



# 2021-2022 Incoming House Freshman Class



Dist. #3 - Replacing Rep. Wendell **BYRD**

Shri **THANEDAR**, 64, a Detroit Democrat, is a 2018 gubernatorial candidate who previously owned a small chemical services company, until he sold it to run for governor. Originally from Belgaum, India, Thanedar studied in India and worked with Bhabha Atomic Research Center before moving to the United States. He earned his doctorate in polymer chemistry from the University of Michigan and became a U.S. citizen in 1988.

Thanedar finished third in the Democratic gubernatorial primary with 18% of the vote, but with a plurality of the vote in Detroit. Previously from Ann Arbor, Thanedar moved into the city of Detroit in early 2019. His life story is part of a book called "The Blue Suitcase." [www.shriformi.com](http://www.shriformi.com), 313-385-1220, [info@shriformi.com](mailto:info@shriformi.com) (Detailed Bio: "What Is Annoying Thanedar After His Primary Win?" 08/08/2020). <https://mirsnews.com/capsule.php?gid=5900#62243>



Dist. #4 - Replacing the late Isaac **ROBINSON**

Abraham **AIYASH**, 26, a Hamtramck Democrat, is making his second bid for state office this year. He previously ran for the state Senate in the 2nd district in 2018, getting 21% of the vote in an 11-person field, but placing second to Sen. Adam **HOLLIER**.

He said he wants to carry on the work of the late-Rep. Isaac **ROBINSON**, fighting for environmental and economic justice. He also worked as an intern and staffer for former Rep. Rose Mary **ROBINSON**. Currently, he is the statewide training political leadership director at Michigan United, a progressive advocacy group.

He is a former board member of Detroit Young Democrats and now serves on the board of People's Community Services. He is also the founder of the Halimah Project in Lansing, a refugee mentoring program for youths. [Voteaiyash.com](http://Voteaiyash.com), 313-770-1780, [info@voteabraham.com](mailto:info@voteabraham.com)



Dist. #7 - Replacing LaTanya **GARRETT**

Helena **SCOTT**, 60, a Detroit Democrat, is a former community liaison for Rep. LaTanya **GARRETT** and first vice chair of the Michigan Democratic Party Black Caucus. The precinct delegate is the vice chair of the 14th Congressional district and has more than 15 years of experience in labor and community activism. A graduate of Marygrove College and Samuel C. Mumford High School, she finished fifth in a nine-person Democratic primary for the 4th Senate district in 2016.

In 2017, she finished fourth in a competitive Detroit City Council ward race with 18% of the vote. An organizer for the Southeast Michigan Jobs With Justice, Scott is the sister of the late Detroit City Councilmember Brenda **SCOTT**. 313-720-2510, [Scott4staterep@gmail.com](mailto:Scott4staterep@gmail.com)



Dist. #8 - Replacing Sherry **GAY-DAGNOGO** - D

Stephanie **YOUNG**, 54, a Detroit Democrat, is the executive director of the Community Education Commission in Detroit and former manager within the Mayor's Department of Neighborhoods. She's been an outreach manager for the Detroit Area Agency on Aging and a director for neighborhoods for the city. The Michigan State University and Cass Tech High School product is involved in Holiday Meals on Wheels and is a chaplain for the local Boy Scouts. Young was raised in Detroit's westside and is now the mother of two college-age sons. In 2006, she finished in second place to Gabe **LELAND** for the 10th House district seat, garnering 27.55% of the vote. In 2002, she finished in third place behind Alma **STALLWORTH** and George **CUSHINGBERRY** in the 8th district seat. 313-334-8192, [stephyoung4staterep.com](mailto:stephyoung4staterep.com), [info@stephyoung4staterep.com](mailto:info@stephyoung4staterep.com)



Dist. #10 - Replacing Leslie **LOVE** - D

Mary **CAVANAGH**, 28, a Redford Democrat, is making her second run for the 10th district of the state House. Her first was two years ago. "I didn't want to run against an incumbent. I know (Rep.) Leslie **LOVE** personally. I just kind of wanted to get a feel for it and make sure it was the right decision to run when she was done," she said.

