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HRCC Outlines Policy Priorities With Eye On Majority In 2025

House Republicans are unveiling their policy plan ahead of the November election with the intent of letting voters know priorities should they win back the gavel.

"Republicans are ready to govern on day one," House Republican Campaign Chair [Rep. Bill Schuette](#) (R-Midland) said. "We're presenting options to make life more affordable for Michigan, to make this a better place to start your business, start your family, live your life, ways to grow our economy and grow our population."

Affordability, education and safety are among Republicans' top priorities, Schuette said.

The list of Republican objectives includes making the 2023 income tax reduction to 4.05 percent permanent, cutting energy bills and housing costs by eliminating green energy mandates and lifting permitting fees, prioritizing local control and local energy production, modernizing nuclear power generation and expanding natural gas production.

When it comes to education, members of the HRCC said its time for schools to "return to the basics."

Those basics include soft skills, like showing up on time, and basic math and reading. Republicans also highlighted the near elimination of designated mental health and safety funding in this year's School Aid Fund budget. The caucus also wants to give parents a bigger role in their children's education.

Community safety is another area the committee focused on, with priorities including recruiting and retaining more police officers, eliminating "sanctuary counties" in Michigan and supporting crime victims. Republicans have labeled counties who refuse to have their law enforcement cooperate with federal immigration authorities "sanctuary

counties" though it is disputed whether any such counties exist in Michigan.

The committee also highlighted infrastructure funding for both rural and urban areas as a priority. Members of the committee, who spoke on background, said infrastructure had been underfunded for too long and additional money was needed. Members didn't suggest new sources of revenue, rather, they said that budget spending should be reprioritized.

The point in putting forward their ideas now, Republicans said, is to show Michigan voters they want to center policies, not politics.

"We've put together a mission for Michigan that 60 to 70 percent of our entire state can get behind, and hopefully the Democrats can too," [Rep. Bryan Posthumus](#) (R-Cannon Township) said.

In terms of work for this fall, Republicans were pessimistic, but [Rep. Ann Bollin](#) (R-Brighton) said she'd like to see the House get some of the economic development policies over the finish line, especially legislation that would allow the state to claw back money from development projects that have not fulfilled what they promised.

Posthumus also mentioned addressing the tipped wage and paid sick leave laws that resulted from the Michigan Supreme Court's adopt-and-amend decision.

After the election, though, Posthumus said he hoped for a light lame duck.

"I want to see us go home," he said. "If you look at the past, some good policy gets done in lame duck, but also some dangerous policy, too, and I'm a little concerned what policies Democrats are going to put forward."

— By Elena Durnbaugh

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