

Michigan Governor

Primary Election: August 7, 2018

Description:

A primary election is held by the political parties to select their nominees for the offices to be elected at the upcoming general election. In a primary, Republicans run against Republicans and Democrats run against other Democrats. If other parties qualify to appear on the primary ballot, their candidates run against each other as well. In a primary, you may vote on only one party's candidates. You cannot split your ballot between the various political parties. If you attempt to vote in more than one party's primary, your ballot will be invalidated. A primary election may also be held for nonpartisan races in order to narrow the number of candidates for the general election.

Duties:

The state's executive powers are vested in the Governor.

Qualifications:

A Governor must be at least 30 years of age and a registered voter in Michigan for at least four years.

Term: 4 years

Governors may serve a maximum of two full terms.

Vote for no more than 1 candidate.

Vote in one political party's primary only.

Candidates:

[Brian Calley](#)

[Patrick Colbeck](#)

[Jim Hines](#)

[Bill Schuette](#)

[Abdul El-Sayed](#)

[Shri Thanedar](#)

[Gretchen Whitmer](#)

[Bill Gelineau](#)

[John J Tatar](#)

Brian Calley

Party: Rep

Lieutenant Governor

Biographical Info:

Website: www.BrianCalley.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/briancalley/>

Twitter: twitter.com/briancalley

Occupation / Current Position: Lieutenant Governor

Education: MPA from Harvard University; MBA from Grand Valley State University; BA from Michigan State University

Qualifications / Experience: Current Lieutenant Governor. Former State Representative and Ionia County Commissioner. Worked for over a decade in community banking.

Questions:

Q1. PRIORITIES: What are your top three priorities for the State of Michigan and how would you address them?

A: I'm the only candidate with a detailed plan to continue Michigan's historic comeback. My priorities will take our comeback to the next level by focusing on making Michigan the best state in the nation for pre-K-12 education, filling more than 800,000 jobs in technical, professional and skilled trades by 2024, and increasing the workforce by transforming our social services into a springboard to employment. I have detailed plan for each of these priorities at [BrianCalley.com/Agenda](https://briancalley.com/Agenda).

Q2: EDUCATION: What measures do you support/propose to achieve improved educational outcomes and accessibility for Michigan students from early childhood through post-secondary education?

A: We must transform education so students are prepared to thrive in the modern economy. There are 5 foundations of my plan. 1. Make sure children enter school ready to learn. 2. Provide ALL children opportunities to learn and gain skills that will help them live self-determined lives. 3. Go all-in for reading. Teaching our children to be great readers is the single most important thing we can do. 4. Prepare our students for life, not just taking tests. 5. School safety must be paramount. My full plan is available at: <https://briancalley.com/agenda/education/>

Q3: ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?

A: I have a robust jobs agenda that recognizes talent is the new currency of economic development. We've helped create more than 540,000 new jobs since the end of 2010 and now our biggest challenge is filling the skilled jobs of the modern economy. The most important thing we can do to supercharge Michigan's economy is to build the greatest talent pipeline in the nation. To do that, we must have the best education system, increase the number of people in the workforce and solve the root causes of unemployment and underemployment. That's what my agenda focuses on.

Q4: ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY: What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations, while meeting the state's energy needs? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of Enbridge Pipeline 5.

A: Michigan is blessed with tremendous natural resources and breathtaking beauty. Both are major components of our economy as well as our quality of life. We need to safely harness energy resources while protecting our environment, and the Snyder-Calley administration has worked to do exactly that, including increasing resources for the Natural Resources Trust Fund. I am also committed to accelerating a safer replacement for Line 5 and holding entities responsible for damaging it responsible.

Q5: EQUALITY: What, if any, specific steps will you take to address inequalities facing women in Michigan?

A: My top priority is education and I believe that encouraging and providing a strong education for all is the best way to create equality. But we also have to be intentional about breaking down stereotypes and gender biases in many professions so that more women can take advantage of high wage career opportunities.

Q6: JUSTICE: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?

A: Michigan is a diverse state and that diversity makes a strong and dynamic state. We need to treat all people, from all backgrounds, with dignity, respect and as full of potential. We've also changed our approach to the justice system and are beginning to see results. We are now addressing the root causes that bring people into the justice system, from mental health and addiction issues to a lack of opportunity and education. My goal is to make Michigan a state of opportunity for ALL Michiganders.

