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ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON CHALLENGES WITH LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

The BFAAM Annual Conference in October focused on the challenges that our membership is experiencing in dealing with local municipalities. While many municipalities are very helpful and easy to work with, our membership often sees some local units of government making requirements above and beyond those of the Michigan Building Code.

Our keynote speaker featured Keith Lambert who serves as the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Construction Codes in the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). Keith has always been very responsive and resourceful for BFAAM members when situations arise with local municipalities. We invited him to join us to discuss “Disagreement Avenues for Resolution.” Essentially, he laid out the steps that our association and its members need to follow if they want to file a complaint against a local unit of government. To view his presentation, [click here](#).

Another concern that we heard a lot of feedback from our members deals with plan review submissions and more specifically, the Accela program through LARA. Pat Riney, Plan Review Manager, and Adam Krouse, Plan Reviewer for the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) were on hand to provide a presentation on BFS’ authority in the State of Michigan and the Accela program. To view this presentation, [click here](#).

Other presentations from LARA included Ben Parker, Licensing Division Director, Lance Ash, Chief of the Electrical Division and Jon Paradine, Division Director, Bureau of Construction Codes. Of note from these presentations is that the Electrical Code will NOT be adopted until late 2023. The department has decided to skip over adoption of the 2020 code and move to adopting the 2023 code. 



2022 ELECTION RECAP

The November election certainly brought some surprises, especially in Michigan races. Gov. Whitmer was re-elected as expected but by a wider margin than what the polls showed. The Democrats in the Michigan Senate gained control from the Republicans for the first time since 1983, winning 20 seats to the Republicans 18. The Democrats also flipped the House of Representatives to take their first majority since 2010, winning 56 seats to the Republicans 54 seats. All three ballot proposals passed in Michigan.

Nationally, the Republicans flipped the U.S. House winning 222 seats to the Democrats 213. In the U.S. Senate, the Democrats picked up one seat taking a 51 to 49 seat majority.

OVERVIEW

- **Michigan Governor** – Governor Gretchen Whitmer won a second term by roughly 10 percentage points, 54% to 44% over Tudor Dixon.
- **Michigan Secretary of State** – Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson won re-election with roughly 55% of the vote to Kristina Karamo’s 42%.
- **Michigan Attorney General** – Attorney General Dana Nessel won re-election with roughly 52% of the vote.
- **U.S. Senate** – The Democrats took control, 51-49. However, Senator Kyrsten Sinema (Arizona) recently announced that she has left the Democratic Party.
- **U.S. House Representatives** – The Republicans took control, 222-213.
- **Michigan Senate** – The Democrats flipped the Michigan Senate, 20-18. Sen. Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids) was elected as the next Senate Majority Leader and Sen. Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton) was elected as the next Senate Minority Leader.
- **Michigan House of Representatives** – The Democrats took majority, 56-54. Rep. Joe Tate (D-Detroit) was elected as the next Speaker of the House and Rep. Matt Hall (R-Marshall) was elected the next House Minority Leader. (M)



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BFAAM LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Q&A WITH SEN. SEAN McCANN



Sen. Sean McCann has called Kalamazoo County home for 31 years. McCann was drawn to public service as a student at Western Michigan University and spent his first years out of college working to build his community from the ground up as executive director of the Vine Neighborhood Association.

While working for Vine, McCann was elected to the Kalamazoo City Commission and served five two-year terms. As a commissioner, he worked on the clean-up of the Kalamazoo River, revital-

ization of Downtown Kalamazoo, fostering the community’s economic development and strengthening its public safety. McCann was proud to help enact Kalamazoo’s Human Rights Ordinance and received the commission’s 2009 Dedication & Service Award. During this time, he worked for the American Red Cross of Southwest Michigan, where he supported families affected by disasters, provided service to members of the armed forces and assisted with blood collection drives.

In 2010, McCann was elected to serve the City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Township, City of Parchment and Cooper Township as the 60th District State Representative. During this time, he was a member of the Appropriations Committee. McCann proudly voted to expand health insurance to over 600,000 Michiganders and raise Michigan’s minimum wage. He also voted against stripping collective bargaining rights from working families and fought for high quality public education from early childhood and K-12 to higher education and trade schools. Additionally, McCann proposed legislation to end the practice of “gerrymandering” by establishing an independent citizen redistricting committee.

