

# The Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy >> University of Michigan

Michigan Public  
Policy Survey October 2020

## Michigan local leaders expect increased challenges for the 2020 election, but are confident about administering accurate elections

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This report presents the opinions of Michigan's township and city officials on issues related to election administration in their jurisdictions, including expected challenges and confidence in election security. Data from a parallel survey of Michigan County Clerks is included as well. These findings are based on statewide surveys of local government leaders in the Spring 2020 wave of the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS), conducted between March 30 and June 1, 2020—prior to the August 2020 primary. It also contains comparisons to opinions expressed in the Spring 2017 MPPS wave.

>> The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) is a census survey of all 1,856 general purpose local governments in Michigan conducted by the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) at the University of Michigan in partnership with the Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Townships Association, and Michigan Association of Counties. The MPPS investigates local officials' opinions and perspectives on a variety of important public policy issues. Respondents for the Spring 2020 wave of the MPPS include county administrators, board chairs, and clerks; city mayors, managers, and clerks; village presidents, managers, and clerks; and township supervisors, managers, and clerks from 1,342 jurisdictions across the state.

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## Key Findings

- When asked in the spring of 2020 to look ahead at potential problems with election administration in the November 2020 election, township and city officials indicate they are more concerned about potential problems this year compared to what they experienced in 2016.
  - » Nearly half of township and city officials statewide (45%) predict they will have problems with recruiting poll workers with the necessary skills and with recruiting enough poll workers at all, regardless of skill level (up from 29% and 27%, respectively in 2016). In addition, 41% expect the cost of the election administration on the jurisdiction's budget to be a problem in the 2020 election (up from 25% in 2016).
  - » Township and city clerks—the officials who run elections in Michigan—are more likely than other local leaders—such as supervisors, mayors, or managers—to predict local problems with poll worker recruitment, costs, long wait times, and other issues.
  - » The state's largest townships and cities (those with more than 30,000 residents) are more likely than smaller jurisdictions to predict a range of election-related problems, including over 70% who are concerned about poll worker recruitment.
- Regarding election security issues, large majorities are “very confident” that final vote results (76%), voting machines (70%), and voter rolls (68%) will not be compromised in the November 2020 election, with most remaining officials “somewhat” confident and very few outright “not very” confident or “not at all” confident. When looking across all three aspects of security combined, the percentage who are “very” confident drops to 63%. In all cases, though, clerks tend to be more confident than other types of officials.
  - » Local officials, including clerks, are less confident that they would know if their local election security was compromised, with only 54% very confident that their jurisdiction would know prior to or during the election that their voting machines, voter rolls, or vote tallies/results had been compromised, and 58% very confident they would know after the election if their election systems had been compromised.
- Despite these concerns regarding potential administrative problems and security, confidence in running accurate elections among local leaders remains very high. Statewide, 87% of township and city officials are “very confident” in their jurisdiction's ability to administer an accurate election in November (down slightly from 91% who said the same after the 2016 election). Furthermore, 75% are very confident that their county clerk could conduct an accurate recount, if one is necessary (again down from 80% after the previous election).
  - » A parallel survey of county clerks shows county officials are also quite confident both in a range of election security issues, and in the ability of local jurisdictions within their county to administer accurate elections.

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### Background

In 2016, Michigan ended up as a key swing state in determining the outcome of the presidential election, when President Donald Trump won the state by less than 11,000 votes out of a total of 4.5 million votes cast.<sup>1</sup> The 2020 general election again features Michigan as a battleground state,<sup>2</sup> with candidates, media, and political observers across the nation turning significant attention on Michigan voters, and, by extension, Michigan's election administration. Running the state's elections has become particularly complicated in 2020 as a result of a number of extraordinary circumstances—from 2018's constitutional expansion of voter registration and absentee ballot access<sup>3</sup> to safety concerns for in-person voters and poll workers during the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>4</sup> to an expected record-breaking surge in voter turnout.<sup>5</sup>

The August 2020 primary election constituted a trial run to see how Michigan's cities and townships—the local governments that administer elections in the state— would respond to these challenges.<sup>6</sup> One critical concern for election administration identified during the August primary has been addressed by the Michigan Legislature, when it passed legislation in September revising restrictions on early steps prior to Election Day to prepare absentee ballots for processing in larger jurisdictions.<sup>7</sup> However, other potential concerns, such as the ability to conduct successful recounts in some jurisdictions<sup>8</sup> and the smooth functioning of the US Postal Service in delivering and returning the expected increase in absentee ballots<sup>9</sup>—remain, even as voters begin submitting their general election ballots.

Election security also continues to be a key concern for the 2020 election, not just in Michigan, but across the country. As early as March 2019, the Michigan Secretary of State's office had formed a bipartisan Election Security Commission to develop and implement a variety of election security best practices across the state.<sup>10</sup> And while some reports express concerns about the vulnerability of Michigan election equipment to hacking or other threats to integrity,<sup>11</sup> state election leaders express confidence going into election season that Michigan's voting equipment is secure, and warn voters to be more wary regarding the spread of deliberate misinformation about voting.<sup>12</sup>

To get a sense of how officials at the local level across the state are assessing an array of election challenges, the MPPS surveyed local leaders in spring 2020 from each of Michigan's counties (which also play a role in elections), cities and townships with a series of questions regarding election administration in their jurisdictions. The spring 2020 survey was launched just weeks after local governments had conducted the March 2020 primary during the initial emergence of COVID-19 cases in Michigan.

