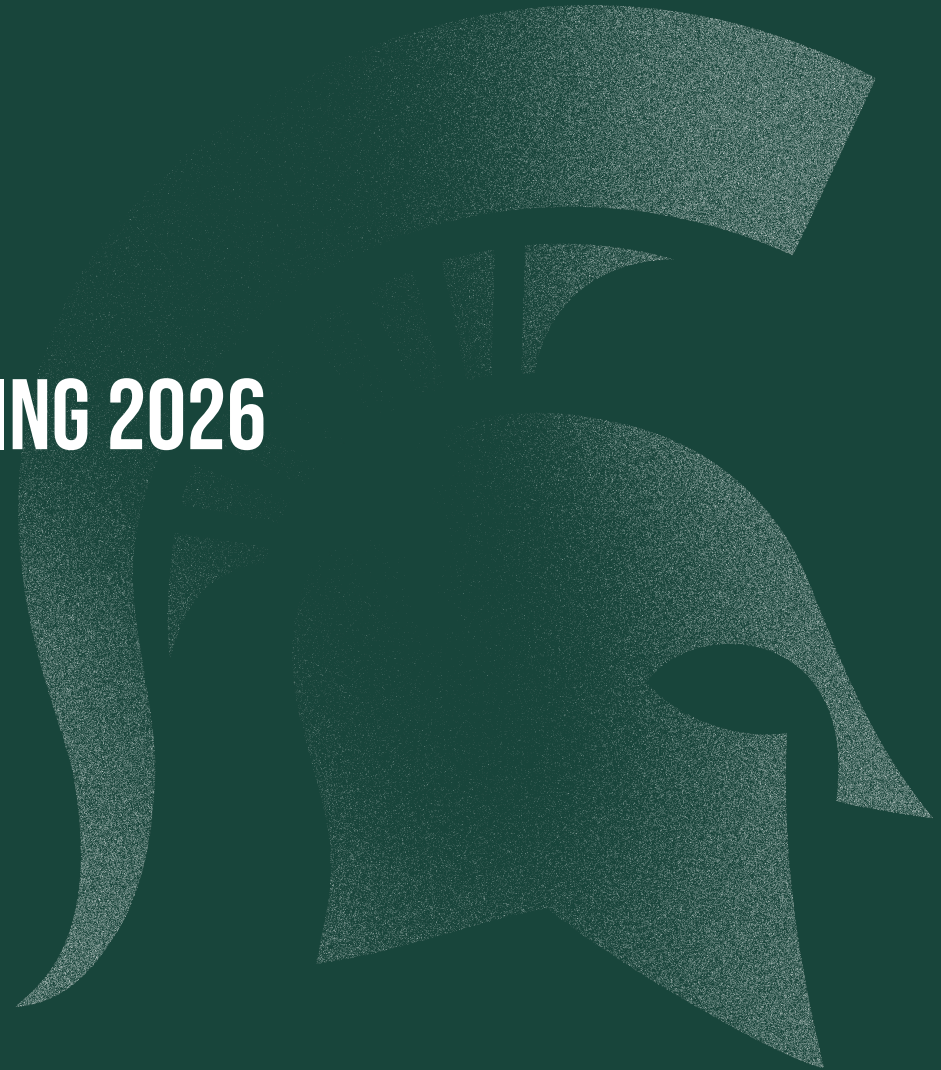


MICHIGAN PUBLIC OPINION ENTERING 2026

IPPSR APRIL FORUM

Corwin D. Smidt | IPPSR/MSU
April 2026



THREE TAKEAWAYS FROM MARCH SOSS

State of the State (SOSS) survey, 1000 YouGov panel respondents sampled and weighted to approximate Michigan adults

1. ECONOMIC DISCONTENT HAS NOT CLEARLY IMPROVED

2. TRUMP POPULARITY IN MICHIGAN HAS DROPPED TO BIDEN'S 2024 POPULARITY

3. THIS ENVIRONMENT FAVORS DEMOCRATS, BUT NOT ENTIRELY

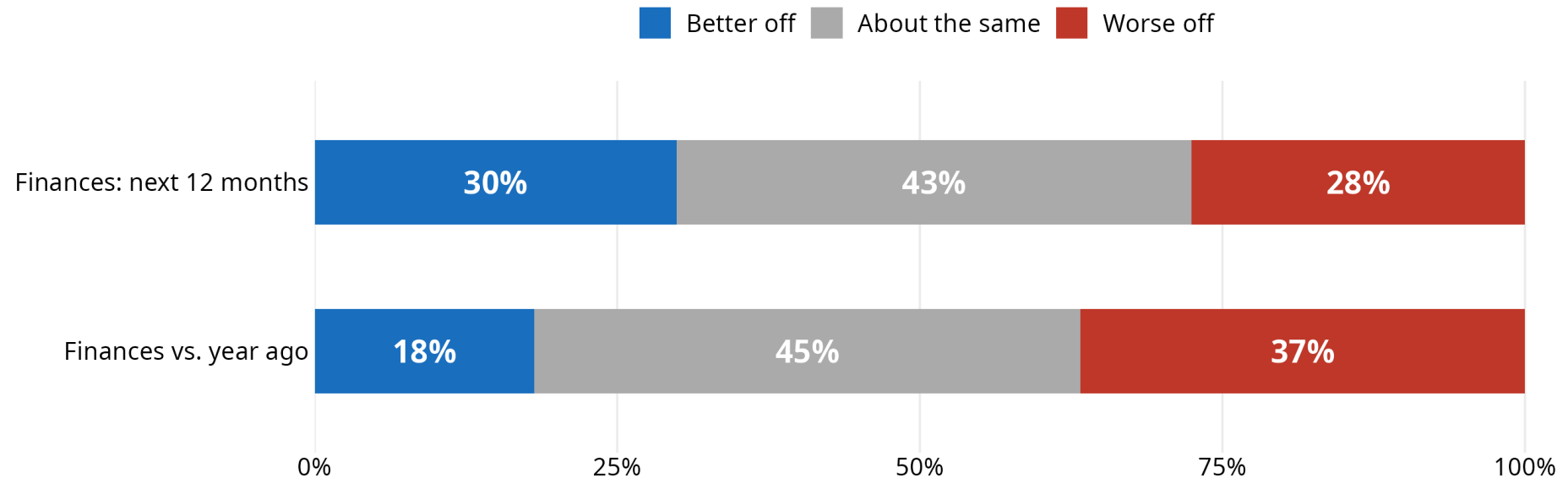


ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

PERSONAL FINANCES

Personal Finances (SOSS 93, March 2026)

Michigan residents' assessment of their household finances

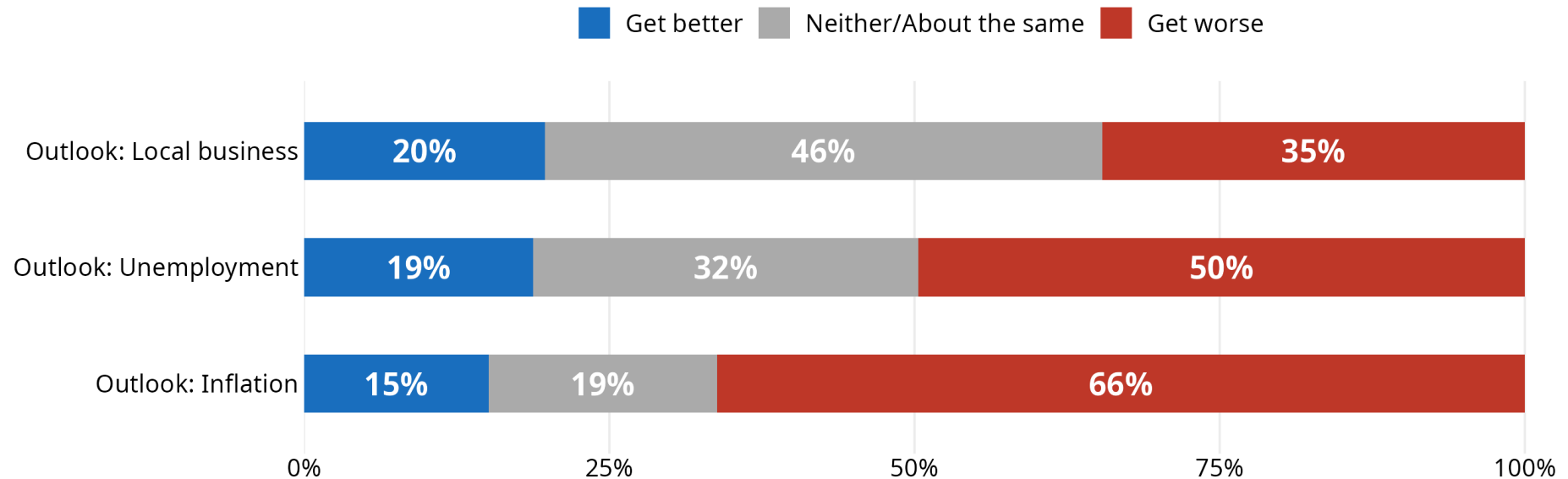


State of the State Survey No. 93 | IPPSR/Michigan State University
March 2026. N = 1,000. Survey weights applied.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Economic Outlook (SOSS 93, March 2026)

