



POLLSTERS



**MATT GROSSMANN, PH.D., DIRECTOR,
INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL
RESEARCH, COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE,
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

Matt Grossmann, Ph.D., is Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research and Associate Professor of Political Science at Michigan State University.

His latest book, *Red State Blues: How the Conservative Revolution Stalled in the States*, was published by Cambridge University Press in October 2019. Grossmann is also co-author of *Asymmetric Politics: Ideological Republicans and Group Interest Democrats*, published by Oxford University Press in 2016 and winner of the Leon Epstein Outstanding Book Award from the American Political Science Association. His previous books include *Artists of the Possible: Governing Networks and American Policy Change Since 1945*, published by Oxford University Press in 2014 and *The Not-So-Special Interests: Interest Groups, Public Representation and American Governance*, published by Stanford University Press in 2012.

He is co-author of *Campaigns & Elections*, the leading elections textbook from W.W. Norton. Grossmann serves as a Senior Fellow at the Niskanen Center in Washington, DC, host of The Science of Politics Podcast and a regular contributor at FiveThirtyEight. He has published op-eds in The New York Times and The Washington Post and academic articles in nineteen social science journals. Under Grossmann's leadership since January 2016, IPPSR added more than 60 affiliated faculty members, built a student Policy Fellows Program while expanding Public Policy Forums, public outreach and leadership training. He also created a policy-relevant research search engine, the Correlates of State Policy online database, and an online survey panel of political insiders.



STEVE MITCHELL, CEO, MITCHELL RESEARCH & COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Steve Mitchell is CEO of Mitchell Research & Communications, Inc. He has worked in more than 40 states since 1985. His political clients have included governors, U.S. Senators, members of Congress, state legislators, mayors, judges, school districts, cities, townships, counties, and states.

He founded the company after working on the national staff of President Ronald Reagan's successful run for president in 1985.

Mitchell has been a consultant and pollster on hundreds of winning campaigns for political candidates and for governmental organizations seeking passage of millage or bonding proposals.

He was a pollster for the Detroit News, Detroit Free Press and WDIV-TV in Detroit from 1996-2014. He was a regular guest on Devin Scillian's weekly Sunday morning Flashpoint program on WDIV-TV from 2001-2014. He left WDIV-TV after being retained by Fox 2 Detroit (WJBK-TV) to be its pollster starting in September 2014. He returned to WDIV-TV in 2017.

He has served as an analyst for Fox News Channel, NBC, MSNBC, ABC, BBC, Fox Business News, Financial Times of London, Washington Post, Washington Times, Houston Chronicle, Newsweek Magazine, New York Times, Chicago Tribune, and other media around the country and the world.

He is currently Chair of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, former Member of Michigan Chamber of Commerce Foundation Board, Chair of the Board of Trustees of Northern Michigan University, and former member of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Society of Association Executives.



BERNIE PORN, FOUNDING PRINCIPAL AND PRESIDENT, EPIC-MRA

Bernie Porn is Founding Principal and President of the polling firm EPIC-MRA. Drawing on more than three decades of research and communication experience, Mr. Porn's primary role with the firm involves the writing and analysis of the survey research conducted for EPIC-MRA's clients. He is also looked to by members of the media, academia and others for commentary on the wide spectrum of topics researched by the firm.

He is a graduate of Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, majoring in urban affairs and schooled in statistics. He was a staff member in the Michigan House of Representatives for 19 years, serving as the Director of Communications from 1990 to 1992. He worked extensively on the 1981 and 1991 Michigan legislative and congressional redistricting.

PROSE BEHIND THE VOTE



ZACHARY GORCHOW, EXECUTIVE EDITOR AND PUBLISHER, GONGWER NEWS SERVICE

Zach Gorchow is Executive Editor and Publisher of Gongwer News Service. He manages the company's Michigan operations, develops new services, plays a role in news coverage and leads reporting on the governor's office. He was Gongwer's editor from 2009-19.

