



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 1

January 6, 2023

A NOTE TO CLIENTS – After a historic election in 2022, *MHSA* is making history by updating *This Week In Lansing* for the first time since its inception over 30 years ago. Beginning with Volume MMXXIII – Issue 1, *This Week In Lansing* will condense in length, but remain just as substantive, highlighting the latest happenings and developments under the dome. Headline articles published in *This Week In Lansing* will capture the essence of an issue, providing a high level overview. For clients interested in a deeper understanding, a link to a full-length article will be provided. We hope this new iteration will be more user friendly, digestible, and help direct readers to topics most relevant to specific industry or general interest. We welcome feedback and suggestions as the process evolves. Happy 2023!

U.S. SENATOR DEBBIE STABENOW NOT SEEKING RE-ELECTION – *U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing)* announced she will not seek re-election following the end of the current term.

The big picture: *U.S. Senator Stabenow's* political tenure in Michigan is legendary but will soon come to an end. The four-term *U.S. Senator* will not seek re-election in 2024 following the “inspiration” seen in the 2022 election from young voters.

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

STATE OF THE STATE ANNOUNCED – *Governor Gretchen Whitmer's* State of the State Address will be held on January 25th, 2023.

Why it matters: *Governor's* typically outline their key priorities and new initiatives for the upcoming year during the speech. *Governor Whitmer's* key priorities for 2023 will be articulated on January 25th, and for the first time since 2020, her address will be held live, with an audience in the Capitol.

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

MSC JUSTICE CLEMENT NEW CHIEF JUSTICE – *Michigan Supreme Court (MSC) Justice Elizabeth Clement* will serve as the Chief Justice on the *MSC* for the next two years.

Why it matters: *Chief Justice Clement* is a GOP-nominated Justice, but Democratic nominated Justices hold a 4-3 majority on the *MSC*.

To read more about *Chief Justice Clement's* appointment, please click [here](#).

GOVERNOR WHITMER'S 2ND INAGURATION – *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* was sworn in for her second term on Monday, January 1, 2023.

The big picture: *Governor Whitmer* capped off the historic 2022 election with her 2nd inauguration ceremony. The *Governor* hinted at many issues that will be priorities for *Democrats* in 2023.

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

GOVERNOR WHITMER UPDATES STAFF – *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* announced key staff changes within her administration.

The big picture: Changes within the *Governor's* administration are common in a new term, and *Governor Whitmer* is adding key political veterans to her team.

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

ELECTIONS

- *Michigan Democratic Party Chair Lavora Barnes* announced Wednesday she is seeking a third term. *Ms. Barnes* has held the position since 2019.
- Former *Representative Cynthia A. Johnson* announced she is also running for *Michigan Democratic Party chair*. The former *Representative* could not seek reelection in 2022 after she was disqualified from the ballot for failing to settle campaign finance fines.

ODDS AND ENDS

- *Former Representative Terry Sabo* will serve as department director within the *Department of Military and Veterans Affairs*. *Sabo* lost to *Senator Jon Bumstead (R-North Muskegon)* in the *32nd Senate District* general election last fall.
- *Barry Croft*, one of the two men convicted for leading the plot to kidnap *Governor Gretchen Whitmer*, was sentenced to 19.5 years in prison for his role in the plot. Co-conspirator *Adam Fox* received 16 years in prison earlier in the week.
- *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* completed her final bill signing of 2022 on December 29, 2022. *Governor Whitmer* signed bills that work to advance economic development in Michigan, increase access to local courts, strengthen marketplace regulations, and more.
- *Dan Oberlin* has been selected to serve as *Senate Secretary*, as *Democrats* control the chamber in January. *Margaret O'Brien*, who served as secretary under *Republican* control last legislative term, will serve as *Assistant Secretary*. *Mr. Oberlin* served as assistant secretary last term. *Senators* elect the *Secretary* and *Assistant Secretary* at the beginning of a legislative term.

MHSA

Muchmore Harrington Smalley & Associates, LLC

Patrick Harrington
pharrington@mhsa.com

Jon Smalley
jsmalley@mhsa.com

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

124 West Allegan St., Suite 1900 | Lansing, MI 48933 | Phone: 517-484-8800 | Fax: 517-484-4442 | Email: rsmith@mhsa.com
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