Michigan residents' expectations for inflation, unemployment, and local business

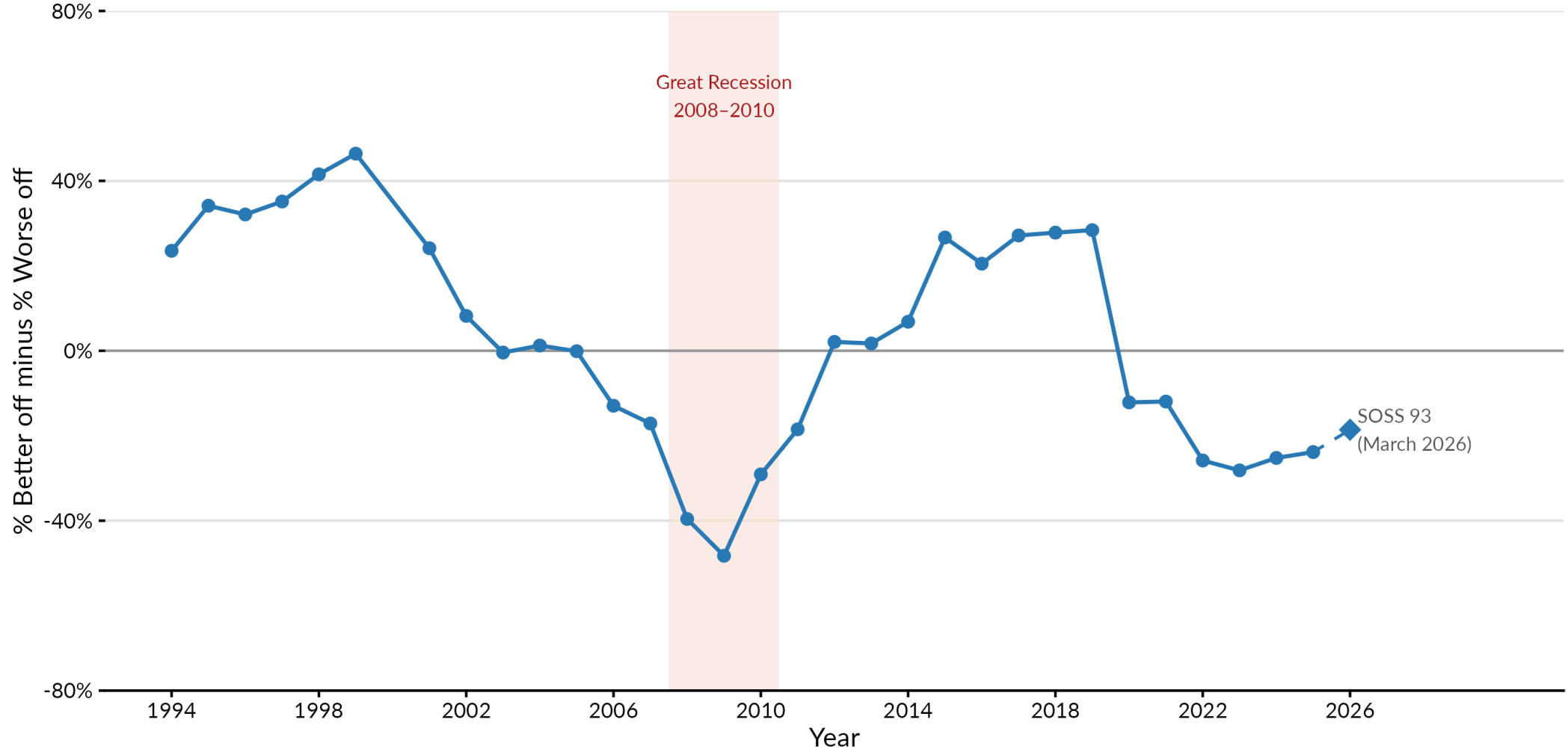


State of the State Survey No. 93 | IPPSR/Michigan State University
March 2026. N = 1,000. Survey weights applied.

RETROSPECTIVE FINANCIAL EVALUATION: HISTORICAL TREND

Michigan Residents' Net Retrospective Financial Evaluation (1994-2026)

Percent saying financially better off minus percent saying worse off vs. one year ago.

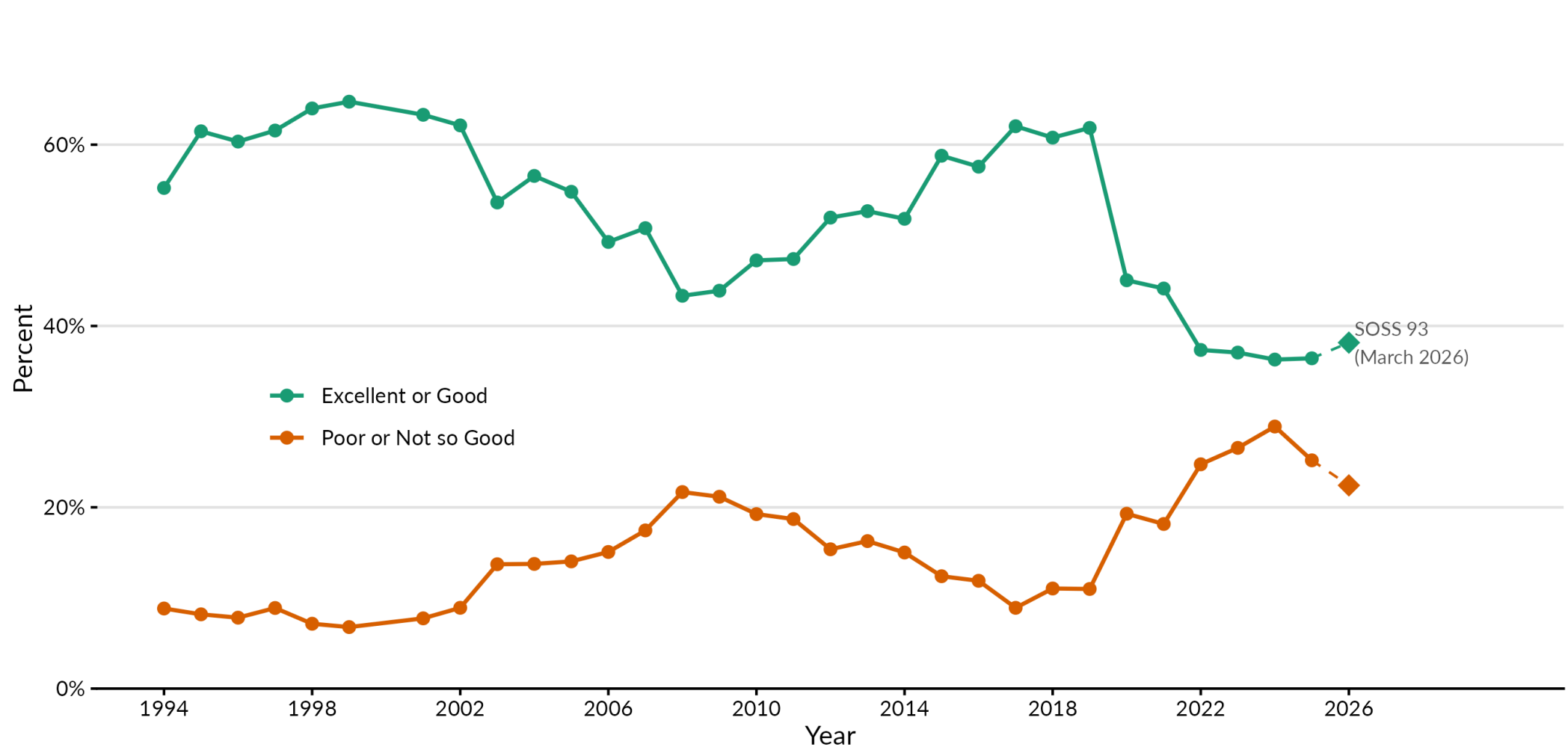


Source: State of the State Survey (SOSS) yearly averages, 1994-2025; SOSS 93 (March 2026) estimate. <https://ippsr.msu.edu>

CURRENT FINANCIAL RATING: HISTORICAL TREND

Michigan Residents' Average Overall Household Financial Evaluation (1994–2026)

Percent evaluating their household's overall financial situation these days.



