

STATE BUDGET SIGNED BY GOVERNOR – *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* signed her final budget into law earlier this week.

The bigger picture: The General Omnibus and School Aid Omnibus budget bills were signed on Tuesday. *House Bill 5680*, the education omnibus was signed at a public event while the general omnibus, *Senate Bill 878*, was signed privately with a press release issued later that day.

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

GOV WHITMER SIGNS SEVERAL BILLS – This week *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* signed a plethora of bills into law which were all passed alongside the budget at the beginning of July.

The bigger picture: Some of the bills *Governor Whitmer* signed this week include legislation related to housing and weighted funding for schools. Other bills signed include legislation aimed at lowering health care costs and expanding access to care in Michigan. In addition to these topics, over two dozen bills were also signed that cover a wide range of issues.

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

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUESTS AT RECORD NUMBERS – With just two weeks to go until the August 4th primary election, nearly two million Michigan residents have requested mail-in ballots.

The bigger picture: Compared to 2022 numbers, Michigan's last gubernatorial election year, the amount of absentee ballot requests has increased by 68.5%. As of July 21, 572,553 ballots have already been submitted, compared to 398,756 at this time in 2022, a 43.6% increase. Only about 50,000 of the ballot requests are not on the permanent mail ballot list.

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

ELECTIONS

- Last weekend former *Attorney General Mike Cox* announced his departure from the *Republican* primary in the gubernatorial race. Less than three weeks out from the primary, *Mr. Cox* says that *President Donald Trump's* endorsement of *U.S. Representative John James* “placed him out of reach in a three-way *Republican* primary.” *Representative James* and *Perry Johnson* remain in the race.
- *Michiganders for Money Out of Politics* has submitted a sufficient number of signatures to be certified. Of the 1,000 signatures submitted, 657 were deemed valid after the *Protect MI Free Speech* group challenged the submission. 636 of the signatures needed to be sufficient for the group to move forward.
- Former *Representative Sara Cambensy* filed petition signatures last Friday to run as an independent for the 38th *Senate District*. In order to run with no party affiliation, between 1,500 and 3,000 signatures must be submitted, *Ms. Cambensy* submitted 2,349. *Cambensy* served as a *Democrat* in the *House*.

ODDS AND ENDS

- **Governor Gretchen Whitmer** appointed **Jim Townsend** as the Chair of the **Michigan Gaming Control Board**. The current Chair, **Jim Ananich** will be ending his term at the end of July, with **Mr. Townsend's** term starting on August 1.
- **Stephanie Chatfield**, wife of the former Speaker of the House **Lee Chatfield**, was sentenced to six months' probation and community service for embezzling funds from a nonprofit. The sentence came after **Ms. Chatfield** took a plea deal that resulted in 25 hours of community service and a \$2,000 fine. **Ms. Chatfield** has also been asked to hand write an apology letter to the court. She could be eligible for an early discharge of probation after serving at least half of the term.
- The **Senate Fiscal Agency** released a report that shows state revenue was up 3.1% in June compared to the May revenue estimating conference estimates. June revenue came in at \$3.4 billion, which is \$163 million higher than projected. General Fund collections were \$112.9 million higher and School Aid Fund collections were \$39.4 million higher than estimated.