

# **10<sup>th</sup> Michigan Policy Insiders Panel (MPIP)**

## **And**

# **82<sup>nd</sup> State of the State Survey (SOSS)**

## **Brief Report**

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## OVERVIEW

This report is a summary of some of the key findings from MPIP Round 10 and SOSS 82. Both surveys were run in the Fall of 2021. Most of the sections are a comparison of the two populations on the same or similar questions. A few of the sections reported were only asked of either the MPIP or SOSS respondents.

The Michigan Policy Insiders Panel (MPIP) is a project of 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 goal is to understand how policymakers learn about state problems, develop political influence, and interact to produce policy solutions.

The targeted population for the MPIP panel included all persons regarded as "political insiders" in the State of Michigan. This included high-ranking members of state government agencies, current members of Michigan's Legislature and their staff assistants, association and corporate lobbyists, state relations officers, think tanks, public relations professionals, and state political media personnel. The panel, originally created in 2016, continues to be expanded with the most recent invitations to join the panel being sent in 2021.

The MPIP Round 10 survey was fielded from September 16, 2021 to October 8, 2021. Email invitations were sent to 759 MPIP panel members on September 16, and reminder emails were sent on September 27, September 30, October 4, and October 6 to those who had not yet completed the questionnaire by the time of the reminder. During this time, 248 respondents accessed the survey (32.7 percent of the panelists) and 200 completed it. Of the 248 who accessed the survey, 80.6 percent completed it. The overall completion rate for the study is 26.4 percent<sup>1</sup>. MPIP panel respondents will be referred to as "MPIP Insiders" throughout the report.

The State of the State Survey (SOSS) which is a Michigan general adult population survey that has been run since 1994 either as a RDD telephone survey or as a YouGov web panel survey. The current survey (Wave 82) was completed as a YouGov panel survey with data collection from September 3, 2021 to September 27, 2021. A total of 1,030 interviews were completed by Michigan adult residents with 1,000 included in the final dataset after some cases were excluded during the calibration process used to assign weights. An additional 501 Michigan parents were interviewed and after calibration a total of 500 were included in the dataset. A total of 1,500 cases were delivered to OSR for analysis<sup>2</sup>. SOSS respondents will be referred to as "general public" throughout the report.

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<sup>1</sup> The formula for calculating the completion rate was Completed Interviews (CI) divided by the sum of Completed Interviews (CI), Respondent Refusals (R), and Non Interviews (NI) minus Ineligible Respondents (IE) (respondents who after selection into the sample are determined not to meet study criteria). No one was eliminated from the denominator due to being ineligible for the study. The completion rate for this study is calculated as  $200 / 759 = .264$ .

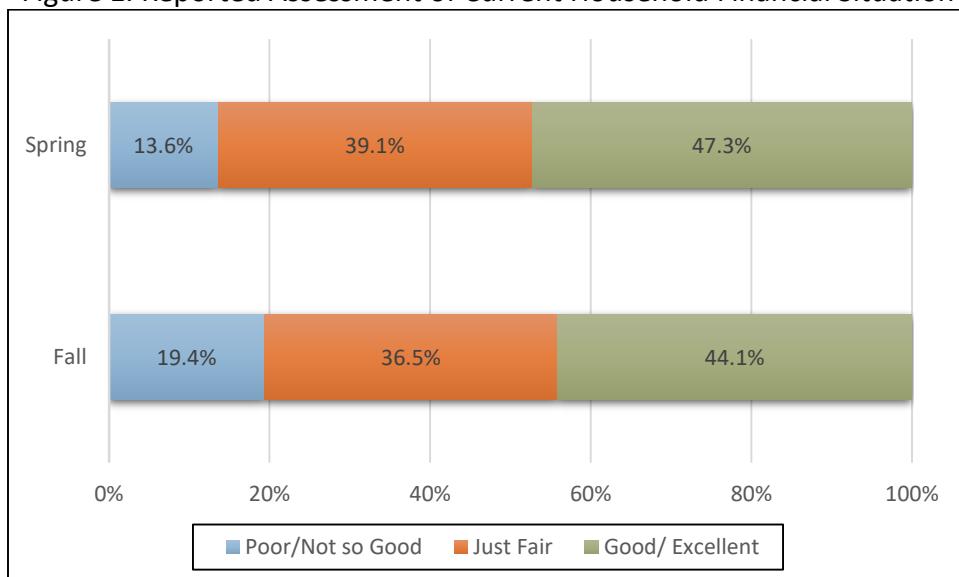
<sup>2</sup> Due to proprietary reasons, YouGov does not provide the initial number of individuals invited to participate in the study, and therefore calculation of a response rate is not possible.

## RESULTS

### Section A. Economic Optimism

MPIP Insiders were not asked to assess the state of economic conditions in Michigan for this round, but the Fall 2021 State of the State Survey (SOSS) respondents were. First, respondents were asked about their own household's financial situation (including their family living with them). The questionnaire asked, *"How would you rate your household's overall financial situation these days?"* Their responses to this item in the current round (Fall 2021) and the previous round of SOSS (Spring 2021) are summarized in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Reported Assessment of Current Household Financial Situation



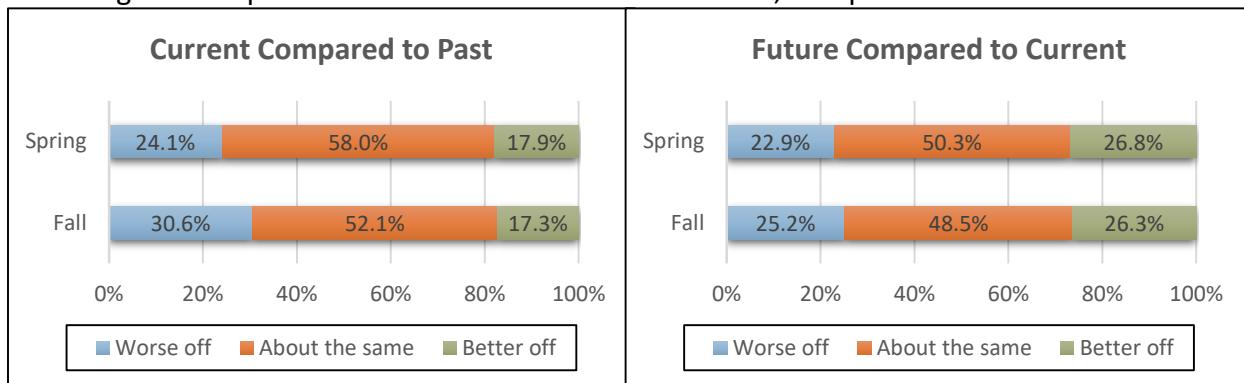
SOSS Sample sizes: Spring 2021 = 1000, Fall 2021 = 1499

Figure 1 shows a general decrease in the SOSS panelists' views of their personal household financials. In particular:

- 47 percent of Spring 2021 SOSS respondents rated their current household financial situation *Good or Excellent*, compared to 44 percent of the Fall 2021 SOSS respondents.
- 14 percent of Spring 2021 SOSS respondents rated their financial situation *Poor or Not so Good*. By comparison, 19 percent of the Fall 2021 SOSS respondents rated their financial situation *Not Poor or Not so Good*.

Next, they were asked whether they are currently better off, worse off, or about the same as they were a year ago. In addition, they were asked whether they think that a year from now, they will be better off, worse off, or about the same as they are now.

Figure 2. Reported Assessment of Financial Situation, Compared to Past and Future



SOSS Sample sizes: Spring 2021 = 998/998, Fall 2021 = 1498/1499

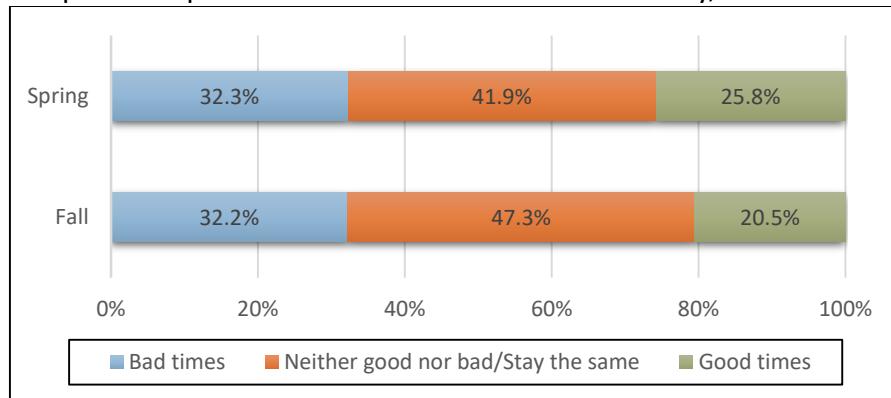
The results of these items, for both Spring 2021 and the Fall 2021, are presented in Figure 2, which shows that:

- There was a general increase in those that reported that they were worse off compared to a year ago with 24 percent reporting worse off in Spring 2021 and 31 percent reporting the same in Fall 2021.
- The percent reporting better off now than a year ago remained approximately the same (18 percent vs. 17 percent).
- More felt that their financial situation would be worse off in a year in Fall 2021 (25 percent) compared to Spring 2021 (23 percent).
- Slightly more reported in Fall 2021 (25 percent) that they be worse off than they were a year than those that reported it in Spring 2021 (23 percent).
- Approximately the same percent in Spring 2021 (27 percent) and Fall 2021 (26 percent) felt that their financial situation would be better.

SOSS respondents were also asked in both Spring 2021 and Fall 2021, "*Now turning to business conditions in your community, do you think that during the next twelve months your community will have good times financially, or bad times financially?*"

The responses to this item for both Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 are summarized in Figure 3. Figure 3 shows that general public were somewhat more pessimistic in their expectations about their communities' financial situations in Fall 2021 than in Spring 2021.

