

Michigan State Senate District 13

2 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)

MARTY KNOLLENBERG, Republican



Website: www.martyknollenberg.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/knollenberg

Occupation / Current Position: State Senator; Owner, Sedona Taphouse (Restaurant); Owner, Knollenberg Insurance Agency

Education: BA History, Albion College

Qualifications / Experience: Four years as a State Senator, six years as a State Representative, four years as a county commissioner, long-time local business owner and job provider, community volunteer for over 20 years, community resident for over 50 years, deep family ties to area

Questions:

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

A: EDUCATION: As vice chair of the Education Committee, I increased our investment in education by over \$1 billion a year. I also wrote legislation to keep classrooms safe. As the senior member of the Education Committee, I can do more for our schools. AUTO INSURANCE RATES: I own an insurance agency. I know why rates are too high and what to do about them. I introduced legislation to lower rates and I will keep fighting for lower rates. SENIORS: I wrote legislation to give seniors more housing options and also to make it easier for them to obtain disabled parking placards. I voted to eliminate the tax on senior pensions.

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: Each child has a potential. It's up to us to help them reach that potential. As vice chair of the Education Committee, and chairman of the Michigan Merit Curriculum, I have advocated for more customized curriculum for students, and greater flexibility for educators. I believe there is too much emphasis on standardized tests, and too much classroom time is spent teaching for the test, instead of helping students learn how to learn. I support empowering local parents, local teachers and local educational experts with greater decision making powers, and to reduce Lansing's one-size-fits-all approach to education.

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

A: We've cut the jobless rate from 14.1% under former Governor Jennifer Granholm to barely over 4% today. Total job creation of over 540,000 jobs. That's an amazing accomplishment. African American jobless rates are at all-time lows. Women have made historic economic gains. Personal income growth leads the country. We have Michigan on the right path to sustained economic growth, job creation and prosperity. We must continue to diversify our economy, and resist liberal's calls to return to the disastrous big government, class warfare policies of Granholm's Lost Decade that devastated our families.

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

A: I support transparency in campaign financing, and I'm proud that my campaign is being financially supported by Michigan residents and associations. My opponent is being supported by liberal California and New York interest groups that know nothing about our community, our needs or our priorities. I support a secure balloting process, that includes a verifiable (unhackable) paper trail. I support making it easier for individuals to vote by absentee ballot.

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 green energy; I drive an electric vehicle - it's the future of transportation. The government must make it easier for new, clean energy technologies to grow by updating outmoded laws that were written for old industries, and which are no longer forward looking. Further, Michigan has only one petroleum refinery; other Midwest states have multiple refineries - Illinois (4), Ohio (4) and Indiana (2). Michigan is dangerously dependent on other states/countries for our energy needs. This causes price spikes when there are interruptions. We must diversify so that we are not dependent on Enbridge Pipeline 5.

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

A: Economic opportunity is the pathway to social and racial justice. If people have the opportunity to better their lives for themselves and their families, they're much less likely to believe demagogues' scapegoating "others" as responsible for their situation. More specifically, I'll continue to increase investments in education and give young people greater education and career options. I will also continue to support policies to promote economic growth and job creation, and I will resist those that seek to divide our people, undermine our economic progress, and return us to the Lost Decade and its 14.1% jobless rate.

MALLORY McMORROW, Democrat



Website: <https://www.mcmorrowformichigan.com/>

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

Twitter: twitter.com/MalloryMcMorrow

Occupation / Current Position: Small Business Owner / Creative Director Candidate for State Senate

Education: Bachelor of Arts, Industrial Design - University of Notre Dame

Qualifications / Experience: I bring a fresh new approach to politics and an unwavering belief in the potential of Michigan and Michiganders. With a ten-year career in industrial design and creative at Mattel, Mazda, and Gawker Media my approach to policy-making will be collaborative and innovative. As a small business owner I understand the importance of involving real people in the solutions.

Questions:

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

A: EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE Treat teachers like professionals. Hold charter schools to the same rigorous standards as public schools. Offer universal pre-kindergarten. Enhance education options. Increase funding for higher education. Create a tuition reimbursement program. LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO CRUMBLING INFRASTRUCTURE Stop paying for band-aids and start forwarding real, long-term solutions to our roads, bridges, tunnels, and pipes. CLEAN WATER, PROTECTED ENVIRONMENT Lead on water policy and conservation. Protect the quality of our land, water, and air. Ensure local economies can rely on natural resources.

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: I will fight for universal early childhood education to ensure that every child is given a fair chance out of the gate to succeed. We need to adequately fund all schools to ensure all students have access to quality teachers, appropriate class sizes, resources and supplies. My method centers on bringing the community in on the decision-making process, so I will absolutely support school board members, administrations, families and educators to fully understand and support their funding needs.

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

A: Michigan needs to prioritize both education and skilled trades training to create a world-class talent pool that will attract small businesses, entrepreneurs, and large business to invest and stay in Michigan, diversify our economy, and create opportunities for Michigan residents to compete given that the way we work is bound to change more over the next decade than it has at any point throughout our history. We need to prepare Michigan residents to be adaptable, creative, critical thinkers as we face rising automation and increased competition both nationally and from around the globe.

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

A: We need to overhaul our campaign finance system to allow people of all backgrounds to participate in the process, run for office, and get the influence of money out of politics. I will fight to roll back our "Citizens United on Steroids" bill pushed through by Republicans. I would support any legislation requiring that all campaign contributions be public and searchable. We need to ensure every resident is able to vote, and trust that their vote counts. I support the anti-gerrymandering ballot proposal. I support every resident being able to vote by absentee ballot for any reason. I support automatic 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: We need to plan for a more sustainable future, but we need to bring all parties to the table to find real solutions that address climate change, protect our air and water while still ensuring Michigan manufacturers are able to compete and that residents have reliable access to clean water and electricity. We need to decommission Enbridge Pipeline 5. The effects of a break or spill would be catastrophic to our Great Lakes, water quality, economy, tourism, and all industries tied to our water.

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

A: The data and stories are clear - for many Michiganders, their civil rights are under attack. I will advocate for civil rights and against any legislation that treats anyone as less based on race, background, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation. I will support legislation against for-profit prisons that disproportionately affect families of color. I will fight to ensure LGBTQ+ parents are afforded the same opportunities to adopt children as their straight counterparts. I will fight to clearly define LGBTQ+ protections in the Elliot Larsen Civil Rights Act to ensure permanent protections.

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