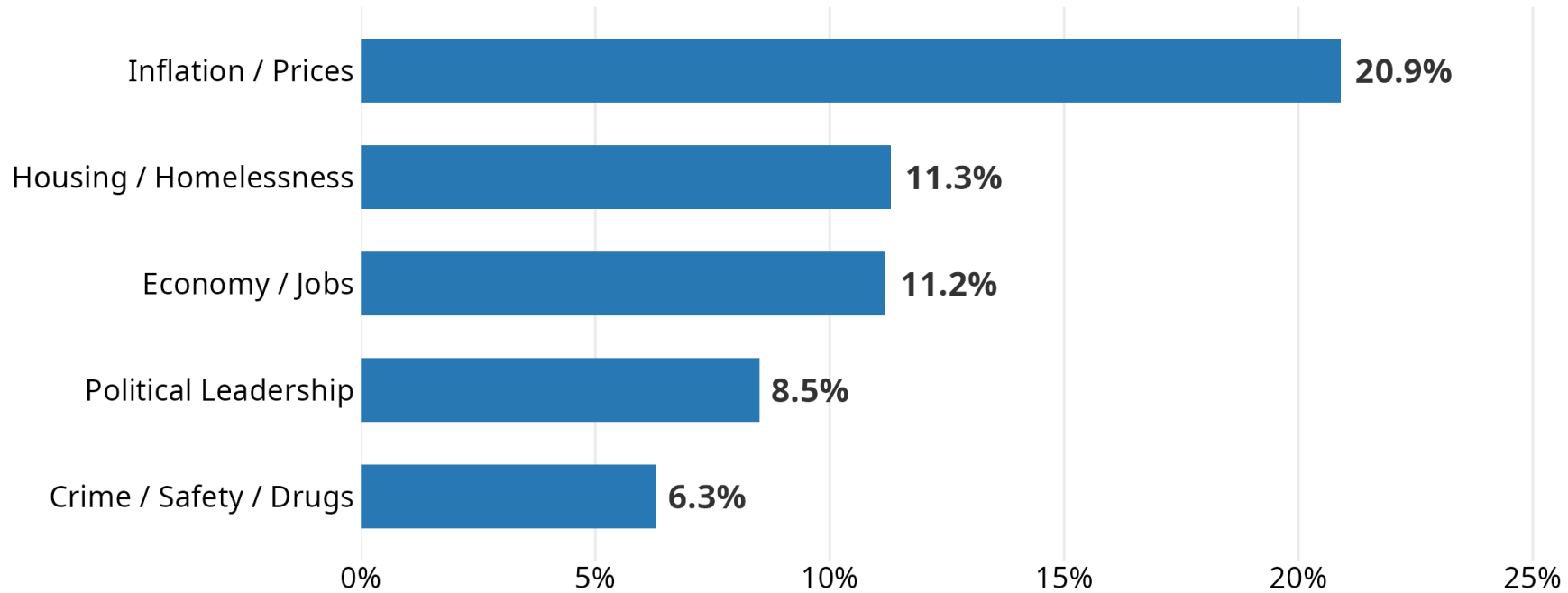


MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM

WHAT'S ON MICHIGANDERS' MINDS?

Most Important Problem Facing Michigan (SOSS 93, March 20

Top 5 categories among all respondents; 'Other/Unclear' excluded

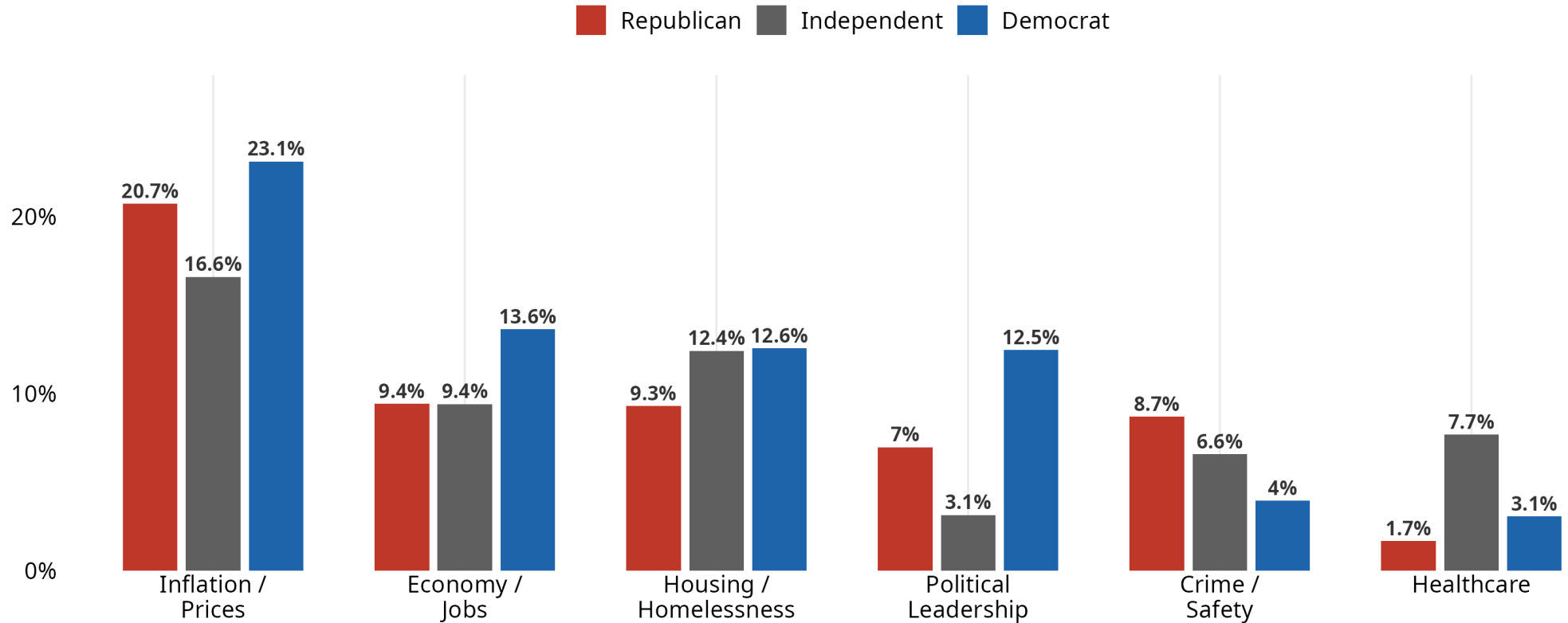


State of the State Survey No. 93 | IPPSR/Michigan State University
March 2026. N = 1,000. Survey weights applied.

MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM BY PARTY

Most Important Problem Facing Michigan by Party (SOSS 93, March 2026)

Top 5 categories overall; percent within each party group. 'Other/Unclear' excluded.



State of the State Survey No. 93 | IPPSR/Michigan State University
March 2026. N = 1,000. Survey weights applied.



