

## State Board of Education

### 11 Candidates for TWO Seats

**Duties:** The State Board of Education has eight members and has leadership and general supervision responsibility over all public education, including adult education and instructional programs in state institutions, except institutions of higher education granting baccalaureate degrees. It shall serve as the general planning and coordinating body for all public education, including higher education, and shall advise the legislature as to the financial requirements in connection therewith. It shall appoint a Superintendent of Public Instruction who shall be responsible for the execution of its policies.

**Term: 8 years** **Vote for up to TWO (2) candidates.**

### TAMI CARLONE, Republican



**Website:** TamiCarlone.com

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/Tami4ED/>

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/T2CPA](https://twitter.com/T2CPA)

**Occupation / Current Position:** CPA, Business Owner, and Process Improvement Expert of 30 years

**Education:** University of Michigan Bachelor of Business Administration Accounting Major

#### Questions:

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

**A:** My career lends itself perfectly to a seat on the Board. I am also a National, State & Local Education Advocate of 18 years. As a member of the national network of education advocates, Truth in American Education, I keep the pulse of our nation's schools every day, & we share best practices. I am a member of U.S. Parents Involved in Education & am on the Board of Michigan PIE. I co-authored 2018 HB 4192 to repeal Common Core & give MI students the proven best. I am an award-winning educator of adults & children of all ages, abilities & income levels. I am running so I can return TRUTH & EXCELLENCE to MI schools.

**2. What actions would you recommend to improve our education system?**

**A:** Teachers must deal with way too much these days, like jumping through one governmental hoop after another, excessive paperwork & data collection, meetings & more. We need them connecting with students & focused on teaching in their classrooms. We must make sure what teachers are learning in teacher college makes them ready to meet the demands of the job, like expertise in phonics. Excellent teachers can CHANGE LIVES. We must stop the teach to the test mentality that is killing our children's love of learning. We must get out of Common Core & the related testing & give our students the proven best standards & tests.

**3. What are the most pressing issues facing the State Board of Education and what actions would you take regarding them?**

**A:** All one must do is look at the results to know MI is in trouble regarding education. MI ed spending is up to \$14.8 billion in 2018 (up each year despite declining enrollment) yet school results are on a steady decline. The Wall Street Journal summed it up perfectly 1/2018, "Few state school systems report worse achievement metrics than MI." We are bottom ranked for special education. I am passionate about making MI a POWERHOUSE in education for ALL children. We should be the state others look to as the example. Every ed \$ must have a positive impact on classroom learning. Ed policy makers must be held accountable.

### RICHARD ZEILE, Republican



**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/Richard-Zeile-DRZ-for-State-Board-of-Education-106714412694744/>

**Occupation / Current Position:** Co-President, State Board of Education, 2017-2018 Pastor, St.John's Lutheran, Taylor, since 2001

**Education:** D.Min. Detroit Ecumenical Seminary; Ed.Spec. Wayne State; MDiv Concordia, Ft.Wayne, IN; MTS Harvard Divinity, Cambridge, MA; MA Rackham, UofM; BA Valparaiso Univ, IN; 2 Unit CPA Detroit Sinai-Grace

#### Questions:

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

**A:** I currently serve on the Board, elected Co-President by Democrat & Republican members, where I identify incoherence and true costs of policy choices. I represent us at NASBE, the National Association of State Boards of Education, serving as an officer. I published my doctoral thesis on Detroit school closings in the 1990s and write op-eds regularly on Board issues. I taught in Detroit for 25 years and helped to organize a MEAP award-winning charter school in the city. I was president of another academy there during reorganization after the preceding board mishandled funds. My children attended Detroit public schools.

**2. What actions would you recommend to improve our education system?**

**A:** 1) Focus on ends (student achievement), not means (compliance issues). 2) Focus on competence rather than credentials for students. 3) Avoid mission creep: adding to a school's tasks/responsibilities so that the school's mission (literacy & numeracy) becomes unfocused. 4) Beware of policy/programming that supplants rather than supplements parental involvement and responsibility. 5) Develop clear policy that enables local schools to take initiative and responsibility for student achievement. 6) Maximize choices for parents and students in enrollment, program, and philosophy of education. 7) Encourage character values.

**3. What are the most pressing issues facing the State Board of Education and what actions would you take regarding them?**

**A:** 1) Select a new Superintendent of Public Instruction in 2019 to succeed the late Brian Whiston. I look for someone who has lived with the policies he/she has put in place and has familiarity with Michigan schools. 2) Identify the factors that enable 3rd grade students to read and be ready for subsequent learning. 3) Clarify the empowering character of basic literacy and numeracy. When one can access others' experiences, and understand the workings of the world around her, that gives meaning to life that was not there before; this is the blessing of education which applies regardless of job status, or role in life.

