

EPIC-MRA STATEWIDE POLL OF ACTIVE AND LIKELY VOTERS – MAR 2011

[FREQUENCY REPORT OF SURVEY RESPONSES – 600 SAMPLE – ERROR ±4.0%]

Polling Dates: February 26th, 2011 through March 1st, 2011

Commissioned by the Detroit Free Press and WXYZ TV 7

__03. Overall, would you say that things in Michigan are generally headed in the right direction, or are things pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

36% Right direction
 42% Wrong track
 22% Undecided/Refused

Now, I would like to read a list of several political figures. For each one, please tell me if you recognize the name, and if you do, whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of that person. The first name is _____? Do you recognize the name? **[IF YES, ASK: ‘Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of (him/her)?’ AND IF FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE, ASK: ‘Would that be very or generally?’ AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

NAMES [ROTATE Q.4 TO Q.6]	DON'T RECOG	VERY FAVOR	TOTAL FAVOR	TOTAL UNFAV	VERY UNFAV	REF UNDEC
__04. Barack Obama	---	23%	48%	42%	27%	10%
__05. Rick Snyder	---	14%	44%	27%	16%	29%
__06. Debbie Stabenow	---	13%	43%	35%	20%	22%

__07. Overall, how would you rate the job being done by Barack Obama as President -- would you give him a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of just fair or poor?

10% Excellent ----- **45% TOTAL POSITIVE**
 35% Pretty good
 24% Just fair ----- **53% TOTAL NEGATIVE**
 29% Poor
 2% Undecided/Refused

__08. Overall, how would you rate the job being done by Rick Snyder as Michigan’s Governor – would you give him a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of just fair or poor?

5% Excellent ----- **32% TOTAL POSITIVE**
 27% Pretty good
 20% Just fair ----- **36% TOTAL NEGATIVE**
 16% Poor
 33% Undecided/Refused

__09. Overall, how would you rate the job being done by Debbie Stabenow as a United States Senator – would you give her a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of just fair or poor?

7%	Excellent -----	38% TOTAL POSITIVE
31%	Pretty good	
26%	Just fair -----	48% TOTAL NEGATIVE
22%	Poor	
14%	Undecided/Refused	

__10. Over the past year, would you say that your household family income has increased, decreased or remained about the same? **[IF DECREASED, ASK: ‘Would that be a lot or somewhat?’ AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

10%	Increased	
49%	Remained about the same	
24%	Decreased somewhat -----	41% TOTAL DECREASED
17%	Decreased a lot	
---	Undecided/Refused	

__11. Based on what you know or have heard or read about Governor Snyder’s budget proposal, do you favor or oppose it? **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK: ‘Would that be strongly or somewhat?’ AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

15%	Strongly favor -----	39% TOTAL FAVOR
24%	Somewhat favor	
14%	Somewhat oppose -----	41% TOTAL OPPOSE
27%	Strongly oppose	
19%	Undecided/Refused	

Now I am going to read a brief description of several specifics in Governor Snyder's proposal. For each one I describe, please tell me if you favor or oppose that proposal. **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK: 'Would that be strongly or somewhat?' AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

[ROTATE Q.12 TO Q.19]

	<u>Strong Favor</u>	<u>Total Favor</u>	<u>Total Oppose</u>	<u>Strong Oppose</u>	<u>Undec Refuse</u>
__12. Governor Snyder would cut funding to state-supported universities by 15 percent. Their reductions might be less if they hold tuition increases to 7 percent or less. [Question based on news reports determined to be inaccurate after poll completed -- cuts were more -- 15-22 percent]	22%	51%	43%	28%	6%
__13. State tax credits for low income working families, called the Earned Income Tax Credit, would be eliminated under the governor's plan. Under the program, more than 700,000 families get an average tax credit of \$432 per year. Eliminating the program would save the state \$354 million.	18%	36%	58%	44%	6%
__14. Retirees who get pensions and other retirement income up to \$45,000 for individuals and \$90,000 for couples, would have to pay state income tax on that income beginning next year, saving the state \$900 million.	21%	41%	53%	43%	6%
__15. Tax credits for donations to food banks, homeless shelters, universities and public broadcasting, would be eliminated.	15%	32%	63%	48%	5%
__16. Funding for K-12 local public schools would be reduced by 4.1 percent, or \$300 per pupil. The state savings would be \$564 million.	15%	32%	62%	49%	6%
__17. \$307 million in revenue sharing payments to cities, villages and townships -- nearly two-thirds of which went to Detroit -- would be replaced with a new program of \$200 million. But communities would have to compete for the money based on their efforts to save money on spending for things like employee health care, by consolidating services with other communities, or consolidating two or more communities into a new governmental unit.	29%	59%	29%	19%	12%
__18. The state income tax is scheduled to gradually drop from the current rate of 4.35 percent to 3.9 percent in 2016. After it drops to 4.25 percent on October 1 st of this year, Governor Snyder would keep it at that level.	35%	69%	22%	15%	9%
__19. Governor Snyder would eliminate the standard deduction of \$3,700 per person for income tax filers and their dependents for individuals earning \$75,000 or more per year, or couples filing jointly who make more than \$150,000 per year.	30%	56%	34%	23%	10%

