

Endorsement Application-Michigan for Revolution

Please fill out this form if you are running for office and would like to apply for endorsement by Michigan for Revolution (<http://michiganforrevolution.org>).

What is your first and last name? *

Dana Nessel

What is a good cell phone number to contact you? *

What is a good email address to contact you? *

What position are you running for? *

Michigan Attorney General

Are you currently involved with a Michigan for Revolution group or chapter?
Please explain. *

I'm a member of Stonewall for Revolution, and was just endorsed by Our Revolution Grand Rapids.

What value do you see in an endorsement from Michigan for Revolution? *

Now that it is politically expedient for candidates to self-identity as progressive, it's vital that progressive organizations help to cut through that rhetoric and lend their credibility to the candidates who have progressive records and would do the best job for progressive Michiganders. In 2016, especially in the primary, we saw a segment of people who had never before participated in the primary become activated and engaged. It's crucial that we learn from that, and listen to the voices of those who for so long felt disenfranchised, but are now motivated to change the way things have been done for so many years. Organizations like Michigan for Revolution are key to making sure we don't take a step backward. Earning an endorsement would mean having the vote of confidence, and the accountability, to make sure those ideals and beliefs are centered and put into practice.

What does the word "progressive" mean to you? *

First and foremost, it means walking the walk when it comes to our ideals. That means putting people ahead of corporations in practice, not just politically. It means taking on tough fights because it is the right thing to do, even when the majority is asking to slow down or wait for better timing. It means fighting for the best of our hopes instead of settling for what we think we can get. It means shutting down Line 5 because we have to protect the millions of people who rely on the Great Lakes for drinking water and their livelihood, not backing half-measures because we're afraid of taking heat from "allies."

Do you intend to accept campaign donations from Super PACs, corporations and other forms of “dark money”? If yes, how can you demonstrate to us that you will not be under the influence of these or other forms of “dark money” before and after you are elected? *

My beliefs and my stances have not changed from the day I announced my intent to be the next Michigan Attorney General. I will not hedge on what I believe to be just simply to secure a check. My record as an attorney backs that up. I will not take contributions from corporations, just as I never once represented a corporation in my legal career. I will not take “dark money.” I will, however, not refuse PAC support from organizations like Planned Parenthood; There’s a distinct difference between accepting the financial support of an organization whose issues I have always championed, and taking money from an interest group as part of a quid pro quo.

It makes sense for me to accept the support of organizations whose issues I have long championed. They want to make sure that their champions are in a position to protect the people they represent, and they are donating to me because I feel so strongly about their issues. They are supporting me with a contribution because we agree, and have for some time, on a policy – they’re not buying my support with a contribution.

How do you plan to practice transparency and accountability when in office? Give an example. *

One way to ensure constituents that your work isn’t politically motivated is to not let politics motivate your work. I’ve been a lawyer for 25 years, and in that time I worked in all aspects of the law: as a prosecutor, as a defense attorney, representing plaintiffs in civil rights suits, and so on. That reinforced for me that every person deserves justice, whether they are the plaintiff or the defendant. As AG, I will continue that, by representing all Michiganders as the law dictates, not choosing justice for those whose politics align with mine.

Unlike attorneys general who sign onto lawsuits that hurt the people they represent, I will work to protect all the people of Michigan, not just the ones who supported me as a candidate. I will explore initiatives that work in other states. The New York Attorney General has created a model for transparency and accountability in government by creating the New York Open Government division. This is a place where public data would be available for use by all citizens and Michiganders would benefit from the removal of the veil of secrecy in government.

Do you think party loyalty should override a person's integrity and morality?

*

Absolutely not. As elected officials, we serve all Michigan residents – not a party affiliation. It is our job to do what is just and what is right. Oftentimes, that means taking a stand on an issue before it's clear what the winning side will be. That's something I have some experience with, and something I think is vital in a position like the AG's office, where it is our job to fight for the people who need it most.

Tell us something about yourself that we wouldn't know unless we were your friend. *

After college and prior to law school, I tried my hand at stand-up comedy. It turns out that you can only tell tampon jokes to drunk people at two in the morning for so long before you realize it's time for a career change.

Anything else you'd like us to know about you or your experience/qualifications?

After college and prior to law school, I tried my hand at stand-up comedy. It turns out that you can only tell tampon jokes to drunk people at two in the morning for so long before you realize it's time for a career change.

Assessment Survey

Instructions: This section is based on the Our Revolution (national) application. After reading each passage, select the response that best represents your views with 1 being absolutely disagree, and 9 being absolutely agree. You may use the additional space under each question to explain your answer or elaborate on a related issue.

