

# CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

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## **TOP REPUBLICANS SHUN SCHUETTE, FORM “REPUBLICANS AND INDEPENDENTS FOR WHITMER”**

Several former Republican lawmakers, officials and business leaders announced this week that they are working to get Democrat Gretchen Whitmer elected over Republican nominee Bill Schuette.

Co-chairs of the group include former U.S. Rep. Joe Schwarz, health director for the Engler and Snyder administrations Jim Haveman, Milliken administration treasurer Vivian Carpenter, and Snyder and Engler advisor Richard McLellan. Others in the group include former Rep. Mel Larsen, Bill Milliken Jr., John Pirich, Trish Foster, Mary McLellan, Dennis Smith, Paul Tarr, and Gina Yob.

Members of the group said that they believe Whitmer is the best person for the job because of issues such as infrastructure, health care, higher education, working with the Legislature and tolerance for people who are different.

Schuette’s campaign downplayed the group and said it was part of the “Lansing establishment.”

## **WHITMER EXTENDS LEAD OVER SCHUETTE IN MOST RECENT POLLING**

A statewide poll earlier this month shows Michigan Democratic gubernatorial candidate Gretchen Whitmer comfortably ahead of Republican candidate Bill Schuette.

The poll shows Whitmer with a nearly 14-percentage-point lead, with 49.8 percent of respondents saying they would vote for Whitmer if the election were held that day, compared with 36.1 percent for Schuette. Ten percent were undecided and 4 percent said they would pick a third-party candidate. Support for Whitmer was also strongest among female, college-educated, Metro Detroit and senior voters.

The survey of 600 likely Michigan voters was taken for The Detroit News and WDIV-TV on Sept. 5-7.

## **SNYDER CREATES FRAUD AUTHORITY FOR AUTO INSURANCE**

Gov. Rick Snyder established a new anti-fraud unit in the Department of Insurance and Financial Services on Sept. 11, in an effort to eradicate fraud and cut the cost of insurance in Michigan. The division will share information and work with other law enforcement agencies to look for and prevent possible fraud in insurance and banking industries.

The unit was created by Executive Order 2018-9, and allows the anti-fraud section to conduct background checks on persons applying for licenses, collect claims of criminal and fraudulent activities, investigate the claims that could be violations of both state and federal law, maintain records of its criminal investigations and share these records with other agencies. The unit can also coordinate activities with local and state law enforcement and regulatory agencies to both investigate and prosecute criminal and fraudulent activities.

With some of the highest auto insurance rates in the nation, Snyder and DIFS Director Patrick McPharlin hope the measure will help lower costs. The new unit “will increase our ability to investigate fraud and will ultimately drive down the cost of insurance for Michiganders,” McPharlin said.

### **ATTORNEY GENERAL OPENS INVESTIGATION OF SEX ABUSE IN MICHIGAN’S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Attorney General Bill Schuette office announced today that it has begun an investigation of alleged sex abuse in Michigan’s Catholic Church. The Attorney General’s actions follow similar investigations in other states after a grand jury in Pennsylvania found widespread abuse by priests and church officials.

The department acknowledged the investigation on its webpage Friday, in a response to a Freedom of Information Act request from Wood TV8 in Grand Rapids. The state investigation started in August, according to the Freedom of Information Act response.

### **MM&A Briefs**

#### **Former Senator John Kelly dies at age 69**

Former Senator John Francis Kelly, 69, died of a heart attack earlier this week. Kelly served four consecutive terms in the Michigan State Senate. Kelly is well known for his role in helping push Michigan to be the last state to ratify the 27<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1992.

Born and raised in Detroit, Kelly, a Democrat, represented Detroit during his years in the Senate. He was a colonel in the U. S. Army reserves, and earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan, a doctorate from Wayne State University, and a law degree from Michigan State University. Kelly sponsored more than 100 bills or amendments that became law during his time in the legislature.

#### **MDOT’s Steudle set to retire Oct. 31**

Michigan Department of Transportation Director Kirk Steudle is retiring on Oct. 31 after 31 years with the department. Steudle has been the director at MDOT for nearly 13 years—through both the Granholm and Snyder administrations.

## Calendar of Important Events

- Sept. 22      Rep. Joe Bellino (R-Monroe) Golf Fundraiser**  
Location: 10 a.m., Harbor Dunes Golf Course, Monroe
- 24th Senate District Candidate Kelly Rossman-McKinney (D)**  
Location: 4:30 p.m., Sharp Park, Lansing, 4:30 p.m.
- Rep. Bronna Kahle (R-Canton) Fundraiser**  
Location: 5 p.m., 7503 Rouget Road, Palmyra
- 110th House District Candidate Greg Markkanen (R) Fundraiser**  
Location: 5:30 p.m., Micowaubik Club, Calumet
- Sept. 22      Rep. Julie Alexander (R-Hanover) Fundraiser**  
Location: 11 a.m., Big 9 Sportsman Club, Concord
- Sept. 24      Post-convention campaign finance statements due for Republican candidates**
- Rep. Jim Ellison (D-Royal Oak) Fundraiser**  
Location: 5 p.m., Fifth Avenue, Royal Oak
- Rep. Pam Hornberger (R-Chesterfield) Fundraiser**  
Location: 5 p.m., Louis' Chop House, Chesterfield Twp.
- Rep. John Chirkun (D-Roseville) Fundraiser**  
Location: 5:30 p.m. Stonewood Smokehouse Bar & BBQ, Roseville
- Sept. 25      Rep. Joe Bellino (R-Monroe) Fundraiser**  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Rep. Michael Webber (R-Rochester Hills) Fundraiser**  
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- 29th Senate District Candidate Rep. Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids) Fundraiser**  
Location: 8:30 a.m., Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Lansing
- 68th House District Candidate Sarah Anthony (D) Fundraiser**  
Location: 10:30 a.m., Michigan Association of Counties, Lansing
- Rep. Patrick Green (D-Warren)**  
Location: 11 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, Lansing

