

Primary Election: August 7, 2018

U. S. Congress District 3 – Michigan

Candidates: 1 Republican + 2 Democrats

Vote in one political party's primary only.

Duties: U. S. Representatives share the responsibility with Senators for enactment of the nation's laws as provided in the U.S. Constitution. Laws that require payment of taxes are initiated in the House of Representatives.

Qualifications: A Representative must be at least 25 years of age and a U.S. Citizen for at least 7 years. There are 435 Representatives based on Congressional districts reapportioned after each census. Michigan has 14 districts as of 2012.

Term: 2 years VOTE for ONE (1).

JUSTIN AMASH, Republican Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

CATHY ALBRO, Democrat



Website: <https://cathyalbroforcongress.com>

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

Twitter: twitter.com/cathyalbro

Occupation / Current Position: Candidate for Congress, Michigan's 3rd District

Education: Michigan State University BS Child Development & Elementary Education;

Graduate studies in early childhood education and elementary curriculum development

Qualifications / Experience: Teacher and educator serving diverse communities Small

business owner: Creative Learning Toys - 30 years (Grand Rapids) Small business owner:

Creative Learning Center - 15 years (Grand Rapids) Advisor: Grand Rapids Children's Museum

Consultant and Director: Elementary Education with Highscope Educational Research Foundation

(Nationwide) Activist: Education, families, peace, environment Farmer

Questions:

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

A: The top three priorities on my agenda are: a public education system that prepares ALL children for success in life, health care for all, and an economy where everyone has the opportunity to thrive, not just survive. As a teacher, I know that we could be doing so much more to invest in our children, and the Department of Education must hold states accountable to provide the highest quality free education from birth through career. I will work for a single-payer health care system that focuses on wellness, costs less and is more efficient. Everyone who works 40 hours per week must make a livable wage.

2. IMMIGRATION: *What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. immigration policy?*

A: Except for the Indigenous People, we're all immigrants or descendants of immigrants. My immigration reform plans include: Ending the inhumane ICE detention and deportation policies, legislating a fair policy to keep immigrant families together and children safe. A quick path to citizenship for DACA people. Modernizing border security and ending militarization of our southern border. Legislating new fair and humane immigration policies; addressing family-based worker visas, expanding legal rights of immigrant workers, strengthening support for refugees and asylum-seekers, and upholding the Diversity Visa program.

3. HEALTH CARE: *What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. health care policies and programs, including those affecting maternal and child health?*

A: The debate should be over. Health care is a human right. Most other developed countries have health care systems that are more efficient and much less costly than ours. We must study their best-practices

and develop, with urgency, building on the ACA and the Medicare model. New mothers and their babies are much more likely to die in the U.S. than most other wealthy nations and black mothers and children fare much worse. We must ensure researchers and providers address all the critical issues for healthy pregnancies and births, including family planning and comprehensive sex ed.

4. ECONOMY: *What federal policies do you support to help members of all strata of the American public improve their economic positions?*

A: Raise the minimum wage to a livable wage and add earned paid time off. Strengthen employee bargaining rights, including unions. Invest in infrastructure that not only fixes our roads and bridges but provides efficient mass transit, affordable housing, and updated water and sewer systems. These moves reduce burdens on low-income families. A large investment in infrastructure will also add many good paying jobs to our economy. An investment in healthy communities, including community-based decision-making. Removing barriers for home and business ownership. Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit.

5. ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY: *What policies do you support to meet U.S. energy needs while protecting our water, air and land for current and future generations? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of the Great Lakes.*

A: I support funding for renewable energy research and development, not subsidizing fossil fuel companies. Our infrastructure investment must include an updated energy transmission grid and support for energy efficiency. We must have stronger protections against pollution and hold polluters accountable for the full cost of toxin mitigation and require all states to be accountable for those high standards. Natural resources are shared between states, and must be federally protected. Our Great Lakes and other Michigan watersheds must continue to be protected by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and other policies.

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

A: Anyone should be able to run for office, regardless of their economic status or ability to raise huge amounts of money. I support campaign finance reform that would provide equal or matching public funding for federal candidates with a lower cap on private donations. I would work to reverse the Citizen's United decision, including large "super-PAC" donations. All donations must be fully transparent. Voting is a right of all U.S. citizens, including those who have served their time for a crime. I support policies that simplify registration and voting. We MUST keep elections safe from manipulation.

