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2011-2012 Leadership Guide

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MIRS CAPITOL CAPSULE, MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2009

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Michigan could end up like General George **CUSTER** counting on Major Marcus **RENO** at the Battle of Little Bighorn."

-- Political consultant Sam **RIDDLE** commenting on the danger of Michigan relying too much on economic stimulus money from the incoming Barack **OBAMA** administration.

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Sanborn, Scott Most Conservative, Liberal

A pair of regulars earned spots atop *MIRS'* annual most liberal/most conservative rankings in 2008 with Sen. Alan **SANBORN** (R-Richmond) reclaiming his King Conservative title and Sen. Martha G. **SCOTT** (D-Detroit) retaking the Queen Liberal crown.

With the technical support of www.michiganvotes.org, *MIRS* used 34 roll call votes from the entire year of 2008, including lame duck, to compile this year's rankings.

Sanborn, the Senate's most conservative member from 2003-2005, voted the conservative position 31 times and the liberal position twice. He was absent from one vote. Sanborn's perfect 100-percent rating was spoiled by his support for new regulations on teenagers operating motorized watercraft and rules impacting on-line beer/wine retailers.

Sanborn's nearly 94 percent conservative ranking bested last year's most conservative member, Sen. Mark **JANSEN** (R-Cutlerville), who went right more than 88 percent of the time this year based on the selected votes.

"It's a reflection of my belief that Michigan should be an affordable place to live, work and raise a family," Sanborn said. "My district is very conservative and they want me to fight to make Michigan more competitive. I believe you do that with lower taxes and less regulation."

The race for most liberal was much more competitive, with Scott edging Sens. Irma **CLARK-COLEMAN** (D-Detroit) and Liz **BRATER** (D-Detroit) based on her not missing any of the selected 34 votes.

Scott, Clark-Coleman and Brater all voted the conservative position once, but Clark-Coleman missed the vote giving drain commissioners more power to issue assessments and Brater missed two votes, which gave Scott a higher liberal percentage rating.

Scott and Clark-Coleman voted in favor of loosening restrictions for kids participating in off-road vehicle tournaments. Brater voted against letting alcohol into senior homes.

Since 2004, only these three senators have been recognized by *MIRS* as most liberal. For her part, Scott has now been the Senate's most liberal member two out of the past three years.

"When I vote, I vote for what I feel is right for my district," Scott said.

Once again, no Republican member of the Senate was more liberal than a Democratic member and no Democrat was more conservative than a Republican. Sen. Jim **BARCIA** (D-Bay City) was again the Senate's most conservative Democrat while Sen. Michelle **MCMANUS** (R-Lake Leelanau), Sen. Roger **KAHN** (R-Saginaw) and Senate Majority Leader Mike **BISHOP** (R-Rochester) were tied as the chamber's most liberal Republicans.

The following are the final most conservative rankings for 2008 in order of the percentage of time that members cast a liberal vote:

1. Sanborn - 6.06%
2. Jansen - 11.76%

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3. Sen. Wayne **KUIPERS** (R-Holland) - 12.50%
4. Sen. Nancy **CASSIS** (R-Novi) - 15.15%
5. Sen. Alan **CROPSEY** (R-DeWitt) and Sen. Cameron **BROWN** (R-Fawn River Twp.) - 17.65%
7. Sen. Tom **GEORGE** (R-Kalamazoo) - 20.59%
8. Sen. Ron **JELINEK** (R-Three Oaks) and Sen. Bill **HARDIMAN** (R-Kentwood) - 21.21%
10. Sen. Gerry **VAN WOERKOM** (R-Norton Shores) and Sen. Jason **ALLEN** (R-Traverse City) - 23.53%
12. Sen. Tony **STAMAS** (R-Midland) and Sen. Patty **BIRKHOLZ** (R-Saugatuck) - 24.24%
14. Sen. Randy **RICHARDVILLE** (R-Monroe) and Sen. Jud **GILBERT** (R-Algonac) - 26.47%
16. Sen. Valde **GARCIA** (R-Howell) - 26.67%
17. Sen. Bruce **PATTERSON** (R-Canton) - 26.92%
18. Sen. John **PAPPAGEORGE** (R-Troy) - 27.27%
19. McManus, Kahn and Bishop - 32.35%
22. Barcia - 61.76%
23. Sen. John **GLEASON** (D-Flushing) - 66.67%
24. Senate Minority Leader Mark **SCHAUER** (D-Battle Creek) - 72.73%
25. Sen. Hansen **CLARKE** (D-Detroit) - 78.79%
26. Sen. Glenn **ANDERSON** (D-Westland) - 79.41%
27. Sen. Tupac **HUNTER** (D-Detroit) - 81.25%
28. Sen. Gilda **JACOBS** (D-Huntington Woods) - 81.82%
29. Sen. Gretchen **WHITMER** (D-East Lansing) - 84.84%
30. Sen. Dennis **OLSHOVE** (D-Warren) - 84.85%
31. Sen. Buzz **THOMAS** (D-Detroit) and Sen. Mickey **SWITALSKI** (D-Roseville) - 85.29%
33. Sen. Ray **BASHAM** (D-Taylor) - 86.67%
34. Sen. Mike **PRUSI** (D-Ishpeming) - 91.18%
35. Sen. Deb **CHERRY** (D-Burton) - 93.75%
36. Brater - 96.88%
37. Clark-Coleman - 96.97%
38. Scott - 97.06%

