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LOCAL #1

Title: 2026 Constitution Convention Ballot Proposal

Michigan's current state constitution, adopted in 1963, contains a provision requiring a statewide ballot proposal every 16 years asking voters if they want a constitutional convention to draft a new constitution. This will be on our state ballot in the general election scheduled for November 2026. If the proposal passes, delegates to draft the new constitution would be elected in partisan elections from each of Michigan's 38 state senate districts and 110 state house districts. Current estimates of the cost for this process are in the range of 45 million dollars. Since 1963 this issue was voted down by voters in 1978, 1994, and 2010.

MFB policy does not currently take a position on this issue. There are several points to consider before you vote. Here are just a few:

Reasons to vote yes.

1. Provides an opportunity for farmer members to serve as delegates (*really?*)
2. Allows for potential improvement to state government (*perhaps?*)
3. Aligns with several MFB policy statements that would support constitutional amendments to accomplish MFB policy goals. (*true*)

Reasons to vote no.

1. Amending the current state constitutional issue by issue is a more direct approach.
2. Our new governor and legislators (to be elected in 2026 due to term limits) deserve the opportunity to govern without the constraints from a constitutional convention at the same time.
3. Creates uncertainty, as the outcome is unknown. (*We could be worse off than we are now.*)

Therefore, be it resolved: Monroe County Farm Bureau members must continue to learn more about the potential impact of a new state constitution over the next 12 months and become informed voters. Unless unforeseen issues arise before the opportunity to vote, your policy development committee currently feels the risk of a revision having a negative impact on agriculture far outweighs the opportunity for a positive impact. Your policy development committee will continue to learn more about this issue and bring back a recommendation for your vote at our annual meeting in September 2026.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted_____

Defeated_____

LOCAL #2

Title: Tile Drainage / Roadside Ditches

We are aware of the regulation preventing new farm drainage systems from being installed with outlets into roadside drainage ditches, unless these are also county drains. However, we are aware that recent improvements of Monroe County roadways have included major changes to existing roadside drainage ditches. A recent change in grading of roadway right-of-ways in Monroe County has had negative impact on adjacent farmland. Roadway improvement and grading has diverted surface water onto farmland that has caused crop losses. Changing the elevation of the roadside ditch in some cases has eliminated the continued use of the roadside ditch for existing tile outlets rendering installed tile drainage systems inoperable.

Since the 2024 Monroe County Farm Bureau annual meeting, Monroe County Farm Bureau has communicated directly in person with the Monroe County Board of Road Commissioners and the Monroe County Commissioners to express Farm Bureau's concern about the lack of farmer input when road improvements are being planned. Specifically, where potential impact of water movement, both surface and subsurface, on land adjacent to these improvements could be impacted by elevation changes of roadside drainage ditches. This was well received by the Monroe County Commissioners and less well received by the Board of Road Commissioners.

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. When the reconstruction of roadways by the Monroe County Road Commission makes changes to roadside ditches that impact tile outlets historically allowed into these ditches, initial design and site plan should include input from the farm owner/operator of said land.
2. When the reconstruction of roadways by the Monroe County Road Commission is designed there must be a plan for surface water to be diverted in a manner that will prevent runoff onto adjacent farmland.
3. That Monroe County Farm Bureau Board continues to express our concern about this issue with the Monroe County Board of Road Commissioners with both written and in person communication.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted_____

Defeated_____

LOCAL #3 and STATE #1

Title: **Rural Road Designs**

The Monroe County Road Commission has been changing road intersections throughout the county. Unfortunately, several of the new intersections, such as narrow roundabouts, cannot accommodate agricultural equipment.

Since Monroe County is a major agricultural community, we ask the Monroe County Road Commission engineers to re-evaluate these changes. The goal is to ensure the roads can accommodate agricultural equipment and the trucks that transport food, fuel and fiber.

We also request that the Monroe County Road Commission consult farmers in any proposed project area. This consultation should focus on the design's impact on agricultural equipment and truck movement.

Therefore, be it resolved: We recommend adding new language to **MFB Policy #93, County Road Commissions**, to read:

Michigan Department of Transportation to require county road commission engineers to evaluate future road projects to accommodate agricultural equipment and the trucks that use these roads.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted _____

Defeated _____

STATE #2

Title: **Stabilizing Michigan Road and Highway Funding and Improving Construction Practices to Maximize Road Life**

It is time to set in place a more permanent method of paying for the sorely needed rebuilding of Michigan's infrastructure. While no one method of funding Michigan's infrastructure rebuilding will accomplish this massive undertaking, some prudent guidance in setting a direction for Michigan Legislators and the Governor is required. Once our tax dollars are committed, we must ensure that the quality and durability of future road and infrastructure projects are used to maximize the usable lifespan of these construction projects.

