

MICHIGAN COUNTIES

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MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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melot@micounties.org

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Each week here at MAC, we hold a meeting of our Governmental Affairs team and other key staffers to review the activity at the State Capitol and map out strategy for the coming weeks and ones beyond.

In most years, these sessions are essential to stay abreast of the flurry of bills and actions that typify a Michigan legislative session. This year, though, the weekly meeting feels like the equivalent of using a speedboat in a bathtub.

As of June 12, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer had signed 22 bills into law, making them **public acts**. That's fewer than four bills a month. By comparison, on that date in 2018, Whitmer's predecessor, Gov. Rick Snyder, had signed 183. In his first year as governor (2011), Snyder had signed 59 bills by June 12.

This is not to say lawmakers are slacking. The debate over changes to Michigan's no-fault auto insurance system has consumed a huge part of the Capitol focus this spring.

This year brought a huge crop of newcomers to Lansing, too: 45 of 110 House members are in their first term there, while 30 of the 38 senators are in their first term.

Gov. Whitmer's signature issue for her campaign and 2019 — road funding — was intricately woven into the budget debate, so when the road discussion slowed, so did the budget.

Caught in this divide, of course, are counties awaiting news on how much revenue sharing they'll receive, what the prospects will be for fixing more roads and whether the state will take on court funding reform, among other issues.

Fortunately, there is a measure of self-awareness inside the State Capitol. In a typical summer, lawmakers might schedule no more than two or three sessions days in the high summer months of July and August. Right now, though, the **House calendar** shows 20 session days for those months; the Senate's shows 19.

Those days could get canceled — in fact many of the scheduled days already are labeled "tentative." But legislators know the budget deadline isn't going away, nor are the potholes and closed bridges.

County leaders can — and should — add to that pressure by voicing their concerns at every opportunity to legislators when they are back in their districts. Invite them to your board meetings. Ask them to visit your facilities. Stop them in the diners or grocery stores. Just get with them and convey a simple, but respectful, message: Michigan needs action — now.



Stephan W. Currie
MAC Executive Director





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As county leaders, you don't have to be told that our constituents judge us predominantly on what they see – the roads they drive (even if we don't exercise direct control over them); the courts we operate; the records we maintain and, when properly requested, release.

But in the digital age, what they – and we – can't see is increasingly the most important ballgame in town. Hacking, phishing, malware, ransomware. I don't know exactly what all these terms mean, but I do know they represent a threat to our work and our communities. Wise is the county that has cybersecurity as an ever-present thought.

Here in Otsego County, our prosecutor's office faced an electronic siege when an employee innocently clicked on a link in an email.

“Wise is the county that has cybersecurity as an ever-present thought.”

And a nearby school district was **victimized by a ransomware attack**. Its insurance provider covered the amount, but the school district had to pay a deductible and it was a month before its computers were working normally again.

These events, and the **others happening** with what seems like increasing frequency, prompted us to kick our security work into a higher gear.

“The initiative to strengthen our IT controls began as a result of a barrage of emails coming through our county network in the past few months that were cleverly disguised as being from fellow employees or commonly-used vendors,” said Rachel Frisch, Otsego County administrator. “Hackers are getting smarter every minute. These emails contained links or attachments to what appeared to be important documents or past due invoices but actually contained viruses. Our IT Department had to rebuild several computers because of this.

“To further educate our staff on how to decipher whether an email contained a virus or was legitimate, our IT Department crafted several emails providing guidance on what to look for,” Frisch added. “While our employees, of course, are diligent in their efforts, we felt the emails – although helpful – didn't really have the impact we were looking for. We have now developed a plan to create short tutorial videos where our IT staff can provide better illustrations and explanations of how to determine the legitimacy of an email. Additionally, we plan to discuss what steps to take if an email does in fact contain a virus.”

These attacks also reminded me of an **excellent presentation** provided by Phil Bertolini, deputy executive of Oakland County, on the topic of digital dangers at our 2017 Annual Conference at Grand Hotel.

I know our board agendas are long and the demands on our time are endless, but I strongly encourage you to make cybersecurity an ongoing priority for your county.

Administrator Frisch says she is happy to talk with other counties about the work we are doing on training. (Contact her at rfrisch@otsegocountymi.gov.)

And, fortunately, the tools with which to fight back are numerous.

“CYSAFE was created through a collaborative effort, driven by five Michigan counties and the State of Michigan to develop a free IT security assessment tool to help small and mid-sized government agencies assess, understand and prioritize their basic IT security needs.” Learn more about it at Oakland County's **G2G Marketplace**.

Also, the National Association of State Chief Information Officers has a ton of reports and information (**here's just one**) that are aimed specifically at public entities' unique access and security issues.

We commissioners don't have the time to be experts in all this, of course. Our job is to set priorities. Please make this one of yours.

Ken Borton
President, MAC Board of Directors

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

PRESSURE IS ON MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM; COUNTIES ARE IN BEST POSITION TO LEAD REFORMS

By MAC Governmental Affairs Staff

Increasing strains on Michigan's treatment systems for mental illness have led leaders in the Legislature and executive branch to elevate mental health treatment to a priority for state attention. However, reform efforts have collided with Michigan's recent history, in which the entire mental health system was badly underfunded and previous reform efforts have prompted unintended, unwanted and unresolved consequences.

Under Public Act 54 of 1963, counties were authorized to form Community Mental Health (CMH) Boards and became the primary mental health services provider, with 60 percent of funding from local sources and 40% from the state. In 1974, the state enacted a new Mental Health Code, which more clearly defined the CMH role, and increased the state's share of the costs to 90 percent. In 1995, CMHs were authorized to become independent from the county and operate under a 12-member board appointed by the county's board of commissioners.

Across the country in the 1990s, states began shifting policy from institutionalizing individuals at state facilities to focusing on community programming and rehabilitation efforts. Under then-Gov. John Engler, Michigan began closing mental institutions, and began to explore managed care.

In 1998, a model known as a Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PHIP) to manage Medicaid services for behavioral health, development disabilities and substance use disorders was created. There are now 10 PHIPs that report to PHIP boards made up of appointees from the CMHs. These 10 entities are now the state's primary focus in mental health policy, as the managed care system has seen dramatic spending and budgetary shifts.

