

CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF JUNE 16, 2025



FROM THE ASSOCIATES DESK

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Michigan Politics: Still Stuck in Budget Gridlock

Another week in Michigan politics, another reminder that compromise is a four-letter word around Lansing. If you've been keeping up with the latest developments, you know that the state's education and higher education budgets are far from being settled. In fact, the House has yet to release its final versions, while the Senate has already made its full budget recommendations.

The Michigan Senate Democrats and House Republicans have both passed their own versions of the education budget, and it's hard to believe they were even written in the same year. The differences are so extreme, it's like comparing an apple to an orange—with no conference committee in sight to blend the two into something remotely similar. The result? It's tough to see how these two sides could even begin to meet in the middle.

Speaker Hall has recommitted to getting the education budget done by July 1st, but don't start placing bets on that date just yet. When you're trying to negotiate between a House that views education one way, a Senate that has a completely different vision, and a Governor with her own executive recommendations, the chances of meeting that deadline look slimmer by the day.

Meanwhile, House Republican leadership has returned to Lansing and is reengaging in budget talks following their recent White House visit. The chatter is real in Lansing, and it only intensifies as GOP candidates gear up for a Governor's race that's quickly becoming more crowded. Enter former Republican Speaker Tom Leonard, who recently threw his hat into the ring, hoping his track record will help him stand out in a growing field of GOP contenders.

On a more somber note, we must address the growing concern around political violence. The week began with the aftermath of last week's tragic shootings targeting elected officials in Minnesota—an event that rattled the nation. Unfortunately, Michigan wasn't spared either, as several of our own politicians were reportedly on similar threat lists. These horrific events have sparked calls from all sides to tone down the political rhetoric and denounce violence, regardless of political affiliation.

In other news, cities across the country held "No King Rallies" on the same day in protest of the current administration. The rallies drew significant participation, and Michigan Democrats have acknowledged them as a success—demonstrating the turnout and energy that could be key factors in the upcoming midterm cycle.

So, what does next week hold? Well, aside from more budget wrangling (shocking, I know), things are about to get interesting. Will Lansing's leaders finally sit down, negotiate, and come to an agreement? I'm not so sure, but rest assured, we'll continue to keep you posted.

As always, thank you for staying in the loop with us.

NEWS

HALL RECOMMITS TO JULY 1 DEADLINE FOR EDUCATION BUDGET

House Speaker Matt Hall exhibited a renewed commitment to getting an education budget passed by July 1 during a press conference on Wednesday.

"We're going to make a good faith effort to do schools by July 1," Hall (R-Richland Township) said. "I've always told people I'll work in good faith to do it, but I don't have confidence that the Senate Democrats are serious."

The House passed its version of the School Aid Fund budget (HB 4577) and the higher education budget (HB 4580) last week. The Senate passed its budget recommendations for the School Aid Fund and the General Fund a month ago.

Hall was scheduled for a budget meeting with Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids) on Wednesday, and several other budget meetings between key players are also scheduled for this week.

"I think we'll make some progress, and I think we'll get an education (budget) by July 1," Hall said. "And I'm actually going to work in good faith toward that and not blame other people."

"House Republicans have had a plan this whole time going into negotiations, and we've had to craft that plan knowing that the Senate Democrats were not serious about doing the budget timely and wanted to shut the government down and blame us," he said. "We've had to operate with the plan, knowing that that's what their plan is."

Previously, the speaker was more reticent about committing to a July 1 deadline for any budget.

At the Detroit Regional Chamber Mackinac Policy Conference last month, Hall said he expected the budget would not be ready until after the July 1 statutory deadline and was unwilling to commit to passing any budget out of the House by that time.

"Senate Democrats want to shut down the government to blame me, and they think it's funny. ... We're going to do our best to get a deal, but with this group, (I) think it's going to be well after July 1," he said.

Hall said the House needed to take its time to ensure that the state was delivering value for tax dollars.

"If we take our time, we're going to be able to do something much better, and we're going to finally fund all these priorities for Michigan," he said last month.

On Wednesday, Hall said that passing budgets out of the House by July 1 was a realistic timeframe.

Hall was unwilling to comment on the points of negotiation for the School Aid Fund budget or the higher education budget on Wednesday, saying he wanted to speak with Brinks first.

"I would just say, 'Well, what proposals would you put forward to compromise?' And we'll see what they say. It'll be very interesting, because you have to compromise because it's divided government," he said.

