

NOVEMBER 13, 2020

# KJL WEEKLY UPDATE

*Official newsletter of Khoury Johnson Leavitt*



Khoury  
Johnson  
Leavitt

## **KJL SPECIAL ALERT**

The Khoury Johnson and Leavitt team remain informed and engaged during these times of uncertainty. We are in communication with leadership in the executive, legislative and judiciary branches of state government, in addition to locals on a regular basis. Updates will continue every Friday as a mechanism to recap relevant activity from the past week.

## Covid-19 News

### As cases surge, health leaders urge mask use, social distancing

Leaders of the state's major hospital systems warned Thursday of increasing strain on medical capacity as COVID-19 cases continue to surge across Michigan.

Wearing masks, avoiding indoor gatherings and practicing social distancing are essential, these health leaders said, to reversing the trends that have seen Michigan set ominous records for caseloads in recent days.

In remarks on Thursday, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer echoed the health leaders' comments on the need for Michigan residents to use masks and caution to avoid a virus that is now killing dozens each day in our state.

The state is aware of 747 active outbreaks, which is the highest it's been since the state started keeping track, said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, the state's chief medical officer. Comparing figures from the beginning of this week, caseloads increased about 50 percent from the week prior, according to Department of Health and Human Services figures

## Election Update

The 2020 Election battle is finally, well almost over. The 2020 General Election broke all records for voter turnout, more Michiganders voted Nov. 3rd than in any election the state has ever held with 5,563,279 ballots cast. Joe Biden (D) was the top vote getter in Michigan beating President Trump for Michigan's 16 electoral votes.

Due to the large number of absentee ballots cast across the country, many states were slow in announcing the winner for the presidential race but Biden has claimed victory with 284 electoral votes to President Trump's 214. A minimum of 270 electoral votes are needed. Thus far, President Trump has not conceded the race citing voting irregularities in many states. To date, the lawsuits filed by his team in Michigan have not had success in the courts in proving that enough evidence exists to call the vote in question.

In Michigan, the statewide races have been decided and Republicans maintain their 58-52 majority in the House. Democrats were successful in flipping two open seats previously held by Republicans but lost two seats held by incumbents seeking reelection; Sheryl Kennedy (D-Davison) and Brian Elders (D-Bay City).

Supreme Court Chief Justice Elizabeth McCormack was re-elected to the court along with Elizabeth Welch, both nominated by the Democratic party. This gives the democrats a 4-3 advantage on the court and ends a 10-year Republican majority.

The State-wide races resulted in little change overall. Incumbent Senator Gary Peters and John James (R) were in a heated battle that was watched closely on the national level. The U.S. Senate race was called for Peters (D-Bloomfield Township), who had 49.83 percent of the vote based on unofficial results to Mr. James' 48.29 percent. At this time James has not conceded the race to Sen. Peters claiming possible issues with voting and wanting the votes recounted.

Republican Peter Meijer was successful in his bid for the 3rd U.S. House District defeating Democrat Hillary Scholten.

U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens (D-Rochester Hills) defeated her Republican opponent Eric Eshaki for the 11th U.S. House District.

U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin, will keep her seat in the 8th U.S. House District, beating out Republican challenger Paul Junge.

U.S. Rep. Fred Upton (R-Saint Joseph) defeated Rep. Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo) for the 6th U.S. House District.

Republican Lisa McClain defeated Democrat Kimberly Bizon in the 10th U.S. House district. This seat was vacated by U.S. Rep. Paul Mitchell (R-Dryden Township) who announced his retirement from Congress last year.

## **Election Outcome Changes Michigan Senate**

Senators Pete MacGregor (R-Rockford) and Pete Lucido (R-Shelby Twp) both won their election bids for local offices. Sen. Macgregor was successful in winning his election bid to serve as Kent County Treasurer. Sen. Lucido won his bid to serve as Macomb County Prosecuting Attorney.

Both will be vacating their senate offices beginning January 1, 2021. Sen. MacGregor served the senate chamber as Senate Majority Floor Leader as well as chair of the Senate Department of Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee (DHHS). Sen. Dan Lauwers (R-Brockway) will now serve as the Floor Leader. It has not been announced who will now serve as chair of the DHHS subcommittee.

