



Under the Dome

Legislative Update for Clinton County Democrats

April 8, 2026

Whitmer's 2027 Budget Supports Schools, Literacy and Senior Tax Cuts

Governor Gretchen Whitmer has proposed an \$88.1 billion 2027 budget plan, including state and federal financial resources, that allocates \$13.6 billion in general fund expenditures and \$20.3 billion for school aid.

Whitmer said the plan is “pairing fiscal discipline with targeted investments that deliver results that last — supporting students and improving literacy, defending Medicaid, lowering costs, protecting public safety and doubling down on long term priorities.”

Whitmer said one of the biggest budget challenges is dealing with federal budget cuts that left a \$1 billion hole in the state budget, including large cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps.

“Michigan remains dedicated to mitigating the impacts of these federal changes and doing everything we can to make sure people can maintain access to health care,” she said.



Other key budget priorities include;

- The budget continues efforts to provide savings and reduce costs to Michigan families. The retirement tax continues to give 500,000 senior households about \$1,000 annually and the Working Families Tax Credit continues to give tax refunds of almost \$4,000 to 665,000 state households. The budget calls for a new sales tax holiday to provide back-to-school savings for families with school children and a new Senior Property Tax Credit saving about \$345 for 335,000 senior citizens.
- Education spending will increase to \$10,300 per pupil, a 2.5% increase. Support for academically at risk students, English language learners, career and technical education students and rural area students will increase by \$128 million. Efforts to increase literacy will be aided by expansion of programs to increase tutoring aid, literacy coaching and teacher training on reading instruction.
- The budget continues and enhances several initiatives to keep communities safe, including aid for the Michigan State Police, local law enforcement, first responders, courts and victim services. The plan includes new funding for the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force and the Local Infrastructure Preparedness and Prevention Program, which helps communities limit risk. It maintains the critically important Michigan Public Safety Communications Commission, which connects more than 2,630 agencies across the state.

More details on the budget proposal can be found at [FY27 Budget Book](#).

Supreme Court to Take Up Hostage Legislation Case

The Michigan Supreme Court will hear arguments in early May on Republican House Speaker Matt Hall's refusal to present 9 bills passed by the legislature to Governor Whitmer for her signature.

The 9 bills were passed by Michigan House and Senate at the end of a busy legislative session in 2024, when Democrats controlled the House, Senate and the Governor's office. The bills were delivered to the House Clerk after a new Republican majority took control of the state House. Hall, the new Speaker, instructed the Clerk to hang onto the 9 bills and not present them to the Governor, as required by the Constitution.

Senate Democrats filed a lawsuit to force Hall to present the bills to the Governor. The state Court of Claims and Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the Senate Democrats. Speaker Hall then appealed that decision to the Michigan Supreme Court.

Mark Brewer, former Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party and lawyer for the Senate Democrats, said he was "looking forward to defending democracy" when the Supreme Court hearings are held.



"State House Speaker Matt Hall unconstitutionally refused to present 9 bills to the Governor after they had passed both houses of the Legislature," said Brewer. "We prevailed in the Court of Claims and Court of Appeals and will be urging the Supreme Court to uphold those rulings so those bills can be sent to Governor Whitmer for her signature. No legislator has the right to effectively unilaterally veto legislation."

A broad coalition of labor unions filed an amicus brief in support of the Senate Democrats' case, including AFSCME Michigan, AFT Michigan, MEA, MNA, UAW, and SEIU Michigan

"These bills would lower healthcare costs for public employees, secure retirement for public safety professionals, and stop predatory debt collectors from seizing unemployment, tax credits, and other assistance families need just to survive," said Michigan AFL-CIO President Ron Bieber. "Speaker Matt Hall is unconstitutionally blocking the bills to serve his own interests at the expense of Michigan families. That's why many of our affiliates are taking this fight to court: because workers deserve justice, and they deserve it now."

Whitmer EO Could Lower Some Gas Prices

In an effort to take the edge off rising gas prices attributable to the Iran war, Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued Executive Order 2026-4, making it easier for some Michigan motorists to buy cheaper higher vapor pressure gasoline.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a temporary waiver of federal vapor pressure requirements to allow the production, distribution, and sale of different gasoline blends. Whitmer's EO allows the state to take advantage of the EPA waiver, allowing drivers in 8 counties in the state to use higher vapor pressure gasoline, which costs from 10 to 20 cents less per gallon. The 10 affected counties are Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Livingston, Monroe, St. Clair, and Lenawee.

More information can be found at the state Agriculture Department's [Gasoline Information](#) page.