

Michigan State Representative District 88

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)

LUKE MEERMAN, Republican



Website: <http://meermanforstaterep.com>

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/MeermanForStateRep/>

Occupation / Current Position: Owner A&L Machinery Repair

Education: Coopersville High School Great Lakes Leadership MSU

Qualifications / Experience: 5th Generation Farmer, Polkton Township Trustee, Owner of A&L Machinery Repair, Ottawa County Farm Bureau Former VP, Former Critter Barn Board President, Ottawa County GOP executive committee, State Young Farmer Achievement Award, Life Long member of Grand Valley Baptist Church and past board Chair

Questions:

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

A: State infrastructure needs to be one of our top priorities. We need to find more to invest in our roads. Our children's education should also be a high priority. We must do all we can to ensure that future generations are given the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in today's world. In too many ways we are failing the next generation. The protection of the vulnerable and exploited is on my heart. We need to protect the most vulnerable in our society. My wife and I did foster care for 6 years. We have many heart wrenching stories, but the children are the ones caught in the middle they are the most vulnerable.

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: Local control is important. Teachers can best meet the needs of students if local school boards are able to make decisions without the often-excessive oversight of bureaucrats. Trade schools need to have more of our focus and dollars. Although four year degrees are valuable, they are also not for everyone. In order to guarantee the next generation's success, we must ensure our children receive the best training in whichever career field best fits their personal skills and passion. Trade schools can help accomplish this goal by offering training in career fields such as agriculture, construction, and maintenance.

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

A: Small business are the heartbeat of our economy. Over-burdensome regulations and excessive taxes destroy small businesses and weaken the overall economy. By eliminating regulations and reducing taxes, we can allow both large and small businesses to thrive, which will create new jobs and improve the economic positions of all Michigan workers. Having worked as a local farmer, gives me first hand knowledge into the hard life decisions that are necessitated by financial restrictions. Never losing site of the human component, of those that are effected be decisions made in Lansing, will be on my mind as I serve.

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

A: Transparency in elections is paramount. Free and open campaigns where the people of the districts have an understanding of each candidate and the money that is driving that candidate is necessary to ensure the best leaders are elected by the people. Voter registration must remain simple and streamlined in order to ensure all citizens have the ability to vote. Voting is a wonderful right in the United States that far too many people either take for granted or simply do not use altogether.

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: Balancing land use for agriculture, wilderness, and business is a tough assignment. Water quality is the most important environmental issue faced by Michigan. However, I believe that local control is important when solving such problems. The vast size of this state means that some areas are plagued by environmental issues unique to their own individual area. Therefore, solutions based on area problems with local solutions needs to be pursued first rather than blanket state wide mandates. Enbridge Pipeline 5 needs to be checked periodically for its integrity.

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

A: I believe all people are created equal and should therefore be assured of fair and equal opportunity, free from fear of harassment and injustice.

HEIDI A ZUNIGA, Democrat



Website: www.zunigaformi.com

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Occupation / Current Position: Candidate for State House of Representatives-88th District

Education: Baker College, Muskegon: Aviation Management 1992-1996 Graduated from Grand Valley State University, School of Education, in 2005 with a Bachelor Degree in Science with emphasis on Special Education

Qualifications / Experience: I have worked a variety of jobs in my life, beginning at 11 years old. Those jobs include farming, photographer, life guard, office manager, fueling airplanes, first officer on a corporate airplane and teacher. I spent 11 years teaching grades K-8 both special and general education and high school special education. Almost two year cancer survivor and volunteer for various community programs.

Questions:

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

A: Education-Quality public education for all, beginning at the preschool level. Encourage trade schools in addition to 4 year colleges and universities. Support funding for public schools and restrict diverting funds away from K-12 education Healthcare-Access to quality and affordable healthcare for all income levels, including small businesses. Lower personal and family deductibles and eliminate any pre-existing condition exclusions. Roads and Infrastructure-Money dedicated to roads should not be allocated for other projects or put in the general fund. Have a plan to fix roads properly instead of patching them

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: Money should never be taken from K-12 to be allocated elsewhere. This year 900 mil will be transferred out. Money that has typically gone to post-secondary education would be better spent in preschool programming so students can be prepared for the future. Programs that would allow for students to work at their individual pace and move on when they are emotionally and academically ready should be explored, including K1\K2 or possibly 1st grade 1 / 2 Put a cap on charter schools and have one charter authority Post-secondary education should include equal emphasis on trade schools as well as college and universities

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

A: Make Michigan a more desirable location for business by having well trained workers. We need affordable trade schools to prepare individuals for skilled labor positions in addition to having the option to attend a 4 year university. Increase jobs by offering incentives to businesses who increase their workforce and decrease their carbon footprint. A livable minimum wage that would allow a single person to work 40 hours a week and be able to pay for housing, transportation and food costs. We also need to fix and properly maintain our roads and bridges so people aren't financially burdened by costly vehicle repairs

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

A: Corporations should be limited to donating the same amount of money as an individual (\$2300 per cycle) or they should not be able to donate at all. Politicians should not be tied to corporate money. At the very least, it creates the illusion of impropriety and makes a candidate beholden to that corporation\PAC. Elections should be put back in the hands of individuals. The cost of running a campaign has gotten out of control. I support the policy of requiring identification to be able to vote. Photo ID's should be given to every person who registers to vote and should be free with zero or minimal replacement fee.

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: Eliminate coal burning plants and switch to natural gas which is cleaner and more efficient. Create incentives and opportunities for corporations that use cleaner and more sustainable forms of energy. We must make decisions that will protect our Great Lakes and inland lakes and rivers from pollution and overuse. This includes shutting down Line 5. It poses too great a risk to the health of the Great Lakes. Clean water should be a priority for everybody. Enforce laws regarding companies that pollute soil and water. All oversight committees should include unbiased individuals from various backgrounds and affiliations.

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

A: No person should be discriminated against based on gender, color, race, lifestyle, or beliefs. Judges who routinely rule in favor of discriminatory policy should be held accountable. People in positions of power including government, law enforcement, clergy, teachers...should be held accountable for their actions if they abuse their powers to pursue a personal agenda that is meant to harm, embarrass or otherwise humiliate an individual. We need stronger laws in relation to hate crimes. Implement programs to help reintegrate individuals back into society and creative methods to rehabilitate those in the prison system.

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