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WETHEPEOPLEMI.ORG



**State:** Michigan

**Core Constituency/Target Audience:**

Working families

**Website:** [wethepeoplemi.org](http://wethepeoplemi.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/wtpmi/](https://facebook.com/wtpmi/)

**Twitter:** [@WeThePeople\\_MI](https://twitter.com/WeThePeople_MI)

**Donate:** [secure.actblue.com/donate/sd003-mi-wtp](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sd003-mi-wtp)

We the People Action Fund works to build long-term deep organizing infrastructure focused on local and regional issues that impact communities across Michigan. They work to keep elected officials and corporate and elite actors accountable for the roles they play in shaping policy landscapes. They work to foster stable, long-lasting alliances across urban, suburban, and rural communities that are explicitly multi-racial with a racial justice lens. They facilitate space for relationships, dialogue, and shared strategies across diverse communities

We the People Action Fund's organizing principle is that we all deserve a decent life, and that in order to ensure that all Michigan families and communities can thrive, we must embrace our shared belonging and demand prosperity for everyone, not just the wealthy few.

## STATE LEGISLATIVE WORK

We the People Action Fund helps lead accountability efforts in the state legislature to prevent the passage of anti-voter, anti-democracy bills and advance legislation that aligns with [The People's Agenda](#). We the People Michigan also works year-round to educate and mobilize voters around state issues.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We the People Action Fund, in coalition with various other grassroots organizations worked to educate and energize voters across the state during the 2020 election, helping to create the conditions that led to a Biden victory. They ran an extensive deep canvassing program that engaged deeply with voters across Michigan, particularly when the Biden campaign was largely invisible in the state.

We the People Action Fund also led grassroots efforts of multi-racial, working class Michiganders defeating the Republicans' anti-democratic attempts to seal the 2020 election.

**Goals in 2021-2022 cycle:** We The People Michigan's goals for 2022 include advocating for state-wide policies that benefit working families.

## ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

We the People Action Fund rejects the narrative of scarcity--that giving resources to one community in Michigan takes resources away from another--and embraces a narrative of abundance. They believe in empowering communities to determine their own futures and to tell their own stories. They demand a government that works in the interests of the 99% rather than the 1%.

We the People Action Fund is fighting for:

- Equitable access to clean water, clean air, and affordable housing for all Michiganders.
- A public education system that is adequately and equitably funded.
- Jobs that pay a sustainable living wage.
- Affordable healthcare.
- An electoral process that is free, fair and fully democratic.

## STATE BRIDGES SPEAKERS



### **Art Reyes, Executive Director**

Art Reyes is the founding Executive Director of We The People Action Fund. He was born and raised in Flint, MI and hails from three generations of proud union members. Before We the People, Art was the training director at the Center for Popular Democracy, where he led national training programs for organizers, lead staff, and executive directors. He spent much of 2016 working in Flint responding to the water crisis and helped launch Flint Rising. Previously he led Michigan Voice, a statewide civic engagement organization.

He has a BA from University of Michigan and a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard, where he taught a community organizing class with Marshall Ganz.



## IN THE NEWS

- Art Reyes, Michigan Activist, tells 'How we prevailed when our democracy was on the brink'
- Left-wing groups are filling the void left by an "invisible" biden campaign in Michigan
- How Democrats planned for doomsday
- Michigan groups mobilize to protect the vote and protect democracy
- Coalition group to launch digital advertising campaign calling on big corporations to oppose racist anti-voter bills

## MICHIGAN FAST FACTS

- **Current Control:** Divided Government (since 2019)
- **Gubernatorial Election:** 2022
- **Length of State Senate term:** 4 years
- **Length of State House term:** 2 years
- **Redistricting:** An independent redistricting commission draws Congressional and state legislative maps
- **Sister District Target:** Blue Flip