

Legislative Report
September 2018

Democrat Gretchen Whitmer will face Republican Attorney General Bill Schuette in November for the race to be Michigan's next governor. GOP candidate Schuette has selected Kent County Clerk Lisa Posthumus Lyons, also a former member of the House of Representatives, to serve as his running mate. Whitmer has selected Detroit political activist Garlin Gilchrist to serve as her Lt. Governor. Political pundits contend Gilchrist has a connection with the people and is a sort of "anti politician, a technocrat".

John James, a 37 year old Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, will face three term incumbent U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, D-Delta Twp. in this year's general election.

Northern Michigan lakeshore winners include former Rep. Jon Bumstead in the 34th Senate district in and around Muskegon County. Rep. Curt VanderWall, R-Ludington won the primary in his bid to get promoted to the Senate with 48 percent of the vote. Senator Wayne Schmidt, R-Traverse City won handily over his GOP opponent. Radio personality Jack O'Malley won the Republican primary for the 101 House district being vacated by Rep. VanderWall. Incumbent Michelle Hoitenga, R-Manton won her primary over her GOP opponent.

Winners in the Capitol region included Rep. Tom Barrett, R-Pottersville, the conservative National guard army pilot. Rep. Barrett won the Republican nomination in the 24th Senate district being vacated by term limited Senator Rick Jones, R-Pottersville. Tom Barrett faces Democrat Kelly Rossman-McKinney on November 6 which is slated to be a hotly contested race. Eaton County County Commissioner Christine Barnes will face Democrat Angela Witmer the Waverly School Board Vice President in the race to succeed Rep. Barrett in this Eaton county seat that Democrats are working hard to take back.

Former Rep. Ed McBroom, R-Vulcan succeeded in his bid and won the Republican primary in the 38th State Senate district to replace term limited Senator Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba.

With primary elections over, House Democrats and Republicans are turning their sights to the general election. House and Senate Democrats both contend they see a path to the majority and Republicans think they will keep their majority in the House and the Senate. Democrats need nine seats to take control of the House chamber and Senate Democrats also need nine seats. If Democrat Gretchen Whitmer wins her bid for governor her Lt. Governor would preside over the Senate and could break any tie votes with his vote.

Senate Democrats have a good advantage in picking up the 38th Senate seat where popular Rep. Scott Dianda, D-Calumet got more votes than the two GOP candidates put together. The fight between Republican Tom Barrett and Democrat Kelley Rossman-McKinney for the 24th Senate seat will be fierce. Senate Democrats plan to pick up a few Oakland County seats because those districts are rapidly changing even though Republicans have held that area for years.