

Michigan State Senate District 26

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)

ARIC NESBITT, Republican



Website: www.VoteNesbitt.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/aricnesbitt

Occupation / Current Position: Resigned from Governor Snyder's cabinet to run for State Senate, March 2018

Education: Graduate, Lawton High School; Attended KVCC; BA in Economics from Hillsdale College; Masters in International Business

Qualifications / Experience: Served as the youngest member of Gov. Snyder's Cabinet (2017-2018); State Representative (2011-2016); Former Majority Floor

Leader, Chair of the Energy & Technology Committee, & Chair, House Republican Campaign Committee; Worked in 24 states to increase government transparency and prevent higher taxes; Lead Republican staffer in the non-partisan Congressional Steel Caucus & Natural Gas Caucus

Questions:

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

A: 1) Pay down debt 2) Fix roads & bridges 3) Lower the cost of auto insurance

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: Ensure that Michigan's children are reading by the third grade, provide more choices for students in vocation education and early college programs, and provide students more flexibility in the Michigan Merit Curriculum to help them decide their education and career pathways that best fit them.

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

A: Aric will work to balance budgets, pay down debt, reduce the tax burden, lower auto insurance rates, limit regulations, and promote our priorities, including law enforcement, rebuilding our roads, and education. Aric helped eliminate the job-killing Michigan Business Tax and replace it with a simple and fair flat tax. This tax reform moved Michigan from having the worst tax on job creators in the nation to a top 20 state for the treatment of business, individual and retirement income. Aric led the effort to further reduce the income tax, limit government growth, and he will continue that push in the Senate.

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

A: America is built upon free and fair elections and Aric will support one person, one vote. This will include implementing mandatory photo ID before voting and clean up the voters rolls to ensure that deceased voters are removed from the lists and people are not registered in multiple states.

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: While in the House, Aric supported a broad bipartisan package of bills that will ensure Michigan has an adaptable approach in developing sustainable, reliable energy policy. The plan is an 'all of the above' energy policy that promotes cost-effectiveness, reliability, cleaner energy standards, and Michigan-made energy while offering new ratepayer protections. We need to continue to ensure that our Great Lakes are protected by continuing to push the federal government to stop invasive species such as Asian Carp, prevent the diversion of waters from the Great Lakes Basin, and ensure pipelines are properly maintained.

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

A: We need to ensure every citizen is treated equally under the law and has the opportunity to develop their God-given talents. Aric supported legislation that cracked down on human trafficking and will stand with law enforcement and law-abiding citizens to protect our families. The prescription drug epidemic has devastated communities and families across the state and Aric will help lead the charge to save lives and end this epidemic. Aric knows criminals preying on seniors and children are evil and operating a vehicle while intoxicated or on drugs is a reckless threat to the innocent.

GARNET LEWIS, Democrat



Website: www.garnetlewisforstatesenate.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/garnetlewis2018

Occupation / Current Position: Small-business owner; retired university administrator.

Education: Ph.D. - Higher Education Administration; University of North Texas; 1992

M.A.Ed. - Northern Michigan University, 1986 B.S. - Truman State University, 1983

Qualifications / Experience: Garnet Lewis brings a great deal of experience to her bid for the Michigan Senate Seat in District 26 (SD26); experience that provides her with first-hand knowledge of the issues that confront voters in the 26th district. A small

business owner/manager for the past 15 years, she is well-aware that we need to grow Michigan's economy to create jobs and return Michigan to prosperity.

Questions:

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

A: Educational funding; environmental protections; infrastructure investment, and access to affordable health care. See responses below.

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: Education is an investment. Garnet will work tirelessly to see that Michigan's public education system becomes competitive with any other system in the nation. To get there, we must have financial support from the State of Michigan for all three tiers of state-funded public education: preschool, K-12 and post-secondary education. This financial support is essential for any state that intends to compete and succeed in a 21st Century economy. Michigan must expand its pre-school/early childhood education programs, to include all children. Lastly, Michigan must make post-secondary education tuition more affordable.

