

**EPIC•MRA STATEWIDE POLL OF ACTIVE & LIKELY 2010 VOTERS**  
**[FREQUENCY REPORT OF SURVEY RESPONSES – 600 SAMPLE -- ERROR ±4%]**  
**Conducted from November 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

*Exclusive for*  
**THE DETROIT NEWS, WXYZ TV 7, WOOD TV 8, WILX TV 10, WJRT TV 12**

\_\_03. First of all, I am going to read a list of state problems and issues people say they are concerned about. After I read the whole list, please tell me which one problem or issue you are personally concerned about the most? **[READ & ROTATE – TAKE FIRST AND ONLY ONE RESPONSE]**

- 46% Improving Michigan’s economy and providing jobs
- 19% Education funding
- 8% Making quality health care affordable and accessible
- 7% Keeping state taxes low
- 6% Addressing the state budget deficit
- 4% Promoting morality and family values
- 3% Controlling crime and drugs
- 3% Protecting our air and water
- 1% Improving state and local roads and bridges
- 2% More than one **[ASK: “But which problem concerns you the most?” AND CODE BEST RESPONSE – IF STILL ‘More than one’ CODE AS ‘10”]**
- 1% Undecided/Don’t know/Refused

\_\_08. Overall, including all state and local funds, do you think your local public school district has too much, too little, or about the right amount of funding needed to provide a quality education? **[IF TOO LITTLE, ASK: ‘Would that be much or somewhat too little?’ AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

- 5% Too much funding
- 30% About the right amount of funding
- 24% Somewhat too little funding
- 36% Much too little funding **60% TOO LITTLE FUNDING**
- 5% Undecided/Don’t know/Refused

\_\_09. Thinking specifically about the pay in salary and wages that teachers currently receive, do you think teachers are paid too much, too little, or about the right amount? **[IF TOO MUCH/TOO LITTLE, ASK: “Would that be much or somewhat?” AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

- 2% Much too much **10% TOTAL TOO MUCH**
- 8% Somewhat too much
- 48% About right **48% ABOUT RIGHT**
- 22% Somewhat too little
- 13% Much too little **35% TOTAL TOO LITTLE**
- 7% Undecided/ Don’t know/Refused

\_\_10. Thinking specifically about the health insurance benefits teachers receive, do you think teachers receive too much, too little, or about the right amount? **[IF TOO MUCH/TOO LITTLE, ASK: "Would that be much or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

9%	Much too much	<b>21% TOTAL TOO MUCH</b>
12%	Somewhat too much	
45%	About right	<b>45% ABOUT RIGHT</b>
4%	Somewhat too little	
5%	Much too little	<b>9% TOTAL TOO LITTLE</b>
25%	Undecided/ Don't know/Refused	

Turning to the topic of the state budget...

\_\_12. Would you say that the state budget situation is currently in a crisis because of lower than expected state revenues, or, would you say that Michigan's budget situation is not that bad yet?

92%	Yes, it is in a crisis situation
6%	No, it is not that bad yet
2%	Undecided/ Don't know/Refused

\_\_13. Based on what you know or have heard or read about the state budget cuts in programs or services that have been made over the past few years, to what extent have you and your family felt the impact of those state budget cuts -- a lot, some, only a little or not really at all?

19%	A lot	
37%	Some	<b>56% TOTAL A LOT/SOME</b>
22%	Only a little	
21%	Not at all	<b>43% TOTAL ONLY A LITTLE/NOT AT ALL</b>
1%	Undecided/Don't know/Refused	

\_\_14. Federal stimulus funds were used to provide much of the funding for public education, but to balance the current state budget, one of the areas that was cut the most was state funding for local public school districts. Funding for schools was cut by \$400 million, which equals a cut of \$292 per pupil. Based on what you know or have heard or read about the state budget cuts to education, do you support or oppose the state budget cuts for schools? **[IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK: "Would that be strongly or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

7%	Strongly support	
10%	Somewhat support	<b>17% TOTAL SUPPORT</b>
17%	Somewhat oppose	
62%	Strongly oppose	<b>79% TOTAL OPPOSE</b>
4%	Undecided/ Don't know/Refused	

\_\_15. For the next budget year, given current and projected state revenues, in 2010 it will likely be necessary to cut state funding for schools by at least another \$400 million, which would equal \$800 million over both fiscal years, or about \$600 per pupil. Knowing this, do you support or oppose the state budget cuts that will be required next year? **[IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK: "Would that be strongly or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

6%	Strongly support	
7%	Somewhat support	<b>13% TOTAL SUPPORT</b>
14%	Somewhat oppose	
69%	Strongly oppose	<b>83% TOTAL OPPOSE</b>
4%	Undecided/ Don't know/Refused	

\_\_17. Should the state budget for next year be balanced by... **[READ 1 TO 3 BELOW]**

20%	Mostly making budget cuts, but also relying on some tax increases
34%	Equally relying on state budget cuts AND also increasing in some taxes and fees
17%	Mostly increasing taxes, but also by relying on some budget cuts
16%	By ONLY relying on budget cuts <b>(VOLUNTEERED)</b>
4%	By ONLY relying on tax increases <b>(VOLUNTEERED)</b>
9%	Undecided/Don't know/Refused

\_\_18. Thinking about the current economic conditions in Michigan and the state budget situation, do you feel that state funding for local public schools **SHOULD BE CUT**, just as other parts of the state budget are cut, or, do you feel that state funding for education **SHOULD NOT BE CUT**?

