

SOUTH PIERHEAD LIGHTS,  
OTTAWA COUNTY

# MICHIGAN COUNTIES

Established in 1839, two lights on the south pier, both painted red, are connected by a lighted catwalk that also connects them to the shore and the Boardwalk. People often enjoy a stroll along the boardwalk that borders the Grand River channel and the pier, making the Grand Haven lighthouse one of the most photographed lighthouses in the Midwest.



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## ON THE COVER

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# Letter from the Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Currie'.

**STEPHAN W. CURRIE**  
MAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**“It may not surprise you that when MAC staff moved to remote work in March 2020, I did not have a binder on my shelf labeled “What to do for a statewide member association in the middle of a pandemic.” ”**

A few weeks from now, more than 300 people will gather — in accordance with all applicable public health regulations — on Mackinac Island for our 2021 Annual Conference.

When I step to the podium on the conference’s first full day, it will be with a tremendous sense of relief and pride — relief that we are finally gathering in person again; pride in how our members and your MAC staff have risen to the crisis of this pandemic.

It may not surprise you that when MAC staff moved to remote work in March 2020, I did not have a binder on my shelf labeled “What to do for a statewide member association in the middle of a pandemic.” We now know plenty of actions to take, and some steps not to. Trial and error can be a tough training regimen, but I would argue that what you will see at the Annual Conference is proof of success.

As we did before the pandemic, we will bring state leaders and policy thinkers together to share ideas and knowledge with you. As we did before the pandemic, we will conduct Board elections and review and approve policy platforms. As we did before the pandemic, we will share stories and insights to assist each other with common challenges.

Keynote and plenary speakers will focus on leadership, budgeting and tourism:

Darryl Ross, for example, is an author and motivational speaker who speaks on leadership throughout the United States.

Bethany Wicksall, who became deputy state budget director for Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in spring 2021, knows more about the state budget than most of the people you see on TV out of Lansing.

And Dave Lorenz was there at the beginning of the highly popular Pure Michigan tourism campaign.

Appropriately, considering the conference’s location at one of Michigan’s tourism capitals, the Monday sessions will close with a presentation on tourism and the Pure Michigan campaign by Dave Lorenz.

That just covers the main sessions on Monday. Policy breakouts scattered across two days will go in depth on local taxation systems, broadband, dam regulation, affordable housing and much more. Plus we will hold our Annual Business Meeting to review and approve policy platforms for the coming year. (Check our website for access to the proposed drafts.)

I look forward to seeing familiar and new faces on Mackinac Island. In the meantime, let me know if I or your MAC staff can assist in any way. ♦

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To pay, visit MAC's digital payment center at [micounties.org/macsc](http://micounties.org/macsc).



# Letter from the President



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Veronica Klinefelt".

**VERONICA KLINEFELT**  
PRESIDENT, MAC BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS

**“We have lost much, but we also have learned and gained much as our counties and the people who serve them rose time and again to unprecedented challenges.”**

As I write this, I am passing my second anniversary since taking the oath to be MAC’s president for my one-year term.

Only a handful of people have ever served as leader of this organization for more than a single year, MAC staff tell me, and while I certainly did not expect to still hold this post in 2021 when I took the oath at the Grand Traverse Resort in August 2019, I remain ever thankful for the opportunity.

After all, life gives, and life takes.

A typical MAC presidency would have led me from the Grand Traverse podium to a year of NACo meetings, presiding over a Legislative Conference in Lansing and then handing the reins to Phil Kuyers at our Annual Conference in Kalamazoo County in 2020. What simpler, easier times those may have been.

Yet, with all the tragedy, all the illness, all the change we have seen since COVID landed on us in March 2020, I write to you today, in my last message as your president, in a spirit of gratitude and hope.

We have lost much, but we also have learned and gained much as our counties and the people who serve them rose time and again to unprecedented challenges. Even just in the world of MAC, we discovered we were able to “meet,” to learn and to help each other without ever being in the same room.

Our advocacy efforts continued and have shown amazing results. We are now wrestling with how best to use a historic infusion of dollars for county services – dollars we have long thought we would never see.

Four-year terms for county commissioners, a goal of so many of my colleagues since long before I joined the Macomb County Board, may become a reality this fall. That would be a very nice Christmas present, in my book.

As attendees at next month’s Annual Conference will hear from Executive Director Stephan Currie, MAC’s finances are strong and stable.

