



GLENGARIFF GROUP, INC.  

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**MICHIGAN PRIORITIES SURVEY  
DETROIT RENAISSANCE**

**800 SAMPLE SURVEY  
JULY 23, 2008**

## **METHODOLOGY**

The Glengariff Group, Inc. conducted a random digit dial, 800 sample statewide survey of Michigan voters. The survey was conducted from July 16-21, 2008 and has a margin of error of +/- 3.5% with a 95% level of confidence. The survey was commissioned by Detroit Renaissance.

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 81% of Michigan voters believe the state is on the wrong track.
- 73.8% of Michigan voters think that Michigan's economy will stay the same or get worse over the next year.
- 87% of Michigan voters say the state's political leaders have done a fair or poor job of balancing the state's budget and prioritizing spending – 54% of voters believe they have done a poor job.
- 81.4% of Michigan voters believe the state's political leaders are making short term budget decisions which allow them to survive from year to year rather than focusing on policies that promote Michigan's long term prosperity. Amongst every demographic group including region, party affiliation, union affiliation, ethnicity, age, income, and gender – ***no fewer than 75% believe that the state's political leaders are making short term budget decisions regardless of demographic group.***
- Michigan voters were asked how the state should resolve its structural deficit: Raise taxes, reduce spending, or make major reform in how dollars are collected and spent.
  - 56.4% support making major reforms
  - 21.3% support reducing spending
  - 6.1% support raising taxes.

- The survey tested twelve different ideas for reducing the state’s long term budget costs. While six of those ideas received mixed reviews, six concepts received strong support among state voters higher than 58.8%. The ranking below examines each idea from highest to lowest levels of support:

<u>Long Term Budget Reduction Idea</u>	<u>Support Level</u>
Find other means of punishment for non violent offenders other than prison	79.3%
Increase premiums for state employee health care	74.5%
Change the retirement system for new teachers	74.1%
Increase deductibles/ co-pays for state employee health care	72.5%
Impose small co-pays for Medicaid related health services	63.3%
Release some non violent offenders before parole	58.8%
Reduce the length of mandatory sentences	47.6%
Privatize some corrections services not related to sentences	41.9%
Limit the treatments available to Medicaid recipients	30.5%
Make Medicaid eligibility more difficult	26.8%
Reduce Medicaid payments to hospitals/ doctors	22.8%
Reduce the pay and benefits to Corrections employees	20.9%

- ***Among all twelve ideas, there is remarkable consistency between thirty demographic groups in support of the top six ideas and in opposition to the bottom six ideas. Michigan voters are united in which ideas they will support and which ideas they will oppose in making major reforms to the state budget with limited differences by demographic.***
- ***Among the top four ideas, there is consistency among Michigan voters across all demographic groups for making the changes. Every demographic group supported each of these four budget cutting concepts at a rate of 50% or higher. Among the top rated idea – to find alternative punishment among non violent criminals – support levels were above 75% among every demographic group.***
- ***The fifth ranked idea – imposing a small co pay for Medicaid related health services – had support levels above 50% among all groups except African American voters at 47.0% and Detroit voters at 46.4%.***

- The sixth ranked idea – releasing some non violent offenders before their parole – ranked slightly lower overall than the concept of charging small co-pays for Medicaid health services. But the level of support for this idea was more consistent with all demographic groups supporting this idea above 50%. The lowest level of support for this idea came from Republican voters at 50.5%.
- The remaining six concepts did not draw support above 41.9% of Michigan voters:
  - Privatization of services received support above 50% only among Republican voters and voters with household incomes above \$100,000.
  - ***None of the bottom five ideas received support above 50% from any single demographic group.***
- When asked which of the four budget areas was in need of greatest reform:
  - 38.0% said Corrections funding
  - 27.0% said Medicaid funding
  - 18.1% said Government health benefits
  - 12.8% said Teacher retirement benefits
- Reform of government is on the minds of Michigan voters with 95% of voters saying it is personally important to them – 75.8% said it is very important to them.
  - 85.7% are more likely to support a candidate that saves money by penalizing non violent criminals in ways other than sending them to prison – 60.1% would strongly support that candidate.
  - 75.0% are more likely to support a candidate that saves money by increasing the amount public employees pay for their health care premiums.
  - 70.7% are more likely to support a candidate that saves money by changing retirement benefits for new teachers.
  - At a rate of 40.4%-42.6% voters are less likely to support a candidate that saves money if it results in the loss of government jobs.
  - And 66.3% are likely to OPPOSE a candidate if they save money from changes resulting in fewer health benefits for the elderly or the poor – 51.8% would strongly oppose that candidate.

