



## 500 Letters From Local Government Leaders Coming Governor's Way

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Letters from 500 municipal leaders asking for action on a permanent revenue sharing funding stream were sent to the Governor today as part of a late lame duck push by local government groups.

Rep. [Amos ONEAL \(D-Saginaw\)](#) and Rep. [Mark TISDEL \(R-Rochester Hills\)](#) are the legislative faces behind the movement to pass a Revenue Sharing Trust Fund, which cleared the House 106-4 in November 2023, but has stalled in the Senate, despite some support there.

[HB 4274](#) and [HB 4275](#) dedicate 8.7 percent of the 4-cent portion of the state's 6-cent sales tax to local revenue sharing. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, such a move would generate about \$625 million, which was the size of the statutory revenue sharing given to locals in FY 2025.

While the bills are hung up in the Senate, today's focus was on the governor's office, who conceivably is reluctant to lock a funding stream into state law that eliminates some of her budget office's flexibility when crafting annual spending plans.

"We're urging. We're pleading. We're begging the governor to make this a lame duck priority," Tisdell said.

In response, Gov. [Gretchen WHITMER](#)'s Press Secretary Stacey **LaROUCHE** wrote, "We've increased revenue sharing to a 20-year-high. We will review legislation as it makes its way through the process."

The push comes roughly six months after local governments received the type of revenue sharing boost they were looking for in the FY 2024 budget (See "[Locals Like Revenue Sharing Hike: Treasury Satisfied Too](#)," 7/12/24).

However, Michigan Municipal League State and Federal Affairs Director John **LaMACCHIA** said he's looking for a permanent, predictable and stable funding stream.

At a press conference today in Lansing, four local officials took turns emphasizing the importance of communities knowing what they're getting year to year so they can provide the water, public safety, roads and services their residents need.

"Clearly, the system is broken," said Macomb County Commissioner Antoinette **WALLACE**.

"But you don't have to take my word for it. The non-partisan Citizens Research Council has called our current system of financing basic local services as unsustainable."

The trust fund, Wallace said, is a "necessary and needed first step."