

# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## KEEPING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES SAFE



As a former prosecutor, public safety is a core issue for Governor Whitmer. She has worked closely with local leaders and law enforcement officers and organizations to bring down crime and ensure people feel safe whether they're going to work, picking up their kids from school, or grabbing groceries.

### INVESTING TO KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE

- In 2021, the Governor proposed [MI Safe Communities](#), a \$75 million framework that would utilize federal funding from the American Rescue Plan to reduce crime and keep families safe by tackling the court backlog, expanding resources available to law enforcement, and uplifting communities by making investments in jobs programs, counseling, and education.
- Since taking office, the governor has [signed budget bills](#) delivering \$1.4 billion to local governments to help them fund local police, fire departments, and emergency medical services. Her budgets also have included increased funding for highway road patrols and 911 upgrades.
- The governor also has provided [millions](#) for the training and hiring of hundreds of new state police officers and troopers, a new MSP trooper recruit school, increased mental health support services for first responders and public safety staff, and supported local efforts to expand recruitment, improve training, and provide professional development to first responders.
- Since March 2020, she delivered [\\$40 million in COVID hazard pay](#) for local officers and first-responders and over [\\$10 million premium pay](#) for MSP troopers.
- Leveraged [grant funding](#) from the Department of Justice Grant for Community Policing Development and De-Escalation training grant to award [over \\$1 million](#) to local agencies across the state, ensuring local law enforcement have the tools they need to keep communities safe.
- In 2021, opened a new [Michigan State Police](#) facility in Grand Rapids, bringing together three facilities in the area to drive down costs and increase collaboration.



*"Every Michigander, no matter where they live or who they are, deserves to live safely. As a former prosecutor, I am committed to protecting public safety and reducing crime so we can build strong, vibrant communities together. I will work with anyone to bring down crime and help Michiganders feel safe in their community. Together, we can build a safer, more just Michigan where every family can thrive, where every kid can get a great education, and where every person has a path to a good-paying, high-skill job."*

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

### SUPPORTING POLICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Developed a [four-pillar plan to strengthen police-community relations](#) in partnership with community leaders and law enforcement organizations.
  - Improve police standards and training to reduce police violence,
  - Build a more emphatic and diverse police force to establish a foundation for future recruiting and hiring efforts,
  - Increase trust between police officers and the communities they serve, and
  - Prevent improper use of force by holding officers accountable, remove barriers that impede officer accountability, and make data available to the public.
- Created the [Bridges to BLUE – Build Listen Unite Engage](#) – a citizen advisory council to the Michigan State Police (MSP) leadership. The council improves community engagement by providing MSP an outside perspective into their practices and public perception.
- Called on [Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards](#) to provide guidance to law enforcement agencies on continuing education to help officers keep up with the ever-changing landscape of new laws and issues facing the communities they protect.
- Established [community service trooper positions](#) to institute a community policing concept statewide.
- Signed a bill guaranteeing [access to college tuition grants](#) for the children of police and firefighters who lost their lives on the line of duty in Michigan.
- Signed bills to [extend benefits](#) to Michigan firefighters injured in the line of duty and those who [develop certain cancers](#).

# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## PURSUING CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM



Through her time in office, Governor Whitmer has collaborated with Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist, Attorney General Dana Nessel, Chief Justice Bridget McCormack, and bipartisan partners in the legislature to enact historic criminal justice reform. She has signed historic bipartisan “Clean Slate” laws which will help hundreds of thousands of Michiganders emerge from the criminal justice system with enhanced opportunities for jobs and housing and allow them to pursue their full potential. She also launched task forces to address pretrial incarceration and juvenile justice and pursued reforms to improve relationships between law enforcement and the people they serve.

### TAKING ACTION FOR JUSTICE

- Signed Clean Slate bills to make hundreds of thousands of Michiganders eligible to have their records expunged, expanding their opportunities for jobs and housing and invested millions of dollars to assist returning citizens with expungement
  - Over 80,000 more Detroiters are now eligible to have past mistakes removed from their record and get a chance at a new start
- Signed Clean Slate For Kids package which creates a process to automatically expunge juvenile records for those who don't commit future offenses
- Signed Raise the Age bills to ensure anyone under 18 years old will be treated as a minor in juvenile court and receive the rehabilitation services that are offered in the juvenile justice system to reduce recidivism.
- Signed the Good Moral Character package to expand opportunities for Michiganders post-conviction or post-judgment by reforming occupational licensing.
- Announced the creation of “Jobs Court,” a court diversion pilot program to put hundreds of Michiganders accused of low-level, nonviolent offenses in good-paying jobs to reduce recidivism and help businesses struggling with workforce shortages to staff up.
- Signed a package of bills to limit civil asset forfeiture for individuals who have not been convicted of a crime. These bills will make law enforcement unable to permanently take ownership of cash and other property seized in drug cases.
- Signed a bill to allow individuals who committed a drug-related offense, or have outstanding warrants for such offenses, to access to critical benefits like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Established a policy that will guarantee critical medical resources and support to Department of Corrections' pregnant and post-partum prisoners and their newborns.
- Launched two task forces to reduce the disparity of Black Michiganders in jail.
  - Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration to expand alternatives to jail, safely reduce jail admissions and length of stay, and improve the effectiveness of the front end of Michigan's justice system.
  - Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform to analyze Michigan's juvenile justice system and recommend proven practices and strategies for reform.



***“Every Michigander, no matter their community or the color of their skin, deserves equal treatment under the law. We must ensure that law enforcement officials treat all Michiganders with dignity and respect, and continue to keep our communities safe. I will continue working with leaders in law enforcement to make public safety more just and equitable in Michigan.”***

**- Governor Gretchen Whitmer**