



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 NEXT FRIDAY, JANUARY 12TH – The *Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC)* is scheduled for next Friday, January 12, 2024. *CREC* will begin at 9 a.m. in the *House Appropriations Room*. To view the *Senate Fiscal Agency's (SFA) CREC* webpage, which includes links to watch *CREC* live as well as access key documents once posted, please click [here](#).

GOV WHITMER'S STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS TO BE DELIVERED ON JAN. 24 – *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* announced that her 2024 *State of the State Address* will be delivered on Wednesday, January 24th.

Why it matters: *Governor Whitmer* will deliver her sixth *State of the State Address* on January 24th, her first with a *Democratic-led Legislature*. The *Governor* is expected to highlight the numerous accomplishments the *Legislature* achieved in 2023 while also announcing new proposals to tackle in an important election year.

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

SENATOR KRISTEN MCDONALD RIVET RUNNING FOR CONGRESS – *Senator Kristen McDonald Rivet (D-Bay City)* announced she is running for the open 8th *U.S. House* seat in Michigan this week.

The bigger picture: *Congressman Dan Kildee (D-Flint)* announced in late 2023 he is not seeking reelection in 2024, leaving a critical *U.S. House* seat open. *Senator McDonald Rivet* enters the race as one of the most formidable candidates to announce thus far. *Senator McDonald Rivet* was elected to her first term in the state *Senate* in 2022. Notably, her entry into the *Congressional* race creates a “what if” scenario regarding the *Senate's* makeup and whether *Senate Democrats* can maintain their majority.

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

ICRC SELECTS THREE NEW MEMBERS – The *Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC)* announced it has selected three new members to replace three members who recently resigned from the *ICRC*.

The bigger picture: The *ICRC* has reemerged in the news after a federal three-judge panel found that districts challenged in *Agee v. Benson* were unconstitutionally drawn with race as a predominant factor, violating Detroit residents' Equal Protection rights. As the *ICRC* awaits the courts to decide next steps, three members resigned, citing infighting and the pending court-ordered redraw. Following the resignation,

the *Department of State* selected three new commissioners to serve on the *ICRC*: *Elaine Andrade*, *Donna Callaghan*, and *Marcus Muldoon*.

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

ODDS AND ENDS

- *Anne* and *Rob Minard*, former staffers of *former Speaker Lee Chatfield*, pleaded not guilty to numerous felony charges including embezzlement and operating a criminal enterprise this week in a district court. *Attorney General Dana Nessel* brought the charges at the end of December, which include improprieties involving 501(c)4 social welfare and nonprofit organizations, multiple state political campaign committees, an independent political action committee/advocacy group and a lobbying firm.
- The Capitol was evacuated on Wednesday after a bomb threat to the general email account for the *Michigan State Capitol Commission* was received that morning. No bomb or other threats were discovered, but the Capitol remained closed to staff and visitors for the remainder of the day.
- An *Oakland County* judge denied former *Representative Daire Rendon's* request for immunity against allegations that she and two attorneys illegally obtained and tampered with voting tabulators. *Ms. Rendon* is accused of conspiring to unlawfully obtain voting equipment after the 2020 election in a bid to show that *former President Donald Trump* had won Michigan's electoral votes over *President Joe Biden*. *Ms. Rendon's* attorney late last year filed a motion asking *Chief Oakland Circuit Judge Jeffery Matis* to find her immune from prosecution because her actions were within the "sphere of legislative activity," and therefore within the scope of her duties as a legislator.

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