

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire - Michigan State House Representative

Candidate Information

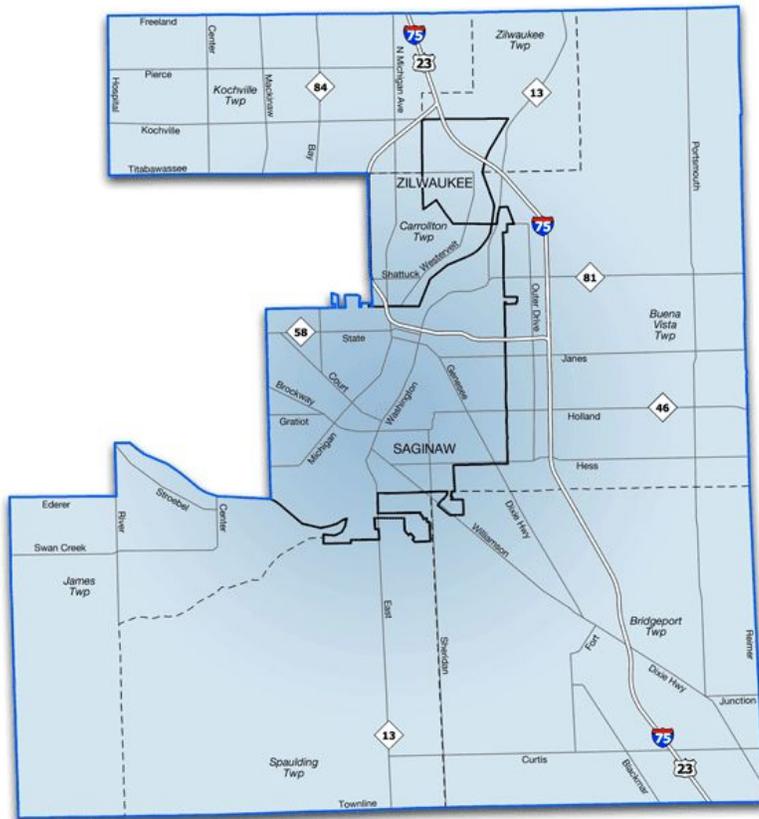
- Candidate's Name:
 - Carly Hammond

Please include a photo of yourself



- You are a candidate for what office in what district?
 - 95th House District

Please include a map of your district.



- Website Link:
 - <https://hammond4rep.com/>

Political Ideology

- Please introduce yourself by providing a short biography.

Carly Hammond is a 23-year-old progressive activist and organizer who has an extensive community organizing and environmental justice background in Saginaw and Genesee counties. She worked with Michigan United in Flint to organize protests, host community meetings, and conduct press conferences around the Flint Water Crisis. In one such protest, over 200 people went to Lansing, and shut down the legislative session in 2017 to demand water distribution in Flint continue. In Saginaw, she worked to empower youth in politics and led a team that registered over 1,200 students to vote in the 2018 election. She's currently running for the 95th State House Rep seat in Saginaw on a platform of Neighborhoods First, Dignified Wages, Medicare-for-All, and a Green New Michigan.

- Why are you running for office?

I'm running for office because change can't wait for people in my community. In my work in Flint and Saginaw, I've seen that the incompetence of our state legislature has fostered the environment that allows these communities to continue to suffer. Some have even benefitted from their suffering. We can't wait for the system of exploitation to end itself; it simply isn't going to happen without people running for office, challenging the system, and winning seats where they can influence state policy. Statewide progressive campaigns and initiatives have given me hope. Before 2018, I didn't believe that a candidate like Abdul El-Sayed could get traction here in Michigan. I didn't believe that we could create an organization that would end gerrymandering in Michigan. I didn't believe that in Michigan, where our state laws and legislature are so backwards, decrepit, and morally bankrupt, that we could push a progressive agenda that got Dana Nessel elected, and passed all three ballot initiatives. I saw all these things happen in 2018, and now I'm ready to do my part to further the political revolution in my state.

