



ON GUARD FOR 194 YEARS

# Detroit Free Press

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2025 | FREEP.COM

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Poggi thinks Whittingham can bring U-M back **SPORTS, 1B**

HEAVY SNOW SLAMS MICHIGAN

## ‘Bomb cyclone’ winter storm brings chaos



Rescue workers and tow trucks work to help people at a multiple-car pileup on northbound I-75 near Highland Park after snow squalls and strong winds made driving conditions dangerous on the roadways on Dec. 29. RYAN GARZA/DFP

### Traffic on highways, airports slowed throughout the state

**Keith Matheny**  
Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Virtually the entire state was left to recover in some way from a powerful “bomb cyclone” winter storm Sunday night through Monday, Dec. 29, that brought wind gusts exceeding 50 mph, more than 2 feet of snow to the Upper Peninsula and dangerous snow squalls causing whiteout conditions throughout southern Michigan.

A pileup accident involving nearly 60 vehicles shut down the northbound Interstate 75 freeway at McNichols Road in north Detroit near Highland Park late Monday morning. Michigan State Police announced the freeway had reopened after 4 p.m. Monday.

The Federal Aviation Administration issued a temporary halt to flights from



High winds and heavy snow hit northern Michigan during a winter storm on Dec. 29. JILLIAN FELLOWS/PETOSKEY NEWS-REVIEW

Detroit Wayne County Metropolitan Airport amid wind gusts that reached 54 mph Monday morning. In west Michigan, the Frankfort marina reported 61 mph wind gusts, and gusts of 72 mph

**Inside**  
Millions under blizzard, winter storm warnings across the Eastern U.S. **12A**

were recorded at the north end of the Soo Locks in Lake Superior.

“If you don’t need to travel, please stay off the roads until the wind subsides,” the Michigan State Police posted on X with a photo of a patrol vehicle surrounded by white.

Storm-force winds of 60 knots — about 69 mph — were reported both west and east of Marquette on Monday morning, generating waves averaging 22 to 27 feet with forecasts for occasional waves reaching 34 feet in ice-free areas. Waves on Lake Superior north of Munising were running 25-28

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2026 PREDICTION

## Experts expect economy to grow

Weakened labor market, inflation could be pitfalls

**Ann Saphir**  
REUTERS

A seesaw year for the U.S. economy in 2025 looks set to give way to a stronger 2026 thanks to tailwinds from President Donald Trump’s tax cuts, less uncertainty around tariffs, the ongoing artificial intelligence boom and a late-year run of interest-rate reductions from the Federal Reserve.

Among the biggest drivers of a pick-up in growth, economists say, are fatter tax refunds and smaller tax withholdings on paychecks that are expected to provide a lift to consumer spending, the backbone of the American economy.

Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act also gives companies a range of credits and tax breaks, including the ability to fully write off expenses from investments, that may fuel capital spending beyond data centers and other AI-related areas.

“The boost from fiscal stimulus alone could add one-half percent or more to first quarter GDP growth,” wrote KPMG chief economist Diane Swonk.

At the same time, the impact of Trump’s tariffs on prices is projected to peak in the first half of the year. If price pressures recede, as Fed policy-

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President Donald Trump is poised to pick a new Federal Reserve chair to take over when Jerome Powell’s term ends in May 2026. SAUL LOEB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

## Political offices and the road to governor

Certain posts offer better chance at top than others

**Clara Hendrickson**  
Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan voters in 2026 will decide who will serve as the state’s next governor. Past leaders have taken different journeys to the top elected office in the state, but some trajectories have proven more common in the state’s modern political set-up than others.

Not every candidate running for governor has experience in elected office, but here’s a look at candidates who do, the elected office they currently hold — or held most recently — and the last time a Michigan governor was in office



A person wearing a bright red sweater stands behind a voting booth as they cast their vote inside the Central United Methodist Church polling place in Detroit on Nov. 8, 2022. DAVID RODRIGUEZ MUNOZ/DETROIT FREE PRESS

after holding the same post:


**Jocelyn Benson, Democrat — secretary of state — 1946**

Gov. Harry Kelly, a Republican, was the last secretary of state to serve as Michigan’s governor. He was governor from 1943 through 1946 and served as secretary of state from 1939 through 1942.

**Mike Cox, Republican — former attorney general — 2010**

Gov. Jennifer Granholm was the last Michigan attorney general to become governor. She served as Michigan’s chief law enforcement officer in 1999-

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