

Michigan State Representative District 45

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)**

MICHAEL WEBBER, Republican

Website: www.webberforstaterep.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/webberforrep

Occupation / Current Position: State Representative and also a licensed Insurance Agent.

Education: BA in International Relations from Michigan State University 1996 Graduate of Rochester Adams High School

Qualifications / Experience: Current 45th District State Representative for the Past Four Years. Rochester Hills City Councilman for over Seven Years; Final Three years serviced as City Council Vice President.

Questions:

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

A: 1. Roads and Infrastructure improvements - Finally passed a plan in 2015 to increase road funding for the first time in decades. Need to follow through with that plan to invest a full \$1.2 billion a year additional in roads. Have underfunded roads for decades, need to start to catch up and make progress. 2. Education and Talent Development - Need to continue to invest in Education at the K-12, Community College and Higher Education levels. Also need to focus on the skilled trades and preparing students for the careers of the future. 3. Public Safety - Need to get more funding to county and local police, not State.

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: Work needs to continue in order to reach our stated goal of becoming a Top 10 education state over the next 10 years. The state must settle in on testing and curriculum, instead of constantly changing, in order to have some consistency and an ability to benchmark results. The Third grade reading bills passed in 2015-2016 should help greatly with our future education standings among other states.

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

A: Job retention and growth has to be key to our growing economy. We must continue to have a competitive business environment in comparison to surrounding states. We must also look at targeted programs like the bi-partisan Good Jobs package to incentivize large projects in our communities that will bring jobs in the short and long term.

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

A: One of the bills that I have been pushing as a member of the House Elections and Ethics committee is Online Voter Registration, which nearly 40 states offer. This will make it easier, yet more secure, to register to vote in our state.

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: The 2016 Energy policy that was passed and signed into law struck a good balance between providing reliable, affordable energy for our businesses and residents with being good stewards of our state environment and utilize renewables, etc. We all have concerns with Line 5 and the viability of that pipeline long term. If it does go off line, concerns would be for the U.P. energy costs and reliability.

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

A: Criminal Justice reform is a key issue that I have worked on during my two terms in the House, starting with the Presumptive Parole bill package in 2015-2016 and continues with the "Raise the Age" bi-partisan bill package that is currently before the House Law and Justice Committee.

KYLE COOPER, Democrat



Website: www.cooperformihouse.wordpress.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/cooperformihouse2018/>

Twitter: twitter.com/CooperforMI

Education: B.A. History from Oakland University, Minor in Political Science

Qualifications / Experience: Former political organizer and future teacher

Questions:

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

A: It is my steadfast belief that the assault that our public education system is currently under is our states largest problem. This is my reason for running for the state house and what drives me every day. We need more funding and to work directly with educators to craft curriculum to best benefit students. Secondly we need to craft a long term road funding bill that will repair and maintain Michigan's roads for decades to come. And thirdly, I want to work to put more money in the wallets of middle class families in Michigan by lowering health and auto insurance costs.

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 need to properly fund our education system on the whole in this state. Education has not been a priority in Michigan for far too long, and I will change that when elected. We need to work with teachers and educators to learn from them, what they and their students need. We must set the bar high but understand that a students intelligence is not based solely on a standardized test score and a GPA. Giving young adults choices is key. College is not the right choice for everyone and the skilled trades should be encouraged as much as college and university. College debt is also a large problem that needs addressing.

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

A: When it comes to economics, I do not have a top down approach. My goal is to uplift Michigan's hurting middle class by increasing wages and working to lower insurance costs all across the state. If tax incentives and breaks are given, they should be given to small and medium sized businesses to help bolster local economies. If an increased minimum wage is proposed and passed, I will ensure that there are safety nets in place for entrepreneurs to prevent mom and pop shops from falling under while the market adjusts and regulates. Better wages result in returning the buying power back to the majority of Michiganders.

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

A: The disastrous bill that passed last year, what its authors refer to as "citizens united on steroids" must be overturned and taken down. Senate Bills 335&336 allow any super PAC to donate unlimited amounts of money to state level candidates, giving people like the Devos family the power to buy your government in Lansing. As a member of the state house, I would work to overturn this as soon as possible, to level the playing field and keep politicians responsible to voters, not bought and paid for by the highest bidder. We must also work to end partisan gerrymandering.

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 must being the transition away from oil and coal dependence in this country, toward renewable, green energy. A green jobs bill would benefit our entire state, allowing skilled laborers to retrain and remain productive members of the workforce while cleaning our air and keeping our states water clean. Continuing to push our states energy providers toward using more and more renewable energy is also paramount to drive innovation. I would also support a statewide ban on fracking to prevent groundwater contamination and keep our drinking water clean. Line 5 must be shut down as well to preserve out great lakes.

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

A: I believe that the first step toward social justice is paying anyone who works in this state a living wage. More economic mobility results in less petty crime. The legalization of marijuana in this state can also go a long way in making sure it is properly regulated, so communities can better work toward keeping it out of the hands of underage users. Its legalization should also be followed by the release of all non-violent users from jail, not only righting a social injustice, but also saving the state millions in dollars in incarceration cost. But most of all, Flint still needs clean water. I will correct this.

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