



SISTER DISTRICT
PROJECT

Padma Kuppa

MICHIGAN STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 41

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: 9, 11

PAST RESULTS

2016 Presidential Election

Hillary Clinton (D)	23,795	48.3%
Donald Trump (R)	23,120	46.9%



2016 State House Election

Democrat:	20,606	43.55%
Republican:	26,708	56.45%

Cook Partisan Voting Index

9th D+4; 11th R+4

BACKGROUND

Padma grew up in the US, but her family moved back to India in the early 80s. As a teenager who very much identified as an American, it wasn't the easiest move. But it made her appreciate her life in the US even more. She returned to the States as soon as she could—going to grad school with two suitcases, \$250 and the belief that nothing was going to stop her, especially prevailing attitudes that engineering was only for men.

After starting a family, Padma moved to Michigan, where she realized that building a tight-knit community happens from the ground up. She has served on the Boards of the Troy Historic Society and Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, and volunteered with The Troy

Community Coalition and PTAs from K-12. She was a founding member of the Troy-area Interfaith Group, and helped organize the National Day of Prayer Celebration.

Padma was also appointed to the Troy Planning Commission, where she introduced a Tree Protection Ordinance that was eventually approved by Troy City Council. Recently, she organized a bi-partisan effort for the "No" Vote on the Extreme Charter Amendment.

Professionally, Padma has been everything from a systems manager at a university-based non-profit to a project manager with Chrysler. Most recently she was a business analyst in auto finance. I've also had the opportunity to contribute to MetroParent magazine and work for a locally-owned business based right here in Troy.

ON THE ISSUES (IN HER OWN WORDS)

Education

We have great public schools in Troy and Clawson. And I'd like to keep it that way. But I'm concerned about the impact of many of the policies currently being introduced, especially funding charter schools at the expense of public education. Accessible, affordable, high-quality education is essential to closing the opportunity gap. We must ensure that students from all income levels, races, and abilities are progressing in their academic and social development. We must continue to provide a public education that values the whole child and helps them develop 21st-century skills. We must customize programs to each child's abilities, and measure individual progress when evaluating the effectiveness of programs. Let's focus our efforts on educating students, not taking tests.

I support legislation that 1. Gives schools more flexibility to get funds to cover necessary expenses. 2. Requires all public schools to contribute to the teacher retirement fund and return the School Aid Fund to its intended purpose of solely funding K-12 schools. I believe in a research-based education policy and support reducing class sizes, investing in early childhood education, and creating STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs in every high school. And of course, we must value the challenging work our teachers

face each day, and provide them with the tools and resources they need to reach every child's potential for learning.

Environment

We live in a beautiful state. But I'm concerned about the environmental impact of many of the policies currently being introduced. I believe a science-based policy is critical to sustaining our planet. As a Troy Planning Commissioner, I've championed efforts to protect green space for our families, while also promoting growth and development. I've also worked with Michigan Interfaith Power & Light, a faith response to global warming, offering practical ways to put faith into action by promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other sustainable practices that lead to a cleaner, healthier and juster world. In the end, an effective environmental policy must be built through consensus. If we want to have successful policies that balance science, economics, and social issues, we cannot approach this issue from a Republican vs. Democrat point-of-view. Listening to and understanding each other will lead to effective political partnerships and policies that encompass everyone's interests.

Infrastructure

In Michigan, infrastructure often refers to the terrible condition of our roads. Thanks to years of poor decision-making in Lansing, our roads are an embarrassment and a safety hazard. They force residents to spend millions on costly auto repairs every year. They need to be fixed, now. I prefer a long-term solution over a short-term fix: reducing weight limits on heavy trucks, holding contractors accountable for the road work they do, and increasing our overweight truck fees. From our roads to our water supply, we need to enact policy that helps everyday families. As a Troy Planning Commissioner, I have gone the extra mile to promote infrastructure that attracts residents and businesses. Making this district a place that people want to live and work is crucial to growing our tax base and creating a sustainable economy for generations to come.

ABOUT THE OPPONENTS:

Republican Martin Howrylak is term limited and cannot seek re-election for this seat in 2018. Three Republicans are seeking this open seat: Ethan Baker, Ronald Dwyer, and Doug Tietz.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Population 92,809
Gender 50.8% Female, 49.2% Male
Race 76.6% White, 16.9% Asian, 3.7% Black, 0.6% Other, 2.0% Two or More Races

WHY IS THIS RACE IMPORTANT?

Michigan is an important place to engage new voters and winback 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, including HD41.

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

Website: www.electpadmakuppa.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/electpadmakuppa
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/@electpadmakuppa>
SDP ActBlue Link: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-mi-kuppa>