

Michigan Insights Review Series

Top Policy Issues

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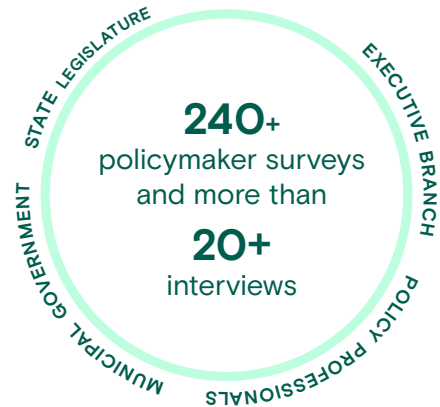


Executive Summary

We are excited to share findings from our second annual Michigan Insights Review. From March to May 2022, we surveyed and spoke with over 250 state and local policymakers in Michigan to understand policy priorities throughout the state and how the private and public sector can work on those issues.

While healthcare remains a top priority for Michigan policymakers, focus this year has shifted to infrastructure and education, as decision-makers grapple with questions around how to rebuild the state in a post-pandemic world.

Following a consequential midterm election, Michigan policymakers are aware that their constituents will be looking to them to work with the private sector to solve the issues they prioritized during their reelection campaigns. As leaders return to in-person engagement, policymakers want to see the private sector engaging on these foundational issues, placing an emphasis on direct collaboration with stakeholders, in order to benefit both local communities and the state as a whole.



This is the first report in a series that covers various top policy priorities in the state of Michigan. This report is an examination of overall policymaker priorities for this year.



Infrastructure



Education



Healthcare



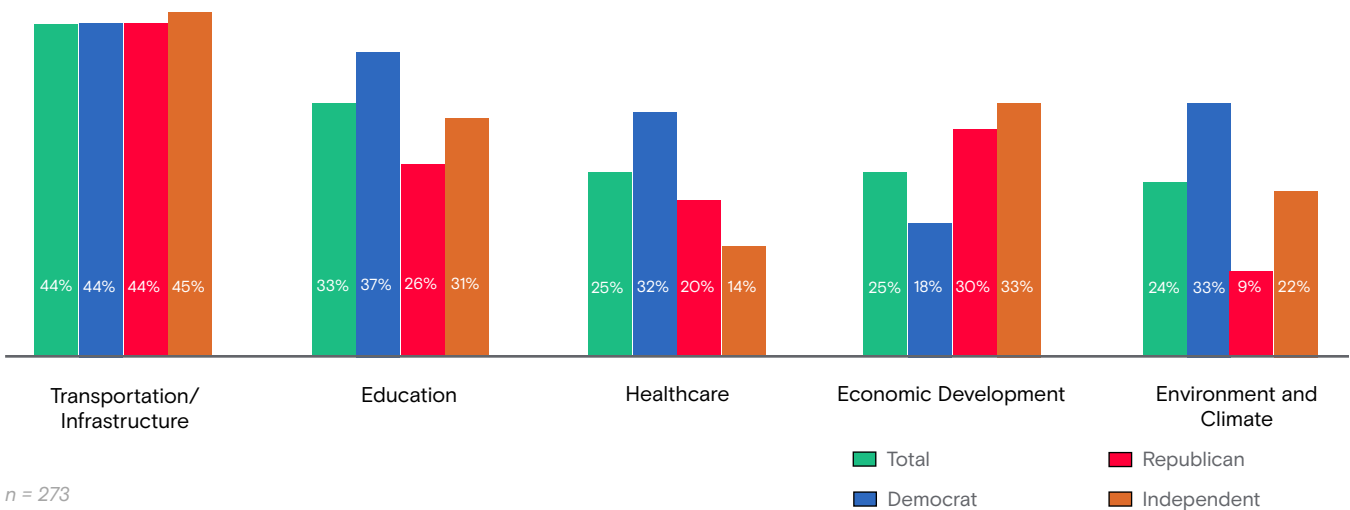
Economic Development



Environment

Top Pressing Issues in the State

Which of the following do you view as the most pressing issues facing the state?



n = 273

Top Issues in 2022

Infrastructure

Improving infrastructure in Michigan is the top concern for policymakers, regardless of their party affiliation. Forty-four percent of both Democrats and Republicans, as well as 45 percent of Independents, identify infrastructure as one of the top three policy priorities.