MAC educational efforts continued, and we celebrate our first graduating “class” from **County Commissioner Academy** at the 2021 Virtual Legislative Conference.

All through the pandemic, MAC staff and I met with counterparts from the organizations of countywide elected officials to leverage the power of collective action.

Yes, there have been grim moments and strain since that oath in August 2019, but I will remain ever thankful for the opportunity you gave me. ♦

# Data, funding concerns loom over juvenile justice efforts

BY MEGHANN KEIT/MAC GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS ASSOCIATE

## Juvenile Justice



**“Beyond the task force, MAC is dealing with legislative initiatives that continue to erode sources of funding that counties rely on to support our juveniles.”**

Juvenile Justice reform continues to be a topic of conversation in Lansing, even while implementation of the “Raise the Age” reforms looms on Oct. 1 and permanent solutions to trial court funding remain elusive.

Last year, a story out of Michigan courtroom generated national attention. A 15-year-old from Detroit, Grace, was sent to detention for violating her probation on earlier charges of theft and assault by failing to do her online schoolwork. “But while Grace’s case may have been extreme, it reflects a practice that is common and emblematic of Michigan’s archaic and fragmented juvenile justice system, a ProPublica investigation has found,” ProPublica reported. (See story at <https://bit.ly/3k3ZMXB>.)

Not surprisingly, a lack of data was at the core of the investigation — something courts and counties have been aware of for years and was reinforced most recently throughout the Raise the Age funding debate as data collection and findings were difficult to centralize.

While proposals have been explored, the state has not taken steps to improve their system or invest in technology that works with county-based systems and pulls adequate and informative data to help drive policy solutions.

Earlier this year, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer established a bipartisan task force on

juvenile justice reform (see <https://bit.ly/3stzWQz>) chaired by Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist. Its focus will be analyzing our juvenile justice system and recommending proven practices and strategies for reform grounded in data, research and fundamental constitutional principles. The state has contracted with a qualified research vendor, the Council of State Governments Justice Center. While research by this group has been conducted in many states, Michigan’s project will be much different as a decentralized and locally driven model. And though Michigan is different, that doesn’t necessarily mean the system is “broken.” In fact, it is MAC’s hope that the good work of our family court and juvenile justice staff is also recognized.

MAC will be represented by two county commissioners on the task force: Alisha Bell of Wayne County and Marlene Webster of Shiawassee County. Both have extensive knowledge and background with juvenile justice and youth-focused work.

Beyond the task force, MAC is dealing with legislative initiatives that continue to erode sources of funding that counties rely on to support our juveniles. Bills to eliminate the ability for courts to access and collect costs associated with juvenile justice services were introduced in June, for example:

**House Bill 4987**, by Rep Kara Hope (D-Ingham), would prohibit any court-ordered fee or costs associated with consent calendar services. It removes the ability for any reasonable reimbursement, which under current law requires the court to consider the juvenile’s income and resources to be assessed for services under the consent calendar.

**HB 4988**, by Rep. Bronna Kahle (R-Lenawee), would prohibit reimbursement for diversion services.

**HB 4989**, by Rep. Sarah Lightner (R-Jackson), eliminates the assessment on a DNA sample for juveniles, in which revenues from assessments help support the jail reimbursement program fund and the court equity fund.

**HB 4990**, by Rep. Joe Tate (D-Wayne), prohibits any reimbursement by the “juvenile or those responsible for the juvenile’s support” for costs of care outside of the juvenile’s home.

**HB 4991**, by Rep. Julie Calley (R-Ionia), eliminates any late fees for juveniles.

MAC largely opposes **HBs 4987** and **4990**, as introduced, as they remove the ability of courts to assess costs completely, without a revenue replacement to ensure our counties can fund care and services to juveniles, cannot be expected to produce good outcomes. County Commissioners face difficult financial decisions as budget constraints tighten. Despite an influx of federal monies, juvenile justice efforts and resources are not a one-time expense- it’s ongoing. And as MAC members know, ongoing funds from the state are difficult to rely on based on our past history. ♦

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## MAC policy platform drafts are now ready for member review

MAC's Annual Business Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 9 a.m. in the Theater of the Grand Hotel during the 2021 Michigan Counties Annual Conference.

County commissioners who are registered for the conference may participate as voting members in the business meeting, which includes review and approval of MAC's 2021-2022 policy platforms.

The platform process begins with MAC's policy committees, which meet during the year to address key issues. Their drafts are then submitted to the MAC Board of Directors for review. The MAC Board then advances the drafts to the membership for final approval.

