

PRESS RELEASE

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—Ann Arbor, Michigan—

On February 2, 2010 Democrat **Patricia D. Lesko** announced she is running for the office of Mayor in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the fifth largest city in Michigan. If elected, Patricia Lesko would be only the second openly gay mayor in Michigan, and one of 21 openly gay mayors nation-wide. She would be only the third woman to serve as mayor of Ann Arbor since the city was incorporated in 1851.

Ms. Lesko is the CEO and Publisher at a national higher education publishing group headquartered in Ann Arbor. She brings over two decades of experience in marketing, management and finance to her run for the office, and is running because she is determined to change the direction public policy has taken over the course of the current administration's tenure.

"My campaign is about moving the focus of city government back to the basics: people, services, infrastructure, and responsible spending. It's time to sharpen our pencils, roll up our sleeves and tighten the focus of city government in on its core mission."

While Ann Arbor's elected officials contemplate putting a city income tax on the ballot, Lesko takes a different approach to revenue enhancement: a PILOT program. In a piece published by the *Ann Arbor News* in February 2009, she outlined a plan to implement a payment in lieu of taxes program. "MIT has been making payments in lieu of taxes to the city of Cambridge since 1928, Harvard has since 1968. Ann Arbor needs to implement a payment in lieu of tax program to collect revenue from nonprofits, such as the University of Michigan. The University took Pfizer off the tax rolls costing the city \$14 million in lost tax revenue."

It should come to no surprise to anyone that Ms. Lesko's campaign intends to focus on curbing excessive government spending. In a March 20, 2009 piece published by the *Ann Arbor News*, the candidate took a critical look at wasteful spending by Ann Arbor's Downtown Development Authority (DDA). "It's the economy," says Lesko. "It's time for city government to live within the means of the taxpayers who support it."

Lesko, who ran for City Council in 2008, garnered the endorsement of the Sierra Club for her staunch support of environmental issues. Her desire to protect Ann Arbor's natural resources has not diminished. She supports a Green Improvements Program—to encourage homeowners to get energy audits and give grants to residents to make home improvements that increase energy efficiency. "We do it for businesses downtown. We need to do it for residents, as well."

Ms. Lesko's family has a long history in Michigan. "My Mom's family came to Michigan almost 170 years ago," she says. "My Dad was a first generation American, a sheet metal worker who helped build the Glass House in Dearborn—Ford World Headquarters."

A resident of Ann Arbor for 26 years, Patricia Lesko moved to Ann Arbor to study at the University of Michigan and earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees there by working her way through college. With her partner of 19 years, Marjorie Winkelman Lesko, they are the parents of two sons.