Primary Election: August 7, 2018
Michigan State Senate District 26
Candidates: 3 Republicans + 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)

BOB GENETSKI, Republican

Website: www.voteforbobgenetski.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/bobgenetski
Twitter: twitter.com/vote4bobg
Occupation / Current Position: County Clerk and Register of Deeds
Education: - Masters in Technology Education from GVSU - Bachelors in English from Auburn
Qualifications / Experience: Ranked MOST CONSERVATIVE State House Member in Michigan 4 times while serving 6 years in the State House. Most importantly I taught a diverse group of at-risk students and I know how to listen, learn, teach and collaborate. As County Clerk I have set records for customer service and making it easier for Veterans to file for the benefits that they earned.

Questions:

1. PRIORITIES: What are your top three state legislative priorities and how would you address them?
A: • Work with President Trump to implement the America First Agenda by solving the immigration crisis, blocking state funding of Michigan sanctuary cities and creating jobs through tax cuts and a massive pro-growth economic policy. • Fix our broken roads and infrastructure without raising taxes by redirecting discretionary spending and the gas tax money directly to building roads and replacing bridges NOT pet projects. • Make auto insurance affordable by allowing families to choose the coverage that is right for them rather than being forced by big government to buy something that doesn't fit their family budget.

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 taxpayers fund schools at over $14 Billion a year. As a former high school teacher, I know we need measures to empower students and families by offering different options. I support measures that are "skill set" based - not socially based, so that students learn the basics before being advanced. I will push measures for more student instruction time over additional big government standardized tests. I will always fight for local control. I will continue to fight tuition increases as strongly as I have, and push for more skilled trades options for students from 7th grade through College.

3. ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?
A: The Trump tax cuts are building a great economy, and I will work with President Trump to make sure Michigan families see the opportunity right here in West Michigan. I will work hard to improve our economy by: 1) Cutting the personal income tax so that more money stays in our local economy creating jobs in West Michigan, not in the Lansing swamp! 2) Reducing our highest-in-the-nation Auto-insurance rates so that families have more money in their pockets for their family needs. 3) Fighting hard against tuition increases, so that college students aren't forced into mountains of debt before they even graduate.

4. ELECTIONS: What state policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?
A: I support removing public funding for political candidates. Taxpayers should not have to pay for politicians to get elected. As County Clerk, I believe very much in ensuring that only U.S. citizens vote. I

will work with the Trump Administration to protect the integrity of all elections and the security of voters' ballots. For these reasons, I will continue to defend the legal provision that voters show a valid photo ID to cast a ballot.

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 have a Michigan First Energy policy similar to what President Trump proposes for an America First Energy policy. For Michigan, this also means using smart, credible science to protect the natural resources that make this state a beautiful place to live and visit. We must have an "all of the above" energy policy that allows rate payers to have the lowest possible energy rates. I will propose that a board of senior citizens on fixed incomes be heard from before any rate increase can be voted on.

6. JUSTICE: *What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?*
A: We are blessed by God to live in one of the best places to work and raise a family in the world. Yet, radical leftist groups and even the State's own Department of Civil Rights have tried to force Christians to violate their conscience. I will promote measures that limit activist judges from creating laws that violate Constitutional rights and push for a Michigan Religious Freedom Restoration Act to protect individuals from laws like Obamacare pitting them against their own church. For my defense of the Constitution, I am endorsed by Michigan Right to Life and have an "A" rating from the NRA.

