

January 31, 2011

# Michigan Voters Support EPA Regulation of Global Warming Pollution

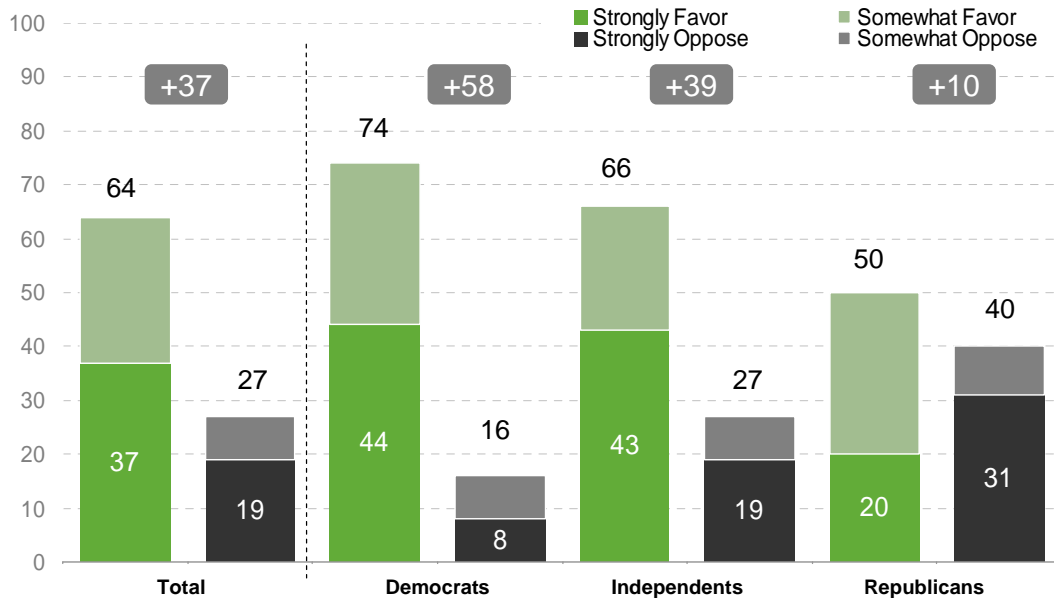
## Survey Findings and Recommendations

**To:** The Energy Foundation  
**From:** Al Quinlan and Andrew Baumann

A new survey of Michigan voters<sup>1</sup> find strong support for allowing the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. In a flat question, before hearing arguments from either side of the debate,<sup>2</sup> Michigan voters favor allowing the EPA to regulate these emissions by a 64 to 27 percent margin. As the figure below shows, a majority of Democrats, Independents and even Republicans support EPA authority. Levels of support are remarkably consistent across regional, education and age divides. Women are initially more supportive than men, however both groups support initially EPA authority by at least 25-point margins.<sup>3</sup>

### Voters across partisan spectrum support EPA authority to regulate greenhouse gases

*How about you, do you support or oppose allowing the E.P.A. to regulate greenhouse gas emissions?*



<sup>1</sup> Memo based on a survey of 500 Michigan registered voters, conducted January 13 to 18, 2011.

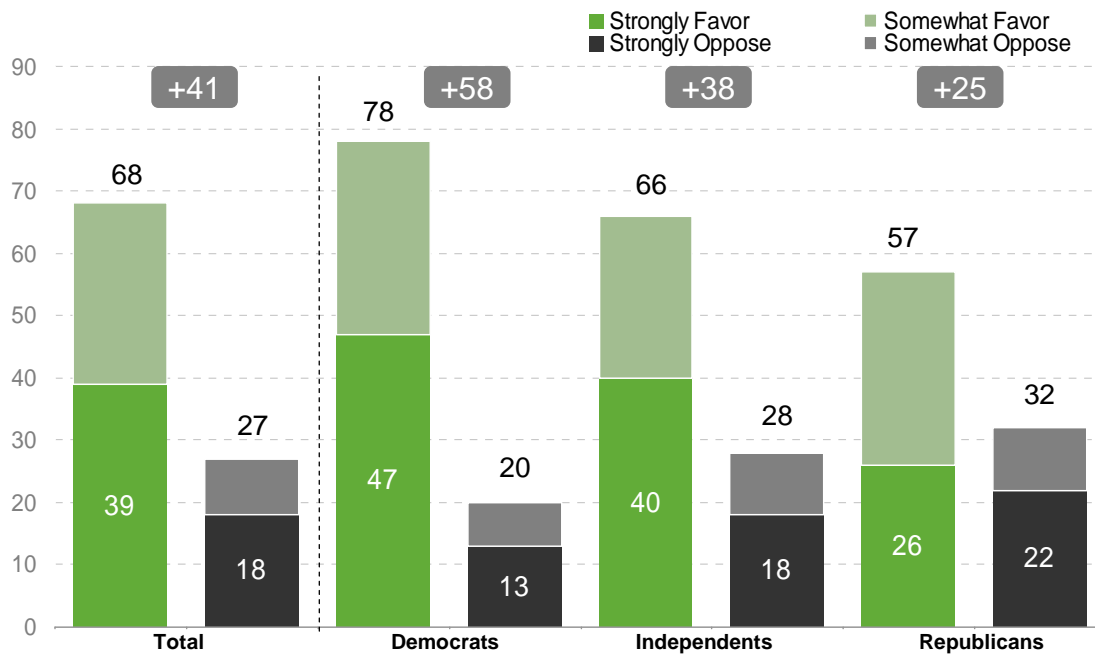
<sup>2</sup> See Appendix B for language of the initial question and arguments on EPA authority.