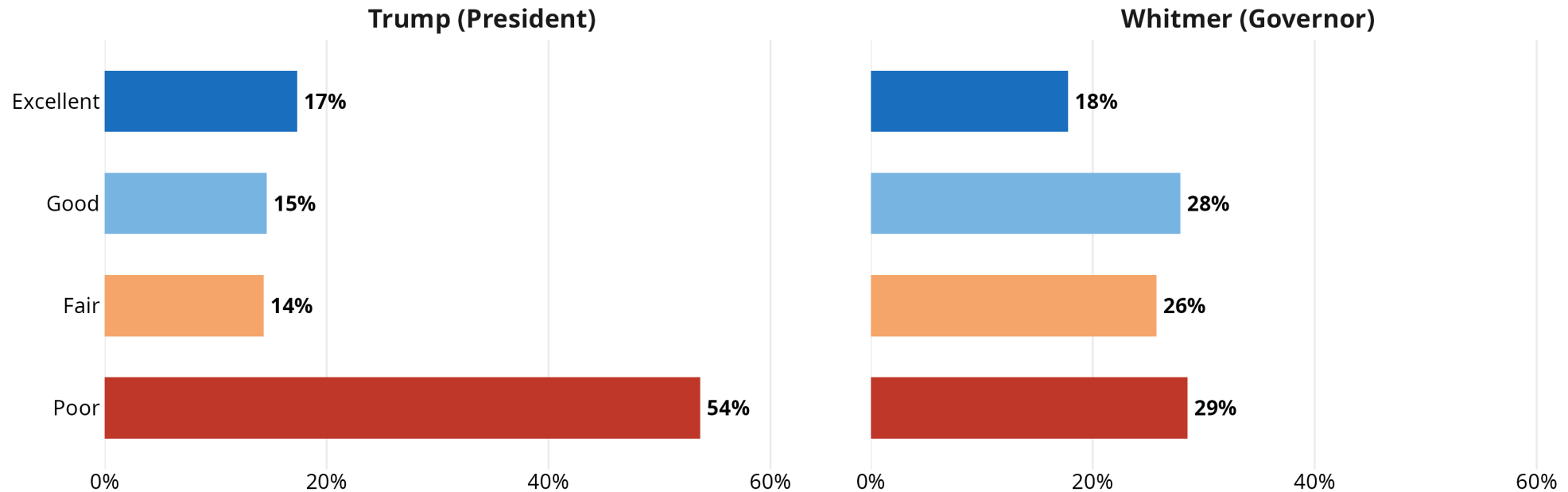
APPROVAL RATINGS

TRUMP VS. WHITMER APPROVAL (MARCH 2026)

Approval Ratings in Michigan (SOSS 93, March 2026)

Excellent + Good = approve; Fair + Poor = disapprove

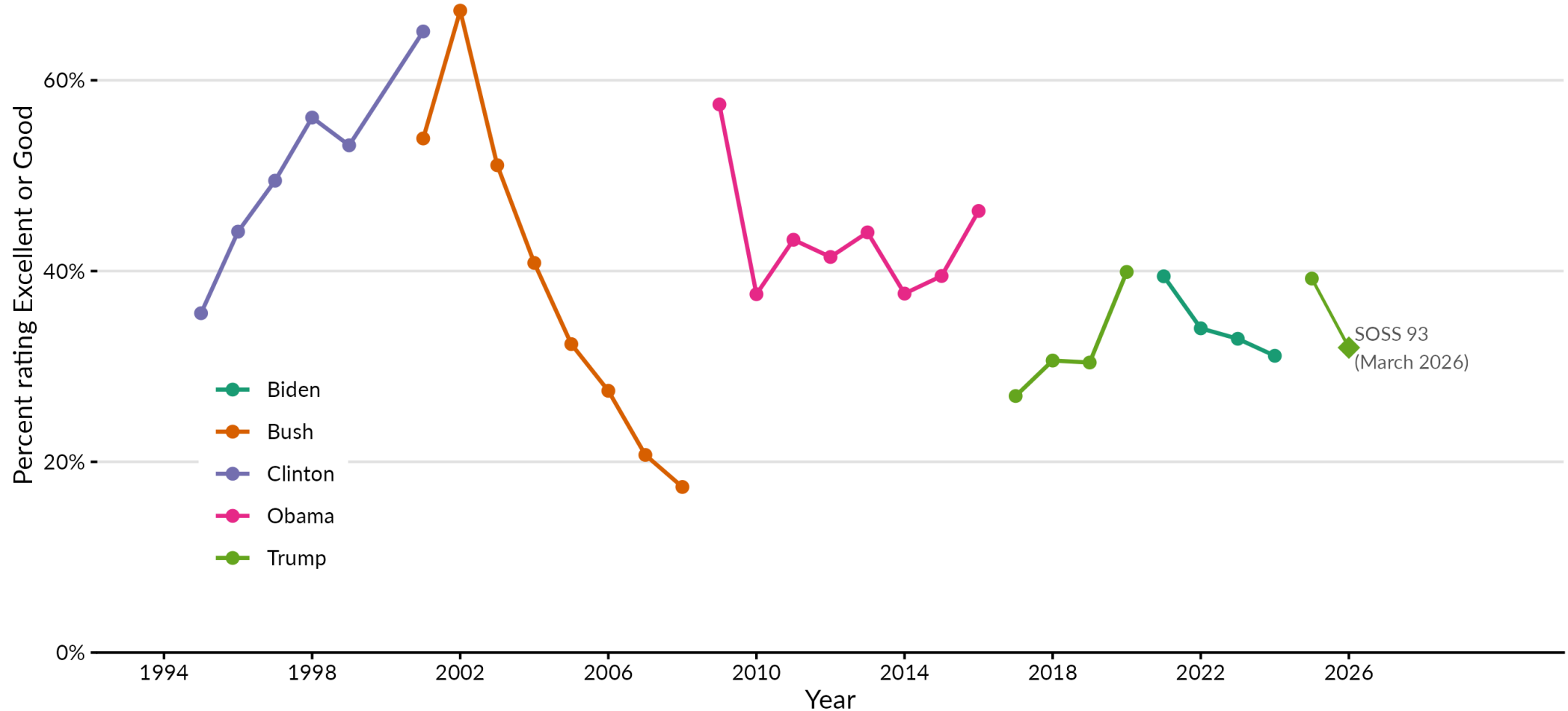
Excellent Good Fair Poor



State of the State Survey No. 93 | IPPSR/Michigan State University
March 2026. N = 1,000. Survey weights applied.

PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL: HISTORICAL TREND

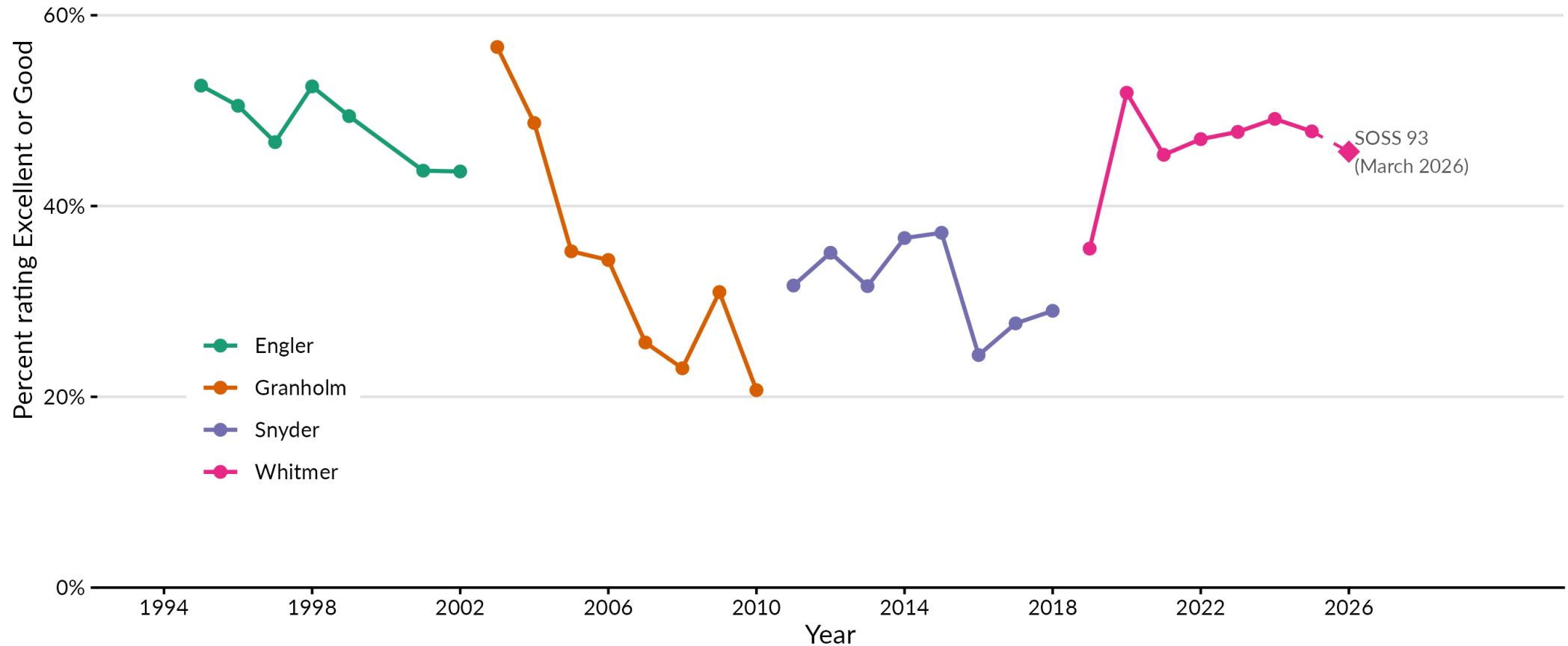
Michigan Residents' Performance Rating of Presidents (1994-2026)



