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To start, please select:

Q1. What type of jurisdiction do you represent?

- ☐ County
☐ Township
☐ City
☐ Village

What is the jurisdiction's name? _____

(If not a county) In what county is it located? _____

What position do you hold? _____

Q2. During the next twelve months, do you expect good times or bad times for local economic conditions in your community?

- ☐ Good times ☐ Bad times ☐ Neither ☐ Don't know

Q3. Thinking about the financial needs of your jurisdiction, would you say that your unit of government is less able or better able to meet its financial needs in...

	Significantly less able	Somewhat less able	Neither less nor better able	Somewhat better able	Significantly better able	Don't know
... <u>this</u> fiscal year compared to the last fiscal year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... the <u>next</u> fiscal year compared to this fiscal year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4. Comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to its previous fiscal year, 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.

	Greatly decreased	Somewhat decreased	No change	Somewhat increased	Greatly increased	Not applicable	Don't know
Revenue from property taxes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Revenue from fees for services, licenses, transfers, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability of your jurisdiction to repay its debt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amount of federal aid to your jurisdiction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amount of state aid to your jurisdiction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public safety needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Infrastructure needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human service needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Needs for general government operations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost of your jurisdiction's employee pensions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost of your jurisdiction's current employee health benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost of your jurisdiction's retired employee health benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q5. Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take.

	Greatly decrease	Somewhat decrease	No change	Somewhat increase	Greatly increase	Not applicable	Don't know
Property tax rates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charges for fees, licenses, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reliance on general fund balance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amount of services provided	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public safety spending	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Infrastructure spending	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human services spending	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General government operations spending	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amount of debt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Number and/or scope of interlocal agreements or other service-sharing plans with other governments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Number of employees that work for your jurisdiction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employee pay rates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employee health benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q6. Thinking about your jurisdiction's fiscal needs, overall, do you consider your jurisdiction's unreserved/unassigned general fund balance to be too high, about right, or too low?

- ☐ Too high ☐ About right ☐ Too low ☐ Don't know

Q7. Now, think about the overall fiscal stress in your jurisdiction today and what you expect it to be down the road, including any future financial obligations it may have. On a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is the best: perfect fiscal health and 10 is the worst: fiscal crisis, how would you rate your jurisdiction's overall fiscal stress...

	The best: Perfect fiscal health									The worst: Fiscal crisis	Don't know
... today?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
... as you expect it to be five years from now?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q8. To what extent might the end (or pause) of any large federal or state funding programs pose a problem for your jurisdiction's fiscal health in the next five years? (if your jurisdiction doesn't receive these types of funding, please choose "not applicable")

	A significant problem	Somewhat of a problem	Not much of a problem	Not a problem at all	Not applicable	Don't know
The end of short-term ARPA funding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The end of short-term Bipartisan Infrastructure Act (IIJA) or IRA funding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The end or pause of long-term ongoing funding sources (such as transportation or housing funds)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q9. As far as you know, is your jurisdiction making plans or taking any specific actions to prepare for a potential loss of federal or state funds in any of the following categories? (check all that apply)

- ☐ We are not currently preparing for loss of federal or state funding in any category.
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Water and sewer infrastructure
- ☐ Energy programs and/or infrastructure
- ☐ Other capital improvements (e.g., public buildings, parks, etc.)
- ☐ Economic development
- ☐ Public safety
- ☐ Health and social services
- ☐ Other planning for funding reductions
- ☐ Don't know

Q10. (skip if selected "not currently preparing" or "don't know" in Q9) Please briefly describe specific actions your jurisdiction is planning or taking to prepare for a potential loss in federal or state funding.

Q11. Next, we're interested in your views about the trade-off between services and taxes. Thinking about particular services your jurisdiction may currently offer, if your jurisdiction's residents were facing significant service cuts, in your opinion, what would they choose? Would the majority of residents be more likely to choose higher taxes to avoid those service cuts or would they choose cuts to public services to avoid higher taxes? Please respond for each of the following services. (If your jurisdiction does not provide a particular service below, please select "not applicable" for that service.)

	Residents would choose <u>higher taxes</u> to avoid service cuts	Residents would choose <u>service cuts</u> to avoid higher taxes	Not applicable	Don't know
Police services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks/recreation/libraries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public transportation/transit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utilities (water, sewer, lighting, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General operations (tax collections, accounting, training for officials, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q12. If your jurisdiction had the authority to raise additional local revenues — including options that may not be available currently — would you support or oppose having your jurisdiction introduce or increase the following local revenue options?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Local property tax millage rates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local income tax	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local sales tax	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local gas tax	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local sales tax on alcohol, tobacco, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local public utility taxes/fees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local hotel/tourism tax	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local motor vehicle license/registration fees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional tax-base sharing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q13. Thinking about the revenue caps facing your jurisdiction (for example, the Headlee Amendment, Proposal A, etc.), do you agree or disagree that Michigan's current system of funding local government will provide adequate funding to...

