

Michigan State Representative District 97

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)**

JASON WENTWORTH, Republican

Did Not Respond it Time for Inclusion

CELIA YOUNG-WENKEL, Democrat



Facebook: <http://Celia Young-Wenkel for the 97th District State House>

Education: Bachelors SVSU, Criminal Justice, Sociology MSW GVSu

Qualifications / Experience: Lived and worked in the 97th District mostly as a Children's Protective Services Worker. I've had a unique perspective on the problems facing the District as someone who has worked on those problems one family at a time...

Questions:

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

A: Healthcare is our largest employer in the 97th District. Healthcare for all not only saves lives, but also creates jobs. I will fight to save the medicaid expansion and to add more health care recipients. I am a candidate of distinction with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. My opponent has voted to end hand gun registration and the certification process in order to carry concealed. In 2008, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote the majority opinion in the Heller decision. He said people have the right to own a gun for self-protection....that doesn't mean anyone has the right to carry any kind of gun anywhere.

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: Education is my third priority. I will work to at least reduce the amount of state aid that goes to the online public school versus the brick and mortar school. I will work to bring about accountability to charter schools. Charter schools not performing to the same standards as public schools in the same locality will be unfunded. Free public pre-school for every child.. Trade school for those who choose to forego college for whatever reason and at least free community college. To those who say how can afford this; how can we not afford it. Our tax base has shrunk because wages haven't grown. Education is the key.

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

A: 70 percent of families living under the poverty level are headed by women. By emphasizing equal pay for equal work we raise the standard of living for these families. I will work to create a living wage, not a minimum wage. I will support efforts to raise tipped wages and earned sick leave. Healthcare and especially mental healthcare can aid those crippled by mental illness to improve their own economic situations. My father was a union steward and I have been a union member since I went to work for the state. Unions built our middle class and unions will rebuild our middle class. I will restore the prevailing wage.

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

A: Prior to my own campaign, I worked on the VNP initiative. I support taking the money out of politics and I'm opposed to dark money. I support the League of Women Voters initiative. I will work to get any money available to protect the security of our elections. I support the policy that no voter should have to wait in line longer than 30 minutes to vote and will work for whatever it will take to make that happen, increase polling sites, etc.

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 will work to increase alternative energy sources versus carbon based energy. The Mackinac Center has been behind the wild rumors that surround wind turbines. I recently heard similar discussions regarding "noise" created by solar energy.. I will work to limit hydraulic fracturing in Michigan. I will fight to clean up the PFAS around the state, esp. the Wurtsmith mess in Oscoda. I will work to take Nestle back to 250 gals/min. in Osceola County and increase payment for the water. Flint is still struggling. I will work to reroute Line 5 from the Straits, which will fix the problem and create new jobs.

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

A: I honor the voters decision on mj this Nov., and will actively work for its passing. Prohibition has affected people of color and the poor more harshly than white middle class users. Penalties are harsher to start, but fines, court costs, etc. have a greater impact on the income constrained. Too often the war on drugs has turned into a war on the addicted. Addiction is an illness and should be treated as such; it is impossible to punish people out of an illness. I will fight to hold doctors and pharmaceutical companies accountable for creating drug addicts. Criminal justice is my background I will fight to reform.

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