



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 MMXXIII – Issue 7
2023

February 17,

TRAGEDY AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY – At 8:18 p.m. on Monday night at *Michigan State University (MSU)* a mass shooting claimed the lives of at least three students, with multiple others wounded.

MHSA sends its deepest condolences to the families and friends of ***Brian Fraser, Alexandra Verner*** and ***Arielle Anderson***, who tragically lost their lives Monday night. *MHSA* offers prayers for those who remain in the hospital in critical condition, along with their families as they support them. *MHSA* stands with the Spartan community as many of us at *MHSA* attended *MSU* or have children at the school currently, reside in the area, and have deep and personal connections with the University. *MHSA* encourages anyone who feels the impact and trauma of this horrible act of violence to seek professional counseling services.

At 8:18 p.m., a gunman shot and killed two *MSU* students in Berkey Hall, and shortly after killed another *MSU* student in the *MSU* Union. There were also five *MSU* students who were wounded and left in critical condition.

Brian Fraser, Alexandra Verner and ***Arielle Anderson*** sadly lost their lives in the senseless mass shooting at *MSU* Monday night. On Thursday afternoon, *MSU* police announced that four of the victims in the hospital remain in critical condition, with one being moved to stable condition. *MSU* police also stated that some of the patients are showing improvement. Families and friends shared the light that ***Fraser, Verner*** and ***Anderson*** brought to the world. ***Fraser*** was a fraternity chapter president and a leader among his peers. ***Verner*** was a science student with fond memories of her days as a high-school athlete. ***Anderson*** was a frequent volunteer who wanted to become a pediatrician.

MSU has not confirmed the names of those currently in critical condition at Sparrow Hospital.

MSU students held multiple vigils throughout the week for those who lost their lives, and those who remain fighting for theirs at the hospital. One vigil was attended by ***Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist, MSU*** basketball coach ***Tom Izzo***, and ***MSU interim president*** and the ***MSU Board of Trustees***.

The shooter was ***Anthony McRae***, a 43-year-old Lansing resident. ***McRae*** killed himself when confronted by police hours after he murdered the three *MSU* students. An investigation is ongoing, and police have begun to release pieces of information.

SENATE PASSES LOWERING MI COSTS PLAN LEGISLATION – Following *Senate Republican's* cleverly adjourning session last Thursday, the *Senate* returned to session Thursday to pass the *Lowering MI Costs* plan, which was anticipated to be passed last week.

The bigger picture: The *Lowering MI Costs* plan was announced last Monday by *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* and legislative *Democratic* leadership. The *Senate* passed the bill, but did not get it immediate effect. However, the *Senate* introduced a resolution that could alter immediate effect rules moving forward.

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

MSU MASS SHOOTING PROMPTS GUN LAW CHANGES IN MICHIGAN – Following the tragic events at *Michigan State University (MSU)* Monday night, a call for gun law reforms in Michigan has been re-ignited.

Why it matters: *Michigan Democrats* vowed to take action on gun reform legislation in the *102nd Legislature* following *Democrats* winning a majority in the *House* and *Senate*. After Monday's horrific mass shooting at *MSU*, legislative *Democrats* have stated they will take up gun reform legislation in the near future.

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

ELECTIONS

- *Michigan Democratic Party Chair Lavora Barnes* was reelected to a third term over the weekend. *Ms. Barnes* ran unopposed because former *Representative Cynthia Johnson* failed to collect enough qualifying signatures to appear on the ballot.

ODDS AND ENDS

- The *Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF)* approved just over \$1 billion in incentives in a special meeting on Monday for a \$3.5 billion battery cell manufacturing facility is set to be built in Calhoun County. The facility is expected to be up and running by 2026.
- 21 legislative *Republicans* submitted a letter to *Attorney General Dana Nessel* asking formal opinion on whether any person has the power in Michigan law to order that members of the *House* be barred from the *House* floor while the *House* is in session. The issue stems from January 24th when *Republican* members in the *House* were denied access to the *House* floor during a late-night session while the *House* was at ease because they were told *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* needed to rehearse her speech.
- The *State Board of Education* issued a statement of support to repeal the retention portion of the state's third-grade reading law. *Board member Judith Pritchett* read the statement, saying the board has "consistently supported elimination of this regressive portion of the statute since its enactment in 2016."
- The *House Judiciary Committee* took testimony on two bills that would allow non-criminal justice agencies to continue to have access to background checks directly from the FBI and allow the state police to continually run background checks for employees. *House Bills 4045* and *4069* took testimony only and sponsors of the bills said there are still some details to be worked out within the legislation.
- *Former Republican Gubernatorial* candidate *Ryan Kelley* is set to face trial for alleged actions related to the January 6th insurrection at the U.S. Capitol in 2021. *Mr. Kelley* lost in the *Republican* primary election, and was charged shortly before it. *Mr. Kelley's* trial is scheduled for July 31, 2023, in the *U.S. District Court for the District Court of Columbia*.

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