

## **Michigan State Senate District 7**

### **3 Candidates on the November 6, 2018 ballot**

**Duties:** The Michigan Senate shares responsibility with the Michigan House of Representatives to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws.

**Qualifications:** State Senators may serve a maximum of two full terms. They must be at least 21 years of age and a registered voter in their district. There are 38 State Senate districts which are re-apportioned after each census.

**Term: 4 years    Vote for ONE (1)**

### **LAURA COX, Republican**

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

**Facebook:** <http://@electlauracox>

**Occupation / Current Position:** State Representative, 19th House District

**Education:** Bachelor's, Criminal Justice, Michigan State University Master's, Criminal Justice Research and Planning, Michigan State University

**Qualifications / Experience:** -U.S. Customs Special Agent, 13 years -First female House Appropriations Chair, overseeing a \$56 billion budget -Past Chair of Ways and Means Committee on the Wayne County Commission -Served as the 11th Congressional District Chair -Served as the Treasurer to the Wayne 11th Congressional District Republican Committee

#### Questions:

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

**A:** -Increasing economic development by deregulation and limiting government and its spending - Strengthening public safety - I will continue to support measures that make our communities safer. I secured the appropriate funding to train 155 new Michigan State Police Troopers, putting our statewide trooper strength at its highest level in 18 years. -Maintaining a fiscally conservative budget that reduces spending and pays down debt

**2. EDUCATION: What measures do you support/propose to achieve improved educational outcomes and accessibility for Michigan students from early childhood through post-secondary education?**

**A:** As House Appropriations Chair, I adopted \$14.8 billion into the K-12 school budget, the largest investment in Michigan history. I committed the resources needed to help quality schools get even better and help struggling ones improve. Spending in smarter ways creates more opportunities for students to learn/succeed in all aspects of life. Building a better future for Michigan requires smart, sensible investments in education to prepare our children for success. The state budget I helped craft emphasizes helping children learn how to read and write at an early age, along with efforts to help academically at risk students

**3. ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?**

**A:** I believe in reducing burdensome government regulation in areas where it is simply not necessary. A fair and less burdensome tax structure creates an atmosphere for entrepreneurs to create businesses, resulting in more jobs. As a result, the economy gains more revenue, unemployment rates drop as new job opportunities rise. Being pro-business means being pro-Michigan, and what's good for one is good for the other. I continue to strive to make Michigan a better place to hold business.

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

**A:** I support full transparency of government. As a Commissioner in Wayne County, I pushed for transparency in county government and was the first commissioner to put my budget online-to make it easily accessible for the taxpayers to view. As a State Representative, I stood alongside my colleagues from both sides of the aisle as a co-sponsor of a bipartisan package of legislation that would reform Michigan's Freedom of Information Act to give people greater access to their elected officials.

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**5. ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY: What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations, while meeting the state's energy needs? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of Enbridge Pipeline 5.**

**A:** The legislature has proposed several pieces of legislation regarding the Enbridge Pipeline and the preservation of our Great Lakes. Following the recent reports released this summer, I believe the input from the public regarding the decision on the final disposition of Line 5 taking place this fall will be crucial to that decision. I am following this process closely and have discussed it with several legislators from Northern Michigan. Protecting the beauty of our great state is of the utmost importance and the long term protection of our great lakes is central to that goal.

**6. JUSTICE: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?**

**A:** I am firm believer in justice for all. As a US Customs agent I fought against injustice. I have always had a passion for defending the citizens of MI. I fought for funding to test forgotten rape kits in Detroit & across the state. I passed tough laws against human traffickers, & legislation that would close a gap in MI law & allow relevant "other acts" evidence in assault cases involving adult sexual assault to be admitted for any purpose. During my 13 years as a federal agent, I conducted surveillance & executed search warrants in order to defend southeast MI from the threats of drug traffickers & money launderers.

## **DAYNA POLEHANKI, Democrat**



**Website:** [daynaforsenate.com](http://daynaforsenate.com)

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**Occupation / Current Position:** English teacher

**Education:** School Administrator Certification - MASSP; M.A.T. - Marygrove College; B.S. - Central Michigan University; Teacher Certification - Alma College

**Qualifications / Experience:** 2018 Teacher of the Year, New Haven Community Schools; former Building Representative for the New Haven Education Association (MEA Local 1); one of two recipients of the 2017 Michigan Schools and Government Credit Union Educator Advantage Scholarship; owner of Detroit Casting Company; Casting Society of America Member.

### Questions:

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

**A:** As state senator of Michigan's 7th District, which encompasses Livonia, Canton, Plymouth, Northville, and Wayne, my top 3 legislative priorities will be to (1) Support public education in Michigan by fully funding our K-12 schools, removing the profit motive in education, and making college affordable for working families; (2) Give our seniors the care and secure retirement they've rightly earned by reversing the pension tax and protecting Medicare and Medicaid; and (3) Ensure that all Michiganders have access to quality affordable health care by expanding coverage and lowering costs, starting with prescription drugs.

**2. EDUCATION: What measures do you support/propose to achieve improved educational outcomes and accessibility for Michigan students from early childhood through post-secondary education?**

**A:** School finance determines the quality and quantity of instruction. We must heed the call of the bipartisan Michigan School Finance Research Collaborative's Adequacy Study that recommends an increase in per pupil base funding and getting rid of a "one-size-fits-all" funding formula in place of one that takes into consideration the unique needs of all students. I support universal preschool, removing the for-profit motive in education, restricting the use of School Aid Fund dollars for PK-12 only, making college affordable by adequately funding it, and promoting career tech/skilled trades in our schools and communities.

