



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

Ensuring representation in state government

- Governor Whitmer's executive office and cabinet are two-thirds women or people of color.
- [Appointed](#) more than 1,100 women to boards, commissions, and full-time positions. 45% of Whitmer appointees are women and 73% of those 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.

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.
- Proposed a roll back of the [retirement tax](#) to save 500,000 households an average of \$1,000 a year.
- 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 [executive directive](#) to strengthen protections against discrimination in state employment, including for gender identity or expression and sexual orientation. This directive extended those protections to the employees of anyone doing business with the state too.
- 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

- 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. Proposed an [expansion of this program](#) in her FY 2023 budget.
- Filed a lawsuit to [protect abortion access](#) for 2.2 million women in Michigan if Roe v. Wade is overturned.
- 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
- Proposed improving access to dental services for 3 million Michiganders covered by Medicaid or Healthy Michigan plans.
- Extended Healthy Michigan to nearly 900,000 people and suspended the Medicaid work requirement that created barriers to coverage.
- Established a policy that will guarantee critical medical resources and support to Department of Corrections' [pregnant and post-partum prisoners and their newborns](#).

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 nearly 89,000 jobs.
- Proposed an [FY 2023 budget](#) investing \$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.
- Proposed an [FY 2023 budget](#) that included \$249 million for drinking water, lead service lines, clean water, and PFAS and funding to ensure safe drinking water in schools and address in-home water challenges.
- Launched [MI Clean Water](#), a \$1 billion plan to [upgrade water infrastructure](#). Taken together, these investments would support 15,000 jobs. In addition to MI Clean Water, invested over \$2 billion to upgrade drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater facilities across the state, supporting 30,000 jobs.
- 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.

Making historic investments in education and childcare

- Put Michigan students first with an FY 23 [budget proposal](#) that makes schools safer, helps every student get back on track, supports our teachers, and ensures every kid can be a kid—all without raising taxes.
- Made the [largest investment](#) in K-12 schools in state history—without raising taxes.
 - Closed the funding gap between schools, ensuring every school district has the same baseline funding: \$8,700 per student. Proposed [increasing to \\$9,135](#) in FY 2023.
 - The dollars will go to newer textbooks, better gym equipment, and smaller class sizes—things to improve every student's in-school experience.
- Expanded access to free preschool for [22,000 more four-year-olds](#) through the high-quality, homegrown Great Start Readiness Program.
- Prioritized equity in education by dedicating more dollars to at-risk, English language learners, and special education students in all of her budgets ('20, '21, and '22). Proposed [further increase](#) in FY 2023.
- [Tripled the number of literacy coaches](#) in schools to help every child read by third grade.
- Reaffirmed every kid's [constitutional right to literacy](#).
- Kept childcare businesses open and care affordable for families by [signing](#) a record \$1.4 billion investment in federal childcare funding.
 - [Expanded access to low or no-cost childcare](#) for 112,000 more working families earning less than \$49,025 for a family of four.
 - Launched the [Mi Child Care TriShare pilot](#) in 59 counties to share the cost of care between employees, employers, and the state.
 - Expanded access to childcare statewide by keeping childcare open and helping programs expand to communities without enough 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.
- Supported an expansion of the federal [Child Tax Credit for nearly 2 million Michigan families](#) thanks to leadership from the congressional delegation and the Biden administration.