

# EPIC - MRA - Crain's Detroit - SE Michigan Business - August 29, 2010 - September 2, 2010

01. Thinking about the Michigan economy, do you believe the state economy...

- 39% Has already bottomed out and is starting to improve
- 31% Is at the bottom but is not yet getting any better
- 28% Has not bottomed out yet and will still get worse
- 2% Undecided/Refused

	NAMES	DON'T RECOG	VERY FAVOR	TOTAL FAVOR	TOTAL UNFAV	VERY UNFAV	REF UNDEC
02.	Rick Snyder	3%	39%	<b>75%</b>	<b>4%</b>	2%	18%
03.	Brenda Lawrence	35%	8%	<b>24%</b>	<b>16%</b>	9%	25%
04.	Virg Bernero	9%	5%	<b>24%</b>	<b>47%</b>	25%	20%
05.	Brian Calley	52%	4%	<b>11%</b>	<b>5%</b>	2%	32%

06. If the November general election for Governor were held today, would you vote for Rick Snyder the Republican or Virg Bernero the Democrat?

- 10% Vote for Virg Bernero----- **14% TOTAL BERNERO**
- 4% Lean toward Virg Bernero
- 66% Vote for Rick Snyder----- **75% TOTAL SNYDER**
- 9% Lean toward Rick Snyder
- 11% Undecided/Refused

07. Democratic gubernatorial nominee, Virg Bernero selected Brenda Lawrence to be his running mate for Lieutenant Governor. The 55-year old Ms. Lawrence currently serves as the mayor of Southfield Michigan, a position to which she was first elected in 2001. Does the selection of Brenda Lawrence to be the candidate for Lieutenant Governor on the Democratic ticket make you more or less likely to consider voting for Virg Bernero, or does the candidacy of Ms. Lawrence for Lt. Governor not make a difference one way or the other about how you intend to vote in the governor's race?

- 5% Much MORE likely for Virg Bernero ----- **15% MORE LIKELY**
- 10% Somewhat MORE likely for Bernero
- 3% Somewhat LESS likely for Bernero ----- **11% LESS LIKELY**
- 8% Much LESS likely for Bernero
- 72% Makes no difference
- 2% Undecided/Don't know/Refused



12. In Fiscal Year 2000, the State of Michigan general fund budget was nearly \$10 billion. Now, because of declining state tax revenues, the general fund budget is just under \$7 billion. Which of the following two statements comes closer to your view?

30% In light of the current state budget situation, it is important to maintain existing state services and programs, even if it means having to pay higher taxes.

67% In light of the current state budget situation, it is important to keep taxes as low as possible, even if it means further reductions in state services and programs.

3% Undecided/Refused

13. Which of the following two statements comes closer to your view of what state government should be doing as a strategy to improve Michigan's economy and create jobs.

36% The state should focus on supporting specific sectors or industries, such as green energy jobs programs, health care services and small business needs in general to increase job opportunities.

61% The state should take a hands-off approach with business and industry so state government is not favoring one business sector over another, but using other strategies, such as streamlined regulation across the board.

3% Undecided/Refused

14. Regardless of who is elected as Michigan's next Governor, the state's new chief executive will face tremendous challenges concerning the delivery of basic state services and how to pay for them. What are the one or two most important thing the newly elected governor should make as an immediate priority upon taking office in January of 2011 in order to start turning Michigan's economy around?

15%	Job Creation	3%	Diversify Industry
13%	Lower Business Taxes	3%	Fewer Regulations
11%	Business Incentives to Locate in Michigan	3%	Make Michigan a Right to Work State
7%	Education Funding	2%	Raise Taxes
6%	Balance the State Budget	1%	Bi-partisan Cooperation
5%	Lower Taxes – All	1%	Cut Public Assistance Programs
4%	Cut Size of Government	1%	Housing Crisis
3%	Credit Availability to Business	1%	Improve Infrastructure
3%	Consolidate Government Services	1%	Keep College Grads in Michigan
3%	Cut Government Spending	1%	Work with Existing Businesses
3%	Cut State Employee Pay -Benefits	10%	Other/Undecided/Refused

Now I would like to ask about some proposals that have been suggested to improve Michigan's economy, change the state budget process, cut the cost of operating state or local governments, colleges and school districts, or increase state revenues to fund programs. For each of the following proposals, please tell me if you favor or oppose that proposal?

