

## DETROIT

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## Services

Public Finance  
K-12 Education Finance and  
Election Law  
Higher Education Finance  
Charter School Finance

## Industries

K-12 Education  
Charter Schools  
Government and Public Sector

## Education

Michigan State University, B.A.  
Accounting, 1981  
Wayne State University, J.D., 1984

## Bar Admissions

Michigan



James M. Crowley

Principal

Jim Crowley is a member of the Firm's Public Finance Practice Group and concentrates his practice in the areas of school finance, election and general school business law.

Jim has extensive experience in school finance and regularly serves as bond counsel, note counsel and disclosure counsel for public schools, public school academies, and other issuers. In these capacities, he has served as counsel relating to general obligation, unlimited and limited tax bond financings, energy conservation project financings, tax-credit bond financings, installment purchase agreements, finance leases and operating cash-flow borrowings including state aid notes, tax anticipation notes, and lines of credit.

In addition to serving as bond and note counsel in school financing transactions, Jim also focuses on such areas as elections, campaign finance compliance, state and federal tax issues, general school finance (budgets, revenue sources and cash flow), general school business matters and employee benefits.

With respect to school elections, Jim has extensive experience with elections for school bond, operating tax (i.e. renewals, replacements and Headlee restorations) and sinking fund proposals.

Jim regularly assists public schools with the establishment and maintenance of tax-exempt organizations which include educational foundations, boosters clubs and other organizations affiliated with the public school.

James M. Crowley

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## Honors

Leading Lawyers, Public Finance Law, School Law, 2017–present

## Professional Activities

National Association of Bond Lawyers

American College of Bond Counsel

American Bar Association

## Speeches

"Beyond Bonds: Capital Funding Alternatives," Michigan School Business Officials Annual Conference, April 23, 2026

"Sales Tax Obligations for Michigan Public Schools," Michigan School Business Officials Annual Conference, 2024-2026

"School Elections Do's and Don'ts Under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act," Michigan School Business Officials Annual Conference, April 25, 2024

"Permissible Expenditures: Strategies to Comply and Flow Chart Practice Guide," Michigan School Business Officials Annual Conference, April 25, 2024

"Capital Funding Alternatives," Co-Presenter with Alan Szuma, Michigan School Business Officials Annual Conference, April 24, 2024

"Inflation Reduction Act," Metropolitan Detroit Bureau of School Studies, October 12, 2023

"School Ballot Proposals and Elections: Legal Requirements, Timing, Strategy and More," Michigan School Business Officials 2023 Annual Conference, April 27, 2023

## Publications

"Capital Improvement Financing for Michigan Public Schools," co-authored with Kristen Howard and Amanda Van Dusen, Michigan Bar Journal, February 2021

## Articles

Michigan Enacts Statewide Classroom Cell Phone Ban for K–12 Public Schools Beginning 2026–27

Operating Cash-Flow Borrowing Options for Michigan Public Schools

Executive Order to Close the Department of Education: What It Means for Your School

School Building and Site Sinking Fund for Michigan Public Schools

**James M. Crowley**

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Operating Cash-Flow Borrowing Options for Michigan Public School

Michigan Adopts New Prevailing Wage Requirements for Public School Construction Projects

Expanded Permitted Uses for School District Sinking Funds

Operating Cash-Flow Borrowing Options for Michigan Public Schools

Are Public Schools Subject to Sales Tax?

GASB 84: Legal Considerations for Public Schools in Michigan

Election Do's and Don'ts for School Districts