



2026 REGIONAL ELECTION GUIDE

As our region continues to navigate a rapidly evolving economic and political landscape, strong leadership and collaboration at every level of government have never been more important. The challenges ahead will require elected officials who are willing to move beyond partisan labels and work together to advance practical, forward-thinking solutions that strengthen our communities and regional economy.

In this **2026 Regional Election Guide**, we provide helpful information on voting, offices up for election, and any ballot proposals that may appear before voters. This guide also outlines the candidates endorsed by the Lansing Regional Chamber-Political Action Committee (LRC-PAC) and encourages you to learn more about each individual and their positions on issues important to the business community and the Greater Lansing region.

This guide covers elections taking place across the Greater Lansing area, including Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steve Japinga

Senior Vice President, Public Affairs

Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce



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2026 Elections in the Lansing Region



IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

- ✓ **August 4, 2026:** Primary Election
- ✓ **November 3, 2026:** General Election

Visit the Michigan Voter Information Center to view a sample ballot and confirm your polling location: mVIC.sos.state.mi.us

WHO IS ON THE BALLOT IN 2026

While the specific names of individuals – especially in state and local elections – vary by district, the following offices are up for election in 2026:

FEDERAL

- ✓ U.S. Senate
- ✓ 7th Congressional District

STATE

- ✓ Governor & Lieutenant Governor
- ✓ Secretary of State
- ✓ Attorney General
- ✓ State Senate
- ✓ State House of Representatives
- ✓ Michigan Supreme Court (two seats)
- ✓ State Board of Education (two seats)
- ✓ University Governing Boards
 - University of Michigan Board of Regents (two seats)
 - Michigan State University Board of Trustees (two seats)
 - Wayne State University Board of Governors (two seats)

LOCAL

- ✓ Municipal Offices (Cities & Townships)
- ✓ Lansing Community College Board of Trustees
- ✓ School Boards

Register to Vote



The Michigan Voter Information Center provides a simple process to register to vote. You can register to vote through Election Day.

Register Here

Ways to apply for an absent voter ballot application

- ✓ Online – Registered voters can request an absentee ballot online through the ***absentee voter request form***
- ✓ Call your ***clerk's office*** and ask that an application be mailed to you
- ✓ Download an application to return by mail or in person to your local ***clerk's office***
- ✓ In person at your local city or township ***clerk's office***

WAYS TO COMPLETE YOUR ABSENT VOTER BALLOT

Your completed absentee ballot should be received by your city or township clerk by 8 p.m. on Election Day. You can submit by mail, or by hand-delivering the ballot to your clerk's office or their drop box. If you are returning your ballot within two weeks of election day, we recommend hand-delivering your ballot to avoid possible postal delays.

Begin the process early by mailing in your application for an absentee ballot as soon as possible. Applications can be submitted up to 75 days before an election.

All registered voters can track their ballot by looking up their information in the ***voter information section of this website.***

EARLY VOTING IN MICHIGAN

Michigan voters have the right to cast a ballot early and in person at an early voting site before Election Day.

FIND YOUR POLLING LOCATION

Not sure where your polling location is or who your city or county clerk are? ***Michigan.gov/Vote*** can help you find that answer. Some jurisdictions provide a sample ballot so you can know who – and what – you're voting on before you head to the polls or complete your absentee ballot.

August 2026 Ballot Proposals



The August 4, 2026 primary ballot includes 25 proposals across Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties, collectively asking taxpayers for more than \$47 million in estimated annual funding. Of those 25 proposals, 13 are renewals of existing programs and 12 are new funding requests. For the complete listing of every proposal, visit the [link here](#).

Clinton County
5 proposals
4 Renewals, 1 new

Eaton County
8 proposals
5 Renewals, 3 new

Ingham County
12 proposals
4 Renewals, 8 new

LRC Support Proposals

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce encourages voters to support the following proposals on the August 4, 2026 primary ballot:

Potter Park Zoo & Potter Park Operational Millage

Ingham County | Renewal | 0.5 mills

Here's our Why: Potter Park Zoo is a cornerstone of our region's quality of life and a key driver of family tourism and economic activity. Continued funding ensures the zoo remains a vibrant regional asset for residents and visitors alike.

Countywide System of Trails & Parks Millage

Ingham County | Renewal | 0.5 mills

Here's our Why: Well-maintained parks and trail systems are proven tools for workforce attraction and retention, community health, and regional economic competitiveness. These investments make our region a place where people want to live, work, and grow.

Ingham County Tourism, Entertainment Facilities & Arts Proposal

Ingham County | New | Hotel accommodation tax 5% to 8%

Here's our Why: This proposal would generate dedicated funding for tourism promotion, arts programming, and entertainment infrastructure by modestly increasing the hotel accommodation tax. Because that tax is paid primarily by visitors rather than residents, it's a smart way to invest in our regional economy and support local businesses.

City of Lansing — Sale of Lansing City Market / Lansing Shuffle Building

Ingham County | New

Here's our Why: Authorizing the sale of this riverfront property could unlock private investment and new economic development along the Lansing riverfront, creating new opportunities for community and business growth.

Races To Watch



The following races are among the most consequential for the Lansing region in 2026. LRC-PAC encourages voters to closely follow these contests and learn more about the candidates and their positions on issues impacting our regional economy and business community.

Gubernatorial Race

Michigan's open gubernatorial race is rated lean Democratic by the Cook Political Report. The Democratic field features Jocelyn Benson and Chris Swanson, while Republican candidates include John James, Perry Johnson, and Mike Cox.

