



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

William Baker (R)

House District 60

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Q1 What are your goals for your district?

Cut various forms of taxes and reduce licensing requirements for a number of occupations here in Michigan.

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

The expansion of personal and economic freedom for all individuals in the state. Creating an environment for the growth of educational services beyond the traditional classroom.

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

I will support our State Constitution and there is no current reason to change this section of it. However, legislation that merely upholds current law is redundant and wastes the time of the Legislature.

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

No, I feel that current levels are sufficient for the time being.

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

Any government support for community centers, of any type, should come from the community for which the center will serve. As such, proper funding should come from local or county government, not the state. As the state legislature must act in the best interest of the state, it is bad policy to declare that "this" community is more deserving than "that" community in non-emergency situations.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

No. If viewed as the services of a community center, then recall my prior answer. If viewed only as an educational service, then it should be privately funded either by the families participating, or by a local charity group.

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

There are nearly no decisions that should be more personal than the education of one's children. With education being so vital to the future, parents should have full control over public funds set aside for the education of their children. Only by allowing parental control and competition of educational service providers, can Michigan ensure a better place for citizens to learn.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

The gradual decline of personal and economic freedoms paired with a general sense of apathy towards personal responsibilities.



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Tommy Brann (R)

House District 77

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Q1 What are your goals for your district?

I developed a course in entrepreneurship for our kids in 8 th grade. I want this course for we need more hope for these kids and I did it through team 21 and the results were amazing. They can be a business owner and yes without going to college. It does not say not go to college but it also does not say you have to. I want to work on education enough is enough lets get in the top ten or have a goal for it. geeeez

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

Education, health Michigan being healthy, appreciation of small business, homelessness and to secure more money for bedding and also rents are out of control and incentive for landlords to lower rent with tax cut from state. Also to take my blue collar restaurant to Lansing for my employees and customers I think about in the comfy chair on the house floor.

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

Yes really do not know the costs of this so at a disadvantage but know libraries are important but like to know the costs on this.

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

I can not say yes for know costs for me on this sorry but not a fair question with out costs.

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

I see them used by people that need help that gives me a good feeling about libraries and what they represent. I do not think they have to be palaces it is the people that work there and the citizens that are the palaces of the library.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

unfair again I am a small business person what is it five dollars or 50 million. Can not answer that and if you lived in my district you would want me to give an educated answer on this

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

I am reading this because of my school. That should answer that question for me. Thank you

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

Living day to day and being safe in schools. I think every school should have metal detectors for safety so our parents do not that have to have their school make national news.



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Julie Brixie (D)

House District 69

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Q1 What are your goals for your district?

I am a big supporter of Libraries. My mom was a high school librarian. Libraries are important community gathering areas where free information can be shared with people. Computer and internet access are very popular in my district at the library. Many school children utilize these services. I would want to strengthen our library system if possible.

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

One of the issues our libraries have faced is the open carry rule. I would support making libraries gun free zones.

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

Yes.

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

yes.

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

As an elected official in Meridian Township, the first big action I took in 2000 as a newly elected official was to purchase a new building for our Okemos library and more than triple the size of it. I later supported moving our Haslett library to another bigger building dedicating \$400,000 to the facility. In addition, I personally raised \$30,000 for the Haslett library move from residents and over \$20,000 for a later renovation to the Okemos Library. I love libraries and view them as very important places in our communities.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

yes.

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

Education is the #1 priority in my district (69th). We need to improve education and make sure that every child has the same access to a quality public education. We need to make sure that we're working with the brightest minds in education when we make decisions about our children's education, not the DeVos family. We need to put an end to the senseless cuts and raid on the School Aid Fund. We need to invest in pediatric literacy programming and establishing universal preschool. The best opportunity to impact a child's future is in the first five years, a critical window of rapid brain development that does not occur at any other time in our life. We also need to invest in the early childhood reading coaches and classroom support staff so every child has the one-on-one help and support they need to read at grade level, which is critical to their long-term development as a student and success in life.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

Cuts to education and access to quality education is the biggest concern here.



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Tanya Cabala (D)
House District 91
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Q1 What are your goals for your district?

To ensure affordable healthcare and good paying jobs, and improve our public schools, and protect the Great Lakes.

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

Affordable healthcare, good paying jobs, public education, the Great Lakes

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

Yes.

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

I support adequately funding our libraries.

