

## **Michigan State Representative District 101**

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

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

**Qualifications:** State Representatives may serve a maximum of three full terms. They must be at least 21 years of age and a registered voter in their district. There are 110 State House districts which are re-apportioned after each census.

**Term: 2 years Vote for ONE (1)**

### **JACK O'MALLEY, Republican**

**Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion**

### **KATHY WIEJACZKA, Democrat**



**Website:** [www.kathy101st.com](http://www.kathy101st.com)

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/kathy101st>

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Registered Nurse educator at Ferris State University in the nursing department

**Education:** Bachelor's of Science in Nursing from Oakland University; Master's of Science in Nursing Education from Ferris State University

**Qualifications / Experience:** Kathy has worked tirelessly under demanding conditions as a registered nurse for 39 years in many areas such as pediatrics, obstetrics, house supervisor, home care nurse, special education school nurse and nursing instructor. She is active in her community attending St. Philip Catholic Church, Empire Township precinct delegate, sits on two Board appointed seats, and on a housing action committee.

#### Questions:

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

**A:** My top three legislative priorities are to support affordable, quality health care for all, increase the funding for public education, and create good paying jobs with benefits. To improve healthcare we need to protect the Medicaid expansion that gave nearly 700,000 Michiganders healthcare; consult with healthcare professionals to gain their valuable input and problem-solve key issues; and rein in prescription drug costs. We must support our teachers and promote adequate funding for public education especially in rural areas. Finally, we need to increase the minimum wage and restore the prevailing wage act.

**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 a former special education school nurse, I believe public education is the bedrock of a successful democracy that contributes to opportunity for all. We need to increase funding to public schools. Charter schools should be required to demonstrate the same accountability and transparency as public schools. Implementing a special fund for school transportation, especially in rural areas would help ease strained school budgets. In addition, we need to teach skilled trades in public schools so students can gain the skills they need to stay in northern Michigan and earn a good living.

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

**A:** Increase the minimum wage to promote a higher standard of living. We need to put families and small businesses first by assuring corporations pay their fair share in taxes. I support the Michigan Jobs First bill that invests in Michigan companies by prioritizing them when receiving state contracts. We need to properly classify workers to assure they receive the money they've earned through overtime and also prevent tip confiscation. I support the re-institution of the prevailing wage act that ensures high standards for construction projects. Healthcare for all will increase small business opportunities.

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

**A:** I was the captain of the Voters Not Politicians petition drive in Leelanau County and I fully support the proposal for an independent commission to end partisan gerrymandering. I support the Promote the Vote initiative to protect the voting rights of our citizens to ensure same day voter registration, no-reason absentee ballot voting, and automatic voter registration. We should also develop measures to fight against the disastrous Citizens United Supreme Court decision by requiring disclosures of all political donations.

**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 shut down line 5 due to the high risk of the pipeline rupturing and the resultant decimation of the Great Lakes and the tourism industry. I serve on the Solid Waste Council and support measures to increase recycling in Michigan, where we are rated among the worst in the nation due to inexpensive landfill fees. I support increasing the landfill tipping fee to a rate closer to our surrounding states because 25% of the landfill waste arrives from out of state. Finally, Michigan should increase its renewable Portfolio Standard to 100% by 2050.

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

**A:** The justice system should treat all people equally regardless of any social or racial factors. Unfortunately the cost of cash bail and poor public defense funding often locks people out of the justice system simply because they can't afford it. I support a justice system reform by funding the defense costs of destitute people and ensure all receive a fair trial with quality representation. An affordable, quality healthcare system that provides mental health services would also greatly reduce the prison population since many incarcerations are the result of untreated mental illness.

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