Past Most Conservative Winners

2003 - Sanborn
 2004 - Sanborn
 2005 - Sanborn
 2006 - Cassis
 2007 - Jansen

Past Most Liberal Winners

2003 - Sen. Burton **LELAND**
 2004 - Brater
 2005 - Brater
 2006 - Scott
 2007 - Clark-Coleman

Votes Used To Determine Rankings

1. HB 5524, ends state's electric competition law, guarantees DTE and Consumers 90 percent of utility business in their areas regardless of competitors, allows surcharges to pay for energy experimentation projects. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 558, 9/18/2008.
2. HB 4163, prohibits smoking in all restaurants and business, including Detroit casinos. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 298, 5/8/2008.
3. SB 0776, prohibiting partial-birth abortions unless the procedure needs to be conducted to save the life of the mother. Liberal vote is "no." Roll call 15, 1/22/2008.
4. HB 5283, the Senate version of individual health insurance market reform, which did not include a centralized pool or state-mandated reimbursements for companies that accept high-risk customers. Liberal vote is "no." Roll call 279, 5/1/2008.
5. HB 5809, a proposed amendment for the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) budget to strip out a ban on state officials writing ergonomics rules. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 344, 5/27/2008.
6. SB 0505, allows current and retired judges to carry a concealed weapon into otherwise "gun-free zones" such as schools, day care facilities, sports stadiums and other public meeting places. Liberal vote is "no." Roll call 855, 12/18/2008.
7. HB 6644, bans retail establishments from direct alcohol sales to homes without going through the typical state regulations. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 872, 12/18/2008.
8. SB 1097, an amendment to strip out language in the Department of Environmental Quality budget that bans the department from regulating wetlands use in the smaller counties absent a detailed state wetlands inventory. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 364, 5/28/2008.
9. 5808, an amendment to strip out language in the Department of Transportation budget that bans the department from spending \$20 million on a Detroit River International Crossing if the money binds the state to the construction of a future crossing. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 337, 5/27/2008.
10. SB 0296, creates exemptions for children using off-road vehicles if they are participating in an organized racing event. Liberal vote is "no." Roll call 386, 6/10/2008.

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11. SB 0860, an amendment in the water withdrawal legislation that would have banned regulated water withdrawal that may reduce fish populations in a coldwater stream by 1 percent as opposed to the 3 percent proposed in the bill. Liberal vote "yes." Roll call 318, 5/15/2008.
12. SB 1252, an amendment to strip out language in a bill that would allow charter school expansion in Detroit. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 565, 9/24/2008.
13. SB 1242, phases out the 22-percent Michigan Business Tax surcharge. Liberal vote is "no." Roll call 595, 10/2/2008.
14. SJR L, allow voters to vote on a Constitutional amendment that would require a two-thirds supermajority in both the House and Senate in order to pass a new service tax. Liberal vote is "no." Roll call 263, 4/24/2008.
15. SB 1198, an amendment tie-barring a tax cut bill to an increase in the maximum length of time an individual can receive unemployment insurance benefits from 26 to 39 weeks. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 248, 4/22/2008.
16. HB 6014 prohibits anyone under 14 years old from operating personal watercraft and requires that anyone between 14 and 15 be under direct adult supervision. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 417, 6/24/2008.
17. HB 4184 eliminates the ban on placing a second-time convict into a special incarceration program as an alternative to jail. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 317, 5/15/2008.
18. SB 1252, an amendment that makes it easier for unions to take political action committee contributions from employees' paychecks. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 591, 10/2/2008.
19. SB 1524 allows public utility trucks an exemption to seasonal truck weight restrictions. Liberal vote is "no." Roll call 608, 11/5/2008.
20. SB 0213, the final vote on the renewable energy portion of the energy package, which requires that 10 percent of energy produced in Michigan by 2015 come from solar, biomass, wind, advanced coal and other renewable sources. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 557, 9/18/2008.
21. HB 4688, a substitute that would allow for the establishment of watershed management districts. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 926, 12/19/2008.
22. SB 1558, legislation allowing liquor licenses for continuing care retirement homes. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 936, 12/19/08.
23. SB 0897, creates a recycling program that mandates computer manufacturers take back their old electronics products. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 818, 12/18/08.
24. HB 4848, increases the annual registration fees for building officials, inspectors and plan reviewers from \$10 to \$25. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 758, 12/10/2008.
25. SB 1632, extends until 2016 the sunset on the convention facility liquor and hotel tax as part of the Cobo Hall expansion package. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 794, 12/10/2008.
26. SB 0012, a procedural vote on whether a vote on a no-reason absentee voting bill should be postponed for the day. Liberal vote is "no," Roll call 583, 10/2/2008.
27. SB 1370, eases certain billboard restrictions. Liberal vote is "no." Roll call 492, 6/27/2008.
28. HB 6608, loosens the restrictions of reselling propane gas containers. Liberal vote is "no." Roll call 780, 12/10/08.
29. SB 1107, an amendment to add \$5 million in spending for various government preschool programs. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 208, 3/26/08.
30. SB 0962, an amendment that strips out a requirement that the Secretary of State check the citizenship or legal resident status of driver's license and state ID card applicants against a real-time database. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 27, 2/6/08.
31. SR 134, an amendment to pledge to repeal Michigan's prohibition against filing a lawsuit against legal drugs that have received federal approval. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 23, 1/29/08.
32. HB 5064, requires retailers to let customers with certain medical problems use their restrooms. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 979, 12/19/08.
33. HB 4688, allows county drain commissioners to assess property owners for the maintenance of county drainage ditch systems from \$1,250 per mile to \$2,500 per mile. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 927, 12/19/2008.
34. HB 4552 increases the penalties for certain animal abuse crimes. Liberal vote is "yes." Roll call 723, 12/4/2008.