**20th Senate District Candidate Sean McCann (D) Fundraiser**

Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Lansing

**39th House District Candidate Ryan Berman (R) Fundraiser**

Location: 11:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**41st House District Candidate Doug Tietz (R) Fundraiser**

Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

**Rep. Jim Ellison (D-Royal Oak) Fundraiser**

Location: 11:30 a.m., 208 North Capitol Ave., Lansing

**Sen. Margaret O'Brien (R-Portage) Fundraiser**

Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Restaurant Association, Lansing

**Secretary of State Candidate Mary Treder Lang (R) Fundraiser**

Location: 12 p.m., Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Lansing

**39th House District Candidate Ryan Berman (R) Fundraiser**

Location: 12:30 p.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**Sen. Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth) Fundraiser**

Location: 3:30 p.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**93rd House District Candidate Graham Filler (R) Fundraiser**

Location: 4 p.m., Michigan Restaurant Association, Lansing

**Attorney General Candidate House Speaker Tom Leonard (R-DeWitt) Fundraiser**

Location: 5 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, Lansing

**Post-convention campaign finance statements due for Democratic candidates**

**Rep. Kevin Hertel (D-Saint Clair Shores) Fundraiser**

Location: 5 p.m., Kelley's Downtown, Lansing

**Sept. 26**

**10th Senate District Candidate Mike McDonald (R) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Lambert/Sterling, 114 West Allegan St., Lansing

**Rep. Donna Lasinski (D-Scio Twp.) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, Lansing

**Rep. Jim Lilly (R-Park Twp.) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

**Rep. Kathy Crawford (R-Nov) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Grand Traverse Pie Company, Lansing

**Sen. Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City) Fundraising**

Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) Fundraiser**

Location: 8:30 a.m., Michigan Credit Union League, Lansing

**94th House District Candidate Rodney Wakeman (R) Fundraiser**

Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, Lansing

**Rep. Steve Marino (R-Harrison Twp.) Fundraiser**

Location: 11:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**Rep. Brian Elder (D-Bay City) Fundraiser**

Location: 5 p.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**24th Senate District Candidate Kelly Rossman-McKinney (D) Fundraiser**

Paesano's Restaurant, 3411 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, 5:30 p.m.

**41st House District Candidate Doug Tietz (R) Fundraiser**

Location: 5:30 p.m., The Alibi Restaurant, Troy

**Sept. 27**

**30th Senate District Candidate Roger Victory (R) Fundraiser**

Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Restaurant Association, Lansing

**76th House District Candidate Amanda Brand (R) Fundraiser**

Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Handy Twp.) Fundraiser**

Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

**Rep. Beth Griffin (R-Mattawan) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Grand Traverse Pie Company, Lansing

**Rep. Gary Howell (R-North Branch) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

**91st House District Candidate Greg VanWoerkom (R) Fundraiser**

Location: 12 p.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**13th Senate District Candidate Mallory McMorrow (D) Fundraiser**

Location: 5:30 p.m., 1518 Woodsboro Drive, Royal Oak

**36th House District Candidate Doug Wozniak (R) Fundraiser**

Location: 5:30 p.m., The Palazzo Grande, Shelby Twp.

**House Minority Leader Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) Fundraiser**

Location: 5:30 p.m., Midtown Brewery, Lansing

**Sept. 30 Rep. Julie Alexander (R-Hanover) Fundraiser**

Location: 1 p.m., 5815 Hanover Road, Hanover

**Oct. 2 62nd House District Candidate Dave Morgan (R) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

**Rep. Frank Liberati (D-Allen Park) Fundraiser**

Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

**Oct. 3 63rd House District Candidate Matt Hall (R) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

**Rep. Roger Hauck (R-Mt. Pleasant) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

**Rep. Shane Hernandez (R-Port Huron) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, Governors' Room, Lansing

**Rep. Darrin Camilleri (D-Brownstone Twp.) Fundraiser**

Location: 8:30 a.m., Grand Traverse Pie Company, Lansing

**101st House District Candidate Jack O'Malley (R) Fundraiser**

Location: 11 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**Rep. Kristy Pagan (D-Canton Twp.) Fundraiser**

Location: 11 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

**Rep. John Chirkun (D-Roseville) Fundraiser**

Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Lansing

**Rep. Pam Hornberger (R-Chesterfield) Fundraiser**

Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

**House Republican Campaign Committee Fundraiser**

Location: 5 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

**Oct. 4**

**Rep. Jim Runestad (R-White Lake) Fundraiser**

Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

**Rep. Dan Lauwers (R-Brockway) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**Rep. Steven Johnson (R-Wayland) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

**Rep. Thomas Albert (R-Lowell) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Grand Traverse Pie Company, Lansing

**Rep. Cara Clemente (D-Lincoln Park) Fundraiser**

Location: 10:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, Lansing

**Rep. Robert Wittenberg (D-Oak Park) Fundraiser**

Location: 10:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

**40th House District Candidate David Wolkinson (R) Fundraiser**

Location: 11 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing