Governor Jennifer M. Granholm: Fighting for Detroit

Since taking office in 2003, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has partnered with Detroit community leaders to create jobs, strengthen our schools, protect our families and their rights and improve access to affordable health care.

Creating Jobs

- Governor Granholm helped save 1,000 good-paying jobs in Detroit by securing a $50 million investment to ensure that the Detroit Medical Center (DMC) would continue to provide critical health services for city residents.

- Governor Granholm protected 450 Detroit jobs at American Axle that would have been shipped to Mexico, by providing the company with an SBT credit of more than $7.7 million. The Granholm administration also provided $650,000 to provide job training to 650 Detroit American Axle workers in 2006.

- As part of new Buy Michigan First, awarded a five-year $1.9 million state (trash bag) contract that previously went to a New Jersey company to Empire Equipment and Supply, a Detroit-based minority-owned business which manufactures and distributes a variety of office supplies, computer technology and business products.

- As part of Governor Granholm’s Jobs Today initiative, Wayne State University received $15 million for construction work to construct its Engineering Development Center. The Center will undertake research to help develop and market new technologies.

- The Granholm administration has invested more than $27 million in critical job training projects for Detroit residents. Through Governor Granholm’s Michigan Opportunity Partnership, Governor Granholm has already placed more than 107,000 Michiganders into new careers. The Michigan Opportunity partnership has 4 regional skills alliance (MiRSA) locations serving the Detroit Metro region, training workers in fields as diverse as health care, homeland security, forestry, and technology.

- The Granholm administration has invested more than $402 million in Detroit to fix dangerous bridges, roads, and highways. Governor Granholm and M-DOT have partnered to “Fix the Six,” main corridors in the Detroit metro area including projects on I-75, 94, 96, 696, M-10, and M-39 which are to be completed by year’s end.

- The Granholm administration is accelerating more than $14 million in road projects as part of the Governor’s Jobs Today initiative, including $10 million to repair M-10 from I-696 to downtown Detroit.

- The Granholm administration is accelerating $2.5 million in road projects as part of the Governor’s Local Jobs Today initiative.
• The Granholm administration, in partnership with Detroit, funded more than 2,500 affordable apartments for poor and working families across the city and more than 500 affordable apartments for seniors across the city; like the apartment village completed by Focus HOPE and Presbyterian Village at 14304 Woodrow Wilson Drive. She has committed more than half a billion dollars to housing in Detroit.

• Governor Jennifer Granholm created the 21st Century Jobs Fund, which will allow us to invest more than $2 billion in emerging sectors that promise tremendous job growth—alternative energy, the life sciences, homeland security, and advanced manufacturing. More than 50 companies from Detroit have applied for funding.

Supporting the Community’s Redevelopment

• The Granholm administration is providing historic and brownfield tax credits totaling $8.9 million to help redevelop the Book-Cadillac Hotel. Mayor Kilpatrick: "Gov. Jennifer Granholm's administration was a very active participant in putting this deal together."

• The Granholm administration provided nearly $9 million to help demolished the three Detroit cement silos along the riverfront and to help create the Promenade from the Renaissance Center to the Belle Isle Bridge.

• After decades of talk – put $1 million to finally get the Mexicantown Welcome Center project off the ground.

• The Granholm administration opened the first state park in the city of Detroit. Tri-Centennial State Park opened downtown with 30 beautiful acres of recreational activities, making the city more attractive for families and job-creators.

• Governor Granholm created a Land Bank Authority three years ago to help fight blight and speed redevelopment in the city – more than 1,200 abandoned properties have now been turned over for renovation or redevelopment.

• Granholm awarded “cool cities” grants to 7 city neighborhood development projects including the Eastern Market, the 8-Mile Boulevard Project. The projects are spurring economic development and are now given first-priority for other state funding.

Strengthening Our Schools

• $57 million increase for Detroit public schools. Thanks to the Governor’s leadership, state support for local public schools in Detroit, such as Cass Tech High School, Cleveland Middle School, and Coolidge Elementary School has increased by more than $23 million in the past year and now stands at an all-time high. (($175/pupil increase) Next year, Detroit schools will receive an additional $34 million. (FY 2006-07: $34 million total increase in funding for Detroit city schools: $25 million
increase in foundation allowance, $7.6 million in declining enrollment payments, and $1.5 million for Middle School Math.)

- When Republicans in the Legislature attempted to take $15 million from Detroit schools, Governor Granholm stood up for Detroit and vetoed that effort.

- Governor Granholm pushed for and signed into law a rigorous new curriculum for Michigan’s schools. With new, tough standards, all our children in all our schools will be prepared for success in college and success in life.

- Governor Granholm helped create Family Resource Centers for 10 Detroit elementary and middle schools to help students, parents and teachers. These schools include: Maybury, Jordan, Bellevue, Sherrard, Stewart, Von Steuben, Winship, and McFarlane Elementary schools, and Drew and McMichael middle schools.

