

Get the Facts

Claim	Backup
Bridget Brink is the granddaughter of a Lansing autoworker.	<p><u>"Bridget Brink on Leading in a War Zone & the Importance of Diplomacy," Amanda Sloat and Nathalie Tocci, IE University, 11/25/2025</u></p> <p>But my grandfather became an auto worker and he worked in the auto plant that actually is basically right across from where I live now. And he went to high school also nearby where I am now. And then he met my grandmother in Lansing, and they met in an ice cream shop, and they had a single daughter and my mother she was born here in Lansing, and she actually also went to Michigan State.</p>
Raised by a single mom and living with her grandparents to make ends meet,	<p><u>"Ex-Ambassador to Ukraine Bridget Brink launches bid for Congress in mid-Michigan," Melissa Nann Burke, The Detroit News, 6/18/2025</u></p> <p>Brink, 55, grew up in west Michigan, raised by a single mom on the lakeshore in Spring Lake and, "to make ends meet," they lived in Grand Rapids with her grandparents.</p>
Bridget worked her way through college	<p><u>"Bridget Brink," EMILY's List</u></p> <p>As the daughter of a Michigan public school teacher, Bridget is a strong believer in the power of education. She attended Michigan public schools and worked her way through college with grants, scholarships, and part-time jobs.</p>
and entered the U.S. Foreign Service.	<p><u>Bridget Brink, The American Academy of Diplomacy</u></p> <p>A proud Michigander, Bridget Brink dedicated her life to defending freedom and democracy in Europe after the fall of the Iron Curtain of communism as a U.S. Foreign Service officer for almost three decades. She served five presidents, was ambassador to the Slovak Republic and Ukraine, and retired as a Career Minister.</p>
For nearly thirty years, Brink fought for freedom and democracy,	<p><u>Bridget Brink, The American Academy of Diplomacy</u></p> <p>A proud Michigander, Bridget Brink dedicated her life to defending freedom and democracy in Europe after the fall of the Iron Curtain of communism as a U.S. Foreign Service officer for almost three decades. She served five presidents, was ambassador to the Slovak Republic and Ukraine, and retired as a Career Minister.</p>
including serving on President Obama's National Security Council	<p><u>"Ex-Ambassador to Ukraine Bridget Brink launches bid for Congress in mid-Michigan," Melissa Nann Burke, The Detroit News, 6/18/2025</u></p> <p>Her career has centered on European affairs, with assignments in Belgrade, Greece, Georgia, Turkey and Uzbekistan. She served on President Barack Obama's National Security Council, where she helped coordinate U.S. foreign policy and advance U.S. interests with Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia.</p>
and as the first female U.S. ambassador in a war zone.	<p><u>Bridget Brink, The American Academy of Diplomacy</u></p> <p>Ukraine, Bridget led the U.S. on-the ground effort to repel Russia's invasion, the biggest threat to the peace and security of Europe since World War II. She became the first woman to be ambassador in a war zone.</p>
For three years, Brink led the U.S. on-the-ground to defend Ukraine from Russia's invasion.	<p><u>Bridget Brink, The American Academy of Diplomacy</u></p> <p>Bridget was nominated and confirmed unanimously by the Senate to serve as Ambassador to the Slovak Republic from 2019 to 2022 and to Ukraine from 2022-2025. In Ukraine, Bridget led the U.S. on-the ground effort to repel Russia's invasion, the biggest threat to the peace and security of Europe since World War II. She became the first woman to be ambassador in a war zone. Under the threat of nearly nightly missiles</p>

