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2020 MICHIGAN ELECTION RECAP

U.S. SENATE

Incumbent U.S. Senator Gary Peters (D-Bloomfield Hills) defeated John James (R-Farmington Hills) by roughly 85,000 votes (as of the date of print) in an extremely close election that saw about \$100 million spent.

It looks certain that the Republicans will keep their majority in the U.S. Senate by a few seats.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Every Incumbent member of the U.S. House of Representatives in Michigan won their re-election. Congresswomen Elissa Slotkin and Haley Stevens won tight races in competitive seats in SE Michigan. Aside from those, the other incumbents won easily.

Michigan will see three new members of Congress.

In the open seat vacated by Rep. Justin Amash (L-Grand Rapids), Peter Meijer (R-Grand Rapids) defeated Hillary Scholten (D-Grand Rapids). In the seat being vacated by Rep. Paul Mitchell (R-Dryden TWP), Lisa McClain (R-Bruce Township) won her race against Kimberly Bizon (D-Lexington).

The Democrats will retain their majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.

MICHIGAN SENATE

The Michigan Senate was NOT up for re-election however incumbent Sen. Pete Lucido (R-Washington TWP) won his race for Macomb County Prosecutor and Sen. Pete MacGregor (R-Rockford) won his race for Kent County Treasurer.

This will cost Senate Republican's two seats until a special election is called taking their majority from 22-16 to 20-16.

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Republicans kept their majority in the Michigan House of Representatives which stands at 58-52. Jason Wentworth (R-Farwell) will be the next Speaker of the House with Rep. Donna Lasinski (D-Ann Arbor) serving as the House Minority Leader.

Committee assignments for 2021-22 will be announced in December or January. 



Rep. Donna Lasinski



Rep. Jason Wentworth

LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

BY JASON WADAGA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MI SUPREME COURT STRIKES DOWN RE-ISSUING OF EMERGENCY ORDERS

The Michigan Supreme Court ruled in September that Gov. Whitmer lacked “the authority to declare a ‘state of emergency’ or a ‘state of disaster’” under the 1976 Emergency Management Act after April 30 and that the 1945 Emergency Powers of Governor Act is in violation of the Constitution because it “purports to delegate to the executive branch the legislative powers of state government.” The court ruled the Governor possessed no authority to re-declare (which had been done several times) the same state of emergency or state of disaster orders and thereby avoid the Legislature’s limitation on her authority.

Following the decision Gov. Whitmer immediately asked the Michigan Supreme court to clarify a request that she made claiming her orders would remain in effect for 21-28 days. That request for an extension was denied by the supreme court

saying they lacked the authority to do-so.

In response to the original court decision, the Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) reinstated many aspects of Gov. Whitmer’s COVID-19 emergency orders including mask requirements, gathering size limitations, and bar restrictions.

DHHS Director Robert Gordon made this decision citing a 1978 statute not included in the court case. This law (MCL 333.2253) says if the DHHS director determines that controlling an epidemic is necessary to protect the public health, he or she can prohibit public gatherings, among other actions geared toward protecting public health.

The order will:

- Require people to wear masks at indoor and outdoor gatherings, except for residential gatherings, where the wearing of masks is recommended. Masks also are still required for schools across the state, except for the Traverse City region, also referred to

as region six.

- Require that athletes training, practicing, or competing in organized sports must still wear a face covering as well, except when swimming, or consistently maintain six feet of distance.
- Puts limitations on gathering sizes that mirror the requirements from the Governor’s previous orders.

GOVERNOR, LEGISLATURE COME TO AGREEMENT ON SEVERAL COVID-19 BUSINESS RELATED ITEMS

The striking down of the Governor’s emergency powers effectively ended some business regulations that had been done previously by executive order. This forced the Governor and the legislature to compromise on a package of bills to address these issues moving forward during the pandemic.

Included in the package of bills (that were signed into law) was legislation that would:

- Continue unemployment benefits for an expanded 26 weeks and continuing protections for employees quarantining due to COVID-19. This was priority number one in the package of bills by both parties.
- Say that as long as a business has been in compliance with all federal, state and local laws and rules, it cannot be held liable if someone believes he or she contracted COVID-19 at the worksite.
- Prevent an employer from firing someone for staying home out of concerns they have COVID-19. That passed unanimously.
- Ensure that those with COVID-19 or those caring for a loved one with COVID-19 are able to receive the expanded 26 weeks of unemployment as opposed to the standard 20



GOVERNOR HITS “PAUSE BUTTON” ON RE-OPENING

Using the same statute that allowed the administration to re-instate the mask mandates and capacity limitations, the Governor and Director Gordon announced what they called a “pause Button” for Michigan’s economy until December 20th. Included in the decision was:

- Indoor construction and work also will have new limitations put on it.
- Indoor recreation, casinos, bowling alleys, theaters, youth and high school sports will need to take a three-week break.

