



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

DELIVERING FOR WOMEN ACROSS MICHIGAN



Governor Whitmer has centered Michigan's women and families by pursuing policies that make a difference in their lives. She's made historic investments in K-12 schools without raising taxes and expanded healthcare to nearly 900,000 people. The Governor will continue finding ways to deliver meaningful change that makes a difference in the lives of women and families, including robust investments in childcare so every kid has an opportunity to succeed from day one and in infrastructure, so moms can drive to work, drop their kids off at school, or run errands without blowing a tire or cracking an axle.

"As Governor, I am committed to helping Michigan women pursue their potential by making progress on the kitchen-table issues and tackling challenges that impact their lives, from healthcare to childcare to wealth gaps and health gaps."

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

Investing in women and working families

- Proposed tripling the [Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit](#) to give over 730,000 working families an average combined federal and state tax refund of \$3,000.
- Signed a [package of bills](#) to repeal the tax on essential menstrual products, including tampons, driving down costs and saving families from paying taxes on up to \$4,800 of spending over the course of a lifetime.
- Signed an [executive directive](#) to require equal pay for equal work in Michigan.
- Signed an [executive directive](#) to strengthen protections against discrimination for state employees and contractors, including for gender identity or expression and sexual orientation.
- Launched the [Women's Economic Recovery Tour](#) with the Michigan Women's Commission to develop policies and programs that help women fully participate and thrive in the state's economy.
- [Directed](#) the Michigan Women's Commission to focus on building greater economic security for women and achieving gender equity.
- [Awarded grants](#) to community-based organizations to help women workers understand and exercise their rights and benefits in the workplace.

Focusing on women's health

- Filed a lawsuit to [protect abortion access](#) for 2.2 million women in Michigan.
- Called on the legislature to [repeal the state's 1931 law](#) banning abortions, which hasn't been enforced since the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade.
- Joined 16 governors to call on the United States Congress to pass the Women's Health Protection Act, which would [codify access to safe, legal abortion](#) offered by Roe v Wade into federal law.
- Signed an [executive directive](#) instructing state departments to shore up reproductive health protections in Michigan.
- Invested in [Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies](#), addressing disproportionate racial impacts of maternal and infant mortality and ensuring moms have the support they need for healthy pregnancies, deliveries, and postpartum care. Secured an [expansion of this program](#) in FY 2023 budget.
- [Coordinated a statewide response](#) to the national baby formula shortage.
- Extended [Healthy Michigan](#) to [over 1 million people](#).

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Making historic investments in education and childcare

- Put Michigan students first with [\\$9,150 per student funding](#), the highest ever state funding. Since the Governor took office in 2019, she has raised per-pupil funding by \$1,279, a 16.2% increase.
- [Closed the funding gap](#) between schools, ensuring every school district has the same baseline funding.
- Dedicated more state resources to students with the highest needs, including increased funding for at-risk and special education in the FY [20](#), [21](#), [22](#), and [23](#) budgets.
- Expanded access to free preschool for 22,000+ [more four-year olds](#) through the high-quality, homegrown Great Start Readiness Program.
- Kept childcare businesses open and care affordable for families by [signing](#) a record \$1.4 billion childcare investment and expanded access to affordable childcare for 150,000 more children. Now, a family of four earning up to \$55,500 is eligible for free or low-cost childcare.
- Led by example by [enacting paid parental leave](#) up to 12 weeks for state employees — in just over a year over 1,800 employees have taken advantage of this benefit.

Rebuilding our infrastructure

- Since Governor Whitmer took office through the end of 2022, Michigan will fix over 16,000 lane miles of road and 1,200 bridges, supporting over 89,000 jobs.
- Invested over \$4 billion to upgrade drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater facilities across the state, supporting 57,000 jobs.
- Launched the [Rebuilding Michigan Plan](#), a \$3.5 billion bond plan that expands hundreds of major new road projects, rebuilding our state highways and bridges over the next 5 years, without an increase at the pump.
- 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.
 - \$450 million in state and community parks, trails, and recreation facilities.
 - \$316 million into roads and bridges and \$66 million into pump station generators to keep highways clear during severe storms.
 - \$249 million to expand access to reliable high-speed internet
 - \$100 million to expand access to [affordable, attainable housing](#), help close equity gaps, and create vibrant communities in urban areas.

Ensuring representation in state government

- Two-thirds of Governor Whitmer's executive office and cabinet are women or people of color.
- [Appointed](#) more than 1,100 women to boards, commissions, and full-time positions. Over 60% of appointees and 73% of judges appointed are women or people of color.
- Declared March as [Women's History Month](#) to honor the prominent activists of our past and recognize the women in Michigan who continue to break barriers.