

# 2025–2026 MAC PLATFORM

The Metropolitan Affairs Coalition (MAC) brings together business, labor, government, and education leaders to seek sustainable solutions to regional issues and advance policies and programs that enhance the region's economic vitality and quality of life. MAC is committed to following its core values to make progress on the interrelated issue areas included in this State/Federal Public Policy Platform.

## MAC CORE VALUES

***We lead by example*** – Treat others with respect and practice pragmatic and collaborative engagement on issues promoting regional equity and sustainability, economic opportunity, and improved quality of life.

***We communicate openly*** – Commit to practicing healthy dialog and listening towards creating a common vision that values and embraces the perspectives of others and helps improve regional cooperation, progress, and understanding.

***We enable and inspire*** – Inspire success and remove barriers by valuing inclusivity and diversity and finding opportunities to agree.

This policy platform is built with broad, nonpartisan consensus and will guide our actions as we seek opportunities to communicate, advocate, educate, and work with opinion leaders, decision-makers, and elected leadership. There is much to accomplish, and we remain firm in our belief that the only way to make progress is by working together.

Special thanks to our partner organization SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, for content, and data expertise and assistance.

For more information about MAC, please go to [www.mac-web.org](http://www.mac-web.org).



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# 2025 – 2026 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Southeast Michigan's prosperity depends on modern and well-maintained infrastructure. Our means of transportation are evolving, and our dependence on communications technology is expanding exponentially. There is a critical need to continue safe and affordable water delivery to residents while minimizing threats to homes and businesses from extreme weather events and flooding. Funding and management of vital shared and local infrastructure assets are foundational to shared prosperity and economic development.

### GENERAL

- 1 Prioritize funding for projects that integrate roadway improvements with additional underground infrastructure projects.
- 2 Support legislation to enable public-private partnerships (P3) to fund public infrastructure projects
- 3 Prioritize infrastructure investments based on the needs of older regions to enhance quality of life and address future needs, especially in underinvested communities.
- 4 Ensure that federal and state infrastructure funding supports training for quality, sustainable careers.

### TRANSPORTATION

- 5 Modernize the funding system with a more diversified revenue base and equitable funding approaches, including evaluation of existing formula-based funding (eg. Act 51, surface transportation reauthorization).
- 6 Promote public/private investment in infrastructure to grow the mobility industry.
- 7 Provide federal resources to states with major international trade corridors.
- 8 Support enhanced regional transit, including increased federal, state, and private investment in public transit.
- 9 Promote efficient freight movement through a multi-modal transportation program.
- 10 Improve traffic safety for all users, including road workers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.
- 11 Promote programs and policies to improve safety and reduce distracted driving.

WATER	
12	Increase funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds: especially to deal with lead and PFAS needs.
13	Support increased resources across all types of water infrastructure based on regional and local priorities through grants or programs such as the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and the Sewer Revolving Fund (SRF) to assist in dealing with emerging water issues.
14	Support long-term funding options including stormwater utilities.
15	Support state and federal resources for water affordability programs, including creation of a statewide, sustainable, water assistance fund with stringent qualifying requirements for customers and flexibility for utilities without mandating participation.
16	Prevent and address/eradicate threats such as invasive species and nutrients (fertilizer/untreated sewer discharge).
WATER & SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE	
17	Expand WIFIA (Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act) that establishes a financing mechanism for water and wastewater infrastructure projects.
ENERGY	
18	Support energy policies (such as EV charging infrastructure and grid modernization) that balance reliable and affordable energy with environmental benefits of renewable, clean and sustainable energy options.
BROADBAND	
19	Respect the responsibility of local governments to manage use of the public right-of way and utility easements
20	Support the full deployment of affordable high-speed broadband, especially in rural and underserved areas to ensure access education, healthcare, and other critical services

# 2025 – 2026 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development is reliant on state and local policies, regulations, and permit processes that facilitate a robust business climate while providing environmental and worker protections. Policies and incentives should focus on placemaking and community investment that benefits residents, workers, and businesses of all sizes.