Figure 3. Reported Expected Financial Situation in Community, Over Next 12 Months



SOSS Sample sizes: Spring 2021 = 995, Fall 2021 = 995

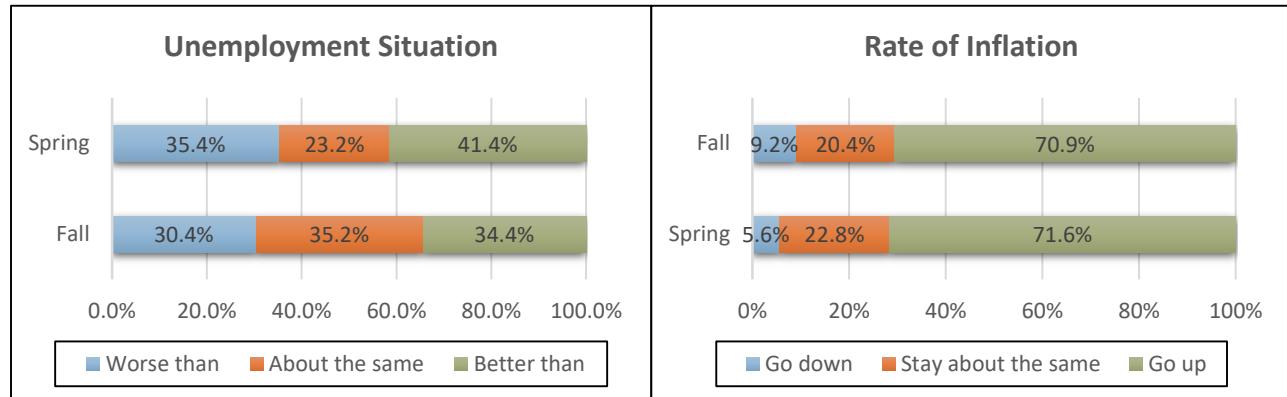
In particular:

- There was decrease between Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 in the percent of general public who felt that the financial situation in their community would be good (26 percent vs. 21 percent).
- Those who believed the economic situation in their community would stay the same increased between Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 (42 percent vs. 47 percent).
- The percent that felt that there would be bad financial times stayed the same between Spring 2021 and Fall 2021.

SOSS respondents were then asked for their expectations about certain economic indicators for the country as a whole over the next 12 months. The questionnaire asked:

- “*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 twelve 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?*”

Figure 4. Reported Expected Change in Economic Indicators, Over Next 12 Months



SOSS Sample sizes: Spring 2021 = 995, Fall 2021 = 995

Figure 4 reports the results for these two variables for SOSS Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 surveys of Michigan residents. Specifically, the figures show:

- A decrease between Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 of the percent that believed unemployment would improve (41 percent vs. 34 percent).
- A decrease between Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 of the percent that believed the unemployment situation would get worse (35 percent vs. 30 percent).
- There was little change between Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 in percent of SOSS respondents who felt that inflation would go up with both surveys showing almost three-quarters (71 percent) of the respondents believing that the rate of inflation would go up.

## Section B. Assessment of Political Leaders

MPIP Panelists were also asked to measure their personal assessments of particular elected officials and political parties. First, the questionnaire asked panelists to rate the performance Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer and United States President Joe Biden as *excellent*, *good*, *fair*, or *poor*. The same question had appeared on previous waves of the MPIP survey, including about then-Governor Rick Snyder and then-President Donald Trump. Parallel questions were not asked of SOSS respondents during all of the same time periods. Figure 5 shows the mean approval rating of these executives at each time point.

Figure 5. Mean Approval Ratings of Executives, Tracked Over Time

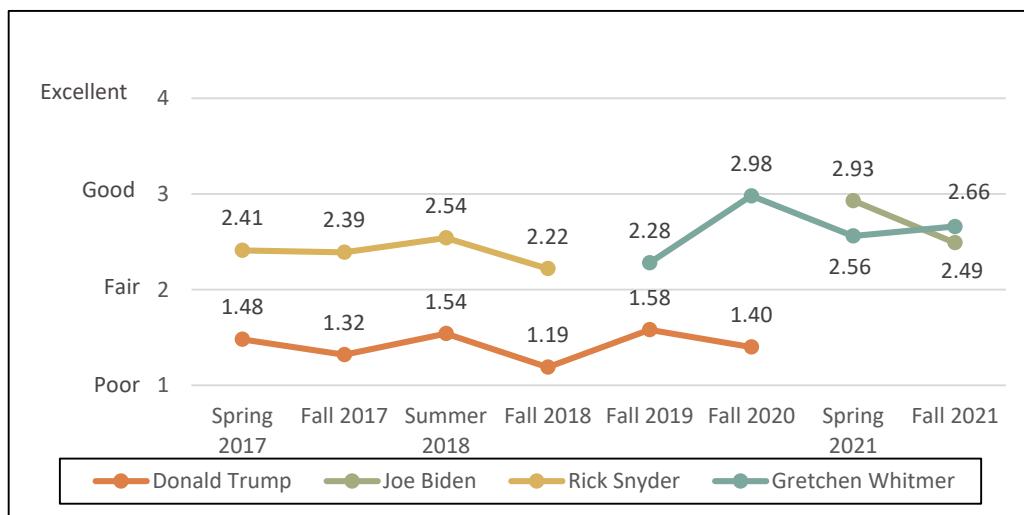


Figure 5 indicates that:

- Governor Whitmer received an average rating of 2.66 out of 4.00 from the MPIP Insiders in Fall 2021 (which corresponds approximately to a *fair* to *good* rating and represents an increase from 2.56 in Spring 2021).
- President Biden received an average rating of 2.49 out of 4.00 in Fall 2021 (which corresponds approximately to a *fair* to *good* rating and represents a decrease from 2.93 in Spring 2021).

The performance evaluation questions for President Biden and Governor Whitmer were also asked of the general public of Michigan during SOSS Fall 2021. The opinions expressed about each executive's performance by both of these populations are summarized in Table 1. The results indicate that:

- Compared to the general public in the State of Michigan, the MPIP Insiders gave a favorable

assessments of Governor Whitmer. Whereas she enjoyed a +17.0 net approval rating (*excellent* and *good* minus *fair* and *poor*) among insiders, her net approval was -12.1 among the general public.

- MPIP Insiders also gave President Biden a favorable assessment with a +17.0 net approval rating, compared to the general public of -24.1 His mean support reported by the general public was equivalent to a *fair* score.

Table 1. Reported Evaluations of Whitmer and Biden

	MPIP (State Insiders)	SOSS (General Public)
<b>Gretchen Whitmer</b>		
Net Approval	+17.00	-12.1
Mean Support	2.66	2.24
<b>Joe Biden</b>		
Net Approval	+17.00	-24.1
Mean Support	2.49	2.05

### Section C. 2022 State of Michigan Election Expectations

MPIP Panelists were asked a series of questions about their expectations for the 2022 Governor and State Legislature Elections. Parallel questions were not asked of SOSS respondents. In terms of the Governor's race, they were asked "*Do you think Gretchen Whitmer will win re-election in 2022?*". A total of 89.5% responded that they anticipated she would win re-election.

Figure 6: Governor Whitmer Re-election Expectations by Party Affiliation

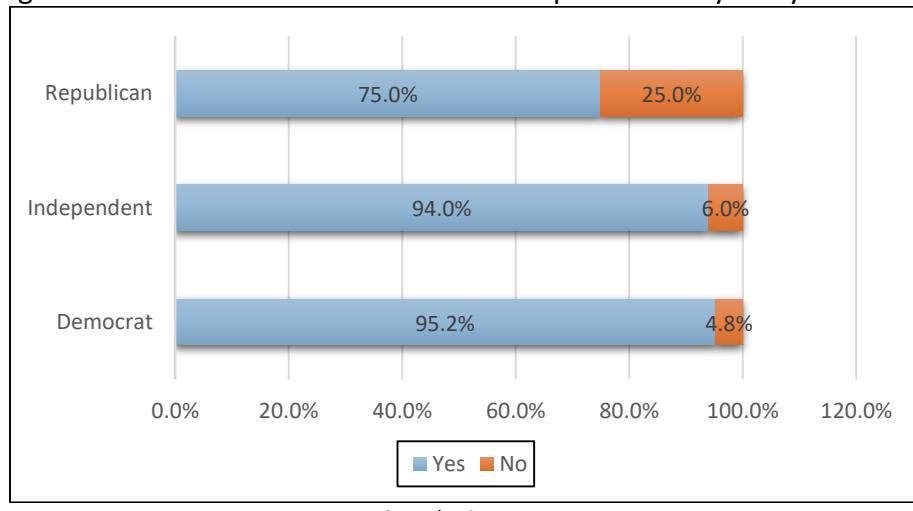


Figure 6 compares the governor's race expectations across political party affiliation. As would be expected, differences were apparent across party affiliations.

In particular:

- 75 percent of Republicans expected Governor Whitmer to be re-elected.

- Independents and Democrats were much more likely to expect her to be re-elected, 94 percent and 95 percent respectively.

MPIP Insiders were also asked about their expectations for the State Legislature races in terms of Republican seats – “*How do you expect Republicans to do in the 2022 elections to the Michigan House of Representatives?*” and “*How do you expect Republicans to do in the 2022 elections to the Michigan Senate?*”

Figure 7 compares MPIP Insiders responses for the State House of Representative and the State Senate and indicates:

- Over half of the Insiders predicted that the Republicans will lose seats, but maintain control in both the State House of Representatives (54 percent) and State Senate (62 percent).
- Over one-third of the Insiders predicted that the Republicans would gain seats in the House (34 percent) and over one-quarter predicted that the Republicans would gain seats in the Senate (27 percent).
- Less than one in eight predicted that the Republicans would loss control in either the House (11 percent) or the Senate (12 percent).

