



# The Livonia Republican Club

A Social Club for Republicans Since 2003

## CANDIDATE SURVEY:

### Michigan House of Representatives—19th District

The Livonia Republican Club (LRC) contacted each of the three candidates running in the August 4th, Republican Primary for Michigan’s 19th State House District. This seat is considered to be one of the most contested swing-districts in the entire state, following a razor thin Democratic pickup during the 2018 Midterm elections. Representative Laurie Pohutsky (D) won by just 224 votes, becoming the first Democrat elected to represent Livonia in decades. The LRC does not endorse or make candidate recommendations.



In Part 1, candidates were asked to provide their website, telephone number (optional), and links to their social media accounts.

In Part 2, candidates were asked: “Please briefly state why you are running State Representative and list any specific policy goals or agendas you will pursue if elected.”

In Part 3, candidates were asked: “Please use this space to provide readers with additional biographical information, or other relevant information on your candidacy.”

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## Penny Crider:

**Part 1:** Web: [PennyCrider.com](http://PennyCrider.com) ● Email: [penny@pennycrider.com](mailto:penny@pennycrider.com) ● Tel: 734-679-7757 ● Social Media: [Facebook.com/PennyCriderMI19](https://www.facebook.com/PennyCriderMI19) ● [Twitter.com/PennyMI19](https://twitter.com/PennyMI19)

**Part 2:** Why I'm Running - I want to turn this state representative seat back to Republican control. Our current state rep won by 200 votes and does not represent Livonia, but only her single issues. I believe she is probably the most liberal state representative this District has ever had. My platform is "Family First" and I want to represent ALL people in Livonia regardless of age, economic stature, race or gender. Our people need jobs and their businesses back and if elected I will push for less taxes and business regulation. I also want to be Livonia's business development link to those businesses who'd like to move here or launch in Livonia. I am a big advocate of supporting our public schools but also believe our families deserve to have a choice in education as one size does NOT fit all. I want to push for legislation which supports our first responders in the police force and fire department and make sure they're budget reflects the needs of their respective departments. Livonia also has a huge history of crumbling highways and I want to push for legislation which holds these road companies responsible for their historically shoddy work. I am pro-life and pro 2nd Amendment and will make sure those priorities are heard in Lansing.

**Part 3:** I grew up in Livonia, went to Livonia schools and graduated from Clarenceville HS where I met my husband of 35 years, Ken. I have raised my son in Livonia and have worked for a state senator, giving me the experience I need to hit the ground running politically in Lansing. I am the most qualified in this race and have worked for and in this community for decades.

## Regina Gargus\*

*\*Candidate did not respond.*

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## Martha Ptashnik:

**Part 1:** Web: [MarthaPtashnik.com](http://MarthaPtashnik.com) ● Email: [martha@marthaptashnik.com](mailto:martha@marthaptashnik.com) ● Tel: (734) 679-6901 ● Social Media: Facebook.com/marthaptashnik2020 ● Instagram.com/marthaptashnik ● Twitter.com/marthaptashnik

**Part 2:** Campaigns and elections are about the future and we need to make sure that Livonia is a vibrant and growing community where my children and your children are able to buy a house and live and raise their families. This only happens if Michigan has a strong economy with jobs and opportunities for everyone. This only happens if Livonia is a safe place to live, that public safety remains a top priority. This only happens if Livonia continues to have high quality schools. When our schools thrive, our community thrives because our schools attract families to our community. With the COVID 19 pandemic, we will need to get to work right away to rebuild our economy. As our State Representative, I will work to ensure that as we rebuild our economy, we must make it a priority to provide opportunities that will keep our kids in Michigan. We must attract world-class talent and investment in our healthcare, automotive, manufacturing, and technological sectors to help all our citizens thrive. Governor Snyder and the Republican State Legislature laid the foundation for a strong and prosperous future; we need to use that foundation as we work to rebuild our economy. The State government needs to go through its budget line by line looking for savings before they force Michigan families to pay more or cut our essential services. The state has been very conservative in recent years, and it now has a rainy day fund of more than \$1 billion. It also has a couple hundred million dollars in surplus from last year. We can figure out how to make this work without asking the people of the state to take the brunt of it. Prior to becoming a teacher, I worked as a corporate buyer for Marshall Field's, Dayton Hudson's, and Montgomery Ward's. So, in addition to my knowledge of education, I have a strong business and finance background which will make me an asset as we make these tough decisions.

**Part 3:** As a teacher and the Mathematics Department Chair at Churchill, I also know what needs to be done to ensure that all our kids receive a quality education. I will be a fierce advocate in fighting for policies that improve Michigan's education system. Whether a student wants to enter a skilled trade or attend college our schools must assist them in achieving their goals. Michigan cannot be great without great schools, which is why I want to help our quality local schools get even better and help struggling schools improve. I support more investment in the classroom so we can build a better future for our children and grandchildren. But I also realize this is not just about the amount of money involved, because simply throwing money at a problem does not fix it. We must invest in smarter ways to give students and parents options and different opportunities to learn and succeed. I am as frustrated as all residents of Michigan in regard to the condition of our roads, I drive these streets also. Michigan is only one of four states that charge both a sales and gas tax at the pump, and not all that money goes to fund the roads! The taxes we pay at the pump should go back in to repairing our roads; it is only common sense. As State Representative, I will fight to fix the broken system that siphons our tax dollars away from roads and invest it into high quality roads that last. In addition, the legislature appropriated an additional \$400 million in the General Fund for roads for the 2020 fiscal year, unfortunately the Governor vetoed \$375 of that General Fund allocation. Current funding levels were projected to be at an all-time high of \$4.2 billion this year but due to the pandemic there will likely be a significant reduction in revenue for the roads. That being said, Michigan is projected to spend an historically high amount on infrastructure this year. It will take time to get the roads in good condition, but I will make it a priority to get as much done as soon as possible.