



# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## PROTECTING ELECTIONS AND VOTERS, PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNMENT

Governor Whitmer is committed to ensuring that Michiganders have a transparent, responsive state government that makes a real difference in people's lives. When it comes to transparency, Governor Whitmer has led the way by upholding state employees to a higher standard. She has raised ethical standards, banned private email and messaging apps, and mandated reporting of irregularities concerning taxpayer dollars. On voting rights, the governor has taken action to protect the voices of every Michigander by improving access to the ballot box, fighting gerrymandering, and tackling campaign finance reform.

*"Michiganders deserve a transparent government that is responsive to their needs and is staffed by ethical state employees who are dedicated to getting things done that make a difference in people's lives. I am proud of the actions I have taken to ensure every Michigander's voice is heard at the ballot box and new standards I have enacted to boost transparency and raise ethical standards. We are accountable to the people we serve, and I will continue finding ways to make state government more responsive to Michiganders."*

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

### Upholding Fair Elections & Ensuring Voter Protections

- Invested millions to enhance elections infrastructure, fight gerrymandering, and improve census accuracy.
- Vetoed bills that would have [disenfranchised](#) and [intimidated](#) voters by imposing unnecessarily strict ID rules and prohibited the Secretary of State and local elections officials from continuing to provide absentee mail ballots to voters.
- Vetoed bills that would have [weakened campaign finance requirements](#) and called on the legislature to strengthen requirements to keep foreign money out of Michigan elections and politics.
- Led a group of governors urging the United States Senate to [pass voting rights legislation](#) amidst unprecedented attacks on voting rights.
- Called on the legislature to [improve access to the ballot box](#) by allowing active-duty Michiganders serving overseas and their spouses to vote electronically, remove barriers to voting absentee by establishing a permanent absentee voter list, and expedite election results by allowing sufficient time for preprocessing of absentee ballots.
- Vetoed bills that would have [weakened campaign finance requirements](#) and called on the legislature to strengthen requirements to keep foreign money out of Michigan elections and politics.
- [Worked with governors across the country](#) to protect voting rights and uphold the integrity of elections and urged businesses and institutions to oppose voter disenfranchisement efforts after the 2020 election.
- Kept a commitment to veto any referendum proof bills to ensure that citizens can take legislation to the ballot.
- Launched the [2020 United States Census Complete Count Committee](#) to ensure that the 2020 census count in Michigan was complete and accurate to ensure accurate representation in the United States House of Representatives.
- [Invested millions](#) to enhance elections infrastructure, fight gerrymandering, and improve census accuracy.

### Working towards transparency in state government

- [Voluntarily discloses](#) public calendars, federal income tax returns and personal financial information.
- Signed executive directives to:
  - Identify and assess opportunities to [help eligible Michigan residents register to vote](#) and gain access to reliable information about voting.
  - Require reporting of [irregularities relating to public money or public property](#) to ensure state government is transparent and accountable to taxpayers.
  - Establish high standards of [ethical conduct for employees within the executive branch](#) to ensure public confidence in state government leaders.

- [Prohibit the solicitation and receipt of political contributions](#) in all state government facilities to curtail improper political influence.
- [Prohibit the use of private email](#) for the conduct of state business within the executive branch to ensure transparency in state government activities.
- [Strengthen the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act](#) by closing loopholes and fostering a more user-friendly process within departments and agencies through the use of transparency liaisons to facilitate public requests.
- Increased transparency by [streamlining access](#) to public records by accepting credit card payments for FOIA requests.
- Signed a bill to [strengthen government transparency](#) by banning the use of messaging apps or other software on state employees' work-issued devices if the technology prevents communications from being subject to public record requests.
- Signed a bill to [expand transparency and accountability](#) by ensuring government bodies create and maintain audio recordings of their meetings.
- Signed a bill to make the [Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission](#) more transparent by ensuring all meetings are public.
- Called on the legislature to modernize the open meetings act to allow for virtual meetings to increase participation in governments at all levels.