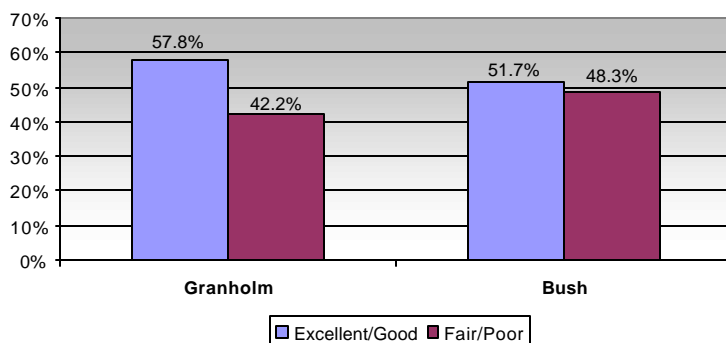


STATE of the STATE Survey

Granholt, Bush Job Ratings

Union Workers Dissatisfied, Consumers Optimistic

Michigan Residents Rate
Governor Granholt and President Bush



Source: MSU Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, State of the State Survey-31, August 2003.



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About the Study

The Institute for Public Policy and Social Research conducted the thirty-first round of the State of the State Survey (SOSS-31) by phone with 960 Michigan adult residents June 27 through August 12, 2003. The margin of sampling error was $\pm 3.2\%$.

This wave of SOSS provides timely information about citizens' opinions on household financial outlooks, unemployment, business conditions, Jennifer Granholt's job as governor, and George W. Bush's job as president.

IPPSR's State of the State Survey 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. More information on SOSS is online at: www.ippsr.msu.edu/SOSS.

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Steady She Goes

When Michigan residents were asked to rate the performance of Jennifer Granholt as Michigan's Governor, a majority of 57.8% indicated that they think she is doing a good (42.8%) or excellent (15.0%) job. Some 42.2% think that she is doing a fair (37.7%) or poor (4.5%) job. This indicates that there has not been much change since Granholt first took office in 2003. Previous State of the State Survey (SOSS-29) results show that 58.1% thought that she was doing a good (48.2%) or excellent (9.9%) job as governor between January and March of this year. Some 41.9% of residents thought that her performance was fair (38.8%) or poor (3.1%) during that same time (IPPSR 2003).

Gender Indifference

There is no statistically significant difference between how well men and women think that the Governor is doing.

- Some 57.4% of men think that Granholt is doing a good (40.8%) or excellent (16.6%) job and 42.7% think that she is doing a fair (38.0%) or poor (4.5%) job.
- This is compared to 58.1% of women who think that she is doing a good (44.4%) or excellent (13.7%) job and 41.9% who think that she is doing a fair (37.4%) or poor (4.5%) job.

Race Relations

African-Americans approve of Granholt's job as governor only slightly more than whites.

- Of African-American residents, 64.3% think that Granholt is doing a good (37.5%) or excellent (26.8%) job as governor, whereas 35.7% thought that she was doing a fair (32.1%) or poor (3.6%) job.
- Among white residents, 57.6% think that Granholt is doing a good (44.5%) or excellent (13.1%) job as governor; 42.5% think that she is doing a fair (37.7%) or poor (4.5%) job.

Bush Highs and Lows

When respondents were asked to rate the performance of President George W. Bush, the results were less consistent than those for Governor Granholt. Among all Michigan adults, 51.7% think that Bush is doing a good (37.9%) or excellent (13.8%) job and 48.3% thought that he was doing a fair (25.6%) or poor (22.7%) job as president.

- President Bush's highest rating was in the winter of 2002, just after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, when 77.2% of residents thought that he was doing a good (38.3%) or excellent (38.9%) job and only 22.9% thought that he was doing a fair (18.4%) or poor (4.5%) job (IPPSR 2002).
- The lowest ratings for President Bush came at the beginning of this year, just

before the war in Iraq. At that time, only 42.9% of SOSS respondents thought that Bush was doing a good (29.0%) or excellent (13.9%) job and 57.2% thought that his job performance was fair (28.8%) or poor (28.4%) (IPPSR 2003).

Gender Matters

There is a large difference between how Michigan men and women think President Bush is doing in his job.

- Some 56.8% of men think that he is doing a good (42.8%) or excellent (14.0%) job as president and only 43.2% rated him as fair (21.4%) or poor (21.8%).
- Women were almost the opposite of this with 46.9% thinking that Bush was doing a good (33.3%) or excellent (13.6%) job and 53.1% thinking that he was doing a fair (29.6%) or poor (23.5%) job.

Race Differences

There is an even larger difference between Bush job ratings by race.

- Only 19.8% of African-Americans gave President Bush a rating of good (18.1%) or excellent (1.7%), whereas 80.2% gave him a rating of fair (25.0%) or poor (55.2%).
- Among white residents, 55.9% gave Bush a job performance rating of good (40.8%) or excellent (15.1%) and 44.1% gave him a rating of fair (26.6%) or poor (17.5%).

