

# County Administrator's Digest

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## **THE DIGEST**

The Digest for me first started back when I served as City Manager of South Haven and it served mostly as a weekly update for the City Council on what was happening in the City. When I served as Deputy County Administrator for Kent County, Administrator Daryl Delabbio had a weekly message that he sent to the Board of Commissioners. When I started the Digest in Ottawa County I sent it to Commissioners only. Very quickly it was evident that a very strong desire for information existed so I soon included the Management Group consisting of administrators, elected officials, and judges and some key staff members in those offices. Other groups were added later including local unit mayors, supervisors and managers; and the Ottawa County state and national legislative delegations. We also began posting the Digest on miOttawa.org for anyone to read.

Today we added to the Digest list local unit elected officials beyond mayors and supervisors for whom we have email addresses. We are planning to add County board and commission members for whom we have email addresses as well.

The Digest is just one of many transparency initiatives that we have initiated at Ottawa County and more are planned for the future.

Some of the Digest messages are rather long and some might think that must be all the Administrator is doing. Many of the articles come from others. If the bolded and underlined title has no name in parenthesis after it, it means that I wrote that article. I give credit where credit is due and if someone else writes the article, their name is included after the bolded underlined title in parenthesis.

## **ROAD FUNDING IN THE PAST**

A resident emailed a question earlier this week and the same question came in a couple of weeks ago and I thought it would be interesting information to include in the Digest. The question was how were roads paved in the past and was it done by formula with the residents paying 1/3, township 1/3 and County or Road Commission 1/3. After talking to retired Administrative Services Director Mark Scheerhorn and Road Commission Executive Director Brett Laughlin, combined with



my recollection of how the former federal General Revenue Sharing program worked, I think we came up with a good answer.

The federal General Revenue Sharing program existed until 1986 and provided funding to counties and cities that could be used for any purpose. Smart uses of these funds were for one-time non-recurring expenses such as capital projects. By using the funds in this manner the county or city protected itself from the impact of program elimination. When the program was indeed eliminated in 1986, some counties were in tough shape because they had allocated these funds for operations. One Michigan county had to significantly cut back its Sheriff Department by laying off deputies to make ends meet after the GRS funds were cut. Ottawa used these funds wisely. Some of these funds were used in the late 1970's and early 1980's as a contribution toward township road projects. It is our understanding that Ottawa County would provide an initial amount to be spent in each Township. The Road Commission would match the Ottawa County portion, with the balance being the responsibility of the Township. Some Township's used their general fund, some may have had a millage, and some may have set up a special assessment district to fund the balance. Most of the projects funded under this program were reconstruction of gravel roads to a paved road. The program only lasted a few years and likely was terminated when the GRS program was ended by the federal government.

Subdivision resurfacing and improvements started around 1987. It has always been the responsibility of the Townships to fund 100% improvements to subdivision streets. Most Townships use the general fund, however, there have been a few special assessment district projects set up by the Townships.

Other than the revenue sharing program (which no longer exists), it has been the Township's responsibility to 100% fund local gravel road reconstruction to a paved road. The Road Commission would then participate in future resurfacing and improvements of the road.

The 1/3 Township, 1/3 County, 1/3 Road Commission concept has been utilized for culvert improvements that cross county roads. The project has to be implemented by the Ottawa County Drain Commission and all parties have to agree.

Some Townships have contributed funds to help improve local section line roads. This occurs on a case by case method.

Thanks to Brett and Mark for their contributions for this article.

**GOVERNOR SNYDER'S STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS** (GCSI)

Attached are the documents relating to the Governor's State of the State that he is currently delivering.



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
LANSING

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012

**Governor: Michigan is 'getting it right,  
getting it done' as reinvention continues**

*State of the State spotlights progress, unfinished business*

LANSING, Mich. – Michigan's economy is moving in the right direction and 2012 must be devoted to continuing the state's reinvention by taking care of unfinished business, addressing other critical challenges and emphasizing good government, Gov. Rick Snyder said in his second State of the State address.

The governor presented an optimistic but realistic assessment of Michigan's condition. While numerous indicators underscore Michigan's economic progress, the state clearly has more work to do on various fronts.

