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Libertarian C. Mia Pettus Launches Campaign for Michigan's 8th Congressional District

BY JORDAN WILLOW EVANS ON AUGUST 23, 2026 9:32 AM



Libertarian C. Mia Pettus has launched her campaign for the U.S. House in Michigan's 8th Congressional District, saying she will focus on local economic growth and affordability, strengthening oversight of the federal government, and pushing back against the threat of a surveillance state.

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BY JORDAN WILLOW

Pettus [first announced her candidacy](#) earlier this month in a statement she later provided to Independent Political Report. In it, Pettus said she is entering the race to draw attention to issues she feels are not being appropriately addressed by the political establishment, as well as to offer Michigan voters in the 8th District another choice on the ballot.

“Public office is a public trust,” Pettus stated in an included press release. “I am running to represent the people of Michigan with integrity, transparency, accountability, and fidelity to the Constitution—not to become part of the political establishment.”

Though she didn’t announce her bid until earlier this month, Pettus had already earned the nomination of the Libertarian Party of Michigan at its June 28 state convention in Troy. She is part of a large slate of candidates fielded by Michigan Libertarians this cycle—with [30 earning the party’s support](#) at the state convention alone—and one of seven Libertarians currently running for Congress in the state.

According to [her campaign website](#), Pettus previously worked as a certified police officer in Philadelphia and later as a civilian federal police officer for the Department of Defense. She says those experiences, along with later efforts to challenge government policies and procedures through administrative processes, helped shape her interest in due process, oversight, and the way public institutions exercise their authority.

That background has also influenced her work outside of law enforcement. Pettus publishes [PALS Report](#), shorthand for “Protecting American Liberty Against Surveillance,” an online publication focused on civil liberties and privacy issues, whistleblower retaliation, and what she calls the “weaponization of government.” Since starting the publication, she has specifically written on topics including the impact of [Flock cameras](#), warrantless [surveillance at the University of Michigan](#), and the reach of federal surveillance powers under [FISA](#)

EVANS ON AUGUST 29,
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BY ROBIN OPSAHL,
IOWACAPITALDISPATCH.CO
ON AUGUST 28, 2026
1:26 PM

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[Section 702.](#)

Those themes are further prevalent in her campaign, which argues that stronger congressional oversight and greater transparency are necessary pieces of rebuilding public trust and protecting individuals from government overreach. Pettus has similarly made opposition to government surveillance and the “surveillance state” a central part of her campaign, particularly where she believes Fourth Amendment protections are being weakened.

On economic issues, Pettus, who says she has experience with developing a business, states she is tying the cost of living to what she sees as a need for stronger domestic production and job growth. Her platform calls for lowering the cost of essential needs and healthcare while advocating for small businesses and expanded manufacturing and skilled-trades work, with the eventual goal of seeing more overseas jobs return to the United States.

“I understand the challenges Michigan families face because I have lived through many of them myself,” her campaign website reads. “From building a business, facing financial hardship, raising a child with a disability, and experiencing the struggles that many hardworking Americans encounter, I know what it means to fight, persevere, and find solutions.”

Pettus also identifies securing the national border, maintaining a prepared military, energy independence, and infrastructure among her campaign priorities, all of which she lists as part of her focus on “securing America’s future.”

As the Libertarian Party of Michigan’s nominee, Pettus will appear on the general election ballot later this year without needing to collect additional petition signatures for ballot access. She will join Democratic incumbent Kristen McDonald Rivet, as well as Republican Tom Smith, Green Party candidate Jim Casha, and Working Class Party

Ballot Requirement

BY JORDAN WILLOW
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2026 10:09 AM

Reform Party Makes Candidate Endorsements in Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Montana

BY JORDAN WILLOW
EVANS ON AUGUST 26,
2026 9:46 AM

Libertarian National Committee Elects Seven to Convention Oversight, Fills Audit Committee Vacancy

BY JORDAN WILLOW
EVANS ON AUGUST 26,
2026 9:46 AM

New Iowa Libertarian Nominee Jacob Heard Vows to Fight for Spot on

candidate Kathy Goodwin.

Jordan Willow Evans

Jordan Willow Evans is an editor and policy analyst based in Goffstown, New Hampshire. She serves as managing editor of Independent Political Report and executive director of the Outsider Media Foundation, a nonprofit news organization focused on independent and alternative political movements. She has studied third parties and political outsiders since her student years.

