

# 2018 Solutions Summit

## A Great Place to Live & Good Government

### Morning session: A Great Place to Live

**8:30-9: Coffee/Breakfast**

**9-9:10: Welcome**

John Bebow, The Center for Michigan President & CEO

**9:10-10: Michigan's Cities: Creating a Roadmap for Thriving Metropolitan Regions**

Moderator: Chastity Pratt Dawsey, Bridge Magazine

Panelists:

Mark Huizenga, Mayor of Walker

Jill Roof, Research Associate, Citizens Research Council

Eric Scorsone, Deputy Treasurer, Michigan Department of Treasury

Karen Majewski, Mayor of Hamtramck

Bill Wild, Mayor of Westland

**10-10:50: Michigan's Natural Resources**

Moderator: Jim Malewitz, Bridge Magazine

Panelists:

Jon Allan, Director, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes

John Dulmes, Executive Director, Michigan Chemistry Council

Kimberly Hill Knott, Project Director, Detroit Climate Action Collaborative

Chris Kolb, President, Michigan Environmental Council

Helen Taylor, State Director, The Nature Conservancy

Lisa Wozniak, Executive Director, Michigan League of Conservation Voters

**10:50-11:40: Improving Michigan's Infrastructure**

Moderator: John Bebow, The Center for Michigan

Panelists:

Joi Harris, Vice President of Gas Operations, DTE Energy

Mike Nystrom, Executive Vice President, Michigan

Infrastructure & Transportation Association

Sally Talberg, Chair, Michigan Public Service Commission

John Walsh, State Budget Director, State of Michigan

**11:45-Noon: Break, participants receive their lunches**

**Noon-1: Announcement of the Michigan Truth Tour & debut screening of Michigan Divided documentary with Q & A**

### Afternoon Session: Good Government

**1-1:10: Welcome back and introduction**

John Bebow, The Center for Michigan President and CEO

**1:10-2: Restoring trust: Redistricting, campaign finance, legislature, FOIA**

Moderator: Riley Beggin, Bridge Magazine

Panelists:

Katie Fahey, President and Treasurer, Voters Not Politicians

Craig Mauger, Executive Director, Michigan Campaign

Finance Network

Joe Richotte, Deputy General Counsel for Michigan Press

Association, Butzel Long

Jeff Timmer, Managing Partner, Two Rivers Public Affairs

**2-3: Taxes, Spending, and the Michigan Economy**

Moderator: John Bebow, The Center for Michigan

Participants:

Charley Ballard, Professor of Economics, Michigan State University

Mitch Bean, Former Director of Michigan House Fiscal

Agency, Great Lakes Economic Consulting

Michael LaFaive, Senior Director of the Morey Fiscal Policy Initiative, Mackinac Center for Public Policy

**3-3:45: Ballot Issue Bonanza**

Moderator: Lindsay VanHulle, Bridge Magazine

Panelists:

Josh Hovey, Spokesperson, Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol

Jeff Wiggins, President, Protecting Michigan Taxpayers

Pat Devlin, Secretary-Treasurer, Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council

Matthew Yascolt, Spokesperson, Healthy and Productive Michigan

**3:45: Thank you and conclusion: John Bebow, The Center for Michigan**

**3:45-4:30: Networking, meet Center for Michigan and Bridge staff, sign up for Michigan Truth Tour activities**

## **Speaker Biographies**

### **Jon Allan, Director, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes**

Mr. Allan became Director of the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes in 2012, contributing his considerable aquatic sciences experience to the office's mission to protect, restore, and sustain the Great Lakes watershed. Jon's research on wetlands, stream ecology, and water policy has been published in journals in Canada and the U.S. Organizations and individuals rely on his expertise to lead environmental planning and policy projects in Michigan and the Great Lakes region. Prior to his service with the State of Michigan, Jon taught courses in biology, ecology and environmental impact assessment at his alma mater, Michigan State University and with other institutions. He also has held a variety of executive management positions in the private and not-for profit sectors. Jon serves as Chair of the Great Lakes Commission and is a board member or an advisor to numerous other regional organizations. He also serves on the Executive Committee for the Conference of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers.

### **Charles Ballard, Professor of Economics, MSU**

Dr. Ballard has been on the Economics faculty at Michigan State University since 1983, when he received his Ph.D. from Stanford University. In 2007, he became Director of the State of the State Survey, in MSU's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. Also in 2007, he won the Outstanding Teacher Award in MSU's College of Social Science. He has served as a consultant with the US. Department of Agriculture, Health & Human Services, and Treasury, and with research institutes in Australia, Denmark, and Finland. His books include Michigan at the Millennium and Michigan's Economic Future.

