Memorandum

TO: National Parents Organization
FR: Tom Shields, President
DA: September 25, 2017
RE: Poll results on questions on joint custody

MRG asked two questions regarding joint custody of children following a divorce in our most recent Michigan Poll conducted September 13 – 18, 2017. The response to questions shows an overwhelming support for joint child custody between parents from the Michigan voters.

In the first question, we asked:

Do you agree or disagree that joint equally shared parenting time, given there is no history of abuse, addiction or mental illness, is in the best interest of the child? [IF AGREE / DISAGREE, ASK] Would that be strongly (agree / disagree) or just somewhat (agree / disagree)?

- Strongly Agree ………………….66.2%
- Somewhat Agree ………………18.0%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree … 3.0%
- Somewhat Disagree …………4.2%
- Strongly Disagree ………….4.2%
- Don’t Know …………………….4.0%
- Refused …………………….0.5%

TOTAL AGREE ………………….84.2%
TOTAL DISAGREE ………………8.2%

Not only was this the response overwhelmingly favorable, but it was across the board as well. Geographically, support ranged from 75% in the City of Detroit to 90% in the balance of Wayne County outside of Detroit and the Flint/Saginaw/Bay City area. 85% of both Republican and Democratic voters agreed. 81% of women and 88% of males agreed. 79% of divorced voters agreed along with...
83% of those with children under 18 at home. In fact, every single geographic and demographic break out showed support of at least 73% of the voters.

The support was not only broad, it was also intense as 66% of the voters strongly agreed that there should be joint equally sharing of parent time with kids after a divorce. We consider any percentage over 40% to be intense support.

In the second question, we tested out the actually legislation that is being proposed in the Michigan legislature. We asked the question:

Would you support or oppose the Michigan Legislature passing a law to require family court judges to rule in favor of joint equally shared parenting time unless the court determines by clear and convincing evident that a parent is unfit, unwilling, or unable to care for the child? [IF SUPPORT / OPPOSE, ASK:] Would that be strongly (support / oppose) or just somewhat (support / oppose)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly support</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat support</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither support / oppose (VOL)</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL SUPPORT ................. 76.2%
TOTAL OPPOSE .................. 14.9%

Again, the voters voiced strong support for the actual legislation by a 5-1 margin with 76% supporting, including almost 52% who strongly supported the legislation.

Geographically, support ranges from 74% in the Grand Rapids area to 88% in Detroit and 89% in the UP.

Politically, 75% of Republicans support the legislation, along with 81% of the Democrats. 72% of the women support as does 81% of the men. Support ranges from 75% to 81% among all age groups. 79% of divorced voters support the proposed legislation.

It appears that the Michigan electorate sees this as a fairness issue to both parents. As long as there are safeguards in place to protect children against parents who are unfit, the voters of Michigan overwhelmingly support the concept of joint custody and the actual legislation proposed.
**MRG Michigan Poll Fall 2017**

The survey of 600 likely Michigan voters was conducted by live interview September 13-18, 2017. The sample was randomly drawn from a listed sample of all registered voters with a history of voting and stratified by city and township to reflect voter turnout. 30% of the sample was conducted with cell phone users. In addition, quotas for gender and cell phone interviews were met within each geographic area, and extra efforts were made to reach African Americans. Thirty percent of the interviews were conducted with cell phone only or cell phone dominant households.

A sample of 600 likely voters in Michigan yields a sampling margin of error of ±4 percent with a 95 percent confidence interval. The sampling margin of error for subgroups may be higher depending on the size of the subgroup. Sample size of GOP primary voters = 216. Sample size of DEM primary voters = 255.