

Encouraging and Discouraging Factors to Local Intergovernmental Cooperation in Michigan

Findings from the Fall 2010 Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

Presentation for
Reinvigorating Public Service in Michigan, 2011 and Beyond
Michigan Capital Area Chapter of the ASPA Conference
September 30, 2011

Presentation Outline

- Overview of the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)
- Summary of findings on intergovernmental collaboration from the Fall 2010 Wave of the MPPS
 - who's cooperating currently and who's planning more
 - what factors officials say are incentives and barriers to cooperating

Michigan Public Policy Survey: Overview

■ A Census Survey

- Targeted respondents are the chief elected and chief appointed official in every single Michigan county, city, township, and village
- Conducted twice per year (Spring and Fall)
- 60-70% response rate by jurisdiction
- Survey content is developed in close partnership with MML, MTA, and MAC, as well as Advisory Committees made up of topic experts

Michigan Public Policy Survey: Overview

■ Goals for the Survey Program

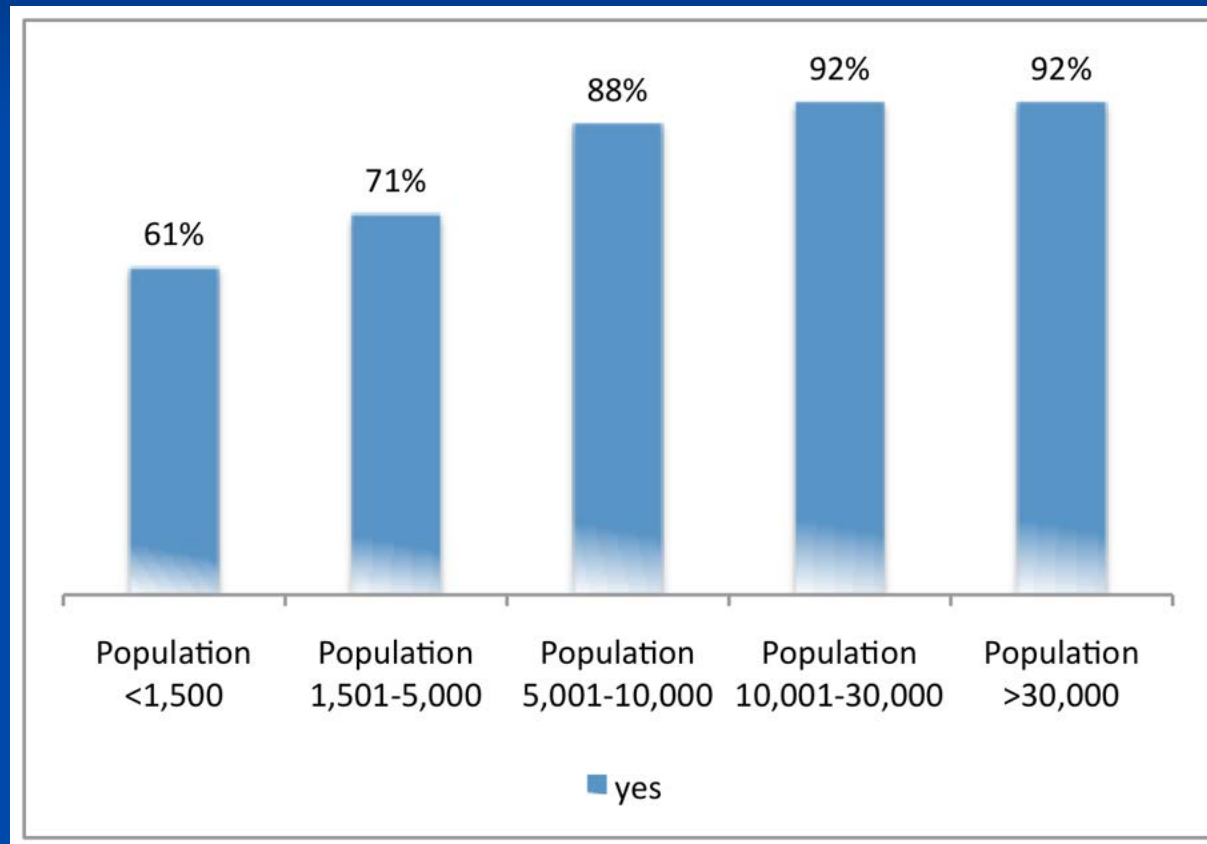
- Fill the critical information gap about challenges and opportunities at the local level to inform discussions among policymakers in Lansing, as well as foundations, community organizations, etc.
- Provide information to local leaders about peers across the state, spread best practices and grass-roots innovative solutions
- Build a longitudinal data archive to allow tracking of fundamental changes

