



Michigan local government leaders' views on large-scale data center development

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This report presents the opinions of Michigan's local government leaders on issues related to large-scale data center development in Michigan, including perceived impacts, local support for the development of data centers in or near the community, views on any legislative and regulatory actions Lansing should take, and resources that would be useful for developing or implementing local policies regarding large-scale data centers. These findings are based on statewide surveys of local government leaders in the spring 2026 wave of the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS), conducted between March 30 and June 9, 2026.

The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) is an ongoing census survey of all 1,856 general purpose local governments in Michigan conducted since 2009 by the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP). Respondents for the Spring 2026 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 1,328 jurisdictions across the state.



Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy

 Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

Key Findings

- Statewide, 46% of local government officials either somewhat (19%) or strongly (27%) disagree that the benefits of large-scale data centers are generally worth the costs, while 18% agree that data centers' benefits outweigh the costs. Over a third statewide are either neutral (22%) or unsure (14%).
 - » Among officials from rural communities, only 12% agree that data centers' benefits outweigh their costs, compared with 40% of officials from urban areas.
- A majority (55%) of local officials statewide say their residents would *strongly* oppose data center development in or near their community, and only 2% believe their residents would support it.
 - » Fewer local leaders say they personally would *strongly* oppose a local data center (38%), but opposition still far outweighs support (13% somewhat/strongly support).
- When asked to evaluate the impacts large-scale data centers may have, 60% of local leaders statewide believe data centers will have a negative impact on Michigan's fresh water supply, and majorities say data centers will negatively impact utility bills for rate-payers in communities where data centers are built, public health, local quality of life, and the reliability of the state's electric grid. Very few believe they will have a positive or no impact on these areas.
- Local leaders also anticipate that data centers could have some positive effects. A majority (51%) believe data center development will have a positive impact on temporary construction jobs, and more say data centers will have a positive impact on property tax revenues (32%) than believe there will be a negative impact (22%). The same is true for U.S. competitiveness in AI (30% positive) and Michigan's economic competitiveness (30% positive).
- Most local leaders statewide (59%) believe regulation of large-scale data centers by Michigan's state and local governments should be a very high priority.
- Over half statewide believe a variety of resources would be very useful to their governments in developing local policies related to data centers, including models from other communities, guidance on negotiating with developers, coordination with the county government and local units, resident engagement strategies, and clarification of state standards.

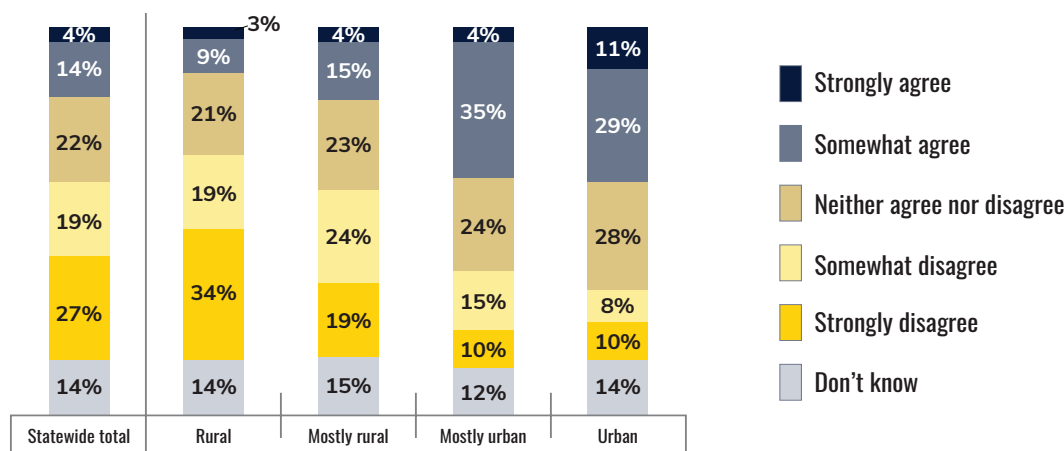
Nearly half of local officials from rural areas say Michigan large-scale data center developments are not worth the costs, but those from urban and suburban areas are more positive

Statewide, 46% of local government leaders either somewhat (19%) or strongly (27%) disagree that the benefits of large-scale data centers are generally worth the costs (see *Figure 1a*). By contrast, just 18% agree that the benefits of data centers outweigh the costs. Over a third statewide are either neutral (22%) or unsure (14%).

However, there are significant differences between officials from urban and rural communities. Among local officials that indicate their jurisdictions are rural, only 12% agree that, overall, data centers' benefits outweigh their costs, and 53% disagree. Conversely, 40% of officials from urban areas agree and just 18% disagree, suggesting that local leaders in more urban areas are more receptive to data center development.

Figure 1a

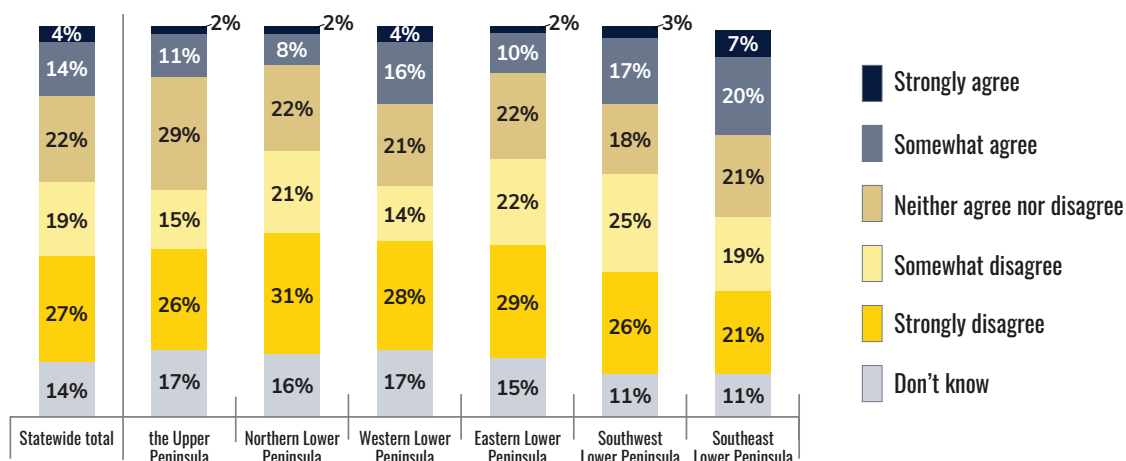
Percentage of local government leaders who agree or disagree that data centers are worth the costs, by rural-urban self-identification



Looking by region of the state, the strongest opposition comes from local leaders in the Northern, Eastern, and Southwest Lower Peninsula regions. Majorities of local leaders (51-52%) in these regions disagree that data center developments are worth the costs (see *Figure 1b*). Officials from the Southeast (40%), Western (42%), and Upper Peninsula (41%) regions disagree less often.