Figure 7: Expectations of Republican Party Maintaining Control in 2022 State Elections

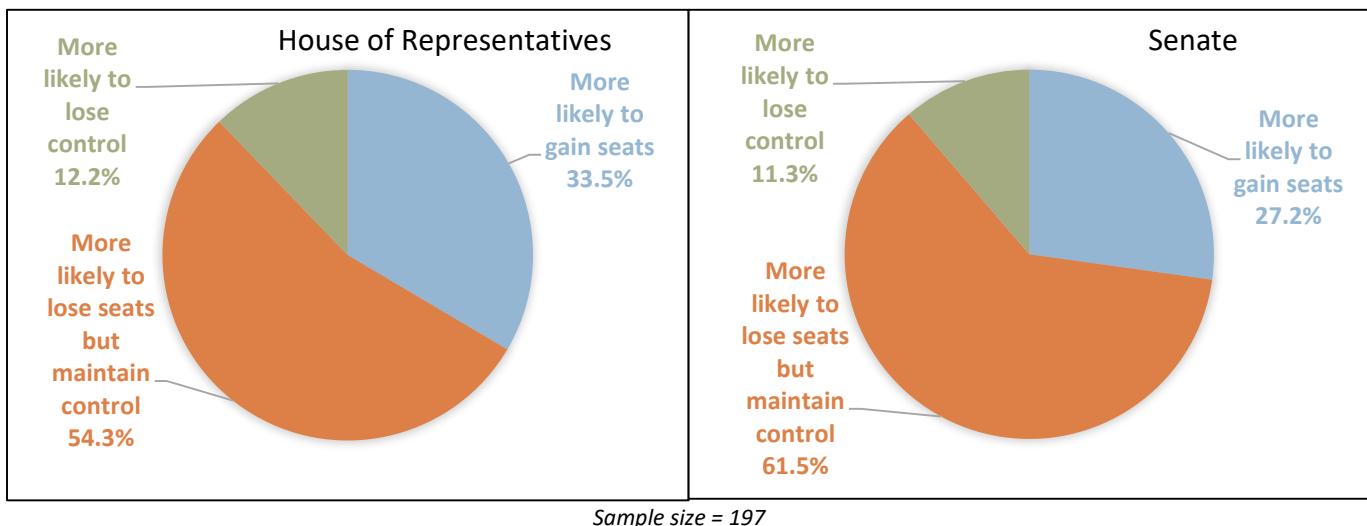
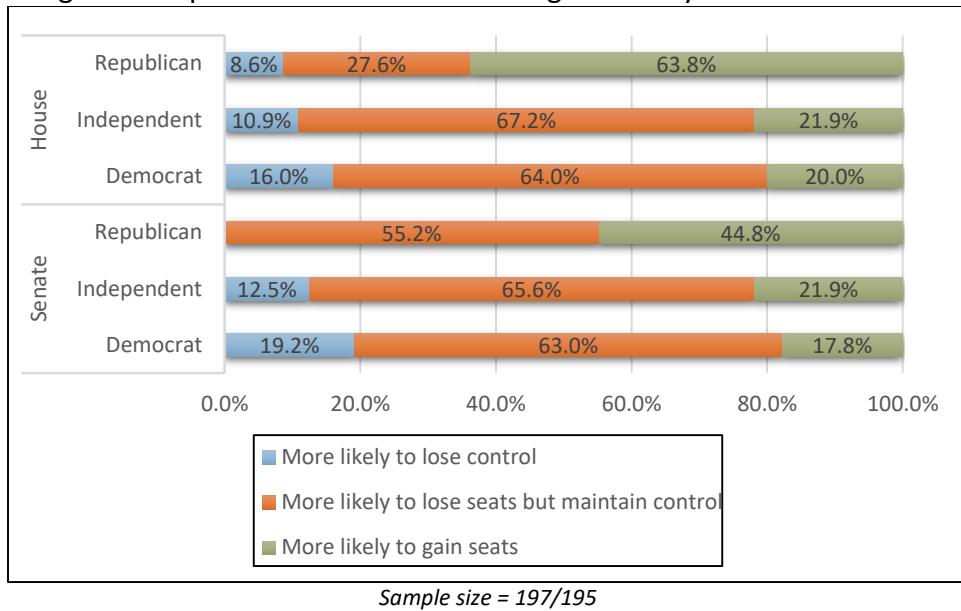


Figure 8 show that Republicans were the most optimistic of the political affiliations in terms of how their party will far during the 2022 elections.

In particular,

- 64 percent of the Republicans predicted that they would gain seats in the House.
- Independents (67 percent) and Democrats (64 percent) were much more likely to predict that the Republicans would maintain control, but lose seats in the House.
- 45 percent of Republicans predict that the Republican would gain seats in the Senate.
- Independents (66 percent) and Democrats (63 percent) were much more likely to predict that the Republicans would lose seats in the Senate, but maintain control.

**Figure 8: Republican Control of State Legislature by Political Affiliation**



## Section D. School Responses to COVID

The COVID-19 pandemic contributed extraordinary challenges during the 2020-2021 Academic Year for school boards and educators for providing a safe and productive educational environment for all students. Parents of school aged children in both MPIP and SOSS panels were asked a series of questions related to their children's attendance in schools during the past academic year (Fall 2020 – Spring 2021).

Questions included:

- Type of school attended for the 2020-2021 academic year
- Class format their child(ren) attended for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021
- Satisfaction with their local school board's response to local concerns and health conditions
- Satisfaction with their child(ren)'s education for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.

The majority of children for both populations attended traditional public schools (Figure 9). The differences between the MPIP Insiders and SOSS general public lay with the percent attending public school and home schooling. Also, no MPIP panelists had children attending charter schools, but 3.7% of the SOSS panelists reported charter school attendance. This difference in types of schools attended may explain some of the differences discussed below.

Figure 9: Distribution of School Type Across Populations

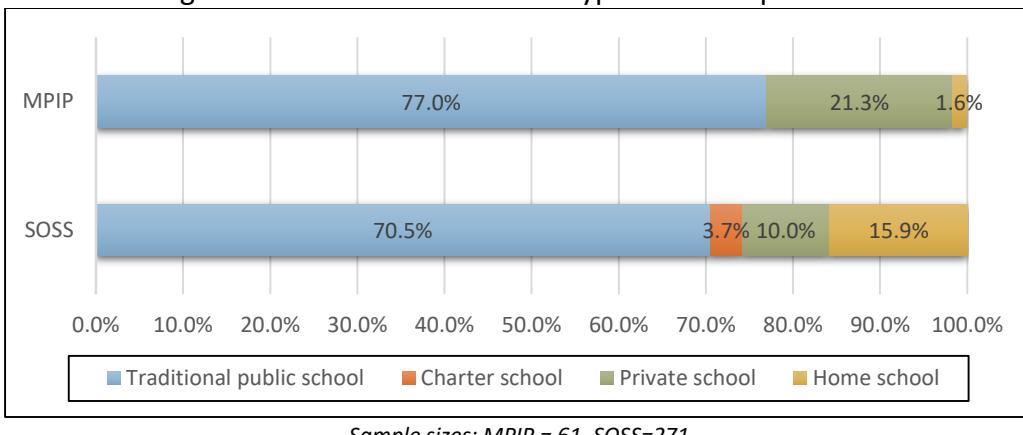
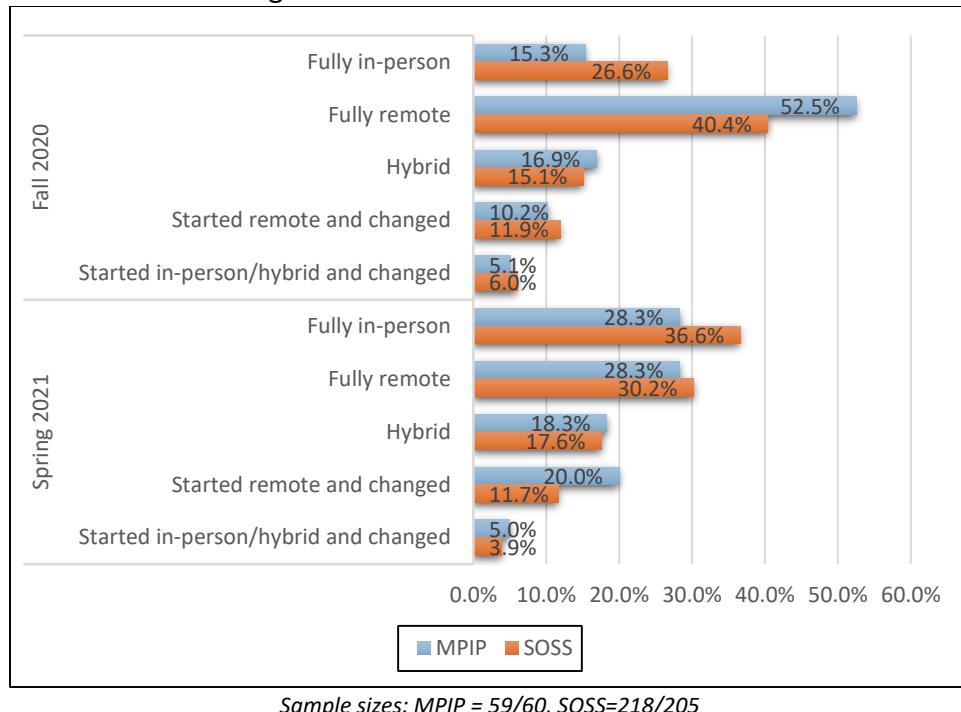


Figure 10 reports the school formats during Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 for both MPIP panelists and SOSS respondents. The figure shows

- Fall 2020
  - MPIP Insiders' children were most likely to attend school fully remote (52 percent) and least likely to attend fully in-person (15 percent).
  - SOSS General public children were also more likely to be attending school fully remote (40 percent), but a higher percent attended in-person (27 percent) compared to the MPIP panelists' children.
  - Both groups were similar in distribution for hybrid mode or changing modes during the term.
- Spring 2021
  - More students for both populations were more likely to be attending fully in-person than during the Fall and less fully remote.
  - A larger portion of the MPIP panelists' children switched from fully remote to something else, but they were also more likely to have attended fully remote in the first place.

**Figure 10: School Attendance Format**

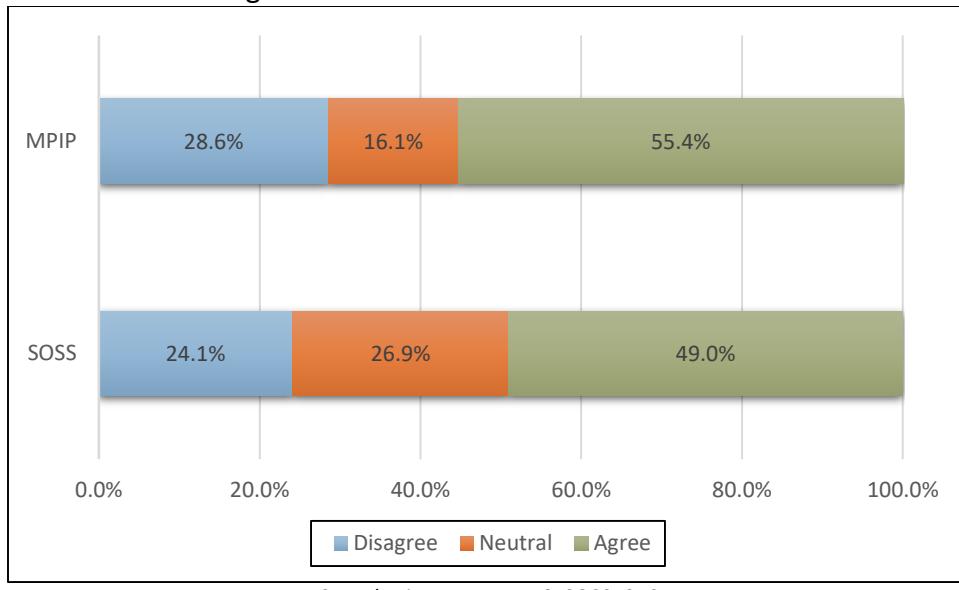


*Sample sizes: MPIP = 59/60, SOSS=218/205*

Respondents were also asked how satisfied they were with their local school boards handling of the local concerns and health conditions (Figure 11).

