

## **Michigan State Representative District 47**

### **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)**

### **HANK VAUPEL, Republican**



**Website:** [votevaupel.com](http://votevaupel.com)

**Facebook:** <http://hankvaupel>

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/HankVaupel](https://twitter.com/HankVaupel)

**Occupation / Current Position:** State Representative

**Education:** Bachelor of Science Degree Michigan State University Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Michigan State University

**Qualifications / Experience:** Former Business Owner School Board Member Township Trustee Township Supervisor State Representative EDC Member Various other community involvements

#### Questions:

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

**A:** 1. Maintain The Economic Recovery---Continue to reduce unneeded regulation--Support programs that promote training and educational opportunities in trades and entrepreneurship--Support maintaining an adequate workforce. 2. Address the rising cost of health care--Work to emphasize preventive medicine--Emphasize early childhood health--Continue to work on transparency in health care pricing--Incorporate Mental Health care in total health care. 3. Addiction Epidemic--Reduce the supply of opioids--Encourage drug courts--Treat addiction as an illness--As Chair of House Health Policy we passed Opioid regulations.

**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:** Promote local control of education in curriculum, testing and choice. Promote STEM education. Allow school districts to customize mandating testing to more accurately and efficiently reflect their district. Emphasize early childhood education with early reading being a priority. Let teachers teach. Have more mental health professionals in schools.

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

**A:** Eliminate cumbersome regulations that stifle fair competition. Work for fair tax policies that allow working men and women keep more of what they earn and make their own spending decisions.

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

**A:** Transparency is necessary in campaign funding. I support fair reporting of campaign finance. Campaigns are much too long and expensive. All eligible voters should have the opportunity to vote. There is an individual responsibility to be aware of voting requirements..

**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 have agencies, DEQ, DNR, that have oversight of much of our water, air and land. The efficient and effective operation of these departments is key to protecting our environment. Recently legislation was passed that would create a commission to be able to review environmental issues of the DEQ. We should maintain expert input in our environmental issues. Line 5 needs constant vigilance and ideas of how to maintain safety or alternate action to safely transport gas and oil. Recent legislation addressed the situation of anchors being dragged under the bridge.

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

**A:** Justice should be just that ---Justice administered fairly for all. With the input of criminal justice experts there have been many reforms in the criminal justice system and many reforms are being drafted. Our prison population has declined as a result of some of the reforms to the point that several prisons have been closed. As Co Chair of the C.A.R.E.S. Task Force I have been involved with several initiatives that would treat people with mental health issues as being ill not as being criminals.

**COLLEEN TURK, Democrat**



**Website:** <https://www.colleenturk.com>

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

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/ColleenTurk](https://twitter.com/ColleenTurk)

**Occupation / Current Position:** IT Health System Analyst

**Education:** Master of Nonprofit Administration, Univ. of Notre Dame || Bachelor of Arts, Univ. of Michigan

**Qualifications / Experience:** I'm a decisive problem solver who excels in creating achievable, innovative solutions. People know me as someone who speaks with frank honesty and cuts to the chase so we don't get lost in words and partial solutions. I'm skilled at improving processes, which includes performing root-cause analysis, creating real solutions, and leading teams to get the work done.

Questions:

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

**A:** (1) Preserve Michigan's fresh water, forests, and other natural resources. (2) Increase take-home pay for working-class families and retirees. (3) Restore education funding.

**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) Public funds should only be used for public schools. (2) Teacher to student ratios must be improved. (3) Increase counseling to better meet students' social-emotional needs - leading to improved student academic outcomes and safer schools. (4) Bring back certified librarians to improve literacy & curriculum. Not only do librarians support literacy programs for students, but they also support teachers in developing special curriculum units and meaningful integration of technology in the classroom. Most MI schools no longer have full-time school librarians - is that what we'd expect at a top-performing school?

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

**A:** I want to reduce the cost of health care for Michiganders so they can keep more in their pockets. I support higher wages by repealing right-to-work to restore the power to unions who fight for our middle-class wages and benefits, which encourages competing non-union jobs in the same fields to raise their wages and benefits as well. As we improve the roads, bridges, and energy production in Michigan, we should capitalize on the skilled jobs created in those areas. That said, Michigan needs to continue to find ways to support small business entrepreneurs who operate with a different revenue base than large corporations.

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

**A:** Gerrymandering has no place in US elections. I support the nonpartisan drawing of districts as outlined by Voters not Politicians: fair, impartial, and transparent. For too long, the big money of special interest groups has swayed elections and legislation through large contributions or through their independent advertising. I support limiting the amounts that political action committees (PAC's) can contribute to candidate campaigns, directly or indirectly, to individual limits. We need to get big money out of our political system and get people in instead.

**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:** As a whole, we underestimate the impact of reducing energy usage. Michigan should be encouraging innovation for reduced energy usage in manufacturing, computing, construction, and transportation. I also support a gradual transition towards sustainable energy sources. Sustainable, renewable energy is the future of our country and Michigan should strive to be at the forefront of harnessing the ability to produce those forms of energy to create jobs and to create an environment that is attractive to a younger population. Line 5 needs to be shut down immediately without question - the Straits are too valuable to risk.

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

**A:** The top impact on social and racial justice, in my opinion, comes from improving our schools and supporting the teachers and support staff who work in those schools, so correcting our education policy will impact that area. We have to improve our infrastructure for clean water in all areas - exposure to lead in water in Flint and Detroit is unacceptable.

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