



Friday, January 29, 2010

MANAGEMENT

Nell Kuhnmuench

Michael D. Hawks

Stephen E. Young

Kirk A. Profit

Kenneth Cole

Centerpiece

This week, GCSIntel sat down with Rep. Ed Clemente (D-Lincoln Park), the chair of the House New Economy and Quality of Life Committee. First elected in 2004, Clemente will be term-limited out of office at the end of this year.

GCSIntel asked Clemente about talk that he might run for the Senate and what other plans he has.

**Q. What are your options for when you leave the House?**

A. Obviously the Senate is still an option if I want to consider running. I finished my masters two years ago, and I did teach a course last year at a community college, so higher education is a possibility for me. My dream job would be Secretary of State of the United States, but I don't think it's going to happen.

Another dream job for me would be to run a public policy program for a university. A sort of program like a Gerry Ford program that would help place kids at capitols like Ottawa, Washington and Lansing.

**Q. What's your timetable for making a decision about the Senate?**

A. I will probably have something by the end of February. I also have other options.

**Q. I know that you have a year left, but as you think about your five years here, what do you look back on with the most fondness?**

A. I would say my committee -- being chair of a committee doing a lot of things that probably won't be appreciated for five or 10 years down the road. I've always been a big believer that you don't have to have your name on everything -- but if somebody five or 10 years from now says, 'I don't know who did that back then, but I'm so glad they did it because look at the position we're in now.'

If we could take advantage of the battery stuff or could be photovoltaic with all the things we did with Dow Corning. I think trying to create jobs and re-invent the state from an economic perspective.

**Q. What's the most negative thing you'll remember from your House experience?**

A. Probably the budgets, 2007, not the most recent one. The state Representative before me, Bill O'Neil, never had to cut a budget once, and I think I've cut a budget every year I've been here.

For four of those six years being in the majority gives a whole different perspective of what it means to be elected as either a Democrat or a Republican.

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Donald Van Singel

William Zaagman

Erik Hingst

Adrian Hemond

James Miller

Barbara Farrah

Patrick Laughlin

Gary M. Owen

**Q. It's interesting that you came here and did the economic development issues, but with a teaching background, was it a tough choice to go that route -- did you think a lot about the education issues?**

A. I used to teach with Northwood before this job, for their night programs. I used to teach things like political science, world customs and cultures and economics. But I was also a president of a chamber of commerce before this job so I did a lot of economic development prior. Plus, my family owns an Italian restaurant and still owns it -- bar, bowling alley I used to work at so I came here with a diverse background.

I think economic development is the most expedient route to make the state more diversified and to ensure people are gainfully employed with a quality of life that I think you need to provide. The most important thing, even most recently as helping out with the Wayne assembly plant for the battery technology -- I know people with higher education degrees that was going to help out as well as blue collar people. I think things like that are the most gratifying.

**Q. If you went back and taught political science, would you teach it differently? Has your impression changed?**

A. I probably wouldn't be as innocent -- I've lost by bloom.

Actually, I think I'd be better at it. I think you have to realize that 90 percent of the people don't really even know what's going on most of the time. It's just very difficult for them to understand the process. They get involved when gas prices go up or jobs are at jeopardy.

I think I would be better at helping relate it to individual concerns.

**Q. Have you endorsed for Governor yet?**

A. Well, I almost did for Cherry, I was on one of his pieces of literature, so I'm the kiss of death now. But, no, I haven't endorsed anyone yet.

### ***GCSEye On The Capitol***

#### ***Road Commission Slashes Road Jobs***

Months of dire predictions became reality this week when the Michigan Transportation Commission unanimously approved a greatly scaled down Department of Transportation (MDOT) Five-Year plan that includes the cancellation of 243 statewide road and bridge projects and the loss of more than 26,000 jobs over the five-year span.

Project cutbacks included in the MDOT 2010-2014 Five-Year Plan are 128 bridge replacements and rehabilitations, 105 road rehabilitations and reconstructions, eight new roads and two capacity improvements.

The cuts come in the face of falling state road tax money that within the next five years will reach \$370 million and will disqualify Michigan from receiving \$2.1 billion in federal match, said Denise Jackson, MDOT's director of Statewide Planning.

Michigan is "facing a financial crisis with challenging times ahead," Jackson said, attributing the declining revenues to "motorists driving less and buying more fuel efficient vehicles.

The scaled-back projected spending total is \$5.87 billion, of which \$3.9 billion is for highways, \$1.37 billion for bus and marine, and \$623 million for aviation. The initial Five-Year plan called for a total of \$8.58 billion of which \$6.59 billion was dedicated to highways.

#### UP Congressman Passes On Gubernatorial Bid

U.S. Rep. Bart Stupak (D-Menominee) announced on Tuesday that he's not going to enter the race for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

Stupak said in a press release Tuesday that after lengthy discussions with his family, friends and party leaders, he could best serve the state in the U.S. Congress, where he sits on the U.S. Energy and Commerce Committee and serves as Chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

"It is difficult for me to commit to pursuing a statewide gubernatorial campaign at this critical time," Stupak said. "The compressed timeframe and fundraising requirements necessary to secure the Democratic nomination for Governor would be very difficult for me to achieve without sacrificing some of my responsibilities in Washington D.C."

#### Cookie Jar Raids Leave Little For Candidates

The \$7.2 million raid the Legislature made to the State Campaign Fund in 2007 combined with the potentially high number of candidates this year may mean the state will only be able provide modest support for gubernatorial hopefuls this cycle.

The Department of Treasury is estimating that only \$4.6 million will be available in the fund for the 2010 gubernatorial race, according to Secretary of State Spokeswoman Kelly Chesney. Of that, \$2.5 million is already set aside for the general election (\$1.125 million for each major party candidate and \$250,000 for independents). That leaves roughly \$2 million to be divided up among the possible gubernatorial primary candidates.

If Republicans U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra (R-Holland), Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard and Attorney General Mike Cox join Democrats House Speaker Andy Dillon (D-Redford Twp.), Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, Rep. Alma Wheeler Smith (D-Salem Twp.), and former Genesee County Treasurer Dan Kildee in qualifying for and accepting public financing, they could see as little as \$285,000 for the primary.

#### **Michigan Factoid:**

Malcolm X (Malcolm Little) (1925-1965), a prominent member of the Nation of Islam, was born in Nebraska but raised in Lansing, attending public schools in Mason.

In order to qualify, candidates must raise \$75,000 in \$100 contributions.

#### **The Week Ahead**

All eyes will turn to the state's Governor as Jennifer Granholm prepares for and delivers her last State of the State Address on Wednesday.

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