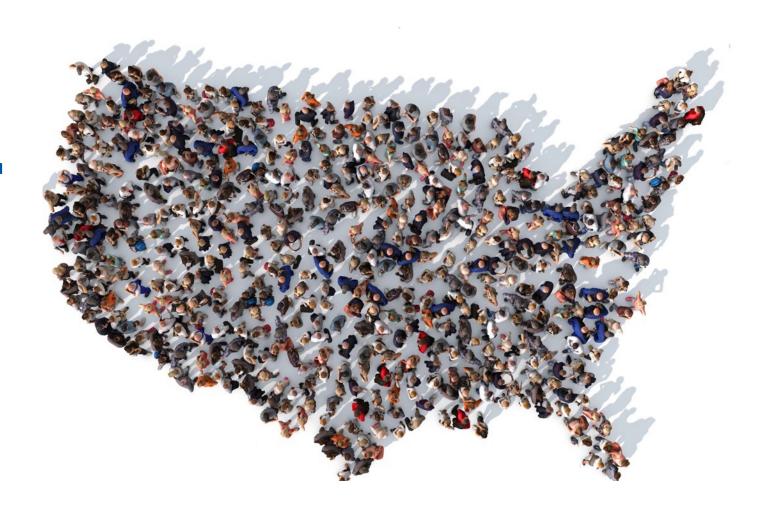


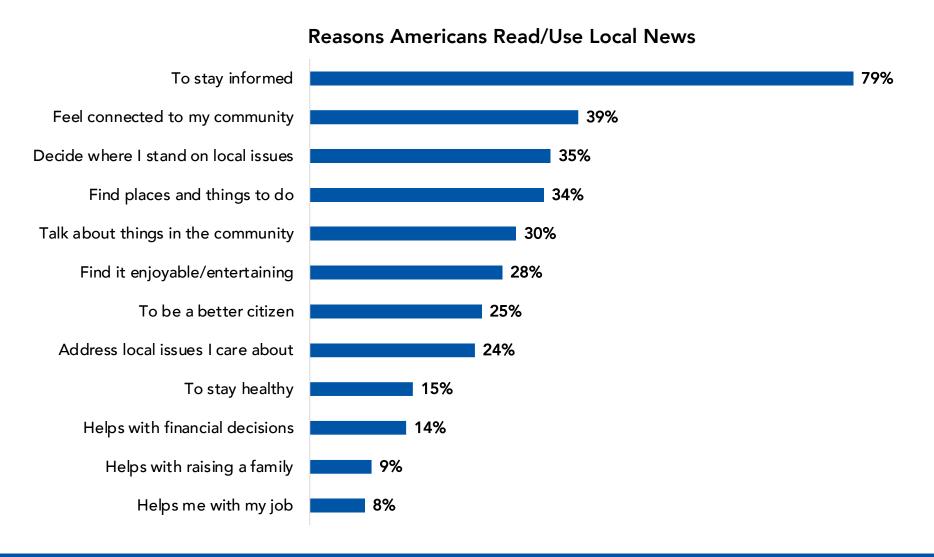
## 2023 Local Newspaper Study

A National Survey Commissioned by





## Americans overwhelmingly rely on local news "to stay informed" about their local communities



### Top Reasons Generational Groups Read/Use Local News

| <b>Gen Z</b> (18-24)   | #1 To stay informed (70%)<br>#2 To feel connected to my community (34%) |
|------------------------|---|
| Millennials<br>(25-39) | #1 To stay informed (78%)<br>#2 To feel connected to my community (34%) |
| <b>Gen X</b> (40-59)   | #1 To stay informed (81%)<br>#2 To feel connected to my community (44%) |
| <b>Boomers</b> (60-74) | #1 To stay informed (82%)<br>#2 To feel connected to my community (40%) |
| Silent Gen<br>(75+)    | #1 To stay informed (80%)   |
|                        | #3 To feel connected to my community (38%)                              |

"To be a better citizen"

"Find places and things to do"

"Talk about things in the community"

### Top Reasons Generational Groups Read/Use Local News

| <b>Gen Z</b> (18-24)   | <ul><li>#1 To stay informed (70%)</li><li>#2 To feel connected to my community (34%)</li><li>#3 To be a better citizen (32%)</li></ul> |
|------------------------|--|
| Millennials<br>(25-39) | <ul><li>#1 To stay informed (78%)</li><li>#2 To feel connected to my community (34%)</li></ul>   |
| <b>Gen X</b> (40-59)   | #1 To stay informed (81%)<br>#2 To feel connected to my community (44%)  |
| <b>Boomers</b> (60-74) | #1 To stay informed (82%)<br>#2 To feel connected to my community (40%)  |
| Silent Gen<br>(75+)    | #1 To stay informed (80%)  |
|                        | #3 To feel connected to my community (38%)   |

"To be a better citizen"

"Find places and things to do"

"Talk about things in the community"