Patrick Colbeck

Party: Rep

Aerospace Engineer

Biographical Info:

Website: www.ColbeckforGovernor.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ColbeckforGovernor/>

Twitter: twitter.com/ColbeckforGov

Occupation / Current Position: Legislator/State Senator for MI 7th Senate District

Education: Bachelors and Masters of Science in Aerospace Engineering from U of M Life Sciences Graduate of International Space University of Strasbourg, France Non-degree work at MSU and UAH

Qualifications / Experience: Over 2 decades of private sector experience as engineer (helped design the International Space Station), manager, management consultant, and small business owner have given me insights as to how the real world works. 2 terms serving in the Michigan Senate have given me insights into how government REALLY works. Career features numerous examples of dreaming big and achieving big.

Questions:

Q1: PRIORITIES: What are your top three priorities for the State of Michigan and how would you address them?

A: 1) Ease the financial burdens upon our families and encourage broad-based economic development for business by eliminating the state personal income tax and senior pension tax 2) Fix our roads without increasing taxes by promoting advanced road construction techniques and roads that last longer 3) Lower the cost of auto insurance while retaining lifetime benefits for those injured in auto accidents by eliminating state auto insurance mandates.

Q2: EDUCATION: What measures do you support/propose to achieve improved educational outcomes and accessibility for Michigan students from early childhood through post-secondary education?

A: 1) Eliminate the failed experiment upon our kids known as the Common Core standards. Restore focus of education upon parents, teachers and students not centralized state and federal education bureaucracies which demand incessant testing. 2) Empower parents, promote funding transparency, and free up additional funding for schools by promoting my Enhanced-Michigan Education Savings Program 3) Improve civics education so that ALL students are better equipped to be good citizens with a solid understanding of how our system of government is supposed to operate.

Q3: ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?

A: 1) Lower the total cost of doing business in our state by lowering the cost of government, healthcare and energy. Not only would businesses benefit, but families would as well. 2) Make Michigan the center of a free market healthcare revolution that would lower the cost of care by promoting Direct Primary Care Services and repealing Certificate of Need. 3) Promote energy choice so that 100% of Michigan energy consumers can take advantage of the reduced electricity rates enjoyed by 10% of the current market.

Q4: ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY: What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations, while meeting the state's energy needs? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of Enbridge Pipeline 5.

A: 1) Convert all of the state budgets including the departments of Natural Resources and Environmental Quality into service level agreements with specific performance objectives for each of their services. Performance against these expectations will be monitored on a quarterly basis to ensure that we are meeting our service goals. 2) Promote 100% energy choice driven by consumer demands for specific energy types not some arbitrary number established by government bureaucrats. 3) Ensure that we adopt the safest mechanism for transporting gas and fluids from Point A to Point B in the state.

Q5: EQUALITY: What, if any, specific steps will you take to address inequalities facing women in Michigan?

A: Continue to oppose practices that treat women as property such as Female Genital Mutilation, honor killings, wife beatings, no-fault rape, polygamy, and human trafficking.

Q6: JUSTICE: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?

A: America has historically been a bright beacon of freedom for people all around the world. We need to ensure that our future generations of leaders have a solid understanding of how our system of government is intended to operate through improved civics education. We need to ensure that an appreciation for the values enshrined in our Declaration of Independence are inculcated into future generations of leaders so that, in the words of Martin Luther King, Jr, we can all one day cash in on the promissory note found in our Declaration.

Jim Hines

Party: Rep

DID NOT RESPOND BY DEADLINE

Bill Schuette

Party: Rep

Attorney General of Michigan

Biographical Info:

Website: www.billschuette.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/BillSchuette/>

Twitter: twitter.com/SchuetteOnDuty

Occupation / Current Position: Attorney General of Michigan

Education: I am a graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and studied at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. I received my law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Qualifications / Experience: Before becoming Michigan's 53rd Attorney General, I served as a judge on the Michigan Court of Appeals, a State Senator representing the 35th District, Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, and as a United States Congressman.

Questions:

Q1: PRIORITIES: What are your top three priorities for the State of Michigan and how would you address them?

A: My top priority can be summed up in one word: growth. Michigan needs a growing population and growing paychecks to become one of the leading states in the country economically. I want to cut taxes and regulations at the state level. Additionally, I will focus on cutting auto insurance rates and fixing our 3rd grade reading scores, which are some of the lowest in the nation. My "GROW" (Great Readers On the Way) plan will prioritize literacy with a cabinet-level literacy director and more. Together these things will make Michigan more attractive to job creators and people, allowing our state to grow again.

Q2: EDUCATION: What measures do you support/propose to achieve improved educational outcomes and accessibility for Michigan students from early childhood through post-secondary education?