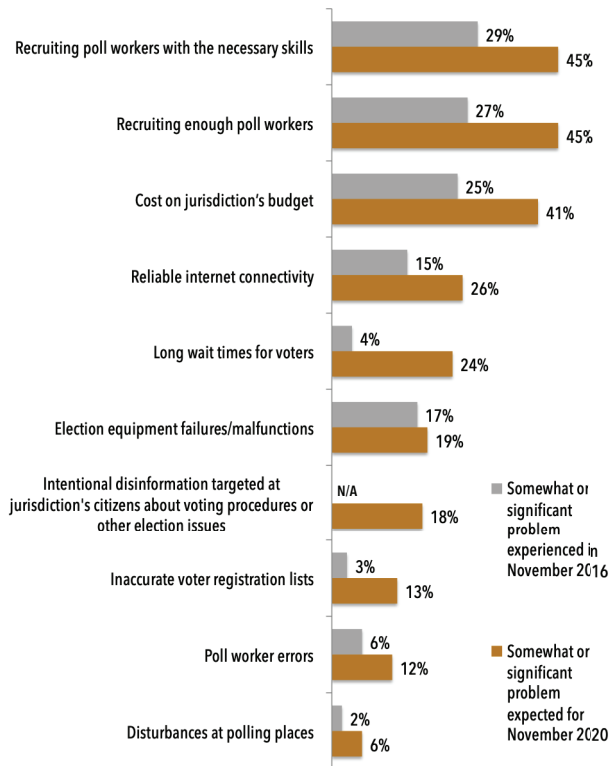
Because county, township and city clerks are the local officials who are in charge of the various practical aspects of administering the elections, the MPPS also sent surveys to the clerks who are not typically included in the standard MPPS survey sample, to be able to compare local election administrators' views with those of others such as township supervisors and managers or city mayors and administrators. In the following report, "statewide" data contain combined responses from both clerks and non-clerks, but then are also broken out by jurisdiction type and by the local officials' position, in order to help identify important differences of opinion.



## Local officials expect more problems with administering the November 2020 election compared to what they experienced in the November 2016 election

**Figure 1**

Local officials' assessments of problems with election administration in their township or city, 2016 experiences vs. 2020 expectations



In April and May 2020, the MPPS asked local officials about their expectations regarding a number of potential election administration problems in their jurisdictions during the upcoming November 2020 election. These questionnaire items mirrored questions asked retrospectively in spring 2017, looking back at problems local officials may have experienced in the 2016 election.<sup>13</sup> This year, the Spring 2020 MPPS found that Michigan local officials statewide are more concerned about potential problems in 2020 compared to what they experienced in 2016.

In particular, as shown in *Figure 1*, almost half of city and township officials expressed concern in 2020 about their ability to recruit poll workers and other election staff with necessary skills (45%) and their ability to recruit enough poll workers regardless of skills (45%) for the November election. These concerns are significantly higher than the 27-29% who reported problems with recruitment during the 2016 election. Just over 40% of city and township officials statewide expect the cost of the election administration on the jurisdiction's budget to be a problem in the 2020 election, compared to one-quarter who said this was a problem in 2016. Additionally, a quarter of city and township officials expect long wait times for any voters to be somewhat of a problem or a significant problem in November 2020, compared to just 4% who reported experiencing this problem in 2016.

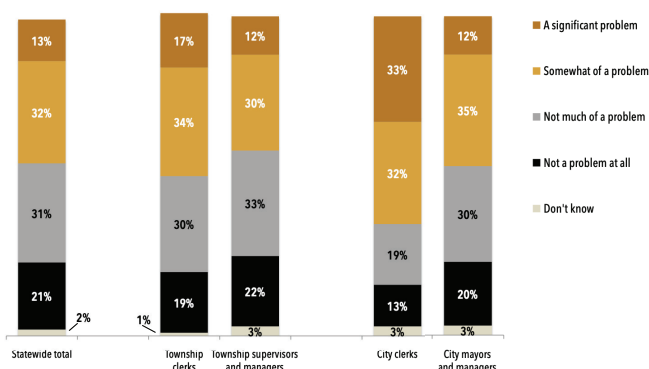
In fact, more problems are predicted for the November 2020 election compared with each item asked on the 2017 MPPS looking back at the November 2016 election. For the most part these increased concerns are quite significant, with the exception of expectations or problems with election equipment failure/malfunctions, which may be helped by the statewide investment in new voting machines in 2018.<sup>14</sup>

One additional item asked in 2020 that was not included in 2017 addresses potential concerns about intentional disinformation targeted at jurisdiction's citizens about voting procedures or other election issues. As of April and May 2020, nearly one in five (18%) local leaders say they expect intentional disinformation to be a problem for their voters in November.

## Clerks, particularly in cities, are more likely than other types of officials to express concerns about poll worker recruitment problems

**Figure 2a**

Local officials' expected problems with recruiting skilled poll workers in November 2020, by jurisdiction type and official's position

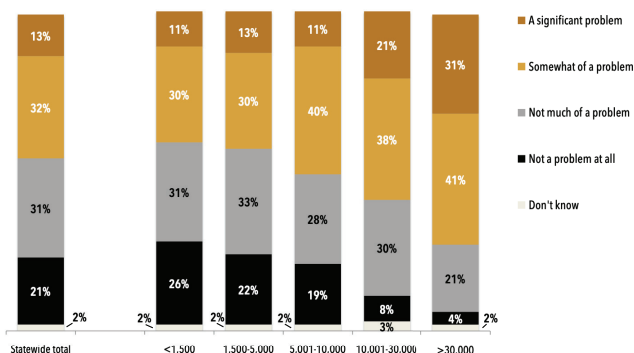


Because township and city clerks are the officials that administer elections in their jurisdictions, the MPPS compared their views with those of other elected and appointed officials to see if there are significant differences of opinion based on the position types. For many types of election-related problems, the data do reveal differences (not just when comparing clerks to others types of officials, but also when comparing across the jurisdiction types of townships vs. cities).

When it comes to predictions about problems with recruiting skilled poll workers (for example, those with necessary computer skills), expectations of problems are highest among city clerks. Two thirds (65%) of city clerks expect recruitment of skilled poll workers to be somewhat of a problem (32%) or a significant problem (33%) in the November 2020 election (see *Figure 2a*). By comparison, about half (51%) of township clerks expect this to be somewhat of a problem (34%) or a significant problem (17%). And while concerns are higher in cities than in townships, in both cases it is also true that the clerks who manage elections are more likely than the jurisdiction's other elected and appointed officials to predict recruitment of skilled poll workers will be a challenge this year.

