



Q6. Different local jurisdictions manage their unreserved/unassigned general fund balances in different ways depending on their specific circumstances. Despite these differences, we're interested in tracking overall changes in these balances over time. Approximately what was your jurisdiction's unreserved/unassigned general fund balance as a percentage of general fund expenditures at the end of its last fiscal year?

- 0% or less       21-30%       51-60%       81-90%       Don't Know  
 1-10%       31-40%       61-70%       91-100%  
 11-20%       41-50%       71-80%       Over 100%

Q7. Thinking about your jurisdiction's fiscal needs, overall, do you consider your jurisdiction's unreserved/unassigned general fund balance to be too high, about right, or too low?

- Too High       About Right       Too Low       Don't Know

Q8. In your opinion, is your jurisdiction's cash flow and its ability to pay bills in a timely manner a significant fiscal problem, somewhat of a problem, not much of a problem, or not a problem at all?

- A significant problem       Somewhat of a problem       Not much of a problem       Not a problem at all       Don't Know

Q9. Now, thinking about the overall fiscal stress in your jurisdiction today and what you expect it to be down the road — including any future financial obligations it may have — on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is the best: perfect fiscal health and 10 is the worst: fiscal crisis, how would you rate your jurisdiction's overall fiscal stress...

	The Best: Perfect Fiscal Health									The Worst: Fiscal Crisis		Don't Know
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
... today?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
... as you expect it to be five years from now?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q10. Next, we want to get an overall sense of the level of satisfaction with the services your jurisdiction currently provides. Thinking about any important aspects of service provision (such as the range of different types of services offered, the amount and quality of those services, etc.), overall, how satisfied would you say the following people or groups are with your jurisdiction's current services?

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't Know
The majority of your jurisdiction's citizens are...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The majority of your jurisdiction's Board/Council are...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
You personally in your role as a local official are...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q11. We are interested in views about the trade-off between services and taxes. Thinking about particular services your jurisdiction may currently offer, if your jurisdiction's citizens were facing significant service cuts, in your opinion, what would they choose? Would the majority of citizens be more likely to choose higher taxes to avoid those service cuts or would they choose cuts to public services to avoid higher taxes? Please respond for each of the following services. (If your jurisdiction does not provide a particular service below, please select "Not Applicable" for that service.)

	Citizens would choose higher taxes to avoid service cuts	Citizens would choose service cuts to avoid higher taxes	Not Applicable	Don't Know
Police services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks / recreation / libraries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public transportation / transit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utilities (water, sewer, lighting, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General operations / governance (tax collections, accounting, training for officials, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Now, we'd like to ask you about drinking water issues in your jurisdiction. (County officials, please skip to Q33.)

Q17. Some people get their drinking water through a shared water supply system (such as a municipal system, a subdivision-wide system, a shared system for a single apartment building, etc.). Others get drinking water from individual private wells. Which of the following best describes how drinking water is provided in your jurisdiction?

- Entirely through shared water supply system(s)
- Mostly through shared water supply system(s), but some individual private wells
- Mostly through individual private wells, but some shared system(s)
- Entirely through individual private wells (please skip to Q19)
- Don't know

Q18. To the best of your knowledge, which of the following best describes the source(s) of the shared drinking water system(s) in your jurisdiction?

- Surface water only (e.g., lake, river)
- Groundwater only (subsurface sources)
- A combination of surface water and groundwater
- Don't know

Q19. To what extent – if any – are each of the following currently problems for drinking water provision in your jurisdiction?

	A Significant Problem	Somewhat of a Problem	Not Much of a Problem	Not a Problem at All	Not Applicable	Don't Know
Threats to water source quality / safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Inadequate volume / low water tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Compliance with state and/or federal regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Presence of lead in on-premises plumbing (e.g., faucets, solder)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Presence of lead in pipes connecting customers to the system(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aging / breaking pipes in the shared water supply system(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affordability / delinquency on water bills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

(If in Q17 you selected drinking water provision in your jurisdiction is "entirely through private wells", please skip to Q27.)