**JUDY P PRITCHETT, Democrat**



**Website:** [votejudypritchett.com](http://votejudypritchett.com)

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Retired after over 25 years of public school experience

**Education:** PhD - Oakland University - 2002; Education Specialist - Oakland University - 1997; Master - Oakland University - 1994; Bachelor of Arts - Oakland University - 1988; Associate of Arts - 1971

**Questions:**

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

**A:** As a retired educator with more than 25 years of experience – most recently, as Chief Academic Officer of Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) – and as a concerned grandparent of children educated in Michigan's public schools, I am confident my passion for and academic grounding in public education, practical experience as a teacher and administrator, and commitment to building collaborative relationships with local and state leaders will make me a valuable contributor to the Board.

**2. What actions would you recommend to improve our education system?**

**A:** We have an obligation to the children in the state of Michigan to find solutions to our financial and achievement issues with common sense focused policies. All children who enter the school house door must be treated equally and provided the resources they need. Instead of closure and punishment, we must work together as a community to provide support to improve schools across the state. Financial resources need to be provided based on the needs of the students

**3. What are the most pressing issues facing the State Board of Education and what actions would you take regarding them?**

**A:** One issue facing the Board is the selection of a new State Superintendent of Schools. If elected to the Board, I will make my decision in a deliberate manner considering the background of the individual related to their experience in schools, leadership positions and decision-making ability. Another issue is the reliance on state assessments for judgments about a schools' overall achievement levels and the performance of teachers. Discussion needs to center on consistency on test format and clear targets.

## TIFFANY TILLEY, Democrat

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

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

**Education:** Norwich College (in progress), Master of Arts in International Relations-International Development; and University of Detroit Mercy, MBA 2014

### Questions:

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

**A:** I am currently the Director of the Southfield Community Anti-Drug Coalition. I have experience working in city and county government. I also have experience teaching K-12 in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties. I was an instructor at Wayne State University in the K-12 SEMAA Program which was sponsored by NASA. Project Management experience in Real Estate Development led to 9.9 MM going towards renovating low-income communities in Oakland County. I also have experience in Contract Negotiations, Financial Analysis and Recommendations on Multi-Million Dollar Entities.

**2. What actions would you recommend to improve our education system?**

**A:** Increasing public funding to the Dep. of Ed and local districts by lobbying the legislature. This is crucial, because per pupil funding is below more than half of the states in the U.S. Many certified teachers leave MI due to low salaries and attack's on benefits. More funding will allow for special programs to help combat illiteracy, fix the failing infrastructure in many of the districts and help retain teachers in urban areas to reduce class sizes helping to close the Achievement Gap statewide. Lastly, strengthening anti-bullying polices across the state and have each local district adhere to the same standards.

**3. What are the most pressing issues facing the State Board of Education and what actions would you take regarding them?**

**A:** The most important thing the Board will do is to hire a new Superintendent that will implement important policies Statewide. This is important because the Superintendent will be responsible for addressing issues such as overcrowding, failing infrastructure, determining a new method to increasing funds to the districts since multiple mileages to increase funding has been defeated. As a Board Member it will be my duty to make sure that person is qualified, and has a track record of improving educational systems. Most importantly that, that person has a history of putting children first.

## SCOTTY BOMAN, Libertarian



**Website:** <http://scottyboman.org>

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

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/boman2012](https://twitter.com/boman2012)

**Occupation / Current Position:** Science and Mathematics Professor at Macomb Community College & Wayne County Community College Dist.

**Education:** Wayne State University: Teaching Certificate (1998) and MAT (1999). Western Michigan U: MA in Physics (1987), and BS (1985) Majors: Physics and Philosophy. Minor: Mathematics.

### Questions:

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

**A:** I've been a professional educator for over 20 years. I served on the Wayne State University Student Council in 1999. I was Chair of the Libertarian Party of Michigan in 2006. My most important qualification is that I am a professional educator who recognizes the failure of compulsory education run from Lansing. Of course I can't change that directly, but I can be an advocate for reform. End State control. I support returning the money parents would spend on public schools to parents who wish to enroll their children in private schools. The same for parents who wish to use these funds for home schooling purposes.

**2. What actions would you recommend to improve our education system?**

**A:** Over-specialization is the primary cause of extinction. We need to diversify and move away from the top-down approach that seeks to standardize education. One size does not fit all. Central control caused the downward slide. I support returning the amount of money parents would spend on public schools to parents who wish to enroll their children in private schools. The same for parents who wish to use these funds for home schooling purposes. This is a compromise. Ideally politician would not intervene in the education process and people would not have that money stolen from them by the government for that purpose.

