

Council Charge

Background

On June 1, 2023, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced the Growing Michigan Together Council (GMTC). The council will produce recommendations that support Michigan's population growth through investment in our people, places, and educational system. The GMTC represents a broad range of stakeholders strongly invested in Michigan's future.

Charge

The GMTC acts in an advisory capacity to the governor and the director of the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) and does the following:

1. Identify concrete, data-driven, and evidence-based goals to grow the state's population, including those to improve educational outcomes from preschool through postsecondary education, attract and retain talent, and build long-term, sustainable infrastructure that meets the needs of the population
2. Define the gap between Michigan and the best performing comparable states on GMTC-identified goals
3. Leverage the council's workgroups to identify specific short-term, medium-term, and long-term policies needed to close these gaps and meet the goals identified by the council
4. Analyze the effectiveness of existing programs and spending dedicated to achieving GMTC-identified goals and make recommendations on how to address any gaps between projected revenues and recommended expenditures

By *December 1, 2023*, the GMTC must prepare and submit a report to the governor, the Michigan House of Representatives, and the Michigan Senate. To do this, the council will establish four workgroups, each tasked with developing specific recommendations for GMTC review. Workgroups are expected to review foundational materials, expert presentations, and engage in discussion to collaboratively develop recommendations for GMTC consideration for inclusion in the final report. The GMTC may adopt, reject, or modify workgroup recommendations.

The workgroups will address the following four topic areas:

- **Jobs, Talent, and People:** Utilizing the GMTC-established population goal for 2050, propose economic development strategies that create safe, vibrant communities and lead to opportunities and upward economic mobility for every Michigander. The policy recommendations must drive concrete, equitable investments that:
 - Ensure domestic migration to Michigan (a combination of retaining our young talent and attracting talent to come to Michigan), as well as international migration to Michigan (creating welcoming pathways for new Americans)
 - Give direction on how to leverage Michigan's rich natural resources and expected climate migration from other states
 - Identify potential future workforce shortages and strategic opportunities for Michigan's growth and create targeted programs to keep or attract talent in these areas

- Reflect the state’s growth in communities of color
- **Infrastructure and Places:** Propose long-term, sustainable, and equitable funding solutions for Michigan’s multimodal transportation systems and aging water infrastructure to help meet the 2050 population goal identified in the report. Recommendations must:
 - Consider the need for placemaking investments that will support retention and attraction goals;
 - Consider the need for sustainable investment amongst the emergence of more fuel-efficient vehicles and an unprecedented influx of one-time federal money
 - Propose solutions on how to create attainable housing options for Michiganders in every income bracket and create investment-ready sites across the state
- **PreK-12 Education:** Propose statewide goals and policy recommendations on how Michigan can improve student outcomes to help every student reach their full potential, strengthen accountability to meet shared goals, and attract people and businesses to our state. The workgroup must:
 - Benchmark Michigan’s statewide performance against top-performing states and countries
 - Develop specific initiatives that help guarantee every child can realize their full potential in Michigan, allowing them to be a lifelong Michigan resident
 - Ensure Michigan’s preK–12 system is an asset in achieving our population-growth goals
- **Higher Education:** Propose long-term, sustainable, and equitable funding solutions for Michigan’s postsecondary education system, including student financial aid, to help meet the 2050 population goal identified in the report. The workgroup must:
 - Consider the need to improve college access and success, lower costs, and provide education and training that meets the demands of the state’s economy
 - Consider and build on the existing efforts within the Office of Sixty by 30 and make recommendations to achieve and exceed this goal
 - Propose solutions to retain talent in the state at the critical transition point post-graduation

The GMTC’s final report will identify priorities with short-, medium-, and long-term policies to achieve the GMTC-identified goals in each of these four categories. The final report must also identify or propose different revenue sources to address gaps identified between revenues and recommended expenditures to meet the GMTC-identified goals, as well as any recommended changes in existing programs or spending to ensure effectiveness and alignment with GMTC-identified goals.

Operating Procedures

Roles, Responsibilities, and Expectations

Members

All GMTC members were appointed by the governor and should include 28 total members, with 21 voting members and seven nonvoting members. The GMTC is led by two chairs (former Ambassador John Rakolta and Wayne State University Governor Shirley Stancato). The GMTC’s membership reflects Michigan’s socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, cultural, gender, occupational, political, and geographic

diversity. GMTC members must not receive additional compensation for participation on the council. GMTC members may receive reimbursement for necessary travel and expenses consistent with applicable law, rules, and procedures, subject to available funding. The governor may remove a GMTC member for any reason and if a vacancy occurs, the governor must make an appointment for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment. For more information on councilmember appointments and requirements, see Executive Order 2023-4.

Councilmembers will attend meetings, actively participate in discussions, thoroughly review all meeting materials and agendas, and offer feedback on recommendations and other deliverables. Councilmembers are expected to approach their work in a collaborative manner, respecting the views, work, and experiences of others. Unless specified in EO 2023-4, an appointed member of the council may not assign a proxy to serve in their place for council business.

Support

LEO will assist the GMTC in the performance of its work. The GMTC may call upon any department, committee, commissioners, or officers of this state to provide necessary assistance required by the council, or any member or representative thereof, in the performance of the official duties of the council, so far as is compatible with their duties and consistent with this order and applicable law.

The GMTC may make inquiries, studies, hold hearings, and receive comments from the public. It may review best practices from other states and consult with issue-area experts and outside experts to perform its duties, including, but not limited to, experts in the private sector, government departments and agencies, and the nonprofit sector.

Public Sector Consultants (PSC) has been contracted to provide support to the GMTC and coordinate its other partners (e.g., Boston Consulting Group, the National Center on Education and the Economy, and Citizen’s Research Council of Michigan). PSC and its partners will be responsible for drafting agendas and materials for review, managing meeting logistics and technology, documenting meetings, and managing follow ups and next steps. This support will be provided to the GMTC and its workgroups. Meeting materials will be provided electronically in advance of each meeting, with the expectation that they are sent out at least five days prior to a meeting.

Communications

Email will be the primary form of communication for the council.

Timeline

The council’s first meeting took place virtually on June 30, 2023. At that meeting, councilmembers discussed goals and adopted a schedule for the remaining council meetings. The GMTC will then meet in July to receive presentations about the state’s current population trends and the content areas led by four workgroups. Following this meeting, the council will break to allow for the workgroups to meet and develop recommendations. The council will reconvene in October and November to receive, amend, and add recommendations adopting, amending, or crafting additional recommendations. On December 1, the council will meet to adopt the final report for the governor and legislature that meets the requirements outlined in the Charge section on page 1.

Decision Making

The council will strive to achieve consensus among its members in the adoption of final recommendations. If consensus cannot be achieved, the council will make decisions based on majority vote by serving members. Only voting council members can participate in determining the approved recommendations for inclusion in the final report. All other nonvoting members, technical advisors, and staff may provide input for consideration, but will not vote on final recommendations. Given the time frame and breadth of the council, we anticipate that many of the recommendations will include phased approaches or launching steps for larger initiatives or reforms.