

**Primary Election: August 7, 2018**  
**Michigan State Senate District 30**  
**Candidates: 4 Republicans + 1 Democrat + 1 Libertarian**  
**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)**

**RETT DeBOER, Republican**



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

**Facebook:** <http://Rettdeboerforstatesenate>

**Occupation / Current Position:** Retired

**Education:** BA in French with concentration in Cinema, University of Michigan

**Qualifications / Experience:** Ottawa County Co-Coordinator Patrick Colbeck for Governor Campaign, Exec. Committee and Precinct Delegate, Ottawa County GOP, MRP Neighborhood Co-Team Leader, Delegate 2017 State Convention, 2017 Outreach Co-Chair Ottawa Cty, Ottawa Cty GOP Volunteer Coordinator and Assistant to Campaign Co-Chair 2016.

**Questions:**

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

**A:** 1. Roads!! I would follow Senator Patrick Colbeck's lead. Test strips put down in Michigan prove that with a sealant included we can avoid the freeze/thaw cycle and roads will last 3-4 times longer with only a 15% increase in cost. 2. I would eliminate Common Core, implemented from the federal level. School systems have different needs throughout Michigan and should be making their own decisions on how to educate their children without teaching for the tests. 3. We need to fully address all the problems with our auto insurance, especially the cost of health care and fees associated with accidents and fraud.

**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:** With both parents working, there may not be time to read to their children, so pre-school is important to get them the start they need before kindergarten. Our children need to be able to read to succeed. We can tap into many of our retirees to volunteer in the schools to help with tutoring. Common Core needs to go. Let our teachers teach, not test test test. It's important to continue our Charter Schools and expand them to offer more opportunities for children at every level. Trade school opportunities need to be expanded.

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

**A:** If we keep "Right to Work" in Michigan; reduce State Income Tax; keep recreational marijuana from becoming legal; improve our educational system, roads and infrastructure; lower car insurance rates and lower health insurance cost, our economy will continue to grow and thrive. We should strive to keep our exceptional college graduates in Michigan and expand skilled trades to provide business with the workforce they need.

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

**A:** I feel that we need to be careful in expanding any campaign funding requirements as we are in danger of curtailing our First Amendment Rights. We should allow individuals and organizations to promote candidates positions through advertising and more speech, not curtailing speech. Let political activists speak out and ministers preach. I agree with the SOS actively verifying and removing the names of voters who are deceased, moved out of state or who are not citizens. I also agree with no-reason absentee voting and requiring an ID 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 believe in energy choice, not continuing a monopoly that hasn't been expanding our energy capabilities and bringing down costs. Competition will cause energy rates to go down for both consumers and Business. I am against more wind turbine farms which are noisy and not cost effective. I would be for shutting down Enbridge 5 carrying Crude, if feasible, but would not want to deprive the UP of the northbound natural gas at this time. I strongly support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and a concerted effort to keep Asian Carp out of our Great Lakes.

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

**A:** I wholeheartedly support our law enforcement officers and ICE. We need to be a County, State and Country that adheres to a "Rule of Law", which means I am against Sanctuary Cities. I believe that our Constitution protects all Citizens and residents within our borders equally under the law. We should all have the same opportunities to achieve our dreams regardless of our background, color, orientation, worldview, political party. For that reason I would like to see an end to Affirmative Action in our colleges, which actually discriminates against many students. I am for School Choice so we have equal opportunity.

## DANIELA GARCIA, Republican



**Website:** [www.votedanielagarcia@gmail.com](http://www.votedanielagarcia@gmail.com)

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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** State Representative, 90th House District

**Education:** West Ottawa High School; University of Michigan, B.A. Political Science; Catholic University, M.A. Education Policy

**Qualifications / Experience:** State Representative, 90th House district, 2 terms Public Policy Specialist, Spectrum Health Policy Advisor, U.S. Committee on Education and Workforce; Policy Advisor, Congressman Pete Hoekstra; Policy Advisor, Congressman Mike Rogers

### Questions:

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

**A:** 1. Continue to grow Michigan's economy with policies that continue our comeback. 2. Work to provide all students a quality education and to address the talent needs to fill the jobs in West Michigan. 3. Maintain a balanced, fiscally responsible and timely budget.

