

# EPIC-MRA STATEWIDE POLL of ACTIVE & LIKELY VOTERS – FEBRUARY 2011

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

Polling Dates: February 12-17, 2011

\_\_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?

41% Right direction  
 32% Wrong track  
 27% 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)? **[IF FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE, ASK]** Would that be very or generally?

<b>NAMES [ROTATE Q.4 TO Q.8]</b>	<b><u>DON'T</u> <u>RECOG</u></b>	<b><u>VERY</u> <u>FAVOR</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u> <u>FAVOR</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u> <u>UNFAV</u></b>	<b><u>VERY</u> <u>UNFAV</u></b>	<b><u>REF</u> <u>UNDEC</u></b>
__04. Barack Obama	0%	24%	50%	43%	28%	7%
__05. Rick Snyder	0%	17%	54%	13%	6%	33%
__06. Pete Hoekstra [HOKE-struh]	18%	8%	28%	15%	6%	39%
__07. Debbie Stabenow [STAB-now]	2%	17%	47%	39%	23%	12%
__08. Mitt Romney	4%	11%	43%	28%	13%	25%

\_\_09. 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?

12% Excellent  
 32% Pretty good      **44% POSITIVE JOB**  
 23% Just fair  
 32% Poor              **55% NEGATIVE JOB**  
 1% Undecided/Refused

\_\_10. 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?

7% Excellent  
 30% Pretty good      **37% POSITIVE JOB**  
 16% Just fair  
 5% Poor              **21% NEGATIVE JOB**  
 41% Undecided/Refused

\_\_11. Overall, how would you rate the job being done by Debbie Stabenow [**STAB-now**] as one of our two United States Senators in Michigan – would you give her a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of just fair or poor?

9%	Excellent	
33%	Pretty good	<b>42% POSITIVE JOB</b>
25%	Just fair	
25%	Poor	<b>50% NEGATIVE JOB</b>
8%	Undecided/Refused	

\_\_12. 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**]

11%	Increased	
49%	Remained about the same	
20%	Decreased somewhat	
19%	Decreased a lot	<b>39% TOTAL DECREASE</b>
1%	Undecided/Refused	

I know it's a long way off, but thinking about the November election in 2012...

\_\_13. In the election for President, if the election were held today, and the candidates were [**ROTATE**] Mitt Romney the Republican and Barack Obama the Democrat, would you vote for Barack Obama or Mitt Romney? [**IF UNDECIDED, ASK: 'Well, if the election were held today and you had to decide right now, which candidate would you lean toward, [**ROTATE**] Romney or Obama?' AND CODE BEST RESPONSE**]

38%	Vote for Barack Obama the Democrat	
3%	Lean toward Barack Obama	<b>41% Total vote for Obama</b>
38%	Vote for Mitt Romney the Republican	
8%	Lean toward Mitt Romney	<b>46% Total vote for Romney</b>
13%	Undecided/Refused	

\_\_14. In the election for United States Senator, if the election were held today, and the candidates were [**ROTATE**] Pete Hoekstra [**HOKE-struh**] the Republican and Debbie Stabenow [**STAB-now**] the Democrat, would you vote for Debbie Stabenow or Pete Hoekstra?

[**IF UNDECIDED, ASK: 'Well, if the election were held today and you had to decide right now, which candidate would you lean toward, [**ROTATE**] Romney or Obama?' AND CODE BEST RESPONSE**]

38%	Vote for Debbie Stabenow the Democrat	
6%	Lean toward Debbie Stabenow	<b>44% Total vote for Stabenow</b>
36%	Vote for Pete Hoekstra the Republican	
6%	Lean toward Pete Hoekstra	<b>42% Total vote for Hoekstra</b>
14%	Undecided/Refused	

\_\_15. Governor Rick Snyder and the Legislature must address a current \$1.8 billion state budget deficit for the next fiscal year, out of a general fund budget of \$7.7 billion. If Governor Snyder's proposal to eliminate the Michigan Business Tax and replace it with a 6 percent corporate income tax is approved, the budget deficit would nearly double to \$3.3 billion, which is 43 percent of the current state general fund budget. Whether the budget deficit is \$1.8 billion or rises to \$3.3 billion with the replacement of the Michigan Business Tax, based on what you know or have heard or read, which of the following statements best describes how you think Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature should now act to balance the state budget? **[READ AND ROTATE 1 TO 5 BELOW]**

- 21% It should **ONLY** be balanced by cuts in programs and services, with no increase in taxes;
  - 22% It should be balanced by **MOSTLY** relying on cuts in programs and services, but also by relying on **SOME** increases in taxes;
  - 35% It should be balanced by **EQUALLY** relying on cuts in state programs and services and increases in some taxes to raise revenue;
  - 9% It should be balanced **MOSTLY** by increasing taxes, but also relying on **SOME** cuts in programs and services;
  - 4% It should **ONLY** be balanced by increasing taxes and fees, with no further cuts in state programs and services.
  - 9% Undecided/Refused
- 43% All or mostly budget cuts with some tax increases**
  - 35% Equal cuts and tax increases**
  - 13% All or mostly tax increases with some budget cuts**
- 21% All cuts budget**
  - 70% At least some tax increase**

