

Primary Election: August 7, 2018
Michigan State Senate District 36
Candidates: 1 Republican + 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)

JIM STAMAS, Republican



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

Occupation / Current Position: State Senator for the 36th District

Education: I hold a bachelor's degree in business administration from Northwood University and an associate's degree in business management from Delta College.

Qualifications / Experience: I have grown up in a family that was taught the importance of community and because of this I have worked to be a part of our community. I have served our community in the United States Army, Michigan National Guard, Township and County Boards, my church, Downtown Business Authority and as a State Representative.

Questions:

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

A: My top 3 priorities are to fight to keep the jobs we have and attract new jobs. Fight for every child to get the best education possible. Fight to make Lansing more accountable to the hard working taxpayers.

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 open to any measure that improves our education system to ensure Michigan students receive the best possible education that prepares them for a bright future.

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

A: I am committed to finding long term solutions so our families can stay in Michigan. We must continue to focus on reducing bureaucratic red tape and allow people to work and family businesses the chance to succeed. Michigan residents have always had the spirit and ability to thrive and it's important that Michigan residents have a government that works for them and allows them to grow.

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

A: Michigan's campaign funding policies require both transparency and several reporting requirements. In addition, registered Michigan voters have the right to vote. I have also supported the addition of electronic voter registration along with updating all of the voting equipment across the state.

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: The Enbridge Pipeline continues to be a heavily discussed topic in Lansing. It is important that the line continues to be subject to inspections and diagnostics and added updates to ensure its in good condition and prevent any concerns to our Great Lakes. I support the continued planning of updating or replacing the line with today's standards and providing new and added levels of protection.

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

A: It's important that Michigan is a state where everyone is treated equally and fairly. This is why I supported the coming budget that includes mobile museums to continue to educate and expose different parts of our state to the importance of equality.

JOE WEIR, Democrat

Website: www.weirforstatesenate.com

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

Occupation / Current Position: Chemical Engineer/Retired

Education: Bachelors of Science in Chemical Engineering

Qualifications / Experience: I am not a career politician. I have been employed in the private sector for over 36 years.

Questions:

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

A: Education, Incomes, and Infrastructure. Education - All Michigan children deserve the opportunity to develop a skill that can sustain them in the 21st century economy. We need to improve access to quality early-childhood and pre-K education, and make post-secondary training affordable. Incomes - Michiganders who work full time should be able to support themselves. We must increase the minimum wage to \$12/hr., reinstate the earned-income tax credit, support the Healthy Michigan Plan, and strengthen collective bargaining rights. Infrastructure - Increase revenue dedicated to building a world class infrastructure.

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: Educating our young so that they have the opportunity to reach their full potential is our most basic responsibility, but we have fallen far behind other states in public education outcomes. Michigan needs a universal pre-K program so that all children are prepared to succeed no matter what community they live in. We need to reinvest in our public schools and make teaching an attractive career again in order to attract and retain great teachers. Finally we need to have multiple paths for post-secondary education including training in skilled trades, apprenticeships, and colleges that are affordable to every family.

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

A: My vision is that any Michigander who works full time should be able to support themselves. Higher wages are directly correlated to higher educational attainment. In order to compete in the 21st century economy we need a trained and talented workforce. Therefore, all Michigan workers need to have access to affordable post-secondary education whether it be training in the skilled trades, or obtaining a college degree. In addition, we must increase the minimum wage to \$12/hr., reinstate the earned-income tax credit, support the Healthy Michigan Plan, and strengthen collective bargaining rights.

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

A: My vision is a Michigan where everyone's vote counts equally. We simply must eliminate gerrymandering, the self-serving practice of politicians drawing favorable legislative districts for their own advantage. Redistricting must be taken out of the hands of the legislators and given to a non-partisan citizen panel. Michigan will never have fair elections until this is accomplished. We also need to repeal the legislation passed in 2017 (SB 335) which allows Michigan politicians to raise unlimited amounts of dark-money for Super PACs that support their campaigns.

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 can have both a healthy economy and a healthy environment. We don't have to choose. I will support the transition of Michigan to renewable energy which will bring jobs to northern and rural Michigan. I will demand stringent inspections for Enbridge line 5 until it can be removed. I will introduce legislation to repeal SB 652, which effectively put protection of the environment into the hands of industry executives. I will also protect our public lands and water from being sold or developed so that current and future generations will continue to have access to hunt, fish, camp and play on unspoiled public land.

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

A: As a state senator representing the 36th district, my highest priority will be to stand up for the forgotten and struggling citizens of central and northern Michigan.

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