



91.7 FM Ann Arbor/Detroit • 91.1 FM Flint  
104.1 FM West Michigan

news for Michigan

part of the npr digital network



Home

News >

Special Features >

Stateside

State of Opportunity

Podcasts

Weather

Google Custom Search



Opinion  
Terri Lynn Land is running an odd campaign in "Wizard of Oz" style



Stateside  
Top 4 picks for your fall reading



Stateside  
Families in Michigan watch, worry from afar as Ebola crisis worsens in Liberia, West Africa

Talk To Us:

What are you curious about? >> Share your story >>

# Join The Fall Member Challenge!

Politics & Government

5:37 PM FRI, SEPTEMBER 26, 2014

## Heavy campaign spending once again in Michigan Supreme Court races

Share Tweet +1 E-mail Be the first to comment Print

By STEVE CARMODY

There's a lot of money being spent to elect Michigan's Supreme Court justices.

The eight candidates running for three open slots on the Michigan Supreme Court have spent nearly \$700,000 on TV ad buys as of this week.

Democrat Richard Bernstein's campaign alone has spent more than \$400,000.

The combined campaign of incumbent Republican justices Richard Zahra and David Vivian has committed to buy nearly \$250,000 worth of TV ad time between now and the election in November.

The bulk of the campaign ads in Michigan's Supreme Court race are scheduled to start airing next month.

This is nothing new. Michigan had the most expensive state Supreme Court race in the country in 2012.

Bert Brandenburg is with Justice at Stake. He says expensive campaigns for Michigan Supreme Court threaten to undermine the public's trust in the courts.

"We're at a point now where something like 90% of the public believe that campaign cash is affecting courtroom decisions," says Brandenburg.

Brandenburg expects a wave of special interest group spending will try to sway Michigan voters in the Supreme Court races between now and the November election.

In November, Michigan voters will choose between five candidates (Incumbent Justice Brian Zahra, James Robert Redford, Bill Murphy, Dough Dern, and Richard



"We're at a point now where something like 90% of the public believe that campaign cash is effecting courtroom decisions," says Bert Brandenburg of Justice at Stake.

Credit Steve Carmody / Michigan Radio

Support for Michigan Radio is provided by:



Become a Corporate Sponsor

Podcasts & RSS Feeds

All Content

Podcast

RSS

View all podcasts & RSS feeds



## Michigan Radio Member Mixer

October 5th, Noon - 2pm.

McFadden's

Downtown Grand Rapids.

Learn More

Connect with Us



Find us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter

Bernstein) to fill two full eight-year terms on the Michigan Supreme Court.

Three candidates (Incumbent Justice David Viviano, Deborah Thomas, and Kerry Morgan) are competing to complete a partial term which expires in 2017.

**TAGS:** [Election 2014](#) [michigan supreme court](#) [campaign finance](#) [michigan campaign finance network](#)

#### Related Content:



#### Politics & Government

[Demand for absentee ballots increases in Michigan; registration](#)



**See & hear the candidates for office**  
**Oct. 6: Grand Rapids,**  
**Oct. 9: Lansing, Oct. 14: Royal Oak**  
[Learn More](#)

#### Most Active Stories

*Michigan Athletic Department embarrasses while trying to fill seats*

*Ford Motor Company gets a "D" for planning for climate change*

*Honeybees collaborate with Kalamazoo artist on ArtPrize exhibit*

*Debate ongoing over fish farming in the Great Lakes*

*Who is Mark Schauer, really?*

#### Now Playing

##### Michigan Radio

**ON AIR** All Things Considered

 [iTunes](#)

 [Full Schedule](#)

#### Michigan Voices



##### **Sarah Alvarez**

*Public Insight Journalist*



##### **John U. Bacon**

*Essay/Analysis: Sports Commentator*



##### **Mark Brush**

*Reporter/Producer*

**Cynthia Canty**

Host, *Stateside with Cynthia Canty*

**Steve Carmody**

Mid Michigan  
Reporter/Producer

**Zoe Clark**

Reporter/Producer

**Anne Curzan**

*That's What They Say*

**Sarah Cwiek**

Sarah Cwiek - Detroit  
Reporter/Producer

**Vincent Duffy**

News Director

**Dustin Dwyer**

Reporter/Producer

**Emily Fox**

Host/Producer/Reporter

**Lester Graham**

Investigative Reporter

**Jennifer Guerra**

Reporter/Producer

**Sarah Hulett**

Assistant News Director

**Jack Lessenberry**

Essay/Analysis: Political  
Commentator

**Mercedes Mejia**

Reporter/Producer

**Rina Miller**

Weekend Edition host

**Jake Neher**

MPRN Capitol Reporter

**Kyle Norris**

Reporter/Producer

**Mike Perini**

Host - *Middays*

**Rick Pluta**

Reporter / Producer - Michigan  
Public Radio Network



**Tracy Samilton**  
Auto Reporter/Producer



**Christina Shockley**  
Host - Morning Edition



**Lindsey Smith**  
West Michigan Reporter/Producer



**Kate Wells**  
Arts, Culture & Education Reporter/Producer



**Jennifer White**  
Host - All Things Considered



**Rebecca Williams**  
Reporter/Producer - The Environment Report

# MICHIGAN RADIO



Newsletters and Daily Email



Podcasts



Mobile



RSS



## NEWS

- Politics & Government
- Arts & Culture
- Auto
- Business
- Economy
- Education
- Environment & Science
- Health
- Law
- Offbeat
- Opinion
- Sports
- Transportation

## CONTEST AND GIVEAWAYS

- Contest
- Giveaways

## PROGRAMS

- Environment Report
- It's Just Politics
- Jack Lessenberry
- John U. Bacon
- Michigan Watch
- On Air Programs
- Program Schedule
- Series & Documentaries
- Stateside

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Detroit Journalism Cooperative
- M I Curious
- Michigan Radio Picture Project
- Songs from Studio East
- State of Opportunity

## LISTEN LIVE

- Android App
- iPhone/iPad App
- iTunes Radio
- Live Stream
- Michigan Radio Hourly News
- NPR Hourly News
- View On Mobile
- Windows Media

## SUPPORT

- Support Michigan Radio
- Corporate Sponsorship
- Grant Support
- Vehicle Donation Program
- Become a Producers Circle Supporter
- Become a Day Sponsor
- Have your gift matched
- Become a Sustainer

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Ballot Bash: Grand Rapids

Recurring Event



Annapurna

[Contact Us](#) [About Us](#) [Staff](#) [Employment](#) [Support](#) [Privacy & Terms of Use](#) [Give Now](#)



©2014 Michigan Public Media, The Regents of the University of Michigan