Mental health service in Michigan is now largely a Medicaid affair, compared to 20 years ago when General Fund dollars were still significant. Today, 95 percent of funding to all PIHPs comes from Medicaid dollars, and **in the most recent fiscal year**, only three of the 10 PIHPs reported a Medicaid surplus.

Along with the shift away from General Fund dollars, two other trends have squeezed the mental health system.

The 2014 implementation of the Healthy Michigan Plan has benefited 680,000 people, but estimates were much lower. And the 2013 Medicaid autism benefit raised the eligibility age to 21 and caused a surge in spending that prompted a \$30.8 million deficit in FY17. In both cases, demands for services are outpacing funding. All of these trends are putting ever-greater



strain on providers — and on the legislators who are responsible for funding and policies.

Caught in the middle, of course, are counties, as local funds are used to cover the Medicaid costs not covered by state Medicaid dollars. The system now has an operating deficit of \$77.3 million that must be covered by reserves or local funds. Making bad matters worse, the state has continued to require the use of county dollars (\$25 million) to draw down part of the state's share of the Medicaid mental health budget. County budgets are under heavy strain.

So, what is Michigan to do?

On the table before the Legislature is the option to include a Medicaid managed care health plan as part of the system, where health services would be handled similarly to physical health services, with, hopefully, cost savings. As pilot projects and discussion related to section 298 continue, health plans themselves are pushing for this business. They indicate they are willing to take on the risk of costs outpacing revenues, thereby relieving counties of that burden. Any savings then could be directed toward non-Medicaid services, such as jail diversion programs.

On the other hand, the state could invest in our current structure and implement reforms so PHIPs and CMHs could operate efficiently and without additional reliance on local funds. To get out of the deficit the entire system is in today, the state must restore a full year of general funding at approximately \$170 million. If the state does not fully invest or the amount appropriated does not cover costs of services, counties will likely continue to see county funds covering the additional costs.

Continued on page 6

PRESSURE IS ON MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM; COUNTIES ARE IN BEST POSITION TO LEAD REFORMS

from page 5

Counties are caught in the middle; they either face future funding and service crises or a partnership with health plans that could threaten local control and dissolve the PHIP.

With so many items in need of additional general funds — especially state priorities like roads and schools — it's difficult to see how legislators will pursue any major mental health reforms that rely on state dollars. The question for county leaders at this moment is: Are there opportunities to improve our system and use Medicaid managed care to local advantage?

Counties are best suited to preserve local roles of the community mental health infrastructure, while exploring opportunities where different types of providers may benefit the system and ultimately create a better mental health funding model that ensures the best services for our residents.

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CRC ANALYSIS

RESOLVING SOME MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT HOW MICHIGAN SPENDS ITS MONEY

By Eric Luper, President, Citizens Research Council

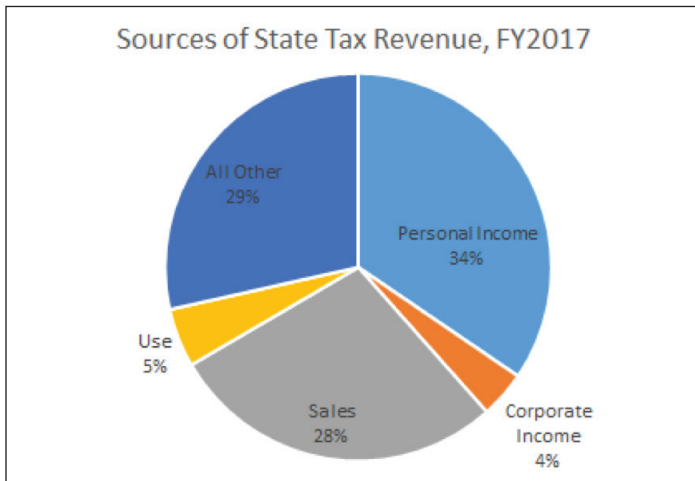
Even well-informed people can be ill-informed about how state finance works. (How many times have you been asked why the state lottery hasn't rescued Michigan schools?) In this CRC I will try to dispel some common misunderstandings about state government finance.



Luper

Misunderstanding no. 1: The state levies a lot of taxes yielding billions of dollars

Although the state levies 38 taxes **generating nearly \$33 billion** to fund services and functions, very few contribute major amounts to the total. Income taxes — individual and corporate — contribute almost two-fifths of total state revenues. The sales and use taxes contribute another third. Revenues from all other taxes — on businesses, on the purchase of alcohol and tobacco, state property taxes, and transportation — contribute less than one-third of the total.



Source: Michigan Department of Treasury

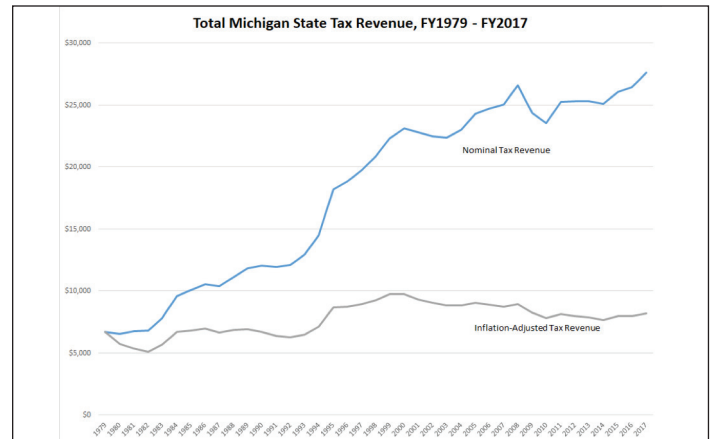
Misunderstanding no. 2: State government is bloated

Spending by the state government in Michigan is unlike that of most other governments. About three-quarters of all state spending is sent to other entities to provide services. Most of this goes to hospitals, other health providers and human service providers for services such as Medicaid and public health. Funding is sent to K-12 school districts, community colleges and universities for education. Cities, villages and county road agencies receive funding for road maintenance. Once a significant line item, state revenue sharing to local governments is now much smaller.

