

## 2017 Michigan Progressive Summit Breakout Sessions

### Morning Breakout Sessions

#### Islamophobia: A Threat to All

*Room: 103/104*

*Session Type: Panel*

**Session Presenters:** Aamina Ahmed, executive director, APIA Vote MI; Sarrah Buageila, Project Manager, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding ISPU

**Session Description:** American Muslims have been at the center of political rhetoric and discourse from both parties. This session will offer data-driven recommendations on how each of us can be involved in the political process. We will provide empirical evidence on the opinions and policy priorities that can be used to respond to stereotypes of American Muslims. We will deconstruct the Islamophobia industry and understand how it is used as a legislative tactic. We will highlight how coalition building is essential to empowering historically and currently marginalized groups and offer recommendations for GOTV.

#### Achieving 100% Renewable Energy

*Room: 204*

*Session Type: Workshop/Skill Building*

**Session Presenters:** Kate Madigan, energy and climate specialist, Michigan Environmental Council; Regina Strong, director, Michigan Beyond Coal Campaign, Sierra Club; John Freeman, executive director, Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association

**Session Description:** This session will focus on the renewable energy revolution transition that is spreading across the country and in Michigan. It will detail how 100% renewable energy is achievable and can benefit communities. We will cover the need to shift to 100% renewable energy to have a stable climate, share case studies of cities working towards these goals, and discuss a step-by-step approach to make 100% goals happen across the state. Attendees will leave with tools and knowledge to work towards passing 100% renewable energy goals in their communities.

## Organizing in Economically and Racially Isolated Communities

Room: 202

Session Type: Workshop/Skill Building

**Session Presenters:** Roland Leggett, Roland Leggett Strategies, principal

**Session Description:** An introduction to organizing with both grassroots and grass tops leadership in economically and racially isolated communities. A special focus of the training will be work being done around the Flint Water Crisis as well as issues facing the LGBTQ community statewide.

## How We Repair Michigan's Broken Election System

Room: 205

Session Type: Workshop/Skill Building

**Session Presenters:** Jan BenDor and Phil Shepard, Michigan Election Reform Alliance

**Session Description:** Participants will learn about what is wrong with Michigan's voting systems, lessons from the failed 2016 recount, and what we need to do to restore trust in Michigan's elections. Attendees will also learn how to participate effectively in anticipated campaigns for state and federal legislation proposed by the Michigan Election Reform Alliance and the National Election Defense Coalition.

## No News is Bad News: A Dummies Guide to Organizing a Press Conference

Room: 101/102

Session Type: Workshop/Skill Building

**Session Presenters:** Sam Ingot, deputy communications director, Progress Michigan

**Session Description:** Have a local issue you want media attention around? Did an elected official do something and you want to hold them accountable by using the media? This is the training you want to attend. This training will be give you a step-by-step breakdown of how to organize a press conference from start to finish. It's a how-to guide on how to organize and execute an earned media event that is specifically focused on getting media attention to a particular issue.

## Making Your Voice Heard: Civic Engagement with the Legislature

Room: 201

Session Type: Workshop/Skill Building

**Session Presenters:** State Representative Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo), Michigan House of Representatives; Erin M. Zettle, director of constituent outreach, House Democratic Leader Sam Singh

**Session Description:** Have you watched the news and gotten angry with elected officials in Lansing who pass bad bills that harm our communities? Want to do something about it? This session is designed to educate and empower people to effectively approach their legislators and to mobilize against harmful policy action. The information shared includes outreach tactics, persuasion best practices, and how to utilize the Michigan Legislature website to stay informed and contact your representatives. Additionally, the session offers tips on how and why to share your story, why you should attend (and testify at!) committee hearings, and the most efficient and effective ways to make sure your voice is heard.

## MI Budget & You

Room: 203

Session Type: Workshop/Skill Building

**Session Presenters:** Renell B. Weathers, director of community engagement, Michigan League for Public Policy

**Session Description:** After the contentious fall elections, the importance of public engagement in setting federal and state priorities that affect us couldn't be clearer. Gain a deeper understanding of the state budget and how to influence it so that we can build thriving communities. There is so much at stake. We must act now. It's time your voice is heard.

