

Michigan State Representative District 9

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: 2 years Vote for ONE (1)

JAMES STEPHENS, Republican

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

KAREN WHITSETT, Democrat



Website: www.KarenWhitsett4StateRep.com

Facebook: <http://KarenWhitsettforStateRepresentativeDistrict9DetroitandDearborn>

Occupation / Current Position: Candidate for State Representative - District 9

Education: Frank Cody High School University of Phoenix

Questions:

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

A: Car insurance is far too high – not just in the City of Detroit, but across the entire state. Michigan leads the country when it comes to auto insurance rates. I will support Driver's Choice to lower auto insurance rates for all drivers in our state (especially seniors). I believe working people have the right to form or join a union. I will fight back in Lansing against the Snyder administration's war on working families: I will work to reverse Michigan's so-called "right to work" law and restore prevailing wage to support working families everywhere. I support repealing the tax increase on pensions and restoring a

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: Michigan once was a state people moved to for a quality public education. Sadly, that's no longer the case – but I believe we can and must rebuild our public school system. Charter schools have devastated Michigan's public education system. I support regulating charter schools and holding them strictly accountable. I support increasing funding for public schools statewide, and especially in cities with the most need, like Detroit. We need to pay our teachers much more, since they're on the front lines of improving student learning. Finally, we need to improve access to higher education for working families by keep

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

A: As I've said before, I am a strong supporter of organized labor and believe that working families do best when they're able to organize or join a union. I support living wage laws and increasing the state minimum wage to \$15 an hour. I believe in ending pay discrimination, since far too often, women are paid far less than men for doing the same job. I would be proud to support pay equity legislation in Lansing. I support Driver's Choice to finally lower Michigan's ridiculously high auto insurance rates. Lowering auto insurance rates would help families statewide. I support expanding job training programs so Mich

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

A: I believe we need to make it easier, not harder to vote. I support no-reason absentee voting, same-day voter registration, and anything else that makes it easier for citizens to play an active role in their democracy.

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: We must protect our water, air, and land for Michiganders today and tomorrow. I support continuing to expand renewable energy in our state. I will push for environmental justice, because too often, Detroiters feel like the same environmental regulations followed in the rest of the state aren't enforced here. I support closing down Enbridge Line 5. Our Great Lakes are too important to our entire state to risk ruining them forever with an oil spill.

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

A: I will do everything in my power as a state representative to make our state more inclusive for all of its people. All Michiganders must have the same opportunities to succeed in life. Where you grow up, what your skin color is, where your family is from, what religion you practice, or what your sexual orientation or gender identity is shouldn't dictate how successful you are in life.

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