

CANDICE MILLER ANNOUNCES SHE WILL NOT RUN FOR GOVERNOR IN 2022 – This morning on the social media platform, Facebook, *Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller* announced she will not seek the *Republican* nomination for the 2022 gubernatorial race. In recent weeks speculation has been rampant about the likelihood of *Ms. Miller* announcing a run for *Governor*. Many political pundits have indicated *Ms. Miller*, who has wide name recognition statewide, but particularly in the metro Detroit region would make the race competitive for *Governor Gretchen Whitmer*. However, this morning, *Ms. Miller* stated, “I appreciate the support of the people of Macomb County in my recent re-election and I am committed to fulfilling my duties here. Improving water quality in our magnificent Great Lakes, upgrading and maintaining our infrastructure and being a positive component of economic prosperity for Macomb County – these remain my focus.”

Ms. Miller has been named in countless news reports as being the best option the *Republican* party has to defeat *Governor Whitmer* in the 2022 *Governor’s* race. She formerly was a Michigan *Congresswoman* and the *Secretary of State*. As rumors continue to perpetuate on which *Republicans* are likely to throw their hat in the ring, no one has officially announced their candidacy.

COUNTLESS BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW BY GOV WHITMER – Over the holidays, *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* signed countless bills, and vetoed numerous, passed by the *Legislature* during their lame duck session in December.

The most significant piece of legislation signed by the *Governor* was *Senate Bill 748*, a supplemental funding bill for *Fiscal Year 20-21*. When passed by the *Legislature*, *Senate Bill 748* included \$465 million in funding. However, *Governor Whitmer* issued multiple line-item vetoes on certain spending “priorities” that were not part of negotiations with the *Legislature*, which reduced the \$465 million in spending to only \$106 million in funding (as covered in MHSAs’s Special Report on December 30th). The largest line-item veto was a \$220 million general fund transfer into the *Unemployment Trust Fund*. Republican lawmakers wanted to help pay for the extension of unemployment benefits from 20 weeks to 26 weeks through the end of March 2021. However, the *Governor* did sign *Senate Bill 604*, which extends unemployment benefits from 20 weeks to 26 weeks but was anticipated to be funded by *Senate Bill 748*. This line-item veto sparked outcry from *Legislative Republicans* who claimed the veto effectively prohibited the extension of benefits as *Senate Bill 604* contains explicit boilerplate language on the matter. However, *Governor Whitmer* and *Legislative Democrats* point to the same section of language in *Senate Bill 604* that states if federal funds for extended unemployment insurance benefits are available, those federal funds would be spent for the program. With *President Donald Trump* signing a second *COVID-19* relief package over the holidays, federal funds are now available for unemployment benefits.

Other funding priorities included in *Senate Bill 748* are: \$55 million for small business grants that target businesses most impacted by the *COVID-19* pandemic; the continuation of the \$2 an hour increase for direct care workers for an additional two months; care and recovery centers will see an additional \$200 per day payment for two additional months; \$15 million for supplies and equipment supporting *COVID-19* testing and vaccination efforts, including personal proactive equipment and dry ice; \$17.9 million to reimburse hospitals up to \$3,100 per five-day treatment to cover the costs of remdesivir for Medicaid patients with *COVID-19*; \$10 million to contract with a nonprofit hospital trade association to distribute grants for temporary hospital staffing assistance; \$3.5 million for grants to eligible live music and entertainment venues with individual grants capped at \$40,000; and \$2.5 million for \$500 grants to eligible teachers for *Great Start Readiness programs*, *Head Start*, special education and adult education teachers. The other line-item vetoes include two planning authorizations for capital outlay projects at Northern Michigan and Saginaw Valley State University, \$5 million for a new property tax deferral program, language that would have allowed hazardous materials to be transported over the *Ambassador Bridge* and

a negative \$100 million appropriation to reflect revised estimates for a two-way risk corridor in Medicaid managed care.

Other bills signed by **Governor Whitmer** include **House Bills 5217** and **5218**, which allow student athletes to use their own name, image, likeness, and reputation for financial compensation. **Governor Whitmer** highlighted that Michigan is among the first states in the United States to pass legislation allowing student athletes to be compensated. **House Bills 5217** and **5218** will take effect on December 31, 2022. **Governor Whitmer** also signed **Senate Bills 1251** and **1252**, which creates the **Flint Settlement Trust Fund** within the **Michigan Department of Treasury**, and amends the **Michigan Strategic Fund Act** to address the funding of the \$641.2 million civil settlement in the Flint Water cases. The State of Michigan is obligated to pay \$600 million of the \$641.2 million.

To view a list of bills **Governor Whitmer** signed and vetoed on December 30, please click [here](#).

