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**Contact:** Kelly Rossman-McKinney

517-487-9320

Dennis Denno

517-402-2453

John T. Reurink

517-482-2125

## Michigan's Political Winds are Changing In Race for Next Governor

*Dennis Archer Passes Debbie Stabenow – DeVos Sees Significant Drop*

**LANSING, Mich.** — A recent survey shows former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer leading U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow – who had enjoyed a ten point lead in previous polls – as the latest Democratic frontrunner to be Michigan's next governor. Among potential Republican candidates, Grand Rapids businessman and former gubernatorial candidate Dick DeVos still enjoys a double-digit lead over his closest competitor, but saw his advantage as the GOP's top candidate drop thirteen points. The Governor's office in Michigan will be open for election in 2010, as incumbent Jennifer Granholm is unable to run again due to term limits.

"We've been tracking potential candidates for the 2010 gubernatorial primaries for the last year and a half," said Kelly Rossman-McKinney, CEO of The Rossman Group. "While the Democrats have been jockeying for position, Dick DeVos has consistently and impressively been the GOP frontrunner. This polling dip demonstrates previously committed Republicans' willingness to now consider other candidates. Dick DeVos' nomination can no longer be considered a foregone conclusion."

This according to a recent state-wide survey conducted by Denno-Noor Research, in partnership with The Rossman Group, recently named Lansing's Most Effective Public Relations Firm by a survey of political insiders, and Michigan Information & Research Services (MIRS), Michigan's leading daily legislative and state government newsletter. MIRS was also recently voted the preferred newsletter of Lansing's political insiders.

The overall survey was split into two samples, Republican primary voters and Democratic primary voters, with the question worded as follows:

*"Due to term limits, Governor Jennifer Granholm cannot run for re-election for governor. If the election for governor of Michigan were being held today, which candidate do you think you would vote for?"*

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The overall results were as follows:

<u>GOP</u>	<u>May 2008</u>	<u>December 2007</u>	<u>Change*</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>May 2008</u>	<u>December 2007</u>	<u>Change*</u>
Cong. Pete Hoekstra	7%	7%	---	Lt. Gov. John Cherry	6%	4%	+2%
Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land	4%	2%	+2%	Cong. Bart Stupak	8%	4%	+4%
Attorney Gen. Mike Cox	10%	8%	+2%	Wayne County Exec. Robert Ficano	5%	4%	+1%
Cong. Mike Rogers	4%	2%	+2%	First Gentleman Dan Mulhern	5%	1%	+4%
Former gubernatorial candidate Dick DeVos	28%	41%	-13%	House Speaker Andy Dillon	1%	2%	-1%
Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard	4%	8%	-4%	DMC Executive Michael Duggan	1%	3%	-2%
Cong. Candice Miller	11%	6%	+5%	Sen. Debbie Stabenow	20%	28%	-8%
Other	1%	1%	---	Former Detroit Mayor Archer	24%	14%	+10%
DNK/Refused	32%	28%	+4%	Genesee Treasurer Kildee	3%	1%	+2%
				Flint Mayor Don Williamson**	0%	---	---
				Other	0%	2%	-2%
				DNK/Refused	29%	28%	+1%

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\*Compared to 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Survey Results, December 2007  
\*\*Don Williamson was not tested in December.

“Talk of Dennis Archer’s candidacy for governor has been growing,” said MIRS President John T. Reurink. “These statistics show that he clearly has some traction among Democratic voters.”

“There is clearly a long way to go until the next election,” said Denno-Noor President Dennis Denno. “The results on both sides of the political spectrum indicate that the races are still in flux, and there’s still room for new candidates to emerge and for the current candidates to solidify support.”

**Methodology:**  
This survey was part of the Rossman Group/MIRS/Denno-Noor Quarterly Survey of the Michigan electorate. 600 respondents were surveyed between May 17 and May 21, 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 2008 Election. The margin of error is plus/minus four percent.

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