

CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

2022 STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS



McAlvey Merchant
& ASSOCIATES

GOVERNOR WHITMER EMPHASIZES ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND POPULAR “KITCHEN TABLE” ISSUES

Governor Gretchen Whitmer gave her fourth State of the State Address over video and without an audience for the second straight year on Wednesday night.

Whitmer gave her 25-minute speech from the floor of the Detroit Diesel plant in Redford Township. Although Whitmer recognized the 30,000 Michigan residents who have died from COVID-19, she only mentioned the vaccine once and did not call for residents to get vaccinated.

Instead of focusing on the pandemic, Whitmer emphasized popular “kitchen table” issues including cutting taxes, in-person education for children, phasing out the retirement tax for seniors, increasing the state’s earned income tax credit for families, expanding access to mental health, drastically cutting insulin costs, and providing more mental health services.

She also underscored unity and bipartisan accomplishments over the last year.

“Tonight, I will stay focused on the things that unite us. I'll speak to the progress we've made together, the opportunity we have right now, and why we all believe in Michigan,” she said.

The bipartisan accomplishments she mentioned included: the economic incentive package which included \$824 million in state incentives and is expected to create or retain 5,000 jobs, increased spending on childcare programs, \$420 million in small business aid, new Department of State Police posts, funding for law enforcement training and hazard pay for law enforcement officers, criminal justice reform, new veterans’ homes, and the Michigan Reconnect and Futures for Frontliners programs.

“These bipartisan accomplishments are a testament to what we can do together. We must believe that better things are possible because that's the only way they ever get done,” she said.

Her speech also focused heavily on cutting taxes, along with previous proposals and some new measures.

Whitmer reminded viewers that she closed the funding gap between schools and announced that her upcoming budget would have “the biggest state education funding increase in more than 20 years without raising taxes.”

“We must believe that better things are possible because that’s the only way they will get done,” she said.

Along with proposals to phase-out the retirement tax for seniors over the next few years and increase the state’s earned income tax credit for families, Whitmer took aim at cutting costs for residents including drastically cutting costs for insulin and making electric vehicles more affordable by a combined 2500 electric vehicle rebate that includes \$2000 for the car and \$500 for charging equipment.

Her final proposals include expanding the state’s loan repayment for mental health professionals and investing in retaining and recruiting hundreds more mental health workers in addition to expanding access to mental health for schools.

Whitmer ended her State of the State Address on an optimistic note, saying “I will always believe in Michigan because we are strong and getting stronger every day.”