### Top Reasons Generational Groups Read/Use Local News

| <b>Gen Z</b> (18-24)   | <ul><li>#1 To stay informed (70%)</li><li>#2 To feel connected to my community (34%)</li><li>#3 To be a better citizen (32%)</li></ul>       |
|------------------------|--|
| Millennials<br>(25-39) | <ul><li>#1 To stay informed (78%)</li><li>#2 To feel connected to my community (34%)</li></ul>   |
| <b>Gen X</b> (40-59)   | #1 To stay informed (81%) #2 To feel connected to my community (44%) #3 Find places and things to do (35%)                                   |
| <b>Boomers</b> (60-74) | <ul><li>#1 To stay informed (82%)</li><li>#2 To feel connected to my community (40%)</li><li>#3 Find places and things to do (39%)</li></ul> |
| Silent Gen<br>(75+)    | #1 To stay informed (80%)  |
|                        | #3 To feel connected to my community (38%)   |

"Find places and things to do"

"Talk about things in the community"

### Top Reasons Generational Groups Read/Use Local News

| <b>Gen Z</b> (18-24)   | <ul><li>#1 To stay informed (70%)</li><li>#2 To feel connected to my community (34%)</li><li>#3 To be a better citizen (32%)</li></ul>             |
|------------------------|--|
| Millennials<br>(25-39) | <ul><li>#1 To stay informed (78%)</li><li>#2 To feel connected to my community (34%)</li><li>#3 Talk about things in the community (32%)</li></ul> |
| <b>Gen X</b> (40-59)   | #1 To stay informed (81%) #2 To feel connected to my community (44%) #3 Find places and things to do (35%)   |
| <b>Boomers</b> (60-74) | #1 To stay informed (82%) #2 To feel connected to my community (40%) #3 Find places and things to do (39%)   |
| Silent Gen<br>(75+)    | #1 To stay informed (80%)  |
|                        | #3 To feel connected to my community (38%)   |

"Talk about things in the community"

### Top Reasons Generational Groups Read/Use Local News

| <b>Gen Z</b> (18-24)   | <ul><li>#1 To stay informed (70%)</li><li>#2 To feel connected to my community (34%)</li><li>#3 To be a better citizen (32%)</li></ul>             |
|------------------------|--|
| Millennials<br>(25-39) | <ul><li>#1 To stay informed (78%)</li><li>#2 To feel connected to my community (34%)</li><li>#3 Talk about things in the community (32%)</li></ul> |
| <b>Gen X</b> (40-59)   | #1 To stay informed (81%) #2 To feel connected to my community (44%) #3 Find places and things to do (35%)   |
| <b>Boomers</b> (60-74) | #1 To stay informed (82%) #2 To feel connected to my community (40%) #3 Find places and things to do (39%)   |
| Silent Gen<br>(75+)    | #1 To stay informed (80%)  #2 Decide where I stand on local issues (46%)  #3 To feel connected to my community (38%)                               |



## 8 out of 10 Americans (218 million)

Access news and information from their **local newspapers** every month



## What is a newspaper?

The community newspaper keeps the town **informed** on elected officials' **meetings**, local acts of **heroism**, and, of course, the high school **sports** teams.

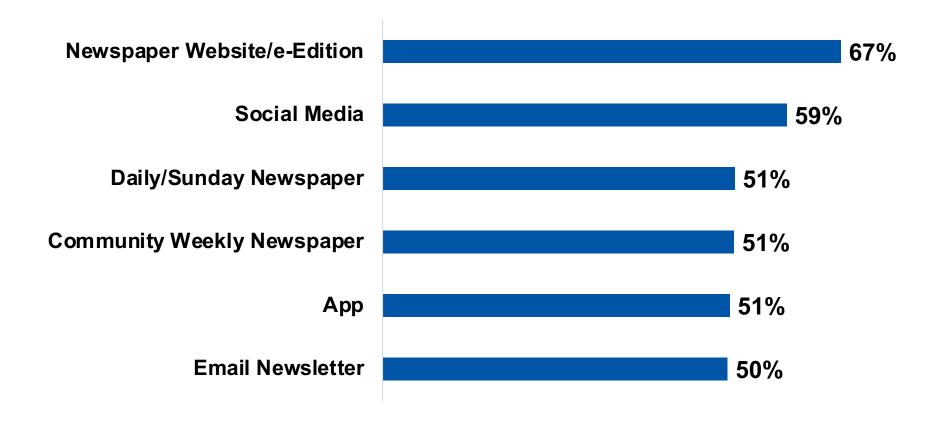
Inside each issue is a **beautiful microcosm** of the **culture** of any town – large or small.

Your local newspaper also keeps the citizenry informed on the **critical** happenings of local government.

Americans define a "newspaper" as the media they rely on for important community news and information that directly impact their lives.

They do not define a newspaper by how they "deliver" the news.

