

Primary Election: August 7, 2018
Michigan State Senate District 7
Candidates: 1 Republican + 2 Democrats + 1 Libertarian
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)

LAURA COX, Republican

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

DAYNA POLEHANKI, Democrat



Website: daynaforsenate.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/DaynaForSenate

Occupation / Current Position: 12th grade English teacher/Data Coordinator at New Haven High School in New Haven, MI.

Education: School Administrator Certification - MASSP; M.A.T. - Marygrove College; B.S. - Central Michigan University; Teacher Certification - Alma College

Qualifications / Experience: 2018 Teacher of the Year, New Haven Community Schools; former Building Representative for the New Haven Education Association (MEA Local 1); one of two recipients of the 2017 Michigan Schools and Government Credit Union Educator Advantage Scholarship; owner of Detroit Casting Company; Casting Society of America Member.

Questions:

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

A: As state senator of Michigan's 7th District, which encompasses Livonia, Canton, Plymouth, Northville, and Wayne, my top 3 legislative priorities will be to (1) Support public education in Michigan by fully funding our K-12 schools, removing the profit motive in education, and making college affordable for working families; (2) Give our seniors the care and secure retirement they've rightly earned by reversing the pension tax and protecting Medicare and Medicaid; and (3) Ensure that all Michiganders have access to quality affordable health care by expanding coverage and lowering costs, starting with prescription drugs.

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: School finance determines the quality and quantity of instruction. We must heed the call of the bipartisan Michigan School Finance Research Collaborative's Adequacy Study that recommends an increase in per pupil base funding and getting rid of a "one-size-fits-all" funding formula in place of one that takes into consideration the unique needs of all students. I support universal preschool, removing the for-profit motive in education, restricting the use of School Aid Fund dollars for PK-12 only, making college affordable by adequately funding it, and promoting career tech/skilled trades in our schools and communities.

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

A: I support promoting Buy Local/Buy Michigan requirements to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used to create local jobs for local workers; I support ending corporate trade deals/tax breaks that reward wealthy corporations for sending Michigan jobs overseas; I support promoting quality post-secondary education by learning a skill through union apprenticeship programs, attending a community college, or attending a university; I support raising the minimum wage, which will raise living standards and grow the middle class; I support our right to organize and collectively bargain; and I support equal pay for equal work.

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

A: Regarding campaign funding, I believe that we should ban secret political nonprofits, require all in-state PACs to publicly disclose all political contributions online, and repeal the law that allows unlimited spending on political campaigns. Regarding voting rights, we must ban partisan gerrymandering, which takes away voters' freedom to choose their own elected officials, and we must making voting more accessible, secure, and fair by allowing no-reason absentee voting, early voting, and online voter registration.

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 next generation of power will consist of renewable energy sources; Michiganders want "clean energy," and renewable sources are the cleanest available. To this end, I support requiring Michigan's utility companies to invest in additional renewable energy and achieve increases in energy efficiency. We must fix our broken water infrastructure using Michigan's well-trained workers and preserve our water by protecting our Great Lakes from corporate abuse. I support shutting down Line 5 as a spill in the Mackinac Straits could pollute up to 720 miles of shoreline along Lake Huron and Lake Michigan within a day.

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

A: I will pursue policies that provide equal protection under the law for LGBTQ persons; policies that will restore trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve; policies that will reform our prison system and focus on treatment for nonviolent offenders, like mental health courts and sobriety courts; policies that will close the pay gap for women and minorities; policies that provide equal access for people with disabilities; policies that will strengthen our unions and rebuild our middle class; and policies that put people over profits.

GHUTAM QADIR, Democrat



Website: <http://drqadir.com/>

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

Twitter: twitter.com/DrQForSenate

Occupation / Current Position: Psychiatrist / CEO of Apex Behavioral Health Dearborn

Education: Doctor of Medicine, Nishtar Medical College, Pakistan

Qualifications / Experience: - Current CEO of Apex Behavioral Health Dearborn - Former chief of psychiatry at Oakwood Healthcare System - Vice chairman of the Controlled Substances Advisory Commission for the state of Michigan for four years. - Participated in the passage of the Michigan Patient Bill of Rights. - Instrumental in removal of punitive provisions in the Michigan Mental Health Code.

