



September 21, 2012

Legislative Committee Update on Ballot Proposals

Members of our Legislative Committee met on Tuesday to discuss the ballot proposals that will face Michigan votes in November.

Also participating in the discussion and joining us as a panel were Andy Johnson of the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, Erika Rosebrook of the Governors Office and Andy Schor from the Michigan Municipal League.

There was active discussion on each of the ballot issues, as well as, a lengthy discussion of using Michigan's Constitution for issues that may serve special interest

groups, specific constituencies, or should be the responsibility of the Michigan Legislature.

The Legislative Committee will present their recommendations to the full GVMC Board at our October meeting.

Transportation Funding Task Force Update

A subcommittee of our Legislative Committee has been meeting to discuss long-term funding for our roads, bridges and public transit. The group includes representatives of our cities, townships and counties, as well as, The Rapid and Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.

Early in the year over 50 of our members attended presentations by the Michigan Transportation Team about the future of long-term transportation funding. Since that time, little has been said about the topic and the Governor reported at the West Michigan Policy Forum that it did not appear the issue would be addressed during this session of legislature.

Consistent, adequate and reliable funding for our roads, bridges and public transit systems are critical to the future of our state and our economic prosperity. Our Transportation Funding Task Force will continue to work together to promote a long-term solution to this issue.

West Michigan Policy Forum

Last week eight members of the GVMC received scholarships to attend the West Michigan Policy Forum. The two-day event brought together business and government leaders from not only west Michigan, but other areas of the state and Canada as well.

Over 600 people attended the event and heard from national speakers and business leaders. Governor Snyder ended the event by talking about Michigan and our role in the future of our state.

Patrick Waterman, Hudsonville City Manager said, "I found the event to be very interesting and engaging, and I came away feeling much more knowledgeable about the important policy issues affecting west Michigan." Kentwood Mayor Richard Clanton wrote to the Policy Forum President, "I wanted to take time out to thank you and your board for extending opportunities for folks to attend this spectacular event via scholarship. The conference was enlightening to the issues of the day that impact our success as a State".

We appreciate not only the scholarships, but also reduced cost GVMC members received which allowed our representatives to attend the West Michigan Policy Forum. Thank You WMPF!

Reserve Your



Quarterly Luncheon

Tickets

for

Oct. 8th with

Attorney General Bill Schuette

Price: \$25.00 per person

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