

September 2023 Edition

LAKE EFFECT



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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 850 Michigan voters by phone and text September 5-6, 2023, on behalf of Progress Michigan. The margin of error is +/- 3.4%.
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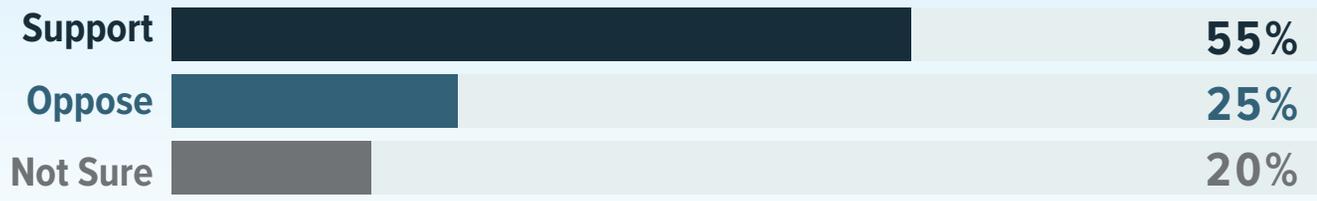
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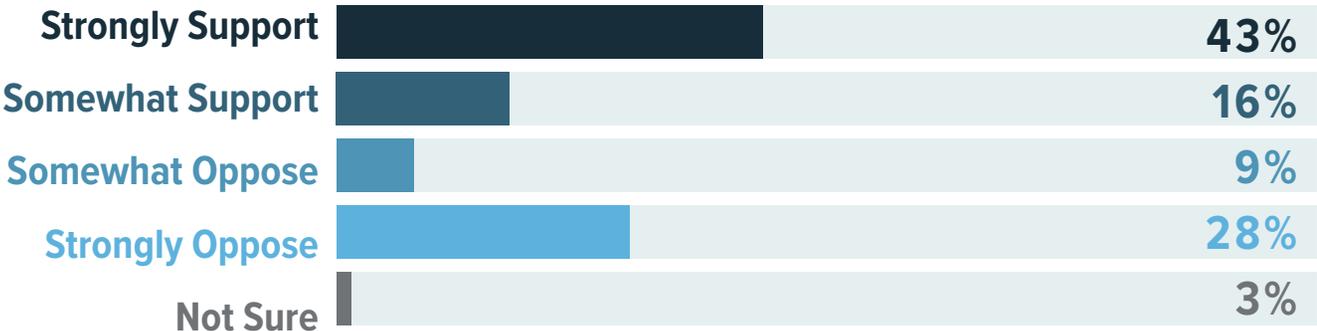
Majority Support Big Gretch’s Policy Priorities

Whether it’s paid family and medical leave, protecting abortion access, or lowering the cost of prescription drugs, Michiganders back Gov. Whitmer’s “Make it in Michigan” policy agenda.

Question 2: Would you support or oppose implementing 15 weeks of paid family leave in Michigan to allow employees to deal with family or medical issues?



Question 11: Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently gave a speech discussing legislative priorities for the coming months including paid family and medical leave, a 100% clean energy standard, further protections for abortion access, election security and lowering the costs of prescription drugs. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose Governor Whitmer’s legislative priorities?