## Early Afternoon Sessions

### Getting ready to Run

*Room: 205*

*Session Type: Panel*

**Session Presenters:** Emerge Michigan

**Session Description:** Interested in running for office, but don't know where to start? Let Emerge Michigan point you in the right direction! Emerge Michigan has one mission: To increase the number of Democratic women leaders from diverse backgrounds in public office through recruitment, training and providing a powerful network. Our vision: To change the face of power, politics and leadership in this country in order to have policies that benefit all Americans.

### Intentionality in the Movement: Recognizing and Combatting Oppression at Every Corner

*Room: 101/102*

*Session Type: Panel*

**Session Presenters:** Denzel McCampbell, social justice organizer, Engage Michigan; Paige Watkins, community organizer, BYP100 and Black Bottom Archives; Violeta Donawa, M.A., healing justice practitioner/applied sociologist, BLM Detroit; Fatima Salman, executive director of Muslim Students Association; Antonio Cosme, educator, coop worker, farmer, artist and community organizer/activist

**Session Description:** This panel will explore what intersectionality is and what it is not, and what it means for the progressive community in Michigan. The panel will explore how to intentionally incorporate intersectionality in your work and center those on the margin of the margins. Folks will leave the workshop with the beginning tools to begin to recognize, live, and work through an intersectional lens.

## The Corporate Take Over of Your Public School: Understanding the History and Future

Room: 203

Session Type: Workshop/Skill Building

**Session Presenters:** Julie Rowe, AFT Michigan legislative mobilization coordinator; Christina Canfield, Michigan Education Association lobbyist

**Session Description:** Expanding charter schools, cyber schools, and “school choice,” that rob our kids of an equal education, limitations of school employee bargaining rights, high stakes standardized testing, funding diversions, are all steps toward converting public schools to for-profit corporations. Learn about the powerful corporate interests that are behind all of this and what they intend to do next.

## Cutting Edge Civil Liberties Issues in Michigan: With the ACLU of Michigan

Room: 201

Session Type: Panel

**Session Presenters:** Jay Kaplan, LGBT legal project staff attorney, ACLU of Michigan; Kristin Totten, education attorney, ACLU of Michigan; Elvira Hernandez, administrative assistant, ACLU of Michigan; Juan Caballero, West Michigan legal fellow, ACLU of Michigan

**Session Description:** Hear from ACLU attorneys and advocates about some of the greatest civil liberties challenges we face in Michigan, including immigration, LGBT rights, education, and the Flint Water Crisis. Learn what you can do to become involved.

## Introduction to Transparency and Accountability in Government

Room: 204

Session Type: Panel

**Session Presenters:** Ellen Cogen Lipton, former state representative; Craig Mauger, executive director of the Campaign Finance Institute

**Session Description:** This panel will discuss the many ways that are available to Michiganders to hold their elected officials accountable. Michigan is not the easiest state to do this work in, find out how people have successfully navigated the opaque system we hope to change.

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## Changing Hearts and Minds: Harnessing the Power of Narrative

*Room: 202*

*Session Type: Workshop/Skill Building*

**Session Presenters:** Marissa Luna, deputy communications director, Engage Michigan

**Session Description:** Progressives too often lead campaign messages with facts, policy abstractions or the problem itself, losing the public's attention and failing to move anyone to action. The solution is to ground our campaign communications in the heroic stories of real people taking action to defend our shared values. We must begin engaging our base through storytelling if we want to change hearts and minds and increase civic participation. As state-based progressive narrative efforts are expanding across the country and reclaiming the story, we will share how this work is being done.

