Our top priority for Michigan is growth. We need a growing population and growing paychecks to become a leading state economically. There’s not a problem facing us today that couldn’t be made better if we had more people living and working here. More growth means our kids don’t have to leave the state to find jobs and we can invest in better roads and public services.

Airplane loads of people arrive daily in places like Austin and Nashville and it isn’t because of the weather. It is because those states have a better economic climate.

After the failed economic policies of Gretchen Whitmer and Jennifer Granholm that resulted in the Lost Decade, pro-worker and pro-growth reforms have stabilized Michigan. Our population is growing again, and at 4.3% our current unemployment rate is the lowest Michigan’s seen since 2000. Compare that to 2009, when it topped 15% and outpaced the nation by nearly 6 points. We’ve come a long way from those dark days.

But we are still 300,000 workers short of our peak and our incomes lag the national average. Now is not the time to turn back. It’s time to reach higher and become a top growth state again.

“"We will cut taxes, regulations and wasteful spending to strengthen our economy and create better paying jobs because Michigan families deserve a pay raise. We will improve access to vocational education, so whether our high school graduates want to be college-ready or job-ready, they will be ready. With our Paycheck Agenda, Michigan will be number one and a place where people come to raise their families!”
The Bill Schuette Record

I have the strongest record of proven accomplishment and the strongest policy plan for the future. My Paycheck Agenda puts families, parents, and workers first, and I’m proud to be endorsed by those who drive Michigan’s economy, including:

- Michigan Chamber of Commerce
- Michigan Farm Bureau
- Michigan Restaurant Association
- Michigan Realtors
- Small Business Association of Michigan
- Associated Builders and Contractors
- Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce
- Michigan Retailers Association

The Bill Schuette Plan

My economic plan will revitalize all Michigan communities, urban and rural, with growth-friendly strategies that make us competitive nationally and rebuild our population. We must become a more attractive place to live, work, start a business, and raise a family. As governor, I’ll set policies that let our businesses expand and thrive and attract the people needed to fill all the jobs we are creating, while giving a pay raise to those who are already here.

Cut taxes. We can’t compete when Michigan incomes are still below pre-recession levels and $5,000 behind the national average. I want to cut taxes to ease the middle-class squeeze and help workers keep more of their hard-earned money. I will eliminate the 2007 Whitmer income tax hike that has already cost Michigan taxpayers a whopping $8 billion. And we will roll back the Pension Tax on our retirees.

Slash auto insurance. We can’t compete with other states for growth when Michiganders pay the highest car insurance rates in the country. As governor, I will lead on this issue by bringing everyone to the table and building consensus to fight theft and fraud, stop frivolous lawsuits, and give consumers more choices, resulting in lower rates and a pay raise for Michigan families.

Repair our roads. We can’t have a first-world economy with third-world roads. We need good infrastructure to get people to work and products to market, and I will prioritize road funding in the state budget.

Fix reading scores and train our people for real jobs. I have a detailed plan to make Michigan schools the best in the nation by improving third-grade reading scores and restoring career-technical education and apprenticeships in our high schools.
Maximize economic growth. To help existing businesses grow and attract new employers to Michigan I will:

- **Cut permitting times** and streamline the application process.
- Review all state departments to **eliminate burdensome rules and regulations**.
- **Appoint a Small Business Advocate** to hear job-creators’ concerns, help them navigate state government, and make recommendations on their behalf.

My plan also includes a comprehensive strategy for Michigan’s **rural communities**. I will:

- **Expand quality, reliable broadband** to all areas of the state.
- Focus stronger state **economic development efforts on rural communities**, especially areas like agricultural processing.
- **Protect Right to Farm laws** to promote investments in agriculture.
- Remove barriers to employment by **simplifying occupational licensure**.
- **Hold regional job fairs** in high unemployment areas, connecting job seekers directly with business and industry.
- **Draw more doctors** and other medical professionals to rural communities.
- **Support our tourism assets and manufacturing** fields.

And we will rebuild our **urban cores** with strategies to help families thrive and local economies to grow:

- **Slash urban auto insurance rates**: Auto insurance in Detroit is unaffordable for most residents and creates a nearly impossible roadblock to finding employment and keeping a job. We will lower auto insurance costs, giving a new pathway to increased paychecks.
- **Increase public safety**: No business can survive and no student can learn when the threat of violence permeates daily life. No parent should have to fear their child not getting to school safely, and no student can learn when they spend time navigating a violent environment. Improving public safety must be a top priority.
- **Improve literacy**: Far too many of our children in urban areas are struggling to read at grade level and far too many adults cannot read, keeping them from entering the workforce at a time when Michigan has thousands of unfilled jobs.