

## **Michigan U.S. Representative District 9**

General Election: November 6, 2018

**4 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).**

### **CANDIUS STEARNS, Republican**



**Website:** [www.candiusforcongress.com](http://www.candiusforcongress.com)

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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Health Insurance Agency TPA Owner-Operator / President of Sales

**Education:** Associates of Arts from Macomb Community College / Registered Health Underwriter (RHU) from The American College

**Qualifications / Experience:** Small business owner and job creator for DFBenefits and DFB TPA Services LLC, former Executive Committee member for the Metro Detroit Association of Health Underwriters (MDAHU), National Board of Trustees for HUPAC, Macomb County GOP, and treasurer of the 9th GOP district.

#### **Questions:**

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

**A:** America is built on the idea of freedom to govern ourselves with fundamental liberties through self-government. I am running to ensure these principals are upheld in the House of Representatives. I will fight for infrastructure dollars, skilled trade education, lower taxes with tax reform, a smaller more responsive government by reforming and repealing the compliance and tax of Obamacare, a strong defense, and secure homeland, as well as a country that values hard work and responsible behavior.

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

**A:** Just as fair trade matters to our system of government so does the fair movement of people across our borders. We are a nation of immigrants. We also are a nation of laws. The sad truth is that our immigration system is fundamentally broken. We need to secure our borders and protect our citizens as well as those immigrants who come here legally. We need to enforce our laws and defund sanctuary cities which prevent law enforcement and government agencies from notifying federal authorities of a person's immigration status and is a direct subversion of federal law.

**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:** Maternity and children healthcare are both crucial for hundreds of thousands of Americans. These programs were put in place to help people with the ever-increasing cost of medical care. All government programs need oversight for fraud, waste and abuse controls. Our priorities need to be reducing costs, increasing access and quality to medical care. To obtain this most of the ACA policy must be removed and replaced with a free market system that produces price transparency. Consumers deserve to know how much a procedure cost prior to having it and the price should not depend on your insurance coverage.

**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 we must continue the current path of lower taxes and removing regulation. I support making the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act permanent. One of the many benefits is the child tax credit of \$2,000 per child. Money is returning to the hands of hard-working people. Additionally, I support our skilled trades programs that assist students in learning vocational skills that lead to good paying jobs. Due to the scarcity of skilled trade workers, I support imposing zero tax on Social Security Income (SSI) of individuals that wish to work and collect SSI. Fraud waste and abuse in all Gov. programs must be stopped as well.

**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:** The U.S. needs to end its dependence on foreign energy sources. I support improving our research and development of sustainable energy here in Michigan and across the country. Michigan has many energy sources, natural gas, solar and wind to name a few. People have asked me if I support coal-fired plants, increased oil production, earth-friendly, renewable solutions like wind and solar, or nuclear power. The answer is yes, I believe in holding nothing back when it comes to keeping America powered up and working. I support the continued funding of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. We must protect our Great Lakes.

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

**A:** I support the right and access of all citizens to vote. To protect our vote, I support an authorized form of identification to ensure each individual's vote is protected from tampering or misuse and to ensure our laws are followed. I support limiting money in politics and believe in limited terms of government on a federal level.

## **ANDY LEVIN, Democrat**



**Website:** [www.andylevinforcongress.com](http://www.andylevinforcongress.com)

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

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/Andy\\_Levin](https://twitter.com/Andy_Levin)

**Occupation / Current Position:** Managing Partner, Levin Energy Partners  
President, Lean & Green Michigan

**Education:** Berkley Public Schools, Williams College, University of Michigan,  
and Harvard Law School

**Qualifications / Experience:** Deputy Director, Michigan Dept. of Energy,  
Labor & Economic Growth Acting Director, Michigan Dept. of Energy, Labor &  
Economic Growth Chief Workforce Officer, State of Michigan Staff Attorney,  
Presidential Commission on the Future of Worker-Management Relations

### Questions:

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

**A:** Health care: By fighting for Medicare for All and addressing the astronomical costs of prescription drugs. Education: By advocating for universal public education, starting with preschool and including excellent K-12 schools under local control with well-compensated teachers; adequate college funding so students aren't buried in debt; and apprenticeships offering training for middle skill jobs across many industries. Jobs: By supporting our energy, agriculture, transportation and health industries, investing in a skilled workforce, rebuilding our infrastructure, and protecting our natural resources.