<sup>3</sup> See Appendix A for a summary of support across demographic groups.

After voters are presented with arguments from both sides of the issue,<sup>4</sup> overall support for EPA authority creeps up to 68 percent in favor against 27 percent opposed. Both Democrats and Independents maintain their original strong levels of support, while the bulk of the growth in support actually comes from Republicans, who back EPA authority by a 25-point margin after hearing both sides of the debate. Support also increases substantially among men, bringing them inline with women, as well as with white voters, who back EPA authority by 43 points after hearing these arguments.

### Support for EPA authority increases slightly after balanced debate

Now that you've heard more about this issue let me ask you again, do you support or oppose allowing the E.P.A. to regulate greenhouse gas emissions?



<sup>4</sup> Language of arguments modeled on language used by actual proponents and opponents of EPA authority. See article in Politico from December 23: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1210/46759.html#ixzz19z9g5nrh>

---

**Appendix A: Support for EPA Regulation Among Key Groups**

	<b>Initial</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Total Favor</b>	64	68
Oppose	27	27
Net	+37	+41
<b>Net Support Among:</b>		
Democrats	+58	+58
Independents	+39	+38
Republicans	+10	+25
<b>Men</b>		
Men	+26	+37
<b>Women</b>		
Women	+46	+45
<b>Under 50</b>		
Under 50	+38	+45
<b>50 and Over</b>		
50 and Over	+36	+38
<b>College Grad</b>		
College Grad	+37	+51
<b>Non-College Grad</b>		
Non-College Grad	+38	+34
<b>White</b>		
White	+33	+43
<b>Non-White</b>		
Non-White	+57	+36
<b>Liberals</b>		
Liberals	+71	+71
<b>Moderates</b>		
Moderates	+47	+54
<b>Conservatives</b>		
Conservatives	+9	+15

---

## Appendix B: EPA Question Language

On a slightly different topic, as you may know, in 2007 the Supreme Court ruled that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, the pollution that causes global warming, and to take steps to reduce such emissions from electric utilities and other large industrial sources. Some in Congress want to take that authority away from the E.P.A. How about you, do you support or oppose allowing the E.P.A. to regulate greenhouse gas emissions?

...

Now let me read you two arguments some people on both sides of the issue make.

(Some/other) people say: Scientists at the EPA are the most qualified people to decide how to protect the public from pollution, not politicians in Congress. The EPA is taking a common sense approach, simply requiring major industrial polluters to do what is available and affordable to reduce emissions, something they've been doing for other forms of pollution for decades. Congress should hold polluters accountable for their actions and let the E.P.A. do its job, not let polluters off the hook.

(Some/other) people say: The American people rejected Nancy Pelosi's cap-and-trade plan, but now the Obama administration is trying to impose a similar plan through the EPA. Their plan would impose more burdensome regulations that will cost American businesses hundreds of billion dollars, lead to higher gas and electricity prices for consumers and put thousands of American jobs at risk. Congress should rein in the EPA and stop this harmful and excessive new bureaucracy.

Now that you've heard more about this issue let me ask you again, do you support or oppose allowing the E.P.A. to regulate greenhouse gas emissions?