## MICHIGAN PRIORITIES SURVEY

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm not selling anything. I'm doing a quick survey to study opinions in Michigan. The survey shouldn't take more than seven minutes.

1. Are you registered to vote at the address at which I am calling? ASK: IS THERE ANYONE IN THE HOUSEHOLD THAT IS REGISTERED TO VOTE AT THIS ADDRESS WHO I CAN SPEAK WITH?
  1. Yes...CONTINUE
  2. No....TERMINATE
  
2. Can you tell me in which county or area of the state you live?
  1. UP/ Northern Michigan 13.0%
  2. West/ Southwest Michigan 19.5%
  3. Mid Michigan 8.6%
  4. East Central Michigan 7.9%
  5. Oakland 13.4%
  6. Macomb 8.4%
  7. Wayne, Non Detroit 11.1%
  8. Detroit 7.0%
  9. Remainder of Detroit MSA 11.1%

### PART I: CURRENT MICHIGAN OUTLOOK

3. Generally speaking, do you think things in Michigan are headed on the right track? Or do you think Michigan is going in the wrong direction?
  1. Right Track 10.9%
  2. Wrong Track 81.0%
  3. Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER 7.9%
  4. Refused...DO NOT OFFER 0.3%

4. Thinking about Michigan's economy one year from now, do you think things will get better in Michigan, get worse, or stay the same?
- |    |                           |       |  |
|----|---------------------------|-------|--|
| 1. | Get Better                | 20.9% |  |
| 2. | Stay the Same             | 30.4% |  |
| 3. | Get Worse                 | 43.4% |  |
| 4. | Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER | 5.4%  |  |
| 5. | Refused...DO NOT OFFER    | 0.0%  |  |
5. Thinking about Michigan's political leaders in Lansing: Would you say they have done an excellent job, a good job, a fair job, or a poor job of balancing the state budget and prioritizing spending?
- |    |                            |       |                     |
|----|----------------------------|-------|---------------------|
| 1. | Excellent                  | 0.1%  | 9.4% Excellent/Good |
| 2. | Good                       | 9.3%  |                     |
| 3. | Fair                       | 33.1% | 87.0% Fair/Poor     |
| 4. | Poor                       | 53.9% |                     |
| 5. | Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER. | 3.6%  |                     |

## PART II: MOVING MICHIGAN FORWARD

6. Michigan's budget is suffering from years of structural deficits: the state spends more on programs and services than it receives in taxes. In order to resolve this deficit, should the government raise taxes, reduce expenditures, or make major reforms in how public dollars are collected and spent? IF A 'COMBINATION' ASK: AND WHICH COMBINATION DO YOU SUPPORT?

1.	Raise taxes	6.1%
2.	Reduce spending	21.3%
3.	Major reforms	56.4%
4.	Combination of all three...DO NOT OFFER	4.1%
5.	Reducing spending and major reforms...DO NOT OFFER	6.5%
6.	Reducing spending and tax hikes...DO NOT OFFER	0.5%
7.	Tax hikes and major reforms...DO NOT OFFER	1.1%
8.	Don't Know....DO NOT OFFER	4.0%

7. When preparing the state budget and making decisions, do you think that Michigan's political leaders are focusing on Michigan's long term prosperity or do you think they are making short term changes to the state budget to survive one year at a time?

