



CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS
MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 22, 2026

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Susan Como, City Manager 

SUBJECT: Michigan Municipal League's 2026 CapCon

I'm requesting to attend Michigan Municipal League's *2026 CapCon*, which is being held March 10-11 in Lansing, MI. The registration form and agenda are attached for your review.

This is a budgeted item in Account #101-172-958-001 in an amount not to exceed \$800.

Attachments

Fund Certification:

I hereby certify that unencumbered funds are available for the above purchase, and that the account number has been verified.



Treasurer/Comptroller Signature

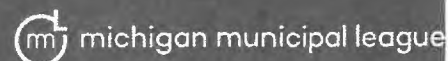
RECEIVED

JAN 23 2026

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS
CLERK'S DEPARTMENT**



March 10-11, 2026
Lansing Center
333 East Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48933



Municipality Name City of Grosse Pointe Woods

Contact Name (person completing this form) Heidi Korte

Address 20025 Mack Plaza Drive City, State, Zip Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

Phone 313.343.2445 Fax 313.343.2658

ATTENDEE INFORMATION (please complete another form if registering more than one attendee)

Name Susan Como Nickname _____

Title City Manager Guest Name (if applicable) _____

Email (confirmation email will be sent to this address) hkorte@gpwmi.us

REGISTRANT TYPE	RATE/PERSON Early Rate thru 1/30/26	RATE/PERSON Regular Rate thru 2/27/26
MML Full & Associate Members/ BAP Participants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$385	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500
Nonmember Government Entities/ MML Fund & Pool Program Members	<input type="checkbox"/> \$700	<input type="checkbox"/> \$700
College Students	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
Guests	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150

(All registrations after February 27, 2026, will need to be done onsite)

TOTAL: \$385.00

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES	
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026, 12–1:30 PM Michigan Women in Municipal Government (MWIMG) Annual Meeting & Luncheon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$65
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025, 12–1:30 PM Michigan Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (MBC-LEO) Annual Meeting & Luncheon	<input type="checkbox"/> \$0

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Do you require a special meal? If so, please specify:

N/A

Do you require special assistance /accommodations? If so, please specify:

N/A

Is this your first time attending CapCon?

No

ONLINE To register and pay online, visit the League Portal at my.mml.org. Follow the login instructions then navigate to "Event Registration" in the lefthand menu.

EMAIL Please email the completed registration form to registration@mml.org. Then mail completed form with check payable to: Michigan Municipal League, P.O. Box 7409, Ann Arbor, MI 48107-7409

REGISTRATION QUESTIONS? Call 734-669-6371 or email registration@mml.org. For a full list of CapCon 2026 registration and cancellation policies, visit mml.org/capcon/

March 10, 2026

10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

League Board of Trustees Meeting & Lunch

Meeting Rooms 101–104

11 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Conference Registration Open

Mainstreet Concourse

12–1:30 p.m.

Michigan Women in Municipal Government (MWIMG) Annual Meeting & Luncheon

Meeting Rooms 201–202

Additional fee and pre-registration required.

1–4 p.m.

Expo Hall Vendor Registration and Load In

Exhibit Hall A

2:15–4:30 p.m.

General Session

League Legislative Team Breaks It Down & Legislator of the Year Awards

Banquet Rooms 1–8

See today's political landscape through the eyes of your Michigan Municipal League advocacy team. Learn about recent legislative successes and how they plan to build upon

that momentum in 2026. The team will discuss progress being made on the League's legislative priorities, as well as the latest conversation around revenue sharing, housing, economic development, and much more. Plus, it's an election year! Hear the team's thoughts on the impact this is having and learn how communities can maximize opportunities for success before the legislative session ends.

Speakers

John LaMacchia II, Director, State & Federal Affairs, Michigan Municipal League

Jennifer Rigterink, Assistant Director, State & Federal Affairs, Michigan Municipal League

Herasanna Richards, Legislative Associate, State & Federal Affairs, Michigan Municipal League

Dave Hodgkins, Legislative Associate, State & Federal Affairs, Michigan Municipal League

Moderator

Emily Kieliszewski, Assistant Director of Member Experience & Learning, Michigan Municipal League

4:30–6:30 p.m.

