

September 2020 Edition

# LAKE EFFECT



What's Inside



# Welcome to Lake Effect

Welcome to Lake Effect,  
a monthly research  
newsletter and a resource  
for progressive leaders and  
advocates, presented by  
Progress Michigan and Public  
Policy Polling.

Research in this newsletter  
comes from a survey  
conducted between August  
28th and 29th.

## In this issue

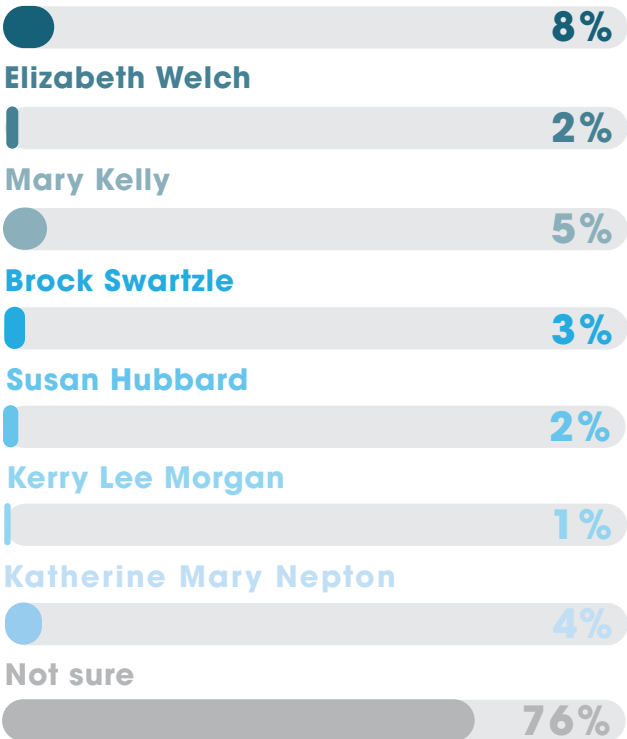


## Sizing up MI Supreme Court Candidates

Being an incumbent is definitely an advantage in the race for the Michigan Supreme Court as Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack gets the highest marks in a set of “pick two” questions about candidates. And a candidate nominated by Democrats seems to be better received than those nominated by Republicans at this point.

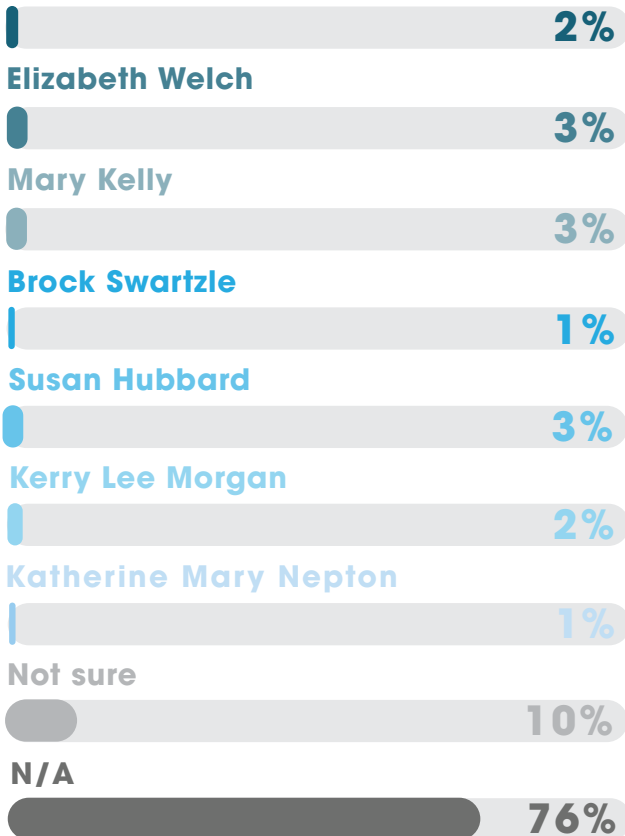
This November candidates for Michigan’s Supreme Court will be on the ballot. The candidates are Justice of the Supreme Court Bridget Mary McCormack, Elizabeth Welch, Mary Kelly, Brock Swartzle, Susan Hubbard, Kerry Lee Morgan, and Katherine Mary Nepton. You can vote for up to two candidates. If the election was today, who would be your first choice?

