

ELECTION 2002: STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

101ST DISTRICT

(Benzie, Leelanau, Manistee and Mason counties)

DAVID PALSROK Republican

- **AGE:** 33
- **RESIDENCE:** Manistee and Lansing
- **EDUCATION:**

Bachelor's degree in political science from Michigan State University.

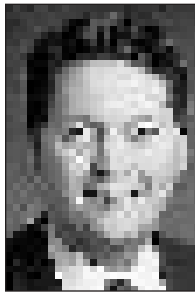
PROFESSION:

Executive director of Connect Michigan, a nonprofit telecommunications advocacy group based in Lansing.

■ **POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:** Worked as an aide to State Rep. Dan Gustafson, has worked on several statewide ballot initiatives, ran against State Rep. David Mead in 1998.

■ **BIGGEST ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE:** Land use

■ **GOALS:** Palsrok says he wants to focus on the economy and look at ways to keep businesses in the district and in the state. He also wants to look at the size of state government and find ways to reduce it.



NICK KRIEGER Democrat

- **AGE:** 24
- **RESIDENCE:** Ludington
- **EDUCATION:**

Bachelor's degree in entomology from Michigan State University.

Currently a law student at Wayne State University.

PROFESSION:

Law student, taking a semester off for campaign.

■ **POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:** Head of student government at Michigan State University, ran against State Rep. David Mead in 1998.

■ **BIGGEST ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE:** Protecting farmland and open space.

■ **GOALS:** Krieger says he first wants to make the state legislature a part-time job with corresponding pay cuts. He also wants to protect farmland and increase Medicaid reimbursement.



102nd DISTRICT

(Wexford, Osceola, Mecosta, Isabella and most of Midland counties)

PAUL CHALLENGER Democrat

- **AGE:** 46
- **RESIDENCE:** Big Rapids
- **EDUCATION:**

Graduated from Big Rapids High School in 1974

PROFESSION:

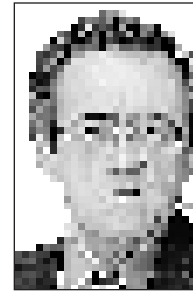
Works at Mark IV, an auto parts manufacturer in Big Rapids.

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:

Current co-chairman of the Mecosta County Democratic Party and vice president of the United Auto Workers Local 389 in Big Rapids.

■ **WHAT'S THE BIGGEST ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE IN YOUR DISTRICT AND WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT IT?** The Perrier bottled water plant in Mecosta County diverting water from the Lake Michigan watershed. Now that the plant is open, I don't see anything outside of federal courts that could stop it. But I would push to have the company pay royalties on the water that would go into an environmental fund.

■ **GOALS:** I'd like to see more tax relief for family farmers and would like to see education opportunities expanded with more adequate funding for all levels.



RICK JOHNSON Republican

- **AGE:** 49
- **RESIDENCE:** LeRoy
- **EDUCATION:**

Graduated from Pine River High School in 1971.

PROFESSION:

Christmas tree farmer.

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:

Served on Pine River school board, 1980-86; Osceola County Board of Commissioners, 1986-94; Michigan Farm Bureau state board of directors, 1994-98; State House of Representatives, 1998-present; Speaker of the House, 2001-present.

■ **WHAT'S THE BIGGEST ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE IN YOUR DISTRICT AND WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT IT?** I want to make sure we don't put undue regulations on agriculture. Farmers do more for the environment than any other group. We plant trees, put in filter strips along the streams and take care of the waste generated on our farms. We're continually finding ways to use less herbicides and we get little or no credit for it. We don't just talk about it like some of these environmental groups. And along the way, we feed the world.

■ **GOALS:** I want to keep our education system strong, make health-care issues more front and center and look at some land use issues, as well.



103rd DISTRICT

(Missaukee, Roscommon, Ogemaw and Iosco counties)

DALE E. SHELTRON Democrat

- **AGE:** 61
- **RESIDENCE:** West Branch
- **EDUCATION:** Graduated from West

Branch High School in 1958 and received a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Michigan State University in 1965.

PROFESSION:

State representative; formerly was co-owner of Century 21 Horizon Realty in West Branch for 20 years.

■ **POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:** Ogemaw County commissioner, 1974-82 and 1988-98; Edwards Township supervisor from 1985-88; member of state commission on aging from 1980-92; elected to state House in 1998.

