

We welcome the participation and input of the following panelists:

Charles Ballard
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Dr. Ballard is Director of the State of the State Survey (SOSS) and Professor of Economics at Michigan State University. He is a distinguished economist, widely published and well-known for his ability to communicate the complexities of economics in everyday language. His research has focused on such topics as tax policy, healthcare financing and Michigan's financial future. Dr. Ballard co-edited "Michigan at the Millennium," a portrait of the state's fiscal and economic structure and is winner of the 2007 College of Social Science Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award. His most recent book is "Michigan's Economic Future: Challenges and Opportunities." He is also the author of "Real Economics for Real People" and "A General Equilibrium Model for Tax Policy Evaluation." He has served as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Treasury.

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Douglas Smith serves as Senior Vice President of Strategic Partnerships and Government Affairs for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Doug directs both state and federal relations. He works with MEDC's statewide network of local and regional economic development partners including the state and local chambers of commerce, Next Energy, Michigan Manufacturing Technology Council (MMTC), Automation Alley, Center for Automotive Research (CAR), the Grand Rapids area's Right Place Program and the Collaborative Development Council (CDC). Doug also oversees efforts with the Interdepartmental Collaborative Council (ICC) and liaison with the Michigan Economic Development Foundation.

Smith holds a bachelor's degree in economics and government from Lawrence University, and a master's degree from the University of Michigan in public policy, specializing in international economics. He is also a licensed real estate broker. He was previously Oakland County's Deputy County Executive and has also worked for the city of Troy as the director of real estate and development.

Richard Studley
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Rich Studley became President & CEO of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce in July 2008. Before this appointment, Rich served as the Chamber's Executive Vice President from 2005 to June 2008. From 1997 through 2004, Rich was the Chamber's chief lobbyist. He joined the Chamber's Business Advocacy Team in May 1981 as Manager of Taxation and Labor Relations. In June 2013, Rich was elected to the Board of Directors of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He also serves as Chairman of the U.S. Chamber's Committee of 100, representing the top 100 state and local chambers of commerce in the USA; and as Chairman of the U.S. Chamber's Accreditation Committee for state and local chambers.

Rich received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Alma College, and a Master of Science in Administration degree from Central Michigan University. Prior to joining the Chamber, Rich was program director for the Michigan Senate Republican Office, and prior to that, City Manager for the City of Clare, Michigan.

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http://www.chemistry.msu.edu/faculty-research/faculty-details/params/group/pmhunt/

Forum Moderator:

AnnMarie Schneider
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AnnMarie Schneider serves as director of the Legislative Leadership Program for Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. The program provides a policy orientation for incoming lawmakers. She also develops the Institute's annual forum series and manages a multi-million dollar grant program that funds research related to topics facing the policymaking community. AnnMarie has directed her passion and expertise toward linking the research, policy, and education communities through public deliberation focused on society's most challenging issues. In the advent of term limits, she has helped to model similar connections on a national and international level.

A graduate of St. Robert Bellarmine University's Bachelor of Arts program, AnnMarie is from Louisville

Kentucky where she completed her Masters of Science degree at the University of Louisville.

Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research:

Douglas B. Roberts, Ph.D., Director
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Dr. Roberts currently serves as Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) at Michigan State University and has been affiliated with IPPSR since April 2003. He holds more than 28 years experience in Michigan government, including 10 years as state treasurer, and time as director of the Senate Fiscal Agency, deputy superintendent of the Department of Education, deputy director of the Department of Management and Budget (DMB), and acting director of DMB. He holds a doctorate and a master's degree in economics from MSU and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Maryland. He has been affiliated with IPPSR since April 2003.