



## MICHIGAN PRIMARY PREVIEW

### NEWS+VIEWS

**ON TUESDAY, IT'S FINALLY OUR TURN TO WEIGH IN** 19A

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**IF MICHIGAN'S TURNAROUND IS REAL, WHO GETS THE CREDIT?** 1B

### LIFE

**RIGHT FIT: DOES A CANDIDATE'S CLOTHING SEND A MESSAGE?** 1F

### AT FREEP.COM

**VOTERS DISCUSS VIEWS ON TUESDAY'S PRIMARY**



Mitt Romney, left, and Rick Santorum are battling for Michigan. Tuesday's primary is key for both candidates.

## RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE HITS HOME

By Todd Spangler  
Free Press Washington Staff

Former U.S. House Speaker Tip O'Neill is credited with the famous remark, "All politics is local."

He was largely right. But politics is personal, too.

For more than a week, Michigan has been the epicenter of the national political world. The state is up for grabs in Tuesday's Republican presidential primary, as polls show a toss-up between Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum. The outcome may help decide who takes on President Barack Obama in November.

Last week, we talked to eight people who plan to vote in Tuesday's primary. Here's some of what we found:

In Ann Arbor, a seamstress looks to her Catholic faith in selecting Santorum. In Temperance, a public relations specialist who spent two years out of work sees Romney's business and leadership record as reason to believe he can further improve the economy.

In Macomb Township, a self-employed information technology specialist sees danger in a departure from constitutional principles and says Ron Paul is the answer.

And in Ortonville, a retired couple who have attended campaign stops for both Romney and Santorum say they're still unsure.

■ THE VOTERS SOUND OFF. 4A

40 High 30 Low

**NO END TO THIS CRAZY WINTER**  
50s midweek, then flurries.  
FORECAST, 2A

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# FISTER'S PINPOINT APPROACH

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ON GUARD FOR 180 YEARS

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## HE WASN'T TETHERED, NOW GIRL IS DEAD



WAYNE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
Police say Joshua Brown, 19, opened fire, killing Kade'jah.



FEB. 1 PHOTO BY KATHLEEN GALLIGAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Seventeen-year-old Eric Talton's sister Kade'jah Davis, 12, was killed Jan. 31 when shots came through the front door of their Detroit home. Police and prosecutors say it started with an argument over a cell phone.

### MDOC investigating why suspect wasn't tracked as ordered

By L.L. Brasier and Gina Damron  
Free Press Staff Writers

Joshua Brown was supposed to be wearing a tether on the day in January when, authorities say, he killed 12-year-old Kade'jah Davis.

Brown was on probation. He should have been tracked day and night.

But the electronic tether wasn't working.

That's because no one in the state's probation system ever activated it, according to records obtained by the Free Press.

So Brown was roaming free without restrictions — even though he was ordered in September to be tethered and monitored.

Additionally, Brown was a suspect in an armed break-in of a house four months before the fatal shooting, and a probation agent didn't take action to violate his probation.

The agent was aware of Brown's alleged role in

the home invasion and wrote a report to a judge about it, but it's not clear whether it was ever sent or reviewed. So Brown continued to be on the streets.

On Jan. 31, police and prosecutors say, he opened fire on a Detroit home during an argument over a cell phone. Kade'jah, a middle school honor student, was killed when shots came through the front door.

The Michigan Department of Corrections has suspended two employees as it investigates their handling of Brown's supervision.

This is the second time this month that MDOC officials have suspended probation employees after people they were supposed to be monitoring were accused of murder.

For Kade'jah's mother, the news that Brown could have been behind bars or tethered to his home the day police say he shot her daughter brought a fresh wave of grief.

"That just makes my heart so heavy," Alminda

See TETHER, PAGE 7A

**"THEY'VE GOT TO DO MORE INVESTIGATING BEFORE THEY PUT THESE PEOPLE BACK ON THE STREETS."**

ALMANDA TALTON, after learning that the man accused in her daughter's killing was supposed to be on a tether

## What did Wayne Co. get for its \$400K?

Money wired, but no work done for health program, obtained records show

By M.L. Elrick  
Free Press Staff Writer

Hours before FBI agents delivered subpoenas last fall seeking records from Wayne County headquarters, the director of a county health care program for needy people wired \$400,000 of the program's money to a fledgling IT company that apparently did no work for the payment, according to records the Free Press obtained.

