

# Primary Election: August 7, 2018

## Michigan State Senate District 21

Candidates: 2 Republicans + 1 Democrat  
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)**

**KIM LaSATA, Republican**  
**Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion**

**DAVE PAGEL, Republican**



**Website:** pickpagel.com

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** State Representative and Apple Farmer

**Education:** Bachelor's in AgriBusiness from MSU

**Qualifications / Experience:** I served 14 years on the Berrien Springs Board of Education and 4 years as a Berrien County Commissioner. I am in my 3rd and final term in the House of Representatives. I founded Dave Pagel Produce and Farms after college and now have 40 years of business experience. I have served on both policy and appropriations committees in the House.

### Questions:

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

**A:** I will continue to promote Michigan's economic health through a fair and reasonable tax structure, a strong education system, better infrastructure and less government regulation. I will work to lower Michigan's auto insurance rates through various reforms, which might include a fee schedule for healthcare providers, increased accountability in the catastrophic claims fund, fraud and abuse reforms and/or a benefit cap. I will work to strengthen K12 education by ending the redirection of dedicated School Aid funds to other parts of the budget and by promoting reforms that positively affect classroom outcomes.

**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:** We must move our focus from simply providing school choices to actually helping schools succeed. We must support teachers with the best continued education opportunities, classroom resources and help with students with special needs. We should support innovation, such as measuring a student's achievements in mastering content rather than simply moving through the grades. In the area of school funding, we must stop the redirection of School Aid funds to other budget areas. We must continue to sharpen our focus on preparing pre-K kids for school and improving reading skills in the early grades. CTE focus is needed.

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

**A:** Businesses need qualified and reliable employees along with a competitive tax structure, reliable energy and strong state infrastructure. We need broadband internet everywhere. Farms need a reasonable and workable guest-worker program. Citizens and students should have opportunities to take Career Technical Education for careers that might not require a traditional 4-year degree. Businesses need to be free of overly burdensome regulations. By strengthening our educational system from kindergarten through college we help both our students and our businesses.

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

**A:** I feel that campaign outcomes are too dependent on fundraising. Both prospective legislators and legislators seeking reelection spend a tremendous amount of time and energy on fundraising, and it can lead to situations where votes are affected. It should not be the case that he or she who raises the most money wins, even though financial support levels can be a sign of a good candidate. I support making voting as easy and accessible as possible to all citizens, as long as we can safely avoid any voter fraud.

**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:** As a farmer, I know and appreciate the value of our natural resources. The current balanced approach to requiring utilities to move towards more renewable sources is positive. We should do everything possible to protect Great Lakes water, from avoiding pollution such as microplastics, keeping out invasive species, and carefully monitoring water quality. Enbridge Pipeline 5 should be phased out to avoid the catastrophe that would result from its failure. I support the voluntary efforts that many farmers are making to be certified as environmentally friendly.

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

**A:** As Chairman of the Corrections committee, I have worked on several criminal justice reforms. I have worked to provide better educational and CTE opportunities to inmates to improve their chances for successful re-entry to society. I sponsored a bill that became law to correct an injustice where certain prisoners were not being able to have fair access to parole hearings. I sponsored a bill to provide more appropriate medical care outside of prison for inmates who have become so medically incapacitated to no longer pose a threat to society. I will oppose discrimination wherever I see it.

**IAN HAIGHT, Democrat**

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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Educational Technology Educator

**Education:** Kalamazoo College - Double Major in Political Science and Education ---  
-- Wayne State University - MA in Information Science

**Qualifications / Experience:** Hagar Township Clerk ----- North Berrien Fire  
Rescue Board Treasurer

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

**A:** Healthcare, Jobs, and Education are my top three priorities. I am a strong supporter of the Healthy Michigan Plan which has allowed a million Michiganders to have access to healthcare. We need to bring balance back into our economy. We have swung so far towards favoring corporations that the average worker cannot get by on the poverty wages they earn. Businesses are reluctant to invest in Michigan right now because we have chronically underfunded education and have a lack of skilled workers. I propose properly funding public education and emphasize skilled trades as a path to employment after high school.

**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:** Michigan needs public preschool for everyone. Right now only a small percent of our children qualify for it and it would not be difficult to expand that program. Since Snyder cut 30% of school funding in 2010, public schools have had to drastically cut programs and services. This has driven Michigan into the bottom of the national rankings and made it very difficult to attract business investment because they do not see Michigan as having an education skilled workforce. I propose returned school funding back to where it used to be and also investing in skilled trade programs to give all students a viable future.

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

**A:** The governor has attempted to attract business investment to Michigan by slashing corporate taxes and decimating unions. What this has actually done is make us less competitive as a state because he forgot that in the long-run, you need a foundation of skilled workers and quality infrastructure to build businesses on. One of the largest companies in the world publically stated that they would not consider Michigan for a headquarters location because of our lack of skilled workers and infrastructure. Our legislature has been complicit with all of this by underfunding roads and education.

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

**A:** As a Township Clerk, I ran elections for many years and they hold a special place in my heart. Voting rights are key to having honest elections that we can trust. There are several improvements that other states have made that increase security and ballot access. I will work closely with the Secretary of State to implement those measures. I support open and transparent campaign finance laws. It is becoming clear that our votes as citizens matter much less than the millions of dollars that companies and organizations are pumping into our elections. When our vote no longer matters is when we lose our democracy.

**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:** Michigan is known for our abundance of fresh water. I will do everything in my power to maintain and even improve the quality of our water, air, and land. Enbridge is well known in Michigan for causing our worst oil spill to date and has been fined repeatedly for their lackluster attempts at cleanup. The oil in Line 5 travels along the bottom of the lake Michigan and goes to Canada. We don't use any of it for our energy needs and we bear all the risk of it failing. When that happens it will destroy Lake Michigan and with that our economy, our homes, and our lives. So, why are we supporting foreign oil?

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

**A:** Michigan is one of the few states where it is completely legal to fire someone for being LGBT or to deny them healthcare services. I will amend our civil rights act to include orientation along with age, sex, race, and disability. Our governor and state legislature have made it clear that the racially charged incident with Flint's water is perfectly okay with them. Our citizens are not as callous as they are though and have taken amazing actions to donate water and time to help alleviate the damage caused by our state's top Republicans. I will fight every day to make sure that minority voices are not ignored.

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