MICHIGAN
2016
VOTER GUIDE

A YALLA VOTE 2016 STATE VOTER GUIDE

WWW.AAIUSA.ORG
On November 8th, Michiganders will be electing officials for the House of Representatives, as well as the President of the United States. Michigan is the home to the second-largest population of Arab Americans in the country. The number of Michiganders who claim an Arab ancestry has almost tripled since the Census first measured ethnic origins in 1980. Arab Americans in Michigan reside in 82 out of the 83 counties in the state, with the greatest number of Arab Americans living in Wayne County. The largest component of the Arab American community in the state has Lebanese or Assyrian/Chaldean roots and the largest number of new Arab immigrants to Michigan came from Iraq, Yemen, and Lebanon.

In January, a bill banning straight-party voting for the November general election passed the Michigan state legislature and was signed by Governor Rick Snyder. Straight-party voting allows voters to choose officials based on party-affiliation alone, rather than choosing them individually. The practice is common in Michigan municipal elections, especially in areas with high African American populations. In fact, more than 70% of ballots cast in cities like Detroit and Flint are done so using straight-party voting. On July 21, 2016, U.S. District Judge Gershwin Drain blocked the ban, saying that the measure would have been unfair to African American voters by causing longer lines and wait times. Though the Michigan Attorney General's office said that it would file an appeal, the ruling is largely held as a voting rights victory.

Of Michigan’s 14 Districts, nine are currently held by Republicans, and five are held by Democrats. Two members of Congress will not be seeking reelection this year. Dan Benishek of District 1 and Candice Miller of District 10 are both retiring, leaving their seats open for contention.

Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow will be up for reelection in 2018. Michigan Governor Rick Snyder will also be facing reelection in 2018, and Senator Gary Peters will have his opportunity for reelection in 2020.

Arab American candidates on the state-wide ballot include Representative Justin Amash, and Ish Ahmed. In addition to the races listed below, Michiganders will have the opportunity to vote in local elections as well.

**ARAB AMERICAN DEMOGRAPHICS**

**AAI ESTIMATE** >500,000

**STATE RANK** 2

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*Research by AAI and Zogby International suggest that the number above is likely significantly lower than the actual number of Arab Americans in the state. The American Community Survey identifies only a portion of the Arab population through a question on "ancestry." Reasons for the undercount include the placement of and limit of the ancestry question (as distinct from race and ethnicity); the effect of the sample methodology on small, unevenly distributed ethnic groups; high levels of out-marriage among the third and fourth generations; and distrust/misunderstanding of government surveys among recent immigrants.

GENERAL ELECTION

General Election Tuesday, November 8, 2016
The polls will OPEN at 7:00 AM and CLOSE at 8:00 PM.

Michigan Department of State
Lansing, MI 48918
P: (888) 767-6424
www.Michigan.gov/vote

DEADLINES

Voter Registration: October 8, 2016
Absentee Application: November 5, 2016
Absentee Ballot: November 8, 2016

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

You are eligible to register to vote in the state of Michigan if you are:

• A U.S. citizen
• At least 18 years old by Election Day
• A resident of the city or township in which you are registering to vote

REGISTER TO VOTE

Online
A voter registration application is available online. You may check to see if you are already registered online at the Michigan Department of State’s website. Michigan law states that the same address must be used for voter registration and driver’s license purposes.

In-Person
You may obtain a voter registration application at any of the following locations:

• Your local Secretary of State branch office
• Your local county, city, or township clerk’s office
• Office of the Department of Human Services
• Office of the Department of Community Health
• Office of the Department of Labor and Economic Growth
• Military recruitment centers
• Voter registration drives

To view a sample ballot, find your polling place, or verify your current voting information, you may use the Michigan Voter Information Center on the Department of State’s website.

By Mail
An application is available for print-out online or for pick up at the above locations. If you choose to mail-in your application, you must mail it into your local city or township clerk’s office. If you have never been registered in Michigan before, you will need to provide a suitable form of ID. Do not provide original documents. Only photocopies should be mailed.

Appropriate forms of ID include:

• Michigan Driver’s License
• Personal ID card
• Paycheck stub
• Utility bill
• Bank document
• Government document that lists name and address

If you have never voted in Michigan before and register by mail, the state requires that you appear in person to vote in the first election in which you wish to participate. This requirement does not apply if you are older than 60 years of age, disabled, or eligible to vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

DISABLED VOTERS

Voters with disabilities who require assistance in casting a ballot may receive assistance from another person provided that the person assisting the voter is not the voter’s employer, agent of that employer, or an officer or agent of a union to which the voter belongs. Other than city or township residency and age requirements, state and federal laws do not place any other restrictions on the right to vote. Because of this statute, disabled status applies to physical disabilities, mental disabilities, non-English speakers and other cases with discretion.