		<b>Strong Favor</b>	<b>Total Favor</b>	<b>Total Oppose</b>	<b>Strong Oppose</b>	<b>D/K Undec</b>
15.	Reduce employee compensation for state employees to the average of state workers in all states with similar skills and education levels.	58%	<b>80%</b>	<b>17%</b>	8%	3%
16.	Review the \$30 billion in state and local tax breaks provided to businesses, and if they DO NOT directly create new jobs or maintain existing ones, reduce or eliminate these business tax breaks.	55%	<b>81%</b>	<b>13%</b>	5%	6%
17.	Invest more in pre-K development and education programs, and provide a more stable source of funding.	50%	<b>69%</b>	<b>26%</b>	13%	5%
18.	Increase spending on education so more teachers can be hired, thereby reducing class size, which would allow for more individual student attention.	34%	<b>56%</b>	<b>36%</b>	20%	8%
19.	Make a college education more affordable by devoting a larger portion of the state budget to higher education, including community colleges.	43%	<b>65%</b>	<b>32%</b>	18%	3%
20.	Reduce the number of school districts in Michigan by requiring smaller and more rural districts to consolidate with larger districts.	47%	<b>73%</b>	<b>18%</b>	9%	9%
21.	Reduce the Michigan Business Tax overall so that Michigan moves toward the goal of becoming among the Top Ten states in lowest tax burden for business.	71%	<b>89%</b>	<b>8%</b>	3%	3%
22.	Change the Michigan Business Tax so a simpler formula is used, even if that means increasing the overall rate.	32%	<b>51%</b>	<b>35%</b>	19%	14%
23.	Reducing the size of the state work force by 5 to 10 percent.	45%	<b>67%</b>	<b>26%</b>	13%	7%
24.	Reducing the number of townships in Michigan by requiring the consolidation of smaller and more rural townships with larger ones.	42%	<b>68%</b>	<b>21%</b>	12%	11%
25.	Totally eliminate the personal property tax collected by cities and townships on Michigan businesses operating in their jurisdictions.	34%	<b>51%</b>	<b>40%</b>	21%	9%

		<b>Strong Favor</b>	<b>Total Favor</b>	<b>Total Oppose</b>	<b>Strong Oppose</b>	<b>D/K Undec</b>
26.	Increase funding for transportation infrastructure improvements, including airports, roads and freeways that can better connect our two state peninsulas to the global economy, and connect freeways to adjoining states.	38%	<b>69%</b>	<b>24%</b>	13%	7%
27.	Consolidate the administration of Michigan's 500 plus school districts by reducing per pupil state funding to those school districts that fail to share services with other districts.	37%	<b>67%</b>	<b>23%</b>	9%	10%
28.	Establish a part-time legislature that would meet only a few months each year.	42%	<b>60%</b>	<b>30%</b>	19%	10%
29.	Repeal term limits for elected state legislators so that they could continue to serve until voters replace them, or they decide to not run for reelection.	33%	<b>53%</b>	<b>33%</b>	31%	4%
30.	Extend term limits up from the current 6 years in the State House and 8 years in the State Senate, so legislators can serve up to 12 years in either house of the legislature, for a potential total of 24 years.	24%	<b>43%</b>	<b>53%</b>	37%	4%
31.	Replace the current flat rate state income tax with a graduated state income that taxes individuals with higher incomes at a higher rate, and taxes individuals with lower incomes at a lower rate.	32%	<b>49%</b>	<b>47%</b>	33%	4%
32.	Change state law to require the adoption of two-year budgets to more accurately project the ongoing cost of state programs.	52%	<b>83%</b>	<b>8%</b>	4%	9%
33.	Do not establish any new state programs unless other state programs are eliminated, or state revenues grow again, to pay for new programs.	56%	<b>81%</b>	<b>15%</b>	8%	4%
34.	Increase the amount that state employees in Michigan pay for their health insurance premiums to an amount that is equal the national public employee average.	62%	<b>82%</b>	<b>13%</b>	7%	5%
35.	Enable and encourage local governments to share local government services as a way of cutting local government costs.	73%	<b>95%</b>	<b>4%</b>	1%	1%