Those Board-vetted drafts are now available on the MAC website. From the homepage, go to the "Advocacy" tab and then click on "MAC Committees and Platforms." (Please note that this is a password-protected page. Each member county has a set of access credentials, which are shared each year with your county administrator. If you do not have your credentials, contact Hannah Sweeney at [sweeney@micounties.org](mailto:sweeney@micounties.org) for them.)

### *According to MAC's By-laws (Article III, Section 6):*

"A member wishing to submit an amendment to the MAC Platform shall submit the amendment to MAC at least five (5) days prior to the opening day of the MAC Annual Conference. Such amendment will require a majority vote at the annual meeting to be adopted.

"An amendment to the MAC Platform may be presented from the floor during the annual meeting. Such amendment will require a 2/3 majority vote of the members at the meeting at which a quorum is initially established to be adopted."

To submit a platform amendment in advance, draft your preferred language and email to [sweeney@micounties.org](mailto:sweeney@micounties.org) no later than Sept. 21, 2021.

## Conference sessions to focus on leadership, budget, tourism

Keynote and plenary speakers for the **2021 Michigan Counties Annual Conference** will focus on the themes of leadership, budget and tourism during the event's largest sessions on Monday, Sept. 27.



Darryl Ross, an author and motivational speaker who speaks on leadership throughout the country, will be the Monday morning keynoter.



**ROSS**

Ross' fascinating career has taken him from the classrooms of James Madison University, to traveling the world as an entertainer and performer, to his singular passion of sharing his faith, knowledge and experience to motivate people to live their dreams. For the past 15 years, Ross has provided keynotes, presentations and trainings throughout the country to such groups as the Virginia Business Education Conference, the DCRA Management Expo and the Loudoun Water Leadership Conference.

Also speaking at the Monday morning Plenary session are two familiar faces for Michigan county leaders:

MAC Executive Director Stephan Currie, who will provide his semi-annual "State of MAC" report

MAC Governmental Affairs Director Deena Bosworth, who will present a "MAC Legislative Update" focused on priorities and challenges for the fall session days of the Michigan Legislature

Keynoting the Monday afternoon Plenary session will be Bethany Wicksall, who became deputy state budget director for Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in spring 2021.

A graduate of Michigan State University's James Madison College, Wicksall oversees general operations of the State Budget Office, including direction of the budget development process. Prior to joining the State Budget Office, Wicksall worked 18 years in both the House and Senate fiscal agencies.

Wicksall will provide county leaders an in-depth look at the state budget process, particularly as it relates to county funding.

Appropriately, considering the conference's location at one of Michigan's tourism capitals, the Monday sessions will close with a presentation on tourism and the Pure Michigan campaign by Dave Lorenz.

Lorenz serves as vice president of Travel Michigan where he is responsible for leading the state's tourism branding, advertising and public relations efforts; overseeing the award-winning Pure Michigan tourism campaign; and coordinating overall statewide tourism initiatives. Prior to coming to Travel Michigan in October 2002, Lorenz was the Manager, Partnerships and Promotions, for Meijer, Inc.



CORKIN

Corkin Drive will provide access to the local airport and the SEI Facility, among other locations.

Corkin, who served on the MAC Board of Directors in the '00s, first joined the Marquette board in 1985 and has been a diligent supporter of MAC's policy work.

Congratulations to Commissioner Corkin!



## MAC resumes in-person events with 4 Regional Summits

The 2021 MAC Regional Summit series drew approximately 150 county

leaders to four different locations around Michigan in late July, the first in-person MAC events since the outbreak of COVID-19.

Presentation slides are now available on MAC's website (see <https://bit.ly/3AURN69>) on such topics as affordable housing, navigating ARP funding requirements and risk mitigation.

MAC also provided video feeds from the July 29 summit in Otsego County. Go to MAC's Facebook page (see <https://www.facebook.com/Mlcounties/>) to view them.

"It was good to be able to gather county leaders again, since an important part of these sessions is the opportunity for commissioners from different counties to share concerns and tips with each other," said Executive Director Stephan Currie.

## Marquette's Corkin honored by colleagues

Gerry Corkin, who has served more than 30 years as the chair of the Marquette County Board of Commissioners, was honored in June with the naming of street. Gerald



SHOTWELL

## Former Jackson commissioner passes

James Shotwell, Sr., who served on the Jackson County Board of Commissioners for a decade in the 1990s, passed away on July 12.