A: I support policies that give families more great educational choices and make wise use of taxpayers' \$15 billion annual investment in our schools. My "GROW" plan will reverse Michigan's 15-year decline in reading scores with a cabinet-level literacy director, reading coaches in every elementary school, tutoring and summer reading programs. My "Paycheck Training Plan" will restore a balance between career and college preparation in our schools and foster apprenticeships in skilled trades and other fields. We should grade our schools A-F and reward high performing and improving schools with grants and incentives.

Q3: ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?

A: As governor, I will implement growth-friendly policies that make Michigan attractive to job creators and families and help rebuild our population. I will cut taxes and regulation at the state level as President Trump has done at the federal level. I want to eliminate the Granholm income tax hike that has cost Michigan taxpayers \$8 billion. There isn't a problem facing Michigan today that couldn't be made better if we had more people living and working in Michigan. We need more people filling jobs and contributing the growth that will allow us to invest in better roads and improved infrastructure.

Q4: ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY: What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations, while meeting the state's energy needs? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of Enbridge Pipeline 5.

A: Our Great Lakes are the crown jewels of Michigan and their safety and security is etched in the DNA of every Michigan resident. I support building a 4.5-mile-long utility tunnel in the Straits that puts all existing utility connections into one underground concrete tunnel which would protect the lines from hazards and would also contain possible spills. Michigan must maintain a regulatory climate that provides reliable and affordable energy. I support a review of energy policy to provide a mix of nuclear, clean coal, natural gas, renewables and to encourage more choices for businesses, consumers and families.

Q5: EQUALITY: What, if any, specific steps will you take to address inequalities facing women in Michigan?

A: As attorney general I have established a strong record as being a voice for victims of human trafficking and sexual assault. I helped secure funding to test thousands of abandoned rape kits in Detroit and across the state and set up a special unit to prosecute human traffickers. I prosecuted Larry Nassar and he is behind bars for life. I also prosecuted Kevin Beverly, who threatened and intimidated his ex-wife from prison. As governor, I will continue this legacy of seeking justice for women.

Q6: JUSTICE: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?

A: As attorney general, I have consistently been a voice for victims, consumers and all Michiganders, because I believe everyone should be treated equally under the law, with dignity and respect. As governor, I will ensure such policies are practiced within my administration, and I will approach the laws and budgets I sign with the same standard in mind.

Abdul El-Sayed

Party: Dem

Former Detroit Health Director

Biographical Info:

Website: <https://abdulformichigan.com/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/AbdulforMichigan/>

Twitter: twitter.com/AbdulElSayed

Occupation / Current Position: Democratic Candidate for Governor

Education: University of Michigan - Bachelor of Science, Biology & Political Science Oxford University - Doctor of Philosophy, Public Health Columbia University - MD

Qualifications / Experience: Executive Director & Health Officer, City of Detroit - 2015-2017

Questions:

Q1: PRIORITIES: What are your top three priorities for the State of Michigan and how would you address them?

A: We need accountable, transparent government. That means FOIA accountability, gerrymandering reform, campaign finance reform, and abolishing legislative term limits. Too many don't have access to healthcare. I proposed MichCare, a statewide Medicare for All system that would lower costs and expand coverage to everyone. We would reduce auto insurance costs, increase mental health support, and reduce prescription drug costs. Education in Michigan fails our kids. We have to De-DeVos our education system, keeping public school public. We will invest in teachers, schools, and higher education through our MIScholars Grant.

Q2: EDUCATION: What measures do you support/propose to achieve improved educational outcomes and accessibility for Michigan students from early childhood through post-secondary education?

A: We must fundamentally to reinvest in K-12 schools and create a Universal Pre-K system. That means increasing school funding for students in lower income communities specifically and investing substantially in teacher salary and pensions. We must remove the profit motive in education by building an off ramp for for-profit charter schools that leech our tax dollars from impoverished communities that desperately need them.

We will also ensure equality in access to higher education by guaranteeing free college tuition to all families making less than 150k a year through our MIScholar Grant program.

Q3: ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?

A: To improve our economy I would increase access to technical training, apprenticeship programs and 4 year college. This training will be matched with investment in job growth for emerging industries and areas that are resistant to automation and outsourcing. We will focus on increasing jobs in home healthcare services, child care services, small scale local manufacturing, and construction. We will also pass legislation to protect workers and ensure that anyone who works a full time job does not struggle to make ends meet. That means repealing Right to Work, reinstating prevailing wage, and passing a \$15 minimum wage.

Q4: ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY: What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations, while meeting the state's energy needs? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of Enbridge Pipeline 5.

