



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Whitmer by 5% over Schuette Stabenow by 6% over James

Whitmer 48% - Schuette 43% & Stabenow 52% - James 46%

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Former state Sen. Gretchen Whitmer (48%) leads Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette (43%) in the race for governor while U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (52%) leads African-American businessman John James (46%) according to a statewide poll commissioned by Michigan Information Research Services (MIRS) Mitchell Research Communications of likely voters in the upcoming November Election. In the governor race 4% are voting for another party while 4% are undecided. In the Senate race, only 2% are undecided. The automated IVR (Interactive Voice Response) survey of N=400 Likely Voters was conducted Oct. 25, 2018. It has a Margin of Error of + or – 5% at the 95% level of confidence.

“Both Whitmer and Stabenow have seen their double digit leads over their GOP opponents disappear. The real problem for Schuette and James is the fact that women voters are strongly supporting the two female candidates by a wider margin than men are backing the republican male candidates. Donald Trump continues to be a major factor in this race, as 90% of the voters who approve of Trump are backing the Republicans, while 90% of those who disapprove are backing their Democratic opponents. Since 45% approve and 50% disapprove, the margin between the two candidates is directly related to Trump’s popularity,” Steve Mitchell, president of Mitchell Research & Communications said.

Looking at the governor race and various demographics:

- By gender, Whitmer leads with men (50%-47%) by 3% and with women (47%-41%) by 6%.
- By age, Whitmer leads with 18-29 year olds (57%-29%), 30-44 year olds (50%-35%), and with 65+ voters (49%-48%). Schuette leads with 45-64 year olds (49%-45%)
- By party affiliation, Whitmer leads with Democrats (88%-8%), while Schuette leads with Republicans (92%-4%). Among independents, Whitmer has a narrow lead (42%-40%)

- By race, Schuette leads with white voters (48%-46%), while Whitmer leads with African-Americans (80%-18%).

Looking at the U.S. Senate race and various demographics:

- By gender, Stabenow leads with men (50%-48%) by 2% and with women (53%-43%) by 10%.
- By age, Stabenow leads with 18-29 year olds (56%-44%), 30-44 year olds (60%-40%), and with 65+ voters (58%-40%). James leads with 45-64 year olds (51%-44%)
- By party affiliation, Stabenow leads with Democrats (93%-7%), while James leads with Republicans (91%-8%). Among independents, James has a narrow lead (53%-42%)
- By race, Stabenow leads with white voters (51%-46%) and leads with African-Americans (82%-18%).

“These two races have tightened dramatically, but the problem for both Schuette and James is the very low number of undecided voters. Although the migrant caravan from Central America seems to be benefiting the Republicans, it remains to be seen how the arrest of an apparent Trump supporter in the attempted bombing case will impact these two races,” Mitchell said.

[The poll was conducted by Mitchell Research and Communications of East Lansing, MI and was not commissioned or paid for by any candidate or committee.]

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