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[Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, legislative leaders name biggest disappointments of 2015](#)

[Auditor general findings set off Flint water debate](#)

[Bill Berry: Safe drinking water a sure bet no longer](#)

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, legislative leaders name biggest disappointments of 2015

MLive.com – December 29, 2015, By Jonathan Oosting

LANSING, MI — The Flint drinking water crisis was the biggest disappointment of 2015, according to Gov. Rick Snyder and Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, who have very different perspectives on the situation.

Snyder says the state acted swiftly once it was alerted to the link between elevated blood-lead levels in children and Flint's switch to a local river for drinking water.

But the state did too little too late, according to Ananich, D-Flint, who continues to criticize the administration and call for legislative hearings on the crisis.

MLive.com, in a series of year-end interviews and media roundtables, asked the governor and legislative leaders to describe their biggest disappointment of 2015.

Read their responses below, [click here](#) to find out what they described as their biggest accomplishments of the year and check back tomorrow to learn about their top priorities for 2016.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder: Flint water crisis

The biggest challenge, the thing that you really would have liked to see not be an issue, would have been the Flint water situation. Again, that's not something you'd ever want to see in terms of elevated lead levels, and as we were alerted to those issues, we became proactive and worked hard to address them by offering free water testing, free water filters, free blood testing, follow-up work, helping in the transition back to the Great Lakes Water Authority. This whole issue, we've gone into the schools now to do testing of the water down to the particular fixture. That surprised me that there was no federal or state requirement to do water testing in schools if you didn't happen to be on your own well. We found the issues tend to be isolated, actually, at the fixture. The drinking fountain itself. So the water doesn't have an issue in the system itself, coming in, and even throughout the school until it happens to hit a fixture that has particular problems, so far, in terms of what we've found.

Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof: Courser-Gamrat affair and expulsion

The fact that you all had months and months of coverage on a couple House members that didn't end up very well. That light shines on all of us, and it was unfortunate, those poor choices on their part. (Editor's note: State Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Garbat were forced out of office in September over allegations they misused taxpayer resources to hide their extra-marital affair. The House voted to expel Garbat roughly an hour after Courser resigned.)

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich: Flint water response

That's an easy one: the governor and his administration's total lack of urgency when it comes to the poisonous water in my community. Even today, they still seem to be missing the boat on the crisis in my community, the credibility that a number of individuals and departments have. This is not a political issue, this is a public health — basically an emergency disaster — issue, and that's how it should be treated. I think if everybody treated it that way, we'd have a lot more work and cooperation, we'd have a lot more action that would be moving in the right direction a lot quicker, and unfortunately that's not been the fact that they've taken.

House Speaker Kevin Cotter: Partisanship

The biggest disappointment, I would say overall, has been partisanship on a number of issues. For me, I think this really started, or at least it reared its head during another disappointing process or development, which was the expulsion hearings (of Courser and Garbat). That became very partisan. It was a situation where there was unanimous support on the Republican side to expel two of our members, and unfortunately we went until the wee hours of the morning to get the 2/3 votes we needed because there was political gamesmanship going on that then continued into other areas — third-grade reading — it then continued to the bills we just passed (in December) regarding the data centers. It is something that is very prevalent, and it is disappointing. I certainly understand that we're going to have differences on policy, and that is to be expected, but to the extent that it is holding up things. Take the third-grade reading, for example. Take the expulsion vote. That wasn't about the subject matter of the vote, but rather that was how do we clobber each other. In this case, how do we clobber Republicans and try to take back control of the chamber.

House Minority Leader Tim Greimel: Lack of bipartisan solutions

I think there were some really great bipartisan solutions that we reached in the previous term. We saw Medicaid expansion. We saw the approach to provide assistance to the city of Detroit and allow it to emerge successfully from bankruptcy. Those are the kinds of bipartisan solutions that the people of Michigan expect and deserve, and it's disappointing that under the current House leadership, we have not seen those kinds of bipartisan solutions. I think the House Republicans have become increasingly dominated by the far right-wing conservative elements of their caucus and of the Republican party more broadly. As a result, I think we've seen more partisanship from them, and I think we've seen more ideology and less pragmatism and bipartisanship.

[http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2015/12/michigan\\_gov\\_rick\\_snyder\\_legis\\_1.html](http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2015/12/michigan_gov_rick_snyder_legis_1.html)

Auditor general findings set off Flint water debate

The Detroit News – December 28, 2015, By Jim Lynch

Findings compiled by Michigan's Office of the Auditor General have set off another debate about who is to blame for Flint's 18-month-long water crisis.