



## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

November 12, 2010

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### **LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP CHOSEN FOR NEXT SESSION**

The top legislative leadership posts in the Michigan Legislature for the new legislative session that begins in January 2011 were decided on Tuesday. The Senate Republican Caucus chose Sen. Randy Richardville (Frenchtown Chtr. Twp.) as the majority leader. Richardville will be serving in his second four-year Senate term when he takes over in January. Sen.-elect Arlan Meekhof (Olive Twp.), who is a current state representative and former Olive Twp. supervisor, was voted as the next majority floor leader. Sen.-elect Tonya Schuitmaker (Antwerp Twp.), also a current state representative, will serve as president pro tempore while Sen.-elect Jack Brandenburg (Harrison Chtr. Twp.), a former state representative will serve as majority whip.

House Republicans selected Rep. James "Jase" Bolger (Marshall) as the new GOP House leader. Bolger will begin his second term as speaker. Rep. Jim Stamas (Midland Chtr. Twp.), former Midland Chtr. Twp. trustee, was named majority floor leader while the speaker pro tempore position goes to Rep. John Walsh (Livonia). Rep. Dave Agema (Grandville) will become the majority caucus chair.

Democrats will serve in the minority in both houses next session. The House Democrats picked Rep. Rich Hammel (Mt. Morris Twp.) to be the house minority leader. Hammel once served as trustee in Mt. Morris Chtr. Twp. The minority floor leader will be Rep. Kate Segal (Battle Creek). Other House Democrat leadership positions are yet to be determined. The Senate Democrat Caucus had previously selected Sen. Gretchen Whitmer (E. Lansing) as their minority leader and Sen. Tupac Hunter (Detroit) as the minority floor leader. A full list of leaders will be in the Dec. *Capitol Currents*.

### **LAME DUCK SESSION ON HOLD UNTIL END OF NOVEMBER**

The House and Senate both adjourned Wednesday after a flurry of activity on Tuesday and Wednesday. Both Houses will continue with lame-duck activity on Nov. 30, after they return from their hunting season/Thanksgiving break. A number of issues relevant to townships were addressed to some degree this week. The Senate approved SB 1475, a bill that assists local government liability related to sidewalks (two inch rule). The bill now moves to the House. The Senate Natural Resources Committee reported out legislation (HB 5368) that prevents lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus from being used after Jan. 1, 2012 and pre-empts any future local ordinances that would ban lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus. The House Judiciary Committee approved HBs 5797 and 5799-5801, known as the "mandates package," that take aim at limiting unfunded mandates being passed down from state government onto local units of government. The same committee also approved HJR EEE that would revise term limits to a total of 14 combined years of service in either house of the Legislature. It is widely speculated that there are not enough votes for HJR EEE on the House floor to move this reform any further. Other issues that saw action included the House and Senate each passing identical (but their own) versions of the sewer bond package that provides up to \$40 million in grants to be used by local governments for applications for State Revolving Fund loans, House passage of HB 5926 that modifies zoning appeals and HB 5461 that allows for the creation of public-private partnerships related to investment in transportation items.

### **SUNDAY LIQUOR SALES LEGISLATION APPROVED AGAIN**

An apparent compromise between the governor and Legislature has led to legislative re-approval of the Sunday liquor sales legislation. HB 6224, which cleared the Senate on a 25-13 vote and the House on an 81-21 vote, narrows the focus of the bill that was vetoed last month by the governor. The bill will allow for Sunday liquor sales between 7 a.m. and noon, unless a local government bans Sunday liquor sales. It will also provide a limited number of liquor licenses to retirement centers and allows for limited free wine and beer sampling at wineries and breweries.

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