



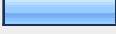
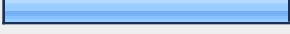



## 2010 Chamber Government Affairs Survey





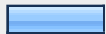






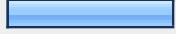
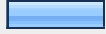

1. Name:		Response Count
		481
	<i>answered question</i>	481
	<i>skipped question</i>	119

2. Company:		Response Count
		599
	<i>answered question</i>	599
	<i>skipped question</i>	1

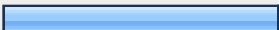
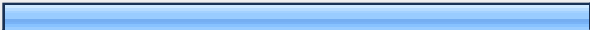

**3. Which of the following best describes your current status?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Small business owner (50 employees or less)		33.4%	200
Medium-sized business owner (50-250 employees)		12.7%	76
Large business owner (250+ employees)		3.5%	21
Employee of a small business (50 employees or less)		13.9%	83
Employee of a medium-sized business (50-250 employees)		9.7%	58
Employee of a large business (250+ employees)		25.2%	151
Elected or appointed official		1.7%	10
		<b><i>answered question</i></b>	<b>599</b>
		<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	<b>1</b>

#### 4. How would you classify your business?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Automotive: Dealer, Service Station, Repair Shop, etc.		0.2%	1
Amusement: Entertainers, Travel Agents, Radio, TV, etc.		0.5%	3
Construction		3.5%	21
Creative: Advertising, Marketing, Printing, Graphic Design, etc.		2.7%	16
Education and/or Training Services		8.2%	49
Financial: Banks, Credit Unions, Mortgage Lenders, etc.		7.0%	42
Government Agency		1.0%	6
Health Care Services		6.3%	38
Hospitality		2.8%	17
Insurance		7.3%	44
Manufacturer and/or Processor		7.7%	46
<b>Non-Profit Organization</b>		<b>14.4%</b>	<b>86</b>
Professional: Doctor, Lawyer, CPA, etc.		8.2%	49
Real Estate: Sales, Consultant, Broker		2.2%	13

Retailer		1.7%	10
Services: Architect, Engineering, Consulting		8.3%	50
Technology - Communications: Computer, Internet, Phones, etc.		4.0%	24
Transportation: Rail, Bus, Air, Truck Lines, Terminals		2.2%	13
Other (please specify)		11.9%	71
<b>answered question</b>			<b>599</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>1</b>

<b>5. Have you or your company been involved with the Chamber's Government Affairs Division?</b>			
		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Yes		24.1%	110
<b>No</b>		<b>51.9%</b>	<b>237</b>
Not Sure		24.1%	110
<b>answered question</b>			<b>457</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>143</b>