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Expecting Manna From D.C.?

To what extent will the state's actions in 2009 be dependent on what the administration of Barack **OBAMA** sends

Michigan's way? And how will Gov. Jennifer **GRANHOLM** describe it in her annual State of the State Address?

In addition, there's that mayoral race in the Motor City coming up fast. Can we lock in the winners now? Also, can we expect any new issues to surface this year or will last year's unfinished business dominate this year's legislative agenda?

MIRS asked political pundits to weigh in on these questions today. The following are their responses.

Q. When Gov. Jennifer Granholm says that, despite a projected \$900 million deficit, 2009 won't be a repeat of 2007 - should we take it for granted that she's counting heavily on help from the Obama administration?

"Certainly, the Obama administration is going to be a better partner for Michigan than the outgoing administration," said Todd **COOK** of Mainstreet Strategies. "The President Elect has shown he's going to be aggressive in dealing with the economy and working with the states and I think that's a large part of why she thinks 2009 won't be a repeat of 2007, but I don't think it's the only reason. The other part, I believe, is some optimism on her part that the Legislature is going to work more together in 2009."

Matt **RESCH** of Sterling Corp. said it's apparent the governor is expecting a bailout.

"That clearly seems to be the game plan, and she really hasn't been shy about saying so," Resch said. "What's interesting is that at the exact same time the Big Three execs were getting kicked around D.C. for the perception they wanted a bailout with no reforms, the governor was telling the Legislature, 'We've got a bailout coming, no need for budget reforms.'"

Political consultant Sam **RIDDLE** said, rightly or wrongly, Granholm is banking on federal aid.

"This governor clearly believes she has a legacy to be rescued by an Obama-led cavalry," Riddle said. "However, what she really needs to do is address the budgetary problem as if she doesn't expect the cavalry to show up. Clearly, this state will get more from an Obama administration than it got from the President George W. **BUSH**. But she should not be banking too much on Obama."

Inside Michigan Politics Editor Bill **BALLENGER** said she sure seems to be counting on help from D.C.

"Yes, but also right now the deficit numbers don't look as challenging as they did two years ago," Ballenger said. "Of course, that could change. But, given the governor's aversion to cutting and restructuring government, as well as her pledge in late 2007 never to ask for another tax hike because 'It's just too tough,' I'd say she's depending heavily on a major bailout from President Obama and the Democratic Congress."

Q. What do you expect Granholm to say in her next State of the State Address?

"I don't know what she can say that she hasn't already said a thousands times over," Ballenger said. "The economic picture will not be any brighter this year than it's been in the past six years -- in fact, it may be bleaker."

"Will the governor acknowledge that Michigan was one of only two states to lose population last year -- that 47,000 of us left the state for good?" Ballenger continued. "No, she'll put on her best smiley face and look forward with upbeat optimism about the future, reciting a laundry list of economic development accomplishments. That's her shtick."

Cook said he thinks the governor will say the state has to look inward for solutions.

