

# U. S. Senator - Michigan

## U.S. Senate

Description:

### Primary Election: August 7, 2018

**Duties:** U.S. Senators share the responsibility with U.S. Representatives for enactment of the nation's laws as provided in the U.S. Constitution. Senators ratify international treaties and confirm Presidential appointments of Cabinet members, federal judges, and foreign ambassadors.

**Qualifications:** A Senator must be at least 30 years of age and a U.S. Citizen for at least 9 years. There are 100 Senators, two from each state.

**Term: 6 years**

**Vote for no more than one candidate.**

**Vote in one political party's primary only.**

### Candidates (choose 1):

**John James**

**Party:** Rep

Husband, Father, Combat Veteran and Job Creator

#### **Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [johnjamesforsenate.com](http://johnjamesforsenate.com)

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/JohnJamesMI/>

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/JohnJamesMI](https://twitter.com/JohnJamesMI)

**Occupation / Current Position:** President of James Group International and CEO of Renaissance Global Logistics

**Education:** United States Military Academy, Bachelor of Science Penn State University, Master of Supply Chain Management and Information Systems University of Michigan, Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)

**Qualifications / Experience:** I spent half of my adult life serving this country. I led two platoons in Iraq and brought all my men home to their families. The other half of my adult life was spent serving my community and creating jobs right here in Michigan. I served on the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund and the Board of Directors of the Jalen Rose Leadership Academy.

**Questions:**

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

**A:** 1. Economic Opportunity. Putting in place a tax policy that helps create the environment where jobs can be created and where families keep more of what they earn to meet their needs. 2. National Security and Veterans. We also have to take care of our veterans. The toughest fight our forces face should not be in a VA hospital. This in particular is a priority for me when I reach the Senate. 3. Infrastructure. In the 44 years Debbie Stabenow has been in elected office, our state has crumbled. Upgrading the Soo Locks and our roads must become a national priority. Debbie Stabenow has failed to do anything about either.

**Q: 2. IMMIGRATION:** *What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. immigration policies?*

**A:** We are a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws. Our economy and national identity depend on a workable legal immigration system. But it needs to be tough as well. I oppose sanctuary cities and would work to ensure sanctuary cities are defunded. I also would work to ensure we have secure borders. I will work to support reform of the legal immigration system that provides greater security while supporting our economy.

**Q: 3. HEALTH CARE:** *What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. health coverage policies and programs, including those affecting maternal and child health?*

**A:** We need to look at everything that comes in between a patient and their doctor. We must keep the decision making ability in the hands of doctors and health professionals. After that, we need to look at everything that happens after that patient walks out of the doctors office and has to pay for the care. We need to focus on patient-centered, market based solutions. Mothers and children across Michigan deserve better. Our Veterans deserve better.

**Q: 4. ECONOMY:** *What federal policies do you support to help members of all strata of the American public improve their economic positions?*

**A:** Michigan is one of the most innovative states in America. We are home to some of the most innovative manufacturing innovators in the world, and one of the most diverse agriculture sectors in the nation. Both of these important industries are sensitive to government regulation, tax and trade policy. The best thing the federal government can do in many cases is get out of the way. That means reducing regulation instead of increasing regulation. Putting in place a tax policy that helps create the environment where jobs can be created and where families keep more of what they earn to meet their needs.

**Q: 5. ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY:** *What policies do you support to meet U.S. energy needs while protecting our water, air and land for current and future generations? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of the Great Lakes.*

**A:** Our Great Lakes are a national treasure. They support a robust fish and tourism industry here in Michigan. We must protect the lakeshore and update infrastructure such as the Soo Locks to ensure the economic impact of the lakes to our state is not interrupted. I will champion policies and programs that

protects environmental quality throughout the Great Lakes and protects them from invasive species like Asian Carp. The same applies to the land we farm and live on and the air we breathe. We enjoy an incredible agricultural diversity in this state and need to guarantee it for future seasons.

