



Presentation to UPCAP

Stephan Currie, Executive Director, MAC

October 2023



About MAC: 125th Birthday!

- Formed on Feb. 1, 1898, as State Association of Supervisors of Michigan
- Oldest association representing local government units in Michigan
- Renamed as Michigan Association of Counties in 1968
- Service expansions:
 - 1955 – 1st Executive Director
 - 1979 – Workers' Comp Fund
 - 1986 – Service Corp.



1898-2023



About MAC: Purpose

- **Advocacy:** To be the voice of Michigan counties at the state and federal level
- **Education:** To provide educational opportunities to county commissioners to ensure they can do their jobs to the best of their abilities
- **Services:** To make available services that counties can take advantage of that save their staff time and money





About MAC: Leadership



Jim Storey
President



Melissa Daub
First Vice President



Antoinette Wallace
Second Vice President

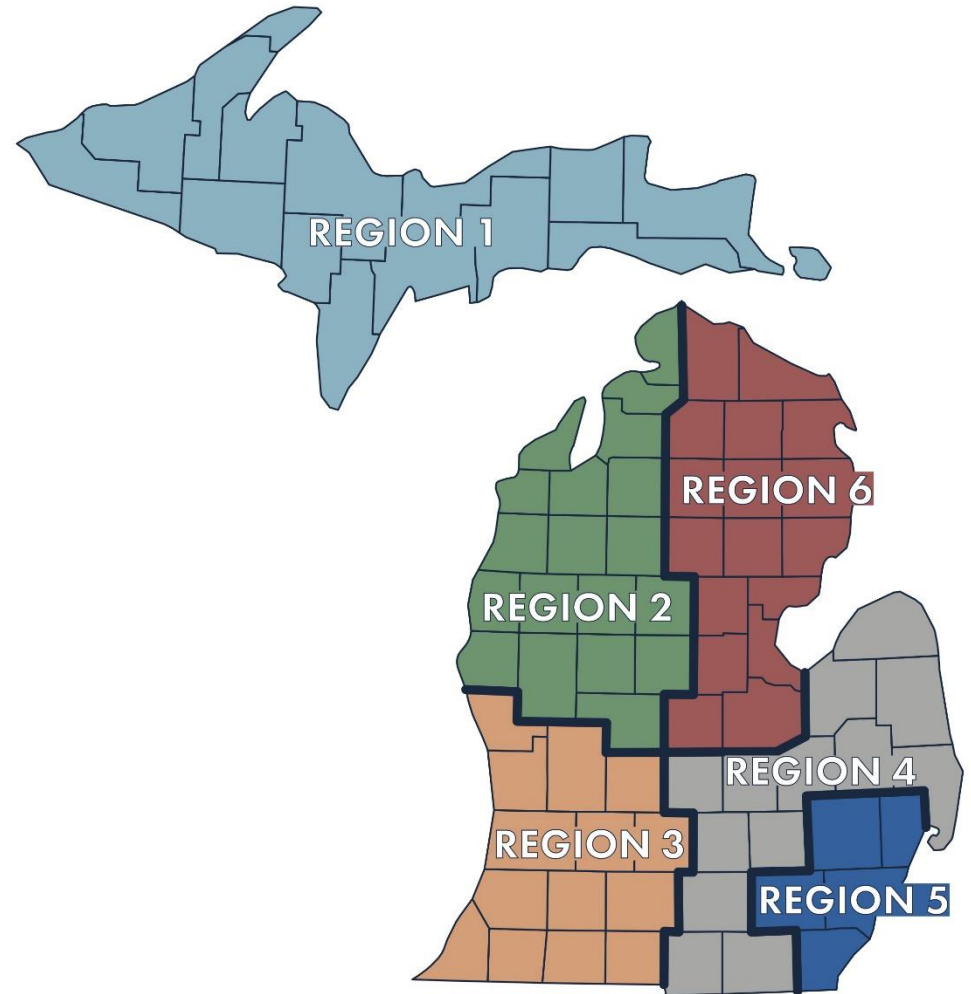


Stephan W. Currie
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About MAC: Leadership

