

EPIC-MRA STATEWIDE POLL OF LIKELY NOV 2024 VOTERS ON LIBRARY ISSUES
[FREQUENCY REPORT OF SURVEY RESPONSES - 800 SAMPLE – ERROR ±3.5%]
Polling Dates: March 23, 2023 through March 30, 2023
(70% completed via cell phones)

_03. Overall, would you say that things in Michigan are generally headed in the right direction, or, have things pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

- 46% Right direction
- 37% Wrong track
- 17% Undecided/Refused

Now I am going to read the names of several political figures, groups and organizations. For each one, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of that person, group or organization. If you have not heard of a name, please say so and we will move on. The first one is... “Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of that person, group or organization?” **[IF FAVORABLE/ UNFAVORABLE, ASK: “Would that be very or generally?” THEN CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

[READ Q.4 FIRST - THEN ROTATE Q.5 THROUGH Q.9]	<u>DON'T</u> <u>REC</u>	<u>VERY</u> <u>FAVOR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>FAVOR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>UNFAV</u>	<u>VERY</u> <u>UNFAV</u>	<u>REF</u> <u>UND</u>
_04. Joe Biden	---	17%	39%	51%	40%	10%
_05. Gretchen Whitmer	---	33%	54%	37%	27%	9%
_06. Donald Trump	---	16%	32%	58%	49%	10%
_07. State legislative Republicans	---	11%	33%	42%	25%	25%
_08. Community Activist groups in general	6%	9%	33%	19%	9%	42%
_09. State legislative Democrats	---	17%	42%	36%	22%	22%

_10. Overall, how would you rate the job Joe Biden is doing as President? Would you give him a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of just fair or poor?

- 8% Excellent
- 25% Pretty good
- 33% TOTAL POSITIVE**
- 63% TOTAL NEGATIVE**
- 20% Just fair
- 43% Poor
- 4% Undecided/Refused

__11. Overall, how would you rate the job Gretchen Whitmer is doing as Governor? Would you give her a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of just fair or poor?

24% Excellent
 28% Pretty good
52% TOTAL POSITIVE
44% TOTAL NEGATIVE
 21% Just fair
 23% Poor
 4% Undecided/Refused

__12. Overall, how would you rate the job that local public libraries in Michigan – including your local public library – are doing providing programs, services and a diverse, quality collection of books and other materials to their library patrons? Would you give public libraries in Michigan a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of just fair or poor?

34% Excellent **GO TO Q. 14**
 37% Pretty good **GO TO Q. 14**
71% TOTAL POSITIVE
8% TOTAL NEGATIVE
 5% Just fair
 3% Poor
 21% Undecided/Refused **GO TO Q. 14**

__13. What is the main reason why you gave Michigan's local public libraries a negative job rating of **(Just fair/Poor)** for the job they do providing programs and services for their patrons? [**WRITE COMMENT AS STATED**]

N=64

15% Lack of advertising/outreach – Unaware of offerings – Communication poor
 12% Inappropriate books/media/materials offered
 12% Selection of physical materials limited
 6% Branches/locations closed/closing
 5% Lack of events/programming
 5% Politics – Government involvement/mandates
 5% Selection of E-books limited
 3% Facilities are old/outdated
 3% I do not use it
 3% Obsolete – Library is not needed – Use the internet instead
 3% Underfunded – Funding cuts
 2% COVID protocols - Masking requirements
 2% Hours limited/cut
 2% No library nearby
 2% Proof of residency required
 --- Other (*less than 1% each*)
 20% Undecided/Refused

__14. How often do you or one or more members of your household use the programs and services of your local public library, including checking out books and Ebooks? **[READ 1 TO 6 BELOW]**

- 2% Every day or almost every day
- 11% A few times a week
- 26% A few times a month
- 19% A few times a year
- 17% Seldom
- 24% Or never
- 1% Undecided/Refused

__15. There is a growing effort in several states and local communities, including Michigan, to have books that some people find offensive or inappropriate removed not only from school libraries but local public libraries as well. How much have you seen, heard or read about these efforts to have books or other materials removed from local public libraries and school libraries? **[READ 1 TO 4 BELOW]**

- 38% A lot
- 32% Some
- 16% Only a little
- 13% Nothing at all
- 1% Undecided/Refused

__16. Of the following groups, which one do you think should make decisions about which books and other reading materials should be included in public library collections? **[READ AND ROTATE 1 TO 4 BELOW]**

- 33% Local library boards
- 27% Librarians
- 7% State Legislators or other Elected officials
- 2% Activist Groups
- 9% Members of the local community (*volunteered – do not read*)
- 4% Other (*volunteered – do not read*)
- 2% More than one (*volunteered – do not read*)
- 6% None of them (*volunteered – do not read*)
- 10% Undecided/Refused

__17. How capable and trustworthy do you think librarians are in deciding which books and reading materials should be included in your local library collections? **[READ 1 TO 4 BELOW]**

- 33% Very capable
- 37% Mostly capable
- 12% Only a little capable
- 6% Not really capable at all
- 12% Undecided/Refused

__18. Which of the following statements best describes your overall view about banning books and other reading material in public libraries? [**READ 1 TO 3 BELOW**]

- 42% There is absolutely no time when a book should be banned from local public libraries
- 45% There are rare times when it may be appropriate to ban books from local public libraries
- 9% There are many inappropriate books that should be banned from local public libraries
- 4% Undecided/Refused

For each of the following types of books, please tell me if you think they should always be banned, sometimes banned, or never banned? Books that include ...?