**6. Please rate the following issues in order of importance to your business on a scale of 1-10.**

	1 - Least Important	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 - Most Important	No opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
Accessibility to business loans	9.9% (45)	5.0% (23)	7.7% (35)	5.7% (26)	9.9% (45)	7.7% (35)	10.1% (46)	<b>14.7% (67)</b>	10.1% (46)	11.2% (51)	8.1% (37)	6.01	45
Management of state budget	1.1% (5)	1.1% (5)	1.1% (5)	1.1% (5)	3.1% (14)	6.3% (29)	11.6% (53)	18.6% (85)	20.1% (92)	<b>31.9% (146)</b>	3.9% (18)	8.28	45
Economic development incentives	3.5% (16)	1.8% (8)	5.3% (24)	4.6% (21)	8.3% (38)	9.0% (41)	13.1% (60)	<b>19.9% (91)</b>	15.1% (69)	15.1% (69)	4.4% (20)	7.05	45
Nation's current economic climate	0.2% (1)	0.4% (2)	1.1% (5)	0.4% (2)	4.6% (21)	4.8% (22)	10.1% (46)	17.3% (79)	22.8% (104)	<b>35.7% (163)</b>	2.4% (11)	8.51	45
Michigan's current economic climate	0.0% (0)	0.2% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.9% (4)	1.3% (6)	2.0% (9)	3.3% (15)	10.5% (48)	23.0% (105)	<b>56.2% (257)</b>	2.6% (12)	9.23	45
Cost of health care	1.3% (6)	0.4% (2)	1.3% (6)	1.8% (8)	5.7% (26)	3.3% (15)	9.8% (45)	20.6% (94)	23.6% (108)	<b>29.8% (136)</b>	2.4% (11)	8.25	45
Environmental regulations and/or fees	8.5% (39)	3.9% (18)	8.3% (38)	5.5% (25)	<b>12.7% (58)</b>	11.8% (54)	10.3% (47)	<b>12.7% (58)</b>	10.7% (49)	10.5% (48)	5.0% (23)	6.03	45
Education (early childhood, K-12 and post-secondary)	4.8% (22)	3.3% (15)	2.9% (13)	5.5% (25)	9.2% (42)	6.8% (31)	11.6% (53)	15.1% (69)	14.3% (65)	<b>23.0% (105)</b>	3.5% (16)	7.15	45
Business tax structure	2.6% (12)	2.0% (9)	2.8% (13)	2.4% (11)	6.3% (29)	5.5% (25)	8.3% (38)	15.1% (69)	18.8% (86)	<b>30.4% (139)</b>	5.7% (26)	7.87	45
Expansion of unemployment benefits	9.4% (43)	5.0% (23)	7.7% (35)	9.0% (41)	<b>16.2% (74)</b>	9.2% (42)	10.5% (48)	10.1% (46)	9.2% (42)	6.6% (30)	7.2% (33)	5.57	45
Size of government	3.7% (17)	2.4% (11)	5.3% (24)	4.4% (20)	10.9% (50)	7.7% (35)	11.8% (54)	13.1% (60)	13.1% (60)	<b>21.0% (96)</b>	6.6% (30)	7.05	45

Complexity of state tax system	3.3% (15)	2.8% (13)	4.2% (19)	3.1% (14)	7.7% (35)	6.3% (29)	10.5% (48)	14.2% (65)	19.9% (91)	<b>22.1% (101)</b>	5.9% (27)	7.41	45
Condition of infrastructure	1.5% (7)	1.3% (6)	4.2% (19)	2.2% (10)	10.7% (49)	10.7% (49)	14.9% (68)	<b>19.9% (91)</b>	16.6% (76)	10.5% (48)	7.4% (34)	7.15	45
Regional planning and cooperation	2.0% (9)	1.8% (8)	5.7% (26)	5.0% (23)	13.8% (63)	10.5% (48)	14.2% (65)	13.6% (62)	<b>15.5% (71)</b>	12.0% (55)	5.9% (27)	6.83	45
	<i>answered question</i>												45
	<i>skipped question</i>												14

<b>7. Other issues of concern to your business:</b>		
		<b>Response Count</b>
		84
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>84</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>516</b>

**8. Environmental Issues Thinking about the West Michigan business community, to what extent do you think these topics should be a priority for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce?**

	1 - Least Important	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 - Most Important	No opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
Air quality	6.2% (28)	4.2% (19)	8.9% (40)	5.6% (25)	<b>17.8% (80)</b>	8.9% (40)	17.4% (78)	14.5% (65)	8.0% (36)	5.1% (23)	3.3% (15)	5.87	44
Support for alternative forms of fuel and/or energy	6.5% (29)	2.0% (9)	2.4% (11)	4.7% (21)	13.1% (59)	12.0% (54)	12.0% (54)	10.5% (47)	13.1% (59)	<b>20.3% (91)</b>	3.3% (15)	6.86	44
State regulations that exceed federal standards	6.7% (30)	4.5% (20)	4.9% (22)	4.7% (21)	13.1% (59)	9.1% (41)	<b>14.7% (66)</b>	14.3% (64)	10.0% (45)	12.9% (58)	5.1% (23)	6.38	44
Incentives for sustainable business practices	5.1% (23)	1.6% (7)	4.2% (19)	2.9% (13)	8.5% (38)	10.2% (46)	11.8% (53)	14.5% (65)	<b>20.7% (93)</b>	17.6% (79)	2.9% (13)	7.18	44
Clean-up of contaminated property sites	5.3% (24)	4.5% (20)	9.1% (41)	6.2% (28)	<b>14.9% (67)</b>	10.7% (48)	14.3% (64)	<b>14.9% (67)</b>	9.8% (44)	5.8% (26)	4.5% (20)	5.97	44
	<i>answered question</i>												44
	<i>skipped question</i>												15