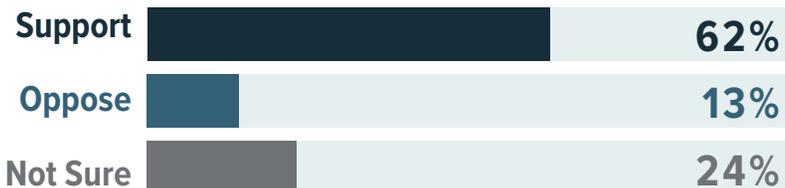


Dark Store Loophole Fix and Corporate Accountability Popular

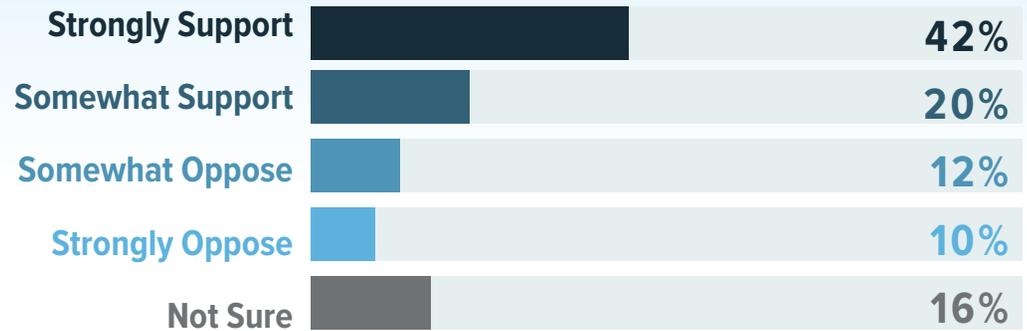


Michiganders are sick of corporate tax loopholes that benefit wealthy businesses and big box stores at the expense of community resources. And the idea of ensuring workers who are victims of mass layoffs get severance pay may have some legs. It's time to hold corporations accountable.

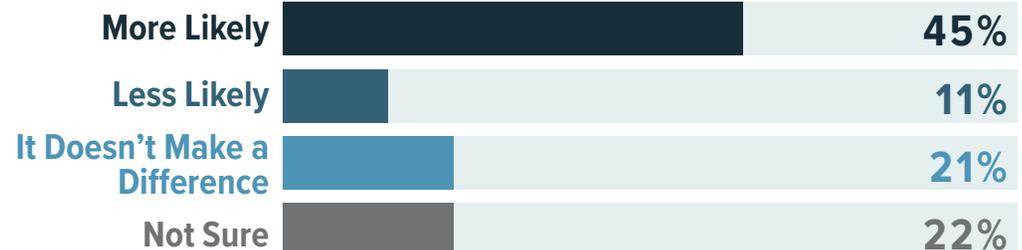
Question 3: Big box retailers are currently using a tax loophole called the “dark store theory,” where their property taxes are assessed as if the store is a vacant “dark store” even if the store is fully operational, resulting in much lower property taxes for these stores. The dark store theory has 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. Would you support or oppose the Michigan legislature taking action to close this dark store tax loophole?



Question 5: Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the Michigan legislature passing a guaranteed severance pay law that would require employers to provide severance pay when 20 or more employees are laid off?



