



CAPITOL REPORT

November 8, 2006

- **GRANHOLM WINS BY 525,000; MARGIN BEATS POLL PREDICTIONS**
- **LAND BY 540,000 FOR SECRETARY OF STATE; COX AG BY 400,000**
- **DEMS TAKE STATE HOUSE OF REPS FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1998**
- **LATE SURGE ALLOWS GOP TO BARELY HOLD STATE SENATE**
- **ALL STATE EDUCATION POSTS GO DEMOCRATIC**
- **TOTAL STATE VOTE OF 3.7 MILLION BEATS EXPECTATIONS**
- **K-16 FUNDING PROPOSAL SWAMPED BY 900,000**
- **BAN ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION WINS**
- **LEGISLATIVE CAUCUSES SET TO NAME NEW LEADERS NEXT WEEK**

Jennifer Granholm romped to a half-million vote victory yesterday to win a second term as Michigan's Governor. The 56% of the vote she polled well exceeded election-eve polls which showed a considerably tighter race, and she won majorities in approximately sixty of the state's 83 counties.

Republican Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land and Republican Attorney General Mike Cox proved that Michiganders know how to split their ticket, however, by running up margins nearly as large as Granholm's in their respective re-election bids.

In the all-important battle for control of the state legislature, Michigan will have a Legislature split between the parties for at least the next two years. Democrats won control of the State House 58-52 by dumping Republicans from six seats they held in the current legislature, including at least two "shockers." Dems ousted incumbents David Farhat of Muskegon and Rick Baxter and Leslie Mortimer, both of Jackson county. They also took open GOP seats in Grand Rapids, Northville-Plymouth and, most surprising, the Thumb. Neither of the last two seats was on the GOP's radar screen and those two defeats caught Republicans flat-footed. In addition, GOP Reps. David Law, Oakland County; Dave Robertson, Genesee County; and Jack Hoogendyke, Kalamazoo County, barely survived. Rep. David Palsrok in four counties of northwest lower Michigan had a close call and survived mainly on the strength of his margin in Mason county (Ludington/Scottville).

In the State Senate, it wasn't until nearly 6 o'clock this morning that Republicans were able to confirm their continued control of that body. A swing of just 1,200 votes would have produced a 19-19 tie and Democratic control by virtue of Lt. Gov. John Cherry's tie-breaking vote. But after trailing until nearly sunrise, Republican John Pappageorge, Oakland County, rallied to edge Andy Levin, son of long-time U.S. Congressman Sander Levin, and Dr. Roger Kahn, Saginaw County, finally nipped Rep. Carl Williams to give Republicans a 21-17 upper house margin. One of the big surprises of the night was the defeat of Sen. Laura Toy who fell before a tidal wave of Democratic votes in western Wayne County. By winning there, Rep. Glenn Anderson gave the Dems their only Senate pickup of the night. Senate Republican incumbents barely staved off challengers in other races around the state: Winners in that category were: Jerry Van Woerkom, Muskegon; Dr. Tom George, Kalamazoo; Randy Richardville, Monroe; and Bruce Patterson, western Wayne.

Meantime, as predicted by Kelley Cawthorne, all state education races were won by Democrats, generally by margins of around 250,000 votes. Included were contests for State Board of Education, U of M Regents, MSU Board of Trustees, and Wayne State Board of Governors. Losers included several Republican incumbents.

So why did the Dems win? The national Democratic tide was a big help, greatly increased turnout, a desire to support the Governor with more of her own team, and over \$5 million pumped into Dem races by a Kalamazoo activist, all played a role.

The two most controversial state ballot proposals met different fates. As predicted by Kelley Cawthorne, Prop 2 to ban affirmative action passed by nearly 600,000 votes, while Prop 5 to fund K-16 education was sunk by nearly 900,000 votes. Over-all, another election surprise was the turn-out, which ran 10% higher than most experts had predicted.

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So...now what? The Governor has a mandate and a Democratic House. Republicans, meanwhile, have a "firewall" in the Senate. Next week the legislative caucuses will meet to select their 2007-08 leadership. Leading Dem contenders for Speaker of the House will be Reps. Andy Dillon, Andy Meisner, and Barb Farrah. Soon-to-be ex-Speaker Craig DeRoche could possibly face opposition in his own caucus for the position of minority leader. In the Senate, the race for the powerful position of Majority Leader will be between Sens. Jason Allen, Mike Bishop, and Wayne Kuipers. On the Dem side, Sens. Mark Schauer and Mike Prusi will battle it for the Minority Leader who, but for 1,200 votes, could have been Majority Leader. Never say politics isn't interesting!

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Kelley Cawthorne will keep you posted on the caucus decisions.

Frank J. Kelley Deidre O. Cantelmo Jim Lavan
Pat McCollough Paul Spivey
[Signature] [Signature]
Melissa Gentry Bourke

KEY ELECTION RESULTS

Governor

Republican Dick **DeVOS** - 1,601,907, 42%
* Democrat Gov. Jennifer **GRANHOLM** - 2,124,356, 56%

Secretary of State

* Republican Secretary of State Terri Lynn **LAND** - 2,083,822, 56%
Democrat Carmella **SABAUGH** - 1,545,627, 42%

Attorney General

* Republican Mike **COX** - 1,980,968, 54%
Democrat Amos **WILLIAMS** - 1,588,666, 43%

U.S. Senate

Republican Mike **BOUCHARD** - 1,555,726, 41%
* U.S. Sen. Debbie **STABENOW** (D-Lansing) - 2,133,162, 57%

Proposal 2 (Michigan Civil Rights Initiative)

Yes - 2,131,488, 58%
No - 1,539,431, 42%

Proposal 3 (Dove Hunting)

Yes - 1,146,137, 31%
No - 2,500,212, 69%

Proposal 5 (K-16 Coalition)

Yes - 1,355,700, 38%
No - 2,245,587, 62%