### **Mitch Bean, Former Director of Michigan House Fiscal Agency, Great Lakes Economic Consulting**

Mr. Bean served as the Director of the Michigan House Fiscal Agency, a nonpartisan agency within the Michigan House of Representatives. Agency personnel provide confidential, nonpartisan assistance to the House Appropriations Committee and all other members of the House on legislative fiscal matters. Prior to his appointment as Agency Director, Mitch was the Chief Economist for the Michigan House of Representatives. He has extensive experience in forecasting Michigan's tax revenue and has produced numerous publications on related topics. In addition, he has been a regular participant in discussions at the Midwest Economic Roundtable, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Mitch received a B.A. in economics from Washington State University and an M.A. in economics from Michigan State University.

### **Pat Devlin, CEO, Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council**

Mr. Devlin was elected Chief Executive Officer of the Michigan Building Trades Council in August 2005. He previously had served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Greater Detroit Building Trades Council since January 1999. The Detroit Council was merged with the Michigan Council in August 2005. Patrick entered the sprinkler fitter trade as an apprentice in 1971 after graduating from high school at Divine Word Seminary in Perrysburg, Ohio in 1970. He also was appointed by the governor to the State of Michigan Mechanical Board of Rules. As CEO of the Michigan Building

Trades Council, Patrick oversees a Council that administers project agreements with construction contractors, acts as a liaison with the business and political communities, and promotes the hiring of a unionized construction workforce in Michigan. Other appointments include Secretary, Red Cross Southeast Michigan Chapter, Board of Directors Blue Cross Blue Shield and the Board of Directors Greater Detroit Health Care Coalition. Devlin is married to Marsha. They live in Livonia and have two children.

### **John Dulmes, Executive Director, Michigan Chemistry Council**

Mr. Dulmes is Executive Director of the Michigan Chemistry Council (MCC). The MCC represents the state's chemical manufacturers, formulators, and distributors - a \$16 billion industry that is a major supplier to the automotive, construction, and agricultural sectors in Michigan and around the world. In addition to its advocacy for a safe, sustainable, and competitive industry, the MCC and its members also support educational outreach efforts to enrich our state's future workforce.

### **Katie Fahey, President and Treasurer, Voters Not Politicians**

Feeling that divisiveness in politics had reached a critical point following the 2016 election, Ms. Fahey formed a 5,000+ member grassroots organization, Voters Not Politicians, to end partisan gerrymandering by establishing an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission in Michigan. The campaign collected more than 425,000 signatures in 110 days through all-volunteer efforts to secure a place on the ballot in 2018. Katie most recently worked at the Michigan Recycling Coalition before coming onto the campaign full time. Katie received a dual degree (BA) from Aquinas College in Sustainable Business and Community Leadership and is pursuing her MBA in Sustainable Business.

### **Joi Harris, Vice President of Gas Operations, DTE Energy**

Ms. Harris is vice president of gas operations for DTE Gas, DTE Energy's natural gas utility which provides service to 1.2 million homes and businesses in Michigan. DTE Energy (NYSE: DTE) is a Detroit-based diversified energy company involved in the development and management of energy-related businesses and services nationwide. Its operating units include an electric utility serving 2.1 million customers in Southeastern Michigan and a natural gas utility serving 1.2 million customers in Michigan. Harris joined DTE Gas (formerly Michigan Consolidated Gas Company) in 1991. She has served in leadership positions in a number of areas including distribution field operations, system control, and transmission operations. Harris earned a bachelor of science degree in Industrial Engineering and a masters of business administration degree from Wayne State University. Harris serves as vice president of the board of directors for the Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program (DAPCEP). She is a member of the Wayne State University Industrial Engineering Advisory Board and has participated in the Cornerstone Partnership Program. Harris was chosen by the Michigan Chronicle as one of the "Women of Excellence". She was also recognized for her achievements by "Who's Who in Black Detroit".

### **Kimberly Hill Knott, Project Director, Detroit Climate Action Collaborative**

Ms. Hill Knott serves as Senior Policy Manager at Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, where she primarily

directs state and federal policy initiatives. In 2011, Kimberly convened community, academic, government, and private stakeholders to form the Detroit Climate Action Collaborative (DCAC). Through DCAC, she is facilitating the development of the City of Detroit's first comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CAP). Detroit's CAP was spearheaded from Kimberly's vision that forward-thinking climate protection initiatives must be considered to revitalize Detroit. Kimberly is leading the charge to accomplish this through DCAC's primary goals: (1) to develop the city's first CAP, documenting baseline greenhouse gas emissions from public and private sectors, and (2) to translate this information into actionable climate action strategies.

