

**Primary Election: August 7, 2018**  
**U. S. Congress District 13 – Michigan**  
**Candidates: 6 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).**

### IAN CONYERS, Democrat



**Website:** <http://ianforuscongress.com>

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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Michigan State Senator, District 4

**Education:** Georgetown University, B.A. in Government; Georgetown University, M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning

**Qualifications / Experience:** Ian Conyers is a State Senator and community activist who has dedicated his service to improving the lives of the people in his hometown-Detroit. Since 2016 Ian has served the 4th District of the Michigan Senate, stretching over the urban core of Detroit and the small suburbs immediately surrounding the City. His District rests entirely within the boundaries of his Congressional seat, District 13.

#### Questions:

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

**A:** Gun safety reform, universal and accessible healthcare, transportation and economic development for Detroit and it's surrounding cities. As a State Senator, I've sponsored and supported various gun safety reforms, including: gun shot detection technology that would reduce police and EMS response times; trigger lock reforms that would require all weapons be safely stored when in the presence of a minor; and universal background checks so we can close the private sale loophole. For a more detailed breakdown of my policy proposals please visit my website: [IanForUSCongress.com](http://IanForUSCongress.com)

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

**A:** America is moving in the wrong direction when it comes to our immigration policy. This country has always been a beacon to the world for liberty and justice. That's why we keep our borders open. Separating families and building walls do nothing to keep us safe, and further damage our reputation around the world. I believe in many of the proposals in the 2013 Immigration Reform legislation that our U.S. Senate proposed, before the bill was scuttled. Providing a pathway to citizenship and expanding our refugee program to accommodate to real-world pressures and changes (i.e. Syria) are just a few of my policies.

**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:** I support a Medicare for all system whereby everyone can receive medical attention. This was the dream of the Affordable Care Act, and while I support that legislation, several flaws and compromises have prevented us from fully covering all Americans at a price they can afford. The true problems with our current system can be traced back to medical providers charging different prices for the same care on different patients. Maternal and child health care, especially low income patients, is woefully inadequate. When a premium and a deductible cost over \$1,000, that isn't affordable healthcare.

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

**A:** Lowering taxes on large corporations who do not reinvest those funds in their workers has been the trajectory of the current presidential administration and leadership in Washington. We know this simply does not work. Re-tooling the tax code so working class folks can retain more of their paychecks while higher income individuals and businesses pay a larger share is the best way we can bring more prosperity to more people. This also ties hand-in-hand with my education policy. We need strong universal public education where every student has a chance to succeed, including accessible healthcare for those students.

**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:** Michigan supplies 21 percent of the world's fresh water supply. We are not in a position to endanger that pivotal natural resource. Oil, coal, and natural gas all present a threat to our water supply and infrastructure. We need a 21st century energy policy where our power companies are compelled or incentivized to bring renewable energy supplying sources to Michiganders and other in our region. That means large investments in wind and solar. The Recovery Act did a lot to help move America in a positive direction, but that was 10 years ago. It's time a for a second wave of green energy investment.

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

**A:** Universal enfranchisement has been a goal of mine for years. As a field organizer and campaign staffer I know the fight many people face when it comes to casting a ballot. Unfortunately, our State laws are a hodge lodge of different rules when it comes to voting accessibility. Voter ID laws and limited voting access are the new Jim Crow. We need a system where every eligible elector can easily access their ballot, whether it be at home through the mail or in-person at an early-voting location. And every American citizen should be automatically registered to vote upon turning 18.

## **SHANELLE JACKSON, Democrat Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion**

## **BRENDA JONES, Democrat**



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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Detroit City Council President

**Education:** Cass Tech; Wayne State University, BS Psychology, School of Labor Studies

**Qualifications / Experience:** In 2005, I was elected to the Detroit City Council.

I've been re-elected three additional times, as an at-large member. I was elected president by my peers in 2014 and again in 2018. Prior to my Council career, I retired after 30-plus years with Michigan Bell/SBC/AT&T.

