



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Health Care Top Choice for Privatization

LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan electorate is not thrilled with the privatization of any state services, but according to a recent a state-wide survey, if forced to choose, health care would top the list.

The state-wide survey was conducted by Denno-Noor Research, in partnership with The Rossman Group, one of Michigan's top public relations and issue management consulting firms, and Michigan Information & Research Services, Michigan's leading daily legislative and state government newsletter, recently voted the preferred newsletter of Lansing's political insiders.

Health care received 19 percent of the votes, but was tightly followed by road building and maintenance, and the state's education program both at 17 percent.

"Health care in our country is on the top of many minds, particularly now that so many baby boomers – including me – who are reaching retirement age and facing uncertainty with their coverage," said The Rossman Group CEO Kelly Rossman-McKinney. "This is an issue that is not going away anytime soon."

"Those in the 50 to 64 year age group were the most supportive of privatizing health care," added MIRS President John T. Reurink. "Not surprisingly, baby boomers are concerned about the quality of health care they will receive when retiring and this most likely impacted the numbers."

"Although 'none of the above' was not the top response, it's clear that Michigan's electorate does not feel an overwhelming desire to privatize any individual government service. Voters in Wayne County were the most likely to vote for none of the services to be privatized," said Dennis Denno, President of Denno-Noor Research.

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The question was worded as follows:

“In your opinion, which of the following government services could be better run by the private sector (ROTATE) road building and maintenance, the state’s education program, the prison system, health care, or state parks?”

The results:

Road building and maintenance – 17%

State’s education program – 17%

The prison system – 12%

Health care – 19%

State parks – 11%

None of the above – 9%

Unsure/Does Not Matter/Do Not Care – 15%

“As to the issue of health care, it’s therefore no surprise that voters in Genesee County (Flint) voted 54 percent – 46 percent to create an expanded and enhanced Genesee Health Plan, which provides health care coverage for adults who do not have insurance and are not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid,” added Rossman. “This is not an issue that’s been handled by our government, so Genesee County voters took matters into their own hands. I’d watch for plans similar to the GHP emerging around the country as a model for local health care control.”

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Methodology:

This survey was part of the inaugural Rossman Group/MIRS/Denno-Noor Quarterly Survey of the Michigan electorate. 600 respondents were surveyed between October 9 and October 11, and the participation was stratified based on census data and past voter behavior. A screen was employed to include only those participants who said they intended on voting, either at the polls or by absentee ballot, in the November 7, 2006 Election. The margin of error is plus/minus 4 percent.