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
... <u>maintain</u> the current quantity and quality of services your jurisdiction provides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... <u>improve</u> or <u>add</u> more services, if they are necessary or desired?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In this next section, we have some specific questions about how your jurisdiction conducts its budgeting. Even if your budget process is not complicated, we're interested in the challenges your jurisdiction may be facing. You can skip any questions that are not relevant.

Q14. Michigan has hundreds of small communities and counties with relatively simple budgets, as well as a number of large local governments with complex budgets. To give us a general sense of where your jurisdiction falls on that scale, approximately what is the size of your government's annual operating budget?

- ☐ Less than \$500,000
- ☐ \$500,000 - \$1,000,000
- ☐ \$1,000,000 - \$10,000,000
- ☐ Over \$10,000,000
- ☐ Don't know

Q15. Some local jurisdictions are moving to multi-year budgeting, rather than the traditional single-year budgeting. Does your jurisdiction adopt a single-year operating budget or some kind of multi-year budget?

- ☐ Single year budget
- ☐ Two-year budget
- ☐ A budget that includes three or more years into the future
- ☐ Don't know

Q16. Does your jurisdiction's government have any formal policies for the following financial planning and management issues? (check all that apply)

- ☐ **Balanced Budget Policy:**
commitment to a balanced budget and disclosure when deviations occur (beyond state requirements)
- ☐ **One-Time Revenues:**
policy(s) directing the use of one-time revenues (e.g., from sale of government assets, grant monies, etc.)
- ☐ **General Fund Balance:**
policy(s) that specify the level of unrestricted fund balance that should be maintained in the general fund
- ☐ **Reserve or Stabilization Accounts or Other Fund Reserves:**
policy(s) to maintain a prudent level of financial resources to weather temporary revenue shortfalls or one-time expenditures
- ☐ **Asset Inventory:**
regularly updated inventory and assessment of the condition of all major capital assets (e.g., buildings, major equipment, etc.)
- ☐ **Debt Level and Capacity:**
policy(s) on the maximum amount of debt and debt service that should be outstanding at any time (beyond state requirements)
- ☐ **Risk Assessment:**
program(s) designed to identify potential events that may affect the government and to protect and minimize risks to the government's property, services, and employees
- ☐ Don't know

Q17. What is the typical time horizon for your government's multi-year capital improvement plan (CIP)? A CIP is a plan for investing in large capital assets like infrastructure.

- ☐ We don't have a multi-year CIP
- ☐ Our CIP covers 3 or fewer years into the future
- ☐ Our CIP covers 4-5 years into the future
- ☐ Our CIP covers 6-10 years into the future
- ☐ Our CIP covers more than 10 years into the future
- ☐ Don't know

Q18. Thinking beyond your operating budget and/or CIP, does your government engage in any other types of long-term planning?

	Yes	No, but our jurisdiction would like to adopt this in the future	No, and we're not planning to adopt	Don't know
Long-term revenue projections/forecasts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A formal long-term financial plan (i.e., long-term plans for maintaining financial health)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A formal strategic plan (i.e., a roadmap for achieving the community's long-term goals)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A Master Plan that includes financial planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q19. (skip if do not have a CIP and selected "no" or "don't know" in all of Q18) As far as you know, which of the following elements does your government include in its long-term financial planning? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Projections of revenue
☐ Projections of expenditures
☐ Projections of capital costs
☐ Assumptions and/or explanations behind projections
☐ Strategies for improving or maintaining financial health
☐ Strategies for addressing risks posed by long-term liabilities (e.g., pensions, debt, etc.)
☐ Other (please specify) _____
☐ Don't know

Q20. When making changes to the budget, there is often a tension between incremental changes based on historical precedent and larger changes based on current priorities. Where does your jurisdiction currently fall on this spectrum, and where do you think it should fall?

	More based on historical precedent										More based on current priorities	Don't know
Your government's current approach to budgetary changes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		<input type="checkbox"/>
How you think your government <u>should</u> approach budgetary changes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		<input type="checkbox"/>

The next set of questions asks about practices your jurisdiction might currently incorporate into your budgeting process, and how much you think they should be incorporated.

Q21. Thinking about the use of data measures beyond cost (e.g., number of fire runs, number of water main breaks, community demand for services) in your government's budgeting process...