COVID-19 UPDATE – As of today, the number of confirmed cases in Michigan increased by 4,992, totaling 502,119. The number of deaths tragically increased by 80, totaling 12,678. Today’s number of confirmed cases includes data from both Sunday and today, which equals 2,496 cases per day. The **Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)** is no longer reporting case data on Sunday’s. Weekend data had proven to be more erratic and generally lower than other days of the week because of reduced testing and lab staffing.

As a new year begins, **COVID-19** still remains a pronounced part of everyday life. Over the past weeks, **COVID-19** cases continue to trend downward, as displayed on the **Senate Fiscal Agency’s (SFA)** [graphic](#) on their homepage. Today, Michigan surpassed 500,000 confirmed **COVID-19** cases. **Governor Gretchen Whitmer** released a statement, saying, “Since the first cases of **COVID-19** were recorded in Michigan, the vast majority of Michiganders have done their part to protect themselves, their families, and our frontline workers and small business owners. Now, there is hope on the horizon. My administration, led by **Chief Medical Executive Dr. Joneigh Khaldun**, has been working with local health officials and health care providers to begin distributing the safe and effective vaccine, starting with our most vulnerable populations like health care workers and skilled nursing home residents and staff. We must remember that it will take some time for the vaccine to be widely available to all Michiganders, and until then, we must continue to do our part to keep ourselves and our fellow Michiganders safe. That means masking up, practicing safe social distancing, and avoiding indoor gatherings where the virus can easily spread from person to person. I was proud to work with the **Legislature** to pass and sign a bipartisan \$106 Million Relief Plan for Michigan workers, small businesses, and more...This bipartisan relief bill will provide families and businesses the support they need to stay afloat as we continue working to distribute the safe and effective vaccine and eradicate **COVID-19** once and for all...**COVID-19** didn’t end with the new year. There is still more work to do to beat this virus, but I know that Michiganders are up to the challenge. Let’s harness our Michigan grit and eliminate this virus once and for all.”

DHHS EMERGENCY ORDERS & MIOSHA EMERGENCY RULE – Currently, there are five active **DHHS Emergency Orders**. Please find a list of the active **Emergency Orders** with the topic, date it was signed and a hyper link accessing the emergency order below. For clients still interested, or in need of referencing previous **Executive Orders**, please click [here](#).

- **Reporting of Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 at Schools** – Signed October 6, 2020, please click [here](#) to access the emergency order.
- **Temporary Restrictions on Entry into Congregate Care and Juvenile Justice Facilities** – Signed October 6, 2020, please click [here](#) to access the emergency order.

- **Testing Requirements for Skilled Nursing Facilities, Homes for the Aged, and Adult Foster Care Facilities** – Signed October 29, 2020, please click [here](#) to access the emergency order.
- **Requirements for Residential Care Facilities** – Signed December 8, 2020, please click [here](#) to access the emergency order.
- **Gathering Prohibition and Mask Order** – Signed December 18, 2020, please click [here](#) to access the emergency order.

Additionally, **MIOSHA** issued an **Emergency Rule** on October 14 that clarifies the safety requirements employers must follow to protect their employees from **COVID-19**. To view the **MIOSHA Emergency Rule**, please click [here](#).

MHSA will continue to update all clients as soon as new **Executive Orders, Emergency Orders, Executive Directives** or any other communication from the **Governor's** office and **DHHS** is released. However, if you would like to receive press releases from the **Governor's** office directly, please click [here](#) and enter your email address. To receive press release from **DHHS** directly, please click [here](#) and enter your email address.

Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the MHSA team if you have any questions. In light of the **CDC's** guidelines and **DHHS Emergency Orders**, the MHSA team is reachable by email or cell phones. Please find all staff's names, office extensions if calling the main line of (517) 484-8800, cell phone numbers and emails below:

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|---|--|
| Patrick Harrington - pharrington@mhsa.com | Jon Smalley - jsmalley@mhsa.com |
| Ext. 319 – cell (517) 881-9498 | Ext. 318 – cell (517) 881-3595 |
| Sandi Jones - sjones@mhsa.com | Adrian Cazal - acazal@mhsa.com |
| Ext. 226 – cell (517) 881-9946 | Ext. 220 – cell (517) 285-8260 |
| Bret Marr - bmarr@mhsa.com | Evelyn Zois Sweeney - esweeney@mhsa.com |
| Ext. 230 – cell (517) 927-8010 | Ext. 240 – cell (248) 808-0166 |
| Malcolm Kletke – mkletke@mhsa.com | Rhonda Smith - rsmith@mhsa.com |
| Ext. 233 – cell (517) 303-3693 | Ext. 211 – cell (517) 881-2498 |
| Jody Thornton - jthornton@mhsa.com | Keeli Baker - kbaker@mhsa.com |
| Ext. 214 – cell (517) 896-6176 | Ext. 216 – cell (517) 896-0870 |
| Kimberly Nguyen - knguyen@mhsa.com | Nick Baugh – nbaugh@mhsa.com |
| Ext. 210 – cell (517) 402-4973 | Ext. 219 - cell (517) 897-3358 |