MICHIGAN

Voters in Michigan will elect a governor, attorney general, and lt. governor in 2026. All 38 state senate seats and all 110 state house seats are also on the ballot. Michigan is considered a competitive battleground for executive level offices and the legislature.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson

Jocelyn Benson was elected to the secretary of state's office in 2018. Previously, Benson was appointed dean of Wayne State University Law School at age 35.

Benson lists **affordability, housing, healthcare, energy issues, and addressing data centers** as her top priorities. She has also leaned on her experiences and her accomplishments in her current role.

Benson has pledged to incentivize the development and construction of starter homes and affordable **housing** units. She opposes corporate investors in residential real estate. She aims to create a statewide database to pinpoint where more housing is needed. Benson also supports creating a statewide system to track short-term rentals.

On **healthcare**, Benson supports requiring hospitals to show patients their costs upfront and the creation of a state Prescription Drug Affordability Board to review manufacturing practices and approve drug price increases. Benson wants to invest in mobile health centers for rural areas.

Benson has pledged to launch a statewide Home **Energy** Bills Relief Program to weatherize homes, upgrade insulation, and replace outdated heating and cooling systems. She hopes to work with the state's public utilities to conduct a comprehensive audit of the grid to address vulnerabilities and outdated infrastructure.

Benson supports a statewide moratorium on **data centers** and vehemently believes that operators should cover all costs imposed on the state's energy system from facilities. She opposes tax incentives for more facilities and has pledged to enforce public hearings to ensure projects are not approved without residents having an opportunity to share concerns.

The Cook Political Report and the Center for Politics Sabato's Crystal Ball have the race rated as Leans Democratic.

Trivia: As a student at Wellesley College, she became the first college student ever elected to the governing body for the town of Wellesley, Massachusetts.