HealthChoice Executive Director Michael Grundy authorized the payment to Medtrix on Oct. 19, more than seven months after giving the company a no-bid contract to implement an electronic medical-records system. In an e-mail to Grundy, which the Free Press obtained through Michigan's Freedom of Information Act, a HealthChoice accountant tells him that she sent the money to Medtrix "as requested."

Though the company was paid in full before the work was completed, there is no evidence in records the Free Press obtained from HealthChoice that Medtrix, founded by Grundy's childhood friend Keith Griffin, did any work for the money. HealthChoice board member and Wayne County Commissioner Tim Killeen, a Detroit Democrat, said he also has seen no evidence.

"This just appears to me that people are using this organization for other than the public good," Killeen said Friday.

Neither Grundy nor his lawyer returned messages seeking comment. Griffin's lawyer, See WAYNE, PAGE 12A



Michael Grundy was fired from his Wayne County post.

Free Press.com  
SEE E-MAILS, SUBPOENAS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

## News+Views

MITCH ALBOM

### Mourning for a parent who's not yet gone

If you're the child of an elderly parent who's had a stroke or suffers from dementia or Alzheimer's disease, you know the heartbreak of missing them terribly, even when they're sitting right in front of you. 19A

## Business

DETROIT FREE PRESS AWARDS

### MEDC's Finney is keynote speaker for April 27 Green Leaders Awards

Michael Finney, president and CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corp., will deliver the keynote address at the Detroit Free Press Michigan Green Leaders Awards breakfast at the MGM Grand Detroit casino on April 27. Tickets for the breakfast are available. Details on 1B

