

35TH SENATE DISTRICT PRIMARY RESULTS – The special primary election for the vacant **35th Senate District** was held this week, setting the stage for the May 5th general election that provides an important vote in the *Senate's* 19-18 **Democratic** majority.

The bigger picture: The **35th Senate District** was previously held by current **U.S. Representative Kristen McDonald Rivet (D-Bay City)** and has sat vacant for thirteen months since **Representative McDonald Rivet** was elected to **Congress** in 2024. The primary election results saw **Chedrick Greene** win as the **Democratic** candidate and **Jason Tunney** win as the **Republican** candidate.

To read more, please click [here](#).

CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING UPDATES – New fundraising numbers for the 2026 gubernatorial, Secretary of State, and attorney general campaigns have been released from the end of 2025.

The bigger picture: **Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson** leads the gubernatorial field with more than \$3.5 million in cash on hand to start the new year, with former Detroit **Mayor Mike Duggan** and **U.S. Representative John James** trailing. Former Lottery Commissioner **Suzanna Shkreli** leads the Secretary of State pack, and Oakland County Prosecutor **Karen McDonald** continues to pull ahead in attorney general fundraising.

To read more, please click [here](#).

LEGISLATURE MOVES BILLS – This week the **House** held two voting session days where they passed numerous bills.

The bigger picture: The **House** held two voting session days this week amidst absent members due to injuries and members being sick. The **House** ended up passing legislation on various issues, including deer baiting medical licenses, and boiler repair. Additionally, a bill package covering fertility fraud is expected to be voted on later this month. Notably, the **Senate** did not hold voting session days this week due to a significant number of members being sick.

To read more, please click [here](#).

ELECTIONS

- **Adam Hollier** announced that he will be ending his campaign for the **Democratic** nomination for Secretary of State. Instead, he is running for the **3rd Senate District** instead. Ingham County Clerk **Barb Byrum** and Former Lottery Commissioner **Suzanna Shkreli** remain in the running for the **Democratic** nomination. **Mr. Hollier** will be joining five other **Democrats** running for the **3rd Senate District**.
- East Jackson School Board member **Jan Maino** announced her campaign for the **46th House District**. The seat is currently held by **Representative Kathy Schmaltz (R-Jackson)**. **Democrats** have been trying to flip the seat for the past two cycles and hope that **Ms. Maino** will be the candidate to succeed.

ODDS AND ENDS

- This week the *Michigan Court of Appeals* denied the state's request for an immediate appeal of the *Court of Claims* decision that blocks the state from expending work project funds canceled by the *House*. The next hearing is scheduled for February 27th. The state appealed the preliminary injunction to the *Court of Appeals* and the *Michigan Supreme Court*, but on Thursday, the *Court of Appeals* said it was not persuaded that the issue needed immediate appellate review.
- The *Senate Local Government Committee* took testimony only on legislation that would amend the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act and permit the government to use drones, or an unmanned aircraft system to inspect telecommunications towers and relevant infrastructure. *Senate Bill 525* would also allow the government to use drones to participate in recovery, assessment or in inspection efforts in response to a declared state of emergency or state of disaster.