



### Survey of Elected Officials To Be Released on April 19th.

Next week Thursday, all local elected officials in our region will be receiving a survey from The Johnson Center at Grand Valley State University. This survey will help us focus our efforts on our strategic initiative regarding collaborative service sharing. It will also assess the viewpoint of both elected officials and our citizens.

While the majority of the surveys will be completed electronically, those elected officials that do not have emails will receive a copy by regular mail. The mailed versions will also include a return envelop.

It is important that we hear from as many of our region's elected officials as possible for this survey. Everyone's opinion is important in this effort and we are looking for a broad representative group of city, county, township and village officials.

A representative sample of 500 citizens have already been surveyed. They represented 30 governmental jurisdictions. The community survey was funded in part by the Frey Foundation and we truly appreciate their support in our efforts.

We ask that you complete and return the survey as quickly as possible. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

### Quarterly Luncheon Sets Attendance Record

Over 100 GVMC members and guests attended our April 9th Quarterly Luncheon. Our guest speaker, Mark Murray, President of Meijer Corporation talked to the group about intergovernmental cooperation and leadership.

Mark said, "I sleep in East Grand Rapids, work in Walker, and eat in restaurants in Grand Rapids, Grand Haven and Holland. I shop in Kentwood. So, where do I live?" He answered, "I live in West Michigan".



Murray explained that two key indicators of potential success for Meijer are more people and higher incomes. He urged members of the Metro Council to adopt the same objectives. Increased populations and increasing incomes will lead to greater success for government as well.

Throughout the presentation, Murray stressed the need for business and government to work together to foster greater cooperation. "Both government and business need each other to be successful." We truly appreciate Mark's presentation!

### PPT Is Moving Quickly

Over the last three days, movement on the PPT issue has gained lightening speed. In just the past 72 hours through discussions with Senator Jansen, state representatives and Summer Minnick of the Michigan Municipal League we have learned that while no one has seen the bills, they will be introduced next Tuesday or Wednesday. The first hearing could be on Wednesday afternoon almost immediately after the bills are introduced.

In addition, what was expected to be three weeks of testimony and consideration by the Senate Finance Committee, may now be only three hearings. This means the issue could be reported out of the committee very quickly.

In a poll that was released today by Epic/MRI "70 percent of those asked oppose eliminating the personal property tax (PPT) on industrial equipment while 25 percent support. Opposition increased to 78 percent when told a PPT elimination would either cut services or could result in raising property taxes.

Recent speculation has the elimination of the Industrial PPT, phasing out over time the Commercial PPT and establishing a level where values below \$35-\$40 thousand would not have to file. Partial replacement through expiring tax credits are possible.