



# 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 2  
2023

January 13,

**JANUARY CREC HELD** – While Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> is synonymous with scary, the January *Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC)* was held this morning and provided a somewhat soothing economic outlook for Michigan over upcoming Fiscal Years.

**Why it matters:** January *CREC* is used to reevaluate the consensus revenue estimates for *Fiscal Years 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25*. *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* will use the revenue estimates from today to put together her executive budget recommendation for early February.

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

**2023 SESSION KICKS OFF** – On Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, both the *House* and *Senate* held their inaugural session day of the *102<sup>nd</sup> Legislature*.

**The Bigger Picture:** For the first time since 1984, *Democrats* hold the *Governor's* office, *House* and *Senate*. Wednesday marked the first day of session under *Democratic* control which saw both Democratic leaders share their vision and hopes for the upcoming term.

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

**REPUBLICAN LED BALLOT INITIATIVES PULLED** – Two *Republican* led ballot initiatives were withdrawn from the *Department of State* by organizers this week.

**Why it matters:** Both ballot initiatives, *Let MI Kids Learn* and *Secure MI Vote*, hoped to have the *Legislature* pass their ballot initiatives in early 2023. With *Democrats* in control of the *Legislature*, both ballot initiatives would certainly fail.

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

**REP. LORI STONE EYES MAYORAL BID** – *Representative Lori Stone (D-Warren)* formed a candidate committee to run for Mayor of Warren.

**Why it matters:** *Democrats* secured a 56-54 majority in the *House* a mere two months ago. *Representative Stone* is the second *Democrat* to announce intentions to run for a Mayoral position, potentially leaving *Democrats* without their majority for a period of time this legislative session.

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

**ELECTIONS**

- **U.S. Senator Gary Peters (D-Bloomfield Township)** will chair the **Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC)** for the 2024 election. **Senator Peters** served as chair of the **DSCC** in the 2022 election where **Democrats** grew their majority in the **U.S. Senate**.
- Numerous politicians have announced they are weighing a **U.S. Senate** run in Michigan after **U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing)** announced she will be retiring after her term ends in 2024. **Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist** and **Senator Ruth Johnson (R-Groveland Township)** told reporters this week they are seriously considering running for the position.

## ODDS AND ENDS

- The **House** and **Senate** released their official committee assignments this week. To view the full list of committee assignments published in **MHSA's Special Report** yesterday, please click [here](#).
- **Attorney General Dana Nessel** announced the department is reopening its investigation into a set of false electors who attempted to appear as a slate of alternates if former **President Donald Trump** successfully overturned the 2020 presidential election results.
- **Anne Switzer** will serve as the new director of the **Air Quality Division** within the **Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)**. **Director Switzer** replaces former **Director Mary Ann Dolehanty** who is retiring.
- **Governor Gretchen Whitmer** appointed former **Democratic** lawmaker and **Tax Tribunal Chair Steve Bieda** to the 37<sup>th</sup> District Court. **Mr. Bieda's** appointment begins February 1, and continues through January 1, 2025.
- A group of ultra-conservative **Republicans** in the **House** announced the formation of the **New Freedom Caucus** and their opposition to Democratic Leadership. Lawmakers in the caucus include **Representatives Matt Maddock (R-Milford), Steve Carra (R-Three Rivers), Rachele Smit (R-Shelbyville)** and **Angela Rigas (R-Caledonia Township)**.
- The **Office of the Auditor General** released their fourth audit on the **Unemployment Insurance Agency's (UIA)** mishandling of claims during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the audit outlined flaws in the computer system, failures to follow up on ineligible claims, and delays to follow-up with claimants on additional employment documentation.
- **Governor Gretchen Whitmer** announced she is traveling to Norway and Switzerland on an investment mission next week. The focus of the mission is to attract job-creating business investments, particularly in Michigan's automotive manufacturing and clean energy trades.
- **Dan Oberlin** was formally elected as the new **Secretary of the Senate** and **Rich Brown** was formally elected as **House Clerk** this week. Both **Mr. Oberlin** and **Mr. Brown** were selected prior to Wednesday to serve in their new roles, but both roles require each respective chamber to vote on their selection.

---

## MHSA

### Muchmore Harrington Smalley & Associates, LLC

Patrick Harrington  
[pharrington@mhsa.com](mailto:pharrington@mhsa.com)

Jon Smalley  
[jsmalley@mhsa.com](mailto:jsmalley@mhsa.com)

Sandra Jones  
[sjones@mhsa.com](mailto:sjones@mhsa.com)

Adrian Cazal  
[acazal@mhsa.com](mailto:acazal@mhsa.com)

Bret Marr  
[bmarr@mhsa.com](mailto:bmarr@mhsa.com)

Evelyn Zois Sweeney  
[esweeney@mhsa.com](mailto:esweeney@mhsa.com)

Malcolm Kletke  
[mkletke@mhsa.com](mailto:mkletke@mhsa.com)

Mandy Bolter  
[mbolter@mhsa.com](mailto:mbolter@mhsa.com)

124 West Allegan St., Suite 1900 | Lansing, MI 48933 | Phone: 517-484-8800 | Fax: 517-484-4442 | Email: [rsmith@mhsa.com](mailto:rsmith@mhsa.com)  
Follow MHSA on [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)