

Michigan State Representative District 75

3 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)**

DANIEL ALLEN SCHUTTE, Republican

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

DAVID LaGRAND, Democrat



Website: davidlagrand.com

Occupation / Current Position: Representative, 75th District

Education: BA Calvin College. JD U of Chicago

Qualifications / Experience: GR City Commissioner 2007-2009, GRPS School Board 2012-2015, State Rep 2015-present

Questions:

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

A: 1) Mass incarceration. Need to reform cash bond system, fines and costs, sentencing guidelines, fund programming in jails and prisons, and do expungement reform and decriminalize child support offenses and non dangerous driving offenses. 2) Education. Need to stop overfunding cyberschools, and support discipline reforms that keep children in schools learning and safe 3) Health care. Need to cover as many people as possible so that citizens can live productive lives without the stress and fear of lack of medical coverage

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) See above. Expulsion and suspension models of discipline fail. We need to fund full use of restorative practices in schools 2) We need a funding model that moves beyond equal funding per pupil and fully funds students needs, such as special ed, ESL, poverty related obstacles. 3) We need a free k-14 model, and to aggressively fund all higher ed with tax dollars not student debt. We should also have free day care on every higher ed campus.

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

A: 1) Living wage. 2) Real housing support 3) accessible and cheaper higher ed 4) better k-12, mass transit and green energy initiatives to attract employers who value quality of life 5) Support Cities, as density makes for more affordable lifestyles

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

A: 1) We should have publicly financed elections and eliminate campaign contributions from any other source. 2) The easier it is to vote, the better.

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: See above. We should restore net metering, offer incentives for private solar installations and electric vehicles, support cities who are the best providers of clean drinking water and managers of waste water, and discourage sprawl. Ideally, we eliminate any use of fossil fuels. In the interim, Line 5 is an unacceptable risk to our great lakes system and should be closed.

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

A: See above. Mass incarceration is our nation and our state's greatest scandal, and is inextricably linked to race and class injustice. Our abandonment of any real interest in a safety net for all citizens is second, and likewise linked to race and class injustice. I believe that all citizens deserve decent housing, food, health care, education and freedom. I also believe that all citizens deserve the opportunity to pursue meaningful vocations, and that we need to revalue child care by parents and reward that care in real ways. I believe that the only way to make real progress on this vision is with a progressive tax.

JACOB STRALEY, Green

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Website: www.JacobStraley.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/MrJacobStraley

Occupation / Current Position: I am currently working as a licensed Master Electrician on residential properties.

Education: I completed an electrical vocational school training through Associated Builders and Contractors in June of 2009. I have attended others colleges and universities, but do not hold a degree.

Qualifications / Experience: My experience in politics is limited. I have only been involved in political activism and change since 2016. In 2017, I helped reestablish the Kent County Green Party and served as its co-chair and main contact.

Questions:

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

A: Our campaigns three priorities are energy, education, and wages. Michigan's electrical energy could be transformed to 100% renewable in 20 years if we had legislators with experience in the field. Being an electrician and having worked in the solar energy industry in California, I have experience other candidates do not have. Our K-12 system simply needs better funding. We need to reallocate funds to our K-12 system to include better pay for teachers, more teachers to create smaller class sizes, and safer buildings. Wages for any job need to be a minimum of \$15/hr to afford the cost of living.

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: One measure I would propose for our K-12 education system is better funding. I have continually heard stories about large class sizes which makes it more difficult for students to learn and receive one on one time with a teacher. I do support extended publicly funded education into the college level.

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

A: One of the largest employment opportunities was have as a state is transforming our energy grid to renewable energy. This will create jobs in manufacturing, engineering, installation, and maintenance. We should offer small grants to small business startups that don't have access to traditional funds. Individuals deserve to make living wages at 40 hours a week without assistance. The minimum wage should be tied to the cost of living.

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

A: Our current campaign finance laws have too much room to lose track of where money comes from. Candidate committees should not be able to donate to other candidate committees during an election cycle. I would support measures to stop political action committees from donating funds to candidates and spending money on behalf of candidates.

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 reached a time where we know how to produce electrical energy cleanly and efficiently. With the rise of electric vehicles, our dependency for crude oil can be dramatically reduced. Moving our state to 100% renewable energy would reduce the demand for natural gas as well. This reduced demand of both crude oil and natural gas would eliminate the need for a pipeline under the Straits, ending Line 5. Individuals and corporations alike need to be financially responsible for polluting our environment.

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

A: We, as people, I think need to have a better understanding and respect for diversity. Our societal problem of discrimination based on race, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, nationality, religion, or physical or mental ability is learned. We need to offer equal opportunities and protections for all citizens. I would support policies that uphold equality for all.

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