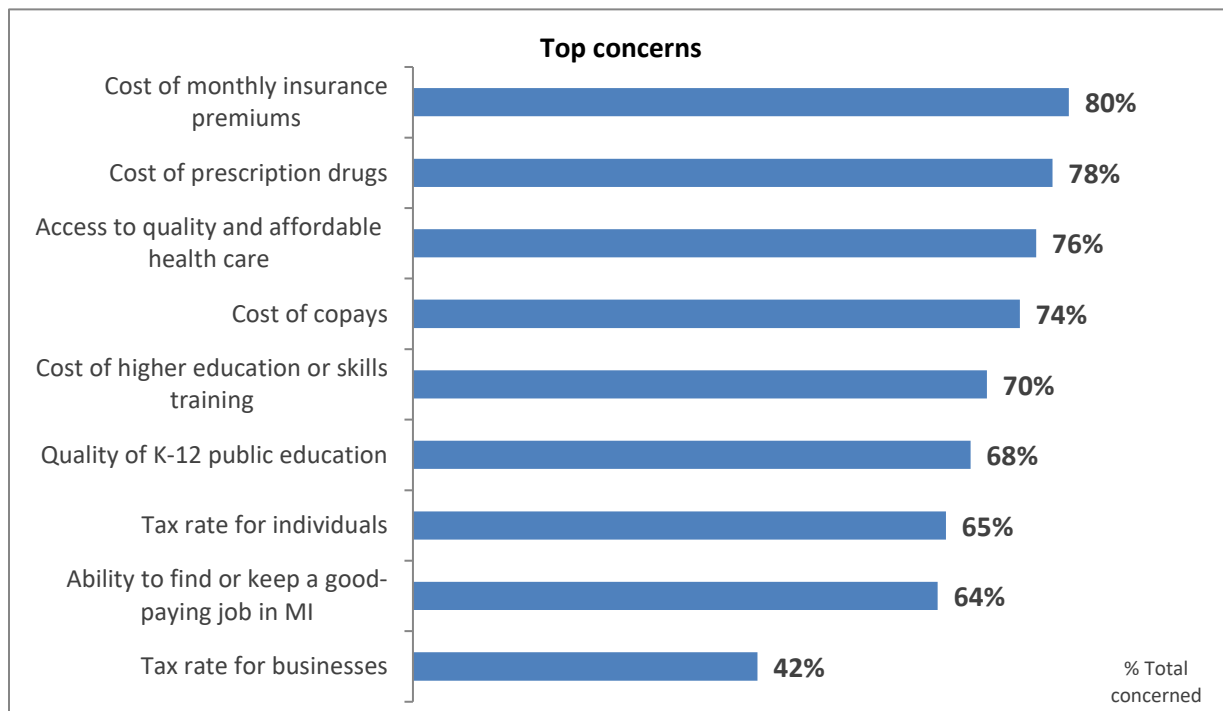


TO: Interested Parties
FR: Lincoln Park Strategies
RE: Legislative Priorities in Michigan: Survey Results
DATE: November 21, 2019

As 2019 comes to a close, State Innovation Exchange (SiX) commissioned Lincoln Park Strategies to conduct a survey of Michiganders¹ to gauge voters’ feelings about the state’s future and their views on the legislative leadership’s policy agenda. One thing is clear: a majority of Michiganders support the recent progressive policies put forth by lawmakers and are supportive of similar policies under consideration for 2020.

While there were many interesting findings throughout the data, this memo focuses specifically on Michiganders’ reactions to the recent legislation considered by the state legislature.

1) Overall, health care issues are the largest concerns Michiganders have, and healthcare-focused legislation is among the most popular. Voters’ top four concerns focus on the cost of and access to quality health care. These concerns are followed by worries about education, individual tax rates, and the ability to find or keep a good-paying job in Michigan.

