

Michigan State Representative District 96

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)**

SUSAN KAY KOWALSIKI, Republican

Did Not Respond it Time for Inclusion

BRIAN K ELDER, Democrat

Website: www.elderforrep.com

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

Occupation / Current Position: State Representative and Attorney

Education: BA in History from Wayne State University and law degree from UCLA School of Law

Qualifications / Experience: County Commissioner (2003 -2010), Chairman of the Commission, State Rep. 2017 to present including Assistant Floor Leader and Minority Vice Chair Agriculture Committee

Questions:

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

A: 1. Rebuilding Michigan's crumbling roads and bridges. We need a fair and equitable tax structure and user based method of financing our roads now. Not the approach that Republicans passed a few years ago that does not adequately repair our roads and bridges but taxes working families and not those who should be paying their fair share. 2. Investing in high-quality workforce training programs and put more funding in the classroom for our students. For the recently passed Fiscal Year budget for 2018-2019 over \$1 billion has been taken from the School Aid Fund to prop up other budgets. Need more space for #3

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: First, invest in high-quality workforce training programs and put more funding in the classroom for our students. For the recently passed Fiscal Year budget for 2018-2019 over \$1 billion has been taken from the School Aid Fund to prop up other budgets. We need to return this money to PreK-12 education. Secondly, provide debt-free community college to all qualified Michigan residents. The average Michigan college graduate begins their career with more than \$30,000 in student loan debt. We should cut the cost of higher education by providing full-tuition scholarships to qualified individuals.

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

A: We should provide incentives to businesses but we also must require that they create certified new jobs. The jobs must pay good wages and be full time. And the jobs have to be verifiable. The incentives should be offered by the state or federal government and not at the expense of local governments or the School Aid Fund.

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

A: I support election policies that are not burdensome on voters. We should also allow no reason absentee ballots to anyone who requests one. Campaign funding should be transparent.

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 support renewable energy sources and energy efficiency to reduce energy demand. Enbridge should be held to a high standard of safety that protects our Great Lakes and our state's natural resources.

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

A: I believe everyone should be treated equally under the law and by the courts. Everyone should be entitled to equal pay and job opportunities and promotion.

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