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Lansing State Journal

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Eaton County Land Bank acquires Horner Mill site



From about 1880 to the mid-1950s, historic Horner Mill in Eaton Rapids was a thriving manufacturing site that turned out blankets and clothing. DAVE WASINGER/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Rachel Greco
Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

EATON RAPIDS — The Eaton County Land Bank has taken ownership of the blighted, historic former Horner Woolen Mill more than a year and a half after the owner of the property at M-99 and Main Street submitted a proposal to make the transfer.

The county agency acquired the 7-acre site at 224 N. Main St. on Oct. 31, according to a news release from the county.

Eaton Rapids city officials have been pushing the property’s former owners,

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The Old Horner Mill in Eaton Rapids is in a state of disrepair. ROBERT KILLIPS/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Just 10 votes decide partisan control of Eaton County Board of Commissioners

Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

CHARLOTTE — Two candidates for a vacant seat on the Eaton County Board of Commissioners were separated by 10 votes, according to unofficial election results with 100% of precincts reporting.

The election swung the partisan majority of the 15-member board Republican, breaking a 7-7 tie.

Republican Andy Shaver of Charlotte defeated Democrat Rob Piercefield, 862 to 852 votes for the rural district that includes Sunfield, Roxand, Vermontville and Chester townships, according to the Eaton County Clerk’s Office.

The District 1 seat was vacated by



Shaver

former Republican Commissioner Tim Barnes, who resigned for personal reasons.

Barnes resigned after being re-elected to the commission in the November 2024 election, leaving the board without a majority. Currently, there are seven Republicans and seven Democrats on the board.

The election happened because the rest of the 15-member board failed to appoint a successor and could not break a tie to choose between two candidates.

The commission had 30 days to fill the vacant seat, otherwise an election had to be held.

Shaver, a fifth generation farmer

from Chester Township who is also a pastor in Charlotte and a member of the Charlotte Fire Department, said he’s looking forward to serving on the board for the next three years.

“I’m happy to serve the people of District 1 and will work very hard to do so for the next three years,” he said Nov. 5.

The term expires in 2028.

Eaton County Clerk Diana Bosworth said the race won’t trigger an automatic recount, but a candidate has 48 hours to request one following a canvass of the county election results. The canvass, standard after each election, includes a review election materials and poll books. Bosworth estimated that process could take until Nov. 11 or Nov. 12.

Democrats sweep off-year elections

Win bids for NYC mayor, VA, NJ governorships; CA voters pass Prop 50

Phillip M. Bailey, Joey Garrison and Zac Anderson
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump received a rebuke as Democrats swept every major contest on Nov. 4, which they hope foretells a nationwide backlash to Republican control in Washington in the pivotal 2026 midterm elections.

The results represent the first judgment on Trump’s return to power by millions of Americans as the GOP president’s approval numbers sag amid the longest federal government shutdown in U.S. history.

Democrats and their allies scored wins with former Rep. Abigail Spanberger coasting to victory in the Virginia governor’s race and New York Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani, a Democratic socialist, winning the New York City mayoral race. Democrats also won the New Jersey governorship, where Rep. Mikie Sherrill decisively defeated Republican business owner Jack Ciatorelli in a race that had been a dead heat in public polls.

“It’s a reminder that when we come together around strong, forward-looking leaders who care about the issues that matter, we can win,” former President Barack Obama, who hit the 2025 campaign trail during the final days, said on X on Nov. 4.

Conservatives who back the president downplayed the results by noting they occurred in four blue states that Trump lost the prior year.

After tough year, a big night

For a year, Democrats have needed reason for hope, and they got the boost they wanted.

In California, the Proposition 50 ballot measure passed. It’s Gov. Gavin Newsom’s entry in the country’s escalating redistricting fight, which Trump started by urging some Republican-led states to redraw congressional maps to increase the number of GOP-leaning seats. The measure will let California leaders draw a new congressional map that will offset some Republican gains.

Democrats also maintained control of the state Supreme Court in Pennsylvania, a critical swing state in the 2028 presidential election, as voters retained all three Democratic justices up for reelection.

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Supporters of New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani celebrate during an election night event at the Brooklyn Paramount Theater on Nov. 4.

ANGELINA KATSANIS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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