

## **Michigan State Senate District 5**

### **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)**

### **DeSHAWN WILKINS, Republican**



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

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/wilkins4statesenate>

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/wilkins4senate](https://twitter.com/wilkins4senate)

**Occupation / Current Position:** 1) Senior Pastor / District Elder - Immanuel Outreach Cathedral 2) Insurance Sales - State Farm

**Education:** Aeon Bible College - Ministerial / Ordination Studies Kaplan - State Mandated - Property and Casualty Insurance Courses

**Qualifications / Experience:** Over 16 years of Christian church pastoring, ministerial and operational oversight. Over 3 years producing a weekly Christian Radio Program. Church fundraising to pay for church programs. Community outreach to those in need. Over 21 years as a small business owner/operator. Former Chair and Vice-Chair of the RTA's Citizen Advisory Committee. Committees and boards. Insurance Sales and service.

#### Questions:

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

**A:** 1) Auto Insurance Reform - Increase efforts to uncover insurance fraud. Remove the mandates and allow the consumers to have the choice of insurance coverages that you want or don't want. Ensure that auto related medical billing is in line with non-auto related medical billing (same rules). etc. 2) Develop Public/Private partnerships to work to eliminate the "Skills-gap" in Michigan. 3) Roads, and Infrastructure. - The use of better quality, longer lasting materials for our roads and bridges. And start the long process of replacing all of the lead pipes throughout Michigan.

**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 support the possible elimination of the Michigan Department of Education or at least rethinking its purpose in the education of our children. Elimination of Common Core standards and return back to a Michigan standard of education rather than Federal. Provide teachers with all of the necessary tools to educate our children. Close chronically failing schools. Strengthen our public schools while maintaining school choice for parents.

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

**A:** Put skilled trades and other vocational training back in the schools. Help our citizens to develop marketable skill-sets to land better paying jobs. Public/Private partnerships that more broadly focus on the elimination of the "skills-gap" here in Michigan.

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

**A:** I support requiring all political contributions to Political Action or Campaign Committees to be electronically reported and publicly available within 48 hours of receipt of contribution. I support "no-reason" absentee voting 30 days before elections.

**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:** We must maintain high standards for the protection of our natural resources. We must use all of the technology at our disposal to fix or replace the Enbridge Pipeline 5.

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

**A:** I plan to promote programs that will lower the recidivism rate among Michigan inmates and pursue alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders. I also plan to address the issue of redlining within our urban areas.

**BETTY JEAN ALEXANDER, Democrat**



**Facebook:** <http://Betty Jean Alexander>

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Deputy Clerk/Clerical Specialist

**Education:** High School Diploma, plus 2 years of Vocational School

**Qualifications / Experience:** Wayne County Government and Records

**Questions:**

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

**A:** 1. To fully fund public education according to the adequacy studies. Class size reduction. Every child learns differently and we need to make sure that children have all the opportunities and resources available to them. 2. Insurance Reform - Insurance rates need to be lower and should be based on each individual's driving record and not on any non-driving factors, such as being a woman, credit scores, and what zip code you live in. There should not be any redlining. Universal health care which will help reduce auto insurance rates. 3. Water - Everyone should have the right to clean, safe and affordable water.

**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:** Fully fund education with the aforementioned adequacy studies.

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

**A:** There should be a livable wage, \$16.00 an hour and with that you must have a high school diploma or GED AND 5 years of work experience. More skilled trades training and life long learning.

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

**A:** I fully support proposition 2 and 3 as outlined on the ballot.

**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:** Fully secure Enbridge Pipeline 5 pending it's discontinuance and replacement with renewable, clean, zero carbon based energy. I.e. wind and solar.

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

**A:** Will support and sponsor legislation that promotes social justice and equity among all Michigan citizens. Including correctional reform, greater educational and economic opportunities.

**LARRY BETTS, Working Class**



**Website:** See independent website <https://www.workingclassfight.com>.

**Occupation / Current Position:** Currently on Social Security disability, being treated for injuries to my back suffered in last job.

**Education:** Detroit public schools McGraw Elementary, Tappen Middle, McKenzie and Cody High. Left school at 16 to work. Got GED when I was 31 or 32. Took on-line courses at U of Phoenix, Everest Inst., Ashford U.

**Qualifications / Experience:** I started working at 16, I know what it is to work hard, to be unemployed, to be injured on the job, to have to fight to get Social Security disability -- and to keep going. I know what it means to have to fight just to get an education. Because of what happened to me, I can speak for working people, and all the problems we go through.

Questions:

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

**A:** Three problems: jobs, public services, taxes. Michigan's biggest problem is lack of jobs, especially in Detroit. You need a car to get to a job, but without a job, you can't get a car. The state gives big money to big money interests. That's our tax money. Take it back, use it for mass transit and lots of other services we all need. The tax system is not fair today. They take more taxes from poor folks than from rich folks. A bigger part of what we get goes out in taxes, income tax, sales tax, fees, utility tax, gas tax, etc. To make it fair, taxes should be flexible so every person contributes what they are able.

**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:** Eliminate all the tax breaks that provide nothing for the population. Use that money for the schools. College should be free. The same thing is true for the public schools. They say they are free, but parents have to pay for lots of things anyway. And most schools don't give the education every child needs. Charter schools should meet the same standards that the public schools have to meet. And money they get should not go to profit.

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

**A:** We all need a decent-paying job. The state should use tax money to hire more people to repair roads, bridges, water systems, build new schools, hire more teachers, hire maintenance workers, hire more people in state offices so we don't have to stand in line just to renew our driver's license. I could make a list ten pages long of all the jobs we could have if the state used our tax money to make everything work OK. Right now the state gives tax money away to big business. Use that money for what everyone needs. That would put people to work.

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

**A:** The rich folks benefit from the elections, no matter who wins or how. The poor people don't, and there isn't any middle class any more. When the rich folks can give over \$100,000 to a candidate and still have two million dollars left, that tells us that something is wrong in the way the whole thing runs. Working class people are the ones who built this country. We worked our whole lives. We should have the right to vote. All of us.

**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:** Big corporations control all this energy. They decide how to produce it. We don't. They don't want to give up any profit, so they run things in unsafe ways. If they don't want to provide oil and gas and electricity in safe ways, we should take their companies away from them. Why not? We are the ones harmed by their pollution.

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

**A:** When I was born, there were still a lot of places where black people couldn't vote. How did we get the vote? No one gave it to us. We got it by fighting for it. We'll get justice by fighting for it.

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