




Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators

MASA Legislative Update

Brought to you by: 

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Summary

The Legislature has closed the books on 2023 and **the official “Sine die” adjournment is expected next Tuesday**. More details regarding the special circumstances for an early adjournment are below, but Speaker Tate was quoted calling the move “Lansing’s worst kept secret” after rumors had been swirling about this action for months. Without an official date on when to return, **legislative movement in early 2024 will look different** than previous years.

Next Tuesday’s **adjournment will set the 90-day clock on bills** taking effect that were not granted immediate effect by the Senate this year. With that date, **important legislation passed earlier this year** – including the A-F

accountability system repeal, the rollback of the Read by Grade 3 retention component, the reinstatement of prohibited subjects of bargaining, and a change to Michigan's Presidential primary date – **will take effect on February 12, 2024.**

Keep in mind our weekly Legislative Updates may become less frequent as we move into the holiday season and while the Legislature is back in their districts.

As Always, please [contact MASA](#) with any questions or concerns.

Superintendent Evaluation Changes

As you know, an overhaul to Michigan's educator evaluation system was approved by the Legislature and the governor will sign it into law soon. Given the complexity of the bills, questions continue to arise about what this means specifically for Superintendents. To help weed through the nuances, the MASA Team put together this [easy-to-read summary](#) of what district leaders can expect **starting in the 2024-25 school year.**

November Election Results

On Tuesday night, two sitting State Representatives won their mayoral elections. Voters overwhelmingly supported **Rep. Kevin Coleman (D) as the next Mayor of Westland** with 59% of votes. Coleman's opponent, current Interim Mayor, received only 41% of votes. **Rep. Lori Stone (D)** also came out on top election night becoming **the next Mayor of Warren** with Stone winning the support of 53% of the voters, while her opponent, the city's current Human Resource Director, held 47%.

Both will soon need to resign their role as State Representative to allow Governor Whitmer to call a Special Election to replace their seats in the House. The date of when a Special Election could be held is unknown, but anticipation

is growing as the results delivered a blow to House Democrats, temporarily costing them the majority in chamber.

Once the Representatives resign to take on their new roles, the House will be split 54-54 across party lines. Fifty-five yay votes will be needed to pass any legislation on the floor, **effectively pushing the chamber into gridlock** for the first time since 1994. However, House Democrats are expected to retain the majority in the Special Election, as both seats are in strong democratic districts. **Until these seats are filled, we expect action in the House to be minimal.**

As you know, elections held across the state on Tuesday also included many **school-related ballot proposals**. We have [compiled a list](#) of the ballot results for your convenience, but overall, the proposals included:

- 45 School Bonds (25 passed, 20 failed)
 - 7 Sinking Fund Millage Increases (4 passed, 3 failed)
 - 7 Sinking Fund Millage Renewals (6 passed, 1 failed)
 - 25 School Operating Millage Renewals (24 passed, 1 failed)
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Legislature Adjourns for Remainder of the Year

The Capitol will grow quiet for the rest of the calendar year as **the final week of session comes to a close**. The past two weeks have been jam-packed with several major policy priorities, causing the Legislature to work into the early hours of the morning on several occasions. A formal resolution was introduced on Thursday to **adjourn on November 14** for the rest of the year.

Typically, the Legislature continues to work through mid-December and reconvenes at the start of the new year. However, the new Democratic Majority has faced a few unique challenges this year. As we outlined above, **two state representatives will resign from their seats** to return to their districts as Mayor **causing the House to be split across party lines**.

We expect the Senate will resume regular business in early January. However,

due to the soon-to-be two vacant seats causing a split of majority in the House chamber, **we expect little to no action by the full chamber on legislation until after the Special Election.**

The **Governor's Executive Budget Recommendation** is usually presented in February, and **we expect that timeline to hold.** Though the House chamber might not be active the first few months, Committees and Subcommittees can meet. We expect the budget process to keep going, with the **goal of completing the budget around July.**

We will keep you up to date on what the start of the 2024 session will look like once more information becomes available.

Final Legislative Approvals for the Year

Newly hired public school employees will now be **defaulted into a pension system rather than a 401(k) retirement plan.** [HB 5021](#), introduced by Rep. Koleszar (D), passed the Senate this week on a vote count of 21-14 and is on the way to the governor's desk, who is expected to sign. MASA supported this effort to revise the retirement system in an effort to help bring educators to the classroom.

Automatic employee payroll deductions for PAC contributions were given final approval by the Senate this week. [HB 4234](#), introduced by Rep. Tsernoglou (D), passed on a count of 20-16 and is expected to be signed by the governor.

Additionally, the House approved [SB 169](#), introduced by Sen. Cherry (D), on a vote count of 56-51. The bill **requires all public employers**, including school districts, **to provide contact information of new employees** to bargaining representatives **within 30 days of hire** and the **contact information of all employees** represented by the bargaining representative **every 90 days.** The governor is expected to sign this legislation.

Finally, a **bill package aimed at increasing school bus safety** was discharged from the House Committee on Regulatory Reform and subsequently passed by the House. The package of bills include:

- [HB 4928](#) – Shannon (D): Allows a school district to collect the \$250-\$500 fines associated with a traffic stop for a vehicle passing a school bus or failing to stop.
- [HB 4929](#) – Carter (D): Allows a school district to enter into an agreement with a law enforcement agency to report a vehicle passing a school bus or failing to stop.
- [HB 4930](#) – Carter (D): Authorizes a school district to install or operate a stop-arm camera system on a school bus.

The legislation was sent to the Senate and could see further movement at the start of the new year.

Financial Disclosure Legislation Crosses Finish Line

The bipartisan **bill package** spurred by 2022's Proposal 1 that **details what elected officials must include in financial disclosures** is headed to the governor for her signature. The passage comes after weeks of debate within both the Republican and Democratic caucuses but still in time for December 31 deadline for the new constitutional amendment to be adopted, saving the Legislature from a potential lawsuit.

The Senate passed the package without much debate last week with each bill passing on a vote count of 36-2. Minimal changes were made to include doubling the fines for failing to file disclosures or lying on the forms, along with requiring elected officials to report if they enter into an employment agreement before leaving office.

Members of the House pushed for more transparency measures to be included, but several amendments failed. Amendments to require public officials to disclose if their spouse is a registered vendor with the state and if the spouse is employed by a company that is registered with the state did make it through. The legislation ultimately passed the House in the early morning hours by

relatively narrow vote margins. The bills are outlined below and include the House vote count:

- [SB 613](#) – Moss (D): Requires certain public officers to file financial disclosure reports (59-49)
 - [SB 614](#) – Singh (D): Requires certain candidates for office to file financial disclosure reports (61-47)
 - [SB 615](#) – Huizenga (R): Creates an exemption on prohibition on certain candidate committee expenditures and disbursements (61-47)
 - [SB 616](#) – McBroom (R): Creates an exemption on prohibition on certain candidate committee expenditures and disbursements (62-46)
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This Week's Introduced Bills:

[SB 664](#) – Bumstead (R): Provides for a firearm safety curriculum