



November 2, 2020

TO: Interested Parties

FR: Ben Greenfield, Change Research

RE: More than 70% of Michigan Voters Support Pathway To Citizenship

A new survey of 623 registered voters in Michigan finds large majorities supporting a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants as well as a pathway for Dreamers. The poll, which was conducted October 28-31, finds Joe Biden with a 5-point lead, and Gary Peters leading by 6. Down the stretch of the campaign, Peters has been featured in some attack ads about his support for sanctuary cities. Respondents were shown one such ad, and it fell flat with most voters, as even a significant percentage of those supporting John James found it unconvincing.

Biden Leads By 5, Peters By 6

In the presidential race, Joe Biden leads Donald Trump by 50-45. Libertarian Jo Jorgensen is at 3%, 1% are undecided, another 1% voted early but don't recall how they voted, and Green Party candidate Howie Hawkins has less than one percent.

Senator Gary Peters leads his race, getting 51% of the vote, while Republican John James is at 45%. 1% plan to support a third party candidate, 1% are undecided, and 1% already voted but don't recall for whom.

71% Support A Pathway To Citizenship For Undocumented Immigrants

71% of Michiganders think that the United States should create a pathway for undocumented immigrants to earn legal status and citizenship, while 27% disagree. And nearly half of voters -- 47% -- strongly agree.

Among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents, 96% support a pathway to citizenship. A large majority of independents who lean toward neither party -- 69% -- do, as well. Even among Republicans and independents who lean toward the Republican Party, 42% support a pathway.

More Than Two-Thirds Of Voters Support Pathway To Citizenship For Dreamers

Voters in Michigan are also strongly supportive of a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, with 68% supporting, 23% opposing, and 9% unsure. Again, there is considerable support on both sides of the partisan divide, with 36% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents favoring a pathway for Dreamers and 45% opposed. Among Republican women, 42% support, and 41% oppose.

Voters Find Anti-Sanctuary City Attack Against Gary Peters Unconvincing

Senator Gary Peters has been depicted by his opponents as dangerous for Michigan because of his support for sanctuary cities. **The survey found this line of attack unconvincing. Respondents were shown one such video ad, and asked how convincing they found it on a scale of 0 to 10. 53% rated it a 0, 1, or 2, while only 30% rated it 8, 9, or 10.** And those who did find it very convincing were overwhelmingly already planning to vote for Republican John James.

Overall, Peters supporters gave the video an average rating of 0.7 out of 10. James voters, on the other hand, rated it 7.4 on average. That is, Peters voters were repelled by the video more than James voters were lured by it. And while only 1% of Peters voters rated the video 10 out of 10, 11% of James voters rated it 0 out of 10. **In other words, the video is not only preaching to the converted, but it alienates more voters than it wins over.**

We will find out in the coming days which candidate voters in Michigan choose to represent them for the next six years. But for now, we can be confident that attacks on Gary Peters's position on sanctuary cities are turning off more voters than they're winning over.

Change Research surveyed 623 voters in Michigan who are likely to vote or have already voted in the 2020 general election from October 28-October 31. The survey was conducted online, using Change Research's Dynamic Online Sampling Engine. Post-stratification was done on age, gender, race, education, region of the state, and 2016 presidential vote.