Hall also addressed the changes to the higher education budget that the House passed last week, insisting that the version the House proposed on Wednesday and the version passed on Thursday were very similar.

"The only differences, really, are that the universities came out worse," he said.

The higher education budget that cleared the House reversed course on large cuts across the board for the 15 public universities that the House Appropriations Committee approved a day earlier, though it maintained deep reductions for Michigan State University and the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

The version of the budget Appropriations reported last Wednesday cut \$828.1 million from the university's operations line item. On Thursday, the cut was only \$51.6 million. The proposal also shifted \$1.2 billion School Aid Fund dollars into university operations, replacing that amount in the General Fund.

The budget the House passed also abandoned a proposal from the original version of the bill to expand eligibility for scholarships to the state's universities for any student who graduated from a Michigan high school. The original version of the bill would have pumped more than \$1 billion into the Michigan Achievement Scholarship program.

The end version deposited \$20 million and kept eligibility rules the same as current year. For operations funding, MSU would lose \$56.6 million, and U-M would lose \$234.4 million, an 18 percent and 65.1 percent cut, respectively.

The funds cut from the two universities would be distributed among the other 13, which would receive increases varying from 23.4 percent to 26.3 percent. The Appropriations version of the budget cut direct aid to all 13 by anywhere from 5 to nearly 60 percent.

"Rather than having two complicated columns that were causing all this confusion, we just put in all in one column," Hall said, referring to a table included in a House Fiscal Agency analysis that suggested money universities could potentially receive from students on the Michigan Achievement Scholarship was on par with the direct appropriation to each institution from the state.

"We made it the traditional way, which is just a direct appropriation instead of splitting it," Hall said.

The scholarships money, had it remained, would have replaced tuition dollars from students, meaning universities would not have netted any new money.

Last week, however, House Appropriations Committee Chair Ann Bollin (R-Brighton) acknowledged that the budget the House passed Thursday was very different from the budget the House proposed.

"It's all part of the process. ... I'm very disappointed that it's not what we put forth yesterday," she said Thursday night. "But at the end of the day, this is where we're at. It does achieve our overall goals and our efforts to try to reduce government spending and provide more value for the taxpayers, and this does deliver that."

Following Hall's press conference on Wednesday, Tracy Wimmer, press secretary for Minority Leader Ranjeev Puri (D-Canton Township), said that House Democrats were committed to having serious conversations about the budget.

"I can't speak to the conversations that Speaker Hall and Majority Leader Brinks and the governor have been having about meeting the deadlines. But obviously he doesn't seem terribly concerned," Wimmer said. "We saw it first with rushing the education budget through in 20 hours last week – dropped it in the middle of the night, and then put it through the entire legislative process, and then with the higher ed budget. ... Hall failed pretty spectacularly on trying

to get his original budget through for 10 hours, trying to move his votes in his caucus. And eventually they had to turn out an entirely new budget."

Hall said that the nearly 11 hours spent in session last Thursday was because they had to wait for the bill to be drafted.

"I think last week was a little bit (of an) indication that they don't have anything ready. But that doesn't mean we're not optimistic," Wimmer said. "We're still committed to having these conversations. We welcome them. Frankly, obviously, Speaker Hall needs a lot of help, despite his assertions."

LEONARD SAYS HIS TRACK RECORD SETS HIM APART; WANTS TO LOOK FORWARD IN CAMPAIGN FOR GOV

Tom Leonard compared his leadership style as potential governor to Dan Campbell's approach to coaching the Lions after the team was down for decades: putting together the right team, having a positive vision with grit and determination and "turning this program around."

"We're not going to hash past differences," Leonard said. "We're not going to look back at things that people may have done wrong. Your average voter, they want you to look forward and they want to know what you're going to do to fix the problems."

Tom Leonard, the former speaker of the Michigan House and the Republican nominee for attorney general in 2018, is running for statewide office again after announcing his run for governor on Tuesday.

Leonard lost that close 2018 race to now-Attorney General Dana Nessel. He sought the nomination again at the Michigan Republican Party's nominating convention but lost to Matt DePerno. He served in the Michigan House from 2013 to 2018. He is now a partner at the Plunkett Cooney law firm as the government relations, public policy and regulatory practice group leader. He's a registered lobbyist there.

