

Michigan State Representative District 55

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)

BOB BAIRD, Republican

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

REBEKAH WARREN, Democrat



Website: www.rebekahwarren.com

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Occupation / Current Position: State Senator, 18th District

Education: University of Michigan, B.A. in Political Science; Michigan State University, Graduate coursework in Child and Family Ecology; Harvard University, Graduate coursework in Business Administration

Qualifications / Experience: I have represented the 18th District in the State Senate since 2011 and served the 53rd District in the State House of Representatives from 2007 through 2010. Before becoming an elected official, I served for nearly six years as legislative assistant to Democratic State Representatives Mary Schroer (Ann Arbor) and Hubert Price (Pontiac), and then as Executive Director of MARAL Pro-Choice Michigan.

Questions:

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

A: First and foremost, I believe that education is the great equalizer and that renewing our commitment to public education is critical to the future of our state. Additionally, having served on the Senate Infrastructure Modernization Committee and the Senate Transportation Task Force, I have consistently supported policy solutions that would sustainably fund the repair and maintenance of our roads and critical infrastructure. Relatedly, as the Democratic Vice Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, I am committed to preserving Michigan's unique set of natural resources for generations to come.

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: As someone who has not voted for a single cut to public education since taking office in 2007, I believe that all our children deserve access to a high-quality, innovative, well-funded education. I believe that we must invest in public education at all levels, beginning with early childhood, continuing to K-12, and reaching all the way through higher education. Additionally, I believe we must focus on ensuring that teachers receive appropriate compensation and benefits, as well as the resources they need to succeed in the classroom.

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

A: I see significant room for changes to our current tax system that can improve our economic well-being, including creating a fairer and more equitable tax system by establishing a graduated income tax for individuals and by ensuring that corporations pay their fair share, so that our state's budget is no longer balanced on the backs of those who can least afford it. Furthermore, as the Democratic Vice Chair of the Economic Development Committee, I have promoted measures to ensure all Michiganders have access to the education and training that they need to succeed in the rapidly-evolving job market.

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

A: Because the right to vote is a fundamental freedom that must be made easily accessible to all our citizens, I have consistently promoted legislation to remove barriers to voting, including by allowing first-time voters to use an absentee ballot, allowing those who will be eligible to vote in a general election to participate in the primary that selects the candidates, and allowing automatic voter registration. In addition, as I am concerned about the growing influence of corporate and special interest money on our elections, I have sponsored a resolution denouncing the Citizens United decision.

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: In order to move Michigan forward, it is imperative that we invest in clean sources, which is why I have consistently promoted development of renewable energy resources, as well as energy efficiency improvements. These measures will not only enhance environmental stewardship, but also continue to create many good-paying jobs that will help to transition our economy, reduce pollution, decrease electricity costs, improve service reliability, and protect the health and well-being of Michigan residents. Specifically regarding Enbridge Line 5, I have sponsored legislation calling for its immediate shutdown.

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

A: As a longtime advocate for equality and a member of Equality Michigan's Board of Directors, protecting the civil rights of all Michigan residents is one of my foremost priorities. I wholeheartedly believe that unequal treatment of any group of citizens based on race, gender, or any other factor is absolutely unacceptable and that we must look deeply at the root causes of these issues and begin a real dialogue about persistent inequities. In every legislative session in which I have served, I have championed the expansion of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to protect sexual orientation and gender identity.

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