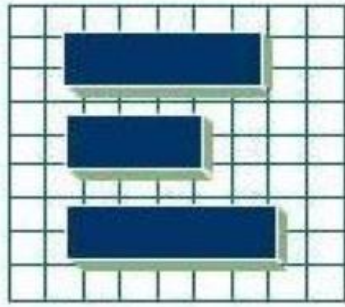




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MICHIGAN POLL ON PUBLIC NOTICES

600 Sample Statewide Poll of Active and Likely November 2026 Voters

Polling Dates: July 24 through July 31, 2026

Conducted by live interviewers, including 80% cell phones - Margin of Error: ±4.0%

Key survey findings:

58% of voters surveyed say they trust local newspapers and their websites to provide important public notices and information that helps ensure government transparency and accountability.

This survey was commissioned by EPIC ■ MRA.

When respondents were asked: *“Which one of the following would you trust the most to provide important public notices and information that helps ensure government transparency and accountability such as local government budgets and how elected officials are spending tax dollars, zoning and taxation issues, public safety and health information, and infrastructure projects?”* 58% of respondents said they trust a local newspaper or a local newspaper and its website the most. 42% said, “a local newspaper and its website,” 19% were undecided or refused to answer, 23% said, “a government website,” and 16% said, “a local newspaper.”

A survey conducted by EPIC ■ MRA in 2019 showed similar results. That consistency is especially noteworthy when considering the dramatic changes to the media landscape over the past seven years.

When respondents were asked: *“As you may know, current Michigan law requires many official activities to be published in local newspapers. The purpose behind this law is to provide as much notice to the public as possible of official government actions that will take place or are planned to take place. Some local officials want to eliminate this requirement and only place official notices on their government website. Which would you trust more as the place to find public notices of government activities?”* 55% of respondents said, “my local newspaper/newspaper’s website,” 25% said “government website,” 9% said “both,” and 7% said “neither.” 4% of respondents were undecided or refused to answer.

When respondents were asked: *“Putting aside your personal preference, which method of making government activities known to the most members of the general public would be the most effective?”* 63% of respondents answered, “local newspaper,” 24% said “government website,” 5.5% said “both” and 3.5% said “neither.” 4% of respondents were undecided or refused to answer.

The survey shows that Michigan voters continue to view local newspapers and their digital platforms as the most trusted source for official public notices and information about government actions.

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