- Many progressives feel that the United States of America has a serious problem with wealth inequality and social/racial injustice. It is our ideology that a political revolution is needed in this country, one that changes our current law system from only benefiting the millionaires and billionaires and makes America an equal and just society for all. Other than the Progressive Caucus, organizations such as Justice Democrats and Democratic Socialists of America share this ideology. Do you?
Yes No Please explain

I absolutely share this ideology. In my district, the urban area of Saginaw is exploited economically to serve the interests of the wealthier, whiter suburban areas around it. There is no opportunity for people who live in the city- many have just left. Of course, the issues of economic exploitation echo in all areas. Generationally, my age group has been exploited for college debt, sold a lie of employment, home ownership, and a "competitive marketplace." Most Americans are riddled with debt and live paycheck to paycheck. Half of Americans work a low-wage job. Our public assistance is set up to cut people out, with no path to help people, only force them to get a low-wage job. I believe that we will have a political revolution in this country, in fact, the election of Trump was the right-wing base revolting against its traditional leadership, but we must have a political revolution based on leftist ideas; of justice, equity, morality, and empathy.

- When necessary, are you willing to publicly oppose your own party to stand up for progressive issues?

Yes No Please explain

Absolutely. One of the biggest problems in our state legislature is unquestioning party loyalty. Oftentimes, misguided Democratic strategists will give offerings and giveaways to the GOP, in hopes that they will sign onto the Democratic plans (see: Whitmer's road funding strategic disaster). Last year, that meant giving into a GOP plan for "reforming" car insurance, so that they would give Whitmer a win on road funding. Clearly, that plan did not work out. So, Michiganders will suffer with worse health options when they're injured in a car accident, AND our roads aren't getting fixed. To go further, poorer communities, especially communities of color, are often first on the chopping block during party negotiations. The Democratic strategy is this: these voters (especially black and latino voters) will never vote for Republicans, so if we take resources from their district, we won't face political consequences. Not only is that thinking morally bankrupt, but voters will stay home and not vote if they believe that the Democrats are doing nothing to help them or recognize their struggles. This is the main reason why Saginaw county is a pivot county, and went for Trump in 2016 despite being a blue-voting county for generations. I pledge to publicly stand for the interests of my district and for progressive issues, against my own party when necessary.

- How would you define the difference between equity and equality?

I believe that equality includes equity, but factors in context and history. For example, giving everyone an even playing field for FAFSA, college acceptance, and student loans sounds equal- same requirements to get assistance across the board. However, when you come from a zip code that has terrible education outcomes because the school district has experienced devastating disinvestment, that student had to work ten times as hard to succeed. And since we've enforced regional poverty with red-lining, policing practices and other procedures, those students are also more likely to have a criminal record, trauma when it comes to institutionalized education, impoverished families, food insecurity, and all other expressions of an environment of poverty. An equitable system of secondary education would consider all of these factors- especially when we consider these education institutions to be "public" colleges and universities- and create standards/programs/policy that address these issues.

Policy Questions on the Issues

- K-12 education equity

1. How will you support equitable public K-12 education?

Our state legislature NEEDS to stop stealing from the school aid budget. We have a priorities problem with k-12 education, not a scarcity problem. The legislature, instead of supporting public education, moves its money into “economic development” programs that subsidize corporate industries- meanwhile setting up “accountability” programs that punish poor districts for having substandard education outcomes. Supporting our education means putting public schools first, it means recognizing that outcomes are determined by zip code, and we need to equitably fund school districts. We must recognize that our state legislature is continuing, even exacerbating segregation in our school districts. Practically, this means setting earmarks on all funds in the school aid budget to stop the legislature from re-appropriating it. Ideologically, it means refocusing our priorities to our education system, and shaming any and all politicians that try to strip funding from the school aid budget.

2. Will you pledge to support extra funding for poorer schools to bring the health and safety of the facilities up to basic standards?

Yes No

In 2018, I, along with other activists in Flint, lobbied the state legislature to require lead testing in our schools. There exists no such requirement presently, and the schools that have the resources to test their school’s water for lead are probably not the schools that should be most worried about a lead problem. That bill never even was brought to the floor on the committee. Health and safety in poor communities is not a current priority of our state legislature, and it needs to change.

