

Michigan U.S. Representative District 10

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).**

PAUL MITCHELL, Republican



Website: www.paulmitchellforcongress.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/PaulMitchell4us

Occupation / Current Position: I currently serve as the United States Congressman for the 10th District of Michigan.

Education: I attended James Madison College at Michigan State University receiving a degree focused on Public Policy and Economics.

Qualifications / Experience: Prior to being elected in 2016, my career had been focused on helping people find successful careers to provide for their families. As CEO of Ross Education we helped companies train their workforce, contracted with local government to implement welfare to work programs, and trained thousands of students each year for successful careers in the allied health field. .

Questions:

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

A: National Security - support our servicemen and women with the training and resources they need to fulfill their mission. Secure our borders, and support local law enforcement and first responders that work each day securing our communities. Grow Our Economy - more tax and regulatory reforms that support families and businesses and allow them to grow and thrive – while at the same time being fiscally responsible so we can reduce our deficit and national debt. Protect the Great Lakes - through programs like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative which I have strongly supported and voted to fully fund.

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

A: The immigration problems we have seen recently in our country are the result of a broken immigration system and policies that have not been enforced. The people of the 10th District will not accept any solution that doesn't secure our borders and enforce the laws already on the books. I support a solution which provides for border security on both our southern and northern borders, a workable visa program so that American industry and agriculture have access to the labor and talent they need to continue to grow, and a reliable verification system that ensures businesses are certain that workers are here legally.

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: We must ensure that healthcare is affordable so that we can expand coverage, allow families access to the care they need, and enable small business job creators to offer coverage to their workers. In the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, we repealed Obamacare's Individual Mandate, giving families the freedom and flexibility to buy the health care plan that's right for them. Additionally, I voted in favor of the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act and to make a \$4 billion investment to fight the opioid crisis in our country. Together, these are the most significant congressional efforts against a single drug crisis in history.

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

A: Due to tax and regulatory reform, we have record low unemployment rates, rising wages, small business optimism, and new opportunities. I introduced The Tax Cuts and Jobs Middle Class Enhancement Act, which makes bonuses stemming from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act tax free, makes the individual tax cuts permanent and further increases the standard deduction. I will keep working

so that families and small business job creators can have certainty that they can keep more of what they earn. I will also keep working to advance career and technical education programs so that American workers can fill in-demand job across the USA

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 have expanded the American energy sector dramatically; becoming the world's largest producer of energy and growing our economy through global energy exports. I support an "All of the Above" approach to energy production and believe our nation must continue to support the production of oil, natural gas, clean coal, ethanol, wind, solar, and other renewable source so we can continue leading on a global stage. We must also protect our natural resources, which is why I will continue to support full funding of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and measures to promote pipeline safety.

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

A: The First Amendment is the best safeguard for voting rights and must be protected. The federal government has an interest in promoting free, fair, and open elections, but should not inject itself in such a way that violates the sacred protections offered by the First Amendment to ensure every American voice can be heard, and every citizen can exercise their right to vote. Regarding election security, I supported and voted for \$380 million in grants to states to improve election cybersecurity - Michigan applied for and already received \$10.7 million of these funds.

KIMBERLY BIZON



Website: electbizon2018.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ElectBizon2018/>

Twitter: twitter.com/electbizon2018

Occupation / Current Position: Senior Online Marketing Director and Business Owner

Education: Michigan State University, BFA

Qualifications / Experience: President, Board Member: Huronia Heights Association; Chairwoman of the Concerned Associations; Climate Reality Leader, Volunteer Lobbyist for Citizens Climate Lobby

Questions:

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

A: Our Great Lakes, Waterways and Oceans: Eliminate oil-based single use products and replace them with plant-based single use products. This would not only help our environment, waterways, great lakes and oceans from unnecessary pollution. It could help our farmers obtain more money for their crop yields and would offer opportunities for manufacturing. Increase Minimum Wage to a Living Wage: I support a federal minimum wage increase to \$15 an hour. That's a livable wage. Social Security Reform: Raise the cap on the amount of income that can be taxed. Currently it is at 127K.

