



State Senator
HARRY GAST
R-20th Senate District



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Committees: Appropriations (Chair) (Subcommittees: Agriculture; Capital Outlay (Chair); Community Colleges (Chair); Environmental Quality; Natural Resources); Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs; Senate Fiscal Agency Governing Board (Chair)

Biography: Republican, of St. Joseph; born September 19, 1920, at St. Joseph; attended St. Joseph Public High School and Michigan State University; married, wife Jean; children: Barbara, Linda, and Dennis; former supervisor, Lincoln Township; former treasurer, Lincoln Township; farmer; former member, County Board of Public Works and County Board of Health; member, Farm Bureau, Lions, and Honorary Jaycees; former member, Lakeshore School Board; Baptist; elected to the House of Representatives, 43rd District, 1970, 1972, 1974, and 1976, serving on Taxation, Towns and Counties, Conservation and Elections Committees; elected to the Michigan State Senate, 22nd District, 1978, 1982, 1986, 1990, and to the 20th District, 1994 and 1998; Legislator of the Year Award, Michigan Agricultural Conference, 1986; Legislator of the Year Award, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, 1986; Legislator of the Year Award, Michigan Townships Association, 1988; Honorary Doctor of Public Service degree, Northern Michigan University, 1988; Conservationist of the Year Award, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, 1989; Honorary Doctor of Law degree, Andrews University, 1989; named one of ten best lawmakers by *The Detroit News*, 1992; Meritorious Service Award, Michigan Association of Agriculture, June 1993; Associate Farmer of the Year, Michigan Vegetable Council, January, 1994; recognition from Natural Resources Trust Fund, 1996; Guardian of Small Business Award, 1996; Michigan Recreation and Parks Association Legislative Award, 1997; Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award and Silver Plow Award by Michigan Farm Bureau, 1998; honored by Agricultural and Natural Resources Products Tourism Conference; Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation from Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 1999; Bernard Radde Award from Lake Michigan College, May 2001; Honorary Doctor of Public Service Degree from Ferris State University, May 2001; dedication of the Harry T. Gast Building at M-Tec at Southwest Michigan College, August 2001.