State government remains responsible for prisons, state police and general administrative services.

Misunderstanding no. 3: We are taxed more than ever

In raw dollar amounts, FY2017 tax revenues reached a new high-water mark, exceeding the previous high in FY2008. It took almost a full decade to recover from the devastating losses of the Great Recession. However, after accounting for inflation, FY2017 tax revenues are below FY2008, and well below FY2000 inflation-adjusted levels.



Source: Michigan Department of Treasury

Misunderstanding no. 4: With a \$59 billion budget, there must be a lot of wiggle room

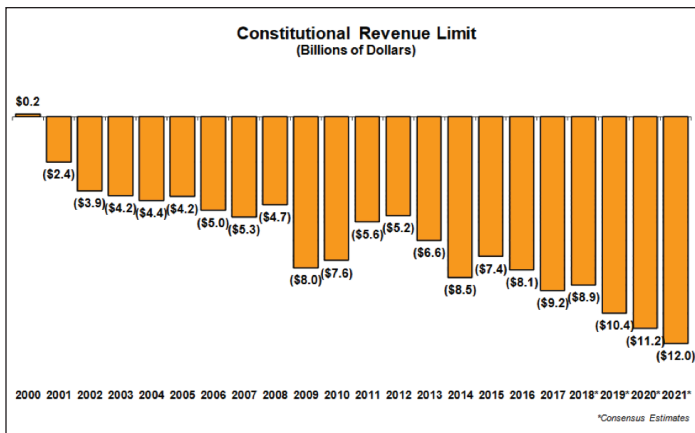
Advocacy for favored government services and inherent fear that future policy-makers will alter past funding priorities has led to a great deal of tax earmarking, i.e., dedicating revenue for specific purposes rather than leaving it to the Legislature to distribute. Constitutional and statutory provisions leave elected officials little discretion to make budgetary decisions. Transportation (fuel taxes and registration fees) revenues are dedicated, by the state constitution, to road care. Almost \$16 billion of sales, use, income, property, liquor and real estate transfer taxes are earmarked for school funding. Collectively, these services constitute more than one-third of the revenues. Other funds are tied up to match federal funding.

Only about \$11 billion (less than 20 percent of the \$59 billion) of tax revenues are not earmarked and end up in the state General Fund. But even then, there are expectations that funding will be used for prisons or Medicaid spending on an ongoing basis. The **Senate Fiscal Agency** estimates that only about \$5.3 billion (9 percent) of state revenues are truly discretionary.

STATE'S TAX IMBALANCE LEAVES COUNTIES SCRAMBLING TO MAKE ENDS MEET from page 7

Misunderstanding no. 5: Michigan is a high-tax state

There are two ways of looking at this. One approach is to compare how much taxes were paid in the past and the other is to look at Michigan's taxes relative to other states. Voters amended the Michigan Constitution in 1978 — commonly referred to as the Headlee Amendment — to provide a number of state and local tax limitations. Among those was a provision that if total state revenue exceeded the proportion of personal income in that fiscal year, the excess is to be refunded to taxpayers. This provides a benchmark for state revenue relative to the wealth of its residents. Using this measure to compare where Michigan taxes are, and have been in the past, shows that state revenues are a declining proportion of state personal income. The state is expected to be more than \$10 billion below that limit at the end of this fiscal year. Twenty years ago, the state was right at the limit. While total state revenues are higher than they have ever been in raw dollar amounts, we're collecting a smaller percentage of personal income than we did in past years.



Source: House Fiscal Agency

Alternatively, we can look at Michigan state and local tax revenue relative to other states. For this, we can look to statistics compiled by the U.S. Census to track economic activity related to taxes and government spending. From at least as far back at the 1960s through the beginning of this century, Michigan was considered a high-tax state — usually ranking 13th to 16th in per-capita tax revenue among the 50 states. This changed drastically because of Michigan's troubled decade and the Great Recession. Michigan now ranks 34th among the states.



MAC strongly supports the work of the **Citizens Research Council of Michigan**, a nonpartisan, independent public policy research organization. MAC Executive Director Stephan Currie currently sits on the CRC Board of Directors.

Misunderstanding no. 6: Lottery money was diverted to non-school purposes

As mentioned above, Michigan has a habit of tying revenues to favored services. This became a very public exercise when voters were asked to permit a state lottery in a 1972 constitutional amendment, with the promise that revenues would be used for school funding. In approving the funding, it became an extreme example of the fungibility of money. Adding a dedicated revenue to school funding has, at times, allowed state policy-makers to use resources previously used for school funding for other purposes.

Beyond that, it is a minor funding source. Lottery revenues contribute only \$1 billion (8 percent) of the \$13.6 billion of funding sources dedicated to schools.

Misunderstanding no. 7: A huge amount of road money goes to non-road issues (transit, ports, etc.)

The public approach to the use of transportation money (gas tax and vehicle registration fee revenues) has gradually — very gradually — shifted from roads to “mobility,” i.e., all the ways people get around their environments. The Michigan Highway Department became the Michigan Department of Transportation. Some road funding was used for transit. To keep this development constrained, the state constitution was amended in 1978 so that no more than 10 percent of road funding can be used for transit. The state usually appropriates the full 10 percent. The state uses revenue from other sources for ports, airports and other transportation issues.

A \$59 billion pool of money can be irresistible for armchair pundits and their opinions. But this pool has lots of roped-off areas; free swimming is very limited.

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MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Our Mission Sets Us Apart

AFFILIATECORNER

REGISTERS OF DEEDS HELP CONTRIBUTE TO COUNTIES' BOTTOM LINES

By Paul DeYoung/Van Buren County Register of Deeds

In the last two years, the Van Buren County Register of Deeds Office has increased our net revenue by nearly 40 percent. This has provided hundreds of thousands of new dollars for our General Fund to aid commissioners in their struggle to match limited revenue with the ongoing demand for services.

And Van Buren, population 75,448, is not a large county.

How were we able to do this when Register of Deeds offices typically only generated large sums based on the county transfer tax during very hot real estate markets?

One word: collaboration.

One of the most rewarding parts of my job as Register of Deeds is collaborating with the county commissioners to boost revenue for our general fund.

