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# WLNS: Local governments unhappy with Rick Snyder, emergency manager law

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By Angela Wittrock | MLive.com

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Local government officials are unhappy with Gov. Rick Snyder, **as a recent survey found** over the newly expanded powers of emergency financial managers, **WLNS-TV 6 correspondent Tim Skubick reports.**

The law, **Public Act 4**, took effect in March. **Skubick reports** that since then, Rev. Jesse Jackson has visited the city of Benton Harbor ten times. Benton Harbor has been invoked as an example of the law run amok by critics **like MSNBC's Rachel Maddow.**

"You displace democracy because there is an economic crisis," Jackson said. "The absence of a mayor and a council elected by the people -- an emergency manager is not the solution for that."

The absence Jackson refers to is a symbolic one. Benton Harbor emergency manager Joseph Harris was the first such official to make use of the new law's expanded reach when, less than a month after the law took effect, **he issued an order stripping all city boards and commissions of their authority.**



State Rep. Al Pscholka represents Benton Harbor. He's also been targeted for recall by opponents of the law, which he sponsored.

"We've had some really good results from the emergency manager law, particularly in Benton Harbor, where now you have a balanced budget and you have a town that's looking at a \$400,000 surplus," **Pscholka told Skubick.**

He also said he thought Jackson might change his critical tune if "he actually looks at the results" of the law.

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Ridiculous. I thought the Good Old boys Party was interested in less government, not more. Unless, of course, they can appoint Kings and Lords, like in the feudal times, and continue their attempt to eliminate the middle class.

You want to hear something that would be funny if it weren't so ludicrous? The Benton Harbor Emergency Manager's last position was Detroit's accountant!

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
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