

Michigan State Senate District 32

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)

KEN HORN, Republican



Website: www.hornforsenate.com

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Occupation / Current Position: State Senator for the 32nd District

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Concordia University

Qualifications / Experience: 14 years as a Saginaw County Commissioner and 6 years as a State Representative. Small business owner prior to that.

Questions:

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

A: Jobs, Fixing Roads & Reducing Auto Insurance Costs Creating great jobs here in MI. Training people to fill those jobs is a big challenge. I'm focused on CTE, skilled trades & STEM career pathways. We've accelerated our investment into roads. MDOT tells us that we're now working so fast, that they've exhausted their list of road contractors & that we're running short of road building materials. Funding local roads is now my priority. MI has the highest rates of car insurance in the nation. This is the #1 concern for residents who call my office & what I hear about most at my town halls. I've supported reform for years.

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: From my days as vice president of the Saginaw Community Foundation, I've been highly supportive of prenatal through K-12 issues. As Senator, I meet regularly with teachers & administrators to discuss issues of the day. Endless student testing & overly burdensome reporting are a major frustration for teachers. Teachers need more time to teach and more help from many of their parents as students grow. I recently passed bills out of my Economic Development Committee to provide students with career exploration opportunities. Students, parents & educators deserve to know about all the great career choices that MI offers.

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

A: As Chair of the Senate Economic Development Committee my primary legislative priorities revolve around creating more jobs & opportunities for anyone looking to find a job. Currently, our struggle is to find enough skilled people to fill great jobs. Average paychecks are growing, unemployment is at its lowest in decades & people are beginning to move back to Michigan. Michigan is back. To further help our hardworking Michiganders, I've been working to lower the cost of car insurance. Residents could save up to \$1,000 a year if they were able to buy across state lines. That's real savings that we need to duplicate here.

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

A: I often think about our soldiers & veterans who spend months & years away from their families as they serve multiple duties overseas. For we civilians who are able, I think it's reasonable & responsible to spend twenty minutes every 2 years to go to City Hall to cast a vote. When we are inspired to vote, there's no law that could prevent us showing up to do so. Conversely, no government law, rule or regulation will inspire people to vote in greater numbers. I applaud organizations in my district and on college campuses for doing voter registration drives. Neighbor inspiring neighbor; it's the way it ought to be done.

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: As a former Chair of the House Energy Committee, I've worked with our municipalities, our consumers & regulated utilities to manage a very complex energy grid. Capacity, reliability & affordability are the big concerns as we work to create more & better jobs. I've been involved in two major energy reforms, which mandated clean & renewable energy using wind & solar as part of our energy portfolio. I recently heard testimony on a plan to tunnel under the Straights to provide a casing that also allows for electric & emergency services. Keeping our Great Lakes clean and free of invasive species is a priority of all of us.

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

A: Since childhood, I have a record of standing up for the underdog and I will continue to do so on many levels. My Faith teaches me that we are all children of God. I believe that we should be kind to every person we encounter, because they're all fighting an internal battle known only to them. So I help where I can, person to person. As an elected official, we protect our most vulnerable. I work to defend people who cannot defend themselves, treating everyone with dignity. For those who are able, a great-paying job is the very best form of social justice. Work is good for the mind, the soul and for the paycheck.

PHIL PHELPS, Democrat



Website: philphelps.com

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Occupation / Current Position: State Representative, Michigan's 49th District

Education: Bachelor's in Political Science from University of Michigan Flint Attended Delta Community College and Mott Community College

Qualifications / Experience: Current State Representative, former Chief of Staff for State Rep Pam Faris, former special advisor to House Democratic Leader Richard Hammel, Vice President of Government Affairs for Grid Logic (at the time they were a tech start up company making devices for our nation's power grid and alternative energy products. Former regional director of external affairs for the Granholm-Cherry Administration

Questions:

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

A: 1 Creating Good Paying Jobs and we must increase wages for everyone, support working families with paid leave, and secure our retirees benefits by repealing the pension tax. 2 We need to reinvest in education so our young people are ready for the jobs of the future, as well as make college more affordable for all and invest in skilled labor training. 3 We need to take MAJOR STEPS at making our government transparent and accountable. Michigan ranks 49th for overall transparency and has rampant corruption, fraud and waste. I have been fighting to clean this up the past 5 years and the Republicans have blocked my bills.

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 need to equitably fund our schools so that all students have a fair shot, and make sure that teachers have the resources they need, like supplies and up to date technology and books. As well, we need to be investing in our public colleges and universities and creating programs that pay back student loan debt for students that stay in Michigan and start their careers. Our students shouldn't be leaving college with massive debt. I also have been working on bills to ensure Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing students have the necessary resources to get the same quality education as their hearing peers.

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

A: Michigan needs repeal the terrible pension tax that has been stealing money from our retirees, switch to a graduated income tax so everyone pays their fair share, fully reinstate the Earned Income Tax credit, and help increase everyone's wages. We also need to reinstate prevailing wage so we aren't paying laborers less for skilled work, repeal our right to work laws, and increase revenue sharing so that your city or township has the funds needed to repair and build infrastructure to attract high wage jobs. The Republican legislature has not given your area their proper share for decades.

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

A: We should be making it easier for our State's residents to vote. That's why we need better funding for our elections so that polling places can accommodate all voters who show up to the polls on election day. However, making people go to a polling place in the middle of a work day is a major inconvenience for many working class voters, which is why we also need no reason absentee voting. As well, our State should be reforming our campaign laws to make donation information more transparent as well as outlaw corporate and wealthy donors from spending unlimited dollar amounts in and on the political process.

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: Representing part of the City of Flint during their ongoing Water Crisis, I understand just how lax our current environmental laws are. I have been fighting for years to get better lead and copper testing rules in place, including regular testing in schools and daycares. However, there are so many environmental issues our state is facing and we need to make sure we are safeguarding our natural resources. We need to be investing in alternative energies, and put in place policies that protect our water from pollutants as well as from overuse and massive withdrawals by huge corporations.

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

A: This starts with equitable funding, we need to better fund schools and neighborhoods that have been systematically disadvantaged and make it possible for any student who chooses, to attend college or training programs. We also need to increase our revenue sharing and reform our emergency manager laws so that our lower income municipalities are supported and not just taken over by unelected officials who only care about financial outcomes. Our State should also do what it can to ensure that all people make equal pay for equal work.

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