**Figure 2b**

Local officials' expected problems with recruiting skilled poll workers in November 2020, by jurisdiction size



Concerns about recruitment of skilled poll workers and staff for the November election are particularly widespread in larger townships and cities compared with smaller communities. Among jurisdictions with 10,000 to 30,000 residents, 21% of local leaders expect this to be a significant problem for their election administration, and another 38% expect it to be somewhat of a problem (see *Figure 2b*). Among jurisdictions with more than 30,000 residents, 31% expect this to be a significant problem and another 41% expect it to be somewhat of a problem, while only 4% believe it won't be a problem at all. Concerns among officials in each of these subgroups have all risen significantly compared with reported problems from the 2016 election.

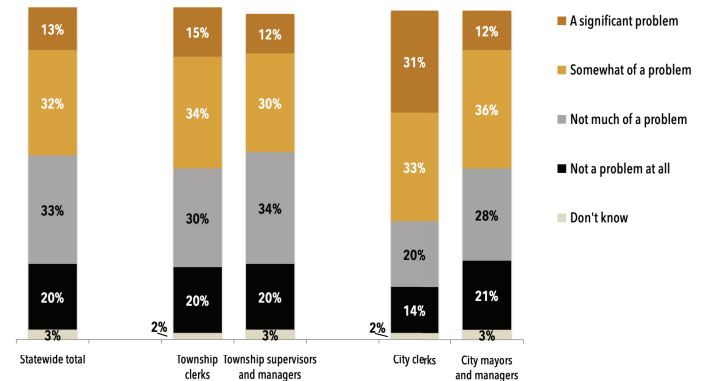


In 2020, local townships' and cities' ability to simply recruit enough poll workers (regardless of their skill level) is made even more difficult due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as poll workers and other election staff traditionally have tended to be older and are therefore at higher risk.<sup>15</sup> Concern is particularly high among city clerks, with 64% expecting this to be a problem, including almost a third (31%) who believe it will be a significant problem (see *Figure 3a*).

Again, larger jurisdictions are also more likely to predict that recruiting sufficient poll workers will be a problem. In jurisdictions with 10,001 to 30,000 residents, 61% of local leaders expect such problems, and this increases to 74% in jurisdictions with more than 30,000 residents (see *Figure 3b*).

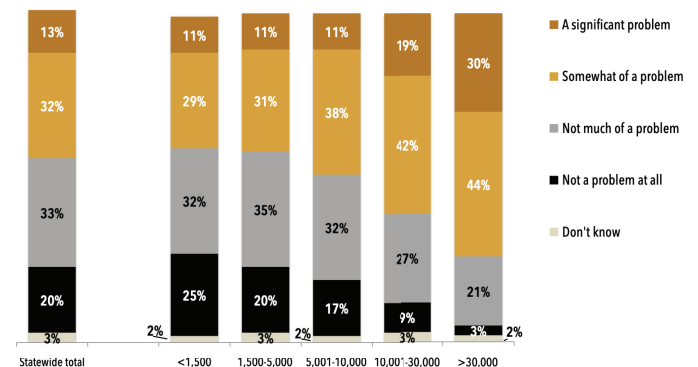
**Figure 3a**

Local officials' expected problems with recruiting enough poll workers in November 2020, by jurisdiction type and official's position



**Figure 3b**

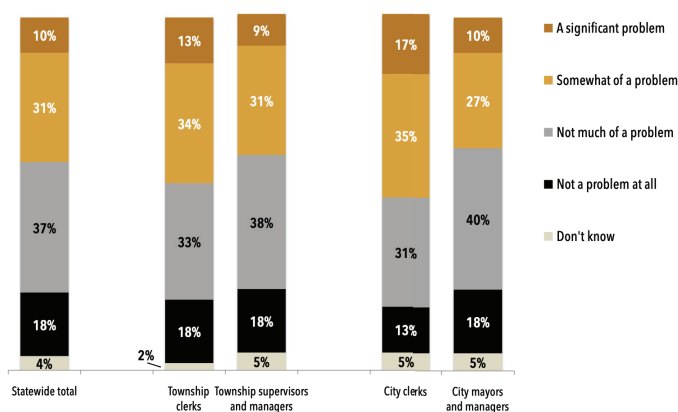
Local officials' expected problems with recruiting enough poll workers in November 2020, by jurisdiction size



## Clerks are also more concerned with election administration costs and wait times

**Figure 4**

Local officials' expected problems with cost to the township's or city's budget in November 2020, by jurisdiction type and official's position

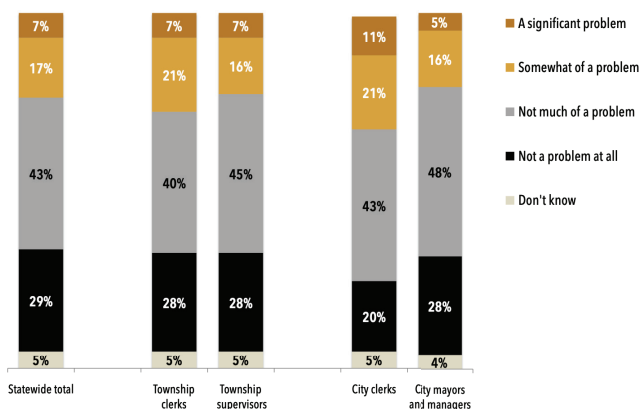


Statewide, local officials from 41% of Michigan cities and townships expect financial costs to be a problem in the November 2020 election. However, concern is particularly high among city clerks (51%) and township clerks (47%); other officials from cities (37%) and townships (40%) are somewhat less likely to expect this to be a problem (see *Figure 4*). This is a reversal from the earlier findings after the 2016 election, where township supervisors and managers were more likely than township clerks to identify costs as a problem, and city clerks' estimations of the problem of cost were generally in line with those of mayors and city managers.<sup>16</sup>

Unlike on the issue of poll worker recruitment, there is less variation in predictions about cost problems among jurisdictions of different sizes, but officials from larger jurisdictions are still likely to register more concern. While 40% of Michigan's smallest cities and townships say the cost of election administration will be a problem for their jurisdiction's budget, a majority (51%) of the largest cities and townships say the same.

