



# This Week in Lansing

MHSA • Muchmore Harrington Smalley & Associates, LLC

Highlights of the Latest Major Legislative, Administrative and Regulatory Activity in the State Capitol

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**FY 2024-25 BUDGET PROCESS CONTINUES** – Last week *House* and *Senate Appropriations Subcommittee's* began reporting their respective department budgets to the full *House* and *Senate Appropriations Committees*. The process continued this week with more subcommittees reporting budgets to the full *Appropriations Committees*, along with both full *Appropriations Committees* moving budgets that were passed last week to the *House* and *Senate* floors.

**Why it matters:** While the *Fiscal Year 2024-25* budget process remains in the early stages, the *Appropriations Subcommittees* continue to report Subcommittee Chair recommendations. This week many of the state's larger departmental budgets, including the *Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)* budget, and *House School Aid/K-12* budget were taken up and moved to the *House* and *Senate Appropriations Committees*.

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

**CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE PASSES, 2024 ELECTION LANDSCAPE SET** – The candidate filing for the 2024 election was Tuesday, April 23 at 4:00 p.m. All candidates seeking election this cycle were required to file by the deadline. With Tuesday in the rearview mirror, candidates and political geeks now have a clearer picture of primary and general election rivals in a year considered exceptionally competitive.

**The bigger picture:** The 2024 election is clear as mud due to the expected presidential rematch between *President Joe Biden* and *former President Donald Trump*. Beyond the likely presidential rematch, Michigan's primary and general election ballot is full of contested races for the *U.S. Senate*, *U.S. House*, and the *State House*, with most considering majority up for grabs. The candidate filing deadline this week provides us an early look into the primary matchups, as well as some likely general election clashes in November, and a few surprises.

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

## **ODDS AND ENDS**

- The *Senate* passed a bill this week that would extend the sunset on the current funding system for trial courts. *House Bill 5392* was passed by the *Senate* on Wednesday but had a tie-bar removed from *House Bill 5534*, which aimed to find a new long-term funding mechanism. *House Bill 5392* was passed by the *Senate* and the *House* concurred in the *Senate S-1 substitute*. However, *House Bill 5534* was also passed by the *Senate*, but failed in a House concurrence vote. *House Bill 5392* now heads to *Governor Gretchen Whitmer's* desk.

- **Governor Gretchen Whitmer** announced the creation of a new office, *the Office of Defense and Aerospace Innovation*, which is focused on building awareness of Michigan’s capabilities in supporting the attraction and expansion of businesses that champion *U.S. Department of Defense* related activities, according to **Governor Whitmer’s** office. The *Office of Defense and Aerospace Innovation* will work with the *Michigan Economic Development Corporation* and will have **Col. John Gutierrez** serve as it’s executive director.
- The **Senate** passed legislation that requires defibrillators in schools and standardized AED training for athletic coaches in high schools. **House Bills 5527** and **5528** were passed 31-6 and 32-5, respectively.
- **Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson** asked **Attorney General Dana Nessel** to submit a formal opinion on if the financial disclosure law requires lawmakers and candidates to report all gifts and travel payments received, rather than just those reported by lobbyists. **SOS Benson** asked the question earlier in April due to **Public Acts 267, 282, 283, and 284 of 2023** possibly being construed as requiring disclosure of all gifts received, not just those from lobbyists.
- The **House Criminal Justice Committee** reported legislation this week that aims to protect individuals from violence based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability by expanding the definition of hate crimes. **House Bills 5400** and **5401** were supported by all the democratic members with all **Republican** members passing.
- **Governor Gretchen Whitmer** announced that \$290 million will be allocated to the **MI Clean Water Plan** in an effort to fund water infrastructure improvements throughout Michigan. The additional funds will come from the **2002 Great Lakes Water Quality Protection Bond** and specifically be used to fund projects like lead service line removals, rehabilitation, and upgrades to drinking water and wastewater plants, and improvements to sewer systems.
- The **House Economic Development and Small Business Committee** reported legislation this week that would restore the film tax credit created under **former Governor Jennifer Granholm**, but the new iteration of the program would not be refundable. **House Bills 4907** and **4908** were reported 10-0 with two members abstaining, and now reside on the **House** floor.
- The **House Economic Development and Small Business Committee** also reported legislation that would give the **Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)** more flexibility by allowing **MSHDA** to be flexible when making loans, exercising authority related to federal housing programs and with redemption prices when purchasing its own notes or bonds. **House Bills 5030, 5031** and **5032** were reported with all **Republicans** abstaining.
- The **House Local Government and Municipal Finance Committee** continued to take testimony only on **House Bill 5438**, which would create a registry for short-term rentals and implement a 6 percent excise tax for units rented 15 or more days in a year. The legislation remains divisive with no further action taken this week.

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