



# Presentation to Alpena County

June 2023



# About MAC: 125<sup>th</sup> 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> 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



**Stan Ponstein**  
**President**



**Jim Storey**  
**First Vice President**



**Melissa Daub**  
**Second Vice**  
**President**

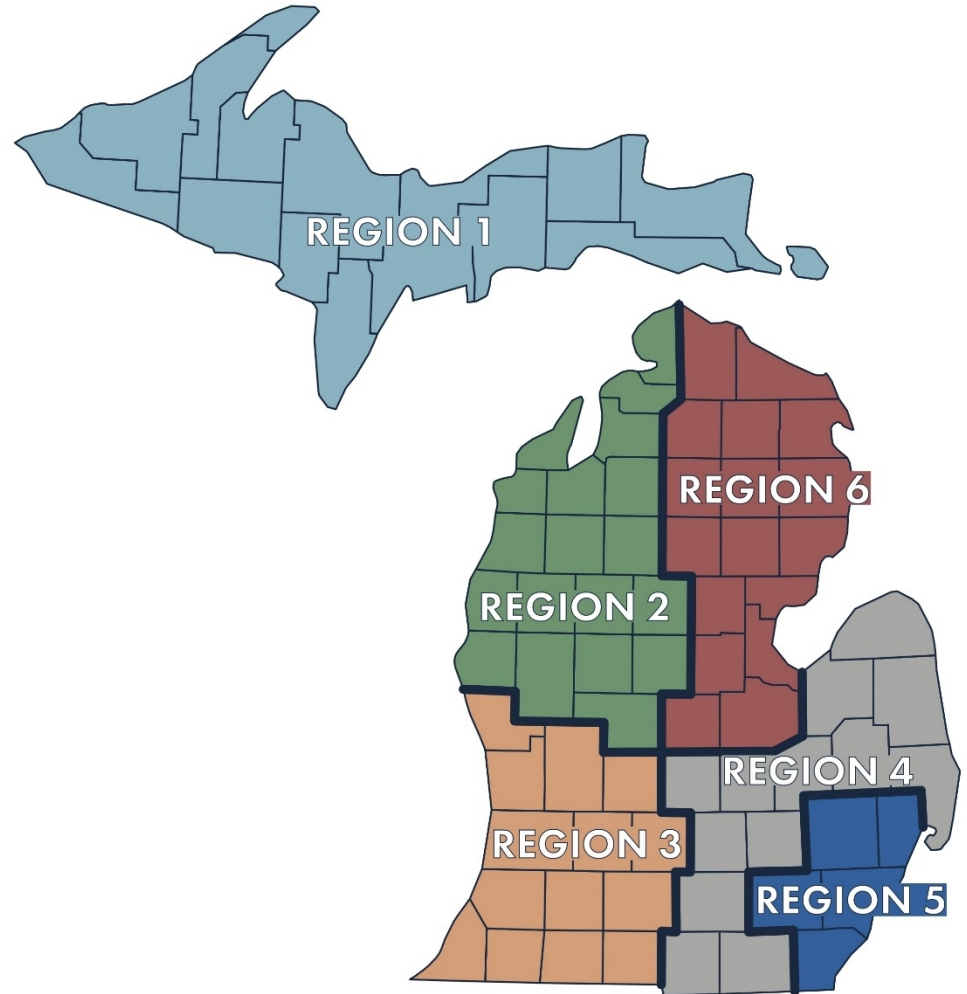


**Stephan W. Currie**  
**Executive Director**  
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# About MAC: Leadership

- **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





# 2023 Priority

## Revising the Open Meetings Act (OMA)

- Prior changes to OMA in 2020, members of a public body could attend, participate and vote remotely at county board sessions, so long as a quorum of the public body was physically present
- Statutory change to allow for full board meetings to be held remotely due to the pandemic expired Dec. 31, 2021, and impacted the pre-pandemic rules by now barring remote participants from voting, even if a quorum is physically present in the meeting room
- **MAC supports revisiting the OMA to allow for remote participation and, at minimum, to allow for pre-pandemic meeting options for county boards**





