

Michigan State Representative District 44

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)**

MATT MADDOCK, Republican



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Occupation / Current Position: Small Business Owner

Education: Orchard Lake St. Mary's, Oakland Community College

Qualifications / Experience: 28 years as a small business owner and employer. Conservative Leader. Founder of the Michigan Conservative Coalition. Republican Delegate since 1996.

Questions:

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

A: 1. Fight to reduce our auto insurance rates. As a conservative leader, I have already come out against the powerful interests that want to keep the status quo. They are making BILLIONS of dollars off Michigan families' backs by keeping Michigan's auto insurance rates the highest in the nation. I'll fight this battle for you. 2. Lower the cost of electricity. For the last 18 years, the median Michigan family income has remained flat. Meanwhile, the cost of electricity has doubled. This makes us UN-attractive to manufacturing. 3. Fight to reduce our state income tax and eliminate the senior pension tax.

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: I am in favor of LOCAL control of our schools and more competition within our public education system. Charter Schools are helping create this competition and I believe we need more schools of choice so parents are not stuck in an underperforming school. I am NOT in favor of Common Core and the federal government controlling our local curriculum. Teachers know their students best and we need to give them more individual latitude to teach our kids. I am also a proponent of expanding the trade and vocational training at the secondary and post-secondary levels.

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

A: Back when Michigan was the manufacturing capitol of the world, we also had a very low cost of electricity. The cost of energy is oftentimes the largest expense in manufacturing. Today we have some of the highest costs of electricity in the region. Over the last 40 years we have lost too many manufacturing jobs to southern states who have 1/2 to 1/3 the cost of energy. Lowering the cost of energy, reducing the cost, bureaucracy and size of state government along with reducing our income tax (and eliminating the pension tax) will make our great state competitive again. This will also keep our families intact.

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

A: Michigan has some of the most transparent and strict campaign finance laws in the nation. This is good. I believe a photo ID should be required to vote, just as it is required in 8 states. I am NOT supporting the "Independent" Citizens Redistricting ballot initiative because it is NOT a non-partisan proposal. It is the Democrats attempt to thwart the political process that has been defined in Article IV of our State Constitution.

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 our state government is doing a great job protecting our environment and natural resources. Michigan has some of the largest natural gas reserves and I believe we need to continue to protect and develop this natural resource that will provide cleaner energy for our future generations. I do not believe in taxing our home water wells. I need additional information on the Enbridge Pipeline issue. If it is a genuine threat, then we should look at an alternative way to transfer fuel products to the Upper Peninsula.

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

A: I'm a bail bondsman. I believe that creating and promoting policies that make Michigan the best place to do business and to raise a family will do best to promote "justice" in our state. The current policies of more taxes and fees and more expensive government and more regulation and more expensive energy are causing to be LESS competitive. The result is less economic opportunity. This causes families to divide in order to find work in other states. This is an "injustice" to Michigan families which are the fabric of our society.

LAURA DODD, Democrat



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Occupation / Current Position: Nonprofit Consultant, Self-Employed. Strategic Planning, Operational Strategy, Volunteer Development

Education: University of Notre Dame, Mendoza College of Business, Masters of Nonprofit Administration, 2018. Western Michigan University, Bachelor of Arts, Organizational Communication, 1999

Qualifications / Experience: After 20-years of experience in the nonprofit industry,

Laura is prepared to take her background in advocacy, strategic development, and business management to Lansing to help strengthen our state, improve the lives of working families, and ensure there are opportunities in Michigan for all people to succeed.

Questions:

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

A: Education: Build an education system in Michigan that shifts our focus from test scores and college entrance. We will focus on leading the nation in producing functional, independent 25-year-olds. Environment & Public Parks: Maintain clean water, clean air, and safe, quality housing and our world-class public parks to make our communities an attractive place to live while remaining open to job-creating business. Small Business: Remove barriers for new and existing small businesses with access to capital, streamlined regulatory processes & world class 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: The funding structure for Michigan schools is not working for all kids. We need to adjust state funding to respond to the specific needs of the district. This includes a base level of per-student funding augmented with additional funding for special education, transportation, ESL, free & reduced lunch and other variable costs. In addition, we must restrict access to the school aid fund to expenditures that directly affect education. Finally, we should review & revise educational targets to reduce focus on standardized tests and college entrance & move toward a goal of 100% independent, contributing 25-year-olds.

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

A: We need to strike an appropriate balance between business-friendly policy & worker protections to strengthen Michigan's working families. To do this we should: - Support cooperation between business and state universities/community colleges to offer specific technical training employers require; - Invest heavily in rebuilding the physical & technical infrastructure necessary to support modern industry; and - Create a state-sponsored micro-lending service to allow small businesses to take the next step toward a successful future.

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

A: I fully support citizen participation in the democratic process and the movement to reduce the role of individual political parties in determining our representation. Michigan needs to streamline absentee voting and allow early in-person voting. The creation of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission will help create legislative districts that represent the voters not the political party in control during a certain year. Finally, we need to rework our campaign finance regulation to increase transparency and remove barriers to first-time candidates.

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: Ensure that the health of Michigan's citizens, the economic benefits of our state's unique natural beauty, and the continued protection of our abundant fresh water are considered in all environmental policy decisions. - Create a water policy that differentiates between water use by Michigan businesses, homeowners and farmers and those extracting water for sale and use outside the Great Lakes basin. - Protect our parks and public lands from damage and restricted use from outside mining and extraction companies. - Keep final permitting decisions with citizens, experts, and elected representatives.

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

A: I support evidence-based treatment options as an alternative to prison for drug-related offenses. We must reduce unnecessary court & legal fees that prevent non-violent offenders from successfully re-entering the workforce. We must also support robust state-wide crime and police data collection to better identify and address problems as they occur. Finally, we must continue to pass and enforce laws that eliminate discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, and sexual orientation.

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