

GOV WHITMER MEETS WITH PRESIDENT TRUMP AT WHITE HOUSE – *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* visited the White House this week to meet with *President Donald Trump* to discuss Michigan’s storm recovery efforts.

The bigger picture: Following the tornadoes that hit southwest Michigan last weekend and the ice storms that left northern Michigan’s infrastructure heavily damaged a year ago, *Governor Whitmer* held a meeting with *President Trump* to seek additional federal funding to offset recovery costs. The *Governor’s* office said that she walked away with a win after the *President* agreed to deliver additional funding to help Michigan.

To read more, please click [here](#).

INVEST IN MI KIDS SUSPENDS PETITION DRIVE – The *Invest in MI Kids* ballot campaign organizers announced they will be suspending signature gathering efforts with the intention of staying active and returning for a future election.

The bigger picture: *Invest in MI Kids* looked to place a surcharge on Michigan’s income tax for residents earning over \$500,000 individually, with the money being put towards public schools. The 5% surcharge would also apply to joint filers who earn over \$1,000,000 annually. *Invest in MI Kids* stated that the proposed surcharge would generate \$1.7 billion for public schools. This week, the campaign’s steering committee voted on the suspension of the operation and ultimately decided it was not possible to collect the required amount of signatures to make it onto the 2026 ballot.

To read more, please click [here](#).

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED FOLLOWING FOUR TORNADOES – *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* declared a state of emergency for Branch, St. Joseph, and Cass counties after four strong tornadoes hit the area.

The bigger picture: The National Weather Service declared one of the four tornadoes to be the strongest to hit Michigan since 1977. The tornadoes tragically resulted in several injuries and four deaths. Three Rivers experienced an EF-2 multiple vortex tornado that caused major damage to several businesses. Edwardsburg experienced an EF-1 tornado and a weaker, EF-0 tornado hit Clarendon Township. Union City suffered from the strongest vortex of the bunch, rated EF-3 and destroying a neighborhood along Union Lake.

To read more, please click [here](#).

ODDS AND ENDS

- The *House* passed legislation that would allow campgrounds to serve as workforce housing and emergency aid worker housing where a state of emergency has been declared. *House Bill 5430* would amend the Public Health Code to say that someone staying at a campground is considered temporary, even if they are staying for an extended period as long as the person is staying in an area where a state of emergency has been declared. The bill passed 89-18.
- The *Senate Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee* reported three bills that would prohibit the manufacture, sale, and distribution of products that come plastic microbeads. Additionally, the

bills would impose a civil fine for each violation. *Senate Bills 503-505* were originally introduced last year and substitutes were adopted.

- The *Senate Elections and Ethics Committee* reported an eight-bill package that intends to move the August primary election to May in even-numbered years. The bills would take effect January 1, 2028. *Senate Bills 692-698* were reported 6-0, with *Senate Bill 691* being reported 5-1.
- Legislation that aims to tackle medical debt and increase protections from aggressive debt collection practices passed the *Senate* on Wednesday. *Senate Bills 449* and *450* passed 33-2, with *Senate Bill 451* passing 27-8. The bills would not change the medical billing process.
- *Senate Bills 701* and *702* passed the *Senate* unanimously. The bills would prevent interest rates or late fees to be charged on medical debt for at least 90 days after the due date.
- The *Senate* unanimously passed *Senate Bill 525* this week. The bill enables the government to utilize drones to inspect telecommunication towers and in emergency response assistance.
- The *House* passed legislation this week that would codify Michigan’s “open and obvious doctrine,” which gives property owners the duty to use ordinary care for the protection of people on their property against risks of harm. Specifically, it requires property owners to implement reasonable precautions to avoid any risk presented by special features of something that is open and obvious. *House Bill 4582* passed 58-48.
- *House Bills 5157* and *5158* passed the *House* 57-49. The bills would create a new crime for delivering controlled substances that result in serious injury. *Representative Steve Carra (R-Three Rivers)* voted against the bill with the *Democratic* minority.