Many departments in county government have expenses that exceed their department's revenue. This, however, is not the case with most Register of Deeds offices. And Registers have been working to increase our contribution to counties' fiscal health.

In the last legislative session, the Michigan Association of Register of Deeds (MARD) worked with MAC, the Michigan Land Title Association, the State Bar of Michigan and the Michigan Bankers Association to institute a predictable fee for the recording of documents in Registers' offices. Prior to this legislation, recording fees had been based on the number of pages contained in a document. And improper fees had become the most common reason for rejecting documents submitted for recording.

These rejections could be burdensome to landowners and developers alike, but also costly to Registers' offices, since you still had to handle documents without being able to collect a recording fee.

After much work, though, we were able to forge and enact a set of bills to streamline the process by establishing a single recording fee for all documents regardless of the number of pages in them. Counties now have a more stable and consistent revenue stream based on the number of documents recorded and with a healthy property market comes more revenue for our general funds.

MARD also worked with Michigan surveyors to pass legislation requiring surveyors to record new land surveys for splits with Register of Deeds offices. Prior to this legislation, these surveys were rarely recorded. Property owners



were then faced with the expense of needing their property surveyed numerous times when a survey could not be found. In Van Buren County alone, this has increased survey recordings by 75 percent this year.

In the last legislative session, MARD also supported Senate Bills 731-40 that require Certificates of Trusts and Death Certificates be recorded separately so

they comply with Michigan Land Title Standards. This helps title professionals find them and frees property owners from having to pay more than once to have these documents recorded correctly the first time.

We all have seen the trends in Lansing, where lawmakers keep pushing for or adding new unfunded mandates or new property tax exemptions that reduce our ability to serve our constituents.

Those trends, combined with the lingering effects of the Great Recession, Proposal A and the Headlee Amendment, have squeezed counties and forced commissioners to cut, cut and cut again.

Such reductions all too often mean fewer public services.

Unfunded mandates and property tax exemptions are not just problems for our colleagues on the Board of Commissioners — they are problems for all of us in county government. We need to work together daily to maximize our efficiency and identify reasonable revenues from the services we provide.

Michigan's Registers of Deeds are happy to be part of the solution.

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EXPERTCORNER

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ‘MANAGE ASSETS’?

By Lance Bioniemi/Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association

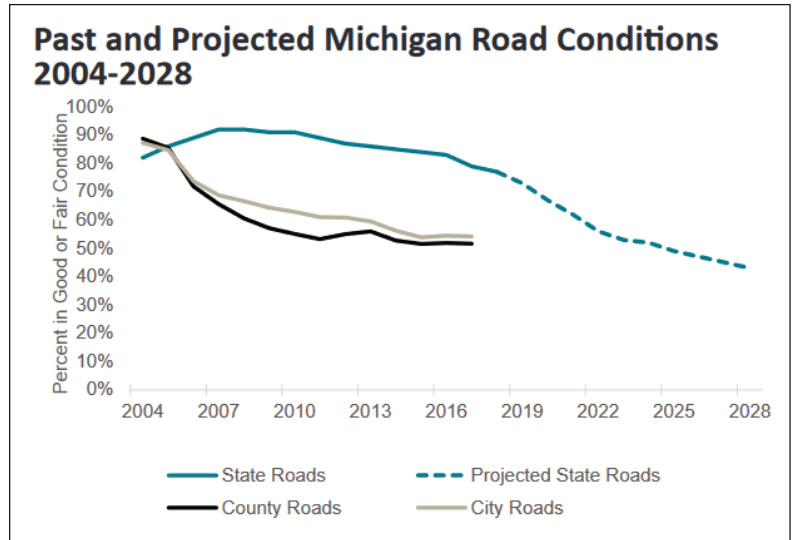
Debate continues to simmer in Lansing over new funding for Michigan’s crumbling infrastructure.

Michigan Counties reprints below a recent commentary from Lance Binoniemi of the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association (MITA) on the infrastructure situation:

“In this segment of *The Transportation Facts*, we examine asset management. That term gets used a lot when discussing increasing investments into our transportation network, but many people do not understand what it means. Asset management is a systematic process of developing, operating, maintaining, upgrading, and disposing of assets in the most cost-effective manner. And when applied to our transportation system, it can yield great results.

“In the 1990s, Michigan established the Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) to review and analyze the condition of our roads and bridges throughout Michigan. At the time, there was little known about the overall conditions of our network and what it would take to maintain and improve that system. Since then, Michigan has become a leader throughout the country with their asset management program. We are one of the best at rating our roads and bridges, yet we are one of the worst in terms of the condition of those infrastructure assets.

“Asset management gives local, state and federal road agencies the ability to analyze their system and use



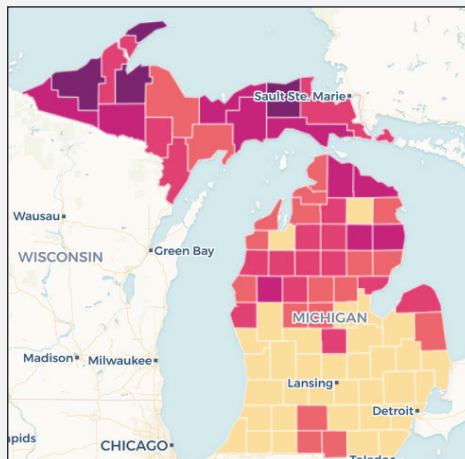
what resources they have to prolong the lifespan of the assets they oversee. Some believe that its obvious that planners would use a “worst first” approach when maintaining and rebuilding our roads and bridges but, in fact, with the resources that we have in our state, this application would cause us to run out of resources rather quickly, allowing good and fair conditioned roads to move to poor condition. As you’ve probably heard before, a ‘mix of fixes’ is the best approach to maintaining and preserving our transportation network.

Continued on page 11

NO SHORTAGES OF DESCRIPTIONS OF ROAD PROBLEMS

Earlier this spring, Crain’s Detroit released an analysis it conducted of current road funding based on the metric of per registered vehicle.

