

## **Michigan State Representative District 29**

### **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)**

### **TIMOTHY D CARRIER, Republican**

**Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion**

### **BRENDA CARTER, Democrat**



**Website:** <http://brendajcarter.com/>

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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** President - Pontiac School District Board of Education

**Education:** Bachelor's in Business Administration with a concentration in organizational design. Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in Local Government

**Qualifications / Experience:** President – Pontiac School District Board of Education; President – Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) - Certified Grant Writer; Graduate – Grantsmanship Training Center Certified Fiscal Financial Manager; Graduate– Michigan State University Michigan Political Leadership Program; Graduate– IPPSR - MSU Ambassador to Kusatsu, Shiga Prefecture, Japan, for the city of Pontiac.

#### Questions:

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

**A:** The entire education system in Michigan and the U.S. needs to be overhauled to be competitive with our global economy. We need to examine equitable funding for the vast array of school districts in our state. Our infrastructure is on the verge of collapse. I support research-based focus groups with the expertise to access the current state of deterioration and propose realistic strategies to address the findings. Finally, research shows municipalities that provide growth opportunities for businesses and their residents are the most successful. We should encourage economic and community development collaboratively.

**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 support the development of research and focus-based groups from all sectors of the state to implement strategies to address the disparities in our funding system. We need to expand geographic access to career and technical education and fund it equitably. Past equity funding analyses did not include marginalized representation. The current study by the School Finance Research Collaborative has been the most accurate depiction of the need to address the issues of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. I support fairly evaluating the federal Every Student Succeeds Act to ensure the appropriateness of its intentions.

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

**A:** There is a vast disparity between those with means and those who are impoverished. I support providing Michigan residents with a living wage. The current \$9.25 per hour minimum wage level is not in line with the rising cost of products and services. I fully support continued professional development for those who are currently working. I support policies that would reward companies for providing career and technical apprenticeship training.

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

**A:** Transparency should be implemented throughout our system, and diligent enforcement of the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information should be the norm. An election piece published in the Detroit Free Press, on November 15, 2015, Michigan ranks dead last in ethics and transparency. The report further stated that this is partly due to our weak public records law and an absence of law requiring personal financial disclosure by lawmakers and top state officials. I would support policies that mandate full disclosure of campaign finances and would vote against any legislation that mitigates voter rights.

**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:** Enforce the laws we have on the books and regularly monitor businesses that have access to our rivers and streams to ensure they are in compliance. As a proud member of the Sierra Club, I fully support keeping our Great Lakes, inland lakes, rivers, and streams preserved for our future generations. Senseless contamination of our fresh water sources leads to poisoning of our air and soil. The long-term effects of unchecked pollution and usage of our natural resources could jeopardize all who depend on our environment for generations to come.

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

**A:** Michigan must enforce the state and federal civil rights laws in all 83 counties and be respectful of citizens of all races, gender orientation, or nationality. According to the CNN exit poll, women make up 55% of the voting electorate. In Michigan, 25% of the State Legislature is women. Nationally, 13% of the population is African American, yet we represent 9% of the elected bodies.. A recent article on Michigan Radio cites Michigan's Legislature punishing the poor. I would support policies that ensure representation from all citizens, especially those who are considered marginalized.

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