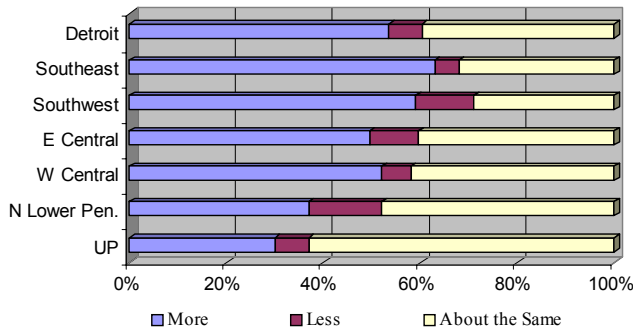


Public Supports Land Use Planning

Percent of Michigan Residents Supporting Land Use Planning and Regulation by Region



Source: Michigan State University Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, State of the State Survey-30, June 2003.



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Methodology

This bulletin compares results from three State of the State Surveys (SOSS) conducted by the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research's Office for Survey Research and two outside surveys. Basic methodology from the five telephone surveys of Michigan adults are as follows:

SOSS-30

Respondents: 975
Interview Dates: 4/25/03-6/16/03
Sampling Error: $\pm 3.1\%$

SOSS-23

Respondents: 1,001
Interview Dates: 10/26/01-12/5/01
Sampling Error: $\pm 3.1\%$

Public Sector Consultants (PSC)

Respondents: 800
Interview Dates: 6/26/97-7/6/97
Sampling Error: $\pm 3.5\%$

SOSS-6

Respondents: 947
Interview Dates: 1/26/96-3/4/96
Sampling Error: $\pm 3.2\%$

Michigan Society of Planning Officials (MSPO) by IPPSR

Respondents: 400
Interview Dates: 1994-1995
Sampling Error: $\pm 4.9\%$

As each survey uses different and distinct methodology and asks questions slightly differently, it is not possible to make statistically accurate comparisons of the data. The comparisons can however provide reference points and enhance the general understanding of trends in perceptions.

Overview

In 2003, a new administration took office in Michigan with a stance of activism with regard to land use planning in the state. One of Governor Jennifer Granholm's initial appointments was the Land Use Leadership Council. The Council, which is expected to issue recommendations in mid-August, is charged with addressing the trends, causes, and consequences of unmanaged growth and development.

To help inform the discussion, this Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) bulletin provides a comparison of results from the thirtieth State of the State Survey (SOSS-30), conducted April through June 2003, to data from several earlier surveys.

Trends in Perceptions

From 1995-2003, surveys of Michigan adults have revealed a consistent concern about sprawl. There has been consistent support for state-level involvement in land use issues. Analysis of the surveys also shows high, yet waning, support for increased planning. Finally, while residents were consistently concerned about land use, self-assessed levels of personal knowledge on the issue had decreased.

Current Perceptions

IPPSR's June 2003 survey found that:

- 92% supported encouraging coordinated land use plans to manage growth; 49% strongly supported it;
- 51% strongly supported and 35% somewhat supported protecting farmland;
- 86% supported (48% strongly supported) protecting environmentally sensitive areas;
- 64% supported government "taking" of land for public use such as building a highway or placing power lines; 14% strongly supported it;
- While 56% thought there should be more regulation, only 8% thought there should be less; and,
- 46% thought the state should play a greater role in land use planning and 44% thought it should stay about the same (SOSS-30).

Concerns About Sprawl

A majority of residents have indicated concern about sprawl from 1995 through 2003, both from localized and statewide perspectives.

The 2003 study found that nearly 75% of Michigan residents were very (38%) or

somewhat (37%) concerned about localized sprawl. Some 80% were very (37%) or somewhat (43%) concerned about this issue at the statewide level (SOSS-30).

The December 2001 study found that 76% of respondents were very (41%) or somewhat (35%) concerned about localized sprawl and 84% were very (31%) or somewhat (53%) concerned about statewide sprawl (SOSS-23).

Majorities Support Increased Planning

Over time, public opinion surveys have shown high, albeit waning, support for increased land use planning. The 2003 IPPSR survey showed that 56% of Michigan residents thought there should be more land use planning and regulation. Some 36% thought it should stay about the same and 8% thought there should be less (SOSS-30).

