

Gubernatorial Candidates meet with SEIU Members in Detroit

DETROIT — Candidates for Michigan governor met with Service Employees International Union members in Detroit on Monday to discuss issues important to Michigan’s working families as part of the SEIU’s member-driven endorsement process.

All of the gubernatorial candidates were invited to attend the forum, held at the Hilton Garden Inn on Gratiot Avenue. Lansing Mayor **Virg Bernero**, House Speaker **Andy Dillon** and state Rep. **Alma Wheeler-Smith** chose to attend the event.

“This is probably the most important gubernatorial election in decades, as Michigan’s next governor will play a critical role in jumpstarting our state’s economy and getting Michigan back to work,” said Schnell Ford, an SEIU member who works as housekeeping aide at the Detroit Medical Center. “Each candidate has distinct views on how best to fix our state’s problems and move Michigan forward, and it was good meeting each of them at the forum.”

As part of the SEIU member-driven endorsement process, all candidates are required to complete the following steps:

- Participate in three Candidate Meet & Greets with members, who then fill out assessment forms
- Participate in a “Walk A Day In My Shoes” event, where candidates must spend a day working alongside an SEIU member
- Submit a detailed plan to fix Michigan’s structural budget deficit
- Undergo final evaluation by the SEIU Michigan State Council officers

“An SEIU endorsement comes with a commitment to help our candidate win and then work together afterward to improve the lives of working people,” said **Phil Thompson**, executive vice president of SEIU Local 517M and president of the SEIU Michigan State Council.

SEIU Michigan State Council represents 80,000 workers and their families in Michigan, including about 30,000 in Detroit, and is part of the largest and fastest growing union in the United States, the Service Employees International Union, with over 1.8 million members nationwide. The SEIU Michigan State Council has five locals across the state of Michigan that represent government workers, school employees, healthcare workers, corrections officers and building services workers.