"I think this may be her toughest State of the State Address, yet," Cook said. "She's got to balance optimism and the challenge of a very difficult economic reality worldwide, not just in Michigan. My gut says it's going to be along the lines of 'We've still got a bright future, but if you're waiting for anybody else to come and save us you're going to be waiting a long time so let's get to work.'"

Resch said it would be exactly the opposite and he even tried to predict the governor's opening lines.

Resch said:

"My fellow Michiganians, now is the time for bold action with our state's budget. Join me. (dramatic pause) Join me now as we extend our hands to Washington D.C., open them to skies as blue as Lake Michigan at sunrise, ask and answer with one voice: Bailouts please? Yes, we can." (Wink)

Riddle said she'll probably combine her alternative energy jobs theme with the I'll-work-with-Obama mantra.

"Basically, it will be about keeping hope alive," Riddle said. "I suspect she'll play on her new-found credibility in the national media and talk about her working relationship with the Obama administration. She'll tell us the cavalry is on the way. And we can all hope that's the case -- but Michigan could end up like General George **CUSTER** counting on Major Marcus **RENO** at the Battle of Little Bighorn."

Q. We're only a few weeks away from the Detroit mayoral primary. Is it safe to say that, barring some unforeseen turnaround, Dave BING and Ken COCKREL will be the likely winners?

"I think the chances are good that Freman **HENDRIX** will be in the top two -- especially if there's a low turnout," Riddle said. "Hendrix and Cockrel have proven constituencies -- and that is very important, especially if the turnout is low. Bing has yet to prove that he can get people to actually vote for him. In addition, Cockrel has made some gaffs that could cost him some votes."

Ballenger agreed that no one should be penciling in Bing and Cockrel as automatically making the cut.

"Right now Bing and Cockrel seem to be the most likely finalists, but there are nearly two months to go before the primary so that could easily change," Ballenger said. "There are enough credible candidates with credentials at least as impressive as the two frontrunners that one or more of them could catch fire for some as yet undiscerned reason."

Cook said that Cockrel and Bing are clearly the leaders.

"At this point that seems be the most likely scenario, the holidays made it difficult for all the campaigns to reach voters so now it's an eight-week sprint to the finish and I think that favors Bing and Cockrel," Cook said.

"However, I think the bigger question is that if Cockrel can't beat Bing in February in a large field, how is he going to win in May? Add in the fact that Nick **HOOD**, Warren **EVANS**, and Hendrix are all going to be hammering away on some kind of change message and I think this is going to be one of those times where being the incumbent isn't helpful."

Resch said that in Detroit anything might happen.

"The phrases 'safe to say' and 'barring some unforeseen turnaround' are two significant hurdles the city of Detroit has proven time and again unable to clear," Resch said. "There are 15 names on the ballot and one of them is Christmas. I wouldn't be shocked if neither of them win."

Q. Do you foresee any new state issues in '09, or can we expect the same issues that dominated '08 to fill the '09 agenda?

"The budget will dominate," Resch said. "I also think there is the potential for the Detroit Public Schools to end up on Lansing's agenda. Or should I say that it should end up on Lansing's agenda. It's a sad commentary when you've got big city superintendents from Colorado being appointed to the U.S. Senate, from Chicago becoming the U.S. Education Secretary and from Washington D.C. on the cover of *Time* magazine all for doing things the right way in tough situations. Fixing the Detroit Public Schools could be that new issue in '09."

Riddle agreed that inner-city schools might become the new hot topic. He also sees public safety as a growing issue.

"I think the whole issue of education in core urban areas could get a lot of attention," Riddle said. "And it's not as simple as a state turnover. I also think we'll hear a lot more about public safety. But other than those, I really think we'll probably just see the same old recycled issues once again."

Ballenger said he expects more serving of re-hash.

"The Granholm administration has always lacked boldness and creativity, and the Legislature in an era of term limits -- with the possible exception of House Speaker Andy **DILLON** (D-Redford Twp.) -- simply doesn't have the interest, experience, and consistency to develop policy alternatives to the executive branch. Therefore, the most likely course of action is one of muddling through the usual tangled thicket of issues, most of them budgetary, that have dominated the past few years."

Cook said he expects the Legislature to stick to the basics.

"There's always going to be one or two surprises in a legislative session and with 46 new House members there may be more than that, but it'll be no surprise that the budget, jobs and the economy, and healthcare in some way, shape or form will dominate 2009," Cook said. "Looking ahead at a pretty tough terrain, I wonder if some of these new House members know what they've gotten themselves into coming to Lansing."

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Anuzis: Twitter, Reagan Will Save GOP

It was a competition today to see who loved Ronald **REAGAN** and Twitter more at the Republican National Committee (RNC) Chair debate in Washington.

