



EPIC ▪ MRA
4710 W. Saginaw Hwy.
Suite 2C
Lansing, MI 48917
(517) 886-0860
info@epicmra.com
www.epicmra.com
Contact: Bernie Porn

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 9, 2017

Voters: Fixing State's Infrastructure is the top Problem Facing Michigan

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan voters rank fixing infrastructure — roads, bridges, dams, drinking water systems and sewer systems — as the top problem facing the state, according to a new survey conducted by EPIC-MRA for FixMIState.

Nearly 31 percent of voters said fixing the state's infrastructure is the top problem facing Michigan, followed by improving the quality of education at 19 percent, and improving the economy and creating more jobs at 13 percent (the survey questions are on page 2 of this release). The statewide survey of 600 Michigan voters was conducted Jan. 30 to Feb. 2 and has an error margin of ± 4 percent. The questions were tested for FixMIState, a campaign led by the Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association (MITA) to build awareness of Michigan's aging, crumbling and failing infrastructure systems. For more about Michigan's unmet infrastructure needs, visit FixMIState.org.

“The Flint water crisis and the Fraser sinkhole, followed by literally years if not decades of driving on some of the nation's worst roads and bridges, have galvanized the attention of Michigan voters from all areas of the state and across nearly every demographic and geographic group that we measure as pollsters,” said EPIC-MRA's Bernie Porn. “While we may be more divided than ever before on many issues, there is broad agreement among all groups of voters that infrastructure is the single top problem facing Michigan.”

The survey found that fixing Michigan's infrastructure is the top concern of voters in all geographic regions of the state; at all income levels; in all age groups; among those with and without college degrees; among men and women; among Republicans, Democrats and Independents; among all religious groups; for voters with and without a union member in their household; among voters who support and oppose the Tea Party; and voters who do and don't have children in their households.

The EPIC-MRA survey for FixMIState also found that Michigan voters are most concerned about how failing infrastructure can harm community drinking water systems, reduce safety for motorists on roads and bridges, and contaminate the state's rivers and lakes.

MORE

“The survey confirms that voters are united on, and growing even more concerned about, the need to fix Michigan’s aging infrastructure,” said MITA Executive Vice President Mike Nystrom. “The state’s unmet infrastructure needs are massive, and it’s going to take decades and a substantial increase in public investment to fix the problems. At MITA we will continue to work toward a solution with state and local elected leaders. Voters clearly understand that continuing to ignore the problem means a future of more infrastructure crises that put our public health and safety and our economy at risk.”

Two recent studies concluded that Michigan must invest \$4 billion more a year for many years to come to fix the state’s aging and failing infrastructure systems. The first study was issued in December by Gov. Rick Snyder’s 21st Century Infrastructure Commission, and the second was issued in January by Business Leaders for Michigan.

Questions as posed on the **EPIC-MRA** survey:

Now I am going to read a list of state problems and issues Michigan voters say they are concerned about the most. After I read the whole list of nine problems, please tell me which one problem or issue concerns you the most? **[READ AND ROTATE 1 TO 8 BELOW – CODE FIRST AND ONLY ONE RESPONSE]**

31%	Fixing the state’s infrastructure, including roads, bridges and dams, drinking water sources and wastewater treatment systems
19%	Improving the quality of education
13%	Improving the state economy and creating more jobs
10%	Controlling crime and drugs
8%	Controlling state and local government spending
8%	Providing quality, affordable health care
5%	Keeping state and local taxes low
3%	Protecting our air and water
3%	Undecided/Refused

When infrastructure – such as a road or bridge, a community drinking water system, waste water sewer system, a dam or storm water system – fails, it can cause many different problems. Those problems could include flooding of roads, communities and residences; unsafe drinking water for a local community; E-coli, raw sewage and other toxins and pollutants spilling into our rivers and lakes; beach closings; automobile accidents; homes and other structures being damaged by sinkholes; and more. Which of the following concerns you most about Michigan’s infrastructure problems? **[READ 1 THOUGH 6 – ROTATE 1 THROUGH 5]**

37%	Our local drinking water becoming unsafe to drink, cook with, or bath in
32%	The safety of Michigan’s roads and bridges
13%	Our lakes and rivers being contaminated by sewage spills
13%	The harm bad infrastructure can cause to local economies and to the state’s economy
1%	Dams failing, causing flooding to nearby communities
4%	Other (<i>less than 1% each</i>)/Undecided/Refused