Primary Election: August 7, 2018
U. S. Congress District 9 – Michigan
Candidates: 1 Republican + 3 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).

CANDIUS STEARNS, Republican

Website: www.candiusforcongress.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/candiusforcongress/
Twitter: twitter.com/CandiusStearns
Occupation / Current Position: Health Insurance Agency TPA Owner-Operator / President of Sales
Education: Associates of Arts from Macomb Community College / Registered Health Underwriter (RHU) from The American College
Qualifications / Experience: Small business owner and job creator for DFBenefits and DFB TPA Services LLC, former Executive Committee member for the Metro Detroit Association of Health Underwriters (MDAHU), National Board of Trustees for HUPAC, Macomb County GOP, and treasurer of the 9th GOP district.

Questions:

1. PRIORITIES: What are your top three national legislative priorities and how would you address them?
A: America is built on the idea of freedom to govern ourselves with fundamental liberties through self-government. I am running to ensure these principals are upheld in the House of Representatives. I will fight for infrastructure dollars, skilled trade education, lower taxes with tax reform, a smaller more responsive government by reforming and repealing the compliance and tax of Obamacare, a strong defense, and secure homeland, as well as a country that values hard work and responsible behavior.

2. IMMIGRATION: What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. immigration policy?
A: Just as fair trade matters to our system of government so does the fair movement of people across our borders. We are a nation of immigrants. We also are a nation of laws. The sad truth is that our immigration system is fundamentally broken. We need to secure our borders and protect our citizens as well as those immigrants who come here legally. We need to enforce our laws and defund sanctuary cities which prevent law enforcement and government agencies from notifying federal authorities of a person's immigration status and is a direct subversion of federal law.

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: Maternity and children healthcare are both crucial for hundreds of thousands of Americans. These programs were put in place to help people with the ever-increasing cost of medical care. All government programs need oversight for fraud, waste and abuse controls. Our priorities need to be reducing costs, increasing access and quality to medical care. To obtain this most of the ACA policy must be removed and replaced with a free market system that produces price transparency. Consumers deserve to know how much a procedure cost prior to having it and the price should not depend on your insurance coverage.

4. ECONOMY: What federal policies do you support to help members of all strata of the American public improve their economic positions?
A: I believe we must continue the current path of lower taxes and removing regulation. I support making the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act permanent. One of the many benefits is the child tax credit of $2,000 per child. Money is returning to the hands of hard-working people. Additionally, I support our skilled trades

programs that assist students in learning vocational skills that lead to good paying jobs. Due to the scarcity of skilled trade workers, I support imposing zero tax on Social Security Income(SSI) of individuals that wish to work and collect SSI. Fraud waste and abuse in all Gov. programs must be stopped as well.

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: The U.S. needs to end its dependence on foreign energy sources. I support improving our research and development of sustainable energy here in Michigan and across the country. Michigan has many energy sources, natural gas, solar and wind to name a few. People have asked me if I support coal-fired plants, increased oil production, earth-friendly, renewable solutions like wind and solar, or nuclear power. The answer is yes, I believe in holding nothing back when it comes to keeping America powered up and working. I support the continued funding of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. We must protect our Great Lakes.

6. ELECTIONS: *What federal policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*
A: I support the right and access of all citizens to vote. To protect our vote, I support an authorized form of identification to ensure each individual's vote is protected from tampering or misuse and to ensure our laws are followed. I support limiting money in politics and believe in limited terms of government on a federal level.

MARTIN BROOK, Democrat

Website: www.brookforcongress.com
Facebook: http://brookforcongress
Twitter: twitter.com/brook4congress
Occupation / Current Position: Labor & Employment Attorney
Education: 1987 B.A., Michigan State University - James Madison College; 1988 M.L.I.R., Michigan State University - School of Labor & Industrial Relations; 1996 J.D., University of Michigan Law School
Qualifications / Experience: I am Michigan born and educated. Michigan resident near continuously since 1983. Working in Labor & Employment as HR Manager and Attorney since 1989. Volunteer community service includes: 6 years as elected Trustee, Bloomfield Hills Schools and Board President; Democratic Precinct Delegate; and moving force and drafter of legal reforms to make wage garnishments fair throughout the country.

Questions:
1. PRIORITIES: *What are your top three national legislative priorities and how would you address them?*
A: My top priorities are focused upon one thing – making the economy work for all of us. To do so, I espouse the Three E's: (1) Economy/Employment. Reinvest in public infrastructure and public schools and restore balance between unions/management; (2) Education. In K-12, federal government should test less and help facilitate local education via funding for research, training, and equity. Further, I propose a national service program to earn or payoff college tuition; and (3) Environment. The Great Lakes are a jewel that we must protect and climate change is a real threat to our future.

