

# LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

## LEGISLATIVE STAFF TRAINING

FEBRUARY 11, 2022



Institute for Public Policy  
and Social Research  
**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

# LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES – FIRST LOOK 2023 BUDGET

### **JIM STANSELL**

SENIOR ECONOMIST  
HOUSE FISCAL AGENCY

Jim Stansell is the Senior Economist at the Michigan House Fiscal Agency and has been with HFA for the past 20 years. His responsibilities include forecasting economic conditions for the United States and Michigan, developing revenue estimates of Michigan's major taxes, and working with legislators and staff on tax and revenue issues. Prior to joining the legislature, he taught at Kalamazoo College, Michigan State University, and the University of North Carolina – Charlotte, and has also held positions at the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) at Michigan State and the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Unemployment Research in Kalamazoo. He holds an undergraduate degree in economics from Purdue University and a graduate degree in economics from Michigan State University.

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### **DAVID ZIN**

CHIEF ECONOMIST  
SENATE FISCAL AGENCY  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

David Zin is the Chief Economist with the Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency, a non-partisan agency that serves the Michigan Senate. His responsibilities include preparing economic forecasts for the U.S. and Michigan economies, estimating future state government revenues, estimating the potential fiscal impact of proposed tax legislation and evaluating tax policy issues. Zin has also worked as an economist specialist for the Office of Revenue and Tax Analysis in the Michigan Department of Treasury. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in economics and physics with honors from Washburn University and a Master's Degree in economics from Michigan State University.

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## **ANDY SOLON**

**DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
STATE BUDGET OFFICE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

Andrew Solon is Director of Legislative and External Affairs in the State Budget Office. He has considerable experience in policy, legislative and external affairs positions. Prior to his work in the State Budget Office, he was a Policy Advisor in the Michigan House of Representatives and Director of External Affairs for AT&T. He was director of StudentsFirst, a nonprofit organization advocating for educational reform and served as Legislative Director in the Michigan Senate and Michigan House of Representatives. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and Government from Central Michigan University.

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## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES – PACKAGES OF PROMISE**

## **JOSH HUNDT**

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Josh Hundt is the Chief Business Development Officer and Executive Vice President at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. He leads the organization's efforts to attract, retain and support businesses, foster high-wage skills growth, and catalyze entrepreneurship. Hundt has 15 years of experience in economic development and extensive knowledge of statewide economic development programs and policy development and management. He has played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of the Michigan Business Development Program, Good Jobs for Michigan Program, Michigan Build Ready Sites Program, and Michigan Small Business Relief, Restart, and Survival programs. He holds a Masters of Public Administration from Western Michigan University and is a graduate of Hope College

**Contact Josh Hundt  
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# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ROUNDTABLES

## CONSTITUENT RELATIONS

### **BOB ANDERSON**

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Bob Anderson has worked in the Michigan Legislature for the past six years, including time serving the past two Speakers of the House of Representatives. He's also worked on political races in Mississippi and Alabama. He's currently chair of the Saginaw County Republican Party and holds a degree in political science from Saginaw Valley State University.

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### **JIMMY JOHNSON**

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Jimmy Johnson is Member Services Advisor for Republican Caucus Services in the Michigan House of Representatives. He works to assure constituent and legislator community engagement and continued access to government leaders. He is a 2019 graduate of Central Michigan University and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science.

Contact Jimmy Johnson

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### **RACHEL CICHON**

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Rachel Cichon has worked in the Michigan House of Representatives, beginning as an intern and working into her present position. She has served as District Director for state Rep. Julie Brixie during the past five years and prior to that worked as Constituent Services Assistant for House Democratic Leader Sam Singh. She has experience as a resident assistant at Michigan State University, as a peer educator in the Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Prevention Program and as a library page. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Relations and Policy from Michigan State University's James Madison College.

