



MAC
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES



**MICHIGAN
COUNTIES**
Legislative Conference

2025

April 7-9, 2025
DoubleTree Hotel, Lansing

AGENDA

At-A-Glance

MONDAY | APRIL 7, 2025

TIME	EVENT	ROOM
3PM	Registration Desk Opens	Pre-Function Area (second floor)
4PM-5PM	MAC Board of Directors Meeting	MAC Offices, 110 W. Michigan Ave.
5:30PM-6:30PM	Strolling Dinner Premier Partners Vendor Showcase	Capitol Ballroom

TUESDAY | APRIL 8, 2025

TIME	EVENT	ROOM
7:30AM	Registration Desk Opens	Pre-Function Area (second floor)
7:30AM-8:15AM	Breakfast and Welcome	Capitol Ballroom
8:15AM-9:15AM	POD 1: Your Association at Work in 2025	Capitol Ballroom
9:15AM-10AM	POD 2: What is Changing in Washington, D.C.	Capitol Ballroom
10AM-10:15AM	Networking Break with Premier Partner Vendors	Pre-Function Area (second floor)
10:15AM-11AM	POD 3: Addressing Michigan's Juvenile Bed Shortage	Capitol Ballroom
11AM-11:45AM	POD 4: Dealing with Ransomware Attacks: A County Perspective Sponsored by Rehmann	Capitol Ballroom
11:45AM-12:45PM	Lunch and County Commissioner Academy Presentations	Capitol Ballroom
12:45PM-1:30PM	POD 5: What the Heck is a "Con-Con" Anyway?	Capitol Ballroom
1:30PM-2:15PM	POD 6: Getting Housing Built: How Counties Can Leverage State Resources	Capitol Ballroom
2:15PM-2:30PM	Networking Break with Premier Partner Vendors	Pre-Function Area (second floor)
2:30PM-3:15PM	POD 7: Better Roads? That's Gonna Cost You	Capitol Ballroom
3:15PM-4PM	POD 8: Addressing the Health Care Challenge - County Perspectives and Opportunities Sponsored by Gallagher	Capitol Ballroom
4:30PM-6PM	Networking Reception	Capitol Ballroom
9PM-11PM	President's Hospitality Suite	Room 1128

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 9, 2025

TIME	EVENT	ROOM
7:30AM	Registration Desk Opens	Pre-Function Area (second floor)
7:30AM-8:30AM	Legislative Awards Breakfast	Capitol Ballroom
8:30AM-9:15AM	POD 9: Legislative Roundtable	Capitol Ballroom
9:15AM-10AM	POD 10: The Return of "Ax MI Tax"	Capitol Ballroom
10AM-10:15AM	Networking Break	Pre-Function Area (second floor)
10:15AM-11AM	POD 11: Navigating Workplace Trends: Practical Strategies for Michigan County Leaders Sponsored by Acrisure	Capitol Ballroom
11AM	Conference Ends/Hotel Checkout	Lobby

WELCOME TO THE 2025 Michigan Counties Legislative Conference!



MAC PRESIDENT
Melissa Daub

During the conference, you'll have the chance to dive into the key policy issues, connect with fellow leaders and pick up new insights that will help you govern with confidence.

Whether you are new to MAC or a seasoned commissioner, there is something for everyone in this year's agenda track. I am particularly interested in Pod 4 – Dealing with Ransomware Attacks: A County Perspective. Wayne County was the target of a ransomware attack, causing interruption in some services. This pod is a great opportunity to learn how to defend your county in the digital realm.

I want to thank you all for the work you do every day to serve your communities. Please make the most of this conference, visit the Premier Partners who help make it possible and don't hesitate to introduce yourself — I'd love to connect!

Here's to a great conference and an even stronger future for Michigan's counties!

Melissa Daub

MAC Board President and Wayne County Commissioner

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Cherry, Tisdel to receive MAC Advocate Awards

During breakfast on Wednesday, April 9, MAC will honor two state legislators with County Advocate Awards for their work in 2024:



Cherry

Sen. John Cherry is in his first term in the Michigan Senate, where he chairs the Labor Committee and serves on the Appropriations Committee. Prior to his Senate term, he served two terms in the Michigan House of Representatives. Before arriving in the Legislature, Cherry served in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and held the position of vice chair of the Flint Charter Commission. He is a University of Michigan graduate with a bachelor's degree in natural resources and environment and a master's in public policy.

Cherry is being honored for spearheading a \$30 million increase to county revenue sharing for FY 2025. "His research and dedication to a formula for disbursement of these additional funds created a system of greater equity among counties," explained MAC Governmental Affairs Director Deena Bosworth. "Without his commitment to counties and his strong advocacy with other legislative leaders, counties would not have seen the additional \$30 million in FY25."



Tisdel

Rep. Mark Tisdel has represented the Greater Rochester in the Michigan House of Representatives since 2021. He chairs the House Finance Committee and is vice chair of the House Insurance Committee. He also serves as a member of the House Health Policy Committee and the House Regulatory Reform Committee.