### How Americans access newspaper content



## How Americans access newspaper content

- 1 Newspaper website
- 2 Social media
- 3 Daily/Sunday newspaper
- 4 App
- 5 Weekly newspaper
- 6 Email newsletter

# How Americans **prefer to access** newspaper content

- 1 Website with daily news updates
- 2 Breaking news email/text alerts
- 3 Social media
- 4 Daily/Sunday newspaper
- 5 Daily email newsletter
- 6 Weekly newspaper

#1 preferred platform for newspaper content by generational group

**Gen Z** (18-24)

Social media

**Millennials** 

(25-39)

Social media

Gen X

(40-59)

Website with daily local news

**Boomers** 

(60-74)

Website with daily local news

Silent Generation

(75+)

Home delivered daily newspaper

### Local newspapers and newspaper websites are relied on over other media for a broad range of local news content

Newspapers/Newspaper Websites Rank #1 for...

Community news
Local events
Local things to do
Local businesses
Local schools
Local high school/college sports
Local announcements
Local job postings
Local religion/churches

Local TV/TV Websites
Rank #1 for...

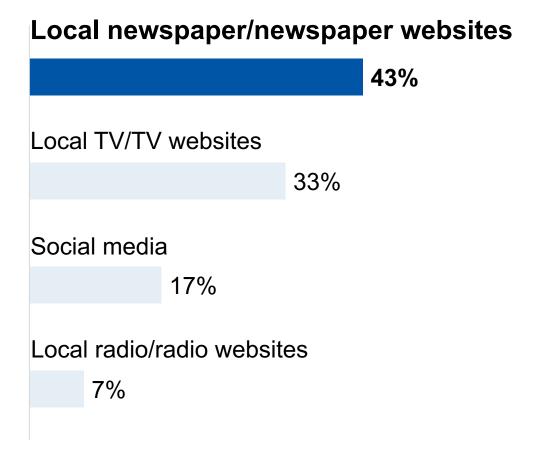
Local crime/personal safety
Local government
Local weather forecasts
Local candidates and ballot issues
Local medical/health information

Social Media Ranks #1 for...

Local restaurants and bars

\*Local radio/radio websites – no top-ranking local news topics

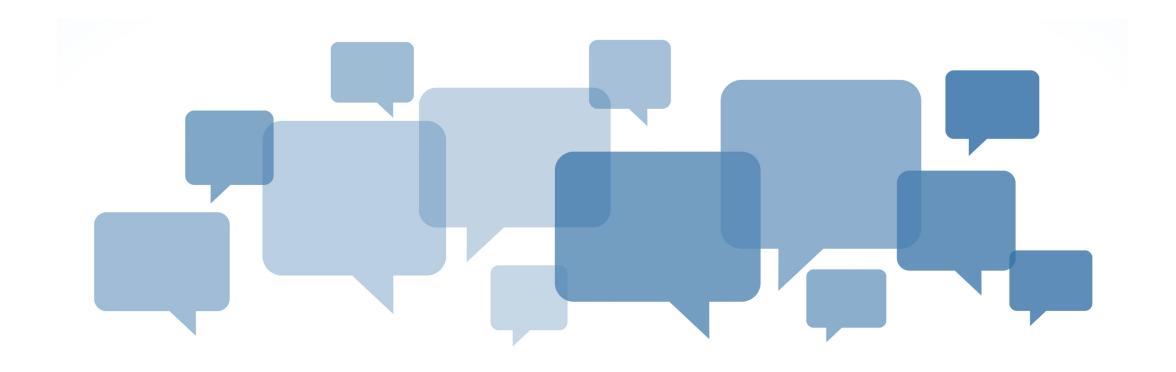
Newspapers are trusted as American's "most accurate and reliable source of original news reporting"



74% of Americans believe that it is very important to have a local newspaper provide them with community news and information

"I can't answer that because we don't have a newspaper anymore. I wish we did. I liked having one."

- Allegan County



Newspaper Readers Speak Out

Americans believe that local newspapers play a critical role in the **vitality** and **wellbeing** of their communities, and they want even **more local news**.

"We live in a small town so not much goes on. I would like information on the businesses that are moving in and information about the new ones that have opened."

St. Joseph County

Americans want their newspaper content delivered digitally – via timely, updated websites, email/text alerts, and most importantly, social media.

"Provide more information through websites and social media and provide news of what's happening. Also tell us what needs to happen to make the community better." Wayne County

# Americans believe that local newspapers need to market themselves better!

"I feel like our local newspaper is pretty popular. They need a better social media presence."

**Livingston County** 

# Newspapers make a difference.

The study shows that while local newspapers have challenges, they are **uniquely positioned** to deliver the local news and information that Americans want... and in the ways they want it.



# Community News and Small Business Support Act

H.R. 4756 • 118<sup>th</sup> Congress

Sponsored by Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY) and Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA)

## **Tenney-DelBene Bill**

## Two components

- Allows local news-journalist employers a payroll credit for wages paid to local news journalists.
- Allows small businesses (<50 employees) a tax credit for amounts paid for advertising in a local newspaper or through a radio or television station serving a local community.