**3. What are the most pressing issues facing the State Board of Education and what actions would you take regarding them?**

**A:** 1. Over-standardization: Issue guidelines that encourage schools to be laboratories of innovation. Encourage distance learning opportunities that would be accessible by traditional students and home-schooled students alike. Give schools and families control of curriculum, not politicians. 2. Coercive funding mechanisms: Advise the legislature on initiatives to restore local and parental control. People should not be forced to pay for education they don't use. 3. Safety: "Gun-Free Zones" are favored by terrorists. Permit people legally qualified to carry firearms elsewhere to carry them in schools.

**JOHN J TATAR, Libertarian**

**Website:** johnjtatar.com

**Facebook:** <http://johnjtatar>

**Occupation / Current Position:** Retired

**Education:** BS Education WSU, MS Ed Administration, Vocational endorsement, Command & General Staff USAR,

Questions:

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

**A:** I have spent many years in a classroom and on a construction site where the students built a house. The Home Construction class built 15 homes in Livonia. I also taught Command & General Staff College to officers in the army. I experienced why students learn and have been successful teaching/training for 31 years. I believe that education has fallen off the rails of its true intent, to give our youth a vision of all that life has to offer through critical thinking and what it means to be a citizen in our Republic(s). My experience is invaluable to the education of our youth & future of our Republic(s).

**2. What actions would you recommend to improve our education system?**

**A:** Eliminate Common Core, no child left behind, Return to the arts, industrial arts, home and family living, the trades and basic skills etc. Teach the Constitution, civics, what it means to be a productive citizen living in the Republic(s). Teach true and accurate history; for those that do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. Education should be a general study of many areas of life so that students can choose their own pathway for their future. Return to the basic principles of our Declaration of Independence/Constitution and the important part every citizen must play to maintain our liberties. .

**3. What are the most pressing issues facing the State Board of Education and what actions would you take regarding them?**

**A:** Get the federal government as well as the state influence out of curriculum. Return the curriculum back to local boards of education and the parents. Teach the youth of our nation to be self-reliant, self governing, and self controlling, the corner stone of our Republic(s), where the people are the government and we delegate authority to those we wish to govern us- - by the people and for the people. I also feel that the electronic technology, wi-fi, cell towers on school property, 5G etc. being pressed upon us needs to slow down until further investigation/research is conducted to see that it causes NO HARM to us.

**KAREN ADAMS, U.S. Taxpayers**

**Facebook:** <http://kadamsmotherof7@gmail.com>

**Occupation / Current Position:** retired

**Education:** Bachelor's degree from Kuyper College

Questions:

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

**A:** Lots of experience in the teaching field! Think of me as Laura Ingalls, having taught several different subjects at several different grade levels at one time, only over a 28 year period, and mostly in my home, which functioned as a one room schoolhouse. I have also helped and supervised the education of other students who had been floundering in the system. I have had children in the public school system, in private school, and homeschool. I have taught 4 years as a tutor with Classical Conversations, as well as numerous other enrichment classes. I understand the dynamics of teaching and the classroom setting.

**2. What actions would you recommend to improve our education system?**

**A:** OK, ready to get radical? Greatly reduce the teacher/student ratio! Teachers are put at an extreme disadvantage when asked to actually impart information to 25 or more students at one time. But this is not "new" radical, this is "old, tried-and true" radical. We used to be the most literate nation in the world. Small schools and good student/teacher ratio worked, and it can work again. What is more important--buildings or true learning? Let's put aside the false security of bigness and get back to really teaching Michigan's precious souls with personal attention and care that teachers want to give, but can't.

**3. What are the most pressing issues facing the State Board of Education and what actions would you take regarding them?**

**A:** Apathy--or worse--the feeling that nothing can be done to really improve the education of one's own community, because the all-important decisions come from the top-down. It is time the State Board of Education quit allocating responsibilities to itself that actually belong to parents and local school boards. Let's give those responsibilities back where they belong. The State Board of Education has become an octopus, with tentacles reaching in areas that have nothing to do with education. Let's keep it tight and efficient!

**DOUG LEVESQUE, U.S. Taxpayers  
Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion**

**SHERRY A WELLS**



**Website:** sherryawells.net

**Facebook:** <http://Sherry A Wells for State Board of Education>

**Occupation / Current Position:** Attorney, Author, Publisher, Public Speaker, Genealogy Researcher, Community Activist

**Education:** Assoc. Arts, Grand Rapids Jr. College; B.A. Education, K to Jr. High, minors Spanish, Political Science, Michigan State University; J.D. Law Degree, Wayne State University.

