



October 3, 2014

GVMC Members Speak to Amway's China Leaders in Development Program

Kent County Commission Chairman, Dan Koorndyk, Grand Rapids City Manager Greg Sundstrom and I had the opportunity to speak to a group of about 30 Chinese leaders when they recently visited our area. The host for the meeting was Caledonia Township Supervisor Bryan Harrison who also works for Amway Governmental Affairs.

During the session, each of us explained local government at the city, township and county level. We also discussed cooperation and collaboration that occurs throughout our region and the many ways in which our govern-

ments work together.

There was a great deal of interest in our multi-tiered governmental system and how we collaborate on such issues as police, fire, utilities and other public services. There were also questions about voting and elections and our democratic system of government and how voting and citizen participation impact local government.

Jing Han and George Yang of our GVMC staff also attended the session.



West Michigan Policy Forum Selects Roads and Infrastructure as the Top Priority

The message was quite clear this week coming out of the West Michigan Policy Forum. **"Fix our Roads"**! Our deteriorating roads and infrastructure was on the minds of the 400 plus attendees at the 2014 conference.

GVMC and our members have long experienced the impact of decreased investment in Michigan's infrastructure and we have spoken clearly that we need permanent funding for infrastructure maintenance.

At the Policy Forum, 97% of the attendees agreed that Michigan business leaders should hold our legislators accountable for insuring adequate funding for roads and infrastructure.

Term limits and Talent were also major topics. Proposals were discussed to amend term-limits and 71% of the voters agreed they need to be modified while 27% thought that term limits should be eliminated.

The Policy Forum overwhelmingly supported giving more flexibility to school districts to develop career oriented curriculum.

The West Michigan Policy Forum is held every other year in Grand Rapids.

Save the Date!

What: West Michigan Prosperity Alliance General Session

When: October 10, 2014 10:00 am to Noon

Where: GVSU Kirkhoff Center (Allendale Campus)

Topic: Review and Priority Selection of the Nominated Projects of Regional Economic Significance

RSVP: Respond to this email or mccrathg@gvmc.org

FREE Parking: Parking for this event will be available in Lot H. This is directly across from the Kirkhoff Center.

Refreshments will be Served