## **Tenney-DelBene Bill**

### The bill is Bipartisan!

Republican Sponsor

10 Republican Cosponsors

11 Democrat Cosponsors



## **Tenney-DelBene Bill**

### The bill will provide significant support!

### **Local Newspapers**

Year one: Receive up to \$25,000 per newsroom employee (half of first \$50,000 of compensation)

- Years 2 5: Receive up to \$15,000 per newsroom employee
- Total value: Up to \$85,000

### Local Businesses (<50 employees)

- Year one: Receive a \$5000 advertising credit
- Year 2-5: Receive a \$2500 advertising credit



### The Health of Local Newspapers Study

Directional research study to take a snapshot of the current, and near term, outlook for local newspapers.

Completely Confidential

Directional information

Results used in the industry's advocacy effort

Go to newspapers.org to take the survey



## **Survey Methodology**

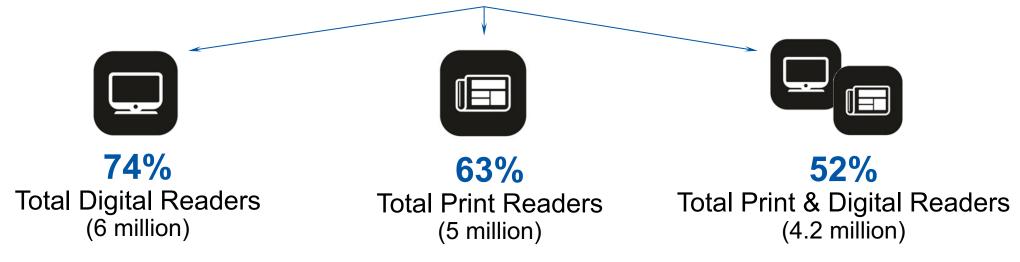
- The Michigan Press Association commissioned Coda Ventures, an independent research and consulting firm, to conduct a survey among Michigan adults, age 18+.
- The survey was designed to measure the demographics, media behavior and purchase intentions of respondents for specific product categories.
- The survey was fielded online and respondents were screened by zip code to ensure an accurate representation of urban, suburban and rural communities. Additional quotas were set for age, gender, education and race to match the demographic composition of the population. The data were weighted and projected to the most recent ESRI census estimates.
- The survey was fielded from June 21 July 16, 2023.
- At the close of the survey, a total of 605 adults participated.
   (Margin of Error: +/- 4%)



