

CAPITOL REPORT

November 16, 2024

By AAUWMI Government Relations Coordinator Mary Pollock

ELECTION RESULTS

Turnout –Michigan voters cast a **record-breaking 5.67 million votes** in the November election — 100,000 more votes than the previous record, which was set in 2020; 79 of the 83 counties topped their 2020 vote totals.

More than 2 million people voted in-person on Election Day and about 3.4 million people took advantage of new early voting options by either voting in-person before Election Day or submitting an absentee ballot. Nearly 21,700 people registered to vote through same-day voter registration – in comparison to the 3,600 same-day registrations in the 2022 midterms.

Federal Offices - Former President **Donald Trump** was elected as the 47th President of the United States. He had a 1.39-percentage-point victory in Michigan. Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris made history as the first Black and South Asian woman to secure a major political party's nomination for President. Trump was able to secure both a win in the rurally weighted Electoral College and the national popular vote this time. He won all seven battleground swing states. Trump received 157,000 more Michigan votes this election than he did in 2020, while Kamala Harris collected 74,000 fewer votes than Joe Biden in 2020.

In Congressional races, Michigan elected Congresswoman **Elissa Slotkin** (D-Holly) to a narrow victory over former Congressman **Mike Rogers** by just under 22,000 votes to replace retiring **U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow**. However, the U.S. Senate itself flipped from Democratic majority control to Republican control.

Seven Michigan Republicans and six Democrats won their races for Michigan's 13 U.S. House seats. Former State Senator **Tom Barrett** (R-Grand Ledge) defeated former State Senator **Curtis Hertel** (D-East Lansing) in the open 7th Congressional District in mid-Michigan to replace Elissa Slotkin who ran for the open U.S. Senate seat. State Senator **Kristen McDonald Rivet** (D-Bay City) won her race against Republican **Paul Junge** in the open 8th U. S. House District that includes Flint, Saginaw, Midland, and Bay City currently held by retiring **U.S. Congressman Dan Kildee**. All other incumbent Members of Congress from Michigan won their races.

At this writing there are still uncalled Congressional races in other states, but the predictions are that the Republicans will hold the majority in the U.S. House.

Michigan House – In addition to national election success, Republicans will take back control of the Michigan House, winning 58 of the 110 seats. The current Michigan House Democratic margin until sine die at the end of December 2024 is 56-54. Michigan is the only state that saw a legislative chamber change partisan hands in the November election based on information from the National Conference of State Legislatures.

To win the House majority, Republicans flipped 4 State House seats and re-elected all their incumbents despite a large cash advantage by Democrats. Losses were in the 58th House District (Rep. Nate Shannon, D-Sterling Heights), the 27th House District (Rep. Jaime Churches, D-Wyandotte), the 44th House District (Rep. Jim Haadsma, D) covering parts of Calhoun County,

including Battle Creek, and the 109th House District (Rep. Jenn Hill, D-Marquette) in the Upper Peninsula.

The 38-member State Senate was not on the ballot this year. However, State Senate Democrats will go for at least part of 2025 with a slim 19-18 majority with the departure of State Senator Kristen McDonald Rivet to Congress in early 2025. The Constitution requires the Governor to call a special election following a legislator's formal departure. The Lt. Governor who presides over the State Senate can break ties if one should occur.

Michigan Supreme Court - In the Michigan Supreme Court race, incumbent **Justice Kyra Harris Bolden** and University of Michigan professor **Kimberly Ann Thomas** won open seats, growing the Democratic nominated majority to 5-2. While Supreme Court seats are technically nonpartisan, candidates are nominated at political party conventions, and Democratic nominees have held a 4-3 majority since 2020.

Michigan Education Boards - For the four Michigan Education Boards, 6 of the 8 seats will be taken by Republicans. Only Democrats **Denise Illitch** (University of Michigan) and **Rebecca Bahar-Cook** (Michigan State University) bucked the general Republican tide.

All newly elected officeholders will take their oaths of office in early January.

State House leadership changes – On November 7, Republican members of the newly elected 103rd Legislature elected **State Representative Matt Hall** (R-Kalamazoo) to lead their caucus in the 2025-26 legislative term and he will serve as the **next Speaker of the House** after the formal election by the entire Michigan House at its opening session in January. House Republican leadership includes **Speaker Pro Tempore Rachelle Smit** (R-Shelbyville) and **Majority Floor Leader Bryan Posthumus** (R-Cannon Township). The majority party controls committee chair and committee appointments, the budget for House members, the daily agenda of bills that will move to the full House for consideration, and much more.

Democratic members have elected **Ranjeev Puri** (D-Canton) to serve as Democratic minority leader during the 2025-26 term. They elected **John Fitzgerald** (D- Wyoming) as minority floor leader.

Counties - Among Michigan's 83 county commissions, Republicans netted 22 more seats, flipped five county commissions and won a majority in two more. Democrats flipped one commission, according to election numbers gathered by *MIRS*.

Republicans flipped Bay County (from 4-3 Dem to 6-1 GOP), Gogebic (from 6-1 Dem to 4-3 GOP), Kalamazoo (6-3 Dem to 5-4 GOP), Keweenaw (3-1-1 Dem to 3-1-1 GOP), Muskegon (4-3 Dem to 6 - 1 GOP). Republicans also took a majority in Ogemaw County. Prior to the election, it was 2-2 with one vacancy. Now it's 5-0 Republican. It was a similar dynamic in Presque Isle County. It was 2-2 with one independent. Now it's 4-0 with one independent.

Democrats lost the majority in Ontonagon County. They had a 3-1-1 majority prior to the election. Now, it's split 2-2 with one independent. The Democrats won a 6-1 majority in Leelanau County. Prior to the election, it was 3-3 with one vacancy.

Certification process next – Transforming the unofficial results into certified results is a lengthy, detailed process. The 83 County Board of Canvassers made up of two Democrats and two

Republicans have 14 days after the election to review precinct results and certify the election - by November 19 this year. If a county fails to certify, the Board of State Canvassers will do it.

The Board of State Canvassers, made up of two Democrats and two Republicans, will meet to certify the statewide results and the results of any races that cross county lines (for instance, a congressional or state legislative district that spans multiple counties). Its deadline is 20 days after the election or November 25 this year.

Presidential certification process - Michigan's presidential electors selected at their party conventions earlier this year will convene at 2 p.m. in the Michigan Senate chamber on the first Tuesday after the second Wednesday in December after the election. This year, that's December 17. On that day, they will formally cast their votes for president and vice president. These will be sent to the Archivist of the U.S. for transmission to Congress. On January 6, Congress will meet to tally the Electoral College votes. The Vice President (Kamala Harris this year) serves as the presiding officer of that joint session. The Electoral Count Act governing the process has been somewhat modified since 2021 to require more support for any challenges.

This final step in determining the winner of the presidential election received little attention until 2021, when supporters of former President Donald Trump stormed the Capitol, trying to stop Congress from certifying the results showing that Joe Biden won the presidential race. It was a violent day that broke a long tradition of the peaceful transition of presidential power in the U.S. So far, this looks like a more peaceful transition.

LAME DUCK SESSION

The Michigan House and Senate are scheduled to meet Tuesday – Thursday until December 19 except for a two week break the weeks of November 17 and November 24. During the lame duck session, the Democrats will still have the trifecta they won in 2022, but if one Democrat House member is absent, a solely partisan Democratic bill will not be successful.

Governor Whitmer's highest priority in the last two months of the 102nd Legislature is reportedly making annual funding of the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Fund (SOAR) into a 10-year commitment. Speaker-elect Matt Hall says he'd like that money to go road improvements rather than speculative economic development projects.

Many trade associations and advocates want the Democrats to move their high priority bills during lame duck session. Some of the projected issues are altering the voter-initiated laws on paid sick time and minimum wage increases for tipped workers, changing the no-fault auto insurance reimbursement rates, expanding the Freedom of Information Act to the Legislature and the Governor's Office, restoring unemployment benefits from 20 weeks to 26 weeks, and many more. AAUWMI would like the Equal Pay package of bills and many others we have supported in committee to move through passage!

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

At this writing before the close of Michigan's 102nd Legislature, **1,132 Senate Bills** and **5,148 House bills** have been introduced. The Michigan Senate has proposed 11 constitutional amendments, and the Michigan House has proposed 21 constitutional amendments. None have garnered the necessary super majority to put them on the ballot.

Of all bills introduced in the 102nd Legislature, I am tracking for AAUWMI 978 bills related to our AAUWMI and AAUW Public Policy Priorities in these categories:

Bill Category	Number of bills
Economic security for women	182
Education, sex equity in education	141
Equality, individual rights, and social justice	
Domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking	103
Family	121
Firearms	127
LGBT rights	22
Reproductive justice	191
Voting rights, campaign finance, ethics, lobbying	205

Slowdown - For the first five months of 2024, the House Democrats were down two votes due to two Democratic members succeeding in their November 2023 mayoral campaigns, leaving the House split 54-54. Therefore, bills proposed and only supported by Democrats were not brought up on the floor of the House. Special elections to fill the vacancies resulted in two Democrats joining the majority and a quicker pace of business ensued in late April including passage of the state budget in June 2024. Summer recess in July and August was followed by very few House sessions in the fall election season when all State House seats were up for election. As a result, there is a logjam of Senate passed bills waiting for House consideration and impatience by Democrats to move big issue bills during lame duck before they lose their majority.

