Local officials’ assessments of Michigan’s current direction and state government performance

Findings from the Spring 2018 Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

August 20, 2018
2018 MAC-MCMCFC Annual Conference
Presentation Outline

- Brief overview of the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

- Trends of local government officials’ views on:
  - Whether the state of Michigan is headed in the right direction or is off on the wrong track
  - Governor Snyder’s job performance
  - The Michigan Legislature’s job performance
Background: The MPPS

- **A census survey** – all 1,856 Michigan counties, cities, villages, and townships

- **Respondents** – chief elected and appointed officials

- **Administered** – online and via hardcopy

- **Topics** – wide range, such as fiscal health, budget priorities, roads, public safety, planning and zoning, economic development, intergovernmental cooperation, service privatization, employee policies, labor unions, environmental sustainability, Great Lakes, citizen engagement, much more.
MPPS is not a typical opinion poll

- **70+% regular response rates**
  -- in Spring 2018: 78% of counties

- **Transparency**
  -- Questionnaires online
  -- Pre-run data tables online
  -- Sharing of (anonymized) datasets with other researchers

- **Expert advisors on questionnaire content**

- **Research partnership with Michigan local government associations**
  -- MAC, MML, & MTA

- **Borrowing from other proven sources such as NLC and ICMA**
Presentation Outline

• Brief overview of CLOSUP and the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

• Trends of local government officials’ views on:
  ✓ Whether the state of Michigan is headed in the right direction or off on the wrong track
  ✓ Governor Snyder’s job performance
  ✓ The Michigan Legislature’s job performance
Do you feel things in the state of Michigan are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?

Local officials’ confidence in Michigan's direction is up

![Chart showing the percentage of respondents who feel things in Michigan are going in the right direction or on the wrong track over the years. The chart shows a rise in confidence from 2011 to 2018.]

- **Right direction**: 32%, 50%, 54%, 55%, 46%, 44%, 47%, 56%
- **Wrong track**: 18%, 15%, 14%, 12%, 15%, 17%, 16%, 11%
- **Don't know**: 0%, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%
Local officials’ confidence in Michigan's direction is up

Do you feel things in the state of Michigan are generally going **in the right direction**, or do you feel things have gotten off **on the wrong track**?
Local officials’ confidence in Michigan's direction is up

Do you feel things in the state of Michigan are generally going **in the right direction**, or do you feel things have gotten off **on the wrong track**?
Local officials’ confidence in Michigan's direction is up

Do you feel things in the state of Michigan are generally going **in the right direction**, or do you feel things have gotten off **on the wrong track**?
Local officials’ confidence in Michigan's direction is up

Percentage of local officials who say Michigan is headed in “the right direction”

(by party ID of local officials)
Percentage of local officials who say Michigan is headed in “the right direction”
(by jurisdiction type)
Local officials’ confidence in Michigan's direction is up

Percentage of local officials who say Michigan is headed in "the right direction" (by jurisdiction size)
Local officials’ confidence in Michigan's direction is up

Percentage of local officials who say Michigan is headed in "the right direction"
Presentation Outline

• Brief overview of CLOSUP and the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

• Trends of local government officials’ views on:
  ✓ Whether the state of Michigan is headed in the right direction or off on the wrong track
  ✓ Governor Snyder’s job performance
  ✓ The Michigan Legislature’s job performance
Local officials’ evaluations of Governor Snyder also up

How would you rate the way Rick Snyder is performing his job as Michigan’s governor?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Excellent/Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009 (Granholm)</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local officials’ evaluations of Governor Snyder also up

How would you **rate** the way **Rick Snyder** is performing his job as Michigan’s governor?

![Graph showing local officials' evaluations of Governor Snyder's performance over years.](image-url)
Local officials’ evaluations of Governor Snyder also up

How would you rate the way Rick Snyder is performing his job as Michigan’s governor?

![Graph showing evaluations over years](image_url)
Local officials’ evaluations of Governor Snyder also up

How would you rate the way Rick Snyder is performing his job as Michigan’s governor?

![Graph showing evaluations of Governor Snyder from 2009 to 2018. The graph indicates a steady increase in positive evaluations, with the highest percentage of Excellent/Good responses in 2018 at 52%. The other categories—Fair, Poor, and Don’t know—show a decrease over the years.](image-url)
Local officials’ evaluations of Governor Snyder also up

How would you rate the way Rick Snyder is performing his job as Michigan’s governor?