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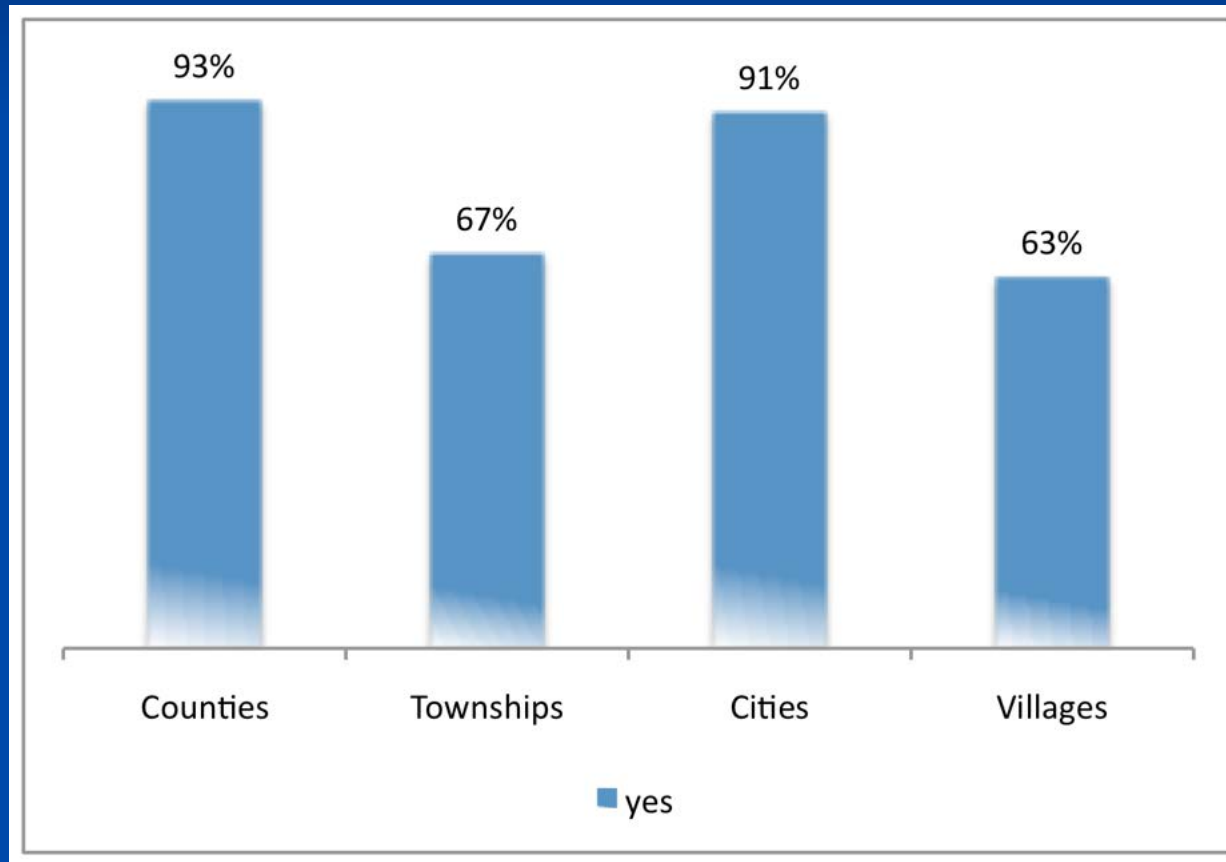
Who is currently involved in intergovernmental cooperation?

