

CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF MAY 2, 2022



McAlvey Merchant
& ASSOCIATES

REPUBLICAN GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES SIGNATURES CHALLENGED

Michigan Democrats are challenging the signatures and eligibility of three of the 10 Republican candidates running for governor, in an effort to disqualify them from the Aug. 2 primary.

Attorneys working with the Michigan Democratic Party allege the nominating petitions filed by former Detroit police chief James Craig, businessman Perry Johnson and conservative commentator Tudor Dixon included fraudulent or forged signatures

Craig has had the most problems, with his signatures also challenged by a SuperPAC supporting his Republican opponent Tudor Dixon. Attorney Mark Brewer, working with the Michigan Democratic Party, filed similar claims saying they found potential forgery and other issues on thousands of signatures.

Michigan candidates need to submit a minimum of 15,000 signatures from registered voters to get on the primary ballot.

The complaint filed by the Democratic Party challenges close to half of the 21,000 signatures submitted by Craig. Democrats accused Craig's circulators of participating in a "round-robin," where they pass around the petition sheets to sign different voters' names with different handwriting. They also cited evidence of multiple instances of forgery.

Democrats allege that Dixon's signatures are all invalid because the heading of the petition sheets includes the incorrect date on when the term for governor would end, in addition to saying there were 25 signatures from dead people.

For Johnson's signatures, Democrats cited the potential for forgery on 343 sheets, defective signatures because of duplicates, and incomplete signatures or other errors on the petition sheet, including individuals who were dead, the challenge says.

All three candidates said that the complaints were not true, and that they were confident they would each make the ballot.

MADDOCK REMOVED FROM HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

Rep. Matt Maddock (R-Milford) was removed from the House Republican Caucus last week, reportedly for "violating caucus rules." Maddock, a Trump loyalist, is the husband of current Republican Party Co-Chair Meshawn Maddock.

According to Gongwer News, sources said Maddock was “kicked out of the caucus for violating confidentiality rules,” and was warned about violating the rules, but continued to do so anyway. Also, that Maddock was funding and endorsing candidates who are challenging current incumbent members.

Maddock has also been accused of publicly criticizing Rep. Andrew Fink (R-Hillsdale) and House Speaker Jason Wentworth (R-Farwell) while at a speaking engagement with the Hillsdale College Republicans earlier this year.

Maddock’s opponents say that by campaigning against sitting caucus members, he is attempting to install Trump-sympathetic candidates in the House Republicans, and that it makes members’ jobs harder.

Maddock will continue to keep his committees and staff and will be able to vote. His page has been removed from the House Republican website and he no longer has access to informal meetings among Republican House members, or communications staff.

Democrat Glanville Wins Conservative 74th District Special Election

Democrat Carol Glanville won the conservative West Michigan 74th House District special election this week, in an upset for the Republicans. Glanville, a Walker city commissioner, beat Robert “RJ” Regan with 7,288 votes to Regan’s 5,697 votes, according to unofficial election results.

"My opponent's extreme, violent, and antisemitic views have no place in state government, and tonight the people of the 74th District made clear that they won't stand for extremism," Glanville said in a statement on Tuesday night.

Regan had been favored to win the strongly Republican district after winning in a special primary election, however, he became infamous for a series of offensive comments on rape and conspiracy theories including calling the Ukraine war a “fake war just like the fake pandemic.”

Many Republicans had removed their support from Regan before the election, with some supporting write-in candidate Mike Milanowski.

The district had previously seen former Rep. Mark Huizenga (R-Walker) reelected in 2020 with 63 percent of the vote over his Democratic challenger.

The special election was held to fill the seat of former Rep. Huizenga who vacated the seat after he was elected to the Senate last fall.

In addition to the 74th district, Republican Mike Harris won a special election in the 36th House District, and Republican Terence Mekoski won in the 43rd House District. Democrat Jeffery Pepper won in the 15th House District.

