



The Governing Voice for
700,000 Wayne County Residents

CWW 2017-2018 Legislative Priorities

Revenue Sharing/Municipal Finance-

Michigan communities have lost approximately \$7.5 billion dollars in revenue sharing since 2003. This reduction, along with tanking property values, has caused major hardships in all of our communities. Western Wayne communities have had to slash services, cut employees, and reduce police and fire services. The Conference of Western Wayne believes the legislature needs to revisit how local communities are funded and reduce the unfunded mandates handed down by the State.

OPEB/Pension Reforms-

It is no coincidence that there is a \$12B OPEB liability statewide while local governments have lost \$7.5B in revenue sharing. To even attempt to remedy this liability issue, local communities need to have the ability to reform their OPEB and pension liabilities in ways that work best for the community. A “one size fits all” solution will not work in the long term. **For example, the legislation introduced last session would have saved Redford Township about \$300K, but moving current retirees into a Health Savings Account plan would keep retirees whole and would also save the Township about \$1.2M annually.** CWW believes locals are working on solutions for what works best in their individual situation, but need the tools to be able to accomplish these reforms.

Infrastructure Funding

Act 51 is an antiquated way to fund our broken infrastructure. An in depth look needs to be taken into how we fund repairs to roads, bridges, and sewer and water systems. The recent problems in Flint serve as a reminder that what is under the roads (water and sewer lines) are just as important as the roads themselves. We need to provide ALL local governments a proper funding mechanism that will allow for much needed upgrades to be made.

Michigan Tax Tribunal/Dark Stores

A 2016 decision by the Michigan Court of Appeals, ruled the Michigan Tax Tribunal does not comply with law when valuing “dark stores.” CWW believes the tax tribunal needs to conform to current law by using appropriate property valuation calculations. Last term, work was done in the House to force the tribunal to comply, but was held up in the Senate.

Stormwater Overflow

In the 2015-2016 term, the House worked on important legislation to limit municipal liability in heavy rain events. In 2013, a heavy rain event caused more than five inches of rain to fall in 90 minutes in Metro Detroit. Because of this storm, municipal sewer systems could not keep up which caused basements to severely flood. Multiple lawsuits have been filed over this storm-caused flooding. CWW supports legislation to limit municipal liability in such events.



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Next Generation 911

In addition to being advocates for local government and the 700,000 residents in western Wayne County, CWW also serves as one of four 911 service districts in Wayne County. The existing legacy 911 network, or copper lines, was built to accommodate 911 calls via landline telephones. Now that virtually everything is done via a wireless device, the existing legacy network is not sufficient.

Next Generation 911 is essentially moving from the old copper lines over to a fiber-optic network. A fiber based network would allow for much greater location accuracy when a 911 call is made, Text to 911 (equal 911 access for the speech and hearing impaired population), the ability to send pictures and videos to dispatch centers. In the case of an instance like a bank robbery, Next Generation 911 would even allow first responders to gain access into the banks security cameras in order to assess the situation prior to sending in our everyday heroes.

911 is currently funded at the local level. There is a \$.19 State 911 surcharge assessed to each mobile device and a local 911 surcharge that varies by County. Wayne County has a Local 911 surcharge of \$.42 per device per month. Presently, Next Generation 911 is being implemented throughout the State of Michigan. The costs are being covered by a small percentage of the \$.19 surcharge that has been placed in a fund over the years. In 2018, this fund will be dry. The largest county in the state, Wayne County, will not be able to implement Next Generation 911 without some type of change to the current 911 funding structure. Stakeholders are currently working together to find a statewide, equitable solution to the Next Generation 911 funding issues.