State of the State Survey
Winter 2016

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Michigan Residents Blame Snyder And State Government for Flint Water Crisis; Snyder Ratings Plummet

Obama Ratings Improve

Trust in Government Holds Steady
About SOSS Wave 72

995 Interviews Completed

Dec. 5, 2016 – March 26, 2016

Margin of Error: ± 3.11%
Four out of seven Michigan residents placed the main responsibility for the Flint water crisis on Governor Snyder, his appointee Darnell Earley, or state government.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor Rick Snyder</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Financial Mgr. Darnell Earley</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Michigan (unspecified)</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flint City Council</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flint Mayor Dayne Walling</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flint Water Department</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens of Flint</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
And 17.2 percent of respondents said that responsibility for the Flint water crisis belongs to “everyone.”
Governor Snyder’s approval ratings fell sharply.
Michigan Residents' Ratings of Governor Snyder's Performance, Winter 2016

- Excellent: 4.4%
- Good: 20.9%
- Fair: 30.5%
- Poor: 44.1%
Snyder received a “poor” rating from 44.1% of respondents.

That’s the largest fraction ever to give him a poor rating.

It’s up sharply from 20.9% “poor” in the previous survey in Fall 2015.
Michigan Residents' Ratings of Governor Snyder's Performance, 2011-2016

- Excellent or Good
- Poor
Snyder’s approval ratings fell across the political spectrum.
## Snyder "Excellent" or "Good"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2015</th>
<th>Spring 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>64.2%</td>
<td>49.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>44.8%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Snyder "Poor"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2015</th>
<th>Spring 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>41.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>35.5%</td>
<td>70.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Percentage of Michigan Residents Rating Performance of Governors as "Excellent" or "Good," 1995-2016

- Engler
- Granholm
- Snyder
By contrast, President Obama’s ratings improved.
Percentage of Michigan Residents Rating President Obama's Performance as "Excellent" or "Good," 2009-2016

Percentages for each year:
- Winter 2009: 70.7%
- Spring 2009: 62.6%
- Summer 2009: 53.2%
- Fall 2009: 44.2%
- Winter 2010: 43.9%
- Spring 2010: 44.5%
- Fall 2010: 44.5%
- Winter 2011: 41.0%
- Spring 2011: 42.8%
- Fall 2011: 45.2%
- Winter 2012: 39.7%
- Spring 2012: 38.4%
- Fall 2012: 40.2%
- Winter-Spring 2013: 38.7%
- Summer 2013: 34.8%
- Fall 2013: 38.7%
- Winter 2014: 43.0%
- Spring 2014: 40.2%
- Fall 2014: 38.7%
- Spring 2015: 43.0%
- Fall 2015: 40.2%
- Winter 2016: 38.7%

Note: The percentages fluctuate over the years, with the highest rating in Winter 2009 and the lowest in Winter 2016.
Michigan Residents' Ratings of the Performances of President Obama and Governor Snyder, Winter 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ratings</th>
<th>Obama</th>
<th>Snyder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>20.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>30.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>44.1</td>
<td>33.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attitudes by Assessment of Responsibility For Flint Water Crisis
Ratings of the Governor and President, for those with different views on main responsibility for Flint water crisis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Governor Snyder</th>
<th>Emergency Financial Manager Earley</th>
<th>Michigan Dept. of Env. Quality</th>
<th>Mayor Walling</th>
<th>Flint City Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Obama “Excellent” or Good</strong></td>
<td>72.2%</td>
<td>52.8%</td>
<td>33.4%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Snyder “Excellent” or Good”</strong></td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>46.6%</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attitudes by Race and Gender
Views of Michigan Residents by Race and Sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>State of Michigan</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Whites</th>
<th>Blacks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Obama</strong> “Excellent” or Good”</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
<td>47.9%</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
<td>77.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Snyder</strong> “Excellent” or Good”</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attitudes by Political Party
Views of Michigan Residents by Political Party

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>State of Michigan</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Independent</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obama “Excellent” or Good”</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td>82.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snyder “Excellent” or Good”</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
<td>49.9%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regional Attitudes
Views of Residents from Different Regions in Michigan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>State of Michigan</th>
<th>City of Detroit</th>
<th>Wayne, Oakland, Macomb</th>
<th>City of Flint&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Grand Rapids Area&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obama “Excellent” or Good”</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
<td>68.7%</td>
<td>47.2%</td>
<td>64.7%</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snyder “Excellent” or Good”</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>42.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> The results for Flint are based on only 12 observations, and should be interpreted with caution.

