

UPDATES FROM THE CAPITOL

July 29 - August 4, 2025

WHITMER AND GILCHRIST FIGHT TO PROTECT MEDICAID AND MEDICARE ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

As Medicare and Medicaid reach their 60th anniversary, Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist are celebrating the sweeping impact the programs have had on Michiganders while also raising alarm over recent federal threats to their future. These landmark health care programs now cover more than one in four state residents, providing essential care for children, seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income families. Whitmer credited Medicaid and Medicare with reducing poverty, supporting rural hospitals, and keeping costs down for working families.

At the same time, Whitmer and Gilchrist sharply criticized recently passed federal legislation that cuts nearly \$1 trillion in Medicaid funding, which would eliminate health care for many here in Michigan. With nearly 2.6 million Michiganders relying on these programs, including 1 million children and three in five nursing home residents, Whitmer and Gilchrist have pledged to keep fighting for access to affordable care, even as Congress moves in the opposite direction.

RECORD-LOW NUMBER OF PUBLIC ACTS PASSED IN MICHIGAN THIS YEAR

The first half of 2025 has produced the lowest number of public acts during an active legislative session in Michigan history. Only six public acts have been signed into law, far below the nearly 200-bill average typically passed by mid-July. The only instances with fewer laws enacted were years when the Legislature didn't convene at all. Prior to 1951, the Legislature typically met every two years, but even in years with brief special sessions, more was accomplished. For instance, during the Spanish-American War in 1898, lawmakers passed eight public acts in just 22 days. This sluggish pace has been attributed to the partisan standoff between the Republican-led House and Democrat-controlled Senate, with observers on both sides pointing to a breakdown in bipartisan cooperation and growing political polarization.

GOVERNOR SIGNS DIRECTIVE TO INVESTIGATE TARIFF IMPACT ON ECONOMY

Governor Gretchen Whitmer has signed an executive directive requiring state offices to assess the impact of federal tariffs on Michigan's economy. [Executive Directive 2025-5](#) instructs that by August 30, the following departments are to review data that may shed light on the impact of new tariffs in Michigan: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Technology, Management, and Budget; Department of Transportation; and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

Here in Michigan, the impact of tariffs is poised to be much higher than in many other states due to our manufacturing and agriculture-heavy economy. Already, the state has experienced rising costs and disrupted supply chains. Whitmer has expressed concerns about the negative effects

these tariffs will have on Michigan families and businesses. The directive was issued one day before President Trump's August 1 tariff deadline.

SENATE RACES TAKING SHAPE IN GRAND RAPIDS DISTRICTS 29 & 30

As Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids) reaches her term limit in [District 29](#), three Grand Rapids Democrats are emerging as frontrunners for the upcoming primary:

- **Ivan Diaz:** Former progressive Kent County Commissioner
- **Rep. Phil Skaggs:** Current Representative for House District 80 and former legislative director to then-Rep. David LaGrand (now Mayor of Grand Rapids)
- **Rep. Kristian Grant:** Current Representative for House District 82 and Grand Rapids-based real estate developer

In neighboring [District 30](#), incumbent Sen. Mark Huizenga (R-Walker) is preparing to defend one of West Michigan's last Republican-held Senate seats in a district that leaned narrowly Democratic in 2024. While Rep. Carol Glanville (D-Grand Rapids) is frequently mentioned as a potential challenger, she has not filed. The only declared Democrat so far is Richard Kreuzer, a former member of the State Board of Nursing.