Figure 1b

Percentage of local government leaders who agree or disagree that data centers are worth the costs, by region

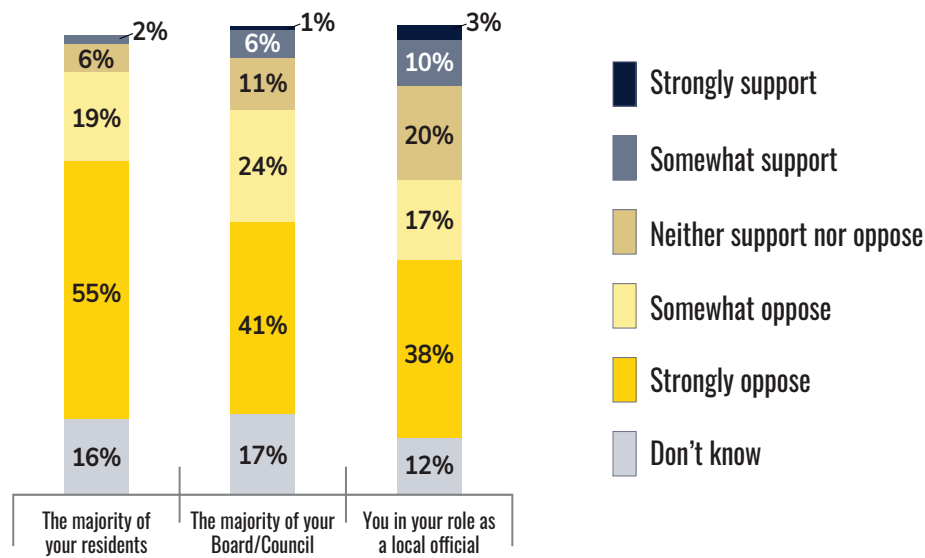


A majority say their residents strongly oppose large-scale local data center development, and nearly half oppose it themselves

When asked to evaluate whether people or groups specifically within their own jurisdictions support or oppose new development of a large-scale data center in or near their community, 55% of local officials statewide believe their residents would *strongly* oppose local data center development and only 2% believe their residents would support it (see *Figure 2a*). As for their government's governing body, 41% of local leaders believe their county or township board or city or village council/commission would *strongly* oppose local development of a data center. Finally, when asked about their own view, fewer (38%) are in strong opposition, but opposition still far outweighs support (13% somewhat/strongly support).

Figure 2a

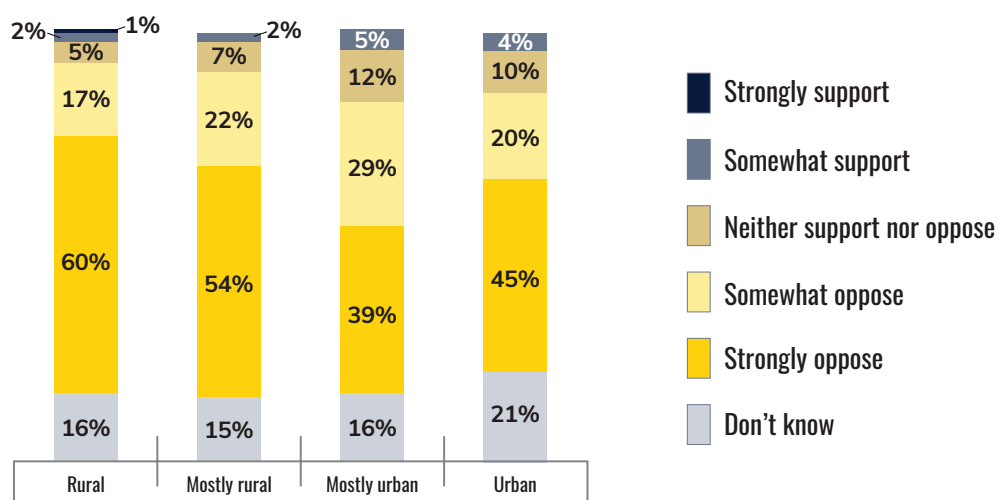
Local government leaders' assessments of local support for or opposition to local data center development



Local leaders across the rural-urban spectrum believe their residents are opposed to the idea of large-scale data center development in or near their communities. Compared to leaders in more urban communities, rural leaders perceive the greatest opposition among their residents, with 60% reporting that they believe their residents would be strongly opposed to local data center development (see *Figure 2b*). Yet even in mostly urban and urban communities, where the siting of data centers is significantly less likely, local leaders still say their residents would be somewhat or strongly opposed (61% in mostly urban and 65% in urban jurisdictions).

Figure 2b

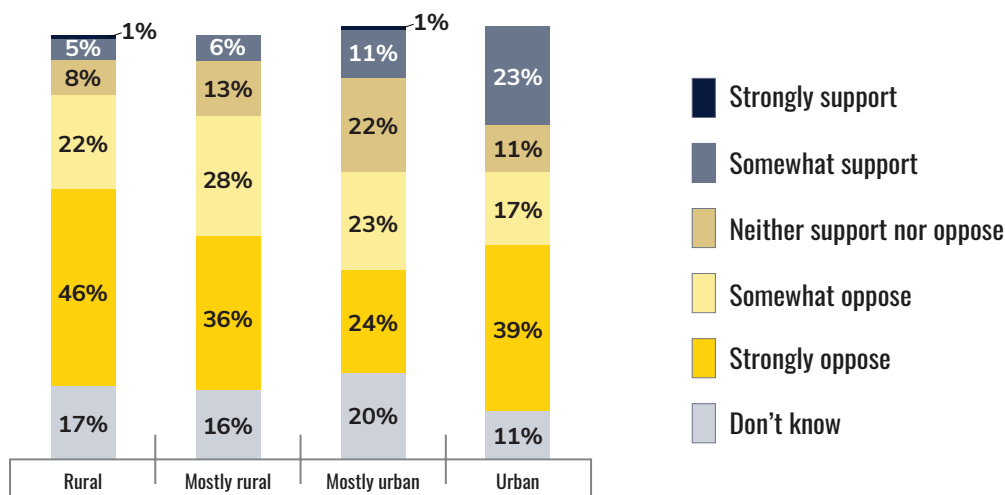
Local government leaders' assessments of resident support for or opposition to local data center development, by rural-urban self-identification



Compared to the high level of data center opposition they expect from residents, local officials believe opposition from their governing bodies to be somewhat tempered. Nevertheless, the strongest opposition still comes from rural communities, where 46% of local officials report their governing bodies would strongly oppose data center development (see *Figure 2c*).