- College Education and Student Debt

1. Do you support making college tuition free and canceling student loan debt?

Yes No Why or why not?

Yes. My husband, as well as most of my friends, have crippling amounts of student debt- often set at 6.5% interest- that hinder them from building capital and bury their dreams of home ownership or having a family. Due to the shrinking

job market, lowering real wages, higher costs of living, and student loan debt, financial prospects for my generation are very bleak. We have to demand change NOW in order to avoid an economic disaster.

2. What will you do to make sure that everyone has access to a higher education and help those facing crushing student debt?

In our state, there are two approaches we can take immediately: funding and accountability. At the state level, we have to better support our institutions with better funding. Our state should look into income caps for college administrators and consultants, as well as regulate tuition increases, spending plans, and salary tiers. We should implement policies for student debt relief. Also, I believe that state and federal regulation agencies should step in to curtail the ballooning cost of on-campus housing and textbook costs.

I was a student that was only able to attend college because I qualified for an all-tuition academic scholarship. However, my parents did not qualify for FAFSA, due to my mother pulling out money from her Roth IRA fund early to pay for health insurance premium costs when she was laid off from her job my senior year of high school. At my university, (and many others) there was a requirement that scholarship students had to live on campus for at least their first year. This guaranteed an extra \$7,000 per semester that the school was able to charge scholarship students. In addition to the thousands spent on textbooks, our current system is untenable, even for students who achieve rare scholarships.

- Climate Change and Environmental Policy

1. We have less than 30 years to transform our energy economy away from fossil fuels to avoid the most catastrophic consequences from climate change. Do you think Michigan should invest in new fossil fuel infrastructure?

Yes No Why or why not?

Michigan has the opportunity to lead our nation in green energy initiatives. Instead, we are importing fracking wastewater from other states, and storing Canada's nuclear waste on the shores of our Great Lakes. We have horrendous environmental regulations, and allow corporate polluters free reign to dump waste into our lakes, rivers, and aquifers. My family's first home was in a trailer park on the Saginaw Bay- right on the shore of Lake Huron. It was a beautiful location, but we were just two miles away from a coal-fired power plant. The pollution from that plant, and other chemical manufactures in the area, destroyed that shoreline. We must hold polluters accountable, and build an infrastructure that hopefully helps us avoid climate disaster NOW.

2. Please describe your plan for ensuring environmentally friendly energy stability for the state of Michigan.

I believe that Michigan needs to implement appropriate portions of the Green New Deal in its policy. We have the perfect opportunity, while creating plans to revitalize the degraded infrastructure in our state, to implement mass transit, green technology, and other environmentally-friendly initiatives.

First, we have to kick out DTE, Consumers, and Enbridge from our state legislative offices. Nothing will be able to happen in the pro-environment sphere if these corporations continue to exert their influences.

3. Is water a human right?

Yes No

If yes, how would you ensure communities have access to clean water?

In my experience working as a community organizer in the Flint water crisis, I was deeply entrenched in municipal water research. No-one in our state is safe from tainted water. We are one of the only states that does not have statewide sewage standards, and as a result, we have the highest likelihood of any state of having water tainted with fecal matter. Not to mention our PFAS issues, corporate runoff contaminants, fracking wastewater, and everything in between. We have to create better regulations (which, again, won't come until we reform campaign finance and kick out pro-pollution lobbyists) and give our regulatory agencies the power and scope to go after polluters. We must also update our infrastructure to have better standards for water treatment in our municipalities. In addition, we can't allow more utility providers, especially for water, privatize.

4. Environmental crisis disproportionately harms communities of color. Do you support actions to remediate this imbalance? Yes No

Corporations have enforced and benefitted from segregation in our communities- dumping pollutants in black and brown neighborhoods that had no access to fair representation or legal recourse. Saginaw is still experiencing the effects of those practices. We HAVE to hold corporate polluters accountable. It seems as though every community and every corner of our state has been affected by some chemical spill, pollution disaster, air quality issue, or unsafe water. Our state regulations that supposedly protect our environment are a disgrace, as are the agencies that are supposedly pledged to monitor pollution.

