

Primary Election: August 7, 2018
Michigan State Senate District 27
Candidates: 1 Republican + 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)

DONNA KEKESIS, Republican
Did Not Respond in Time for Inclusion

JIM ANANICH, Democrat



Website: www.jimananich.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/jimananich

Occupation / Current Position: State Senator

Education: High School: Flint Central High School, 1994 BA in Political Economy: Michigan State, 1998 Secondary Ed Certificate: Michigan State, 2004 Masters Degree in Public Administration: UM Flint, 2005

Qualifications / Experience: Prior to being elected to the state legislature, I was a teacher at Carman-Ainsworth and Flint Community Schools. I also worked as an education coordinator for Priority Children. I served on the Flint City Council from 2005-2009.

Questions:

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

A: 1. Roads and infrastructure. I have supported increased road funding and lowering the lead action level so we can address water contamination problems earlier. 2. School funding: Teachers are being asked to do more with less and kids are expected to learn with outdated and old materials. Dems have long advocated for more adequate funding, and we remain committed to providing every child a world class education. 3. Talent attraction/retention: I have championed the Flint Promise so more students in my district can reach college, but much more needs to be done on a statewide level.

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 measures like universal pre-k, increasing child care eligibility, increasing school counselors and school safety measures, and respecting teachers. We cannot expect teachers to do their best if we cannot give schools the funds they need to adequately educate children. We need to increase school funding across the board. Lastly, I support expanding promise zones (and passed a bill to do just that) so more communities can come together to send kids to college. No student should be held back from achieving their dreams because of the price tag of college.

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

A: There are many jobs in Michigan left vacant because people don't have the skills to fill them. I strongly support job training programs so we can get folks into those vacant jobs. This is particularly important for workers who have been displaced because of advances in technology. I also know that unions have created economic for Michigan families for decades, and strong unions make for a strong middle class.

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

A: Out of all my years in politics, no constituent has ever called and said we need more money in politics. I happen to agree. The Republican move to double the amount of permitted campaign contributions only gives more power to wealthy and well-connected donors. In my perspective, the more citizens who participate in our democracy, the better off we are. For that reason, I support no-reason absentee voting, same-day registration, automatic voter registration, and expanding early voting. I oppose making voter ID rules stricter.

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: This question is very personal for me as my city's water was poisoned by reckless state officials. I have sponsored bills to keep water safe, lower the lead and copper rule, establish the childhood lead poisoning commission, and establish the water resources commission. As the Great Lakes state, we should have the safest water in the world, and the same philosophy applies to our air and land. I support a moratorium on Line 5 until we can figure out how to safely move these resources in a way that doesn't jeopardize the health of our lakes.

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

A: We have now been fighting for justice in Flint for years. I introduced legislation to hold public officials accountable when their actions harm the public. I also have a bill to require the DEQ to have environmental justice plans, knowing that environmental crises often times disproportionately harm low-income folks and communities of color. Ultimately, the best way to promote a socially, racially just society is through education, and as a former social studies teacher, I am committed to making sure that our education system addresses issues like racism, misogyny, homophobia and xenophobia.

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.