Figure 2c

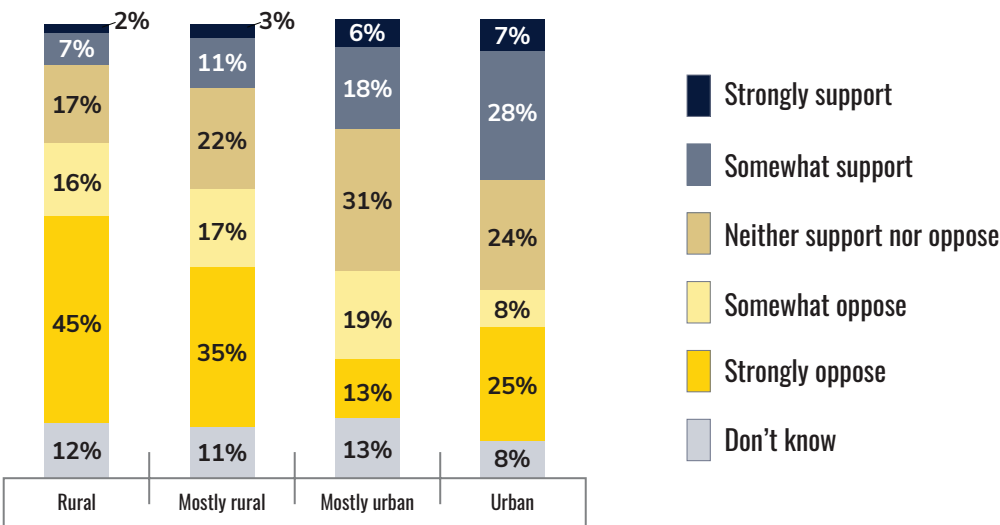
Local government leaders' assessments of Board/Council support for or opposition to local data center development, by rural-urban self-identification





When local officials consider their own views, few in rural communities say they would support local data center development (9%), but approximately a third (35%) of urban local leaders say they would support one (see *Figure 2d*). However, this percentage is lower than the 40% of urban officials who said they believed that, in general, the benefits of large-scale data centers are worth the costs.

Figure 2d
Local government leaders' own support for or opposition to local data center development, by rural-urban self-identification



A majority statewide believe large-scale data centers will have negative impacts on fresh water, utility bills, public health, and local quality of life

Support and opposition for large-scale data centers in Michigan is tied to the perceived consequences of data center development. For example, when asked to evaluate a variety of impacts large-scale data centers may have, local leaders' greatest concern is over fresh water, with 60% statewide saying data centers will have a somewhat (20%) or very (40%) negative impact on Michigan's fresh water supply (see *Figure 3a*). Just 5% believe data centers will have no impact on the state's water supply at all.

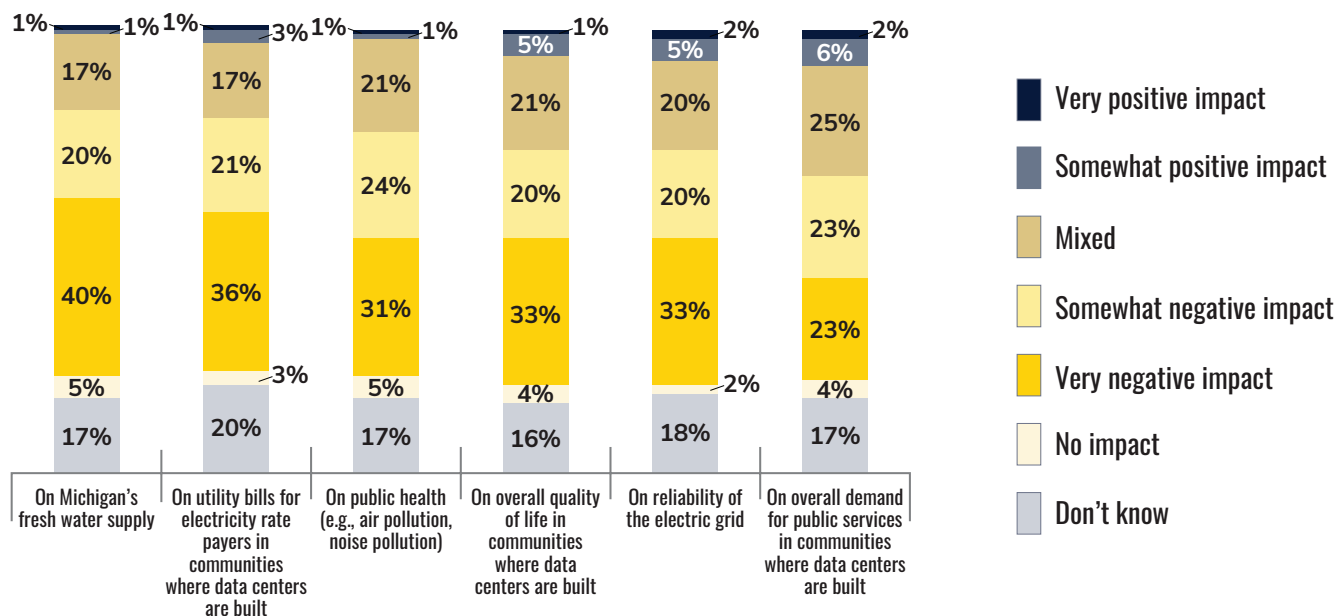
Similarly, majorities of the state's local leaders believe data centers will have a negative impact on utility bills for rate-payers in communities where data centers are built (57%), on public health issues such as air and noise pollution (55%), on local quality of life (53%), and on the reliability of the state's electric grid (53%), and very few believe they will have no impact on these areas. Another issue that many local leaders believe will be negatively impacted is the overall demand for public services in communities where data centers are built (46% saying negative impact and only 4% saying no impact at all).

