



Michigan Chamber Voted Best Lobbying Organization

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So what organization is the most influential of the influential in Lansing's world of single-issue or association lobbying? According to those who completed the *MIRS* 2009 Insider's Survey, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce again earned top honors by netting 33 percent of the vote.

Coming in second, just as in 2007, was the Michigan Education Association netting 10 percent of the vote. Following the MEA was the Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers with five percent. The Auto Dealers of Michigan, Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Restaurant Association and Right to Life of Michigan all netted three percent.

Six organizations netted two percent stakes including:

- Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Health and Hospital Association
- Michigan Association of Realtors
- Michigan Association of Health Plans
- Michigan Municipal League
- Michigan State Medical Society

Some 15 others netted one percent or lower scores. A total of 8 percent were scattered among "others" who netted less than 0.4 percent of the vote and two percent were undecided.

Michigan Chamber President in a Three-Way Tie for Best Single Issue Lobbyist

In the category of best single-issue or association lobbyist, **Michigan Chamber President & CEO Rich Studley** was one of three who tied for the top honor. Kurt Berryman, of the Auto Dealers of Michigan, and AT&T's top lobbyist, Jim Murray, were the other lobbyists among the three-way tie; each earned 7 percent of the vote.

Following on the heels of the three-way top lobbyists, came a four-way tie for the number two spot. **Jim Holcomb, Vice President of Business Advocacy & Associate General Counsel for the Michigan Chamber**, garnered three percent of the votes, placing him in a four-way tie with Tom Hickson, Michigan Association of Counties, Sarah Hubbard, Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Pete Kuhnmuensch, Insurance Institute of Michigan.

Wendy Block, Director of Health Policy & Human Resources for the Michigan Chamber, was on the list of lobbyists who garnered two percent of the vote. Those lobbyists included: Ben Bodkin, Michigan Association of Counties, Colin Ford, Michigan State Medical Society, Matt Groen, Michigan Restaurant Association, and Mike Nystrom, Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association.

There were a total of 27 others who garnered one percent of the vote. Another 27 percent of the total was shared among a smattering of lobbyists who netted a .5 percent or less of the vote and three percent were undecided.

The results came as part of the *MIRS-EPIC/MRA* Insider Survey, which was e-mailed to well over 1,000 lawmakers, lobbyists, association executives and executive branch officials over a three-week period that ended on May 18th at noon. Each participant was given a code required to unlock the survey ensuring no ballot stuffing. More than 30 percent of those surveyed participated in the balloting.