

Michigan State Representative District 60

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)

WILLIAM BAKER, Republican



Website: <https://www.politicalbank.com/find-candidates/william-baker-aede7ee0-1125-4a38-873d-25993fed5493>

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/baker4mihouse/>

Occupation / Current Position: On leave from the Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital's Environmental Services Department

Education: BS in Mathematics from the University of Alaska Fairbanks

Questions:

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

A: My top priority would be to scale back State spending to focus on the most important areas. I would start by cutting pay of Legislators. Second, and concurrently, I would seek to roll back taxes for everybody. I will propose cutting state income taxes to 3% and ending excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol products (only 3.7% of State revenue). Lastly, to improve education in Michigan, we need to create an environment conducive to the expansion of educational services. I would make all educational spending, including student loan payments, tax deductible.

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: In order to improve educational outcomes for our students, we need to expand the educational opportunities that are available for everyone. Michigan needs to expand school choice and to allow vouchers to be provided directly to parents so that educational funds can be saved for future years or spent as they see fit. Additionally, all educational spending should be tax deductible on the state income tax each year, this would include all tuition and fees for all levels of education as well as full student loan payments for those currently burdened with college debt.

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

A: One of the hardest thing for someone to do after being released from jail is to obtain employment due to licensing requirements with a "good morals" clause. Therefore, the State of Michigan needs to reform its licensing requirements so that it is easier for individuals to obtain a job or strike out on their own. Additionally, we need to be a state that is conducive to entrepreneurship by lessening the tax burden on everyone and by ending economic protection through subsidies and regulation.

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

A: The biggest thing about campaign funding is just making sure that everything donated is reported. Who donated, how much was it, when was it, and so on. The only way to effectively reduce the importance of donations from political groups is to limit the power of elected officials. By removing power from State Legislators and returning it to individual citizens, there would be no reason for special interests to lobby politicians.

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: Due to the economic protection granted to our energy providers, the Enbridge Pipeline 5 carries roughly three quarters of the natural gas and oil required by the Lower Peninsula. Therefore, any direct shutdown would have massive implications felt for days or weeks. In order to lessen the importance of this pipeline, we need to deregulate the energy market and allow for increased competition from other providers. To balance our economic needs with protections of our natural resources, the State should focus on private property rights and allowing individuals the right to keep their land in any condition they choose.

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

A: The most effective way to promote social and racial equality, is to make the law blind again. When we see each other as individuals, treating everyone as a person with rights unto themselves, we can move away from the blinding hatred that divides us. As a society, we need to stop expecting government to oversee every transgression and be tolerant of the peaceful ignorance of others. Again, by limiting the power of legislators, there will be less chances for the government or protected industries from maintaining the injustice in our state. By returning power to the people, we return equality to all.

JON HOADLEY, Democrat



Website: www.JonHoadley.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/jon.hoadley>

Twitter: twitter.com/jonhoadley

Occupation / Current Position: State Representative

Education: Michigan State University 2006

Qualifications / Experience: State Representative 2015-Present Small Business Owner

Questions:

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

A: Creating Welcoming Communities and an Economy That Benefits Everyone Protecting Our Environment Prioritizing Education

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 all know the importance of education and the profound impact it has on our children and future. We need to put students first, increase funding for public schools, end the profit motive in education, empower parents, and support public education employees. Let's decrease student debt and make community colleges and public universities tuition free. Together we can ensure our children are going to school in welcoming environments that promote learning and success.

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

A: When corporations pay their fair share and increase wages, the families of workers and our economy win. We need to end the corporate tax breaks that don't create jobs, stand up for workers, and protect our seniors. Together we can raise wages, improve healthcare with Medicare-for-all, and re-build the middle class.

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

A: Our democracy needs to be more responsive to voters. While in the State House, I've introduced legislation to end gerrymandering and protect voting rights through a Voter Bill of Rights. To make government more responsive, we need to reduce the amount of money in politics, reform the legislator-to-lobbyist system created by term limits, put citizens in charge of redistricting so voters are picking their elected officials and not the other way around, and make sure the right to vote is protected.

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: Whether we are playing pick up sports in public parks or spending a summer weekend on the Great Lakes, Michiganders each have a rich history with our environment. We need to invest in renewable energy, increase clean air standards, and hold polluters accountable. Line 5 must be decommissioned immediately. We need to protect our water and decrease our reliance on fossil fuels. When we protect our environment and invest in new technologies we improve our communities and economy.

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

A: We need opportunity for all. I've been a champion in the legislature for social justice and ending discrimination. Too many Michiganders have been incarcerated due to discriminatory practices and policies. We must confront racism, end discrimination against LGBT people, pass criminal justice reform, welcome new Americans, protect civil rights, and say no to policies that try to divide our community. Together we will create a thriving, welcoming Michigan.

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