

- ✓ Ask them to work with the Michigan Municipal League to develop language that will ensure that local units of government have a say in the process.

For e-mail links and addresses to committee members and the governor's office, visit www.mml.org and click on the fax alert update under the "What's New" section on the home page. If you have questions or need additional information, contact Arnold Weinfeld at aweinfeld@mml.org.

Telecommunications Rewrite Workgroup Formed - Chair of the Senate Technology & Energy Committee, Senator Bruce Patterson, has formed a workgroup to assist the Senate with the Michigan Telecommunications Act (MTA) rewrite. The MTA sunsets at the end of this year. The MML worked with Senator Patterson to ensure local government representation on the workgroup and have two representatives, Mayor Mike Guido of Dearborn and a representative from the City of Grand Rapids. MML will keep members updated on the progress of this workgroup. Industry and key legislators have indicated that they want to eliminate local government involvement in telecommunications (i.e. cable service, wireless communications, etc.), and have indicated the willingness to eliminate all local franchising for cable services. If you have questions on the MTA rewrite, contact Joe Fivas at jfivas@mml.org.

Election Consolidation Bills On to Final Vote in Senate - A series of bills, SBs 512-518, has passed the House and each of the bills is expected to be concurred in by the Senate as soon as Tuesday of this week. From there they will go to the Governor for her signature. As expected, last week a substitute for SB 513 passed the House, which would require village petitions to be filed by 4 p.m. on the 8th Tuesday prior to the election for villages holding September elections **this year only**. This exception was created to allow villages additional time this summer to collect petitions for offices, since the original deadline would have been June 21st, had the bill not been amended. After 2005, the petition deadline will be the 12th Tuesday prior to the election. Contact: Summer Minnick at sminnick@mml.org.

State Supreme Court rules favorably in Property Detachment Case – In a 6-1 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that multiple townships seeking to detach land from a neighboring municipality must each seek petitions for the parcels that would be added to their jurisdictions, thus protecting the integrity of the current statutory detachment process.

Two separate groups of townships (*Casco Township v. Secretary of State*, SC docket Nos. 126120, 126369) had attempted to detach land using single petitions and had sought writs of mandamus to force the Department of State to certify the elections.

Justice Cavanagh, joined by Justices Taylor, Weaver, Kelly, Corrigan and Markman, agreed with the trial courts and the Court of Appeals that the law did not allow a single detachment petition to cover multiple townships. The court noted that residents signing the petition must be registered voters of the affected jurisdiction therefore voters in Casco Township were not eligible to sign petitions for, or vote on a change in the boundaries of Columbus Township, the other township seeking to take land from the city of Richmond.

MDOT Indicates Decrease in Local Road Funding -MDOT has notified MML that fiscal year receipts of taxes and fees deposited into the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) for the current fiscal year (10/01/04 – 09/30/05) are not meeting the original revenue estimates