

## Michigan State Senate District 25

### 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)**

### **DAN LAUWERS, Republican**

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

### **DEBBIE BOURGOIS, Democrat**

**Website:** DB4MI.com

**Facebook:** <http://DB4MI>

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Trustee at St. Clair County Community College

**Education:** BA 2010 MSU MS 2015 EMU

**Qualifications / Experience:** 2014 Chair St. Clair County Millage Campaign 2017 to Present St. Clair County Community College Trustee

#### Questions:

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

**A:** Water Education Ethics Water - better allocation of funds for infrastructure. Shut down line 5. Examine possibility of rescinding Nestle contract. Do not let big business run DEQ. Education - increase per pupil funding. Hold charter schools to the same standards as public schools. Increased support for education and teachers. Ethics - nowhere to go but up for MI, dead last among 50 States! Increase transparency, to start.

**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:** Step one - increase funding to appropriate levels, reversing years of underfunding Step two - examine what has worked in other states. Step three - listen to teachers. Step four - offer public early childhood education programs.

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

**A:** Reinstate prevailing wage. Offer PAID internships at the State of Michigan, unlike the unpaid internships currently offered. Support Unions rather than seek to dismantle them. Repeal Right to Work. Increase support for all education.

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

**A:** I believe that voting is a right in a democracy and would seek to make it easier for the people of Michigan to cast their ballots. I have concerns about actual voting equipment and procedures that vary from region to region. I believe campaign finance reform is long overdue and that it will be difficult in the land of Citizens United, but still needs to be addressed.

**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 would shut down line 5 on day 1, if there is any way I can. Michigan currently has a legislative majority that follows national standards in many areas, including environmental. Our awesome natural resources are too important to follow the destructive standards of the current national administration. I would do all I can to ensure Michigan safeguards our natural resources. Additionally, Michigan needs to hold violators accountable, so they pay for restoration, not taxpayers.

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

**A:** Enforce and expand anti-discrimination laws. Increase training for schools, hospitals, police, etc. I do not support religious beliefs in exemptions for medical treatment.

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