

**Customer Choice
Coalition Member
Organizations**

Association of Businesses
Advocating Tariff Equity
(ABATE)

Associated Petroleum
Industries - Michigan

Business & Institutional
Furniture Manufacturers
Association

Competitive Power
Ventures/New Covert

Dow Corning Corporation

Energy Michigan

Great Lakes Petroleum
Retailers & Applied Trade
Association

LS Power

Michigan Association of
Broadcasters Service
Corporation

Michigan Association of
Convenience Stores

Michigan Association of
Intermediate School
Administrators

Michigan Association of
Non-Public Schools

Michigan Association of School
Administrators

Michigan Association of School
Boards

Michigan Grocers Association

Michigan Interfaith Power &
Light

Michigan Petroleum
Association

Michigan Press Association

Michigan Restaurant
Association

Michigan Retailers Association

Michigan School Business
Officials

Michigan School Energy
Cooperative

Midwest Car Wash Association

Middle Cities Education
Association

National Federation of
Independent Business

Small Business Association of
Michigan

Spartan Stores

And many more...



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Survey shows Michigan voters oppose remonopolizing electricity *Voters likely to oppose lawmakers who take away electric choice*

Three out of four Michigan voters say electric customers should have the right to buy power from competing electric providers, and 64 percent are less likely to vote for lawmakers who support remonopolizing the state's electric system, according to a new Marketing Resource Group survey conducted for the Customer Choice Coalition.

The survey shows voters strongly oppose House Bill 5524 pending in the House Energy and Technology Committee, which would remonopolize Michigan's electric system and raise electric rates by 30 to 40 percent. However, voters are willing to support legislation that increases choices for residential customers – as is provided in Senate Bills 426-428 and endorsed by the Customer Choice Coalition.

The poll results come as House leadership is apparently trying to rush a bill that has not been read by lawmakers through the Chamber this week. It also comes as the Michigan Catholic Conference joins the many organizations opposing the bill, which it says will create “an essentially unregulated monopoly” in electricity. Lawmakers also received this week a letter from major electricity users including K-12 schools, Western Michigan University, Home Depot, Macy's, Johnson Controls and Dart Container opposing the bill.

The poll of 600 voters, conducted March 10-16, has a margin of error of 4.9 percent, found:

- 74 percent of voters say they should be allowed to choose from competing electric providers. Only 15 percent said customers should be limited to buying from local monopoly utilities. House Bill 5524 would effectively eliminate choice.
- 74 percent say cost overruns on new plant construction should be paid for by company owners, not customers. House Bill 5524 limits the ability of the Michigan Public Service Commission to deny cost overruns, making it more likely that those overruns would be passed onto customers. Detroit Edison had \$4 billion in cost overruns in building its Fermi II nuclear plant in the 1970s and 1980s; Consumers Energy had \$3.5 billion in overruns at its Midland Nuclear Plant.
- 66 percent said encouraging competition is a good way to control energy costs. Only 20 percent said it was a bad idea.
- 77 percent said they would support changes to current Michigan law to give residential customers more choices. Today state policies and utility practices limit the ability of competitive providers to serve residential customers.
- 64 percent said they would be less likely to vote for a candidate for state office who had taken away their right to choose an electric supplier and forced them to use a monopoly electric company, with 43 percent saying they would be “much less likely” to vote for that candidate.

“Voters understand this issue. They know competition is better than a monopoly when it comes to meeting their electricity needs. Lawmakers should take this into account when considering House Bill 5524 in the days and weeks ahead,” said Barry Cargill, executive director of the Customer Choice Coalition.

1. Do you think customers should continue to be allowed to choose to purchase electricity from competing suppliers, or should only the local utilities be allowed to sell electricity?

Should Be Allowed To Choose From Competing.....74%
Only Local Suppliers..... 15%
Don't Know (Volunteered) 10%
Refused (Volunteered).....*

2. Would you support or oppose changes to current Michigan law to give residential customers more choice in electricity suppliers?

Would you strongly (support/oppose) or just somewhat (support/oppose) that?

Strongly support61%
Somewhat support..... 16%
Neither support/oppose4%
Somewhat oppose.....5%
Strongly oppose6%
Don't know.....7%
Refused.....1%
TOTAL SUPPORT77%
TOTAL OPPOSE.....12%

3. Do you think encouraging competition among electricity suppliers, like what has been done in the telephone and airline industries, is a good or bad way to control energy costs?

Good66%
Bad20%
Neither Good nor Bad (Volunteered).....5%
Don't Know (Volunteered)8%
Refused (Volunteered)..... 1%

4. Who do you think should pay for the cost increases and overruns associated with building new power plants, investors who build the plant or customers who buy energy from the plant?

Investors.....74%
Customers.....9%
Neither/Other (Volunteered)11%
Don't Know (Volunteered)5%
Refused (Volunteered).....*

5. Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for state office if you learned that he or she voted to take away your right to choose your electric supplier and forced you to buy power from your monopoly electricity utility company? Would you say you would be much (more/less) likely or just somewhat (more/less) likely to vote for that candidate?)

Much More Likely6%
Somewhat More Likely.....4%
Makes No Difference.....17%
Somewhat Less Likely21%
Much Less Likely43%
Don't know..... 8%
Refused.....*
TOTAL MORE LIKELY.....10%
TOTAL LESS LIKELY.....64%