clarify their thoughts on the particular matter of interest to you. Their campaign email addresses can be found at the bottom of the chart.