

Michigan State Representative District 11

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)

JAMES TOWNSEND, Republican



Education: Bachelor of Science, Business Management; Spring Arbor University

Qualifications / Experience: Precinct/State Delegate, 18 years

Questions:

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

A: 1 Education & Workforce Readiness – By supporting parental choice and charter schools to expand and enhance quality educational opportunities for all Michigan students. Help students to reach their full potential by adhering to a challenging curriculum, for higher academic standards 2 Protect Employer Rights in the Workplace – I would support the right of employers of all sizes to manage their workplaces free of undue interference 3 Maintain a Sound Legal Climate - i would oppose efforts to expand the types of claims that can be filed against Michigan job providers protecting and strengthening Michigan's laws.

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: By supporting parental choice and charter schools to expand and enhance high quality educational opportunities for all Michigan students and assisting students in reaching their full potential by insisting that all schools adhere to a challenging curriculum based on high academic standards. I would urge the State Board of Education to do a better job holding all public schools, traditional and charter, to high standards for student achievement.

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

A: We need to create a business friendly environment in Michigan, and focus on increased education attainment, crafting policies that attract young talent to vibrant cities.

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

A: Michigan has gone to great lengths to ensure voting rights to its citizens. We have installed new voting machines and a new voter file ready for use, and has spent \$11 million in Federal Security Grants to strengthen and protect our elections systems. The Bureau of Elections and local clerks regularly scrub the voter list to remove ineligible voters. The Bureau of Elections has removed 1.2 million ineligible voters, including 134,000 who have moved out of state and registered in a new state, 563,000 who died and 3,512 who were noncitizens.

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: Michigan has many environmental challenges. We've got the Asian carp issue, and the algae issue. Any one of these issues could be hugely detrimental to the quality of life of our Great Lakes State. The aging Pipeline 5 crossing the Straits of Mackinac is arguably the greatest environmental threat facing the State of Michigan. How to reduce the threat of a catastrophic spill is one of the thorniest issues being grappled with by state leaders. I believe we should keep all energy options open, and not chain ourselves to some government mandated course, eliminating one form of energy while tilting at windmills.

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

A: I would pursue policies aimed at heightening awareness of the role race plays in society today, with the ultimate goal of addressing inequality. I have always been an advocate of equal rights and equal opportunities for all.

JEWELL JONES, Democrat



Website: www.jonesforstaterep.com/

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

Twitter: twitter.com/onlyjjones

Occupation / Current Position: Michigan State Representative

Education: University of Michigan - Dearborn B.A. Political Science

Qualifications / Experience: Former Inkster City Councilman (2015) Current State Representative (2017-Present) Michigan Army National Guard (Present)

Questions:

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

A: 1) Accelerate Growth in Michigan's economy by providing incentives for development in emerging industries (e.g., high-tech, advanced manufacturing, cyber security, urban logistics, alternative energy) and tourism. Expand support programs that stimulate small business development. 2) Restore leadership in K-12 and Post-Secondary/Career-Technical education by investing more dollars. Community College tuition should be free to students who maintain acceptable GPAs. 3) Michigan can improve the quality of life by increasing investments in health care, the environment and policies that ensure the well-being of our citizens

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 should ensure that more equitable funding is available at all levels. Early childhood and K-12 education is underfunded with the current approach to providing students a quality education. We need policies that close the estimated \$1,959 gap (according to Michigan School Finance Research Collaborative) in per student funding. We should explore allowing school districts more flexibility in raising millages and look into alternative approaches for financing education. College tuition is too high and limits affordability for many students. We need to lower college costs and make community college attendance free.

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

A: We need to invest in road/bridge reconstruction and infrastructure improvement projects that create jobs and business opportunities across the state. The minimum wage should be raised to \$15.00 per hour and union members should benefit exclusively from collective bargaining and contract negotiations. Prevailing Wage provisions should be restored as a requirement for government contracts to ensure that there are fair and equitable pay levels and benefits provided to workers. Unions and equitable wages created the middle class and resulted in higher standards of living for all workers.

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

A: We should consider lowering the voting age to 16. This would require changes in the U.S. and Michigan Constitutions. At 16, citizens can get jobs and pay taxes and have the capacity to make informed decisions. The Parkland school shooting victims demonstrated that students are capable of organizing and addressing important political issues. Allow but not require municipalities to adopt Early Voting as a way to get more citizens to vote. There is a current bill proposal in the House of Representatives that would permit early voting 45 days before an election. There should be complete transparency in campaign finance.

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 should increase and provide incentives to increase investments in alternative energy resources. We must also protect our water, air, and land from pollution by entities that violate environmental regulations. Whether they are public or private they should be held accountable for ensuring the safety and sustainability of the environment. Enbridge Pipeline 5 poses a serious threat to the Great Lakes in the event of a spill. The possibility of building a tunnel under the Straits of Mackinac may be a consideration but the costs and risk of a spill might be too much to justify that approach.

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

A: It is important that the justice system treats victims, offenders, and the accused fairly. I have proposed legislation that would require expungement of all records associated with arrests or charges that are based on mistaken identity. Racial profiling continues to be a problem for African Americans so it is important that we enact policies and use tools (e.g., body cameras, etc.) that guard against it. There is also evidence that there is discrimination in housing, employment and the school system. We should aggressively enforce existing laws and use education and diversity training to combat social injustice

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