

VP Makes Detroit Campaign Stop; Announces \$100M EV Auto Supplier Grants

Harris made the announcement with Lt. Gov. **Garlin GILCHRIST II**, Secretary of Energy Jennifer **GRANHOLM**, Deputy Commerce Secretary Don **GRAVES**, Acting Secretary of Labor Julie **SU**, and was introduced by U.S. Black Chambers Inc. President Ron **BUSBY** Sr. She thanked Nevada Rep. Steven **HORSFORD**, president of the congressional Black caucus.

"I believe that America's economy is powered by the ambition and the aspiration of her people, the ambition and aspiration, to innovate, to create and to prosper. Therefore, to grow our economy, we must invest in that ambition, and those aspirations," Harris said.

She talked to the mostly Black crowd at the Charles Wright Museum of African American History about how much money the Biden administration had spent on helping minority entrepreneurs and addressing disparities in homeownership. She said that was part of the reason why she was on the national Economic Opportunity tour.

She said Black entrepreneurs were coming up with amazing ideas, but often couldn't get the backing to help make that idea a reality.

"Black entrepreneurs are three times as likely to not apply for a loan for fear they're going to be turned away from a bank," she said.

She said the \$100 million could be used to support Michigan Black-owned electric automotive part production.

Another program would provide access to \$250,000 to \$10 million government-backed loans with a private capital match.

"We are also expanding access to government contracts. At the beginning of our administration, President Joe **BIDEN** and I pleaded to increase federal contracts from minority-owned small businesses by 50 percent," Harris said.

She said the announcements were an investment in America's economy, which would also help people end up owning a home.

"Today, Black Americans are 40 percent less likely to own a home – this is a sad fact – and homeownership rates for Black men have been falling for three decades straight," she said.

She highlighted a program that would help first-time home buyers get \$25,000 toward a down payment and money to help build 2 million affordable housing units across the nation.

"We are also implementing a rule that medical debt cannot be used in calculating your credit score, which means medical debt cannot be the reason someone has been denied a car loan, a home loan or a small business loan," she said.

She then pointed to the student loan debt forgiveness and said the administration had forgiven nearly \$160 billion dollars for 4.5 million people, with \$30,000 per person and \$70,000 for public servants.

"God knows we don't pay them enough as it is, so it's only right," she said.

Prior to the announcement, Granholm also announced a new workforce initiative called the Readiness Accelerator for Major Projects, or RAMP, fellowship.

"I feel like I'm at the NFL draft," she said taking the stage to applause from the crowd.

She said people could apply for fellowships at energy.gov, and said Michigan was "killing it in terms of jobs, job creation," in the electrification of the auto industry.

Michigan Democratic Party Chair Lavora **BARNES** said she was excited to see the Vice President in Michigan and said the administration was investing in the state.

"From historic low Black unemployment to investing in our auto industry to capping the cost of insulin at \$35 a month, the Biden-Harris administration has had Michiganders' backs at every turn," Barnes said.

Not everyone was happy to see Harris in Detroit, as pro-Palestine protesters also gathered outside the museum before Harris made the announcement.

Protestors are calling for a ceasefire in Gaza during **KamalaHarris'** visit in Detroit. Dozens of DPD officers are on site preventing them from crossing Woodward to the Wright Museum, where the VP currently is. pic.twitter.com/RamXuRdNT8

— Dana Afana (@DanaAfana) [May 6, 2024](#)

The protesters weren't the only ones not happy to see Harris in Michigan.

Americans for Prosperity-Michigan Director of Grassroots Operations Tim **GOLDING** said the government taking a heavy-handed approach to the Michigan economy was meant to further special interests.

"Michigan doesn't need more 'Bidenomics' meddling in our state's economy, but unfortunately VP Harris and Senator **Debbie STABENOW (D-Lansing)** would rather double-down on failed policy than correct course," Golding said.

U.S. Reps. **John JAMES (R-Shelby Township)** and **John MOOLENAAR (R-Caledonia)** also went after Biden for continuing to push electrification of the auto industry.

Moolenaar chided the Biden administration for opening tax credits on EVs to Chinese-produced autos.

"It is hypocritical and the Biden administration should ban Chinese companies from qualifying for tax credits," he said.

James said the Environmental Protection Agency's Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) requirements were the real danger to the auto industry and the regulations should be repealed to give people more choice (See "[EPA Ratchets Up Vehicle Emissions Regulations By 2032](#)," 3/20/24).

"Joe Biden helped create this problem and now he wants credit for spending \$100 million of your tax dollars to make you forget it ... but the North remembers," James said.