**Figure 5**

Local officials' expected problems with long wait times for any voters in November 2020, by jurisdiction size



Despite record numbers of requests for absentee ballots, significantly more Michigan local leaders predict higher problems with wait times for voters this year. In fact, looking ahead to November, 24% statewide predict long wait times that will be a problem for any of their voters in the election, up from just 4% who reported they had at least some voters experiencing long wait times in 2016. Almost a third of city clerks expect long lines to be a problem (32%), along with 28% of township clerks (see *Figure 5*). Other city (21%) and township (23%) officials are less likely to expect problems with long wait times for their jurisdiction's voters.

When it comes to difference in population size, just 13% of the smallest jurisdictions anticipate long wait times for any of their voters, but more than half (52%) of cities and townships with over 30,000 residents say wait times will likely be a problem, including over a quarter (26%) who predict long waits will be a significant problem.



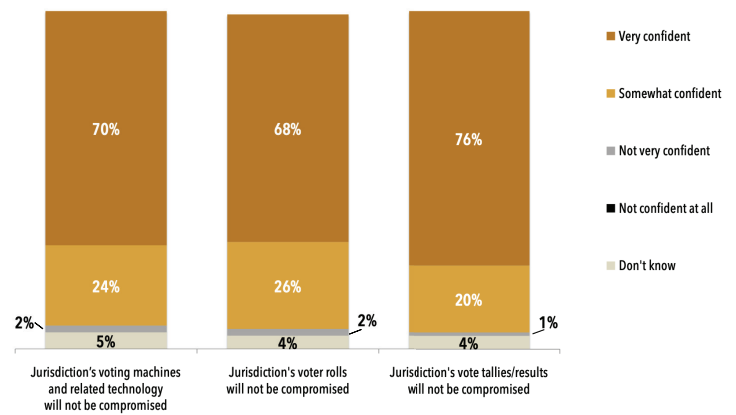
## Confidence is generally high in election security

As of April and May 2020, most of Michigan’s township and city clerks express relatively high levels of confidence in the security of their elections. When asked about their confidence that aspects of their election administration would not be compromised (i.e., altered, hacked, made inaccessible, or otherwise interfered with), most statewide say they are very confident that final vote tallies or results (76%), voting machines (70%), and voter rolls (68%) will not be compromised (see *Figure 6*). While other city and township officials (i.e., non-clerks) express somewhat lower levels of confidence—with 20-26% saying they are only somewhat confident their systems will not be compromised in November 2020—only a small fraction actually have very little or no confidence at all in the security of their jurisdiction’s voting machines, voter rolls, and tallies.

Looking at all three of these aspects of election security together—voting machines, voter rolls, and final tallies—the percentage who are “very” confident they will not be compromised drops to 63% (see *Figure 7*). This confidence is again substantially higher among clerks, who actually run elections, compared with other types of local officials, as broken out in *Figure 7*.

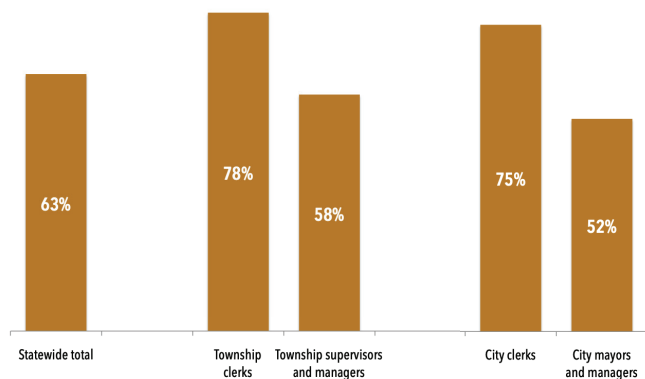
**Figure 6**

Local officials’ confidence in various elements of local election security for November 2020



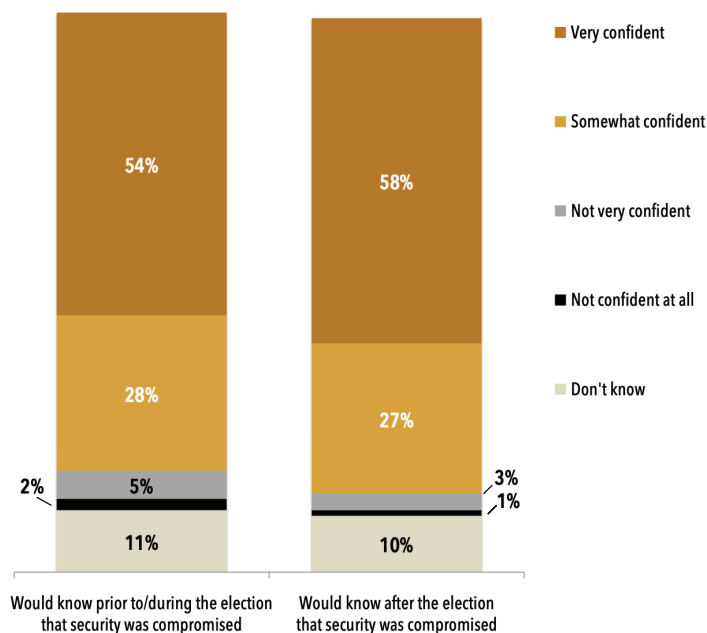
**Figure 7**

Percentage of local officials who are “very confident” in all three elements of local election security for November 2020, by jurisdiction type and official’s position





**Figure 8**  
Local officials' confidence in their township's or city's ability to detect compromised election security



Local officials, including clerks, are less confident that their jurisdictions would actually know if their local election security was compromised (see *Figure 8*). Overall, 54% are very confident they would know if their systems had been compromised before or during the election, while 28% are somewhat confident, 5% are not very confident, 2% are not at all confident, and 11% are simply not sure. Confidence is slightly higher that would know after the election was completed.

Again, confidence among clerks is somewhat higher compared to other types of officials, with 67% of township clerks and 59% of city clerks saying they are very confident they would detect security breaches before or during the election. Meanwhile, among township clerks, 70% are very confident they would be able to detect interference in their local election systems *after* the election, compared to 63% of city clerks. Other (non-clerk) city and township officials are significantly less likely to say they are very confident in their jurisdiction's ability to detect intrusions into security.

*See Appendix A for full breakdown of township clerks', city clerks', and other officials' confidence in all five election security questions.*





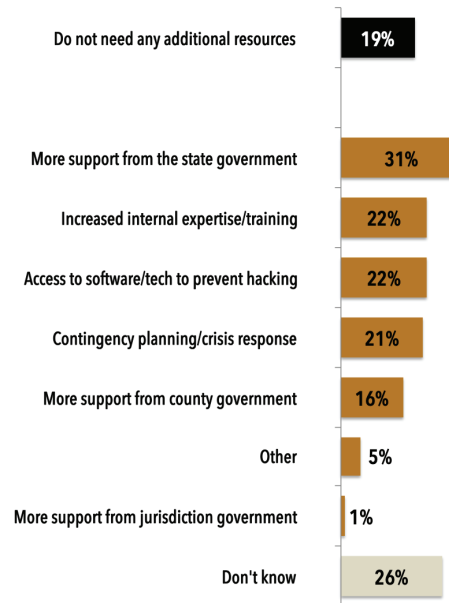
## Among officials that are not very confident on security issues, no single additional resource is a solution

Among city and township officials who are not very confident in all aspects of election security for November 2020, the MPPS asked whether there are resources they might need in order to improve election security. Approximately one in five (19%) of these officials say that, despite not being completely confident in their jurisdiction's election security, there are no additional resources that would be helpful (see *Figure 9*). However, just under a third (31%) indicate they could use more support from the state government, and 16% said they need more support from their county government. In terms of specific types of support, 22% said they could use increased internal expertise or training, 22% say they need access to software and other technology to prevent hacking, and 21% said they would like help with contingency planning/crisis response. City and township clerks are more likely than other types of officials to say their jurisdiction needs increased internal expertise or training. However, there is also considerable uncertainty about what resources would be helpful to local jurisdictions to secure their elections, with 26% officials who were not completely confident in their current election security indicating that they don't know what resources might be needed.

*See Appendix B for full breakdown of by jurisdiction type and position, and by jurisdiction size, of assessments of resources needed to improve election security.*

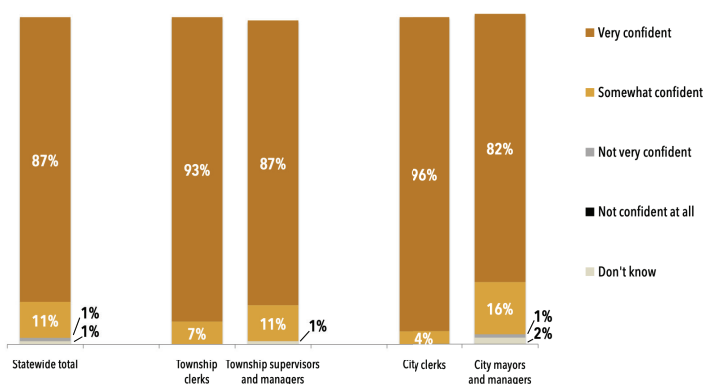
**Figure 9**

Percentage of local officials who indicate various additional resources could help township or city improve its election security (among those who are not "very confident" in all aspects of local election security)



## Overall, city and township officials express high levels of confidence in their ability to conduct accurate elections

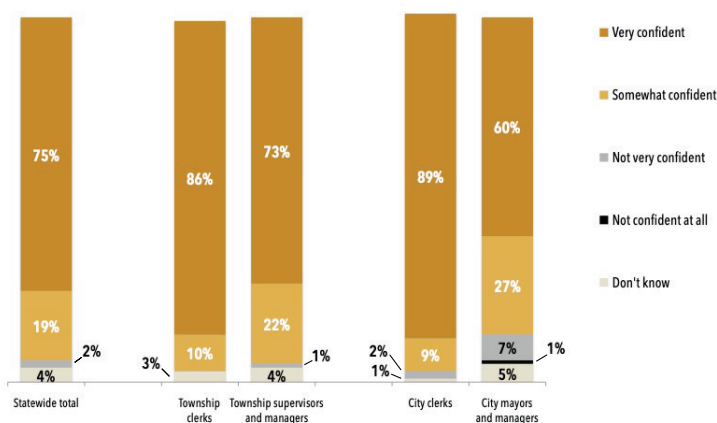
**Figure 10**  
Local officials' confidence in their township's or city's ability to administer elections



Even after considering potential administrative problems and challenges to election security, statewide, the overwhelming majority of local officials (87%) are very confident that their local government is able to administer elections accurately (see *Figure 10*). This represents a slight decline from the 91% of officials who said the same after the 2016 election. Meanwhile, 11% of officials are somewhat confident, and 1% are not very confident or not at all confident. These 12% of officials who are less than “very confident” in the accuracy of their elections represent approximately 182 townships and cities across the state.

However, once again it is important to note that township and city clerks—the local officials closest to election preparations—have the highest confidence in the accuracy of local elections. Among township officials, 93% of clerks are very confident in their jurisdiction’s ability to conduct elections accurately, compared with 87% of township supervisors or managers. Similarly, 96% of city clerks express the highest confidence, compared with 82% of city mayors and administrators.

**Figure 11**  
Local officials' confidence in their county clerk's ability to administer recounts accurately



In addition to administering elections themselves, local jurisdictions might need to have their ballots reviewed by their county clerk’s office if a recount is ordered. At this stage of election administration, problems with accuracy could happen either during the recount process itself, or could have begun at the original polling locations themselves, such as through spoiled ballots, mismatches between the number of voters logged in and the number of ballots counted, equipment malfunctions, improperly secured ballots, or other issues. When asked about the ability of their county clerk’s office to administer a recount accurately, 75% of local officials overall are very confident. This is down slightly from 80% who were very confident in their county clerk after the 2016 election. In addition, this year 19% are somewhat confident, 2% are not very confident, and 1% don’t know (see *Figure 11*). Once again, township and city clerks express greater confidence in county recounts than do other local officials such as mayors, supervisors, and managers.



