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Strong Support for Efforts to Reduce Political Violence in Michigan

To: The Joyce Foundation, Trusted Elections Fund and the Klarman Family Foundation

From: GQR

An online survey of 507 adults in Michigan shows the state is broadly concerned about the issue of political violence and strongly supportive of two specific steps to reduce political violence in this state. A 72 percent majority of the state describes political violence as a problem (49 percent describe it as a major problem). Moreover, fully 85 percent believe political violence is never (57 percent) or almost never (28 percent) justified.¹

Not surprisingly, then, convincing majorities would support Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson should she decide to use her office’s authority to ban guns from polling places and vote counting locations. This majority includes 88 percent of Democrats and 62 percent of self-ascribed Independent voters. Even among gun-owners, a majority support this proposed rule.

Figure 1: Majority Support Benson Banning Guns from Sensitive Areas

¹ This memorandum highlights key results of an online survey of 507 adults in the state of Michigan taken April 6-12, 2022. Because the sample is based on those who initially self-selected for participation in the panel rather than a probability sample, no estimates of sampling error can be calculated. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to multiple sources of error, including, but not limited to, sampling error, coverage error, and measurement error. If this poll were conducted among a probability sample, the margin of error would be +/- 3.46 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence interval.

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Similarly, a strong majority of Michiganders support a law prohibiting anyone from carrying guns in a public building, near a polling station or in large crowds. Half the sample read a version of this question stating plainly that even those who hold a permit allowing them to carry a gun legally would be prohibited from carrying in these circumstances. Both versions of this question enjoy broad majorities.

**Figure 2: Overwhelming Support for Banning Guns, Permit or Not**

Michiganders also supports the Michigan Capitol Commission efforts to reduce firearms in the state capitol. One in three (35 percent) support the Commission banning visitors from openly carrying firearms, but allowing concealed carry. A 41 percent plurality believe this rule did not go far enough and just 23 percent oppose this effort.

**Figure 3: MI as a Whole and Gun Owners Support Capitol Commission’s Ban**
Conclusion

There is no question that the gun issue remains contentious, but Michigan believes it should have access to voting and access to public buildings without the threat of political violence. The Secretary of State and other elected officials committed to reducing the threat of political violence enjoy the strong backing of the state of Michigan.