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College: Adrian College, BS in Criminal Justice and Sociology; ROTC at U-M

Experience: FBI Special Agent, working organized crime and public corruption in Chicago; former co-owner small family home building company; former board member at Cleary College

What in your view are the three most pressing issues facing the people you seek to represent?

& 3.

Think about what has been accomplished in Iraq – a new, freely elected government, construction of schools and hospitals, growing commercial activity, and Iraqi police and military growing in numbers and experience despite the extremists attacks and attempts to derail the developing democracy.

I have had many opportunities to talk with citizens of Iraq, including some of its leaders, and also have spent time with our American military men and women serving in Iraq and the surrounding area. The

Iraqis convey a sense of appreciation and hope along with a fierce pride in their own country and its new status as a democracy. The military displays a pride and sense of mission that make it clear they understand that progress is being made in Iraq, Afghanistan, and in other places where we fight the War on Terrorism.

Do we want it finished and our men and women out of harms' way and back with their own families? Absolutely! But while a free world and living a secure, happy life is our dream, that dream is achieved not by wishing for it but by standing strong and fighting for it. The question we must ask ourselves is this: Do we want to win the War on Terror or do we want to duck for cover and leave it to our children and grandchildren to fight it for us? I think not, this is a war we must and will win.

See above

Has the U.S. taken the correct course to date to discourage the development of nuclear weapons by Iran?

I am the Policy Chairman for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and I believe we are confronted in Iran with one of the greatest challenges in the history of the United States since the historic fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. The primary threat of communism fell with that wall, and since then the U.S. has faced other tremendous challenges: fighting al Qaeda and radical Islamic terrorists around the globe; confronting a dangerous regime in Iraq and halting Slobodan Milosevic's ethnic cleansing in the Balkans. Today, the threat of the theocratic Iranian government is unique and dangerous, with Iran having active terrorist cells around the globe, including in the United States, having the access to tremendous natural resources to fund its military and intelligence capabilities, having openly advocated the destruction of Israel and by flaunting the international community's demands by developing nuclear weapons.

Until two years of negotiations broke off in December 2005, I remained hopeful that negotiations with Britain, France and Germany and then Iran and the European Union, would yield positive results. Unfortunately, that did not happen and I have since written Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, encouraging her to have staff open direct talks with counterparts in the Iranian government. These negotiations need not be high-level summits or Presidential state visits, but I believe an avenue must exist for dialogue between the Iranian and U.S. governments. The United States has to keep all options open for in dealing with this threat. Diplomacy must be one of those options. It appears that lower level diplomacy has already brought some positive results in dealing with North Korea and Syria. The main thing is to provide an avenue for dialogue.

Two-thirds of Iranians are younger than 30 years old and with Iraqis voting in droves next door, I believe Iranians are also hungry to have a say in their own government and their future. I was pleased the House recently approved legislation to empower the freedom movement inside Iran. The U.S. must do all it can to support the millions of Iranians who want to be free of oppression.

5. Favor expanding federally funded embryonic stem cell research?

Given the sensitive and emotional nature of this topic, I believe we must proceed carefully and take deliberate care with it. I am concerned about research that deliberately destroys one human being for the benefit of another, but I support the President's decision to allow for the research to continue on existing embryonic stem lines while affirming that we will not allow for future embryos to be used. Furthermore, it is important to note that despite this ban, research is not prohibited from continuing in privately funded labs across the country.

When the House of Representatives considered legislation of whether to allow federal funds to subsidize research using embryonic stem cells, I voted no. I believe it is unethical to use taxpayer dollars to create and kill human life in the name of research. However, I supported legislation making a federal commitment to on-going cord-blood stem cell research. Cord-blood stem cells are already being used to treat patients suffering from a host of diseases and facilitate ethical and promising scientific research without crossing questionable boundaries.

Favor an amendment to the U.S. Constitution stating that “marriage ... between man and woman”?

Yes.