Sen. Lucido serves as Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, it has not been announced who will be the new chair of this committee. Further, we do not know when a special election will be called to fill the two vacancies.

## House Selects New Leaders

Speaker of the House Lee Chatfield (R-Levering) and Democratic Minority Leader Christine Greig (D-Farmington Hills) are termed limited this year and the House caucuses have selected their new leaders for the 2021-2022 legislative session. Rep. Jason Wentworth (R-Clare) has been selected as the new Speaker of the House and Rep. Donna Lasinski (D-Scio Twp) has been selected as the Democratic Minority Leader. Rep. Ben Frederick (R-Owosso) will serve as the House Majority Floor Leader and Rep. Pam Hornberger (R-Chesterfield) will serve as Speaker Pro Tem. Further, Rep. Yousef Rabhi (D-Ann Arbor) will serve as the House Minority Floor leader.

In the coming weeks we expect Speaker-Elect Wentworth to form the Committee on Committees to determine the committee structure and members for the upcoming legislative session.

## DHHS Director Named to Biden Transition Team

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon has been named one of two leaders of President-elect Joe Biden's transition work in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

President-Elect Biden also named former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, Barb McQuade, to serve on his Department of Justice transition team.

## Governor Whitmer Makes Appointments to New Black Leadership Advisory Council

Governor Gretchen Whitmer made 16 initial appointments to the Black Leadership Advisory Council, which is charged with reviewing and recommending policies and actions designed to prevent and eradicate discrimination and racial inequity in the state.

The following appointments were announced:

- James Atterberry of Benton Harbor, the founder and pastor at the Brotherhood of All Nations COGIC Church and a former Berrien County Commissioner. Mr. Atterberry is appointed to represent Black leadership in the faith-based community for a term commencing November 12, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2022.
- Donna Bell of Southfield, the global director of technology and features strategy and planning at Ford Motor Company. Ms. Bell is appointed to represent Black leadership in technology for a term commencing November 12, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2022.
- Christopher Burtley of Flint, an associate attorney with Foley & Lardner LLP. Mr. Burtley is appointed to represent Black leadership in law, and a member between the ages of 18 to 35, for a term commencing November 12, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2021.

The following appointments were announced (continued):

- Jerry Clayton of Ypsilanti, the sheriff of Washtenaw County. He also serves as a training consultant for the National Institute of Corrections and CEO of The Cardinal Group II, a policing and corrections training company. Mr. Clayton is appointed to represent Black leadership in community safety and preparedness for a term commencing November 12, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2021.
- Kelli Ellsworth Etchison of East Lansing, the chief marketing and diversity officer for LAFCU. Ms. Ellsworth Etchison is appointed to represent Black leadership in economics for a term commencing November 12, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2023.
- Justin Onwenu of Detroit, an environmental justice organizer for Sierra Club. Mr. Onwenu is appointed to represent Black leadership in the environmental sector, and a member between the ages of 18 to 35, for a term commencing November 12, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2021.
- Kelsey Perdue of Grand Rapids, the project director of Kids Count in Michigan for the Michigan League of Public Policy and the director of storytelling and communications for the Urban Core Collective. Ms. Perdue is appointed to represent Black leadership in public policy, and a member between the ages of 18 to 35, for a term commencing November 12, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2022.
- Kathy Purnell of Kalamazoo, a staff attorney with Justice for Our Neighbors–Michigan, a non-profit providing immigration legal services. Ms. Purnell is appointed to represent Black leadership in law, and a member who is an immigrant or individual with expertise in immigration policy, for a term commencing November 12, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2021.
- Rochelle Riley of Detroit, the director of arts and culture for the city of Detroit and a former columnist for the Detroit Free Press. Ms. Riley is appointed to represent Black leadership in media and communications, and arts and culture, for a term commencing November 12, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2023. The governor has designated Ms. Riley to serve as co-chair of the council.
- Theresa Roach of Flint, the program director of active communities for the Crim Fitness Foundation. Ms. Roach is appointed to represent Black leadership in health and wellness for a term commencing November 12, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2021.
- Joel Rutherford of Warren, the chair of the Official Democratic Black Caucus of Macomb County. Mr. Rutherford is appointed to represent Black leadership in government for a term commencing November 12, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2022.
- Michele Samuels of Farmington Hills, the vice president, general auditor and compliance officer for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Ms. Samuels is appointed to represent Black leadership in health and wellness for a term commencing November 12, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2023.
- Seydi Sarr of Detroit, the founder of the African Bureau for Immigration and Social Affairs. Ms. Sarr is appointed to represent Black leadership in education, and a member who is an immigrant or individual with expertise in immigration policy, for a term commencing November 12, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2022.