ARIC NESBITT, Republican

Website: www.VoteNesbitt.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/aricnesbitt
Twitter: twitter.com/aricnesbitt
Occupation / Current Position: Resigned from Governor Snyder's cabinet to run for State Senate, March 2018
Education: Graduate, Lawton High School; Attended KVCC; BA in Economics from Hillsdale College; Masters in International Business
Qualifications / Experience: Served as the youngest member of Gov. Snyder's Cabinet (2017-2018); State Representative (2011-2016); Former Majority Floor Leader, Chair of the Energy & Technology Committee, & Chair, House Republican Campaign Committee; Worked in 24 states to increase government transparency and prevent higher taxes; Lead Republican staffer in the non-partisan Congressional Steel Caucus & Natural Gas Caucus

Questions:
1. PRIORITIES: *What are your top three state legislative priorities and how would you address them?*
A: 1) Pay down debt 2) Fix roads & bridges 3) Lower the cost of auto insurance

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: Ensure that Michigan's children are reading by the third grade, provide more choices for students in vocation education and early college programs, and provide students more flexibility in the Michigan Merit Curriculum to help them decide their education and career pathways that best fit them.

3. ECONOMY: *What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?*
A: Aric will work to balance budgets, pay down debt, reduce the tax burden, lower auto insurance rates, limit regulations, and promote our priorities, including law enforcement, rebuilding our roads, and education. Aric helped eliminate the job-killing Michigan Business Tax and replace it with a simple and fair flat tax. This tax reform moved Michigan from having the worst tax on job creators in the nation to a top 20 state for the treatment of business, individual and retirement income. Aric led the effort to further reduce the income tax, limit government growth, and he will continue that push in the Senate.

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

A: America is built upon free and fair elections and Aric will support one person, one vote. This will include implementing mandatory photo ID before voting and clean up the voters rolls to ensure that deceased voters are removed from the lists and people are not registered in multiple states.

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: While in the House, Aric supported a broad bipartisan package of bills that will ensure Michigan has an adaptable approach in developing sustainable, reliable energy policy. The plan is an 'all of the above' energy policy that promotes cost-effectiveness, reliability, cleaner energy standards, and Michigan-made energy while offering new ratepayer protections. We need to continue to ensure that our Great Lakes are protected by continuing to push the federal government to stop invasive species such as Asian Carp, prevent the diversion of waters from the Great Lakes Basin, and ensure pipelines are properly maintained.

6. JUSTICE: *What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?*
A: We need to ensure every citizen is treated equally under the law and has the opportunity to develop their God-given talents. Aric supported legislation that cracked down on human trafficking and will stand with law enforcement and law-abiding citizens to protect our families. The prescription drug epidemic has devastated communities and families across the state and Aric will help lead the charge to save lives and end this epidemic. Aric knows criminals preying on seniors and children are evil and operating a vehicle while intoxicated or on drugs is a reckless threat to the innocent.

DON WICKSTRA, Republican

Website: wickstraforstatesenate.com
Occupation / Current Position: Dentist, Owner Hamilton Dentistry, PLLC
Education: Hope College, Loyola University School of Dentistry, General Practice
   Residency, New York
Qualifications / Experience: 40 year small business owner/employer, 20 year Heath
   Twp. Planning Commission, Lakeshore Pregnancy Center Board, Medical Missions

Questions:
1. PRIORITIES: *What are your top three state legislative priorities and how would you address them?*
A: My priorities would be to pass legislation that is effective, efficient, and yields the desired result for the people of Michigan. Too many laws are based on headlines and fear. They lack common sense and practical usefulness. In many cases the result of the law is far different than the intent. My goal would be to eliminate this. I would seek to improve local control where possible, and encourage local governments who know their people the best.

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: High quality education is an imperative today, more than ever. Accessibility to all resources for all districts is a must. Equitable funding on a per student basis does not cover all the costs of educating a child. There is a disparity of districts in facilities and the ability to pass millages. Testing is in many cases punitive in time utilization and over-testing is prevalent. Schools could use more local control in adapting programs to changing needs and student body. Uniform and consistent testing methods and devices will produce more reliable and reproducible results.

3. ECONOMY: *What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?*
A: Jobs will be created with the addition of new quality businesses. To achieve this, we need good roads and infrastructure. We need affordable insurance rates. We need to provide additional training and retraining for the modern workplace. We need less regulation which burdens existing businesses and limits growth of new businesses. Government needs to be proactive in considering technologic advances and being able to react to them.

