Dear Neighbor,

As your state representative, it is my honor and privilege to serve you. Since taking office in January, it has been my foremost goal to stay accountable and transparent to you. Whether you have questions or concerns regarding legislation or are encountering problems navigating state government, please never hesitate to contact me.

Advocating for legislation that will positively affect the hard-working people of our local community and making decisions that reduce the size and scope of state government are my top priorities. The less government intrusion in an individual’s life, the better. That’s my approach to every meeting, vote or decision I make as your state representative.

The people in our community are at the forefront of my mind before taking every vote. To work effectively for you, I hold monthly office hours in both Allegan and Kent counties. Times and locations vary, so please visit www.RepJohnson.com for more information. I look forward to seeing you in the community!

Sincerely,

STEVE JOHNSON
State Representative

(517) 373-0840 • StevenJohnson@house.mi.gov
www.RepJohnson.com
Rolling back our state income tax

One of my top priorities as your state representative is to work to limit the size and scope of state government. The first bill introduced this year was a proposal to lower the state income tax, which I wholeheartedly supported. Unfortunately, when the bill was put to a vote it ultimately did not pass. Our state does not have a revenue problem but a spending problem. We should prioritize our spending in state government and give the hard-working citizens of Michigan a well-deserved tax break.

Johnson votes in support of reform plan to cut auto insurance rates

I voted in favor of a plan in the state House to fix Michigan's broken car insurance system and significantly lower rates for drivers. Michigan now has the highest car insurance rates in the nation. We are number one for the wrong reasons. As I talk with many of you at my office hours or at community events, this is one of the top concerns mentioned. While the proposed plan is not perfect, it is a step in the right direction in providing coverage choice, reining in fraud and lowering rates for Michigan drivers.

The legislation also would continue benefits for Michigan residents already receiving lifetime health care after a catastrophic traffic accident. The plan gives motorists the option to continue to buy unlimited personal injury protection (PIP) coverage or more affordable alternative coverage plans.

Auto insurance reform continues to be under consideration in the House. I appreciate those of you who have shared your thoughts with me on this important issue. I remain committed to reforming Michigan's auto insurance system and look forward to seeing the conversation on this important and meaningful topic continue.

Bipartisan bills would implement Constitutional Carry in Michigan

I was proud to introduce legislation as part of a bipartisan bill package to implement 'Constitutional Carry' in Michigan.

These bills would allow individuals who legally own a pistol to lawfully carry in places where either concealed pistol license holders or open carry is currently allowed. If this legislation is adopted, Michigan would join a growing list of 12 states with laws protecting 'Constitutional Carry.'

I am a staunch supporter of our constitutional right to keep and bear arms. Today more than ever, Michigan residents should be able to protect themselves and their families, and I am proud to be part of this legislative effort to preserve our Second Amendment rights in Michigan.

House approves bill to ban taxes on groceries

I voted in favor of legislation to prohibit local governments from imposing taxes on the manufacture, distribution, and sale of food and beverages. Purchasing groceries can represent a large portion of a family’s monthly budget, and our bill prevents local communities from placing an undue burden on families and farmers. Taxes on groceries would have a tremendously negative impact on families who are living paycheck to paycheck and seniors living on fixed incomes.

As a passionate advocate for local control, I believe parents and local school officials know what’s best for their district rather than Lansing bureaucrats. Currently, Michigan has a mandated post-Labor Day start date for publicly-funded schools. My bill would repeal this requirement, which would allow parents and local school boards to choose their start date rather than being required to wait until after Labor Day. I have introduced a bill that would allow school boards to determine their respective school start dates. The closer to home these decisions are made, the more efficiently the school calendar start date can be tailored by parents and school officials to fit the needs of each respective school district.

Johnson demands more honest and open government

I helped pass common-sense legislation to increase transparency and accountability in state government. Our bills require the governor to be subject to the Freedom of Information Act. The legislation also creates a similar transparency requirement for all state legislators.

Michigan is one of only two states that still exempts its governor, lieutenant governor and the Legislature from sunshine laws. It’s time we remove these exemptions and help improve government accountability.

Giving schools more local control

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AVERAGE ANNUAL INSURANCE RATES IN THE MIDWEST

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<tr>
<th>State</th>
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* Information according to Insure.com