For each of these impact areas, between 16%-20% of local leaders are unsure what the impacts of data centers might be.

Consistent with other survey results that examine urban/rural differences, local officials from rural and mostly rural communities are considerably more likely to believe large-scale data centers will have a negative impact on each of these areas (see *Appendix A*). The smallest gap is on concerns about the reliability of Michigan's electric grid, where a majority of rural (56%), mostly rural (51%), and mostly urban (54%) officials believe data centers will have a negative impact, as do 46% of urban leaders.

Figure 3a

Local government leaders' assessments of data center impacts (six of eleven topics where negative assessments outweigh positive assessments)



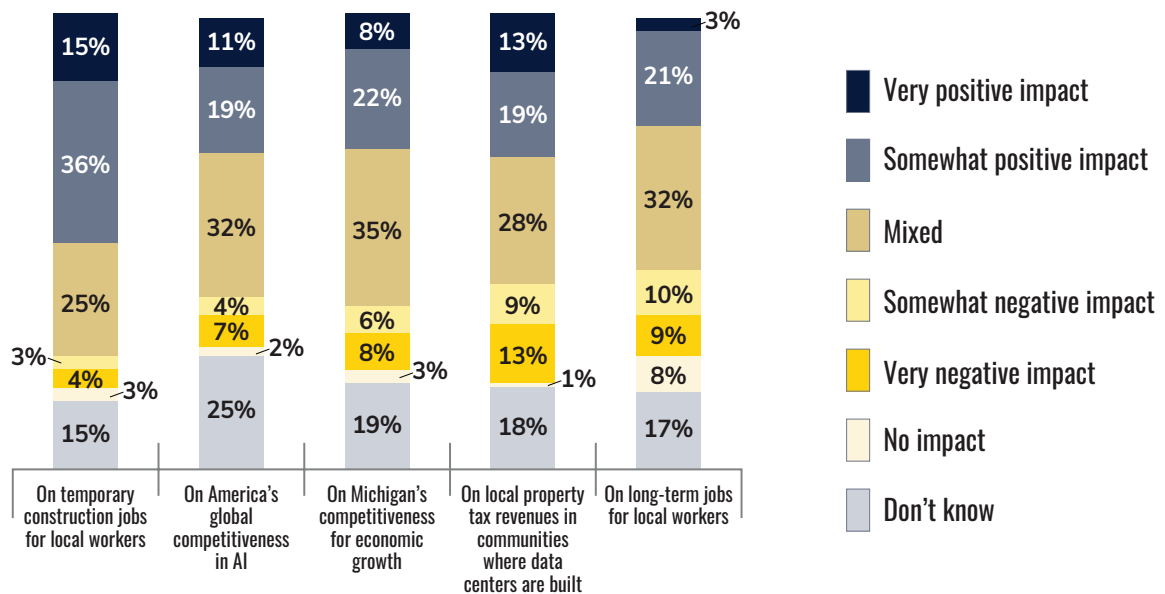
Most local officials believe data centers will have positive or mixed impacts on jobs for local workers, U.S. and Michigan competitiveness

Local leaders also anticipate that data centers will have some positive effects. For example, a majority (51%) of local officials believe data center development will have a positive impact on temporary construction jobs (see *Figure 3b*). There are also more respondents who believe data centers will have a positive impact on property tax revenues (32%) than believe there will be a negative impact (22%). The same is true for U.S. competitiveness in AI (30% positive) and Michigan's economic competitiveness (30%). Nearly a quarter (24%) also say that data centers could have a positive impact on long-term local jobs, compared to 19% who say the impact on local jobs would be negative.

Despite this cautious optimism about jobs, economic competitiveness, and property tax revenues, there is a substantial proportion who are unsure what the impacts might be. There are also similar patterns of higher skepticism among rural leaders compared with mostly urban and urban leaders (see *Appendix A*).

Figure 3b

Local government leaders' assessments of data center impacts (five of eleven topics where positive assessments outweigh negative assessments)



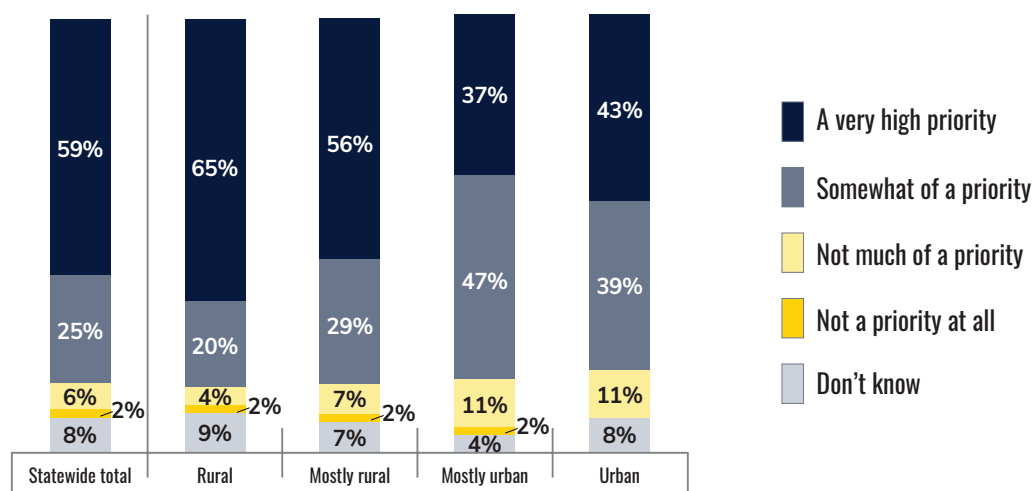
See *Appendix A* for breakdown of all 11 areas of assessment by rural-urban self-identification.

Widespread support for large-scale data center regulation

Most local leaders statewide (59%) believe regulation of large-scale data centers by Michigan's state and local governments should be a very high priority (see *Figure 4a*). Another quarter (25%) believe it should be somewhat of a priority, and just 2% say regulation should not be a priority at all for Michigan government. Urgency around regulation is more intense in rural places, with 65% saying it should be a very high priority. But even in mostly urban and urban communities, only 11-13% say data center regulation should be not much of a priority or not a priority at all.