“Livingston County gets \$123 per registered vehicle from the state to fund county and local roads in one of the fastest-growing areas of Michigan. Half the roads are in poor condition. Keweenaw County, Michigan’s least-populated county at the tip of the Upper Peninsula gets \$773. There, 76 percent of roads are in good or fair condition. The disparity is a result of a road-funding formula that was originally devised during Harry Truman’s presidency,” Crain’s Chad Livengood reported.



Crain’s also produced an **interactive county map** to show its analysis.

To be clear, MAC does not endorse Crain’s approach as the best metric by which to judge road funding. Our goal, as this debate continues to develop, is to provide members with as much information as possible on the issue.

And the House Fiscal Agency recently released a **Fiscal Brief** on the current distribution formula to Local Road Agencies.

For more information on MAC’s transportation policies, contact Bob Kosowski at kosowski@micounties.org.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ‘MANAGE ASSETS’? from page 10

“The TAMC annual reports regarding the conditions of our roads and bridges have shown future conditions at various funding levels. Various reports that have shown the amount of investment that is needed for our transportation network are based on the TAMC condition reports from year to year, as well as the average cost of construction. Those future predictions on the conditions of our roads have been spot on for decades and have given us an accurate reflection of the amount of resources necessary to get our system up to various



percentages of good, fair and poor conditioned roads and bridges.

“Asset management can and is being applied to other infrastructure assets, like underground water and sewers, dams, ports, etc. Last year, the Michigan Water Asset Management Council (WAMC) and the Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC) were established to integrate all of our asset management policies across the state. One of the most frustrating construction projects for the general public to deal with is when a road that was fixed one summer gets torn up to replace the utilities underneath it in the next year or two. With proper coordination between various entities, the construction can occur simultaneously, creating cost-saving measures, as well as creating less burden on the Michigan residents.”

MAC EVENTS CALENDAR

July 12-15, 2019

NACo 2019 Annual Conference

Paris Hotel, Las Vegas, Clark County, Nev.

July 23, 2019

MAC Regional Summit

8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Otsego Club, Gaylord

Aug. 18-20, 2019

Michigan Counties Annual Conference

Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, Grand Traverse County

MAC

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MAC NEWS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE RETURNS TO GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT

The 2019 Michigan Counties Annual Conference, "People and Places," will be held Aug. 18-20 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Grand Traverse County.

More than 300 county leaders and others are expected to attend this year's event, which will include:

- Three plenary sessions featuring addresses from Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson (invited), MAC Executive Director Stephan Currie, incoming MAC Board President Veronica Klinefelt of Macomb County and more. *(Please note that this schedule is subject to change.)*
- Fifteen policy breakout sessions on trending topics ranging from the tips on hiring in the 21st century and the Open Meetings Act, to electric vehicle tech and trends in Michigan's economy. (See the **Attendee Registration Packet** for details.)
- The annual President's Banquet, with after-dinner entertainment from "Jasen Magic."
- Two receptions with complimentary beverages and snacks.
- Regional caucuses to fill five seats on the MAC Board of Directors
- The annual MAC Business Meeting, during which members will approve our policy platforms for 2019-20.
- An Exhibitor Show with dozens of vendors that provide services of use to counties big and small.

This will be the largest gathering of county leaders in Michigan this year! Don't miss out!

Monday Welcome Plenary

The first plenary session of the conference convenes at 9 a.m. on Monday with a welcome from MAC Board President Ken Borton of Otsego County and the host county, Grand Traverse, led by Board Chair Rob Hentschel.

Veronica Klinefelt of Macomb County will be sworn in as MAC's next board president, then offer a few remarks.

Executive Director Stephan W. Currie will address the session on the "State of MAC" and take questions from the floor.



Currie

PEOPLE & PLACES

2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
AUGUST 18-20, 2019
GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT | ACME, MI

MAC
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

MICHIGAN COUNTY
MEDICAL CARE
FACILITIES
COUNCIL
Our Mission Sets Us Apart

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Monday Lunch Plenary

Following a buffet lunch, conference attendees will hear the conference keynote address from Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson.

Jocelyn Benson has more than a decade of experience as a national leader in election law and administration. She is the author of *Secretaries of State: Guardians of the Democratic Process*, the first major book on the role of the Secretary of State in enforcing election and campaign finance laws, and promoting fair, accessible and secure elections. Benson has a proven track record of success in leading institutions, cutting costs and improving services. As the former dean of Wayne State University Law School, she froze tuition, expanded access to scholarship funds for all students and bolstered the school's reputation and bar passage rates. She also established programs to promote government oversight, provide free legal services for veterans, and help aspiring entrepreneurs participate in the economic revival of Detroit. She is currently CEO and Executive Director of the Ross Initiative in Sports for Equality (RISE), a national nonprofit. Benson serves on several national boards including the advisory board



Benson

Continued on page 12

ANNUAL CONFERENCE RETURNS TO GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT from page 11

of iCivics, a nonprofit founded by retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and dedicated to engaging students in meaningful civic learning.

Tuesday Plenary/MAC Business Meeting

The Tuesday morning session will feature reports and business items for the Michigan Association of Counties.

In the annual Business Meeting, MAC members will review and approve the association's policy platforms for 2019-20 and be briefed on the results of the Board elections held during caucuses on Monday afternoon.

Also, MAC's Director of Governmental Affairs, Deena Bosworth, will provide the Legislative Update, focusing on MAC's priorities at the State Capitol for the rest of 2019.



Bosworth

MACOMB'S KLINEFELT TO TAKE REINS AS MAC'S PRESIDENT

Veronica Klinefelt, a Macomb County commissioner, will take the oath as president of the MAC Board of Directors during a ceremony at the Monday morning plenary.



Klinefelt

Klinefelt is in her seventh year as a Macomb County commissioner and leads the county's Finance, Audit and Budget Committee. Prior to becoming a commissioner, she served as mayor pro tem on Eastpointe City Council for eight years and on the East Detroit School Board for six years.

Klinefelt was born in Kansas and raised in a military family. Before coming to Michigan, she lived in eight states and three countries. Klinefelt married her husband Randy while he was serving in the U.S. Air Force. They eventually settled in his home state of Michigan. They have been married for 33 years and have four children and a grandchild.

