

GOVERNOR WHITMER'S PLAN TO LOWER THE COST OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES



Governor Whitmer has ensured Michigan lives up to its legacy as the place that put the world on wheels. In three years, she's worked with Michigan's automakers and suppliers to create over 20,000 good-paying auto jobs, including opening the first auto plant in Detroit in nearly 30 years. She has made investments to ensure Michigan stays the home of the auto industry, building electric vehicle charging infrastructure, training workers for clean energy and mobility jobs, and deploying innovative mobility technologies. Governor Whitmer wants to empower families to be a part of the clean energy transition by addressing barriers to electric vehicle adoption like range anxiety and upfront cost.

PUTTING MICHIGANDERS FIRST

Karen from Detroit is a union journeyman building electric vehicle charging stations. She believes that the transition to electric is a "big deal," representing a tremendous opportunity for consumers, businesses, and her fellow union brothers and sisters. Karen is putting in work to ensure Michigan's growing electric vehicle customers have access to reliable charging infrastructure and helping secure Michigan's spot as home to the future of electric vehicles.

THE PLAN

Every year, thousands of new electric vehicles are sold in Michigan driven by growing demand, new makes and models, a growing network of electric vehicle chargers, and falling costs. The State of Michigan must accelerate the electric vehicle transition to save families thousands of dollars a year, create thousands more good-paying jobs, and lower emissions. That's why Governor Whitmer is proposing a combined \$2,500 rebate for the purchase of an electric vehicle and charging equipment to build on the \$7,500 federal credit. With this rebate, a Michigan family could receive more than \$10,000 off the purchase of new battery electric vehicle or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle and at-home charging stations.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Governor Whitmer's proposal will help more families go electric, knocking up to \$10,000 off the price with the \$7,500 federal credit, a \$2,000 rebate for a new electric vehicle car and a \$500 state rebate for at-home charging equipment for a new or used electric vehicle. Owning an electric vehicle will save drivers \$6,000 to \$10,000 over the life of the vehicle, compared to a gas-powered vehicle. Electric vehicles need half as many repairs, cost half as much to maintain, and require half as much to charge as gas-powered cars need to fill up. The transition to electric vehicles will help Michigan families save thousands of dollars, create thousands more good-paying auto jobs, and protect clean air and water for generations.

GOVERNOR WHITMER'S PLAN TO LOWER THE COST OF INSULIN



Hundreds of thousands of Michiganders need insulin. For years, drug companies have been jacking up the price and today, the average cost of a single vial is \$98.70. Most people who use it need two or three vials a month. That's up to \$300 a month—thousands every year that could pay the bills or put food on the table. Too many Michiganders are forced to forgo insulin or ration it—putting their lives at risk. And prices just keep going up. The price of insulin tripled from 2009 to 2019.

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Douglas and Emilie from Wyoming, Michigan live with these challenges every day. They both have Type 1 diabetes—Douglas was diagnosed when he was 5 years old and Emilie when she was 19. They both have been paying for insulin for decades—Douglas for 65 years. Their doctor recommended that they take a certain brand of insulin, but they can't afford to pay the \$1400/month that it would cost. Instead, they resort to a cheaper brand which still costs too much. Emilie spends up to her \$5,000 deductible every year and Douglas pays between \$200 to \$300 a month for insulin. While Douglas and Emilie have been battling diabetes and paid tens of thousands of dollars for insulin over the course of their lives, drug companies have been raking in billions in profit by skyrocketing prices on life-saving medication because without serious competition, they can name their own price.

THE PLAN

Yesterday, Attorney General Dana Nessel launched an investigation into one of the three largest drug companies that manufactures nearly all the insulin in the United States. The Attorney General is seeking to use the Michigan Consumer Protection Act to investigate the role drug companies play in raising prices. Meanwhile, in the Michigan Legislature, there is a bipartisan effort to cap the cost of insulin at \$50 a month. Governor Whitmer will work with the legislature and the Attorney General to hold drug companies accountable, lower the cost of insulin, and save lives.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Lowering the cost of insulin will save lives and help Michiganders pay the bills, put food on the table, or save for the future. Governor Whitmer will work with anyone to put the health and financial wellbeing of Michiganders first.

GOVERNOR WHITMER'S PLAN TO REPEAL THE RETIREMENT TAX



In Michigan today, retirement income for people born after 1946 is taxed. Governor Whitmer believes that's wrong. After working for a lifetime, Michiganders should be able to retire and keep their hard-earned dollars. In 2011, Michigan's tax code was rewritten to slap a retirement tax on hundreds of thousands of Michiganders. At the time, Governor Whitmer was serving in the legislature and fought against this new tax on retirees.

