

Michigan State Representative District 76

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)

AMANDA BRAND, Republican



Website: www.AmandaForGrandRapids.com

Facebook: <http://AmandaForGR>

Occupation / Current Position: Marketing and Community Engagement

Education: A.S.-Radiologic Technology from Grand Rapids Community College, B.S.-

Career and Technical Education from Ferris State University, MBA-focus on Leadership Development from Northwood University

Qualifications / Experience: I have a background in healthcare, education and small business. I serve my community through my work with many of our local nonprofits including; board member at Family Promise of Grand Rapids, mentor at Affinity Mentoring, speaker for Junior Achievement, volunteer for Ele's Place Grand Rapids, Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, Steepletown Neighborhood Services, and All Saints Academy.

Questions:

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

A: My top three priorities are education, continued investment in roads and infrastructure, and treatment programs to fight opioid addiction. Education: I will fight to put more dollars in the classroom. We need to invest in our children and provide them with a high-quality education, including access to skilled trade programs. Roads and Infrastructure: We can see the work being done, and it needs to continue. Opioids: Working in healthcare I personally cared for many people who were struggling with opioid addiction. It's time to address the lack of support programs and ensure our community has the resources it needs.

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: It is critical that our children have the opportunity to receive a high-quality education. Supporting their education starts in early childhood education and continues through their K-12 experience. Ensuring students read by 3rd grade starts in preschool and it is important that every child has access to these programs. Also, as we are looking to prepare our children for the jobs of the future it is necessary to invest in the skilled trade areas. These career paths pay well and don't leave our children with an enormous amount of student loan debt.

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

A: I will support providing resources to individuals that are seeking training in skilled trade programs. These programs typically provide mentoring, support and job placement assistance for students. Graduates of these programs are able to begin working right away in various trade areas throughout Michigan.

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

A: I am brand new to the campaign/political world. I have filed my own Michigan Campaign Finance report and have learned how to follow the laws that govern funding and voting rights.

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: Michigan is a very diverse state in the way of energy and our environment. From solar to wind, biomass, and propane, every form of energy plays a role and meets a need. I have spent a significant amount of time learning, and continue to learn about the regulations and laws governing our state. I believe Michigan needs to continue to have strict environmental rules to protect the Great Lakes. We need to make decisions that do not harm the environment or the people that utilize the energy created.

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

A: I believe my background in education has best prepared me to personally promote social and racial justice by fighting to provide a high-quality education to every child in Michigan. Often jobs and higher education opportunities are given to those that can pass entry exams and then more narrowly granted to the high performers of these examinations. We know that there currently exists a huge disparity in test scores throughout Michigan. I will focus on providing adequate resources and the much-needed support to help every child meet their potential, preparing them for the same opportunities upon graduation.

RACHEL HOOD, Democrat



Website: www.rachelhoodforthehouse.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/RachelHood76/>

Twitter: twitter.com/rachelhood76

Occupation / Current Position: Senior Project Manager for Dig Deep Research Small Business Owner, City Built Brewing

Education: B.S. Social Relations, James Madison College, Michigan State University

Qualifications / Experience: I have direct experience delivering policy solutions for Michigan's toughest issues. This experience uniquely prepares me to help Michigan overcome significant deficits in infrastructure maintenance and renewal.

Questions:

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

A: 1. Great Educations: - Investing in Early Childhood Education - Meeting or Exceeding National Averages in Per Pupil Spending for Michigan's K-12 Schools - Career Technology Investments - College Affordability 2. Access to Economic Opportunity For All - Accelerate Efforts to Secure a Living Wage - Support Small Business Development with an Emphasis on Entrepreneurs who are Minorities and Women 3. Protecting our Great Lakes - Shutdown Line 5 and Explore Alternatives - Improving Septic and Stormwater Management Practices To Protect Water Quality - Renewable Energy and Climate Solutions

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: Michigan needs to re-tool education funding to support equitable and quality educations across the state. Savings achieved through criminal justice reform can and should support investments in early childhood education, technical career training and making college more affordable. Michigan must address teacher recruitment and retention in order achieve improvements in education outcomes for our children.

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

A: As a legislator I will be committed to making sure Michigan's communities successfully compete for world class jobs. Great communities with amenities like successful schools, public transportation systems and thriving neighborhoods attract good companies and create jobs. Economic development initiatives should support proven, local job creators - Michigan's small businesses - who support living wages and make up the backbone of our state's economy. We can build a Michigan we are proud of, where industry leaders and talented workers choose to live, work and play.

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

A: I support Voters Not Politicians. It is a critical initiative to establish a citizens redistricting committee that will eliminate partisan gerrymandering. Voting should be easy for citizens in Michigan and we should eliminate efforts that make it more difficult to vote or to limit qualifying voters for any reason. We should also implement best practices from across the country to enact campaign finance reforms which give more power to citizens and less power to Super PACS and corporations.

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 am an environmental leader delivering climate solutions to my city, region and the state. Michigan needs to increase the DEQ and DNR budgets to protect people and our natural resources. We must protect our public lands and ensure Michigan's biodiversity. Our water resources must be valued in the context of increasing global water scarcity, including investing in groundwater technology and sustainability. Michigan must shut down Line 5, pursue pipeline safety, repair and replacement, paying special attention to pipelines crossing key water bodies. Our future is dependent on transitioning to a clean energy economy.

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

A: Aggressive criminal justice reform is necessary in Michigan. Our current system disproportionately harms people of color and perpetuates intergenerational poverty and trauma. I believe that Michigan's legislature should study and take action around racially biased lending and banking practices. I support the 2009 Environmental Justice plan and encourage full implementation of environmental justice practices. The Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act must be expanded to protect LGBTQ communities and their rights to equal employment and fair housing.

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