

Primary Election: August 7, 2018
Michigan State Senate District 22
Candidates: 2 Republicans + 1 Democrat
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)

JOSEPH CONVERSE MARINARO, Republican



Website: N/A

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Marinaro4StateSenate>

Occupation / Current Position: Business Process Analyst with the University of Michigan

Education: Michigan State University - Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Lansing Community College - Associate Degree in Human Resource Management, Certifications in Lean, ITIL, and Project Management

Qualifications / Experience: I have over 9 years of professional experience in IT, Healthcare, Government, and Higher Education. In my current role, I specialize in driving efficiency to reduce waste in IT and administrative processes. I regularly solve complex problems by breaking them down into manageable pieces, create process maps, establish metrics, and tie measurable solutions for continuous improvement.

Questions:

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

A: 1. Protect our democracy by lowering contribution limits, ban incumbents from accepting donations while in session, force leftover money after elections to go to taxes or charity, end gerrymandering, and expand elections to more than 1 day. 2. Strengthen our Public Schools by restoring pre-Governor Schneider funding, halt the expansion of charter schools, and end reporting requirements that punish teachers. Give teachers the money and support they need. 3. Decriminalize drug use in and of itself. Instead of throwing people in prison, invest in rehab centers to help people get back on their feet.

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 local control of schools to fit the needs of the community. I'm against the Common Core, charter schools, and standardized testing. Stop forcing teachers to continue their education to keep their Certifications. It's putting people in perpetual debt to make a measly 45K a year. You don't need a Master's degree in mathematics to teach 7th grade algebra. Money is being invested in the wrong places because politicians are afraid of looking weak on education. Set standards for 2 teachers in each classroom to work together, and make High School a hybrid of Community College and Vocational School.

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

A: It is essential to invest in people so they have the skills to match in-demand jobs that pay well. Instead of setting a high minimum wage that has the potential of hurting entrepreneurship, farms, and small businesses, we should be looking for ways to get people out of the lowest paid jobs. Set policies that encourage people to grow and not keep them where they are. Education that teaches real skills for the jobs currently needed must be affordable. Stop providing incentives to pick winners for businesses to come. Reduce the administrative burden of starting a business to have as few obstacles as possible.

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

A: Set uniform campaign contribution limits for everyone regardless of committee type. Enforce those limits on what the candidate can contribute on their own as well. Increase transparency by not allowing donations to change hands more than twice. Ban incumbents from accepting donations while in session. Leftover money from elections should not be carried forward or be allowed to flow back to other committees. It must go to either taxes or charity. End gerrymandering if the ballot fails. Protect the integrity of the ballot by requiring ID to vote, and have rolling election days so it's more than 1 day.

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 protect the Great Lakes and stop using Line 5. We can't risk a major oil spill. Also, I'm all about renewable energy. It's the future and will have a major effect on pollution, but I don't support arbitrary mandates. It'll add costs if we invest too early. It must make financial sense. Gains are being made year after year in such things as solar panel efficiency. Costs will go down and there will be a tipping point when renewable energy will be cheaper than fossil fuel based energy. That day hasn't come yet and the markets must drive these decisions. We have to be strategic in our investments.

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

A: We have criminalized drug use in and of itself. This pushes people away from seeking help for fear of jail time. The focus should be on rehabilitation so users can lead a normal life. Instead we're wasting tax dollars imprisoning people. We punish drug addicts by shutting them out of jobs and social programs. We should reclassify drug dependency for what it is, a medical health issue. I don't advocate that people do drugs, and feel people should go to jail for dealing drugs. Criminal activity has centered around drugs precisely because the government isn't helping people cope with drug addiction.

LANA THEIS, Republican

Website: www.LanaTheis.com

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

Occupation / Current Position: State Representative, 42nd District

Education: Bachelor's degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry from California State University, Fullerton.

Qualifications / Experience: State Representative: 2015-Present. Treasurer of Brighton Township: 2008-2014. Former Chair of the Brighton Area Fire Authority; Former Chair of the Livingston County Treasurers Assoc; Former Member of the Brighton Township Planning Commission; Recipient of the Award for Conservative Excellence Voting Record from the American Conservative Union Foundation; Guardian Award by the NFIB

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

A: 1) Auto No-Fault Reform: We need to address the major cost drivers behind our high rates -- a lack of choice, out-of-control medial billings, attendant care, fraud, uninsured drivers and the MCCA -- in order to reform the system and lower rates. 2) Occupational Licensing Reform: The government needs to have fewer hurdles and less regulations for those who want to work in skilled trades and services. 3) Protecting the Vulnerable: It is important that we protect the unborn, victims of sexual assaults, our seniors and those among us that are the most vulnerable.

