

**Primary Election: August 7, 2018**  
**U. S. Congress District 8 – Michigan**  
**Candidates: 2 Republicans + 2 Democrats + 1 Libertarian**  
**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).**

**MIKE BISHOP, Republican**  
**Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion**

**LOKESH KUMAR, Republican**



**Website:** lokeshkumar.org <https://www.facebook.com/ElectLokeshKumar/>

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Business Owner

**Education:** Bachelor of Science

**Questions:**

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

**A:** Tax reduction to 15%: Household spending has increased recently by 25% putting many households in the Red. We already pay 8% to Social Security, 6% to sales tax, 5% to property tax, 4% to Michigan income tax, and 30% to federal income tax. Based on average household income, that's a total of roughly 50% in taxes. Bring manufacturing jobs back to America: NAFTA is 24 years old and WTO is 17 years. Since these two treaties, our high paying manufacturing jobs have relentlessly migrated to low cost countries creating severe hardship for our families and towns. Deregulation of healthcare and pharmaceutical industry

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

**A:** Congress must come together to enact a simple immigration policy. Our farmers and businesses must have guest worker programs. Businesses and families should have access to visitor visa programs. Illegal immigrants must be processed through the immigration courts.

**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:** Healthcare premiums, deductibles, and co-pays are ridiculous. For many families this is about 20-30% of their income. Over regulation has eliminated market potential and competition for insurers. The industry needs deregulation and more competition. Deregulation of the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries, and reducing patent protection for most drugs would reduce costs immediately. Maternal and child health program must have easy access with or without payment.

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

**A:** Reduction of income tax to 15%. Reduction of the interest on federal debt. Deregulation of the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries, and reducing patent protection for most drugs. This would increase competition and drastically reduce cost. Over regulation and protectionism of the drug industry appears to be the root cause of high cost in both these programs. Improve early childhood education to build stronger foundation for students, and improve high school graduation from 80% to 100%.

**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:** Reduce consumption of fossil fuels through innovation. Less regulation of environment protection as the agencies have far exceeded their mandates. There is already plenty of regulation in place for protecting the Great Lakes. It would be better to actually motivate more people to enjoy our environment, parks, and lakes.

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

**A:** Eliminate primaries. More federal funding for new candidates, to help compete against the establishment.

## ELISSA SLOTKIN, Democrat



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

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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** National security expert, candidate for Congress for Michigan's 8th district

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree, Cornell University; Masters of International Affairs, Columbia University

**Qualifications / Experience:** I am a third-generation Michigander and I have spent my career in national service. I joined the CIA after 9/11 and served three tours in Iraq alongside our military. I worked for both the Bush and Obama administrations at the White House and at the Pentagon. I have significant experience bringing distrustful parties together to develop creative options and negotiate real-world solutions.

### Questions:

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

**A:** I have spent my career protecting our country, and my goal, if elected, is to protect our livelihood here in Michigan. To do that, we must be laser-focused on the issues that impact our pocketbooks and our kids: lowering the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs and fixing our crumbling roads and water infrastructure. But beyond the issues, I have made it a priority to bring a true sense of public service back to our Congress. In my three tours in Iraq, I was never asked about my political party. The only thing that mattered was the mission. I commit to bringing that same mission-focus to Congress.

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

**A:** I believe that immigration is a moral, economic, and national security issue -- and right now our immigration system isn't working for anyone. Our elected representatives have failed to address the public outcry for reform. We need to buckle down and pass comprehensive legislation that brings in workers when we need their specific skills; provides a pathway to citizenship to DREAMers; increases border security; and provides safe-haven, as we have since the Founding Fathers, for refugees escaping death in their home countries. And once we pass a comprehensive law, we need to rigorously enforce it.

**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:** Healthcare is our generational challenge to fix. It's also a personal issue for me: my mom died of ovarian cancer after struggling with healthcare her whole life due to her pre-existing condition of breast cancer. While the Affordable Care Act made important strides, it desperately needs reform. One thing I would do is push to create a buy-in to Medicare, which would bring down costs for individuals and provide relief to businesses. The government should have the authority to negotiate drug prices under Medicare, and we must work to curb the predatory price increases we've seen on EpiPens, insulin, and other drugs.

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

**A:** Between stagnant wages and rising prices, it's become harder to get ahead. And the very American idea that if you work 40 hours a week and play by the rules, you'll do well and your kids will do better is out of grasp for too many. It doesn't have to be this way; we have vacancies in cyber jobs, advanced manufacturing, and skilled trades. We need to make sure our schools are preparing kids for these jobs. In Congress, I will work to provide federal support for earn-while-you-learn programs at local universities and community colleges to make sure businesses are hiring Michiganders for the best jobs in the state.