He also covered the Michigan House of Representatives for Gongwer from 1998-2005. In between his two Gongwer stints, he spent four years at the Detroit Free Press, covering Wayne County and the city of Detroit.

Prior to first working at Gongwer, he reported for Observer Newspapers in suburban Wayne County. He is a Troy native and an international relations graduate from Michigan State University, where he worked on the school's student newspaper, The State News. In 2015, he made The Washington Post's list of the best state political reporters in the United States.



DARCI MCCONNELL, PRESIDENT AND CEO, MCCONNELL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Darci McConnell is President and CEO, McConnell Communications Inc. She has more than 20 years of experience in communications strategy, crisis management, media relations, relationship building, marketing, advertising and political consulting.

She spent 14 years as a reporter for newspaper outlets across the state as well as in Washington, DC. She holds a bachelor's degree in English and Communication from the University of Michigan and has served as an adjunct journalism professor at Wayne State University.

She is a member of the Public Relations Society of America and past president of the Detroit Chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists. Her executive education includes completion of programs at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business, Harvard's Program on Negotiation and the New Organizing Institute.



**KYLE MELINN, EDITOR AND VICE PRESIDENT,
MIRSNEWS.COM**

Kyle Melinn is Editor and Vice President of MIRSNews.com. A professional journalist for 20 years who has covered the state Capitol for the last 13, Kyle regularly appears on Off the Record, ‘The Big Show’ with Michael Patrick Shiels and radio shows across the state.

He hosts the weekly podcast MIRS Monday. Before his work at MIRS, Melinn served as a freelance writer for the Boston Herald and as a senior editor for SchoolSports.com.

He has also covered government and politics for the The Daily Citizen, in Dalton, Ga., The Yuma Daily Sun, in Yuma, Ariz., and the Towne Courier in East Lansing.

Kyle has won the Associated Press Managing Editors Story of the Year Award in Georgia and in Arizona. He is a graduate of Michigan State University and grew up in Byron Center.

MODERATOR



**ARNOLD WEINFELD, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL
RESEARCH, COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE,
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

Arnold Weinfeld is Associate Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research at Michigan State University as well as Director for Workforce and Economic Development Partnerships for the Office of Public Engagement and Scholarship within University Outreach and Engagement.

Prior to joining MSU, Weinfeld served as CEO of the Prima Civitas Foundation, a community and economic development non-profit organization. He also has worked for the Michigan Municipal League where he served in a number of roles and co-founded the Michigan Sense of Place Council.

He began his career with the Michigan House of Representatives where he worked as a legislative aide, policy analyst and policy director. He has served his own community as an elected member of the Waverly Community Schools Board of Education and is currently on his local planning commission. He is also on the boards of local and statewide organizations such as the Michigan Sense of Place Council, Rural Partners of Michigan, Capital Area College Access Network. He is a graduate of Michigan State University’s College of Social Science Multi-Disciplinary Program.

SPONSOR LEADERSHIP

MICHIGAN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



**Susy Avery, Co-Director, Michigan Political Leadership Program,
Michigan State University**

Susy Avery is a veteran of political campaigns and public administration. She was an elected trustee, clerk and supervisor of Northville Charter Township before elected a Wayne County Commissioner representing the communities of Livonia, Plymouth and Northville.

She also served on the Michigan Commission of Intergovernmental Relations, the Detroit Water Board, the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority's Board of Directors, the Southeastern Council of Governments' Executive Committee, Chair of the Rouge River Watershed Council and the first executive Director of the Conference of Western Wayne. She's been a member of the Board of Directors of Blue Cross/Blue Shield, on the Board of Directors for the Automobile National Heritage Area and on the Board of Directors for Achieve 121.

