

EPIC•MRA STATEWIDE POLL – DECEMBER 2009
[FREQUENCY REPORT OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS – 600 SAMPLE -- ERROR ±4.0%]
Conducted from December 6th to 9th, 2009

__03. Now I am going to read a list of the top state problems or issues people say they are concerned about the most. After I read the whole list, please tell me which one problem or issue you are personally concerned about the most? **[READ & ROTATE 01-09 – TAKE 1st & ONLY ONE RESPONSE]**

- 48% Improving Michigan’s economy and providing jobs
- 13% Education funding
- 8% Controlling state taxes
- 8% Making quality health care affordable and accessible
- 7% Addressing the state budget deficit
- 5% Promoting morality and family values
- 3% Protecting our air and water
- 2% Controlling crime and drugs
- 2% Improving state and local roads and bridges
- 1% More than one **[ASK: “But which problem concerns you the most?” AND CODE BEST RESPONSE – IF STILL ‘More than one’ CODE AS ‘10”]**
- 3% Undecided/Don’t know/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 Barack Obama? 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?

NAMES [ROTATE Q’S]	DON’T RECOG	VERY FAVOR	TOTAL FAVOR	TOTAL UNFAV	VERY UNFAV	REF UNDEC
__04. Barack Obama	---	27%	49%	45%	28%	6%
__05. Jennifer Granholm	---	13%	41%	55%	34%	4%

Highest to lowest name recognition ratings (lowest to highest non-recog)

NAMES	DON’T RECOG	VERY FAVOR	TOTAL FAVOR	TOTAL UNFAV	VERY UNFAV	REF UNDEC
Mike Cox	16%	8%	42%	20%	7%	22%
Mike Bouchard	29%	6%	31%	7%	2%	33%
Pete Hoekstra	35%	9%	30%	12%	6%	23%
John Cherry	39%	3%	18%	19%	8%	24%
George Perles	54%	2%	14%	9%	2%	23%
Mike Bishop	55%	3%	16%	9%	4%	20%
Andy Dillon	56%	2%	14%	10%	4%	20%
Don Williamson	79%	1%	5%	6%	3%	11%
Rick Snyder	79%	1%	6%	2%	1%	13%
Alma Wheeler Smith	80%	1%	4%	5%	2%	11%
Tom George	80%	1%	6%	3%	1%	11%
Virg Bernero	81%	2%	6%	3%	1%	10%
John Freeman	83%	1%	4%	2%	1%	12%

Highest to lowest favorability ratings

NAMES	DON'T RECOG	VERY FAVOR	TOTAL FAVOR	TOTAL UNFAV	VERY UNFAV	REF UNDEC
Mike Cox	16%	8%	42%	20%	7%	22%
Mike Bouchard	29%	6%	31%	7%	2%	33%
Pete Hoekstra	35%	9%	30%	12%	6%	23%
John Cherry	39%	3%	18%	19%	8%	24%
Mike Bishop	55%	3%	16%	9%	4%	20%
George Perles	54%	2%	14%	9%	2%	23%
Andy Dillon	56%	2%	14%	10%	4%	20%
Rick Snyder	79%	1%	6%	2%	1%	13%
Tom George	80%	1%	6%	3%	1%	11%
Virg Bernero	81%	2%	6%	3%	1%	10%
Don Williamson	79%	1%	5%	6%	3%	11%
Alma Wheeler Smith	80%	1%	4%	5%	2%	11%
John Freeman	83%	1%	4%	2%	1%	12%

Highest to lowest unfavorable ratings

NAMES	DON'T RECOG	VERY FAVOR	TOTAL FAVOR	TOTAL UNFAV	VERY UNFAV	REF UNDEC
Mike Cox	16%	8%	42%	20%	7%	22%
John Cherry	39%	3%	18%	19%	8%	24%
Pete Hoekstra	35%	9%	30%	12%	6%	23%
Andy Dillon	56%	2%	14%	10%	4%	20%
Mike Bishop	55%	3%	16%	9%	4%	20%
George Perles	54%	2%	14%	9%	2%	23%
Mike Bouchard	29%	6%	31%	7%	2%	33%
Don Williamson	79%	1%	5%	6%	3%	11%
Alma Wheeler Smith	80%	1%	4%	5%	2%	11%
Tom George	80%	1%	6%	3%	1%	11%
Virg Bernero	81%	2%	6%	3%	1%	10%
Rick Snyder	79%	1%	6%	2%	1%	13%
John Freeman	83%	1%	4%	2%	1%	12%