**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:** Protecting our Great Lakes, inland waters, and drinking water must be a top priority. As a former national security analyst, I believe we need to think of environmental security the way we do about homeland security: it's about the safety of our kids. If elected, I would help reinvigorate the Great Lakes caucus; push for a comprehensive, ten-year environmental plan for Michigan; and work to manage and mitigate the impact of warming temperatures. Line 5 is decades old, it gets shut down when the waves are too high, and enormous concerns have been raised by Republicans and Democrats – it should be shut down immediately.

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

**A:** Political gerrymandering and our current campaign finance laws are two of the clearest factors contributing to political dysfunction today. Much of this can be traced back to the U.S. Supreme Court decision that allowed corporate money to flood into our system through political action committees (PACs). That's why I made a commitment to not accept corporate PAC money, and if elected, I will work on campaign finance reform legislation within my first year in Congress. Voting rights are fundamental to our democracy. We should be making it easier to legally vote, not harder. This should never be a partisan issue.

## CHRIS SMITH, Democrat



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

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**Twitter:** [twitter.com/ChrisSmith2018](https://twitter.com/ChrisSmith2018)

**Occupation / Current Position:** Professor, Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice

**Education:** Kalamazoo Central H.S., 1976; Harvard Univ., B.A., Government, 1980; Univ. of Bristol, M.Sc., Social Science, 1981; Univ. of Tennessee, J.D., 1984; Univ. of Connecticut, Ph.D., Political Science, 1988

**Qualifications / Experience:** More than 30 years of experience teaching and writing books about public policy and law, including the past 24 years at Michigan State University. Author or co-author of such books as: *Courts and the Poor*; *Constitutional Rights: Myths & Realities*; *Living Democracy*; *Courts and Public Policy*; *The American System of Criminal Justice*; and *The Supreme Court, Crime & the Ideal of Equal Justice*

### Questions:

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

**A:** I advocate single-payer universal HEALTH CARE: Medicare for All. This system will control medical and administrative costs. We can make prescription drugs affordable by using the power of the federal government. FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY depends on universal health care as well as free community college and technical training, \$15/hour minimum wage, support for childcare, and opportunities for student loan forgiveness. To protect THE ENVIRONMENT, there should be NO pipelines under the Great Lakes. We must rely on science, enforce environmental laws, and combat climate change, including more use of renewable energy.

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

**A:** We need humane policies that reflect our ideals and values. We should avoid separating parents from children and stop privatization of detention facilities. We must fulfill our promises to the DACA "dreamers" and have a path to citizenship for the people spending years working, paying taxes, and remaining free of

criminal convictions. We can improve border security, but a wall is a terrible idea—ineffective and a negative symbol for our country. No member of Congress should vote to spend tens of billions on a border wall when we were promised repeatedly that not one cent of Americans' tax money would be required.

**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:** Health care should be a top priority because it affects so many aspects of people's lives. My advocacy of Medicare for All seeks to improve Medicare so that everyone has access to prescriptions as well as coverage for dental care and eye exams. The experience of other countries demonstrates that universal single-payer coverage can reduce health care costs, including administrative expenses and the price of prescriptions. At the same time, we can increase choices for veterans to seek care outside the VA while keeping VA facilities for specialized treatment. Families should not fear bankruptcy from medical bills.

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

**A:** We need free community college and technical training so that young people and displaced older workers can prepare for emerging jobs in our changing employment market. Economic opportunity for all is advanced through increased investment in education, from pre-K through college, including more opportunities for student loan forgiveness. Thousands of technical jobs may go unfilled unless we focus on accessible education and training for all. Universal health care will reduce current burdens and enable people to focus on career preparation, as will greater assistance for child care and a \$15/hour minimum wage.

**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 must insist: NO pipelines under the Great Lakes. Michigan must do everything possible to fulfill its role as guardian of the world's greatest fresh water resource, including an end to the giveaway to water bottling companies. The Environmental Protection Agency must resume its intended role in protecting against pollution and public health harms. We must invest in renewable energy and rejoin the Paris Accord to take a leadership role in the world's fight against climate change. We must invest in and rely on scientific research to guide our decisions about protecting the environment and natural resources.

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

**A:** We must make voting easier and end gerrymandering. Congress must fund measures to protect voting systems from foreign interference. Congress can mandate changes in federal elections and also create incentives for state reforms. Needed changes to encourage voting include automatic registration, no-reason absentee voting, and multi-day voting. I endorse the proposed constitutional amendment to reverse the Citizens United decision and enable legislatures to impose stricter regulation on Political Action Committees and campaign contributions. I support efforts to restore the Voting Rights Act to prevent discrimination.

## **BRIAN ELLISON, Libertarian** **Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion**

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