

## **Michigan U.S. Representative District 13**

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).**

### **RASHIDA TLAIB, Democrat**



**Website:** RashidaForCongress.com

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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Attorney, on leave of absence from Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice

**Education:** J.D. from Thomas Cooley Law School, Lansing, MI; B.A. from Wayne State University, Detroit, MI; Proud graduate of Southwestern High School, Detroit, MI

**Qualifications / Experience:** State Representative, 2008-2014 (Detroit, River Rouge, Ecorse), ranking Democratic member of the House Appropriations Committee, only member of the Legislature to operate a fully-staffed neighborhood service center offering 12 anti-poverty programs and advocating for residents with various local, state, and federal agencies.

#### **Questions:**

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

**A:** My top priorities for serving the families of Michigan's 13th District are economic justice (including a \$15 minimum wage, paid family and medical leave, equal pay for equal work, free college, and tackling out of control insurance rates), Medicare for All so nobody has to choose between a doctor's visit and feeding their family, and protecting our environment by enforcing the Clean Water and Clean Air acts and reinstating Obama-era environmental protections. I will work with like-minded legislators and our communities to build the support necessary to make these bold ideas to help our families into law.

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

**A:** I have seen first-hand the devastation our broken immigration system has had on families who worked to escape unimaginable desperate and dangerous circumstances in order to start fresh and achieve their own American dream. I support a pathway to citizenship for all undocumented residents, protecting our DACA recipients, and at minimum major reforms to ICE and CBP so they stop preying on women and children and destroying families.

**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 strongly believe in universal healthcare for all. The Affordable Care Act was a step in the right direction, but people are still paying outrageous prices, driven by insurance companies, for healthcare. No one should have to go into debt to for medication and lifesaving procedures. A society in which everyone has access to healthcare coverage will result in a drastic improvement in quality of life for those facing chronic health conditions, women, and children. We should be increasing funds available to support maternal and child health, and I support paid family and sick leave 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:** One of my top priorities is economic justice. This includes securing a \$15 hourly minimum wage, standing up for unions to improve working conditions for all, preventing cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, ending corporate welfare, winning paid family and medical leave, ending wage discrimination, and creating debt-free educational and vocational training. By improving our economic foothold, we improve quality of life all-around, including health and public safety.

**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 will fight to restore Obama-era environmental protections and incentivize the expansion of renewable energy projects in order phase out dirty fossil fuels that compromise our air and water quality. Further, water issues are as important in Michigan as anywhere - I've spoken out against poor Detroiters having their water turned off and against the greed that caused the Flint catastrophe. The Great Lakes define who we are as Michiganders, and we need to fight invasive species, pollution, and greedy companies like Nestle. We need to fully fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and we need to shut down Line 5.

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

**A:** We must overturn Citizens United to ensure all of our voices are heard. We need to explore public financing models that allow politicians more time to talk to voters and that end the dependence of politicians on big money donors and corporate interests. We must also restore the Voting Rights Act and fight back against voter suppression that targets minorities and tries to silence us. We need to make voter registration automatic for 18 year olds, allow returning citizens to vote, expand early voting and vote by mail, and in general do whatever we can to make participating in the democratic process easier.

## **D. ETTA WILCOXON, Green**



**Website:** HACKED---Under Re-construction: [www.dettawilcoxon.com](http://www.dettawilcoxon.com)

**Facebook:** <http://TeamWilcoxonPublicServants>

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Publisher and Editor In Chief

**Education:** BA University of Detroit MPA University of Detroit JD Cumberland School of Law

**Qualifications / Experience:** 2004 - Present Founder, Publisher and Editor In Chief The Renaissance Observer; 2003 - 1999 Executive Director - The Northend Community Development Corporation; 1996 - 1998 DEW's Consulting Agency -

Wayne County Community College; 1997 - 1995 Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services; 1989 - 1994 3M Corporation

### Questions:

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

**A:** a Well paying Jobs. Ensure that more federal dollars are returned to the 13th . Ensure that said dollars remain in the 13th to be used for job development in the public sector. Work with 13th to ensure that resources and skill sets are employed to ensure federal funds are not returned but are utilized by properly trained professionals who identify barriers to employment, remove those barriers and provide support mechanisms for sustainable employment. b Promote True Public Education designed to make our children globally competitive and self sustaining. c Compassionate, Accessible Health Care for all who need it.

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

**A:** We must have policies that provide permanent residency status and/or a path to citizenship to Dreamers. This "Path" should be thought out and should include future treatment of children who are brought here by their parents. Immigration numbers should not be set arbitrarily. National security depends on allowing immigration for humanitarian, political asylum, diversity, population growth and other measured goal oriented reasons. Moreover, we are a country of immigrants and as such, our stature in the world is lessened should we close our borders to immigrants who fall into legally acceptable categories.