Leonard joins Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt (R-Porter Township), U.S. Rep. John James (R-Shelby Township) and former Attorney General Mike Cox in the Republican primary.

In an interview with Gongwer News Service, Leonard focused on what he calls a positive campaign plan cushioned with his track record.

He pointed to what he considers his wins as speaker such as mandating paper ballots on Election Day, making English the official language of the state and enshrining constitutional carry. He also highlighted his eliminating of driver responsibility fees and working on teacher pension and mental health reform.

"When you look at my track record of accomplishing big ticket items all across the political spectrum, but also tackling and getting tough things done, I believe that's going to resonate," he said.

He is bringing some of these policy issues from the House to the campaign, including phasing out the income tax. Leonard said this would work toward making Michigan a growth state, countering its reputation for the last two decades where population growth has stagnated.

Leonard also wants to reform property taxes. He cited the often drastic increases a person purchasing a new home faces with the cap on annual increases is removed following a sale. He said young people can't buy houses and go on date night, and seniors are worried about staying in their homes.

The Snyder-era right to work law is also something Leonard wants to restore, a policy that was paramount during his time in the House. He said most "growth states" are states that "empower their workers," and he wants to bring it back after its 2023 repeal.

In economic development, one hot-button issue for Michigan Republicans is if incentives for big corporations doing business in the state is effective in growth. Leonard said he believes in "economic gardening" but does not believe in the idea of "corporate welfare" where hundreds of millions are being spent. He feels like there is nothing to show for the amount of money being spent, with some companies not following through on promises of jobs in the state.

He said he would rather see this money go to infrastructure or school expenses.

"We cannot continue to dump money in again into select companies," Leonard said. "We can't continue to pick winners and losers. We need an economic environment that's fair for everybody."

To attract businesses, Leonard wants to instead make the state more attractive overall by having a better tax environment and having a base of workers that are better educated.

When it comes to education, Leonard is laying out a plan to zoom in on third grade reading, calling the 40 percent proficiency in reading at this age "a crisis."

He is basing his plan on Mississippi's turnaround in education, where 10 years ago the state ranked 49th in third grade reading scores but is now one of the top states. He thinks there can be unique implementation in Michigan but wants to follow in their steps of creating universal pre-K, universal assessments in elementary education and hiring tutors to assist in the large class sizes.

Leonard also wants to pass a law that halts a child's education if they cannot proficiently read.

"If you pass a kid along, and they can't read, you're creating a pipeline either to a welfare check or a prison cell," Leonard said.

Leonard emphasized his commitment to government accountability, starting with expanding the Freedom of Information Act to the Executive Office and the Legislature, conducting zero-based budgeting, where every line item in the budget needs to be justified, and doubling the budget of the Office of Auditor General. He said the FOIA change will happen, whether through executive order for the governor's office and lieutenant governor's office, or more ideally, a law that goes through both chambers and cannot be changed on a whim based on the administration.

Another focus is mental health reform. Leonard said this is another crisis in the state with 20 percent of the population and half of them not getting the treatment they deserve.

Looking at the overall race, with four competitors all very similar in ideology, Leonard sees his brand as a "rock solid conservative that knows how to work across the aisle to get things done."

Leonard became a registered lobbyist in 2020. He said he will remain one.

"I'm proud of the work I've been able to do at Plunkett Cooney," he said, citing changes to the Certificate of Need law to enable cancer treatments and protecting home school rights. "I think it would be very disingenuous of me to terminate now. I'm proud of the work I've done, and I'm going to continue to do it."

Leonard said his first client was the American Bail Coalition, with whom he worked to thwart California-style changes to cash-bail in Michigan.

Leonard and Nesbitt have a very similar background: both have high visibility in Lansing, considerable legislative experience and have held high-profile leadership roles.

Leonard said Nesbitt is a good friend of his and that they spoke ahead of their respective campaign launches.

However, Leonard said what separates the two is his experience as the speaker, having to "actually make tough decisions to govern" and get things across the finish line as a chamber leader. Nesbitt rose to majority floor leader in the House and chaired the committee that led high-profile legislative efforts on energy and auto insurance. Leonard said he's dealing with James having more name recognition by running a tougher campaign plan to boost his name by talking to everybody who listens. He said money alone won't win the race.

When it comes to that coveted endorsement from President Donald Trump that many thought James was the favorite to receive until recent comments from Trump saying he wasn't sure he was happy about his run for governor, Leonard said he was in talks with the White House.

