

State Representative - Michigan

Michigan House District 60

Description:

Duties: The Michigan House of Representatives shares responsibility with the Michigan Senate to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws.

Qualifications: State Representatives may serve a maximum of three full terms. They must be at least 21 years of age and a registered voter in their district. There are 110 State House districts which are re-apportioned after each census.

Term: 2 years

Vote in one political party's primary only.

Candidates (choose 1):

William Baker



Party: Rep
Environmental Services

Biographical Info:

Website: <https://www.politicalbank.com/find-candidates/william-baker-aede7ee0-1125-4a38-873d-25993fed5493>

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/baker4mihouse/>

Occupation / Current Position: On leave from the Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital's Environmental Services Department

Education: BS in Mathematics from the University of Alaska Fairbanks

Questions:

Q: 1. PRIORITIES: *What are your top three state legislative priorities and how would you address them?*

A: My top priority would be to scale back State spending to focus on the most important areas. I would start by cutting pay of Legislators. Second, and concurrently, I would seek to roll back taxes for everybody. I will propose cutting state income taxes to 3% and ending excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol products (only 3.7% of State revenue). Lastly, to improve education in Michigan, we need to create an environment conducive to the expansion of educational services. I would make all educational spending, including student loan payments, tax deductible.

Q: 2. 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: In order to improve educational outcomes for our students, we need to expand the educational opportunities that are available for everyone. Michigan needs to expand school choice and to allow vouchers to be provided directly to parents so that educational funds can be saved for future years or spent as they see fit. Additionally, all educational spending should be tax deductible on the state income tax each year, this would include all tuition and fees for all levels of education as well as

full student loan payments for those currently burdened with college debt.

Q: 3. *ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?*

A: One of the hardest thing for someone to do after being released from jail is to obtain employment due to licensing requirements with a "good morals" clause. Therefore, the State of Michigan needs to reform its licensing requirements so that it is easier for individuals to obtain a job or strike out on their own. Additionally, we need to be a state that is conducive to entrepreneurship by lessening the tax burden on everyone and by ending economic protection through subsidies and regulation.

Q: 4. *ELECTIONS: What state policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*

A: The biggest thing about campaign funding is just making sure that everything donated is reported. Who donated, how much was it, when was it, and so on. The only way to effectively reduce the importance of donations from political groups is to limit the power of elected officials. By removing power from State Legislators and returning it to individual citizens, there would be no reason for special interests to lobby politicians.

Q: 5. *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: Due to the economic protection granted to our energy providers, the Enbridge Pipeline 5 carries roughly three quarters of the natural gas and oil required by the Lower Peninsula. Therefore, any direct shutdown would have massive implications felt for days or weeks. In order to lessen the importance of this pipeline, we need to deregulate the energy market and allow for increased competition from other providers. To balance our economic needs with protections of

our natural resources, the State should focus on private property rights and allowing individuals the right to keep their land in any condition they choose.

Q: 6. *JUSTICE: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?*

A: The most effective way to promote social and racial equality, is to make the law blind again. When we see each other as individuals, treating everyone as a person with rights unto themselves, we can move away from the blinding hatred that divides us. As a society, we need to stop expecting government to oversee every transgression and be tolerant of the peaceful ignorance of others. Again, by limiting the power of legislators, there will be less chances for the government or protected industries from maintaining the injustice in our state. By returning power to the people, we return equality to all.

Jon Hoadley



Party: Dem

State Representative

Biographical Info:

Website: www.JonHoadley.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/jon.hoadley>

Twitter: twitter.com/jonhoadley

Occupation / Current Position: State Representative

Education: Michigan State University 2006

Qualifications / Experience: State Representative 2015-Present
Small Business Owner

Questions:

Q: 1. PRIORITIES: *What are your top three state legislative priorities and how would you address them?*

A: Creating Welcoming Communities and an Economy That Benefits Everyone
Protecting Our Environment
Prioritizing Education

Q: 2. 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 all know the importance of education and the profound impact it has on our children and future. We need to put students first, increase funding for public schools, end the profit motive in education, empower parents, and support public education employees. Let's decrease student debt and make community colleges and public universities tuition free. Together we can ensure our children are going to school in welcoming environments that promote learning and success.

Q: 3. *ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?*

A: When corporations pay their fair share and increase wages, the families of workers and our economy win. We need to end the corporate tax breaks that don't create jobs, stand up for workers, and protect our seniors. Together we can raise wages, improve healthcare with Medicare-for-all, and re-build the middle class.

