

MICHIGAN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

*Celebrating our
31st annual fundraising dinner*

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Lansing Center: 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI

5:30 p.m - 8:00 p.m (Buffet dinner and program)

The Michigan Political Leadership Program (MPLP) was founded in 1992 coinciding with the implementation of term-limits and the need to create a bipartisan learning platform for future elected officials. The first class of fellows were selected in the Fall of 1992. It is a non-profit entity, supported by the The Ballmer Group, The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Michigan State University, Michigan associations, corporations, labor organizations, MPLP alumni and individuals.

Since its inception, MPLP at Michigan State University has recruited, trained, and inspired public policy leaders, offering them the vision, commitment and skills necessary to govern effectively. In a bipartisan learning environment, a diverse group of 24 individuals from across the state engage in a public policy and leadership curriculum. The 10-month program incorporates practical politics, public policy analysis and process, personal leadership development and effective governance. More than 850 MPLP graduates have put the skills acquired through the program to work in their communities.

MPLP is administered by the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR), guided by an Advisory Board, and co-directed by Rudy Hobbs and Tonya Schuitmaker.

Rudy Hobbs currently serves as Partner for Michigan Legislative Consultants. Prior to his role, he served as an Oakland County Deputy Executive where he oversaw the departments of the Central Services (including the Oakland County International Airport), Health & Human Services, and Public Services. Hobbs also served as Chief of Staff for Wayne County from 2015 -2017 and two-terms in the Michigan House of Representatives from 2011-2014, where his colleagues elected him the Democratic Floor Leader. He represented Southfield, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Beverly Hills, Franklin, and Royal Oak Township.

Tonya Schuitmaker currently serves as a Senior Advisor for Michiganders for Civic Resilience and is a partner at Schuitmaker Moraitis Law Firm. She served in the Michigan State House for three terms (2004-2008) where she held a number of leadership roles including Assistant Minority Floor Leader. In 2010, Tonya was elected to the Michigan Senate and was chosen by her colleagues to serve as President Pro Tempore, where she was only the second woman to ever hold this leadership position. Tonya served on the Senate Appropriations Committee and as Chairperson of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education. She also served on the Judiciary, and Energy & Technology Committees.

FEATURED SPEAKER



Robert Costa

CBS News' Chief Washington Analyst, National
Correspondent for "CBS Monday Morning"

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

\$10,000 | PLATINUM

\$5,000 | GOLD

\$2,500 | SILVER

\$1,500 | BRONZE

INDIVIDUAL TICKET
\$150

For more information, please contact Linda Cleary,
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mplp.msu.edu

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