

SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

SPECIAL ALERT

Official newsletter of Khoury Johnson Leavitt



Khoury
Johnson
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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.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE-

FY21 Budget

Ending a long period of behind-the-scenes work by key legislators and the Whitmer administration, the Legislature moved rapidly to pass budget bills for the state fiscal year that starts Oct. 1.

The use of more federal coronavirus relief funds played a big role in bringing the budget into balance and freeing up General Fund for other spending. It allowed the swapping out of \$191 million in General Fund for Department of Corrections payroll, \$45.5 million in General Fund from the Department of State Police budget and \$22.5 million General Fund at state psychiatric hospitals. Another area where General Fund was technically freed up, though it did not represent a change, was from the \$120 million General Fund for drinking water initiatives. That was appropriated as a one-time program in the current fiscal year but with the plan for the money to be spread over three years (subscribers please note: this story corrected from an earlier version that described the drinking water changes as a cut). So the money does not have to be reappropriated in the upcoming fiscal year to keep planned spending intact.

- Locals will receive their revenue sharing at levels established in fiscal year 2020, which totals more than \$226 million.
- The deadline to pay hazard pay to first responders is extended to Oct. 31 (from the previous Sept. 30).
- Indigent Defense grants are funded for \$117.5 million.
- About \$4.2 million is provided for behavioral health training and crime victim support, as recommended by the Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration.
- About \$13 million is cut, however, from General Fund appropriations for the local bridge program.
- An increase of \$27 million in federal funds is included for local public airports.
- The Child Care Fund will receive \$254.3 million.
- Includes \$3.5 million in Child Care Fund indirect cost payments.
- Match requirements for non-Medicaid community mental health (CMH) services will continue in a way that saves counties \$5 million.

Redistricting Commissioner James Decker Resigns, Replacement To Be Randomly Selected

James "Ed" Decker has resigned from his post as a member of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, which last week held its inaugural meetings, the Department of State announced today in a news release.

Mr. Decker, unaffiliated with any political party, cited changes in personal circumstances that would prevent him from giving sufficient attention to the redistricting process, which only just began on Thursday.

Per the state's Constitution, a random selection has been scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, September 23. The constitutional amendment that made the commission possible anticipated such circumstances and allows for a replacement.

The event will be livestreamed on Michigan Department of State social media accounts. For more information visit [RedistrictingMichigan.org](https://www.michigan.gov/redistricting).

Ballot pre-processing measure headed to governor

Legislation to allow time pre-election to process mail-in ballots cleared the House this week on a 94-11 vote.

Senate Bill 757, by Sen. Ruth Johnson (R-Oakland), allows clerks in cities or townships with a population of at least 25,000 to perform certain absent voter (AV) ballot pre-processing activities prior to Election Day, as long as they give notice of that action to the Secretary of State (SOS) at least 20 days before Election Day. This provision would apply only for the Nov. 3, 2020, general election.

The bill would also allow election inspectors on AV counting boards in cities or townships to work in shifts. Additionally, it would provide requirements for AV ballot drop boxes and notification requirements for AV ballot applications and ballots that were rejected for missing a signature or having one that did not match the signature on file.

The bill now goes to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who is expected to sign it.

EXECUTIVE ORDERS:

- [Executive Order 2020-181:](#)
 - Amendment to the Safe Start order
- [Executive Order 2020-182:](#)
 - Council on Climate Solutions



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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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