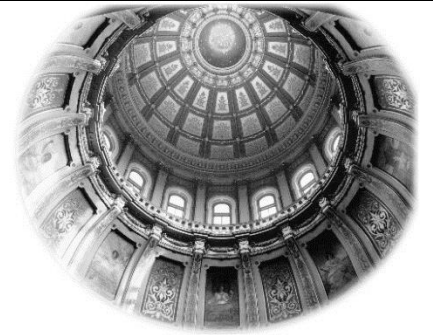


CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF APRIL 23, 2018

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FILING DEADLINE BRINGS HEATED PRIMARIES, NOVEMBER BALLOT TO FOREFRONT

Michigan's 2018 election filing deadline came and went this Tuesday, leaving a clearer picture of the line-up for state and national primary races in August and the ballot in November.

Democrats are hoping for a wave of blue and a chance to take advantage of the historical trend that says voters will choose the opposite of the president's party in midterm elections. Republicans are hoping to defy that trend and hold onto power in the state and U.S. legislature.

The key races we will be hearing about in the months to come:

The race to replace Michigan's term-limited Gov. Rick Snyder has four Republicans battling for the nomination and three Democrats.

Republicans running for governor include Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, state Attorney General Bill Schuette, state Sen. Patrick Colbeck and Dr. Jim Hines. Calley is promoting the state's economic turnaround, Schuette is pushing a proposed income tax cut, Colbeck touts himself as anti-special interest, and Hines as an outsider.

Democrats racing for the position include former Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer, businessman Shri Thanedar, and ex-Detroit health director Abdul El-Sayed. Whitmer is campaigning on her legislative experience, Thanedar on his rags-to-riches immigrant story and is using his own millions of dollars, and El-Sayed is pushing issues like Medicare for all, while refusing corporate campaign money.

On the national stage, U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D) is up for re-election and facing either Republican John James, who is an African-American Iraq War veteran and a family business executive, or Republican and businessman Sandy Pensler, a business turnaround expert and owner of an investment group.

In the U.S. House, Democrats are looking to pick up key seats in Michigan including the 11th District where retiring Rep. Dave Trott will leave behind a field of five republicans and five Democrats. And the 8th District where Rep. Mike Bishop will face either Democrat Elissa Slotkin or Chris Smith.

With the resignation of former Rep. John Conyers and the retirement of Rep. Sandy Levin, the Democratic primaries will be heated. In Levin's 9th District, his son Andy, will run against former state Rep. Ellen Lipton and lawyer Martin Brook. In the 13th District, which Conyers' formerly represented, there are nine Democrats in the primary—several with name recognition and local or state experience—including Conyers' son John, his great-nephew and state Sen. Ian Conyers, Sen. Coleman Young II, Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones, former state Rep. Rashida Tlaib, and Westland Mayor Bill Wild.

At the state level, Democrats are hoping to win several districts in the House and Senate, ideally creating a "blue wave" to ride into the majority. Currently, Republicans have 63 seats to the Democrats 46 seats in the state House, and 27 to 10 in the state Senate.

A few of the top House races include:

40th House District – A six-person Republican primary includes Paul Secrest of Bloomfield Hills who ran for the Senate in 2014 as a Democrat. Democrats Nicole Bedi and Mari Manoogian of Birmingham are running.

41st House District – Now held by Rep. Martin Howrylak (R-Troy), the GOP primary will be a battle between Troy City Councilmember Ethan Baker, Oakland County Commissioner Doug Tietz, and Ronald Dwyer. Democrat Padma Kuppa of Troy will face the winner.

61st House District – Rep. Brandt Iden (R-Oshtemo) will face the winner of the Democratic primary which will be either Alberta Griffin, a doctoral fellow and business owner from Portage, or activist Thomas Whitener who is also from Portage.

91st House District – In a seat that goes back and forth often, Rep. Holly Hughes (R-White River Township) is term limited. Longtime Republican Greg VanWoerkom of Norton Shores, is favored by the GOP. Popular radio host and Democrat Andy O'Riley of Roosevelt Park, along with Whitehall City Councilmember Tanya Cabala, are seeking a Democrat nomination.

110th House District – Currently held by Rep. Scott Dianda (D-Calumet), who is running for Senate. Only one of two Democratic legislators from the U.P., Democrat Ken Summers of Baraga will run for the seat. Four Republican candidates will face-off in the primary including Keith LaCrosse of Marquette, Brady Tervo of Houghton, Kirk Schott of Bruce Crossing and Gregory Markkanen.

COURT CHALLENGES FILED AGAINST EL-SAYED AND REDISTRICTING PROPOSAL

A DeWitt resident has filed a challenge this week with the Department of State against Democratic gubernatorial candidate Dr. Abdul El-Sayed over whether or not he is qualified to run for governor.