#### **Josh Hovey, Spokesperson, Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol**

Considered Truscott Rossman's Lansing insider, Mr. Hovey's background as an assistant to Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero has given him a leg up on knowing who's-who and who's-doing-what in and around the Capitol City. As a vice president of Truscott Rossman, Josh provides original thinking and creative problem-solving to get the best results for our clients. He's involved throughout all stages of the process—from strategic planning to execution. When he's not creating award-winning PR campaigns, Josh's dedication to Lansing is evident in his community work around town. Josh currently serves as president of the South Lansing Community Development Association and chairs the United Way's Young Leader Society Steering Committee, which is committed to developing ways to educate and engage young professionals regarding volunteer opportunities in the community.

#### **Mark Huizenga, Mayor of Walker**

Mayor Huizenga is a highly-motivated, results-driven professional with over 15 years of proven management consulting expertise. Mark has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration from Calvin College and a Master's Degree in Management from Aquinas College. Mark is a Board Certified Medical Practice Executive with the American College of Medical Practice Executives (ACMPE). His consulting firm, [www.huizenga-consulting.com](http://www.huizenga-consulting.com), provides consulting services across the United States. Mark is also the managing partner for Key Green Solutions, LLC [www.keygreensolutions.com](http://www.keygreensolutions.com), a software company based in Grand Rapids. Mark has been involved in the City of Walker in varying capacities from serving on the Planning Commission from 2005 – 2011, City Commissioner 2011-2013, Mayor 2013 – 2017. Mark was re-elected Mayor in November 2017 and he continues to serve in that capacity.

#### **Chris Kolb, President, Michigan Environmental Council**

Mr. Kolb has spent his career defending natural resources, public health and civil rights as an advocate and elected official at the state and local levels. As a state representative, he was instrumental in important environmental legislation, including land bank authorities, lead poisoning prevention for children, regulation of dangerous polybrominated biphenyl ethers (PBDEs), establishment of a fund to help clean up leaking underground storage tanks, and numerous land use initiatives. He also introduced the concept of renewable energy and energy efficiency standards, and other progressive energy legislation. Kolb was appointed in 2015 by Gov. Rick Snyder to co-chair the Flint Water Advisory Task Force, which investigated the city's drinking water crisis, found state-appointed emergency managers and the Department

of Environmental Quality chiefly responsible, and provided recommendations to prevent similar disasters statewide. Kolb currently serves as co-chair of Gov. Snyder's Environmental Justice Work Group. He is also a member of the Detroit Community Health Assessment Steering Committee.

#### **Michael LaFaive, Senior Director of the Morey Fiscal Policy Initiative, Mackinac Center for Public Policy**

Mr. LaFaive is the senior director of the Morey Fiscal Policy Initiative for the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, where he has worked since 1995. He is the author or co-author of hundreds of essays, commentaries and blog posts and 12 studies on fiscal policy topics as varied as local and state privatization efforts, corporate welfare, school finance, state budgeting and cigarette taxes. Among his studies is the Mackinac Center for Public Policy's largest, a nearly 200-page state budget analysis that recommended more than 200 ideas for trimming some \$2 billion from the state budget without cutting Medicaid or School Aid funding. Many ideas first presented by LaFaive in 2003 have been adopted or adapted by lawmakers in Lansing. LaFaive is perhaps best known, however, for his cutting-edge, scholarly work examining state "economic development" programs. His studies and frequent commentaries on this topic have garnered him a national, if not international reputation as a respected government development critic and were probably influential in the decision to kill the Michigan Economic Growth Authority, the state's high-profile corporate welfare program. He has undergraduate and graduate degrees in economics from Central Michigan University. LaFaive is married and resides in Midland, MI.

