



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 2

January 12, 2024

CREC HELD, PROVIDES OPTIMISM FOR FUTURE FISCAL YEARS – The January *Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC)* was held this morning with *CREC* leaders slightly revising future revenue projections higher than originally expected.

Why it matters: January *CREC* is used to reevaluate the consensus revenue estimates for *Fiscal Years 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26*. *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* will use the revenue estimates from today's conference to build her executive budget recommendation, which is expected in early February.

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

ICRC ORDERED TO DRAW NEW HOUSE MAP BY FEBRUARY 2 – On Monday, *U.S. District Judge Paul Maloney* on behalf of the three-judge panel overseeing the *Agee v. Benson* case ordered that the Michigan *Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC)* must draw a new map for the seven state *House Districts* that were ruled unconstitutional by February 2, 2024.

The bigger picture: In December 2023, the judge panel ruled that *House Districts 1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 14* were unconstitutionally drawn by the *ICRC* for violating Detroit residents' Equal Protection rights. This week's ruling gives the *ICRC* the ability to correct the seven *House Districts* by February 2nd instead of relinquishing power to a special master. Notably, the panel also denied the *ICRC's* request to stay an injunction on the *Department of State* from holding any future elections until new maps are drawn, as well as denying the plaintiffs' request for special *Senate* elections to be held in 2024.

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

2024 SESSION GAVELS IN, HOUSE REPUBLICANS PUSH FOR SHARED POWER – On Wednesday, the *Legislature* gavelled in for their first official day of the new legislative year. The first day is largely ceremonial with no significant legislative activity planned for the session.

The bigger picture: With the *House* gridlocked in a *54-54 partisan split*, a feeling of uncertainty on how the day's proceedings would unfold was palpable. And, apparently for good reason, as *House Republicans* moved to adopt *House Resolution 171*, introduced by *House Minority Leader Matt Hall (R-Richland Township)* which would amend the *House's* standing rules to enter into a “*shared power agreement*” during a period when the number of members duly elected and serving as *House Democrats* equals the number of members duly elected and serving as *House Republicans*.

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

ELECTIONS

- **Representative Christine Morse (D-Kalamazoo)** announced this week that she is not seeking reelection in the **House** and is returning to practice law after her current term ends. **Representative Morse** is in her second term in the **House**.
- Former U.S. Representative and current U.S. Senate candidate **Mike Rogers** announced this week that he has endorsed **former President Donald Trump**. In a statement, **Mr. Rogers** said, “We all know we can do better; we just had it under **President Trump**. The first step to getting America back on track starts with putting an end to Bidenomics and returning to the leadership and proven policies of **President Trump**...”
- **Representative Bill G. Schuette (R-Midland)** announced this week that he is going to run for reelection in the state **House**, rather than pursue **Congress** or the state **Senate**. **Representative Schuette** teased a “big announcement” was forthcoming, which led many to believe he would run for **Congress**. Instead, he stated he wants to help **Republicans** win back the **House**.
- **U.S. Representative Elissa Slotkin (D-Holly)** announced that she raised \$2.8 million in the 4th quarter, bringing her cash on hand to \$6 million. **Representative Slotkin** is considered one of the frontrunners in the **U.S. Senate** race in Michigan. Since announcing her candidacy for the seat in February 2023, **Representative Slotkin** has raised \$11.7 million.

ODDS AND ENDS

- Numerous former **Republican** gubernatorial candidates who were disqualified from the 2022 ballot due to fraudulent signatures testified in court this week against the campaign consultants who gathered the fraudulent signatures. **Donna Brandenburg**, **James Craig**, **Perry Johnson**’s political consultant **John Yob**, **Michael Brown**’s campaign consultant **Jeff Evans**, political consultant **Mark Grebner**, and **Adam Fracassi** with the **Department of State** all testified against **Shawn Wilmoth**, **Jamie Wilmoth-Goodin** and **Willie Reed**, the owners of various signature gathering companies involved with the campaigns.
- Both of Michigan’s **U.S. Senators** voiced their support for **President Joe Biden**’s nomination of **Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert White** to be a **U.S. District Judge** in the Eastern District of Michigan. **Mr. White** has served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Michigan since 2018.

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

Mandy Bolter
mbolter@mhsa.com

Patrick Harrington
pharrington@mhsa.com

Jon Smalley
jsmalley@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](#)