

# LegislativeUpdate

Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators | November 9, 2018



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### Michigan Election Results

Turnout in Tuesday's election was the highest in 56 years with more than 4 million ballots cast across Michigan. Democrats grabbed all three statewide offices: Governor, Attorney General and Secretary of State for the first time in 32 years. Two Republican congressional seats, the 8th and 11th US. House Districts, were also flipped to Democratic control. Elissa Slotkin will replace U.S. Rep. Mike Bishop (R-Rochester) and Haley Stevens will succeed retiring U.S. Rep. David Trott (R-Birmingham). Not all things changed however, Republicans maintained

control of both the State House and the State Senate -- but with smaller margins.

### *Michigan Legislature*

The Senate will only have eight returning members; however several of the new Senators do bring legislative experience as they are currently seated or former Representatives. In the House, there are 46 new members. So we'll see many new but also some familiar faces in the 100th Legislature.

The Republicans maintained their majority in both chambers, solidifying 10 years of GOP control of the House and more than 30 years in the Senate. However, Democrats were able to make significant gains in narrowing the GOP majority. In the House, Democrats picked up five seats, reducing the "difference" from the current 63-46 (there is a vacancy in District 68) split to 58-52. State Rep. Lee Chatfield (R-Levering) will become the next House Speaker, Rep. Triston Cole (R-Mancelona) will serve as Majority Floor Leader and Rep. Jason Wentworth (R-Clare) as Speaker Pro Tempore. Rep. Christine Greig (D-Farmington Hills) was named the next Democratic leader and Rep. Yousef Rabhi (D-Ann Arbor) will be Minority Floor Leader.

In the Senate, the Republican supermajority will be reduced from the current 27-10 (there is one vacancy in District 2) to a more workable 22-16 split. The seats won by Democrats were the most gained by the party since 1974. On Thursday, Sen. Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) was named the next Senate Majority Leader and Sen. Peter MacGregor (R-Rockford) was chosen as Majority Floor Leader. Senator-elect Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton) was selected to be President Pro Tempore and Sen. Jim Stamas (R-Midland) was named Chair of Senate Appropriations in the next term. Senate Democrats unanimously re-elected Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Flint) as Minority Leader. Senator-elect Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit) will be Minority Floor Leader. Sen. Curtis Hertel (D-East Lansing) was selected as Minority Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations committee, a committee he currently sits on.

We will continue to learn more information regarding committee chairs and assignments in the coming weeks.

Also noteworthy is the increase in the number of women in both chambers. The number of women in the Senate more than doubled from 4 to 11 members and increased in the House from 33 to 42 members.

#### Other Noteworthy Results:

- Rep. Laura Cox (R-Livonia) lost her bid for Senate District 7 to Dayna Polehanki (D-Livonia), a 12th grade English teacher.
- Rep. Henry Yanez (D-Sterling Heights) lost his bid for Senate District 10 to Mike MacDonald (R-Macomb Township), a financial representative for Northwestern Mutual.
- Rep. Michael McCready (R-Bloomfield Hills) lost his bid for Senate District 12 to Rosemary Bayer (D-Beverly Hills), a founder of a database technology company.
- Sen. Marty Knollenberg (R-Troy) lost his re-election for Senate District 13 to Mallory McMorrow (D-Royal Oak), a former product designer for Mattel.
- Sen. Margaret O'Brien (R-Kalamazoo) lost her re-election for Senate District 20 to former State Rep. Sean McCann (D-Kalamazoo).
- Rep. Chris Afendoulis (R-Grand Rapids Twp.) lost his bid for Senate District 29 to Rep. Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids).
- Rep. Phil Phelps (D-Flushing) lost his bid for Senate District 32 to Senator Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth).
- Rep. Scott Dianda (D-Calumet) lost his bid for Senate District 38 to former Rep. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan).
- Rep. Jeff Noble (R-Plymouth) lost his re-election to House District 20 to Matt Koleszar, an english and social studies teacher.

Democrats Judith Pritchett and Tiffany Tilley won the two seats on the State Board of Education, unseating one of current the Co-Presidents, Richard Zeile, and moving the Board from the from the current 4-4 bipartisan makeup to 6-2 Democratic majority. With the Board elections complete, the search for the new State Superintendent of Public Instruction will begin in January.

All three ballot proposals passed. We are working with counterparts to provide guidance regarding Proposal 1 and will have more information for you in the future. What is clear, possession and use of marijuana by our students under 21 is not allowed, and schools will remain drug free zones.

## House Education Reform Meets

The legislature was back in session Wednesday and Thursday this week. The House Education Reform committee met briefly yesterday. Testimony was taken on HB 5543 sponsored by Rep. Jim Runestad (R-White Lake). The bill would require school districts, ISDs and public school academies to extend the same criminal history check requirements for employees to student teachers. As you know, the board of a school district or intermediate school district must ensure that all individuals are in compliance of section [1230 and 1230A](#) of the school code. The bill extends this requirement for student teachers.

Committee discussion centered on payment for these background checks. In most cases, the cost of background checks are paid for by applicants. But there are some instances where a district or university will pay the fee. HB 5543 does not specify who will pay. Additionally, a question was raised by committee members to the bill sponsor regarding the omission of nonpublic schools from the bill. Rep. Runstead's office stated that they are open to revising the language to include nonpublic schools in this requirement. No vote was taken on the bill.

The committee took action on HB 6324 sponsored by Rep. Jim Lilly (R-Park Twp.) This bill is in response to recent changes in the School Aid Act. HB 6324 would update the provisions for Michigan Virtual in the Revised School Code so that they are consistent with the revisions in the School Aid Act. Specifically the legislation would expand eligibility for Michigan Virtual to include middle school students and replace references to "on-line" learning with references to "online and blended" learning. HB 6324 would make expanding the offerings for middle school classes one of the missions of this entity. The bill would also establish that home-schooled

or nonpublic school students who reside within a school district that subscribes to the services provided by Michigan Virtual cannot be charged any more to use those services than the charge for students enrolled in the school district.

The bill requires a number of actions that Michigan Virtual Learning Research Institute must take in order to support and accelerate innovation in education. These requirements mirror Section 98 (2) of the School Aid act and include:

- Testing, evaluation and recommendations of new technology-based instructional tools and resources as appropriate
- Research, design and recommendation of virtual education delivery models
- Research, develop and recommendation of criteria by which cyber schools and virtual course providers should be monitored and evaluated
- Analyze the effectiveness of virtual learning delivery models in preparing pupils to be college-and career-ready
- Provide an extensive professional development program to education personnel that focuses on the effective integration of virtual learning into curricula and instruction
- Identify barriers to the adoption of virtual learning in the public education system
- Identify and share the best practices for planning, implementing, and evaluating virtual and blended education delivery models to accelerate the adoption of innovative education delivery models statewide

HB 6324 would update the Revised School Code to be consistent with current practices and Sections 21f and 98 of the State School Aid Act. The bill was reported from committee.

Additionally the committee had the legislation regarding public innovative districts on the agenda, HB 6314 and HB 6315, but the committee did not take any testimony or action on the bills.