Expo Hall and MML Liability & Property Pool Welcome Reception

Exhibit Hall A

Immediately following the opening General Session, take time to network with your fellow attendees, vendors, and League staff during the Welcome Reception. Connections made in the Expo Hall continue beyond the conference and will serve as a valuable resource for you during your time as a municipal official.

March 11, 2026

7 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Conference Registration Open

Mainstreet Concourse

7:30–8:30 a.m.

Legislative Breakfast

Exhibit Hall A

Enjoy breakfast in a relaxed setting as you network with senators, representatives, key legislative staff members, and other top state officials. Hear their perspectives on state issues and share your views on matters that affect your community.

7:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Expo Hall Open

Exhibit Hall A

8:45–10:15 a.m.

General Session

The Next Chapter: A Vision for Michigan

Banquet Rooms 1–8

Join gubernatorial candidates as they take the stage to share their ideas for Michigan's future. This session will provide a platform for each candidate to highlight their policy priorities and how they plan to enact that agenda. Members will hear directly from the candidates about their commitment to addressing the unique challenges Michigan and its communities face. Don't miss this chance to be informed about Michigan's future.

Speakers

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson (invited)

Former Attorney General Mike Cox (confirmed)

Mike Duggan, Former Mayor, City of Detroit (invited)

United States Representative John James (invited)

Former Speaker of the House Tom Leonard (confirmed)

Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt (confirmed)

Ralph Rebandt (confirmed)

Sheriff Chris Swanson (confirmed)

10:15–10:45 a.m.

Networking Break

Exhibit Hall A

10:45 a.m.–12 p.m.

General Session

The Federal Landscape: Implications for Housing, Transportation and Local Government

Banquet Rooms 1–8

As federal priorities evolve, local governments are on the front lines of translating national policy into community outcomes. This session will offer insight into upcoming challenges and opportunities. We'll unpack emerging federal initiatives from housing affordability and infrastructure investments to transportation and regulatory shifts.

Speaker

Kennedy O'Dell, Director of Advocacy, Smart Growth America

12-1:30 p.m.

Networking Lunch

Exhibit Hall A

12-1:30 p.m.

Michigan Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (MBC-LEO) Annual Meeting & Luncheon

Meeting Rooms 203-204

Pre-registration required

1:30-2:30 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

Strategic Asset Management for Smaller Communities

Presented by BAP member Abonmarche

Discover practical strategies for developing and implementing asset management plans in smaller communities. This session provides an overview of the process—from assessing infrastructure and prioritizing needs to integrating data and capital planning—helping local leaders make smart decisions to maximize limited resources and extend asset life.

Speaker

Leah Bectel, Project Manager, Abonmarche Consultants

Getting Students Engaged in Local Government

Recent surveys show many local leaders are frustrated by low resident engagement. What if the key to revitalizing participation starts with youth? Petoskey and Sterling Heights offer compelling models for sparking a youth-led movement rooted in respectful dialogue and the power of diverse perspectives. Leaders from these communities will discuss how partnering with local schools, elevating young voices, and creating intentional platforms for involvement can inspire a new generation of engaged residents.

Speakers

Tina DeMoore, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Petoskey

Henry Yanez, Councilman, City of Sterling Heights

Turning Data into Decisions: The Power of Data-Driven Storytelling

Presented by BAP partner American Society of Employers (ASE)

This session will explore how to translate complex datasets into narratives that compel action. It will guide participants through the four essential stages of data-driven storytelling: gathering background, collecting data, building the story, and delivering the message. Attendees will learn how to tailor data stories for different audiences, avoid common pitfalls like data overload and bias, and use visualization techniques to enhance clarity and engagement.

Speaker

Tracy Neil, CFO, American Society of Employers (ASE)

Stormwater Management: The Do's and Don'ts of Creating a Stormwater Utility

Recent court rulings have provided further guidance on the authority and process a municipality must follow to create and manage a stormwater utility. With the need to invest locally in stormwater management, many communities are looking for solutions that will address flooding concerns and protect the environment. Hear from experts about what these rulings mean, how communities can move forward, and what to do (and not do) when considering implementing a stormwater utility.