	and drones, Bridget led her team to enable Ukraine to take back half of the land seized by Russia, keep the energy grid alive, and keep the economy running.
She resigned in protest of Donald Trump's appeasement of Russian dictator, Vladimir Putin.	<p><u>"Trump's Ukraine Policy Pressured 'the Victim,' Former Ambassador Says," Marc Santora, The New York Times, 5/16/2025</u></p> <p>In a scathing rebuke of the Trump administration's handling of the war in Ukraine, the former U.S. ambassador in Kyiv, Bridget A. Brink, wrote that she had resigned last month because she could not carry out a policy that "put pressure on the victim, Ukraine, rather than on the aggressor, Russia."</p> <p>"I cannot stand by while a country is invaded, a democracy bombarded and children killed with impunity," Ms. Brink wrote in an opinion essay published Friday in The Detroit Free Press. "Peace at any price is not peace at all — it is appeasement," she added.</p>
In Congress, Brink will fight to end Trump's costly and chaotic tariffs,	<p><u>"Lowering Costs and Investing in mid-Michigan," Bridget Brink for Congress</u></p> <p>In Congress, I will fight to: Roll back Trump's reckless tariffs, which have raised costs for all consumers and closed markets to mid-Michigan's agricultural exports.</p>
restore Trump's cuts to Medicaid,	<p><u>"Making Health Care More Affordable and Accessible," Bridget Brink for Congress</u></p> <p>In Congress, I will fight to: Repeal the Big Ugly Bill which kicks 25,000 people off of Medicaid in our district alone, and millions across the country.</p>
make health care more affordable,	<p><u>"Making Health Care More Affordable and Accessible," Bridget Brink for Congress</u></p> <p>In Congress, I will fight to: Fully extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits to bring down insurance costs for at least 24 million Americans who have had them double or even triple. Create a public health insurance option to give people the choice to buy a truly affordable coverage plan to compete with plans on the ACA marketplace. Force drug companies to negotiate with Medicare to lower costs for more prescription drugs. Cap the cost of insulin at \$35 for all Americans.</p>
and protect democracy.	<p><u>"Fighting Corruption and Defending Democracy," Bridget Brink for Congress</u></p> <p>In Congress, I will fight to: Ban accepting personal gifts of more than \$20 by all Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, and Judicial Branch officials, including, but not limited to, the President, Vice President, political appointees, Members of Congress, and Supreme Court Justices. Pass a Constitutional Amendment overturning the Citizens United decision, banning the unlimited spending of dark money by corporations and individuals. Pass a binding code of ethics for the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, Executive Branch appointees, and Supreme Court Justices to include full financial and tax disclosures.</p>
While some talk about standing up to Donald Trump, Bridget Brink is the only one who has actually done it.	<p><u>"Trump's Ukraine Policy Pressured 'the Victim,' Former Ambassador Says," Marc Santora, The New York Times, 5/16/2025</u></p> <p>In a scathing rebuke of the Trump administration's handling of the war in Ukraine, the former U.S. ambassador in Kyiv, Bridget A. Brink, wrote that she had resigned last month because she could not carry out a policy that "put pressure on the victim, Ukraine, rather than on the aggressor, Russia."</p>

	<p>"I cannot stand by while a country is invaded, a democracy bombarded and children killed with impunity," Ms. Brink wrote in an opinion essay published Friday in The Detroit Free Press. "Peace at any price is not peace at all — it is appeasement," she added.</p>
--	--

Claim	Backup
<p>Matt Maasdam is running a false, desperate smear campaign to try to distract you from the real truth – his disturbing record of outsourcing American jobs overseas.</p>	<p><u>"Advice to My Younger Self: Apparel Aficionados," Michigan Alumni Association, 1/2020</u> Embrace the grind. Taking a physical product from concept to market remains a layered, meticulous process littered with landmines. Stafford and Maasdam, however, navigated the entrepreneurial terrain step-by-step, landing on an innovative fabric, finding a high-quality factory in Guatemala, and then installing the direct-to-consumer sales model. "We're a small brand and have had to cut through a lot of noise, but we've rolled up our sleeves and gotten it done," Maasdam says.</p>
<p>Maasdam's companies aren't based in Michigan or have any Michigan employees – at all.</p>	<p><i>Neither of Maasdam's companies have facilities or employees in Michigan</i> <u>Matt Maasdam, LinkedIn, Accessed 3/12/2026</u> Co-Founder, CEO & Strategic Advisor PECOS Outdoor Jan 2021 – Mar 2023</p> <p>Chief Operating Officer Revtown Sep 2017 – Jan 2021</p> <p><u>"Built Without Compromise," PECOS Outdoor, Accessed 3/12/2026</u> Pecos HQ - Texas</p> <p><u>"Revtown," LinkedIn, Accessed 3/12/2026</u> Pittsburgh, PA</p> <p><u>"Michigan Business Search," Michigan Business Registry</u> No Results for PECOS Outdoor or Revtown</p>
<p>Worse – Maasdam was caught lying about his company's products – claiming they were a hundred percent American made. But Maasdam actually imported materials from China.</p>	<p><u>Matt Maasdam LinkedIn Post, 2022</u> Designed without compromise, our gear is rock solid and as beautiful as it is rugged. We are also proudly 100% veteran owned and made in America.</p> <p><u>PECOS Outdoor, Instagram</u> Pecos tables are made 100% IN AMERICA.</p> <p><u>Matt Maasdam, LinkedIn, Accessed 3/12/2026</u> Co-Founder, CEO & Strategic Advisor PECOS Outdoor Jan 2021 – Mar 2023</p>

