

State Oversight Academy

What is the State Oversight Academy?

The Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy at Wayne State University Law School launched the State Oversight Academy (SOA) in March 2023! SOA is the first and only national institution dedicated to promoting effective bipartisan factfinding and oversight by state legislatures as essential to good governance and democracy.

As the U.S. Supreme Court noted in 1953, when Congress engages in oversight, they become the “eyes and voice” of the American people; this applies with equal force to state legislatures.¹ SOA will build a national community of practitioners, scholars, and other experts, good governance advocates, and the public interested in advancing transparent and accountable government and mitigating disinformation that can foster extremism and stymy dialogue across the political divide. By advancing the theory and practice of bipartisan, fact-based legislative oversight, SOA will become a leader in advancing democratic renewal and civic discourse across the United States.

What does SOA have to do with the Michigan Legislature?

The SOA aims to improve legislative oversight in Michigan and across the country to increase the presence of facts on government processes and procedures for legislative decision making. It is up to state legislatures to conduct oversight to ensure essential government programs and services are being implemented equitably and effectively. The goal is for elected officials and their staff to be equipped with the tools needed for fact-based oversight.

One of the ways SOA aims to enhance state legislative oversight is with the newly launched Wiki. The [State Legislature Oversight Wiki](#) compiles information about the oversight efforts in all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia and U.S. territories. Each lists basic information about the state’s legislature, committees that focus on oversight, fiscal committees, oversight partners (such as Inspectors General and state auditors), and fiscal data. Reports are also being compiled [by topic](#). We will continue adding oversight committees and more reports in the (near!) future, so check back often!

For more information on the State Oversight Academy, please visit stateoversight.org. If you have questions, contact Ben Eikey, State Training & Development Manager, at Benjamin.Eikey@wayne.edu.

If you have questions, suggestions, or contributions to the State Legislature Oversight Wiki, contact Kyle Goedert, Research & Communications Specialist, at kgoedert@wayne.edu.

¹ United States v. Rumely, 1953