Since my last Capitol Report in late May 2024, the following bills supported in Committee by AAUWMI have passed both chambers and been signed by the Governor:

- **HB 4718** (PA 87) Sexual Orientation Discrimination ([Pohutsky](#)) Prohibits sexual orientation or gender identity of a victim as a defense to a crime.
- **SB 603** (PA 74) Election Recounts ([Chang](#)) Modifies recount process and recount filing fees and modifies the ballot canvassing deadlines under certain circumstances and require an expedited ballot canvass under certain circumstances.
- **SB 604** (PA 75) Election Recounts ([Moss](#)) Modifies sentencing guidelines for certain Michigan election law violations dealing with recounts.
- **SB 788** (PA 150) Special Interest License Plates ([Santana](#)) Provides special registration plates for women veterans.
- **SB 841** (PA 78) Criminal Sexual Conduct ([Klinefelt](#)) Provides penalties for sexual conduct with a corpse or involving a corpse.
- **SB 842** (PA 80) Criminal Sexual Conduct ([Klinefelt](#)) Creates sentencing guidelines for sexual conduct with a corpse or involving a corpse
- **SB 843** (PA 66) Criminal Sexual Conduct ([Klinefelt](#)) Requires registration of individual convicted of sexual contact or sexual penetration with dead human body.
- **SB 928** (PA 136) Medical Expenses ([Anthony](#)) Modifies medical expenses related to birth of a child born out of wedlock paid by Medicaid.

A sampling of bills AAUWMI has supported in committee hearings since my last report in late May:

- **SB 973** (Sen. Mary Cavanagh) Insurance: health insurers; coverage for certain contraception; require.
- **SB 974** (Sen. Jeff Irwin) Human services: medical services; coverage for contraception and emergency contraception; require.
- **SB 987** (Sen. Mallory McMorrow) Insurance: health insurers; coverage for inpatient long-acting reversible contraceptives; require.
- **SB 988** (Sen. Mallory McMorrow) Human services: medical services; coverage for immediate postpartum intrauterine devices and contraceptive implants and associated anesthesia services; provide for.
- **SB 1006** (Sen. Mallory McMorrow) Health facilities: hospitals; hospitals stocking intrauterine devices; require and require hospitals to offer intrauterine devices to certain patients.
- **HB 5013** (Rep. Rogers) Insurance; health insurers; coverage for the dispensing of a 12-month supply of birth control; require.
- **HB 5569** (Rep. Tsernoglou) Civil procedure; civil actions; cause of action for media that falsely depicts an individual engaging in sexual conduct.
- **HB 5570** (Rep. Bierlein) Criminal procedure; sentencing guidelines; guidelines for dissemination of deep fake sexual images; enact.
- **HB 4062** (Rep. Conlin) Civil rights; housing discrimination; housing discrimination based on source of income; prohibit.
- **HB 4063** (Rep. Morgan) Civil rights; housing discrimination; housing discrimination based on source of income; prohibit.
- **SB 205** (Sen. Cavanagh) Civil rights; housing discrimination; housing discrimination based on source of income; prohibit.
- **SB 206** (Sen. Bayer) SB 206 (Sen. Bayer) Civil rights; housing discrimination; housing discrimination based on source of income; prohibit.
- **SB 207** (Sen. Irwin) Civil rights; housing discrimination; housing discrimination based on source of income; prohibit.
- **HB 5389** (Rep. Brixie) Courts; other; filing fee for name change; modify under certain circumstances.
- **SB 351** (Sen. Irwin) Civil rights; other; public breastfeeding antidiscrimination act; expand to protect public expression of human milk.

ADVOCACY IS ONE METHOD TO ACHIEVE AAUW'S MISSION

AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy as stated in the national AAUW Public Policy Priorities.

Meet and contact your legislators – Advocacy means acting on our political knowledge. AAUW is non-partisan, meaning we do not endorse or support candidates for elective public office or political parties. However, we are not values-neutral. We advocate for or oppose legislative or ballot issues based on our values as expressed in the national AAUW and AAUWMI Public Policy Priorities (PPP).

Sign up for your legislator's newsletters and attend their in-district meetings to express AAUW's public policy priorities. Contact your legislator by phone or email and let them know you are an AAUW member and what your position is on the bills discussed above.

Find your State House member [here](#).

Find your State Senator [here](#)

Want to be even more powerful? Contact the whole Committee where a bill has been referred.

Find the Committee member information [here](#).

Your voice matters. Legislative staff picking up the call or reading the email for the legislator keep track of what the caller supports or opposes and reports to the legislator what communications are coming in.

The best free source of Michigan legislative information is at www.legislature.mi.gov .

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