

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1001 WOODWARD AVE., SUITE 1400 • DETROIT, MI | GWEN MARKHAM, CHAIRPERSON

Executive Committee

Friday, April 24, 2026 | 1 p.m.

SEMCOG Office | 1001 Woodward Ave., Ste. 1400 | Detroit, MI 48226

Parking Validation

Bring your vehicle license plate number to SEMCOG. **DO NOT PAY** using the QR code in the garage

Meeting attendees parking at the 1 State Street Parking Garage (also known as the 1001 Woodward Garage) enter/exit using a pay-by-plate system – without a credit card. If there is a sign saying Badge Holders Only, or Lot Full, and attendant is present, tell them you are there for a SEMCOG meeting and that parking has been reserved. SEMCOG guests should disregard signage posted in the garage with instructions for visitors to scan a QR code. Instead, please bring your vehicle license plate number to the SEMCOG welcome/registration desk, where staff will assist you in entering your plate number for validation.

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Please visit SEMCOG's [location](#) webpage for a map of alternative parking locations and driving directions.

Executive Committee Delegates: To ensure complete representation of the county or voting bloc you represent, be sure to communicate with your alternate and have them attend/vote if you are unavailable. If you need contact information for your alternate, please contact [Rebecca Osborne](#), Supervisor, Member Engagement, at 313-338-4701.

Agenda

12:30 p.m. – Registration and Lunch

1 p.m. – Executive Committee Business Meeting

- A. Call to Order
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Approval of Agenda

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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B. Public Comment

C. Approval of Consent Resolution

1. Executive Committee minutes – February 27, 2026
2. Receipt of Financial Statements – February 2026
3. Contract approval for SEMCOG's Activity-Based Travel Model Improvement Plan & Implementation

D. Report from Chairperson: Gwen Markham, Commissioner, Oakland County

E. Planning for Data Centers: Considerations for Local Governments

- Sarah Mills, PhD, Director, Center for EmPowering Communities, Graham Sustainability Institute; Associate Professor of Practice, Urban & Regional Planning, University of Michigan
- Chris Girdwood, CEO, Detroit Region Aerotropolis

F. Report from Transportation Coordinating Council: William Miller, Commissioner, Oakland County

4. Amendment to the 2050 Vision Regional Transportation Plan and the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Action requested

The Transportation Coordinating Council is requested to recommend Executive Committee approval of 2050 RTP and FY 26-29 TIP Amendment 26:2 (Cost/GPA).

G. Report from SEMCOG Executive Director Amy O'Leary

5. Legislative Update

H. Upcoming Meetings:

General Assembly – Thursday, June 25, 2026 – The Emerald Theatre (Mount Clemens)

Executive Committee – Friday, July 24, 2026 – SEMCOG Offices (Detroit)

SEMCOG offers interpretation services, including language translation and signage for the hearing impaired, at public meetings upon request with seven days advance notice.

SEMCOG ofrece servicios de interpretación, incluyendo servicios de traducción de idiomas y señalización para las personas con discapacidad auditiva, en reuniones públicas si se pide con siete días de anticipación.

يوفر مجلس حكومات جنوب شرق ميشيغان (SEMCOG) خدمات ترجمة شفوية، وذلك يتضمن خدمات ترجمة لغوية ولغة الإشارة للمعوقين سمعياً، في الاجتماعات العامة بناءً على طلب إشعار مسبق مدته 7 أيام.



Meeting Minutes

Executive Committee

SEMCOG Office, 1001 Woodward Ave., Ste. 1400, Detroit, MI 48226

February 27, 2026

A. Call to Order

Gwen Markham, Commissioner, Oakland County, Executive Committee Chairperson, called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Markham led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Markham presented the agenda for consideration and approval by the Executive Committee, noting that the agenda is now available electronically.

Motion by Don VanSyckel, Commissioner, Macomb County, to approve the agenda. The **motion** carried by voice vote.

B. Public Comment

Ms. Markham offered members of the public three minutes to comment on any agenda item. No comments were received.

C. Approval of Consent Resolution

Ms. Markham presented the Consent Resolution for approval: Executive Committee minutes – January 23, 2026; Receipt of Financial Statements – December 2025; and Contract Approval with Sustainability Solutions Group (SSG) for SEMCOG's Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Southeast Michigan.

Motion by Brian Turnbull, Mayor, City of Northville, to approve the Consent Resolution items, as presented. The **motion** carried by voice vote.

D. Report from Chairperson: Gwen Markham, Commissioner, Oakland County

Ms. Markham provided informational updates on the following topics:

- A notice that SEMCOG is now accepting nominations for 2026 Regional Showcase and Regional Ambassador Awards; and

- A reminder that SEMCOG's ongoing 2026 Member Outreach Meetings are being held in each of the region's seven counties, along with an overview of the Executive Committee elections and topics to be discussed;

E. Featured Presentation: SEMCOG 2026 Legislative Priorities

Ms. Markham provided a recap of the National Association of Regional Councils 2026 Conference of Regions, and SEMCOG's February Congressional meetings.

Ms. Markham offered an opportunity for SEMCOG's officers to share their takeaways from these meetings, and then introduced Michael Spence, Government Affairs Manager, SEMCOG, who presented SEMCOG's 2026 Legislative Priorities.

Mr. Spence also provided an overview of the coordinated local government coalition response to recently introduced legislation in Lansing that would preempt local zoning as it relates to residential permitting and approvals. Mr. Spence then introduced Mike Compagnoni and Adam Wright, Midwest Strategy Group, who provided a legislative update and answered questions from Committee members.

F. Report from Economic Development Committee: Brian Marl, Mayor, City of Saline

Ms. Markham introduced Brian Marl, Mayor, City of Saline, who provided an overview and introduction to the work of the Economic Development Council. Mr. Marl then introduced Dave Struck, Economic Development Coordinator, SEMCOG, who provided an overview of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

After presentation, **Motion** by Brian Marl, Mayor, City of Saline, to recommend approval of the Comprehensive Development Strategy (CEDS) to the SEMCOG General Assembly. The **motion** carried by unanimous electronic vote.

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southeast Michigan supports the vision:

All people of Southeast Michigan benefit from a connected, thriving region of small towns, dynamic urban centers, active waterfronts, diverse neighborhoods, premiere educational institutions and abundant agricultural, recreational, and natural areas.

