



**EMBARGOED UNTIL 5AM Tuesday 7/29**

**Contact:** [press@donavanforcongress.com](mailto:press@donavanforcongress.com)

**STATE REP. DONAVAN McKINNEY ANNOUNCES  
30+ NEW ENDORSEMENTS, TOTALING OVER 65  
FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL ELECTED  
OFFICIALS, UNIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND  
COMMUNITY LEADERS**

***With his latest round of 33 unique endorsements, including another major union, Rep. McKinney continues to solidify his frontrunner status to replace corrupt incumbent Shri Thanedar with near-universal community backing***

**DETROIT, MI** — State Representative Donovan McKinney, candidate for Michigan's 13th Congressional district, announced 33 new endorsements from federal, state, and local elected officials, unions, organizations, and community leaders today, just 3 months after launching his campaign for Congress. With over 65 endorsers from all backgrounds and all corners of the Mighty 13th district, McKinney's big tent Democratic coalition and his strong grassroots support in the district is making clear to a national audience what those who know Rep. McKinney have long known: from Detroit to Downriver and beyond, McKinney is the people's choice.

Rep. McKinney today has received endorsements from the following elected officials: Former Congressman Andy Levin, Wayne Mayor John Rhaesa, Wayne-Westland School Board Member Shannon Rochon, Romulus City Councilwoman Tina Tally, Romulus School Board President Porsche Laster, Romulus School Board Vice President Paris McCarthy, Highland Park Council President Jamal Thomas, Highland Park Councilmember Tameko Manica, Highland Park Council President Pro Tem Sharmain Robinson, Highland Park Councilmember Kallela Martin, Highland Park

Councilmember Khursheed Ash-Shafii, Dearborn Heights Councilmember Denise Maxwell, President of the Dearborn Heights School Board Mary Beth Beltowski, Taylor School Board Vice President Korey Morris, Former County Commissioner Illona Varga, Former State Rep. Leslie Love, Former VP of the Dearborn Heights School Board Latanya Gater, Ecorse Councilmember Roger Parker Sr., Former Ecorse City Councilman DeVonte Sherod, State Representative Jason Morgan, State Representative Carrie Rheingans, State Representative Mike McFall, Grosse Pointe Woods Precinct Delegate James Rine, Allen Park Precinct Delegate Bridget Schlack, and Grosse Pointe Park Precinct Delegate Nicholas Barnes. McKinney has also received endorsements from Robert Smith Jr., Senior Pastor of The Historic New Bethel Baptist Church, and Pastor Barry Randolph, Church of the Messiah Detroit.

Rep. McKinney also announced his newest labor union endorsement from the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers (SMART) union, as well as organizational endorsements from progressive groups including Our Revolution, MI Revolution, A New Policy PAC, Patriotic Millionaires, Tax PAC, Peace Action, and Beyond the Ballot.

“What we are building is truly a people-powered, people-first movement, and I am honored and humbled to see our support amongst elected officials, unions and organizations, and community leaders double in just our first few months of this campaign,” said **State Representative Donovan McKinney**. “From our 6,800+ individual contributors to our 65+ endorsers, we have the people with us, and our movement is proving that one single multimillionaire who aligns himself with Republicans and their values more than his own constituents is no match for a community united for a better future. From Detroit to Downriver and beyond, southeastern Michiganders deserve better, and I’m committed to working shoulder-to-shoulder alongside our community to get us there.”