She's the "proud daughter" of former state Rep. and Wayne County Commissioner Phil **CAVANAGH**. For five years, she's worked for New Start Construction, which rehabs houses for people coming out of jail, suffering mentally illness, or are homeless and works to help them become homeowners. She has been active in the Michigan Democratic Women's Caucus. 313-377-6690



Dist. #13 - Replacing Frank **LIBERATI** - D

Tullio **LIBERATI**, Jr., 51, an Allen Park Democrat, is the owner of his own construction company, a business he's had since 1997. The younger brother of term-limited Rep. Frank **LIBERATI** (D-Allen Park), is a first-time political candidate who is an active member of St. Francis Carbini Church in Allen Park.

The married father of two kids is an "empty nester" now and said he's looking to serve as a way to give back to his community. Tullio Liberati studied biology at Wayne State University before he got into the construction industry. 313-382-2096



Dist. #21 - Replacing Kristy **PAGAN** - D

Ranjeev **PURI**, 34, a Canton Democrat, works with the Chrysler Leadership Development Program within FCA Fiat Chrysler. Previously, the Democrat directed the \$5 million sales tax function for Obama for America across all 50 states. He worked in the Chicago area from June 2007-2012.

The married father of two received his bachelor's degree from Ohio State University and his Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. About 13 years ago, he founded an organization designed to promote South Asian cultural awareness called SooFly Entertainment. [www.voteranjeev.com](http://www.voteranjeev.com), [ranjeev@voteranjeev.com](mailto:ranjeev@voteranjeev.com), 734-331-0209



Dist. #22 - Replacing John **CHIRKUN** - D

Richard **STEENLAND**, a Roseville Democrat, is the Roseville city clerk. A lifelong city resident, Steenland served on the city council starting in 1993. He was elected mayor pro tem of Roseville in 2005 and was elected clerk in 2007. He graduated from Brablec High School in 1979, earned an associate's degree from Macomb County Community College and attended classes at Oakland Community College.

The father of three children is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Roseville Optimist Club, the Roseville Scholarship Foundation and the Macomb County Clerks Association. He's the son of a Roseville police officer and stay-at-home parent. He initially filed to run for the vacant Macomb County Clerk's position, but withdrew. 586-292-0211



Dist. #27 - Replacing Robert **WITTENBERG** - D

Regina **WEISS**, 32, an Oak Park Democrat, is a Detroit High School social studies teacher who formerly taught in Detroit Public Schools as an English language arts teacher. She is involved in the Tri Community Coalition, a group designed to help youth avoid drug and alcohol abuse. In addition, Weiss is a member of the Oak Park City Council, having been elected in 2017.

The Saint John, IN, native is a Marian Catholic High School graduate who received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Valparaiso University. From 2010-2013 she participated in AmeriCorps and Teach for America. She is married with no children. [www.reginaweissforstaterep.com](http://www.reginaweissforstaterep.com), [regina@reginaweissforstaterep.com](mailto:regina@reginaweissforstaterep.com), 248-791-2623



Dist. #37 - Replacing Christine **GREIG** - D

Samantha **STECKLOFF**, 35, a Farmington Hills Democrat, is a two-term member of the Farmington Hills City Council. The native of the city launched the Farmington Hills Community Health Commission during her first term. A breast cancer survivor, Steckloff is also the daughter of former Rep. Vicki **BARNETT**.

She works at Wayne State University as an enrollment management coordinator. She's also served as an automotive spokesperson and consultant for the North American International Auto Show. The Purdue University graduate was first elected in 2013. She graduated from Harrison High School. [www.samanthasteckloff.com](http://www.samanthasteckloff.com), 248-227-9643



Dist. #38 - Replacing Kathy **CRAWFORD** - R

Kelly A. **BREEN**, 34, a Novi Democrat, is a member of the Novi City Council and an intake attorney with Goodman Acker. She's also worked as an attorney with Bernstein & Bernstein and a few other law firms, primarily insurance defense. Breen received her law degree from Wayne State University and her bachelor's degree from Michigan State University.

