

# MSH UPDATES FROM THE CAPITAL

January 24 - February 6, 2026

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, February 25th, 2026**

Governor's State of the State

## 35TH SENATE DISTRICT PRIMARY RESULTS

On Tuesday, February 3rd, the Special Election Primary was held for the 35th District State Senate seat. Former Marine and current Saginaw fire captain Chadwick Greene won the Democratic primary with approximately 60% of the vote, beating out Michigan Board of Education President Pamela Pugh, who finished with around 28% of the vote, with the four other candidates capturing the remaining votes.

On the Republican side, Saginaw Attorney Jason Tunney won in a tighter race, beating out Engineer and former Dow executive Christian Velasquez 51% to 43%. The other two candidates made up for the remaining 7%.

The 35th district seat was vacated in January 2025, following the swearing-in of former incumbent Kristen McDonald Rivet (D-Bay City) to the U.S. House of Representatives. The special general election between Greene and Tunney is scheduled in May.

## MICHIGAN SET TO TAKE ON NEARLY \$100 MILLION IN SNAP COSTS

Starting in the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year, the federal government is switching from a 50/50 split in covering the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) administration costs to 75/25, meaning that states will have to pitch in more for the program. The cost to run SNAP in Michigan for FY 2024-2025 was \$382.7 million, under the 50/50 split Michigan covered \$191.4 million. This number is projected to increase by \$95 million in the coming fiscal cycle to approximately \$287 million.

Additionally, due to the federal government penalization for states that have a 6% or higher SNAP error rate, the total cost for the Michigan SNAP program could be around \$768 million if the state's error rate is in the highest penalization bracket. Michigan's current SNAP error rate is 9.53%, just shy of the 10+% error rate that qualifies for the maximum penalty. According to the new regulations, if Michigan's error rate remains the same, the total cost for the SNAP program in the state would be \$607 million (\$287 million in upfront costs and a \$320 million penalty).

## MDHHS ANNOUNCES INVESTMENT IN SCHOOL-BASED DENTAL SEALANT PROGRAM

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recently announced a \$320,000 grant from the Delta Dental Foundation (DDF) to sustain and expand SEAL! Michigan, the state's school-based dental sealant program. Over the last 15 years, DDF has contributed over \$3 million to support SEAL! Michigan and water fluoridation efforts across the state.

The funding will help expand outreach and impact more students through preventive dental care, including screenings and sealant placement that help prevent cavities, reduce pain, and minimize missed school days.