

## **Michigan U.S. Representative District 12**

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).**

### **JEFF JONES, Republican**



**Website:** [www.jeffjones4congress.com](http://www.jeffjones4congress.com)

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/jeffjones4congress>

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/VoteJeff\\_Jones](https://twitter.com/VoteJeff_Jones)

**Occupation / Current Position:** Pastor God's Family Room; Financial Adviser Mass Mutual; Entrepreneur 812 Enterprise.

**Education:** Crestwood High School Dbn Hts,MI; University of Michigan EE; Hyles-Anderson College Crown Point,IN

**Qualifications / Experience:** 30+ years Executive Management; Vice-President PPS, Inc. President CTI; RVP Health Insurance; 10 years Urban Ministry; 25 Years

Suburban Ministries & Pastorate; 20 years Landscape Design Build; 5 Years Rural Pastorate; 10 years Life Targeting Coach; Independent Candidate U.S. Senate 2014; GOP Candidate U.S. House MI-12 2016; GOP Candidate U.S. House MI-12 2018.

#### **Questions:**

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

**A:** 1) Educational Renaissance... It is about allowing students to experience education, teachers to draw out knowledge, and equipping the teachers and student with necessary funding to accomplish those goals. 2) Economic Revitalization... New technologies exist that I have worked on that can bring great diversification and flexibility to the workforce, research, and new industries awaiting opportunity to bring great economic growth and resourceful environment and clean, renewable, and sustainable energy to our communities. 3) Health Care Reform for all Americans that become budget based, supplemental, and cost effective

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

**A:** Amnesties, new implementation of technology for entry and tracking, reduction of time to qualify, assimilate, and continue the great opportunities of legal immigration, while securing the safety of community. I have a plan that will lighten the burdens of U.S expenses and expand the international accountability of refugees and genuine relocation and assimilation of the international community. There is growth and opportunity in genuine reconstruction of our borders that would add jobs, ethical resolve, and innovation. Legal immigration gives opportunity to innovation, migrant workers, and shared education.

**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:** Accountable and Affordable Health Care is very possible in the United States through educational, fiscal appropriations, and responsible management. Health care involves everybody. The healthy. Alternative choices. Social responsibility. Maternal. Paternal. Child Care. Veterans, Seniors. Mental health. Addicted. And billing. These are all impacted by agencies, pharmaceuticals, FDA, USDA, EPA, DFIS, and even the Dept of Labor. Automotive No Fault is extremely impacted. There is ethical resolve available for each circumstance. The healthy should not be penalized for their lifestyle and choices available to everyone.

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

**A:** Keeping jobs in America is a priority. NAFTA & the TPA are destructive to the community of the 12th. So, foreign trade, funding the TPA, and the EX/IM Bank are extremely detrimental to American jobs. While Wall Street has proven prosperous in the recent short term, but education

and an understanding of statistics run a cycle. Simple math and the education of the rules of 72, understanding debt, and how money works globally play an important part of overall economics. Most are unfamiliar with what the Federal Reserve represents and how our economic system works. What is relative about the price of tea in China?

**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:** Understanding what has caused the algae problems in Erie, the lower water levels and erosion in Lake Michigan, The Asian Carp in Huron and Ontario, and the eco-system of Superior are extremely important to the next generation, as well as, the immediate of concerns to us all can be overwhelming. Some has to do with what is happening inland to our lakes and streams. Unfortunately, lobbying dollars impacts us all and our environment and the payback of debt in elections. There are new innovative systems to assure zero pollution output, while maintaining maximum performance locally and independence on foreign energy.

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

**A:** It was the GOP that led the recognition of all Americans to vote, the Suffrage Cause, and the abuses of federal campaign dollars. Most do not realize that based on population and census, we waste billions possibly trillions, on Congressional Districting that does not even represent U.S. Citizens. Based on Undocumented residents, almost 14 Congressional Districts are funded in this abuse of Taxpayer dollars. The Congress terms should be 6 years and limited to 2 cycles. Lobbying dollars should be limited on actual placement. I have suggestions on how to preserve our voting rights and expose the abuses.

