

Michigan State Representative District 49

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)

PATRICK DUVENDECK, Republican

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

JOHN D CHERRY, Democrat



Website: www.CherryforMichigan.com

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

Occupation / Current Position: Performance Management Coordinator - Michigan DNR; Small Business Owner - Flint Coffee Company

Education: University of Michigan School of Natural Resources - BA; University of Michigan Gerald Ford School of Public Policy - Master of Public Policy

Qualifications / Experience: 8 years experience at the Michigan DNR, with 6 years experience in the Executive Division of the DNR; Founder and owner of a small family business - Flint Coffee Company; Former elected Vice-chair of the Flint Charter Commission; 8 year member of the Service Employees International Union Local 517M

Questions:

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

A: My number one priority is the enactment of policies to create a prosperous middle class. Michigan needs infrastructure that will attract businesses and assist them in achieving success. That success also requires a trained and talented workforce. We need to reform Michigan's municipal finance system to provide for stable, strong communities that have enough funding to do the basic work of government. Finally, our experience right here in Flint demonstrates that we need to focus on the environmental and public health of our communities.

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: Making sure every child has the best start possible is essential to good outcomes through post-secondary education. Universal Pre-K allows children to start school ready to excel. Proper support and extra help for a child struggling to read by 3rd grade is money well spent. We need an adjustment to the per-pupil funding formula to provide extra funding to schools based on low-income students and special education needs because the cost to educate each child is not equal. Also, making post-secondary education affordable is a goal I will work for in the legislature.

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

A: Infrastructure investment achieved through secure long-term funding will provide direct construction-related employment and also fuel business investment. We need to invest in post-secondary and career education to ensure that Michigan has the workforce talent needed for businesses to expand. We can provide more economic opportunity for workers through raising the minimum wage in our State. Repealing Right-to-Work and restoring the Prevailing wage will give workers the opportunity to gain better wages and support their families and communities.

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

A: We need to provide no-reason absentee voting, early voting opportunities and same day registration to our citizens to make it easy and convenient to exercise their right to vote. Other states do all of these things and have increased voter turnout and no increased voter fraud. Campaign Committees, PACs, Super PACs and all forms of money spent to advance a candidate – no matter who they support – need to report their funders and how their dollars are spent. We need to limit corporate dollars spent to influence the political process.

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 are stewards of the water, land and air we pass to future generations. Assuring that companies providing energy are meeting strict Federal and state requirements is essential. This includes meeting increased renewable and energy efficiency standards. I do not support the new legislation that allows corporate representatives oversight of DEQ permitting. Enbridge has not proven to be a company whose major concern is environmental safety. Our State needs to work to put Line 5 into retirement. We must protect Michigan's public lands as a gift to future Generations so that everyone may enjoy Michigan's wild places.

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

A: Michigan needs a state-wide environmental justice policy. Environmental justice must be factored into account as we make policy decisions for our state. We need to amend that Eliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act to prevent discrimination via sexual orientation and gender identity. We also need to look at criminal justice reform particularly when it comes to people who have been incarcerated for marijuana offences and pursuing treatment instead of incarceration for those addicted to illicit drugs.

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