WHEREAS, regions are the building blocks of the state and national economy;

WHEREAS, efforts must continue to position Southeast Michigan to be successful in a globally competitive environment;

WHEREAS, Southeast Michigan possesses an abundance of resources that contribute to economic opportunity. These include our workforce, built environment, as well as a variety of educational, industrial, natural and geographic assets. These resources coalesce to form the basis of our regional economy across three pillars: Great Places, Regional Prosperity, and Economic Resilience;

WHEREAS, a resilient economy promotes shared prosperity; provides access to essential services such as education, healthcare, recreation, broadband, and economic opportunities; and creates a region and population that can more rapidly rebound from major or unforeseen events in the future;

WHEREAS, a SWOT Analysis – Southeast Michigan's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats – was developed that succinctly demonstrates where the region is now, where improvements

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are needed, areas of concern with the global economy, and possible areas to advance regional prosperity;

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Council, which includes members representing government, business, economic development, education, workforce, labor, nonprofit, and other representatives guided development of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southeast Michigan and established the core strategies and actions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 19th day of March 2026, THAT the General Assembly of SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, adopts the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southeast Michigan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the recommended strategies and actions included in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southeast Michigan be integrated and incorporated into other regional planning efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southeast Michigan be encouraged and advocated through SEMCOG plan implementation activities, educational training workshops, and in coordination with other local and regional planning efforts.

G. Report from Finance and Budget Committee: Robert Clark, Mayor, City of Monroe

Ms. Markham introduced Robert Clark, Mayor, City of Monroe, who presented SEMCOG's 2026-2027 Work Program for Southeast Michigan and SEMCOG's Annual Operating Budget and Work Program Summary.

After presentation, **Motion** by Robert Clark, Mayor, City of Monroe, to approve SEMCOG's 2026-2027 Work Program for Southeast Michigan and approve the Finance and Budget Committee recommendation for General Assembly adoption of SEMCOG's Annual Operating Budget and Work Program Summary. The **motion** carried by unanimous electronic vote.

RESOLVED this 27th day of February 2026 THAT the Executive Committee of SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments:

- Approves the 2026-2027 Work Program for Southeast Michigan;*
- Authorizes the Executive Director, or her designee, to contract with the agencies interested in funding the tasks contained in the 2026-2027 Work Program of Southeast Michigan;*
- Authorizes the Executive Director, or her designee, to make changes in SEMCOG's Annual Operating Budget and Work Program for Southeast Michigan for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2027, as may be necessary during the final negotiation and discussion process which shall be reported back to the Executive Committee;*
- Authorizes the Executive Director, or her designee, to negotiate, finalize, and approve the employee health care package, ensuring it aligns with organizational priorities, budgetary considerations, and the best interests of employees;*
- Authorizes the Executive Director, or her designee, to file applications, requisitions, and necessary supporting documents with respective federal, state, and other agencies as required by these agencies;*

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- *Authorizes the Executive Director, or her designee, to commit the matching funds as required by the contracts and grant agreements negotiated pursuant to the 2026-2027 Work Program for Southeast Michigan;*
- *Authorizes the Executive Director, or her designee, to enter into pass-through funding and in-kind match agreements with agencies to perform work identified in the 2026-2027 Work Program for Southeast Michigan;*
- *Authorizes the Executive Director, or her designee, to execute and file with grantor agencies assurances, or any other documents required, effectuating the purposes of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Committee approves:

- *General Assembly adoption of SEMCOG's Annual Operating Budget and Work Program Summary for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2027, specifically adopting revenues of \$21,218,415 and expenditures of \$21,218,415; and a membership dues schedule.*

Mr. Clark then presented a summary of Executive Director Amy O'Leary's Performance Evaluation and Salary Adjustment. After presentation, **Motion** by Robert Clark, Mayor, City of Monroe, to approve an increase in the Executive Director's compensation to \$283,225. The **motion** carried by unanimous electronic vote.

RESOLVED this 27th day of February 2026, THAT the Executive Committee of SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, reviewed Executive Director Amy O'Leary's performance and concurred that she is doing great work based on the positive feedback from her evaluation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive Committee approves an increase in the Executive Director's compensation to \$283,225.

H. Report from Transportation Coordinating Council: William Miller, Commissioner, Oakland County

Ms. Markham introduced William Miller, Commissioner, Oakland County, who presented an amendment to the 2050 Vision Regional Transportation Plan and the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

After presentation, **Motion** by William Miller, Commissioner, Oakland County, to approve an amendment to the 2050 Vision Regional Transportation Plan and the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The **motion** carried by electronic vote.

WHEREAS, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) supports this vision:

All the people of Southeast Michigan benefit from a connected, thriving region of small towns, dynamic urban centers, active waterfronts, diverse neighborhoods, premiere educational institutions, and abundant agricultural, recreational, and natural areas.

WHEREAS, SEMCOG is responsible for developing a long-range regional transportation plan and a Transportation Improvement Program that funds projects to implement the plan;

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WHEREAS, the 2050 RTP was developed pursuant to the transportation planning provisions of Title 23 of United States Code (USC) Section 134 and Title 49 USC Section 5303;

WHEREAS, the 2050 RTP requires periodic updates to include projects not fully developed at the time the 2050 RTP was originally adopted, to take advantage of new funding and reflect changing priorities;

WHEREAS, SEMCOG is required to develop amendments to the FY 2026-2029 TIP pursuant to Title 23 of the United States Code (USC) Section 134;

WHEREAS, the 2050 RTP and FY 2026-2029 TIP were analyzed in accordance with 40 CFR 51 for air quality conformity and found not to exceed present and future emission budgets in all analysis years;

WHEREAS, the amendments to the FY 2026-2029 TIP are consistent with the 2050 RTP policies, were financially constrained to identified funding resources, and the amendment process actively encouraged public and agency review and comment;

WHEREAS, SEMCOG certifies that all projects funded in total or in part with State Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) Category C funds are eligible for funding under PA 231 of 1987, as amended, and meet the goals and objectives of the program;

WHEREAS, General Program Accounts (GPA) are used to group smaller, routine transportation projects together in the TIP;

WHEREAS, when the total cost of projects programmed in a GPA equals or exceeds 115% of the GPA's currently authorized amount, that GPA needs to be amended;

WHEREAS, SEMCOG has determined that the amendment to the 2050 RTP and the FY 2026-2029 TIP conform to the State Implementation Plan for Air Quality as required by provisions of Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 51 and Title 23 CFR 450;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 27th day of February 2026 THAT the Executive Committee of SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, approves the amendment of projects to the 2050 RTP and FY 2026-2029 TIP;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive Committee of SEMCOG approves the amendment of the GPAs in the FY2026-2029 TIP;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive Committee of SEMCOG submits this amendment to the 2050 RTP and the FY 2026-2029 TIP to the Michigan Department of Transportation, as designee for the Governor's Office of the State of Michigan, for review and transmittal to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Federal Highway Administration; Federal Transit Administration; and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

I. Report from SEMCOG Executive Director, Amy O'Leary

Ms. Markham introduced Amy O'Leary, Executive Director, SEMCOG, who provided updates on the following:

- Information for local government interested in applying for funding to address stormwater, water quality and green infrastructure projects through the federal Great Lakes Community Grant Program;

- SEMCOG's Flood Resilience workshop series;
- A series of handouts summarizing funding SEMCOG has provided for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects across the region;
- A preview of SEMCOG's upcoming Peer Groups meetings and General Assembly event to be held at The Icon (Detroit) on March 19, 2026; and
- A summary of upcoming SEMCOG events and training opportunities.

