



# Another Michigan is Possible! Vote Socialist on November 7th!

## **MATT ERARD FOR 53RD DISTRICT STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

Socialist Party Candidate on the Ballot  
With "No Party Affiliation"\*

<http://www.erard2006.org>

Worker control of all production and distribution. No more bosses. Bring democracy to the workplace. Public ownership of major industries. Production for use, not profit

Universal healthcare. Full employment. Minimum wage of \$15 an hour. Maximum wage of no more than ten times the minimum. Increased funding for social services for the poor and unemployed. Free education from cradle to grave including college and childcare. Develop a real mass transit system in Michigan. Establish a massive state public works program to rebuild our cities and communities. Establish state-owned auto insurance with rates on a sliding scale.

Defend a woman's right to choose. Increase free access to reproductive services. Outlaw racial profiling. Defend and expand affirmative action programs. Reform the criminal justice system. End the so-called "war on drugs" Legalize same-sex marriage. Prevent any agency in the state from enforcing or complying with the USA PATRIOT ACT.

Shift the tax burden off the backs of the poor and working-class through a steeply graduated state income tax and abolition of regressive sales, sin and property taxes. End corporate welfare. Eliminate outsourcing through a 100% capital flight tax. Fight gentrification. Rent control for all existing rental units. Public financing of elections. End restrictive ballot access laws. Support instant run-off voting.

Public ownership and democratic control of all natural resources and energy plants. Stringent environmental policies. Introduce resolutions in the Michigan House demanding: Withdrawal of all U.S. troops overseas. End the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. Immediate 50% cut in the military budget with funds diverted to essential social services. Immediate withdrawal from NAFTA, WTO, IMF/World Bank and G8 Work toward the abolition of capitalism and the establishment of a democratic socialist society

## **JACOB WOODS FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Socialist Party Candidate on the Green Party Line\*

<http://woods2006.spmichigan.org>

Free, quality and universal public education, from pre-kindergarten through post-graduate studies, including open admissions with the abolition of tuition and fees at all public universities.

Recognition of full unionization rights for all teachers, lecturers, and graduate teaching assistants including the right to strike! Abolition of legislation that allows public funds to be diverted into private schools. Abolition of school voucher programs and charter schools.

Defend and expand affirmative action in public education  
End unequal funding of school districts based on race and class  
Funding for a massive teacher recruitment and retention program, administered by the teachers' unions.  
Broadband Internet access in all schools, libraries and other educational facilities, free and accessible to all students, parents and members of the community.

Repudiation of the provisions of the "No Child Left Behind" Act, including teacher testing and merit pay, and rejection of funds tied to that legislation.

Multicultural, class-conscious curricula that allow for alternative methods of learning and development.

Non-moralistic sex and health education beginning in the fourth grade.

Removal of all corporate advertising and presence in public schools.

Mandatory updating of all school textbooks and other learning-related materials every three years.

Inclusion of vocational and fine arts courses in the mandatory curriculum.

Expansion of adult and lifelong education programs, including academic and vocational courses.

Student, teacher, faculty, and community representation on all school boards

An end to military research at public universities and the abolition of all ROTC and JROTC programs.





THE SOCIALIST PARTY strives to establish a radical democracy that places peoples' lives under their own control; where working people own and control the means of production and distribution, through democratically-controlled committees and assemblies; where full employment is realized for everyone who wants to work; where workers have the right to form unions freely, and to strike and engage in other forms of job actions; and where the production of society is used for the benefit of all humanity, not for the private profit of a few. We believe socialism and democracy are one and indivisible. The working class is in a key and central position to fight back against the ruling capitalist class and its power. The working class is the major force worldwide that can lead the way to a socialist future - to a real radical democracy from below. The Socialist Party fights for progressive changes compatible with a socialist future. We support militant working class struggles and electoral action, independent of the capitalist-controlled two-party system, to present socialist alternatives. We strive for democratic social revolutions - radical and fundamental changes in the structure and nature of economic, political and social relations - to abolish the power now exercised by the few who control the economy and the government.

The Socialist Party is a democratic, multi-tendency organization, with structure and practices visible and accessible to all members.

## Vote No on Proposal 2!

### Socialist Party of Michigan Statement on the Michigan "Civil Rights" Initiative

On November 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan voters will be asked to decide on a state Constitutional amendment to eliminate much of the still grossly insufficient progress that has been achieved in recent decades in the ongoing struggle against the systems of institutional racism and sexism. The deceptively named Michigan Civil Rights Initiative will not only eliminate all public sector affirmative action programs in the state of Michigan, but will also likely eliminate gender specific services such as women's healthcare. The MCRI is the Michigan version of the 1996 and 1998 California and Washington Civil Rights Initiatives, all three of which have been led by millionaire businessman Ward Connerly. The MCRI is supported and funded by a litany of corporations, millionaires and white supremacists from right-wing media mogul Rupert Murdoch to the Mystic Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

The consequences in California and Washington have been devastating with drops in minority representation wherever the proposal took effect, particularly in employment and education. After the California initiative passed, dozens of employment programs pertaining to minority and female recruitment, appointment, promotion, transfer, training, and career development were immediately eliminated. Similarly educational and financial aid programs for women and minorities were abolished and minority enrollment in Washington and California universities has rapidly declined. Despite the fact that Michigan's college-age population is nearly 20% African American, African Americans compose only 5.9% of the student body at the University of Michigan, even with the meager affirmative action programs that exist today. Judging by its effects in other states, the University of Michigan successfully argued in the 2004 Supreme Court case *Grutter v. Bollinger*, the elimination of affirmative action is expected to cause minority enrollment to drop by an additional 75%.

Like the anti-gay marriage amendment of 2004, the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative is yet another attempt by capitalists and extreme reactionaries to divide the working class in the struggle against its common oppressor and to rollback the victories against systematic discrimination that it has achieved. The Socialist Party of Michigan calls for the expansion of affirmative action programs and the establishment of reparations in both the public and private sector as part of the struggle to abolish the real system of racial preferences in our society: the statistically indisputable white privilege that remains omnipresent throughout all of our institutions. We call on all Michigan workers to unite against this proposal and continue the struggle for the social equality

\*Due to restrictive ballot access laws designed by the Democrats and Republicans to keep minor parties off the ballot, the Socialist Party does not have ballot access in Michigan this year. As a result Matt Erard will appear on the ballot as a candidate with "no party affiliation" and Jacob Woods will appear on the ballot as a candidate of the Green Party.

**Socialist Party of Michigan: <http://www.spmichigan.org>**

**Socialist Party USA: <http://www.sp-usa.org>**

Socialist Party of Michigan P.O. Box 3285 Kalamazoo, MI 49003; (269) 598-0534, [spmi@spmichigan.org](mailto:spmi@spmichigan.org)