### **Questions:**

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

**A:** My top three priorities are to (1) address quality of life issues in the 13th district, including jobs and economy, infrastructure and transportation, redlining, poor education, environmental challenges and unsafe neighborhoods and streets; (2) gain access to federal funding, grants and programs that spur development and accelerate entrepreneurial activities to stimulate our local economy; (3) continue to leverage my strong relationships with the Michigan delegation and strengthen those with my democratic colleagues, while reaching across the aisle to work for the benefit of my constituents, our state and the nation.

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

**A:** Recently, I met a family whose father was deported after 26 years of being here in the U.S. This man was not a criminal and was targeted for deportation. This is wrong. While I support removing any criminal element from our population, our immigration policies need a comprehensive reform. This must include protecting our Dreamers, and creating a realistic pathway to citizenship for our undocumented individuals. Some of our citizens were brought here as slaves and had to fight to gain true citizenship. We should not have to repeat this painful history. I will advocate for a compassionate approach to this issue.

**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:** My concerns with today's healthcare system include elimination of the individual mandate to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, prescription drug prices for seniors on Medicare and Healthcare for all (including dental and vision) & paid maternity leave. A single-payer healthcare system is the best answer to ensure the health and welfare of our nation. I will work to protect every American, especially our veterans, because healthcare should be a human right. Congress must continue to work on more inclusive legislation until no one is without healthcare, prescription, vision or dental coverage.

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

**A:** Our laws must ensure that the American dream is a realistic goal for every family. This will remain my top priority. This means creating a universal education plan (that includes college, skilled-trades, and early childhood education), strengthening national labor laws to protect our hard-working men & women and strengthening our labor laws. I will work to remove obstacles that prevent individuals from achieving economic stability.

**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 fully funding the EPA to ensure monitoring and enforcing environmental standards including the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. I will also fight to promote incentives to invest in clean, renewable and alternative energy sources. Protecting wildlife and national parks from private interests such as drilling, fracking and mining is also important to preservation for future generations. I also favor a study to determine if funding for the Great Lakes Initiative is meeting the evolving needs of our region's waterways. I will advocate for testing to ensure lead or air pollution does not affect our health.

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

**A:** I support making voting accessible to every American. Congress must work to eliminate the impact of discriminatory voter suppression laws and practices across the country. In order to do this, I will fight to implement measures to automate voter registration, expand early and mail-in voting, and increase funding for our local clerks' offices. I will also work to pass laws to eliminate dark money in federal elections and reduce the influence of corporate dollars on campaigns.

**RASHIDA TLAI B, Democrat**

**Website:** [RashidaForCongress.com](http://RashidaForCongress.com)

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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Attorney, on leave of absence from Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice

**Education:** J.D. from Thomas Cooley Law School, Lansing, MI; B.A. from Wayne State University, Detroit, MI; Proud graduate of Southwestern High School, Detroit, MI

**Qualifications / Experience:** State Representative, 2008-2014 (Detroit, River Rouge, Ecorse), ranking Democratic member of the House Appropriations Committee, only member of the Legislature to operate a fully-staffed neighborhood service center offering 12 anti-poverty programs and advocating for residents with various local, state, and federal agencies.

**Questions:**

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

**A:** My top priorities for serving the families of Michigan's 13th District are economic justice (including a \$15 minimum wage, paid family and medical leave, equal pay for equal work, free college, and tackling out of control insurance rates), Medicare for All so nobody has to choose between a doctor's visit and feeding their family, and protecting our environment by enforcing the Clean Water and Clean Air acts and reinstating Obama-era environmental protections. I will work with like-minded legislators and our communities to build the support necessary to make make these bold ideas to help our families into law.

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

**A:** I have seen first-hand the devastation our broken immigration system has had on families who worked to escape unimaginable desperate and dangerous circumstances in order to start fresh and achieve their own American dream. I support a pathway to citizenship for all undocumented residents, protecting our DACA recipients, and at minimum major reforms to ICE and CBP so they stop preying on women and children and destroying families.

