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To: Amy Malmer, Executive Director, Metropolitan Affairs Council
From: Mike Compagnoni, Adam Wright, and Dusty Fancher, Account Lobbyists, Midwest Strategy Group
Date: 5 August 2026
Subject: Lobbying and Government Relations Activities Summary

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Session Schedule
The legislature is now on summer break and will likely remain out of session through the Labor Day holiday. As a reminder, all introduced legislation in Michigan is valid for the full two-year session which will expire at the end of 2026. While the legislature has had a historically slow start to the year, having only around a dozen bills signed into law, we have seen activity pick up with a bipartisan budget deal made before the July 4th holiday with the Governor signing dozens of bills passed as part of the deal in July.

Important Upcoming Dates
Below is a list of upcoming dates that are relevant to the political and legislative calendar for 2026:

- Aug 29: Democratic nominating convention
- Sept 30/Oct 1: End of fiscal year/Start of FY26-27
- Nov. 3: General election date
- Dec. 31: Last possible day of 2026-27 legislative session

FY27 Budget Passage Update
The legislature is statutorily required to pass a state budget by July 1 in order to provide schools with insight on what revenues they can expect in the upcoming year. However, there are no consequences on the legislature for not passing a budget before this deadline. In addition, there is a constitutional requirement that the state pass a budget before October 1. Although the legislature missed the statutory deadline of July 1, we still saw a budget passed before the July 4th holiday in a marathon overnight session on July 2nd and 3rd. In comparison, last fiscal year when the Michigan Legislature did not have a budget signed into law until mid-October. Governor Gretchen Whitmer took a few weeks to review before final signature.

Besides education, the total top line omnibus budget was around $750 million smaller than last year's budget, dropping the total spend in this area to $75.1 billion and a flat General Fund of $14.1 billion. The education omnibus (K-12, community colleges, and higher education) was significantly less than in past years from $24.1 billion to $22.9 billion. However, the budget has not accounted for federal dollars, which are estimated at $1.4 billion, which would put the budget up approximately $200 million for the year. The budgets accurately reflect a stable and relatively flat revenue picture in the state combined with impactful federal reductions to state funding. Last year's roads deal and larger obligations for things like Medicaid caseloads also put downward pressure on state spending.

House Fiscal Summary of the General Omnibus (SB 878)
House Fiscal Summary of the School Omnibus (HB 5630)

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Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

The Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) saw an overall increase of $680 million. Despite that increase, many programs and initiatives were cut to help balance the state's largest departmental budget. Notable highlights include:

- *Medicaid Actuarial Soundness Adjustments*
  The budget includes $658 million for managed care entities that provide Medicaid services to reflect the Federal requirement that capitation rates be actuarially sound.
- *Healthy Michigan Plan Reduction*
  A reduction of $148 million to recognize caseload, utilization, inflation, and special financing adjustments for medical and behavioral health services in the Healthy Michigan Plan
- *No New Revenue*
  As part of the governor's executive recommendation, there were plans to offset federal Medicaid cuts with new revenue stemming from tobacco and vape taxes. These were not included in the final product.
- *One-Time Projects*
  Several one-time projects were included, such as:
  - Nursing facility staffing initiatives – $10.0 million
  - New Southeast Michigan State Psychiatric Hospital – $6.0 million
  - Water affordability grants – $5.0 million
  - Weatherization assistance grants – $5.0 million
  - Crisis stabilization units – $5.0 million
  - Permanent supportive housing – $5.0 million

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Spending for MDOT increased by $226M, or about 3% for the year. This was largely driven by an increase in restricted funds from the new 2025 roads deal. Items of note include:

- State Trunkline Road and Bridge Capital Program budget totals $2.0 billion, an increase of $137.6 million. While estimated available federal funds would decrease by $2.5 million, state restricted support would increase by net $140.1 million.
- Includes $1.1 billion for distribution to cities and villages per Act 51 formula, a $122.5 million increase.
- Includes $2.0 billion for distribution to county road commissions per Act 51 formula, a $221.2 million increase.
- Includes $133,800 increase, the estimated increase in Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) revenue designated for this program per Act 51 formula. In addition to $26.6 million MTF, the budget includes $100.0 million from the Neighborhood Roads Fund (NRF).
- Several one-time funding projects using CTF including $5M for Maritime & Port Facility Assistance Program; $7.5M for Commercial Service Airports; $4.1M for the Great Lakes Tunnel
- Local Bus Operating saw a $305 million total funding level, an increase of $33.4 million over last year.
- The Detroit Wayne County Port Authority continued to receive their annual appropriation of 600k.

