Michigan U.S. Representative District 1

General Election: November 6, 2018
2 Candidates on the ballot

Duties: U.S. Representatives share the responsibility with U.S. 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 Representative based on Congressional Districts apportioned after each census. Michigan has 14 districts as of 2012.

Term: 2 years   **Vote for ONE (1).**

JACK BERGMAN, Republican

Website: https://bergmanforcongress.com/
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/bergmanforcongress/
Twitter: twitter.com/JackBergman_MI1
Occupation / Current Position: U.S. Representative
Education: Gustavus Adolphus College (BA) University of West Florida (MBA)
Qualifications / Experience: Small Business Owner Union Airline Pilot for 22 years. Highest-ranking combat Veteran ever elected to the United States Congress. Served his country in the United States Marine Corps for 40 years. Began military career flying the CH-46 in Vietnam and retired as a Three Star Lt. General. Grandfather to eight.

Questions:

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

A: I've worked to secure the President's support, and pass legislation to authorize construction of a new Poe-sized Lock In Sault Ste, Marie. The next step is continuing the work I've started and ensuring the project is included in the President's budget. High-speed broadband access remains one of the top inhibitors of growth in the rural First District. This remains a priority for me, and is why I recently sponsored the Rural Broadband Connectivity Act. This is integral in my effort to create an atmosphere where businesses can create good paying jobs. Keeping the government off your back and out of your pocket.

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

A: We are a nation founded by immigrants, a melting pot, and a welcoming nation. However, we can never forget that we are a nation of law and order. For years, Congress has shied away from making tough decisions on comprehensive immigration reform, which has led to the problems we are dealing with as a nation today. My number one immigration priority remains securing our borders, specifically our southern border. Once we have secured our border, we must ensure a fair system is in place so those who wish to come to our country legally can be properly vetted, and assimilate into our nation.

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: In the 115th Congress I was proud to successfully fight for the longest term of continuous funding for CHIP (Childrens Health Insurance Program) and for full funding for our Community Health Clinics. I will continue to support these successful programs, which have such a drastic positive impact on First District constituents. We must continue our work to find free market solutions for our broken health care system. Under the ACA, insurance premiums and deductibles are skyrocketing, leaving First District families with minimal options and insurance they can't afford.

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

A: Since August of 2017, the unemployment rate in all 32 Counties of the First District has dropped. For years, families and small businesses in Michigan's First District have been suppressed by an overbearing tax code and burdensome regulations. One of my top priorities in congress has been, and will continue to be, rolling back over-bearing regulations, and ensuring the hardworking men and women of the First District keep more of the money they've earned.

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: Bringing our energy infrastructure into the 21st century is critical as we seek to protect our environment and economy. When it comes to the Great Lakes, we cannot do anything that would risk the quality or health of our most treasured natural resource. This is one reason I've advocated at the Federal level with our partners at the State level and energy entities like Enbridge to find forward thinking solutions, such as utilizing a tunnel, as we look to rebuild and protect our energy structures.

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

A: Voting in a free and fair election is one of the most sacred privileges we have as Americans. Bad actors, such as Russia, looking to interfere in the integrity of our elections must know that their decisions will have lasting repercussions. That's why I strongly supported the House effort to implement the harshest sanctions ever enforced on Russia, following their effort to meddle in the 2016 election.

MATTHEW MORGAN, Democrat

Website: www.mattmorganformichigan.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/morganformichigan/
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Occupation / Current Position: Retired Marine Corps officer
Education: University of Illinois
Qualifications / Experience: 20+ years active duty Marine Corps infantry and armored reconnaissance; served at the highest levels of government, three years as Strategic Communication Advisor, Office of Secretary of Defense, the Pentagon; member, White House Interagency Task Force on Violent Extremism; Senior Advisor to the Commander, Multi-National Forces, Iraq.

Questions:

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

A: Infrastructure: By prioritizing infrastructure investment through special legislation, setting aside funding for critical projects like rural broadband Internet and the Soo Locks (while authorization for the locks has been passed twice, Congress has to-date, failed to budget the money). Health care: Amending and expanding the Affordable Care Act to bring down high drug prices, and address growing insurance premiums. Protecting Social Security: Ensuring Social Security remains funded for this generation and beyond, guarding against efforts to privatize the trust, and protecting the benefits people have earned.

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

A: Comprehensive immigration reform must be a legislative priority of the next Congress. A system that is fair to all Americans, and those who have gone through the proper process to become American citizens, is necessary for both our sovereignty and our economy. As a career Marine officer who has worked at the Pentagon and with our partners at Homeland Security, I understand the importance secure borders plays in any plan to reform immigration. I also recognize the importance of good relationships with international partners in addressing cross-border crime, such as drug smuggling and human trafficking.

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: Rising costs and higher drug prices make access to health care difficult for more Americans every year. Putting corporate profits over patient care has a disproportionate impact on women and children, and is a principal factor in the United States ranking worst among developing countries in maternal mortality rates. Real, lasting, systemic change requires broad bi-partisan support and cooperative efforts, so that programs like Children's Health Insurance Program are never again used as a political bargaining chip.

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

A: In order to have an economy that works for all people, we need to start with the building blocks for success: improving public education. This includes increased access to localized technical training, which in turn increases access to higher skilled, better paying jobs in communities. In addition, history has proven that one of the most effective ways to protect wages is to give workers more flexibility to organize, and collectively bargain, for contracts that are in their best interests. We also need real tax reform that is equitable. It must balance the burden, instead of shifting it away from corporations.

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 United States has a responsibility to be a global leader on the environment, and this begins by fulfilling our obligations under the Paris Climate Accord. We have the opportunity to do so via a Carbon Fee and Dividend program, which could reduce carbon pollution and create jobs, while protecting citizens from increased energy costs. Michigan's 1st Congressional District touches three Great Lakes, and therefore, we have an obligation to lead on these policies and protect our freshwater resources.

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

A: Campaign finance reform begins with getting corporate money out of politics, which is why I have refused to accept any corporate PAC money. Broader legislative reform is necessary to end the ever-increasing influence large corporations play in deciding government policy, including a need for absolute transparency in the way campaigns are funded. We must ensure we are protecting the provisions of the Voting Rights Act, and encouraging all states to implement automatic voter registration, and better access to the polls.