"We made large strides to make Michigan great again," Snyder said. "Michiganders came together and worked with relentless positive action to deliver the meaningful change that is getting our state back on its feet. Thanks to the leadership of our legislative partners, we've taken bold but thoughtful action to do what's right for Michigan. We're getting it right and getting it done. But this is no time to let up. Job One is still jobs. Ensuring bright, prosperous futures for working families and their children demands a steadfast commitment to Michigan's reinvention."

The foundation for economic success was laid by getting the state's fiscal house in order and through policy reforms such as the elimination of the job-killing Michigan Business Tax.

As promised in last year's address, Snyder reviewed key measures of the Michigan Dashboard at [www.michigan.gov/MiDashboard](http://www.michigan.gov/MiDashboard).

Michigan's unemployment rate fell from 11.1 percent in December 2010 to 9.3 percent in December 2011, bringing it to the lowest rate since October 2008. Michigan also added nearly 80,000 private-sector jobs last year and these jobs are higher paying than the national average.

However, Snyder pointed out that the unemployment rate is still too high and that too many families are hurting. He added that challenges with crime, college readiness among students and obesity still remain.

The governor also said that continued support for education, our local communities as well as key industries such as automotive, agriculture, tourism, mining and timber is essential to Michigan's future.

The governor outlined several issues that he would like to tackle this year with the cooperation of the Legislature, including:

- **Government accountability:** The governor will work with lawmakers to promote greater accountability and transparency in government by enacting overdue reforms to Michigan's campaign finance, lobby and ethics laws. For example, the governor is seeking changes that prohibit a person who has decision-making authority over a contract from working for the company to which they let a contract. He also advocates increasing the frequency of campaign finance disclosures from all sources such as political action committees, ballot question committees and candidate committees.
- **Crime:** The cities of Saginaw, Flint, Detroit and Pontiac are among the nation's top 10 in violent crime, which Snyder called unacceptable. In March he will deliver a special message to the Legislature on public safety that focuses on increasing law enforcement, improving the operation of our criminal justice system and ensuring the availability of jobs.
- **Health care:** The governor announced Pure Michigan Fit, a collaborative pilot program with Gerber Products, the Michigan Grocers Association and the Michigan Health and Hospital Association. Under the initiative, parents and caregivers will get the nutritional information they need to raise healthy, happy children. In addition, Snyder renewed his call for legislative approval of the MiHealth Marketplace program, an online, market-based program that will help Michiganders make more informed decisions when selecting high-quality, affordable health care. Snyder cautioned that the alternative is a federally mandated program designed by people who don't live or work in Michigan.
- **Autism:** There now are medically proven treatments available for autism. Without treatment,

the average lifetime cost to Michigan for a person suffering autism is \$3.7 million. Snyder said Michigan should join the 27 other states that require insurers to cover evidence-based therapies for autism.

- **Energy and environment:** This fall Snyder will deliver a special message to the Legislature on energy and the environment. Michigan must be more strategic by focusing on the intersection of job creation, affordability, science and sustainability.
- **Taxes:** The governor will work with local governments and industry leaders to reform the personal property tax on industrial assets, while preserving funding for communities. The current tax structure hampers long-term job growth.
- **Infrastructure:** Snyder is urging lawmakers to conduct hearings on bills that will create a network of roads and bridges for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Studies show that Michigan is underinvesting in its transportation infrastructure by \$1.4 billion. He also urged support for a bus rapid transit system to serve Southeastern Michigan.
- **New International Trade Crossing:** Snyder urged action on the proposed NITC because it is vital to Michigan's economic future. The NITC will be built without Michigan taxpayer dollars.
- **Global talent:** Snyder welcomed the support of Michigan universities and the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights, the Operating Engineers Union, and the Teamsters to encourage immigration changes at the federal level so that immigrants with advanced degrees or who are entrepreneurs can create jobs for Michigan families.
- **Communities:** Snyder is recommending additional funding for the successful Economic Vitality Incentive Program, which builds stronger communities and promotes regional cooperation.

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**Editor's note:** Attached is an [outline](#) (click here) of Gov. Snyder's State of the State address and the [Michigan Dashboard](#) (click here).

