



Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan

## PLANNED PARENTHOOD ADVOCATES OF MICHIGAN 2021 LOCAL/COUNTY/STATE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan (PPAM)** is the advocacy arm of Planned Parenthood in Michigan. We are committed to ensuring that all people in Michigan have access to the quality, affordable healthcare and sexual health information they need and deserve. We are uniquely positioned to lead strategic reproductive health care advocacy and organizing initiatives. We have a proven track record of organizing supporters and volunteers online and in local communities and campuses to have an impact on legislation, hold elected officials accountable, and further advance the reproductive health care movement in Michigan.

Planned Parenthood believes that sexual and reproductive health rights are basic human rights. We believe that access to health care shouldn't depend on who you are or where you live. And we believe every person should have the opportunity to choose their own path to a healthy, meaningful life. We believe that every person—regardless of income, age, race, or marital status—has the fundamental right to decide if, when and how to have a child. It is government's role to support personal childbearing decisions with medically-accurate reproductive health information, including sex education, access to contraceptives, and safe, legal abortion.

PPAM is committed to educating ourselves and our supporters, reckoning with our own racist past, learning from our mistakes and amplifying voices that are at the forefront of this movement. We will support movement leaders and seek policy changes that center those most impacted while aiming to dismantle the racist systems and structures in our state. We will hold all elected officials accountable in this work.

We invite candidates who share our above values to join our efforts and apply for recognition as a PPAM Sexual & Reproductive Health Advocate. PPAM uses the questionnaire below to determine who to recognize in the primary and general elections as well as if and to whom we will contribute funds via the Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan Political Action Committee (PPAM PAC). For incumbent or former members running for an elected office, we will also review voting records. A designation as an "Advocate" by PPAM does not guarantee funding from PPAM PAC. Our award list will be available on our website at [www.miplannedparenthood.org](http://www.miplannedparenthood.org) and shared publicly.

Please complete and submit the questionnaire by **September 10, 2021**. There are three options for completing/submitting the questionnaire:

1. Submit the Google Form
2. Email the completed questionnaire to Kelsey Christian at [Kelsey.Christian@ppmi.org](mailto:Kelsey.Christian@ppmi.org)
3. Mail the completed questionnaire to Kelsey Christian PPAM PO Box 15041, Lansing, MI 48901

If you have questions, feel free to contact Kelsey Christian, Government Relations Coordinator, at 517-482-1080 x6.

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(printed)

**CANDIDATE FOR:**

- STATE HOUSE  COUNTY/LOCAL OFFICE

PLANNED PARENTHOOD ADVOCATES OF MICHIGAN  
2019 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate Information**

Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:

Agender  Cisgender  Gender Fluid  Gender Non-conforming  Genderqueer  Intersex  Man   
Non-Binary  Other  Transgender  Woman

Sexual Orientation:

Bisexual  Gay  Lesbian  Other  Queer  Straight/Heterosexual

Race:

Arab American and/or Middle Eastern  Asian American, East Asian, South Asian, and/or Southeast Asian   
Black, African, and/or African American  Caucasian or White  Hispanic and/or Latina/o/x   
Native American and/or Indigenous  Native Hawaiian  Other  Pacific Islander

Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

**Partisan Identification**

Democrat       Republican       Independent       N/A

**Office Sought & District:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Primary Election: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of General Election: \_\_\_\_\_

**Campaign Committee Information:**

Committee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Web Site Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Campaign Manager or Primary Organizational Contact**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently or were you previously an elected official? If so, please indicate which office(s) you held and for what period of time.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ISSUE #1: Protecting Planned Parenthood’s Ability to Serve Patients**

Planned Parenthood is the nation’s leading provider of and advocate for high-quality, affordable reproductive health care for women, men and young people as well as the nation’s largest provider of sex education. Last year, Planned Parenthood of Michigan’s health centers served approximately 60,000 medical patients and reached more than 19,000 teens, young adults, parents and community members with its science-based sex education and outreach programs.

Through important federal, state and local programs, Planned Parenthood provides services including: breast cancer and cervical cancer screenings; routine well-women exams; birth control; HIV testing; sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment; screening for cholesterol, high blood pressure, and diabetes; prenatal care; comprehensive sexuality education and more.

When our opponents discuss “defunding,” they are really talking about blocking our patients from receiving care at a Planned Parenthood health center. PPMI is a safety net provider, offering care to patients who are uninsured or use Medicaid especially when so many other providers limit or do not serve those patients.

