

Michigan Local Officials' Views on Election Administration in their Jurisdictions

November 6, 2017

Presentation Outline

- A brief overview of Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) survey program
- Findings on township and city officials' views on election administration from Spring 2017 Wave of the MPPS, including:
 - ✓ confidence in the accuracy of Michigan elections
 - ✓ problems experienced in election administration
 - ✓ plans to update voting equipment
 - ✓ support and opposition to potential election reforms

The Michigan Public Policy Survey

- **Census survey** – all 1,856 counties, cities, villages, and townships
- **Respondents** – chief elected and appointed officials
- **Administered** – online and via hardcopy
- **Timing** – Spring and Fall each year since 2009
- **Topics** – wide range, such as fiscal health, budget priorities, roads, public safety, economic development, intergovernmental cooperation, service privatization, employee policies, labor unions, environmental sustainability, Great Lakes, citizen engagement, much more.

MPPS is not a typical opinion poll

- **70+% response rates**
- **Transparency**
 - Questionnaires online
 - Pre-run data tables online
 - Sharing of (anonymized) datasets with other researchers
- **Expert advisors on questionnaire content**
- **Research partnership with Michigan local government associations**
 - MAC, MML, & MTA
- **Borrowing from other proven sources such as NLC and ICMA**

Spring 2017 MPPS Election Battery

872 townships responded (70% of all statewide)

678 township clerks

+

473 township supervisors & managers

247 cities responded (88% of all statewide)

