

Growing Michigan Together Council

The Council has identified three key components to build a bright future for Michigan: **a strong education system, vibrant communities, and high-wage, high-demand jobs**. These do not work in silos; rather, the recommendations work in coordination to support Michiganders as they get ready to graduate high school, prepare for a career either through post-secondary education or skills training, choose where to live and start their career, and as they begin to raise a family.

The Council has chosen to focus on transformational recommendations to be implemented to grow Michigan, specifically choosing to not work around the edges or endorse the way it's always been. Council members are putting forward a framework for Michigan that completely redefines how we are going about the business of educating our kids, retaining talent, and building out places people want to call home. To do this, the Council is focused on three core elements.

- 1. Michigan's education system.** Michigan's PK-12 educational system needs to prepare students to be ready for college or skills trade training. Our post-secondary education system must work seamlessly with our PK-12 system and graduate students ready to take a job in Michigan. Simply, through our education system, Michigan is at the center of creating and retaining a skilled labor force.
 - Redesign Michigan PK-12 education system
 - Increase higher education enrollment and completion
 - Retain higher education students post education
- 2. Michigan's communities.** Michigan has vibrant and welcoming places that attract and retain recent graduates and are communities where people want to remain into adulthood.
 - Amenity rich cities and downtowns
 - Housing availability at all income levels
 - Reliable, well-maintained infrastructure
 - Coordination and consolidation of government services
- 3. Michigan's jobs.** Michigan is focused on retaining our college graduates and has jobs that are attractive and well-paying and are well positioned for competing in a global economy.
 - Regional growth strategies
 - International talent pipeline
 - Entrepreneur and workforce activation funding
 - Maximize workforce participation

All these work in tandem with each other. We need more highly educated people to attract and grow businesses in Michigan, create more high-wage, high-demand jobs to expand opportunities for all and position us to compete in a global economy. We need more welcoming and attractive places for people to want to live and work to keep them here in the state contributing to a thriving Michigan.

DISCUSSION DRAFT

Creating an Education System that Develops In-Demand Skilled Workforce

I. Redesign Michigan's PK-12 Education System to ensure a strong foundation for all children in a dynamic economy.

- Align governance and accountability to system vision and goals, while clarifying roles, eliminating inefficiencies, and bolstering capacity
- Commit to the Michigan Education Guarantee that students graduate with the competencies they need to thrive now and throughout their lifetimes.
- Reimagine learning and the job of teaching, enabling educators to innovate so students can learn for life.
- Fund the PK-12 system fully, equitably, efficiently, and transparently so every student and every school has the resources needed to meet the system's goals, including the Michigan Education Guarantee.

II. Increase higher education enrollment and completion to prepare students for high-wage, high-growth jobs and industries.

- Create a K-14 public education system by providing graduating high school students with two years (60 credits) of tuition at a community college or public university.
- Make the transition from community college graduate to university junior status seamless (e.g., guaranteed admission to university with at least 60 transfer credits and junior standing).
- Form advisory group to reimagine higher education funding process, led by proper higher education stakeholders, to ensure competitive, sufficient, sustainable funding that enables increased student success and graduate retention

III. Retain higher education students post-graduation to grow the talent pipeline and contribute to the state's economic prosperity.

- Support, formalize, and grow employer partnerships via work-based learning and full-time offers to enable greater student exposure to real-world, on-the-job experiences for credit and/or payment (e.g., career exposure in high school, work-based learning in college, and job guarantees post-graduation).
- Directly influence reversal of "brain drain" by offering post graduation incentives and supports to recent graduates (including students from out of state, international, and Michigan higher ed) to seek employment and live in Michigan

Building Communities That Attract and Retain Young Talent

IV. Develop vibrant, amenity-rich places with dense housing, parks, outdoor recreation, public transit, retail, and public arts woven into residents' daily lives.

- Break down the barriers that prevent robust public transit that functions well within communities and seamlessly connects people to their jobs and to other modes of transit through the creation of regional transportation authorities with the explicit mandate to work with local agencies to develop a sustainable regional transportation network.
- Allow for local governments to see the benefit of the investments in their community through changes to the Prop A/Headlee amendment intersection.
- Expand state-funded programs that support placemaking efforts of local governments and non-governmental organizations.
- Modify policies that prevent communities from being welcoming communities for immigrants and diverse populations.
- Target these investments and interventions into communities that match the profile of desirable places for young talent.

V. Create additional housing stock that addresses the housing shortfall and better aligns with housing preferences.

- Focus the development of housing stock on rehabilitation of existing and the building of new infill development through the development of the missing middle housing (ie, duplexes, fourplexes, townhouses, multiplex, and work-live housing).
- Increase the supply of workforce housing to support the growth and economic mobility of employees by providing grant funds to developers to defray the cost of construction and rehabilitation of properties specifically targeted to households in the 60% - 120% Area Median Income (AMI).
- Expand the first time homebuyer program to provide down payment assistance for college graduates that stay in Michigan.
- Modernize zoning laws to encourage mix use, transit oriented development, smaller housing sizes, and complete street designs.

VI. Ensure Michigan has reliable and well-maintained infrastructure that is an asset to our economy and our way of life.

- Update Michigan's transportation funding model to sufficiently fund and maintain the road network and support the development of a more robust passenger rail system.
- Develop a funding model that captures use and wear of the roadway and ensures all vehicles pay their share. Moving away from a reliance on the gas tax to a vehicle mile traveled (VMT) fee or other mechanism and explore the use of tolls or high-occupancy vehicle lanes.

VII. Streamline government services through the consolidation and coordination of service delivery.

- Incentivize state and local entities responsible for infrastructure, public transportation, housing, and placemaking to consolidate and/or coordinate their efforts.
- Focus on moving towards regional approaches to service delivery and eliminating where possible duplicative and/or siloed services that do not serve in the taxpayers best interest.

DISCUSSION DRAFT

Positioning Michigan for More High-wage, High Demand Jobs

VIII. Capitalize on regional assets and invest in strategies that catalyze job creation in high-wage, high-growth industries.

- Establish a flexible fund to support regions with planning, technical assistance, pilot projects, and marketing, prioritizing strategies that leverage unique regional industries, workforce, educational institutions, and natural assets to expand regional innovation clusters in high-wage, high growth industries (e.g., mobility/electric vehicles, healthcare)
- Create a transformational public-private evergreen fund to support the state's entrepreneurial and innovation economy, attracting and retaining entrepreneurs to start and grow businesses in Michigan.
- Refresh economic and workforce development incentives and programs to better align with knowledge economy jobs, such as revising the investment threshold for state economic development incentives as well as an R&D tax credit.
- Develop a proactive site development and readiness strategy that allows Michigan to compete for large scale industrial opportunities and smaller scale job creation.

IX. Develop a stronger pipeline of international talent that is retained long term through a welcoming environment for international immigrants and diverse communities in Michigan.

- Become best in class for international talent attraction and retention through the development of a state-led concierge service that provides legal assistance and streamlines all processes for employers and immigrants (e.g., reduce barriers for obtaining driver's license, maximize H-1B visa utilization, language access).
- Develop a strategy to ensure licensed/credentialed professionals from outside the United States can have their relevant documentation translated and applied to Michigan's license or credential standards.

X. Expand programs and resources to ensure all Michiganders have the training and opportunities to participate in the workforce.

- Establish a workforce activation fund that provides flexible training and support services based on critical employer and workforce needs (e.g., upskilling workers to support the electric vehicle transition, veteran supports and job placement, formerly incarcerated resident training).
- Increase access to and affordability of culturally appropriate family support resources (e.g., child care, elder care), including training and certifying a workforce to support the need.