

**Primary Election: August 7, 2018**  
**Michigan State Senate District 17**  
**Candidates: 1 Republican + 1 Democrat + 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)**

**DALE W ZORN, Republican**  
 Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

**BILL LaVOY, Democrat**  
 Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

**CHAD McNAMARA, Libertarian**



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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** MPA Graduate Student at Grand Valley State University

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Public Administration, Grand Valley State University (2015)

**Qualifications / Experience:** I had the honor of serving on the 2012-2013 GVSU Student Senate, lending a hand in tackling issues pertinent to the student body. I have extensive experience in party politics, having been elected and served as a 2016 GOP precinct delegate in Monroe County. A lifelong Michigander of 25 years, my education and past experiences have culminated into a desire to make an entrance into public service.

**Questions:**

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

**A:** 1) Small Business Regulation Reduction: I believe that Michigan's smaller businesses deserve the best opportunities to compete in the marketplace. My priority here is lessening barriers to marketplace entry. By including more players in the market, consumers are given increased choice and quality. 2) Taxation: Our lives have been swallowed-up in taxation, and Michigan taxpayers need relief. I will propose an elimination of the state income tax, alcohol tax and real estate transfer tax. 3) 'Good Governance' Reform: I will propose a part-time legislature, campaign finance reform and reform of the emergency manager law.

**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:** For the past decade, educational funding and achievement have been issues in Michigan. Policy proposals have been tirelessly debated time and time again, yet progress is always halted along the way. I'm a staunch supporter that we ought to move in the direction of a K12 and Higher Education funding system that puts results and performance at the top of the criteria list. While our schools are indeed a function of state governments, I support counties, local school districts and intermediate school districts in having the most say in their curriculum whenever possible. I also favor the expansion of charter schools.

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

**A:** Whether it's to increase jobs or help individuals get a better economic standing, the focus here is financial capital. When individuals have more of it, they can spend or invest it, stimulating the economy. When business owners have more of it, they can spend and make business investments. Government is inadequate here and should not be in the role of job creation - this is a private sector function. Therefore, as outlined in my priorities, I support adopting policies that get government out of the way entirely. This includes eliminating personal and business taxes, and ending costly, overbearing regulations.

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

**A:** To have a vibrant democratic-republic, government needs to ensure that it is making it as seamless as possible for American citizens to vote. I plan to propose a no-reason absentee voting system, and the adoption of early voting for November general elections to aid in this goal. Furthermore, I subscribe to the unique notion that ensuring a vote 'counts' is a voting right. Considering this, I plan to work with the Secretary of State to switch Michigan elections to a 'ranked choice' voting system.

**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:** If we are to adopt energy policies for the sake of future generations, then it is imperative that we look for innovative solutions to meet our energy needs to serve those future generations. My main priority here is making early investments in alternative energy, such as in wind and solar-powered fuel systems. While I would like to see government take a back seat on this issue and allow the private sector to take the lead, my aim is to create an environment for a competitive, thriving marketplace that offers both traditional and alternative energy for consumers to choose from.

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

**A:** Social and racial justice have taken the front seat as hot-button issues in American politics. My main priority as it pertains to Michigan is ending nonsensical discrimination in both public and private sectors. Blatant discrimination against any one person, for any reason, is unacceptable and should not be tolerated. Michigan is one of a handful of states that still allows an individual to be discriminated against for sexual orientation or being transgender. This type of discrimination, as is any, is an affront to democratic values and should be eliminated for a more equitable society and workforce.

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