- $65M for Infrastructure Projects Authority Fund, which funds transformational transit projects, part of the 2025 roads deal.

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO)

Last year, the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) saw some major cuts in the final budget at 25% overall, with a $690.7 million reduction and $577.4 million in general funds. This year the department saw another reduction over $135 million or another 7.8% year over year.

The LEO budget did see new investments for Registered Apprenticeships ($4 million one-time), and dollars to implement federal work requirements ($10 million ongoing). The executive had recommended $25M for federal work requirements and $5M for apprenticeships, which would provide additional opportunities for individuals to meet new federal work requirements under H.R. 1. There also appears to be an $18 million dollar appropriation in a supplemental for LEO tied to HR-1 that may also be for Medicaid work requirement implementation.

There were significant cuts to longstanding programs, such as Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (now $4M one-time), providing support for at-risk youth. Similarly, Going Pro funding was a topic of discussion throughout the budget process, with the Governor not including any funding in her executive recommendation. The House included $40M and the Senate $10M. The final negotiated amount was $14.5M one-time, which is a significant cut from previous years.

The final budget combined the traditional Business Attraction and Entrepreneurship lines into a single Michigan Small Business, Community Growth, and Entrepreneurship Support line item for a total of $68.6 million GF/GP (one-time) to support various programs including the following:

- $30.0 million for small business development grants, loans, investments, technical assistance, program support, outreach activities, and other economic assistance activities that support small business growth,
- $28.6 million for community revitalization; placemaking; business attraction, retention, and expansion; redevelopment; and other economic development activities related to growing Michigan's economy, and.
- $9.7 million for entrepreneurship and innovation, including activities that strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem and accelerate the creation, startup, growth, retention, attraction, and commercialization of high-tech, high-growth businesses.

Conference eliminated all ongoing funding for Pure Michigan and allocated $9.0 million in one-time for the program and $2.0 million in one-time for special events.

Earmarks or "Legislatively Directed Spending Items" (LDSIs) proved to be a major sticking point in the budget which held up negotiations. The final number of LDSIs in the LEO budget was 135 items totaling $125.3M.

Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) budget saw an overall cut of $296.3M (30.6%) from FY26. There were multiple executive budget-proposed fee increases that were ultimately

not included in conference. The House proposed budget suggested the elimination of 103 FTEs, which also did not make it through conference committee. While most items in the EGLE budget were cuts, Water Resources Programs received a net increase of $600,000 in restricted funds and four new FTEs. The Water Resource Programs administer flood hazard, dam safety, permitting, and regulatory programs while overseeing compliance, protection, and restoration efforts for Michigan's lakes, streams, wetlands, Great Lakes, floodplains, coastal areas, sand dunes, and other sensitive water resources.

General Government - DTMB and Revenue Sharing

The Department of Technology, Management, and Budget (DTMB), saw an overall reduction from $1.84 billion to $1.72 billion, largely driven by reductions in state leasing costs and removal of one-time increases in spending from last year. The overall DTMB budget for the Information Technology Investment Fund (ITIF) was held harmless with no changes from last year despite the House's efforts earlier this year to cut $35M from the fund, effectively zeroing the line item in their budget. Of note for tech projects, the DTMB budget included language that would create new requirements for Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) for IT projects over $10 million.

State revenue sharing for local governments, housed inside the state's treasury budget, saw no changes this year despite a challenging financial situation. That said, the legislature removed FY 2025-26 one-time funding for Public Safety Revenue Sharing, which included $10.0 million for police academies, $7.5 million for Cities, Villages, and Townships, and $2.5 million for counties. This totals a $20 million reduction in funding.

Higher Education

The final higher education budgets provide $378.2 million for community college operations, a net increase of $3.7 million, or 1.0%, over the current year. For university operations, the final budget provides $1.7 billion, a net increase of $17.6 million, or 1.0%, over the current year. It includes a $66.8 million one-time increase that would provide each university with a 4.0% increase over ongoing operations funding, offset by the removal of $50.1 million in current-year one-time grants. Universities would need to limit resident undergraduate tuition and fee increases to the greater of 4.0% or $651 to receive the one-time funding.