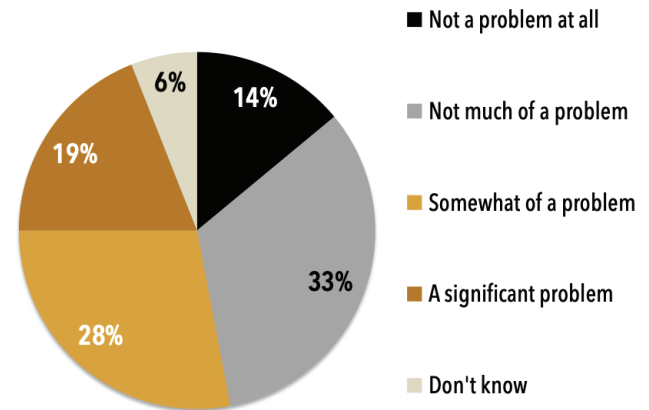
## The perspective of Michigan county clerks

The Spring 2020 MPPS also surveyed Michigan's county clerks, to gather their perspectives on a battery of county-specific election administration questions. Out of Michigan's 83 counties, 51 clerks provided information about election administration on the MPPS this past spring. Although the county clerks were not surveyed about the whole range of potential local election administration challenges, they were asked whether they expect costs will be a problem for their county's budget this election cycle. As shown in *Figure 12*, nearly half (47%) of county clerks indicate that the cost of their November 2020 election administration will be somewhat of a problem (28%) or a significant (19%) problem for their county. This is right in line with the concern expressed about the local budget pressures of the November 2020 election by city clerks (51%) and township clerks (47%).

In addition, county clerks generally express high levels of confidence in the election security of cities and townships within their county, with near unanimous confidence that local voting machines (98%) and vote tallies (98%) will not be compromised (see *Figure 13*), although confidence in voter rolls is somewhat lower (79% are very confident, while 20% are somewhat confident). However, confidence is somewhat lower among county clerks that their local governments would know if the November election was compromised either prior to or during the election (61% are very confident with another 21% somewhat confident), or after the election (68% and 18%, respectively). Like township and city officials, county clerks were also asked what resources would help them improve election security within their county. Among county clerks who are not very confident in all aspects of election security (including the ability to detect a compromised election), 43% say they need more support from the state government to ensure election security within their county, while 32% say they need assistance with contingency planning/crisis response.

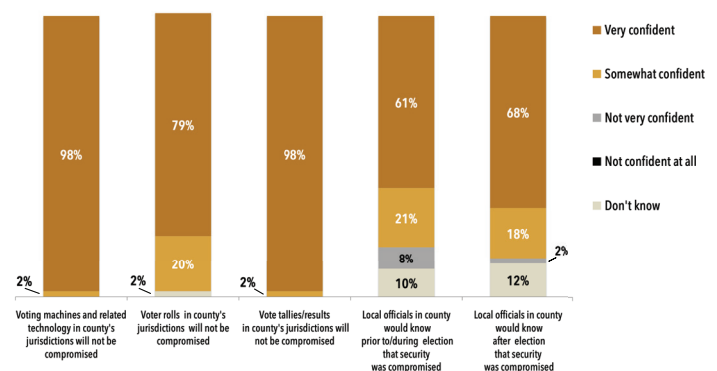
**Figure 12**

County Clerks' expected problems with cost to the county's budget in November 2020

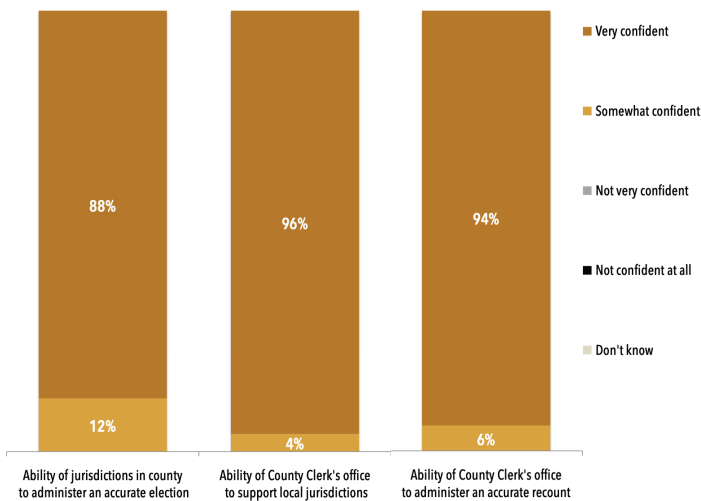


**Figure 13**

County Clerks' confidence in various elements of election security among cities and townships in their county for November 2020



**Figure 14**  
County Clerks' confidence in administering the election for November 2020



As with township and city clerks, county clerks express extremely high levels of confidence about overall abilities to run accurate elections this November. As shown in *Figure 14*, they are very confident in the ability of jurisdictions within the county to administer an accurate election (88%) as well as in the ability of the county clerk's office to support local jurisdictions (96%) on election night and to administer an accurate recount if needed (94%).

## Conclusion

The November 2020 general election faces a number of challenges, including those related to the COVID-19 pandemic and vastly increased numbers of absentee ballot requests.

So it is perhaps not surprising that the Spring 2020 MPPS finds that Michigan local officials expect more problems in a range of areas compared to what they experienced in the November 2016 election. In particular, almost half of Michigan's cities and townships expect problems with poll worker recruitment, a problem which exemplifies the complications of conducting an election during the COVID-19 pandemic. Local officials are also concerned about the costs of election administration, and the survey finds overall that problems with election administration are more commonly expected in Michigan's largest cities and townships compared with smaller jurisdictions.

Local officials are generally confident about the security of their elections, with most expressing high levels of confidence that their voting machines, voter rolls, and vote results will not be compromised. Still, when considering all three aspects of security together, the percentage who are "very" confident drops to 63% of all local officials (though with higher confidence among clerks, who actually run elections, than other types of officials). Confidence overall is slightly lower than officials would actually know if these systems had in fact been compromised.

Overall, Michigan's local officials—particularly township, city, and county clerks—express very high levels of confidence in the ability of their jurisdiction to conduct an accurate election, despite potential challenges.

## Notes

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## Survey Background and Methodology

The MPPS is an ongoing survey program, interviewing the leaders of Michigan's 1,856 units of general purpose local government. Surveys are conducted each spring (and prior to 2018, were also conducted each fall). The program has covered a wide range of policy topics, and includes longitudinal tracking data on "core" fiscal, budgetary and operational policy questions and designed to build-up a multi-year time-series.

