Michigan U.S. Representative District 11

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).**

LENA EPSTEIN, Republican

Website: https://lenaforcongress.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/LenaforCongress/
Twitter: twitter.com/LenaEpstein
Occupation / Current Position: Co-owner of Vesco Oil Corporation
Education: BA in Economics - Harvard University MBA - University of Michigan's Ross School of Business
Qualifications / Experience: When I took over Vesco Oil we employed 100 people and had $100 million in annual revenue. Today, we employ over 200 people and exceed $200 million in annual revenue. I have a unique perspective as a millennial, mother, and business leader. I understand the difficulties that come with trying to run a business in today's economy. And, I believe that Washington, D.C. needs outsiders to clean it up.

Questions:

1. PRIORITIES: What are your top three national legislative priorities and how would you address them?
A: 1) Reform healthcare 2) Bolster Infrastructure 3) Strengthen the US - Israel relationship

2. IMMIGRATION: What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. immigration policy?
A: I want to enforce our current immigration laws and secure our border.

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 want to bring healthcare costs down by instituting market based solutions. I support health savings accounts (H.S.A.'s) from which patients will pay for services. This will make the consumer more price conscious and incentivize providers to advertise, and work to lower, their prices. Price transparency and lower costs come with free market principles.

4. ECONOMY: What federal policies do you support to help members of all strata of the American public improve their economic positions?
A: I support school choice. I do not want young people to be forced into failing schools simply because of their zip code. Middle and lower income families should be afforded the same educational opportunities as high-income families.

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 federal funding for cleaning up the Great Lakes.

6. ELECTIONS: What federal policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?
A: I support federal policies like FECA that promote fair elections and campaigns.

HALEY STEVENS, Democrat

Website: www.haleystevensforcongress.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/HaleyStevensForCongress/
Twitter: twitter.com/HaleyLive
Occupation / Current Position: Digital manufacturing advisor and candidate for Congress
Education: American University - Undergraduate and Graduate degrees
Qualifications / Experience: Chief of Staff to President Obama's Auto Rescue that helped save over 200,000 jobs

Questions:

1. PRIORITIES: What are your top three national legislative priorities and how would you address them?
A: My priorities in Congress are clear: help create jobs, lower health care costs, and fix Michigan's roads. I remember 2009 -- economists were singing Detroit's swan song. The auto industry was in crisis. Analysts wanted to let Detroit go bankrupt. I disagreed: I believed then, as I do today, that Detroit hustles harder. So I went to Washington and hustled, serving as chief of staff for President Obama's auto rescue that helped save more than 200,000 jobs. Today we face a different kind of crisis -- his name is Donald Trump. I'm running for Congress to stand up to his reckless agenda and fight for Michigan again.

2. IMMIGRATION: What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. immigration policy?
A: For generations families have come to America seeking a better life for themselves, their children, and their grandchildren. We are a nation of immigrants, but sadly our immigration system today is broken. It can and must be fixed without tearing apart families who come here in pursuit of the American dream. Let's pass comprehensive immigration reform that includes increased border security and a long term solution for our DREAMERs. I do not believe Congress should be in the business of punishing children brought to America through no choice 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: I believe that health care is a right, not a privilege. Every American deserves access to affordable, high-quality health care. We need to protect and improve the Affordable Care Act by fully implementing it. We also must take steps toward lowering prescription drug prices, first and foremost by letting the federal government use the full weight of its bargaining power to reduce costs for Medicare. And it is totally unacceptable that in the greatest country on earth any child goes without health care. We must improve and strengthen the 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: First and foremost we need to pass an infrastructure bill that allows us to invest in the maintenance and repair of our built environment: roads, schools, bridges, and watermains. We also need an infrastructure package that supports public-private partnerships to modernize and capture opportunities to innovate through energy efficiency, a smart grid, and technologies that improve and build off our current system. Additionally we must raise the minimum wage -- by putting more money in working families' pockets we can boost spending power and improve our local economies.

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: Like it or not, climate change is real and we need to start acting accordingly. During the Auto Rescue we not only helped save GM and Chrysler, we did it while improving fuel efficiency standards and spurring American auto companies to build the cars of the future. We implemented Cash for Clunkers, an incentive-based program that allowed consumers to trade in old, environmentally inefficient vehicles for 21st century models. We can have industry and a clean environment, but only with leaders in Congress who are willing to get the job done.

6. ELECTIONS: What federal policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?
A: Our current system is set up to benefit the wealthy and well-connected. We need to fix that or Congress will continue to pass trillion dollar corporate giveaways like the Republicans' abhorrent tax bill. That's why we need to overturn Citizens United so that anonymous billionaires cannot buy our elections. Just as importantly, we need to expand access to the ballot. In a Democracy it is our fundamental right to vote, which is why we need to fully reinstate the Voting Rights Act and protect our citizens' ability to make our voices heard.

LEONARD SCHWARTZ, Libertarian

Website: www.LeonardSchwartz.us
Twitter: twitter.com/LenSchwartz3
Occupation / Current Position: Retired professor of business law & economics
Education: BA, U. of Chicago; MA, Johns Hopkins U.; JD, Wayne State U. Law School
Qualifications / Experience: My opponents think they can spend your money & manage your life better than you can. I'm not a busybody. I don't want to spend your money or manage your life. I don't & won't have any experience wasting taxpayer money, invading your privacy, or meddling in your life.