Contact Rachel Cichon

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## **KATIE OLKOWSKI**

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Katie Olkowski works as a constituent services/ legislative aide for Rep. John Cherry in the Michigan House of Representatives. She is a graduate of Michigan State University's James Madison College and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Relations & Policy with a minor in Science, Technology, and Environmental Public Policy.

Contact **Katie Olkowski**  
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## COMMUNICATIONS

## **CHRISTINA DOERR**

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Christina Doerr is a communications professional with 12-plus years of writing experience who works for the Republican Caucus in the Michigan House of Representatives. She has been a communications advisor with the House Republican Communications Office since March 2016. Prior to her move to the Michigan House, Doerr worked as an editor and government reporter for the Argus-Press in Owosso for seven years. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from Central Michigan University. She grew up in Genesee County and commuted to Lansing until last fall when she moved closer to the state capital.

Contact **Christina Doerr**  
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## **GREG HULL**

INTERIM MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTOR

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Greg Hull is interim member service Director for the Democratic Central Staff in the Michigan House of Representatives. In that role, he helps coordinate constituent outreach for Democratic caucus members of the Michigan House. He has a long interest in housing issues gained during his college years at the University of Wisconsin. Returning to Michigan, he worked with Habitat for Humanity in Genesee County. He's volunteered for 14 different Habitat for Humanity affiliates in four different states. He is a member of Burton Parks & Recreation Commission. He holds two Bachelor's Degrees, one in political science and one in philosophy.

Contact **Greg Hull**  
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## CAREER ADVANCEMENT

### **BRENDAN RINGLEVER**

PARTNER

MICHIGAN LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS

Brendan Ringlever is partner in Michigan Legislative Consultants. He began his career in the Michigan Legislature, serving in various roles for more than a decade, including Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director to the Senate Majority Leader. He left public service in 2004 to join Michigan Legislative Consultants. As a son of a Dutch immigrant, he is a founding advisory committee member of the West Michigan Global Initiative in which he helped the state lead its first formal Trade Mission to the Netherlands in 2013 and served on the Orange Committee to coordinate the visit of the Dutch King and Queen to Michigan. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Economy at Hillsdale College. His community roles include service on the Michigan Film Commission, Michigan Children's Trust Fund Board, president of the Hillsdale College Alumni Executive Board and as volunteer with the Michigan Political Leadership Program.

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# STAFF TRAINING PROGRAM COUNCIL

## MATT GROSSMANN

*DIRECTOR*

*INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY*

Matt Grossmann is [Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research](#) (IPPSR) and Professor of Political Science at Michigan State University.

His book, *Red State Blues: How the Conservative Revolution Stalled in the States*, published in 2019, finds that while the Republican Party has gained substantial political control of state governments but has largely failed to enact policies that advance conservative goals.

His latest book, just published this summer is titled *How Social Science Got Better*. The work is the result of scores of personal interviews and survey research tracing developments delivering more accurate and profound social science discoveries.

Grossmann's the author of numerous books and articles and serves a Senior Fellow at the Niskanen Center in Washington, DC, host of [The Science of Politics Podcast](#) and a regular contributor to FiveThirtyEight's online political analysis.

He was named IPPSR Director in 2016. Under his leadership, Grossmann created a policy-relevant research search engine and the Correlates of State Policy online database (1,000 variables measured for all 50 states each year), designed a new online survey panel of political insiders, established a new training program for legislative staff, transformed an internship award into a leadership certification for legislative interns, and created an event series for training faculty to engage policymakers.

He received a bachelor's degree from Claremont McKenna College, a master's degree in political science in 2002 and doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2007.



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## **ARNOLD WEINFELD**

*ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR*

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Arnold is Associate Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) at Michigan State University as well as Director for Workforce and Economic Development Partnerships for the Office of Public Engagement and Scholarship within University Outreach and Engagement.

Prior to joining MSU, Arnold served as CEO of the Prima Civitas Foundation, a community and economic development non-profit organization. He also has worked for the Michigan Municipal League where he served in a number of roles and co-founded the Michigan Sense of Place Council.

