



# 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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## **November Communications**

Due to the November 2<sup>nd</sup> elections, the legislature was on break the month of October in order to be back in their districts campaigning. The time spent campaigning served the Republicans well because on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the GOP took total control of state government. This was a historically significant election which created such lopsided margins not seen since the 1940's. Taking the lead is Governor-elect Rick Snyder who won 78 of 83 counties to reclaim control of the Governors' mansion. The Michigan Senate Republicans won a 26 seat super majority and the Michigan House Republicans won 20 seats to take back the majority with 63 GOP legislators. In addition the House and Senate, the Republicans maintained the control of the Offices of Attorney General and Secretary of State. The Supreme Court also saw control switch hands back to the Republicans. On a Federal level, Michigan lost two democratic congressional giving, the GOP a 9-6 edge in the Michigan Delegation.

The coalition strongly encourages everyone to meet their new Representatives and Senators. With 61 NEW legislators in the House of Representatives, it is critical that we begin building relationships with these new members. We are facing a very difficult year in 2011 with a budget deficit of nearly \$1.6 billion in the state and a legislature that believes cost savings need to come from public employees. You can find your Representative and Senator at the following websites.

<http://www.house.mi.gov/representatives.asp>

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/fysenator/fysenator.htm>

Following the elections, each caucus elected their new leadership for the 96<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

### **Senate Republicans:**

Senator Randy Richardville - Senate Majority Leader

Senator –Elect Arlan Meekhof – Senate Majority Floor Leader

### **Senate Democrats:**

Senator Gretchen Whitmer – Senate Minority Leader

Senator Tupac Hunter – Senate Minority Floor Leader



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## **House Republicans:**

Representative Jase Bolger – Speaker of the House

Representative Jim Stamas – Majority Floor Leader

## **House Democrats:**

Representative Rick Hammel – House Minority Leader

Representative Kate Segal – House Minority Floor Leader

The lame duck session started off with a bang on November 10<sup>th</sup> which was the last day before both chambers broke for the traditional hunting and Thanksgiving break. It was also the last day that either chamber could pass First House bills if they wanted to give them a chance to get to the Governor's desk before Sine Die (the last day of the legislative session). There is a procedural rule which requires any first house bill to lie over 5 days in the other chamber before that chamber can take action on the legislation. The Senate has indicated they plan to complete their work for the year on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Fire Service Coalition is actively working to ensure that HB 5999 – Fireworks Act is completed before the end of the year. The Senate Republicans have indicated this is legislation they would like to send to the Governor. We expect the bill will look differently than what was passed by the House however, we will work to ensure that the bill still provides for the appropriate resources to enforce the act.

The workgroup assembled by Fire Marshal Farr is still working to develop a response to Senator Garcia's reciprocity legislation. The group has met twice now with members from the coalition and the Fire Fighter Training Council. They hope to complete their work by the end of the year.