__23. 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?

14%	Excellent	
30%	Pretty good	44% POSITIVE
23%	Just fair	
32%	Poor	55% NEGATIVE
1%	Undecided/Don't know/Refused	

__24. Overall, how would you rate the job being done by Jennifer Granholm as Michigan's Governor -- would you give her a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of just fair or poor?

7%	Excellent	
22%	Pretty good	29% POSITIVE
26%	Just fair	
44%	Poor	70% NEGATIVE
0%	Undecided/Don't know/Refused	

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DILLON STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN
[Q's 25-38] Commissioned by the **Citizens for Accountability in Reform**

On another topic . . .

__25. The Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, Andy Dillon, recently introduced legislation to create a new state government-run health plan. The proposal would require all 400 thousand public employees in Michigan, both active and retired, and their family members, which would impact about 1.5 million people, to give up their current health insurance coverage and instead get their health insurance from the new state plan. Based on what you may know or have heard or read about this legislation, do you favor or oppose the proposal? **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK: "Would that be strongly or somewhat?"]**

11%	Strongly favor	
11%	Somewhat favor	22% TOTAL FAVOR
16%	Somewhat oppose	
43%	Strongly oppose	59% TOTAL OPPOSE
19%	Undecided/ Don't know/Refused	

__26. Now I would like to read two statements about the Dillon legislation creating a single state government-run health plan -- one by supporters and one by opponents of the plan. **[ROTATE STATEMENTS]**

Supporters of the legislation say it would save as much as 900 million dollars a year by eliminating duplication in negotiations and administration of health insurance benefits, creating a large pool to negotiate lower costs with private insurers, and requiring public employees and school teachers to pay higher health care premiums. The proposal would create a panel of health experts to ensure that all health care plans serving public employees and retirees follow best medical practices, which will increase patient safety and prevent unnecessary treatments. Supporters say the plan is needed because public employees and local school teachers have generous benefit packages and do not pay enough out of their own pockets.

Opponents of the legislation say it is a costly expansion of state government at a time when state government can't afford the programs it runs now. They say an independent analysis showed this new government program will cost up to \$870 million per year to start up and operate. The plan would be mandatory and put a panel of 13 political appointees in charge of the health care of about 1.5 million Michigan citizens. With all of the problems currently facing state government in Lansing, now is not the time to put politicians in charge of health insurance or to add four to five billion dollars in new financial liability to the state budget. A similar, mandatory government-run plan in North Carolina needed a \$658 million taxpayer bailout this year.

Based on these statements, let me ask you again -- do you favor or oppose the legislation? **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK: "Would that be strongly or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

10%	Strongly favor	
12%	Somewhat favor	22% TOTAL FAVOR
17%	Somewhat oppose	
53%	Strongly oppose	70% TOTAL OPPOSE
8%	Undecided/ Don't know	

Now I would like to read some additional statements about the legislation. For each statement, please tell me if it makes you more likely to support or oppose the bill? **[IF MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK]** Would that be much more - or – somewhat more?

[ROTATE Q'S 27 TO 32]	<u>Much More Supp</u>	<u>Smwt More Supp</u>	<u>Smwt More Oppos</u>	<u>Much More Oppos</u>	<u>Won't Matter</u>	<u>DK Undec</u>
__27. The legislation was introduced by a Democratic Speaker and praised by business leaders. It is also supported by the school board association. Does this make you more likely to support the proposal or more likely to oppose it?.....	6%	26%	49%	28%	21%	4%
__28. A similar government-run health plan for public employees in North Carolina ended up in a financial crisis this year, requiring the state legislature to use a 658 million dollar bailout with state tax dollars keep the program running.....	3%	8%	74%	50%	12%	4%
__29. The legislation will force public employees to give up their current health insurance plans, which some people claim are too generous, and pay more toward their health care.....	8%	26%	58%	35%	11%	4%
__30. An independent analysis of the proposal estimates it will cost state taxpayers up to \$870 million to launch and manage the plan for one year.	4%	11%	74%	49%	11%	5%
__31. Many people argue that something must be done to reduce how much state and local government, universities and colleges are spending on health care for public employees, who they say get far better benefits and pay less in premiums, deductibles and co-pay than do workers in the private sector. Even if this bill may have some problems, it is the best solution on the table to Michigan's serious financial problems with health care costs.....	10%	30%	51%	32%	12%	6%
__32. If the proposal becomes law, decisions about issues such as coverage for abortions, dependents and domestic partners would be determined by a panel of 13 political appointees named by whoever is serving at the time as governor and as members of the legislature.....	2%	11%	74%	53%	9%	6%

