

Primary Election: August 7, 2018
Michigan State Senate District 18
Candidates: 1 Republican + 4 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)

MARTIN CHURCH, Republican



Website: None

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/120132145515342/>

Occupation / Current Position: IT Specialist - Desktop Support Level 2

Education: Graduated from Taylor Center Class of 76; College Wayne County Community College 78; Spring Arbor University 95 – Bachelor's degree Family Life Education; Regis University 2017 – Master of Information

Qualifications / Experience: Michigan Taxpayer

Questions:

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

A: 1 Michigan Taxes and a balanced budget = The right of the taxpayer to keep and be informed of where their money is being spent is the number one issue in this state. We must have full accountability of what is spent and what we are billing our tax payers for. There must be a ROI report spelling out where and why we are spending money. 2 Income sharing. The local communities were told they would have a certain level of income sharing. This funding must be returned to the local community and not spent on state projects. 3 Infrastructure. Our infrastructure of need to be updated without increasing taxes

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: 1 We need to return the education back to the family and the local community. We need to take advantage of new technology, eliminate snow days, move to a year-round education program which will allow the student to achieve educational opportunities at their speed. 2. Move students to internships, apprenticeships and allow them to start their own businesses. Closer relationships with trade schools for those not interested in college

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

A: a. Increasing jobs will occur when we have the available workers. This begins with proper trade and college relationships. Stop educating with 1940 techniques. We need to educate parents on the importance of education and provide them with the tools.

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

A: a. Let start by listening to the voters. It should cost nothing to run for office and if we were to eliminate the parties or force them to pay for their elections. So I favor changing the law and writing the parties out of the picture. Eliminate the primary (These are party elections) system, One election winner take all. b. At the same time we need to protect elections from those who seek to destroy the system. This includes purging the voter rolls of the dead, checking voters are still living were they are register. And have a paper trail so we can verify the computer-generated numbers.

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: a. It seems like every time we turn around someone has a new threat or new regulation concerning the environment. When it comes to energy we need to take advantage of all resources, this includes nuclear, solar, wind and fossil fuels. We also need to hold the owners of transmission lines such as Pipeline 5 accountable for their condition and operation. Without these lines our fuel prices will continue to rise till we can not longer afford to use these resources

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

A: All men and Women are created in the image of God. They have been endowed with certain gifts and abilities. When we talk about Social and Racial justice we tend to undermine the ability of our citizens to prosper. Some have sought for the government to address our relationship by law which is more properly done by our faith communities. We need to stop looking at disagreements as being based in hate and start to discuss the truth vs the perceived truth. This includes returning to the idea we has citizens can achieve anything with our faith in God, Family and ourselves. its our hearts which need to be changed.

MICHELLE DEATRICK, Democrat



Website: www.voteMichelle.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/VoteDeatrick

Occupation / Current Position: Vice Chair, Washtenaw County Commission, serving on six committees; Writing Instructor; Poet

Education: BA, Wesleyan Univ., English. Masters, Harvard Univ., Education Policy. Masters, Fiction Writing, University of Michigan. Graduate studies (ABD), Stanford Univ., Education Policy & Political Science.

Qualifications / Experience: A former Peace Corps Volunteer, Michelle is an educator, award-winning poet, and Vice Chair of the Washtenaw County Commission. As a policy analyst at Stanford, she researched how to improve classroom environments. Michelle is a longtime environmentalist and social justice activist, leading the Ypsi March Against Trump and both Ann Arbor Women's Marches—and mentoring new activists.

Questions:

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

A: My vision for Michigan: 1) create a vibrant public education system from pre-K to college—increased funding, an end to funding charter schools with public money, and fair teacher compensation; 2) protect our environment: clean air, water, soil as fundamental human rights; Line 5 shut down; a ban on fracking; a transition to a green economy; 3) champion an equitable society with an economy that works for all, not just the wealthy few: a progressive income tax; universal health care; increased minimum wage; creation of good-paying local jobs through infrastructure investment; and support for workers' rights.