1.	Long term prosperity	10.4%
2.	Short-term changes	81.4%
3.	Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER	8.1%
4.	Refused...DO NOT OFFER	0.1%

## PART III: SPECIFIC ACTIONS

There are four general areas of the state budget that are receiving a lot of attention for potential reform: the prison system, health care for the poor, teacher retirement benefits, and state government worker health care. I am going to read you several ideas for reforming Michigan's state budget over time in each of these areas.



## CORRECTIONS

About 20% of Michigan's General Fund pays for our state's prison system. The cost of the state's correction program is based on the number of people who are put in prison and the length of time they stay in prison.

8. On average, Michigan locks up 151 more prisoners for every 100,000 people than the average of Great Lakes states. Do you think Michigan should work to bring its rate of incarceration down to the Great Lakes average, or continue to imprison convicts at the current rate?
- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1. Lower incarceration rate to Great Lakes average | 48.1% |
| 2. Continue incarceration at current rate          | 39.6% |
| 3. Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER                       | 11.6% |
| 4. Refused...DO NOT OFFER                          | 0.6%  |
9. One of the reasons Michigan's incarceration rate is higher than our neighbors is that our mandatory sentencing guidelines result in longer prison stays. On average, Michigan prisoners serve one year longer than prisoners in other Great Lakes states for the same types of crimes. Another way to reduce the costs of prisons would be to reduce the length of mandatory sentences so we don't pay as much for each prison stay. Do you support reducing the length of mandatory sentences, or do you think that the length of mandatory sentences for crimes should remain the same?
- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| 1. Support reducing the length of sentences | 47.6% |
| 2. Keep length of sentences the same        | 41.1% |
| 3. Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER                | 10.9% |
| 4. Refused....DO NOT OFFER                  | 0.4%  |

10. If Michigan were to reduce its rate of incarceration, some non-violent criminals might not go to prison. Do you support finding ways of punishing non-violent offenders other than making them serve time in prison, or do you believe they should be required to serve some time in prison even if it requires spending more tax dollars to do so?
- |    |                             |       |
|----|-----------------------------|-------|
| 1. | Find ways other than prison | 79.3% |
| 2. | Required to serve time      | 17.4% |
| 3. | Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER   | 3.3%  |
| 4. | Refused...DO NOT OFFER      | 0.1%  |
11. Another way to cut prison spending is by releasing some non-violent criminals before their parole dates. Do you support releasing some non-violent prisoners before they are eligible for parole or do you think they should be required to serve out their minimum prison term?
- |    |                               |       |
|----|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1. | Release before parole         | 58.8% |
| 2. | Require to serve minimum term | 33.8% |
| 3. | Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER     | 7.3%  |
| 4. | Refused...DO NOT OFFER        | 0.3%  |
12. Michigan currently spends more per prisoner than our Midwest neighbors. One way to reduce per-prisoner costs would be to privatize such things as food, transportation, and medical services potentially costing state employees their jobs. Do you support or oppose privatization of services that have no effect on prisoner sentences?
- |    |                                   |       |
|----|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. | Support privatization of services | 41.9% |
| 2. | Oppose privatization of services  | 45.0% |
| 3. | Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER         | 12.9% |
| 4. | Refused...DO NOT OFFER            | 0.3%  |

13. Another way to reduce per-prisoner costs is to offer lower pay and benefits to prison employees. Would you support or oppose the reduction of employees pay and benefits to reduce costs?

