



SISTER DISTRICT  
PROJECT

# Sean McCann

MICHIGAN STATE SENATE DISTRICT 20

## SISTER DISTRICT POLICY SCORECARD

This candidate has pledged commitment to the following statements:

- ✓ We must protect a **woman's right to choose** the health care and reproductive services she wants and needs.
- ✓ We need to protect and expand our **social safety net**, not dismantle it.
- ✓ We should pursue **common-sense gun safety** policies, consistent with the Second Amendment and local community standards and needs, which vary from community to community.
- ✓ Climate change is real and we need to **protect our environment**.

## TIMELINE & VOTER INFO

**Election Day:** November 6, 2018

### Last day to register:

30 days prior to Election Day

**Vote by mail / absentee voting:** Voters must [apply for absentee ballots](#). Note that if you have never voted in Michigan and register by mail, you must appear in person to vote in your first election, unless you are over 60 years old, disabled, or live overseas.

**Nested Congressional Districts:** 6

## BACKGROUND

Sean is a longtime Kalamazoo Democrat who served two terms in the Michigan House of Representatives, holding the 60th District seat from 2010-14. But, he lost to current incumbent Republican Margaret O'Brien in a close state Senate race in 2014.



Sean is a lifelong Michigan resident and graduate of Western Michigan University who has devoted his life to serving and improving his community and all of Michigan.

Sean graduated from Western Michigan University in 1993 with a degree in political science, and served on the Kalamazoo, Michigan City Commission for ten years, starting in 1999. He was elected to the Michigan House in 2011.

In 2013, he proposed the creation of an independent commission to draw legislative districts in the state, in order to help prevent gerrymandering. He worked for the Kalamazoo Red Cross and the Vine Neighborhood Association.

In 2014, he ran against Republican Party nominee Margaret O'Brien and Libertarian Party nominee Lorence Wenke for the 20th district seat in the Michigan Senate. He lost to O'Brien after a recount widened from 59 votes to 61 votes.

As a local neighborhood leader, Sean worked to revitalize neighborhoods, clean up blighted areas and bring neighborhoods together.

As a city commissioner for 10 years, Sean dedicated his energy to build a sustainable vital downtown Kalamazoo, strengthen public safety, improve neighborhoods and clean up the Kalamazoo River.

As a state representative for four years, Sean worked to strengthen public schools and higher education institutions, protect children, reform partisan gerrymandering, protect the environment and improve public transportation.

Sean is a small business owner and lives in Kalamazoo with his wife, Priscilla, and their two children, Alex and Lauren.

## **ON THE ISSUES (IN HIS OWN WORDS)**

### **Economy**

While our area has improved since the recession, many of us are still feeling a financial pinch. Prices have gone up across the board, but our paycheck has remained the same for years and our dollars aren't stretching as far. That's why Sean supports economic policies that help working families and small business owners put more money in their pockets through tax relief for seniors and families.

### **Education**

Quality public schools, higher education and skilled trades programs are Sean's highest priorities. As we move into a globally-connected economy, improving the quality of education at home will make us more competitive for higher-paying jobs, which will build successful lives in our cities for the long run.

### **Public Safety**

Kalamazoo County has lost millions of dollars in tax revenue from the state over the last few years. This is money that's desperately needed to maintain our police and fire departments, and repave our roads and bridges. Sean McCann will make sure the state keeps its promise to keep us safe and invest in the places we live and work.

## **ABOUT THE INCUMBENT**

Margaret O'Brien (born Nov. 20, 1973) is a member of the Michigan Senate and

former member of the Michigan House of Representatives. She is a Republican. Her district is based in Portage, Michigan.

In 2014, O'Brien ran against and defeated Democratic Party nominee Sean McCann and Libertarian Party nominee Lorence Wenke for the 20th district seat in the Michigan Senate.[1]

O'Brien was first elected to the Michigan Senate in 2014 when she narrowly defeated fellow Rep. Sean McCann for the 20th District Senate Seat by a margin of 61 votes after an official recount of the results.

O'Brien served two terms in the Michigan House. In her last term, she served as Vice Chair of the Tax Policy Committee and as a member on the Criminal Justice, Insurance, Oversight and Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

Prior to serving in the House, O'Brien was a member of the Portage City Council.

O'Brien has a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. Prior to her election to the state house in 2010 she worked as a social worker with Catholic Family Services.

## **ABOUT THE DISTRICT**

The 20th State Senate District includes all of Kalamazoo County, Michigan.

Total pop: 269,554  
Gender 51.0% Female  
49.0% Male

Race  
82.6% White  
10.2% Black  
3.2% Two or More Races  
1.6% Other  
2.0% Asian  
0.4% Native American

## **WHY IS THIS RACE IMPORTANT?**

Michigan is an important place to engage new voters and win back old Democratic voters who veered into the Republican camp due to their "support" for unions and trade protection. Michigan's economy is built on automotive and steel industries as well as vast skilled trade works.

Union membership is extremely high in Michigan compared to the rest of the country as is the headquarters for a number of unions - including the United Auto Workers (UAW). Michigan was a reliable Democratic presidential vote since 1988, but was won by Trump by a little over 30k votes amidst lower voter turnout.

Republicans have controlled the State House (and Senate) since sweeping into power in 2010. But this year, all 110 seats in the House of Representatives are up for election. Republicans control 63 seats of 110 seats. Five districts in the House voted for Clinton, but are represented by a GOP legislator.

### **MORE ABOUT MICHIGAN**

Michigan is also surrounded by the nation's largest freshwater resource - the Great Lakes. As the headquarters of three larger automakers - Ford, GM, and FiatChrysler - Michigan is on the frontlines of joint environmental-economic issues and their interrelationship.

Additionally, the people of Flint, Michigan were poisoned by lead and other toxic chemicals due to a poorly managed water infrastructure switch while under state management. The Republicans in Michigan have not fought nearly enough for the residents as many of them are still seeing toxic levels of lead in their water. This hot button issue will be on voters' minds in November.

### **REDISTRICTING IN MICHIGAN**

Following the lopsided win by Republicans in 2010 - where House control flipped exactly from 67-43 under Democratic control to 67-43 GOP control - Michigan House Districts are very skewed in favor of Republicans who have been in control since that election.

### **CANDIDATE LINKS**

SDP ActBlue: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-mi-mccann>

Website: <https://seanamccann.com>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/seanamccann](http://www.facebook.com/seanamccann)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SeanAMcCann>