

Michigan State Representative District 53

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)

JEAN E HOLLAND, Republican



Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/jean.holland.902>

Occupation / Current Position: President, Blue Chip Consulting, Inc.

Education: BBA Eastern Michigan University

Qualifications / Experience: 30 years in IT and business.

Questions:

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

A: 1. Insure that our current immigration laws are followed to protect legal citizens of Michigan and US. 2. Reduce taxes to improve the business climate in Michigan and US. 3. Improve roads and infrastructure.

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: Reward teachers for student performance, not for graduation rates. Allow parents to send their children to the school they want to attend. Benchmark the #1 educational system in the world (Japan) and develop similar strategies for US schools.

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

A: Repeal state income tax. Reduce government interference with entrepreneurship. Encourage vocational training, schools and businesses requiring those skills.

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

A: In a free society, there should be no limit to campaign funding. In a free society, all legal residents should be able to vote.

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: Michigan and surrounding Great Lake States should protect the Great Lakes from poachers. If a company wants the resources available in this region, they should plant roots here, pay taxes and join the team. Outsiders who come here to poach and scrape the frosting from the cake, leaving nothing in return should be ejected. I am thoroughly disgusted with Nestle Corporation (not even a US company) stealing water from the Great Lakes. If it's truly a pipeline to move oil from Point A to B then I'm in favor of it for it's economic impact of cost reduction and safety.

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

A: The first step toward social and racial justice is to declare and believe that there are no differences between us under the law. Laws should not be applied differently to the rich or poor, elected or not elected or any other like comparison. You cannot make a law to create equality if people are already equal. You must enforce the law equally across the board.

YOUSEF RABHI, Democrat



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

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

Twitter: twitter.com/voterabhi

Occupation / Current Position: State Representative, 53rd District - Assistant Minority Floor Leader

Education: Huron High School, University of Michigan Program in the Environment, Harvard Kennedy School Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government

Qualifications / Experience: State Representative 2017-present, Washtenaw County Commissioner 2011-2016, Chair of the Board 2013-2014, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments Executive Committee 2011-2016, Washtenaw Area Transportation Study 2011-2016, Chair of Washtenaw Urban County 2012-2015, Washtenaw Food Policy Council 2012-2016, Coalition for Action Remediation of Dioxane 2011-2012

Questions:

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

A: 1. No progress can truly be sustained when our democracy is under attack and faith in government is lacking. We must fight to restore our democracy and make our state government more transparent. Please visit voterabhi.com/issues to see how. 2. We must fight for a better Michigan where we prioritize quality Education, a clean Environment, building a resilient Economy, and Equity for all Michigan residents. Please visit voterabhi.com/issues to see how. 3. We must work towards creating a single payer, universal healthcare system for Michigan. That's why I introduced HB6285 which would do just that!

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: Our state continues to underfund our K-12 schools by shifting General Fund responsibilities into the School Aid budget. I have supported reversing that trend through budget amendments to restore the School Aid dollars to K-12 classrooms. We should shut down for-profit charters and cyber-schools that continue to divert public funds. Teachers deserve fair pay, protected retirement security and opportunities for ongoing education. I support free, universal access to preschool and tuition-free public universities and community colleges. More at: www.voterabhi.com/education

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

A: Our economy is recovering, but the gains have not been shared by all. We need to invest in public goods, like roads, education, and water infrastructure that are necessary for economic growth. Protecting workers rights like collective bargaining is also crucial for ensuring that economic growth and opportunity are shared by everyone. We must also reform our tax code to move towards a progressive income tax that supports the economy from the bottom up instead of waiting for economic benefits to "trickle down" and Michigan's corporations should be expected to pay their fair share. More at: voterabhi.com/economy

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

A: I support a number of changes that would make voting more accessible, including same-day voter registration and no-reason absentee voting. I also support changes to limit the role of money in politics, including requiring personal financial disclosures from state-level officials (introduced HB6283 as part of the Financial Disclosure bill package), audits for lobbyist expenditures, lowering the contribution limits for PACs, and working to overturn Citizens United. A non-partisan, independent redistricting process is also needed to restore integrity to our elections. More at: voterabhi.com/issues

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: In 2017, I introduced HR51 which calls for the immediate shutdown of Line 5. We can preserve our Great Lakes, continue to provide good union jobs and create a secure energy future for our state by setting a 100% renewable energy standard by 2050. In 2018, I led a bi-partisan coalition of legislators in introducing the Energy Freedom Bills (HB5861-5865) which would make it easier for residents to generate home renewable energy. I was also proud to co-sponsor HB5143 which clarifies that new solar panels can not be included in a property tax assessment unless the house is sold. More at: voterabhi.com/environment

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

A: Our basic human rights are under attack by our current President. That is why I was proud to use my podium as an elected official to stand in opposition to the "Muslim Ban", speak out against attacks on our LGBT community and author letters to halt deportations. I also co-sponsored the MI Civil Rights Expansion legislation which is a comprehensive 16-bill package that would extend needed civil protections to all residents. I will continue to support the Black Lives Matter movement as my voting record and my efforts to reform the criminal justice system reflect. More at: www.voterabhi.com/equity

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