

The following list represents many of the policy and funding issues MAC is pursuing — but is not an exhaustive look at the issues we advocate for on behalf of Michigan’s 83 counties.

## Ensuring Stable, Proper Funding for Trial Courts

- Eliminate or extend the current October 2020 statutory sunset to allow trial courts to assess criminal defendants the reasonable cost of court operations related to their case so as not to jeopardize hundreds of millions of dollars in critical court funding
- **MAC supports a phased-in approach of the Trial Court Funding Commission recommendations, so long as the sunset is addressed**

## Reforming Michigan’s System of Financing Local Government

- Secure a dedicated revenue stream to support a county revenue sharing trust fund
- Expand local revenue options beyond millages
- Enhance cost sharing among all levels of local government for mandated services
- Ensure stable and sufficiently funded revenue streams for new or increases in mandated services

## Addressing Roads, Underground Infrastructure and Threats to Michigan’s Waters and Shorelines

- Counties play a central role in our states most critical infrastructure needs, from building and maintaining roads and bridges, to the preservation of drainage and safer septic systems
- Recognizing the substantial costs and damages caused by high water levels on our shorelines and water table, MAC urges the state, to lead discussions and actions to secure needed resources to affected parties and work with locals to provide assistance and relief
- **MAC supports county decision-making authority in the establishment of state-wide minimum standards for septic systems to protect the environmental health of our lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater**
- **MAC supports the regulation of, testing for and remediation of PFAS chemicals, so long as costs are borne by the state and/or federal government**
- **MAC continues to support legislation to adequately fund infrastructure upgrades, such as roads, bridges and the separation of storm and sanitary sewers**



## Ensuring Viability and Responsibility in Michigan Public Mental Health Systems

- Maintain a locally governed public mental health system with community and evidence-based mental health care
- Secure significant funding to support local law enforcement agencies, service providers and community organizers in the establishment and expansion of inter-agency deflection and diversion programs
- Increase funding to support community mental health providers to meet the increasing demand on the system

# 2020 State Priorities

## Ensuring the State Covers Costs for Property Tax Exemptions

- The Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption has siphoned more than \$20 million annually from local units of government
- While such tax programs can be popular, the Legislature, should fund their tax-cutting preferences with state, not local, resources
- **MAC supports legislation requiring the State to reimburse local units of government for their property tax revenue losses associated with the Veterans Property Tax Exemption**
- **MAC supports a moratorium on exemptions to real and personal property taxes**



## Working to Combat the Opioid Crisis

- Counties continue to battle the opioid epidemic that accounted for more than 2,000 reported deaths in 2018 alone
- Ensure any settlement funds from federal or state lawsuits be allocated appropriately to counties to cover the surge in direct and ancillary opioid-related costs (law enforcement, child protection and welfare, medical examiner, etc.)
- Expand state investment in the Medication Assisted Treatment options through additional grants and increased education efforts

## Prohibiting the Use of Deed Restrictions in Property Valuations

- Since 2013, the Tax Tribunal has pursued policies that have reduced local revenues by more than \$100 million by incorrectly lowering the values of “Big Box” retail locations
- By imposing severe deed restrictions on prime commercial real estate to limit competition, Big Box retailers are artificially manipulating the real estate market and taking advantage of their own efforts to devalue property
- **MAC continues to support legislation that ensures all three methods of property valuation (cost, sales, income) are considered by the tribunal; prevents the consideration of deed-restricted properties as fair “comparables”; and enhances the training and qualifications of tribunal members**

## Extending County Commissioner Terms to Four Years

- Michigan is among only 5 states in nation that limit commissioner terms to two years
- All other county elected positions and township positions are elected for four-year terms
- MAC supports the identical bills introduced in the House and Senate creating four-year terms