**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:** I strongly believe in universal healthcare for all. The Affordable Care Act was a step in the right direction, but people are still paying outrageous prices, driven by insurance companies, for healthcare. No one should have to go into debt to for medication and lifesaving procedures. A society in which everyone has access to healthcare coverage will result in a drastic improvement in quality of life for those facing chronic health conditions, women, and children. We should be increasing funds available to support maternal and child health, and I support paid family and sick leave for all.

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

**A:** One of my top priorities is economic justice. This includes securing a \$15 hourly minimum wage, standing up for unions to improve working conditions for all, preventing cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, ending corporate welfare, winning paid family and medical leave, ending wage discrimination, and creating debt-free educational and vocational training. By improving our economic foothold, we improve quality of life all-around, including health and public safety.

**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 will fight to restore Obama-era environmental protections and incentivize the expansion of renewable energy projects in order phase out dirty fossil fuels that compromise our air and water quality. Further, water issues are as important in Michigan as anywhere - I've spoken out against poor Detroiters having their water turned off and against the greed that caused the Flint catastrophe. The Great Lakes define who we are as Michiganders, and we need to fight invasive species, pollution, and greedy companies like Nestle. We need to fully fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and we need to shut down Line 5.

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

**A:** We must overturn Citizens United to ensure all of our voices are heard. We need to explore public financing models that allow politicians more time to talk to voters and that end the dependence of politicians on big money donors and corporate interests. We must also restore the Voting Rights Act and fight back against voter suppression that targets minorities and tries to silence us. We need to make voter registration automatic for 18 year olds, allow returning citizens to vote, expand early voting and vote by mail, and in general do whatever we can to make participating in the democratic process easier.

**BILL WILD, Democrat**

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

**Facebook:** <http://BillWild4Congress>

**Occupation / Current Position:** Mayor, City of Westland

**Education:** Westland John Glenn H.S. (Honors) 1986; Business Studies, U of M Dearborn; Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Executive Education

**Qualifications / Experience:** Westland City Council, 2001-2007 Westland Mayor, 2007-Present

**Questions:**

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

**A:** My priorities are targeted squarely at improving our communities, helping working families get ahead and improving the quality of life for citizens of the 13th District. America needs a robust infrastructure investment bill now. Our failure to invest in our aging roads, water system and bridges is holding back growth and will cripple our older communities in less than a generation's time. We need a robust job training and college affordability program to help workers and families thrive. Lastly, we must continue to work to improve health care affordability.

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

**A:** The issue of immigration has become a lightning rod for the economic insecurity felt by many Americans – inappropriately so. We must live up to the principals etched on the Statue of Liberty which underpin the view that America as a place of hope and opportunity. I support sensible immigration reform that prioritizes keeping families together; provides a pathway to citizenship for current permanent residents or undocumented workers; and uses immigration as a tool to grow our economy.

**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:** I firmly believe that we must continue health care reform within the framework of the ACA. The move to dismantle Obamacare is deeply concerning. We must focus on improving upon current reforms by addressing prescription drug affordability, moving toward a delivery model that incentivizes care for good health outcomes rather than for testing and visits, and continues to seek efficiencies across the states. Our maternal and child health outcomes are abysmal compared to other nations. We must focus on health, nutrition and education for the most vulnerable, at their most tender age.

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

**A:** Far too many people are being left behind in this "economic recovery." The issue is multi-faceted: from health care and education costs that continue to rise, to the dismantling of worker and wage protections like Prevailing Wage, to an anemic focus on job and worker training, America is failing to help working families get ahead. I support federal programs that invest in our communities that spur the creation of good paying jobs like badly-needed infrastructure investments. I believe we need to do more to increase the affordability of college and post-secondary education job and skills programs.

**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:** First, I strongly support fully funding the federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and any policies that will secure their vitality for generations to come. Second, I am a firm believer in robust renewable energy and recycling programs. I have demonstrated that on a local level but we all must do far more in our state and nation. I am deeply disappointed in the Trump Administration's withdrawal from the Paris Accord; I believe there is no greater existential threat to democracy, stability and our way of life than climate change.