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: Education is the lifeblood of our community. 1) Increase school funding in order to decrease class sizes, increase teacher pay/reduce attrition, upgrade outdated buildings and technology, and increase offerings in the arts, sciences, and languages. 2) Reinstate the cap on the number of charter schools and end taxpayer funding of charter schools. 3) Address economic and racial inequities, and segregation, in our schools. 4) Offer universal early childhood education. 5) Support free two-year and eventually four-year public college. 6) End the top-down approach to school transformation and overreliance on testing.

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

A: Raising wages, growing jobs, and rebuilding the middle class is essential. I support: 1) investments in roads, bridges, water systems, high-speed internet, and green energy, which will grow local jobs, stimulate the economy, and attract/ retain businesses; 2) repeal of the so-called "Right to Work" law; 3) earned paid sick leave; 4) workers' rights to organize; 5) reinstatement of the prevailing wage; 6) "buy local" policies with incentives/matching funds for local government; 7) bootstrap support for small businesses owned by people of color and women; 8) changes to MDARD policies inhibiting growth of small farms.

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

A: With regard to voting, I support: automatic voter registration; same-day registration; online voter registration; no-reason absentee voting; restoration of voting rights to the incarcerated; and reduction in poll waiting times. Local governments should have the option of allowing 16 and 17 year olds to vote in local elections. With regard to campaign finance, I support: repealing state laws allowing unlimited dark money; limiting PAC expenditure/contributions to the amount an individual is allowed to contribute; and requiring advertisers for or on behalf of a candidate to disclose donors.

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 will support: shutting down Enbridge Line 5; increasing Michigan's solid waste surcharge; granting local government more control over natural resource extraction including water; monitoring lead levels at taps, and replacement of lead pipes, generating thousands of Michigan jobs; increasing staffing of MDNR and MDEQ; requiring corporate polluters to pay the full cost of clean up; developing and implementing a transition plan to truly clean, renewable energy (wind, solar, and not natural gas); banning fracking and new fracked-gas pipelines; increasing monitoring and regulation of existing pipelines.

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

A: I will support access to affordable housing as a fundamental human right, including legislation granting local government the right to implement inclusionary zoning. I also support: universal health care; investment in mass transit; student loan forgiveness; protection for immigrants; and protections for farm workers. I actively support transformation of our criminal justice system: police training; reducing the incarceration rate, moving toward rehabilitative programs, treating substance use as a public health issue not a criminal issue, and ending the incarceration and trying of our youth in the adult penal system.

JEFF IRWIN, Democrat



Website: irwinforsenate.com

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/voteirwin>

Twitter: twitter.com/JeffMlIrwin

Occupation / Current Position: Consultant

Education: East Lansing High School; B.A. Political Science, University of Michigan

Qualifications / Experience: Former County Commissioner 1999-2010; Former State Representative 2010-2016; Executive Director for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters.

Questions:

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

A: Increased funding for public education, clean air and water, and equal rights for all. I want to close business tax loopholes to increase state revenue going to our public schools to reduce class sizes, pay teachers more, provide support to children facing poverty, and end for-profit charters and increase general fund allocations to education. I would continue to craft legislation to ensure we're holding polluters accountable, support clean energy, and tighten our pollution cleanup standards. I will propose protections for LGBTQ residents, fight against mass incarceration, and change our emergency manager laws.

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 universal, free early childhood education. I support targeting more support to districts that face higher levels of poverty and more funding from the general fund to reduce class sizes and increase educators' compensation. I want to stop the trend of evaluating schools and educators based on tests that more accurately measure the income of the district's parents rather than the quality of instruction. I will oppose for-profit schools that take money out of the classroom. I will also support more career technical education and investments in higher education to make tuition more affordable.

