



TOPICS IN THE NEWS:

2021 in Review (December 2021)

INTRODUCTION

As the second year of the pandemic closes, it is time to look back on how some of the ‘timely topics’ we covered in 2021 have moved forward – or sideways. We have linked our original Timely Topic and provided new links on recent developments. We look forward to presenting you with a new slate of topics for 2022!

If you need assistance accessing any of these resources linked in this document or need more information, please contact the Library of Michigan at Librarian@Michigan.gov or by phone at 517-335-1477.

UPDATES BY TOPIC

Marijuana

Our previous Timely Topic ‘[The P\(l\)ot Thickens: The Legalization of Marijuana in Michigan](#)’ focused primarily on recreational marijuana, but recent developments relate to new legislation that has opened a schism of sorts within the marijuana industry between caregivers and corporate growers.

[“What’s all the fuss about caregiver cannabis in Michigan?”](#) *Lansing City Pulse*, Sept. 23, 2021.

[“MCMA Head Escorted from Tense Hearing on Marijuana Caregiver Bills”](#), *Gongwer*, Oct. 5, 2021.

[NCSL Town Hall : State Cannabis Regulation](#), Oct. 6, 2021.

School Based Mental Health

Support for [mental health services in schools](#) has grown, but the tragedy at Oxford High School magnifies the need to continue to address the tenuous state of mental health among youth.

[“Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Michigan Youth ...”](#), *Citizens Research Council of Michigan*, June 2021.

[“K-12 Budget Signed, Praised As ‘Transformational Investment’](#)”, *Gongwer*, July 13, 2021.

[“Michigan is expanding mental health services in schools...”](#), *Second Wave Michigan*, Sept. 16, 2021.

OSB

[Online sports betting](#) continues to grow in Michigan and elsewhere, but the conversation about the cost v. gains remains open-ended. Recent legislative developments focus on closing tax loopholes on gambling losses.

[“Michigan Sports Betting Passes \\$500 Million ...”](#), *PlayMichigan.com*, Dec. 16, 2021.

[“Online betting's rapid growth comes with a price for some”](#), *Crain's Detroit Business*, Dec. 17, 2021.

[“MI Legislature Approves Bill To Allow Tax Deductions For Betting Losses”](#), *PlayMichigan.com*, Dec. 15, 2021.

Electric Vehicles

After a splashy reveal and boost from President Biden in May 2021, the [EV industry charged ahead](#), though Michigan was [sidelined](#) when it came time for Ford to choose a [‘shovel-ready’](#) site for a new plant. Industry and state leaders look to incentives and partnerships to grapple with a lack of infrastructure and [rare earth materials supply chains](#) that are key to the success of the electric vehicle.

[“Ford didn't give Michigan shot at new electric plants, Whitmer says”](#), *MLive*, Sept. 30, 2021.

[“Whitmer to Legislature: Time to re-arm MEDC with new 'tools'....”](#) *Crain's Detroit Business*, Oct. 6, 2021.

[“Whitmer wants EV charging circuit around Lake Michigan”](#) *Detroit Free Press*, Sept. 9, 2021.

[“Whitmer: Michigan can take lead in electric vehicle highway, job training”](#), *Bridge Michigan*, Sept. 22, 2021.

[“Whitmer: Agencies Mobilizing Federal Funding for EV Infrastructure”](#), *Gongwer*, Dec 6, 2021.

Tourism

Prior to the appearance of the omicron variant, [tourism in Michigan](#) showed signs of rallying, but the recent surge and subsequent impact on professional sports league schedules, Broadway shows, and international restrictions is complicating holiday travel plans.

[“Muskegon summer tourism ‘rebounding’ after taking a hit in 2020”](#), *MLive.com*, Oct. 7, 2021.

[“Michigan Matters: Will Tourism Rebound as the Pandemic’s Grip Lessens?”](#), *CBS Detroit*, July 2, 2021.

[“Should travelers rethink holidays plans with the arrival of the omicron variant?”](#), *WXYZ Detroit*, Dec. 21, 2021.

Expungement

As the first effective date of Michigan’s [‘clean slate laws’](#) nears, legal advocates and local governments continue to develop programs to help citizens navigate the [expungement process](#).

[“Expungement program launches to help Kent County residents ...”](#), *MLive.com*, Nov. 27, 2021.

[“Ypsilanti approves grant for marijuana expungement program”](#), *The Eastern Echo*, Nov. 22, 2021.

[Clean slate for Michigan](#), Safe & Just Michigan.

The Great Resignation

The [quits keep coming](#), but at least at a slowed pace. The [Job Openings and Labor Turnover Summary](#) (JOLTS) for October 2021 was down to 2.8 percent, from September’s record high of 3.0 percent. That puts it on par with rates seen over the summer.

[“Employees Still Quitting Jobs at High Rate”](#), *Small Business News*, Dec. 13, 2021.

[JOLTS – October 2021](#), *Bureau of Labor Statistics Press Release*, Dec. 18, 2021.

[“COVID’s Effect on Retirement in the U.S.”](#), *Michigan Journal of Economics*, Nov. 22, 2021.