

# Aaron Stephens

E: StephensForEL@gmail.com

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157 Kedzie Street, East Lansing MI

## Education

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2014 - Present Michigan State University, Political Science/Pre-Law

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Hillary for America**, Ingham/Eaton county, MI

November 2016 to December 2016

**Regional Organizing Director**

- Oversaw the recount on behalf of Hillary Clinton in both Ingham and Eaton counties from our state headquarters, keeping track of data, made and maintained spreadsheets and reported this accordingly.
- Organized, recruited and trained over 100 volunteers to be observers during the recount proceedings.
- Managed site leads and staff members for both counties, kept them on goal and tracked their progress.

**The Michigan Democratic Party**, Lansing, MI

August 2016 to November 2016

**Hillary for America & Michigan Democratic Coordinated Campaign**, Campus/Field Organizer

- Developed and executed a team-inspired plan to register students at Michigan State University and in Ingham County; over 9,000 new voter registrations.
- Conducted ground operations for the campaign, leading to almost 70% turnout for Michigan State University students, heavily in favor of Secretary Clinton., a 30% increase from the 2012 Obama campaign.
- Planned and supervised Hillary Clinton surrogate events, attended by several thousand students.
- Oversaw and managed aspiring fellows – tracked their goals, events, hiring of interns, and training of volunteers, and supervised an eventual staff of over 25.

**Michigan for Bernie**, Lansing, MI

August 2015 to March 2016

**President and Founder, Students for Sanders**

- Played a pivotal role for the grassroots movement in what some deem one of the "biggest political upsets in modern history" in regards to Bernie Sanders winning the Michigan Primary for the 2016 Democratic nomination.
- Organized and managed a \$60,000 rally at Michigan State University for Senator Bernie Sanders; introduced Senator Sanders to an audience of over 13,000 people.
- Managed and maintained a grassroots campaign that included over 800 people.

**Michigan Senate**, Lansing, MI

May 2016 to August 2016

**Michigan Democratic Central Staff**, Legislative Intern

- Worked directly under the Director of Special Projects, working towards creating strategic plans for pertinent issue areas and future campaign strategies.
- Provided personal input and research into contentious and divisive issues.
- Helped frame legislation on the basis of research; formulated verbiage to be used in legislation introduced.

**Institute of Public Policy**, East Lansing, MI

May 2016 to August 2016

**Office of Research and Publications**, Fellowship

- Conducted research on a range of issues, specifically focusing on legislation and movements in the area of social welfare.
- Drafted and published article summaries, individual stories, and idea-based discussions.
- Participated in and contributed to discussions regarding policy with politicians, government officials, and others on a weekly basis.

**Michigan House of Representatives**, Lansing, MI

**November 2015 to May 2016**

**Office of Representative Gretchen Driskell, Constituent Relations Intern**

- Managed and tracked all Democratic legislation for Michigan State Representatives, including if the bill were in committee, if the bill became law, and how each representative voted.
- Drafted constituent letters, public releases of information, and legislative tributes each month on a variety of issues.
- Conducted research, analysis, and briefings on legislation and bills.

## **Involvement/Activities**

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- Candidate - Aaron Stephens for East Lansing City Council
- Volunteer at Burcham Hills Retirement Center
- Member of the Human Relations Commission in East Lansing
- Served on the Community Development Advisory Committee in East Lansing
- Participant - Bold Progressives, National Candidate Training with the Progressive Change Campaign Committee
- Facilitator - National Communications Team, Ready for 100 campaign with the Sierra Club
- Consulted, helped and advised several campaigns including but not limited to:
  - Elissa Slotkin for Congress, Voters not Politicians anti-gerrymandering effort, Sierra Club's Ready for 100 campaign, several on-campus movements and several local office candidates
- Founded the Coalition for Higher Mental Health Standards
  - Student-based group focused on advocacy for Mental Health Resources on Michigan State University's campus.
- Host/Organizer – Sexual Assault Student Town Hall
  - Called upon Michigan State University to host an open town hall and discussion on the issue of sexual assault.
  - Using media resources, coalition based support, and other methods, created an event attended by students, the Title IX office, Sexual Assault Program, Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Prevention program, MSU Safe Place, Vice President of Student Affairs and the Office of the President.
- Former Caring and enriching hearts Inc. leader
  - Focused on collecting household items and personal care products for mothers without resources for their children.
- Former RAYA (Rochester Area Youth Assistance) Leader advocating suicide awareness, drug abuse and other pertinent issues to the young population.