Since taking office as Senator for the 20th District in January 2019, McCann has introduced legislation that would safeguard our water, reform our elections, and protect workers’ wages and health. He serves on the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Senate Committee on Energy & Technology, and Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Western Michigan University. He also is a graduate of the Michigan Political Leadership Program. McCann lives in Kalamazoo with his wife, Priscilla Lambert, and their two children, Alex and Lauren.

WHAT’S YOUR NUMBER ONE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY?
 Most of the bills I work on are driven by the voices in my district and what stakeholders in the district tell me is most needed. One area I do have great personal interest in is good government reforms that shape the way we elect representatives and the way we conduct ourselves, that informs how all other policies are shaped. Things like independent redistricting reform and improvements to voting access were some recent examples. I would like to continue improving our democratic systems through campaign finance reform, ethics and transparency measures, and other steps that strengthen “little d” democratic representation for the people of Michigan.



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WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

It is a privilege to do this amazing work and I try not to take that for granted. I enjoy being one of the many people who are doing great work to build up the communities I represent as well as the State of Michigan. Public service and representation is ultimately about serving the people and working together to build the best future possible.

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST HIDDEN GEM IN YOUR DISTRICT?

While it's not necessarily hidden, The Kalamazoo Promise is an immense gem in our district. The landmark scholarship program for graduates of the Kalamazoo Public School system is an often-copied program and set the standard for creating affordable higher education for students of a core urban community school district. The program makes impacts well beyond the boundaries of the school district and it has become critical to the continued growth and success of our greater community.



WHO'S YOUR MODERN DAY HERO?

The late US senator Carl Levin is one of many figures I admire greatly. Known as “the conscience of the senate,” his ability to remain true to his values while being politically pragmatic, and, most importantly, a role model for civility in politics, are critically needed traits in the world of public servants. 🇺🇸

THE BFAAM PAC NEEDS YOU!

BFAAM is constantly fighting for our industry, for our livelihoods, and for you! BFAAM cannot do this without your support. Your membership into the BFAAM PAC is more important now than ever. Become a PAC member today! Visit www.bfaam.org/pac to donate online! Large or small, we appreciate any effort you make to help our alarm industry.

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APPRENTICESHIP REMINDERS & DEADLINES