He first joined the Jackson Board in 1989 and it served as its chair from 1990-94. He also served as vice chair in 1989 and 1997-98. He left the board at the end of 1998.

Shotwell's son, James, Jr. (Steve) told MLive that his father's county service inspired him to serve on the Jackson Board. Shotwell, Jr. has been chair of the Jackson Board since 2006.



MCLEAN

## Houghton county sheriff passes

Houghton County Sheriff Brian McLean, the dean of Michigan's sheriff corps, passed away on July 20. At the time of his passing, he was in his 26th year as Houghton sheriff. "He was a fixture and leader for Houghton County," said Houghton County Administrator Ben Larson. "He was well liked and respected, and he loved people and his job."

"Sheriff McLean (Slim) will be greatly missed," added Mackinac County Sheriff Edward Wilk. "His years of service and dedication to law enforcement and to the people of Houghton County was nothing short of admirable." ♦

# One word for Michigan's tax system: Unsustainable

BY ERIC LUPHER/PRESIDENT, CITIZENS RESEARCH COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN

**“In 2004, 36 of the 83 county tax levies yielded per capita collections less than state average. This is significant because these counties would be the first to deplete their reserves.”**

The Citizens Research Council's newest report, *Michigan's Overlapping Property Tax Limitations Create an Unsustainable Municipal Finance System*, looks at the ability of local governments to fund services with the property tax, specifically Michigan's multiple, overlapping tax limitations.

Among other changes, the constitutional 1978 Headlee Amendment limits property tax revenue growth. It requires local governments to reduce — rollback — the maximum authorized tax rate if the tax base increases faster than inflation. The unit-wide application of this limit left some taxpayers dissatisfied.

That dissatisfaction led to the inclusion of a new assessment limit as part of the 1994 Proposal A school finance reform. It created a new tax base, called taxable value (TV), and capped the annual growth of TV to five percent or inflation, whichever is less, excluding the value of new construction.

Our analysis found that without the Great Recession from 2007 to 2009, most local governments would be as well off with either limitation. Each works toward the same ends in different ways.

The Great Recession was a game changer. Most local governments benefited from having the Proposal A tax limitation in place because it minimized both erosion of assessed values and tax rate rollbacks.

We found that there is a growing disconnect between market values and the tax bases of local governments. TVs are growing at slower rates since the end of the Great Recession than they were before it.

As a mechanism to fund local services, the Michigan property tax system is not sustainable. Growth in tax bases in Michigan comes from 1) appreciation, 2) the uncapping of TV at the time of sale, and 3) new development. However, appreciation is capped and uncappings lead to tax rate rollbacks. It is only by attracting new development that tax bases can grow at or above the rate of inflation. Local governments that have attracted new development have fared the best

under the overlapping tax limitations. That is not sustainable because land is finite and urban sprawl strains precious resources.

We found that local governments have responded to constraints on their tax bases by increasing tax rates. For instance, over 80 percent of the local governments in Oakland County have increased their tax rates since 2007. This too is not sustainable as state law limits tax rates.

## What can be done?

Re-instating Headlee tax rate rollups — they were ended in 1993 — would provide very little relief. Tax rates change very little with both tax limitations compared to when the Headlee Amendment worked on its own.

On the other hand, ending tax rate rollbacks would provide relief. Taxpayers would still enjoy the protections of TV system, but local governments would benefit from “uncappings” when property is sold.

Local governments also would benefit from changing the method of measuring taxpayers' ability to support government. The Headlee Amendment's drafters recognized that the tax and revenue limitations should not be static. They allowed them to adjust as the economy evolves. They based adjustments to the state government revenue limit based on state personal income growth. They pegged growth of local property tax revenues to inflation.

Inflation has grown relatively slowly. Using the growth of personal income would put the state and local governments on equal footing. The implicit price deflator for state and local governments would recognize that the cost of operating a local government is different than running a household.

Local governments are overly dependent on property taxes and no changes to the tax limitations are going to fix that. Diversification of the revenue sources, as I discussed in this space a few months ago, would provide the stability of property taxes and the responsiveness of sales or income taxes to the economic activity that characterize your counties. ♦



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.



