

PARDON OUR DUST – MHSA's 19th floor will be under construction through the remainder of July and August. During this time, client space will be limited, and our large conference room will be unavailable. Please keep in mind that we may not be able to accommodate you during this time. Team MHSA appreciates your understanding and is excited to have you in our new space once completed!

MHSA NEWS - Congratulations to MHSA team member Nick Baugh on his recent engagement! We are thrilled to celebrate this exciting milestone with him and his fiancée, Rachel. On behalf of our entire MHSA family, we wish the pair a lifetime full of love and memories together. Please join us in congratulating him and wishing the happy couple all the best for the future!

ELECTION FUNDRAISING REPORT – Federal candidates filed their quarterly fundraising reports earlier this week, with *Abdul El-Sayed* leading the *U.S. Senate* candidates in money raised.

The bigger picture: The fundraising period that ran from April 1 through June 30 resulted in *Democrat Abdul El-Sayed* reporting \$4.58 million raised, more than double what his primary opponent, *U.S. Representative Haley Stevens* raised. In the 7th *U.S. House District*, *Bridget Brink* came out on top compared to her fellow *Democrats*. *Senator Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield)* led the pack in the 11th *U.S. House District* to fill *Representative Stevens'* seat.

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

WILDFIRE SMOKE BRINGS HAZARDOUS AIR QUALITY TO MICHIGAN – Wildfires across Canada and northern Minnesota led to Michigan being covered with record wildfire smoke.

The bigger picture: The air quality across the state has been labeled as hazardous by the Air Quality Index (AQI) - to receive that label, the AQI must read at 301 or higher. Several parts of Michigan have seen its air quality reach values of 400 and higher. Marquette saw an AQI of 785 on Thursday, this contributed to the *Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)* urging Michigan residents to keep themselves and their pets indoors as much as possible. The *Department of Natural Resources (DNR)* has announced that they will refund camping and lodging reservations for July 15-19.

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

GOV WHITMER CHIEF OF STAFF STEPPING DOWN – *JoAnne Huls, Governor Gretchen Whitmer's* chief of staff announced that she will be leaving the role at the end of July but will continue to work as a senior advisor.

The bigger picture: *Zack Pohl* will be stepping up as chief of staff for the *Governor's* final four months in office. *Mr. Pohl* is currently the principal deputy chief of staff in the office. *Ms. Huls* began her career in the governmental space in the 1990s and has served *Governor Whitmer* for over seven years.

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

ELECTIONS

- *Robert Lulguraj* has decided to drop out of the race for the 10th *U.S. House District* after *President Donald Trump* endorsed his opponent, *Mike Bouchard*. *Mr. Lulguraj* said that while he disagrees with *President Trump's* endorsement, he has always and will continue to support the president. The remaining candidates in the *Republican* primary are *Mike Bouchard, Steffan Demetropolous*

and **Justin Kirk**. The seat is currently held by **Congressman John James**, who is running for Governor.

- The **Michiganders for Money out of Politics** group filed its response refuting challenges to its ballot petitions. The group claims that the challenges are based on issues that are not in line with policies for denying certifying signatures.

ODDS AND ENDS

- Over 60 bills that were passed with the **FY 2026-27** budget deal were presented to **Governor Gretchen Whitmer** this week. The presentation of the bills started the 14-day clock for the **Governor** to consider and sign the legislation. The deadline for signing is July 28. The large number of bills covered topics spanning from affordable housing to the transformational brownfield program.
- The **Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)** and the **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** issued permits for Enbridge Energy to move a portion of Line 5 into a tunnel beneath the Straits of Mackinac. The permits contain several requirements for the project, including the submission of an improved wetland mitigation plan and measures to protect threatened plant species.