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3rd District
Ballot

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DRAISEY,
IOWACAPITALDISPATCH.CO
ON AUGUST 24, 2026
3:57 PM

Communist
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Conference

BY JORDAN WILLOW
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Former Green
Nominee Jill
Stein Ordered
to Appear in
Person in
Missouri
Misdemeanor
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Disaffiliation

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Libertarian Party of Arkansas Calls for End to Warrantless License Plate Surveillance

BY JORDAN WILLOW
EVANS ON AUGUST 19,
2026 10:56 AM

Green National Committee Considers Young Ecosocialist Henry Pratt for Finance Committee

BY JORDAN WILLOW
EVANS ON AUGUST 19,
2026 10:56 AM

Libertarian National Committee Backs Oxnard Councilmember Aaron Starr Against Recall

Effort

BY JORDAN WILLOW
EVANS ON AUGUST 19,
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Indiana Secretary of State Debates to Include Libertarian, Lincoln Party Nominees

BY NIKI KELLY,
INDIANACAPITALCHRONICI
ON AUGUST 18, 2026
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Communist Party USA Calls for Senate Action on Haitian TPS Legislation

BY JORDAN WILLOW
EVANS ON AUGUST 16,
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Derrick Michael Reid Announces 2028 Libertarian Presidential Bid

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Reform Party Endorses Independent Sarah Zabel in Idaho Congressional Race

BY JORDAN WILLOW
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Why Is the Green Party Trying to Kick a Green Party Candidate off the Ballot in the Pennsylvania?

BY IAN KARBAL,
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14, 2026 1:03 PM

Iowa Libertarians Nominate New Candidates for Lt. Governor, 3rd District

BY ROBIN OPSAHL,
IOWACAPITALDISPATCH.CO
ON AUGUST 14, 2026
12:38 AM

***Constitution
Party of West
Virginia
Announces
Candidate
Slate for
November
Election***

BY JORDAN WILLOW
EVANS ON AUGUST 13,
2026 8:15 AM

***Free New
Mexico Party
Adopts
Resolution
Affirming
State Affiliate
Autonomy***

BY JORDAN WILLOW
EVANS ON AUGUST 12,
2026 10:41 AM

***New Jersey
Supreme
Court Leaves
Libertarian
Lana Leguía
Off
Congressional
Ballot***

BY JORDAN WILLOW
EVANS ON AUGUST 12,
2026 9:00 AM

***Constitution,
We the People***

Parties No Longer Qualify as Oregon Political Parties

BY JULIA SHUMWAY,
OREGONCAPITALCHRONICLE
ON AUGUST 10, 2026
8:14 AM

Journalist Sam Hussein Launches Green Party Bid for Maryland's 4th Congressional District

BY JORDAN WILLOW
EVANS ON AUGUST 9,
2026 9:46 AM

Stephen Villee Completes New Hampshire Gubernatorial Petition Drive With Support From Independent Libertarian Group

BY JORDAN WILLOW
EVANS ON AUGUST 9,

2026 8:48 AM

***Pennsylvania
Libertarian
Gubernatorial
Ticket
Qualifies for
November
Ballot***

BY JORDAN WILLOW
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2026 8:48 AM

ORIGINAL INTERVIEWS

***IPR Interview:
Jacob Anders
Discusses Ballot
Disqualification,
Lawsuit, and
Independent
Campaign in
Tennessee's 4th
District***

BY JORDAN WILLOW
EVANS ON JUNE 9, 2026
10:56 AM

***IPR Interview:
Randall Terry
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Arrest, Divorce,
and a Life of
Protest***

BY JOSEPH BUCHMAN,
PHD ON DECEMBER 26,
2025 6:20 PM

***Constitution
Party's 2024
Nominee
Randall Terry
to Lead
Training Effort
for Pro-life
2026
Congressional
Candidates***

BY JOSEPH BUCHMAN,
PHD ON DECEMBER 2,
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***IPR Interview:
Constitution
Party Campaign
Director Joe
Slovenec re:
Ballot Access,
Ice-T
“Endorsement”
of Randall Terry***

BY JOSEPH BUCHMAN,
PHD ON JULY 12, 2024 4:09
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