**9. Other high-priority environmental issues:**

	Response Count
	44
	<i>answered question</i>
	<i>skipped question</i>
	44
	556

**10. Economic/Tax Issues Thinking about the West Michigan business community, to what extent do you think these topics should be a priority for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce?**

	1 - Least Important	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 - Most Important	No opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
Repeal of the Michigan Business Tax (MBT)	3.4% (15)	1.4% (6)	1.4% (6)	1.8% (8)	5.7% (25)	4.3% (19)	10.7% (47)	16.4% (72)	14.8% (65)	<b>31.7% (139)</b>	8.2% (36)	7.95	43
Across-the-board state spending reductions	4.8% (21)	2.7% (12)	2.5% (11)	2.7% (12)	7.3% (32)	7.1% (31)	8.7% (38)	11.4% (50)	16.9% (74)	<b>31.1% (136)</b>	4.8% (21)	7.59	43
Elimination of the MBT surcharge	3.4% (15)	0.9% (4)	0.9% (4)	1.8% (8)	4.3% (19)	5.3% (23)	8.2% (36)	13.7% (60)	13.9% (61)	<b>37.4% (164)</b>	10.0% (44)	8.18	43
Elimination of the Personal Property Tax	6.2% (27)	3.0% (13)	3.9% (17)	3.2% (14)	11.2% (49)	10.3% (45)	10.5% (46)	12.1% (53)	11.0% (48)	<b>19.2% (84)</b>	9.6% (42)	6.80	43
Economic development incentives	2.5% (11)	0.9% (4)	1.6% (7)	2.3% (10)	8.2% (36)	6.6% (29)	10.3% (45)	16.4% (72)	19.9% (87)	<b>26.7% (117)</b>	4.6% (20)	7.84	43
	<b>answered question</b>												<b>43</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>												<b>16</b>

**11. Other high-priority economic/tax issues:**

	Response Count
	37
	<b>answered question</b>
	<b>37</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>
	<b>563</b>

**12. Health Care Issues Thinking about the West Michigan business community, to what extent do you think these topics should be a priority for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce?**

	<b>1 - Least Important</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10 - Most Important</b>	<b>No opinion</b>	<b>Rating Average</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Rising cost of health care services	1.2% (5)	0.7% (3)	2.3% (10)	2.3% (10)	4.9% (21)	7.5% (32)	12.1% (52)	19.2% (82)	18.7% (80)	<b>30.4% (130)</b>	0.7% (3)	8.04	42
Health care utilization and prevention	0.9% (4)	2.3% (10)	2.1% (9)	3.3% (14)	8.6% (37)	9.6% (41)	15.0% (64)	<b>20.3% (87)</b>	19.4% (83)	16.6% (71)	1.9% (8)	7.47	42
Medicaid/Medicare reform	2.6% (11)	3.0% (13)	3.3% (14)	5.1% (22)	15.7% (67)	9.1% (39)	<b>16.1% (69)</b>	15.9% (68)	11.4% (49)	14.0% (60)	3.7% (16)	6.81	42
Access to health care	2.1% (9)	1.4% (6)	3.3% (14)	5.4% (23)	10.7% (46)	8.2% (35)	15.9% (68)	15.2% (65)	13.6% (58)	<b>22.9% (98)</b>	1.4% (6)	7.33	42
Portable health insurance	1.4% (6)	1.9% (8)	3.7% (16)	3.3% (14)	12.1% (52)	11.2% (48)	14.0% (60)	12.6% (54)	17.3% (74)	<b>17.8% (76)</b>	4.7% (20)	7.24	42
Individual responsibility for health and behavior	1.2% (5)	2.6% (11)	3.3% (14)	4.0% (17)	6.8% (29)	7.5% (32)	11.0% (47)	15.7% (67)	15.2% (65)	<b>31.1% (133)</b>	1.9% (8)	7.75	42
Public employee health insurance and benefits reform	3.3% (14)	2.1% (9)	3.5% (15)	4.7% (20)	10.7% (46)	5.6% (24)	13.1% (56)	13.6% (58)	13.8% (59)	<b>25.9% (111)</b>	3.7% (16)	7.35	42
Lack of affordable options	2.1% (9)	1.6% (7)	4.0% (17)	4.0% (17)	10.3% (44)	7.7% (33)	13.1% (56)	14.3% (61)	17.1% (73)	<b>22.2% (95)</b>	3.7% (16)	7.40	42
	<b>answered question</b>												<b>42</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>												<b>17</b>

**13. Other high-priority health care issues:**

		<b>Response Count</b>
		33
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>33</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>567</b>

**14. Education and Workforce Development Issues Thinking about the West Michigan business community, to what extent do you think these topics should be a priority for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce?**

	<b>1 - Least Important</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10 - Most Important</b>	<b>No opinion</b>	<b>Rating Average</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Aligning curriculum with needs of emerging industries	0.2% (1)	1.4% (6)	1.2% (5)	1.9% (8)	10.0% (42)	7.8% (33)	15.4% (65)	<b>23.9% (101)</b>	17.5% (74)	18.5% (78)	2.1% (9)	7.69	42
Public school consolidation	4.3% (18)	2.4% (10)	2.8% (12)	5.0% (21)	14.7% (62)	8.5% (36)	11.8% (50)	14.2% (60)	12.8% (54)	<b>17.3% (73)</b>	6.2% (26)	6.89	42
Adequate funding of public schools	2.1% (9)	1.2% (5)	3.3% (14)	3.1% (13)	7.8% (33)	7.6% (32)	14.9% (63)	19.7% (83)	15.4% (65)	<b>23.0% (97)</b>	1.9% (8)	7.56	42
Investment in early childhood education	2.1% (9)	2.4% (10)	3.8% (16)	4.3% (18)	14.2% (60)	11.6% (49)	12.1% (51)	14.9% (63)	12.6% (53)	<b>19.0% (80)</b>	3.1% (13)	7.04	42
Merit-based pay for educators	1.2% (5)	3.1% (13)	3.6% (15)	1.7% (7)	7.1% (30)	9.0% (38)	11.1% (47)	15.6% (66)	19.2% (81)	<b>24.2% (102)</b>	4.3% (18)	7.64	42
Consolidation of school administrative functions	2.4% (10)	0.7% (3)	1.9% (8)	3.3% (14)	9.2% (39)	7.1% (30)	12.3% (52)	19.7% (83)	15.9% (67)	<b>22.5% (95)</b>	5.0% (21)	7.61	42
Expansion in number of charter schools	5.9% (25)	4.0% (17)	4.5% (19)	4.0% (17)	<b>16.4% (69)</b>	10.9% (46)	12.3% (52)	15.4% (65)	9.5% (40)	10.7% (45)	6.4% (27)	6.33	42
	<b>answered question</b>												<b>42</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>												<b>17</b>

**15. Other high-priority education and workforce development issues:**

		<b>Response Count</b>
		43
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>43</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>557</b>

**16. General Policy Issues Thinking about the West Michigan business community, to what extent do you think these topics should be a priority for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce?**

