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VOICES FROM AROUND MICHIGAN ON EDUCATION ISSUES AND THE UPCOMING GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION

“One of the things that I admire most about [Gov. Whitmer] is [her] very strong support for higher education and public education.”

– Republican Former Mayor of Battle Creek Joe Schwarz
NBC25 News, 9/12/2022

“Without dedicated people who are willing to be in those positions, it affects society across the board because there are just holes in people's education if we don't have qualified, compassionate people who are willing to do the work.”

– High School History Teacher Christopher Capuano
CBS News, 8/24/2022

“The intentionality given to mental health, teacher recruitment and retention, and school infrastructure by Governor Whitmer and the legislature this year will benefit not only Novi Community School District, but the entire state of Michigan.”

– District Superintendent Ben Mainka
C & G News, 9/8/2022



OCTOBER 2022

ISSUE REPORT: EDUCATION IN MICHIGAN

As lawmakers and educators work to fill the learning gap left by the pandemic, parents are navigating higher costs for school supplies.

Meanwhile, the number of K-12 teachers is diminishing, and Michigan suffers from a higher-than-average decline in new teachers entering the profession.

In November, as we continue to recover from the pandemic, voters will choose between two distinct paths forward: one that invests in public education, including a renewed focus on mental health, and one that undercuts public schools and redirects public money to private schools.

Inside, we compare the candidates for governor on the issue of education.



A newsletter of, by, and for working people



Whitmer: Budget makes record investments in students, public health, and infrastructure

8/7/2022



Gretchen Whitmer: Freeze school supply taxes. Tudor Dixon: That's a 'gimmick'

8/16/2022



Gov. Whitmer says priorities for school year focus on mental health, staff retention

8/24/2022



PUBLIC EDUCATION IN MICHIGAN: TWO PATHS FORWARD



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

Gov. Whitmer has made investing in public education a centerpiece of her administration.

- **Made the highest per-pupil investment in K-12 education**—the largest in Michigan’s history—without raising taxes.¹
- Used \$100 million of federal COVID relief dollars to **improve childcare facilities** and reverse extremely high rates of teacher turnover, particularly in early childhood education.²
- **Invested \$280 million to vet and pay tutors**, helping children catch up after two years of academic disruption from the pandemic.³
- **Expanded high-quality pre-K education** and affordable childcare.⁴
- **Made serious investments in student mental health care** and school safety.⁵
- Opened tuition-free community college and apprenticeship programs for 170,000 Michiganders, helping **train the workforce and grow businesses to create good-paying union jobs.**⁶

Gov. Whitmer has been endorsed for reelection by the Michigan Education Association and by the American Federation of Teachers Michigan.
MEA, 12/16/2021; AFT Michigan, 1/24/2022

So much is on the line this November, but for voters in Michigan, almost nothing is more important than the future of public education. Where do the candidates for governor stand on the issue?



COMMENTATOR TUDOR DIXON

A conservative political commentator, Dixon believes we should take money away from public schools to pay for private schools.

- **Proposes using public tax dollars** to fund private, corporate schools.⁷
- **Says it was a “gimmick” to provide relief to parents** by freezing the sales tax on school supplies.⁸
- **Has adopted the anti-public education platform** of billionaire Betsy DeVos, the former Secretary of Education under President Donald Trump.⁹
- Backed by the very business interests that stand to benefit from **privatizing education.**¹⁰
- Her tax plan would give DeVos and other billionaires millions in tax breaks and **take away \$3.5 billion in taxpayer funding from public schools.**¹¹

“The wealthy DeVos family is pouring millions of dollars into its long established political network to help Republican candidate Tudor Dixon...”
CNBC, 8/18/2022

“DeVos, a long-time right-wing Republican activist and donor, is a supporter of unregulated charter schools and school vouchers that would redirect public funding from public schools to private and charter schools.”
The American Independent, 8/17/2022

CHECK THE FACTS:

1. WXYZ Detroit, 7/14/2022; Michigan Radio, 7/13/2021. 2. Chalkbeat Detroit, 5/16/2022. 3. WOOD-TV, 7/14/2022; Bridge Michigan, 5/23/2022; WNEM, 5/23/2022. 4. Bridge Michigan, 5/17/2022. 5. Bridge Michigan, 7/1/2022. 6. Bridge Michigan, 3/15/2021. 7. tudordixon.com/education, accessed 9/20/2022; MLive, 8/30/2022. 8. Bridge Michigan, 8/16/2022. 9. CNBC, 8/18/2022; The American Independent, 8/17/2022. 10. Bridge Michigan, 7/29/2022. 11. tudordixon.com/economy, accessed 9/19/2022; michigan.gov/budget, accessed 9/19/2022; Targeted News Service, 9/15/2022; Podcast Interview with Tudor Dixon, 5/24/2022, Steve Gruber (Host), The Steve Gruber Show, “Tudor Dixon, Vote! Vote! Vote!”; Chalkbeat Detroit, 2/3/2022.