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

A: As a fundamental believer in the value of an education, Garnet knows that investing in public education is essential for any state that intends to compete and succeed in a 21st Century economy. Investment in post-secondary education (community colleges, vocational/technical schools, trade schools, and apprenticeships) will benefit everyone and become a major economic driver for future of our State.

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

A: Garnet fully supports the Voters Not Politicians ballot initiative to amend the Michigan constitution to place an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission in charge of redistricting. She supports the LWV "Promote the Vote" ballot initiative to provide comprehensive election reform for Michigan. And, she also supports the LWV (and 11 individual voters') lawsuit to end gerrymandering in Michigan. Garnet believes that Michigan citizens should automatically be registered to vote, that they should be able to vote absentee for any reason, and that they should be able to vote electronically.

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: Garnet supports the efforts of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and knows that Michigan has the intellectual, industrial, and political resources to become a leader in harbor management and environmental planning, development, and conservation by working collaboratively with legislative colleagues and federal agencies, to secure funding and expertise to restore and our these waterways.

Garnet also supports the mission of the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) to proactively and comprehensively address environmental concerns, including Enbridge's Line 5.

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

A: Invest in public education and work to make post-secondary education tuition free; provide affordable and accessible healthcare; invest in infrastructure, especially broadband access and public transportation; invest in job-training opportunities through realistic job training and counseling; increase the minimum wage to a livable wage; introduce legislation to ensure pay equity for women and end workplace discrimination; and work to provide income assistance and ensure access to quality, affordable childcare.

ERWIN HAAS, Librarian



Website: www.kentwoodblog.wordpress.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/218083008961593/>

Twitter: twitter.com/erwinhaas2

Occupation / Current Position: Recently retired from serving one term on Kentwood's City Commission, 2nd ward, 2013-17

Education: AB Canisius College, Buffalo MD University of Buffalo MBA, Grand Valley State University

Qualifications / Experience: Board member of the Grand Valley Coop Credit Union for 8 years -Flight surgeon in Vietnam, highest rank, major -On Mayor Logie's 1997

committee on the War on Drugs -married with three successful adult children -MBA GVSU; taught marketing -Had a dozen scientific medical articles published in juried magazines and books. Also published in Michigan Medicine, American Thinker. TV show in Kent County.

Questions:

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

A: 1) I'll question every "expert" moocher who comes to testify. Most regulations are based on false "social sciences" and need to be debunked. I have scientific, business, legal and life's experiences, and a visceral dislike of liars. They'll squirm. Education theory has led to hopeless public schools, psychology to senseless drug rehab and counseling. 2) Abolish corporate welfare, MEDC, film subsidies. Pure Michigan. 3) Legalize Marijuana; it will help diminish the Opioid epidemic. With Marijuana legal, push to allow our farmers and small towns to grow and process hemp. Can replace plastics, oil, building materials.

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: We try to add "stuff" to students and ignore their individual needs in our large centralized schools. We also ignore the value of things that kids can learn from their families, religious and social surroundings. Small, even one room grammar schools, based in neighborhoods would allow parents to know what their kids are learning and let them influence what they hear. After a basic grounding in elementary school, let kids decide, with their parents and neighbors, whether to go on to an academic career, trade schools, apprentice programs or into the military where they can pursue any number of occupations.

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

A: I reviewed the employment numbers for the hospitality industries for Michigan and for 5 other upper midwest states from 2005 (when "Pure Michigan" a subsidiary of MEDC was started) until 2015. Our employment increase for those years was by far the worst in the region. It, MEDC and the film

subsidies should be dropped so allowing taxes to be lowered. The people will have money to start businesses, and to develop innovations on their own. Politicians and bureaucrats are notoriously poor in directing economies; Michigan does not need another 5 year plan or some other "Great Leap Forward."

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

A: There is not enough money in elections; the incumbent, who may be corrupt or incompetent, has enormous advantages. It takes a lot of money to expose the malfeasances. Limiting campaign contributions burdens challengers unfairly. Also, allow anonymous contributions so that contributors cannot be punished for exercising their free speech rights by the winner of the campaign. Payne's "Common Sense", the "Federalist" and "Antifederalist" were all done anonymously because the authors feared retribution. I didn't know that citizens didn't have voting rights. Sounds like the LWVMI follows the Democrat's party line.