Klinefelt joined the MAC Board in 2015 and has served on Board committees to revamp MAC's By-laws and to draft a Strategic Plan for the organization.

ELECTIONS

At the 2019 Conference, MAC members will vote on five seats on the MAC Board of Directors.

Seats representing regions are filled by a vote in regional caucuses at the conference. At-large seats are filled by the candidate that wins a majority of the six regional caucuses.

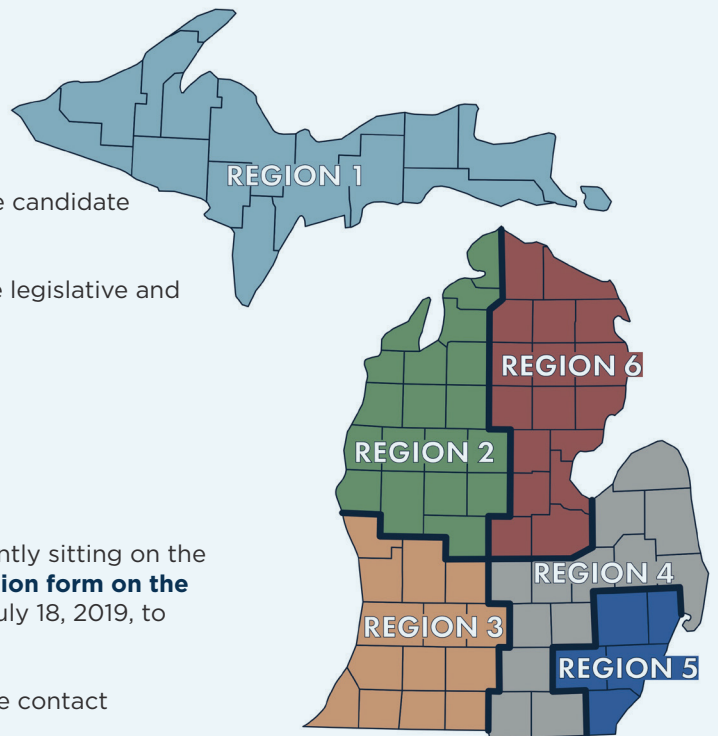
The MAC Board of Directors is the key body in guiding the legislative and organizational strategies of MAC.

2019 Board seats

- Region 4** - 2 seats
- Region 6** - 2 seats
- At-large** - 1 seat

Any member wishing to run in the election, whether currently sitting on the board or seeking a first term, must **download the application form on the MAC website** and return it to melot@micounties.org by July 18, 2019, to be eligible.

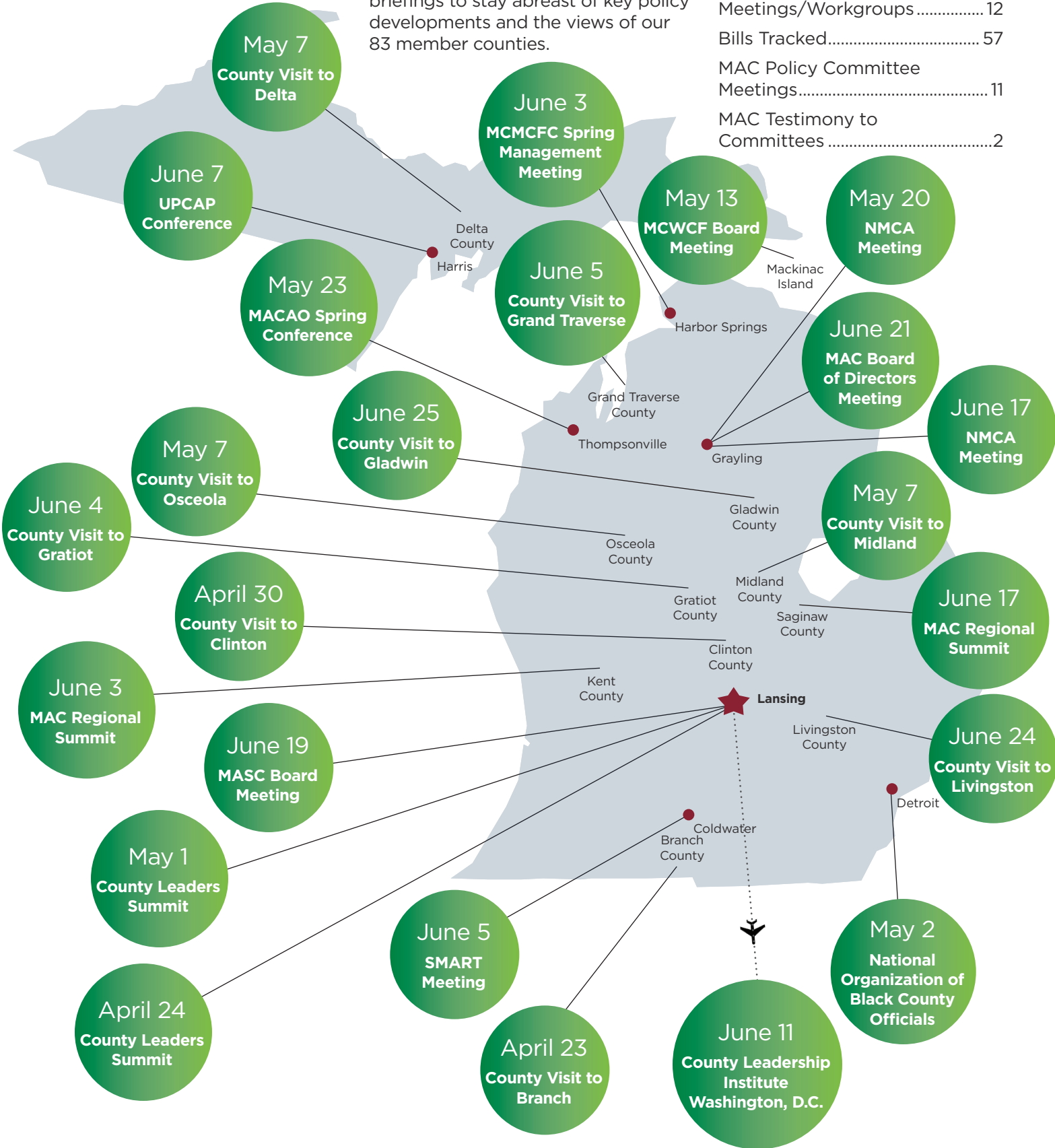
If you have any questions about board membership, please contact Executive Director Stephan W. Currie at 517-372-5374.



