

Laurie Pohutsky

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | DISTRICT 19



Laurie grew up in Redford, Michigan, and learned about hard work and public service from her parents. Her mother is a nurse and was the president of her own healthcare company, and her father was a Teamster and later worked for the city of Dearborn Heights in several positions. It was from him that she gained respect for the responsibility held by elected officials. She attended college at Michigan State University in East Lansing. While there, she volunteered at the Listening Ear Crisis Center, began attending civic engagement events, and came to learn that the problems of one person can often be indicative of the problems of many. She saw firsthand how the actions of lawmakers and other elected

officials affected individuals. Upon graduation with a Bachelor's of Science in microbiology, Laurie began working in a local laboratory.

In 2013, she returned home to the Metro-Detroit area. Like many college graduates, she struggled to find a job in her field, and shared in the frustrations of others who had serious concerns about the economy, student debt and obtaining a living wage. These experiences taught her that these issues are not just stories on the news, but are rather the stories of those in our own community. She decided to run for State House in 2018 to fight for those issues in Lansing. It was an incredibly close race, and her victory was by 221 votes (a razor-thin half a percentage point). This makes Laurie one of the very top GOP targets this year in the Michigan House.

Laurie resides in Livonia, and she remains dedicated to political activism and creating positive change for all residents in her community. She is a member of the Livonia Democratic Club and remains a volunteer at Angela Hospice.

WEBSITE

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TWITTER

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ACTBLUE DONATE LINK

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ON THE ISSUES

HEALTHCARE

Laurie believes that healthcare is a human right, and that the current political climate has made it abundantly clear that the federal government is going to neglect to address healthcare. As a state legislator, she understands that this responsibility is now falling on state governments and supports state-funded Medicare for All, so that Michiganders have the right to affordable, comprehensive healthcare that also prioritizes mental health.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Laurie believes that the government needs to work to dismantle the laws currently in place that are based in systemic racism, such as mandatory minimum sentencing. Additionally, she will continue to fight for Michigan to expand the Elliott Larsen Act to extend protections to the LGBTQ+ community.

ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Laurie believes that the key to repairing Michigan's roads is not only in the repair itself, but in preventing future damage from occurring as well. She supports increasing overweight truck fees, the source of much major road damage, rather than punishing hardworking Michigan families through fuel taxes and increased registration fees. The road patching that takes place every year in Michigan is a further waste of resources, as it inevitably deteriorates and leaves roads primed to cause more damage to vehicles. Michigan roadways need comprehensive and permanent work done on them. Increased overweight truck fees will provide funding for this work and tighter weight restrictions will prevent further damage from occurring.



SISTER DISTRICT
PROJECT

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ENVIRONMENT

Clean water is at the forefront of the battle for the environment. Laurie believes that every Michigan family has the right to live without the fear of water contamination or air pollution of any kind. She will continue to fight to hold local companies and government responsible while also demanding transparency. Laurie supports legislation that ensures businesses will operate in a way that does not pose a danger to the environment or local families. Profits cannot take priority over the safety of Michiganders.

EDUCATION

Michigan's children deserve the very best when it comes to education. Laurie strongly supports policies that empower children and teachers, such as providing access to early education and limiting class sizes. She knows that the key to providing quality education is hiring quality teachers. In office, Laurie has and will continue to fight to provide teachers with competitive salaries and benefits in order to ensure that children in Michigan are receiving the best possible education. When crafting education policy, Laurie will continue to make sure to consult educators rather than leave them out of the conversation.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Laurie believes that a woman's medical decisions are personal and are only the concern of her and her doctor. Furthermore, research has shown that the availability of contraception and education about reproductive health have decreased the number of abortions and the spread of sexually transmitted infections in the United States. In office, Laurie will continue to fight for organizations and legislation that aid in this endeavor and empower women to make their own choices regarding their reproductive health.