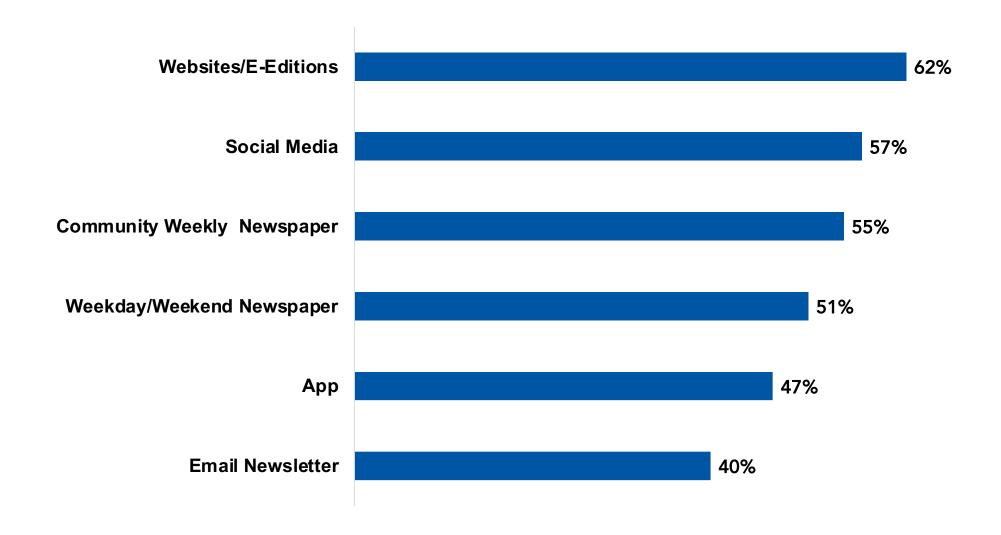
### **Newspaper Readership**



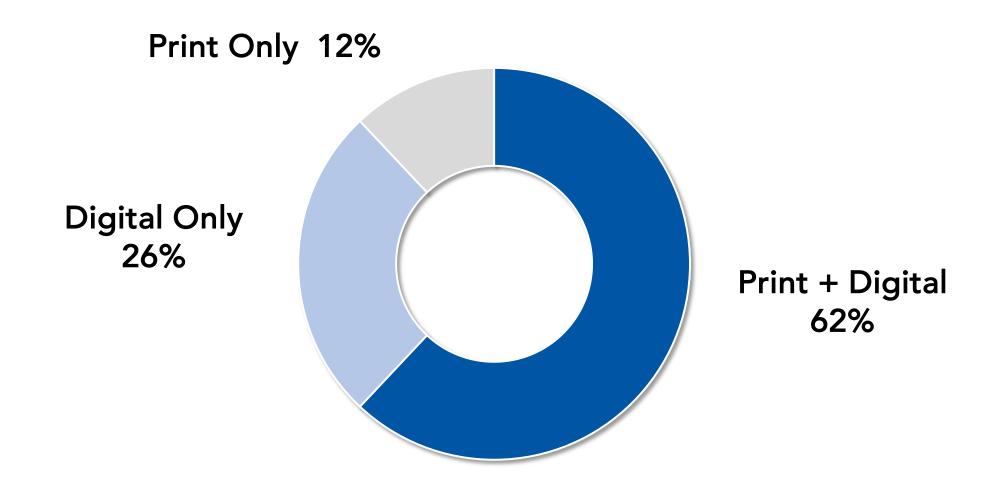
Every Month, 85% of Michigan Adults Read Local Print or Digital Newspapers



### Platforms Accessed for Newspaper Information

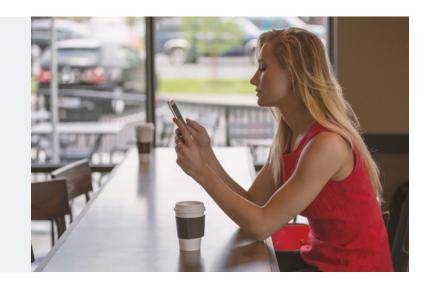


### **How Newspaper Readers Access Content**



### **Digital Readership by Device**

More than 6 out of 10 Michigan adults (64%) access local digital newspaper content through a smartphone



Michigan adults also access digital newspaper content through...

39%

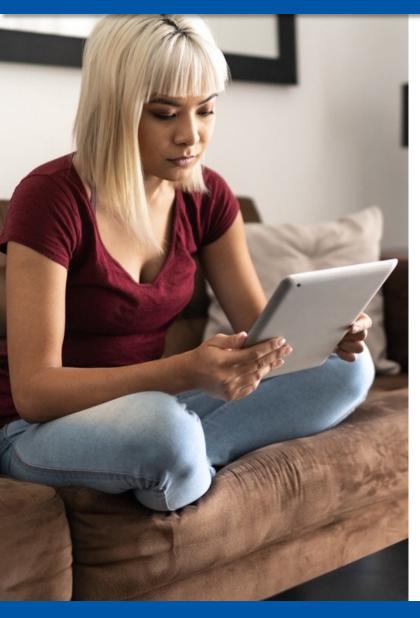
Desktop/Laptop
Computer

19%

iPad/Tablet Device 7%

Other Internet Device

### **Newspaper Reader Profile**



## The Typical Michigan Newspaper Reader Is... **Anything But Typical**

- 47% are male, 53% are female
- 77% are <u>under</u> the age of 65
- 51% of households earn \$50k+ annually
- 63% are homeowners
- 56% are employed
- 64% are college educated
- 31% have children in the home
- 70% have lived in the community 5+ years

### Community Newspaper Readers Use of Media

Community weekly newspaper readers use local newspapers and their websites as a primary source of information about their communities

|                                    | Local Newspapers/<br>Newspaper Websites | Local TV News/<br>TV Websites | Local Radio/<br>Radio Websites | Other Online<br>Sources |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Local government                   | 58%                                     | 27%                           | 7%                             | 8%                      |
| Local entertainment & things to do | 57%                                     | 22%                           | 12%                            | 9%                      |
| Local high school sports           | 57%                                     | 27%                           | 9%                             | 7%                      |
| Schools in the community           | 55%                                     | 28%                           | 8%                             | 9%                      |
| Candidates & ballot issues         | 50%                                     | 34%                           | 4%                             | 12%                     |
| Crime & personal safety issues     | 45%                                     | 40%                           | 7%                             | 8%                      |
| Healthcare & medical information   | 34%                                     | 35%                           | 6%                             | 25%                     |

We would like to understand which media provides the most useful source of information for various local topics. Please indicate which of the media listed is your primary source for information for each of the topics.

# **Community Involvement**

# Newspaper readers are more engaged in their communities than non-newspaper readers

|   | Newspaper<br>Readers | Non-Newspaper<br>Readers |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|
| I feel that I have a responsibility to help shape the future of my community  | 91%                  | 71%                      |
| I often voice my concerns about local community issues like education, traffic, taxes, economic development, etc.   | 65%                  | 40%                      |
| For important issues facing my community or the country, I often reach out to elected officials, political candidates or the media to express my opinions | 46%                  | 28%                      |
| People often turn to me for information about our local community   | 43%                  | 18%                      |

### **Voting & Elected Officials**

#### More than 9 out of 10 newspaper readers vote in local elections



|  | Michigan<br>Adults | Newspaper<br>Readers | Non-Newspaper<br>Readers |  |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Vote in state/national elections Vote in local/school board/city elections | 80%<br>91%         | 82%<br>93%           | 69%<br>78%               |  |