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 believe we need to eliminate categorical funding without our k-12 budget, which would allow our local school districts the flexibility to spend the dollars they receive how they best see fit. I am supportive of allowing our teachers the opportunity to use their expertise to educate using the most effective learning style of each child, and allowing parents to choose their methods of education -- I oppose a top-down directive on education methods and content like Common Core.

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

A: In Michigan, the law few years have resulted in fewer state level regulations, and this trend needs to continue. Small business are the lifeblood of Michigan's economy. Burdensome regulations do very little to solve the problems they were invented for. Worse, they impede economic growth. The best thing government can do for an economy is to set the framework and get out of the way. Lastly, we need to reform our no-fault auto insurance system. Until we can make auto insurance affordable in Michigan, businesses will continue to pick other states to locate or expand their businesses in.

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

A: Michigan's citizens should be able to see what donations are being given to the candidate toward their election, and the laws currently require that; however, existing campaign finance law is extremely extensive. Due to the sheer volume of regulations, these laws are very difficult to be complied with. Laws should be just, fair and applied equally for all. Consistent with our constitution, only legal citizens should be able to vote, and there should be a process in place to protect our citizens from effectively being disenfranchised when we allow non-qualified people 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: Poverty in the upper peninsula is significant. The increase in costs that would result from a Line 5 elimination would create life-threatening situations for many low income residents, especially the elderly. Enbridge should be allowed to twin their pipeline span with a newer line so that energy can still traverse the Great Lakes, allowing the transfer of energy while also allowing for an improved transmission process. This is significantly safer than other potential, and historically more likely hazards from other forms of transmission, via boat, rail and truck.

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

A: I don't believe "justice" needs a modifier. Justice should be served equally to all our citizenry.

ADAM DREHER, Democrat



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

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/adam4senate>

Twitter: twitter.com/adamdreher

Occupation / Current Position: Attorney

Education: JD Michigan State University College of Law; BA Eastern Michigan University

Qualifications / Experience: Dedicated to public service. Served as a Cavalry Scout in the United States Army. Then represented the People of the State of Michigan as an assistant prosecuting attorney.

Questions:

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

A: My three top priorities are public education, our state's infrastructure, and ethics in Lansing. Fixing our public education starts with increasing benefits provided to our state's teachers, but also by reorganizing our charter school system to increase accountability and transparency. Our roads and bridges need a serious investment instead of the usual "bare minimum" just to get by. I would address ethics in Lansing by expanding FOIA, and curtailing the amount of money pumped into the legislative process.

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 fully support early childhood education and establishing regulations our charter system would need to follow before someone could set up a school. We have to reevaluate how we're funding our public schools, and ensure that the monies put aside for education stay with public education. I would also propose requiring charter schools to obtain permission from the local ISD before opening a school within their boundaries with guidance on only allowing charters that supplement public education instead of replacing it. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we have to take care of our teachers to attract the best talent.

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

A: If nothing else, Amazon taught us that you cannot attract business if you do not have the infrastructure to support business. Attracting people to our state starts with improving our schools, roads, and bridges. Instead of answering the question of jobs by focusing on what will likely benefit business, we should focus on what will benefit people. Ultimately that will attract people to our state, and also keep the people in our state from leaving.

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

A: Campaign finance has become the scariest aspect of politics I've noticed thus far. Money can be shelled into a PAC, which is then allowed unlimited contributions to any candidate. I would propose changing our campaign finance laws to making reporting more transparent, frequent, and require specific disclosures of PAC money. I would also require candidates to disclose the amount they've spent more frequently. In terms of voting rights, our state should aspire to have 100% turnout at every election by making it easier for people to vote. That means no excuse absentee, early voting, and same day registration.

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: Line 5 needs to be shut down. There is too much that could go wrong with the pipeline that no one can see, which was built before the Mackinac Bridge. The biggest change I would propose is to make the DEQ more independent from the governor's office. The benefits of having a clean environment becomes skewed when it is too close to politics. This would allow the DEQ to be focused on what is best for the environment, not what's best for the governor. A major investment needs to happen in clean renewable energy to keep Michigan competitive. This investment would increase jobs while decreasing pollution in Michigan.

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

A: It all starts with increasing access to the ballot box and practicing the golden rule. Once we have a government that is more reflective of our population, then we can start having a government that also protects each segment equally. That practice in the legislature will start to translate across the state, and eventually we'll have a society that does not focus on gender or race in determining worth. I would also support increasing the Attorney General's civil rights division to ensure every resident of Michigan is able to speak with a public attorney if needed.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan national organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party. Candidate responses are included as submitted and have not been edited except in cases where the replies have exceeded the stated word limitations. **Spelling and Grammar were not corrected.** The inclusion of candidates' statements and opinions is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement by the League of Women Voters which takes no responsibility for any views or facts stated by the candidates.