



2020-2021 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:

- Increased costs associated with the election process, unless funded by the State or Federal government.
- 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

MAC supports:

- Ongoing State and federal funding for the Michigan Works! Association, Pure Michigan Talent Connect, Going PRO In Michigan and the Michigan Reconnect programs.
- Extensive involvement and control by counties in the local delivery of services in the State and national workforce investment systems, particularly in the appointment of Workforce Investment Board members.
- Duplicative 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.

PUBLIC EMPLOYER ISSUES

MAC supports:

- Legislation that would assist counties in curbing the costs and long-term liability of post-employment benefits including but not limited to additional revenue options and additional financing mechanisms.
- 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, including but not limited to on-line notices and no-cost notice information sent to existing newspapers. 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 to prevent duplication of infrastructure, services and community expansion without clear guidelines on how the new infrastructure and long-term maintenance would be paid for.

MANUFACTURED AND MOBILE HOUSING

MAC supports:

- Legislation that discerns the difference between manufactured and mobile housing.
- 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.
- Legislation that extends FOIA response timelines during a state of emergency.
- The ability for local elected officials, during states of emergency or dangerous weather conditions, to meet quorum standards via electronic/telecommunications technologies regardless of the number of participants physically present, so long as the public has access to the video feed and can offer testimony to the governing body.
- 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.

MAC opposes:

- Legislation that would make the local unit of government financially liable for the attorney fees of a claimant for violations of the Open Meetings Act unless direct harm to the claimant is proven in a court of law. (See SB 104)

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.