

KAROUB REPORT

JULY 2021

U.S. SENATOR CARL LEVIN LEAVES A LEGACY TO LEARN FROM

Michigan's longest serving United States Senator Carl Levin passed away on July 29th at the age of 87. Senator Levin served 36 years in the U.S. Senate working to set the direction of the military, twice serving as Chairman of the Armed Services committee. He also investigated corporate behavior as head of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, leading probes into companies like Enron and Goldman Sachs. Senator Levin announced in early 2013 that he would not run for office again. Mr. Levin won a Detroit City Council seat in 1968, a seat he held until 1977, serving his final four years as Council President. First elected to the U.S. Senate in 1978, Senator Levin remained a champion of Detroit and the automotive industry throughout his time in office. His accomplishments are too bountiful to list, but he supported the bail out of the auto industry, the redevelopment of Detroit's Riverwalk, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and the M1 Light Rail project.

BUDGET / SUPPLEMENTAL UPDATES

Governor Whitmer signed HB 4421, the \$4.4 billion supplemental spending bill that appropriated the federal elementary and secondary school emergency relief (ESSER) funds to school districts. She also signed off on a historic K-12 budget, HB 4411, which is valued at over \$17 billion. This K-12 budget eliminates the nearly three decade old per-pupil funding gap and is 10% more than last year's K-12 budget appropriation. This was a major priority for the Legislature with most school districts kicking off their fiscal years on July 1st. The Governor vetoed \$155 million in federal funding for a Grand Valley State University program to address learning loss during the pandemic and \$1 million for transportation funding which critics say appeared tailored to a specific school district. The House unsuccessfully attempted to override the Governor's veto of the \$155 million for GVSU.

A few highlights of the budget include:

- \$168.5 million investment into a Great Start Readiness Program to provide preschool for families residing at or below 250% of the federal poverty level, expanding the full day per child allocation from \$7,250 to \$8,700
- \$240 million for high-need districts to hire additional school counselors, psychologists, nurses, and social workers over three years
- An extra \$74.2 million for Special Education

UNLOCK MICHIGAN

After quite a legal ordeal, the 1945 Emergency Powers of the Governor Act has official been repealed. The petition to repeal the Governor's Emergency powers collected 538,000 signatures of which 460,000 were deemed valid after review; the petition only needed 340,000 signatures to get on the ballot. In October of last year, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled the

1945 Emergency Powers Act was unconstitutional. The petition was scheduled to go on the next election ballot for a vote of the citizens, but under Michigan's constitution laws proposed by petition can be approved by the Legislature and not subject to gubernatorial veto. The Senate voted largely along party lines, 20-15, to approve the petition with the House voting along party lines also the following week, 60-48.

GOVERNOR WHITMER HAS RECORD FUNDRAISING HAUL FOR REELECTION CAMPAIGN

Governor Whitmer raised a record \$8.5 million for the current fundraising period and now has \$10 million cash on hand for her upcoming reelection campaign. The campaign said that Governor Whitmer will show \$14 million raised for the entire election cycle, more than the 2018 campaign. The fundraising haul was helped by a few recall petitions that were targeting the Governor and Lt. Governor. Under a Michigan Secretary of State ruling elected officials facing recall are allowed unlimited fundraising limits. This has drawn some scrutiny from her potential competitors with some filing campaign finance complaints. Contributions made by individuals are normally limited to \$7,150; the Governor had several donors who contributed \$100,000 or more.

REPUBLICAN GUBERNATORIAL FIELD CONTINUES TO GROW

The Republican Gubernatorial field is starting to take shape as we head into fall with several individuals forming committees to begin fundraising. Former Detroit Police Chief James Craig may be the most well-known and according to a new poll could be within the margin of victory of Governor Whitmer. The next highest polling challenger, Kalamazoo Chiropractor Garrett Soldano, reported raising \$625,000 for his gubernatorial bid more than tripling the next highest fundraiser, Oakland County pastor Ralph Rebant II. Other challengers include Tudor Dixon from Norton Shores who host a conservative online new show and Ryan Kelley an Ottawa County real estate broker who organized protest against the Governor's COVID-19 response.

GOVERNOR WHITMER SIGNS SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING BILL FOR PANDEMIC RECOVERY

The Governor signed Senate Bill 27, sponsored by Senate Appropriations Chair Jim Stamas (R – Midland), which appropriates funds for pandemic recovery and for the Wrongful Conviction Fund which was exhausted earlier this month. \$7 million was appropriated to the Wrongful Conviction Fund while \$105 million will be spent for COVID-19 childcare assistance, \$260 million for hospital grants and long-term care facilities. \$12.7 million will go to the Michigan State Police for secondary road patrol and emergency and disaster response/mitigation.

GOVERNOR WHITMER SIGNS SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PACKAGE INTO LAW

A package of bills aimed at making school buses safer by prohibiting unauthorized entry and allowing for the use of photos from stop arm cameras as evidence was signed into law by the Governor this month. House Bill 4201, sponsored by Representative Jack O'Malley (R – Lake Ann), and House Bill 4203, sponsored by Representative Jewell Jones (D – Inkster), prohibits unauthorized individuals from entering a school bus without the permission of the driver and sets a \$500 fine for anyone in violation. House Bill 4202, sponsored by Representative Tyrone Carter (D – Detroit), and House Bill 4204, sponsored by Representative Greg Vanwoerkom (R –



Norton Shores), will allow stop-arm cameras on buses and allow for the photos to be used as evidence against drivers who fail to stop when the bus's red lights are flashing

CANADIAN BORDER SET TO RE-OPEN TO VACCINATED US CITIZENS

The Canadian government announced this month its plan to open their borders to vaccinated U.S. citizens on August 9, 2021. American's must be fully vaccinated 14 days prior to attempting to enter Canada, the vaccines approved by the government include Moderna, Pfizer, AstraZeneca, and Johnson & Johnson. American's must show proof of vaccination before crossing, must submit additional information about COVID-19 electronically through ArriveCAN, and they must also be asymptomatic at the time they get to the border. If travelers do not meet all the requirements, they should be prepared to present a quarantine plan and be able to quarantine in Canada.

EVICTON MORATORIUM DEADLINE LOOMS

The federal eviction moratorium expired on Saturday July 31, 2021.