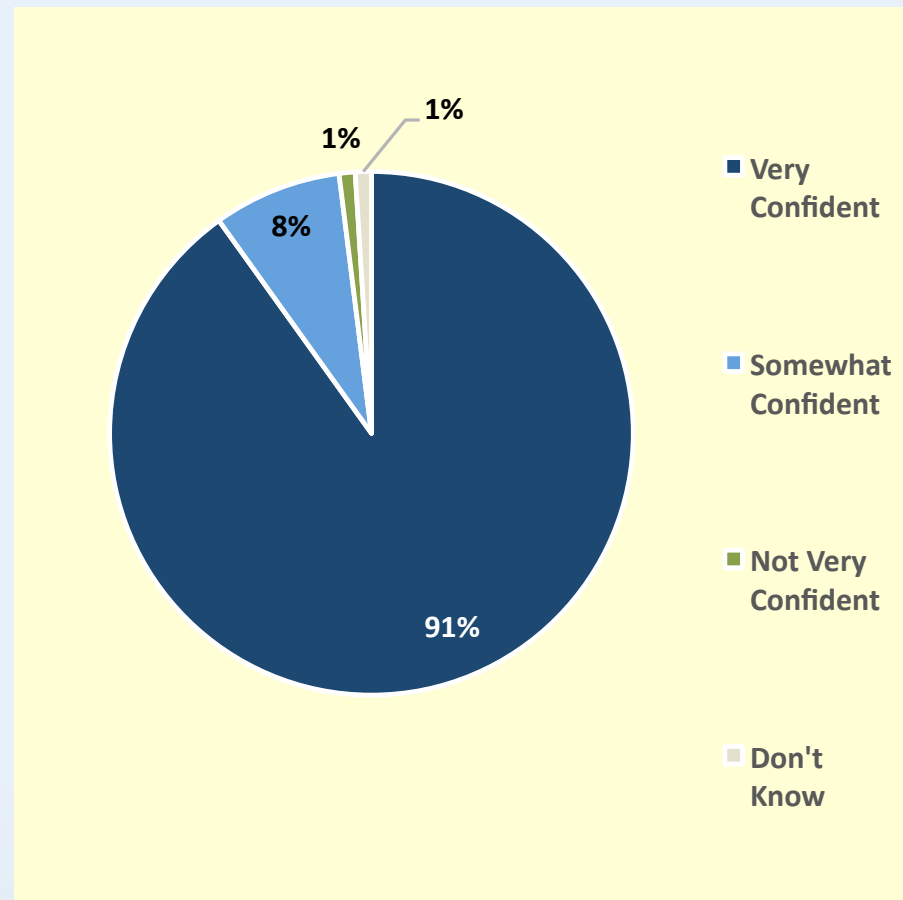
196 city clerks

+

210 city mayors & managers

Confidence in election accuracy very high

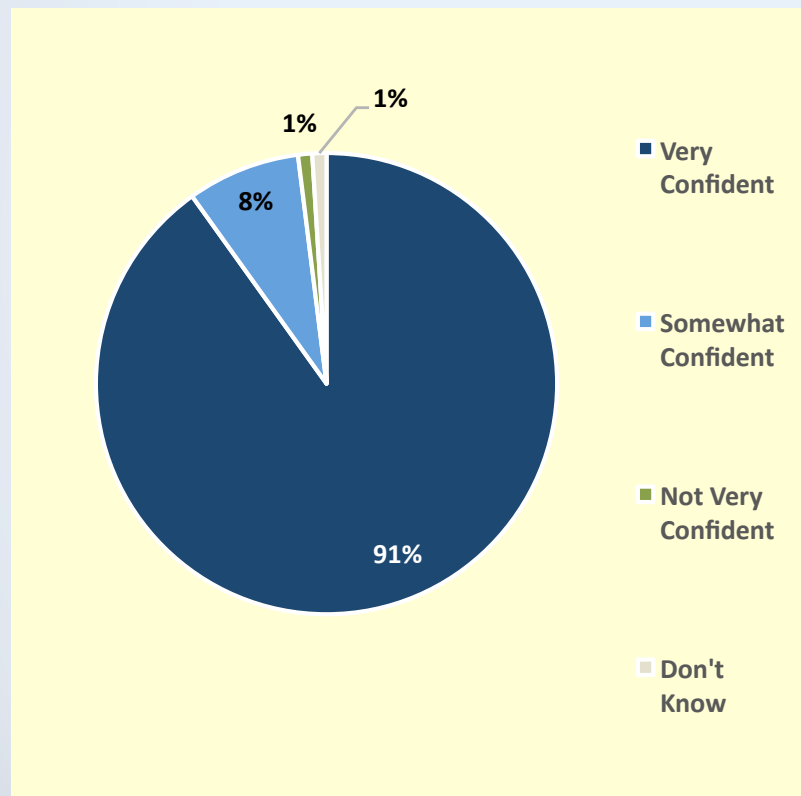