Q: 4. *ELECTIONS: What state policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*

A: Our democracy needs to be more responsive to voters. While in the State House, I've introduced legislation to end gerrymandering and protect voting rights through a Voter Bill of Rights. To make government more responsive, we need to reduce the amount of money in politics, reform the legislator-to-lobbyist system created by term limits, put citizens in charge of redistricting so voters are picking their elected officials and not the other way around, and make sure the right to vote is protected.

Q: 5. *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: Whether we are playing pick up sports in public parks or spending a summer weekend on the Great Lakes, Michiganders each have a rich history with our environment. We need to invest in renewable energy, increase clean air standards, and

hold polluters accountable. Line 5 must be decommissioned immediately. We need to protect our water and decrease our reliance on fossil fuels. When we protect our environment and invest in new technologies we improve our communities and economy.

Q: *6. JUSTICE: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?*

A: We need opportunity for all. I've been a champion in the legislature for social justice and ending discrimination. Too many Michiganders have been incarcerated due to discriminatory practices and policies. We must confront racism, end discrimination against LGBT people, pass criminal justice reform, welcome new Americans, protect civil rights, and say no to policies that try to divide our community. Together we will create a thriving, welcoming Michigan.

Michigan House District 61

Description:

Duties: The Michigan House of Representatives shares responsibility with the Michigan Senate to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws.

Qualifications: State Representatives may serve a maximum of three full terms. They must be at least 21 years of age and a registered voter in their district. There are 110 State House districts which are re-apportioned after each census.

Term: 2 years

Vote in one political party's primary only.

Candidates (choose 1):

Brandt Iden

Party: Rep

DID NOT RESPOND BY DEADLINE

Alberta Griffin

Party: Dem

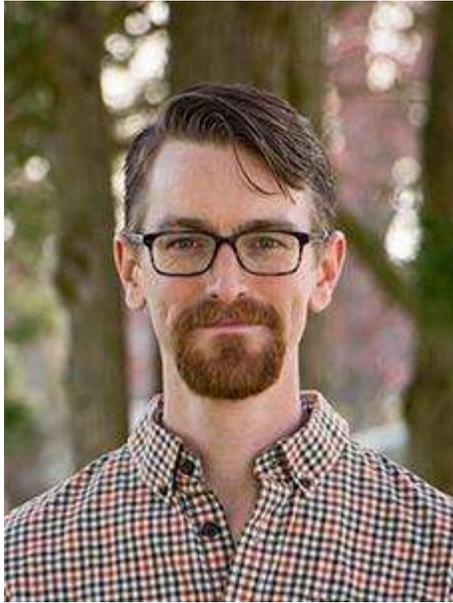
DID NOT RESPOND BY DEADLINE

Corey Kendal

Party: Dem

DID NOT RESPOND BY DEADLINE

Thomas Whitener



Party: Dem
Game Designer

Biographical Info:

Website: Whitener4Michigan.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/Whitener4MI

Occupation / Current Position: Self Employed Game Designer

Education: BFA, Interactive Design and Game Development from Savannah College of Art and Design

Qualifications / Experience: 10 year Veteran Game Designer

Questions:

Q: 1. *PRIORITIES:* What are your top three state legislative priorities and how would you address them?

A: Education: I want to rework how education is funded in Michigan, prioritizing public schools and helping struggling districts. Environment: I want to address the loopholes and lack of oversight in the management of our environment, so we can preserve the beautiful Michigan that we all enjoy.

Infrastructure: I want the roads in Michigan to reflect the investment that we make into them. A focus on long-term

solutions and investment in the future will help stem the bleeding of the infrastructure in the state, and begin bringing our transportation and utility infrastructure up to an acceptable level.

Q: 2. *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: Regarding public schools, I believe our education system should adopt a model that bases funding on possible enrollment, not actual enrollment. This way, struggling schools would have more money per student to ensure a quality education, while schools that are doing well are able to continue being successful. I would also increase investment into public post-secondary education such as community colleges and trade schools, to make them more affordable and attractive as an option for students.

Q: 3. *ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?*

A: Starting with a \$15 minimum wage will give working Michiganders more money to spend, and will help the wheels of the economy start to turn, while decreasing income inequality. This minimum wage needs to be tied to inflation, so that an hour of work does not decrease its value simply due to the passing of time. Affordable healthcare and childcare will also make workers more efficient, healthier, and better able to engage in the workforce, which will boost Michigan's economy and provide better security for our workers.