A: We need to transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050. I will establish a Pure Michigan Infrastructure Bank focused on empowering individuals by financing small loans to households and municipalities. This would allow individuals to invest in solar or wind infrastructure and harvest their own energy, with the ability to sell their excess back into the grid through expanded net metering policies. I am committed to shutting down Line 5 on my first day in office, and I will institute a full ban on fracking in Michigan. I have also taken a pledge not to accept campaign donations from big oil companies or executives.

Q5: EQUALITY: What, if any, specific steps will you take to address inequalities facing women in Michigan?

A: I believe in & will always defend a woman's right to choose, by funding Planned Parenthood, investing in reproductive services at the state level and opposing legislation that would limit those rights. Women's rights do not stop at reproductive rights, gender inequities are a structural problem and merit a structural solution. I will fight to ensure pay equity for women, meaning that women have access to high quality union jobs with good pay, accessible and affordable childcare, and access to healthcare as a right. I will invest in universal family care as an important step to solving gendered career inequities.

Q6: JUSTICE: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?

A: Institutional racism in America is underpinned by the wholesale disinvestment in places where Americans of color predominantly live, learn, and work. To combat this, it is imperative that we prioritize investment in areas and services that predominantly serve people of color. That means directing investment into school infrastructure and programming for majority minority school districts and promoting unionization for jobs that people of color predominantly do. It also means directly addressing environmental racism by ensuring that issues like the Flint water crisis are dealt with accordingly and never happen again.

Shri Thanedar

Party: Dem

DID NOT RESPOND BY DEADLINE

Gretchen Whitmer

Party: Dem

Candidate for Governor

Biographical Info:

Website: gretchenwhitmer.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/gretchenwhitmer>

Twitter: twitter.com/gretchenwhitmer

Occupation / Current Position: Candidate for Governor

Education: Michigan State University College of Law Michigan State University, BA Communications

Qualifications / Experience: Michigan State Representative from the 69 th District 2000-2006 Michigan State Senator from the 23 rd District 2006-2015 Minority Leader of the Michigan Senate 2011-2015 Ingham County Prosecutor July 2016-December 2016

Questions:

Q1: PRIORITIES: What are your top three priorities for the State of Michigan and how would you address them?

A: Fixing the roads by investing \$3 billion per year in the Rebuild Michigan Infrastructure Bank to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure, including water pipelines and expanding access to broadband. Making health care more affordable for families, like when I worked across the aisle to expand Medicaid to cover over 680,000 Michiganders. I'll take on Trump and Republicans who threaten our health coverage and protect people with pre-existing conditions. Making the first two years of college debt-free and funding more trade schools and skills training programs so Michiganders can get a good job and support their families.

Q2: EDUCATION: What measures do you support/propose to achieve improved educational outcomes and accessibility for Michigan students from early childhood through post-secondary education?

A: The key to a good job is a good education. My Good Schools Now education plan will: put Michigan on a path to universal preschool; triple the number of literacy coaches in our schools; respect our educators and treat them as professionals instead of attacking them for Lansing's policy failures; expand career counseling and skilled trades training so every student has a path to a high-wage job, whether college is right for them or not; hold all schools to the same high proficiency standards – traditional and charter schools alike.

Q3: ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?

A: My Better Skills, Better Job plan focuses on raising household incomes by expanding education and skills training, investing in our infrastructure, aggressively pursuing economic development and supporting small business growth so that everyone has a path to a good job and a secure future. We must also raise the minimum wage to \$15 and enact strong paid family leave policies to help working families get ahead. My administration will also adopt strong Buy American, Buy Michigan policies to ensure more of our tax dollars go to Michigan businesses that hire Michigan workers.

Q4: ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY: What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations, while meeting the state's energy needs? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of Enbridge Pipeline 5.

A: Diversifying Michigan's energy generation portfolio is good for our environment and our economy. I support increased investment in the renewable energy sector of the economy and the 92,000 Michigan jobs it supports. Michigan is home to 21% of the Earth's fresh water, and we've got to protect it. An oil spill in the Great Lakes would be an absolutely devastating blow to our environment and our economy. My administration will immediately file to enjoin the easement and begin the legal process for shutting down Line 5.

Q5: EQUALITY: What, if any, specific steps will you take to address inequalities facing women in Michigan?

A: I have always been on the front lines fighting for women's rights. As Senate Democratic Leader, I shared my own story of surviving sexual assault to fight Republican efforts to erect more barriers for women in their health care. As Ingham County prosecutor, I established a new domestic violence unit, and I recently released a plan to combat sexual assault on campus. As governor, I will fight for equal pay and end pay disparities for women of color, enact earned paid sick leave, and ensure quality, affordable childcare, because the average cost of infant care in Michigan is too high.