18%	State funding for education <b>SHOULD BE CUT</b>
79%	State funding for education <b>SHOULD NOT BE CUT</b>
3%	Undecided/ Don't know/Refused

\_\_19. Overall, based on what you know, how much do you think that the budgets for local public school districts in Michigan can continue to be cut be over the next year or so – a lot, some, only a little or not at all?

3%	A lot	
16%	Some	<b>19% TOTAL A LOT/SOME</b>
24%	Only a little	
54%	Not at all	<b>78% TOTAL A LITTLE/NOT AT ALL</b>
3%	Undecided/ Don't know/Refused	

\_\_20. How much do you think that the budget of the local public school district where you live can be cut – a lot, some, only a little, or not at all?

4%	A lot	
14%	Some	<b>18% TOTAL A LOT/SOME</b>
22%	Only a little	
57%	Not at all	<b>79% A LITTLE/NOT AT ALL</b>
3%	Undecided/ Don't know/Refused	

\_\_21. Thinking about the state and local taxes that you pay which are currently invested in funding public education, would you say that the taxes you pay to fund education are too high, too low, or about right? **[IF TOO HIGH, ASK: "Would that be much or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

- 10% Much too high
- 13% Somewhat too high     **23% TOTAL TOO HIGH**
- 60% About right
- 12% Too low
- 5% Undecided/ Don't know/Refused

\_\_23. Has your local public school district already had to make cuts in their local school budget because of the need to absorb state budget cuts, or, has your local public school district been able to avoid making local budget cuts?

- 62% Already had to make budget cuts
- 19% Has been able to avoid making budget cuts
- 19% Undecided/ Don't know/Refused

\_\_24. Have budget cuts in your local public school district resulted in the layoff of teachers, the layoff of support staff such as bus drivers, custodians, secretaries and food staff workers, the layoff of both teachers and support staff, or were other budget cuts made?

- 5% Teachers
- 10% Support staff
- 30% Both
- 20% Other budget cuts
- 23% Combination of all of the above **(VOLUNTEERED)**
- 12% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

\_\_25. If there is not new revenue in next year's state budget, do you think that your local public school district will have to make new budget cuts or more budget cuts because of the need to absorb state cuts, or, do you think your local public school district will be able to avoid making local budget cuts?

- 64% Will have to make budget cuts next year
- 22% Will be able to avoid making budget cuts
- 14% Undecided/ Don't know/Refused

\_\_26. Next year, do you think that budget cuts in your local public school district will require the layoff of teachers, the layoff of support staff such as bus drivers, custodians, secretaries and food staff workers, the layoff of both teachers and support staff, or, do you think that other budget cuts will be required?

- 3% Teachers
- 8% Support staff
- 37% Both
- 16% Other budget cuts required
- 26% Combination of all of the above **(VOLUNTEERED)**
- 10% Undecided/ Don't know/Refused

If cuts are needed to balance the budget for your local public school district... **[ROTATE]**

\_\_27. Should teachers be laid off, or, should the layoff of teachers be avoided?

- 17% Yes, teachers should be laid off
- 79% No, the layoff of teachers should be avoided
- 4% Undecided/ Don't know/Refused

\_\_28. Should bus service be cut and if necessary eliminated, or, should cuts in bus service be avoided?

- 29% Yes, bus service should be cut or eliminated
- 68% No, cuts in bus service should be avoided
- 3% Undecided/ Don't know/Refused

\_\_29. Should sports programs be cut and if necessary eliminated, should parents be required to pay a fee to play to reduce costs, or, should cuts in sports programs and requirements for pay to play fees be avoided?

- 8% Sports programs should be cut or eliminated
- 53% Parents should be required to pay a fee to play to reduce costs
- 32% Cuts in sports programs and pay to play requirements should be avoided
- 7% Undecided/ Don't know/Refused

\_\_30. Should programs such as music, band, art, and other extra-curricular activities be cut and if necessary eliminated, should parents be required to pay a fee for their children to participate to reduce costs, or, should cuts in sports programs and requirements for paying a fee to participate be avoided?

