

STATE SENATOR • JOHN J. GLEASON • 27TH DISTRICT

Gleason Press Release

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Senator Gleason Helps Pass Budgets to Increase Aid to Genesee Schools, Secure Michigan Jobs and Protect Fenton Secretary of State *Halloween Budget Resolutions Avoid Scare to Genesee Residents*

LANSING —Early Halloween morning, Senator John Gleason (D-Flushing) and his Senate colleagues avoided any partisan tricks and instead developed a budget solution to benefit all Michigan—and Genesee County—residents. The Senate passed all seventeen state budgets, which are now headed to the Governor for enactment.

“This could’ve been a very scary Halloween for Michigan residents, but instead of being a gory budget slasher, our parties were able to work together to resolve our deficit without reducing important programs to piles of bones,” Sen. Gleason said. “This morning, we were able to fend off some major threats to the well-being of Genesee County residents.”

Highlights among the 2007-2008 Budget Resolution include:

- **Increases in Per-pupil Funding:** The K-12 Schools Budget will give schools an average increase of about 1 percent in their per-pupil funding. But the amount will vary, with highest-funded schools getting smaller increases than the lowest-funded districts. This is especially good news to the Genesee County School District, with many previously under-funded school districts getting substantial increases in their state funding under the 2007-2008 budget passed tonight. Under the new education budget, Flint City Schools will receive an additional \$1,179,157, Grand Blanc Schools will get \$708,034 more, and Carman-Ainsworth Schools will receive an extra \$387,175. Other Genesee County Schools that received per pupil increases include Davison, Fenton, Flushing, and Linden Schools.
- **Keeping Open Secretary of State Offices:** The General Government budget requires the Department of State has to notify the Legislature at least 180 days before closing or consolidating a Secretary of State branch office and at least 60 days before relocating a branch office. It also stipulates that the Fenton Secretary of State, which Secretary Land had proposed closing and Sen. Gleason and the community rallied to protect, will remain open and that any future changes will require significantly advanced notice.
- **Funding MI Workers First:** The Michigan Strategic Fund budget includes Senator Gleason’s proposal that tax breaks and other economic development incentives be awarded to businesses that hire 100% Michigan workers.

“These were all major concerns of the people I represent, and we were able to achieve these victories in the budget process only through their mobilization and vocalization to protect the things they hold most dear,” said Gleason. “I have been working throughout this budget process

to protect our schools, our jobs and the state services we rely on, and this solution does just that.”

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