

Michigan State Senate District 9

2 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)

JEFF BONNELL, Republican

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

PAUL WOJNO, Democrat



Website: www.paulwojno.com

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

Occupation / Current Position: Warren City Clerk

Education: BA Wayne State University K-12 Certification

Qualifications / Experience: Mayoral Appointee, Warren Mayor Ronald Bonkowski, 1986 - 1997; State Representative, 28th District, 1997-2002; Senate Staff, Office of State Senator Dennis Olshove, 2003 - 2007; Warren City Clerk, 2007 - present. As State Representative, I was Majority and Minority Whip, committee member on Regulatory Reform (Vice Chairman), Health Policy, Insurance, Tax Policy and Oversight and Ethics.

Questions:

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

A: EDUCATION, INFRASTRUCTURE, ECONOMY: EDUCATION: Require that schools are fully funded. Return local control to school districts. Stop raiding the school aid fund. Ensure that more funding gets into the classroom with the following priorities: universal pre-school, hold charters accountable and fund vocational programs. INFRASTRUCTURE: Make big corporations pay their fair share, increase revenue funding to cities, counties, and townships, require road warranties from contractors. ECONOMY: Reduce taxes on the middle class. Reduce the fuel tax. Annual evaluation of the budget to confirm programs are cost effective.

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: As a candidate and parent with children in our public school system, I know that education is a top priority. Appalling legislation has been enacted with continuous raiding of the school aid fund. Michigan needs to do more to invest in education so our children can compete with students across the globe. Funding for K-12 has not increased significantly since I was State Representative. We must create universal pre-school, return local control to school districts, hold charters accountable, provide affordable college, fund vocational and alternative education programs and stop the raiding of the school aid fund.

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

A: Our level of taxation on working families is too high. People are paying more in gas taxes and vehicle registration fees, but getting less. We need to be long thinking with our economic goals. Investing in roads, infrastructure, education and worker training is good for business and the economy. Tax incentives can help grow jobs in Michigan, but they must be structured fairly. We must support small businesses, helping them excel in a global economy and reward businesses that stay in Michigan. Focusing on job creation in the skilled trades, technology, renewable energy, life sciences and tourism is crucial.

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

A: Elections are the basis of our democracy. Repeal the voter ID law and get money out of elections. Unregulated money has taken away the voice of the people. Stop gerrymandering and institute no reason absentee voting. More transparency from individuals running for office. This means full financial disclosure from candidates and elected officials. I support a sit out period (perhaps two years) from legislators who leave office and enter the lobbying community. They should not be eligible for immediate appointment to certain commissions; i.e. Liquor Control, Lottery, and Public Service Commission.

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: Decommission or close down Pipeline 5. I would support legislative measures designed to limit unregulated contaminants in our water supply. Future solutions include the replacement of all lead water pipes and reduction in the amount of chemicals from our Waste Water Treatment Plants. I oppose the extraction of Great Lakes water and Inland Waters; i.e. Nestle that pumps spring water from the White Pine Springs. Support legislation aimed at reducing agricultural runoff. Work with federal representatives on legislation that fights carbon pollution, opposes fracking, and funding for renewable energy sources.

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

A: We need an environment that is welcoming to all people. This means equal protection under the law. We must update our civil rights laws and provide protections for vulnerable communities. Enact policies that provides fair treatment for workers that includes enforcement of workplace safety and anti-discrimination laws, and equal pay for equal work. Support policy changes that keep workers in the workplace, such as family paid leave. We need to end gerrymandering. I support the League of Women Voters and their lawsuit contending the Michigan's 2011 state legislative and congressional maps are unconstitutional.

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