

## Michigan State Senate District 21

### 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)**

### **KIM LaSATA, Republican**

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

### **IAN HAIGHT, Democrat**



**Website:** [ianhaightforsenate.com](http://ianhaightforsenate.com)

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/ianhaightforsenate>

**Occupation / Current Position:** Educational Technology Educator

**Education:** Kalamazoo College - Double Major in Political Science and Education -  
---- Wayne State University - MA in Information Science

**Qualifications / Experience:** Hagar Township Clerk ----- North Berrien Fire  
Rescue Board Treasurer

#### Questions:

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

**A:** Healthcare, Jobs, and Education are my top three priorities. I am a strong supporter of the Healthy Michigan Plan which has allowed a million Michiganders to have access to healthcare. We need to bring balance back into our economy. We have swung so far towards favoring corporations that the average worker cannot get by on the poverty wages they earn. Businesses are reluctant to invest in Michigan right now because we have chronically underfunded education and have a lack of skilled workers. I propose properly funding public education and emphasize skilled trades as a path to employment after high school.

**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:** Michigan needs public preschool for everyone. Right now only a small percent of our children qualify for it and it would not be difficult to expand that program. Since Snyder cut 30% of school funding in 2010, public schools have had to drastically cut programs and services. This has driven Michigan into the bottom of the national rankings and made it very difficult to attract business investment because they do not see Michigan as having an education skilled workforce. I propose returned school funding back to where it used to be and also investing in skilled trade programs to give all students a viable future.

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

**A:** The governor has attempted to attract business investment to Michigan by slashing corporate taxes and decimating unions. What this has actually done is make us less competitive as a state because he forgot that in the long-run, you need a foundation of skilled workers and quality infrastructure to build businesses on. One of the largest companies in the world publically stated that they would not consider Michigan for a headquarters location because of our lack of skilled workers and infrastructure. Our legislature has been complicit with all of this by underfunding roads and education.

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

**A:** As a Township Clerk, I ran elections for many years and they hold a special place in my heart. Voting rights are key to having honest elections that we can trust. There are several improvements that other states have made that increase security and ballot access. I will work closely with the Secretary of State to implement those measures. I support open and transparent campaign finance laws. It is becoming clear that our votes as citizens matter much less than the millions of dollars that companies and organizations are pumping into our elections. When our vote no longer matters is when we lose our democracy.

**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:** Michigan is known for our abundance of fresh water. I will do everything in my power to maintain and even improve the quality of our water, air, and land. Enbridge is well known in Michigan for causing our worst oil spill to date and has been fined repeatedly for their lackluster attempts at cleanup. The oil in Line 5 travels along the bottom of the lake Michigan and goes to Canada. We don't use any of it for our energy needs and we bear all the risk of it failing. When that happens it will destroy Lake Michigan and with that our economy, our homes, and our lives. So, why are we supporting foreign oil?

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

**A:** Michigan is one of the few states where it is completely legal to fire someone for being LGBT or to deny them healthcare services. I will amend our civil rights act to include orientation along with age, sex, race, and disability. Our governor and state legislature have made it clear that the racially charged incident with Flint's water is perfectly okay with them. Our citizens are not as callous as they are though and have taken amazing actions to donate water and time to help alleviate the damage caused by our state's top Republicans. I will fight every day to make sure that minority voices are not ignored.

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