2. IMMIGRATION: *What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. immigration policy?*
A: Immigrants are a blessing not a threat. I support DACA and believe that the Dreamers should be allowed to stay with proper work authorization while Congress works on a comprehensive immigration solution. I will support a solution that includes enforcement if it also provides greater opportunities for legal immigration based upon both family and merit. I support work authorization reforms to address talent/job gaps if we first protect American workers. I oppose a physical wall because it is being espoused for immoral reasons and so it does not replace the Statue of Liberty as the symbol of America.

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: America's healthcare system is broken for all involved; people, providers, and employers alike. Based upon benchmarking with the rest of the world, our system does not deliver the best care, does not get the best results, and it costs too much. Plus, the current system leaves most families just one accident, illness, or injury away from financial disaster, even with insurance. We need a bipartisan solution to fix this decades-long and urgent problem that's ruining our health and our economy. I support a single-payer model. I am pro-choice. I support Planned Parenthood. I oppose work requirements for Medicaid.

4. ECONOMY: *What federal policies do you support to help members of all strata of the American public improve their economic positions?*
A: Economic and corporate success no longer floats all boats. Despite recent good job reports, there is widespread economic insecurity coming from decades of income stagnation. There is no silver bullet, but all families will see improvements when we: (1) reinvest in public infrastructure; (2) reinvest in public schools/colleges; (3) restore balance of power between union & management; (4) rebuild unemployment and workers compensation programs; (5) fix healthcare; (6) improve trade deals; (7) reform employment laws to cover the gig economy; and (8) expand antitrust laws to end abuse of non-compete and no-hire agreements.

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: How much proof of impending harm from climate change do we need? None! It is time to get serious so that our future generations have the opportunity to thrive. This requires shifting to renewable sources of power. I propose we build the infrastructure for electric cars and rebuild our ancient electric grid. This also requires focusing on preserving the Great Lakes – they are Michigan's superpower. I support action to fix Line 5, reduce fertilizer runoff, repair our water systems, reform ground water extraction laws, and stop Asian Carp and other invasive species.

6. ELECTIONS: *What federal policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*
A: Openness and transparency in Congress is critical to restoring our trust. We fix this problem by voting for candidates who reject big-money politics and the undue influence that comes with it. I am the only candidate running a community-based volunteer campaign that takes only individual donations and won't take PAC money or corporate/lobbyist money. Democracy is a core American value, but our voting rights are under attack for political gain. Public policy must make voting easier and more secure by increasing voting options, improving technology, and making election-day a national holiday.

ANDY LEVIN, Democrat

Website: www.andylevinforcongress.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/AndyLevinForCongress/
Twitter: twitter.com/Andy_Levin
Occupation / Current Position: Managing Partner, Levin Energy Partners. President, Lean & Green Michigan
Education: Berkley Public Schools, Williams College, University of Michigan, and Harvard Law School
Qualifications / Experience: Deputy Director, Michigan Dept. of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth Acting Director, Michigan Dept. of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth Chief Workforce Officer, State of Michigan Staff Attorney, Presidential Commission on the Future of Worker-Management Relations

Questions:
1. PRIORITIES: *What are your top three national legislative priorities and how would you address them?*
A: Health care: By fighting for Medicare for All and addressing the astronomical costs of prescription drugs. Education: By advocating for universal public education, starting with preschool and including excellent K-12 schools under local control with well-compensated teachers; adequate college funding so students aren't buried in debt; and apprenticeships offering training for middle skill jobs across many industries. Jobs: By supporting our energy, agriculture, transportation and health industries, investing in a skilled workforce, rebuilding our infrastructure, and protecting our natural resources.

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

A: We need comprehensive immigration reform. I've been active on this issue for decades, ever since I co-founded a group called Immigration Reform, Advocacy, Training and Education after the Immigration Reform and Control Act was passed. We need a reasonable system where people who have spent "x" number of years living, working and paying taxes here, can become citizens of this country over time. Ripping families with clean records apart simply because they came to the U.S. illegally or overstayed a visa many years ago is immoral and counterproductive. Immigrants embody the American the dream.

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 must be universal. I believe most Americans are sick and tired of talking about health insurance and coverage when we should be talking about quality care. As the father of two sons who live with Crohn's disease, I understand the physical, emotional, and financial toll of chronic illness. Enough is enough. Let us say plainly that as a matter of basic morality, there are things that should not be left to the market to decide. One is that every man, woman and child will have proper medical care from birth to old age, and I believe Medicare for All is the first step in that direction.

