

Michigan League for Public Policy

Advancing economic security, racial equity,
health and well-being for all people in every
part of Michigan through policy change.



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

mlpp
MICHIGAN LEAGUE FOR PUBLIC POLICY



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2017 Highlights: Moving Forward Against All Odds

2017 was one of the most contentious years in recent memory as far as the political landscape goes, but with your support, the League was able to stand strong in our century-long history and our mission as partisan battles were fought all around us. What's right for Michigan does not depend on a political season. It all comes down to the people.

Last winter, you helped us stand up against a disastrous plan to reduce or eliminate the state income tax. The plan would have drained resources that provide for good schools, colleges, and investments in our roads and communities—the things that are truly important for

economic growth and security—all to create a tax system that favored the wealthy. The League's—and your—advocacy efforts helped fend off this myopic plan and we continue to work for sound investments in the state.

You joined us in fighting for our state as major disruption at the federal level threatened the livelihood—and even the lives—of our residents, especially since more than 40% of Michigan's budget comes from federal funds. When the president's budget was released last spring, the League

sprang into action in order to fight against cuts to vital programs. The budget was followed by many attempts over

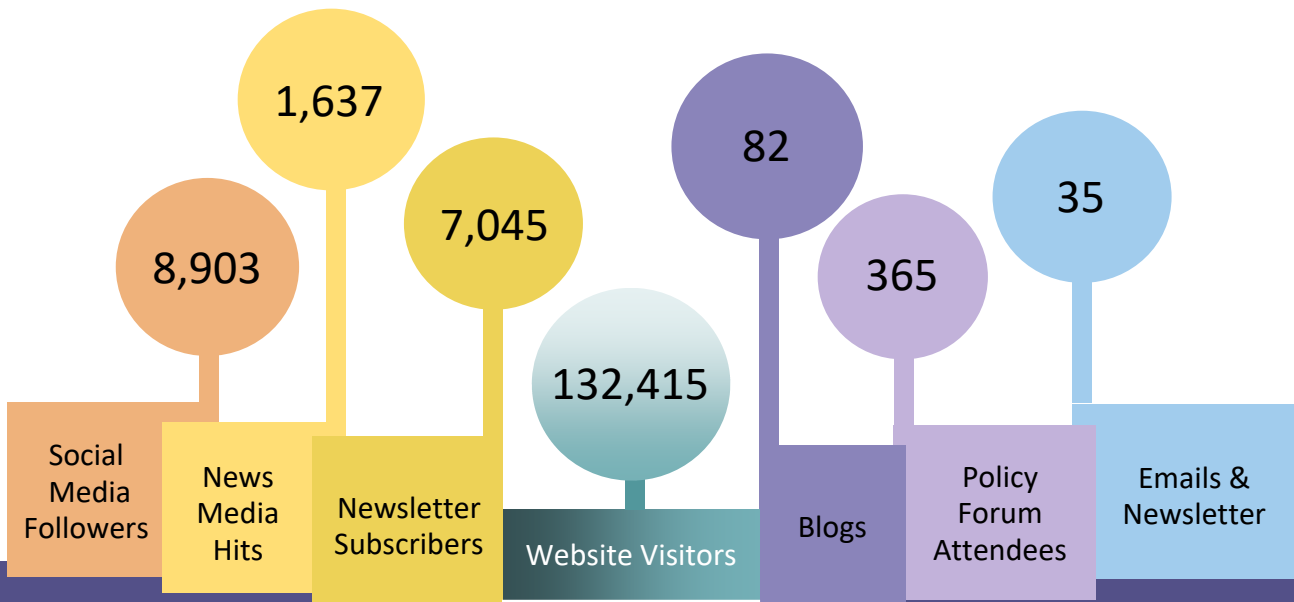


"League CEO Gilda Jacobs, Board Chair Charles Ballard, Board Vice Chair Sonia Harb and national policy expert Bob Greenstein speak with Michigan residents at the 2017 public policy forum."

(continued on last page)

Success by the Numbers

Communications with Members and Friends



Message from the President & CEO Gilda Z. Jacobs

Last January, I had a real fear that many of these pages would be blank. After the 2016 election and all of the divisive rhetoric that came with it and the campaign promises and policy to do's (largely to undo) of the incoming president, how were we going to accomplish anything? And with the attacks on all fronts and urgent needs everywhere in the nonprofit community, how were we going to compete for resources and attention and show our donors and supporters that they were more important than ever?

But fueled by your passion and energy, the League did what we have always done—fought hard in the face of adversity, used data and analysis to combat the partisanship, political games and presidential tweets, and ensured that everyone had a voice in public policy, especially those who are too often overlooked and unheard.

And you did what you've always done—stood by our side and supported our efforts in any and every way that you could, making donations, emailing, calling and writing your state and federal lawmakers, and promoting our work on social media.

And I thank you for that. The League thanks you for that. And the people of Michigan thank you for that.

As you can see in our highlights, several of this past year's biggest victories were simply (and narrowly) avoiding defeat—including beating back a reduction or elimination of Michigan's income tax and fending off several attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Other achievements just came from fighting back and speaking out.

Increased concerns over immigration policies being made at the state and federal level have made this issue more important than ever for the League, and the addition of a new policy fellow, Victoria Crouse, enabled us to expand our work on behalf Michigan's immigrants. Coming from an immigrant family herself, she has been able to blend her personal

experiences with data and policy insights to tell compelling stories.

The League continues to work to undo the racial and ethnic inequities that hold Michigan and its people back, but so much more was needed to heal and learn this year. We spoke out strongly about the racist and violent protests in Charlottesville, Virginia. And with 2017 marking the 50th anniversary of the racial uprising in Detroit, my colleague Renell Weathers and I used this as an opportunity to share our experiences living in the Detroit area in 1967, what we experienced, what we've learned, and how that affects our work today.

