

Michigan State Representative District 64

3 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)

JULIE ALEXANDER, Republican



Website: alexanderforstaterep.com

Facebook: <http://Julie Alexander for State Representative>

Occupation / Current Position: State Legislator

Education: Northwest HS, Western Michigan University BS, Michigan State University graduate studies

Qualifications / Experience: Small Business Owner/Farmer, Public Educator/Teacher, County Commissioner, Current Legislator in State House of Representative

Questions:

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

A: Record school funding: As a former public school teacher, I know that a bright future starts with a good education. That's why we are funding our public schools at a record state level of \$14.8 BILLION. Lowering the cost of car insurance: I voted to fix the broken no-fault insurance law that forces Jackson County drivers to pay some of the highest rates in the country and I won't stop working until we get it done. Respecting and protecting taxpayers: I am fighting to lower income taxes, pension taxes and permanently ban grocery taxes.

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: Investing in public schools: With record level public school funding at \$14.8 billion, we must demand accountability for every education tax dollar and ensure the money is spent in the classroom so students and teachers have the resources to succeed. Skilled trades opportunities: I helped secure a \$100 million investment to create more skilled trades programs because a college degree isn't the only path to a successful career. More local control: Educating our children shouldn't be about politics or government mandates. I will continue fighting to put decisions in the hands of parents and local educators.

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

A: Jobs are about people: It is important that we pursue common sense solutions and not repeat the failed policies of the past that killed jobs and drove Michigan's economy into the ground. Less burdensome regulations, lower taxes and more skilled trade opportunities have helped turn Michigan around during the last decade and made our state a better place to live, work and raise a family. Helping hard-working people: We need to let people keep more of their paycheck. Lower taxes helps hard-working families get ahead and protects seniors on fixed incomes.

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

A: Maintaining ballot integrity: Protecting the principle of "one person, one vote" is one of my top priorities. I.D. to vote: I support identification laws that protect the security and integrity of the voting process as long as it doesn't disenfranchise voters. We must show I.D. to do everyday activities such as cash a check, buy beer or board an airplane. Voting is no less valuable and therefore, should be no different. Enforce campaign finance laws: We must ensure that laws concerning campaign finance are strictly enforced.

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: Affordable energy: We need energy policy that protects our natural resources and provides affordable and reliable electricity to residents and job providers. I support solutions that help create jobs here instead of policies that send our jobs to other states or countries. Pipeline accountability: I support a plan which addresses needed solutions in several important areas: • Holding pipeline operators more accountable by requiring that reports be sent to the State of Michigan for our approval that detail maintenance, inspection and emergency response. • Tougher penalties for negligence and criminal damage.

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

A: Ending driver responsibility fees: I helped end the failed driver responsibility fees that allowed hundreds of thousands of people to get their drivers licenses back so they could get back behind the wheel and back to work. This was a bad law that should have never been passed in the first place and it prevented many hard-working moms and dads, mostly in urban communities, from working and providing for their families.

SHEILA TROXEL, Democrat



Website: votesheilatroxel.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/SheilaforRep/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Occupation / Current Position: Director of Financial Education at CP Federal Credit Union

Education: Bachelor of Arts Degree, German with Broadcast Communications Minor St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minnesota

Qualifications / Experience: Jackson Public Arts Commission, Secretary (2015 – 2016); Arts and Cultural Alliance of Jackson County Board Chair, (2014 – 2015); Board of Directors, (2013 – 2014); Jackson City Planning Commission, Chairperson, (2015 – present), Vice Chair, (2012-2014); Jackson Junior Welfare League, Sustainer, (2016), President, (2011-2013); Jackson Citizens for Economic Growth (2007 - 2010).

Questions:

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

A: Bringing People Together: We need cooperation at all levels of government if we are going to thrive. This means increasing information sharing and making our leaders accessible through town halls. Education: We need to invest in post-secondary education in all forms. Technical training, community college, four-year college— there are good options for every student. Fighting for Working Families: No family that works 40 hours a week should struggle to put food on the table. By supporting laws such as prevailing wage and workers' compensation, we can protect our working families while enticing businesses.