FRED WOODEN, Democrat



Website: fredwooden.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/FW2018/>

Twitter: twitter.com/Wooden4Congress

Occupation/Current Position: Senior Minister, Fountain Street Church Grand Rapids MI

Education: BA, Washington University; MA, University of Chicago; D Min. Meadville Theological School

Qualifications / Experience: Served five congregations in MA, TX, NY and MI. West MI ACLU Advisory Board, Grand Rapids Urban League Chair and Board member, active in

LGBT advocacy, local radio host and newspaper panelist for five+ years, previously a local newspaper columnist in MA (1981-1990) and Brooklyn NY (1995-2004)

Questions:

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

A: All three of my priorities are child focused, as they have no voice or vote and yet are essential to the future. Every long term issue before the nation requires a healthy, educated citizenry to address them. Children are the human 'infrastructure' that is essential to everything else. Thus I am committed to 1. Extending Medicare to all children, through age 18. 2. Ensuring quality Pre-K for all children 3. Making Community College tuition free.

2. IMMIGRATION: *What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. immigration policy?*

A: Border walls are un-American and ineffective. A secure border begins with a more secure relationship with Mexico and Central America. This means making NAFTA and CAFTA work to strengthen their economies along with our own, thus reducing the need to migrate. We need a customs and border agreement with Mexico and Canada that is more flexible, fluid and transparent when it comes to visiting workers. We need to end the "War on Drugs" approach and use a public health model which will reduce the illegal drug trade. And we need a path to legal status for DACA youth, and humane paths for those already here.

3. HEALTH CARE: *What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. health care policies and programs, including those affecting maternal and child health?*

A: Ultimately, a for-profit health care system is unsustainable, but abrupt change will not work. Medicare for all, meaning basic wellness and hospital insurance is the best path. It should be enacted on a priority basis, starting with children and expectant women, then veterans, and then allowing individuals and small businesses to enroll. Like other nations, I support a basic health insurance system like Medicare, which, like Social Security is universal and not means tested, and provides medical essentials through either a national or a state administered system that meets national standards.

4. ECONOMY: *What federal policies do you support to help members of all strata of the American public improve their economic positions?*

A: We should have a national commitment to a Living Wage, beginning with a commitment to publicly funded post high school training that leads either to an affordable four year degree or a skilled trade. Because the minimum wage is too low for some states while adequate for others, we need to enlarge housing support (e.g. Section 8 and LIHTCs) because housing is the first priority for family security. The EITC needs to be larger and paid in monthly installments into a postal banking system that reduces the need for payday loans. Corporate taxes should reward narrowing the CEO/Worker income gap to 50/1.

5. ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY: *What policies do you support to meet U.S. energy needs while protecting our water, air and land for current and future generations? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of the Great Lakes.*

A: We need a national commitment to reducing fossil fuels as a percentage of our energy needs over the next generation, helping energy corporations transition to other forms along the way. Extraction of fossil fuels themselves adds to the issue, threatening water supplies and species, so we need laws that build the enhanced risk into the cost of extraction. Reducing energy use is the other half of the equation, meaning investment in greener products and processes that are more renewable and also create new careers and livelihoods. Despite our history, we need to rebuild intra and inter urban transit to reduce car needs.

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

A: I believe trust in government depends on the trust we have that democracy is real, which is in serious doubt today. To repair our democracy means ending partisan redistricting (gerrymandering), encouraging voting not discouraging it with ID laws, easy access to absentee ballots, and other provisions of the 'Promote the Vote' Initiative in Michigan. I support total transparency of campaign finances, including the sources of PAC money, and a matching fund for campaigns that choose to rely entirely on voter contributions.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan national organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party. Candidate responses are included as submitted and have not been edited except in cases where the replies have exceeded the stated word limitations. **Spelling and Grammar were not corrected.** The inclusion of candidates' statements and opinions is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement by the League of Women Voters which takes no responsibility for any views or facts stated by the candidates.