Major Events in Detroit
Detroit, 1950

- The population was at its highest ever: 1,849,568 people
- May: (6th) UAW strike against Chrysler ends (102 days)
  - (23rd) UAW and GM agree to give five year contract with incentives to union members
- June: J.L. Hudson Co. announces plans for a huge suburban shopping center
- July: Edsel Ford Freeway opens (I-94)
- Nov: Charline Rainey White elected to Michigan House of Representatives
  - Grosse Pointe property values, taxes, and wages for domestic help soar.

- The total of jobs in Detroit were 1,308,891
  - Jobs were either manufacturing (597,843) or non-manufacturing (711,048)
Detroit, 1951

- City government operations cost approximately $1 million a day
- Feb: (20th) Sherwood Forest Branch Library opens on W. Seven Mile Road
- April: (21st) Department of Street Railway (DSR) strike halts public transportation for 59 days
- July: (24th) Detroit Historical Museum opens
- Oct: (18th) Kresge Library complete at Wayne University
  - Edison adds another powerhouse to Connors Creek Generating Station
  - Chrysler introduces power steering on the Imperial line
Detroit, 1952–1954

- 1952
  - Cora Mae Brown is the first black women elected to the Michigan Senate
  - Purdy Library is complete at Wayne University
- 1953
  - The Ford Rotunda plant reopens after major remodeling
  - Ford celebrates its 50th year anniversary
  - Detroit Lions win NFL Championship 2nd year in a row
  - First section of the J.C.Lodge freeway opens
  - Chevrolet produces America’s first true sports car, the Corvette
- 1954
  - Mayoral elections change Detroit’s mayor’s term from two to four years
  - U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is created
  - Northland Mall opens with Hudson’s as its main attraction
  - Detroit annual auto show moves to State Fair Grounds
  - Ford introduces Thunderbird line
  - Nash-Kelvinator Corp. and Hudson Motor Car Co. merge into American Motors Corp.
  - Brown v. Board of Education (May 17th)
Detroit, 1955-1956

1955
- Charles C. Diggs Jr. elected as Michigan’s 1st black representative in the U.S. House.
- Wayne University’s School of Medicine and Detroit Hospitals plan Detroit Medical Center (around Children’s, Woman’s, Grace, and Harper Hospitals)
- Red Wings win 2nd consecutive Stanley Cup (making it 4 cups in 6 seasons)

World Events
- Rosa Parks’s actions in Montgomery lead to bus boycott; KKK reemerged during nation’s struggle over civil rights
- ALF and CIO reunite
- Polio vaccine tested at U of M and pronounced safe and effective

1956
- Detroit’s last streetcar makes final run
- Interstate Highway Act provides funding for construction of links from Detroit to Chicago (I-94), Lansing (I-96), and Northern Michigan (I-75)
- Wayne University becomes part of system of universities supported by state of Michigan
  - Adopts name of Wayne State University
- Ford builds new headquarters in Dearborn, MI
- Approximately 17,000 Detroiters are displaced by new freeway constructions
Detroit, 1957-1958

- **1957**
  - The NAACP Detroit branch issues a report on police brutality
  - William Patrick is the first black person nominated to the Detroit Common Council (now City Council) since the 19th century
  - Eastland Mall, modeled from Northland, opens in Harper Woods

- **1958**
  - Leon Patrick becomes the first African American appointed to a Detroit city commission, the Loyalty Investigating Committee
  - Detroit Tigers call Ozzie Virgil in from the minor leagues, making him the first black baseball player for the Tigers
Detroit, 1959

- The city population has been on a steady decline since the beginning of the decade, just above 1,670,000
- The Detroit-Windsor tunnel opens
- Detroit boasted one of the nation's highest median family incomes, thanks to well-paying jobs connected to the auto industry
- Barry Gordy Jr. officially starts Motown Records
- Detroit police ride in integrated police cars for the first time