

What Have You Done For Me Lately?

MACPA Efforts in Advocacy

The laws under which a CPA's professional livelihood exist are established by the 148 State Legislators in Lansing and enforced by multiple agencies in the Executive Branch. The MACPA's legislative agenda is flooded with issues of importance to Michigan's CPA profession and your legislative team is working daily to advance initiatives and monitor action.

- ***SB 368 & 369 MBT Technical Corrections:*** Because the MBT remains the tax of record, and will be from 1/1/08 to 12/31/11, the MACPA State & Local Tax Task Force's Subcommittee on Business Tax Restructuring completed a report on needed MBT technical corrections and ambiguity clarifications which has been introduced by Senator Jack Brandenburg (R – Harrison Twp) and Chair of the Senate Finance Committee and Co-Sponsored by Senator Bieda (D – Warren). Senate Bills 368 and 369 were introduced on May 10. With Bi-partisan support from the beginning the future of this legislation looks bright. For details regarding the initiative's content or updates on status, contact the MACPA Government Relations Department.

- ***Privity 2011:*** In 1995 a law was passed at the behest of the MACPA to protect CPAs from liability regarding the use of a CPA's work product by third parties. That law was intended to use a "bright line" test for who was and wasn't the intended recipient of a work product. Recently this area of law has been interpreted by some judges in a manner inconsistent with original intent and harmful to CPAs. For that reason the MACPA is working on legislation to further protect the CPA from liability to third parties unless formal communication was made between the CPA and the third party acknowledging the use of said work product.

- ***Taking care of our own:*** Five MACPA members won seats in state level elected office last election. The MACPA is proud to say that your PAC dollars are being used in support of these elected CPAs. Earl Poleski, CPA (State Representative 64th District, Jackson), Tom McMillin, CPA (State Representative 45th District, Rochester) Lisa Howze, CPA (State Representative 2nd District, Detroit) and Paul Clemente, CPA (State Representative 14th District, Lincoln Park) will represent the profession with honor. The MACPA has also held an event in support of now Governor Rick Snyder, CPA. With the drawn out fiscal crisis in State government the expertise of CPAs is needed now more than ever. MACPA members from across the state are encouraged to learn more and become involved in the efforts of colleagues to serve in public-office. The MACPA stands behind its members.

- ***MACPA Aids Governor Snyder in Early Budget Process:*** Members of the MACPA came together at the request of then Governor-Elect Rick Snyder to simplify the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) produced by the State of Michigan. So complex was this document that few non-CPAs could decipher it. A subgroup of the MACPA Task Force on Michigan's Turnaround provided considerable input to the Anderson Economic Group and the Business Leaders for Michigan in their work with the Governor to develop the 2011 Citizens Guide to Michigan's Financial Health, available at www.michigan.gov/budget. In a speech to the Business Leaders for Michigan, Governor Snyder thanked the MACPA for the instrumental involvement by these experts. The MACPA continues to be engaged with the Governor in helping lead Michigan forward.

- ***Administrative Rules Re-write:*** The Administrative Rules promulgated by the State, and under the umbrella of the Michigan Occupational Code, need to be updated to reflect the recent changes made in statute. These changes include the license mobility provisions and the even more recent changes to the experience requirements for original CPA certification in Michigan. The MACPA will be working closely with members of the State Board of Accountancy and the Licensing Bureau to appropriately revise the Administrative Rules in 2011.

- ***Corporate Income Tax:*** Now that the Corporate Income Tax (CIT) has been signed into law by the Governor, the same experts that produced the MBT technical corrections legislation are working on an independent and objective technical review of statutes affected by the CIT. The group has already communicated with both the Snyder Administration and the Legislature regarding potential unintended consequences and ambiguities and will continue to do so through the summer.