



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

STANDING UP FOR WORKING PEOPLE



Governor Whitmer is dedicated to helping working people thrive. She has delivered for unions and workers' rights. During her time in office, she has delivered on the fundamental kitchen-table issues that matter most to working people. She's announced over 32,550 good-paying auto jobs, established two programs to put tens of thousands of students on tuition-free paths to higher education and skills training, launched a \$3.5 billion plan to fix roads statewide while creating 45,000 jobs, a \$500 million plan to repair water infrastructure while supporting 7,500 jobs signed the bipartisan Building Michigan Together Plan which made some of the largest infrastructure investments in Michigan history.

"Michigan is home to the hardest working people in the world and because of their efforts, we became the arsenal of democracy, put the world on wheels, and built the middle class. As governor, I am committed to helping working people and unions thrive by delivering on the issues that matter most to them—from paying a fair wage, to securing tuition-free paths to in-demand careers and creating tens of thousands of good-paying jobs."

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

Recognizing Michigan workers

- [Appointed](#) more than 200 union members to boards, commissions, and full-time positions.
- Reinstated [prevailing wage](#) for all state contractors and subcontractors, ensuring working people are treated with dignity, and the state has highly-skilled laborers to build up roads, bridges, pipes, high-speed internet, and more.
- Recognized the rights, struggles, and contributions of Michigan workers, including [Worker's Memorial Day](#), [Nurses Week](#), [Professional Trades Month](#), [Workplace Rights Week](#), [Teacher Appreciation Week](#), and [Essential Worker Appreciation Day](#).

Supporting good-paying jobs

- Announced nearly 32,550 good-paying auto jobs and counting, including the first auto plant in Detroit in nearly 30 years.
- Secured new investments in union [training and pre-apprenticeship](#) programs.
- Established and [fully funded](#) programs to provide thousands of Michiganders access to tuition-free higher education or skills training, leading to a high-skill, good-paying job.
 - [Michigan Reconnect](#), a program that pays tuition of Michiganders 25 and up to pursue an associate degree or earn a skills certificate in high-demand careers.
 - [Futures for Frontliners](#), a program that provides a tuition-free path to postsecondary education or skills training for Michiganders who served on the frontlines of the pandemic.
- Invested in [Going Pro](#) to help businesses up-skill in-house talent and secured resources for talent retention and expansion in key industries.
- Eliminated [barriers to employment](#) for low-income Michiganders.

Fighting for Michigan workers

- Called on the legislature to deliver [Hero Pay for frontline workers](#).
- Delivered \$2 per hour wage increase for direct care workers, increased it to \$2.35 per hour and made it permanent in the [FY 2022 budget](#).
- Proposed a [rollback of Michigan's retirement tax](#) to save half a million households an average of \$1,000 a year for Michigan retirees.
- Signed an executive directive to [fight payroll fraud](#), ensuring companies can't misclassify their employees to deny them pay and benefits. Incentivized the state to increase the number of contracts awarded to companies that create good-paying jobs in Michigan and are good stewards of the state.
- Called on the legislature to pass HB 4175 and 4176 which would repeal of "Right to Work."
- Created a [Nursing Home Workforce Stabilization Council](#) to promote living wages and benefits and worked to [reinstate the practical exam](#) for plumbers.
- Ensured [employees were protected from COVID-19](#) in the workplace by establishing enhanced MIOSHA protections. Provided employers education on the rules and offered them as many tools as they needed to help keep workers safe.

Rebuilding our infrastructure

- During Governor Whitmer's first term, Michigan will fix more than 16,000 lane miles of road and 1,200 bridges, supporting over 89,000 jobs.
- Signed a bill to protect [Michigan's construction workers](#) as they rebuild Michigan's infrastructure.
- Launched the [Rebuilding Michigan Plan](#), a \$3.5 billion bond plan that expands hundreds of major new road projects, building up our state highways and bridges over the next 5 years, without an increase at the pump.
- Launched [MI Clean Water](#), and invested over \$2 billion to upgrade drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater facilities across the state, supporting 30,000 jobs.
- Signed the [Building Michigan Together Plan](#), which invests:
 - Over \$2 billion, supporting 27,000 jobs to remove lead service lines, reduce toxic contaminants like PFAS, rebuild wastewater and sewer infrastructure, provide clean water for schools and childcare centers, and so much more.
 - \$316 million into roads and bridges and \$66 million into pump station generators to keep highways clear during severe storms.
 - \$100 million to expand access to [affordable, attainable housing](#), help close equity gaps, and create vibrant communities in urban areas.
- Signed an [FY 2023 budget](#) that improved local rail crossings and funded key infrastructure projects in every region.
- Invested more than \$45 million in [electric vehicle charging infrastructure](#).
- Signed an executive directive to [streamline and improve permitting](#) for infrastructure projects.
- Signed four executive directives and launched the [Michigan Infrastructure Office](#) readying Michigan to use incoming resources from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. These directives put Michigan workers and businesses first while fixing the damn [roads and bridges](#), connecting Michiganders to [high-speed internet](#), replacing [lead service lines](#), and building more [electric vehicle chargers](#).