	<p><i>Import records show that PECOS Outdoor – using the DBA name Mule Outdoor LLC – imported parts for its products from China.</i></p> <p>“Mule Outdoor LLC,” ImportGenius, Accessed 3/12/2026</p> <p>Contact Info Mule Outdoor Llc 11431 Rim Rock Trail Austin Tx 78737 Us ... Description PECOS OUTDOOR TABLE PLASTIC PARTS Country of Origin CHINA</p> <p>Mule Outdoor, LLC, USTO Trademark Report Trademark Parties (Applicants & Owners)</p> <p>Party: Mule Outdoor, LLC Address 11783 Rim Rock Trail Austin, TEXAS UNITED STATES 78737 Legal Entity Type Limited Liability Company Legal Entity State TEXAS</p> <p>Party: PECOS USA, LLC Address 11783 RIM ROCK TRAIL AUSTIN, TEXAS UNITED STATES 78737 Legal Entity Type Limited Liability Company Legal Entity State TEXAS</p>
<p>And Maasdam was caught bragging about outsourcing manufacturing jobs -- to Guatemala,</p>	<p>“Advice to My Younger Self: Apparel Aficionados,” Michigan Alumni Association, 1/2020</p> <p>Embrace the grind. Taking a physical product from concept to market remains a layered, meticulous process littered with landmines. Stafford and Maasdam, however, navigated the entrepreneurial terrain step-by-step, landing on an innovative fabric, finding a high-quality factory in Guatemala, and then installing the direct-to-consumer sales model. “We’re a small brand and have had to cut through a lot of noise, but we’ve rolled up our sleeves and gotten it done,” Maasdam says.</p>
<p>one of the worst violators of labor rights in Central America.</p>	<p>“U.S. Trade Policy Fails Workers,” AFL-CIO</p> <p>Guatemala is consistently ranked one of the worst labor violators in the world by the ITUC;</p>

Claim	Backup
<p>Brink has been praised for her lifelong work protecting democracy and tackling corruption:</p> <p>“A powerful voice for reform, taking aim at government corruption” --The New York Times</p>	<p>“Trump’s Ukraine Policy Pressured ‘the Victim,’ Former Ambassador Says,” Marc Santora, The New York Times, 5/16/2025</p> <p>During her time in Ukraine, Ms. Brink developed a reputation as a powerful voice for reform, taking aim at government corruption and working to build durable democratic institutions, sometimes irritating powerful officials in Kyiv.</p>

Claim	Backup
<p>Matt Maasdam is using false attacks made by Trump allies against Bridget Brink after she stood up to Donald Trump's chaos and corruption, in an attempt to win power for himself.</p>	<p><i>The attack against Bridget was launched by The Free Beacon - a right-wing MAGA website primarily funded by a major Republican Donor Paul singer who gave Trump PACs \$7.5 million in 2024</i></p> <p><u>"Michigan House Candidate Says She Would Ban Stock Trading Among US Officials To 'Fight Corruption.' As Biden's Ukraine Ambassador, She Made 179 Stock Trades Worth Up to \$4M." Thomas Catenacci, The Washington Free Beacon, 5/12/2026</u></p> <p><u>"The conservative weapon bringing down university presidents and law reviews," Jill Abramson, The Boston Globe, 7/15/2025</u></p> <p>A right-wing nonprofit, the Center for American Freedom, initially funded the Free Beacon. The website's biggest donor was billionaire Paul Singer, who is also a big GOP donor. One of its cofounders was a strategist for the Koch brothers.</p> <p><u>Singer, Paul: Donor Detail, Open Secrets</u></p> <p>SINGER, PAUL PALM BEACH, FL, \$2,500,000, October 21, 2024 Preserve America PAC</p> <p>SINGER, PAUL PALM BEACH, FL \$5,000,000 August 15, 2024 Make America Great Again Inc</p>
<p>The facts are clear:</p> <p>Bridget resigned in protest of Donald Trump's chaos and corruption, and is the only candidate in the race who has actually stood up to Trump.</p>	<p><u>"Trump's Ukraine Policy Pressured 'the Victim,' Former Ambassador Says," Marc Santora, The New York Times, 5/16/2025</u></p> <p>In a scathing rebuke of the Trump administration's handling of the war in Ukraine, the former U.S. ambassador in Kyiv, Bridget A. Brink, wrote that she had resigned last month because she could not carry out a policy that "put pressure on the victim, Ukraine, rather than on the aggressor, Russia."</p> <p>"I cannot stand by while a country is invaded, a democracy bombarded and children killed with impunity," Ms. Brink wrote in an opinion essay published Friday in The Detroit Free Press. "Peace at any price is not peace at all — it is appeasement," she added.</p>
<p>She is running to hold him accountable,</p>	<p><u>"Fighting Corruption and Defending Democracy," Bridget Brink for Congress</u></p> <p>In Congress, I will fight to:</p> <p>Pass a binding code of ethics for the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, Executive Branch appointees, and Supreme Court Justices to include full financial and tax disclosures.</p>
<p>end the reckless tariffs,</p>	<p><u>"Lowering Costs and Investing in mid-Michigan," Bridget Brink for Congress</u></p> <p>In Congress, I will fight to:</p> <p>Roll back Trump's reckless tariffs, which have raised costs for all consumers and closed markets to mid-Michigan's agricultural exports.</p>

