

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bringing a Biblical worldview back to American society and politics

Michigan Coalition for Freedom PO Box 162 Sturgis, MI 49091 www.michigancoalition.org

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Many people are concerned about the direction of our country. We want leaders we can trust, that will put us back on the right track. That is why the Michigan Coalition for Freedom, an alliance of faith-based leaders, influential pastors, and community leaders, came together to evaluate gubernatorial candidates in a new way. We wanted to get past the stump speeches, the glossy mailers, and the soundbites. We didn't want our next governor to buy the position but rather earn it on the strength of their character.

The result was our three Gubernatorial Values Forums. In preparation for the forums, each gubernatorial candidate was asked to fill out a comprehensive questionnaire. Our board members then spent months evaluating the candidates, in one-on-one meetings, on the campaign trail, and in our Values Forums, and are pleased to say that two candidates, Ralph Rebandt and Ryan Kelley, have earned the Michigan Coalition for Freedom seal of approval. This seal of approval means that each candidate has met the six principal requirements established by our coalition: Authenticity, Patriotism, Charisma, Biblical Worldview, Free Market Advocacy, and Courage.

In our previous statement, we gave an edge to Ryan Kelley and thusly our overall recommendation for Governor. However, after much prayerful dialogue our board has, by consensus, decided that both Ryan Kelley and Ralph Rebandt should receive equal recommendation. It is rare that two candidates of such principles and strong biblical worldviews should be running together in the same race, and it is our hope that our endorsement of both Ryan Kelley and Ralph Rebandt will encourage citizens to vote their conscience on August 2, 2022.

Michigan CFF president, Ellis Smith, and its board members are available for interviews and comment, and can be contacted by emailing: <u>board@michigancoalition.org</u>

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