

AGENDA FOR A NEW ECONOMY

BUILDING LOCAL POWER



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Affordable and Accessible Housing

Background

Detroiters are facing a crisis of scarce, dilapidating housing. Housing units available for rent or sale are hard to come by. While the city celebrates thousands of housing units added in the past 5 years, deteriorating housing negates those gains. Rising home values also get painted as a positive to our residents when many families are struggling to raise the funds to meet the ever-increasing prices. When our working families finally find a home they can afford, those homes are often fraught with issues affecting their livability. The combined up-front and hidden maintenance costs makes living in Detroit more expensive. The ultimate effect has been a city with a stagnant housing stock, lower-than-average homeownership rates, and Black homeownership at lower rates than other major ethnic groups.

Policy Failures

The city has prioritized home demolitions over rehabbing to maximize the Land Bank's profits, under the guise of 'blight removal'. The majority of Mayor Duggan's Proposal N-funded blight removal program was spent on demolishing land-bank-owned homes in the neighborhoods. By the end of the program, the city will have destroyed over 8,000 homes. Although the city promised over 6,000 home stabilizations, many of those homes remain unsold, without rehabilitation work completed. Many of the homes sold to speculators have returned to the land bank in the same condition.¹ This reflects a home "rehab" agenda that prioritized profit maximization over occupying those limited homes with families.

Home repair programs are years behind and underfunded, making urgent fixes unaffordable for Detroiters and accelerating the loss of viable housing units. Detroit's home repair programs saw greater investment with the surge in federal funding under the Biden administration. However, these programs consistently fell short in the number of residents helped and the rate at which repairs were completed. For example, the roof and window repair program Renew Detroit received four times as many eligible applicants as it ultimately accepted.² Of those that were accepted and promised new roofs and windows, their repairs started up to two years later than originally planned. These shortcomings were the result of low funding and limited city repair vendors, due to the city's archaic procurement process. With more funding and a larger pool of engaged vendors, more Detroiters could have received critical repairs to their homes.

Affordable housing developments in Detroit are typically multi-family housing with small units, inadequate to those with disabilities, larger families, and other needs. Most new housing projects in the city's neighborhoods have limitations on which families can truly benefit. Much of the city's new housing has been in the form of apartment buildings with limited options beyond studios and one bedroom units. These smaller units are inadequate for multi-generational and larger families. Furthermore, there is a limited number of accessible units that provide a safe and dignified living for those with disabilities.³ Without greater investment in these accommodations, we stand to either further lose these residents or perpetuate low-quality housing conditions for families with these needs.

The city solely relies on the private market to produce housing, excluding those who cannot pay market rates or access the limited amount of affordable housing. The city's current approach to housing construction heavily relies on the private market to produce housing. The only major contribution by the city being tax breaks and Land Bank deals for private developers. This leaves Detroit's housing stock at the whim of private banks and real estate developers. Those entities have historically under-invested or outright refused to engage in building housing for Black and Brown Detroiters. Those that do choose to invest will only produce housing as long as those projects are profitable. Most privately developed housing will only be sold or rented at high market rates or rates deemed affordable for those making 80% AMI, when city tax credits are granted. Either of these arrangements leave housing out of reach for many Detroiters that may not even be able to take on the cost of the 'subsidized' units.

Policy Demands

Stop all spending on non-emergency demolitions and divert the remaining demolition funds to rehab Land Bank-owned homes to sell at subsidized costs. There have long been concerns that many of the homes destroyed could have been returned to full use. Going forward, the city should do all that it can to both preserve our existing housing stock and ensure it becomes occupied by any means necessary. It is time we do away with the austere Land Bank model and create a mandate for the Land Bank to have a plan for every home that ends with occupancy.