These results are quite similar to the 1997 Public Sector Consultants (PSC) survey where 58% of respondents said

more planning was needed, 28% thought it should stay about the same, and 8% thought there should be less (Warbach 1997).

The 1995 MSPO survey found even more support for increased land use planning. Some 74% of the general population felt this way, 16% thought the level of planning should stay about the same, and 6% thought it should be decreased (Hembroff 1995).

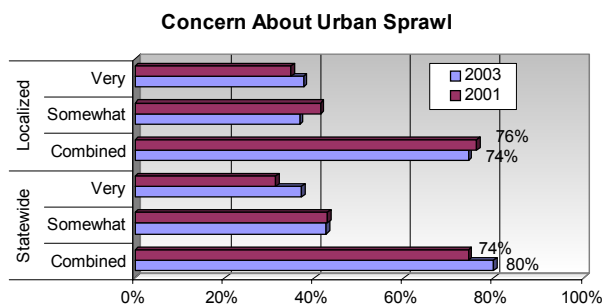
Land Use Knowledge on Downward Trend

Even though Michigan residents are very concerned about sprawl and other land use problems, they do not feel very well informed. While the surveys compared in this analysis used slightly different labels, respondents' self-assessed knowledge

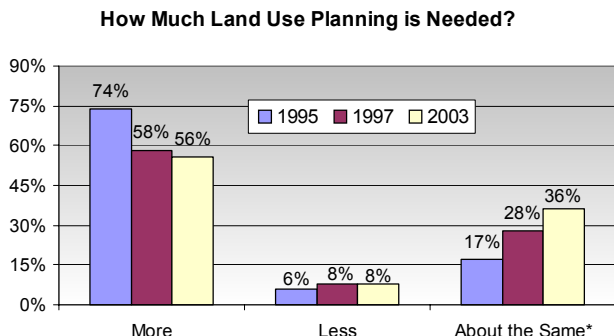
levels seemed to decrease over time regardless of the measure.

In the June 2003 survey, respondents rated their land use knowledge on a scale of 1 to 5. The result was a statewide mean of 2.6. Some 53% rated their knowledge as a 3 or higher; only 5% rated their knowledge as a 1 or "very informed" (SOSS-30).

The 1997 PSC survey also used a 5 point scale but provided terms to define them. Some 62% rated themselves "somewhat" informed or better while 4% said they were "very well" informed.



Source: Michigan State University Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, State of the State Survey-30, June 2003 and SOSS-23, December 2001.



Sources: Michigan Society of Planning Officials, Trend Future Surveys, 1994-1995; Public Sector Consultants, Michigan Land Use Survey, 1997; Michigan State University Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, State of the State Survey-30, June 2003.

* The PSC survey used "Current Okay" instead of "About the Same"

The 1995 MSPO survey's 5 point scale revealed that 48% thought they were "somewhat" informed or better and 12% thought they were "very well" informed (Hembroff 1995).

State Should Address Land Use Problems

IPPSR's December 2001 survey found that 42% of Michiganians felt that the state should bear the most land use responsibility, followed by local (24%), county (17%), federal (9%), metro (6%)

References

Hembroff, Larry A. 1995. (MSPO) Land Use Views and Priorities of Michigan Residents: Results of the Trend Future Surveys, 1994-95. Planning and Zoning News. Lansing, Mich. Vol. 13, No.11, September 1995.

Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. 1996. State of the State Survey-6 (winter). Michigan State University. East Lansing, Mich. Available on World Wide Web: <http://www.ippsr.msu.edu/SOSS>.

and private (4%) entities (SOSS-23).

Likewise, the 1995 MSPO survey found that 47% of residents thought statewide efforts were most needed to address land use issues (Hembroff 1995).

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Warbach, John. 1997. (PSC) 1997 Statewide Land Use Survey. Planning and Zoning News. Lansing, Mich. Vol. 15, December 1997.

About SOSS

The State of the State Survey (SOSS) is the only survey conducted in Michigan that provides a regular systematic monitoring of the public mood on important issues in major regions of the state. Overall support of SOSS is provided by the Dean of the College of Social Science and the MSU Office of the Provost. More information on SOSS is online at: www.ippsr.msu.edu/SOSS.