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### **Recent Polls Could Mean Trouble For Dems In 2010**

This fourth in a series of commentaries by pollster Bernie **PORN** of EPIC/MRA focuses on several key findings that emerged from the EPIC-MRA polling of the past two months. Although there is still a lot of time until the 2010 general election and things can change, the findings of recent surveys do not bode well for Democrats in next year's election.

#### *Cherry trails top three GOP candidates for Governor by 7 to 15 points*

Lieutenant Governor John **CHERRY** trails Attorney General Mike **COX** by 15 points, Oakland County Sheriff Michael **BOUCHARD** by 8 points, and Congressman Pete **HOEKSTRA** by 7 points. Cherry leads Rick **SNYDER** by 2 points.

Against Cox, Cherry gets only 61 percent among Democrats, while Cox leads Cherry among Republicans by 78. Among Independent voters, Cox leads Cherry 44 to 15 percent, with 41 percent undecided. Cox clearly runs better against Cherry at this time than any other Republican.

Against Bouchard, Cherry gets 61 percent of the Democratic vote, Bouchard garners 73 percent of the Republican vote, and Bouchard leads among Independents 29 to 23 percent. Against Hoekstra, Cherry gets 65 percent of the Democratic vote, Hoekstra earns 78 percent of Republicans, and Hoekstra leads among Independents by 34 to 23 percent. Against Rick Snyder, Cherry leads among Democrats with 64 percent, Snyder gets 63 percent of Republicans, and among Independents, Cherry leads 27 to 25 percent.

Part of the reason Cherry may be limited in terms of the vote he is able to earn among Democrats is that his support is trending at the same percentage point as Governor Jennifer **GRANHOLM**'s job rating performance among Democrats. A 60 percent majority offers a positive job rating for Granholm, while 39 percent of Democrats offer a negative rating.

This suggests that Cherry will have to stake out a message that appeals to Democrats and allows him to recapture his Democratic base, and he either has to persuade Democrats that the Granholm-Cherry record deserves their support, or, that his vision for Michigan's future, in contrast to the vision of his GOP opponent, merits support.

It is probably safe to assume that Cherry will be the Democratic nominee, and Republicans will likely attempt to make the 2010 election a referendum on the Granholm-Cherry record, and Cherry will have to convince Democrats and Independents that whomever the GOP nominee is, he would be a change for the worse if elected.

*While Cherry Leads Other Dems -- 54 Percent Remain Undecided*

Cherry leads in a Democratic primary election with 33 percent of the vote, followed by State Representative Alma Wheeler **SMITH** (D-Salem Twp.) with 5 percent, MSU Trustee George **PERLES** and former Flint Mayor Don **WILLIAMSON** with 3 percent each, former State Representative John **FREEMAN** with 2 percent, with 54 percent undecided.

*Hoekstra Edges Cox Followed By Bouchard - 24 of GOP Undecided*

Hoekstra leads Cox by one point, 29 to 28 percent, with Bouchard getting 14 percent, Snyder 3 percent and Perles 2 percent. Twenty four percent are undecided, 30 points less than the percentage of undecided voters in the Democratic primary. Hoekstra has a three point lead in the direct vote without leaners - 26 to 23 percent.

*President Obama earns first negative job rating from Michigan voters*

For the first time in statewide EPIC-MRA polling, President Barack **OBAMA** earns a negative job rating from Michigan voters. A 51 percent narrow majority gives Obama a negative rating for the job he is doing, including 31 percent offering a "poor" rating. Forty eight percent offered a positive rating, including 17 percent offering an "excellent" rating.

In September, voters were split with 48 percent offering Obama a positive rating (16 percent excellent) and 48 percent offering a negative rating (28 percent poor). In June, 57 percent offered a positive rating.

President Obama's favorability rating has also slipped from 60 to 34 percent in June, to a 51 to 45 percent favorability rating now, including 29 percent with a very favorable opinion and 29 percent with a very unfavorable opinion of him.

An 89 percent majority of Democrats have a favorable opinion of Obama, 48 to 44 percent of Independents have an unfavorable opinion of him, as do an 80 percent majority of Republicans. An 86 percent majority of Democrats gave Obama a positive job rating, 58 percent of Independents gave him a negative rating, as did an 86 percent majority of Republicans.

*Granholt favorability and job rating numbers continue in the red zone.*

Overall, a 55 percent majority have an unfavorable opinion of Governor Granholm, including 34 percent with a "very unfavorable" opinion of her. Forty-one percent have a favorable opinion of her. In June a 52 to 44 percent majority had an unfavorable opinion of Granholm.

A solid 66 percent majority gave Granholm a negative rating for the job she is doing, including 41 percent who offered a "poor" rating. Thirty-three percent offered a positive rating, including only 4 percent who offered an "excellent" rating. In June, a 66 to 30 percent majority gave her a negative job rating.

While 74 percent of Democrats had a favorable opinion of Granholm, only 60 percent of Democrats gave her a positive job rating. Twenty one percent of Democrats have an unfavorable opinion of her, and 39 percent of Democrats offered a negative job rating. A 67 percent majority of Independent voters have an unfavorable opinion of Granholm, with 77 percent offering a negative job rating. An 83 percent majority of Republicans have an

unfavorable opinion of her, with 88 percent offering a negative job rating.

*(Contributed by Bernie **PORN**, President, EPIC-MRA.)*