Q: 4. *ELECTIONS: What state policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*

A: I support no-reason absentee voting, expanded early voting, and anti-gerrymandering policies. These measures ensure that everyone has the chance to vote, and that their vote isn't improperly de-valued due to district maps drawn by self-interested parties. I also support limits to campaign finance contributions, required disclosures by PAC's and Super PAC's,

and other measures intended to remove corporate money from politics.

Q: *5. 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: I support expanded focus on the renewable energy sector, and a transition away from fossil fuels. This needs to be a gradual transition, however, to give the workers here in Michigan that rely on those industries to re-train for the new, renewable economy. I also support increased oversight and funding for our regulatory bodies, so that aging oil and gas infrastructure like Line 5 can be properly regulated, and companies like Enbridge can be made to maintain or remove the lines when they are past their safe operating lifespan.

Q: *6. JUSTICE: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?*

A: First, I would include the LGBTQ+ community in the Elliott-Larsen civil rights act, ensuring the protections already offered to other minority communities. I would also promote policies to end racial profiling, require racial and implicit bias training for our law-enforcement officers, and move to legalize Marijuana in Michigan. In tandem with legalization I would advocate for amnesty for non-violent offenders currently being punished, as well as addiction and rehabilitation funding to help those hit by the opioid epidemic, the spread of fentanyl, and other, less publicized drug epidemics to recover.

Michigan House District 63

Description:

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Term: 2 years

Vote in one political party's primary only.

Candidates (choose 1):

Paul Foust

Party: Rep

Teacher

Biographical Info:

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/paul.foust>

Twitter: twitter.com/warpfactor23

Occupation / Current Position: Guest Teacher at EDUstaff LLC

Education: B.S. and M.A. degrees, both from Western Michigan University

Qualifications / Experience: Richland Township Trustee (2012-present)

Questions:

Q: 1. *PRIORITIES:* What are your top three state legislative priorities and how would you address them?

A: 1.) Reforming Michigan's bureaucracy to make it smaller, more accountable, and more answerable to the people. 2.) Preserving local autonomy, especially in planning and zoning

matters. 3.) Increased funding for public schools and infrastructure repair.

Q: 2. *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: Increased K-12 funding for public schools, stricter standards and more accountability for charter schools and virtual academies, increased pushing of vocational/trade/community college programs. I also support a decreased emphasis on, and reduction of financial support for, four-year universities.

Q: 3. *ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?*

A: It's simple: the government DOES NOT create jobs; the private sector needs room to innovate and brainstorm. The State of Michigan needs to rescind some tax breaks for larger corporations, drastically lower taxes on small/local businesses, and then "get out of the way". A level playing field is key to economic success.

Q: 4. *ELECTIONS: What state policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*

A: I would support an expansion of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, to ensure transparency in our government. I am not a supporter of the Supreme Court's recent "Citizens United v. FEC" decision. I support the elimination of the 'Straight Ticket' device for all elections. I am also a proponent of no-reason absentee voting, with an eventual transition to a vote-by-mail system like the one used in Oregon. I believe that all candidates, including gubernatorial and township offices, should have the option to pay a filing fee instead of gathering petitions signatures, if they so choose.

Q: 5. *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: Private sector innovation, along limited-but-thoughtful government regulation is needed. Scaling back use of nuclear energy, while raising the cap on solar energy collection will be of immense importance for Michigan's future. I do not support the continued existence and operation of Enbridge Pipeline 5.

Q: 6. *JUSTICE: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?*

A: Question Refused.

Matt Hall



Party: Rep
Constitutional Law attorney

Biographical Info:

Website: <http://www.electmatthall.com>

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

Twitter: twitter.com/electmatthall

Occupation / Current Position: Michigan Republican Party
State Committeeman

Education: BBA, Business Management & Public
Administration, Cum Laude, Western Michigan University Juris

Doctor, Advanced Constitutional Advocacy, Magna Cum Laude,
WMU Cooley Law School

Qualifications / Experience: Former West Michigan Liaison for Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette's office. Longtime former Kalamazoo County resident, who now lives in Emmett Township. Donald Trump for President Congressional District Chairman. Donald Trump delegate to the 2016 Republican National Convention. My successful motion defeated the "Never Trumpers" effort to steal the nomination from Trump at the convention.

