

Listening to You

Strengthening Michigan

Serving You

Since taking office in January, I have enjoyed numerous opportunities to reach out to residents of the 56th District and update them on legislation before me in the House of Representatives, as well as receive feedback from constituents on many issues of concern. Here is a breakdown of ways I've been able to stay in touch with constituents:

Coffee Hours

Each month, I hold coffee hours throughout the district. This time allows me valuable face-to-face conversations with constituents.

Town Hall, Tele-Town Hall Meetings

These events enable constituents to share their thoughts with me in a larger forum on state-wide issues, such as how to fix our roads, auto no-fault insurance and energy reforms. In the tele-town hall, over 1,300 constituents participated in a discussion with me while I was in Lansing.

Constituent Contact Days

On these days, I visit constituents at their doors to inform them of important issues I am working on in Lansing and ask for their feedback.

Senior Center Forums

I visited Senior Centers throughout the 56th District to help inform and raise awareness on a number of consumer protections such as mail, phone, and internet scams, as well as investment fraud and identity theft.

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GO SMART GREEN INKS



Want to Stay Up-to-Date?

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Please cut out form and mail in an envelope to:
State Rep. Jason Sheppard | P.O. Box 30014 | Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Booklets Available Upon Request

- Getting to Know Michigan
- Michigan Map
- Peace of Mind
(Statutory will/patient advocate law/organ donation info)
- Portraits of Michigan
(History and facts on Michigan)
- Services for Seniors
- Veterans Benefits

WORKING FOR YOU IN 2015

A MID-TERM UPDATE

Dear Neighbor,

We have been extremely active in Lansing this year, and I am proud to join my colleagues in the Michigan House of Representatives as we continue to work to improve government efficiency and accountability.

We approved another fiscally responsible budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16, months ahead of the constitutional deadline for the fifth year in a row. In fact, we received national recognition this year for our efficient budgeting practices.

Transparency also is hugely important to us, and that's why we unveiled a comprehensive Action Plan in January to let Michigan residents know our key policy plans. In addition to the many issues we consider in the House each session, we've highlighted 78 action items that we firmly believe will bring sensible government reforms for Michiganders across the state.

As of mid-November, in the first year of a two year session, I am pleased to report that:

- 68 percent of all our action items have been introduced
- 49 percent of our action items have already been approved by the Michigan House
- 37 percent of the action items have been signed into law

These are significant achievements, but it's important to acknowledge that there is a long road ahead of us. We will continue to fight to make Michigan the best it can possibly be and deliver on every promise we have made.

Inside you will find a summary of our 2015-2016 legislative term efforts and accomplishments so far. As always, if I can provide assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.



Sincerely,

JASON SHEPPARD
State Representative, 56th District

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State Representative Jason **SHEPPARD**



Property Rights Package Signed into Law

In April, I sponsored HB 4506 as part of a bipartisan four-bill package which proposed much-needed reforms in Michigan's civil asset forfeiture laws. The House and Senate passed the bills overwhelmingly and, last month, Gov. Snyder signed them.

Local law enforcement do their jobs well, and we support them protecting and serving the people in our communities. But we need these laws to increase transparency and accountability to fight for the hard-working taxpayers who are wrongly victimized by civil asset forfeiture.

In the worst cases of civil asset forfeiture abuse, private property has been seized and kept by government officials even when the owner is never even charged with a crime, much less prosecuted or convicted.

- Innocent, private citizens asking for the return of their belongings should no longer be met with large fees, red tape and endless bureaucracy, and these new laws put a stop to these practices.
- The reforms bring transparency to the system by closing loopholes and raising standards at the law enforcement and prosecutorial level, making sure everyone is on the same page to ensure the sanctity of individual rights and the lawful seizure of property by authorities.

Historic Agreement to Fix Michigan Roads Signed into Law

In November, the Michigan Legislature approved a long-term roads plan that will generate \$1.2 billion annually to fix the state's crumbling roads and bridges at the lowest possible cost to Michigan taxpayers.

It's also important to realize that tangible work has already been done to improve roads in Michigan. In addition to the new legislative roads plan, a total of \$1.27 billion from the General Fund has been allocated to fix our roads and bridges without raising taxes over the last five years.

The governor signed the bills into law on November 10.

THE PLAN:

- ✓ Allocates \$600 million in existing funds to fix roads and bridges
- ✓ Generates \$600 million in new revenue for roads and bridges
- ✓ Provides \$200 million in tax relief by expanding the Homestead Property Tax Credit for middle-class families, low-income residents and seniors
- ✓ Funds our roads with responsible, targeted dollars

Listening to You Strengthening Michigan

Driving Michigan's Comeback

The state continues to receive good news about its economic comeback. The reinvention of Michigan's business climate through Republican policy reforms has received national attention, and more importantly, given all Michigan residents hope for a better future.

Recent good news includes:

- Michigan has created 420,000 private sector jobs in the last four years. The state is No. 1 in manufacturing jobs and No. 5 in total private sector job creation.
- Michigan's unemployment rate fell below the national average for the first time in 15 years in September.
- Michigan's economy was designated as the Fastest Growing in the Midwest in August.¹
- For the past three consecutive years, Michigan has ranked among the top seven states for major new corporate facilities and expansions.²
- Nearly 2,000 state rules and regulations have been eliminated since 2011 to encourage job growth.



¹ according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago ² according to Site Selection

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

If you have a concern with state government that I can assist you with or if you have an issue you would like to share with me, please contact my office.

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