However, Leonard said Trump has made it abundantly clear no one should expect his endorsement, and it needs to be earned, so he will demonstrate they are the hardest working campaign. Leonard was Trump's nominee for U.S. attorney in the Western District of Michigan during the president's first term. But Trump endorsed DePerno for attorney general in 2022. Leonard isn't letting his 2018 loss get him down but instead is more optimistic for the Republican-environment in 2026, with higher approval ratings for Trump, the Democratic Party "being in absolute chaos," and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan running without party affiliation.

"If there's one thing that we just demonstrated in 2018, is we are able to outperform other Republicans on the ticket," Leonard said of his attorney general run. "We are able to win in places that other Republicans are not able to win."

SENATE PANEL TOLD TARIFFS SOURING CONSUMER SENTIMENT, AFFECTING SMALL BUSINESSES

Economic uncertainty caused by President Donald Trump's administration is prompting people of all income levels to pump the brakes on spending and souring the economic views of those across the political spectrum, members of a Senate panel were told on Wednesday.

Members of the Senate Oversight Committee heard testimony on the economic effect of the tariff policy being pursued by the Trump administration.

Joanne Hsu, director of the Surveys of Consumers and a research associate professor at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, said beginning in January there have been four straight months of steep declines.

"This was very much triggered by the evolution of trade policy, in particular the high tariffs that were announced early on as well as a tremendous amount of uncertainty," Hsu said.

Uncertainty and unpredictability have abounded in the opening months of Trump's second term, with aggressive moves to place tariffs on goods from other countries, allies and adversaries alike. Trump has sought to make the case that tariffs would help bring manufacturing and other sectors back to the United States.

The president has made significant escalations and then repeatedly backed down. In multiple cases, tariffs have been paused to allow negotiations to take place, but it is unclear if those negotiations will bear fruit. Trump has also made periodic threats of new or increased tariffs, which have taken global stock markets on a roller coaster ride.

Hsu said instability and unpredictably have soured consumer sentiment. Despite a rebound in consumer sentiment over the past month, she said it is still 20 percent lower than December 2024 levels.

Hsu also stressed Democrats and Republicans are both souring on their economic outlooks.

"We see these worsening views of the economy across the political spectrum, even among Republican consumers who may broadly agree with Trump's economic policies," Hsu said. "They also believe that the policies will still harm the economy, at least in the short run and maybe the medium run as well."

Karen Roofe, owner of My Secret Stash in Traverse City, said the drop in consumer sentiment hits businesses in places like her community hard. She said people are "spending more cautiously" whether it is travel, dining or making more selective purchases while in town.

"Our economy is deeply interconnected, so when our visitors spend less, the ripple effect hits our community members who rely on tourism," Roofe said. "I'm not actually having a lot of significant higher costs, but it's that threat of instability that's killing the flow."

She said the perception of a bad economy and the risk of losing one's job keeps people from traveling and spending where they otherwise might.

Roofe detailed how she has slowed her orders for inventory due to cashflow issues stemming from the ongoing economic uncertainty. The shift leads to ordering small amounts of inventory more frequently, which in turn drives up shipping costs, she said.

Fewer staff were hired for the summer season, she added, while marketing efforts have also been curtailed to rein in costs. Roofe said small businesses are not cutting back to be lean, but to survive.

Roofe said the last six months have been head-spinning and tough to navigate. She said the ability to pivot is more difficult than adapting to the coronavirus pandemic.

BRINKS TO MEET WITH HALL WEDNESDAY, CAMILLERI LAYS BLAME FOR BUDGET DELAYS AT SPEAKER'S FEET

Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks said she will be meeting with House Speaker Matt Hall on Wednesday. Her hope is that it can spur more serious budget talks ahead of the rapidly approaching July statutory budget deadline

Brinks (D-Grand Rapids) told reporters she will be meeting with Hall (R-Richland Township) on Wednesday morning, which will be less than two weeks from the July 1 deadline for the budget.

The Senate has passed its entire 2025-26 fiscal year budget while the House passed its education components. Senate Democrats said the K-12 and higher education funding proposal from the House is unworkable.

Brinks expressed hope that Wednesday's meeting can also help establish more open lines of communication.

"June 17 and they still have not passed a budget, so I'm very eager to make progress there, and it's time that we have those conversations," Brinks said. "Very pleased that he has finally accepted the opportunity to meet, and very hopeful that this will be productive conversations."