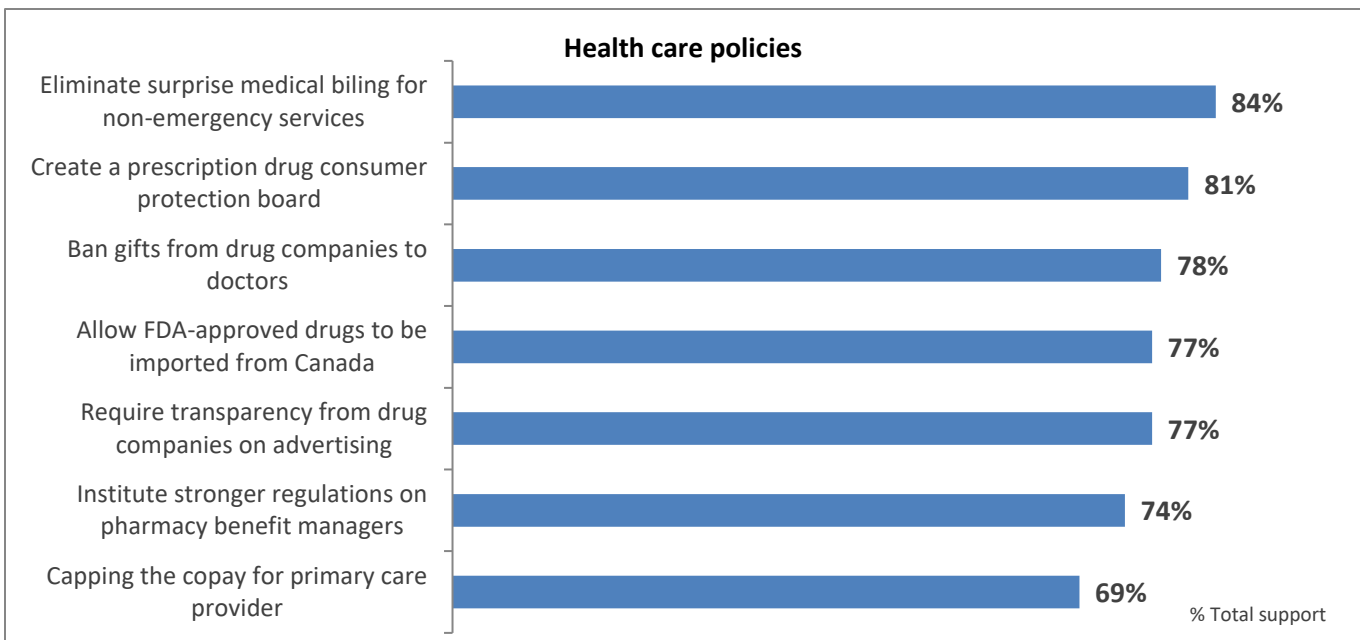


¹ 1,200 interviews among voters were conducted from November 7-18, 2019 via both internet and phone survey. The results were weighted to ensure proportional responses. The margin of error is ±2.8 percent at the 95% confidence level.

Key findings on this topic include:

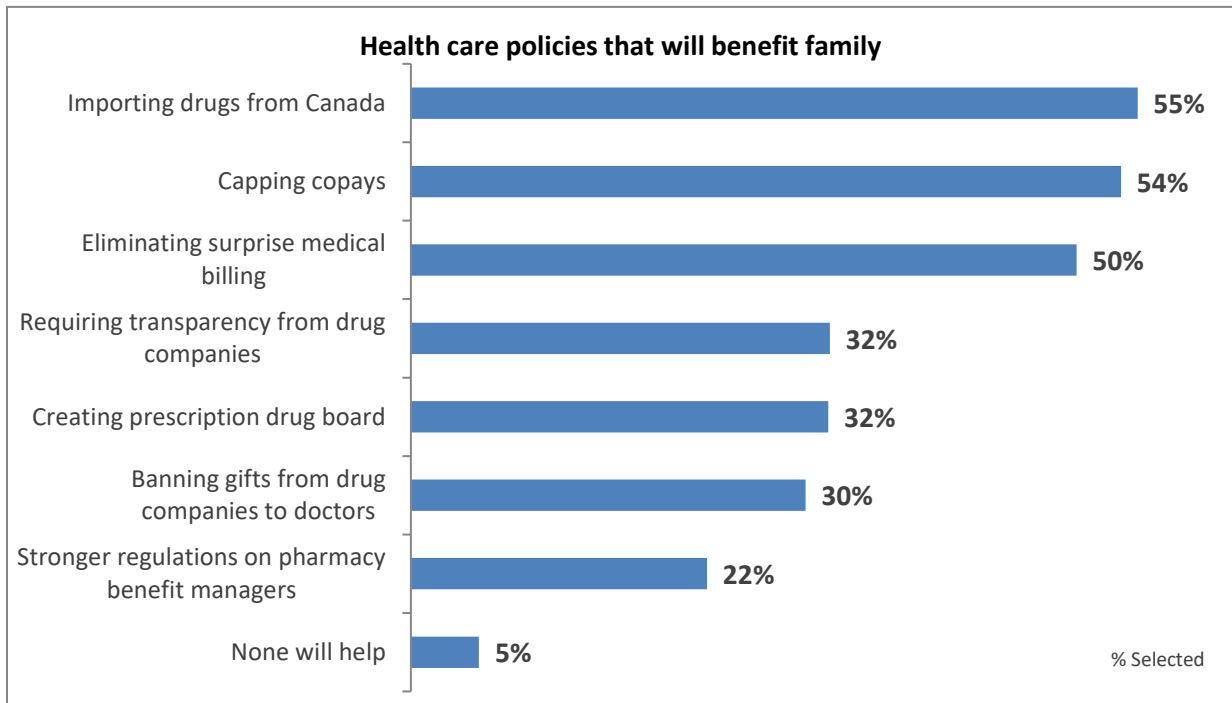
- Across the state, the cost of monthly health insurance premiums (80%) and the cost of prescription drugs (78%) lead voters’ concerns, followed closely by access to quality health care (76%) and the cost of copays (74%). The cost of insurance premiums is most important to voters in Oakland County, among women, and with voters age 45-64 while the cost of prescription drugs is a top concern to voters in Macomb County, and with voters 65 and older.
- Not only are voters most concerned about health care, they have a clear picture of who is at fault for the state of the costs. When asked to pick the top three groups most responsible, two clear culprits arise: drug companies (62%) and insurance companies (59%). The only other groups selected by at least a third of voters are the federal government (36%) and lobbyists (36%).
- Following health care, over two-thirds of Michiganders are concerned about the cost of higher education (70%) and the quality of public education (68%), particularly African American voters and college-educated women.
- Job opportunities in the state as well as individuals’ tax rates also remain a top concern with over three in five voters. Jobs are a top concern to voters in the Traverse City/UP media markets (72%), with voters under 55 (68%), and parents (70%). Additionally, nearly two-thirds of Michigan voters are concerned with tax rates for individuals (65%) while just 42% are concerned with businesses’ tax rates.

