

Michigan State Senate District 18

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)

MARTIN CHURCH, Republican



Website: None

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/120132145515342/>

Occupation / Current Position: IT Specialist - Desktop Support Level 2

Education: Graduated from Taylor Center Class of 76 College Wayne County Community College 78; Spring Arbor University 95 – Bachelor's degree Family Life Education Regis University 2017 – Master of Information

Qualifications / Experience: Michigan Taxpayer

Questions:

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

A: 1 Michigan Taxes and a balanced budget = The right of the taxpayer to keep and be informed of where there money is being spent is the number one issue in this state. We must have full accountability of what is spent and what we are billing our tax payers for. The must have a ROI report spelling out where and why we are spending money. 2 Income sharing. The local communities were told they would have a certain level of income sharing. This funding must be returned to the local community and not spent on state projects. 3 Infrastructure. Our infrastructure of need to be updated without increasing taxes

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 We need to return the education back to the family and the local community. We need to take advantage of new technology, eliminate snow days, move to a year-round education program which will allow the student to achieve educational opportunities at their speed. 2. Move students to internships, apprenticeships and allow them to start their own businesses. Closer relationships with trade schools for those not interested in college

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

A: a. Increasing jobs will occur when we have the available workers. This begins with proper trade and college relationships. Stop educating with 1940 techniques. We need to education parents on the importance of education and provide them with the tools.

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

A: a. Let start by listening to the voters. It should cost nothing to run for office and if we were to eliminate the parties or force them to pay for their elections. So I favor changing the law and writing the parties out of the picture. Eliminate the primary (These are party elections) system, One election winner take all. b. At the same time we need to protect elections from those who seek to destroy the system. This includes purging the voter rolls of the dead, checking voters are still living were they are register. And have a paper trail so we can verify the computer-generated numbers.

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. It seams like every time we turn around someone has a new threat or new regulation concerning the environment. When it comes to energy we need to take advantage of all resources, this includes nuclear, solar, wind and fossil fuels. We also need to hold the owners of transmission lines such as Pipeline 5 accountable for their condition and operation. Without these lines our fuel prices will continue to rise till we can not longer afford to use these resources

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

A: All men and Women are created in the image of God. They have been endowed with certain gifts and abilities. When we talk about Social and Racial justice we tend to undermine the ability of our citizens to prosper. Some have sought for the government to address our relationship by law which is more properly done by our faith communities. We need to stop looking at disagreements as being based in hate and start to discuss the truth vs the perceived truth. This includes returning to the idea we as citizens can achieve anything with our faith in God, Family and ourselves. Its our hearts which need to be changed.

JEFF IRWIN, Democrat



Website: irwinforsenate.com

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/voteirwin>

Twitter: twitter.com/JeffMlIrwin

Occupation / Current Position: Consultant

Education: East Lansing High School B.A. Political Science, University of Michigan

Qualifications / Experience: Former County Commissioner 1999-2010 Former State Representative 2010-2016 Executive Director for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters

Questions:

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

A: Increased funding for public education, clean air and water, and equal rights for all. I want to close business tax loopholes to increase state revenue going to our public schools to reduce class sizes, pay teachers more, provide support to children facing poverty, and end for-profit charters and increase general fund allocations to education. I would continue to craft legislation to ensure we're holding polluters accountable, support clean energy, and tighten our pollution cleanup standards. I will propose protections for LGBTQ residents, fight against mass incarceration, and change our emergency manager laws.

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 universal, free early childhood education. I support targeting more support to districts that face higher levels of poverty and more funding from the general fund to reduce class sizes and increase educators' compensation. I want to stop the trend of evaluating schools and educators based on tests that more accurately measure the income of the district's parents rather than the quality of instruction. I will oppose for-profit schools that take money out of the classroom. I will also support more career technical education and investments in higher education to make tuition more affordable.

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

A: Investing in education is an important way to boost the economies in each community, but working to make large improvements in Michigan's infrastructure is another important way of increasing jobs and economic prosperity. Our roads, bridges, water systems, sewer systems, and electricity distribution networks are outdated and falling apart. I will continue to propose measures - like a renewed Clean Michigan Initiative - that will invest billions in these neglected priorities. Investing in infrastructure will make tangible improvements to our communities and put local people back to work with good paying, rewarding jobs

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

A: I support both the Voters Not Politicians and Promote the Vote ballot proposals. Increasing access to the ballot box and ensuring that everyone in our community can make their voices heard is instrumental to ensuring the continued existence of our democracy, and we must do everything we can to preserve, protect, and expand the number of people who have the right to vote. I will continue to support the repeal of the Citizens United decision and a constitutional convention to fix campaign finance, and meaningful campaign finance reform would be an important advancement. I championed these as issues in the state house.

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 have been an outspoken leader on environmental protection. I was the first legislator to call for the shutdown of Line 5 and I introduced numerous proposals to prevent irresponsible oil and gas development. If elected again, I will continue promoting community solar and improved net metering and I will do everything I can to protect the Great Lakes, prevent pollution, and promote clean energy. I won awards for leadership from the Sierra Club, Clean Water Action, and the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association for this work, and I will continue to stand up for public land and public access to that land.

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

A: I will fight voter suppression and school segregation as well as promote anti-discrimination laws and universal healthcare access. I will fight to end mass incarceration and close the school-to-prison pipeline by ending cash bond, reinstating prisoner reentry programs, and continuing my work to end the war on drugs and treat substance abuse as a public health problem rather than a criminal justice issue, increasing funding to make treatment available on demand. We also must improve the training in cultural competency, mental health, and violence de-escalation that all police officers receive.

THOMAS REPASKY, Working Class



Website: workingclassfight.com

Qualifications / Experience: Resident of Michigan. Attended public schools. Worked as a carpenter/contractor's assistant and as a bus driver.

Questions:

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

A: My priority is to help build a working class party. I hope that by running for this state position with the Working Class Party I can spread the idea that working class people can represent themselves in politics and organize together to fight for things like better healthcare, schools, and wages.

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: The money exists in the United States, one of the richest countries in the world, to send all kids to good schools. However, this money is going straight to corporations rather than to the workers, their children, or the schools those kids attend. Whenever millages are proposed, voters consistently approve higher taxes for themselves to fund public education, but corporations still get away with paying less in taxes. Working class people can work together to force more corporate profit to go to public services.

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

A: Enough money is brought in by corporations in Michigan and across the United States to pay for full employment. However a lot of this money is garnished as profits for those corporations, rather than being used to hire more workers. In fact, an attempt is made to hire as few workers as possible in order to increase profits. This creates worse working conditions for employed people while needlessly increasing the number of unemployed people. Only workers organizing together can create full employment.

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

A: For a long time elections have been dominated by those who spend the most money. In fact, since I began my campaign for State Senate I have received numerous emails offering to sell me things, such as voter emails and phone numbers, to help gain votes. This is just one small example of the way that money influences elections. Many people do not have this kind of financial support, and they are effectively excluded from office or even from running. This is why I believe corporate money should not be able to be used in 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: Currently the guiding force behind energy policy in Michigan or anywhere else in the United States is not the environment or meeting energy needs. Instead, the energy corporations are in control, taking more profits for themselves. These profits could be used to create sustainable energy infrastructure, employing many people in the process. Corporations themselves will not do this; it is up to working people to organize and push for this change.

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

A: Working class people come from all races and genders. Corporations and the politicians who support them have long worked to divide working class people, pitting Americans against immigrants, white against black, and men against women. An organization of the working class needs to span these divisions and to actively fight against racism and sexism in order to be successful.

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