



Legislative Panel Bios

Sen. Sarah Anthony

Sen. Sarah Anthony has always fought for equity and opportunity for all Michiganders, including the most vulnerable among us. Throughout her 20-year career in public service, Sarah has made history multiple times, serving as mid-Michigan's first African-American woman to be elected to the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan Senate. In 2023, she became the first Black woman to chair the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee.



As Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, she earned a reputation as a pragmatic, effective legislator, where she passed multiple bills into law with substantial bipartisan, stakeholder, and community support. She fights to strengthen education, expand health care, reform Michigan's criminal justice system, support workers and uplift small businesses. Under her leadership, she has passed bills addressing college affordability, workforce developments, support for veterans, and housing issues.

Before serving in the Capitol, Anthony was the youngest black woman to serve on a county commission in the United States. During her time as a commissioner, Anthony served in many leadership positions, including serving as chair and vice chair of the board. She was a fearless leader for health care access, social justice, services for senior citizens and working families. In 2010, Anthony began a near decade tenure as the deputy and interim executive director with the Michigan College Access Network. There, she worked with school districts, community foundations, business leaders and nonprofit organizations to provide funding and support for students. Her experience built her unique understanding of the barriers to higher education and economic opportunity facing Michiganders today, as well as the compounding effect on the skills gap facing Michigan employers. As state representative, Anthony has partnered with her colleagues on both sides of the aisle and the governor's administration to make real headway on the talent pipeline and pathway to economic success.



For her work in the Capitol, she has been recognized nationally in such publications as the *New York Times*, *Essence*, the *New Yorker* and Politico. She has been named “Legislator of the Year” from business, nonprofit, education and social justice groups.

Sen. Anthony was born and raised in Lansing’s south side. She has a bachelor’s degree from Central Michigan University and earned a master’s degree from Western Michigan University.

Sen. Aric Nesbitt

Sen. Aric Nesbitt grew up as the middle child on a six-generation family farm in West Michigan. He went on to earn an economics degree from Hillsdale College, later earning a master’s in international business. He received the “Distinguished Alumnus” award from Hillsdale for his work as a conservative reformer.

In 2010, Nesbitt was elected to represent Van Buren County and part of Allegan County in the Michigan House of Representatives. He served three terms in the state House, achieving results for hardworking taxpayers by balancing budgets and reducing debt, lowering the tax burden, eliminating thousands of regulations, and defending our West Michigan values. Nesbitt served as the House Majority Floor Leader and chair of the House Committee on Energy and Technology. He also served as a member of Gov. Rick Snyder’s cabinet, managing an agency that generates nearly \$1 billion annually for public education.



In 2018, Nesbitt was first elected to the state Senate. He now represents the 20th District, which includes portions of Berrien, Van Buren, Allegan and Kent counties. He passed into law Senate Bill 1, which significantly lowered auto insurance rates by providing drivers choices, stopping price gouging, and cracking down on fraud and lawsuit abuse. Additionally, the senator successfully led the charge to stop Governor Whitmer’s massive tax increases on drivers and small businesses. Nesbitt currently serves as Senate Republican Leader.



As a sportsman, Nesbitt is a member of the National Rifle Association, Ducks Unlimited and South Haven Steelheaders. He will continue to support efforts to prevent Asian Carp from entering our Great Lakes.

Nesbitt is also the son of a Vietnam War veteran and is a strong supporter of our nation's veterans. The senator currently lives in Porter Township, with his wife Trisha, daughter Catherine and son William near the family farm.

Rep. Joe Aragona

Rep. Joe Aragona was elected state representative in November 2022. He represents the 60th District, which encompasses the northern part of Clinton Township and the majority of Macomb Township. Aragona serves as chair of the House Regulatory Reform Committee and vice chair of the House Rules Committee. He also serves on the finance and insurance committees.

Aragona graduated from Lutheran High School North in 2006. He earned an undergraduate degree at Oakland University in Biomedical Diagnostics and will receive an MBA this April from Michigan State University. Aragona grew up in Macomb County and worked at his family's small business, Aragona Family Jewelers. He is a former Clinton Township trustee who most-recently worked as the deputy supervisor for Harrison Township.

Aragona is a Kiwanian, helping a diversity of charities throughout Macomb County. He also participates in the Goodfellows organization whose mission is "No Child without a Christmas." In addition, Aragona is a board member of the Humane Society of Macomb.





Rep. Julie Rogers

Rep. Julie M. Rogers was re-elected to her third term representing the 41st House District, which includes portions of the city of Kalamazoo, city of Portage, and Kalamazoo and Comstock townships. She has been a practicing physical therapist for over 25 years. She also served on the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners for eight years and with part of that time as board chair.



Last term, she was appointed to serve as chair of the House Committee on Health Policy. Rogers also co-chairs the Biosciences Legislative Caucus and is a co-chair of the Arts and Culture Legislative Caucus. Additionally, she has been appointed as an Assistant Democratic Caucus co-chair this term and is a member of the National Council of State Legislatures Health Policy Committee.

Rogers grew up in Kalamazoo County and is a proud graduate of public schools. She later attended Marquette University and earned a master's degree in physical therapy. Her 25-year career as a physical therapist has led her to become a champion of public health, serving on the National Association of Counties Health Steering Committee for seven years. Rogers' experience as a physical therapist inspired her to advocate for auto no-fault reform, after seeing the devastating effects that forced catastrophic car accident survivors to lose their long-term care. She has been recognized for her work with a nomination to the Class of 2019 Women in Government, a national nonpartisan leadership program for women elected officials of all levels of government.

Rogers lives in Kalamazoo with her husband, Dr. Ed Orloff, DPT where they enjoy participating in community runs and triathlons. Her past service includes Girls on the Run coach, West Michigan Cancer Center Board, Hospital Hospitality House Board, Ascension Borgess Diversity Council, Bronson Hospital Patient and Family Advisory Council, Junior League of Kalamazoo member and team leader for Adopt-A-Highway cleanup program.