
MACKINAC CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY SCHOOL CHOICE SURVEY 2020

517 Likely Voters • Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing System
Sampling Margin of Error +/- 4.31 Percent
July 17-19, 2020

Data for this survey research was collected by Cor Strategies Inc.

	<u>ALL VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>
1. Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D or F to describe the quality of their work. Suppose the public schools in Michigan were graded the same way. What overall grade would you give public schools in Michigan?					
A	6%	3%	10%	5%	12%
B	32%	20%	40%	36%	38%
C	28%	31%	27%	26%	24%
D	16%	25%	11%	14%	17%
F	6%	8%	3%	8%	6%
Unsure	11%	13%	9%	12%	3%

	<u>ALL VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>
2. Now, thinking about the schools in your local community, what overall grade would you give regular public schools in your community?					
A	21%	18%	25%	18%	32%
B	34%	27%	38%	37%	30%
C	20%	22%	19%	19%	16%
D	12%	19%	7%	12%	15%
F	4%	4%	3%	6%	7%
Unsure	9%	10%	7%	9%	2%

	<u>ALL VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>
3. Would you say parents in Michigan currently have too much, too little, or just about the right amount of choice when deciding where their children should attend school?					
Too much	15%	7%	19%	19%	17%
Too little	31%	44%	25%	26%	36%
The right amount	37%	34%	39%	38%	37%
Unsure	17%	15%	18%	18%	9%

	<u>ALL VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>
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4. Some people who oppose school choice say it hurts traditional public schools, and therefore, it should not be expanded in Michigan. Would you agree or disagree that school choice hurts traditional public schools?

Agree	35%	26%	42%	34%	45%
Disagree	50%	59%	42%	51%	52%
Unsure	16%	15%	17%	15%	3%

	<u>ALL VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>
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5. The Schools of Choice program allows Michigan families to enroll students in other traditional public schools across district lines, limited by how many students, if any, a district decides to enroll. Do you favor or oppose the Schools of Choice program?

Favor	59%	70%	49%	61%	62%
Oppose	29%	23%	37%	25%	30%
Unsure	12%	8%	15%	14%	9%

	<u>ALL VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>
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6. Do you favor or oppose expanding the Schools of Choice program to guarantee students can enroll at any public school across district lines, provided the student can be transported into the district and the school has space available?

Favor	58%	66%	53%	57%	59%
Oppose	28%	25%	32%	27%	31%
Unsure	13%	9%	15%	16%	10%

	<u>ALL VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>
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7. How familiar are you with "public charter schools" in K-12 education?

Very Familiar	32%	28%	32%	36%	45%
Somewhat Familiar	41%	42%	41%	39%	36%
Not That Familiar	23%	25%	24%	20%	18%
Unsure	4%	6%	4%	4%	1%

	<u>ALL VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>
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8. Charter schools are independently run public schools that have more control over their budgets, staff and curriculum. In general, do you favor or oppose charter schools?

Favor	47%	57%	39%	48%	48%
Oppose	33%	22%	42%	32%	39%
Unsure	20%	21%	19%	20%	13%

	<u>ALL VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>
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8b. Charter schools are independently run public schools that have more control over their budgets, staff and curriculum. In general, do you favor or oppose charter schools? [SAME QUESTION LIMITED TO THOSE VERY OR SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR]

Favor	52%	64%	41%	54%	54%
Oppose	36%	25%	48%	33%	39%
Unsure	12%	11%	11%	13%	8%

	<u>ALL VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>
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9. Public schools in Michigan are funded through a combination of property taxes, sales tax, and other revenue. Parents who choose to send their children to a private school pay these taxes like everyone else, but also pay tuition for the private school, unless they receive a scholarship. Some state governments give tax credits to individuals and businesses if they contribute money to nonprofit organizations that use the donations to award private school scholarships to students. This policy is what's called a "tax-credit scholarship system." Would you favor or oppose a tax credit scholarship system if it awarded scholarships for low-income students to attend private schools?

Favor	50%	62%	41%	47%	51%
Oppose	32%	24%	36%	35%	30%
Unsure	18%	14%	23%	18%	19%

	<u>ALL VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>
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10. Would you favor or oppose a tax credit scholarship system if it awarded scholarships for special needs students to attend private schools?

Favor	72%	74%	70%	73%	70%
Oppose	15%	14%	17%	15%	15%
Unsure	13%	12%	13%	12%	15%

	<u>ALL VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>
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11. Would you favor or oppose a tax credit scholarship system if it awarded scholarships for all students, regardless of income or special needs, to attend private schools?

Favor	49%	58%	43%	46%	55%
Oppose	34%	26%	39%	38%	33%
Unsure	17%	16%	18%	16%	12%

	<u>ALL VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>
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12. Congress is considering a similar proposal. The Education Freedom Scholarship is a federal scholarship tax credit that allows individuals and businesses to donate to in-state nonprofit scholarship granting organizations that would provide scholarships for students to attend public, private or career or technical schools of their choice. Would you favor or oppose Education Freedom Scholarships?

Favor	55%	67%	49%	51%	53%
Oppose	23%	15%	28%	24%	27%
Unsure	22%	19%	23%	25%	20%

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13. An "education savings account" allows parents to remove their child from a public-school district or public charter school and receive payment into a government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses. Parents can use these funds to pay tuition for private schools or online education programs, private tutoring, or to save for future college expenses. In general, do you favor or oppose this kind of "education savings account" system?

Favor	49%	59%	43%	48%	51%
Oppose	34%	26%	39%	37%	33%
Unsure	17%	16%	18%	15%	16%

	<u>ALL VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>
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14. There is another way for parents to pay for education expenses. Federal tax changes allow 529 education savings plans to be used for private school tuition. Dollars invested in 529 plans grow tax free, and in some cases, contributions are tax deductible. Do you favor or oppose Michigan continuing to offer tax benefits to families who use a child's 529 plan to pay for private school tuition?

Favor	58%	66%	51%	60%	62%
Oppose	27%	23%	32%	25%	26%
Unsure	15%	11%	18%	15%	12%

	<u>ALL VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>
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15. Many more students have been learning from home as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Do you favor or oppose a proposal in Congress that would allow 529 plans to pay for at-home learning expenses, like tutoring services, educational software and other materials without a tax penalty?

Favor	61%	59%	64%	60%	62%
Oppose	25%	28%	23%	26%	23%
Unsure	13%	13%	13%	14%	15%

16. PARTY ID

Republican (GOP)	31%
Democrat (DEM)	39%
Independent (IND)	30%

17. AGE

18-29	20%
30-44	19%
45-64	39%
65+	22%

18. GENDER

Male	48%
Female	52%

19. REGION

Detroit	53%
Grand Rapids / Kalamazoo	24%
Jackson / Lansing	9%
Saginaw	6%
Traverse City	5%
Upper Peninsula	3%

20. PARENT OF A STUDENT

Yes	29%
No	71%

NOTES:

Results for this poll are based on automated telephone interviews conducted among a statewide sample of 517 likely voters. Data for this survey research was collected by Cor Strategies Inc.

Interviews were conducted via a computer-assisted telephone interviewing system utilizing techniques designed to achieve the highest possible respondent cooperation. The surveys were conducted June 17-19, 2020.

The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 4.31 percentage points. The margin of sampling error may be higher for certain subgroups. Results presented may not always appear to total 100 percent due to rounding.

Data was sampled using weighted demographic information from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement and state election authorities. Demographic information for actual voters in past elections were used to construct sample target weights.

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy paid for all costs associated with this survey.