J. Upcoming Meetings

Ms. Markham reviewed the following upcoming SEMCOG meetings:

General Assembly – Thursday, March 19, 2026 – The Icon (Detroit)

Executive Committee – Friday, April 24, 2026 – SEMCOG Office (Detroit)

K. Adjourn

There being no further business, the Executive Committee was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Spence
Committee Clerk



Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Income Statement

For Fiscal: JUL 2025-JUN 2026

Period Ending: 02/28/2026

Class	Original Total Budget	Current Total Budget	MTD Activity	YTD Activity	Budget Remaining
Revenue					
401 - FEDERAL	3,453,311.00	3,453,311.00	111,885.29	608,826.08	2,844,484.92
402 - STATE ADMIN FEDERAL REVENUE	13,381,757.00	13,381,757.00	988,431.89	6,757,578.05	6,624,178.95
403 - STATE REVENUE	809,484.00	809,484.00	24,176.72	392,544.98	416,939.02
404 - OTHER REVENUE	783,069.00	783,069.00	19,973.37	176,914.34	606,154.66
405 - LOCAL REVENUE	3,068,736.00	3,068,736.00	73,442.98	2,445,632.40	623,103.60
406 - PASS-THRU MATCH	386,236.00	386,236.00	50,046.23	70,766.05	315,469.95
Revenue Total:	21,882,593.00	21,882,593.00	1,267,956.48	10,452,261.90	11,430,331.10
Expense					
501 - SALARIES	6,012,356.00	6,012,356.00	438,934.46	3,592,896.78	2,419,459.22
502 - CONTRACTS	5,296,146.00	5,296,146.00	200,216.04	1,216,362.96	4,079,783.04
503 - TRAVEL	205,434.00	205,434.00	27,428.58	150,732.76	54,701.24
505 - SUPPLIES	1,165,972.00	1,165,972.00	68,535.30	634,501.54	531,470.46
506 - OTHER	1,765,400.00	1,765,400.00	95,212.91	684,931.19	1,080,468.81
507 - FRINGE BENEFITS	4,509,267.00	4,509,267.00	344,837.07	2,876,889.95	1,632,377.05
900 - PT-FEDERAL	300,000.00	300,000.00	0.00	44,942.63	255,057.37
910 - PT-STATE	0.00	0.00	2,106.57	11,355.02	-11,355.02
920 - PT-ST ADMIN FEDERAL	2,151,032.00	2,151,032.00	225,690.61	319,129.55	1,831,902.45
970 - PTM-ST ADMIN FEDERAL	476,986.00	476,986.00	50,046.23	70,766.05	406,219.95
Expense Total:	21,882,593.00	21,882,593.00	1,453,007.77	9,602,508.43	12,280,084.57
Total Surplus (Deficit):	0.00	0.00	-185,051.29	849,753.47	



Finance and Budget Committee

Robert Clark, Chairperson
Mayor, City of Monroe

DATE: April 24, 2026

TO: Executive Committee

SUBJECT: Contract approval for SEMCOG’s Activity-Based Travel Model Improvement Plan and Implementation

Summary of action requested

The Executive Committee is requested to approve a contract with Resource Systems Group for SEMCOG’s Activity-Based Travel Model Improvement Plan and Implementation for an amount not to exceed \$550,000.

Background

Southeast Michigan maintains two regional travel demand forecast models (TDFM): a trip-based TDFM and an activity-based TDFM. While SEMCOG’s officially adopted model is the trip-based TDFM, the agency is now transitioning toward the product use of its activity-based modeling platform.

SEMCOG’s existing travel models were estimated and validated using 2019–2020 pre-COVID travel data. Since that time, travel behavior across Southeast Michigan has shifted significantly due to changes in commuting patterns, remote work trends, and evolving travel preferences. To ensure that the regional modeling system accurately reflects current travel conditions, and remains suitable for long-range planning, conformity analysis, and project evaluation, the existing models must be re-estimated, calibrated, and modernized using newly collected datasets, including the 2025 household travel survey.

SEMCOG issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop a model improvement plan and implement updates to the regional travel demand model. The objective of this effort is to prepare SEMCOG’s travel demand model for use in support of SEMCOG’s 2055 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) by December 2027.

SEMCOG received proposals from Cambridge Systematics (CS), Caliper Corporation, and Resource Systems Group (RSG). A five-member selection committee, consisting of staff from SEMCOG and MDOT, reviewed the proposals and interviewed all three firms as part of the evaluation process. Based on its review of the technical proposals and cost submissions, the committee identified Resource Systems Group as the preferred consultant.

Resource Systems Group (RSG) submitted the lowest cost proposal among the technically qualified firms. The project team demonstrated the experience, project understanding, and

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technical qualifications necessary to complete this work and support SEMCOG's transition to an updated travel demand modeling framework.

Action by other committees

The Finance and Budget Committee recommends the Executive Committee approve a contract with Resource Systems Group to perform SEMCOG's Travel Model Improvement Plan and Implementation for an amount not to exceed \$550,000.

Action requested

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED this 24th day of April 2026, THAT the Executive Committee of SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, authorizes the Executive Director, or her designee, to negotiate a contract with Resource Systems Group for SEMCOG's Travel Model Improvement Plan and Implementation for an amount not to exceed \$550,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive Director, or her designee, is authorized to enter into a contract with Cambridge Systematics should negotiations with the above contractor be unsuccessful.

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____



Gwen Markham, Chairperson
Commissioner, Oakland County

DATE: April 24, 2026
TO: Executive Committee
SUBJECT: Recommended Approval of an Amendment to the 2050 Vision Regional Transportation Plan and the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Summary of action requested

The Transportation Coordinating Council is requested to recommend Executive Committee approval of 2050 RTP and FY 26-29 TIP Amendment 26:2 (Cost/GPA).

Background

The [Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#) is a list of specific projects which implement the policies of the [2050 Regional Transportation Plan \(RTP\)](#) a long-range vision and strategy that directs investment in the regional transportation system. TIP projects are recommended by cities, villages, county road agencies, transit providers, and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) over a four-year period. SEMCOG’s Executive Committee makes the final approval of the TIP project list.

The TIP is amended five times each year. Two categories of projects may undergo a TIP amendment, Line Item projects and General Program Accounts (GPAs) as detailed below:

- Line Item projects are individual jobs that cost more than \$10 million dollars and/or require supplemental review(s).
- GPAs are groupings of similar routine TIP projects.
 - Projects of this nature are programmed within a GPA by jurisdiction and type, such as Local Road, Trunkline Bridge, or Transit Capital.
 - GPAs are permitted in Federal regulation 23 CFR 450.324 (f) under 23 CFR 771.117(c) and (d) and/or 40 CFR part 93.

