

## Primary Election: August 7, 2018

# Michigan State Senate District 2

**Candidates: 2 Republicans + 11 Democrats**

**Vote in one political party's primary only.**

**Duties:** The Michigan Senate shares responsibility with the Michigan House of Representatives to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws.

**Qualifications:** State Senators may serve a maximum of two full terms. They must be at least 21 years of age and a registered voter in their district. There are 38 State Senate districts which are re-apportioned after each census.

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

**JOHN HAULER, Republican**  
**Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion**

**LISA PAPAS, Republican**



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

**Facebook:** <http://Lisa Papas for Michigan Senate>

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/lpapas4senate](https://twitter.com/lpapas4senate)

**Occupation / Current Position:** High School and Middle School Teacher

**Education:** Bachelor of Music Education from Wayne State University Minor- Political Science Triple major in Vocal Performance, Organ Performance and Music Education Four Year Talent Scholarship

**Qualifications / Experience:** 8 years teaching in public and charter schools. Management experience in family owned restaurant business. Mother of six children, married 28 years. Founding Director of Annunciation Greek Language School. Volunteer experience as soccer coach and manager, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, breastfeeding and parenting support. High School and Middle School Choir Director.

### Questions:

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

**A:** 1. Education - Eliminate Common Core and constant standardized testing, reduce federal mandates to free up education dollars for the classroom. Change Michigan Graduation requirements to allow high school students more freedom to pursue an individual path. Eliminate schools collecting personal data on our school children. Eliminate teacher evaluation and school evaluation tied to test scores and returning more power to teachers in the classroom. 2. Great Lakes and farms- Protect our precious resources and farmland from pollution. 3. Infrastructure- improve our roads, bridges and sewer infrastructure.

**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:** Eliminate the Common Core Standards that were not designed by educators. Greatly reduce standardized testing, restoring instructional time to classrooms. Stop the current comparison of schools by test scores and teacher evaluation systems tied to test scores and rubrics that force teachers to deliver instruction in a particular method. Change the Michigan Graduation Requirements that force high school students to study the same subjects regardless of interests. Promote CTE education. Hold all public and charter schools that are given tax dollars equally accountable and require an elected school board for both.

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

**A:** Policies that make it easier for small businesses and family farms to compete with large corporations. Low taxes attract business and people to live in Michigan. Changing the educational system is the key to attracting business and jobs. Amazon passed on Detroit because of a lack of educated professionals. Creating an educated populace will do much to spur the economy. Increasing CTE education will increase

the number of skilled people in the building trades. Fixing our roads, bridges and sewer infrastructure will create jobs. Promote organic food and partnerships with Michigan schools, helping our farms.

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

**A:** Voter ID required at polls. Elections should be held on days that are declared holidays so that people can vote easily. Prioritized voting should be allowed for people that have jobs that cannot take a day off, i.e. police, fire, drs, nurses etc.

**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 must create policies that will protect our Great Lakes. Sewer infrastructure is critical. Pipeline 5 needs to either be redone or re-routed to protect the water supply. Citizens in the UP must have a reliable energy source. Getting the best engineers together to come up with energy policies that protect our environment while providing our citizens with reliable energy is critical. Opening up markets in the gas and electric industries so that people are not trapped with bad service with a single provider. Policies that encourage chemical free and organic farming will help our environment and economy.

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

**A:** Eliminating private prisons and reducing the number of non-violent offenses that are placing too many of our citizens in prison, creating a drag on the welfare system, and breaking up families. Policies that promote rehabilitation for smaller offenses, saving our prisons for serious offenders. Changing drug laws that disproportionately affect minorities. Rehabilitation for drug use, instead of incarceration. Change auto insurance laws so that everyone can afford car insurance.