5. Who do you think should pay for externalized costs brought by environmental malpractice?

Polluters should pay. Corporations should pay. We have to get serious about prosecuting and fining these interests. We have to take each count of poisoning a person or a place very seriously, if we ever intend to remediate our environmental issues.

6. Everyone needs a fundamental understanding of environmental science to do well in the 21st Century. How would you ensure our schools are equipped to teach the next generation the skills they need to succeed?

We must include science standards into our classrooms that ensures that teachers aren't softening the issue of climate change. Of course, it's more so politicians, parents, and school officials that have dispute science more often than individual teachers. We have to be equipped with the political bravery to tell the truth to our students. We also have to ensure that students are learning critical thinking and formal reasoning skills, so that they can shape their own futures and productively question their environment.

- Money in Politics - Campaign Finance

1. What is your plan regarding campaign finance reform, especially regarding political donations from fossil fuel executives, Wall Street execs, and corporations?

Michigan is ranked worst in transparency, accountability, and dark money in politics. For political donations, we must reform our dark money laws. Currently, any amount of money can be funneled from a 501c4 to a SuperPac. Not only is it unlimited, it is completely anonymous. That is the opposite of democracy.

2. What have you done to ensure political contributions are transparent and representative of the interests of the residents in your district and not the interest of for-profit entities?

I have not, and will not, take donations from corporate PACs or interest groups. For every organization that donates to my campaign, I intend to have a description of that organization and how they align with my values available on my campaign website.

3. If elected, please describe campaign finance reform legislation you would support or create?

We must:

- Reform dark money laws
- Get rid of revolving doors in Lansing
- Make our legislature much more accessible and transparent- a Lansing interface that allows citizens to track bills, contact legislators, see schedules, etc for free.
- Have stricter guidelines for lobbyists operating in Lansing
- Fix our term limits
- Reform our guidelines for political appointments and “legislative assistants”

- Health Care

1. Depending on private health insurance companies to provide financial coverage for medical bills is not working. We need a single-payer health care system which would reduce the administrative cost currently allocated to the multi-payer system we have now. Single-payer would reduce costs by 24% by cutting administrative waste and allowing negotiation of prescription drugs ([Friedman, 2013](#)). While private health insurance executives and pharmaceutical companies are profiting off of sick people, average Americans are going bankrupt and relying on go-fund-me campaigns to cover the costs. Approximately 500,000 Michiganders still do not have health insurance ([Kaiser](#)). Plans ([H.B. 6285, MichCare](#)) to create a single-payer healthcare system in Michigan have been proposed. Will you create/support/sponsor a bill which will create a single-payer healthcare system for all Michiganders?

Yes No If not, what plan would you propose?

2. What have you done to reform health insurance and/or make healthcare more accessible?

On my website, I specifically list H.B. 6285 as a bill I support. Also, I've participated in multiple Michigan for Single-Payer events, and the nearest chapter, in Bay City, has semi-regular meetings that I attend. As an uninsured person myself, I am willing to fight tooth and nail to reform our broken system.

3. Given the continued rising death toll from overdoses, would you support legislation developed with the medical community and public health experts to form safe use clinics?

Yes. In addition, we need to bring back dedicated mental health facilities in our state. The erasure of these institutions in the Engler administration created a ripple effect through many different areas of public policy- jails and prisons now act as mental institutions, police officers intervening when it should be a licensed medical professional, and a lack of professional mental health providers in most areas of our state.

- Mass Incarceration

1. Do you believe that Michigan over incarcerates and if so what have you done and what will you do in the future to help reduce the number of citizens and undocumented immigrants held in detention facilities in our state and nation?

Yes No Please explain

My community has a massive problem with over-policing and over-incarceration. We have for-profit “alternative juvenile detention facilities” that are nightmares for children and parents being shuffled through the system. I’ve worked with the ACLU and am involved with their Smart Justice campaign, which has identified Saginaw as a target area for criminal justice reform, and I will continue to oppose privately operated jails, prisons, detention centers, and independent contractors operating within our public facilities.