## **DEBBIE DINGELL, Democrat**



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

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/debbie.dingell>

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**Occupation / Current Position:** U.S. Representative, MI-12

**Education:** BSFS, Foreign Service, Georgetown University, 1975 and MA, Liberal Studies, Georgetown University, 1998

**Qualifications / Experience:** President, General Motors Foundation and Executive Director of Public Affairs, GM; Chair, Manufacturing Initiative at the American Automotive Policy Council; President, D2 Strategies. U.S. Representative, 12th District; Wayne State Board of Governors (2007-2014 – Chair, 2012-2014)

### Questions:

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

**A:** The people I represent have basic needs; they want to be able to make a decent living and provide for their family. They want to be able to buy a home and live in a safe neighborhood, educate their children, put food on the table, see a doctor when they need to, afford their medicine and have a secure retirement. To this end, my top 3 priorities are ensuring every American has access to quality affordable health insurance, supporting our economy by strengthening manufacturing, ending bad trade deals that ship jobs overseas, and protecting our environment, and putting worker's pensions back on solid ground.

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

**A:** We need comprehensive immigration reform. Our national security must always be our top priority. We are a nation of immigrants, and my district has diverse and thriving communities. Comprehensive reform should also offer a pathway to citizenship to people who have been here for years, paid taxes and not committed crimes, fill economic needs including in agriculture, hospitality and construction, and protect Dreamers – young adults brought here by their parents when they were children.

**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:** Every American has the right to affordable, quality healthcare. Protecting and improving the Affordable Care Act is one of my top priorities in Congress; we need to address increasing premiums and high deductibles, to reduce the cost of medicines and repeal the "Cadillac" tax among others. We must ensure we have strong paid sick and family leave, support the Children's Health Insurance Program and protect the Medicaid expansion which is critical to many Michigan families. I am also a cosponsor of HR 676, the Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act – which I believe is a good vision for the future of healthcare.

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

**A:** We need to ensure every American has equal economic opportunity. This means making sure we have good affordable housing and clean air to breathe and clean water to drink. It means making sure college is affordable for all families, and that every American has a right to affordable, quality healthcare. It means protecting our safety net, like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, to ensure that families can still put food on the table, see a doctor and afford medicine during an economic downturn. It also means we should raise the national minimum wage and fix our bad trade deals that ship jobs 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 need an all-of-the-above energy strategy with an emphasis on renewable energy. I opposed President Trump's decision to repeal the Clean Power Plan and to withdraw from the Paris Accords, both of which will have negative impacts on both our economy and our environment. The most important thing we can do to protect the Great Lakes is to fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative at \$300 million per year and continue to reject misguided calls to eliminate the program.

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

**A:** Our democracy depends on free and fair elections. I co-sponsored the Government by the People Act which increases transparency, encourages small contributions and establishes public financing. I introduced the Safeguarding Election Infrastructure Act which mandates a paper receipt for every ballot cast among other things. I also co-sponsored the Voter Empowerment Act of 2017, which requires states to make available online voter registration and protects against ballot tampering, and the Voting Rights Advancement Act, which restores voter protections in states with a history of discriminatory activity.

## **GARY WALKOWICZ, Working Class**



**Website:** see independent website -- [workingclassfight.com](http://workingclassfight.com)

**Occupation / Current Position:** UAW Bargaining Committeeman, Dearborn Truck Plant.

**Education:** I learned about life growing up in a working class family in a working class town. High school graduate, some college. I have worked all my life, including the last 40 years at Ford Motor Co.

**Qualifications / Experience:** I have organized workers to fight for our rights during my years at Ford. I organized auto workers to fight against concessions when Ford was taking away our wages and benefits. I have stood up to oppose the policies of

the top leadership of the UAW. I helped organize a petition campaign to get the Working Class Party on the ballot because the working class needs its own political party.

### Questions:

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

**A:** It is a fundamental human right that everyone should be able to have a job and work for a decent wage. Bosses should not be able to decide whether a family eats or has a decent place to live based on maximizing their own profits. Everyone who wants to work should have a job. There is plenty of work that needs to be done. Our wages should go up when prices go up. The money is there to do this. The corporations and banks steal the wealth that the whole society produces. We need to take it back. But it won't happen through legislation. The working class will have to organize and make a fight to get what we need.

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

**A:** Everyone who comes here to work should be allowed to be here with the full citizen rights. Immigrants don't take jobs away from other workers, they create jobs. Everyone who works here is spending money here, buying things that put other people to work. The corporate bosses use the "illegal" status of immigrants to exploit them, forcing them to work harder for less money, under the threat of deportation. Bosses and politicians use propaganda to try to divide immigrant workers and native-born workers, just like they try to divide black and white workers. The working class needs to be united to fight for our rights.

**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:** In the U.S., more money is spent on health care than any other country. Yet the U.S. ranks behind many countries in life expectancy, infant and maternal mortality and many other health care outcomes. This is because health care is run as a profit-making business. Much of the money spent on health care goes into the pockets of the drug companies, insurance companies and hospital corporations. Health care is a human right. Money spent on health care should be used for health care. Takes the profits out of health care and the means exist to provide good, universal health care for all.

