

# CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please provide the requested contact information where indicated below. **Please return your completed questionnaire no later than June 22, 2018.**



**PARTY:** Michigan Democrat

**ELECTIVE OFFICE:** State Senate

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AMP is a non-partisan coalition of more than 30,000 Michiganders who know that reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity is vital to Michigan's future. We are dedicated to helping Michigan families and businesses stay informed and involved in the energy debates that affect us all.

AMP is inviting all candidates for state legislative office in the 2018 elections to complete the following questionnaire to help our members better understand where their candidates stand on key energy issues facing our state. **Please feel free to respond directly in this document and return it to us by email at [AMPVotes@AllianceforMichiganPower.com](mailto:AMPVotes@AllianceforMichiganPower.com), or return it by mail to AMP, 2145 Commons Parkway, Okemos, MI 48864.** You should also feel free to use more than the space allotted for your full answers. (If you have received a printed copy of the questionnaire and would prefer an electronic copy, please email us at the address above, and we will provide the questionnaire electronically.)

1. In 2016, the Michigan legislature passed a new comprehensive energy law (updates to Public Acts 341 and 342) that established a framework to help energy providers plan for our state's energy future. The 2016 plan included provisions to keep electricity reliable for all Michigan consumers, increase renewable energy from 10% to 15% of our state's total energy portfolio, and encourage greater energy efficiency. What are your views on this law?

**Updates to Public Acts 341 and 342 provide a great framework to allow our utilities to prepare and invest in the future. I support reliability, safety and affordability to all citizens.**

2. The 2016 energy law also moved Michigan to using Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs). IRPs centralize and standardize planning for our electric system using a transparent process overseen by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). The IRP process is designed to ensure investments in our electric system achieve our goals of affordability, reliability, and sustainability in the most balanced way possible. Do you think IRPs provide a good framework to support Michigan's energy needs moving forward? (Please circle your answer below and explain why you do or don't support the IRP process for Michigan.)

a. **Yes: to ensure that the system achieves the goals of affordability, reliability and sustainability, transparency and consideration for more cost efficiency is the key indicator for approval by the MPSC.**

3. Michigan consumers pay for electricity based on how much energy they use and when they use it (i.e., electricity consumed during "peak hours" costs more than electricity consumed during "non-peak hours"). This approach minimizes the subsidizing of electricity costs for one consumer by other consumers. Do you believe this is the right way to establish consumer costs? Are there any instances in which you would support subsidies for some types of energy or some types of consumers?

**I do not support subsidies for some customers over others. Everyone should have opportunities based on a more fair and balanced manner. I do feel that this is the right approach, and the legislature with the collaboration with MPSC needs to maintain this system and process of being fair.**

4. Michigan's energy infrastructure is aging and requires new investments to maintain safe and reliable service. Technologies like smart meters and grid sensors are making our energy grid more efficient and resilient. How important do you believe it is for Michigan to invest in its energy infrastructure?

Extremely important and at a very critical time. A renewed investment will ensure that our citizens and businesses have the reliability they need. Although costs may be high in the beginning, the cost will be more economical in the long run, saving citizens money.

5. Recently, the Michigan Public Service Commission approved a new policy for rooftop solar users. This new policy allows energy providers to recoup the costs associated with maintaining the energy grid from these customers who use the grid both to feed excess electricity back into the grid and to access electricity from the grid when their solar panels are not producing enough energy. Up until now, rooftop solar users have been able to avoid paying these costs. What are your views on this new policy?

I support a new policy for solar panels and will be committed with understanding the investment and services that are provided in the industry.

6. Michigan is transitioning from electricity predominantly generated from coal to a more diverse energy mix that also includes natural gas; renewables like solar, wind, and hydropower; and nuclear. Do you support this "all-of-the-above" energy strategy? Why or why not?

a. Yes. (Please explain.)

Yes: I support moving away from coal to help decrease toxic emissions that are harmful.

**7.** Do you believe Michigan's energy mix should be mandated by law, or should energy providers have more flexibility to balance environmental concerns with affordability, reliability, and the rapid pace of technology advances in the energy sector?

More flexibility is needed to keep cost lower. To grow and develop economically, we must consider the bigger picture in renewable mandates.

**8.** What else would you like the AMP community to know about your views on Michigan energy and our state's energy future?

I agree that it is time for Michigan to lead the way in renewable energy and find more energy efficiency. Investing in clean, renewable sources will help grow Michigan workers and diversify Michigan's use of clean energy.