

## Government Relations Update January 22, 2008

### **Presidential Primary Wrap Up**

The January 15<sup>th</sup> Presidential Primary seems to be a distant memory. What we can take from the whole process is that northwest Michigan continues to grow in prominence as a region that is important for candidates to visit. The area saw stops from Mitt Romney, John McCain and Duncan Hunter, as well as former candidate Sam Brownback. This is great news for our region. We are confident that we will see similar attention come this fall, hopefully from candidates of both major parties.

Below is a chart breaking down the top finishers in each of the Northwest Michigan Regional Chamber Alliance areas.

	Romney	McCain	Huckabee		Clinton	Uncommitted
Traverse City Area COC	40.16%	33.28%	11.89%		53.46%	38.10%
Charlevoix Area COC	37.62%	36.54%	12.01%		53.82%	39.37%
Petoskey COC	36.53%	33.69%	16.06%		45.01%	48.94%
Gaylord-Otsego COC	37.23%	35.36%	14.17%		64.19%	30.34%
Cadillac Area COC	30.08%	38.19%	19.46%		66.03%	28.46%

### **Legislature resumes session for 2008**

The Michigan legislature resumed their regular meeting schedule on January 16<sup>th</sup> for 2008. At this time, both chambers have scheduled session to be held through June 2008, with a two week break for the Easter holiday in late March-early April. The schedules for both chambers can be found at [www.mileg.org](http://www.mileg.org).

### **State of the State Address January 29<sup>th</sup>**

Governor Granholm will give the annual State of the State Address on Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> before a joint convention of the Legislature, beginning at 7:00 p.m. There is much speculation as to the content of the address, though it is widely held that the following areas will likely make the cut among many: Michigan's economy and job training/re-training, alternative energy and renewable portfolio standards, Great Lakes Compact and water regulation, and city centers/downtown renewal.