The budget also increases funding for several major financial-aid programs. The Michigan Achievement Scholarship would receive an additional $232 million, bringing total funding to $532 million. Tuition Incentive Program funding would increase by $43.5 million, or 35.6%, to accommodate higher participation and tuition costs, without adopting the Executive's proposed eligibility restrictions. Michigan Reconnect would receive an additional $25 million, a 59.5% increase, to support expansion of the program to adults ages 21 through 24. The conference agreement also continues full funding of the state's obligations to the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System.

The legislature passed much-awaited Capital Outlay planning authorizations for six university projects and nine community college projects. Seven university projects and five community college projects garnered construction authorizations to break ground in the coming fiscal year. The total cost for all 28

projects would be approximately $1.4 billion ($543.0 million for new planning authorizations; $901.7 million for construction authorizations).

Education/K-12

Legislators approved the K-12 budget for schools throughout Michigan with a $250 increase in per-pupil funding. That increase puts the foundation allowance at $10,300 per Michigan student.

As part of per-pupil funding, cyber charter schools were equally funded. School safety and mental health remain a top priority in the K-12 budget, investing a total of $310 million that will be distributed to school districts on a per-pupil basis. Universal school breakfast and lunch were also funded with a total appropriation of $202 million. This budget also includes $40 million for a new dual enrollment line item that will reimburse school districts for eligible dual enrollment costs of their pupils.

CRC Suggests Budget Isn't Balanced

Governor Whitmer signed the fiscal year (FY) 2027 general and education budget bills in July, but a new analysis from the nonpartisan Citizens Research Council (CRC) finds the budget isn't actually balanced. The Council estimates general fund appropriations exceed available revenue by $600 to $900 million, once the state's negative year-end fund balance is factored in alongside the gap between spending and the May consensus revenue estimate. Whitmer told reporters at the time of signing she hadn't reviewed the analysis but maintained the budget is balanced, citing added costs shifted to states under the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). Lawmakers and the State Budget Office clarified later that the gap would be filled by lapsing some covid contingency dollars and the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve fund to ensure the budget is balanced.

Looking further out, the harder decisions land on the next governor and legislature. CRC projects a structural general fund shortfall of more than $500 million heading into the FY2028 budget cycle, driven by new state SNAP cost-sharing under OBBBA (roughly $320 million), Medicaid caseload growth, and payroll increases arriving just as the one-time revenue cushions used in FY2027 disappear and with little to no fund balance in reserve. We expect FY2028 budget deliberations to open with real trade-offs on the table rather than incremental growth.

House Committee on Oversight Discusses Canadian Wildfires

Despite the quiet summer in Lansing, the Canadian wildfires have impacted the entire state of Michigan, drawing concern from the House Committee on Oversight on the impact of the fires on the state's tourism and economy. The committee, chaired by Rep. Jay DeBoyer (R-Clay Township), heard testimony from the Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association (MRLA) about their estimated $4 billion impact to Michigan's economy. Consequently, MRLA requested the legislature put $3 million towards the Pure Michigan campaign as $1 towards Pure Michigan results in $12 of economic activity. Chair DeBoyer made it clear that the goal of the committee was not to solve the problems of the wildfires themselves as he attributes that to poor forestry practices, but to understand and mitigate the impacts of the fire on Michigan.

MSC Rules Marijuana Smell-Based Searches Unconstitutional

In a 5-2 decision, the Michigan Supreme Court held that the smell of marijuana, even alongside an

admission of possessing a civil-infraction amount, does not give police probable cause to search a vehicle without a warrant. Writing for the majority in *People v. Wilkins* (MSC Docket No. 167737), Justice Kimberly Thomas reasoned that because voters moved small-quantity possession out of the criminal code, the state's enforcement interest no longer outweighs a driver's privacy interest. Justices Brian Zahra and Richard Bernstein dissented. The ruling builds on *People v. Armstrong* (2025) and takes effect immediately for law enforcement search practices statewide.