MAC IN ACTION

MAC staffers regularly attend state and local meetings, events and briefings to stay abreast of key policy developments and the views of our 83 member counties.

- Legislative Meetings..... 25
- Executive Branch Meetings/Workgroups 12
- Bills Tracked..... 57
- MAC Policy Committee Meetings..... 11
- MAC Testimony to Committees 2



MEET YOUR MAC BOARD

KYLE HARRIS



Name: Kyle Harris
County/MAC Region: Saginaw/Region 6
Position: Director
County Service: Saginaw County Commissioner, 2017-Present

Profession: Government and aspiring small business manager

Previous public service: School volunteer

Why do you run for the MAC Board in March 2019, and what would you say to other commissioners considering a run?

I ran to be more involved with the organization and to have a greater say on state legislation. To be more involved with MAC will not only help Saginaw County, but allow me to better serve the residents that elected me. Furthermore, I feel that my experience, both in Saginaw and in the Legislature, allows me to provide a different outlook on the issues before us and to offer some insight. To others wanting to run, I would say to make sure you're running for the right reasons and be sincere about it. I would suggest listening to others and see what they have to offer for ideas and advice. Lastly, I believe it is important to have been involved with MAC before wanting to run for the Board of Directors.

DONALD PARKER



Name: Donald S. Parker
County/MAC Region: Livingston County/Region 4
Position: Director
County Service: Livingston County Board of Commissioners (2002-2010, 2013-Present), Chairman (2018-Present)

Profession: Attorney

Previous Public Service: Howell City Council (2001-2002)

Why do you run for the MAC Board in March 2019, and what would you say to other commissioners considering a run?

During the course of my recent efforts in Lansing on behalf of the counties in the area of indigent defense, I witnessed firsthand not only MAC's competence, but also its indispensability. Although I am incredibly proud of what my county has achieved, I realize that the other 82 counties exist and operate within the same parameters under the Michigan Constitution as my own, and that an organization such as MAC is needed to represent the interests of the 83 counties as a whole — this is important work. Moreover, MAC's membership could not be more diverse, and the opportunity to work toward common goals with counties ranging from Wayne (population 1,753,893) to Keweenaw (population 2,113) motivated me to run. I would say the following to other commissioners considering a run for the MAC Board: Run.



Take good care of the company you keep.

For more information on Blue Cross plans available to Michigan Association of Counties members, please contact the MAC Service Corporation at 800-336-2018 or contact a Blue Cross contracted agent.

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R047064

BEST PRACTICES

OAKLAND COUNTY RALLIES ATTENTION, VOLUNTEERS TO CAUSE OF HEALTHY LAKES

Oakland County's numerous lakes are getting the attention some experts say they deserve through the work of a program launched just two years ago by county leaders.

Now the county itself is getting some attention, thanks to the surging success of its Healthy Lakes Initiative. This spring, the county was named an Achievement Award winner by the National Association of Counties (NACo) in the category of Volunteerism, which is the heart of Oakland's efforts.

In early 2018, Oakland partnered with Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC)/Michigan Clean Water Corps (**MiCorps**) to launch Healthy Lakes in a county with more than 350 of them, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

Since then, the number of lakes being monitored has gone from 14 to 77 — and the number of volunteers has reached 83.

"Since the Cooperative Lake Monitoring program was organized in 1974, no other government (County or local) has sponsored so many volunteers to join this statewide program at one time. Oakland County has shown great initiative by demonstrating that they value the contributions of the lake monitoring volunteers and that they care about the water quality of the region," said Paul Steen, MiCorps program manager.

Key to all of this work is to have eager volunteers, with the training to do the technical work.

"The key partners, led by the (Board of Commissioners), worked together to recruit and train volunteers from across the county, hosting two free informational sessions in February and a required volunteer training session in May," Oakland County wrote to NACo award reviewers. "The (Board) also created a webpage to serve as a hub for information about the Healthy Lakes Initiative for those looking to learn more or to register for the volunteer training session (www.oakgov.com/healthylakes)."

"The volunteers are generating data that can be used to create management plans and possibly save lake residents a lot of headache and money, especially if they are able to detect invasive species and eliminate them before they can take hold of the lakes," explained MiCorps' Steen. "Other counties would do well to follow Oakland County's lead.



Photo courtesy of Oakland Press

Water quality of a lake is directly tied to the taxable value of a lakefront property. With a small investment, a county can maintain their tax base and, at the same time, improve lake residents' quality of life by keeping their lakes clean and protected from invasive species."

Seven new ways we're protecting Michigan's water

Trust is earned. We are committed to doing what it takes to uphold our pledge to protect our Great Lakes while safely meeting Michigan's energy needs.

We have been listening to the concerns of the people of Michigan about protecting water, and have formally

entered into an agreement with the State of Michigan. This agreement includes seven key actions that we are undertaking to move toward a long-term solution for the future of Line 5.

Learn more at enbridge.com/MichiganAgreement



65
YEARS

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energy in
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BEST PRACTICES

JACKSON, MACOMB JOIN OAKLAND IN WINNING NACO RECOGNITION

Oakland was just one Michigan county whose innovative practices were recognized this year by the National Association of Counties.

Jackson topped the NACo Achievement Awards Transportation category for its Road Recycling and Improvement Program: “The Jackson County Department of Transportation Road Recycling & Improvement Program is a comprehensive, large-scale approach to improve the condition and durability of the County’s 1,600-mile road system. As of 2018, approximately 41% of all county primary roads (220 miles) and 85% of county local roads (680 miles) were rated in poor condition and currently require reconstruction. Traditional construction methods cost approximately \$250,000-\$400,000+ per mile, requiring a \$300-\$400 million investment to fix all poor roads. In early 2018, the County took a bold and innovative step forward in solving this ominous problem by investing \$6 million to purchase an array of new cold-in-place recycling (CIR) equipment.”