- 55 percent of the MPIP panelists agreed that they were satisfied.
- 49 percent of the SOSS panelists also stated that they agreed that they were satisfied.

Figure 11: Satisfaction with School Board

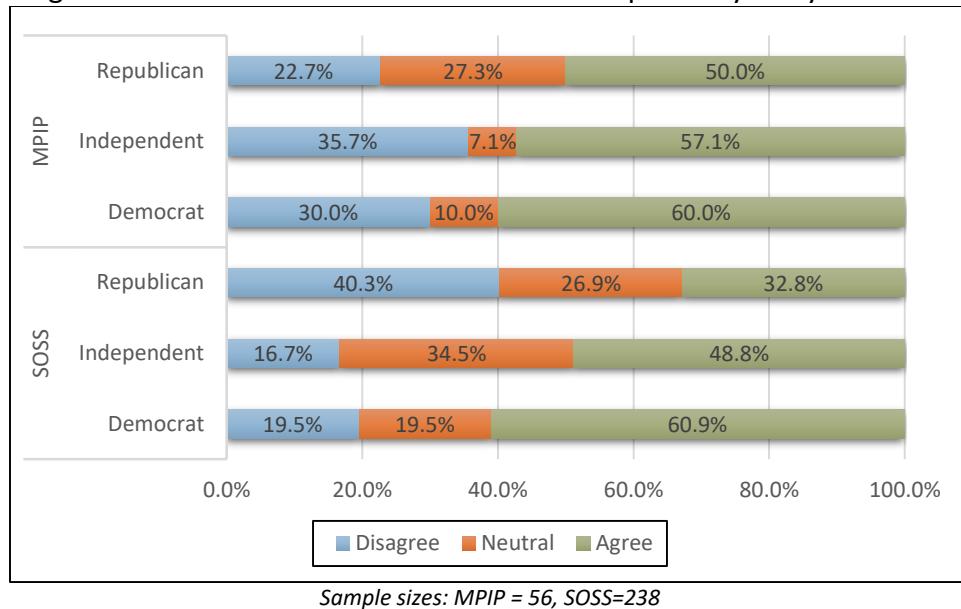


When looking at political affiliation, differences are apparent between the MPIP panelists and the SOSS respondents with more Democrats overall agreeing that they were satisfied and Republicans the least likely to agree that they were satisfied (Figure 12).

In particular,

- MPIP Insiders had a 10 percentage point difference in those that reported agreeing that they satisfied between Republicans (50 percent) and Democrats (60 percent) with Independents (57 percent) falling in between.
- For the SOSS general public, had a 28 percentage point difference in those reporting agreeing to be satisfied between Republicans (33 percent) and Democrats (61 percent) with Independents falling in between (49 percent).

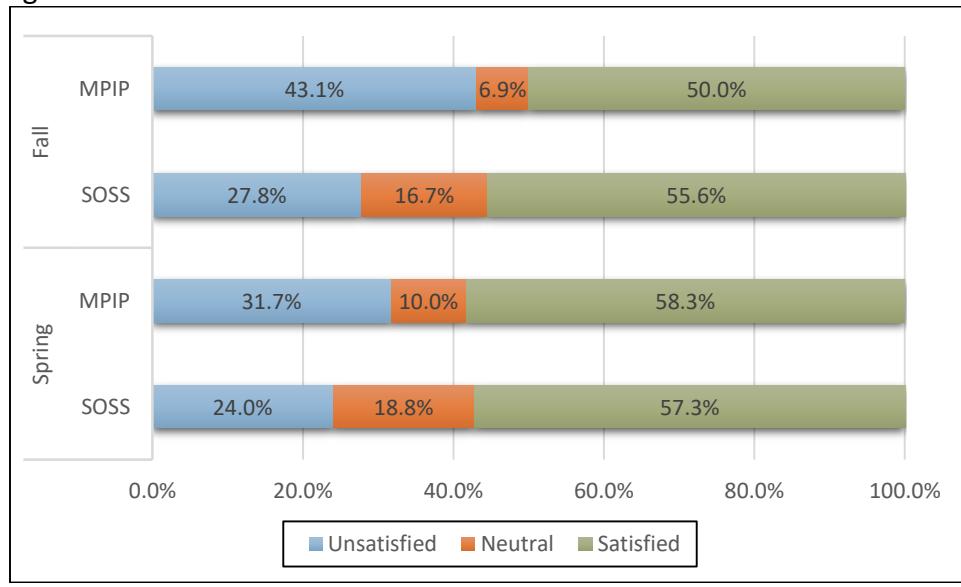
Figure 12: Satisfaction with School Board's Response by Party Affiliation



Panelists were asked “During the 2020-21 school year, how satisfied were you with your child(ren)’s education?” for both the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 terms (Figure 13).

- MPIP Insiders were more satisfied with their children’s education Spring 2021 (58 percent) than Fall 2020 (50 percent).
- General public respondents (SOSS) were about as satisfied with their children’s education in Spring 2021 (57 percent) as in Fall 2020 (56 percent).
- MPIP Insiders were more likely to be dissatisfied with their children’s education for both Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 (43 percent/32 percent) than the general public (28 percent/24 percent).

Figure 13: Satisfaction with Children’s Education for School Year 2020-2021



The mode of educational instruction (in-person, remote, hybrid) impacted the education experience of the children and the parents' interaction/burden with the process. Tables 14a and 14b present the respondents' level of satisfaction with their children's education by the mode of instruction. Those who changed mode of educational instruction during the semester were not included.

Overwhelmingly, both MPIP and SOSS respondents were satisfied with totally in-person instruction for their children for both Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. Based on the question, it is unclear if this level of satisfaction was due to the quality of the educational experience for the children or if it was due to being the least burdensome of the modes for parents.

In addition,

- MPIP Insiders were least satisfied with hybrid instruction (20 percent) for Fall 2020 and least satisfied with totally remote (29 percent) for Spring 2021.
- SOSS respondents were least satisfied with both totally remote learning (46 percent) and hybrid (46 percent) for Fall 2020 and least satisfied with totally remote (47 percent) for Spring 2021.

Figure 14a: Satisfaction with Children's Education During Fall 2020 by Instruction Mode

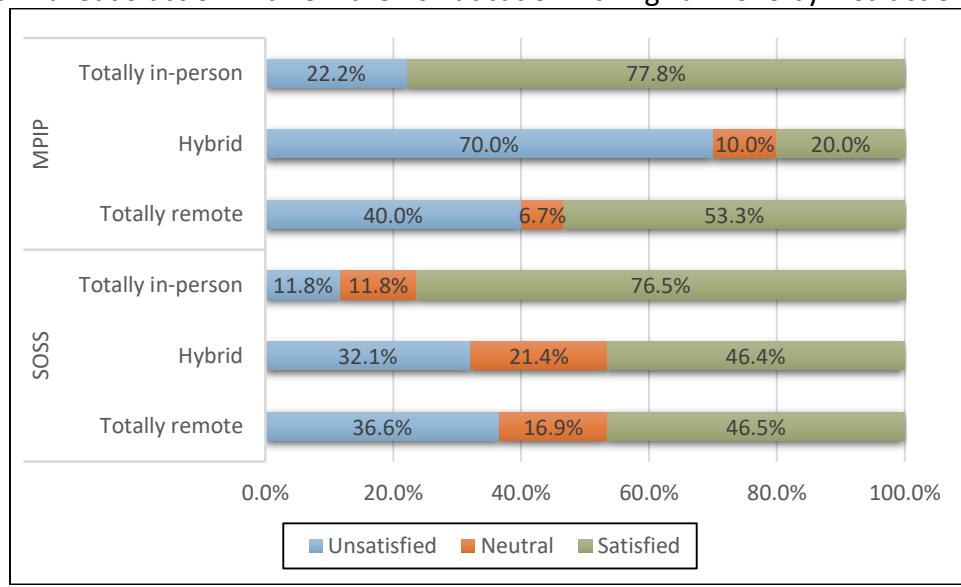
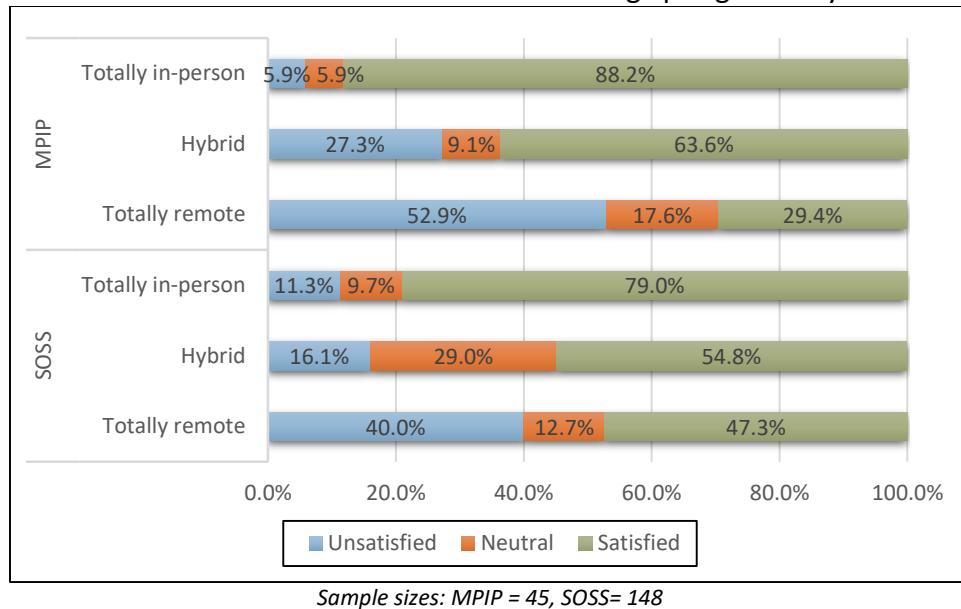


Figure 14b: Satisfaction with Children's Education During Spring 2021 by Instruction Mode