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

**A:** I strongly oppose any policy that curbs voting rights directly or indirectly. In fact, I have a record of supporting expanded access to the ballot box by supporting a successful robust local early/absentee voting program as Mayor of Westland. I firmly believe that we must craft federal policy that rolls back, as much as possible, the abominable effects of Citizens United, and I support the effort in Michigan to reform the redistricting process.

**COLEMAN YOUNG II, Democrat**

**Website:** <https://www.colemanyouth.com/>

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/coleman4congress/>

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** State Senator for District #1 representing 250,000 constituents from Alter Road to Gibraltar, MI

**Education:** Azusa Pacific University, Major: Pastoring and Drama Wayne State University, Major Communications Valedictorian of P.A.L. High

**Qualifications / Experience:** 12 years elected official 2007-2010: Served 2 terms State Rep - 4th Dist (100,000) 2011-2018 Served 2 terms State Senator - 1st Dist (265,000) Passed landmark civil rights legislation for working women; \$6.8 million for food and heating assistance that give state power to draw down \$300 million from feds for more people; \$2,000,000 to keep Focus Hope open; \$500,000 for The Wright Museum

**Questions:**

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

**A:** Top 3 legislative priorities are Jobs, Education and Health Care/Gun Violence. **JOBS:** Invest in Infrastructure development construction for roads, bridges, schools, energy grid, ports, expanded broad band technology **EDUCATION:** Universal Pre-Kindergarten, because research shows that the earlier that children can read the more successful in life they are in later years. **HEALTH CARE:** Universal Health Care / Medicare for All, Prescription Drug Enforcer, More federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHC), fair share of disproportionate health care payments. **GUN VIOLENCE** Universal background checks.

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

**A:** First of all, we need a pathway to citizenship for undocumented workers/traditional immigrants. That includes: 1) They need to take a test. 2) They need to pay a fine and 3) Get to the back of the line for entry into the country via citizenship. We need to codify the laws regarding DACA (Deferred Action on Children Arrivals) and DAPA (Deferred Action on Parental Arrivals) to prevent separation of families and deportations without notice.

**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:** I have passed landmark civil rights legislation ensuring that pregnant women receive paid maternity leave in the public and private sectors. Further, we need Medicare for All/Universal Healthcare; restore the individual mandate in the Affordable Care Act; provide additional funding for Nurse-Family Partnership, which decreases infant mortality; provide additional funding for SCHIPS (State Children's Health Insurance Program).

**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 \$15/hr. I introduced this bill. Like the TVA and the WPA, during President Roosevelt's administration, make improvements to our infrastructure. **JOBS:** Invest in Infrastructure development construction for roads, bridges, schools, energy grid, ports, expanded broad band technology **EDUCATION:** Universal Pre-Kindergarten. Research shows that the earlier that children read the more successful in life they become. **HEALTH CARE:** Universal Health Care / Medicare for All, Prescription Drug Enforcer, More federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHC), fair share of disproportionate health care payments.

**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 to make investments in wind, solar, bio-diesel, bio-gas, geothermal, hydroelectric, air compression technology, algae, and salt; which are all forms of alternative energy technology that do not harm our Great Lakes.

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

**A:** We should overturn the Citizens United ruling and amend the U. S. Constitution. We should reform campaign financing and provide public financing for candidates. It should be easier for all citizens to register and easier for all citizens to exercise their right to vote. We should return the use of the preclearance requirement of Section 5, of the Voting Rights Act. We need a 21st Century Voting Rights Act in our nation that gives every citizen an equal right to vote with equal protection under the law.

## **U. S. Congress District 13 Partial Term – Michigan**

**Candidates: 4 Democrats**

**Partial Term ends January 2, 2019. Vote for ONE (1).**

**See the responses above of the 4 candidates for the District 13 Full Term:**

**IAN CONYERS**

**BRENDA JONES**

**RASHIDA TLAIB**

**BILL WILD**

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.