

Michigan State Representative District 58

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)

ERIC LEUTHEUSER, Republican

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

TAMARA C BARNES, Democrat



Website: <http://www.ElectTamaraBarnes.com>

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

Twitter: twitter.com/ElectTamara

Occupation / Current Position: Material Culture Manager - Kalamazoo Valley Museum responsible for exhibits, collections & outreach.

Education: MA in History Museum Studies from SUNY Oneonta (Cooperstown Graduate Program); BA in History from Western Michigan University; Saline High School

Qualifications / Experience: I have over twenty years of experience in program development and community engagement within cultural organizations. Between 2012 and 2017, I was project manager for three consecutive grant projects funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation aimed at addressing racial inequities in our state. My current position lets me further this work through special exhibits and targeted outreach.

Questions:

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

A: #1 - Investing in public education and ensuring equitable access to it. I would support legislation to increase funding for schools at all levels while opposing legislation to lessen qualifications for teachers and college instructors. #2 - Ensuring that all Michigan's people have access to affordable healthcare. I support legislation to expand Medicaid and any measures that would move Michigan toward a single-payer system. #3 - Protecting our natural resources. I support policies to fund underground infrastructure for safe drinking water. I would also incentivize the development and use of renewable energies.

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 know first-hand the value of a public education. I support major spending increases for education to hire additional staff, equip schools with modern technology, and especially to increase targeted programming for children on the other side of the achievement gap. We need debt-free options for high school graduates who want to learn a skilled trade or attend college. Lastly, we need to take measures to make a career in teaching far more desirable and rewarding, especially in communities that are struggling. I support strengthening unions and including more teachers on policy-making committees.

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

A: The future of Michigan's economy is dependent on its commitment to developing new technologies in a wide variety of industries. I would support tax credits for the research and development of: renewable energies and other environmental innovations; technologies for infrastructure (including transportation and underground water mains); manufacturing; and more sustainable agriculture. I would promote economic development initiatives in Michigan's most depressed areas. As mentioned above, I would support measures that would allow people to become skilled in a trade or trained in a profession without having to incur debt.

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

A: I support policies that protect our democracy from corporations and special interests who are currently able to buy elections. We need stricter limitations on the amount of money political committees contribute to executive and legislative races in Michigan along with disclosure policies that would make the electoral process more transparent. I support the creation of an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission so that voters, not politicians, decide where lines are drawn. I also support increased access to voting through automatic voter registration and expanded opportunities to vote by absentee ballot.

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 will support any legislation that moves Michigan toward a 100% renewable energy economy including placing mandates on energy producers. I would enforce regulations to prevent contamination and invasive species in the Great Lakes. I support stricter oversight of oil and gas pipelines with more safety standards, inspection requirements, and risk analysis by a third party. I would reject any proposal for future pipelines through the Great Lakes and support decommissioning Enbridge Line 5. We must use better strategies for land use that protect farms and open space while reinvesting in our downtowns.

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

A: Everyone in Michigan should have opportunities to earn a living wage in safe working conditions; obtain affordable housing; access quality healthcare; and enjoy clean air and water. I would pursue policies that would eliminate barriers for minorities to access quality public school education. We must also ensure pay for women, affordable and accessible childcare for families. I would also strongly support providing incentives to schools to encourage girls to pursue careers in science and technologies.

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