

## **Michigan State Representative District 109**

### **2 Candidates on the November 6, 2018 ballot**

**Duties:** The Michigan House of Representatives shares responsibility with the Michigan Senate to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws.

**Qualifications:** State Representatives may serve a maximum of three full terms. They must be at least 21 years of age and a registered voter in their district. There are 110 State House districts which are re-apportioned after each census.

**Term: 2 years** **Vote for ONE (1)**

### **MELODY JOY WAGNER, Republican**



**Website:** melodywagnerforstate.com

**Facebook:** <http://MelodyWagnerForStateRepresentative>

**Occupation / Current Position:** Candidate For State Representative 109th District

**Education:** Associates Criminal Justice, Dairy Excel, Investment In Excellence, Instructor Techniques, Sex Crimes Investigation, Calibre Press-Street Survival I & II, Wolf Ecology

**Qualifications / Experience:** Personal Life Experience with our Broken Michigan Government Systems. Former Wisconsin Hay, Sheep & Crop Farmer, Ohio Grade 'A' Dairy Farmer, Election Polls, Fort Myers, Florida City Road Patrol Officer (Field Training Officer, Intoxilyzer & Breathalyzer Operator, PR-24 Academy Instructor, Undercover Assignments), Stock Brokerage Wire Operator, 4-H Leadership & Equine Competitor

#### **Questions:**

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

**A:** 1 Government Accountability, Transparency, Integrity & Ethics for Executive, Judicial and Legislative Branches. I will not accept lobbyists or establishment campaign funds, will work to bring back ethics & integrity for We the People 1st & Government 2nd with legislative policing. 2 Twice the National Average Fraudulent Car Insurance. Charges for medical care priced the same as any other injury, cap PIP at \$50,000 & base rates on driver performance only. 3 Consumer Protection, IAQ Indoor Air Quality of homes, schools & businesses. Home & Code Inspectors need licensed to include modern Indoor Air Quality training.

**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 address the impact the smart phone has had on our children & parents vs quality time together. Our new culture is losing basic verbal communication skills. I support going back to the basics with home economics & shop classes teaching physical work ethic with a moral compass. I propose an end of Teach to Test which is detrimental for teachers & students. I believe vocational training in high school should include early employment. We could encourage inter-generational living models, where college students share housing with seniors & assist with their daily needs, adding purpose and meaning to young and old

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

**A:** End our burdensome car insurance which is crippling many families and seniors. I support policies for varied sources of energy in the U.P. to alleviate the most expensive electrical costs in the lower 48. We need to address our culture of addictions like tobacco, alcohol, opioids, & gambling, that rob our people of a future without hope, leading to financial ruin, crime and even suicide. Some folks make other poor life choices, & often turn to illegal drugs, failing employment screening tests & leaving employers to seek out of town employees. We are a broken state with many neighbors whose hearts & minds need healing.

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

**A:** Our last place rating in government accountability, transparency and ethics is proof that lobbyists, PACs Political Action Committees and special interest groups have turned campaign funding into something the voter is unable to trust. I support any state policy that ends this unproductive, manipulating method of advancing special interests instead of the people who want to vote for the best candidate but have chosen not to trust or participate any longer. Every citizen who wants to vote should be allowed to vote in Michigan. We do not have to be registered with a party to vote & independents may vote in primaries.

**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:** Good land stewardship should be required by all involved. I support modern forest inventory & continued use & research of biomass energy while maintaining our beautiful state lands & private forests. We need continued study into intrusive wind turbines for our neighbors and their true contribution. I'm hopeful more avenues with solar are attainable as we work together to find economical, safe solutions conducive to our ecosystem. These actions do not change the fact the U.P. reportedly receives 65% of its propane from Enbridge Pipeline 5 and it also needs replaced.

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

**A:** Those policies which promote equality and justice for all are best attained when we lay aside our differences & work together for solutions. Some folks are happy with less and prefer living a minimal lifestyle without vices, while others need the next best thing. I've seen many hurting, hopeless individuals who have been lied to by our government for decades; disheartened by injustice and dishonest politicians, caught up in a broken, inept and ineffective system that doesn't work. I am dedicated to seeking peace and working together with others while providing affordable, effective, equal representation for everyone.

## **SARA CAMBENSY, Democrat**

**Website:** electsaracambensy.com

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/electsaracambensy>

**Occupation / Current Position:** Representative, 109th District Former educator

**Education:** Bachelors in Education, Northern Michigan University Masters in Public Administration, NMU Certificate in Fundraising management, Center of Philanthropy at Indiana University

**Qualifications / Experience:** Served on the Marquette City Planning Commission (2009-2011), Marquette Charter Commission (2011-12) Marquette City Commission (2012-17) Prior to election, served as Director of Adult Education at Marquette Senior High School for 10 years

### Questions:

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

**A:** My priorities are improving the economic, social and environmental conditions for my district and the wider state. Wages are stagnant and the middle class continues to be eroded. We need to emphasize fair wages, benefits and union representation wherever possible. The current administration has relied on business-centered economic development, but tax cuts are not enough, as we see a talent deficit driving businesses away, along with underfunded infrastructure, schools and public services. Investing in affordable and accessible k-16 education and restoring revenue sharing to local governments is paramount.

**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 are on the wrong path, as seen by poor educational outcomes compared to other states. We have disinvested in public schools and allowed the proliferation of for-profit charter and cyber schools to syphon resources away. We need to reinvest and trust our teachers, empowering them with fair wages, benefits and positive working conditions. This investment is sound, improving education and supporting our middle class. We need to de-emphasize test-taking, reform school funding to reflect the real costs, and improve access and lower tuition for post-secondary education and training.

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

**A:** The state must balance pro-business job creation with funding public infrastructure, schools and all public sector responsibilities. These create jobs as well. When we cater to big corporations that under-pay employees, the government subsidizes that low pay through welfare. We must implement a living wage and other policies to lessen reliance on the state, protect families from the undue stress and health risks of poverty, and increase access to education for the benefit of children, families, the health care system and our whole society.

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

**A:** I support campaign finance reform to get dark money out of politics, so we know who is funding our politicians. We also must make it easier for people to vote, especially disenfranchised populations. Practices that kick people off registration rolls, lengthen lines at the polls, reduce the number of voting stations, and require undue burdens to cast a ballot all work to discourage people from voting. That's un-Democratic and wrong. I am energized by the ballot initiative to end partisan gerrymandering and make voter redistricting fair and accountable, so voters choose their politicians, not vice versa.

**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 and other Democrats in the House have introduced bills that would recreate the Clean Michigan Initiative II, first enacted under Gov. Engler. Paid for through a bond, this would continue to fund critical environmental remediation, reclamation, invasive species efforts and more. We must be vigilant in protecting our natural ecosystems and finite resources. However, shutting down Line 5 would cause a spike in propane prices that families in the U.P. can't afford. I am working with stakeholders on a solution, reviewing all reports and will support the most environmentally and economically sound solution.

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

**A:** As former director of the GED program at Marquette schools, I saw the real, life-altering challenges that minorities and people in poverty face. Many suffer from trauma, PTSD and mental and physical health challenges from a young age. There are often self-feeding cycles of addiction and abuse, alongside poverty and stress. When we talk about poverty and racism, this is intimately connected to issues like health care access, safe infrastructure, education and environmental justice. We need to improve access, quality and investment in all those categories, and analyze how all policy impacts economic and social mobility.

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