

CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

POST ELECTION NIGHT EDITION

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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS ON PAUSE

As of early this morning, voters were still waiting for six states to count their ballots and release results for the Presidential election. With Michigan as one of the states, numerous state and local election results are also unknown at this time.

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson has reportedly said that Michigan may not have final tallies until Friday. As of Tuesday, 3.2 million absentee ballots were returned which is a record for the state.

President Donald Trump addressed supporters around 2:30 a.m., claiming that he had won the presidential election and said, “We’ll be going to the US Supreme Court, we want all voting to stop,” Trump continued. “We don’t want them to find any ballots at 4 o’clock in the morning and add them to the list.”

Presidential candidate Joe Biden also addressed his supporters after midnight. “We knew this was going to be long,” Biden said. “But look: we feel good about where we are. We really do.”

STATE HOUSE

Republicans Retain Michigan State House with at Least 56 seats

Republicans will be leading the Michigan legislature for two more years, as election results show them holding the minimum of 56 seats needed to hold the majority. Results were trickling in early Wednesday morning, but it became clear that the Democrat’s plans to flip the house fell through with Republicans overturning two democratic incumbent legislators, Reps. Brian Elder of Bay City and Sheryl Kennedy of Davison. By the final tally, Republicans could see their seats grow to 59, with a net gain of one seat, leaving Democrats with 51 seats for the next legislative session.

“The people of Michigan have spoken loud and clear – they want two more years of House Republican leadership at their state Capitol,” House Speaker Lee Chatfield (R- Levering) said.

Oakland County Battle

A strong performance by Republicans in two Oakland County races for they were key to keeping Republicans in the majority in the House.

38th District: This was the only contested seat out of the four Oakland County seats to flip to Democrat with Kelly Breen of Novi beating Northville Republican Chase Turner with 51.6% of the votes compared to Turner’s with 48.4 %. The district covers Lyon Township, part of Northville, Novi, South Lyon, and Walled Lake.

39th District: Incumbent state Rep. Ryan Berman (R-Commerce Twp.) survived the election and will be serving a second term after beating Democratic challenger Julia Pulver, 51.9% to 46.5%.

44th District: Incumbent Republican Rep. Matt Maddock easily defeated Democrat Denise Forrest with 59.4% of the vote compared to 40.4%.

45th District: Mark Tisdell, a former Rochester Hills city council member, defeated his opponent Democrat Barb Anness, a Rochester Community Schools Board of Education trustee by 52% of the vote compared to 48%.

Additional House Races:

23rd District: Incumbent Democrat Darrin Camilleri from Trenton defeated Republican opponent John Poe by keeping 51.4% of the vote compared to Poe's 48.3%.

48th District: Republican David Martin, a current Genesee County commissioner, has unseated incumbent Rep. Sheryl Kennedy (D-Davidson) by around 500 votes. The win was unexpected, with Kennedy outspending Martin by nearly a 2 to 1 margin.

61st District: Held by Republicans for decades, Democrat lawyer and Kalamazoo County Commissioner Christine Morse managed to flip the seat by defeating Republican Bronwyn Haltom by about 4,000 votes (31,885 votes to 27,089). Currently held by Republican Rep. Brandt Iden, the seat covers the city of Portage and outer Kalamazoo county.

71st District: Democrat Angela Witwer of Delta Twp. defeated Republican Gina Johnsen with 50.4% of the vote to 48% of the vote with 95% of the precincts reporting.

72nd District: Incumbent Republican Steve Johnson is the likely winner for the seat against Democratic challenger Lily Cheng-Schulting. The district includes Kentwood and Gaines Township of Kent County, and Wayland of Allegan County.

73rd District: Republican Bryan Posthumus won this Kent County seat by taking 57% of the vote against Democrat Bill Saxton who had 41.7% of the vote.

96th District: Incumbent Democratic Rep. Brian Elder (D-Bay City) lost to Republican Timmy Beson, the owner of Beson's Market in Bay City.

98th District: Republican incumbent Annette Glenn won with 59% of the vote against Democrat Sarah Schulz who had 41% of the vote. The district includes City of Midland, village of Sanford and Homer, Jerome, Larkin, Lee, Lincoln and Midland townships, and parts of Bay County.

U.S. SENATE

James in the Lead

The race between Republican challenger John James and incumbent Democrat Gary Peters for the U.S. Senate remains unclear as votes continue to be counted. Earlier this morning, James led Peters 49.7% to 48.4% with about 89% of the vote counted. Many large counties are still counting absentee ballots. A winner is not expected to be announced until sometime Wednesday.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget McCormack was re-elected to a second term Tuesday, leading all other candidates across the state.

The second justice seat up for election was too close to call at this point. The seat is being vacated by Justice Stephen Markman who is term-limited by age. Democrat Elizabeth Welch, an attorney from Grand Rapids, is in the lead over Republican Mary Kelly as of early this morning.

OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Oakland County reported that Democratic incumbent Oakland County Executive David Coulter has won the election to serve a partial term until December 31, 2020 and also the full-term ending in 2024. Coulter defeated Republican Mike Kowall, a former state representative and senator, and White Lake Township supervisor.

PROPOSALS

Voters approve State's Natural Resources Trust Fund

Michigan residents voted to pass Proposal 1 which deals with the Use of State and Local Park Funds Amendment with over 80 percent of the vote.

Warrants for Electronic Surveillance Proposal Passes

Proposal 2 also passed easily with nearly 90% of the vote and will amend the Michigan Constitution to require a search warrant to access a person's electronic data and communications.