

Senator Hillary Scholten's Town Hall

Hillary Scholten had her first "town hall" at Muskegon Community College on Saturday. Introductions were made by a member of her staff, who was clearly proud to be there, a city police officer who said the police are there to serve everyone, the MCC president who was also very proud to host this event, and the mayor of Muskegon who told the audience he was a gay man and thought that was somehow relevant. He talked for a bit before letting Hillary Scholten talk. She was introduced as being the first Democrat since Richard Vander Veen in the 70s and the first woman elected to represent the West Michigan congressional district. She enjoyed that spotlight moment ironically at a time when Democrats often get confused by what a woman is. A brief synopsis of her speech is below. Very few questions were taken or read for being a town hall. She mostly talked about herself and what she believes to be good legislation coming up.

Scholten says a couple of her top priorities are transportation/infrastructure and jobs/economy. She is also on a subcommittee for aviation, water and a supply chain subcommittee. She claims transportation and infrastructure affect education and healthcare. She also claims she is concerned about PFAS in the water and says clean water is a priority of hers. She claims to want to help small businesses. She brought up racial and gender groups saying growth has not been equitable. Scholten desires to distribute funds equitably including considerations for race and gender.

Another top priority for her is GUN CONTROL. But she said people are just confused in their thinking that the safety laws will result in the taking of responsible citizens' guns away. She said her family hunts, and they do not want to punish law-abiding gun owners. The audience seemed to buy what she sold them. She has co-sponsored 7 different "gun safety" bills.

Scholten wants to be involved with a vocational ed act recognizing vocational training and regulating the census because how the US collects and tracks census data somehow affects education. Bringing tech and high-quality jobs to Muskegon are also a priority, but she didn't say how. She wants to launch small businesses in West Michigan, too. She did not elaborate on how.

Scholten said she is there for everyone whether they voted for her or not, and says she often will sign bi-partisan bills. She claims she came to congress to reach across the aisle.

When asked how she will represent everyone when values are so different, she claimed that common decency is at the forefront and said there is so much more that unites us than divides us.

Scholten made jokes about Matt Gaetz and Marjorie Taylor Greene and thought her own jokes were funny. Some in the audience laughed also.

When asked how she would protect girls' privacy and girls' sports, she claimed to not understand the question. She said she isn't interested in waging a cultural war and believes in strong models for all and how they identify.

An immigrant claiming to be from Ukraine stood up to push the war effort and warned that the war would last longer unless the US gives it more weapons and more support. Scholten said she 100% supports funding the war in Ukraine and thinks that the US can support both our own people and their country. One man stood up to leave after her support for the Ukraine comment and called them war mongers. He told them to send their own sons and daughters to war. She chuckled after he walked out and said her children will be ready to serve when they are older.

She mentioned agreeing with John James on something, trying to show her bi-partisanship, when she noted that they disagree on almost everything else.

My Thoughts: Almost the whole room, which was very full, was full of her supporters, unless those who were not were just being quiet. Most clapped periodically after her talking points and seemed easily convinced of what she was selling them. She did a nice job of making her agenda sound innocent enough. I believe she lied to the audience when she said her gun safety laws are not there to take away law-abiding citizen's weapons, but she is co-sponsoring 21 pieces of legislation that will likely violate the second amendment in some fashion. When the 2nd amendment states that the right to bear arms shall not be infringed, I find it hard to believe that any one of her 21 pieces of legislation will not in some way violate that.

It was disturbing how easily most people seemed to just go right along with what she said and didn't seem to second guess or think there might be more to what she was saying. She smiled a lot and skimmed over her big issues mostly patting herself on her back making everything look shiny and clean. She did mention that since they do not have majority in the House that some things might not pass. Thank goodness! That is a saving grace.

I was skeptical of where this Ukrainian immigrant appeared from. He was in the audience, but he didn't say where he lives now - whether in Muskegon or elsewhere. I wondered if he was brought in just to bring up the war topic and plea for even more support. I guess \$100 billion isn't enough. It's unnerving that after a year's time and so much ridiculous spending that is not tracked at all and multiple trips to

the country while ignoring our own issues that she said she is 100% in support of Ukraine. She seems to think that we can afford to help both our own country and Ukraine at the same time when our president ignores our border crisis and refuses to even acknowledge it as a crisis. He ignores the chemical disaster in Ohio and instead travels to Ukraine. The transportation director takes a week to visit Ohio. The FDA says the water is ok to drink if it's been tested in the house.

I had hoped maybe I might see something worthwhile in her during her town hall, and to be fair I thought it would be good to see her in person, since I had met and seen John Gibbs in person several times. Hands down I'd vote for John Gibbs any day of the week over Hillary Scholten. Unfortunately the Democrat machine helped get her elected, and this is what we have.

It would have been really nice to have had conservatives there at the town hall, even if it is annoying to be in a room with so many who have such opposite viewpoints. But, she was able to say whatever she wanted to an audience who was on her side with little opposition. We need to present that other side. We need to challenge her and make her realize she isn't necessarily representing our views. The only way that can happen is if we attend these types of events. Remember, she also promoted prop 3 - the most extreme abortion legislation out there putting us up there with China and North Korea.