Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder celebrates re-election over Mark Schauer: 'The positive can win'



Michigan Governor Rick Snyder waves to the crowd before giving his victory speech during the Michigan GOP 2014 election party at the GM Renaissance Center in Detroit Tuesday, November 4, 2014. (Mike Mulholland | MLive.com)

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LANSING, MI — Gov. Rick Snyder, four years after vowing to reinvent Michigan, returned to that promise Tuesday night as he celebrated re-election with fellow Republicans in Detroit.

“We have been reinventing Michigan by showing that fighting and blame are not the answer,” Snyder said in a victory speech at the Renaissance Center. “The answer is to be positive and solve problems. To move forward. And it’s been working.”

Snyder, a former businessman who has defied easy categorization as governor, defeated Democratic challenger Mark Schauer in a race that proved much closer than many pundits had originally anticipated.

The self-styled nerd won by more than 18 percentage points in 2010, and a Republican governor had not lost re-election in Michigan since 1948. Still, recent public opinion polls suggested a tight contest just days out from the election.

With 99 percent of precincts reporting early Wednesday morning, Snyder led Schauer by four percentage points in a race that Democrats said would come down to turnout.

Schauer, a former state lawmaker and Congressman, called Snyder on the phone to congratulate him around 11:30 p.m. before publicly conceding the race in a speech at the MGM Grand in Detroit.

“I am disappointed too,” Schauer told supporters. “I know how disappointed each of you are, because I know how hard all of you worked. This was not about a campaign… this was a movement about the future of our state.”

Rick Snyder's victory speech after winning re-electionMichigan Governor Rick Snyder delivers his victory speech after winning a re-election over democrat Mark Schauer.

Schauer spent 17 months on the campaign trail, fine-tuning a populist message of tax fairness, economic opportunity and the need for high-quality public education. He promised to reverse or repeal several laws enacted the past four years.

Snyder’s message was one of forward progress: Private sector jobs are up since he took office, the unemployment rate is down and Detroit appears likely to emerge from bankruptcy in the immediate future.

“We didn’t didn’t spend time talking about what was wrong with someone else. We spent our time talking about what the problems are and what the solutions are,” Snyder said. “…We can raise the standard of how politics should operate in this country. You don’t have to go to the negative. The positive can win."

Mark Schauer Concession SpeechDemocrat Mark Schauer gave his concession speech for the governor of Michigan, which was won by incumbent Republican Rick Snyder, at the Michigan Democratic Party Election Night at the MGM Grand Casino in Detroit Nov. 4, 2014. (Tanya Moutzalias/ MLive Detroit)

While Snyder’s campaign did not run negative ads, the Republican Governors Association and the Michigan Republican Party got their hands dirty in the race, spending millions on attack ads targeting Schauer.

The Democratic Governors Association spent even more on negative ads, repeatedly insisting that Snyder cut $1 billion from K-12 education even though total appropriations have actually increased by about that same amount during his tenure.

The governor, in his campaign, touted bipartisan work to approve a "Grand Bargain” in Detroit's bankruptcy case and expand Medicaid eligibility under

the Affordable Law. He celebrated elimination of the onerous Michigan Business Tax and defended the fairness of the so-called pension tax.

“He said what he was going to do and he did what he said,” Lt. Gov. Brian Calley told supporters. He hearkened back four years prior, when people all across Michigan “took a chance” and indicated that “they want something better” for the future.

“What they said tonight was that they made the right choice,” Calley said to applause.

STATEWIDE ELECTION RESULTS

Track the breakdown of voters by county for the Governor, U.S. Senate and House, and ballot measures up for vote in the 2014 election.



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Statewide election results by race:

- **Governor**
- **U.S. Senate**
- **U.S. House**
- **Attorney General**
- **Secretary of State**
- **State Supreme Court**

State Rep. Harvey Santana, D-Detroit, stopped by the Republican party after attending the Democratic version earlier in the evening. Santana, who has crossed the aisle on some key votes in the state House, said people are tired of partisan politics.

“I was rooting for Schauer, obviously, but I just knew he was at a severe disadvantage,” he said. “I didn’t see any Granholm-type excitement in Detroit for Schauer, and today at the polls, people were asking me, is it okay that I vote for Snyder?”

The governor’s victory capped an impressive night for the Michigan Republican Party, which grew its majority in the state Legislature while winning several other top races, including re-election for Attorney General Bill Schuette and Secretary of State Ruth Johnson.

The U.S. Senate race proved a notable exception, as Democratic Congressman Gary Peters easily defeated Republican Terri Lynn Land. Richard Bernstein, a Democratic nominee for the state Supreme Court, was also poised to defeat James Robert Redford.

“The progress we have seen in the last four years is outpacing the rest of the nation, and we owe it to the leadership we have in place today,” Michigan GOP Chairman Bobby Schostak said in a statement.

“Governor Snyder, Lieutenant Governor Calley, and the rest of our Comeback Team will continue moving this state forward over the next four years, and we’ll look back on today and realize we made future generations brighter with this governor’s re-election.”

November 06, 2014 - 12:17PM ET

Governor - General

Michigan - 4877 of 4877 Precincts Reporting - 100%

	Name	Party	Votes	Vote %
✓	Snyder, Rick (i)	GOP	1,598,922	51%
	Schauer, Mark	Dem	1,469,375	47%
	Buzuma, Mary	Lib	35,574	1%
	McFarlin, Mark	UST	19,177	1%
	Homeniuk, Paul	Grn	14,893	0%

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