- 1. Do you support the role of local/county/state government in providing safety nets for essential healthcare by funding organizations like Planned Parenthood?

Yes  No

Comments, if desired:

**ISSUE #2: Eliminate Inequity in Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Care**

Reproductive Justice: The human right to have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and healthy environments<sup>1</sup>.

Planned Parenthood commits to recognize and address the broader social issues that prohibit people from having the ability to control their own reproductive lives.

- 2. Will you support measures that increase access for people - especially people of color and people with low incomes to not only adequate prenatal and pregnancy care, abortion, contraception, comprehensive sex education and STI prevention and care, but also to domestic violence assistance, equitable and adequate wages and earned paid leave time to support families, safe homes and more?

Yes  No

Equal Access for people of color and people who identify as LGBTQ

People of color experience significantly worse health outcomes than their white peers as they relate to maternal and infant mortality, unintended pregnancy, and HIV infection rates as a result of a system that has not adequately prioritized their health care needs. Likewise, people in the LGBTQ community often do not have access to reproductive health care that is sensitive to their specific needs since the traditional care systems often marginalize such people.

- 3. Will you support efforts to expand programs and health care access to these marginalized communities?

Yes  No

Ensure all people have access to reproductive health care, regardless of income or zip code

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<sup>1</sup> www.SisterSong.net

There are many barriers that undermine access to reproductive health care for people with lower incomes. Today, Medicaid (a public insurance program) prohibits the use of Federal dollars to cover abortion except in rare cases. In Michigan, private health insurance providers are also prohibited from including coverage for abortion in a health plan except if the insurance company offers a specific "rider" policy that women would have to purchase separately from their regular policy. Planned Parenthood believes that a person's income should not determine whether their insurance covers quality reproductive health care, including abortion.

4. Do you support repealing the prohibition on public and private health plans covering abortion except with an additional rider?

Yes

No

Comments, if desired:

### **ISSUE #3: Safe and Legal Abortion**

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan **believes every person should have access to the full range of reproductive health care services, including access to safe and legal abortion.** According to the Michigan Public Act 328 of 1931, performing an abortion is considered a felony unless it was to save the life of the pregnant person— effectively banning safe and legal abortion in our state. However, this law was deemed unconstitutional due to the 1973 Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* which legalized the right to an abortion by affirming that the right to privacy extends to medical decisions.

Opponents of safe and legal abortion have tried to erode access to abortion through a range of abortion restrictions, including targeted restrictions designed to shut down health centers that perform abortion (known as Targeted Restrictions of Abortion Providers, "TRAP" laws), and laws designed to shame and judge patients.

Decisions about whether to choose adoption, end a pregnancy, or raise a child must be left to an individual and their family in the context of their faith and with the counsel of a doctor or health care provider — not to certain politicians.

5. Will you support *Roe v. Wade* as the law of the land and oppose any effort to undermine access to safe, legal abortion?

Yes

No

6. Anti-choice politicians are consistently attempting to limit the right to make personal healthcare decisions. Some of the tactics these politicians use are:
- Creating abortion bans (bans on abortions for certain reasons, or the way they are performed, or bans on abortion relative to a particular gestational age i.e after 6 weeks or 20 weeks)
  - Criminalizing health care providers who provide abortion services
  - Imposing medically unnecessary restrictions on doctors and facilities

Will you oppose any attempts, like those listed above, to limit a person's right to make their own health care decisions?

Yes

No

7. So-called "personhood" measures are those that define life as beginning at conception, and confer upon fetuses the rights and privileges of born people at any stage of prenatal development. Such legislation could interfere with the personal and private medical decisions relating to birth control, access to fertility treatment, management of a miscarriage, and access to safe and legal abortion. These extreme and dangerous measures have been both rejected by voters and defeated in the courts, but that has not discouraged proponents from

introducing similar measures in a number of states. Will you oppose any “personhood” measures in the state of Michigan?

Yes

No

Comments, if desired:

#### **ISSUE #4: Responsible Sex Education**

Ninety three percent of parents of junior high school students and 96% of parents of high school students believe it is very or somewhat important to have sexuality education as a part of the school curriculum<sup>2</sup>. Planned Parenthood believes young people need access to scientifically accurate, comprehensive sexuality education to be able to make responsible choices, prevent sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS) and avoid unintended pregnancies.

8. Do you support making scientifically accurate, comprehensive sex education part of the core curriculum for public schools in Michigan?