Prior to his service in the Legislature, Tisdel served on the Rochester Hills City Council for eight years — four of those years as council president.

"Tisdel has been a consistent bill sponsor and outspoken advocate for the creation of a Revenue Sharing Trust Fund," said Bosworth. "He not only was responsible for the overwhelming support of the bills in the House last session, but he worked tirelessly with the Senate, MAC and the Governor's Office to take the bills up for a vote last session. Unfortunately, the Senate did not end up voting on the bills during lame duck, so he is taking up the mantle again this year."

Two Events, Numerous Goodies

Conference attendees will have full access to receptions/strolling dinners on Monday, April 7 and on Tuesday, April 8. Each event will be held in the second-floor ballroom area of the DoubleTree Hotel.

Complimentary beverages and food. MAC appreciates the support of its Corporate Partners and conference sponsors to put on these events.

President's Hospitality Suite

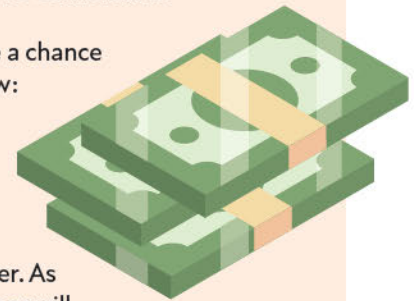
MAC Board President Melissa Daub welcomes her colleagues to her suite at the DoubleTree Hotel (Room 1128) on Tuesday night to catch up after a busy day of conference sessions. Complimentary snacks and beverages.

Say goodbye to bingo cards

With the changes to this year's format, you will not see Exhibitor Bingo at the Legislative Conference.

Fear not, though. You still have a chance to win a cash prize – here's how:

On Wednesday morning, at the end of the 10 a.m. networking break, you will receive a slip of paper with a number on it from a MAC staffer. As the sessions resume, one number will be drawn for a \$100 cash prize. At the end of Wednesday's sessions, approximately 11 a.m., another number will be drawn for a \$250 cash prize. You must be present in the room to win your prize. The prizes are courtesy of MAC Service Corp.



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MAC POD

Descriptions

POD 1: YOUR ASSOCIATION AT WORK IN 2025

Tuesday, April 8, 8:15am-9:15am

MAC initiatives in 2025 will be the focus of the first pod of the conference:

- “State of MAC” by Stephan Currie will give a high-level overview of the association.
- “Legislative Update” by Deena Bosworth will review MAC’s 2025 State Priorities, expectations for legislative action in 2025 with a GOP-controlled House and realignments in MAC’s Governmental Affairs Team and Political Action Committee.
- “Learning with MAC” by Derek Melot will walk attendees through MAC’s revamped website and changes to the County Commissioner Academy.

POD 2: WHAT IS CHANGING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Tuesday, April 8, 9:15am-10am

Matt Chase, executive director of the National Association of Counties, will review the first few months of the Trump administration and GOP-controlled Congress and what that means for counties as far as policy and fiscal challenges and opportunities in the months ahead.

POD 3: ADDRESSING MICHIGAN’S JUVENILE BED SHORTAGE

Tuesday, April 8, 10:15am-11am

In late 2023, sweeping legislation was signed to address the persistent shortage in bed space for juvenile offenders. This pod will review progress made since legislation was enacted and what counties can be doing to assist.

Speakers: Mike McMillan, Michigan Association for Family Court Administration; Cameron Clark, Leelanau County Courts

POD 4: DEALING WITH RANSOMWARE ATTACKS: A COUNTY PERSPECTIVE

Tuesday, April 8, 11am-11:45am

Grand Traverse, Wayne and Wexford counties are among Michigan local governments targeted in recent months with ransomware attacks. Hear from an industry expert and a targeted county on what you can do to make sure your county can defend itself in the digital realm. Sponsored by Rehmann, a MAC Premier Partner

Speakers: Jessica Dore, Rehmann; Katelyn Zeits, Benzie County, Michael Draeger, Benzie County

POD 5: WHAT THE HECK IS A “CON-CON” ANYWAY?

Tuesday, April 8, 12:45pm-1:30pm

Michigan is one of 14 states where voters are asked intermittently whether they wish to hold a “Constitutional Convention,” or “Con-Con,” to revamp its state constitution. The next such vote will be in 2026. Learn what a constitutional convention would mean and how it would operate from an analyst from the nonpartisan Citizens Research Council of Michigan.

Speaker: Eric Lupher, Citizens Research Council of Michigan

POD 6: GETTING HOUSING BUILT: HOW COUNTIES CAN LEVERAGE STATE RESOURCES

Tuesday, April 8, 1:30pm-2:15pm

Michigan’s State Housing Partnership is halfway through its five-year plan to boost new housing, yet many MAC members report ongoing shortages in their communities. Learn how county governments can make the most effective use of state resources to get the construction crews going.