Source: State of the State Survey (SOSS) yearly averages, 1994-2025; SOSS 93 (March 2026) estimate. <https://ippsr.msu.edu>

GOVERNOR APPROVAL: HISTORICAL TREND

Michigan Residents' Performance Rating of Governors (1994-2026)

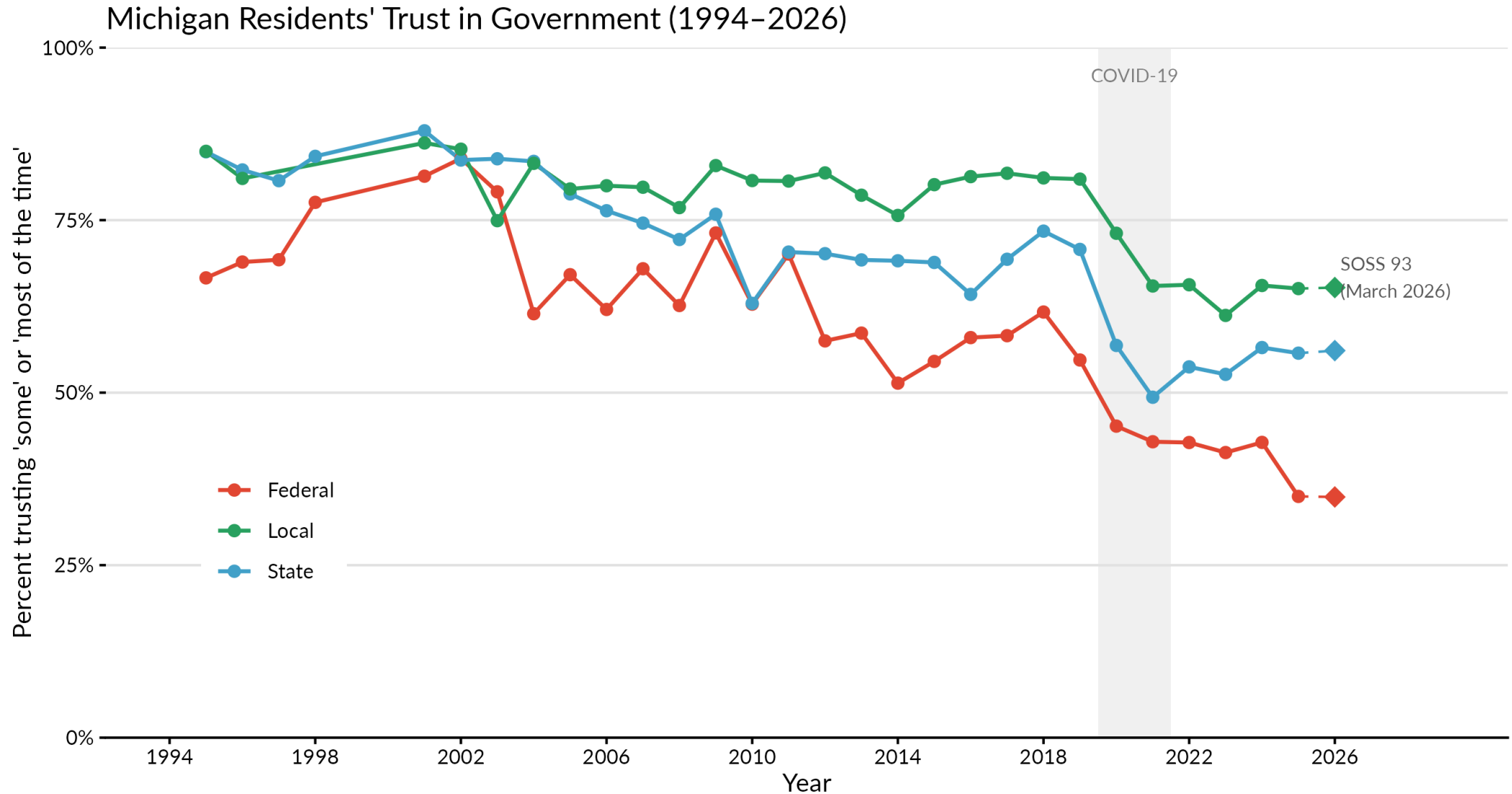


Source: State of the State Survey (SOSS) yearly averages, 1994-2025; SOSS 93 (March 2026) estimate. <https://ippsr.msu.edu>



POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

TRUST IN GOVERNMENT: HISTORICAL TREND

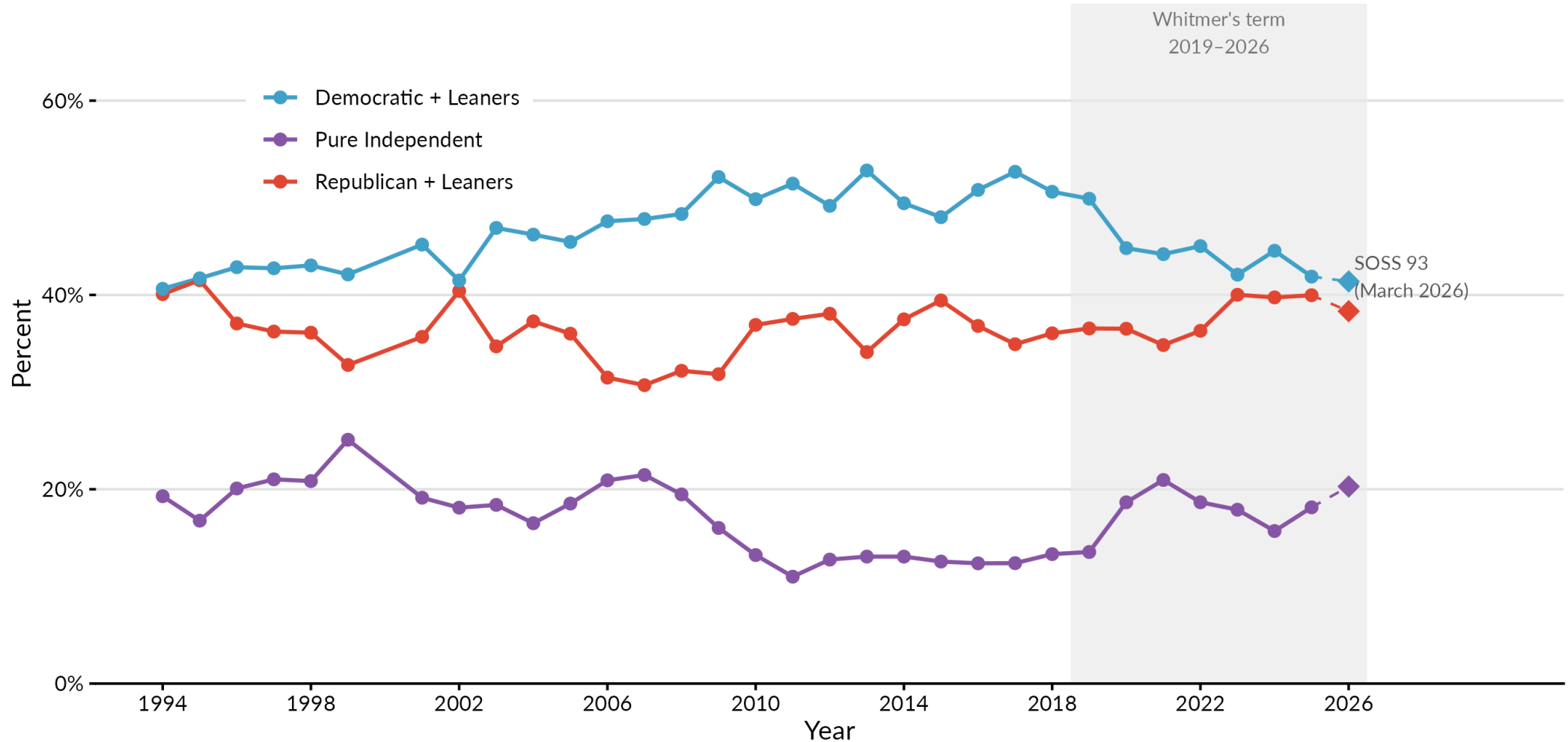


Source: State of the State Survey (SOSS) yearly averages, 1994-2025; SOSS 93 (March 2026) estimate. <https://ippsr.msu.edu>

PARTY IDENTIFICATION: HISTORICAL TREND

Michigan Residents' Party Identification with Leaners (1994-2026)

After narrowing to near-parity in 2025, the Democratic advantage widened slightly in March 2026.