7. Believe the President properly exercised his authority in regard to NSA monitoring telephone and internet communications? Have concern about privacy rights relative to NSA activities?

As a former FBI Special Agent, I believe deeply that protection of the Fourth Amendment is critically important. As an FBI Agent, and now as a member of Congressman, I have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution and I take that oath seriously.

As a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I look forward to overseeing the NSA program in classified hearings this year. The committee’s goal is to protect the integrity of the program to the extent that is possible. NSA’s program details were provided to both Republican and Democrat leaders of the Intelligence Committee when it was originated. I am concerned that public discussions of this program would reveal to al Qaida a complete roadmap for what the United States is doing to defeat their attacks on our nation and democracy around the world. Finally, President Bush has received a legal opinion from the Attorney General that this NSA program is consistent with the law and with the authority granted to him by Congress. The issue is expected to be debated in the courts, but I also intend to meet my responsibilities for oversight as we continue to fight the War on Terrorism.

8. Generally satisfied with efforts of DHS to protect America against another terrorist attack?

Generally, yes, but I do support risk-based funding to ensure that Homeland Security funding is targeted to areas in America where we face the greatest threat from potential terrorist attacks.

9. Does federal government have any larger role to play in assisting American manufacturers facing overseas competition?

Our nation’s strength is built on a viable free trade system, but trade also must be fair. Today, many nations are not practicing fair trade, and that is why I worked to pass H.R. 3283, the United States Trade Rights Enhancement Act. HR 3283 will crack down hard on illegal trading practices, especially in China, by creating a "one-stop-shop" for trade enforcement. The measure also provides funding to hire new "trade enforcement cops" so U.S. companies can get the help they need when their intellectual property has been stolen overseas, or when a trading partner fails to obey the rules they have agreed to upfront. The legislation also gives real tools to U.S. manufacturers and farmers to counter illegal foreign subsidies, ensures foreign companies can no longer skip out on paying penalties for previous illegal trading.

10. Favor stricter CAFE standards for U.S. auto industry?

Recent changes in the light truck CAFE system will amount to roughly a two percent per year increase in the fuel economy of the light truck fleet – that's twice the rate of fuel efficiency increase that has occurred for the light truck fleet over the past two decades. The new rule also sets in place seven consecutive years of increase in the light truck CAFE standards (from 2005-2011; from a fleet average in 2004 of 20.7 mpg to a fleet average in 2011 of 24 mpg -- a 16 percent overall increase)

The new CAFE rules also reform the CAFE system. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is replacing the current company standard with a standard that uses the vehicle "footprint" (the vehicle's wheelbase times its track width) to set a per vehicle CAFE standard, which is then used to calculate the company wide standard. The change from a single number system (same number for each manufacturer) to a size based structure that sets a continuous set of fuel economy targets depending on vehicle size is positive for all automakers and consumers because it takes a system which had distorted the marketplace by granting credits for some vehicles while not counting others at all, and replaces it with a system by which all cars and light-trucks will be subject to a real, scientifically based CAFE standard.

I believe that this sensible, science-based reform could be a model for a more complete reform of the CAFE system, including passenger car regulations.

Does current U.S. energy policy include enough support for nuclear power and other alternatives to fossil fuels?

The cost of energy sources such as gasoline, heating oil, and natural gas continues to significantly increase. A major contributing factor to our current energy woes is a reliance on foreign oil. The U.S. relies on foreign imports for more than 60 percent of its crude oil needs. As a Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I believe it is important that Congress take steps to reduce our dependency on foreign oil production and stem the rapid increase in domestic energy prices, while increasing conservation and research into renewable energies to improve competitiveness for American job providers and their workers. That is why I worked to approve the Energy Policy Act, signed into law last year. This measure represents the first overhaul of energy policy in thirteen years.