There are two different TIP Amendment designations as detailed below:

- The 3 Amendment periods designated “(Full)” allow:
 - Major changes to be made to Line-Item projects for any reason necessary (cost, scope, etc.) and;
 - Budget adjustments to GPAs, as needed, to increase total funding available for projects programmed within them.
 - When the total cost of all the projects within a GPA equals or exceeds 125% of the GPA’s current federally approved limit, an amendment is required to reflect this change in size.
 - GPAs undergoing amendment are programmed to at least 115% of the approved baseline.
- The two Amendment periods designated “(Cost-Only/GPA)” are limited to:

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- Line-item projects for cost changes of 25% or more, and;
- Budget adjustments to GPAs, as needed.

The biannual Cost-Only amendment periods are for cost increases of 25% or more only. The remaining "Full" amendment periods allow for more flexibility in the programming of projects. No major changes to the project description, location, or length will be allowed—these changes must be submitted for approval in the "Full" amendments.

FY 26–29 TIP Amendment 26:2 (Cost/GPA)

The [Amendment 26:2 list](#) provides details of 4 TIP phases to be revised:

- 2 cost changes
- 2 add
- 3 GPAs

This amendment, as proposed, primarily pertains to changes in projects related to a new non-motorized path with safety enhancements and pavement preservation. 3 GPAs require amendment as shown in the attached list. All TIP revisions will be incorporated in the RTP.

The public comment period for the amendment officially began on April 8, 2026 and will end with Executive Committee action on April 24, 2026.

Action requested

The Transportation Coordinating Council is requested to recommend Executive Committee approval of 2050 RTP and FY 26-29 TIP Amendment 26:2 (Cost/GPA).

Executive Committee Resolution
to Amend the FY 2026–2029 Transportation Improvement Program and
2050 Regional Transportation Plan for Southeast Michigan

WHEREAS, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) supports this vision:

All the people of Southeast Michigan benefit from a connected, thriving region of small towns, dynamic urban centers, active waterfronts, diverse neighborhoods, premiere educational institutions, and abundant agricultural, recreational, and natural areas.

WHEREAS, SEMCOG is responsible for developing a long-range regional transportation plan and a Transportation Improvement Program that funds projects to implement the plan;

WHEREAS, the 2050 RTP was developed pursuant to the transportation planning provisions of Title 23 of United States Code (USC) Section 134 and Title 49 USC Section 5303;

WHEREAS, the 2050 RTP requires periodic updates to include projects not fully developed at the time the 2050 RTP was originally adopted, to take advantage of new funding and reflect changing priorities;

WHEREAS, SEMCOG is required to develop amendments to the FY 2026-2029 TIP pursuant to Title 23 of the United States Code (USC) Section 134;

WHEREAS, the 2050 RTP and FY 2026-2029 TIP were analyzed in accordance with 40 CFR 51 for air quality conformity and found not to exceed present and future emission budgets in all analysis years;

WHEREAS, the amendments to the FY 2026-2029 TIP are consistent with the 2050 RTP policies, were financially constrained to identified funding resources, and the amendment process actively encouraged public and agency review and comment;

WHEREAS, SEMCOG certifies that all projects funded in total or in part with State Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) Category C funds are eligible for funding under PA 231 of 1987, as amended, and meet the goals and objectives of the program;

WHEREAS, General Program Accounts (GPA) are used to group smaller, routine transportation projects together in the TIP;

WHEREAS, when the total cost of projects programmed in a GPA equals or exceeds 115% of the GPA's currently authorized amount, that GPA needs to be amended;

WHEREAS, SEMCOG has determined that the amendment to the 2050 RTP and the FY 2026-2029 TIP conform to the State Implementation Plan for Air Quality as required by provisions of Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 51 and Title 23 CFR 450;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 24th day of April 2026 THAT the Executive

Committee of SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, approves the amendment of projects to the 2050 RTP and FY 2026-2029 TIP;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive Committee of SEMCOG approves the amendment of the GPAs in the FY2026-2029 TIP;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive Committee of SEMCOG submits this amendment to the 2050 RTP and the FY 2026-2029 TIP to the Michigan Department of Transportation, as designee for the Governor's Office of the State of Michigan, for review and transmittal to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Federal Highway Administration; Federal Transit Administration; and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ATTEST: _____
Committee Clerk

DATE: _____



FY 2027 Appropriations Process Getting Started. On April 3, 2026, President Trump released his Fiscal Year 2027 budget request, jumpstarting the Congressional appropriations process. The \$7.3 trillion budget prioritizes investment in national defense with significant spending increases while seeking to reduce non-defense discretionary spending by approximately \$73 billion. The budget emphasizes a "back to basics" approach for the Department of Transportation (DOT), focusing on national freight corridors and highway expansion while reducing support for local transit and alternative transportation. The budget proposal seeks to eliminate the RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) grant program and electric vehicle charging networks. The budget seeks to cut the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by roughly 13%, proposing the elimination of the HOME Investment Partnerships and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and introducing a strict 20-hour weekly work requirement for many rental assistance recipients. For the Great Lakes, the administration proposes a slight reduction to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to \$367.7 million, alongside much steeper cuts to regional water infrastructure, including a 90% reduction in the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and the decommissioning of the Great Lakes Science Center.

It is important to remember that the President proposed a similar budget last year, only to have Congress reject many of the proposed spending cuts in favor of level funding for most federal domestic programs. The House of Representatives will kick off the FY 2027 appropriations process with its first markup of the Veterans Administration-Military Construction Appropriations bill on April 17 and continue to hold markups each week they are in session until work is completed on all twelve federal spending bills. The final full committee markup, the Defense Appropriations bill, is currently scheduled for Wednesday, June 24. The Senate is much further behind in its process. They have yet to release a markup schedule and will likely not begin that process until mid-May at the earliest. The late start to the appropriations process, combined with the contentious mid-term election, means the earliest we could see FY2027 spending bills become law would be during a year-end lame-duck session.

Department of Homeland Security Remains Shut Down. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is currently in its ninth week of a shutdown, with no sign of an end in sight. While the Senate passed a bipartisan compromise on March 27 to reopen most of the department, excluding ICE and CBP, the House instead passed a 60-day continuing resolution (CR) to fund all DHS components, which lacks the 60 votes needed to pass the Senate. Republicans are now expected to use an expedited Budget Reconciliation process to fund the Department of Homeland

Security. The advantage of reconciliation is that it requires only 50 votes in the Senate, but strict rules limit which types of legislation can be considered under this process. The current expectation is that the Senate will pass a narrow reconciliation bill funding ICE and CBP separately, and then the House will agree to pass both the bipartisan Senate funding the full DHS and the budget reconciliation bill funding ICE and CBP. The President set a target of June 1 for this to be completed. In the meantime, President Trump has used executive authority to fund DHS employees, including TSA. However, the shutdown continues to impact local governments. No new DHS funding is available for discretionary grant programs, and drawing down existing funds has reportedly been slowed. Physical and cybersecurity assessments and training have largely been suspended during the shutdown.