Questions:

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

A: Reforming healthcare: - Advocate for more funding for mental health services - Decriminalization of people suffering from mental illness and substance abuse - Invest in programs to address the opioid crisis
Educating for life: - Invest in preschool education. - Gun reform is needed. - Create safe and healthy learning environments by addressing poverty, investing in school based mental health programs, providing learning about nutrition, and have smaller class sizes. Investing in infrastructure: - Repair the roads - Support a better contractor bid process - Make contractors bear the burden of quality work

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 will support creating a comprehensive strategic plan that leads to high performance outcomes. - Invest in preschool education so kids are ready to learn when they enter Kindergarten. - Create safe and healthy learning environments by: 1) addressing poverty by providing food, clothing and aid to needy 2) investing in school based mental health program, and 3) providing learning about nutritional programs - provide more support for the students that need more help - design and implement priority reform strategies such as early literacy, teacher preparations, college and career pathways

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

A: - Attract new business to the State by keeping and attracting talent - Keep our dreamers and their talents here and welcome diversity - Build strong infrastructure (e.g: fix road/bridges, high-speed fixed broadband internet service, transit systems) using local talent to attract business - Create new businesses through innovation by collaborating with universities and innovation centers. - Make education affordable, encouraging graduates to stay in Michigan - Invest in people's education instead of giving away corporate tax incentives

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

A: - Secure voting systems to protect from domestic and international interference (Election Security) - Provide all registered voters access to absentee ballot for any reason - Ensure military service members and overseas voters get their ballots in time for their votes to count - Ensuring the accuracy and integrity of elections by auditing election results - Automatically register citizens to vote at the Secretary of State office unless they decline - Support reforming campaign finance laws so that transparency and accountability is restored to the election process

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: - Decommission Enbridge Pipeline 5 until the risks can be addressed, the pipeline deemed safe, and our waterways can be protected. - Enforce water EPA protections and create harsh penalties for companies in violations. - Prevent untreated or partially treated sewerage from flowing into our lakes or rivers - Address water quality through transparent reporting and replacing aging systems with safer pipes and infrastructure - Support renewable energy efforts and encourage green energy businesses - Create legislation to improve air quality for all; especially the minority groups who are most affected by health conditions (e.g.: asthma, COPD, lung cancer). Michigan's air quality is among the worst in the nation and protections need to be established. Reducing air pollution is economic justice. - Ban fracking because it contaminates our water and air - Protect the Great Lakes from invasive species through an international coalition

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

A: - Advocate for more funding for mental health services - Decriminalization of people suffering from mental illness and substance abuse 1. Decriminalization of people suffering from mental illness and substance abuse. 2. Institute "color blind" justice, so that everyone's punishment is set without regard to color, and race 3. Stop privatization of the prison system. 4. Invest in programs to address the Opioid crisis 5. Advocate for a 'Communities of Opportunity' model of social justice to address housing disparity and racial segregation into distressed communities

JOSEPH H LeBLANC, Libertarian



Website: <https://www.facebook.com/LeBlancforMISenate7>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/LeBlancforMISenate7>

Occupation / Current Position: Business Owner in Canton MI.

Education: Livonia Public Schools. Schoolcraft College. Life.

Qualifications / Experience: I have founded, and operate 2 local businesses that employ local people. One is a technology business and the other promotes local events to the entire country. I know how to run a business and treat customers. Being a taxpayer, I understand the burden that taxes place on our hardworking families, and businesses.

Questions:

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

A: Reform Auto No-Fault. Lansing does not know what coverage is best for you and your family. Reform to allow YOU to pick what is best for YOU. Cut regulations and taxes. If you are a hardworking Michigan resident, let me work to get Lansing off your back and out of your pocketbook. Fix our roads. Stop for a moment and add up all you are paying in taxes on gas, license plate fees, sales taxes when you buy or lease your car, and then tell me, no, it is not enough, tax me more to do the same things we have been doing. While we are at, let us make Lansing a part time job. Not a full time career for politicians

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, parents have to engage and teach their children. Now, 2nd, we can discuss schools. MLIVE.COM in February 2017 says: "On average, Michigan school districts spent \$9,996 per student in 2015-16" Let us do some math, if we have 30 students in classroom, $30 \times \$9996 = \$299,880$. Are you honestly telling me we can not educate a room of grade school students for almost \$300,000? Let's follow the money and stop the problem, the problem is not the teacher in the classroom.

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

A: Lower taxes. Less regulations. If government gets out of the way and out of our pocketbooks, there is no limit to what Americans and especially Michiganders can accomplish!

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

A: My campaign is self funded. How may candidates can claim that? Did you know that is likely that over \$750,000 will be spent just for the MI Senate district 7 race alone? Can you spell corruption? Perhaps every candidate should have to spend only their own money. Money appears to buy influence. Before you think that choosing a Republican or Democrat is your only option, please know there is a different solution.

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: Why was Chicago allowed to take Great Lakes watershed water and send it to the Mississippi watershed? Why is Nestle allowed to pull Michigan water at a rate reported to be over 1 million gallons a day for \$200 a year to Lansing. Is the fox guarding the hen house? I am not for government regulations but sometimes things just do not make sense.

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

A: Google defines Social Justice as: "justice in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society" I prefer to believe in the good old fashioned American Way, pursue an education, work hard, and provide for yourself, your family, and do as God would desire you to do for your neighbor. When we allow the government to promote the distribution of wealth to those who did not produce, we all fail. The producer fails because he has had his wealth taken from him, and the recipient fails for he knows not the value of what it took to create. I am a Christian, I aim to serve God, not Lansing

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