Increase city spending on home repairs for all Detroiters. Detroit homeowners are the stewards of our housing stock. If homes are allowed to fall into disrepair, the cost of repairs becomes a debt to be paid by future generations looking for a dignified home. Thus, public spending on home repairs should be considered an investment in our housing stock. *As homes receive the maintenance they need, we ensure a greater availability of homes in the market as more remain livable.*

Expand the development of new single-family homes through community land trusts. The current private housing market has made multi-family developments the primary model for new construction. As construction costs have risen, single family homes become less and less profitable. Community land trusts stand to solve this issue as governments and non-governmental organizations do not have the same profit motive and the land can be preserved from speculation. As a result, newly constructed single-family housing can be made more affordable and accessible to working class families as the savings in land and financing costs can be passed on to them.

Begin investment in municipally-owned social housing that will prioritize affordability for residents. The private housing market also does not have a solution for those that cannot afford either market rates or the federal subsidy-mandated rent at the 80% AMI level. For many Detroiters, where the median income is nearly half of the AMI, these rents are still too burdensome.⁴

Social housing provides another solution to these issues with the private market by removing the profit motive altogether and making austerity an option rather than a requirement. This approach does not preclude the free market option for those with means. Rather, this fills a gap that the free market cannot.

What should the city and state do differently to solve these issues in your community?

Renter's Rights

Background

Renters in Detroit have endured limited recourse in demanding accountability from their landlords and preventing their own displacement. The available housing stock is decreasing, while rents for available units increase and Black Detroiters wages have stagnated. Currently, renters can be evicted or refused renewal for any reason. Evictions have led to immense suffering for many families. Even when thousands of Detroiters successfully advocated for their right to have counsel in eviction proceedings, access to those services has been made difficult by limited city funding to service providers . In a city where nearly half of residents are renters, many remain vulnerable to displacement and undignified living conditions.

Policy Failures

The state's preemption on rent control prohibits the city's from protecting renters against drastic spikes in housing costs. The 1988 Michigan rent control preemption law made it impossible for cities to enact renters protections against exorbitant rent increases. If this preemption were repealed, cities in Michigan could explore new ways of increasing housing development, while protecting renters from being burdened with rising housing costs or displacement altogether.

Detroit renters are vulnerable to displacement at the end of their leases without clear legal guidelines on permissible eviction reasons. Currently, landlords may begin eviction proceedings for any reason at the end of a lease term, even if all rents were paid on time and the tenant did not violate any laws or agreements. This puts tenants at a disadvantage where they may be displaced without notice or must take on the legal costs to stay in their home. Currently, there are not any local or state guidelines on permissible or impermissible eviction reasons at the end of a lease. This makes housing instability even more likely in Detroit, exposing our residents to the costly impacts of displacement.

Right to Counsel's unreliable funding has made access to services difficult. One partial remedy against unjust evictions has been a city-wide right to counsel. While successfully passed as an ordinance, this high-demand service needs consistent funding to both pay for rendered services and retain the third-party legal service providers. Without this consistent funding, the program is at risk of failing its purpose to protect Detroit's hundreds of thousands of renters from unjust evictions.

It remains legal to discriminate against Detroiters with a past conviction, further limiting returning citizens' access to housing. Thousands of formerly incarcerated Detroiters return to the city every year seeking a new start. Unfortunately, it remains legal for landlords to discriminate in the rent application process on the basis of past convictions. This detail about a person does not bear any necessarily true implication on their quality as a tenant or their ability to pay. The result is that thousands of Detroiters have their already limited housing prospects further limited after already serving their time.

Policy Demands

Repeal rent regulation preemption and return the decision to cities. In recent years, there have been persistent grassroots efforts to repeal the 1988 rent preemption law. **Repealing this law would return the decision of rent regulation to cities.** This would make further innovation in housing affordability possible as models, such as New York City, show that rent regulation and new housing development can co-exist.

