

## Michigan State Representative District 80

### 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)**

**MARY WHITEFORD, Republican**  
Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

**MARK LUDWIG, Democrat**



**Website:** ludwigforallegan.net

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/LudwigForMI80th/>

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/MarkPLudwig](https://twitter.com/MarkPLudwig)

**Occupation / Current Position:** Maintenance Manager for Abcor Industries in Holland

**Education:** Michigan State - BS 1992 Environmental Issues University Of Wisconsin  
Farm Short Course - 1 year Grass Based Dairy

**Qualifications / Experience:** River Valley School Board (WI) - 1997 -1998 Fennville School Board 2012-2016 Clyde Township Planning 2012-2016

#### Questions:

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

**A:** 1. Rebuild our failing infrastructure to meet 21st century needs. Our roads, bridges, sewer and water systems all need repair. We must accept that climate change is real and build to meet the massive storms of the future. Rural broadband must become a priority. 2. Take a serious look at the long term trends in our labor force and the jobs of the future. Automation is thinning out jobs throughout the workforce in a complex world market. 3. As a long time farmer and Conservation District board member I have much to contribute to the promotion and improvement of our agriculture sector in Allegan County.

**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:** Per pupil funding must be equal for all districts. It is utterly unfair that tax rates from the 90's set funding today. The legislature needs to stop constantly meddling with education policy and bad mouthing teachers. Progress expanding early childhood education should continue. On the university level there is an obvious failure of oversight at Michigan State, it's shocking the trustees have not been fired. Funding has also been an issue as the legislature trimmed their allocations and then cynically complained about tuition rates. Continuing education programs need more attention to address economic change.

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

**A:** I would support a single payer health care system for Michigan instead of waiting for the feds to act. Much as Canada's single payer system started in one province, we can be the leading state. This would give Michigan a unique competitive advantage and unburden both citizens and businesses. Small business and entrepreneurs in particular would be helped. The obscenely common medical bankruptcy will be a thing of the past and the citizens should live healthier lives. A proper climate adaptation program will be a massive job generator and will help prevent damage to our economy due to disasters.

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

**A:** Voting should be easy, efficient and secure. Our current paper based system should be retained and improved. Voter rolls should be kept up to date using modern methods, backed up by a reformed provisional balloting system which allows votes to be counted with confidence. Early and no reason absentee voting should be allowed. Long wait times need to be addressed through investments as necessary.

**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 be on a very rapid transition to green energy now that the cost has basically equalized with fossil fuels. Pollution and greenhouse gas emissions become totally unacceptable in this context. Concerns about reliability can be addressed with modern battery storage, power grid reform and an orderly transition. Energy efficiency programs and conversion of industry away from fossil fuels should be a priority. Line 5 should be shut down ASAP, Michigan gains very little from it. Agriculture should be encouraged to adopt no till methods in order to decrease soil erosion and nutrient run off.

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

**A:** The first step in my opinion is seeing the massiveness of this issue. It has many aspects; history, economic inequality, unconscious biases, a revived overt racism and unequal outcomes in our courts for our minority citizens compared to whites. The segregated lives many white people live leave many of them unprepared to confront this difficult issue. My adopted daughter is black and I have been attending a minority led church for some years. I have had to personally confront these issues and believe these experiences will be helpful in the legislature.

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