Joining today’s newest endorsements in supporting McKinney’s campaign are national progressive leaders like U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders, as well as wide-ranging federal, state, county, and local leaders spanning nearly every corner of the 13th Congressional district including: Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, State Senator Darrin Camilleri, State Senator Mary Cavanagh, State Senator Stephanie Chang, State Senator Veronica Klinefelt, State Senator Sylvia Santana, State Senator Senator Paul Wojno, Detroit Caucus Chair and State Representative Stephanie Young, State Representative Erin Byrnes, State Representative Kimberly Edwards, State Representative Alabas Farhat, State Representative Peter Herzberg, State Representative Matt Koleszar, State Representative Tullio Liberati, State Representative Tonya Myers-Phillips, State Representative Veronica Paiz, State Representative Laurie Pohutsky, State Representative Dylan Wegela, former Majority Floor Leader State Representative

Abraham Aiyash, former State Representative Jaime Churches, former State Representative Alberta Tinsley-Talabi, Wayne County Commissioner Alex Garza, Wayne County Commissioner David Knezek, Wayne County Commissioner Allen Wilson, Wyandotte Mayor Pro Tempore Kelly Stec, Southgate City Councilwoman Victoria Araj, Southgate City Councilwoman Priscilla Ayres-Reiss, Dearborn Heights City Councilwoman Nancy Bryer, Wyandotte City Councilman Chris Calvin, Wyandotte City Councilwoman Adriana Cerulla, Allen Park City Councilman Gary Schlack, and Wayne-Westland School Board Member At-Large Melandie Hines.

Rep. McKinney has also received the endorsements of labor unions and organizations like SEIU Michigan State Council (which includes all four Michigan Locals: SEIU Healthcare Michigan, the biggest healthcare union in Michigan with over 30,000 members; 517M; 526M; and Local 1). He has also been endorsed by [Justice Democrats](#), the national grassroots progressive organization that recruited and helped take on corporate-backed politicians with working class champions like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Summer Lee, and Rashida Tlaib.

The incumbent, Shri Thanedar, is a self-funded multimillionaire who has more in common with Donald Trump and Elon Musk than the community he was elected to represent. Since 2021, Thanedar has spent [over \\$17 million](#) of his own wealth to bankroll his Congressional campaigns while spending [more taxpayer money than any other member of Congress](#) last year on ads to promote himself. As a result, Thanedar [reimbursed himself](#) nearly half a million dollars from House taxpayer dollars and [over 50%](#) of his 2024 Congressional expenses went to advertising and printing, while the average House member [spent 5%](#) on similar expenses. His outrageous taxpayer spending on self-promotion is the multimillionaire shortcut to compensate for his office consistently being plagued with [accusations of poor constituent services](#) – the [focus of much of his ad spending](#). As if his own millions weren't enough, Thanedar has also taken money from corporate PACs representing [Big Pharma](#), [corporate defense contractors](#), and local utility monopolies raising prices on everyday people like [DTE Energy](#). Thanedar embodies everything wrong with Congress and what voters are fed up with, out-of-touch politicians who cannot be expected to stand up for working class people under attack because their priority is lining the pockets of themselves and their donors.

*Donavan McKinney is a lifelong Detroiter, proud husband to the love of his life Shaunté, and devoted father of two young children. He grew up in northeast Detroit, and was raised by his mother and grandmother, where poverty wages led to many evictions and forced his family to move over 13 times. He is a proud product of Detroit Public Schools, and proud to be the first in the family that raised him to become a college graduate (Go Blue!). He is a former leader and member of SEIU Healthcare*

*Michigan, the largest healthcare union in the state. In January 2020, he made history with [his appointment](#) to Michigan's first Environment Justice Council by Governor Gretchen Whitmer, where he was instrumental in Gov. Whitmer's \$2 million Water Restart Grant Program and her statewide Water Reconnection Executive Order during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, McKinney launched a successful campaign to win his seat in Michigan's 11th State House District, and won re-election in 2024. Representing parts of both Wayne and Macomb County as State Rep, McKinney was [one of the two first Black leaders](#) to represent the latter in the state legislature. He credits his career in service to his mother, grandmother, and his surrounding community for coming together to invest in him despite their lack of resources and he wants to ensure Washington does the same for every family in this district. His campaign launch video can be found [here](#).*

*Follow his campaign on [X](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Bluesky](#), and [YouTube](#).*

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