In 2018, she lost the 38th House district by 588 votes to the incumbent. She's a member of the Michigan Association for Justice, League of Women Voters, Novi Parks Foundation, Michigan Moms Demand Action and the Sandy Hook Promise. Breen and her husband have two children. [hello@kellybreen.com](mailto:hello@kellybreen.com), [www.kellybreen.com](http://www.kellybreen.com), 248-924-9607





Dist. #45, Replacing Michael **WEBBER** - R

Mark **TISDEL**, 64, a Rochester Hills Republican, is the city council president in Rochester Hills and principal at Backus Payne & Associates, which specializes in medical liability insurance. He's been with the company since 2000. He's sat on the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester and served as vice president on Lancet Indemnity RRG, a federally-chartered risk retention group providing medical liability insurance to its physician-owners in 14 states.

The Port Huron native went to Port Huron Northern High School and studied journalism at Drake University. The married 30-year resident of Rochester has been a fundraiser for local and national charities such as Angels' Place, Rochester Area Neighborhood House, Sweet Dreamzzz and other non-profits. 248-329-0045, [mark@marktisdel.com](mailto:mark@marktisdel.com)



Dist. #47 - Replacing Hank **VAUPEL** - R

Robert **BEZOTTE**, 68, a Marion Township Republican, is retired as Livingston County Sheriff with 33 years of experience as a law enforcement officer within the county. Now a Livingston County commissioner, he's a U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam. Today, he is the vice chair of the county's Veterans Affairs Board of Directors.

In between stints in the Livingston County Sheriff's Department, Bezotte was in Scottsdale, AZ, as the director of security for Domino's Pizza for 10 years, responsible for the security of 1,800 employees with 95 stores, primarily in Arizona. He's attended Eastern Michigan University and the FBI National Academy at the University of Virginia. [www.bobbezotte.com](http://www.bobbezotte.com), 517-618-7293, [bezotteforstaterep@gmail.com](mailto:bezotteforstaterep@gmail.com)



Dist. #48 - Replacing Rep. Sheryl **KENNEDY** - D

David **MARTIN**, 58, a Davison Republican, is a Genesee County Commissioner and former mayor pro tem for the city of Davison. Mott Community College's veteran services coordinator, Martin served in the U.S. Air Force for 20 years as the weather operations manager at the U.S. Army Aviation Center in Fort Rucker, AL.

Martin's first job when he returned to southern Genesee County was to oversee security for the Pontiac Silverdome, which had him directing security during a presidential visit. After being a private investigator for a couple years, Martin worked as the security leader for the Volkswagen Electronics Research Laboratory in Auburn Hills. 810-691-0824, [martin4michigan@gmail.com](mailto:martin4michigan@gmail.com)



Dist. #55 - Replacing Rebekah **WARREN** - D

Felicia **BRABEC**, 45, a Pittsfield Township Democrat, has been a member of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners for the past eight years. She lists as her top accomplishment on the board the creation of the county's Equity Policy, which is designed to make the county an equitable place to live and work for all residents.

A psychologist and social worker for the past 20 years, Brabec serves on the board of Garrett's Space, an organization providing a safe space for people with mental health issues. The married mother of two also sits on the board of Food Gatherers of Washtenaw County. [feliciabrabec.com](http://feliciabrabec.com), 734-436-1503, [teambcabec@gmail.com](mailto:teambcabec@gmail.com)



Dist. #56 - Replacing Jason **SHEPPARD** - R

T.C. **CLEMENTS**, 50, a Bedford Township Republican, is a township trustee and franchise owner for Premier Cruise Planners. He's previously been the deputy chief of police in Eliot, Maine. He attended the Federal Bureau of Investigations' Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar and the Maine Executive Command Officers School. He's also started his own marketing and graphic design business and developed a start-up venture in the solar technology field.

Clements graduated high school in Florida and received his bachelor's degree from Flagler College in St. Augustine, FL. He moved to Lambertville, his wife's hometown, several years ago. Together, they have three children. [www.tcformi.com](http://www.tcformi.com), 734-224-3508, [info@tcformi.com](mailto:info@tcformi.com)



Dist. #58 - Replacing Eric **LEUTHEUSER** - R

Andrew **FINK**, 34, a Hillsdale Republican, is an attorney and small business owner. He's a member of the NRA, the American Legion and the Federalist Society. He has served as an elder at his church and as a commissioner-at-large of the State Bar of Michigan. Fink is a musician and has played guitar at schools, church, community events and fundraisers. He moved to Hillsdale from Ypsilanti to open a local office of his family's law firm, Fink and Fink.