## ABRAHAM AIYASH, Democrat



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

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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Board of Directors - People's Community Services  
Consultant - Halimah Project

**Education:** Hamtramck Public Schools Michigan State University; Political Theory & Constitutional Democracy and Pre Medical Sciences

**Qualifications / Experience:** I am the only candidate in the race that has experience in grassroots organizing, local and state government, and non-profits. I was the youngest person to serve on a city commission in Hamtramck, where I built a recycling program in Hamtramck Public Schools. I've worked for State Rep Robinson, engaging the diverse district with our office to take on corporate polluters.

### Questions:

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

**A:** 1. Education Reform: I will fight to increase funding for schools by protecting the School Aid fund from being siphoned for non-K12 expenses. We must also hold charter schools to the same standards as public schools and phase out for-profit charters. 2. Environmental Protections: We need to get serious about protecting our land, air, and water. I support creating a Department of Great Lakes to focus on caring for our water sources. 3. Gov't transparency: Lobbyists have made Lansing a game only they can afford to play in. I'll lead efforts to increase transparency in Lansing and hold our officials accountable.

**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:** A child's mind is primed for learning when they're young - that's why I will push for universal pre-K programs. Beyond that, our state must work on the following: increase per-pupil funding by making the super rich pay their fair share. Provide wrap-around services for students (counselors, healthy meals, transportation, nurses, etc) so they have the optimal environment to learn & grow. Expand skilled trades programs and include 'financial literacy' as a math option in high schools. I support efforts to make college tuition-free for families making less than \$150k to ensure everyone has access to opportunity.

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

**A:** I support raising the minimum wage to \$15. Our state offered Amazon a \$4billion tax break to come to Michigan. Rather than invest our tax dollars in corporate welfare, we should use it to build up our small businesses. We need to invest in entrepreneurs from communities that are overlooked, especially women and communities of color. I support protecting prevailing wage and the repeal of union-busting Right to Work legislation. Finally, I'll work to create a 'Trades-to-Paid' program that establishes a pipeline that guarantees folks jobs when they finish trade school to meet our demands of high skilled labor.

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

**A:** I am the only candidate in the race who's openly pledged to not take corporate PAC money. I support the repeal of "Citizens United on Steroids" that allows unlimited dark money into our politics. As State Senator, I will directly release my campaign finance reports to my constituents to ensure complete transparency and accountability. I believe all state legislators should comply with personal financial disclosures. Finally, I believe lobbyists must report their expenditure reports daily so we know who they're trying to influence. I have endorsed & fully support Promote the Vote's efforts to expand voting rights.

**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:** Our state must invest in more green energy generation. This will not only create jobs, but future proof our economy in the long run. To do this, we must take steps to shut down the Enbridge pipeline; it's a hazard to our most valuable resource. We must also put an end to fracking and invest in solar and wind farms for a more sustainable energy source. We need more citizen oversight with the MDEQ to ensure that they protect people & not corporate profits. Michigan is home to 84% of America's freshwater - water shutoffs or poisoned tap water are inexcusable. That is why I support water access as a fundamental right.

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

**A:** Our criminal justice system is at best - broken and at worst - inhumane. As someone who's dedicated his life to promote inclusion and diversity, I know that we have work to do. I support expungement of marijuana related crimes. I will support 'Ban the Box' legislation to give returning citizens a right to a second chance. I believe we need to do away with mandatory minimum sentencing to ensure that our criminal justice system focuses on correction and reform and not just punishment. We need to amend the Elliot-Larsen act to include LGBTQ protections. Finally, we have to protect women's rights in Michigan.