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

As a lifelong avid reader, I have always made good use of our local library, helped to start a friends group, have collaborated on community initiatives, and have used the facilities for numerous public meetings. Libraries provide countless public services and as such, deserve government support.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

Yes. We have a superb local youth program in our library and it is highly utilized and beneficial to our community.

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

A solid education and literacy are essential building blocks for a good quality of life for our citizens, and for our state's economy.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

Too many in our district are struggling to make a living and afford healthcare. Add to that the current challenges of our public education system and the downgrading of our state's commitment and capacity to protect the Great Lakes - we are a state in crisis.



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Kyle Cooper (D)

House District 45

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Q1 What are your goals for your district?

Increase funding for schools to lower classroom sizes, provide student support in and outside of the classroom and work to ensure the children of this state have as strong an educational foundation as possible.

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

My top 3 issues are school funding and supporting teachers and students, properly funding our roads, bridges and infrastructure, and working to lower the costs of insurance, medical and auto, throughout Michigan.

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

Absolutely. Libraries are critical hubs to communities that provide many useful services outside of lending books. I would be in favor of most any bill that increased funding for Michigan libraries as well.

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

Michigan libraries have my full support. Libraries have seen many funding cuts over the past decades and have had to turn to hyper local funding to survive. I would look to return to a more robust state level funding packages for libraries.

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

From internet access, to community meetings and learning experiences, libraries are critical to the educational process in Michigan and I will fight for educational institutions like libraries in Lansing.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

Yes, the more access students have to reading materials, the better off they are in life. We need more kids in libraries, period.

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

Rochester and Rochester Hills are family oriented communities. Our schools are considered some of the best in Michigan, but we can and should be doing more. Supporting local libraries are critically important to provide students with additional resources and places to study, free of distraction.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

The constantly rising costs of auto and medical insurance throughout Michigan. Michiganders are seeing less and less money in their wallets at the end of the month than ever before and we need to work to lower insurance costs, increase wages and give the purchasing power in our economy back to the middle class.



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Kathy Crawford (R)

House District 38

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Q1 What are your goals for your district?

I am committed to cultivating a state budget that works for families. We've prioritized funding where it is needed most, while carefully eliminating waste, paying down debt and spending fewer state tax dollars. I've listened to my constituents concerns – and I've delivered on them. For example: •

Education. We've saved the teachers' pension system from bankruptcy. More than a quarter of the House's overall budget goes to K-12 schools. School funding increased to \$14.8 billion last year, a new state record for K-12 investment, with the largest annual per-student increase in 15 years – ranging from \$120 to \$240 per student. Early literacy and support for academically at-risk students remain big priorities. • Workforce Development: More than \$100 million is added to talent development and workforce preparation programs at the K-12 level. Significant investments in other programs, such as Going PRO for skilled trades, will help prepare students for high-demand and high-paying jobs. •

School safety: We must first assure that all school buildings are secure. We recently rolled out a new plan to improve school safety across the state. The plan establishes a School Safety Commission to review safety procedures in Michigan schools and provide more resources for security improvements in school buildings.

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

• Roads • Education • Health Care

1. Michigan needs to cultivate a thriving and globally competitive economy with a diverse business base. I believe that a diverse business base should locate along the I-96 expressway corridor, between I-275 and US-23, so that new jobs are created in southwest Oakland County. To help accomplish this goal, I will continue to support additional road funding, and I will review all infrastructure plans and make my decision based on what's best for Oakland County residents and businesses.
2. I believe Michigan children are our most important natural resource. I will continue to support additional investment in public education. Our youth need to develop skills to meet the demands of Michigan employers. As a member of the Workforce and Talent Development Committee, I am deeply involved in developing additional skills training opportunities, with the cooperation of local businesses, to address our expanding talent gap in key industries. We need high standards to get our students "career and college ready," which is what our K-12 system needs to do.
3. Southwest Oakland County is the home to a thriving health-care economy. I am committed to patient-centered health care solutions, with a special emphasis on the opioid crisis. I also am committed to protecting your rights as patients. I don't care what the plan is, as long as you can choose your own doctors, and you can choose your own medical plan.

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

Absolutely! Our State Constitution requires funding so that every Michigan citizen receives a free K-12 public education. The same should hold true for Public Libraries. Public Libraries offer free educational resources to everyone, which should be a very high funding priority.

