MiOTTAWA.ORG TOPS A MILLION IN 2013

2013 Online Payments Received: $1,009,608
2012 Online Payments Received: $874,247
2013 Online Payments Increase over 2012: 15.5%

Since the first online services were made available in 2006, the total online payments received for County Services is $3,765,160.

FITCH CREDIT RATING REAFFIRMED

The FitchRatings rating committee met and affirmed the "AAA/Stable" rating for Ottawa County, MI.

Some of the rationale for the Fitch's rating action to affirm the following Ottawa County, MI bond ratings follows:

--$40.5 million outstanding limited tax general obligation bonds;
--$9.8 million outstanding Ottawa County Building Authority limited tax general obligation bonds.

In addition, Fitch affirms the implied general obligation, unlimited tax rating at ‘AAA’.

The Rating Outlook is Stable.

KEY RATING DRIVERS

STRONG FINANCES: Conservative budgeting and judicious use of reserve funds has enabled the county to weather the economic contraction without materially diminishing its substantial financial flexibility.

AVERAGE SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE: Resident per capita income levels approximate those of the state and nation. The county’s tax base is showing signs of stabilization and Fitch views growth expectations as realistic based on current activity.

MODERATE DEBT LEVELS: County-related debt levels are moderate and debt service costs are a modest portion of the budget. Other long-term liabilities, including pension and OPEB costs, make a more substantial claim on resources, but should remain manageable.

LTGO RATING ON PAR WITH IMPLIED ULTGO: The equivalent ‘AAA’ ratings reflect the substantial financial flexibility enjoyed by the county, as evidenced by its substantial reserve levels and moderate amount of taxing margin.

LEASE OBLIGATION ON PAR WITH LTGO: The ‘AAA’ rating on the building authority bonds reflects the county’s general obligation, limited tax pledge to make rental payments, which is not subject to appropriation or abatement.

The press release follows:

OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARDS (Shannon Felgner)

Ottawa County Strives for Excellent Service

As part of its Four C’s Initiative launched by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners in 2013, the county is kicking off an employee recognition program developed by the Ottawa County Customer Service Team. The nomination form is available at miOttawa.org. (You will also see the icon on many pages throughout the website.) During each quarter, the Customer Service Team will review all of the nominations and select the Ottawa County Employee who will be awarded for Outstanding Customer Service of the Quarter. Nominations can come from both inside and outside the organization.

We want our customers to have positive experiences accessing Ottawa County services, and we want to know
about it. Whether a customer is traversing the halls of a building or navigating paperwork, we are here to serve. Pursuing any government service can feel intimidating.

Ottawa County employees are being trained on how to better serve the public. The county contracted with Capogaglį-Jackson Consulting to provide guidance to all of its employees. The Ottawa County Road Commission has even joined the effort. So far, 520 county employees and 53 road commission staff—about half of the workforce—has been prepared. Sessions continue monthly through 2014.

Along with customer service, cultural intelligence, creativity and communication make up the remaining C's in the initiative.

Access county services and learn more at miOttawa.org, facebook.com/miottawa or @miOttawa on twitter.

**MILES OF SMILES UPDATE** (Kristina Wieghmink)

The Health Department provided an interesting Miles of Smiles Update at last week’s Health & Human Services Committee meeting. Click the links for some interesting numbers and service information.

**Oral Health Services** provides dental services and education.

The Miles of Smiles mobile unit offers preventative and restorative dental services for Medicaid insured and low-income, uninsured children at numerous sites in Ottawa County. In addition, sealant, fluoride varnish and oral health education programs are provided in schools, Early Head Start and Head Start centers.

www.miOttawa.org/dental

“I love my position at Ottawa County Department of Public Health! It is a nice feeling to know we help so many children that would otherwise go without dental care,”

Debra Bassett, R.D.H., B.H.S.

Oral Health Team Supervisor

Ottawa County Department of Public Health brings dental services to Ottawa County children with our Miles of Smiles mobile dental unit, instead of parents having to make arrangements to bring their child to us. Parents do not need to take time off work or worry about transportation. We are proud to help serve our communities with
LEGISLATIVE CHANGES THAT AFFECT 2014 ELECTIONS (Justin Roebuck)

The past two years have been active ones for the elections process in Michigan, with over 140 statues created or amended with regard to election law in 2012 and 2013. A few of the more significant changes that will impact candidates and local jurisdictions in the upcoming election year are the movement of filing deadlines for both candidates and proposals on the ballot, as well as changes to contribution limits under the Michigan campaign finance law.

