Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy M | Ford School

MICHIGAN PUBLIC POLICY SURVEY (MPPS)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
FISCAL TRACKING SURVEY

For more information, please contact: closup-mpps@umich.e	edu / (734) 647	-4091		SF	PRING 201	6		
To start, please select: Q1. What type of jurisdiction do you represent?	What is the ju	risdiction's n	ame?					
	(If not a count	<i>ty)</i> In what co	unty is it loca	ted?				
☐ City ☐ Village								
Q2. Thinking about business conditions in your community times financially, or bad times financially?	, do you think	k that during	the next twelv	ve months yo	ur communi	ty will have g	ood	
Good Times Bad Times	Г	Neither		Don't Know	,			
Q3. Thinking about the financial needs of your jurisdiction,	would you sa	y that your u	nit of governi	ment is <u>less a</u>	able or bette	<u>r able</u> to mee	t its	
financial needs in Sign	ificantly S	Somewhat	Neither Les	ss Some	what Si	gnificantly	Don't	
Les	•	Less Able	Nor Better A			etter Able	Know	
this fiscal year compared to the last fiscal year? the next fiscal year compared to this fiscal year?					_			
·					<u>-</u>	<u> </u>		
Q4. Comparing your jurisdiction's <u>current fiscal year</u> to its Indicate whether — in your opinion — there has been a							jed.	
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Greatly		_	Somewhat	Greatly	Not	Don't	
_ , , , , ,	Decreas		ed Change	_	Increased	Applicable		
Revenue from property taxes Revenue from fees for services, licenses, transfers, etc.	H							
Amount of debt								
Ability of your jurisdiction to repay its debt				- i	_ ⊟			
Amount of federal aid to your jurisdiction								
Amount of state aid to your jurisdiction								
Tax delinquencies								
Home foreclosures in your jurisdiction								
Public safety needs								
Infrastructure needs								
Human service needs								
General government operations needs								
Number of employees that work for your jurisdiction	. 📮							
Pay rates for your jurisdiction's employee wages and sala								
Cost of your jurisdiction's employee pensions	ts □							
Cost of your jurisdiction's current employee health benefit Cost of your jurisdiction's retired employee health benefit								
Cost of your jurisdiction's retired employee health benefit	• Ц							
Q5. Now, comparing your jurisdiction's <u>current fiscal year</u> likely to take.	to the <u>next fis</u>	<u>cal year,</u> plea	se indicate w	hich actions	your jurisdic	ction has take	en or is	
,	Greatly	y Somewl	nat No	Somewhat	Greatly	Not	Don't	
	Decreas	_		_	Increase	Applicable	_	
Property tax rates	片			⊢⊢		-	片	
Charges for fees, licenses, etc. Reliance on general fund balance								
Reliance on "rainy day" funds							H	
Amount of services provided								
Actual public safety spending								
Actual infrastructure spending								
Actual human services spending								
Actual general government operations spending								
Funding for economic development programs								
Amount of debt								
Sale of public assets (i.e., parks, buildings, etc.)								
