



CAPITOL REPORT

NOVEMBER 2008



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Granholt Lists **Lame Duck Priorities and Budget Cuts**

During a press conference on November 6, Governor Granholt outlined her **four priorities for legislative action in the lame duck session** to help promote job development in Michigan. These priorities are:

- proposals to reduce unnecessary home foreclosures in the state which would allow for a 90-day freeze on foreclosures;
- an agreement on expanding Cobo Convention Center in Detroit;
- an agreement for development of a light rail system along the Woodward Corridor in metro Detroit; and
- completing action on promise zone legislation that will help communities allow residents' children to attend Michigan colleges free of tuition costs.

In addition, Governor Granholt said that she would issue an Executive Order cutting the 2008-09 budget this year. She did not know how much the executive order cuts would total, but sources said the administration is estimating cuts will total approximately \$600 million (\$400 million GF and \$200 SAF).

The decision on the amount of the cut will be decided after the University of Michigan's Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics is held on November 21. Another uncertainty that the state will have to consider is how much Congress may allocate to the states as part of an economic stimulus package for such items as Medicaid.

Congress is looking at a stimulus package, although there is discussion of doing a smaller package this year and then a second, larger, package once President-elect Barack Obama is sworn into office in January. Until the RSQE conference is held and the stimulus package is enacted, the state will not know how much to cut.

Another budgetary consideration is how much the state might realize in a revenue carry-forward from the 2007-08 fiscal year. Officials are expecting a larger carry-forward than previously anticipated because revenues were above forecasts, which should help offset some level of cuts. **Due to these various factors, it is not known how cuts will be allocated between departments, school aid and colleges and universities.**

Once an executive order cutting the budget is issued, it has to be approved or rejected by the two legislative appropriations committees.

Detroit School Board Approves Consent Agreement

On November 5, the Detroit Public School Board approved a consent agreement from the State Financial Management Review Team to eliminate the district's **estimated \$400 million deficit**. The plan allows the district to retain control of its own finances under stringent conditions. **If the district does not live up to the 15-page agreement, a financial manager may be appointed.**

The consent agreement lays out specific terms for the district's financial management which include:

- The district must submit a detailed plan for getting out of debt by June 30, 2011.
- DPS can no longer borrow money for more than 90 days at a time.
- The district also must give the Department of Education a list of all accounts payable for more than \$10,000 which are more than 30 days beyond their respective due dates.
- By December 15, 2008, the DPS shall provide the Department of Education with a detailed list of all buildings and facilities owned or leased.
- By January 15, 2009, the school district shall submit to the Michigan Department of Education a report indicating the status, completion date, and project plan for implementation of Council of Great City Schools report recommendations.
- Beginning November 30, 2008, the school district must report monthly cash flows for the remaining of the fiscal year.
- By January 2009, seek money-saving consolidations with Wayne RESA and file quarterly reports to the Michigan Department of Education.

Mike Flanagan, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, now has 30 days to make a final determination as to whether to accept the Review Team's recommendation and the consent agreement.

Major House and Senate Leadership Set

The House Democrats Elected Leadership

Speaker of the House Andy Dillon (D-Redford)
Speaker Pro Tempore Pam Byrnes (D-Chelsea)
Majority Floor Leader Kathy Angerer (D-Dundee)

The House Republicans Elected Leadership

Minority Leader Kevin Elsenheimer (R-Bellaire)
Assistant Minority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-Olive Township)
Minority Floor Leader David Hildenbrand (R-Lowell)
Assistant Minority Floor Leader Tonya Schuitmaker (R-Schuitmaker)
Assistant Minority Floor Leader Bill Rogers (R-Livingston)
Minority Caucus Chair Eileen Kowall (R-White Lake)
Assistant Minority Caucus Chair Larry DeShazor (R-Kalamazoo)
Chief Minority Whip Kevin Green (R-Wyoming)

The Senate Democrats Elected Leadership

Minority Leader Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming)*
Minority Floor Leader Buzz Thomas (D-Detroit)
Minority Caucus Chair Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods)
* Replacing Mark Schauer who was elected to Congress

The Senate Republicans Elected Leadership

Majority Leader Mike Bishop (R-Rochester)
Majority Floor Leader Alan Cropsey (R-DeWitt)
Majority Caucus Chair Nancy Cassis (R-Novi)

House Democrats Pick Up 9 Seats

For the fourth straight election, Democrats picked up seats in the House, growing their 58-52 lead over the Republicans to 67-43. These gains set up Democrats for the most control they have seen in the House in 30 years. However, this does not necessarily mean the 95th legislation will be easy. With 47 new representatives, it will take time to get House activities up and running smoothly. Listed below are the 95th House members, their offices, phone numbers, and fax numbers, starting in January. They can also be reached by e-mail through our website at: www.aftmichigan.org.

