



## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

October 30, 2009

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Please route to all interested parties in your township.

### **STATE BUDGET FINISHED -- SORTA**

The governor signed the remaining six state budgets on Friday to put the state budget in place for the current fiscal year (FY 2010). However, the budgets were signed with numerous line-item vetoes, the most notable involving \$7.1 million for the operation of the State Fair. The governor's actions did not restore revenue sharing cuts or the Promise Grant scholarship funding. However, it does reinstate 55 of the 100 state police troopers who were laid off during the summer. The general government budget, which includes funding for revenue sharing, was one of the bills signed by the governor. The approval means total revenue sharing is cut by \$101 million or 11 percent. Statutory revenue sharing is cut by 19 percent, while the constitutional revenue sharing was reduced by roughly 5 percent. Townships can expect their October revenue sharing payment, scheduled to be sent out today by the state, to reflect a level of cut that was approved last month in the state continuation budget bill. For townships that receive some statutory revenue sharing, this payment will be slightly lower than the amount approved today. It is expected that the state will make up the difference in the December revenue sharing payment. The state budget has been approved with no tax increases, but many of the deep cuts and continued debate about whether the K-12 Education budget contains enough funding to cover expenses will keep a fiery debate going in Lansing about the need for revenue increases and supplemental budget bills.

### **GOVERNOR ELIMINATES STATE ASSESSORS BOARD THROUGH EXECUTIVE ORDER**

Governor Granholm signed an executive order (EO 2009-51) on Thursday reorganizing the State Tax Commission (STC) and eliminating the State Assessors Board. The EO transfers all functions of the State Assessors Board to the STC and requires that all three of its members "have at least 5 years experience in government or the private sector, dealing with matters relating to state or local taxes. Not less than 1 of the members shall be a certified assessor holding a level III certificate or greater as granted by the State Assessors Board or its successor." MTA will cover more on this topic in our December issue of *Capitol Currents*. Find a copy of the EO at: <http://www.michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-21975-225192--,00.html>.

### **LEGISLATION WOULD ALLOW MOBILE HOME INSPECTIONS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

The House passed legislation this week that would allow local governments to inspect rented mobile homes located in licensed mobile home parks. HB 4801, offered by Rep. Bob Constan (D-Dearborn Heights), passed the House on a 100-7 vote. The bill amends the Mobile Home Commission Act to specify that a local government could inspect a mobile home for safety (whether it is located within or outside a mobile home park or a seasonal mobile home park) if the mobile home being inspected is being rented to a tenant by its owner. The period between inspections could not be longer than three years. The legislation specifies that the local government may establish a program that would require rented mobile homes be registered with the local government in order to identify those units that would be subject to inspections. The legislation now moves to the Senate for consideration.

### **ATTENTION TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS LOOKING TO RUN FOR A SEAT IN THE LEGISLATURE!**

MTA is planning its biannual Candidate Informational Seminar on Friday, Dec. 11, at the MTA office from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The seminar is geared towards township officials who are or may be considering a run for state legislative seats in 2010 or beyond. The seminar will highlight various aspects of how to run a successful campaign. It's increasingly important to have people serving in the Legislature with a local government perspective. We hope that if you are considering running that you will sign up TODAY for the seminar. SPACE IS LIMITED! The registration deadline is Tuesday, Dec. 1. Those interested in attending this FREE seminar should contact Tom Frazier at (517) 321-6467 or [tom@michigantownships.org](mailto:tom@michigantownships.org).

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