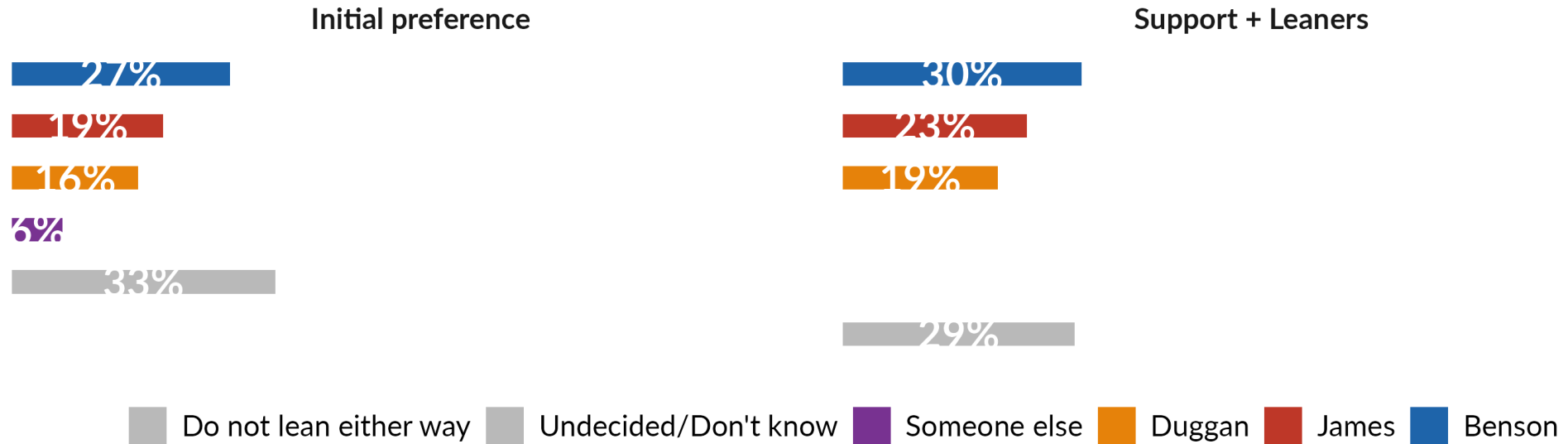


Source: State of the State Survey (SOSS) yearly averages, 1994-2025; SOSS 93 (March 2026) estimate. <https://ippsr.msu.edu>

GOVERNOR PREFERENCE

2026 Michigan Governor's Matchup Poll

Among Michigan adult residents – March 2026

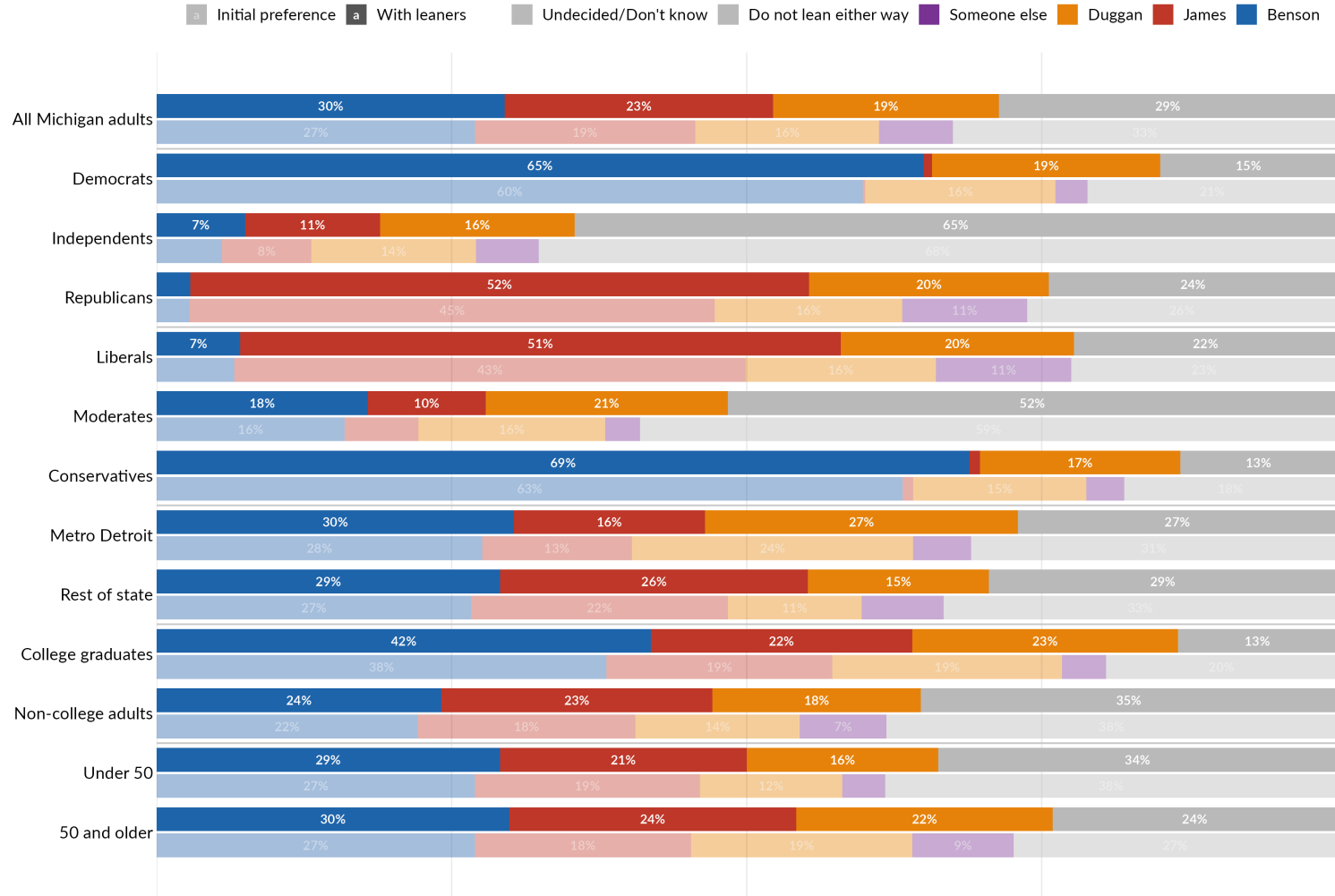


State of the State Survey No. 93 | IPPSR/Michigan State University
N = 1,000. Left: initial vote choice. Right: includes follow-up leaners.

GOVERNOR PREFERENCE BY GROUP

2026 Michigan Governor's Race

Michigan adult residents (SOSS 93, March 2026)



Source: State of the State Survey No. 93, IPPSR/Michigan State University. N = 1,000. Faded bars = initial preference; solid bars = includes leaners.