# HIGH PERFORMANCE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



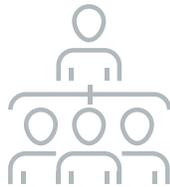
Counties affect the lives of residents every day. When our frontline staff are empowered as leaders, we deliver services more effectively. **The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy is a resource that connects your staff with practical leadership training.** HPLA uses an innovative, interactive online learning platform that combines real-time webinars, recorded sessions and small group discussions to deliver effective training without traveling away from the county – saving money and maximizing time.

## THE ACADEMY FOCUSES ON FIVE ESSENTIAL SKILLS:



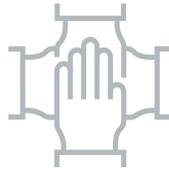
### LEAD:

Engage teams and stakeholders to foster positive climates and exceed common expectations



### ORGANIZE:

Plan, lead and execute organizational change more effectively and consistently



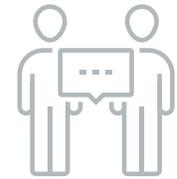
### COLLABORATE:

Establish alignment and strong partnerships through building stronger relationships



### DELIVER:

Measure projects and processes to deliver results aligned with county and community priorities



### COMMUNICATE:

Create clarity, confidence and community

The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy empowers frontline county government professionals with fundamental, practical leadership skills to deliver results for counties and residents.

HPLA's enrollment fee is \$1,995 per participant. The first enrollee from each NACo member county will receive a one-time NACo scholarship of \$1,000 and a \$500 discount, reducing the fee to \$495. Additional enrollees receive a discount based on the number of enrollees per county.

With a curriculum developed by *General Colin Powell* and public and private sector leaders, NACo High Performance Leadership Academy gives students the opportunity to learn from world-class faculty. All content is guided by an expert facilitator.

**Find out more at [NACo.org/Skills](https://www.naco.org/Skills)**



# Muskegon County sees bright future with new convention complex

BY MARK EISENBARTH/ADMINISTRATOR, MUSKEGON COUNTY

Mark Eisenbarth is president of the Michigan Association of County Administrative Officers' Board.

**“The ease of movement among these venues and unique and innovative design will allow the center to host anywhere from 100 to a whopping 2,750 attendees.”**

Muskegon County recently debuted its newest and largest convention space, the VanDyk Mortgage Convention Center. The center is the result of a partnership between the County of Muskegon, City of Muskegon and Parkland Properties of Michigan. The combined efforts of this partnership, along with with the owner representative, Construction Simplified, and the state of Michigan, has resulted in West Michigan's first state-of-the-art convention center in a lakefront community.

VanDyk offers 16,550 square feet of contiguous meeting space, 3,050 square feet of adjacent meeting space and 8,100 square feet of pre-function space. Connected to the facility is the newly renovated 200-room Delta Hotel by Marriott, offering an additional 10,000 square feet of hotel meeting space, with up to 13 breakout rooms.

Also connected to VanDyk is the newly renovated Mercy Health Arena. The ease of movement among these venues and unique and innovative design will allow the center to host anywhere from 100 to a whopping 2,750 attendees. The County of Muskegon's convention and visitors bureau, Visit Muskegon, is aggressively marketing the space.



“The tremendous growth Muskegon is currently experiencing paired with the variety of unique meeting venues and new restaurants make Muskegon a great location for association, government and corporate meetings,” said Bob Lukens, CDME, director of Visit Muskegon. “The VanDyk Mortgage Convention Center will make Muskegon County a very competitive destination in West Michigan for meetings and small- to medium-sized conventions and trade shows.”

The location of the VanDyk is hard to beat. Set in the middle of downtown Muskegon, it is surrounded by unique, locally owned restaurants, breweries, distilleries and shops, all within walking distance. The center is currently booking for the remainder of 2021 and beyond. The county



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- Providing forums for information exchange and experiences while delivering solutions to common challenges
- Offering guidance and best practices from educational, governmental and professional organizations to members searching for leading edge practices in public administration
- Promoting and advancing high ethical standards and values as a foundation of managing Michigan public organizations



has identified convention/event business as a key driver for economic growth because year-round meetings, conventions and consumer shows support our local hospitality-related businesses, bringing new visitors and revenues to Muskegon throughout the year. This economic stimulation of downtown Muskegon brings opportunities for increased growth of existing businesses and new business prospects for local, regional and national businesses, not only in the City of Muskegon, but throughout the entire County.

Contact Visit Muskegon at 231-724-1105 or Caitlin Hegedus at [caitlin@visitmuskegon.org](mailto:caitlin@visitmuskegon.org) if you wish to learn more. ♦



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# Consultants stand ready to aid counties on navigating ARP

BY PENNY SAITES/MAC SERVICE CORP.

