

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



State Representative

## DANIELA GARCÍA

*90th House District*

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[Welcome Note](#)

[Property Tax Appeal Tips](#)

[House Action Plan](#)

[Wage Garnishment Bills](#)

[Unemployment Down](#)

[Office Hours](#)

*Please feel free to share this legislative update. If you'd like to be added to our e-mail list, contact my office toll-free at 866-908-4347, or by e-mail at [DanielaGarcia@house.mi.gov](mailto:DanielaGarcia@house.mi.gov)*

Dear Friends,

Hello and welcome to the February edition of my e-newsletter for 2015!

I am honored to serve the 90<sup>th</sup> district as state representative and am committed to implementing common-sense reforms that will continue to make our state a great place to live, work and raise a family. The people I serve trusted me to go to Lansing and make tough choices on reforms that can make our economy healthier and provide our children and grandchildren with opportunities in Michigan.

I hope you find this email update useful and informative. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you ever have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
Daniela R. García  
State Representative  
90<sup>th</sup> District

## **Tips for appealing your property tax assessment**

It is about the time of year when we receive our 2015 property tax assessments. Taxes can be a heavy burden on the taxpayers of our community and I want to ensure that you have the tools you need to minimize that burden. Property tax assessments can change from year to year. If you find yourself needing to appeal an assessment, I have produced a guide to help you through the

process. It includes key phone numbers, a step-by-step guide to the process, and a guide to writing a letter to your local review board. You can find it by [clicking here](#).

## **Michigan House Republicans announce policy blueprint for 2015-2016**

Michigan House Republicans have released our action plan for the next two years, with a focus on continued job growth, opening up new opportunities for young people and creating a better government for all. The policy blueprint, titled [“Focused on Michigan’s Future: Charting a Course for Continued Recovery.”](#) places the legislative goals of the caucus into six policy pillars: Fostering Job Growth and Strengthening our Economy, Creating a Brighter Future for All, Preparing Students for Tomorrow, Making Government More Accountable, Getting Michigan Moving and Powering its Future, and Eliminating Obstacles Created by Government. Four years ago, House Republicans announced *“Guiding Principles,”* and at the end of the 2011-2012 term, 80 percent of the goals in the document had become state law. Two years ago, the caucus created another action plan that laid out new goals for the 2013-2014 term, 80 percent of which were successfully approved by the House. The next two years are crucial for Michigan’s recovery. We were given the honor—and responsibility—to continue leading into the future, and that means continuing to focus on solutions, delivering results and making Michigan better for everyone who calls this great state home. Now is no time to coast. To continue Michigan’s comeback, we must work even harder to make this state better every day.

## **García, McCready wage garnishment legislation passes House 109-1**

Last week, House Bills (HB) 4119 and 4120, sponsored by myself and Representative McCready, passed through the House of Representatives on votes of 109-1. The bills would solve significant concerns in Michigan’s wage garnishment process. Under current law, if an employer fails to respond properly to a writ of garnishment for an employee’s wages within 14 days, a court can hold the employer responsible for the entire amount of the employee’s outstanding debt. The bills would reduce a significant administrative burden and provide a series of

checkpoints to ensure that everyone has a clear understanding of the process. This is an example of great, common sense legislation; it will make Michigan a better place to live and work. HB 4119 and 4120 now head to the Senate for consideration.

## **Michigan unemployment rate hits 12-year low**

Michigan's [December unemployment rate](#) declined for the fifth consecutive month, reaching its lowest level since 2002 at 6.3 percent. The drop results in putting the number of unemployed people in Michigan below 300,000, which hasn't happened since October 2001. The December 2014 statewide unemployment rate compares to the 8.4 percent unemployment rate from December 2013. Better news than the percentage rates is the hard number of 21,000 jobs created in the month. In total, Michigan's unemployment rate is a full five percentage points lower than it was before we began reforming and rebuilding Michigan four years ago, when unemployment was at 11.3 percent. Further, the December 2014 Ottawa County unemployment rate is one of the lowest in the state at 3.6 percent.

## **District office hours**

Each month, I will sponsor office hours in Hudsonville, Zeeland, and Holland. My next meetings take place on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>:

- Hudsonville hours will take place at the Gary Byker Memorial Library (3388 Van Buren Street) at 11am.
- Zeeland hours will take place at the Howard Miller Public Library (14 South Church Street) at 1pm.
- Holland hours will take place at the Herrick District Library (300 South River Avenue) at 3pm.

No appointment is necessary. Residents who are otherwise unable to meet during my scheduled office hours may contact my Lansing office at (517) 373-0830 or by e-mailing me at [DanielaGarcia@house.mi.gov](mailto:DanielaGarcia@house.mi.gov).

Please stop by and say hello!

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