

CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF APRIL 18, 2022



McAlvey Merchant
& ASSOCIATES

WHITMER MAKES EFFORT TO SAVE PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer wrote to the U.S. Department of Energy on Wednesday, letting the department know that Michigan wants to seek federal funds to keep the Palisades nuclear power plant in west Michigan open.

The statement came weeks before the plant is set to close at the end of May, and a day after the Biden administration announced a \$6 billion civil nuclear credit program to assist financially distressed nuclear plants.

Whitmer wants to use the funds to keep the plant open, adding that the plant employs 600 residents and provides 800 watts of clean energy. If closed, the state would need to look to replace the electricity to power hundreds of thousands of homes.

In her statement, Whitmer urged “the companies involved to think creatively and optimistically about how to leverage this opportunity.”

“Together, we can protect 600 high-paying careers, support over 1,100 jobs in the area, and shore up \$363 million in annual, regional economic development. Getting this done will help us continue growing our economy, lowering energy costs for families, and boosting clean energy production in Michigan, which is critical to achieving energy independence,” she said.

To get some of the federal funds, the Palisades’ owner or operator needs to apply for the funding by May 19. In the meantime, Entergy, the company who owns the plant, says it is moving forward with a “safe and orderly shutdown.” The company’s strategy was to leave the business, because of the struggles to remain competitive for costs with other forms of energy.

The nuclear credit program is designed to stop a wave of nuclear plants from closing due to their expense against other forms of energy that are less expensive to deliver, but are based on fossil fuel energy sources with environmental costs. Whitmer has vowed to make the state carbon-neutral by 2050.

10 REPUBLICANS FILE TO RUN - LARGEST PRIMARY RACE IN STATE’S HISTORY

With 10 Michigan Republicans filing their required petition signatures on time, this year’s Republican gubernatorial primary race will be the largest in the state’s history.

Meeting Tuesday's 4 p.m. deadline, 10 candidates filed the required minimum of 15,000, and a maximum of 30,000 signatures – from registered Michigan voters with the Michigan Bureau of elections to be eligible to be placed on the primary election ballot on Aug. 2, 2022.

The winner of the primary will face incumbent Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who is the only Democrat running.

The Republicans on the ballot will be Republican commentator, Tudor Dixon; entrepreneur, Perry Johnson; financial adviser, Michael Markey Jr.; Michigan State Police captain, Michael Brown; Retired Detroit Police chief James Craig; former head of Rinke automotive group, Kevin Rinke; Chiropractor, Garrett Soldano; real estate broker, Ryan Kelley; CEO of Brandenburg Capital Management, Donna Brandenburg; and Pastor Ralph Rebandt.

Former President Donald Trump mentioned Dixon by name in a speech in Michigan earlier this year but has not formally endorsed him. Trump did, however, endorse Matt DePerno for Attorney General, and Kristina Karamo for Secretary of state.

The Michigan Republican convention will be held weekend at DeVos Place Convention Center, where Republican delegates will select which Attorney General and Secretary of State candidates the party will support in this year's general election.

ELECTION BILL GOES TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

A bill that requires a statement to be included on a person's voter registration application that it is a felony to vote more than once during the same election was headed to Gov. Whitmer last week after the Senate voted 24-14 along party lines to concur with changes to the bill, SB 302. The bill was not granted immediate effect, however, so if signed, it would not take effect until sometime in March 2023.

MM&A BRIEFS

INSURED DRIVERS BEGIN RECEIVING MCCA REFUND

According to Gov. Whitmer, more than \$906 million in refund checks has been distributed to insured drivers from the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association surplus.

Whitmer first announced the reimbursements in December 2021, with a deadline of May 9, 2022, for insured drivers to receive their checks. She had called for the funds after MCCA announced it had \$5 billion in surplus after the 2019 changes to the Auto No-Fault law. The MCCA completed its transfer of \$3 billion to auto insurers on March 9, 2022.

CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

April 22 Rep. Stephanie Young (D-Detroit) Unity Campaign Kickoff
Location: 6 p.m., Motor City Java House, 17336 Lahser, Detroit

April 26 Rep. Bob Bezotte (R-Howell) Spring Breakfast Event
Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan St., Lansing

Rep. Terry Sabo (D-Muskegon) for Michigan
Location: 8 a.m., County Road Association of Michigan, 101 South Washington Sq., Lansing

Sen. Mallory McMorrow (D) for Michigan
Location: 12 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend St., Lansing

Rep. Alex Garza (D-Taylor) Spring Fundraiser
Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend St., Lansing

April 27 Rep. Helena Scott (D-Detroit) Spring Break-Fast Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend St., Lansing

Rep. Pauline Wendzel (R-Watervliet) Breakfast Reception
Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan St., Lansing

Rep. Lori Stone (D-Warren) Spring Fling Fundraiser
Location: 11 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, First Floor, 208 North Capitol Ave., Lansing

Rep. Phil Green (R-Millington) Lunch Reception
Location: 11:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan St., Lansing

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist for Governor
Location: 4:30 p.m. with RSVP

Rep. Bradley Slagh (R-Zeeland) Reception
Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend St., Lansing

Rep. Greg VanWoerkom's (R) King's Day Leadership Reception
Location: 5 p.m., Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan St., Lansing

- April 28 Rep. David Martin (R) Breakfast Reception**
Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan St., Lansing
- April 30 Rep. Christine Morse (D) - Birthday and 2022 Re-Election Kick-Off**
Location: 3 p.m., Airway Fun Center, 5626 Portage Road, Portage
- May 3 Rep. Steve Carra (R) Breakfast Reception**
Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan St., Lansing
- Rep. Julie Brixie (D) Spring Reception**
Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend St., Lansing
- May 4 Rep. Sue Allor (R) Breakfast Reception**
Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan St., Lansing
- Rep. Andrew Fink (R) Lunch Event**
Location: 11:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan St., Lansing
- Rep. Pat Outman (R) - May the 4th Be with You Reception**
Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Restaurant Association, 225 West Washtenaw St., Lansing
- Michigan Senate Republican Majority Caucus**
Location: 5 p.m., The University Club, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing
- May 6 Rep. Alex Garza (D) - Campaign Kick-Off**
Location: 6 p.m., Taylor Meadows Golf Course, 25360 Ecorse Road, Taylor