



Dear Bob,

In Benton Harbor, one of Michigan's first new local emergency managers under Public Act 4 [described himself as an "angel of common sense"](#) just days after he suspended democracy there by ordering the City Council to quit doing the people's business.

If Emergency Manager Joe Harris believes he is heaven-sent for dismantling local democracy, I guess that makes Libya's Colonel Gadhafi a god. And if predictions are accurate, we can expect a lot more angelic local dictators like Harris as Republican state budget cuts create a financial hell on earth for Michigan's cities and schools.



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While the public right now may be asleep when it comes to Michigan's new anti-democratic emergency manager law, voters will likely soon be roused from their slumber by the sound of crumbling democracy in their local communities. [Take the first step and sign up for Dismantling Democracy updates today!](#)

Public Act 4 violates Michigan's Constitution because what the Legislature and Governor did instead of directly taking over local governments in financial crisis and being directly accountable to voters, was to give their power over to an unelected manager who is unaccountable to voters.

Whether Michigan's highly partisan Republican Supreme Court majority would agree with me is another question. But regardless of whether the courts strike down Public Act 4, it's now up to us—as citizens—to protect our democracy and our wallets because, clearly, we do not have an elected Legislature and a Governor who seem to think that is their job. [Stay informed and sign up for Dismantling Democracy updates.](#)

Thanks for all you do,

David Holtz and the entire Progress Michigan team.