

City of Lansing Survey – July 2015
[FREQUENCY REPORT OF SURVEY RESPONSES – 400 SAMPLE – ERROR ±4.9%]
Polling Dates: July 11th through July 14th, 2015
Conducted by live callers -- 25% cell phones

_03. Overall, would you say that things in Michigan are generally headed in the right direction, or, have things pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

- 41% Right direction
- 40% Wrong track
- 19% Undecided/Refused

_04. How about in the City of Lansing – are things generally headed in the right direction, or, have things pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

- 47% Right direction
- 38% Wrong track
- 15% Undecided/Refused

Now, I would like to read the names of several political figures and organizations. For each one, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of that person or organization. If you do not recognize a name, please say so and we can move on. The first name is _____? “Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of that person or organization?” **[IF FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE, ASK: “Would that be very or generally?” AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

[ROTATE Q.5-Q.10]	<u>DO NOT</u> <u>RECOG</u>	<u>VERY</u> <u>FAVOR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>FAVOR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>UNFAV</u>	<u>VERY</u> <u>UNFAV</u>	<u>REF</u> <u>UNDEC</u>
_05. Rick Snyder.....	0%	9%	39%	49%	29%	12%
_06. Virg Bernero.....	0%	13%	52%	34%	18%	14%
_07. The Lansing City Council...	0%	5%	49%	23%	8%	28%
_08. Lansing Police Department..	0%	34%	84%	9%	4%	7%
_09. Lansing Board of Water and Light.....	0%	16%	60%	29%	8%	11%
_10. Lansing Fire Department....	0%	58%	94%	1%	1%	5%

__11. Overall, how would you rate the job being done by Virg Bernero as Mayor -- would you give him a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of just fair or poor?

9%	Excellent	
42%	Pretty good	51% Total Positive
29%	Just fair	
17%	Poor	46% Total Negative
3%	Undecided/Refused	

__12. How would you rate the job being done by the Lansing City Council – would you give it a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of just fair or poor?

3%	Excellent	
41%	Pretty good	44% Total Positive
38%	Just fair	
11%	Poor	49% Total Negative
7%	Undecided/Refused	

__13. Overall, how would you rate the job the City of Lansing is doing providing basic city services to its residents -- a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of just fair or poor?

7%	Excellent	
50%	Pretty good	57% Total Positive
28%	Just fair	
14%	Poor	42% Total Negative
1%	Undecided/Refused	

[ROTATE Q.14 AND Q.15]

__14. Specifically, how would you rate the job the Lansing Police Department is doing protecting the public from crime, drugs and violence -- a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of just fair or poor?

25%	Excellent	
50%	Pretty good	75% Total Positive
18%	Just fair	
6%	Poor	24% Total Negative
1%	Undecided/Refused	

__15. Specifically, how would you rate the job the Lansing Fire Department is doing fighting fires and protecting the public – a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of just fair or poor?

56%	Excellent	
40%	Pretty good	96% Total Positive
3%	Just fair	
0%	Poor	3% Total Negative
1%	Undecided/Refused	

__16. Specifically, how would you rate the job the Lansing Board of Water and Light is doing providing electric and water services to the greater Lansing community -- a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of just fair or poor?

20%	Excellent -----	GO TO Q.18	
54%	Pretty good ---	GO TO Q.18	74% Total Positive
17%	Just fair -----	ASK Q.17	
6%	Poor -----	ASK Q.17	23% Total Negative
3%	Undecided/Refused -----	GO TO Q.18	

__17. What stands out for you as the main reason why you offered a **NEGATIVE** rating of (**Just Fair/Poor**) for the job the Board of Water and Light is doing providing electric and water services to the greater Lansing community? [**WRITE COMMENT AS STATED**]

32%	Ice Storm
24%	Rates/Increases
9%	Slow response time
5%	Could improve in general
4%	Power outages
4%	REO Building
2%	Poorly managed
2%	Poor service
2%	Clogged drain/Hydrant
2%	Outdated infrastructure
2%	Poor communication
1%	Distrust Bernero
1%	No sewer project
1%	Lark firing fiasco
4%	Other responses (less than 1% each)
5%	Undecided/Refused

__18. Thinking back to the power outage caused by the ice storm that hit Lansing in late December of 2013, taking everything into account, do you think that the power at most homes in the Lansing service area were restored as quickly as it could have been given the severity of the ice storm, or, do you think power was restored slower than it should have been even with the severity of the ice storm?

