

WHY SHOULD

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND STAFF

CARE ABOUT MICHIGAN POLITICS?

Paying attention to what's happening at the Capitol in Lansing or in politics in general can be exhausting given the political division facing our state and demands of our work and personal lives. **However, it's imperative that higher education faculty and staff step up and engage in shaping the future of our state.**

1. THOSE WE ELECT HELP SHAPE HIGHER ED IN MICHIGAN

- > **We have the power to decide who is elected and who gets to choose who serves on higher ed education boards.** The boards of community colleges, MSU, UM and WSU are directly elected by voters. The boards of our "directional" universities, like EMU and WMU, are proposed by the Governor and confirmed by the Michigan Senate.
- > **Who we elect directly impacts our members.** Gov. Rick Snyder and Republican lawmakers passed so-called "right to work" and stripped bargaining rights from graduate research assistants to block their organizing efforts at UM.
- > **Who we elect has massive implications for education funding.** Under Gov. Rick Snyder, we saw cuts to K-12 and higher ed and tax handouts for corporations. Under Gov. Gretchen Whitmer we saw the largest education budgets in Michigan history.

2. OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES NEED US TO ACT

- > **We need to stand up for our rights.** In Michigan and across the country, we seen attacks on reproductive freedom and the right to vote.
- > **We need to stand up for working people.** Corporations and billionaires are raking in record profits while we fight tooth and nail for the basics.
- > **We need to collectively take action.** When our members and working people across the state come together, good things can happen. We had record turnout in 2020 and we need to double down. Knock doors, donate to our union's PAC, or register your friends to vote.

3. Redistricting gives us an opportunity for change

- > **We have an opportunity for big changes.** Because of the work of everyday folks and organizers, we won the right to redraw Michigan's electoral maps – rather than lawmakers behind closed doors. This has resulted in fairer, more competitive districts where our members can make a difference in who represents us. The time to act on this opportunity is now.

AFT Michigan Endorsed Candidates for University Elected Boards

Michigan State University Board **Dennis Denno (D)** **Renee Knake Jefferson (D)**

University of Michigan Board **Mike Behm (D)** **Kathy White (D)**

Wayne State University Board **Danielle Atkinson (D)** **Marilyn Kelly (D)**

See the full list of our union's endorsed candidates at
aftmichigan.org/2022ballot