2. If elected would you commit to introducing a bill similar to California Assembly Bill 32 in Michigan which bans the government from renewing or entering into contracts with for profit prison companies or immigration detention centers?

Yes No If not, please explain

3. Do you support and have you supported Rep. Isaac Robinson’s Michigan House Bill 5120 giving hundreds of thousands of residents with old, low-level criminal convictions the opportunity for a fresh start through expungement?

Yes No If not, please explain

Just to add: Rep Robinson is a fantastic ally and I look forward to working with him in the state house.

- Living Wage

1. What is your idea of a living wage, and how do you plan to enact it?

In my campaign, I've introduced the concept of a "dignified wage." It includes at least a \$15/hr living wage tied to inflation, but also sets a standard for public assistance. Our welfare system in Michigan is broken, and morality-polices our impoverished residents to an impractical and immoral degree. I've been on Medicaid before, after a 6-month fight to get it, I've been screwed out of claiming unemployment benefits, and my community struggles through all forms of assistance, and an underfunded system that's designed to cut people out. We have to have a progress-minded, ethics-oriented public assistance mindset that builds a bridge to prosperity for individuals. I vehemently oppose work requirements, drug tests, and other morality tests in our public assistance system.

- Institutional Racism

1. How will you address white supremacy?

White supremacy exists in our state legislature, and is in fact deeply ingrained in our current representation. We have to call out these instances of racism and white supremacy, and label those who practice it and benefit from it as white supremacists. My community of Saginaw has struggled with white supremacy for generations. We can't toe the line any longer, or give the benefit of the doubt to racists, because it tells our communities that their struggles aren't worth the political bravery it takes to tell the truth in these instances.

2. Communities of color have historically been disproportionately targeted in countless instances. One of those significant ways being redlining, only to be exploited decades later by gentrification. How will you address institutional racism, such as gentrification, if elected?

We have to reframe how we look at the health of a region. Right now, all the legislature is concerned about is profitability. That mindset birthed Emergency Management, austerity policies, and gentrification. It enabled Dan Gilbert, the Ilitches, and Mike Duggan. We have to stop the MEDC from enacting this neoliberal mindset, and we have to reform our land use policies. In the 40s and 50s, GM worked with segregationists in Michigan to help develop anti-urban land use policies that stunted urban growth, and created the urban/suburban wealth and race disparity that we see today. We have to write out segregation from our state laws, and reform the MEDC and the MSF.

3. What is your opinion on reparations?

Reparations are deserved in my community of Saginaw and other communities of color. The legacy of segregation must be recognized publicly, and its effects that are still in full swing today must be addressed. How reparations are implemented is a discussion that should be ongoing and determined by those affected communities, but I believe that they should definitely be pursued.

Police Brutality?

Police brutality is [very present in Saginaw](#). Milton Hall, a homeless, mentally ill black man was executed by six police officers in 2012. They fired 47 shots in mere seconds after surrounding him in a parking lot. Their defense was that he posed a threat to the leashed police dog. No officers were fired; none were prosecuted. Today, police killings still happen, and many areas of the city are subject to extrajudicial police sweeps, where the intention is to take as many poor black and brown residents to jail. All of the local politicians ignore this subject, and show themselves as supportive of the police community, and are unwilling and incapable of holding them accountable. I refuse to be cowed by the police institution in Saginaw, and will exert my influence as State Representative to call out their injustice wherever it occurs.

Police Demilitarization?

It is sickening when our police departments are militarized. As they themselves will admit, most of the interactions with violent or violent-appearing persons are with mentally ill patients who don't have access to the care they need. We cannot be addressing mental health crises in our community with tanks and automatic weapons. Their only purpose is to intimidate and control the communities that they are supposed to protect and serve.

- Strengthening Unions

1. What plans do you have for strengthening unions and what have you done to support unions?

This year, I marched with UAW members in my district to show support for union rights. I believe in the strength of workers and collective bargaining to get a fair deal for employees. I also support the expansion of unions to every industry, and I believe that government entities should intervene on behalf of employees, not employers.

