

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 world wide 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.

**JOIN US TODAY AT:
www.socialistparty-usa.org**

**THE GREEN PARTY'S
 10 KEY VALUES:**

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Ecological Wisdom | 6. Community-Based Economics |
| 2. Social Justice | 7. Feminism |
| 3. Grassroots Democracy | 8. Respect for Diversity |
| 4. Nonviolence | 9. Personal and Global Responsibility |
| 5. Decentralization | 10. Future Focus. |

**JOIN US TODAY AT:
www.migreens.org**

Unlike our Democratic opponent in this election, the campaign of Matt Erard for State Representatives receives absolutely no corporate funding. The success of this campaign therefore relies entirely on the generous financial contributions and volunteer work of its supporters. No matter how little you can afford to contribute, you can help to make a significant difference in our ability to spread the message to 53rd District voters.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ **ZIP CODE:** _____

OCCUPATION: _____

EMPLOYER: _____

Send with a check or money order made out to "CTE Matt Erard for State Representative" to:

**Matt Erard 2008
 641 Prentis St. #G3
 Detroit, MI 48201**

If mailing your contribution after August 30th, please check the Contribute page at www.erard2008.org for a new mailing address to send your contribution.

Individual contributions cannot be greater than \$500 and cannot be made with corporate money. Non-cash contributions are equally appreciated. Email VoteErard@yahoo.com if you'd like to volunteer. Thank you for your support!

Labor Donated

Authorized by the Committee to elect Matt Erard for State Representative

ELECT

MATT ERARD



SOCIALIST / GREEN

for

**53rd District
 State Representative**

www.erard2008.org




Dear Constituents of Michigan's 53rd State House District,

I'm running in 2008 as a Socialist Party/Green Party candidate for the Michigan House of Representatives to give our state's working people a seat in the State Legislature. Since I last ran for State Representative in 2006, the problems we face from corporate rule of our state's economy and government have only intensified. While our state's job losses and home foreclosures are at record highs, attacks on wages and living standards are rising across all industries, social services continue to starve for funding, and quality health care has become increasingly inaccessible, neither the Democratic Party's victories in the U.S. Congress nor our state's House of Representatives have led to any meaningful progress in the extraordinary struggles we now collectively face. Concurrently, our state legislature has failed to formally voice any opposition whatsoever to the dire effects of imperialist war on workers here and overseas or the escalating attacks on our most fundamental civil liberties.

Serving as no exception to this disastrous betrayal by our elected representatives has been our freshman Democratic State Representative Rebekah Warren, whose most significant accomplishment thus far has been the exponential increase in corporate campaign funding she's received. Not only has Warren failed to introduce legislation on almost any of the marginally progressive demands she promised us, but has also voted to fully fund corporate welfare and the prison-industrial complex. With tens of thousands in contributions from the leading corporations in the banking, energy, automotive, insurance, timber, retail, and corporate lobbying industries, it comes as no surprise that her actions in the State Legislature have been narrowed to the interests of those who financed her way to the Capitol.

In 2006, our campaign made history. Our campaign was the first, outside of the Democratic and Republican parties, to qualify for the ballot for 53rd District State Representative since 1998 and the first to qualify for the general election ballot by petition for that office in over two decades. More historic, however, was the fact that eight-hundred and forty-seven Ann Arbor voters stood up to the corporate parties in the last election and cast their ballots for democratic socialist representation in the State Legislature. More Michigan voters today, than at any time in recent history, are coming to realize that the most fundamental divide in present social and political life is between those who work for a living and those who own for a living. The consequences of such an obsolete system are not only ever-increasing social inequality and exploitation of our labor, but a society in which the vast majority of the power structure is never up for election, and what little democracy exists in the political system is absent in the economy and the workplace. With your support, votes, and contributions, we can build the movement to pull the roots that define the present path. *Another Michigan is possible!*

★Place all major industries and banks in the state of Michigan under social ownership and worker-control. Re-open closed manufacturing facilities under public ownership at the state and municipal level, with workers' self-management at the point of production, in accordance with fully transparent and accountable democratic economic planning within and across industries re-claimed or expropriated by Michigan's working class. Bring democracy to the economy and the workplace and eliminate the needless and highly costly role of private owners and bosses. Reorient major production and distribution from the maximization of private profits for an oligarchic minority toward public use and human needs of the majority - with any and all financial surpluses retained by the working class that created them. Reward and compensate labor, not ownership.

