

Livingston County Democratic Executive Committee

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Governor's First State Budget Tackles State's Problems with Fairness, Smart Targeting

Judy Daubenmier, chair of the Livingston County Democratic Party, released the following statement on Tuesday, March 5, regarding Governor Whitmer's first state budget.

"Governor Whitmer is going big and going bold in her first state budget. The size of the problems left over from eight years of Republican rule forces her to do that because inaction will only make things worse. The governor's proposals also are balanced, fair, and wisely targeted. She puts money where it is most needed to get the big jobs done.

"The road plan will cost motorists less than the average car repair bill caused by driving on our state's crumbling roads and is targeted at the state's most heavily traveled and economically important roads. Since fuel taxes are regressive, I'm glad to see that the increase is balanced by a doubling in the Earned Income Tax that will more than offset the increase in fuel revenue and will make the outcome less burdensome on our most needy neighbors.

"The school aid increase tries to reverse an 18 percent drop in real education funding over the last 25 years, leaving us last in the nation in school funding increase. The \$507 million in education funding is smartly targeted with the biggest increase going to the lowest funded districts plus an additional increase for students with special needs while cutting funds to cyber schools by 20 percent.

"The pension tax repeal takes a big step toward reversing the huge tax shift onto individuals and away from corporations that Rick Snyder forced on to us.

The investments in clean water, higher education, and increased revenue sharing for local communities are long overdue.

“If Republicans refuse to take these big steps now, the cost of meeting these problems will only be bigger down the road so I hope they will set aside partisanship and join Governor Whitmer in getting to work.”

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