



Stallworth Missed 40 Percent Of Votes

Rep. Alma STALLWORTH (D-Detroit), the dean of the Democratic caucus, missed 40 percent of the roll call votes taken in the House in 2004, far and away the largest absentee rate in either chamber, according to a tally conducted by MIRS through the www.michiganvotes.org website.

Stallworth, a 10-term veteran of the Legislature and mother of embattled former Rep. Keith STALLWORTH (D-Detroit), finished her final term this year under term limits. She missed 456 of the votes taken in 2004 and 645 (33 percent) for the entire 2003-04 session.

Phone calls left over the last two days at Stallworth's office and home were not returned. Also, a House Democratic source was unable to come up with a medical explanation behind Stallworth's poor attendance record. But contrary to a popular rumor, MIRS did confirm that Stallworth received no extra boost in her legislative pension by re-turning for a final term.

The 10 House members who missed the most votes are as follows:

1. Stallworth — Missed Votes: 456 — Percentage: 40.1%
2. Rep. Ken DANIELS (D-Detroit) — Missed Votes: 307 — Percentage: 27.0%
3. Rep. Triette REEVES (D-Detroit) — Missed Votes: 222 — Percentage: 19.5%
- 4 (tie). Rep. Stephen EHARDT (R-Lexington) — Missed Votes: 216 — Percentage: 19.0%
- 4 (tie). Rep. Doug HART (R-Grand Rapids) — Missed Votes: 216 — Percentage: 19.0%
5. Rep. Artina Tinsley HARDMAN (D-Detroit) — Missed Votes: 206 — Percentage: 18.1%
6. Rep. Paula ZELENKO (D-Burton) — Missed Votes: 201 — Percentage: 17.7%
7. Rep. Martha CHEEKS (D-Detroit) — Missed Votes: 188 — Percentage: 16.5%
8. Rep. Mickey MORTIMER (R-Horton) — Missed Votes: 186 — Percentage: 16.4%
9. Rep. Clarence PHILLIPS (D-Pontiac) — Missed Votes: 171 — Percentage: 15.1%

For 22 House members, the number of missed votes did not exceed single digits. With only one absent vote, Rep. Matt MILOSCH (R-Lambertville) was among three members who had the best

attendance on the floor. Despite the good voting record, Milosch was defeated in his re-election bid after an aggressive campaign by the House Democrats and their candidate, Kathy ANGERER.

For the 2003-04 term, however, the best voting record belonged to freshmen Reps. Joe HUNE (R-Fowlerville) and Daniel ACCIAVATTI (R-Chesterfield), who only missed one vote during the 92nd session of the state Legislature.

The 10 House members who missed the fewest votes are as follows.

- 1 (tie). Acciavatti — Missed Votes: 1
- 1 (tie). Hune — Missed Votes: 1
- 1 (tie). Milosch — Missed Votes: 1
- 2 (tie). Rep. John PASTOR (R-Livonia) — Missed Votes: 2
- 2 (tie). Rep. Doug SPADE (D-Adrian) — Missed Votes: 2
- 3 (tie). Rep. David PALSROK (R-Manistee) — Missed Votes: 3
- 3 (tie). Rep. Aldo VAGNOZZI (D-Farmington Hills) — Missed Votes: 3
- 4 (tie). Rep. Jerry KOOIMAN (R-Grand Rapids) — Missed Votes: 4
- 4 (tie). Rep. Neal NITZ (R-Baroda) — Missed Votes: 4
- 4 (tie). Rep. Mary WATERS (D-Detroit) — Missed Votes: 4

Comparatively, the Senate in 2004 as a whole had a significantly better voting record, despite having only one minute to vote and only being allowed to vote from their desk. Eight senators cast a vote on every single bill this year: Sens. Mike BISHOP (R-Rochester), Deborah CHERRY (D-Burton), Mike GOSCHKA (R-Brant), Gilda JACOBS (D-Huntington Woods), Bruce PATTERSON (R-Canton), Alan SANBORN (R-Richmond), Tony STAMAS (R-Midland), and Gerald VAN WOERKOM (R-Muskegon).

Five senators fell just short of these eight with only one absent vote on their record: Nancy CASSIS (R-Novi), Tom GEORGE (R-Kalamazoo), Bill HARDIMAN (R-Kentwood), Ron JELINEK (R-Three Oaks), and Mike PRUSI (D-Ishpeming). It should be noted Hardiman's one missed

vote came after he said his “yes” button failed to work on a vote regarding the controversial mobile home bill.

Goschka, Patterson, Sanborn and Van Woerkom had perfect voting records for the entire 2003-04 term.

The senator with the highest number of missed votes was Dennis OLSHOVE (D-Warren), with 251 absent votes. Olshove’s absences mean that he missed 22.1 percent of all 2004 votes. The high number of absent votes is the result of a serious head infection that he contracted late in the year in the course of getting some dental work done. Likewise, a good number of Sen. Laura TOY’s (R-Livonia) 152 missed votes (13.4 percent) can be traced back to the time she spent recovering at home from injuries she suffered in a car accident earlier this year.

The 10 senators with the highest number of missed votes are as follows:

1. Olshove — Missed Votes: 251 — Percentage: 22.1%
2. Buzz THOMAS (D-Detroit) — Missed Votes: 163 — Percentage: 14.3%
3. Toy — Missed Votes: 152 — Percentage: 13.4%
4. Sen. Martha G. SCOTT (D-Highland Park) — Missed Votes: 122 — Percentage: 10.7%
5. Sen. Irma CLARK-COLEMAN (D-Detroit) — Missed Votes: 116 — Percentage: 10.2%
6. Senate Minority Leader Bob EMERSON (D-Flint)— Missed Votes: 115 — Percentage: 10.1%
7. Sen. Virg BERNERO (D-Lansing) — Missed Votes: 95 — Percentage: 8.4%
8. Sen. Burton LELAND (D-Detroit) — Missed Votes: 72 — Percentage: 6.3%
9. Sen. Jim BARCIA (D-Bay City) — Missed Votes: 52 — Percentage: 4.6%
10. Sen. Shirley JOHNSON (R-troy) — Missed Votes: 51 — Percentage: 4.5%