

“NEVER DOUBT
THAT A GROUP
OF THOUGHTFUL,
COMMITTED CITIZENS
CAN CHANGE THE WORLD,
INDEED,
IT'S THE ONLY THING
THAT EVER HAS.”

**Margaret
Mead**

MISSION
TO MAXIMIZE
THE
HEALTH,
INDEPENDENCE,
AND DIGNITY
OF PEOPLE
AS THEY
AGE.



**MICHIGAN SENIOR ADVOCATES
COUNCIL**

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**MICHIGAN SENIOR
ADVOCATES COUNCIL**

MSAC:
AN ACTION TEAM OF
SENIOR LEADERS WHO
STUDY ISSUES AND
INFORM ELECTED
OFFICIALS



Tel: 517-886-1029

WHAT IS MSAC?

The Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC) is a unique group of senior leaders who journey to Lansing every month from across the state. MSAC meets in the State Capitol to study senior issues, and inform elected officials. Delegates devote a significant portion of each meeting to visiting legislators' offices and talking with them and their staff.

MSAC consists of 35 older adults appointed by Area Agencies on Aging. They have three things in common:

- Age—delegates are 55 and over.
- Ties to Aging Network—every delegate is an Advisory Council or Board Member of an Area Agency on Aging.
- Leadership—delegates are active in local and state senior groups, understand the aging network and its services, and are recognized as knowledgeable leaders.

Beyond these similarities, MSAC is a diverse group which cuts across racial, ethnic and economic categories. Delegates hail from big cities and rural communities. In this way, MSAC represents Michigan's diverse senior population. MSAC is nonpartisan and does not endorse political candidates.

A BRIEF LOOK BACK...

MSAC was created in 1977 by the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (AAAAM) to fulfill the mandate of the Older Americans Act to advocate on behalf of older adults. The delegates quickly established themselves as advocates in the fullest sense, speaking



up on senior issues, and giving advice to Area Agencies on Aging, the legislature and state government. Since its creation, MSAC has generated thousands of letters and petitions, numerous phone calls, and countless

face-to-face contacts with legislators and state officials. And all of that activity has paid rich dividends! MSAC deserves much credit for our aging services system, including

- the first prescription drug program
- statewide expansion of the MI Choice Waiver
- funding increases for meals-on-wheels and other in-home services.
- creation of home heating assistance
- state funding for dial-a-ride programs
- long term care reform legislation..

MSAC has also left its mark on many pieces of legislation benefiting older adults such as nursing home quality regulations, Medicare supplemental insurance standards, patient rights legislation, Blue Cross Blue Shield reform, and guardianship reform.

These are but a small sample of MSAC's accomplishments.

AFFILIATION WITH AAAs

MSAC works hand-in-hand with Michigan's 16 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), who appoint its members and provide financial and staff support through their statewide association, AAAAM. AAAs are a nationwide network of over 600 agencies created by the federal Older Americans Act in 1973. That year, President Nixon and Congress decided that a separate network of agencies was needed to create a service system that would be a viable alternative to nursing homes. AAAs are experts on aging. They create new programs with public-private partnerships, find funds to expand services, and advocate on behalf of older adults, especially those unable to advocate for themselves.

MSAC CHAIRMAN

Jordan Lockmiller, Lake

MSAC VICE-CHAIR

Ray Byers, Plymouth

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