Policy Bill Updates

A large number of policy bills moved alongside the budget as part of the budget negotiation. It seems the negotiations around which bills would be traded for ultimately stalled the budget vote. Some of the key pieces of legislation that moved include are listed below (all passed with wide bipartisan margins). All have since been signed by Gov. Whitmer – there are additional details below on some of these bills:

- SB 52 - allows the Detroit-Wayne County Port Authority to offer pass-through financing
- SB 723 - amends transformational brownfield economic development law
- HB 4415 - requires competitive bidding for Road Commission projects
- HB 5646 - requires literacy related training for teacher prep
- SB 903 - codifies a weighted funding model for schools
- SB 721-722 - extends the sunset on commercial rehabilitation
- SB 966 - creates low-income housing tax credit
- SB 989 - extends sunset for interim teaching certifications
- HB 4309 - enters Michigan into a multi-state physician associate licensure compact

Whitmer signs housing tax credit, single-stair reforms as readiness plan stays stalled

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed six housing bills at a Grand Rapids development slated for 45 affordable units, creating a state housing opportunity tax credit (HB 5806, HB 5807, SB 966), barring large institutional investors from buying single-family homes outside limited exceptions (HB 6074), and allowing single-stairway construction in midrise buildings up to four stories (HB 5570, HB 5571). Rep. Kristian Grant (D-Grand Rapids) and Rep. Joe Aragona (R-Clinton Township) drove the tax credit, which Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) CEO Amy Hovey said will help close a shortfall of roughly 97,000 units. The rest of the package Reps. Aragona and Grant are working on, which create many preemptions to local zoning, remains stalled over local government and stakeholder objections in House committee. Gov. Whitmer sidestepped whether she expects those bills to move, saying only that she sees common ground and would be an eager partner if sponsors revive it.

Whitmer signs brownfield expansion with new anti-abuse safeguards

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed a three-bill package reviving and expanding the transformational brownfield program, letting development company owners retain employee income tax withholdings at new job sites rather than remitting them to the state (SB 721, SB 722, SB 723). The rewrite adds guardrails absent from the expired version: employers with more than 50 Michigan employees or receiving Michigan Strategic Fund incentives are ineligible, in-state job relocations cannot be counted as new jobs, and facilities moved within Michigan without expansion, added headcount or another valid business reason are excluded. The package also adds a definition of affordable housing tied to income-qualified households. Reauthorization has been pursued since the program lapsed, with the credit eyed to help defray demolition costs at a portion of the Renaissance Center. Detroit Mayor Mary Sheffield

and Northern Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters Executive Secretary-Treasurer Tom Lutz backed the signing.

Ten healthcare bills signed alongside budget
Whitmer also signed 10 healthcare measures including Medicaid coverage for group prenatal care, a requirement that insurers offer dentists and dental therapists at least one fee-free payment method, entry into professional licensing compacts, and incentives for employers offering paid organ donation leave. HB 4746 directs the Department of Health and Human Services to issue chip-enabled Bridge Cards to food and cash assistance recipients. The remaining bills are SB 415, SB 105, SB 301, SB 501, HB 4072, HB 4101, HB 4103, HB 4104 and HB 4309. All were passed alongside the budget earlier this month.

MSC Ruling and Governor's Veto on 9 Bills from 23-24 Session
At the end of the 2023-2024 legislative session nine bills were not presented to Governor Whitmer by the then House Speaker Joe Tate (D-Detroit), which led to the incoming Speaker Matt Hall (R-Richland Township) choosing not to present the bills in the new legislative session. In response, Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids) sued the Michigan House for their lack of action. This has triggered an 18-month saga where the House and Senate have battled in the courts on whether the bills should be sent to the governor.

The Michigan Supreme Court declined to take up the case, letting a lower court ruling stand that would require presentation of the bills. The Supreme Court did not provide reasoning for the denial, but Justice Brian Zahra dissented.

A few hours later, Gov.

The now vetoed bills include:

- House Bill 6058 of 2024: Requires public employers to pay a larger share of the health insurance premium for public employees (80/20 hard cap);
- House Bill 4177 of 2023, House Bills 5817-18 of 2024: Allow Detroit history museums to seek a property tax millage from Wayne County voters;
- House Bills 4665-67 of 2023: Allows for the inclusion of corrections officers into the State Police pension system; and
- House Bills 4900-01 of 2024: Exempts public assistance, disability and worker's compensation from garnishment to repay debts.

