



September 2026 Lake Effect Poll Memo

Michigan Opinion Data: Enbridge and Line 5

Overview

September polling conducted by Progress Michigan and Public Policy Polling found that a majority of Michiganders agree that when state agencies make decisions about the future of Line 5, they bear a responsibility to the public in order to protect the Great Lakes. A majority of respondents also oppose Enbridge holding a 99-year lease to the proposed oil tunnel if it were built.

Findings

In our first question, we asked: “The Michigan Supreme Court ruled in July that a state agency regulating pipelines failed to do a full environmental study of the proposed Line 5 oil tunnel. Just weeks before this ruling, another state agency used the same improper approach to grant a permit. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that state agencies should consider public responsibility for protecting the Great Lakes and the Michigan Environmental Protection Act in making decisions on the future of Line 5?”

In response to this:

- 69 percent at least somewhat agree, including 53 percent of Republicans and 72 percent of Independents. 17 percent were not sure.
- 15 percent at least somewhat disagree.

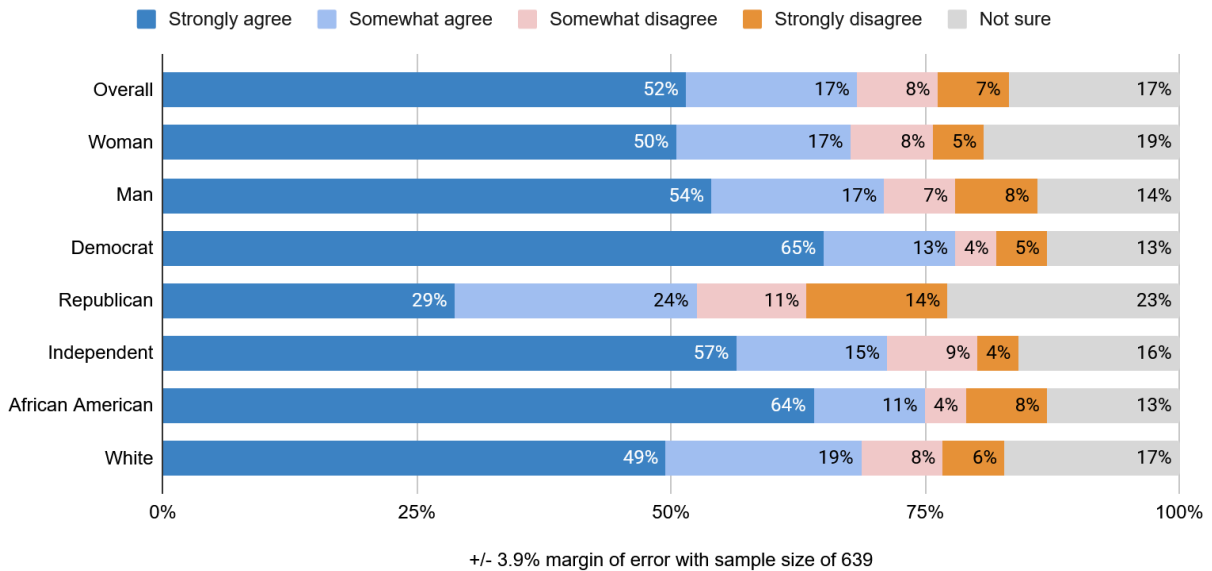
We also asked, “Taxpayer dollars are being spent on state permits for the Line 5 oil tunnel in the Great Lakes, a process that is taking years to complete. Enbridge, a foreign oil company that caused the 2010 Kalamazoo River oil spill in Southwest Michigan, will have a 99-year exclusive lease to the Line 5 oil tunnel if construction is completed. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose Enbridge holding a 99-year exclusive lease to the Great Lakes oil tunnel?”

This question also yielded a strong result:

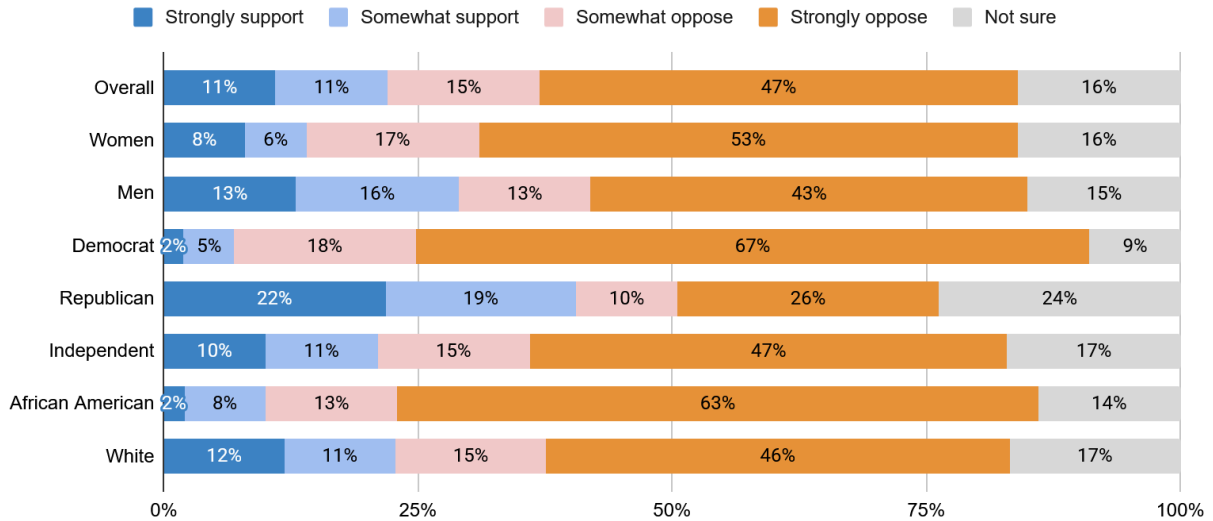
- Overall, 22 percent at least somewhat support the Enbridge lease, with 62 percent at least somewhat opposed and 16 percent unsure.
- Opposition is strongest among women (70 percent opposed), Democrats (85 percent opposed), and African Americans (76 percent opposed)

- Republicans are the only demographic polled that did not express majority opposition (36 percent opposed)

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+/- 3.9% margin of error with sample size of 639