



# Senior

— UPDATE 2026 —



# Dear Neighbor:

One of the highlights of my job is traveling across the district and meeting with residents to hear what matters most to them.

My staff and I regularly assist residents with questions and state-related concerns, and we are always ready to help.

This newsletter highlights some of the items we've been working on in Lansing, along with key services and resources available to seniors in our community.

On the fourth panel, you'll find contact information for local organizations and services that support seniors, including my office.

You can also stay up to date on my work as your state senator by subscribing to my e-newsletter at [SenatorLanaTheis.com/subscribe](https://SenatorLanaTheis.com/subscribe).

Sincerely,



STATE SENATOR  
**LANA THEIS**

517-373-2420 • [SenLTheis@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenLTheis@senate.michigan.gov)



With your camera app open, hold your smartphone in front of this QR code to go directly to my website and sign up for my e-newsletter at



[SenatorLanaTheis.com/subscribe](https://SenatorLanaTheis.com/subscribe).

# Services for Seniors

Laws & Programs for Senior Adults



*Planning* **FOR**  
**YOUR PEACE OF MIND**



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SERVICES**

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available for download at  
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or by calling my office at  
**517-373-2420.**

# SENATOR LANA THEIS

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Genesee County Loose Senior Center .....	810-735-9406
Ingham County Office on Aging .....	517-887-1440
AgeWays (Livingston and Oakland counties).....	800-852-7795
Shiawassee Council on Aging – Durand.....	989-288-4122
Do Not Call Registry .....	888-382-1222
Eldercare Locator .....	800-677-1116
Medicare .....	800-633-4227
LARA Nursing Home Complaints.....	800-882-6006
Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman .....	866-485-9393
Michigan Medicare Assistance Program .....	800-803-7174
Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency.....	800-642-4838
Social Security Administration.....	800-772-1213
Taxpayer Information (Federal) .....	800-829-1040
Taxpayer Information (State).....	517-636-4486
Utilities (Public Service Commission).....	800-292-9555
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs .....	800-698-2411
Sen. Lana Theis.....	517-373-2420

*Many, but not all, are toll-free. Note: Numbers are subject to change.*

## MICHIGAN 211

**Michigan 211** is a fast, free and confidential way to find help in your community. By dialing 2-1-1, you can connect with local organizations for assistance with food, housing or support during a family crisis.

Last year, **Michigan 211** helped more than 500,000 people find the help they need. Calls are routed through seven regional centers to connect those in need with service providers in their area. Help is available 24/7, all year long.

# NEW BILLS TO CURB SPAM PHONE CALLS

Michigan seniors have reported an increase in scam phone calls.

The Senate passed bipartisan legislation to protect seniors and empower the attorney general to crack down on spammers who violate the law. Senate Bills 351-355 would:

- Create rules that telephone solicitors must follow to better protect consumers.
- Ban telephone solicitors from hiding caller ID or showing false names, numbers or area codes.
- Strengthen enforcement tools for the attorney general to investigate violations and pursue civil action.
- Increase fines up to \$75,000 for targeting seniors or vulnerable residents.

## EMERGENCY HELP FOR SENIORS

The state offers several assistance programs for eligible seniors and low-income households facing hardships or emergencies.

Immediate relief may be available through nonprofit organizations and assistance programs coordinated through MI Bridges.

- The **MICHIGAN ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** can offer temporary heat and utility assistance, along with self-sufficiency services.
- **EMERGENCY BURIAL SERVICES** may be available to help families cover burial, cremation or body donation expenses during a difficult time when resources from the decedent's estate and required copayments do not cover the total cost.
- The **STATE EMERGENCY RELIEF** program can help with utility payments, preventing shutoffs or restoring service.
- **HOME OWNERSHIP SERVICES** may be available for residents at risk of losing their homes.

To check eligibility or apply, visit  
[NewMIBridges.michigan.gov](https://NewMIBridges.michigan.gov).





## SOCIAL SECURITY TAXES ELIMINATED

The president signed the Working Families Tax Cut Act last year that paused federal taxes on tips, overtime and Social Security. In Michigan, as part of the fiscal year 2026 state budget, we eliminated state taxes on those earnings as well.

## LONG-TERM PLAN FOR LOCAL ROADS

After decades of short-term fixes, Michigan finally has a long-term plan to repair our local roads. All taxes paid at the pump are now dedicated to transportation-related spending.



## RED, WHITE AND BLUE LICENSE PLATE

To mark the nation's 250th anniversary, Michigan drivers can order a limited-edition red, white and blue license plate. The plate will only be available through the end of this year.

