

**TO: Interested Parties**  
**FROM: Geoff Garin**  
**DATE: April 13, 2020**  
**RE: Surveys of Voters in Michigan and Wisconsin**

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As a companion to our recent national survey on the coronavirus crisis, we completed companion surveys with representative cross sections of voters in Michigan and Wisconsin. These surveys, like the national survey, were conducted on behalf of Protect Our Care and CAP Action Fund. The interviews with 303 voters in Michigan and 301 voters in Wisconsin were conducted online April 6 to 8, 2020.

The results in Michigan and Washington are consistent with the key findings from the national survey. In both states we find that voters are evenly divided in their overall rating of President Trump's handling of the coronavirus outbreak, but beneath that there is a widely shared critique of Trump's role in making the crisis worse than it otherwise might have been. For example:

- Only 27% of voters in Michigan and 32% of voters in Wisconsin say that Trump took the threat of the coronavirus crisis seriously from the start;
- Sixty-eight percent of Michigan voters and 69% of Wisconsin voters say that Trump did too little to make sure the country was prepared for the coronavirus outbreak in the United States;
- Sixty-eight percent of Michigan voters and 63% of Wisconsin voters say that Trump did too little to make sure the United States did enough testing to contain the spread of the coronavirus;
- Michigan voters say by 60% to 40% that Trump did too little to make sure there is enough personal protective equipment for healthcare workers, while Wisconsin voters feel this way by 54% to 46%.
- Michigan voters say by 58% to 42% that Trump is doing too little to make sure hospitals have enough ventilators to keep people alive, while Wisconsin voters feel that way by 55% to 45%.

Both Governor Gretchen Whitmer (71% approval) and Governor Tony Evers (73% approval) get positive marks from very large majorities of voters for their handling of coronavirus in their states—21 and 23 points higher than Trump's approval in Michigan and Wisconsin. By large margins, voters trust the two governors more than Trump to provide accurate information about how well their states' needs are being met.

Michigan and Wisconsin voters have differing views from one another in their perceptions of their states' positions in the evolution of the coronavirus outbreak. Fully 87% of Michigan voters say coronavirus is already a crisis in

their state, while in Wisconsin voters are more likely to say it is likely to become a crisis (37% already a crisis, 49% likely to become a crisis).

Perhaps because Michiganders see their state's current situation as being more dire, they are more critical of President Trump's responsiveness to the state's need. By 60% to 40% they say Trump is doing too little to meet Governor Whitmer's requests for medical supplies and equipment. And while most voters in Michigan have an unfavorable view of Trump's record of responding to the state's emergency needs, they are even more unfavorable to the president's treatment of Governor Whitmer. Sixty-four percent of voters express an unfavorable reaction to Trump's personal name-calling attacks on Governor Whitmer and his instruction to Vice President Pence not to call "the woman in Michigan."

In Wisconsin, voters are divided evenly on whether President Trump has done enough or too little to meet Governor Evers's requests for equipment.

Large majorities of voters in both Michigan (64%) and Wisconsin (58%) say it is appropriate for President Trump's opponents to criticize him for his failures to make sure that he does not keep making the same mistakes—rejecting the counter claim that the country needs to unite around his leadership.

Indeed, many criticisms of President Trump's handling of the coronavirus crisis are highly concerning to voters in both Michigan and Wisconsin, and these criticisms result in a significant increase in the percentage of voters who disapprove of his performance (to 60% in Michigan and to 59% in Wisconsin).

The messages that are most effective in moving voters nationally also are the most effective in moving voters in Michigan and Wisconsin:

- He repeatedly misled the public about the severity of the coronavirus and said many things that simply were not true, like it would disappear—causing the virus to spread unchecked.
- He failed to pay attention to numerous warnings from experts inside and outside the government about the potential coronavirus pandemic before it came to the United States.
- He failed to make sure the United States could conduct the kind of mass testing for the coronavirus that experts said would be essential for containing the spread of the virus. Countries like South Korea tested 10 times as many people as the United States in the first two months, and as a result have only a few hundred deaths.
- He failed to make sure there is enough personal protective equipment for doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers who are treating coronavirus patients.