#### **Karen Majewski, Mayor of Hamtramck**

Mayor Majewski began public service in Hamtramck as a member of the Historical Commission. In 2003 she was elected to City Council, serving as President / Mayor Pro Tem. Elected Hamtramck's first woman mayor in 2005, she was re-elected in 2009, 2013, and 2017. Majewski received her Ph.D. in American Culture from the University of Michigan, concentrating on the study of immigration and ethnicity. She is the former executive director of the Polish American Historical Association and the author of the award-winning book, *Traitors & True Poles: Narrating a Polish American Identity 1889-1939*. Since leaving employment at the University of Michigan's Institute for Research on Labor, Employment, and the Economy, she and her husband bought and renovated a historic storefront in downtown Hamtramck and opened a retail boutique, Tekla Vintage. Her board memberships include the American Polish Advisory Council, Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency, Dekaban-Liddle Foundation, and the Michigan Suburbs Alliance. She is a fellow at the Piast Institute, a Polish American think tank. Since 2008 Majewski has been on the board of the Michigan Suburbs Alliance. In 2007 she became a trustee, and in 2011-2012 served as president of, the Michigan Municipal League.

#### **Craig Mauger, Executive Director, Michigan Campaign Finance Network**

Mr. Mauger joined the Michigan Campaign Finance Network as executive director in January 2016. Before that, he worked as a reporter covering government and politics for a decade. He worked for newspapers in Indiana and spent three and a half years covering the state government and politics in Lansing for Michigan Information & Research Ser-

vice (MIRS News), an online news service. During his time at MIRS News, much of his coverage focused on covering the state Legislature and also following the money in state politics, including tracking the changing role of politically focused nonprofits and the connection between donations and legislative outcomes. Craig is a graduate of Ohio University's E.W. Scripps School of Journalism. He, his wife and two sons live in Holt, Michigan.

**Michael Nystrom, Executive VP, Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association**

Mr. Nystrom oversees all operations, staff and services at MITA. He implements policies based on his interaction with the MITA Board of Directors and the members and he manages the organization's resources within approved annual budget guidelines. Mike also continues to work as a registered lobbyist, serves as an industry resource on labor matters, and acts as the spokesman for the industry on a variety of issues.

**Joe Richotte, Deputy General Counsel for Michigan Press Association, Butzel Long**

Mr. Richotte is an associate based in Butzel Long's Bloomfield Hills office. He practices in the areas of white collar criminal defense, SEC civil enforcement actions, corporate investigations, news media defense, and professional discipline matters for lawyers and judges. Before joining Butzel Long, Mr. Richotte interned for the Honorable Avern Cohn of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. He has also worked for the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan in the National Security Unit and for the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.

**Jill Roof, Research Associate, Citizens Research Council**

Ms. Roof returned to the Citizens Research Council in 2016 after a six-year hiatus when her family moved out of state. She joined the Research Council in 2004 through a fellowship program and was employed full time from 2005 to 2010, during which she focused on education policy issues and analyzed ballot questions on medical marijuana, affirmative action, and stem cell research. Jill will staff our West Michigan office and focus her research on local government issues. Jill earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science with a minor in History from Grand Valley State University and a Master's in Public Administration from Wayne State University.

**Eric Scorsone, Deputy Treasurer, Michigan Department of Treasury**

Dr. Scorsone is serving as Senior Deputy State Treasurer in the Michigan Department of Treasury and oversees the Bureau of Local Government, Bureau of State and Local Bond Finance and Bureau of Higher Education Services. He is on a leave of absence as Associate Professor and Director for the Extension Center for Local Government Finance and Policy at Michigan State University. Prior to coming back home to Michigan, he served as an Assistant Professor at the University of Kentucky. He has also served as an Economist for the Colorado Governor's Office, as Senior Economist for the City of Aurora, Colorado and Senior Economist for the Michigan Senate in 2010. Dr. Scorsone received a Ph.D. from Colorado State University, M.S. from Michigan State University and B.B.A. from Loyola University of Chicago.

**Sally Talberg, Chair, Michigan Public Service Commission**

Ms. Talberg was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder to the Michigan Public Service Commission on July 3, 2013, and was appointed chairman on January 4, 2016. The Governor appointed her to a new term on March 17, 2017, which ends July 2, 2021. Prior to her appointment, Chairman Talberg worked in the public and private sectors with a focus on energy policy and utility regulation. Most recently, she served as a senior consultant at Public Sector Consultants focusing on energy policy issues. During her tenure at Public Sector Consultants, she also helped establish Michigan Saves, a financing organization to support energy waste reduction. Chairman Talberg previously served as an analyst at the Michigan Public Service Commission, managed enforcement and contested cases at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and advised commissioners at the Public Utility Commission of Texas. Ms. Talberg holds a bachelor's of science degree in Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Studies from Michigan State University and a master's degree in Public Affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas-Austin.

