



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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CREC SET FOR JANUARY 12TH, 2024 – The *Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC)* is scheduled for January 12, 2024. *House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Director Mary Ann Cleary* sent a memo Wednesday announcing the date. The January *CREC* is the first of two for the year. It will begin at 9 a.m. *MHSA* will provide clients further information as the date nears.

GROWING MICHIGAN TOGETHER COUNCIL RELEASES FINAL REPORT – The *Growing Michigan Together Council* released their final report this week, which outlines specific policies to grow Michigan's population.

Why it matters: Established by *Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Executive Order 2023-4*, the council was tasked with developing a long-term vision that addresses current and future challenges and sets Michigan up for success in the 21st Century. The final report marks the end of a month's long journey throughout the state, working with numerous stakeholders to examine Michigan's challenges and outcomes, its competitiveness to faster-growing peer states and outlines growth-oriented strategies to reverse population trends. The council worked closely with more than 60 individuals from four topic-oriented workgroups: PreK-12 Education; Higher Education; Jobs, Talent, and People and Infrastructure and Places, producing an initial set of ideas for consideration.

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

GOV WHITMER SIGNS MORE BILLS INTO LAW – *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* continues to sign a variety of legislation into law as nearly all bills passed by the *Legislature* at the end of session in November have been presented to the *Governor*.

The bigger picture: Nearly all bills passed by the *Legislature* in 2023 have been presented to the *Governor*, with approximately 50 bills awaiting her signature. The *Governor* continues to highlight bills recently signed including the final bill of the *Reproductive Health Act*, one of Michigan *Democrat's* top priorities in 2023, as well as legislation that requires public officials and candidates to file financial disclosure reports. To read more, please click [here](#).

ODDS AND ENDS

- The *Department of Attorney General (AG)* received a referral to investigate the legality of a grant awarded to a former aide to *former House Speaker Jason Wentworth*, a department spokesperson said this week. The investigation centers around a \$25 million no-bid grant awarded to a non-profit helmed by *David Coker*, a former legislative aide to *former Speaker Wentworth*, to help build a health care campus in Clare. *Bridge Magazine* reported the department began investigating due to

potential double payments made to the nonprofit. The publication also reported the state stopped payment in May, and that state officials felt pressure to hasten payments because **Mr. Coker** was politically well-connected.

- On Wednesday, the first major hearing in a case against a group of Republicans facing election-related charges got underway, as the preliminary examinations for the first of Michigan's fake electors began. Six of 16 individuals had their hearing begin in Lansing's 54-A District Court. The group is charged over a scheme to falsely pledge Michigan's electoral votes to former President Donald Trump over President Joe Biden despite President Biden winning the state by over 150,000 votes.

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