Michigan Republican Party (MRP) Chair Saul **ANUZIS** was uncharacteristically subdued in the 90-minute forum with five other candidates. He repeatedly played up his role in standing up against the 2007 tax increases and proudly noted that the MRP vowed not to defend any Republican voting for them from recall. And he called out Republicans for voting for pork like the Bridge to Nowhere.

"Hypocrisy is killing our party," he said, adding that Republicans got elected under the mantra of, "Throw the bums out. Now we've become the bums."

Anuzis stressed his personal biography as the son of immigrants and a Democrat-turned-Republican, although he flubbed a bit by mixing up the parties twice.

"I haven't always been a Democrat," he said toward the end of the debate. "I mean, a Republican."

The debate hosted by Americans for Tax Reform head Grover **NORQUIST** came as the race has become heated in recent weeks. RNC Chair Mike **DUNCAN** is going for another term, but criticisms over the party are wide-ranging, including that it's gotten too liberal, exclusionary of minorities, technologically inept and generally out of touch.

Anuzis is considered a long shot by most analysts, with Duncan and former Ohio Secretary of State Ken

BLACKWELL racking up institutional support. The other candidates are former Tennessee GOP head Chip **SALTSMAN**, former Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael **STEELE** and South Carolina GOP Chair Katon **DAWSON**.

As was the case in the Republican presidential debates, Reagan was the ghost in the room. Anuzis whipped out the 40th president first in his opening. When asked who their favorite Republican president was, all six candidates agreed on the Gipper. They also were asked for their least favorite GOP president, something most candidates, including Anuzis, shied away from answering.

The candidates agreed that the party had shifted from its limited government philosophy and needed to steer right to win. Dawson said the GOP had to "stand firm" and said President-elect Barack **OBAMA's** "big government overreaching" was an opportunity to get very conservative Republicans elected next cycle.

Anuzis also gave a dig to President George W. **BUSH**. "Big-government conservatism is an oxymoron," he said. "Voting for more spending and higher deficits has damaged our brand."

There was a round of litmus-test questions. Everyone was pro-life, with some, like Blackwell, trying to out Right-to-Life the others. Everyone supported school vouchers. Candidates were asked how many guns they owned and Anuzis' two paled in comparison to the weaponry owned by some of his foes.

Technology was the other big theme of how the GOP would turn itself around. Candidates were soon arguing over who was savvier and had more Twitter followers and friends on Facebook.

"I have 4,000 friends on Facebook. That's more than these two guys combined," Blackwell announced, motioning to Anuzis and Dawson.

Anuzis took umbrage, noting he has between 2,000 and 3,000 Facebook pals and 3,000 Twitter followers. But he won a compliment for his Twittering skills from Saltsman, who said, "I'm not sure all of us combined Twitter as much as Saul."

All candidates have played up their tech credentials, but Anuzis has been the most vocal. He said this was one of the ways Obama was able to win.

"It's nice to talk about technology, but unless we use it on a day-to-day basis it's not going to work," he said.

Steele countered the technology talk with, "Everything we've heard here makes sense and sounds good. The question is, 'Why aren't we doing it already?' . . . We can Twitter, YouTube all you want to, but we need face time."

Steele pointedly said that Republicans can't just put young people on committees "like we do with black folks and a whole bunch of folks."

Many candidates, including Anuzis, said Republicans "can't have a 28-state strategy" and need to compete in blue states. They were also asked for a mobilizing issue, and Anuzis said the unions' push for card check legislation, which makes organizing easier, could fit the bill.

Candidates also agreed that the party has to become more diverse, with Anuzis saying the GOP can't be a "whites only" party. He touted Michigan as having perhaps "the most diverse Republican Party in the country."

The most ironic exchange was about U.S. Rep. Ron **PAUL** (R-Texas), whom Anuzis tried to ban from a 2007 presidential debate in Dearborn for his anti-war remarks. But as other RNC Chair hopefuls poured on praise for the Paul supporters' enthusiasm and organization, Anuzis leapt on the bandwagon, noting he'd attended their picnics and said they'd "make the party stronger," just as the religious right had in the 1980s.

Abraham, Posthumus Endorse

Saul Anuzis brought out two blasts from the past to bolster his bid for the Republican National Committee (RNC) chairmanship. He circulated a lengthy endorsement letter from former U.S. Sen. Spencer **ABRAHAM** and former Lt. Gov. Dick **POSTHUMUS**.

They chronicle Anuzis' history in Michigan politics from the '80s to present day and how he pushed the GOP further right. They also credit him for his technological foresight and take a stab at subtly pushing down his split with former National Committeeman Chuck **YOB**.

"Since his election he has modernized the Michigan Republican Party and has, by nearly all objective standards, turned it into one of the country's strongest grassroots Party organizations," they wrote. "More importantly, Saul has put Michigan Republicans on the cutting edge in terms of employing modern telecommunications and interactive media technology for political purposes.