Q20. Which of the following best describes your jurisdiction's role, if any, in the shared water system?

- No role:** my jurisdiction plays no active role in drinking water supply or distribution (please skip now to Q27)
- Some role:** my jurisdiction plays some kind of active role in water supply or distribution (for example, supplying our own water; contracting / purchasing water from another provider; or owning / operating some portion of local drinking water infrastructure)
- Don't Know

Q21. In your opinion, how would you rate the overall current condition of drinking water infrastructure (such as treatment plant, distribution pipes, etc.) in your jurisdiction?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't Know

Q22. To what degree would you say the overall condition of drinking water systems in your jurisdiction has improved or deteriorated over the last decade?

Significantly Improved	Somewhat Improved	Neither Improved Nor Deteriorated	Somewhat Deteriorated	Significantly Deteriorated	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q23. To what extent, if any, is the current condition of the drinking water infrastructure in your jurisdiction a topic of discussion...

	A Great Deal	Somewhat	Very Little	Not At All	Don't Know
... among your jurisdiction's Board/Council?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... among your jurisdiction's citizens?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q24. Thinking about the current levels of funding for drinking water infrastructure in your jurisdiction, to what extent do you agree or disagree that current levels of funding are adequate...

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
... to <u>maintain</u> the drinking water infrastructure in your jurisdiction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... to <u>improve</u> the drinking water infrastructure in your jurisdiction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q25. Please indicate whether your jurisdiction uses each of the following options to fund drinking water, and whether or not each has been increased in the last few years?

	We do not use	We use, but <u>have not increased</u> recently	We use and <u>have increased</u> recently	Don't Know
General fund contributions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water rates / user fees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special assessments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bonds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low-interest loans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal / state grants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q26. Looking ahead, in order to maintain or improve drinking water infrastructure in your jurisdiction, do you think the following groups or individuals would support or oppose increasing water rates or fees?

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support Nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know
The majority of your jurisdiction's Board/Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The majority of your jurisdiction's citizens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
You personally in your role as a local official	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q27. (For all city, village, and township officials) The responsibility for ensuring safe drinking water is shared among many actors, including both public and private entities. We're particularly interested in the role of federal, state, and local governments. Please rate how well each of the following levels of government is doing in carrying out its responsibility to ensure safe drinking water in your jurisdiction.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know
Federal government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan's state government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your local government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Next, we have a few questions about tax appeals. (Village and county officials, please skip to Q33.)

**Q28.** (Township and city officials) Thinking about the last two years, have landowners for any of the following classes of real property in your jurisdiction appealed their tax assessments — either to your jurisdiction’s Board of Review or directly to the Michigan Tax Tribunal? (Please select “Not Applicable” if you do not have any parcels of that class within your jurisdiction.)

	Yes	No	Not Applicable	Don't Know
Commercial “big box” stores (e.g., Lowe’s, Costco, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other commercial properties aside from “big box” stores	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residential	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q29.** (If you selected “yes” to any items in Q28) Did any of these landowners appeal a Board of Review determination to the Michigan Tax Tribunal?

- Yes       No       Don't Know

**Q30.** (If you selected “yes” in Q29) Thinking about any appeals of a Board of Review determination to the Michigan Tax Tribunal in the last two years, how did your jurisdiction respond? (check all that apply)

- We stipulated/agreed to the value(s) the landowner stated in their Michigan Tax Tribunal petition.  
 We stipulated/agreed to an alternate taxable value with landowner prior to the Tax Tribunal hearing.  
 We defended the assessment before the Tax Tribunal.  
 Don't Know

**Q31.** (If you selected “stipulated” in Q30) To what extent — if at all — did the cost of legal representation for the appeal impact your decision to stipulate rather than defend the original assessment before the Tax Tribunal?