[ROTATE Q.19 THROUGH Q.23]	<u>Always banned</u>	<u>Sometimes banned</u>	<u>Never banned</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
_19. Political ideas you disagree with?	2%	9%	87%	2%
_20. Descriptions and depictions of slavery?	0%	8%	90%	2%
_21. Discussions about race?	1%	8%	89%	2%
_22. Criticisms of people and events in U.S. history?	1%	9%	88%	2%
_23. Books with discussions about sex, gender identity or sexual orientation?	9%	21%	67%	3%

__24. Would you support or oppose state legislation that would protect the right of the public to read what they wish to read in local public libraries and not have books banned? [**IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK: "Would that be strongly or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE**]

- 67% Strongly support
- 16% Somewhat support
- 83% TOTAL SUPPORT**
- 12% TOTAL OPPOSE**
- 6% Somewhat oppose
- 6% Strongly oppose
- 5% Undecided/Refused

__25. Even though local public libraries do not purchase or make available books or materials that are legally recognized as obscene, legislation has been introduced in Michigan that would require any library that makes obscene or sexually explicit material available to the public, to keep such material in a restricted area accessible only to individuals who are 18 years of age or older, where they must remain or be checked out of the library. This legislation does not provide a different definition of what is obscene and sexually explicit than what local public libraries already follow, but it does allow any individual – based on their own interpretation of what those terms mean – to file legal action against a public library. If a court finds the library is not in compliance, the court shall order the library to be closed until it is in compliance. Based on this description, do you support or oppose this proposed legislation? **[IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK: “Would that be strongly or somewhat?” AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

16% Strongly support
 20% Somewhat support
36% TOTAL SUPPORT
51% TOTAL OPPOSE
 16% Somewhat oppose
 35% Strongly oppose
 13% Undecided/Refused

__26. If there was a ban on books that included LGBTQ content in your local public library, would you be willing to risk having your library closed to keep those books on the shelves.

49% Yes, would be willing to risk the closure of the library to include LGBTQ books **GO TO Q. 28**
 38% No, would NOT be willing to risk having the library closed
 13% Undecided/Refused

__27. Some people say that NOT ONLY should books with LGBTQ content be banned in local public libraries, but library workers should be charged with a crime if they choose to keep LGBTQ books on the shelves of their library. Would you support or oppose charging library workers with a crime if they choose to keep LGBTQ books on the shelves of their local public library? **[IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK: “Would that be strongly or somewhat?” AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

N=411

9% Strongly support
 5% Somewhat support
14% TOTAL SUPPORT
76% TOTAL OPPOSE
 16% Somewhat oppose
 60% Strongly oppose
 3% Depends on the books in question (*volunteered – do not read*)
 7% Undecided/Refused

Next, I'll read a few sets of opposing statements. For each set of statements – remembering they are about local public libraries, **NOT** libraries in local schools – please tell me which of the two you agree with **the most**.

[ROTATE Question SETS Q.28 THROUGH Q.32]

The first one is . . .

[ROTATE STATEMENTS]

We need to protect young people from books that they might find upsetting or that reflect ideologies and lifestyles that are outside of the mainstream.

AND

We need to protect the ability of young people to have access to books from which they can learn about and understand different perspectives and help them grow into adults who can think for themselves.

__28. Which statement do you agree with the most – **[ROTATE STATEMENTS]** The one saying we must protect young people from books they might find upsetting **OR**, The one that says exposing youth to different perspectives helps them grow?

- 75% Different Perspectives Helps Them Grow
- 17% Protect from Upsetting Young People
- 8% Undecided/Refused

The next one is . . .

[ROTATE STATEMENTS]

Parents have a right **NOT** to have their children exposed to objectional books at the library and should be able to join with other parents to have those books removed from the library.

AND

Individual parents can set rules for their own children, but they do not have the right to decide for other parents what books are available to their children.

__29. Which statement do you agree with the most – **[ROTATE STATEMENTS]** The one saying we have a right to have books they find objectionable removed **OR**, The one that says that one group of parents do not have a right to say what's available to the children of other parents?

- 80% Other parents can't decide for everyone
- 15% Parents have a right to remove books they find objectionable
- 5% Undecided/Refused

The next statements are . . .