In the Spring 2020 iteration, surveys were sent by the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) via the internet and hardcopy to top elected and appointed officials (including county administrators and board chairs; city mayors and managers; village presidents, clerks, and managers; and township supervisors, clerks, and managers) from all 83 counties, 280 cities, 253 villages, and 1,240 townships in the state of Michigan. In addition, an oversample of county, township, and city clerks received just the battery of questions related to election administration, to ensure these officials had the opportunity to weigh in specifically on this topic.

The Spring 2020 wave was conducted from March 30 – June 1, 2020. A total of 1,342 jurisdictions in the Spring 2020 wave returned valid surveys (59 counties, 216 cities, 163 villages, and 904 townships), resulting in a 72% response rate by unit. A total of 947 clerks returned valid surveys (51 county clerks, 710 township clerks, and 186 city clerks), resulting in a 59% response rate among clerks. The margin of error for the survey for the survey as a whole is +/- 1.41%. The key relationships discussed in the above report are statistically significant at the  $p < .05$  level or below, unless otherwise specified. Missing responses are not included in the tabulations, unless otherwise specified. Some report figures may not add to 100% due to rounding within response categories. Quantitative data are weighted to account for non-response. "Voices Across Michigan" verbatim responses, when included, may have been edited for clarity and brevity. Contact CLOSUP staff for more information.

Detailed tables of the data analyzed in this report broken down three ways—by jurisdiction type (county, city, township, or village); by population size of the respondent's community, and by the region of the respondent's jurisdiction—are available online at the MPPS homepage: <http://closup.umich.edu/michigan-public-policy-survey>.

*The survey responses presented here are those of local Michigan officials, while further analysis represents the views of the authors. Neither necessarily reflects the views of the University of Michigan, or of other partners in the MPPS.*



## Appendix A

**Local officials' assessments of problems with election administration in their jurisdictions, by jurisdiction type and official's position**

	Township Clerks	Township Supervisors and Managers	City Clerks	City Mayors and Managers	Total
<b>Confidence local jurisdiction's voting machines will not be compromised</b>					
Very confident	86%	64%	85%	59%	70%
Somewhat confident	12%	28%	13%	33%	24%
Not very confident	0%	2%	0%	2%	2%
Not confident at all	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Don't know	1%	6%	3%	6%	5%
<b>Confidence voter rolls in jurisdiction will not be compromised</b>					
Very confident	81%	64%	76%	57%	68%
Somewhat confident	17%	29%	20%	36%	26%
Not very confident	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Not confident at all	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Don't know	2%	5%	3%	6%	4%
<b>Confidence voter tallies/results in jurisdiction will not be compromised</b>					
Very confident	89%	72%	89%	65%	76%
Somewhat confident	9%	23%	8%	29%	20%
Not very confident	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Not confident at all	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Don't know	1%	5%	3%	5%	4%
<b>Confidence jurisdiction would know if election was compromised prior to/during election</b>					
Very confident	67%	50%	59%	39%	54%
Somewhat confident	23%	28%	25%	38%	28%
Not very confident	3%	6%	3%	7%	5%
Not confident at all	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Don't know	6%	14%	12%	14%	11%
<b>Confidence jurisdiction would know if election was compromised after the election</b>					
Very confident	70%	54%	63%	49%	58%
Somewhat confident	20%	29%	23%	36%	27%
Not very confident	2%	3%	1%	4%	3%
Not confident at all	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Don't know	6%	13%	12%	10%	10%



## Appendix B

Percentage of local officials who indicate various additional resources could help township or city improve its election security (among those who are not “very confident” in all aspects of local election security), by jurisdiction type and official’s position, and by jurisdiction size

	Township Clerks	Township Supervisors and Managers	City Clerks	City Mayors and Managers	Total
None	18%	23%	17%	17%	19%
More support from jurisdiction government	4%	1%	7%	1%	1%
More support from county government	12%	16%	13%	20%	16%
More support from state government	27%	29%	35%	40%	31%
Increased internal expertise/training	28%	16%	32%	24%	22%
Access to software/technology to prevent hacking	19%	19%	17%	29%	22%
Contingency planning/crisis response	20%	18%	31%	26%	21%
Other	8%	5%	7%	2%	5%
Don't know	27%	27%	20%	21%	26%

	<1,500	1,500 - 5,000	5,001 - 10,000	10,001 - 30,000	>30,000	Total
None	22%	17%	19%	21%	10%	19%
More support from jurisdiction government	1%	2%	0%	2%	3%	1%
More support from county government	19%	12%	13%	27%	21%	16%
More support from state government	28%	27%	35%	45%	49%	31%
Increased internal expertise/training	25%	21%	18%	20%	25%	22%
Access to software/technology to prevent hacking	19%	21%	16%	37%	33%	22%
Contingency planning/crisis response	17%	25%	16%	28%	11%	21%
Other	5%	7%	3%	2%	3%	5%
Don't know	23%	31%	24%	12%	20%	26%



## Previous MPPS reports

Michigan Local Energy Survey (MiLES): Intergovernmental collaboration on sustainability and energy issues among Michigan local governments (September 2020)

Confidence in the accuracy of Michigan's 2020 Census count among local leaders was not very high, slips further (August 2020)

Michigan local leaders expect mixed impacts from expanded voter registration and absentee voting reforms (July 2020)

Local leaders' evaluations of Michigan's direction and Governor's performance during the COVID-19 pandemic's arrival (July 2020)

The initial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Michigan communities and local governments (June 2020)

Energy policies and environmental leadership among Michigan's local governments (January 2020)

Mixed signals continue for Michigan local governments' fiscal health, while future outlooks worsen (December 2019)

Michigan local officials' views on the next recession: timing, concerns, and actions taken (October 2019)

Michigan local government preparations and concerns regarding the 2020 U.S. Census (September 2019)

New Governor, new evaluations of the direction Michigan is headed among local leaders (August 2019)

Positive working relationships reported among Michigan's local elected officials (June 2019)

Community poverty and the struggle to make ends meet in Michigan, according to local government leaders (March 2019)