Arnold began his career with the Michigan House of Representatives where he worked as a legislative aide, policy analyst and policy director. He has served his own community as an elected member of the Waverly Community Schools Board of Education and is currently on his local planning commission.

He is also on the boards of local and statewide organizations such as the Michigan Sense of Place Council, Rural Partners of Michigan, Capital Area College Access Network. He is a graduate of Michigan State University's College of Social Science Multi-Disciplinary Program.



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## **KATHLEEN M. WILBUR, PH.D.**

*SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS  
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Kathleen Wilbur is Michigan State University's senior vice president for government relations. Wilbur served at Central Michigan University, is the only woman to direct three State of Michigan departments, and served on the MSU Board of Trustees.

Before her MSU appointment, Wilbur, who joined Central Michigan University in 2002, was vice president for government and external relations. She also served as interim president for one year and then was vice president for development and external relations.

Prior to that she was director of the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services, director of the Michigan Department of Commerce, deputy director of the Michigan Department of Commerce and director of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulation.

Wilbur was chief of staff to State Senator William Sederburg, who chaired the Senate Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, among other assignments.

She was elected to the MSU Board of Trustees in 1984 and served unto 1991. Her peer reviewed journal publications and conference presentations focus on the role of institutional trustees and governing boards in higher education.

A 2007 inductee into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, Wilbur earned a doctorate in higher education administration, a Master's Degree in higher education administration, and Bachelor's Degree in journalism from MSU.



**Kathleen Wilbur, Ph.D.**  
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## **PATRICK I. CUDNEY**

*DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AND STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS  
MSU EXTENSION  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY*

Patrick I. Cudney was appointed the director of government and stakeholder relations for Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR), MSU AgBioResearch and MSU Extension on November 15, 2021.

Prior to this, Cudney served as associate director for operations of Michigan State University (MSU) Extension since September 1, 2014. He oversaw logistical and business operations, including supervising the field-based leadership team as well as providing leadership for the organizational development units of MSU Extension including budget planning and management, human resources, professional development, communications and marketing, program reporting and evaluation, diversity, technology and other essential program support.

Cudney also served as acting director of MSU Extension from March 2021 - May 2021.

## **ERIC WALCOTT**

*STATE SPECIALIST, MSU EXTENSION  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY*

Eric Walcott is a State Specialist with MSU Extension's Government and Public Policy programs. He works with faculty on campus and educators throughout the state to develop and implement educational programs related to state and local government.

Walcott's work focuses primarily on good governance, civic engagement, and fiscal sustainability, seeking to build capacity of state and local government officials as well as educate Michigan residents on issues related to state and local government and encourage their informed participation.

Walcott previously worked in the Michigan House of Representatives, and holds a Master's of Public Policy degree from Michigan State University.



**Patrick I. Cudney**  
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# LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM STAFF

## CYNTHIA KYLE

*COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER*

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Cynthia Kyle is communications manager at Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. Operationally, she helps to craft marketing communications, assists with brand management, strategic planning and visual communications, oversees media relations and implements the Institute's web, internet and social network educational strategies in multiple formats.

She has written for magazines, newsletters, newspapers, radio and online publications. She has taught journalism at Ohio State University, Wayne State University and Michigan State University.

She is a founding member of the revitalized Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame, and twice past president of the Mid-Michigan Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.



**Cynthia Kyle**

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## TATIANA MAINE-BROWN

*COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT*

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Tatiana Maine-Brown works as a communications assistant at the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. She is pursuing a Master's in Biological Chemistry at the University of Michigan Medical School and graduated from Michigan State University in the spring of 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in human biology with a pre-med focus in the Honors College. She was a Charles Drew Scholar at MSU.

In the Honors College, she served as a peer mentor for the Honors Navigators Peer Mentorship Program acting as a guide for first-generation students, international students, and students of color in the College.

She's been a Dean's List honoree and is looking forward to pursuing a career in women's health.