## Entertainment



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ACADEMY AWARDS TONIGHT

### 5 Michigan winners remember their golden moment with Oscar

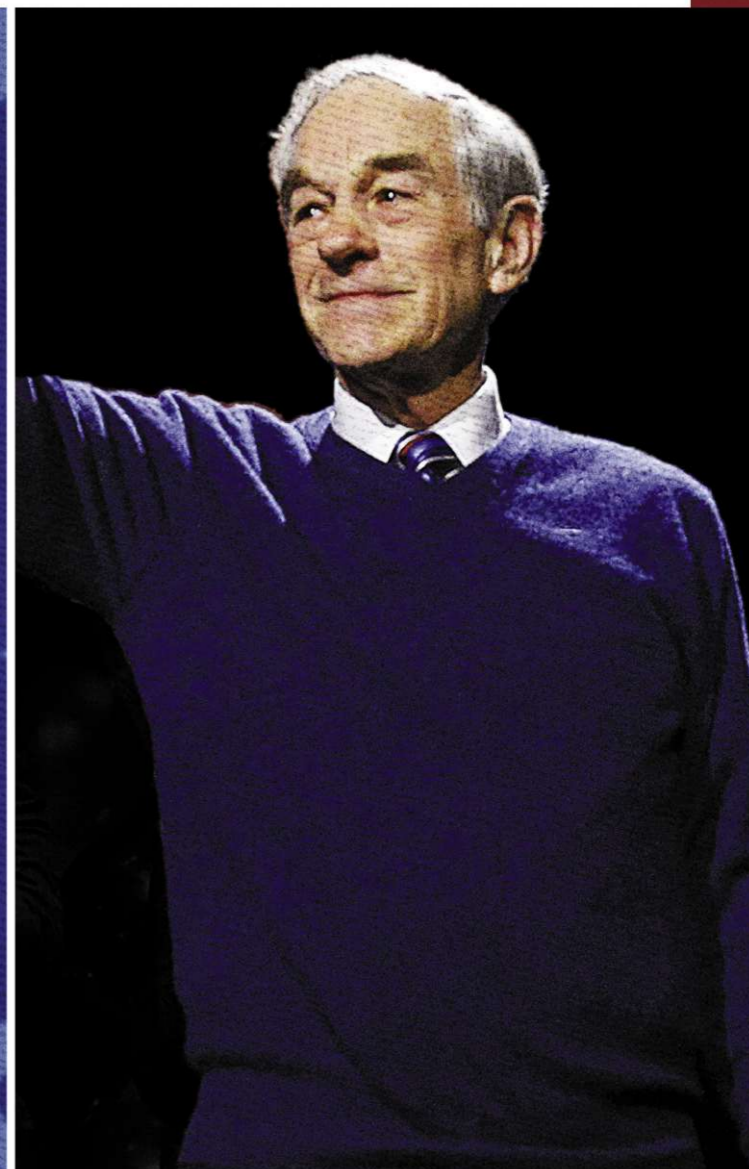
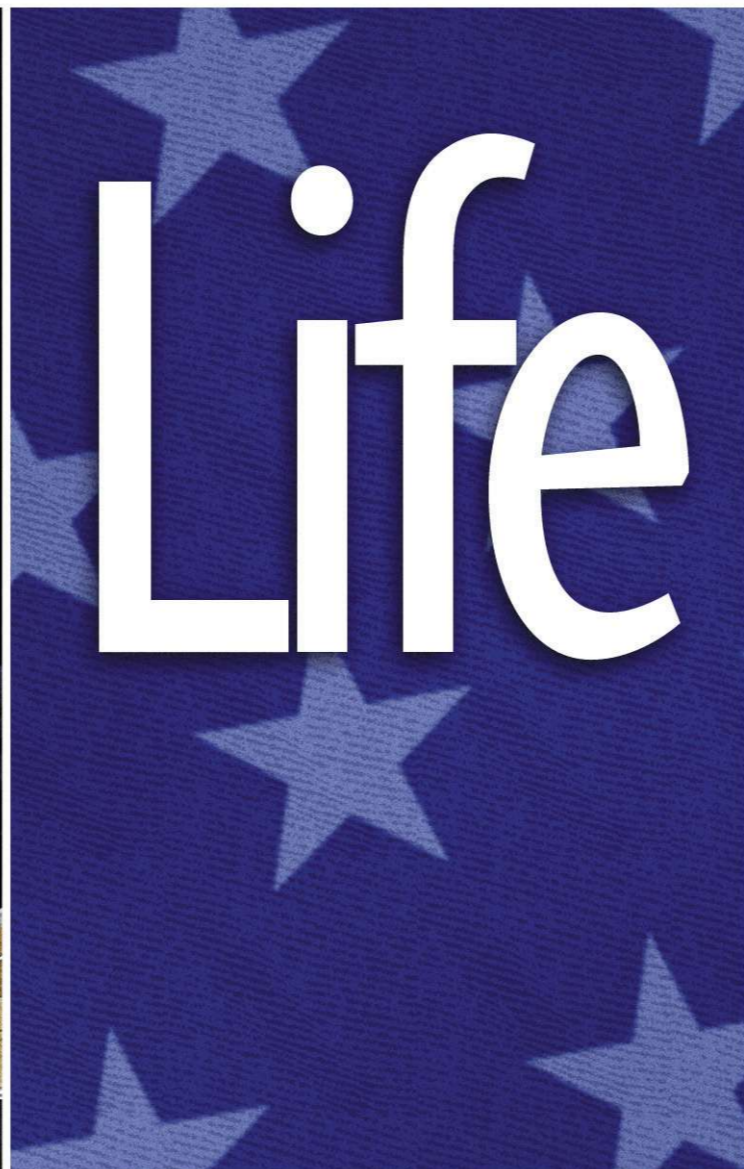
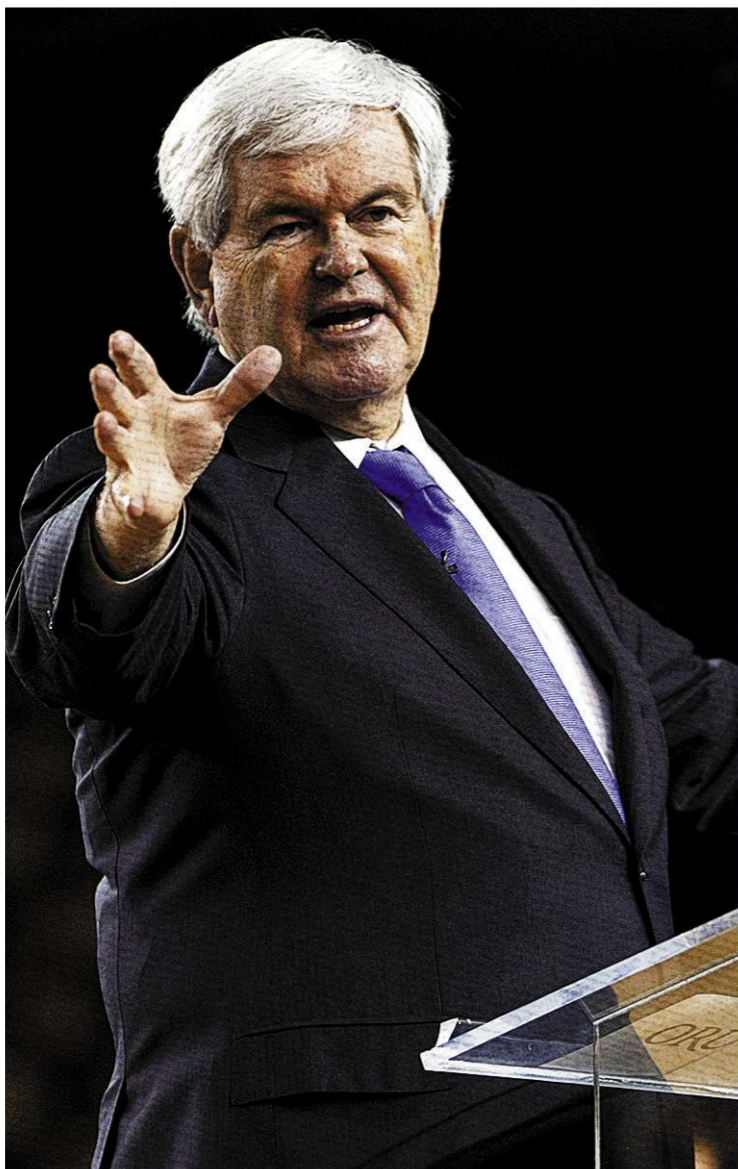
What they said, how they felt and what happened off-stage on the nights they won their Academy Awards. 6E-7E  
■ Plus, Michiganders who were nominated but didn't take home the gold. 17A  
■ Go to freep.com tonight for coverage and photos from the 2012 Academy Awards.