- A Great Deal       Somewhat       Not Much       Not at All       Don't Know

**Q32.** (If you selected “defended” in Q30) Thinking about property tax appeals that have gone to the Michigan Tax Tribunal from your jurisdiction in the last two years, would you say you are generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the Tax Tribunal’s determination(s)?

- Very Satisfied      Somewhat Satisfied      Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied      Somewhat Dissatisfied      Very Dissatisfied      Don't Know
- 

**Q33.** (For all officials) Overall, how much of a problem — if at all — are property tax appeals for your jurisdiction’s current fiscal health?

- A Significant Problem      Somewhat of a Problem      Not Much of a Problem      Not a Problem at All      Don't Know
- 

**Q34.** In some jurisdictions, retail chains (including “big box” stores) have appealed their property tax assessments claiming their buildings are hard to sell for another use, making the market value significantly lower than construction costs. Recently, the Michigan Tax Tribunal has generally ruled that tax assessments for these properties should be based upon the selling price of comparable vacant “dark stores.” To what extent do you agree or disagree that tax assessments of retail chain stores should be based on comparable vacant “dark stores?”

- Strongly Agree      Somewhat Agree      Neither Agree Nor Disagree      Somewhat Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know
- 

**Q35.** Some jurisdictions have enacted local ordinances to address “dark stores” appeals (for example, requiring new commercial buildings to be constructed for more general reuse or addressing these issues in terms of deed restrictions). Which of the following best describes the actions — if any — your jurisdiction has taken to minimize the impact of “dark stores” tax appeals?

- It has enacted a relevant local ordinance, or is in the process of enacting an ordinance.  
 It discussed enacting an ordinance, but has decided not to.  
 It discussed enacting an ordinance, but has not yet decided what to do.  
 It has not discussed this issue, but is likely to consider it in the future.  
 It has not discussed this issue, and is unlikely to discuss it in the future.  
 Don't Know

Finally, we have a few long-term tracking questions repeated each spring regarding the overall state of affairs in Michigan more broadly.

Q36. Do you feel things in the state of Michigan are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?

- Right direction       Wrong track       Don't Know (please skip to Q38)

Q37. Please briefly tell us the main reasons why you think things in the state of Michigan are generally going that way.

Q38. How would you rate the way Rick Snyder is performing his job as Michigan's governor?

- Excellent       Good       Fair       Poor       Don't Know

Q39. How would you rate the way the Michigan Legislature is performing its job?

- Excellent       Good       Fair       Poor       Don't Know

Q40. CLOSUP wants to improve its public service to you and others. In addition to our web data tables and reports on the findings from each survey, we want to know if there are other resources or services CLOSUP could provide that would be useful to your jurisdiction. Please let us know below what else we can do to help.

Q41. CLOSUP will protect your privacy and anonymity to the full extent provided by law. We need to confirm your personal information such as name and email address for tracking and administrative purposes only. Your personal information will not be shared with any outside sources. As with all of the questions in this survey, these are optional.

Please provide us with...

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Your email address \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

We would like to ask some demographic questions. As with all of the questions in this survey, these are optional. Responses will be reported in aggregate form only so that your individual responses will remain confidential.

Q42. What is your gender?     Male     Female

Q43. In what year were you born? 19 \_\_\_\_

Q44. How many years have you served in your current position? \_\_\_\_\_

Q45. Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino descent?     Yes     No

Q46. Please check one or more categories below to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be. (check all that apply)

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiracial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know  |

Q47. What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12th grade or less/no diploma | <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's degree             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High school graduate or GED   | <input type="checkbox"/> Master's degree               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some college, no degree       | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional/Doctorate degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate's degree            |  |

Q48. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a...?

- Republican       Independent       Democrat       Something Else (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Q49. (If Republican or Democrat) Would you consider yourself a strong or not very strong Republican/Democrat?

- Very strong       Not very strong       Don't Know

Q50. (If Independent or something else) Would you consider yourself closer to...?

- The Democratic Party       The Republican Party       Neither