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

Yes, if financial need is established. I am an active member of the Friends of the Novi Library (our funding foundation) and the creator of the "On the Road with the Novi Library" day-trip program. I understand the importance of state aid for library funding. I would support conducting a detailed "needs assessment" to determine and analyze financial funding gaps. This assessment would help to determine specific funding priorities for our public libraries.

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

All you need to do is visit TEEN SPACE in my 38th District at the Novi Public Library to understand my support for libraries as Community Centers. The Novi Public Library has partnered with the City of Novi Parks & Recreation Department, Novi Community School District and Novi Youth Assistance to offer a Teen Space in the West Side Meeting Room of the Novi Library on Mondays-Fridays from 2-5 pm (except during vacation breaks) during the school year. The Teen Space was created for students to "hang out" and socialize when traditional use of the Library is not needed. It is open to students in grades 7-12. This program has been a "mini-community center" SUCCESS, and has inspired teens to leverage library services, so they can enhance their learning and academic achievement.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

Yes, based on financial need. I am very proud of the Novi Public Library and the Novi Community School District, which are partnering in a year-round preschool reading initiative that supports parents and caregivers. The initiative is called "1000 Books before Kindergarten." The goal is to have parents reading 1,000 books with their children before they enter kindergarten. It is vitally important to begin developing enjoyable reading experiences with children, and to contribute toward their readiness to learn to read when they enter school.

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

As I said earlier, I believe Michigan children are our most important natural resource. That's why I support state funding for public libraries and public education. What many people don't realize is that Public Libraries play an important role in English language learning. My 38th District in southwest Oakland County features great and diverse communities, but we have many challenges with an

increasing ELL and ESL population. Public Libraries, in conjunction with our locally-controlled school districts, play an integral role in helping our youth succeed with multilingual books that are designed to help new learners master the English language.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

I am a strong, independent thinker who focuses on policies that make life better for hard-working families. We need to continue job growth, especially for the future's tech jobs. Education needs to do more to prepare students for the high-tech future. We also need to protect our Older Adult community which is being targeted by increased scams and fraud.



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Alex Garza (D)

House District 12

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Q1 What are your goals for your district?

The goals for my district include working to expand health care affordability and access to the constituents in my district, addressing the sky rocketing auto insurance rates in Michigan, investing more into educating our children, and overall being a representative who responds to the needs of my district.

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

Health care, Education, Auto Insurance, Senior pension tax repeal, Right to work repeal

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

Yes, I would support legislation that would advance any type of protections to ensure our libraries are funded to their constitutional requirement.

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

Yes, I am a strong supporter of our libraries. As a City Councilman in Taylor, I made it a priority to add funding to our library budget and believe Michigan should also increase its support in state aid.

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

As stated in the last question, I fundamentally believe that localities and states should fully fund and support their libraries. My local library in Taylor is the glue for our community's interaction with the local school district. This is such an important role in our community.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

Yes, I believe in evaluating service programs and funding those programs that are needed in libraries. This includes funding for youth services in our libraries.

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

Educating our future is paramount to any single issue. My district has a plethora of amazing educating institutions that educate our youth. It is important that libraries are at the center of advancing literacy and excellence in our educational institutions.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

I would say the most challenging issue faced by my constituents today is the need for lower auto insurance rates. This is crippling many of my families financially.



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Jim Haadsma (D)

House District 62

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Q1 What are your goals for your district?

- Improved roads, infrastructure, and water. - A school system that works for everyone and provides opportunity for all. - High quality jobs and upward mobility.

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

Infrastructure, education, jobs, equality.

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

Yes.

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

Yes.

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

Libraries hold great potential as community centers, particularly in an age when traditional printed media are being replaced by electronic sources. Libraries can connect people to serves, bring them closer to their government, and provide neutral ground for diverse gatherings.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

Yes.

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

Education, and literacy in particular, is the key to equal opportunity and upward mobility. We need to do a much better job of preparing all our kids to succeed by giving them the tools they need to be successful in school and in whatever career they desire.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

True equity. Whatever challenges are faced by the people of my district - which are many and varied - are faced even more so by people of color and other marginalized group. We need to rebuild our public systems in ways that provide truly equal opportunity for all.



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Jon Hoadley (D)

House District 60

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Q1 What are your goals for your district?

