

CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF JANUARY 29, 2018

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ENGLER APPOINTED INTERIM PRESIDENT AFTER MSU LEADERSHIP FALLS UNDER PRESSURE OF NASSAR SCANDAL

Michigan's former Governor John Engler was appointed interim president of Michigan State University this week after Michigan State University's President Lou Anna Simon and Athletic Director Mark Hollister both resigned in the aftermath of a sexual assault scandal involving former Michigan State doctor Larry Nassar.

Nassar was sentenced last week with up to 175 years in prison for sexually assaulting dozens of girls and young women, some who were MSU student-athletes.

Engler was unanimously approved by the MSU Board of Trustees, and has pledged to keep the victims of the Nassar sexual assaults his top priority as he works to change the culture by implementing changes in the University.

"In the coming weeks I'll be moving swiftly and decisively to implement changes that will protect anyone affiliated with our campus from sexual assault, harassment, and bullying," Engler said.

The board has also appointed former Gov. Jim Blanchard as a senior adviser to work with government relations and legal affairs.

Faculty and student groups continue to criticize Engler, and the MSU Board of Trustees, and held a sit-in in the board room after the vote, refusing to move until the board agreed to meet with students, and insisting to be heard.

According to the Detroit News, at least 14 university officials received reports of sexual assault dating back at least 20 years by former MSU physician Larry Nassar.

DEMOCRATS ASK EL-SAYED TO PROVE ELIGIBILITY

Democrats are calling on gubernatorial candidate Dr. Abdul El-Sayed to prove his eligibility to run—including asking the courts for a ruling on whether or not his living and working in New York City in 2014-15 goes against Michigan's residential requirements.

El-Sayed said his campaign would "take whatever step necessary to put these shameless political attacks to rest."

Michigan Democratic Party Chair Brandon Dillon raised the issue in a statement this week after news outlets reported that El-Sayed lived in New York City from 2007 until August 2015.

According to the Michigan Constitution, a person must be a registered elector for the four years preceding the election to run for governor. El-Sayed, who claims he was a registered voter in Michigan throughout his time in NYC, needs to prove he has been a registered voter in Michigan at least since November 6, 2014.

Michigan Election Law also says a candidate for governor must be a qualified elector, in addition to being a registered voter. The party is questioning whether El-Sayed, who graduated from Columbia Medical School in the spring of 2014 and was no longer a student, may have compromised his status as a qualified voter in Michigan.

El-Sayed has been surprisingly successful with his campaign to date, and has raised about \$1.6 million during his first eight months as a candidate. The pace of his fundraising has since declined.

El-Sayed's rival, Gretchen Whitmer's fundraising, however, has started to heat up, and her campaign is now about \$1 million ahead of El-Sayed as of Dec. 31.

GOVERNOR TO MAKE BUDGET PITCH FEB. 7, CALLS FOR PER-PUPIL INCREASE OF MORE THAN \$200

According to state budget officials, Gov. Rick Snyder will announce an increase in the minimum per-pupil allowance for K-12 schools of more than \$233 during his budget pitch next Wednesday. This would be the largest increase since 2007.

Newly appointed Budget Director John Walsh said that Snyder will also call for an influx of general fund money— \$325 million—to go into state road repairs. This amount is \$175 million more than is called for in 2019 under the road funding deal the Legislature approved in 2015.

Walsh also warned that other areas should not expect increases, and that tax cut legislation currently in the Legislature could affect Snyder's spending plans.

MM&A BRIEFS

Snyder unveils executive order on broadband

Gov. Rick Snyder signed Executive Order 2018-02 this week, creating the Michigan Consortium for Advanced Networks and directing it to create a plan for stronger broadband access throughout the state.

"Ensuring all Michiganders have access to secure, reliable and affordable broadband services is an important step in our work to maximize Michigan's momentum long into the future," Mr. Snyder said.

Faylene Owen Dies

Former prominent political force Faylene Owen passed away this week after her health had been in decline. Owen was the wife of the 1998 gubernatorial candidate Larry Owen. She was also director of special projects for former Governor Jim Blanchard, owned a market research and communications firm, and was a powerhouse fundraiser.

Calendar of Important Events

- Feb. 6 2nd Senate District Candidate Brian Banks (D) Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- House Republican Campaign Committee Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Sen. Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) Fundraiser
Location: 4 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Feb. 7 Rep. Bronna Kahle (R-Clinton) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Jim Runestad (R-White Lake) Senate Campaign Fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Forum on Broadband in Michigan
Location: 11:30 a.m., Mackinac Room, Anderson House Office Building, Lansing
- Rep. John Chirkun (D-Roseville) Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit) Senate Campaign Fundraiser
Location: 4:30 p.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker (R-Lawton) Fundraiser
Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Licensed Beverage Association, Lansing
- Rep. Kevin Hertel (D-Saint Clair Shores) Fundraiser
Location: 5 p.m., Kelly's Downtown, Lansing
- Feb. 8 House Speaker Tom Leonard (R-DeWitt) Fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Feb. 11 State Board of Education Co-President Richard Zeile (R) fundraiser
Location: 6 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church/Voyageur Academy, Detroit
- Feb. 13 Rep. Pete Lucido (R-Shelby Twp.) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Rep. Scott Dianda (D-Calumet) 38th Senate Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- 10th Senate District Candidate Michael Shallal (R) Fundraiser
Location: 6:30 p.m., Penna's of Sterling, Sterling Heights
- Feb. 14 Rep. Steve Marino (R-Harrison Twp.) Fundraiser
Location: 7:45 a.m., Kelley Cawthorne, Lansing

Feb. 14 Rep. Michele Hoytenga (R-Manton) Fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Mediteran Café, Lansing

Rep. Leslie Love (D-Detroit) Fundraiser
Location: 11 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

Feb. 15 Rep. Edward Canfield (R-Sebewaing) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

Senate Republican Campaign Committee Fundraiser
Location: 5 p.m., Cascade Hill Country Club, Grand Rapids