

Michigan State Senate District 24

4 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)

TOM BARRETT



Website: tomformichigan.com

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Occupation / Current Position: State Representative, Michigan House of Representatives

Education: B.A. Western Michigan University, Cum Laude 2007

Qualifications / Experience: I have been a soldier in the Army for my entire adult life, and have deployed to Iraq, Kuwait, Guantanamo Bay, and South Korea. I still serve part time as a helicopter pilot in Grand Ledge. When I was first elected as a State Representative I became the only Iraq War veteran in the Michigan House. I also served as an Analyst for the State Treasurer and was a board member of the Michigan Land Bank.

Questions:

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

A: My biggest priority is to lower the out of control cost of auto insurance. One third of Michigan drivers do not carry insurance. I will reduce rates by attacking the fraud and waste and preventing medical providers from gouging auto accident victims. Next is roads. I supported our most recent balanced state budget that increases road funding to the highest level in state history. Veteran issues will always be a passion of mine. We have too few voices in the legislature who have served in the military, and I have sponsored 6 veteran specific bills that have been signed into law with overwhelming bipartisan support.

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 have introduced a constitutional amendment that would equalize per-pupil funding across the state of Michigan so that all of our kids would have an opportunity to succeed, not just those in affluent neighborhoods. I also have opposed and consistently voted against any effort to strip resources out of our K-12 education fund. This year alone I have already voted against stripping almost \$1 billion in school aid resources out of our classrooms. Until we elect more legislators who oppose this practice we will continue to see money diverted from classrooms.

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

A: Michigan has the lowest unemployment rate in decades. Having a fiscally sound and disciplined state budget that invests in infrastructure and reducing debt shows competence and stability to businesses that are considering investing in our state. Lowering auto insurance costs would stimulate our economy by allowing people to keep and spend more of their own money. Parts of Michigan also have some of the highest energy costs in the nation and we need to become more competitive with energy rates to improve life for residents and create a more attractive location for businesses to invest

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

A: I support the right to participate in free and accurate elections, and I have fought for that right in other countries. I sponsored a bill that was just signed into law that requires the use of paper ballots in Michigan, a critical election integrity protection in case of a recount or to examine any voter anomalies. I have also sponsored legislation that would permit military members overseas to return their ballots electronically using their DOD email if their absentee ballot would not return home in time to be tabulated in the election.

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 support the plan to place a utility tunnel buried beneath the straits to contain any pipeline as well as an electricity transmission line to link the upper and lower peninsulas. Our current grid has almost no ability to transfer electrical generation between the two peninsulas and that contributes to the energy rates in the UP being the highest outside of Hawaii. Pipelines have been shown to be the safest way to transport material and by placing the pipeline in a tunnel that can house other utility lines it will accomplish the goal of allowing the flow of energy while also providing protections to our Great Lakes.

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

A: I support the rule of law to apply equally to everyone in our state regardless of race or social status. I have consistently opposed crony political deals that advantage elitists who can afford to pay high priced lobbyists to execute their political desires. All of us deserve equal treatment from the government, and I have stood in firm opposition to special political deals that only benefit the wealthy and well connected. My background is in the Army, not as a Lansing insider or lobbyist. I treat everyone fairly and I am proud of my legislative accomplishments working with colleagues from all political parties.

KELLY ROSSMAN-MCKINNEY



Website: <https://www.kellyforstatesenate.com>

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

Twitter: twitter.com/rossmanmckinney

Occupation / Current Position: Retired CEO of Truscott Rossman

Education: Macomb Community College, AA '75; Wayne State University, BA '77
Psychology; Radio/TV/Film

Qualifications / Experience: I have been a small business owner/job creator since 1988, when I started my first business as a single mom sitting down at my

kitchen table. I knew it was more important to pay my employees and suppliers first, even if it meant taking nothing for myself. I have built success on my "people before profits" attitude, strong work ethic and commitment to problem-solving.

Questions:

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

A: a) Introducing The People's Price Tag legislation to require a price tag on every bill that is introduced. This will ensure that taxpayers know exactly how much a proposed new law will cost, how it will be paid for, who will pay, and who benefits. B) Working collaboratively to solve the state's problems, including but not limited to: infrastructure; attracting and retaining talent – including ensuring affordable secondary education & training; addressing our failing education system; etc. c) Ensuring quality & affordable physical and mental healthcare for Michigan's citizens

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: The constant churn of demands has made it hard on educators & we need to strengthen their ability to get back to basics. That means letting teachers teach critical thinking vs. "teach to the test." Michigan is starting to address the need for early childhood ed. but we're not reaching our goals. Many schools are in need of modernization and don't even have enough classrooms, so they've added modules. Buildings are old and need upgrading. I want students to have the best and safest environments to learn. We also need increased funding for community and four-year colleges, as well as skilled trades training.

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

A: This is one of the most important reasons I am running and is a serious issue in my district, where we see some residents living well above the state's average household income while others live well below. I want every area of my district to thrive. Seeing abandoned store fronts and people moving away is heartbreaking. There are many steps we must take to address this. Like better access to skilled trades training – making sure that whether people are four-year, community college, or skilled trades school bound they have affordable and accessible options. This can help us attract great paying jobs to Michigan.

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

A: A transparent and honest government starts before those who hope to be in office are elected. That is why I support an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission and I support no-excuse absentee voter registration, early voting in Michigan, Election Day voter registration, and complete disclosure of all political campaign expenditures by for-profit and non-profit corporations and all political action committees.

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 have a responsibility to protect our natural resources – like our Great Lakes and there is a lot we can do. Like supporting pilot projects for conservation. For example, the Michigan Farm Bureau has partnered with The Nature Conservancy, local governments and others for a Conservation Innovation Grant by the US Dept of Agriculture to develop systems to promote conservation practices near public drains. Although it is still early, there is potential to help public county drain officials improve water quality.

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

A: I support justice and equality for all in our country and I am deeply concerned that racial and social injustice are becoming an insidious undercurrent – not just in our state but in our country. I will do everything in my power to ensure that the policies before the legislature are fair to all and do not have a more negative impact on people who are already struggling.

KATIE NEPTON, Libertarian

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

MATTHEW SHEPARD, U.S. Taxpayers

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

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