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. Creation of a Michigan Infrastructure Fund be considered as a method for protecting future infrastructure funding. Oversight of this fund should not be completely in the hands of Michigan Department of Transportation but by an

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appointed board of infrastructure construction professionals, local government leaders and impacted shareholders. Such a fund would act as an infrastructure “funding bank” with funding available for state highways, bridges and local projects.

2. Michigan Public Act 51 should be completely re-written or repealed entirely. Any overall regulation concerning road and infrastructure spending guidelines should be determined by the oversight board of the proposed Michigan Infrastructure Fund. Spending should not be pre-determined by percentages by apportioning funds by urban, rural and pedestrian factors. Road and infrastructure funding should flow to those projects in the greatest need of rebuilding and not for infrastructure “improvements”.
3. New construction methods, practices and material should be considered when these innovations will extend the usable life of any project, even if such innovations increase the project’s cost. Unique soil and geological properties (ie: waterlogged, sandy, gravel) must be considered and roadbeds constructed to maximize road life and durability.
4. Collection of a road usage fee on all electric powered vehicles. Said usage fee would be added onto the annual State of Michigan license plate fee. All usage fees collected would be dedicated to road and infrastructure funding.
5. 100% of all collected fuel excise taxes, Michigan sales tax and any EV usage fees be mandated to be spent solely on funding road and infrastructure and prohibited from being spent on “overhead” such as office rent/leases, salaries and any equipment not directly used in these rebuilding projects.
6. We support raising the Michigan motor fuels tax only to cover the loss of eliminating the Michigan sales tax collection on motor fuels.
7. The (proposed) Michigan Infrastructure Fund should have the ability to apply for grants and be authorized to obligate the State of Michigan to offer (sell) Road and Infrastructure Fund bonds.
8. Legislation should be offered that commits the Michigan Legislature along with the governor, to make up any shortage to the (fiscal) year authorized spending from the proposed Michigan Infrastructure Fund.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted_____

Defeated_____

STATE #3

Title: **Public Act 116 and Permanent Conservation Easement**

Public Act 116 of 1974, amended as Public Act 451 of 1994 created an improvement in quality of life throughout the State by conservation easement (leasing) of open space in 10-year increments. Payments to property owners are for not developing land during the conservation (lease) agreement with an income tax credit.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and the Michigan Department of Treasury positions/views have changed regarding the permanent conservation easement agreements. They believe that permanently preserved properties are no longer eligible for the tax credit.

These properties have permanently sold their development rights of the property.

MDARD and Treasury now view, after three decades, that permanent easements are not afforded PA 116 tax credit. Most permanently preserved tracts of land are enrolled in Public Act 116 of 1974.

Due to property owners assigning their development rights to a conservancy or state/federal agency, it prevents them from ever capitalizing on the increased value of the land. Municipalities will continue to increase assessed taxable values, costing landowners more without benefit of possible development.

All Michigan residents benefit from quality of life from preserved open space.

Therefore, be it resolved: Michigan farmers and landowners support the continuation of the PA 116 tax credit benefits on permanently preserved open space land, not just program assigned restrictions of PA 116 agreements.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted_____

Defeated_____

STATE #4

Title: **MAEAP Reauthorization**

Michigan Farmers understand the importance of environmental stewardship.

Therefore, be it resolved:

Michigan Farm Bureau supports the reauthorization of Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP).

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We encourage the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to strongly support the reauthorization of this outstanding program.

We encourage additional financial support for on farm programs such as Soil Testing to Reduce Agriculture Nutrient Delivery (STRAND 2.0), and Soil Health Investigation Program (SHIP).

We also encourage additional funding of SHIP through Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (MDEGLE) and the soil conservation districts.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted _____

Defeated _____

STATE #5

Title: **Wildlife Management**

We support the formation of a Wildlife Management Advisory Committee comprised of members from diverse regions across the state ensuring broad representation of experiences and impacts.

