

Michigan State Representative District 19

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)

BRIAN MEAKIN, Republican



Website: brianmeakin.com

Occupation / Current Position: President of Meakin and Associates, Inc.

Education: Bachelor of Science Degree from Lawrence Technological University

Qualifications / Experience: Small business owner with thirteen years on the Livonia City Council

Questions:

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

A: Roads - We need to fix our crumbling roads. We need to repeal outdated laws that have forced Livonia to be a donor district, and work with state and county officials to secure funding like I have done on City Council. Economy – As a small business owner, I understand that government cannot create jobs, but we can create an environment that will promote job growth. We can promote job growth by removing wasteful regulations. Seniors – I will work to protect our most vulnerable; our seniors and children. I work to ensure that our seniors are receiving best care and that our neighborhoods are safe and predator free.

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 work to ensure that the all schools are properly funded, and our children have the latest tools to receive a quality education and are safe while doing it. We can accomplish this by spending money in ways that creates more opportunities for students to learn/succeed in all aspects of life. Whether a student is college bound or wishes to enter the skill trade industry, our education system needs to be prepare to help them achieve their goals.

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

A: As a small business owner, I understand firsthand the importance of a favorable economic environment which promotes job growth and removes governmental red tape and regulations. We also need to need a less onerous tax structure that creates an environment for entrepreneurs to start news businesses and create more jobs. Additionally, we need roll back the Granholm income tax increase on Michigan residents.

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

A: As an elected official, I have always disclosed all of my campaign donations online and will continue to do so. Furthermore, I support everyone right to vote and encourage everyone to do so. That is why I was proud to participate in voter registration drives.

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 Great Lakes are our most precious resource and we must do everything we can do to protect them. That includes keeping invasive species like the Asian Carp out of the lakes. As for Line 5, the legislature is currently working on legislation and they are taking comments from the public this fall. I will continue to follow this process very closely and will work with legislatures to ensure that we protect our most precious resource; the Great Lakes.

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

A: As I stated earlier, we need to protect our most vulnerable; our seniors and children. As a member of the Livonia City Council I have worked to with our Police Department to make Livonia is one of the safest communities in the country to live and raise a family and will continue to do so as our next State Representative.

LAURIE POHUTSKY, Democrat



Website: <http://www.lauriepohutskyformichigan.com/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/lauriepohutskyhd19/>

Twitter: twitter.com/lpohutsky19

Occupation / Current Position: I am a research associate at a biotechnology startup specializing in healthcare diagnostics.

Education: I graduated from Michigan State University in 2010 with my Bachelor of Science in microbiology.

Qualifications / Experience: As a scientist, I am committed to evidence-based policy and protecting the environment. If we are going to create legislation based in science,

we need to have a scientist in the room. Furthermore, my experience in toxicology laboratories has given me insight into the complexities of the opioid epidemic we are facing in our state.

Questions:

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

A: My top priorities are healthcare, public education and the environment. I'm a proponent of a state-funded Medicare for All program funded by implementing a progressive, graduated income tax that requires the top 1% in Michigan to pay their fair share without overburdening the working class. Eliminating profit-driven inefficiencies will also reduce healthcare costs. Since teachers best understand the consequences of school policy, I support forming a non-partisan committee of educators to work with the legislature on policy. I also support creating incentives for green energy improvements to protect our environment.

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: Access to pre-K programs have been shown to greatly improve educational outcomes. These programs must be made available to all children, regardless of their families' incomes. Additionally, we cannot allow charter schools to steal resources from our public schools in the form of tax dollars. Michigan universities must also make college affordable for our own students rather than leaving them to pay the cost of additions used to lure those from out of state. We must also stress the availability of trade schools and apprenticeships to high school students so that they don't feel that college is their only option.

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

A: It is important to provide no or low-cost training in new industries, such as green energy, to Michigan workers. Unfortunately, we have seen many industries leave our state with no sign of returning, and it is important to provide resources to help Michiganders gain new skill sets. Raising awareness about the skilled trades in high schools will also help Michigan residents obtain employment. The skilled trades offer lucrative and stable positions that often go unfilled because their importance is not stressed to students. Protecting organized labor is also pivotal to improving Michigan's economic positions.

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

A: Voting should be readily accessible to all. I support expanding absentee voting and enacting automatic and online voter registration. When it comes to campaign funding, transparency is paramount. Governor Snyder's "Citizens United on Steroids" laws make it easier for corporations to influence our lawmakers. We need to do all we can to ensure that elected officials are accountable to their constituents, not the donors bankrolling their campaigns.

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: Line 5 must be shut down, to be succinct. The legislature has exhausted its options with our current Governor and Attorney General, but I will pursue renewed action should the next people to occupy those offices not shut it down of their own accord. I also oppose fracking as it poses a great risk to our water table. I support expanding recycling programs and creating incentives for businesses and individuals to make green energy improvements, such as installing solar panels or purchasing hybrid or electric cars. These changes can be costly, and we should help those who are trying to help our environment.

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

A: Racial and social justice require not just equality, but equity. Our state must invest in the communities that need it most and examine laws that foster discrimination. I support expanding the Elliott Larsen Act to add protections for the LGBTQ+ community. Furthermore, if Michigan legalizes marijuana, the criminal records of those convicted of marijuana offenses in our state must be expunged as those laws disproportionately targeted communities of color. I also oppose gender discrimination and sexual harassment and assault in all their forms, and their perpetrators must face severe consequences.

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