

# CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF AUGUST 2, 2021



McAlvey Merchant  
& ASSOCIATES

## **DHHS OUTLINES COVID RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCHOOLS**

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services this week announced that it is recommending schools use universal masking regardless of vaccination status, physical distancing, testing, and other COVID-19 precautions as ways to keep students in school during the next school year. The recommendations also can be used for child care facilities.

The guidelines are similar to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations, which include promoting vaccines, mask use, physical distance in classrooms, screening testing, improved ventilation, handwashing, staying home when you are sick, and getting tested. DHHS has added contact tracing and quarantine when necessary to the list.

Michigan's Superintendent of Public Instruction said "Our students and staff need to be in schools as much as possible this year. Following the informed guidance from national and state health experts will help keep our students and staff healthy and help maximize student learning."

The recommendations were released as the CDC has recommended individuals regardless of vaccine status wear masks indoors in areas of high or substantial transmission. Opponents of the recommendations support introducing legislation to stop schools from implementing mask mandates.

## **COVID-19 VACCINE MANDATORY AT 8 MICHIGAN COLLEGES**

As more colleges in Michigan are encouraging students to get the vaccine, eight schools are requiring COVID-19 vaccine before students arrive on campus, with one more requiring the vaccine for students living on-campus.

The message from many of the colleges coordinate with the White House's COVID-19 College Vaccine Challenge, which the state's 15 public universities are participating in.

The schools mandating vaccines include: University of Michigan (all three campuses), Michigan State University, Albion College, Kalamazoo College, Oakland University, Lawrence Technological University, Wayne State University, and the University of Detroit Mercy.

Most of these require students, faculty, and staff to present proof of vaccination in August, before returning to campus, with some medical and religious exemptions. Some are only requiring it for students who live in on-campus housing.

## **FAIR AND EQUAL MICHIGAN GOES TO COURT AFTER CANVASSER REJECTION**

Fair and Equal Michigan, a group trying to extend protections to LGBTQ people under the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act filed an appeal this week with the Michigan Supreme Court, asking to have petition sheets resampled after the Bureau of Elections invalidated more than 23,000 signatures.

The case will address the issue of whether or not electronic signatures are legal to be used in petition drives in the state, and will also include certain non-electronic signatures the board rejected. The appeal seeks an injunction as well as declaratory relief.

The committee is arguing that it has been held to a stricter set of standards than normal and that the bureau should be erring on the side of the voter when determining if signatures are legible and meet the criteria for being counted. The election bureau rejected 19,697 petition sheets containing an estimated 23,250 signatures that Fair and Equal Michigan argues neither election law nor any administrative rules permit the bureau invalidating sheets for "miscellaneous" reasons or those not defined by statute.

## **MM&A BRIEFS**

### **LONG-SERVING U.S. SENATOR CARL LEVIN DIES**

Michigan's longest-serving U.S. Senator Carl Levin died last week. He was 87.

Levin was a liberal Democrat from a prominent Detroit family. He retired in 2015 and was known for helping set military priorities and investigating corporate behavior. He served as chairman of the Armed Services Committee twice during his tenure. He also served as the head of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, where he questioned corporations including Enron, Apple, and Goldman Sachs.

In addition, he often defended the auto industry, backed Michigan projects including the M-1 Light Rail, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Detroit's RiverWalk, and a new Soo Lock.

Levin came back to Detroit after his retirement and became senior counsel at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP, and worked with the Levin Center at the Wayne State University Law School. Levin had disclosed in his recently published memoir, that he had been diagnosed with lung cancer when he was 83.

### **WOZNIAK AND HUIZENGA WIN PRIMARIES**

Rep. Doug Wozniak (R-Shelby Twp.) won the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate District Republican primary on Aug. 3 with a wide margin over Rep. Pamela Hornberger (R-Chesterfield), by getting 35.7 percent of the vote to Hornberger's 29.5 percent. Wozniak is expected to win the seat previously held by Peter Lucido who resigned to become county prosecutor.

In the 28<sup>th</sup> Senate District Republican Primary, Rep. Mark Huizenga (R-Walker) narrowly beat Algoma Township Supervisor Kevin Green and Rep. Tommy Brann (R-Wyoming). with Huizenga having 9,531 votes, Green with 9,357 votes, and Bran with 9,272 votes, according to Gongwer.

Huizenga is expected to win the seat in the strongly-Republican district, formerly held by Peter MacGregor who resigned after being elected Kent County Treasurer in 2020.

## **CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT EVENTS**

- Aug. 7      Sen. Stephanie Chang (D) K-Pop Dance Workshop Fundraiser**  
Location: 4 p.m., ArtLabJ Dance Studio - 18663 Livernois, Detroit
- Michigan Republican Party Fundraiser (with U.S. Rep. Jack Bergman)**  
Location: 4:30 p.m., Sip Bar, 4234 Main Street, Bay Harbor
- Aug. 8      HRCC Northern Michigan Reception**  
Location: 1 p.m., Country Club of Boyne, 334 Heather Drive, Harbor Springs
- Rep. Matt Koleszar (D) CTE**  
Location: 1 p.m., Millennium Park - 45769 Six Mile Road, Northville
- Senate Republican Campaign Committee (Northern Michigan Event)**  
Location: 6 p.m., 19th Tee The Heather-Boyne Highlands 600 Highland Dr., Harbor Springs
- Aug. 9      Senate Republican Campaign Committee**  
Location: 5:30 p.m., Elizabeth's Chop House - 113 South Front St, Marquette
- Rep. Terry Sabo (D) - Great Lakes, Great Opportunities Sunset Cruise Fundraiser**  
Location: 7 p.m., Aquastar - 560 Mart St., Muskegeon
- Aug. 10     Rep. Sarah Anthony (D) for State Representative**  
Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, Lansing
- AUG. 18     House Speaker Jason Wentworth (R) Presents An Evening of Comedy with Comedian Dwayne Gill**  
Location: 5:30 p.m., The Venue - 501 North McEwan St., Clare
- Aug. 19     Rep. Roger Hauck (R) Golf Outing**  
Location: 9 a.m., Buck's Run Golf Course, 1559 South Chippewa Road, Mt. Pleasant
- Sen. Roger Victory (R) for Senate**  
Location: 5 p.m., New Holland Brewing-Pub on 8th, 66th East 8th St., Holland