Fully fund Right to Counsel at a level that provides for universal access. Detroit's Right to Counsel has joined its peer programs across the country in proving its efficacy at keeping Detroiters in their homes and economic stability, as a result. **Continuing to fund Right to Counsel will ensure that existing renters' protections are fully enforced without placing the cost of that burden on families.**

Pass a local 'Just Cause' eviction protection law to limit the circumstances in which residents may be evicted from their homes. Detroit city council has explored 'Just Cause' eviction laws in this past term.⁵ Continuing to explore this measure and ensuring it fully protects residents at vulnerable points in their lease is necessary to protect Detroiters against housing instability.

Pass a local 'Fair Chance' housing law to prohibit housing discrimination against returning citizens. Housing instability and homelessness have proven to be a significant factor in recidivism. Permitting discrimination on the basis of past convictions makes recidivism more likely as a result. **Common sense 'Fair Chance' laws both remove this barrier to successful re-entry and enhance public safety.**

What should the city and state do differently to solve these issues in your community?

Background

Equitable Development

Working class neighborhoods in Detroit are not receiving the same economic investment and opportunities as the Downtown and Midtown areas. Developers bring short-term construction jobs, but the majority of jobs being attracted to the city are white-collar positions. Development into the neighborhoods has been made even more difficult by speculation. A Land Value Tax reform has been proposed but its current iteration fails to challenge speculation by outside investors, causing massive properties to sit dormant and limited economic benefits for homeowners.

Policy Failures

Blue collar Black Detroiters have seen stagnant wages and increased unemployment as the city primarily focused on attracting thousands of white-collar jobs. The city has seen an expanding total workforce due to recent developments and business attraction. However, the benefits of these improvements have not been observed in key economic metrics among Black Detroiters. The median income for Black Detroiters has risen at 25% the rate of the median White income since 2010.⁶ Labor force participation and employment rates for Black Detroiters have also gone down, signaling a waning in employment prospects while other groups see greater opportunity.⁷

Our regressive property tax scheme does not punish speculation, which hampers greater development across the city. Development in the city is expensive and difficult enough. One barrier to the expansion of development into the city's neighborhoods is speculation by outside investors who hold on to land indefinitely, seeking a high price that may never come. **Our flat millage property tax scheme allows this predatory practice to continue as these empty parcels are billed with low tax costs.**

Policy Demands

Prioritize the city's economic development agenda in sectors where blue-collar workers can see greater job growth. The University of Michigan's economic forecast for Detroit projects blue collar jobs as the largest driver for income tax base growth driver for the next four years. This is also the greatest employment sector for Detroit residents.⁸ As the growth of white collar jobs is waning and may not return to pre-pandemic levels, growth opportunities in the trades sector is even more necessary to sustain the momentum in economic and tax base growth. The benefit to supporting new and expanding businesses in this sector would provide a larger, direct benefit to residents, rather than a smaller, indirect benefit.

Amend the Land Value Tax proposal to one with deeper cuts to home-owners and responsible property owners. Mayor Duggan's Land Value Tax proposal was presented as a possible silver bullet against land speculation as it would place a higher tax on empty parcels with high market values. However, it failed to move in Lansing due to underwhelming potential benefits to Detroit property owners and the mayor's lackluster political capital among Michigan lawmakers. To correct for these shortcomings, the proposal should be strengthened by providing deeper cuts to the millage applied to homes and other buildings and raising those for land. These changes will improve public support by providing more tax savings for current residents while remaining revenue neutral and penalizing speculation.

What should the city and state do differently to solve these issues in your community?

Just Taxation and Public Spending

Background

Working class Detroiters are suffering under an inequitable tax system that disproportionately benefits higher earners. At the same time, those who work in the city are paying twice the income tax rate as those commuting from elsewhere. Furthermore, the city's assessor's office has routinely overtaxed numerous homeowners, resulting in widespread displacement and Detroit residents shouldering an oversized financial burden. These issues, as well as the unnecessary continuation of the Downtown Development Authority, weaken the city's tax base while billionaires reap all of the benefits.

