

2018 Election Results

Democrat Gretchen Whitmer will be the next governor of Michigan, and Garlan Gilcrest will be the Lieutenant Governor, after they defeated Republican Bill Schuette and Lisa Posthumus Lyons in the November 6 election. Democrats clinched the top of the ticket races, with Jocelyn Benson defeating Mary Treder Lang for Secretary of State, and Dana Nessel edging Tom Leonard for Attorney General. Senator Debbie Stabenow was also elected to a fourth term after surviving a strong challenge from political newcomer John James. Democrats were also able to flip two U.S. House seats with Haley Stevens defeating Lena Epstein in the 11th District and Elissa Slotkin defeating Mike Bishop in the 8th. Fred Upton (R-St. Joseph) staved off a tough challenge from Democrat Matt Longjohn to win his 17th term and avoid being the third Democratic pickup in Michigan's Congressional delegation. In the 13th District in Southeast Michigan, Rashida Tlaib won her race becoming the first Muslim-American woman ever to be elected to Congress.

For the state legislative races, the "Blue Wave" that would have been necessary for Democrats to win majorities in the State House and State Senate failed to materialize. The success at the top of the ticket did not translate to the huge gains they would have needed to overcome large Republican majorities in both chambers of the Michigan Legislature. The Democrats picked up five seats in the State House and five seats in the State Senate to bring the partisan totals for next year to 58-52 GOP in the House and 22-16 GOP in the Senate. That likely means that the next Speaker of the Michigan House will be Lee Chatfield (R-Levering), and the next Senate Majority Leader will be Mike Shirkey (R-Clark Lake). Both caucuses will hold their official leadership elections later this week.

Elsewhere on the ballot, three constitutional changes were approved as Proposals 1, 2 and 3 all passed by large margins. Proposal 1 will legalize the sale of marijuana in Michigan for recreational use to persons age 21 and older. Proposal 2 will create an independent redistricting commission to draw legislative maps. Proposal 3 makes numerous changes to voting laws, including restoration of straight party voting and no-reason absentee voting.

Justice Beth Clement was overwhelmingly reelected to the Michigan Supreme Court. As of this writing, the second seat is still too close to call, with incumbent Kurtis Wilder narrowly trailing Megan Cavanagh. Michigan voters also selected candidates for statewide educational boards. Bryan Barnhill and Dr. Anil Kumar were elected to the Wayne State Board of Governors, Brianna Scott and Kelly Tebay were elected to the MSU Board of Trustees, Jordan Acker and Paul Brown were elected to the U of M Board of Regents, and Judy Pritchett and Tiffany Tilley were elected to the State Board of Education.

Both the House and the Senate will be in session tomorrow before a two week break. House session is currently scheduled for the weeks of November 27th, December 4th, December 11th, and December 18th. Senate session is currently scheduled for November 27th, December 4th, December 11th, with tentative session scheduled for the week of December 18th.

We will be following up with a more extensive election overview with a complete list of legislators for the 2019-2020 session.