- Professional and college sports can continue to play if they meet “extraordinary standards.” They must play without spectators, even if they are family.
- High schools and universities can do online learning only.
- Childcare, barbershops, salons, and public transit are still allowed, but with limited occupancy.
- Funerals can still be done with less than 25 people.
- No restrictions are being put on health care services at this time.
- Parks will remain open.

- K-8 schools can stay open, but this is at the discretion of the local school district.
- Outdoor gatherings are being limited to 25 people and indoor gatherings are being limited to 10.
- Retail shops and will be allowed to continue but at reduced occupancy.
- Dine-in eating is done for 3 weeks
- Capacity limitations in gyms and other indoor venues.
- Michigan workers will not be allowed to go to the office unless necessary under the new restrictions. 🚫

COVID-19 PAUSE TO SAVE LIVES

Open	Not open
 Two-household gathering (high precautions)*	 High schools (in-person learning)
 Small outdoor gatherings (25 people)	 Theaters, movie theaters, stadiums, arenas
 Retail	 Bowling centers, trampoline parks, indoor water parks
 Preschool through 8th grade (local district choice)	 Workplaces, when work can be done from home
 Childcare	 Bingo halls, casinos, arcades
 Manufacturing, construction, other work that is impossible to do remotely, including technical education	 Group fitness classes
 Public transit	 Organized sports, except professional sports
 Hair salons, barber shops, other personal services	
 Gyms, ice rinks, and pools (for individual exercise)	
 Restaurants and bars (outdoor dining, takeout, and delivery)	
 Professional sports** (without spectators)	
 Parks and outdoor recreation	
 Funerals (25 people)	
 Health care	

*See Social Gathering Guidance. **Includes a limited number of NCAA sports.

For more information about the order, visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus. Questions or concerns can be emailed to COVID19@michigan.gov.



APPRENTICESHIP EXTENSIONS FOR 2020

For apprentices and apprenticeship managers, you might recall that the end of year is the time that the BFAAM Apprenticeship Program is required to update the US Department of Labor (USDOL) on the status of all apprentices on their progress within the program. That includes requesting extensions to allow apprentices who have been in the program for several years to remain in the program and continue showing progress.

The BFAAM Apprenticeship Program leadership understands that this year has been particularly challenging with business closures, limitations on work, and other factors that may have contributed to limitations on apprentices being able to complete their fire alarm work and/or period exams. Therefore, due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, the BFAAM Apprenticeship Program has decided to grant all apprentices an additional year extension.

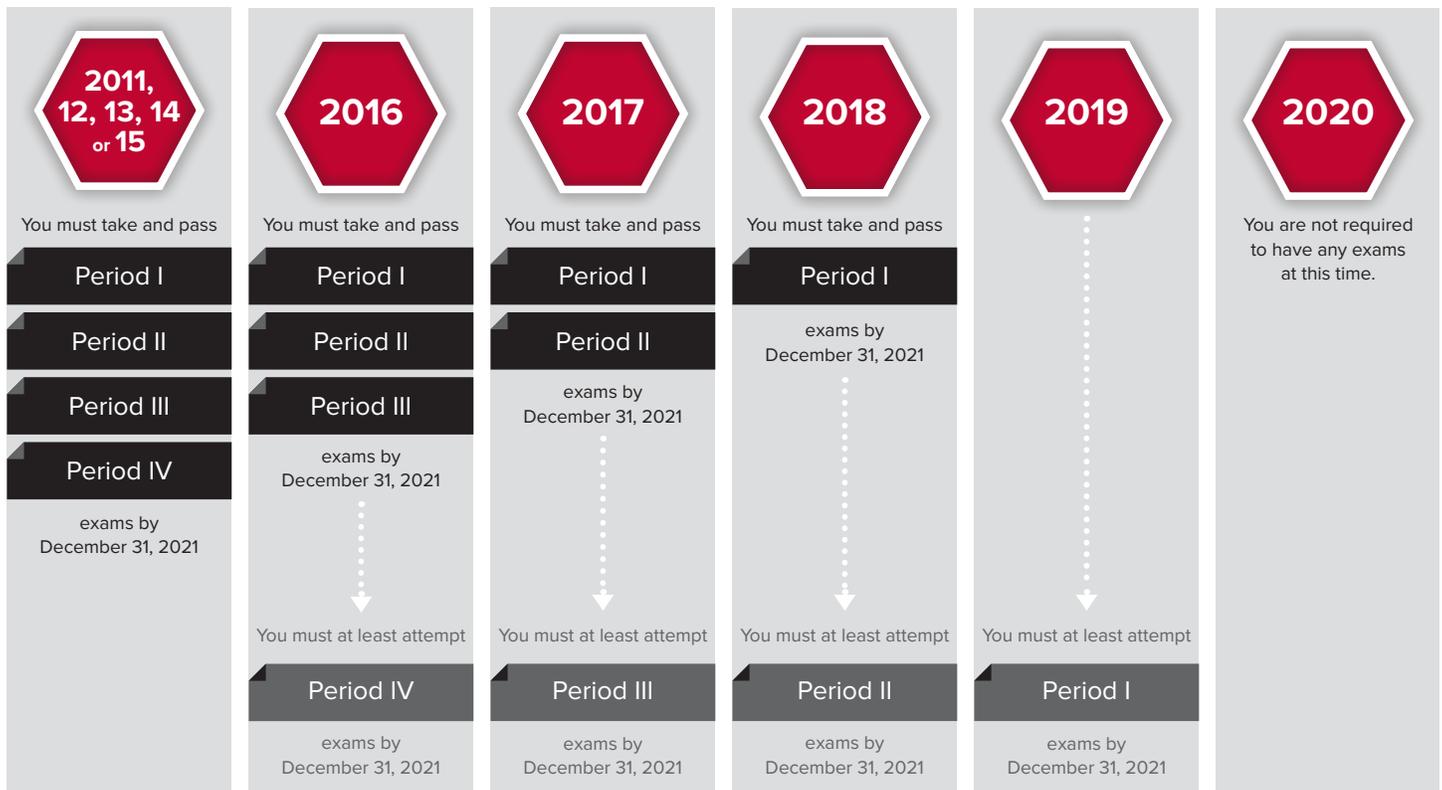
Also, the BFAAM Apprenticeship Program provides the following reminders:

