

**HOUSE PASSES FY 26-27 BUDGET PROPOSAL** – The *House* passed its \$75.8 billion budget proposal just before midnight on Wednesday this week after a marathon session day to pass its proposed budget for the *2026-27 Fiscal Year*.

**The bigger picture:** *House Bill 5619*, the omnibus budget for state departments and agencies, passed 56-51. The omnibus education budget, *House Bill 5630*, passed 56-49 with two *Republicans* voting no. The *Republican* proposal cuts the overall budget by \$106 million and General Fund spending by almost \$600 million. The proposed budget, including the \$9 billion placed into a contingency fund, totals \$84.8 billion, which is still less than the *Governor's* \$88 billion.

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

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS MOVES BUDGET BILLS** – The *Senate Appropriations Committee* began to move budget bills on Thursday - utilizing \$350 million from the state's rainy-day fund to balance their proposals.

**The bigger picture:** The *Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing)* stated that with federal law changes creating a large budget gap, it is time to consider dipping into the Budget Stabilization Fund, commonly known as the rainy-day fund. The comments came during an appropriations hearing that reported 11 bills to the *Senate* floor. Floor votes are likely to take place next week.

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

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY SELECTS SOS, AG CANDIDATES FOR 2026 ELECTION** – The *Democratic Party Endorsement Convention* took place at Huntington Place on Sunday night, where delegates selected *Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist* for *Secretary of State (SOS)* and *Eli Savit* for *Attorney General (AG)*.

**The bigger picture:** The *Democratic Party Endorsement Convention* was held last weekend, where party delegates nominated *Mr. Savit* and *Lt. Governor Gilchrist* to appear on the ballot in November. Several *Democratic* candidates spoke at the convention while persevering through technical difficulties. The convention continued late into Sunday night due to the technical difficulties.

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

**REP TATE APPOINTED AS APPROPRIATIONS MINORITY VICE CHAIR** – *House Speaker Matt Hall (R-Richland Township)* made changes to committee assignments this week, including appointing former *House Speaker Joe Tate (D-Detroit)* to serve as minority vice chair of the *House Appropriations Committee*.

**The bigger picture:** The *House Appropriations Committee* has operated without a formal minority vice chair since *Representative Alabas Farhat (D-Dearborn)* was removed from the position last summer. *Speaker Hall* posted the new assignment on social media, saying that *Democrats* “are in need of leadership,” and appointed *former Speaker Tate* to the position.

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

## **ELECTIONS**

- Kent County Commissioner **Robert Womack** announced he will be running for the **82<sup>nd</sup> House District** seat. The seat is currently held by **Representative Kristian Grant (D-Grand Rapids)** who **Mr. Womack** will compete against in the **Democratic** primary.
- Oxford Township Trustee **Cathrine Colvin** will join **Representative Josh Schriver (R-Oxford)** in the **66<sup>th</sup> House District Republican** primary.

### ODDS AND ENDS

- Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 5% during the month of February. Employment fell by 9,000 and the amount of unemployed also dropped by 1,000. Michigan's unemployment rate has decreased by 0.3 percentage points since February 2025.
- The **House** passed **House Bill 5301** with broad bipartisan support on Tuesday. The bill would allow hunters to use flashlights two hours before and two hours after shooting hours while carrying unloaded firearms or bows. The bill passed 92-15.
- The **House Election Integrity Committee** reported **House Bill 5091** to the **House** floor. Under the bill, county commissioners and executives of counties with a population of over 150,000 would be considered public officers. The new public officers would therefore be required to file annual financial disclosure reports with the secretary of state.
- **House Bill 5717** was voted out of the **House Election Integrity Committee** this week. The bill would provide new procedures for when the township clerk and deputy township clerks are not able to perform election-related duties.
- The **Senate** passed bills that would sunset penalties for minors who buy or use tobacco products. **Senate Bills 463** and **466** passed 19-16 and 20-15, respectively. Those in support of the bills say that the reasoning is to go after the adults who are providing the products to the minors instead of punishing the minors themselves.
- **Senate Bill 145** passed the **Senate** 19-16 on Wednesday. The bill prohibits an employer from seeking past wage information about prospective employees. The bill intends to address gaps in wage levels between men and women and minorities.