When asked Tuesday about the status of her and Hall's relationship given the inability in recent months to begin having standing meetings, she said she would not categorize it as a broken relationship but rather "an unwillingness to even establish a working relationship with the intent of being productive from the beginning."

Sen. Darrin Camilleri (D-Trenton), chair of the Senate Appropriations PreK-12 Subcommittee, took aim at Hall while speaking to reporters earlier Tuesday, labeling him as the roadblock to completing the budget.

"Speaker Hall is the problem," Camilleri said. "Getting to this final point is like the entire group project that you work on at school. Many of us have been working at this really, really hard. ... Matt Hall wants to come in on the last day and give the presentation ... and take all the credit without having done any of his homework before that. That, I think is just not how the way that you handle a massive, multi-billion-dollar document."

Hall has repeatedly criticized the Senate Democrats' budget as out of balance and wasteful. He said House Republicans are going line-by-line through the state's budget to cut unnecessary spending.

He also praised the budget passed by his caucus because it boosts per-pupil spending to \$12,000 and gets rid of required spending in certain categories. However, those categories include universal free meals in schools and mental health funding, which critics say could be harmful.

Camilleri said last week he had an informal meeting with Rep. Tim Kelly (R-Saginaw Township), chair of the House Appropriations School Aid and Department of Education Subcommittee.

Camilleri said it will take significant time working with Kelly on ironing out differences between the chambers. With the stark differences, he said it will not be easy to come to an agreement.

"We're willing to work into the summer," Camilleri said. "That's something that Senate Democrats have proved time and again: we will work as long as it takes."

He also expressed frustration at the gulf between budgets from the two chambers.

"The span between their budget proposal and ours is about as big as the Mackinac Bridge," Camilleri said.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Sen. Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing) in a floor speech Tuesday expressed frustration with House Republicans' pace of moving a budget.

"Unfortunately, the House Republicans have chosen a different path, one marked by delay, disarray and disregard for the urgency of the moment," Anthony said. "This budget is designed for the headlines, not to solve the problems facing our schools, our teachers and our families."

Anthony said the Senate passed its budget in May and has tried to stay on track with meeting the July 1 deadline.

"It's time for the House to get serious and bring forward a comprehensive budget that doesn't short-change our students or play political games with their futures," Anthony said.

MINNESOTA SHOOTER REPORTEDLY HAD MICHIGAN OFFICIALS ON POSSIBLE TARGET LIST, LEADERS CONDEMN POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Multiple Michigan elected officials, including members of the state's congressional delegation and Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, were among the dozens of politicians named in documents that may have identified them as potential targets by the person suspected of shooting two Minnesota state lawmakers and their spouses early Saturday morning.

This prompted one member of Michigan's congressional delegation who was on the purported list to postpone a scheduled Monday evening town hall as a precaution.

Early Saturday morning the suspected shooter, identified as Vance Boelter, 57, who was dressed as a law enforcement officer, shot and killed Minnesota state Rep. Melissa Hortman and her husband inside their home. The shooter later wounded state Sen. John Hoffman and his wife, shooting them multiple times in their home. State and federal authorities have described the shootings as deliberate political attacks.

During a Sunday night press conference upon the shooter being taken into custody, Minnesota said a list of dozens of names of state and federal Democratic officials were found among the writings inside the suspected shooter's vehicle. The shooter was taken into custody near his home Sunday night.

It was not immediately clear Monday if the list of names may have been a list of potential targets.

During that Sunday night press conference, law enforcement said the names on the list included officials from Midwest states, including Michigan. A source told the Detroit Free Press on Monday that the list included names of multiple Democratic members of the Michigan congressional delegation, who were provided with additional security on Sunday evening.

"There's a few, I don't want to say it because it won't be exhaustive, but Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, some others, there was a variety – Nebraska, Iowa, we've had contact with," Drew Evans, superintendent of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, said in during the press conference after the shooter was taken into custody. "What I will tell you, and I won't get into any more specifics, (is that) we are in coordination with our federal partners and our fusion centers in those states and the state fusion centers that are there to be able to provide that information and notify those individuals that they were on that list."

U.S. Rep. Hillary Scholten (D-Grand Rapids) in a statement said she was postponing a town hall planned to be held in Muskegon due to her name being on the suspected shooter's documents. She pledged to have the event rescheduled as soon as possible.

