



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

January 13, 2020

Washtenaw County Democrats
418 West Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Dear Chairman Savage and Washtenaw County Dems,

Thank you for sending a copy of your resolution dated November 2, 2019, regarding the importance of appointing diverse candidates to our state board and commissions. I appreciate your outreach on this important topic, and I am hopeful you know your input is really important to me.

One of my greatest responsibilities as governor is appointing strong, thoughtful candidates to serve on our 250 boards and commissions that lead our state. Please know I am absolutely committed to making sure those appointments are reflective of our state's diversity and vast communities across Michigan. When I was sworn in as governor, I built the most diverse cabinet our state has ever seen, with more people of color, more women, and more members of the LGBTQ community than ever before. Additionally, I was proud to appoint 806 candidates to 244 boards. However, I was even prouder that 20 percent of those appointments were filled with African American candidates and 47 percent were women candidates. In addition, I focused on appointing candidates from the Hispanic, Arab, Asian and Native communities to ensure representation on all decision-making bodies. I know this is just a start, and I am committed to working hard to forge new relationships, to engage untapped pools of candidates and to make thoughtful appointments that honor the diversity of Michigan.

Should you have any recommendations or candidates you believe that would be a good fit, please encourage them to apply here: <https://somgovweb.state.mi.us/GovernorsBoard/Instructions.aspx>. Additionally, if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to my Appointments Division at (517) 241-5712.

Again, thank you for contacting me. I appreciate the work that you do, and I look forward to working together on this and other important state government issues of your concern.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan