

July 28, 2006

Dear Public Health Network:

Michigan pundits and pollsters alike are calling the election of 2006 one of the most important in years. All state positions from Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, House, Senate, and drain commissioner are up for grabs this year. Term limits will continue to have a great impact as we lose the institutional knowledge of many long term state senators.

The Michigan Public Health Association, the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health and the Michigan Association for Local Public Health, conducted the annual Public Health candidate survey. This year we conducted the survey online for the first time. 88 out of a potential 415 House candidates responded, 80 online. We focused on candidates running in the primary election on August 8 as many races for the state house are hotly contested at the primary level.

Please review the 2006 Public Health candidate survey results at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/Report.asp?U=220012031655>. You may also view our summary of the results at http://www.mcmch.org/docs/candidate_summary.pdf

This survey is an educational tool for candidates, but more importantly an education tool for public health advocates. It is critical that we reach out to all candidates with our public health message and priorities. It is also critical that we elect people to serve who recognize the need for a strong public health focus in Michigan.

As the primary approaches on August 8 and the general election on November 7, we all face momentous decisions that will have lasting effects on the conduct of public health programs and funding that will shape the public health system for years to come.

Please review the health policy agendas from the candidates, and make an informed decision regarding who you think will provide the crucial leadership necessary to assist the public health system.

Our next steps will be to survey the State Senate, Gubernatorial and US House and Senate candidates.

Your outreach to all candidates with public health information will help us assure that Michigan is once again seen as a leader in addressing the critical issues facing the public's health in the 21st century.

Sincerely,

Mary Scoblic, Michigan Public Health Association, www.mipha.org
Paul Shaheen, Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health, www.mcmch.org
Mark Bertler, Michigan Association for Local Public Health, www.malph.org