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

A: Too many of our jobs have been offshored, contracted out, privatized and made part-time or temporary, and the result is many among us won't be able to enjoy a middle-class life and retirement. It's time to put what's good for hardworking Americans at the center of every policy decision: taxation, education, regulation, economic development. We also need to help our workers transition to the jobs of tomorrow, like we did when, as Michigan's first Chief Workforce Officer, we created "No Worker Left Behind," helping 120,000 get new jobs during the Great Recession.

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: Stopping global warming is a moral imperative, but it's also an economic opportunity. I created a statewide market to finance clean energy building improvements, creating good jobs while reducing emissions and improving public health, air and water quality. We can speed the deployment of solar, wind, biomass, and other clean energy along with advanced batteries to store the new energy we create. I will work to accelerate the transition to sustainability through many means, and help make our state a leader in clean energy technology, which will create reliable, good-paying jobs and protect the environment.

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

A: Our democracy is under attack, from gerrymandering, hidden corporate money, and voter suppression. We have to make sure every citizen can vote; we have to get unlimited money out of politics; and we have to establish nonpartisan redistricting. But we must do more, and turn democracy from a spectator sport in which people simply vote every few years – with ever-lower turnout, it seems -- to a sport in which we all participate to debate the issues, defend our interests and demand our rights.

ELLEN LIPTON, Democrat

Website: www.EllenLipton.com
Facebook: http://Facebook.com/EllenLiptonForCongress
Twitter: twitter.com/RepLipton
Occupation / Current Position: Patent Attorney
Education: Harvard Law School, JD Patent & Trademark Law, 1992; Williams College, BS in Chemistry, 1988
Qualifications / Experience: Ellen Lipton is a scientist, patent attorney, former State Representative and mom of two. She served in Lansing from 2009-15 and led the fight against Betsy DeVos' efforts to destroy MI public schools. She is also the President and Founder of the Michigan Promise Zone Association, which oversees a program to provide free college and technical training to students in 10 zones around the state.

Questions:

1. PRIORITIES: *What are your top three national legislative priorities and how would you address them?*
A: My top three priorities will be healthcare, education, and infrastructure. As a survivor of MS, I know how important it is that we achieve universal healthcare. I will be a fierce advocate for strong and safe public schools and free college. We need to invest more in our students and our teachers and provide everyone a path to college or a technical degree without the threat of crushing loan debt. And we need to put people back to work fixing our country's decaying infrastructure—we should focus on creating jobs with high wages and strong benefits while bringing our infrastructure into the 21st century.

2. IMMIGRATION: *What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. immigration policy?*
A: I believe we must immediately move to protect our DREAMers, who contribute so much to our society and our economy. I am strongly opposed to inhumane deportation policies, breaking families apart and creating situations where immigrants' human rights are violated, such as housing migrants in detention centers in terrible conditions and without due process. I believe we need an immigration system that prioritizes compassion and rests on the fact that this country is great because of its immigrants. I support a path to citizenship for non-criminal migrants currently residing in the United States.

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: As an MS survivor, I am able to live a happy and healthy life because I have good health insurance that covers my expensive medications. But healthcare should never come down to luck—it should be a right for all people. In Congress, I will support Medicare for All style legislation to create a truly universal healthcare system. I will also be a forceful advocate for paid family and medical leave, so that working people can afford to take care of their families without jeopardizing their livelihoods.

4. ECONOMY: *What federal policies do you support to help members of all strata of the American public improve their economic positions?*
A: First and foremost, we need to raise the federal minimum wage to a true living wage of at least $15 an hour, which should be tied to inflation and the cost of living. We need paid family and medical leave and expanded Social Security, and we need to defend our right to collectively bargain and strenuously oppose anti-union policies like Right to Work. In Congress, I will support a Federal Jobs Program to rebuild our national infrastructure that puts people over profits and provides good jobs with high wages and strong benefits to communities with need all over the country.

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: In Congress, I will support legislation to vastly reduce carbon pollution over the next few decades and ensure that we make a full transition away from fossil fuels to renewable, clean energy. I will fight for greater investment in clean energy R&D and technology such as wind and solar and will work to strengthen energy efficiency laws. Furthermore, I'll oppose taxpayer subsidies for fossil fuel companies and any new offshore drilling or pipelines—an issue that is especially important if we want to protect our Great Lakes for future generations.

6. ELECTIONS: *What federal policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*
A: I would support a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United, as well as legislation to ban dark money and require all independent expenditures and outside political spending groups to be 100% transparent in disclosing their donors. I also believe we need to greatly strengthen our system of public financing for elections. I support a national holiday for election day, an end to discriminatory voter ID practices, ending felon disenfranchisement, and any efforts that would make it easier to vote, from no-excuse absentee voting to same day registration.