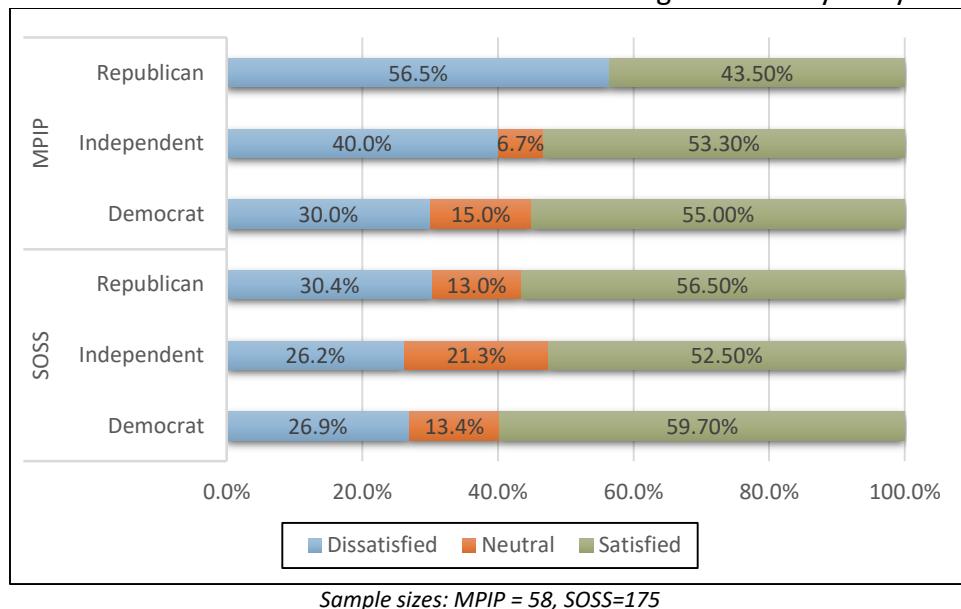


Satisfactions with their children's education not only varied by school period and mode of education, but also by political affiliation (Figures 15a and 15b). Overall, Republicans and Independents were more satisfied with their children's education during Spring 2021 than Fall 2020.

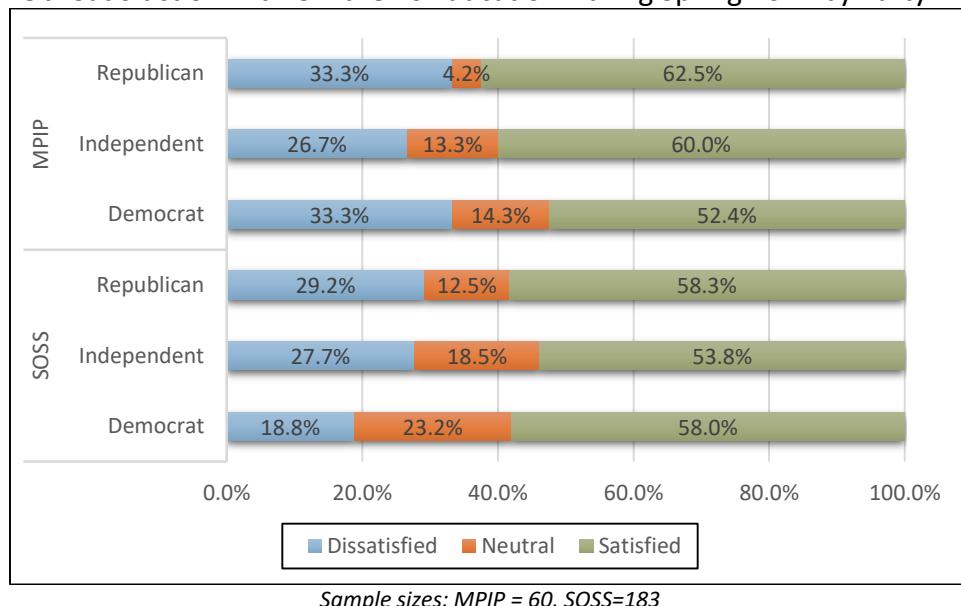
In addition,

- MPIP Insider Republicans had the largest increase in satisfaction between Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 (43 percent vs. 63 percent).
- MPIP Insider Republicans also had the largest decrease in dissatisfaction between Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 (57 percent vs. 33 percent).
- MPIP Insider Democrat decrease in satisfaction between Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 was due to an increase in dissatisfaction (30 percent vs. 33 percent).
- SOSS Democrat decrease was due to an increase in the neutral category (13 percent vs. 23 percent).

**Figure 15a: Satisfaction with Children's Education During Fall 2020 by Party Affiliation**



**Figure 15b: Satisfaction with Children's Education During Spring 2021 by Party Affiliation**



## Section E. Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

With the passing of Michigan Proposal 18-2 during the November 2018 Michigan elections, an amendment was added to the Michigan Constitution which transferred the redistricting of the state's congressional and legislative districts from the Michigan Legislature to an independent citizens redistricting commission. The first redistricting period for the new commission began in 2020.

MPIP and SOSS respondents were asked a series of questions related to

- Familiarity with the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC)

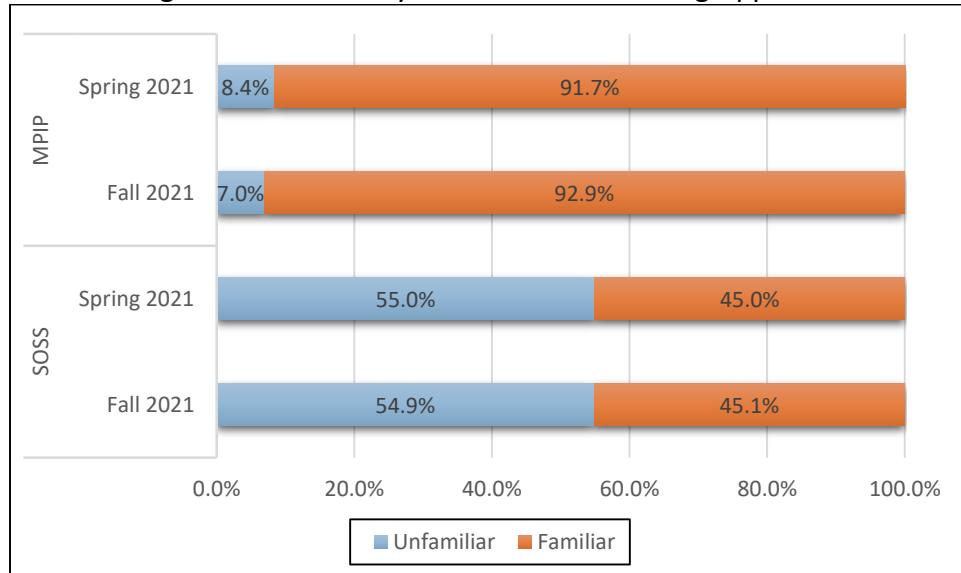
- Opinions about the commission
- Involvement in the redistricting process.

Panelists were first asked “*In 2018, voters approved a state Constitutional amendment that created the new Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (Proposal 2). How familiar are you with this new approach to redistricting in the state?*” This question was asked in both the Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 for both the MPIP Insiders and the SOSS respondents. Figure 16 compares the two waves for both MPIP and SOSS respondents. Overall, MPIP Insiders were much more familiar with the MICRC than the general public. There was little change in each group’s familiarity between Spring 2021 and Fall 2021.

Specifically,

- 92 percent of MPIP Insiders reported being at least somewhat familiar with the process in Spring 2021 and 93 percent in Fall 2021.
- 45 percent of the general population respondents stating that they were at least somewhat familiar for both Spring 2021 and Fall 2021.

**Figure 16: Familiarity with New Redistricting Approach**



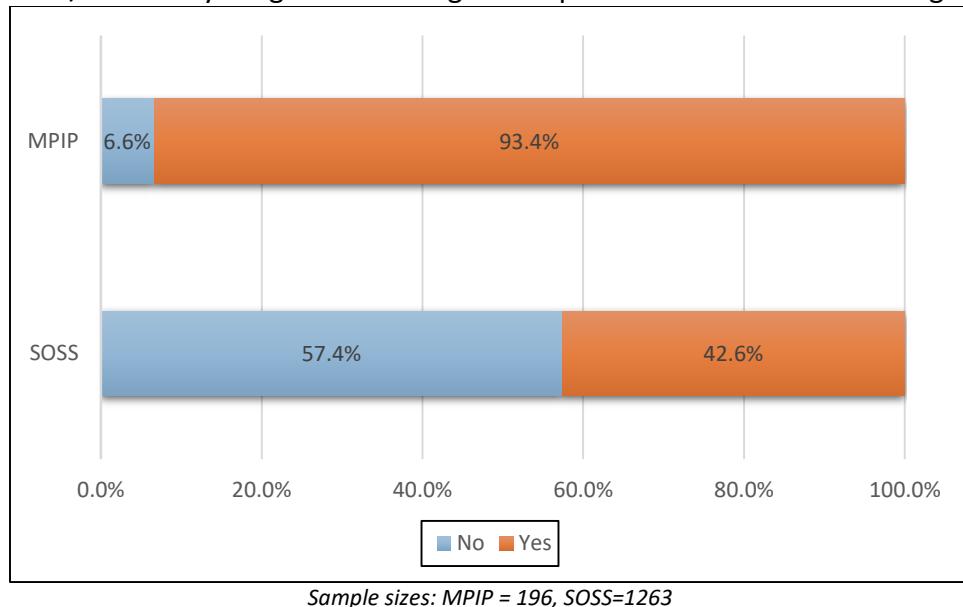
*Sample sizes: MPIP = 241/199, SOSS= 917/1383*

Respondents were then asked “*Have you seen or heard anything about this Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission?*” MPIP Insiders more much more likely to have seen or heard something about the MICRC (Figure 17).

Figure 17 shows:

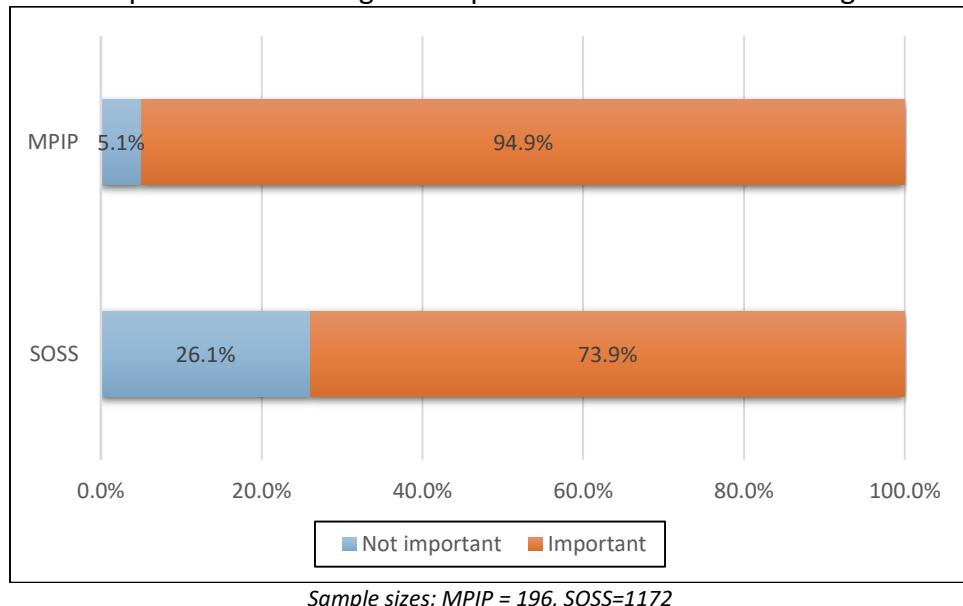
- 93 percent of the MPIP Insiders had seen or heard something about the commission.
- 43 percent of the general population (SOSS) had seen or heard something about the MICRC.

