

July 27, 2018

Strong Support for a New, Fairer School Funding System

Poll Results

To: Interested Parties

From: Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research

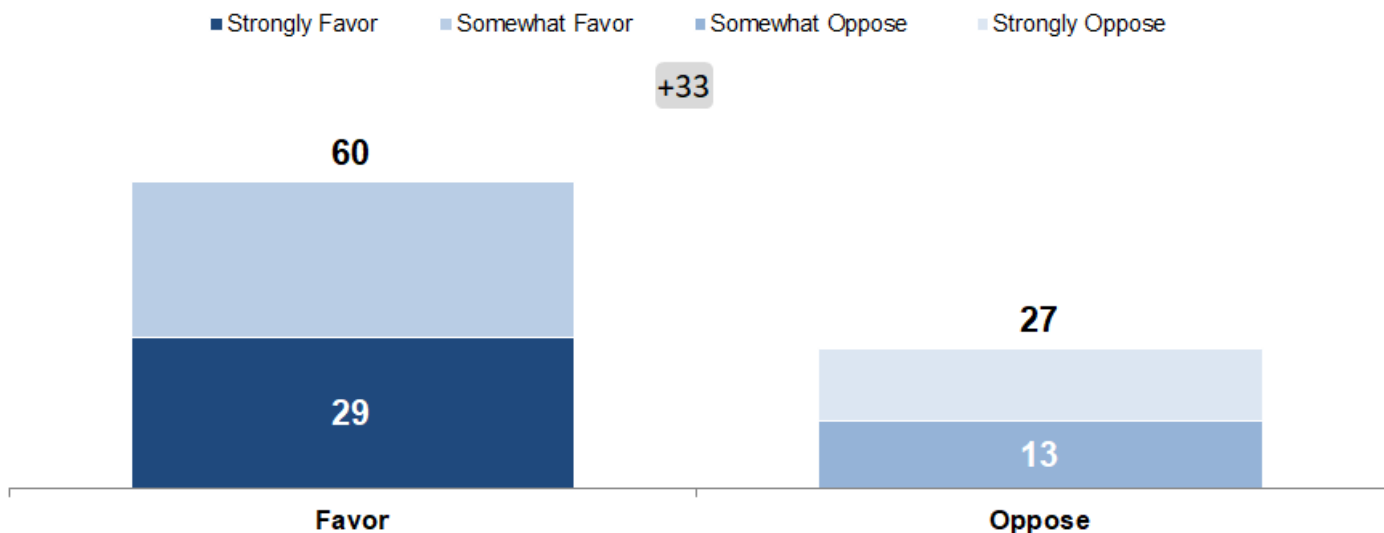
A recent statewide survey in Michigan of likely 2018 general election voters find strong support for funding schools in Michigan in a fairer way.¹ Sixty percent of voters support a \$1,500 per year, per pupil increase in school funding while just 27 percent oppose. Support for this proposal stretches across partisanship, region and nearly all important subgroups.

■ Figure 1: Initial Support

Changing gears a bit. I am going to read you some details about a proposal about changing the way schools are funded in Michigan by establishing a standard, per pupil funding formula?

Business leaders and education experts from across the state came together last year to address inadequate funding for public and charter schools in Michigan. This diverse and nonpartisan group commissioned a one-of-a-kind study to determine the base cost of educating a student. This amount excludes transportation like bussing, food service, like lunches, and capital costs, like building construction and upkeep. It recommends a \$1,500 increase in current funding levels, from \$8,000 per student per year to \$9,590 per student per year. Some people are proposing to use the findings of this study to change the way we fund schools and establish a standard, per pupil funding baseline amount for all Michigan public and charter school students.

Would you favor or oppose this proposal to change the way schools are funded in Michigan by establishing a standard, per pupil funding formula?

