



**State:** Michigan

**Core Constituency/Target Audience:**

Mothers of color



## ABOUT

For too long, mothers have been left out of the decision-making process. Mothering Justice is dedicated to returning decision making power to the ones affected by these decisions the most. By empowering mothers to influence policy on behalf of themselves and their families, Mothering Justice hopes to change the future of families in Michigan for the better. Their goal is to empower a well-organized group of mothers that can engage fellow mothers and law makers around a variety of issues that affect working families.

When women with children are not able to advocate for solutions to the problems they care about, a vital voice is missing from the discussion. Through advocacy, leadership development, voter empowerment, and promoting family-friendly advocacy, Mothering Justice will raise the voices of mothers and help them become policy makers and shapers.

**WEBSITE:** [motheringjustice.org](http://motheringjustice.org)

**FACEBOOK:** [facebook.com/MotheringJustice/](https://facebook.com/MotheringJustice/)

**TWITTER:** [@momjustice](https://twitter.com/momjustice)

**INSTAGRAM:** [@motheringjustice](https://www.instagram.com/motheringjustice)

**DONATE:** <http://secure.actblue.com/donate/sd003-mi-mj>

## STATE LEGISLATIVE WORK

Mothering Justice organizes voters and advocates around state legislative issues throughout the year. They also endorse candidates for state legislative office and work to persuade and mobilize voters in competitive districts through canvassing and relational organizing.



**SISTER DISTRICT  
ACTION NETWORK**

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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mothering Justice was a pioneer in relational organizing in Michigan and has worked to elect Democrats at the federal and state level. They've worked to elect progressive champions to the state legislature who are fighting to enact policies that benefit working families. Mothering Justice has also worked to pass various pieces of legislation on a variety of issues that affect working families, particularly increasing access to earned sick time.

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## ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

### **Earned Paid Sick Leave and Paid Family Leave**

Women are much more likely to have caregiving responsibilities in addition to their paid employment. Without paid sick leave and paid family leave, women are often left with no choice but to forgo pay in order to meet their families' healthcare needs.

More than 2 million Michigan workers are not able to take a paid sick day when they are ill. More than three in four food service and hotel workers (78 percent) do not have a single paid sick day. Workers in child care centers and nursing homes – important jobs with vulnerable populations – also overwhelmingly lack paid sick days. Mothering Justice is fighting to ensure that every worker in Michigan has access to paid sick leave and paid family leave.

### **Affordable Child Care**

The National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies has noted that even families living at twice the federally designated poverty level struggle to afford child care, and single parents face an especially difficult challenge. Mothering Justice is working to make affordable child care available to every family.

### **Women's Health**

Black women in Michigan have maternal mortality rates more than 4.5 times higher than Non-Hispanic white women (8.7 deaths compared to 39.6 deaths per 100,000 live births), and this rate is higher than the national average.

Black infants are now more than twice as likely to die as white infants, a disparity greater than existed in 1850, 15 years before slavery ended. In one year, that racial gap adds up to more than 4,000 lost black babies.

Additionally, an estimated 1 in 25 female inmates in the United States is pregnant and approximately 2,000 children are born to incarcerated women each year. Despite these facts, there is currently no national policy in the United States that says what should happen to these infants and their mothers. Mothering Justice is working to change that by advocating for policies that directly address maternal and infant health for women within and outside of the prison system.

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## STATE BRIDGES SPEAKER



**Danielle Atkinson**  
Danielle Atkinson is the Founder and National Executive Director of Mothering Justice. She has extensive experience as a church-based, electoral, and community organizer. She has worked with organizations such as America Votes, State Voices, Population Connection and ACORN. She has led organizing efforts to raise the minimum wage in both Florida and Michigan.

In 2012, Danielle founded Mothering Justice, a leadership development and advocacy organization that led the fight to get earned paid sick time in Michigan. Danielle’s work organizing mothers won her the 2013 Michigan Organizer of the Year Award.

Danielle received bachelor’s degrees in political science and sociology from Pfeiffer University and lives in Royal Oak, Michigan, with her husband Frank and their six children.

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## 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

