

May 2023 Edition

# LAKE EFFECT



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- ▶ Strong Support for Free School Breakfast and Lunch
- ▶ Voters Want Transparency, Back FOIA Reform
- ▶ Majority Say Close “Dark Store” Corporate Tax Loophole
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**Click here for full results**

Lake Effect is a monthly research newsletter and a resource for progressive leaders and advocates, presented by Progress Michigan and Public Policy Polling. PPP interviewed 901 Michigan voters by phone and text May 8-9, 2023, on behalf of Progress Michigan. The margin of error is +/- 3.3%.

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[progressmichigan.org/lakeeffect](https://progressmichigan.org/lakeeffect)



# Vast Majority Want Polluter-Pay Laws Reestablished



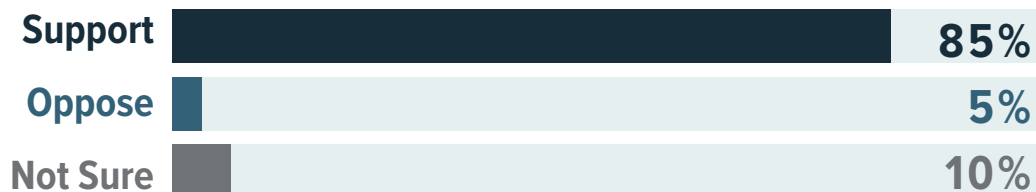
**POLL: Question 16**

**93%** of Michigan voters

**support requiring corporations who cause contamination to pay to clean up their pollution rather than taxpayers footing the bill.**

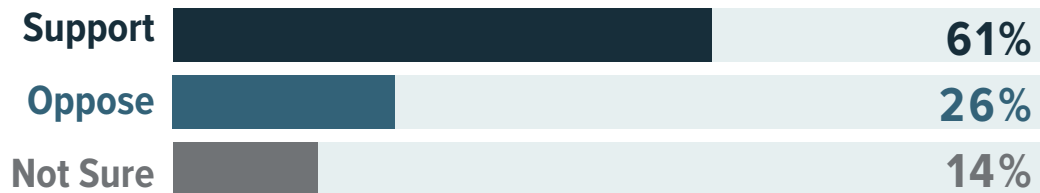
Overwhelming majority of Michiganders support reinstituting polluter-pay laws and forcing corporations to pay to clean up their own messes.

**Question 17:** Polluter-pay laws ensure corporations who cause contamination or benefit from polluted property are required to pay to clean it up, rather than have taxpayers foot the bill. Michigan regulators estimate there are roughly 24,000 known contamination sites and taxpayers are footing the bill for managing or remediating half of them. Michigan had strict polluter pay laws until the early 1990s, when they were rolled back under Republican Governor John Engler's administration. Do you support or oppose reinstituting polluter-pay laws that would ensure corporations that cause contamination are required to pay to clean it up?



# Strong Support for Free School Breakfast and Lunch

**Question 4:** Governor Whitmer is expected to recommend spending an estimated \$160 million from the state's School Aid Fund to go towards providing all Michigan children with free breakfast and lunch at school, which her administration estimates could save families at least \$850 a year. Do you support or oppose spending this money to provide all Michigan children with free breakfast and school lunch?



## POLL: Question 3

**64%** of Michigan voters

**providing all Michigan children with free breakfast and lunch at school.**

Michiganders support ensuring our children have free breakfast and lunch, and back Governor Whitmer's plan for paying for it.





# Voters Want Transparency,<sup>04</sup> Back FOIA Reform



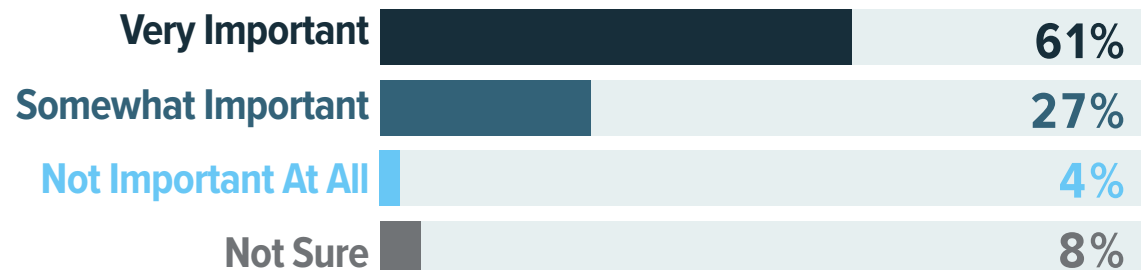
## POLL: Question 5

**70%** of Michigan voters

**believe it is very important that the Governor and state legislature be subject to the same Freedom of Information Act laws as local governments and state departments.**

The majority of respondents believe the legislature and governor's office should be subject to FOIA and believe it is important the legislature act on FOIA reform this year.

**Question 6:** Freedom of Information Act requests involve individuals or groups requesting information from the government that is legally required to be available to the public. In Michigan, the Governor's office and the state legislature do not have to comply with Freedom of Information Act requests the way local governments and state departments do. Do you think it is very important, somewhat important, or not important at all that the legislature acts this year to update Michigan's laws to require the Governor's office and the state legislature to comply with Freedom of Information Act requests?



# Majority Say Close “Dark Store”<sup>05</sup> Corporate Tax Loophole



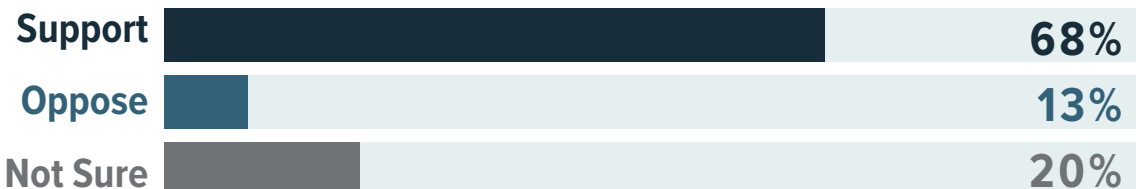
**POLL: Question 7**

**68%** of Michigan voters

**think lawmakers ensuring corporations pay their fair share in taxes is very important.**

Michiganders want lawmakers to ensure corporations pay their fair share of taxes and that includes closing loopholes such as the “dark store” property tax theory.

**Question 8:** Big box retailers are currently using a tax loophole called the “dark store theory,” where their property taxes are assessed as if the store is a vacant “dark store” even if the store is fully operational, resulting in much lower property taxes for these stores. The dark store theory has saved retail giants hundreds of millions of dollars in property taxes over the past decade and cost local governments the same amount in tax revenue. Do you support or oppose the Michigan legislature taking action to close this dark store tax loophole?



# Support for Establishing a Statewide Septic Code

Michigan is the only state without a statewide septic standard and the majority of Michigan voters support lawmakers changing that.



**Question 11:** Michigan lawmakers have introduced legislation that would establish a statewide septic code, requiring inspections of residential septic wastewater systems every five years. Michigan is the only state that does not have uniform standards governing the design, construction, installation, and maintenance of septic systems. The underlying goal of the legislation is to reduce the amount of contamination from failing septic systems from flowing into our lakes, rivers and streams. Do you support or oppose lawmakers passing legislation establishing a statewide septic code?