[ROTATE STATEMENTS]

Books that contain sexual content or discuss issues like gender identity and sexual orientation should NOT be in local public libraries where young people can access them against their parents' wishes.

AND

Books that contain sexual content or discuss issues like gender identity and sexual orientation are tools for understanding complex issues, and young people should have access to them, but at an age-appropriate level.

__30. Which statement do you agree with the most – **[ROTATE STATEMENTS]** The one saying books containing sexual content or discuss sexual identity should not be in local public libraries **OR**, The one that local public libraries can provide age-appropriate access to books containing sexual and sexual orientation content?

- 74% Local public libraries can provide age-appropriate access to books containing sexual content
- 21% Books containing sexual content or discuss sexual identity should not be in local public libraries
- 5% Undecided/Refused

The next set is . . .

[ROTATE STATEMENTS]

Book banning is un-American, infringes on our freedoms, and harms our democracy.

AND

Books that are anti-American, anti-police, or hostile to basic family values do not belong on the shelves of our local public libraries.

__31. Which statement do you agree with the most – **[ROTATE STATEMENTS]** The one saying banning books is un-American **OR**, The one that says books that are hostile to American institutions and values should not be available in local public libraries?

- 71% Banning books is Un-American
- 21% Books critical of American ways should be removed
- 8% Undecided/Refused

The final set is . . .

[ROTATE STATEMENTS]

Local public libraries should have a diverse collection of books and reading materials that represents the community and the world around them.

AND

Anyone who opposes removing objectionable material is just pushing a woke ideology that is trying to indoctrinate our children with ideas about LGBTQ, transgender youth and promoting lifestyles that they should not be exposed to.

__32. Which statement do you agree with the most – **[ROTATE STATEMENTS]** The one saying local public libraries should have a collection representing diverse ways of thinking **OR**, The one that says opponents of removing material many find objectionable are pushing a woke agenda?

- 77% Libraries should have a diverse collection
- 15% Opponents are pushing a woke agenda
- 8% Undecided/Refused

__33. If your member of Congress, State Senator or State Representative supported legislation that would allow or require books to be banned from your local public library, would you be more likely to vote for that person in the next election, less likely to vote for him or her, or would you say that this one issue would not influence you one way or the other? **[IF MORE/LESS LIKELY, ASK: “Would that be much or somewhat (more/less) likely?” AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

- 5% Much more likely to vote for that person
- 4% Somewhat more likely to vote for that person
- 9% TOTAL MORE LIKELY**
- 29% No influence on way or the other
- 57% TOTAL LESS LIKELY**
- 19% Somewhat less likely to vote for that person
- 38% Much less likely to vote for that person
- 5% Undecided/Refused

Finally, I would like to ask a few questions about you - for statistical purposes only.

__34. Do you think of yourself as pro-choice, meaning you support allowing women to have the right to an abortion, or do you consider yourself pro-life, meaning that you oppose abortions, except when it is necessary to save the life of the mother?

- 57% Pro-choice – women have the right to an abortion
- 34% Pro-life – against abortions except to save life of mother
- 9% Undecided/Refused

__35. Do you have school-age children aged 18 or younger living in your household?

- 29% Yes
- 70% No
- 1% Undecided/Refused

__37. Could you please tell me in what year you were born? **[IF REFUSED, ASK: ‘Would you please tell me into which of the following categories your age would fall? Please stop me when I get to a category that applies to you.’ AND READ 1 TO 4]**

[RECORD YEAR HERE _____ AND THEN CODE BELOW]

19%	18 to 34 years	(1989 to 2005)
22%	35 to 49	(1974 to 1988)
30%	50 to 64	(1959 to 1973)
29%	65 and over	(1958 or before)
---	Undecided/Refused	

__40. Which of the following racial or ethnic groups *best* describes you - White, African American or Black, Hispanic or Latino, Asian, Native American, of two or more races, or some other group or race?

78%	White
11%	African American/Black
2%	Hispanic or Latino (Puerto Rican, Mexican-American etc.)
1%	Asian
1%	Native American
3%	Two or more races
1%	Other
3%	Undecided/Refused

__41. Would you describe yourself as **(ROTATE)** conservative, moderate, or liberal?

36%	Moderate
31%	Conservative
24%	Liberal
9%	Undecided/Refused

__42. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Republican or a Democrat?

(IF DEM) Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat or a not very strong Democrat?

(IF INDEP) Do you consider yourself closer to the Republican or Democratic Party?

(IF REP) Do you consider yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

25%	Strong Democrat
6%	Not Strong Democrat
10%	Independent-Lean Democrat
41%	TOTAL DEMOCRAT
15%	Independent
39%	TOTAL REPUBLICAN
11%	Independent-Lean Republican
6%	Not Strong Republican
22%	Strong Republican
1%	Other
4%	Undecided/Refused