



**SPECIAL EDITION**

On Monday, October 12, 2009, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm signed fiscal year (FY) 2009-10 appropriations bills for the departments of Corrections, Education, and Transportation.

Governor Granholm is continuing to emphasize the need to protect police and fire services, K-12 education, Medicaid, and the Promise scholarships. The Senate is still holding several bills, including Community Health, Human Services, Higher Education, State Police, and General Budget, because of concerns that Governor Granholm may veto parts or all of those bills.

**Michigan Department of Corrections**

The total operating budget for the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) for FY 2009-10 is \$1.93 billion, which includes \$1.87 billion in general fund money. The budget represents \$120 million in cost savings.

Included in the budget is \$1.6 billion to operate a safe and secure prison system that is diminishing in size because of a declining prisoner population, and \$207 million to oversee and supervise the growing parolee and probationer populations. It also includes \$115 million for community-based programs for low-level offenders as well as the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative to reduce the state's costly recidivism rate by better preparing inmates for release.



Governor Granholm exercised her line-item veto by eliminating funding for county jail reimbursement. The Governor vetoed the funding because of the Legislature's failure to change reimbursement criteria. By law, the program is supposed to reimburse counties for housing offenders in jail who otherwise would have been sentenced to prison, but existing criteria allows counties to be reimbursed for cases that would not likely result in prison sentences.

The Governor also vetoed a \$38.2 million cut which the legislature indicated could only be achieved in the Correctional Facilities Administration by reducing per-prisoner funding by \$841. The Governor's veto message stated that a \$38 million cut taken in this manner would "threaten the security and order of the state's correctional facilities." The Governor instead directed the Department to find an additional \$20 million in savings in this budget.