

# The Oakland Press

## Democrat candidate for governor talks to Pontiac students

Published: Monday, June 07, 2010

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They're not even old enough to vote this year, or even next year for that matter, but State House Speaker Andy Dillon asked them what they thought anyway.

Dillon, from Redord, is one of two Democrats who want to be the next governor.

He asked Pontiac Middle School students Monday afternoon what they think the next governor should do, after a brief tour of the Oakland Primary Health Services clinic located in the school.

"I was told the first questions are coming from you guys today," Dillon told them middle school students. "Which is, 'What do you want to see in your next governor?' cuz I'm running for governor and I'd like to hear from you guys."

The students' questions were on issues closer to home, like could he do anything about changing the school's uniform colors, fix the bumps in the road on Madison Street right outside the school, and provide doors for the bathrooms.

Dillon said would require an investment and reforms to the way state government operates, common message from all the gubernatorial candidates this year.

But after asking students what they want to be when they grow up — they said nurses, doctors, designers, police officers — Dillon stressed the Pontiac Promise Zone scholarship and the need for more education after graduating from high school.

The Pontiac Promise Zone guarantees a free college education to students who graduate from Pontiac schools.

"If you become an engineer, a nurse, want to be a doctor, the state provides a great opportunity to succeed," Dillon said. "We can't state how critically important it is for you guys to focus on college."

Dillon is running against Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero in the Aug. 3 Democratic primary.

The winners of the Republican and Democratic primaries in August run against each other on the Nov. 2 ballot.

Republicans in the race are Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard, U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, Ann Arbor businessman Rick Snyder, Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox and state Sen. Tom George.

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