Questions:

Q: 1. *PRIORITIES: What are your top three state legislative priorities and how would you address them?*

A: 1. Lower auto insurance rates. Michigan has the highest auto insurance rates in the country. I support providing more plans and more choices for consumers, cracking down on fraud, and allowing seniors to opt out of the auto no-fault system. 2. Cut taxes. Michigan families, workers, and seniors are overtaxed. I support cutting the Michigan income tax and repealing the pension tax on seniors. 3. Reform Medicaid. I support work or job training requirements for able-bodied adults receiving Medicaid. Too many people are abusing the system. Welfare recipients must take steps toward sustaining themselves.

Q: 2. *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. Not enough elementary school students are proficient readers. Early literacy programs must be made a priority. 2. Repeal common core. More control and decision making authority should be returned to local school boards. 3. State accountability and funding systems should be changed to focus on subject matter mastery and a student should be encouraged to move at his or her personalized pace. 4. Vocational, career,

and technical education in our state must become a higher priority and receive additional support.

Q: 3. *ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?*

A: 1. Cut taxes. I signed Americans for Tax Reform's "Taxpayer Protection Pledge" I will oppose any and all tax increases on Michigan's workers, families, and seniors. 2. I support cutting overburdensome government regulations and mandates that kill job creation. 3. I support repairing Michigan's crumbling infrastructure. Taxpayer dollars spent on repairing roads, bridges, and other infrastructure projects must be spent responsibly and contractors must be held accountable. Road tax money must be dedicated to repairing our roads. Public/private partnerships should be encouraged to repair our state's infrastructure.

Q: 4. *ELECTIONS: What state policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*

A: I support requiring photo identification to vote.

Q: 5. *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: Environmental regulations should be based on scientific evidence and not politics. I support science based, reasonable environmental regulations.

Q: 6. *JUSTICE: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?*

A: 1. I will continue to advocate for the sanctity of life. I will support legislation aimed at reducing the number of abortions occurring in our state. 2. I support reforming Michigan's civil asset forfeiture laws to require a criminal conviction before the government can seize a person's assets. A person is entitled to due process under the law before his or her property is taken away by the government.

David C Maturen



Party: Rep

State Representative, Real Estate Appraiser

Biographical Info:

Website: www.davematuren.com

Occupation / Current Position: State Rep #63

Education: BBA and MPA from WMU

Qualifications / Experience: 30 years own my own small business. 14 years as Brady Twp. Trustee, 12 years Kalamazoo County Commissioner (3 years as Chair), 4 years as State Rep.

Questions:

Q: 1. PRIORITIES: *What are your top three state legislative priorities and how would you address them?*

A: Continue the reinvention of Michigan that Governor Snyder and the Legislature has done in my last four years. Find more money for our roads and bridges. Put emphasis on Career Technical Education.

Q: 2. 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: Continue with the 3rd grade reading standard. Continue with record funding for education in the state budget and to help lower class sizes. Put emphasis on Career Technical Education in conjunction with private industry which has the jobs available.

Q: 3. *ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?*

A: As the Vice Chair of the House Tax Policy committee, I supported both the MI-Thrive Brownfield legislation and the Good Jobs Economic Development legislation. I also support the concepts in HB 6052 dealing with economic development incentive evaluation to make sure that these and other programs are working.

Q: 4. *ELECTIONS: What state policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*

A: I think that no reason absentee voting would be good for turnout participation. We also need to insure the integrity of the vote by guarding against cyber inference. All campaign donations should be transparent as to the source.

Q: 5. *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 keep Michigan's high standards for ballast water discharge so no more invasive species entre our lakes. I think the MDNR and MDEQ do a good job of monitory and preventing discharges to our water and air. We need to continue our "all of the above" forms of energy. We need to follow up on the presentation made recently to a House and Senate joint committee by students at Michigan Technological University on the potential for a tunnel under the Straights to carry electricity lines, communication lines, petroleum products and emergency vehicles. It has great potential for protecting the Great Lakes and pro

Q: 6. *JUSTICE: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?*

A: I think that a good job for all those who can work is a good way to solve many of our social ills. Make sure our Civil Rights Division has the necessary tools to stop racial discrimination.

