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 535 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

- 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.
- Enacted auto no-fault legislation, protecting consumers and promoting equity in the auto insurance system.
- Delivered $10 million in grants for minority-owned businesses and continued the MI Contracting Program, helping minority-owned businesses win state contracts.
- 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.
- Signed a budget increasing wages for direct care workers and other staff assisting seniors who require home-based and nursing home services and supports.

Empowering Michiganders, from cradle to career

- Expanded access to free pre-K to every four-year-old so every kid can arrive at kindergarten ready to thrive.
- 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.
- 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 Michigan Reconnect, Community College Guarantee, and the 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.
- Signed a budget that provides a 20% increase in funding to support academically at-risk students and English Language Learners.

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: August 6, 2026

- Secured $15+ million to fund community violence intervention programs, using evidence-based solutions to tackle the root causes of community violence.

Addressing health inequities

- Established the Racial Disparities Task Force and made significant progress towards reducing health-based racial disparities associated with COVID-19
- 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.

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