Local government views on drinking water infrastructure

Michigan Public Policy Survey

• Bi-annual survey of Michigan’s 1,856 local governments

• Drinking water infrastructure on Spring 2016 wave
  • 74% response rate
## Extent of problems

(in jurisdictions with shared systems)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Somewhat of problem</th>
<th>Significant problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aging/breaking pipes</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordability/bill delinquency</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water source safety</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead in on-premises plumbing</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead in service lines</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate volume</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Affordability / Delinquency (by jurisdiction fiscal stress)

- **High stress**: 39% (Somewhat of problem), 11% (Significant problem)
- **Medium stress**: 35% (Somewhat of problem), 2% (Significant problem)
- **Low stress**: 18% (Somewhat of problem), 3% (Significant problem)
Support for increasing water rates

You as a local official
- Strongly oppose: 4%
- Somewhat oppose: 7%
- Somewhat support: 43%
- Strongly support: 29%

Majority of board/council
- Strongly oppose: 5%
- Somewhat oppose: 11%
- Somewhat support: 49%
- Strongly support: 18%

Majority of citizens
- Strongly oppose: 11%
- Somewhat oppose: 28%
- Somewhat support: 31%
- Strongly support: 5%

Legend:
- Red: Strongly oppose
- Orange: Somewhat oppose
- Blue: Somewhat support
- Black: Strongly support
Much more data available

- Knowledge (or not) of water source
- Change in infrastructure conditions
- Funding sources & needs
- Governmental oversight for water
- Breakdowns by region, population size, county, water system (size-dependent)

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