![Graph showing evaluations of Governor Snyder's performance over years]
Local officials’ evaluations of Governor Snyder also up

Percentage of local officials who say Governor Snyder’s performance is “excellent” or “good”

(by jurisdiction type)
Local officials’ evaluations of Governor Snyder also up

Percentage of local officials who say Governor Snyder’s performance is “excellent” or “good”

(by party ID of local officials)
Local officials’ evaluations of Governor Snyder also up

Percentage of local officials who say Governor Snyder’s performance is “excellent” or “good”

(by party ID of local officials)
Local officials’ evaluations of Governor Snyder also up

Percentage of local officials who say Governor Snyder’s performance is “excellent” or “good”

(by party ID of local officials)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Republicans</th>
<th>Independents</th>
<th>Democrats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009 (Granholm)</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local officials more positive on Governor Snyder than citizens are

Percentage of local officials who say Governor Snyder’s performance is “excellent” or “good”

(by 2018 MPPS (officials) vs. 2018 SOSS (citizens))
• Brief overview of CLOSUP and the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

• Trends of local government officials’ views on:
  ✓ Whether the state of Michigan is headed in the right direction or off on the wrong track
  ✓ Governor Snyder’s job performance
  ✓ The Michigan Legislature’s job performance
Local officials’ evaluations of Legislature up, but less

How would you rate the way the Michigan Legislature is performing its job?

- 5%
- 6%
- 3%
- 4%
- 3%
- 3%
- 5%
- 4%
- 60%
- 37%
- 34%
- 31%
- 26%
- 25%
- 20%
- 25%
- 28%
- 33%
- 37%
- 38%
- 28%
- 36%
- 36%
- 38%
- 38%
- 38%
- 40%
- 40%
- 40%
- 26%
- 21%
- 20%
- 26%
- 31%
- 36%
- 38%
- 38%
- 36%
- 34%
- 37%
- 33%
- 1%
- 6%
- 3%
- 4%
- 4%
- 3%
- 3%
- 5%
- 4%
- 0%
- 10%
- 20%
- 30%
- 40%
- 50%
- 60%
- 70%


Excellent/Good  Fair  Poor  Don't know

CLOSUP
Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy

GERALD R. FORD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Local officials’ evaluations of Legislature up, but less

How would you rate the way the Michigan Legislature is performing its job?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Excellent/Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local officials’ evaluations of Legislature up, but less

How would you rate the way the Michigan Legislature is performing its job?

![Graph showing evaluations of the Michigan Legislature from 2009 to 2018]

- Excellent/Good: 60%, 60%, 36%, 37%, 38%, 36%, 38%, 40%, 40%
- Fair: 33%, 37%, 34%, 31%, 26%, 36%, 38%, 38%, 39%
- Poor: 5%, 6%, 3%, 4%, 4%, 3%, 3%, 5%, 4%
- Don’t know: 1%, 6%, 3%, 4%, 4%, 3%, 3%, 5%, 4%

Local officials’ evaluations of Legislature up, but less

Percentage of local officials who say the Michigan Legislature’s performance is “excellent” or “good”

(by jurisdiction type)
Local officials’ evaluations of Legislature up, but less

Percentage of local officials who say the Michigan Legislature’s performance is “excellent” or “good”

(by party ID of local officials)
Local officials’ evaluations of Legislature up, but less

Percentage of local officials who say the Michigan Legislature’s performance is “excellent” or “good”

(by party ID of local officials)
Local officials’ evaluations of Legislature up, but less

Percentage of local officials who say the Michigan Legislature’s performance is “excellent” or “good”

(by party ID of local officials)
Summary

- For the second straight year, the percentage of Michigan’s local leaders who are optimistic about the state’s direction has increased, with over (56%) saying Michigan is headed in the right direction (among county officials, 55%).

- Local leaders’ positive job approval ratings for Governor Rick Snyder have risen for the second year in row as well, to 52% (and 48% among county officials). But although 68% of Republican officials say he’s doing an “excellent” or “good” job, 49% of Independents and 23% of Democrats say the same.

- Performance ratings for the Michigan Legislature trail both other metrics (15% of county officials rate it positively).
What else does the MPPS have to offer?

• Upcoming reports from the Spring 2018 wave:
  ✓ Local government fiscal health
  ✓ Medical marijuana regulation
  ✓ Local poverty issues and policies
  ✓ Intra-governmental relationships on elected Boards and with staff

• Customized data analysis

• Looking for your input on future survey topics
The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

Web: www.closup.umich.edu
Email: closup-mpps@umich.edu
Twitter: @closup