



VOTER GUIDE - League of Women Voters of Michigan Education Fund Michigan State Senate District 38

Primary Election: August 5, 2014

You may **VOTE in ONLY ONE PARTY'S PRIMARY** – either Republican or Democratic – for **ALL partisan offices** on ballot.
Candidates are ordered below within each office by party with Republicans preceding Democrats.

Candidates on the ballot: 1 Republican and 2 Democrats

Duties: The Michigan Senate shares responsibility with the Michigan House of Representatives to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws.

Qualifications: State Senators may serve a maximum of two full terms. They must be at least 21 years of age and a registered voter in their district. There are 38 State Senate districts which are re-apportioned after each census.

Term: 4 years VOTE for ONE (1)

Tom Casperson, Republican

Campaign Website:

www.tomcasperson.net

DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION

Christopher M Germain, Democrat

Campaign Website:

www.votegermain.com

www.facebook.com/votegermain



Occupation / Current Position: I have been a REALTOR® for the past 10 years. I have been active on FRVFD for the past 9 years.

Education: Graduate of Escanaba High School 2001.

Post high school certificate in real estate from Holloway Institute in 2004. Certified Firefighter 1 & 2 along with 18 plus other certifications in the field.

Qualifications / Experience: I serve as the President of the Upper Peninsula Association of REALTORS®, Inc. I am also a fire captain on the Ford River Volunteer Fire Department. I am involved with the

Delta Co Jaycees, Relay for Life, and Delta Lodge 195 of Masons. My experience as a Realtor, firefighter, and being so active in our community have given me a strong understanding of the concerns of working families.

Questions:

1. Priorities: *What are your top three state legislative priorities? Why did you select them?*

A: 1) End the pension tax and "right to work". Retirees who played by the rules and worked hard their whole lives have been hit with a new tax. In these tough economic times, we need to be working to build our middle class and support our senior citizens, not squeeze them for all that they're worth. 2) Incentivize corporate tax cuts. In the past, a corporation would have to provide jobs or economic development in order to receive a tax break. We must get back to that structure. 3) Security in our communities has been compromised. We need to restore funding to police, fire, public safety, and correctional facilities.

2. Education: *The test scores of Michigan students, once among the highest in the country, have dropped, making Michigan one of the lowest achieving states. What measures would you support to improve educational results?*

A: In addition to restoring funding, we must engage students into their environment. We can do this by keeping a college prep curriculum plus add in project development and vocational education. Students that are able to get hands on work experience will come out of school with a greater understanding of what is expected in the marketplace. Students should also have access to the most current technology seeing that is what they will face in the real world. We must, overall, improve the education system and the teaching profession. All stakeholders must join in on the conversation to produce a greater result.

3. *Economy:* *What should the state government do to strengthen the state's economy, reduce unemployment, and address the widening income gap?*

A: Michigan is on a race to the bottom. We are 49th in the nation for job growth, 3rd in the nation for highest unemployment, and are rated 10th for worse place to retire. We must work to attract more business to Michigan and offer tax cuts to corporations providing new jobs. We must become active partners with our communities and foster start up businesses by giving them the tools they need to succeed. We need to partner with our community colleges and universities to expand "SmartZones" across the state. In addition, we need to look at jobs that are two years out and train our upcoming workforce for those positions.

Chris LaMarche, Democrat

DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION