



MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION WINTER 2008 MICHIGAN STATEWIDE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE & AGGREGATE RESULTS

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling from Marketing Resource Group, a public opinion research firm. We are conducting a survey about issues in Michigan would like to have your opinions. This is NOT a sales call and your responses will remain confidential.

A. Are you registered to vote in _____ at this address?

Yes..... CONTINUE
NoASK IF THERE IS A REGISTERED VOTER AT HOME
IF NO, TERMINATE

B. Are you or is any member of your household an elected public official, active in any political campaign this year or an employee of any news organization?

Yes..... TERMINATE
No CONTINUE

1. Do you feel things in the State of Michigan are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

Right Direction.....9%
Wrong Track..... 83%
Don't Know (Volunteered).....7%
Refused (Volunteered) 1%

2. Do you feel things in your local area are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

Right Direction..... 39%
Wrong Track..... 51%
Don't Know (Volunteered).....9%
Refused (Volunteered) 1%

3. Regardless of where you live now, in which of the following settings would you prefer to live: (ROTATE: an urban or city setting, a suburban setting, or a rural or country setting)?

Urban/ City 14%
Suburban 29%
Rural / Country 55%
Other1%
Don't Know (Volunteered).....1%
Refused (Volunteered) *



4. In your opinion, what do you think are the most valuable attractions to your local community, that is, those that were most influential on your decision to live in your community? **(OPEN-END - PROBE FOR TWO RESPONSES)**

Good Schools.....	20%
Neighborhoods/Family Town.....	18%
Proximity to work/Location.....	18%
Setting/Urban/Suburban/Rural.....	16%
Family/Friends Are Here.....	12%
Parks/Recreation.....	8%
I Grew Up Here.....	8%
Culture/Entertainment/Things To Do.....	7%
Low Crime.....	6%
Lakes/Streams/Waterways.....	5%
Lobs/Employment/Economy.....	5%
Like The House.....	4%
Quiet/Low population.....	4%
Local services/Police/Fire/Emergency.....	3%
Up And Coming Area.....	2%
Shopping/Stores.....	2%
Taxes/Low taxes.....	2%
No development.....	2%
Housing prices/Housing market/Affordability.....	1%
Other (Record Response).....	11%
Don't Know (Volunteered).....	7%
Refused (Volunteered).....	1%

5. In your opinion, what do you think are the most important problems facing your local area at the present time, that is, those that you yourself are most concerned about? **(OPEN-END - PROBE FOR TWO RESPONSES)**

Unemployment/layoffs/job security.....	48%
Economy (General Comments).....	30%
Taxes (General).....	9%
Crime/law enforcement/safety.....	7%
Roads/Streets/Construction/Traffic.....	6%
Housing/Foreclosures.....	5%
Schools/Education.....	5%
Property Values.....	5%
Government Budget Problems.....	4%
Property Taxes.....	3%
Local government leadership.....	2%
Welfare/Poverty/Homeless.....	2%
Environmental concerns/pollution/water.....	1%
Morals/Family Values.....	1%
Auto companies.....	1%
Senior citizen issues.....	1%
Children/Youth Issues.....	1%
Drugs.....	1%
Gas prices.....	1%
Stocks/Pensions/Retirement/Savings.....	1%
Health care/health insurance/mental health.....	1%
Other (Record Responses).....	6%
Don't know.....	4%
Refused.....	1%



6. Of the following, whom do you hold most responsible for the loss of good paying jobs in your area: (**ROTATE**: federal officials, state officials, county officials, or local officials)?

Federal	37%
State	34%
County	1%
Local	4%
None of The Above (Volunteered)	9%
All Equally (Volunteered)	8%
Don't Know (Volunteered)	6%
Refused (Volunteered)	1%

7. Do you believe property taxes in your community are too high, too low or just about right?

Too High	57%
Too Low	1%
About Right	39%
Don't Know (Volunteered)	3%
Refused (Volunteered)	*

8. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way your local (city council / township board / village board) is handling its job? **IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE ASK:** (Would that be strongly approve / disapprove or just somewhat approve / disapprove?)

Strongly Approve	19%
Somewhat Approve	47%
Both Approve / Disapprove (Volunteered)	4%
Somewhat Disapprove	9%
Strongly Disapprove	13%
Don't Know (Volunteered)	8%
Refuse (Volunteered)	*
TOTAL APPROVE	66%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	22%

9. Have you ever contacted or visited with any of your local (city / village / township) government officials with an idea, question or concern?

