



MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

August 8, 2008

MTA Phone: 517-321-6467

MTA FAX: 517-321-8908

Please route to all interested parties in your township.

LOOKING AT ELECTION DAY

For many township officials, Tuesday's election was THE election that will determine the next four years of their future. Those reading this are probably doing so with the full spectrum of emotions. Relief, disappointment, joy and maybe anger are a few words that might describe how township officials were feeling on Wednesday morning. While there were winners and losers from one end of the state to the other, there were a few very unusual situations that occurred this week, and they seemed to concentrate on supervisor races. In Genesee County, ten supervisors faced a challenge on Tuesday, and nine lost. In Muskegon County all six supervisors who faced opposition lost their position and 50 percent of the contested supervisor races in the metro Detroit area saw changeover.

STATE HOUSE RACES DOMINATE TUESDAY ELECTION

With term limits forcing many current state representatives out of office, Tuesday was an extremely important day in determining what the House will look like in January. In open seats, 34 of the 42 candidates endorsed by the MTA-PAC won their primary. In races where the primary is likely to determine the eventual winner there are some races of note. Races of special interest to townships include: Macomb County Commissioner Pete Lund of Shelby Twp.; Oakland County Commissioner Eileen Kowall of White Lake Charter Twp.; Handy Twp. Supervisor Cindy Denby of Livingston County; Kenneth Kurtz, a minister from Coldwater; St. Joseph County Sherriff Matt Lori; Portage City Council member Larry DeShazor; Livingston County Commissioner Bill Rogers; Arcadia Twp. Supervisor Kevin Daly in Lapeer County; Grand Traverse County Commissioner Wayne Schmidt; Former Ottawa County Commissioner Joseph Havemen; Jim Stamas, former member of the Homer Twp. board in Midland County; Sharron Tyler, the director of the Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance, from Berrien County; Bob Genetski, a teacher from Allegan County; Thomas Ginster, a lawyer from Greenville; Intelligence Officer John Accavitti, from Macomb County; former Oakland County Commissioner Tom McMillin and Attorney Justin Amash from Kent County.

WEDNESDAY CRITICAL TO WIND TURBINE DEBATE

Both the House and Senate return for session for one day on Wednesday, Aug. 13. During that one day the Legislature may determine the fate of SB 213, legislation that deals with alternative energy. Of critical concern to townships is whether the final version of this legislation somehow limits zoning authority over the placement of wind turbines. The legislation currently resides in a conference committee. Once the six members of that committee agree to a final form for the legislation, the bill is sent to both the House and Senate in a form that may not be amended. Final direction for the legislation could be agreed upon and pass the Legislature over the course of a few hours on Wednesday. The six conference committee members that are critical to this legislation are: Sens. Patty Birkholz (R-Saugatuck Twp.), Randy Richardville (R-Frenchtown Chtr. Twp.) and Dennis Olshove (D-Warren) and Reps. Frank Accavitti, Jr. (D-Eastpointe), Kathy Angerer (D-Dundee Twp.) and David Palsrok (R-Manistee). Please contact your legislator and conference committee members with the message that alternative energy development must be integrated with the overall plans for development within the community.

WE HAVE A REVENUE SHARING BUDGET

That statement could not be made until October last year. However, the governor has put her pen to the general government budget bill that finalizes the revenue sharing appropriation for the coming year. The \$500 thousand appropriation that will allow the state to become legally involved in some cases involving the assessing of utility property survived the final scrutiny of the governor. This is the first step in the state becoming a partner in major assessing issues. The bill contains a 2 percent increase in statutory revenue sharing.

END