

What Has the MICPA Government Relations Department Done for CPAs Lately?

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- 1.** MICPA led the effort to revise interpretations related to COD Income, ITC recapture and renaissance zone credits in the MBT. This bill, now Public Act 282 of 2014, clarifies ambiguities where Treasury enforcement of the law ran counter to common sense.
- 2.** MICPA supported several legislative initiatives aimed at improving taxpayer rights in Michigan, including a requirement that the Department of Treasury pay interest on late refunds, clarification on the look back period for the voluntary disclosure agreement (VDA), the establishment of a state level "offer in compromise" program and more. Now Public Acts 133 and 135 of 2013 and Public Act 240 of 2014 respectively.
- 3.** The MICPA PAC successfully supported another CPA candidate for State Representative in the 2014 election. Chris Afendoulis was victorious in his bid for the 73rd House District in Grand Rapids. His victory was due in part to aggressive support from the MICPA PAC. This win will send 4 CPAs to the Michigan Legislature along with our CPA Governor.
- 4.** The MICPA worked with Governor Snyder to secure a staff person in the licensing Bureau in the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs who is focused solely on accountancy, thereby streamlining regulatory process for CPAs such as licensing, enforcement, etc. This was the culmination of efforts nearly a decade long.
- 5.** MICPA aggressively worked for Corporate Income Tax (CIT) clean up legislation and was successful before technical issues became major issues, passing a 4 bill package into law that clarified such issues as ITC recapture, intercompany eliminations for unitary groups, and net operating loss successorship. Now Public Acts 13, 14, 15 and 16 of 2014.
- 6.** The MICPA filed an amicus brief in support of the Fradko/SMK position before the Michigan Supreme Court that requires the Department of Treasury to send all notices to those with Powers of Attorney in addition to the taxpayer. The decision was a positive one for Michigan taxpayers and tax preparers/consultants alike.
- 7.** The MICPA participated in workgroups with state policy makers and representatives from the Governor's office to develop legislation aimed at creating early warning systems for school districts and local governments approaching financial crisis. The resulting proposal is now far more acceptable for CPA firms.
- 8.** MICPA continues to work actively with State Treasurer Kevin Clinton to improve the customer centric nature of the Department of Treasury. Evidence of improvement was well represented through the most recent messaging regarding changes to Sales Use and Withholding (SUW) filings. The MICPA worked closely with Treasury to make sure our members were aware of the necessary requirements to file.