

Michigan State Representative District 27

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)

JANET FLESSLAND, Republican



Occupation / Current Position: Production Artist at Epsilon, in Auburn Hills, MI.

Education: Bachelor's of Arts degree from Michigan State University. Major: Elementary Education. Graduate work in education at the University of Illinois and Eastern Michigan University.

Qualifications / Experience: I have lived in Huntington Woods for over thirty years. I have been a Republican precinct delegate for many years and attended state conventions as a delegate. As a member of Cana Lutheran Church in Berkley, I have taught Sunday School for 25 years, and have had various leadership positions such as Endowment Chair, and Youth Group board member. I am asking for the privilege of representing you.

Questions:

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

A: Infrastructure: We need to fix our failing infrastructure. Michigan spends less than many of our neighboring states. Ohio and Indiana spend 5% of their budgets on transportation as compared to Michigan's 3%. We either have to raise more revenue or reallocate funds to get the job done. Public Act 51 needs to be rewritten to update the method of allocating transportation funds. Education: We are failing our students. We need to strengthen leadership from the Governor's office. We need more effective teacher preparation. Environment: Enbridge Pipeline 5 needs to be replaced immediately. We can't risk its failure.

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: Only 1 in 4 students are ready for a career or college upon completing their K-12 education. Michigan ranks in the bottom for reading and math skills. We MUST set the bar higher, not accept the status quo. We need to promote skilled trades/apprenticeships as a viable path to a successful career. More effective teacher training and professional development is needed. A coalition of business leaders need to be engaged in educational reform—what curriculum will make our students employable in the future? We need to adopt best practices from successful programs in other states. Technology must be utilized early on.

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

A: Improving education and infrastructure will encourage businesses to locate and/or expand here. Many jobs go unfilled because the workforce does not have the skills required. These were some of the reasons why Amazon chose not to locate here. Without the education and training, the quality of life for our residents will decline. A declining infrastructure will not entice new business to our state. We need to make our state as attractive as possible to businesses who provide high-paying opportunities for our residents. I would also continue to review regulatory policy to make sure it is effective and not burdensome.

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

A: I think better training and supervision of all poll workers is needed. Everyone's rights are violated if unlawful and incorrect voting practices occur. I also am in favor of presenting a picture ID to prove identity. In regard to campaign funding, I would like to see disclosure of campaign spending by special interest groups improved. I agree with term limits but I believe that the terms should be doubled. By the time a legislator figures it all out, he or she must step down. We lose the efficiencies that experience brings as well as the relationships developed which I think promotes better collaboration.

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: Continued enforcement of environmental protections of our resources. Working with the federal government and neighboring states to prevent or remove invasive species from our Great Lakes. Encourage environmentally friendly agriculture and industrial practices. Promote research for alternative fertilizing methods to help prevent algae blooms in the Great Lakes (like Lake Erie is experiencing). Improving waste water treatment plants (infrastructure) will improve water quality in our lakes. Support policies that encourage alternative energy sources (wind, solar, nuclear). Enbridge Pipeline 5 needs to be replaced, now.

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

A: I support full enforcement of anti-discrimination laws. In these times of divisiveness, disrespectfulness and downright hatefulness, I pledge to you I will promote bipartisan collaboration, tolerance, respect, kindness, politeness and compassion. I am not beholden to any special interest group, except to you, my constituents. I will listen to your opinion. I will be your voice in Lansing. I am interested in achieving results. I will work tirelessly to make our state a better place for your family and mine. Thank you for your gracious support. I am proud to be your neighbor.

ROBERT WITTENBERG, Democrat



Website: www.wittenbergforrep.org

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

Twitter: twitter.com/Wittenberg4Rep

Occupation / Current Position: State Representative for the 27th District

Education: Graduated from Berkley High School. Attended Indiana University and earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management.

Qualifications / Experience: 3 1/2 years serving as a state representative.
13 years as a licensed Life & Health insurance agent.

Questions:

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

A: Tax equality - I introduced legislation & I'm leading the charge to implement a graduated income tax in MI. It would cut taxes for 94% of taxpayers and create \$1.18 billion of new annual revenue Gun Safety - I'm founder & chair of the Legislative Gun Violence Prevention Caucus. Introduced Universal Criminal Background Checks and Red Flag laws amongst others. Investing long-term in our state: - Making sure we are properly funding our public schools - Investing in our roads, infrastructure, & public transit - Changing the way our legislative lines are drawn. People should pick their politicians, not the opposite

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: First and foremost, properly funding our schools. Our schools are woefully underfunded and there have been multiple studies done recently proving that. Additionally, I introduced legislation to mandate smaller class sizes and offer better incentives for educators so we can hire/retain the best and brightest educators. I am part of the BOLD Education Bill Package to promote better outcomes in early childhood literacy and development. I also serve as the Chair of the Better Classroom Caucus and we introduced a package of bills to develop high performing schools by promoting healthy school environments.

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

A: I support the following policies: - Prevailing Wage & repealing Right to Work - Ensuring all kids get a great education from Pre-K to 12 and beyond - Providing opportunities for all students to be able to go to a 2 or 4-year school and/or enter into a skilled trade - Increasing the minimum wage and earned paid sick time I sponsored legislation to implement a state-run universal retirement program for employees that don't have an option through their employer. Additionally, I'm working to implement a graduated income tax in Michigan to cut taxes for 94% of taxpayers and generate \$1.18 billion of new revenue yearly

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

A: There is far too much money in politics nationally due to Citizens United and here in Michigan due to recent changes in the law. I am working on legislation to move Michigan to a public funding model for elections and limit the amount of money in politics. As for voting rights, I have introduced many bills to enhance the voting rights of Michiganders including: - Making Election Day a holiday - Automatic voter registration - No reason absentee voting for everyone - Shortening the deadline to register to vote

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 be good stewards of our environment. We have a moral obligation to leave a better world for our children than we inherited. I introduced a resolution to memorialize Congress to continue full funding of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative & a resolution to urge the Governor & DEQ to reject Nestlé's application for an increased water withdrawal. I also introduced legislation to put power back into the hands of local communities by allowing them to tax, regulate, or ban plastic bags or other containers. We need to move to renewable energy sources including wind and solar and decommission Line 5.

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

A: I'm fighting for countless policies such as: - Preserving & extending the constitutional rights of people of color - Expanding Elliott-Larsen to include sexual orientation & gender identity - Abolishing the emergency manager law - Prohibiting water shutoffs in low-income communities - Prohibiting insurance companies from redlining in communities of color - Replacing the pipes & providing clean water for the people of Flint - Providing protection for all residents including immigrants, people with disabilities & marginalized communities - Protecting & expanding women's reproductive rights & requiring pay equity

BENJAMIN CARR, Libertarian
Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

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