

State Legislative Lay of the Land for 2015-2016

With high voter frustration and lower than predicted voter turnout on November 4th, we saw that:

- Senate R's picked up a seat now 27 R and 11 D.
- House R's picked up 4 seats now 63 R 47 D.
- The Attorney General, Supreme Court and Governor's office all stayed in R hands.

Leadership elections in the Legislature provided the outcomes below:

House

- Speaker: Rep. Kevin Cotter (R-Mt. Pleasant)
- Speaker Pro Tempore: Rep. Tom Leonard (R-DeWitt Twp.)
- Majority Floor Leader: Rep. Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton)
- Majority Caucus Whip: Rep. Rob VerHeulen (R-Walker)
- **House Appropriation Committee Chair : Rep. Pscholka (R-Stevensville)**
- House Minority Leader: (returning) Rep. Tim Griemel (D-Auburn Hills)
- House Minority Floor Leader: (defeating current Minority Floor Leader, Rep. David Rutledge) Rep. Sam Singh (D-East Lansing)

Senate

- Senate Majority Leader: Sen. Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive)
- Senate Majority Floor Leader: Sen. Mike Kowall (R-White Lake)
- Senate President Pro Tempore: Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker (R-Lawton)
- Senate Majority Whip: Sen. Jack Brandenburg (R-Harrison Twp.)
- Senate Majority Caucus Chair: Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc)
- **Senate Appropriations Committee Chair: Sen. Hildenbrand (R-Lowell)**
- **Senate DCH Appropriations Chair: Sen. Marleau (R- Lake Orion)**
- **Senate Health Policy Chair: Senator Shirkey (R- Clarklake)**
- Senate Minority Leader: Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Flint)
- Senate Minority Floor Leader: Sen. Morris Hood III (D-Detroit)

What this all means for lead and healthy homes in general?

Hopefully not much! Our issues are seen as bipartisan issues so the shift in the balance of power should not hurt us. What could hurt us is budget woes which will we have, as the result of various court cases, settlements and funding shortfalls. We know however that the Legislature will be even more anti-tax, anti-government and live within your means than before. This could make a funding increase ask harder but if we can keep the lead money in the budget as part of the Governor's budget ask - we should be in good shape if we continue with our strong ground game for the \$1.75 million status quo. Jean Doss & I are trying to set up meetings with key legislative leaders to educate on lead before January. More details on committee members should be announced in late January or February and we will be busy behind the scenes with education and compiling legislative packets for new and returning members.

More details to follow and how you can help as well!

Thanks,

Tina Reynolds