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News

ELECTION: Candidates answer tough questions from teens

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On Oct. 21, Teens Talking Truth, a youth advocacy group from CARE of Southeastern Michigan, and Michigan's Children, a statewide advocacy organization focused solely on public policy in the best interest of children from cradle to career, hosted "Youth Voices: Changing Public Policy," an opportunity for candidates to lay out their plans for addressing the most critical issues facing youth and talk about how, if elected, they will work toward better outcomes in local communities. Participants included Steven Bieda, Anthony Forlini, Kenneth Paul Jenkins, Phillip Kurczewski, Marilyn Lane, Peter Lucido and Robert Murphy.

After viewing videotaped messages from gubernatorial candidates Rick Snyder and Mark Schauer, moderator Dustin Dwyer of Michigan Public Radio invited youth in attendance to ask the candidates their positions on issues ranging from expanding the existing smoking ban to include outdoor venues and opposing marijuana legalization to making college more affordable and pushing back the start of the school day. The candidates each had 1 minute per question to respond, with an opportunity to make a closing statement at the end of the forum. Many used their closing statements to compliment the T3 youth on the hard-hitting nature of their questions.

Monique Stanton, president and CEO of CARE of Southeastern Michigan, said "Our Meet the Candidate event was a powerful opportunity for our local youth to meet and interact with individuals running for elected office. We often hear that teenagers are not engaged or interested in what is going on in the community. This event demonstrated that our local youth are engaged and do want to be involved in making our community a better place to live."

CARE invests in youth by working with the community, school personnel and parents to promote the healthy development and education of young people. T3 works diligently to promote a healthy teen lifestyle. As leaders in their community, they embrace this opportunity to dialogue with legislators and communicate the problems facing children, youth and teens from their own perspective.

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