- Will you support HB4034 which would repeal the anti- union portions of Michigan's existing "right to work" laws or an equivalent Senate bill.

Yes No Please explain

Right to Work is a stain on our state, and the way it was passed in
Lame Duck should nauseate any political operative in Michigan that
values democracy. It deserves to be repealed and remediated, on the
sole grounds that it was passed in such an anti-democratic process.

- Do you support workers co-ops?

Yes No Please explain

Worker co-ops are the best way we currently have to ensure
fairness in the workplace.

4. How will you legislate based on your support or opposition of (b) or (c)?

Because I mentioned Lame Duck, I should state that I believe that Lame
Duck should be eliminated in Michigan. Every election cycle, it gets worse and
worse for citizens. Now, our legislators are comfortable waiting for two years,
getting nothing done, all with the plan to shove through as much legislation as
possible through the Lame Duck session. It has poisoned our legislature, and
makes voters and activists feel completely powerless.

Also, our state labor laws in Michigan are laughable. Many times working
retail, I've felt exploited and wronged- I've referenced our labor laws to see if my
employer was violating the law, and what I could do about it. Every time, the
rights of the employer were favored over that of employees. We are an at-will
employment state, with so many "independent contractors" that have no rights at
all. I was a seasonal worker, despite being employed year-round, and was
immediately denied unemployment benefits on those grounds. We have to reform
our labor laws to be pro-worker and stand behind employees.

- LGBTQ rights

1. Will you support HB 4688 which would extend civil rights protections to include
sexual orientation and gender identity and expression?

Yes No

2. Do you believe that religious freedom ever supersedes the rights of an LGBTQ
person?

Yes No Please explain

It doesn't. Ever.

3. What anti-LGBTQ+ legislation have you supported in the past if any?
Yes No If you have, why? Would you support it today?

- Voting Rights

1. Do you support ranked choice voting?
Yes No Why or why not? If so, do you have a plan to enact it?

Ranked choice voting would allow us to have a more robust democracy. However, we also have to dismantle the duopoly that the Democrat and Republican parties both enjoy. In order to have an effective system, we must pave the way for viable third parties (and fourth and fifth parties) so that each American can have fair representation of their values. In enacting a ranked-choice plan, we also have to monitor local clerks and their implementation of procedures, and provide support where necessary.

2. How would you prevent voter purging?

We have to have better standards and more oversight for our clerks offices. In 2018, I worked to register young people to vote. I learned how much incompetency there is across the board in our clerk offices, and how little oversight really exists. Clerk positions are elected, partisan, and powerful seats. At a state level, we have to ensure that they aren't influencing an election and are following the rules and regulations that are in place.

3. Would you support automatic voter registration?
Yes No
4. Would you support giving prisoners the right to vote?
Yes No

- Cannabis Policy

1. If elected, what, if any amendments would you propose to the [MMFLA](#)?

With over 80% of municipalities opting out of legal marijuana sales, I believe that the opt-out was its biggest weakness. I, along with many others, underestimated the immobility of county commissions, township boards, and city councils on the marijuana issue. Even in the city of Saginaw, which saw 70% support for Prop 1, the city council opted-out of sales. There are also certain restrictive growing standards and licensing requirements that hurt the ability for small growers to break into the business.

On that topic, we must also not allow employers firing their employees for having marijuana in their system.

2. How can social equity be improved for people disproportionately affected by the drug war regarding the cannabis licensing process?

Expungement is the first piece of equity that comes to mind. In addition, we have to reinvest tax money from marijuana back into the communities whose populations were targeted for marijuana criminalization. Saginaw is one of those communities. Those disproportionately affected should also have priority in getting well-paying jobs related to the cannabis business. Instead, many of those identified communities for equity have opted-out of sales altogether.

