Michigan State Senate District 38
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)

ED McBROOM, Republican

Website: mcbroomforsenate.com
Facebook: http://Ed McBroom for State Senate
Twitter: twitter.com/McBroom4State
Occupation / Current Position: Dairy farmer
Education: BME & BS- Social Studies Education; history minor
Qualifications / Experience: State Representative '11-'16, Waucedah Twp Board of Zoning Appeals, Michigan Farm Bureau State Young Farmer Committee and Policy Development Committee.

Questions:

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

A: More high school curriculum flexibility is a top priority. I was the first to get some back in 2014 but only for career tech. Schools that are doing well should have much more freedom to tailor education to their local needs & professional judgements about individual students. 2 Reducing the cost of auto insurance.The current system is unaffordable & unfair- particularly those with less money. We need reforms that set a fee schedule for medical care, offer capped benefits, reduce fraud & cap attendant care. 3 We need greater transparency in government. FOIA for the Gov & the legislature & a permanent ethics committee.

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: Providing more opportunities for students to interact with real world options is critical- students need to see achievable goals for their time in school & catch a vision of the value of succeeding. I also believe too many pressures are placed on students to do more toward their weaknesses, rather than their strengths, so they can pass tests for rankings & other arbitrary measurements. We ought to abandon these measures as the most critical indicators of successful students & schools. Many students should be encouraged to work before college. We also need to greatly increase our efforts & funding for adult education.

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

A: We need to continue to reduce the incredible burden of regulations in this state. In trucking alone, the Michigan regulations are about 500% greater than other states with no obvious reward to citizens but much higher costs to truck drivers and those paying for shipping. Reducing the cost of auto insurance would save every driver money and any business with vehicles- because they pay the fees on every owned vehicle. We must continue to promote the responsible use of our state's natural resources as they generate signifcant job opportunities across the state.

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

A: Issue advocacy should not be an opportunity for persons to shield their electioneering. All legitimate speech and actions have costs and responsibilities therefore donors to issue advocacy should be subject to the same disclosures as those giving to direct candidate/voting advocacy. I support the right of all citizens to vote in their elections.

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 science based, legsilatively driven environmental policy. Mandates for renewable energy are currently being met primarily by industrial wind farms. I believe this effect has been detrimental to our rates & the peace of many communities & while it meets needs, the same amount must be readily available from base load resources. I support doing more to promote local & residential opportunities such as micro-grids, residential wind/solar, & a rewarding net-metering program. I support replacing Line 5 with a newer structure, especially tunnelled beneath the straits- no other option for UP propane needs exists.

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

A: I will support any policies that further promote and protect the civil rights of all residents of Michigan. Greater transparency in government allows all residents oversight of their government's actions. I authored bills extending FOIA to the governor's office and a similar law to the legislature. I was the lead house member investigating the Flint Water Crisis. During this event I saw first hand how the government can become apathetic and dismissive to people its agents deem lacking in enough value to serve. We must have a culutural change in elected and bureaucratic officials to care about our neighbors.

SCOTT DIANDA, Democrat

Website: scottdianda.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/scottdianda/
Occupation / Current Position: State Representative Michigan's 110th House District
Education: Lake Superior State University, Harvard's Kennedy School of Government
Qualifications / Experience: Village of Calumet, Trustee and President. 3 Term State Representative

Questions:

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

A: Job creation, education, and tax fairness. I would support the development of the high tech sector in the Upper Peninsula, such as the MTEC SmartZone, to grow innovative small business. I would promote vocational education and the building trades, as well as partnerships between high-schools and community colleges to give students the chance to graduate with college credit. I will support the repeal of the senior pension tax and the restoration of the Earned Income Tax Credit, which would lower the tax bills of millions of Michiganders and boost our local economies.

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: First, I support increasing the funding of our schools to appropriate levels. The State Constitution requires that we fund our roads, prisons, and most importantly our schools. Our state has underfunded our schools for too long, which has to change. Second, our kids are entering the workforce in a new type of economy. For some, preparing for a four year degree is the right choice, for others a career in agriculture, manufacturing, or the trades is their shot at a good future. I believe local school boards should have the flexibility to develop new ways to educate kids, and that we should give them the tools to do so.

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

A: I support creating good paying jobs by making wise use of our vast timber and mineral resources to grow our economy, as well as by refining and manufacturing goods right here in the Upper Peninsula. On top of our region's traditional industries, I also support the development of high tech sector jobs in the Upper Peninsula. We can leverage the human capital of the UP to grow innovative small businesses that sell products and services to companies around the world. In today's connected society, the next big tech idea could develop from any office in the Upper Peninsula.