**Gov. Rick Snyder**  
**State of the State Address**  
**January 18, 2012**

**1. Welcome and Acknowledgments**

- Speaker Bolger, Lt. Gov. Calley, Senate Majority Leader Richardville, Senate Democratic Leader Whitmer, House Democratic Leader Hammel, members of the Supreme Court, Secretary of State Johnson, Attorney General Schuette, Cabinet members, ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature, fellow public servants
- Special thanks to Michigan men and women serving in armed forces
- Citizens of Michigan
- My family

**2. Vision**

- Last year I spoke about the need to reinvent Michigan. Tonight is a continuation of that journey.
- In the 1800s we had the Natural Resources era – Michigan 1.0. In the 1900s we had the Industrial era – Michigan 2.0. **It is time for the Era of Innovation – Michigan 3.0**
- **We are getting it right and getting it done.**
- Proud of Michigan's progress but much more remains to be done.

**3. Dashboard**

- Review of certain dashboard measures at [michigan.gov/MiDashboard](http://michigan.gov/MiDashboard).
- **12-month unemployment dropped from 11.1% to 9.3%. Lowest rate since October 2008.**
- Added nearly 80,000 private-sector jobs during 2011.
- Obesity increase 1 percentage point to 32% of population. This is disturbing.
- College readiness increased from 16% to 17%. This is unacceptable.
- Non-dashboard indicators are encouraging. Our automotive, agriculture, tourism, mining and timber industries are key to the future.
- Atlas Van Line moving index shows that in 2011 **we stopped the six-year trend** of more people moving out of Michigan than in.

#### 4. 2011 Accomplishments

- It was the year to attack our legacy problems and **change the course from downward to upward.**
- Success due in large part to partnership with Legislature.
- **Passed 323 public acts in 2011.** More important than the quantity was the quality.
- Addressed \$1.5 billion budget deficit. No more accounting gimmicks.
- Made \$255 million first deposit to rainy day fund. First since 2004.
- **Made tax system simple, fair and efficient.**
- Eliminated the job-killing Michigan Business Tax.
- Created \$5 million Economic Vitality Incentive program for communities.
  - ▶ Will recommend additional funds in next year's budget.
- Education reforms:
  - ▶ Launched the Office of Great Start to focus on youngest kids.
  - ▶ Reformed teacher tenure to give teachers better support system.
  - ▶ Lifted cap on charter schools.
- Began discussion of public health challenges in Michigan, like obesity.
- Signed laws supporting and protecting our children:
  - ▶ Extension of foster care services for young adults who otherwise would have "aged out" of the system.
  - ▶ Anti-bullying law.
- Strengthening communities through Financial Accountability Act.
- Regulatory reinvention: rescinded **nearly 400** obsolete, confusing and burdensome regulations.

#### 5. Unfinished business

- New International Trade Crossing. Not a bridge issue; it's a jobs issue. Project will be done **without any Michigan taxpayer dollars.**
- Transportation and infrastructure: Ask Legislature to hold hearings on bills that will give Michigan a transportation system for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- We are underinvesting in our roads by \$1.4 billion. **No one in Michigan is satisfied with our roads. Let's solve this problem now.**

- Need to address regional transit in Southeastern Michigan. Bus rapid transit system.

## 6. 2012 Agenda

- 2012 will be different than last year, which was focused on dramatic policy improvements over the broken model of the past.
- **This year is about finishing the work left over from 2011, tackling unaddressed challenges and making this year about good government.**
- Public safety: Will deliver a special message in March. While statewide crime is down, it is unacceptable that Saginaw, Flint, Detroit and Pontiac are among the nation's top 10 in violent crime.
- Energy and environment: Will deliver a special message this fall. Michigan must continue its leadership in **protecting our Great Lakes.**
- Government accountability: Will work with Legislature to improve laws related to lobbying campaign finance and ethics for state and local government.
- Good government: Need to be focused on state government itself and how it operates. Also need to be a supportive partner to local jurisdictions.
  - ▶ Also instituting a comprehensive system that shows citizens our measurable results. System will include dashboards, which are external measures; and scorecards, which are internal measures.
  - ▶ Pleased that we had successful collective bargaining process with our union employees. **We came to a winning solution together.**
- Looking forward to joint efforts to better empower our hard-working state employees to deliver the best customer service.
- **Will deliver real results for real people.**
- Will continue working on being more efficient and effective. **We must eliminate government waste.**

## 7. Financial responsibility



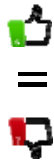
- Last year we became a positive role model for the rest of the country.
- We closed a large deficit. Now, let us show real leadership in how to strategically invest and save for the future – **not simply spend money because it's there.**

## 8. Summary

- We must reinvent our culture.
- Still too negative, too divisive and too many believe that our best days are behind us.
- **Need to be positive, inclusive and confident that Michigan holds a bright future for our children and theirs.**
- Cannot afford to slow down. Cannot afford to lose momentum. Must maintain sense of urgency.
- **We must finish what we started.**
- Together we will move Michigan forward.
- God bless you and God bless the great state of Michigan.

