

# Working for You to Strengthen Michigan

## Driving Michigan's Comeback

The state continues to receive good news about its economic comeback. The reinvention of Michigan's business climate through Republican policy reforms has received national attention, and more importantly, given all Michigan residents hope for a better future.

Recent good news includes:

- Michigan has created 420,000 private sector jobs in the last four years. The state is No. 1 in manufacturing jobs and No. 5 in total private sector job creation.
- Michigan's unemployment rate fell below the national average for the first time in 15 years in September.
- Michigan's economy was designated as the Fastest Growing in the Midwest in August.<sup>1</sup>
- For the past three consecutive years, Michigan has ranked among the top seven states for major new corporate facilities and expansions.<sup>2</sup>
- Nearly 2,000 state rules and regulations have been eliminated since 2011 to encourage job growth.



<sup>1</sup> according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago    <sup>2</sup> according to Site Selection

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### Want to Stay Up-to-Date?

Yes! Please send me Rep. García's e-mail updates

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Please cut out form and mail in an envelope to:  
State Rep. Daniela R. García | P.O. Box 30014 | Lansing, MI 48909-7514

### Booklets Available Upon Request

- Getting to Know Michigan
- Portraits of Michigan  
*(History and facts on Michigan)*
- Michigan Map
- Services for Seniors
- Peace of Mind  
*(Statutory will/patient advocate law/organ donation info)*
- Veterans Benefits

# WORKING FOR YOU IN 2015 A MID-TERM UPDATE

Dear Friend,

Your state Capitol has been extremely active this year, and we continue to make strides toward improving government efficiency and accountability.

The Michigan House approved another fiscally responsible budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16, months ahead of the constitutional deadline for the fifth year in a row. In fact, we received national recognition this year for our efficient budgeting practices.

Transparency is also hugely important to us, and that's why we unveiled a comprehensive Action Plan in January to let Michigan residents know our key policy plans. In addition to the many issues we consider in the House each session, we've highlighted 78 action items that we firmly believe will bring sensible government reforms for Michiganders across the state.

As of mid-November in the first year of a two-year session, Michigan House Republicans are happy to report that:

- 68 percent of all our action items have been introduced
- 49 percent of our action items have already been approved by the Michigan House
- 37 percent of the action items have been signed into law

These are significant achievements, but it's important to acknowledge that there is a long road ahead of us. We will continue to fight to make Michigan the best it can possibly be and deliver on every promise we have made.

Inside you will find a summary of our 2015-2016 legislative term efforts and accomplishments so far. As always, if I can provide assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



*Daniela R. García*

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State Representative, 90th District

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State Rep. Daniela R. /  
**GARCÍA**

**Working for You**  
to  
**Strengthen Michigan**

## House Passes Measure to Help Students Read by 4rd Grade

The Michigan House of Representatives approved legislation aiming to increase third grade reading proficiency in our state. Literacy is critical in a child's education. Ongoing studies have found that students who are not proficient in reading by the 4th grade will struggle in subsequent years.

Michigan is ranked 40th in the nation for reading proficiency, despite the state's increased investments in K-12 education. Considering how important reading is to lifelong achievement, Michigan needs to look at every measure that will encourage and enhance literacy. If academics do not improve, it will negatively affect our economy and our success as a state.

House Bill 4822 will improve early literacy by focusing on an early annual screening; parental notification and participation; targeted strategies and tutoring for struggling readers; and intervention for those students reading dramatically behind grade level. This legislation sets a higher standard for Michigan students.

Another component of the bill provides interventions for students who struggle with reading in kindergarten, first grade, second grade and third grade. Reading intervention programs will address each pupil's individual barriers to reading, dedicate additional class time to reading, and provide parents with a "read at home" plan to ensure they have the resources necessary to give their child the supplemental support they need.



## SmartZone Legislation Signed into Law New Satellite Approved for Holland

Gov. Rick Snyder signed into law legislation I introduced allowing for the development of new Satellite SmartZones in Michigan.

SmartZones and satellites are designated areas of innovation in communities designed to spur economic growth with technological efforts and entrepreneurship.

Creating jobs and attracting talent are key benefits of having SmartZones and satellites across the state. Communities throughout Michigan are now able to apply for SmartZone satellite status, creating more opportunities for collaboration, entrepreneurship, innovation and investment.

The Holland Satellite SmartZone is a partnership between the City of Holland, Holland Charter Township, Ottawa County and the City of Grand Rapids. The Michigan State University BioEconomy Institute will be a partner in the satellite providing space for entrepreneurship. The Holland Satellite is projected to bring \$7.5 million for entrepreneurial support over the next 15 years. Holland's Satellite SmartZone was recently approved by state officials.

## Historic Agreement to Fix Michigan Roads Signed into Law

In November, the Michigan Legislature approved a long-term roads plan that will generate \$1.2 billion annually to fix the state's crumbling roads and bridges at the lowest possible cost to Michigan taxpayers.

It's also important to realize that tangible work has already been done to improve roads in Michigan. In addition to the new legislative roads plan, a total of \$1.27 billion from the General Fund has been allocated to fix our roads and bridges without raising taxes over the last five years.

The governor signed the bills into law on November 10.

### THE PLAN:

- ✓ Allocates \$600 million in existing funds to fix roads and bridges
- ✓ Generates \$600 million in new revenue for roads and bridges
- ✓ Provides \$200 million in tax relief by expanding the Homestead Property Tax Credit for middle-class families, low-income residents and seniors
- ✓ Funds our roads with responsible, targeted dollars

## WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

*If you have a concern with state government that I can assist you with or if you have an issue you would like to share with me, please contact my office.*

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