Figure 4a

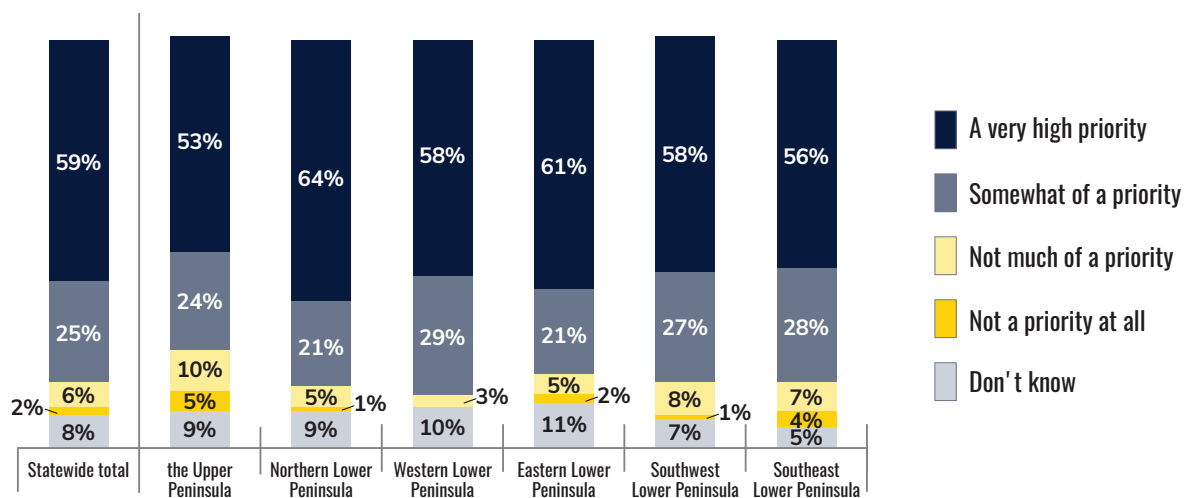
Percentage of local government leaders who believe regulation of data center development should be a priority for Michigan's state and local governments, by rural-urban self-identification



Support for prioritizing large-scale data center regulation by the state and by local governments is relatively consistent across all regions of the state, with local officials in the Northern Lower Peninsula (64%) most likely to say it is a very high priority (see *Figure 4b*).

Figure 4b

Percentage of local government leaders who believe regulation of data center development should be a priority for Michigan's state and local governments, by region

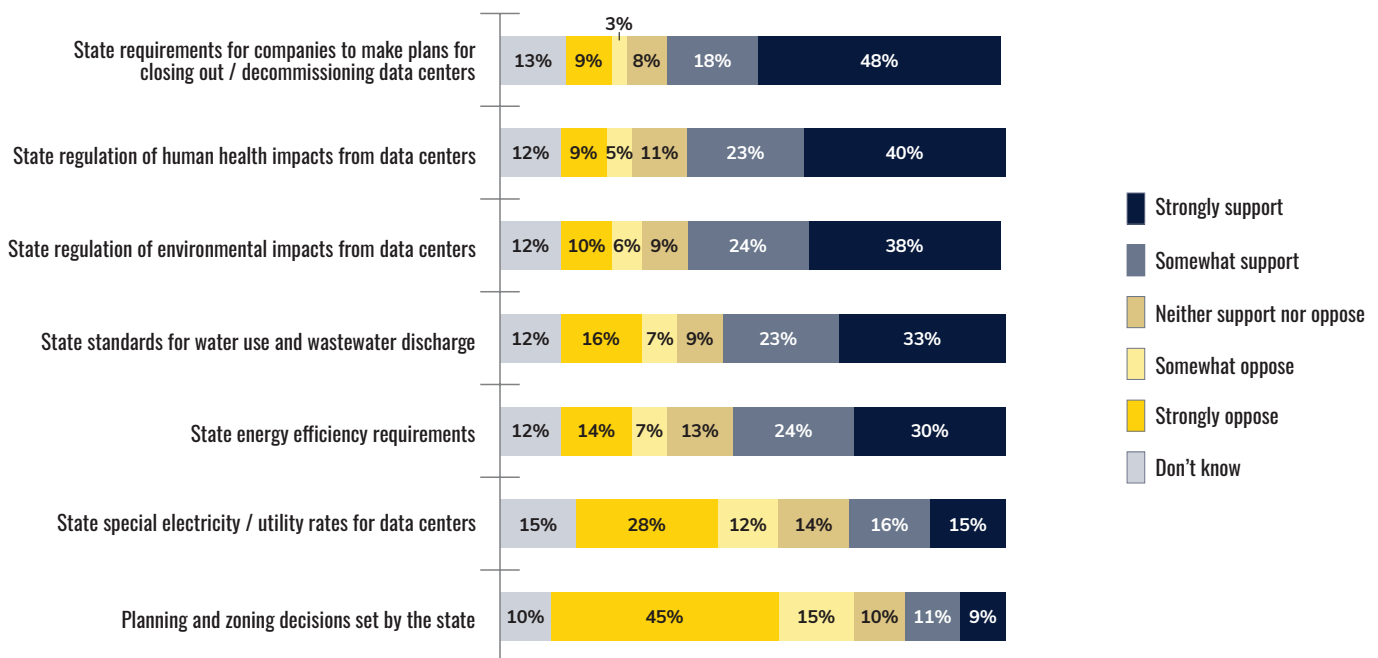


Most want the State to focus on regulating data center decommissioning plans, health and environmental impacts, but oppose preemption of local planning and zoning decisions

Although local leaders have voiced concerns on previous MPPS waves regarding state preemption of local policymaking,¹ when it comes to large-scale data center regulation, many support state-level action. For example, as shown in *Figure 5*, nearly half statewide (48%) *strongly* support the State of Michigan requiring data center developers to make plans for closing out or decommissioning data centers to avoid future potential “dark stores” problems.² Majorities also support state-level regulation of human health impacts (40% strongly), environmental impacts (38% strongly), state standards for water use and discharge (33% strongly), and energy efficiency requirements set by the state (30% strongly). Less than a quarter of local leaders statewide oppose these state-level actions.

