

Michigan Primary Election Sets Stage for November General Election

Michigan voters selected nominees Tuesday for statewide, congressional, and legislative offices, setting the stage for the November 3 General Election. Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson secured the Democratic nomination for Governor and will face U.S. Rep. John James (R-Shelby Township).

Former Wayne County Health Director Abdul El-Sayed won the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate, defeating U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens (D-Birmingham), and will face Republican Mike Rogers in November.

In Congressional District 13, state Rep. Donovan McKinney (D-Detroit) unseated incumbent U.S. Rep. Shri Thanedar (D-Detroit). In Congressional District 7, William Lawrence (D) defeated former U.S. Ambassador Bridget Brink and Matt Maasdam to earn the Democratic nomination and will face U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett (R-Charlotte) in November.

State Senate Open Seats

The following candidates won nominations for open State Senate seats and will advance to the November General Election:

Safe Democratic Open Seats

- District 1** **Justin Onwenu** (D) defeated former Rep. Abraham Aiyash.
- District 2** **Abbas Alawieh** (D) defeated Rep. Erin Byrnes (D-Dearborn).
- District 3** **John Conyers III** (D) defeated former Sen. Adam Hollier in an 11-candidate field.
- District 5** **Rep. Matt Koleszar** (D-Plymouth) advanced unopposed in the Democratic primary.
- District 7** **Rep. Jason Hoskins** (D-Southfield) defeated Shadia Martini and Rakesh Ramakrishnan.
- District 10** **Rep. Natalie Price** (D-Berkley) defeated Amanda Treppa.
- District 13** Oakland County Deputy Executive **Sean Carlson** (D) defeated Cecil George and D.C. Anderson.
- District 15** Former Rep. **Felicia Brabec** (D) defeated Michael White.
- District 19** **Rep. Julie Rogers** (D-Kalamazoo) advanced unopposed in the Democratic primary.
- District 28** **Rashida Harrison** (D) defeated Ingham County Commissioner Mark Polsdofer, Ingham County Commissioner Robert Peña, and Ted Kilvington.
- District 29** East Grand Rapids City Commissioner **Abbie Groff-Blaszak** (D) defeated Rep. Phil Skaggs (D-Grand Rapids) and former Kent County Commissioner Ivan Diaz.

Safe Republican Open Seats

- District 20** Attorney **Chris Moraitis** (R) defeated Kenny Clevenger and Curtis Clark in the Republican primary.
- District 22** Livingston County Sheriff **Mike Murphy** (R) won the Republican nomination
- District 23** **Rep. Donni Steele** (R-Orion Township) defeated Daniel Lawless.
- District 24** **Rep. Doug Wozniak** (R-Shelby Township) defeated former Rep. Terence Mekoski.
- District 25** Former Rep. **Andrew Beeler** (R-Port Huron) defeated former Rep. Gary Eisen, Randy Schultz, and John Mahaney.
- District 26** **Rep. Matt Bierlein** (R-Vassar) defeated Gabriel Lossing, Dalton Atwell, Burton City Councilmember Candice Miller, and James Graham.
- District 31** **John Wetzel** (R-Grand Haven) defeated Kevin Maas and former congressional and gubernatorial candidate Michael Markey.
- District 32** Mason County Sheriff **Kim Cole** (R) defeated Max Riekse.
- District 33** **Rep. Gina Johnsen** (R-Portland) defeated Katie DeBoer, Rep. Joseph Fox (R-Fremont), and Tom Norton.
- District 38** **Rep. Dave Prestin** (R-Cedar River) defeated former Rep. Beau LaFave.

State Senate Toss-up Seats

With Democrats holding a one-seat majority in the Michigan Senate, control of the chamber is expected to hinge on a handful of competitive races this November.

- **District 9: Sen. Michael Webber** (R) will face **Dr. Theresa Brooks** (D) after Brooks defeated Oakland County Commissioner Brendan Johnson and Ren Nushaj in the Democratic primary.
- **District 12: Sen. Kevin Hertel** (D) will face **John Goldwater** (R), who emerged from a five-candidate Republican primary.
- **District 30: Sen. Mark Huizenga** (R) will face **Rep. Carol Glanville** (D-Walker) after Glanville defeated Richard Kreuzer in the Democratic primary.

