



GUILTY PLEA

A 68-YEAR-OLD ST. CLAIR SHORES MAN HAS PLEADED GUILTY TO VOTING TWICE IN THE AUGUST 2024 PRIMARY, SUBMITTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT AND THEN VOTING AT THE POLLS. A2

WASHINGTON

What unites the left and right in Congress? Stock trades.



The Fearless Girl statue stands in front of the New York Stock Exchange in New York’s Financial District. AP file photos

Republican and Democratic lawmakers who agree on little else are rallying support for a bill that would prohibit members of Congress and their families from profiting in stock markets.

Leah Askarinam and Kevin Freking Associated Press

An unusual alliance has emerged in the House as lawmakers who agree on little else rallied support for a bill that would prohibit members of Congress and their families from owning and trading individual stocks. The group included darlings of the far right, the left, moderates and many in between. They gathered to promote a ban that polls well with voters and appears to be finding new momentum after stalling out in previous sessions of Congress. “It’s not every day you see this cast of characters up here,” said Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, a moderate Republican who represents a perennial swing district in Pennsylvania. “You’re all smirking out there. That’s a good thing. It speaks to the power of this cause.”



Lawmakers are “united by a shared belief: public service should never be used for personal profit,” Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Pa., posted on X.

Congress has discussed proposals for years to keep lawmakers from engaging in trading individual stocks, nodding to the idea that there’s a potential conflict of interest when they are often privy to information and decisions that can dramatically move markets. A Senate committee has approved legislation from GOP Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri that would also extend the prohibition on stock trading to future presidents and vice presidents — while notably exempting Republican President Donald Trump. The House bill unveiled this week is limited to Congress, but the sponsors said they were open to extending it to the executive branch

if enough support emerged. Under current law, federal lawmakers are required to disclose their stock sales and purchases. The bill requiring disclosure, The Stock Act, was signed into law in 2012. At the time, lawmakers and government watchdogs predicted that public disclosure would shame lawmakers out of actively buying and selling stock. That hasn’t happened. The sponsors said they merged their own, individual bills on banning stocks and came together with a single bipartisan effort. Rep. Chip Roy of Texas, the bill’s lead sponsor, said the group had been meeting for the last several months, and some sponsors had actually been working on this for years. About a dozen lawmakers from both parties joined Roy onstage. It was an unusually festive moment as the partisan lines in Congress have rarely been sharper. “I don’t agree with some of these people on anything,” said Rep. Tim Burchett, a Tennessee Republican often aligned with the ultra-conservative House Freedom Caucus. Progressive Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., followed Burchett to the podium and fist-bumped him when doing so. She said she felt like the coalition showed how Congress should actually work. “It feels foreign and it feels alien and it’s like, what’s going on here?” she said. SEE WASHINGTON, A3

MICHIGAN BUSINESS

Megasite incentives aren’t working, state legislators told

Leaders of two watchdog groups testify before a state House panel probing whether the deals should continue.

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LANSING — Taxpayer-funded incentives such as the state offered SanDisk to locate at a Flint-area megasite aren’t working, the leaders of two think tanks have told a state House subcommittee considering whether those deals should continue. The California-based chip manufacturer canceled plans to build a \$55 billion facility at the Advanced Manufacturing District of Genesee County site last month despite a \$6.24 billion incentive package and \$259 million set-aside to prepare the site in Genesee County’s Mundy Township. Testifying Wednesday before the House Oversight Subcommittee on Corporate Subsidies and State Investments, John Mozena, president of the Center for Economic Accountability, told legislators the current incentive-based system isn’t working. The Michigan Economic Development Corp. “and their cronies keep coming back with bigger and bigger and bigger deals, promising that this time will be different, this deal will be the one to unlock prosperity ...,” Mozena said. “That future is here, now, today ...,” he said. “It is a future of some of the worst unemployment in the country, a stagnant population, crumbling infrastructure, and brain drain as our best and brightest leave to go to states where they can see a future for themselves and their families.” Mozena’s group contends there is no evidence that economic development subsidies actually create jobs or grow an economy. SEE MICHIGAN BUSINESS, A3



The Michigan Economic Development Corp. is wasting time and money trying to lure mega projects to the state, according to John Mozena, president of the Center for Economic Accountability, who testified before Michigan lawmakers on Wednesday. MLive.com files

Be on the lookout for low-flying helicopters this autumn

The aircraft will inspect 9,100 miles of transmission lines.

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Don’t be alarmed if you see a low-flying helicopter this fall in your Michigan community. Beginning Monday, ITC, an electricity transmission infrastructure company, will conduct aerial patrols of high-voltage transmission structures and lines throughout the state. Weather permitting, the company will wrap up their patrols in early October. Inspectors are looking for damaged or worn transmission equipment and vegetation hazards. They need to fly low to accurately assess damage or hazards with the poles, towers, wires and insulators.

The patrols are conducted in the spring and fall each year. Michigan’s fall inspection schedule is as follows: ▶ Sept. 8-11: Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Bay, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clare, Crawford, Emmet, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Midland, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon and Wexford counties. ▶ Sept. 12-17: Bay, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm, Newaygo, Saginaw and Shiawassee counties. ▶ Sept. 18-23: Allegan, Barry, Branch,

Calhoun, Eaton, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Muskegon, Ottawa, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties. ▶ Sept. 24-29: Bay, Genesee, Huron, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Saginaw, Sanilac, St. Clair, Tuscola and Wayne counties. ▶ Sept. 30-Oct. 3: Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. Date ranges for aerial patrols are approximate and may change based on weather. ITC operates about 9,100 circuit miles of transmission lines that serve most of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula.