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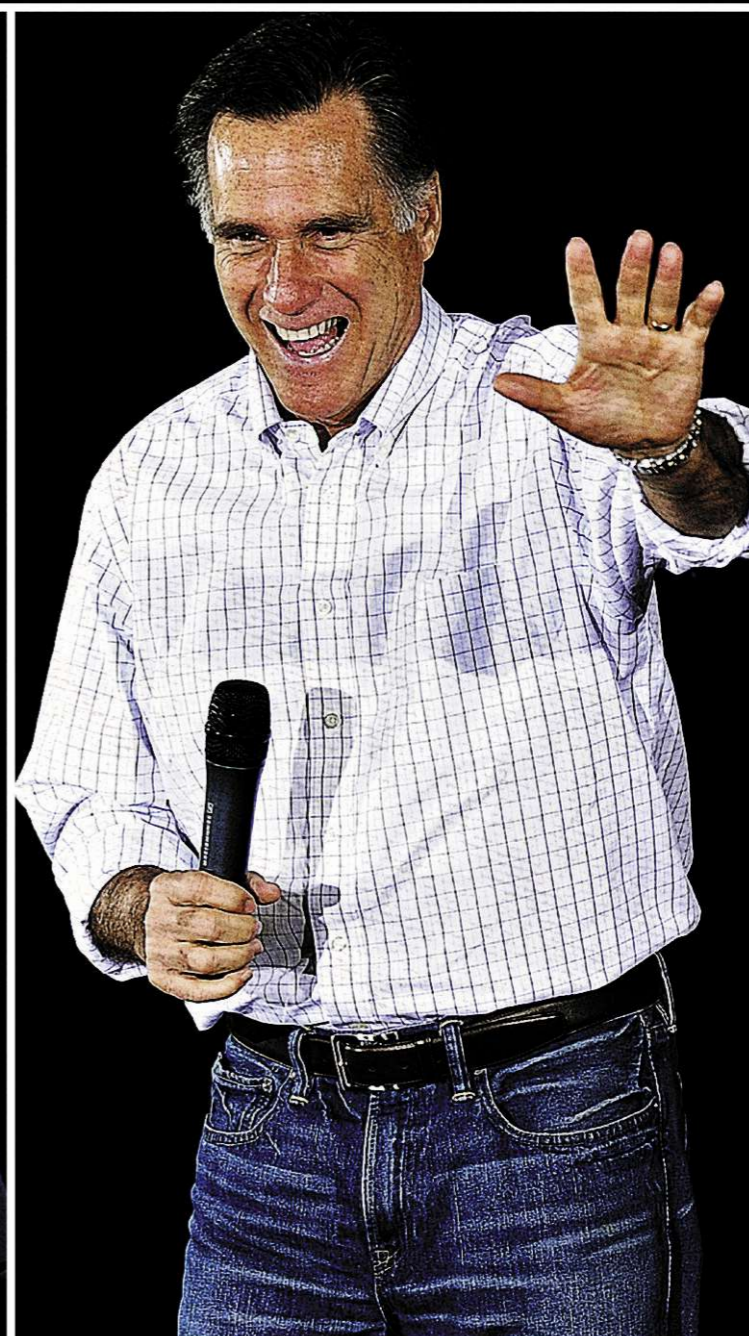
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# the right fit