<p>expand access to health care,</p>	<p><u>"Making Health Care More Affordable and Accessible," Bridget Brink for Congress</u> In Congress, I will fight to: Create a public health insurance option to give people the choice to buy a truly affordable coverage plan to compete with plans on the ACA marketplace.</p>
<p>and defend democracy.</p>	<p><u>"Fighting Corruption and Defending Democracy," Bridget Brink for Congress</u> In Congress, I will fight to: Ban individual stock trading by the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, Executive Branch appointees, and Supreme Court Justices. Ban accepting personal gifts of more than \$20 by all Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, and Judicial Branch officials, including, but not limited to, the President, Vice President, political appointees, Members of Congress, and Supreme Court Justices. Pass a Constitutional Amendment overturning the Citizens United decision, banning the unlimited spending of dark money by corporations and individuals. Roll back Trump's reckless tariffs, which have raised costs for all consumers and closed markets to mid-Michigan's agricultural exports.</p>
<p>She is the anti-corruption candidate, with a plan to fight corruption.</p>	<p><u>"Fighting Corruption and Defending Democracy," Bridget Brink for Congress</u> In Congress, I will fight to: Ban individual stock trading by the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, Executive Branch appointees, and Supreme Court Justices.. Ban immediate family members of Members of Congress serving as registered lobbyists for the duration of their congressional tenure. Enact legislation that clarifies and limits the extent of Presidential pardon powers. Ban accepting personal gifts of more than \$20 by all Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, and Judicial Branch officials, including, but not limited to, the President, Vice President, political appointees, Members of Congress, and Supreme Court Justices. Pass a Constitutional Amendment overturning the Citizens United decision, banning the unlimited spending of dark money by corporations and individuals. Pass a binding code of ethics for the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, Executive Branch appointees, and Supreme Court Justices to include full financial and tax disclosures.</p>
<p>As a 28-year veteran of the U.S. Foreign Service, Bridget is the most heavily vetted candidate in the race.</p>	<p><u>Bridget Brink, The American Academy of Diplomacy</u> A proud Michigander, Bridget Brink dedicated her life to defending freedom and democracy in Europe after the fall of the Iron Curtain of communism as a U.S. Foreign Service officer for almost three decades. She served five presidents, was ambassador to the Slovak Republic and Ukraine, and retired as a Career Minister. ... Bridget was nominated and confirmed unanimously by the Senate to serve as Ambassador to the Slovak Republic from 2019 to 2022 and to Ukraine from 2022-2055.</p>
<p>A two-time Ambassador, she was twice confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate.</p>	<p><u>Bridget Brink, The American Academy of Diplomacy</u> Bridget was nominated and confirmed unanimously by the Senate to serve as Ambassador to the Slovak Republic from 2019 to 2022 and to Ukraine from 2022-2055.</p>
<p>She held a Top Secret security clearance her entire career, faced persistent cyber attacks for her positions fighting corruption,</p>	<p>As Ambassador to Ukraine and a career foreign service officer Brink was required to have TS/SCI – Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information – security clearance. <u>Bridget Brink, The American Academy of Diplomacy</u> A proud Michigander, Bridget Brink dedicated her life to defending freedom and democracy in Europe after the fall of the Iron Curtain of communism as a U.S. Foreign</p>

	<p>Service officer for almost three decades. She served five presidents, was ambassador to the Slovak Republic and Ukraine, and retired as a Career Minister.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Bridget was nominated and confirmed unanimously by the Senate to serve as Ambassador to the Slovak Republic from 2019 to 2022 and to Ukraine from 2022-2025. In Ukraine, Bridget led the U.S. on-the-ground effort to repel Russia's invasion, the biggest threat to the peace and security of Europe since World War II. She became the first woman to be ambassador in a war zone. Under the threat of nearly nightly missiles and drones, Bridget led her team to enable Ukraine to take back half of the land seized by Russia, keep the energy grid alive, and keep the economy running. She oversaw the largest assistance to Europe since the Marshall Plan. Bridget received the Ryan C. Crocker Award for Exceptional Leadership in Expeditionary Diplomacy.</p>
<p>and had no involvement negotiating Trump's mineral deal with Ukraine.</p>	<p><u>"Ex-Ukraine diplomat draws scrutiny over lithium stocks amid House run," Politico, 4/23/2026</u></p> <p>Brink spokesperson Regan Page said Brink was not involved in the development or negotiations of the minerals deal and was not present in the meeting when Bessent presented it to Zelenskyy. These statements were confirmed by two State Department officials and another person familiar with the negotiations, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly.</p>