

MICHIGAN PUBLIC POLICY SURVEY (MPPS)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
FISCAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES
SPRING 2010

	start, please confirm What type of jurisdiction do you represent?							
	□ county □ township	What is the j	urisdiction's na	nme?				
	city	(if not a county) In what county is it located?						
	What position do you hold?							
	Thinking about business conditions in your com	munity, do you thi	nk that during t	he next twelve	e months your c	ommunity will hav	e good	
time	es financially, or bad times financially? Good times Bad times	□ Neither		☐ Don't kn	iow			
Q3.	Thinking about the financial needs of your jurisc	liction, would you	say that your ur	nit of governm	ent is <u>less able</u>	or <u>better able</u> to n	neet its	
	financial needs in	Significantly So	mewhat Ne	ither Less	Somewhat	Significantly	Don't	
	•	•		Better Able	Better Able	Better Able	Know	
	this fiscal year compared to the last fiscal year? the next fiscal year compared to this fiscal year?							
Q4.	4. Comparing your jurisdiction's <u>current fiscal year</u> to its <u>previous fiscal year</u> , please consider the ways the following items have changed. Indicate whether in your opinion there has been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year. (Leave individual							
	items blank if not applicable to your jurisdiction		0	N.	0	Owerthy	Daw!	
		Greatly Decreased	Somewhat Decreased	No Change	Somewhat Increased	Greatly Increased	Don't Know	
	Revenue from property taxes							
	Revenue from fees for services, licenses, transf	ers, etc. 🔲						
	Amount of federal aid to your jurisdiction							
	Amount of state aid to your jurisdiction							
	Tax delinquencies Population of your jurisdiction							
	Home foreclosures in your jurisdiction							
	Public safety needs		H		H			
	Infrastructure needs							
	Human service needs							
	Number of employees							
	Employee wages and salaries							
	Cost of employee pensions							
	Cost of current employee health benefits							
	Cost of retired employee health benefits							
Q5.	Now, thinking about the <u>next fiscal year</u> , please	indicate which acti	ons your jurisd	iction has take	en or is likely to	take. (Leave indiv	vidual items	
	blank if not applicable to your jurisdiction.)							
		Greatly Decrease	Somewhat Decrease	No Change	Somewhat Increase	Greatly Increase	Don't Know	
	Property tax rates				П	П		
	Charges for fees, licenses, etc.							
	Reliance on general fund balance							
	Reliance on "rainy day" funds							
	Amount of services provided							
	Actual public safety spending							
	Actual infrastructure spending						님	
	Actual human services spending Funding for economic development programs						片	
	Amount of debt						H	
	Sale of public assets (i.e., parks, buildings, etc.)							
	Privatizing or contracting out of services					- i	H	
	Number and/or scope of interlocal agreements of		_			_	_	
	other cost-sharing plans with other government	s 🔲						
	Your jurisdiction's workforce hiring							
	Your jurisdiction's workforce layoffs							
	Your jurisdiction not filling vacant positions							
	Amount of employee compensation							
	Employees' chare of premiums, doductibles							
	Employees' share of premiums, deductibles and/or co-pays on health insurance	П				П		
	Employees' share of premiums, deductibles and/or co-pays on health insurance Employees' share of contributions							
	and/or co-pays on health insurance Employees' share of contributions to retirement funds							
ı	and/or co-pays on health insurance Employees' share of contributions							

