

MI-07 District Primer

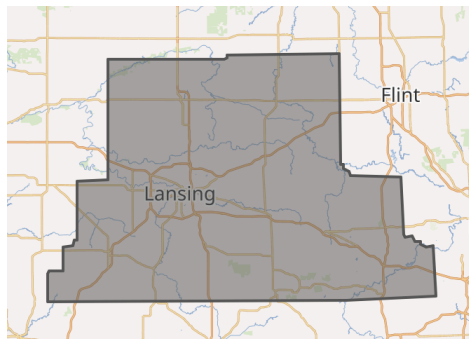
In 2024, Republican Tom Barrett won this seat by 16,673 votes. That’s just *five* votes per precinct—and *that’s close!* If we can persuade just *six* voters per precinct, we can win this year. With your help, we’re going to **FLIP** this key seat and secure a Democratic House majority in 2026.

Key dates
Filing Deadline: April 26
Primary: August 4
Midterms: November 3

Recent Election Results

2024 Presidential Election	2024 House Election	2022 House Election
Harris: 224,740 (48.6%) Trump: 230,678 (49.9%)	Barrett (R): 226,722 (50.3%) Hertel (D): 209,959 (46.6%) Dailey (L): 14,231 (3.2%)	Slotkin (D): 192,908 (51.7%) Barrett (R): 172,624 (46.3%) Dailey (L): 7,275 (2.0%)

District Facts & Stats



Largest Cities

- Lansing, pop. 113k
- East Lansing, 49k

Geography

MI-07 is in south central Michigan. It includes all of Ingham, Livingston, Shiawassee and Clinton, most of Eaton, a small part of Oakland and a tiny part of Genesee counties. Two thirds of its population lives in and around the state capitol of Lansing. The Lansing and East Lansing area is the third largest metro area in Michigan, after Detroit and Grand Rapids.

Citizenry

Of 782k residents, 73% are white, 8% are Black, 8% Hispanic, 5% Asian and 5% are two or more races. Of the 245k people employed in the metro area, 49k are union members and another 54k are covered by union contracts. There are about 36k veterans, 135k Medicaid recipients, and 30k SNAP recipients in the district.

The Local Vibe

The Lansing area leans progressive while the more rural areas in the district are more conservative. There is a long history of white supremacists (including the KKK) in Livingston County.

East Lansing is a sanctuary city and on the DOJ’s list for legal action and threats to suspend or terminate federal funds. Trump has threatened Michigan with losing road funding if they don’t comply with DEI and immigration orders. ICE has been to Lansing and there is anxiety about deportations.

Thousands attended No Kings marches in Lansing through 2025 and 2026..

Key Issues

- **Threats to essential services:** Thousands in the district rely on SNAP and Medicaid.
 - **An absentee rep:** Tom Barrett rarely meets constituents face-to-face, and they've noticed this neglect.
 - **Employment and Unions:** Many of Lansing and East Lansing's unions represent state workers and others who would be hurt by government cuts to social services and by actions that weaken unions.
 - **MSU funding:** Proposed state and federal Republican cuts would severely harm Michigan State University which is one of the tenth largest in the U.S. and located in East Lansing.
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About the Candidates

Tom Barrett | GOP Incumbent

A veteran and a lifelong Michigander, **Tom Barrett** is in his first term in Congress. He served in the MI House and Senate from 2014-2023, and in the MI Dept. of Treasury. He is a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. In his first run for the MI-07 House seat, in 2022, he lost to Elissa Slotkin, who now represents Michigan in the US Senate.

Barrett has been a politician or in the military for most of his career. He has been notably absent from the district and unresponsive to his constituents' concerns.

Barrett voted for the Big Ugly Bill in 2025. This bill harms SNAP and Medicaid recipients and the district's veterans. In 2022 he received a 100% rating from the NRA, in 2023 a mass shooting at MSU killed 3 students and injured 5. He was an election denier in 2021. To tame inflation, he believes it is necessary to lower taxes, cut government spending, and "put America First in our trade policies" by slapping tariffs on everything. These cuts and tariffs are harming workers, students and farmers in MI-07.

Democratic Challenger(s)

There are several possible candidates; we'll know more after the primary election on August 4. Until then, we've identified these front runners:

A sixth-generation Michigander, **Bridget Brink** spent 28 years in the Foreign Service under five administrations., serving in Serbia, Cyprus, Uzbekistan, and Georgia. She served as Ambassador to Slovakia under Trump from 2019-2022, and as Ambassador to Ukraine under Biden from 2022. She resigned in 2025 due to Trump's policies favoring Russia over Ukraine. She is a graduate of Kenyon College and has 2 masters degrees from the London School of Economics.

A former Navy Seal, Seal Team Instructor, Under Armour executive and entrepreneur, **Matt Massadam** served over 2 decades in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa and the Pacific. He was a Military Aid to President Obama and worked at the National Counterterrorism Center. He has a BA from the University of Michigan and an MPA from Harvard's Kennedy School.

Other candidates include **William Lawrence**, **Elyon Badger**, **Alexandra Priditis** and **Muhammad Salman Rais**.

The contrast: Tom Barrett's voting record reflects his alignment with Trump/MAGA's reactionary, warmongering and anti-democratic politics. He is clearly out of step with his constituents, who are concerned with matters of affordability, employment, public safety, and the threat to democracy posed by the Trump regime.

Sign up for another event: mobilize.us/swingleft

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