

****SPECIAL REPORT****
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UNOFFICIAL
2006 ELECTION RESULTS

ADMINISTRATION

Governor Jennifer Granholm will return to office in January in a political environment almost completely different than that she inherited in January 2003 as Democrats will control the House and have greater influence in the Senate. The implications for the upcoming session in 2007 and for the lame duck session beginning on Thursday could be immense as the state must develop a replacement for the Single Business Tax. Also the Governor should have an easier road in implementing her agenda on health care and education issues. Her victory margin over Dick Devos was 55-42.

Incumbent Attorney General Mike Cox was re-elected by a 55 to 40 percent margin over Democratic challenger Amos Williams. Cox won election four years ago by a narrow 5,200-vote victory over Gary Peters. As Michigan's first Republican Attorney General since the 1950s, Cox ran a campaign to reach across traditional party lines to extend his voter base beyond the traditional GOP territory.

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land won her re-election bid as she coasted to an easy victory over Democratic challenger Carmella Sabaugh. Ms. Land won a second term by a 56-42 margin. Political observers are commenting that Ms. Land becomes an automatic front-runner as the GOP candidate for Governor in 2010 when Governor Granholm is term-limited from running for re-election.

LEGISLATURE

On Tuesday, Democrats did what they hadn't been able to do since the 1996 election – reclaim control of the House. When the House convenes for the 94th Legislature, the chamber will sit 58-52 in favor of Democrats, a mirror image of the House's current Republican majority. House Republicans, who expressed complete disappointment in the late hours of Tuesday, said much of their collapse was due to issues outside of their control.

The Republicans have hung on to majority in the Senate after Representative Roger Kahn defeated Representative Carl Williams in the 32nd District by 520 votes and former Representative John Pappageorge won in the 13th District by 721 votes. The wins give Republicans 21-17 majority in the Senate, creating a firewall in the 2007-2008 legislative session against a Democratic Governor and a Democratic-controlled House.

BALLOT ISSUES

Proposal 1 passed overwhelmingly which constitutionally requires that money held in conservation and recreation funds can only be used for their intended purposes.

Michigan voters opted to prohibit governmental entities from using affirmative action ó based programs in approving Proposal 2, the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI), by a 58 to 42 percent margin.

Proposal 3, which would approve an existing law allowing dove hunting, was defeated by a two-to-one vote. Michigan now goes back to protecting mourning doves as songbirds ineligible for a hunting season.

Voters were quick to constitutionally protect themselves from the government taking their land for private ventures. Proposal 4 restricts use of eminent domain for redevelopment and blight abatement. It passed with a very strong vote of support.

Proposal 5 was a legislative initiative to establish mandatory school funding levels. The K-16 ballot initiative was designed to back in education funding at the rate of inflation at the expense of a projected \$708 million hole in the state budget. It was soundly defeated by a 63-37 percent vote.

SUPREME COURT

The court remained the same as incumbent Justices Michael Cavanagh and Maura Corrigan defeated the Republican-nominated Marc Shulman and Democratic-nominated Jane Beckering. Corrigan along with Justices Stephen Markman, Clifford Taylor and Robert Young form a solid four-justice majority block.

CONGRESSIONAL

Senator Debbie Stabenow will return to Washington following an easy victory over Republican Michael Bouchard. Her margin of victory was 56 percent to 41 percent.

Of the 15-member Michigan delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives, all the races except five have been determined as of this writing. The ten victorious members were all incumbents.