



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

STANDING UP FOR WORKING PEOPLE



Governor Whitmer is dedicated to helping working people thrive. She has delivered for unions and workers' rights. During her time in office, she has delivered on the fundamental kitchen-table issues that matter most to working people. She's created over 21,600 good-paying auto jobs, established two programs to put hundreds of thousands of students on a tuition-free path to higher education and skills training, launched a \$3.5 billion plan to fix roads statewide while creating 45,000 jobs, and a \$500 million plan to repair water infrastructure while creating 7,500 jobs.

"Michigan is home to the hardest working people in the world and because of their efforts, we became the arsenal of democracy, put the world on wheels, and built the middle class. As governor, I am committed to helping working people and unions thrive by delivering on the issues that matter most to them—from paying a fair wage, to securing tuition-free paths to in-demand careers and creating tens of thousands of good-paying jobs."

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

Recognizing Michigan workers

- [Appointed](#) more than 170 union members to boards, commissions, and full-time positions.
- Reinstated [prevailing wage](#) for all state contractors and subcontractors, ensuring working people are treated with dignity, and the state has highly-skilled laborers to build up roads, bridges, pipes, high-speed internet, and more.
- Recognized the rights, struggles, and contributions of Michigan workers, including [Worker's Memorial Day](#), [Nurses Week](#), [Professional Trades Month](#), [Workplace Rights Week](#), [Teacher Appreciation Week](#), and [Essential Worker Appreciation Day](#).

Supporting good-paying jobs

- Created over 21,600 good-paying auto jobs and counting, including the first auto plant in Detroit in nearly 30 years.
- Proposed new investments in [union training and pre apprenticeship programs](#).
- Proposed [historic investments](#) in workforce development and job training with a focus on talent retention and expansion in key industries and removing barriers and providing employment supports for marginalized communities.
- Established and fully funded programs to provide tens of thousands of Michiganders tuition-free higher education or skills training that leads to a high-skill, good-paying jobs:
 - [Michigan Reconnect](#), a program that pays tuition of Michiganders 25 and up to pursue an associate degree or earn a skills certificate in high-demand careers.
 - [Futures for Frontliners](#), providing a tuition-free path to postsecondary education or skills training for Michiganders who served on the frontlines of the pandemic.

Fighting for Michigan workers

- Called on the legislature to deliver [Hero Pay for frontline workers](#).
- Delivered [\\$2 per hour wage increase](#) for direct care workers, increased it to \$2.35 per hour and made it permanent in the FY 2022 budget.
- Proposed [bonuses, raises, and retention payments](#) in the FY 2023 budget for Michigan workers including frontline workers, first responders, healthcare professionals, and educators.
- Proposed a [roll back of Michigan's retirement tax](#) to save half a million households an average of \$1,000 a year for Michigan retirees.

- Signed a directive to [fight payroll fraud](#), ensuring companies can't misclassify their employees to deny them pay and benefits. Incentivized the state to increase the number of contracts awarded to companies that create good-paying jobs in Michigan and are good stewards of the state.
- Called on the legislature to pass HB 4175 and 4176 which would repeal of "Right to Work."
- Ensured [employees were protected from COVID-19](#) in the workplace by establishing enhanced MIOSHA protections. Provided employers education on the rules and offered them as many tools as they needed to help keep workers safe.

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](#), a \$3.5 billion bond plan that expands hundreds of major new road projects, building up our state highways and bridges over the next 5 years, without an increase at the pump.
- Launched [MI Clean Water](#), invested over \$2 billion to upgrade drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater facilities across the state, supporting 30,000 jobs.
- Invested more than \$45 million in electric vehicle charging infrastructure and [proposed millions more](#) to build up Michigan's charging infrastructure network.
- Proposed an FY 2023 budget that invests \$6.3 billion into state and local roads, bridges, airports, transit, and rail programs —the largest transportation budget in Michigan history and \$1 billion dollars more than FY 2022 because of resources from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- 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.
 - \$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.
- Signed four executive directives and launched the [Michigan Infrastructure Office](#) readying Michigan to use incoming resources from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. These directives put Michigan workers and businesses first while fixing the damn [roads and bridges](#), connecting Michiganders to [high-speed internet](#), replacing [lead service lines](#), and building more [electric vehicle chargers](#).