Yes	45%	ASK 10 THROUGH 17
No	55%	SKIP 10 THROUGH 17
Don't Know / Can't Remember (Volunteered)	0%	SKIP 10 THROUGH 17
Refuse (Volunteered)	*	SKIP 10 THROUGH 17



ASK 10 – 17 TO ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE CONTACTED LOCAL OFFICIALS

When you contacted your local government officials, did they or their staff ...

(ROTATE ISSUES)

	Yes	No	Don't Know/ Can't Remember	Refused
10. Quickly identify the problem or issue?	72%	26%	2%	0%
11. Appear knowledgeable and competent?	77%	20%	2%	0%
12. Help you understand the causes and/or solution to your problem or issue?	59%	38%	2%	0%
13. Handle your problem or issue with courtesy and professionalism?	80%	18%	2%	0%
14. Speak to you or respond quickly and handle your issue promptly?	70%	28%	3%	0%
15. Overall, were you satisfied or dissatisfied with your experience with your local government officials? IF SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED ASK: (Would that be completely satisfied/dissatisfied or just somewhat satisfied/dissatisfied?)				
Completely satisfied	27%			
Somewhat satisfied	32%			
Neither satisfied/dissatisfied (Volunteered)	3%			
Somewhat dissatisfied.....	13%			
Completely dissatisfied.....	23%			
Don't Know (Volunteered).....	1%			
Refused (Volunteered)	0%			
TOTAL SATISFIED	60%			
TOTAL DISSATISFIED	37%			
16. Have you ever contacted or visited with your county, state or federal government officials with an idea, question or concern? (IF YES ASK: Which ones?)				
Yes, County.....	18%			ASK 17
Yes, State	24%			ASK 17
Yes, Federal.....	11%			ASK 17
No	61%			SKIP 17
Don't Know / Can't Remember (Volunteered)	1%			SKIP 17
Refused (Volunteered)	0%			SKIP 17



17. Compared to your experience with county, state or federal government officials, was your experience with your local (city/village/township) government officials better, worse or about the same?

- Better 36%
- Worse 17%
- About the Same..... 46%
- Don't Know (Volunteered).....0%
- Refused (Volunteered) 1%

ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

18. In the future, how likely are you to contact or visit with your local (city/village/township) government officials if you have a question, idea or concern ... very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely or not likely at all?

- Very likely 34%
- Somewhat likely 38%
- Not very likely 16%
- Not likely at all..... 11%
- Don't Know (Volunteered).....1%
- Refuse (Volunteered)..... 0%

19. Which level of government do you generally trust and respect most: (**ROTATE:** federal, state, county, or local) government?

- Federal7%
- State 10%
- County 11%
- Local 47%
- None of the Above (Volunteered) 17%
- All Equally (Volunteered)5%
- Don't Know (Volunteered).....4%
- Refused (Volunteered) 1%

Now, please tell me which level of government; federal, state, county or your local (city/village/township) government, you would trust most to handle each of the following responsibilities. The first one is: ... The next one is:

(ROTATE ISSUES)

	Federal Government	State Government	County Government	Local Government	None (Volunteer)	Don't Know	Refused
20. Creating a business friendly atmosphere to attract jobs and improve the economy.	7%	36%	12%	31%	8%	6%	1%
21. Providing valuable services that give you a strong return on your tax dollars	13%	23%	12%	35%	9%	7%	1%
22. Being responsive to your families needs and concerns	9%	13%	9%	54%	10%	6%	*
23. Having officials and staff who are helpful and well respected by the community	5%	12%	12%	58%	6%	7%	1%