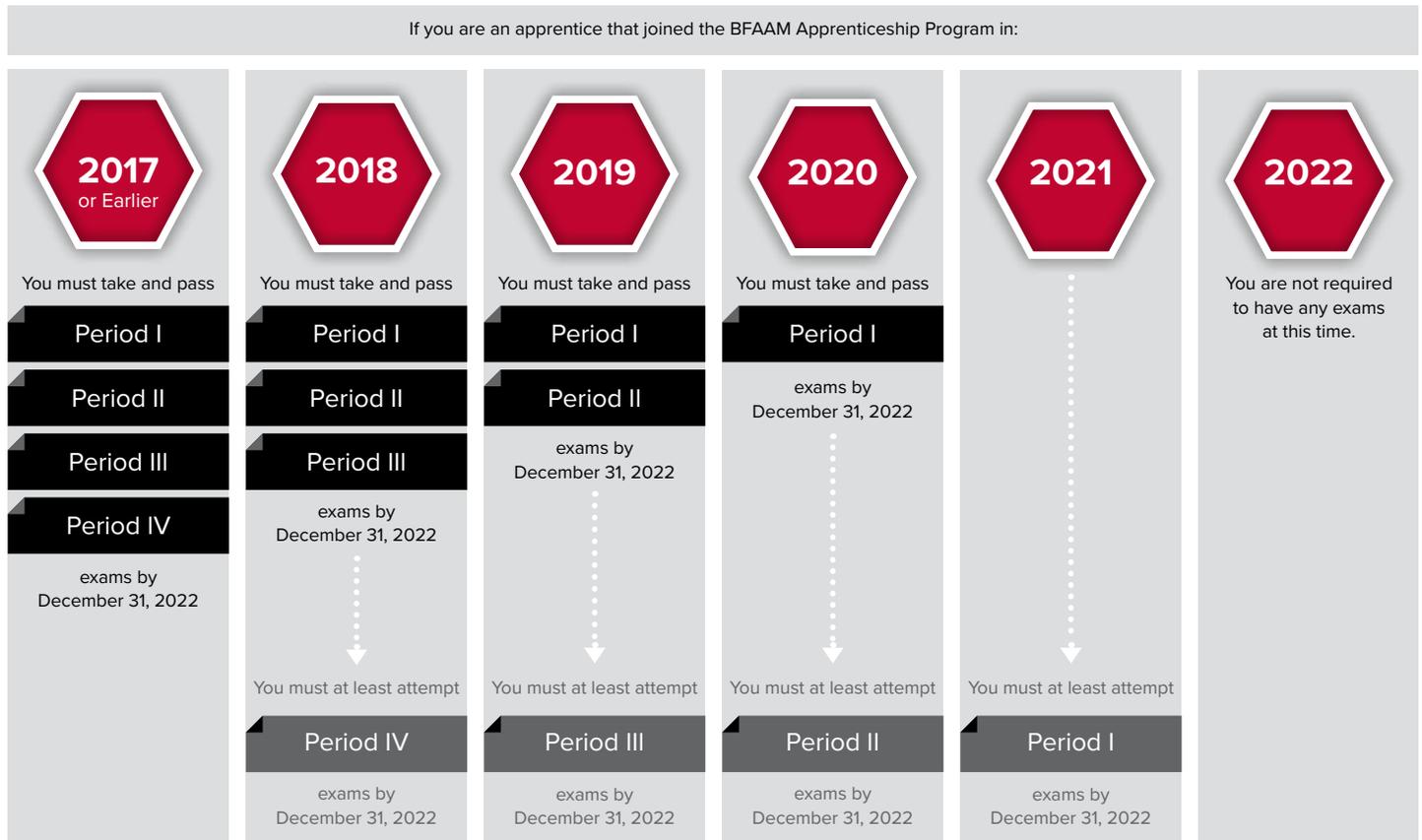
For apprentices and apprenticeship managers, you might recall that the end of year is when the BFAAM Apprenticeship Program is required to update the US Department of Labor (USDOL) on the status of all apprentices on their progress within the program. That includes requesting extensions to allow apprentices who have been in the program for several years to remain in the program and continue showing progress.

Also, the BFAAM Apprenticeship Program provides the following reminders:

- First, the BFAAM Apprenticeship Program is also sending its annual renewal forms for all apprentices. All companies who wish to keep their apprentices enrolled in the BFAAM Apprenticeship Program must return the annual payment to BFAAM no later than February 1, 2023. Please note that the fee will increase \$50 effective January 1, 2023.
- Second, if you have apprentices completing the program, please use the completion form so that the BFAAM Apprenticeship Program can update the USDOL. It can be found on the BFAAM website at bfaam.org/getting-started.

- If you have apprentices that are no longer employed, please use the apprentice removal form and send it the BFAAM office so that they can be removed from the program and their enrollment can be cancelled. It can be found on the BFAAM website at bfaam.org/getting-started.
- All of the education webinars are available on the BFAAM website. Please encourage all apprentices to use those webinars to learn their way through the program.
- Finally, each of the four required Period Exams are available on the BFAAM website. Taking and passing the Period Exams are the way apprentices demonstrate that they are learning and making progress through the program. Simply register for an exam through the BFAAM website. Payment for exam registration is to complete the selected BFAAM Apprenticeship Exam once. As a reminder, all payments for the BFAAM Apprenticeship program must be made with company funds. Personal checks and credit cards cannot be accepted. Once payment is processed, you will be sent login information to access the BFAAM Apprenticeship Exam. 📞

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS, CONTACT THE BFAAM OFFICE AT 517.485.4832. WE ARE HAPPY TO HELP.





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UPCOMING EVENTS



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Erin Theis

Has your company added employees that should be receiving correspondence from BFAAM? Are there new points of contact for the BFAAM Apprenticeship Program? If so, please contact **Trina Miller** at the BFAAM office.

2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

February 8, 2023

10:00am

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 12, 2023

9:30am

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 14, 2023

9:30am

BFAAM Headquarters, Lansing, MI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 13, 2023

9:30am

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TBD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

December 6, 2023

9:30am