Figure 17: Seen/Heard Anything about Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission



Both groups were also asked “*How important would you say the work of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is to you?*” Overall, MPIP Insiders reported that the MICRC was at least somewhat important to them more often than the SOSS general public (95 percent vs. 74 percent) (Table 18).

Figure 18: Importance of Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission



In particular,

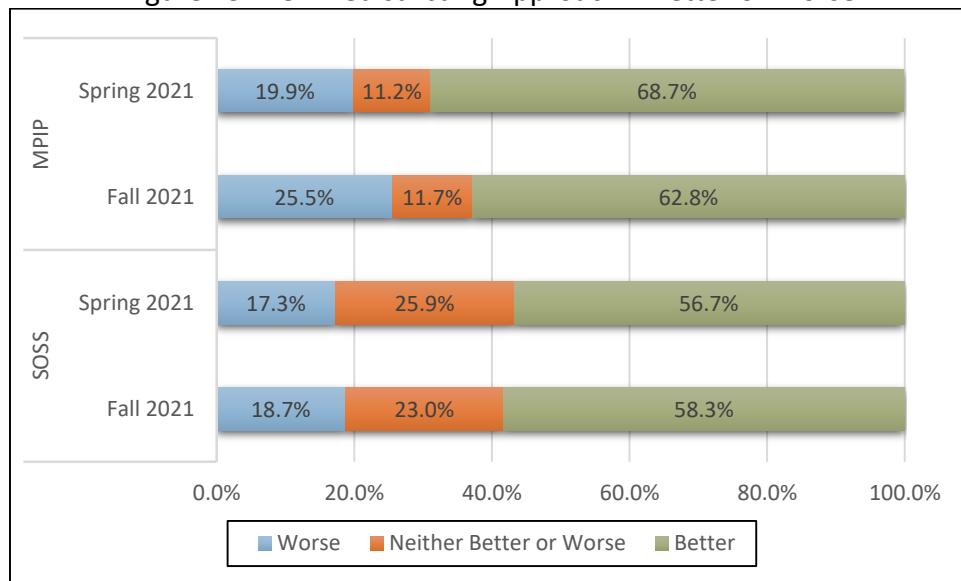
- 95 percent of the MPIP Insiders stated that the MICRC was at least somewhat important to them and only five percent that it was not important at all or not very important.
- 74 percent of the SOSS respondents said that it was at least somewhat important to them and 26 percent reported that it was not at all important or not very important to them.

Next, panelists were asked “*Given what you know about it, overall, do you believe Michigan’s new approach of having districts drawn by an independent citizens’ commission is a better or worse approach than having them drawn by the legislature?*”. This question was asked in both Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 for both MPIP Insiders and SOSS respondents. Figure 19 reports the findings for both groups for both periods of time. Though there was little change between Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 for SOSS respondents, there did appear to be a noticeable change in MPIP Insiders with a 6 percent increase among those that reported it to be a worse process over the old system.

In addition,

- MPIP Insiders were overall more likely to believe that it was a better approach than the general population – 69 percent vs 57 percent and 63 percent versus 58 percent.
- MPIP Insiders were also more likely to believe that it was a worse approach than the general population – 20 percent versus 17 percent and 26 percent versus 19 percent.

**Figure 19: New Redistricting Approach – Better or Worse**

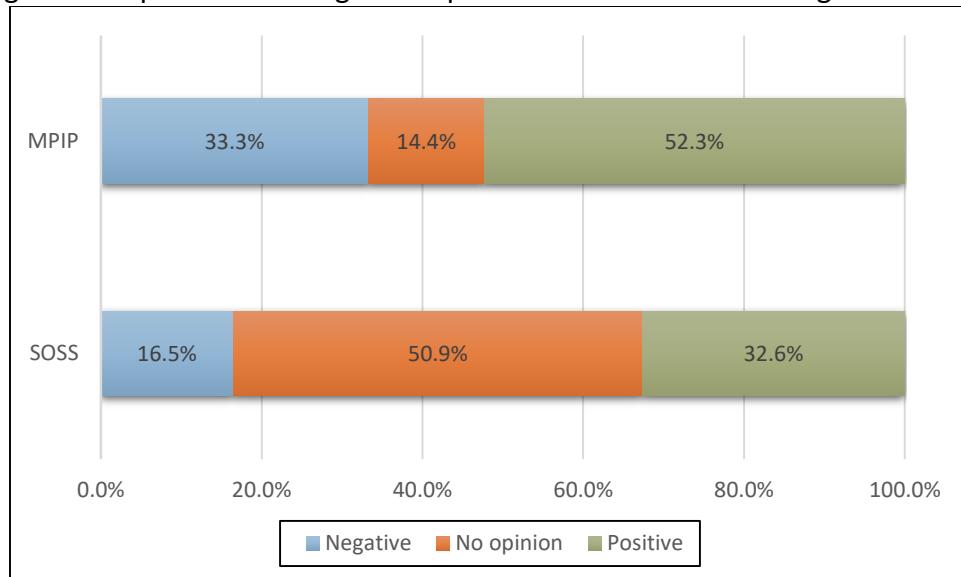


Respondents were also asked “*Are your views of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission positive, negative, or would you say you have no opinion of it?*” Figure 20 shows that MPIP Insiders were found to be much more likely to have some sort of opinion of the MICRC than the general public (86 percent vs. 49 percent).

Specifically,

- 52 percent of the MPIP Insiders reported having a positive opinion and 33 percent reported having a negative opinion with only 14 percent not having an opinion.
- 33 percent of the general population reported having a positive opinion and 17 percent reported having a negative opinion with the majority (51 percent) holding no opinion.

Figure 20: Opinion of Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission



Those that gave either a positive or a negative opinion were asked a follow-up question about why they responded that way. Table 2 reports the top five collapsed categories for both MPIP Insiders and SOSS respondents for why they gave a negative response with the rank order for each group and examples of those categories.

Table 2: Examples of Reasons for Negative Opinions of the MICRC

Category	MPIP Ranking	SOSS Ranking
Commission is doing a poor job	1	5
Outcome/process is still biased	2	1
Commissioners lack knowledge to do job	3	4
Old system was fine	4	3
Lack of trust of commission/process	5	2

Sample sizes: MPIP = 63, SOSS=163

Table 3 reports the top five collapsed categories for both MPIP Insiders and SOSS respondents for why they gave a positive response with the rank order for that category for each group.

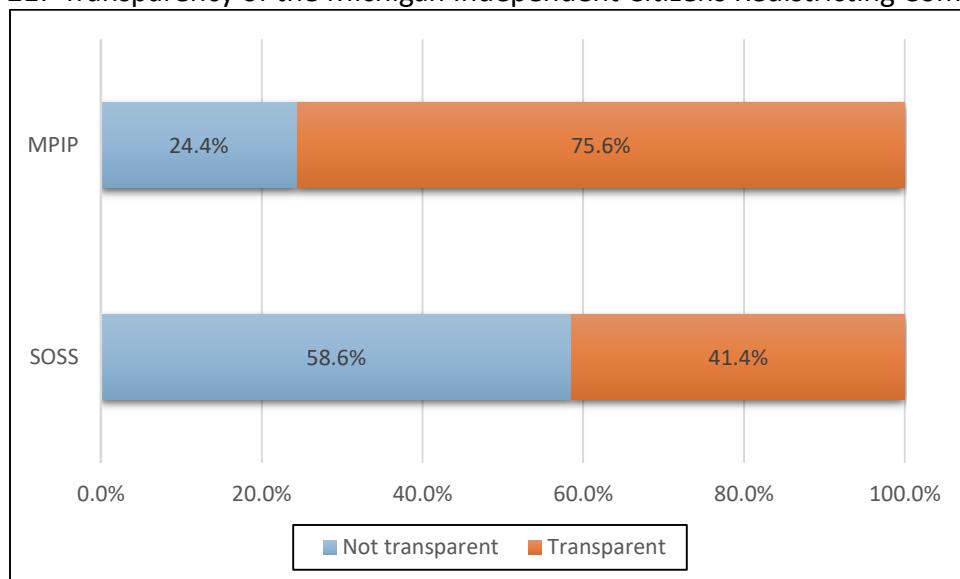
Table 3: Examples of Reasons for Positive Opinions of the MICRC

Category	MPIP Ranking	SOSS Ranking
Independent/bipartisan process	1	2
No more gerrymandering	2	1
Out of politicians hands	3	5
Fairer process	4	3
Commission is doing a good job	5	*
Citizens have input	5	*
Good, in general	*	4

Sample sizes: MPIP=99, SOSS=440

Both sets of respondents were asked “*Based on what you know so far, would you say the work of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission has or has not been transparent, or would you say you just don’t know?*” Figure 21 shows that MPIP Insiders were much more likely than the general public to feel that the process was transparent (76 percent vs. 41 percent).

Figure 21: Transparency of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission



Sample sizes: MPIP = 195, SOSS=1251

Respondents were also asked to record how important five facts about the MICRC were to them using a scale of one to ten with one being not important at all and 10 being extremely important. Table 4 reports the average value for each fact for both the MPIP Insiders and the general public.

Table 4 shows:

- MPIP Insiders reported that on average the redistricting criteria of keeping county/city/township boundaries intact and keeping the districts relatively compact was the most important fact (8.0 average score).
- MPIP Insiders reported that, on average, the political distribution of members of the commission was the least important (7.13 average score).

- For the general population, four of the five facts all had similar average scores (7.5-7.6) with the redistricting criteria of keeping county/city/township boundaries intact and keeping the districts relatively compact was the least important fact (7.2 average score).