38%	Power restored as quickly as it could have been given the severity of the ice storm
57%	Slower than it could have been even with the severity of the ice storm
5%	Undecided/Refused

__19. Taking into account improvements made in the operations of the Board of Water and Light following the ice storm, including the hiring of additional line crews to more quickly repair power outages, improved communications between the BWL and electric customers to report power outages and receive an expected time to have power restored, and much more tree trimming so falling tree limbs from storms are less likely to cause power outages, how would you rate the job the Board of Water and Light has done providing electric service and power restoration of power outages that have occurred since December of 2013 -- a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of just fair or poor?

20%	Excellent	
54%	Pretty good	74% Total Positive
16%	Just fair	
4%	Poor	20% Total Negative
6%	Undecided/Refused	

__20. How do you think electric rates charged by the Board of Water and Light compare to the rates charged by other electric utility companies in Michigan, including Consumers Energy? Do you think electric rates are higher, lower, or about the same as other electric utility companies operating in Michigan? **[IF HIGHER/LOWER, ASK "Do you think electric rates are much or somewhat (higher/lower)?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

7%	Electric rates much higher than other companies	
12%	Electric rates somewhat higher than other companies	19% Higher
33%	Electric rates about the same as other companies	
14%	Electric rates somewhat lower than other companies	
3%	Electric rates much lower than other companies	17% Lower
31%	Undecided/Refused	

__21. As you may know, the Board of Water and Light is owned by the City of Lansing and its residents. Overall, how important do you think the Lansing Board of Water and Light is as an asset to the community? Do you think the Lansing Board of Water and Light is...**[READ 1-4]**

40%	An essential asset of the community	
45%	A very important asset	85% Essential/Very Important Asset
10%	Only a somewhat important asset	
3%	Or, not really an important asset at all to the community	
2%	Undecided/Refused	

__22. It was recently reported that Mayor Virg Bernero said that it is time to consider selling the Board of Water and Light. Based on what you may know or have heard or read about the idea of selling the Board of Water and Light, do you favor or oppose Mayor Bernero's proposal to consider selling the Board of Water and Light? **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK: "Would that be strongly or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

3%	Strongly favor the sale of the BWL	
9%	Somewhat favor the sale of the BWL	12% Total Favor Sale
15%	Somewhat oppose the sale of the BWL	
56%	Strongly oppose the sale of the BWL	71% Total Oppose Sale
17%	Undecided/Refused	

There are two main reasons why Mayor Virg Bernero has said it is time to consider selling the Lansing Board of Water and Light...

__23. The main reason why Mayor Bernero said it is time to consider the sale of the BWL is because of the need for the City of Lansing to address the financial obligations of the City of Lansing, especially the long-term liabilities of paying for pensions and health care costs of current and future retirees and to avoid potential bankruptcy. One reported estimate indicates that pension and health care cost for retirees could be as much as \$600 million. Knowing this, are you more likely to favor the sale of the BWL, less likely to favor it, or, would you say that using funding from the sale of the BWL to pay for pension and health care costs for current and future retirees doesn't influence your opinion one way or the other? **[IF MORE LIKELY/LESS LIKELY, ASK: "Would that be much or somewhat (more/less) likely?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

7%	Much more likely to favor sale of BWL	
11%	Somewhat more likely to favor sale of BWL	18% Total more likely
48%	Doesn't influence opinion about selling BWL	
10%	Somewhat less likely to favor sale of BWL	
17%	Much less likely to favor sale of BWL	27% Total less likely
7%	Undecided/Refused	