"Open, honest dialogue with West Michigan is at the heart of my service – and I will not be deterred from standing up for this community," Scholten said. "Out of an abundance of caution and not to divert additional law enforcement resources away from protecting the broader public at this time, this is the responsible choice."

In an interview with Gongwer News Service on Monday, Benson confirmed that her name was among those found in the shooter's documents. She said the crimes committed warrant a potential revisitation of Michigan's policies requiring candidates for office and elected officials to list their home addresses on publicly available disclosure forms.

"It's hard, because you've got to balance transparency with security," she said. "I think we should examine all those things."

Benson said her experiences as a public figure have put her in a unique position to understand the tug-of-war between full disclosure and safety in an increasingly tense political climate.

"As someone who regularly has people showing up at my home and saying things through the mail, I've seen firsthand how important that is," she continued. "I think it's a conversation we should be having ... we've done it for judges, we've done it for domestic violence victims, so I think that should be revisited."

Rep. Sarah Lightner (R-Springport), who chairs the House Judiciary Committee, told Bridge Michigan Monday that she expects the "horrific and very, very sad" events over the weekend to bring the topic of revising address disclosure back before the Legislature in the coming weeks.

Benson spoke further about the shootings in a post to X, formerly Twitter, denouncing political violence in all forms and attributing the murders of the Hortmans and near-fatal shootings of the Hoffmans to a rising tide of division and threatening rhetoric in politics.

"Public officials wake up every day to serve their communities and work toward a better future – no one who chooses to serve the people should fear for their life doing their job. Yet that is what this era of violent rhetoric and threats is producing," Benson said. "The targeted assassinations and assaults in Minnesota are gutting and horrifying. We cannot accept this violence as normal, and we all must work to turn down the hate and division that led to these tragedies."

U.S. Rep. Shri Thanedar (D-Detroit) in a statement said he was informed by U.S. Capitol Police and the FBI that he was among the Michigan officials listed in the shooter's documents.

"The heinous crimes the shooter allegedly committed are unequivocally politically motivated and should be condemned by everyone across the political spectrum. There is no place for political violence in a democracy," Thanedar said. "As for those who were victimized in this horrific incident, I am sending strength to the families of the victims as well as those who are currently recovering from their injuries."

Others reportedly on the list of names included U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Ann Arbor) and U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Detroit).

Messages left Monday with spokespersons with the Department of State Police and the Department of Attorney General were not immediately returned.

"The leader takes concerns of political violence very seriously. She is staying in close contact with state and local law enforcement," Rosie Jones, spokesperson for Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids), said Monday.

She referred Gongwer to State Police for further comment.

Michigan leaders from both parties condemned the shooting and the use of political violence which has seen a considerable uptick nationally over the last several years.

Previous incidents nationally have included a 2011 mass shooting that nearly killed then-Democratic U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords of Arizona, a mass shooting in 2017 wounding several people including Republican U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana ahead of a yearly congressional baseball game, and an attempt to assassinate Donald Trump in 2024 while he was campaigning for a second term as president.

In Michigan, there have been multiple instances in recent years of threats made against members of the Legislature. Most notably, several people were arrested in 2020 for a plot to kidnap and kill Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

"The shooting of two Minnesota lawmakers and their spouses is yet another horrific act in the continued rise of political violence in America. We must call out this violence, no matter who it's aimed at or where it originates," Whitmer said

on X, formerly Twitter, on Saturday. "The loss of State Rep. Hortman and her husband is a tragedy, and we are pulling for the recovery of Sen. Hoffman and his wife. This must stop."

Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II on X called the attacks "horrifying acts of violence against public servants and their families" while offering his condolences and prayers.

"There is no justification for political violence against anyone, for any reason. It has no place in this country." Gilchrist said.

A post Saturday on X from Senate Majority Leader Winne Brinks (D-Grand Rapids) showed her and Melissa Hortman having a meal together with their husbands. She said it had been a privilege to have known her and that state lawmakers across the country are grieving their loss.

"Steve and I are stunned and heartbroken for their families and we are praying for a full recovery for the Hoffmans. Violence is not how we settle our differences in this country, and we will not be intimidated into silence." Brinks said.

Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt (R-Porter Township) on X said he was "disgusted and heartbroken" Saturday by the news of the shootings.

"In this country we settle our political differences at the ballot box, not with violence." Nesbitt said.

