



Welcoming Michigan

Building Immigrant Friendly Communities

Stand Strong, Respect Michigan Pledge

Overview:

In December 2015, Welcoming Michigan and Take on Hate launched the “Stand Strong, Respect Michigan” pledge. In light of disturbing comments made at the national level regarding Arabs, refugees and those of Muslim faith, and the growing number of hate incidents targeting Muslim individuals and mosques, these organizations are asking Michigan's elected officials to take the pledge below.

Elected officials serving in Michigan must live up to a standard of respect for Michigan's diverse communities. In May 2015 the Michigan House of Representatives adopted a resolution supporting the resettlement of displaced Iraqi refugees [\[HB 9\]](#). We encourage Michigan's elected officials to recommit their support for refugees and demonstrate respect for people of all faiths.

The pledge:

“I am proud of Michigan's diversity. I recognize that at every level of American society, refugees, immigrants, and people of all backgrounds contribute to our democracy, culture and economy. We must advance the basic principles upon which the United States was founded, establishing the equality and dignity of all people, including immigrants and refugees.

I believe that Michigan should be a welcoming state. In many ways, refugee families are an embodiment of American values – courageously seeking a better life. These families come here to escape persecution, protect their loved ones and live without fear.

I condemn any attacks on or threats toward individuals or places of worship that are based on religion, race, ethnicity, or other social identities. Michigan must be a place that respects all of our diverse communities, regardless of refugee status, religion, ethnicity, or race.”

Organizational background:

Welcoming Michigan works to support Michigan's “receiving community” members — U.S.-born Americans who live in communities where immigrants and refugees settle — in creating welcoming communities where immigrants and refugees can fully integrate into their adopted hometowns. Take on Hate, which officially launched in 2014, is a multi-year, grassroots campaign that challenges the growing discrimination and persistent misconception of Arab and Muslim Americans, including refugees of Arab and Muslim descent, in the U.S.

List of Elected Officials Who Signed the Pledge as of 1/11/16:

Zachary Ackerman, Council Member, City of Ann Arbor - Ward 3
John Austin, President, State Board of Education
Mariam Bazzi, Trustee, Board of Education, Dearborn Public Schools
Virg Bernero, Mayor, City of Lansing
Steve Bieda, State Senate, 9th District
Michael Bridges, Council Member, City of Farmington Hills
Sabra Briere, Council Member, City of Ann Arbor
Julie Brixie, Treasurer, Meridian Township
Robert J. Cannon, Supervisor, Clinton Township
Raquel Castañeda-López, Council Member, City of Detroit
Stephanie Chang, State Representative, 6th District
Ed Clements, City Commissioner, Bay City
Angela Croft, Council Chair Pro-Tem, City of Taylor
Patricia Crowley, Drain Commissioner, Kalamazoo County
George T. Darany, State Representative
Vincent Delgado, Council Member, City of Lansing
Sharlan Douglas, City Commissioner, City of Royal Oak
Brett Dreyfus, Clerk, Meridian Township
Kyle DuBuc, City Commissioner, City of Royal Oak
Andrey Duzyj, County Commissioner, Macomb County - District 1
Jack Eaton, Council Member, City of Ann Arbor - Ward 4
Amanda Maria Edmonds, Mayor, City of Ypsilanti
Jim Ellison, Mayor, City of Royal Oak
Kaytee Faris, City Commissioner, City of Battle Creek
Pam Faris, State Representative, 48th District
Kate Flores, City Commissioner, City of Battle Creek - Ward 3
David J. Flynn, Board Chairman & County Commissioner, Macomb County - District 4
Mike Fournier, City Commissioner, City of Royal Oak
Alex Garza, Council Member, City of Taylor
Erika Geiss, State Representative, 12th District
Marcia Gershenson, County Commissioner, Oakland County
Nathan Grajek, School Board Trustee, Battle Creek Public Schools
Julie Grand, Council Member, City of Ann Arbor - 3rd Ward
Christine Greig, State Representative, 37th District
Vanessa Guerra, State Representative, 95th District
Fadwa Hammoud, Trustee, Dearborn Public Schools
Mike Hanley, County Commissioner, Saginaw County
George Heartwell, Mayor, City of Grand Rapids
Andy Helmboldt, City Commissioner, City of Battle Creek
Jon Hoadley, State Representative, 60th District
Hoon-Yung Hopgood, State Senator, 6th District
Evan Hope, Township Clerk, Delhi Charter Township
Kara Hope, County Commissioner, Ingham County