- Proposed new $4,000 Merit Scholarship. The Governor continues to push for the New Merit Scholarship which will guarantee every student who successfully completes two years of college or technical training a $4,000 scholarship – an amount roughly equal to two years of community college tuition.

**Protecting Families’ Pocketbooks**

- Governor Granholm is fighting to reduce the cost of insurance – she called for an immediate, across the board 20% rate reduction and created a program to reduce auto rates for Detroit residents and ensure that rates are based on driving records, not zip codes.

- The Governor fought for and recently signed a bill to increase the minimum wage for the first time in 9 years.

**Providing Access to Health Care**

- Thanks to Governor Granholm, $135 million has been invested in health care in Detroit, including $50 million to ensure that the Detroit Medical Center remains open.

- As one of Governor Granholm’s first acts, she restored healthcare to 40,000 people who care for a relative’s child (caretaker relatives).

- Thanks to her MIRx discount prescription drug card, thousands of families now have access discounts as much as 20% for their prescription drugs.

- Granholm has extended health care and prescription drug coverage to 292,000 Michigan citizens – including tens of thousands of Detroit residents.

- Her Michigan First Health Care Plan will provide affordable, accessible health care coverage to all Michigan residents. The plan was proposed in her 2006 State of the
State Address, she hopes it will be approved by the federal government this year.

- Governor Granholm stopped Republicans from cutting $20 million from the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency.

- Under Governor Granholm, five federally-qualified health centers have opened or expanded in the city of Detroit including: Detroit Health Care for the Homeless, Detroit Community Health Connection, Health Centers Detroit-St. Antoine, Health Care Centers Detroit-Greenfield, and Health Centers Detroit-East Jefferson serving more than 31,000 uninsured and underinsured city residents.

**Standing Up for Detroit; Governing for All of Michigan**

- When Republicans in the Legislature have signaled out Detroit for unfair negative treatment, Governor Granholm has stood up for Detroit. She vetoed the Republican-led Detroit Water Board takeover because it was about politics, not solutions. She stopped an effort by the Legislature to cut $11.3 million from Wayne State’s budget. And, she vetoed a Republican bill that would have prevented Detroit from taking advantage of $100 million in federal funding for mass transit. Finally, Governor Granholm vetoed legislation that would have limited welfare benefits.

- Governor Granholm supports affirmative action. Governor Granholm firmly believes that every Michigan citizen deserves a fair chance to succeed; and stands with educators and clergy, business and labor, elected officials, and Michigan citizens in opposing the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI).

- As a percent, Governor Granholm has appointed more than twice as many Detroiter as Engler (7% of appointees are from City of Detroit; compared to less than 3% of Engler’s).

- As a percent, Governor Granholm has appointed more than twice as many African-Americans (16.3% of our appointees are African American; compared to 7.4% of Engler’s).

**Rewarding all Michigan Businesses**

- Minority-owned businesses were awarded $144 million in 2005 compared to $98 million in 2002, a 47% increase since Jennifer Granholm became Michigan’s leader

- African American businesses were awarded $179.8 million in 2005, compared to $28.5 million in 2002, a 631% increase since Granholm became Michigan’s Governor.
Overall Detroit businesses were awarded $1.7 billion in 2005, compared to $629 million in 2002, a 168% increase thanks to Governor Jennifer M. Granholm’s leadership.

**Making Detroit a safe place for our Children**

- Governor Granholm has helped take countless criminals off the streets of Detroit. The Granholm administration has also arrested more than 2,100 parolees and fugitives from Wayne County.

- The Granholm administration is fighting crime in the City of Detroit with programs like Operation Falcon, the Violent Crime Task Force, Project SAFE Streets, and Project Safe Neighborhood.


- Launched Project Safe Street in Detroit. A total of 2,099 fugitives have been arrested statewide since Project S.A.F.E. Street began in March 2003.

- Bringing local law enforcement together. In 2005, Governor Granholm brought together 13 Michigan State Police led teams, 43 local agencies, 26 county sheriff departments (including: Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb), 2 federal agencies, and 1 out-of-state agency to catch wanted criminals.

- The Governor implemented a Zero Tolerance initiative to help curb gun violence in the City. Under this new policy, every parolee found in possession of a gun or found to be associating with individuals who possess guns will be referred to the county prosecutor or U.S. Attorney for swift and appropriate prosecution.

- Helping protect Detroit during the All-Star Game and the Super Bowl. The Michigan State Police provided an additional 125 troopers per shift for the All Star Game and more than 250 additional troopers per shift for the Super Bowl.

- $12.3 million in Homeland Security funding for Detroit. Governor Granholm helped provide $12.3 million in federal homeland security grants to enhance security and critical infrastructure in the City of Detroit.