How we work is always evolving, and we were excited to do more with social media advertising and online advocacy to engage with a wider audience and reach the most influential lawmakers. We also continue to strengthen our community engagement work in local communities, including collecting and sharing the personal experiences of people affected by policies and decisions made in Lansing or Washington.

Thanks to your support, the League will continue to stand strong in our mission despite the partisan struggles around us. Our work is never finished as we all strive for progress. The people of Michigan need us, and we, in turn, need you.

Warmest wishes,



Gilda Z. Jacobs



Gilda Z. Jacobs



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League's Policy Agenda: Building a Stronger Michigan

THE RESULTS MICHIGAN NEEDS

A 21ST CENTURY SKILLED WORKFORCE
A FLOURISHING ECONOMY AND INCREASED COMPETITIVENESS
ADEQUATE STATE REVENUES TO INVEST IN PROVEN SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED TO GROW THE ECONOMY
EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL OF THE STATE'S CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, ELIMINATING BARRIERS BY INCOME, RACE AND PLACE

Strengthen Families with Children

- Increase access to high-quality child care by expanding eligibility and rates
- Invest in early learning programs for 3- and 4-year-olds
- Expand home visiting and other supports for parents of young children
- Fund programs to find and serve young children with disabilities
- Support child abuse and neglect prevention
- Ensure that 17-year-old youths are in the juvenile justice system and not treated as adults

Skills for the New Economy

- Adequately fund public schools, community colleges and universities
- Invest in early intervention as an alternative to mandatory retention of third-graders
- Fully fund At-Risk School Aid
- Expand adult education and training
- Provide more financial aid for college students and older adults with low incomes

Work and Economic Opportunity for All

- Support work by expanding the state Earned Income Tax Credit
- Reduce extreme childhood poverty by removing barriers to public assistance and increasing support
- Encourage savings by eliminating the asset test for food assistance

Healthy Kids and Families

- Maintain adequate funding for Medicaid and the Healthy Michigan Plan
- Expand access to mental health and substance abuse services
- Reduce infant mortality and eliminate racial/ethnic disparities
- Prevent exposure to lead and other toxins statewide
- Fund evidence-based prenatal smoking prevention and cessation
- Eliminate healthy food deserts

Strong Revenues and Smart Investments

- Support a progressive income tax that adequately funds state services
- Modernize the state's sales tax to cover selected services
- Annually review tax expenditures

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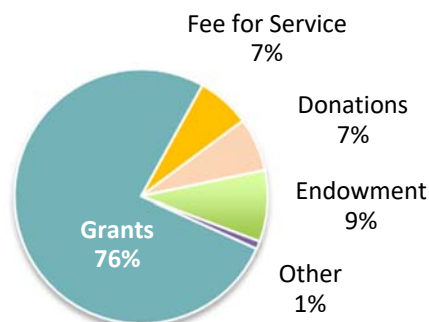
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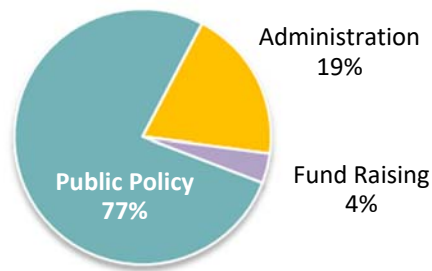


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Sources of Funds — \$2,802,839



Expenditures — \$1,777,973



League Earns Four Stars as a Charitable Organization



(2017 Highlights continued from page 1)

the summer to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, which more than a million Michiganders depend on. The League and our supporters stood strong to protect the healthcare of Michigan's residents, forming a coalition with 20 partner organizations in order to raise awareness and combat these dangerous efforts.

National concerns continued throughout the year, and autumn brought with it the federal tax plan and its budget impact, which the League fought at every turn. The plan, with its tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations, will likely cost several trillion dollars over the coming decade. And as Republicans in Congress pushed for this plan, they let the bipartisan Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) expire. The League put together an online advocacy campaign to call on Congress to save CHIP, which helps 120,000 Michigan kids including children in Flint. Through the passionate advocacy efforts of the League and our supporters, funding for CHIP was successfully renewed.

Our work on the federal front did not, however, distract us from our goals here at home. Our efforts helped secure funding for many state programs. Here are just a few accomplishments you enabled us to achieve in 2017:

- **"Heat and eat" policy continued.** The "heat and eat" policy increases food assistance benefits for nearly 340,000 Michigan residents, and the final budget included \$2.5 million for the program.
- **Child care and education funding increased:** A \$19.4 million increase for child care provider reimbursements, increased at-risk funding for students whose families struggle, and an increase in the child care entrance eligibility threshold are all major wins for Michigan's kids and families.
- **Residential Alternative to Prison expanded:** This program means more low-risk probation violators will have an opportunity to receive occupational training and cognitive behavioral programming.
- **Funding for Healthy Michigan Plan continued:** The state's Medicaid expansion program serves 650,000 residents and will continue to provide access to healthcare in the coming year.
- **Child Lead Poisoning Elimination Board recommendations funded:** The budget includes \$500,000 to begin

implementation of 80 actions the state should take to eliminate lead poisoning.

- **Increased funding for foster families:** \$3.6 million will support regional resource teams to recruit, train and support foster families, as well as help young people transition from foster care to independent living.

Our Mission

To advance economic security, racial equity, health and well-being for all people in every part of Michigan through policy change.

Vision

Michigan residents, families and children from all races, places and income levels will have equal access to economic, health and educational opportunities.

Values

- Honesty, Integrity and Nonpartisanship
- Social and Economic Justice, Fairness and Opportunity
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Democratic Process and the Dignity of All

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