MAGE
Michigan Association of Governmental Employees
OPEIU Local 2002

THE QUARTERLY REPORT October 2025

Message from the President

While our staff has been diligently working to put together the fiscal year 26/27 position statement, October marks the beginning of the Coordinated Compensation Process with statements due by October 3. We continue to advocate for a general wage increase that is consistent with inflation as well as raises to ameliorate many wage compression issues across State of Michigan Departments.

As you are all aware, there was a lot of contention in the legislature regarding the budget for 2026. The legislature came close to a government shutdown and finally came to an agreement less than a week before the end of the fiscal year. This contention has caused some concern that the commission may not be as open to special wage increases. No matter the outcome, MAGE will continue to advocate for the necessary wage increases.

We are excited to share that we were able to provide a total of 13 Scholarship/Student Debt reduction awards in the amount of $1,000 to MAGE members and their families.

The recipients for this year's scholarship are: Reed Patrick, Samuel Dillard, Ellena Guinn, Jenna Yohe, Megan Yohe, Celia Slocum, Zachary Allison, Steven Peterson, Amber Waclawski

The recipients of this year's student debt reduction are: Serena Powell, Grechin McRae, Chase Burford, Tracie James.

MAGE labor staff had the opportunity to attend the District 3 member meeting held in September in Manistee. The District 3 Officers did a fantastic job of organizing a successful meeting. A District 1 meeting is planned for November 8th in Escanaba where Labor Relations Director will again be in attendance. The hard work of the District Officers in arranging these meetings is greatly appreciated. Labor Staff also have multiple potential member meetings scheduled in the coming months.

Labor Relations Team in Action

Our MAGE labor team had a busy end of summer. Our Labor Relations Director continued to make stops at offices across the state to provide informational flyers about MAGE. Our labor team also had the opportunity to visit a District 3 membership meeting. They have also been working hard to prepare for this year's Coordinated Compensation Process. Official positions statements were submitted by October 3, 2025.

Labor Relations Tip: Reasonable Accommodations

Employees may submit a completed Disability Accommodation Request and medical statement (CS-1668) to an accommodation coordinated. Employees may also request an accommodation for limitations due to pregnancy through request form CS-1667. Accommodation coordinators work with the employee to verify disability and the accommodation requested. They also work closely with the department to ensure any request would not cause undue hardship to the department. Final decisions on accommodation request will be provided in writing to the employees. If you have any questions about reasonable accommodation requests, please contact the MAGE office to speak with a labor representative.

Benefit Spotlight

Don't forget! MAGE members have access to numerous benefits! This quarter we want to highlight Union Plus.

Don't forget that as a member of MAGE-OPEIU Local 2002 you have access to a lot of great benefits for you and your family. Union Plus offers discounts in the following areas, home and auto, shopping, hardship help, insurance, health, education, and travel. To access these benefits, you simply have to visit unionplus.org and sign up. Upon signing up, you will be asked to select your union, be sure to select OPEIU.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE HIGHLIGHTS (Provided by MAGE Lobbyist Todd Tennis)

State Budget Stands at $81 Billion for FY 25-6 – Road Funding Plan at Center of Negotiations

After nearly a year of press conferences, finger pointing and a very brief state shutdown, Governor Whitmer signed the Omnibus Budget into law on October 7. It concluded a standoff wherein House Republicans and Senate Democrats advocated for starkly different visions for state spending. It also included a road funding agreement that will add $1.8 billion in new road and transportation funding.

Initially, the road funding issue and the budget had been argued separately. However, as the year wore on and the budget deadline loomed, it became clear that the two issues were inextricably linked. The Governor and the House Republicans had both proposed plans that would raise approximately $3 billion for road funding. The Governor's plan had relied on a few spending cuts and new taxes to pay for it. The House proposal paid for the plan entirely with budget cuts. By August, it was clear that neither plan was politically viable.

As the October 1 budget deadline loomed, leaders from the House and Senate met with the Governor to work out a compromise plan that would include some budget cuts but also some new revenues. In the end, a scaled down road funding plan totaling approximately $1.8 billion was passed, along with several tax bills that raised – or in some cases lowered – various taxes.

As for the Omnibus Budget, the final version contains the elimination of approximately 2,000 FTEs for state departments. Governor Whitmer stated that these positions are currently unfilled and will not result in any layoffs. However, in areas such as state psychiatric hospitals and corrections facilities, those unfilled positions represented staffing needs that might now go unmet. In the end, the budget did include funding for wage increases that had been approved by the Civil Service Commission, something that had been strongly advocated for by MSEA leaders. It also included an additional $17 million in the Michigan Department of Corrections for a 5% wage increase to corrections officers for all steps.

Court of Appeals Rules on 80/20 and State Pension Bills that are Still Awaiting Enactment

As the end of 2025 is only a few months away, legislation that passed at the end of 2024 is still trapped in legal limbo. Several bills that passed both the House and Senate in the Lame Duck session last year have yet to be sent to the Governor for her signature due to a refusal by Speaker of the House Matt Hall. Despite a court ruling stating that the House must present the bills, the House has held onto them, defying both the Michigan Constitution and Michigan courts.

This week, the three-judge panel of the Michigan Court of Appeals in a 2-1 ruling affirmed the ruling of the lower court and took it a step further. Not only did it agree that the lower court was correct in the position that the Michigan Constitution requires the Speaker of the House to present these bills to the Governor for her signature, they sent the case back to the lower court and ordered the court to issue a writ of mandamus compelling the Speaker to present the bills to the Governor by a date to be determined by the lower court.

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, could finally be granted access to improved retirement options if the bills are finally presented to and signed into law by Governor Whitmer. In addition, all public employees will have their collective bargaining rights restored 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 annually.

Speaker Matt Hall, the defendant in the litigation, has not made any public comments as of this writing about the case. Most observers expect the House to appeal the case yet again, this time to the Michigan Supreme Court.

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.