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: Oil has always oozed out of the ground to foul land, lakes and oceans. That's how people first discovered the stuff. Oil seep were common before drilling for oil dropped the pressure in the domes where oil was contained. In nature some oil on the surface evaporates off as naphtha (probably the basis of Greek fire). Other oil is digested by bacteria converting it into simple organic compounds that other organisms feast on, leading to a localized exuberant biodiversity. The heavier components of oil remain as lumps called bitumen or asphalt. We pave our roads with this stuff and no one calls it contamination or ugly.

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

A: With ordinary Justice, workers get to keep their earnings and crooks are punished. Social Justice is the opposite-distribution of goods and blame are based on politics. To illustrate; By 2016, Sec. Clinton had been preparing to be president for decades and had campaigned hard for the job. She was qualified. She lost to Donald Trump, a blowhard workaholic with other politics. Clinton's losing is an example of social justice. Under rules of justice Clinton would have deserved/earned the presidency. With social justice and politics, Donald Trump won. I'm not sure that Social Justice is what the LWV MI want.

ROBERT M ALWAYS



Occupation / Current Position: Member of the Otsego City planning commission, member of Otsego Main Street Economic Vit. Committee.

Education: M.A. Chemistry - Western Michigan U. B.G.S. University of Michigan

Qualifications / Experience: My experience includes being Otsego City planning commissioner for 15 years and a member of the Otsego Main Street economic vitality committee. I had 20 years experience as an Environmental Quality for the MDEQ/MDNR where I Participated in writing Michigan environmental laws and rules along with environmental compliance and enforcement. I was Chapter 8 Governor of SEIU 517m for 15 years.

Questions:

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

A: 1. Supporting development of renewable energy with legislation encouraging green energy use on the grid and electrification of automotive equipment manufactured in Michigan. 2. Supporting legislation allowing Michigan's working people to earn a living income including closed shop at the workplace. This includes support for our education system from pre-school through our universities so Michigan will keep pace through the 21st century. 3. Bring taxes to a level that will support the needs of Michigan residents. We are now at a level where it costs more in lost business and health than taxes saved.

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 music and art for early childhood education through secondary levels. There is evidence that music plays an important part in brain development. The arts are critical for motor skill development as well as creating a sense of self-respect. Our community colleges and universities need to be supported at levels to insure both excellence and students graduate without excessive debt.

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

A: Encourage Michigan universities to develop new farm crops to diversify and enhance Michigan farm income. Provide for infrastructure including roads, automotive electrification, sidewalks, trails, and digital connections. Ensure our environmental laws and rules are based on improved efficiency that reduces cost as well as impact on the environment. Defend the rights of workers including the return of closed shop in Michigan.

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

A: Stop voter suppression by either providing free state ID to all registered voters or rely on voter signatures as used successfully in more than a century of Michigan elections. I support using preferential ballots in our elections. Due to Supreme Court decisions, such as Citizens United, that allow unlimited political funding by wealthy out of state entities, we will have to rely on non-partisan groups like the League of Women Voters to enable the grass roots dissemination of ideas.

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: Push for the continued remediation of the Kalamazoo river floodplain. Enact renewable energy legislation encouraging green energy use on the grid and electrification of automobiles and trucks manufactured in Michigan. Encourage the installation of automotive charging stations. The tar sands petroleum in Enbridge Pipeline 5 is basically liquid sandpaper. Pipeline 5 will spill again eventually. Long term the reduction in demand for expensive tar sand petroleum products the best long term solution. Ideally there would be a ban on the pipeline transport of crude oil across Michigan.

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

A: Repeal the emergency manager law. Michigan is ranked in the bottom half of the states in health care. I will press for Medicaid expansion of the Affordable Care Act. Oppose any law preventing peaceful expression of ideas.

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