
From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 10:20 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 11/18 Newsroom
Attachments: 151118 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Wednesday, November 18, 2015
[NEWS \(Click the link to read the full article\)](#)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Syrian refugees

[Gov. Rick Snyder: We Must Welcome Refugees—After Screening Them](#) (TIME)

I've paused efforts to bring more refugees to Michigan until the U.S. reviews its security procedures. Throughout its history, Michigan has been a welcoming place for immigrants to come and build new lives. That spirit is reflected across our state, but especially in the vibrant Middle Eastern community that has congregated in and around Detroit.

[White House briefs governors on refugee screening](#) (WDIV)

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder was one of the first to say it is time to stand down on allowing Syrian refugees into the country. It's was a remarkable about-face from the usually pro-immigration governor. However, Snyder, like governors across the country, is worried about screening procedures to make sure Islamic terrorists don't get a free pass to come into the United States.

[Governor Snyder Takes Part in White House Conference Call About Refugees](#) (WILX)

Governor Rick Snyder was on the phone with the White House Tuesday, taking part in a conference call about plans to bring more refugees into the United States.

[Michigan can't bar refugees; it's up to feds](#) (Detroit News)

Gov. Rick Snyder and state lawmakers can do little to stop the flow of refugees from war-torn Syria into Michigan, though they could make it tougher for the immigrants once they arrive, legal experts say.

[Michigan could potentially see more Syrian refugees](#) (Freep)

Senior Obama administration officials said Tuesday they would not typically resettle refugees in communities where they're not welcomed, but stopped short of promising not to send individuals and families fleeing war-torn Syria to states where governors have raised concerns — meaning more could potentially be headed to Michigan, which has already received more refugees than all but two other states.

[White House holds call with governors on Syrian refugees](#) (AP)

The White House held a 90-minute conference call with governors about plans to increase the number of refugees accepted in the United States after governors raised concerns related to last week's attacks in Paris. A spokeswoman for Michigan Republican Gov. Rick Snyder says he appreciated the discussion and told officials he'd like "more robust data" on the refugee system.

Obama Administration Briefs Governors On Refugee Screening (NPR)

A spokesperson for Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, one of the governors who asked the federal government not to bring refugees into his state until security procedures were reviewed by the Department of Homeland Security, tells NPR's Don Gonyea that Snyder "thought it was helpful to hear in much greater detail the work on screening and security procedures."

After Syrian refugee stance, is Michigan's Rick Snyder still the most pro-immigration governor? (Mlive)

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder calls himself the most pro-immigration governor in the nation, but he ended up on a forefront of a national wave of governors questioning or opposing the relocation of Syrian refugees.

Bethany Christian Services: Snyder's halt on accepting refugees a temporary measure, won't affect Holland placement (Holland Sentinel)

Gov. Rick Snyder's decision to postpone Michigan's efforts to accept refugees in response to the recent attacks in Paris and Beirut will likely have little impact on placement of refugees in the Holland area. This is mostly because of timing, as it was unlikely for many reasons any would be placed locally until the spring.

Flint water

Refund Flint \$2 million for cost of Detroit water, Kildee tells Gov. Snyder (Mlive)

The state of Michigan should repair damage to Flint's water lines, create a fund for ongoing assistance here, and reimburse the city for the \$2 million it's spending to temporarily reconnect to the Detroit water system, U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee says. The Flint Democrat outlined his requests in a Nov. 13 letter to Gov. Rick Snyder, saying "the state -- not Flint -- created this water crisis, and the state needs to fix it."

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEQ

State's instructions for sampling drinking water for lead "not best practice" (Michigan Radio)

The Flint water crisis has uncovered all kinds of details about how cities test the safety of their drinking water. In particular, critics say the state is giving bad advice on testing drinking water for lead.

Outdated system leaves city guessing where lead pipes are (WNEM)

Experts said homes with lead pipes have a dramatically higher risk of lead poisoning from their drinking water. Under federal rules, those homes need to be sampled.

DHHS

Sparrow PHP to lose 21K patients, cut 40 jobs (Lansing State Journal)

Sparrow's Physicians Health Plan will lose 21,000 Medicaid patients in the tri-county area as of Jan. 1, after losing a bid to provide coverage through the state's Medicaid program.

Michigan board denies Medicaid HMO contract appeals (Crain's Detroit Business)

Despite last-minute pleas this morning by a handful of Medicaid HMOs, the Michigan State Administrative Board held firm and upheld state joint evaluation committee recommendations that denied the appeals of five of six health plans, state officials told *Crain's*.

DNR

Deer opener sees improvement in Michigan's U.P. (AP)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources says this year's opening day of the firearm deer hunting season improved in some parts of the Upper Peninsula compared with last year.

Hunters find success on opening day of firearm deer season (Holland Sentinel)

The beginning of firearm deer season is considered a state holiday by most, and that meant plenty of area hunters took to the woods on the first day of the season on Sunday, Nov. 15, in hopes of bagging a big buck.

Hunters Reminded to Abide by ORV Regulations (WBKB)

As you know, hunting season kicked off Sunday, and conservation officers at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources are reminding hunters using an off-road vehicle to follow ORV land-use regulations.

