

Michigan U.S. Representative District 8

General Election: November 6, 2018

4 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).**

MIKE BISHOP, Republican

Website: <https://www.electmikebishop.com/>

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

Twitter: twitter.com/ElectMikeBishop

Occupation / Current Position: United States Congressman

Education: BA, University of Michigan JD, Michigan State College of Law

Qualifications / Experience: 2 terms in the United States House of Representatives, Former State Senate Majority Leader

Questions:

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

A: 1) Create jobs and grow our economy through pro-growth policies like regulatory relief and tax reform 2) Protect the benefits that millions of our seniors rely on. America's seniors deserve to enjoy a peaceful retirement with the assurance that they will be able to rely on Medicare and Social Security 3) Protect the Great Lakes and our environment is another top priority for me. As a lifelong Michigan resident, I believe each of us has a responsibility to ensure our lakes are preserved for future generations

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

A: I have seen firsthand that our immigration system is broken. As a nation built on the rule of law, we have a responsibility to ensure the safety of the American people. We must revamp our out-of-date immigration policies by strengthening our border enforcement, implementing merit-based immigration, and adequately addressing those who have been brought here illegally through no fault of their own.

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: Regarding child and maternal health, I recently voted in support of a 10-year reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program. This is the longest ever extension of this important program and this will benefit children and their families for years to come. I'm also working to address the rising cost of health care. I'm committed to expanding health care options and improving quality and access for all Americans.

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

A: I strongly believe that all Americans should have the full ability to reach their God-given potential. Part of that is ensuring that federal regulations and the tax code don't stifle innovation and entrepreneurship. I'm pleased that tax reform has given this economy a much-needed boost. From the relocation of the production of the Dodge Ram truck from Mexico to Southeast Michigan, to the hundreds of companies giving raises and bonuses, there is no doubt that tax reform is having a positive impact and helping all Americans advance in our economy.

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: As a lifelong Michigander, I'm committed to protecting our environment and the Great Lakes. I want my children to enjoy the great outdoors like I did growing up. I strongly believe that we can both harness American energy while also protecting our environment and the Great Lakes. I have consistently supported legislation to fully fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Earlier this year I also introduced the Great Lakes Oil Spill Prevention Act which would strengthen pipeline standards to ensure that our Great Lakes are protected.

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

A: I believe transparency in campaign financing is paramount. To that end, I think it is good public policy that donations to all campaigns, including PACs, must be reported to the Federal Election Commission (FEC), and any donation of \$1,000 or more to a candidate must be reported within 48 hours. These donations then become publicly searchable on www.fec.gov. With that said, this is an issue that continues to be strongly debated, both nationally and in Congress.

ELISSA SLOTKIN, Democrat



Website: www.elissaforcongress.com

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

Twitter: 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.

Brian Ellison, Party: Lib

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

David J Lillis, Party: UST

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

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