

CHRISTINE MORSE

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | DISTRICT 61



Christine Morse is a former attorney, mother, spouse of a Navy Veteran, and cancer survivor. A Michigan native, Christine saw the opportunity her father was given as an employee at Ford right out of high school. Good opportunities like that have grown harder to find, as the state's Republican policies haven't resulted in better jobs, health care, or education. Christine is running for state house because now is the time for Michiganders to demand a better future.

When Christine ran for Kalamazoo County Commissioner in 2018, the odds were stacked against her. After knocking on more doors than any other candidate, she won the seat – and continues to listen, advocate for, and respond to our community's needs every day. As County Commissioner, she has tackled problems head on, working cooperatively with a bipartisan county board to make sure the budget is allocated to areas it was needed most. In addressing issues like the recent flooding in Texas Township, Christine has made sure to address the underlying problems before they spiral into larger economic and public health concerns. Now, Christine is running to bring this approach to Lansing, so that she can drive statewide policies that hard-working families need and deserve.

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ON THE ISSUES

EDUCATION

Michigan ranks 50th in reading growth, and recent statewide policies to improve the problem aren't working. What's worse, these policies aren't just hurting a few counties or select groups of students – they are hurting every child's ability to succeed.

JOBS

Even before the coronavirus pandemic, Michigan's economy was in a fragile state. From December 2018 to December 2019, Michigan created 55% fewer jobs than the nationwide average. Christine knows we need to take quick, decisive action now to protect jobs and pave the way for future job growth.

ENVIRONMENT

Michigan made national headlines over the failure to protect a vital environmental resource: water. But the crisis in Flint isn't limited to that city – Michigan is only beginning to uncover its underlying infrastructure problems, and the state needs to work now to address the downstream impacts of the weak systems currently in place.

EQUALITY FOR ALL

Every single issue impacting the state must be met with a higher value on equality for all citizens, regardless of gender, race, religion, or sexuality. The majority Republican legislature has had many chances to lead on equality – but failed. Now is the time to make sure the law is expanded to protect every member of the community.

HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

Many families are only one bad accident or medical diagnosis away from extreme financial distress due to this country's broken healthcare system. As a cancer survivor, Christine knows how important it is to protect coverage for preexisting conditions and ensure affordable healthcare coverage when families need it most.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Women need lawmakers in Lansing who will protect their right to choose what is best for their bodies – and their families. Recent Republican-led legislation promoted unsafe and untested reproductive policies in order to score a few political points. It's time to treat this deeply personal issue with the respect it deserves.

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ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Nested Congressional Districts
6: R+4

As of the 2010 census, 103,705 people live in Michigan's sixty-first state house district, which is located in the city of Kalamazoo in Southwest Michigan, in Kalamazoo county.

ABOUT THE OPPONENT

[Bronwyn Haltom](#) is the Republican running against Christine for MI HD 61. Little is known about Bronwyn Haltom's policy stances, but her recent jobs are quite suggestive: she previously worked for Donald Trump as part of his transition team and was appointed by the Trump Administration as a regional political director. She is embracing her former positions with the Administration as a point of pride, which is a clear indicator that her policy positions likely mirror those of her former boss.

REDISTRICTING & 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.

PAST RESULTS IN THE DISTRICT

2018 STATE HOUSE
Democrat: 22,725, 48.63%
Republican: 24,009, 51.37%

2018 GUBERNATORIAL
Democrat: 55.62%
Republican: 44.38%

2018 U.S. SENATE
Democrat: 54.30%
Republican: 45.7%

2018 CONGRESSIONAL
Democrat: 52.15%
Republican: 47.85%

2016 PRESIDENTIAL
Clinton: 22,569 | 49.18%
Trump: 23,316 | 44.85%

2012 PRESIDENTIAL
Obama: 25,169 | 50.04%
Romney: 24,711 | 49.13%

DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

Population	Households	Over 65	White	Black	Latinx	Asian	Other	Median Income	% Poverty	% College Grads	% HS Grads
98,185	39,808	15.7%	83.8%	5.5%	3.6%	3.2%	.3%	\$61,501	9.8%	53.8%	42.2%



SISTER DISTRICT
PROJECT

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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 flip the chamber in 2020.

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

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 (subject to change)
- **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.