[ROTATE Q'S 33 TO 35]

	<u>Much More Supp</u>	<u>Smwt More Supp</u>	<u>Smwt More Oppos</u>	<u>Much More Oppos</u>	<u>Won't Matter</u>	<u>DK Undec</u>
__33. The bill requires all public employees of counties, cities, townships, school districts, universities, and colleges, to buy their health insurance from the state-run plan. If a city, county or school district has a financial crisis and can't pay its health insurance bill to the state, the legislation requires other cities, counties, townships and school districts to send more of their local tax dollars to Lansing to cover the cost caused by those who are unable to pay. Does this make you more likely to support the proposal or more likely to oppose it?.....	3%	12%	72%	52%	12%	4%
__34. During two months of hearings by a state house committee, not one expert has offered testimony or any evidence to support the claim by supporters that the proposal would save 900 million dollars. Every expert who has testified has said that the 900 million in savings claimed are over-stated...	5%	15%	69%	44%	12%	4%
__35. If this proposal became law, Michigan would be the only state in the nation to have a state government-run health insurance plan that would require the participation all public employees for the state, counties, local governments, universities, colleges, and school districts, which would include police officers, firefighters, bus drivers, teachers, counselors, accountants, scientists, and all other occupations to have a one size fits all health insurance plan.....	8%	21%	64%	46%	11%	4%

__36. People sometimes change their mind while taking surveys. After hearing more details about the legislation introduced by House Speaker Andy Dillon to establish a single state government-run health plan for the state, local governments and school districts, let me ask you a final time, do you favor or oppose the bill? **[IF FAVOR/ OPPOSE, ASK: "Would that be strongly or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

- 9% Strongly favor
- 11% Somewhat favor **20% TOTAL FAVOR**
- 14% Somewhat oppose
- 57% Strongly oppose **71% TOTAL OPPOSE**
- 9% Undecided/ Don't know

__37. Now, I'd like to ask you something different. Some people say that instead of making this legislation mandatory for all local governments and school districts, the state should give local governments and school districts the voluntary option of purchasing health insurance from a state-run plan. Now I would like to read two statements to you. **[ROTATE 2 STATEMENTS BELOW]**

[Some/Others] say that making a state-run health plan voluntary and giving local governments and school districts the option of purchasing health benefits from the state plan would preserve local control and avoid creating a huge new financial liability for the state budget.

[Some/Others] say that giving local governments and school districts the option of keeping their local health insurance plans would eliminate the savings that could be realized by consolidating the administration and employee negotiations into one large pool of customers.

Based on these two statements and what you know or have heard or read about this question, if a statewide plan is established, do you feel: **[Rotate Statements]**

It should be mandatory for local governments and school districts to belong to the plan,

or that,

Local governments and school districts should have the voluntary option to keep their current local plans.

- 16% Mandatory
- 78% Voluntary option
- 6% Undecided/Don't know

__38. Putting aside whether you support or oppose the legislation, if it becomes law, do you think Speaker Dillon's legislation will save the state tax dollars, OR, do you think the legislation will end up costing state taxpayers more?

- 16% Will save tax dollars
- 71% Will cost taxpayers more
- 13% Undecided/Don't know

Turning to some national issues...

__39. Thinking about the war in Afghanistan, do you approve or disapprove of the decision made by President Obama to increase the number of American troops that would go to Afghanistan to secure the country, find and destroy Al Qaeda terror cells, and train Afghan security forces so they can take over their own security and the United States could begin to withdraw our troops in 2011? **[IF APPROVE/ DISAPPROVE, ASK]** Would that be strongly or somewhat?