__24. Another reason Mayor Bernero said it is time to consider selling the BWL is to possibly provide a source of millions of dollars in funding for major infrastructure investments like fixing roads. Knowing this, are you more likely to favor the proposed sale of the BWL, less likely to favor it, or, would you say providing additional funding for infrastructure investments like fixing roads doesn't influence your opinion one way or the other? **[IF MORE LIKELY/ LESS LIKELY, ASK: "Would that be much or somewhat (more/less) likely?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

9%	Much more likely to favor sale of BWL	
13%	Somewhat more likely to favor sale of BWL	22% Total more likely
45%	Doesn't influence opinion about selling BWL	
7%	Somewhat less likely to favor sale of BWL	
23%	Much less likely to favor sale of BWL	30% Total less likely
3%	Undecided/Refused	

__25. After hearing the two major reasons why Mayor Bernero has said it is time to consider selling the BWL, let me ask you again -- do you favor or oppose Mayor Bernero's proposal to consider selling the BWL? **[IF FAVOR/OPOSE, ASK: "Would that be strongly or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

8%	Strongly favor the sale of the BWL	
12%	Somewhat favor the sale of the BWL	20% Total Favor Sale
12%	Somewhat oppose the sale of the BWL	
57%	Strongly oppose the sale of the BWL	69% Total Oppose Sale
11%	Undecided/Refused	

__26. If the Board of Water and Light were sold by the City of Lansing to some other utility, do you think either electric rates, water rates, or both would increase, stay about the same, or decrease? **[IF INCREASE/DECREASE, ASK: "Do you think rates would (increase/decrease) a lot, or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

40%	Increase a lot	
29%	Increase somewhat	69% Total Increase
14%	Stay about the same	
4%	Decrease somewhat	
0%	Decrease a lot	4% Total Decrease
13%	Undecided/Refused	

There are several reasons why people have said they would oppose selling the Lansing Board of Water and Light...

[ROTATE Q.27 THROUGH Q.30]

__27. **(One/Another)** reason why the sale of the BWL is opposed is because as a City owned utility, not investor owned like Consumers Energy or DTE Energy, BWL electric rates are lower. This is especially true if Consumers Energy gets approval from the Michigan Public Service Commission for their latest rate increase request, which would make electric rates for BWL residential customers nearly 10 percent less than Consumers Energy rates. Also, if the BWL is purchased by another utility just for electric service and water service is then transferred to another city department, both electric rates and water rates would significantly increase for Lansing residents. Knowing this, are you more likely to favor a proposal to sell the Board of Water and Light, less likely to favor it, or, would you say having higher electric rates and water rates wouldn't influence your opinion one way or the other? **[IF MORE LIKELY/LESS LIKELY, ASK: "Would that be much or somewhat (more/less) likely?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

1%	Much more likely to favor sale of BWL	
1%	Somewhat more likely to favor sale of BWL	2% More likely
32%	Doesn't influence opinion about selling BWL	
14%	Somewhat less likely to favor sale of BWL	
49%	Much less likely to favor sale of BWL	63% Less likely
3%	Undecided/Refused	

__28. **(One/Another)** reason why the sale of the BWL is opposed is because as a municipally owned utility, the BWL is heavily involved in a wide variety of community and charitable activities in the greater Lansing area, such as the Chili Cook Off, Adopt a River, Silver Bells in the City, and many other sponsorships with BWL employees also volunteering thousands of hours annually of their time in providing assistance for many community programs. The sale of BWL to an investor owned utility would put these community and charitable activities into question. Knowing this, are you more likely to favor a proposal to sell the BWL, less likely to favor it, or, would you say the BWL involvement in community and charitable activities wouldn't influence your opinion one way or the other? **[IF MORE LIKELY/LESS LIKELY, ASK: "Would that be much or somewhat (more/less) likely?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