A National Association of Manufacturers study found that higher structural costs, including higher energy costs, add 22 percent to the price of producing American-made goods in comparison with competing nations. America's demand for energy increases each year, but production does not. By 2025, the demand for energy is expected to increase up to 50 percent in every sector, including electricity, petroleum, natural gas, coal and renewable fuels.

High Gasoline Prices

I am working on measures aimed at reducing the cost of powering our vehicles with a three-pronged approach: immediate relief, near-term solutions and long-term solutions. First, for immediate relief, I have launched a new gas prices section on my website at [HYPERLINK "http://www.mikerogers.house.gov"](http://www.mikerogers.house.gov) \o "http://www.mikerogers.house.gov" www.mikerogers.house.gov where citizens can report allegations of price gouging, get tips on how to reduce fuel consumption and view my legislative agenda to reduce the price of gasoline. Utilizing my position on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I worked to enact federal tax credits for the purchase of more fuel-efficient hybrid vehicles. I also have voted to create a federal ban on price gouging and to promote car and vanpooling. Finally, I recently introduced legislation to provide up to \$30,000 in grants for independent gasoline station owners to purchase E-85 tanks (E-85 is a blend of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline) and pumps to double the number of E-85 pumps at fuel stations throughout Michigan and the nation. Partly with federal research money I secured,

Michigan State University is conducting exciting research on ethanol. The MSU scientists believe in five years E-85 could be delivered to the consumer at the pump for as low as \$1.00 per gallon. This research ties closely with the business plans of the American auto industry, who already has six million flex-fuel, E-85 capable cars on the road today and will produce another one million this year. Rest assured, I will work tirelessly toward this important economic and national security effort.

For the long-term solution, I worked to create a \$3.7 billion hydrogen fuel cell program, which is now law, to power the vehicles of the future by 2020. I also believe Congress must also increase the domestic supply of petroleum in an environmentally sensitive way to reduce the price, including exploring for petroleum in 2,000 out of the 19 million acres of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, the Energy Policy Act:

Reduces natural gas costs by increasing supply in an environmentally responsible way.

Makes electricity reliability mandatory to prevent blackouts.

Creates 500,000 new jobs in the manufacturing and technology sectors.

Provides \$2.9 billion in clean coal technology to use America's most abundant natural resource in an environmentally responsible way.

Provides \$8 billion (55% of cost of bill) for energy conservation and efficiency improvements.

I do believe nuclear energy should continue to play a role in our energy strategy. With appropriate safeguards in place, much of Europe, Japan and the United States have found success with nuclear energy as a source of electricity that emits no air pollution. Further, new research into reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel could reduce the possibility of having to build as many as nine new spent nuclear fuel repositories such as that currently being constructed at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

12. In your view, has No Child Left Behind been a success?

It is interesting that the U.S. Department of Education has already decided to take the next step to continue the progress already being made as a result of No Child Left Behind. With input and feedback from educators, state and local leaders, and Members of Congress, Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced a new approach to implementing No Child Left Behind titled Raising Achievement: A New Path. It represents a new way of doing business. If states are improving student achievement and closing the achievement gap, they will be given added flexibility.

The No Child Left Behind Act was approved to ensure that every child learned to read and do math on grade level or above. Under this new approach, that goal remains the primary and guiding purpose. As a first step, the way states can assess students with persistent academic disabilities will be revised. To assist, the Department of Education will provide states technical assistance for improving instruction, assessments, and accountability for all students with disabilities.

I believe we will see this approach to improving American education grow and mature, mostly because

we are committed to exploring other policy reforms. The key is to find areas to extend flexibility without budging on the basic premise of leaving no child behind.

13. Are you in favor of amending the Constitution to ban desecration of the American flag?

As an American, I think it is disgraceful that a fellow citizen would stoop so low as to desecrate the flag. When I see someone burn a flag, I do not see a sign of freedom and I do not see someone exercising their right to free speech. I see a coward drawing attention to him or herself.

As a veteran, I am saddened by the utter disrespect some people have for our flag.