## **BRIAN BANKS, Democrat**



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

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

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/Banks4Senate](https://twitter.com/Banks4Senate)

**Occupation / Current Position:** Governmental Consultant

**Education:** - PhD Candidate, Walden University - Juris Doctorate, MSU College of Law - Masters of Education, Wayne State University - Bachelor of Science, Wayne State University - Product of Detroit Public School

**Qualifications / Experience:** - Former State Representative, District 1 - Former Third Grade Teacher & Adjunct Professor - Past Chair, Detroit Caucus of Michigan Legislature - Past Secretary, Michigan Legislative Black Caucus - Community Activist & Organizer

### Questions:

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

**A:** 1. Auto Insurance- I will work to lower insurance rates without reducing coverage. Insurance companies should be prevented from using non driving factors such as zip codes & credit scores to determine rates. 2. Seniors- I will expand state services for our senior citizens and eliminate the senior pension tax. Many seniors live on a fixed income & should not be forced to choose between medication & food. 3. Education- I want to increase K-12 funding for public schools & ensure tax dollars go to public education, not private corporations. I will fight for smaller classroom sizes with resources for at-risk students.

**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 increased state funding for education as a whole. Additionally, I support looking at alternative ways to fund education instead of using property values. Students should not be penalized because of where their parents can or can not live. I would also like to see expanded wrap around services to assist those students who may need additional help with their classwork. I also support looking for methods to lower tuition or provide additional assistance to students attending a community college, technical school or university in Michigan.

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

**A:** I support lower taxes for individuals and working families. For too long the state has given tax breaks to large corporations and forgotten about families. I also support fully funding Career Technical Education and Vocational training, as well as, free community college. I support an increased minimum wage to ensure an employee working a full week does not need to rely on government assistance.

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

**A:** I support 24 hour campaign contribution reporting. The public should know who your donors are in a very timely manner. I support putting stronger caps on campaign contribution limits. Additionally, I support no reason absentee voting, and same day voter registration. I also support greater transparency for contributions to political action committees and 527 organizations.

**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 expanding the use of renewable energy. I would like to see the state create incentives to encourage individual homeowners to use this technology. I also support legislation to protect our great lakes. I will look for ways to stop the spread of invasive species such as Asian carp and phragmites.

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

**A:** While serving in the House, I introduced legislation that would have modified how jury pools are created which would have ensured more diverse juries. I would reintroduce this legislation, as well as, promote policies that advance and support those who are disenfranchised. I would pursue tougher anti-discrimination laws and work to promote equality for all. I will pursue efforts to bridge the gap between law enforcement and communities. Additionally, I support equal pay for equal work for women and would work to support women's issues.

**TOMMY CAMPBELL, Democrat**

**Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion**

**GEORGE CUSHINGBERRY Jr, Democrat**

**Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion**

**LAWRENCE E GANNAN, Democrat**



**Website:** TBD

**Facebook:** <http://TBD>

**Occupation / Current Position:** Consultant

**Education:** Bachelor of Science, (with honors) Michigan State University

**Qualifications / Experience:** 40yrs Business Operations, Community Organizing, Community Leadership, civic involvement

**Questions:**

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

**A:** Highways: roads and infra structure, Establishing priorities and ways and means to accomplish the task  
Veterans Rights: adequate, supportive services, up to date medical treatment  
Education: Support for Schools, Teachers and Students. provide better mental health screening and assistance.

**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:** As stated above, instituting better mental health measures, ensuring physical structures are safe and up to date. Instituting programs to provide equal opportunity for all. Raising the level of vocational skill equal to college prep level.

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

**A:** Promoting Small business development, in conjunction with the Small Business Administration. Creating enticing environment for people to want to return to Michigan. Community encenticments i.e. tuition support on graduated scale for moving into the district. tax incentives.

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

**A:** Voting Right: Constitution guarantees every U.S. citizen age 18 or older the right to vote. The vote is basic to our democracy, and depends on all people, having full and equal access to the ballot. Michigan's law states cities, townships and villages are to provide a reasonable number of accessible registration facilities. Its without a doubt it must upheld that equal opportunity regardless of any impairment or disability all citizen vote. Campaign Funding: I support Michigan current ruling about disclosure and accountability. Source off all funds should be open and fully disclosed

**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:** the 60 year old pipeline although recognizing that no incident occurred has the DEQ disquieted due to last years reports that no gaps in coatings where present. This year there are 45 gaps in coatings and DEQ is well with in its right to require reports that will ask that the same high standards that were granted in the easement will be re-established. Needless to say should a breach occur it would be of catastrophic proportions

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

**A:** Equal opportunity, regardless of social, economical income. Creating opportunities for citizens to succeed. Reestablish through state agencies civil rights complaint process eliminate by Education Secretary Devos, reaffirming that forgoing a moral compass does not justify an argument for efficiency.