I am running for office because I believe in a Michigan that invest in people. I fundamentally believe that government has the power to do good in the world when good people power the government. Coming from a family of teachers, I know the importance of fighting for education for today and tomorrow, lowering class size, and reducing student debt. As a small business owner, I know we need to do more to raise wages, make sure economic improvements reach the pockets of working people, and end giveaways to the most profitable companies. Finally, we need to protect the environment, promote social justice, and unrig our democracy. There's a lot of work to do, but together we can get it done.

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

A few of my top priority issues include an economy that works for everyone, education for today and tomorrow, a safe and welcoming Michigan, a commitment to protect the environment, and healthcare for everyone.

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

Yes.

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

Yes.

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

I have long supported libraries. Libraries are a place to come together as a community, open the doors of educational opportunity, and serve as a physical representation of a community's commitment to knowledge. I regularly hold my town hall events at one of my local libraries.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

Yes.

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

With the Kalamazoo Promise increasing access to higher education, we need to make sure every child is ready to utilize this incredible opportunity. We must improve our literacy rates for adults and children. I'm excited to support partnerships and programs aimed at increasing literacy.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

Inequality continues to create a tale of two Americas, two Michigans, and two Kalamazoos. We need to make sure everyone has access to the same quality schools, the same quality healthcare, and the same quality career opportunities. We should all have the chance to stand on our merits. Unfortunately, too many individuals are never given the chance to thrive. Let's change that.



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Jewell Jones (D)

House District 11

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Q1 What are your goals for your district?

To improve educational resources for students and adults. To provide jobs with livable wages. To present opportunities of economic development in areas that lack resources.

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

Education Jobs Improvement in the Justice System

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

Yes

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

Yes

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

Libraries are a central hub for low income areas. They provide the technology and resources that our people need. We must maintain and improve as much as we can in our libraries so that our people are available to access all opportunities.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

Yes

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

We have a real struggle in the 11th State House District, that needs to be addressed. Literacy is so vital for the improvement in the community, and to get the Inkster school district back would be a huge win for my area.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

Lack of resources and access is a the most challenging.



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Sheryl Kennedy (D)

House District 48

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Q1 What are your goals for your district?

I would like to see fully funded schools, and an increase in average wages for members of my community.

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

Education, economy and health care, infrastructure (including access to technology)

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

Yes!

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

Yes, including an increase specifically for access to technology, 3D printers, etc.

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

I believe that libraries, like public schools are part of a structure that can mediate the effects of poverty and build community.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

Yes!

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

I am a 31 year public school educator, researcher, and I also teach future administrators at UM-Flint. My life is dedicated to education, which is why I am running for office.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

Families trying to live on minimum wage jobs, without benefits. Also fixed incomes among the senior community and poorly funded schools.



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Matt Koleszar (D)

House District 20

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Q1 What are your goals for your district?

My biggest goal is to protect our public schools from the impact of for-profit charter schools. I also want to ensure that every citizen has clean drinking water and access to affordable healthcare.

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

As a public school teacher, fully funding our public schools is my greatest priority. For years, teachers have been asked to do more with less, while class sizes rise. I would like to reverse this trend and ensure that every student has a fair chance at success. We need to find a solution to make healthcare affordable, especially for our state's most vulnerable. This would have to include prescription drug costs.

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

Yes, public libraries act as community centers, as well as a means to ensure access to information and learning opportunities. They are an essential part of an educated society, which I would like to preserve.

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

At a minimum, our state should be committed to maintaining funding levels adjusted for inflation. Struggling libraries should receive more assistance from the State government, to prevent unnecessary closures.

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

Because libraries fulfill more than one purpose, I see even more of a reason for them to be protected and supported by the state. They give kids a place to go after school, when they may have both parents working full time. They help more than the youth, though, our older population also benefits by having a place for them to get out of the house and read or use a computer.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

Yes, youth reading abilities are so crucial in their educational success, especially in light of the poorly thought out mandatory 3rd grade retention law that was recently passed. Children need a stress free environment to learn how to read, and unfortunately classrooms are struggling to satisfy that need.

