

Michigan Senate

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THE ISSUES

**JOHN
JAMES**

REPUBLICAN



**GARY
PETERS**

DEMOCRAT • INCUMBENT

See Guides.vote for online guides with links and sources	Volunteer for John James johnjamesforsenate.com	Volunteer for Gary Peters petersformichigan.com
ABORTION Legal or ban?	Ban. Calls abortion “genocide.” Would make an exception to save the life of the mother , but not for rape or incest.	Legal. Co-sponsored 2019 Women’s Health Protection Act that would protect access to abortion.
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT Support Affordable Care Act (ACA), also called Obamacare?	Unclear. Called ACA a “monstrosity” in 2018, favoring a “market-based, patient-centered” approach. Now wants to fix “broken” parts of ACA , with pre-existing condition protection.	Yes. “We should be thinking about what we need to do to improve the Affordable Care Act while celebrating what actually works.”
CAMPAIGN FINANCE Require political ads to disclose their largest funders?	No position found.	Yes. Co-sponsored the Campaign Disclosure Parity Act of 2018 and two 2015 measures to reverse the impacts of Citizens United .
CLIMATE CHANGE Consider human-caused climate change a serious threat?	No position found.	Yes: “Climate change, caused in large part by humans, is a threat to Michigan, our Great Lakes, our country and our planet.”
CLIMATE CHANGE Support government subsidies for renewable energy?	Unclear. Is supported by Restoration PAC , which is critical of renewable energy efforts.	Yes. Co-sponsored the Clean Energy for America Act , providing tax credits aimed at reducing carbon emissions.
CONTRACEPTION Require health plans to cover birth control?	No position found.	Yes. Would prevent for-profit employers from being able to deny female employees contraception coverage.
COURTS Supported Trump nominations of Brett Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch?	Yes. Described Kavanaugh as a “fair jurist” who could be impartial. Praised nomination of Gorsuch . See CEEP Supreme Court guide .	No. Voted in the Senate against Kavanaugh and Gorsuch confirmations. See CEEP Supreme Court guide .
COVID-19 Support Trump administration’s COVID response?	Yes. Said Trump has “done everything that he has thought was best” in a national COVID response. Says Peters as a senator hasn’t done enough .	No. Administration was “far too slow” in expanding access to testing and personal protective equipment. Opposed Trump decision to cut WHO funding . Introduced legislation to expand access to free testing .
EDUCATION Use public funding to send children to private schools?	Yes. Would let parents “use their tax dollars to send their children to the best schools , whether they are public or private.”	No. “Voucher programs rob [children in public schools] of the resources they need to receive a high-quality education near where they live.”
FOREIGN POLICY Support administration tariffs on steel and other products?	Yes. “I support free, but fair, trade.” Calls Trump “a master negotiator.”	Mixed. Supported tariffs on foreign cherries and foreign-made washing machines . Opposed proposed tariffs on Mexican goods .

ISSUES	JAMES (R)	PETERS (D)
GAY RIGHTS Support same-sex marriage?	Unclear. Has said employers shouldn't be able to fire someone for being gay .	Yes. In 2015, supported Supreme Court decision in favor of marriage equality .
GUN CONTROL Enact more restrictive legislation on guns?	Unclear. In 2018 strongly opposed all gun control. More recently says he is open to discussion on background checks.	Yes. Called for "common-sense gun safety ..., at a minimum ... comprehensive background checks."
IMMIGRATION Support "DACA" offering work permits to participants brought to U.S. as children?	Unclear. Said "We're putting DREAMers in a terrible position," but has not expressed support for DACA.	Yes. "The DACA program has helped provide relief to thousands of hardworking young people" brought to this country as children.
IMMIGRATION Support border walls and reduced immigration by limiting visas and asylum?	Unclear. "There are some areas where a wall or fence may be the best solution, but I would leave that to the boots on the ground, Homeland Security."	No. Opposed redirecting funds from already allocated programs to pay for a border wall. Cites difficulties farmers face in getting work visas for seasonal workers
IMPEACHMENT Supported U.S. Senate calling witnesses and voting to convict President Donald Trump?	No. "This impeachment is not about the rule of law, it is about revenge." Has said that he supports Trump "2000 percent."	Yes. Voted first to call witnesses and then to convict Trump on both articles of impeachment. "The president violated his oath of office and betrayed the public trust."
IRAN Oppose military attacks on Iran without congressional approval?	No position found. Campaign did not respond to request for comment on House resolution requiring congressional approval to attack Iran.	Yes. "The American people deserve to hear from the Administration on whether military action is necessary and if we have exhausted all diplomatic options."
LABOR Support "right-to-work" laws, eliminating the ability of unions to mandate dues for workers they represent?	No position found.	No. Said anti-union laws would "harm working-class families in the state of Michigan." Co-sponsored legislation to ban right-to-work laws .
MARIJUANA Decriminalize or legalize?	No. Said would vote no on 2018 state proposal to legalize recreational marijuana but would "respect the will of the voters."	Yes. Says "when it is legalized, it is regulated and it is taxed and it helps with paying for public services like public education ..."
MINIMUM WAGE Raise federal hourly minimum wage above current \$7.25?	Unclear. Criticized increase of minimum wage to \$15 an hour . No position found on a smaller increase.	Yes. In 2019 co-sponsored the Raise the Wage Act , to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour.
PLANNED PARENTHOOD Should Planned Parenthood receive public funds for non-abortion care?	Unclear. Supports defunding Planned Parenthood , according to Right to Life of Michigan.	Yes. Planned Parenthood "provides important health services to 2.7 million women, men and young people in Michigan."
POLICE/COMMUNITY ISSUES Restrict police use of force and increase public oversight?	Unclear. Supports more police training and recruitment of diverse officers; called proposals to defund police "insane."	Yes. Co-sponsored bills that would reform policing, ban chokeholds, improve officer training and increase accountability .
TAXES Support administration's \$1.9 trillion (2017) tax cuts?	Yes. "This is real money for real people. ... Donald Trump is delivering on his promises."	No. "It is wildly irresponsible to pile on this debt to finance a tax break for the wealthiest people in this nation."
VOTING RIGHTS Strict ID and other rules to combat possible fraud, even if limit access?	No position found.	No. Co-sponsored Senate version of H.R. 1 , election reform legislation that prioritized expanding voting access.

[Campus Election Engagement Project](#) is a nonpartisan effort to help colleges engage students in elections. Sources include [Votesmart.org](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Politifact.com](#) and candidate statements. [Vote411.org](#) and [Ballotready.org](#) offer guides to local races.