State House Open Seats

The following candidates won nominations for open State House seats:

Safe Democratic Open Seats

- District 2** **Joanna Whaley** (D) defeated former Rep. Frank Liberati and Gary Schlack.
- District 4** **Regina Ross** (D) defeated Krystal Larsosa, Anthony McDonald, and Tyus Monroe.
- District 5** **Candace Calloway** (D) defeated Crystal Bailey and Soummer Moore-Crawford.
- District 6** **Melanie Macey** (D) defeated David Lauer and Charlie Gandy-Thompson.
- District 9** **Willie Burton** (D) emerged from a nine-candidate Democratic primary.
- District 11** **Kimberly Fisher** (D) defeated Macomb County Commissioner Michael Howard and Cranstana Brown Anderson.
- District 15** **Jalal Abdallah** (D) defeated former Rep. Gary Woronchak and former Dearborn City Councilmember Leslie Herrick.
- District 18** **Kelly Garrett** (D) advanced unopposed.
- District 22** **Lisa McIntyre** (D) advanced unopposed.
- District 41** **Jen Strebs** (D) defeated Jessica Swartz.
- District 74** **Harold Pope** (D) defeated TyJuan Thirdgill and Aaron Iturralde.
- District 80** **Lily Cheng-Schulting** (D) defeated Kris Pachla and Kristen Fauson.
- District 84** **Khristian Silvis** (D) defeated Justin Rackham.

Safe Republican Open Seats

- District 59** **Sylvia Grot** (R) defeated Jean Zott and Matt Grubb.
- District 78** **Brandon Strong** (R) defeated Terence Frewen, Miguel Pilar, and Kaleb Hudson.
- District 89** Ottawa County Commissioner **Joe Moss** (R) defeated Patrick Kapenga.
- District 90** Former Rep. **Lynn Afendoulis** (R) defeated Susannah Watts, Andrew Willis, and Jordan Youngquist.
- District 97** **Briar Bearss** (R) defeated Saginaw County Commissioner Mark Piotrowski.
- District 101** **Jaxon Deur** (R) defeated Rich Vance, Luke Eising, Gary Anderson, and Ben Townsend.
- District 108** Menominee County Commissioner **Larry Johnson** (R) defeated Casey Hoffman, Daryl Schroeder, Chris Reynolds, Steven Viau, and Kurt Perron.

State House Toss-up Seats

Republicans enter the November election with a narrow 58-52 House majority. The following races could determine control of the chamber.

- District 27: Rep. Rylee Linting (R-Wyandotte)** will face former Rep. **Jaime Churches (D-Wyandotte)** in a rematch after Linting unseated Churches by fewer than 200 votes in 2024.
- District 28: Rep. Jamie Thompson (R-Brownstown Township)** will face **Sherry Berecz (D)**.
- District 31: Laura Perry (R)** will face **Shannon Dare Wayne (D)** for the open seat being vacated by Rep. Reggie Miller (D-Van Buren Township).
- District 44: Rep. Steve Frisbie (R-Pennfield Township)** will face former Rep. **Jim Haadsma (D-Battle Creek)**, setting up a rematch in southwest Michigan.
- District 46: Rep. Kathy Schmaltz (R-Jackson)** will face **Jan Maino (D)**.
- District 54: Roman Gaskey (R)** will face **Sarah Pounds (D)** for the open seat being vacated by Rep. Donni Steele (R-Orion Township).
- District 55: Rep. Mark Tisdell (R-Rochester Hills)** will face **Alex Hawkins (D)**.
- District 58: Rep. Ron Robinson (R-Utica)** will face **Katrina Manetta (D)** in Macomb County.
- District 96: Rep. Tim Beson (R-Bay City)** will face **Christopher Girard (D)**.
- District 109: Rep. Karl Bohnak (R-Deerton)** will face **Anna Rink (D)** in the Upper Peninsula.

Incumbent State Legislators Defeated

The August 4 primary resulted in several current legislators losing either their reelection bids or campaigns for open legislative seats:

- Rep. Helena Scott (D-Detroit) – Defeated by Chris Gilmer-Hill in House District 8.
- Rep. Erin Byrnes (D-Dearborn) – Defeated by Abbas Alawieh in Senate District 2.
- Rep. Phil Skaggs (D-Grand Rapids) – Defeated by East Grand Rapids City Commissioner Abbie Groff-Blaszak in Senate District 29.
- Rep. Joseph Fox (R-Fremont) – Defeated by Rep. Gina Johnsen (R-Portland) in Senate District 33.