**Q:** 6. *ELECTIONS: What federal policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*

**A:** As a cadet in the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, I swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution. Voting and sharing our opinions and values is how we pass on our democracy to future generations. We must protect the integrity of our elections and protect against voter fraud. It is equally important that we maintain a campaign finance system that is honest, transparent and accessible by every American citizen. When you take away an American's right to vote or their right to share their views, you hurt our democracy.

### **Sandy Pensler**



**Party:** Rep  
Businessman

#### **Biographical Info:**

**Website:** <https://penslerforsenate.com>

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/PenslerForSenate/>

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/SandyPensler](https://twitter.com/SandyPensler)

**Occupation / Current Position:** President/Owner Pensler Capital  
President/Owner Korex Companies

**Education:** Yale University BA chemical engineering BA economics MA economics Harvard Law School JD. All degrees with honors

**Qualifications / Experience:** Worked turning around and advising board of directors at Navistar, Chrysler, Pulte Homes, General Electric, Norfolk Southern, Scholastic, Sprint, Choice Hotels, Kindred Healthcare, ManorCare, Credit Suisse, Doubleday, Manpower, TJX et al. Taught economics at Yale and Harvard. Started and grew my own company Pensler Capital Corp. Purchased failing companies and worked to turn them around.

**Questions:**

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

**A:** Create Great Jobs in Michigan: Make Michigan first in job creation and wages by continuing to lower taxes, decreasing unnecessary regulations and renegotiating bad trade deals. Improve Education: We need to emphasize and support the benefits of choice and competition in our schools and embrace technology. We must reward teachers with incentives based on performance rather than seniority. Reduce the Deficit: We must make hard choices to reduce the deficit. Every program must be reviewed on the basis of is it worth borrowing from our kids and grandkids to fund. If the answer is no, it must be stopped!

**Q: 2. IMMIGRATION:** *What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. immigration policies?*

**A:** We need to stop illegal immigration and defund sanctuary cities. Each illegal unskilled immigrant costs taxpayers on average \$250,000. Illegal immigration of unskilled workers lowers wages for our unskilled workers. It must be stopped. We should fund the wall. The visa lottery program should be eliminated. Immigration should be based on merit. Legal skilled h1(b), EB-5 entrepreneurial and guest worker visas should be expanded. President Trump's DACA program which eliminates chain immigration and allows up to 1.8 million DACA persons to remain is fair and should be enacted.

**Q: 3. HEALTH CARE:** *What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. health coverage policies and programs, including those affecting maternal and child health?*

**A:** Health care cost in the United States run 18% of GDP. They are by far the highest in the world. The growth in health care costs is the biggest driver of the deficit. We must repeal Obama Care and install proper competitive incentives in the healthcare system to control costs. We must control malpractice costs to eliminate excessive defensive medicine and control prescription costs through competitive purchasing and proper dispensing. We must address opioid addiction by providing prescription control and treatment. We must defund Planned Parenthood and stop government support of abortion.

**Q: 4. ECONOMY:** *What federal policies do you support to help members of all strata of the American public improve their economic positions?*

**A:** Jobs provide purpose and meaning in life. We must reform our entitlement programs. Social security and Medicare must be protected to insure their future. Means tested entitlement programs should be reformed to put people to work rather than creating dependency. Currently there are over a hundred programs. These programs should be merged and streamlined for efficiencies. Payments

should be re-crafted to encourage work and two parent households rather than discourage work and incentivize single parent households. Training should be offered to make these programs springboards to jobs rather than dependency.

**Q:** 5. *ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY: What policies do you support to meet U.S. energy needs while protecting our water, air and land for current and future generations? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of the Great Lakes.*

**A:** I agree with President Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord. Instead of sending dollars from Michigan to China and India I'd invest in protecting our Great Lakes, clean up our environment in Michigan, create urban parks and trails all along the coasts of our Great Lakes. On energy, I support a policy of promoting all forms of domestic energy, to assure energy independence and low costs far into the future.