The following appointments were announced (continued):

- Michelle Sourie Robinson of West Bloomfield, the president and CEO of the Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council. Ms. Sourie Robinson is appointed to represent Black leadership in economics for a term commencing November 12, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2023.
- Carl Williams of Saginaw, the vice president of the NAACP Saginaw Chapter. Mr. Williams, a former state representative, is appointed to represent Black leadership in public policy for a term commencing November 12, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2023.
- Robert Womack of Grand Rapids, a county commissioner in Kent County where he serves on the Finance and Physical Resources Committee. Mr. Womack is appointed to represent Black leadership in public policy for a term commencing November 12, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2023. He will also serve as co-chair of the council.
- Rep. Brenda Carter (D-Pontiac) will serve as an honorary representative of the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus. Terrence Martin of Detroit, Teferi Brent of Detroit, Alexis Dye of Muskegon and Karen Carter of Midland will chair advisory committees to assist the council in its duties.

The council is housed within the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. The appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

## **New Legislative Leadership Positions:**

Jason Wentworth Speaker

Ben Fredrick Floor leader

Pamela Hornberger Pro Temp

Matt Hall Caucus Chair

Andrea Schroeder Whip

Donna Lasinski Minority Leader

Yousef Rabhi Minority Floor Leader

Tenisha Yancey Detroit Chair

Thomas Albert Appropriations Chair

## **PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Calendar**

The House and Senate have recessed until December 1st. Their return will mark the beginning of the lame duck session and is expected to last until December 17.

## **Take note of schedule changes for KJL Weekly Update**

KJL's weekly email, Legislative Update, will take a one-week hiatus in November 20. The next LU email will be on November 27th.

Also, please note that KJL's offices in Lansing will be closed to mark the Thanksgiving holiday on Nov. 26-27.





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# KJL Virtual Event Management

A convenient, cost and time effective way to bring your virtual event to life.

Looking to move your in-person event to a VIRTUAL platform? Not sure where to start? **KJL IS NOW OFFERING PROFESSIONAL VIRTUAL EVENT PRODUCTION.** We are well versed in virtual event planning, production, and presentation. Our services are currently being used by groups of up to 400. No matter the size, we are here to help!

## Services Provided Include:

- Detailed meeting agendas and content development
- Facilitate practice sessions prior to event
- Deliver technical assistance during event
- Manage post event wrap up
- Encourage attendee engagement with polls, surveys, and more
- Assist with sponsorship highlights
- Detailed guides for effective and professional virtual presentations
- Techniques to perfect presentation

## Virtual Event Production Service Includes:



### Event Management:

Invitations  
Registration  
Event Reminders  
Post Event Communication  
Social Media Promotion

### Event Data Collection:

Attendee List  
Question/Answer Data  
Polling/Survey Data  
Attendee Engagement Report

## Seminars Conventions Educational Events Town Halls

Contact us today for a consultation & quote for your event. **517.485.4044** | [marcy@kjlteam.com](mailto:marcy@kjlteam.com)  
Pricing will be based on complexity of meeting. Initial meeting plan and proposal will be provided upon request.

## KJL SOCIAL MEDIA



*LINKEDIN: KHOURY JOHNSON LEAVITT*

*INSTAGRAM: @KJLFIRM*

*FACEBOOK: @KJLPAGE*

*TWITTER: @FIRMKJL*

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.com](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.com)

[www.michigan.gov/ag](http://www.michigan.gov/ag)

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.com](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.com)

[www.congress.gov.com](http://www.congress.gov.com)

[www.michiganbusiness.org](http://www.michiganbusiness.org)

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