# 89th State of the State Survey (SOSS)
# and
# 1st State of the Nation (SOTN)
# Brief Report

Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, IPPSR
Michigan State University

Conducted by the:

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Institute for Public Policy and Social Research

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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# OVERVIEW

This report summarizes key findings from the 86th State of the State Survey (SOSS), a Michigan general adult population survey. SOSS has been conducted since 1994 by the Office for Survey Research, and the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) at Michigan State University. Initially conducted as a Random Digit Dialing (RDD) telephone survey (1994 - 2020), SOSS now utilizes a YouGov web panel survey (2020 - current). Due to the differences in methodology between the previous telephone and current web panel modes, comparisons between the different methods will not be reported.

Beginning in Spring 2024, IPPSR added the State of the Nation (SOTN). The first round of the SOTN also used a YouGov web panel which consisted of a national sample, including Michigan.

The current survey was completed as a YouGov panel survey with data collection spanning May 29 to June 12, 2024. Invitations were sent to 2,628 adult Michigan residents, and 1,276 interviews were completed. The response rate for this round of SOSS was 50.8%[1]. After calibrating the data to assign weight the final dataset included 1,000 cases. Data was weighted using the "weight" variable for all analysis unless otherwise stated.

The data collection period for the inaugural State of the Nation began May 29, 2024 and ended June 8, 2024. A total of 1,587 invitations was sent to a sample of the YouGov panel that resided throughout the United States, including in Michigan, and produced 1,149 completed interviews. The response rate for SOTN was 87.1%. After calibration of the data the final number of completed interviews was 1,000.

[1] Response rate was calculated using AAPOR RR3.

# RESULTS

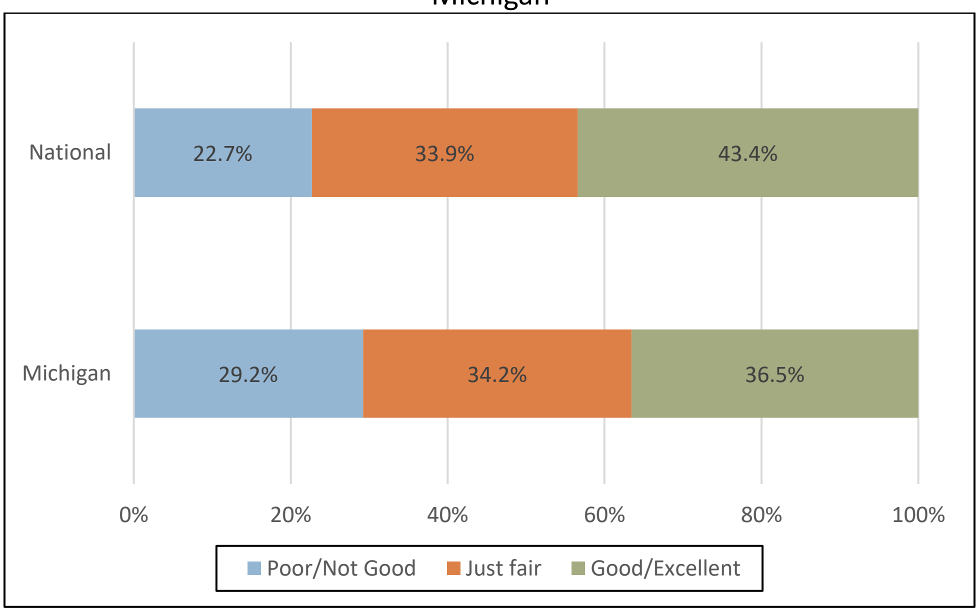
## Section A. Economic Optimism

This series of questions is related to multiple facets of economic optimism. These questions have been included in SOSS surveys since the first SOSS in the fall of 1994 (Wave 1) and were included in SOTN1. Longitudinal data comparisons are possible for the SOSS (Michigan) for these questions. Respondents were asked three questions about their household's financial situation for three time periods:

- *"How would you rate your household's **overall financial** situation these days?"* (Current)
- "*Would you say that you (and your family living with you) are **better off** or **worse off** financially than you were a year ago?*" (Comparing current to past)
- "*Now looking ahead, do you think that a year from now, you and your family living with you will be better off financially or worse off financially?"* (Comparing current to future).

<u>Household Financial Situation</u>
The first set of tables analyze the respondents' evaluation of their household's current financial situation. The responses to current household financial situation for both Michigan and National residents are reported in Figure 1a.

Figure 1a. Reported Assessment of Current Household Financial Situation, National vs. Michigan



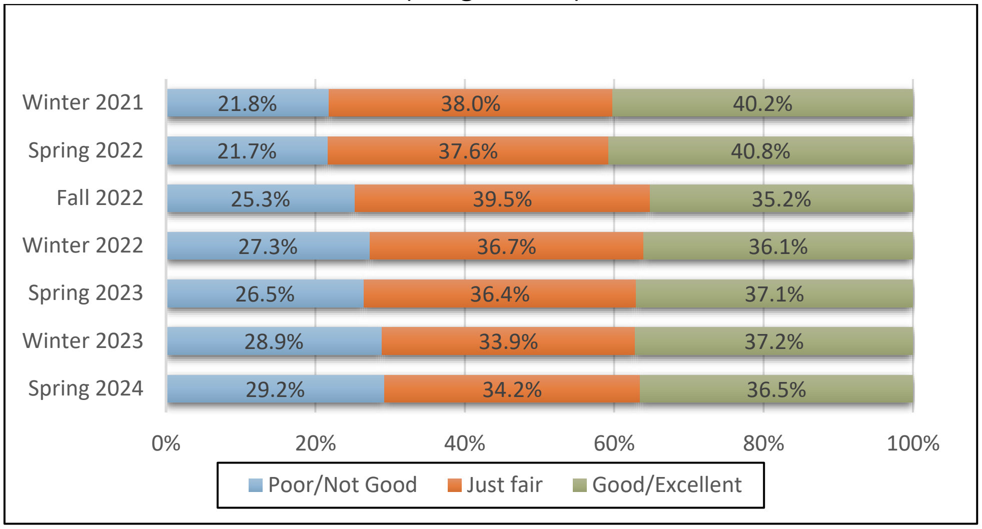

SOSS Sample size = 999/SOTN Sample size = 1,000

Figure 1a shows a less optimistic view by Michigan respondents compared to National respondents.

- National respondents were much more likely to state that their current financial situation was good or excellent.
- Michigan respondents were much more likely to feel that their current financial situation was poor or not good.

- There was little difference between the two groups in terms of the just fair category.

Figure 1b. Reported Assessment of Current Household Financial Situation, Michigan (Longitudinal)



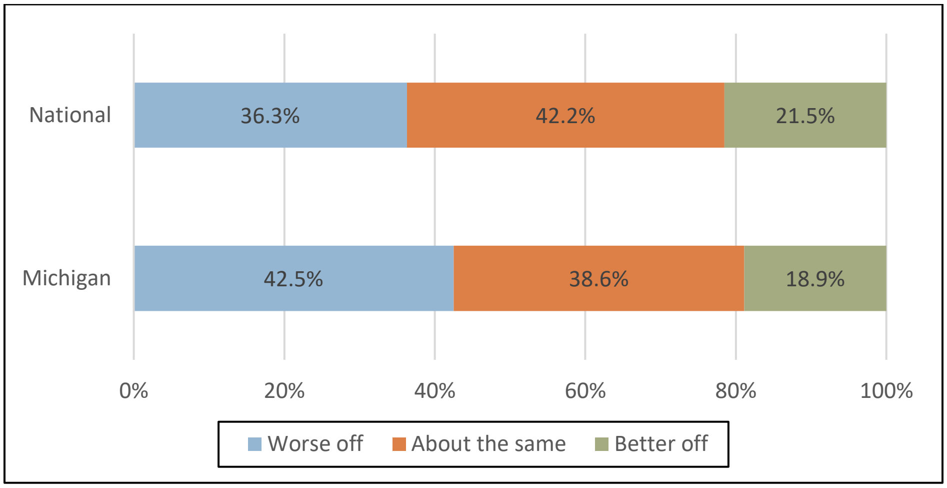

SOSS Sample size = 999-1499

Figure 1b show the general trend over time for Michigan residents related to the evaluation of their current financial situation.

- From Winter 2021 until Winter 2023, there was a general increase in the percentage of respondents that stated their current financial situation was poor or not good.
- There was little change across all three categories between Winter 2023 and Spring 2024.

Respondents' evaluations of their current situation compared to their past financial situation are reported in Figure 2a and Figure 2b.

Figure 2a. Reported Assessment of Current Financial Situation Compared to a Year Ago, National vs. Michigan

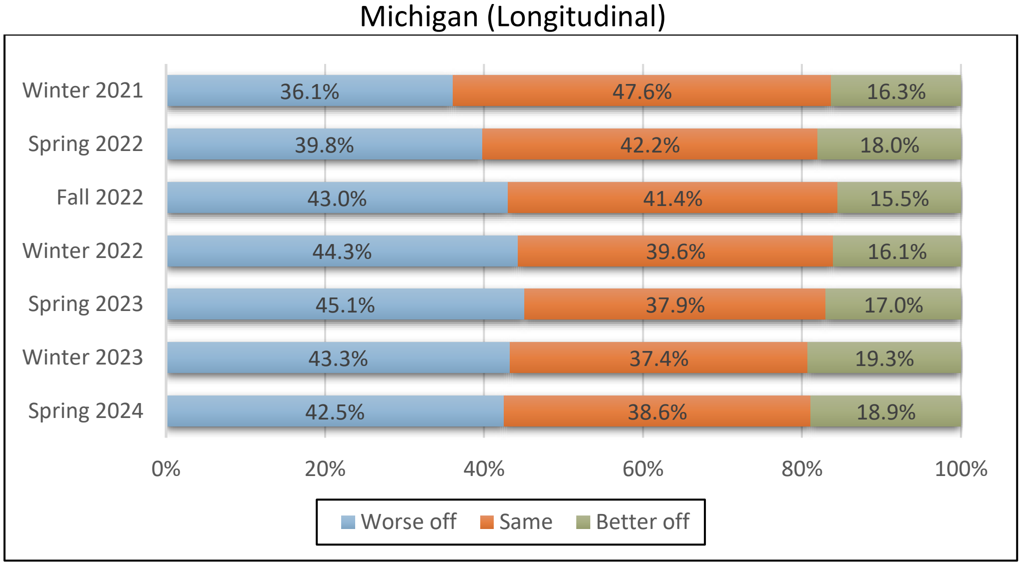



SOSS Sample size =1,000/SOTN Sample size = 1,000

In terms of present conditions compared to a year ago (Figure 2a), Michigan respondents were again less optimistic compared to their National counterparts.