The state of community civic discourse, according to Michigan's local government leaders (December 2018)

Despite sustained economic growth, Michigan local government fiscal health still lags (November 2018)

Michigan local government leaders' views on medical and recreational marijuana (September 2018)

Rising confidence in Michigan's direction among local leaders, but partisan differences remain (July 2018)

Michigan local government officials weigh in on housing shortages and related issues (June 2018)

Approaches to land use planning and zoning among Michigan's local governments (May 2018)

Workforce issues and challenges for Michigan's local governments (January 2018)

Local leaders' views on elections in Michigan: accuracy, problems, and reform options (November 2017)

Michigan local government officials report complex mix of improvement and decline in fiscal health, but with overall trend moving slowly upward (October 2017)

Michigan local leaders want their citizens to play a larger role in policymaking, but report declining engagement (August 2017)

Michigan local leaders' views on state preemption and how to share policy authority (June 2017)

Improving communication, building trust are seen as keys to fixing relationships between local jurisdictions and the State government (May 2017)

Local leaders more likely to support than oppose Michigan's Emergency Manager law, but strongly favor reforms (February 2017)

Local government leaders' views on drinking water and water supply infrastructure in Michigan communities (November 2016)

Michigan local leaders say property tax appeals are common, disagree with 'dark stores' assessing (October 2016)

Local officials say Michigan's system of funding local government is broken, and seek State action to fix it (September 2016)

Michigan local governments report first declines in fiscal health trend since 2010 (August 2016)

Michigan local leaders' doubts continue regarding the state's direction (July 2016)

Hospital access primary emergency medical concern among many Michigan local officials (July 2016)

Firefighting services in Michigan: challenges and approaches among local governments (June 2016)

Most local officials are satisfied with law enforcement services, but almost half from largest jurisdictions say their funding is insufficient (April 2016)

Local leaders say police-community relations are good throughout Michigan, but those in large cities are concerned about potential civil unrest over police use-of-force (February 2016)

Report: Responding to budget surplus vs. deficit: the preferences of Michigan's local leaders and citizens (December 2015)

Michigan's local leaders concerned about retiree health care costs and their governments' ability to meet future obligations (October 2015)

Fiscal health rated relatively good for most jurisdictions, but improvement slows and decline continues for many (September 2015)

Confidence in Michigan's direction declines among state's local leaders (August 2015)

Michigan local government leaders' views on private roads (July 2015)

Few Michigan jurisdictions have adopted Complete Streets policies, though many see potential benefits (June 2015)

Michigan local leaders have positive views on relationships with county road agencies, despite some concerns (May 2015)

Michigan local government leaders say transit services are important, but lack of funding discourages their development (April 2015)

Michigan local leaders see need for state and local ethics reform (March 2015)

Local leaders say Michigan road funding needs major increase, but lack consensus on options that would raise the most revenue (February 2015)

Michigan local government leaders' views on employee pay and benefits (January 2015)

Despite increasingly formal financial management, relatively few Michigan local governments have adopted recommended policies (December 2014)

Most Michigan local officials are satisfied with their privatized services, but few seek to expand further (November 2014)

Michigan local governments finally pass fiscal health tipping point overall, but one in four still report decline (October 2014)

Beyond the coast, a tenuous relationship between Michigan local governments and the Great Lakes (September 2014)

Confidence in Michigan's direction holds steady among state's local leaders (August 2014)

Wind power as a community issue in Michigan (July 2014)

Fracking as a community issue in Michigan (June 2014)

The impact of tax-exempt properties on Michigan local governments (March 2014)

Michigan's local leaders generally support Detroit bankruptcy filing despite some concerns (February 2014)

Michigan local governments increasingly pursue placemaking for economic development (January 2014)

Views on right-to-work legislation among Michigan's local government leaders (December 2013)

Michigan local governments continue seeking, and receiving, union concessions (October 2013)

Michigan local government fiscal health continues gradual improvement, but smallest jurisdictions lagging (September 2013)

Local leaders evaluate state policymaker performance and whether Michigan is on the right track (August 2013)

Trust in government among Michigan's local leaders and citizens (July 2013)

Citizen engagement in the view of Michigan's local government leaders (May 2013)

Beyond trust in government: government trust in citizens? (March 2013)

Local leaders support reforming Michigan's system of funding local government (January 2013)

Local leaders support eliminating Michigan's Personal Property Tax if funds are replaced, but distrust state follow-through (November 2012)

Michigan's local leaders satisfied with union negotiations (October 2012)

Michigan's local leaders are divided over the state's emergency manager law (September 2012)

Fiscal stress continues for hundreds of Michigan jurisdictions, but conditions trend in positive direction overall (September 2012)

Michigan's local leaders more positive about Governor Snyder's performance, more optimistic about the state's direction (July 2012)

Data-driven decision-making in Michigan local government (June 2012)

State funding incentives increase local collaboration, but also raise concerns (March 2012)

Local officials react to state policy innovation tying revenue sharing to dashboards and incentive funding (January 2012)

MPPS finds fiscal health continues to decline across the state, though some negative trends eased in 2011 (October 2011)

Public sector unions in Michigan: their presence and impact according to local government leaders (August 2011)

Despite increased approval of state government performance, Michigan's local leaders are concerned about the state's direction (August 2011)

Local government and environmental leadership: views of Michigan's local leaders (July 2011)



Local leaders are mostly positive about intergovernmental cooperation and look to expand efforts (March 2011)  
Local government leaders say most employees are not overpaid, though some benefits may be too generous (February 2011)  
Local government leaders say economic gardening can help grow their economies (November 2010)  
Local governments struggle to cope with fiscal, service, and staffing pressures (August 2010)  
Michigan local governments actively promote U.S. Census participation (August 2010)  
Fiscal stimulus package mostly ineffective for local economies (May 2010)  
Fall 2009 key findings report: educational, economic, and workforce development issues at the local level (April 2010)  
Local government officials give low marks to the performance of state officials and report low trust in Lansing (March 2010)  
Local government fiscal and economic development issues (October 2009)

All MPPS reports are available online at: <http://closup.umich.edu/mpps-publications>

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