



To: Interested Parties
From: Amy Levin, Partner, Benenson Strategy Group
Date: December 11th, 2018
Re: Michigan voters' reaction to legislature's lame duck actions

- Our recent polling in Michigan shows very clearly that:
 - 1) **Voters overwhelmingly support the paid sick leave and minimum wage policies** that the state legislature passed in September.
 - 2) **Strong majorities of voters feel these policies were set to improve things for their own families.**
- These policies have both high and broad support – from **strong majorities of voters across the partisan spectrum and in every major demographic.**

Paid sick days

- **84% of voters support the policy** to “require employers to allow workers to earn one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked, for a max of 9 days a year at larger companies and 5 days for a year for small businesses.”
 - **A whopping 80% of Republicans support the paid sick law recently gutted by Republican legislators** (along with 80% of Independents and 91% of Democrats).
- 74% of voters would be less favorable (and 58% would be much less favorable) to a legislator who decided to change their vote and repeal the paid sick leave policy.
 - (For context, 14% said it would have no impact, 11% would be more favorable, and 1% don't know.)
 - Two-thirds of Republicans (67%) and three-fourths of Independents (77%) would be less likely to vote for a legislator that changed their vote and repealed paid sick leave.

Minimum wage

- **77% of voters support the policy** to “increase the minimum wage to \$9.25 an hour next year, and then gradually increase it each year until it is \$12.00 an hour by 2022.”
 - Large majorities from all parties (58% of Republicans, 75% of Independents, and 93% of Democrats) support this policy.
- As with paid sick leave, respondents were incensed to learn the following:
Earlier this year, the Michigan state legislature voted to increase the minimum wage to \$9.25 an hour next year, and then gradually increase it each year until it is \$12.00 an hour by 2022. Now that the election is over, some legislators want to change their vote and repeal the new minimum wage law.
 - **55% of Republicans would be less favorable to a legislator who changed their vote and cut minimum wage** – less than half that (27%) would be more favorable.
 - **Among Independents, 71% would be less favorable to a legislator who did this** (61% would be *much* less favorable; just 14% would be more favorable).



- It's important for Michigan's leadership to understand why these proposals – and politicians' gutting of them – generate such passionate responses from voters. For voters, this is personal, not politics.
 - 41% say the paid sick days proposal would help them or their family a “great deal” and another 19% say it would help “some”; in total, **60% of families would have felt the government had done something for them if the legislature hadn't reneged.**
 - Similarly, on minimum wage – 54% say the proposal would help them or their families personally.

Methodology

Benenson Strategy Group conducted 1406 interviews with registered voters in Michigan from November 26 - December 6, 2018. Interviews were conducted with voters from the voter file over the telephone and online. The margin of error is $\pm 2.6\%$ at the 95% confidence level and higher among subgroups.