Public Act 276 of 2012 moved the filing deadline for candidates to the 15th Tuesday prior to the election date. The filing deadline for incumbent judicial candidates remains the same, and the filing deadline for precinct delegate candidates has been changed to the 13th Tuesday prior to the August election date.

The ballot proposal filing deadline has also changed. Public Acts 253-257 of 2013 (which take effect this spring) move deadline for all local proposals to the 12th Tuesday prior to the election date.

These changes were largely made in response to the increasingly narrow window of time for county and local clerks to make the ballot available to voters. Beginning in 2009, the federal government began to The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act of 2009 is a federal mandate that requires all ballots to be available for military and overseas voters not later than 45 days prior to the election. Moving the filing deadline back for candidates and proposals will allow a greater amount of time for ballot production and printing, and enable the County Clerk’s office to deliver ballots in a timelier manner to local clerks.

With all of these modifications in mind — here are the major dates and deadlines to remember for the 2014 election cycle:

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<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incumbent Judicial</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>March 24, 2014</td>
<td>March 24, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Incumbent Judicial</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>April 22, 2014 By 4:00 PM</td>
<td>April 22, 2014 By 4:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partisan Candidates</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>April 22, 2014 By 4:00 PM</td>
<td>April 22, 2014 By 4:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precinct Delegates</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>May 6, 2014 By 4:00 PM</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Partisan Candidates</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>July 22, 2014 By 4:00 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OTTAWA COUNTY GETTING SOCIAL (Shannon Felgner)

You can now keep up with Ottawa County on Facebook and Twitter! Ottawa County is joining these communities to improve communication and citizen engagement. Several departments of the County have participated in social media for many years, including Parks and Public Health. The following are some interesting metrics from the initial month of participation:

- Ottawa County joined the social networks on December 5, 2013.
- The Ottawa County Facebook Page has 167 likes.
- On average, each status update on the Ottawa County Facebook Page is seen by 285 people. This number will grow as likes increase.
- The Ottawa County Twitter account has 67 followers.
- Five press releases were tweeted or posted on Facebook since December 10. Using Bitly links, the county measured 83 clicks through to the full copy of the release. (The press releases were also sent through email to all media contacts.)

OTTAWA COUNTY VIDEO TOUR (Shannon Felgner)

The Ottawa County Video Tour has been updated and is available at miOttawa.org. The videos showcase spectacular Ottawa County, highlighting why it truly is the premiere location for living, working and playing. Thank you to those who participated in the video shoot including Hudsonville Superintendent-Nick Ceglarek, County Board Chairman-Jim Holtrop, Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce President-Jane Clark, Grand Haven Area CVB Executive Director-Marci Cisneros, Health Officer-Lisa Stefanovsky, and County Administrator-Al Vanderberg.

OTTAWA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH MOVES TO REDUCE COSTS

GRAND HAVEN, MI – Starting February 3, Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) will open its Grand Haven office doors to the public at 1207 South Beechtree Street. The health department’s move is a strategic plan to help reduce county costs and still provide quality services. “We are moving into a new facility that better matches the services we provide in Grand Haven, while reducing costs,” said Donovan Thomas, Deputy Health Officer of OCDPH. “The move will also allow us to modernize our clinic and move closer to the city and better serve our residents.”

Services offered at the new Grand Haven location include; family planning, immunizations and travel immuniza-
tions, Home Use-Medical Sharps container exchange and sample bottles for water testing. Services that will move to the Holland office at 12251 James Street include; the Maternal & Infant Health Program, Children’s Special Health Care Services and the Hearing & Vision Screening Program. The OCDPH Directory of Services can be found at http://ow.ly/sqRFF or call the Holland office at (616)396-5266 for more information.