- **Board of 16 members elected by commissioners**
- **Two seats from each of six regions ensure broad representation**
- **MAC Board meets four times a year: Legislative Conference, June, Annual Conference, November**
- **Elections held in August/September at Annual Conference**





About MAC: Policy Development

Internal Committees

- **Appointed by President**
- **Member participation from across state**
- **Areas of focus**
 - Finance and General Government
 - Environmental and Regulatory Affairs
 - Judiciary and Public Safety
 - Health and Human Services
 - Transportation and Infrastructure
 - Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources





Legislative Update: 2023 Priorities

- Revising the Open Meetings Act to Meet the Demands of the 21st Century
- Creating a Fair Revenue Sharing System for Counties
- Enacting Reforms to Ensure Proper Funding of Local Courts
- Increasing Resources for Juvenile Justice Services
- Compensating Local Governments for Funds Diverted by the Veterans Property Tax Exemption
- Revamping the PPT Exemption to Provide Annual Reimbursement to Locals





Legislative Update

FY24 state budget

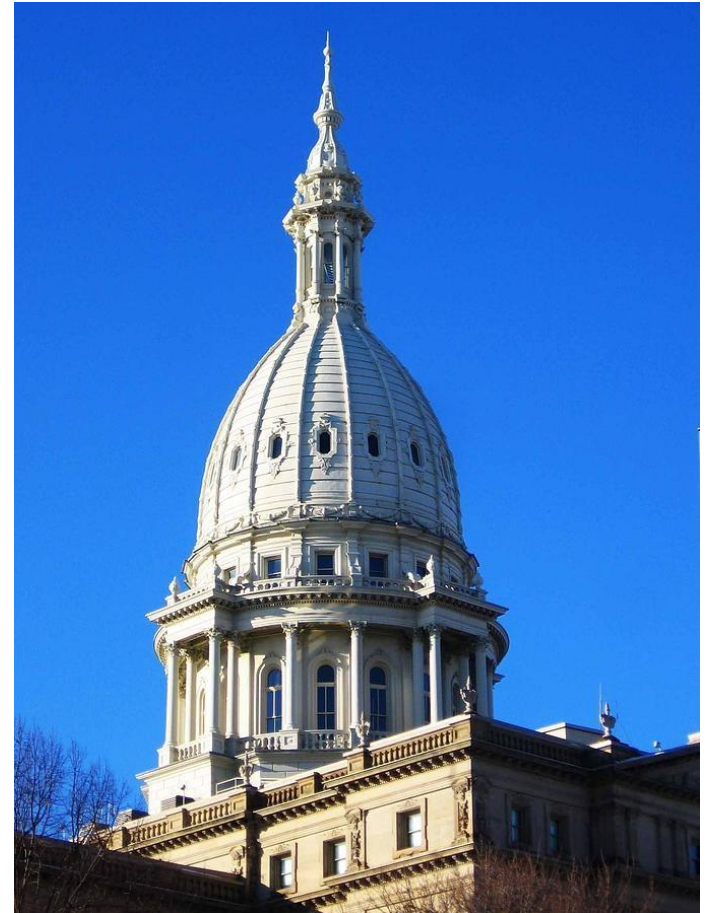
- Revenue sharing: 5% ongoing increase; 2% for public safety
- Child Care Fund: Community-based services to 75%
- \$72M for MIDC Standard 8 (pay for defense attorneys)
- \$25M increase for Essential Local Public Health Services
- \$80M GF for bridge bundling program
- \$181.6M for 27 individual critical infrastructure projects
- \$20M for environmental justice and contaminated site clean-up
- \$46M to implement Proposals 1 & 2
- \$30M in incentive grants to counties to coordinate multijurisdictional early voting



Legislative Update

Legislative calendar

- **Early adjournment**
 - Presidential primary
 - Immediate effect
 - Sine die
 - Early voting
- **2024 forecast**
 - Decreased Democratic majority
 - Mayoral elections





Legislative Update

Revenue Sharing Trust Fund

- **House Bills 4274-75**
 - 8% of first 4 percentage points of sales tax
 - Retain current split with CVTs
 - Bring back hundreds of townships in formula
 - Passed unanimously out of committee
 - Awaiting vote on House floor in October