- Currently, is your jurisdiction involved in formal collaborative effort(s) of any kind with other units of government?



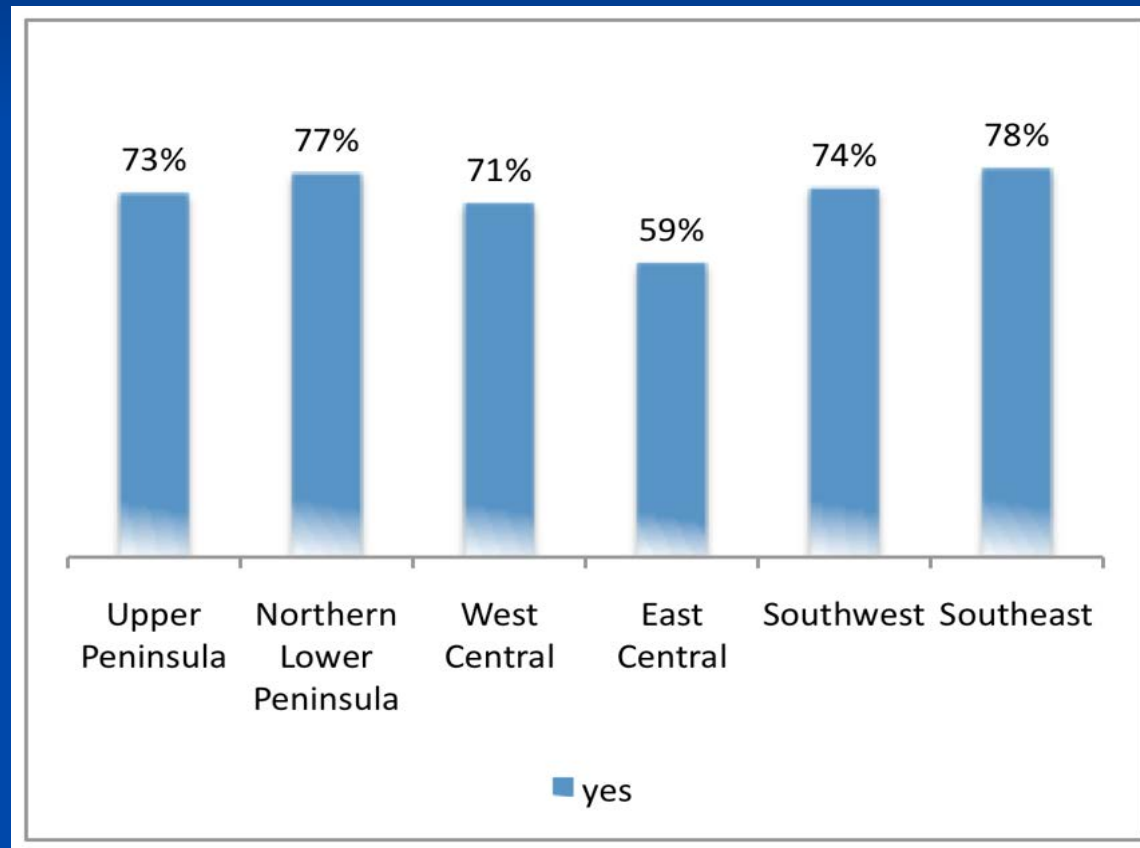
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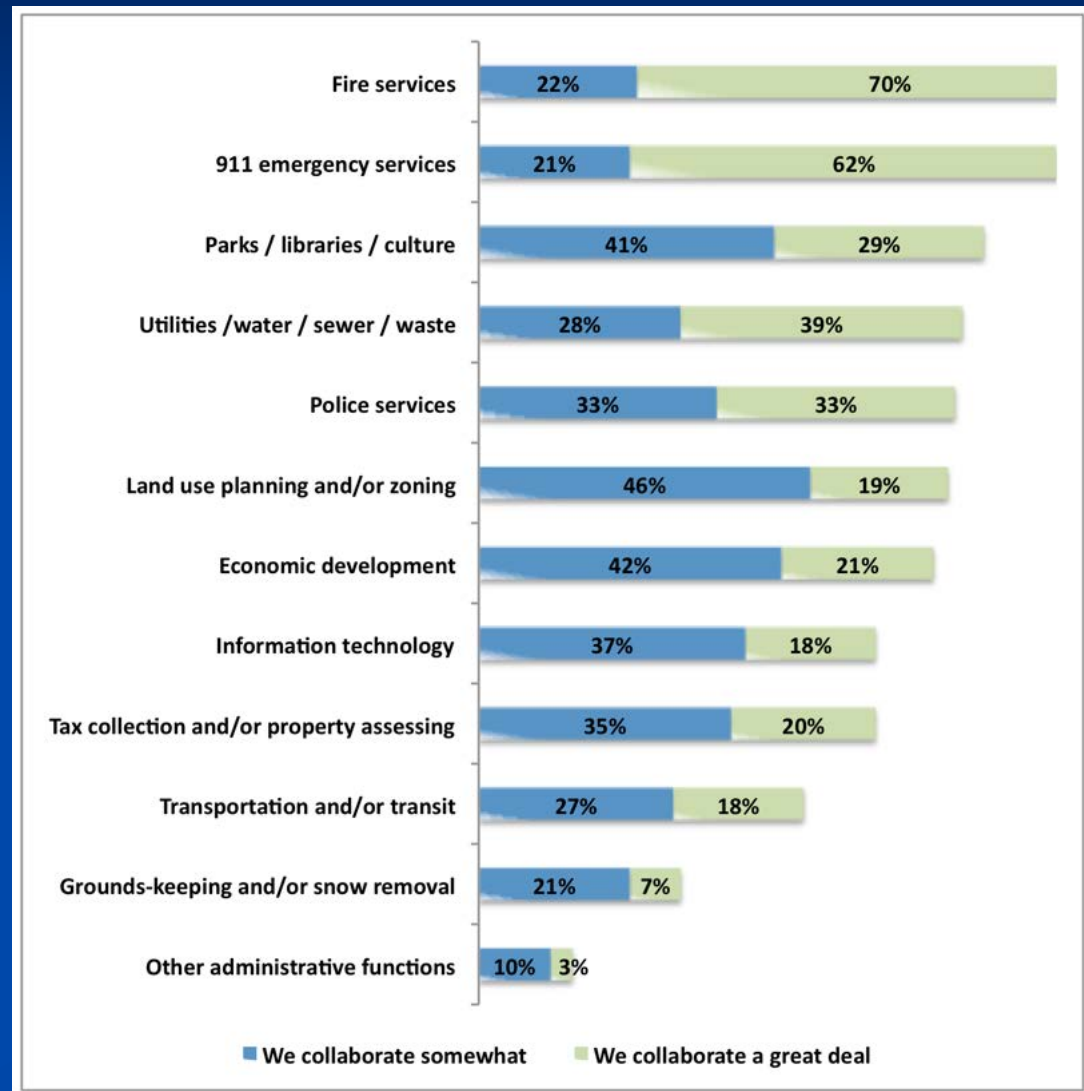
Who are their collaborators?