". . . While there is a small faction that has been at odds with Saul since day one, it is indeed very small. The overwhelming opinion among the Michigan GOP, as evidenced by the near unanimous support he has from the Congressional delegation, legislative leadership, GOP county and district chairs, and major donors is that Saul has been an outstanding leader for our Party, in the toughest of times."

Anuzis Paints Dems With Corruption Brush

Michigan Republican Party Chair Saul **ANUZIS** today sent out warm wishes to newly appointed Democratic National Committee Chair Tim **KAINE**. But he really seemed to be trying to paint Democrats with the culture of corruption brush that had sullied the GOP for two election cycles.

"I congratulate Governor Kaine on his new role as chairman of the DNC," Anuzis said. "He will have his work cut out for him grappling with the pay-to-play scandal created by Democrat Gov. Rod **BLAGOJEVICH** in Illinois and

the scandal brewing over Democrat Gov. Bill **RICHARDSON**'s pay-to-play policies in New Mexico. I hope he knows what he's getting into."

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Attorney General Bruce Patterson?

The Bruce **PATTERSON** (R-Canton)-Mike **BISHOP** (R-Rochester) grudge match could enter a new phase in the Attorney General arena.

Patterson confirmed to *MIRS* today that he is considering a run and he'll make up his mind by spring.

"I'll just tell you that it's not out of the realm of possibility," Patterson said in telephone interview from Texas.

He said a lot depends on if the Michigan Republican Party chooses the "right person" as chair, meaning frontrunner Ron **WEISER**. Patterson said he'd be going to the state convention and touted his ties to the state party, which go back 30 years.

But the senator was very candid about the politics of the decision, saying he'd received advice when he was first elected to state government to try to stay relevant in the era of term limits. He said he'd started the rumor himself back in 2003 or 2004 that he was considering an AG bid and now he's giving it some more thought.

Meanwhile, Bishop reportedly is also giving the race some thought.

Patterson has frequently clashed with Bishop, who's going into his final two years as Senate Majority Leader. Their most public spats have been about an annexation issue in Northville and *Kreiner* reforms, prompting Patterson to participate in a coup to take over the chamber with Sen. Gretchen **WHITMER** (D-East Lansing) and other Democrats last year. As a result, Patterson lost his Health Policy Committee vice chairmanship and he said he believes Bishop will further change his assignments this session.

That's something Bishop Spokesman Matt **MARSDEN** denied, saying that the Majority Leader offered Patterson a clean slate at the caucus retreat last fall, which he rejected. Patterson's attendance at caucus meeting was intermittent last year, as he's grappled with health and family issues.

Patterson maintains that Bishop's problems with him are "rooted in his concern that I might run for Attorney General. I have a better record, a lower P-number (attorney registration number) and more gray hair." Patterson also said the geography works in his favor, as he'd have a strong base in western Wayne County and "Mike Bishop couldn't get elected dogcatcher in Northville" thanks to the annexation issue. He said he credits the name of Oakland County Executive L. Brooks **PATTERSON** for helping him win his first legislative race and believes that would help him in Bishop's backyard.

Marsden notes that Bishop has not formally announced he's considering any higher office, saying he's "focused on 2009 and improving conditions for people in Michigan. He invites Sen. Patterson to join him and be part of the caucus, instead of engaging in private ax grinding and political games."

MIRS asked Patterson about potential criticism that he might be considering the AG race just to spite Bishop. Patterson gave a hearty laugh and said, "I can neither confirm nor deny that," adding that it's true that he's been "wronged" by his Leader.

When asked about outgoing Appeals Court Judge Bill **SCHUETTE**, who's considered the GOP Attorney General frontrunner, Patterson had nothing but praise, calling him "quite a guy." He noted Schuette's wealth and state party ties.

"He's not an insurmountable opponent, but he's certainly a credible opponent," Patterson said. "Plus, I've always thought he was a decent guy."

Whitmer is considered the Democratic frontrunner and *MIRS* asked Patterson what kind of opponent she'd make after working with her on the coup. He noted she has advantages as a woman and a Democrat right now, calling her "honest, articulate and credible," although he said she doesn't have the resume any of the GOP candidates have.

"I'm not suggesting Mike Bishop isn't credible or articulate, but the honest part, I'm not so sure of," Patterson added.

Marsden countered that his boss has the "highest integrity and has always been straightforward. Many of the perceived slights against (Patterson) are probably misunderstandings by he and his staff."

As for his relationship with current Attorney General Mike **COX**, Patterson acknowledges it "started out pretty rough." He had worked with Cox's brother, federal Judge Sean **COX**, in Wayne County politics but said he thought the AG was too close to Wayne County machine leader Mike **DUGGAN**, now head of the Detroit Medical Center. But Patterson said he and Cox have warmed to each other and laughs that the Attorney General calls him his "favorite Scotsman," even though he's also half-Irish.