4. ELECTIONS: *What state policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*
A: I think voting needs to be fair and available to all and free from potential corruption. I favor voting in-person or with an absentee ballot. I am concerned about internet voting at this time.

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 measures to protect the Great Lakes from pollution and infestation of invasive species. I support making the Lakes available to sport fishing and promoting the health and reproduction of the salmon population. I promote the use of alternative and renewable energy sources where obtainable in an economic viable means. While no system is without risks, I support the use of the Pipeline with monitoring. Energy technology and development could be a key to Michigan's economic revival.

6. JUSTICE: *What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?*
A: I feel all peoples needed to be treated in a fair and respectful fashion. I don't think this is a matter of legislation, but kindness, understanding and compassion. All our laws should reflect this principle.

GARNET LEWIS, Democrat

Website: www.garnetlewisforstatesenate.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/GarnetLewisforStateSenate
Twitter: twitter.com/garnetlewis2018
Occupation / Current Position: Small-business owner; retired university administrator.
Education: Ph.D. - Higher Education Administration; University of North Texas; 1992
  M.A.Ed. - Northern Michigan University, 1986; B.S. - Truman State University, 1983
Qualifications / Experience: Garnet Lewis brings a great deal of experience to her bid for the Michigan Senate Seat in District 26 (SD26); experience that provides her with first-hand knowledge of the issues that confront voters in the 26th district. A small business owner/manager for the past 15 years, she is well-aware that we need to grow Michigan's economy to create jobs and return Michigan to prosperity.

Questions:
1. PRIORITIES: *What are your top three state legislative priorities and how would you address them?*
A: Educational funding; enviromental protections; infrastructure investment, and access to affordable health care. See responses below.

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 an investment. Garnet will work tirelessly to see that Michigan's public education system becomes competitive with any other system in the nation. To get there, we must have financial support from the State of Michigan for all three tiers of state-funded public education: preschool, K-12 and post-secondary education. This financial support is essential for any state that intends to compete and succeed in a 21st Century economy. Michigan must expand its pre-school/early childhood education programs, to include all children. Lastly, Michigan must make post-secondary education tuition more affordable.

3. ECONOMY: *What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?*
A: As a fundamental believer in the value of an education, Garnet knows that investing in public education is essential for any state that intends to compete and succeed in a 21st Century economy. Investment in post-secondary education (community colleges, vocational/technical schools, trade schools, and apprenticeships) will benefit everyone and become a major economic driver for future of our State.

4. ELECTIONS: *What state policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*
A: Garnet fully supports the Voters Not Politicians ballot initiative to amend the Michigan constitution to place an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission in charge of redistricting. She supports the LWV "Promote the Vote" ballot initiative to to provide comprehensive election reform for Michigan. And, she also supports the LWV (and 11 individual voters') lawsuit to end gerrymandering in Michigan. Garnet

believes that Michigan citizens should automatically be registered to vote, that they should be able to vote absentee for any reason, and that they should be able to vote electronically.

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: Garnet supports the efforts of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and knows that Michigan has the intellectual, industrial, and political resources to become a leader in harbor management and environmental planning, development, and conservation by working collaboratively with legislative colleagues and federal agencies, to secure funding and expertise to restore and our these waterways. Garnet also supports the mission of the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) to proactively and comprehensively address environmental concerns, including Enbridge's Line 5.

6. JUSTICE: *What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?*
A: Invest in public education and work to make post-secondary education tuition free; provide affordable and accessible healthcare; invest in infrastructure, especially broadband access and public transportation; invest in job-training opportunities through realistic job training and counseling;increase the minimum wage to a livable wage; introduce legislation to ensure pay equity for women and end workplace discrimination; and work to provide income assistance and ensure access to quality, affordable childcare.