	1 - Least Important	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 - Most Important	No opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
Federal funding for Great Lakes clean-up	1.4% (6)	2.2% (9)	4.3% (18)	3.8% (16)	15.6% (65)	10.6% (44)	13.4% (56)	<b>18.0% (75)</b>	9.8% (41)	16.8% (70)	4.1% (17)	6.98	41
Elimination or extension of term limits	5.5% (23)	4.1% (17)	2.4% (10)	4.1% (17)	14.6% (61)	8.6% (36)	7.9% (33)	17.0% (71)	10.1% (42)	<b>18.0% (75)</b>	7.7% (32)	6.76	41
Part-time state legislature	6.0% (25)	4.1% (17)	3.8% (16)	3.4% (14)	14.1% (59)	7.4% (31)	9.8% (41)	<b>14.9% (62)</b>	12.7% (53)	<b>14.9% (62)</b>	8.9% (37)	6.64	41
Removing barriers to government service consolidation/collaboration	1.2% (5)	1.2% (5)	1.2% (5)	1.7% (7)	10.1% (42)	7.4% (31)	14.6% (61)	14.9% (62)	18.2% (76)	<b>21.3% (89)</b>	8.2% (34)	7.70	41
Creation of right-to-work zones	4.3% (18)	2.9% (12)	3.6% (15)	4.1% (17)	14.4% (60)	8.4% (35)	9.4% (39)	12.9% (54)	8.6% (36)	<b>16.1% (67)</b>	15.3% (64)	6.70	41
Transportation funding	2.6% (11)	2.2% (9)	3.1% (13)	3.4% (14)	10.6% (44)	11.5% (48)	18.0% (75)	<b>18.7% (78)</b>	12.9% (54)	12.5% (52)	4.6% (19)	7.00	41
Tourism and economic promotion	1.2% (5)	0.7% (3)	0.5% (2)	2.4% (10)	6.0% (25)	8.2% (34)	12.9% (54)	22.3% (93)	19.9% (83)	<b>23.3% (97)</b>	2.6% (11)	7.94	41
Cost reductions within the corrections system	3.6% (15)	2.2% (9)	3.4% (14)	3.6% (15)	12.2% (51)	11.5% (48)	18.0% (75)	<b>18.5% (77)</b>	10.3% (43)	9.4% (39)	7.4% (31)	6.73	41
Reform of the city budget	2.6% (11)	3.1% (13)	2.6% (11)	3.8% (16)	12.9% (54)	10.3% (43)	13.7% (57)	14.9% (62)	10.6% (44)	<b>15.1% (63)</b>	10.3% (43)	6.91	41
	<b>answered question</b>												<b>41</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>												<b>18</b>

17. Overall, what do you feel is the single most important policy issue for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce to focus on in the coming year?		Response Count
		411
	<i>answered question</i>	411
	<i>skipped question</i>	189

18. Is there anything specific you would like us to address in 2010 that has not been mentioned?		Response Count
		98
	<i>answered question</i>	98
	<i>skipped question</i>	502

19. The Chamber will host a candidate school WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2010, to educate and engage more business leaders in the political process. This non-partisan program will provide a general overview of campaign rules, marketing, fundraising, policymaking review and understanding local issues. Anyone who may be interested in running for a public office now or in the future should attend. This includes interest in school board, village, township, city, county and state level positions. Are you interested in attending? If so, please enter your name and email address below to receive more information.

		Response Count
		99
	<i>answered question</i>	99
	<i>skipped question</i>	501

20. If you would like to receive information regarding upcoming Government Affairs events, efforts and committee meetings via email, please enter your email address.

		Response Count
		112
	<i>answered question</i>	112
	<i>skipped question</i>	488

21. 2010 is a major election year for Michigan, as we will elect a new Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and many new lawmakers. Are you interested in getting involved with the Friends of West Michigan Business, the Chamber's Political Action Committee, which works to endorse pro-business candidates? If so, please list your email and we will contact you.

		Response Count
		75
	<i>answered question</i>	75
	<i>skipped question</i>	525