#### Newspapers reach almost 9 out of 10 adults who contacted officials



Contacted an elected official/ community leader (past 2 years)

| Michigan | Newspaper | Non-Newspaper |
|----------|-----------|---------------|
| Adults   | Readers   | Readers       |
| 38%      | 42%       | 17%           |

## **Voting Information Sources**

#### Local newspapers/newspaper websites are relied on and trusted by Michigan adults for information about voting and elections

|   | Used<br>Often | Used<br>Somewhat | Did<br>Not Use |
|---|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| Local newspapers/newspaper websites               | 34%           | 40%              | 26%            |
| Word of mouth (family, friends, co-workers, etc.) | 30%           | 46%              | 24%            |
| Local TV  | 27%           | 40%              | 34%            |
| Social media                                      | 29%           | 31%              | 40%            |
| State/county/city election websites               | 22%           | 38%              | 40%            |
| Local radio                                       | 14%           | 28%              | 58%            |
| Direct mail (delivered to your home)              | 17%           | 38%              | 45%            |
| Podcasts  | 10%           | 18%              | 72%            |

### **Public Notices**



88%

Believe that publishing public notices in newspapers should be required

Do you believe that the state and local government should be required to publish such notices in the newspaper on a regular basis as a service to the community?

## Citizens Speak Out about Public Notices

"Local newspapers are a very **reliable** source of information, and one that many people still regularly use... **not everyone uses the internet**."

"I think public notices should be published in **multiple locations** in print and online to give citizens the best chance of accessing them in the media that they **trust**."

"People should have the **right** to get this information freely, quickly and easily. I think the paper is a **great place** for information like this and the **newspaper websites** too.

Most people won't know what website to go to for their local government."

"I simply **trust** the **local newspaper** more than my local government. Not to mention, this is how it's been done for over 200 years. It makes **no sense to change it.**"

"Newspapers should **continue** to provide public notice information. Only having government sites post the news makes me **uneasy**."

# **Newspaper Advertising**





# "In God We Trust... All Others Must Bring Data."

W. Edwards Deming

American Author, Statistician, Management Consultant

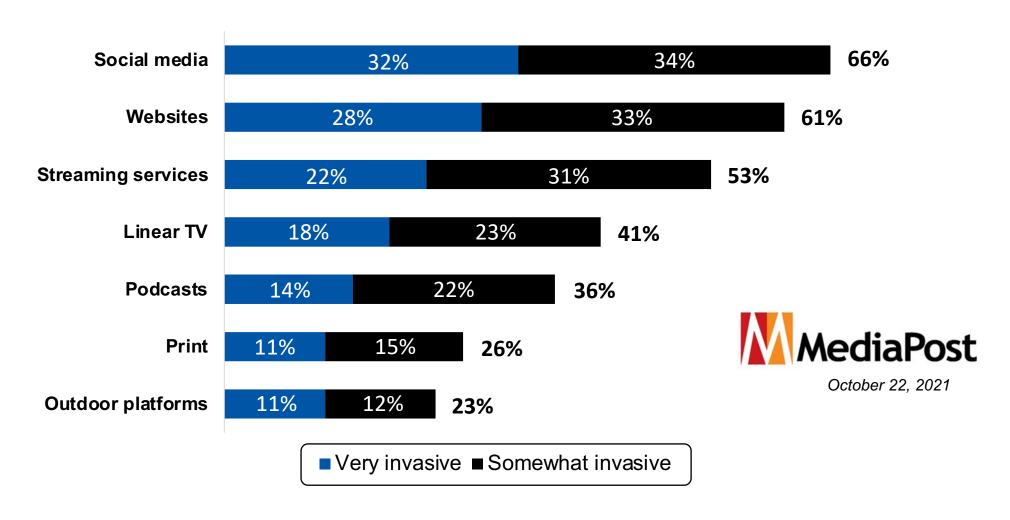
# **Advertising Importance**



**80%** of Michigan adults report that "Newspaper advertising is important"

How important is the advertising, including circulars and coupons, that appears in newspapers?

# Invasiveness of Advertising by Media



# Reasons for Reading Newspaper Advertising

# Almost 8 out of 10 Michigan adults (76%) read advertisements in local newspapers

I am interested in information about a product or service

I think these advertisements are informative and relate to my needs and interests

I am interested in purchasing the product or service

Michigan Adults

42%

36%

28%

Why do you look at/read the advertising in your local newspaper?



