

CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF JANUARY 20, 2020

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MICHIGAN GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER TO GIVE DEMOCRATIC RESPONSE TO STATE OF UNION ADDRESS

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer will be giving the Democratic response to President Donald Trump's State of the Union Address scheduled for Feb. 4, 2020.

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-New York) made the announcement today.

"Since day one, Governor Whitmer has rolled up her sleeves to get things done for the people of Michigan," Pelosi said in a statement. "During her time in public service, she has led the charge to expand health care to hundreds of thousands of people, expand protections for hard-working middle-class families and ensure clean drinking water in our communities. Her decades of hard work on behalf of the people should serve as a model for our nation. She's a forward-looking leader who is laser-focused on solving problems for everyday Michiganders and is uniquely qualified to deliver Democrats' message of progress for all Americans."

In response to the announcement, Whitmer tweeted: "Thrilled to have the opportunity to deliver the Democratic Response to the State of the Union. Democrats are laser-focused on building a stronger country, and this is an opportunity to show the American people that we are getting things done for them and for future generations."

The Spanish response to the State of the Union Address will be given by U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-Texas).

LUCIDO FACES SECOND SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMPLAINT

Sen. Peter Lucido (R-Shelby Twp.) is facing a second sexual harassment complaint filed by state Sen. Mallory McMorrow (D-Royal Oak) on Tuesday. The first complaint came a week ago when Michigan Advance Reporter Allison Donahue published a first-person account saying that Lucido made a sexist comment to her.

McMorrow filed her complaint with the Senate Business Office. As first reported by Crain's Business Detroit, McMorrow said that her first meeting with Lucido at an orientation for lawmakers on Nov. 8, 2018 made her feel like a "piece of meat."

McMorrow told reporters that during the orientation, she walked over to introduce herself to Lucido. She said he put his hand on her lower back and held it there.

He asked her where she was from, McMorrow said, and when she told him she'd defeated her opponent in the district, Marty Knollenberg, she said he looked her up and down and allegedly said, "I can see why."

Lucido denied the allegations. "I categorically deny this allegation which I believe is completely untrue and politically motivated," he said.

McMorrow decided to come forward with the complaint after seeing how Lucido apologized about the incident with Donahue but later backed off his apology.

McMorrow said, "I know I'm a sitting member, I know that my story carries weight... It's on us to change this culture and make this a comfortable place for everybody to work."

Lucido is now under investigation by the Senate Business Office.

According to his spokesperson, Amber McCann, Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R-Clark Lake), is withholding comment as the investigation is underway.

Shirkey also "encourages anybody who has a concern or feels that they have something that deserves attention or further investigation utilize the means to file a complaint."

BALLOT PROPOSAL AIMS TO MAKE DRASTIC CHANGES TO LOBBYING LAWS

The liberal advocacy organization Progress Michigan, through the ballot committee Coalition to Close Lansing Loopholes, announced a ballot proposal on Thursday that would dramatically change the way professional lobbyists interact with elected and top appointed officials.

The effort aims to restrict interactions between lobbyists and elected state officials by banning free food and drink for the officials, requiring former law makers to wait two years to become lobbyists, and changing a system that tracks lobbying.

The group filed the language for the proposed constitutional amendment with the state elections board. The ballot committee would have until July 6 to submit 425,000 valid voter signatures.

Details of the initiative include prohibiting lobbyists and their clients from giving anything of value to public officials or their immediate family, with an exception for legal campaign contributions and plaques with a value of no more than \$250 given to honor public service. Anything of value includes dinners, drinks, event tickets, and trips to conferences

Elected and appointed public officials include the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, members of the House and Senate, justices of the Supreme Court, judges of the Court of Appeals, members of the governing boards of Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University, the presidents of the state's public universities, the highest-ranking employee in the office of each state legislator, members of state boards and commissions, the heads of all principal state departments, and all members of the executive branch exempt from the civil service.

Currently, lobbyists must report any gifts, including tickets costing more than \$63 in one month; food and beverage expenses over \$63 per month, or over \$400 per 6 to 7-month period; and any travel or lodging paid for or reimbursed to a public official in excess of \$825.

Under the proposal, the definition of a lobbyist would be substantially broadened to include anyone compensated more than \$1,000 per year to lobby, or a former public official compensated more than \$1,000 to provide advice about influencing the official actions of public officials.

In addition, the proposal would require lobbyists to keep a log of who they lobby, when they lobby, who they represented, how they lobbied and the subject. Public officials would also have to maintain a lobbying log. The logs would have to be filed with the Department of State in an electronic format.

NCAA COMPENSATION BILLS MOVE IN HOUSE

Bills that would ensure Michigan college student-athletes could fully participate in intercollegiate athletics and keep their scholarship eligibility while earning compensation for use of their name, image or athletic reputation were referred by the House Oversight Committee this week.

Sponsors of HB 5217-18, Rep. Joseph Tate (D-Detroit) and Rep. Brandt Iden (R-Oshtemo Twp.) said the legislation is an issue of fairness.

The Michigan Association of State Universities, which represents 15 of the state's public universities, however, oppose the bills and said it would prefer a national solution for several reasons, including that the National Collegiate Athletic Association is a national organization.

The bills were reported with an amendment which pushed the start date to January 2021.

MM&A Briefs

Whitmer to present budget presentation Feb. 6

Gov. Whitmer will present her 2020-21 fiscal year budget recommendations to a joint meeting of the House and Senate Appropriations committees on Feb. 6.

Coulter announces raising over \$200,000 for County Exec Run

Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter said since announcing his bid for County Executive on Oct. 31, he has raised \$216,571 to seek a full term. Coulter will run in the Democratic primary against County Treasurer Andy Meisner. As of Oct. 20, Meisner had \$420,898 in his fund.

Calendar of Important Events

Jan. 26 Rep. Darrin Camilleri (D-Brownstown Twp.) Fundraiser

Location: 3 p.m., Champions Sports Grill, 22122 Sibley Road, Brownstown

Jan. 28 Rep. Angela Witwer (D-Delta Twp.) Fundraiser

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

Rep. Mari Manoogian (D-Birmingham) Fundraiser

Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

Jan. 29 Rep. Mary Whiteford (R-Casco Twp.) Fundraiser

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

Jan. 29 Rep. Kyra Bolden (D-Bolden) Fundraiser

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

Jan. 30 Rep. Luke Meerman (R-Coopersville) Fundraiser

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

Feb. 4 Rep. Kevin Coleman (D-Westland) Fundraiser

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

Feb. 5 Rep. Michael Webber (R-Rochester Hills) Fundraiser

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

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

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

Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit) PAC Fundraiser

Location: 4 p.m. Karoub Associates, Lansing

Sen. Peter MacGregor (R-Rockford) Fundraiser

Location: 4:30 p.m., Kelly's Downtown, 220 South Washington Square, Lansing