

GOV WHITMER TRAVELS TO EUROPE ON TRADE MISSION – *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* traveled to Germany to attend the Munich Security Conference before visiting Italy to meet with leaders in the defense, aerospace, and national security realm.

The bigger picture: The *Governor* traveled to Germany late last week with the goal of attracting business in the defense industry by proving that Michigan’s manufacturing economy plays a crucial role in national defense, advanced manufacturing, and military assets. The trip to Italy was an extension to the work done in Germany, meeting with Italian business, government, and industry leaders to promote manufacturing and job creation in Michigan. The *Governor* also visited the 2026 Olympics in Milan, meeting with Michigan athletes and cheering on the United States.

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

SENATOR ANTHONY RESPONDS TO BUDGET PROPOSAL – A week after *Governor Gretchen Whitmer’s* executive budget recommendation was presented, *Senate Appropriations Chair Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing)* called for a broader property tax reduction program for Michigan residents, as well as emphasizing she does not want to dip into the rainy day fund like the *Governor’s* budget proposal does.

The bigger picture: In an op-ed with the Detroit News, *Senator Anthony* stressed that she wants to lower property taxes in a bipartisan effort for more residents, not only seniors. She called for an expansion of *Governor Whitmer’s* Homestead Property Tax Credit, making roughly 260,000 additional Michigan residents eligible, which is projected to cost the state \$300 million in the next fiscal year. *Senator Anthony* also stated that she does not want to pull from the state’s Budget Stabilization Fund despite the potential \$1 billion gap that needs to be filled.

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

SPEAKER HALL PROPOSES \$4 BILLION TAX CUT – During a press conference this week, *House Speaker Matt Hall (R-Richland Township)* proposed an outline for a \$4 billion tax overhaul plan in the upcoming budget that is focused on addressing rising housing costs and affordability issues.

The bigger picture: Both *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* and *Senator Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing)* have proposed tax cuts centered around the Homestead Property Tax Credit, with proposals costing the state \$90 million and \$300 million, respectively. *Speaker Hall’s* proposal on Thursday is a major increase in cost to the state, along with the areas of impact. The *Speaker’s* proposal includes property tax cuts alongside eliminating the state education tax, personal property tax, and the real estate transfer tax.

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

ELECTIONS

- *Representative Luke Meerman(R-Coopersville)* announced he will not be seeking reelection for his fifth term in the *89th House District*. *Representative Meerman* is the 17th House member to announce they are not seeking reelection in 2026.
- Harrison Township business owner *Shelley Wright* launched her campaign for the *12th Senate District*. In the announcement, *Ms. Wright* said that her campaign priorities revolve around families, parental rights and workforce development. *Ms. Wright* joins *Patrick Biange* and *Eileen*

Tesch in the *Republican* primary. The seat is currently held by *Senator Kevin Hertel (D-Saint Clair Shores)* who is running for reelection. The *12th Senate District* is considered a 50/50 district.

- Troy City Councilmember *Theresa Brooks* is running for the *9th Senate District*. *Ms. Brooks* will be joining *Brendan Johnson* and *Renis Nushaj* in the *Democratic Primary*. The seat is held by *Senator Michael Webber (R-Rochester Hills)* who is seeking reelection.

ODDS AND ENDS

- A five-bill fertility fraud package passed the *House* this week, with most bills receiving some bipartisan support, and the final bill, *House Bill 5039*, passing 88-21. The entirety of the package, *House Bills 5035-5039* would work to criminalize false representation in assisted fertility. Public health requirements that outline when the *Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs* must investigate would also be amended.
- The *House Education and Workforce Committee* voted along party lines to report *House Bill 5364* to the *House* floor. The bill would require the *Legislature* to approve statewide education standards proposed by the *State Board of Education* before they could take effect. The *Legislature* would effectively be given veto power to deny proposed changes to the current state model curriculum content standards.
- The *House Health Policy Committee* discussed *House Bill 4779* this week. The bill would require the use of smoke-removal equipment during procedures that create surgical smoke plumes. Surgical smoke plumes could contain harmful pollutants and could contain traces of viruses such as HPV and HIV.
- *House Bill 5302* was also discussed within the *Health Policy Committee*. Under the legislation, the *Department of Health and Human Services* would be required to award \$5 million worth of grants annually to addiction recovery community organizations. The cap is currently set at \$150,000; the bill would ensure that each organization would receive \$250,000.
- The *House Health Policy Committee* unanimously reported *House Bill 5313* to the *House* floor. The bill would allow health professionals to expunge disciplinary records, create a notice process and fine structure for continuing education violations. Physicians' continuing education requirements would also be reduced.
- The *House Judiciary Committee* took testimony only *House Bills 5157* and *5158* this week, which would increase the penalties for supplying illegal drugs that cause serious injuries. However, most of the committee members agreed that the language within the draft was too vague to move forward.
- The *Senate Health Policy Committee* discussed legislation that would allow an eligible organ donor to take up to 12 weeks of paid leave through a non-refundable tax credit. Previous organ donors testified in support of *Senate Bill 301*, including sponsor *Senator Joseph Bellino (R-Monroe)* who told the committee he had to miss important days of work following his donation and was only able to because of the support in his workplace.
- The *Senate* passed legislation that would add bleeding control techniques to the Good Samaritan Act. *Senate Bills 590* and *591* passed the *Senate* unanimously.