The Michigan Policy Insiders Panel (MPIP) is a regular online survey of state political insiders in Michigan, conducted by Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) in conjunction with the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) at the University of Michigan. The online panel includes legislators and legislative staff, high-level administrative officials, and interest group leaders and lobbyists. The data presented in this report were collected from a survey conducted between October 17th and November 1st. Before the election, we asked insiders to forecast the likely results of this legislative session.

Predictions of Legislation Passing

Respondents were asked about the chances that legislation covering several issue areas would pass the Michigan Legislature by the end of the session. Specifically, Insiders were asked: "*How likely or unlikely do you think it is that the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan Senate will pass the same major legislation on each of the following topics by the end of this legislative term?*" Based on news coverage of active policy discussions, eight different policy topics were included. The responses to these questions are summarized in Table 1, with the policies listed in order from highest to lowest predicted probability of passage.

Table 1. Perceived Likelihood of Legislation Passing by End of Term, by Policy Topic

Policy Topic	Very Unlikely (1)	Somewhat Unlikely (2)	Neither Likely nor Unlikely (3)	Somewhat Likely (4)	Very Likely (5)	Mean[a]
Autonomous vehicles	9.0%	13.5%	15.5%	32.3%	27.8%	3.58
Energy competition and renewables	7.3%	24.1%	13.5%	38.9%	16.3%	3.33
Freedom of Information Act changes	11.3%	29.1%	16.0%	33.3%	10.3%	3.02
Parole, probation, and criminal justice reform	10.5%	32.0%	18.5%	31.3%	7.8%	2.94
Emergency manager law	20.0%	25.9%	10.2%	36.9%	7.0%	2.85
Mental health services	19.8%	33.8%	20.0%	21.8%	4.8%	2.58
Auto insurance changes	19.5%	36.8%	18.5%	20.8%	4.5%	2.54
Prevailing wage law changes	35.2%	37.2%	13.7%	12.5%	1.5%	2.08

[a] *Means were calculated using the five-point scale listed in parentheses at the top of the table, with 1 meaning "Very Unlikely" and 5 meaning "Very Likely." Higher means indicate that the average respondent rated legislation on the policy topic as more likely to pass.*

The numbers in the "Mean" column in this table indicate how likely (as measured on the five-point scale with a value of one meaning "Very Unlikely" and a value of five meaning "Very Likely") the average respondent thought legislation on each policy topic would be to pass before the end of the session. For instance, the mean response on the topic of Freedom of Information Act changes was 3.02, which corresponds closely to the response, "Neither Likely nor Unlikely," whereas the mean response on the topic of prevailing wage law changes was 2.08, which corresponds closely to the response, "Somewhat Unlikely." Table 1 shows that:

- Insiders perceived legislation related to autonomous vehicles to be the <u>most likely</u> (among these eight policy areas) to pass by the end of the session, followed by energy competition and renewables, Freedom of Information Act changes, and criminal justice reform, respectively. Indeed, the Michigan Legislature did pass a package of legislation on autonomous vehicles after these data were collected.[1]

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1   Gerstein, Michael. "Lawmakers Send Autonomous Car Bills to Snyder." *The Detroit News*. N.p., 10 Nov. 2016. Web. 21 Nov. 2016.

- Insiders perceived legislation related to prevailing wage law changes to be the *least likely* (among these eight policy areas) to pass by the end of the session, followed by auto insurance changes, mental health services, and the emergency manager law, respectively.

Table 2, below, shows how different categories of policy insiders disagreed in terms of how they perceived the likelihood of certain legislation passing. Specifically, the table is broken down by the respondents' political parties and their employers – legislative branch, executive branch, or those employed in positions outside of government.

The percentages in the table are Net Likelihood Ratings, which can be interpreted similarly to the Net Approval Ratings that are sometimes reported for elected officials and candidates. In this case, the Net Likelihood Rating represents the percent of respondents who rated a policy as either "Somewhat Likely" or "Very Likely" to pass, minus the percent who rated it as either "Somewhat Unlikely" or "Very Unlikely." If a Net Likelihood Rating is greater than zero, it means the policy is perceived as *more likely to pass* than not pass. On the other hand, if the Net Likelihood Rating is less than zero, it means the policy is perceived as *more likely to not pass* than to pass.

Table 2. Net Likelihood Rating[a] of Passing Legislation on Each Topic, by Respondent Party and Employer

Policy Topic	Party Identification			Employer Type		
	Republican	Independent	Democrat	Legislature	Executive	Non-Gov't
Autonomous vehicles	+50.4%	+27.1%	+41.2%	+55.2%	+19.0%	+54.7%
Energy competition and renewables	+35.7%	+4.6%	+29.6%	+65.5%	-4.7%	+37.0%
Freedom of Information Act changes	-13.3%	+11.1%	+8.1%	-3.4%	+14.4%	-6.8%
Parole, probation, and criminal justice reform	+10.1%	-12.1%	-7.4%	+41.4%	-27.6%	+5.6%
Emergency manager law	-3.9%	+14.8%	-15.4%	-32.8%	+9.2%	-4.3%
Mental health services	-26.4%	-18.7%	-37.5%	-31.0%	-23.6%	-29.8%
Auto insurance changes	-44.2%	-30.8%	-22.1%	-31.0%	-26.4%	-38.5%
Prevailing wage law changes	-65.9%	-63.9%	-47.8%	-56.9%	-54.6%	-64.2%
n	129	108	136	58	174	161

[a] Net likelihood ratings are calculated as the percent of respondents who answered either "Somewhat Likely" or "Very Likely" minus the percent who answered either "Somewhat Unlikely" or "Very Unlikely."

Table 2 indicates that:

- Republican and Democrat partisans, as well as those employed in the legislature and outside of government, were *more optimistic* than Independents and those employed in executive agencies about the likelihood of legislation passing on autonomous vehicles and energy competition and renewables.

- Insiders largely *agreed* on the three least likely types of legislation to pass, with only minor differences in Net Likelihood Ratings across party identification and employer type for the policies related to mental health services, auto insurance changes, and prevailing wage laws.