### Justice of the Supreme Court Bridget Mary McCormack

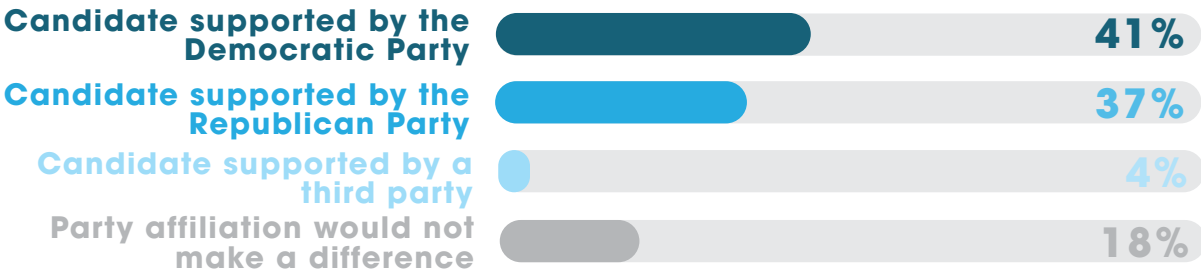


And working from the same list of choices, who would be your second choice for Michigan Supreme Court?

### Justice of the Supreme Court Bridget Mary McCormack



Thinking again about the election for the Michigan Supreme Court in November, would you be more likely to vote for a candidate supported by the Democratic Party, a candidate supported by the Republican Party, a candidate supported by a third party or would it not make a difference?

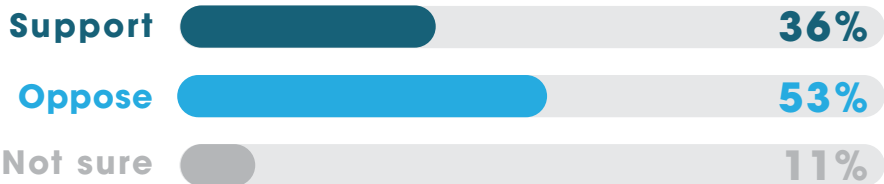




## Potential backlash for anti-Whitmer proposal?

Attempts to strip Gov. Whitmer of some of her executive powers are not very popular and folks running for office could face backlash for supporting the effort.

A group is currently collecting signatures for a citizen's initiative that would eliminate the Governor's emergency powers, such as those Governor Whitmer has used during the COVID-19 public health crisis. If enough signatures are collected, the Legislature can adopt the initiative and Whitmer cannot veto it. Do you support or oppose this initiative?



Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate who supports efforts to strip Governor Whitmer of her emergency powers, or would it not make a difference?

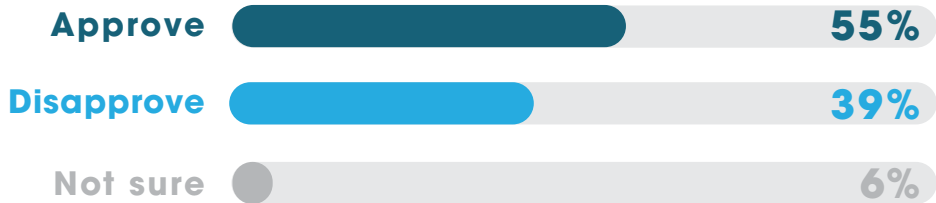




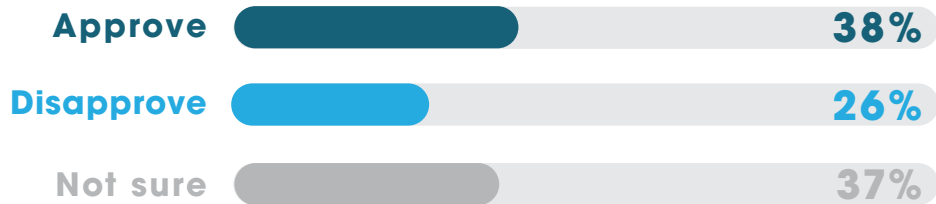
# The Women Who Run Michigan

In 2018, Michigan elected three women to the state's top elected positions. Nearly two years in, and respondents believe they're doing a pretty good job, although many folks haven't made up their minds. And Whitmer continues to trounce Trump in her handling of COVID-19 compared to his.