### GENERAL

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| 21 | Create a competitive, predictable business environment to increase investment and good jobs - balancing environmental protection with regional economic growth.                                    |
| 22 | Promote economic growth that supports quality jobs allowing families to thrive.  |
| 23 | Promote blue economy industries and recreational activities to leverage the region's natural assets.   |
| 24 | Leverage the opportunities of our bi-national region, including tourism, employment, and economic development.   |
| 25 | Encourage federal investment, procurement, and training for services/programs within Southeast Michigan (such as defense, human services, homeland security, and others).                          |
| 26 | Ensure the entire region shares in Southeast Michigan's prosperity by supporting policies to end all forms of discrimination, implicit bias, and other barriers to equity in income and education. |
| 27 | Promote tools to support the development and availability of diverse and attainable workforce housing options and opportunities that meet local community and individual needs.                    |
| 28 | Promote policies to encourage U.S.-based supply chain resiliency and national security.  |

### MOBILITY

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| 29 | Promote investment in innovative technology and coordinated incentives to support Michigan's continued leadership in the mobility industry.   |
| 30 | Support Southeast Michigan's priority industry clusters, including aerospace and defense, financial services, information technology, medical devices, and the next generation of mobility. |
| 31 | Create an environment that encourages testing and deployment of new transportation technologies in a safe and controlled manner.  |

PROMOTE REDEVELOPMENT	
32	Support revitalization of distressed neighborhoods and commercial areas while protecting historically disadvantaged communities.
33	Support housing finance reform that will increase access to capital for creditworthy borrowers.
34	Develop incentives, policies, and funding that encourage business/residential redevelopment in central cities and older communities across the region.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES	
35	Promote policies and funding to encourage start-ups, commercialize research, and support/promote research universities as economic drivers.
36	Provide resources for small and micro businesses to support economic growth and prosperity in neighborhoods.

# 2025 – 2026 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

## HEALTHCARE

As an issue of regional and national importance, access to equitable and quality healthcare requires additional resources and flexible service delivery, including enhanced use of technology. The ability of service providers to attract and retain a diverse and skilled workforce is essential to improving health outcomes for all.

### GENERAL

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| 37 | Promote greater investment and fiscal certainty to create a stronger and more equitable healthcare ecosystem.   |
| 38 | Support a robust public health system with the resources to address community health programs and emergency response.   |
| 39 | Support policies and greater investment to address healthcare equity and improve outcomes in underserved populations.   |
| 40 | Ensure enforcement of state and local regulations and statutes related to growing, processing, selling, and using cannabis products.  |
| 41 | Expand investment in mental health services, access to technology and telehealth while encouraging uniform standards and assuring appropriate reimbursement, to ensure equitable healthcare outcomes.   |
| 42 | Ensure that long-term federal Medicaid funding is not reduced below 90% and that any future funding formulas or service delivery criteria do not disadvantage Michigan, so that the Medicaid program can continue to provide needed services to Michigan residents. |
| 43 | Ensure that states maintain a strong role in oversight of health care plans, best practices, and standards for efficiency and quality of care.  |
| 44 | Protect the availability of existing financing mechanisms for state Medicaid programs, such as provider taxes.  |
| 45 | Promote partnerships with law enforcement and the mental health community to improve handling individuals with behavioral health disorders.   |
| 46 | Fund and improve availability of mobile health clinics and community outreach professionals in disadvantaged communities to increase access to essential services.  |
| 47 | Strengthen retention of healthcare workers by addressing staffing levels, resources, safety concerns, working environment, and other workplace conditions leading to higher turnover and professionals leaving the healthcare industry.                             |
| 48 | Support the healthcare industry by providing resources for programs to attract, train, and reskill workers to assure high quality patient outcomes.   |

# 2025 – 2026 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

## EDUCATION

Education institutions rely on strong state and federal partners to provide access to adequate and flexible funding to ensure a well-educated and trained workforce. Future-proofing students and learners by preparing them for a rapidly changing economy through education, training, and experiential learning will ensure success in the workplace and support the region's economy.