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

A: Investing in education is an important way to boost the economies in each community, but working to make large improvements in Michigan's infrastructure is another important way of increasing jobs and economic prosperity. Our roads, bridges, water systems, sewer systems, and electricity distribution networks are outdated and falling apart. I will continue to propose measures - like a renewed Clean Michigan Initiative - that will invest billions in these neglected priorities. Investing in infrastructure will make tangible improvements to our communities and put local people back to work with good paying, rewarding jobs

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

A: I support both the Voters Not Politicians and Promote the Vote ballot proposals. Increasing access to the ballot box and ensuring that everyone in our community can make their voices heard is instrumental to ensuring the continued existence of our democracy, and we must do everything we can to preserve, protect, and expand the number of people who have the right to vote. I will continue to support the repeal of the Citizens United decision and a constitutional convention to fix campaign finance, and meaningful campaign finance reform would be an important advancement. I championed these as issues in the state house.

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 have been an outspoken leader on environmental protection. I was the first legislator to call for the shutdown of Line 5 and I introduced numerous proposals to prevent irresponsible oil and gas development. If elected again, I will continue promoting community solar and improved net metering and I will do everything I can to protect the Great Lakes, prevent pollution, and promote clean energy. I won awards for leadership from the Sierra Club, Clean Water Action, and the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association for this work, and I will continue to stand up for public land and public access to that land.

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

A: I will fight voter suppression and school segregation as well as promote anti-discrimination laws and universal healthcare access. I will fight to end mass incarceration and close the school-to-prison pipeline by ending cash bond, reinstating prisoner reentry programs, and continuing my work to end the war on drugs and treat substance abuse as a public health problem rather than a criminal justice issue, increasing funding to make treatment available on demand. We also must improve the training in cultural competency, mental health, and violence de-escalation that all police officers receive.

MATTHEW MILLER, Democrat



Website: <https://www.matthewmiller2018.com/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Miller4MISenate/>

Twitter: twitter.com/miller4misenate

Education: 3 years of college focusing on business management, communication, and journalism.

Qualifications / Experience: Working with criminal justice and recovery awareness groups, local school districts, and voter rights groups to bring issues to the table. Worked retail and customer service management for four years. In the foster system from ages 5-17.

Questions:

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

A: Educational funding reform to include universal Pre-K, equitable K-12, and tuition-free community college. Achieved through restructuring the state's educational budget. End mass incarceration in Michigan. Reevaluate, rehabilitate, and release all non-violent, non-assaultive prisoners. Raise the age of adult sentencing to 18. Remove all forms of profit motives from the prisons. Keep the door open for election site voting and open for early voting one month prior to the election date. Eliminate Michigan's 30-day registration waiting period to allow same-day registration and voting.

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: Return public investments to public services. Use the funds create a universal Pre-K system so all families have access to that. Adjust Michigan's allocation in low-income communities, high ESL, IEP, and Special Needs students get equitable funding. Once we reform Michigan's prisons and divest from private for-profit charters, we will have the funds to clear tuition for community college students in Michigan, so long as they maintain a 2.0 GPA or higher, reasonable attendance (attend 80+% of classes), and satisfactory academic progress (pass 66+% of classes taken).

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

A: For us to be able to bring more jobs to Michigan, we need to make investments in our people. Ensure a living wage that people can earn to have a decent life on. Restructure the income tax system into a gradient tax that no longer favors the 1%. Guaranteed access to quality, affordable healthcare, clean water, affordable housing. This will ensure that jobs we bring will not want to flee once their incentive is gone. More leniency on taxation for small business owners and entrepreneurs, so they can have stable businesses that won't be overburdened by taxes and debt.

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

A: Universal write-in ballots, same day registration, election day as a holiday, early voting, automatic registration at SOS.

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: Universal septic code, stopping any new oil and gas pipelines and ending subsidies for fossil fuel companies in Michigan, divesting from those and opening study bills for universities to develop more efficient models for green energy, and offering incentives to green energy companies to move to Michigan.