About Ottawa County Department of Public Health

Established in 1931, Ottawa County Department of Public Health continues to assure conditions in which all people can achieve optimum health. We provide our community with evidence-based public health programs and services. Public health officials work diligently to promote health and well-being, prevent diseases and protect the health of populations, which can range from a small local neighborhood to a world-wide scale when addressing a pandemic or environmental threat. Through the coordinated efforts of individuals, organizations and public health officials, we all contribute to our community’s quality of life. More information at www.miOttawa.org/miHealth

Grand Haven New Office Address:

1207 South Beechtree Street, Suite B
Grand Haven, MI 49417
Phone: (616)846-8360
Fax: (616)844-1778
www.miOttawa.org/miHealth

Grand Haven New Office Hours:

Monday 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Wednesday & Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Closed 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

ELECTRONIC TICKETING SYSTEM (Sheriff Gary Rosema)

The Holland Sentinel published this interesting article about the new electronic ticketing system utilized by the Ottawa County Sheriff’s Office. (Click on the link below)

Police agencies shift into fast lane with new electronic ticketing system
**GRAND RIVER RAVINES UPDATE** (John Scholtz)

One way or another, the Parks Commission is committed to finding a way to fund a first phase improvement project at Grand River Ravines over the next two years. The Commission was disappointed to learn recently that its grant proposal to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for development funds was unsuccessful. Considered one of the most scenic properties in the park system, the 187 acre Grand River Ravines is currently unimproved. Acquisition was completed in 2012 and a master plan was approved for the new park in February of 2013. If possible, the Parks Commission would like to have the park open and operational with parking areas, trails and other features in 2015.

Park Commissioners discussed the new park at their January, 2014 meeting and agreed to realign priorities to free up funds for the project. Additional funds will still be needed and Parks Commissioners are hoping to get support from private donors. “There are some unique opportunities for donors to contribute to some exceptional amenities in this park and earn naming rights as a result”, said Bobbi Jones Sabine, current Parks Commission President. Project examples include the park lodge (former residence) which sits on a high bluff overlooking the river and a planned “treehouse” ravine overlook.

One part of the project that will move forward sooner than other improvements is construction of a parking area on the south portion of the site on Fillmore Street. A historic barn along with trails draws enough visitors that a small existing parking area is insufficient. Plans call for an 80 car parking lot with rustic toilets to be constructed as soon as possible this spring with park funds. The parking lot is part of the master plan and will support future facilities in that location as well including a dog park and picnic shelter.

**OFFICER TREvor SLOt MEMORIAL HIGHWAY** (Sheriff Gary Rosema)

The stretch of highway on I-96 commemorating the service and sacrifice of Ofc. Trevor Slot of the Walker PD was formalized through law on December 11, 2013.

*Snyder signs bill for memorial on I-96 for Ofc. Slot*
GOVERNOR SNYDER - 2014 STATE OF THE STATE
Governor Rick Snyder gave his annual State of the State speech last night. Click here to view highlights of the speech and a dashboard update.

GVMC WEEKLY UPDATE (John Weiss)

Click here for the most recent update.
HIGHLIGHTS FROM GOVERNOR SNYDER’S 2014 STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS
Under the Pure Michigan Micro Lending Initiative, Huntington Bank committed $5 million for a pilot program in Detroit to help small businesses grow. Upon its successful completion, Huntington will commit up to $20 million to be distributed through lines of credit to community micro lenders. Under the 10,000 Small Businesses program, Goldman Sachs announced a $20 million partnership to help entrepreneurs in Detroit by providing access to education, financial capital and business support services.

FOSTERING INNOVATION WITH U.P. SMARTZONES
The MTEC SmartZone is a high-tech business accelerator that has fostered economic success in the U.P. by bringing together Michigan Technological University, entrepreneurs, and local governments. That work is being furthered as business, community, and university leaders between Marquette/NMU and Houghton/Hancock MTU are currently working with the MTEC SmartZone to establish a life sciences/IT business accelerator in Marquette.

CONNECTING TALENT AND OPPORTUNITY WITH ECONOMIC & EDUCATION SUMMITS
In 2014, Governor Snyder will again host Economic and Education Summits in March and April respectively to continue fostering a collaboration between educators and the private sector – and to connect talent with opportunity in each of Michigan’s 10 regions.

EXPANDING MICHIGAN’S ECONOMY BY WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS
In order to help Michigan’s economy grow stronger, Governor Snyder will sign an Executive Order creating the Michigan Office of New Americans to attract immigrants to Michigan. Governor Snyder is also urging Washington to approve Michigan’s application to become only the second state in the country with a state-sponsored EB-5 regional center to help attract investment and create jobs for American workers.

A BRIGHTER FUTURE BY IMPROVING EDUCATION
Governor Snyder has called for reforms to improve education in Michigan including: encouraging a voluntary program in which participating schools would extend classes year-round to help ensure students are making continual progress; a uniform definition of “truancy” so we can more effectively combat absenteeism that is hurting our kids; implementing teacher evaluation, professional development and effectiveness reforms recommended by the Michigan Council for Educator Effectiveness; and making Michigan a leader in promoting STEM and career tech programs.

