

## **Michigan State Representative District 86**

### **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)**

### **THOMAS A ALBERT, Republican**



**Website:** [www.voteAlbert.com](http://www.voteAlbert.com)

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** State Representative/ 86th District

**Education:** University of Michigan (BA) Michigan State University (MBA)

**Qualifications / Experience:** -United State Marine Corps (Captain)- Served in Iraq in 2009. -MI Department of Treasury: Bureau of Investments - Investor for state pension funds.

#### Questions:

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

**A:** First, I want to continue to be a champion for paying off our debt. As the chair of the House Committee on Financial Liability Reform I have worked extensively to have a sustainable and achievable plan to pay off over \$50 billion of pension debt. Second, I want to be a strong advocate for protecting K-12 funding. A large portion of the School Aid Fund now goes toward legacy costs and higher education. I want to work toward getting more resources into the classroom. Lastly, I will continue to support a business climate that keeps Michigan competitive globally for quality jobs.

**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 sent out an education survey to the district and it was clear that most people firmly believe that unstable homes are the biggest educational challenge in Michigan and I would have to agree. Many kids in our schools today go home and face very challenging environments. I believe substance abuse to be the biggest driver of these unstable homes. My uncle who is a retired school administrator once told me, "A school is a reflection of the community, not the other way around." I firmly believe we would see improvements in student outcomes if we make headway in addressing substance abuse in our communities.

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

**A:** Governments do not create jobs, but they do establish the business environment. States that choose high taxes and a lot of regulation like end up with large deficits and outbound migration. A great case study of this form of economic policy is Michigan from 2002 to 2010. It is commonly referred to the "Lost Decade." Keeping Michigan's economy strong requires that its leaders support policies that make businesses want to either move or grow their business right here. This can be achieved by continuing to keep taxes low and reducing regulatory burdens.

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

**A:** Michigan actually does a fair job at ensuring detailed financial reports for elected positions are transparent and available for anyone to see. I spend a great deal of time on properly accounting for my campaign finances and all of the information is available on the Secretary of State website. As far as voting rights, I recently voted in favor of online voter registration. The Secretary of State will be required to ensure it is a secure process and a valid state ID is required. I am supportive of policies that ensure Michigan stays up to date as technology changes and that our elections are safe and fair.

**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:** Ensuring safe and sustainable usage of our natural resources is critical to Michigan's future. Future generations will need to live here long after we are gone and it is important to keep Michigan environmentally secure. I was encouraged to see an agreement was made to build a tunnel under the Straits of Mackinaw to better safeguard our Great Lakes from a potential harm. Additionally, I recently supported "Straits of Mackinac Safety, Protection and Accountability Action Plan". These bills implement a comprehensive plan to keep maritime vessels, utility companies and other stakeholders accountable.

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

**A:** As a state we do not want to create an environment where people do not feel like they have opportunities available to improve their lives. That type of mentality leads to more crime and damages families. I serve on the House Committee on Law and Justice, and I have seen first-hand a shift from being "Hard on Crime" to "Smart on Crime." I supported two big changes to law this term. One was an 18 bill package of criminal justice reform that was focused on reducing recidivism. Also, I supported eliminating Drivers Responsibility Fees to help Michigan residents get a fresh start and back on the road legally.

## **LAUREN TAYLOR, Democrat**



**Website:** [www.VoteLaurenTaylor.com](http://www.VoteLaurenTaylor.com)

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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Entrepreneur - creator of NO CROW Rooster Collars; training backyard chickens to crow more quietly.

**Education:** supported my dreams. With scholarships from my hometown and from Kendall College, I graduated with a BFA debt free.

**Qualifications / Experience:** organizer, I've stood up for that American dream and a fair shot for all of us to achieve it.

### Questions:

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

**A:** As a legislator in Michigan's House of Representatives, I will stand for a renewed commitment to public education, 21st-century jobs, and a healthy workforce that is ready and able to live up to their potential. We need a bold re-imagining of our education future; one that addresses not only the success of our schools access to them but also addresses the struggles of parents working hard to afford quality early childhood education. It is critical that we fix the healthcare system in Michigan so that no one falls through the cracks and everyone is able to pursue their goals and contribute to society.

**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:** Investing in our children from a young age is good for our economy and our future. Expanding early childhood education puts them on the right path and helps them to succeed in life. Research has proven the far-reaching effects of comprehensive developmental resources on improved test scores, higher graduation rates, and increased college enrollment. In recent studies, economists found that prioritizing quality 0-5 programs yields a 13% rate of return on taxpayer dollars per year: a 6% improvement on established pre-k programs. While also promoting good health and lowering crime rates, this investment really pays off.

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

**A:** The success of Michigan's economy depends on the strength of its job market and opportunities for working people to succeed. We need to rebuild our workforce and support the entrepreneurial spirit that drives growth and innovation by preparing them with a good education and skills for 21st Century jobs. I will work across the aisle to create incentives for small business owners that allow them to pay a living wage and I will stand up for their bottom line by supporting healthcare policies that relieve them of that burden and ensure that all Michiganders have the care they need regardless of their employment status.