2009 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Post Office Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909

67 Democrats - 43 Republicans

<u>Representative</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Party/ District</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Phone # (517)</u>	<u>Fax # (517)</u>
Agema, David	Grandville	R- 74	1093	HOB 373-8900	373-8697
Amash, Justin	Kentwood	R- 72	1091	HOB 373-0840	373-7590
Angerer, Kathy	Dundee	D- 55	155	CB 373-1792	373-7757
Ball, Richard	Laingsburg	R- 85	1189	HOB 373-0841	373-7937
Barnett, Vicki	Farmington Hills	D- 37	886	HOB 373-1793	373-8501
Bauer, Joan	Lansing	D- 68	1087	HOB 373-0826	373-5698
Bennett, Doug	Muskegon	D- 92	1196	HOB 373-2646	373-9646
Bledsoe, Timothy	Grosse Pointe	D- 1	585	HOB 373-0154	373-6094
Bolger, James	Marshall	R- 63	997	HOB 373-1787	373-9119
Booher, Darwin	Evart	R-102	1386	HOB 373-1747	373-9371
Brown, Lisa	West Bloomfield	D- 39	888	HOB 373-1799	373-8361
Brown, Terry	Pigeon	D- 84	1188	HOB 373-0476	373-9852
Byrnes, Pam	Chelsea	D- 52	251	CB 373-0828	373-5783
Byrum, Barb	Onondaga	D- 67	1086	HOB 373-0587	373-9430
Calley, Brain	Portland	R- 87	1191	HOB 373-0842	373-6979
Caul, Bill	Mount Pleasant	R- 99	1288	HOB 373-1789	373-5491
Clemente, Ed	Lincoln Park	D- 14	693	HOB 373-0140	373-5924
Constan, Bob	Dearborn Heights	D- 16	695	HOB 373-0849	373-5967
Corriveau, Marc	Northville	D- 20	699	HOB 373-3816	373-5952
Coulouris, Andy	Saginaw	D- 95	1199	HOB 373-0152	373-8738
Crawford, Hugh	Novi	R- 38	887	HOB 373-0827	373-5873
Cushingberry Jr., George	Detroit	D- 8	351	CB 373-2276	373-7186
Daley, Kevin	Attica	R- 82	1186	HOB 373-1800	373-9981
Dean, Robert	Grand Rapids	D- 75	1094	HOB 373-2668	373-5696
Denby, Cindy	Fowlerville	R- 47	896	HOB 373-8835	373-5822
DeShazor, Larry	Portage	R- 61	995	HOB 373-1774	373-8872
Dillon, Andy	Redford Township	D- 17	164	CB 373-0857	373-5976
Donigan, Marie	Royal Oak	D- 26	790	HOB 373-3818	373-5888
Durhal, Fred	Detroit	D- 6	685	HOB 373-0844	373-5711
Ebli, Kate	Monroe	D- 56	990	HOB 373-2617	373-5782
Elsenheimer, Kevin	Bellaire	R-105	167	CB 373-0829	373-1841
Espinoza, John	Croswell	D- 83	1187	HOB 373-0835	373-9876
Geiss, Douglas	Taylor	D- 22	786	HOB 373-0852	373-5934
Genetski, Bob	Saugatuck	R- 88	1192	HOB 373-0836	373-8728
Gonzales, Lee	Flint	D- 49	898	HOB 373-7515	373-5817
Green, Kevin	Wyoming	R- 77	1096	HOB 373-2277	373-8731
Gregory, Vincent	Southfield	D- 35	799	HOB 373-1788	373-5880
Griffin, Martin	Jackson	D- 64	998	HOB 373-1795	373-5760
Haase, Jennifer	Richmond	D- 32	796	HOB 373-8931	373-8637
Haines, Gail	Lake Angelus	R- 43	892	HOB 373-0615	373-7512
Hammel, Richard	Flushing	D- 48	897	HOB 373-7557	373-5953
Hansen, Goeff	Hart	R-100	1289	HOB 373-7317	373-9469
Haugh, Harold	Roseville	D- 42	891	HOB 373-0854	373-5911
Haveman, Joseph	Holland	R- 90	1194	HOB 373-0830	373-7806
Hildenbrand, David	Lowell	R- 86	141	CB 373-0846	373-8714
Horn, Kenneth	Frankenmuth	R- 94	1198	HOB 373-0837	373-3589
Huckleberry, Mike	Greenville	D- 70	1089	HOB 373-0834	373-9622
Jackson, Shanelle	Detroit	D- 9	688	HOB 373-1705	373-5968
Johnson, Bert	Highland Park	D- 5	589	HOB 373-0144	373-8929
Jones, Rick	Grand Ledge	R- 71	1090	HOB 373-0853	373-6589
Jones, Robert	Kalamazoo	D- 60	994	HOB 373-1785	373-5762
Kandrevas, Andrew	Southgate	D- 13	692	HOB 373-0845	373-5926
Kennedy, Deb	Brownstown	D- 23	787	HOB 373-0855	373-5922

