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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director  
Legislative Policy Division Staff 

DATE: June 3, 2025

RE: **AMENDED RESOLUTION FOR ENDING PROPERTY TAXES FOR SENIORS**

City Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway and Council President Mary Sheffield have requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to produce a resolution for Michigan Senate Bill 292, which would eliminate property taxes on the primary residences of individuals over the age of 70.

Please contact our office if we can provide any further assistance.

**AMENDED RESOLUTION FOR ENDING PROPERTY TAXES FOR SENIORS**

- WHEREAS** Michigan Senator Michele Hoitenga recently introduced Senate Bill 292, which would amend the Michigan Property Tax Act to exempt Michigan residents ages 70 and older from paying property taxes on their primary residences;<sup>1</sup> and
- WHEREAS** According to the U.S. Census, Michigan residents ages 65 and older represent around 20% of the Michigan population,<sup>2</sup> and the proportion of senior residents is expected to increase over the coming years;<sup>3</sup> and
- WHEREAS** In 2023, over 10% of Michigan adults age 65 and above are living at or below the poverty line,<sup>4</sup> and a recent poll showed that more than 50% of Michigan adults 50 and older reported having financial stress;<sup>5</sup> and
- WHEREAS** Many Michigan seniors live on a fixed income, and rising health care costs have placed a financial strain on seniors who pay out of pocket for health care not covered by Medicare or insurance, with one-third of Medicare beneficiaries stating that they had difficulty affording health care costs;<sup>6</sup> and
- WHEREAS** It is well documented that financial worries and strain often have a negative impact on both physical and mental health by exacerbating medical conditions,<sup>7</sup> and financial strain can result in worse health outcomes if individuals hold off on seeking treatment because they cannot afford it; and
- WHEREAS** As a result, it is imperative that Michigan lawmakers find ways to reduce the significant financial burdens faced by many Michigan seniors; and
- WHEREAS** To qualify for the exemption under SB 292, an individual would have to be age 70 or older, own and occupy their home as a primary residence, and file a claim with their local assessor; and
- WHEREAS** In order to compensate for the potential loss of revenue to local governments, SB 292 provides that the state will reimburse local governments for the revenue shortfall from the state's general fund on an annual basis; and
- WHEREAS** If SB 292 passes, it could offer significant financial relief to Michigan seniors, particularly those who are retired and who live on a fixed income; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2025-SB-0292>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/MI/PST045223>

<sup>3</sup> Michigan Center for Data and Analytics, Michigan Statewide Population Projections through 2050 - <https://www.michigan.gov/mcda/-/media/Project/Websites/mcda/reports/2024/Michigan-Statewide-Population-Projections-through-2050.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/poverty\\_sr/MI](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/poverty_sr/MI)

<sup>5</sup> <https://michiganadvance.com/2024/07/19/poll-older-michiganders-are-facing-financial-squeeze-despite-states-recovering-economy/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/2023/oct/can-medicare-beneficiaries-afford-their-health-care-2023-survey>

<sup>7</sup> Ryu S, Fan L. The Relationship Between Financial Worries and Psychological Distress Among U.S. Adults. J Fam Econ Issues. 2023;44(1):16-33. doi: 10.1007/s10834-022-09820-9. Epub 2022 Feb 1. PMID: 35125855; PMCID: PMC8806009.

**RESOLVED** That the Detroit City Council hereby urges the Michigan Legislature to pass Michigan Senate Bill 292; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**

**RESOLVED** That the Detroit City Clerk provide a copy of this resolution to Mayor Mike Duggan, the Detroit delegations of both the Michigan State House and Senate, and Governor Gretchen Whitmer.