These bills passed the then Democrat-led House and Senate on party-line votes and in some cases, bills were passed after the House Republicans walked off the House floor during the lame duck session. Many contained provisions that would increase healthcare costs for public employers and spike pension funding costs for the state. Legislative Democrats have since reintroduced much of the legislation though the bills are unlikely to move in divided government this session.

Legislature Aligns to Extend Energy Emergency Through Summer
The House voted 103-2 to extend Michigan's energy emergency through the summer, allowing continued sale of lower-cost "winter-blend" gasoline. Both chambers supported the measure as Senate Concurrent Resolution 14, sponsored by Sen. Darrin Camilleri (D-Trenton), was substituted into House Concurrent Resolution 8 from Rep. Donni Steele (R-Orion Township). As a concurrent resolution, it does not require the governor's signature. The action extends Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's April 2 executive order, which would have lapsed July 1, preventing higher-vapor-pressure fuel sales which is cheaper to refine. Winter-blend gas saves motorists an estimated 10 to 20 cents per gallon at the cost of some efficiency and environmental pollution.

Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has announced approximately $34.2 million in grant funding through the Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program's Workforce for Wellness Initiative to strengthen Michigan's rural health care workforce. The funding will support recruitment, retention, and training efforts across five grant programs focused on maternal health providers, social workers, and broader rural health workforce development, with awards running from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027.

The initiative is part of the state's broader Rural Health Transformation Program, which aims to improve access to high-quality care in rural communities by strengthening partnerships, expanding the health care workforce, improving interoperability, and bringing essential services closer to where residents live. Eligible applicants include nonprofits, public and private organizations, local health departments, tribal entities, and universities, with applications due in early August. You can find more on the RHT Program at their website:https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/medicaid/rural-health-transformation-program.

House Passes Bills on Dynamic Pricing and Housing Ownership
The Michigan House discharged from the Regulatory Reform committee and passed House Bills 6098 and 6099, which prohibits surveillance pricing on the sales of goods in Michigan. The bills, sponsored by Representatives Steve Frisbie (R-Battle Creek) and Rylee Linting (R-Wyandotte), received overwhelming support with a vote of 92-15 on the House floor. Frisbie and Linting both testified to the bills in committee, and are considered two of the House Republicans' more vulnerable members in this upcoming election.

Similarly, House Bill 6074, sponsored by Representative Karl Bohnak (R-Deerton), was discharged from committee and passed with almost unanimous support from the House, with a vote of 102-3. The bill, also sponsored by a legislator considered to be a vulnerable member for the House Republicans, would prohibit large institutional investors from purchasing or entering into a contract to purchase a single-family home in Michigan. The prohibition, however, would not apply to build-to-rent programs.

Because these bills are sponsored by more vulnerable Republican members, it is unlikely that these bills advance in the Democratically-held Senate soon. However, as policy bills are now a part of the budget negotiations, it is possible that changes. All the bills have been sent to the Senate and are pending future action.

Hospital Cost-Review Board Bills
A House package seeking to rein in hospital costs saw a hearing in Government Operations. While the House Government Operations Committee did not report the bills, Speaker Matt Hall (R-Richland Township) said they were in play for budget negotiations. The bills, House Bills 6116-6119, sponsored by Speaker Hall and members of his leadership team, would require hospitals to cut costs by 10% to retain nonprofit status and create an oversight board to monitor proposed price increases and mergers.

Proponents argue many hospitals are seeing increasing profits - which is increasing the cost of healthcare for employers and employees, and forcing families to delay care. The Michigan Health and Hospital Association warned the mandates could increase the number of hospitals operating in the red and create additional financial strain on an already struggling sector. Democrats, including Reps. Matt Longjohn (D-Portage) and John Fitzgerald (D-Wyoming), said they welcomed a healthcare-cost debate but objected to the speed of a package introduced only a week earlier, signaling no support at this stage.

House Democrats Introduce Package to Regulate Data Centers
Rep. Joey Andrews (D-St. Joseph) introduced a package of bills to regulate data centers, focusing on electric rates, water use, and local impacts. The package would require developers to cover infrastructure costs, protect groundwater, increase transparency, require community benefit and project labor agreements, mandate engineering and noise studies, establish decommissioning funds, and implement future energy efficiency standards. The bills, House Bills 6135-6142, were referred to the House Committee on Government Operations.

