

Name: **Eric Coleman**

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Family: **Married to Judith (Judy); one son, Eric, Jr.; three Grandchildren**

Years living in the district: **35 Years**

Education: Bachelor of Arts, The School of the Arts Institute, Chicago, IL; John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA; Experience: Oakland County Commissioner, since 1996; Former President, Treasurer, Southfield Board of Education; Former President, National Association of Counties; President, Michigan Democratic County Officials; former Elementary and High School Teacher and Community College Instructor; Executive Committee, Michigan Democratic Party; Executive Committee, Democratic National Committee.

Civic Involvement: Former Chairperson, City of Southfield's Parent Youth Guidance Commission; former President, Southfield-Lathrup Village Optimist Club International; former Lt. Governor, Optimist Club International; founder and former advisor, Southfield Youth in Government; founding member and former First Vice President, South Oakland County NAACP; founder and former President, Southfield Schools Educational Foundation; former member, Southfield Community Foundation; former member, Citizens Advisory Council for Fiscal Responsibility and Policy; former member, Southfield-Lathrup Village Multi-cultural Coalition; founding member and President, Southfield-Lathrup Village Civic Citizens, Inc., founding member, Oakland County Political Action Committee. Recipient of numerous civic awards, including the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award and the State of Michigan Service to the Community Award.

1). What is your vision for the State of Michigan in the next 2 to 6 years?

Michigan's families and businesses flourish. Children receive exceptional education. College education is affordable. Highly skilled workforce treated and compensated fairly. Our region is the center for advanced medical and green technologies. Highest quality health care is affordable and accessible. Quality of life attracts young people, families, retirees and businesses.

2). Do you support repeal of term limits?

The current term limits aren't working. This year, 29 of 38 Senators and 34 of 110 State Representatives are term-limited. Frequent turnover doesn't allow inexperienced lawmakers time to understand complex issues, so they become dependent on lobbyists. Experience with complex budgetary issues and legislative processes are essential from day one.

3). What are your three priorities for funding key state services? Be specific.

1. A graduated income tax
2. Excessive spending on incarcerations should be redirected to education.
3. Address much needed structural changes to the budget. Cost reductions that should be adopted: implement recommendations in performance/ financial audits; consolidate state government departments; eliminate undocumented and fraudulent payment; negotiate better price for products/services.

4). What are your ideas for improving Michigan's Economy ? Be Specific.

Michigan's economic development strategy must focus on supporting existing businesses and diversifying our economic base by aggressively pursuing new technologies. We must create a business climate that encourages innovation, technology and entrepreneurship through incentives and equitable business tax structure. Invest in having a highly trained and skilled work force.

5). Do you support an increase in the state sales tax for education funding?

No. Funding for education cannot afford to be tied to revenues that are heavily impacted by downturns in the economy such as a sales tax. Further, an increase in the sales tax would have a negative impact on businesses and economic activity, which we cannot afford.

6). Do you agree that tax incentives are the best way to attract new business to Michigan? Explain.

No. Oakland County has found it helpful to offer a wide range of incentives which include tax incentives, financing programs, and job training incentives. but, most importantly, new businesses are looking at the quality of life, access to a highly trained work force, and proximity to research, development and suppliers.

7). Would you support a graduated income tax?

Yes. This is fairer because individuals with larger incomes have more income for discretionary spending. Graduated income tax provide tax relief to low and middle income people and only impacts those with the highest income. This provides more disposable income to the vast majority of residents and stimulates economic activity.

8). Do you support a state constitutional convention? Explain your answer.

Yes. The Constitutional Convention could address: Making it easier to combine governmental units, removing obstacles to combining government services, clarifying the process for removing public officials from office and amending Proposal A – which has proven to be totally inadequate for funding schools and services during periods of declining property values.