**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:** We must continue to provide education reforms that improve outcomes for our students. I have worked with my colleagues on teacher preparation reforms to ensure our new teachers are ready to prepare our children for successful careers. I support efforts to adopt an A to F letter grading system to measure student success and provide transparency for parents. I have supported investment in early childhood and reading programs. I have voted for and remain supportive of legislative initiatives that put a much stronger emphasis on career and technical education.

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

**A:** We must ensure that Michigan's economy remains strong by having a friendly business environment. That equates to a low tax burden for families and businesses and reduced regulations so that government can get out of the way of job providers and entrepreneurs. Additionally, affordable housing remains a key issue for job providers throughout Ottawa County and Michigan. We must work with local stakeholders in communities to partner to address this issue. Michigan must continue to place an emphasis on skilled trades so that our employers have a talented pool of individuals to fill the jobs in our community.

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

**A:** As a member of the Elections and Ethics Committee in the Michigan House of Representatives I have supported legislation that allows for secure online voter registration, legislation that clarifies who has standing and the procedures for filing a recount and legislation that provides for an expedited canvass of returns for President and Vice President of the United States. I am supportive of secure no-reason absentee voting and voted for legislation to do this in my first term in the Michigan House of Representatives.

**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 am supportive of working with industries such as agriculture and energy to ensure that they are meeting appropriate standards that are developed with the input of industry experts. Generally Accepted Agriculture Management Practices are a great example of a program that works well in Michigan. We should continue with success programs like GAAMP's and recognize industries who excel. I am also supportive of energy policies that make economic sense for consumers and businesses. I do not believe in arbitrary regulation that sets unachievable goals and would cause energy costs to skyrocket.

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

**A:** I believe that all Michigan residents should be treated equally regardless of race or economic status. The most important equalizer in our society today is a quality education and I have a strong record of supporting education reforms that allow choice and flexibility for families to ensure that their children receive an excellent education. We must have high standards so that every child, whether they are in Holland, Grand Haven, Jenison, Detroit or Iron Mountain, has every opportunity to be successful.

**JOE HAVEMAN, Republican**

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

**Facebook:** <http://havemanforsenate>

**Occupation / Current Position:** Hope Network, Government Relations

**Education:** B.S. Public Administration

**Qualifications / Experience:** Former State Representative, Former County Commissioner  
Former City Councilman, Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Church Deacon

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

**A:** Education Reform- Address local issues which affect academic achievement and concentrate on work force development. Mental Health- Streamline funding and delivery. Roads and Infrastructure- Ensure that this becomes a budget priority.

**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:** Michigan needs to set high academic standards and allow local communities to manage their own districts based on their unique needs. Lansing has set up an unmanageable bureaucracy between the State School Board, Department of Education and the legislature that has resulted in ever changing standards and goals. This needs to be streamlined with the local school boards at the center of the decision making.

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

**A:** We made great strides between 2011 and 2014 in helping turn around our economy. The biggest immediate challenge is finding a workforce to accommodate existing jobs and future growth. The long term challenge is ensuring that our education system can produce a workforce and leaders for jobs which not yet even exist.

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

**A:** I support mandatory identification when voting. Regarding the VNP ballot proposal, I understand the perception that this is needed but laws already exist to regulate the drawing of legislative districts. This proposal allows too many changes to the state constitution and is vague on who would actually be drawing the districts.

**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:** While in the legislature I worked on energy efficiency issues for both commercial buildings and homes. We initiated and passed the legislation allowing our BPW to work with homeowners on energy efficiency improvements and billing. Michigan needs to continue its' pressure on Congress to keep funding the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Personally, I believe that the DEQ should have kept the existing cap on Nestle for ground capture. The issue of Enbridge pipeline 5 needs an independent assessment to determine the risk of an environmental spill. An uninformed decision to shut it down may result in a bigger problem

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

**A:** While serving in the legislature I lead my party on the issue of Justice Reform. Michigan's crime rate has been dropping for decades but our laws do not reflect this paradigm shift. The cost of over incarceration has put a burden on tax payers and other parts of the state budget. More effective ways to deal with some offenders would result in safer communities, a more stable workforce and additional money for law enforcement to actually prevent crime from happening.

