



1. Michigan government is rated in the bottom 5 states for openness. There has been legislation introduced in Lansing that would subject elected members of the House and Senate and the Governor's office to expanded openness under the Freedom of Information Act and the Legislative Open Records Act. Will you support legislation that subjects elected leaders to more openness?

Absolutely, as a young, progressive, democratic woman, I feel that government is here to serve the people and transparency/openness is key to trusting our leaders. In Lansing, I will be a vocal advocate to create more transparency in government and support legislation that subjects elected leaders to more openness.

2. Do you believe newspapers serve an important role in your community regarding keeping citizens informed of important local government actions and other community events (i.e. obituaries, school news, engagements etc.)?

I am a true believer in newspapers serving a vital role in our community in keeping citizens informed. Living in Redford Township, our local newspapers and press are very important to many people in our community to know what is going on in the community, activities, food distribution, and more. Especially during COVID and a time where the President is bringing distrust to newspapers, it is crucial to keep newspapers in our lives to inform each one of us of government actions, virtual engagements, health updates, and (especially) school news with such uncertainty going on!

3. Have you had experience dealing with the Freedom of Information and Open Meetings laws in Michigan? If yes, please explain. **I have not.**

Currently, Michigan law requires many official activities and statements such as notices of upcoming elections, zoning changes and possible millage increases to be published in local newspapers. The purpose behind this law is to provide as much notice to the public as possible of government actions that will take place or are planned to take place. Newspaper publication also serves as a permanent record of governmental actions, serves an important due process function and helps assure that information received by the public is unfiltered, reliable and independent of governmental influences. Legislation being considered in Lansing would remove the requirement for publication of government actions in local newspapers and instead, require these public notices to be placed on the state, city or township government web sites. Please answer the following questions with the above statements in mind:

4. Do you feel that providing public notices of governmental actions in a printed newspaper is important to Michigan citizens? **Yes** or No
5. Would you oppose or support legislation to end newspaper publication of public notices? **Oppose** or Support

Name: Mary Cavanagh District 10 Party: Democrat