

# Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

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## Winter Forecast

**Thu** Rain, snow, freezing rain, and sleet before 10am, then rain and snow. High 37. E wind 7 to 16, gusts 31. Precipitation 90%. New snow and sleet accumulation of less than one inch possible.

**Thu Night** Rain and snow before 10pm, then a chance of snow between 10pm and 1am. Cloudy, low 28. Precipitation 50%.

**Fri** Mostly cloudy, high 32.

**Fri Night** Mostly cloudy, low 25.

**Sat** Mostly cloudy, high 32.

**Sat Night** Mostly cloudy, low 26.

**Sun** Mostly cloudy, high 33.

**Sun Night** Mostly cloudy, low 25.

**Mon** Mostly cloudy, high 34.



## Father and Son Outman Sworn In At Capitol



District 33 Senator Rick Outman is shown taking the oath of office in the senate chamber on January 11.

By Cindy Havens

It was windy and chilly on the official "swearing in" day at the capitol in Lansing last week. Family members of state senators and representatives hurried up the sidewalks to get into the building and out of the wind. Even so, some carried balloons or cakes with "Congratulations" written on the top and there was a sense of celebration in the air. I hadn't been inside the capitol since my eighth-grade class trip, so I was looking forward to this morning's ceremony. The senate chamber is on the second floor of the capitol, to the right of the central atrium area as you walk in from the front of the building. The chamber appears regal and ornate when you enter and the view from the third floor upper gallery is even more impressive. District 33 Senator Rick Outman greeted me warmly and said he was scheduled to be sworn in at 10:15 am. Pat Outman, Rick's son, had been sworn in earlier as the representative from Michigan's 91<sup>st</sup> district. It is a rare occurrence that a father and son

would be serving together in the state legislature. According to Pat, it has only happened once before in Michigan history.

The senate swearing in ceremony is short and very structured. It was called to order by the Lieutenant Governor, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation. There were brief opening remarks by Senate Republican Leader Aric Nesbitt, who urged all senators to remember the people back home in their districts "are the ones we serve." Outside the senate chamber, in the long hallway, senators waited with their families for their name to be called. Each senator then entered up the center aisle, along with family members, to take the oath of office and have their official picture taken. The oath, from Michigan's constitution, reads as follows: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the constitution of this state, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of (senator or representative) according to the best of my ability."

Both Senator and Representative Outman have specific goals for the upcoming legislative session. Rick Outman was clear when asked about his plans in the senate. "We've accomplished a lot over the last few years, from road and bridge funding to natural resource preservation and water quality. I look forward to picking back up where we left off last term. A lot of effort has been put into bringing jobs to Michigan and getting people back to work. But I think much of the focus for the next term will be to try and help folks with the huge burden everyday expenses are having on their budgets. Just feeding their families and keeping their homes warm is pushing people close to their limit. I've now been sworn in and received my committee assignments and the senate is officially open for business. I'm ready to roll my sleeves up and start working on the things that are important to Michigan families." In 2018, Rick Outman was elected to represent the 33rd state Senate District, which included the counties of Clare, Gratiot, Isabella, Mecosta and

Montcalm. Beginning on Jan. 1, 2023, the newly drawn 33rd Senate District includes all of Montcalm and Newaygo counties, along with parts of Ionia, Kent, Lake, Muskegon and Ottawa counties.

On the other side of the capitol Rick's son Pat had just been sworn in as representative for Michigan's 91<sup>st</sup> district. He was also specific about what his priorities will be for this legislative session. During his first term, Pat noted that he "focused on reducing taxes and regulatory burdens, as well as ensuring Michigan maintains a stable and diverse energy portfolio." He also prioritized government oversight to make certain the state government is operating efficiently and effectively, ensuring taxpayers are getting a good return on their investment. "There's more work to be done and in this new legislative term, I hope to continue that work as well as prioritize efforts to improve our infrastructure and reduce the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs." Pat also stated that he would be serving on the Judiciary, Energy and Tax Policy committees, in addition to serving as Minority Vice-Chair of the Transportation committee. Pat was first elected to the state house in 2020 and re-elected in 2022. Pat, along with his wife Autumn and son Miles, live in Six Lakes on their multi-generational family farm.

Both Outmans are committed to working hard for the local families they represent in the state legislature. "It's a challenging time to serve in public office," Pat said, "and one of the biggest challenges is the divisiveness in our country. Still, I want to be an example that no matter our disagreements with each other, we can still work together for the betterment of our nation. I pray daily that Americans can unite and save this country from going down a dark path in our nation's history." Representative Outman added that "serving has been a great honor, and I hope to continue representing my district well." Both Senator and Representative Outman can be reached at their websites: [www.patoutman.com](http://www.patoutman.com) and [www.rickoutman.com](http://www.rickoutman.com)



## Pat Outman's Swearing in

From left to right: Outman's sister Autumn and Miles Outman (Rep. Outman's wife and son) Duane W. Sharon Outman (Rep. Outman's grandma) Bob Gilman Kris Outman (Rep. Outman's mother) Keelie Taylor (Rep.)

Jim Lower  
 Pastor Zane Abberger  
 Clerk Gary Randall  
 Jared Taylor (Rep. Outman's brother-in-law)  
 Sen. Rick Outman (Rep. Outman's father)  
 Keelie Taylor (Rep.)

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