



MEMORANDUM

To: Steve Smigelski
From: Matt Solak
Date: October 2022
Re: MAAE Monthly Legislative Report

2022 Election Recap

Last night certainly brought some surprises in the election results, especially in Michigan races. Governor Whitmer won re-election as expected but by a wider margin than what the polls showed.

The Democrats in the Michigan Senate gained control from the Republicans for the first time since 1983 winning 20 seats to the Republicans 18.

The biggest shocker was the Michigan House of Representatives. The Democrats flipped the House to take their first majority since 2010 winning 56 seats to the Republicans 54 seats.

Nationally, the majorities are too close to call. It appears that the Republicans will flip the U.S. House of Representatives although that is not a guarantee at this point and by a slimmer margin than expected. The U.S. Senate is currently also up for grabs with the Republicans holding a slight 49-48 majority with three states remaining...Georgia, Nevada, and Arizona. The Republicans must reach 51 for majority while the Democrats only need to reach 50 votes with Vice President Harris being able to be the tiebreaker.

All three ballot proposals passed in Michigan.

Keep in mind, the percentages below are current numbers and not necessarily what the final vote tally will be.

Michigan Governor – Governor Gretchen Whitmer won a second term by roughly 10 percentage points, 54% to 44% over Tudor Dixon.

Michigan Secretary of State – Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson won re-election with roughly 55% of the vote to Kristina Karamo's 42%.

Michigan Attorney General – Attorney General Dana Nessel won re-election with roughly 52% of the vote.

Michigan Senate – The Democrats flipped the Michigan Senate, 20-18. They will determine the next Senate Majority Leader tomorrow. The race is between Winnie Brinks from Grand Rapids and Stephanie Chang from Detroit.

Michigan House of Representatives – The Democrats took majority, 56-54. They will elect the next Speaker of the House tomorrow. The race is between Joe Tate from Detroit and Julie Brixie from East Lansing. It's anticipated that Joe Tate will win.

Proposal 1 – “Term Limit Proposal.” Proposal to change term limits from 14 years to 12 years but allow the 12 years to be served in either chamber. – Passed with over 66% of the vote.

Proposal 2 – “Election Proposal.” – Passed with nearly 60% of the vote.

Proposal 3 – “Abortion Proposal” – Passed with over 56% of the vote.

HB 6361 Changes to the Aeronautics Code

On August 17, Representative Jeff Yaroch introduced legislation making certain changes to the State Aeronautics Code. The primary purpose of the legislation is to require the Aeronautics Department to regulate activities of certain organizations operating at private use airports.

The suggested changes stem from Representative Yaroch having issues with a non-profit skydiving club operation on a private airstrip in his district. He has received numerous constituent complaints and has been looking for ways to regulate operations.

MAAE is monitoring the legislation at this time and has taken no official position. The MAAE is working with the State Aeronautics Office and Rep. Yaroch on how this legislation may impact airports.

HB 6123 Airport Firearm Changes

The MAAE was approached by Representative Damoose regarding his introduction of HB 6123. The legislation intends to update the federal statute referenced in the state's airport sterile area statute.

The Representative introduced the legislation in response to Jim Linderman, Emmet County Prosecutor, expressing the need to update the statute reference because he is unable to prosecute individuals who are found to be carrying firearms in airport sterile areas, airport sterile areas being the parts of airports beyond the pre-boarding security screening area.

The legislation had a hearing on September 13 and was reported from committee on September 21. The MAAE supported the legislation which will now move to the full House of Representatives for consideration.

Potential Tax Policy Changes and SAF Funding Changes

The MAAE has begun working with key lawmakers to discuss potential tax policy changes to help support funding for the State Aeronautic Fund. As members are aware, SAF funding has not adequately kept up with the needs of airports in Michigan.

On June 14, HB 6172 was introduced by State Representative Scott VanSingel and SB 1071 was introduced by Senator Wayne Schmidt. Both of these bills would earmark an amount equal to the collections of the sales tax imposed at a rate of 4% to the state aeronautics fund.

The MAAE will keep members apprised of developments on this effort.

Peer-to-peer Carsharing Legislation (HB 4915-HB 4917)

On March 22, the House Regulatory Reform Committee held a hearing on bipartisan legislation to regulate peer-to-peer carsharing service companies in Michigan. Enterprise Holdings and the MAAE testified in support of the legislation while Turo testified opposed to the legislation.

The legislation passed out of the Committee favorably by a vote of 11-0-4 and will now head to the full House of Representatives for consideration.

The legislation would require a peer-to-peer car sharing program or shared vehicle owner to enter into an agreement with an airport before a shared vehicle could engage in certain activities at an airport. The MAAE worked previously on a similar issue when Lyft and Uber wanted to operate on airport property without complying with any type of ground transportation agreement or any payment of fees.

Turo continues to advocate for weaker airport language in the legislation. Rep. Outman continues to be a bulwark against Turo's efforts to water down the legislation.

The bill has not received consideration by the full House of Representatives, but the MAAE will continue to push for a vote on this important legislation.