**“The vendors chosen through this process are prequalified to provide various services to the counties based on their individual needs ...”**

In response to the American Rescue Plan (ARP) signed into law in March, the Michigan Association of Counties recognized the need to assist counties interested in utilizing the ARP funding. Through MAC’s procurement partnership with the CoPro+ Program, four consulting services contracts were executed after a competitive bid process. The following companies were selected for contract awards:

- Guidehouse
- iParametrics
- Pierce, Monroe & Associates
- Public Sector Consultants

The vendors chosen through this process are prequalified to provide various services to the counties based on their individual needs, such as financial accounting, oversight monitoring, auditing, and/or reporting services. The tasks may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Inventory funding opportunities along with requirements for obtaining, utilizing, and accounting
2. Assist in administering federal and state grant monies
3. Track and manage progress (applications made, receipts, distributions, etc.)



4. Provide project reports
5. Project auditing
6. Project budgeting
7. Financial forecasting
8. Recommend internal controls
9. Schedule and conduct/assist in meetings
10. Other activities as deemed beneficial for the outcomes, and as mutually agreed to by the participating county and the Contractor

Interested counties are encouraged to contact the vendors to obtain quotes based on their individual needs, and subsequently issue a purchase order to the company they choose to work with. See the **COVID Aid Consulting page** at [www.coproplus.org](http://www.coproplus.org) for contact information and links to the contracts. These contractors are qualified and stand ready to assist our MAC members. ♦



**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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Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network are nonprofit corporations and independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

FD4706-J

## COVID-19 Relief Consulting Services

CoPro+ is a program that provides public entities with the opportunity to collaboratively procure valuable goods and services at competitive prices, while receiving a dividend as a reward for being a shareholder in the program.

### AVAILABLE CONTRACTS:

The Covid-19 Relief Consulting Service contracts are hosted by Livingston County; however, available to all counties. They were competitively bid and approved through the county's procurement process and are posted at [coproplus.org](http://coproplus.org).

The vendors chosen through this process are prequalified to provide various services to the counties to assist them in managing the Covid-19 Relief funds allocated through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The contracts will offer a means to counties to receive financial accounting, oversight monitoring, auditing, and/or reporting services as required for each individual project.

### Four Contracts Were Awarded

#### Guidehouse

Jeff Bankowski  
[jbankowski@guidehouse.com](mailto:jbankowski@guidehouse.com)  
734-644-0595

#### iParametrics

Michelle Erste  
[michelle.erste@iparametrics.com](mailto:michelle.erste@iparametrics.com)  
Direct: 770-290-1477  
Cell: 770-238-7408

#### Pierce, Monroe & Associates

Kim Ball  
[kbball@pierce-monroe.com](mailto:kbball@pierce-monroe.com)  
313-961-8419

#### Public Sector Consultants

Misty Elliott  
[melliott@publicsectorconsultants.com](mailto:melliott@publicsectorconsultants.com)  
517-371-7434

### PROCESS:

The contractor will deploy a team of one or more professionals to the requesting county. The number of staff required will vary with each county and will depend on the individual needs of each county.

The contractor will work at the direction of each county's designated lead to help them determine proper use and distribution of the funds to intended beneficiaries, recordkeeping, compliance for SEFA and dashboard-like reporting to governing boards and other community stakeholders. The county will have access to the full range of the contractor's knowledge and tools will be updated daily on what the contractor learns from its federal expert sources and from experiences/insight from similar projects in other states.

Prior to closing the contracts, the contractor will provide a roadmap and recommendations for continued use of tracking and reporting tools, and any other knowledge transfer to key county personnel to successfully complete in progress tasks/outcomes.

### BENEFITS:

- Reduced workload for your staff
- Competitive pricing
- User interface is easy to use
- Approvals can be set by management so proper procedures are met
- Interface provides valuable reporting tools so managers can see purchasing trends of many organizations
- Fulfills shared services category of EVIP
- Pays dividend back based on participating contracts

CoPro+ is a time and cost savings program. It offers strong collaboration between the private and public sector, allowing the program to save your organization valuable dollars. The collaborative procurement program provides your organization assistance in every phase of the supply chain, ensuring quality products and services brought to you in the most efficient, cost-effective manner.

