

2021 State Priorities

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.

Extending County Commissioner Terms to Four Years

- Amend Michigan election law to extend county commissioner terms to four years like 45 other states and all Michigan county-wide elected officials

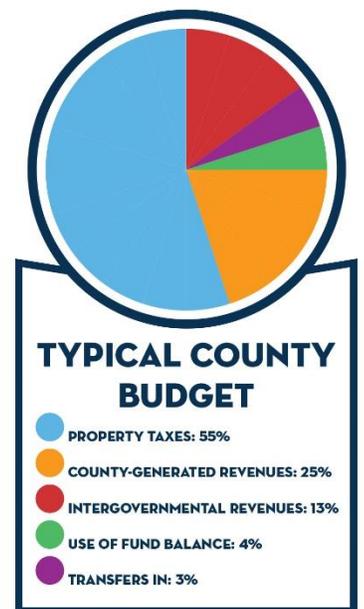


Enacting Reforms to Improve the Functioning of Local Courts

- Create a Trial Court Fund that receives revenue from the General Fund and trial court assessments and payments and distributes those funds to trial courts based on caseloads, case types and basic operational needs
- Create a state-funded case management system to enhance court technology and get all courts using the same system

Bolstering Michigan’s System of Financing Local Government

- Secure a dedicated revenue stream to support a county revenue sharing trust fund
- Ensure stable and sufficiently funded revenue streams for new or increases in mandated services
- Create a tourism reinvestment excise tax for our counties
- Re-open the window of opportunity for counties to transfer their foreclosure responsibilities to the state
- Exempt special millages from tax capture and allow for opting out of tax captures at the expiration of the original plan agreement



Ensuring the State Covers Costs for Property Tax Exemptions

- Require the state to reimburse local units of government for their property tax revenue losses associated with the Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption
- Establish a moratorium on exemptions to real and personal property taxes without corresponding and equitable reimbursement

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Adopting Measures to Reverse Damage Inflicted by “Dark Stores”

- Require that all valuations of “Big Box” stores be based on the cost approach, if built in the last seven years, and prohibit the use of deed restrictions in determining the value of the property after that seven-year window



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

- Adopt legislation to adequately fund infrastructure upgrades, such as roads, bridges and the separation of storm and sanitary sewers

Bolstering Michigan’s Human Services Programs

- Ensure the state fulfills its obligation to fund 100 percent of the additional costs to cover 17-year-olds entering the juvenile justice system on Oct 1, 2021, pursuant to statute and data from Michigan family courts
- Amend the County Veteran Service Fund to ensure COVID-related expenses are eligible under the law
- Maintain a locally governed public mental health system with community and evidence-based mental health care
- Increase funding to support community mental health providers to meet the increasing demand on the system

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