



INSIDE MICHIGAN POLITICS

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IMP-MRG STATEWIDE POLL: *VOTERS BELIEVE COLLEGE CAMPUSES SHOULD STAY GUN-FREE, BUT THAT DRILLING FOR OIL & NATURAL GAS ON PUBLIC LANDS SHOULD BE ALLOWED*

Lansing, Mich. --- Michigan voters feel strongly that concealed weapons should not be allowed on college campuses, according to another poll commissioned by *Inside Michigan Politics* newsletter and conducted by Marketing Resource Group of Lansing.

On a separate issue, the state's citizens feel that drilling for oil and gas should be legal in the Pigeon River Forest and on other public lands, especially if it might produce as much as \$1 billion in new revenue for the state's cash-starved treasury.

Current Michigan law bars concealed weapon permit holders from carrying guns on college campuses, but some legislators argue that infamous shooting sprees like the one at Virginia Tech University in 2007 demonstrate that so-called "gun-free zones" serve mainly to disarm only those law-abiding citizens who might otherwise be better able to protect themselves. But other citizens are alarmed at the prospect of more guns on college campuses. By a margin of 67%-32%, voters say they oppose allowing CCW permit holders to carry guns on college campuses. Only 1% said they were undecided on the issue.

Environmentalists worry that there might be damage to wildlife as well as noise and land pollution in public parks if drilling is allowed, even if it is done with rigs positioned outside park boundaries that would drill horizontally. But the IMP/MRG poll showed that voters believe that drilling is a risk worth taking --- 62% support the idea, while only 33% oppose. About 5% were undecided.

The statewide telephone poll was conducted from September 12 to 20 among a random sampling of 600 likely Michigan voters. Given the sample size of 600 and the method of random selection, the statistical margin of error is plus or minus 4.1 percent within a 95 percent degree of confidence. The text and results of the questions are presented on the next page.

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- Right now, gun owners in Michigan who meet the mandatory background check and training requirements are permitted to carry a concealed pistol in public, but not allowed to carry their weapons in so-called "gun-free-zones." These zones include schools, churches and college campuses, among other places. There is currently a bill in the State Senate that would remove college and university campuses from the "gun-free zone" provision of the state's concealed pistol permit law. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose this legislation to allow concealed pistol permit holders to carry their weapons on college and university campuses in Michigan?

(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE ASK: Would you say you strongly (support/oppose) it or just somewhat (support/oppose) it?)

Strongly support	22%
Somewhat support.....	10%
Neither support nor oppose.....	*
Somewhat oppose.....	11%
Strongly oppose.....	55%
Don't know (Volunteered).....	1%
Refused (Volunteered)	*

TOTAL SUPPORT	32%
TOTAL OPPOSE	66%

- The U.S. Department of Energy and the Michigan DEQ say that there are approximately 230 million stranded barrels of oil and natural gas in capped existing wells on Michigan public land, like state parks and the Pigeon River Forest area. A proposal has been offered to reopen these wells and extract the stranded oil and natural gas. Proponents say retrieving this oil and gas could generate between \$100 million and \$400 million in annual revenue for the state over the next 10 years. Opponents say that drilling on public land will pollute our state parks and protected areas and destroy natural habitats. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose a proposal to allow the State of Michigan and private oil and gas companies to extract oil and natural gas from existing wells on state public land.

(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE ASK: Would you say you strongly (support/oppose) it or just somewhat (support/oppose) it?)

Strongly support	40%
Somewhat support.....	22%
Neither support nor oppose.....	1%
Somewhat oppose.....	8%
Strongly oppose.....	25%
Don't know (Volunteered).....	4%
Refused (Volunteered)	*

TOTAL SUPPORT	62%
TOTAL OPPOSE.....	33%

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