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Stabenow and DeVos early favorites for governor

Former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer drops 10 points since May to put Stabenow back on top

LANSING, Mich. — A recent survey shows U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow as the Democratic frontrunner to be Michigan's next governor. Stabenow had previously lost ground to former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, but has recently regained her status as the preferred candidate among Democrats with 24 percent support compared to 15 percent for Archer.

The Republican field remained virtually unchanged, with Grand Rapids businessman and former gubernatorial candidate Dick DeVos maintaining his front-runner status with 28 percent support among Republican voters. The Governor's office in Michigan will be open for election in 2010, as incumbent Jennifer Granholm is unable to run again due to term limits.

"Dennis Archer polled extremely well in our last poll," said Kelly Rossman-McKinney, CEO of The Rossman Group. "But Detroit has been under some extreme turmoil, and these poll results may be more about voters' anti-Detroit, anti-Kwame Kilpatrick sentiment than anything against Dennis Archer. As for the Republicans, this is still DeVos' race – if he wants it."

The overall survey question was split into two samples, Republican voters and Democratic voters, with the question worded as follows:

"Due to term limits, Governor Jennifer Granholm cannot run for re-election for governor. If the election for governor of Michigan were being held today, which candidate do you think you would vote for?"

The poll indicates female voters find both Archer and Stabenow more favorable than male voters. Archer, however, received 14 percent more female supporters than Senator Stabenow. Sixty-six percent of Archer's supporters are female, and 34 percent male, while Stabenow's supporters are 52 percent female and 48 percent male.

"Voters typically prefer to vote for the candidate they most identify with," said MIRS President John T. Reurink. "So it's interesting to see that Archer has such a large contingent of female supporters."

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The candidate options given and results were as follows:

<u>GOP</u>	<u>Oct.</u> <u>2008</u>	<u>May</u> <u>2008</u>	<u>Change*</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Oct.</u> <u>2008</u>	<u>May</u> <u>2008</u>	<u>Change*</u>
Cong. Pete Hoekstra	7%	7%	---	Lt. Gov. John Cherry	6%	6%	---
Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land	2%	4%	-2%	Cong. Bart Stupak	8%	8%	---
Attorney Gen. Mike Cox	13%	10%	+3%	Wayne County Exec. Robert Ficano	4%	5%	-1%
Cong. Mike Rogers	3%	4%	-1%	First Gentleman Dan Mulhern	5%	5%	---
Former gubernatorial candidate Dick DeVos	28%	28%	---	House Speaker Andy Dillon	1%	1%	---
Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard	4%	4%	---	DMC Executive Michael Duggan	2%	1%	+1%
Cong. Candice Miller	11%	11%	---	Sen. Debbie Stabenow	24%	20%	+4%
State Sen. Wayne Kuipers**	0%	---	---	Former Detroit Mayor Archer	15%	24%	-9%
Other (not asked)	1%	1%	---	Genesee Treasurer Kildee	3%	3%	---
DNK/Refused (not asked)	30%	32%	-2%	Other (not asked)	1%	0%	+1%
				DNK/Refused (not asked)	31%	29%	+2%

*Compared to May 2008 survey results

**State Senator Wayne Kuipers was not tested in May 2007.

While former Republican gubernatorial candidate Dick DeVos maintains a 15 percent lead over his closest competitor, other potential candidates are not without supporters. State Attorney General Mike Cox is the favorite of Oakland and Wayne County with 24 and 26 percent support respectively, while 19 percent of west Michigan supporters find Congressman Pete Hoekstra to be the best candidate (see attachment for more information).

“Most of the candidates can count on their home region for a strong base of supporters,” said Denno Noor Research President Dennis Denno. “But Congresswoman Candice Miller only achieved five percent support from her home-base of Macomb County. Her strongest regions were actually Wayne County and the Upper Peninsula.”

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