	Not at all										A great deal	Not applicable	Don't know
... how much does your government currently do?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... how much <u>should</u> it do?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q22. Thinking about making contingency plans for managing budgetary risks...

	Not at all										A great deal	Not applicable	Don't know
... how much does your government currently do?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... how much <u>should</u> it do?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q23. Thinking about conducting regular budget monitoring ...

	Not at all										A great deal	Not applicable	Don't know
... how much does your government currently do?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... how much <u>should</u> it do?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q24. Thinking about maintaining public transparency throughout the budget process ...

	Not at all										A great deal	Not applicable	Don't know
... how much does your government currently do?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... how much <u>should</u> it do?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q25. As someone with responsibility over your government's budget, to what extent are you concerned, if at all, about the following issues with your budgeting process?

[illegible]

Q26. If you had additional resources (for example, more time, funding, capacity), what would be your top priority for improving your jurisdiction's budgeting process?

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Now we'd like to change topics and turn to some questions about your residents' engagement with your jurisdiction government's policymaking processes or implementation. This might include formal and informal interactions, such as contacts with local officials, attendance at local meetings, participation on local boards/commissions, and more.

Q27. We want to start by getting a very broad sense of resident engagement with your local government. How would you describe current levels of resident engagement with your jurisdiction? Overall, would you say residents in your jurisdiction are...

Very engaged Somewhat engaged Not very engaged Not at all engaged Don't know

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Q28. To what extent do you feel your jurisdiction offers opportunities to residents for engagement with the jurisdiction in its policymaking and/or operations?

A great deal **Somewhat** **Very little** **None at all** **Don't know**

Q29. People are often asked on opinion surveys how much trust they have in their government. Now we'd like to ask you, as a local official, about trust you have in your jurisdiction's residents. In terms of engagement in your jurisdiction's policymaking and/or operations, how much of the time do you think you can trust the residents in your community to be responsible participants?

- ☐ Nearly always
- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐ Some of the time
- ☐ Seldom
- ☐ Almost never
- ☐ Don't know

Q30. Thinking generally about the tone of discussion and communication that takes place around local policy issues, how would you describe the general state of public discourse within your jurisdiction between...

[illegible]

- ☐ Public comment opportunities at jurisdiction's main governing Council/Board meetings
- ☐ Electronic/email newsletters or notices
- ☐ Interactive features on a jurisdiction website aimed at the public (e.g., local government performance dashboard, budget information, etc.)
- ☐ Social media accounts for your jurisdiction (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, etc.)
- ☐ Online streaming/cable broadcast of Council/Board meetings
- ☐ Resident surveys conducted by or for your jurisdiction
- ☐ Informal one-on-one discussions with residents around the community
- ☐ Open houses or regular opportunities for residents to stop in to meet with officials (e.g., coffee hours)
- ☐ Townhall meetings where residents are invited to learn or comment on issues
- ☐ Strategic-planning or "visioning" sessions, workshops, or interactive activities
- ☐ Residents formally serving on ad hoc task forces or planning teams
- ☐ Residents formally serving on government boards or commissions
- ☐ Don't know

	Not a problem at all	Not much of a problem	Somewhat of a problem	A significant problem	Don't know
Lack of staff or elected officials' time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of resources/cost of engagement efforts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our Board/Council does not prioritize resident engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our jurisdiction's engagement efforts mostly attract the same people over and over	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our meetings run too long because too many residents want to speak	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A small vocal minority of residents is negatively affecting overall engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conflict on the Board/Council keeps residents from wanting to engage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State or national partisan politics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- ☐ Yes, and it's been helpful
- ☐ Yes, but not particularly helpful
- ☐ No, but we'd like to have training
- ☐ No training necessary
- ☐ Don't know

☐ No, no one in the jurisdiction is formally responsible for resident engagement and outreach.

☐ Yes, we have jurisdiction staff whose sole job responsibility is resident engagement and outreach.

☐ Yes, we have jurisdiction staff who have other job responsibilities in addition to handling engagement efforts.

☐ We use external organizations or consultants for promoting or managing resident engagement and outreach.