## ADAM HOLLIER, Democrat



**Website:** Adamhollier.com

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/vote4adamhollier>

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/adamant4detroit](https://twitter.com/adamant4detroit)

**Occupation / Current Position:** Director of Government and Community Relations at the Michigan Fitness Foundation

**Education:** Masters of Urban Planning University of Michigan, Bachelors of Science Cornell University

**Qualifications / Experience:** 1LT US Army Reserve, VP Hantz Woodlands, Senior Project Manager Thomas Group, Legislative Liaison to the City Council, Chief of Staff MI Senate /Led negotiations for the Regional Transit Authority, Co-led team that created the Public Lighting Authority. More info can be found at <http://www.adamhollier.com/about-adam/>

### Questions:

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

**A:** 1. Education has always been the path to a better life, we have to get back to building a generation of thinkers, builders, planners, and dreamers. We need an education system that develops young creative

intellectually curious children into entrepreneurs, skilled tradespeople, leaders. 2. We must better fund public safety, clear blight from neighborhoods and ensure every block has working streetlights. During my career in public service, I helped create the Public Lighting Authority that has installed 65,000 new LED lights. 3. Finish the work I began with the Regional Transit Authority by fully funding it.

**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:** Universal free Pre-K beginning at age 1. The average cost of Day Care in the State of Michigan is roughly \$10,000 and more than the average per pupil allocation per student. We have got to spend more money on students and ensure those dollars are directed to instruction. We have to pay teachers more to ensure they can support their own families. Building upon increased access to early childhood ed we must further add skilled trades to middle schools and bring parity to skilled trades as post secondary education. All Michiganders should have the option of free 4-year college by serving 4 years in state service.

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

**A:** I am going to work aggressively with organized labor and the business community to get more citizens of the 2nd Senate District working. I will strongly support the reinvestment in our infrastructure to include roads, bridges, water and sewer, along with our electrical grid. These projects will support good jobs for Michiganders and lay the foundation for continued investment in our communities. I will also support fair pay and an appropriate maternity leave for women. Lastly, we need to build on our economic strengths in manufacturing, tourism, the creative arts, and agriculture.

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

**A:** 1) Online Voter Registration 2) Share voter rolls between local clerks 3) Cut wait times 4) More Early voting 5) Hold elections in schools 6) Update voting machines 7) Tabular audit posted after every election 8) Eliminate blocks between SOS data & clerks voter file 9) Promote high quality training for elections officials – particularly full-time staff 10) Line walkers to help the process before voters get to the front 11) Make all efforts to improve the voting process for Uniformed an Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act voters 12) Recruit new poll workers 13) Train Poll workers 14) Create accessible polls

**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 pledge to protect, preserve and enhance the quality of our fresh water reserves. Dredging, drilling, the presence of invasive species, encumbrances of pipeline into our basins all threaten the vitality and health of our state and the surrounding midwestern states by extension. I will advocate for common sense practices and seek to make Michigan a national leader on public use and peaceful enjoyment of our land, air and waterways. I am prepared to do my part by pursuing policy that promotes clean energy and an independence from fossil fuels, coal and other draconian forms of energy generation.

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

**A:** There are many issues in this area of advocacy and policymaking that I am passionate about. Access to high quality education for all children and adults, equal pay for women, paid sick time, protected maternity and paternity leave time and expungement of criminal records on marijuana convictions top my list. We must also take an expanded view on protecting those in the LGBTQ Community. Any injustice that affects one Michigander ultimately affects us all.