- Michigan respondents were much more likely to report that they are worse off than they were a year ago.
- National respondents were slightly more likely to state that they were better off and more likely to report that they were about the same.

Figure 2b. Reported Assessment of Current Financial Situation Compared to a Year Ago, Michigan (Longitudinal)




SOSS Sample size = 999-1499

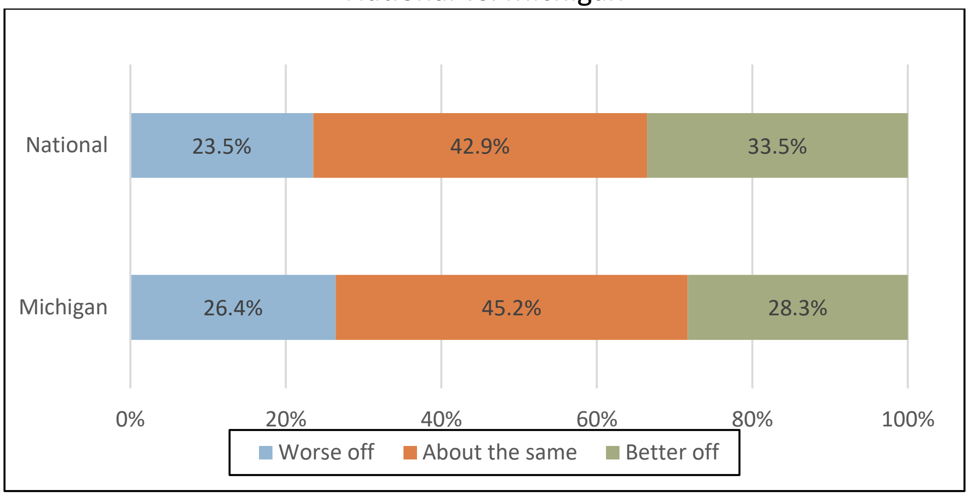
The longitudinal view for Michigan shows a general pessimistic view of their current financial situation compared to a year ago (Figure 2b).

- There was little change between Winter 2023 and Spring 2024.

- Since Winter 2021, there has been no more than a three percentage point difference between the highest and lowest point for those that reported being better off.
- Most of the change has been in the categories of worse off or staying the same in their financial situation compared to a year ago.

All respondents were also asked about their expectation of their financial situation a year from now compared to now (Figures 3a and 3b).

Figure 3a. Reported Assessment of Current Financial Situation Compared to a Year From Now, National vs. Michigan

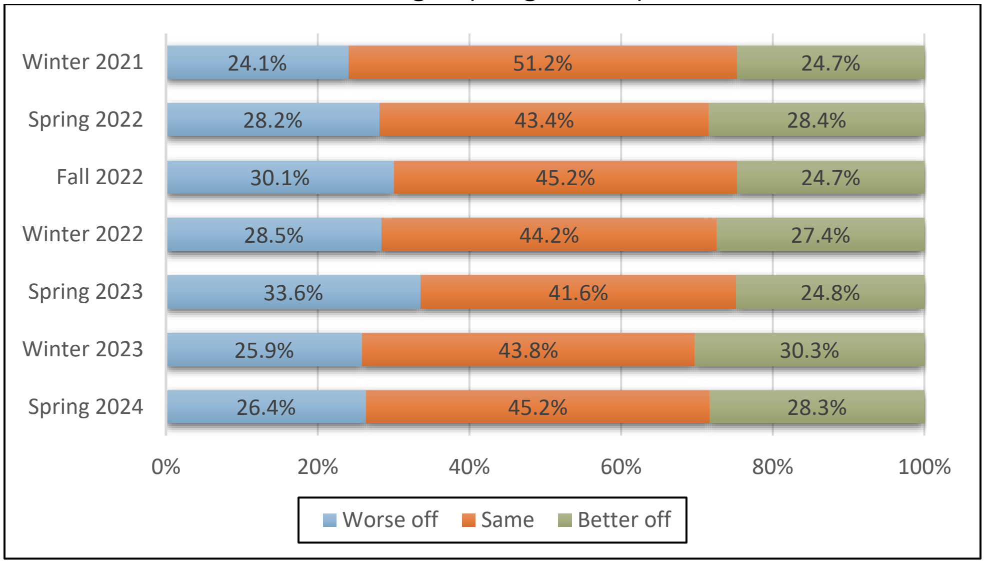



SOSS Sample size = 999/SOTN Sample size = 999

Michigan respondents were once again less positive than their National counterparts (Figure 3a).

- Over a third of the National respondents felt they would be better off a year from now compared to 28 percent of Michigan residents.
- Michigan residents were slightly more likely to report that they believed things would be worse or about the same.

Figure 3b. Reported Assessment of Current Financial Situation Compared to a Year From Now, Michigan (Longitudinal)




SOSS Sample size = 999-1499

Figure 3b shows the general trend since Winter of 2021 for Michigan respondents in terms of comparing now to a year from now.

In terms of present conditions compared to those conditions expected a year into the future:

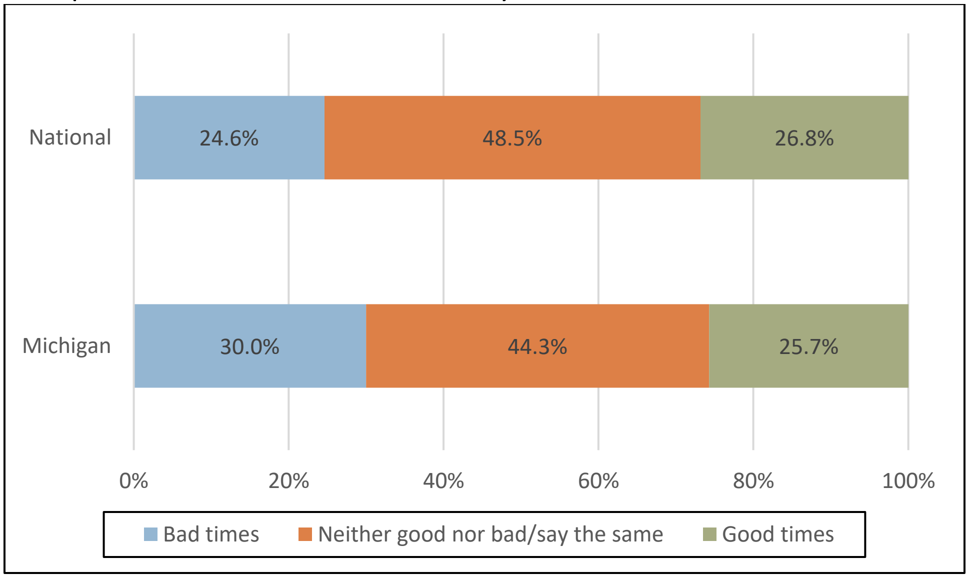
- Over 70 percent of the respondents believed that they would be worse off or the same financial in the following year as they are now.
- There was little change from last round in the percent of respondents that felt that they would be worse off in 12 months.

## Community Financial Situation

Both National and Michigan respondents were asked, "*Now, turning to business conditions in your community, do you think that during the next 12 months, your community will have good times financially or bad times financially?*"

Figures 4a and 4b report respondents' assessment for the most recent round and the trend patterns for Michigan residents.

Figure 4a. Reported Assessment of Community's Financial Situation, National vs. Michigan

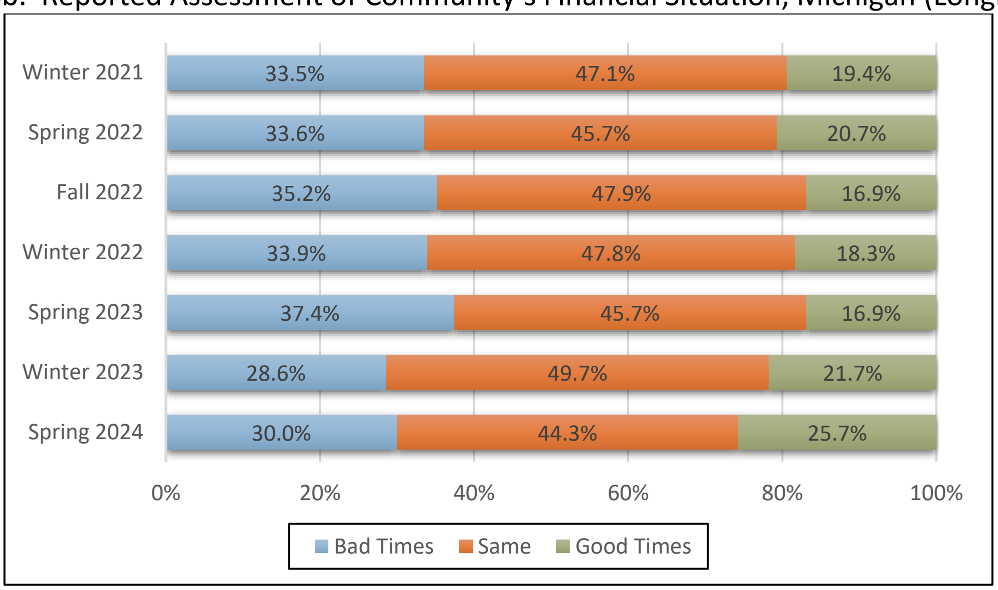



SOSS Sample size = 1,000/SOTN Sample size = 999

As seen across the previous economic questions, Michigan respondents were more pessimistic than those in the National sample (Figure 4a).

- There was little difference between the two populations in terms of the percentage that believed that they community would have good times.
- National respondents were more likely to believe they would be neither good nor bad, while Michigan residents were more likely to believe that they would be bad times.

Figure 4b. Reported Assessment of Community's Financial Situation, Michigan (Longitudinal)




SOSS Sample sizes: 996-1499

The responses to this item for the past six waves of SOSS are summarized in Figure 4b.

- Michigan respondents were more pessimistic in their expectations about their communities' financial situations through Spring 2023.
- Winter 2023 and Spring 2024 both showed an increase in the percentage of respondents that believed that things would be better twelve months from now.

