

APPROPRIATION SUBCOMMITTEES BEGIN MOVING BUDGETS – The 2026-27 Fiscal Year budget process ramped up this week, with the *House* and *Senate* moving budget proposals out of subcommittees.

The bigger picture: In the first week back since their annual legislative spring break, the *House* and *Senate* returned to Lansing with a fury of action, moving numerous budget bills and giving the first glimpse at budget priorities for each chamber. It remains early in the budget process, with both chambers continuing to take up budgets in the coming weeks. The *House* and *Senate* have stated they are working towards passing the final 2026-27 Fiscal Year budget by July 1, the statutory deadline for passing a budget in Michigan.

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

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED FOR 33 COUNTIES – *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* declared a state of emergency for over 30 counties across the state as severe weather conditions are causing rising water levels, flooding, straight-line winds, and tornadoes.

The bigger picture: Last week, a state of emergency was declared for Cheboygan County due to the possibility of overtopping at the Cheboygan Lock and Dam Complex. Cheboygan and the additional 32 counties will receive additional state resources to help with the recovery process.

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

ELECTIONS

- *Representative Reggie Miller (D-Van Buren Township)* announced that she will not be seeking reelection in the *31st House District*. *Shannon Dare Wayne*, a member of the Milan City Council, has filed to run as a Democrat in the *31st House District* and was quickly endorsed by *Representative Miller*.
- Former *Representative Gary Eisen* announced this week that he is running for the *25th Senate District*. *Mr. Eisen* joins former *Representative Andrew Beeler* in the *Republican* primary. The seat is currently held by *Senator Dan Lauwers (R-Brockway)* who is term limited. The *25th Senate District* is a safe *Republican* seat.
- Congressman and gubernatorial candidate *John James* released his first television ad this week. The ad aired on Wednesday, saying it's time for Michigan to "get back up," alongside unveiling a new plan to eliminate the state income tax.

ODDS AND ENDS

- The *Senate* passed legislation that would protect nurses from having to work large amounts of overtime. Supporters of *Senate Bills 296* and *297* say that patient care would improve and nurse burnout would be decreased. The bills would also require nurses to have eight hours of time off following a 12-hour shift. The bills passed 21-16.
- The *House* passed legislation that would require voters to provide proof of citizenship when registering to vote. *House Bill 4765* passed along party lines and would require submission of an enhanced driver's license, a birth certificate, or other documents to submit a ballot.
- *House Republicans* testified in front of the *House Energy Committee* on *House Bills 5710* and *5711* this week. Together, the bills would eliminate clean and renewable energy standards and

require consideration of all energy sources. Business groups agreed with the testifiers while environmental advocates were against eliminating the mandate.

- The *House Families and Veterans Committee* took testimony on *House Bills 5456* and *5457*. The bills would establish a three-year pilot program that would provide hyperbaric oxygen treatment to veterans in Michigan. The treatment would help veterans who are suffering from traumatic brain injuries or post-traumatic stress disorder. The treatment would be given at no cost under the grant program.