



MAGE

Michigan Association of Governmental Employees
OPEIU Local 2002

THE QUARTERLY REPORT **April 2026**

Message from the President

The great news is we are finally seeing longer days and warmer temperatures, spring has finally arrived.

This past quarter the MAGE team has continued to see a high volume of representation requests. Should you need representation for anything from a grievance to a disciplinary, make sure to call the MAGE office so a Labor Representative can be there for you.

This past quarter we have been made aware that our CPS supervisors are now being required to also work as foster care supervisors and on-call shifts. Covering both positions not only will lead to burn out but could put our workers in an awkward position should they need to fill both roles for the same family. Labor staff are currently addressing this concern with the Department.

We have continued to see a positive trend in our membership numbers. Staff has been busy stopping in at lunch meetings across the state to not only talk to current members but potential members as well. These meetings have played a pivotal role in our growth of new members. We hope to see a continued increase in members as the year goes on.

The application period for the Howard Coughlin and John Kelly scholarships through OPEIU has now closed. Remember to keep an eye on the MAGE website and your email as OPEIU will be opening their Student Debt Reduction Award application period soon. You must be a member in good standing for a minimum of 12 months and have at least \$10,000 of student debt. This application period will open in early April, make sure to read the eligibility requirements in full.

As we look to spring and summer, staff will begin compiling our information for the Coordinated Compensation Process. We continue to ask for special increases in areas experiencing recruitment/retention problems and pay compression problems.

Have a great spring!

Labor Relations Team in Action

Our Labor team was busy this past quarter not only with grievance and disciplinary conferences, but they also attended 5 lunch meetings across the State with both members and potential members. We are grateful to the members who request these meetings and to the employees who are now members!

Labor Relations Tip: Grievance Timelines

One of the most important aspects of the grievance process are the timelines. This can often be overlooked, leading to a denial of a grievance due to it being untimely.

- At Step 1, a member has 14 calendar days from the date of issue to file. It is best to file your grievance as soon as possible. The Department has 14 calendar days to provide a response.
- If you are not happy with the response, you have 14 calendar days to appeal to a step 2 grievance. If a response was not received timely from the department, it is assumed to be denied, and you then have 21 calendar days after the answer was due to file at step 2.

Benefit Spotlight

Don't forget! MAGE members have access to numerous benefits! This quarter we are highlighting the \$500 disability benefit.

Members in good standing have access to a \$500 benefit should you have to be off work for medical reasons.

Below are the criteria for eligibility.

- Membership in good standing for 12 months or more.
- Been off work for a minimum of 8 weeks.
- Have returned to work.

Upon meeting these criteria, please contact the MAGE office and we will provide you with all the necessary forms to be completed.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

HIGHLIGHTS (Provided by MAGE Lobbyist Todd Tennis)

After wrapping up the least productive legislative year in state history, the Michigan House and Senate do not appear to be picking up the pace in 2026. The Governor presented her budget proposal to the House and Senate Appropriations committees in early February, and legislative appropriations subcommittees are working to issue their own first drafts by the end of March. House and Senate leaders have laid out a goal of completing the 2027 budget by the July 1 statutory deadline, but there is a great deal of skepticism on whether that is a realistic timeframe.

Driving a good deal of that skepticism is the fact that state revenues are well-below last year's projections. Currently, the House and Senate fiscal agencies are estimating a reduction of nearly \$800 million in the state General Fund. This is slightly offset by an uptick in revenues for the School Aid Fund, but that in itself is causing some major political disagreements (see below for more information on that). To top it all off are numerous competing proposals to reduce property taxes coming from Governor Whitmer, Speaker of the House Matt Hall and Senate Appropriations Chair Sarah Anthony. Whereas last year's debate over transportation funding derailed the budget process, this year's complications could stem from those differing tax proposals.

Public Employees Still Waiting on Answer from Courts on 80/20 and State Pension Bills

The wheels of justice turn ever slowly. As we rapidly move through 2026, public employees continue to await a final decision from the Michigan Supreme Court as to whether or not Speaker Matt Hall must forward a set of bills passed at the end of the last legislative session to Governor Whitmer for her signature and enactment. Litigation was begun in 2025 by the Michigan Senate and proceeded to the Michigan Court of Claims. There, Judge Sima Patel agreed with the plaintiff that the House must forward the bills to the Governor but stopped short of issuing a court order for them to do so. The issue was then appealed to the Michigan Court of Appeals that not only agreed with the original decision of the Court of Claims but also determined that Judge Patel should have issued an order (a writ of mandamus) compelling the House to forward the bills. The House filed another appeal in December to the Michigan Supreme Court which has yet to make a decision on whether or not to hear the case.

The result of this is that many state workers, specifically those in law enforcement roles such as corrections officers, conservation officers, capitol police and motor carrier offices, will be denied access to improved pension options such as those enjoyed by Michigan State Police employees. In addition, all public employees will still have their collective bargaining rights restricted when it comes to negotiating over health care benefits. The refusal to follow the constitutional requirement to transmit the bills to the Governor is costing Michigan public employees millions of dollars collectively. We can only hope that the Michigan Supreme Court will eventually resolve this by either refusing to hear the appeal or affirming the rulings of the lower courts. And we hope that this happens soon, or else there might be an entirely different Governor in office if and when the bills finally arrive.

Visit the MAGE website for the full legislative report.

Announcements:

- Would you like a MAGE informational meeting to be held at your office or in your local area? If you would like to set up a lunch meeting for members and potential members to speak with MAGE Labor Representatives, call the MAGE Office today! 1-800-477-6243.