Surface Transportation Reauthorization. The current surface transportation authorization under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act expires on September 30, 2026, and Congress is now in an active but compressed drafting and markup phase. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is targeting a markup of a multi-year successor bill in late April – May, after repeated scheduling delays. Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO), who announced his retirement at the end of this Congress, has made delivering the reauthorization a top legislative priority before his tenure in Congress ends and is steering the bill toward a "back to basics" posture emphasizing roads, bridges, and freight over climate and equity-focused discretionary programs. The Trump FY 2027 budget request reinforces that direction, proposing cuts to EV charging and transit capital programs while boosting highway and freight investment. Bipartisan agreement has been reached on substantial portions of the bill, though the overall spending level remains a key point of negotiation. Beyond the markup timeline, unresolved fiscal and structural questions will shape the outcome. Highway Trust Fund solvency remains one of the most difficult of these, with recent analyses estimating a roughly \$340 billion gap between projected revenues and planned spending over the next decade and fund balances approaching zero by FY 2028 absent intervention. The bill will also carry debates over the balance between formula and discretionary programs, the degree of state versus local and MPO authority over fund programming, and the role of performance-based planning requirements. Most in Congress still view a 2026 reauthorization as must-pass legislation. However, with elections and broader fiscal fights crowding the calendar, there is real risk that final agreement slips and could require short-term extensions.

Congress Still Working to Address Permitting Reform. The House of Representatives will vote this week on H.R.6398, the Reducing and Eliminating Duplicative Environmental Regulations Act, or RED Tape Act, as part of a larger bipartisan and bicameral negotiation over permitting legislation. The bill would exclude federal construction projects and major federal actions from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Clean Air Act review and comment process. Although the bill passed out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee along partisan lines, there may be Democratic support as part of a larger permitting package and affordability agenda. Senate Democrats restarted negotiations last month on a permitting package after the White House removed its review block on large-scale solar and wind projects. Since then, reports have emerged that their unreleased draft legislation resembles the last Congress's unpassed Energy Permitting Reform Act (EPRA), which notably expanded NEPA exceptions and shortened the review timeline for stakeholders such as state and local entities. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which released EPRA in 2024, will

meet with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Commissioners on Wednesday, April 15, to join the permitting discussion and consider six bills that streamline and incentivize quicker approvals of electric transmission projects by FERC. This Congress, the House took the lead, passing in December 2025 the bipartisan Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Development (SPEED) Act, which also limits the scope and scale of NEPA reviews, but with language explicitly recognizing counties as cooperating agencies. While talks progress, reactions to executive action still threaten to derail negotiations.

House Plans Votes on Air Quality Legislation. As Congress pushes forward with legislation to reform permitting for infrastructure projects, the House has scheduled votes the week of April 13 on two specific bills meant to amend the Clean Air Act to ease state air quality approvals and aid environmental approvals. The House will vote on H.R. 6409, the Foreign Emissions and Nonattainment Clarification for Economic Stability (FENCES) Act and H.R. 6387, the Fire Improvement and Reforming Exceptional Events (FIRE) Act. Representative August Pfluger (R-TX) introduced H.R. 6409 with the intent to make it easier for states and localities to discount air pollution from international sources that causes U.S. regions to violate National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). It would also protect states from federal penalties for failing to meet NAAQS due to uncontrollable foreign emissions. Representatives Gabe Evans (R-CO) and Adam Gray (D-CA) introduced H.R. 6387, which would make it easier for states to exclude air quality data influenced by wildfire smoke and prescribed burns from air quality compliance determinations – again helping states and regions reach NAAQS attainment. The House Energy and Commerce Committee approved both bills along party lines earlier this year. While the bills are expected to pass the House along party lines, they could face more pushback in the Senate due to concerns about their impact on public health and the need to secure 60 votes to overcome a filibuster. If eventually enacted, these bills would address a similar issue in the region of international sources impacting Clean Air Act NAAQS attainment for southeast Michigan.

House Reauthorizes GLRI. On March 24, the House of Representatives voted 378-32 on a legislative package containing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Reauthorization Act. The larger package, the American Water Stewardship Act, contained language reauthorizing GLRI until 2031 as well as EPA’s Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act program, which provides funding for state and local governments to test, monitor, and identify contamination in recreational waters. The Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee will hold a GLRI-focused hearing on Wednesday, April 15, with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director, the Ohio Seg Grant Program Director, and the Chief Conservation Officer for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. In the President’s FY2027 budget, the EPA proposes cutting the GLRI appropriation from \$369 to \$367.7 billion, unlike the President’s proposed elimination of the program back in 2017. With the passage of GLRI reauthorization in the House and previous rejections of GLRI cuts in prior year appropriations, Congress is poised to maintain its support for the Great Lakes.



To: Amy O’Leary, Executive Director, SEMCOG

From: Mike Compagnoni, Adam Wright, and Dusty Fancher, Account Lobbyists, Midwest Strategy Group

Date: 13 April 2026

Subject: Lobbying and Government Relations Activities Summary

Session Schedule

The legislature has returned to their regularly scheduled spring session in 2026 and will continue being in regular session through roughly the end of June. 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, having only 7 bills signed into law this year, we do expect session activity to pick up as we get closer to summer break. The House and Senate are currently on track for getting the state budget completed before summer, but much remains to be negotiated and revenues are tighter than in past years.

Important Upcoming Dates

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

- Apr 19: Democratic endorsement convention (AG, SOS, University Boards)
- Apr 21: Filing deadline for partisan candidates for the August primary, including candidates for U.S. Senate and House, Governor, and State Senate and House
- May 5: Special General Election for the 35th state senate seat
- May 26-29: Detroit Regional Chamber Mackinac Policy Conference
- July 1: Statutory deadline for budget passage
- Aug. 4: Primary election date
- Aug 29: Democratic nominating convention
- Sept 30: End of fiscal year, constitutional deadline for budget passage
- Nov. 3: General election date

Supreme Court to Decide Fate of Nine Bills Stuck in Limbo

The Michigan Supreme Court is set to hear arguments in May over a dispute involving nine bills from the end of the 2023–24 legislative term that were never transmitted to Governor Whitmer for approval or veto. At the beginning of the new term, and after the legislature shifted from Democratic to Republican control, Speaker Matt Hall (R-Richland Twp.) declined to present the nine bills to the governor. Lower courts, including the Michigan Court of Appeals, previously ruled that the Michigan Constitution requires the House to present the bills, with the appellate court explicitly ordering that action. House Republicans have since appealed, arguing that the Senate lacks standing and that compelling the House to act would violate separation of powers, particularly because the legislation originated in a prior session.

