

Michigan State Representative District 73

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)**

LYNN AFENDOULIS, Republican



Website: www.lynnafendoulis.com

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Occupation / Current Position: Director, Corporate Communications, Universal Forest Products

Education: B.A., Journalism, Michigan State University

Qualifications / Experience: 35 yrs. business & communications experience, including newspaper reporter (GR Press, Tampa Tribune) & 25 yrs., at Universal Forest Products. Years of community leadership: chaired GR Student Advancement Foundation (GR Public Schools); board member GR Chamber, Econ Club, GR Youth Commonwealth (now Boys & Girls Club), others. Mich. Transportation Commissioner, 2013-17. Mother of two.

Questions:

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

A: -Education. Poor outcomes are our shame, responsibility & future. What will we do? (See #2, how to address them). -Ensure a business-friendly environment through policies that attract/nurture businesses. This is a human issue, too, by giving able-bodied people the chance to know the pride of earning one's own way & being a contributor to their community. -Invest in infrastructure--roads, communication systems, and a Michigan treasure: water. We are the beneficiary & protector of one of one of the world's great freshwater resources. The former is a blessing; the latter, an obligation. I take it seriously.

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: - Set high bars & hold people accountable, from Lansing to the classroom, incl. parents. - Create clear, consistent measurements of student achievement & district success. - Strengthen & elevate teachers via professional development, involvement in critical decisions and by conferring upon their profession the respect it deserves. - Create strong leadership. - Eliminate waste & deploy funding/assets in a way that impacts the classroom. - Maintain choice & ensure clear, accountable funding and assessment mechanisms for those schools.

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

A: I will: - support tax & regulatory policies to attract new companies, technologies & projects, promote growth & foster entrepreneurship. - reform auto insurance by, among other things, adding choice & eliminating fraud. - support policies that nurture innovation & eliminate burdensome regulations. - support strong workforce development programs to ensure people are prepared for workforce needs & heighten awareness of those needs (esp. among high school students). - elevate skilled trades as an attractive option for smart, driven students-- not as a last-resort or second-rate opportunity.

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

A: I believe voters deserve to know who is funding campaigns, but also in a degree of confidentiality. Regarding voting: Going to a voting booth is a visible ritual that is important in a republic. I think voters should have to do so unless they physically can't, have no transportation or are out of town. Also, registering to vote shouldn't be impulsive, effortless. I support registration 30 days or more before an election. I think one needs to be a resident for a period of time sufficient to be a serious, informed voter.

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 is defined by a unique freshwater ecosystem that must be protected & preserved. At the same time, affordable energy is critical to our families, schools, & businesses. I will weigh a policy proposal's impact on our natural resources as well as on hard-working citizens. I will favor policy that is data-driven, balanced, smart & reasonable. I will seek to cut through emotional arguments to address long-term impact and the greater good. I would support a viable alternative to Line 5 (which doesn't include transporting all oil & gas via truck or shutting down the line with no alternative route/solution).

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

A: Before I support a policy, I will need to know how it will be measured & how we will define its success. I will support policies that I believe will have impact or will move us toward goals. A strong education produces people of empathy; problem-solvers, so I will support programs that raise awareness, knowledge. Part of good education is frank, fearless dialogue among those seeking to understand issues & each other. I will seek such conversations. Finally, I will model appropriate behavior & actions. I will seek to understand more, to learn, & to be a leader in the quest for respect for all and civility in all.

BILL SAXTON, Democrat



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

Facebook: <http://fb.com/billinthehouse>

Twitter: twitter.com/billinthehouse

Occupation / Current Position: Software Developer, Self-Employed

Education: BS in Computer Systems Engineering, Boston University

Qualifications / Experience: As a small business owner, I will work to ensure that our laws have the right outcomes, not just the right intentions. Overly burdensome regulations should not get in the way of the growth and success of our businesses. As an engineer, I will use my real-world experience to solve-problems, rather than adhere to rigid/partisan solutions.

Questions:

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

A: 1) K-12 education is underfunded, at over \$1,000 per student. In order to fully-fund our schools, all options should be on the table, including giving localities the flexibility to cover these shortfalls rather than rely on the State. 2) We need to ensure all citizens have access to safe and affordable drinking water. The State cannot rely on Washington and must lead the way ourselves. 3) Michigan is also the worst state in the nation when it comes to government transparency. I will support measures including mandatory financial disclosures for all politicians and greater FOIA access to the executive branch.

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 support increasing funding of schools, via local funding flexibility and locking down the school-aid fund for K-12 education (which would give more than \$600 more per student). I also support (if universal pre-K is not politically possible) an expansion of access to these kinds of programs. My focus on post-secondary education would be on expanding access to trade-school education. This is a very cost-effective way to give our young people access to good paying jobs without saddling them with 10's of 1,000's of dollars of debt.

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

A: We need to expand opportunities for everyone so that our workforce is properly trained and flexible enough to withstand economic turbulence. This includes increasing access to trade-school education and job retraining opportunities for displaced workers. Businesses are looking for a solid labor supply-- this requires investing in education. We should also reduce our reliance upon corporate welfare in keeping business in the state. Our budget simply cannot afford spending billions of dollars bribing companies to come/stay here. We should, instead, maintain a stable tax/regulatory environment to attract them.

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

A: Corporations and PAC's have too much influence over our politicians. I would support any and all measures to overturn Citizens United. I also support a \$50 tax credit for citizens to donate to the political campaign or ballot measure of their choosing in order to further democratize the political process. Voting is a sacred right in a democracy and I support expanding voting opportunity and access through early voting and absentee ballot without restrictions. We should also make sure citizens are not prevented from voting, due to long lines or even voter intimidation.

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 Enbridge Pipeline 5 is well past its prime and an unnecessary risk to the safety of the Straits of Mackinac--it should, therefore, be shut down. Although oil and gas will still play a vital role for our State's energy needs, we should be focusing on cleaner alternative energy sources and, eventually, become an energy producing State. We also need to take the lead on setting our own groundwater contamination standards, rather than relying on the Scott Pruitt-lead EPA. Many people in my district have poisoned drinking water and we need to make sure that, not only is this remedied, but that it doesn't happen again.

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

A: The safety and security of it's people is the #1 priority of a government. Unfortunately, the political drumbeat of being "tough on crime" not only hasn't made us safer, but has wasted millions of dollars of taxpayer money. We need to make sure our justice system not only punishes the guilty, but invests in rehabilitation so that criminals have a way to, once free, become productive, taxpaying members of society. We also need to deal with mental health and substance abuse issues in a different manner than crime, including the use of mental health courts and addiction treatment.

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