

GVMC Officials Urge Lansing Lawmakers to Protect Funding for Michigan's Communities

A strong contingent of officials from Grand Valley Metro Council communities descended on the State Capitol in Lansing on Tuesday October 14 to attend the special state revenue estimating conference and urge local lawmakers to protect state revenue sharing for local governments. The GVMC group included Cannon Township Supervisor Steve Grimm, Kentwood Mayor Richard Root, East Grand Rapids City Manager Brian Donovan, Gaines Township Supervisor Don Hinton, Sr., Ionia City Manager Tom Wiczorek, Grand Rapids Public Information Officer Annette Guilfoyle and Kent County Finance Director Robert White. They were joined by Wyoming City Manager Curtis Holt to hear, first-hand, from state finance officials and noted economists that Michigan is facing a nearly \$900 million revenue deficit that must be addressed by Governor Granholm and state lawmakers. Protecting revenue sharing payments to local governments, the group stressed to local lawmakers, was essential for protecting public safety and the quality of life of our home towns in West Michigan.



Gaines Township Supervisor Don Hilton, Sr. talks to reporters about rumored cuts in community funding outside of the House Appropriations Committee Room at the State capitol in Lansing.



Kent County Finance Director Robert White explains to reporters how revenue sharing funds are used to benefit Kent County residents and taxpayers during a pause of the recent state revenue estimating conference in Lansing.



State Senator Bill Hardiman (R-Kentwood) talks with Kentwood Mayor Richard Root and Kentwood Finance Director Thomas Chase. He told the local officials that he will do all he can to protect funding for Michigan's communities during the next round of state budget cuts.



State Rep. Judy Emmons (R-Sheridan) listens intently as Ionia City Manager Tom Wiczorek stresses the importance of revenue sharing to his community. As Vice Chair of the power House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Emmons will play a pivotal role in helping to maintain funding for Michigan's communities.