

Michigan State Representative District 72

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)**

STEVEN JOHNSON, Republican

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

RON DRAAYER, Democrat



Website: RonForStateRep.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/RonForStateRep

Occupation / Current Position: Professor Emeritus - Davenport University

Education: Calvin College - Bachelor of Arts Aquinas College - Masters of Management
Ferris State University - Masters of Science

Qualifications / Experience: 40 years as a teaching professor in the field of technology and cybersecurity. Leader in Michigan Business Professionals of America (BPA) . Board member of Michigan InfraGard.

Questions:

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

A: The top legislative priority for me will be the education and training of our Michigan students from early childhood through post-secondary education. This will be done by investing in sound proven education programs that give teachers the tools they need to educate our students. A second priority is real infrastructure improvement, not just the "Band-Aid" solutions we seem to apply every year. A third priority is an emphasis on putting working families first. We must work to provide good jobs and benefits to the people of Michigan so that our families can be equipped to face the future.

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: All children in Michigan deserve equal access to a high-quality and safe education regardless of economic status. This starts with early childhood programs that emphasize the skills that students will need to succeed, especially reading. Even if a student comes from a poor economic background, we still must provide them with access to high-quality training and education. This also includes training for the high-tech jobs of the future in the skilled trades. Our post-secondary institutions should have the tools they need to educate our citizens in an ongoing manner.

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

A: The Michigan workforce of the future must be prepared and educated for the high-tech demands of the jobs of the future. Businesses will not locate or stay in Michigan if there is not a highly-trained skilled workforce. Our priority for job growth in Michigan will be achieved by investing in skilled trades, a modern infrastructure and jobs that will be in demand in the future. We must put the needs of working families first by providing good jobs with good wages. By providing the training for the skills that will be needed for the future, we can prepare the people of our state to move forward.

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

A: We must move away from the trend of having corporations obtaining too much influence on politicians and voters. A more public funding of campaigns and elections will put the power of government back in the hands of the people where it belongs. All citizens should be able to vote with an absentee ballot for any reason. When a citizen comes to the polls, they should be able to cast their vote within 30 minutes. We need to do everything we can to encourage people to vote, and not make it more difficult for them to exercise their rights as citizens of this state.

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: We should develop sustainable manufacturing and invest in renewable energy infrastructure. In doing this, we should also enforce quality water and clean air standards, so corporations can't take advantage of our air, rivers, and lakes. Our beautiful Michigan resources are for all of us to enjoy with our families, and we cannot allow irresponsible citizens and corporations to pollute our air and clean water. Enbridge Pipeline 5 should be closed. There is no need to put our Great Lakes at risk so that oil companies can profit. Our future needs must be based on renewable energy.

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

A: Our priorities must always be for the working families of this state and to care for people who are struggling to help support their families. We cannot continue to give big tax breaks to corporations while many of our families are struggling to make ends meet. The diversity of the people in this state should be viewed as a real asset and celebrated for the many positive qualities that all people can bring to our communities. We should embrace different thoughts and ideas so that we can all learn and continue to move our state forward.

JAMIE LEWIS, Libertarian



Website: <http://electjamielewis.com/>

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

Twitter: twitter.com/jkl620

Occupation / Current Position: Printer

Education: Attended Western Michigan University

Qualifications / Experience: Lived in the 72nd district for more than 20 years. Have been awarded the Libertarian Party of Michigan's Defender of Liberty award and the Knights of Columbus' Knight of the Year award. Former cubmaster at Southwood Elementary, Former Vice President of the Kentwood Public Schools Parent Advisory Organization.

Questions:

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

A: ROADS Making sure that every dollar dedicated to roads actually goes to road repair. In addition, I want to end needless programs such as all of the state's corporate welfare programs which can be diverted to making sure our roads are in top shape. AUTO INSURANCE Michigan has the highest rates in the country! It's time to repeal No-Fault laws. Are the drivers of Michigan really \$2000/yr. better off than the drivers of North Carolina? TAX REDUCTION Michigan's personal income tax increase 10 years ago was promised to be a "temporary increase", I want to see to it the state keeps that promise.

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: Because parents are best situated to decide what is in their own children's best interests, I support all measures that enhance the educational choices available, such as charter schools, tax credits for private school tuition, on-line schools and home schooling. Foundation allowances should be tied to the student and be able to be used wherever that child is educated. We need to repeal the Blaine Amendments to make private schools an affordable option for everyone. Compulsory attendance and truancy laws should be repealed. Students cannot be forced to learn and can interfere with those who want to learn.

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

A: Michigan needs a serious review of it's occupational licensing laws and reforming this area will be a top priority for me. We all want to see new jobs being created, businesses expanding, and new businesses moving to Michigan. Instead of having politicians decide what the jobs should be, our state should reduce taxes and burdens as much as possible and let the market decide what the jobs will be. Instead of the state handing out favors to big-well connected companies we should cut taxes for the real job creators in the state, the small businesses and improve the business and employment climate for all.

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

A: Campaign finance laws are unwarranted restrictions of free speech and association and should be repealed. They only serve to protect incumbents. I support instant runoff or ranked voting. The only electoral duty of the state government should be providing for fair and efficient conduct of elections. Political parties, like any private voluntary group, should be free from government control and allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures and conventions. All taxpayer-funded subsidies to candidates for public office and political parties, including primaries and conventions, should be eliminated.

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: Like other areas, energy policy in Michigan is an area dominated by crony capitalist using the power of government to line their pockets. Instead of mandating electricity from renewable resources, fossil fuels, nuclear or any other source, I will work to remove special favors, crony capitalist subsidies, protective market carve outs and any other forms of unique help to politically favored industries or market sectors. All producers must compete on a level playing field to ensure the best options for affordable energy for the people of Michigan. Line 5 should be subject to an independent risk assessment study.

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

A: The use of civil asset forfeiture to enforce laws circumvents constitutional protections and should be ended. No one's property should be seized without a conviction. I support the right of defendants to a fully informed jury, which would require judges to instruct jurors of their authority to judge not only the facts, but also the justice of the law according to their own good consciences. Occupational licenses prevent many with a criminal conviction from finding gainful employment after being released. These hurdles should be removed to prevent recidivism. Repeal laws that create victim-less crimes.

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