

# 2020 HEALTH CARE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE GUIDE

Health care [access and cost](#) remains one of the [most important problems facing America](#).

- Michigan has the seventh-lowest uninsured rate in the United States ([5% in 2018](#)).
- Michigan's [unemployment rate jumped from 4.3% in March to 24% in April](#) on a seasonally adjusted basis. It was 14.8% in June, which likely has **severed tens of thousands of Michiganders from their employer sponsored insurance**.
- The COVID pandemic is drastically impacting insurance coverage for Michigan -- between March and April of 2020, [more than 17,000 people enrolled in Michigan's Medicaid program](#).
- As of July 6, 2020, a [disproportionate number of those infected](#) (53%) and those dying (48%) in Michigan are **Black, Indigenous, and people of color** who make up only 21% of the state's population.
- [Access to health care in rural areas](#) has only become more challenging during the pandemic and will likely have **lasting impacts on rural communities**. A national study of rural hospitals found that [18 \(25% of\) hospitals in rural Michigan are at risk of closure](#) in the wake of stresses imposed by COVID-19.
- **Seniors are at greatest risk**. As of June 30, 2020 [over 87%](#) of COVID deaths in Michigan were among patients aged 60 or older.
- As of June 2020, Michigan's current state budget was projected to incur a [\\$3.2 billion shortfall](#) due to the pandemic. On June 29, Governor Whitmer [announced a bipartisan plan to cover the deficit](#).

The COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated the need for practical solutions that address both the immediate challenges and the long-term gaps in our health care systems to ensure Michiganders can access quality health care they can afford.

#### KEY MESSAGES FOR CANDIDATES:

- Acknowledge the moment:** "Our country is at a pivotal moment. The pandemic, economic recession, and national discussion on race have created a renewed call for action. They have also magnified the critical problems that exist in our health care system."
- Take an active stance:** "It is long past time to examine our systems and address gaps that have existed for decades. We must find solutions and common ground to build a health care system that serves everyone."
- Commit to prioritize people's needs:** "I will put people's health care needs first and I'm already formalizing the ways I gather input and work with community and business leaders to put effective solutions in place."
- Commit to both addressing disparities and finding common ground:** "The health care system, as it's currently structured, isn't working for far too many. I will work to address the lack of fairness and shared needs to build a health care system that works for all of us."



Learn more about United States of Care at [unitedstatesofcare.org](https://unitedstatesofcare.org).

For more information or to seek assistance, contact USofCare at [Help@USofCare.org](mailto:Help@USofCare.org).