

Michigan State Representative District 77

4 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)

TOMMY BRANN, Republican



Website: www.tommybrannmi.com

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

Occupation / Current Position: Restaurateur, Small Business Owner

Education: After graduating from East Grand Rapids High School, I opened my first restaurant, Brann's Steakhouse & Grille on Division Ave. in Wyoming. My restaurant reminds me to never forget my roots.

Qualifications / Experience: President, Division Avenue Business Association; 9 Year Board Member, Michigan Restaurant Association; Advisory Board member, Grand Rapids Community College's Culinary Division; Past Chairman, Wyoming-Kentwood Chamber of Commerce; President, Wyoming Economic Development Corporation; Chair, Godwin Heights Advisory Committee; One-on-One Mentor, Wyoming - Gateway Project Innovator

Questions:

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

A: 1) Fixing our Roads and Bridges by spending your hard-earned tax dollars efficiently and effectively. It is important to have a stable infrastructure to attract good paying jobs to our state and local communities. 2) Increasing Entrepreneurship and Innovation in our Schools so our children have the opportunity to learn how to open their own business and create jobs. Mentorship is also a key part in giving hope to struggling students. 3) Ending Homelessness with a community-focused approach, including access to job training and housing incentives. I will always advocate for those struggling to get ahead in life.

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: Parents deserve to send their children to a school that best fits their child's needs. I support proposals that fund students, not institutions, and give parents more control over their child's education. Students deserve every option and every chance at success. I support expanding career opportunities in the skilled trades for our high school students and post-high school graduates. I will continue to work with the business community to look for opportunities to address the talent deficit in the skilled trades and meet the increasing demand in the work force.

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

A: While Michigan's economy continues to improve, we must remember to keep advocating for families that are struggling. I want to continue the culture of entrepreneurship and innovation that we are seeing here in Michigan, including teaching our students that they have what it takes to be the job creators of the future. I also support a broad-based economic environment that is friendly to job creation and business growth, no matter the size of the business. Good paying jobs will help those who are working to achieve the American Dream, while also boosting our state and local economies.

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

A: I support ensuring fair and secure elections in the state of Michigan, which includes working with our local clerks to improve voter registration systems. I support the campaign finance laws that require candidate committees and political action committees to provide financial information online through the Secretary of State so we can see where money is raised from and how it is spent in our elections.

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 natural resources are why people love to live in Michigan and why our state is such a highly regarded destination for tourism. We must find the right balance between access to Michigan's amazing resources and their preservation for future generations. I support an all-the-above energy policy that provides for safe, reliable, and affordable power for Michigan's residents. I support the agreement that Enbridge must be more transparent with pipeline operations and look to find a long term solution for Line 5 that provides more safeguards for our environment.

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

A: The best way to promote social and racial justice is to ensure that every student in our state has access to a high-quality K-12 education and that citizens have access to good paying jobs. As I have seen at my restaurant, a job gives people hope and a boost to their self-esteem as they become productive members of society. Also in promoting justice, I will guard against policies that chip away at the protections of our unborn children. We should also maintain a culture in which people living with disabilities and the elderly are valued and cared for through all stages of their lives.

DANA KNIGHT, Democrat

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

PATTY MALOWNEY, Libertarian



Website: PattyforLiberty.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/PattyforLiberty

Occupation / Current Position: Editor

Qualifications / Experience: I am an entrepreneur and mother of five. I started my website, JustMommies.com, in 2004. I turned my small home business into a leading authority site in the mom space. My website was acquired by eHarmony in 2008 and later sold it to another media company. I have worked as a media consultant for 10 years. I have also been a landlord and have bought and sold real estate.

Questions:

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

A: Auto insurance: We have tried to introduce no-fault reform in the past. While we may not be able to completely overhaul no-fault insurance, we can make significant changes to make auto insurance more affordable. Roads: I would make sure that funding our roads is a priority. I would address spending that doesn't directly go towards our roads, and improve the quality of the roads going forward. Family Court: Children need both parents in their lives. I would like to see friend of the court eliminated or downsized, and reduce the child support burdens on parents.

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: Educational needs for Michigan children should be decided on a local level and parents should be able to decide how best to educate their children. A parent knows what is best for their children's education whether it be to homeschool, attend private school, charter school, or public school. I'd like to see more options in online schools or tech/trade schools, as well as teaching life skills. In addition, I believe measuring educational outcomes should not be based on test scores or college enrollment alone.

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

A: We need a lower corporate tax and personal income tax in Michigan, not tax breaks to big companies. Small business is the foundation of our economy. Rather than trying to incentivize corporations to "create jobs" by way of tax breaks, I believe we should make Michigan a great state to live and do business in by creating a competitive business climate.

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

A: Imposing spending limits on campaigns restricts free speech. Campaign funding, however, should come from candidates and their supporters, not from taxpayers. All taxpayer-funded subsidies to candidates and political parties should be eliminated. As for voting rights, I support the ballot initiative Promote the Vote which would allow voters to register to vote at any time up to and including election day.

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 do not support mandated energy policies. Consumers should be able to decide how their energy is supplied. There have been a lot of concerns regarding Enbridge Pipeline 5. Understandably, protecting Michigan's Great Lakes is important. The pipeline affects our Michigan economy as it supplies 23 million gallons of oil and natural gas to our state. Although there is a lot of pressure to just shut it down, simply shutting it down doesn't make sense economically. I would like to see an independent inspection of the pipeline and decisions made from that.

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

A: It is not the role of the government to promote social justice, it is the role of the people. However, our courts should be fair and our licensing should be fair. I would like to see all of Michigan's courtrooms transparent, our judges and courtrooms systematically and periodically audited.

BRANDON HOEZEE, U.S. Taxpayers



Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/votebrandonhoezee>

Occupation / Current Position: Sales

Education: B.S. Communication Arts, Kuyper College

Questions:

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

A: I will work to protect life, liberty and property. If elected I will do everything I can to protect the lives of the unborn. I will work to protect your rights from all levels of government. I will work to protect the people from the government stealing their property. I believe that property taxes should be banned in Michigan because it violates people's right to own property.

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 should get the federal government out of education. I oppose common core. I also believe in more local control over education.

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

A: I support getting the government out of the way of the economy. I also oppose corporate subsidies because the government should not try to control the economy.

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

A: We should change our elections to a rank based system. Voters currently feel forced to vote for the Republican or Democratic parties. A system in which we can rank all candidates would free voters to vote for a candidate that would represent them.

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 have common sense environmental laws to protect the people of Michigan and our environment. The pipeline will have to be shut down or replaced in the near future.

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

A: The laws in Michigan should be the same for all U.S. citizens. I oppose laws to benefit some groups of people over the rest.

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