Today, we live in the richest country in the history of the world, but that reality means little because much of that wealth is controlled by a tiny handful of individuals. To address that, the wealthy and large corporations must pay their fair share in taxes.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Absolutely Disagree Absolutely Agree

Huge financial institutions must be broken up so they are no longer too big to fail.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Absolutely Disagree Absolutely Agree

We should not be putting any corporation ahead of people, especially when they're preying on the most vulnerable to amass exorbitant profits. It's time we made sure working people and families were successful and secure; right now we are failing them.

No one who works 40-hours a week should live in poverty. The minimum wage needs to be a livable wage of \$15 an hour.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Absolutely Disagree Absolutely Agree

I support increasing the state's minimum wage to at least \$15 an hour, as well as Indexing it to keep pace inflation. We must ensure that the state's minimum wage is closer to a living wage for working families.

It is critically important to create jobs for disadvantaged young Americans by investing in a youth jobs programs.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Absolutely Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Absolutely Agree							

Social Security must be expanded so that every American can retire with dignity.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Absolutely Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Absolutely Agree							

Trade deals like TPP, NAFTA, CAFTA, and PNTR have cost the U.S. thousands of jobs, allowed corporations to shut down operations in the US and move work to low-wage countries where people are forced to work for pennies an hour. We must do everything we can to reverse these effects from current trade deals and ensure we don't sign on to anymore that place corporate profits ahead of working class and poor people in the U.S. and throughout the world.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Absolutely Disagree Absolutely Agree

While I agree with this statement, trade agreements such as these aren't in the purview of the Michigan Attorney General's office. For that reason, I haven't done any significant research on the specifics of the trade agreements. Generally speaking, however, it is my belief that any trade agreements should prioritize protecting working families from job loss as well as ensuring we aren't exploiting working families in other countries.

Citizens United, a 5-4 Supreme Court decision, resulted in enabling the wealthiest people and largest corporations in this country to contribute unlimited amounts of money to campaigns. This decision must be overturned and corruption in politics must end. This means fighting to pass a constitutional amendment making it clear that Congress and the states have the power to regulate money in elections. We must also eliminate super PACs and other outside spending abuses and work to aggressively enforce campaign finance rules.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Absolutely Disagree Absolutely Agree

I have always felt this way, but running for office and seeing how money influences the process is illuminating. That's why I support ending corporate personhood. Businesses should not be determining who represents us.

In order to protect our democracy, we must fight for a publicly financed, transparent system of campaign financing that amplifies small donations. We must also ensure that all Americans are guaranteed an effective right to vote.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Absolutely Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Absolutely Agree							

Every vote is sacred and we should make it easier for qualified, registered voters to cast their ballot. Only through publicly financed elections can we ensure citizens can choose from the best, most qualified candidates for office, not just the most well-financed, and I believe we must restrict the amount of money that candidates, parties and interest groups can accept.

Every American who studies hard in school should be able to go to college regardless of how much money their parents make and without going deeply into debt. For that, we need to work towards making tuition free at public colleges and universities throughout America, stopping the federal government from making a profit on student loans.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Absolutely Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Absolutely Agree							

It's also important to hold predatory student lenders accountable, and prosecute when necessary.

Healthcare is a human right. Our healthcare system needs to work for all of us. We must guarantee healthcare as a right of citizenship by enacting a Medicare for all single-payer healthcare system, as well as lowering the price for prescription drugs.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Absolutely Disagree Absolutely Agree

The U.S.' infrastructure, from our roads and bridges, to our dams, waterways and electrical grid, have not been properly invested in nor used the advances in technology for maintenance or improvements. America is long overdue to rebuild our crumbling roads, bridges, railways, airports, public transit systems, ports, dams, wastewater plants, and other infrastructure needs.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Absolutely Disagree Absolutely Agree

Anyone who drives in Michigan knows how painfully true this is.

The U.S. defense spending is larger than that of the next seven largest defense budgets. We must firmly reject any increase to defense spending at the cost of cuts to domestic social spending.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Absolutely Disagree Absolutely Agree

The United States must lead the world in tackling climate change, if we are to make certain that this planet is habitable for our children and grandchildren. We must transform our energy system away from polluting fossil fuels, and towards energy efficiency and sustainability.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Absolutely Disagree Absolutely Agree

I also believe this we must hold corporate polluters that are accelerating climate change accountable, and to put the emphasis in government agencies like the DEQ back on protecting people and the environment, not making it easier for businesses to get approval to double their emissions, as is happening now in Dearborn.

