

Michigan State Representative District 82

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)

GARY HOWELL, Republican

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

CHRISTOPHER GILES, Democrat



Website: <https://www.electgiles.com/>

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

Twitter: twitter.com/GilesforRep

Occupation / Current Position: Manufacturing / Tooling Maintenance

Education: High School Diploma from Genesee High School, attended college at West Virginia University.

Qualifications / Experience: Co-Chartered Genesee County NOW chapter and served as Administrative Vice President. I've worked in manufacturing for six years, and have seen the difficulties on our state's labor force.

Questions:

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

A: Education I'd focus first on increasing funding to our schools, including guidelines that every school is required to maintain a full support staff and lowering student to teacher ratios. Economic Security Start by repealing right to work, then I'd like to launch a guaranteed jobs program that ensures job training and a well paying job to any individual who comes seeking one. Health Care Fight any efforts to weaken our insurance market and try to expand the medicare program to include as many people as possible, including expanding Michigan to a medicare for all program.

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: I'd focus first on increasing funding to our schools, including guidelines that every school is required to maintain a full support staff and lowering student to teacher ratio. To target improving early childhood I'd push programs that guaranteed universal pre-k to all families in Michigan, as well as make sure latchkey type programs are fully funded and provide a good outcome for the students. After graduation I'd like to emphasis all post-secondary options, including increasing the amount of grant money available to students seeking college education and helping to improve technical and trade schools.

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

A: I think that the way forward to create new jobs in Michigan relies on two areas. Firstly we need to improve the infrastructure in our state, because our crumbling roads, lack of public transit, and outdated broadband capabilities are a major deterrent to companies seeking to expand or relocate to Michigan. Secondly comes back to education, we need a well education and well trained workforce who're ready to take the jobs once they come. Lastly, as a safeguard for our future I'd like to implement a guaranteed jobs program that'll provide job training and employment, providing a stable income to those who need it most.

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

A: There are a couple good solution to help our currently damaged campaign funding situation. The two primary places I'd look for inspiration to would be New York City with their very strong small donation matching programs that help to empower normal everyday citizens to having a larger impact than we currently allow, and Maine's 'Clean Elections' system that could serve as a baseline to implement a publicly funded election system. In regards to voting rights, there are many problems that need to be fixed, largest and most urgent is to end political gerrymandering and create fair and equitable districts. I'd also pursue expanding our early voting access, and ensuring it is equitable among all locations, remove restrictions for absentee ballots, and push for a vote by mail option to be included in future elections. Also because of threats to our voting systems I'd actively seek mandatory election result auditing.

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: Protecting Michigan's environment is a high priority, and that includes launching a study into Pipeline 5 with the possibility of shutting the pipeline firmly on the table pending the results of its structural integrity. As far as pursuing energy policy, I think we need to try and become a leader among our midwest states in going after clean energy, and in particular I think we need to explore the idea of building wind farms on the great lakes.

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

A: I'd like to make sure that we support and reinforce the Civil Rights Commission decision to expand their interpretation of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity. Pending the decision whether to legalize marijuana this election, I also would support to commute the sentences for prisoners of non-violent marijuana crimes.

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.