

## APPENDIX D

# *Facts about Michigan*

**NAME** The name of the state derives from *Michigama*, a Chippewa word meaning “large lake.” Michigan is nicknamed the Wolverine State. Residents are referred to as Michigianians or Michiganders.

**SIZE** Michigan is 456 miles long and 386 miles wide and has 56,817 square miles of land.

**POPULATION** As of July 1997, the U.S. Bureau of the Census estimates that Michigan has 9,773,892 residents, ranking the state 8th among the 50.

**CAPITAL** Lansing was named the capital city in 1847, and the state capitol building was built in 1879.

**ADMISSION TO THE UNION** On January 26, 1837, Michigan became the 26th state to be admitted.

**MOTTO** *Si quaeris peninsulam amoenam circumspice*, meaning “If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you.”

**SEAL** The present seal was adopted by the legislature in 1911. At the center is a shield on which a man is depicted standing on a shore with the sun at his back. His right hand is upheld, symbolizing peace, and in his left hand is a gun stock, indicating his readiness to defend his state and nation. Above him is the word *Tuebor*, meaning “I will defend.” The shield is supported on the right by a moose and on the left by an elk. Below the shield is the state motto and above is a bald eagle, representing the nation. In the bird’s right talon is an olive branch with 13 olives, symbolizing a desire for peace and the 13 original states; in the left talon are three arrows, symbolizing a willingness to defend principle. Above the eagle is the national motto, *E pluribus unum*, meaning “From many, one.” The outer edge of the seal is encircled by the words “The Great Seal of Michigan, A.D. MDCCCXXXV.”

**COUNTIES** Michigan has 83 counties.

**INLAND WATER** There are 11,037 inland lakes in Michigan, 36,000 miles of rivers and streams, and 1,573 square miles of inland water.

**GREAT LAKES** Michigan borders on four of the five Great Lakes: Erie, Huron, Michigan, and Superior. The state's Great Lakes shoreline (including islands) is 3,288 miles.

**REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS** Michigan has two U.S. senators and is entitled (based on population) to 16 members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

**LEGISLATURE** Thirty-eight senators and 110 representatives comprise the Michigan Legislature.

**FLAG** The present state flag was adopted by the legislature in 1911. On a dark blue field is the state coat of arms, which is identical to the state seal but without the words "The Great Seal of Michigan, A.D. MDCCCXXXV."

**BIRD** The robin was adopted as the state bird by a House concurrent resolution in 1931.

**FISH** The brook trout was adopted as the state fish by legislative act in 1987.

**FLOWER** The apple blossom was adopted as the state flower by a legislative joint resolution in 1897.

**GAME MAMMAL** The white-tailed deer was designated the state's official game mammal by legislative act in 1997.

**GEM** The chlorastrolite (known as the greenstone) was adopted as the state gem by legislative act in 1972.

**SOIL** Kalkaska soil was adopted as the state soil by legislative act in 1990.

**STONE** The Petoskey stone was adopted as the state stone by legislative act in 1965.

**TREE** The white pine was adopted as the state tree by legislative act in 1955.