

Michigan Governor

THE ISSUES

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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Ban. “I am pro-life. My only exception is to protect the life of the mother,” (no exceptions for rape or incest). There’s “healing through (the) baby” of a rape victim. “Those voices, the babies of rape victims that have come forward, are very powerful when you hear their story.”	Legal. Asked the Michigan Supreme Court to stop enforcement of a 1931 Michigan law banning abortion without exceptions for rape or incest, before it could take effect with the overturning of Roe v. Wade. Also asked Court to recognize a state constitutional right to an abortion.
CLIMATE Should climate change be a top priority? Tax or limit the output of greenhouse gases, or support renewable energy?	No position found.	Yes. Climate change has hit state with effects “from a polar vortex and historic floods to dam breaks and week-long power outages.” Signed an order to make state carbon-neutral by 2050. In 2022 released a plan to create infrastructure for 2 million electric vehicles, cut emissions from homes and businesses by 17%, and generate 60% of electricity from renewables by 2030.
EDUCATION Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	Yes. Will “allow families to use the state’s per-pupil funding amount on public, private, charter, virtual, or homeschooling options.” Supports publicly funded \$1,000 scholarships that families can use to pay for private tutoring.	No. Vetoed two bills that would give tax breaks to contributors to a scholarship program that could be used for private school tuition. “Our schools cannot provide... high-quality education... if we turn private schools into tax shelters.” Proposed a public tutoring program to help students recover from pandemic learning loss.
EDUCATION How to address the teaching of issues around racism and gender identity?	Will protect schoolkids from “anti-American critical race theory” and “trans-supremacist ideology.” Will ban school staff from talking about sex and gender to kindergarten-3rd graders. Will “require school districts to put all curriculum and teaching materials online for parents to see.”	In 2022, created the advisory Michigan Parents’ Council “to guarantee that the voices of parents and families are at the forefront in informing education policy.” In 2020, created the Educator Advisory Council that pledged to promote policies and practices that “help put an end to systemic racism.”
EDUCATION Increase funding for K-12 and higher education?	Likely no. A voucher program she supported would have diverted public education funding to private schools, cutting state revenue, and potentially public school funding, by as much as \$500 million in the first year.	Yes. Signed a 2022 budget that increased school funding by 15.6 percent. Said it was “the highest state per-student investment in Michigan history.” Vetoed a bill that would have cut public revenue.
ELECTIONS Did Joe Biden legitimately win the 2020 Presidential election?	No. Repeatedly held through June 2022 that Trump won Michigan and the 2020 election. Later declined to answer whether the election was stolen.	Yes. “The people... have spoken.... Biden won the State of Michigan by more than 154,000 votes, and he will be our next president.” “It was a safe, fair and secure election.”

ISSUES	DIXON	WHITMER
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulations?	Loosen. Will “slash 40% of Regulations in 4 Years.” Opposed shutting down aging Enbridge pipeline. “Shutting down pipelines is the Democrats’ favorite thing to do,” raising gas prices.	Tighten. Ordered aging Enbridge pipeline shut down after a state review found “unacceptable risk” of a catastrophic oil spill. Abolished an industry-dominated environment review committee. Got a bipartisan \$4.8 billion water funding package.
GUN RULES Pass less or more restrictive legislation on guns?	Less. “I will not allow anyone to tear apart our 2nd Amendment.” Opposes “red-flag” laws. Supports no-permit concealed carry. Will hire more public-school armed security with funds from firing all diversity/equity staff.	More. Supports a “red flag” law that allows firearms to be temporarily taken from someone deemed a risk to themselves or others. Is open to a possible ban on assault rifles. Supports federal Bipartisan Safer Communities Act “to reduce crime and gun violence.”
HEALTH CARE Increase government role in health care, such as expanding Medicaid or limiting drug prices?	Mixed. Wants mental health facilities to expand and would bring more mental health and health care professionals to the state. Opposes vaccine mandates and a new law lowering Medicare costs, saying it will “raise taxes.”	Increase. Supports Healthy Michigan Plan expansion. Expanded after-birth Medicaid coverage to a full year to improve mothers’ and babies’ health, close health disparities. Supports new law letting Medicare negotiate drug costs.
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration? Support a path to citizenship for “DACA” participants brought to the US as children?	Would ban sanctuary cities and make cities and local governments comply fully with federal immigration law—or face “stiff penalties.” No position found on DACA participants.	Halted construction of a privately run immigrant detention facility. “DACA gave 800,000 young people a chance to build a better life, many of them in the only country they know. I stand with them.”
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?	No position found.	Easier. Supports collective bargaining. “I am a pro-worker governor to the core, and I will continue to fight for working people.”
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Limit. Regarding transgendered athletes, will “protect young girls from... playing “against biological boys in school sports.” Would make it a crime for an adult to bring minors to drag events. No position found on same-sex marriage.	Expand. “The Michigan Supreme Court has ruled decisively to confirm that our state’s civil rights laws protect our LGBTQ+ community.” Signed an order barring use of state or federal funds for conversion therapy in Michigan.
MARIJUANA Should recreational marijuana be banned or legal?	No position found.	Legal. Supported 2018 legalization. Marijuana tax revenues let the state make bigger investments in “schools, road and first responders.”
MINIMUM WAGE Keep or raise state minimum from \$9.87/hour? If raise, by how much?	No position found.	Raise. Has supported raising to \$15, with support for small businesses. Proposed a framework for raising to \$15/hour to help businesses fill jobs while boosting wages for workers.
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID Support lowering interest on student loans or forgiving them?	No. In Biden plan, those who didn’t “take a loan or they’ve paid off their student loan...are now on the hook for other people’s student loan.”	Yes. Federal cancellation of “\$10,000 in student debt and \$20,000 for Pell Grant recipients” “will benefit up to 1.4 million Michiganders.”
TAXES How to modify state taxes?	Will “phase out Michigan’s personal income tax over time” and “cut corporate welfare,” including reconsiderations of all state tax incentives.	Introduced a tax plan with a \$500 “inflation relief” check for “working families,” relief for the working poor, and lower taxes for seniors.
VOTING RULES Support tightened restrictions on such voting rules as absentee and early voting, and voter ID?	Yes. Will make voter ID laws “the strongest in the country,” ban ballot drop boxes, and add new requirements for mail ballots.	No. Vetoed a bill to tighten state’s voter ID law and limit absentee ballot application mailings. Backs proposals for a permanent list of absentee voters & improving ballot access for the military.

We have space to include only candidates polling 15%, but check out others including [Donna Brandenburg](#) (T), [Mary Buzuma](#) (L), and [Evan Space](#) (I).

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