

Livingston County Democrats' Response to State of the State

Has Michigan Been Reinvented? Compared to a decade ago, our roads, or schools, and our water infrastructure are all in worse shape. That didn't need to happen. Where are the results of reinvention?

A Wasted Governorship? If the Governor had taken on the Republican-controlled Legislature's refusal to invest, he could have boasted about success, not just promised to do better in his lame-duck year. Instead, he pushed through a \$1.2-billion per year business tax cut, money that could have been invested in our schools, roads, and water systems.

Whose Economic Comeback? Because of our dependence on the auto industry, we were much harder hit in 2007-09 than the rest of the nation. The recovery of this highly cyclical industry should not be credited to anything the Snyder Administration has done. The Obama Administration's bailout of GM and Chrysler played a much larger role.

The Nerd: Not Tough Enough? In case after case, Governor Snyder has advanced half-solutions, generally in the guise of "public-private partnerships," and even so the Republican-controlled legislature has failed to fund them fully.

Relentless Insignificant Action? The Governor's speech described more than 40 initiatives. Many are just concepts or pilots, and few have had measurable impacts. Together, they add up to ... not much.

Promises, not accomplishments? Next week, the Governor said, he will introduce a new infrastructure initiative each day. All of these could have been acted on in the past seven years if the Governor had shown the political courage to fight for their funding.

Credit where it's due. Governor Snyder did send a welcome signal in his closing remarks on fiscal responsibility, implicitly calling out the Republican Legislature for pushing tax cuts when the State needs the revenue for our schools, roads, water infrastructure, and skilled trades training.

Notable for What was Missing. Around Michigan, our citizens are engaged in lively political debate about a higher minimum wage, restricting fracking, shutting down Line 5, and school class sizes. None of these was mentioned.

We Can Do Better.

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