

October 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 September  
30th and October 1st.

## In this issue



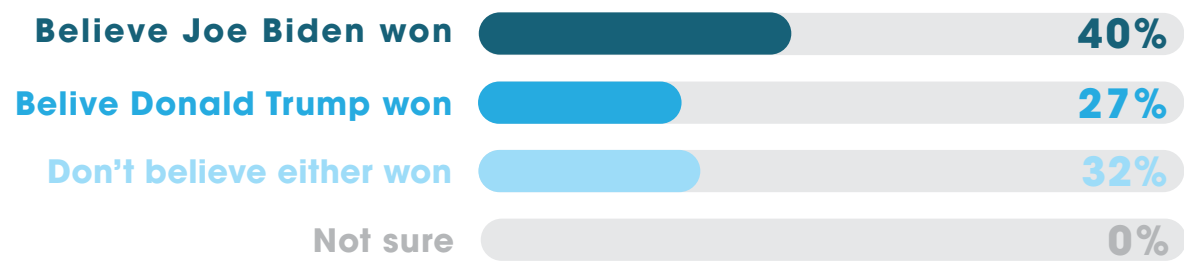
# Biden gets best debate score with lots of people watching

The first televised debate between Trump and Biden was a chaotic one to watch, to say it mildly, but one thing is clear: Biden was the clear favorite among those who tuned in, which was most of the poll respondents.

Tuesday night was the first Presidential debate between Joe Biden and Donald Trump. Did you watch the debate, or not?



Who do you think won the debate: Joe Biden, or Donald Trump?





## Wait to replace RBG

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's sudden passing has ignited a bitter partisan fight over whether or not the Senate should confirm a nominee to replace her before the election. For what it's worth, respondents believe that whoever wins the presidency in November should be the one to nominate a new justice.

As you may know, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg recently passed away, leaving a Supreme Court seat vacant. What do you think should happen regarding Ruth Bader Ginsburg's replacement on the Supreme Court: do you think the U.S Senate should consider Trump's replacement immediately, prior to the election, or, do you think the Senate should wait until after the presidential election in November to allow whoever wins to nominate a replacement?

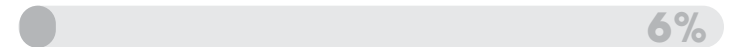
**Think the Senate should consider a replacement immediately, prior to the election**



**Think the Senate should wait so that whoever wins the presidential election in November is responsible for nominating a replacement**



**Not sure**



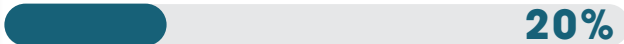


## Not so MISCellaneous questions

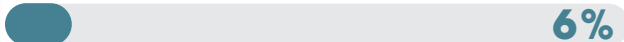
Picking the top two candidates for the officially nonpartisan Michigan Supreme Court seems to be getting easier and easier for voters. Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack remains the favorite choice to the advantage of her reelection bid. Coming in second place is Elizabeth Welch, the other candidate nominated by Democrats.

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?

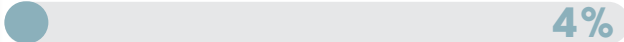
### Justice of the Supreme Court Bridget Mary McCormack



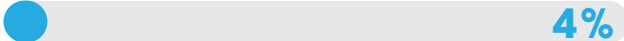
### Elizabeth Welch



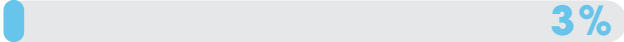
### Mary Kelly



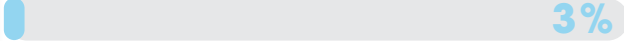
### Brock Swartzle



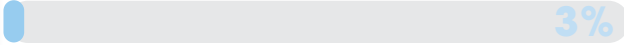
### Susan Hubbard



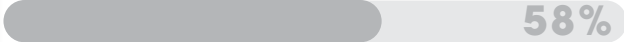
### Kerry Lee Morgan



### Katherine Mary Nepton

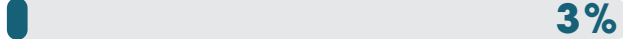


### Not sure

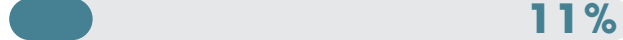


And working from the same list of choices, who would be your second choice for Michigan Supreme Court?

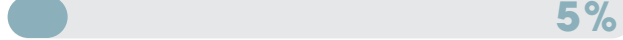
### Justice of the Supreme Court Bridget Mary McCormack



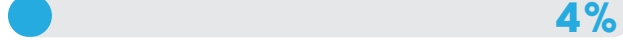
### Elizabeth Welch



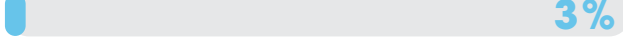
### Mary Kelly



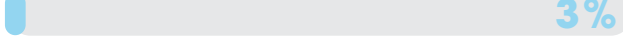
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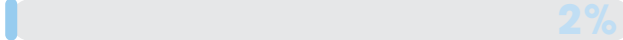
### Susan Hubbard



### Kerry Lee Morgan



### Katherine Mary Nepton



### Not sure/Don't have a second choice



The straight ticket voting option does not include the candidates for State Supreme Court. Were you aware of this, or not?