Speakers

Steven Joppich, Vice-President/Shareholder, Rosati Schultz Joppich & Amtsbuechler, PC

Sara Rubino, Government Policy Attorney, Oakland County WRC

Lobbying 2.0

The Michigan Legislature is constantly changing and taking on new issues. How can you keep up with it all? Join members of the League's lobbying staff as they share the ins and outs of the Legislature. This session is for both members who are just starting to dive into the Lansing arena as well as veterans seeking a refresher. Earn an Elected Officials Academy (EOA) Advocacy Credit in this session!

Speakers

John LaMacchia II, Director, State & Federal Affairs, Michigan Municipal League

Jennifer Rigterink, Assistant Director, State & Federal Affairs, Michigan Municipal League

Dave Hodgkins, Legislative Associate, State & Federal Affairs, Michigan Municipal League

The Federal Landscape Ahead: Implications for Housing, Transportation and Local Government
Deeper Dive

Join our General Session speaker Kennedy O'Dell for an intimate conversation that will expand on her morning session and take a closer look at federal initiatives around housing, infrastructure, transportation and their potential impact on local communities.

Speaker

Kennedy O'Dell, Director of Advocacy, Smart Growth America

2:30–3 p.m.

Afternoon Snack & Networking Break

Mainstreet Concourse

3–4 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

What To Do When You're Expecting: Spending New Transportation Revenue Wisely

With the passage of the state budget, the Legislature and governor agreed to increase transportation funding by nearly \$2 billion annually, with significant resources being

targeted towards local roads. With this infusion of resources, communities can invest in their streets as assets that go beyond just pavement conditions. This session will explore how thoughtful planning can provide multimodal transportation options, increase economic vibrancy, protect the natural environment, and foster thriving communities.

Speakers

Melanie Piana, Program Director, Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan

Suzanne Schulz, FAICP, Urban Design and Planning Practice Leader, Progressive Companies

Brad Strader, Director of Planning, Cincar Consulting Group (C2G)

Trial by Fire: Learning Zoning & Planning from the Witness Stand

Presented by BAP member Williams & Works

In this unique mock trial session, attendees will observe a simulated courtroom where land use scenarios unfold through witness testimonies, attorney arguments, and judicial rulings. Officials will gain insights on common procedural mistakes, legally defensible decisions, and best practices that withstand judicial review.

Speakers

Andy Moore, Planner, Williams & Works

Chris Patterson, Attorney, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes

Eric Conn, Attorney, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes

Wayne Beyea, Attorney, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes

Get Housing Ready: Zoning Best Practices for Every Community

Recently, the League proposed the MI Home Program. This innovative initiative supports investment to accelerate housing construction and rehabilitation, while also promoting updates to local zoning regulations that will help cultivate thriving communities and stimulate economic vitality. This session will explore zoning best practices to promote

housing reforms that can be calibrated to the local level, prepare our communities for a wide range of housing types, and share ways to tailor housing policies to fit community specific needs.

Speakers

Adam Cook, Principal, OHM Advisors

Mark Nickita, President, ArchiveDS

2030 Census Countdown: Making Every Resident Count – Starting Now

Hosted by MBC-LEO

The 2030 Census will shape Michigan's representation and funding for the next decade. Municipal leaders play a critical role in preparing now. This session will highlight actions you can take to ensure a complete and accurate count, including address canvassing (LUCA), data verification, and community trust-building with hard-to-reach and undercounted populations.

Speakers

Jaclyn Butler, Ph.D., State Demographer, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics
Department of Technology, Management & Budget

Joan M. Gustafson, External Affairs Officer, Michigan Nonprofit Association

Dante Moreno, Manager, Legislative Policy, National League of Cities (NLC)

Lobbying 3.0

Building on the strategies introduced in Lobbying 2.0, this session takes your advocacy skills to the next level. League veterans will share how they've successfully applied proven techniques to advance issues and have their voices heard in Lansing. You'll gain deeper insights into these issue areas from the municipal lens, learn effective actions to take, understand why those steps matter, and leave with a stronger grasp of how to collaborate and advocate for meaningful, lasting progress in your community.