

PUBLIC OPINION MONITOR



April, 1993

Hello, I'm calling from Public Sector Consultants in Lansing, Michigan. We are conducting a survey of public perceptions of Michigan government. The survey is not being conducted for any candidate or political party.

Are you 18 years of age or older and a resident of Michigan?

Yes Continue
No Terminate

Before we begin, let me tell you that this interview is completely voluntary. Should we come to any question that you don't want to answer, just let me know and we'll go on to the next question.

1. First, I'd like to ask you a question about issues facing the State of Michigan. What do you think is the most important problem facing the state today? (OPEN ENDED)

- (1) a. Jobs/unemployment 30%
- b. Environment 2%
- c. Crime/drugs 6%
- d. Taxes/Balancing budget 18%
- e. Education 15%
- f. Help the needy 5%
- g. Property tax 7%
- h. Health Care 7%

2. Which of the following do you feel is the most significant problem for the federal government?

- (2) a. Reducing the federal deficit 28%
- b. Making health care affordable and available 20%
- c. Reducing taxes on the middle class 13%
- d. Increasing the number of jobs 18%
- e. Reforming the political process 6%
- f. Maintaining world peace 3%
- Others 3%
- Combinations 10%
- Refused/don't know/undecided 1%

3. Do you believe the country is generally headed in the right direction or has it seriously gotten off track and is headed in the wrong direction?

- a. Right direction 37%
- b. Wrong track 48%
- Don't know/undecided 13%
- Refused/other 1%

4. To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as president of the United States? Would you say you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove?

- (4) a. Strongly approve 18%
- b. Somewhat approve 36%
- c. Somewhat disapprove 15%
- d. Strongly disapprove 19%
- Don't know/neutral/undecided 12%
- Refused to answer/other 0

5. To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the United States Congress is doing? Would you say you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove?

- (5) a. Strongly approve 4%
- b. Somewhat approve 24%
- c. Somewhat disapprove 35%
- d. Strongly disapprove 27%
- Don't know/neutral/undecided 10%
- Refused to answer/other 0

6. Generally speaking, to what extent do you approve or disapprove of the way John Engler is handling his job as Michigan's governor? Would you say you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove?

- (6) a. Strongly approve 13%
- b. Somewhat approve 37%
- c. Somewhat disapprove 19%
- d. Strongly disapprove 23%
- Don't know/neutral/undecided 7%
- Refused to answer/other 0

7. Please rate the job Governor Engler has done with the following list of responsibilities. Please tell me if you believe he has done an excellent job, a good job, just a fair job, or a poor job in

		Excellent	Good	Just fair	Poor	D/K, Unsure	Other
(7)	a. Providing leadership on controversial issues	6%	29%	37%	20%	8%	0
(8)	b. Caring about the needs of all the people	5%	27%	32%	31%	5%	0
(9)	c. Handling the state's budget problem	6%	25%	36%	25%	9%	0
(10)	d. Keeping his campaign promises	5%	25%	33%	22%	15%	0
(11)	e. Being concerned about Michigan's future	10%	36%	28%	18%	7%	0
(12)	f. Reducing taxes on the middle class	3%	16%	31%	39%	9%	1%
(13)	g. Working to improve the way Michigan finances its schools	5%	20%	35%	31%	10%	0

8. To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the state legislature is doing? Would you say you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove?

- (14)
- a. Strongly approve 1%
 - b. Somewhat approve 37%
 - c. Somewhat disapprove 29%
 - d. Strongly disapprove 13%
 - Don't know/neutral/undecided 19%
 - Refused to answer/other 1%

9. The legislature is working on a number of issues. Which one of the following issues do you think should receive top priority? (ROTATE)

- (15)
- a. Health care reform 16%
 - b. Balancing the state budget 9%
 - c. Stimulating economic growth 23%
 - d. Changing the way schools are financed 17%
 - e. Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interests 13%
 - f. Reducing property taxes 15%
 - Others (offered) 3%
 - Don't know/undecided 3%
 - Refused/other 1%

The next few questions are about health care reform.

10. Do you think that, overall, the current health care system meets or does not meet the needs of most Americans?

- (16)
- a. Meets needs 20%
 - b. Does not meet needs 74%
 - Don't know/not sure/undecided 5%
 - Refused/other 1%

11. Which one of the following do you see as the most important health care issue at the present time?

- (17)
- a. The cost of health care 51%
 - b. The number of people not covered by insurance 32%
 - c. The quality of health care 5%
 - d. The loss of my health insurance 4%
 - All equally (volunteered) 7%
 - Don't know/unsure/undecided 2%

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements. Do you agree or disagree that Would that be strongly (agree/disagree) or somewhat (agree/disagree)?

