

I am a lifelong Detroiter and a lifelong Democrat. My beliefs have traditionally aligned with the values and principles of the Democratic party. As an elected official I represent a district that is more than 90% Democrat and my voting record clearly reflects that. With that said, I think it is fair to say that, since my arrival in Lansing nearly four years ago, my political philosophy has become much more independent. As a Democrat in an environment dominated by Republicans I have learned that the only way to prosper is to seek common ground and work across the aisle for the good of all Michiganders.

To me, the endorsement of the Great Lakes Education Project signifies that I am doing my job well. My rejection of the status quo and support of the Education Achievement Authority was a vote for the children of Detroit that GLEP took note of. I believe that regionalizing or politicizing education policy is a certain recipe for failure. My objective in supporting the raising of the cap on state run schools was to ensure that the issue was not exclusive to Detroit but rather addressed at a statewide level.

Having a Detroit Democrat earn the endorsement of GLEP (an organization that traditionally supports Republicans) illustrates that a member of the minority party can be relevant. By voting my conscious rather than following the predictable patterns of party politics I feel I am paving the way for a new generation of leaders in Michigan. This new generation will focus on results rather than partisanship to make Michigan a better place for us all.

Thanks for your interest. I hope this answers your questions.

Sincerely,

Harvey Santana