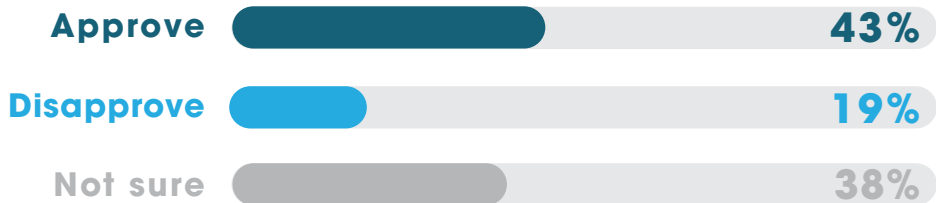
Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Gretchen Whitmer's job performance?



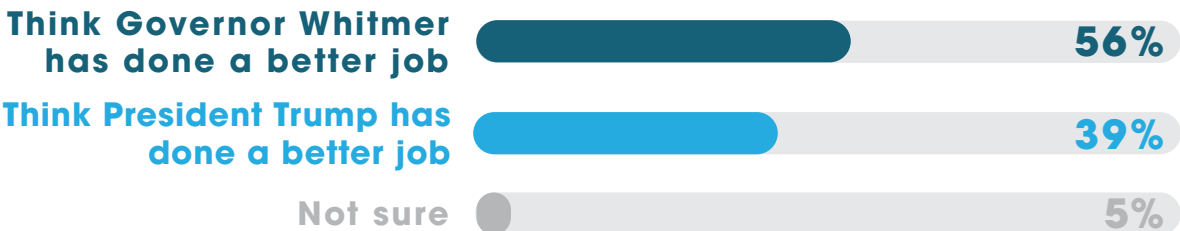
Do you approve or disapprove of Attorney General Dana Nessel's job performance?



Do you approve or disapprove of Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson's job performance?



Who do you think has done a better job handling the Coronavirus: Governor Whitmer, or President Trump?

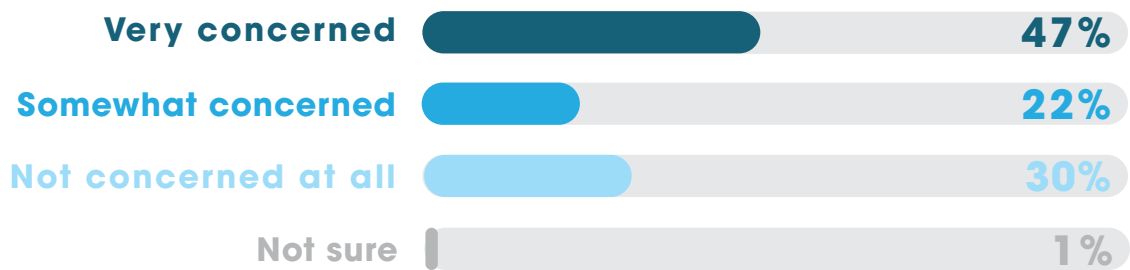




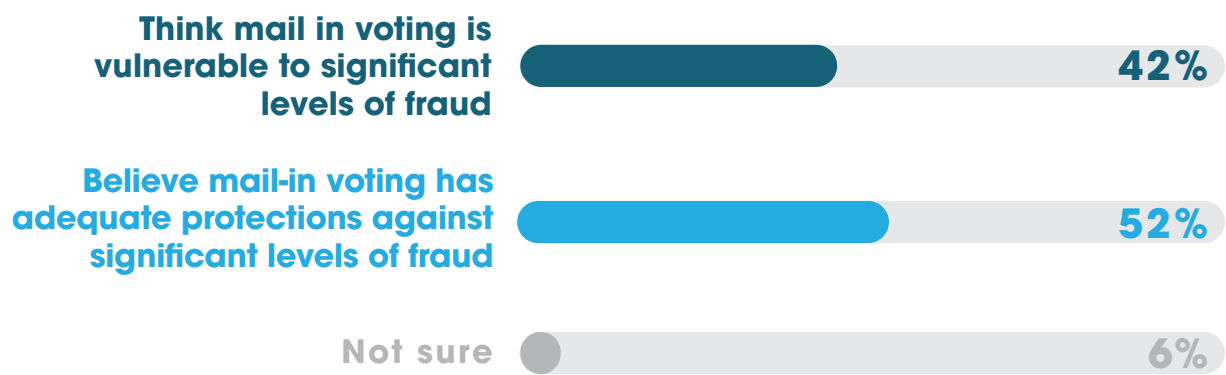
## Can we talk about the mail?

Respondents believe there are adequate levels of fraud protection with mail-in absentee ballots, but they are concerned that their vote won't be counted. This question calls for more investigation in the next Lake Effect.

