



Michigan Chamber endorses John James for governor

Chamber cites economic competitiveness, private-sector experience and focus on turning Michigan's trajectory around

(LANSING, Mich. – Sept. 22, 2026) – The Michigan Chamber of Commerce today announced its endorsement of **John James for governor of Michigan** in the Nov. 3 general election.

The endorsement comes as Michigan faces significant challenges to its competitiveness. Michigan is ranking near the bottom nationally in several critical measures, including 45th in education and 43rd in economic performance.

“Michigan has tremendous strengths, but our trajectory on too many measures is heading in the wrong direction. We need a governor focused on turning that around and making Michigan a place where people, businesses and communities alike can thrive,” said **Jim Holcomb, Michigan Chamber president and CEO.**

That urgency is also reflected in feedback from Michigan Chamber members. In a recent employer pulse survey, government regulations and employer mandates were the most frequently selected issue businesses want Michigan's next leaders to address. That was followed by K–12 outcomes and healthcare costs.

“Our members are telling us clearly that doing business in Michigan has become harder and more uncertain,” Holcomb added. “They want leaders who understand what it takes to invest, grow, create jobs and compete – and who can engage thoughtfully, work collaboratively and pursue practical solutions to these challenges. John James brings firsthand private-sector experience and an understanding of how decisions in Lansing translate to the day-to-day realities facing employers and their workers.”

The endorsement was made by the Michigan Chamber PAC Board, comprised of member employers representing diverse industries and businesses of all sizes across the state. Candidates are evaluated based on their records, policy positions and priorities, candidate questionnaires and personal interviews.

The Michigan Chamber has endorsed candidates across statewide, judicial, congressional and state legislative races for the 2026 election. See the Chamber's full slate of 2026 endorsements and voter resources at michamber.com/electionresources.

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