12. The way we finance the health care system has reached a crisis.

(18)	a. Strongly agree	57%
	b. Somewhat agree	24%
	c. Neutral/no opinion	6%
	d. Somewhat disagree	7%
	e. Strongly disagree	3%
	Don't know/undecided	2%
	Refused/other	0

13. Some kind of tax increase will be needed to pay for increasing access to health care.

(19)	a. Strongly agree	23%
	b. Somewhat agree	33%
	c. Neutral/no opinion	7%
	d. Somewhat disagree	18%
	e. Strongly disagree	15%
	Don't know/undecided	4%
	Refused/other	1%

14. Health care spending could be reduced significantly without hurting the quality of health care.

(20)	a. Strongly agree	47%
	b. Somewhat agree	28%
	c. Neutral/no opinion	7%
	d. Somewhat disagree	10%
	e. Strongly disagree	3%
	Don't know/undecided	4%
	Refused/other	0

15. As you think about you and your family's future, how concerned are you that you will have adequate health insurance coverage? Are you very concerned, somewhat or not very concerned?

(21)	a. Very concerned	48%
	b. Somewhat concerned	31%
	c. Not very concerned	20%
	Don't know/undecided	1%
	Refused/other	0

16. At any time in 1992 or in the last 12 months have you or has any household member been unable to get medical services because you could not afford to pay for them?

(22)	Yes	11%
	No	88%
	Depends/don't know	1%
	Refused/other	0

17. If it is decided to dramatically change the health care system, should the state or the federal government lead the reform effort? (ROTATE)

- a. State government 23%
- b. Federal government 50%
- Both jointly/Equal(volunteered) 18%
- Don't know/undecided 7%
- Refused/other 3%

18. Do you think the health care system in this country works pretty well and requires only minor changes, do you think it needs fundamental changes, or do you think it needs fundamental changes, or do you think it needs to be completely rebuilt?

- (24) a. Only minor changes 14%
- b. Fundamental changes 43%
- c. Completely rebuilt 38%
- Don't know/undecided 5%
- Refused/other 0

19. When you hear that Congress is thinking about reforming the health care system, which one of the following problems should Congress address first?

- (25) a. Providing more people with health care insurance 34%
- b. Limiting increases in health care spending 16%
- c. Insuring greater efficiency in how health care is provided 28%
- d. Improving the quality of health care 9%
- Combinations (offered) 9%
- Don't know/undecided 2%
- Refused/other 1%

20. If President Clinton's health care reform plan made seeing your private doctor more expensive and made joining a health maintenance organization (HMO) less expensive, would you pay more to see your private doctor or join the HMO?

- (26) a. Pay more 40%
- b. Join the HMO. 46%
- Don't know/undecided 11%
- Refused/other 3%

21. Now I'm going to read a list of some of the compromises that we may be asked to make as part of guaranteeing reasonably priced health care coverage to all Americans. For each compromise, please tell me whether you would find it totally acceptable, somewhat acceptable, somewhat unacceptable, or totally unacceptable?

		Totally accept- able	Some- what accept- able	Some- what unac- ept- eable	Totally unac- ceptable	Not sure
(27)	a. A ten-cent increase in the tax on a bottle of beer	64%	20%	7%	8%	2%
(28)	b. Government limits on what doctors and hospitals can charge	57%	25%	7%	7%	3%
(29)	c. A two-dollar increase in the tax on a pack of cigarettes	52%	19%	10%	17%	2%
(30)	d. A 3 percent national sales tax	18%	29%	19%	28%	5%
(31)	e. Limits on the right to choose your own hospital	10%	20%	21%	48%	2%
(32)	f. Limits on the availability of expensive high-tech health care services	12%	26%	24%	32%	5%
(33)	g. A one-cent increase in the state sales tax	40%	35%	8%	14%	3%

22. The President is considering recommending a standard health care benefits package for all Americans. The plan would provide coverage of some, but not all, health services. Additional health services not provided for in the plan would have to be paid by the individual or employer. I will now read a list of health services. Please tell me if you believe the services should definitely be included in the plan or if they should be optional.

		Included	Optional	Don't Know
(34)	a. Visits to a doctors office without any payment by the patient	39%	55%	6%
(35)	b. Visits to a doctors office with a small payment by the patient	63%	32%	5%
(36)	c. Mental health counseling	59%	34%	7%
(37)	d. Coverage of all hospital costs	70%	26%	4%
(38)	e. Vision services	55%	42%	3%
(39)	f. Substance abuse services	50%	40%	10%
(40)	g. Visits to a chiropractor	27%	64%	9%
(41)	h. Immunizations	87%	11%	2%
(42)	i. Health screenings	72%	23%	5%