

# PROTECTING OUR DRINKING WATER AND OUR GREAT LAKES

From our Great Lakes to our rivers and streams, water is what makes Michigan special. In a state surrounded by 80 percent of our nation's fresh surface water, communities have every right to clean, safe drinking water. However, failing water infrastructure, toxic chemicals, and nutrient pollution threaten what every Michigander holds dear.

## EXPANDING ACCESS TO CLEAN, SAFE DRINKING WATER

Investing in our drinking water and expanding access to all Michiganders will improve our public health, create good paying careers, and enhance overall quality of life for all Michigan residents.

MICHIGAN HAS A **\$20 BILLION** NEED TO INVEST IN OUR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS.

- MI 21st Infrastructure Task Force

**1 IN 15 MICHIGANDERS** CANNOT AFFORD REGULAR ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER IN THEIR HOMES.

- University of Michigan

MICHIGAN HAS **20,000** CONTAMINATED SITES, 200 OF WHICH ARE CONTAMINATED WITH PFAS, A TOXIC CLASS OF CHEMICALS.

- Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy

### POLICIES TO GUARANTEE ACCESS TO CLEAN, SAFE DRINKING WATER:



**Invest \$1 billion in water infrastructure** annually to repair storm and wastewater systems, improve water filtration systems, and replace lead service lines.



**Implement a "Filter First" approach** to public drinking water sources, especially in our schools and daycare centers.



**Strengthen polluter pay standards** to hold corporate polluters responsible at contaminated sites that threaten our drinking water.



**Reevaluate MI's water rate structure** to guarantee affordable access to water; provide access to water for subsistence level uses at low to no cost by charging a higher rate per gallon for large water consumers. This will maintain financial stability of the system while encouraging conservation.



MICHIGAN  
LEAGUE OF  
CONSERVATION  
VOTERS

## PROTECTING OUR GREAT LAKES, RIVERS, AND STREAMS

Michigan's Great Lakes, rivers, and streams are what makes Michigan special; yet uncontrolled development, toxic contamination, and nutrient pollution threaten our watersheds and their natural aquatic systems. Reducing pollution in our Great Lakes will protect our fisheries, enhance tourism and recreation opportunities, and help protect our drinking water resources.

**EVERY MAJOR MICHIGAN RIVER HAS DOCUMENTED CONTAMINATION FROM HUMAN FECAL MATTER (SEPTIC SYSTEMS).**

— Michigan State University

LAKE ERIE HAS **EXPERIENCED A HARMFUL (TOXIC) ALGAE BLOOM EACH YEAR** SINCE 2005.

— National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association

MORE THAN **22 MILLION POUNDS OF PLASTIC** ENDS UP IN THE GREAT LAKES EACH YEAR.

— Rochester Institute of Technology

### POLICIES TO BETTER PROTECT OUR GREAT LAKES:



**Establish a statewide septic code**, including baseline protections to require regular inspections of the system.



**Ensure agricultural practices are based on hard science and data**, including the application of chemicals, biosolids, and manure.



**Increase funding for water quality monitoring and wetland restoration** to help filter nutrient runoff before it reaches our Great Lakes.



**Strengthen recycling standards** and reduce the use of single-use plastics to keep plastic out of our waterways.



**Expand Michigan's bottle bill**, a hallmark anti-littering law, to adjust the deposit rate to inflation levels, include universal redemption, and cover a wider range of beverage containers.

