



MNA 2025/2026 Public Policy Agenda and Government Relations Plan

Overall Objective

Charitable nonprofit organizations throughout Michigan improve lives, strengthen communities and the economy, and lighten the burdens of government, taxpayers, and society as a whole.

MNA advocates for nonprofits at many levels of government - federal, state, local, legislative, executive, and regulatory - to educate policymakers and others about the work and impact of nonprofits.

MNA believes that consistent policies that advance diversity, equity, and inclusion enable the work of charitable nonprofits throughout the state and are critical for nonprofits to effectively serve their missions, provide for the public good, and address community needs.

Our work is structured in four broad categories:

I. Tax Policy

Sound tax policies that support nonprofits are one of the most important ways to help secure the resources necessary to effectively serve the public good and address community needs. MNA is committed to preserving the tax-exempt status of organizations contributing to the well-being of their communities and strengthening and expanding incentives for individuals to give their time and money to the organizations whose missions they support. In practice, this commitment means:

- Supporting tax and other incentives that encourage individuals to volunteer their time and contribute resources to the missions of charitable nonprofits.
- Promoting nonprofit relief and recovery efforts of nonprofits through targeted tax incentives for contributions to charitable nonprofits affected by natural disasters or states of emergencies, refundable payroll tax credits and other mechanisms that will help charitable nonprofits retain and pay their employees.
- Opposing the imposition of unreasonable taxes, fees or involuntary fees or payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTS) on tax-exempt organizations.
- Maintaining and – where appropriate – expanding nonprofit sector exemptions from paying state and local property, sales, and use taxes and from collecting sales and use taxes.

II. Public-Private Collaborations

Charitable nonprofits are private organizations that share a commitment with government to improving lives and communities throughout the state. MNA is dedicated to improving government-nonprofit contracting systems, and to strengthening the public-private partnership at all levels through collaboration and direct engagement.

III. Budget & Spending

Budget and spending decisions by governments affect all residents and these decisions can have immediate and significant consequences for the people nonprofits serve and the communities in which they operate, especially those that have been historically underserved and underrepresented.

MNA supports budget and spending decisions at all levels of government that encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion to build stronger, fairer communities and close resource gaps for marginalized people.

MNA opposes the offloading of government services onto nonprofits without paying nonprofits the cost of providing these services.

IV. Promoting Civic and Community Engagement

Charitable nonprofits are at the forefront of educating about and furthering the democratic process. MNA works to promote greater engagement of the citizenry, civic dialogue, open elections, and open government.

MNA supports the longstanding federal policy allowing 501(c)(3) nonprofits to engage in nonpartisan voter registration, voter education, and get-out-the-vote activities so long as organizations are not coordinating their activities with political campaigns, political parties, or political action committees.

MNA aims to correct misperceptions and clarify lobbying laws and regulations to empower 501(c)(3) nonprofits to advocate fully and freely within the law.

Federal background

Through MNA's strong relationships with Michigan's congressional delegation, membership with the National Council of Nonprofits, and other partners such as Nonprofit VOTE, Independent Sector and the Leadership Conference of Civil and Human Rights, Michigan's nonprofit sector's interests are shared and advanced at the federal level.

Federal Goals

- **Monitor and respond to the ongoing restructuring of the federal government** by closely tracking the federal budget, executive orders, administrative actions, and policies impacting the nonprofit sector
 - Advocate against weakening or repealing the Johnson Amendment
 - Monitor and advocate for full funding for National Service and AmeriCorps.
 - Regular communication to stakeholders with updates and to inform advocacy strategies.
- **Build relationships with federal policymakers** with regular meetings, communications, direct and grassroots lobbying.
 - Attend Foundations on the Hill (FOTH)
 - Attend NCN Confab & Lobby Day
- Serve as a member of **National Council of Nonprofits' Advisory Committee**
- **Address challenges and issues that arise throughout the year** such as workforce shortages, health care, childcare, housing, etc.

State background

Through MNA's strong state relationships and staffing of the Michigan Nonprofit Caucus and the Nonprofit Council for the Charitable Trusts in the Office of Attorney General, MNA's members have access to policymakers and regulators that ensure that the sector's interests are understood and advanced. In partnership with CMF, MAUW, JCP, MLPP, MCSC, Promote the Vote, CEDAM, Dykema, and our board of directors and committees, MNA has a solid public policy and government relations infrastructure at the state level.

State Goals

- **Provide Leadership & Staffing for the following groups:**
 - Nonprofit Caucus (recruitment, monthly communications, annual meeting)
 - Nonprofit Council for Charitable Trusts (NCCT) (4 meetings per year)
 - Public Policy Advisory Council (regular communications, 6 meetings per year)
 - Public Policy Board Committee (4 meetings per year + full board meeting)
- **Host Nonprofit Day at Capitol – Feb. 24, 2026**
- **Host 2 Regional Breakfasts**
 - Midland/Saginaw region
 - Southeast Michigan region
- **Build relationships with federal policymakers** with regular meetings, communications, direct and grassroots lobbying
 - Attend Mackinac Policy Conference
- **Update Economic Benefits Report** to include Congressional District data.
Address challenges and issues that arise throughout the year such as property tax challenges, grant and contracts reform, changes and updates to the statutes that concern the nonprofit sector, etc.

Civic and Community Engagement Background

Through MNA's strong relationships with partners such as Michigan Community Service Commission, Nonprofit VOTE, the Leadership Conference of Civil and Human Rights, the U.S. Census Bureau, Michigan's state demographer, the Census Project, FCCP, Promote the Vote, League of Women Voters, and Senator Peters' Homeland Security & Government Affairs committee staff Michigan's civic engagement interests are shared and advanced at the state and federal level.

Civic and Community Engagement Goals

- **Lead a statewide campaign to ensure a fair and accurate Census 2030 count** by securing resources through a state budget request and philanthropy, establishing and coordinating a Complete Count Committee, and advancing participation in the LUCA program.
 - Collaborate with state and national partners to align strategies, amplify outreach, and engage communities most at risk of being undercounted.
- **Strengthen civic engagement in the upcoming midterm elections** by leading a nonpartisan voter engagement program that prioritizes voter education, registration, and turnout with young voters.
 - Partner with community organizations to expand outreach, provide accessible resources on voting rights and procedures, and ensure that underrepresented communities have the information and support they need to fully participate in the democratic process.
 - Nonprofit VOTE Advisory Council member
- **Host annual CCE Summit on November 20, 2025 in Detroit**