Just what are the candidates' clothes telling us? **PAGE 2**



**RELATIONSHIPS | 4** *Couples regroup after memory loss alters marriage*  
**FASHION+SHOPPING | 5** *Italian designers go dark for fall collection previews*

COVER STORY

AL GOLD/ASSOCIATED PRESS



Rick Santorum's sweater vest has its own Facebook page, Twitter feed @FearRicksVest and a YouTube video, "Sleeves Slow Me Down."

LOOKING GOOD  
Presidential candidates and their signature looks.



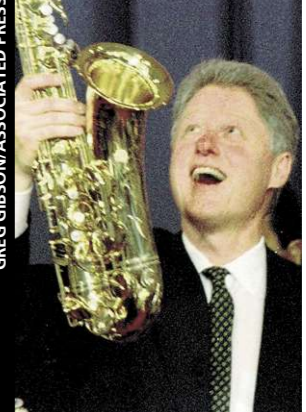
Sarah Palin, 2008 Republican vice presidential candidate, wore rimless eyeglasses that created a sensation. Women around the country copied them. Stylish and smart-looking.



Hillary Clinton, candidate for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination, wore a wardrobe of pantsuits during her campaign and referred to her supporters as "the sisterhood of the traveling pantsuit." Practical and easy.



President George W. Bush, 2001-09. Like him or loathe him, he looked good in his jeans. Part East Coast son of privilege, part Texas rancher. The jeans worked.



President Bill Clinton, 1993-2001. The guy looked good in suits whether he was giving a State of the Union Address or playing sax on late-night TV. Not good: those jogging shorts that exposed way too much thigh.

— Georgea Kovanis

# The candidates' clothes: MESSAGE SENT

Campaign wardrobes are constructed to make these guys look just like us

CHARLES DHARAKI/ASSOCIATED PRESS



President Barack Obama typically gets it right.

EMMANUEL DUNAND/PIGGETTY IMAGES



Millionaire Mitt Romney is often criticized for his pressed appearance.

By Georgea Kovanis  
Free Press Staff Writer

Enough about the so-called issues. In advance of Tuesday's primary election, let's take a look at something equally important: jeans, sweater vests and other aspects of the campaign wardrobes.

Mitt Romney — millionaire, former Massachusetts governor, Michigan native — wears high waist jeans that appear to have been pressed. Rick Santorum — former United States senator from Pennsylvania, homeschooler and father to seven — has made the baggy sweater vest his sartorial signature. Newt Gingrich — former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives who resigned after fellow Republicans urged him to get out — opts most frequently for business suits that fashion experts describe as ill-fitting. Ron Paul — congressman from Texas and a physician who says he's delivered 4,000 babies — has a closet that runs the gamut from suit to sweater, though no matter what he puts on, he tends to look world-weary and rumped.

Conventional wisdom says you should dress not for the job you have, but the one you want. So why do the Republican candidates fighting for their party's presidential nomination look more like suburban dads on the way to the car wash or the school fish fry than future leaders of the free world?

**WHAT A CANDIDATE WEARS CAN** be as important as any plank of their platform.

"There's not an aspect of a candidate at this level that isn't studied and worried and considered," said Kelly Rossman-McKinney, a Lansing-based public relations expert and political consultant. "Everything about them, both in terms of substance and packaging, is important." We tend to judge people on the way they look — consider the first televised debate in which a tan and healthy-looking John F. Kennedy trounced a pale and 5-o'clock-shadowed Richard Nixon.

And while clothes might not make the man (or the woman), they say an awful lot about them — whether they're walking the red carpet at tonight's Academy Awards or stumping around the state.

In this campaign cycle, where the nation is still trying to recover from the economic downturn and where the Occupy movement has its supporters, looking or dressing too rich or too elite or too much like a Washington insider or too anything could pose problems with the electorate that mostly makes up the 99%.