**LaMAR LEMMONS, Democrat**  
**Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion**

**ANAM MIAH, Democrat**  
**Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion**

**JOHN OLUMBA, Democrat**  
**Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion**

**WILLIAM PHIPPLIPS, Democrat**  
**Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion**

**REGINA WILLIAMS, Democrat**



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

**Facebook:** <http://votereginawilliams>

**Occupation / Current Position:** Regina Williams is an educator for the Detroit Public School Community District.

**Education:** Regina earned a B. A. in Biology and a teaching certificate from Wayne State University in 1990 and a Master's degree in Secondary Education in 1996. She has taken several courses towards an E. d. D.

**Qualifications / Experience:** Regina Williams is a 22 year career educator who serves her community as a member of the Harper Woods School Board. She was elected for two consecutive terms and is in her second year serving as the President. Now in her sixth year serving on the board, she has served as trustee, treasurer, vice president, and is the first African-American President. She was also a 1st Lt. in the military.

**Questions:**

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

**A:** My top three priorities are: improving the quality of education for all children, lowering the cost of car insurance, and advocating for more jobs and job training for skilled labor to increase Michigan's economy. All students are entitled to a quality education in an effective educational system. Policy should include more funding for career technical programs and local businesses should provide more support to schools. I also support lowering car insurance rates so that it is consistent across regions. Finally, Michigan must invest in the citizens with skilled trade jobs and support for job training.

**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:** In order to increase educational outcomes, additional funding is needed. The state should not cut funding for education but include funding to support initiatives and resources that aim at improving the quality of education for students. Funding should be provided to improve school buildings and provide teachers with the necessary resources to perform effectively. A quality education is important for the future of our children and should always be kept in the forefront of legislative policy.

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

**A:** I believe the state should help support small businesses that help to create more jobs and opportunities for citizens in the community. More investment and training should be given for skills trade jobs that are vastly needed by many job markets in Michigan. Fair living wages is also a major concern. I will support raising the minimum wage so that individuals can better afford to support themselves and their families.

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

**A:** The voting process must be secure, and reliable to ensure that every vote is properly counted so that individuals can exercise his or her right to vote. I support the rights of voters to be able to vote free from intimidation and be treated with respect and courtesy at polling stations.

**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:** The quality of the water, air and land not only affects our living environment but also affects our health. I will support policies enacted that set guidelines that carefully regulate industries in order to protect the environment. Some companies can use renewable fuels which may be more cost effective. The

state should support companies that use alternatives that are sustainable. Sometimes damage may occur such as with the Enbridge Pipeline 5 or equipment may become outdated. Companies must be quick to respond and should conduct studies to make sure the harmful pollutants have been removed from the environment.

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

**A:** Justice is for all so there must be an equitable and fair justice system. I will support policies to ensure that individuals, who have been underserved, are treated fairly in the justice system, which may include retraining of law officials, sensitivity training and community outreach programs. I often hear about unfair practices in the community. All people regardless of their race or socioeconomic background deserve to be treated with respect and receive fair and equitable treatment. Freedom, Truth, Justice, and Equality are rights for all people that I will strongly support as your next State Senator.

## Michigan State Senate District 2 - Partial term

Candidates: 7 Democrats

Partial Term ends January 2, 2019. VOTE for ONE (1).

**ABRAHAM AIYASH, Democrat**

See Response above for the State Senate District 2 Full Term

**BRIAN BANKS, Democrat**

See Response above for the State Senate District 2 Full Term

**GEORGE CUSHINGBERRY Jr, Democrat**

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

**ADAM HOLLIER, Democrat**

See Response above for the State Senate District 2 Full Term

**LaMAR LEMMONS, Democrat**

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

**JOHN OLUMBA, Democrat**

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

**JOE RICCI, Democrat**

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

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