Policy Failures

The state's preemption on a graduated income tax upholds a regressive taxation scheme that places a greater tax burden on working-class Detroiters. Flat income taxes place a higher economic burden on lower income residents. The tax rate, as a percentage of income, is the same for all wage levels. However, other applicable non-income taxes in Michigan are, essentially, a fixed amount per person. As a result, the total taxes paid make up a lower percentage of a higher earners' income, and a higher percentage for lower earners. At the federal level, graduated income taxes solve for this issue by taxing lower incomes at a lower rate. However, the city is prohibited by the state constitution from enacting a graduated income tax and moving to a more progressive tax system.

The city's current taxation system places a disproportionate share of the tax burden on Detroit residents, further restraining Detroiters' finances. Visitors to our tax-subsidized Downtown amenities also do not contribute to city tax revenue as we do not apply a sales or amusement tax to any of their activity. Suburban residents working in Detroit pay only 1.2% of their income in city taxes. Not a cent more. However, Detroit residents who work in the city pay twice the income tax rate of their out-of-town counterparts. Residents must also pay property and utility taxes, directly or indirectly, through their residence in the city. This makes Detroit residents carry the majority of the burden of funding the city while the rest of the region benefits at a lesser or no cost.

The city assessor's malfeasance in inaccurate taxation has cost Detroit residents millions and their homes. While much of the tax burden falls on city residents, thousands of those taxpayers have been subject to further over-taxation through mistakes by the city assessor's office. This issue hit a peak in the mid 2010s but continues to be an issue, especially for lower valued homes.⁹ **This persistent failure has cost taxpayers over \$600M in excess taxes and resulting home foreclosures.**

The Downtown Development Authority bears no responsibility for the city's resources in its spending decisions, leading to millions in debt, spending, and tax break obligations to billionaires. The Downtown Development Authority captures all tax revenue in Downtown in excess of the amount captured in 1978. Today, the amount captured from Detroit city tax revenue alone is over \$20M per year. This gives the DDA greater room to take on more debt and tax break obligations that the city will have to manage. All the while, the majority of Downtown jobs, over 80%, do not go to Detroit residents.

Policy Demands

Repeal the state constitutional preemption on graduated income tax. **The repeal of the preemption law on graduated income taxes would allow the city to grant more relief to working-class families by shifting more of the burden to those with much higher incomes.**

Distribute the tax burden to out-of-town workers and visitors through changes to income, sales, and amusement taxes and lower the rates applied to city residents. The hyper-concentration of city resources into Downtown was done with the goal of greater economic activity within the city by people from across the region. Keeping the city running and attractive to more private spending requires a large public cost that is not carried by all who benefit. By applying higher and new taxes that visitors and out-of-town workers can absorb, we can fund tax cuts to residents and open new routes for greater tax revenue generation.

Fund third-party audits of the city's tax assessments. The Property Tax Reform Ordinance mandates a third-party audit of city tax assessments to ensure compliance with state laws, protecting from regressivity and inaccuracies. However, the start of this new city practice has already faced issues in non-compliance of regular auditing and a mayoral administration that refuses to acknowledge the problem. Compliance will require third-party audits to be a consistent budget line item going forward.

Dissolve the DDA and stop the use of area-based TIF authorities to internalize the entire city's needs in tax break decisions. The DDA is able to capture tax revenue, issue debt, and provide tax breaks with impunity since its board and administration are insulated from democratic control. Downtown development can be supported financially without the need for this authority. Its dissolution would make decisions on supposed 'economic development' projects solely the decision of the entire city government, not corporate interest groups, allowing for democratic control of the use of these tax funds.

What should the city and state do differently to solve these issues in your community?

Infrastructure

Background

The long-term impact of extreme weather conditions and limited regulation on pollution has resulted in unhealthy living conditions within communities of color. Detroit's infrastructure continues to deteriorate, placing thousands of Detroiters in unhealthy and dangerous conditions, and the city's attempts at repair are failing to keep up. Meanwhile, public transit remains an unreliable means of transportation, particularly for those waiting at unsheltered stops during the peak of winter and summer, displaying how low citizens sit on the city's priority list.