		<b>Strong Favor</b>	<b>Total Favor</b>	<b>Total Oppose</b>	<b>Strong Oppose</b>	<b>D/K Undec</b>
36.	To reduce the cost of the state corrections budget and prison operations, enact legislation that would reduce prison sentencing requirements that exceed prison sentencing guidelines of surrounding states, especially for non-violent crimes.	65%	<b>68%</b>	<b>23%</b>	13%	9%
37.	Eliminate any optional state services that exceed federal standards, such as optional Medicaid services which provide prescription drug or eyeglass coverage for Michigan Medicaid recipients.	26%	<b>48%</b>	<b>40%</b>	21%	12%
38.	Eliminate state programs that duplicate federal programs, such as MIOSHA, which provides greater workplace safety guidelines than OSHA.	51%	<b>71%</b>	<b>25%</b>	13%	4%
39.	Move all public school employees from a defined benefit to a defined contribution retirement system.	51%	<b>73%</b>	<b>12%</b>	7%	15%
40.	Make sure that any changes in state or local tax laws do not result in making the structural state budget deficit worse.	63%	<b>88%</b>	<b>8%</b>	1%	4%
41.	Reduce the number of colleges and universities to a number that the state can support long-term, and increase funding for the colleges and universities that remain to achieve a Top Ten status.	21%	<b>44%</b>	<b>47%</b>	27%	9%
42.	Dedicate a substantially larger portion of state revenue toward improving road conditions so Michigan roads are considered among the Top Ten in the country.	34%	<b>61%</b>	<b>25%</b>	15%	4%
43.	Support increased funding for mass transit train and bus systems in dense population corridors throughout Michigan.	48%	<b>73%</b>	<b>24%</b>	14%	3%
44.	Partner with surrounding states to establish a global marketing program for the Great Lakes Region.	61%	<b>86%</b>	<b>10%</b>	4%	4%
45.	Develop an urban agenda that provides incentives, policies and funding to attract people to live in downtown areas, to attract business investments, and to develop mass transit systems.	54%	<b>77%</b>	<b>18%</b>	11%	5%

46. People sometimes change their mind while taking surveys. I asked you the following question earlier in the survey, but after offering your opinion on a variety of proposals, let me ask you again – Knowing that in Fiscal Year 2000, the State of Michigan general fund budget was nearly \$10 billion and now, because of declining state tax revenues, the general fund budget is just under \$7 billion. Which of the following two statements comes closer to your view?
- 32% In light of the current state budget situation, it is important to maintain existing state services and programs, even if it means having to pay higher taxes.
  - 65% In light of the current state budget situation, it is important to keep taxes as low as possible, even if it means further reductions in state services and programs.
  - 3% Undecided/Refused

Now, I would like to ask some questions about your business for statistical purposes only.

47. Do you work for a company that sells a product or provides a service?
- 13% Sells a product
  - 65% Provides a service
  - 20% Both (*volunteered*)
  - 2% Undecided/Refused

48. What would you say is the gross dollar amount that your business generates per year?

**MEAN: \$8,026,108.50**

**MEDIAN: \$3,000,000.00**

49. How many employees do you have working in your business?

**MEAN: 1849.787**

**MEDIAN: 11**

50. What type of business or industry do you operate?

- 16% Manufacturing or manufacturing supplier
- 18% Business services
- 10% Professional services
- 5% Real Estate
- 4% Health care
- 5% Retail
- 6% Construction
- 10% Finance
- 2% Distribution/trucking
- 6% Non-profit
- 3% Education
- 2% Hospitality
- 9% Public service
- 2% Telecommunications
- 2% Other/Undecided/Refused

51. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Republican or a Democrat?

13%	Strong Democrat	
4%	Not Strong Democrat -----	<b>23% TOTAL DEMOCRAT</b>
6%	Independent-Lean Democrat	
31%	Independent	
8%	Independent-Lean Republican	
12%	Not Strong Republican -----	<b>41% TOTAL</b>
21%	Strong Republican	
1%	Other	
4%	Undecided/Don't know/Refused	

52. As I mentioned earlier, this survey has been commissioned by Crain's Detroit Business. We are asking every participant if they are willing to authorize the release of their phone number for a possible follow-up contact by a reporter. Would you be willing to have your phone number released, or would you prefer that we **NOT** release it.

27%	Yes, release my phone number
73%	No, do not release phone number
---	Undecided/Don't know/Refused

53. In addition to providing the names of people who would be willing to talk to reporters, would you be willing to also authorize us to let Crain's Detroit Business know how you responded to survey questions, or, would you prefer that we only release your phone number for a possible interview and not release information about how you responded to survey questions?

54%	Release information about how respondent answered questions
46%	DON'T release information

54. Sex of respondent (**BY OBSERVATION ONLY**)

67%	Male
33%	Female