



# 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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**SPEAKER HALL REJECTS REINSTATEMENT OF APPROPS VICE CHAIR** – *House Speaker Matt Hall (R-Richland Township)* denied a request made by *Minority Leader Ranjeev Puri (D-Canton)* to reappoint *Representative Alabas Farhat (D-Dearborn)* as minority vice chair of the *House Appropriations Committee*.

**The bigger picture:** *Representative Farhat* was stripped of his role at the end of July after voting against a *Republican* sponsored bill. The bill intended to make changes to life without parole sentencing for 19- and 20-year-olds. “*Representative Farhat* has demonstrated an inability to represent your caucus and work in good faith to pass key, bipartisan legislation and a school budget that prioritizes students over special interests,” *Speaker Hall* wrote in a letter Monday.

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

**REP JOE TATE DROPS OUT OF U.S. SENATE RACE** – Less than three months after announcing his candidacy for *U.S. Senate*, *Representative Joe Tate (D-Detroit)* has announced he will be dropping out of the crowded *Democratic* primary.

**The bigger picture:** The race includes *Senator Mallory McMorrow (D-Royal Oak)*, *U.S. Representative Haley Stevens (D-Birmingham)*, and Abdul El-Sayed of Ann Arbor. *Representative Tate* trailed behind his competitors in terms of fundraising; he raised just below \$200,000 in the most recent quarter while the other candidates each raised more than \$1 million.

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

**GOV WHITMER VISITS WHITE HOUSE** – *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* visited the White House for the second time this year, reportedly meeting with *President Donald Trump* about his policies and how they are affecting Michigan.

**Why it matters:** *Governor Whitmer* made a statement regarding her visit with the *President*, claiming that she was discussing “the impact tariffs are having on Michigan’s economy, especially our auto industry, the

harm Michigan will face due to changes in the Medicaid program and ongoing recovery efforts following the ice storm in Northern Michigan this year.” It has been said that the **Governor** specifically asked for a longer transition period, particularly in relation to the planned elimination of insurance provider assessments.

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

**HOUSE ENERGY STRIPPED OF BILLS AFTER CHAIR MISSES SESSION-** The **House Energy Committee**, chaired by **Representative Pauline Wendzel (R-Watervliet)** had all of its bills referred to a different committee after **Representative Wendzel** missed session on July 24.

**Why it matters:** A cleared docket is uncommon for any committee but especially rare for a powerful panel like **Energy**, which generally handles legislation related to electric utilities. Six bills were shifted to the **Government Operations Committee** by **Majority Floor Leader Bryan Posthumus (R-Rockford)** on July 24. The change follows **Representative Wendzel’s** absence from session on July 24. Two other **Republican** members were absent that day, leaving **House Republicans** one person short of the 56 necessary members to move legislation without **Democratic** support.

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

**DETROIT ELECTION PRIMARY RESULTS** – The two Detroit mayoral candidates were decided following the Detroit primary election on Tuesday. The **Detroit City Council** election has yet to be called.

**The bigger picture:** The Detroit primary election resulted in two **Democratic** candidates advancing to the November general election for mayor of Detroit. **Mary Sheffield, Detroit City Council President**, received 51.2% of the votes. **Solomon Kinloch Jr.**, a pastor serving Detroit for more than 25 years received 17.5% of the vote.

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

## **ELECTIONS**

- Kenny Clevenger, an Allegan County **Republican** officially became the first candidate to file for the open **20<sup>th</sup> Senate District** seat. The seat is currently held by **Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt (R-Porter)** who is both term-limited and running for **Governor**. Clevenger has served as **Casco Township Treasurer** since 2020 and chairs the **Allegan County Republican Party** executive committee. The **20<sup>th</sup> Senate District** is historically a **Republican** district.
- During Tuesday’s election, most voters approved requests to increase or renew spending for schools, public safety, roads and libraries. Out of all 15 proposals, 74 percent had passed. 12 of which were school bond proposals, seven passed, five failed and two were still outstanding. 14 proposals were to raise property taxes to fund public safety operations, 12 passed while two failed.
- **Karla Wagner**, posted to the **Ax MI Tax Initiative** Facebook account this week that she is running for **governor**. She claimed that she does not want to run but wants to bring attention to the cause. Using the platform to increase exposure. With the initiative, property taxes would be eliminated

among other tax changes. *Ms. Wagner* has filed to run as a **Republican and** encourages people to get signatures for her campaign along side signatures for ***Ax MI Tax***.

- **Robert Luljguraj**, former assistant prosecutor in Wayne and Macomb county has announced he will be entering the **10<sup>th</sup> U.S. House District** race. In his announcement video, he mentioned his family's immigration story from Albania and his Catholic upbringing. He is the first **Republican** to enter the race.

#### **ODDS AND ENDS**

- **Attorney General Dana Nessel** has joined her 29<sup>th</sup> multistate lawsuit against **President Donald Trump** for terminating funding for electric vehicle infrastructure. The **President** mandated that federal agencies halt the disbursement of **Congressionally** appropriated funds for the **National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program**. Michigan has lost access to \$29 million in funding following the pause.
- The **6<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** ruled that the state's ban on using drones to hunt is to be upheld. The ban prohibits the use of drones to hunt and track downed game. The drones, "would violate fair-chase principles and take away from the spirit and tradition of ethical hunting and fishing."
- A letter send on Tuesday was signed by thirty organizations urging **Governor Gretchen Whitmer** to reject funds offered by **President Donald Trump**. The funds are only made available to states who plan to construct new immigration detention centers. The letter cites facilities such as "Alligator Alcatraz," a Florida immigration center that has seen lawsuits due to its construction and living conditions.
- **Governor Gretchen Whitmer** requested data on how a road funding plan could offset construction job losses due to federal funding cuts. She also asked for an analysis on job losses if a road funding package is not enacted. The information is to be collected by August 21. In a statement, the **Governor** worries about the potential job loss if a bipartisan deal is not completed. The **Legislature** as a whole has not agreed on a road funding proposal yet.
- Michigan **Democrats** hosted a press conference this week in an attempt to raise awareness about refugees detained by **U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement**. The members called for increased transparency when it comes to detainees. This follows an event that occurred at the end of last month, when several members of the Hmong community were summoned for what they believed to be a routine immigration court hearing. They were unexpectedly detained upon arrival and are currently being held at a facility in Louisiana.
- **Attorney General Dana Nessel** launched **Operation Robocall Roundup** alongside 50 other attorneys general. The coalition will send letters to over 35 providers to get them to stop illegal robocalls from being routed in their networks. The taskforce, "will help ensure voice service providers do their part to stop illegal robocalls."

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