



## Analysis of 2016 General Election

**On Tuesday, November 8, voters cast their ballot to decide a number of national, state, and local races and issues.** While the results are in, the work needed to create a better society is not finished. It is important that we each seek to heal divisions, pray for elected officials, and engage with them about issues facing our nation, state, and local communities. Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), congratulated President-Elect Donald Trump and others who were chosen by the American people on November 8th. He also [issued a statement](#) calling for all to work for the common good.

The following analysis provides an overview of the results in the race for President, the U.S. House of Representatives, the State House of Representatives, the Michigan Supreme Court, and the State Board of Education. The Michigan State University Board of Trustees, University of Michigan Regents, and the Wayne State University Governors are also included as they are decided by voters at the statewide ballot. This piece will also take a look at the political landscape in Michigan going forward.

### Trump/Pence Win 75 of Michigan's 83 Counties

At the end of the night and early into the hours of Wednesday, November 9, Michigan proved to be a battleground state in the presidential election, defying polls that suggested Hillary Clinton had a significant lead. In fact, the *Detroit Free Press* mistakenly called Michigan for Secretary Clinton as early as 9 pm. Unofficial results from the Michigan Secretary of State show that Donald Trump narrowly won Michigan with a total of 2,277,914 votes out of 4,785,223 (47.60%) compared to Clinton's 2,264,807 (47.33%). Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson won 172,726 votes (3.61%). Eight counties in the state voted for Secretary Clinton—Genesee, Ingham, Kalamazoo, Marquette, Muskegon, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne—while the other seventy-five counties went to Donald Trump. President-Elect Trump is the first Republican presidential candidate to win the state since 1988. He won the country by [receiving more than the necessary 270 Electoral College votes](#), despite Clinton leading the popular vote tallied thus far. Indiana's Governor Mike Pence will serve as Trump's Vice President starting in January of 2017.

### Republicans Maintain Majority in Michigan Congressional Delegation

Two newcomers, Jack Bergman (R-District 1) and Paul Mitchell (R-District 10) won their election this week to join incumbent Representatives from Michigan in Congress. These incumbents include: Bill Huizenga (R-District 2), Justin Amash (R-District 3), John Moolenaar (R-District 4), Dan Kildee (D-District 5), Fred Upton (R-District 6), Tim Walberg (R-District 7), Mike Bishop (R-District 8), Sander Levin (D-District 9), David Trott (R-District 11), Debbie Dingell (D-District 12), John Conyers Jr (D-District 13), and Brenda Lawrence (D-District 14). Republicans will maintain a 9-5 advantage in the Michigan congressional delegation, as well as majorities in the U.S. House and Senate, when the new session begins next year on January 3, 2017.

### Republicans Continue Hold on Michigan House of Representatives

After the results came in from Tuesday's election, Republicans retained control over the Michigan House of Representatives with 63 seats. Democrats won 47 seats, replicating the numbers from the 2014 election.

On Thursday, November 11, Republicans and Democrats both chose their representatives for next year's leadership positions, which include the following:

Speaker of the House: Representative Tom Leonard (R-DeWitt), who replaces term-limited Representative Kevin Cotter (R-Mt. Pleasant).

Speaker Pro Tempore: Representative Lee Chatfield (R-Levering).

Majority Floor Leader: Representative Dan Lauwers (R-Brockway Township).

Minority Leader: Representative Sam Singh (D-East Lansing), who replaces Representative Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills). Greimel decided to step down from the post after Democrats failed to gain seats during Tuesday's election.

Minority Floor Leader: Representative Christine Greig (D-Farmington Hills).

*Michigan Catholic Conference staff is looking forward to working with leadership and legislators of both parties to support policies that defend human life and dignity, protect the vulnerable and the marginalized, and promote the common good of society.*

**\*\*Also of note:** on November 8, Michigan's 4<sup>th</sup> Senate District chose Democrat Ian Conyers to fill former Senator Virgil Smith's seat. Conyers will fill out the remainder of the term, which ends in 2018. The rest of the Michigan Senate is also up for re-election in November 2018. With the election of Ian Conyers, the Michigan Senate returns to a 27-11 Republican majority.

