

## **Michigan Attorney General**

General Election: November 6, 2018

### **5 Candidates on the ballot**

**Duties:** Attorney General is in charge of prosecuting the laws of the state of Michigan.

**Qualifications:** Candidate for Secretary of State must be a registered voter in Michigan on the date he or she is nominated for the office. He/she may serve a maximum of two full terms.

**Term:** 4 years **Vote for ONE (1).**

### **TOM LEONARD, Republican**



**Website:** [tomleonardforag.com](http://tomleonardforag.com)

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/TomLeonard28/>

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/tomleonard28](https://twitter.com/tomleonard28)

**Occupation / Current Position:** Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives

**Education:** BA, University of Michigan JD, Michigan State University

Questions:

**1. Describe your qualifications and experience for the office of Attorney General and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?**

**A:** I have spent my entire career making Michigan safer and stronger, and I can think of no better place to continue that important work than the office of the attorney general. I served as an assistant prosecutor in Genesee County, putting murderers and drug dealers behind bars. I have also been an assistant attorney general, defending taxpayers from frivolous lawsuits filed by convicted felons. If elected, I will be the first attorney general Michigan has had with previous experience working in the office. That gives me the unique ability to hit the ground running and implement my plan for the office on day one.

**2. What would be your top priorities as Attorney General and what actions would you take to implement them?**

**A:** I have a detailed plan for the office, including an increased focus on fighting violent crime, rooting out sexual predators, and continuing to reform Michigan's broken mental health system. My experience working in the office and my experience working on those issues in Genesee County will allow me to reorganize the department, reallocate resources and manpower and get these new initiatives up and running sooner than anyone else can do it. I am prepared on day one to build new partnerships with local prosecutors and judges on these important issues and begin making a difference.

**3. What recommendations would you make to the Governor and State Legislature regarding the administration of justice and safety in Michigan?**

**A:** We have made important progress on issues like criminal justice reform and mental health reform over the past few years, but there is no such thing as good enough. In particular, many of the recommendations from the House CARES Task Force I created have been passed into law to reform our broken mental health system, but there are still many bills yet being written and reforms being worked out. That progress needs to continue in the next year to make sure we continue to implement the changes that our members heard about from parents, law enforcement and health officials at town halls and forums all across the state.

### **Dana Nessel, Democrat**



**Website:** [www.dana2018.com](http://www.dana2018.com)

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/DanaMIAG2018>

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Democratic Nominee for Attorney General

**Education:** University of Michigan - BA Wayne State University - JD

Questions:

**1. Describe your qualifications and experience for the office of Attorney General and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?**

**A:** I began my career as an Assistant Prosecutor in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office handling the county's most difficult cases. In 2012 I initiated the precedent-setting case DeBoer v. Snyder, which was consolidated into Obergefell v. Hodges in the United States Supreme Court. We won, legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide. I am also the President & Founder of the Fair Michigan Foundation, a task force that investigates and prosecutes hate crimes. I am running to be the People's Attorney in a state that has prioritized corporate interests over the needs of Michigan residents for too long. That ends if I am elected.

**2. What would be your top priorities as Attorney General and what actions would you take to implement them?**

**A:** 1) I will protect our Great Lakes & provide clean water for all. I will close Line 5, fight for justice in Flint in criminal & civil cases, and hold chemical companies accountable for PFAS. 2) I will fight for consumers & seniors. I will prosecute Medicaid fraud, create an auto insurance fraud division, & protect students from aggressive debt collection. 3) I will protect workers and ensure safe workplaces free from discrimination, sexual harassment or environmental hazards. I will take on right to work laws so that all Michiganders have a good paying job with access to affordable health care & a retirement plan.

**3. What recommendations would you make to the Governor and State Legislature regarding the administration of justice and safety in Michigan?**

**A:** My recommendation would be simple, put people first. For the too long, the people of Michigan have gone without a champion in the Attorney General's Office. It is my intent to return the office of the AG to one that works for the people of Michigan and protects working families, and I will do that by being the same fighter as Attorney General that I've been as an attorney for the last 25 years. Michigan needs an AG who fights for working families instead of corporations and special interests, and puts the paychecks of regular people ahead of corporate profits.

