

**Primary Election: August 7, 2018**  
**Michigan State Senate District 34**  
**Candidates: 2 Republicans + 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)**

### **JON BUMSTEAD, Republican**



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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Owner of Bumstead Construction

**Education:** Newaygo High School, Newaygo County Career Tech Center, Building Trades Program

**Qualifications / Experience:** State Representative for the 100th District 2011-2016

#### **Questions:**

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

**A:** ♣ As the former Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Committee I believe that it is vital that we continue to pay down Michigan's long-term debt so that it is not left to burden future generations. ♣ Michigan must continue to lower the tax burden for families and businesses. Our national and state economies have turned around because of wise tax policy strategies and it is important that we prioritize the needs of families and job providers. ♣ As the owner of my own construction company, I am supportive of an increased emphasis on skilled trades education and training.

**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 am supportive of providing quality options for students and putting more of an emphasis on career technical education. ♣ I consistently voted for increased funding for public schools and worked to ensure that long-term debt was paid down to free up more money for the classroom.

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

**A:** ♣ I am supportive of ensuring that Michigan has a competitive and friendly business environment that will attract job providers. It is dangerous and expensive for Michigan to use incentives that pick and choose winners as opposed to treating all companies equally.

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

**A:** ♣ It is imperative that our elections are conducted securely and I would support policies that protect the integrity of our voting systems in Michigan.

**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 an avid outdoorsmen and sportsmen, I have always worked hard to promote conservation efforts and would continue to do so in the state senate. I am a supporter of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund which helps with land conservation and preservation efforts as well as developing land that is open and available to all Michigan residents. ♣ Clean water is vital for Michigan families. I will work with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on programs that ensure that families won't have to worry about the water that they drink.

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

**A:** ♣ Everyone in Michigan should be treated equally no matter of their race or their social status. I believe that improving the economy and ensuring that there are quality jobs for every person that wants one is important. I will support polices that provide training and education to those who need it to be successful in the workforce.

**HOLLY HUGHES, Republican**

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

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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** State Rep. - 91st District

**Education:** Michigan State University - B.A. Business

**Qualifications / Experience:** State Rep. - 3 terms, White River Twp. Board - 12 years (3 terms) , Montague Area Public School Board, MUSTFA Board, Co-founder Veterans Job Fair 7 years, Representative of the Year 2017 from Lodging and Tourism Assn. , 2017 Energy of Freedom Award - Presented by the Grand Rapids Chamber 2017 Library Champion Award Athena Award 1999 Hometown Leadership Award from National Towns and Townships Assn

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

**A:** Jobs and the Economy: In 2011 and 2017 voted to reduce the State Income Tax. Co-founded Veterans Job Fair, now 7 years running. I authored and passed the Veterans Work Experience Act to give veterans credit for military experience in college. Fixing our Roads-My bill, HB4370 of 2015, was signed into law, expanded the Homestead property tax credit putting nearly \$200 million back in the pockets of Michigan's hardworking taxpayers and was part of the road package to fix our roads. This year we voted in \$475 million more without raising taxes. Auto No-Fault Reform: I voted to give citizen choices and lower their costs.

**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 passed a law ensuring our kids are safe when they ride a bus to school. I also passed my critical shortage law for substitute teachers to help put more teachers in the classroom. I fought to cap how much universities can raise tuition. We passed legislation to get more kids into pre-school. Promise for Muskegon and Newaygo for free MCC college. We added \$240 per student while paying down the unfunded debt for teacher retirement. I sponsored a law allowing veterans to use their work experience and JST credits to get college credit, with savings up to a year's tuition. Supported the Marshall Plan for technical training

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

**A:** I expanded the Homestead property tax credit and put nearly \$200 million back in the pockets of Michigan taxpayers . In 2011 & 2017 I voted to reduce the State Income Tax to allow hard working families to keep more of the money they earned. Michigan has the most expensive auto insurance in the United States. I voted to reduce those costs and give people choices in their coverage. I opposed legislation that led to significant increase in auto insurance cost for many Michigan residents. I supported the Marshall Plan for Talent to train students and workers to fill the over 100,000 jobs that we have presently available.

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

**A:** I think we should encourage our citizens to vote while also ensuring the security of our elections from fraud and without outside influences.

**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 was on the House Energy Committee and we passed into law in 2016 the Michigan energy plan securing lower electric rates for residents and businesses. This plan ensures that residential and commercial customers can continue to produce their own energy with wind and solar power with net metering. As chairman of the House Tourism and Recreation Committee, I support all efforts that we can to protect the lake from oil spills and finding a solution to providing safe and efficient delivery of vital energy needs to our citizens. Michigan's natural beauty is a legacy we need to leave for our children.