<sup>b</sup> Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, and Ottawa Counties
Although Governor Snyder’s ratings suffered a substantial fall, this did NOT correspond to a major loss in trust in the state government.

The fraction who said they could trust state government “seldom” or “almost never” increased, but so did the fraction who said they could trust state government “nearly all or most of the time.”

- Most of the Time: 20.4%
- Some of the Time: 43.8%
- Seldom: 23.7%
- Almost Never: 12.1%
Michigan Residents' Opinions of How Often They Can Trust the State Government, 1995-2016

- **Nearly All or Most of the Time**
- **Seldom or Almost Never**

- **Percent**
  - 0
  - 5
  - 10
  - 15
  - 20
  - 25
  - 30
  - 35
  - 40
  - 45
  - 50

- **Year**
  - 1995
  - 1996
  - 1997
  - 1998
  - 1999
  - 2000
  - 2001
  - 2002
  - 2003
  - 2004
  - 2005
  - 2006
  - 2007
  - 2008
  - 2009
  - 2010
  - 2011
  - 2012
  - 2013
  - 2014
  - 2015
  - 2016

- **Data Points**
  - 1995: 15.1
  - 1996: 17.7
  - 1997: 16.8
  - 1998: 16.3
  - 1999: 16.1
  - 2000: 16.5
  - 2001: 17.5
  - 2002: 15.9
  - 2003: 15.9
  - 2004: 15.8
  - 2005: 17.4
  - 2006: 17.4
  - 2007: 18.8
  - 2008: 17.4
  - 2009: 18.8
  - 2010: 19.8
  - 2011: 20.4
  - 2012: 30.7
  - 2013: 30.9
  - 2014: 31.1
  - 2015: 35.8
  - 2016: 35.8

- **Legend**
  - Green square: Nearly All or Most of the Time
  - Red triangle: Seldom or Almost Never
In fact, after a long period of decline, trust in all levels of government has shown a modest increase since 2012.
Percent of Michigan Residents Saying They Trust Local, State, or Federal Government "Nearly All or Most of the Time," 2001-2016

Local

State

Federal

Year

Percent
The Flint water crisis has brought infrastructure of cities to the top of the list of the most important problems facing the Governor and Legislature, for the first time.
Most Important Problem Facing the Governor and Legislature, SOSS 72, Winter 2016

Infrastructure of Cities 32.5%
Jobs / Economy 24.4%
Education Quality / Finances 12.7%
Road Repair / Bridge Repair 7.6%
Crime / Drugs / Violence 3.3%
Taxes / Reduce Taxes 2.6%
Health Care / Health Insurance 2.6%
Poverty / Homelessness / Social Programs 1.6%
Solve Budget Issues 1.3%
Environment 1.2%
Ethics, Political Reform, Election Reform 0.9%
Moral Issues / Abortion / Family Values 0.9%
Welfare Reform 0.5%
Diversity / Race Relations 0.3%
Foreign Policy 0.3%
Prescription Drug Coverage for Seniors 0.2%
Reduce Size of Government 0.2%
Regulation / Deregulation 0.2%
Gun Control 0.1%
Michigan Residents' Perceptions of the Most Important Problem Facing the Governor and Legislature, 1995-2016

- Jobs/Economy
- Education/School
- Finance
- Roads/Bridges
- Infrastructure of Cities
Although Governor Snyder’s approval ratings fell substantially, Michiganders are favorable toward the Detroit bankruptcy that took place during his watch.
How has Detroit fared as a result of the bankruptcy?

Much better off 14.3%
Somewhat better off 63.6%
Neither better nor worse 4.2%
Somewhat worse off 13.1%
Much worse off 4.7%
How to Learn More about SOSS:
http://ippsr.msu.edu/SOSS/

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THANK YOU!