

**THE JACOBS REPORT**  
**GILDA Z. JACOBS**  
**MICHIGAN SENATE**  
**Assistant Democratic Floor Leader**  
**FOURTEENTH DISTRICT**

**For Immediate Release**  
**November 10, 2006**

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## **RECORD MICHIGAN VOTER TURNOUT**

### **Interest Exceeds Expectations**

One week ago, the Secretary of State's office predicted voter turnout of 47.3 percent on Election Day—approximately 3.4 million people.

Tuesday's actual turnout eclipsed that estimate by 400,000 people, setting a Michigan record for a non-presidential election, with participants numbering over 3.8 million. The previous record for turnout in a gubernatorial election was 3.2 million people, set in 2002.

Approximately 53 percent of registered voters cast ballots for Tuesday's general election, the first to feature optical scan voting equipment for all in-person voting.

Tuesday's general election was also notable as the first in which voters with disabilities used the new AutoMARK ballot-marking equipment.

"Michigan's voters have set a turnout record yet again," said state Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs. "Regardless of who won or lost each contest, the high level of participation bodes well for the health of our state."

Michigan's all-time turnout record was set in the presidential election of 2004, when 4.8 million people voted.

Michigan had 7.18 million voters registered to participate in the Nov. 7 election.

Turnout figures will remain unofficial until certified by the Board of State Canvassers, sometime before Nov. 27.

## **DEMOCRATS TAKE MICHIGAN HOUSE**

### **Senate Falls Just Short of Power Sweep**

A toxic mix of an unpopular war, Washington corruption, and an uncertain economy put voters in a vengeful mood at the polls on Tuesday. In bold, large strokes, they painted Republicans with the blame and punished them for it. Democrats in Michigan rode this wave of discontent, just as their party brethren did in every region across the country.

In addition to a strong showing by incumbent governor Jennifer Granholm, Michigan House Democrats swept to victory in five key races, knocking off three Republican incumbents and securing two hard-fought open seats. To top it off, they even picked up two seats they weren't shooting for: a Northville/Plymouth seat with a 60 percent Republican base, and a seat in the Thumb area that didn't make the Democrats top 20 list of possible pick-ups. The end result is a 58-52 majority next year, the first time since 1996 that Democrats have captured power in either Michigan legislative chamber.

Jackson County representatives Rick Baxter and Leslie Mortimer, along with Rep. David Farhat (R-Muskegon), were the three Republican incumbent casualties. To put these losses in perspective, only three House incumbents have lost their reelection bids over the past ten years (500 races).

It's not clear yet if or when House Speaker Craig DeROCHE (R-Nov) will step down from his post as Republican leader.

Senate Democrats came close to mirroring the House's success. In fact, when results came in showing that Glenn Anderson (D-Westland) had defeated incumbent Laura Toy (R-Livonia), a Democratic majority seemed in grasp, if not a foregone conclusion. But Republicans in Saginaw, Kalamazoo, and Oakland County edged out their Democratic challengers in close counts that went late into the night and early morning.

The Anderson seat was the only one to change hands, shaving the Republican majority from 22-16 to 21-17.

Other than Toy, all incumbent Republican senators won re-election, but some of the results were closer than expected. In an anti-Republican year, Democratic incumbent senators blew away their Republican challengers.

In the end, it wasn't enough to tip the balance of power. "It's amazing considering the carnage that fell around us," said Senate Republican Spokesman Ari Adler.

The Republican Senate will now be looked at as a check/balance to Democratic power coming from the House and executive office.

## JACOBS ELECTED TO SECOND TERM

### Senator Takes 72% of Vote

Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs coasted to victory in her reelection bid, earning support from approximately 78,000 of the 108,000 ballots cast.

The next four years will be Jacobs' last in the Senate. While she still has two years of eligibility left in the House, a return to the Legislature following this Senate term is unlikely.

"These next four years are vital to the future of our state," said Sen. Jacobs. "My vision for Michigan's future includes a booming economy, affordable and accessible health care, and quality educational opportunities for all our children."

## WIT, WISDOM, ETC . . .

### Quotables

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

"I'm fed up to the ears with old men dreaming up wars for young men to die in." -George McGovern

Quote of the Week: Groucho Marx "Quote me as saying I was misquoted."

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All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of

the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

**Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.**

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