



**State Senator**  
**PATRICIA L. BIRKHOLZ**  
**R-24th Senate District**



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**Committees:** Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs (Chair); Local, Urban and State Affairs (Vice Chair); Agriculture and Bioeconomy; Energy Policy and Public Utilities

**Biography:** Republican, of Saugatuck Township; born January 28, 1944, at Allegan; B.S., Western Michigan University; children, Brent, Eric, Jason; member, First Congregational Church, Saugatuck; Allegan County treasurer, 1992-1996; district staff to U.S. Congressman Fred Upton, 1990-1992; Saugatuck Township: Parks and Recreation Commission, 1972-1980, trustee, 1980-1982, treasurer, 1982-1992; Saugatuck Township Parks and Recreation Commission, 1972-1980; speech pathologist, Child Development Services, Ottawa County Head Start; Michigan State Parks Advisory Board, chair 1996, member 1989-1997; Foundation for Michigan State Parks; Allegan Rotary, member, president 1996; Kids Hope USA Mentor; Bowhay Legislative Leadership Development Institute, 1997; Michigan Manufacturers Association Rookie of the Year, 1997; Michigan Municipal League Distinguished Achievement Award, 1998; Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Michigan, 1999; *Business Direct Weekly's* Most Influential Woman Award, 1999; the National Federation of Independent Business 2000 "Guardian of Small Business"; Michigan Society of Planning Outstanding Planning and Land Use Leadership Award, 2001; Michigan Township Association 2001 "Legislator of the Year Award"; Michigan Association of Regions Outstanding Legislator, 2002; Community Economic Development Association of Michigan "CED Advocate of the Year", 2002; Michigan Recreation and Park Association Legislator of the Year, 2003; Michigan League of Conservation Voters Environmental Leadership Award, 2002 and 2004; Michigan Manufacturers Association Legislator of the Year, 2004; one of the "50 Most Influential Women in Western Michigan" by the Grand Rapids Business Journal, 2002 and 2006; Fight Crime-Invest in Kids Legislator of the Year, 2005; DADS and MOMS of Michigan 2005 Legislator of the Year; Alliance for the Great Lakes, 2005 Great Lakes Ally of the Year Policy Award; Michigan Environmental Health Association Distinguished Service Award, 2005; Michigan Council of Foundations Land Use Funders Dedicated Advocate, 2006; Michigan Farm Bureau Silver Plow Award, 2003, 2006, and 2008; Michigan United Conservation Clubs Legislative Conservationist of the Year, 2004 and 2006; Great Lakes Commission member; Karmanos Cancer Institute Heart of Breast Cancer Leadership Award, 2008; Land Conservatory of West Michigan Mary Jane Dockeray Award, 2008; Council of State Governments: chair of Midwestern Legislative Conference, 2006-2007, Environment and Natural Resources Committee member; Great Lakes Legislative Caucus, founder and chair; co-chair, Michigan Legislative Children's Caucus; elected to the House of Representatives, 1996, 1998, 2000; Assistant Republican Floor Leader, 1997; Speaker Pro Tempore, 1999-2002; elected to the State Senate, 2002, 2006; President Pro Tempore 2003-2007.

