

Michigan State Representative District 20

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)

JEFF NOBLE, Republican

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

MATT KOLESZAR, Democrat



Website: mattformichigan.org

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Occupation / Current Position: High School Social Studies Teacher

Education: B.A. Secondary History Education from Saginaw Valley State University
M.A. English Studies for Teachers from Eastern Michigan University

Qualifications / Experience: I am the current President of the Airport Education Association, Active in local Democratic clubs. My twelve years of teaching experience have given me a unique perspective into public education and the challenges faced.

Questions:

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

A: Public education must be properly funded. There needs to be support of a rich, full curriculum along with support for vocational and technical education programs that keep young talent here in Michigan. Workers' rights must be restored. We must overturn the disastrous Right-to-Work legislation that has harmed the ability of our workers to collectively bargain. Protection of the environment- We must ensure our Great Lakes and natural resources are protected. And finally, we need to modernize how we fund our roads and stop relying on a model from 1951.

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: 1. Properly fund our public schools, full stop. This means improving access to technology, the most up-to-date materials, ending our reliance on unproven standardized tests and investing in the best resources for teachers. 2. Bring vocational and technical education programs back to our schools, so all students have the skills they need to be competitive in today's job market. 3. Expand access to no-cost Pre-K education 4. Make community colleges tuition free to increase opportunities for our college-bound students. 5. Place a cap on the legislatures ability to raid the school aid fund,

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

A: First, I believe the quickest way to increase jobs is to reinvest in our skilled workers both with a support system in our public schools, as well as expanding opportunities to retrain laid off skilled labor employees. Secondly, we need to focus on underemployment and under pay practices. The recent repeal of prevailing wage by the State House will hurt Michigan Residents in their pocketbooks. Finally, we need to reinvest in our state. Properly funding our infrastructure, and other state responsibilities, creates jobs.

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

A: We need to expand access to the polls, not limit them. Therefore, we should repeal voter ID laws that prevent access to the polls, create an automatic voter registration system, and implement no-reason absentee ballot voting. Finally, we should lead the nation in legislative transparency. This means making all State employees (elected and otherwise) subject to FOIA requests and opening our campaign finance books.

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: Protection of our environment is a must. Our State Legislature should be focused on changing the laws that allow corporations to financially benefit from our natural resources while hurting our communities. We need to put our people first, and that means quickly fixing the lines in Flint, investing in our infrastructure to prevent another similar catastrophe and shutting down Line 5.

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

A: I applaud the Civil Rights Commission's for including the LGBGTQ community as a protected class and believe the Legislature should follow suit. Michigan currently is 4th in the nation for most hate crimes committed; we need to focus on prevention and prosecution of such crimes. We also need to reevaluate the way we fund our community resources. Local schools and law enforcement funding in neighborhoods of color lags far behind other communities. This includes reevaluating how we charge and prosecute crimes, Finally, we need to elect representatives from all communities to represent us in Lansing for a true voice.

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