

South Lyon Area Democrats: Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire
Application for recommendation by the SLAD to voters in support of your campaign.
City of South Lyon, Lyon Township, and Green Oak Township.
Please email to SLAD candidate endorsement committee: matthew.kardel@gmail.com

Candidate Name (as it will appear on the ballot): **Gary C. Peters**

Office/Position running for (including district number of applicable): **U.S. Senate**

Date of submission: **9/29/20**

Please share a brief biography and personal background:

I grew up in a union family in Michigan where my father, a WWII veteran, worked as a public school teacher and was a member of the Michigan Education Association. And my mother worked as a nurse's aide and union steward with the SEIU. I saw how hard his parents worked to provide for me and my two sisters, and they instilled in me the importance of determination, fairness, and integrity.

I am a graduate of Alma College. While raising a family and working a full-time job, I took night classes and earned an M.A. in Philosophy from Michigan State University, a J.D. from Wayne State University Law School, and an M.B.A. in Finance from the University of Detroit Mercy.

For more than 20 years, I was a financial advisor and helped families plan for their retirement and save for their children's college education. Though I loved this work, I felt the need to serve my community further.

At age 34, I joined the U.S. Navy Reserve, where I rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander and earned a Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist designation. After the September 11th terrorist attacks, I rejoined the U.S. Navy Reserve to once again serve my country.

In 2008, I ran for the U.S. House of Representatives because I believed that middle class families, like mine, did not have a strong, independent voice in Congress. During my six years in the House, I drew on my business background to make Washington more transparent and accountable and led efforts in Congress to eliminate wasteful and unnecessary spending.

In the U.S. Senate, I serve on the Armed Services Committee; Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee; and the Joint Economic Committee. I am focused on strengthening our middle class by protecting access to quality, affordable health care, preparing our kids for the jobs of tomorrow and helping small businesses grow. I have worked with members of both parties to find commonsense, practical and bipartisan solutions to challenges facing Michigan and our nation. In fact, no Democratic Senator has passed more standalone

laws since I began serving in the Senate in 2015. These successful efforts include: increasing protections for the Great Lakes and securing historic funding for restoration efforts; supporting veterans suffering from PTSD or TBI; expanding career and technical education and apprenticeships for workers; and increasing our nation's security at our borders.

Qualifications for running (include previous appointed or elected public office positions and short resume):

U.S. Senator (Jan. 2015 - Present), U.S. Representative MI 14th District (2013–2015) and 9th District (2009–2013), Member of the Michigan Senate from the 14th district (1995 - 2002), Member of the Rochester Hills City Council (1991 to 1993)

List requirements you have completed for the office (# signatures collected, date filed, fees paid):

Amount of money raised as of date of submission: **\$19,458,434.54** (as of last filing)

Principal duties of the office you are running for:

As a U.S. Senator, my principal duty is to represent the interests of the State of Michigan in legislative and oversight matters. Throughout my career, I have worked to be a strong, independent voice for Michigan's families, workers and small businesses and this vision shapes my work daily in the Senate.

Top priorities once elected:

I'm running for Senate to put Michigan families first and deliver results on the issues that matter to our state, like protecting access to affordable health care and protections for those with pre-existing conditions, lowering the costs of prescription drugs, expanding training programs so everyone has the skills needed for a good-paying job; and protecting the Great Lakes and our drinking water.

Plans for communicating with constituents once elected:

I am proud to represent Michigan in the United States Senate, but I know the best ideas don't come from Washington. As I travel across our state, I always look forward to hearing from Michiganders about what can be done in Washington to make Michigan the best place to live, work and raise a family. While in D.C., I host Coffee With Gary meetings with constituents weekly. Additionally, I take constituent services seriously and my office stands ready to aid any Michiganders who may need assistance navigating federal agencies or accessing their benefits. I always encourage residents who may need help to visit with my staff and learn more about how we can be of service.

What are your primary sources for information/news?

Issues

Indicate your position on the following topics, including solutions. A response is needed only if applicable to your prospective office

Environment (land, water, air, open space, climate change):

I firmly believe that we need to protect the environment and address the issue of climate change. Climate change poses a serious threat to the Great Lakes, as well as Michigan's farmers, tourism industry, and other businesses. I therefore have a consistent record of supporting policies that seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, drive investment in preserving the Great lakes, and protect our environment.

Health care:

Michigan families deserve access to quality, affordable health care coverage. I helped pass the Affordable Care Act which expanded health care coverage for over 800,000 Michiganders and provided protections for pre-existing conditions for 1.7 million Michiganders. I've worked to improve it with bipartisan commonsense fixes and have fought against efforts to repeal the health care law. With the Supreme Court vacancy, I know health care protections for Michiganders with pre-existing conditions are at stake. I oppose the Trump Administration's lawsuit to end this vital coverage and raise health care costs and I'm fighting to protect quality, affordable health care for Michiganders. Finally, I have also fought to lower prescription drug costs by getting more generics to market and letting Medicare negotiate drug prices.