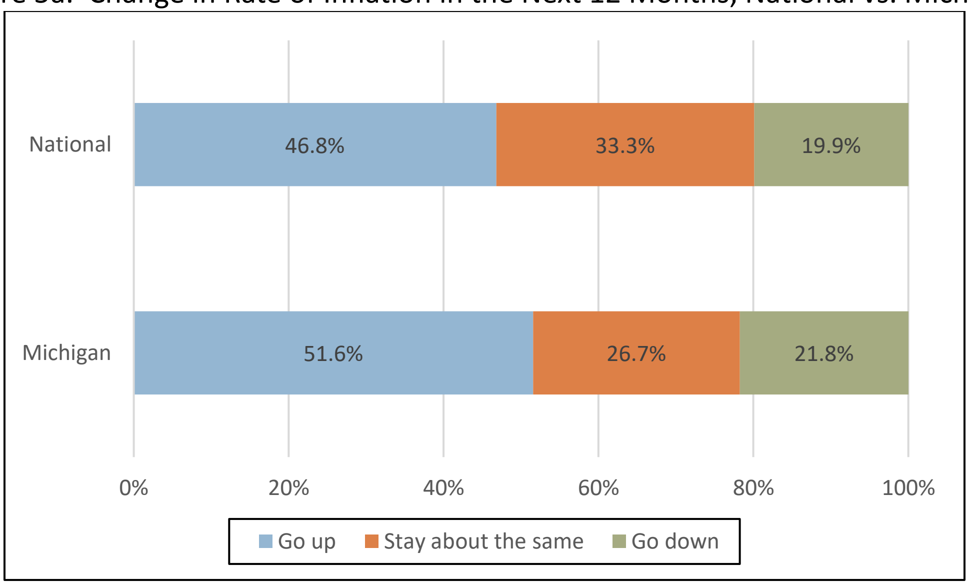
National Economic Indicators

All respondents were then asked about their expectations for specific economic indicators involving the country during the next 12 months. The questions asked were:

- *"Twelve months from now, do you expect the unemployment situation in this country to be better than, worse than, or about the same as it was in the last 12 months?"*
- *"During the next 12 months, do you think the rate of inflation in this country will go up, will go down, or will stay about the same as it was in the past 12 months?"*

Figures 5a and 5b present respondents beliefs of how the rate of inflation would change in the next 12 months.

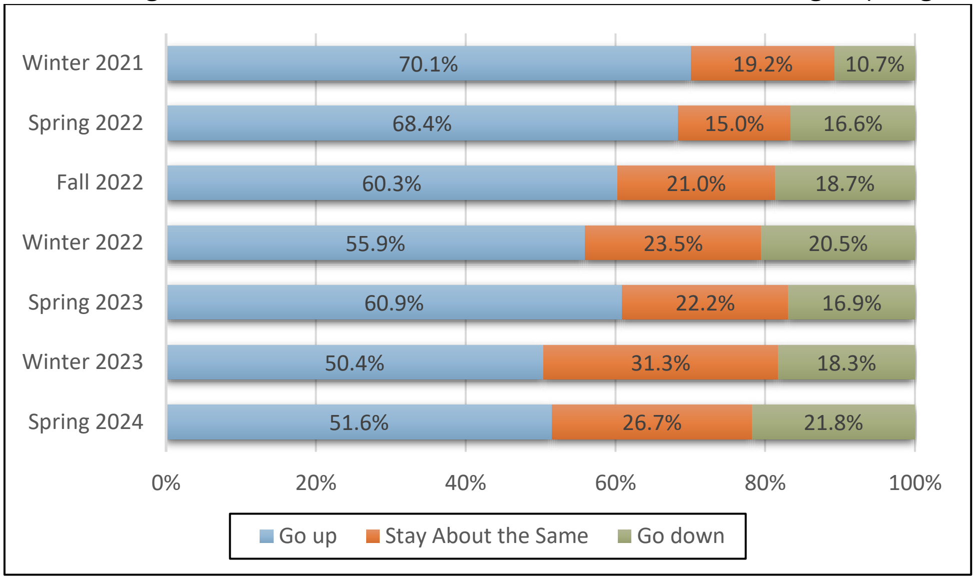
Figure 5a. Change in Rate of Inflation in the Next 12 Months, National vs. Michigan




SOSS Sample size = 997/SOTN Sample size = 1,000

- Michigan respondents were slightly more likely to say inflation would go down and much more likely to say inflation would go up in the coming twelve months.
- National respondents were more likely to say that the rate of inflation would be the same twelve months from now.

Figure 5b. Change in Rate of Inflation in the Next 12 Months, Michigan (Longitudinal)

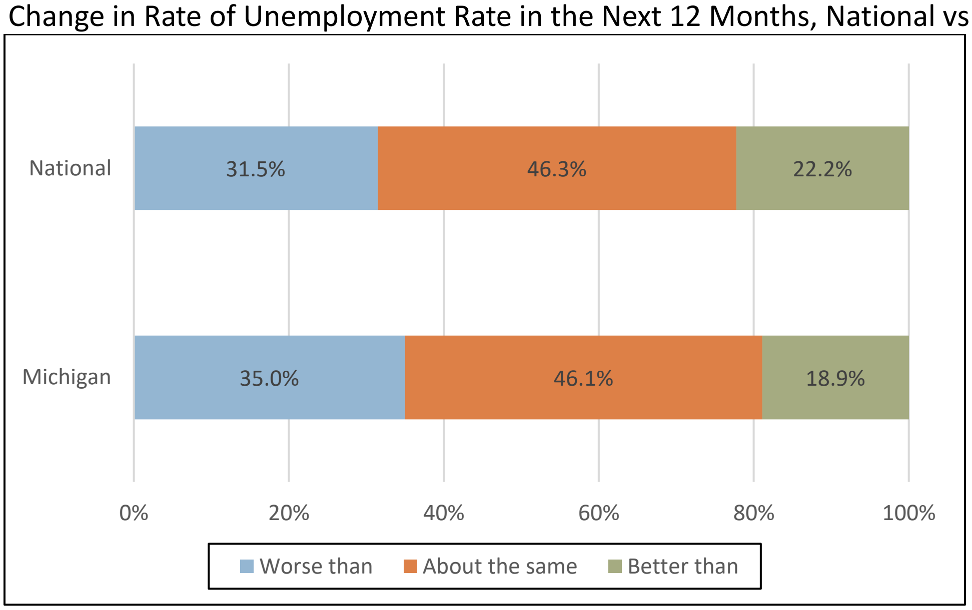



SOSS Sample sizes: 996-1499

- There has been a general decrease over time in the percentage of respondents that felt that the rate of inflation would go up in the next twelve months.
- The largest difference between the last two rounds is that the percentage of respondents who felt that the rate of inflation would stay the same decrease with slight changes in the end categories.

Figures 6a and 6b compare the anticipated change in unemployment reported by both National and Michigan residents, as well as Michigan residents perceived changes over time.

Figure 6a. Change in Rate of Unemployment Rate in the Next 12 Months, National vs. Michigan

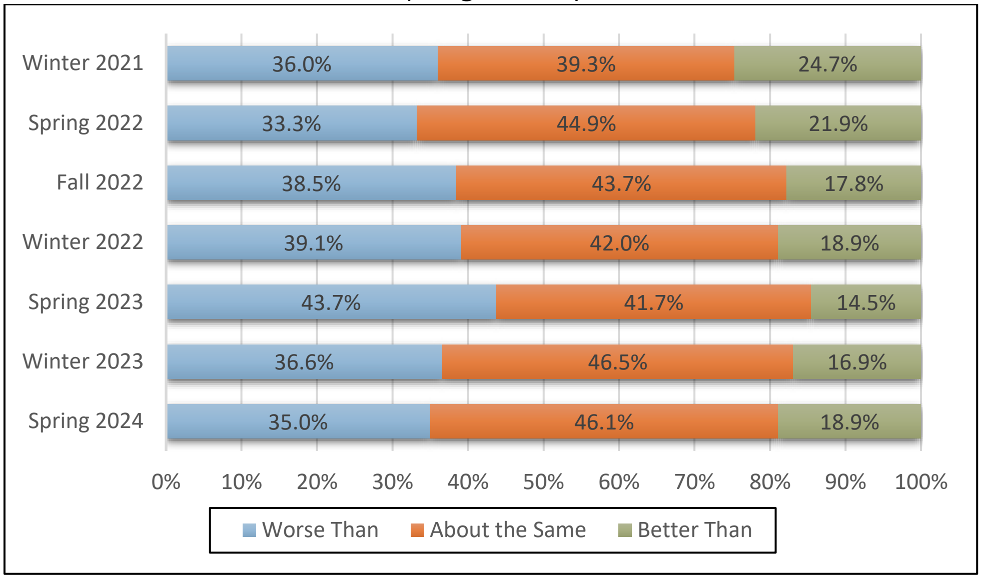



SOSS Sample size = 1,000/SOTN Sample size = 998

- There is little difference between Michigan and National respondents in terms of those that feel that the rate of unemployment will remain the same over the next twelve months.

- Michigan respondents are more likely to feel that the rate of unemployment will get worse in the coming twelve months and National respondents are more likely to feel that it will get better.

Figure 6b. Change in Rate of Unemployment Rate in the Next 12 Months, Michigan (Longitudinal)




SOSS Sample sizes: 996-1499

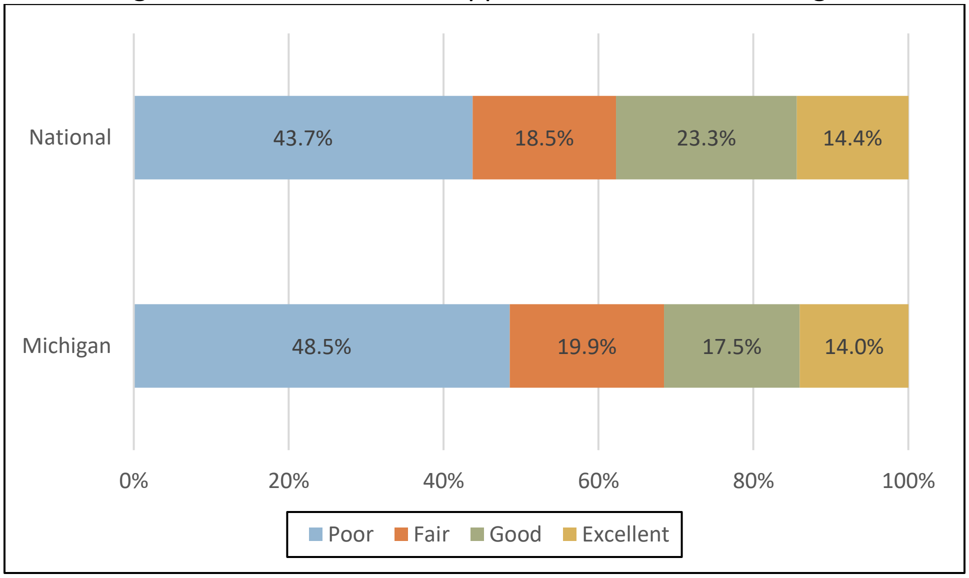
- The percentage of those who reported that the rate of employment would be worse twelve months from now peaked at the Spring 2023 and has decreased since.
- The opposite can be said of the percentage who said the rate of unemployment would improve with its lowest point being the Spring 2023 round and has slowly started to increase again.

