

1. Do you support the efforts of Welcoming Michigan? Why? Why Not?

1. First and foremost my duty is to the citizens of Sterling Heights and with that duty, a responsibility to how our taxpayers' money is spent, as well as protecting the general welfare of our residents. Our country has been welcoming to immigrants and refugees. The intent behind "Welcoming Michigan", though the name is innocuous, is what troubles me about this organization. In 2010 "Welcoming Michigan" became a state affiliate of "Welcoming America", a national organization launched during Obama's Administration in 2009. (1) I believe Welcome Michigan's intent is to transform America rather than encourage appropriate assimilation of refugees and immigrants.

According to the office of Refugee Resettlement, "The Refugee Act of 1980 created The Federal Refugee Resettlement Program to provide for the effective resettlement of refugees and to assist them in achieving economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible after arrival in the United States." The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement is supposed to work in cooperation with state and local officials to resettle refugees. (2) Since city officials have local control, they need to provide greater transparency to the residents of the program's costs and risks to the community.

I honor our country for its long history of achievement through immigrants who came legally and with the desire to be responsible citizens. In accepting immigrants, we need to ensure that those who come to our country want to uphold our laws and our Constitution by learning the English language, our history and the standards of citizenry to become self-sufficient. Welcoming Michigan does not foster such assimilation in respect to our customs and laws; rather it serves to transform it. It is within this framework that I cannot, in good faith, support Welcoming Michigan.

2. Do you support the current U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program? Why? Why Not?

My opinion was and is to provide a safe zone where the refugees could be sheltered within their own countries; having connections of family, culture, language at much lower cost than moving them to foreign lands. Everything regarding this issue of the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program must be made within the framework of respect and security of our citizens. We have a right to enforce our borders, uphold our laws and protect our citizens. We need to encourage our government to have stricter security screening in vetting refugees, particularly from war torn areas, in order to prevent refugees who may be coming here for purposes other than finding a safe home.

Moreover, we need competent health screening not only to identify the medical needs but to ensure public health security within the community. Best practice would be mandatory health screening prior to entry into the USA, therefore preventing the spread of contagious diseases.

Our country has a history of welcoming immigrants and refugees. The United Nations Refugee Agency works to resettle refugees. However, the United States has the sole decision as to whether to comply with the United Nations in admitting refugees. If America is overcome by the violence from around the world, this country will no longer be a safe haven for our citizens or for immigrants requesting entry.

3. Do you support making Michigan a Sanctuary State? Why? Why Not

I do not support making Michigan a Sanctuary State as it would violate Federal Law. The U.S. Congress has control over all immigration-related regulations, while the Executive branch is in charge of enforcing immigration laws. Cities or states should not violate federal law by attempting to usurp such power not given to it.

4. Having taken the oath of office, how would you balance diversity and assimilation?

Differing individual ideas, experiences, talents and knowledge are valuable when they work for the benefit of our country and uphold our Constitution. All can benefit with sharing those ideas. I recall when I worked in Human Resources and presented new hire orientation; one of the statements we shared with every new employee is that they bring different perspectives to their new positions. As such, they may see things that might be done differently that might improve process, eliminate duplication or provide better outcomes. We welcomed their insight and encouraged them to share with their respective manager. Of course, this was done within the required standard of procedures and behaviors of the organization.

When my family and I came to the United States as immigrants, we quickly focused on assimilating to our country. We learned to speak and read English, learned our country's history, worked hard, paid taxes and became citizens. I wouldn't expect immigrants or refugees to forget their roots but I do expect them to cherish being an American by truly understanding and respecting our Constitution, Bill of Rights and representative government. If they recognize themselves as Americans first, there should be no need to be concerned about balancing diversity and assimilation in the context of this question. As an elected official, I would work to provide the necessary tools and programs to ensure refugee and immigrant assimilation into our United States of America's core values. We need to be reminded that our love for God, Country and Fellowman should unite us; not divide us.

5. Name examples of Shariah compatibility/incompatibility with the U.S. Constitution.

I do solemnly swear and affirm to support and defend the Constitution of United States of America. Article Six of the Constitution states that our Constitution is "the supreme law of the land".

Our country is not based upon totalitarianism or religious ruling unlike the majority of countries where much of our refugees are emigrating; those countries are more totalitarian. As a Constitutional Republic, our country is represented by the voice of

many diverse people. Our government represents the people in such diversity. Our Constitution ensures freedom of speech, freedom of religion and equality before the law. Sharia law does not possess those freedoms and runs contradictory to our Constitution. Sharia law is a religious legal system of Islam. There is no need for Sharia law or even debate such since we do not do that for any other religious laws such as Catholicism or Judaism. Nor should United States of American be dictated to by any particular religious legal system. I agree with “American Laws for American Courts” which states we need, “to protect American citizens’ constitutional rights against the infiltration and incursion of foreign laws and foreign legal doctrines, especially Islamic Shariah Law.” (3)

September 17th is Constitution Day. We should be reminded of the Preamble of Our constitution which reads, “We the People of the United State, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”(4)

6. List donations over \$250 [Provide As-of-Date -- Will be asked to update periodically].

Any donation made to my campaign is from friends, family, and residents’. My intent and theirs is for me to do a great job for our Sterling Heights residents. I don’t feel that this question is relevant. The reason I am running is to represent the residents of Sterling Heights, not special interest. I intend to work for greater transparency and accountability from the Sterling Heights City Council, eliminate wasteful spending and bring a pragmatic, sensible and practical approach to the city’s spending habits.

1. <http://www.globaldetroit.com/partner-initiatives/welcoming-michigan-michigan-immigrants-rights-center>
2. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/the-refugee-act>’ (section 2A & B)
3. <http://publicpolicyalliance.org/legislation/american-laws-for-american-courts>
4. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600/constitution> (The Constitution of USA)