For more information, visit [www.coproplus.org](http://www.coproplus.org)

#### THE TASK MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

- Inventory finding opportunities along with requirements for obtaining, utilizing, and accounting
- Assist in administering Federal and State grant monies
- Track and manage progress (applications made, receipts, distributions, etc.)
- Provide project reports
- Project auditing
- Project budgeting
- Financial forecasting
- Recommend internal controls
- Schedule and conduct/assist in meetings
- Other activities as deemed beneficial for the outcomes, and as mutually agreed to by the participating county and the Contractor

# What's happening in Michigan on improving policing

BY MATT SAXTON/MICHIGAN SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

*Matt Saxton is executive director of the Michigan Sheriffs' Association.*

**“Constant improvement and the growth of our profession to meet the needs of modern society must be sought in earnest, but with eyes wide open to avoid the extremes of modern politics.”**



The murder of George Floyd at the hands of a criminal in a uniform has led to calls for police reform, “defunding” and myriad other terms expressing outrage at what happened and a yearning for something to be done. The Michigan Sheriffs’ Association (MSA) recognizes that situation for what it was and is: a murder. The MSA Board issued a statement condemning the act and recommending changes to improve police/community relations. I hope county leaders recognize MSA as an agent of reasonable change. Constant improvement and the growth of our profession to meet the needs of modern society must be sought in earnest, but with eyes wide open to avoid the extremes of modern politics.

The time for investment in policing is now. And along with investment we must seek to make tangible, lasting change that will protect public safety, the safety of individuals encountering police and officers. As the only elected law enforcement officer in the world, the Office of Sheriff has this unique charge: to constantly improve and consistently earn

the trust of those who have placed trust in us.

A package of policing bills now in the Michigan Senate is a mixed bag. MSA supports much of the package, in concept, but has taken a position of “Opposed as Written” on the bills in their introduced state. We have been working carefully and closely with Judiciary Committee Chair Sen. Roger Victory (R-Ottawa) on improving the bills; have testified extensively before the committee; and hope that some of them can be improved:

**Senate Bill 473** requires the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) to develop guidelines for the investigation of an officer involved shooting and requires MCOLES to approve local guidelines that are adopted. (MSA suggests a longer timeline, while generally supporting development of sample guidelines based on best-practices and adoption by agencies of policies that meet those guidelines.)

**SB 474** requires any violation of a use of

force policy to be kept in the separation of service record. (MSA is unclear on the requirement for only use of force policy violations to be kept forever, and is trying to learn the goal of this bill.)

**SB 475** requires MCOLES to revoke a license if the officer has committed a use of force violation resulting in serious injury or death. (MSA has technical concerns with this bill, such as how guilt is determined, and the definition of “serious injury” is so broad as to include use of a taser.)

**SB 476** provides for default anonymous complaints against police officers. (MSA sees no way to improve this bill and opposes default anonymous complaints because they generally cannot be investigated.)

**SB 478** bans chokeholds by police officers. (MSA has recommended technical changes.)

**SB 479** effectively eliminates search warrants by requiring a search warrant to state if, how and why force may be used to execute a search warrant. (MSA supports Michigan’s no knock search warrant ban and is interested in strengthening it.)

**SB 480** requires police agencies to adopt a duty to intervene policy. (MSA has recommended technical changes.)

**SB 481** requires police agencies to adopt a use of force policy. (MSA has recommended technical changes.)

**SB 482** requires MCOLES to establish additional training standards for some areas of policing and specific hour requirements for officers. (MSA notes that members already are struggling to pay for a single day of training for deputies and sheriffs receive no funding to backfill staff shifts when they send someone to training.)

**SB 483** requires MCOLES to issue a report on recruiting. (MSA recommends this report be placed in budget boilerplate and funded.)

**SB 484** includes tampering with a body camera in the tampering with evidence statute. (MSA has suggested technical amendments.) ♦

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# Robert Showers and Joe Bonovetz



**ROBERT SHOWERS**

**Name:** Robert Showers

**County/MAC Region:** Clinton/  
Region IV

**Board Position:** Director

**County Service:** Clinton County commissioner for 20 years; past chair of county board

**Profession:** Retired insurance executive

**Previous Public Service:** City councilman and mayor for the city of DeWitt; board member for the Capital Area Michigan Works; board member for the State Michigan Works Association; board member for the Capital Region International Airport Authority; founding member of the Capital Council of Governments; member of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership; and chair of the Next Michigan Development Corporation.

