

What Washtenaw Democrats Should Know About Jim Fink

He's not "with us" on just about everything!

Jim Fink may be a good person who has contributed to the community in some positive ways, but it is clear that he does not share the political, social or judicial perspectives of most progressive Democrats. He is an anti-choice, anti-gay rights Republican who has actively supported a large number of Republican candidates and conservative positions that are anathema to most of us.

Fink's Political Contributions: Thousands of Dollars to the GOP – Not a Cent to Democrats.

Public records indicate that, during his career as an attorney, he has contributed thousands of dollars to the campaigns of conservative Republicans and organizations. The single largest recipient of his contributions has been far-right conservative Congressman Tim Walberg – to whom he has given \$1,250. He also gave \$500 to Congressman John Dingell's most recent GOP opponent – Rob Steele. He's also given \$1,200 to GOP gubernatorial candidates Dick Posthumous, Dick DeVos and Rick Snyder. A good idea of his judicial philosophy may be reflected in his \$1,525 in contributions to conservative GOP Michigan Supreme Court Justices Clifford Taylor, Maura Corrigan, Stephen Markman and Robert Young. He has given at least \$1,530 to the Washtenaw County Republican Party. Other Republicans that he's contributed to include Mike Cox, Bill Schette, Mark Ouimet, Joe Yekulis, Gene DeRossett and Martin Straub. (He has given a few hundred dollars to local nonpartisan judge candidates considered to be Democrats, but not a single person running as a Democrat or nominated by the Democratic Party.)

Anti-Choice, Anti-Gay Rights

Fink supported the 2004 Right-to-Life petition drive to ban so-called "partial birth abortions" in the State of Michigan. He also supported the successful 2004 petition drive to amend the Michigan Constitution to prohibit gay marriage, as well as recognition of civil unions of gay and lesbian couples. The Michigan Supreme Court ruled that the amendment even prohibited public employee domestic partnership benefits such as health insurance.

A Vote for Jim Fink Jeopardizes Reproductive Choice

Under Michigan law, a minor must have the permission of a parent or legal guardian to obtain an abortion. If she cannot obtain that permission, or is afraid to ask for it, she can ask a court to waive that requirement and allow her to obtain an abortion. The grounds for granting or denying such a waiver are vague and subjective. Any of the other county-wide elected judges may be assigned to hear waiver requests. Fink is staunchly anti-choice. Do we really want him deciding if a pregnant teenager may obtain a legal abortion?