

Michigan Chamber Tops MHHA, Berryman Bests Block

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For the ninth time in a row, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce was named “most effective” membership organization in the MIRS/EPIC-MRA Insider Survey conducted May 4-15.

“To be ranked No. 1 for 18 years running is a tremendous honor. It’s a testament to great volunteer leaders and the hardest working advocacy team in Lansing. Focusing on pragmatic problem solving is essential in today’s politically charged climate and we have an unwavering commitment to ensuring the voice of business is heard while working collaboratively to build a thriving Michigan for all. We’re stronger, together,” said Jim HOLCOMB, Michigan Chamber President & CEO.

While winning the “most effective” title again by beating out the Michigan Health and Hospital Association (MHHA) the margin of difference between the two associations was much closer in 2023 than in the last insider survey conducted in 2021.

This year, the Chamber secured 11% of the vote while the MHHA secured 8% of the vote. In 2021, the Chamber bested MHHA with a margin of 20% to 6%. Here’s how the voting turned out this year in the category of “membership organizations or associations.”

- Michigan Chamber of Commerce – 11%
- Michigan Health and Hospitals – 8%
- Michigan Municipal League – 7%
- **Auto Dealers of Michigan**; Beer and Wine Wholesalers – 5%
- Michigan Association of Health Plans; Michigan Community Mental Health Association; and, Small Business Association of Michigan – 3%
- Associated Builders and Contractors; Michigan Manufacturers Association; Michigan REALTORS®; and Michigan Restaurant and Lodging – 2%

When it comes to lobbyists for membership organizations/associations – the reigning champ, Auto Dealers of Michigan’s Kurt BERRYMAN remains champ.

This year, Berryman beat out the Chamber’s Wendy BLOCK by an 11% to 6% margin. In 2021, the top two vote getters were also Berryman and Block (9% to 5%). Berryman has won the category six times since 2009.

“Wow, honored,” said Berryman. “However, I wish I was the top lobbyist in my House – I currently sit solidly in fourth place.”

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Here is how the voting came out in the category of individual lobbyist for a membership organization or association:

- Berryman – 11%
- Block – 6%
- Adam CARLSON, senior advocacy vice president, Michigan Health and Hospital Association; and Brian CALLEY, president of the Small Business Association of Michigan – 4%
- Alan BOLTER, Community Mental Health Association, and John LaMACCHIA of the Michigan Municipal League – 3%
- Dominick PALLONE, Michigan Association of Health Plans, Ed NOYOLA, County Road Commissions; Jim HOLCOMB, Michigan Chamber; Jimmy GREENE, Associated Builders and Contractors; John McNAMARA, Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association; Judy ALLEN, Michigan Townships Association; Lance BINONIEMI, Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association, and Mike JOHNSTON of the Michigan Manufacturers Association – 2%.