Table 4: Importance of Aspects of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

	MPIP (State Insiders)	SOSS (MI General Population)
The members of the commission were selected through a random application process to make sure every Michigan citizen had an opportunity to serve if they wanted.	7.5	7.6
There are four citizens who self-identified with the Republican Party and four citizens who self-identified with the Democratic Party. But the largest block of commissioners are citizens that self-identified Independent voters and not affiliated with either political party.	7.1	7.5
The commission will submit a new map for congressional and state legislative districts after the new census data have been made available. Two of seven criteria for the new maps are to keep county, city, and township boundaries intact, and to keep districts reasonably compact.	8.0	7.2
The new maps will attempt to recognize communities of interest with shared cultural, historical or economic interests. But the maps will not be drawn to give an advantage to either political party, incumbent officeholders or any potential candidates.	7.4	7.6
The Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission held at least ten public hearings throughout the state to inform the public about the redistricting process and solicit citizen input. And once the new maps are created, they will host at least five hearings around the state to get citizen feedback.	7.4	7.6

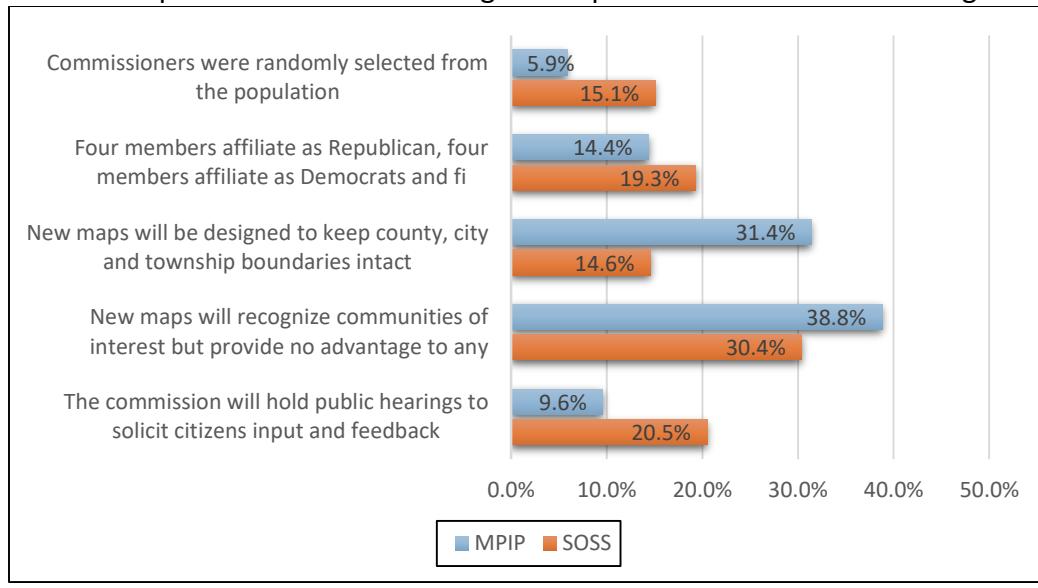
Sample sizes: MPIP = 179-182, SOSS=1473-1492

Respondents were then asked “*Of the five facts, which ONE is most important to you personally?*”. The importance of the facts differed between the MPIP Insiders and the general public respondents (Figure 22).

In particular,

- For MPIP Insiders, 39 percent believed that recognizing communities of interest was the most important followed by keeping county/city/township boundaries intact (31 percent).
- MPIP Insiders reported random selection of commission members (6 percent) and holding public hearings for citizen feedback (10 percent) the least often.
- General population respondents reported recognizing communities of interest as the most important 30 percent of the time.
- General population respondents chose keeping county/city/township boundaries intact (15 percent) and random selection of commission members (15 percent) the least often.

Figure 22: Most Important Fact about Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

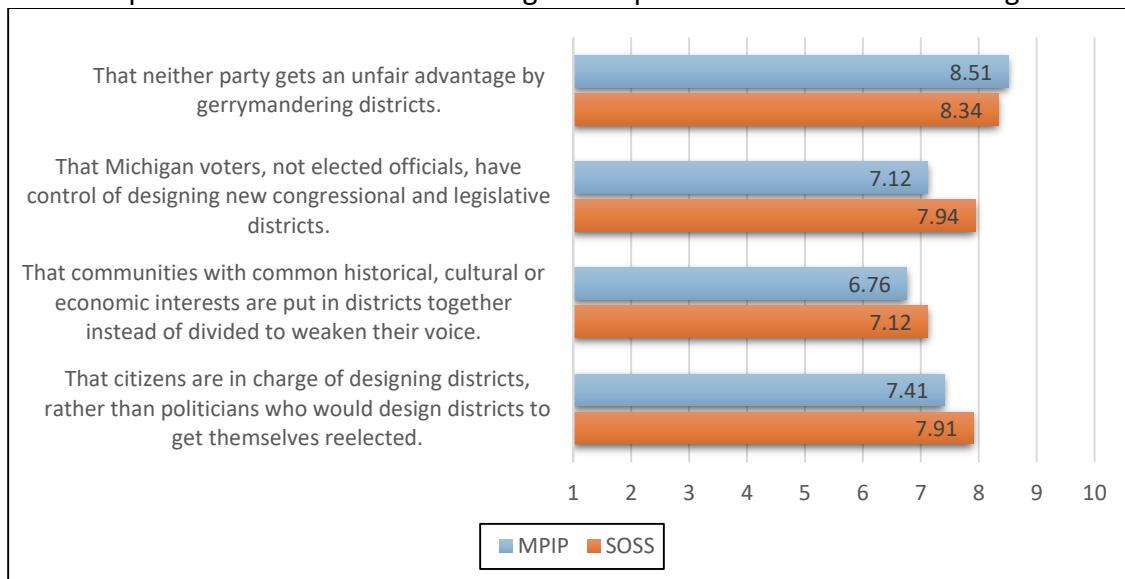


Respondents were also asked to rank the four goals of the new redistricting process using a 10-point scale (1 not important at all – 10 very important). Figure 23 reports the average scores for each goal.

Figure 23 shows:

- MPIP Insiders reported the highest average score for no unfair advantage due to gerrymandering (8.5) and the lowest average score for keeping together communities with common historical/cultural/economic interests (6.8).
- General population reported same patterns with the highest average score for no unfair advantage due to gerrymandering (8.3) and the lowest average score for keeping together communities with common historical/cultural/economic interests (7.1).

**Figure 23: Importance of Goals of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission**



*Sample sizes: MPIP = 176-183, SOSS=1488-1495*

Respondents were then asked, using the same 10-point scale, to rate three statements about the MICRC. The average scores for each statement are recorded below (Figure 24). The average scores for each of the three items were all relatively high with little difference across questions or between the MPIP Insiders and the general population.

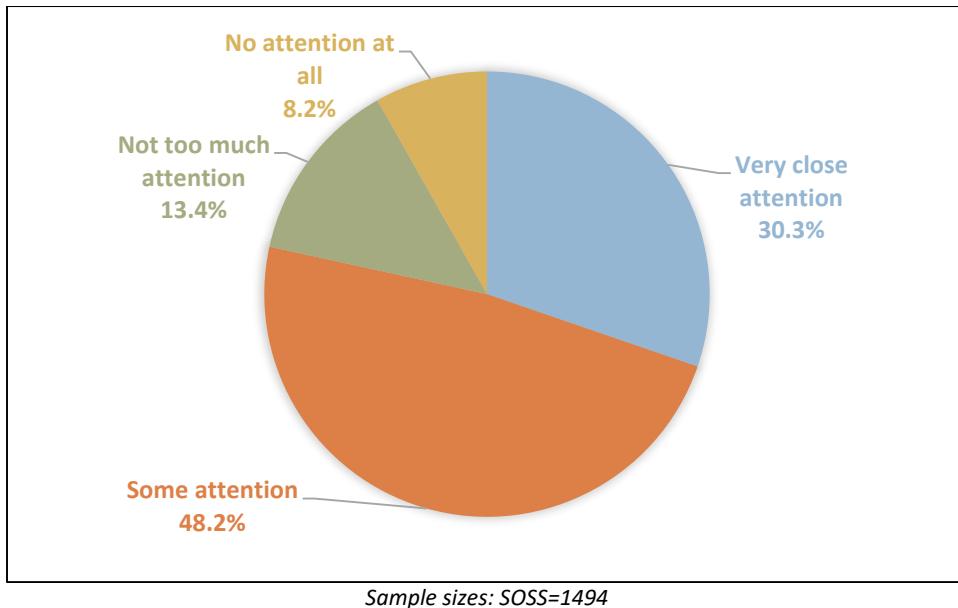
**Figure 24: Importance of Statements about the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission**



*Sample sizes: MPIP = 185-188, SOSS=1489-1492*

SOSS respondents solely were asked the amount of attention they had paid to the MICRC. Over three-quarters of the respondents reported that they paid at least some attention to the MICRC and only 8 percent reported that they had not paid any attention at all (Figure 25).

Figure 25: Amount of Attention Paid to the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission



