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## Survey finds Grand Rapids businesses want repeal of Michigan Business Tax

By **Shandra Martinez | The Grand Rapids Pres...**  
January 12, 2010, 10:54AM

GRAND RAPIDS -- Grand Rapids businesses want 2010 to be a year of reform. Topping their list of hopes is restructuring the state budget and repealing the Michigan Business Tax surcharge, according to the results of a **Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce survey** released Tuesday morning.

More than 56 percent of the 600 chamber members surveyed said the state's struggling economic climate is their primary concern. Nearly one-third said they wanted to see state budget issues resolved.

On a series of public policy issues, tax and health care were top priorities:

- **Tax policy:** The call was for the repeal of the Michigan Business Tax surcharge.
- **Health care:** Those surveyed said they wanted to see "individual responsibility for health and behavior."

"Ultimately, we need to reduce the cost of doing business in this state," said Jeanne Englehart, the chamber's chief economic officer.

She added the chamber will continue its advocacy for structural reform of the state budget, simplifying business taxes and continuing to develop the Grand Rapids area as an economic hub.

E-mail Shandra Martinez: [smartinez@grpress.com](mailto:smartinez@grpress.com)

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Posted by **Paix**

January 12, 2010, 11:06AM

What a joke I own a business and, SURPRISE, I would like to be rid of this tax. I would also like to be rid of taxes on gas, booze, cigarettes and whatever other taxed the folks in Lansing have squeezed into any facet of my life.

Oh and yes I would also like some more individual responsibility for health care whatever that means.

This is why the Chamber has become so irrelevant to real small business, they are far less about getting something done than doing dumb things pretending to represent business.

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Posted by **beerbucket**  
January 12, 2010, 11:37AM

Whats wrong with a survey Paix? Doesn't that give a voice to these businesses? This state is inundated with taxes and nothing is being done to stem the tide of government spending. Yesterday I drove from GR to Detroit on 96, depending on what county you were in there was road salt or no road salt. I lost control of my car and almost hit a wall and took out 3 other cars (I was going under 50mph at the time). Isn't it my states responsibility to either salt the road or support the county's effort to do so? They won't because they want to create a market for a tax increase, i.e.- "we can salt the roads if we have more funding". Once we all lose faith in the safety of wour winter roads we'll be forced to accept a tax increasse and thank them for the opportunity to pay more money. We have the best paid state legislature in the nation, we have public school administrators and college bureaucrats making 150k+ per year, yet the 100,000 commuters (tax payers) on 96eb yesterday that bother to get up and do something fro a living have to put their lives at risk because these idiots won't take a pay cut like the rest of us have. Drop the salary for legislators to \$40k--its part time work anyway and they are terrible at what they do--drop every public school administrator and university employee's to what the state legislators made, \$80k max, that'll pay for a few hundred tons of road salt right there. Then those of us that actually get up every morning and work 65 hours a week to pay 40% of our income to the governments can at least have a safe and relaxing commute.

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Posted by **schoolofcommprof**  
January 12, 2010, 2:16PM

beerbucket -

You seriously think that state/local governments are under-salting the roads and risking lives to manufacture public sentiment in favor of a tax increase?

PS - California's legislators are more highly-compensated than Michigan's: <http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=14785>

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Posted by **rgrman**  
January 12, 2010, 12:15PM

beerbucket what makes you think this "extra" money would be put to good use? The "part-time" legislators need to eliminate waste and useless programs first. The money would be used in some other way not to benefit the people as they have demonstrated so well in the past.

We must be able to hold these legislators criminally liable in their actions before we will see any change

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Posted by **Onedoer**  
January 12, 2010, 12:46PM

Of course they want a reduction in taxes. They also want, Tax incentives. Subsidies for training new workers, free sewage, water and transportation. Throw in a second home in Fl. as well.

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Posted by **beerbucket**  
January 12, 2010, 1:45PM

I agree rgrman, I was only thinking of a quick way to get the roads salted so that the slim few that are left in Michigan that actually have jobs can get there safely and on time so they can earn tax dollars for the state

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