She was an Advisory Board Member of the Great Lakes Education Project. In the 1990s, she was tapped by Gov. John Engler to serve as the chair of the Michigan Republican Party. She left that post in 1996 to run a hotly contested congressional race against long-time Democratic incumbent David Bonior. She lost that race, but gave Bonior one of his closest elections ever. Engler named her state Director of Travel and Tourism and Gov. Rick Snyder appointed her executive director of the Michigan Women's Commission, a post from which she recently retired. She's hosted two cable television programs, been a frequent panelist on CBS television and radio programs, managed political campaigns, worked for the Wayne County Airport Authority and as advancement director at The Henry Ford – Greenfield Village.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and was named "Alumni of the Year." She's been listed in "Who's Who in American Women" and "Who's Who in Executives and Business," and is winner of numerous civic and humanitarian awards. Among her awards are the Award of Excellence from the Michigan Aeronautics Commission and the President's Award from the Michigan Association of Airport Executives.



Steve Tobocman, Co-Director, Michigan Political Leadership Program, Michigan State University

Steve Tobocman is managing partner at New Solutions Group, LLC and currently serves as the Director of Global Detroit, a regional economic development initiative focusing on Metro Detroit's immigrant, international, and global connections to create jobs and raise incomes.

In 1998, Steve conceived of, created, and served as the executive director of Community Legal Resources, a business law pro bono program to provide free legal services to nonprofit organizations serving low-income communities across Michigan. Community Legal Resources was selected as one of the five leading nonprofit legal services programs in the nation by Power of Attorney in 2001 and Steve was honored with the American Bar Association's Business Law Public Service Award in 2002.

In 2002, Steve became the first person to unseat an incumbent member of the House of Representatives in Michigan since term limits were adopted in the mid-1990s. He served in the Michigan House for three consecutive, two-year terms (the maximum allowed under Michigan's term limits laws.) He was elected Majority Floor Leader, the second-highest position in the Michigan House, during his third term. He is author of 24 public acts and an important contributor to such initiatives as legislation authorizing Michigan land banks and a statewide housing and community development fund.

He played key roles in one of the nation's toughest immigrant consumer protection laws, rewrote blight laws and helped strengthen protections for low-income tenants against eminent domain. Prior to his election to office, he served a year of service in Americorps and was a founding board member of Community Development Advocates of Detroit and the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan. He earned his Juris Doctor, cum laude, from the University of Michigan Law School and a Masters in Public Policy from U of M's Ford School of Public Policy. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics earned at the University of Virginia.



Linda Cleary, Administrator, Michigan Political Leadership Program, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research

Linda Cleary is Administrator of the Michigan Political Leadership Program, joining IPPSR in 2009.

Prior to joining the MPLP staff, Linda's career focused on the hospitality industry, financial management and securities and marketing and sales.

She is a graduate of the State University of New York at Delhi, worked for the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island and in securities for a financial investment firm. In addition to her other positions, she has been administrator for the Michigan Political History Society



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Dan Papineau, President, Michigan Political History Society and Director of Tax Policy & Regulatory Affairs, Michigan Chamber

Dan joined the Michigan Chamber in April of 2017 as Director of Tax Policy. Since that time, he has added regulatory issues to his field of expertise, giving him the title of Director of Tax Policy and Regulatory Affairs. In his role, Papineau is the Chamber's lobbyist responsible for Chamber tax policy and initiatives. He is also responsible for staffing, organizing and directing the Chamber's policy advisory committee on tax policy. He has a strong background in tax policy issues, as well as legislative process, having served for five years as Chief of Staff for state Sen. Jack Brandenburg, who chairs the Senate Finance Committee.

Before joining the Michigan Chamber's Business Advocacy Team, he served as director of government relations for a large southeast Michigan-based trade association with members in three states. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Michigan State University.



**ROBERTA E. STANLEY, FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE
AND GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTANT**

Roberta E. Stanley is a federal legislative and governmental consultant with a long history of working on educational, school health, child nutrition and equity issues involving the executive branch, Congress and the Michigan Legislature.

She is former Director of Federal Affairs at the National School Boards Association and former Director of Administrative Law and Federal Relations at Michigan's Department of Education.

She was a top aide to the late U.S. Rep. William Ford and worked closely with the late Michigan School Superintendents Phil Runkel and John Porter. Early in her career, she was a Gongwer News Service reporter. She is a graduate of Michigan State University.

