



SEIU 517M
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

The **E-Former**

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SEIU Local 517M

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Governor Whitmer Approves State Budgets, Line-Item Vetoes \$950M In Legislative Spending Priorities

By Dave Corrie
Local 517M Staff



On Monday, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed all of the State's 16 departmental budgets in order to avert a governmental shutdown but not before utilizing her ability to line-item veto nearly \$950M in legislative spending priorities. When asked about the budgets delivered by the legislature, Governor Whitmer was quoted in multiple publications saying "The Republican budgets were a complete mess, and today I used my executive powers to clean them up to protect Michiganders,"

The Governor first introduced her balanced budget to the legislature back in March of 2019 but did not receive the final legislative budgets until Thursday, of last week, just beating the deadline for a government shutdown.

Throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall, SEIU Leaders from the three State Units (HSS, Tech, S&E) were involved in various meetings and forums to discuss the need for a fair and balanced budget and share their collective concerns and knowledge with the Governor and Legislators about Michigan's future.

Notable vetoes included removal of the Legislature's \$185 million cut to the Governor's School Aid budget, \$375 million in one-time road funding, Department of Corrections cuts which could have resulted in about 100 layoffs, and the Pure Michigan advertising campaign.

On October 1st, the State Administrative Board met and made funding changes through transfers of money within the various budgets. The State Administrative Board members are the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Director of the Department of Transportation. The State Administrative Board funding transfers are made under the authority of PA 2 of 1921 that allows the Governor to recommend appropriation transfer within a department.

Budget provision changes made by the State Administrative Board that impact our membership include:

- **Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy** - \$7.5 million transferred from private well testing to lead and copper implementation which is for the greater public health of residents.
- **Michigan State Police** - \$2.1 million transfer from the General Fund to the Forensic Science line item to reduce analysis turnaround times.
- **Michigan Department of Transportation** - \$13 million transferred from Fixing Michigan Roads and Bridges line item to Transit Capital line item to get federal matching funds.
- **Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development** - \$4 million transferred from Food and Agriculture Investment Grant to the following:
 - \$782,600 for Animal Disease Prevention and Response
 - \$997,300 for the Qualified Forest Program
 - Restored \$520,000 for environmental stewardship MAEAP
 - Restored \$1.5 million in base funding for the Pesticide and Plant Pest Management program
 - Provides for \$200,000 for Emergency Management

With the veto of the one-time road funding plan, negotiations will begin again for a long-term road funding deal. Please check the [SEIU Local 517M](http://www.seiu517m.org) website for further updates as the road funding negotiations between the Governor and Legislature continue.

SEIU Members Compete in the Cereal City Corporate Cup 2019

By Yolanda Johnson,
Region 2 Divisional Vice President



City of Battle Creek members were in high gear during the 31st Annual Cereal City Corporate Cup event held on Saturday, September 19, 2019, in Battle Creek. The events that our members engaged in were: Volleyball, Tennis, Basketball, a 3-person Golf Scramble, Pickle Ball, Foot Golf, Disc Golf, a 1 Mile Walk, a 5k Run, a 10 mile Bike Ride, Tug of War, and Corn Hole. The City of Battle Creek members competed against various businesses in the local area including Kellogg's and Post Cereal.

Team Battle Creek won silver medals for the 3-person Golf Scramble and Tennis. The team also won gold medals for the Tug of War (second year champs!), and gold in the Corn Hole event. Team Battle Creek came in 1st place overall for participating in all events. Members prepared for the event by training at the YMCA for 11 weeks. This membership was afforded to all participants free of charge.

This year's theme for Team Battle Creek was "Together We Can Achieve More Together". Captains Amber Whitcomb, Tara Penny, Marcie Thompson, and Yolanda Johnson worked well together organizing teams to participate in these events. Next year we are looking forward to recruiting more members and winning more gold medals. Go Team Battle Creek!!!



Calendar of Upcoming Union Events - October, 2019

October 5: Fall Harvest Festival, 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. Community Garden at the Saginaw Office

October 26: SEIU 517M Executive Board Meeting, Lansing

For more information on the above and future events, consult our on-line calendar at:
<http://www.seiu517m.org/events/month/>

New Executive Board Members Appointed

By Dave Corrie
Local 517M Staff

There will be new faces on the SEIU Local 517M Executive Board at the October 26, 2019 meeting. Several appointments are being made to fill vacancies on the Board. And they will be sworn in at that meeting.



Jan Martin was recently appointed to the vacant Region 3 Secretary position on the School and Local Government Region 3 Board. This position also serves on the Local 517M Executive Board as a Board Member representing Region3. Jan comes from the Flint Community Schools unit.



Michelle Kusnier ascended to the office of Unit President of the Scientific and Engineering Unit with the retirement of David Berridge in September. This position serves as an Executive Officer of Local 517M as a Divisional Vice President. She was an Executive Board member prior to this while serving as the Scientific and Engineering Unit Secretary. Michelle works for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.



Therese Kline was appointed to the position of Scientific and Engineering Unit Secretary replacing Michelle Kusnier on the Scientific and Engineering Unit Board. Therese will be filling Michelle's vacated position on the Local 517M Executive Board. Therese works for the Department of Transportation.



Michael Duell was appointed to fill the Scientific and Engineering Unit Board position that Therese Kline held representing the Department of Transportation. Michael was then appointed to fill the vacancy on the Local 517M Executive Board previously occupied by Jesse Harlow who promoted out of the unit.

Saginaw Community Garden is Hosting its 2nd Annual Fall Harvest Festival

By Marianne Woods
Local 517M Staff



Celebrate a change in the seasons and wrap up a successful second year of gardening with an enjoyable afternoon of harvesting fun for the whole family on Saturday, October 5th. This event will take place at the Boyd Community Garden which is located behind the SEIU 517M Saginaw Office at 1420 S. Michigan Ave. in Saginaw. The event will run from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Last year's inaugural event was well attended and we anticipate the same this year. There will be food vendors onsite including Circus Time Snacks! You don't want to miss out on Fried Oreos & Elephant Ears. Fall crafts including pumpkin carving and gourd decorating along with other fun activities.

There will also be games for kids with really cool prizes!