Figure 5

Local government leaders' support for or opposition to various state government actions on data centers



There is more mixed support for the state to set special electricity or utility rates for data centers, with 31% supporting state-level action on rates and 40% opposing it.

Local leaders from “mostly urban” communities are the most likely to support each of these possible areas of state-level action, including 42% supporting the state setting data center utility rates compared with 27%-34% from other types of communities (see *Appendix B*).

Finally, when it comes to state authority to regulate planning and zoning decisions regarding data centers, only 20% statewide express support, while 60% oppose it, including 45% who strongly oppose it. The strongest opposition comes from “mostly urban” local leaders, with 70% opposed, including 55% strongly opposed.

See *Appendix B* for breakdown of all seven areas of potential government action on data centers by rural-urban self-identification.

Michigan local regulation of data centers is moving forward

According to resources provided by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC),³ there are currently between 60-80 data centers in communities across the state.

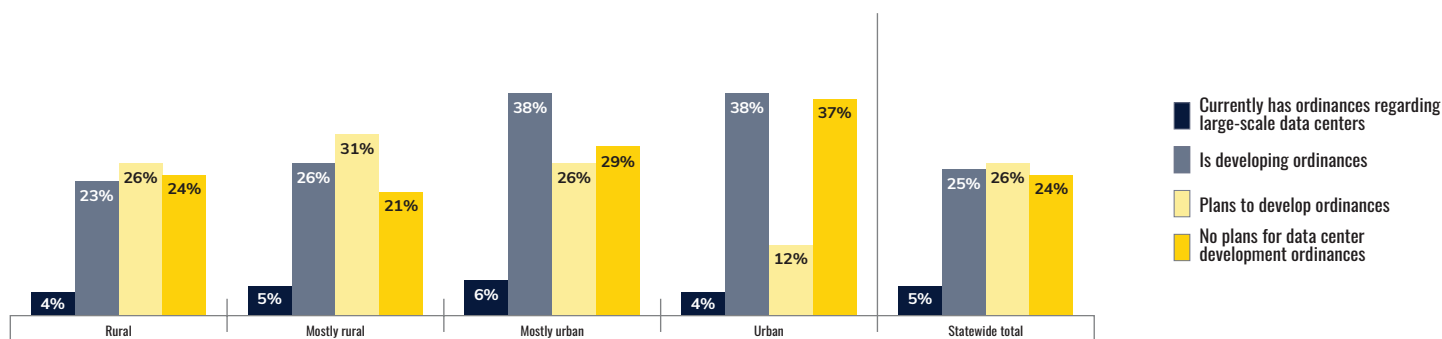
On the Spring 2026 MPPS (conducted April - June), about two-thirds of local officials reported that their jurisdiction does not currently have a large-scale data center and they had not been approached regarding the potential siting of a large-scale data center. Only a few respondents (1%) indicated their jurisdiction has a large-scale data center, and another 7% said they had been approached regarding the potential siting of a large-scale data center. Around one quarter statewide (24%) said they do not have the available land in their jurisdiction for such a facility, including nearly half (48%) of those in urban areas.

When it comes to local government planning for data centers, among the three-quarters of jurisdictions that say they have potential land available for data centers, 5% already have one or more formal ordinances regarding large-scale data centers as of last spring (see *Figure 6*). Over half of communities statewide were in the process of developing ordinances (25%) or had plans to start (26%). Another quarter (24%) indicate they have no plans for developing local ordinances.

Mostly urban and urban jurisdictions (38%) are more likely than mostly rural (26%) or rural (23%) jurisdictions to report already being engaged in developing data center ordinances, but they are also more likely to say that they have no plans to develop them.

Figure 6

Percentage of local governments that have or are developing formal ordinances addressing the development of large-scale data centers (among those reporting that they have available land in the jurisdiction), by rural-urban self-identification



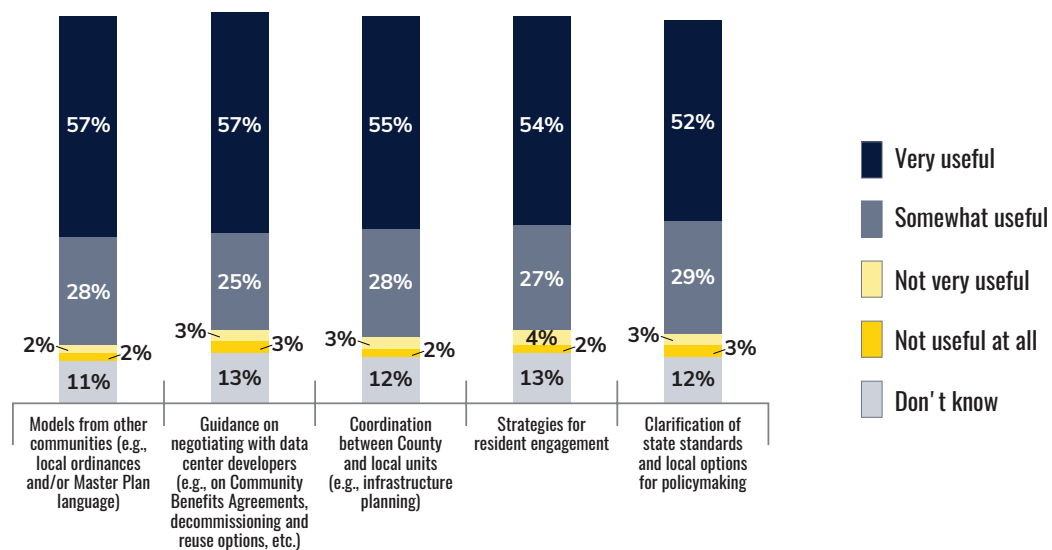
Note: Responses for “jurisdiction doesn’t plan or zone” and “don’t know” not shown.

Local officials seek a variety of resources to help in developing local data center policies

The MPPS asked all local officials, regardless of whether they anticipate facing data center siting questions in their jurisdiction, what types of help or resources they think would be useful for developing or implementing local policies. Over half statewide believe a variety of resources would be very useful to their governments, including models from other communities (57%), guidance on negotiating with developers (57%), coordination with the county government and local units (55%), resident engagement strategies (54%), and clarification of state standards (52%) (see *Figure 7*). While there is some uncertainty, there are very few jurisdictions that think these resources would not be at least somewhat useful.