## Section B. Assessment of Political Leaders

The questions assessing the current U.S. president and Michigan governor were first asked about President Bill Clinton and Governor John Engler in the Winter 1995 SOSS survey (Wave 2). Since Wave 2, the standing Michigan Governor and the U.S. President have been rated using a four-point performance scale of *poor (1), fair (2), good (3), and excellent (4)*.

Figure 7 reports President Biden's approval at both the National and Michigan levels. These questions were asked prior to President Biden's presidential debate with Former President Trump and before he stepped down as the Democratic Party presidential candidate.

Figure 7. President Biden Approval, National vs. Michigan



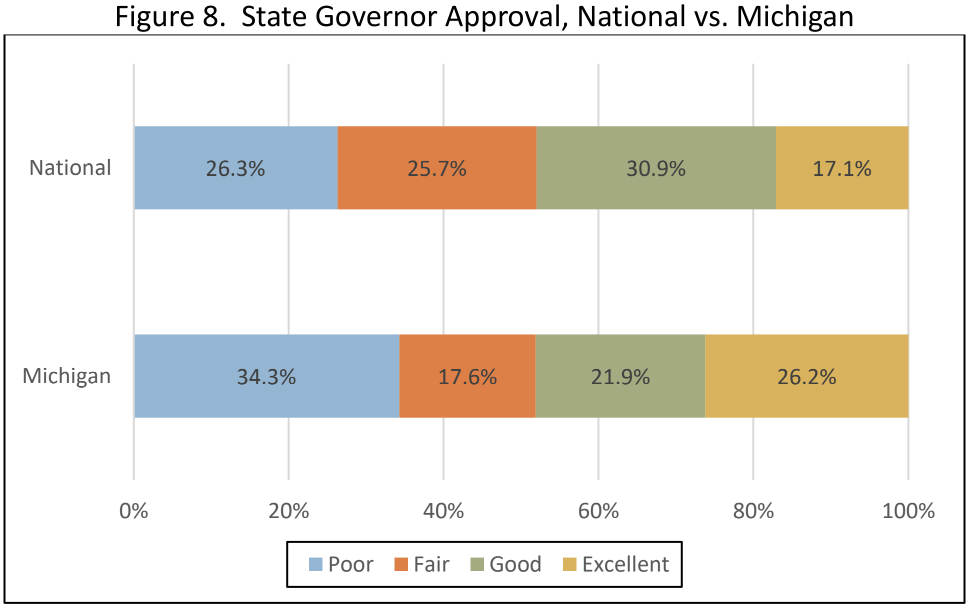

SOSS Sample size = 999/SOTN Sample size = 999

Of interest,

- Michigan's respondents rated President Biden lower than the National respondents with over two-thirds of the Michigan respondents giving President Biden a poor to fair rating.
- Both sets of respondents were very similar in the percentage that reported that he was doing an excellent job.

Figure 8 presents the approval rate reported by all respondents for their state's governor. For National respondents, the results should be seen as a general view of state governors throughout the country. For Michigan respondents, this would be specifically Governor Whitmer.

Figure 8. State Governor Approval, National vs. Michigan



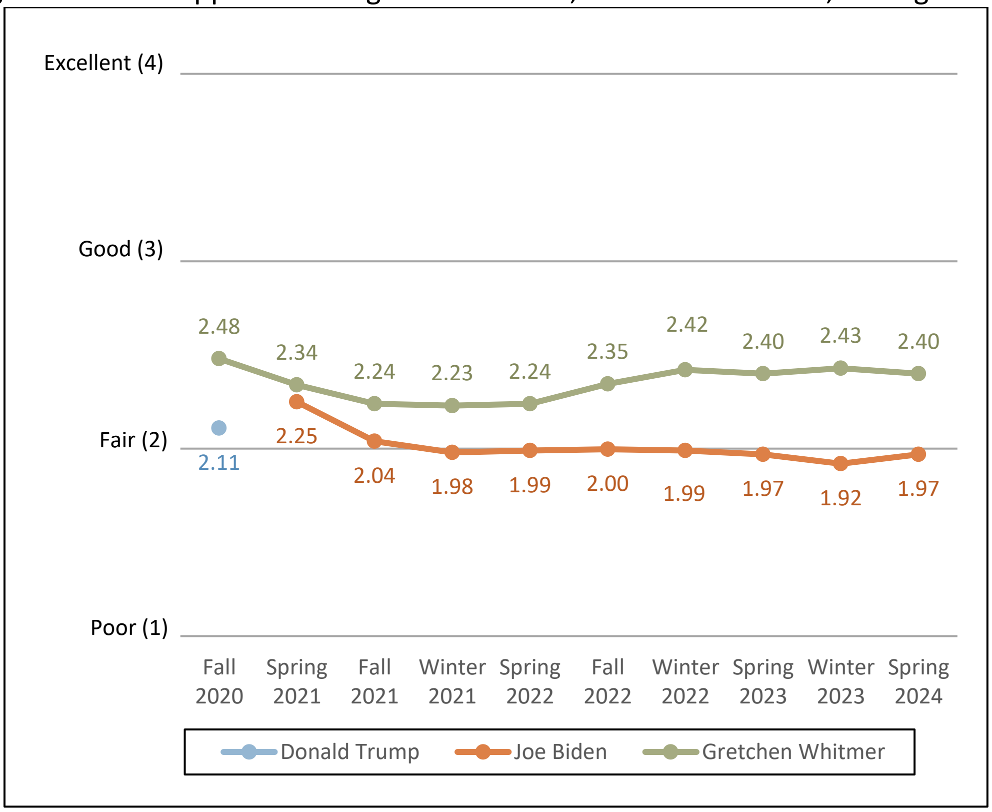

SOSS Sample size = 1,000/SOTN Sample size = 996

When looking at how both National and Michigan respondents rating their governors,

- Both the National and the Michigan respondents were evenly distributed between bad (poor to fair) ratings and good (good to excellent) ratings.
- Michigan respondents were more polarized in that they were more likely to provide either a poor or an excellent rating than their national counterparts.

Figure 9 shows the mean approval rating at the end of President Donald Trump's term and the beginning of President Joe Biden's term, as well as the majority of Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's term[2].

Figure 9. Mean Approval Ratings of Executives, Tracked Over Time, Michigan Only




As can be seen in Figure 9:

- President Biden's approval rating decreased during his first year in office and fell from the *Fair* to *Good* range to the *Poor* to *Fair* range, where it has stabilized.
- The last rating for former President Trump was below President Biden's first approval rating. President Biden's rating dropped the next SOSS (Fall 2021) and remained below President Trump's last rating through the current SOSS.
- Governor Whitmer's approval ratings have varied over time, quite possibly due to response to the COVID pandemic during her term. Her ratings have stayed within the *Fair* to *Good* range and her rating has held fairly consistent since Winter 2022.

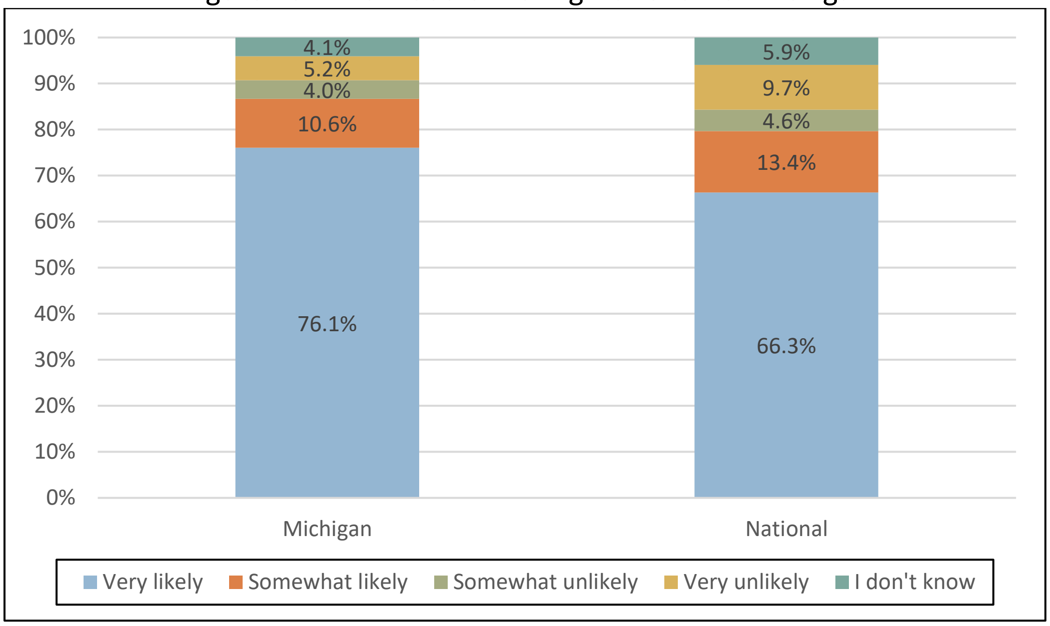
[2] Ratings prior to Fall 2019 were collected as part of telephone interviews and are not included due to methodological differences.

## Section C: Who's Likely to Vote

Respondents for both SOSS and SOTN were asked how likely they were to vote in the next election. It should be remembered that these questions were asked prior to President Biden stepping down as the 2024 Democratic presidential candidate. These questions give us insight to how Michigan residents compare to the country at large in terms of who is more likely to vote in an election.

Figure 10 compares Michigan and the country at large in terms of the likelihood of voting in the next election.

