



Press Release

State House Candidate on Track to Make History

Jody LaMacchia Surges Past First-Quarter Fundraising Goal in Bid to Turn Oakland County's 46th District Blue

July 25, 2019, Oxford, Mich. – Jody LaMacchia, the first Democratic candidate to launch a state House race for 2020 when she declared her candidacy for Michigan's 46th district in February, announced today that she shattered her first-ever fundraising quarter goal, raising a total of around \$31,700, five percent above projection and one of the highest early totals for a Democratic House candidate ever.

More than 300 individual donors made 425 total donations averaging \$74 each to LaMacchia's campaign nearly 14 months before the general election on Nov. 3, 2020. Many had never donated to a political campaign before.

The groundswell of early support has caught the attention of both local voters and the Michigan Democratic Party, which views these first-time totals as important indicators of a campaign's viability and a candidate's ability to sustain a winning campaign.

District 46 includes Addison Township, Brandon Township, Lake Orion, Leonard, Oakland Township, Ortonville and Oxford and has long been a Republican stronghold – but the political narrative in North Oakland County is changing, and LaMacchia's campaign is proving this district can be competitive.

In one fundraising quarter, she's raised more than previous Democratic candidates in the 46th have in total, showing that LaMacchia has the best shot at flipping this seat and being one of the four needed to turn the Michigan House blue.

"I'm so grateful for the generous, grassroots support from residents all across the district," says LaMacchia, longtime political leader and chair of the North Oakland County Democratic Club. "These strong, early fundraising numbers underscore what I'm hearing when I talk with our citizens: They're definitely ready for a change in leadership."

LaMacchia has a good grasp of the mindset of the voters in her district; she and her campaign team have already knocked on nearly 850 doors, talking with residents about the issues that matter most to them. She's attended more than 30 district events, including council meetings and a special session with local educators.

"The people of the 46th District want to preserve its unique character, provide opportunities for their children to flourish and ensure a high quality of life for all residents," she explains. "They're tired of the vitriol and partisanship in Lansing. They're eager for someone who will work to bridge the divide and make government work for us again."

LaMacchia's nearly 18 years as a family counselor and conciliator for Oakland County position her perfectly to work toward bipartisan solutions with a skill set that focuses on negotiation, collaboration and leadership – and these impressive early numbers prove her messages are resonating with voters.

A victory for LaMacchia would also be historic. She would be:

- The first Democrat to win the 46th District seat in its current configuration.
- The first Democratic woman to hold the seat.
- The first openly gay woman in the Michigan State Legislature.

"We're building an inclusive campaign, one that brings people together, supports economic opportunity, equal pay for equal work and protects freedom for all," she says. "I believe our future depends on investing in excellent education, job training and a strong infrastructure that restores Michigan's reputation as a diverse and desirable place to live and do business."

In contrast, LaMacchia's Republican opponent, John Reilly, has campaigned on a platform of divisiveness, with a backward-facing agenda. He is considered extreme, even by some of his House colleagues. Reilly was recently one of only a handful of legislators to oppose bills that strengthen protections for children who may be victims of sexual abuse and rejected a much-needed loan assistance package for Michigan farmers dealing with catastrophic crop losses.

For interviews or more information, contact tricia@jody2020.com.