Legislative Update

Public Safety Trust Fund

- **House Bills 4605-06**
 - 1% of first 4 percentage points of sales tax
 - ~\$110M for city/township police
 - Disbursement based on 3-year average of violent crimes
 - MAC seeking money from fund to go directly to counties





Legislative Update

Veteran property tax exemption

- **Policy changes**
 - SB 176: One and done filing
 - SB 330: Assessor audit every 3 years
 - SB 364: Expands BOR approval of qualified errors to include denial of exemption for surviving spouse
 - All headed to governor
- **Reimbursement (HBs 4984, HB 4984-85, SBs 95-96, 454-455)**
 - Create refundable income tax credit payable to local unit or veteran, if vet paid taxes
 - Treasury still opposed
 - Awaiting committee votes



Legislative Update

PPT exemption reimbursements

- In 2021, state enacted increase for Personal Property Tax (PPT) exemption, thereby reducing revenue to locals by ~\$75M each year
- **House Bills 4553-54 & Senate Bill 331**
 - Reimbursement methodology for increase in exemption from \$80,000 to \$180,000
 - Funded through use tax revenue
 - Passed both chambers, awaiting governor's signature





Legislative Update

Juvenile justice reforms

- **House Bills 4624-4643 and Senate Bills 418-437**
 - CCF reimbursement from 50% to 75% for community-based services
 - Expands diversion eligibility- risk screening and mental health screening
 - Expands MIDC to juveniles
 - Requires SADO to oversee appellate defense
 - Eliminates most fines and fees for juveniles
 - Expected to be on governor's desk by November





Legislative Update

Clean energy legislation

- **Senate Bills 271-276**
 - Priority of Gov. Whitmer
 - 60% renewable energy by 2032
 - 100% renewable by 2040 (initial goal: 100% by 2035)
 - In Senate Energy Committee





Legislative Update

Solar/wind siting

- **House Bills 5120-23 & Senate Bills 585-588**

- Preempt local control for solar and wind facilities, granting sole siting authority to the MPSC for
 - Projects >50 megawatts
 - Locals will have ability to intervene but will be expensive
 - Versions that leave House Energy Committee will not be final version (amendments on House floor or possibly Senate)
 - Sponsor wants bills on governor's desk before adjournment
 - Solar developers want expedited permitting
 - MAC opposes any version that preempts locals

- **MAC counterproposal**

- If county has ordinance in place, developer must adhere to it
- If a county does not adopt an ordinance, then PSC regulates



Legislative Update

Statewide septic code

- **House Bill 4479**
 - Michigan only state without one
 - Mandates septic inspections every 5 years
 - Local public health departments will conduct inspections (may outsource to third-party inspectors)
 - Requires counties to repeal point of sale ordinances
 - Financial assistance available to homeowners below 400% of federal poverty line





Legislative Update

Binding arbitration

- **House Bill 4438**
 - Expands PA 312 to corrections officers
 - MAC opposes any expansion
 - PERA provides for bargaining rights without tying county hands
 - Passed Senate with a substitute to include all MCOLES-certified officers
 - Headed to governor for expected enactment





About MAC: Advocacy



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About MAC: Advocacy



- Provides financial support to incumbent state legislators who are friends of county government
- 24 former county commissioners now serving in the Michigan Legislature (MAC County Caucus)

Donate at www.micounties.org



About MAC: Events

Conferences

Legislative Conference (spring)

- April 29-May 1, 2024

Annual Conference (summer/fall)

- Sept. 24-26, 2024

MAC conferences provide top speakers, intensive policy workshops and plenty of opportunities to network with county leaders



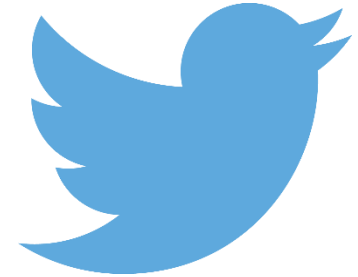


About MAC: Communications

- Full suite of social media channels
- Podcast 83 is MAC's video briefing on news and trends in county government
- Website has county resolutions database; digital advocacy tools; conference archives



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MIcounties**



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Podcast 83



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www.micounties.org