



michigan municipal league

Better Communities.
Better Michigan.

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State Has Opportunity to Keep its Promise to Local Taxpayers

Legislature Must Start Restoring Massive Revenue Sharing Cuts

This statement is from Summer Minnick, director of State Affairs for the Michigan Municipal League, in response to today's Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference, where the state Department of the Treasury, the Senate Fiscal Agency and the House Fiscal Agency announced a \$457 million surplus in the state general fund.

"The Legislature and governor have slashed revenue sharing to local communities by more than \$4 billion over the past 10 years, nearly eliminating statutory revenue sharing for some communities. We all know this funding was promised to local communities by the state many years ago. The revenue sharing cuts have forced local cuts to public safety, road repair and maintenance, drinking water systems, parks and libraries, and more across Michigan. These cuts have contributed to the dire financial conditions of many local communities. They also contribute to voters' cynicism about Lansing. When they see state lawmakers breaking promises to local communities, no wonder voters are so disappointed in the performance of the state's elected leaders. It's also why we will not support any effort to eliminate the personal property tax without the Legislature and governor fully replacing the funds local communities would lose with revenues guaranteed for local services by the constitution, protecting them from future raids by Lansing. While the state was cutting revenue sharing over the last decade, those legislators told communities and taxpayers that when times were better and the state had more revenue to share, that local communities would see their funding restored. That time has come.

"Now the Legislature and the governor have the funds and opportunity to keep their promise to local communities by restoring some of the cuts to revenue sharing. The governor has stated repeatedly that the economic revitalization of Michigan's communities is a key to returning the state to prosperity. If the governor and Legislature really want to do this, they now have the financial resources and opportunity to do just that."

[Michigan Municipal League](http://www.mml.org) 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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