2) Given voters’ strong concern around health care-related issues and desire for action, it is not surprising that progressive health care legislative solutions are very popular, including eliminating surprise medical billing for non-emergency services, banning gifts from drug companies to doctors, creating a prescription drug consumer protection board, allowing



FDA-approved drugs to be imported from Canada, and requiring transparency from drug companies on advertising spending. Each of these policies received support from over three-fourths of Michiganders. These policies are followed closely by imposing stronger regulations on pharmacy benefit managers and capping the copay for primary care provider visits.

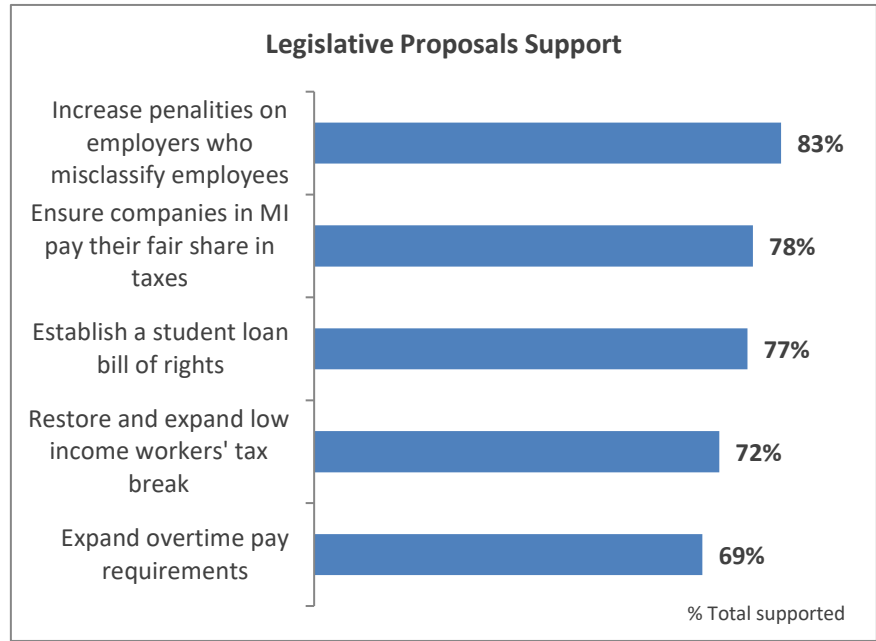
- When asked to rate various legislative policies that have been considered in Lansing, over four in five Michiganders supported eliminating surprise medical billing for non-emergency services (84%) and creating a prescription drug consumer protection board (81%). These are policies that all Michiganders agree upon, particularly older residents.
- More than three-fourths of voters also support banning gifts from drug companies to doctors (78%), allowing FDA-approved drugs to be imported from Canada (77%), and requiring transparency from drug companies on advertising spending (77%). Voters 55 and older, men, voters in Macomb county, and parents are most supportive of these policies.
- Additionally, instituting stronger regulations on pharmacy benefit managers and capping the copay for primary care providers are popular with over two-thirds of Michiganders.
- Voters not only support these policies, but they also believe that they will benefit themselves and their family. Three policies rose to the top when asked which will benefit them the most, importing FDA-approved drugs from Canada, capping copays, and eliminating surprise medical billing. Ninety-five percent of voters said at least one of the policies tested would benefit them and their family.



