

Michigan State Representative District 71

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)**

CHRISTINE E BARNES, Republican



Website: www.Barnes4StateRep.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Barnes4StateRepresentative/?ref=bookmarks>

Occupation / Current Position: County Commissioner NRA Instructor

Education: Grand Ledge High School

Qualifications / Experience: County Commissioner Tri County Regional Planning Commissioner Business Owner

Questions:

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

A: We are a state that punishes our seniors for turning 65 by increasing their rates. There are several solutions that work towards the common goal of reform. We need to explore the good and not throw out common sense reform for the perfect. Roads and Infrastructure continues to be a concern of every Michigan driver. My experience as a Tri-County Regional Planning Commissioner has taught me a great deal about how and why projects are funded. Public safety continues to remain a top priority for me. We need to support our first responders with legislation that protects them, their jobs and enables them to serve safely.

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 believe the school aid fund money is meant for k-12 education. I am opposed to diverting these funds. I also believe the per pupil funding in our state should be equalized giving all Michigan children the opportunity to succeed.

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

A: Michigan's economy is improving; however, we have more jobs than talented workforce. I have been a strong advocate of the Talent and Economic Development's Marshall Plan since first hearing about it at a local volunteer organization. This initiative includes funding for the development of collaborative teaching in cross disciplinary classes. It also provides grants to schools that partner with businesses that fill the needs in high demand careers. One of the biggest challenges Michigan businesses face is a lack of skilled labor. I will support legislation that educates and mentors a skilled labor force in Michigan.

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

A: I absolutely support the right to have access to and participate in free and accurate elections. I believe we should remain on paper ballots as it is critical to our election integrity.

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: Our existing Enbridge Pipeline 5 is over 65 years old. We need to have investment in new infrastructure that protects our great lakes. I support a new oil transmission tunnel below the Straights of Mackinac on the bottom of the lake under several feet of rock. This solution would potentially be able to transmit oil, gas and electrical lines. This solution supports both the upper and lower peninsula with critical energy needs.

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

A: My family has a diverse origin. My husband, 2 of my 3 children and my granddaughters are all minorities. Diversity and equality are very important social issues for me. We have as a family first hand experienced uncomfortable and discriminatory practices of businesses and people. I work hard to ensure that I support legislation that supports the rule of law and it is applied equally to the constituents of Michigan.

ANGELA WITWER, Democrat



Website: www.voteforangela.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/angela4MiHouse

Occupation / Current Position: Owner & President, Edge Partnerships Full-service marketing, public relations, branding, advertising

Education: Bachelor's degree in business administration

Qualifications / Experience: My previous election experience includes two terms on the Waverly Community Schools Board of Education, serving as its vice president. I have lived in the 71st district for more than 45 years. A graduate of Waverly High School and Northwood University, I currently co-own Edge Partnerships (employ 8 people.) I was a leader at Sparrow Health System prior to Edge.

Questions:

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

A: Education and the Talent Gap: Work on funding for public education. Increased skilled trades education. Infrastructure: We need to invest in our roads. It is important that the corporations, which have benefited handsomely from recent state and federal tax policies to the detriment of other taxpayers, pay their fair share. Additionally, Michigan has the highest weight limit and lowest permit fees. We need to move Michigan inline with other states. Business: Economic gardening. Support of second stage companies.

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: A revised state assessment. Support (versus punishment) for low performing schools. Pre-K/preschool funding Mentorship programs with high performing teachers Correct funding for schools - study to find out what is truly needed per student. Correct the loopholes in Proposition A. The framers of prop A didn't intend for dollars to go anywhere other than K-12 education. Develop balanced, stable funding streams that are dedicated and cannot be re-assigned.

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

A: I gave this analogy in a forum last week: Community relies on business. Business relies on talent. Talent relies on a vibrant community. We must support our communities to become vibrant to attract the talent needed to build our current companies. Most jobs come from second stage businesses. In order to grow, we must have talent. We need to expand our education in skilled trades so that these great paying positions can be filled. This all comes back to education and funding education correctly. Additionally, we need to have the correct infrastructure and available funding.

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

A: I would support online voter registration. I would like to assist in reforming campaign finance. The public has a right to know how a campaign is financed and candidates should compete equitably for public office. The public has the right to know who funds candidates and how much is given to candidates.

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 terminating the easement allowing Enbridge to use the lake bed for Line 5 due to the fact that it poses a threat for an oil pipeline rupture in the Great Lakes. Michigan holds 21% of the fresh water in the world. Some say this is more valuable than oil. We cannot risk any damage to this valuable commodity. The current condition of line 5 cannot continue. We need to look at one of the other studied changes and make it. We need to protect our water and wastewater programs to protect our groundwater and ensure nothing like Flint happens again. Protect our ground waters from being taken b a single user.

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

A: I promote - throughout my life - equal rights for women and all people. I worked on the Inforum of Michigan whitepaper outlining the inequality for women in pay and job position. I would champion this effort. We need to increase child-care programs in order for families to have the access to better jobs and lifestyles. Support and enhance the civil rights legislation of 1960 and the Elliott Larson act.

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