



Michigan Fire Service Coalition

*Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union • Michigan Fire Inspectors Society • Michigan Fire Service Instructors
Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs • Michigan State Firemen's Association • International Association of Arson Investigators*

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Election Summary:

The 2008 elections added two new individuals bringing experience and commitment to the fire services to the legislature. Representative-Elect Jennifer Haase (32nd District) and Representative-Elect Andy Neumann (106th District) were elected to fill vacancies due to term limits.

It was a volatile year in the legislative elections with the House Democrats gaining 9 seats giving them a 67-43 majority. In probably the biggest upset of the election, long time incumbent Supreme Court Justice Cliff Taylor was knocked out of his seat by newcomer Dianne Hathaway.

Speaker Andy Dillon was able to crush a recall attempt by the group Taxpayers United and sail to a third term victory. The House Democrats also reelected Dillon to the top position of Speaker. With Reps. Tobocman and Sak both leaving at the end of the year due to term limits elections were held to fill their leadership position. Representative Kathy Angerer was elected Majority Floor Leader and Representative Pam Byrnes will take over as Speaker Pro Tem.

In the House Republican Caucus, Representative Kevin Elsenheimer (R-Bellaire) was elected the new Minority Leader. Minority Floor Leader Hildebrand will remain in his post.

In the Senate, Senator Mark Schauer will be vacating his post after taking incumbent Congressman Tim Walberg. This also left open his post as Minority Leader which will now be filled by Senator Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming). Senator Buzz Thomas will remain as the Minority Floor Leader in the Senate.

Fire Safe Cigarettes Not Burned Out Yet!

After months of discussion, the Fire Safe cigarette legislation has found new life in legislation introduced by Senator Tupac Hunter (D-Detroit). Chief Ron Farr testified before the Senate Commerce Committee in support of SB 1620 & 1621. The bills were passed out of the Senate on November 13th. It is likely we will see action in both the House before the end of the lame duck session. Michigan will be able to become the 40th state to have passed similar legislation.

Sprinkler Fitters Licensure – HB 6353

The House passed HB 6353 in both committee and on the floor on November 13th. This bill would require installers of fire suppression systems to be licensed by the state of Michigan. Opposition came from the Associated Builders and Contractors who believed this would put greater strain on construction industry. It is unclear whether the Senate will act on this legislation before the end of the year.

Budget Shortfall – Executive Order on Horizon

Only a month and a half into the 2009 fiscal year and the state is already facing a significant shortfall in the general fund revenue. The Governor has indicated that she would be issuing an Executive Order cutting between \$300-\$600 million dollars from the states' general fund. It is expected the E.O. will be released in late November or early December. It is uncertain how the cuts will be allocated and whether it could include Revenue Sharing. The meager increase that revenue sharing received in the 2008 FY could vanish in the coming budget negotiations. Please contact your legislators to let them know how important revenue sharing is to protecting the citizens of Michigan!

Building the Fire Caucus:

In January, Representative-Elect Andy Neumann will become a new Co-Chair for the Fire Caucus. He will be joining Representative John Proos (R-St. Joseph), Senator Valde Garcia (R-Howell) and Senator Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming) as heads of the Legislative Fire Caucus. Neumann and Proos will be working with the Freshman legislators and encouraging them to become members of the Caucus. Representative-Elect Neumann is looking forward to his new role. With his experience and understanding of our issues we will be served well with him in this position.

For More information please visit the website:

www.michiganfireservicecoalition.org



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KEY LEGISLATION TO WATCH

HB 5036	Bureau of Fire Services Funding: Bill is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
HB 4401	Cancer Presumption: Bill is in the Senate Commerce Committee.
SB 102	
HB 5110 &5111	Fire Safe Cigarettes: Bills are in the Senate Economic Development & Regulatory Reform committee.
HB 6130	Novelty Lighters: Bill is in the Senate Commerce Committee.
HB 5341	Carbon Monoxide Detectors: Both bills passed out of the Health Policy Committee with changes and await a vote on the floor.
HB 4730	
HB 4821	Surviving Spouse Benefits
SB 1333	Fire Fighter Training in High Schools
SB 862	Tax Deduction for Volunteer Fire Fighters
HB 4465	Deca Dan
HB 6353	Fire Sprinkler Installer Licensure
HB 6275	Fire Suppression Systems in Pet Shops
HB 5326	Animal Ambulance
HB 4246 & 4266	Urban Cooperation Act - Consolidation