

Michigan State Representative District 41

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)

DOUG TIETZ, Republican



Website: www.VoteDougTietz.com

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

Occupation / Current Position: Owner of a Marketing Business

Education: Graduate of the University of Michigan

Qualifications / Experience: On both the Oakland County Commission and the Troy City Council, Doug has worked with all viewpoints and backgrounds to get results for our community. Solving problems, not endless partisanship is what we need in Lansing. Doug is a husband, dad, and neighbor. He's a member of Oakland County's "40 under 40" and founder of the Troy Community Foundation.

Questions:

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

A: Roads: Michigan's infrastructure is falling apart. Doug has a plan to make finding long-term solutions and overall funding a higher priority in the state budget. Fix the Car Insurance System: Michigan is the heart of the auto industry, but has the most expensive car insurance costs in the nation. We need to root out insurance fraud and over-billing, and prevent trial lawyers from profiting at the taxpayers' expense. Health Care: Soaring premiums and long waits. Doug's own family of four has seen health insurance costs spike. Doug's plan increases access to affordable health insurance for Michigan's families.

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 prioritize education funding, so it gets to the classroom where it can do the most good for students and teachers. Let's also empower parents, teachers, and local school boards to make the best decisions for our kids.

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

A: Doug is a father of two. He believes college is too expensive and leaves kids with thousands in debt. Additionally, students need to know they have more quality options than the widely pushed four-year track. Doug is focused on making Michigan a national leader in vocational and tech-training so that every student is career-ready. It is also time to repeal the Granholm era income tax increase as well as the pension tax. We lose too many retired residents to Florida every year because our tax system is too burdensome.

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

A: I support efforts to require all political contributions to political action and campaign committees to be electronically reported and publicly available within 48 hours of receipt of contribution. Let's make sure that campaigns are upfront about who is contributing by expecting nearly immediate disclosure of campaign contributions.

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 need to pursue a science-based approach regarding Michigan's water, air, and land use. I support the growth of economically viable renewable energy production in Michigan. We must use science and research to determine the future of Line 5 to protect our Great Lakes. We need the truth and we need results.

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

A: Troy and Clawson are diverse communities with families that emphasize education, hard work, and pursuing the American dream. State government needs to celebrate those qualities and eliminate barriers for residents that are being held back. Through my volunteer work in the community, we were able to establish "International Day" at the Troy Family Daze festival to celebrate the diverse backgrounds of all residents. People might come from different backgrounds, but we all share a love of our community and Michigan. We must pursue policies that celebrate our differences while highlighting our common values.

PADMA KUPPA, Democrat



Website: www.electpadmakuppa.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/electpadmakuppa

Occupation / Current Position: Candidate for State Rep.

Education: Padma Kuppa received a Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering from REC Warangal, India, in 1988, the first woman in the history of the college to do so.

Qualifications / Experience: Padma Kuppa is an engineer, wife, mother, civic leader and 20-year Troy resident. Professional: Locally owned small business to FCA to Ally Financial, as a Systems Integration Manager, Project Manager, Business Analyst. Civic: Troy Ethnic Issues Advisory Board, Troy Community Coalition, various PTA Boards, Planning Commissioner, ZBA, MI Roundtable for Diversity & Inclusion, Troy Historic Society

Questions:

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

A: 1. Improve public education. To close the opportunity gap, we must have accessible, affordable, high-quality education. Every student must have access to a public education system that gives them 21st-century skills. 2. Fix our infrastructure with long-term solutions: reduce weight limits on trucks, hold contractors accountable for their work, and increase our overweight truck fines. 3. Protect our environment through science-based policy. On Planning Commission, I've protected green space while promoting development. I've also worked to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable practices.

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 will support legislation to give schools flexibility to get funds to cover required expenses. I will not fund charter schools at the expense of public education, and support the School FACT Act, to hold charters, districts to same accountability standards. I would require all public schools to contribute to the teacher retirement fund and return the School Aid Fund to its intended purpose of funding K-12 schools. I believe in research-based education policy, support reducing class sizes, investing in early childhood education, and creating STEAM (STEM plus the Arts) programs in every high school.

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

A: I would ensure people have the skills required to make Michigan competitive. High school education should provide both career and college tracks. College should be affordable so that young professionals are not saddled with debt and the education they receive is for 21st century jobs. Basic needs for Michiganders include access to transit - making it easier for people seeking jobs to get to where the jobs are - and healthcare, such as protecting Medicare for all. Improving infrastructure and education will encourage business development, providing good paying jobs for MI residents to improve their financial stability.

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

A: I will work to expand voter participation and improve absentee ballot access. I will champion redistricting processes to end gerrymandering, and will oppose districts being drawn for partisan advantages, so that every vote has the same weight. I will work to ensure that redistricting processes are transparent, with meaningful opportunities for public participation. I will work for voting rules that increase equality in political power and representation. I would require improved campaign finance transparency so that the public knows the source of all monies spent on elections, and remove dark money from 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 policy to promote energy efficiency & clean energy, and ensure DEQ isn't biased. I would invest in water infrastructure so all residents have access to affordable clean drinking water, and encourage Oakland County Commission to adopt a septic code. I would promote policies that protect the Great Lakes - Nestle shouldn't bottle our water for next to nothing; we shouldn't have a statewide ban on banning plastic bags. I believe there is an opportunity to create jobs while also mitigating the threat that Line 5's age, condition, and location presents, considering economic security and energy needs.

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

A: I will work for policies that gives everyone across our state access to education, skill training, and jobs, so that all Michigangers can get good paying jobs and support their families. With access to good education, people can earn higher wages, increasing the State's revenue base. I would promote policies that provide basic needs such as transportation and healthcare. A connected transit system will bring Michigan into the 21st century, and expanding access to healthcare will provide security to families, children, and seniors. I will work for to reduce gender disparity on all fronts, starting with equal pay.

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