**Q:** 6. *ELECTIONS: What federal policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*

**A:** In election policy, as with all other policies, I am a strong advocate of the rule of law. Our first amendment rights need to be fully protected. However, legislators who have oversight responsibility for particular industries should have to disclose all donations from any party with an interest in those industries. The right to vote is precious. An illegal vote cancels a legal one. Every legitimate vote deserves protection. I encourage reasonable efforts to eliminate illegal voting.

### **Debbie Stabenow**



**Party:** Dem  
U.S. Senator

**Biographical Info:****Website:** [debbiestabenow.com](http://debbiestabenow.com)**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/stabenow/>**Twitter:** [twitter.com/stabenow](https://twitter.com/stabenow)**Occupation / Current Position:** U.S. Senator**Education:** Michigan State University, B.A, MSW**Qualifications / Experience:** As the first woman elected to the United States Senate from Michigan, I have a strong record of getting things done for Michigan families. I will continue to be a champion for Michigan and to work across the aisle to help move Michigan forward.**Questions:****Q: 1. PRIORITIES:** *What are your top three national legislative priorities and how would you address them?***A:** One of my top priorities is helping create jobs in Michigan. I am focused on growing a diverse economy that includes manufacturing and technology, small business creation and agriculture, education and career training. The first bill I passed into law as a U.S. Senator banned oil and gas drilling in the Great Lakes. I authored the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative that has been successful in cleaning up our waters and led the fight to restore funding after President Trump tried to zero it out. I have been a champion for Michigan agriculture and rural communities and authored the 2014 and 2018 bipartisan Farm Bills.**Q: 2. IMMIGRATION:** *What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. immigration policies?***A:** I have heard from thousands of Michigan citizens about their concerns with our broken immigration system and there is no question that we need comprehensive immigration reform that works for our families, workers, businesses, and farmers each and every day. I support the DREAM Act, the Keep Families Together Act, and comprehensive immigration reform.**Q: 3. HEALTH CARE:** *What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. health coverage policies and programs, including those affecting maternal and child health?***A:** Health care is a human right and everyone should have affordable, quality health care. I helped lead the fight to stop Republicans from dismantling our health care system and taking away health care from millions of Americans, and am focused on lowering health care and drug costs for Michigan families. I led bipartisan efforts to increase funding for community health centers and extend the Children's Health Insurance Program, which 100,000 children in Michigan rely on, and am working to pass my Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act to provide funding for new partnerships to improve maternity and infant care.**Q: 4. ECONOMY:** *What federal policies do you support to help members of all strata of the American public improve their economic positions?***A:** Everyone deserves a fair shot to work hard and be successful. And right now, that fair shot is not available to everyone in Michigan or our country. Work should be rewarded – in our tax code, in our wages, and in our quality of life. If you work full time, you should not be in poverty. I know that not every young person will pursue a four-year college degree. I am working with businesses,

building and construction trades, parents, students, and educators to promote job opportunities in skilled trades and technical careers. If we make things and grow things in Michigan, our families will be able to stay in Michigan.

**Q:** 5. *ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY: What policies do you support to meet U.S. energy needs while protecting our water, air and land for current and future generations? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of the Great Lakes.*

**A:** I have lived in Michigan my whole life and understand that our Great Lakes are vital to our economy and Michigan way of life. That is why I authored the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which has been successful in cleaning up our waters. I will continue working to protect the Great Lakes for the next generation. We can protect our environment while creating new clean energy jobs. It's critical that we reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. We should continue investing in clean energy technologies – a wind turbine is made with over 8,000 parts, every one of which can be made in Michigan.

**Q:** 6. *ELECTIONS: What federal policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*

**A:** All voters must be able to cast their votes without barriers, fear, or intimidation. That is why I am a cosponsor of the Voting Rights Advancement Act, and will continue pushing to make sure elections are fair and transparent. It's so important that we reduce the influence of special interests in our election. I strongly oppose the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision. I also cosponsored and voted for the DISCLOSE Act that would cut down on dark money. You can count on me to continue fighting for the people of Michigan every day in the U.S. Senate.