

## **Michigan State Senate District 15**

### **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)**

### **JIM RUNESTAD, Republican**



**Website:** RunWithRunestad.com

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

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**Occupation / Current Position:** Current State Representative for House District 44

**Education:** Graduated from Central Michigan with a B.S. in Education with a concentration in History, Economics and Politics.

**Qualifications / Experience:** I have owned my own business, Runestad Financial Associates, for 13+ years. I am a former three term Oakland County Commissioner and I am the current two term State Representative for House District 44.

#### Questions:

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

**A:** Fixing our roads by re-prioritizing our budget and moving infrastructure funding to the head of the line. I believe a thorough review of PA 51 must be conducted to see if there is a more equitable way to fund our roads. After 67 years, PA 51 is no longer a fair or equitable way to fund our roads. Workforce and talent development. There are so many unfilled jobs in our state that don't require a traditional four year education that we must look for ways to train and teach our students to meet the needs of employers. K-12 education and making sure our students have the best resources to compete in a global society.

**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:** My father was a principal, my mother was a teacher, and I graduated with an education degree from Central Michigan University. My background taught me that nothing is more important than investing in our kids. This is what I've done since I've been in the legislature, having voted for more public school funding than ever before. We must also promote skilled trades and vocational job training. College is a great option for many of our kids, but it's not for everyone. And finally, we need to restore local control to our hometown schools because ultimately, our great teachers know the best way to reach their students.

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

**A:** We need to develop the talent in our students to fulfill the needs of the thousands of employers who have help wanted signs in their windows. We also need to reduce the personal income tax to 3.9%, which was promised to all Michiganders several years ago. We have done a good job of eliminating the bureaucratic red tape that has hampered small businesses in the past, but there is still more work to be done to help small businesses really thrive as small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy. We must increase the take home pay of our families and get rid of unnecessary regulations that hamper small businesses.

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

**A:** In regards to campaign funding, I believe in full transparency and the right of every citizen to know who is truly funding campaigns. This allows citizens to determine the veracity of certain mailers and television ads. I believe the more information citizens have the better. In regards to voting rights, I support the fundamental right of all law abiding and legal U.S. citizens being able to vote. We must ensure that everyone who is legally allowed to vote can do so. Voting needs to be made easier for all U.S. citizens, not harder.

**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 believe it is absolutely vital to ensure the protection of our water, air, and land for future generations. I support taking a closer look at the deal Nestle is getting from our state. It doesn't seem right that they are getting our precious great lakes water for pennies on the dollar and selling it back to us at a profit. In regards to energy and Enbridge Pipeline 5, we must strike the right balance between ensuring reliable and affordable energy and strong environmental protections. I will support any policies that can find and strike this delicate balance between two very important competing interests.

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

**A:** As Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee for the last two years, I am very proud of the fact that we have passed policies that promote transparency and accountability in our state. I believe convening a bi-partisan work group to study policies that would promote social and racial justice in our state, while at the same time broadly ensuring support for law enforcement, would be the best way to ensure these goals are met in a responsible way.

## **JULIA PULVER, Democrat**



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

**Facebook:** <http://Facebook.com/VotePulver>

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Managing Partner, HPS Consulting, LLC

**Education:** Bachelors of Nursing

**Qualifications / Experience:** I am a registered nurse, small business owner, organizer and mother of four. I know how to take multiple needs into account and get things done!

### Questions:

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

**A:** My top priority is healthcare. I'm proposing a Michigan Public Healthcare Option be offered, and the people be given the right to opt into a public system. (#MIPublicOption) My next priority is education. My next priority is education. In general, Michigan's public schools are in dire straits. Kids are not getting the education they once did, and it's getting worse every year. We need a major shift in our educational priorities. We need to prioritize children over corporations. My third top priority is updating our crumbling infrastructure with a focus on long term, sustainable systems that will last.

**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:** Ban for-profit charter schools. (Like New York, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and New Mexico.) Protect kids by enforcing minimum standards (academic achievement, minimum number of school days offered, safe, accommodating environments, adequate notice of school closure, adequate record keeping and storage of student records) for all schools Demand truth in advertising for charter schools. Reimburse public schools that accept displaced students when a charter school closes. Honor all contracts and pensions for current and retired teachers. Maintain a minimum funding amount per student.

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

**A:** Provide incentives to business and organizations that provide childcare for employees and members. Offer subsidized child-care to those who also qualify for public assistance. Reward companies that offer flexible work schedules, job-sharing and work-from-home programs to facilitate parents remaining in the workforce. Create high school curriculum around careers in childcare: education, healthcare, social work, etc. Ensure that the state partner with high schools and community colleges to offer child care solutions as part of these curriculum. Low interest loans Educational and support services for small businesses.

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

**A:** Expand voting opportunities in Michigan, including providing any reason absentee voting, offering early voting, eliminating barriers to voting, such as voter ID laws, ensure up to date voting machines and adequate numbers of ballots for every precinct. Update recount laws that can offer vote recounts to include precincts with mismatched vote totals on voting machines. We need more transparency in campaign finance, not just from candidates, but from PACs, SuperPACs and Independent PACs.

**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:** Shut down Enbridge Line 5. We know this line will leak. All lines leak, and this line has already been found to have deficiencies, with experts saying it is "one peak current event away from failure". Despite company reassurances, this 64 year old line is a disaster waiting to happen. Our Great Lakes are too important to gamble. It needs to be decommissioned now before it's too late. Resist any efforts to bury Canadian nuclear waste on the shores of Lake Huron. Ensure the vital work of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and keep the invasive species of Asian Carp from gaining access to our great lakes.

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

**A:** Include sexual orientation and gender identity in the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. Provide a special task force through the Attorney General's office to investigate any claims of police harassment or brutality. Provide immigrants in Michigan their due process under the state constitution, including the right to representation and a fair and impartial hearing by a jury of their peers. Legalize marijuana for recreational use, regulate it and tax it. Provide free legal assistance to expunge records of those serving time for marijuana infractions. End the use of for-profit prisons and minimum sentencing guidelines.

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