

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.

Revising the Open Meetings Act to Meet the Demands of the 21st Century

- Prior to the changes made to the Open Meetings Act (OMA) in 2020 during the pandemic, members of a public body could attend, participate and vote remotely at county board sessions, so long as a quorum of the public body was physically present at the meeting location
- The statutory change to allow for full board meetings to be held remotely due to the pandemic expired Dec. 31, 2021, and impacted the pre-pandemic rules by now barring remote participants from voting, even if a quorum is physically present in the room
- MAC supports revisiting the OMA to allow for remote participation, and, at minimum, to allow for pre-pandemic meeting options for county boards



Enacting Reforms to Ensure Proper Funding of Local Courts

- The way in which we fund our court system continues to be caught in the middle of a looming statutory sunset on Oct. 1, 2022, and continued litigation before the Michigan Supreme Court
- To ensure our local courts do not face a financial emergency, MAC supports extending the statutory sunset to allow courts to impose reasonable cost on criminal defendants and urges the Legislature to act on long-term solutions and use guiding principles and recommendations in the 2019 Trial Court Funding Commission report

Protecting and Improving Michigan’s Local and Public System for Mental Health

- MAC continues to support maintaining a locally governed public mental health system that is closely connected to the community and responsive to some of our most vulnerable residents’ unique needs
- MAC supports further investment and expansion of innovative integration models such as certified community behavioral health clinics, behavioral health and opioid health homes
- MAC rejects any financial shift toward private, for-profit insurers

Creating a Fair Revenue Sharing System for Counties

- The state of Michigan has long lagged in its commitment to counties on revenue sharing payments to ensure local services are properly funded
- MAC supports an increase of at least 8 percent in county revenue sharing for FY23 to make up for the lack of inflationary increases since 2015
- MAC supports the elimination of the outdated County Incentive Program and the shifting of dollars from there to general county revenue sharing
- MAC urges Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Legislature to create a “Revenue Sharing Trust Fund” for counties to ensure proper funding does not fall victim to annual state budget politics

2022 State Priorities

Compensating Local Governments for Funds Diverted by the Veterans Property Tax Exemption

- Since the enactment of the Disabled Veterans Property Tax exemption in 2013, counties have sought reimbursement from the state for the lost local revenues, a hit of tens of millions of dollars annually
- MAC supports continuing the exemption — but with the state making up those local losses
- MAC supports Senate Bills 783-784, by Sen. Jon Bumstead (R-Newaygo), which would maintain the current exemption and reimburse local governments via a refundable income tax credit

Revamping the PPT Exemption to Provide Annual Reimbursement to Locals

- As part of the economic development deal struck at the end of 2021, the Legislature and governor enacted an increase for the Personal Property Tax (PPT) exemption for small business, thereby reducing revenue to local governments by approximately \$75 million each year
- This exemption begins in 2023 without a defined method for reimbursement for local governments that receive PPT funds
- MAC supports a system to provide full reimbursements to locals each year that is outside the annual appropriations process.

Adopting the MI Roadmap to Use ARP Funds for Historic Investments in Michigan

- Michigan has a historic opportunity to invest in public assets and services with the billions of dollars provided to the state and local governments through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and other federal aid
- A coalition of government and business groups has developed a plan (the “Road to Prosperity”) to maximize the impact of those funds through state and local partnerships
- MAC, as a member of the coalition, urges state leaders to adopt the coalition plan; learn more at MIroadmap.com

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