Figure 7

Local government leaders' assessments of whether various resources would be helpful for developing local policies on data centers



The MPPS asked local leaders to share additional thoughts and concerns regarding Michigan large-scale data centers through an open-ended survey question. Out of over 200 additional comments, the majority of comments are concerned with local control of decision-making on local data center development and policy. Some examples of the comments include the following:

Voices Across Michigan

Quotes from local leaders about current and future data center policy in the state

"Data centers are essential infrastructure; however, they should be distributed, community-integrated, and designed for resilience, workforce development, and local benefit. Large, centralized facilities aren't automatically bad; however, if they don't strengthen local capacity, equity, and stewardship, they're the wrong model - especially for rural regions."

"The false security of state regulation is that it leads directly to local government impact - local governments will be asked to monitor some aspects of any standards set at the state level for these large impact sites. And there will be no funding to support that work. These data centers are being contemplated in areas of the state where the communities have little to no experience with complex, large scale developments, and where infrastructure will be extensively taxed by these needs... There is an opportunity for real partnership here, but the state needs to reach out for that occur."

"The state is too aligned and conflicted with the energy companies to be able to trust their (state) decision making."

"As your questions focus on large data centers, there wasn't the opportunity to say that small data centers may see support. I am hoping that our state legislators don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

"I think every community should have their own data center smaller scaled less impactful. Kind of like a landfill or a sewage treatment plant. It's a necessary evil. Nobody wants it in their backyard but we must have the services it provides."

"I hesitated to answer that I want the State to regulate data centers because the State tends to overrule local authority in zoning - it would be helpful for the State to set minimum standards but allowing local units to require a stricter standard."

"State regulations may be good, if they keep data centers accountable. State regulations will be bad if they override local authority to regulate their own land."

"Like many land uses, these will likely be sited in rural or urban/rural townships that may or may not be service providers. e.g. they can make land use decisions and are an attractive taxing geography, but they often do not have responsibility for short-term and long-term service provision, infrastructure planning, or objective quality of life goals."

"I think education needs be more available regarding data centers for policymakers. The explosion in demand for them has not been met by proper education; most people hear opinions on social media which lacks reliable data which could lead to negative consequences for the overall health of the state."

"Please put the policy out to the entire state for review prior to passing it into law. Too many times, state legislature passes policy for improvement without fully comprehending the impact this has in the smaller communities. We just want to be heard."

Appendix A

Local government leaders' assessments of data center impacts, by rural-urban self-assessment

On local property tax revenues in communities where data centers are built

	Rural	Mostly Rural	Mostly Urban	Urban	Statewide
No impact	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Very negative impact	16%	9%	2%	6%	12%
Somewhat negative impact	10%	9%	5%	2%	9%
Mixed	29%	30%	23%	19%	28%
Somewhat positive impact	16%	20%	36%	25%	19%
Very positive impact	9%	15%	26%	32%	13%
Don't know	19%	17%	9%	15%	17%

On overall demand for public services (e.g., fire, EMS, infrastructure) in communities where data centers are built

	Rural	Mostly Rural	Mostly Urban	Urban	Statewide
No impact	2%	5%	13%	11%	4%
Very negative impact	27%	21%	10%	12%	23%
Somewhat negative impact	23%	28%	21%	14%	24%
Mixed	22%	26%	36%	37%	25%
Somewhat positive impact	6%	5%	7%	7%	6%
Very positive impact	2%	2%	2%	0%	2%
Don't know	18%	14%	11%	19%	17%

On utility bills for electricity rate-payers in communities where data centers are built

	Rural	Mostly Rural	Mostly Urban	Urban	Statewide
No impact	2%	3%	8%	7%	3%
Very negative impact	42%	34%	16%	20%	36%
Somewhat negative impact	18%	27%	28%	12%	21%
Mixed	14%	17%	23%	34%	17%
Somewhat positive impact	3%	1%	6%	4%	3%
Very positive impact	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Don't know	21%	17%	19%	23%	20%

On overall quality of life in communities where data centers are built

	Rural	Mostly Rural	Mostly Urban	Urban	Statewide
No impact	4%	3%	11%	10%	4%
Very negative impact	39%	28%	14%	12%	32%
Somewhat negative impact	19%	22%	22%	21%	20%
Mixed	16%	25%	26%	25%	21%
Somewhat positive impact	4%	6%	12%	11%	5%
Very positive impact	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%
Don't know	17%	14%	12%	19%	16%

On temporary construction jobs for local workers

	Rural	Mostly Rural	Mostly Urban	Urban	Statewide
No impact	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%
Very negative impact	6%	3%	1%	2%	4%
Somewhat negative impact	3%	4%	2%	2%	3%
Mixed	26%	27%	14%	18%	25%
Somewhat positive impact	34%	37%	42%	38%	36%
Very positive impact	11%	16%	32%	24%	15%
Don't know	16%	11%	8%	13%	14%

On long-term jobs for local workers

	Rural	Mostly Rural	Mostly Urban	Urban	Statewide
No impact	7%	8%	12%	10%	8%
Very negative impact	11%	7%	6%	8%	9%
Somewhat negative impact	10%	12%	9%	2%	10%
Mixed	31%	33%	35%	30%	32%
Somewhat positive impact	19%	22%	24%	35%	21%
Very positive impact	3%	5%	1%	2%	3%
Don't know	19%	13%	12%	13%	16%

On reliability of the electric grid

	Rural	Mostly Rural	Mostly Urban	Urban	Statewide
No impact	2%	1%	4%	4%	2%
Very negative impact	38%	28%	25%	17%	33%
Somewhat negative impact	18%	23%	29%	29%	21%
Mixed	18%	22%	18%	20%	19%
Somewhat positive impact	4%	6%	8%	9%	5%
Very positive impact	2%	5%	3%	0%	3%
Don't know	18%	16%	13%	21%	17%

On public health (e.g., air pollution, noise pollution)

	Rural	Mostly Rural	Mostly Urban	Urban	Statewide
No impact	3%	5%	12%	18%	5%
Very negative impact	36%	27%	17%	16%	30%
Somewhat negative impact	24%	25%	28%	22%	25%
Mixed	19%	23%	30%	23%	21%
Somewhat positive impact	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%
Very positive impact	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Don't know	17%	16%	11%	20%	17%

