

Primary Election: August 7, 2018
Michigan State Senate District 14
Candidates: 2 Republicans + 3 Democrats
Vote in one political party's primary only.

Duties: The Michigan Senate shares responsibility with the Michigan House of Representatives to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws.

Qualifications: State Senators may serve a maximum of two full terms. They must be at least 21 years of age and a registered voter in their district. There are 38 State Senate districts which are re-apportioned after each census.

Term: 4 years VOTE for ONE (1)

KATHERINE HOUSTON, Republican
Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

RUTH JOHNSON, Republican
Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

CRIS RARIDEN, Democrat



Website: <https://www.rariden4senate.com>

Occupation / Current Position: Retired

Education: Bachelor of Science, Sociology

Qualifications / Experience: Caseworker in a Homeless Shelter for women and children. Teaching Parent in a group home for teenagers who were placed there by the Courts or the Mental Health System. Caseworker in a Residential Treatment Center for children from abusive and neglectful homes. Genesee County Jail Guard. Student Liaison Coordinator at Reid Elementary School in Grand Blanc. Elected Township Clerk.

Questions:

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

A: My top three state legislative priorities are Education, Economic Justice, and Equality. I would address each of these issues with a comprehensive public awareness campaign that speaks to flaws in the system and provides real opportunities for correction. For too long we have just tried to put patches, and Band-Aids, on huge, gaping, wounds and pretend that we took care of the problem. Instead of looking the other way, we need to say what we see and then make the real changes that will uplift our society.

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: Recently the School Finance Research Collaborative published an Adequacy Report, which determines the true cost of providing an education for all students regardless of circumstances. I believe that by following the recommendations of this study we can achieve a world-class educational system. Right now we are ranked 35th in the nation for fourth-grade reading. Change is our only option. For more information go to <http://www.fundmischools.org/>

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

A: A living wage for all, child care subsidies, creating jobs repairing our infrastructure - roads, bridges, water lines. We need to adopt an income tax structure that ensures poor and middle-income people do NOT pay MORE than their fair share. As it stands now, tax cuts are benefiting the top 1% of taxpayers. In Michigan, it is unconscionable that 1,414,700 people are struggling with hunger - and 356,930 of them are children.

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

A: I strongly support the Initiative Petition Amendment to the Constitution sponsored by Promote the Vote: the right to cast a secret vote; an absentee ballot for no reason; straight party voting; etc. I also support an end to gerrymandering which has made districts artificially favorable to one political party over another. It violates the Michigan Constitution and yet it goes on, making Michigan one of the worst offenders in the country. The current District lines were drawn up by Republicans in 2011, unfairly assuring Republican victories. I think we should support public financing for campaigns.

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: Enbridge Pipeline 5 needs to be shut down. It is a threat to the waters, and lands, of our state and provides little benefit to Michigan. We have seen way too many pipelines break in the last few years. We cannot continue to poison our environment and expect it to be there for future generations. We need to protect our planet. And, while Michigan is giving Nestle's thousands of gallons of water, for pennies, our Flint citizens have the highest water rates in the country and have had to pay for poison water that they can't even use. Something is wrong with this picture and it smacks of Republicans.

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

A: There is little justice based on race/gender in this country. The inequality pervades most institutions: schools, prisons, homes, shelters, etc. Crimes against LBGTO people, which include physical attacks and murders, are on the rise. We see how brown children are being ripped from their parents' arms at the border. Women are not paid equally, and people of color are treated like 2nd class citizens. I would fight to change all of this.

JASON B WAISANEN, Democrat

Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

RENEE WATSON, Democrat



Website: <http://www.renee4senate.com>

Facebook: <http://Renee4District14>

Twitter: twitter.com/renee4senate

Occupation / Current Position: Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce -Procurement Counselor and Shared Services Coordinator

Education: Masters of Public Administration, Central Michigan University; Bachelors of Science in Family Science, Central Michigan University; Mayo Clinic Medical School Wellness Coach Reiki Master Teacher

Qualifications / Experience: Grand Blanc Community Schools Board of Education/Treasurer May 2009-July 2011; Michigan Certified Board Member 2010 Campaign to Elect Rick Snyder for Michigan Governor, Regional Director Genesee County Poll Watcher and Election Challenger Precinct Delegate

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

A: My top three priorities for Michigan and for District 14 are Education, Infrastructure and Economic Development. I support providing an education in which all students have the resources needed to thrive in the classroom. Infrastructure improvements are at a critical time. My experience working in Flint, driving down any road and crossing crumbling bridges, we demand results. In Michigan, companies are having difficulties finding skilled employees. As State Senator, I will foster an environment where businesses can grow and families will thrive. Citizens are demanding better results.

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: In areas of reading, Michigan is below proficiency, ranking last in reading and math. In 2015, 4th grade students ranked 41st in the United States. As a previous school board member, I support public education and a shared vision. Schools are underfunded and are subjected to a broken system. Student-teacher ratios are high while the K-12 investment is low. More student and teacher/staff support is needed for the proficiency ranking to improve in our state. I support individual learning, professional development and additional support in the classroom.

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

A: Investing in education is key to economic development. That includes providing access to quality public schools from preschool through university, community college, or skilled training programs. It is time to tackle the large skills gap that Michigan is currently experiencing. Educational opportunities are the path to good-paying jobs that will allow families to stay in Michigan, entice companies to develop and graduates to flourish.

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

A: I take great pride in having the ability to vote and exercise my right to vote. I promote civic engagement and am dedicated to engaging voters in the process. I support get out the vote efforts and policies that engage voters in having the right 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: I support policies that offer reliability, safety, and affordability to protect Michigan's water, air and land for future generations. I will provide a framework that allows utilities to prepare and invest for our collective future. Rates need to be determined in a fair and balanced manner that offer a healthy environment to maintain the beauty of Michigan. Our citizens deserve to live in a state that doesn't damage or destroy. The renewable energy sector in Michigan didn't exist in any meaningful way until it was mandated. Sometimes government has a role to push the industry down the right path.

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

A: We need to create an environment that is welcoming to all people in Michigan and District 14. This includes investing in public goods and programs that make Michigan a desirable state to live that ensure equal protection under the law for all Michiganders. We must update our civil rights laws and provide protections to all citizens. I support the enforcement of workplace safety and anti-discrimination laws, as well as ensuring equal pay for equal work.

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