Policy Failures

Unsheltered stops and inconsistent bus times make public transit an unreliable option for transportation needs. Unsheltered bus stops in Detroit expose riders to extreme weather, creating uncomfortable and unsafe waiting conditions, particularly during the winter and summer months. Bus arrival times are often inconsistent, with long gaps or sudden cancellations that leave residents stranded or late for work, school, and appointments. These conditions make public transit an unreliable and inefficient option for meeting everyday transportation needs, especially for people without access to a car.

The rate of water main line replacement is not fast enough to deal with climate change and rapidly deteriorating infrastructure, leaving thousands of homes at risk. Detroit's aging water infrastructure is crumbling. The current rate of water main replacements is far too slow to address the growing risks posed by climate change such as flooding and rapid freeze-thaw cycles. Frequent water main breaks and leaks leave thousands of households vulnerable to water service disruptions, flooding, and property damage. Without a more aggressive investment in upgrades, the city risks widespread infrastructure failure during extreme weather events.

Logistics companies and industry are given free reign in the city to spread pollution into our neighborhoods. Logistics and warehousing companies in Detroit often operate with little regulation, allowing them to cluster in residential neighborhoods without penalty or guidelines to respect those residents. These trucking practices bring increased truck traffic, diesel emissions, and noise, disproportionately affecting the health and quality-of-life in low-income communities. The lack of enforceable environmental protections is a policy failure that prioritizes industrial expansion over community well-being.

Policy Demands

Commit to doubling DDOT's budget to improve service and create a safer, more dignified public transit experience. Doubling the DDOT budget would allow Detroit to increase bus frequency, improve reliability, and shorten wait times, directly addressing the inconsistencies that make the current system unreliable. Additional funding could also be used to install shelters at every bus stop, ensuring that riders are protected from harsh weather and can wait in dignity and safety. A larger budget would further support workforce development for drivers and maintenance staff, improved safety measures, and better infrastructure. Thus, making public transit a truly viable and equitable option for all Detroiters.

Commit to the continued use of CDBG dollars to make private sewer repairs available to all eligible Detroiters in every neighborhood. Redirecting Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to upgrade residential drainage systems would help residents better manage flooding caused by increasingly intense rainstorms linked to climate change.¹⁰ These improvements can protect homes from sewer backups and water damage when aging main lines fail or are overwhelmed. Investing in household-level resilience empowers Detroiters to adapt to worsening climate conditions while the city works to modernize its broader water infrastructure. While the city continues to receive conventional CDBG and over \$340M in CDBG-DR funds to support home rehabilitation after floods, the city should use a combination of those funds to further expand the private sewer repair program across the entire city.

Implement a city-wide truck route ordinance. A city-wide truck route ordinance would prevent heavy-duty vehicles from cutting through residential streets, reducing air and noise pollution in the neighborhoods most affected by industrial traffic. By clearly designating and enforcing truck routes, Detroit can minimize the environmental burden on its Black and Brown communities areas that have, historically, been over-exposed to diesel emissions.

What should the city and state do differently to solve these issues in your community?

Economic Justice

Background

Major corporations have had outsized influence in local politics and labor conditions for too long. Union membership has cratered, leading to weaker worker protections and increasingly dangerous conditions for low-wage, high-risk workers, and attempts to secure minimum wage increases and paid family leave by voters have been insufficient. Moreover, state preemption prohibits municipalities from addressing these inequities directly, meaning that legislators are collaborating with corporations on policy instead of co-governing with voters.

Policy Failures

The state preemption on a local prevailing wage and minimum wage laws limits the rate at which wages and employment can grow for working-class households. Michigan's preemption laws block Detroit from creating greater economic conditions for its workers by prohibiting local minimum wage laws and prevailing wage mandates for local development projects. This limits wage growth and economic opportunity for working-class households, in a city where the cost of living continues to rise.