It is important to call the clerk’s office ahead of time to make sure the voting site is free of obstructions. If the precinct is not accessible, the disabled voter will be
directed to an alternative site that is accessible. For more information, contact the local clerk. Hearing impaired residents with questions may contact the Department of State’s Bureau of Elections by TTY at (517) 322-1477.

**CONVICTED FELONS**

A person who is confined in a jail or prison after being legally convicted and sentenced for a crime is not permitted to vote in an election.

**ABSENTEE VOTING**

You must be a registered voter to request an absentee ballot. To be eligible to vote absentee you must meet one of following requirements:

- Aged 60 years old or older
- Unable to vote without assistance at the polls
- Expecting to be out of town on Election Day
- In jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- Unable to attend polls due to religious reasons
- Appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence

A person who registers to vote by mail must vote in person in the first election in which he or she participates. The restriction does not apply to overseas voters, voters who are disabled or voters who are 60 years of age or older.

An application may be downloaded from the Michigan Department of State’s website or picked up from your local city or township clerk’s office. The application is also available download in large print. You must submit an application to your local clerk’s office no later than 2:00 PM on Saturday, November 5th, 2016.

After you receive the ballot, you have until 8:00 PM on Election Day to return it to your local city or township clerk’s office. Be sure to include your original signature on the envelope of the ballot, or else it will not be processed.

You (the voter), a family member, a person residing in your household, a mail carrier, or election official is authorized to deliver your signed absentee ballot for you. That designated person must also have their signature on the envelope of the ballot, as well.

**EARLY VOTING**

The state of Michigan does not offer voting prior to Election Day, other than absentee voting.

**VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS**

**ID Requirements**

Voters MUST have picture ID in order to vote. If you do not have proper ID, a state ID card is available for purchase at your local Secretary of State branch office for $10. State ID cards are available to individuals who are older than 65 years of age, blind, or who have had driving privileges terminated due to a physical or mental condition. A fee waiver is also available. Proof of identity and residency are required when applying for a state ID card.

Acceptable ID includes:

- Michigan driver’s license
- Michigan personal identification card
- Current driver’s license or personal ID card issued by another state
- Current federal state government-issued photo identification
- Current U.S. passport
- Current military ID card with photo
- Current student photo identification from a high school or an accredited institution of higher education
- Current tribal identification with photo

If you do not have a photo ID, you may still vote. You will need to sign an affidavit stating that you do not have a photo ID and your ballot will be counted with the rest.
AT THE POLLS

Precinct Inspector
Precinct inspectors are people who are paid to assist voters at the polls on Election Day. A precinct inspector must be a registered voter of the county. They cannot be a challenger, candidate, member of a candidate's immediate family, or a member of the local Board of Canvassers. Anyone convicted of a felony or an election crime may not serve.

Election Inspector
Registered voters interested in serving as election inspectors must submit an election inspector application to their local clerk. In addition to their name, address and date of birth, applicants must include their political party preference and qualifications to fill the position such as education or experience. The application is available online.

Election Challengers
An election challenger will observe the election process and prevent election fraud in order to guarantee an optimal polling setting. Challengers cannot be appointed by candidates. Candidates may not be challengers.

Challengers must be appointed by:

• A state-recognized political party
• An incorporated organization
• An organized group of citizens interested in the adoption or defeat of a proposal on the ballot
• An organized group of citizens interested in preserving the purity of elections and in guarding against the abuse of the elective franchise

Election challengers have the right to:

• Observe the election process in voting precincts and absent voter counting board precincts
• Challenge a person's right to vote if the challenger has good reason to believe that the person is not eligible to vote in the precinct
• Challenge the actions of the election inspectors serving in the precinct if the challenger believes that election law is not being followed

POLL WATCHERS

A person who wishes to observe the election process -- who is not a qualified election challenger -- is commonly called a "poll watcher."

Responsibilities:

• Does not have to be a registered voter
• Must sit or stand in the 'public area' of the polling place where they will not interfere with the voting process
• May look at the Poll Book at the discretion of a precinct board chairperson; may not touch the Poll Book or any other voting records

The purpose of Election Challengers and Poll Watchers is to prevent election fraud.
Democratic Presidential Challenger

Hillary Clinton, a graduate of Yale Law School, began her career working for the Children’s Defense Fund, and later acting as an advisor to the U.S. House Judiciary Committee during the Watergate scandal. She served as First Lady of Arkansas from 1979 to 1992, during which she became a partner at Rose Law Firm and led several business ventures. In 1993, Hillary Clinton became First Lady of the United States when Bill Clinton was elected as President. As First Lady, she chaired the Task Force on National Healthcare Reform. In 2000, Clinton was elected to the U.S. Senate from New York, where she served two terms. During her time in the Senate, Clinton served on the Committee on Budget, Armed Services, Environment and Public Works, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and Special Committee on Aging. Additionally, she was a member of the Committee on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

In the 2008 Presidential election she ran unsuccessfully against President Barack Obama. President Obama appointed Clinton U.S. Secretary of State, where she served from 2009 to 2013. She announced her campaign for the 2016 Democratic nomination on Twitter in April 2015.

