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Michigan's Gov. Rick Snyder wins reelection



By RACHAEL BADE | 11/4/14 11:26 PM EST

Michigan Republican Gov. Rick Snyder fended off Democratic challenger Mark Schauer, securing four more years in the Wolverine State governor's mansion.

Snyder led Schauer, 52 to 46 percent, when The Associated Press called the race with 62 percent of precincts reporting.

The race between Snyder, elected in 2010 by an 18-point margin, and Schauer, a former congressman, was too close to call in the days before the election.

(**Senate results by state**)

Snyder — a self-made millionaire who had an M.B.A. and law degree by age 23 — campaigned on a nearly 4-point drop in unemployment on his watch, suggesting his tax and spending reforms grew the state out of the economic recession.

But Schauer, who worked in the nonprofit sector and local government, said too many have been left behind, noting that the state's 7.2 unemployment rate is still among the nation's highest. He criticized Snyder, a venture capitalist, for cutting taxes on businesses while increasing them on individuals, including low-income earners and seniors.

Schauer pledged to cut taxes on pensions and the working poor if elected. Schauer also made headlines for a controversial claim that Snyder cut education by $1 billion — a statement heavily refuted by the governor, who says he increased spending by the same amount.

(**POLITICO's 2014 race ratings**)
Snyder's tenure as governor has been marked by not only his tax and economic reforms but his support of the Medicaid expansion backed by the Obama administration. He was one of just a few GOP governors to embrace the health care reforms for low-income adults.

He was also instrumental in the so-called "grand bargain" response to Detroit's bankruptcy mayhem, signing a $195 million assistance package that helped starve off deep pension cuts.

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