



This Week in Lansing

MHSA • Muchmore Harrington Smalley & Associates, LLC

Highlights of the Latest Major Legislative, Administrative and Regulatory Activity in the State Capitol

Volume MMXXIV – Issue 14

April 5, 2024

DONALD TRUMP VISITS MICHIGAN, CAUSES UPROAR FROM DEMOCRATS – *Former President Donald Trump* visited Michigan on Tuesday where he held a roundtable discussion with **GOP** elected officials and local law enforcement leaders before speaking to a crowd in downtown Grand Rapids.

The bigger picture: With a rematch of the 2020 presidential election all but set, *former President Trump* visited Michigan this week to hold a campaign rally and muster more support in the state. The former president's rally provoked **Democrats** ire as **Mr. Trump** ramped up his inflammatory rhetoric towards **President Joe Biden**, largely focusing on immigration issues.

To read more, please click [here](#).

GOV WHITMER SIGNS FAMILY PROTECTION ACT – On Monday, **Governor Gretchen Whitmer** signed the **Family Protection Act**, which codifies protections for families who utilize and rely on surrogacy and IVF to get pregnant.

Why it matters: **House Bills 5207-5215** lift the criminal ban on surrogacy contracts in Michigan and updates the law to ensure a clear legal connection between parents and children born through assisted reproduction. Michigan was the last state in the country to still have a ban on surrogacy.

To read more, please click [here](#).

ELECTIONS

- The official kickoff for the 2024 campaign season is close with the 2024 candidate filing deadline on Tuesday, April 23rd. Candidates will have until 4 p.m. on the 23rd to file candidacy, but have until 4 p.m. Friday, April 26th to withdraw. The 2024 primary election is scheduled for August 6th and the general election is scheduled for November 5th.

ODDS AND ENDS

- The **Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)** announced that it is accepting applications for the [MI Neighborhood program](#). The MI Neighborhood application will award grants of state and federal funding to communities and organizations seeking to implement housing solutions and is intended to function as a “low-barrier” tool that can be accessible to people who may not have grant-writing experience. The program is aiming to streamline funding to support three main housing activity components: rehabilitation, new unit, and/or public amenities. There is a total of \$60 million allocated to the program, which can be accessed by local governments and

nonprofits, which is available for the current fiscal year and will be replaced with new funding on October 1, when the 2024-25 fiscal year begins.

- The federal panel of judges overseeing the Michigan ***Independent Redistricting Commission's (ICRC)*** remedy remapping phase of Detroit's state ***Senate*** districts has set a July 26 deadline for a new map to be adopted. The commission was ordered to redraw portions of Detroit's state ***House*** and ***Senate*** districts after the panel ruled that the body used race as a predominant factor when drawing those lines in 2021. The panel further opined the maps violated the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause in the process.
- The ***Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC)*** put out a press release encouraging nonprofit organizations to plan ahead when seeking a special liquor license for the 2024 outdoor hospitality season. Special licenses, which are also known as a "one-day license", allow nonprofits in Michigan to serve alcoholic beverages at outdoor, fundraising, and other specialty events. For more information on how to apply for special licenses and outdoor service authorization, or for more information about the ***MLCC***, please visit www.michigan.gov/lcc.
- During their April 2nd meeting, the ***State Tax Commission*** approved an updated Solar Energy Facilities Taxation Act FAQ. To view the FAQ, please click [here](#).

MHSA

Muchmore Harrington Smalley & Associates, LLC

Sandra Jones
sjones@mhsa.com

Adrian Cazal
acazal@mhsa.com

Bret Marr
bmarr@mhsa.com

Evelyn Zois Sweeney
esweeney@mhsa.com

Malcolm Kletke
mkletke@mhsa.com

Patrick Harrington
pharrington@mhsa.com

124 West Allegan St., Suite 1900 | Lansing, MI 48933 | Phone: 517-484-8800 | Fax: 517-484-4442 | Email: rsmith@mhsa.com
Follow MHSA on [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)
