



INSIDE MICHIGAN POLITICS

For Immediate Release

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IMP-MRG STATEWIDE POLL:

VOTERS SAY TODAY'S MICHIGAN POLITICIANS ARE NOT AS SMART, HAVE LESS INTEGRITY & DON'T WORK AS HARD AS THEIR COUNTERPARTS A HALF-CENTURY AGO

Lansing, Mich. --- More than half of Michigan's voters say that the state's politicians have less integrity and work less hard for their constituents than politicians of 40 or 50 years ago, according to a poll commissioned by the *Inside Michigan Politics* newsletter and conducted by Marketing Resource Group, Inc.

Voters are fairly evenly divided on the issue of current politicians' intelligence, but they believe strongly that today's officeholders come up short on integrity and work ethics. Majorities of all Michigan voters --- in every category conceivable --- have far less regard for today's pols than they do those of two generations ago.

But They're Not Going Anywhere

Despite the negative assessment of their public servants, and despite Michigan's endlessly dismal job climate, most state residents say that they will never leave the state; another 30% conceded that they may leave the state some day, but not now; and only 13% say that they plan to leave the state as quickly as they can or that, unless conditions improve, they will have to move elsewhere.

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 actual text and results of questions are presented on the following page.

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2009 Fall IMP-MRG Michigan Poll Release

Today's Politicians vs. 40-50 Years Ago

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Now I'm going to read a few character traits and for each one I'd like you to compare Michigan politicians of today with Michigan politicians of say 40 or 50 years ago.

The first one is ... The next one is ...

(ROTATE ISSUES)

More Less Same Don't Know Refused

- Intelligence - In general, do you think Michigan politicians today are more intelligent, less intelligent, or have about the same level of intelligence as Michigan politicians of 40 or 50 years ago?
18% 24% 49% 8% 2%

- Integrity - In general, do you think Michigan politicians today have more integrity, less integrity, or have about the same level of integrity as Michigan politicians of 40 or 50 years ago?
7% 55% 31% 6% 1%

- Work ethic - In general, do you think Michigan politicians today work harder for their constituents, work less hard, or work about as hard as Michigan politicians of 40 or 50 years ago?
10% 52% 30% 7% 1%

- Which of the following four choices best describes how you currently feel about your future in the state of Michigan:

- A:** I am never moving out of Michigan;
- B:** I may move out of Michigan some day, but not now;
- C:** Unless conditions in Michigan improve, I'll have to move elsewhere;
- D:** I plan to move out of Michigan as quickly as I can

Never moving.....54%
I may move, but not now.....30%
I'll have to move, if things don't improve.....9%
I'm moving as quickly as possible4%
Other (volunteered)*
Don't Know (volunteered).....1%
Refused (volunteered).....*

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