A 2006 Hillsdale College graduate, Fink earned his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School in 2010. From there, the son of a sheriff's officer and a police dispatcher went into active duty and worked as a judge advocate for Marines and their families. He left the military as a captain in 2014. Fink and his wife, Lauren, have five young children, two collies and a cat. 734-255-9309, [andrewfinkforstaterep@gmail.com](mailto:andrewfinkforstaterep@gmail.com)



Dist. #59 - Replacing Aaron **MILLER** - R

Steve **CARRA**, 31, a Three Rivers Republican, worked for three years as a staffer for Rep. Steve **JOHNSON**. Prior to that, Carra was a research assistant at Acton Institute, a Christian-based free market think tank focused on "good intentions with sound economics." Born and raised in Southwest Michigan, the Portage Northern High School alum graduated from Western Michigan University in 2011 with degrees in economics and political science. In 2018, Carra won the Republican nomination for a seat on the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners, his first political race, but was not successful in the General Election.



Dist. #60 - Replacing Jon **HOADLEY** - D

Julie **ROGERS**, 43, a Kalamazoo Democrat, is a Kalamazoo County commissioner and former commission chair. The physical therapist is an appointee to the National Association of Counties Health Policy Steering Committee. Married, Rogers is a member of Chapel Hill United Methodist Church. She served on the West Michigan Cancer Center Board, coached Girls on the Run and is a member of the Borgess Hospital Diversity Council.

Rogers ran for the state House in 2006 and 2008 in the competitive 61st House district, losing both times, albeit narrowly. In 2008, she fell to the Republican nominee by 1,181 votes. [www.julierogers.com](http://www.julierogers.com), 269-349-3352, [julie@juliemrogers.com](mailto:julie@juliemrogers.com)



Dist. #61 - Replacing Brandt **IDEN** - R

Christine **MORSE**, 46, is a Texas Township Democrat and Kalamazoo County Commissioner. Morse won her seat in 2018 by defeating former Rep. and Sen. Dale **SHUGARS**, who had chaired the board in 2018. In 2007 and 2008, Morse ran the Naval Officers Spouses Club, a nonprofit gift shop raising money for charity when her husband was stationed in Okinawa, Japan. She was also an organizer with the Pink Owl Campaign from 2012-15.

She's a stay-at-home mom to her three children, but an attorney by background. She and her husband moved back to Michigan in 2010. She has passed the bar exam in both Michigan and California. [www.vote4morse.com](http://www.vote4morse.com), 269-743-9634, [info@vote4morse.com](mailto:info@vote4morse.com)



Dist. #70 - Replacing Jim **LOWER**

Pat **OUTMAN**, 27, a Six Lakes Republican, has been the House district liaison for Montcalm County and former employee in the House committee clerks' office. Before receiving his bachelor's degree at Ferris State University in business administration and management, Outman was the lead carpenter for Railing Carpentry and, like his father, has worked in excavating. He lives and assists on the family's small cattle farm.

He's the Montcalm County chair of the John **JAMES** U.S. Senate campaign and vice chair of the Montcalm County Republican Party. He serves on the Montcalm County Farm Bureau and is a member of the NRA. He is the second offspring and only son of Sen. Rick **OUTMAN**, the former state representative in the 70th House District. [www.patoutman.com](http://www.patoutman.com), 231-233-9818



Dist. #73 - replacing Lynn **AFENDOULIS**

Bryan **POSTHUMUS**, 35, a Greenville Republican, is a hops farmer and vice president of business development for USA Financial, making his first run for public office. He's the son of former Lt. Gov. Dick **POSTHUMUS** and the brother of former Lt. Gov. candidate and former-Rep. Lisa Posthumus **LYONS**.

Posthumus worked as the CEO and director of consulting for Tuebor Strategies up until last year. He's also worked as a national account manager and regional sales manager for Compac-tio, Inc. He received his bachelor's degree in agribusiness management from Michigan State University. 616-580-7924



Dist. #83 - Replacing Shane **HERNANDEZ**

Andrew **BEELER**, 28, a Fort Gratiot Republican, was a student with the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy before filing for the seat. Most recently, he spent five years as a Surface Warfare Officer with the U.S. Navy. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 2014. While there, he was a member of the Offshore Sailing Team and held several other leadership positions, including Battalion Commander.

The Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School (Marine City) product was a member of U.S. Rep. Candice **MILLER**'s Youth Advisory Council. His family has lived in southeastern Michigan for four generations. [beelerformichigan.com](http://beelerformichigan.com), 810-434-1459, [questions@beelerformichigan.com](mailto:questions@beelerformichigan.com)





Dist. #95 - Replacing Vanessa **GUERRA**

Amos **O'NEAL**, 59, a Saginaw Democrat, is a Saginaw County Commissioner and program director at Bannum Place of Saginaw. Formerly a member of the Saginaw City Council, O'Neal serves as the vice president of operations of Parishioners on Patrol of Saginaw. He currently works for Federal Express and has also worked for the Boy Scouts of America, Cherry Street Health Services and United Way of Saginaw. O'Neal has also served on numerous other boards and commissions at the state, local and federal level.

The lifelong Saginaw resident earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Northwood University and his associate's degree from Delta Community College. He has three children and six grandchildren. 989-737-5563

Dist. #96 - Replacing Rep. Brian **ELDER**

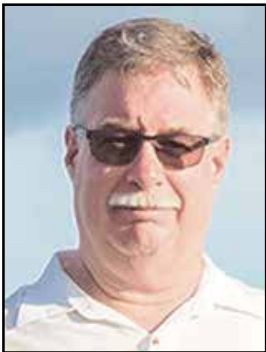


Timothy **BESON**, 46, a Kawkawlin Republican, is a Bangor Township Schools trustee and owner of Beson's Market in Bay City, a meat market and grocery store.

Beson graduated from John Glenn High School in 1992 and received his bachelor's degree in business management from Saginaw Valley State University. The married father of three enjoys fishing, hunting and camping with his family.

Beson is also a golfer who likes to entertain friends and family with food. 989-239-4903

Dist. # 104 - Replacing Larry **INMAN**



John **ROTH**, 56, a Traverse City Republican, is the former chair of the Grand Traverse County Republican Party and six-year member of the county's Parks and Recreation Commission. Roth moved to Traverse City in 1987 with his wife of 32 years, a nurse at the local hospital. The couple has two teenage daughters.

Roth runs a marina and does lawn maintenance at a local country club in the summer. In the winter, he works at a ski house. The Harrison High School product attended Central Michigan University, but graduated with an associates' degree in marina management from Northwestern Michigan College. This is Roth's second run for public office. He lost by 40 votes to a county commissioner in a Republican primary eight years ago. 231-620-5277, [john.jr.roth@gmail.com](mailto:john.jr.roth@gmail.com)



Dist. #105 - Replacing Triston **COLE**

Ken **BORTON**, 61, a Gaylord Republican, is the chair of the Otsego County Board of Commissioners and the immediate past president of the Michigan Association of Counties. He's the owner of Borton Vacation Homes with 40 years of real estate and property management experience. He posts a live web page called [Snowmancam.com](http://Snowmancam.com) that features a cutout snowman in the woods. Bears and deer at times pass into the pictures. The married father of two and grandfather of two is an avid outdoorsman. Originally from Romeo, Borton studied biblical counseling at Liberty University. [www.kenborton.com](http://www.kenborton.com), 989-619-4477, [ken@kenborton.com](mailto:ken@kenborton.com)



Dist. #107 - Replacing Lee **CHATFIELD**

John **DAMOOSE**, a Harbor Springs Republican, is the founder of a film-making venture called 45 North Productions, which focuses on tributes, American documentaries, and Christian themes. In recent years, Damoose served as executive director of Building America's Tomorrow, a GM-funded organization designed to change the perception of today's modern manufacturing jobs.

A Harbor Springs School Board member, Damoose is the director of the Harbor Springs Downtown Development Authority. He and his wife, Margo, have four children. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1994 and served as the school's president of the College Republicans. [www.damooseformichigan.com](http://www.damooseformichigan.com), [damoosformichigan@gmail.com](mailto:damoosformichigan@gmail.com) 231-412-0045