



This Week in Lansing

MHSA • Muchmore Harrington Smalley & Associates, LLC

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

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U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DAN KILDEE ANNOUNCES CANCER DIAGNOSIS – Late last week *U.S. Representative Dan Kildee (D-Flint)* announced he has been diagnosed with a serious but curable form of cancer.

Congressman Kildee is a dear friend of *MHSA* and a political force in Michigan. *Congressman Kildee* was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma. He provided a statement, saying, “I’ve been diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma, a serious but curable form of cancer. Thankfully, I caught it very early. With early detection and great doctors, they found a very small tumor in one of my tonsils. It’s never easy to hear the words you have cancer. But I know that so many other families have gone through a cancer diagnosis.”

Congressman Kildee will undergo surgery in the near future. *MHSA* sends our sincerest well wishes to the *Congressman* and his family.

CRC CONCURS WITH AG NESSEL ON INCOME TAX ROLLBACK – The *Michigan Citizens Research Council (CRC)* released a report this week that agrees with *Attorney General Dana Nessel’s* opinion that the 2015 statute that requires a rollback in the income tax is valid for 2023. The opinion stems from a 2015 law that stipulates only if revenues to the *General Fund* exceeded inflation and an additional amount to account for economic growth should result in the income tax dropping from 4.25 percent to 4.05 percent.

Why it matters: The *CRC* is an independent and nonpartisan research group in the state. The *CRC* agrees with *AG Nessel*, but for a different reason that focuses on two subdivisions within the 2015 statute. Most importantly, the *CRC’s* conclusion is separate from *AG Nessel’s* opinion, which can be subject to court challenges.

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

FORMER SPEAKER RICK JOHNSON CHARGED BY FBI – Former Michigan *Speaker of the House Rick Johnson* was charged today by the *Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)* along with three other individuals in a years-long bribery scandal involving the state’s marijuana licensing operations.

The bigger picture: *Mr. Johnson* served as *Speaker* from 2001 to 2004, and later became the chairman of the now defunct *Medical Marijuana Licensing Board* in 2017. While serving as chairman, *Mr. Johnson* reportedly accepted over \$100,000 in cash payments, as well as other bribes, from multiple individuals, who have also been charged by the *FBI*.

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

COMPETITIVE U.S. HOUSE SEATS BEGIN TAKING SHAPE – Following an extremely close 2022 election cycle, multiple Michigan *U.S. House* seats are already entering the national conversation as critical seats for the 2024 election.

The bigger picture: In the 2022 election, multiple *U.S. House* seats garnered national attention. These seats, including the *7th Congressional District* and *10th Congressional District*, are emerging back into the national spotlight as key battleground seats.

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

ELECTIONS

- Former 2022 *Republican gubernatorial candidate Michael Markey* announced he is running for the *3rd Congressional* seat currently held by *Congresswoman Hillary Scholten (D-Grand Rapids)*. *Mr. Markey* was one of the five *Republicans* disqualified from the 2022 ballot due to insufficient signatures.
- *Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin (D-Lansing)* announced this week that since launching her *U.S. Senate* campaign one month ago she has already raised \$3 million. *Congresswoman Slotkin* was the first *Democrat* to announce their candidacy for the open *U.S. Senate* seat.
- Florida *Governor Ron DeSantis* visited Michigan on Thursday in Midland for a breakfast put on by the *Midland Republican Party*. *Governor DeSantis* spoke to over 700 attendees and treated the visit like a campaign stop, as he is expected to be a contender for the *GOP* nomination during the 2024 presidential election cycle.

ODDS AND ENDS

- *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* signed three bills this week that together remove the 1931 law that bans abortion in the state of Michigan. *Senate Bill 2, House Bills 4006 and 4032* were signed amidst a large crowd in Birmingham, Michigan. Advocates for the bills highlighted that codifying the three bills is a key step following the adoption of *Proposal 2022-3* last November, which solidified reproductive rights in the state.
- A federal judge this week denied a request to set aside a default judgement entered against the former owner and operator of the Edenville Dam that caused catastrophic flooding in Midland in 2020. *U.S. District Judge Paul Maloney* ruled he would not set aside the judgement against *Lee Mueller* over failure to plead and causing undue delay with the production of discovery materials.
- The *City of Detroit's* bond status continues to rise for the second consecutive year with *Moody's Investors Service* upgrading the city's bond rating to Ba2. The city has had nine consecutive years of balanced budgets and is now one step away from reaching Investment Grade status.

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