



This Week in Lansing

MHSA • Muchmore Harrington Smalley & Associates, LLC

Highlights of the Latest Major Legislative, Administrative and Regulatory Activity in the State Capitol

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ICRC ADOPTS NEW HOUSE MAP, NOW AWAITS RULING FROM THE COURT – After a months long process of redrawing seven *House Districts* in the Detroit-area, the *Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC)* sent their final remedy map to the three-judge panel that ordered the *ICRC* to redraw the state *House* map for violating the Detroiters Equal Protection Clause.

The bigger picture: The *ICRC* advanced the [Motown Sound FC E1](#) map on Wednesday, which makes changes to *House Districts 1-14*, even though only *House Districts 1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12* and *14* were ruled to violate Detroiters 14th Amendment rights. The new proposed map does not appear to make significant changes or disruptions in the current makeup of the *House*. The three-judge panel will now review the submitted map and decide if it fixes the unconstitutional districts. If it does not, a special master will take over the mapping process and draw a new, different *House* map to correct the issues found in the court’s 2023 ruling.

To read more, please click [here](#).

JUDGE RULES KRISTINA KARAMO WAS PROPERLY REMOVED AS MIGOP CHAIR – This week, *Kent Circuit Court Judge Joesph Rossi* ruled that *Kristina Karamo* was properly voted out as the *Michigan Republican Party Chair* on January 6th by a faction of breakaway *MIGOP* members.

Why it matters: *Ms. Karamo* has been a divisive figure as the *MIGOP* chair since taking the reins a year ago. *Judge Rossi’s* ruling this week puts an end to a heated debate regarding leadership of the *Michigan Republican Party*, as the same group that voted *Ms. Karamo* out appointed *Pete Hoekstra* as the new chair. The ruling does not necessarily close the case, but does state that *Mr. Hoekstra* is the active *MIGOP* chair.

To read more, please click [here](#).

PRESIDENT BIDEN, DONALD TRUMP EASILY WIN RESPECTIVE PRIMARIES – Both *President Joe Biden* and *former President Donald Trump* won their respective presidential primaries by a landslide.

The bigger picture: *President Biden* faced nominal challenges from author *Marianne Williamson* and *U.S. Representative Dean Philips (D-Minnesota)* in the *Democratic* primary Tuesday night, with the president securing over 80 percent of the vote. *Mr. Trump* also secured a victory in Michigan over *Nikki Haley*, the former Governor of South Carolina, by securing over two-thirds of the vote. Both *President Biden* and *Mr. Trump* were expected to cruise to victory Tuesday, with neither candidate in the 2024 presidential election facing significant opposition in Michigan.

To read more, please click [here](#).

ELECTIONS

- **Republican National Committee (RNC) Chair Ronna McDaniel** announced this week that she is resigning from her post as **RNC** chair in March. **Chair McDaniel** is a former **Michigan Republican Party** chair and will step down following the **RNC's** March 8 spring training, which will allow the **Republican** Presidential nominee to select a new chair.
- **Representative Christine Morse (D-Texas Township)** announced in late 2023 that she is not seeking reelection to the **House** in 2024. She announced this week that she is running for judge in the **9th Circuit Court in Kalamazoo County**, a new judgeship created by the **Legislature** in 2022.
- Michigan voters on Tuesday approved 81.8 percent of local proposals, with property tax increases being the majority of approved proposals. Notably, of the seven bond proposals on ballots, only one passed.
- **Former U.S. Representative Justin Amash** announced this week that he is running for the open **U.S. Senate** seat. **Mr. Amash** entering the race increases the **Republican** primary field total to 12 candidates.

ODDS AND ENDS

- The **House** passed legislation this week that would ban the sale of nitrous oxide containers, which are known as whippets. **Senate Bills 57** and **58** passed the **House** with bipartisan support, passing 87-18 and 88-17, respectively.
- The **Senate** passed a six-bill package that would change how public entities enter into contracts for performing asbestos mitigation, enact penalties for not meeting certain conditions, require background checks on contractors conducting asbestos abatements and require yearly reports on inspectors. **House Bills 4185, 4186** were passed along party lines, while **House Bills 4188, 4190**, and **Senate Bills 225** and **226** all received some bipartisan support.
- **Governor Gretchen Whitmer's** office announced that over 300,000 checks from the **Working Families Tax Credit** were sent out this week. The checks total \$219 million, which provides eligible taxpayers a supplemental check with an additional 24 percent to the 6 percent earned income tax credit when they filed their state individual income tax returns for 2022. This brings the state income tax credit up to parity with the federal tax credit.
- The **House Education Committee** took testimony only on legislation that would repeal the **Educational Instruction Access Act**, which prohibits a local government body from restricting how the property of an educational institution can be sold. **House Bill 5025** heard divided testimony from numerous stakeholders on Tuesday, with countless organizations voicing support and opposition.
- **Governor Gretchen Whitmer** signed legislation into law this week that would require more information and a review of foster children in the state's education system. **House Bills 4677** and **4678** are **Public Acts 11** and **12** of 2024.
- **Governor Gretchen Whitmer** also signed legislation into law this week that abolishes the rules review committee within the **Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy**, which was created during the final weeks of **former Governor Rick Snyder's** term. **House Bills 4824, 4825** and **4826** are **Public Acts 7, 8** and **9** of 2024, but did not receive immediate effect.
- The **House Regulatory Reform Committee** heard testimony only on a bill package that would increase regulations for mobile home parks and outline protections and rights for residents living in manufactured homes. **House Bills 4886, 4887, 4888**, and **4889** heard testimony in support of the package, but received opposition from groups who called for the legislation to go further in protecting residents.

- The *Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Committee* reported legislation this week that would remove a provision in law that prevents an individual from obtaining a driver's license when they have had at least two moving violations in the past three years. *House Bill 5103* was reported unanimously.
- The *Senate Finance, Insurance, and Consumer Protection Committee* took testimony only on a bill that would cap payday lending interest rates at 36 percent. *Senate Bill 632* would have Michigan join 20 other states and the District of Columbia that have enacted laws to cap payday loan lending rates at a 36 percent annual percentage rate.

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