



2019-2020 PROPOSED GENERAL GOVERNMENT PLATFORM

ELECTIONS ISSUES

MAC supports:

- The revision of county commissioner terms of office from the current two-year terms to four-year terms, thereby placing commissioners on the same four-year cycle as all other elected county officials.
- The revision of road commissioner terms of office to four years.
- Converting all elected road commissioner positions to appointed positions.
- A dedicated state funding source to support the replacement of county-owned voting equipment.

MAC opposes:

- Increases in county costs associated with the election process, unless funded by appropriate means.
- Legislation that changes how county commissioner districts are drawn.

TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

MAC supports:

- New compacts or consent agreements between the state and its Native American tribes that maintain a minimum distribution of the 2 percent of gross slot machine revenues to elected local units of government but does not extend such distributions to non-governmental organizations.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) INITIATIVES

MAC supports:

- Extensive involvement and control by counties in the local delivery of services in the national Workforce Investment System, particularly in the appointment of Workforce Investment Board members.
- Adequate federal and state funding for Michigan's Workforce Investment System.
- Federal and state efforts to assist the agricultural industry with seasonal labor resources.
- Efforts to retain and grow our skilled workforce.

MAC encourages:

- Strong, local public-private partnerships comprised of county commissioners and representatives of business and industry, education, labor and community-based organizations.

MAC urges:

- Congress and the Michigan Legislature to appropriate sufficient funding for all workforce development activities.

PUBLIC EMPLOYER ISSUES

MAC supports:

- Legislation that would assist counties in dealing with post-employment benefit costs.
- Expansion of the requirements within the Public Employment Relations Act that protect against being required to pay wage and benefit increases after a collective bargaining agreement has expired for PA 312-eligible units. This should also include the requirement that an arbitration panel not order any retroactive wage or benefit increases when a new contract is agreed upon.

MAC opposes:

- Any legislation that allows the state to dictate county salaries and benefits.
- The expansion of binding arbitration or addition of new subjects to collective bargaining for county employees.
- Any increase in salary-level requirements to qualify for white-collar exemptions.

RECORD RETENTION AND PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

MAC supports:

- Updates and revisions to the public notification process to allow for new notification methods designed to reach a greater number of county residents, as long as the integrity within the public notification process is maintained while reducing costs.
- State financial support and continued work toward assisting counties and other local governments with efforts to provide for safer and better retention of valuable public records, including efforts to convert paper documents to digital formats for ease of access and long-term retention.
- The review and reduction of statutory record retention timelines.

PLANNING AND ZONING

MAC supports:

- The use of county land banks as a tool to help reduce blight and return abandoned property to productive use.
- A countywide perspective on coordination and planning of services to prevent duplication.

MANUFACTURED HOUSING

MAC supports:

- The authority of local units of government to override manufactured housing community standards to accommodate growth-related concerns.

- The ability of local governments to review and approve all site plans for new and expanding communities, similar to the workings of the Subdivision Control Act.
- A reform of the tax structure of these developments to ensure they pay an equitable share of the cost of services provided by local governments and schools.
- A policy that ad valorem taxes paid on manufactured housing units within manufactured housing or seasonal parks be based on the value of individual units within these parks. Any fee and/or tax should be equitably distributed back to local governments and to individual local school districts in which these parks are contained.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) AND OPEN MEETINGS

MAC supports:

- Revisions to the Michigan FOIA to ensure public access to records, while providing additional provisions for dealing with the costs and time imposed by frivolous requests and the use of FOIA provisions for harassment purposes.
- The continued ability of local elected officials to participate in government meetings from remote settings when necessary to ensure a board member can effectively represent the county and its residents.

BUILDING AND MECHANICAL INSPECTIONS

MAC supports:

- The consolidation of inspection services at the county level to provide for more efficient administration of building and mechanical inspections. This will provide more consistency throughout counties in the enforcement of regulations and inspection fees for residents.