

Michigan State Representative District 89

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)**

JIM LILLY, Republican



Website: www.votejimlilly.com

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

Occupation / Current Position: State Representative - 89th Dist.

Education: Double Major in Economics and Finance from John Carroll University and West Ottawa High School Graduate. Graduate of the Stonier Graduate School of Banking and currently pursuing an MBA from GVSU

Qualifications / Experience: I've spent my career in banking connecting businesses with the capital they need to grow and create jobs. I'm a solutions-driven leader with extensive business and local nonprofit experience and I know what resources our communities need to be successful. As your State Rep, I've voted to increase funding for roads without raising taxes and put a plan in place to pay off state debt.

Questions:

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

A: My top three Legislative Priorities are to continue to prioritize investment in our state's infrastructure, hold our state's educational institutions accountable for their results through data driven accountability metrics, and to increase the standard of living for hard working Michiganders by driving down the cost of insurance and increasing household incomes by promoting skill trades opportunities. Communities across the state can learn a lot from the things we are doing well here in West Michigan with respect to skills training and we need to replicate the best practices from those programs across the state.

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 believe the single greatest thing we can do in our educational system in Michigan is to ensure that parents have all the information they need to make the best decisions about where to send their kids to school. We can use data to show which schools are adopting innovative solutions to improve outcomes for their students and which schools are failing to do which puts the students who attend them at a disadvantage to students in other schools within the district. I believe identifying these gaps early in the K-12 education process is very important.

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

A: I am supportive of the policies that Republicans have put in place over the last eight years that have helped to create over 500,000 private sector jobs here in MI. Our states unemployment rate is at all-time lows and we lead that comeback here in West MI with the lowest employment rate across the state. Skilled trades training is paramount here too. We must ensure an alternative path for students exists in our high schools so when our states kids want the opportunity to learn a trade rather than go to college, that path exists for them.

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

A: Sitting on Michigan's Election and Ethics committee in our State, I've been a champion of ensuring we maintain secure elections in the state of Michigan. We must ensure that our elections remain secure and work to repair any perceptions that they are not. With respect to campaign funding, I'm certainly open to suggested improvements, but there is already so much information electronically available through the Secretary of State at <https://cfrsearch.nictusa.com/> which provides insight into where money in and campaign accounts or political action committees comes from that answers most of my constituent's questions.

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: I've been a proponent of maintaining our state's current energy plan which provides for safe and reliable power for Michigan's residents. While I am supportive of new generation technologies, we must incorporate these new generation opportunities into the grid over time as we retire old assets so we keep can keep energy affordable for Michigan residents. With respect to Line 5, I am supportive of the governor's agreement with Enbridge that brings more transparency to pipeline operations and looks to find a long term solution for the line that provides a great deal more safeguards for our states environment.

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

A: I think the most important thing I can do to ensure Social and Racial justice in our state is to ensure that every student in our state has access to a high-quality education, and every individual has access to a good job. In order to do that, I think we first need to empower parents with information to know what their options are when choosing where to send their children to school. I think we also need to ensure more educational opportunities exist in K-12 educational systems for those who choose not to pursue a college track following high school.

JERRY SIAS, Democrat



Website: www.jerrysias89th.com

Facebook: <http://@bluecollar89>

Twitter: twitter.com/bluecollar89

Occupation / Current Position: Retired

Education: Grand Haven high school. Studied electrical theory at G.R.C.C.

Qualifications / Experience: Journeyman electrician. Small business owner.

Questions:

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

A: Infrastructure: It's going take a lot of funding to fix this issue and I feel the middle-class cant afford anymore. So corporations and trucking companies will have to pay their fair share. We also need to repeal the 3% flat income tax and replace it with bracket taxes, the wealthy have had enough tax breaks. Schools: no more taxpayer monies to Charter schools. Increased funding per student. More teachers to decrease the student-teacher ratio. Lastly, I believe we should unionize Charters. Environment: Promote green energy and shut down any pipeline that threatens our water. Deny Nestle permits to bottle our water.

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: We need more teachers to decrease class sizes, this ensures every student gets quality time. To fill the needs of the future we need to rebuild our vocational training programs in public high schools. Then we need to deny taxpayer money to Charter schools and shift that money back where it belongs, in the public system.

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

A: Michigan has to be on the forefront of green energy, from development to installation. To accomplish that we must offer tax incentives, grants for development, and a well-trained, well-paid workforce.

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

A: Everyone registered to vote should have a fair and unhindered opportunity to do so. Unfortunately, this is not always possible due to long lines, lack of I.D. or they are unable due to illness or out of town. We can address each one of these issues by allowing mail ballots to all citizens who are registered. I think campaign finance is out of control. Corporations, lobbyist, and special interest should not be able to contribute to campaigns. Our Representatives should be doing the business of the people, not special interest.

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 need to produce more energy through wind, solar, and natural gas. Then we need to offer incentives to homeowners for installing solar systems, energy efficient appliances, and windows. Water is Michigan's most precious natural resource and it must be protected. We need to ensure the usage of phosphorous fertilizers is banned on all lake property. Also, we need to protect our waterways by keeping tight guidelines on ballast release water from ships. Lastly, we need to eliminate any pipeline that threatens our water including but not limited to Enbridge Line 5.

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

A: Bail reform, reduce sentences for non-violent crimes, have rehabilitation programs for people to reintegrate in society after finishing their sentences, and finally eliminate the question about criminal offenses in job applications.

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