Bill Allowing Transmission in Highway Rights-of-Way Passes Committee
In the House Transportation Committee, the committee unanimously moved a bill, House Bill 5940, that would allow transmission utilities to utilize highway rights-of-way for collocating transmission lines. Currently, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) can use state highways for transmission line deployment, but not federal highways due to an outdated MDOT prohibition. The bill does not mandate usage of highway rights of way but instead allows it as an option, potentially cutting down on the need to utilize private property and undisturbed land. There are many states working to pass similar language as more energy infrastructure is needed across the country. The Michigan bill is sponsored by Representative Dave Prestin (R-Cedar River) and received overwhelming support from stakeholders.

Money Transmission Bills Overwhelmingly Pass House
A bipartisan seven bill package updating Michigan's money transmission regulations overwhelmingly passed the Michigan House. The lead bill, House Bill 5544, sponsored by Representative Sarah Lightner (R-Springport), is model legislation crafted by the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) to create a nationwide network of state payments regulation for money transmitters and modernize state laws to mitigate a patchwork scheme of laws varying from state to state. Money transmitters are entities that collect funds from businesses, such as taxes, and remit them to local, state and federal agencies. Michigan's statute already mirrored much of the model act's language, so there is not a significant change from current law besides money transmitters being required to have a credit and background check as well as the ability for the state department to coordinate with other state departments. Money

transmission companies and payroll service providers that operate as money transmitters coordinated with CSBS on the model language.

Tri-Share Bill Moves Forward in House
The House passed bipartisan legislation (HB 6043) to permanently establish Michigan's Tri-Share Child Care Program, which divides licensed childcare costs among the state, participating employers and eligible employees. Under the program, employees generally pay one-third of the cost, reducing their out-of-pocket expenses by two-thirds. The program is available to households earning between 200% and 400% of the federal poverty level and has expanded to all 83 counties, with 310 employers currently supporting childcare for more than 1,100 children.

The legislation would formally place the program within the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement and Potential (MiLEAP), create a dedicated fund that does not lapse at the end of the fiscal year and allow employers to contribute more than their standard one-third share. It would also create a voluntary CareShare option for employers that want to assist employees without receiving a state subsidy, prohibit retaliation against participating workers and require annual public reporting.

Gov. Gretchen

Primary Update
NOTE: All results are unofficial until a canvass occurs several weeks from now to certify results.

In Michigan this year, the attorney general, secretary of state, governor, multiple congressional seats and all state House and Senate seats are all on the ballot. With that, there are a number of seats that both sides of the were watching heading into the primary. We have expanded on a few of those races below. Reminder only the primary races to watch are included below and attorney general and secretary of state candidates are selected during the convention nominating process that occurred for both parties this past spring.

- U.S. Senate: (There is one open seat):
    - Current Senator Gary Peters (D) opted not to seek re-election this year resulting in an open U.S. Senate seat with one of the most competitive Democratic primary races in the country. As State Senator Mallory McMorrow (D-Royal Oak) dropped out of the race earlier this summer, the remaining candidates for the Democratic primary are Congresswoman Haley Stevens (D-Birmingham) and Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, who is more

progressive compared to Stevens. Stevens and El-Sayed have divided the Democratic party with endorsements. The Republican candidate is a former U.S. Congressman Mike Rogers who also ran as the 2024 Republican candidate beating out 10 other Republican candidates on the primary ballot that year. After a long and tumultuous night El-Sayed prevailed over Stevens, polling had indicated an El-Sayed blowout, but final numbers are trickling in with El-Sayed winning by around 1%. Stevens and her allies spent a staggering $62M on her race, outspending El-Sayed by wide margins. **Winner: Abdul El-Sayed**