African-Americans and Latinos are twice as likely to be arrested and almost four times as likely to experience the use of force during encounters with the police. They also comprise well over half of all prisoners, even though African-Americans and Latinos make up approximately one quarter of the total US population. We must change this by de-militarizing our police forces, ban for-profit prisons, turn back from the War on Drugs, eliminate mandatory minimums, and increase investment in programs that help individuals recover from substance abuse and mental health problems.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Absolutely Disagree Absolutely Agree

I am a proponent of drug court, sobriety court, and mental health court. As an assistant Wayne County Prosecutor and a defense lawyer, I've experienced first-hand how effective they can be. We also need to ensure that every person has access to a vigorous defense, and that means fully funding the state's indigent defense program, so everyone has access to an attorney with the resources to give them the vigorous defense to which they are constitutionally entitled.

Despite the central role immigrants play in our economy and in our daily lives, undocumented workers are reviled by some for political gain and shunted into the shadows. It is time for this disgraceful situation to end. We must pave the way for a swift legislative path to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants and protect programs like DACA.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Absolutely Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Absolutely Agree							

The inhumane deportation machine must be dismantled by ending deportation programs, closing down private detention centers, offering humane treatment and asylum to victims of violence and minors fleeing from dangerous circumstances.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Absolutely Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Absolutely Agree							

The U.S. must move away from a policy of unilateral military action, and toward a policy of emphasizing compassion, diplomacy, and ensuring the decision to go to war is a last resort.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Absolutely Disagree Absolutely Agree

The U.S. must have a just approach to the Palestinian and Israeli conflict; one that supports Israel's right to exist and that denounces human rights abuses and crimes against humanity committed by the state of Israel against the Palestinian people.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Absolutely Disagree Absolutely Agree

I'm a staunch supporter of the state of Israel and a two-state solution. At the same time, I believe that more needs to be done to ensure Palestinians are treated with humanity and dignity. We won't ever reach a peaceful solution until that happens.

Do everything possible to ensure pay equity for women.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Absolutely Disagree Absolutely Agree

YES.

Expand and protect the reproductive rights of women.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Absolutely Disagree Absolutely Agree

It is my intent to use the office of Michigan Attorney General to aggressively protect women's reproductive rights and Planned Parenthood in particular. That includes suing to shut down pregnancy crisis centers under consumer fraud theories and prosecuting individuals and organizations that engage in threatening behavior or acts of intimidation against women seeking healthcare at Planned Parenthood or other facilities which provide safe, legal abortion services. If the federal government attempts to defund Planned Parenthood, I'll sue on grounds of an unconstitutional bill of attainder, and I won't defend TRAP laws or attempts to defund Planned Parenthood passed by the Michigan state Legislature. Instead, I will work with petitioners who challenge such laws, including the filing of amicus briefs in support of petitioners.

The United States has made remarkable progress on gay rights in a relatively short amount of time. But there is still much work to be done. In many states, it is still legal to fire someone for being gay. It is legal to deny someone housing for being transgender. That is unacceptable and must change. We must end discrimination in all forms.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Absolutely Disagree Absolutely Agree

Michigan is one of those states. I'm an openly gay woman who has personally been greatly impacted by laws that create and further LGBTQ discrimination, and I know what it's like to be targeted by hateful policies. As the co-lead attorney on the precedent-setting adoption case, *DeBoer v. Snyder*, I fought all the way to the Supreme Court to successfully legalize same-sex marriage nationwide. It is because of that SCOTUS decision that I was able to marry my wife, and our twins have two legally recognized parents.

But that's not enough. We still don't have full equal protection under the law. As Michigan Attorney General, I will support the expansion of the Elliott-Larsen civil rights act to include LGBTQ persons, and the expansion of ethnic intimidation laws to make hate crimes against the LGBTQ community illegal.

The United States must not just honor Native American treaty rights and tribal sovereignty, it must also move away from a relationship of paternalism and control, and toward one of deference and support. That means supporting tribal sovereignty and tribal jurisdiction, honoring the treaties and federal statutes, improving housing and education, as well as by protecting sacred places and Native American cultures.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Absolutely Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Absolutely Agree							

As a nation, we have a moral obligation to provide the best possible care to those who have put their lives on the line to defend us. Taking care of our veterans is a cost of war. The Department of Veterans Affairs must be fully funded and expanding so that every veteran gets the care that they have earned and deserve. Additionally, claim processing, mental health and dental services, and access to the VA must be improved.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Absolutely Disagree Absolutely Agree

Michigan is home to more than 650,000 veterans, and we are failing them. I support veterans court, and as AG I would investigate the privatization of services like those at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans that led to the subpar care and abuse of our veterans.

Briefly list important local issues included in your platform.

The responsible legalization and sensible regulation of recreational marijuana; shutting down Enbridge Line 5 and prosecuting environmental polluters; standing up for greater civil rights protections and prosecuting hate crimes, supporting workers' rights, expanding consumer protections, joining with other attorneys general to resist the Trump agenda, protecting access to health care for all, and access to safe, legal abortions for anyone who needs one.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms