

Michigan State Senate District 30

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)

ROGER VICTORY, Republican

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

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

Occupation / Current Position: State Representative 88th House District

Education: Davenport University. Degrees in Business Management and Logistics.

Qualifications / Experience: Current State Representative of 88th House District. Former President Ottawa County Farm Bureau.

Questions:

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

A: 1. Reducing Auto Insurance Rates. I stand by my vote for HB 5013, I especially want to see a complete opt-out option for our seniors and a tiered system that allows actual free-market choice for every Michigan driver. 2. Addressing the talent and labor shortage. We need to get young people back into the skilled trades by increasing their early exposure to different career pathways and giving our local schools the ability to meet the economic demands of their region. 3. Making smart investments in infrastructure. Cut costly red-tape and admin services and put more money directly into the roads and bridges.

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: We need to move back to more local control of our school systems. Too often our school systems spend resources on retraining and updating their systems because of state and national requirements, instead of directing those resources towards the students. The demands and needs for schools in Ottawa County is not the same as those on the eastern side of the state. Our locals are the ones who best understand those realities and know how to adapt to them.

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

A: We are currently dealing with record low unemployment, which is good news overall, but to improve our economic positions we need a bigger supply of workers. We need to support our skilled trades training programs and bring more young workers into the workplace. We also need to encourage additional training for those looking to move ahead in their workplace. Furthermore, we need to improve our infrastructure so our businesses have access to the utilities they need to expand their existing operations.

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

A: The existing state policies are adequate for the time being.

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: We need to find a sustainable funding mechanism for the now depleted Clean Michigan Initiative fund that helped clean up a number of toxic and contaminated sites throughout Michigan. I believe in Energy Choice, as the technology advances it is becoming more affordable for individuals and businesses to provide a significant portion of their own energy needs. We need to allow for these types of advancements to grow and develop. As for the pipeline, we need to use sound science and common sense to determine the best direction going forward.

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

A: This is not necessarily an issue addressed by more legislation and regulation, this is a cultural and societal concern. Our parents, educators, and local community leaders help set the moral foundation for the future successes and worldview of our young people. A good strong work ethic, desire for self and community improvement, and moral center are not things that can be mandated in statute. These foundations for justice come from our spiritual and faith based organizations, local charities, and our communities as a whole.

JEANETTE SCHIPPER, Democrat



Website: www.JeanetteForSenate.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/JSchipperMI

Occupation / Current Position: Western Theological Seminary Administrative Assistant Admissions

Education: MSU - No Degree earned; Davenport University - No Degree earned; Holloway's Institute Real Estate Appraising- State Licened Real Estate Appraiser; Current student at Western Theological Seminary

Qualifications / Experience: My work experience includes real estate appraising, banking, mental health, and higher education. Trained in implicit bias and cultural agility; community organizer and mental health advocate. On the Survivors council for Center for Women in Transition, Lakeside Clubhouse, Faith Leaders for Justice, and Latino Scholarship Fund. I bring a new lens and holistic perspective to the legislative process

Questions:

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

A: Healthcare/Mental Health; Education; Economy We live in one of the wealthiest nations in the world and yet we fail to meet the basic needs like healthcare and mental health. No one should be denied treatment, turned away, or forced into debt and poverty due to healthcare cost. I support stabilizing the ACA and moving towards a universal plan that everyone pays into. I will fight to keep our public tax dollars in our public schools. Living wages and affordable housing is necessary to sustain a strong economy, and I will work to assure that Ottawa County is affordable to all who reside here.

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: Education A quality education is a critical contribution to our children's lives and should be considered a basic necessity. For far too long public schools have been underfunded, teachers get pink slipped, schools consolidate or close down. I support legislation that puts money in education, while working hard to correct the damage that has been done to Michigan's public education. A strong education is what enables children to transition into successful adults who contribute to our economy and society at large. Strong support for our schools and our teachers is an investment in the future of our children and economy

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

A: The Economy A healthy Michigan economy is built by investing in our state's most valuable resource: It's people. Making future-oriented skills training programs available and affordable for the people of Michigan is vital to ensuring that Michigan remains a competitive economic force. We cannot expect outside companies to invest in Michigan if we haven't done so first. Further, a 21st century state infrastructure is necessary if we want to attract companies to invest into our state. Equally important, we must support small business owners and startups, offer living wages and affordable housing.