## What is the single most important project you want your county to tackle with American Rescue Plan funds? Why?

I strongly favor the expansion of broadband fiber optic internet service for the more rural and underserved areas of Clinton County. My desire for wider fiber optic availability is not completely altruistic in nature. Broadband fiber optic availability is one of the primary services that families or singles consider when determining the suitability of a particular geographic preference for building or buying a home. County property tax revenue will be enhanced if this service is widely available throughout a county.



**JOE BONOVELTZ**

**Name:** Joe Bonovetz

**County/MAC Region:** Gogebic/  
Region I

**Board Position:** Director

**County Service:** Commissioner, 2007-present

**Profession:** Retired USPS letter carrier

**Previous Public Service:** Member, Bessemer City Council, 1977-2001

## What is the single most important project you want your county to tackle with American Rescue Plan funds? Why?

At this point, Gogebic County is continuing to study the information being put out by MAC and NACo on what is allowable under ARP. They have both been excellent resources. We have only had one informal request for funding assistance so far. That came from engineers for the local sewer authority concerning two failing lift stations for the local hospital. Obviously, we are anticipating more requests in the future.

Broadband and the RDOF program will be looked at once AEG, the company that won the UP bid, provides more specific information in the future. Gogebic County plans to wait 12 months to see what other units have done and what, if any, changes may be added to the ARP that were not anticipated at the time the ARP was established. The county is very grateful for this financial opportunity, but we will proceed with caution. ♦

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# Rep. Kevin Hertel

LEGISLATOR  
Q&A

## What is the most pressing issue facing Michigan now?

While the most pressing issue facing our state remains COVID-19, the pandemic has brought to the forefront a number of critical infrastructure issues that our state must address if we want to be a leader in job growth, health, and sustainability. We must adequately fund and support our education system, health departments, and water infrastructure in addition to the needed work on our roads and bridges to create truly sustainable infrastructure for future generations.

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

Lansing is by design a slow-moving ship, but counties are nimble. They provide a crucial mid-step between local communities and the state, as we saw with COVID vaccine distribution. I thank all our county health departments for the work they've been doing and continue to do. Beyond their work during this pandemic, counties have and continue to provide vital services in health care, education and infrastructure, which are three of my top concerns.

## As a sponsor of the bottle deposit bill package that passed out of the House, how will the reforms impact recycling across the state and consumers?

Bottle recycling in Michigan typically hovers around the 90 percent mark. Compared to our residential recycling rates of about 15 percent, we have a robust bottle and can recycling program. However, we have put the functionality of the system on the backs of the distributors, who are responsible for implementing the law without any compensation for doing so. This bill would allow for the reinvestment of funds into recycling programs, building better recycling infrastructure for both consumers and producers. We must use this incredibly effective carrot to promote sustainable recycling programs statewide — and not just for bottles and cans.

## As more federal guidance becomes available related to the billions of dollars allocated to the state from the American Rescue Plan, what are some of your priorities for use of the funds?

The requirement that ARP dollars be used for “transformational” projects is the best guidepost we can receive. There are two areas in which I Michigan is poised for genuine transformation through the correct allocation of these dollars: education and water infrastructure. This year, we passed the biggest education budget in my history as a legislator, one which filled holes and closed gaps inadvertently created by Proposal A. I would like to see this level of funding only continue to rise over the next several years for our K-12 schools, including money for capital improvements, as well as a reinvestment in our skilled trades training. We are facing a massive exit from this section of the workforce as people retire, and we need to ensure that we are training young Michiganders to fill these careers in their stead.

I am fully on board with fixing our roads, but a piece of infrastructure that has historically been overlooked is that which serves our water. In Macomb County, Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller has been a fierce advocate for improvements. I was proud to write a letter to the chairs of both chambers' appropriations committees supporting funding for Commissioner Miller's projects, and even more gratified that it was signed by every member of the Macomb County legislative delegation.

## Sen. Jeremy Moss and Sen. Ed McBroom sponsored legislation which would alter county commissioner elections to every four years. The legislation is now before the House Committee on Local Government and Municipal Finance. Would you support this effort if it reaches the House floor?

I support a shift to four-year terms for most elected positions. The cycle of barely having a year under you when the election cycle begins again has detrimental effects to collaboration and positive governance. ♦



**Name:** Rep. Kevin Hertel

**District/counties:** 18th/Macomb County

**Committees:** Regulatory Reform, Minority Vice Chair; Rules and Competitiveness

**Term #:** 3rd

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