MM&A BRIEFS

STATE TO EXPAND POSTPARTUM MEDICAID COVERAGE

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently approved the state of Michigan's request to expand Medicaid coverage for moms and babies for a full 12-months postpartum.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer proposed the idea as part of her Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies initiative.

Currently, many Medicaid enrollees received coverage through the end of the month in which their 60-day postpartum period ended. Having Medicaid coverage for a full year will address persistent health disparities, according to the Governor's statement by providing access to critical health and dental services. An estimated 35,000 pregnant and postpartum women will benefit annually from the approximately \$20 million budgeted for this expansion.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 6 Rep. Alex Garza (D-Taylor) Campaign Kick-Off**
Location: 6 p.m., Taylor Meadows Golf Course, 25360, Ecorse Road, Taylor
- May 7 Supporters of Rep. John Cherry (D-Flint) Family Breakfast**
Location: 9 a.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 711 South Saginaw St., Flint
- May 10 Rep. Andrew Beeler (R-Fort Gratiot) Breakfast Reception**
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend St., Lansing
- Rep. Doug Wozniak (R) Evening Reception**
Location: 4 p.m., Sidecar Slider Bar, 500 East Michigan Ave., Lansing
- May 11 Rep. Kevin Coleman (D-Westland) Spring Reception**
Location: Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend St., Lansing
- Rep. Scott VanSingel (R-Grant) Reception**
Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan St., Lansing
- Rep. Rachel Hood (D-Grand Rapids) Spring Fundraiser**
Location: 11:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan St., Lansing,
- Rep. Jack O'Malley (R-Lake Ann) Leadership Reception**
Location: 4 p.m., Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan St., Lansing
- Rep. Tulio Liberati (D-Allen Park) Fundraiser**
Location: 5 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend St., Lansing
- Michigan Soft Drink Association Annual Legislative Reception**
Location: 5 p.m., Binsfeld Senate Office Building, 9th Floor (Dykema), 201 Townsend St., Lansing
- Michigan Railroads Association Spring Legislative Reception**
Location: 5 p.m., Troppo, 111 East Michigan Ave., Lansing
- May 12 Rep. Ken Borton (R-Gaylord) Breakfast Reception**
Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan St., Lansing
- Sen. Paul Wojno (D-Warren) for State Senate**
Location: 8:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend St., Lansing
- Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit) Fundraiser**
Location: 6 p.m., 13116 Vernon Ave., Huntington Woods
- May 14 Rep. Laurie Pohutsky (D-Livonia) - Fundraiser**
Location: 2 p.m., 25524 Five Mile Road, Redford Charter Township

120 W. Ottawa St., Lansing, MI 48933

P 517.482.9299 | F 517.484.4463 | mcalvey.com

- May 15 Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit) Drag Brunch**
Location: 12 p.m., La Feria, 4130 Cass Ave., Detroit
- Sen. Rosemary Bayer (D-Keego Harbor) for Senate**
Location: 1 p.m., The Library Pub, 6363 Haggerty Road, West Bloomfield
- May 16 Sen. Roger Victory (R-Georgetown Township) PAC fundraiser**
Location: 12 p.m., American Dunes Golf Club, 17000 Lincoln St., Grand Haven
- Rep. Graham Filler (R-St. Johns) Reception**
Location: 5:30 p.m., Saginaw Club, 219 North Washington Ave., Saginaw
- Rep. Nate Shannon (D-Sterling Heights) Campaign Kickoff**
Location: 6 p.m., Ike's Restaurant, 38550 Van Dyke Ave., Sterling Heights
- May 17 20th Annual Pam Posthumus Signature Auction Event by Children's Trust Fund**
Location: Breslin Student Events Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing
- May 18 Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit) Reception**
Location: 8:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan St., Lansing
- Rep. Pamela Hornberger (R-Chesterfield) for State Senate**
Location: 11:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan St., Lansing
- Michigan Funeral Directors Association - Legislative Luncheon**
Location: 12 p.m., Radisson Hotel, 111 North Grand Ave., Lansing