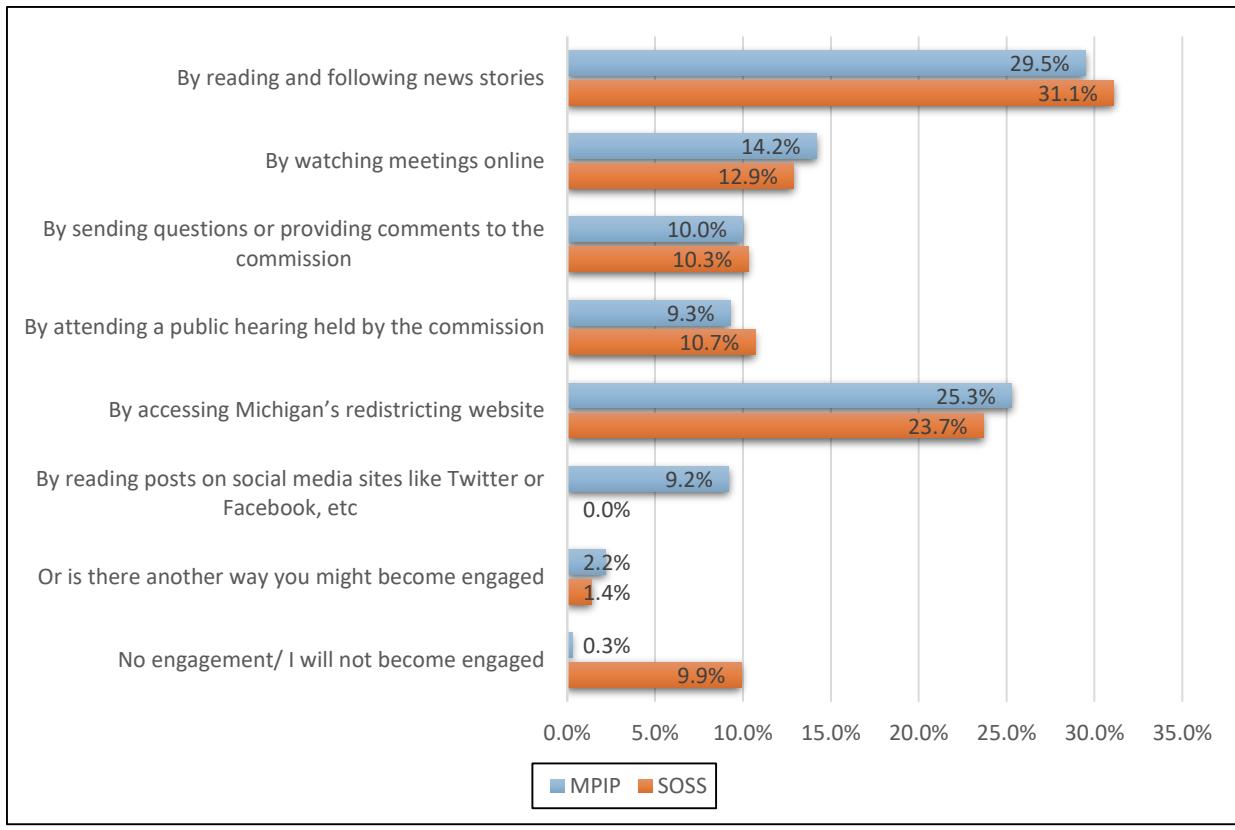
Sample sizes: SOSS=1494

Both MPIP Insiders and SOSS respondents were asked about ways that they might become engaged in the redistricting process (Figure 26). MPIP Insiders were presented eight categories and SOSS respondents were offered seven categories (use of Social Media was not explicitly offered to SOSS respondents). Both MPIP Insiders and general public respondents report that reading/following news stories and accessing the MICRC website were the most often selected ways of engagement.

Specifically,

- For MPIP Insiders, reading/following news stories (30 percent) and accessing the MICRC website (25 percent) were the two most reported methods of engagement.
- For SOSS respondents, reading/following news stories (31 percent) and accessing the MICRC website (24 percent) were also the two most reported methods of engagement.
- Less than one percent of the MPIP Insiders reported no engagement, but 10 percent of the SOSS respondents reported no engagement.

Figure 26: Ways you Might Engage in Redistricting Process



Sample sizes: MPIP = 192, SOSS=1495

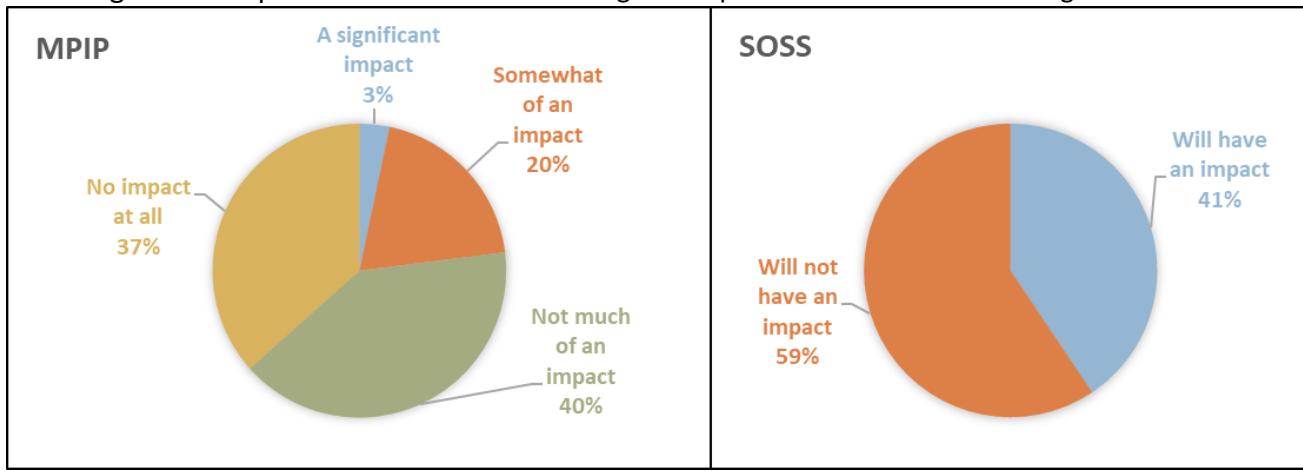
For those that stated that they would participate in one form or another in the process, they were also asked *“Would you say your participation in the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission will or will not have an impact on the commission’s work?”* (Figure 27). The MPIP and SOSS panelists were offered slightly different versions of the response categories so they are reported separately.

Figure 27 shows:

- 37 percent of the MPIP Insiders reported that their actions would not have an impact. An additional 40 percent stated that they felt that their efforts would not have much of an impact.
- 60 percent of the SOSS respondents stated that their actions would not have an impact.

For those that said that they would be engaged in another way, the primary areas were protesting the commission, trying to get on the commission, posting on social media, talking to others, and reading e-mail summaries.

Figure 27: Impact of Actions on the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission



For those who said that they did not feel like they would have an impact, they were asked “*Why would you say it will not have an impact?*” The top five category responses are listed below. Due to the small number of MPIP Insiders that answered in one of the five categories, the ranking is across both groups.

Table 5: Why Felt Actions Would Have no Influence on Process

Response Category	Rank Order
Not actively participating in process/Only following process	1
Commission doesn't care about my opinion/citizens' opinions	2
Process is still politicized	3
Only a single individual/voice	4
Not a person/type of person who has influence	5

Sample sizes: MPIP=58, SOSS=707

Respondents were finally asked in this section “*What is the single most important change you expect from the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission?*” The top five response categories for MPIP Insiders and SOSS respondents are listed in Table 6.

Table 6: Most Important Expected Change from MICRC

Response Category	MPIP Rank Order	SOSS Rank Order
Ending single party control/ending gerrymandering	1	1
Fairer defined districts	2	2
Fairer overall/fairer process	3	3
Poor/negative outcomes	4	*
Little to nothing will change	5	4
Fairer/more balanced elections	*	5

Sample sizes: MPIP=180, SOSS=1298

## SUMMARY

The findings of this report suggest that the MPIP Insiders are different from their general public counterparts on several issues. Below are summarized some difference found between MPIP Insiders and the general public, as well as some difference due to political party affiliation and across time.

### Assessment of Political Leaders

MPIP Insiders reported a higher net approval rating for both Governor Whitmer and President Biden than did the general public. When comparing the most recent MPIP Insider ratings with the previous round (Spring 2021), Governor Whitmer's rating increased slightly and President Biden's dropped.

### School Responses to COVID

Respondents were asked a series of questions about their children's schools' response to COVID for both the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters. School experience and satisfaction with both the school board and the children's education differ between MPIP Insiders and the general public. This may in part be due differences in the type of schools attended, as well as the initial school format (remote vs. in-person) found between the MPIP Insiders and the general public.

MPIP Insiders were both more likely to be satisfied and more likely to be dissatisfied with their children's school board than the general public. Political party affiliation played more of a role in satisfaction with the school board for the general public than it did for MPIP Insiders.

General public respondents were more likely to be satisfied with their children's education for both semesters than MPIP Insiders. Satisfaction with their children's education was related to the mode of instruction with both MPIP Insiders and the general public being more satisfied with totally in-person instruction for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. Dissatisfaction with their children's education for the Fall 2020 semester was much more driven by political party affiliation for MPIP Insiders than for the general public.

### Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC)

MPIP Insiders were much more likely to be familiar with the MICRC than the general public respondents. This held true for both Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 survey periods. MPIP Insiders were also more likely to consider the approach better and worse than the general public. This again held true for both Spring 2021 and Fall 2021. MPIP Insiders did show an increase in the percent that felt that the process was worse from Spring 2021 to Fall 2021.

MPIP Insiders were also more likely have heard/seen something about the MICRC, consider the new commission important and that the work process was transparent. The general public was much more likely to have no general opinion about the MICRC than the MPIP Insiders. MPIP Insiders were more likely to feel that their actions would have an impact on the redistricting process than the SOSS respondents.

Two topics covered in this report were only asked of either the MPIP Insiders or the SOSS general public. Though comparison between the two populations is not possible, evaluating responses based on other variables offered insights.

### Economic Optimism

Though MPIP Insiders were not asked this series of questions this round, the findings from the general public responses are still enlightening when compared to responses of the general public from the previous SOSS. In general, the respondents in the most recent SOSS (Fall 2021) were more pessimistic about their personal and their communities' financial situation compared to Spring 2021. There was also an increase in the percent that felt that the unemployment situation would stay about the same compared to Spring 2021.

### 2022 State of Michigan Election Expectations

Only MPIP Insiders were asked about their expectations of the 2022 Elections in terms of the governor's position and the Republican control of the State House and Senate. Overall, the Insiders overwhelmingly expected Governor Whitmer to win re-election though Republicans were less likely to expect it. In terms of the House and Senate races, overall, the majority of the respondents expected the Republicans to still maintain control in both the House and the Senate, though it was likely that some seats would be lost. Republicans were much more likely to indicate that they expected that the Republican Party would actually gain seats, more so for the House than the Senate.

## APPENDIX

Table A1: Demographic Description of MPIP and SOSS Respondents

Demographic Characteristics		MPIP Wave 10 <sup>a</sup>	SOSS 82 <sup>a</sup>
Party	Republican	29.4%	27.8%
	Independent	35.5%	36.1%
	Democrat	38.1%	36.1%
Race/Ethnicity <sup>b</sup>	White	94.4%	94.4%
	Black	6.7%	11.6%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	*	2.2%
	Native American/Alaska Native	*	1.9%
	Other Race	*	3.0%
	Hispanic	0.6%	5.6%
Gender	Male	64.6%	46.3%
	Female	35.4%	52.9%
	Intersex	0.0%	0.8%
Education	Less than 4 year Degree	4.1%	71.8%
	4-Year Degree	41.6%	17.5%
	Graduate Degree	54.3%	10.7%
n		197	1500

<sup>a</sup> MPIP percentages are unweighted. SOSS percentages are weighted using survey weights provided by YouGov.

<sup>b</sup> Racial/ethnic categories are not mutually exclusive and respondents may have selected more than one.

\* Information not available for MPIP respondents.