★Establish state-owned auto-insurance with rates on a sliding scale. Free universal medical, dental, vision, and mental health care for all Michigan residents. Establish price controls on all prescription drugs in the state and restore the right of Michigan residents to sue pharmaceutical companies. Immediately raise the state minimum wage to no less than \$15 an hour and establish a state maximum wage of no more than ten times the minimum. Establish full employment through socially owned industry and a massive state public works program to rebuild our cities and communities, provide care and assistance to those most in need, and restore open spaces and natural wildlife habitat. Tuition-free education from cradle to grave including college and childcare. Develop a real mass transportation system in Michigan, including the creation of fully funded high-speed rail transportation systems between the major cities in Michigan, with fares set low enough to be a viable alternative to the use of the automobile. Expand public-access media. Establish a massive teacher recruitment and retention program administered by the teacher's unions. End unequal funding between Michigan school districts. Support direct student, teacher, and parent representation on all school boards.

★Defend a woman's right to choose. Increase free access to reproductive and family planning services. Defend and expand affirmative action programs and outlaw all forms of racial profiling. Legalize same-sex marriage and any variety of domestic partnership arrangements. Reform the criminal justice system, establish an immediate moratorium on new prison construction, fully investigate and eliminate the inhumane treatment of inmates in Michigan prisons, and establish fully empowered police oversight councils to detain, arrest, and indict police officers who engage in any violation of civil rights or liberties. End prohibitory criminal penalties for drug use and possession and place substance dependency in the regulated domain of doctors, rather than police and judges. Support the right of all public sector workers to strike and establish mandatory union recognition at

card-check in both the public and private sector statewide. End all immigration detentions in the state of Michigan. Prevent any agency in the state from enforcing or complying with the USA PATRIOT Act or similar federal legislation. Public financing of all elections. End restrictive ballot access laws and mandate equal media time blocks for all candidates in major state and city media outlets. Support instant run-off voting in state elections, the lowering of voting age for state elections to fourteen, and the restoration of the right to vote to Michigan residents incarcerated in jails or prisons.

★Shift the state tax burden off the backs of the poor and working class through a steeply graduated state income and estate tax and the abolition of regressive sales, sin, and property taxes. Establish a 100% capital flight tax that will take public possession of the assets and capital of any major corporation that attempts to leave the state. Fight gentrification through mandatory rent control in all existing and new rental units. Establish a 30 hour work week at no loss of pay or benefits and a mandatory six-weeks paid vacation for all Michigan workers.

★Public ownership and control of all natural resources and energy facilities. Polluter pay laws and full whistle-blower protection. Immediate moratorium on all new construction contributing to urban sprawl. Immediate closure and decommissioning of all nuclear power plants in Michigan and an indefinite moratorium on all nuclear plant construction. Establish publicly owned wind, geothermal, biomass, and hydroelectric power plants to help end Michigan's dependence on fossil fuels. Initiate a massive clean-up of Michigan's lakes and water ways and mandate regular MDEQ monitoring of air pollution levels in urban areas. Expansion of the "Bottle Bill" to include all glass, plastic, metal and coated paper containers. An environmentally sound timber policy that takes into account the historical ecology of the region

★Introduce resolutions in the State House of Representatives memorializing the U.S. Congress to withdraw all U.S. troops overseas and close all overseas military bases. End the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. Immediately cut the U.S. military budget by at least 50% with funds diverted to essential social services. Immediately withdraw from NAFTA, CAFTA, the WTO, the IMF, the World Bank, and the G8. End U.S. military aid to Israel, Columbia, and all other states. Also introduce state house resolutions calling for and supporting efforts toward the criminal prosecution in international courts of U.S. government officials involved in orchestrating the war in Iraq or the torture of detainees for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Legally mandate the arrest of such U.S. government officials for international crimes if and when they cross state lines into Michigan's territorial jurisdiction to make such apprehensions.

Read the complete campaign platform online at:
www.erard2008.org