

## Michigan ROUNDUP

November 6, 1992

### *Michigan House of Representatives*

- In the Wednesday morning wee hours, **control of the House** slid by a hairbreadth into a 56-54 Republican majority, the first since 1968. But by late Thursday evening that razor-thin majority, which had been based on unofficial tallies, evaporated. In Macomb's 21st District a recount revealed that a tabulation error originally had made Rep. Dennis Olshove (D-Warren) the loser by a 54-vote margin; two tallies later, however, he emerged with a six-vote lead that throws the control of the lower chamber into a 55-55 tie. Recounts are under way in other close contests, including the 106th District where Republican incumbent Beverly Bodem holds a 14-vote lead over Democratic challenger G.T. Long.
- Michigan followed the **national election pattern**, gaining Republican House seats despite a Democratic victory at the top of the ticket. Nationally, Republicans gained a net total of nine U.S House seats; in Michigan the GOP won eleven of nineteen contested open House seats, appear to have upset four incumbent Democrats, and lost two of its incumbents.
- Of the **incumbent Democrats ousted**, the most prominent is House Speaker Lewis Dodak (D-Taymouth Township), who lost his seat to Michael Goschka (R-Brant) by an unofficial count of 128 votes. Other Democrats turned out by razor-thin, still-unofficial Republican margins are: Ken DeBeaussaert, beaten in the 33d District by a 1,048-vote margin by former Macomb County official Alvin Kukuk; Nate Jonker, defeated by 41 votes in the 47th District by farmer Sandra Hill of Montrose; and James Kosteva, defeated by 283 votes in the 21st District by Canton data processing consultant Deborah Whyman.
- **Republican newcomers** are: Penny Crissman of Rochester in the 45th; former legislator Alan Cropsey of Dewitt in the 86th; township trustee David Galloway in the 44th; Senate staffer Dan Gustafson in the 67th; Bedford Township Clerk Beverly Hammerstrom in the 55th; Saginaw attorney Roland Jersevic in the 96th; Rochester Hills economist Greg Kaza in the 42d; John Llewellyn, farmer and former Newaygo County Commissioner, in the 100th; Grayling attorney and former teacher Allen Lowe in the 105th; legislative aide Michelle McManus of Traverse City in the 104th; former Wyoming mayor Harold Voorhees, Sr., in the 77th; former Ferrysburg mayor Leon Stille in the 89th; Jerry Vorva, Plymouth city commissioner, who ran unopposed in the 20th; and Sandusky banker Kim Rhead, unopposed in the 83d.
- **Democratic newcomers** include retired Muskegon school superintendent James Agee in the 92d; Genessee County Commissioner Candace Curtis in the 51st; Madison Heights attorney John Freeman in the 34th; Ann Arbor board of education member Lynn Rivers in the 53d; Senate staffer Mary Schroer in the 52d; House fiscal analyst Steve Shepich in the 110th; former House staffer and aide to Gov. Jim Blanchard, Howard Wetters in the 97th; Fair Haven resident Karen Willard in the 82d; Detroitier Triette Lipsey, legislative aide to former 5th District Rep. Teola Hunter, who won a special election to replace Hunter through December 31; and Detroitier David Points in the 6th.
- **Defeated incumbent Republicans** are freshman David Robertson (51st) of Grand Blanc and six-term Lapeer resident John Strand (82d).
- Designation of a **new House Speaker** awaits confirmation of the chamber's partisan composition. In a tied chamber each party will try to lure one of the opposing members to defect, giving it control. If the GOP gains the advantage, as is expected by many observers, current minority leader Paul Hillemonds (Holland) is the odds-on favorite for the Speakership. If the Democrats prevail, most frequently mentioned among numerous contenders are Lynn Jondahl (Okemos), Pat Gagliardi (Drummond Island), and Curtis Hertel (Detroit). Both parties currently predict an abbreviated "lame duck" session.

### *U.S. House of Representatives*

- All eleven of the state's **incumbent members** were returned to the U.S. House. Among Michiganians, Democrats hold a 10-6 margin.
- Five **newcomers** were elected. On the Democratic side former state Rep. Bart Stupak of Menominee beat former U.S. Rep. Phil Ruppe of Traverse City in the 1st District, and state Sen. James Barcia of Bay City won handily over former state Rep. Keith Muxlow Brown City in the 5th District. Republican newcomers are Peter Hoekstra, who beat incumbent Guy VanderJagt in the 4th District primary; state Sen. Nick Smith of Addison, who captured the 7th District seat of retiring Democrat Howard Wolpe; and Joe Knollenberg of Bloomfield Hills, who easily claimed the seat relinquished by William Broomfield in the 11th District.