**ROGER VICTORY, Republican**

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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** State Representative 88th House District

**Education:** Davenport University. Degrees in Business Management and Logistics.

**Qualifications / Experience:** Current State Representative of 88th House District. Former President Ottawa County Farm Bureau.

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

**A:** 1. Reducing Auto Insurance Rates. I stand by my vote for HB 5013, I especially want to see a complete opt-out option for our seniors and a tiered system that allows actual free-market choice for every Michigan driver. 2. Addressing the talent and labor shortage. We need to get young people back into the skilled trades by increasing their early exposure to different career pathways and giving our local schools the ability to meet the economic demands of their region. 3. Making smart investments in infrastructure. Cut costly red-tape and admin services and put more money directly into the roads and bridges.

**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:** We need to move back to more local control of our school systems. Too often our school systems spend resources on retraining and updating their systems because of state and national requirements, instead of directing those resources towards the students. The demands and needs for schools in Ottawa County is not the same as those on the eastern side of the state. Our locals are the ones who best understand those realities and know how to adapt to them.

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

**A:** We are currently dealing with record low unemployment, which is good news overall, but to improve our economic positions we need a bigger supply of workers. We need to support our skilled trades training programs and bring more young workers into the workplace. We also need to encourage additional training for those looking to move ahead in their workplace. Furthermore, we need to improve our infrastructure so our businesses have access to the utilities they need to expand their existing operations.

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

**A:** The existing state policies are adequate for the time being.

**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 need to find a sustainable funding mechanism for the now depleted Clean Michigan Initiative fund that helped clean up a number of toxic and contaminated sites throughout Michigan. I believe in Energy Choice, as the technology advances it is becoming more affordable for individuals and businesses to provide a significant portion of their own energy needs. We need to allow for these types advancements to grow and develop. As for the pipeline, we need to use sound science and common sense to determine the best direction going forward.

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

**A:** This is not necessarily an issue addressed by more legislation and regulation, this is a cultural and societal concern. Our parents, educators, and local community leaders help set the moral foundation for the future successes and worldview of our young people. A good strong work ethic, desire for self and community improvement, and moral center are not things that can be mandated in statute. These foundations for justice come from our spiritual and faith based organizations, local charities, and our communities as a whole.

## JEANETTE SCHIPPER, Democrat



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

**Facebook:** <http://Jeanette Schipper>

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Western Theological Seminary Administrative Assistant Admissions

**Education:** MSU - No Degree earned; Davenport University - No Degree earned; Holloway's Institute Real Estate Appraising- State Licensured Real Estate Appraiser; Current student at Western Theological Seminary

**Qualifications / Experience:** Community organizer and advocate, work experience in real estate, banking, mental health, and higher education. Trained in implicit bias and cultural ability. I'm a mother and caretaker. I have lived experiences that bring a new lense and holistic perspective to the legislative process and decision making.

### Questions:

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

**A:** Healthcare/Mental Health; Education; Economy. HealthCare/Mental Health The United States spends far more on healthcare than the other 10 high-income countries in the world, and while our healthcare costs continue to rise, our healthcare outcomes place us dead last among them . What we are doing is NOT working. Healthcare needs to be high-quality, affordable, and available to all Michiganders and Americans, not just those wealthy enough to afford it. What's more, our outcomes must improve! We already have a successful foundation in place with our existing Medicare model which should be expanded to cover all Americans.

**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:** Education A quality education is a critical contribution to our children's lives and should be considered a basic necessity. For far too long I have watched the public schools get defunded, teachers get pink slipped, and schools close down to consolidate I support legislation that puts money in education, while working hard to correct the damage that has been done to Michigan's public education. A strong education is what enables children to transition into successful adults who contribute to our economy and society at large. Strong support for our schools and our teachers is an investment in the future of our childre

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

**A:** The Economy A healthy Michigan economy is built by investing in our state's most valuable resource: It's people. Making future-oriented skills training programs available and affordable for the people of Michigan is vital to ensuring that Michigan remains a competitive economic force. We cannot expect outside companies to invest in Michigan if we haven't done so first. Further, a 21st century state infrastructure is necessary if we want to attract companies to invest into our state. Equally important, we must also make sure to support small business owners and startups by first listening to understand what they think

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

**A:** I support automatic voter registration, voters not politicians. I support removing corporate money from elections. I support initiatives that make voting easier for working people. Protecting the integrity of our elections is a must and I will do everything to assure fair and accessible voting.