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Rogers' Gov. Decision Next Month

If he is going to run for governor, U.S. Rep. Mike **ROGERS** (R-Brighton) knows he needs to raise a ton of

money starting right now, which is why he'll make his "go/no-go" decision on the race next month.

The mid-Michigan GOP lawmaker is confident he can raise the funds, but he's not sure if he will take the plunge.

"I'm just not sure yet," he told MIRS adding, "There's a lot I think I could offer if I run for governor in 2010 . . . but I have to decide where can I make the best impact."

Rogers is weighing the fact that he has some self-described "pretty powerful" committee assignments in the Congress, namely the U.S. House Intelligence and Energy committees. And if he runs for governor he acknowledges he would have to back off his work on those panels.

Rogers said he is confident he could win a potentially crowded GOP primary for the nomination and the general election. He said he is not factoring into his decision what other contenders might get into the contest saying, "I try not to consider those kinds of things."

If he got in, he would likely be facing his friend, U.S. Rep. Pete **HOEKSTRA** (R-Holland), who is on a glide path to announce his candidacy later this year.

"We have joked about that," Rogers said.

Attorney General Mike **COX** has already formed an exploratory committee and is practically a lock to hop into the race.

Others in the field could include U.S. Rep. Candice **MILLER** (R-Mt. Clemens), Secretary of State Terri Lynn **LAND**, Oakland County Sheriff Mike **BOUCHARD** and Domino's Pizza CEO David **BRANDON**.

Rogers refused to be pinned down on which way he is leaning so he was asked if he could think of a reason why he would not run.

He laughed and was asked if he liked that question.

"I really don't," he quipped, while conceding, "I'm very seriously considering" a bid for governor.

Rogers has always had the possibility in the back of his mind, according to one source familiar with his thinking, but he moved it to the front of his mind when a group of "big donors" asked him to run.

This source puts the chances at 50-50 that Rogers will declare his candidacy next month.

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McManus Getting Into SoS Race

Sen. Michelle **MCMANUS** (R-Lake Leelanau) is getting into the race to succeed term-limited Secretary of State Terri Lynn **LAND** in 2010, the Northern Michigan lawmaker said in a holiday e-mail.

McManus, a term-limited state senator, said in the message that she would be forming a candidate committee "Michelle A. McManus for Secretary of State" in the coming weeks.

"While 2008 was a jubilant time for my family, politically, it was a challenging year," she wrote. "In politics, I believe tough challenges present opportunities, which is why I am stepping forward and preparing to run for Secretary of State."

McManus, the chair of the Senate Campaign and Elections Oversight Committee, joins Calhoun County Clerk Anne **NORLANDER** as a Republican candidate for the post.

"I am very excited about this opportunity to serve the people of Michigan in a new capacity," McManus wrote. "I want to be your Secretary of State, and I am prepared to earn that job. In the weeks and months ahead I look forward to getting to know you and learning what you believe we need in our next Secretary of State."

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Neumann Advises Freshmen Class

Been there. Done that.

Rep. Andy **NEUMANN** (D-Alpena) is one of only two members of the incoming freshman class in the Michigan House who can say that. The former state fire marshal and Rep. Fred **DURHAL** Jr., (D-Detroit), served in the House previously and as opening day approaches next Wednesday, Neumann has some advice for those 44 lawmakers who have not been legislators before.

Neumann said he has "a lot of apprehension" over the size of this new class and how it will deal with the looming and continuing budget crisis.

"I'm kinda concerned with so many new people coming in and what we're going to have to do to make the state budget work," he said.

Even though none of his new colleagues have sought his advice, he warned they should not assume they have all the answers at the opening bell.

"I hope they come in and understand that they have a lot to learn. I hope they don't come in with the attitude that they have the knowledge to fix these problems," he said.

"At this point, do they have that knowledge?" he was asked.

Neumann said there is talent in the new class but "the learning curve is kind of big" as he recalls from his first days on the scene when he said he was "in awe" of being in Lansing.

He said new members can be easily swayed by lobbyists and others. The newbies need to "look at history . . . and know there are two sides to every story. They have a lot to learn."

New lawmakers he observed, "Do make mistakes. That's why you have to be careful."

(Contributed by Senior Capital Correspondent Tim **SKUBICK**.)

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Proposed Marijuana Rules Questioned

Members of the national group Coalition for Compassionate Care, which backed the medical marijuana ballot initiative in Michigan, are now telling the state it has over stepped its authority in drafting rules to implement the new law.

National coalition spokesman Bruce **MIRKEN**, speaking from California, told *MIRS* today that the Department of Community Health (DCH) has created at least two problems that put patients at risk.

