



MICHIGAN TERM LIMITS POLL: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Michigan Survey of 600 Likely Voters Conducted October 29-30, 2019

by Pulse Opinion Research

Survey Summary: The results of this recently completed statewide survey show that Michigan voters overwhelmingly support the state's current 6 and 8-year term limits law, while rejecting a possible change which would allow legislators to stay in office longer. Support for current term limits is broad across all political and demographic groups. **By a decisive margin of 69% to 21%, Michigan voters oppose changing term limits.** Large majorities also say politicians are changing term limits to benefit themselves personally rather than benefit the people of Michigan. Furthermore, attacking term limits is a political liability in Michigan. Voters want term limits on local offices, and become less supportive of the state legislature, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and Senator Mike Shirkey after learning these groups/individuals want to lengthen term limits in the Legislature.

Currently Michigan state legislators are term-limited to six years in the State House and eight years in the State Senate. Michigan legislators are proposing to lengthen term limits, allowing themselves to stay in office longer.

Do you favor or oppose a change in Michigan term limits that would let state legislators stay in office longer?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind.	A.A.*	White	Other
Favor	21%	19%	26%	15%	31%	18%	26%
Oppose	69%	75%	65%	67%	58%	72%	63%
Not Sure	11%	6%	9%	18%	12%	10%	11%

*A.A. represents African-American voters surveyed

Which is more likely - that Michigan state legislators want longer term limits to benefit the people of Michigan, or do they want longer term limits to benefit themselves personally?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind.	A.A.	White	Other
Benefit the People	19%	21%	23%	14%	33%	16%	22%
Benefit Themselves	70%	72%	68%	71%	53%	73%	71%
Not Sure	11%	7%	10%	15%	14%	10%	7%

Are you more or less likely to support a Michigan state legislator who votes to lengthen his or her own term limits? Or will their decision on term limits have no impact on your vote?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind.	A.A.	White	Other
More Likely	16%	19%	17%	11%	18%	15%	22%
Less Likely	46%	47%	43%	50%	38%	48%	45%
No Impact	28%	27%	30%	27%	32%	28%	26%
Not Sure	9%	7%	9%	11%	11%	9%	6%

Do you support creating term limits for county commissioners, city council members and all other local officials in Michigan?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind.	A.A.	White	Other
Yes	59%	64%	60%	51%	67%	56%	70%
No	24%	25%	20%	27%	18%	25%	17%
Not Sure	17%	10%	20%	21%	15%	18%	13%



The Michigan Chamber of Commerce has led the effort to lengthen term limits and give state legislators more time in office. Based on this, do you have a more favorable or less favorable opinion of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce...or has your opinion not changed?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind.	A.A.	White	Other
More Favorable	9%	10%	10%	6%	13%	7%	18%
Less Favorable	52%	60%	48%	46%	48%	53%	45%
No Change	34%	28%	36%	39%	35%	35%	31%
Not Sure	5%	2%	5%	8%	4%	5%	5%

State Senator Mike Shirkey is likely to run for Governor in 2022. If you knew that Shirkey led the effort to lengthen term limits and give politicians more time in office, does that make you more or less likely to vote for Shirkey?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind.	A.A.	White	Other
More Likely	10%	11%	15%	2%	30%	5%	14%
Less Likely	54%	59%	51%	52%	46%	57%	41%
No Impact	27%	21%	28%	34%	20%	29%	29%
Not Sure	9%	10%	6%	12%	5%	9%	16%

Conclusions: Michigan voters overwhelmingly support keeping the state’s current 6 and 8-year term limits for state legislators. The intensity of this support is measured in the net drop in support for state legislators and interest groups who attempt to lengthen term limits. While changing term limits is an idea frequently mentioned at the Capitol in Lansing, this idea is anathema to the people of Michigan, who prefer current term limits by a landslide margin.

Methodology: This poll of 600 likely voters in Michigan was conducted October 29-30, 2019, using an automated polling methodology. To reach those who have abandoned traditional landline telephones, Pulse Opinion Research uses an online survey tool to interview randomly selected participants from a demographically diverse panel. This accounts for 30% of the panel. Pulse Opinion Research determines its partisan weighting targets through a dynamic weighting system that takes into account the state’s voting history, national trends, and recent polling in a particular state or geographic area.

This poll of 600 likely voters in Michigan has an accuracy of +/- 4% with a 95% level of confidence.

Key Survey Demographics:

Gender
Men - 48%
Women - 52%

Age
18-39 – 31%
40-64 – 45%
65+ - 23%

Race
White – 76%
African American – 15%
Other – 9%

Party
Republican – 32%
Democratic – 39%
Independent – 29%