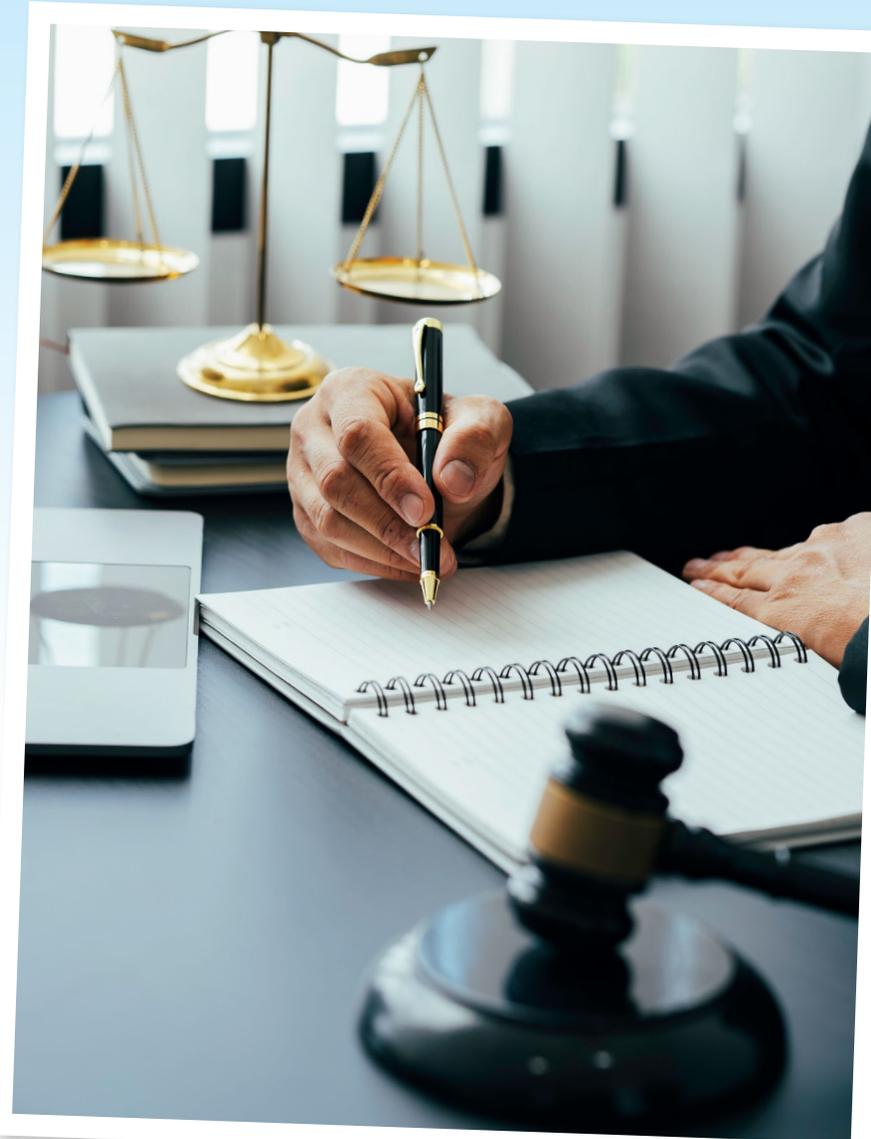
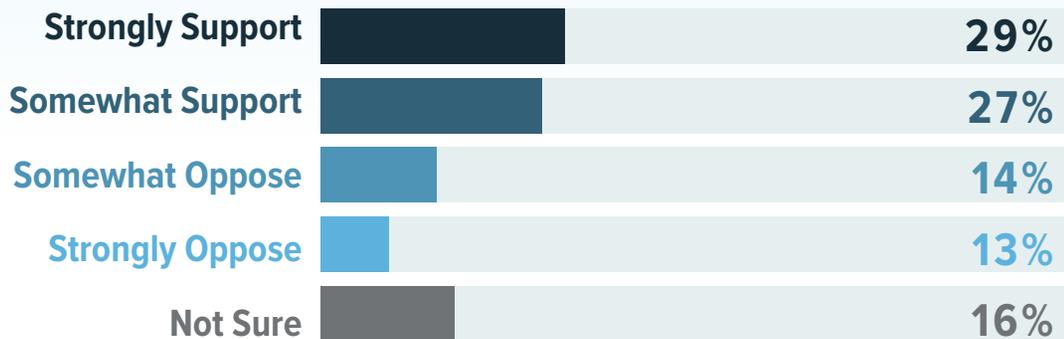
Question 6: Often, workers impacted by mass layoffs worked at companies that received taxpayer-funded government subsidies and when workers are laid off, they are forced to rely on taxpayer-funded aid programs to put food on the table. Guaranteed severance pay laws ensure corporations, including those laying off employees due to automating jobs, are held accountable and required to take responsibility for the impact of mass layoffs on working families and communities. Does hearing this make you more likely or less likely to support passing a guaranteed severance pay law, or does it not make a difference?



We Believe in Second Chances: Support for Second Look Legislation

Advocates for criminal justice reform have proposed multiple policies, including allowing judges to review sentences of certain people.