Learn more about Jackson’s program in the **April 2019 edition of *Michigan Counties***.

Macomb was honored for a multiplicity of programs ranging from the **information tech** to **health** to arts and culture.

Seeing art as an important community asset, Macomb created a map and database for it since “installations of public art are widespread — with hundreds of pieces spread across its 479-square-mile footprint.” The Macomb County Interactive Map of Public Art was launched in August 2018. Using an assortment of technology-based tools, the county invited residents to contribute photos and information about public art across the county. The result is a crowdsourced map with more than 150 entries. Each entry includes a photo of the artwork and any known background information. In under a year, the map has been viewed more than 1,000 times with an average of four visits per day.”



Beyond Healthy Lakes, Oakland won for its annual Manufacturing Day: “In celebration of National Manufacturing Day, Oakland County Manufacturing Day takes place the first Friday of October each year. On October 5, 2018, over 1,000 high school students from seventeen Oakland County school districts and the four Oakland Schools Technical Centers visited 43 manufacturing companies across Oakland County. Since its inception in 2015, Oakland County Manufacturing Day has tripled in size and impacted thousands of students, encouraging them to pursue careers in advanced manufacturing through hands-on, interactive, engaging tours at some of Oakland County’s premier advanced manufacturing companies.”

Overall, NACo recognized 616 entries from counties and state associations in 32 states. All winners are available in a **searchable awards database**.

“MAC congratulates Jackson, Oakland and Macomb for these outstanding results,” said Executive Director Stephan Currie. “This shows how county leaders are working in our state to deploy ingenuity to better serve constituents.”

SHARE YOUR ‘BEST PRACTICES’ WITH MAC

From challenges come creativity, and boy have Michigan’s counties been challenged in the 21st century.

MAC continues to highlight how counties have found ways to continue or expand services in the most hostile of fiscal environments. Our “Best Practices” initiative isn’t a competition, but a celebration — of Great Lakes ingenuity, passion and plain ol’ grit.

Big or small, technical or simple, we want to hear how you have found a new way to serve your constituents.

Please send a brief description and contact information for the point person of your “Best Practice” to Derek Melot, melot@micounties.org.

For questions, call Melot at 517-372-5374.



HOW COUNTIES ARE TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

LEGISLATOR Q&A

SENATOR JIM STAMAS



Name: Sen. Jim Stamas

District/counties: 36th Senate District/
Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Gladwin,
Iosco, Midland, Montmorency, Oscoda,
Otsego and Presque Isle

Committees: Senate Appropriations
Committee (Chair)

Term #: 2

Previous public service: Three terms as state representative, two terms as Midland County commissioner and service as Midland Township trustee from 1997 to 2004.

What is the most pressing issue(s) facing Michigan now?

Jobs, education and an accountable government are my top priorities. We must improve our state to attract new opportunities, prepare our students for success, and ensure we have a government that efficiently and effectively works for the people.

Some of the largest issues facing our state today are reducing the cost of car insurance, fixing our aging roads and infrastructure, protecting our water, and growing our economy.

Based on your experience, how important are counties to the effective delivery of public services?

Counties are critical to effective public services. I have served my community as state senator, state representative, county commissioner and township trustee. With that experience, I have seen that the most effective services are local services — and without effective county government, many of the local services people rely on every day simply would not be available.

What has surprised you the most during your first 5 months as the Senate Appropriations Chairman?

Thankfully, my previous four years on the Senate Appropriations Committee prepared me well for the challenges of leading the committee. However, I don't think anyone expected the governor to propose a \$2.5 billion gas tax increase. So, that would have to be the biggest surprise so far.

The message from the Senate has been clear that a comprehensive road funding solution should be debated separately from passing a balanced budget. Do you think this is possible knowing the Governor's position to potentially veto a budget that doesn't include increased road funding?

I think that it is possible and that we owe it to Michigan families, schools and local governments to finalize a

balanced budget on time using real revenues — and then focus on a comprehensive, long-term road funding solution.

It's not just about more funding; the governor is also proposing a new way to distribute that new road funding. Both of these are large and complex issues that deserve our full attention — outside of the budget process.

Given the facts that revenue sharing is the only unrestricted appropriation to counties and the funding gap between counties versus cities, township and villages continues to grow, do you think the state will lessen the revenue sharing disparity through budget negotiations and/or long-term local finance reforms?

I have long supported taking a serious look at long-term local financing reform to help locals meet the needs of their residents and address pressing issues, such as unfunded liabilities.

Over the past several years, I have worked hard to increase funding for our counties. I will continue to fight to wisely invest our limited state tax dollars, and I believe our counties are a place where we need to keep investing.



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LEGISLATOR Q&A

REPRESENTATIVE BRANDT IDEN



Name: Brandt Iden

District/counties: District 61/Kalamazoo

Committees: House Ways & Means
(Chair)

Term #: 3

Previous public service: Member, Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners (2 terms)

What is the most pressing issue facing Michigan now?

Our state needs to address our failing roads and infrastructure. In the fall of 2015, I supported a funding proposal to provide \$1.2 billion in road funding by the end of 2021. This was a great step towards infrastructure improvement. I am also hopeful for cooperation between the Legislature and the Governor on next steps to ensure safe and reliable Michigan infrastructure across our state.

Based on your experience, how important are counties to the effective delivery of public services?

Counties are of utmost importance when it comes to delivery of public services. In my two terms as a Kalamazoo

County Commissioner, I experienced firsthand the true impact of county leadership for the community.

As the Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, what have you found to be most beneficial about the new committee structure in the House?

It has been an honor to be a part of this new committee structure because it truly benefits all of Michigan. A dual review process allows for increased deliberation and collaboration between members of the Legislature, the Executive branch, stakeholders, and members of the public. With this system, we are better able to understand and address the needs of our state.

What have you found to be the most rewarding about your service to your constituents since taking office?

The most fulfilling part of the job has certainly been the day-to-day assistance that myself and my staff can offer to the residents of my district. These people are my community, my neighbors, and my friends. Having the ability to step in when a constituent is confused, frustrated, or in need is hugely rewarding and is a great way to serve those who have trusted in my leadership.

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