A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR SENIORS
Governor Snyder will present a special message in the spring to outline his vision for meeting the needs of Michigan seniors. In addition, the governor called for making Michigan a “no-wait state” for seniors who qualify for home-delivered meals and in-home services and for legislators to pass pending bills that provide consumer protections for seniors.
HIGHLIGHTS FROM GOVERNOR SNYDER’S 2014 STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS
(continued)

HELPING THOSE WITH MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES & DISABILITIES
Governor Snyder called for adopting the recommendations of the Mental Health and Wellness Report to help people with mental illness, substance abuse disorders or developmental disabilities, including: better coordination and integration of physical and mental health care; best practices for mental health services for students; better employment preparation and opportunities; housing solutions; and efforts to reduce the stigma of mental illness.

IMPROVING SCHOOL SAFETY
Governor Snyder called for further implementation of recommendations by the Mental Health Commission School Safety Work Group, including school safety drills and the recently passed “OK 2 Say” hotline for confidential reporting of potential harm. He also called for additional funding in the FY15 budget for public safety, including school safety initiatives.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT
Governor Snyder called for policies that will help protect Michigan’s environment, including increasing efforts to combat invasive species in the state and developing a framework for a comprehensive energy policy.

BETTER GOVERNMENT WITH A FEDERAL BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT
Governor Snyder encouraged the House to join the Senate and pass a joint resolution in support of a Federal Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in order to help Washington follow Michigan’s model of fiscal responsibility.

ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES IN FINANCIAL DISTRESS
Governor Snyder recommends the creation of strong financial intervention teams, working in the state Departments of Treasury and Education, to create earlier alerts to financial instability and launch earlier intervention strategies, including education and reporting, in order to help schools and communities in financial distress.

TAX RELIEF FOR LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME MICHIGAN FAMILIES
While continuing to be fiscally responsible in the short and long term, it is appropriate to provide some tax relief to hard-working families. Michigan has come a long way in three years. The state’s fiscal health has improved due to the tough but necessary decisions that have been made. Governor Snyder will make an FY 15 budget recommendation that eases the burden on low- and middle-income families so that they can continue to share in Michigan’s comeback.
MiDashboard
State of the State (SOS) 2014
[www.michigan.gov/MiDashboard](http://www.michigan.gov/MiDashboard)

Upon taking office in January 2011, Gov. Rick Snyder established the Michigan Dashboard to measure the state’s progress in meeting key objectives and to serve as a catalyst for positive change.

### Economic Growth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-Dashboard</th>
<th>Current &amp; Previous Dashboards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monthly unemployment rate</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP)</td>
<td>(6.0)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children living in poverty</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Health and Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-Dashboard</th>
<th>Current &amp; Previous Dashboards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality (per 1,000 births)</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity in the population**</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third grade reading proficiency</td>
<td>60.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT college readiness benchmarks</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population with bachelor’s degree or higher (25+ years old)</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Progress is measured by most recent period compared to the previous period.

**Due to federal methodology changes, 2011 data cannot be compared to previous years.
## Value for Money Government

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pre-Dashboard</th>
<th>Current &amp; Previous Dashboards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Credit rating</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Moody’s</td>
<td>Aa3</td>
<td>Aa2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Standard &amp; Poor’s</td>
<td>AA-</td>
<td>AA-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fitch</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>AA-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Government debt burden per capita</strong></td>
<td>$766</td>
<td>$748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State government operating cost as a percent of GDP</strong></td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State and local government operating costs as a percent of GDP</strong></td>
<td>20.9%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to state government - number of online services</strong>*</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
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## Quality of Life

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pre-Dashboard</th>
<th>Current &amp; Previous Dashboards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>State park popularity – annual visits per citizen</strong></td>
<td>2.22</td>
<td>2.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population growth (ages 25–34)</strong></td>
<td>(1.7)% (2007-08)</td>
<td>(1.4)% (2008-09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monitored beaches with no closures or unsafe advisories</strong></td>
<td>80% FY 2009</td>
<td>76% FY 2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Public Safety

