



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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MICHIGAN GOP ELECTS KRISTINA KARAMO AS NEW GOP CHAIR – The *Michigan Republican Party* elected *Kristina Karamo* as the new chair of the *Michigan Republican Party*.

Why it matters: *Ms. Karamo* was elected to serve as chair of the *Michigan Republican Party* over the weekend. *Ms. Karamo* lost to *Secretary of State (SOS) Jocelyn Benson* by 14 points in the 2022 election despite receiving significant backing from former *President Donald Trump*. She has never conceded the race to *SOS Benson*.

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

ICE STORM IMPACTS LEGISLATIVE SESSION – A severe ice storm hit Michigan this week, coating Lansing with upwards of an inch of ice, causing the *House* and *Senate* to cancel session.

The bigger picture: With a loaded agenda this week, both the *House* and *Senate* cancelled the majority of activity this week due to the ice storm that hit Michigan. Most committee meetings were cancelled on Wednesday, and all committee meetings were cancelled on Thursday in both the *House* and *Senate*.

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

HRCC MAKES APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE – *House Minority Leader Matt Hall (R-Richland Township)* announced appointments to the *House Republican Campaign Committee (HRCC)* this week.

The bigger picture: *HRCC* is responsible for recruiting candidates and providing support to *House Republican* candidates in elections. Following the 2022 election in which *Republicans* lost the *House*, all eyes are on *HRCC* as they devise a plan to rebound from a damaging election cycle.

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

ODDS AND ENDS

- *Legislative Democrats* introduced numerous bills last week and this week that would implement firearm reforms. Main areas covered by the bills introduced in each the *House* and *Senate* include requiring universal background checks, creating secure storage laws, and establishing extreme risk protections orders.
- The *Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)* has requested an additional \$750 million for the \$3.5 billion battery cell manufacturing facility set to be built in Calhoun County. The *Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF)* already approved \$1 billion in incentives for the facility. The \$750 million from the state's *Strategic Site Readiness Fund* will go toward purchasing land

and preparing it for construction, water and wastewater facilities, fiberoptics, roads, highway and rail, officials said.

- The ***Senate Housing and Human Services Committee*** took testimony only on a bill that would eliminate the asset test to qualify for the state's Food Assistance program. ***Senate Bill 35*** received positive testimony from stakeholders present.
- A guns rights group announced they will launch recall elections against any state legislator that votes for gun control legislation. The ***Great Lakes Gun Rights*** organization, which is the Michigan affiliate of the ***National Rifle Association for Gun Rights***, specifically said they will work with local political activists to recall any politicians who vote for gun control legislation.
- The ***Senate Education Committee*** reported legislation that would allow sinking funds to be used for the purchase of real estate for school buildings, school security improvements, the acquisition or upgrading of technology, or school transportation. ***Senate Bill 63*** was reported 6-1 and now resides on the ***Senate*** floor.
- Michigan's ***U.S. Senators*** announced that Michigan is being awarded nearly \$8 million in federal grants to help with gun violence prevention efforts and beef up funding for behavioral health programming. The grants are provided through the federal ***Bipartisan Safer Communities Act*** of 2022.

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