Hillary for America
www.hillaryclinton.com
Hillary for America
Post Office Box 5256
New York, NY 10185-5256
P: (646) 854-1432

Democratic Vice Presidential Challenger

Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) graduated from the University of Missouri, and earned a law degree from Harvard Law School during which he interrupted his studies to work for nine months at a Jesuit mission in Honduras. Upon completion of Harvard Law, Kaine entered private practice and became a lecturer at the University of Richmond School of Law. He was first elected to public office in 1994, when he won a seat on the Richmond, Virginia City Council. He was then elected Mayor of Richmond in 1998, serving in that position until 2001 when he was elected Lieutenant Governor of Virginia. Kaine was elected Governor of Virginia in 2005, serving until 2010. He served as chairman of the Democratic National Committee from 2009 to 2011, and then decided to run for the vacant U.S. Senate seat, an election he won. Senator Kaine is presently serving in the Senate and is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senate Budget Committee, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and the Special Committee on Aging.

Senator Kaine was selected by Hillary Clinton as her Vice Presidential running mate on July 22nd. On July 27, 2016 Senator Kaine officially accepted the Democratic nomination.
Republican Presidential Challenger

Donald Trump is a real estate mogul and television personality best known for the eponymous Trump Organization and his reality TV program “The Apprentice.” Born and raised in New York City, Trump earned his bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School in 1968. In 1973, Trump inherited his father’s real estate and construction firm, and renamed it “The Trump Organization.”

Trump is a politically active member of the Tea Party movement and had discussed the idea of running for President of the United States in five previous election cycles. In June 2015, Trump announced his campaign for the 2016 Republican nomination in front of Trump Tower in New York City. Trump officially accepted the Republican National Committee’s nomination for President at the 2016 Republican National Convention.

Donald J. Trump for President
www.donaldjtrump.com
Donald J. Trump President, Inc
C/O Trump Tower
725 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10022
P: (646) 736-1779

Republican Vice Presidential Challenger

Following graduation from law school, Governor Mike Pence unsuccessfully ran for Congress in 1988 and 1990, losing both times to Democratic incumbent Phil Sharp. In 1991, Pence was named President of the Indiana Policy Review Foundation, a conservative think tank based in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Pence was elected to Congress in November 2000 and served for six terms. In November 2008, his fellow GOP members elected him to serve as Chairman of the House Republican Conference. During his tenure in Congress, Pence served on multiple House committees including, Agriculture, Judiciary, Small Business, and Foreign Affairs. In May 2011, Pence announced that he would not run for re-election in Congress, and instead successfully ran for Governor of Indiana in the 2012 election. As Governor, Pence made national headlines when he signed Indiana’s controversial “Religious Freedom Restoration Act” into law. This action brought about widespread criticism alleging that the bill would permit discrimination against the LGBTQ community.

On July 15, 2016, Donald Trump announced that he had selected Pence as his Vice Presidential running mate in the 2016 Presidential election.
Maryland State Republican Party  
Chair: Ronna Romney McDaniel  
520 Seymour St.  
Lansing, MI 48933  
P: (517) 487-5413  
www.migop.org

Maryland State Democratic Party  
Chair: Brandon Dillon  
Michigan Democratic Party  
606 Townsend St.  
Lansing, MI 48933  
P: (517) 371-5410  
www.michigandems.com

2016 U.S. House of Representatives Candidates

U.S. House, MI 1st District

Challenger  
Jack Bergman (R)  
N5070 Cisco Lake Rd.  
Watersmeet, MI 49969  
P: (231) 631-1998  
www.bergmanforcongress.com

Challenger  
Lon Johnson (D)  
P.O. Box 2028  
Traverse City, MI 49685  
www.lonjohnson.com

U.S. House, MI 2nd District

Incumbent  
Bill Huizenga (R)  
P.O. Box 254  
Zeeland, MI 49464  
www.huizengaforcongress.com

Challenger  
Dennis Murphy (D)  
P.O. Box 722  
Grandville, MI 49418  
www.dennismurphyforcongress.com

U.S. House, MI 3rd District

Incumbent  
Justin Amash (R)  
1500 E Beltline Ave SE, Ste 250  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
P: (616) 719-1935  
www.justinamash.com