- 40% Strongly approve
- 28% Somewhat approve **68% TOTAL APPROVE**
- 6% Somewhat disapprove
- 19% Strongly disapprove **25% TOTAL DISAPPROVE**
- 7% Undecided/Don't know

__40. As you may have heard, President Obama has proposed a plan to the change health care and health insurance system in the United States. Based on what you have heard or read about the plan, do you favor or oppose President Obama’s health care plan? **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK]** Would that be strongly or somewhat?

19%	Strongly favor	
14%	Somewhat favor	33% TOTAL FAVOR
9%	Somewhat oppose	
48%	Strongly oppose	57% TOTAL OPPOSE
10%	Undecided/Don’t know	

__41. Now I would like to read a more specific description of the health care reform plan proposed by President Obama. **[ROTATE PARAGRAPHS BELOW]**

The plan prohibits insurance companies from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions or from dropping coverage when someone gets sick. It requires insurance companies to cover preventative care and it eliminates the donut hole gap in prescription drug coverage for senior citizens.

It creates a national health insurance exchange where small businesses and individuals without insurance can choose among different private plans or a public insurance option.

The plan requires that everyone have health insurance coverage while subsidizing the cost for those with low and average incomes. It requires all companies, except small businesses, to provide health insurance for their employees or contribute to a fund to help pay for that coverage.

The plan will cost 1 trillion dollars over 10 years and be paid for by reducing Medicare spending by 500 billion dollars, eliminating subsidies to insurance companies, and increasing taxes for families earning over 1 million dollars a year by 5.4 percent. Experts estimate that the plan will reduce the deficit by 110 billion dollars.

After hearing this description, let me ask you again, do you favor or oppose President Obama’s health care plan? **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK]** Would that be strongly or somewhat?

24%	Strongly favor	
16%	Somewhat favor	40% TOTAL FAVOR
8%	Somewhat oppose	
46%	Strongly oppose	54% TOTAL OPPOSE
6%	Undecided/Don’t know	

__42. Specifically, do you favor or oppose the provision of the health care plan that would offer people who are uninsured the choice of a government-administered health insurance plan, also known as a “public option,” that would compete with private health insurance plans? **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK]** Would that be strongly or somewhat?

26%	Strongly favor	
22%	Somewhat favor	48% TOTAL FAVOR
10%	Somewhat oppose	
34%	Strongly oppose	44% TOTAL OPPOSE
8%	Undecided/Don’t know	

__43. Do you feel that the policies President Obama has put in place will help to improve the economy in the next year or so and add new jobs, or, do you think his policies will hurt the economy?

- 40% Help the economy
- 45% Hurt the economy
- 15% Undecided/Don't know

__44. Turning to the Christmas season, how are you doing on your Christmas shopping? Are you all done shopping, are you mostly done with only a few gifts to buy, only about half done, have you only done some or a little shopping, or, have you not even started your Christmas shopping yet?

- 16% All done shopping -
- 25% Mostly done shopping **41% ALL/MOST DONE**
- 14% Only about half done
- 16% Only done some or a little shopping
- 17% Has not started shopping yet **47% HALF/LITTLE/NOT STARTED**
- 10% Has not/will not do Christmas shopping/religious reasons **(VOLUNTEERED) -- GO TO Q. 48**
- 2% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

__45. When you are all done shopping, will you have spent more this year than last year, about the same, or less than last year? **[IF MORE/LESS, ASK: 'Will that be a lot or somewhat (more/less)?]**

- 1% Much more
- 10% Somewhat more **11% WILL SPEND MORE**
- 45% About the same
- 25% Somewhat less
- 16% Much less **41% WILL SPEND LESS**
- 3% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

__46. As we near Christmas day, when you see people on the street or in a store, do you wish them a Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays?

- 70% Merry Christmas
- 14% Happy Holiday
- 8% Depends **(VOLUNTEERED)**
- 6% Neither **(VOLUNTEERED)**
- 2% Undecided/Don't know

__47. Do you plan on attending religious services on Christmas Day or Christmas Eve?

- 63% Yes
- 32% No
- 5% Undecided