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

My district is known for its great public schools, but literacy should always be emphasized as one of the most important skills students will ever learn. The mandatory third grade reading retention would have devastating effects, even on school districts like Plymouth-Canton schools.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

The most challenging issue in this district is ensuring that those who need healthcare have access to it, as well as affordable prescription drugs. There have been a few laws passed in the past decade that have had detrimental effects on the issues of healthcare affordability for our most vulnerable population. The first being the senior pension tax that took the fixed income of many seniors and slashed it by adding a tax that they were told they were exempt from. The second is the medicaid work requirement that is going to ultimately result in people losing their healthcare, even when erroneously being deemed "able to work". As it stands, many deserving people are already being denied benefits. This will only get worse when the bill kicks in, in 2020.



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Terri McKinnon (D)

House District 65

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Q1 What are your goals for your district?

My goals are to increase funding for public education including college and vocational training, access to all Michiganders to the healthcare they need, and fixing our infrastructure including expanding broadband access across our state.

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

Healthcare, education, protecting our water, air, and land, and increasing opportunity for the people of our state.

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

Yes

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

Yes I would support increasing that funding.

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

I love libraries and spend a lot of time visiting them. I have had a library card my whole life. These are more than just books and the learning available there. These are centers to our communities that provide so many services.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

Absolutely. Having access to the library when I was young was like opening up the world to me. I was reading by the age of 5 and believe it was having libraries and books available to me that contributed to my success in school.

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

I believe that education and literacy are the key to success in life. Making sure every child has equal opportunity to education is how we level the playing field for all the children in our state.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

I believe the biggest issue for the people of my district is access to good paying jobs and support for small businesses and small farmers.



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Eric Sabin (D)

House District 85

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Q1 What are your goals for your district?

Michigan's 85th District needs access to more higher-paying jobs to boost its communities and satisfactorily employ its skilled workers. It also needs more affordable access to better education, funding for its educators, and improved infrastructure for its workers.

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

Increasing the accessibility and affordability of all types of education for all types of learners and supporting our educators by providing them with an adequate wage and classroom materials are some of my top priorities. Additionally, I aim to bring more higher-paying jobs to the area to properly and efficiently utilize our skilled workers, increase broadband internet access, and fix Michigan's crumbling infrastructure.

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

I wholeheartedly support legislation that requires funding of public libraries. I will fight to protect libraries and increase their funding so they can continue to share updated materials, host community events, and keep up with changes in technology. Many children use libraries to find resources outside of the classroom and many adults use them to apply for jobs, find information on skill-related topics, or stay active in their local communities. Libraries are the heart of our communities and our government officials should recognize and act on this.

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

The State Aid to Public Libraries Act of 1977 Section 13 promised "50 cents per capita for its served population" funding to cooperative libraries. Data from the past 20 years shows that this has only been achieved in 2000 and 2001. This is unacceptable and has directly affected our libraries, citizens, and economies. In addition, penal fines are distributed based off of data from one date. This may not accurately reflect the entire population the libraries serve per fiscal year and should be reexamined for potential improvement. My aim is not only to protect these funding sources, but to enhance them to above where they were promised and are most useful to our libraries.

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

If the knowledge exists on a topic it should be easily accessible to all with a desire to enhance their understanding of the topic. Knowledge and social engagement should not be sold to the highest bidder, but shared with as many as possible to contribute to a balanced and well-versed community. Libraries are now, and forever should be, the protectors and distributors of this widely sought after information and our government should recognize, uphold, and improve their support for these treasures of information.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

Our youth community members are our current and future community members. Enhancements to their education, skills, and social abilities are essential to Michigan growing as a whole and continually improving lives of all citizens. I support increased funding for youth services and libraries just as I support increasing funding for our schools and educators. I recognize that these avenues are the greatest opportunities for a more well-rounded community as a whole and will fight to support these services.

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

Education and literacy are very important to our district. Nearly 73 % of our district do not have a college degree. Nearly 60% of third graders were not proficient in English/Language Arts, per the M-Step. Correspondingly, 13.3% of our district lives at or below the poverty rate. It's clear that we need a stronger education system in our district. As education levels increase, so too does income. This all begins with ensuring that our students are literate and therefore are able to take advantage of all educational opportunities. With such a low amount of college degrees in our district, it becomes even more important that our public education is the best that it can be, so that our citizens have every opportunity to succeed.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

The most challenging issues faced by my constituency is the fact that costs are constantly rising, yet wages have been stagnant for many decades. Health care, education, and child costs and debt are making it so families struggle to get by. Often times, family members work multiple jobs to pay the bills. We need jobs that offer living wages in our district, as well as an education system that gives citizens the skills to obtain these jobs and wages.



