

Primary Election: August 7, 2018

U. S. Congress District 7 – Michigan

Candidates: 1 Republican + 2 Democrats

Vote in one political party's primary only.

Duties: U. S. Representatives share the responsibility with Senators for enactment of the nation's laws as provided in the U.S. Constitution. Laws that require payment of taxes are initiated in the House of Representatives.

Qualifications: A Representative must be at least 25 years of age and a U.S. Citizen for at least 7 years. There are 435 Representatives based on Congressional districts reapportioned after each census. Michigan has 14 districts as of 2012.

Term: 2 years VOTE for ONE (1).

TIM WALBERG, Republican



Website: www.walbergforcongress.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/TimWalberg

Occupation / Current Position: Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives

Education: Wheaton(IL)College–1977-78: M.A. (with honors) Communications; Moody Bible Institute & Taylor University, Fort Wayne–1970-75: B.S. Religious Education; Western Illinois University–1969-70: Forestry Major

Qualifications / Experience: Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives 2007-2009, 2011-Present; Division Manager, Moody Bible Institute Strategic Partners Division 2000-2006; President, Warren Reuther Center for Education and Community Impact 1999-2000; State Representative, MI House of Representatives 1983-1999; Pastor, Union Gospel Church Tipton, MI 1978-1982; Pastor, Grace Fellowship Church New Haven, IN 1973-1977

Questions:

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

A: I will continue working to encourage economic growth and oppose policies that are leading to more debt, wasteful spending and higher taxes. I will also continue working with my colleagues in a bipartisan fashion to combat the opioid epidemic and reform civil asset forfeiture. I've helped pass two pieces of bipartisan legislation with Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-MI, (H.R. 5009 & H.R. 5041) to help fight opioids. I will also work to enhance our educational opportunities that will prepare people for real world jobs that are necessary and secure.

2. IMMIGRATION: *What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. immigration policy?*

A: Immigration reform begins with securing our borders and enforcing the rule of law but it must also address bureaucratic red-tape and backlog, which prevents legal immigrants from entering our country and helping meet our workforce needs. Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) must be adequately equipped to enforce immigration law.

3. HEALTH CARE: *What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. health care policies and programs, including those affecting maternal and child health?*

A: We need to make health care more affordable. There are better ways of addressing the problems in our health care system than imposing big government solutions. Fixing these problems requires common-sense solutions that reduce cost, increase access and encourage job creation by allowing the purchase of insurance across state lines, letting small business join together to purchase coverage at a more affordable price and expanding the use of medical savings accounts. I have introduced H.R. 5194, the Pregnancy Discrimination Amendment Act, to strengthen protections for pregnant women in the workplace.

4. ECONOMY: *What federal policies do you support to help members of all strata of the American public improve their economic positions?*

A: My top priority will be to continue keeping Michigan's economy growing. I helped pass comprehensive tax reform for the first time since the 1980's. Reducing taxes, eliminating the death and capital gains tax, stopping wasteful spending, making health care affordable, and pursuing an "all of the above" energy policy are all elements to help grow our economy and help Michigan families. Presidents Reagan and Kennedy have proven that reducing tax rates can spur economic growth and job creation.

5. ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY: *What policies do you support to meet U.S. energy needs while protecting our water, air and land for current and future generations? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of the Great Lakes.*

A: We must continue to pursue an "all of the above" energy policy which encourages the development of domestic sources like biofuel, wind, solar, hydrogen, and other clean energy alternatives. It's also just as important to adopt policies that ensure a steady labor supply and are vigilant against burdensome and onerous regulations. Additionally, I have joined with my fellow Great Lake colleagues to secure full funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

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

A: I support transparency for campaign contributions. Voting is a fundamental duty of citizens and this right must be protected. Voter fraud must be taken seriously and punished vigorously if discovered.

GRETCHEN DRISKELL, Democrat



Website: votedriskell.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/gdriskell

Education: BS, Accounting, Lynchburg College 1980 CPA MBA, Finance, George Washington University 1987

Qualifications / Experience: Gretchen Driskell was Saline's longest serving mayor and built a successful career in real estate while raising three kids. As mayor, Gretchen passed 14 balanced budgets, prioritized improving local schools and downtown development. Gretchen also served in the Michigan legislature where she championed voters' rights, access to broadband, and fixed our crumbling infrastructure.

Questions:

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

A: I am running for Congress because I believe the people of Michigan deserve vibrant communities, world-class public schools, reliable infrastructure, and businesses that offer great jobs to Michigan talent. As a member of Congress, my legislative priorities will include protecting and creating American jobs, investing in infrastructure, quality education, and creating a more accountable government through campaign finance reform and improved voting rights.

2. IMMIGRATION: *What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. immigration policy?*

A: I support a comprehensive, bipartisan approach to immigration reform. As a member of Congress, I would work with lawmakers to create a common-sense path to citizenship and ensure that all individuals and workers are treated with respect and fairness.

3. HEALTH CARE: *What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. health care policies and programs, including those affecting maternal and child health?*

A: Our healthcare system is under attack from Washington, where politicians have no problem robbing millions of people of their care, while simultaneously taking actions that increase the cost of care to those who have insurance. We need to work with our medical community to create sustainable policies that keep costs down for working families while ensuring everyone has access to the quality care they need. As a single mother of three kids, I went without health insurance for nearly 10 years. Our families deserve to have access to quality care, no matter their financial circumstances.