**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 legislation that improves the quality of our air and water, that protects our resources and invests in environmental protections. We must shut down Enbridge line 5, and listen to the people of Michigan when it comes to how our resources are used. I'm against corporate exploitation of our resources. I will do all in my power to be active, vocal, and initiate the necessary protections to safeguard our environment for the health and wellbeing of our future.

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

**A:** Social and racial justice is an area that I have been involved in for the last five years, I am trained in implicit bias and cultural agility. I desire that we work towards a more equitable and just society where all members can flourish. I support and champion equality for LGBTQ, affirmative action, and justice reform. I will work on policies that implement restoration rather than criminalization of individuals with mental health issues and substance abuse issues. I will work on legislation that equips our police officers with adequate deescalation training, geared to reduce trauma for them and the community.

## MARY BUZUMA, Libertarian



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

**Occupation / Current Position:** Retired

**Education:** BA Political Science, Kalamazoo College

**Qualifications / Experience:** 26 years as a US Navy Intelligence Specialist attaining the final rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer (E-8). State Chair Libertarian Party of Michigan from 2013-2015

### Questions:

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

**A:** 1. End corporate welfare. Eliminate the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Government is not a jobs program and politicians shouldn't be playing venture capitalist with taxpayer's money. 2. Eliminate unnecessary regulations and licensing laws that drive up costs, hurt small business, stifle entrepreneurship, violate private property rights and keep people out of the workforce. 3. Reduce crime, end the cycle of poverty, and keep our streets, homes and kids safe by ending the costly war on drugs. It's time to legalize marijuana for recreational use - decriminalize use/ possession of all others.

**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:** Education is an individual or parental responsibility and best handled at the most local level. Parents are best situated to decide what is in their own children's best interests. I support all measures that enhance the educational choices available, such as charter schools, tax credits for private school tuition, and home schooling. Post-secondary education accessibility is not the problem – affordability is. To make college more affordable, stop increasing taxpayer subsidies to it.

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

**A:** I support putting more money into the hands of the consumer. Cut the income tax now to the 2007 level of 3.9% and subsequently lower it until it is eliminated. Tax favoritism should be illegal. Abatements, subsidies, credits, or other incentives to businesses based on geographical area, job creation, or any other criteria deny equal protection under the law. Eliminate sales tax to products already subject to specific state taxes, such as gasoline and cigarettes. Sales tax on used merchandise that is resold results in double taxation and should be eliminated as consumers are paying a tax on a tax

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

**A:** The only electoral duty of the state government should be providing for fair and efficient conduct of elections. Eliminate all taxpayer-funded subsidies to candidates for public office and political parties, including primaries and conventions. Campaign finance laws are unwarranted restrictions of free speech or association and should be repealed. I support efforts to make voting less difficult for all voters such as "no excuse" absentee voting.

**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 promote a free market in energy. No commercial enterprises should be granted legal monopoly status including energy companies. Government mandates on renewable energy should be repealed as they are just another form of corporate welfare. Remove the arbitrary 10 per cent cap on the state's electricity choice market. Michiganders deserve a safe, healthy environment. Hold all individuals, businesses and governments accountable for the pollution they cause. A hypervigilant maintenance and monitoring schedule should be maintained on Line 5 to protect critical environmental values and water quality.

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

**A:** I oppose any form of discrimination by government based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or any other group or individual identification. Each person has the same inalienable rights that the State has a duty to protect. Civil asset forfeiture to enforce laws circumvents constitutional protections and should be ended. Random police roadblocks and other searches without probable cause bypass constitutional protections and should be prohibited. State prison facilities should be used only for the incarceration of individuals who have proven themselves a threat to others.

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