



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

DELIVERING FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY



Governor Whitmer is focused on delivering for the Black community. Her administration made the biggest investments in Michigan's public schools ever, passed major criminal justice reforms, and put people back to work. The Governor made progress on kitchen-table issues—jobs, roads, water, education, childcare, and more—with the most diverse cabinet in state history and Michigan's first Black Lieutenant Governor, Garlin Gilchrist, by her side.

"Governor Whitmer and I are focused on the fundamentals," said Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist. "Through historic circumstances, we have delivered historic results for working families and communities of color on a range of issues from preK-12 education, jobs, justice, and infrastructure. We will keep standing tall for our values and making investments to put Michiganders first."

- Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist II

Ensuring representation in state government

- [Appointed](#) more than 338 Black Michiganders to boards, commissions, and full-time positions. 60% of appointees are women or people of color.
- [Appointed](#) 12 Black Michiganders to the bench out of 41 judicial appointments.
- Created the [Black Leadership Advisory Council](#) to tackle racial inequity in Michigan.

Creating paths to prosperity

- Secured 21,600 good-paying auto jobs and counting and built the first auto plant in Detroit in nearly 30 years.
- Created programs to give hundreds of thousands of Michiganders tuition-free higher education or skills training for high-skill, good-paying jobs:
 - [Michigan Reconnect](#): pays tuition of Michiganders 25 and up for an associate's degree or a skills certificate in high-demand careers.
 - [Futures for Frontliners](#): a tuition-free path to higher education or skills training for those who served on the pandemic frontlines.
- Signed bills to reopen Michigan's first and only [historically Black college or university](#), the Pensole Lewis College of Business and Design in Detroit.
- Signed historic legislation to lower the cost of car insurance, saving drivers at least [\\$120 per car](#) per year.
- Secured [\\$400 refunds per vehicle](#) for every Michigan driver.

Making historic investments in education and childcare

- Made the [largest investment](#) in K-12 schools in Michigan history three years in a row—without raising taxes. Closed the historic differential between wealthy districts and economically challenged ones. Provided more dollars to at-risk students, English language learners, and special education students in every budget.
- Expanded low or no-cost childcare to [105,000 more kids](#) in FY 2022 budget.
- [Tripled literacy coaches](#) in schools to help every child read by third grade.
- Expanded [free preschool](#) for 22,000 more four-year olds through the Great Start Readiness Program.
- Invested a record [\\$1.4 billion](#) in childcare to keep local childcare providers open. Expanded access to low or no-cost childcare for working families earning less than \$49,000 a year.

Rebuilding our infrastructure

- Since Governor Whitmer took office, Michigan has repaired, rebuilt, or replaced 13,198 lane miles of road and 903 bridges, supporting nearly 82,000 jobs.

- Launched the [Rebuilding Michigan](#) Plan: \$3.5 billion for hundreds of major new road projects and bridges over the next 5 years, without an increase at the pump.
 - \$73 million dollars of federal highway project funds to minority and women owned businesses, \$10 million to Black-owned businesses. Hired a Black woman-owned firm to oversee bonding.
- Launched [MI Clean Water](#), and invested over \$2 billion to upgrade drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater facilities across the state, supporting 30,000 jobs.
- Governor Whitmer's proposed [FY 2023 budget](#) invests \$6.3 billion into state and local roads, bridges, airports, and transit—the most in Michigan history.
- Signed the [Building Michigan Together Plan](#), which invests:
 - Nearly \$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.

Reforming criminal justice

- Signed ["Clean Slate" bills](#) making hundreds of thousands of Michiganders eligible to have their records expunged, expanding their opportunities for jobs and housing.
 - Over 80,000 more Detroiters are now eligible to have past mistakes removed from their record to get a chance at a new start.
- 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.
- 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.

Prioritizing public safety

- Proposed [MI Safe Communities](#), \$75 million to reduce crime and keep families safe by tackling the court backlog, and uplifting communities by making investments in jobs programs, counseling, and education.
- [Called on the legislature](#) to ban chokeholds, limit no-knock warrants, require independent investigations of all police shootings, classify false, racially motivated 911 calls as a hate crime, and mandate retention of disciplinary records resulting from improper use of force.
- Made Michigan a leader in transparency by developing a new [transparency and accountability](#) web page for public access to information on use of force and traffic stop data, department policies, and training requirements.

Addressing health inequities

- Launched [Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies](#) to reduce disproportionate racial infant mortality and proposed an expansion of the program in the FY 23 budget.
- Funded the [Sickle Cell Disease Initiative](#), set up the [Race, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Office](#), and invested in [plans to reduce health disparities](#) by using [community navigators](#) to improve access to health coverage,.
- Established the [Racial Disparities Task Force](#) and made [lasting structural change](#) in addressing racial disparities of COVID-19.
- Declared [racism a public health crisis](#) and required all medical professionals to undergo [unconscious bias training](#) to improve healthcare and target disparities.