The challenge, filed by Pamela Nelson, said that news stories have raised the question on whether or not El-Sayed meets the constitutional requirement that he needs to be an elector in the state of Michigan for at least four years before he can be elected for governor.

Another challenge filed this week came from Citizens Protecting Michigan's Constitution against the Voters Not Politicians redistricting reform proposal. The group claims that the redistricting proposal is a general revision of the Constitution which cannot be accomplished by an amendment. The group also claims the VNP proposal abrogates several sections of the Constitution but fails to reprint those sections. They filed a mandamus complaint with the Court of Appeals seeking an order barring the state from approving the initiative for the November ballot.

The challenge to VNP was filed by Citizens Protecting Michigan's Constitution and is represented by attorneys from Dickinson Wright, including Peter Ellsworth (counsel to former Governor William Milliken during his administration) and former Chief Justice Robert Young Jr. In addition to claiming the proposal is a general revision of the Constitution, which cannot be accomplished by an amendment, the group said the VNP proposal abrogates several sections of the Constitution but fails to reprint those sections.

BOARD OF CANVASSERS CERTIFIES MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION PROPOSAL

A proposal to legalize recreational marijuana was certified by the Board of State Canvassers this week, allowing it to either show up on the ballot in November, or be approved by the state Legislature before then.

House Speaker Tom Leonard said he does not support the proposal and doesn't believe the House will take up the proposal.

The Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol collected 277,370 valid signatures to get the proposal on the ballot. The group Healthy and Productive Michigan opposes the proposal, saying that it violates Federal law.

PREVAILING WAGE REPEAL HEADED TO COURT OVER CIRCULATOR ADDRESSES

A ballot proposal to end union-scale wages for public construction projects is headed to the Court of Appeals after

the state Board of Canvassers had a deadlock vote on whether or not the circulators of the petitions had filed fraudulent addresses for their residences and if this invalidates the petition sheet.

The Board was divided 2-2 along party lines, with Republicans Norm Shinkle and Colleen Pero voting to approve the signatures on the petitions and agreeing with the Secretary of State's Bureau of Elections, and Democrats Julie Matuzak and Jeannette Bradshaw voting against the approval of the signatures and agreeing with the opponents of the ballot proposal.

The group Protecting Michigan Taxpayers said they will be filing their challenge to the Board of State Canvassers decision with the Court of Appeals soon.

Republican Legislators expect the court to allow the issue to come to the Legislature.

The Bureau found that the group had collected 268,403 valid signatures based on the findings of the sample pulled.

A letter from the Department of Attorney General said that invalidating the sheet was not one of the ways to handle an improper circulator address. Opponents, however, argued that the letter was not a formal attorney general opinion.

MM&A Briefs

Huffington Post calls out Thandedar's medical testing lab history

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Shri Thandedar said the Huffington Post's story "Michigan Democrat's shuttered company abandoned over 100 dogs and monkeys," which was published on Wednesday was false and irresponsible. He said that he no longer had any control of the medicine testing lab after the bank seized control in 2010 and that he was not responsible for the handling of the animals. He said the receiver worked with the judge to care for and transfer the animals.

Calendar of Important Events

- May 1 49th House District Candidate John Cherry (D) Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- 30th Senate District Candidate Daniela Garcia (R) Fundraiser
Location: 5 p.m., Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- May 2 Rep. Jim Runestad (R-White Lake) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Governor's Room, Lansing
- 19th Senate District Candidate Mike Callton (R) Fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Leslie Love (D-Detroit) Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Sen. Vincent Gregory (D-Lathrop Village) Fundraiser
Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

- May 2 Senate Republican Campaign Committee Fundraiser
Location: 5 p.m., The University Club, Lansing
- May 3 Rep. John Reilly (R-Oakland Twp.) Fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Governor's Room, Lansing
- 110th House District Candidate Ken Summers (D) Fundraiser
Location: 11 a.m., Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Lansing
- Michigan Community Action Capitol Day
Location: 12 p.m., Rotunda, Capitol, Lansing
- May 7 Rep. Christine Greig (D-Farmington Hills) Fundraiser
Location: 5:30 p.m., Farmington Hills Manor, Farmington Hills
- Rep. Henry Yanez (D-Sterling Heights) Senate Campaign Fundraiser
Location: 5:30 p.m., Warren FOP Hall, Warren
- May 9 Rep. Brett Roberts (R-Eaton Twp.) Fundraiser
Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Aaron Miller (R-Sturgis) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- May 10 Rep. Diana Farrington (R-Utica) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Sen. Marty Knollenberg (R-Troy) Fundraiser
Location: 11: 30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- 24th Senate District Candidate Kelly Rossman-McKinney (D) Fundraiser
Location: 5:30 p.m., 106 Riverview Dr., DeWitt