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

**A:** I sponsored the Rebekah Bletsch Law that makes sure victims have a right to be heard, so that their rights are greater than criminals and murderers like Jeffery Willis. Victim's rights should be greater than convicted murderers. Also, we just passed the budget to help with our indigent defense fund to ensure all have access to representation in our courts. We vastly improved Michigan's human trafficking laws but there is still much more work to be done to protect our adult and children's safety. I have participated in the 2,000 Man Marches in Muskegon Heights to help our youth understand that they are loved.

## COLLENE LAMONTE, Democrat



**Website:** lamonte4senate.com

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/Lamonte4Senate>

**Occupation / Current Position:** Field Representative, MESSA

**Education:** Anchor Bay High School, 1996 Saginaw Valley State University, 1996-1999, Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education

**Qualifications / Experience:** Former State Representative, District 91, 2013-2015.

### Questions:

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

**A:** We all are aware that Michigan received a failing grade when it came to government transparency, and rectifying that should be a top priority of everyone who is looking to serve their community. Advocating for the civil rights of all Michiganders, and focusing on those who need us the most. I think of our kids in underfunded schools, our citizens who do not have clean drinking water or safe roads to drive on. Better prioritizing the things that matter to Michiganders, such as making owning a car more attainable and providing affordable, accessible healthcare to every citizen.

**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:** As a former math and science teacher, education is a top priority. That means we have to start reaching our children even before kindergarten, ensure their schools are fully funded and work to keep the cost of going to college low, so that a college degree is within reach of every student. We also need better technical training programs for young people who want to enter the skilled trades, where we are facing shortage of people trained and ready to enter the workforce.

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

**A:** Like many in this state my family struggled, and ultimately lost our home, in the last recession. I don't want any family to face that struggle again. I helped the fight to establish pay equity in Michigan in my first term as State Representative, and I look forward to finishing that fight when I return to Lansing in the Senate. I'll also continue the fight to extend protections to end discrimination on the job, and further protections for people in the LGBT community. I also support education, both in the classroom and hands-on technical training programs to help people prepare for good job

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

**A:** I'll fight to replace partisan redistricting with a nonpartisan commission, and for changes to our voting system, such as no-reason absentee voting, vote by mail and early voting, that make it easier to cast a ballot. During my time in the House, I sponsored bills to reduce the influence of big money in campaigns, including a bill requiring the disclosure of corporate political and lobbying activity and to create a database of lobbyists and lobbying activity.

**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:** My district is located on the shore of Lake Michigan, so keeping our environment clean for future generations is a top concern of mine. In the House, I introduced a proposal to protect our endangered sand dune areas, and I look forward to fighting for that again. As a former science teacher, I strongly support new energy technologies and am enthusiastic about the opportunities they bring to our state. Renewable energy in Michigan brings both environmental and economic benefits to our communities, and I will fight for a greater reliance on renewable energy and higher energy efficiency standards.

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

**A:** It is an understatement that communities of color are facing a more dangerous time and are being taken advantage of. Those in law enforcement and criminal justice should be trained as advocates, ready to use deescalation and empathy first and non life threatening force as a last resort. In our communities we should hold trainings to look at what privilege and institutional racism looks like, how can manifest, and how to hold yourself and those around accountable in the everyday. I believe this would be best implemented as trainings in schools and religious communities that should be developed by independent parties.

## POPPY SIAS-HERNANDEZ, Democrat



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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Consultant-PoppyConsults, Coaching and consulting with human services organizations

**Education:** Western Michigan University MA-Organizational Leadership, University of California Berkeley BA-Literature, College of Marin AA-Liberal Arts

**Qualifications / Experience:** I am not a professional or career politician. My experience is deep in community activism. For more than 15 years I have supported Michigan youth and families in making healthy choices. My skills include being a certified Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist, HIV Test Counselor, certified addiction professional and a master trainer in Adverse Childhood Experience.

### Questions:

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

**A:** • Quality Public Health • Quality Public School • Quality Jobs Health, education and employment are the very pillars of 21st century society. All three require enduring commitments to insure strong families in Michigan. Health care must be available to all residents-replacing lost coverage is essential to everyone's health and welfare. Full school funding, including pre-K must be expanded and maintained. The continued erosion of collective bargaining and prevailing wage must end-such practices endangers the economic security of all families.