ELDER CARE

America's elder population is often neglected, and Laurie believes that people should never have to worry about affording care in their advanced years. As a state rep, she has fought and will continue to fight for programs that provide healthcare and services to senior citizens, as well as the reallocation of funds to ensure that they are not living without necessities such as medicine or medical care in order to survive.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Laurie has sprung into action to protect her community in the face of COVID-19. Among others, she has introduced [important legislation](#) to prohibit price gouging of important products like gasoline, propane, home heating oil, and other energy-based products and services during an emergency.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Nested Congressional Districts

11: R+4

As of the 2010 census, a total of 89,634 civilians reside within Michigan's nineteenth state house district. Michigan state representatives represent an average of [89,851 residents](#). After the 2000 Census, each member represented [90,349 residents](#). Michigan's 19th House District is located in the city of Livonia, which is in the Detroit metropolitan area of Wayne County.

ABOUT THE OPPONENT

[Martha Ptashnick](#) is the Republican candidate running against Laurie for MI HD19. She is a high school math teacher whose website touts her values as "lower taxes, less government, and more freedom."

DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

Population	Households	Over 65	White	Black	Latinx	Asian	Other	Median Income	% Poverty	% College Grads	% HS Grads
90,169	35,516	19.7%	89.1%	4.4%	2.3%	2.8%	1.4%	\$74,921	5.4%	46.6%	47.7%



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PAST RESULTS IN THE DISTRICT

2018 STATE HOUSE ELECTION RESULTS

Democrat: 23,457, 50.2%
Republican: 23,236, 49.7%
Total: 46,693

2018 GUBERNATORIAL

Democrat: 53.34%
Republican: 46.66%

2018 SENATE

Democrat: 51.79%
Republican: 48.21%

2016 PRESIDENTIAL

Clinton: 23,068; 43.64%
Trump: 27,050; 51.18%
Total: 52,854

2012 PRESIDENTIAL

Obama: 24,896; 47.24%
Romney: 27,394; 51.98%
Total: 52,522

WHY THIS RACE IS IMPORTANT

To flip the House, Democrats need to win 4 seats. But of course, we can't win if we don't protect our fragile Democratic incumbents. Momentum is on our side: in 2018, Democrats broke a Republican supermajority in the Senate, gained 5 seats in the House, and broke a Republican trifecta by electing Democratic Governor Gretchen Whitmer. We can build on this energy to hold important House seats and flip the chamber in 2020.

Flipping this chamber would finally give Governor Whitmer a partner in the legislature, which under GOP control has recalcitrantly refused to work with her to govern effectively.

GERRYMANDERING

After a decade of GOP gerrymandering, the voters of Michigan passed a ballot initiative in 2018 – [Proposal 2](#), which took district mapmaking away from the state legislature and gave it to an independent commission.

The Republican-controlled state legislature sought to invalidate Proposal 2 in the courts, but the courts have ruled against the Republicans and have upheld the commission, which is expected to proceed with its work.

WHY MICHIGAN IS IMPORTANT

MICHIGAN FAST FACTS

- **Current Control:** Divided. Governor – D; Senate – R; House – R
- **Gubernatorial Election:** Not up in 2020
- **Length of State House Terms:** 2 years
- **Candidate Filing Deadline:** April 21, 2020
- **State Legislative Primary Date:** August 4, 2020
- **Redistricting:** Independent Redistricting Commission will draw the next set of maps; Governor cannot veto maps
- **Electoral College Votes:** 16

BROADER 2020 OPPORTUNITIES

Michigan is a critical, perennial battleground presidential state. Obama carried MI in both 2008 and 2012 before Trump eked out a win by a quarter of one percentage point (10,000 votes). In fact, before Trump's narrow win, Michiganders had voted for the Democratic presidential nominee since 1992. Michigan is one of the "Big Four" states that are likely to control the outcome of the 2020 presidential election. Democrats have a tremendous opportunity to claim MI's 16 Electoral College votes this year, with smart organizing, expanding the electorate through voter registration, and turnout efforts. There is also an important, very competitive Senate race in Michigan this year (D-Peters), as well as several competitive Congressional races (including MI-08, MI-11, and MI-03). Working to support MI state legislative candidates will be instrumental in helping drive turnout up and down the ticket in this historic election year.

