Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder defeats Democrat Mark Schauer, wins second term in hard-fought election



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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on November 04, 2014 at 11:09 PM, updated November 05, 2014 at 11:28 AM

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

DETROIT, MI — Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has won re-election, holding off a strong challenge from Democrat Mark Schauer en route to a second term.

As of 11 p.m., the Ann Arbor Republican was leading Schauer 52 to 46 percent, with 61 percent of precincts reporting, according to the Associated Press. MLive and multiple media outlets are projecting a Snyder victory.

The governor's path to re-election proved more difficult than many political observers originally anticipated. His late start on the campaign trail and non-combative style left him vulnerable to attack.

The self-styled nerd saw his polling lead — which had stretched to eight percentage points in early June — all but evaporate in the run-up to the election.

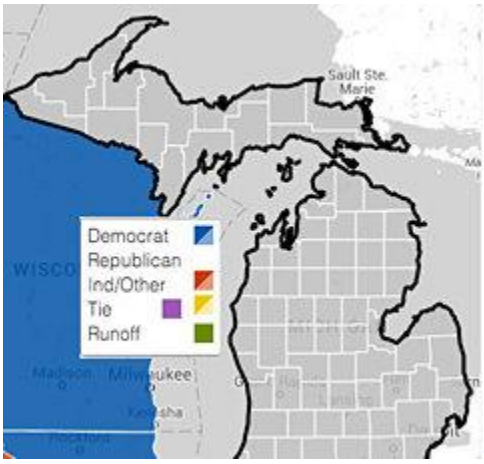
"I ran a positive campaign, and that's something we need more of in this country," Snyder said earlier Tuesday. "Too much of the campaign, in terms of what other people have done, was all negative. And I'm proud to say I think we've hopefully set a higher standard."

Elsewhere on the top of the ticket, Democrat Gary Peters handily defeatedRepublican Terri Lynn Land in Michigan's U.S. Senate race. Peters, a Congressman, will replace retiring Sen. Carl Levin in the upper chamber.

Snyder's message to voters was one of forward progress; He stressed private sector job growth, a falling unemployment rate and signs of real recovery in Detroit.

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**

The governor touted bipartisan efforts to approve state financing for a Detroit bankruptcy settlement and expand Medicaid eligibility, along with a simplified tax code that business groups praised as a pro-growth strategy.

But Snyder's message was complicated by stinging attacks from Schauer, who suggested the governor's policies generally favored the wealthy over the middle-class.

The Battle Creek Democrat, who spent 17 months on the campaign trail, hammered Snyder over education funding and tax code changes, including the so-called pension tax.

In the end, the governor's "road to recovery" theme appeared to resonate with more voters. Re-election campaigns almost always function as a referendum on the incumbent, and Snyder survived this one.

"I Just think he's moved Michigan forward over the last four years and I want to see that continue," said Bay City resident Karin Collins.

Larry Schuesster of Blackman Township offered a similar assessment after casting a vote for the governor.

"Snyder did a good job and I don't think there's a reason to change from where we're headed now," he said.

Snyder and Lt. Gov. Brian Calley are expected to celebrate victory later tonight at the Renaissance Center in Detroit, where Republicans are holding their election-night party.

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%

Media outlet: MLive