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

A: I believe strongly in transparency in government. I have introduced legislation that would make voting on legislation when a conflict of interest exists a felony. I have also introduced legislation that would

prevent the House or Senate from entering into a contract to purchase, develop or lease a building or grounds if the building or grounds also houses a lobbyist or lobbying firm as defined by Michigan law. Isupport the expansion of voting rights, including ballot by mail and allowing holders of a concealed pistol license to use their CPL as a photo ID with which to vote.

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 strongly support wise stewardship of our land and resources and am proud to be a sponsor on a bipartisan package of five bills which would promote clean energy production in our state. Renewable energy is crucial to a clean Michigan future and we should encourage people to power their homes through green energy resources such as solar. In 2014, the Upper Peninsula faced a devastating propane crisis, one where U.P. families struggled to stay safe and warm during a harsh winter. We need to find solutions when it comes to Pipeline 5 that won't leave our residents out in the cold.

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

A: I continue to support the expansion of the Elliott-Larson Act, which prohibits discrimination in Michigan. I also support closing the funding gap between school districts which are less well off, and those of better means. Many rural schools in my district are adversely affected by this funding gap, left with hidden costs such as the high price of bussing, and leaving their students with less opportunity.

WADE PAUL ROBERTS, Green

Website: https://www.facebook.com/Roberts4Senate/
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Roberts4Senate/
Twitter: twitter.com/WadePaulRobert1
Occupation / Current Position: Political Candidate, Peace, Justice and Environmental Activist. Writer and open source researcher.
Education: Wide variety of employment during and post High School in a variety of government and private industry positions later attended Northern Michigan University and studied sociology and criminal justice.
Qualifications / Experience: Government employment as a classified State of Michigan Civil Servant and my previous government and private industry employment has provided me with a broad range of experiences from which to draw not only an understanding of issues, but their impacts on the daily lives of working people. Personal experience has provided me with a unique understanding of the political, legal and medical fields

Questions:

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

A: Implementation of a universal state regulated single payer healthcare system that provides comprehensive healthcare, inclusive of dental and vision to every Michigan resident. Licensing and regulation of leases of State owned lands to be utilized for the agricultural production of industrial hemp. The licensing and regulation of leases for deep water offshore floating wind turbines in Michigan's territorial waters of the Great Lakes, for placement a minimum of 10 miles from the lake shore and the necessary easements for connecting infrastructure on the lake bed and shoreline to connect these turbines to the grid.

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: A complete decentralization of elementary and middle schools, replaced with a network of walking distance neighborhood educational centers that will dual function as social support centers for children and families in urban and most rural communities to reduce classroom size and reduce transportation costs. Public school systems must fully utilize IT, allowing students to select their own curriculum and advance at their own pace. Existing centralized school buildings should be integrated into a decentralized State University system offering low/no cost post-secondary education in concert with existing high schools.

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

A: Diversifying and decentralizing electrical power production. By building an interconnected network of micro grids that will more efficiently distribute renewable energy, we can utilize locally available and sustainably harvested biomass, wind and solar to end our current dependence upon fossil fuels extracted outside the state and particularly our 38th State Senate district; thereby stemming the flow of our energy dollars out of our regional economy. This will create new employment opportunities within the state and reduced energy costs will stimulate new growth and raise living standards for Michigan residents.

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

A: On 09/20/2017, our Republican Governor signed into law Senate bills 335 and 336, that sailed through the legislature and fundamentally codified "Citizens United" into Michigan law; allowing unlimited contributions to candidates for the state legislature to prevent the rise of progressive major party candidates and minor party candidates. We must end corporate and PAC contributions entirely. Both major party gubernatorial candidate committees will receive over a million in matching contributions from the state in 2018. I support Prop 3 - 18, ending matching funds from our state treasury and ranked choice voting.

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: A phased, but complete transition off fossil fuels to renewable energy and technologies by Michigan state agencies and vendors by 2025, with the goal of transitioning all county, municipal and township governments as well to provide the impetus to largely replace fossil fuels in Michigan's economy with renewable energy and nuclear by 2040. Michigan's potential to meet the bulk its energy needs with wind and solar are unique to this state's geography and we should be leading the nation in its development and deployment, thereby eliminating the need for and utility of aging infrastructure such as Enbridge Line 5.

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

A: Social justice is dependent upon economic justice. Michigan's ever widening wealth gap can be addressed by investing in grass roots economic development rather than corporate and business tax relief and subsidies. Universal access to comprehensive healthcare for all is a first step and implementation of a statewide universal basic income may well be the next. The wealth of the commons belongs to all residents, not just those who have accumulated the capital to lobby for access and control for private profit. Public investments in renewable energy can fund programs to end poverty and provide employment to all.