Privatizing or contracting out of services Number and/or scope of interlocal agreements or other co	net-							
sharing plans with other governments								
Number of employees that work for your jurisdiction								
Employee pay rates				╗				
Employees' share of premiums, deductibles, and/or co-pa								
on health insurance								
Employees' share of contributions to retirement funds								
Retirees' share of premiums, deductibles, and/or co-pays health insurance	on 🗆							

Q6.	Different local jurisdictions manage their u circumstances. Despite these differences, was your jurisdiction's <u>unreserved/unassigniscal</u> year?	we're interested	in tracking ove	erall changes in thes	e balances over	time. Approxima	tely what
	□ 0% or less □ 21-30% □ 1-10% □ 31-40% □ 11-20% □ 41-50%		☐ 51-60% ☐ 61-70% ☐ 71-80%	[[[☐ 81-90% ☐ 91-100% ☐ Over 100%	☐ Don't	Know
Q7.	Thinking about your jurisdiction's fiscal ne to be too high, about right, or too low?	eds, overall, do y	you consider yo	our jurisdiction's uni	eserved/unassi	gned general fun	d balance
	☐ Too High ☐ Abo	out Right	□ Тоо	Low	☐ Don't Know	V	
Q8.	In your opinion, is your jurisdiction's cash problem, not much of a problem, or not a p		ty to pay bills i	n a timely manner a s	significant fiscal	l problem, somew	hat of a
	☐ A significant problem ☐ Son	newhat of a prob	lem 🗌 Not	much of a problem	☐ Not a probl	lem at all 🔲 🛭	Oon't Know
Q9.	Now, thinking about the overall fiscal stres financial obligations it may have — on a sc would you rate your jurisdiction's overall fi	ale from 1 to 10,					
	The Best: Perfect Fiscal					The Wo Fisca	l Don't
	today? Health	2 3	4 5	6 7	7 8	Crisis 9 10	s Know
	as you expect it to be five years from now?	2 3	4 5	6 7	7 8	9 10	
Q10	. Next, we want to get an overall sense of the important aspects of service provision (seetc.), overall, how satisfied would you say	uch as the range the following po Very	of different type eople or groups Somewhat	es of services offere are with your jurisd Neither Satisfied	ed, the amount a liction's current Somewhat	and quality of those services? Very	se services, Don't
Q10	important aspects of service provision (si etc.), overall, how satisfied would you say The majority of your jurisdiction's	uch as the range the following po Very Satisfied	of different type eople or groups Somewhat Satisfied	es of services offere are with your jurisd Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	ed, the amount a liction's current Somewhat Dissatisfied	and quality of those services? Very Dissatisfied	se services,
Q10	important aspects of service provision (si etc.), overall, how satisfied would you say	uch as the range the following pe Very Satisfied	of different type eople or groups Somewhat Satisfied	es of services offere are with your jurisd Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	ed, the amount a liction's current Somewhat Dissatisfied	and quality of those services? Very Dissatisfied	se services, Don't
Q10	important aspects of service provision (si etc.), overall, how satisfied would you say The majority of your jurisdiction's citizens are The majority of your jurisdiction's Board/Council are	uch as the range the following pe Very Satisfied	of different typeople or groups Somewhat Satisfied	es of services offere s are with your jurisd Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	ed, the amount a liction's current Somewhat Dissatisfied	and quality of those services? Very Dissatisfied	Don't Know
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	important aspects of service provision (setc.), overall, how satisfied would you say The majority of your jurisdiction's citizens are The majority of your jurisdiction's Board/Council are You personally in your role as a local official are . We are interested in views about the trade currently offer, if your jurisdiction's citize majority of citizens be more likely to choo avoid higher taxes? Please respond for eselect "Not Applicable" for that service.)	very Satisfied	s of different type eople or groups Somewhat Satisfied	s. Thinking about parce cuts, in your opin service cuts or would choose higher taxes to avoid service cuts	ed, the amount a liction's current Somewhat Dissatisfied articular service ion, what would d they choose content some service cuts to avoid higher taxes	syour jurisdiction they choose? Wery Dissatisfied	Don't Know I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I
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Now,	we have some questions about the sys	stem of funding lo	ocal govern	ment in Michig	gan.			
Q12.	Thinking about the revenue caps facin improves gradually over the coming y adequate funding to							
	-		trongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
	maintain the current quantity and services your jurisdiction provides?							