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

A: Complete prison overhaul and end mass incarceration. Affirm MCRC decision on clarifying the language of sex to include sexual orientation and gender identity, and pass legislation to confirm this. Passing a state-wide universal healthcare system so our people do not struggle under the burden of healthcare costs.

ANUJA RAJENDRA, Democrat



Website: <https://www.anujaforsenate.com/>

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

Twitter: twitter.com/Anuja_Rajendra

Occupation / Current Position: Small business owner/community builder

Education: I have earned two degrees from the University of Michigan, in Industrial and Operations Engineering, and a Masters in Business Administration.

Qualifications / Experience: Representation matters. My life experiences mirror that of many of yours. As an engineer, a mom, and a problem solver I have been a community servant and advanced the lives of small business owners, women, youth, elderly and immigrants in MI for decades. I have served on statewide/regional appointments focusing on underserved populations. I am ready to lead and represent our vibrant district.

Questions:

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

A: My top legislative priorities include ensuring fairer public school funding, single payer healthcare, and a broad infrastructure package. Repealing Governor Snyder's \$2 billion corporate tax cut would allow for increases in school funding and an infrastructure bill. Public dollars going to for profit charter schools must be reverted to public schools. I will introduce a study bill to evaluate the costs and benefits of single payer healthcare here so we can determine how to move forward with universal health care in Michigan. This approach has been done in other states and is a tangible first step we must take here.

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 invest in early childhood programs, increase funding for K-12 public schools, and build post-secondary education and training programs. By investing in early childhood, we will ensure equitable, world-class education. Increasing funding for our K-12 public schools will include raising teacher salaries, increasing the funding amount per pupil, and renovating many school buildings. I will also advance legislation that evaluates teachers fairly and protects their benefits. By guaranteeing state support for our public universities and skilled trade programs, Michiganders will succeed in a rapidly evolving economy.

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

A: Everyone deserves a fair opportunity to earn a living wage with 1 good job with dignity/respect. I will progress Michigan to a graduated income tax to ensure a fairer and more welcoming state. Our minimum wage has not kept up with inflation and increasing it to \$15/hour will bring relief to our workers. Women are paid less than men, especially women of color. Eliminating the pay gap is a key goal of mine in the legislature. We don't simply need jobs, we need well paying jobs. We have one of the lowest rates of post secondary education and improving this will equip Michiganders to be prepared for better paying jobs.

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

A: Voting is a right, not a privilege. I support modernizing our voting to be inclusive, transparent, easy, and accurate including increasing communication on changes in polling locations, staff training, and decreasing tabulation errors. I am in favor of early voting, no reason absentee ballots, easier registration for ex-offenders, and removing the photo ID requirement. I will tighten enforcement of existing campaign finance laws and curtail the dark money in politics. The Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FEC is problematic and we must increase enforcement funding. I support non-partisan redistricting.

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 will aggressively advance toward 100% renewable energy by 2050. All people deserves a safe and clean environment from the air we breathe to the water we drink. I will take on corporations/polluters, upgrade water infrastructure, and invest in clean energy. I will sponsor an energy rebate and property tax exemption for installed solar systems. We must shut down dangerous pipelines like Enbridge Line 5 and not allow land violation such as the Back 40 Mine. I will sponsor legislation for transparency so the FOIA extends to our Executive and Legislative branches so catastrophes like Flint are not repeated/compounded.

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

A: Restorative justice for youth and adults as the purpose of our criminal justice will foster policies so they can be contributing members of our state. Inclusivity such as expanding the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Law to cover the LGBT+ community and expanding civil rights for immigrants/refugees are key to my platform. I will work to make Michigan a magnet for immigrants where people desire to build a life for their families. I will expand programs such as the Washtenaw County ID program and allow for state issued driver's licenses for those without full immigration status increasing safety and dignity for all.

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