



Lansing area high school students to pose questions to area candidates Monday

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Peckham, Inc., the Peace and Prosperity Youth Action Movement and Michigan's Children, a statewide advocacy organization focused on public policy for children, youth and families, will host a candidate forum on Monday, Oct. 13 for state House and Senate hopefuls in the Nov. 4 general election. What sets this candidate forum apart from most is that a diverse group of 7th to 12th grade students from Lansing and Lansing-area high schools (Eastern, Everett, Holt, Waverly and Sexton) will lead the questioning of the candidates.

The non-partisan, community event takes place from 7-9 p.m. at Peckham, 3510 Capital City Blvd, in Lansing.

The goal is to draw attention to issues today's youths grapple with every day – such as improving expanded learning opportunities, alternatives to high school graduation, college and career readiness, connections with family and community resources.

The program will follow a standard format with all candidates given equal time to address the audience and respond to questions. While the event is being led by active youths from the community, the audience will consist of people of all voting ages.

Other youth-led forums have been planned in Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids and Mt. Clemens in suburban Detroit.

Here are the confirmed candidates:

- (Senate District 23) Democrat Curtis Hertel Jr. (running against Republican Craig Whitehead for an open seat; Whitehead cannot attend)
- (Senate District 24) Democrat Dawn Levey (running against incumbent Rick Jones, who cannot attend)
- (House 68) Democratic incumbent Andy Schor (running against Republican Rob Secaur)
- (House 93) Democrat Josh Derke (running against GOP incumbent Tom Leonard, who cannot attend)

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