

## **MWA Legislative Update – November 2016**

### **A CLEAN SWEEP FOR THE GOP**

From a stunning upset win for businessman Donald Trump to become the 45th president elect of the United States, to the GOP retaining the U.S. Senate and House, Republicans keeping their 9-5 margin in the U.S. Congress, blocking any attempt by the Democrats to take control of the Michigan House of Representatives and maintaining a lock on the Michigan Supreme Court, it was a remarkable Republican victory.

### **TRUMP RIDES A POPULIST THEME TO THE WHITE HOUSE**

For the first time since 1988, Michigan would go Republican in selecting a U.S. President.

### **REPUBLICANS HOLD 9-5 EDGE IN U.S. HOUSE**

Retired Lt. General Jack Bergman crushed former Michigan Democratic Party Chair Lon Johnson 55 to 40 percent to win big in the 1st Congressional District where incumbent U.S. Representative Dan Benishek (R- Crystal River) did not seek reelection.

In the 8th Congressional District Mike Bishop (R-Rochester) scored a healthy 57 to 39 percent margin victory over Democratic challenger Suzanna Shkreli and U.S. Representative Tim Walberg coasted to his fifth-term win by defeating Gretchen Driskell 59 to 36 percent.

And former Ross Educational CEO Paul Mitchell was a first-time winner in his expected defeat of former Representative Frank Accavitti in Michigan's 10th Congressional district.

### **GOP KEEPS CONTROL OF THE MICHIGAN HOUSE**

Donald Trump's strong showing in Michigan put the brakes on any hopes the Democrats had of taking control of the Michigan House of Representatives.

Republicans will continue to hold the 63-47 edge they currently have in the House with the defeat of Representative Bill Lavoy (D-Monroe) who lost to Joseph Bellino Jr., the Monroe County Commission Chair and the Democrats flipping a Republican held seat in the 23rd House district where Darin Camilleri defeated Republican Bob Howey.

In a closely watched race in the 71st House District, Representative Tom Barrett (R-Pottersville) won a 10-point victory turning back a challenge by former Representative Theresa Abed (D-Grand Ledge) who he defeated two years ago in a closely fought race.

Democrats needed nine seats to take majority and spent heavily in several contested seats. Recent polls suggested that up to six seats were in play for the Democrats and they ultimately came up short in all but one of those seats.

### **SUPREME COURT INCUMBENTS VICTORIOUS**

Justices Joan Larsen and David Viviano scored easy victories to give Republican-nominated justices a 5-2 advantage on the high court bench.

Matt Kurta

121 W. Allegan Street | Lansing, MI 48933 T: 517-482-5000 M: 517-303-3961 [www.karoub.com](http://www.karoub.com) | [mkurta@karoub.com](mailto:mkurta@karoub.com)

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