



Leonard Wants 'Corporate Welfare' Money To Go Toward Roads; Punts On James Question

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Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom **LEONARD** said today he supports permanently ending “corporate welfare” and directing the billions of freed-up money toward fixing the roads.

The former House Speaker said during a campaign stop at Pro Fireworks in Lansing that picking “winners and losers” – as was done with the Michigan Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve (SOAR) – is not fair to small businesses. Fixing more roads helps everybody, he said. On top of that, revisiting an income tax cut and possibly property taxes should be on the table.

Leonard said five of the top 10 growth states have a “substantially lower income tax” than Michigan or none at all. Lower property taxes would help young families become property owners while taking stress off of retirees.

“If we're going to lower property taxes, let's also phase out the income tax,” he said.

On another issue, Leonard was asked if gubernatorial candidate John **JAMES** abandoning his run for re-election in the competitive 10th congressional district would be better for the country.

The premise is that Republicans held a narrow 220-215 majority at the beginning of the year and James not running for re-election arguably makes his seat a toss-up that Democrats could win in 2026. President Donald **TRUMP** took interest in James's decision to run for governor and asked him pointedly at a recent press conference if he has a Republican to run in MI-10 in his stead. James indicated that he did (See [“James Assures Trump He's Got A Candidate in MI-10,”](#) 6/12/25).

Recently, two Republicans have stepped forward in MI-10 as candidates, according to Federal Elections Commission filings – Open Carry Michigan President Casey **ARMITAGE** and Macomb County Assistant Prosecutor Robert **LULGJURAJ**.

“I'm going to leave that up to John James,” he said. “I can only speak for me and my family and not John James or any other candidate, for that matter. He needs to do what's best for him and his family and what they believe is best for the country.”