**Helen Taylor, State Director, The Nature Conservancy**

Ms. Taylor has spent more than 30 years working on Great Lakes protection, policy and conservation. She joined the Conservancy in 1996 to lead its Great Lakes Program, and since 1999 has served as state director of its Michigan program as well as on the board of directors of the Conservancy's Great Lakes Project. Prior to joining the Conservancy in 1996, Helen worked in the environmental policy field with a concentration in Great Lakes issues, pollution prevention, waste and public involvement. She worked for ICF, Inc. and Clean Sites, Inc. (now known as the Delta Institute), consulting to industry; government (municipalities, state and federal agencies); and environmental organizations. Helen was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder to serve as a Commissioner and his representative on the Great Lakes Commission and, more recently, to his 21st Century Infrastructure Commission. She has also held gubernatorial appointments to the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council in 2003 and Agriculture Preservation Fund Board from 2004 to 2007. Currently, Helen serves on the board of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the External Advisory Board of University of Michigan's Graham Sustainability Institute. Helen holds a degree in philosophy from Northwestern University where she graduated with honors.

**Jeff Timmer, Managing Partner, Two Rivers Public Affairs**

Mr. Timmer is a political, issue advocacy, and communications strategist who has spent nearly 30 years providing big-picture counsel and communications for corporations, trade associations, political organizations, candidates, and campaigns engaged in the arenas of public policy and politics. Jeff is also an award-winning creator, director, and producer of standout broadcast advertising and persuasive direct mail. Campaigns & Elections magazine has recognized Timmer as one of the most influential Republicans in Michigan. Timmer is acknowledged as a leading redistricting expert. He is a graduate of James Madison College at Michigan State University. He was appointed by the Governor and served on Michigan's Board of State Canvassers.

**John Walsh, State Budget Director, State of Michigan**

Mr. Walsh serves as the State Budget Director in Michigan reporting directly to Governor Rick Snyder. He is responsible

for coordinating all aspects of the state's \$57 billion budget, and also oversees various program offices within the department. Prior to serving as State Budget Director, Director Walsh served as the Director of Strategy for Governor Rick Snyder, and as Speaker Pro Tempore of the Michigan House of Representatives from 2011 to 2014, first being elected in 2008 to represent Livonia in the 19th District. He has also served as an executive for Schoolcraft College and was a founder and principal of the law firm Raymond, Walsh & Enwright PC for several years. He received his Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University College of Law, and his B.A. in political science from James Madison College of Michigan State University, majoring in public policy analysis.

#### **Jeff Wiggins, President, Protecting Michigan Taxpayers**

Mr. Wiggins joined ABC of Michigan in June of 2016 after serving as a policy advisor in the House Republican Policy Office in the Michigan House of Representatives, serving as the lead advisor on the Energy and Regulatory Reform committees. Prior to that, Jeff worked in the Michigan House since 2011, serving as Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor in the office of Majority Floor Leader Aric Nesbitt from October 2011–May 2015, and Legislative Assistant to Speaker Pro Tempore John Walsh from January 2011–October 2011. Jeff also served as Special Assistant to Attorney General Mike Cox from October 2007–August 2008. Jeff is a graduate of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law (2011) and Michigan State University (2007).

#### **Bill Wild, Mayor of Westland**

From the first day of his administration, Mayor Wild made a commitment to the citizens of Westland – to make one of Michigan's great cities even better. Mayor Wild continues to follow through on that promise by strengthening core priorities such as: public safety, clean and safe neighborhoods, finding efficiencies within government, exercising sound fiscal management, protecting the environment, and creating a healthier and more vibrant community. Recently, Westland was recognized as one of America's top 50 places to live, work, and play by Wall Street 24/7. As the City's CEO, Mayor Wild provides oversight over the City's balanced operating budget of 60 million dollars and all City departments. Under Mayor Wild's leadership, Westland has successfully attracted more than 200 million dollars in new investment to Westland's business district. Throughout his career in public service, Mayor Wild has been known for his ability to work in a bipartisan fashion to create real solutions for his constituency and the region. As a small business owner, and mayor of one of the fastest growing communities in Wayne County, Mayor Wild considers himself an entrepreneur—not a politician—and has created a business friendly environment for economic development, all while stressing superior customer service for Westland's 85,000 residents.