Party Lines

Political affiliation claimed by survey respondents corresponds with ratings of both Governor Granholm and President Bush.

- Among Republicans, the majority (56.0%) gave Granholm a rating of fair (48.6%) or poor (7.4%). Independents were more favorable with the majority (53.1%) of respondents giving her a rating of good (44.0%) or excellent (9.1%). Democrats were the most satisfied with her performance as governor. Some 69.2% gave her a rating of good (45.7%) or excellent (23.5%).
- Nearly 86% of Republicans gave Bush a job performance rating of good (49.6%) or excellent (36.3%). Independents were divided with 51.5% giving Bush a rating of good (44.2%) or excellent (7.3%). Democrats were the least favorable with 73.0% thinking Bush was doing a fair (34.7%) or poor (38.3%) job.

Marriage Counts

When comparing results for residents

who were married and those that were not, there was only a small difference in job ratings for Governor Granholm.

- Some 59.1% of married residents think that she is doing a good (49.0%) or excellent (10.1%) job; 55.6% of unmarried residents think that she is doing a good (34.8%) or excellent (20.8%) job. There is a larger difference in ratings of President Bush.
- Among married residents, 58.6% think that he is doing a good (42.5%) or excellent (16.1%) job as president.
- On the other hand, 56.8% of unmarried residents think Bush is doing a fair (28.5%) or poor (28.3%) job.

State of Labor Unions

Michigan has always been a strong union state. SOSS-31 results show that union members do not offer high ratings of Granholm's job as governor.

- Some 42.7% of union members (n=125) said they think she is doing a good (28.2%) or excellent (14.5%) job compared with 57.3% who said that she is doing a fair (55.5%) or poor (1.8%) job.
- Nonunion members (n=496) are more supportive. Some 58.2% said that she is doing a good (42.3%) or excellent (15.9%) job and only 41.8% said that she is doing a fair (37.1%) or poor (4.7%) job. The numbers for Bush are similar.
- Some 39.3% of union respondents said that he is doing a good (35.0%) or excellent (4.3%) job as president and 60.7% said that he is doing a fair (28.2%) or poor (32.5%) job.
- Among nonunion members, 55.1% said they think that Bush is doing a good (38.1%) or excellent (17.0%) job and 44.9% said that he was doing a fair (25.8%) or poor (19.1%) job.

Consumer Confidence

Michigan residents seem to be in acknowledgement that they were better off financially in the past, but are optimistic that they will be better off in the future than they are currently.

- Some 41.0% of residents said that they were financially better off in the past, compared to 25.9% who said that their financial situation is about the same as it was in the past and 33.1% who said that they are better off now than they were in the past.
- Looking towards the future, 62.3% said that they think they will be better off, compared with 21.7% who think their financial situation will stay about the same and 16.0% who think that they will be worse off in the future.
- Over half (54.3%) of Michigan adults said that their current financial well-being was good (46.9%) or excellent (7.4%),

32.8% said that it was just fair, and 12.9% said that it was not so good (8.3%) or poor (4.6%).

Residents were evenly divided over the perception of the current state of unemployment.

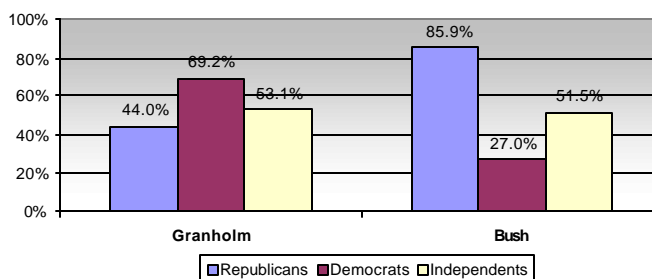
- Some 32.7% thought that the unemployment rate was better than it was in the past, 34.1% thought that it was worse, and 32.3% thought that it was about the same.
- They were more optimistic about business conditions in

their communities; 47.6% said that times were good for business, 32.3% said that times were bad, and 18.7% said neither good nor bad.

References

Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. 2003. State of the State Survey-29 (winter). Michigan State University. East Lansing, Mich. Available on World Wide Web: <http://www.ippsr.msu.edu/SOSS>.

Michigan Residents Ratings of Good/Excellent for Governor Granholm and President Bush by Political Affiliation



Source: MSU Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, State of the State Survey-31, August 2003.

2004 Policy Forums

January 28: The Built Environment, Social Capital, and Human Health

February 25: What ARE They Thinking? Citizen Opinion Revealed

March 16: Proposal A Then and Now: Funding K-12 Education in Michigan

April 21: Michigan's Economic Outlook

May 19: Michigan's Contribution to Winning the Presidential Election