



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?
 - a. **Yes, I support making the State of Michigan more transparent and supporting and expanding FOIA and LORA legislation to cover elected officials. This is one component of my platform. See Richerin2020.com/issues**
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.)?
 - a. **Yes, I believe local newspapers are crucial in covering local events and providing local information and issues. Without local newspapers there is little avenue for the transmission of important local events and issues. The recent trend towards national issues and the loss of local newspapers has been at the expense of the citizens and full engagement in society.**
3. Have you had experience dealing with the Freedom of Information and Open Meetings laws in Michigan? If yes, please explain.
 - a. **I have seen information provided (in multiple cases) as a result of FOIA but I myself have not personally used the protections provided by FOIA to request material.**

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: _____ Renee Richer _____ District ____ 108 _____ Party _____ Democratic _____