

# The Michigan League of Conservation Voters

## “Charting the Governors Race”

### Detailed Analysis

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(Post-primary update, September 2010)

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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 12<sup>th</sup>](#) and the candidates’ own websites and platforms. Also, when appropriate, we let their prior actions and voting records do the talking.

	<b>Rick Snyder (R)</b> Businessman	<b>Virg Bernero (D)</b> Lansing Mayor, former State Senator
<b>MLCV Lifetime Score</b>	n/a	87%
<b>Campaign Website</b>	<a href="http://www.rickformichigan.com">www.rickformichigan.com</a>	<a href="http://www.votevirg.com">www.votevirg.com</a>
<b>General Platform</b>	<a href="#">Reinvent Michigan: Rick’s 10 Point Plan</a>	<a href="#">Issues</a>

Energy

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<b>Alternative Energy</b>	<b>Support.</b> “I think there are outstanding opportunities in alternative energy,” Snyder said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 <sup>th</sup> .	<b>Support.</b> “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 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>10% renewable energy by 2015</b>	<b>Unclear.*</b> “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 <sup>th</sup> .	<b>Support.</b> “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 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>New coal plants</b>	<b>Support.</b> “When it’s clean coal replacing old coal...” Snyder said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 <sup>th</sup> .	<b>Oppose.</b> As Lansing Mayor Bernero, “pushed the Lansing Board of Power and Light away from electricity supplied by coal-fired power plants.” According to an <a href="#">Oakland Press article</a> .
<b>Nuclear Power</b>	<b>Support.</b> Snyder said he supported Nuclear Power at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 <sup>th</sup> .	<b>Oppose.</b> <a href="#">The Detroit News</a> 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 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Clean energy job creation</b>	<b>Support.</b> Snyder advocates “[Creating] jobs by making Michigan a leader in emerging technologies for Renewable Energy” according to his plan (p. 6).	<b>Support.</b> Bernero expressed his support for clean energy job creation at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 <sup>th</sup> . Bernero noted how much Michigan money is sent away for energy and said, “we have an opportunity to make energy here.”

## Water

<b>Keeping wetland protection programs at the state level</b>	<b>Support.</b> According to Snyder’s comments at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 <sup>th</sup> .	<b>Support.</b> “...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 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Offshore Wind (Wind Farms)</b>	<b>Unclear.</b> “People are working this pretty hard, like the	<b>Unclear.</b> “Would I rather have a turbine on the Lakes than

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	Offshore Wind Council. If they came up with appropriate rules then the governor should say ‘this is a good idea,’” Snyder said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 <sup>th</sup> .	something much worse, of course I would [...] green energy is important,” Bernero said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Great Lakes Water Protections</b>	<b>Support.</b> 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> ).	<b>Support.</b> While in the Senate Bernero regularly voted positively on bills to protect the Great Lakes and other water sources, <a href="#">SB 852</a> of 2006, and others; see past MLCV Scorecards.
<b>Inland water extraction protections</b>	<b>Unclear.</b> “Some of these companies are very thoughtful and know how to do it right. We should work with them, not discourage them,” Snyder said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 <sup>th</sup> .	<b>Support.</b> “I’m very suspicious of anyone trying to take our water,” Bernero said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Protecting the Great Lakes from Asian Carp</b>	<b>Support.</b> “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 <sup>th</sup> .	<b>Support.</b> “We need to get together to apply all pressure possible,” Bernero said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Ban Drilling in the Great Lakes</b>	<b>Support.</b> Snyder expressed his views against drilling in the Great Lakes during the <a href="#">Mackinac Policy Center Debate</a> on June 4, 2010.	<b>Support.</b> “We need to be much better stewards of the environment,” Bernero said at the <a href="#">Mackinac Policy Center Debate</a> on June 4, 2010.

## Land

<b>Ban Exploration of U.P. mining</b>	<b>Oppose.</b> “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 <sup>th</sup> .	<b>Oppose.</b> “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 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Ban Oil/natural gas extraction</b>	<b>Oppose.</b> 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 <sup>th</sup> .	<b>Support.</b> “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 <sup>th</sup> .

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<b>Smart Growth</b>	<b>Support.</b> Major part of plan is to “restore cities and control urban sprawl,” according to his <a href="#">Central Cities</a> platform.	<b>Support.</b> Bernero is a strong proponent of Michigan’s cities, as Mayor of Lansing he has worked to revitalize the city. He also voted against urban sprawl as a State Senator ( <a href="#">SB 1275</a> of 2000).
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## Other Important Environmental Issues

<b>Full funding for Environmental Agencies</b>	<b>Support.</b> 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).	<b>No mention</b>
<b>Full funding for Pure Michigan campaign</b>	<b>Support.</b> We “can get \$2.20 for every \$1.00 we spend” Snyder said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 <sup>th</sup> .	<b>Support.</b> Bernero expressed his support during the <a href="#">Wood TV 8 Democratic Debate</a> on June 21, 2010.
<b>Toxic Cleanup and Prevention</b>	<b>Support.</b> Snyder’s Four-step environmental threat plan starts with “prevention” and “early detection” (p. 5).	<b>Support.</b> In the past, Bernero voted to hold polluters accountable and prevent further pollution ( <a href="#">SB 252</a> of 2004).
<b>Safer Children’s Products</b>	<b>Support.</b> “Michigan needs to be proactive in safeguarding our children and families against preventable diseases caused by toxic Chemicals,” Snyder says in his plan for the environment (p. 6).	<b>Support.</b> Bernero has been an advocate for children’s access 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 ( <a href="#">HB 4599</a> of 2001).
<b>Full funding for State Parks</b>	<b>Support.</b> “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).	<b>No mention</b>
<b>Stricter CAFO (Factory Farm) Standards</b>	<b>No mention</b>	<b>Support.</b> Bernero has voted in the past to control

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		factory farm pollution ( <a href="#">SB 205</a> of 1999).
<b>Environmental Justice</b>	<b>Support.</b> “Restoration of central cities is one of my priorities” Snyder said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 <sup>th</sup> .	<b>Support.</b> “It’s a real issue, investment in energy efficiency will help those areas” Bernero said at the MLCV Education Fund Forum on May 12 <sup>th</sup> .

## Contact the Candidates

<b>Contact Information</b>	<a href="#">Rick Snyder contact form</a>	<a href="mailto:virg@votevirg.com">virg@votevirg.com</a>
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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.

(Post-primary update, September 2010)