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

**A:** We need comprehensive immigration reform. I've been active on this issue for decades, ever since I co-founded a group called Immigration Reform, Advocacy, Training and Education after the Immigration Reform and Control Act was passed. We need a reasonable system where people who have spent "x" number of years living, working and paying taxes here, can become citizens of this country over time. Ripping families with clean records apart simply because they came to the U.S. illegally or overstayed a visa many years ago is immoral and counterproductive. Immigrants embody the American the dream.

**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 must be universal. I believe most Americans are sick and tired of talking about health insurance and coverage when we should be talking about quality care. As the father of two sons who live with Crohn's disease, I understand the physical, emotional, and financial toll of chronic illness. Enough is enough. Let us say plainly that as a matter of basic morality, there are things that should not be left to the market to decide. One is that every man, woman and child will have proper medical care from birth to old age, and I believe Medicare for All is the first step in that direction.

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

**A:** Too many of our jobs have been offshored, contracted out, privatized and made part-time or temporary, and the result is many among us won't be able to enjoy a middle-class life and retirement. It's time to put what's good for hardworking Americans at the center of every policy decision: taxation, education, regulation, economic development. We also need to help our workers transition to the jobs of tomorrow, like we did when, as Michigan's first Chief Workforce Officer, we created "No Worker Left Behind," helping 120,000 get new jobs during the Great Recession.

**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:** Stopping global warming is a moral imperative, but it's also an economic opportunity. I created a statewide market to finance clean energy building improvements, creating good jobs while reducing emissions and improving public health, air and water quality. We can speed the deployment of solar, wind, biomass, and other clean energy along with advanced batteries to store the new energy we create. I will work to accelerate the transition to sustainability through many means, and help make our state a leader in clean energy technology, which will create reliable, good-paying jobs and protect the environment.

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

**A:** Our democracy is under attack, from gerrymandering, hidden corporate money, and voter suppression. We have to make sure every citizen can vote; we have to get unlimited money out of politics; and we have to establish nonpartisan redistricting. But we must do more, and turn democracy from a spectator sport in which people simply vote every few years – with ever-lower turnout, it seems -- to a sport in which we all participate to debate the issues, defend our interests and demand our rights.

## JOHN V McDERMOTT, Green



**Website:** <https://www.electjohnvmcdermott.com/>

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100012234933023>

**Occupation / Current Position:** Document Reviewer

**Education:** B.A. Accounting M.S.U. 1986 J.D. Univ. Detroit-Mercy 1994

**Qualifications / Experience:** Accountant, Commercial real estate broker, attorney, research writer, mortgage fraud detection

### Questions:

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

**A:** Priorities: 1) Peace, 2) Economic Justice, 3) Legal Justice. 1) Since the 9/11 False Flag event, USA has participated in attacks on Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria creating the largest refugee crisis since WWII. 9/11 was an inside job. We need to remove our troops from those Nations by repealing the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs and prosecuting the people who actually did 9/11. 2) We have returned to an era of Robber Baron capitalism because we have failed to maintain long established policies which protect economic justice. Re-enact Glass Steagall. 3) We must restore integrity to law enforcement and our legal system.

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

**A:** I am concerned our longstanding Immigration problems are being sensationalized by both Major Parties to divert public attention away from our Government's many other problems, such as the DOJ Inspector General Report on James Comey issued June 14. I prefer a legislative approach (DREAM) rather than an executive approach (DACA). Generally speaking, I support a path first to conditional residency status and then permanent residency for those brought here as children and who satisfy the myriad conditions specified by Washington. Our unsecured southwest border admits \$13 to \$46 billion of narcotics per year.

**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:** USA spent \$10,348 on health care per person in 2016, highest in the world and approximately double most developed Nations. Approximately 42,000 Americans died of prescription drug overdose in 2016. We are being exploited on cost, yet do not have the highest quality of care and do not have universal access to care. We must harness the thrift and bargaining power of all U.S. health care consumers to successfully battle the drug price-fixing, drug over-prescription, over-billing, unnecessary procedures and unnecessary testing which are enriching the Pharma-Medical-Industrial-Complex.

