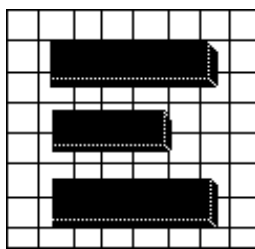


# EPIC-MRA PRESS RELEASE



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## **Only a quarter of Michigan voters agree with cuts-only budget**

*Budget deal being pushed in Lansing bucks public opinion*

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Only 28 percent of Michigan voters support a cuts-only budget as a solution to the state budget crisis, according to an EPIC-MRA survey of 800 likely voters.

When asked what option they preferred for the Governor and Legislature to use in balancing the state budget, only 28 percent replied that “cuts in existing programs and services ALONE should be used to balance the state budget.”

When informed of some of the specific cuts being considered as part of a reported budget deal between House and Senate leaders, the percentage supporting a cuts-only solution dropped to 24 percent. A 59 percent majority believe a combination of budget cuts and at least some increases in taxes and fees should be used to solve the current budget crisis.

When asked about specific possibilities for budget cuts, as in a previous publicly released EPIC-MRA survey, voters continued to oppose cutting education, Medicaid and public safety funding. K-12 funding reductions led the way with 77 percent opposing cuts, followed by cuts to state police (75 percent), Medicaid (75 percent), senior citizen tax exemptions (74 percent), the Michigan Promise scholarship program (68 percent), and community college and job training programs (68 percent).

64 percent of voters support some level of revenue increases to balance the budget. The most popular revenue options cited were the elimination of \$600 million in corporate tax exemptions (66 percent), implementing a graduated income tax (61 percent), and expansion of the sales tax to cover non-essential, luxury items (59 percent).

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The survey polled 800 likely Michigan voters between Sept. 16-21. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.5 percent.