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Day 6 - Vote, Greener

Choose 2 candidates who are running for office that **will be on your ballot** and research the policy platforms they are running on.

This election there are people running for governor of Michigan to replace our current one. I decided to research two of the main options: **Bill Schuette** and **Gretchen Whitmer**.

- What party do they represent and what office are they running for?

Bill Schuette – Republican, running for governor of Michigan.

Gretchen Whitmer – Democrat – running for governor of Michigan.

Research what they stand for. Share two policy platforms that you support or don't support. Tell us where the candidate stands on each?

Share **your** position on each and tell us why these issues matter to you?

Whitmer on Urban Policy Development – She wants to raise the minimum wage in Michigan, work on creating safe communities and affordable housing, and creating more jobs in Michigan. She also plans on really pushing regional transit in metropolitan cities throughout Michigan.

I think that the idea of pushing regional transit is a great idea. I am from the suburbs of a city and it is often really difficult to get anywhere in Michigan without a car. Creating public transportation would allow more people to go to work in the cities, thus improving jobs. I do think raising the minimum wage is also extremely beneficial. I personally know people living off of minimum wage and they struggle to keep their homes and take care of their families. It really makes planning for the future difficult when you question if you'll make enough money that week for food or for gas.

Whitmer on Cleaning up our Drinking Water – She is committed to enter Michigan into the US Climate Alliance to fight for clean water and fresh air. She wants to create the Department of Great Lakes and Freshwater to focus on cleaning up our drinking water, growing the Blue economy, improving outdoor quality of life, and water conservation.

I read each of her ideas for the new Department of the Great Lakes, and it sounds like a great idea. I fully support the natural environment and protecting our lakes for generations to come. Recently with the Flint water crisis, and Detroit has some water issues, it's more important now more than ever about how we can keep our water safe. I have noticed a change in people over the last few years in questioning if their water is safe to drink. I think that being so close to a large source of fresh water in the world, we need to work on protecting it. When we start to lose trust in the very thing that keeps us alive (in this case, water), we know we've reached a dark day for humanity and must fight to keep on surviving.

Bill Schuette on Guarding the Environment and Great Lakes – He says he will continue to look out for our Great Lakes while creating a timeline for “Line 5,” a oil pipeline to connect the Upper Peninsula to the Lower Peninsula. He says this will create many jobs and reliable energy services to many people. He also plans on removing chemicals from Michigan’s water and boosting tourism and sport-fishing industries for economic activity and jobs.

While I do think that protecting the Great Lakes is extremely important, and I’m all for creating jobs in Michigan, I can’t get behind drilling an oil pipeline below the Great Lakes. Back by my high school they recently drilled an oil pipeline underground and I just don’t think it’s that safe if it were to spill or if something were to go wrong. Oil spills do still happen and it’s devastating to the wildlife in the lakes. I don’t really see oil pipelines as protecting the Great Lakes, I see it as a potential way to harm them.

Bill Schuette on Roads and Infrastructure – Plans to re-prioritize state funds so fixing roads will be a top priority. Wants to have stronger, enforceable guarantees and warranties on roads and bridges so make sure that they last. Wants to run an audit of the transportation department to ensure we spend tax dollars efficiently in fixing the roads.

Everyone in Michigan knows how bad our roads are. We all know that they need to be fixed, so I think taking a look at how to make them more efficient is a good idea. I, personally, don’t necessarily think that roads are a top priority. I prioritize safe water above roads. Because if we can’t live off of our own water, we might not be around to drive on roads. I do think this could create jobs which is important. However, I went to Schuette;s website to read what information he had on there about roads and, compared to Whitmer, he did not have as much information about the roads and his fact page regarding this section was very short and did not have a lot of specifics. The lack of specifics makes me question *how* he plans on following through with it. Because the *how* is just as important as the *why*.