

Know Before You Go: MI-08 District Primer

August 2018 • Researched, summarized, and edited by Swing Left's all-volunteer research team!

In the last election, Republican Mike Bishop won this district by 17%. With your help, we're going to win this seat for the Democrats in 2018.

About the Incumbent

Introduction: Republican Mike Bishop is running for his 2nd term representing MI-08 and is a lifelong Michigan native. Prior to his current Congressional position, Bishop was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives. Subsequent to his serving there, he was elected to the Michigan state Senate where he was Majority Leader. Since being elected to the US Congress, Bishop has shown himself to be a strict conservative, voting with the Republican party 95% of the time. He has an A/A+ rating from the NRA.

Issues: He is pro-life, pro-tax reform and reduction, pro-2nd Amendment Rights including "right to carry," and he favors repealing Obamacare. He has a 94% rating from the conservative political advocacy group Americans For Prosperity, funded by the Koch brothers.

Committees: Bishop serves on the House Ways and Means, Oversight and Human Resources and Education and Workforce committees. He is on the Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, Workforce Protections, Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law, Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations subcommittees.

Strengths: MI-08 currently has the lowest unemployment rate in the state. Bishop faced no Republican opponent in 2016 primary. Bishop is a lifelong member of this community, has owned real estate companies and has worked in the private sector as an attorney. He raises a lot of money for his campaigns, and he already has over \$700,00 cash on hand for 2018.

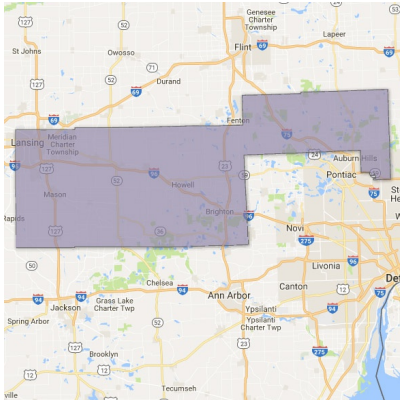
Potential Weaknesses: Bishop voted both for the TrumpCare and the Tax Cut and Jobs Act, two bills that are very unpopular. Trump won the district in 2016 over Clinton 51%-44%, and Romney won over Obama in 2012 51%-48%. Obama won the district in 2008 53%-46%, so the district is more purple than solid red.

About the Democratic Candidate

Introduction: Democrat Elissa Slotkin is a 3rd generation Michigan native. She graduated from Cornell and attended graduate school at Columbia University. After 9/11, she joined the CIA as a Middle East Analyst and served three tours in Iraq. Slotkin worked in the White House for both the Bush and the Obama administrations. Her grandfather founded Hygrade Foods in 1949, the producer of Ballpark Franks, first sold in Detroit's Tiger Stadium. Slotkin lives in Holly, Michigan where she runs a consulting business.

Issues: Slotkin's major campaign promises center on preserving the right to the American dream in Michigan. This includes access to affordable education, protecting healthcare and social security, lowering prescription drug costs, combating the opioid epidemic in Michigan, fighting trade deals that hurt Michigan workers, fighting for campaign finance reform, providing services for veterans, supporting common sense gun legislation, preserving the environment, and investing in Michigan's infrastructure. Her campaign website lists 15 specific policy positions on a wide range of issues of importance and interest to voters in MI-08.

Strengths: Slotkin's public service record appeals to voters in all demographics. She has a strong record on national defense and security, and she has bipartisan experience; both attributes should appeal to moderate voters. Slotkin speaks strongly on healthcare, bringing her personal story of her family's experiences to voters. She has been endorsed by Joe Biden, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor, the United Auto Workers, the National Education Association, the AFL-CIO, and many other labor union groups. She also has endorsements from the Sierra Club, End Citizens United, Planned Parenthood, NARAL, and Emily's List, to name just a few.



MI-08: Better Know the District

Geography

MI-08 wraps around the outer suburbs of Detroit and extends west toward Lansing, between the cities of Flint and Ann Arbor. Includes all of Ingham County, Livingston County and northern Oakland County. The Grand River, the largest river in Michigan, flows through downtown Lansing, and the Red Cedar River, a tributary of the Grand, flows through the campus of Michigan State University to its confluence with the Grand in Lansing. Lake Orion is a medium-sized inland lake, with area of 506 acres. In Independence Township, there is Pine Knob ski resort, with 17 runs, and know for it's slope called the Wall. The largest area lake, Lake Lansing, is located in Haslett and is approximately 500 acres (2.0 km²) in size.

MI-08: Facts & Stats

Population Centers

- Lansing, 114,274
- Rochester Hills, 71,737
- East Lansing, 48,556
- Independence Township, 34,681
- Okemos, 21,369

2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton: 44%
- Trump: 51%

2016 House Results

- Shkreli (D): 39.2%
- Bishop (R): 56%

2014 House Results

- Schertzing (D): 42.1%
- Bishop (R): 54.6%

Citizenry

The 2010 Census shows this district to be 83.7% white, 5.5% black, 3.8% asian, 4.5% Hispanic, 0.4% Native American. Total population, as per the 2010 census, is 705,975.

Elections

Trump won with 51% of the vote, Mitt Romney won the district in 2012 with 51% of the vote, but Obama won in 2008 with 53% of the vote.

Higher Education

Michigan State University is in East Lansing. Cleary University is in Howell, as is Lansing Community College. In Brighton there are satellite colleges for Lansing Community College, Washtenaw Community College, Eastern Michigan University, and Cleary University.

Arts & Culture

The Wharton Center for Performing Arts located on the campus at Michigan State University is the largest performing arts venue in Michigan. Currently, Wharton Center is the leading presenting venue among Big 10 institutions, and has the largest programming schedule of any independent performing arts center affiliated with a university in the country. The DTE Energy Music Theatre is an outdoor amphitheater concert venue. The Michigan History Center, Lansing Symphony Orchestra, Williamston Theatre are also in Michigan's 8th.