<u>Representative</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Party/ District</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Phone # (517)</u>	<u>Fax # (517)</u>	
Knollenberg, Marty	Troy	R- 41	890	HOB	373-1783	373-8660
Kowall, Eileen	White Lake	R- 44	893	HOB	373-2616	373-5843
Kurtz, Kenneth	Coldwater	R- 58	992	HOB	373-1794	373-5768
Lahti, Michael	Hancock	D-110	1489	HOB	373-0850	373-9303
LeBlanc, Richard	Westland	D- 18	697	HOB	373-2576	373-5962
Leland, Gabe	Detroit	D- 10	689	HOB	373-6990	373-5985
Lemmons Jr., LaMar	Detroit	D- 2	586	HOB	373-0106	373-7271
Lindberg, Steven	Marquette	D-109	1488	HOB	373-0498	373-9366
Lipton, Ellen Cogen	Hunting Woods	D- 27	791	HOB	373-0478	373-5884
Liss, Lesia	Warren	D- 28	792	HOB	373-2275	373-5910
Lori, Matt	Constantine	R- 59	993	HOB	373-0832	373-5763
Lund, Pete	Shelby Twp	R- 36	885	HOB	373-0843	373-5892
Marleau, Jim	Lake Orion	R- 46	895	HOB	373-1798	373-8574
Mayes, Jeff	Bay City	D- 96	1285	HOB	373-0158	373-8881
McDowell, Gary	Rudyard	D-107	1486	HOB	373-2629	373-8429
McMillin, Tom	Rochester Hills	R- 45	894	HOB	373-1773	373-5838
Meadows, Mark	East Lansing	D- 69	1088	HOB	373-1786	373-5717
Meekhof, Arlan	Olive Township	R- 89	1193	HOB	373-0838	373-9830
Melton, Tim	Auburn Hills	D- 29	793	HOB	373-0475	373-5061
Meltzer, Kimberly	Clinton Township	R- 33	797	HOB	373-0820	373-5974
Miller, Fred	Mount Clemens	D- 31	795	HOB	373-0159	373-5893
Moore, Tim	Farwell	R- 97	1286	HOB	373-8962	373-7195
Moss, Chuck	Birmingham	R- 40	889	HOB	373-8670	373-5868
Nathan, David	Detroit	D- 11	690	HOB	373-3815	373-5986
Nerat, Judy	Wallace	D-108	1487	HOB	373-0156	373-9370
Neumann, Andy	Alpena	D-106	1485	HOB	373-0833	373-8446
Opsommer, Paul	DeWitt	R- 93	1197	HOB	373-1778	373-5780
Pavlov, Phil	St. Clair Township	R- 81	1185	HOB	373-1790	373-9983
Pearce, Tom	Rockford	R- 73	1092	HOB	373-0218	373-5697
Polidori, Gino	Dearborn	D- 15	694	HOB	373-0847	373-7538
Proos IV, John	St. Joseph	R- 79	1098	HOB	373-1403	373-3652
Roberts, Sarah	St. Clair Shores	D- 24	788	HOB	373-0113	373-5912
Rogers, Bill	Brighton	R- 66	1085	HOB	373-1784	373-8957
Rocca, Tory	Sterling Heights	R- 30	794	HOB	373-7768	373-5903
Schmidt, Roy	Grand Rapids	D- 76	1095	HOB	373-0822	373-5276
Schmidt, Wayne	Traverse City	R-104	1388	HOB	373-1766	373-9420
Schuitmaker, Tonya	Lawton	R- 80	1099	HOB	373-0839	373-5940
Scott, Bettie Cook	Detroit	D- 3	587	HOB	373-1776	373-8502
Scott, Paul	Grand Blanc	R- 51	985	HOB	373-1780	373-5810
Scripps, Dan	Northport	D-101	1385	HOB	373-0825	373-9461
Segal, Kate	Battle Creek	D- 62	996	HOB	373-0555	373-5761
Sheltrown, Joel	West Branch	D-103	1387	HOB	373-3817	373-5495
Simpson, Mike	Jackson	D- 65	999	HOB	373-1775	373-5242
Slavens, Dian	Canton Twp	D- 21	785	HOB	373-2575	373-5939
Slezak, Jim	Davison	D- 50	899	HOB	373-3906	373-5812
Smith, Alma Wheeler	Ypsilanti	D- 54	988	HOB	373-1771	373-5797
Spade, Dudley	Tipton	D- 57	991	HOB	373-1706	373-5777
Stamas, Jim	Midland	R- 98	1287	HOB	373-1791	373-9480
Stanley, Woodrow	Flint	D- 34	798	HOB	373-8808	373-5997
Switalski, Jon	Warren	D- 25	789	HOB	373-1772	373-5906
Tlaib, Rashida	Detroit	D- 12	691	HOB	373-0823	373-5993
Tyler, Sharon	Niles	R- 78	1097	HOB	373-1796	373-5918
Valentine, Mary	Muskegon	D- 91	1195	HOB	373-3436	373-9698
Walsh, John	Livonia	R- 19	698	HOB	373-3920	373-5957
Warren, Rebekah	Ann Arbor	D- 53	987	HOB	373-2577	373-5808
Womack, Jimmy	Detroit	D- 7	686	HOB	373-0589	373-6404
Young, Jr., Coleman	Detroit	D- 4	588	HOB	373-1008	373-5995

