

Michigan State Senate District 1

3 Candidates on the November 6, 2018 ballot

Duties: The Michigan Senate shares responsibility with the Michigan House of Representatives to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws.

Qualifications: State Senators may serve a maximum of two full terms. They must be at least 21 years of age and a registered voter in their district. There are 38 State Senate districts which are re-apportioned after each census.

Term: 4 years Vote for ONE (1)

PAULINE MONTIE, Republican

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

STEPHANIE CHANG, Democrat



Website: www.stephaniechang.com

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Occupation / Current Position: State Representative - House District 6

Education: Masters of Social Work -- University of Michigan (2014); Masters of Public Policy -- University of Michigan (2014); Bachelor of Arts -- University of Michigan (2005)

Qualifications / Experience: I worked as a community organizer in Detroit for nearly a decade, building bipartisan coalitions and advocating for issues like criminal justice reform, voting rights, immigrants' rights, and affirmative action. As State Representative I have built a strong track record of hard work and getting things done on substance abuse, small business, criminal justice, and issues affecting women and girls.

Questions:

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

A: 1. Michigan's economy does not work for everyone. We need to ensure that every worker and family in Michigan has what they need to thrive – that includes fair wages, fair taxes, and fair work environments. 2. Our children deserve a quality education. I will continue to fight for policies that help ensure that every child in Michigan, regardless of where they live, attends an excellent school. 3. We need a smarter justice system and safer communities so that our neighborhoods can thrive. From commonsense gun violence prevention to criminal justice reforms, I have been a consistent voice.

2. EDUCATION: What measures do you support/propose to achieve improved educational outcomes and accessibility for Michigan students from early childhood through post-secondary education?

A: I will continue to advocate for policies that would help ensure that every child in Michigan, regardless of where they live, receives a quality education. As a State Representative, I introduced legislation to address school closings, literacy, and school environmental assessments. I proudly co-sponsored legislation to help teachers with the resources and support systems they need to teach as well as legislation that would bring about greater transparency and accountability in our charter school system. I believe we can do more to ensure that our education system values the whole child – not over-testing our kids.

3. ECONOMY: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?

A: We need to ensure that every worker and family in Michigan has what they need to thrive – that includes fair wages, fair taxes, and fair work environments. I proudly introduced legislation to ensure that every Michigan worker receives earned paid sick time. Small businesses make our economy and our neighborhoods thrive and we need to do more to support small business owners with the resources they need to grow. My bill, HB 4871, regarding Business Improvement Zones recently passed both chambers. I will continue to fight to protect collective bargaining rights as well as restore Michigan's prevailing wage law.

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4. ELECTIONS: What state policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?

A: We need to lower the barriers to voting, fight against infringements on the democratic process, count every vote, and ensure that all eligible voters are able to make their voices heard. I introduced bills to allow voters to use municipal ID as voter ID (HB 4599) and reform the recount law so that every precinct is recounted (HB 4161). I support campaign finance reform. We should institute stricter contribution limits on all levels and require candidates to disclose personal finance information. Reducing the influence of special interests in our elections allows all candidates to operate on a level playing field.

5. ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY: What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations, while meeting the state's energy needs? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of Enbridge Pipeline 5.

A: I will continue to fight for clean air and affordable, safe and accessible drinking water. I have introduced about a dozen environmental justice bills. Michigan is a beautiful state with great natural resources – including the Detroit River. I strongly believe that we need to protect these resources because a clean environment means healthier people. I am a strong supporter of clean and renewable energy. I was honored to be the League of Conservation Voters 2017 Legislator of the Year in recognition of my work to address air quality in Southwest Detroit and Downriver.

6. JUSTICE: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?

A: Social justice and racial justice are at the center of much of my work as State Representative. Michigan is great because of Michiganders– and that means every single one of us, no matter one's race, ethnicity, gender, immigration status, religion, or sexual orientation. I will continue to be a vocal advocate for immigrants' rights, LGBT protections in our civil rights law, and solutions that address disparities in our criminal justice system, voting system, and throughout our society. For example, I introduced a bill to track data statewide regarding officer involved shootings & use of force complaints by race, etc.

DAVID BULLOCK, Green

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

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