



SISTER DISTRICT
PROJECT

Winnie Brinks

MICHIGAN STATE SENATE DISTRICT 29

SISTER DISTRICT POLICY SCORECARD

This candidate has pledged commitment to the following statements:

- ✓ We must protect a **woman's right to choose** the health care and reproductive services she wants and needs.
- ✓ We need to protect and expand our **social safety net**, not dismantle it.
- ✓ We should pursue **common-sense gun safety** policies, consistent with the Second Amendment and local community standards and needs, which vary from community to community.
- ✓ Climate change is real and we need to **protect our environment**.

TIMELINE & VOTER INFO

Election Day: November 6, 2018

Last day to register:

30 days prior to Election Day

Vote by mail / absentee voting: Voters must [apply for absentee ballots](#). Note that if you have never voted in Michigan and register by mail, you must appear in person to vote in your first election, unless you are over 60 years old, disabled, or live overseas.

Nested Congressional District: 3

BACKGROUND

Winnie is currently a member of the Michigan State House of Representatives, where represents district 76 in Grand Rapids. She has served since 2013, and is now running for election in the Michigan State Senate.



She serves as the Michigan Democratic Caucus Policy Chair. In the Legislature she serves on the Workforce and Talent Development, Education, Health Policy, and Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committees. She also serves as chair of the Progressive Women's Caucus, a non-profit organization that addresses concerns about women's health, pay equity, economic security and gender violence.

Winnie's major legislative accomplishments include sponsoring tax relief for middle-class families, improving the quality of care at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, helping women fight breast cancer and introducing bills to make government transparent and accountable.

Before serving in elected office, Brinks worked as an executive at a non-profit. She graduated from Calvin College, met her husband, Steve, and raised three awesome daughters, Olivia, Annalise and Emma in West Michigan.

ON THE ISSUES

Education

She's well known in the Grand Rapids Public Schools and Grand Rapids Christian School Association where she got to know students on a personal level, empowering them as they built confidence and took on new challenges.

Business

She's worked with entrepreneurs and businesses to develop and retain employees, leveraging the best resources of nonprofits, businesses and government to help our community continue to prosper.

Healthcare

She's led the charge in the Michigan State House of Representatives to lower the cost of health care while still ensuring top-notch care.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

275k residents live in the 29th Senate District. The district covers Grand Rapids, MI - one of the larger cities of Western Michigan and home to the DeVos family fortunes. Major companies in the area include Amway, Axios, Steelcase, and Herman Miller. Grand Rapids is known for its arts districts, local music and beer scene, and snowy winters. The District is a little over 51% female, and 70% White, 17% Black, and the remaining 13% made up of other minority groups.

WHY IS THIS RACE IMPORTANT?

Michigan is an important place to engage new voters and win back old Democratic voters who veered into the Republican camp due to their "support" for unions and trade protection. Michigan's economy is built on automotive and steel industries as well as vast skilled trade works. Union membership is extremely high in Michigan compared to the rest of the country as is the headquarters for a number of unions - including the United Auto Workers (UAW). Michigan was a reliable Democratic presidential vote since 1988, but was won by Trump by a little over 30k votes amidst lower voter turnout.

Republicans have controlled the State House (and Senate) since sweeping into power in 2010. But this year, all 110 seats in the House of Representatives are up for election. Republicans control 63 seats of 110 seats. Five districts in the

House voted for Clinton, but are represented by a GOP legislator. In the Michigan Senate, 68 percent of the chamber is term-limited in 2018. This is the highest percentage of legislators affected by term limits in 2018.

MORE ABOUT MICHIGAN

Michigan is also surrounded by the nation's largest freshwater resource - the Great Lakes. As the headquarters of three larger automakers - Ford, GM, and FiatChrysler - Michigan is on the frontlines of joint environmental-economic issues and their interrelationship.

Additionally, the people of Flint, Michigan were poisoned by lead and other toxic chemicals due to a poorly managed water infrastructure switch while under state management. The Republicans in Michigan have not fought nearly enough for the residents as many of them are still seeing toxic levels of lead in their water. This hot button issue will be on voters' minds in November.

REDISTRICTING IN MICHIGAN

Following the lopsided win by Republicans in 2010 - where House control flipped exactly from 67-43 under Democratic control to 67-43 GOP control - Michigan House Districts are very skewed in favor of Republicans who have been in control since that election.

CANDIDATE LINKS

SDP ActBlue: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-mi-brinks>

Website: <https://winniebrinks.com/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WinnieBrinksforSenate

[WinnieBrinksforSenate](http://www.facebook.com/WinnieBrinksforSenate)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WinnieBrinks>