	improve or add more services, if t necessary or desired?	hey are						
Q13.	Some people think the current system disagree. What about you? Would you needs significant reform?	•	•	•		•		
	Strongly Somewhat Agree Agree	Nor D	er Agree ⊎isagree □	Somewh Disagre	ee Dis	ongly sagree	Don't Know □	
Q14.	In 2012, the Michigan Public Policy Su government. Now we'd like your opin broken, to what extent would you sup Michigan?	ions on some of t	the ideas tha	at were sugge	sted. Whether or	not you think th	ne current syst	em is
	A. Enable regional tax-base sharing a	mong local unite	Strongl Suppor	•	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		Strongly Oppose	Don't Know
	B. Reform tax increment financing/tax DDAs, TIFs, LDFAs) to limit impact	captures (e.g.,						
	government revenues C. Allow local governments to raise relocal-option taxes (e.g., sales, gas,							
	D. Compel the State to pay for "unfur imposed on local governments							
	E. Increase maximum allowable local	millage rates						
	 F. Reform Headlee Amendment to eli millage rate roll-backs 	minate or limit						
	G. Establish automatic millage rate "r	•			_			
	(increases up to the maximum auti rate when tax base grows slower t	han inflation)						
	H. Reform Proposal A to allow more t growth for individual properties	axable value						
	I. Restore full statutory revenue shar cuts that began in early 2000s)	ring (i.e., reverse						
	J. Add services that are not currently	taxed to the stat	te 🗆					
	sales tax base K. Increase rates on state taxes with	revenue-sharing						
	components (e.g., sales, gas) L. Other (please specify)							
Q15.	While many of these potential reforms potential changes listed above in Q14 of funding local government should be reforms, please skip to Q16.)	that you support	, please ide	ntify which yo	u feel are the top	three priorities	for how Michig	jan's system
	Top priority							
	Second priority							
	Time profity							
Q16.	If your jurisdiction had the authority to support or oppose your jurisdiction <u>in</u>	troducing or incr	easing the f	ollowing local	revenue options	?		
			trongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support Nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know
	Local property tax millage rates					Ö	Ö	
	Local sales tax							
	Local sales tax Local gas tax		H		H			
	Local sales tax on alcohol, tobacco,	etc.						
	Local public utility taxes / fees						\Box	
	Local hotel / tourism tax							
	Local motor vehicle license / registra	tion fees						
I	Regional tax-base sharing							

Now, we'd like to ask you about drinking water issues in y	your jurisdiction	ı. (County officia	als, please skip	<u>to Q33.</u>)		
Q17. Some people get their drinking water through a sha shared system for a single apartment building, etc.) describes how drinking water is provided in your ju	. Others get dri					
 ☐ Entirely through shared water supply ☐ Mostly through shared water supply ☐ Mostly through individual private well ☐ Entirely through individual private we 	system(s), but s ls, but some sha	ared system(s)				
☐ Don't know						
Q18. To the best of your knowledge, which of the fo	ollowing best de	escribes the so	ource(s) of the	shared drinkin	g water system(s) in your
☐ Surface water only (e.g., lake, ri☐ Groundwater only (subsurface s☐ A combination of surface water	sources)	er				
☐ Don't know						
Q19. To what extent – if any – are each of the following c	urrantly problem	ne for drinking	water provision	on in vour iurio	diation?	
Q13. To what extent - if any - are each of the following c	A Significant Problem	Somewhat of a Problem	Not Much of a Problem	Not a Problem at All	Not	Don't Know
Threats to water source quality / safety		Problem			Applicable	
Inadequate volume / low water tables						
Compliance with state and/or federal regulations						
Presence of lead in on-premises plumbing (e.g., faucets, solder)						
Presence of lead in pipes connecting customers						
to the system(s) Aging / breaking pipes in the shared water supply						
system(s) Affordability / delinquency on water bills						
Other (please specify)					Ш	
	_	_	_	_		_
(If in Q17 you selected drinking water provision in your jurisdic	ction is "entirely th	nrough private w	vells", please sk	ip <u>to Q27.</u>)		
Q20. Which of the following best describes your jur	risdiction's role	, if any, in the s	shared water s	ystem?		