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Mona Shand (D)

House District 42

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Q1 What are your goals for your district?

My first goal is to unite our district and help people here and across the state remember that as Michiganders, we share a set of values and have more in common than not. We can differ about how best to implement those values, but we have to come back to the place of agreement that we are all in this together. I would like to see the 42nd district become a leader in education and connecting students with opportunities. I would also like us to lead the way in protecting our resources, particularly with the PFAS water crisis now washing up on our shores.

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

As a former teacher, I believe everything starts and ends with education, which is why strengthening our public schools is at the very top of my agenda. I will work for equitable school funding, universal preschool, targeted literacy interventions, and necessary testing reforms. I am also passionate about protecting our resources, particularly water, as it is central to our "Pure Michigan" way of life and tied to thousands of jobs.

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

Yes. Public libraries are cornerstones of healthy communities and provide places for people to better know themselves and the world they live in. This critical feature must be upheld.

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

Yes. I believe that now more than ever, as our society is pulled in different directions, libraries serve an ever more critical role in uniting and building healthy communities. And as we rely more and more on technology, libraries ensure that people of all economic levels are able to access the digital world.

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

Because libraries are rooted in their communities, they are often the first to recognize a pressing local need and are catalysts for addressing social problems. They champion, promote, and reflect important democratic values, and provide critical communication and information services. They are used as shelters, warming and cooling centers, and before/after school care. It's hard to imagine and other

institution that plays as many community roles as a library. As such I strongly favor government support for libraries as community centers.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

I still remember the day I turned 7 and received my first library card. Now, my kids are proud card-carrying members as well. As a former educator, I know firsthand how critical it is to expose kids to books, even before they enter a classroom. Libraries make this possible, not just through the catalogue offerings but through free programming and activities that help build a love of books for all. As our third grade reading scores continue to drop statewide, I strongly support doing all that we can to connect kids with books, including increasing funding for youth services and libraries.

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

Literacy is the foundation for all learning, and the 42nd district is struggling as is much of the state. We need to do so much more to ensure that kids are reading at grade level by the third grade, the critical moment when the switch from learning to read to reading to learn takes place.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

The drop in K-12 performance is the most challenging issue faced by both the 42nd district and the entire state of Michigan. While our infrastructure needs are great, and our water crisis is deepening, I truly believe that the long term cost of not properly educating our children is going to be far more than any other issue we face. We can replace our tires, but we only get one chance to educate a child.



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Nate Shannon (D)

House District 25

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Q1 What are your goals for your district?

As a public school teacher, I believe that we need to analyze the current state of our education system and prioritize programs and policies that will truly help our students succeed. K-12 education is crucial in developing core skills that will help our kids be productive members of society, and I will make it my top priority. The infrastructure of Michigan has become so bad that it has become a danger to the well being of our citizens. I believe it will take a bipartisan effort to fix our roads and bridges, and my experience working across party lines will help achieve this goal.

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

Education Environment Infrastructure

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

Yes, emphatically.

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

Yes

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

Libraries are a vital community resource. Because of the 2009-2012 "great recession" the city had to cut back on library hours and the decision was made to close on Sundays. One of my proudest achievements in my time as a Sterling Heights city councilman was to find the money in the budget to reopen the library on Sundays.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

Yes, as a teacher I understand the importance of reading and would support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries.

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

As a teacher and parent, I have been very disappointed in the state legislature's dismantling of our once proud education system in Michigan. The recent study by the School Finance Research Collaborative found that the state of Michigan is under funding school districts by thousands of dollars per pupil. We need to restructure parts of our tax system to provide the funds and resources necessary to help our students succeed in the 21st century economy.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

Education and Infrastructure.



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Dennis Smith (D)

House District 59

dennisbsmith@electdennisbsmith.org

Q1 What are your goals for your district?

Better public education funding Protection of natural resources Access to quality healthcare Livable wages for all workers

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

Education Healthcare Wages Environment

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

yes

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

yes - part of education emphasis

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

Libraries are part of the public education complex and as such fundamental to a functioning democracy.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

Yes

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

We have one of the lowest graduation and literacy rates in the state. Public libraries are key to improving those statistics.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

Education, especially in skilled trades Health care Drug use Wages



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Scott VanSingel (R)
House District 100
scott@svs4rep.com

Q1 What are your goals for your district?

