

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



State Representative

**DANIELA GARCÍA**

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*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 June edition of my e-newsletter for 2016!

I hope you had an opportunity to honor the brave men and women that gave their lives so that we can enjoy the freedoms that we do, this Memorial Day.

This month I have been very busy working with my colleagues in the legislature to pass our state budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17. The state budget is once again balanced, and will continue to focus on the priorities that Michigan residents believe are the most important.

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

## **State Budget Update**

The legislature has been working diligently to pass another fiscally responsible budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17 that focuses on the priorities that matter most to West Michigan residents. For the sixth straight year, our budget will be balanced without accounting gimmicks or tricks, and passed months ahead of

schedule in order to give our schools and local governments more time to plan their budgets.

Earlier this month at the Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference, legislators were told that projected state revenue is down for the upcoming fiscal year. For this reason, we have been dedicated to fiscal responsibility. Responsible budget practices over the last five years have left us prepared to handle this downturn in projected revenue.

This year's budget funds vital public services while saving taxpayer dollars. The overall spending increase has been held to 0.6 percent, below the rate of inflation. Michigan now ranks second in the country for limiting state budget growth over the last ten years.

The people of Michigan have priorities that need strong funding, such as education, public safety, and community mental health. We are making sure funding for these important programs is secure. Responsible spending has been a large part of Michigan's economic turnaround. We must continue these practices to ensure continued success in our state.

The budget process is long and challenging, but the Michigan Legislature is determined to pass a balanced budget that wisely invests our limited resources in the areas that matter most. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I have been directly involved in crafting this budget. Conference Committees between the House and the Senate are currently meeting to negotiate differences between the budgets passed by each chamber. I expect to see a final budget passed and approved by the Governor in early June once again this year.

## **Road Funding**

Since I took office, improving the condition of our roads in Ottawa County has been one of my top legislative priorities. Last year, I voted to invest an additional \$400 million from the budget for road projects this season. The budget the legislature is currently considering for Fiscal Year 2016-17 includes an additional \$218 million to help fix our roads.

The last five fiscal years, Michigan has allocated \$1.27 billion to help fix our roads and bridges. To view road projects scheduled for Ottawa County this year and in future years, please visit

[www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot) and click on the 'Projects and Programs' tab.

## **Congratulations Graduates**

As June approaches, so does the celebration of many young Michiganders entering into the next chapter of their lives. Whether your child is graduating from Kindergarten, Middle School, High School, or College, I would like to offer them my heartfelt congratulations. So many exciting opportunities await as they embark on their new life journeys.

I am proud to say that I am working here in Lansing to make sure that when our students and graduates enter the workforce, they are entering an environment which supports job creation and growth. It is my hope that our graduates will choose to stay in our state so that they can work and raise a family in the great State of Michigan.

## **Summer Reading Contest**

As school days are winding down, I would like to encourage students to ramp up their reading with a chance to visit me in Lansing and be a "Representative for a Day."

Early literacy is vital to our children's futures. As my colleagues and I work with local schools to improve reading education, you can play an important role by reading to the children in your life and encouraging them to continue reading throughout the summer.



First through 5th grade students who read ten books and fill out the back of the bookmark distributed at local schools or libraries may drop it off at their local library by September 1 to be entered into a drawing. The winner and their family will be invited to join me in Lansing to be a “Representative for a Day.”

We can all help foster an early love of reading by having students participate in this reading contest. Instilling a love of reading at a young age will pay dividends as children grow and develop.

Additional bookmarks are available at local libraries and online at [RepDanielaGarcia.com](http://RepDanielaGarcia.com). Bookmark drop-off locations include

- Gary Byker Memorial Library  
3388 Van Buren St, Hudsonville
- Howard Miller Public Library  
14 S. Church St, Zeeland
- Herrick District Library  
300 S. River Ave, Holland

**Tulip Time**

In West Michigan, we all know how important Tulip Time is to our community. This year I had the pleasure of participating in both the Volksparade and the Muziekparade.



Tourism is such a large part of our economy in Ottawa County. Each year Holland welcomes thousands of visitors from all around the world for Tulip Time. Last year's festival generated an estimated \$12.9 million in economic activity in our area. Tulip Time is one of my favorite Holland traditions, and it is wonderful to see what a positive impact it has on our community.

## **District office hours**

Each month, I sponsor office hours in Hudsonville, Zeeland, and Holland. My next meetings take place on Monday, June 6:

- 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!

## Upcoming District Events

- Early Summer Nature Hike  
Date: Sunday June 12  
Time: 2:00pm  
Location: Hudsonville Nature Center, Hudsonville
- Hudsonville Chamber Golf Outing  
Date: Monday June 13  
Time: First shotgun start at 8:00am, second at 1:00pm  
Location: Sunnybrook Country Club, Grandville
- Art in the Park  
Date: Monday June 13  
Time: 9:00am – 3:00pm  
Location: Veteran's Park, Hudsonville
- West Coast Chamber Early Bird Breakfast  
Date: Tuesday June 14  
Time: 7:00am – 8:30am  
Location: Haworth Inn, Holland
- Zeeland Criterium  
Date: Friday, June 17  
Time: 6:00pm – 9:30pm  
Location: Downtown Zeeland
- West Coast Chamber Government Affairs Breakfast  
Date: Monday June 20  
Time: 7:30am – 8:30am  
Location: Alpenrose Restaurant, Holland

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