

Michigan State Representative District 78

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)

BRAD PAQUETTE, Republican



Website: www.simplifygovt.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/paquettebrad18

Occupation / Current Position: Teacher at Niles New Tech

Education: Masters in Art of Teaching - Andrews University BA - Northern Michigan University Political Science/Spanish

Qualifications / Experience: Vice-Chair Niles Planning Commission - 2 Years Civics/Government/Spanish Educator - 5 years National Speaker and Leader for Project Based Learning

Questions:

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

A: 1. Education - Empower parents and educators while providing young people with relevant opportunities to build 21st Century Skills. 2. Community/Economic Development - Make Michigan the most competitive state in the midwest by lessening burdens on small business/citizens and the increasing of payments to localities through revenue sharing. 3. Auto Insurance Reform - Bring leadership to the Michigan House of Representatives to hold legislators accountable to the needs of their constituents.

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: Enhanced early childhood programs. Increased CTE and Trade Options. Investment in innovative models for learning such as Project Based Learning and others that involve community integration. The lessening of oversight from Michigan Department of Education. The empowering of educators.

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

A: Enhance infrastructure to make Michigan more competitive. Reform No-Fault Auto Insurance. Support localities in bringing broadband internet to rural areas. Decrease income tax rate from 4.25% to 3%

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

A: Citizens must have legal identification to vote. Campaign funding is fine the way it is for now with the caps from individuals in place.

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: Invest in solar/wind technologies. Allow for consumer choice in electricity market. Provide substantial aide to localities with aging water treatment systems. Recent marring to the pipeline must be repaired and reinforced, this may require the reducing of pressure and or a potential stopping of the pipeline. However, after structural integrity is reestablished and confirmed, the most practical and realistic approach to Enbridge Pipeline 5 is that we must continue the consistent monitoring and maintenance of it. The pipeline provides essential fuel to enhance the quality of life of Michigan's citizens.

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

A: Provide education reform that seeks to integrate schools with community and applies a specific focus on culture. Build community through the empowering of active citizens. Uphold the rule of law. Back the Blue and provide enhanced education programs in jails/prisons that seek to establish discipline in inmates prior to release. Provide incentives for communities that create and foster community fellowship initiatives.

DEAN E HILL, Democrat

Website: DeanHill4StateRep.com

Facebook: <http://Elect Dean E. Hill>

Occupation / Current Position: retired teacher after 44.5 years

Education: B.S from Eastern Michigan University graduate hours from Western Michigan and Andrews University

Qualifications / Experience:

Questions:

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

A: One of my priorities is to see that charter schools operate under the same rules as the public schools. All public schools have school boards and accountability through the citizens who elected them. Charters are a business model that look for a profit using taxpayer money. Taxpayers should not be investing with private educational business firms. Another, is the recycling of plastic bottles and plastic containers. Water bottles, energy drinks and all liquor bottles that are sold should have a deposit. My third priority is to fix the infrastructure and to provide internet to the rural areas. Roads and bridges first

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: One part of improvement is to properly fund the programs for special needs students. If the state mandates a certain testing or program, it should be funded by the state and not have the local district come up with the money. Another program should be the return of "vocational skills" to local high schools. Many jobs in the skilled trades sector are unfilled because the state cut back funding to those programs and focused on the college track. Studies have shown that a large number of young students are not prepared to start school at age 5. Local districts should set up pre-k programs to help those who are in need.

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

A: Jobs are available in Michigan. The state needs high paying jobs to get people out of the minimum wage cycle. Training programs for adults could be created to fill many of the vacancies in CNC, welding and other jobs that are needed in manufacturing. Only about 40% of Michigan residents have a 4 year degree. Studies show that the more education you have, the more you can earn. That does have a draw back because of the student debt that adds up and creates a burden to have that debt paid off. The state could put more money into the colleges and universities to help keep tuition prices down.

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

A: Campaign funding should have a dollar limit. The price to obtain an office has become more like an auction than an election. Candidates have to scramble to find funding to help get their message out. Caucus pacs don't help the public understand the process and should be cleaned up. State senate and representative races should be capped at \$68,000 like the rest of the state races. Voter rights should continue as they are. Although, anyone should be able to file for an absentee ballot and not have to give a reason for wanting one. The state should have a "Voter Holiday" that allows all workers a day off to go and vote.

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: The Enbridge Pipeline needs to be shut down before it causes a problem. It is old and needs to be replaced. The DEQ should be monitoring the pipeline to make sure it does not fail. Future pipelines should not go through any lake The DEQ does a great job of protecting the water, the land and air of Michigan. With almost 3000 miles of shoreline to maintain, money is the issue. The federal government needs to do its share of supporting the state with money and not cutting any programs that have helped the state in the past. Large and small cities need help with aging retention ponds and sewage treatment plants.

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

A: The state and the federal governments have laws to protect all citizens. Unfortunately, not everyone follows the laws. This is where the problem begins and where we as a people need help. The state of Michigan still does not protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in employment and housing. I would support laws to eliminate that injustice. Programs are needed to help people get training to get good paying jobs and adequate housing. We need to focus on equity. That everybody has the same chances and resources to compete on an equal footing. I will pursue however we can make that equity a reality.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan national organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party. Candidate responses are included as submitted and have not been edited except in cases where the replies have exceeded the stated word limitations. **Spelling and Grammar were not corrected.** The inclusion of candidates' statements and opinions is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement by the League of Women Voters which takes no responsibility for any views or facts stated by the candidates.