Figure 10. Likelihood of Voting National vs. Michigan

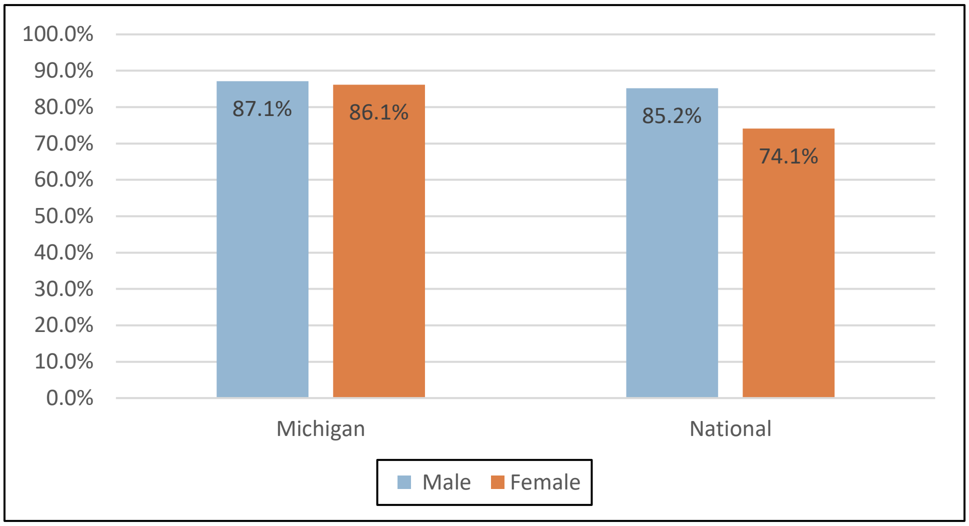



SOSS Sample size = 1,000/SOTN Sample size = 996

- Michigan residents were much more likely to vote than their National counterparts with over three-quarters of Michigan respondents stating that they were very likely to vote compared to less than two-thirds nationally.
- Almost 15 percent of the National respondents stated that they were unlikely to vote compared to less than 10 percent of the Michigan respondents.
- National respondents were also more likely to say they didn't know if they were going to vote.

Figure 11 compares differences between women's and men's voting behavior for both Michigan and Nationally.

Figure 11. Likelihood of Voting by Gender

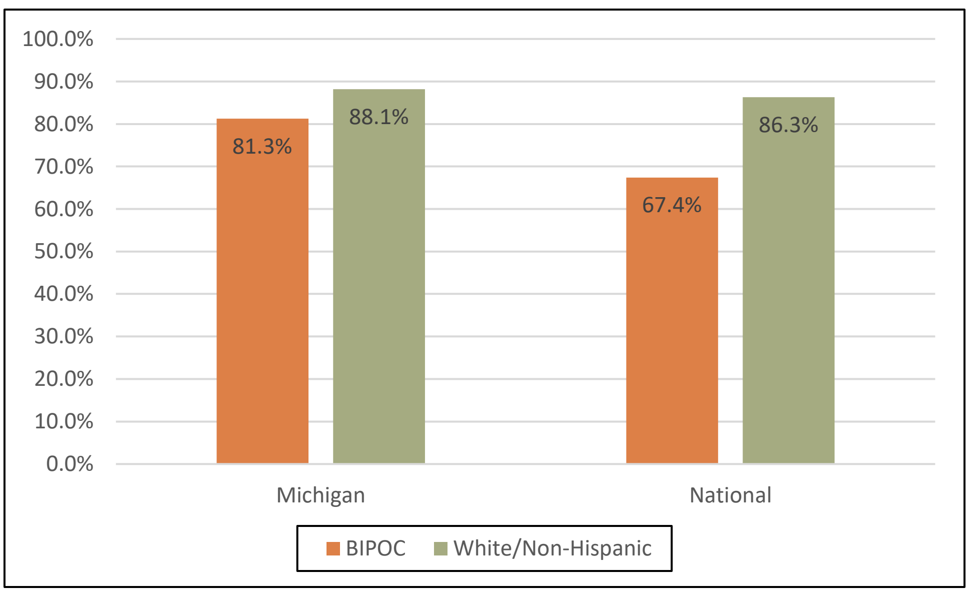



SOSS Sample size = 1,000/SOTN Sample size = 996

- In Michigan there is only a slight difference between men and women's likelihood of voting with men being slightly more likely.
- Nationally, women are much less likely to vote compared to men.

The differences between racial/ethnic groups were also evaluated (Figure 12). BIPOC refers to people who are Black, Indigenous and other People of Color.

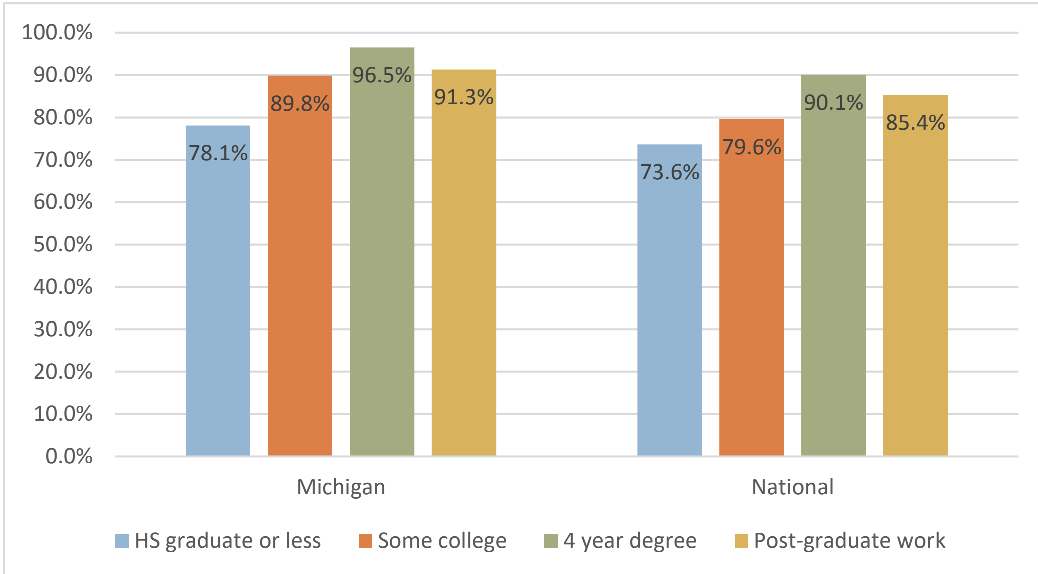
Figure 12. Likelihood of Voting by Race/Ethnicity




SOSS Sample size = 1,000/SOTN Sample size = 996

- In Michigan, Black, Indigenous and other People of Color are approximately 7 percentage points less likely to vote in the next election.
- National, this difference is much larger with less than two thirds of respondents who were BIPOC saying they were likely to vote which almost 19 percentage points lower than White/Non-Hispanic respondents.

Figure 13. Likelihood of Voting by Education



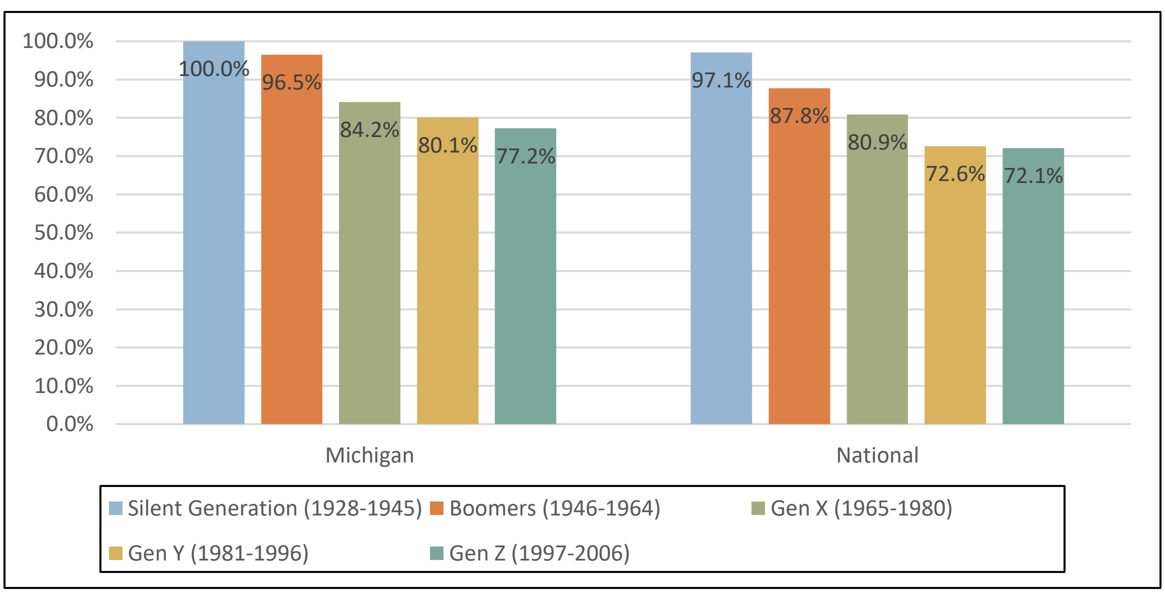

SOSS Sample size = 997/SOTN Sample size = 987

Likelihood of voting was also found to differ by educational level (Figure 13).

- For both Michigan and National respondents, the likelihood of voting increased as educational levels increased until post-graduate work where the percentage of those likely to vote decreased slightly.

Figure 14 presents the likelihood of voting looking at the different generational groups in the United States.

Figure 14. Likelihood of Voting by Generational Group



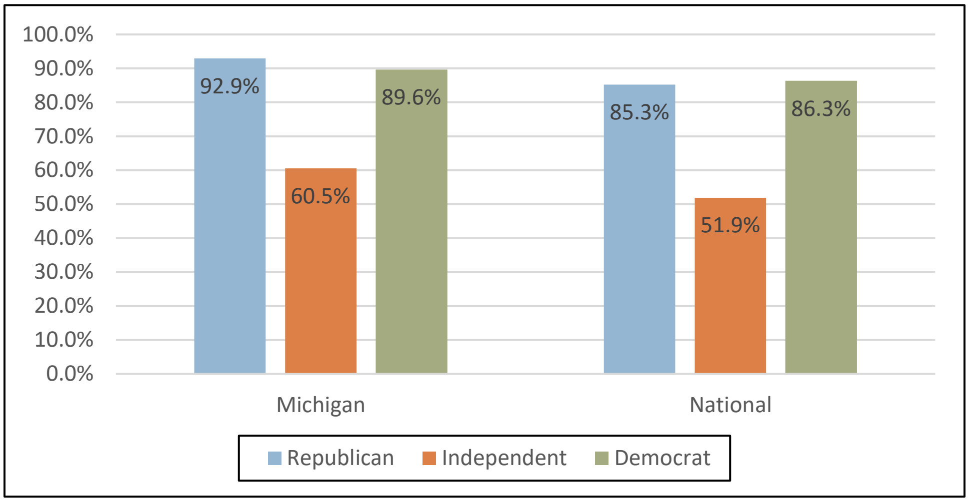

SOSS Sample size = 1,000/SOTN Sample size = 996

- There is a steady decline in percentage of respondents who are likely to vote as we progress through the generational groups for both Michigan and National respondents.

