

Michigan State Representative District 12

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)

MICHELLE BAILERY, Republican

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

ALEX GARZA, Democrat



Website: www.alexformichigan.com

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Occupation / Current Position: Director of Constituent Relations - MI House of Representatives and Taylor City Council Chairman.

Education: Bachelor of Arts (BA) - University of Michigan (Dearborn) - Political Science.
Associate of Business (AB) - Baker College - Business Management .

Qualifications / Experience: Worked in Michigan Legislature for over 3 years as a Legislative Aide to State Rep. Stephanie Chang. Elected to the Taylor City Council in 2013 and re-elected in 2017. Currently serving as the City Council Chairman. Taylor Downtown Development Authority - Board Member. Taylor Rotary Club - Member. Taylor Goodfellows - Member.

Questions:

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

A: My top three legislative priorities would be Health Care, Education, and Roads/Infrastructure. It will be critical to have a strong representative in Lansing that will fight for access to health care coverage for all. Everyone should have access to affordable health care. As State Representative, I will fight to restore and increase education funding for our schools. Our kids and our teachers deserve the best environment to learn and teach in. I will also make road funding a top priority for Michigan once again. We must work together in order to rebuild and invest in our infrastructure.

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: Michigan's school funding system is broken. The number one thing we can do to achieve improved educational outcomes is to properly invest in education. Our state has continued to divest from our public schools and have even made it easier for for-profit charter schools to access dollars that should be going to our public school districts. An investment in our kids is an investment in Michigan's future; we must do better to support our schools.

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

A: The Michigan economy is in an upswing and stable leadership is necessary to continue the growth. Michigan-educated college graduates are still leaving the state to find work elsewhere, we must promote policies to incentive this home grown talent to stay rooted in Michigan. More needs to be done to keep college graduates in our state. We must also do all we can to protect Prevailing Wage in Michigan. This is something we must do in order to support our trades workers and their workforce in this Michigan economy. As a legislator, I will always promote policies that improve the economy for Working Class Michiganders.

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

A: Transparency is vital in campaign funding for all offices across this state. As we look at ways to get money out of politics, there are many alternatives to consider. Public funding of elections should be something Michigan looks at as an alternative to high cost campaigns. As we have these conversations, I will continue to promote policies that shed light on campaign funding and ensuring everyone is playing by the same set of rules, period. I am a supporter of expanding voter access and voter rights across Michigan. I will be supporting No Reason Absentee Voting in Michigan and same day voter 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: Our pure Michigan environment is an important part of our identity as a state. Michigan must reduce the use of fossil fuels in order to fight the destructive effects of global climate change. We have a moral obligation to leave a better world for our children than we inherited. I will help to protect our Great Lakes, to promote and support green building initiatives, and to further research renewable and alternative energy sources to meet our state's needs. I believe Enbridge Pipeline 5 should be closed and this will bring an end to the constant threat of an environmental catastrophe happening in our Great Lakes.

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

A: As a legislator, I will promote policies that combat wage discrimination based upon sex, age, or sexual orientation. We must close the gap for millions of Michiganders and pass pay equity legislation to ensure women are earning the same wages as a man for a same days worth of work. We must promote not only social and racial justice, but economic justice for all Michiganders.

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