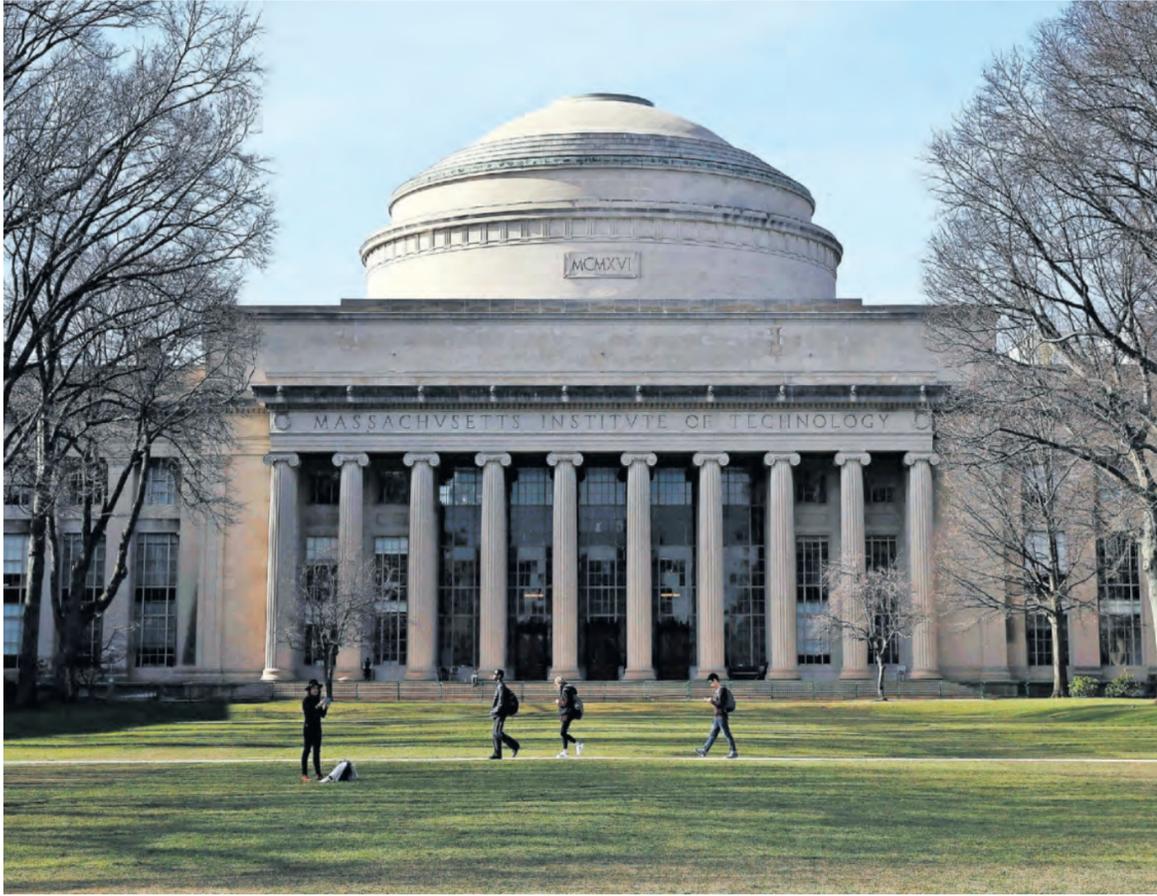


# JACKSON CITIZEN PATRIOT

## Ethics of college donations under microscope



Students walk past the “Great Dome” atop Building 10 on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. MIT said Media Lab director Joi Ito resigned Sept. 7 after reports he had a more extensive fundraising relationship with Jeffrey Epstein than acknowledged. Charles Krupa, AP

As MIT grapples with its financial ties to Jeffrey Epstein, shockwaves ripple through the world of education. Universities in Ohio and elsewhere are forced to review gifts.

Collin Binkley Associated Press

While the Massachusetts Institute of Technology grapples with new allegations about its financial ties to Jeffrey Epstein, other universities that accepted donations from the disgraced financier say they have no plans to return the money.

The turmoil at MIT has sent shockwaves through the world of education and highlights the challenges universities face as they screen potential donors and decide whether to keep money that’s tainted by its benefactor’s misdeeds.

Epstein was arrested in July on federal sex-trafficking charges, drawing new attention to old allegations that he had sexually abused women and girls. He killed himself in jail in August while awaiting trial.