**Questions:**

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

**A:** Attended public schools in Detroit, rural Kent County. Due to "teacher surplus," teaching certificate expired. Instructed intro. law classes, wrote a text. Presented Esperanto at foreign language teacher conferences. Involved parent at schools, ran for local school board, elected to city charter commission. I do my "homework:" attend State Board of Education and school board and related meetings across Michigan to listen and learn. "Poverty is the biggest obstacle to education"--children must be our primary investment, with the community not corporations at the forefront. An attorney on the board would be an asset.

**2. What actions would you recommend to improve our education system?**

**A:** Prioritize, not profitize, our public schools--for-profit charter schools need to be abolished and "innovative" schools be authorized by the local school districts. Provide wraparound services so children do not come to school hungry, traumatized. Special education needs to be proactive, not waiting for the "squeaky wheel." Schools should be cooperative advocates not adversaries with all parents so "Every Student Succeeds," "No Child is Left Behind," become realities not slogans. The legislature needs to support education and not lose federal monies, such as that lost for Early Childhood Enrichment by not matching.

**3. What are the most pressing issues facing the State Board of Education and what actions would you take regarding them?**

**A:** Increasingly, corporations control education across the USA--that pressure must be resisted. The Green Party is a progressive party, not a caucus; a stronger, not corporate-bought voice needs to be on the Board and push it to take its concerns to the people and request their active support to insist that the legislature come through for our children--the money can be found. (Search "482 Forward"). The legislature mandated that children be able to read by 3rd grade or be flunked, but it is not funding that mandate. Preschool programs are predictors of success but underfunding keeps women workers poor and turnover high.

## MARY ANNE HERING, Working Class



**Website:** Independent website: [www.workingclassfight.com](http://www.workingclassfight.com)

**Occupation / Current Position:** College teacher, Henry Ford college; Socialist activist in the working class at Ford Rouge plant.

**Education:** B.A. University of Illinois, Chicago (UIC). M.A. Ecological Psychology, MSU. Extensive education through organizing in the working class in Detroit Metro area and through ties with co-workers.

### Questions:

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

**A:** As a long-time teacher, I have been a steadfast advocate for students and their families, the support staff of the college, as well as part-time teachers who are the backbone of the teaching staff, with lower pay and no benefits. I have also organized in the working class for decades and can give voice to workers who see their children and grandchildren deprived of a quality education because the state cuts money from public education. I can speak up for teachers and other employees who are deprived of the means they need to educate young people and whose wages and benefits are reduced because of those cuts.

**2. What actions would you recommend to improve our education system?**

**A:** Take a page from history, including recent history, where teachers, students, school employees and people from their communities organized to fight for their right to have better wages, working conditions, and more resources in the schools. I think the educational system would be improved when those most affected organize to demand that public money go for public education. And I would stand with those people and assist in any way I could to help with that social fight. Because that is what it took for the working class to ever have the right to public education in the first place and it's what it will take again.

**3. What are the most pressing issues facing the State Board of Education and what actions would you take regarding them?**

**A:** Crumbling infrastructure in the schools. The handing over of public money to for-profit charter schools. Abysmal test scores reflecting the tremendous disparity that exists in our public school systems. I would stand up and say, enough is enough! The issue is money: Tax breaks to corporations and money to private schools means public money is being stolen from our public school systems. All school districts need high funding and districts that have more problems, need even more. The actions I would recommend would be to support people in their communities to organize to stop the theft and demand full, high funding.

## LOGAN SMITH, Working Class



**Website:** Independent Website: [workingclassfight.com](http://workingclassfight.com)

**Occupation / Current Position:** Student

**Education:** High School Diploma - Cass Technical High School, Detroit

### Questions:

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

**A:** I've lived in Detroit all my life. I was a student in the Detroit Public Schools where I saw firsthand the problems that children of working people had to deal with. I feel that as a person who has actually had to deal with our education system here in Michigan myself, I am very qualified for this position.

**2. What actions would you recommend to improve our education system?**

**A:** The solutions for the problems that our school system faces are not difficult to figure out: fund poor schools. Provide supplies, fix the broken buildings, hire more teachers, and raise teachers' pay. Make public colleges and universities free for anyone who wants to attend, so that people can get a degree without going into crushing debt. To pay for this, take the wealth back from corporations that were bailed out with money taken from our schools.

**3. What are the most pressing issues facing the State Board of Education and what actions would you take regarding them?**

**A:** Schools need all the money that's been stolen back, and much more. Not enough textbooks, underpaid teachers, and huge class sizes are just some of the issues that students of working people face thanks to a vastly underfunded educational system. The State Board of Education does not have the power to fix that; in fact, no politicians have that power. The only way that things are going to change is if ordinary people, teachers, students, parents, organize together and disrupt business as usual to stand for what's right.