



## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

November 18, 2011

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Please route to all interested parties in your township.

### **LEGISLATURE COMPLETES ACTION TO MOVE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS**

Just prior to the Thanksgiving break, the Legislature completed action to move all school board elections to the even-year general November election date. HB 4005, introduced by Rep. Kurt Heise (R-Plymouth Chtr. Twp.), and SB 427, introduced by Sen. Patrick Colbeck (R-Canton Chtr. Twp.), has now passed both the House and Senate. Under the bills, a school district would have to hold its regular election for the office of school board member at the general November election (even-year) beginning Jan. 1, 2012. The bills have been ordered enrolled and will soon be on the way to the governor's desk. Of the well over 500 school districts throughout the state, only 52 currently operate only an even-year November election. Assuming that the bills will be signed into law by the governor, the remaining districts would have to conform to the new election timeframe. In cases where a school district board member's term expires at the end of June, or in an upcoming odd year, their term would automatically be extended. New terms would start Jan. 1 immediately following the election.

### **GOVERNOR'S FIRST VETO COULD BE ON THE HORIZON**

The House and Senate have both been working on a package of bills that would amend the Administrative Procedures Act to revise provisions that govern the promulgation of administrative rules, which are often put in place to implement legislation. However, one bill in the package has become very controversial. HB 4326, introduced by Rep. Jeff Farrington (R-Sterling Heights), would prohibit a state agency from promulgating or adopting a rule more stringent than the applicable federal standard, unless specifically authorized by Michigan statute, or for an emergency rule. The governor's office has attempted to work with legislators to make the bill more palatable, arguing that in many cases the regulated community actually desires stricter standards. However, the House has enrolled the bill and will be sending it to the governor's desk without incorporating changes. Should the governor decide to veto the legislation, it would be his first veto during his 11-month tenure. Meanwhile, one additional bill in the package, HB 4240, introduced by Rep. Ken Goike (R-Ray Twp.), still needs final action by the Senate. The bill stipulates that agency bulletins and operational memorandums would be advisory only and not have the force of law.

### **GOVERNOR DELAYS THE UNVEILING OF HIS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX PLAN**

First it was believed that the governor would unveil his personal property tax plan in September, then there was discussion it would be revealed in early November. Now the Lt. governor is stating that the plan won't be ready until after the beginning of the year. It is still expected that the plan will focus on industrial personal property and that the tax will be phased out over an extended period of time.

### **HOLIDAY SHOPPING AND REVENUE SHARING?**

Where you buy your holiday gifts determines how much revenue sharing your township will receive. Buying locally helps local government in two different ways. First, local merchants pay property taxes that support the local community, but the sales taxes paid on those purchases are also returned to the community through constitutional revenue sharing. If you purchase gifts online none of that money is returned to local governments. Even if you pay sales tax on your online purchase, that money stays with the state. So shop local and buy local; it's a win-win for local government.

### **MTA CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING**

The Michigan Townships Association offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Due to the holiday, MTA will not publish a Weekly Legislative Report during that week. MTA will resume normal operations on Monday, Nov. 28 at 8 a.m. The next update will be published on Friday, Dec. 2. While there are many hardships facing our nation, there is also much for which we should be thankful.

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