Yes

No

Comments, if desired:

#### **ISSUE #5: Religious Refusals**

“Religious Refusal” laws undermine medical standards of care by permitting doctors, hospitals, and health insurance plans to disregard evidence-based standards of medical practice and withhold critical information from patients when that information is in conflict with the provider’s religious beliefs – even if withholding that information puts a patient’s health or life at risk. If a state law allows a physician or an entity to refuse to provide comprehensive information that is in the patient’s best medical interest about a diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment options, the state is allowing the doctor or institution to violate their professional standard of care.

While refusal laws are often framed as protecting or preserving religious liberty, in reality, the laws reduce access to safe and legal medical care, such as contraception and abortion, and interfere with personal decision-making. All individuals deserve access to quality health care without discrimination or delay in settings that preserve their privacy, and provide the medically upheld standard of care.

We all want to respect religious freedom - the heart of religious freedom involves all individuals being free to make personal decisions based on their own beliefs and according to what is best for their health and the health of their families.

9. Will you oppose actions that allow health care payers, facilities, and providers to decline to provide or pay for certain health care services based on their religious beliefs?

Yes

No

10. In the current political climate, there is increasing concern that access to quality health care may be denied by insurers and providers based solely upon one’s sex, sexual orientation or gender identity. Would you oppose any effort that would allow employees, employers, health professionals, law enforcement officials, and others to refuse to provide services based on their own “closely held religious or moral beliefs.”

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<sup>2</sup> www.siecus.org

Yes

No

Comments, if desired:

**ISSUE #6: Birth Control Coverage**. Access to and the use of contraceptives have a proven track record of enhancing the health of adults and adolescents, allowing them to make proactive choices that support positive life outcomes.

In spite of this evidence, some who oppose reproductive healthcare have tried to erode this benefit by promoting policies that would allow employers to determine whether their employees have access to coverage for birth control. The protections provided by the Affordable Care Act and the “birth control mandate” that requires health plans offered under the ACA to cover family planning care, are under attack. Previously, health insurance plans were required to fully cover preventive health care services, including the full range of birth control methods, with no co-pays. Because of the Supreme Court ruling in the “Hobby Lobby” case, for-profit corporations are allowed to deny insurance coverage for their employees’ birth control because of the business owners’ personal religious or moral beliefs.

11. Will you support efforts that prevent for-profit corporations and/or non-religious organizations from denying their employees access to basic health care services such as birth control?

Yes

No

Comments, if desired:

**ISSUE #7: Racism is a Public Health Crisis**

Public health by definition is built on the principle of saving lives. The ongoing pandemic has laid bare what we all ignored for too long—our current medical structures are not protecting Black and Brown people. We must address the white supremacist structures and implicit bias that exist in all aspects of our society, including the public health community.

12. Will you support efforts to identify and call out structural racism in your community?

Yes

No

Comments, if desired:

**ISSUE #8: Supporting Black and Brown Lives**

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan (PPAM) stands with the Movement for Black Lives. The movement seeks to create communities that are safe and sustainable by investing in community-based solutions, education, and health care instead of funding the increased militarization of local police forces. It should come as no surprise that the public health experts at Planned Parenthood aim to prioritize public health approaches over further investment in policing.

Defunding and divesting from the police looks different in every city and requires participation from the community, including ours. We are calling for a shift from a militarized police force to a model that promotes community support, prioritizes programs that strengthen Black communities, and connects individuals to available services.

Elected officials have neglected the essential services that keep our communities healthy — education, social services, the health care safety net — by pouring money into military-style police forces that continue to commit abuses and take lives without consequences. It’s time to shift our priorities.

Policing does not equal safety. We know when Black patients and staff leave Planned Parenthood health centers, they walk onto streets where law enforcement officers pull them over, abuse and murder them. They are targeted because of the color of their skin. Planned Parenthood's first priority is the health and safety of its patients. That concern does not stop once patients leave the doors.

The treatment of Black people by police runs counter to the standards we value — caring for our bodies, lives, and futures. We know communities with low incomes are historically over-policed and more likely to be sent to prison for misdemeanors and minor crimes — ripping families apart, and contributing to the economic disenfranchisement of Black communities, including our Black patients. When pregnant people are shackled during pelvic exams and while giving birth, the willingness of our criminal justice system to violate basic human rights is on full display.

1. Will you commit to educating yourself and your community on issues like “Defunding the Police,” shackling and incarceration and to joining PPAM in fighting for the safety of Black and Brown people?

Yes

No

Comments, if desired: