

# State Representative Brandt Iden

## Michigan House District 61



### Summary

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#### Legislative Biography

#### **DISTRICT**

State Representative Brandt Iden was first elected to serve the 61st District in the Michigan House of Representatives in November 2014. The 61st encompasses the city of Portage as well as the townships of Oshtemo, Prairie Ronde, Schoolcraft and Texas.

#### **COMMITTEES**

Rep. Iden serves the House as Chairman of the Regulatory Reform Committee. Rep. Iden also serves on the Commerce and Trade Committee, Oversight Committee, and Workforce and Talent Development Committee.

#### **EDUCATION**

Brandt is a graduate of Kalamazoo College with degrees in Political Science & Economics. Gaining a diverse education from Kalamazoo College offered Brandt a unique perspective into the relationship between citizens, businesses, and all facets of government.

**PROFESSIONAL**

Driven by a strong work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit, Brandt became a partner in Baron Builders Inc., a real estate development company shortly after he finished college. Utilizing his real estate experience and the knowledge gained from his time at Baron Builders, Brandt began a new venture and is currently the president of Identity Management & Consulting Inc., Real Estate Management Company.

**PUBLIC OFFICES AND AFFILIATIONS**

Brandt is a former Kalamazoo County Commissioner, having served in this position for two terms before his election to the House of Representatives. He is passionate about community engagement, economic development, and ensuring that kids have the tools that they need to succeed professionally later in life. Brandt has dedicated himself to local organizations that focus on youth empowerment, financial education and developing community leaders. He has served on the boards of Junior Achievement of Southwest Michigan, a nonprofit organization that gives K-12 students skills for career readiness and financial literacy, as well as Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Kalamazoo. Brandt strongly believes that educational enrichment for kids is a fundamental component of community involvement, and that engagement, both inside and outside of the classroom, are the cornerstones for students’ success.

**PERSONAL**

Brandt was born and raised in Southwest Michigan. He’s an avid outdoorsman and enjoys many of the great outdoor resources the state of Michigan offers, including skiing, hunting and fishing.

[Michigan GOP House, [Accessed 8/15/18](#)]

**ALEC membership/ties**

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- Attended annual ALEC conference in Denver, 2017

**ALEC model legislation authored/sponsored**

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Bill	ALEC Model	Description	Notes
<a href="#">HJR V of 2017</a>	Article V Convention of the States	Calls for constitutional convention of the states	Very similar to ALEC legislation
<a href="#">HB 4429 of 2015</a> / SB 1,2,3 (2015)	Prevailing Wage Repeal Act	Repeals all laws that require administratively determined employee compensation rates, including wages, salaries and benefits.	Contains elements of ALEC template

- **In 2017, Rep. Iden sponsored a bill calling a constitutional convention to add a “balanced budget” amendment to the U.S. Constitution.** Iden sponsored HJR V, which calls for a constitutional convention to add a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. The introduction of HJR V represents a mostly conservative movement to hold a national convention that aims to limit the federal government’s ability to operate on a deficit. If successful, one result could be a fundamental shift of power to the states and permanent loss of many federal programs. ALEC has cheered on the idea of a constitutional convention for years, passing multiple resolutions calling for changes to the constitution, hosting workshops and handbooks and even draft resolutions laying out proposed rules of procedure. [*Salon*, [11/11/2017](#); Bill Moyers, [8/3/2017](#) ; [HJR V, referred to second reading, 9/13/2017](#)]
- **In 2015, Rep. Iden introduced a bill to repeal Michigan’s prevailing wage.** In 2015, Iden sponsored HB 4429, which repealed Michigan’s prevailing wage laws. Prevailing-wage laws require that union-scale wages are paid on construction projects that use state taxpayer dollars. According to the Detroit Free Press, “Gov. Rick Snyder expressed concern about [a repeal] depressing wages at the same time he has been encouraging those looking for jobs to explore skilled trades.” ALEC has long made prevailing wage repeals a part of its corporate agenda. HB 4429 is mirrors ALEC’s model bill the Prevailing Wage Repeal Act. [*Detroit Free Press*, [5/4/2015](#); HB 4429, [Referred to committee, 4/14/2015](#)]

#### Additional Items

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**In 2015, Rep. Brandt Iden both managed an apartment complex infested with bed bugs & introduced legislation to protect property owners from incurring costs associated with bed bug pest control.** According to WLNS, in 2015 Brandt Iden was “Project Director” for a South Lansing apartment complex infested with bed bugs and black mold. After the original owner lost the property in April 2015, Grand Rapids-based Amicus Management took over to manage the property. From WLNS, “Tenants say the day Amicus took over a representative handed out copies of a sheet to everyone stating that Amicus was now in charge of property management, billing questions and rent payment...On the paper passed out in April Brandt Iden is named as the project director.” In 2015 Iden introduced HB 4520, a bill protecting landlords from incurring the cost of pest control in regard to bed bugs. [WLNS, [10/22/15](#); Michigan Votes, [2015 HB 4520, Introduced 4/28/15](#)]

**Michigan Representative Brandt Iden was convicted of driving while intoxicated when he was twenty-six. Five years later, while running for the Michigan state legislature, Iden lied about the conviction on his ML Voter Questionnaire.** The MLive Voter Guide asks candidates if they have ever been arrested and also if they have ever been convicted of or pleaded no contest to a crime. Iden answered "no" to both questions. After a reporter discovered Rep. Brandt Iden’s conviction during a Michigan State Police background check, Iden issued the following statement, "Not owning up to my mistake from many years ago with MLive is unfortunate. My motivation for not mentioning it was nothing more than to avoid embarrassment for myself and my family" [MLive, [10/17/14](#)].

**In reaction to the infamous 2005 Access Hollywood tape that revealed Donald Trump used his celebrity status to grope women, Michigan Representative Iden stated that he found Trump’s comments “vile and disgusting.” But that didn’t stop Rep. Iden from voting for Trump.** Explaining his reasoning, Iden stated, "As in the past, I haven't supported everything that Mr. Trump has said, but I still think that he has the qualifications to lead our country forward and so I'll be voting for him" [MLive, [10/14/16](#)].