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

**A:** The working class does the work. We should get the benefit of it. Use the profits accumulated by the companies to create jobs at decent wages. No more 2-tier wages or forcing people to work part-time. Slow down the pace of work to create more jobs -- with no loss in pay. Instead of using our tax money to bail out banks and give out corporate welfare, use that money to rebuild the infrastructure -- repair the roads, bridges, the water and sewer systems. Build new schools and affordable housing. But this won't be done by legislation. The bosses and politicians will resist. It will take a fight by the working class.

**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:** Global warming is real, putting us all at risk. Corporations are allowed to emit CO2 and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere as they wish. They pollute the water and air, especially near working class communities. They put their own profits ahead of the future of humanity. We must take the decisions on energy sources and pollution out of the hands of these corporations. These decisions must be made by the whole population. We should make decisions on all energy sources based on what is safest and in the best interests of humanity, not based on the profits of a few wealthy individuals.

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

**A:** Money has always ruled the election process, whatever the laws are. The corporations and the rich have the money to buy the politicians of both major parties. The Republicans and the Democrats both ask working people for their votes, but both parties exist to serve the interests of the wealthy. The biggest problem with the election process right now is that the working class does not have its own political party. Working people are the majority of the population. We need a political party which speaks to our interests as working people.

## **NILES NIEMUTH, No Party Affiliation**



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**Occupation / Current Position:** Journalist and managing editor at the World Socialist Web Site

**Education:** MA in History from University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

**Qualifications / Experience:** As a member of the Socialist Equality Party, Niles Niemuth has fought to bring a socialist program to the working class through his extensive writing on social conditions and working-class struggles. He was involved in the Workers Inquiry into the Bankruptcy of Detroit, the struggle against the sellout contracts at the Big Three auto companies in 2015 and the recent wave of teachers' strikes.

### Questions:

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

**A:** As a member of the Socialist Equality Party, I fight for 1) social equality, through the expropriation of the major banks and corporations; a 90 percent tax on all wealth over \$1 million; 2) an end to war, the closure of all US military bases and the withdrawal of all US troops. The \$1 trillion spent every year on the military must be diverted to meet pressing social needs; 3) opposition to dictatorship and censorship, through an end to corporate domination of the political system and the establishment of new organizations through which the working class can exercise political power and control over the economy.

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

**A:** The SEP opposes the fascistic attack on immigrants by the Trump administration, but the persecution of immigrants is a bipartisan policy, supported by both Democrats and Republicans. The SEP fights for the right of workers to live and work in any country they wish, free from harassment. We demand the immediate end to the immigration raids and deportations, and the abolition of the ICE and Border Patrol agencies. We reject all forms of nationalism, chauvinism and bigotry, used by the ruling class to pit workers against each other. The attack on immigrant workers is an attack on the democratic rights of all workers.

**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:** The root cause of the health care crisis in America is the for-profit health care system. The differences between the Democrats and Republicans are tactical. Both seek to implement attacks on health care for working people in order to funnel ever larger sums of money into the pockets of the rich. Health care is a social right. It must be provided to all free of charge. The SEP fights for the nationalization of the health care industry and its transformation into a publicly owned institution under the democratic control of the working class, as part of the socialist reorganization of the economy.

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

**A:** I call for the abolition of student debt, a multi trillion dollar public works program, universal health care, and free high quality public education. These programs will be paid for by the expropriation of the wealth of the world's billionaires and multi-millionaires, and the transformation of the banks and corporations into public utilities run by the workers. Under capitalism, the labor of billions of workers around the world is exploited by the ruling class for their own enrichment. Society needs to be reorganized to meet the needs of the working class not the profit interest of the rich.

**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:** Capitalism is producing an environmental disaster that threatens the future of life on earth. A solution to environmental problems like global warming is blocked by the subordination of production to private profit and the division of the world into nation-states. A rational approach to sustainable energy that allows for a vast increase in production to meet social need requires scientific planning. Billions must be invested in alternative forms of energy and emergency measures to address pollution, including in the Great Lakes. The energy corporations must be nationalized and placed under democratic control.

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

**A:** The election process in the United States is completely undemocratic, dominated by corporate money, with onerous ballot access restrictions aimed at excluding third parties. Amid historic levels of social inequality and growing opposition, the ruling class, represented by both Democrats and Republicans, is attacking all democratic rights and censoring the internet. Genuine democracy requires the creation of a workers state and new structures of popular control over political and economic life. Democracy is impossible so long as the process of production remains under the dictatorial control of the capitalist class.

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