Q6: JUSTICE: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?

A: We've got to level the playing field so the amount of money in your bank account does not determine the level of justice you receive. That's why as Prosecutor, I prioritized rehabilitation programs for nonviolent first-time offenders. As governor, I'm committed to building a diverse cabinet that represents every community in

Michigan so every voice is heard. I support universal voter access, so everyone who is approved for a driver's license or state ID should be automatically registered to vote, and any registered voter should be able to vote absentee or by mail.

Bill Gelineau

Party: Lib

CEO, Abacus Title Agency

Biographical Info:

Website: ComeTogetherMichigan.org

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Gelineau4Governor/>

Occupation / Current Position: Owner and Licensed Title Agent for a Grand Rapids based real estate title insurance agency.

Education: Attended the University of Michigan and Wayne State University. Pre-law student majoring in English and Michigan History. Extensive professional certifications and currently hold a state license.

Qualifications / Experience: Read personal biography at: <https://liberty4gov.org/about-bill/> This provides extensive personal background from growing up in Downriver Detroit to my long professional and political career in Michigan. All of that training provides a balanced perspective needed to develop cooperation in Lansing.

Questions:

Q1.: PRIORITIES: What are your top three priorities for the State of Michigan and how would you address them?

A: 1) It is no accident that I chose the domain ComeTogetherMichigan.org as my campaign website. I believe that the election of a non-Democrat/Republican would send a strong message to the legislature to develop non-partisan consensus. 2) I would work diligently to reform the spending priorities in our state. I've identified several large areas - these include prison reform - where tremendous assets are wasted. Also, the elimination of corporate subsidies - which squeeze out necessary funding for roads, schools, and other priorities. 3) Mental health initiatives to ensure stable opportunities for all citizens.

Q2: EDUCATION: What measures do you support/propose to achieve improved educational outcomes and accessibility for Michigan students from early childhood through post-secondary education?

A: The core of making changes is recognition of limited resources. Prison and business subsidy reform is an essential component of developing the resources to make other planned improvements possible. There won't be massive new revenues available. My priorities would include funding to return to 70/80's levels of student/counselor ratios. We need these objective "ombudsman" for students to provide perspective, support, and a safe place for students to reveal obstacles to success. Counselors would also become a key asset in our battles with suicide and opioid use. Also, expand parental engagement from K forward.

Q3: ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?

A: 1) My Drop-th-Cap initiative: <https://liberty4gov.org/drop-the-cap/>, is widely agreed by economists to provide confidence to investors to bring their companies to Michigan. It is vital to tell companies they won't be overtaxed. 2) By ending corporate welfare, we have the resources to invest in students to fill the high-skill positions available. 3) Legalization of cannabis. There are massive opportunities in the agricultural and industrial sectors in which our farms and business can provide leadership and high-margin success.

Q4: ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY: What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations, while meeting the state's energy needs? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of Enbridge Pipeline 5.

A: These intertwined issues require more than 625 characters. A good starting place is the position paper on our website: <https://liberty4gov.org/environmental-policy/>. I've outline the creation of an Evaluation Board

which could recommend areas forever "off limits", such as the Straits. However, the most important matter is finding the revenues to clean up all the toxic sites in Michigan. Nobody else in the race has proposed a plan such as the IFT expansion explained on my site. I'm also the only candidate putting the "HOW" into a clean energy future. Again, with limited space, you should check out my website.

Q5: EQUALITY: What, if any, specific steps will you take to address inequalities facing women in Michigan?

A: I don't believe it is the role of the government to provide special status or ensure anything other than equal opportunity to any group. However, as Governor, I will enforce the laws of the State to make sure discrimination or other systemic biases are eliminated. As a father with daughters and grand-daughters, my efforts will always be to ensure a FULL and EQUAL opportunity for them to compete in the workplace, free of institutional discrimination. I believe we should eliminate the income tax on those under 25 and below \$25,000/yer. income to help lift women and children out of poverty.

Q5: JUSTICE: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?

A: 1) The legalization of marijuana - consequences of which have fallen hard on many minority communities. 2) I've pledged to commute the sentences of all drug offenders who have not committed a violent crime. 3) I will work to amend Elliot-Larsen to include transgender persons. Everyone has the right to enjoy the full benefits of citizenship. 4) Investigation and prosecution of abusive police practices - and the elimination of military-style SWAT teams and use of military vehicles as everyday common practice. 5) I will appoint a cabinet of qualified people that reflect all the faces and communities of Michigan.

John J Tatar

Party: Lib

DID NOT RESPOND BY DEADLINE