Detroiters cannot expect to receive paid family leave from their jobs, making healthy family growth and stability less likely. Without access to paid family leave, Detroiters are forced to choose between their income and caring for a newborn, sick family member, or themselves during major life events. This absence of support makes it harder for families to build stability and weakens the long-term health and well-being of both children and parents. The lack of a paid family leave policy hits low-income and hourly workers hardest as those jobs are more likely to be without flexibility or benefits.

Detroit is becoming less of a union city while working conditions have not improved for Black and Brown Detroiters. Detroit's identity as a union city is eroding as labor protections weaken and working conditions stagnate, especially for Black and Brown workers in low-wage and high-risk jobs. Many industries now avoid unionization altogether, offering few opportunities for collective bargaining or worker-led improvements. Without strong unions and fair labor standards, racial and economic inequality stands to deepen across the city.

Policy Demands

Repeal state preemption on local workforce policy to restore Detroiters' ability to create a higher quality of life through their labor. Repealing state preemption would give Detroit the freedom to establish local minimum wage and prevailing wage standards that better reflect the city's cost of living and economic needs. This would empower Detroiters to fight for fair compensation and better benefits at the local level.

Pass paid family leave requirements at the state level. Implementing paid family leave statewide would ensure that every worker in Detroit can care for a newborn, recover from illness, or support a family member without risking their income or job security. This kind of support is essential for building strong, stable families and healthy communities, especially in cities like Detroit where too many workers are in low-wage, no-benefit jobs.

Expand the scope of the Industry Standards Board to uphold more workers' rights. The Industry Standards Board was created because the jobs promised in the tax-subsidized sports arenas were rife with unsafe working conditions and little to no benefits. The board has gone on to demand more stable employment and better benefits for arena workers. The issues present in the arenas are not unique to those work sites, however. The Industry Standards Board should be strengthened and expanded to other sectors in the city to enforce fair labor practices, ensure workplace safety, and hold employers accountable.

What should the city and state do differently to solve these issues in your community?

Public Safety & Law Enforcement Weaponization

Background

Detroit Police Department and city leadership have routinely prioritized crime intervention over crime prevention, resulting in heightened surveillance and overt criminalization of working class Detroiters. Investment in surveillance tools, such as license plate readers and Shotspotter, have not yielded proven results and put the data of innocent citizens at risk. In addition, police officers with insufficient training are being asked to deal with uniquely challenging cases involving mental health crises and immigration enforcement.

Policy Failures

The city has expanded the use of audio and visual surveillance across the city, facilitating the tracking of immigrants and citizens alike by ICE and other federal agencies. Since the start of Project Greenlight, the Detroit Police Department has deployed a network of cameras, microphones, and license plate readers that have collected data on the movement and actions of innocent Detroiters. This data has been freely available to federal agencies and private third parties to track persons of interest.

DPD officers are legally allowed to act as immigration enforcement at their individual discretion. While there are written policies against immigration enforcement by DPD officers, there are not any penalties for involving federal immigration enforcement officers in low-level police activity. This has allowed individual DPD officers to call on CBP and ICE to investigate and arrest suspected undocumented immigrants at their discretion and without penalty.¹¹

The city continues to place non-violent mental health crises in the hands of under-trained police officers, leading to injuries and deaths. The City of Detroit attempted to address the demands for non-violent crisis intervention with the creation of a mental health response unit within the DPD. While this has been lauded as a move away from police violence, the police responder model has proven problematic in its various implementations across the country. For example, rates of arrest and violence are not significantly lower when ‘mental health trained’ police respond, compared to those without training.¹²

The city’s crime strategy primarily focuses on intervention over prevention, limiting the total crime reduction effect possible. The City of Detroit has begun experimenting with non-police interventions that target individual behavior such as Ceasefire and ShotStoppers. While these programs can be seen as a step to reducing the use of police for public safety, the lack of evidence of success for these programs suggests crime factors beyond those targeted by these programs may be going unaddressed.¹³

Policy Demands

Remove federal agency access to all surveillance data. To protect the civil liberties of Detroiters, the city must ban the sharing of surveillance data with ICE, CBP, and private entities. Project Greenlight, ShotSpotter, automated license plate readers, and other surveillance tools collect massive amounts of data on innocent people, creating a digital dragnet that undermines public trust and safety. A clear prohibition, backed by enforcement and oversight, would ensure Detroit's surveillance infrastructure is not weaponized against vulnerable residents.