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

A: Here in the 10th District, we need seasonal agricultural work permits for immigrants. We need to find a compassionate passage for immigrants and refugees and start a better immigration reform. Dreamers should stay, they've earned it and are Americans. We never should separate families as part of our immigration process.

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 everyone has the right to affordable healthcare. I will fight any attempts that are made to take away health care from the 11M people who gained coverage under the Affordable Care Act. I will also fight any attempt to bring back pre-existing conditions or cuts made to Medicare or Medicaid coverage. Congress should come together to improve the ACA by covering more people and lowering costs — especially the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs. I am open to any proposals that expand coverage and lower costs – especially maternal and child care.

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 in equality, everyone should have the same access to opportunity for success. We need to add skilled trade training opportunities – the labor industry needs workers to help their business' strive for success. The student loan debt needs to be addressed – we need to help our students and not burden them with outrageous costs. I support a living wage of \$15/hour. There are many good programs to support and fund – we need to take a look at the federal budget and pull out programs that are self-serving for individuals and not the American people.

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 need to reverse the ban that Trump lifted that protects our Great Lakes from drilling. We need to have a better relationship with Canada so we can discuss putting a Nuclear Dump far away from our great lakes. It is unacceptable to have Businesses set their own regulations. The EPA needs to stay in place and stand true to its commitment to the being the Environmental PROTECTION Agency. We need to put science back into the process of policy. We need to move forward to join the world and conquer climate change. We are entering an era that has consequences for our future generations.

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

A: Transparency is key when reviewing campaign donations. Most candidates are self-serving and are in a secret partnership with special interests that are not good for the American people and the environment. I support greater regulation of lobbyists and the political industry. They shouldn't be part of the process– this creates a huge breakdown of our American system. For voting rights, I believe we should all have voting rights, including persons who have been incarcerated and are reformed back into our society.

HARLEY MIKKELSON, Green



Website: harleymikkelson.com

Occupation / Current Position: Retired

Education: Bachelor of Science, Michigan State University, Major Psychology; two additional years at Saginaw Valley State University, Majors History and Education

Qualifications / Experience: 27 years as a State of Michigan Employee

Questions:

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

A: The United States has been the major military and economic power in the world for three quarters of a century, but this situation is rapidly changing. Within the next quarter century we will likely be surpassed by both China and India. My first priority would be to reduce the size of our military budget to two and half percent of GDP. This would free up money for my other two priorities: Health Care and Employment.

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

A: We do not need a new Border Wall. We need to become more welcoming to immigrants and refugees. We should grant amnesty to all undocumented people now living in this country unless they have a serious criminal history. At the same time we grant amnesty we need to strengthen border enforcement by hiring more border agents and increasing the penalty on employers who hire undocumented aliens. We should increase the number of allowed immigrants. Our economy is capable of providing jobs for everyone now living here and millions more.

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: There is no excuse for a country as rich as ours to not be able to provide health care for everyone. The current Medicare Tax is 2.9%. We should increase the Medicare Tax to 8% and expand Medicare to cover everyone. With and expanded Medicare and copays for medical care based on income we should be able to bring medical costs down and eliminate the need for private medical insurance. If we reduce the cost of health care we are helping our workers, farmers, and employers.

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

A: Education is a key for success in our society. If we reduced military spending we could hire one million preschool, elementary, secondary, and college teachers. We should strengthen public education by providing preschool for every child starting at age two and a half. College or vocational education students should be provided free tuition and books. College loans should be forgiven. Once educated, we need to guarantee a job for every American citizen able and wanting to work. We should eliminate welfare programs for able-bodied adults and provide meaningful jobs instead.