- First, the BFAAM Apprenticeship Program is also sending its annual renewal forms for all apprentices. All companies who wish to keep their apprentices enrolled in the BFAAM

Apprenticeship Program must return the annual payment to BFAAM no later than February 1, 2021.

- Second, if you have apprentices completing the program, please use the completion form so that the BFAAM Apprenticeship Program can update the USDOL.
- If you have apprentices that are no longer employed, please contact the BFAAM Apprenticeship Program so that they can be removed from the program and their enrollment can be cancelled.
- All of the education webinars are available on the [BFAAM website](#). Please encourage all apprentices to use those webinars to learn their way through the program.
- Finally, if you are learning or have apprentices demonstrating progress, each of the four required Period Exams are available on the BFAAM website. Simply register for an exam through the BFAAM website. Payment for exam registration is to complete the selected BFAAM Apprenticeship Exam once. As a reminder, all payments for the BFAAM Apprenticeship program must be made with company funds. Personal checks and credit cards cannot be accepted. Once payment is processed, you will be sent login information to access the BFAAM Apprenticeship Exam. (📞)

If you are an apprentice that joined the BFAAM Apprenticeship Program in:



GROUP PURCHASING DISCOUNTS FOR BFAAM MEMBERS

ACCOUNTING & TAX SERVICES



We are focused on getting the lowest possible tax liability for you, and we assure the result is in alignment with your individualized goals. As an BFAAM member, you receive our 2 times guarantee on tax planning; meaning whatever fee is paid, you receive double the fee in returned tax savings. Also, if you hire us for ongoing administration services, such as tax preparation and bookkeeping, you will receive a 10% discount on those services for life. Contact Valley Oak at 844.368.6554.

CREDIT CARD PROCESSING SERVICE



Our program options include: 1.00% qualified rate for Visa, MasterCard and Discover or Interchange Plus. American Express offers their latest program called Opt Blue. Receive Next Day funding of your deposits, free desktop terminal; Gateway/ Virtual Terminal. We are also pleased to announce new, exciting, and secure Mobile Solutions as well. All solutions are EMV and PCI compliant. ZERO start up fees to enroll and MORE. For more information visit quantussolutions.com or call 800.698.5150.

DEBT COLLECTION



TekCollect programs include custom verbal and written contracts, electronic database skip tracing, credit bureau reporting, plus optional advanced recovery efforts for hard-to-collect accounts. Our service is securely web-based, with access to every collection effort plus real-time reports. And every effort is designed to preserve the integrity of your customer relationships. Our fees are typically less than 10%. Best of all, results are guaranteed! Contact Lance Rhutasel at lrhutasel@tekcollect.com or call 314.308.6853 ext. 1411.