#### **Two Incumbents Return to the Michigan Supreme Court:**

Michigan voters have returned incumbent Justices David Viviano and Joan Larsen to the state's highest court. They will join Chief Justice Robert Young Jr and Justices Stephen Markman, Brian Zahra, Bridget Mary McCormack, and Richard Bernstein on the bench. While the positions are nonpartisan, Republican-endorsed candidates retain a 5-2 advantage on the Court. Justice David Viviano won the full 8-year term to the Michigan Supreme Court, while Justice Joan Larsen won the partial term that will go through 2019.

#### **Two Republican Newcomers Replace Democrats on State Board of Education:**

Members of the State Board of Education (SBE), according to the Michigan Constitution, are tasked with the leadership and general supervision over all public education. They advise the Michigan Legislature on financial requirements for public education, and they select and appoint the state superintendent. Prior to the election, the SBE held a 6-2 Democratic majority. On Tuesday, two of the eight seats were up for a vote. The voters chose former State Representative Tom McMillin (R) and Nikki Snyder (R) to serve on the Board, filling the seat left by Kathleen Straus (D) and ousting current chairperson John Austin (D), who this year spearheaded a very public and contentious effort to recommend guidelines for public schools to follow regarding transgendered and gay students. With these choices, the State Board of Education now transitions to a 4-4 split between Republicans and Democrats. The two new members will work alongside current members Michelle Fecteau, Dr. Pamela Pugh, Lupe Ramo-Montigny, Dr. Casandra Ulbrich, Eileen Wisser, and Dr. Richard Zeile. Governor Rick Snyder and State Superintendent Brian Whiston also sit on the State Board of Education as non-voting members.

#### **MSU Trustees, U of M Regents, and WSU Governors Races:**

In each of the races for Michigan State University trustees, University of Michigan regents, and Wayne State University governors, one Republican and one Democrat won on Tuesday night.

- Michigan State University Trustees- newcomer Dan Kelly (R) and incumbent trustee Dianne Byrum (D) received the most votes, bringing the board to a 4-4 Republican/Democrat split (previously 5-3 Democrat majority).
- University of Michigan Regents- newcomer Ron Weiser (R) and incumbent Denise Illitch (D) received the most votes, bringing the board to a 5-3 Democrat majority (previously 6-2 Democrat majority).
- Wayne State Governors- newcomers Michael Busuito (R) and Mark Gaffney (D) received the most votes, bringing the board to a 5-3 Democrat majority (previously 6-2 Democrat majority).

*For more information on your local election results, [visit the Michigan Secretary of State's website](#).*

### **Overview of State Government**

Michigan's 99<sup>th</sup> Legislature (2017-2018) will kick-off its two-year legislative session in early January. Similar to the current session, the state's executive and legislative chambers are controlled by the Republicans. When the year begins, the Michigan House will swear-in 43 first-time representatives and welcome back 67 incumbent representatives. Only one incumbent representative who ran for office was unsuccessful in his election bid: Representative Bill LaVoy (D-Monroe), who lost to newcomer Joe Bellino (R-Monroe). Michigan Catholic Conference staff is looking forward to meeting with the new representatives and working with all lawmakers and officials of both political parties to promote the common good.

In late January, Governor Rick Snyder will present his annual State of the State speech and his vision for the coming year. He will then offer his budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2018 (October 2017-September 2018) to lawmakers in early February. *To receive news updates on these events and actions next year, make sure to sign up for the Catholic Advocacy Network at [www.micatholic.org/can/](http://www.micatholic.org/can/).*

### **“Lame Duck” Session**

In the meantime, the 98<sup>th</sup> Michigan Legislature (2015-2016) will continue to meet until its term expires next month. Voters chose Lauren Plawecki (D-Dearborn Heights) to fill out the remaining two months of her mother Representative Julie Plawecki's term, following her passing in June. Additionally, current State Representative Kurt Heise (R-Plymouth) announced that he will be resigning from his post on November 18 after winning the Plymouth Township supervisor race, and the seat will be vacant for the rest of the session. The seat of former Representative Derek Miller (D-Warren), now Macomb County Treasurer, and former Representative Peter Pettalia (R-Presque Isle), who passed away in September, will also remain unfilled for the rest of the session. After November 18, Republicans will hold a 61-46 advantage in the House of Representatives and a 27-11 advantage in the Senate until the current session ends.