



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

DELIVERING FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY



Governor Whitmer is focused on delivering for the Black community by getting things done on the issues that make a real difference in people's lives.

Building the most inclusive government in Michigan history

- Appointed more than 550 Black Michiganders to boards, commissions, and full-time positions. More than 60% of appointees are women or people of color.
- 28, or one-third, of judicial appointees are Black, including the first Black woman on the [Michigan Supreme Court](#).
- Created the [Black Leadership Advisory Council](#) to help tackle racial inequity in Michigan.
- Vetoed bills that would have [disenfranchised](#) and [intimidated](#) voters.
- [Signed legislation](#) to make [Juneteenth](#) a state holiday.
- Signed the bipartisan [CROWN Act](#), banning hair discrimination.
- [Signed](#) bipartisan bill recognizing May 2 as Negro Leagues Day in Michigan.

Growing Michigan's economy for all

- Secured 36,193 good-paying auto jobs and first auto plant in Detroit in nearly 30 years.
- Hired a Black-woman-owned firm to oversee \$3.5B Rebuilding Michigan Plan.
- Signed an [executive directive](#) raising diversity goal for state contracting dollars.
- Awarded \$370 million in construction contracts to firms owned and operated by people of color and women under MDOT's [Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program](#).
- Lowered [cost of car insurance](#) and delivered [\\$400 refund checks per vehicle](#).
- Rolled back the [retirement tax](#) to save 500,000 households an average of \$1,000 a year.
- Quintupled the [Michigan Working Families Tax Credit](#) to give over 700,000 working families an average tax refund of \$3,150.
- Deployed more than half a million dollars through the [Michigan Economic Opportunity Fund](#), a microbusiness loan program for women and entrepreneurs of color.
- [Awarded funds](#) under the Small Business Venture capital Program to Michigan's 1st Black-led VC fund to support early-stage companies and small businesses.

Empowering Michiganders, from cradle to career

- [Free preschool](#) to all eligible 4-year olds, including 8,600+ Black children, through the Great Start Readiness Program.
- [Expanded](#) access to free pre-K to every four-year-old while prioritizing families who need it most so every kid can arrive at kindergarten ready to learn.
- Expanded access to affordable child care for [150,000 more children](#). Now, a family of four earning up to \$55,500 is eligible for free or low-cost child care.
- Raised per-pupil funding by \$1,729 since taking office, a 22% increase.
- [Closed the funding gap](#), ensuring every school district has the same baseline funding and consistently dedicated more state resources to students with the highest needs.
- Funded programs like [Reconnect](#), [Futures for Frontliners](#), and [Michigan Achievement Scholarship](#) to provide hundreds of thousands of Michiganders tuition-free higher education or skills training that leads to a high-skill, good-paying job.

Reforming criminal justice and prioritizing public safety

- Signed ["Clean Slate" bills](#) making hundreds of thousands of Michiganders eligible to have their records expunged, expanding their opportunities for jobs and housing. Invested millions of dollars to assist returning citizens with expungement.
- Signed [Clean Slate for Kids](#) to seal juvenile court records from public view and create a process to automatically expunge records for those who do not commit future offenses.
- [Called on the legislature](#) to ban chokeholds, limit no-knock warrants, require independent investigations of police shootings, classify false, racially motivated 911 calls as a hate crime, mandate retention of disciplinary records resulting from improper use of force.

UPDATED: April 4, 2025



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Addressing health inequities

- Established the [Racial Disparities Task Force](#) and made “[lasting structural change.](#)” Released [a report](#) detailing progress made and actions still to be taken to close disparities.
- [Made investments](#) to reduce disparities, including Sickle Cell treatment, and [invested](#) nearly \$50 million to implement their recommendations.
- Consistently [invested](#) in [Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies](#), an initiative to address disproportionate racial impacts of maternal and infant mortality.
- Declared [racism a public health crisis](#) and required all medical professionals to undergo [unconscious bias training](#) to improve healthcare and target disparities
- [Signed bills supporting moms](#) and newborns by licensing freestanding birth centers, setting up a doula scholarship program, and continuing support for perinatal quality collaboratives.