House Minority Leader Ranjeev Puri (D-Canton) said Saturday's shooting was a sign of the increasing political divisiveness across the country.

"In order to begin bridging this gulf, those at every point of the political spectrum must recognize this did not happen in a vacuum," Puri said. "Our country has been slowly marching toward cultural and political polarization, with increasingly hateful rhetoric, and it is becoming easier – and more acceptable – to view those who disagree with you as inhuman. Now we are seeing the cost of that inhumanity. ... Whatever happens next, my caucus and I will continue, not without fear, but in spite of it, to advocate for the changes we know are critical to establishing a better, safer, state and world. Even for the people who disagree with us."

Attorney General Dana Nessel in a statement said there currently is no evidence of any danger to anyone in Michigan following the arrest of the shooter. She said her office will be in contact with lawmakers and other elected leaders in the wake of the events of last weekend.

"This is a devastating attack on public servants, public service, and our shared values as Americans," Nessel said. "We cannot tolerate political violence anywhere in this country and it must be met with the strongest, universal condemnation and every time. ... The Department of Attorney General remains vigilant in these efforts today and stands ready to enforce the full might of state law to keep Michiganders safe – including our elected officials."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 23** **Rep. Jerry Neyer (R) - Golf Outing**
PohlCat, 6595 East Airport Road, Mount Pleasant, 8 a.m.
- June 24** **Rep. Ann Bollin (R) - Breakfast Reception**
Governors Room, Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 8 a.m.
- Rep. Jason Hoskins (D) - Breakfast Fundraiser**
Hop & Vine Room, Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend Street, Lansing, 8 a.m.
- Rep. Julie Rogers (D) – Breakfast Fundraiser**
Michigan Municipal League, 208 N. Capitol Ave #1, Lansing, 8 a.m.
- Sen. John Cherry (D) - Breakfast Reception**
Michigan Association of Counties, 110 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 200, Lansing, 8:30 a.m.
- Rep. Carrie A. Rheingans (D) – Brunch Reception**
County Road Association of Michigan, 101 S. Washington Sq., Ste. 200, Lansing, 10:30 a.m.
- Rep. Alicia St. Germaine (R) - Flag Day Celebration**
The White House, 322 West Ottawa, Lansing, 11:30 a.m.
- Rep. Mike McFall (D) – Taco Tuesday Fundraiser**
Hop & Vine Room, Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend Street, Lansing, 11:30 a.m.
- Sen. Mary Cavanagh (D) - Lunch Reception**
Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Suite 1200, 110 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, 11:30 a.m.
- Rep. Joe Aragona (R) - Lunch Reception**
Governors Room, Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 12 p.m.
- Rep. Julie Brixie (D) – Summer Solstice Fundraiser**
Michigan Municipal League, 208 N. Capitol Ave #1, Lansing, 12 p.m.
- Rep. Brenda Carter (D) – Spring Into Summer**
Hop & Vine, Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend Street, Lansing, 4 p.m.
- June 25** **Sen. Paul Wojno (D) - Breakfast Reception**
Hop & Vine, Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend Street, Lansing, 8:30 a.m.
- Rep. Jimmie Wilson Jr. (D) – Breakfast Fundraiser**
Michigan Municipal League, 208 N. Capitol Ave #1, Lansing, 8:30 a.m.

June 25

Rep. Kathy Schmaltz (R) - Ice Cream Social

Governors Room, Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 11:30 a.m.

Rep. Penelope Tsernoglou (D) - Pizza with Penelope

Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend Street, Lansing, 12 p.m.

Rep. Jasper Martus (D) - CTE Fundraiser

Kelly's Downtown, 220 South Washington Square, Lansing, 4 p.m.

Sen. John Damoose (R) – Lansing Fundraiser

Governors Room, Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 4:30 p.m.

House Speaker Matt Hall (R) - Leadership Reception

Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend Street, Lansing, 5:30 p.m.

Michigan House Democrats - Tacos for Tabulators

East Lansing (Location provided upon RSVP), 5:30 p.m.

June 26

Rep. Stephanie Young (D) - Summer Fundraiser

Hop & Vine Room, Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend Street, Lansing, 8:30 a.m.

Rep. Noah Arbit (D) - Bagel Brunch

Michigan Municipal League, First Floor, 208 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, 10:30 a.m.

Sen. Rosemary Bayer (D) - Fundraiser

Hop & Vine Room, Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend Street, Lansing, 11:30 a.m.

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