Challenger  
Douglas Smith (D)  
www.smithformichigan.com

U.S. House, MI 4th District

Incumbent  
John Moolenaar (R)  
P.O Box 2192  
Midland, MI 48640  
P: (989) 600-4163  
www.johnmoolenaarforcongress.com

Challenger  
Unchallenged
U.S. House, MI 5th District

Incumbent
Daniel T. Kildee (D)

P.O. Box 248
Flint, MI 48501
www.dankildee.com

Challenger
Allen Hardwick (R)

P.O. Box 956
Davison, MI 48423
P: (810) 820-0093
www.allenhardwick.com

U.S. House, MI 6th District

Incumbent
Fred Upton (R)

402 State Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
P: (269) 983-1144
www.fredupton.com

Challenger
Paul Clements (D)

www.clementsforcongress.com

U.S. House, MI 7th District

Incumbent
Tim Walberg (R)

P.O. Box 1362
Jackson, MI 49204

www.walbergforcongress.com

Challenger
Gretchen Driskell (D)

P.O. Box 464
Saline, MI 48176
P: (734) 707-7150
www.votegretchen.com

U.S. House, MI 8th District

Incumbent
Mike Bishop (R)

P.O. Box 1148
Brighton, MI 48116
P: (517) 292-3118
www.electmikebishop.com

Challenger
Suzanna Shkreli (D)

P.O. Box 1919
Clarkston, MI 48347
www.suzannaforcongress.com

U.S. House, MI 9th District

Incumbent
Sander Levin (D)

P: (586) 274-2001
www.levinforcongress.com

Challenger
Christopher Morse (R)

P: (248) 952-8167
www.votemorse.com
U.S. House, MI 10th District

**Challenger**
Anthony Forlini (R)

39285 N. Blom
Harrison Township, MI 48045
P: (586) 275-7703
www.anthonyforlini.com

**Challenger**
Frank Accavitti Jr. (D)

www.frankaccavitti.com

U.S. House, MI 11th District

**Incumbent**
David Trott (R)

P.O. Box 217
Troy, MI 48099
P: (248) 792-8724
www.trottforcongress.com

**Challenger**
Anil Kumar (D)

2350 Walton Blvd
Rochester, MI 48309
P: (248) 606-5283
www.kumarforuscongress.com

U.S. House, MI 12th District

**Incumbent**
Debbie Dingell (D)

19855 W. Outer Dr., Ste 103 AE
Dearborn, MI 48134
P: (313) 749-8890
www.debbiedingellforcongress.com

**Challenger**
Jeff Jones (R)

www.jeffjones4congress.com

U.S. House, MI 13th District

**Incumbent**
John Conyers, Jr. (D)

P.O. Box 75357
Washington, DC 20013
www.johnconyers.com

**Challenger**
Jeff Gorman (R)

P.O. Box 1053
Garden City, MI 48136
www.jeffgormanforuscongress.com

U.S. House, MI 14th District

**Incumbent**
Brenda Lawrence (D)

18409 Livernois Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48221
P: (248) 410-0702
www.brendalawrence.com

**Challenger**
Howard Klausner (R)

16264 Sherfield Place
Southfield, 48075
P: (248) 469-3159
www.klausnerforcongress.com
Your ballot is the first. Please vote. But also, please consider our future beyond Nov. 8.

Yes, we want your contributions - your donations, your activism.

But really, we just want you.

If your only political actions this fall are to vote and to update your contact information with AAI, you are making a big investment in the future of the Arab American community.

When we reach more people, then, over time, our strength as a political constituency grows.

In the 30 years since AAI’s founding, our community has found a place in national politics that used to be just a dream.

Send back this form. Together, let’s see how much we can grow in the next thirty years.

☐ I’m already an AAI member, but I want:
  ☐ Update my contact information
  ☐ Promise that I’ll vote Nov. 8
  ☐ Make a donation to our #YallaVote campaign

☐ I want to join! My information is below, or I’ll visit www.aaiusa.org and join online.

☐ Please add my name to your email list, so I can get weekly political news updates, action alerts, and event notices. I’ll visit your website for more information about joining AAI.

☐ Don’t want to join right now - but I DO want to be part of our community’s future. Here’s my contact information, and I’ll hear from you down the road.

  Name ________________________________
  Email ________________________________
  Address ________________________________
  City ________________________________
  State/ZIP ________________________________
  Phone ________________________________

☐ I want to join AAI or make a donation.
  ☐ My check is enclosed.
  ☐ Please charge my Mastercard/Visa

  Name on card ________________________________
  Card no. ________________________________
  Exp. date ________________________________
  Signature ________________________________

Yalla VOTE 16
Our Voice. Our Future.