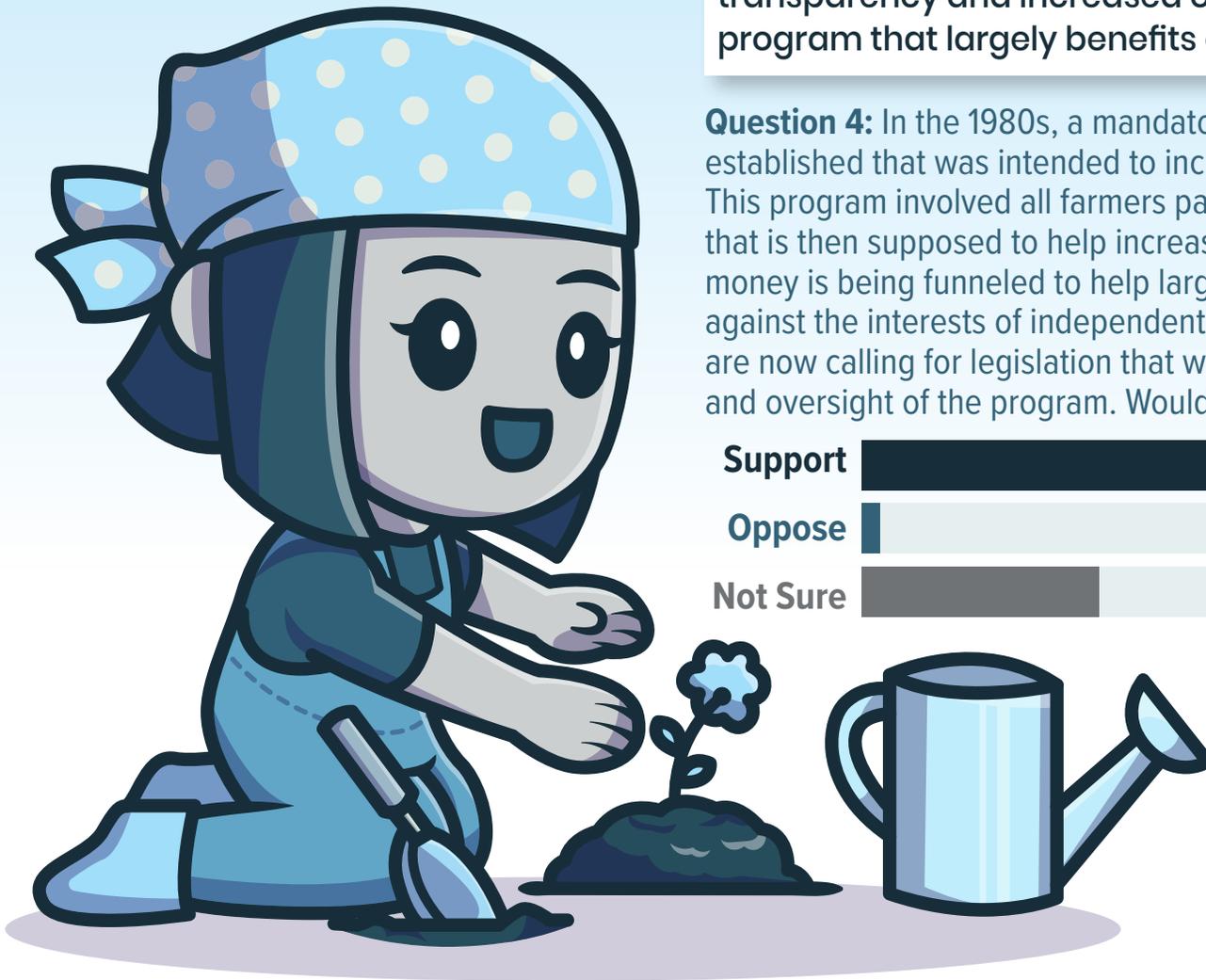
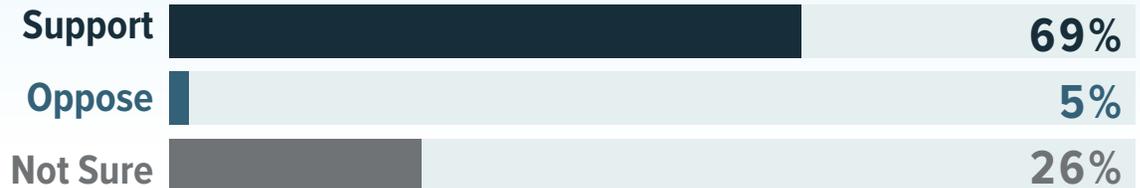
Question 7 : Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose giving judges the discretion to review sentences for people who have already served long prison sentences and are deemed to be at low risk of committing future crimes?



Strong Support for Federal Farming Program Oversight

Michiganders believe independent farmers deserve transparency and increased oversight of the government program that largely benefits corporate agriculture businesses.

Question 4: In the 1980s, a mandatory government program was established that was intended to increase sales for the agriculture industry. This program involved all farmers paying a fee to a lobbying organization that is then supposed to help increase their sales. However, much of this money is being funneled to help large corporate farms, thereby working against the interests of independent and family farms. Farming advocates are now calling for legislation that would increase transparency and oversight of the program. Would you support or oppose this legislation?



“Michigander” Clobbers “Michiganian” for Preferred Moniker

The numbers don't lie. Michiganders have spoken.

Question 13: When referring to Michigan residents, do you prefer Michigander or Michiganian?

