



# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## DELIVERING ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM



Through her time in office, Governor Whitmer has collaborated with Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist, Attorney General Dana Nessel, Chief Justice Bridget McCormack, and bipartisan partners in the legislature to enact historic criminal justice reform. She signed “Clean Slate” laws that help hundreds of thousands of Michiganders get enhanced opportunities for jobs and housing and allow them to pursue their full potential. She also launched task forces to address pretrial incarceration and juvenile justice and pursued reforms to improve relationships between law enforcement and the people they serve.

*“Every Michigander, no matter their community or the color of their skin, deserves equal treatment under the law. We must ensure that law enforcement officials treat all Michiganders with dignity and respect, and keep our communities safe. I will continue to work with leaders in law enforcement to make public safety more just and equitable in Michigan.”*

*- Governor Gretchen Whitmer*

### Reforming criminal justice

- Signed [Clean Slate bills](#) making hundreds of thousands of Michiganders eligible for records expungement, expanding their opportunities for jobs and housing. Invested millions of dollars to assist returning citizens with expungement.
- Signed [Clean Slate For Kids](#) to create a process to automatically expunge juvenile records for those who don't commit future offenses.
- Signed [Raise the Age](#) bills to ensure anyone under 18 is treated as a minor in juvenile court and receives rehabilitation services in the juvenile justice system to reduce recidivism.
- Signed the [Good Moral Character](#) package to expand opportunities for Michiganders post-conviction or post-judgment by reforming occupational licensing.
- Signed a [civil asset forfeiture](#) package to limit law enforcement from taking permanent ownership of cash and other property seized in drug cases for individuals who have not been convicted of a crime.
- Signed [a bill](#) to allow individuals who committed a drug-related offense, or have outstanding warrants for such offenses, to access critical benefits like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Launched [Jobs Court](#), a court diversion program to put hundreds of Michiganders accused of low-level, nonviolent offenses in good-paying jobs to reduce recidivism and help businesses struggling with workforce shortages.
- Proposed investments in [community jail diversion programs](#) to divert individuals with serious mental illness, substance abuse disorders, or developmental disabilities from custody and provide treatment options and support services.
- Established a policy that will guarantee critical medical resources and support to Department of Corrections' [pregnant and post-partum prisoners and their newborns](#).
- Launched two task forces to reduce the disparity of Black Michiganders in jail.
  - [Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration](#) to expand alternatives to jail, safely reduce jail admissions and length of stay, and improve the effectiveness of the front end of Michigan's justice system.
  - [Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform](#) to analyze Michigan's juvenile justice system and recommend proven practices and strategies for reform.

### Building relationships between the public and law enforcement

- Developed a [four-pillar plan to strengthen police-community relations](#) in partnership with community leaders and law enforcement organizations.
  - Improve police standards and training to reduce police violence.
  - Build a more emphatic and diverse police force to establish a foundation for future recruiting and hiring efforts.

- Increase trust between police officers and the communities they serve, and
- Prevent improper use of force by holding officers accountable, remove barriers that impede officer accountability, and make data available to the public.
- Created [Bridges to BLUE – Build Listen Unite Engage](#), a citizen advisory council to MSP leadership to provide the department with an outside perspective into their practices.
- Expanded the [Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards](#) (MCOLES) to include the Director of the Department of Civil Rights and bring more community voices to the table. Called to provide guidance to help officers keep up with new laws and issues, including diversity and implicit bias training.
- Made Michigan a leader in police [transparency and accountability](#) with public access to information on use of force and traffic stop data, department policies, and training requirements.
- Signed a [package of bills](#) to provide behavioral health crisis response grants to local governments or expand community-based mobile crisis intervention services in addition to traditional law enforcement services.
- Established [community service trooper positions](#) to institute community policing across the state.
- Implemented [recurring implicit bias training and training](#) on responding to situations involving people with mental illnesses.
- Invested [millions of dollars](#) to expand the use of body cameras, provide de-escalation trainings and other professional development and training efforts for law enforcement.
- Leveraged [a federal grant](#) for community policing development and de-escalation training to build trust in communities and provide better training to local law enforcement.
- [Called on the legislature](#) to ban chokeholds, limit no-knock warrants, require independent investigations of all police shootings, require “duty to intervene” policies, classify false, racially motivated 911 calls as a hate crime, and mandate retention of disciplinary records resulting from improper use of force.