## **Advertising Actions Taken**

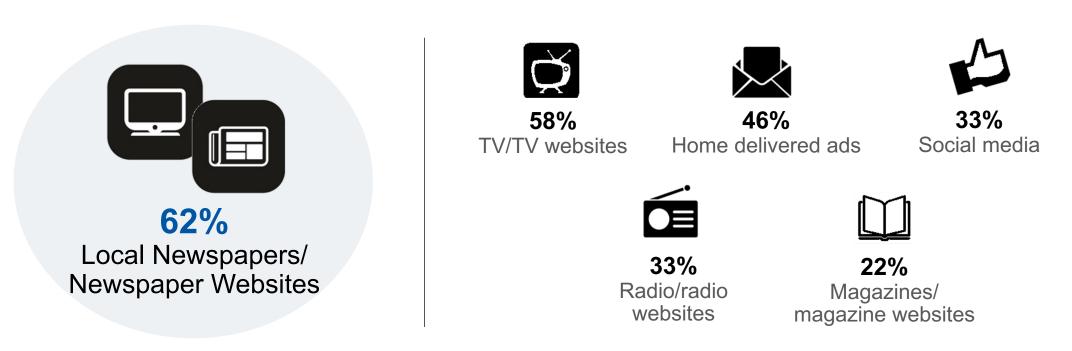


# Specific actions taken as a result of reading advertising in a print or digital edition of a Michigan local newspaper

|  | Newspaper<br>Readers |
|--|----------------------|
| Visit a store, dealer or other location  | 46%                  |
| Search online for more information       | 45%                  |
| Save ad for future reference             | 42%                  |
| Visit the advertiser's website           | 38%                  |
| Purchase the product or service          | 30%                  |
| Share/recommend the product or service   | 22%                  |
| Ask someone about the product or service | 19%                  |
| Share or post about it on social media   | 11%                  |

## **Advertising Utility**

More than 6 out of 10 Michigan adults use newspaper advertising to help them decide what brands, products and local services to buy



We would like to ask you about advertising. Specifically, which of the following types of advertising, if any, help you decide what products/brands to buy, local stores to shop at, or local companies to use for their services?

# **Key Advertising Categories**



| Businesses/products/services plan to visit/shop for/purchase (next 12 months) | Michigan<br>Adults (#) | Newspaper<br>Readers | Non-Newspaper<br>Readers |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Appliances  | 2,415,000              | 33%                  | 12%                      |
| Automobiles, trucks, SUVs   | 2.048,000              | 28%                  | 15%                      |
| Banking/financial services  | 3,581,100              | 46%                  | 38%                      |
| Boats and RVs   | 360,000                | 4%                   | 5%                       |
| Drug stores   | 4,843,000              | 63%                  | 46%                      |
| Educational opportunities   | 1,001,000              | 13%                  | 9%                       |
| Electronic equipment  | 3,185,300              | 43%                  | 23%                      |
| Groceries   | 6,985,000              | 89%                  | 80%                      |
| Gyms/health clubs   | 1,527,100              | 21%                  | 8%                       |
| Home furnishings (furniture, rugs, mattresses, etc.)                          | 2,831,000              | 38%                  | 22%                      |
| Home improvement products/services  | 2,884,400              | 39%                  | 19%                      |
| Home services (pest control, HVAC, cleaning, etc.)                            | 1,614,000              | 22%                  | 11%                      |
| Jewelry/Watches   | 1,008,000              | 14%                  | 3%                       |
| Liquor/wine/beer  | 3,041,000              | 40%                  | 29%                      |
| Mobile phones/service   | 3,823,000              | 52%                  | 27%                      |
| Outdoor farm/power equipment (rent or purchase)                               | 1,847,000              | 25%                  | 10%                      |
| Restaurants & bars  | 4,892,000              | 64%                  | 47%                      |
| Sporting goods  | 1,687,000              | 22%                  | 16%                      |
| TV service (cable, satellite, streaming, etc.)                                | 3,639,000              | 47%                  | 35%                      |
| Vehicle maintenance (tires, batteries, oil change, etc.)                      | 4,224,000              | 55%                  | 42%                      |

## **Professional Services**



| Professional services planning to change/shop for (next/past 12 months) | Michigan<br>Adults (#) | Newspaper<br>Readers | Non-Newspaper<br>Readers |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Auto insurance  | 1,991,000              | 25%                  | 25%                      |
| Medical/health insurance  | 1,297,000              | 18%                  | 8%                       |
| Home insurance  | 1,221,100              | 16%                  | 9%                       |
| Dental insurance  | 1,163,000              | 15%                  | 9%                       |
| Life insurance  | 1,037,000              | 14%                  | 9%                       |
| Financial/investment service  | 822,000                | 11%                  | 4%                       |
| Income tax provider   | 686,100                | 9%                   | 7%                       |
| Mortgage/refinance service  | 542,000                | 7%                   | 3%                       |
| Legal services  | 358,300                | 5%                   | 2%                       |

# **Medical Specialists**

Medical specialists used by household (past 12 months) or plan to use (next 12 months)

|                                    | Michigan<br>Adults (#) | Newspaper<br>Readers | Non-Newspaper<br>Readers |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Dentist/orthodontist               | 5,025,000              | 64%                  | 55%                      |
| Optometrist/ophthalmologist        | 3,039,000              | 39%                  | 32%                      |
| Dermatologist/skin doctor          | 1,538,000              | 21%                  | 9%                       |
| Physical therapist                 | 1,314,300              | 18%                  | 8%                       |
| Chiropractor                       | 1,271,000              | 17%                  | 10%                      |
| Hearing specialist/ENT             | 683,000                | 9%                   | 8%                       |
| Orthopedist/sports medicine doctor | 671,200                | 9%                   | 7%                       |