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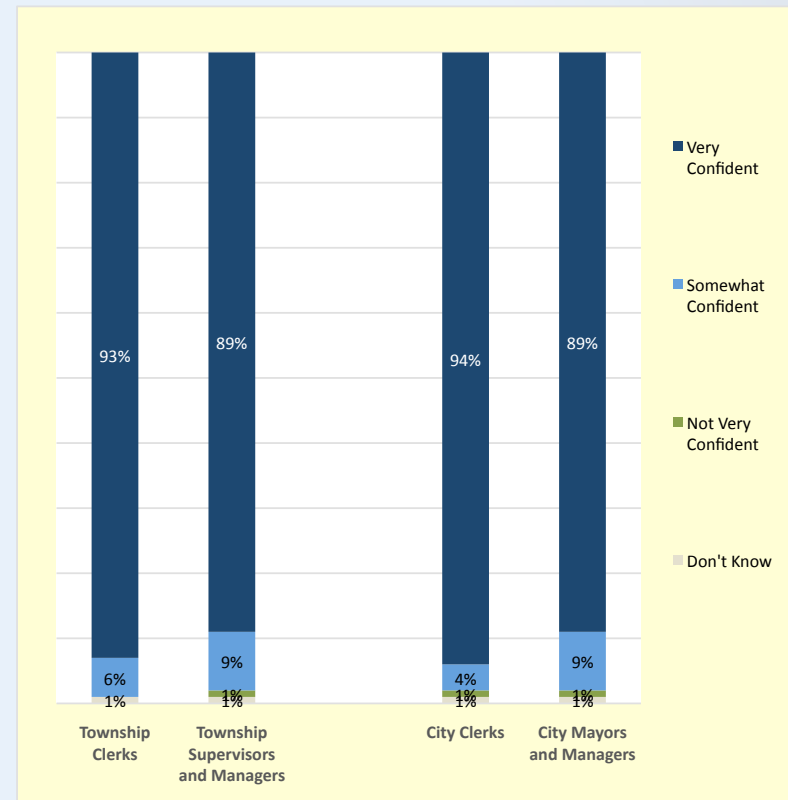
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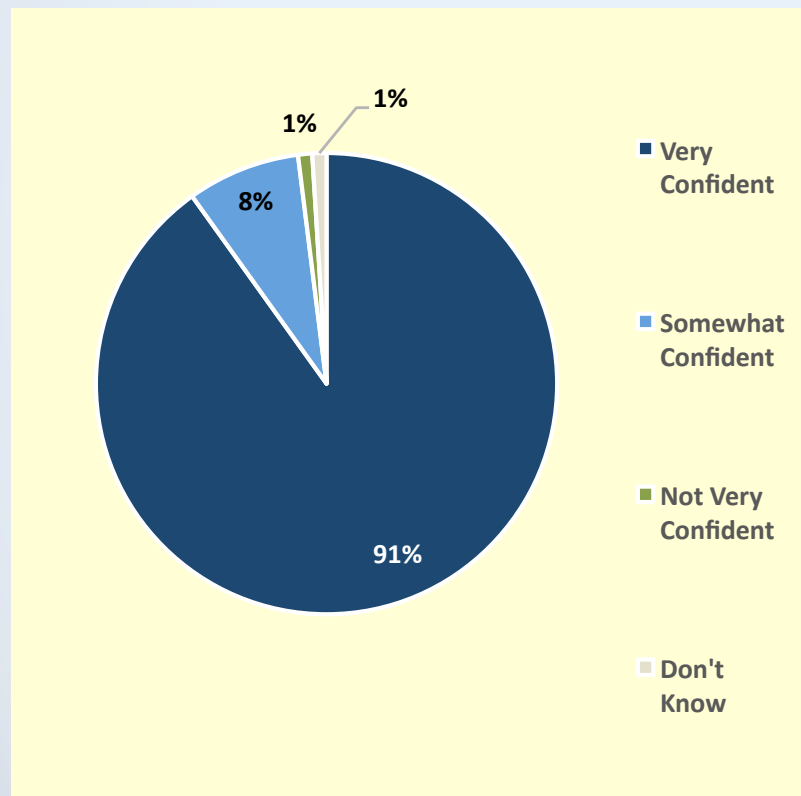
By type and position:



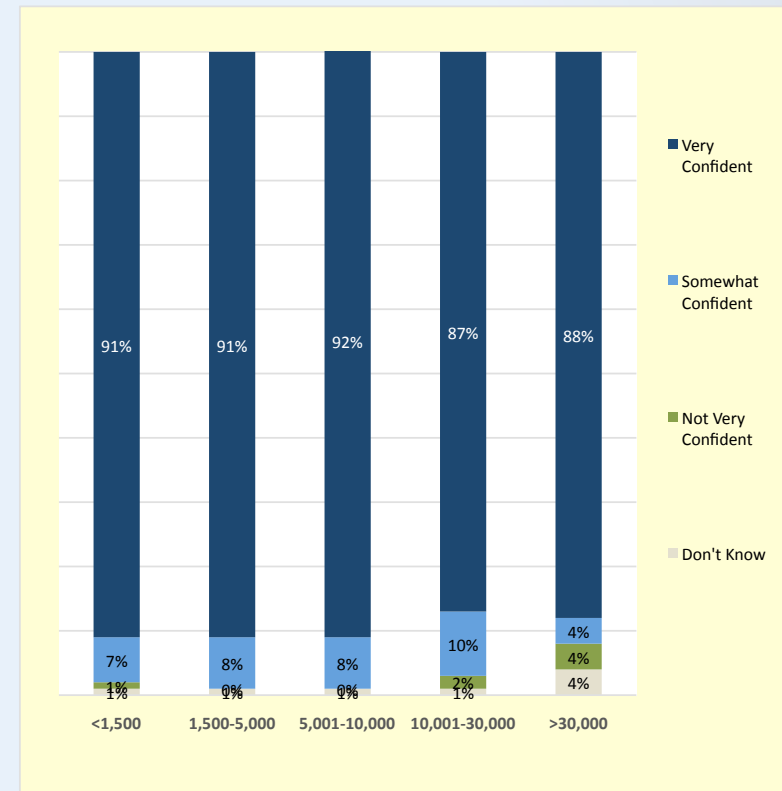
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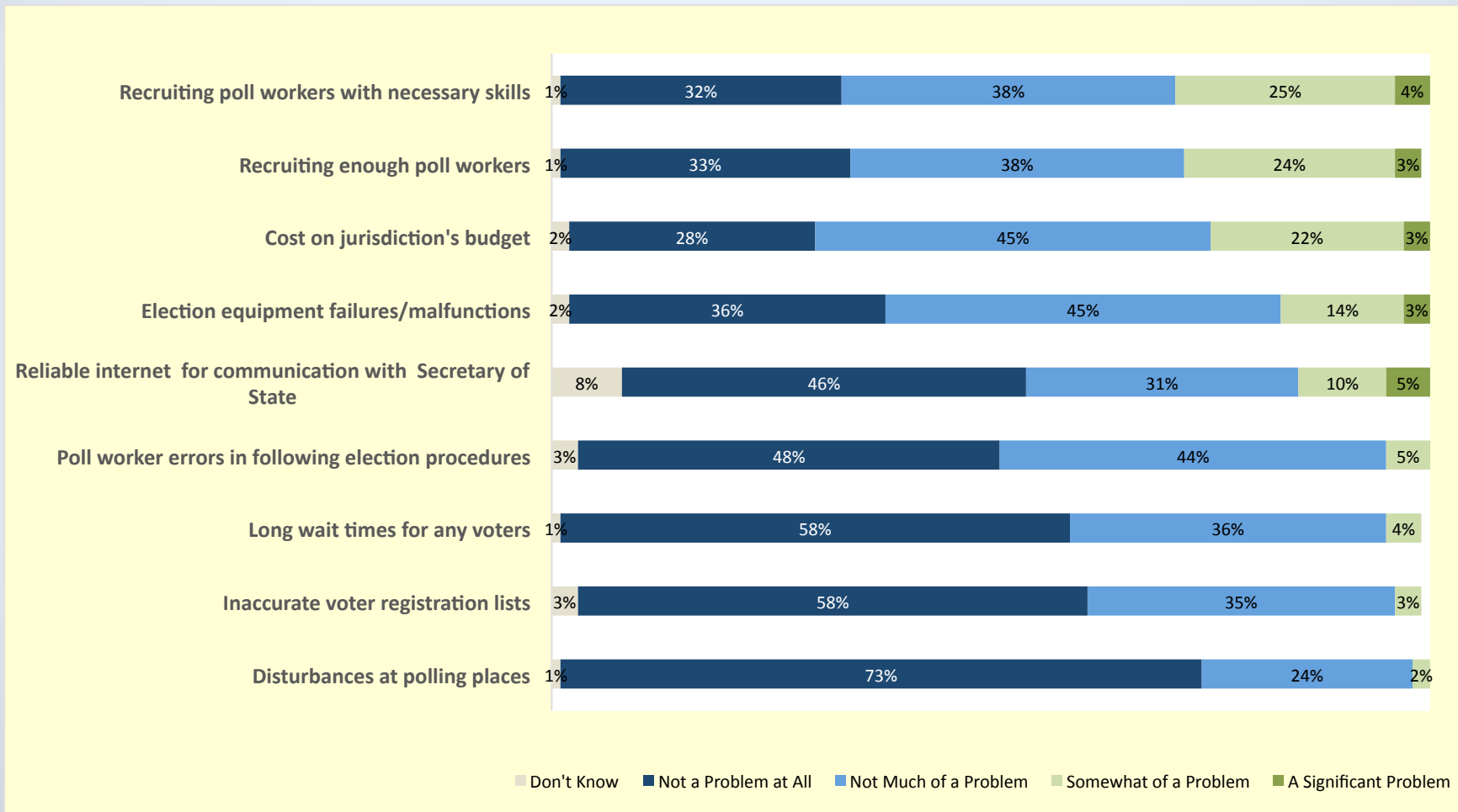


