

August 4, 2010

ELECTION UPDATE

GOVERNOR'S RACE

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, who successfully hit the hot-buttons of frustrated and angry workers, won the Democratic nomination Tuesday and will face off against Republican Ann Arbor businessman and former Gateway CEO Rick Snyder for Governor in the November general election.

Both Bernero and Snyder were underdogs in the early going of the primary campaign but rang up impressive primary victories over their opponents.

Bernero compiled an impressive 59 to 41 percent win over his opponent House Speaker Andy Dillon (D-Redford Twp.) and did so without spending any of his meager \$750,000 campaign war chest on advertising. However, unions supporting Bernero funneled as yet unknown amounts of ad money through the Genesee County Democratic Committee.

Snyder, who pumped nearly \$6 million of his own money into his campaign, garnered 36 percent of the vote coming from Republicans, Independents and some Democrat cross-overs. U.S Representative Pete Hoekstra (R-Holland) came in a distant second with 27 percent. Attorney General Mike Cox was third with 23 percent. Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard and State Senator Tom George (R-Kalamazoo) came in fourth and fifth, respectively.

CONTESTED CONGRESSIONAL RACES

District 1: A recount is certain as Dr. Dan Benishek nosed out State Senator Jason Allen (R-Traverse City) by a single vote for the GOP nomination to replace retiring U.S. Representative Bart Stupak (D-Menominee).

District 2: In a six-way GOP race, it appears former State Representative Bill Huizenga (R-Zeeland) has won the opportunity to replace U.S. Representative Pete Hoekstra by beating ex-football star Jay Riemersma to the goal line by 658 votes. State Senator Wayne Kuipers (R-Holland) was third.

District 3: State Representative Justin Amash (R-Kentwood) coasted to a solid win (40 percent) over his nearest rival, Steve Heacock, to win the GOP nomination to replace retiring U.S. Representative Vern Ehlers (R-Grand Rapids). State Senator Bill Hardiman (R-Kentwood) came in third in the five-person race.

District 6: Incumbent U.S. Representative Fred Upton (R-St. Joseph) snuffed out a challenge from former State Representative Jack Hoogendyk (R-Kalamazoo) by a 57-43 percent margin even though Hoogendyk was the darling of the Tea Partiers.

District 7: In a nasty GOP battle, former U.S. Representative Tim Walberg (R-Tipton) will have a rematch with incumbent U.S. Representative Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) in November. Walberg beat his closest opponent, Dexter attorney Brian Rooney, 57-32 percent.

District 9: Former State Representative Andrew "Rocky" Raczkowski defeated former Republican congressional staffer Paul Welday 42-28 percent for the GOP nomination. Raczkowski will challenge incumbent Gary Peters in November.

District 13: State Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) defeated incumbent U.S. Representative Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-Detroit), mother of former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, in a six-way race for the Democratic nomination.

STATE SENATE

Former State Representatives Joe Hune, Mike Kowall, Jack Brandenburg, Virgil Smith, and Morris Hood will return to the Capitol's upper chamber come January. They will be joined by current Representatives Arlan Meekhof, Rick Jones, Phil Pavlov, Bert Johnson, Vincent Gregory and Rebekah Warren.

Of note, current House Appropriations Chair George Cushingberry and Jim Slezak will not be making the trip.

STATE HOUSE

There were no surprises in Tuesday's election for returning members of the Michigan House of Representatives, however, many will face tough General election opponents in November.

With 51 open seats, there will be many new faces in town. A few to note include:

Former Lt. Governor Dick Posthumus's daughter, Lisa Posthumus Lyons. Lyons pulled out a victory in the 86th district in a four person primary that included Walker Mayor, Rob VerHeulen.

Current Senator Jud Gilbert will be returning to Lansing in January as a Representative the only sitting Senator to do so.

There will be yet another Sheltroun in town with brother Van winning his primary in the 103rd district.

Three Representatives will also be returning as they are running unopposed in the General: Representatives Joe Haveman, Ken Kurtz and Jim Stamas.

“TEA PARTY” FILES CANDIDATES

Michigan's newest "Tea Party" — a party that Republicans and Tea Party activists claim is the doing of the Michigan Democratic Party to siphon votes away from Republicans in the November election, has filed a slate of 23 political candidates with the Secretary of State.

The party did not nominate a gubernatorial candidate but did nominate candidates for Secretary of State and Attorney General. The remaining candidates are running in the competitive 1st and 7th district Congressional races, the swing 7th, 13th, 15th, 26th and 36th district Senate seats, and the competitive 1st, 26th, 43rd, 51st, 64th, 107th and 108th district House seats.

Of the 23 candidates, only four have ever voted in a Republican primary.

Please note at this time election results have not yet been certified. For complete information, please visit our website at www.karoubassociates.com.