

JANUARY 15, 2021

KJL WEEKLY UPDATE

Official newsletter of Khoury Johnson Leavitt



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KJL SPECIAL ALERT

The Khoury Johnson and Leavitt team remain informed and engaged during these times of uncertainty. We are in communication with leadership in the executive, legislative and judiciary branches of state government, in addition to locals on a regular basis. Updates will continue every Friday as a mechanism to recap relevant activity from the past week.

Officials: Current Fiscal Year Revenues \$1.2B Higher Than Forecast

Revenue for the 2020-21 fiscal year is coming in lower than the previous one but higher than the state forecasted in August, officials determined during today's Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference.

For the 2020-21 fiscal year, General Fund and School Aid Fund revenue is \$1.23 billion more than projected in August, officials said. General Fund is \$700.8 million higher than previously projected and School Aid Fund revenue \$528.3 million.

Compared to the 2019-20 fiscal year, though, revenue coming in represents a 2 percent decrease.

For the 2021-22 fiscal year, the budget for which the administration and Legislature will soon start crafting, the House Fiscal Agency, the Senate Fiscal Agency and the administration agreed overall revenue will be \$874.8 million higher than previously projected.

The General Fund for 2021-22 is now \$504.6 million higher than previously projected and the School Aid Fund \$370.2 million more.

Officials during this morning's CREC emphasized the state will be recovering from the coronavirus for several years, though the recession caused by pandemic is not following normal recession trends.

Additionally, officials are bracing for an income tax reduction in the 2022-23 fiscal year of \$193 million.

Whitmer Sets Special Elections For Two Senate Vacancies

Special elections for two vacant Senate seats were announced this afternoon by Governor Gretchen Whitmer, with the primaries scheduled for August and general elections for November.

Primary elections for both the 8th Senate District and 28th Senate District will be held on August 3 and the general elections will be held November 2.

"The 8th and 28th Senate Districts deserve representation in the Legislature, and voters will an opportunity to make their voices heard at the ballot box," Ms. Whitmer said in a statement. "Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and I remain committed to ensuring fair and secure elections that reflect the will of the people, and I look forward to working with her to ensure the people of Michigan have a voice in Lansing."

The 8th Senate District seat was previously held by Peter Lucido, while the 28th Senate District seat was previously held by Peter MacGregor. In the November 2020 elections the two won election to the offices of Macomb County prosecutor and Kent County treasurer, respectively, and resigned from their Senate seats at the end of December.

With the two vacancies the Republican majority in the Senate is reduced for now to 20–16. Both districts are strongly Republican.

Candidates must file by April 20 to qualify for the August 3 primary. So far one candidate, Kevin Green of Rockford, has filed for the Republicans in the 28th Senate District.

Michigan Police Prepare for Potential State Capitol Riots

Michigan Police will be working with the state's National Guard and the FBI to increase security and the show of force around the state's capitol over the weekend, amid threats of potential violence at the capitol building on Sunday, according to a department statement. The heightened visibility of law enforcement comes as federal authorities sound the alarm over anticipated demonstrations at capitols in all 50 states, and urge local law enforcement to report threats of violence from extremists like those seen storming the U.S. Capitol last week in President Trump's name.

Michigan State Police Chief Joe Gasper said in a statement on Friday that law enforcement would be "prepared to ensure law and order" in advance of the demonstrations.

The police statement comes as Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D) said on Monday that a decision by the state's capitol commission to ban the open carry of firearms in the state's Capitol building had not gone far enough.

Biden picks Whitmer for DNC vice chair

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is nominated as a vice chair of the Democratic National Committee, according to a press release from President-elect Joe Biden's transition team.

The team announced a number of nominations for incoming DNC officers, led by Chair Jaime Harrison, formerly the leader of the South Carolina Democratic Party and a current DNC officer.

Whitmer, U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth of Illinois and U.S. Rep. Filemon Vela Jr. of Texas are nominated to serve as vice chairs, while Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms is nominated to serve as vice chair of civic engagement and voter protection. Jason Rae is nominated as secretary, Virginia McGregor as treasurer and Chris Korge as national finance chair.

Previous vice chairs have maintained other full-time positions and focused on particular areas of strategy for the DNC.

Ex-Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder And 8 Others Criminally Charged In Flint Water Crisis

Snyder, a Republican who left office two years ago, is facing two counts of willful neglect, both misdemeanors which each carry a maximum sentence of one year in prison and a fine up to \$1,000. The attorney general's announcement cites other charges as follows:

Jarrold Agen – Former Director of Communications and Former Chief of Staff, Executive Office of Gov. Rick Snyder

- One count of perjury – a 15-year felony

Gerald Ambrose – Former City of Flint Emergency Manager

- Four counts of misconduct in office – each a five-year felony and/or \$10,000 fine

Richard Baird – Former Transformation Manager and Senior Adviser, Executive Office of Gov. Snyder

- One count of perjury – a 15-year felony
- One count of official misconduct in office – a five-year felony and/or \$10,000 fine
- One count of obstruction of justice – a five-year felony and/or \$10,000 fine
- One count of extortion – a 20-year felony and/or \$10,000 fine

Howard Croft – Former Director of the City of Flint Department of Public Works

- Two counts of willful neglect of duty – each a one-year misdemeanor and/or \$1,000 fine

Darnell Earley – Former City of Flint Emergency Manager

- Three counts of misconduct in office – each a five-year felony and/or \$10,000 fine

Nicolas Lyon – Former Director, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

- Nine counts of involuntary manslaughter – each a 15-year felony and/or \$7,500 fine
- One count of willful neglect of duty – a one-year misdemeanor and/or \$1,000 fine

Nancy Peeler – Current Early Childhood Health Section Manager, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

- Two counts of misconduct in office – each a five-year felony and/or \$10,000 fine
- One count of willful neglect of duty – a one-year misdemeanor and/or \$1,000 fine

Eden Wells – Former Chief Medical Executive, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

- Nine counts of involuntary manslaughter – each a 15-year felony and/or \$7,500 fine
- Two counts of misconduct in office – each a five-year felony and/or \$10,000 fine
- One count of willful neglect of duty – a one-year misdemeanor and/or \$1,000 fine

Prosecutors said all of the defendants turned themselves into the Genesee County, Mich., jail and were processed.

Raphael Washington selected as next Wayne County Sheriff

A three-person panel in Wayne County has selected Raphael "Ray" Washington to be the next Wayne County Sheriff.

The panel consisted of Prosecutor Kym Worthy, Judge Freddie Burton and Clerk Cathy Garrett, and they interviewed 14 sheriffs candidates earlier this week. The panel voted 2-0 in favor of Washington with Burton abstaining.

Washington was previously a deputy chief in the department, and will now lead it after the death of Benny Napoleon from COVID-19 a month ago.

KJL COVID RESOURCE TAB

A COVID 19 resource tab has been added to our website www.kjlteam.com. We will continue to update that tab with information relevant to our clients. Also, if you haven't already, please follow us on Facebook and Instagram for daily information.



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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.com

www.michigan.gov/ag

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.com

www.congress.gov.com

www.michiganbusiness.org

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