The Supreme Court's ruling will determine the fate of several policy measures, including a bill requiring public employers to pay a larger share of employee health insurance, allowing Detroit museums to seek a regional millage, pension changes for corrections officers, and protections preventing certain public



benefits from being garnished. The Court, which currently holds a 6–1 Democratic majority, has given the parties 28 days to submit their briefs before hearing the case.

Microplastics Federal and State Hot Topic

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to add microplastics and certain pharmaceuticals to a federal watchlist of potential drinking water contaminants, which would allow for more research and could eventually lead to regulation. However, being placed on the list does not mean immediate action; rather, it is an early step that primarily prioritizes study and data collection.

In Michigan, the response has been mixed. Some officials and environmental advocates see it as a positive step toward addressing growing concerns about these substances in water, especially given their presence in the Great Lakes and uncertainty around health impacts. Others are frustrated that the move stops short of requiring monitoring or stronger regulation, which state leaders like Governor Gretchen Whitmer had pushed for.

The federal announcement comes after the Michigan Senate Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee unanimously advanced a three-bill package that would prohibit the manufacture, sale and distribution of products containing plastic microbeads in Michigan and establish a statewide microplastics assessment program. The lead bill, [SB 503](#), sponsored by Sen. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) would direct the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to create a pilot program which determines microplastic baseline conditions in public water supplies and develop recommendations to reduce microplastics statewide. Dow Inc., the Michigan Chemistry Council, and the Michigan Farm Bureau opposed the bills; the Michigan Environmental Council and Sierra Club supported them. The bills were passed unanimously after changes from the committee.

Senate Delays Vote on “Clicks Over Kids” Package

A scheduled Michigan Senate vote on a four-bill package ([SB 757-60](#)) regulating minors’ access to social media and AI platforms has been delayed until after spring recess, after concerns were raised from members of both caucuses before spring break. The delay reflects ongoing negotiations with stakeholders and an effort to build stronger bipartisan support, particularly among Senate Republicans, despite the bills advancing out of committee with some cross-party support.

The package includes restrictions on algorithm-driven “addictive” feeds, enhanced data privacy protections for minors, and limits on youth access to AI chatbots. Lawmakers are proceeding cautiously, however, as similar laws in other states have faced legal challenges, particularly around First Amendment and regulatory overreach concerns. Consequently, Michigan legislators are taking additional time to fine-tune the bills. The expectation is that revisions will continue during the legislative spring break, with a potential floor vote later this spring.

Whitmer Signs Licensure Compact Bill

Gov. Whitmer signed three bills, most notably [HB 5455](#) (now PA 6 of 2026), which keeps Michigan in the [Interstate Medical Licensure Compact](#). Her signature on the bill comes one day before the state's withdrawal would have been official. The compact streamlines physician licensing across states, and exiting would have affected roughly 8,000 doctors practicing in Michigan. The bill was a compromise



with Rep. Rylee Linting (R-Wyandotte) getting the public act while Sen. Kevin Hertel (D-St. Clair Shores) will get a public act on [SB 581](#) (PA 5), allowing downtown development authorities in mainland-plus-island municipalities to span separate geographic areas. Gov. Whitmer also signed [HB 4044](#) (PA 7), which designates the wood duck as Michigan's official state duck.

The passage comes after nearly a year of political standoff, Michigan's House and Senate struck a last-minute deal to keep thousands of doctors licensed in the state before the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact would have expired on March 28. The compact, which Michigan joined in 2019, allows physicians to obtain expedited licenses across more than 40 member states. The bills are considered critical for telehealth providers and doctors in rural communities. Sen. Roger Hauck's (R-Mount Pleasant) [SB 303](#) passed through the Senate unanimously in May 2025, but it sat untouched in the House Rules Committee for nearly 10 months.

Meanwhile, Rep. Rylee Linting (R-Wyandotte) passed her own version, HB 5455, through the House 102-2 last month, only for it to stall in the Senate. Rep. Linting is a vulnerable Republican member, and the Senate was hesitant to move her legislation ahead of the upcoming election. The deal came together through a tie-bar pairing of HB 5455 with SB 581, a Sen. Kevin Hertel (D-St. Clair Shores) bill on Downtown Development Authorities. The House passed SB 581, and the Senate passed HB 5455 the following week. Sen. Hertel is a vulnerable Senate Democrat, and the House has similarly been hesitant to take up his bills. Gov. Whitmer promptly signed the bills as noted above.

MiLEAP Hosts Meeting on Transfer Credits

The Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement and Potential (MiLEAP) convened nearly 250 faculty and higher education leaders from 55 Michigan colleges and universities at Delta College for a two-day workshop focused on improving credit transfer and speeding degree completion. The event centered on expanding [MiTransfer Pathways](#) designed to make transfer more transparent and consistent, reduce lost credits, and help students move more efficiently from community colleges to four-year institutions.

State officials framed the effort as part of Michigan's broader Sixty by 30 goal and workforce strategy, emphasizing that smoother transfer pathways can save students time and money while strengthening completion rates. The work is being guided by MiLEAP's Advisory Council on Transfer Success, with Michigan aiming to grow from 10 to more than 20 MiTransfer Pathways as part of a more coordinated, student-centered transfer system.

Senate Passes May Primary Date Changes

The Michigan Senate passed a bill package moving the state's primary election from August to May, with broad bipartisan support. The main bill, [Senate Bill 691](#), sponsored by Sen. Sam Singh (D-East Lansing), passed 29-4. Several Republicans debated a proposed optional February election date — critics like Sen. Thomas Albert (R-Lowell) and Sen. Jonathan Lindsey (R-Coldwater) argued February elections create disadvantages for seniors who winter out of state and could enable low-turnout millage increases. Legislative Democrats cited years of requests from local clerks struggling with the tight August-to-November turnaround for ballots and election management as reasons to support the bills. The package also includes reductions in petition signature requirements and campaign finance disclosure changes.



VP Vance Visits Michigan

Vice President JD Vance visited an Auburn Hills manufacturing facility to stump for Republicans, taking questions from many Michigan reporters covering gas prices, the Gordie Howe Bridge, a recent synagogue attack, ICE enforcement, election integrity, and the Iran conflict. Vance called rising gas prices a "temporary blip," defended ICE operations in southeast Michigan, and framed local Democratic leadership as the cause of enforcement chaos seen in other cities. He also pushed the SAVE Act, a federal voter ID bill, and said the Iran operation is solely aimed at preventing a nuclear weapon — not a prolonged war. Vance did not mention any Michigan Republicans by name during the visit.

Petition Fraudster Sentenced to Prison

Shawn Wilmoth, the ringleader of a fraudulent petition signature scheme that knocked five Republican gubernatorial candidates off the 2022 primary ballot, was sentenced to 4 to 20 years in state prison and ordered to pay approximately \$376,000 in restitution. The judge noted Wilmoth and co-defendant Willie Reed were motivated by money, not politics — the pair charged campaigns nearly \$400,000 for valid signatures but delivered tens of thousands of forgeries. Reed's sentencing has been adjourned.

