



Michigan Organization for Human Rights

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NEWS RELEASE

FRON: THE MICHIGAN ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (MOHR-PAC)
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89% MOHR-PAC CANDIDATES SUCCESSFUL

89% of the candidates endorsed in the August 8 Primary by the MICHIGAN ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS - POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (MOHR-PAC) were elected. Formed earlier this year, MOHR-PAC issued a slate of endorsed candidates for 67 major elected positions in Michigan. In what is the first statewide gay endorsement slate, 60 of the 67 endorsed candidates (89%) were successful.

MOHR-PAC gubernatorial candidate, Zolton Ferency, finished a distant second to Democrat William Fitzgerald who will face incumbent Governor William Milliken in the November General Election. Mr. Ferency's campaign included appearances in the gay community, where he was well received.

For United States Congress, 7 of the 9 (77%) MOHR-PAC endorsed candidates were successful. The hardest felt loss was in the 13th Congressional District where gay supportive candidate Ray Rickman attempted to unseat 26 year incumbent Charles Diggs. Many people in the Detroit area gay community took an active part in the Rickman Campaign as workers and contributors.

In the Michigan State Senate races, 12 of the 14 (85%) endorsed candidates were successful. Five of these races were open seats with no incumbents. MOHR-PAC candidates were successful in three of these five open seats. Jackie Vaughn III (5th District), Edward C. Pierce (18th District), and Stephen V. Monsma (32nd District), all won places on the November ballot.

The most impressive showing however was in the Michigan House of Representative races where 41 of the 43 (95%) MOHR-PAC endorsed candidates won nomination. The two losses occurred in two of the five open seats on the MOHR-PAC slate. The three open seat endorsements who won were Kenneth DeBeaussaert (26th District), Denise Arnold (56th District) and Gary Vanek (66th District).

During the final week of the August Primary campaign MOHR-PAC distributed more than 5000 endorsement flyers in Michigan. MOHR-PAC will issue endorsements for the November General Election during the month of October.