- |    |                                   |       |
|----|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. | Support reduction of pay/benefits | 20.9% |
| 2. | Oppose reduction of pay/benefits  | 71.3% |
| 3. | Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER         | 7.5%  |
| 4. | Refused...DO NOT OFFER            | 0.4%  |

14. I am going to read you the options for reforming Michigan's prison spending. Please tell me which ONE idea you support the most. [READ AND ROTATE CHOICES]

- |    |   |       |
|----|---|-------|
| 1. | Reduce the length of mandatory sentences.                               | 9.8%  |
| 2. | Find ways to punish non violent offenders other than going to prison    | 54.9% |
| 3. | Release some non violent prisoners before they are eligible for parole. | 10.0% |
| 4. | Privatize some prison services  | 14.5% |
| 5. | Reduce pay and benefits for prison employees                            | 5.0%  |
| 6. | Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER   | 5.0%  |
| 7. | Refused...DO NOT OFFER  | 0.9%  |

## MEDICAID

For every dollar the state spends on Medicaid, it receives *more than one additional dollar* from the federal government to pay for healthcare services to the poor and the elderly poor. However, even though it brings in federal money, nearly 25% of Michigan's General Fund is currently spent on Medicaid.

15. As Michigan's economy continues to falter, more people will become eligible for Medicaid, and Medicaid's percentage of the state budget will likely continue to rise. Do you support or oppose placing some limits on how Michigan spends money on Medicaid?

1.	Support limits	53.1%
2.	Oppose limits	37.1%
3.	Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER	9.8%
4.	Refused...DO NOT OFFER	0.0%

16. One idea for limiting Medicaid costs is increasing co-payments for recipients—that is, having recipients pay a small amount each time they get health care. Do you support or oppose having Medicaid recipients make co-payments for their health services?

1.	Support co-payments	63.3%
2.	Oppose co-payments	32.8%
3.	Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER	3.9%
4.	Refused...DO NOT OFFER	0.1%

17. Another idea to reduce the cost of Medicaid is to allow fewer people to become eligible by lowering the family income level making it harder to qualify. Do you support or oppose lowering the Medicaid income level?

1.	Support lowering income level	26.8%
2.	Oppose lowering income level	64.0%
3.	Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER	9.3%
4.	Refused...DO NOT OFFER	0.0%

18. Another way to reduce the cost of Medicaid is to reduce payments to doctors, hospitals, and nursing homes that treat poor people. The lower payments may result in less access to care because fewer providers would be willing to treat Medicaid patients. Would you support or oppose reducing payments to Medicaid providers?

1.	Support reducing payments	22.8%
2.	Oppose reducing payments	72.0%
3.	Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER	5.3%
4.	Refused...DO NOT OFFER	0.0%

19. Another way to reduce Medicaid costs is to **not cover** certain tests and treatments whose benefits are not proven to be always helpful, such as transplants, MRIs, and back surgery. Would you support or oppose limiting the treatments available to Medicaid recipients?

1.	Support limiting treatments	30.5%
2.	Oppose limiting treatments	65.3%
3.	Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER	4.1%
4.	Refused...DO NOT OFFER	0.1%

20. I am going to read you all the options I mentioned for reducing Medicaid payments. Please tell me which ONE idea you support the most. [READ AND ROTATE]

1.	Require Medicaid recipients to pay a small co-pay for each visit.	49.1%
2.	Increase the family income level before people qualify for Medicaid	12.6%
3.	Reduce payment to doctors, hospitals and nursing homes	14.4%
4.	Limit the treatments available to Medicaid recipients.	10.0%
5.	Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER	10.5%
6.	Refused....DO NOT OFFER	3.4%