On Michigan's fresh water supply

	Rural	Mostly Rural	Mostly Urban	Urban	Statewide
No impact	3%	5%	11%	15%	5%
Very negative impact	45%	36%	23%	22%	39%
Somewhat negative impact	19%	22%	31%	19%	21%
Mixed	14%	18%	25%	25%	17%
Somewhat positive impact	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Very positive impact	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%
Don't know	17%	17%	9%	19%	17%

On Michigan's competitiveness for economic growth

	Rural	Mostly Rural	Mostly Urban	Urban	Statewide
No impact	4%	1%	2%	0%	3%
Very negative impact	11%	5%	4%	2%	8%
Somewhat negative impact	5%	7%	4%	4%	6%
Mixed	37%	36%	21%	24%	35%
Somewhat positive impact	18%	25%	40%	30%	22%
Very positive impact	5%	7%	20%	27%	8%
Don't know	20%	18%	10%	13%	19%

On America's global competitiveness in AI

	Rural	Mostly Rural	Mostly Urban	Urban	Statewide
No impact	3%	1%	4%	2%	2%
Very negative impact	8%	5%	2%	2%	6%
Somewhat negative impact	4%	4%	2%	2%	4%
Mixed	34%	35%	20%	25%	32%
Somewhat positive impact	16%	22%	33%	27%	20%
Very positive impact	7%	11%	24%	31%	11%
Don't know	27%	22%	14%	11%	24%

Appendix B

Local government leaders' support for or opposition to various state government actions on data centers, by rural-urban self-assessment

...regulation of environmental impacts from data centers by the state

	Rural	Mostly Rural	Mostly Urban	Urban	Total
Strongly support	40%	37%	34%	33%	38%
Somewhat support	21%	27%	40%	31%	25%
Neither support nor oppose	9%	11%	6%	17%	9%
Somewhat oppose	7%	4%	7%	11%	6%
Strongly oppose	11%	9%	7%	4%	10%
Don't know	13%	11%	6%	4%	12%

...regulation of human health impacts from data centers by the state

	Rural	Mostly rural	Mostly urban	Urban	Total
Strongly support	41%	38%	36%	36%	39%
Somewhat support	19%	26%	36%	31%	23%
Neither support nor oppose	11%	10%	8%	16%	11%
Somewhat oppose	6%	5%	8%	7%	5%
Strongly oppose	10%	10%	5%	6%	9%
Don't know	13%	11%	7%	4%	12%

...planning and zoning decisions set by the state

	Rural	Mostly Rural	Mostly Urban	Urban	Total
Strongly support	12%	8%	3%	8%	9%
Somewhat support	9%	13%	17%	9%	11%
Neither support nor oppose	11%	8%	7%	15%	10%
Somewhat oppose	15%	14%	15%	24%	15%
Strongly oppose	41%	48%	55%	40%	45%
Don't know	12%	9%	3%	4%	10%

...special electricity / utility rates for data centers set by the state

	Rural	Mostly Rural	Mostly Urban	Urban	Total
Strongly support	15%	16%	13%	14%	15%
Somewhat support	12%	18%	29%	16%	16%
Neither support nor oppose	13%	13%	16%	29%	14%
Somewhat oppose	12%	12%	15%	18%	13%
Strongly oppose	30%	27%	20%	17%	28%
Don't know	17%	14%	8%	6%	15%

...standards for water use and wastewater discharge set by the state

	Rural	Mostly rural	Mostly urban	Urban	Total
Strongly support	41%	38%	36%	36%	39%
Somewhat support	19%	26%	36%	31%	23%
Neither support nor oppose	11%	10%	8%	16%	11%
Somewhat oppose	6%	5%	8%	7%	5%
Strongly oppose	10%	10%	5%	6%	9%
Don't know	13%	11%	7%	4%	12%

...energy efficiency requirements set by the state

	Rural	Mostly Rural	Mostly Urban	Urban	Total
Strongly support	29%	30%	35%	31%	30%
Somewhat support	21%	29%	31%	21%	24%
Neither support nor oppose	14%	11%	13%	27%	13%
Somewhat oppose	8%	7%	7%	9%	7%
Strongly oppose	15%	12%	10%	6%	13%
Don't know	14%	12%	4%	6%	12%

...requirements for companies to make plans for closing out / decommissioning data centers (i.e., to avoid future potential “dark stores” problems) set by the state

	Rural	Mostly Rural	Mostly Urban	Urban	Total
Strongly support	50%	46%	50%	50%	48%
Somewhat support	15%	22%	30%	21%	19%
Neither support nor oppose	8%	7%	9%	19%	8%
Somewhat oppose	3%	4%	2%	2%	3%
Strongly oppose	11%	8%	5%	4%	9%
Don't know	13%	13%	4%	4%	13%

Notes

1. Fitzpatrick, N., Horner, D., and Ivacko, T. (February 2024). Most Michigan local government officials say control over renewable energy projects should stay local. Ann Arbor, MI: Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan. Retrieved from <https://closup.umich.edu/sites/closup/files/2024-02/MPPS-Fall2023-EnergyBrief.pdf>
2. Horner, D., Ivacko, T., and Mills, S. (October 2016). Michigan local leaders say property tax appeals are common, disagree with dark stores assessing. Ann Arbor, MI: Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan. Retrieved from <https://closup.umich.edu/michigan-public-policy-survey/58/michigan-local-leaders-say-property-tax-appeals-are-common-disagree-with-dark-stores-assessing>
3. Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). (August 2023). Data Center Resources. Retrieved from <https://www.michiganbusiness.org/services/data-center-resources>

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, 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. 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 2026 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.

The Spring 2026 wave was conducted from March 30 – June 9, 2026. A total of 1,328 jurisdictions in the Spring 2026 wave returned valid surveys (66 counties, 225 cities, 170 villages, and 867 townships), resulting in a 72% response rate by unit.

The margin of error for the survey as a whole is +/- 1.28%. Subgroup margins of error may be larger. 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 in several ways—by jurisdiction type (county, city, township, or village); population size of the respondent's community, the region of the respondent's jurisdiction; and self-identified rural, mostly rural, mostly urban, or urban categories—will soon be available online at the MPPS homepage: <https://closup.umich.edu/michigan-public-policy-survey>

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