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

A: I support removing corporate and dark money from elections,. I support initiatives that make voting easier for working people such as reason free absentee ballots, straight ticket voting, automatic voter registration, and election audits. Protecting the integrity of our elections is a must and I will do everything to assure fair and accessible voting.

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: I support legislation that improves the quality of our air and water, that protects our natural resources, and invests in environmental protections. We must re-route Enbridge line 5, and listen to the people of Michigan when it comes to how our resources are used. I'm against corporate exploitation of our resources. We need to address the amount of garbage being dumped in Michigan from Canada and other states. I will do all in my power to be active, vocal, and initiate the necessary protections to safeguard our environment for the health and well-being of our future.

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

A: Social and racial justice is an area that I have been involved in for the last five years, I am trained in implicit bias and cultural agility. I desire that we work towards a more equitable and just society where all members can flourish. I support and champion equality for LGBTQ, affirmative action, and justice reform. I will work on policies that work towards restoration rather than criminalizing individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues. I will work on legislation that equips our police officers with adequate deescalation training, geared to reduce trauma for them and the community.

MARY BUZUMA, Libertarian



Website: electmarybuzuma.com

Occupation / Current Position: Retired

Education: BA Political Science, Kalamazoo College

Qualifications / Experience: 26 years as a US Navy Intelligence Specialist attaining the final rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer (E-8) State Chair Libertarian Party of Michigan from 2013-2015

Questions:

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

A: 1. End corporate welfare. Eliminate the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Government is not a jobs program and politicians shouldn't be playing venture capitalist with taxpayer's money. 2. Eliminate unnecessary regulations and licensing laws that drive up costs, hurt small business, stifle entrepreneurship, violate private property rights and keep people out of the workforce. 3. Reduce crime, end the cycle of poverty, and keep our streets, homes and kids safe by ending the costly war on drugs. It's time to legalize marijuana for recreational use - decriminalize use/ possession of all others.

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: Education is an individual or parental responsibility and best handled at the most local level. Parents are best situated to decide what is in their own children's best interests. I support all measures that enhance the educational choices available, such as charter schools, tax credits for private school tuition, and home schooling. Post-secondary education accessibility is not the problem – affordability is. To make college more affordable, stop increasing taxpayer subsidies to it.

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

A: I support putting more money into the hands of the consumer. Cut the income tax now to the 2007 level of 3.9% and subsequently lower it until it is eliminated. Tax favoritism should be illegal. Abatements, subsidies, credits, or other incentives to businesses based on geographical area, job creation, or any other criteria deny equal protection under the law. Eliminate sales tax to products already subject to specific state taxes, such as gasoline and cigarettes. Sales tax on used merchandise that is resold results in double taxation and should be eliminated as consumers are paying a tax on a tax

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

A: The only electoral duty of the state government should be providing for fair and efficient conduct of elections. Eliminate all taxpayer-funded subsidies to candidates for public office and political parties, including primaries and conventions. Campaign finance laws are unwarranted restrictions of free speech or association and should be repealed. I support efforts to make voting less difficult for all voters such as “no excuse” absentee voting.

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: I support policies that promote a free market in energy. No commercial enterprises should be granted legal monopoly status including energy companies. Government mandates on renewable energy should be repealed as they are just another form of corporate welfare. Remove the arbitrary 10 per cent cap on the state’s electricity choice market. Michiganders deserve a safe, healthy environment. Hold all individuals, businesses and governments accountable for the pollution they cause. A hypervigilant maintenance and monitoring schedule should be maintained on Line 5 to protect critical environmental values and water quality.

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

A: I oppose any form of discrimination by government based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or any other group or individual identification. Each person has the same inalienable rights that the State has a duty to protect. Civil asset forfeiture to enforce laws circumvents constitutional protections and should be ended. Random police roadblocks and other searches without probable cause bypass constitutional protections and should be prohibited. State prison facilities should be used only for the incarceration of individuals who have proven themselves a threat to others.

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