Q6.	Thinking about the <u>current fiscal year,</u> please indicate whether or not your jurisdiction utilized the following policies.					
	Yes No Don't Know Employee furloughs □ □ □					
	Employee furloughs A four-day work week					
Q7.	Thinking about the <u>next fiscal year</u> , how likely is it that your jurisdiction will institute the following policies?					
	Very Somewhat Neither Likely Somewhat Very Don't Likely Likely Nor Unlikely Unlikely Unlikely Know					
	Employee furloughs					
Q8.	In your <u>current fiscal year</u> , did your jurisdiction <u>completely</u> eliminate any particular services? (check all that apply)					
	 Yes, service(s) completely eliminated and no longer provided at all Yes, service(s) completely eliminated, but now provided by another entity No 					
	☐ Don't Know					
	_					
	Q9. (If you selected "yes" in Q8) Please briefly describe which service(s) were eliminated and the alternative source of service provision, if any.					
010						
Q10.	Looking forward to the next fiscal year, do you expect your jurisdiction will completely eliminate any particular services? (check all that apply)					
	 Yes, service(s) will be completely eliminated and no longer provided at all Yes, service(s) will be completely eliminated, but will be provided by another entity No 					
	☐ Don't Know					
	Q11. (If you selected "yes" in Q10) Please briefly describe which service(s) you expect will be eliminated and the alternative source of service					
	provision, if any.					
Q12.	Are there any particular approaches toward balancing the budget your jurisdiction has taken in the last few years that just didn't work or had unintended negative consequences? Please describe.					
Q13.	Does your jurisdiction do formal single-year budgeting or multi-year budgeting? ☐ Single-year ☐ Multi-year ☐ Don't Know					
014						
Q14.	In your <u>current fiscal year</u> , has your jurisdiction had to make any <u>significant</u> mid-year adjustments due to an inaccurate budget forecast? (check all that apply)					
	Yes, because expenditures higher than expected Yes, because revenues lower than expected No Don't Know					
Q15.	Overall, how informed do you believe your jurisdiction's citizens are regarding your jurisdiction's finances? Uery Well Informed Somewhat Informed Not Very Well Informed Don't Know					
Q16.	6. We're interested in your perspective about your citizens' preferences in the trade-off between services and taxes (although we recognize that preferences can shift depending upon the specific services at stake and other factors). In your opinion, if your jurisdiction's citizens were facing significant local public service cuts, in general, would they be more likely to choose higher taxes to avoid service cuts or would they choose cuts to public services to avoid higher taxes?					
	☐ In general, citizens would choose higher taxes to avoid service cuts ☐ In general, citizens would choose service cuts to avoid higher taxes					
	☐ Don't Know					
Q17.	Does your jurisdiction have a formal written policy regarding the required minimum level of its general fund balance or cash reserves?					
	Yes No Don't Know					
	Q18. (If you selected "yes" in Q17) Approximately what percentage of general fund expenditures is your jurisdiction required to maintain?					
	% Don't know					
Q19.	Approximately what was your jurisdiction's unreserved general fund balance as a percentage of general fund expenditures at the end of its last fiscal year?					
	of its last fiscal year? ☐ 0% ☐ 1-5% ☐ 6-10% ☐ 11-15% ☐ 16-20% ☐ over 20% ☐ Don't Know					
Q20.	Overall, do you consider your jurisdiction's unreserved general fund balance to be too high, about right, or not high enough? Too high About right Not high enough Don't Know					

	Next, we have some questions specifically about the pension and/or health care benefits your jurisdiction may provide its employees.						
Q21.	Overall, do you consider you Too high		s current employee pay out right		, about right, or not h	nigh enough?	☐ Don't Know
Q22.	Overall, do you consider your jurisdiction's current employee fringe benefits package(s) to be too generous, about right, or not						
	generous enough? Too generou	ıs 🗌 Abc	out right	erous enough 🔲 F	ringe benefits not of	fered	☐ Don't Know
Q23. (skip if you selected "not offered" in Q22) Overall, do you consider the contributions (i.e. co-pays, deductibles, or share of premiu jurisdiction's employees make toward their health care benefits to be too high, about right, or not high enough? Too high About right Not high enough							niums) your
							☐ Don't Know
Q24.	(skip if you selected "not offered" in Q22) What kind of health insurance plan(s) does your jurisdiction provide to active employees?						
	(check all that apply) HMO ☐	PPO □	Traditional	High-deductible	Self-funded	Other	Don't Know ☐
Q25.	Now, thinking about pension	on plans, does y	our jurisdiction offer its	employees a defined	benefit plan (i.e., a t	traditional pensi	on), a
	defined contribution plan (Defined bene			Both R	Retirement package r	not offered	☐ Don't Know
	Q26. (if you selected "defined	d benefit" only in	Q25) How likely is it tha	t your jurisdiction wil	I introduce a defined	l contribution pla	an for its
	employees and/or ne ☐ Very likely		ne next 12 months? newhat likely	☐ Somewhat unlikel	y 🔲 Very	unlikely	☐ Don't Know
	Q27. (skip if you selected "no	ot offered" in Q25) In your opinion, are yo	our jurisdiction's pens	sion obligations a siç	gnificant fiscal p	roblem, somewhat
			or not a problem at all f newhat of a problem	or your jurisdiction's ☐ Not much of a pro		problem at all	☐ Don't Know
	GASB 45 refers to the set of		· '	-		<u> </u>	
	benefits (sometimes referr	ed to as "OPEB"	"), such as health-care l	iabilities.			
Q28.	Thinking about other post- those liabilities? (check all		nefits such as retiree he	alth care, what, if any	, actions has your ju	risdiction taken	to address
			mpleted actuarial study				
		ost-snaring for re with unions to ch	etirees (e.g., higher prer nange benefits	niums, co-payments,	and/or deductibles)		
		nefits for non-un		vailable			
	☐ Increased the age at which retirement benefits are available ☐ Increased the years of service required to receive retirement benefits ☐ The passed the little through heads to receive retirement benefits						
	☐ Financed liability through bonds ☐ Other						
	 ☐ Jurisdiction has taken no actions yet ☐ Jurisdiction doesn't offer retiree health care benefits 						
	□ Don't Know						
Q29.	. (skip if you selected "not offered" in Q28) In your opinion, are your jurisdictions's retiree health care obligations a significant fiscal problem, somewhat of a problem, not much of a problem, or not a problem at all for your jurisdiction's fiscal health? ☐ Significant problem ☐ Somewhat of a problem ☐ Not much of a problem ☐ Not a problem at all ☐ Don't Know						
	Economic Gardening has been described as an economic development strategy that focuses on actively providing assistance to existing						
Q30	businesses in a local community to encourage job growth rather than or in addition to the strategy of attracting new businesses.						
	. Is your jurisdiction currently engaged in any economic development activities that you would consider "economic gardening?" ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know						
	Q31. (If you selected "yes" or "don't know" to Q30) Which, if any, of the following activities is your jurisdiction conducting specifically to support existing businesses in your community? (check all that apply)						
			raining programs specif tructure specifically to i				al businesses
	Developing I	IT infrastructure	specifically to meet the	goal of supporting co	urrent local business	ses	
	☐ Fostering ne roundtable g		g local businesses and o	other organizations (i.	e., business associa	itions, education	al institutions,
			ping local businesses d s to information on mar				
	 □ Providing or fostering access to information on markets, customers or competitors □ Providing or fostering access to capital 						
	☐ Granting tax abatements or deferments to existing local companies☐ Developing a local currency and/or other "buy local" initiatives						
	☐ Other ☐ Don't Know						
022	_	i hava any assa	omio gardonina estivitie	o undomuou do vor-	groo or dioagrae the	t oconomic aca	loning con
U 32.	Regardless of whether you be an effective economic of	development stra	ategy for your jurisdiction	on?		r economic gard	-
	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree		Don't Know
			Ď	Ĭ	□ □		

