



Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition

WeROC is a non-partisan organization of congregations and organizations in the Washtenaw County area. In September 2016, we asked the two candidates for the District 2 County Commission seat about several issues of interest to our membership and on which the County Commission may have a role in the coming year. We are publishing the responses we did receive.

NOTE: After several attempts to follow up, we regret that we did not receive responses from Mr. Smith or his campaign, which we believe would have been valuable to District 2 voters.

Questions	<u>Michelle Deatrick</u>	<u>Dan Smith</u>
County Mental Health Services: <i>Do you support maintaining the current model of a County “agency” overseen by the elected County Commission, or moving to an appointed “authority”?</i>	Yes. I support the current model and oppose any proposal—such as Governor Snyder’s this spring— involving privatization of this key public service and thus removing it from accountability to government oversight. Privatizing public services such as mental health or veterans’ services frequently results in both greater costs, and much worse levels of service to the most vulnerable. We should ensure that government improves quality of service when possible, but privatization is not the answer.	Candidate chose not to answer.
<i>Do you support applying “living wage” requirements to County employees and contractors?</i>	Yes. The application of “living wage” requirements to County employees and contractors should be a priority. This would be an important step toward alleviating the great income inequity in our community, in which one-fourth of households do not earn enough to meet basic needs (per a report from the Center for Labor and Community Studies, University of Michigan-Dearborn).	Candidate chose not to answer.
<i>Do you support applying “prevailing wage” requirements to County-funded construction projects?</i>	Yes, “prevailing wage” requirements should be a priority for County-funded construction projects. I do understand the extreme difficulties the County faces in making its budget, given state cuts in funding, and it’s possible that this priority would have to be balanced against other important priorities—but this is an important goal.	Candidate chose not to answer.
<i>Will you defend the Washtenaw County ID program against efforts to reverse it?</i>	Yes. This is an important way for the county to empower and improve the quality of life for many of our residents.	Candidate chose not to answer.

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Questions (continued)	Michelle Deatrick	Dan Smith
“Gelman Plume”: Will you support strong, public, and persistent encouragement by the Washtenaw County Board for effective, transparent action by the State of Michigan to address the “Gelman Plume” dioxane pollution of underground water in parts of Washtenaw County and Ann Arbor - including through non-binding resolutions where binding actions are not possible?	Yes. Safe water is a fundamental human right. The Pall-Gelman dioxane groundwater plume is three square miles in size--and expanding. Inadequate monitoring means its boundaries and extent are not known with any precision. The contamination threatens the county’s economy—and the health and property of many. The longer we let it go, the more difficult and expensive the cleanup becomes. I am committed to being a strong advocate for increased monitoring and remediation efforts.	Candidate chose not to answer.
Would you support a clear, formal resolution by the Washtenaw County Commission encouraging County residents to vote “Yes” this November for the Regional Transit Authority millage ?	Yes. The Regional Transit Authority millage will support the kind of public transportation that will enable and enhance economic growth through much of Southeast Michigan. It will create jobs in both the short-term and long-term, and will help seniors, students and the differently abled to access a much wider range of shopping and employment opportunities.	Candidate chose not to answer.
Union Rights: Do you support an active role for the Washtenaw County Board in supporting Washtenaw County employees against anti-union actions like “Right to Work” legislation, including such steps as negotiating longer-term contracts to reduce the negative impacts of such laws on County employees?	Yes, absolutely. The so-called “Right to Work” law in Michigan is really a “Right to Work for Less” law which undermines workers’ ability to stand together for higher wages and better working conditions. No wonder the 2012 Michigan law was passed by a lame-duck legislature in a process that the ACLU describes as “a calculated effort to deny the public access to the democratic process.”	Candidate chose not to answer.

Washtenaw County Commission District 2 includes most of the townships of Superior, Salem, Northfield, and Webster. See this link for a full map of the district: <http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/boc/commissioner-district-map-pdf>

WeROC brings together faith, labor, and community organizations and individuals to create a collective voice to impact public affairs and issues in the Washtenaw County, Michigan area. One of goals of the organizations of WeROC is to provide meaningful information to voters about key issues that our members care about.

Website: werocmi.org

Facebook.com: [werocmi](https://www.facebook.com/werocmi)

However you choose to vote, THANK YOU for being a voter! It matters!

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