

Ban the Bottle

The transportation, production, and plastic involved in selling plastic water bottles are harming our natural water sources and the Earth. Over the next three years, I will ban the sale of plastic water bottles on the University of Michigan campus.

- Propose a “Blue Tax” which will apply to all plastic water bottles sold on campus
 - This tax will incentivize individuals to purchase refillable water bottles^[1]
 - **Proceeds from this tax will go directly to sustainability efforts** (including the addition of new filtered water refill stations)
- **Increase campus awareness of energy consumption and waste production**
 - Have dorms and offices ‘compete’ against each other to reduce waste^[2]
- Introduce a **three year plan to gradually remove water bottles** from most campus stores:
 - Year 1:
 - Introduce the “Blue Tax”
 - Remove “Smartwater” displays which encourage “Smartwater” consumption
 - Add water refill stations to The Big House. **According to the Campus Sustainability Map, no refill stations are located in The Big House**^[3]
 - Year 2:
 - Have filtered water refill stations available in all residential halls, campus offices, and on the Diag
 - Provide all first-year students reusable water bottles on their desk at move-in
 - Year 3:
 - Ban the sale of all plastic water bottles on campus (besides recreational buildings and sports venues)
 - Plastic water bottles can still be purchased off campus
- Seventy-four colleges have banned the sale of plastic water bottles including^[4]:
 - Brown University, Central Michigan University, Harvard University, UC Berkeley, University of Buffalo, University of Wisconsin Madison

[1]: <https://sustainability.umich.edu/enviro211/water-bottle-usage/price-competitiveness>

[2]: <http://newsroom.ucla.edu/stories/program-creates-competition-rewards-178773>

[3]: <http://sustainability.umich.edu/map/#>

[4]: <https://www.banthebottle.net/map-of-campaigns/>

Change the Cycle

Free and accessible period products are a human right. Period products should be available to all University of Michigan students free of charge.

- Menstruation is not unhygienic and not everyone who has periods is female, so I intentionally refer to these products as period products rather than feminine hygiene products
- Period products are currently available at Moore Building on North Campus^[1] but **CSG has not promoted this program well**
- **Add period product dispensers to all bathrooms** on University of Michigan campus
 - Starting with academic buildings and offices, add dispensers in all women and gender inclusive bathrooms
 - Adding period products to academic buildings first ensures students will not have to miss class^[2]
 - Then, work with Michigan Housing to provide period products in all residential bathrooms
- Adding period products to bathrooms is a costly process; I will work with the University of Michigan to budget these products in:
 - Dispensers cost between \$10 and \$20 per bathroom^[2]
 - Period products cost \$5 to \$7 per student, per year^[2]
 - **The University of Washington, similar in size to the University of Michigan provides free period products to students^[4]:**
 - Installing dispensers cost Washington \$20,000 (whereas Washington spends \$150,000 on soap)
 - CSG can pilot this program directly from its budget, but **in the long term funding for period products should come directly from the University**
 - I will work with campus partners to budget period products in for the coming school years
- Universities which have free period products include^[3]:
 - University of Minnesota, University of Nebraska, Columbia University

[1]: <http://regents.umich.edu/meetings/04-17/2017-04-11-9.pdf>

[2]: <https://www.goauntflow.com/how-to-get-your-university-to-offer-free-menstrual-products-on-campus/>

[3]: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/03/11/students-demand-free-tampons-campus>

[4]: <http://www.bu.edu/today/2018/free-tampons-on-campus/>

WTH is CSG?

Central Student Government is comprised of a legislative, executive, and judicial branch. CSG manages a budget of \$447,992 most of which goes to fund student organizations^[1]. I'd like to increase student awareness of CSG and its abundant resources.

- **Of CSG's budget, \$294,843 goes to student organizations** through CSG's Student Organization Funding Committee^[1]
 - **Increase the transparency of this committee:** CSG currently does not release a list of funded organizations on its website
- **Promote student culture by hosting social events** like open-mic nights, lunches with administration, performances on Diag, and coffee with CSG
 - Currently, CSG does not have specific events to promote campus culture
 - Create **a platform to showcase student's talents and art**
- **Increase CSG presence at first-year orientation** so incoming students have a better understanding of CSG and CSG's resources
- Increase **communication with other student governments**
 - There is currently little interaction between CSG, Engineering Student Government, Rackham Student Government, etc.
- **Commission a redesign of the CSG website** to make it more intuitive and accessible
 - Have student groups submit bids so that the updated website is created within the Michigan community
- Redesign CSG bi-weekly email to make it more accessible and readable
- Add important CSG events & policies to the Michigan app

[1]: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ks66C5eckqft7HM6f0npmUv8-jJfAZMAYpzMBHSMVCA/edit#gid=0>

Leaders & Best

There are currently many challenges facing the Leaders & Best. As President, I will be committed to exploring new solutions to these issues through exploratory committees.

Mental Health

- Advocate for a CAPS location on North Campus where students can receive mental health care directly from professional counselors and psychologists
 - Work with Engineering Student Government
 - Continue expanding North Campus Wellness Zone^[1]
- Create an online platform on which students can be onboarded with CAPS and access their records
 - Schedule appointments online
 - Fill out psychological surveys and questionnaires online

Sexual Assault

- 11% of students experience sexual assault during their time on campus.^[2]
- Facilitate collaboration between the Spectrum Center and the Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center for first-year orientation
 - Educate incoming students on resources for sexual assault victims
- Increase awareness of the crisis hotlines and after-hours services for CAPS and SAPAC (include adding to the Michigan app)

Food Insecurity

- 41.4% of respondents living on-campus in a University of Michigan survey reported they experience food insecurity^[4]
- There is a lack of grocery stores and healthy & cheap restaurants near campus
- Expand Michigan Dining hall hours, especially on weekends (dining halls are currently closed between 1:30 pm and 5:00 pm on weekends)
- Create a food insecurity commission to explore new solutions including the viability of a 24-hour healthy food pantry

Affordable Housing

- The median rent in Ann Arbor increased 14% from 2010 to 2015^[3]
 - The median rent is approximately \$1,075 per month
- Continue annual housing report with information about landlords, rent costs, and property ratings^[5]

[1] <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/student-government/engineering-student-government-approves-grant-north-campus-caps-center>

[2] <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/administration/university-sexual-misconduct-report-shows-increase-claims-dip-investigations>

[3] <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/ann-arbor/affordable-housing-still-top-concern-students-city>

[4] <https://umcsq.files.wordpress.com/2018/03/food-insecurity-resolution.pdf>

[5] https://umcsq.files.wordpress.com/2019/01/housing_report_2018_2019.pdf