“So **what’s really important to the State of Michigan is certainly investment in infrastructure.** We are adding a lot of the best practices that we experimented with during the pandemic...with an eye towards the future.”

Council Member, Municipal, D

“The EV transition is inevitable, but I am worried about mileage. **We need charging stations,** whether the state or the businesses build them.”

Legislative Director, Legislative, R

Education

Policymakers view investing in the education system as a priority that will have positive impacts on the workforce and economy.



“**K-12 education is the most important thing that the state government does.** I think it will always be the top issue.”

State Senator, Legislative, D

Healthcare

Policymakers want to see more affordable and accessible healthcare options that include comprehensive mental health services.



“...My main concern is just that there is an **inconsistent network of care** around the state, and that **location becomes a really significant factor** in the amount and quality of care that folks can access.”

Legislative Liaison, Executive, R

“I feel that a lot of people refuse to seek health care treatment because **they feel that they can’t pay for it...**”

Council Member, Municipal, I

Top Issues (cont.)

Economic Development

Policymakers are concerned with a shortage of workers in several key industries and believe improving the workforce is vital to economic development in Michigan.



“Whatever industry you talk to, they’re lacking workers. I just was with [a company] last night. They need workers. The mental health industry needs workers. Manufacturers need workers. It doesn’t matter. **Every industry in the state seems to be struggling to find enough workforce.**”

Representative, Legislative, D

Environment

Policymakers are actively working to protect natural resources in Michigan.



“If you’re looking out with any sort of long-term vision, **the most important thing we can do for future prosperity is making sure that we protect clean air and clean water in our environment.**”

Senator, Legislative, D

“**We’ve had an issue over the last couple of years because folks think we don’t have clean drinking water.** Michigan is really pushing to demonstrate that we are the water state and we do take exceptional care of our surface and groundwater. It is definitely a focus across the aisle. **It’s not just a Democratic or Republican focus.**”

Policy Advisor, Legislative, R

Policymakers identify infrastructure as the most significant issue in the state of Michigan, but also view education and healthcare as other critical sectors in need of improvement. In addition, policymakers are working to make meaningful investments in the economy and environment.

Government Partnerships

Executive Branch

Policy Professionals

Municipal Government

State Legislature

Our Clients

Trade Groups

Interest Groups

Professional Societies

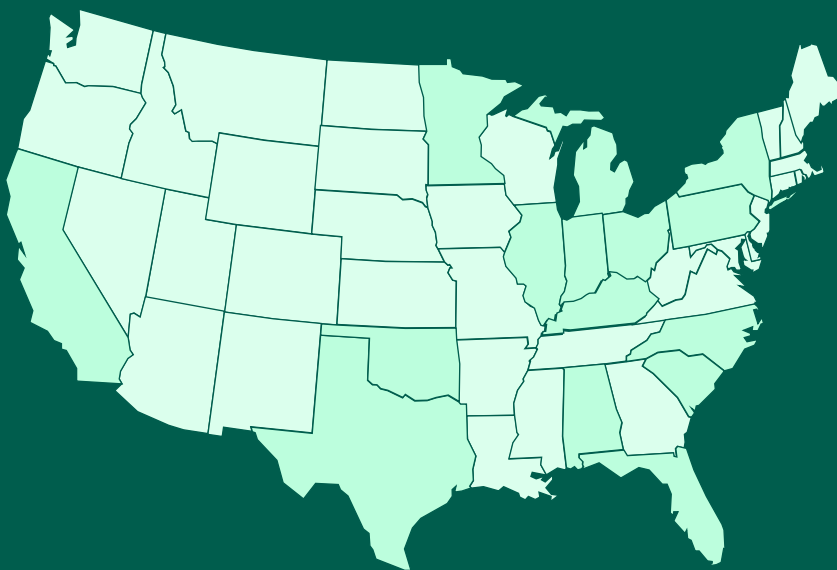
Companies & Associations

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Penta provides direct feedback from policymakers to government relations professionals, improving advocates' ability to understand, validate, and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their engagement.

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