### K-12

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| 49 | Support the need for stable, adequate, and equitable school funding, including necessary facilities and STEM, STEAM and CTE infrastructure.  |
| 50 | Address impacts of declining enrollments, schools of choice, and charter schools by adequately funding and promoting the value of traditional K-12 schools.  |
| 51 | Ensure that Michigan's K-12 school funding system continues to reflect the additional costs of educating students, such as those with disabilities, those who are at-risk, or multi-lingual Learners.  |
| 52 | Support funding to provide increased mental health and wrap-around social services.  |
| 53 | Expand and strengthen the career guidance system (such as increasing the availability of career counselors and career navigators) to promote technical education, career exposure, and career pathways at secondary and post-secondary levels.     |
| 54 | Provide adequate resources to ensure student safety.   |
| 55 | Invest in early childhood education and quality child care services.   |
| 56 | Develop a robust educator pipeline through fair compensation as well as promoting recruitment and retention, and alternative pathways.   |
| 57 | Require all publicly funded schools to follow the same regulations and requirements for accountability and transparency.   |
| 58 | Continue efforts to support all public schools, including the Detroit Public Schools Community District.   |
| 59 | Incorporate digital skills, life skills, and workplace skills into K-12 curriculum.  |
| 60 | Support child nutrition funding to allow for no-cost school meals for all K-12 students.   |
| 61 | Encourage student interest in high-demand and knowledge-based careers by funding and promoting experiential learning initiatives, including paid work-based learning through industry/education partnerships, at K-12 and higher education levels. |
| 62 | Ensure that every child has equal access to educational materials and technology – including adequate high-speed broadband service – inside the classroom and where they reside, to enable students to achieve their highest potential.            |

## POSTSECONDARY &amp; CAREER EDUCATION

63	Increase access and address affordability of postsecondary education including certificates, credentials, and degrees – especially for underserved populations.
64	Support stable, adequate, and equitable funding for Michigan colleges and universities while encouraging efficiencies and managing costs.
65	Promote investment in capital projects for facilities related to training for high-demand jobs.
66	Support the community college system and its important role in workforce development and promote alignment with professional trades and high-demand careers.
67	Invest in research, curriculum, and training that link post-secondary education with economic and workforce development needs.
68	Support predictable funding and resources for workforce training programs to sustain students who are preparing for high-demand careers.
69	Support policies that encourage collaboration between K-12, colleges and universities, business, labor organizations, and community organizations.
70	Support skilled trades through paid and meaningful internships; registered apprenticeships; professional certifications; advanced career training; and work-based learning opportunities that lead to high-demand careers.
71	Improve graduation rates, and retain and attract talent to contribute to the state's workforce.
72	Promote efforts to address adult literacy and support high quality GED programs.
73	Expand educational opportunities for veterans and returning citizens.
74	Expand educational and training opportunities for students in special education programs, to transition from special education services to postsecondary education, training and certification programs, and job placement and workforce development services.



PROMOTE REDEVELOPMENT	
32	Support revitalization of distressed neighborhoods and commercial areas while protecting historically disadvantaged communities.
33	Support housing finance reform that will increase access to capital for creditworthy borrowers.
34	Develop incentives, policies, and funding that encourage business/residential redevelopment in central cities and older communities across the region.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES	
35	Promote policies and funding to encourage start-ups, commercialize research, and support/promote research universities as economic drivers.
36	Provide resources for small and micro businesses to support economic growth and prosperity in neighborhoods.

# 2025 – 2026 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

## TALENT/WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Addressing the challenges of an aging workforce, technological advances, barriers to employment and need for more flexible training– are essential to supporting Southeast Michigan’s evolving economy and workplaces, and the ability of employers to attract, retain, and reskill their workforce.

### WORKFORCE

75	Ensure expanded role of regional planning and collaboration in the implementation of federal and state workforce initiatives.
76	Expand educational and training opportunities for underserved populations to address income disparities, and to provide a source of talent for employer needs.
77	Ensure reskilling/retraining of workers in vulnerable industries to transition to high-demand jobs in growth areas.
78	Support registered apprenticeships and skilled-trades funding and initiatives.
79	Support research on the impacts of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the workforce.
80	Promote greater investment in training programs to promote employment for veterans and returning citizens.
81	Address workforce participation challenges through initiatives (e.g. transportation, and development of more robust child and elder-care systems) to remove barriers to employment and education.
82	Promote greater investment and flexibility in programs that broaden the candidate pool by training, referring, and placing workers from underrepresented/untapped populations, including persons with disabilities, non-traditional learners and new Americans.
83	Invest in internship, mentoring, registered apprenticeship, and career exposure programs in high-demand occupations to ensure students are informed about career options.

