

## **Michigan Secretary of State**

General Election: November 6, 2018

### **4 Candidates on the ballot**

**Duties:** Secretary of State serves as chief motor vehicle administrator and chief election officer for Michigan and also maintains the state's official repository of records and certifies documents as Keeper of the Great Seal.

**Qualifications:** Candidate for Secretary of State must be a registered voter in Michigan on the date he or she is nominated for the office. He/she may serve a maximum of two full terms.

**Term:** 4 years **Vote for ONE (1).**

### **MARY TREDER LANG, Republican**



**Website:** <https://marytredlerlangforsos.com/>

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/marytredlerlangforsos>

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** I have taken a leave of absence from Vista Maria as their Vice-President of Major Gifts

**Education:** Bachelor of Science Degree in both Accounting and Marketing from the University of Dayton

Questions:

**1. Describe your qualifications and experience for the office of Secretary of State and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?**

**A:** I am a Certified Public Accountant with over 30 years of success in computer security, business development, and executive leadership. I have background in both the private and public sector, most recently working for Michigan's oldest non-profit, Vista Maria, and serving as VP of the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents. My work as a CPA has given me the opportunity to assist my community and state in a number of ways, including working on Mayor-elect Mike Duggan's Finance Transition Team in 2013. I am confident my career has given me the right experience to manage a department with a \$250 million budget.

**2. What voting reforms do you support?**

**A:** I support online voter registration and secured no reason absentee.

**3. What are your top priorities as Secretary of State and what actions would you take to implement them?**

**A:** To help maintain and clean our voter rolls, I will participate in interstate compact agreements, like ERIC, which seek to identify voters registered in multiple states. As Chief Motor-Vehicle Officer, my plan, Respect Your Time in Line, will enhance and increase online services, including introducing an ExpressSOS for your smartphone. I will expand the appointment making service MI-Time into more branch offices and provide self-service kiosks into Michigan-based business across the state.

### **JOCELYN BENSON, Democrat**



**Website:** [www.votebenson.com](http://www.votebenson.com)

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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** CEO & President Ross Initiative for Sports in Equality (RISE)

**Education:** Wellesley College Harvard Law School

Questions:

**1. Describe your qualifications and experience for the office of Secretary of State and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?**

**A:** I have over a decade of experience as a national leader in election law and administration and have authored, "Secretaries of State: Guardians of the Democratic Process," the first major book on the role of the Secretary of State in enforcing election and campaign finance laws. I have a proven track record running organizations including the Ross Initiative for Sports in Equality (RISE) and the Wayne State University Law School, where as dean I froze tuition for incoming students and increased scholarship funding that led to a 14 percent reduction in tuition for all students.

**2. What voting reforms do you support?**

**A:** I believe it should be easier to vote and harder to cheat. My plan includes online voter registration, automatic voter-registration, no- reason absentee voting, early voting, and new laws to prohibit voter intimidation. My election security plan includes risk-limiting post-election audits (RLA); improved poll worker training, recruitment, and accountability; the convening of an Election Security Commission; tough, new penalties for equipment tampering; and strengthening the accuracy of the Qualified Voter File by joining the Electronic Registration and Information Center (ERIC.)

**3. What are your top priorities as Secretary of State and what actions would you take to implement them?**

**A:** The people of Michigan deserve a Secretary of State who works as hard as they do. No one should have to spend more than 30 minutes to renew their driver's license, register their vehicle or cast a ballot. As Secretary of State I will set a goal for a "30-MINUTE GUARANTEE" for services administered and overseen by the Secretary of State. Additionally, I will fight to BAN FEE INCREASES that have hit families hard in recent years; will implement a plan to SECURE OUR ELECTIONS, PROTECT our sacred RIGHT TO VOTE, and take Michigan from worst to first in ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY.

## GREGORY SCOTT STEMPFLE, Libertarian



**Website:** <https://stempfle4sos.com/>

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/Gregory-Stempfle-for-Secretary-of-State-114624199243815>

**Occupation / Current Position:** I currently work as a Medical Technologist in the Henry Ford Hospital System and live in Ferndale.

**Education:** Stempfle has a BS in Clinical Laboratory Sciences and MS in Molecular Biology, both from Wayne State University.

Questions:

**1. Describe your qualifications and experience for the office of Secretary of State and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?**

**A:** I have been involved in Michigan politics and the Libertarian Party for over 20 years. In that time, I have run for public office, and been a campaign manager and treasurer. When the Libertarian Party of Michigan qualified for the 2018 primary election for the first time, I chaired the committee that redrafted the party bylaws to bring them up to date with current Michigan election law. This experience has given me a unique insight into Michigan's election and campaign finance laws and how to improve elections to make them more fair and representative of the voting public.

**2. What voting reforms do you support?**

**A:** I support expanding the absentee voting program. All voters should be able to request an absentee ballot for any reason, including those who find themselves working long hours or unable to get transportation to the polls on Election Day. I support adopting ranked choice voting, an election reform that requires a winning candidate to receive a majority of support in order to win a primary or general election. Ranked choice voting reduces negative campaigning, encourages the election of candidates that are more representative of their district.

**3. What are your top priorities as Secretary of State and what actions would you take to implement them?**

**A:** My top priority will be to encourage the Michigan Legislature and Governor to enact voting and election reforms. I would also like to conduct an audit of the state election system to look for potential flaws and increase accountability. As a hospital laboratory technologist, we are always trying to find ways of process improvement and increase accuracy. I will use this understanding to work towards streamlining and automating Secretary of State services.

## **ROBERT GALE, U.S. Taxpayers**

**Occupation / Current Position:** Self Employed Businessman

**Education:** Attended MCCC and MSU

### Questions:

**1. Describe your qualifications and experience for the office of Secretary of State and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?**

**A:** I am a taxpayer not a professional politician like my opponents I accept no special interest money and I am not obligated to no one I am the owner of a very successful business for over thirty years built from the ground up I will get the job done

**2. What voting reforms do you support?**

**A:** This will be put under review

**3. What are your top priorities as Secretary of State and what actions would you take to implement them?**

**A:** Downsize by closing nonefficient and outdated Secretary of State offices throughout the state and opening new smaller efficient locations and kiosks in high traffic areas such as major box stores and shopping malls with a major emphasis on doing business online from anywhere the current system is all over the map with no definite plan in place lines are to long and employees are to negative towards customers it is time for a complete overhaul by saving taxpayers money in wasted dollars