__20. Governor Snyder believes that if the current business tax is replaced with a 6 percent corporate income tax, businesses will have the incentive to create good-paying jobs. Businesses would enjoy a net tax cut of \$1.8 billion if this proposal is enacted. To make up for lost revenue, he would eliminate an exemption on taxes for most pensions for retirees, tax credits for many charitable deductions and other income tax credits. Do you agree or disagree with Governor Snyder's plan to shift taxes from businesses to individuals? **[IF AGREE/DISAGREE, ASK: 'Would that be strongly or somewhat?' AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

17%	Strongly agree -----	GO TO Q. 22	
26%	Somewhat agree -----	GO TO Q. 22	43% TOTAL AGREE
11%	Somewhat disagree -----	ASK Q. 21	
38%	Strongly disagree -----	ASK Q. 21	49% TOTAL DISAGREE
8%	Undecided/Refused -----	ASK Q. 21	

[Q. 21 ONLY ASKED OF RESPONDENTS WHO DISAGREE OR WERE UNSURE IN Q. 20]

__21. Which of the following approaches would you prefer that the state do instead of Governor Snyder's plans to cut business taxes and shift responsibility for paying taxes to individual taxpayers? **[READ AND ROTATE 1 TO 3 BELOW]**

25%	Keep business taxes at the level they are at and avoid changes that increase taxes on individuals
17%	Reduce business taxes by half of what Governor Snyder proposes and keep current exemptions for pensions and other retirement income
41%	Reduce business taxes by half of what Governor Snyder proposes and spare low income working people from losing the Earned Income Tax Credit which averages about \$430, and also reduce rather than eliminate the exemption on retirement pensions and income
17%	Undecided/Refused

__22. If business taxes are cut by the amount proposed by Governor Snyder, will Michigan businesses use those tax cuts to create more jobs in Michigan, will they use it to increase their profits, or, will they use it for both purposes?

11%	Will use tax cuts to create or preserve jobs
33%	Will use tax cuts to increase corporate or business profits
48%	Will use tax cuts for both purposes
8%	Undecided/Refused

Turning to another topic...

__23. Thinking about the growing presence of the film and movie industry in Michigan, do you like the idea that Michigan has become a hotbed of moviemaking, doesn't it matter much to you, or, don't you like it? **[IF LIKE IT, ASK] Would you say you love it or like it?**

15%	Love it	
40%	Like it	55% TOTAL LIKE
33%	It doesn't matter much one way or the other	
10%	I don't like it	43% TOTAL DISLIKE/DOESN'T MATTER
2%	Undecided/Refused	

__24. Michigan taxpayers have spent \$96 million to underwrite the cost of films and other productions here since 2008. The state pays up to 42 percent of the costs of production. Do you think that it's a good use of taxpayer money to help create a new industry, or, do you think it's a bad use and would be better spend on other needs? **[IF A GOOD USE OF TAXPAYER MONEY, ASK]** Would it be a very good or a somewhat good use of taxpayer money? **[IF A BAD USE OF TAXPAYER MONEY, ASK]** Would it be a very bad or somewhat bad use of taxpayer money?

17%	Very good use of taxpayer money	
24%	Somewhat good use of taxpayer money -----	41% TOTAL GOOD USE
4%	It doesn't really matter (VOLUNTEERED)	
23%	Somewhat bad use of taxpayer money	
23%	Very bad use of taxpayer money -----	46% TOTAL BAD USE
9%	Undecided/Refused	

__25. Knowing that budget cuts are likely to be made in education by Governor Snyder and the Legislature, if there are to be cuts in education funding from the state, where do you think cuts should be made the most? **[READ AND ROTATE 1 TO 5]**

7%	Pre-school funding
3%	Community colleges
6%	Kindergarten through 12 th grade public schools
27%	Higher education at state universities
47%	Cuts should not be made in education at all
10%	Undecided/Refuse

__26. Governor Snyder's budget proposal calls for \$180 million in concessions to be made by state employees through bargaining on contracts that expire September 30th. One way to accomplish that is for state employees to accept an increase in their health care premiums from the current average of about 10 percent, to 20 percent of the premium cost, which would be more in line with the private sector. Which of the following statements about the proposal to require concessions by state employees comes closer to your view? **[READ AND ROTATE 1 TO 4]**

45%	Snyder's proposal for state employees is fair and reflects the shared sacrifice that he wants to achieve
14%	Snyder's proposal goes too far. State employees already made deep concessions to balance the budget, like furlough days. Cuts should be found elsewhere
25%	Snyder's proposal goes too far and taxes should be raised on wealthy people to make up the difference
11%	Snyder's proposal doesn't go far enough. State employees should pay more for health insurance and other benefits and make less in wages.
5%	Undecided/Refused

Turning to another topic...

__27. How important do you think it is to the economic and financial health of the State of Michigan, for the City of Detroit to continue to be financially viable and able to succeed? Is Detroit's success essential, important but not essential, only a little important, or not really important at all to the economic and financial success of Michigan?

32%	Detroit's success is essential	
40%	Detroit's success if important, but not essential -----	72% TOTAL ESSENTIAL/IMPORTANT
15%	Detroit's success is only a little important	
11%	Detroit's success is not really important at all -----	26% TOTAL LITTLE/NOT IMPORTANT
2%	Undecided/Don't know	