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## Democrats Protecting Michigan's Water

### Background

Ignoring the basic human right to clean, affordable water has already had tragic consequences in Michigan, including the 2014 Flint water crisis. For far too long Michigan's black and low-income communities have borne the brunt of environmental pollution in their drinking water, streams and soil with increased lead and PFAS levels. The contaminated ground water reaches their homes, schools, senior centers, and playgrounds for the sole purpose of propping up corporations' ability to increase profits. The Republican trifecta in place through the 2018 Lame Duck Legislature codified environmental racism without any oversight or checks in place.

### Core Message

State House Democrats are committed to protecting Michigan's people, its water, and its other natural resources. In an era of increasingly lax federal environmental regulations, GOP-led majorities in the MI legislature have blocked or stalled every Democratic effort to provide safe, clean drinking water, hold corporations financially responsible for polluting Michigan's environment, maintain safe limits for PFAS parts per billion (ppb) standards, shutdown Enbright's Line 5 pipeline and prevent corporations from plundering Michigan's natural resources to increase profits.

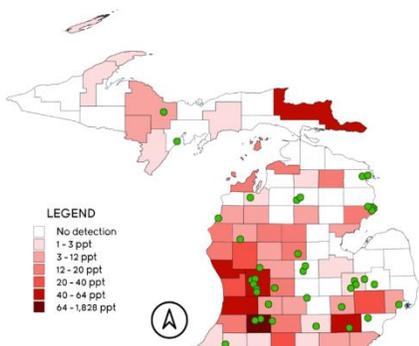
The only way to protect Michigan's people and natural resources and dismantle environmental racism is to flip the state House, and kick out the GOP-led majority this November 3. Dems will reinstate science-based environmental regulations, end systematic polluting in black and low-income neighborhoods, enact long-stalled legislation strengthening environmental agencies and standards, and will hold corporate polluters responsible.

### Key Arguments

**Republicans protect industrial polluters. Polluter panel laws:** Former Gov. Snyder signed laws allowing corporate polluters and lobbyists to determine environmental regulations and building/use permit decisions.

**No stricter laws than federal regulations:** Republicans passed a law preventing the State from setting standards for water and environmental pollution more protective than federal standards.

**Democrats protect Michigan's people and its drinking water PFAS Pollution, Funding Agencies and "Bad Actor" Bills:** Governor Whitmer has established an action response team to counter the threat of pollution from PFAS, a group of highly toxic industrial chemicals dumped into Michigan's water for decades by corporate polluters. She has pushed for proper funding and staffing for state environmental agencies. Governor Whitmer has urged the legislature to pass Democrat-proposed "bad actor" bills to force corporate polluters to clean up after themselves.



This map shows the highest total PFAS concentration that was sampled in a public water system in that county. Green dots represent PFAS contamination sites currently under investigation by MI Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy. Source: NRDC.org.

### TALKING POINTS

- Access to clean water is a fundamental human right.
- There are more PFAS-contaminated sites in MI than any other state in the US.
- Governor Whitmer ends water shut-offs in effort to make handwashing available to all households during the COVID-19 pandemic. Water shut-offs became an official cost-cutting strategy for Detroit in 2014.
- Nestle pays \$200/year to pump 130M gallons of water out of MI, while Flint residents have not had clean water restored.
- GOP-led state House blocks all Dem bills related to protecting MI water, reducing lead permitted in pipes, and holding corporate polluters responsible for cleanup of sites.
- GOP-established polluter panels allow members of industry to serve on the panels; literally the fox guarding the hen house.