- 7% Music, band, art and other extra-curricular activities should be cut or eliminated
- 43% Parents should be required to pay a fee to participate to reduce costs
- 45% Cuts in music, band, art and other extra-curricular activities, and pay to participate requirements should be avoided
- 5% Undecided/ Don't know/Refused

\_\_31. If your local public school district needs to lay off teachers and increase class size to balance their school budget, what do you feel is the largest number of students that should be allowed in each class in elementary, middle or high school classes? **[IF UNDECIDED/REFUSED, CODE '99']**

Write in largest number of students: **28.8 MEAN**

- 10% 20 or less
- 27% 21 to 25
- 42% 26 to 30
- 14% 31 to 35
- 7% 36 or more

\_\_32. How important do you feel it is for your local public school district to protect current class size when making budget cuts to balance the local school district budget -- very important, somewhat important, only a little important or not really important at all?

56%	Very important	
30%	Somewhat important	<b>86% TOTAL IMPORTANT</b>
7%	Only a little important	
5%	Not really important at all	<b>12% TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT</b>
2%	Undecided/ Don't know/Refused	

\_\_33. If Michigan's economy does not improve within the next year, which means that there will be no additional state revenues that could be used to restore state funding for education, do you think that the Governor and the Legislature should look for other ways to increase state revenue so they can restore the funding that has been cut for schools, or, do you think that they should accept the fact that funding cannot be restored for local public schools and budget cuts in education will continue to be required?

79%	They should look for ways to restore funding for schools
15%	They should accept the fact that funding cannot be restored for local public schools
6%	Undecided/ Don't know/Refused

\_\_34. In order to restore the funding that was cut for local public schools in Michigan, the state would need to raise about \$400 million in additional revenue this year, and up to \$800 million by next year. To restore state funding for schools, would you support or oppose a proposal to expand the current state sales tax of 6 cents on the dollar to the purchase or use of services. **[IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK: "Would that be strongly or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

24%	Strongly support	
25%	Somewhat support	<b>49% TOTAL SUPPORT</b>
9%	Somewhat oppose	
36%	Strongly oppose	<b>45% TOTAL OPPOSE</b>
6%	Undecided/ Don't know/Refused	

\_\_35. It is estimated that there is more than \$3 billion in tax breaks and loopholes that exist in current state law that exempts Michigan corporations and other special interest groups from having to pay business and other taxes. If there was a proposal that would NOT eliminate those tax breaks, but would reduce the amount of tax breaks that would be allowed, so that funding for schools could be restored, would you support or oppose the proposal? **[IF SUPPORT/ OPPOSE, ASK: "Would that be strongly or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

45%	Strongly support	
32%	Somewhat support	<b>77% TOTAL SUPPORT</b>
5%	Somewhat oppose	
11%	Strongly oppose	<b>16% TOTAL OPPOSE</b>
8%	Undecided/ Don't know/Refused	

\_\_36. If a graduated income tax proposal were placed on a future election ballot which would assess a higher percentage tax on individuals with higher incomes and a lower tax on those with lower incomes, if the election were held today, would you vote YES in favor of the proposal or NO to oppose it?

**[IF UNDECIDED, ASK]** Well, if the election were held today and you had to decide right now, would you lean toward voting YES or voting NO?

59%	Vote YES	
6%	Lean toward YES	<b>65% TOTAL SUPPORT</b>
28%	Vote NO	
2%	Lean toward NO	<b>30% TOTAL OPPOSE</b>
5%	Undecided/ Don't know/Refused	

\_\_37. In next year's November elections, if your state legislator opposed proposals that would restore funding for education, would you be more likely to vote for your state legislator, less likely to vote for him or her, or, would you say that this one issue wouldn't really influence you one way or the other? **[IF MORE/LESS LIKELY, ASK: "Would that be much or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST REPLY]**

5%	Much more likely to vote for legislator	
7%	Somewhat more likely to vote for legislator	<b>12% MORE LIKELY</b>
32%	No influence one way or the other	
14%	Somewhat less likely to vote for legislator	
37%	Much less likely to vote for legislator	<b>51% LESS LIKELY</b>
5%	Undecided/ Don't know/Refused	

\_\_38. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: The main reason why the State Legislature was unable to reach a compromise agreement on the state budget without making deep cuts in education is because...

Some legislators were more concerned about playing partisan politics than they were in doing what was right for our children. Do you agree or disagree? **[IF AGREE/DISAGREE, ASK: "Would that be strongly or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

60%	Strongly agree	
22%	Somewhat agree	<b>82% TOTAL AGREE</b>
8%	Somewhat disagree	
6%	Strongly disagree	<b>14% TOTAL DISAGREE</b>
4%	Undecided/ Don't know/Refused	

\_\_39. Some legislators were more concerned about appealing to their partisan base and winning primary election nominations in their political party than they were in doing what was right for our children. Do you agree or disagree? **[IF AGREE/DISAGREE, ASK: "Would that be strongly or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

64%	Strongly agree	
21%	Somewhat agree	<b>85% TOTAL AGREE</b>
6%	Somewhat disagree	
4%	Strongly disagree	<b>10% TOTAL DISAGREE</b>
5%	Undecided/ Don't know/Refused	