■ **WHAT'S THE BIGGEST ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE IN YOUR DISTRICT AND WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT IT?** Water quality. We've got a statewide \$1 billion bonding proposal for the installation of sewers with a portion earmarked for rural Michigan. This will help with the overcrowding of septic systems that have built up in the past 20 years. A lot of the lakes and rivers need some type of sewer system.

■ **GOALS:** Follow through on bovine tuberculosis problem. Proceed with program to eradicate it. Increase the testing of wildlife and get MSU involved more to do on-site testing to find out how long it's living and the best way to kill the virus.



KEN CARLSON Republican

- **AGE:** 48
- **RESIDENCE:** Roscommon
- **EDUCATION:**

Graduated from Gerrish-Higgins High School in 1972; has taken correspondence courses in motel management.

PROFESSION:

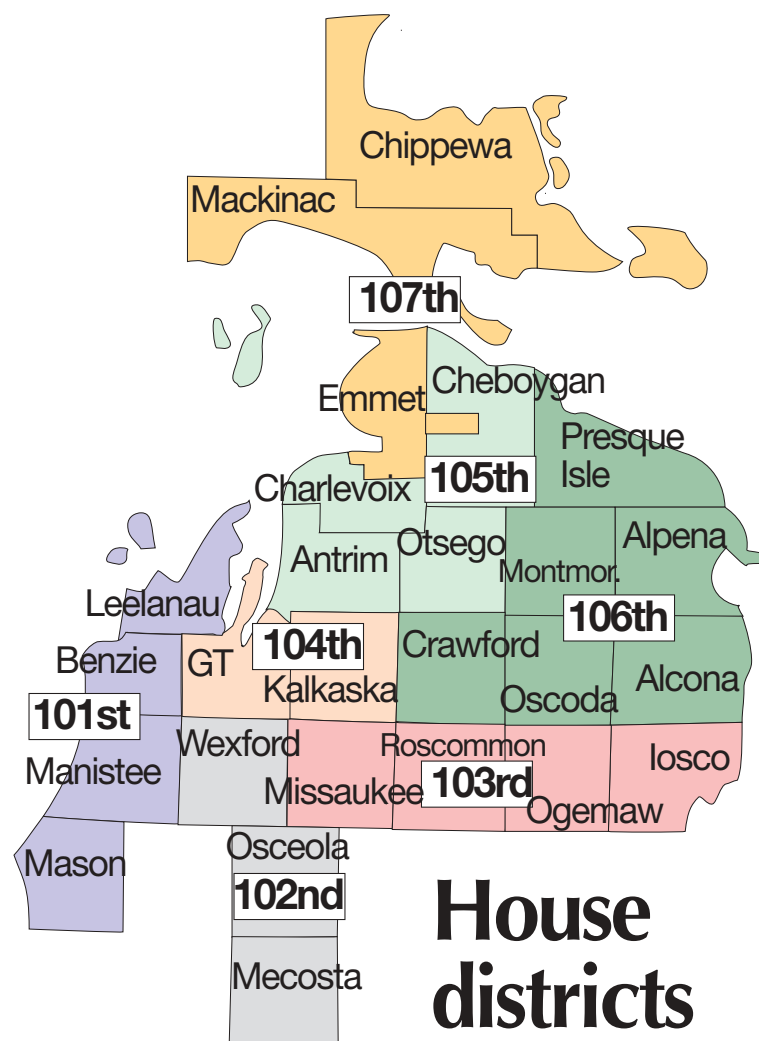
Delivery contractor for the United States Postal System.

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:

Gerrish Township trustee, 1980-84; Gerrish Township supervisor, 1988-2000; precinct delegate for the Republican party.

■ **WHAT'S THE BIGGEST ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE IN YOUR DISTRICT AND WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT IT?** I don't prioritize issues, because everyone believes the environmental issue that most affects them is the most important. But one of the big issues is taking care of wastewater and protecting our inland lakes and rivers. That's what brings people to northern Michigan. It would be an economic disaster if we lose those assets. We need to make sure local units of government have the bureaucracy and red tape removed so they can update their sewers and make other improvements in a timely fashion.

■ **GOALS:** To simply make sure the district is well represented in Lansing and the representation reflects the conservative values of the 103rd district.



House districts