Harvard University says it already spent \$6.5 million that Epstein donated in 2003. The University of Arizona says it isn’t returning \$50,000 it received in 2017. The University of British Columbia is not giving

back \$25,000 it got from an Epstein charity in 2011.

Ohio State University has not said what will come of its funding from Epstein, including \$2.5 million donated in 2007. The school announced a review of the gifts in July but declined to provide an update this week.

Epstein’s ties to academia are coming under renewed scrutiny amid allegations that a prestigious research lab at MIT had a more extensive fundraising relationship with Epstein than it previously acknowledged and tried to conceal the extent of the relationship.

The allegations, first reported Sept. 6 by The New Yorker, spurred MIT’s president to bring in an outside law firm to investigate. In a letter to campus on Sept. 7, President Rafael Reif called the accusations “deeply disturbing” and “extremely serious.”

SEE ETHICS, A3

“Universities have to determine for themselves what is or is not acceptable. There are no clear standards.”

Leslie Lenkowsky, a professor emeritus at Indiana University who specializes in philanthropy.

LANSING

## GOP aims to control funds for remapping

Budget move slammed as ‘games,’ ends up cutting secretary of state funds

Lauren Gibbons lgibbon2@mlive.com

Republican lawmakers have shifted funding for the voter-approved redistricting commission from the secretary of state’s office to legislative control and deeply cut Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s request for funding it.

A House and Senate conference committee Thursday approved the plan, which slashes Whitmer’s proposal to spend \$4.6 million next year by 26%. The new constitutional amendment requires the funding to be at least 25% of the secretary of state’s office, and the plan also cuts that budget by the \$3.4 million approved for the commission.

“We feel that we’re strictly following what the ballot proposal had indicated we needed to do,” Senate Appropriations Chair Jim Stamas, R-Midland, said.

But Voters Not Politicians, which wrote the law and got it on last November’s ballot, said the GOP-controlled Legislature was trying to undermine the commission and Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, who is implementing the commission.

“These types of political games are exactly what voters stood firmly against in the last election,” executive director Nancy Wang said.

The proposal, which passed with 61% of the vote, takes the job of redrawing Michigan’s congressional and legislative maps away from the Legislature, giving it instead to a panel of 13 voters — five independents and four from each major party. Officeholders, candidates, lobbyists, operatives, staffers and their relatives are excluded until six years after they leave the political job.

The Michigan Republican Party and several individuals have filed two suits claiming that exclusion violates their constitutional rights. Defenders say partisans still may participate in the process by providing input to the commission.

As happens every 10 years following a census, the GOP Legislature enacted the current redistricting plan in 2011. Federal judges this year found the plan was unconstitutional because it violated Democratic

SEE REMAPPING, A3

WASHINGTON

## Governors lobby for ‘strong’ PFAS rules

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and friends may get what they want if the measures stay in the defense spending bill. A2

LANSING

## Pot vaping also faces scrutiny as lung cases mount

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Marijuana vape pens are safe from bans on flavored e-cigarettes being imposed in Michigan and New York — but they are facing their own set of issues.

States and the federal government are imposing the bans as a growing number of teenagers and young people are vaping nicotine-laced liquid in fruity, minty or sugary flavors. They say it is a gateway to tobacco use.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s first-in-the-nation ban, imposed under a health emergency,

requires stores to remove flavored products by Oct. 2. New York set the same deadline. And President Donald Trump put his administration to work on the prohibition earlier this month.

Trump explicitly tied his move to 530 cases of lung illness — and seven deaths — reported in 38 states and one U.S. territory that are linked to vaping marijuana. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have not determined a cause, but most

of the patients reported using a THC vape, though many also used nicotine liquid.

State health officials are looking into at least six cases, with some THC vaping involved. The Michigan Poison Center at Wayne State University has received reports of 11 people experiencing negative effects from marijuana vapes this year, according to medical director Dr. Cynthia Aaron. Six patients were younger than 18.

Initial reports on the illnesses indicated

thickeners like Vitamin E acetate were found in cannabis products. Adding thickeners is typically done on the black market, said William McClean, CEO of Wildflower Brands, a Canadian-based CBD vape company.

“Companies are putting other things in there to make the cloud whiter and bigger — and when you’re vaping cannabis oil, it’s light grey. It’s not as visible,” McClean said.

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