## **Lisa Lane Gioia, Libertarian**



**Website:** [lisaforliberty.com](http://lisaforliberty.com)

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/lisaforliberty>

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** small business owner (translation of patent applications and intellectual property law documents)

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts with Distinction, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (1989); The Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies, Yokohama (1990-1991)

Questions:

**1. Describe your qualifications and experience for the office of Attorney General and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?**

**A:** Laws created in Lansing are often partisan, short-term solutions devoid of respect for individual rights and consideration of potential ramifications. The Office of the AG is the last line of defense, also against abuses of government and law enforcement. The Office must be set in a direction of prioritizing thoroughness and objectivity – a goal achievable only by a leader who is not beholden to any level of government nor to any special interests, and who has business experience to eliminate inefficiency, complacency and incompetence rampant in government, and whose intent is to serve, not rule, the public.

**2. What would be your top priorities as Attorney General and what actions would you take to implement them?**

**A:** Top priorities include legalization of cannabis, civil asset forfeiture, occupational licensing, and auto insurance. Further, given the increasing ineptitude of many bureaucrats and the increasing militarization of federal and state law enforcement, the Office must promote a culture of welcoming not only complaints from citizens, but also reports from public servants brave enough to come forward with knowledge of malfeasance in their organizations. The "circle the wagons" approach of fellow officials can no longer be tolerated, and a policy of defending Michiganders against all forms of abuse must be made clear.

**3. What recommendations would you make to the Governor and State Legislature regarding the administration of justice and safety in Michigan?**

**A:** Policies/laws relating to prohibition, especially of cannabis with its proven medical benefits including those to opiate addicts and PTSD sufferers, are being applied in a horrifically disproportionate manner to minorities, and create inescapable cycles of violence in our urban areas. All persons incarcerated for non-violent, marijuana-related crimes should be freed, their rights restored, and the records of previously convicted should be expunged. Legalization would end an untold number of crimes, result in savings in incarceration costs, free-up law enforcement resources, and provide an economic boon to our state.

**GERALD T VanSICKLE, U.S. Taxpayers**

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

**CHRISTOPHER GRAVELINE, No Party Affiliation**



**Website:** <http://cgforag.com>

**Facebook:** <http://ChrisGravelineforMichiganAttorneyGeneral>

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/CG4AG](https://twitter.com/CG4AG)

**Occupation / Current Position:** Candidate for Michigan Attorney General / I had to quit my job as a federal prosecutor to run.

**Education:** MA - International Affairs: Catholic University of America; JD: University of New Hampshire Law School; BA - Liberal Arts: Magdalen College

Questions:

**1. Describe your qualifications and experience for the office of Attorney General and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?**

**A:** For the last five years, I served as the Chief, Violent and Organized Crime Unit, US Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Michigan. I concentrated our office's efforts in reducing homicides and non-fatal shootings in Detroit. By working collaboratively with our local/ state partners, we successfully dropped these crimes by over 30%. Prior to my work as a federal prosecutor, I was a prosecutor in Wayne County and a US Army lawyer. In the Army, I prosecuted the high profile and politically sensitive Abu Ghraib cases. I am running because partisanship should play no role in the work of the AG's office.

**2. What would be your top priorities as Attorney General and what actions would you take to implement them?**

**A:** My top priority is to remove partisan political considerations from the AG's office. I would put an end to the practice of using this office to advance the political parties' policy arguments through lawsuit. I would be vigilant in the hiring process to ensure that we build a strong and competent team with politics playing no role in that process. In terms of the work of the office, I would focus our resources on helping our cities and municipalities in curbing violent crime, the opioid trade, human trafficking, and identity theft. I would shift more resources to aggressively pursue consumer protection enforcement.

**3. What recommendations would you make to the Governor and State Legislature regarding the administration of justice and safety in Michigan?**

**A:** I believe that the AG should focus on enforcing laws that are already enacted as opposed to actively advocating for specific new policies. With that understanding, public safety demands joint action and the ability to communicate and share information. I would recommend to the Governor that we ensure that law enforcement on the local and state level have the necessary systems in place to ensure efficient information sharing. Also, I would encourage the legislature and Governor to consider additional programs and assistance to citizens returning to society from a period of incarceration to aid in that transition.