	Certain changes have been proposed to deal with revenue sharing in Michigan. One proposal to reform the state revenue sharing system recommends: A) eliminating the per capita distribution and tying revenue sharing to the provision of certain base-level services, while at the same time; B) increasing the authority of local governments to tax their citizens for desired services above and beyond those base-level services.							
Q33.	In general, do you agree o local governments to raise				g to certain bas	e-level local se	rvices while allowi	ng
	Strongly Agree □	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree □	Somewl Disagre		Strongly Disagree	Dor Kno	ow .
Q34.	Under this proposal, if you	ır jurisdiction had th	ne authority to raise a Very Likely		es, how likely w Neither Likely Nor Unlikely	ould it be to Somewhat Unlikely	Very Unlikely	Don't Know
	increase its property ta	x millage rates?	п	П		П	П	П
	introduce or expand a l	•		T T				
	introduce or expand a le			T T		- H	- ñ	ī
	participate in a regional	tax authority?		THE STATE OF THE S	T T	T T	Ti Ti	Ti-
Q35.	Now, thinking about issue complete their census for		. Census, has your ju	ırisdiction do	ne anything spe	ecifically to end	ourage its citizens	to
	☐ Yes	∏ No			Oon't Know			
				ш.	Jon Chanow			
	Q36. (if you selected "yes" t	to Q35) Please brief	fly describe any action	ons your juris	idiction has tak	en to increase	participation in the	census.
Q37.	Currently, after every Censelectoral districts. A change The commission would be political party over another	ge has been propos charged with draw	ed to have these dis ing district lines so t	tricts drawn i hat elections	nstead by an in are as competi	dependent, no	n-partisan commiss	sion.
	Strongly	Somewhat	Neither Favor nor	Somewl	nat S	trongly	Dor	ı't
	Favor	Fa <u>v</u> or	Opp <u>o</u> se	Oppose	e (Oppose	Kno	
	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш		Ш	L	J
	Thinking now about the Fe Recovery Act has helped to Very much	o improve economi		community to		Act), overall, ho	w much do you be	lieve the
		_		_			_	
Q39. How much do you believe Recovery Act funding <u>will</u> improve economic conditions in your community <u>in the long term?</u> Uery much Somewhat Not at all Don't Know								
Q40.	Q40. Overall, how much do you believe the Recovery Act has helped to improve economic conditions in the state of Michigan to date? Uery much Somewhat Not at all Don't Know							
Q41. How much do you believe Recovery Act funding will improve economic conditions in the state of Michigan in the long term? Uery much Somewhat Not at all Don't Know								
Q42. CLOSUP will protect your privacy and anonymity to the full extent provided by law. We need to confirm your personal information such as name, email address, and phone number for tracking and administrative purposes only. Your personal information will not be linked with your survey responses nor will it be shared with any outside sources.								
	Your name			Your	phone number _	-		
	Your email address							
	Finally, we would like to ask some demographic questions. As with all of the questions in this survey, these are optional. Responses will be reported in aggregate form only so that your individual responses will remain confidential.							
Q43.	What is your gender?] Male Fem	ale				l of school you hav	e completed?
Q44.	Q44. In what year were you born?				☐ 12 th grade or less/no diploma ☐ Bachelor's degree ☐ High school graduate or GED ☐ Master's degree ☐ Some college, no degree ☐ Professional/Docto			•
Q45.	How many years have you	served in your curr	ent position?		Associate degree			J
	Are you of Spanish, Hispar	·					of yourself as a?	Something Else
Q47.	Please check one or more categories below to what race(s) you consider yourself to be. (checonomic with the properties of the propert		eck all that apply) Asian Mulitracial	stro	Republican or De ng or not very si Very strong	trong Republic		
			Other Don't Know		Q51. (if Independent) Would you consider yourself closer to ☐ the Democratic Party ☐ the Republican Party ☐ Ne			to?