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?

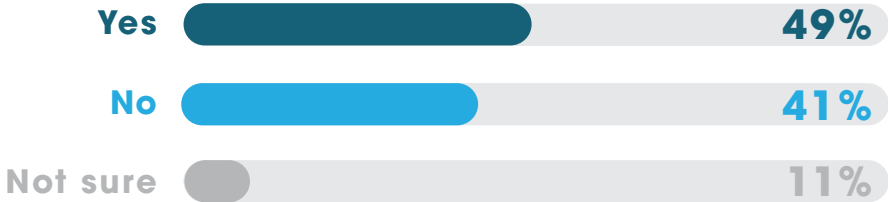




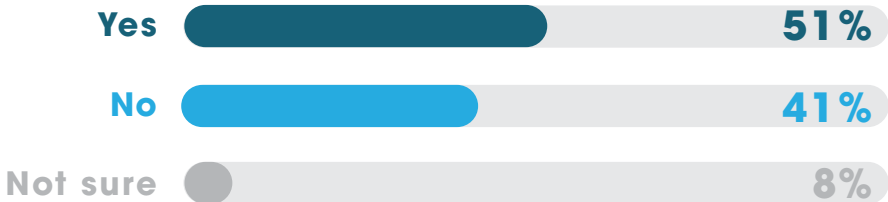
## Trump's money troubles

Trump may not have released his tax returns himself, but the bombshell report in the New York Times about the meager \$750 he's paid annually and the \$421 million he owes to unknown foreign entities is no small deal. Respondents surveyed don't appear to be pleased by this news.

Recent media reports indicate that Donald Trump claimed massive losses to the IRS to avoid taxes, while at the same time inflating the values of his properties to get access to loans. Do you believe Donald Trump has committed tax fraud, or not?



Recent media reports indicate that Donald Trump is \$421 million in debt to unknown but potentially foreign parties. Critics say it's a potential national security threat to have the President of the United States deep in debt to foreign creditors. Do you think Donald Trump's personal debt is a national security threat, or not?

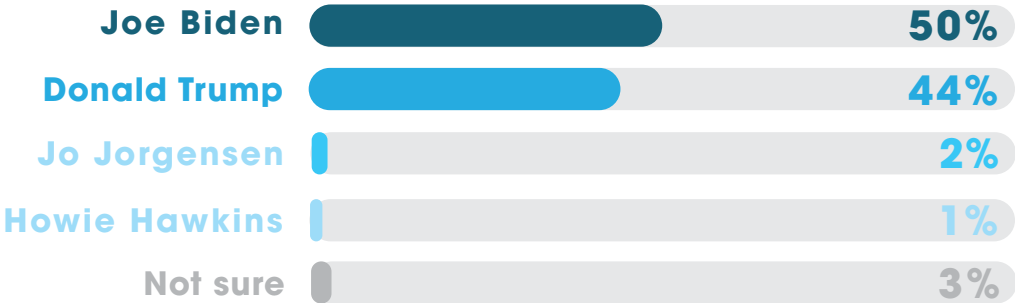




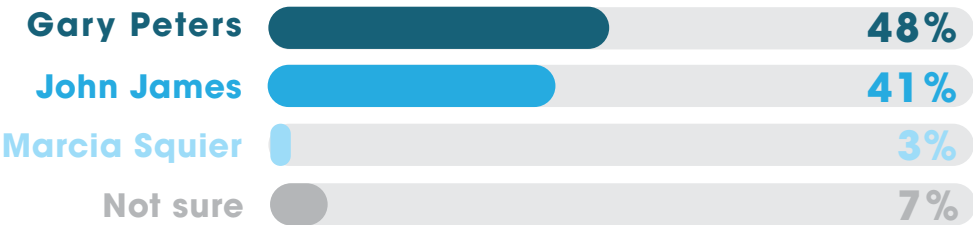
## Checking in on the top of the ticket

We're a month away from Election Day, and early voting has already begun. Voters are getting closer and closer to making up their minds on who they're voting for, and Joe Biden and Gary Peters both look to be in favorable positions.

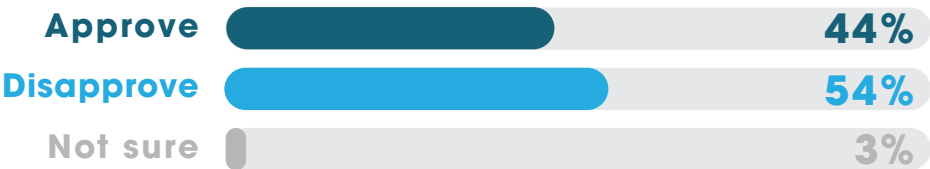
If the election for President was held today, and the candidates were Democrat Joe Biden, Republican Donald Trump, Libertarian Jo Jorgensen, and Green Party candidate Howie Hawkins, who would you vote for?



If the election for US Senate was held today, and the candidates were Democrat Gary Peters, Republican John James, and Green Party candidate Marcia Squier, who would you vote for?



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 746 Michigan voters by phone and text from September 30th and October 1st on behalf of Progress Michigan. The margin of error is +/- 3.6%

## For Press Inquiries:

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