Jennifer Aniano



Party: Dem
Teacher

Biographical Info:

Website: Jenanianoformi.org

Facebook: <http://@jenanianoformi>

Occupation / Current Position: Teacher

Education: B.S. Journalism B.S. History M.Ed. with teaching certification Working on Doctor of Education

Qualifications / Experience: Teacher Kalamazoo Public Schools Vice President Kalamazoo Education Association

Questions:

Q: 1. *PRIORITIES: What are your top three state legislative priorities and how would you address them?*

A: Education Labor Infrastructure

Q: 2. *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: School funding must be increased and equitable. Skilled trades should be a part of the curriculum for graduation. Testing needs to be reduced. We should focus on closing the opportunity gap, not the achievement gap. Two- year degree programs and certification programs should be free or heavily subsidized. The cost of four-year degrees must go down.

Q: 3. *ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?*

A: I believe this starts with ending right-to-work. Giving power back to the every day workers in Michigan will ensure a better economy.

Q: 4. *ELECTIONS: What state policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*

A: Everyone eligible to vote should easily be able to do so. We need to do a better job of giving voting access to our elderly, disabled, and poor.

Q: 5. *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: I support protecting our Great Lakes and easing into renewable energies. I understand the necessities of pipelines; however, I believe we need to protect our Great Lakes. There have been too many oil disasters in recent history for the people of Michigan not to want to protect our most precious resource. We are the gatekeepers of the Great Lakes and we need to behave as such.

Q: 6. *JUSTICE: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?*

A: We have to first look at sentencing and how this practice is utilized across the state. We also have to make sure all public

employees are aware of social justice, racial justice, and the systemic issues that plague our state.

Ronald Hawkins

Party: Lib

DID NOT RESPOND BY DEADLINE

Michigan House District 66

Description:

Duties: The Michigan House of Representatives shares responsibility with the Michigan Senate to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws.

Qualifications: State Representatives may serve a maximum of three full terms. They must be at least 21 years of age and a registered voter in their district. There are 110 State House districts which are re-apportioned after each census.

Term: 2 years

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Candidates (choose 1):

Beth Griffin

Party: Rep

DID NOT RESPOND BY DEADLINE

Dan Seibert



Party: Dem
Systems Engineer

Biographical Info:

Website: <https://www.seibertforstaterep.com>

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

Twitter: twitter.com/MrDanielSeibert

Occupation / Current Position: Systems Engineer at Perrigo

Education: Bachelor of Science in Engineering

Questions:

Q: 1. PRIORITIES: *What are your top three state legislative priorities and how would you address them?*

A: Honest and accountable government - Expand FOIA, require financial disclosure for public officials, and a minimum 5 year cooling off period before a legislator can become a lobbyist. Reinvest in Michigan - Stop wasting taxpayer dollars on corporate welfare and invest in infrastructure and public education. Affordable access to broadband - Encourage public/private solutions to communities instead of tax breaks to large corporations which continue to ignore our communities.

Q: 2. 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: All children learn uniquely and we need to give our teachers the flexibility to adequately reflect that. By reducing class size and assessing progress in a way that reflects actual abilities instead of test preparation, we can focus on preparing students for the future. Furthermore, post-secondary education (college, vocational, etc.) needs to be available and affordable to students in every community.

Q: 3. *ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?*

A: I support a shift in our priorities away from providing corporate welfare and toward investment in public infrastructure and education. A skilled workforce and reliable infrastructure would make Michigan a place where people want to live and businesses want to invest. We need to raise the minimum wage and remove barriers to employment to help move low income families off of public assistance.

Q: 4. *ELECTIONS: What state policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*

A: Protecting the right to vote is crucial. We must end gerrymandering to get fair representation; expand access to the ballot with no-reason absentee voting, online and same day voter registration; secure the integrity of our elections with voter-verified paper audit trail.

Q: 5. *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: Repairing environmental damage is expensive, if not impossible, so it is important to recognize that protecting the environment is a legacy for future generations as well as a smart investment. Instead of providing polluters departmental oversight, we need the DEQ to become a proactive partner with industry to mitigate environmental contamination while still

performing meaningful oversight. To help facilitate the transition to clean and renewable energy, Michigan should restore a fair net-metering system. The risk posed by Line 5 is too great to ignore and plans need to be made for an orderly, but speedy, shut down.

Q: 6. *JUSTICE: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?*

A: By providing equal access to opportunity through quality education for children of all communities, a raise in the minimum wage, and meaningful criminal justice reform we can begin to address the inequalities that exist in our state. Michigan needs to focus on providing equal justice, regardless of income, with reforms in areas that disproportionately punish the poor, such as civil forfeiture and the cash bail system. By increasing utilization of problem-solving courts and enhancing reintegration programs we can reduce recidivism and strengthen our communities.