ERWIN HAAS, Libertarian

Website: www.kentwoodblog.wordpress.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/groups/218083008961593/
Occupation / Current Position: Recently retired from serving one term on Kentwood's City Commission, 2nd ward, 2013-17
Education: AB Canisius College, Buffalo MD University of Buffalo MBA, Grand Valley State University
Qualifications / Experience: Board member of the Grand Valley Coop Credit Union for 8 years -Flight surgeon in Vietnam, highest rank, major -On Mayor Logie's 1997 committee on the War on Drugs -married with three successful adult children -MBA GVSU; taught marketing -Had a dozen scientific medical articles published in juried magazines and books. Also published in Michigan Medicine and Liberty Magazine.

Questions:
1. PRIORITIES: *What are your top three state legislative priorities and how would you address them?*
A: 1)I'll question every "expert" moocher who comes to testify. Most regulations are based on false "social sciences" and need to be debunked. I have scientific, business, legal and life's experiences, and a visceral dislike of liars. They'll squirm. 2)"Drop the Headlee Cap" from the current 9.49% to 8.55% – a 10% reduction. Since state spending is now hovering around 8% it would not have impact except in the long term 3) Legalize Marijuana; it will help diminish the Opioid epidemic. With Marijuana legal, push to allow our farmers and small towns to grow and process hemp. Europeans use it for plastic and car door, etc.

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 try to add "stuff" to students and ignore their individual needs in our large centralized schools. We also ignore the value of things that kids can learn from their families, religious and social surroundings. Small, even one room grammar schools, based in neighborhoods would allow parents to know what their kids are learning and let them influence what they hear. After a basic grounding in elementary school, let kids decide, with their parents and neighbors, whether to go on to an academic career, trade schools, apprentice programs or into the military where they can pursue any number of occupations.

3. ECONOMY: *What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?*
A: I reviewed the employment numbers for the hospitality industries for Michigan and for 5 other upper midwest states from 2005 (when "Pure Michigan" a subsidiary of MEDC was started) until 2015. Our employment increase for those years was by far the worst in the region. It, MEDC and the film subsidies should be dropped so allowing taxes to be lowered. The people will have money to start businesses, and

to develop innovations on their own. Politicians and bureaucrats are notoriously poor in directing economies; Michigan does not need another 5 year plan or some other "Great Leap Forward."

4. ELECTIONS: *What state policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*
A: There is not enough money in elections; the incumbent, who may be corrupt or incompetent, has enormous advantages and it takes much larger money to expose the malfeasances. Limiting campaign contributions burdens challengers unfairly. Also, contributions must be made anonymously so that contributors cannot be punished for exercising their free speech rights by the winner of the campaig. Payne's "Common Sense", the "Federalist" and "Antifederalist" were all done anonymously because the authors feared retribution. I didn't know that citizens didn't have voting rights.Does the LWVMi follow the Democrat's party line?

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: Oil has always oozed out of the ground to foul land, lakes and oceans.That's how people first discovered the stuff. Oil seep were common before drilling for oil dropped the pressure in the domes where oil was contained. In nature some oil on the surface evaporates off as naphtha (probably the basis of Greek fire). Other oil is digested by bacteria converting it into simple organic compounds that other organisms feast on, leading to a localized exuberant biodiversity. The heavier components of oil remain as lumps called bitumen or asphalt.We pave our roads with this stuff and no one calls it contamination or ugly.

6. JUSTICE: *What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?*
A: With ordinary Justice, workers get to keep their earnings and crooks are punished. Social Justice is the opposite-distribution of goods and blame are based on politics. To illustrate; By 2016, Sec. Clinton had been preparing to be president for decades and had campaigned hard for the job. She was qualified. She lost to Donald Trump, a blowhard workaholic with other politics. Clinton's losing is an example of social justice. Under rules of justice Clinton would have deserved/earned the presidency. With social justice and politics, Donald Trump won. I'm not sure that social justice is what the LWV Mi want.