



## VOTER GUIDE - League of Women Voters of Michigan Education Fund

### U. S. Senator - Michigan

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 1 Democrat**

**Duties:** U.S. Senators share the responsibility with U.S. Representatives for enactment of the nation's laws as provided in the U.S. Constitution. Senators ratify international treaties and confirm Presidential appointments of Cabinet members, federal judges, and foreign ambassadors.

**Qualifications:** A Senator must be at least 30 years of age and a U.S. Citizen for at least 9 years. There are 100 Senators, two from each state.

**Term: 6 years VOTE for ONE (1)**

#### **Terri Lynn Land, Republican**

**Campaign Website:**

[www.terrylynnland.com](http://www.terrylynnland.com)

**DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION**

#### **Gary Peters, Democrat**



**Campaign Website:**

[www.petersformichigan.com](http://www.petersformichigan.com)

**Occupation / Current Position:**

U.S. Representative (MI-14)

**Education:** I graduated Magna Cum Laude from Alma College. I earned an M.A. from Michigan State University, a J.D. from Wayne State University Law School, and an M.B.A from the University of Detroit, Mercy.

**Qualifications / Experience:** I have served on the Rochester Hills City Council, in the Michigan State Senate, as the Commissioner of the Michigan State Lottery, and I am now in my third term in the U.S. House of Representatives. I also served in the U.S. Navy Reserve and held the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

#### **Questions:**

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

**A:** First, my top priority is working to reinvest in Michigan's economy and grow jobs. I will continue to focus on expanding access to capital to small businesses like through my SSBCI program and encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship by expanding R&D tax credits. Second, our economy is only strong when our middle class is strong. I support raising the minimum wage, reforming our tax code to stop giving outsourcers special tax breaks, and making education and skills training affordable. Third, I want to make sure seniors can retire with dignity. I will fight efforts to privatize Social Security and Medicare.

**2. ECONOMY:** *What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy, reduce unemployment, and address the widening income gap?*

**A:** The federal government can grow our economy by increasing small businesses' access to capital and encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation. We should make targeted investments in next-generation manufacturing and infrastructure, roll back outdated regulations, and reform the tax code so it's fair for middle class families and Michigan businesses. We should also work to close the gender-pay gap by passing The Paycheck Fairness Act and raise the federal minimum wage, which has not kept pace with inflation so folks can support their families and save for retirement.

**3. ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT:** *What steps would you propose to secure America's energy needs while protecting our water, air and land?*

**A:** I am confident we can make conservation and jobs a priority so that we are protecting our Great Lakes and expanding our clean energy sector. With our tradition of innovation and our incredible natural resources, Michigan is uniquely positioned to lead the country in securing our energy needs. Our automakers, manufacturers, universities, and our talented workforce can continue to lead in clean energy development and technology to create jobs, reduce greenhouse emissions, and lower costs for consumers. We must continue to invest in clean energy to transform these challenges into an opportunity for Michigan.

**4. MONEY IN ELECTIONS:** *Do you support the Disclose Act, which would require disclosure by outside groups of large campaign contributions and expenditures? Why or why not?*

**A:** I am very concerned about the lack of oversight and accountability stemming from the Citizens United decision. Our nation was founded on the democratic principle that everyone has a vote, but the sheer level of spending from outside parties with interests that clash with the needs of Michiganders can have a corrupting influence on our elections. I strongly support improving transparency in campaign spending and I helped introduce the DISCLOSE Act. I am a cosponsor of the Fair Elections Now Act and the Government By the People Act, both of which take steps to empower more Americans and democratize political campaigns.

**5. IMMIGRATION:** *What specific changes, if any, would you propose to current immigration policy? Please explain.*

**A:** We need to find a responsible way to fix our immigration system and protect national security. I support bipartisan solutions to comprehensive immigration reform like the proposal that passed the U.S. Senate last year, and I was proud to vote for the DREAM Act. Border officials need to have the tools to secure our borders and crack down on illegal immigration, and employers should be able to attract the best and the brightest from all over the world. I also believe undocumented immigrants can have the opportunity to earn citizenship if they are willing to go to the back of the line, pay taxes, and learn English.

**6. HEALTH CARE:** *What changes, if any, should be made to federal health care policies or programs? Please explain.*

**A:** The ACA takes an important step to ensure people have access to affordable, quality health care, and now we should focus on improving the law so it works for Michigan. I am proud of new consumer protections that stop discriminatory practices and close the Medicare donut hole. After hearing folks' frustrations, I worked to support bipartisan, common-sense ways to fix the implementation process. In addition, I proposed The Small Business Insurance Affordability Act to expand tax credits for small businesses. In the Senate, I will continue to work to overcome politics, move forward on health reform and protect Medicare.