- There is over a 20-percentage point difference between the Silent Generation and Gen Z in terms of likelihood to vote.

Figures 15 and 16 looking at difference in likelihood of voting by political party affiliation and political ideology.

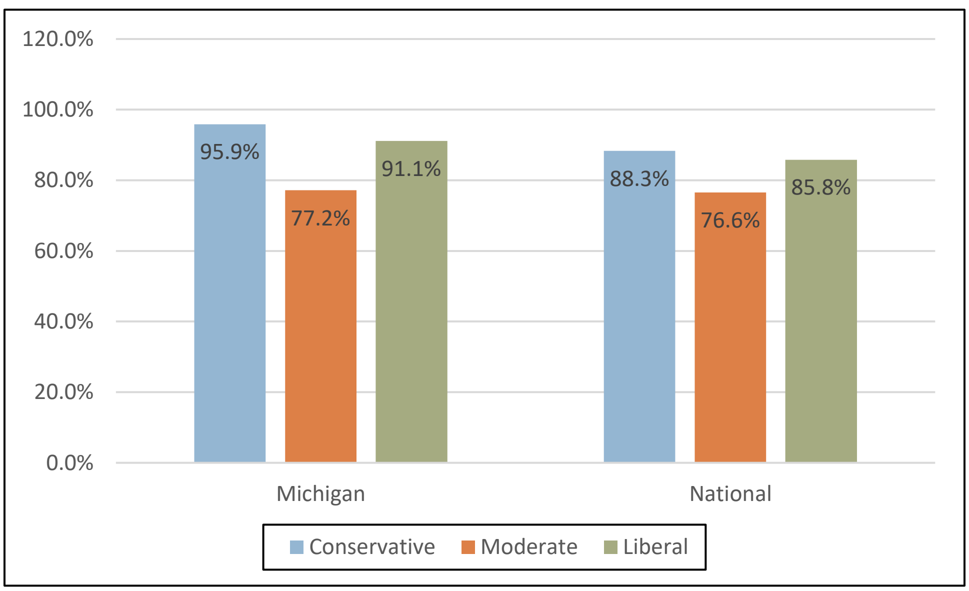
Figure 15. Likelihood of Voting by Political Party Affiliation




SOSS Sample size = 996/SOTN Sample size = 992

- In Michigan, Republican were slightly more likely to vote than Democrats and much more likely than Independents. Independents were also more likely to say they didn't know if they were going to vote.
- Nationally, there was little difference between Republican and Democrat respondents. Again, Independents were less likely to vote.

Figure 16. Likelihood of Voting by Political Ideology



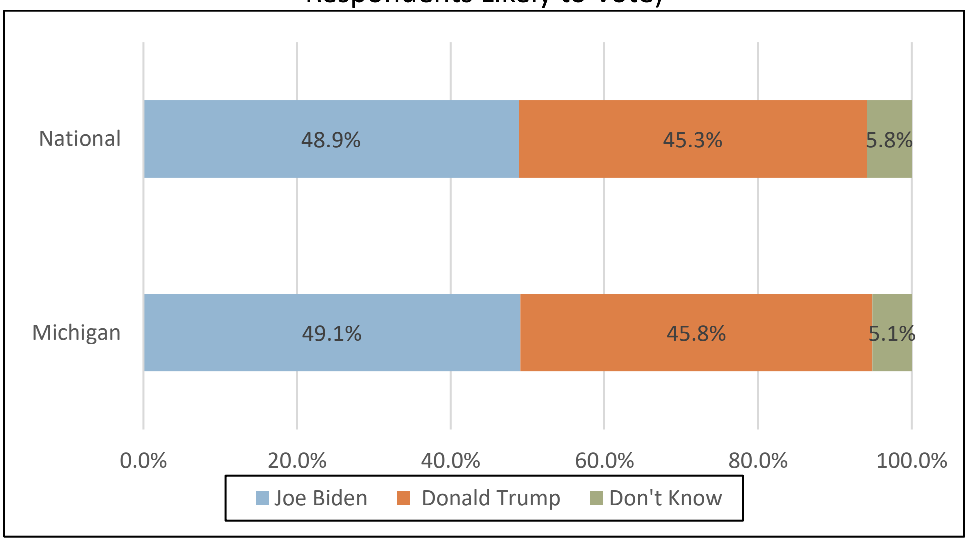

SOSS Sample size = 944/SOTN Sample size = 921

- Conservatives were more likely to vote in both the Michigan and National groups.
- There was less difference between Conservatives and Liberals at the National level than amongst Michigan respondents.
- There was almost no difference between National and Michigan in terms of the percentage of Moderates that were likely to vote.

## Section D. Elections

Both SOSS and SOTN respondents were asked a series of questions about the upcoming elections. First, respondents were asked to chose between President Biden and former President Trump. If they stated that they were unsure, they were asked which way they were leaning. The responses below are a composite of these two questions (Figure 17). As stated before, these questions were asked prior to the presidential debate and President Biden stepping down as the Democratic Party's presidential candidate.

Figure 17. Presidential Preference When Offered Two Candidates, National vs. Michigan (Only Respondents Likely to Vote)

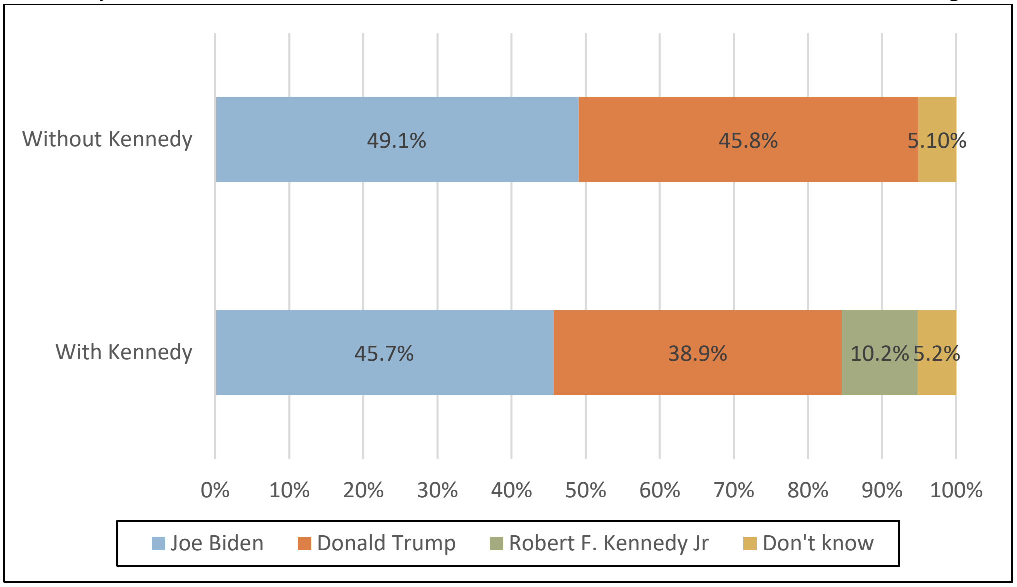



SOSS Sample size = 854/SOTN Sample size = 792

- There is little to no difference between the responses from the Michigan respondents and those of the National respondents.
- Then candidate President Biden had a slight lead over former President Trump for both respondent groups.

SOSS respondents (Michigan) were also asked who they were likely to vote for again, but with a third option of Robert Kennedy, Jr. Table 18 compares the two-candidate and three-candidate responses for Michigan respondents.

Table 18: Comparison of Two-Candidate and Three-Candidate Presidential Voting Preference



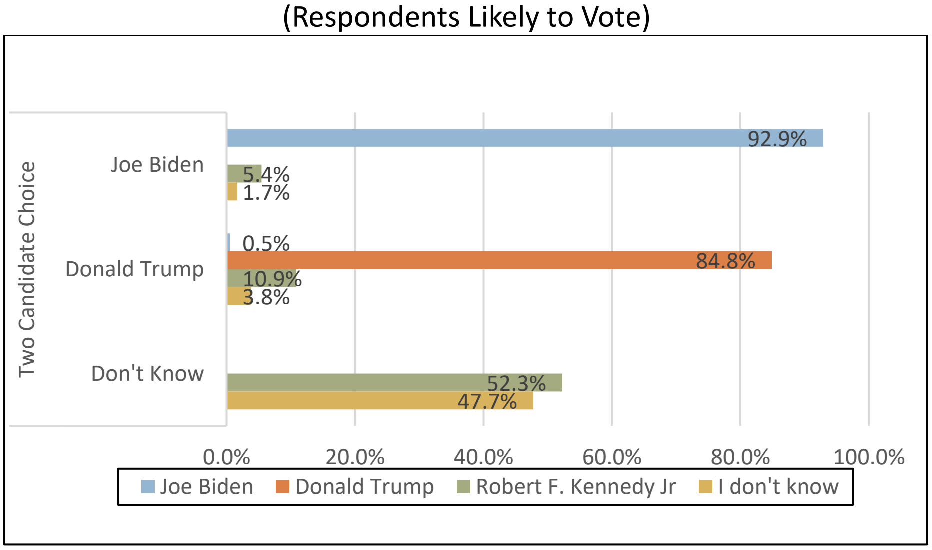

SOSS Sample size: 866/866

The addition of Robert Kennedy lead to:

- A lose of voters for both President Biden and former President Trump.
- Increase in the percentage of respondents who stated they didn't know who they would vote for.
- Robert Kennedy, Jr receiving over 10 percent of the votes.

Figure 19 demonstrates where the lost voters for the President Biden and former President Trump went with the addition of Robert Kennedy, Jr. The left margin of the figure lists the respondent's choice when there were only two candidates. The colored bars show what their response was when they had three candidates to choose from.