Senate Democrats Pass Resolution Calling Out Federal Energy Policy

Pointing to a 13% hike in national energy costs since the start of the second Trump Administration and urging action to stabilize prices, Senate Democrats passed [Senate Resolution 104](#). This resolution highlights the rising energy costs for Michigan families, businesses, and the agricultural sector. Senate Resolution 104 urges federal action to reverse energy policies Senate Democrats believe caused soaring fuel and fertilizer costs for consumers, businesses, and farmers. The resolution passed along party lines.

Bills Back in House Comm and Tech

Last year, the House Communications and Technology Committee, chaired by Rep. Jaime Greene (R-Richmond), had its bills removed from committee and referred elsewhere after the Chair missed session days due to a trip abroad. However, the bills were returned to the committee, signaling repair in the relationship between House leadership and Chairwoman Greene.

Michigan Secretary of State to Fight New Presidential Order on Mail-In Voting

Following a [recent executive order](#) from President Donald Trump regarding mail-in voting requirements, Michigan Secretary of State and Democratic Gubernatorial candidate Jocelyn Benson promised legal action to fight the order in court. The order directs federal agencies to create a national list of eligible voters and limits mail ballots to individuals on those lists, while also adding new ballot tracking requirements. Benson argues that election administration is primarily a state responsibility under the U.S. Constitution, and that the executive order raises legal concerns about federal authority over state-run elections.

The issue is expected to be resolved through the courts, as multiple states consider or pursue legal challenges. In the meantime, Michigan officials say they intend to continue administering elections under current state law while the situation plays out.



Gov. Whitmer Issues Executive Order and Directive

Executive Order on Energy Emergency

Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared an energy emergency in Michigan to help bring down gas prices. As outlined in [Executive Order 2026-4](#), global issues like the Iran war have led to disrupted oil supplies and, in response, the emergency declaration temporarily loosens rules on certain fuel blends to allow the sale of higher vapor pressure gasoline (E15 Fuel), which could save drivers about 10-20 cents per gallon.

This mainly affects eight counties in southeast Michigan (including Metro Detroit counties), but drivers statewide should see some benefit since cheaper fuel is already allowed elsewhere. The move also lines Michigan up with a federal waiver from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Executive Directive on Impact of Tariffs

In addition to the governor's executive order, Gov. Whitmer also issued [Executive Directive 2026-2](#), addressing the economic impact of recently invalidated federal tariffs on Michigan's economy. The directive outlines how the tariffs increased costs for businesses and consumers, disrupted supply chains, and negatively affected key sectors such as manufacturing and agriculture, without delivering the intended economic benefits. The directive also notes that retaliatory tariffs further harmed Michigan exports and contributed to broader economic uncertainty.

The directive instructs relevant state departments to assess the full scope of the tariffs' impact and report findings within 30 days. It also emphasizes the importance of ensuring that Michigan businesses and residents can access any available refunds tied to the unlawful tariffs. The directive further acknowledges that federal tariff policy remains in flux, and that continued monitoring will be necessary to understand and mitigate ongoing effects on the state's economy.

Line 5 Dispute Continues

The U.S. Supreme Court denied Michigan's appeal regarding Governor Whitmer's previous order to shut down the Line 5 pipeline, which means the state cannot claim sovereign immunity to block Enbridge's lawsuit. At the core of the dispute is Michigan's effort to shut down the Line 5 pipeline due to environmental concerns, particularly the risk of a spill in the Great Lakes. Enbridge, however, argues the pipeline is operating legally under federal law and plays a critical role in regional energy supply. As a result of the denial, the lower court rulings stand, and Enbridge's case against Michigan will continue moving forward in federal court.

Palisades Nuclear Plant Moves Closer to Opening

Holtec International announced it has completed another milestone in restarting the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant with the successful passivation of the primary system. The project now moves into the next phase of cooling, additional testing, and equipment upgrades as the company continues working through regulatory approvals and federally supported financing. The roughly 800-megawatt facility is expected to operate through at least 2051 once restarted. The plant is projected to create 600 jobs and would mark the first restart of a previously retired U.S. nuclear plant.



House Democrats Focus on Affordability Agenda

House Minority Leader Ranjeev Puri (D-Canton) and the House Democratic caucus unveiled their "[Vision for a Brighter Michigan](#)," a policy roadmap they say would guide their priorities if they regain the House majority in November. Developed through statewide listening tours, the plan centers on four key areas: affordability, health care, education and workforce development, and housing. The proposal builds on initiatives Democrats have previously advanced, including the Rx Kids program, universal school meals, and efforts to cap prescription drug costs. It also includes a focus on safeguarding Medicare and Medicaid services and addressing housing challenges, such as rising rents and limited supply. Caucus members say the agenda reflects ongoing concerns about cost of living and is intended to present a unified approach to "kitchen table" issues facing Michigan residents.

Another Cannabis Lawsuit on the Books

The Michigan Cannabis Industry Association (MiCIA) has filed another lawsuit regarding the state's new 24% wholesale tax on cannabis that passed in 2025 in a larger conversation around Michigan's road funding. The association filed the suit in the Michigan Court of Claims against the Michigan Department of Treasury, again claiming the wholesale tax is unconstitutional. The industry claims the tax creates a "tax on a tax" situation resulting in a total tax burden that exceeds what voters approved when they legalized recreational marijuana in 2018. The tax, which received bipartisan support during last year's budget negotiations, took effect in January of this year and is projected to generate roughly \$400 million annually for road funding.

Former Gov. Snyder Releases Policy Roadmap

Former Republican Governor Rick Snyder released an updated "[2026 Michigan Roadmap](#)" outlining 53 bipartisan, long-term policy recommendations aimed at improving governance and reducing political polarization. Key proposals include tax cuts, shifting K-12 education toward competency-based learning, expanding integration of physical and behavioral health services, increasing government transparency through public records laws, eliminating opaque earmarks, and introducing career pathways earlier for students. Governor Snyder developed the roadmap with the Making Government Accountable group. The roadmap spans 10 policy areas and is intended as a resource for candidates and lawmakers to adopt regardless of party.

House Introduces Clean Energy Repealers

Michigan House Republicans announced "Project Lighthouse," a plan to repeal the 2023 clean energy mandate (requiring 100% clean electricity by 2040), cut utility rebates, and defund the Utility Consumer Participation Board (UCPB), a ratepayer-funded advocacy board, targeting roughly \$1B in rate reductions across the state. The bills, [HBs 5710](#), sponsored by Rep. Pauline Wendzel (R-Watervliet), and [5711](#), sponsored by Rep. Pat Outman (R-Six Lakes), have already been posted for a House Energy Committee hearing.

Environmental groups have decried the move, citing past major progress in moving the state towards clean energy with the law passed last session. The Democratic Senate, which has the same legislative make-up from last session, is unlikely to consider repealing legislation that their majority members



previously supported and helped pass into law. Likewise, Governor Whitmer signed the landmark 2023 law, making her signature on a bill to repeal the measure just a few years later unlikely.