- U.S. House (13): There are two open seats and four incumbents with primaries.
    - The 7th Congressional seat (Lansing area), currently held by Congressman Tom Barrett (R-Charlotte), has a heated Democratic primary between Bridget Brink, William Lawrence, and Matt Maasdam. The seat is considered a swing seat and nationally a critical race to win for Democrats seeking a US House majority. William Lawrence, who is more progressive and endorsed by the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), has picked up momentum in the final weeks leading towards the primary and received endorsements from Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) as well as U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (D-Vermont). Matt Maasdam was endorsed by U.S. Senator Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) and former U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia Bridget Brink was endorsed by EMILYs List. **Winner: William Lawrence**
    - The 10th Congressional seat (Macomb County) has been left open this election cycle as current U.S. Representative John James (R-Shelby Township) is running for governor. With that opening, there are three Democrats and three Republicans running in the primary. Although the seat leans slightly more Republican, this race will likely be close in the general with national headwinds for Republican candidates. Former Democratic State House Minority Leader and Mayor of Pontiac Tim Greimel ultimately failed to win his primary against Hines and Eric Chung. **Winners: Christina Hines (D) and Michael Bouchard (R)**
    - The 13th Congressional seat (Detroit) has been a hotbed of past crowded primaries against incumbent Congressman Shri Thanedar. Due to a qualification issue, the only credible candidate is State Rep. Donovan McKinney against Thanedar this cycle, likely boosting McKinney's campaign. **Winner: Donovan McKinney**

- Governor:
    - The Republican primary for governor is the primary to watch as Congressman John James (R-Shelby Township) faces businessman Perry Johnson. James was the perceived front runner and endorsed by President Donald Trump. However, Johnson has poured tens of millions of his own money into his campaign, narrowing the gap between the two candidates (over $30M by most estimates!). Current Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson has held a commanding polling lead against Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson in the Democratic primary for months. James and Benson will now face each other in the general. **Winners: John James and Jocelyn Benson**

- Michigan State Senate (38): There are 21 open seats and three incumbents with a primary.

- Senate District 1 - The Democratic primary race in the first senate district has been relatively contentious this cycle as former State Representative Abraham Aiyash faces a tough challenger in Justin Onwenu. Onwenu who works for and was endorsed by current Detroit Mayor Mary Sheffield has seen several endorsements from union groups and currently seated legislators. Aiyash also has support from various current lawmakers and union organizations. Although this is a strong Democratic seat, it was a closely fought primary. **Winner: Justin Onwenu**
- Senate District 3 - Another strong Democratic seat is Senate District 3, which currently has 11 Democratic challengers vying to be the general candidate. These candidates include former State Representatives LaTanya Garrett and Adam Hollier, John Conyers III, as well as Korey Hall who runs Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Detroit office. **Winner: John Conyers III**
- Senate District 7 - A strongly Democratic seat left vacant by State Senator Jermey Moss' successful primary win for congress saw State Rep. Jason Hoskins (D-Southfield) beat two other Democratic candidates, Shadia Martini and Rakesh Ramakishran. **Winner: Jason Hoskins**
- Senate District 10 - This district is a strong Democratic seat and is open this election cycle as current Senator Mallory McMorrow (D-Royal Oak) opted to run for U.S. Senate, although she ended up withdrawing her candidacy. Democratic primary challengers include current State Representative Natalie Price (D-Berkeley) and first-time candidate Amanda Treppa who was endorsed by McMorrow as her successor. **Winner: Natalie Price**
- Senate District 25 and Senate District 33 - These districts are both to-watch seats as they are Republican seats with a bit of backstory. Senate District 25 will see a rematch between former State Representatives Andrew Beeler and Gary Eisen along with two other Republican candidates, John Mahaney and Randy Schultz. Beeler beat out Eisen for the House seat in 2022. District 33 however will have two sitting state representatives, Reps. Joe Fox and Gina Johnsen, battling to be the Republican candidate for the general. In the District 33 Republican primary, Katie DoBoer and Thomas Norton are also hoping to clinch the primary win. **Winners: Andrew Beeler and Gina Johnsen**
- Senate District 25 - This Democratic seat currently held by term-limited State Senator Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) saw several Democratic candidates vying for the job including Ingham County Commissioner Mark Polsdorfer and MSU Professor Rashida Harrison. Polsdorfer was heavily endorsed by the Democratic establishment including Sen. Singh but ultimately lost to Harrison. **Winner: Rashida Harrison**
- Senate District 29 - This Democratic seat held by term-limited Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids) was a hard fought Democratic primary between State Rep. Phil Skaggs (D-East Grand Rapids) and Abbie Groff-Blaszak among others. **Winner: Abbie Groff-Blaszak**
- Senate District 35 - In May 2026, Michigan's 35th Senate District had a special election to fill the vacancy from Kristen McDonald Rivet's election to U.S. Congress. The special election was a long-time coming as the seat was empty for approximately a year-and-a-half. In May, now State Senator Chredrick Greene (D-Saginaw) was elected, beating his

Republican special challenger, Jason Tunney. Tunney is facing Chadwick Tillman in the primary to be selected as the Republican candidate for the general election, where Tunney would once again face off against Greene. Greene won the special D+19. **Winner: Jason Tunney**

- Senate District 38 - Another interesting primary to track was in Senate District 38, which is a safe Republican seat in Michigan's Upper Peninsula - Sen. Ed McBroom (D-Waucedah Twp) is term-limited. The Republican primary includes current State Representative Dave Prestin (R-Cedar River) and former State Representative Beau LaFave. These two challengers have seen many endorsements from current and former legislators. In addition, former Democratic State Representative Sara Cambensy is running as an independent candidate. **Winner: Dave Prestin**

- <u>Michigan State House (110): There are 22 open seats and 17 incumbents with a primary.</u>
  - House districts with a competitive primary in open seats:
    - Competitive Democratic primaries in seats that lean or are strong Democrat:
      - House District 2 - Joanna Whaley
      - House District 4 - Regina Ross
      - House District 5 - Candace Calloway
      - House District 6 - Melanie Macey
      - House District 9 - Willie Burton
      - House District 11 - Kimberly Fisher
      - House District 15 - Jalal Abdallah
      - House District 41 - Jen Strebs
      - House District 74 - Harrold Pope
      - House District 80 - Lily Cheng-Schulting
      - House District 84 - Khristian Silvis
    - Competitive Republican primaries in seats that lean or are strong Republican:
      - House District 59 - Sylvia Grot
      - House District 78 - Brandon Strong
      - House District 89 - Joe Moss
      - House District 90 - Lynn Afendoulis (previously term-limited legislator)
      - House District 97 - Briar Bearss
      - House District 101 - Jaxon Deur
      - House District 108 - Larry Johnson

  - Rep. Helena Scott (D-Detroit) in House District 8 was the only House incumbent to lose to their primary challenger. Rep. Scott lost to progressive, DSA-backed challenger Chris Gilmer-Hill in Detroit. Below are the members with primaries that were re-elected as the party nominee within their district.
    - House District 1 - Rep. Tyrone Carter (D)
    - House District 3 - Rep. Alabas Farhat (D)
    - House District 7 - Rep. Tonya Myers-Phillips (D)
    - House District 10 - Rep. Veronica Paiz (D)
    - House District 14 - Rep. Mike McFall (D)

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- House District 19 - Rep. Samantha Steckloff (D)
- House District 32 - Rep. Jimmie Wilson Jr (D)
- House District 36 - Rep. Steve Carra (R)
- House District 37 - Rep. Brad Paquette (R)
- House District 39 - Rep. Pauline Wendzel (R)
- House District 53 - Rep. Brenda Carter (D)
- House District 61 - Rep. Denise Mentzer (D)
- House District 67 - Rep. Phil Green (R)
- House District 82 - Rep. Kristian Grant (D)
- House District 85 - Rep. Bradley Slagh (R)
- House District 88 - Rep. Greg VanWoerkom (R)

Notable Millage/Ballot Questions

- Wayne County saw the passage of their transmit millage, which means western Wayne County communities will no longer be eligible to opt-out of transit related services and costs. This means for the first time ever Oakland, Wayne, and Macomb Counties will have a unified transit system funding mechanism.
- Oakland County saw their Intermediate School District (ISD) proposed enhancement millage failed by around 6,000-7,000 votes. The millage was a large funding request for support services for the ISD totaling almost $800 per student and 1.5 mills on each $1,000 of property value.

Detailed Results Websites

- Statewide MI SOS: https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/votehistory/Index?type=C&electionDate=8-4-2026
- Statewide AP: https://apnews.com/projects/elections-2026/michigan-primary-results/
- Oakland: https://results.enr.clarityelections.com/MI/Oakland/126665/web.345435/#/summary
- Kent: https://app.enhancedvoting.com/results/public/kent-county-mi/elections/08042026
- Wayne: https://michigan.totalvote.com/Wayne
- Macomb: https://www.macombgov.org/departments/clerk-register-deeds/elections
- Ingham: https://app.enhancedvoting.com/results/public/ingham-county-mi/elections/AugustElection08042026