

# Agenda for the Millennium

I am often asked if the Mackinac Center for Public Policy “has an agenda.” Because we are a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, the anticipated response is, “Of course not. Don’t be silly.” My answer, to the contrary, is always, “Yes!” Our agenda is to advance civil society by showing policy makers and citizens how to solve problems through voluntary action based on sound economics and respect for individual rights.

In November 1990, the Mackinac Center published *Michigan: An Agenda for the 90's*, which outlined 20 recommendations for public-policy reforms in Michigan. The Engler administration implemented 16 of these recommendations in its first term. These bold changes contributed to the incredible



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rebound in the prosperity of our state.

In January 1999, the Mackinac Center released *Keeping Michigan on Track: A Blueprint for Governor Engler and the 90's Legislature*, which included 41 policy recommendations. Two important recommendations—providing union workers with “paycheck protection”

against unauthorized expenditure of their dues for political purposes and expanding parental choice in education—are moving forward in the legislature and at the ballot box.

The Mackinac Center’s agenda is the agenda for the new millennium: freedom, opportunity, and prosperity for all Michigan citizens. Your support provides the resources needed to put the right ideas in the hands of those who have the power to change things. Please help us to advance the agenda of freedom by inviting your friends and associates to join the Mackinac Center.

This is my last article for *IMPACT!*, as I will be leaving the Mackinac Center to pursue other career opportunities. I would like to thank everyone with whom I have

been associated here at the Center since 1995 for the chance to promote the principles of individual liberty that I hold so dear. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to work with such a brilliant group of colleagues, all of whom are also passionate about these principles. I am honored to have represented the Mackinac Center and I will be forever grateful for having had this opportunity. There is still much to be done for freedom, so please keep up the good work! !

*James E. Kostrava was the Mackinac Center's Vice President for Development from 1995-1999. Christina Smith is our new Vice President for Advancement. Read more about Christina in the next issue of IMPACT!*