## Late Afternoon Sessions

### Voices for Women's Health

Room: 101/102

Session Type: Panel

**Session Presenters:** Christina Soliz, community organizer, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan; Merissa Kovach, policy strategist, ACLU of Michigan; Bobbie Walton, coordinator, Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition; Kaberi Keya, health care specialist, Planned Parenthood of Michigan; Jordan Wyer, patient advocate, Northland Family Planning Centers

**Session Description:** Leaders working on women's health issues will provide an update on the state of women's health policy nationally and in Michigan. We will discuss how to fight back together against attempts to rob a woman of her autonomy. And we'll identify next steps to empower women to make healthy decisions for themselves and hold elected officials accountable. Many women face more than one barrier to a good quality of life in addition to lack of reproductive healthcare access, like not being paid a living wage, gender based wage discrimination, and for women of color, bigotry and racism that all contribute to a woman's ability to care for herself and her family. The discussion will also include what actions we can take to address the intersectional issues that have an impact on Michigan's women.

### Skills for Resisting the Corporate Take Over of Your Public School

Room: 203

Session Type: Panel

**Session Presenters:** Julie Rowe, AFT Michigan legislative mobilization coordinator; Christina Canfield, Michigan Education Association lobbyist

**Session Description:** This is a skill-developing workshop to understand and influence current power structures for public education decision-making, including local school boards, university boards, the State Board of Education, and the Michigan Legislature. The workshop will incorporate targeting and power-mapping, relationship development with elected officials, tactics for influencing election officials, strategies for building coalitions amongst teachers and faculty, school support employees, parents, and community organizations. The workshop will emphasize approaching organizing and mobilizing strategies from a values framework using strong personal and community narratives.

## Economic Justice in Michigan

*Room: 202*

*Session Type: Panel*

**Session Presenters:** Linda Campbell, team leader, Detroit People's Platform; Dr. Alicia Farris, state director, ROC-MI; Danielle Atkinson, founding director, Mothering Justice; Dessa Cosma, executive director, Economic Justice Alliance of Michigan

**Session Description:** This panel will share information about 3 Economic Justice issue campaigns we are currently working on: Community Benefit Agreements so that communities have a seat at the table when developers want to use public dollars for private profit. Earned Paid Sick Time to ensure that no one has to choose between caring for themselves and their families and putting food on the table. And One Fair Wage to ensure that tipped workers are paid a living wage. Learn why these are important to working people in Michigan and how you can get involved!

## An Organizers Toolbox

*Room: 103/104*

*Session Type: Workshop/skill building*

**Session Presenters:** Lindsay Maas, data and targeting director, America Votes - MI; Katie Kelly, political and field director, America Votes - MI

**Session Description:** Learn all the tools and tactics used in field organizing. We will pull apart a comprehensive organizing plan and walk through the different components. We will cover what tactics can be used and when they should be employed to maximize effectiveness.

## Digital Tools Training

*Room: 204*

*Session Type: Workshop/skill building*

**Session Presenters:** Matt Kovac, digital media coordinator, Progress Michigan; Shin-Yi Wang, web and graphic coordinator, Progress Michigan; Sean Tobin, lead data and policy analyst, Progress Michigan

**Session Description:** The session will focus on how to use cutting-edge digital and social media tools — from Facebook ads to open-source livestream software to campaign finance tracking — to build progressive organizing power and hold elected officials accountable.



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**Session Description:** Hear from ACLU attorneys and advocates about some of the greatest civil liberties challenges we face in Michigan, including immigration, LGBT rights, education, and the Flint Water Crisis. Learn what you can do to become involved.

## Backyard Civics 101

Room: 205

Session Type: Workshop/skill building

**Session Presenters:** Shannon Garrett, CEO of SMG Strategies, founding partner of Civicize.Me, and co-founder and board chair of VoteRunLead

**Session Description:** You know who the President is, but who is your County Commissioner? The decisions of your local governments can impact your life on a daily basis - from roads to schools to the color of your house. This session will demystify your backyard civic institutions, spotlight the power you have within them, and help you identify your own civic ambition. It's time to get civicized, because a vibrant progressive democracy starts with you.