Stop the use of AI-integrated surveillance. The current AI-integrated surveillance within DPD, including facial recognition, gunshot detection microphones, and automated license plate readers are error-prone and disproportionately impact Black and Brown Detroiters when they err and create unnecessary police contact. **Ending the use of AI in surveillance would help prevent mass data collection, protect privacy, and reduce the risk of false identification and unjust policing.**

Prohibit DPD officers from calling on immigration enforcement, for any reason. Even with written policies discouraging DPD from engaging in immigration enforcement, the absence of legal consequences has allowed officers to involve ICE or CBP at their own discretion. This creates a climate of fear for immigrant Detroiters, where routine police interactions can escalate into deportation. The city must enact a firm, enforceable ban on any collaboration with federal immigration agencies, closing the loopholes that currently allow DPD officers to violate community trust without consequence.

Stop the use of CBP officers for translation. Relying on Customs and Border Protection officers for language translation is a deceptive practice that places immigrant Detroiters at risk, turning a basic communication need into a possible immigration enforcement trap. It erodes trust between immigrant residents and emergency responders, and deters people from calling for help. The city must stop outsourcing translation services to federal agencies with enforcement authority and instead invest in professional, independent, and community-trusted interpreters.

Start a non-armed mental health response unit, housed outside of DPD, to respond to non-violent 911 calls. A non-armed, civilian-led mental health response unit that is fully independent from the police department is essential to ensuring safe, compassionate care for people in crisis. Police officers, even when trained in crisis response, are not mental health professionals and often escalate situations that require empathy, not enforcement. Detroit should follow successful models from other cities by launching a 911 alternative staffed by clinicians, peer support workers, and medics who can de-escalate crises and connect people to care without criminalizing them.

Establish an Office of Violence Prevention that is tasked with identifying the root causes of crime across the city and necessary preventative policy and spending items. A dedicated Office of Violence Prevention would shift Detroit's public safety strategy toward prevention by focusing on systemic issues like poverty, housing insecurity, education gaps, trauma, and disenfranchisement. Rather than reacting to crime after it happens, this office would use data and community engagement to design long-term solutions, guide resource allocation, and hold departments accountable for both socio-economic and criminal outcomes.

What should the city and state do differently to solve these issues in your community?

Democracy

Background

State decisionmakers have not done enough to protect Michiganders from the excessive rates and poor service of utility companies. The ability of utility companies to make financial contributions to legislators creates a clear conflict of interest, where the voices meant to regulate these companies are disincentivized from holding bad actors accountable.

Policy Failures

The state of Michigan continues to allow regulated utility companies to financially contribute to legislators, allowing for regulatory capture. In Michigan, regulated utility companies are allowed to make financial contributions to the very legislators responsible for overseeing them, creating a clear conflict of interest. This opens the door to regulatory capture, where policies and decisions favor corporate profits over public accountability and consumer protection. As a result, residents face high utility rates and poor service with little recourse, while the companies remain shielded from meaningful oversight.

Policy Demand

Michigan must prohibit regulated utility companies from making political donations to legislators who oversee their operations. This ban would ensure that energy and utility policy is shaped by the needs of the public and not the interests of powerful corporations. It's a necessary step that would allow for fairer rates, better service, and real accountability for utility monopolies.

What should the city and state do differently to solve these issues in your community?