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: Energy is the key to maintaining our standard of living so we need to produce as much as possible while damaging the environment as little as possible. Which means we need to invest as much as possible in wind, solar, and battery technology. Hybrid and electric vehicles would reduce air pollution in our cities. As farms increase in size we need to pay attention to the potential water pollution problems. We need the government to regulate these large farms and to finance any projects necessary to control potential pollution. We need to ban fracking near the Great Lakes and pipelines under them.

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

A: If we are the Democracy we claim to be, we should give as many people as possible the right to vote and make voting as easy as possible. The federal government should require schools provide government classes to 14 and 15 years olds. Then we should lower the voting age to 16. We should allow people in jail and legal immigrants on a path towards citizenship the right to vote. We need same day voter registration, easier absentee ballot access, and expanded voting hours. We need public financing of all federal campaigns to guarantee media access to all candidates.

JEREMY PERUSKI, No Party Affiliation



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

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

Twitter: twitter.com/VotePeruski

Occupation / Current Position: Candidate for US Congress in MI-10

Education: Michigan State University, '92-Bachelors in International Relations and Bachelors in German George Washington University- '03 MBA

Qualifications / Experience: '97-'03- investment banking, focused on tech companies '04-'17 finance executive advising global technology companies, primarily between US and China

Questions:

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

A: 1. Ensure that America's economy is stable and sustainable for the long-term. Both parties have lost ALL credibility here. Solutions-fixing our debt issue start by going after areas we all agree upon, namely, close all loopholes, simplify personal taxes. 2. Make the American Dream affordable again. Healthcare and education costs are out of control and putting the American Dream out of reach. Solutions- caps on drug and hospital service costs. Education debt should be able to be written off like any other debt. 3. Rebuild rural communities. Bring broadband to rural areas, exactly like electricity, for today's jobs.

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

A: Immigration is a complex issue that requires a comprehensive approach and an understanding of a lot of details about what works at economically feasible levels. Clearly, this must include, strengthening our borders, addressing the 11 million undocumented immigrants already here, accounting for the jobs gap that exists in America, as well as looking at the root causes of why people are leaving their home countries in the first place. Strengthening our borders is a must. But do we spend \$25bln on a concrete wall or \$25bln on 10,000 security personnel who can earn \$50000/person/year for the next 50 years? Debate-worthy

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: It's common sense. We're all only human and, sooner or later, we all get sick. We are not and cannot become a community that is okay with others having to choose between medical care, bankruptcy or death! We are a great country, and that demands having a great health care system to match. I see two immediate corrections to our health care system that would dramatically lower costs- 1. Break big Pharma's grip on Congress and cap drug prices. 2. Remove financial incentive for doctors to push more drugs or exams on patients. Lastly, having 4 sisters, maternal and child health should be included with Medicare coverage.

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

A: Education is always the great equalizer. Invest in vocational programs, apprenticeships and entrepreneurial education for high schoolers and unemployed. Give our current and future workforce the proper skills for jobs of the 21st century. Many of which can be done without college education and debt. There is a huge need for skilled trades in Michigan, but many don't have (or can't afford to get) the necessary foundational skills. This step would empower our community. Secondly is broadband. The digital divide is real and is the main culprit that is resulting in communities being 'left behind.' We must make it ubiquitous.

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 climate is always changing. We need to address these changes to ensure our nation is protected. Even the Department of Defense states that climate change is one of the biggest security risks to the United States. When it comes to this, I believe energy independence via a combination of sources, should be a top priority and addresses several issues. Renewable energy should be considered a key part of that equation. It has the added bonuses of creating solid advanced manufacturing jobs right here, cleaning our environment and keeping us at a technological lead. We need to lead here, not follow.

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

A: 1. Term limits- there is institutional knowledge in these roles, but they shouldn't be for life. 2. Campaign finance- it should be reformed. I've personally refused PAC/corp \$ because the money always comes with strings attached. Those strings often don't represent our community's needs. 3. Voting rights- registration should be automatic. I don't believe in straight party voting because it enables uninformed voters. We should know WHO we are voting for not simply a party.

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.