

**EPIC•MRA STATEWIDE POLL OF ACTIVE AND LIKELY NOVEMBER VOTERS
[FREQUENCY REPORT OF SURVEY RESPONSES – 600 SAMPLE – ERROR ±4.0%]
Polling Dates: March 31, 2012 through April 3, 2012**

Questions commissioned by the Replace Don't Erase Coalition

Michigan businesses currently pay a tax called the personal property tax to the local communities where they are located based on the value of their machinery and equipment. This tax is NOT paid by Michigan homeowners or individual taxpayers, but only by businesses. It generates about \$1.27 billion in tax revenue a year statewide to pay for local police and fire protection, local schools, parks and libraries, drinking water systems, and other local services. A proposal in the Legislature would eliminate or significantly cut this tax, which supporters say will encourage businesses to invest in new machinery and equipment, and create more jobs. Based on this description and what you may know or have heard or read, do you favor or oppose a proposal to eliminate all or part of the personal property tax on Michigan businesses? [IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK: "Would that be strongly or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]

12%	Strongly favor
13%	Somewhat favor
25%	TOTAL FAVOR
70%	TOTAL OPPOSE
27%	Somewhat oppose
43%	Strongly oppose
5%	Undecided/Refused

ONLY ASKED OF THOSE WHO OPPOSE OR ARE UNDECIDED ON FIRST QUESTION

If the personal property tax on business is repealed, it would eliminate \$770 million in revenue that goes to local governments and \$500 million that goes to local public school districts in Michigan. This tax is administered and collected by local governments and the revenues stay in local communities and schools to pay for services, including local police and fire protection, teachers, library services, senior citizen programs, water and sewer services, road and bridge repairs, and other local services. Ending or significantly cutting the personal property tax on Michigan businesses would require major cuts in local police and fire protection, street repair, snow removal and other local services. It would also require many local public school districts to lay off teachers and support staff, and cut existing education programs to balance their budgets. Knowing this, let me ask you again, would you favor or oppose a proposal to eliminate all or part of the personal property tax on Michigan businesses? [IF FAVOR/ OPPOSE, ASK: "Would that be strongly or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]

COMBINED WITH FIRST QUESTION

9%	Strongly favor
10%	Somewhat favor
19%	TOTAL FAVOR
78%	TOTAL OPPOSE
32%	Somewhat oppose
46%	Strongly oppose
3%	Undecided/Refused

ONLY ASKED OF THOSE WHO OPPOSE OR ARE UNDECIDED ON FIRST QUESTION

Today, local libraries and school districts in many Michigan communities repay loans and bonds by using revenues from the business personal property tax. Eliminating or making significant cuts to the business personal property tax would force many local school districts and communities to automatically raise property taxes on homeowners because those school districts and communities would still be obligated to repay the loans or bonds, and would need to use another source of revenue to make the payments. Knowing this, let me ask you again, would you favor or oppose a proposal to eliminate all or part of the personal property tax on Michigan businesses? [IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK: "Would that be strongly or somewhat?" AND CODE RESPONSE]

COMBINED WITH FIRST QUESTION

9%	Strongly favor
9%	Somewhat favor
18%	TOTAL FAVOR
78%	TOTAL OPPOSE
31%	Somewhat oppose
47%	Strongly oppose
4%	Undecided/Refused

ASKED OF ALL RESPONDENTS

Some people believe that if the business personal property tax is eliminated or significantly cut, the state's constitution should be amended to require the Legislature to fully replace all of the revenues and guarantee that the money continue to go to local communities and local schools to pay for services. Without a constitutional guarantee that the replacement funds go to local communities and local schools, the Legislature could take the revenues and spend them on state programs and services instead of local services and local schools. Would you favor or oppose a constitutional amendment that would guarantee full replacement of the funds with a guarantee that the revenues continue to go to local communities and schools? [IF FAVOR/ OPPOSE, ASK: "Would that be strongly or somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]

39%	Strongly favor
19%	Somewhat favor
58%	TOTAL FAVOR
31%	TOTAL OPPOSE
9%	Somewhat oppose
22%	Strongly oppose
11%	Undecided/Refused

ASKED OF ALL RESPONDENTS

Your state legislator in Lansing may soon be asked to vote on bills that would eliminate all or part of the personal property tax on Michigan business. Under the bills, some or all of the revenues would be replaced, but the replacement funds would no longer go to local communities and schools, but would go to the Legislature to decide how it is spent. If these bills pass, local governments and schools could be forced to make more cuts and property taxes could increase for local homeowners. If your state legislator voted for this legislation, would you be more likely to vote for that legislator in the next election, less likely to vote for him or her, or, would you say that this one issue won't influence your vote one way or the other? [IF MORE/LESS LIKELY, ASK: "Would that be much (more/less) likely or just somewhat?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]

3%	Much MORE likely to vote for legislator
7%	Somewhat MORE likely to vote for legislator
10%	TOTAL MORE LIKELY
27%	No influence
59%	TOTAL LESS LIKELY
20%	Somewhat LESS likely to vote for legislator
39%	Much LESS likely to vote for legislator
4%	Undecided/Refused