- Affordable Housing

1. How do you plan to combat historical and future racism/inequity through housing policy?

There is no true affordable housing in the city of Saginaw, and very limited affordable housing in my district as a whole. There is HUD-available housing, but the rent of those (often dilapidated and unsafe) units is priced at \$600 or \$700 per month, ensuring that if any of the tenets are removed from HUD for any reason, they would almost immediately be out on the street. Real affordable housing is what my community and Michigan at large needs. Our housing and rent prices are artificially inflated, and most often eat up 50% or more of one's paycheck. Our state must implement regulations on landlords, and encourage affordable housing in our cities. Instead, we're spending hundreds of millions of taxpayer money to bolster development of high-rise apartment complexes for upper-class tenets.

2. What in your voting record shows your commitment to affordable housing?

n/a

3. What will you do to help low to no income families with housing?

We have to have better affordable housing and rental policies. We need to supplement federal housing programs, and regulate rent prices and hikes, in urban areas as well as trailer home parks and subdivisions. Impose more comprehensive regulations on landlords, institute fairer housing loan practices, and provide policies that give tenants fairer representation if they need to take their landlords to court.

- Immigration

1. Do you support a moratorium on all deportations.

Yes No Why or why not?

Our current system of deportations exists only to generate and perpetuate a culture of fear and terror on our black and brown communities. Undocumented Immigrants (or Protected Immigrants that had their status recently stripped away) are not creating a problem- especially in Michigan. Deportees have died from the abrupt nature of deportations, and the lack of support they are given after deportation.

2. Members of the Latinx community live in a constant state of fear and anxiety due to the Trump Administration's demonization of Latinx/Chicano people. If elected, how will you fight for the Latinx community?

Like AG Dana Nessel, I believe that we can effectively become a Sanctuary State. There is no reason that we have to comply with ICE officials, but if it cannot happen at a state level, then I commit to vying for municipalities in my district to become Sanctuary cities and townships. Also, I will vote against any legislation that tries to punish Sanctuary authorities, directly or indirectly.

3. How will you address immigration, ensuring a balance between documented and undocumented migrants who are already in Michigan and waiting for citizenship?

We have to reform our processing and judicial procedures. Unfortunately, almost all of those procedures are formulated at the federal level. As a state, however, we can encourage programs that aid undocumented and documented migrants with housing, food, legal and language courses, and other helpful items. Michigan can and should do more for our migrant population.

- Disability Equity

1. What is your plan to ensure persons with disabilities are provided with the equitable services they require?

Currently, there is a massive breakdown with public assistance/services and the disability community. The process is not equitable, and is often too much of a hassle for people who need the assistance or services to go through. Again, many of these services are at a federal level, but the state can provide funding and assistance through supplementary programs. I support supplementary programs, as well as establishing commissions and requirements for seats on certain existing commissions to be held by a person in the disability community. Too often, their input and experiences are ignored.

- Gun Safety

1. Do you take contributions from the NRA?

Yes No

2. With the increase of gun violence in America, what policies do you support and what policies would you propose in regards to firearm safety?

I agree with the 97% of Americans that want to see universal background checks (with no expiring waiting period), loopholes closed, and a ban on assault weapons. To go further, our state regulations when it comes to registration of guns is an absolute mess. For instance, one can legally own a "long gun" without any registration. We have to clean up our standards so that registration is compulsory and consistent.

3. Please explain your position on school safety as it relates to educational facilities, including the issues surrounding retrofitting or upgrading buildings for safety and possibility of arming school staff.

I am against arming school staff, because we are already seeing the violence done to children with unarmed resource officers and the like. I don't want children to feel as though they are going to a militarized zone for school. I also don't want children to be subjected to preventable violence. I think that practically, we should be designing and retrofitting schools to be able to respond to a school shooter better. However, we have to be studying and addressing the root causes of this violence with urgency.

- Wealth Inequality

1. How would you address income inequality in Michigan?

The systemic injustices that uphold income inequality in Michigan are deeply ingrained into many of our policies and departments. We must work to dismantle every single instance that perpetuates these injustices. My first target is the MEDC: the neoliberal dream that funnels out taxpayer dollars into the hands of profiteering corporations, all in the name of "job creation." Second, we must make our wage a living wage, and work to cut costs of housing and healthcare.

