

Michigan U.S. Representative District 5

General Election: November 6, 2018

3 Candidates on the ballot

Duties: U.S. Representatives share the responsibility with U.S. Senators for enactment of the nation's laws as provided in the U.S. Constitution. Laws that require payment of taxes are initiated in the House of Representatives.

Qualifications: A Representative must be at least 25 years of age and a U.S. Citizen for at least 7 years. There are 435 Representative based on Congressional Districts apportioned after each census. Michigan has 14 districts as of 2012.

Term: 2 years **Vote for ONE (1).**

TRAVIS WINES, Republican



Website: Traviswines.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/Trines4congress

Occupation / Current Position: Water treatment operator

Education: High school

Qualifications / Experience: Born and raised in Michigan's 5th District

Questions:

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

A: 1. Make tax cuts for working class permanent. The GOP is currently working on legislation to ensure the tax cuts become permanent for all Americans. 2. Protect our borders. We must have funding for a wall and properly vet everyone who comes into the US. 3. Government healthcare for those with pre existing or life threatening conditions. A free market healthcare system works best, but we must ensure those with conditions that prevent them from using free market healthcare are protected.

2. IMMIGRATION: What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. immigration policy?

A: We need to secure the US borders. Immigration is a part of what makes America so great but we must ensure we know sh our coming to our country. Congress must act to fund the border wall and other measures which ensure the safety of Americans.

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

A: Healthcare is a very important issue to me. A free market healthcare system works best with minimal government intervention. I believe it is the responsibility of the government to help those with life threatening or pre existing conditions who can't get affordable health insurance to make sure no one is left behind.

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

A: I believe the tax cuts helps all Americans in a number of ways. For starters lower income workers get to keep more of their paycheck. The business owners get to keep more money and invest in their company and employees. With people keeping more money and businesses spending more it boost the economy to the record levels we've seen under President Trump.

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: A recent bill was passed that dealt with the PFAS problem in Michigan. We have to keep evolving in policies to keep fighting new dangers to our Great Lakes and nature. It is our duty as Americans and Michiganders to protect the natural landscape that is here.

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

A: I believe voter ID laws must be mandatory across the country. You must be an American go vote in an American election. We must also stop allowing large businesses and lobbyist to put so much money into campaigns. This causes corrupt politics and that's the last thing we need in America.

DANIEL T KILDEE, Democrat



Website: <https://dankildee.com>

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

Twitter: twitter.com/RepDanKildee

Occupation / Current Position: Member of Congress

Education: University of Michigan – Flint; B.S. Administration, Central Michigan University; Fannie Mae Foundation Fellow, Kennedy School, Harvard University, 2005

Qualifications / Experience: Work experience: Whaley Children's Center (1976 – 1985), Member, Flint School Board (1977 – 1985), Genesee County Board of Commissioners (1985 – 1997), Genesee County Treasurer (1997 – 2009), Chairman and CEO, Genesee County Land Bank (2002-2009), President and CEO, Center for Community Progress (2009 – 2012), Member of Congress (2013 – Present).

Questions:

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

A: The main concerns I hear about from my constituents are about creating more jobs, growing our economy and making sure that everyone in America who works hard and plays by the rules has a fair opportunity to succeed. We must make smart investments to help fix our crumbling roads, bridges and water systems and invest in a twenty-first century workforce, including universal preschool and improved K-12 education, increased access to higher education, and support of apprenticeship and job-training programs for workers.

2. IMMIGRATION: What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. immigration policy?

A: Our current immigration system is broken. We need to encourage high-skilled immigrants to come to Michigan and the U.S. and ensure those that are already in our country can continue working, paying taxes and raising their families. In the 113th Congress, I was an original cosponsor of H.R. 15, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, which was a comprehensive immigration reform package that would have grown our economy, reduced our national deficit, secured our border and modernized our current broken system.

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

A: I believe that hardworking American families deserve to know that when they get sick, they will have access to quality, affordable health care and prescription drugs. Although I was not in Congress when the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was enacted, I am eager to work with Democrats and Republicans in Congress to improve and strengthen our current health care laws and make it work better for families, workers and small businesses. Health care represents a large part of our nation's budget and we must find ways to increase quality and access to health care and to lower costs and reduce prescription drug prices.

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

A: Congress' top priority should be growing our economy and ensuring that everyone in America who works hard and plays by the rules has an opportunity to succeed. Hardworking families need good-paying jobs that allow them to own a home, invest in their kids' education, and save for a secure retirement. We need smart investments to help fix our crumbling infrastructure and invest in a twenty-first century workforce, including education and apprenticeship programs. We can also work to create opportunity by supporting small businesses through policies that encourage products to be made in America, not overseas.

