

The following list represents six key 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 meeting room.
- **MAC supports revisiting the OMA to allow for remote participation and, at minimum, to allow for pre-pandemic meeting options for county boards.**



## Creating a Fair Revenue Sharing System for Counties

- Revenue Sharing is the most flexible form of state aid to counties, which makes it the most effective method to fund generational investments in public services — with decisions made at the local level.
- **MAC supports the creation of a Revenue Sharing Trust Fund (RSTF) through a statutory earmark of the state sales tax.**
- The money deposited into the fund would stay in the fund for distribution to counties, cities, villages and townships and not lapse to the state General Fund at the end of each fiscal year.
- The money in the fund would be split, with 50 percent going to county revenue sharing and 50 percent going to revenue sharing for cities, villages and townships; this distribution could potentially increase county revenue sharing in the first year by more than 40 percent.
- The legislation’s method of carving out a percentage of the sales tax for the fund is what revenue sharing was originally designed to do — share in the state’s revenue. If sales tax revenue goes up, local allocations go up, if sales tax revenue falls, so do allocations, just like it does for constitutional revenue sharing for cities, villages and townships.

## Enacting Reforms to Ensure Proper Funding of Local Courts

- Local court funding remains caught in a looming statutory sunset, which now is set for May 2024, and is the subject of ongoing litigation before the Michigan Supreme Court.
- To ensure our local courts do not face a financial emergency, **MAC supports the enactment of many of the Trial Court Funding Commission’s [recommendations](#) from 2019.**
- MAC supports the creation of the Trial Court Fund to distribute funding to trial courts based on operational requirements while maintaining local discretion over trial court operational decisions.
- MAC supports the establishment of uniform assessments and centralized collections for all trial courts through the State Court Administrator’s Office. The system will maintain judicial discretion for ordering fines, will reduce costs and increase efficiency.

# 2023 State Priorities

## Increasing Resources for Juvenile Justice Services

- A lack of staff, training and facilities has left a critical shortage of resources to house those in the juvenile justice system.
- **MAC supports an increase in funding for staff recruiting, retention and training, plus direct funding for additional facilities and an increase in the per diem rate for foster care parents.**

## 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 each year.
- **MAC supports continuing the exemption — but with the state making up those local losses through a refundable income tax credit payable to local governments.**

## 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 this year 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.**

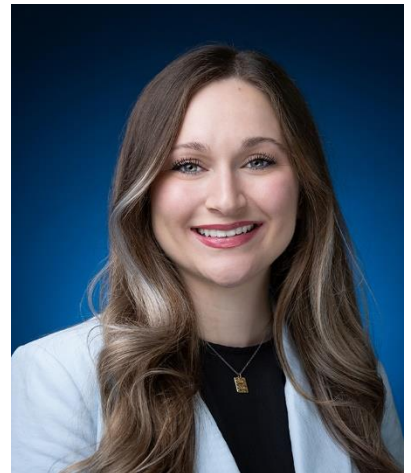
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