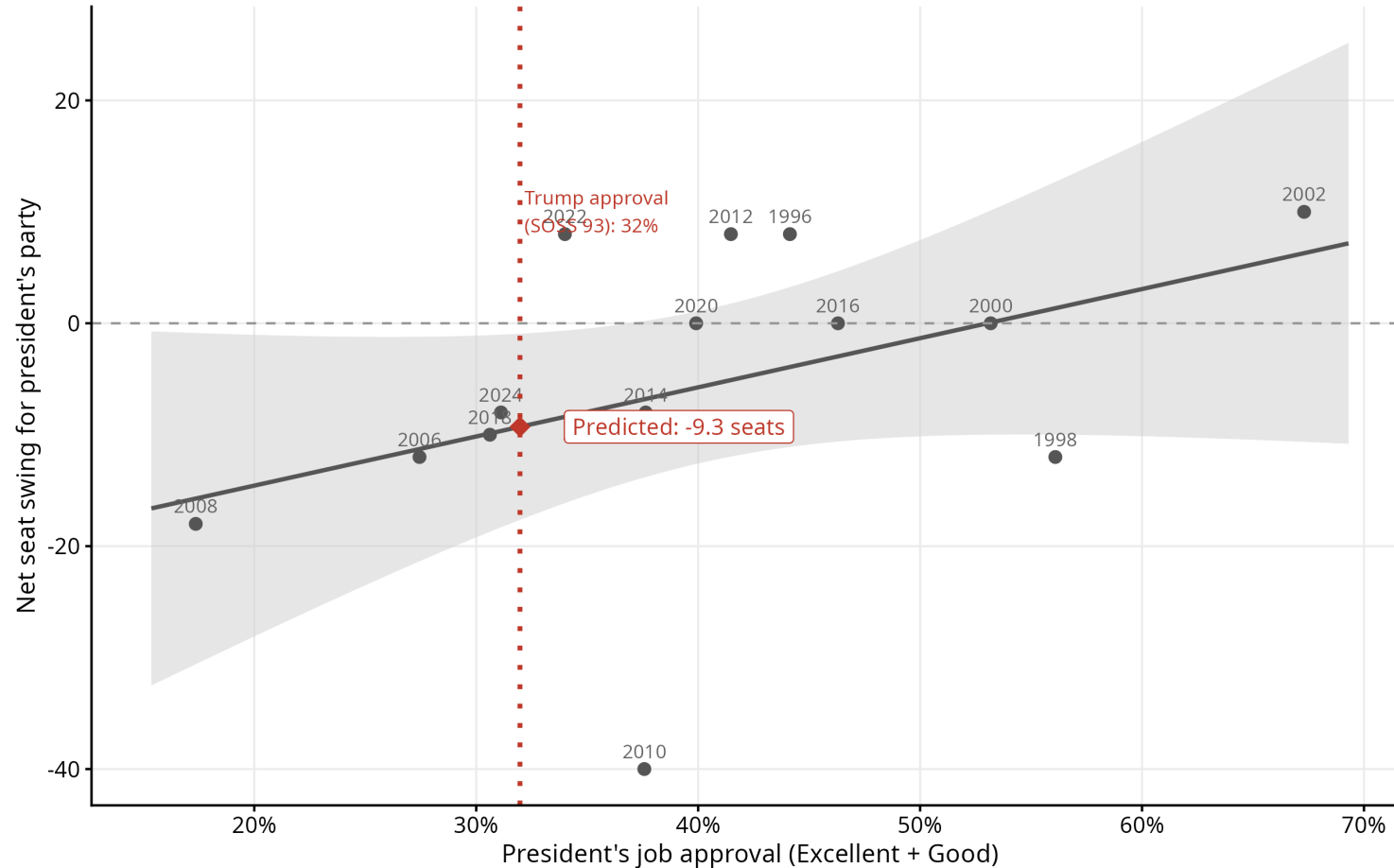


MICHIGAN HOUSE SEAT SWING PROJECTIONS

PRESIDENTIAL ACCOUNTABILITY MODEL: APPROVAL

Michigan House Seat Swing: Presidential Accountability Model

Historical relationship between presidential approval and seat swing for the president's party in the Michigan House

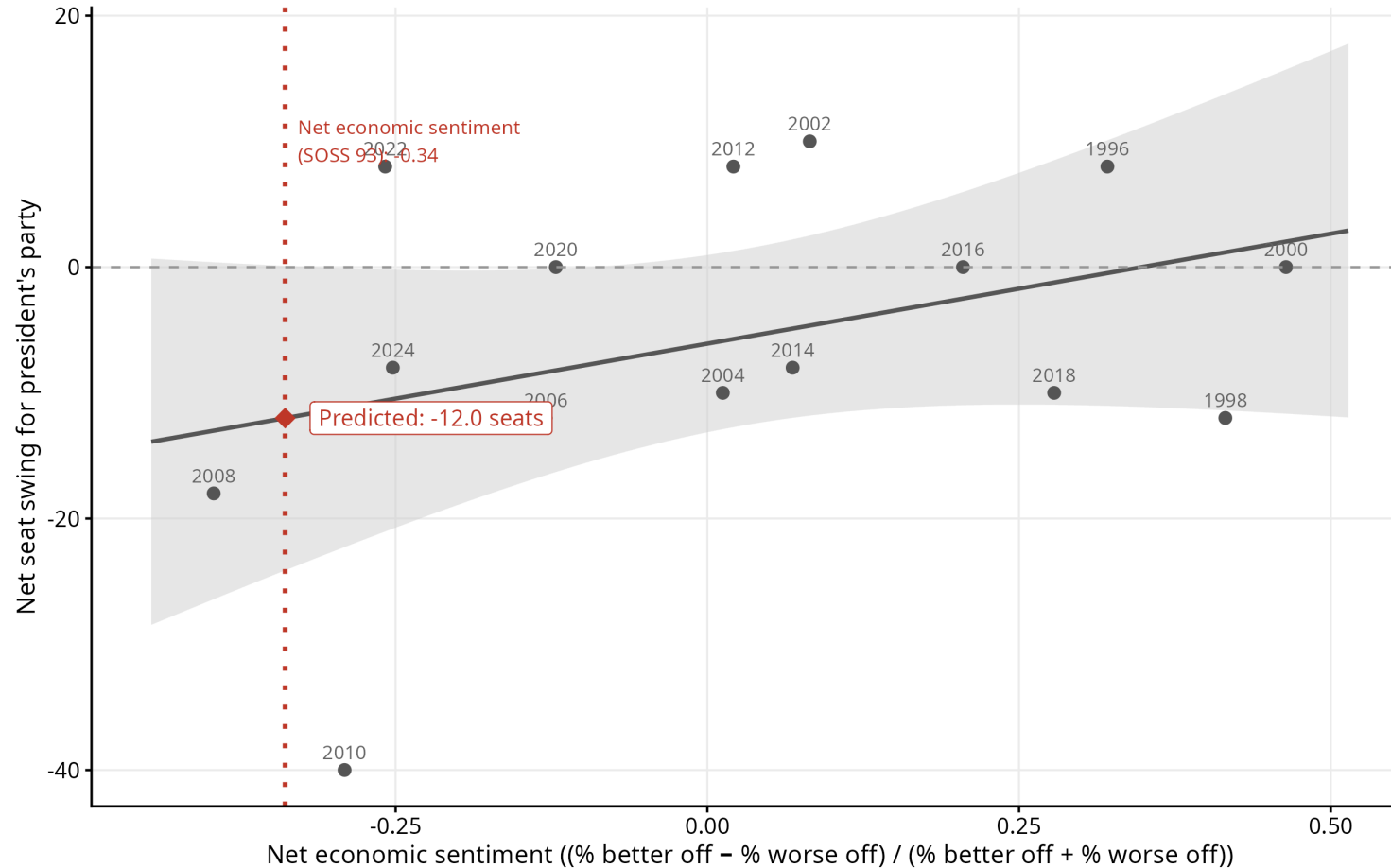


Historical data: MI Secretary of State / IPPSR SOSS series (1994–2024). Positive swing = president's party gains seats. Current approval from SOSS 93 (March 2026).

PRESIDENTIAL ACCOUNTABILITY MODEL: ECONOMIC SENTIMENT

Michigan House Seat Swing: Presidential Economic Model

Historical relationship between economic sentiment and seat swing for the president's party in the Michigan House (slope positive but not statistically significant)