#### **Lisa Wozniak, Executive Director, Michigan League of Conservation Voters**

Ms. Wozniak serves as the Executive Director of the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, an organization that turns environmental values into community priorities by electing strong pro-environment candidates to office and then holding them accountable for their actions. Prior to this position, Lisa served as the Great Lakes Regional Director for the national League of Conservation Voters, overseeing programs in Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois, with a special focus on keeping the Great Lakes

Congressional Caucus in check. In 1994, Lisa cut her teeth on Lana Pollack's U.S. Senate campaign and Alma Wheeler Smith's campaign for state Senate. Born in Athens, Greece to Michigander parents, Lisa has a deep commitment to the protection of our planet's beautiful natural places, especially the deep, blue, fresh bodies of water that surround the state she calls home. With both graduate and undergraduate degrees from the University of Michigan, Lisa brings an interdisciplinary approach to problem-solving, collaboration, and political change. Lisa serves on the board of a number of local, state and national organizations, including the Huron River Watershed Council, Friends of the Rutherford Pool, and the national League of Conservation Voters Education Fund.

#### **Matthew Yascolt, Representative, Healthy and Productive Michigan**

Mr. Yascolt has been working in Substance Use Disorder Services since 2009. He began his career in college working at an adolescent mental health clinic. After graduating Matthew began work as a substance use disorder counselor at a sub-acute detoxification and long-term residential clinic in Detroit. While a counselor, he worked with clients that had substance use disorders, practiced evidence-based therapies in individual sessions and facilitated group therapy. Matthew transitioned to Substance Abuse Prevention Services with Beaumont Health Systems, working as a Substance Abuse Prevention Program Director for five coalitions in Downriver Michigan. Matthew also sits on the executive committee of Michigan Prevention Association as the advocacy chairperson, as well as numerous other roles in substance abuse prevention. He has observed the effects of adolescent marijuana use on clients and witnessed a decreased perception of harm in youth populations through programs in partnership with public school systems. He believes there is a better alternative to the false dilemma of incarceration or legalization. Matthew has concerns about patterns in history of addictive industries marketing to youth, and the certain societal disparities that have arisen in states where marijuana is legal for recreational use.

## **About The Center for Michigan and Bridge Magazine**

The Center for Michigan is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and nonpartisan think-and-do-tank founded in 2006. Our work is defined by three verbs: Engage, Inform, and Achieve.

**Engage:** The Center for Michigan is Michigan's leading practitioner of nonpartisan statewide public engagement. We make citizenship interesting, convenient, and meaningful through interactive, small-group Community Conversations, large policy conferences, phone polling and online engagement tools. More than 40,000 diverse, statewide residents have participated in the Center's public engagement programs since 2007. This bottom-up public engagement can, and does, lead to positive change for Michigan's future. Learn how to participate in our statewide 2018 Michigan Truth Tour at [www.thecenterformichigan.net](http://www.thecenterformichigan.net).

**Inform:** Bridge Magazine, our free, online public service news publication, focuses on the in-depth "how" and "why" of Michigan current events. Since launch in 2011, Bridge has earned more than 100 state and national journalism awards and is a two-time-defending Michigan Press Association "Newspaper of the Year" Throughout 2018, Bridge provides watchdog coverage of statewide political campaigns, actions at the state capitol, and big-picture coverage of major issues ranging from the state economy to public education. Bridge is an unincorporated public service project of The Center for Michigan. Read and subscribe to Bridge at [www.bridgemi.com](http://www.bridgemi.com).

**Achieve:** We take the findings of our public engagement campaigns and Bridge journalism to get things done for Michigan. Examples of positive change to which the Center has contributed include: 1) The nation's largest expansion of public preschool; 2) Some \$250 million in taxpayer savings from prison system reforms; 3) Stopping the erosion of the traditional 180-day school year; 4) Education reforms like more rigorous teacher certification and evaluation; and, 5) Reform of state business taxes.

The Center for Michigan is vigilantly nonpartisan. We never contribute to or advocate for any candidate of any political party. Bridge Magazine is likewise nonpartisan and independent. Bridge's numerous philanthropic funders exercise absolutely no editorial control over the publication.

The Center for Michigan and Bridge maintain offices in Lansing, Ann Arbor, and Detroit and have a statewide staff of 15 professional journalists and public engagement specialists.

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Alliance for Early Success  
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CMS Energy Foundation  
Corporation for Public Broadcasting  
Domino's Pizza  
DTE Energy Foundation  
Frey Foundation  
Jim Gilmore, Jr. Foundation  
Glassen Memorial Fund  
Grand Rapids Community Foundation  
Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation  
Hudson-Webber Foundation  
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