



## KENNETH R. SIKKEMA

### SENIOR POLICY FELLOW

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#### EDUCATION

Harvard University, BA in History, *cum laude*

University of Michigan School of Business Administration, MBA with distinction

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#### POSITION WITH FIRM

**2007–present**     **Senior Policy Fellow.** Provides strategic advice and counsel to organizations seeking to advance Michigan’s public policy agenda in innovative and creative ways. Areas of concentration include public finance, environment, and energy policy.

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#### PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**2002–2006**     **Michigan Senate Majority Leader.** Established issue agenda, decided legislative and political strategies, appointed committees, and determined bill assignments. Responsible for \$37 million Senate budget and 434 employees. Worked with the governor and Speaker of the House to determine spending priorities for the State of Michigan and enact annual state budget of \$42 billion. Balanced four budgets in times of stagnant state economy and divided government. Launched new initiatives for economic diversification, environmental protection, and tax reductions for businesses and individuals. Strengthened high school graduation requirements. Revitalized Senate’s constitutional role to advise and consent regarding gubernatorial appointments. Chair of Legislative Council, Government Operations Committee.

**1998–2002**     **Michigan State Senator.** Led efforts establishing new and innovative environmental policies related to Great Lakes protection and water quality. Chaired the Great Lakes Conservation Task Force, which issued *The Citizens’ Agenda: An Action Plan to Protect the Great Lakes*, establishing an environmental action plan for Michigan’s future and recommending 64 action steps. As vice chair of the Technology and Energy Committee, was instrumental in the passage of new laws creating a competitive market for electricity and telecommunications. Formed Citizens for Michigan’s Future, a nonprofit organization focused on education and advocacy in the areas of education, the environment, technology, and the economy. Chair of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee, Great Lakes Conservation Task Force. Vice Chair of Technology and Energy Committee. Member of Government Operations Committee, Legislative Council, and Reapportionment Committee.

- 1996–1998**      **House Republican Leader**, *Michigan House of Representatives*, Lansing, Michigan. Established agenda for Republican Caucus. Determined legislative and political strategies and recommended Republican committee assignments to the Speaker of the House. Responsible for House Republican budget of \$7 million and 200 employees. Major accomplishments include new funding for transportation, reduction of state income tax, new laws regulating casinos, and greater sanctions on drunken driving. Member of Legislative Council.
- 1994–1996**      **Majority Floor Leader**, *Michigan House of Representatives*, Lansing, Michigan. Established daily legislative calendar for bills and was responsible for floor strategy. Attended weekly meetings with the governor, Speaker of the House, and Senate leaders to determine legislative priorities and strategies. Sponsored innovative law on environmental cleanup and liability that has been cited as one of the most effective in the nation. Prime sponsor of legislation establishing an open presidential primary in Michigan.
- 1986–1994**      **State Representative**, *Michigan House of Representatives*, Lansing, Michigan. Active on a broad range of issues and sponsored bills signed into law promoting economic development, elections reform, crime prevention, private property rights protection, healthcare benefit expansion, environmental protection, and protection of the rights of the disabled.
- 1984–1986**      **Market Manager**, *Herman Miller Inc., Zeeland, Michigan*. Responsibilities included marketing focus on high-tech industries and development of new Herman Miller dealerships.
- 1979–1984**      **Executive Director**, *West Michigan Environmental Action Council*, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Responsible for all aspects of a member-based public interest organization, including fundraising, issue development, media strategies, and staff oversight.
- 1975–1979**      **Administrative Assistant**, *Michigan Senate*, Lansing, Michigan.
- 1974–1975**      **Legislative Assistant**, *Michigan House of Representatives*, Lansing, Michigan.

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## PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees, Saint Mary’s Hospital of Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2007 to present
- Visiting Professor of Michigan Politics and Policy, Grand Valley State University, 2008–2009
- Adjunct Professor of State Politics, Grand Valley State University, 2007

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## AWARDS AND HONORS

- Michigan Political Leadership Program, Leadership and Service Award, 2007
- Michigan Forest Products Council, Tuebor Award, 2006
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- Michigan Optometric Association, Legislator of the Year, 2005
- Habitat for Humanity of Michigan, Public Official of the Year, 2005
- Michigan Municipal League, Distinguished Achievement Award, 2003
- Michigan Townships Association, Legislator of the Year, 2002
- Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Legislator of the Year, 2002
- Michigan Alliance for Competitive Telecommunications, Outstanding Legislator Award, 2000
- Michigan Alliance for Fair Competition, Outstanding Legislator Award, 2000
- Small Business Association of Michigan, Legislator of the Year, 2000
- Michigan Manufacturers Association, Legislator of the Year, 2000