	Federal Government	State Government	County Government	Local Government	None (Volunteer)	Don't Know	Refused
24. Keeping your family safe	10%	10%	12%	56%	7%	4%	1%
25. Being fiscally responsible with your tax dollars	11%	17%	9%	39%	15%	7%	1%
26. Keeping a high standard of ethics	13%	13%	8%	43%	12%	10%	2%
27. Providing a great quality of life for residents in our community	3%	11%	14%	61%	7%	5%	0%
28. Of the following, which local government service do you believe is the best use of taxpayer dollars? (ROTATE A through F)							
A: Police, Fire and Emergency Services					66%		
B: Road and Street Construction and Maintenance					8%		
C: Parks and Recreation					5%		
D: Libraries					6%		
E: Garbage and refuse pickup and recycling					8%		
F: Public Transportation					2%		
Don't Know (Volunteered).....					5%		
Refused (Volunteered)					1%		
29. Which one is the second best use of taxpayer dollars? (ROTATE A through F)							
A: Police, Fire and Emergency Services					14%		
B: Road and Street Construction and Maintenance					29%		
C: Parks and Recreation					13%		
D: Libraries					14%		
E: Garbage and refuse pickup and recycling					17%		
F: Public Transportation					4%		
Don't Know (Volunteered).....					9%		
Refused (Volunteered)					1%		
30. Generally speaking, do you think there are too many, too few or about the right number of local units of government in Michigan?							
Too many					40%		
Too few					7%		
About Right					42%		
Don't Know (Volunteered).....					11%		
Refused (Volunteered)					*		



31. Given Michigan’s population of just over 10 million people, if you learned that there are 83 counties, 1,242 townships, and 533 cities and villages in Michigan, would you say there are too many, too few or about the right number of local units of government in Michigan? (IF TOO MANY ASK: Do you think we have too man county governments, too many township governments, or too many city and village governments?)

Too Many Counties.....	3%
Too Many Townships.....	6%
Too Many Cities & Villages	5%
Too Many (Can’t Specify Which).....	15%
TOTAL WHO SAID TOO MANY	30%
Too few	4%
About Right	52%
Don’t Know (Volunteered).....	13%
Refused (Volunteered)	1%

32. Would you support or oppose a proposal to eliminate township governments in Michigan, and assign the responsibility for all township services such as police, fire and emergency services, property tax assessments, planning and zoning, and elections to county governments?

(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE ASK: Would you say you strongly support/oppose it or just somewhat support/oppose it?)

Strongly support.....	12%	ASK 32.A.
Somewhat support.....	18%	ASK 32.A.
Neither support nor oppose.....	1%	
Somewhat oppose	16%	ASK 32.B.
Strongly oppose	46%	ASK 32.B.
Don’t know (Volunteered)	7%	
Refused (Volunteered)	*	
TOTAL SUPPORT.....	30%	
TOTAL OPPOSE.....	62%	

32.A. Can you give me one or two reasons why you would support a proposal to eliminate township governments in Michigan?

Too many government officials/ Too many small governments	30%
Efficiency	27%
Cost/Money/Taxes	24%
Counties do a better job	6%
Other	4%
Don’t know	8%



32.B. Can you give me one or two reasons why you would oppose a proposal to eliminate township governments in Michigan?

- Keep things local/Need more units of government... 32%
- Local officials better understand local needs 32%
- My voice won't be heard/Loss of power..... 13%
- It's fine the way it is..... 12%
- Lose services/Increase response times.....5%
- Costs/Taxes increases5%
- Jobs lost.....1%
- Counties would have too much control1%
- Other8%
- Don't know/Unsure8%

Now I will read to you some statements you may hear about the possible proposal to eliminate township governments in Michigan. After hearing each one, please tell me if you would be more likely or less likely to support that proposal. The first one is ...

(IF (MORE/LESS) LIKELY ASK: Would you be much (more/less) likely to support eliminating townships or just somewhat (more/less) likely to support eliminating townships?)

(ROTATE STATEMENTS)

	Much More Likely	Somewhat More Likely	Makes No Difference	Somewhat Less Likely	Much Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
33. That it would cause your taxes to increase to pay for the increased cost of providing local services.	4%	9%	8%	26%	47%	4%	2%
TOTAL MORE LIKELY	13%						
TOTAL LESS LIKELY	73%						
34. A majority of Michigan residents live in townships and townships govern 96 percent of the land area in Michigan, eliminating townships would put a tremendous financial and logistical strain on county governments.	7%	7%	8%	27%	43%	8%	1%
TOTAL MORE LIKELY	14%						
TOTAL LESS LIKELY	70%						
35. That it would likely decrease your level of essential services and increase response times for police, fire and emergency services.	8%	11%	7%	22%	48%	5%	1%
TOTAL MORE LIKELY	18%						
TOTAL LESS LIKELY	69%						