FINANCIAL PLANNING



Gasaway Investment Advisors, Inc. is an investment advisory firm with a unique expertise in working with small and medium sized companies on qualified retirement plans for their employees. Our team of experienced professionals will work with your company's leaders to develop a plan that is tailored to meet your company's goals and then periodically review the plan to meet the needs of your company. This benefit provides discounted third party administration fees. Contact us at 844.368.6554.

HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM



Our agency has put together a team of Insurance, Human Resources and Technology professionals to provide our clients with the necessary resources to survive in today's world of Employee Benefits. Our background, education, knowledge and experience puts us in a unique position to suggest solutions that are proven to work. Contact Vantage Pointe today at 844.368.6554.

INSURANCE PROGRAM



BFAAM has teamed with Beyond Financial Planning to offer you complete insurance and financial planning services. Formerly known as Beckwith Financial Group; The team at Beyond Financial Planning works with clients daily to help families Create, Protect, and Keep Multigenerational Wealth. Simply visit us online at www.beyond-fp.com and find out how we go "Beyond" to help you enjoy exclusive benefits offered only to BFAAM members. Contact Beyond Financial Planning at 866.574.8279 for more information.

MORTGAGE LENDING



Primary Residential Mortgage, Inc., the Smithville Ohio division, is a licensed lender in 49 states. Our division is a full service operation with all aspects of the loan process handled by our staff. Thus eliminating the loan package distribution to other locations for final approval. Through this benefit, you will receive a \$1,250 discount on your closing costs. Contact Primary Residential Mortgage at 844.368.6554.

BFAAM LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Q&A WITH REPRESENTATIVE JOE TATE



Joe Tate was recently re-elected to continue serving as State Representative for Michigan's 2nd District. In his first term, Joe applied his military leadership experience and business expertise to serve the community that has invested so much in him.

A LIFE OF SERVICE, TEAMWORK, AND LEADERSHIP.

Born in the district at Bon Secours Hospital on Cadieux Road, Joe's initial exposure to service began with his parents setting the example. His father, Coleman Sr., was a firefighter for the City of Detroit at Engine 52, Ladder 31, who gave his life while serving the city, while his mother, Debra, was a Detroit public school teacher.

After high school, Joe earned an athletic scholarship to play football at Michigan State University (MSU). At MSU, he was a three-year starter for the Spartans and was elected team captain during his senior year. In addition to his success on the field, Joe was a model student-athlete, earning a degree in Public Policy and receiving Academic All-Big Ten honors for his excellence in the classroom. After graduating from MSU, Joe moved on to the National Football League (NFL) where he spent two years playing for three teams (Jacksonville Jaguars, St. Louis Rams, and Atlanta Falcons).

In one of the most important decisions of his life, Joe left a career in athletics and commissioned as an Infantry Officer in the

United States Marine Corps. He deployed twice to Afghanistan, first as a Platoon Commander and then as a Company Executive Officer, where he oversaw the day-to-day operations of hundreds of Marines and Sailors. Two of his fondest memories were living and working with other members of his unit, providing support for small development projects to farmers living in Southern Afghanistan. And it was during his deployments where he learned the success of a mission is best accomplished by prioritizing the welfare of fellow troops and the community.

After an honorable discharge from the Marine Corps, Joe returned home to Michigan to further his education. He graduated with his Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Master of Science in Environmental Policy and Planning, both from the University of Michigan.

WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER ONE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY?

"Housing. Access to quality housing units is something we grapple with wherever you are in Michigan. Additionally, for the first time in over 60 years renters outnumber homeowners in the city of Detroit, which means access to affordable housing whether you rent or own will become of greater importance in the coming years.

WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

"Meeting with students from my district in Lansing when they are touring the Capitol."

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST HIDDEN GEM IN YOUR DISTRICT?

"The waterfront. My district sits along the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair."

WHO'S YOUR MODERN DAY HERO?

"My mom." 🙏

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to help families
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- Greg

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Are you interested in becoming a
BFAAM board member? If so, please
contact **Jason Wadaga**.

2021 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, February 10, 2021
BFAAM Headquarters, Lansing, MI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, April 14, 2021
BFAAM Headquarters, Lansing, MI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, June 9, 2021
BFAAM Headquarters, Lansing, MI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, September 8, 2021
BFAAM Headquarters, Lansing, MI

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Friday, October 22, 2021 (*tentative*)
Location TBD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, December 1, 2021
BFAAM Headquarters, Lansing, MI

Searchable BFAAM Directory Available Online

In case you missed it last month, a new membership directory is now available at bfaam.org/member-directory. The publication includes a complete list of all BFAAM principal member companies, principal companies by location, associate member companies and all individual members by last name.

The best part is the directory is searchable! This feature allows website visitors to quickly and easily find a contractor or fellow member.

[View Now](#)

