



MI Attorney General Will Defend the State Constitution

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Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette has announced he intends to intervene in the Detroit bankruptcy filing to defend the state's constitution and the public pensions that financial dictator Kevyn Orr wants to gut.

As reported by the *Detroit Free Press*, Schuette's announcement puts him at odds with both Orr and Governor Rick Snyder, both of whom want to ram through the city's bankruptcy, claiming that the principles enshrined in the state Constitution, and its commitment to state workers and retirees, can be recklessly violated and abandoned on behalf of some future "solvency."

In his *Financial Times* of London column on Sunday, John Dizard uses the same argument as Snyder and Orr, claiming that Social Security will also have to go on the chopping block, lying that these federally guaranteed benefits "are not full faith and credit obligations of the federal government."

As Lyndon LaRouche stated today, there is only one fundamental issue in this battle, *the principle of law*. A bankruptcy judge can't overturn the constitution. "You cannot turn law upside-down, to make the law subservient to the casual demands of the day."

Schuette (a Republican, like Gov. Snyder) reported that he intends to file in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Detroit on Monday, to intervene in the proceedings, warning that "the City of Detroit's bankruptcy will cause even greater hardship for many people in southeast Michigan who are already struggling." He added that he will intervene on behalf of southeast Michigan pensioners who may be at risk of losing their hard-earned benefits, in accordance with his responsibility as Attorney General to defend the Michigan Constitution. He told the *Free Press* that "Michigan's Constitution, Article 9, Section 24, is crystal clear in stating that pension obligations may not be diminished or impaired."

Robert Gordon, a lawyer with the firm representing Detroit's Police and Fire Retirement System and General Retirement System in the bankruptcy proceedings, said he welcomed Schuette's support "for upholding the constitutional protection of accrued pension benefits." Professor Larry Dubin of the University of Detroit Mercy Law School added, "I applaud the Attorney General's intended legal action to protect the citizens of our state who rely on their constitutional protections guaranteed by the State of Michigan."

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