

CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF AUGUST 7, 2017

Integrity. Individual Attention. Precision Strategy. Proven Results



SNYDER MEETS WITH FOXCONN, INVESTMENT IN MICHIGAN STILL POSSIBLE

Taiwanese electronics manufacturer Foxconn chose Wisconsin for its \$10 billion liquid crystal display panel plan, but Michigan is may still be in the running for a second multibillion dollar investment by the company.

After Gov. Rick Snyder met with Foxconn's founder and Chairman Terry Gou during his recent trade mission to China, Gou told a Hong-Kong based English-language newspaper about potentially investing in a research and development facility for autonomous automobile parts in Michigan.

"Automotive development in the U.S. is still more advanced than China," Mr. Gou told the *South China Morning Post*. "Besides self-driving technology, I'm also interested in artificial intelligence and deep learning technology."

In a statement issued after meeting with Mr. Gou, Snyder said, "We had a very productive dialogue about the importance of talent in manufacturing and the future of autonomous driving in addition to a tour of Foxconn's world class products and manufacturing facility. I believe we have a strong future with Foxconn, and while I don't have an announcement to make today, I think there are very exciting things to come in the future."

Michigan's new "Good Jobs" package set up new tax incentives to attract businesses like Foxconn, but with far less incentives than Wisconsin.

AUDIT CRITICIZES STATE'S TECHNOLOGY SECURITY

Auditor General Doug Ringler recently gave the state failing grades for its management of technology networks and security standards.

After a thorough audit that looked at how the state manages its directory services, which includes its computers, servers, printers, network users, groups, and other functions, the auditor general's office gave the worst rating an audit can issue and said the state's efforts to manage its statewide Windows active directory environments is not effective.

The findings mean there could be an increased chance of hacking, or unauthorized access to the state's information systems and data.

The active directory system is under the Department of Technology, Management and Budget, although the audit also repeatedly referred to a "separate state agency" that was never identified. The audit said the DTMB and the "separate state agency" failed to follow industry best practices for the state's active directory domains set-up.

TOP CANDIDATES EMERGE IN MAYORAL PRIMARIES

The Lansing mayoral primary last week shows Rep. Andy Schor (D-Lansing) as the clear favorite to become the capitol city's next mayor. Schor brought in 68.2 percent of the vote, with Judi Brown Clarke bringing only 23.2 percent. Clarke does qualify to be in the November ballot, but Schor has more support.

In Detroit, Mayor Mike Duggan led in the primary with 69.5 percent of the vote. His opponent, Sen. Coleman Young II (D-Detroit) claimed 27.1 percent of the votes, which also makes him eligible, but unlikely, to win the general election.

Also in Detroit, former Sen. Virgil Smith, who resigned last year after pleading guilty for shooting at his ex-wife's automobile qualified to run for the Detroit City Council second district, eliminating incumbent Council member and former Rep. George Cushingberry from the race.

Smith will face top primary vote-getter Roy McCalister, Jr., a retired Detroit Police officer and an investigator with the Federal Defenders Office.

DID CONYERS BREAK ETHICS RULES WITH STAFFER'S PAY?

The U.S. House Ethic Committee has released a report showing that U.S. Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-Detroit) may have paid a former chief of staff while she was not performing official work. If true, it would be a violation of House rules and standards of conduct.

The Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics has called for the Ethics Committee to subpoena Conyers. Conyer's attorneys say he acted properly.

Conyer's then Chief of Staff, Cynthia Martin, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor for receiving stolen property on March 30, 2016. On April 4, Conyers filed paperwork with the House to place Martin on unpaid leave for three months. He then changed the time of the leave and continued to make other changes. Martin's employment was terminated Oct. 25. The report says that Martin was paid by the House during a time when she may not have conducted any official work. The Office of Congressional Ethics also said Conyers refused to cooperate with its review.

MM&A Briefs

Whitmer replaces campaign manager

Gretchen Whitmer, a leading democratic candidate for governor, recently replaced her campaign manager Jerid Kurtz with Keenan Pontoni. In addition to working for the House Democratic Caucus, Pontoni has ran Gretchen Driskell's successful campaign for the state House, her unsuccessful 2016 campaign for Congress, and Democrat Jon Ossoff's unsuccessful special election campaign.

Cambensy and Yancy advance to November election

Two tight Democratic primaries last week led candidates Sara Cambensy and Tenisha Yancy to the forefront and a place on the November ballot.

Cambensy is a Marquette city commissioner who won the Upper Peninsula's 109th District, and hopes to replace former state Rep. John Kivela, who committed suicide after being arrested in May for drunk driving. Cambensy will face Republican Richard Rossway.

Yancy, a Harper Woods school board member, is running to fill the vacancy created by former Rep. Brian Banks. Banks resigned from office as part of a plea deal with the Attorney General's office regarding his felony charges related to a bank loan fraud years ago. Yancy will face Republican Mark Corcoran of Grosse Pointe Woods in this heavily democratic district.

Calendar of Important Events

- Aug. 14 Senate Republican Campaign Committee Fundraiser
Location: 6:30 p.m. Bay Harbor Golf Club, Bay Harbor
- Aug. 16 Rep. Jim Tedder (R-Clarkston) Fundraiser
Location: 4 p.m., Lansing Brewing Company, Lansing
- Aug. 17 Rep. Patrick Green (D-Warren) Fundraiser
Location: 5 p.m., 3929 Marlene Drive, Warren
- Aug. 18 Rep. Daniela Garcia (R-Holland) Golf Fundraiser
Location: 8:30 a.m., Winding Creek Golf Course, Holland
- Aug. 22 Rep. Jim Lilly (R-Park Twp.) Fundraiser
Location: 5 p.m., Jelly's, Grand Haven
- Sen. Mike Kowall (R-White Lake) Fundraiser
Location: 5 p.m., Palate, Milford
- Rep. Peter Lucido (R- Shelby Twp.) For Senate Fundraiser
Location: 5:30 p.m., The Palazzo Grande, Shelby Township
- Aug. 23 Rep. Tim Sneller (D-Burton) Fundraiser
Location: 4:30 p.m., White Horse Tavern, Flint
- Aug. 24 Rep. Curt VanderWall (R-Ludington) Golf Fundraiser
Location: 11 a.m., Lakeside Links Golf Course, Ludington
- Rep. Michael McCready (R-Bloomfield Hills) fundraiser
Location: 1:45 p.m. registration, 2:30 p.m. shotgun start, evening reception
Oakland Hills Country Club, Bloomfield Hills

- Aug. 24 Rep. Curt VanderWall (R-Ludington) Fundraiser
Location: 5 p.m., Lakeside Links Golf Course, Ludington
- Aug. 25 Rep. Scott VanSingel (R-Grant) Fundraiser
Location: 9 a.m., Cronk's, Newaygo
- Aug. 26 Rep. Robert Wittenberg (D-Oak Park) Fundraiser
Location: 6:30 p.m., Hazel Park Raceway, Hazel Park