# 2023 Priority

## Creating a Fair Revenue Sharing System for Counties

- Revenue Sharing is the most flexible form of state aid to counties, which makes it the most effective method to fund generational investments
- **MAC supports the creation of a Revenue Sharing Trust Fund (RSTF) through a statutory earmark of the state sales tax (SBs 229-230):**
  - Money in fund would stay in the fund for distribution to locals
  - Method of carving out a percentage of sales tax for the fund is what revenue sharing was originally designed to do — share in the state's revenue



# 2023 Priority

## Enacting Funding Reforms for Local Courts

- Local court funding remains caught in a looming statutory sunset (May '24) and is subject of litigation before MI Supreme Court
- To ensure our local courts do not face a financial emergency, MAC supports the enactment of many of the Trial Court Funding Commission's recommendations
- **MAC supports the creation of the Trial Court Fund to distribute funding to trial courts based on operational requirements while maintaining local discretion over trial court operational decisions**
- **MAC supports establishment of uniform assessments and centralized collections for trial courts through State Court Administrator's Office**



# 2023 Priority

## Increasing Resources for Juvenile Justice

- A lack of staff, training and facilities has left a critical shortage of resources to house those in the juvenile justice system
- **MAC supports an increase in funding for staff recruiting, retention and training, plus direct funding for additional facilities and an increase in the per diem rate for foster care parents**





# 2023 Priority

## Compensation for Funds Diverted by Veterans Property Tax Exemption

- Since the enactment of the Disabled Veterans Property Tax exemption in 2013, counties have sought reimbursement from the state for the lost local revenues, a hit of tens of millions of dollars each year
- Close to \$100M lost to local governments each year and growing by 14% per year
- **MAC supports continuing the exemption — but with the state making up those local losses through a refundable income tax credit payable to local governments**





# 2023 Priority

## Revamping PPT Exemption for Annual Reimbursements

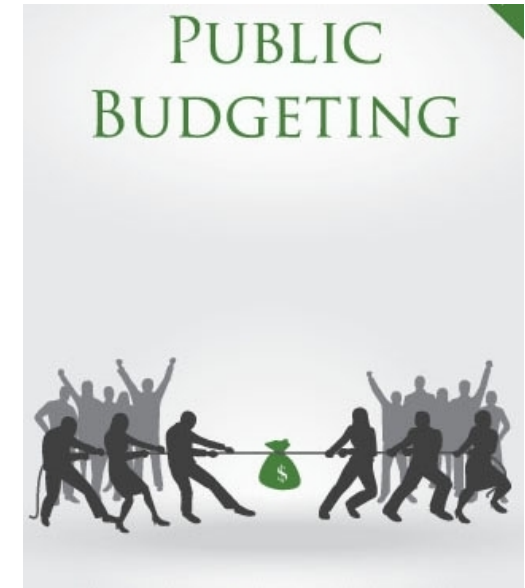
- As part of the economic development deal struck in 2021, Legislature and governor enacted an increase for the Personal Property Tax (PPT) exemption for small business, thereby reducing revenue to local governments by approximately \$75 million each year
- This exemption begins this year without a defined method for reimbursement for local governments that receive PPT fund
- SB 331 Introduced by Sen. Kevin Hertel (D-Macomb)
- **MAC supports a system to provide full reimbursements to locals each year that is outside the annual appropriations process**



# Legislative Update: FY24 Budget

## FY 24 Budget

- **Dwindling surplus**
  - Income tax rollback
  - EITC increase
  - SOAR funding/economic development
- **May Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference/Targets set**
- **Passage by end of June**





# Legislative Update: Bills of Interest

- **Statewide septic code**
- **Juvenile justice reform**
- **Solar PILT and renewable energy requirements**
- **Binding arbitration for corrections officers**
- **Governmental immunity**





# 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](http://www.micounties.org)**



# About MAC: Events

## Conferences

### *Annual Conference (summer/fall)*

- Oct. 1-3, 2023

### *Legislative Conference (spring)*

- April 29-May 1, 2024

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



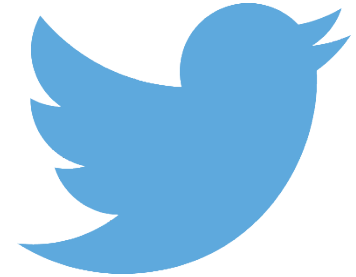


# About MAC: Communications

- 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



**Facebook.com/  
MIcounties**



**@MIcounties**



**Podcast 83**



**@MIcounties**

**[www.micounties.org](http://www.micounties.org)**