4 more years for Governor Snyder

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(NEWSCHANNEL 3) - Governor Rick Snyder has turned back a tough challenge and will serve four more years.

Snyder took 51-percent of the vote while democratic candidate Mark Schauer ended up with 47-percent.

The Snyder campaign was ecstatic at headquarters in Detroit Tuesday night.

The governor's path to re-election proved more difficult than originally anticipated by political experts.

A year ago at this time Governor Snyder had an eight point lead over Schauer and there was every expectation that once he messaged what he'd done over the last four years that lead would actually balloon.

But that never happened. The race stayed close until the end.

Throughout the campaign Snyder's message to voters was always one of forward progress.

In his victory speech he made it clear that's still the message.

"But when you have success like this, what's the next thing you need to do? It's not to stay where you are, it's not to stay complacent, it's time to accelerate and go even faster and get more done to reinvent our state," said Governor Snyder.

Throughout the campaign the governor did suffer stinging attacks from opponent Mark Schauer. His campaign suggested the governor's policies generally favored the wealthy over the middle-class.

In the end the Battle Creek democrat may have lost, but he says he's far from defeated.

"For me, this campaign is over. But for all of use, as democrats, as Michiganders who love our great state, this work must - and will - continue," said Schauer.

Governor Snyder and Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley celebrated victory well into the morning in the Motor City.