By jurisdiction size:



Election Problems: Recruiting workers and Cost

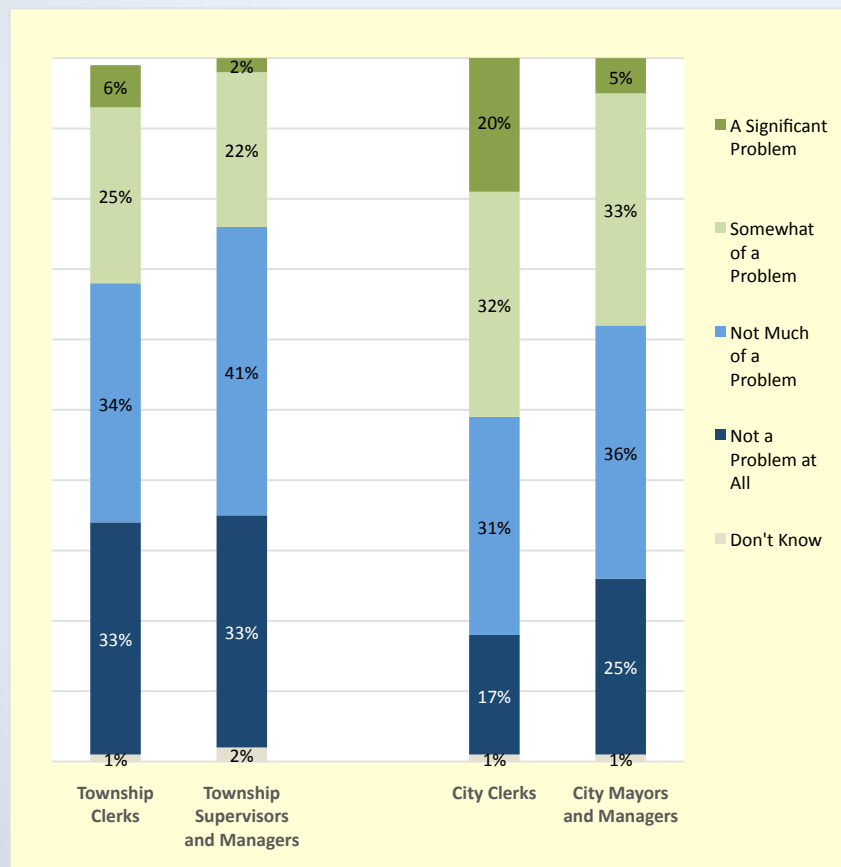
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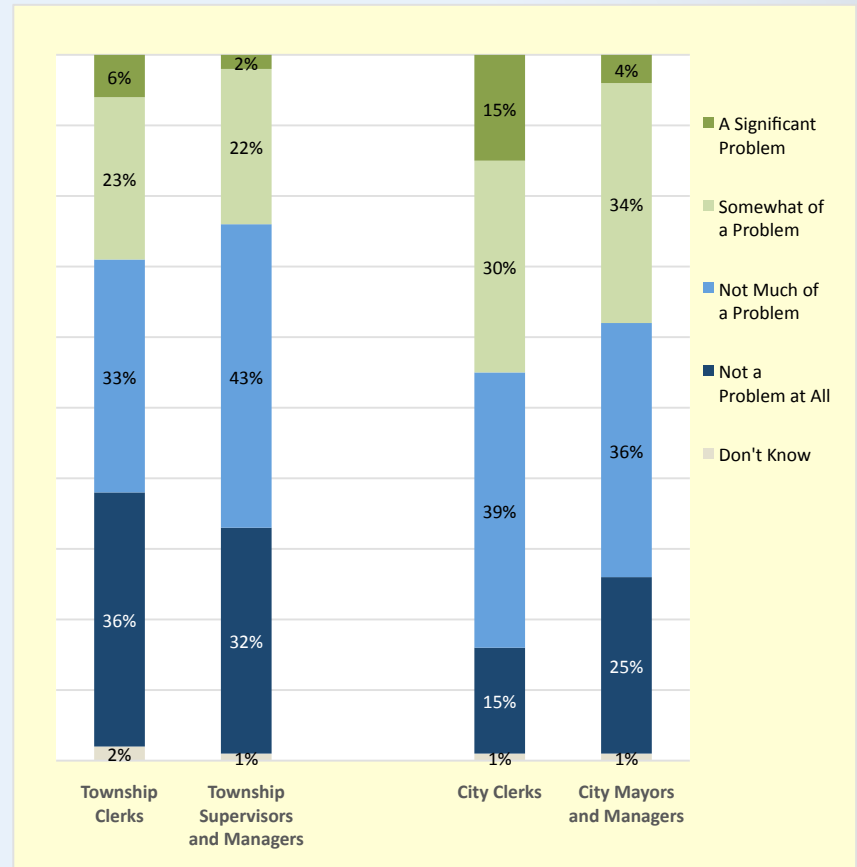
Election Problems: Recruiting poll workers