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## About MSU's Legislative Leadership Program

MSU's Legislative Leadership Program invites new members of Michigan's House of Representatives and Michigan Senate to engage in interactive sessions with content experts, including university faculty and practitioners, in the brief time between election and their first legislative sessions.

At its 1994 inception, LLP was designed to create a forum and the resources to help newly elected legislators meet the challenges of serving in a state with term limits. The program was meant to help legislators forge links to university policy resources.

Since that time, LLP has evolved into a broadened opportunity to gain insights into concepts that affect statewide constituencies, into evidence-based information on emerging issues and into the art and science of governing in divided times, such as under state House co-speakerships.

At the same time, IPPSR has evolved as a hub for policy expertise, information and outreach, a center for survey research training and excellence and an opportunity for training for those who seek leadership through elected office or public service. The program is built upon a series of specially designed events, including presenters, researchers and facilitated discussions. Sessions are focused on topics of compelling interest, from the state's revenue stream, to its expenditures, K-12 education, demographics and innovations.

IPPSR is proud that LLP has hosted a majority of newly elected legislators from each party and draws support from the Legislature's highest officers. The program continues to build on MSU's long-standing tradition of providing leadership training to state and county officials, community leaders, and aspiring public officials.

The LLP is consistent with the policy and research education efforts conducted both on and off campus in support of state legislators, their staffs and their communities. It resides at IPPSR as companion to IPPSR's Public Policy and Education, the Michigan Political Leadership Program, the State of the State Survey and Office for Survey Research. LLP draws on the resources and leadership of each of these outstanding programs.

### **A New Opportunity: Legislative Staff Training**

A new opportunity was recognized in 2016, and by 2017 the very first LLP Legislative Staff Training program was introduced. It was built on the LLP model, adding expanded interactive elements, a new bipartisan partnership with Michigan's State House of Representative and Senate leaders. With the arrival of term limits, Michigan's Legislature allows for more turnover in legislating and in staffing. It also encourages more movement from staff to elected legislator.

To this new opportunity, career-building resources were added, along with more personalized attention through smaller roundtable discussions and closer event evaluations upon which new training components were built. State agency administrators and deputies were a greater part of the educational experience, giving legislative staff a well-rounded understanding of bottom-to-top state governance. Both programs remain cooperatively produced by IPPSR, MSU Extension and MSU's Office of the Vice President for Governmental Affairs.

This educational outreach allows IPPSR to meet its long-established educational missions bridging policy and practical applications of personal leadership, governing and economic growth. They also are in step with IPPSR's other enriching programs – including Public Policy Forums, Michigan Political Leadership Program, the Rosenthal Internship Awards, Office for Survey Research, State of the State Survey and the newest addition, the Michigan Policy Insiders Panel.

For more information about LLP and all other IPPSR programs, please contact Arnold Weinfeld, Interim Director, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, 509 E. Circle Dr., Room 321, East Lansing, MI 48824. He can be reached by phone at (517) 355-6672 or by email at [weinfeld8@msu.edu](mailto:weinfeld8@msu.edu)

## Acknowledgments

IPPSR is proud of the many events and activities it undertakes throughout the year. They require exacting attention to detail, a strong desire to meet personal needs and an ability to answer the call to service and commitment.

Please join us in thanking those whose work may be behind the scenes, yet is still essential to LLP and other IPPSR operations: Administrative Assistant Iris Taylor Harper, Information Technologist Jes Sprague and Program Coordinator Katherine Cusick.

The staffs at MSU's Office for Governmental Affairs and MSU Extension deserve great credit for their assistance. At the state Capitol, IPPSR is grateful for the assistance of Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, Senate Democratic Leader Jim Ananich, House Speaker Jason Wentworth and House Democratic Leader Donna Lasinski. Kristen Aldrich, Employee Engagement and Project Coordinator in the Michigan Senate Business Office, and Lisa Curtis, Executive Assistant in the Michigan House of Representatives, are vital to this effort.