

MICHIGAN REALTORS®

New Polling Reinforces Support for Short-Term Rentals as an Important Private Property Right.

A new poll, commissioned by Michigan Realtors®, Airbnb, and TechNet finds that Michigan citizens are overwhelmingly supportive of short-term rentals as an important private property right. Over 75% of individuals polled are supportive of a homeowner's right to create income through using their residential property as a short-term rental. Furthermore, 70% of those polled believe that cities and townships should not be able to ban short-term rentals. As the debate concerning short-term rental continues in the Michigan Legislature, this important data reinforces arguments made by private property rights advocates across the state to protect short-term rentals from zoning bans or limitations.

Michigan Realtors®, along with private property rights advocates like Airbnb and TechNet, has long advocated for short-term rental rights, coupled with a reasonable regulatory framework. According to 2022 Michigan Realtors® President Jamie Iodice, "picking winners and losers through zoning or simply eliminating this important right by ban is a short-sighted approach to address a new economy. Local governments should embrace short-term rentals and create a safe and workable framework for the practice in their community."

The Michigan Senate is currently considering HB 4722, sponsored by Representative Sarah Lightner (R-Springport). That bill would protect short-term rentals from zoning abuse, while also clarifying that short-term rental is a residential use of property. Senator Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton), Chairman of the Senate Regulatory Reform Committee, has championed short-term rentals as a basic private property right and supported HB 4722's passage out of his committee earlier this year. According to Nesbitt, "this polling drives home the point that private property rights are of primary importance to Michigan citizens. If I maintain my property, pay my taxes, and respect my neighbors, local government should not compromise my property rights."

With only a few session days remaining, Michigan Realtors® is hopeful that Governor Whitmer, as well as Senate and House Leadership, will make the passage of HB 4722 a priority.

Survey Highlights Regarding Private Property Rights:

- 75% of Michiganders believe that homeowners have the right to create income through using their residential properties as short-term rentals.
- 70% believe cities and townships should not be able to ban short-term rentals.
- 82% believe that allowing hosts to rent out their primary homes is good for their city or township.
- 76% believe that anyone who owns a home should be able to rent it as a short-term rental as long as they are licensed and paying taxes.
- 63% believe there should be clear statewide rules, so all residents have equal property rights.

If you have additional questions concerning this media release or the polling methodology, please contact Brian Westrin at 517-372-8890.