Some U.P. waters receive new fishing regulations (ABC 10 News)

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission recently approved some changes to fishing regulations on the Tahquamenon and Ontonagon Rivers. Anglers can now keep muskies as small as thirty-eight inches on the Tahquamenon, and those on the Ontonagon will be limited to only one walleye daily that's bigger than twenty-five inches.

MDE

Did Michigan waste \$3.5 million on charter schools with questionable futures? (Detroit Metro Times)

Up until a month ago, if you searched for "Bertha B. Williams Academy" online, you would have been directed to an undated, three-page PDF spotlighting the vision statement for a K-2 charter school with intentions of opening on Detroit's east side.

MDOS

Transgender driver lawsuit to move forward in Michigan (AP)

A judge has denied a motion to dismiss a lawsuit filed by a group of transgender people against Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson. Six transgender people living in Michigan filed the lawsuit in May with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Judge: HP must hand over source code for flawed Michigan SOS computer system (WKZO)

A judge is now ordering Hewlett Packard to hand over the source code for the computer system that is used by the Michigan Secretary of State's office by the end of the week.

MDOT

Michigan Dept. of Transportation wins national recognition for rumble strip initiative (MI News 26)

The Michigan Department of Transportation was honored by the Roadway Safety Foundation and the Federal Highway Administration(FHA) for its efforts to reduce run-off-the-road and fatal crashes caused by motorists straying out of their lane.

MSHDA

Ypsilanti approves \$50K for Water Street contamination testing, record review (MLive)

Ypsilanti is taking the next step in answering questions about remaining contamination on the 38-acre Water Street property. The city will pay its environmental consultant, AKT Peerless, \$50,000 to test the site's soil and analyze 20 years of existing environmental records to determine what cleanup is still needed.

Foreclosure assistance available through the end of the year for Branch County residents (WTVB)

Families in Branch County struggling financially are being urged to apply for assistance to stay in their homes before it's too late. On December 31, 2015, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) will close the Step Forward Michigan foreclosure prevention program to new applicants.

MSP

Fight against cybercrime for Michigan State Police will be centered in Coldwater (WTVB)

Police agencies fighting cybercrime in Branch County are in line for a major improvement in their battle against computer hackers and identity thieves. Beginning next year, the State Police Post in Coldwater will be the location for an MSP Cybercrime Unit serving southwest Michigan.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Lawmakers push to expand Promise scholarship in Michigan (Michigan Radio)

A pair of bills moving through the state Legislature would increase the number of "promise zones" in Michigan. The Promise scholarship program lets certain high poverty communities use a combination of private and state money to guarantee college tuition or other post-secondary education funding for local students.

What a data center is, and why it's needed in West Michigan (WZZM)

The Michigan Legislature still has to approve new legislation to convince a communications company to build a data center in West Michigan, but that isn't stopping people from talking about what the \$5-billion project could mean for Michigan. The Michigan Legislature is expected to take it up after the Thanksgiving break.

DETROIT

Urban farming group hopes to work out deal for 10 year lease on land owned by city of Detroit (WXYZ)

The Detroit Land Bank, in consultation with the city's planning department, offered the Georgia Street Community Collective a three-year lease with the option for two renewals for these properties at a rate of \$25 per lot per year. The reason for the lease, as opposed to a sale, is that this area is undergoing a land study by the city's planning department to determine the best long-term use of this city-owned land.

Detroit wants input on farm animals proposal (WDIV)

Whether or not people living in Detroit can have farm animals on their property will be up for debate Wednesday. The City Planning Commission is considering a new ordinance that would legalize certain farm animals (likes goats and chickens) and honeybees.

Planned move by veterans group in Detroit faces resistance (AP)

Plans for a nonprofit that serves military veterans to relocate to a Detroit neighborhood are being met with resistance by some residents amid concerns it won't fit with the character of the area.

OPINION

Bieber: Shine a light on state contracts (Detroit News)

When it comes to transparency and ethics in state government, Michigan is 50 out of 50. Dead last. That's according to a new report from the nonpartisan Center for Public Integrity.

Editorial: Reject short-sighted child abuse list bills (Detroit News)

Michigan made a big mistake in adopting a broad sex offender registry, one that can't distinguish between a bona fide predator and a teenager who had consensual relations with his girlfriend. It should not compound that error by adopting a similar permanent list of those convicted of child abuse.

Bill a step toward fair, secure energy for Michigan (Detroit News)

The recent vote by the House Energy and Technology Committee was an important step toward securing an affordable, reliable and clean energy future for Michigan. Bills — passed with strong bi-partisan support — also help assure that Michigan maintains control over its own energy future and does not give up control to the federal government or out-of-state interests.

Snyder talks tough on refugees, flunks social studies (Detroit Free Press)

For the record, I don't for a minute believe Rick Snyder is an Islamophobic bigot.

Snyder pulls back the welcome mat for Syrian refugees (MLive)

The governor has hit the pause button but not the delete button as he ponders what to do about opening the doors to refugees from Syria.

Gov. Rick Snyder: We must welcome refugees—after screening them (TIME)

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