



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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GOV. WHITMER SIGNS EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE – *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* signed an *executive directive* this week which establishes the *Michigan Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Initiative*.

The bigger picture: The directive, [Executive Directive 2025-4](#), focuses on safe and efficient integration of new technologies and preparing the workforce for their deployment. The *Governor* made a statement in which she calls Michigan “a hub of innovation,” and with this initiative, “we are building on that proud legacy to lead the future.” She continues to speak on the global competition for aviation and autonomous aerial mobility and calls for the United States to, “strengthen critical supply chains, protect our national security, and reduce our dependence on foreign manufacturing.”

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

SEN. MCCANN LAUNCHES CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN – *Senator Sean McCann (D-Kalamazoo)* announced that he will be running for the *4th U.S. House District* this week as speculation rises about *U.S. Representative Bill Huizenga*’s potential run for the open *U.S. Senate* seat.

The bigger picture: *U.S. Representative Bill Huizenga (R-Zeeland)* was initially elected to Congress in 2011 and his intentions regarding the 2026 election remain unclear, whether he will be seeking reelection or running for *U.S. Senate*. *Senator McCann* has served in the *State Senate* since 2019, after serving in the *State House* prior. *Senator McCann* cannot seek reelection in the *Senate* due to term limits.

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

LATEST UPDATE IN ONGOING MEDC SAGA – The *Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)* has filed a claim of appeal against a district court decision which allowed the *Department of Attorney General* to review material seized during the June raid on *MEDC* headquarters. Additionally, *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* publicly acknowledged the investigation on Thursday for the first time.

The bigger picture: *District Court Judge James Brady* denied *MEDC*’s motion to reject the search warrant, allowing the department to search three boxes of material marked “attorney-client privileged.” *Otie McKinely*, *MEDC* spokesperson, made a statement that *MEDC* has been cooperating with the *Department of Attorney General* for “well over a year.” He said they began the appeal process because of the department taking materials that were deemed privileged “without allegation of any wrongdoing on the part of *MEDC*.” Investigators have said *MEDC* officials are not considered suspects or under investigation.

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

SEMICONDUCTOR PLANT WILL NOT MOVE FORWARD – *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* previously pushed for an economic development project that would have brought a semiconductor plant to Mundy Township. This week, the *Governor* made a statement that the company seeking a mega site for the plant pulled out of the deal.

Why it matters: *Sandisk*, a semiconductor manufacturing company based in California, was confirmed to be involved by a source working closely with the project. However, neither the company itself nor

the **Governor** has confirmed involvement. The project has been a priority for **Governor Whitmer**, with \$250 million in **Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve Fund** previously approved, and work on the site has already begun.

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

ELECTIONS

- The **Invest in MI Kids** ballot proposal group had their summary approval rescinded by the **Board of State Canvassers** last week. The ballot proposal seeks to apply a 5 percent income tax surcharge on Michigan's highest earners and direct the funds to public schools. The rescission follows a language discrepancy in the summary, which opponents of the proposal claimed that the version placed in front of the Canvassers did not receive public comment.
- **Amir Hassan**, a Navy veteran and law enforcement officer from Flint announced he will be challenging **U.S. Representative Kristen McDonald Rivet (D-Bay City)** in the race for the **8th U.S. House District**. He is the first **Republican** to join the race against **Representative McDonald Rivet**, who won the open seat in 2024. In the announcement video, **Mr. Hassan** showed abandoned homes in Flint, claiming that is what happens when **Democratic** votes are taken for granted.
- With the gubernatorial primary just over a year away, **Republican candidate Mike Cox** signed a letter calling for ten debates before next August. In the letter, **Mr. Cox** brought up the 12 debates prior to the 2016 presidential primary election and claims **President Donald Trump** became a "stronger and sharper candidate" because of them. He calls for the debates to be balanced across various districts and have various hosts. "With our late primary in August 2026, we can't afford to wait until next summer to get serious."
- **Republican Mike Rogers** reported raising \$1.5 million across two accounts in his run for **U.S. Senate**. **Senator Mallory McMorrow (D-Royal Oak)** has raised the largest sum out of all **U.S. Senate Candidates**, raising \$2.1 million. **U.S. Representative Haley Stevens (D-Birmingham)** said in a statement that she will be reporting \$2.5 million, but the figure includes a transfer from her **U.S. House** committee.
- The **Board of State Canvassers** plans to consider a petition to recall **Representative Peter Herzberg (D-Westland)** during this week's meeting. The petition was submitted by Keith Butkovich, who ran for a seat on the **University of Michigan Board of Regents** in 2020. He is looking to recall **Representative Herzberg** for voting against **House Bill 4170**. This bill reduces the state personal income tax to 4.05 percent from 4.25 percent. The **Representative** has not commented on the petition.

ODDS AND ENDS

- **Attorney General Dana Nessel** announced that Michigan is part of another nationwide opioid settlement worth \$720 million. Eight drug makers, the defendants in the settlement, have agreed to a sign-on period for local governments. The settlement would result in Michigan receiving up to \$24.5 million. In total, Michigan has received \$1.6 billion from previous settlements. The **Attorney General** made a statement saying she will continue working to hold the companies accountable and "bring meaningful relief to the people and families impacted by this crisis."
- **House Democrats** joined **Senate Democrats** in calling out **House Speaker Matt Hall (D-Richland Township)** over cancelled session and the lack of budget. **House Minority Leader Ranjeev Puri (D-Canton)**, joined by several other **Democratic Representatives**, believe that **Speaker Hall** has not made a "serious attempt" to get the budget done on time. **Minority Leader Puri** claimed to not have an issue with the **Senate** cancelling session, since they have proven to deliver an on-time budget the past two years. "There's only one cog in this that has changed from recent history, and that is **Matt Hall** becoming **Speaker**, and magically, now budgets are not getting done."
- A 22nd lawsuit against **President Donald Trump** has been filed by **Attorney General Dana Nessel** this week. **AG Nessel** is accompanied by 22 other attorneys general. The suit was filed over freezing funding for six programs in the **U.S. Department of Education**, equaling \$6.8 billion in funding nationwide. Michigan would experience an impact of around \$171 million.

- **Attorney General Dana Nessel** also filed her 23rd lawsuit against **President Donald Trump** this week. The suit targets the shutting down of the **Federal Emergency Management Agency's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities** program. The program provides resources to prepare for a disaster. **AG Nessel** brought up Michigan's recent severe storms as well as the most recent flash flood in Texas as evidence to maintain the program. **AG Nessel** is claiming that without it, constructing shelters and floodwalls among other protective measures will be difficult to fund.
- The **House Election Integrity Committee** took testimony only on legislation that would give authority to the **Attorney General** to investigate alleged violations by the **Campaign Finance Act** in relation to the **Secretary of State**. The bill would amend the act, providing procedures for the **Attorney General** to both investigate and amend allegations involving the **Secretary of State**. Currently, the **SOS** is required to refer cases to the **Attorney General** to determine whether a violation has occurred.

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