3) The state of the economy and tax fairness in Michigan remain a top concern among Michigan voters and they see easy solutions to help even the playing field. Indeed, legislation increasing penalties on employers who misclassify employees, ensuring companies pay their fair share in taxes, and establishing a student loan bill of rights are supported by over three-quarters of voters.

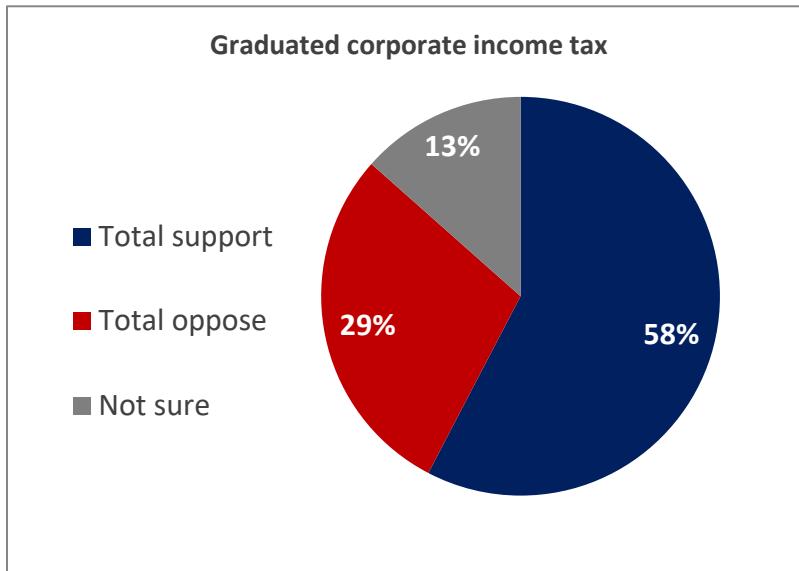
Penalizing employers who misclassify employees is most popular among voters in the Traverse City and Lansing media markets and with older voters.

Strong majorities of Michiganders also support restoring low income workers' tax break and expanding overtime pay requirements.



- o Ensuring companies pay their fair share, including when it comes to misclassifying employees, taxes, and overtime pay are supported across demographic groups. Penalizing employers who misclassify employees is most popular among voters in Macomb county (87%), the Traverse City media market (89%), and with voters 55 and older (88%). Ensuring companies pay their fair share in taxes is strongest among voters in Oakland county (83%) and with union households (80%) while expanding overtime pay requirements is strong among voters in Macomb county (73%), the Traverse City media market (71%), and voters age 45-64 (72%).
- o Given voters' concern over the cost of higher education and skills training, it is not surprising that over three-quarters of Michiganders support establishing a student loan bill of rights. While this policy is supported by strong majorities across demographic groups, it is most popular among women (80%) and Wayne County voters (80%).
- o Similarly, restoring and expanding the low-income workers tax break is popular among demographics with support highest among non-college voters and in the Traverse City/UP media markets.

4) **Even when presented with both sides of the issues, Michigan voters prefer progressive economic policies that ensure companies pay their fair share.** Indeed, a majority of voters support moving to a graduated tax rate and believe the state should end state tax breaks for large corporations.



- Regardless of a voters' gender, age, or area, they all support moving to a graduated corporate income tax, even when given opponents' arguments.
- Similarly, a majority of voters think the state should end tax breaks for large corporations so there is more revenue to invest in roads, schools, and communities while less than a quarter of Michiganders think that corporate tax laws should stay the same in order to keep

jobs in the state. Ending state tax breaks for large corporations is strongest among women and older voters.

- Over three times as many Michigan voters believe that expanding overtime protections will help grow the middle class, improve local economies, and increase the quality of life for all Michiganders than think it will have devastating consequences for the state's economy. Across the state, voters are not buying opponents' messaging.

Conclusion

Progressive legislative policies are popular in Michigan and these results show strong support for those policies that have already been introduced, and an equally strong level of support for a progressive legislative agenda in the coming year. It is clear that Michigan voters are concerned about issues that impact their everyday finances, like health care costs, wages, and a fairer tax structure and arguably expect their elected representatives to address these issues. Additionally, progressive arguments for these policy solutions are strong even in the face of opposition messaging.