☐ Outreach is coordinated by our county government. *(skip if county official)*

☐ Don't know

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Neither agree nor disagree Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree Don't know

Q36. Thinking about how often residents in your jurisdiction run for local elected office or agree to serve on appointed jurisdiction boards or committees, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Not enough residents are willing to run for elected offices in our jurisdiction.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When candidates do run for jurisdiction office, they are often uncontested.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not enough residents are willing to serve on our jurisdiction's appointed boards or committees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We struggle to find residents with necessary skills or subject matter expertise for certain appointed boards.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q37. Which of the following, if any, are problems your jurisdiction currently faces in finding residents to run for office and/or serve on appointed boards? *(check all that apply)*

- ☐ We do not have any problems finding residents to run for office and/or serve on appointed boards.
- ☐ Residents are unaware of opportunities to serve
- ☐ Residents are unsure of the process/procedures for running for office or being appointed
- ☐ Residents don't have time to run or serve
- ☐ Residents are unsure they have enough knowledge/expertise to serve
- ☐ Insufficient or lack of compensation
- ☐ Cost of running for office is too expensive
- ☐ Potential candidates worry about harassment
- ☐ Residents care more about state or national politics than about local issues
- ☐ Difficulty finding new people who are not already associated with local government
- ☐ Difficulty finding young people to run or serve
- ☐ Other *(please specify)* _____
- ☐ Don't know

Q38. What kinds of outreach methods do you think are, or could be, most effective in your jurisdiction for encouraging residents to run for office or serve on appointed boards? *(check all that apply)*

- ☐ Word-of-mouth
- ☐ Social media messages
- ☐ Advertising in local media (e.g., a regional newspaper)
- ☐ Direct mail/email to residents
- ☐ Partnerships with local organizations, businesses, or schools
- ☐ Mentorship programs
- ☐ Other *(please specify)* _____
- ☐ Don't know

Q39. Overall, how satisfied are you regarding your residents' engagement in your jurisdiction's policymaking and/or operations today?

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Somewhat satisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- ☐ Somewhat dissatisfied
- ☐ Very dissatisfied
- ☐ Don't know

Q40. Thinking about all the ways your jurisdiction may be encouraging resident engagement in general, are you doing anything particularly innovative or effective that you could share with other local governments? Or, if you don't feel things with resident engagement are going well in your jurisdiction, what do you wish was different?

In this last section, we have a few questions regarding the state of affairs in your jurisdiction, in Michigan, and in the country overall.

Q41. Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?

☐ Right direction ☐ Wrong track ☐ Don't know

Q42. 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?

☐ Right direction ☐ Wrong track ☐ Don't know

Q43. Do you feel things in your jurisdiction are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?

☐ Right direction ☐ Wrong track ☐ Don't know

Q44. How would you rate the way Gretchen Whitmer is performing her job as Michigan's governor?

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Don't know

Q45. How would you rate the way the Michigan Legislature is performing its job?

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Don't know

Q46. Now we're asking more broadly about your opinion of the state of our democracy as a system of government. Think about things like free and fair elections, rule of law, an unbiased free press, balanced relationships between levels and branches of government, ethical and transparent governance, an informed and engaged electorate, etc.

On a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is a total breakdown of democracy and 10 is perfectly functioning democracy, how would you rate the functioning of democracy today in...

	Total breakdown of democracy										Perfectly functioning democracy	Don't know
... your jurisdiction?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		<input type="checkbox"/>
... the state of Michigan?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		<input type="checkbox"/>
... the United States?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		<input type="checkbox"/>

Q47. Finally, we are interested in learning more about policy issues according to whether communities are rural, urban, or somewhere in between. How would you characterize your jurisdiction?

☐ Rural ☐ Mostly rural ☐ Mostly urban ☐ Urban ☐ Don't know

Q48. CLOSUP will protect your privacy and anonymity to the full extent provided by law. We need to confirm your personal information such as name and email address for tracking and administrative purposes only. Your personal information will not be shared with any outside sources. As with all of the questions in this survey, these are optional. Please provide us with...

Your name _____

Your email address _____

Today's date ____ / ____ / 2025

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.

Q49. Are you...?

☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Self-describe _____

Q54. What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?

☐ 12th grade or less/no diploma ☐ Bachelor's degree
☐ High school graduate or GED ☐ Master's degree
☐ Some college, no degree ☐ Professional/Doctorate degree
☐ Associate's degree

Q50. In what year were you born? _____

Q51. How many years have you served in your current position?

Q55. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a... ?

☐ Republican ☐ Independent ☐ Democrat
☐ Something else (please specify) _____

Q52. Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino descent?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q56. (if Republican or Democrat) Would you consider yourself a strong or not very strong Republican/Democrat?

☐ Very strong ☐ Not very strong ☐ Don't know

Q53. Please check one or more categories below to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be. (check all that apply)

☐ White ☐ Asian
☐ Black or African American ☐ Multiracial
☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native ☐ Other
☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander ☐ Don't know

Q57. (if Independent or something else) Would you consider yourself closer to... ?

☐ the Democratic Party ☐ the Republican Party ☐ Neither