Senate Passes Medical Debt Package

The Michigan Senate approved a five-bill medical debt package with broad bipartisan support. The lead bills, [SB 449](#) and [450](#), passed 33-2, with Sen. Thomas Albert (R-Lowell) and Sen. Joseph Bellino (R-Monroe) opposed; [SB 451](#) passed 27-8, while [SB 701](#) and [702](#) passed 35-0. The package would prohibit large health care providers from charging interest or late fees on medical debt for at least 90 days after a final invoice, and cap interest rates at 3% annually. Sen. Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing), the package sponsor, said the bills modernize debt collection rules without changing the medical billing process itself. Sen. Jonathan Lindsey (R-Coldwater), sponsor of SB 701, called the effort a strong bipartisan step toward addressing medical costs. The bills now head to the House, where Anthony said discussions are ongoing.

Gov. Whitmer Meets with President Trump

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer met with President Donald Trump at the White House to discuss recovery efforts following recent tornadoes in southwest Michigan and ongoing recovery from ice storms that struck northern Michigan roughly a year ago. Trump agreed to direct additional federal funding to Michigan to offset recovery costs. Utilities in the region sustained over \$100 million in infrastructure damage from the storm last year. Whitmer and Trump also discussed the proposed new fighter wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Macomb County and the Brandon Road Interbasin Lock and Dam project in Joliet, Illinois, which aims to prevent invasive Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes.

Political Update

Michigan Republican Attorney General, Secretary of State Nominees Selected

At the Michigan Republican Party endorsement convention last month, Doug Lloyd secured the party's endorsement for Attorney General, while Anthony Forlini was endorsed for Secretary of State. Lloyd defeated private attorney Kevin Kijewski by a wide margin, with delegates citing his long tenure as prosecutor and track record of winning elections. Forlini won a three-way contest outright with over 55% of the vote, avoiding a second round, and pointed to his focus on election security and restoring public confidence.

The convention focused on broader party priorities, including strengthening voter trust, emphasizing experienced leadership, and improving turnout in 2026. GOP Chair and State Senator, Jim Runestad (R-White Lake), expressed strong confidence regarding the November elections, highlighting the qualifications of the endorsed candidates and a more organized, less contentious convention process compared to prior years.

Slate of National Democrats RSVP'ed for MI Dem Convention

Former Vice President Kamala Harris, U.S. Sen. Cory Booker and Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear will all be in Detroit on April 18 for various Michigan Democratic Party convention-related events. This highlights Michigan as an important state in 2028 presidential politics and its status as a battleground in 2026.

Whitmer Not Endorsing in Competitive Races



Gov. Whitmer said she won't endorse candidates in the Democrats' U.S. Senate primary or in the Secretary of State race. The latter race involves her current Lieutenant Governor, Garlin Gilchrist II, as well as her former deputy legal counsel and lottery commissioner Suzanna Shkreli. This move keeps the governor neutral inside the Democratic party but has commented supporting, via reference, the perceived Democratic gubernatorial frontrunner, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson.

Slotkin Says She'd Consider 2028 Presidential Run

U.S. Senator Elissa Slotkin (D-Michigan) indicated she would be open to running for president in 2028. She's been making some moves behind the scenes including in states like Iowa to build her profile and has positioned herself as a moderate Democrat who could take on Republicans in a competitive 2028 national election.

El-Sayed Rally Sparks Intra-Party Debate

Democratic U.S. Senate Candidate Abdul El-Sayed's planned rally with online political commentator Hasan Piker is fueling debate among Democrats over the role of progressive influencers in campaigns. While El-Sayed says the event is about engaging new voters, some party leaders have raised concerns about Piker's past rhetoric, as Piker is a frequent Israel critic who many accuse of pushing antisemitism, and his potential impact on party unity.

Kumar Launches Independent Bid in 11th Congressional District

Wayne State University Gov. Dr. Anil Kumar, who previously ran as a Democrat in Michigan's 10th Congressional District, announced he will run as an independent in the neighboring 11th District. Kumar said the decision reflects frustration with partisan gridlock and a belief that he can better advance priorities like healthcare and education reform outside the two-party system.

Schor Drops State Rep Run

Erin Schor, wife of Lansing Mayor Andy Schor, has withdrawn from the race for Michigan's 74th House District seat, citing unexpected family obligations. She had recently announced her candidacy for the seat being vacated by Rep. Kara Hope (D-Holt). The district remains a safe Democratic seat, with Aaron Iturralde of Lansing currently the only filed candidate, but we expect more to join the race.

McMorrow Scores Warren Endorsement

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts) has endorsed State Sen. Mallory McMorrow (D-Royal Oak) in her U.S. Senate bid, becoming the fourth sitting Democratic U.S. Senator to back her campaign. Warren praised McMorrow as a fighter with a proven record, citing her focus on working family economic issues like housing and childcare costs. McMorrow faces Congresswoman Haley Stevens (D-Birmingham) and public health official Abdul El-Sayed in the August Primary.

Wagner Drops Republican Gubernatorial Bid, Now an Independent

AxMiTax ballot proposal leader Karla Wagner has exited the Republican gubernatorial race, citing party leadership she says is unresponsive to Michigan voters, and will continue her campaign as an independent. Her primary focus has been repealing property taxes. Fellow gubernatorial candidate Anthony Hudson made a similar exit from the Republican race recently and is now running as a Libertarian. Both candidates framed their departures as the party shutting out outside voices.



Johnson Rolls Out Property Tax Plan

Republican gubernatorial candidate Perry Johnson unveiled a property tax reform plan built around four pillars: lowering and capping school operating millages, a constitutional amendment to reduce taxes for seniors, expanding property tax credits, and funding relief through spending reform. The plan would phase out the 18-mill school operating tax on owner-occupied primary residences and proposes a constitutional amendment for voter approval in 2026 or 2028. The plan draws from proposals recently advanced by House Speaker Matt Hall (R-Richland Township), which include eliminating the state education tax, personal property tax, real estate transfer tax, and the pop-up tax.

Johnson's broader "\$4,747 plan" also proposes returning that amount to every family via property tax reform, eliminating the income tax, and cutting two cents of every dollar in discretionary spending.

Michigan School Tax Campaign Pauses, Eyes 2028

The Invest in MI Kids ballot proposal is suspending its 2026 ballot petition campaign after falling short of the 446,198 signatures needed to place a millionaire surcharge on Michigan's ballot. The measure would have imposed a 5% surcharge on Michigan state income taxes for earnings above \$1 million (or \$500,000 for single filers), on top of existing tax rates. The proceeds would be constitutionally protected and flow directly to public education funding. Organizers collected roughly 250,000 signatures but saw no viable path to the finish line. They plan to stay active in advocacy and relaunch in 2027, targeting the 2028 ballot instead.