

**REPORT NO. 105 VOLUME 44 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2005****POLL SHOWS GRANHOLM RE-ELECT NUMBERS DOWN**

Governor Jennifer Granholm's job approval rating among voters has held steady over the past two months remaining slightly above 50 percent, but the percentage of those ready to elect her to a second term fell by 7 percentage points to 26 percent, a new poll for The Detroit News shows.

The poll, conducted May 22 through Sunday by EPIC/MRA of Lansing, also showed U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing) holding nearly identical 2-1 advantages over several hypothetical match-ups against Republican challengers.

For Ms. Granholm, the economy appears to still be a factor in the question of whether respondents would vote to re-elect the governor, with 29 percent saying they would consider another candidate and an additional 29 percent saying they would vote to replace her. That compares to 33 percent who would consider someone else and 26 percent who would replace her in the March EPIC/MRA poll.

But her job approval number stood at 52 percent, virtually unchanged from the 51 percent level in the March poll.

Her standing among independent women continues to fall, now registering just 37 percent of a sample of 44 respondents while 58 percent give her a poor rating; that compares to a 43-57 positive-negative rating in the March poll.

**STABENOW MATCH-UPS:** The poll gave Ms. Stabenow 57 percent or more against any of four potential challengers, although this survey did not include Secretary of State Terri Land. Against Jane Abraham, wife of former U.S. Sen. Spencer Abraham, the advantage was 59-30; against former Detroit City Council member Keith Butler, it was 57-30; against industrialist Bart Baron, it was 57-28; and against newly-announced candidate Jerry Zandstra, a Grand Rapids minister, it was 57-28.

Ms. Stabenow, who has been the frequent target of Republican criticism in holding up confirmation of Michigan nominees to federal courts, retained a 54 percent job approval rating compared to 33 percent negative, an improvement from the March poll when the positive-negative rating was 49-36 percent.

**MERIT SCHOLARSHIP:** Voters are evenly divided on Ms. Granholm's proposal to change the Merit scholarship to a larger award following two years of college or other postsecondary programs from its current set-up as a reward for doing well on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program test. The poll showed 43 percent would favor the \$4,000 award proposal, while 44 percent favor the current program awarding \$2,500 to graduating high school students.

The poll of 600 active voters has an error margin of plus or minus 4 percentage points.