

Michigan State Senate District 35

3 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)

CURT VANDERWALL, Republican

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

MIKE TAILLARD, Democrat



Website: www.miketailard.com

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Occupation / Current Position: Economic consultant, author, and adjunct graduate school professor

Education: PhD - Research Field in Behavioral Economics;; MBA - Specializations in International Finance and International management;; BSci - International Economics;; AA - Business Administration

Qualifications / Experience: I've been an economic consultant for the last 16 years, and all the businesses, non-profits, and government agencies I helped succeeded. Politician clients ignored the research, so I'm here to get the job done right this time. In addition, I've been a small business owner, an Army soldier, an educator, and I'm at the cutting edge of economic research beneficial for proper policy development.

Questions:

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

A: 1) Improve the way decisions are made, emphasizing objective research and data-based policy. Obligatory research reports on policy outcomes and potential alternatives must be addressed and provided to the public prior to votes in legislature, and laws eliminating conflicts of interest be implemented. 2) Not just repair, but improve our state infrastructure using updated technologies to increase its economic potential and improve quality of life. 3) Comprehensive assessment of policies and operations to maximize efficiency, reduce waste, and decrease spending while improving programs rather than cutting them.

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: 1) Stop draining public school resources to fund for-profit charter schools, and expand funding for schools. 2) Provide free or affordable before- and after-school classes students can choose so that working parents can ensure their kids are in a safe, constructive environment. 3) Include early childhood education as part of the standard public school programs. 4) Provide options for courses and environments for students to learn curriculum in a manner best suited to their learning style, interests, and aspirations for their own future. 5) Expand post-secondary education options for trade schools, apprenticeships, etc

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

A: 1) Provide guidance and financial assistance to entrepreneurs, small businesses, inventors, researchers, and other "new entrants" to the market in order to increase opportunities for growth while challenging existing businesses to provide better wages/benefits to compete for workers, and to become more innovative and efficient to compete for customers. 2) Support career-oriented skills education and expansion of infrastructure to give businesses the resources they need to thrive. 3) Increase operational efficiency of government operations to decrease spending while improving service offerings. 4) I could go on forever

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

A: 1) Apply the same conflict of interest laws to politicians that government employees are subject to (the implications of that are very broad in terms of campaign funding, in addition to other benefits politicians get from private interests). 2) Biometric voter registration in lieu of ID as proof of identity that reduces hurdles for low income individuals. 3) Eliminate gerrymandering 4) Increase the time period available to get signatures for voter initiatives to qualify for the ballot

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: The price of oil is increasing quickly as we resort to more expensive methods to get at the stuff that's hard to reach. Natural gas has remained relatively stagnant but will also increase. By contrast, the costs of renewable energy are following typical technological price curves and are dropping in cost dramatically while increasing in efficiency. It makes economic sense to divest assets away from fossil fuels and allocate them to solar because that will generate the greatest returns on fiscal expenditures. Markets are already making Line 5 outdated and irrelevant, so it represents nothing more than risk cost.

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

A: 1) Update law enforcement using modern techniques and methods (and eliminate civil asset forfeiture) 2) Comprehensive prison reform to make criminals positively-contributing members of society. 3) Assess complaints of unequal treatment/wages in the workplace using objective measures of productivity and qualifications. 4) Reverse the revisions to consumer protection laws implemented under Engler. 5) Expand and enforce equality under the rule of law 6) Provide incentives to use existing buildings in residential, commercial, and industrial districts rather than expanding outward to build new ones.

TIMOTHY COON, Libertarian

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

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