Most of all, however, we have to foster progressive movements in each of our communities. These changes can't happen overnight, and they can't happen without a political revolution. My main goal of this election and this seat is to use the influence and campaign strategy to build a coalition in my community that is dedicated to advancing progressive issues, and is committed to justice and equity.

- Infrastructure

1. How and when should Michigan fund the necessary repairs and improvements to Michigan's roads?

Comprehensively. Yesterday.

2. Do you support public transit implementation as a critical investment and multi-dimensional solution to the effects of climate change, road congestion and its wear and tear, and the income disparity preventing travel throughout Michigan communities?

Yes No If no, please explain why not and your alternative.

3. Would you support efforts to transition Michigan away from the solely automobile industry and into the mass transit industry, with the goal of becoming a global competitor in the needs of a more sustainable economy?

Yes No Please explain

Absolutely. In rebuilding our infrastructure, we have the opportunity to include mass transit and green technology, to build a sustainable transportation system. Also, we need to re-evaluate our zoning procedures and urban development policies. A green economy means transitioning to a way of life that focuses on less suburban sprawl, and taking responsibility for maintaining our structures and legacy infrastructure costs- instead of letting our urban centers decay and constantly spreading into new areas.

- Indigineous Rights

1. Will you include Tribal Nations in the conversation when initiatives affect Indigenous communities, so they have the opportunity to have their voices heard? This requires input on issues not just governed by Treaty, but as real negotiation and discussion.

Yes No Please explain

Native Americans have been exploited across the United States for their land and resources, and Michigan is no different. I think that comprehensive discussions with Tribal Nations' opinion heard FIRST is the only acceptable way to lead negotiations and discussions that involve their interests. Especially in conversations with energy corporations or polluters, it's my belief that representatives should intervene on behalf of indigenous populations and offer their support.

2. Do you have a working relationship with Native Nations or representative Native organizations within the district/region you serve?

Yes No Who are they & what issues have you worked together on?

I am currently reaching out the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and am seeking their endorsement. I'm hoping to foster a relationship that will last throughout my (hopeful) terms in office.

3. Will you support and ensure the investigation of missing and/or murdered Indigenous men, women and children on and off the reservation lands as citizens of both their Tribal Nations and the State of Michigan?

Yes No Please explain

The trends of disappearing Indigenous people are extremely disturbing to me. They should be included in conversations and on task forces whenever Michigan is trying to tackle human trafficking, and Michigan needs to do better at using its resources to bolster communications between various policing agencies and tribal police.

4. Do you support replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day?

Yes No

Campaign Structure

- Contact with voters

1. Describe the different ways you are connecting with voters. Be as specific as possible.

We are knocking a universe of 10,000 doors in order to reach our win number or 4,200 votes in a two-way race in the primary. We are planning to knock each door three times, and call each household twice between now and election day.

- Finance

1. How are you funding your campaign? Please be as specific as possible and provide links to campaign finance records.

I am funding my campaign with zero contributions from corporate interest groups or nonprofits that funnel corporate donations. I haven't received any donations yet from organizations, but when I do I will include a page on my website that describes the purpose of the organization and how they align with my values.

So far, the campaign has raised \$4,488.73 from about 140 unique contributions.

- \$350 from self
- \$30 average contribution
- 6 recurring contributors

Campaign finance records available at: <https://cfrsearch.nictusa.com/committees/519241>

- Staff/Volunteers

1. How many individuals do you have as paid staff, and how many volunteers do you have?

Currently, I have one paid staff as my campaign manager, and about 12 core team members that are volunteers.

For doorknockers, there is a stretch team of about 15 people who are committed to knock doors and make phone calls.

2. What is the nature of employment for your campaign staff? Union, hourly, salary, wages, benefits?

For my campaign manager, we have a discussion at the end of each month about their financial needs and upcoming expenses. We debrief the month and its tasks, and negotiate until we agree on an amount that they are comfortable with and feel compensates them fairly for their work. They are working part-time at another job, and receive healthcare through their parents. Fair compensation matters to me, and I want to be able to empower people through campaign work, and not make them feel like they are tied to a set amount each month if their needs change.