The coalition objects to forcing medical marijuana users to register with the state the number of plants they have in their possession.

Mirken said with federal law banning the use of grass, "that's asking patients to incriminate themselves in writing. It is dangerous and many simply won't do it."

Secondly, while everyone agrees that marijuana should not be smoked in public, Mirken said DCH has a rule to define a public place to include your living room with the drapes open.

"That's crazy," he said and again puts users at risk.

"Sometimes bureaucrats just get a little bit carried away in making rules and regulations," he argued, while warning, "If they're not practical, if they (the rules) are too onerous, people will simply stay underground, not sign-up, not register and it defeats the whole point of having a regulatory system and set of rules."

DCH held a public hearing on the draft rules today and its spokesman, James **McCURTIS**, said the department was listening.

"Everyone is going to have an opinion on this," McCurtis said. "We're allowing the public to have input. That's the beauty of holding public hearings."

However, McCurtis said DCH has no wiggle room on the registration requirement complaint.

"That was written right in the act," McCurtis said.

(Contributed by Senior Capital Correspondent Tim **SKUBICK**.)

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Bits And Tidbits

Vigneron New MCC Chair

Allen **VIGNERON**, Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland and former auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Detroit, will soon become the fourth chairman of the Michigan Catholic Conference Board of Directors.

Pope **BENEDICT XVI** has accepted the resignation of Adam **MAIDA**, Archbishop of Detroit. According to the by-laws of the Conference, the Archbishop of Detroit perpetually serves as chairman of the organization's board.

Maida spent nearly 19 years as MCC Chair, taking strong positions on public policy matters, including assisted suicide in 1998, school vouchers in 2000, gay marriage in 2004, affirmative action in 2006 and stem cell research in 2008.

Fisher Joins AGC Of Michigan

Scott **FISHER**, the former director of Office of Local Government and Consumer Services at the Bureau of Construction Codes, joined the Associated General Contractors (AGC) starting today. Fisher will be responsible for labor relations in Southeastern Michigan.

Prior to working for the Bureau, Fisher was secretary treasurer/business manager for the Carpenters District of South Central Michigan and the Michigan Carpenters Council. He is a graduate of the Michigan Carpenters Apprenticeship Program and was employed by numerous commercial industrial and residential contractors in the south central Michigan area.

Granholt Gets Right Michigan Endorsement

Gov. Jennifer **GRANHOLM** netted *RightMichigan.com*'s endorsement for U.S. Commerce Secretary today. That follows the withdrawal of New Mexico Gov. Bill **RICHARDSON** from the incoming Barack **OBAMA** administration.

"The way I figure it, the Obama administration and the people of Michigan can each do the other a major solid," wrote Nick **DeLEEuw**. "Listen, the Barackstar needs a new Commerce Secretary. Michigan needs to get rid of the executive train wreck that is the Granholt-Cherry administration. This is a clear win-win."

Of course, that would still leave Michigan with a Gov. John **CHERRY**, but for Republicans, it's one problem at a time.

Gov. Orders Flags Lowered For 2 Servicemen

Gov. Jennifer **GRANHOLM** has ordered U.S. flags lowered in honor of two Michigan servicemen killed Dec. 24 when the armored vehicle they were in plummeted into a canal after a bridge gave way in Baghdad, Iraq.

Flags should be lowered today for Army Staff Sergeant Christopher **SMITH**, 28, of Grand Rapids, a cannon crewmaster who was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

Flags should be lowered Tuesday for Army Specialist Stephen **OKRAY**, 21, of St. Clair Shores, who was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

Flags should return to full-staff on Wednesday.

State To Help Spruce Up Four Downtowns

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is working with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and its Michigan Main Street Center (MMSC) to provide Cultural Economic Development plans to four Michigan Main Street Communities: Boyne City, Calumet, Marshall and Niles.

The plans will assist the communities' ongoing activities to revitalize their downtowns by using cultural assets to create jobs, bring investment into the community and enhance quality of life.

Michigan's State Historic Preservation Officer, Brian **CONWAY**, said the plans will be developed through an extensive process of inventorying local arts, cultural, and heritage resources; assessing their strengths and weaknesses; conducting a cultural assessment survey; and examining current plans and marketing efforts within the community.

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On This Day In Michigan History

On Jan. 5, 1913, Henry **FORD** introduced the \$5 work day. Working on the assembly line was monotonous and there was much turnover among autoworkers. Desperate to stabilize his work force, Ford shocked the industrial world by doubling the existing daily rate for assembly-line workers to \$5 a day.

Ford also introduced profit sharing for his workers, which his company modestly called "the greatest revolution the matter of rewards for workers has ever known in the industrial world."

The higher wages not only stabilized the workforce but also guaranteed that Ford's workers could more easily afford buying Ford cars.

Source: *Michigan History* magazine

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