Figure 19. Presidential Preference When Offered Three Candidates, Michigan Only (Respondents Likely to Vote)

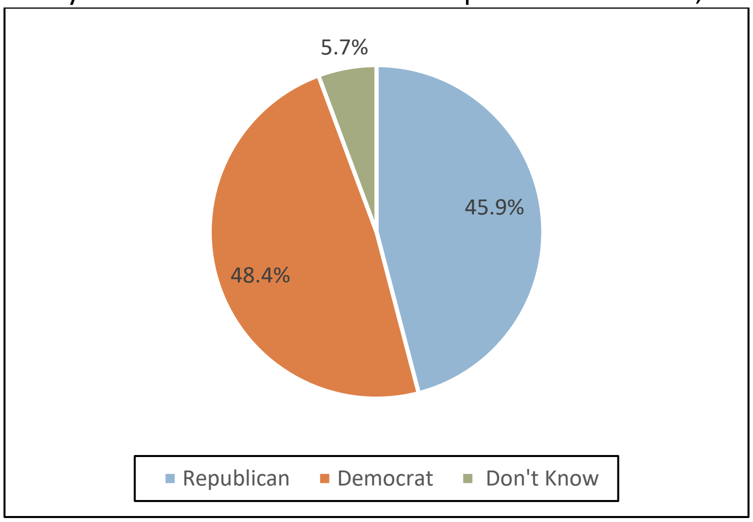



SOSS Sample size: 863

- For those that stated that they initially would vote for President Biden, almost 93 percent stayed with Biden when offered another choice. No one considered moving to President Trump, 5 percent said they would switch to Kennedy and a little less than two percent said they didn't know who they would vote for.
- For that that had initially selected former President Trump, almost 85 percent stayed with him, but about half a percent stated they would switch their vote to President Biden. Almost eleven percent would switch to Kennedy and almost four percent said they didn't know then who they would vote for.
- Interestingly, over half of those that had said they didn't know who they would vote for when only offered two choices stated that they would vote for Kennedy.

Respondents were also asked about other political races. National respondents were asked about the US House of Representative race for their district (Figure 20) and Michigan respondents were asked about the US Senate race (Figure 21).

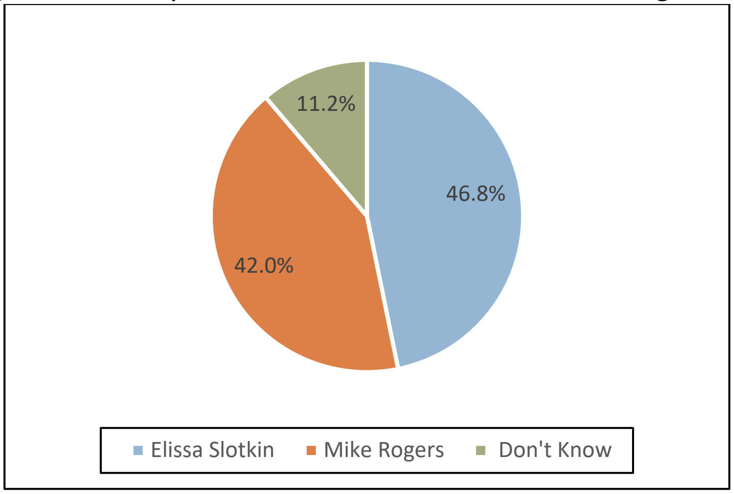
Figure 20. Likely to Vote for in US House of Representative Race, National Only




SOTN Sample size: 792

- Overall, respondents were more likely to say they would vote Democrat than Republican.
- The difference is relatively close and there were almost six percent of the respondents that stated that they were undecided which is more than the difference between the two parties.

Figure 21. Likely to Vote for in US Senate Race, Michigan Only




SOSS Sample size: 864

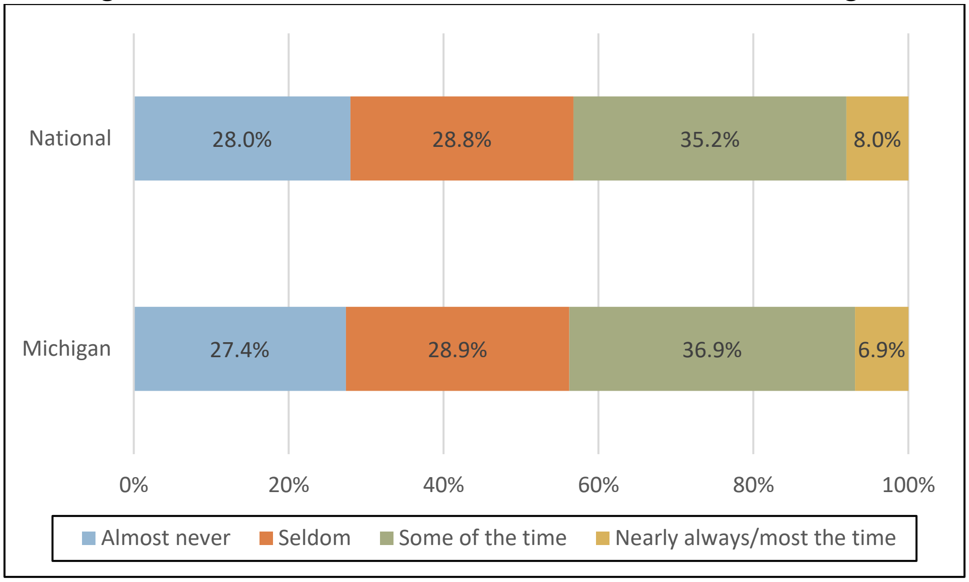
- At the point of this survey, Elissa Slotkin had a slight lead over Mike Rogers.
- As with the National House of Representative races, the don't know percentage is larger than the difference between the two candidates.

## Section E. Trust in Government

All respondents were asked how much of the time they trust the federal and state governments, as well as the level of trust they have in their local government. The amount of trust varied by level of government and by which group of respondents. These questions have been asked since the beginning of SOSS so there is a longitudinal table for Michigan as well.

Respondents were first asked about their level of Trust in the federal government (Figure 22).

Figure 22:  Trust in Federal Government, National vs. Michigan

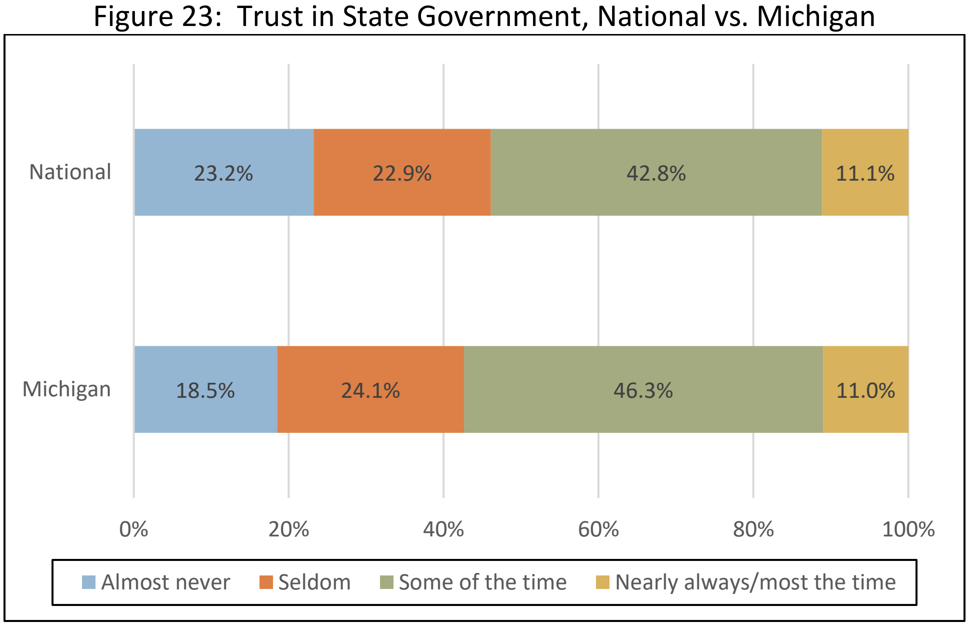



SOSS Sample size = 1,000/SOTN Sample size = 951

- There was little to no difference between National and Michigan respondents in terms of almost never or seldom trusting the federal government.
- The National sample was slightly more likely to say nearly always or most of the time.

Respondents were then asked about their trust in their state government (Figure 23). In terms of the National respondent, It needs to be remembered that this is an overall average of trust in state governments throughout the country.

Figure 23:  Trust in State Government, National vs. Michigan



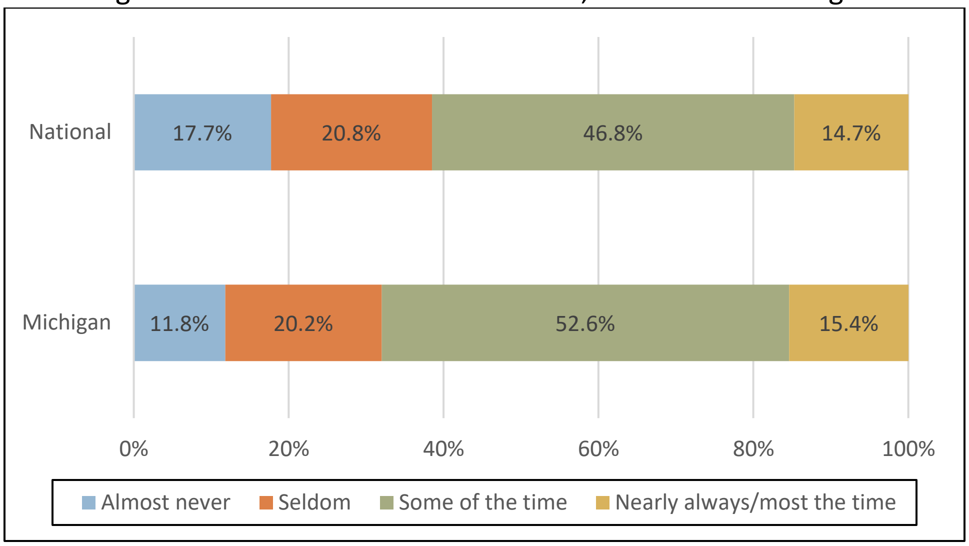

SOSS Sample size = 999/SOTN Sample size = 952

- Both National respondents and Michigan respondents trust their state government nearly always/most the time.

- Michigan respondents were more likely to trust their state government some of the time and National respondents were more likely to almost never trust their state government.

Finally, respondents were asked how much they trusted their local government (Figure 24).