Income inequality and wages:

Growing income inequality is a threat to our middle class, our economy and our democracy. While globalization is opening new markets for American goods, it's also hollowing out the mid-level jobs that are the foundation of America's middle class. That is why I fought for trade policies that create a level playing field so that American workers and companies who play by the rules can get a fair deal and compete in today's global economy. I have also introduced legislation that would create incentives for companies to bring jobs back to the U.S. and Michigan. Additionally, fighting wage inequality is critical to helping working families in Michigan get ahead, not just get by. With more and more households counting on a woman's income to pay the bills and put food on the table, wage discrimination takes money away from the families women are working so hard to support. That is why I cosponsored the Paycheck Fairness Act

Economic prosperity:

One of my top priorities in the Senate is rebuilding our economy, creating good-paying jobs in Michigan and strengthening our middle class. I've been focused on boosting manufacturing in Michigan, supporting small business and expanding skills training programs. Before entering public service, I worked in business for over two decades, so I

understand the unique challenges that small businesses face and the importance of small businesses for our economy. That's why I've been an advocate for the Minority Business Development Agency, and helped pass the Small Business Jobs Act to boost small businesses.

Voting rights:

Every Michigan voter should have the right to have their voice heard in our elections. I support commonsense efforts to modernize our voter registration system, reduce long wait times to vote, reform campaign finance, and prohibit deceptive practices that discourage voting. To fight for these efforts, I have cosponsored the For the People Act, the Voting Rights Advancement Act, and the Fair Elections Now Act.

Reproductive healthcare:

I believe a woman should have access to the full range of reproductive health services and the freedom to make her own decisions about her health care.

Infrastructure:

In order to fully support the diverse industries that make up Michigan's economy, we must repair our crumbling infrastructure and expand investment in transportation. That is why I have prioritized investing in infrastructure. As a member of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, I helped pass major infrastructure updates--the first surface transportation, federal permitting reform, and aviation sector updates in nearly a decade. I also successfully pushed for funding to build a replacement lock for the Soo Locks. As we seek to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, now is an opportune time--when infrastructure upgrades will be minimally disruptive--to help stimulate the economy with investments that will both reduce long-term maintenance costs and improve efficiencies for businesses trying to access the global marketplace.

Public education, charter schools, support for community colleges & public universities, pre-K programs:

As the product of Michigan public schools, the son of a public high school teacher, and a father of three children who attended Michigan public schools, I understand firsthand the importance of a strong public education system. With nearly 1.5 million public K-12 students in Michigan, I am committed to improving elementary, middle, and high school learning opportunities for all children, regardless of their family's income or zip code. Furthermore, as postsecondary education has never been more critical for achieving economic security, I have also been committed to expanding access to affordable post-high school education and skills training programs that connect Michiganders with good-paying jobs.

Children and families:

I am committed to providing children and families with the resources and support they need to thrive through paid family leave and expanding early childhood education and child care programs. Last year, I helped advance paid parental leave policies through my

role as the lead Democrat on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. My work ensured federal employees can take as many as 12 weeks of paid leave for the birth or adoption of a child. I will continue to fight to expand this policy to the general public. I have also helped to introduce the Child Care for Working Families Act that would expand the Child Care and Development Block Grant to more families, increase federal funding for preschool programs and provide additional resources to expand Head Start programs across the country. As our nation confronts the Coronavirus pandemic, I have cosponsored legislation that would help ensure that child care providers have the resources needed to maintain operations and reopen safely.

Economic development:

Education is a central component of economic development. If America does not lead the world in education, our future workforce will be less productive and less globally competitive. I am committed to a strong public education system that provides students with the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century global economy and further more broadly based economic growth.

Faith:

I believe that the freedom of religion and to practice one's faith is sacrosanct. Houses of worship should be safe havens, and people of faith should feel secure when practicing their religion. That is why I took urgent action to protect synagogues, churches, and mosques from targeted attacks with the Protecting Faith Based and Nonprofit Organizations From Terrorism Act, which was signed into law this year. I also believe that faith-based organizations can play an important role in addressing significant policy issues, including the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. In many communities in Michigan and across the country, particularly communities of color, non-profits and faith-based organizations are trusted sources of information and resources. I have therefore introduced a proposal to establish a federal grant program to support local faith-based organizations that will provide resources and information to communities of color during public health emergencies like the Coronavirus pandemic that have been disproportionately impacted.

Social justice:

From police violence to the disproportionate impact COVID-19 has had on minority communities, it's clear black and brown Americans face racism that is ingrained in our institutions. We need to enact change so all Americans have equal access to opportunity, safety and prosperity. I introduced the National Criminal Justice Commission Act to help reform our criminal justice system and provide recommendations on how to improve it. I have also supported policies to ban the use of chokeholds, improve officer training and accountability, and require all federal law enforcement officers, contractors, and members of the Armed Services to clearly identify themselves and their service branch or agencies. Additionally, I led the fight to increase access to capital for minority-owned businesses who need assistance during this pandemic. I've fought to expand access to affordable health care to ensure communities

of color, (which are more likely to have pre-existing health conditions linked to systemic racism) receive the care needed to live healthy, full lives. I recognize that fully addressing systemic racism requires a complete understanding of American history. That is why I introduced the 1619 Act to increase awareness and understanding of African American history across our schools through expanded access to programming from the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Campaign mailing address (if applicable): P.O. Box 32072
Detroit, MI 48232

Campaign website: <https://petersformichigan.com/>

Campaign social media (identify platform, i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.):

Twitter: @GaryPeters

Facebook: @PetersForMichigan

Campaign hashtags:

#TeamPeters

Campaign contact name and title (manager / assistant):

Kevin Hrit

Senior Advisor

Campaign contact preferred phone number:

(248) 930-4482

Campaign contact preferred email address:

kevin@petersformichigan.com

Other contact & media info:

Thank you for submitting your candidate info to SLAD. By submitting this information, you agree that all information submitted, except for the **starred items (candidate preferred email address, phone number, and street address), can be made public and shared on SLAD online platforms and physical documents.