Questions:

1. PRIORITIES: What are your top three national legislative priorities and how would you address them?
A: (1) End the war on herbal medicine, thereby reducing the opioid problem. (2) Repeal civil asset forfeiture laws, which allow the government to confiscate your property without even accusing you of committing a crime. (3) Oppose foreign quagmires & trade wars.

2. IMMIGRATION: What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. immigration policy?
A: Immigration policy should focus on people who threaten our safety or who want to sponge off our welfare system. Stop wasting taxpayer money trying to keep out honest people who want to contribute to our society.

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: (1) End the war on herbal medicine, thereby reducing the opioid problem. Many people consider herbal medicines gifts from God or prefer herbal medicines as safer or more effective than synthetic drugs. Democrats & Republican care more about drug company profits than your health or prosperity. (2) Simplify laws that make healthcare expensive but not safer.

4. ECONOMY: What federal policies do you support to help members of all strata of the American public improve their economic positions?
A: Support the free market. Oppose trade wars. Oppose subsidies and other privileges to big business. Oppose the abuse of fines, forfeitures & imprisonment of people who mistakenly violate voluminous & incomprehensible laws. For example, doctors fear being prosecuted for violating this week's interpretation of this week's healthcare laws.

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: (1) Protect the Great Lakes from invasive species. (2) Reduce the amount of fossil fuel used by the government by reducing government bureaucracies. (3) Democrats & Republicans agree that taxpayers should repeatedly pay to rebuild or repair buildings that are repeated damaged by floods. This encourages people to build on floodplains. I oppose this subsidy.

6. ELECTIONS: What federal policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?
A: Secret ballots protect voters from retaliation. To further protect people from retaliation, campaign contributions from individuals (but not political action committees or other organizations) should likewise be secret.

COOPER NYE, No Party Affiliation

Website: www.CoopforCongress.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/CoopforCongress2018/
Twitter: twitter.com/Coop4Congress
Occupation / Current Position: Independent Candidate for U.S. House (MI-11)
Education: B.A. in Political Theory and International Relations from Michigan State University
Qualifications / Experience: Cooper spent three years in Washington D.C. where he interned for The Heritage Foundation, and worked for public relations agencies handling communications for Fortune 500 companies, federal agencies, and national nonprofits.

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

A: I want Congress to serve citizens instead of special interests. It will be done by three reform-focused bills: The American Anti-Corruption Act to stop bribery by lobbyists, block politicians from fundraising during working hours, close the revolving door, outlaw secret money, and end gerrymandering. The Fair Representation Act (HR3057) to abandon winner-take-all elections and adopt ranked-choice voting, giving voters more choices and electing several winners reflecting the real views of all constituents. The Comprehensive American Audit Act to eliminate waste, fraud, and corruption across all departments.

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

A: My main concern on immigration is the breakdown in sensible debate. It shouldn't be "Build a Wall" versus "Open Borders." Most Americans want a responsible, commonsense solution. Congress should stop kicking the can and start solving the problem. Let's secure our border and reform our broken immigration system. Let's enforce our laws while ensuring that those who arrive legally are addressed in a just and timely manner. Let's be firm and fair by making laws in the best interests of both citizens and immigrants.

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: The status quo is killing people. Americans need affordable, patient-centered care because nobody working full-time should be uninsured. Ideally, Congress should pass a revamped Patient's Choice Act, providing a Universal Health Refund, Flexible Savings Accounts, and a Health Insurance Tax Credit for workers without benefits. Realistically, Congress will remain gridlocked and do nothing. Nevertheless, a couple simple fixes--such as letting Medicare leverage its buying power, importing prescriptions form Canada, and paying for outcomes instead of procedures--could do a lot of good.

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 to liberate individuals and communities from the crony capitalism concocted by Big Government and Big Business. We must stop corporate welfare by creating a national commission to identify and eliminate subsidies. We must unleash small business by cutting red tape and busting the trusts dominating our markets in every sector. We must combat inequality by improving access to capital through a National Permanent Fund, fed by rent from untapped federal properties and natural resources. And we must repeal the federal tax on income and replace it with a national sales tax on consumption.

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 accelerating America's clean energy efforts. It's an economic, environmental, and strategic win-win-win that can achieve bipartisan support because it serves our economy by creating jobs, our environment by reducing pollution, and our security by achieving independence from foreign oil. Here's the problem: Less than 2 percent of the federal R&D budget is spent on energy. We need to invest in our nation's energy R&D to unlock abundant, clean, affordable energy from nuclear, hydro, and clean fossil fuel sources. By doing so, we can drive America forward and safeguard the Great Lakes we all love.

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

A: I support reducing the power of money in politics, promoting the exercise of voting rights, and implementing a voting system that reflects the real views of voters. The aforementioned American Anti-Corruption Act would change how elections are funded by giving all voters a small credit for political contributions. Voting rights could be promoted by making Election Day a national holiday, implementing automatic voter registration, and allowing voters to vote from home. And, above all, voters can feel like their voice is heard by abandoning winner-takes-all elections and adopting ranked