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: We must support a clean energy economy to move Michigan toward a more secure energy future. Embracing renewable energy technologies will not only help to provide the power our country needs but also lessen our carbon footprint to protect our water, air and natural resources. It will also help to create tens of thousands of good-paying jobs. As a country, we must also ensure that every person has access to safe water, no matter where they live. The ongoing water crisis in my hometown of Flint demonstrates the need to make critical investments to improve water infrastructure, including replacing lead service lines.

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

A: Our election process is being distorted by billions of dollars that are being funneled into elections. In recent years, the role of money in politics has only grown due to recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions like the Citizens United decision. If we don't fix the underlying problem of the outsized role of money in our system, Congress will continue to be paralyzed and lurch from manufactured crisis to crisis. I believe we need a serious national conversation about meaningful and enforceable campaign finance reform which includes ensuring that donations to candidates, campaigns and committees are properly disclosed.

KATHY GOODWIN, Working Class



Website: See the independent website workingclassfight.com

Occupation / Current Position: I am a social worker in the health care field. Healthcare is a mess in this profit-driven system!

Education: Montrose, MI Public Schools-1980 graduate; I had scholarships to Aquinas College-1984 graduate; U of Michigan-1986 graduate, Masters in Social Work plus Student Loan Debt, much like students today.

Qualifications / Experience: I grew up in District 5. The Flint/Saginaw/Bay City area made me who I am. I went to a working class school system. In high school we saw an amazing film about the victory of the Flint Sit Down Strike in 1937.

That day, I understood that the working class has power when we stand together! The unity the working class had back then is the working class unity and fight I stand for today.

Questions:

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

A: Big money controls and limits which legislation can pass. Legislative debates are narrow while the problems of working class families are huge. No legislation in Congress puts working class needs first! Why not change this? Our power as working class people is in our numbers. Numbers of working class people--organized, unified, and resisting 365 days a year--can be a force to go head-to-head against the power of money. If that idea catches hold, a working class party can be built. Legislative priorities will come from struggle. Workers will decide priorities: Water? Schools? Roads? Healthcare? Better pay? Injustice?

2. IMMIGRATION: What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. immigration policy?

A: My concern is that immigrant workers are made a scapegoat for what corporate America does to workers. Immigrants are not taking our jobs, our corporate bosses are! Corporations are driving down wages, and pocketing record profits. All working people should be able to move freely to find the work we need. Corporations benefit when they can underpay workers who are forced to live in the shadows. All working people need full legal rights so we are not at a disadvantage in the workforce. Dividing the working class between "foreign" and "native" only weakens us. All who want citizenship should have it!

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

A: Health Care should be a human right. We should ALL receive full, free health care that is top of the line. It is criminal that so many people die so early, simply because they don't have the money. The working class, organized, has the power to get rid of profit in the health care system. In terms of maternal and child health, the Flint water crisis became known because many moms and dads in Flint stood up and told the truth. The goals of the Working Class Party are similar. We have truths to spread. One of those is that in this richest country in the world, the money exists to improve the lives of the working class.

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

A: The richest people at the top--the one percent--have been improving their economic position quite well at the expense of everyone else. Government officials hand out tax breaks and tax revenue to corporations who have billions in cash-on-hand. Those hand-outs rob money from schools, from roads, from water systems. There will be no economic recovery for the rest of us until the working class comes together to put a stop to out-of-control greed. Take the profits of the companies that have been stuffing their vaults through our work and through the wealth we create. Allow us good wages. Put everyone to work.

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: To have enough influence to improve the environment, to change energy policy and to protect the Great Lakes will require a mobilization. Enough working class people united in a big workers' party can someday be strong enough to stop the energy companies from blocking positive change. We need to completely transform our energy grid and make it sustainable. This can put many, many people to work. Only the drive for profit is getting in our way.

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

A: Regarding voting rights, past generations were beaten, jailed and killed fighting for the right to vote. It is going to take a new struggle today to broaden voting rights. Election day should be a paid day off work. Voting should be quick and easy. Regarding campaign funding, there should be no corporate money in politics. As long as corporations are allowed to make obscene profits off of our work, they will dominate the political system. A fight of working people can begin to push that situation back.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan national organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party. Candidate responses are included as submitted and have not been edited except in cases where the replies have exceeded the stated word limitations. **Spelling and Grammar were not corrected.** The inclusion of candidates' statements and opinions is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement by the League of Women Voters which takes no responsibility for any views or facts stated by the candidates.