**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:** Civilized societies do not expect the sick to find work/fulfill reporting requirements. We have an obligation to care for those who cannot care for themselves, to the well, by not bringing the sick into the workplace. An American baby's death is tragic. Its death when its life could have been saved except that it is less valued is inhumane. Policies must reflect belief in America that ensures that all life is seen as valuable. The causes/effects of infant/maternal deaths cannot be viewed in isolation. A holistic approach is necessary to make colleagues see/make financial commitments for a "fix."

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

**A:** I do not support tax "overhauls" that provide short term tax relief for middle to low income tax payers , while providing sustained tax benefits to Americans who do not need tax relief, many of whom have openly said that they do not even want tax relief. Federal income tax laws should encourage all Americans, especially poor to low middle class Americans to work. We should not encourage them to work to become/remain a part of the working poor. Tax credits and exemptions should make child care, health care, quality food, home ownership and higher education attainment affordable.

**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 federal government should strengthen the Energy Department and the EPA. The experts at Energy and EPA should be listened to and trusted to implement policies that meet our energy needs while keeping our environment safe for us and future generations. We must look at all energy sources: coal, natural gas, nuclear energy, renewable energy, solar, wind, Biomass, geothermal and small hydro, from the vantage of government's role of providing a "service" to We the People. Government provides a disservice when it privatizes and allows the profit motive to creep into the equation. Our experts must rely only on science .

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

**A:** We should limit corporate and labor spending on political campaigns including advertising, just as we limit how much money an individual can contribute to a candidate. Our policies should not be decided based on who has the most money, they should be based on how many contributions individuals make, which tends to indicate what "We", the collective of "The People" want our democracy to look like. Across the board campaign contribution disclosure is a must. The Voting Rights Act should be strengthened. We must access to the ballot, the voting booth and integrity if our representative form of democracy is to survive.

## **SAM JOHNSON, Working Class**



**Website:** See the independent website [www.workingclassfight.com](http://www.workingclassfight.com)

**Occupation / Current Position:** Worked since I was 16. Always joined with other workers to defend ourselves. Retired, still active.

**Education:** Grew up under Jim Crow, Alabama, learned to survive with dignity. Learned that from my mother who was a fighter. Went to LA, then Detroit, got GED here. Went to WSU Labor School for 2 years.

**Qualifications / Experience:** 30 years, active in union at Chrysler, rank-and-file militant or elected union post. 2014, ran for Congress as independent to speak for the working class. 2016, worked with others to put a new party on the ballot,

Working Class Party. We said, the bosses have 2 parties, workers have none. 50,000 signed for us. Many thousands of people voted for us to say they agree, workers need our own party.

### Questions:

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

**A:** The three big problems we face are not enough good paying jobs, costly health care and no decent education for our kids. But the government can't solve these problems. It's part of why we have the problems. It goes on with the same old policy the two parties have been carrying out for almost two centuries: taking tax money we need, giving it to the number one class, the big corporations and the banks, and the wealthy people who own them. It's going to take working people coming together to take back that money and use it for what we need. That's why we want to see a working class party, to start things moving.

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

**A:** Who are the immigrants? Most of them are working people. If they are working people, they should be part of us. They can help us build the society we want, a working people's society. But only if we see we are all part of the same class. Everyone in this country came from other countries. Slaves came from Africa four centuries ago, the others came since. We have all been abused by the ones who brought us here – slave-owners before, factory owners today. The people who brought us here try to create divisions, try to get us fighting each other. They exploit us. THEY are the enemy.

**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 is not set up to serve the majority, the working people. It's set up to make money for big companies. Government programs should restrict the money big drug companies or nursing homes make. Instead, too many people don't have any care. Even if we have jobs and insurance, we don't get the best care. This is richest country on the planet. Why do we have worse health care than countries with much less money? Medical care means your life. No price should be put on our lives. The basic principle of health care should be that we all get what we need with no cost, and no restrictions should be put on that.

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

**A:** The government won't solve our problems. But working people can do it. We have force when we stand together to fight. We can use our forces to impose what all the people need. We need decent paying jobs. The first thing workers would do about the economy is make sure that everyone who wants a job can have a job. The big companies make profit by keeping our wages low and by making fewer people do more work. Take money back from the profits of the big companies, use it to increase our wages. Take money the government gives away to big corporations, use it to fix things that need fixing. That would create jobs.

**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:** Big oil companies and utilities see how to produce energy to make profit. If we got rid of profit, we could see how to produce energy to give people what they need AND we could protect the environment, including the Great Lakes. With technology that we have today, there could be safeguards protecting the environment from every form of energy. If scientists were given the freedom to do what they already know how to do, they would produce energy safely. But they can't today because that interferes with profit. The problem is not energy, not oil, not even coal – the problem is, those things are produced to make a profit.

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

**A:** Money runs everything in capitalist society. So, money buys and sells candidates and buys elections. In a society that was democratic, everyone would get a hearing. Every working person could vote, whether you are working, or retired, or laid off, or looking for work or are a woman or man taking care of your kids or elders. We should all be able to vote, simply because we work. That won't happen until the working class puts its needs first, until we fight for what everyone needs. Then we can bring it back to our needs, including with elections and voting. That's how we got everything we ever got, by fighting for it.

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