



Michigan ROUNDUP

Legislative Week in Review

- House Democrats and Republicans held post-election organizing caucuses for the 1989-90 legislative session Thursday. Current Majority Floor Leader **Lewis Dodak** (D-Birch Run), whom the Democratic caucus had selected to succeed the retired Gary M. Owen (D-Ypsilanti Township) before summer recess, was officially confirmed as Speaker of the House for the session beginning in January. **Pat Gagliardi** (D-Drummond Island) was elected Majority Floor Leader, succeeding Dodak. Gagliardi, who will begin his fourth term in the House in January, is an ally of Owen and House Appropriations Committee chair Dominic Jacobetti. He defeated H. Lynn Jondahl (D-Okemos) and Thomas Mathieu (D-Grand Rapids) for the post, considered the second most powerful in the House because its holder controls the flow of legislation. Minority Leader **Paul Hillemonds** (R-Holland) and Minority Floor Leader **Donald Van Singel** (R-Grant) won re-election to the top Republican positions in the House.
- Ten House seats changed hands in Tuesday's election, eight won by newcomers and two recaptured by former representatives. Republicans gained three seats, but Democrats still hold a 61-49 majority. Newcomers include **Nancy Crandall** (R-Muskegon), who defeated incumbent Debbie Farhat (D-Muskegon) in the 97th District; **David Jaye** (R-Utica), who defeated incumbent Bill Browne (D-Utica) in the 26th; **Bart Stupak** (D-Menominee), who won over incumbent Jim Connors (R-Iron Mountain) in the 109th; **Jan Dolan**, (R-Farmington Hills), who succeeds retired fellow Republican Wilbur Brotherton in the 69th; **David Camp** (R-Midland), who replaces retired Republican Michael Hayes in the 102nd; **Greg Pitoniak** (D-Taylor), who succeeds fellow Democrat Rick Sitz in the 29th; **Kirk Profit** (D-Ypsilanti), who takes over for fellow Democrat Gary Owen in the 22d; and **Ted Wallace** (D-Detroit), victor in an election for the seat vacated by Virgil Smith, Jr., a Democrat who moved up to the Senate in a special election in March. Returning to the House after one-term hiatuses are **Terry London** (R-Marysville), victor over incumbent James Docherty (D-Port Huron) in the 76th; and **William Runco** (R-Dearborn), who defeated incumbent Agnes Dobronski (D-Dearborn) in the 31st.

Political News

- Michigan voters demonstrated that they were quite willing to split their votes between the two major political parties when they elected members of the State Board of Education and university boards on Tuesday. Republicans **Barbara Dumouchelle**, a former member, and **Marilyn Lundy** were elected to the board of education in extremely close balloting. Democrat **Nellie Varner** and Republican **Deane Baker** won re-election to the University of Michigan Board of Regents. Republican incumbent **Thomas Reed** and Democratic newcomer **Robert Weiss**, Genesee County prosecutor, were elected to the Michigan State University Board of Trustees. **Murray Jackson**, a Democrat, and **Richard VanDusen**, a Republican, were re-elected to the Wayne State University Board of Governors. Political analysts had predicted that voters would not split tickets until they began to decide local races, and that Democrats could capture all eight election posts.
- Focus on Michigan as a key state in the presidential election has produced intense speculation among analysts about the futures of several Democratic and Republican operatives. **Rick Wiener** says he will step down as chair of the Michigan Democratic Party and may become a candidate to head the party's national organization in Washington, D.C. **Spencer Abraham**, chair of the Michigan Republican Party, may move either to his party's national headquarters or to the Bush Justice Department. **Peter Secchia**, Republican national committeeman for Michigan, is reportedly interested in chairing the national GOP apparatus. **Chuck Yob**, prominent Republican from Grand Rapids, may seek Abraham's position--whether or not Abraham leaves Michigan. **John Long**, former director of the Michigan Senate Republican staff and strategist for the Bush campaign in several key states, may move on to the White House staff.
- The *Detroit Free Press* today reported that Michigan's **Loret Ruppe**, Director of the Peace Corps, is among the candidates President-elect Bush is considering to head the Environment Protection Agency. Ruppe, who masterminded Bush's 1980 Michigan presidential primary victory over Ronald Reagan, has directed the Peace Corps since 1981.