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Virg Bernero Picks Brenda Lawrence as Running Mate

DETROIT, MICH. – This morning gubernatorial nominee Virg Bernero announced that fellow Mayor Brenda Lawrence is his selection to be nominated as Lieutenant Governor and complete the statewide Democratic ticket.

Lawrence, currently the mayor of Southfield, joined Bernero at a morning news conference during the first day of the Michigan Democratic Party Nominating Convention at Cobo Center in Detroit.

"Mayor Lawrence shares my passion for fighting for working people and small business owners on Main Street," said Bernero. "Her success creating jobs and balancing budgets has earned praise from across the state and country. Most impressive to me is how well Brenda listens to the people she serves, because that's exactly the type of leadership we need at the State Capitol."

Bernero and Lawrence worked together as part of the national Mayors Automotive Coalition (MAC) – which Bernero founded – and traveled with him to Washington, D.C. to fight to win bridge loans for Michigan's auto companies.

"I've seen Virg in action fighting for Michigan and I'm honored to stand with him now," said Lawrence. "We will stand up to the special interests that have held back our businesses and hard-working families for too long. Mayor Bernero and I have brought economic development to our cities and we will do the same for Michigan."

Mayor Lawrence, in her third term as the first woman and African American mayor of Southfield, has earned national and regional acclaim for her leadership ability. Esquire Magazine named her one of America's "hardest-working" mayors. She was also declared one of Southeast Michigan's most influential women by Crain's Detroit Business. The Detroit News said Lawrence possesses "the sort of thinking that voters should want."

And while many other cities – and the State – struggle to effectively balance budgets, Southfield's budget is so well run it has maintained a AA+ credit rating, just like Lansing.

"We are the team Michigan needs to shake up the State Capitol to finally get budgets balanced and done on time," Bernero said. "We're ready to fight for policies that truly make a difference for the hard-working people who make this state great."

Immediately following this weekend's Michigan Democratic Party Nominating Convention,

Bernero and Lawrence will take their "Fighting for Main Street Tour" on the road across the state. The first leg of the Fighting for Main Street Tour next week will span across lower Michigan. Bernero and Lawrence will visit northern Michigan, the Upper Peninsula, and additional lower Michigan locations in the coming weeks.

Brenda Lawrence has been the mayor of Southfield since 2001, when she defeated 28-year veteran Donald Fracassi. She won her third term last year with 78 percent of the vote. If successful in this election, Mayor Lawrence will be the first African American woman to serve in one of Michigan's top two executive positions.

Lawrence has been married to her husband McArthur for more than 30 years. She has two grown children and a grandchild.

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