Democratic Candidates:



Jocelyn
Benson



Chris
Swanson

Republican Candidates:



John
James



Perry
Johnson



Mike
Cox

U.S. Senate Race

Michigan's open U.S. Senate seat is rated a true toss-up. Republican Mike Rogers is seeking the seat after narrowly losing to Sen. Elissa Slotkin in 2024 by 0.34 points. On the Democratic side, a competitive primary features Rep. Haley Stevens, State Sen. Mallory McMorrow, and Abdul El-Sayed. The outcome could determine control of the U.S. Senate.

Republican Candidate:



Mike
Rogers

Democratic Candidates:



Haley
Stevens



Mallory
McMorrow



Abdul
El-Sayed

7th Congressional District

Michigan's 7th Congressional District, which covers the Lansing region, is rated a toss-up and considered among the most competitive House races in the country. Republican incumbent Tom Barrett faces Democratic challengers Bridget Brink, Matt Maasdam, and William Lawrence.

Republican Candidate:



Tom
Barrett

Democratic Candidates:



Bridget
Brink



Matt
Maasdam



William
Lawrence

Capitol Caucus Member Seats



The following Capitol Caucus member district seats are on the ballot in 2026. These legislators represent communities throughout the Lansing region and play a critical role in shaping state policy on economic development, education, infrastructure, and the business climate.

State Senate

Sen. Sara Anthony

District 21 – Lansing (D) — INCUMBENT
Challengers: Josh Burns (R)

Sen. Sam Singh

District 28 - Clinton (part), Ingham (part), Shiawassee (part) - OPEN SEAT
Mark Polsdofer (LRC-PAC Endorsed Candidate), Rashida Harrison (D),
Ted Kilvington (D), Robert Pena (D), Julie DeRose (R)

State House of Representatives

Rep. Rachelle Smit

District 43 – Martin/Hastings area (R)
INCUMBENT
Challengers: Alan Swank (D)

Rep. Sarah Lightner

District 45 – Springport/Jackson area (R)
INCUMBENT
Challengers: Randy Davis (D)

Rep. Brian BeGole

District 71 – Corunna/Owosso area (R)
INCUMBENT
Challengers: Stephen Schlaack (D)

Rep. Julie Brixie

District 73 – Okemos/East Lansing (D)
INCUMBENT
Challengers: Daniel Ewart (R), Norm Grant (R),
Joshua Rockey (R)

Rep. Kara Hope

District 74 – Lansing, Delhi Township -
OPEN SEAT
Harold Pope (D) (LRC-PAC Endorsed
Candidate), Aaron Iturralde (D),
TyJuan Thirdgill (D), Clinton Tarver (R)

Rep. Penelope Tsernoglou

District 75 – East Lansing / Haslett / St. Johns (D)
INCUMBENT
Challengers: Frank Lambert (R)

Rep. Angela Witwer

District 76 – Eaton County (D)
INCUMBENT (LRC-PAC Endorsed Candidate)
Challengers: Bill Kaiser (R), John Ludtke (R)

Rep. Emily Dievendorf

District 77 – Lansing (D)
INCUMBENT
Challengers: Sally Johelton (R)

Rep. Gina Johnson

District 78 – Portland, Sunfield, Mulliken -
OPEN SEAT
Rachel Gross (D), Terence Frewen (R), Kaleb
Hudson (R), Miguel Pilar (R), Brandon Strong
(R)

Rep. Tim Kelly

District 93 – Saginaw Township (R)
INCUMBENT
Challengers: Serenity Salak (D)

For the latest endorsements and race updates, visit
lansingchamber.org/lrc-pac

2026 LRC-PAC Endorsed Candidates



The LRC-PAC endorsement process includes a review of a candidate's past performance, completion of a written questionnaire, and in some cases an in-person interview. Candidates may only be endorsed after this process is completed and the LRC-PAC Board of Directors has formally voted. The LRC-PAC is a separate entity from the LRCC no membership dues are used for political purposes.



Doug Lloyd

Michigan Attorney General – Republican – Open Seat

Prosecutor Lloyd has served as Eaton County Prosecutor since 2013 and is the former President of the Michigan Prosecutors Association. During his tenure, he has prioritized prosecuting economic crimes, championing victims' rights, and upholding the rule of law. As a candidate for Michigan Attorney General, he pledges to lead the office based on facts and evidence, with a commitment to fair and consistent prosecution and respect for constitutional principles. He faces Washtenaw County Prosecutor Eli Savit in the general election.

[Campaign Website](#)



Mark Polsdofer

28th State Senate District – Democrat – Open Seat

Mr. Polsdofer is running for the open 28th Senate District seat with the endorsement of retiring Sen. Sam Singh, bringing nearly two decades of MDOT infrastructure experience, seven years as an Ingham County Commissioner, and prior service as Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs for Governor Granholm. The district covers Lansing, East Lansing, Okemos, Grand Ledge, and portions of Ingham, Clinton, and Shiawassee counties.

[Campaign Website](#)



Rep. Angela Witwer

76th State House District – Democrat – Re-election

Rep. Witwer is the former chair of the House Appropriations Committee, represents an Eaton County district and has earned the LRC-PAC's third consecutive endorsement for her pragmatic, bipartisan approach to issues including paid sick leave, minimum wage, workforce, and infrastructure. She won re-election in 2024 with 52% of the vote.

[Campaign Website](#)



Harold Pope

74th State House District – Democrat – Open Seat

Mr. Pope is running for the open 74th House District seat in south Lansing and Delhi Township, bringing experience as a U.S. Army First Lieutenant, a career at Ford Motor Company, and extensive nonprofit leadership including founding Guardians of Our Future, former president of the NAACP Lansing Chapter, and serving with Big Brothers Big Sisters. The LRC-PAC endorsed him for his record of leadership, accountability, and deep community investment.

[Campaign Website](#)