



## Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Dan Kildee (D)

U.S. House 5th District

mittchell@dankildee.com

### **Q1 What are your goals for your district?**

The main concerns I hear about from my constituents are creating more jobs, growing our economy and making sure that everyone in America who works hard and plays by the rules has a fair opportunity to succeed. We must make smart investments to help fix our crumbling roads, bridges and water systems and invest in a twenty-first century workforce, including universal preschool and improved K-12 education, increased access to higher education, and support of apprenticeship and job-training programs for workers. We must work to create jobs and opportunity here by supporting small businesses and farmers through policies that encourage products to be made in America, not overseas. I will continue to place a high priority on policy that aligns federal investment with the unique needs of America's older industrial cities.

### **Q2 What issues are most important to you?**

I represent Flint, Mich., which is my hometown and is still recovering from a crisis where the city was poisoned with lead tainted water. Thus, I will continue to fight to ensure the people in Flint have access to safe drinking water and the support they need to recover from this man-made disaster. In addition, I will continue to fight to make sure all people have access to a quality education, including community college, technical or apprenticeship programs, or a four-year university, as well as have the opportunity to earn a good-paying job, and that our communities are safe and vibrant places where people can live, work and raise a family. Finally, I believe health care is a basic human right that all people deserve access to quality, affordable care.

### **Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?**

Absolutely. Libraries are the center of our communities and educational systems.

### **Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?**

Yes. We need more funding for resources like libraries and community centers, not less.

**Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.**

I believe that libraries are central to a vibrant and functioning community. They serve as a place of knowledge and a place where people can come together. In addition, they often provide critical services and support to the community.

**Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?**

Yes. Increasing funding for youth programs, particularly after school and summer programs, is one of my main priorities in Congress. And libraries play a huge role in these types of services.

**Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.**

One of my main priorities in Congress is to ensure that all kids have access to a quality education, and literacy is the bedrock of education. All kids deserve a great education, regardless of the zip code they are born into. We can and must do better to improve literacy rates and invest more so that every child has the opportunity for a free and quality public education.

**Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?**

I represent a very diverse community, but regardless of where my constituents are from, they are concerned about the same things: Finding a good-paying job, getting a quality education for themselves or their kids, living in a community free from violence, and having access to affordable health care.



## Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Mike Bishop (R)

U.S. House 8th District

mike@electmikebishop.com

### **Q1 What are your goals for your district?**

My top three priorities are jobs and the economy, protecting America's seniors, and protecting the Great Lakes and our environment. This Congress I was deeply involved in crafting the most significant reform to our tax code in a generation, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The results have been incredible: unemployment is at its lowest rate in decades, wages are going up, and employers are hiring. I've also been working hard to protect the benefits that millions of our seniors rely on like Social Security and Medicare. The House recently passed a bill I authored to strengthen Social Security's service to victims of identity theft. Lastly, as a lifelong Michigan resident, I am committed to preserving our environment and Great Lakes for future generations. I have consistently supported legislation to ensure that our lakes are protected, and I introduced innovative legislation to strengthen pipeline safety standards.

### **Q2 What issues are most important to you?**

As I mentioned earlier, my top three priorities are creating jobs and growing the economy, protecting America's seniors, and protecting the great lakes and our environment. Another top priority has been connecting students with jobs through hands-on training. I was pleased to cosponsor and vote in support of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (H.R. 2353) which was signed into law on July 31, 2018. This bill will go a long way to connect Michigan students with the training they need to transition into our workforce. Now more than ever, it's critical we invest in our workforce to ensure everyone can achieve the American dream and find fulfilling work.

### **Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?**

As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, this is not an issue that I will be able to directly vote on, but please know that I strongly support our public libraries here in Michigan.

### **Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?**

As a U.S. Congressman I don't have a direct vote on state funding for libraries, but at the federal level I was pleased to vote in support of H.R. 6157 which included a full year appropriation for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and was signed into law in September. Specifically, H.R. 6157 provides \$242 million for the Office of Museum and Library Services, which is an increase of approximately \$2 million over last year's enacted level. I was pleased to support this important funding, and will continue to support public libraries in Michigan.

**Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.**

Public libraries are a tremendous resource for our communities. Whether you're a student conducting research, a job applicant looking to brush up on your skills, or a family looking for a good book, public libraries facilitate learning and civic engagement.

**Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?**

As I mentioned earlier, I supported an increase of \$2 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services earlier this year. Specifically, H.R. 6157 included a total of \$242 million for this important program for Fiscal Year 2019 and was signed into law on September 28, 2018. I was pleased to support this increase and will continue to support our nation's libraries.

**Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.**

With the tremendous economic growth we have been experiencing recently, we are now facing record low unemployment, rising wages, and employers on a hiring spree. But with this positive news, our nation is also facing a growing skills gap in our workforce. Employers across our nation are having increasing difficulty finding sufficient numbers of skilled workers for many jobs. That's why now more than ever, libraries and public education are so critical, and it's why I worked to increase federal funding for these programs. I also think it's important that we make sure age-appropriate books are available to children in our communities. This is of critical importance to ensuring high literacy rates and successful futures for America's children. Efforts like this will make a lasting impact.

**Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?**

One issue that has been particularly worrisome for our community, and for the nation as a whole is the opioid crisis. I am deeply saddened by the fact that each and every day 115 Americans are dying from opioid overdose. It is the ever-growing presence of synthetic opioids like fentanyl and carfentanyl in our country that is causing overdose deaths to skyrocket. These synthetic opioids can be 50 to 500 times more potent than the typical street dose of heroin. I was also shocked to learn that there is a loophole in current federal law that makes it easier for foreign drug traffickers to ship in these dangerous drugs through the international mail system. That's why I was proud to author legislation known as the STOP Act which is targeted at halting the flow of dangerous synthetic opioids from entering our country through the international postal system. My bill does this by requiring inbound packages from overseas to have "advance electronic data," or AED, transmitted to U.S. Customs and Border Protection ahead of time so that they can more effectively interdict suspicious packages. This is already required for packages coming in through private carriers like FedEx and UPS, but up until now has not been required for shipments in the international mail system. I am pleased to report that my bill has passed the House and Senate and I expect it will be signed into law shortly!



## Michigan Library Association Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Elissa Slotkin (D)

U.S. House 8th District

[press@elissaforcongress.com](mailto:press@elissaforcongress.com)

### **Q1 What are your goals for your district?**

I got into this race because the tone and tenor of our politics is unbecoming of the nation we all love. I served 14 years in national security, including three tours as a CIA intelligence analyst in Iraq. In all that time, no one ever asked me if I was a Democrat or a Republican. Because it didn't matter -- we were focused on the mission of protecting U.S. troops and the U.S. homeland. *I believe we need more of that mission focus in Congress.* We need a new generation of leaders who work harder, think bigger, and never forget that they are public servants.

### **Q2 What issues are most important to you?**

The issue I hear about most from 8th District residents is affordable healthcare, and I believe that healthcare is our generational problem to solve. While the debate about healthcare is very complicated, there are some straightforward ways we can make healthcare more affordable: allowing Medicare to negotiate for lower drug costs, allowing a Medicare buy in that would give younger families more choices and increase competition in healthcare while preserving Medicare benefits for current and future generations of seniors, and protecting those with pre-existing conditions from being price-gouged. Second, I believe we need a once-in-a-generation investment in our roads and especially our water infrastructure. I will advocate for a significant, meaningful, and generous federal infrastructure package that has an immediate impact in our state and in our district. Third, I have helped lead a group of more than 100 candidates who have called for campaign finance reform to be the very first bill that comes to the House floor in the new Congress, because the flood of corporate special interest money in politics is drowning out the voices of citizens. I will fight to reform our campaign finance laws, supporting policies that would increase transparency and curb the influence of money in politics, to ensure that the voices of our citizens are heard.

### **Q3 Would you support legislation that upholds the Michigan Constitution's requirement to fund public libraries?**

Yes. While I am a candidate for federal, not state, office, I believe all Michiganders benefit from vibrant, accessible public libraries, which are an important investment in our people and our economic future.

**Q4 Would you support increasing state aid to library funding?**

Yes. While I am a candidate for federal, not state, office, I support additional state investments in educational institutions, including libraries.

**Q5 Libraries are shown to be key community-building institutions, the one place that people of all opinions and backgrounds can gather, learn and discover. Please tell us a little about your own beliefs on government support for libraries as community centers.**

Libraries are storehouses of knowledge. They are also focal points for our shared civic experience. At a time of great polarization, when it is vitally important to emphasize our shared values, we need to ensure that we maintain and strengthen these vital community institutions. My favorite teacher in high school, who I'm still close with today, was our librarian.

**Q6 Libraries are one of the most important institutions educating our youngsters. Research shows that time spent with books in library programs helps children succeed in school and in life. Would you support an increase in funding for youth services and libraries?**

Yes. Our schools have gone from ranking in the top 10 in the nation when I grew up in Oakland County to the bottom 10 today. Addressing that issue requires investments across the spectrum of educational institutions. I believe libraries can play an essential role in helping students develop the practical skills and the critical thinking they need to succeed.

**Q7 Share your thoughts on the importance of education and literacy in your district.**

Every young person deserves access to a high-quality education that will allow them to compete in the 21st Century economy. The performance of our educational institutions will determine the future of our state. I will fight for common-sense measures that support funding for science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) education, improve access to the skills training necessary to secure the well-paid jobs here in Michigan, and make higher education affordable for everyone who pursues it. And literacy is fundamental to all of these goals.

**Q8 What would you list as the most challenging issue faced by your constituency today?**

The cost of healthcare and prescription drugs is the policy issue that I hear about most from the people of the 8th District. I believe every American deserves access to high-quality health care they can afford. No one should ever go broke because they happen to get sick, and no family should have to decide whether they can afford to save the life of a loved one. This issue is personal to me -- when my mother was diagnosed with Stage IV breast cancer, she did not have health coverage, because a pre-existing condition had made healthcare too expensive for her to afford. Our nation has not settled on how we provide every American access to affordable health care, and I believe this is our generation's challenge to resolve.