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Recruiting skilled workers:

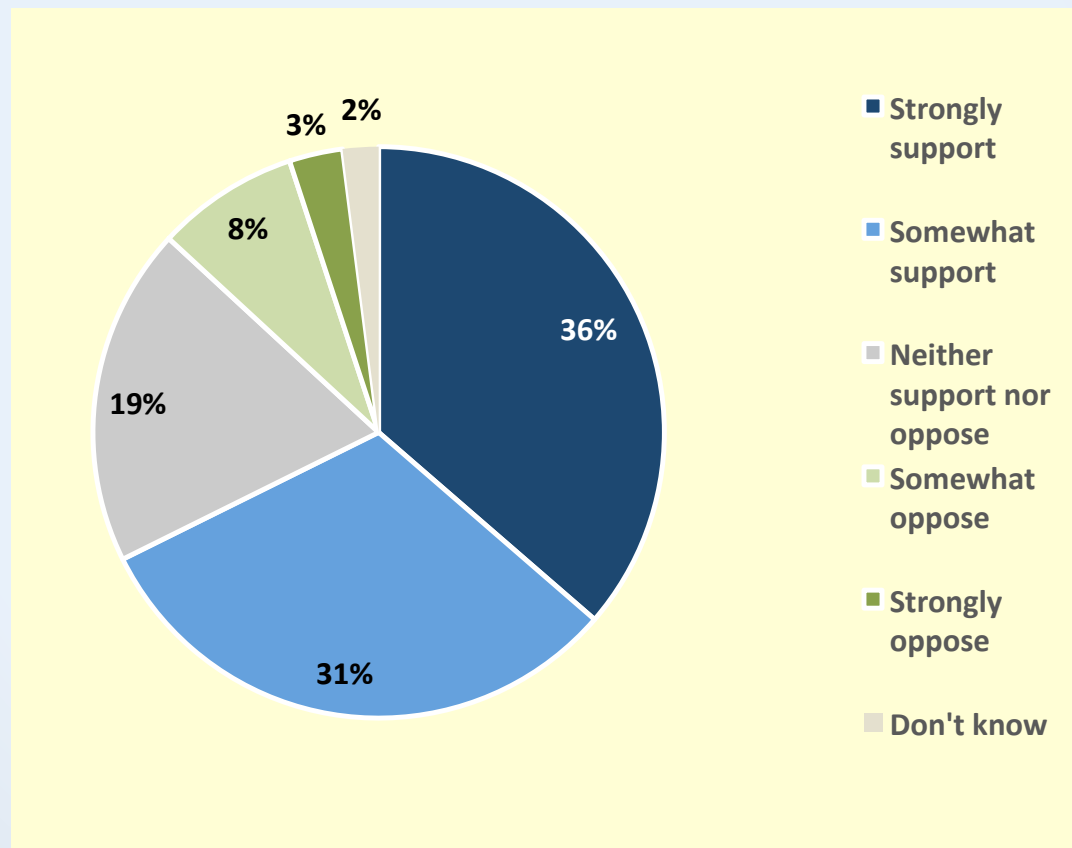


Recruiting enough workers:



Most support State's plan to update equipment

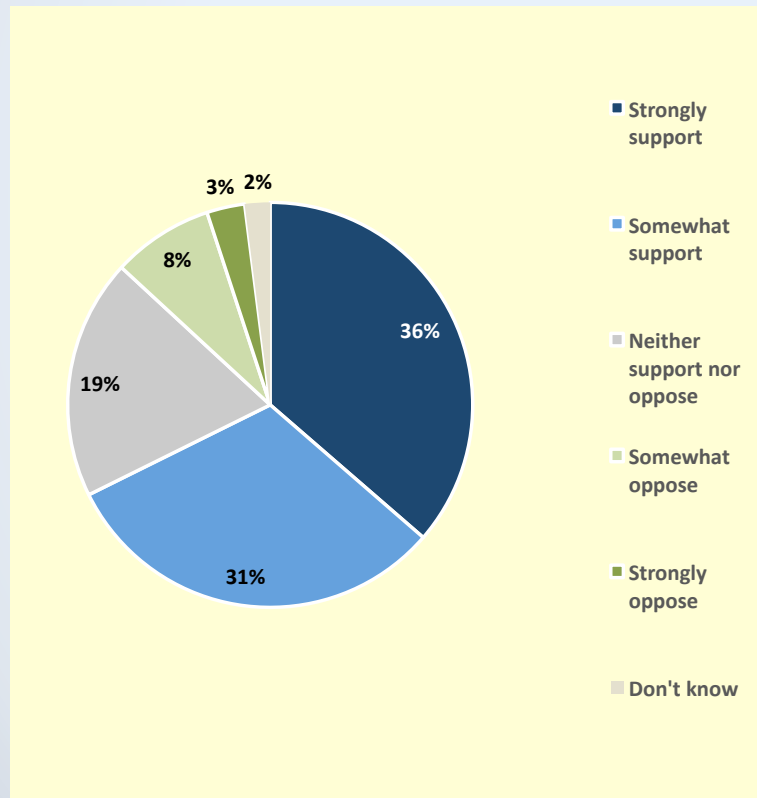
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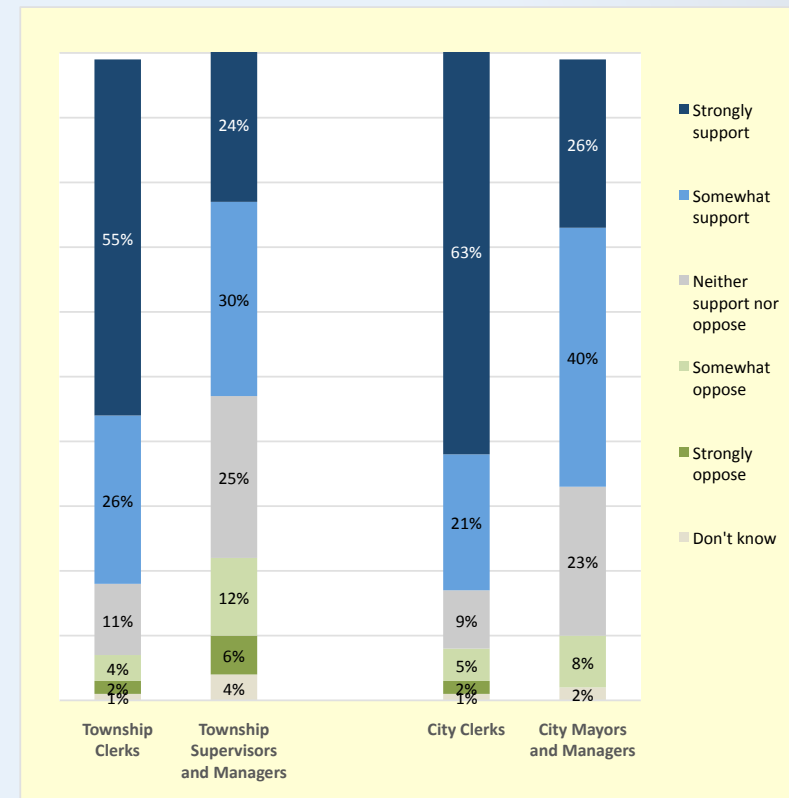
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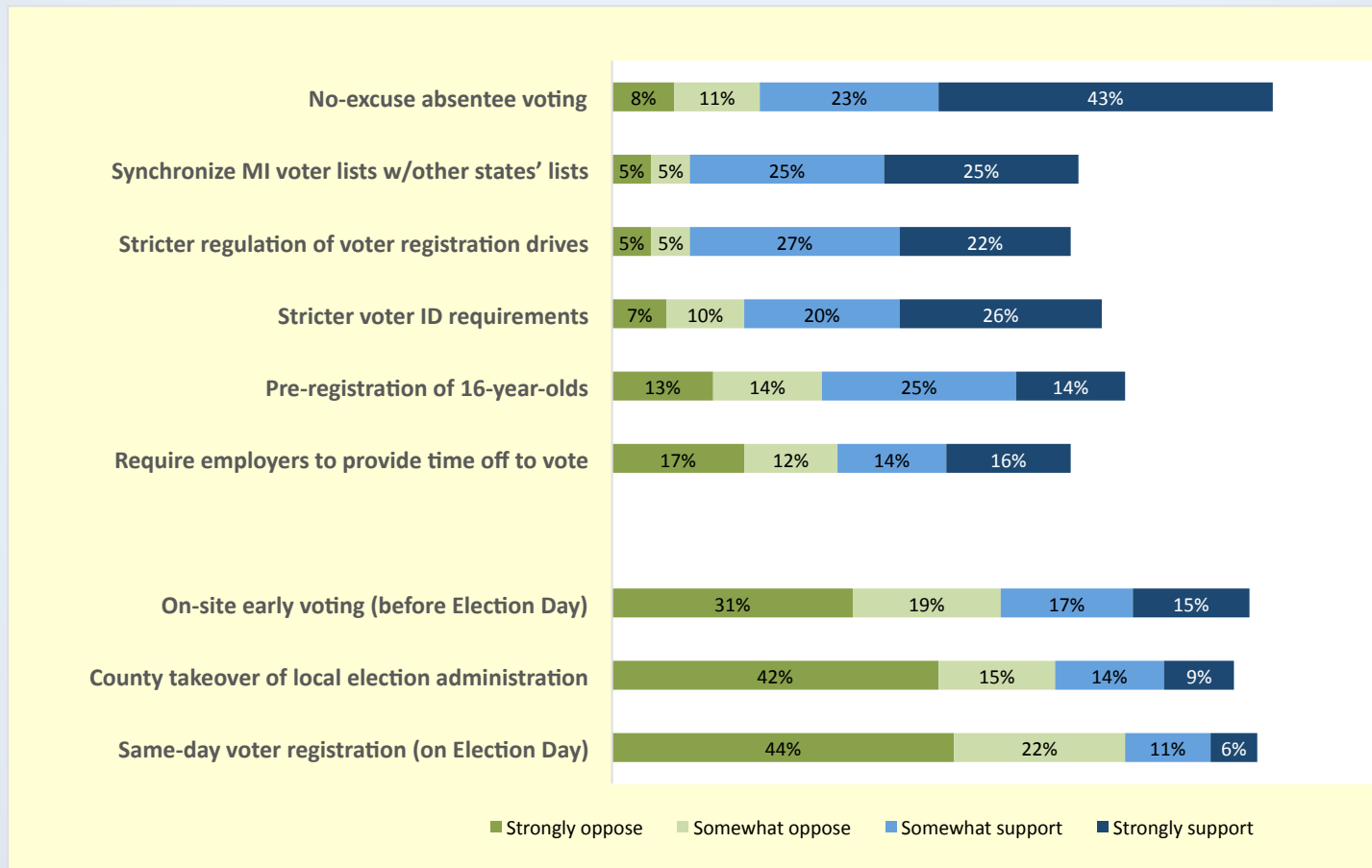


By type and position:



Support for some Election Reforms

To what extent would you **support or oppose** the following possible **changes** to election administration in Michigan?



Local Officials' Views on Election Administration

Summary

- Michigan local officials are nearly unanimous in their confidence that they are conducting **accurate elections**
- However, there are some that indicate **problems**, particularly with poll worker recruitment and costs
(but among larger jurisdictions, also equipment failures, long wait times, errors by poll workers, disturbances at polling places, etc.)
- Most approve of current State of Michigan plans to **update voting equipment**, particularly clerks
- There is majority **support** for election **reforms** such as:
 - absentee voting with no excuse required (66% support vs. 19% oppose)
 - synchronizing voter lists with other states (50% vs. 10%)
- But majority **opposition** to election **reforms** such as:
 - same-day voter registration on Election Day (66% oppose vs. 17% support)
 - optional county government takeover of local election administration (57% vs. 23%)
 - on-site early voting prior to Election Day (50% vs. 32%)

The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

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