

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 10, 2026
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Call to Order by Chair Kolb at 10:01 a.m.

1. Attendance and Excused Absences

See attached meeting attendance sheet.

Motion by King/Watza to approve excused absences; approved unanimously.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by McDonnell/King to approve agenda; approved unanimously.

3. Minutes of the December 2025, Regular Meeting

Motion by Mithani/Forsyth to approve minutes; approved unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report: (Attachment A)

Secretary-Treasurer Pastula noted that the financial reports were received. Section has a healthy fund balance. Kolb noted that the dues balance is dues receipts are down. Pastula to look into this.

5. Amicus Committee:

Williams and Fisher not in attendance. No report.

6. Zoning Land Use and Local Control Committee:

Chair Fisher not in attendance. No report.

7. Briefly: Update

Mithani: Targeting another article for January 2026 to promote the Winter Seminar; May 2026 to promote the Summer Seminar.

8. Old Business

a. Planning Committee met this past week to continue planning for 2026 Winter Seminar. Discussed focus of Seminar as Elections and Election Security. Broad discussion about potential speakers for various related subjects:

- Kolb reaching out to contacts with City of Dearborn regarding Election Security;
- Brady reaching out to elections contacts at the state level;
- FOIA & Elections raised as a potential subject. Bill Kim/Jeremy Brown (Dearborn)/Nicole Tabin (by Thomas) identified as potential speakers.

b. Topics for 2026 Summer Conference discussed: Environment, Zoning, Land Use.

9. New Business

Young Lawyers Section seeking sponsorship from GLS for event in March 2026. Motion Chubb/Watza to support YLS at the \$1,000 Trailblazer level. Motion adopted by 2/3 vote in compliance with the requirements of Article VII, Section 4 of the State Bar of Michigan Bylaws (14-yes; 0 with 3 abstentions):

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
1	Bluhm, Lori 2027	x			
2	Brady, Michael 2024	x			
3	Chubb, Anthony 2026	x			
4	Fisher, Jerry 2026				x
5	Forbush, Audrey 2027				x
6	Forsyth, Chris 2027 Chair	x			
7	Gibbs, Aimee 2025	x			
8	Joppich, Steve 2027				x
9	Kim, William 202				x
10	King, Dawn 2026 Vice Chair	x			
11	Kolb, Kristin 2026 Chair	x			
12	McGee, Mike 2025	x			
13	Mills, Lizzie 2026				x
14	Mithani, Soni 2025	x			
15	Nettleton, Mark 2025	x			
16	Pastula, Julianne 2027 Secretary-Treasurer				x
17	Sluggett, Jeff 2027	x			
18	Thomas, Aaron 2025	x			
19	Watza, Mike 2026	x			
20	White-McDonnell, Elizabeth 2025	x			
21	Williams, Eric 2025				x

10. Council Comments

- a. Kolb advised the Council about a communication from the law firm Fausone & Grysko, PLC regarding crypto currency and forfeiture. Bluhm, King advised the Council that Sterling Heights and Southfield looking at regulation. atter.
- b. McDonnell advised the Council of a 6th Circuit Court of Appeals case, DeLanis v. Metropolitan Government of Nashville, which involved a private attorney whose law firm represented the City government, and the attorney acted as the chair of the City Elections Commission. A citizen-initiated tax repeal matter came before the Commission. The City opposed the measure; the lawyer in his capacity as Elections Commission chair supported it. The Firm fired the attorney when he wouldn't change his position. First amendment rights implicated, as was the issue of municipal attorneys serving in local government positions.
- c. Forsyth advised the Council of upcoming (January 2026) meeting of the Michigan Municipal Executives.

11. **Adjournment at 10:50 p.m.**

Next Meeting: February 20, 2026, in-person following Winter Seminar.

MEETING ATTENDANCE SHEET
Government Law Section
State Bar of Michigan (2026-2026)

Meeting Date: January 10, 2026, meeting held via Zoom.

Regular Monthly Meeting Begin: 10:01 a.m. **End/Adjourn:** 10:36 a.m.

		<u>Present</u>	<u>Present On Call</u>	<u>Absent Excused</u>	<u>Absent Unexcused</u>
1	Bluhm, Lori 2027	x			
2	Brady, Michael 2024	x			
3	Chubb, Anthony 2026 (arrived late)	x			
4	Fisher, Jerry 2026			x	
5	Forbush, Audrey 2027			x	
6	Forsyth, Chris 2027	x			
7	Gibbs, Aimee 2025	x			
8	Joppich, Steve 2027			x	
9	Kim, William 202			x	
10	King, Dawn 2026 Vice Chair	x			
11	Kolb, Kristin 2026 Chair	x			
12	McGee, Mike 2025	x			
13	Mills, Lizzie 2026			x	
14	Mithani, Soni 2025	x			
15	Nettleton, Mark 2025	x			
16	Pastula, Julianne 2027 Secretary-Treasurer			x	
17	Sluggett, Jeff 2027	x			
18	Thomas, Aaron 2025	x			
19	Watza, Mike 2026	x			
20	White-McDonnell, Elizabeth 2025	x			
21	Williams, Eric 2025			x	

Quorum (8) Bylaws Section 5.5. (14 members present; 7 excused absences)

Others Present:

Attendance taken by: Aaron Thomas