



michigan municipal league

Better Communities.
Better Michigan.

1675 Green Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

TEL 734.662.3246 800.653.2483
FAX 734.662.8083
WEB www.mml.org

Contact:

Matt Bach, director of communications
Michigan Municipal League
W: (734) 669-6317; C: (810) 874-1073
mbach@mml.org
www.mml.org

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Governor's Proposed Revenue Sharing Elimination Shoves Another Generation Out the Door

Budget Cuts Threaten Public Safety, Local Government Solvency

The following statement is from Carol Shafto, president of the Michigan Municipal League Board of Trustees. Following \$4 billion in cuts to statutory revenue sharing made by the governor and Legislature over the past 10 years, Gov. Rick Snyder is now proposing to eliminate statutory revenue sharing in the fiscal year 2012 state budget. This continues a dangerous decade-long pattern of the governor and Legislature breaking their promise of funding to support essential services in neighborhoods and communities across the state.

"Cuts of this magnitude are beyond unacceptable; they are harmful to our communities. They threaten public safety services in local communities across the state, and they threaten to push literally dozens of local governments into fiscal stress. We are now past the point of living within our means and moving to where it will be impossible for some local governments to even survive. Rest assured cuts of this magnitude will harm our residents in communities and neighborhoods across the state. There is no "fat" in city government. We have already had to reduce or eliminate many of the lifestyle amenities that made our communities compellingly attractive places to locate businesses and raise families. We now will be forced to look to essential services that affect the health and welfare of our citizenry. When local governments layoff more police officers and firefighters, when more roads and bridges crumble, when our waste water treatment systems fail, when our parks and libraries close, who will want to live here? When do we stop the fiscal insanity and end this foolish and reckless attempt to undermine Michigan's return to prosperity? These cuts give our public university students another compelling reason to leave Michigan for states that are investing in the types of amenities that create places where young, talented, educated and entrepreneurial people want to live and work. If these cuts are approved, Michigan will shove another generation of young people out the door. These cuts are not about turning off the lights. They are about taking the lights down."

Dan Gilmartin, CEO and executive director of the Michigan Municipal League, said local government leaders will work hard in the coming weeks to educate legislators about the damage that will be done to their House and Senate districts if the governor's proposed cuts are implemented.

"Under this budget proposal, revenue sharing becomes revenue stealing," said Gilmartin. "The term revenue sharing was a misnomer from the beginning—state government doesn't share revenue—they give communities money collected on behalf of those communities. If we want to create a prosperous state, we can't cripple our communities this way."

Gilmartin added that the League has proposed numerous reforms that would help address the state's budget crisis. The list of reforms is available [here](#). View a Jan. 26, 2011 press release about the reforms [here](#). Also, for more on the League's vision to have a prosperous state, view the League's Prosperity Agenda [here](#).

[Michigan Municipal League](#) advocates on behalf of its member communities in Lansing, Washington D.C., and the courts; provides educational opportunities for elected and appointed municipal officials; and assists municipal leaders in administering services to their communities through League programs and services.

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