\_\_20. Thinking again about the state budget deficit, as indicated before, the \$1.8 billion budget deficit would be increased by \$1.5 billion if Governor Snyder replaces the Michigan Business Tax with a 6 percent corporate income tax, nearly doubling the budget deficit to \$3.3 billion, which would have to be balanced from a state general fund budget of \$7.7 billion. Now I would like to describe two possible approaches to balancing the state budget. **[READ AND ROTATE TWO PARAGRAPHS BELOW]**

(One/Another) proposal would balance the state budget by approving an all cuts budget that would total \$3.3 billion. This would require deep budget cuts in all state departments, including human services, corrections, natural resources, public education, community colleges and public universities, revenue sharing payments to counties, cities and townships, and requiring cuts in pay and benefits for all public employees – including state workers, teachers and other local public school district employees, as well as police, fire and other workers employed by local governments. It will also very likely require layoffs of state and local public employees, as well as teachers and other local public school district employees.

(One/Another) proposal would eliminate \$2 billion in tax credits, deductions and exemptions that go to Michigan businesses by eliminating those types of special business tax provisions that do not create jobs or protect existing ones. Another \$800 million in revenue could be raised by requiring a five percent reduction in spending on the \$16 billion in state government contracts paid for services. This could be accomplished by eliminating contracts that are not needed, or requiring a 5 percent cut in payments. Implementing these measures would leave \$500 million in cuts that could be made in the corrections budget by making sentencing guidelines consistent with surrounding states and requiring further pay and benefit concessions from state and local public employees.

Which approach comes closer to your view of how best to balance the state budget – the approach that requires an all cuts budget to eliminate the deficit, or, the approach that raises revenue by eliminating corporate tax breaks that do not create or preserve jobs, cutting back on state contracts and requiring more limited budget cuts?

- 16% All cuts budget approach
- 69% Eliminating tax breaks, cutting state contracts and more limited budget cuts
- 15% Undecided/Refused

\_\_37. One proposal that has been made to balance the state budget in the education area, is to combine the funding that goes into the kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade school aid budget, with the budget for community colleges that comes from the state general fund budget. By combining these two sources of revenue into a single pool of funds, it will be somewhat easier to fund community colleges, but it may result in cutting per pupil funding for public K through 12 schools. Based on what you know or have heard or read about this proposal, do you favor or oppose it? **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK: ‘Would that be strongly or somewhat?’ AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

- 7% Strongly favor
- 7% Somewhat favor **14% Total Favor**
- 16% Somewhat oppose
- 52% Strongly oppose **68% Total Oppose**
- 18% Undecided/Refused

\_\_38. Another proposal would combine the higher education budget costs with both kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and community college costs. This also would likely result in even greater cuts to kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade public schools. Based on what you know or have heard or read about this proposal, do you favor or oppose it? **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK: ‘Would that be strongly or somewhat?’ AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

- 5% Strongly favor
- 6% Somewhat favor **11% Total Favor**
- 15% Somewhat oppose
- 59% Strongly oppose **74% Total Oppose**
- 15% Undecided/Refused

\_\_39. Based on your personal experience or what you know or have heard or read, do you support or oppose the efforts of the Tea Party movement? **[IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE, ASK: ‘Do you strongly or somewhat (SUPPORT/OPPOSE) the Tea Party movement?’ AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

- 20% Strongly Support
- 17% Somewhat Support **37% Total Support**
- 12% Somewhat Oppose
- 28% Strongly Oppose **40% Total Oppose**
- 23% Undecided/Refused

On another topic...

\_\_40. Michigan law currently allows individuals who have been granted a permit to carry a concealed weapon, specifically a handgun, to carry their concealed handgun anywhere except in schools or on school property, public or private day care centers, sports arenas or stadiums, bars and taverns, churches, synagogues, mosques, temples or other places of worship, entertainment facilities, hospitals, college dormitories or classrooms, casinos, and courtrooms. Legislation has been introduced which would remove these exceptions and allow anyone with a concealed weapons permit to carry their handgun anywhere, including the list of places which are currently banned. Based on what you know about this issue, do you favor or oppose the proposal to allow concealed handguns to be carried anywhere? **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK: 'Would that be strongly or somewhat?']**  
**AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

18%	Strongly favor	
11%	Somewhat favor	<b>29% Total Favor</b>
7%	Somewhat oppose	
61%	Strongly oppose	<b>68% Total Oppose</b>
3%	Undecided/Refused	