Tina Houghton, Council Member, City of Lansing
Marcia Hovey-Wright, State Representative, 92nd District
Adam Hussain, Council Member, City of Lansing - 3rd Ward
Roland Hwang, Trustee, Northville Public Schools
James Irving, City Commissioner, Bay City - 5th ward
Jeff Irwin, State Representative, 53rd District
Jeff Jenks, City Commissioner, City of Huntington Woods
Jewell Jones, Council Member, City of Inkster - District 4
Andrea Karpinski, Council Member, City of Hamtramck
Marilyn Kelly, Board of Governors, Wayne State University
Ruth Kelly, City Commissioner, City of Grand Rapids
Ataur Khan, Member, Board of Education, Hamtramck Public Schools
Dan Kildee, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, Michigan - 5th Congressional District
Carol N. Koenig, County Commissioner, Ingham County
David Knezek, State Senator, 5th District
David LaGrand, School Board Member, Grand Rapids Public Schools
Mary Lane, Vice President/Secretary of Dearborn Board of Education, Trustee of Henry Ford Community College
Elizabeth LeGoff, Supervisor, Meridian Township
Gabe Leland, Council Member, City of Detroit, District 7
Congressman Sander Levin, U.S. House of Representatives, Michigan - 9th Congressional District
Guillermo Z. Lopez, Trustee, Lansing School Board
Jeremy Mahrle, City Commissioner, City of Royal Oak
Karen Majewski, Mayor, City of Hamtramck
Evan Major, Vice President, Board of Education, Hamtramck Public Schools
Roxanne McDonald, Board of Education, Dearborn Public Schools
Brian McGrain, County Commissioner, Ingham County
John Meade, Trustee/Board Member, Board of Education, Dearborn Public Schools
Kurt Metzger, Mayor, City of Pleasant Ridge
Anam Miah, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Hamtramck
Derek Miller, State Representative, Warren and Center Line
Fred Miller, County Commissioner, Macomb County
Robert Mijac, County Commissioner, Macomb County - District 5
Jeremy Moss, State Representative, 35th District
Andrew Niedzinski, City Commission President, Bay City
Kristy Pagan, State Representative, 21st District
Julie Plawecki, State Representative, 11th District
Larry Provancher, County Commissioner, Kalamazoo County - District 10
Yousef Rabhi, County Commissioner, Washtenaw County
Sarah Roberts, State Representative, District 18
Marv Sauger, County Commissioner, Macomb County - District 2
Milton L. Scales, Trustee, Meridian Township
Sam Singh, State Representative, 69th District

Doug Skrzyniarz, Council Member, City of Sterling Heights
Chip Smith, City Council Member, City of Ann Arbor - Ward 5
Conan Smith, County Commissioner, Washtenaw County
Andre L. Spivey, Council Member, City of Detroit
Ron Styka, Trustee, Meridian Township
Chris Swope, City Clerk, City of Lansing
Christopher Taylor, Mayor, Ann Arbor
Lamar Tidwell, Mayor, Ecorse
Jim Townsend, State Representative, 26th District
John R. Veenstra, Trustee, Meridian Township
Chuck Warpehoski, City Council Member, City of Ann Arbor
Rebekah Warren, State Senator, 18th District
Jody Washington, Council Member, City of Lansing - 1st Ward
Elizabeth Welch, School Board Trustee, City of East Grand Rapids
Angie Wilson, Trustee, Meridian Township
Robert Wittenberg, State Representative, 27th District
Carol Wood, Council Member, City of Lansing - At Large
Dave Woodward, County Commissioner, Oakland County
Kevin Wordelman, County Commissioner, Kalamazoo County - District 2
Jessica Yorko, Council Member, City of Lansing - 4th Ward
Helaine Zack, County Commissioner, Oakland County