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

**A:** USA had 49 billionaires in 1999, but has 585 today. However, median income of USA households has only recently returned to 1999 level of \$59k. The Rich have gotten much, much richer. The Rich have paid our politicians to privatize gains and socialize losses. ie TARP Bailout, Quantitative Easing. Our National Debt is \$21 trillion and climbing as a direct result. 10,000 Baby Boomers turn 65 every day. The US Dollar may not remain the global reserve currency denominating energy transactions. China, the largest oil importer, and Russia have developed their own reserve currency for energy transactions. Had enough?

**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 become competitive in alternative energy development, manufacturing and installation. China's market share of global photo-voltaic(PV) cell manufacturing reached 60% by 2011. China initially provided its PV manufacturers export credits, guarantees and insurance, then opened a \$30 billion line of credit for PV cell and module manufacturing. In 2017 China became the first Nation to pass 100 gigawatts of cumulative installed PV capacity, beside being a huge exporter of PV cells and modules. USA has only 56 gigawatts of cumulative installed PV capacity.

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

**A:** I applaud VNP's anti-gerrymandering ballot proposal. I support the end of straight-ticket voting in Michigan. I oppose Citizens United. Critical Sections of the Voting Rights Act have been overturned by USSC because VRA has been neglected. The VRA must be updated to reflect modern election rigging. The DNC 2016 Primary collusion which unfairly favored Clinton over Sanders and involved Podesta, Brazile, Rep. Wasserman-Schultz, HRC and Mr. Comey ought to be fully investigated and prosecuted. Give every voter a \$100 campaign voucher which can be given to any candidate who accepts only money from those vouchers.

## **ANDREA KIRBY, Working Class**



**Website:** [www.workingclassfight.com](http://www.workingclassfight.com)

**Occupation / Current Position:** Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan worker for 16 years.

**Education:** I obtained my Bachelor Degree in Business Administration from Baker College in 2015. I have also taken several labor courses through the UAW and Wayne State University.

**Qualifications / Experience:** For too many years, there have only been two political parties dictating policy for working people. These decisions have not benefited working people like it has the banks and corporations. In 2016, a petition drive gathered over fifty thousand signatures of people who agree that they want their own party, the Working Class Party.

### Questions:

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

**A:** The three top legislative priorities would focus on job creation for all that want to work, healthcare and affordable housing for all. These three issues will have a positive rippling effect on the entire country and even the world. These priorities will not be solved with legislation but rather a collection fight from the working class. The working class needs to realize that they create the wealth and they should share in it.

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

**A:** Since the founding of the U.S, immigrants have come to seek a better life or escape oppression in their home country. They come here to work and provide a safe environment for their children and they should be allowed to do so. Immigrants do not take jobs from U.S. born citizens, which is a myth used to divide the working class. The threat of deportation keeps immigrants in a submissive role, unable to speak up for themselves. Immigrants earn money that they later spend, creating more jobs and revenue. If these immigrants were given their citizenship they could stand with other workers for the betterment of all.

**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 in the U.S. is a dream to many and financial burden to others. Everyday hard-working individuals have to make decisions between seeking medical care and other basic needs such as food. This takes place at the same time as healthcare companies are reporting record profits and CEOs are making million-dollar salaries. Quality health care is a human right and should not be dictated by the color of your skin or the amount of money in your pocket. A community of healthy individuals able to contribute to society will benefit us all. Only a true universal health care system is the answer.

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

**A:** In order to improve the lives of all strata of the American public we need to take back our money from corporations and banks. Money that should to be used for needs of the working class. These funds should be used to provide our teachers and schools the tools they need to educate our youth. Create trade programs to train individuals that want to work. The funds can also be used to provide free early childhood education and open local community centers. This is not going to be happen without a fight from the working class to protect its own interests and the future of generations to come.

**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:** Science has revealed different ways to produce sustainable energy without destroying the planet but decisions are being made based on profit not humanity. Energy producing methods such as fracking are obviously destroying the planet but more sites are popping up all over Michigan. Corporations are polluting the Great Lakes for their own profits, while taxpayers are paying the price. Human lives need to be placed in higher regard than the profits to a few wealthy individuals. The changes that are needed to protect working class are not going to come through legislation but rather a fight from the working class.

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

**A:** The U.S Supreme Court's Citizens United, like other ruling and legislation will not change how elections have been run. Money has always been a huge part of the election process and the wealthy will find a way to push their agenda, regardless of what the laws says. The only way to combat these types of ruling and other laws are for workers to create their own political party that will advance worker's issues.

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.