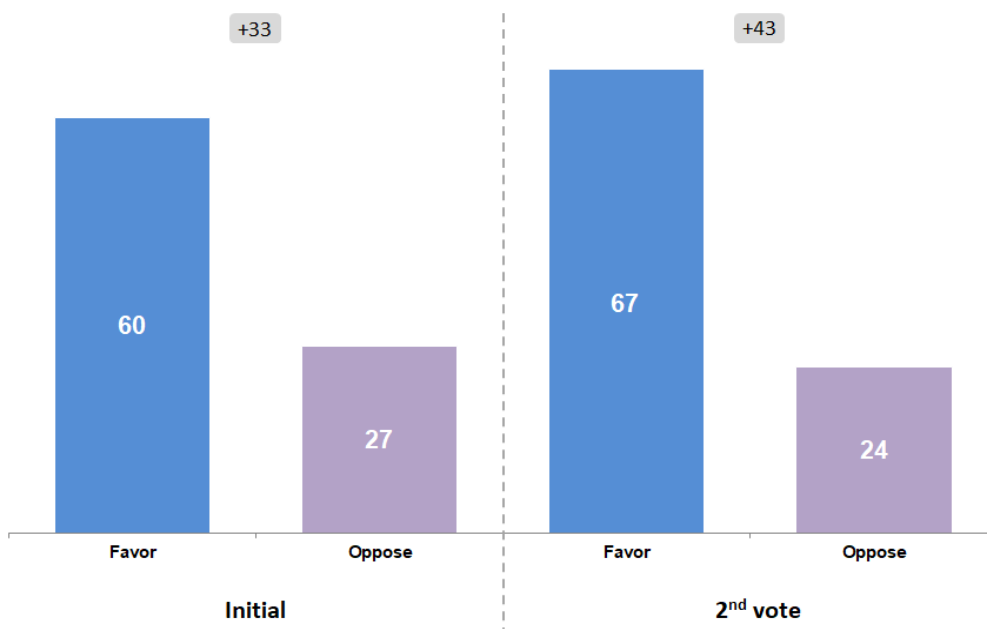


¹Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research conducted a survey among 601 likely 2018 General Election voters in Michigan from June 12-18, 2018. The data are subject to a margin of error of +/- 4 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence interval; margin of error is higher among subgroups.

After voters hear that the proposal provides additional funding for special education, English language learners, students living in poverty, programs to provide career and technical education, and to account for geographic isolation, support climbs to 67 percent.

Voters also say that the additional funding for career and technical training (78 percent convincing) and special education (74 percent convincing), and that it will fund schools more fairly (73 percent convincing) offer convincing reason to support this proposal.

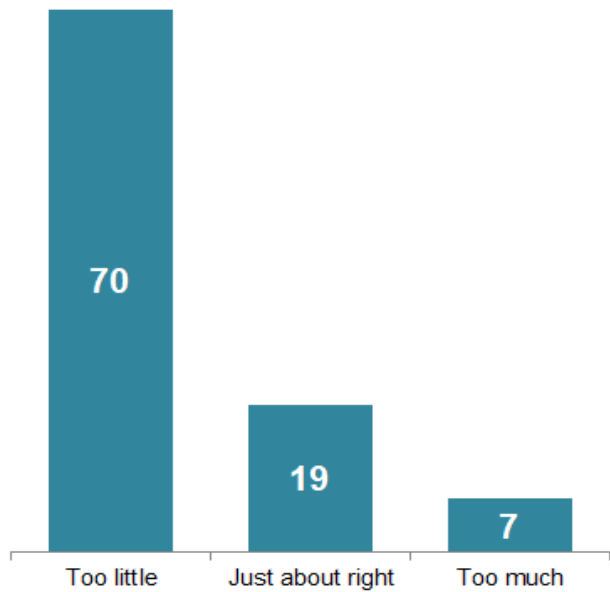
■ Figure 2: Support Progression



Impressions about how schools in Michigan are currently funded likely drive support for this proposal. The vast majority of voters (70 percent) say that schools in Michigan receive too little funding. Sixty three percent believe that schools in Michigan are unfairly funded, with 42 percent of the electorate believing strongly that they are unfairly funded.

■ Figure 3: Beliefs on School Funding Adequacy and Fairness

And generally speaking, do you think the funding public schools in Michigan receive is too much, too little or just about right?



And again generally speaking, do you think public schools in Michigan are funded fairly or unfairly?

