

MICHIGAN

Voters in Michigan this year will elect a governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general. All 38 seats in the State Senate and all 110 seats in the State House will be on the ballot as well. Michigan is a battleground state: all races are expected to be competitive.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

[Governor Gretchen Whitmer](#)

Governor Gretchen Whitmer (D) took office in 2019 after defeating former Attorney General Bill Schuette (R) in the 2018 general election by over 400,000 votes. She previously served in the Michigan State House of Representatives from 2001 to 2006 and in the Michigan State Senate from 2006 to 2015. In 2011 she was appointed Minority Caucus Leader. Unable to run for reelection due to term limits, she became the Ingram County Prosecutor in 2016. She is running on her first term accomplishments and priorities if she were to earn a second.

Whitmer has made Michigan's struggling infrastructure a key priority in her campaigning and tenure as governor. Her initial [plan](#) to fund infrastructure development involved a 45-cent-per-gallon gas tax increase, which was unpopular among voters and legislators. Since then, she has struggled with the Republican-held legislature in securing funding. Nonetheless, she [credits her administration](#) for fixing over 13,000 miles of road and more than 900 bridges.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Whitmer issued a stay-at-home order that was met with wide [approval](#) among both Democratic and Republican voters.

Since her time in the State Senate, she has pushed for the expansion of Medicaid coverage. She is on the record speaking against single-payer healthcare, [stating](#) in 2015 that it was not realistic for Michigan at the time.

Whitmer disapproved of former President's Donald Trump's proposal to exclude undocumented immigrants from the 2020 census. She has [advocated](#) providing undocumented immigrants with driver's licenses or other government identification.

She has [proposed](#) guaranteeing high school students two years of debt-free higher education, and believes the state's "read-or-flunk" policy should be repealed.

Whitmer has amassed a large war chest for her campaign, much of it from out-of-state [sources](#). [Polling](#) for the race shows a wide lead for Whitmer.

Trivia: In 2020, Detroit rapper Gmac Cash released a song called "Big Gretch" that expressed support for Whitmer and her handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.