

Michigan State Representative District 46

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)

JOHN REILLY, Republican

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

MINDY DENNINGER, Democrat



Website: <https://www.mindydenninger.com/>

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Twitter: twitter.com/MindyDenninger

Occupation / Current Position: Candidate for House District 46

Education: Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Michigan State University

Qualifications / Experience: A lifelong resident of Michigan, Mindy worked as an automotive product engineer for over three decades where she used problem-solving techniques that she would like to use in the Michigan Legislature.

Questions:

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

A: 1) Quality of Place – repairing, maintaining, and improving Michigan’s infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water, communications, transit, energy and public health and safety systems. 2) Quality of Life – well-paying jobs, access to healthcare, affordable car insurance, and an effective safety net so that all people can lead good lives. 3) A sustainable future – well-funded education that positions Michiganders success in a changing world, and preservation of our natural resources.

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: There has been a lot of research into how to improve education in Michigan. Next is to evaluate and act on it, and rework how funding is done. Expanding early childhood education, respecting and supporting teachers, and lowering the costs of higher education are good places to start. All children deserve a quality education and I would not support proposals that create unequal opportunities for some students.

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

A: Lifting people up out of poverty and ensuring that workers can afford a decent standard of living will result in a stronger economy for everyone. I support those policies that make it possible for all Michiganders to live a good life, rather than focusing on large corporations and hoping that it trickles down. Let’s try it the other way around. Higher wages, paid time off for new parents, affordable housing and childcare, and access to quality healthcare are all ways to begin to help make Michigan a place where living, working, and doing business are excellent for all of us.

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

A: Now that I have seen firsthand how campaign funding currently works, it is clear that bias is built right in and is not in the best interests of the voters in Michigan. The technology exists to do it completely differently, and I think we should try it. Ending the current practice of gerrymandering is a good starting point, but there are opportunities to do even more to make sure that the voters in Michigan are truly represented in the process. Politicians will then understand that their constituents are their boss, and money is no longer the main influence on policy decisions.

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's water, air, and land must be protected as well as other natural resources that are unique to the Great Lakes State. The first step is to acknowledge the science that informs us of the impact human activity has on our planet and environment. From there we can understand the options for meeting energy needs while protecting for future generations. Long-term thinking should take precedence over short-term proposals that prioritize profits over people. Alternative sources for energy should be explored and supported. Potential dangers such as line 5 and invasive species must be prevented effectively, right away.

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

A: Michigan has a long way to go towards social and racial justice. Every legislative action should be evaluated for how it may positively or negatively affect marginalized communities. I will always support policies that are designed to create a more just and equal society, and oppose those that make it worse. Trust, respect, compassion and love should be the motivation behind our actions, and never intolerance, racism, misogyny or any form of hate.

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