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Tim worked for 30 years as a corrections officer—a difficult and dangerous line of work—before retiring in 2006. Susan and Dick were both teachers for over 30 years—educating and empowering thousands of students in Branch and Hillsdale County—before retiring in 2005 and 2006. Just a few years after they retired, their pensions were taxed. Tim, Susan, and Dick are still working to pay the bills. Today, Tim is painting and working odd jobs, while Dick is approaching year 15 as a Drivers Ed instructor. Susan worked for over a decade at a hair salon. After a lifetime of work, they are still worried about affording the essentials.

THE PLAN

Governor Whitmer is proposing a repeal of the retirement tax, which would save half a million households with pensions an average of \$1,000 a year. By the end of 2024, Governor Whitmer's proposal would again exempt public pensions and restore deductions for private retirement income, including private-sector pensions, withdrawals from individual retirement accounts (IRAs), and the portion of a 401k account that is subject to an employer match.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Putting hard-earned dollars back in the pockets of Michigan's retirees is good for them and good for the economy. Repealing the retirement tax can save 500,000 households an average of \$1,000 a year. That's hundreds for prescriptions, rent, utilities, car payments, or gifts for grandkids.

GOVERNOR WHITMER'S PLAN TO CUT TAXES FOR WORKING FAMILIES



Governor Whitmer believes that state government should find ways to cut taxes for working people and put more money in their pockets so they can pay the bills and put food on the table. One mechanism to save families money is the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC. The EITC is a bipartisan, refundable tax break for working families offered at the federal and state level. Over ten years ago, more than 730,000 Michiganders received an average Michigan EITC of \$450 on top of an average federal EITC of \$2,500. That's an almost \$3,000 tax refund for working families. But In 2012, Michigan's tax code was rewritten, slashing the state EITC to a third of its original size, to pay for a tax giveaway to big corporations that did not need it. Hundreds of thousands of families lost hundreds of dollars from their tax refund.

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Carrie from Romeo is a pharmacy tech making \$15 an hour and a mom of three. She works hard every day but is struggling to make ends meet as costs rise. Every year, she looks forward to her tax refund and uses the EITC to pay for three to four months of her bills ahead of time. Many of Carrie's friends and coworkers also rely on the EITC. They file early, get their refund, and use the money to pay the bills and put food on the table.

THE PLAN

Michiganders who work hard every day to provide for their families deserve a break and a bigger tax refund. Governor Whitmer is calling on the state legislature to restore the Michigan state EITC to its original amount and deliver an average tax refund of nearly \$3,000 to over 730,000 working people.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Boosting the state EITC back to its original amount would pull over 22,000 Michiganders out of working poverty and help over 730,000 people keep the heat on, repair their car, or pay an apartment deposit. Nearly 1 million kids—almost half of the kids in Michigan—would benefit from raising the EITC. It means new backpacks, warmer coats, and more hot meals.

GOVERNOR WHITMER'S PLAN TO LOWER COSTS AND EXPAND ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH



Governor Whitmer knows that mental health is just as important as physical health. In three years, the Whitmer-Gilchrist administration has increased access to physical, behavioral, and children's health services, funded fourteen community behavioral health clinics, and gave direct care workers a raise. But there is still so much work to do. One of the most significant barriers to mental health care in Michigan is access. This year, the governor made progress on expanding mental health access for our kids. She made the largest education investment in Michigan history without raising taxes, something she has accomplished three years in a row. This investment included resources to help schools hire mental health professionals, and so far, they've hired 560 additional nurses, counselors, and social workers to care for our kids.

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Ashley has struggled with mental health for as long as she can remember. She recently lost her mother, and her father has cancer, so she's going through a really hard time. She's looking to go back to therapy, but she's facing a waiting list of at least 5 months, and even when she does get in, she is worried about how she will afford her out of pocket expenses for therapy visits and specialist appointments with a psychiatrist. In addition to caring for her parents over the last year, she's now trying to navigate finding a provider. Ashley works as a billing specialist for a mental health agency, and even with her understanding of how to navigate the system, she is still struggling with how to find and pay for her necessary mental health care.

THE PLAN

Governor Whitmer wants every person in Michigan to have access to the quality, affordable mental and physical care that they need. She is calling for an expansion of the Michigan State Loan Repayment Program (MSLRP) program for behavioral health providers and increasing funding for mental health professionals in our schools. This expansion will help retain or recruit hundreds of mental health care providers to Michigan. Last year, Governor Whitmer also proposed [MI Healthy Communities](#), a \$1.4 billion proposal that would increase capacity for community-based behavioral health and substance use disorder treatments.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Governor Whitmer's proposals will help Michigan take a big step towards giving Michiganders the comprehensive care they need, and by making investments in the mental health workforce, we can attract and retain more mental health professionals, open up more appointments, and create good-paying jobs.