The committee should be charged with:

1. Recommending changes, additions, and updates to Farm Bureau policy related to wildlife management.
2. Supporting the implementation of Farm Bureau policy by providing input on engagement opportunities with stakeholders, participation in public meetings and interaction with media.
3. Bringing forward member-driven perspectives on wildlife issues impacting Michigan agriculture.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted _____

Defeated _____

STATE #6

Title: **Biodiesel Tax Incentive Legislation in Michigan**

In July 2025, legislation was introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives to establish a tax incentive for biodiesel production and sales within the state. This legislation is detailed in House Bills 4721 and 4722.

Key Provisions of the Legislation

- Retail Tax Credit: Retailers would receive a two-cent per gallon credit for B6-B10 biodiesel and a five-cent per gallon credit for B11 and higher blends.
- Producers Tax Credit: Michigan biodiesel producers would earn a two-cent credit for each gallon produced.
- Duration and Caps: All incentives would be in effect for six years, with caps set at \$16 million for retailers and \$2 million for producers.

Due to a recent decline in soybean exports, Michigan soybean farmers are seeking additional incentives to promote domestic uses for their crops. Biodiesel production is seen as a critical component of a diversified energy strategy in the United States.

The bills were sponsored by Representatives Alexander and Witwer, along with 20 bipartisan co-sponsors. Currently, the legislation has been referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Therefore, be it resolved: Farm Bureau members are encouraged to contact their respective Representatives to express support for House Bills 4721 and 4722, which aim to advance biodiesel tax incentives in Michigan.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted_____

Defeated_____

STATE #7 and NATIONAL #1

Title: **Domestic Action Plan (DAP) for Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB)**

The Domestic Action Plan in 2018 was 30 pages.

The draft in May of 2024 was 89 pages.

The current version of the DAP in 2025 is 129 pages.

The draft of the Western Lake Erie Domestic Action Plan (DAP) 2024 focuses heavily on monitoring, modeling and assessment of nutrient losses. Appropriations on programs within the plan have primarily focused on studies, not on actual actions on the ground for farmers to implement practices that will actually reduce nutrient loss. Numerous programs within the agricultural industry such as Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP), manure handler's certification, etc. were not recognized for their measurable contributions to improvement of water quality.

Concerns regarding Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) concept "paid for performance" programs. The programs when they were developed would have been funded with the remaining \$12 million of the \$25 million for nutrient management with MAEAP reauthorization five years ago.

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If the \$12 million would have been invested into water quality programs 3-½ years ago with the Soil Testing to Reduce Agriculture Nutrient Delivery (STRAND) 2.0 which evolved into the Soil Health Investigation Program (SHIP) at Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (MDEGLE), consider what water quality improvements could have occurred by now if action had been taken then. Ohio's H2O program funding of \$270 million has had measurable impact on the WLEB.

Many of the challenges requiring change will be costly to implement. Farmers produce food and fiber which everyone needs. Consumers receive the best quality at the lowest price every day in Michigan.

Therefore, be it resolved:

Greater funding for MDEGLE and soil conservation district's SHIP programs.

There needs to be a greater focus on pre-existing funding systems that can help implement voluntary changes in the agriculture industry. Example USDA -FSA CRP, NRCS EQUIP programs. A greater emphasis on pre-existing proven tools that can be effectively utilized to mitigate nutrient migration off farm fields. CRP and CREP have already demonstrated effective nutrient retention within the basin.

How to get more producers involved?

- Stronger cost share programs such as USDA FSA, MDARD STRAND 2.0.
- Cost share grant programs must be easy to understand and streamlined to apply.
- Show economic benefit to production systems due to changes in management practices recommended within the DAP. Illustrating economic returns to the operation is the strongest selling point for voluntary change.

Charts should include 2024 phosphorus loading to reflect changes which have already been achieved.

The impact of the MAEAP programs needs to be credited for part of the success already achieved.

USDA FSA and NRCS need additional, better trained staff in the counties within the Western Lake Erie Basin.

Cost share programs should be available to all producers large and small.

The plan should outline the structure and frequency of dialogue between MDARD, MDEGLE and other state and federal government shareholders in Western Lake Erie Basin. i.e., Ohio Department of Agriculture, Indiana agencies, USDA, EPA, etc.

There needs to be a list of all partnerships and groups involved with the development and delivery of the DAP.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted_____

Defeated_____

NATIONAL #2

Title: **Presidential Commission to Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) Report**

The Presidential Commission to Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) released an initial assessment in May 2025. This assessment includes policy recommendations and claims regarding the safety of pesticides and herbicides, which are essential to modern agriculture.

