2026-27 GENERAL GOVERNMENT PLATFORM

ELECTION ISSUES

MAC supports:

- The revision of road commissioner terms of office to four years.
- Converting all elected road commissioner positions to appointed positions.
- A dedicated state funding source to support the replacement of county-owned voting equipment.
- The Michigan Association of County Clerks' position on legislation that increases voter participation and election security while protecting the right of Michigan residents to vote.
- Consistent and reliable financial and technical support by the state for changes resulting from the passage of Proposal 2 of 2022, amending the state constitution to add provisions regarding elections, including but not limited to, the nine-day early voting process.
- Policies that protect county clerks, the office of the county clerkand other county entities from frivolous legal challenges as a result of the elections process.
- Measures to recruit and retain election workers and clerks, including but not limited to safety stipulations, appropriate compensation, and reasonable working conditions.
- Legislation to change the primary election date from August to an earlier date.

MAC opposes:

- Increased costs associated with the election process, unless funded by the state or federal government.
- Legislation that unilaterally changes how county commissioner districts are drawn.

TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

MAC supports:

- New compacts or consent agreements between the state and its Native American tribes that maintain the minimum 2 percent distribution of gross slot machine revenues to local elected units of government but not non-governmental organizations.

WORKFORCE

MAC supports:

- Ongoing state and federal funding for the Michigan Works! Association, Pure Michigan Talent Connect, Going PRO in Michigan and the Michigan Reconnect programs.
- Extensive involvement and control by counties in the local delivery of services in the state and national workforce investment systems, particularly in the appointment of Workforce Investment Board members.

- Federal and state efforts to assist the agricultural industry with seasonal labor resources.
- Efforts to retain and grow our skilled workforce.
- Strong, local public-private partnerships comprised of county commissioners and representatives of business and industry, education, labor and community-based organizations.

PUBLIC EMPLOYER ISSUES

MAC supports:

- The repeal of statutory restrictions on changes to county commissioner compensation.
- Legislation that would assist counties in curbing the costs and long-term liability of post-employment benefits, including, but not limited to, additional revenue options and additional financing mechanisms.
- Amending the Public Employment Relations Act to prohibit retroactive wage and benefit increases after a collective bargaining agreement has expired. Prohibit arbitration panels from awarding, as well.
- Amendments to Public Act 152 to reset the hard cap to reflect the increase in health care related costs and further tie it to an inflationary mechanism that more closely represents the increase in costs each year.

MAC opposes:

- Any legislation that allows the state to dictate county salaries and benefits.
- The expansion of binding arbitration or the addition of new subjects to collective bargaining for county employees.
- Any increase in salary-level requirements to qualify for white-collar exemptions.
- Mandating prevailing wage to county projects.

RECORD RETENTION AND PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

MAC supports:

- Updates and revisions to the public notification process to allow for new notification methods designed to reach a more significant number of county residents, as long as the integrity within the public notification process is maintained while reducing costs, including, but not limited to, online notices and no-cost notice information sent to existing newspapers and to provide for long-term retention of the digital notices.
- State financial support and continued work toward assisting counties and other local governments in providing for safer and better retention of valuable public records, including efforts to convert paper documents to digital formats for ease of access and long-term retention.
- The review and reduction of statutory record retention timelines.

PLANNING AND ZONING

MAC supports:

- The use of county land banks as a tool to help reduce blight and return abandoned properties to productive use.
- A countywide perspective on coordination and planning to prevent

duplication of infrastructure, services and community expansion without clear guidelines on how the new infrastructure and long-term maintenance would be paid for.
- A county's right to engage in the negotiation of a "mega site."
- Preserving and protecting county zoning authority, whether a county zones on behalf of some or all its townships.

LAND USE

MAC supports

- Community based decision-making and financial incentives from the state for increasing housing capacity and affordability.

MAC opposes

- Mandates from the state that circumvents the necessary local planning process to ensure infrastructure capacity for development….

MANUFACTURED AND MOBILE HOUSING

MAC supports:

- Legislation that discerns the difference between manufactured and mobile housing.
- The authority of local units of government to override manufactured housing community standards to accommodate growth-related concerns. The ability of local governments to review and approve all site plans for new and expanding communities, similar to the workings of the Subdivision Control Act.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)

MAC supports:

- Revisions to the Michigan FOIA to ensure public access to records while providing additional provisions for dealing with the costs and time imposed by frivolous requests and the use of FOIA provisions for harassment purposes.
- Legislation that extends FOIA response timelines during a State of Emergency.
- A county's ability to collect payment in full, or at least a deposit, before processing a FOIA request.
- Legislation to require the Michigan State Legislature be subject to FOIA.

OPEN MEETINGS ACT (OMA)

MAC supports:

- Legislation and policies that allow remote participation of members on appointed boards and commissions.
- The ability of a county board of commissioners to establish a remote participation policy for their county so long as the policy limits remote participation for medical reasons, emergency situations or limit remote participation to a percentage of the meetings.
- The ability for local elected officials, regardless of the number of residents physically present, to meet quorum requirements during States of Emergency or dangerous weather conditions via electronic and telecommunications technologies, so long as the public has access to the video feed while offering

testimony to the governing body.
- A linguistic update to the OMA, making it easier to interpret and therefore reducing the likelihood of violations.

LOCAL PREEMPTION

MAC supports:

- Measures by the legislature and/or the state to return local regulatory control to counties.
- Legislation to expand authority to counties to create grant programs and funding allocation for programs to address affordable housing and public support services, including but not limited to child care.

MAC opposes:

- Any efforts by the state to preempt local control.
- Any efforts by the state to take authority away from local government.