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## **MICHIGAN VOTERS PREFER MAJOR REFORM OVER RAISING TAXES, NEW POLL FINDS**

**DETROIT, Mich., August 7, 2008** – A statewide survey, commissioned by Detroit Renaissance, a private, non-profit leadership organization dedicated to accelerating the region’s economic growth, found that the majority of Michigan voters want major government reform. According to poll results, 77% of Michigan voters want to see meaningful reforms and/or reduced spending versus only 6% who are willing to raise taxes.

Over 80% of Michigan voters, regardless of demographic differences, believe the state is on the wrong track. 87% of voters feel that Michigan’s political leaders are doing a fair or poor job on budgeting and spending.

“These results confirm our assertions that we need a greater sense of urgency to address structural reforms, not just incremental budget cuts and one-time fixes.” said Doug Rothwell, president, Detroit Renaissance. “Only meaningful structural reforms will give businesses a greater sense of confidence in Michigan’s future as a good place to do business.”

Earlier this year, Detroit Renaissance issued a framework for improving the state’s competitiveness by advocating for structural reforms. Although some improvements were made, researchers predict the state will face long-term structural deficits without dramatic changes to the way resources are allocated.

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“Michigan voters are far more advanced than their elected leadership in how to restructure Michigan’s budget,” said David Brandon, chairman & CEO, Domino’s Pizza. “It is time for political leaders to produce the tough, long term solutions that will allow our state to move forward.”

With 95% of voters saying reform of government is personally important to them, the survey tested twelve different ideas for reducing the state’s long term budget costs and found that voters are very unified in their support. There is distinctive consistency between demographic groups for the top six reform ideas they support and the six bottom ideas they oppose. The top six reform ideas include:

- Find other means of punishment for non violent offenders other than prison
- Increase premiums for state employee health care
- Change the retirement system for new teachers
- Increase deductions/co-pays for employee health care
- Impose small co-pays for Medicaid
- Release some non violent offenders before parole

For the full report of results, visit: [www.detroitrenaissance.com](http://www.detroitrenaissance.com). Also on the site is a downloadable podcast featuring a discussion of the results with Dave Bing, Chairman and CEO, The Bing Group, and Dave Brandon, president and CEO of Domino’s Pizza; chair, Board of Directors for Detroit Renaissance.

The poll was conducted by Glengariff Group, Inc., which performed a random digit dial, 800 sample statewide survey of Michigan voters The survey was conducted from July 16-2, 2008. Demographic groups included region, party affiliation, union affiliation, ethnicity, age, income, and gender. It has a margin of error of +/- 3.5% with a 95 level of confidence.



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**About Detroit Renaissance:**

Detroit Renaissance provides leadership to accelerate the economic transformation of Detroit and Southeast Michigan. Renaissance accomplishes this work through serving as a catalyst to develop growth strategies, advocating for those strategies and championing specific initiatives that accelerate growth. A 501(c)(3) organization that was formed in 1970, Detroit Renaissance includes the chief executive officers of the region's most significant employers and universities. For more information, visit [www.detroitrenaissance.com](http://www.detroitrenaissance.com).

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