

Mid-Term Voting Starts Soon with Absentee Balloting

Much is at stake on **November 6, 2018** when Federal, State and Local elections take place. Nationwide, 33 Senate seats, 435 House Seats and 14 Governorships are up for election. State Officers, Judgeships, State House seats, State Senate seats and local offices will be decided.

Seniors have reason to be concerned about the outcome of the elections on all three levels. The issues of healthcare and social security are but two important factors.

America's democratic values depend on the outcome of this election. Control of Congress and the appointment of Federal Judgeships, including Supreme Court appointments will be determined.

Three important Ballot Proposals made it through to appear on the statewide ballot: a proposal to regulate marijuana like alcohol; a proposed constitutional amendment to create a citizens' commission for redistricting, and; a proposed constitutional amendment to make it easier for all Michiganders to cast their ballots in elections.

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MiARA Statewide Ballot Proposal Recommendations

Proposal 18-1 Collation to Regulate Marijuana like Alcohol:

Among its provisions, allows adults aged 21 years or older to possess and use marijuana for recreational purposes; sales tax of 10 percent, for marijuana allocated to local governments, K-12 education, and road and bridge maintenance.

MiARA has not taken a position on Proposal 1.

Proposal 18-2 Voters not Politicians:

Proposed constitutional amendment to create a commission of citizens for redistricting purposes and authorize the commission to adopt reapportionment plans for Congressional, State Senate and State House of Representative districts.

MiARA recommends a YES vote on Proposal 18-2.

Proposal 18-2 Promote the Vote:

Proposed constitutional amendment to regulate authorize no-reason absentee voting, require a straight party voting option on general election ballots, provide for automatic and election day voter registration, require post-election audits, and other voting changes.

MiARA recommends a YES vote on Proposal 18-2.

MiARA Endorsed Candidates in November 6th General Election

The MiARA executive board voted to endorse the following list of candidates in the general election on **Tuesday, November 6, 2018**. Be sure to check with your union for information on their endorsements in your community.

U.S. Senator

- [Debbie Stabenow](#)

Governor

- [Gretchen Whitmer](#)

Lieutenant Governor

- [Garlin Gilchrist](#)

Attorney General

- [Dana Nessel](#)

Secretary of State

- [Jocelyn Benson](#)

Michigan Supreme Court:

- [Samuel Bagenstos](#)
- [Megan Kathleen Cavanagh](#)

7th Congressional District

- [Gretchen Driskell](#)

8th Congressional District MiARA

- [Elissa Slotkin](#)

9^h Congressional District

- [Andy Levin](#)

11th Congressional District MiARA

- [Haley Stevens](#)

12th Congressional District MiARA

- [Debbie Dingell](#)

13th Congressional District MiARA

- [Rashida Tlaib](#)

Legislative Actions Supersede Ballot Proposals On Employee Issues

Three initiative petitions that had been proposed for the ballot were enacted into law by the legislature, and therefore will not appear on the ballot.

Repeal of Prevailing Wages: The state legislature voted to enact the proposal to repeal Michigan prevailing wage laws on June 6, 2018, rendering the proposal ineligible to appear on the ballot, and taking away the chance for Michigan voters to decide this important issue directly.

Michigan One Fair Wage: The legislature passed a gradual increase of the hourly minimum wage from \$10.00 in 2019 to \$12.00 in 2022. This has replaced the ballot proposal that had been set to appear on the November ballot.

MI Time to Care: Michigan lawmakers passed into law a requirement that employers provide sick leave for personal or family health reasons, subject to certain conditions.

Find Your Voting Location

Your polling station may have changed since the last time that you voted. The Michigan Voter Information Center website is your source for election information, including:

- Sample ballots
- Voting locations
- Absentee ballot tracking
- And Much More

<http://www.michigan.gov/vote>

No Postal Service Privatization

The following statement on the privatization of the United States Postal Service was issued by the AFL-CIO Executive Council Statement at their Washington, D.C. meeting on July 26, 2018:

The U.S. Postal Service, which was created as the Post Office Department in 1792, has its founding principles in the U.S. Constitution. To this day, it remains a national treasure belonging to the people of this country.

The Postal Service has remained a self-sustaining, independent establishment of the federal government that does not receive taxpayer funding and relies solely on revenue derived from the sale of postal services and products.

The Postal Service employs more than 500,000 people who are at the center of a \$1.4 trillion, 7.5 million employee mailing industry. The agency serves the needs of more than 157 million business and residential customers through its affordable universal network, providing service six and sometimes seven days a week.