## STATE EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE BENEFITS

21. State of Michigan employees and retirees pay between 5 and 10% of the cost of their health care premium and the state pays for the rest. In the private sector employees typically pay between 16-28% of their health care premiums. Do you support or oppose bringing state government workers' benefits in line with the private sector?
- |    |   |       |
|----|---|-------|
| 1. | Support making benefits in line with the private sector | 74.5% |
| 2. | Oppose making benefits in line with the private sector  | 20.3% |
| 3. | Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER                               | 5.0%  |
| 4. | Refused...DO NOT OFFER                                  | 0.3%  |
22. Do you support or oppose increasing the deductibles and co-payments state government employees are responsible for when they receive health care services and prescriptions, thus lowering the state's costs?
- |    |  |       |
|----|--|-------|
| 1. | Support increasing deductibles/co-pays | 72.5% |
| 2. | Oppose increasing deductibles/ co-pays | 21.0% |
| 3. | Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER              | 6.3%  |
| 4. | Refused...DO NOT OFFER                 | 0.3%  |
23. Of the two options for reducing the cost of state government workers health and retirement benefits, please tell me which ONE idea you most support. Would it be increasing the cost of premiums to that of the private sector or increasing deductibles and co-pays?
- |    |                               |       |
|----|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1. | Increase the cost of premiums | 40.1% |
| 2. | Increase deductibles/co-pays  | 46.4% |
| 3. | Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER     | 11.8% |
| 4. | Refused...DO NOT OFFER        | 1.8%  |

## TEACHER RETIREMENT BENEFITS

24. In the private sector today, some employees can set aside money into a defined contribution plan (such as a 401k) with a portion of that contribution being matched by their employer. Beginning in 1998, all new State of Michigan employees were also enrolled in this type of retirement plan. Michigan teachers, however, have a *defined benefit system*, which requires school districts to pay a specific amount into the retirement plan every year. One idea to reduce long-term teacher retirement costs is to put any new teachers into a system that looks more like the 401k-style plan that State of Michigan employees receive. Do you support or oppose making this change?

1.	Support	74.1%
2.	Oppose	18.6%
3.	Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER	7.0%
4.	Refused...DO NOT OFFER	0.3%

## COMPARISON

25. Thinking back about the four large areas we have discussed—corrections, Medicaid, government health benefits, and teacher retirement benefits—which area do you believe represents the greatest cost savings or is most in need of major reform?

1.	Corrections	38.0%
2.	Medicaid	27.0%
3.	Government health benefits	18.1%
4.	Teacher retirement benefits	12.8%
5.	Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER	3.6%
6.	Refused...DO NOT OFFER	0.5%

26. And which would be your second choice?

1.	Corrections	24.5%
2.	Medicaid	25.9%
3.	Government health benefits	21.0%
4.	Teacher retirement benefits	21.3%
5.	Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER	6.9%
6.	Refused...DO NOT OFFER	0.5%

27. And which would be your third choice?

1.	Corrections	17.4%
2.	Medicaid	19.8%
3.	Government health benefits	29.3%
4.	Teacher retirement benefits	23.3%
5.	Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER	9.3%
6.	Refused...DO NOT OFFER	1.1%

#### **PART IV: IMPORTANCE OF REFORMING**

28. When you cast your ballot for representative this November, how important is it to YOU that the candidate supports reforms that will change the way Michigan public dollars are spent? Would you say it is very important, somewhat important, somewhat not important, or not important at all?

1.	Very important	75.8%	95.1% Important
2.	Somewhat important	19.3%	
3.	Somewhat not important	1.9%	
4.	Not important at all	1.4%	3.3% Not Important
5.	Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER	1.3%	
6.	Refused...DO NOT OFFER	0.5%	



29. Would you support or oppose a candidate for the State legislature if they saved money in Michigan's state budget that might result in the loss of several thousand government jobs? ASK: WOULD THAT BE STRONGLY SUPPORT/ OPPOSE OR JUST SOMEWHAT SUPPORT/OPPOSE?

1. Strongly support	18.6%	40.4% Support
2. Somewhat support	21.8%	
3. Make no Difference...DO NOT OFFER	3.8%	
4. Somewhat oppose	14.6%	
5. Strongly oppose	28.0%	42.6% Oppose
6. Don't Know/ Refused...DO NOT OFFER	13.3%	

30. Would you support or oppose a State candidate if they saved money in Michigan's Medicaid system that might result in fewer health benefits going to the elderly and the poor? ASK: WOULD THAT BE STRONGLY SUPPORT/OPPOSE OR JUST SOMEWHAT SUPPORT/OPPOSE?

