



MAGE

Michigan Association of Governmental Employees
OPEIU Local 2002

THE QUARTERLY REPORT July 2026

Message from the President

Now that summer is in full swing, that means MAGE staff are in the beginning stages of preparing for the Coordinated Compensation Process. As we have for the past few years, we will again address the ongoing pay compression in our Departments of Corrections and Human Services. We will also be seeking resolution to new issues of compression that have been brought to our attention. While the process will not officially start until this fall, we are hard at work preparing our statement for this year.

We have been receiving reports from many of our CPS Supervisors in the Department of Health and Human Services about new pod schedules being mandated for all. Members have expressed their concerns not only regarding workload and burn out, but the awkward position it puts them in when they have to act as Child Protective Services and Foster Care Services for the same family as a result of this change. MAGE labor staff have been addressing this with the DHS Human Resources.

Our membership numbers have continued to remain steady with a slight increase in membership each month. We are happy to see more NERE's find that they too have someone out there to protect their interests and provide representation when they need it. Many of these new members are a result of lunch meetings scheduled by current members. Thank you to all of our members who have taken the time to schedule and help plan a meeting with their colleagues and potential members.

Please don't forget to apply for the Scholarship or Student Debt Reduction awards if you have not already been selected a winner in the past. You could receive a \$1,000 scholarship or a \$1,000 payment directly to your student loan.

Have a great summer!

Labor Relations Team in Action

Spring kept our labor team busy with an influx of grievances, reasonable accommodations, investigations, disciplinary conferences and hearings. They also attended 4 potential member and informational meetings set up by current MAGE members resulting in multiple new members joining.

Labor Relations Tip:

Received a notice of investigation? Make sure you call the MAGE office. As a MAGE member, as long as the topic of investigation occurred after membership started, you have a right to have representation there with you. Many times, we have had members wait until discipline to contact us. Make sure you call us right away so we can provide you with representation from the start. Don't forget, the investigatory interview is just the chance for the department to ask their questions regarding the alleged situation.

Benefit Spotlight

Don't forget! MAGE members have access to numerous benefits! This quarter we are again highlighting the MAGE Scholarship and Student Debt Reduction Award as the application period is still open.

- Every June 1st the application period opens to MAGE members in good Standing. Application period ends August 31st.
- Members and/or their immediate family are eligible to win a one-time award of \$1,000 as a scholarship or as a student debt relief payment.
- Find the application on the MAGE website.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

HIGHLIGHTS

(Provided by MAGE Lobbyist Todd Tennis)

Despite some recent rumblings from the Michigan House (more details below), the Michigan Legislature is still on pace to complete the FY 2027 state budget by the July 1 statutory deadline, assuming things keep moving as they have been. Both chambers have passed their initial drafts of the budget, and appropriations committee members have been working feverishly to reach a compromise before July 1. The Revenue Estimating Conference that took place in May gave appropriators a little more wiggle room, especially on the School Aid side of the ledger. However, it is still expected to be a relatively flat overall budget for 2027 due to some losses in federal funds and efforts by several lawmakers to cut overall spending.

However, the devil is always in the details. Some of the more pressing differences between the House, Senate and Governor's proposals have yet to be decided. For example, Governor Whitmer used additional taxes and a portion of the state's "rainy day fund" to fund her budget proposal. The House and Senate left those pieces out. The House made some drastic cuts to state operations and funding for statewide programs, while the Senate recommended a relatively flat budget for next year.

The Governor, House and Senate also have three different proposals to reduce property taxes on Michigan residents. The Governor's is the most modest, mainly lowering taxes for senior citizens. The Senate's plan is a bit broader, but comes with a \$300 million price tag. The House plan is the most widespread but comes with a cost of several billion dollars. Speaker of the House Hall has proposed to make up for that gap by instituting a Sales Tax on Services – a concept that was hotly debated and discarded over a decade ago as being politically unsalable.

Supreme Court Hears Oral Arguments on Bill Presentment Issue

The next step in the prolonged legal battle over a set of bills being held in the House took place just over a month ago. On May 6, the Michigan Supreme Court heard oral arguments on this case that has incredible importance to public employees – and especially some state employees – in Michigan.

The issue began when Speaker Matt Hall refused to forward four separate legislative packages consisting of nine separate bills that had passed both chambers in 2024, but failed to be presented to Governor Whitmer for her signature before the new 2025 Legislature was seated. Two of those packages dealt with issues important to MAGE members: 1. Allowing certain state workers who have a defined contribution retirement plan to join the hybrid plan available to Michigan State Police officers; and 2. The improvement of collective bargaining rights regarding health care for public employees (the "80/20" law).

There is no set timeline for the Supreme Court to come to a ruling, but the expectation is that the Supreme Court will reach a decision by mid-summer. The greater concern is whether or not Speaker Hall will abide by a ruling that goes against him. It would be unprecedented for the Michigan Legislature to ignore a Michigan Supreme Court ruling, but we are living in unprecedented times. The best outcome for the workers who would be impacted by this would be for the Michigan Supreme Court to rule that the bills must be transmitted to the Governor, the Speaker of the House to do so, and the Governor to sign the bills into law. We are hopeful that this saga will end thusly, but anything can happen.

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.