



## INSIDE MICHIGAN POLITICS

**For Immediate Release**  
March 13, 2009

**Contact:** Bill Ballenger, 517-487-6665  
Paul King, 313-881-3724  
Tom Shields, 517-372-4400

### **Statewide Poll: Gubernatorial Race a Toss-Up in 2010**

Lansing, MI — An early poll on the 2010 election is showing that in the race for Governor, the Republican primary is a wide-open race while the Democrat primary favors Lt. Governor John Cherry. But a general election match-up shows the Republican front-runners led the Democratic Lt. Governor.

“Michigan voters will see non-stop campaigning in the primaries and the general election. Anyone could win the GOP primary and then have a great opportunity to recapture the Governor’s office,” said Bill Ballenger, Editor/Publisher of *Inside Michigan Politics* who released the poll results.

#### **Republican Primary**

The poll shows a tight race when testing a potential field of five GOP candidates whom have either announced they are running or exploring a run for governor. The field was led by Oakland County Executive Brooks Patterson with 22% of the vote. Patterson’s lead was a result of strong support (45%) in the Detroit Metro area.

In a close second place, west Michigan Congressman Pete Hoekstra had 17% of the vote. Hoekstra was the leading vote getter in areas surrounding his Congressional District – West Michigan (43%) and the Traverse City (35%). Attorney General Mike Cox (15%) is also in the thick of the race and the leading candidate in the Flint/Saginaw/Bay city area (25% and the Lansing area (25%). Support for Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land’s (12%) is clearly being affected by Hoekstra’s strong showing in her hometown area of Grand Rapids. Should Hoekstra decide not to throw his hat in the ring – the dynamics of the race will change.

State Senator Tom George, a physician from Kalamazoo, is only pulling 4% of the vote at this time. Thirty-two percent of the voters (32%) were undecided.

*All Possible GOP primary voters were asked:* If the Republican primary election for Michigan Governor were being held today, which way would you vote or lean as of today?

L. Brooks Patterson.....	22%	Terri Lynn Land.....	12%
Pete Hoekstra.....	17%	Tom George.....	2%
Mike Cox.....	15%	Undecided .....	32%

**Democrat Primary**

In the Democratic primary, the survey shows Lt. Governor Cherry with an early lead against three rumored opponents. Cherry was the choice of 26% of the possibly Democratic primary voters. Cherry’s support was bolstered by a strong showing in his hometown area of Flint (52%). Michigan First Gentleman Daniel Granholm-Mulhern ran a distance second with 10% of the vote. Michigan State University Trustee George Perles (4%) and House Speaker Andy Dillon (3%) had little support in this early contest. It was interesting to note that Perles received no (0)% support in the Lansing area, the home of Michigan State University where he coached football for 11 seasons.

At this time, fifty-seven percent (57%) of the Democratic primary voters were undecided, which could indicate that the race could be wide-open to new candidates.

*All possible Democrat primary voters were asked: If the Democrat primary election for Michigan Governor were being held today, which way would you vote or lean as of today?*

John Cherry.....	26%	Andy Dillon.....	3%
Daniel Granholm-Mulhern.....	10%	Undecided.....	57%
George Perles.....	4%		

**The General Election**

Even though Democrats outnumber Republicans by six-percent in this survey of 600 Michigan voters, Lt. Governor Cherry trailed all three of the Republicans that were tested in hypothetical general election pairings. Cox was leading Cherry by 7%, Land leading by 5% and Patterson leading by 4%.

If the general election for Michigan Governor were being held today, which way would you vote or lean as of today?

Total for Cox.....	41%	Total for Land.....	39%
Total for Cherry.....	34%	Total for Cherry.....	34%
Total for Patterson.....	38%		
Total for Cherry.....	34%		

“Republicans haven’t won many state-wide races in the past decade but Lt. Governor Cherry may have a tough time shaking the negative effects of serving as Lt. Governor

during eight tough economic years,” said Tom Shields, President of Marketing Resource Group. “While we are still 19 months away from the 2010 elections, the race for Governor is shaping up as a real battle.”

*The survey was conducted for Inside Michigan Politics by Lansing based Marketing Resource Group. The survey was conducted from March 4-10 of 600 Michigan registered voters. The margin of error is +/- 4.1%. The margin of error for the GOP primary is +/- 5.7%. The margin of error for the DEM primary is +/- 5.8%.*