



# 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. We will keep standing tall for our values and making investments to put Michiganders first.”*

*- Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist II*

### Building the most inclusive government in state history

- Assembled the most diverse executive office and cabinet in Michigan history. Two-thirds of executive office and cabinet are women or people of color.
- 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.
- Called on congress and the state legislature to improve access to the ballot box and vetoed bills that would have disenfranchised and intimidated voters.

### Growing Michigan's economy for all

- Secured 21,600 good-paying auto jobs and counting and built the first auto plant in Detroit in nearly 30 years with commitments for local hires
- Since taking office through the end of 2022, fixed more than 16,000 lane miles of road and 1,200 bridges, supporting nearly 89,000 jobs.
- Hired a Black-woman-owned firm to oversee bonding of the \$3.5B Rebuilding Michigan Plan.
- Awarded \$370 million in construction contracts to firms owned and operated by people of color and women under MDOT's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program.
- Lowered the cost of car insurance with legislation that eliminated discriminatory criteria in setting auto insurance rates and secured \$400 refund checks per vehicle for every Michigan driver.
- Signed the Building Michigan Together Plan to replace 20,000 lead service lines, shore up pumping stations to keep highways clear during storms, and build 2,000 affordable housing units.
- Launched MI Clean Water, and invested over \$2 billion to upgrade drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater facilities across the state, supporting 30,000 jobs.
- Announced the MI Open Account Coalition to offer low or no-cost financial services for unbanked and underbanked Michiganders, saving them an average of \$3,000 a year and helping them build wealth.
- 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.

### Empowering Michiganders, from cradle to career

- Expanded free preschool to 22,000 more 4-year olds through the Great Start Readiness Program.
- Invested a record \$1.4 billion in childcare to keep local providers open. Expanded access to low or no-cost childcare for working families earning less than \$49,000 a year.

- 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.
- [Tripled literacy coaches](#) in schools to help every child read by third grade.
- Signed bills to reopen Michigan's first and only [historically Black college or university](#), the Pensole Lewis College of Business and Design in Detroit.
- Created programs to give hundreds of thousands of Michiganders tuition-free higher education or job training to land 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.

## 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.