New Representatives are in Bold

CB = Capitol Building

HOB - Anderson Building

Dems Sweep State Education Boards

The Democratic candidates, without exception, won each of the eight education-related board races. Winners include:

State Board of Education

Kathleen Straus (Democrat)
John Austin (Democrat)

Michigan State University Board of Trustees

Dianne Byrum (Democrat)
Diann Woodard (Democrat)

University of Michigan Board of Regents

Laurence Deitch (Democrat)
Denise Ilitch (Democrat)

Wayne State University Board of Governors

Paul Massaron (Democrat)
Gary Pollard (Democrat)

Bill Would Allow Community Colleges to Opt Out of MPERS

The Senate Education Committee has reported out **Senate Bill 1450 (Sub. S-1)(Kuipers, R-Holland)** under which community colleges would have the option of withdrawing their participation in the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System.

Under the bill, "public school employee" would not include a person who first becomes employed by a qualified tax-supported community or junior college on or after January 1, 2010, unless that person is also a member or former member within 60 days of January 2, 2010. "Public school employee" includes a person who continues in a position with a qualified tax-supported community or junior college that has submitted an appropriate resolution to withdraw from the retirement system, even if that person executes a new contractual agreement as a condition of employment.

"Qualified tax supported community or junior college" would mean a tax-supported community or junior college that has submitted an appropriate resolution to withdraw from the retirement system to the retirement board by December 1, 2009.

Service performed by a person who first becomes employed by a "qualified tax-supported community or junior college" on or after January 1, 2010, would be considered out-of-system public education service. The bill would also remove from the definition of "reporting unit," beginning January 1, 2010, a "qualified tax-supported community or junior college" except to the extent that the college has employees on its payroll who are members of MPERS.

AFT Michigan and other education organizations have opposed Senate Bill 1450 because it will put additional pressure on those remaining in the system to cover unfunded liabilities. **Senate Bill 1450 currently awaits action before the full Senate and could be taken up during the Lame Duck session after Thanksgiving.**

PLEASE HELP US STOP SENATE BILL 1450 BY CONTACTING YOUR STATE SENATOR IN OPPOSITION TO THIS PROPOSAL! For your convenience, there is a form letter on our website you can e-mail to your Senator: <http://www.aftmichigan.org>. Thank you for your help!

Adequate Yearly Progress

Under Senate Bill 1013 (Kuipers, R-Holland), as approved by the Senate Education Committee, a school that has been unaccredited for three consecutive years **or** that has failed to achieve the Federal Pupil Performance Standard, as determined by the State **(AYP), for five or more consecutive years** will be subject to one or more of the following measures:

- The superintendent of public instruction must appoint, at the expense of the school district, an administrator of the school until the school becomes accredited **or has achieved the Federal Pupil Performance Standard, as determined by the State (AYP), for two consecutive years.**
- A parent of a child who attends the school may send his or her child to any public school with an appropriate grade level within the school district that is either accredited or **has achieved the Federal Pupil Performance Standard, as determined by the State (AYP), for the most recent year for which a determination has been made.**
- The school, with the approval of the superintendent of public instruction, shall align itself with an existing research-based school improvement model or establish an affiliation for providing assistance to the school with a college or university located in this state.
- The school may be closed.

The significant change this bill would make from current law is that it would apply the above-mentioned consequences not only to unaccredited school, but they would apply to all Michigan schools not making Adequate Yearly Progress. (This would increase the number of schools these provisions apply to from under 10 to over 300).

Senate Bill 1013 is currently awaiting action before the full Senate.

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What's Up at the Capitol

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