 No role: my jurisdiction plays n Some role: my jurisdiction plays own water; contracting / purcha drinking water infrastructure) 	s some kind of a	active role in w	ater supply or	distribution (f	or example, sup	plying our
☐ Don't Know						
Q21. In your opinion, how would you rate the overa distribution pipes, etc.) in your jurisdiction?	III current condi	tion of drinking	g water infrasti	ructure (such a	as treatment plai	nt,
☐ Excellent ☐ Go	od	☐ Fair	☐ Po	or	☐ Don't Kno	ow

Q23 To	Significantly							
Q23 To	Improved	Somewhat Improved	Neither Im Nor Deter		Somewhat Deteriorated	Significantly Deteriorated		Don't Know □
Q20. 10	o what extent, if any, is the	current condition of	the drinking	water infrast	ructure in your juri	sdiction a topic	of discussion	on
_			A Great De		ewhat Very			Don't Knov
	among your jurisdiction							
•	among your jurisdiction	's citizens?				1		
	hinking about the current le isagree that current levels			er infrastructu	re in your jurisdict	ion, to what exte	ent do you a	gree or
_			Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
	 to <u>maintain</u> the drinking v in your jurisdiction? 							
	. to <u>improve</u> the drinking w in your jurisdiction?	ater infrastructure						
	General fund contributions	S		not use	We use, but have not increase recently □	rece	creased ntly	Don't Know
	Water rates / user fees]	
	Special assessments							
	Bonds		Г				1	
	Low-interest loans		Г	3]	
]]	
Q26. Lc	Low-interest loans Federal / state grants		drinking wateng water rate	or infrastructures or fees?	re in your jurisdicti	ion, do you thinl]] k the followi	ng groups
Q26. Lc	Low-interest loans Federal / state grants Other (please specify)	t or oppose increasi	drinking wate ng water rate Strongly Support	or infrastructures or fees? Somewhat Support	re in your jurisdicti Neither Support Nor Oppose	ion, do you thini Somewhat Oppose	k the followi Strongly Oppose	ng groups Don't Know
Q26. Lc	Low-interest loans Federal / state grants Other (please specify) pooking ahead, in order to note individuals would support	t or oppose increasi	drinking wateng water rate	or infrastructures or fees?	re in your jurisdicti	ion, do you thinl]] k the followi	

the have a tew questions about tax appeals. (Wilage and country officials, please skip to CR33) Committee of the control of								
jurisdiction appealed their tax assessments — either to your jurisdiction's Board of Review or directly to the Michigan Tax Tribunal? (Please select "At Applicable" if you do not have any practice of that classes within your jurisdiction.) Commercial "tig box" stores (e.g., Lowe's, Costco, etc.)	t, we have a few	questions abo	ut tax appeals.	(Village and c	ounty officials, <u>ple</u>	ase skip to Q33.)		
jurisdiction appealed their tax assessments — either to your jurisdiction's Board of Review or directly to the Michigan Tax Tribunal? (Please select "At Applicable" if you do not have any practice of that classes within your jurisdiction.) Commercial "tig box" stores (e.g., Lowe's, Costco, etc.)								
Commercial "big box" stores (e.g., Lowe's, Costco, etc.)	jurisdiction ap	pealed their ta	x assessments -	 either to ye 	our jurisdiction's	Board of Review	w or directly to the Mid	
Commercial "tig box" stores (e.g., Lowe's, Costoo, etc.)	(1 lease select	тот Аррисавіс	n you do not nav	c arry parcers		•	•	Don't Know
Other commercial properties aside from "big box" stores	Commercial '	'bia box" store	es (e.a., Lowe's,	Costco. etc.)	_		_	_
Residential							_	_
Agricultural		roidi propertic	o doide iroin bi	g box oloic			<u> </u>	_
Q29. (If you selected 'yes' is any items in Q28) Did any of these landowners appeal a Board of Review determination to the Michigan Tax Tribunal? Q30. (If you selected 'yes' in Q29) Thinking about any appeals of a Board of Review determination to the Michigan Tax Tribunal in the last two years, how did your jurisdiction respond? (check all that apply)								_
Case								_
Q29. (If you selected 'yes' to any items in Q28) Did any of these landowners appeal a Board of Review determination to the Michigan Tax Tribunal? Yes								_
Yes	Otner (piease	specify)			⊔	Ц	Ш	Ц
G30. (If you selected "yes" in Q29) Thinking about any appeals of a Board of Review determination to the Michigan Tax Tribunal in the last two years, how did your jurisdiction respond? (check all that apply) We stipulated/agreed to the value(s) the landowner stated in their Michigan Tax Tribunal petition. We stipulated/agreed to an alternate taxable value with landowner prior to the Tax Tribunal hearing. Gate defended the assessment before the Tax Tribunal. Don't Know Q31. (If you selected "stipulated" in Q30) To what extent — If at all — did the cost of legal representation for the appeal impacyour decision to stipulate rather than defend the original assessment before the Tax Tribunal? Q4 Great Deal	` •	•	any items in Q28)	Did any of the	nese landowners	appeal a Board	of Review determinat	ion to the Michigan Ta