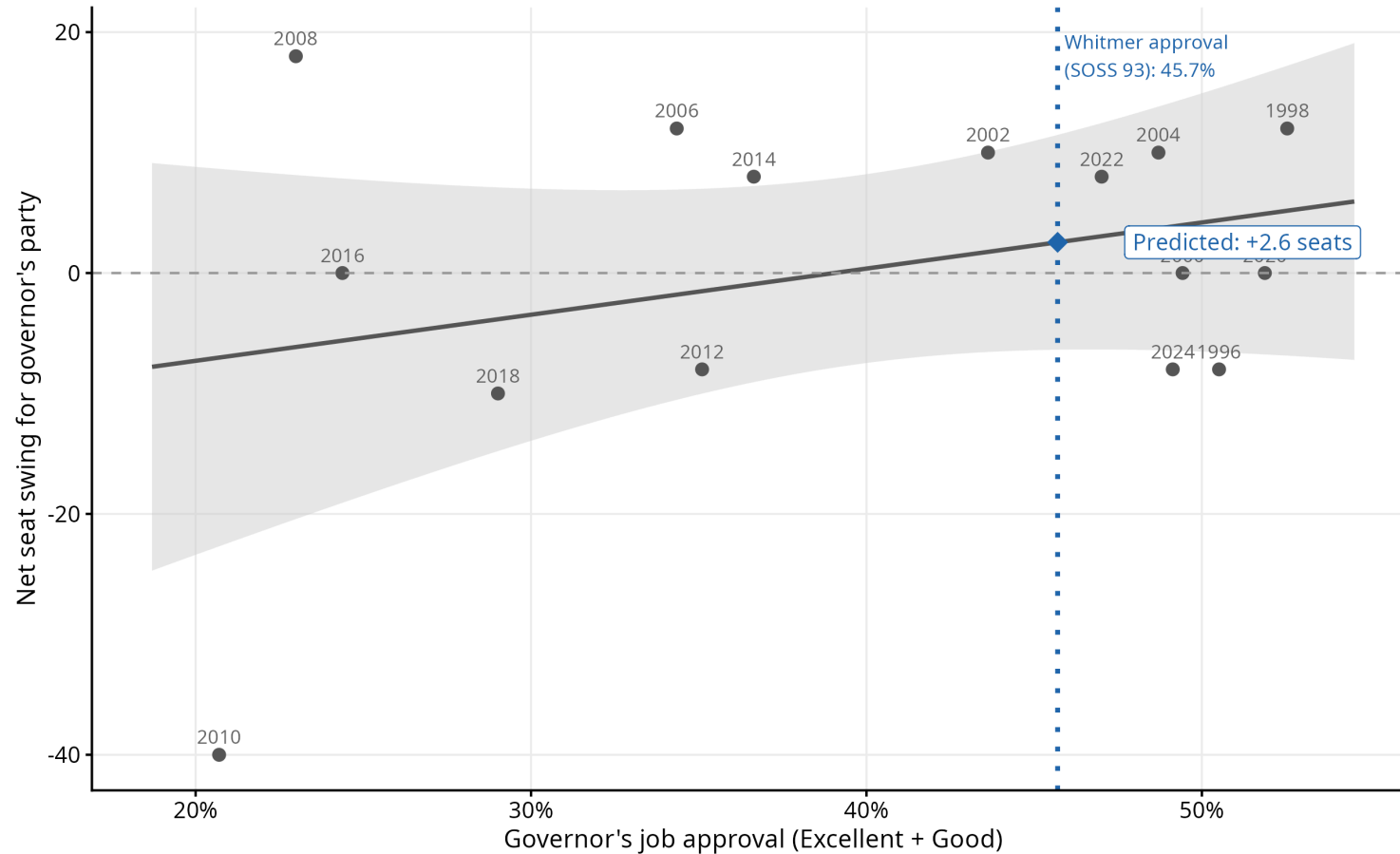


Historical data: MI Secretary of State / IPPSR SOSS series (1994-2024). Positive swing = president's party gains seats. Economic sentiment from SOSS 93 (March 2026).

GUBERNATORIAL ACCOUNTABILITY MODEL: APPROVAL

Michigan House Seat Swing: Gubernatorial Accountability Model

Historical relationship between governor approval and seat swing for the governor's party in the Michigan House

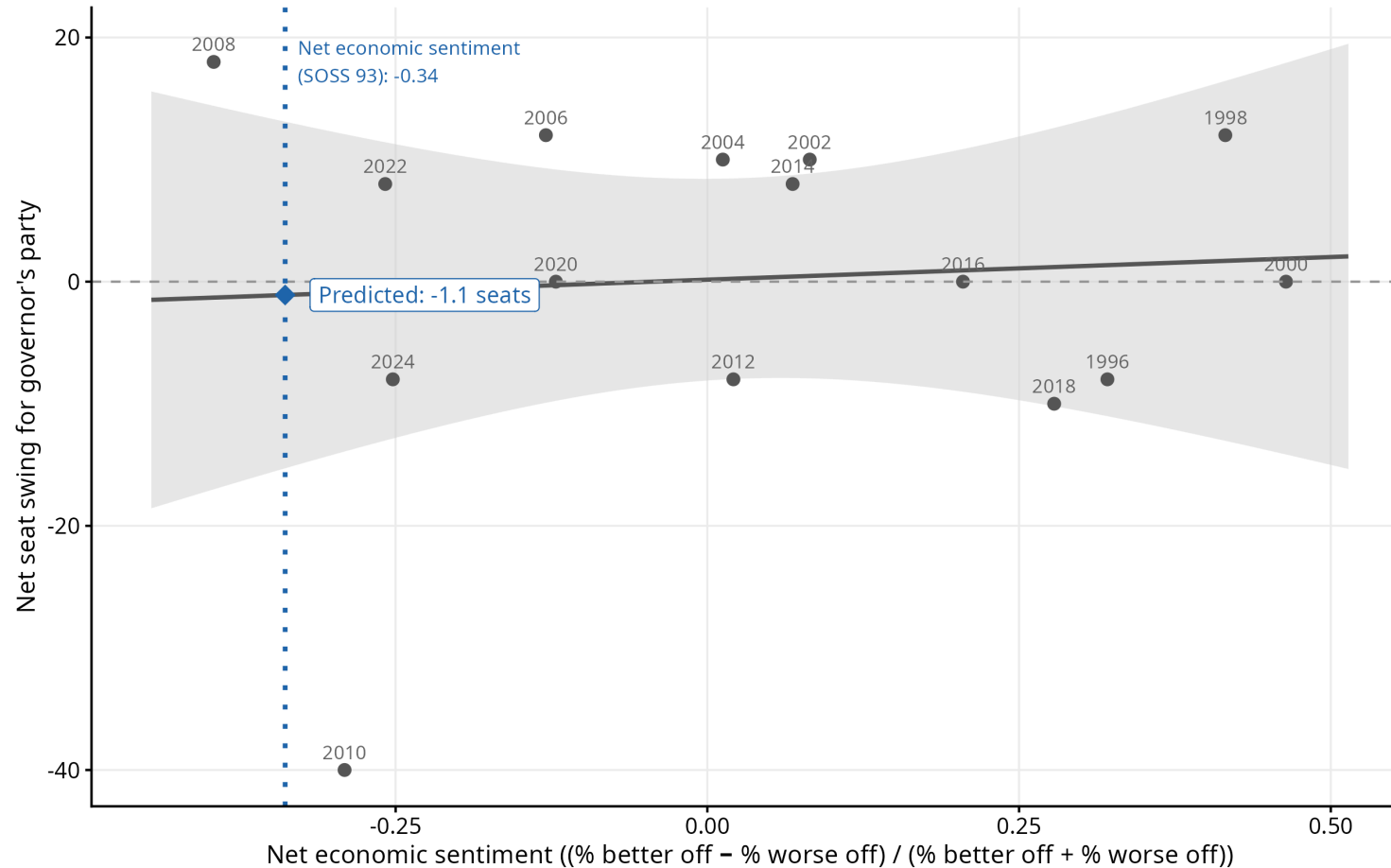


Historical data: MI Secretary of State / IPPSR SOSS series (1994-2024). Positive swing = governor's party gains seats. Current approval from SOSS 93 (March 2026).

GUBERNATORIAL ACCOUNTABILITY MODEL: ECONOMIC SENTIMENT

Michigan House Seat Swing: Gubernatorial Economic Model

Historical relationship between economic sentiment and seat swing for the governor's party in the Michigan House (slope near zero and not statistically significant)



Historical data: MI Secretary of State / IPPSR SOSS series (1994-2024). Positive swing = governor's party gains seats. Economic sentiment from SOSS 93 (March 2026).

SUMMARY

THE FUNDAMENTALS

- An unpopular president and negative economic sentiment point toward a favorable environment for Democrats in 2026.

BUT...

Consistently low trust and the relative rise of independents, open door for outsiders and independents, especially with prominent independent governor candidate.

The closest comparison years (2008, 2010, 2022) show a wide range of possible outcomes — from tide, to wave, to near-status quo.

DATA & METHODS

- **Survey:** IPPSR State of the State Survey No. 93, conducted March 2–24, 2026
- **N:** 1,000 Michigan adult residents via YouGov online panel
- **Weights:** YouGov rake weights; additional electorate weights for gubernatorial preference
- **Seat swing models:** OLS regression of net MI House seat swing on presidential/gubernatorial approval and net economic sentiment, 1994–2024 (SOSS series)
- **Historical trends:** SOSS yearly averages, 1994–2025

SOSS 93 data, code, and full methodology: <https://ippsr.msu.edu>