Many commodity associations have raised concerns that the MAHA Commission's initial assessment contains claims about crop protection tools that are not based on sound science. These claims contradict decades of extensive research and safety testing by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Those commodity associations have warned that if the MAHA Commission's policy recommendations are implemented to restrict or remove access to critical pesticides like atrazine and glyphosate, it could severely hamper farmers' ability to manage pests and weeds, potentially reducing crop yields by over 70%. Such restrictions would not only harm the livelihoods of American farmers and threaten the stability of the nation's food supply but would also likely lead to increased food costs for consumers and create non-tariff trade barriers for American agricultural products.

In response, numerous commodity associations have sent letters to President Donald J. Trump, calling for his intervention. The letters urge the President to ensure the MAHA Commission respects the EPA's established science-based and risk-based regulatory process for pesticides and that the final report does not unnecessarily jeopardize critical farming tools. It is vital for the continued success of American agriculture and the economic well-being of rural communities to support a science-based regulatory framework that ensures the safety of crop protection products while also allowing farmers to produce a safe, abundant, and affordable food supply.

Therefore, be it resolved: Michigan Farm Bureau should support the commodity associations' letters to President Donald J. Trump and their position regarding the MAHA Commission report.

Therefore, be it resolved: Michigan Farm Bureau should urge the administration and all relevant federal agencies to respect and uphold the science-based regulatory process of the Environmental Protection Agency. They should also work collaboratively with the agricultural community to ensure that any future policies are founded on sound science and do not undermine the tools and practices that are essential to produce American food and fuel.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted _____

Defeated _____

NATIONAL #3

Title: **World Trade**

Bilateral and multilateral trade agreements open opportunities for U.S. agricultural production and U.S. made products to the world. With more than 20% of U.S. agriculture production destined for foreign markets, agricultural exports are vital to the financial success of U.S. farmers.

In 2024, the U.S. exported \$176 billion in agricultural products to a total of 189 countries and territories. New negotiations with world leaders to open markets to U.S. products are greatly needed and overdue.

Countries have utilized tariffs and sanitary and phytosanitary standards as protection mechanisms, keeping American agriculture production out of their markets for decades.

It is time for fairer and open trade. Short term pain for long-term gains.

Therefore, be it resolved: Michigan agriculture supports President Trump's aggressive ongoing global trade negotiations.

We ask that all future trade agreements:

- Reduce or eliminate all tariffs.
- Harmonize and standardize all sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted_____

Defeated_____

NATIONAL #4

Title: **Clean Air Standards - Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF)**

The cost of new diesel vehicles and equipment are in the stratosphere.

Since 2010 much of the repair cost and problems of new diesel power units have been related to the emission systems. The technology for emission sensors and controls is not reliable and expensive to repair or replace. Many times, these repairs are not even covered by warranty.

Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF), which is a liquid urea, is very corrosive to the engine & emission systems which utilize it.

The removal of the DEF requirements will save the USA economy millions of dollars annually. The removal of DEF will lower the cost of transporting goods and services, providing savings to every consumer.

Therefore, be it resolved:

We support President Trump's directives to the EPA to reduce the requirement of diesel exhaust fluid operation to meet emission standards on new and used diesel vehicles, equipment, and power units.

We would encourage President Trump to push for the complete removal of DEF requirements on diesel engines.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted_____

Defeated_____

STATE REAFFIRMATION #1

Title: **Local Control over Siting**

On a party line vote in Fall 2023, the Michigan House and Senate voted to allow the State to approve large solar, wind and energy storage proposals with a capacity of 100 megawatts or more. On November 28, 2023, Michigan Governor Whitmer signed PA 233 into law, stripping local governments, who know their community and its residents best, the permitting authority over large scale renewable energy products.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) now has the task of determining the location of such projects. Local governments may enact a “compatible renewable energy ordinance” (CREO) whose requirements are not more restrictive than the requirements in state law. Any local ordinance whose requirements are more restrictive than the requirements of state law are deemed incompatible and can be overruled by the MPSC. Any future electric providers would no longer be required to go through the local approval process and could seek direct approval from the MPSC. This is an illusion of local control that forces local governments to mirror the requirements of the Act to be denied any involvement in the process.

A state-wide ballot initiative failed to gain the needed signatures in time to stop this law from taking effect on November 29, 2024. This is contradictory to Michigan Farm Bureau policy of local control over the approval process of renewable energy proposals.

Therefore, be it resolved: Farm Bureau members and local government officials should work toward rectifying this injustice.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted _____

Defeated _____