



October 2019 Edition

On Point Policy...

BUDGET

Governor Whitmer's 147 line-item vetoes left \$1 billion in surplus. Michiganders may wonder what will be done with this unused money--it will not automatically go back to taxpayers nor go to another state fund. In this situation, the Legislature has several options for the surplus of funds: re-appropriate it back into programs that were cut or go into new priorities, return the surplus to taxpayers through rebates or tax cuts, or leave the funds in the state's rainy day fund to be used in the future. The Legislature has chosen to re-appropriate funds to some programs that have been vetoed by the Governor.

LOCAL UPDATES

Bay Area

As you will recall, the Bay City Commission approved a resolution over the summer that selected the proposal from United Bridge Partners and enabled the administration to negotiate a resolution to issues related to Independence and Liberty Bridges. Those negotiations continue and we will keep you updated as information becomes available.

Congratulations to Bay County's State Representatives, Annette Glenn (R-Midland) and Brian Elder (D-Bay City), on the passage of their first bills.

Representative Glenn's HB 4010 – part of a package of bills that opens up the Legislature and the Governor to FOIA. Rep. Glenn's bill specifically spells out the appeals procedures for denials of disclosure of public records and the imposition of excessive fees. Passed through the House 107-0 on 3/19/19 and has been sent to the Senate for further consideration.

Representative Elder's HB 4142 -- requires that if it is learned that the child is less than 17 years of age, the case must be transferred immediately to

Saginaw County

MiDocs

A program, called MiDOCS, provides matching monies (\$1.25 million) to put medical residents into training and places them to work in medically under-served areas of Michigan.

In our region, the CMU Medical School participates in the MiDOCS program. This year, CMU started with psychiatry as we are terribly under-served with the issues of behavioral health, opioid addiction, depression and suicide.

At a time when we need more medical professionals (particularly psychiatrists), Saginaw is affected disproportionately. We are the only medical education hub north of I-69 with multiple residency programs; which serve as the pipeline to the Great Lakes Bay Region, Michigan's Thumb, Northern Michigan and the UP (the areas in the State of Michigan with the most significant shortages of physicians). In addition, we are trying to further enhance the care of our Medicaid and under-served population which our residency programs disproportionately care for in this community.

the Family Division in the county where the offense is alleged to have been committed. The bill would raise the age to *less than 18 years of age* to apply the provisions to 17 year-olds.

Our hope is that once the participants complete their three to four-year medical residencies, they will remain and practice in our region. In return, participants can receive \$75,000 in debt forgiveness if they spend two years working in a rural or urban under-served area like Saginaw. This would be after they completed their medical residency.

This is another veto by the current administration that is negatively impacting the most vulnerable in our communities. This should not be a program over which we play politics. People's lives are literally at risk. The facts are clear. Michigan needs more physicians and we need to keep them in our state and region.

STATE GOVERNMENT UPDATES

Caro Center Update

Although we were successful in advocating that the Caro Center stay in Caro, we are disappointed that the approved 100 bed facility will be built on the existing site. This is a first step for the State of Michigan to recognize the need for investment in the mental health beds the state needs to meet a critical demand. In order to supply demand, we would have needed a facility that houses 180+. We will continue to advocate for expansion of the Caro Center.

Going PRO Talent Fund

We continue to advocate for the Going Pro Talent fund that was vetoed from the budget. It is the single most successful workforce talent program in recent memory, and has provided \$5 million to train 3500 employees in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Saginaw Valley State University-Brown Hall Planning Authorization

We will continue to monitor and advocate for the SVSU Brown Hall Planning Authorization. This authorization requires a \$100 placeholder in the budget and will not require the State to outlay all \$12M in the 2020 budget. Due to the fire in Brown Hall in March 2019, there is a greater need for SVSU to receive planning authorization in order to speed this renovation process. The \$12 million request for planning authorization to renovations in Brown Hall from the State of Michigan is the 2nd smallest ask of all public universities for a Capital Outlay project in the FY20 budget. The renovation project will increase energy efficiency, as well as create a learning environment that is consistent with what regional and statewide employers are requesting.

Please join the Saginaw County Chamber for our next legislative event!



OUT OF THE FRYING PAN

The state legislators representing Saginaw County will join us to discuss how they are working in support of the Saginaw County Chamber's legislative priorities. Each legislator serves on a different committee and brings a unique perspective on policy issues facing Saginaw County. Since Governor Whitmer used her line-item veto power on 147 items to cut \$1 billion from the budget and held a rare State Administrative Board meeting to transfer \$625 million from the Legislature's budget to other state departments --we will look to our legislators for answers about the future of Saginaw County.

Invited guest speakers include:

- Senator Ken Horn - 32nd District
- Representative Ben Frederick - 85th District
- Representative Rodney Wakeman - 94th District
- Representative Vanessa Guerra - 95th District

Friday, November 1, 2019

8:00 - 9:30 am

Doors open at 7:30

Horizons Conference Center, 6200 State Street, Saginaw

\$35/member \$45/non-member

[Register online](#) at saginawchamber.org, by phone at 989-757-2115 or by email to Lisa@SaginawChamber.org

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Register here!

On behalf of our members, the Bay Area and Saginaw County Chambers of Commerce will continue to monitor public policy that impact our region, our communities and most importantly--your business!

Any questions or concerns contact Director of Government Affairs
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