

WEEKLY UPDATE

April 16, 2021



Khoury
Johnson
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Former lawmakers appeal case seeking to overturn term limits

Ten former lawmakers have asked a federal appellate court to rule Michigan's term limits unconstitutional, appealing a lower court ruling that upheld the decades-old, voter-approved limitations.

Approved by voters in 1992, Michigan's term limits are considered some of the strictest in the country. They limit state lawmakers to serving a total of 14 years across the two legislative chambers — three, two-year terms in the House and two, four-year terms in the Senate.

In their appeal filed April 5, the lawmakers asked the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals panel to consider their case in light of U.S. Supreme Court precedent on candidates' right to ballot access. The argument, they said, is different from what was used in a failed 1998 case that sought to overturn term limits on the premise that voters had a right to vote for candidates of their choice.

The 1998 case and the precedent it created was one of the main reasons the lawmakers' suit was dismissed in January.

If the appellate court were to overturn Michigan's term limit rules, it would not "prohibit Michigan from adopting any term-limits proposal going forward," the April appeal said. "Instead, such an injunction will open the door to a meaningful conversation about how term limits have — and have not — worked in Michigan, and the adoption of a valid term-limits regime, one that is more in line with what other states have adopted."

Ten Democratic and Republican former lawmakers filed the suit in 2019 arguing that term limits violate constitutional rights such as equal ballot access and freedom of association.

They also argued the 1992 rules decreased institutional knowledge among lawmakers and increased the influence of lobbyists who had been working in state policy longer. The limits are a disincentive for lawmakers to develop long-term plans or working relationships across the aisle, the lawmakers argued.



43% of Michigan adults have received first vaccine dose in Michigan

More than 3.5 million Michigan residents have gotten at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

That means 43.3% of Michiganders age 16 and older are at least partially vaccinated, as of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services data from Wednesday, April 14. That's up from 39% a week ago, and 34.2% two weeks ago.

Among them, more than 2.3 million residents had been fully vaccinated as of Wednesday. That's 28.8% of the eligible population -- up from 24.4% last week.

Michigan has administered 5,665,028 doses thus far, including nearly 3 million of the Pfizer shot, almost 2.5 million of the Moderna shot, and about 214,500 of the Johnson & Johnson shot. The first two require two doses spaced weeks apart, while the latter only needs one dose for max efficacy.

The breakdown by age group:

- 75 and older: 71.6% initiated; 61.9% completed.
- 65 to 74: 71.6% initiated; 62% completed.
- 50 to 64: 51% initiated; 31.8% completed.
- 40 to 49: 36% initiated; 19.1% completed.
- 30 to 39: 32.3% initiated; 16.4% completed.
- 20 to 29: 22.7% initiated; 10.6% completed.
- 16 to 19: 15.7% initiated; 3.3% completed.



Michigan gets \$6M in federal funds to combat COVID-19 variants

Melissa Nann Burke

The White House said Michigan will get \$6 million in federal funding in early May as part of an effort to help detect and track variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 by boosting up genomic sequencing efforts.

The money, allocated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is part of **\$1.7 billion from the COVID-19 relief package** that Congress approved this year that is intended to help states combat mutations of the virus that now cause more than half of all infections in the country.

Health care officials attribute Michigan's surge in infections in recent weeks in part to COVID variants, including B.1.1.7, a United Kingdom variant for which Michigan has the second-highest number of cases in the nation.

Michigan has a state laboratory that does the genomic sequencing to confirm variant cases and sequences about 500 samples a week, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services spokeswoman Lynn Sutfin said earlier this year.

The state is leading the nation in its rate of new infections. At least eight hospitals across Michigan were listed Thursday at full capacity for COVID patients, and the state's largest hospital system, Beaumont, indicated it's nearing its capacity.

Federal officials say they are aiming to increase genomic sequencing of the virus, which is how scientists decode its DNA and detect the more contagious and potentially deadly mutations.

The information from that process can help state and local public health leaders can implement "known prevention measures," according to the White House.



Good morning Chamber Member:

We are excited to announce that the Chaldean Community Foundation with the Chaldean Chamber and President Martin Manna, in partnership with the Macomb County Health Department, will be providing a FREE COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic twice weekly (every Thursday and Friday) beginning this Thursday, April 15 and running until further notice.

The clinic will be located in the Wireless Vision Gymnasium inside the CCF (3601, 15 Mile Road – Sterling Heights) and will run from 9:30am-3:30pm by appointment only. Please see below for eligibility and requirements:

- Vaccine: Pfizer
- Vaccine eligibility: MI residents over the age of 16
 - Those 16 & 17 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian
- Vaccine will be administered for FREE and insurance is not required
- Photo ID is required
- Second doses will be scheduled three weeks (21 days) following the first dose
- Parking will be available in the front parking lot
- Individuals will be directed to enter through the back door of the gymnasium where they will check in and complete a health screening – Entrance through the front doors will not be permitted
- Translation will be provided by CCF staff

You can register by calling the CCF at 586-722-7253 or by clicking the following link:
<https://calendly.com/chaldean-cf/covid-19-vaccine-clinic-1?month=2021-04>.





Social Media

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Additional Resources

- www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.com
- www.michigan.gov/ag
- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.com
- www.michiganbusiness.org

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