1. Strongly support	9.9%	27.7% Support
2. Somewhat support	17.8%	
3. Make no difference...DO NOT OFFER	1.8%	
4. Somewhat oppose	14.5%	
5. Strongly oppose	51.8%	66.3% Oppose
6. Don't Know/ Refused...DO NOT OFFER	4.4%	

31. Would you support or oppose a state candidate if they saved money by penalizing non-violent criminals in ways other than going to prison? ASK: WOULD THAT BE STRONGLY SUPPORT/OPPOSE OR JUST SOMEWHAT SUPPORT/OPPOSE?

1. Strongly support	60.1%	85.7% Support
2. Somewhat support	25.6%	
3. Make no difference...DO NOT OFFER	2.1%	
4. Somewhat oppose	3.5%	
5. Strongly oppose	5.5%	9.0% Oppose
6. Don't Know/ Refused...DO NOT OFFER	3.1%	

32. Would you support or oppose a State candidate if they saved money in Michigan's budget by increasing the amount public employees pay for their health care premiums? ASK: WOULD THAT BE STRONGLY SUPPORT/OPPOSE OR JUST SOMEWHAT SUPPORT/OPPOSE?

1. Strongly support	43.9%	75.0% Support
2. Somewhat support	31.1%	
3. Make no difference...DO NOT OFFER	3.9%	
4. Somewhat oppose	7.9%	
5. Strongly oppose	9.5%	17.4% Oppose
6. Don't Know/ Refused...DO NOT OFFER	3.8%	

33. Would you support or oppose a State candidate if they saved money in Michigan's budget by changing retirement benefits for new teachers? ASK: WOULD THAT BE STRONGLY SUPPORT/OPPOSE OR JUST SOMEWHAT SUPPORT/OPPOSE?

1. Strongly support	39.1%	70.7% Support
2. Somewhat support	31.6%	
3. Make no difference...DO NOT OFFER	4.5%	
4. Somewhat oppose	7.3%	
5. Strongly oppose	12.0%	19.3% Oppose
6. Don't Know/ Refused...DO NOT OFFER	5.5%	

## PART V: DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

Now, just a few questions for statistical purposes.

34. Generally speaking, would you say you vote mostly for Republican candidates, Democratic candidates or would you say you are an Independent voter voting for both parties equally?

1. Republican	24.5%
2. Democratic	35.8%
3. Independent	37.5%
4. Don't Know...DO NOT OFFER	0.6%
5. Refused...DO NOT OFFER	1.6%

35. Do you or does any other member of your household belong to a labor union or a teachers association?

1. Respondents belongs	18.0%
2. Other or more than one member of household belongs	14.8%
3. No member in household belongs	66.3%
4. Don't Know/ Refused...DO NOT OFFER	1.0%

36. What is your race or ethnic background – are you White, African American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American or a mixed race?

1. Caucasian	80.1%
2. African American	12.5%
3. Hispanic	1.1%
4. Native American	1.0%
5. Asian	0.8%
6. Mixed Race	1.4%
7. Don't Know/ Refused...DO NOT OFFER	3.1%

37. Could you please tell me in what year you were born?

1. 18-24	(1990-1984)	5.9%
2. 25-34	(1983-1974)	11.4%
3. 35-44	(1973-1964)	19.9%
4. 45-54	(1963-1954)	20.0%
5. 55-64	(1953-1944)	20.8%
6. 65 and older	(Before 1943)	19.6%
7. Refused...DO NOT OFFER		2.5%

38. I am going to read you several categories. Please tell me in which category your annual household income would fall.

1. \$0-\$20,000	9.3%
2. \$20,000-\$40,000	18.4%
3. \$40,000-\$70,000	24.6%
4. \$70,000-\$100,000	15.1%
5. Over \$100,000	15.3%
6. Don't Know/ Refused...DO NOT OFFER	17.4%

39. Gender

1. Male	50.0%
2. Female	50.0%

Thank you. That completes our survey.