	Much More Likely	Somewhat More Likely	Makes No Difference	Somewhat Less Likely	Much Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
36. That it would likely close your local government offices, which means you would have to drive a longer distance to do things like pay taxes or visit with local government officials.	5%	8%	14%	21%	48%	3%	2%
TOTAL MORE LIKELY							13%
TOTAL LESS LIKELY							69%

37. That county government is less responsive and less accountable to local citizens than local government. Citizens would have less influence over government officials and their decisions if township governments were eliminated.	7%	8%	5%	27%	46%	5%	3%
TOTAL MORE LIKELY							15%
TOTAL LESS LIKELY							73%

38. Now you've heard a little bit more about this possible proposal to eliminate township governments in Michigan. We understand that some people change their minds about issues after hearing more information about them, so I'll ask you again. Based on what you've heard, would you (**ROTATE**: support or oppose) a proposal to eliminate township governments in Michigan?

(**IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE ASK**: Would you say you strongly support/ oppose it or just somewhat support/ oppose it?)

Strongly support.....	8%
Somewhat support.....	10%
Neither support nor oppose.....	2%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	60%
Don't know (Volunteered)	6%
Refused (Volunteered)	1%
TOTAL SUPPORT.....	18%
TOTAL OPPOSE.....	74%



39. The state Constitution mandates that an election will be held every 16 years to decide whether or not to call a constitutional convention to revise the Michigan Constitution of 1963. Voters will next make that decision in the general election of November 2, 2010. The constitutional convention question may appear on that ballot as follows:

Shall a convention of elected delegates be convened to draft a general revision of the state constitution for presentation to the state's voters for their approval or rejection?

If the election were being held today, would you vote YES, in favor of a constitutional convention or NO, to oppose it? **(IF DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED ASK: Would you say you are leaning toward voting yes or no?)**

Vote Yes.....	34%
Lean Yes	4%
Vote No.....	44%
Lean No	1%
Don't know	16%
Refused	1%
 TOTAL YES	 38%
TOTAL NO	45%

Finally, just a few questions for statistical purposes, and we'll be through.

I. Politically speaking, do you align yourself more with the **(ROTATE: Republican Party or the Democrat Party)**, or would you say you are more of an Independent when it comes to politics?

Republican	29%
Democrat	30%
Independent	36%
Don't Vote (Volunteered)	*
Other (Volunteered).....	2%
Ref/DK (Volunteered)	3%

II. Thinking about all elections, including school, local and primary elections, how many of them have you voted in over the past few years—none of them, less than half of them, about half of them, most of them or all of them?

None of Them	2%
Less Than Half of Them.....	6%
About Half of Them.....	11%
Most of Them	36%
All of Them	43%
Ref/DK (Volunteered)	2%



III. In what year were you born?

1990 - 1984 (18 to 24)	2%
1983 - 1979 (25 to 29)	2%
1978 - 1974 (30 to 34)	3%
1973 - 1969 (35 to 39)	6%
1968 - 1964 (40 to 44)	6%
1963 - 1959 (45 to 49)	12%
1958 - 1954 (50 to 54)	11%
1953 - 1949 (55 to 59)	15%
1948 - 1944 (60 to 64)	10%
1943 - 1934 (65 to 74)	18%
1933 or earlier (75+)	11%
Refused	3%

IV. Are you a homeowner or do you rent?

Homeowner	91%
Renter	6%
Ref/DK (Volunteered)	3%

V. Do you have any children 17 years of age or younger living in your household?
(IF YES ASK: How many children would that be?)

None	73%
1	11%
2-4	14%
5 or More	1%
Ref/DK (Volunteered)	2%

VI. Which of the following income groups include your TOTAL FAMILY INCOME
in 2007 before taxes? Just tell me the letter for the correct category. **(READ A-G)**

A. \$0 to 10,000 (9,999)	3%
B. \$10,000 to 20,000 (19,999)	4%
C. \$20,000 to 30,000 (29,999)	10%
D. \$30,000 to 40,000 (39,999)	11%
E. \$40,000 to 50,000 (49,999)	11%
F. \$50,000 to 75,000 (74,999)	18%
G. \$75,000 to 100,000 (99,999)	11%
H. Over \$100,000	15%
Ref/DK (Volunteered)	18%

That completes our interview. Thank you for sharing your opinions.

VII. Gender **(BY OBSERVATION: DO NOT ASK)**

Male	48%
Female	52%