Or, as Jill Alper, a Grosse Pointe-based strategist who has worked on six Democratic presidential campaigns, says: "Where we have this sort of Main Street vs. Wall Street frame on the election, these Republican candidates ... are looking to look like Main Street."

"People think that campaigns are about issues. They're not," she adds. "People will vote against their self-interest in order to cast a ballot for someone they believe is like them."

**BUT PULLING OFF AN** "everyman look isn't always easy. You don't want the president of the United States to go meet with heads of state looking like a schlub," says Rachel Lutz, who owns the Peacock Room, a clothing store in Detroit. Lutz, who says she is fascinated by politics, admits to super-sizing photos of candidates she sees in Newsweek and other online publications so she can get a better look at their clothing.

"We want a president that looks polished, but we want someone we can relate to — that's the irony of the presidential image," says Lutz, 31, of Bloomfield Township.

"You don't have to be at the top of the fashion curve. In fact, you probably shouldn't be," added Lutz, who has a reputation for refusing to sell a customer something that isn't flattering on them. "The No. 1 thing your wardrobe should say about you is authenticity."

Even though he grew up in a privileged environment, former President George W. Bush looked authentic and comfortable in the jeans he wore in casual settings. And even though he is often complimented on being exceptionally well-dressed, when President Barack Obama sported mom jeans when he threw out the opening pitch at baseball's All Star Game, few people suggested there was anything contrived about them.

Likewise, nothing seemed to be contrived about the short shorts former President Bill Clinton was photographed in while jogging; unfortunately, they seemed like something we would wear. Hillary Clinton's perfectly appropriate but widely parodied pantsuits during the 2008 presidential campaign also seemed right for her.

Vice President Al Gore did not fare so well during the 2000 presidential campaign. His transition to a wardrobe of earth tones was ridiculed as an all-too-transparent attempt to be more appealing to women and to come across as more of an alpha male.

And in the 2004 race for president, Sen. John Kerry — who tends to come across as a Boston Brahmin — was called fake for wearing a barn coat as he toured depressed areas of the country.

"That's really the most important aspect of someone's apparel — is there anything distracting about it?" says Rossman-McKinney. "And is it somehow inconsistent with your expectation of them?"

**THIS BRINGS US BACK TO THE CURRENT** crop of candidates working to win a chance to square off against Obama in the fall election.

Romney, who has been criticized for being too wealthy (he made \$21.6 million in 2010), too handsome (that hair, that bone structure), too perfect and too out of touch, doesn't look comfortable in the pressed jeans and starched shirts he wears while campaigning.

"You've got to be comfortable in them," says Victoria Mantzopoulos, chair of the political science department at University of Detroit Mercy.

Otherwise, they will backfire and instead of looking like everyone else, you end up looking different than everyone else.

According to Rossman-McKinney: "What Romney's wardrobe says is, 'I'm a control freak. Even when I dress casually, it's in a very controlled way.' He looks a little more GQ in his jeans than some of the other candidates." And that runs counter to the idea of being an everyman.

On the other hand, Santorum, experts say, comes across as perfectly comfortable in his sweater vests.

He "looks like he might have pulled his stuff out from the foot of the bed, out of the laundry basket — not in a bad way," says Rossman-McKinney. "There's nothing about his attire that makes him look like he's something that he is not."

Gingrich's ill-fitting suits also seem authentic, but they tend to make him look short and round when studies show that voters tend to prefer candidates who look tall.

His lack of attention to detail sends the message that he is disorganized.

"Poor fit always contributes to the overall sense of disheveled," says Patty Buccellato, founder of Refined Images, a Rochester Hills-based company that helps corporate executives refine their images. "Someone who is not paying attention to the details. And it's difficult in the world of politics to be forgiven on those sorts of elements."

Paul doesn't have a signature style aside from being rumped, which experts say sends the message that he is an outsider and impatient with politics as usual.

The bottom line, says Buccellato, is this: "Non-verbal communication speaks first. Once we've formed an opinion based on a non-verbal, it's extremely difficult to redefine that impression. It takes a lot of backpedaling. We might get to know someone and understand their credentials, their capabilities, their competencies, but that takes time."

And in politics, there's never enough time.

■ GEORGEA KOVANIS: 313-222-6842 OR KOVANIS@FREEPRESS.COM