This universal network connects the country's rural, suburban and urban communities at fair and reasonable rates, providing equal access no matter who we are and where we are located. This unmatched infrastructure coupled with a dedicated workforce is the reason that the Postal Service is consistently the highest-rated agency of the federal government. In fact, a Pew Research Center poll, released in February 2018, showed that the Postal Service has an 88% favorability rating.

The Postal Service remains the nation's second-largest employer of military veterans and is a source of decent and dignified union jobs and equal pay for workers from all backgrounds, including women and people of color. These employees are dedicated public servants who do

more than process and deliver the nation's mail. They serve as the eyes and ears of the nation's communities and often respond first in situations involving health, safety and crime.

While there are many unknowns when it comes to privatization of the Postal Service, we know that if it is privatized in whole or in part, the decision to provide services will be based on whether a company can make a profit rather than what's good for working people. Inevitably, privatization will lead to increased rates and diminished services for customers, especially in rural communities and potentially low-income urban areas.

Privatization of the Postal Service would jeopardize the booming e-commerce sector and cripple a major part of the nation's critical infrastructure during a time where methods of communication are constantly changing, while mail, including letters, cards, periodicals, medicines, catalogs and packages, continues to be invaluable to individuals and businesses.

Recently, the White House Office of Management and Budget unveiled a plan for privatization of the Postal Service promoted by billionaire- and corporate-funded "think tanks" with powerful influence in the Trump administration and Congress. These corporate interests are not looking out for workers, communities or businesses who are currently well-served by the Postal Service as an independent establishment of the federal government.

As a member of "A Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service," the AFL-CIO will actively engage in the fight to save the Postal Service by mounting a serious defense to this threat and encouraging central labor councils and state federations to join with labor and community allies in concrete actions against privatization.

The AFL-CIO also will go on record unequivocally opposing the privatization of the Postal Service so it remains an independent establishment of the federal government.

MiARA Activist Spotlight

MiARA Treasurer

Charles Robinson

Charles Robinson, better known to his friends as Charlie, should have the title “Mister Union.” Whenever there is a battle for workers, you can be sure Charlie is in the thick of things.

Charlie graduated from Wayne State University in 1966, with a teaching certificate in Secondary Social Studies. He immediately began his working career in the Detroit Public Schools.

The times called for teachers to wear many different hats, so Charlie ended up teaching subjects as varied as biology, band, and art, in addition to the history and government classes for which he was certified.

Charlie is a Founding Member of the MiARA, currently serving on the Executive Board as Treasurer, representing his union, AFT-Michigan.

Charlie has been a member of the Detroit Federation of Teachers, AFT Local #231 (DFT) since he began teaching. It was an exciting first year. The local was embroiled in a strike. “I received an excellent education in collective bargaining right off the bat,” Charlie said of the experience. “As a result of our work stoppage, a starting Detroit teacher’s pay went from \$5,600 to \$6,500 a year.”

As a teacher, Charles served as a building representative (Union Steward) for 30 of the 40 years he taught. He served as DFT strike coordinator many times and as a political campaign coordinator. He was a delegate to AFT and AFL-CIO state and national conventions. He served as a delegate to the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO to help coordinate union activities and needs in the metropolitan Detroit area.

During his student years at WSU, Charlie participated in several progressive causes. He was

active in the Detroit Committee to End the War in Vietnam and the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee. Charlie participated in several Washington, D.C. actions against the war and for Civil Rights. At this time, Charlie worked on his first political campaign, supporting George Crockett for judge. It angered Charlie that he was required to take a loyalty oath to qualify for employment in Public Schools.

When he retired after 40 years of teaching, Charlie started a new career in politics. He went to work for State Representative Vincent Gregory as his District Community Liaison. When Gregory was elected to the Michigan Senate, Charlie continued working for him.

Robinson has been active in Democratic Party politics for more than 30 years. He has regularly attended meetings of his local, county, district and state level party. He has been and is currently a Precinct Delegate.

Charlie is a happy family man. He enjoys being with his “loving spouse Vivian.” He has three children and five grandchildren.



Union activist and MiARA Treasurer Charlie Robinson has knocked on doors and worked hard to elect Democrats to office for many years.

Rally! Vote! Prosper!

Michigan Unions Members and Pols Show their Pride in the 2018 Metro-Detroit AFL-CIO Labor Day Parade



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- Dick Long, President, (UAW)
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- Charlie Robinson, Treasurer, (AFT-MICHIGAN)
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