Who Should Regulate?  
A Comparison of Michigan Local Leaders and Michigan Citizens

Presented at the  
Michigan Political Science Association Conference  
October 24, 2014
Opinions on Federalism

- Matching the scale of the problem
- Partisan divide
- Shared responsibility
- Are local officials different than the general public?
The Surveys

Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)
- 1,353 local officials (73% of state)
- Partisanship
  - 57% republican
  - 19% independent
  - 24% democrat
- More rural

Great Lakes Public Policy Survey (GLPPS)
- 267 Michigan residents
- Partisanship
  - 40% republican
  - 29% independent
  - 31% democrat
Environmental Policies

How much responsibility/authority should each level of government have for...

- Protection of the Great Lakes
- Hydraulic Fracturing ("fracking")
- Wind energy

A great deal | Some | None
Protection of the Great Lakes

Federal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Officials</th>
<th>Citizens</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66%</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<td>28%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>4%</td>
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State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Officials</th>
<th>Citizens</th>
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<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>69%</td>
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<td>9%</td>
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Local

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Officials</th>
<th>Citizens</th>
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<td>30%</td>
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<td>62%</td>
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<td>Local Officials</td>
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- **A great deal**
- **Some**
- **None**
Wind Turbine Siting

Federal
- Local Officials: 41%
- Citizens: 51%

State
- Local Officials: 4%
- Citizens: 19%

Local
- Local Officials: 50%
- Citizens: 24%

A great deal
- Federal: 14%
- State: 6%
- Local: 1%

Some
- Federal: 15%
- State: 67%
- Local: 28%

None
- Federal: 4%
- State: 6%
- Local: 12%
Wind Turbine Siting (2)

Federal
- Local officials
  - GOP: A great deal
  - Dems: Some
  - Citizens: None

State
- Local officials
  - GOP: A great deal
  - Dems: Some
  - Citizens: None

Local
- Local officials
  - GOP: A great deal
  - Dems: Some
  - Citizens: None
Findings

• There are substantial differences
  o Fracking: Fed vs. Local
  o Wind: differences in fed, state, and local
  o Shared responsibility/authority

• But why?
Possible Explanations

• Reflection of current allocation of authority?
  o Not so with fracking

• Want “authority” but not “responsibility”
Protection of the Great Lakes

Local Officials
Citizens

Local gov't
- 30% Local Officials, 62% Citizens

Your local gov't
- 15% Local Officials, 48% Citizens

A great deal
- 6% Local Officials, 6% Citizens
- 15% Local Officials, 28% Citizens

Some
- 62% Local Officials, 53% Citizens
- 52% Local Officials, 44% Citizens

None
- 6% Local Officials, 6% Citizens
- 7% Local Officials, 7% Citizens
Possible Explanations

• Reflection of current allocation of authority?
  o Not so with fracking

• Want “authority” but not “responsibility”

• Not seeing fracking, wind as having regional implications
Role of Local Government

Great Lakes
- Local Officials: 30% A great deal, 62% Some, 6% None
- Citizens: 38% A great deal, 53% Some, 6% None

Fracking
- Local Officials: 63% A great deal, 38% Some, 12% None
- Citizens: 30% A great deal, 47% Some, 12% None

Wind Energy
- Local Officials: 68% A great deal, 28% Some, 1% None
- Citizens: 37% A great deal, 49% Some, 12% None
Possible Explanations

• Reflection of current allocation of authority?
  o Not so with fracking

• Want “authority” but not “responsibility”

• Not seeing fracking, wind as having regional implications

• Other ideas?
Thank You!

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Role of Federal Government

Great Lakes

- Local Officials: 66% A great deal, 28% Some, 4% None
- Citizens: 70% A great deal, 25% Some, 4% None

Fracking

- Local Officials: 16% A great deal, 50% Some, 28% None
- Citizens: 35% A great deal, 39% Some, 19% None

Wind Energy

- Local Officials: 4% A great deal, 41% Some, 50% None
- Citizens: 19% A great deal, 51% Some, 24% None