the last two years, how did your jurisdiction respond? (check all that apply) We stipulated/agreed to an alternate taxable value with landowner prior to the Tax Tribunal hearing. We defended the assessment before the Tax Tribunal. Don't Know		_	☐ No		Don't Know			
the last two years, how did your jurisdiction respond? (check all that apply) We stipulated/agreed to an alternate taxable value with landowner prior to the Tax Tribunal hearing. We defended the assessment before the Tax Tribunal. Don't Know								
We defended the assessment before the Tax Tribunal. Don't Know							letermination to the M	ichigan Tax Tribunal ii
Q31. (If you selected "stipulated" in Q30) To what extent — if at all — did the cost of legal representation for the appeal impact your decision to stipulate rather than defend the original assessment before the Tax Tribunal? A Great Deal Somewhat Not Much Not at All Don't Knot your jurisdiction in the last two years, would you say you are generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the Tax Tribunal's determination(s)? Very Somewhat Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Dissatisfied		☐ We s	tipulated/agreed	to an alterna	ite taxable value	with landowner		
your decision to stipulate rather than defend the original assessment before the Tax Tribunal? A Great Deal		<u>=</u>						
Q32. (If you selected "defended" in Q30) Thinking about property tax appeals that have gone to the Michigan Tax Tribunal fro your jurisdiction in the last two years, would you say you are generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the Tax Tribunal's determination(s)? Very Somewhat Neither Satisfied Somewhat Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Control Con	Q31							n for the appeal impac
your jurisdiction in the last two years, would you say you are generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the Tax Tribunal's determination(s)? Very Satisfied Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Know		☐ A Gre	eat Deal	☐ Somew	/hat	Not Much	☐ Not at All	☐ Don't Kn
Satisfied Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Know	Q32	your jurisdic	tion in the last t					
Ger all officials Overall, how much of a problem — if at all — are property tax appeals for your jurisdiction's current fiscal health? A Significant Somewhat of a Not Much Problem Problem Problem A Significant Problem Proble								
A Significant Somewhat of a Problem Froblem Problem Prob				ieu iv				
In some jurisdictions, retail chains (including "big box" stores) have appealed their property tax assessments claiming their buildings hard to sell for another use, making the market value significantly lower than construction costs. Recently, the Michigan Tax Tribunal generally ruled that tax assessments for these properties should be based upon the selling price of comparable vacant "dark stores." what extent do you agree or disagree that tax assessments of retail chain stores should be based on comparable vacant "dark stores." Strongly Somewhat Neither Agree Somewhat Strongly Don't Know Disagree Disagree Disagree Disagree Know Gome jurisdictions have enacted local ordinances to address "dark stores" appeals (for example, requiring new commercial buildings be constructed for more general reuse or addressing these issues in terms of deed restrictions). Which of the following best describe the actions — if any — your jurisdiction has taken to minimize the impact of "dark stores" tax appeals? [It has enacted a relevant local ordinance, or is in the process of enacting an ordinance. [It discussed enacting an ordinance, but has decided not to. [It discussed enacting an ordinance, but has not yet decided what to do. [It has not discussed this issue, but is likely to consider it in the future. [It has not discussed this issue, and is unlikely to discuss it in the future.	. (For all officials)	A Significant	Some	what of a	Not Mu	ch	Not a	Don't