Regardless of how you plan to vote this November, how concerned are you that voting by mail using an absentee ballot could mean your vote is not counted because your ballot is lost in the mail or does not arrive in time: very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not concerned at all?



Regardless of how you plan to vote, do you think mail-in voting is vulnerable to significant levels of fraud or do you think it has adequate protections against significant levels of fraud?



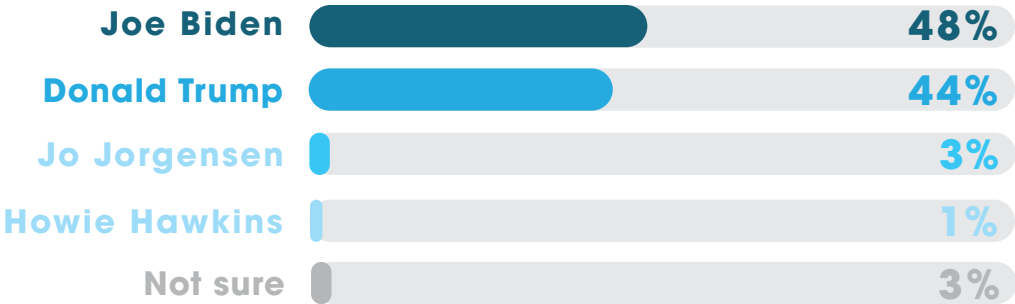




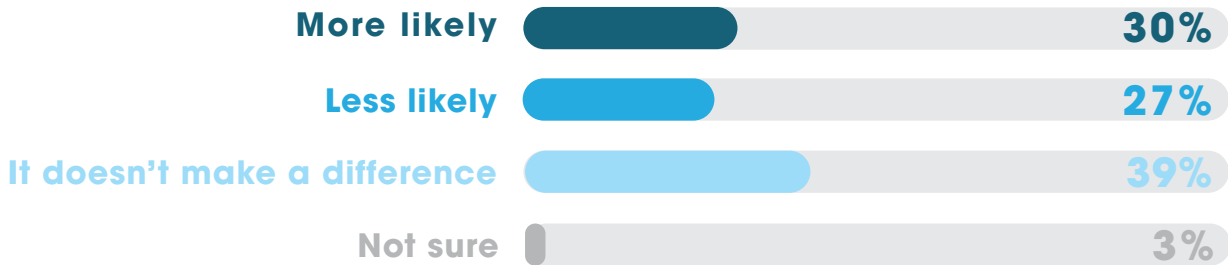
## Joe and Kamala at the top of the ticket

Biden choosing Kamala Harris as his running mate doesn't appear to be a major factor for how respondents will vote, but the former VP still continues to edge out Trump in a tight question about who should be President of the United States.

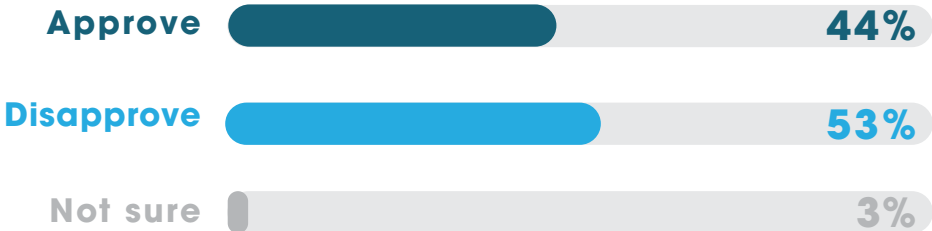
If the election for President was held today, and the candidates were Democrat Joe Biden, Republican Donald Trump, Libertarian Jo Jorgensen, and Green Party candidate Howie Hawkins, who would you vote for?



Joe Biden has selected Kamala Harris as his Vice Presidential running mate. Does this make you more likely or less likely to vote for Joe Biden in November, or does it not make a difference?



Do you approve or disapprove of Donald Trump's job performance?



## About Lake Effect

Presented by Progress Michigan, Lake Effect is a monthly research newsletter that follows public opinion in Michigan. Each month, Public Policy Polling will survey registered voters across Michigan about their opinions of important issues and public figures in the state. These newsletters will break down the results and provide readers with key takeaways and analysis from the data.

## About This Study

PPP interviewed 876 Michigan voters by phone and text from August 28th and August 29th on behalf of Progress Michigan. The margin of error is +/- 3.3%

## For Press Inquiries:

Sam Ingot, Deputy Director of Progress Michigan  
[sam@progressmichigan.org](mailto:sam@progressmichigan.org)