



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Voters Not Quite Ready for Tax Increase Recalls

Only 19 Percent of Electorate Not Impacted by Government Shutdown

LANSING, Mich. — As legislators debate the issue of revenue enhancements for the FY 2008 budget – known to everyone outside of Lansing as tax increases – voters are waiting, watching, and hoping.

For some, tax increases are a reason to dust off the recall threat. But a new survey of Michigan voters shows that the public does not seem as ready to pull the recall trigger.

“These results should be very reassuring to the dozens of legislators who are suffering from a severe case of 'Drolet-o-phobia' - the fear of recall threats from a right wing white guy from Macomb County,” said Kelly Rossman-McKinney, CEO of The Rossman Group. “. In fact, even Macomb County voters are recall-wary. To me, this says: vote your conscience for the good of the state and forget the pig in the parking lot.”

The 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, Michigan’s leading daily legislative and state government newsletter, and was also recently voted the preferred newsletter of Lansing’s political insiders. The question was worded as follows:

“TO balance the state budget, some have stated that the Michigan legislature might need to raise taxes. Others have stated that if the Michigan legislature raises taxes they would lead efforts to recall those elected officials. How seriously would you consider voting to recall your state representative or state senator if they voted to increase taxes? Would you definitely consider voting for a recall, strongly consider voting for a recall, consider voting for a recall, probably not consider voting for a recall, or not consider voting for a recall?”

Twenty-two percent of the electorate would definitely be ready to recall their legislator if he or she voted to raise taxes. Eleven percent would ‘strongly consider’ voting in favor of a recall and 18 percent said they would ‘consider’ a recall. Meanwhile, 12 percent indicated they would ‘probably not support’ a recall and 32 percent said they would ‘not support’ a recall.”

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"Anytime a lawmaker faces a situation where half of their constituents would to some degree 'consider a recall,' they should proceed cautiously," said John T. Reurink, president of Michigan Information & Research Service Inc. (MIRS newsletter). "But, lawmakers also have to realize that doing nothing at this late date isn't an option. The reaction of constituents to a state government shutdown would be far worse for state elected officials who couldn't manage to avoid it."

"Starting with 51 percent support is no way to launch a successful recall effort," said Denno-Noor President Dennis Denno. "Part of that recall support will erode based on partisanship and familiarity with the incumbent. While certainly cause for concern, state legislators who are doing their constituent work and staying in communication with their voters should not see much serious recall attention."

In addition, as legislators talk about the possibility of a government shutdown to help tackle the state's budget deficit, the state's voters believe such a shutdown would hurt them or their families. The question was worded as follows:

"Since the governor and the Michigan legislature are having a difficult time balancing the budget, some have stated that Michigan might face a government shutdown, which means state campgrounds could close, health care inspections could stop, and licenses would be difficult, if not impossible to obtain. How would a shutdown of state government affect you and your family – severely, moderately slightly or not at all?"

"Legislators take note: When three out of four people in Michigan know a government shutdown will hurt them, maybe they know something you don't. Quit stalling, vote for a tax increase, and get on with the business of running the state," added Rossman-McKinney.

"Twenty-one percent of those surveyed thought that a potential government shutdown would 'severely affect me and my family,' another 31 percent indicated that a government shutdown would 'moderately affect me and my family,'" said Reurink. "Additionally, 23 percent felt that a shutdown would 'slightly affect me and my family,' while 19 percent felt that a shutdown would 'not affect me and my family.'"

"No surprises when looking at partisanship," noted Denno. "Twenty-seven percent of strong Republicans thought a shutdown would not affect them, while only 12.5 percent of strong Democrats thought a shutdown would affect them."

Methodology:

This survey was part of the Rossman Group/MIRS/Denno-Noor Quarterly Survey of the Michigan electorate. 600 respondents were surveyed between May 14 and May 17, 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.

Legislative Recall Geobreaks:

	<u>SE MI</u>	<u>Central MI</u>	<u>West MI</u>	<u>Tri Cities/Thumb</u>	<u>Upper L.P.</u>	<u>U.P.</u>	<u>Oakland</u>	<u>Macomb</u>	<u>Detroit</u>	<u>Balance of Wayne</u>
Definite Recall	21%	14%	10%	32%	17%	17%	26%	36%	17%	25%
Strongly Consider Recall	11%	9%	8%	14%	11%	11%	21%	2%	11%	11%
Consider Recall	12%	21%	19%	15%	17%	17%	14%	26%	25%	17%
Probably Not Recall	16%	11%	17%	12%	11%	11%	9%	10%	6%	14%
Definitely Not Recall	35%	36%	38%	23%	33%	33%	28%	24%	36%	28%
None of the Above/Unsure	5%	9%	9%	5%	11%	11%	3%	2%	6%	6%

*All numbers rounded. Thus, totals may exceed 100 percent.

Government Shutdown Geobreaks:

	<u>SE MI</u>	<u>Central MI</u>	<u>West MI</u>	<u>Tri Cities/Thumb</u>	<u>Upper L.P.</u>	<u>U.P.</u>	<u>Oakland</u>	<u>Macomb</u>	<u>Detroit</u>	<u>Balance of Wayne</u>
Severely Affect Family	19%	20%	17%	23%	29%	39%	18%	14%	31%	23%
Moderately Affect Family	32%	30%	31%	36%	21%	44%	28%	32%	42%	28%
Slightly Affect Family	30%	36%	25%	17%	32%	11%	21%	22%	11%	19%
No Affect on Family	12%	9%	18%	21%	18%	6%	30%	20%	11%	26%
None of the Above/Unsure	7%	5%	8%	3%	0%	0%	4%	12%	6%	5%

*All numbers rounded. Thus, totals may exceed 100 percent.