In some jurisdictions, retail chains (including "big box" stores) have appealed their property tax assessments claiming their buildings hard to sell for another use, making the market value significantly lower than construction costs. Recently, the Michigan Tax Tribunal generally ruled that tax assessments for these properties should be based upon the selling price of comparable vacant "dark stores." what extent do you agree or disagree that tax assessments of retail chain stores should be based on comparable vacant "dark stores? Strongly Somewhat Neither Agree Somewhat Strongly Don't Agree Agree Nor Disagree Disagree Disagree Disagree Know Disagree Disagree Disagree Disagree Disagree Disagree Constructed for more general reuse or addressing these issues in terms of deed restrictions). Which of the following best describe the actions — if any — your jurisdiction has taken to minimize the impact of "dark stores" tax appeals? It has enacted a relevant local ordinance, or is in the process of enacting an ordinance. It discussed enacting an ordinance, but has decided not to. It discussed enacting an ordinance, but has not yet decided what to do. It has not discussed this issue, but is likely to consider it in the future. It has not discussed this issue, and is unlikely to discuss it in the future.		_	FIC	_		iciii		_
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Agree Agree Nor Disagree Disagree Disagree Disagree Know	hard to sell for generally ruled	another use, I I that tax asse	making the mark	et value sign se properties	ificantly lower th should be based	an construction I upon the sellin	costs. Recently, the I g price of comparable	Michigan Tax Tribunal vacant "dark stores."
Some jurisdictions have enacted local ordinances to address "dark stores" appeals (for example, requiring new commercial buildings be constructed for more general reuse or addressing these issues in terms of deed restrictions). Which of the following best describe the actions — if any — your jurisdiction has taken to minimize the impact of "dark stores" tax appeals? It has enacted a relevant local ordinance, or is in the process of enacting an ordinance. It discussed enacting an ordinance, but has decided not to. It discussed enacting an ordinance, but has not yet decided what to do. It has not discussed this issue, but is likely to consider it in the future. It has not discussed this issue, and is unlikely to discuss it in the future.								
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Final	y, we have a few long-term tracking questions repeated each spring regarding the overall state of affairs in Michigan more broadly.
Q36.	Do you feel things in the state of Michigan are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track? Right direction Wrong track Don't Know (please skip to Q38)
Q37.	Please briefly tell us the main reasons why you think things in the state of Michigan are generally going that way.
Q38.	How would you rate the way Rick Snyder is performing his job as Michigan's governor?
	☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Don't Know
Q39.	How would you rate the way the Michigan Legislature is performing its job?
	☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Don't Know
Q40.	CLOSUP wants to improve its public service to you and others. In addition to our web data tables and reports on the findings from each survey, we want to know if there are other resources or services CLOSUP could provide that would be useful to your jurisdiction. Please let us know below what else we can do to help.
Q41.	CLOSUP will protect your privacy and anonymity to the full extent provided by law. We need to confirm your personal information such as name and email address for tracking and administrative purposes only. Your personal information will not be shared with any outside sources. As with all of the questions in this survey, these are optional.
	Please provide us with
	Your name
	Your email address
	Today's date / / /
	rould like to ask some demographic questions. As with all of the questions in this survey, these are optional. Responses will be reported in egate form only so that your individual responses will remain confidential.
042	What is your gender?
	In what year were you born? 1 9
Q44.	How many years have you served in your current position?
Q45.	Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino descent?
Q46.	Please check one or more categories below to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be. (check all that apply) White Asian Black or African American Multiracial American Indian or Alaskan Native Other Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander Don't Know
Q47.	What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? 12th grade or less/no diploma Bachelor's degree High school graduate or GED Master's degree Some college, no degree Professional/Doctorate degree Associate's degree
Q48.	Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a? Republican Independent Democrat Something Else (please specify)
Q49.	(If Republican or Democrat) Would you consider yourself a strong or not very strong Republican/Democrat? Very strong Don't Know
Q50.	(If Independent or something else) Would you consider yourself closer to? ☐ The Democratic Party ☐ The Republican Party ☐ Neither