Speaker: Amy Hovey, Michigan State Housing Development Authority

POD 7: BETTER ROADS? THAT’S GONNA COST YOU

Tuesday, April 8, 2:30pm-3:15pm

The advocacy group “Fix MI State” says 98,400 miles of Michigan’s paved roads are in fair or worse condition and that an additional \$3.9 billion per year is needed to “properly fund road repairs and maintenance.” With the cost of reconstructing a single lane-mile of road at \$3.2 million (2022 estimate), what are Michigan’s options are getting on top of this infrastructure crisis?

Speakers: Ed Noyola, County Road Association of Michigan; Rob Coppersmith, Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association

POD 8: ADDRESSING THE HEALTH CARE CHALLENGE - COUNTY PERSPECTIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday, April 8, 3:15pm-4pm

Increasing health care costs continue to challenge county budgets in 2025 and beyond. Join Gallagher and a panel of your county peers as they discuss the challenges, opportunities, and a variety of solutions for addressing the complexities of providing a cost-effective, quality health care program that helps attract and retain talent as part of your overall total compensation package. Sponsored by Gallagher, a MAC Premier Partner

Speakers: Chadd Hodkinson and Jeff Nielsen, Gallagher



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MAC POD Descriptions

POD 9: LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLE

Wednesday, April 9, 8:30am-9:15am

MAC has invited a collection of key legislators to discuss what to expect out of Lansing in 2025. Audience questions are strongly encouraged to maximize this rare opportunity. Moderated by Kyle Melinn of MIRS News Service.

POD 10: THE RETURN OF “AX MI TAX”

Wednesday, April 9, 9:15am-10am

After failing to navigate Michigan’s ballot rules in 2024, a small advocacy group is again making the rounds to convince voters to vote away the fiscal foundations of state and local public services in our state. Attorney Steven Liedel of the Dykema law firm will arm attendees with the facts on the fundamental legal inconsistencies in this effort and the fiscal carnage that would result from its passage.

Speaker: Steven Liedel, Dykema law firm

POD 11: NAVIGATING WORKPLACE TRENDS: PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR MICHIGAN COUNTY LEADERS

Wednesday, April 9, 10:15am-11am

Join Sonja Bringer, Acrisure HR Consultant, as she shares the latest workplace trends affecting the public sector. This session, tailored for Michigan county leaders, will cover practical approaches and strategies for navigating changes in local government workplaces. Drawing from her extensive experience, Sonja will provide valuable insights into enhancing employee engagement, optimizing operations, and implementing effective policies. This presentation aims to offer county leaders the knowledge needed to support their workforce. Attend this session to gain practical advice and perspectives that can help you manage and lead more effectively. Sponsored by Acrisure, a MAC Premier Partner



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Forty to receive CCA certificates

During lunch on Tuesday, April 8, MAC will honor the graduating class of 2025 of County Commissioner Academy. County Commissioner Academy is a professional development program for commissioners incorporating a series of events and workshops focused on the day-to-day responsibilities of a Michigan county commissioner. Since its inception, more than 170 certificates have been issued to participating commissioners.

Name	County	Level	Name	County	Level
Mark De Young	Allegan	Advanced	Penny Morris	Grand Traverse	Certified
Dave Vollrath	Berrien	Advanced	Donald "Jay" O'Farrell	Iosco	Certified
Julie Wuerfel	Berrien	Advanced	Katie DeBoer	Kent	Certified
Rayonte Bell	Berrien	Advanced	Joseph Derocha	Marquette	Certified
Randall Hazelbaker	Branch	Advanced	Stephen Adami	Marquette	Certified
Jon Houtz	Branch	Advanced	Dana Lalonde	Marquette	Certified
Robert Showers	Clinton	Advanced	William Routley	Mecosta	Certified
Joe Stevens	Dickinson	Advanced	Jeff Carlson	Menominee	Certified
TJ Andrews	Grand Traverse	Advanced	Jessica Cook	Muskegon	Certified
Lauren Flynn	Grand Traverse	Advanced	Greg Gydesen	Osceola	Certified
Howard Lodholtz	Lake	Advanced	Mark Gregory	Osceola	Certified
Gwenne Allgaier	Leelanau	Advanced	Dana Wingo	Otsego	Certified
Mike Patrick	Mackinac	Advanced	Jack Tany	Saginaw	Certified
Jeff Dontz	Manistee	Advanced	Mark Piotrowski	Saginaw	Certified
James Maik	Newaygo	Advanced	Craig Reiter	Schoolcraft	Certified
Travis Konarzewski	Alpena	Certified	Rick Shaffer	St. Joseph	Certified
Lisa Salgat	Arenac	Certified	Bill Lutz	Tuscola	Certified
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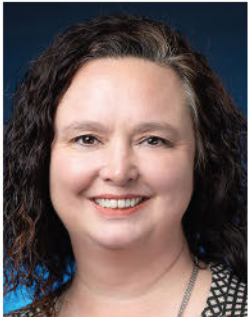
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