

Buffalo Niagara Partnership State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire 2008

Candidate Name Michael Ranzenhofer

District 61st NY State Senate

E-mail Address mrantz@legalsurvival.com

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:

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Attn: Glenn Aronow
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This document is necessary for consideration of support by the Partnership and may be used for future voter education purposes.

Campaign Information

Campaign Manager Chris Knospe
Campaign Address P.O. Box 771 East Amherst, NY 14051
Campaign Phone (716) 688-7071
Campaign Fax (716) 6887070
Campaign Committee Name Mike Ranzenhofer for State Senate
Communications Director Molly Fitzpatrick
Web Site Address mikeranzenhoferforstatesenate.com
Party Affiliation Republican
Party Endorsements Received Republican, Conservative, Independent

Candidate Information

Current employment Attorney / County Legislator

Name of employer (if applicable) Friedman & Ranzenhofer P.C.

Employer address: 74 Main St. PO Box 31 Akron, NY 14001

Have you ever been elected or appointed to public office?

Yes No

If yes, years of service and office(s) Erie County Legislature 19 years

If no, have you ever run for an elected office?

Yes No

Election year and office(s) _____

If you are (re) elected to office, list your top three priorities for your first/next term and why:

1. Reduce taxes

2. Reduce spending

3. Regulation and mandate reform

What is the top issue employers in your district are facing? Taxes

If elected, on which committees would you most like to serve?

1. Commerce, Economic Development & Small Business

2. Local Government Committee

NYS REGULATIONS		
Do you support legislation repealing or reforming NYS's Scaffold Law to allow juries to consider an employee's comparative negligence? If (re) elected, would you sponsor legislation repealing or reforming Scaffold Law? Comments: _____ _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
Do you support legislation reforming NYS's Taylor Law to make a municipality's ability to pay the primary determining factor? If (re) elected, would you sponsor legislation to reform the Taylor Law? Comments: _____ _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO NO
Do you support repealing NYS's Wicks Law? If (re) elected, would you sponsor legislation to repeal Wicks Law? Comments: _____ _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO NO
FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY		
Do you support a cap on school property taxes at 4% or 120% of inflation, whichever is higher? Comments: _____ _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
Do you support a cap on state spending? Comments: _____ _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
Do you support Governor Paterson's efforts to cut state spending by \$2.6B in FY 2008 and 2009? Comments: <u>Need greater reductions.</u> _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
Do you support linking wage and apprenticeship requirements to economic development incentives? Comments: _____ _____	YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO

<p>Do you support maximizing replacement and expansion power generated at the Niagara Power Project for use within a 30-mile radius of the NPP for economic development purposes? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
<p>Do you support the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) as a means to spur brownfield remediation and redevelopment? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
<p>Do you support the state's renewal of the Empire Zone program when it is due to expire in 2011? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
TAX REFORM		
<p>Do you support changing the standard deduction for people 18-25 to encourage young NYers to stay in NY? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
<p>Do you support legislation allowing student loan interest to be deducted from taxable income statewide? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
HEALTH CARE		
<p>Do you support allowing self-employed individuals to deduct health care premiums from payroll taxes? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
<p>Do you support allowing tax incentives for the purpose of health insurance? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
<p>Do you support requiring employers to provide health coverage to their employees? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO

<p>Do you support using a payroll tax or employer "fair share" fee to finance a health care insurance program/plan? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> NO</p>
<p>LEGAL REFORM</p>		
<p>Do you support tort reform legislation to protect small businesses from frivolous lawsuits? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>LABOR ISSUES</p>		
<p>Do you support lowering or eliminating the small business exemption (50 employees) to the Family and Medical Leave Act? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>Do you support legislation requiring employers to pay for employee sick leave? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> NO</p>
<p>Do you support legislation requiring unions to notify its membership of their right to refuse to pay for union political activities? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>Do you support allowing family-time (comp-time) that gives private sector employees the ability to choose time off instead of overtime pay? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p> </p>	<p> </p>	<p> </p>
<p> </p>	<p> </p>	<p> </p>

OTHER		
<p>UB2020 is the Partnership's #1 economic development advocacy priority for the job creation and business investment potential it brings to the Buffalo Niagara region. Will you support the state policy changes and allocation of resources necessary to help UB2020 accomplish its goals?</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	YES	NO
<p>Do you support the "Millionaire's Tax"?</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	YES	NO
<p>If (re) elected would you support legislation allowing a referendum for a state constitutional convention?</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	YES	NO
<p>If (re) elected, would you sponsor such legislation?</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	YES	NO
<p>Do you support expanding the "Restore New York" program to recognize smaller communities and communities that have experienced high levels of population loss and higher proportions of vacant and blighted property?</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	YES	NO
<p>Do you support recapitalization of the NYSDEC Environmental Restoration Program?</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	YES	NO
<p>Do you support reducing cities' reliance on state aid by allowing utilization of revenue opportunities that do not burden taxpayers, such as authorization for a red light camera system and elimination of the state practice of sharing certain locally generated revenue streams, for example, motor vehicle moving violations, marriage licenses and handicapped parking fees?</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	YES	NO

List two reasons employers should support your campaign:

1. I proposed a plan for a 15% across the board spending cut.
2. I will return money to taxpayers in the form of a 10% income tax cut.

If (re) elected, what specifically will you do to help increase private sector investment and jobs in Buffalo Niagara?

(Please feel free to attach additional pages)

Reduce state spending, cut state income taxes, cap property taxes and reduce burdensome regulations that make NY less attractive for investment.

Mike Ranzenhofer
Candidate

9/30/08
Date

I understand that the Buffalo Niagara Partnership considers the responses to this questionnaire to be formal policy positions and maintains the right to disclose responses for education purposes.