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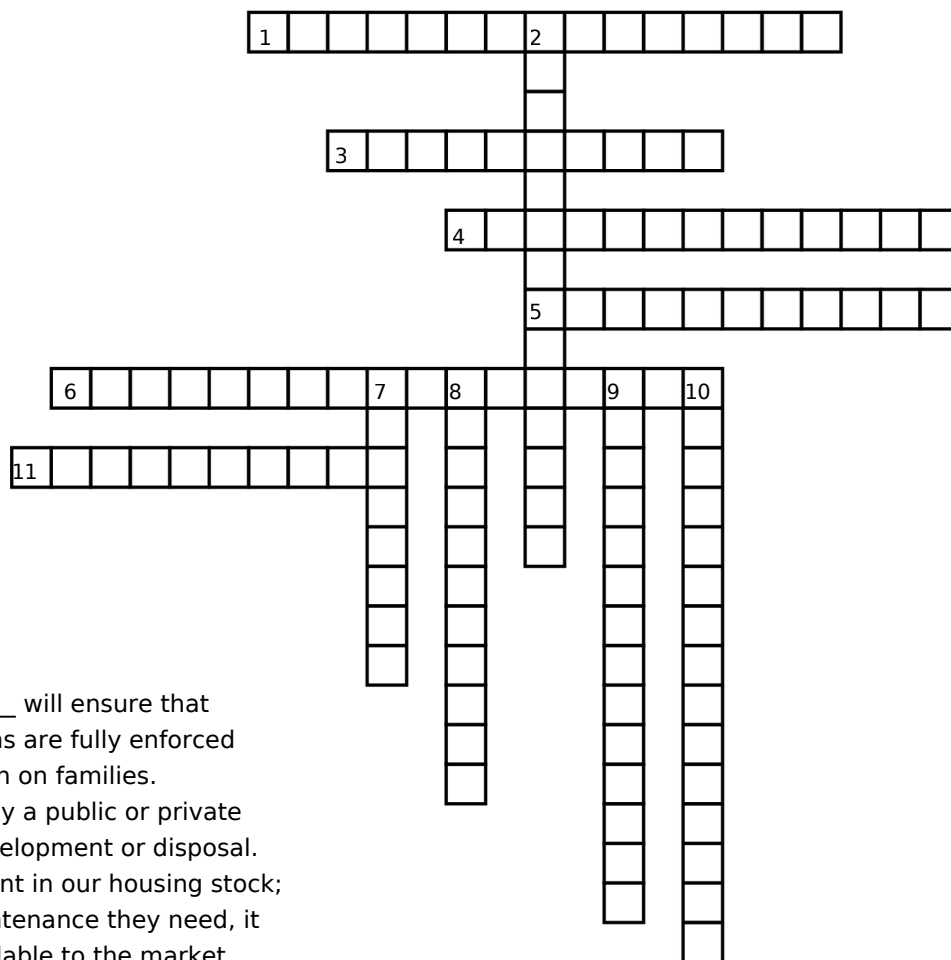
Action Plan

What are you ready to do to move you and your neighbors to force the city to act on these matters?

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Agenda for a New Economy

Crossword Puzzle



Down:

2. Continuing to fund _____ will ensure that existing renters' protections are fully enforced without placing that burden on families.
7. A large body of land held by a public or private organization for future development or disposal.
8. _____ are an investment in our housing stock; as homes receive the maintenance they need, it increases the amount available to the market.
9. The basic physical and organizational structures needed for a society to function (Ex. Things that help you get to work or school).
10. The repeal of the preemption law on _____ taxes would allow the city to grant more relief to working-class families by shifting more of the burden to those with more means.

Across:

1. City office whose mistakes have cost taxpayers over \$600M in excess taxes and resulting home foreclosures.
3. Passing this law would prohibit housing discrimination against returning citizens and enhance public safety
4. A grassroots member led organization building political power, and fighting for racial and economic justice.
5. Who has the ability to write ordinances, oversees local utilities, and controls funding in Detroit?
6. Housing solutions that are within financial reach to renters and owners.
11. Repealing this law would return the decision of rent regulation to cities.