## IMMIGRATION

84	The following policies support effective legal international immigration to help fill gaps in the region's workforce and enhance economic and business opportunities.
85	Create a more data-driven approach to employment-based immigration and the use of temporary worker visas, including H-1B and EB-5, that is more responsive to documented job needs unmet by qualified American workers.
86	Create new W-Visa for entry level workers.
87	Create a secure, efficient and cost-effective worker authorization system (E-verify) with appropriate protections to safeguard individual rights and prevent profiling.
88	Encourage policies that foster legal immigration; balancing security with fairness and economic opportunity.
89	Provide worker protections and ensure against abuses, including those that would reduce wages.
90	Support policies that facilitate legal immigration to support economic and community development and help meet the region's workforce needs.
91	Support resources for training and initiatives to prepare English language learners for success in the workforce.

# 2025 – 2026 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

## ENVIRONMENT

It is critical to preserve and improve our priceless natural assets which define our past and present. Bountiful fresh water is the foundation of much of our economy and the cornerstone for a wide range of recreational activities. Clean air is essential to the health and welfare of our residents. Guarding homes, businesses, and infrastructure against extreme weather and flooding is imperative.

### GENERAL

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| 92 | Protect local governments and private property owners by requiring polluting parties to shoulder the burden of any associated clean-up, including pre-treatment of emerging pollutants in waste streams discharged to public wastewater systems. |
| 93 | Support the Great Lakes Compact and prevent diversions of Great Lakes water.   |
| 94 | Support efforts and funding to encourage habitat restoration, invasive species management, and stormwater mitigation.  |
| 95 | Support locally-developed, cost-effective strategies to attain and maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).  |
| 96 | Ensure that state and federal regulations reflect robust scientific evidence and research, balancing environmental needs and priorities with economic sustainability.  |
| 97 | Support funding programs and initiatives for large scale climate resiliency projects to address flooding.  |
| 98 | Utilize nature-based solutions to effectively manage stormwater flooding, while also supporting climate resilience, environmental quality, social equity, and economic vitality.   |
| 99 | Support research and develop solutions to air and water pollution and other environmental issues that disproportionately affect lower income communities.  |

# 2025 – 2026 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

## GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ETHICS

Local governments in Southeast Michigan rely on strong state and federal partners to provide adequate and flexible funding to meet the diverse needs of the communities they serve. Transparency and ethical standards at all levels of government ensure trust among residents.

### GENERAL

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| 100 | Enact a comprehensive solution to local government finance to ensure adequate revenues and service delivery.  |
| 101 | Incentivize voluntary local government and school district collaboration or consolidation.  |
| 102 | Evaluate term limits to promote more effective and efficient government and informed policy/budget solutions.   |
| 103 | Ensure greater transparency at all levels of government by strengthening disclosure, oversight, and conflict of interest laws.  |
| 104 | Promote greater investment in law enforcement training to improve police/community relations and reduce crime.  |
| 105 | Provide resources for law enforcement training to improve understanding of the local community's diverse ethnic groups, communities of color, and underrepresented residents so that all residents are adequately served and disparate treatment is eradicated. |
| 106 | Maintain a longer-term view of fiscal responsibility through a balanced approach that addresses revenues, taxes, loopholes, and deficit reduction.  |
| 107 | Ensure that the American Community Survey is adequately funded to provide data for informed planning decisions.   |
| 108 | Protect local control, guarding against state mandates on local fiscal/operational issues, zoning/land use, and all issues where the needs of communities are best served by locally-elected governing boards.  |
| 109 | Provide funding, education, and assistance for cybersecurity efforts to protect local government, communities, school districts, and education institutions.  |