0%	Much more likely to favor sale of BWL	
1%	Somewhat more likely to favor sale of BWL	1% More likely
41%	Doesn't influence opinion about selling BWL	
16%	Somewhat less likely to favor sale of BWL	
40%	Much less likely to favor sale of BWL	56% Less likely
2%	Undecided/Refused	

__29. **(One/Another)** reason why the sale of the BWL is opposed is because over 700 Lansing area residents are employed with good paying jobs at the BWL, and if it is sold, hundreds of those jobs will likely be lost. Knowing this, are you more likely to favor a proposal to sell the BWL, less likely to favor it, or, would you say the loss of BWL jobs for Lansing residents wouldn't influence your opinion one way or the other? **[IF MORE LIKELY/ LESS LIKELY, ASK: "Would that be much or somewhat (more/less) likely?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

1%	Much more likely to favor sale of BWL	
0%	Somewhat more likely to favor sale of BWL	1% More likely
24%	Doesn't influence opinion about selling BWL	
16%	Somewhat less likely to favor sale of BWL	
58%	Much less likely to favor sale of BWL	74% Less likely
1%	Undecided/Refused	

__30. **(One/Another)** reason why the sale of the Board of Water and Light is opposed is because BWL employees have all agreed to cost saving changes in their health insurance and retirement plans so current and future obligations are being met, but city employees in other departments have not made similar changes. It's just not right that an important community asset like the BWL may be sold because of the City's failure to provide an alternative solution for their pension and health care shortfall. Knowing this, are you more likely to favor a proposal to sell the BWL, less likely to favor it, or, would you say the lack of planning by other city department employees wouldn't influence your opinion one way or the other? **[IF MORE LIKELY/LESS LIKELY, ASK: "Would that be much or somewhat (more/less) likely?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

1%	Much more likely to favor sale of BWL	
1%	Somewhat more likely to favor sale of BWL	2% More likely
34%	Doesn't influence opinion about selling BWL	
16%	Somewhat less likely to favor sale of BWL	
45%	Much less likely to favor sale of BWL	61% Less likely
3%	Undecided/Refused	

__31. After hearing the major reasons why people have said they oppose the sale of the BWL, let me ask you a final time -- do you favor or oppose Mayor Bernero's proposal to consider selling the BWL? **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK: "Would that be strongly or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

4%	Strongly favor the sale of the BWL	
6%	Somewhat favor the sale of the BWL	10% Total Favor Sale
15%	Somewhat oppose the sale of the BWL	
71%	Strongly oppose the sale of the BWL	85% Total Oppose Sale
5%	Undecided/Refused	

__32. Since Mayor Virg Bernero has said it's time to consider the sale of the Board of Water and Light be considered, if he does decide to propose the sale of the BWL, would you say that you will be more likely to vote for him in the next election, less likely to vote for him, or, would you say this one issue won't really influence your decision of who to vote for one way or the other? **[IF MORE LIKELY/ LESS LIKELY, ASK: "Would that be much or somewhat (more/less) likely?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

1%	Much more likely to vote for Bernero	
1%	Somewhat more likely to vote for Bernero	1% More likely
42%	Won't influence decision on who to vote for	
15%	Somewhat less likely to vote for Bernero	
39%	Much less likely to vote for Bernero	54% Less likely
2%	Undecided/Refused	

__33. If a candidate running for city council supports a proposal to sell the Board of Water and Light, would you say you are you more likely to vote for him or her in the next election, less likely to vote for him or her, or, would you say this one issue won't really influence your decision one way or the other? **[IF MORE LIKELY/LESS LIKELY, ASK: "Would that be much or somewhat (more/less) likely?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

2%	Much more likely to vote for candidate	
2%	Somewhat more likely to vote for candidate	4% More likely
36%	Won't influence decision on who to vote for	
15%	Somewhat less likely to vote for candidate	
42%	Much less likely to vote for candidate	57% Less likely
4%	Undecided/Refused	