Maintain adequate road funding Increase \$ to the classroom for school funding Long-term responsible fiscal policy at the state level

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

Environmental, education, infrastructure, friendly business environment

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

Yes

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

I believe this should be handled locally, but would be interested in listening to proposals

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

There is not a private sector alternative that is financially viable, therefore, local public libraries are important parts of our communities and public funding is essential

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

If needed, yes. I would prefer that this is done locally, but not opposed to other options.

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

Education is one of the most sure ways to avoid poverty and achieve long-term success. Early reading and educational attainment are essential to start children on this path to success.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

Attaining high paying work being in a rural area.



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Mary Whiteford (R)

House District 80

marypwhiteford@gmail.com

Q1 What are your goals for your district?

Prioritize access to mental health services. Prioritize access to internet for unserved areas of my district and state. Ensure that students are given opportunities to succeed.

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

See above.

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

Yes.

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

I feel that library funding is already a priority. My local communities almost always support millages to improve facilities.

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

I grew up in my local library, as did my children. I regularly hold my district office hours in my local libraries.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

Money should always be prioritized to our youth. They are our future!

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

We can't change adults, but our children are our hope for a better future. As a former pediatric nurse, mom and grandma, children will always be a priority for me.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

Lack of behavioral health access. Poverty, lack of broadband access, transportation.



Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Angela Whitwer (D)

House District 71

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Q1 What are your goals for your district?

My overall goal is to bring unity to the district. Listen to the needs of the voters and advocate for these needs. These needs that I have heard at the door include: 1. Improved roads 2. Improved funding for public education 3. Decrease in prescription drug costs - or transparency in healthcare, and 4. Eliminate retirement taxes

Q2 What issues are most important to you?

1. Roads - business and voters are dependent on our roads and bridges. 2. Funding for our communities - without correct revenue sharing and funding, our communities can't be vibrant. Without vibrant communities, we can't attract talent, without talent, we cannot keep business. 3. Public education funding

Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?

Pursuant to Article 8, section 9 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, the Legislature must provide by law for the establishment and support of public libraries. All fines assessed and paid by criminal defendants for violations of Michigan's Penal Code is turned over to county treasurers who are required by law to distribute it to public libraries in their county. I would advocate against any legislation that would divert penal fines from libraries.

Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?

The state of Michigan is responsible for funding statewide library services. In the current fiscal year, libraries received an increase of 9% over the fiscal year 2017-18 appropriations for a total of \$12.1 million to public libraries. Currently, the per capita payments amount to \$.39689 for direct and indirect state aid to public libraries. For cooperatives, the per capita is \$.39689 with a density payment of \$7.94 per square rule. State aid for libraries was reduced greatly when the state was in a recession. State aid gradually increased once the economy rebounded, however, the amount currently paid to libraries is prorated. according to House Fiscal Agency, it would cost \$15.2 M to provide full funding for libraries. According to advocates, the legislature should fully fund the libraries at the level established under PA 89 which is \$.50 per capita and fund cost of living increases that libraries have experienced since 1977.

Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.

I live six blocks from a large library - Delta Waverly Library. I consider our library more of a community center. People of all ages enjoy the standard library features but also the activities for people of all ages from children's enrichment activities to reading and research materials for young adults, adults and seniors. I have always lived within walking distance of libraries. As a child, I volunteered at the local library putting books back on the shelves. As a student, I found peace and solace in the library for studying and reading. As an adult, I attend enrichment activities at the library along with enjoying reading materials. The library is an important component of a vibrant community for all demographics.

Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?

Yes. Libraries increasingly provide story time, free tutoring, homework help programs, and summer reading programs that help bridge the economic divide that impacts a student's academic performance. With Michigan's third grade reading performance falling from 3rd to 48th in the United States, it is imperative that we embrace the need to encourage reading through every avenue.

Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.

I am the Vice President of Waverly Community Schools Board of Education. Without literacy, children's learning is greatly decreased. Since I have been on the board, we have bought a literacy program. We have also provided teaching aids to do early literacy intervention. Libraries played an important role in my life and they provide an important role in children's education. It's an added bonus that libraries have grown to provide essential community services for all demographics.

Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?

The most challenging issue faced is education in order to receive a living wage job. This education should include the opportunity to be educated in a well-paying trades school.