**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:** The Great Start Readiness Program is Michigan's nationally recognized Pre-K Program-State funding must be protect. I will support the Early Literacy Program aimed at 3rd grade students. The Individuals with Disability Education Act requires our full attention. We need to see what is working well in special education and to identify what needs improvement. Michigan Early College and High School Dual Enrolled programs provide opportunities for more than than 20,000 students, particularly for 1st generation college students.

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

**A:** Michigan currently has a dearth of employment available. We are lacking skilled workers, thus inhibiting our ability to compete in the 21st century economy. One of my goals upon being seated in the Michigan Senate is to ensure appointment to the Michigan Competitive Committee. I look forward to sponsoring increased job training bills, including a focus upon skilled trades. We must continue to invest in our students at all levels. I fully support the efforts and results of Michigan's Workforce Development Talent Investment Agency.

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

**A:** The right to participate in our democracy through voting is a basic right of all eligible citizens. Everyone deserves equal access to the ballot; election integrity must be maintained and secured. We as a society must safeguard against encroachments upon our fundamental right to vote! Gerrymandering is a threat to our democracy. Voters must select politicians-politicians must not be allowed to select voters. Democracy is not for sale. Common-sense campaign finance restraints including complete transparency and a limitation of Super-PACS influence. We must expose and resist voter suppression in all forms.

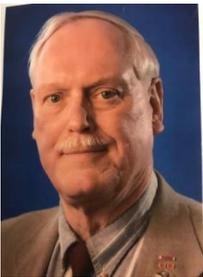
**5. ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY:** *What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations, while meeting the state's energy needs? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of Enbridge Pipeline 5.*

**A:** Access to clean water is a human right. In 2017, the Environmental Protection Agency conduct a complete review of Michigan's drinking water program. The EPA recommended that Michigan increase both funding and staffing resources, improve electronic data reporting and management, and ensure its program appropriately implements and complies with all aspects of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Line 5 Pipeline has the potential to alter the entire Great Lakes Eco-System. Propane alternatives must be explored before a large scale rupture. I support a complete halt, inspection and review of Pipeline 5.

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

**A:** The Michigan Department of Civil Rights represents the very best of our state, serving to educate and motivate our citizens to prevent discrimination in all forms. I fully support their various community training programs including disability, sexual harassment, housing discrimination and hate crimes. Michigan's commitment to inclusion is inspiring. For more than 15 years I have supported families in making healthy choices as a family consultant. Social Justice featuring diversity and equality begins with safe families experiencing equal access to education.

## MAX RICKSE, Libertarian



**Occupation / Current Position:** Retired Michigan Public School Teacher; 23 years  
Retired Lieutenant Colonel; U.S. Army; 32 years.

**Qualifications / Experience:** B.A. University of South Florida; Political Science & International Relations. Two M.A.'s from Western Michigan University in Political Science: International Relations; History; & Education. K-12 Michigan Teaching Certificate; Western Michigan University. VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) Life Member; & past VFW Commander. Vietnam & Iraq War Veteran.

### Questions:

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

**A:** Lowering home property taxes for senior (American) citizens; eliminating the Republican pension tax on Senior (American) citizens. Eliminating the Michigan Income tax for American citizens.

**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:** Support specially trained armed teachers in all Michigan Public School K-12 & Public University classrooms; Max is a Life Member of the NRA. Ban all illegal aliens from attending Public schools; Make all legal aliens pay to attend our Public Schools.

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

**A:** Ban all trucks on Michigan roads driven by Mexican nationals. Pass a Michigan legislative bill that repeal's 16" Amendment - Federal Income tax & abolish the IRS. Lower property taxes on all active farmland.

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

**A:** Eliminate Michigan's winner take all Presidential Electoral system & replace it with a fair & proportional electoral system based on the votes of the top three candidates i.e. Republican, Democrat and Libertarian; that way most everyone's vote counts for President.

**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:** Eliminate Line number 5 under the Straits of Mackinaw ASAP

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

**A:** Priority admission to Michigan H.S. students to MI tax supported Universities; then foreign students. Repeal all laws creating "crimes" without Victims. Eliminate anti-4th Amendment local & state government asset forfeitures laws & mandate Due Process in a court of law be part of the entire forfeiture process. The Libertarian Party is all about Freedom; the U.S. Constitution; & our Bill of Rights guarantying Individual rights for all Americans. No tax dollars for abortion for any reason; Colonel Max is Pro-Life.

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