4. ECONOMY: *What federal policies do you support to help members of all strata of the American public improve their economic positions?*

A: We need to value all members of our economy, not just those at the top. In Congress, I would support measures that value our workers like raising the minimum wage, equal pay for equal work, earned sick pay and adjusting overtime pay so that folks can earn a decent living and provide for their families.

5. ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY: *What policies do you support to meet U.S. energy needs while protecting our water, air and land for current and future generations? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of the Great Lakes.*

A: Addressing climate change is a national security issue and developing a clean energy economy could provide good paying jobs for Michiganders. I have worked and will continue to work to protect and preserve Michigan's water, air, and natural resources. As a state representative, I was a champion for clean water, clean air, and renewable energy. Protecting our natural resources is critical to not only sustaining our Pure Michigan tourism economy and our water-dependent industries, but to ensure our children have the opportunity to enjoy Michigan's natural resources and beauty for generations to come.

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

A: We need to prioritize campaign finance reform. Our current system gives far too much power to special interests and dark money. I am proud to have the endorsement of End Citizens United and, when in Congress, I would support policies that work to reverse Citizens United and restore more power to individuals. Our government should be dedicated to decreasing barriers to voting, which is why I introduced a Voters Bill of Rights while serving in the Michigan Legislature. I would support measures that allow for easier and automatic voter registration and increased access to voting by mail or early voting.

STEVEN FRIDAY, Democrat



Website: www.fridayforuscongress.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/Friday2018

Occupation / Current Position: Social Worker Policy and Evaluation. Most recent employment Dept. of VA. Health Science Research

Education: Master of Social Work, Policy and Evaluation, University of Michigan.
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, University of Michigan.

Qualifications / Experience: For the past 20 years I have been involved in research, policy writing, policy evaluation, and a social service provider. I have a deep appreciation and understanding of our governmental systems. I see very clearly from first-hand experience and sharing the life stories of clients the impact of our laws, regulations, and services on people in my community. My leadership is about empowerment.

Questions:

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

A: Lack of affordable health care is linked to many of the factors that are currently causing serious distress in our nation and our congressional district. I support Medicare for all. Income and wealth inequality prevents people from pursuing happiness and finding a path to success that gives them a sense of efficacy and purpose. Closing tax loopholes, adding a \$15.00 minimum wage, and overturning the most recent tax cuts to the wealthy are essential. The lack of social justice and criminal justice reforms are crushing our communities. We need to work on best practices to correct these disparities and free people.

2. IMMIGRATION: *What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. immigration policy?*

A: Our government has been neglectful in its responsibility to treat all people with respect and dignity. We need to quickly move on a comprehensive immigration reform plan that provides citizenship to undocumented persons. We need to develop a thorough, effective, and expedient process to bring more people into the United States who are seeking asylum and to immigrate. We must prevent the politicization of issues where human rights and human decency are compromised for the sake of political gain. We need bold leadership willing to stand strong against white supremacists' attempts to divide our nation and our world.

3. HEALTH CARE: *What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. health care policies and programs, including those affecting maternal and child health?*

A: The lack of health care and the high cost of insurance is one of the largest failures of our country and it is completely driven by greed. A Harvard study found that over 45,000 people die each year from a lack of healthcare coverage. Maternal health stats show that there were 9 more deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015 (26) than in 1990 (17). There could not be a more glaring example of our failure as a nation to provide necessary care to our people. We need a Medicare for All system now. The cost savings to individuals and the government are tremendous. Over 60% of Americans (voters) want Medicare for All.

4. ECONOMY: *What federal policies do you support to help members of all strata of the American public improve their economic positions?*

A: The best idea to increase job opportunities and higher pay for all should be a massive \$1 trillion investment in infrastructure projects around the country. There are numerous plans being worked on in Washington D.C. I also believe that the United States must implement an equal pay for equal work reporting system for all businesses. Women should not be paid less than their male co-workers doing the same work. People of color and immigrant workers should not be exploited or abused. They should be paid equal pay and be afforded the same protections as their white counterparts. We need to overturn Right to Work laws.

5. ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY: *What policies do you support to meet U.S. energy needs while protecting our water, air and land for current and future generations? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of the Great Lakes.*

A: The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative needs to be fully funded and expanded. Regulations on pollution must be reinstated where they have been reduced or removed. The regulations on polluters must be fully enforced. The penalties must be severe and adequate to repair any damages and to leave the impacted areas better off than before the contamination occurred. We need to invest heavily in the creation and expansion of green energy technologies, research, and employment. We must be mindful that the solutions we propose do not exploit poorer people and poorer nations to gain access to needed natural resources.

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

A: I have worked on efforts to repeal Citizens United through the 28th Amendment. I believe that there should be no corporate donations to candidates either through direct, coerced individual employee contributions, PACs, or Super PACs. Voter rights ideas I support are automatic registration of citizens to vote at the Secretary of State's office; voter registration at any time with proof of residency, registered voters should be given access to an absentee ballot for any reason for any election, all elections should be audited for accuracy and integrity, and prosecution of anyone illegally preventing someone from voting.

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