



SPECIAL REPORT

November 22, 2022

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! – In observance of Thanksgiving, the *MHSA* office will be closed tomorrow, Wednesday, November 23rd, until Monday, November 28th. *MHSA* wishes our clients a happy, healthy, and restful Thanksgiving holiday!

REP. BOLDEN APPOINTED TO MSC, JUSTICE CLEMENT NAMED CHIEF JUSTICE – *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* appointed *Representative Kyra Harris Bolden (D-Southfield)* to the *Michigan Supreme Court (MSC)* today, replacing *Chief Justice Bridget McCormack* who is stepping down from the *MSC*. Additionally, with *Chief Justice McCormack* stepping down, *MSC Justice Elizabeth Clement* was named *Chief Justice* through the end of the year.

Representative Bolden will now serve a partial term on the *MSC*, expiring on January 1, 2025. If *Representative Bolden* wishes to complete the remainder of *Justice McCormack's* term, which expires on January 1, 2029, *Representative Bolden* will be required to run for the seat in the November 2024 General Election. *Representative Bolden* ran for *MSC Justice* in the 2022 General Election, but narrowly lost with 22 percent of the vote. She finished third in the contest behind incumbent *Justices Richard Bernstein* (34 percent) and *Brian Zahra* (24 percent).

Representative Bolden's appointment is historic. *Representative Bolden* will be the first Black woman to serve on the state's high court, as well as the first legislator to ever serve on the *MSC*. *Representative Bolden* was first elected to the *House* in 2018. *Representative Bolden* has served on the *House Judiciary* and *Insurance Committees* the last two terms. Before being elected to the *House*, *Representative Bolden* was a lawyer with Lewis & Munday P.C. in Detroit; worked as a staff attorney for Judge John Murphy in Wayne County Circuit Court; and as a court-appointed criminal defense attorney for district court in Southfield. *Representative Bolden* studied law at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.

Governor Whitmer released a statement with *Representative Bolden's* appointment, saying, "Today, I am honored to announce that I will be appointing *Kyra Harris Bolden* to the *Michigan Supreme Court*. A state representative from Southfield, former law clerk and litigator, *Kyra* is passionate about the law and will be the first Black woman ever to serve on the *Michigan Supreme Court*. She will bring a unique perspective to our high court as a Black woman—and as a new, working mom—that has too long been left out. *Kyra* is committed to fighting for justice for generations, and I know she will serve Michigan admirably, building a brighter future for her newborn daughter and all our kids."

In other *MSC* news, *Justice Elizabeth Clement* was named *Chief Justice* of the *MSC* through the end of the year, as current *Chief Justice McCormack* prepares to step down from the bench. *MSC Chief Justices* are elected for two-year terms in January. However, due to *Justice McCormack* stepping down from the state's high court, the *MSC* unanimously elected *Justice Clement* to serve as *Chief Justice* for the remainder of the term. According to *now-Chief Justice Clement*, she has support from a key colleague to serve as *Chief Justice* for the full term and told the Associated Press she expected to be *Chief Justice* in 2023-24 as well.

REPRESENTATIVE ANGELA WITWER NAMED HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS CHAIR IN 2023 – *Representative Angela Witwer (D-Delta Township)* has been named *House Appropriations Chair* for the *2023-2024 session* when *House Democrats* take majority.

House Speaker-elect Joe Tate (D-Detroit) made the announcement late Friday of last week. *Representative Witwer* is currently in her second term in the *House* and will begin her third term as *Appropriations Chair*. *Speaker-elect Tate* bucked tradition by not naming a current *Appropriations Committee* member as chair for the upcoming term. *Representative Witwer* does not currently serve on the *Appropriations Committee*. According to Gongwer News, a non-Appropriations member hasn't been named the next chair since *Representative Scott Hummel* was named chair for the 2005-2006 term. In a statement, *Speaker-elect Tate* said, "In her two terms in the House, Angela has established herself as a strong leader, tireless advocate and an independent voice for all Michiganders. I have full confidence in her ability to thoughtfully lead House Appropriations."

History will be made in the upcoming *102nd Legislature*, as both the *House* and *Senate Appropriations Committees* will be chaired by women; a first in the Capitol. *Current-Representative Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing)*, who was just elected to serve Michigan's 21st Senate District, was named *Appropriations Chair* by *Senate Majority Leader-elect Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids)*. This is also the first time since the 2003-2004 term where both *Appropriations Committee's* will be chaired by members of the Legislature that reside in the greater Lansing area.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS NAME REP. FILLER CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES – This week the *House Republicans* announced that *Representative Graham Filler (R-Greenbush Township)* will chair the *Republican Committee on Committees*, which will make committee recommendations to *Speaker-elect Joe Tate (D-Detroit)*.

Representative Filler was selected by *House Minority Leader-elect Matt Hall (R- Comstock Township)* to serve as chair. As chair of the *Committee on Committees*, *Representative Filler* will assess the interests and experience of both incoming and returning legislators and make committee recommendations to the incoming *Speaker*. *Representative Filler* recently won his third term in the House.

Representative Filler released a quote following his selection for the post, saying, "I am looking forward to working closely with both sides of the aisle to make committee assignments that are the best fit for representatives based on their personal life experiences, professional backgrounds and policy priorities. Having the right people on the right legislative committees plays an integral role in crafting good public policy for the people we serve."

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