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: Every student needs some type of training or education beyond high school in order to afford a successful future and get ahead. Technical training, community college, four-year college— there are good options for every student and every career. Making sure all of these options are affordable for everyone is critical. We need to invest in and promote post-secondary education in all forms to ensure our workforce has the skills necessary to compete in the 21st century economy. Providing work program opportunities during the summer for youth ages 15 and up can also offer them a chance to grow and learn during the summer.

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

A: I support restoring the prevailing wage law as it attracts quality workers that are experienced and will deliver high quality work on time and on budget, all while keeping jobs here in Michigan. The prevailing wage also removes the incentive for predatory contractors to import unskilled workers from out of state who are willing to work below the local market rate. Additionally, to attract business and people to Michigan, we must have quality infrastructure that can support further growth. Doing so will help promote a more prosperous life for all.

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

A: Communities and states have experimented with ways to encourage candidates to reject funding from special interests by matching small donors or providing vouchers for constituents to distribute to candidates they support. Ideas like these could help bring accountability and trust back to Lansing and are thus worth discussing as we seek to build a government deserving of the public's trust. Additionally, a ban on donations from those working under or applying for state government contracts to those who influence the awarding system would remove conflicts of interest that undermine the public trust in the government.

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 support greater funding and oversight of the government entities responsible for the safety of Michigan's environment - the MDEQ and MDNR. The state budget has allocated less than 1% of its funding to these agencies, throttling their ability to enforce regulations and protect our state's natural resources. This includes shutting down the Enbridge Pipeline 5 as it is a clear and present danger to the Great Lakes, one of our greatest natural wonders and a significant source of water and business activity. Additionally, I support investing in green energy as it is both good for both our environment and economy.

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

A: In order for a system to be truly just, it must ultimately be accountable to the people. Citizens must be able to seek justice when they have been harmed by the government. Neither a university, city, or state deserve special protections from liability if their carelessness causes harm. Additionally, the fact that our state does not allow for punitive damages is both wrong and detrimental to our future. Punitive damages can deter bad actors, whether they be businesses or individuals. By allowing for punitive damages, Michigan would not only line up with the majority of other US states, but also protect its future.

NORMAN M PETERSON, Libertarian



Website: <http://candidate.michiganlp.org/norm.peterson>

Facebook: <http://Peterson4MI>

Occupation / Current Position: Retired in 2016 as Director of Operations for the Foundation for Behavioral Resources

Education: Ph.D. in Applied Behavior Analysis with an emphasis on organizational behavior

Qualifications / Experience: Over 35 years battling against intrusive and burdensome government regulation. Almost continuous meetings with state and local government officials and numerous testimonies before various state government hearings. Twenty-one years managing welfare-to-work programs.

Questions:

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

A: • Restrict or eliminate occupational licensing • Repeal of laws which create a crime for which there is no victim • Localize educational control and expand educational choices while eliminating the State Department of 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: • Eliminate compulsory education • Eliminate the State Department of Education • Return all educational authority to the local level.

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

A: • Eliminate occupational licensing • Drastic reduction in regulations • Eliminate all government interference in business including subsidies and tax breaks • Reduce or eliminate the state income tax

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

A: • Eliminate the State Senate and return Michigan to a part-time legislature • Ranked Choice Voting • Photo ID requirement

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: • Competitive free markets and property rights stimulate the technological innovations and behavioral changes required to protect our environment and ecosystems. • Private landowners and conservation groups have a vested interest in maintaining natural resources. • Protecting the environment requires a clear definition and enforcement of individual rights and responsibilities regarding resources like land, water, air, and wildlife. • Where damages can be proven and quantified in a court of law, restitution to the injured parties must be required.

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

A: • Repeal all laws for which there is no victim • Removing government-imposed barriers to prosperity in areas such as education, criminal justice system, zoning regulations, and occupational licensure, among others, would do far more to help people escape poverty than government transfer programs.

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