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

**A:** I support campaign finance reform and protecting voter rights because the people of Michigan should always come first. After all, our legislators should be serving their voters, not their corporate donors. But money talks, and the voices of wealthy corporations are heard louder than the voices of people. In fact, Michigan ranks last on campaign transparency. Last year, politicians in Lansing passed a law allowing corporations to funnel virtually unlimited funds through SuperPACs while continuing to limit individual donations to candidates. We need to make sure our representatives are accountable to their constituents.

**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:** By incentivizing renewable energy consumption and improving energy efficiency in homes, strengthening water quality standards, and stabilizing Pipeline 5, we can ensure a healthier future for the people of Michigan. Home energy efficiency upgrades are cost-effective ways to reduce energy waste and save taxpayers money. The replacement of Michigan's lead pipes is a top priority. The instability of Pipeline 5 risks a catastrophic oil spill that will ruin our Great Lakes. I support creating higher water quality standards to protect our state's vital natural resources.

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

**A:** Michigan spends as much as 20% of its General Fund on corrections - more than any other state - and yet our crime rates are not any lower. Even worse, the difference in incarceration rates between black and white Michiganders is far higher than the national average - as much as 6.6 to 1. This is unacceptable. Instead of spending so much money imprisoning our most vulnerable citizens, let's invest in local communities and schools and introduce programs in prisons to reduce recidivism. Together, we can move closer towards racial equality and spend our tax dollars more responsibly while we're at it.

## **SUE NORMAN, No Party Affiliation**



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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Sustainable Building Consultant: self employed, small business entrepreneur, designis llc.

**Education:** K-12 East Grand Rapids Public Schools: HS Diploma ; Grand Valley State University: BS, Psychology/Education, graduated Cum Laude ; Kendall College of Art & Design: BFA, graduated with Honors

**Qualifications / Experience:** Sue's training in the design process and experience facilitating teamwork has given her a unique skill set directly applicable to being a legislator: the ability to assess complex, inter-related issues and determine the practical, integrated solutions. Additionally, Sue has experience working as a teacher, which has given her the ability to multi-task and be responsive to changing dynamics.

### Questions:

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

**A:** My guiding principle is balancing planet, people, and profit. Process: Because most problems and solutions are complex, most legislation should include inter-related initiatives to accomplish a clearly stated goal. Economy: Wages fuel the engine of a strong economy; therefore, ensure that everyone with a full-time job can earn a living wage and ensure everyone is paying their fair share of taxes to support our common interests. Education: Knowledge is power; therefore, ensure that public education is fully funded on an on-going basis and honor the constitution of Michigan by keeping public money in public schools.

**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:** Professional educators should have primary responsibility for the how-to of teaching. Legislators should focus on the how-to of funding education and provide supportive legislation based upon guidance from educators. I support a budget that fully funds education: Ensure teachers have a professional salary and benefits. Protect the variety of services needed to truly educate all our children. Emphasize equality across the state and address districts' unique unmet needs. Ensure money intended for education is spent on education. I will work toward public funding for early-childhood and post-secondary education

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

**A:** The economic position of Michigan's residents can be improved by first guaranteeing a living wage and by everyone paying their fair share of taxes. Second, we must use an approach that acknowledges the differences between a state budget and a household budget: state spending often has a return on investment by generating additional tax revenue. One great example is spending for improvements to infrastructure, which creates immediate jobs, supports commerce, and keeps Michigan attractive to tourists. I'll help citizens understand how the budget really works and how their tax dollars are being well spent.

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

**A:** I support: Ending gerrymandering: vote yes on Proposal 2 | Making voting easier and more secure: vote yes on Proposal 3 | Ranked Choice Voting (ballot proposal if needed) | Secure voting technology with paper trail | A level playing field for all candidates | Ensuring adequate voting locations with the necessary amount of ballots and voting stations As a poll watcher, I've seen a polling location with too few voting stations and inadequate indoor waiting space; people waited a long time in inclement weather. It's difficult to know how many people refused to wait and were discouraged about voting in future elections.

**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 must quickly transition to renewable energy and that includes shutting down Enbridge Pipeline 5. Renewable energy technologies are capable of meeting the needs of Michigan residents today. Although I accept the science of climate change and acknowledge we are in a climate crisis, we should stop arguing about that and ask: Do you want to improve air quality and reduce asthma attacks, save money on energy, eliminate the risks from nuclear power plants, and grow a new green jobs sector? Everyone will answer yes at least once. Transitioning to renewable energy is an obvious people, planet, and profit win-win-win.

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

**A:** Equal access to quality education sets the stage for equal access to economic security, which moves us toward a just society. People most at risk for social and racial injustice must have a seat at the table during the writing of legislation so that the impacts on justice are adequately assessed. I support: Acknowledging social and racial injustice | Human Rights/Civil Rights apply to everyone | Keeping profit out of prisons | Decriminalize mental illness and addiction | Public health insurance option | Applying Flint water crisis lessons: think beyond up-front costs and fix failing infrastructure before a crisis

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