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pre-Dashboard</th>
<th>Current &amp; Previous Dashboards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Violent crimes per 100,000</strong></td>
<td>513.7</td>
<td>499.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Property crimes per 100,000</strong></td>
<td>2,946.0</td>
<td>2,848.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Individuals fatally or seriously injured in traffic accidents</strong></td>
<td>7,705</td>
<td>7,382</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*** Based on a new 2013 definition of an on-line service as applied to our current inventory, 2013 data cannot be compared to previous years.
GVMC February Quarterly Luncheon to Focus on Healthcare

Our next Quarterly Luncheon will be held on February 20th at noon. It will be at the Metro Health Conference Center located at the Metro Health Campus in Wyoming Michigan. (M-6 and Byron Center Avenue)

One of the key emerging issues in not only our region, but also our state and nation is healthcare. Michael Faas, President and CEO of Metro Health Hospital and Metro Health Corporation will speak to us about “2014: Healthcare Strategies and the Impact for West Michigan”.

Metro Health is an integrated healthcare system including Metro Health Hospital a 208 bed general acute care teaching hospital; 12 neighborhood physician offices located throughout West Michigan; nationally recognized heart and vascular services; a cancer center developed in partnership with the University of Michigan and many joint ventures with other healthcare providers.

Reservations can be made at our website, gvmc.org or by contacting Gayle at mccrathg@gvmc.org. Tickets are $25.00 each. If you have a group attending, reserved tables of 8 can be purchased for $200.

Position Available on GVMC Executive Committee

Cascade Township Trustee Cindy Janes has resigned her position effective at the end of 2013. Cindy recently moved from Cascade to Grand Rapids Township. In addition to her duties as Cascade Township Trustee she also served on the GVMC Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Supervisor Rob Beahan will replace Cindy as the GVMC Board Member but we need to fill her position on the Executive Committee.

If you are a GVMC Board Member and are interested in serving on the Executive Committee, please contact Chairman and Ottawa County Administrator Al Vanderberg or our Human Resources Committee Chair, Rockford City Manager Michael Young.

Chairman Al Vanderberg stated, “Cindy was a excellent member of our Board of Directors and Executive Committee. She was an active member that really cared about our region and cooperation among our local governments. We wish her the best in the future and will miss her active involvement in GVMC. Thank you Cindy for your years of service.”

Upcoming Dates to Remember

February 20 – Board of Directors Meeting -10:30 -Metro Health Hospital.

February 20 - Quarterly Lunch-12:00 noon. Metro Health Conference Center

March 6 - Board of Directors-8:30-Kent County Building

Board of Directors Meeting
February 20, 2014
10:30-11:45

Metro Health Campus
Vic Krause Conference Room
(inside the hospital)

Our meeting will focus on Community Conversation lead by the Center for Michigan.

The Center for Michigan is a non-profit think-and-do tank, that strives to be the state’s “Citizenship Company”. The Center would like to take this opportunity to gather as many opinions as possible about Michigan from a broad group of elected officials. GVMC provides them with a unique opportunity to bring together a diversified group of city, county and township officials. We welcome all members of your board to participate in this activity with the Center for Michigan. Please invite your colleagues to join us.
Governor Snyder Awards
GVMC $250,000 Regional Prosperity Initiative Grant

Last week we received word that GVMC on behalf of our 13 county West Michigan Region was awarded a $250,000 grant to develop a Regional Prosperity Plan. The award letter can be found below.

As you know from past editions of the Weekly Update, a Steering Committee has already been named. The Committee includes representative from regional planning, workforce and economic development, adult and higher education, and at large members. The first meeting is next week in Muskegon.

February Board of Directors Meeting Changed and Special Quarterly Luncheon Announced

In order to participate in an exciting new opportunity and two significant emerging issues, we are moving our next Board of Directors Meeting to FEBRUARY 20, 2014 with the Quarterly Lunch Immediately following.

Board of Directors Meeting
February 20, 2014
10:30-11:45
Metro Health Campus
Vic Krause Conference Room (inside the hospital)

Our meeting will focus on Community Conversation lead by the Center for Michigan.

The Center for Michigan is a non-profit think-and-do tank, that strives to be the state’s “Citizenship Company”. The Center would like to take this opportunity to gather as many opinions as possible about Michigan from a broad group of elected officials. GVMC provides them with a very unique opportunity to bring together a diversified group of city, county and township officials. We welcome other members of your board to participate in this activity with the Center for Michigan. Please invite your Board Members to join us for this special session!!!