Michigan State Representative District 40
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)

DAVID WOLKINSON, Republican

Website: www.DavidWolkinson.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/wolkinson4mi/
Occupation / Current Position: Business owner, president of Bentzion Properties. Owns and manages portfolio of multi-family apts.
Education: MA, BA University of Michigan J.D. University of Michigan
Qualifications / Experience: Job Creator: Local small business owner of Bentzion Properties. Attorney: Fought for the victims of the Flint Water Crisis. Former executive at America Works, creating jobs for welfare recipients. Former Vice Chair Michigan Republican Party. Former Policy Director for Governor Rick Snyder Political Activist.

Questions:

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

A: 1.) Cut taxes: I believe that we can cut an additional $688 million and eliminate ALL BUSINESS TAXES in Michigan, starting with the Corporate Income Tax. 2.) Prioritize spending on education, roads and public safety: Rather than simply passing a budget every year, based on a slight increase in funding from the previous year, we need to focus our spending by targeting specific outcomes. 3.) Reduce regulatory burden: Michigan has an anti-competitive nature of Michigan's complex regulatory structure. We need to reform or eliminate regulations that inhibit businesses from operating and investing in Michigan.

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 need to be strategic in how we spend our tax dollars on public education. Too often our public dialogue is focused on K-12. While those are obviously critical years in any child's development, we need to adopt a P-20 model which focuses on a child's educational development from pre-school through graduate studies. Studies show that at-risk children particularly benefit from early childhood educational opportunities. Through public-private partnerships we know that we can provide these at-risk children with educational opportunities at a very low cost.

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

A: 60 years ago Metro-Detroit was the richest metropolitan area in the country. By working together, we can and will make Michigan the best place in the world to do business. We can and we will bring jobs back to Michigan and give families the opportunity to live and work right here in Michigan. We must aggressively transform how we provide government services. We need to bring government compensation in line with the private sector. In addition, we need to eliminate the Corporate Income Tax; by doing so it would send a powerful signal throughout the country that Michigan is best place to do business.

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

A: Candidate did not respond to question.

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: Candidate did not respond to question.

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

A: Candidate did not respond to question.

MARI MANOOGIAN, Democrat

Website: www.mariformi.com
Facebook: http://facebook.com/mariformichigan
Twitter: twitter.com/marimanoogian
Occupation / Current Position: Foreign Policy Professional/full-time candidate
Education: BA, International Affairs, Security Policy, Journalism and Mass
  Communications, The George Washington University MA, Global Communication,
  Public Diplomacy, The George Washington University
Qualifications / Experience: Began her career in the offices of Congressman
  John D. Dingell (D-MI), and U.S. Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power. Mari
worked in the Educational and Cultural Affairs and Information Resource Management bureaus at the
U.S. Department of State. Mari worked as a business consultant to the International Olympic
Committee at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Questions:

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

A: First, we need to take the profit motive out of our children's education by fully-funding public schools, in our state, and creating an "off-ramp" so for-profit operators no longer administer charter schools. Second, I will prioritize funding local governments, fulfilling a long-broken promise, so we can fix our roads and fund our health departments. Finally, I want to protect our environment, so we all will have clean air to breathe and clean water to drink, by investing in quality water infrastructure, and staffing the Michigan DEQ with public servants who will give us honest answers about environmental challenges.

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 support fully funding public education from pre-K through 12th grade. To remove the profit-motive from education in Michigan, we should transition charter schools that use for-profit management corporations for administrative purposes to nonprofit operators, and re-examine the validity and cost of all standardized testing at every grade level. I also strongly support expand funding for our world-class public research universities to reduce the burden of tuition costs on Michigan families. Finally, I support expanding programs like Head Start for our youngest learners.

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

A: I support policies that support economic mobility, including policies to create a living wage, narrow the racial and gender pay gap, and combat workforce discrimination. We need to invest in all Michigan families, so young people want to remain in Michigan, and everyone can work and prepare for retirement with dignity. Michiganders deserve to have earned paid sick leave, and paid family leave, so people will be able to do their very best while at work and raise their families. I also support prioritizing Michigan small businesses over large multinational corporations for tax credits.

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

A: I support a non-partisan redistricting commission, so our representation in government truly reflects our interests. I also support no-reason absentee voting and automatic voter registration. Working people who cannot afford to take the day off from work should be able to vote absentee without question. Finally, I strongly support ending the influence of dark money in politics in Michigan. Michiganders deserve to know who is spending money on campaigns and how much is being spent so they can make informed decisions when going to the ballot box.

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 disagree strongly with recent attempts to curtail the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and support increasing resources to the DEQ. This agency is critical to ensuring Michiganders are healthy and safe. We should be relying on scientists and public servants for staffing this rule-making agency, not corporate polluters and CEOs who have a financial interest in how the rules are made. Enbridge Pipeline 5 should be decommissioned, however, it is critical that when these decisions are being discussed, organized labor, community organizations, and environmental advocacy groups have a seat at the table.

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

A: I support criminal justice reform, including removing the profit motive from our correctional facilities, increasing community outreach where our law enforcement are serving, and taking steps to end mass incarceration. The decision to privatize our correctional facilities is one of the gravest mistakes of the Snyder Administration. I also support amending the Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act to include gender identity, so that no Michigander can be discriminated against in the workplace.