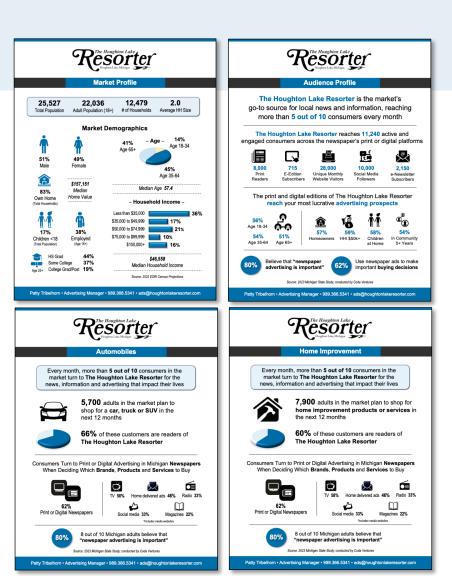
Turning Local Market Insights Into Ad Revenue for Your Newspaper





#### **Newspaper Sales Sheets**

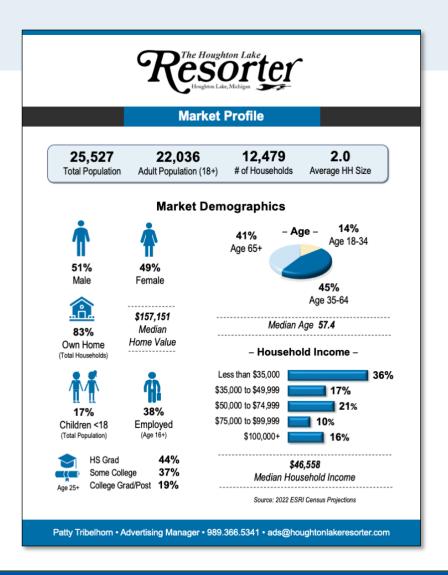
- Market Profile
- Audience Profile
- Category Sales Sheets (5 categories that you choose)





#### **Market Profile**

- Market size
- Demographic composition





#### **Audience Profile**

- Total newspaper reach
- Breakout of print and digital delivery channels
- Target reach for key demos
- Reliance and importance of newspaper advertising



#### **Audience Profile**

The Houghton Lake Resorter is the market's go-to source for local news and information, reaching more than 5 out of 10 consumers every month

The Houghton Lake Resorter reaches 11,240 active and engaged consumers across the newspaper's print or digital platforms



8,000 Print

715 E-Edition Subscribers

28,000 Unique Monthly Website Visitors Œ

10,000 Social Media 2,150

The print and digital editions of The Houghton Lake Resorter reach your most lucrative advertising prospects

**56%** Age 18-34

> **54%** Age 35-64

. છે-છ

Age 65+

<u></u>
57%

57%

**59%** 

58% Childre

In Community 5+ Years

80% Believe that "newspaper advertising is important"



Use newspaper ads to make important **buying decisions** 

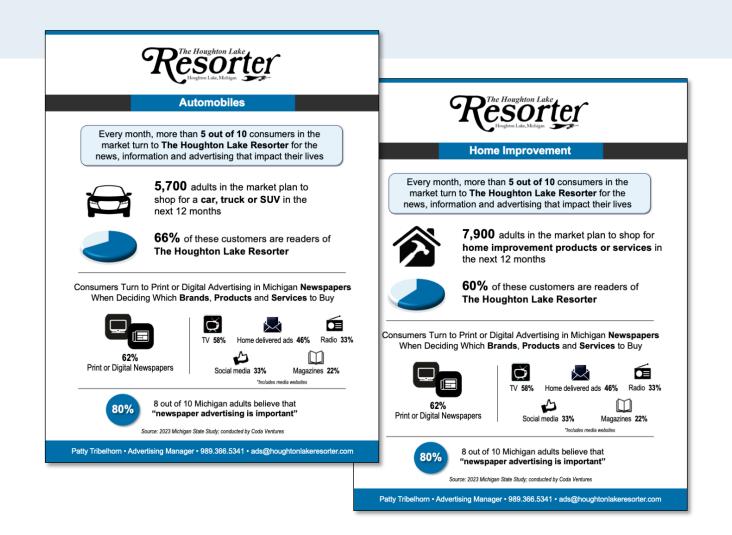
Source: 2023 Michigan State Study; conducted by Coda Ventures

Patty Tribelhorn • Advertising Manager • 989.366.5341 • ads@houghtonlakeresorter.com



#### **5 Category Sales Sheets**

- Individual category focus
- Potential size of buyers
- Targeted reach of prospects
- Reliance and importance of newspaper advertising



# Summary

Print and digital newspapers provide broad reach of your local market

Newspaper readers are local opinion leaders and community influencers

Newspapers deliver active consumers that advertisers want to reach

Newspaper readers like and expect to see newspaper ads... especially in print