**3. ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?**

**A:** I support promoting Buy Local/Buy Michigan requirements to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used to create local jobs for local workers; I support ending corporate trade deals/tax breaks that reward wealthy corporations for sending Michigan jobs overseas; I support promoting quality post-secondary education by learning a skill through union apprenticeship programs, attending a community college, or attending a university; I support raising the minimum wage, which will raise living standards and grow the middle class; I support our right to organize and collectively bargain; and I support equal pay for equal work.

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

**A:** Regarding campaign funding, I believe that we should ban secret political nonprofits, require all in-state PACs to publicly disclose all political contributions online, and repeal the law that allows unlimited spending on political campaigns. Regarding voting rights, we must ban partisan gerrymandering, which takes away voters' freedom to choose their own elected officials, and we must making voting more accessible, secure, and fair by allowing no-reason absentee voting, early voting, and online voter registration.

**5. ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY: What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations, while meeting the state's energy needs? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of Enbridge Pipeline 5.**

**A:** The next generation of power will consist of renewable energy sources; Michiganders want "clean energy," and renewable sources are the cleanest available. To this end, I support requiring Michigan's utility companies to invest in additional renewable energy and achieve increases in energy efficiency. We must fix our broken water infrastructure using Michigan's well-trained workers and preserve our water by protecting our Great Lakes from corporate abuse. I support shutting down Line 5 as a spill in the Mackinac Straits could pollute up to 720 miles of shoreline along Lake Huron and Lake Michigan within a day.

**6. JUSTICE: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?**

**A:** I will pursue policies that provide equal protection under the law for LGBTQ persons; policies that will restore trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve; policies that will reform our prison system and focus on treatment for nonviolent offenders, like mental health courts and sobriety courts; policies that will close the pay gap for women and minorities; policies that provide equal access for people with disabilities; policies that will strengthen our unions and rebuild our middle class; and policies that put people over profits.

## **JOSEPH H LeBLANC, Libertarian**



**Website:** <https://www.facebook.com/LeBlancforMISenate7>

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**Occupation / Current Position:** Business Owner in Canton MI.

**Education:** Livonia Public Schools. Schoolcraft College. Life.

**Qualifications / Experience:** I have founded, and operate 2 local businesses that employ local people. One is a technology business and the other promotes local events to the entire country. I know how to run a business and treat customers. Being a taxpayer, I understand the burden that taxes place on our hardworking families, and businesses.

### Questions:

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

**A:** Reform Auto No-Fault. Lansing does not know what coverage is best for you and your family. Reform to allow YOU to pick what is best for YOU. Cut regulations and taxes. If you are a hardworking Michigan resident, let me work to get Lansing off your back and out of your pocketbook. Fix our roads. Stop for a moment and add up all you are paying in taxes on gas, license plate fees, sales taxes when you buy or lease your car, and then tell me, no, it is not enough, tax me more to do the same things we have been doing. While we are at, let us make Lansing a part time job. Not a full time career for politicians

**2. EDUCATION: What measures do you support/propose to achieve improved educational outcomes and accessibility for Michigan students from early childhood through post-secondary education?**

**A:** First, parents have to engage and teach their children. Now, 2nd, we can discuss schools. MLIVE.COM in February 2017 says: "On average, Michigan school districts spent \$9,996 per student in 2015-16" Let us do some math, if we have 30 students in classroom, 30x\$9996=\$299,880. Are you honestly telling me we can not educate a room of grade school students for almost \$300,000? Let's follow the money and stop the problem, the problem is not the teacher in the classroom.

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**3. ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?**

**A:** Lower taxes. Less regulations. If government gets out of the way and out of our pocketbooks, there is no limit to what Americans and especially Michiganders can accomplish! I support the Libertarian Promise. One of the planks of that promise is to eliminate the burden of unnecessary occupational licenses. Do you know that currently over 20% of workers need a government license to work?

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

**A:** My campaign is self funded. How may candidates can claim that? Did you know that is likely that over \$750,000 will be spent just for the MI Senate district 7 race alone? Money can breed corruption. Perhaps every candidate should have to spend only their own money. Money appears to buy influence. Before you think that choosing a Republican or Democrat is your only option, please know there is a different solution. I am here to give you a choice, don't waste your vote on the same old that we know does not work.

**5. ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY: What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations, while meeting the state's energy needs? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of Enbridge Pipeline 5.**

**A:** Why was Chicago allowed to take Great Lakes watershed water and send it to the Mississippi watershed? Why is Nestle allowed to pull Michigan water at a rate reported to be over 1 million gallons a day for a \$200 a year fee to Lansing. Is the fox guarding the hen house? I am not a proponent of government regulations but sometimes things just do not make sense. Remember it was the current duopoly of Republicans and Democrats that brought us the Flint water crisis.

**6. JUSTICE: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?**

**A:** Google defines Social Justice as: "justice in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society" I prefer to believe in the good old fashioned American Way, pursue an education, work hard, and provide for yourself, your family, and do as God would desire you to do for your neighbor. When we allow the government to promote the distribution of wealth to those who did not produce, we all fail. The producer fails because he has had his wealth taken from him, and the recipient fails for he knows not the value of what it took to create. I will not steal your money through taxation.

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