# MiDashboard

[www.michigan.gov/MiDashboard](http://www.michigan.gov/MiDashboard)



Performance improving

Performance staying about the same

Performance declining



Michigan Dashboard



Education Dashboard



Health & Wellness Dashboard



Infrastructure Dashboard



Talent Dashboard

## Economic Strength

	Pre-Launch	Jan. 2011 Launch	Launch Ranking	Current	Current Ranking	Progress
Monthly unemployment rate	13.8% Dec. '09	11.1% Dec. '10	48	9.3% Dec. '11	N/A	👍
Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	(4.3)% 2008	(5.0)% 2009	49	2.9% 2010	15	👍
Percent of structurally deficient bridges	13.90% 2008	13.45% 2009	36	13.15% 2010	38	👍
Real personal income per capita	\$28,219 2008	\$26,900 2009	40	\$27,396 2010	39	👍
Children living in poverty	19% 2008	23% 2009	38	23% 2010	34	=

## Health and Education

	Pre-Launch	Jan. 2011 Launch	Launch Ranking	Current	Current Ranking	Progress
Infant mortality (per 1,000 births)	7.6 2009	7.7 2010	37	7.7 2011	39	=
Obesity in the population	29.5% 2008	30.3% 2009	40	31.7% 2010	42	👎
Third grade reading proficiency	58.9% 2008-09	64.5% 2009-10	N/A	63.2% 2010-11	N/A	👎
ACT college readiness benchmarks	14.9% 2008-09	16.0% 2009-10	N/A	17.3% 2010-11	N/A	👍
Population with bachelor's degree or higher (25+ years old)	24.7% 2008	24.6% 2009	36	No new data	36	👎

## Value for Money Government

	Pre-Launch	Jan. 2011 Launch	Launch Ranking	Current	Current Ranking	Progress
Credit rating						
-Moody's	Aa3 (Stable)	Aa2 (Stable)	N/A	Aa2 (Stable)	N/A	=
-Standard & Poor's	AA- (Stable)	AA- (Stable)	N/A	AA- (Stable)	N/A	=
-Fitch	A+ (Stable)	AA- (Stable)	N/A	AA- (Positive)	N/A	👍
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>		<b>2011</b>		
Government debt burden per capita	\$766	\$748	34	\$762	36	👎
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>		<b>2010</b>		
State government operating cost as a percent of GDP	11.9%	12.8%	N/A	14.6%	N/A	👎
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>		<b>2009</b>		
State and local government operating cost as a percent of GDP	20.9%	22.3%	N/A	23.3%	N/A	👎
	2007	2008		2009		
Access to state government – number of online services	325	357	N/A	385	N/A	👍
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>		<b>2011</b>		

## Quality of Life

	Pre-Launch	Jan. 2011 Launch	Launch Ranking	Current	Current Ranking	Progress
State park popularity – annual visits per citizen	2.1	2.2	N/A	2.3	N/A	👍
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>		<b>2011</b>		
Population growth (ages 25–34)	(1.39) %	(1.23)%	N/A	(.43)%	N/A	👍
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>		<b>2010</b>		
Clean and safe water resources – water quality index	83	85	N/A	85	N/A	=
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>		<b>2010</b>		

## Public Safety

	Pre-Launch	Jan. 2011 Launch	Launch Ranking	Current	Current Ranking	Progress
Violent crimes per 100,000	501.5	499.8	39	490.3	40	👍
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>		<b>2010</b>		
Property crimes per 100,000	2,934.8	2,848.8	25	2,713.6	25	👍
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>		<b>2010</b>		
Individuals fatally or seriously injured in traffic accidents	7,705	7,382	N/A	6,917	N/A	👍
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>		<b>2010</b>		