Figure 24: Trust in Local Government, National vs. Michigan

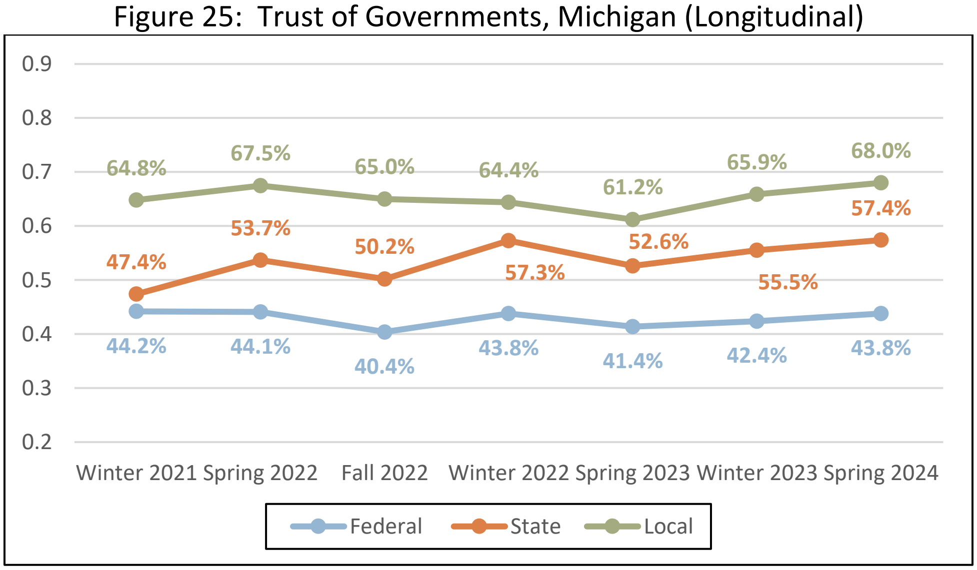



SOSS Sample size = 1,000/SOTN Sample size = 943

- Michigan respondents were much more likely to trust their local government at least some of the time.
- National respondents were much more likely to almost never trust their local government.

Historically, the same patterns of Local government being the most trusted and Federal government being the least trusted can be seen (Figure 25). The same decreases and increases in trust at one level of government are also normally mirrored by the other levels of government during the same period of time.

Figure 25: Trust of Governments, Michigan (Longitudinal)



# SUMMARY

This report compares some of the results from 89th round of SOSS (State of the State Survey) and the inaugural round of SOTN (State of the Nation Survey). For some of the questions, only SOSS (Michigan) or SOTN (National) respondents were asked.

Section A: Economic Optimism

Both Michigan and National respondents were asked six questions related to their household's and community's financial situations, and anticipated changes in national economic indicators.

*Household Financial Situation*

Overall, Michigan respondents were less optimistic about their household's financial situation at all three time periods (current, comparing current to past, comparing current to future) than those in the National sample.

When looking at the longitudinal trends for these three questions (Michigan only), both current timeframe and comparing current to past timeframe showed little change since the last SOSS in Winter 2023. There was a slight decrease in the percentage of respondents that felt that they would be better off a year from now between Winter 2023 and Spring 2024.

*Community Financial Situation*

As with the respondents' household financial situations, Michigan respondents were more pessimistic about their community's financial situation twelve months from now than National respondents. There was little difference between the two populations in terms of the percentage that believed that they community would have good times. National respondents were more likely to believe there would be neither good nor bad, while Michigan residents were more likely to believe that there would be bad times.

Longitudinally, Michigan respondents were pessimistic in their expectations about their communities' financial situations from Winter 2021 through Spring 2023. Winter 2023 and Spring 2024 both showed an increase in the percentage of respondents that believed that things would be better twelve months from now.

*National Economic Indicators*

In terms of the rate of inflation over the next twelve months, Michigan respondents were much more likely to say inflation would go up in the coming twelve months and National respondents were more likely to say that the rate of inflation would be the same during that time.

The general trends in Michigan since the Winter 2021 SOSS show there have been a general decrease over time in the percentage of respondents that felt that the rate of inflation would go up in the next twelve months. The largest difference between the last two rounds (Winter 2023 and Spring 2024) is that the percentage of respondents who felt that the rate of inflation would stay the same decreased with slight changes in the end categories.

The general pessimism of Michigan respondents compared to National respondents is also apparent related to anticipated changes in the unemployment rate of the next twelve months with Michigan respondents being more likely to feel that the rate of unemployment will get worse in the coming twelve months and National respondents are more likely to feel that it will get better.

The level of pessimism of Michigan respondents over time has actually decreased. The percentage of those who reported that the rate of employment would be worse twelve months from now peaked at the Spring 2023 and has decreased since.

Section B: Assessment of Political Leaders

All respondents were asked to provide an approval rating for President Biden and their current state governor. These questions were asked prior to President Biden's presidential debate with Former President Trump and before he stepped down as the Democratic Party presidential candidate.

*Presidential Approval Rating*

In terms of President Biden's rating, Michigan's respondents rated him lower than the National respondents with over two-thirds of the Michigan respondents giving President Biden a poor to fair rating. Looking at his approval rating over time in Michigan, President Biden's approval rating decreased during his first year in office and fell from the *Fair* to *Good* range to the *Poor* to *Fair* range, where it has stabilized. Of interest, the last rating for former President Trump was below President Biden's first approval rating, but President Biden's rating dropped the next SOSS and remained below President Trump's last rating up through the most recent SOSS.

*Governor Approval Rating*

In terms of governor approval ratings, National respondents' results should be seen as a general view of state governors throughout the country and Michigan respondents' results are specifically about Governor Whitmer. Both the National and the Michigan respondents were evenly distributed between bad (poor to fair) ratings and good (good to excellent) ratings. Michigan respondents were more polarized in their ratings as they were more likely to provide either a poor or an excellent rating than their national counterparts.

SOSS respondents have been asked to provide an approval rating for Governor Whitmer since she began in office. Governor Whitmer's approval ratings have varied over time, quite possibly due to response to the COVID pandemic during her term, though her ratings have stayed within the *Fair* to *Good* range. Her rating has held fairly consistent since Winter 2022

Section C: Who's Likely to Vote

All respondents were asked how likely they were to vote in the next election. As previously stated, these questions were asked prior to President Biden debate and prior to his stepping down as the 2024 Democratic presidential candidate. Michigan respondents were much more likely to say they were likely to vote than their National counterparts. There were also differences seen within demographic groups when comparing Michigan respondents to National respondents.

- In Michigan, women were about as likely to vote as men, but nationally, women were much less likely to say they would vote.

- For race/ethnicity, in both the Michigan and National samples, White/Non-Hispanics were more likely to vote than any other group.
- In terms of level of education for both Michigan and National samples, likelihood to vote increased with each level of education until college post-graduate work where it dropped slightly, but still above those with only some college.
- There was a clear pattern amongst both the Michigan and National respondents in terms of generation groups with a steady decline in the likelihood of voting from the Silent Generation (1928-1945) thru to Gen Z (1997-2006).

There were also differences when looking at political characteristics. In Michigan, Republicans were more likely to vote than Democrats. Nationally, members of both parties were about as likely to vote. For both Michigan and National respondents, independents were the least likely to vote.

When looking at political ideology, conservatives were more likely to vote than liberals for both the Michigan and National samples. Moderates were the least likely to vote out of the three groups.

Section D: Elections

All respondents were asked a series of questions about the upcoming presidential election. As stated before, these questions were asked prior to the presidential debate and President Biden stepping down as the Democratic Party's presidential candidate. The findings below excluded those that said they were not likely to vote or they didn't know if they would vote.

When only presented with the Republican and Democratic parties' candidates, there was very little difference between the Michigan and National respondents in terms of who they would vote for and then candidate President Biden was slightly ahead of former President Trump.

When Michigan respondents were asked who they were likely to vote for with the addition of Robert Kennedy, Jr., both candidates lost a percentage of the respondents and Kennedy was chosen by 10 percent of the respondents. President Biden was less likely to lose respondents and only five percent of those respondents switched to Kennedy with about two percent switching to "Don't Know". Former President Trump lost more respondents and almost eleven percent switched to Kennedy with almost four percent switching to "Don't Know". In addition, over half of the previous "Don't Know" respondents switched to Kennedy.

National respondents were also asked about whether or not they would vote Republican or Democratic in their US House of Representative race. The Democratic candidates were selected slightly more often than their Republican counterparts.

Michigan respondents were asked which US Senate race candidate they would vote for. At the point of this survey, Elissa Slotkin had a slight lead over Mike Rogers, but the "Don't Know" respondents made up over eleven percent of the respondents.

Section E: Trust in Government

All of the respondents were asked how often they trusted the federal government along with their state and local governments. The federal government was least trusted government by both National and

Michigan respondents. There was little difference between the National and Michigan samples in terms of their trust in the Federal government.

Both National respondents and Michigan respondents trust their state government nearly always/most the time. Michigan respondents were more likely to trust their state government overall.

Local governments were the most trusted overall of all of the governments. Michigan respondents were more likely to trust their local governments than the National respondents.

When looking at the longitudinal SOSS (Michigan) data, the same patterns of Local government being the most trusted and Federal government being the least trusted can be seen at each SOSS wave. The same decreases and increases in trust at one level of government are also normally mirrored by the other levels of government during the same period of time.

# APPENDIX

Table A1: Demographic Description of SOSS and SOTN Respondents

| **Demographic Characteristics**[a] | | **SOSS** | **SOTN** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Party** | Republican | 39.7% | 38.1% |
| | Independent | 14.8% | 18.2% |
| | Democrat | 45.6% | 43.7% |
| | | | |
| **Race/Ethnicity**[b] | White | 82.0% | 75.7% |
| | Black | 13.2% | 12.9% |
| | Asian/Pacific Islander | 3.0% | 4.1% |
| | Native American/Alaska Native | 2.5% | 4.1% |
| | Other Race | 2.4% | 6.8% |
| | Hispanic | 4.2% | 14.8% |
| | | | |
| **Gender**[c] | Male | 48.7% | 48.5% |
| | Female | 51.3% | 50.6% |
| | Intersex | 0.0% | 0.9% |
| | | | |
| **Education** | Less than 4-year Degree | 73.1% | 65.9% |
| | 4-Year Degree | 16.7% | 21.7% |
| | Graduate Degree | 10.3% | 12.4% |
| | | | |
| **n** | | | |

**[a] SOSS/SOTN percentages are weighted using survey weights provided by YouGov.**

**[b] Racial/ethnic categories are not mutually exclusive, and respondents may have selected more than one.**

**[c] Due to the small percentage of Intersex respondents, they were not included in the analysis related to gender.**