



# No-Play Partisanship

July 8, 2025

In the Great Lakes State, the governor is entrusted to call special elections when a legislative seat is left vacant. Last November, the senator representing the 35th state senate district was elected to the U.S. Congress, leaving her state senate seat officially vacant.

“With McDonald Rivet heading to Congress,” a *Michigan Advance* headline [asked](#) last November, “who will fill her open Michigan Senate seat?”

When the Legislature convened in early January, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, had yet to call the election.

“After 85 days with no action, Whitmer still won’t call special election to fill McDonald-Rivet’s former Senate seat,” [reads](#) a January 30th headline in *The Midwesterner*.

“If there’s an opening on the Democrat side,” GOP chairman and State

Senator Jim Runestad [said](#) of Gov. Whitmer in February, “she’s ‘Johnny on the spot,’ appointing someone within days.”

In the past, Whitmer has averaged just 17 days to set a special election, in one case calling it within 24 hours of the vacancy ... when it helped Democrats.

“Whitmer confirms 35th district special election will happen,” *WCMU Radio* [titled](#) its early April story ... showing remarkable restraint not to add the word “someday.”

“At some point there will be one,” the governor had offered, “but I don’t have an announcement to make yet.”

“145 Days and Counting” topped a *Michigan News Source* [article](#) in late May. The state’s Lieutenant Governor explained that he had “spent time in the district” and thinks “people are certainly ready for it.”

It’s now July, 186 days counting and still no representation for Michigan’s 35th state senate district.

Michigan Democrats have a one-seat Senate majority at present, 19–18. If the 35th goes Republican, it would even up the Senate. While the district did vote for a Democrat for Congress last November, it also went for President Trump. *Gov. Witmer does not trust those people to vote her way.*

Deny political representation to 270,000 people? Witmer’s up for it if doing so serves her partisan interests.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.

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**Note:** The Michigan Freedom Fund [website](#), *RestoreMiVoice.org*, asks: “How long will the Great Lakes Bay Region be without a voice in the State Senate?” Call Governor Witmer at (517) 335-7858 or email her at [Gretchen.Whitmer@michigan.gov](#) and demand an answer.