

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.

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 a portion of the state sales tax.
- In the 2023-2024 term, MAC advanced legislation that would earmark 8 percent of the first 4 percentage points of the state’s sale tax for this purpose. 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 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 Michigan’s Earned Sick Time Act

- **MAC supports House Bill 4002**, which would amend Michigan’s Earned Sick Time Act, set to take effect Feb. 21, 2025.
- Without proper reform, counties already struggling to sufficiently staff their jails, sheriff’s offices, and other departments will be left short staffed without recourse under the current statute.
- Counties need immediate clarification on the required earned sick time they must provide for employees. HB 4002 not only clarifies earned sick time requirements but is significantly more feasible than the current act.
- Clarification on the utilization and administration of paid time off and sick time is essential; roll-over of unused time should be up to the discretion of the employer and leave time for part-time and seasonal workers must be scaled back.



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.



2025 State Priorities

Adopting a Permanent State Solution to Funding Michigan's Courts

- Michigan counties are facing another looming deadline in their authority to collect fees from criminal defendants to help fund the court system in Michigan. The current authority to collect those fees is set to sunset on Dec. 31, 2026.
- Counties are by far the largest funding source for Michigan's trial courts.
- MAC is awaiting a State Court Administrative Office study and recommendations for implementing the Trial Court Funding Commission recommendations from 2019 before legislation can move forward.
- The extension of the authority to collect these fees has been extended three times in the last decade; this time, **MAC will be pursuing a permanent fix to the situation during this next legislative session.**
- Legislators need to address the Trial Court Funding Commission's recommendations to create a stable, efficient court funding model that does not place a financial burden on counties.



Increasing Road Funding to Address Michigan's Infrastructure Crisis

- Michigan is facing an increasing \$3.9 billion annual funding deficit for roads and bridges. Legislators have varying proposals to address this shortfall — and MAC will work to ensure local roads are properly funded without decreasing state revenue sharing in the process.
- 2025 will be a pivotal year for finding infrastructure solutions, and MAC is committed to exploring alternative options to ensure more reliable road funding.
- **MAC supports additional and dedicated funding for county roads.**



MAC's Governmental Affairs Team

Deena Bosworth, Director of Governmental Affairs

bosworth@micounties.org | 517-372-5379

Jimmy Johnson, Governmental Affairs Specialist

johnson@micounties.org | 517-372-5377

Legan Rose, Governmental Affairs Associate

rose@micounties.org | 517-816-8151