- In your jurisdiction's current collaborative efforts, which type(s) of partners is your jurisdiction collaborating with?

Counties	Townships	Cities	Villages
Counties (68%)	Townships (78%)	Townships (67%)	Townships (90%)
Townships (62%)	Counties (43%)	Counties (55%)	Counties (31%)
Cities (57%)	Cities (36%)	Cities (53%)	K-12 (31%)
Regional Organizations (44%)	Villages (21%)	K-12 (30%)	Villages (15%)

What kinds of intergovernmental cooperation are currently taking place?

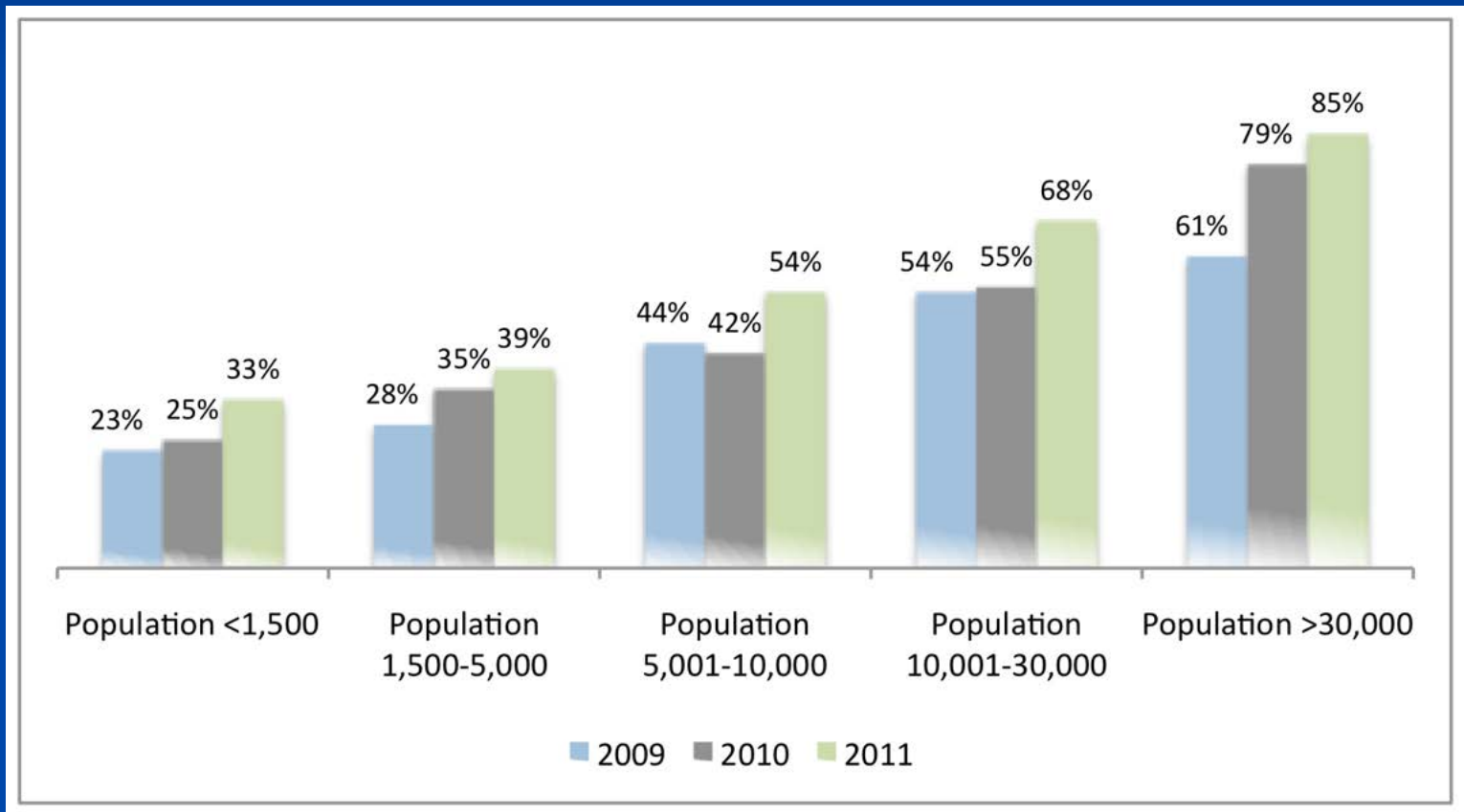
- Please identify the extent of your jurisdiction's collaboration with other jurisdictions for provision of the following types of services:



Is there more cooperation planned for the future?

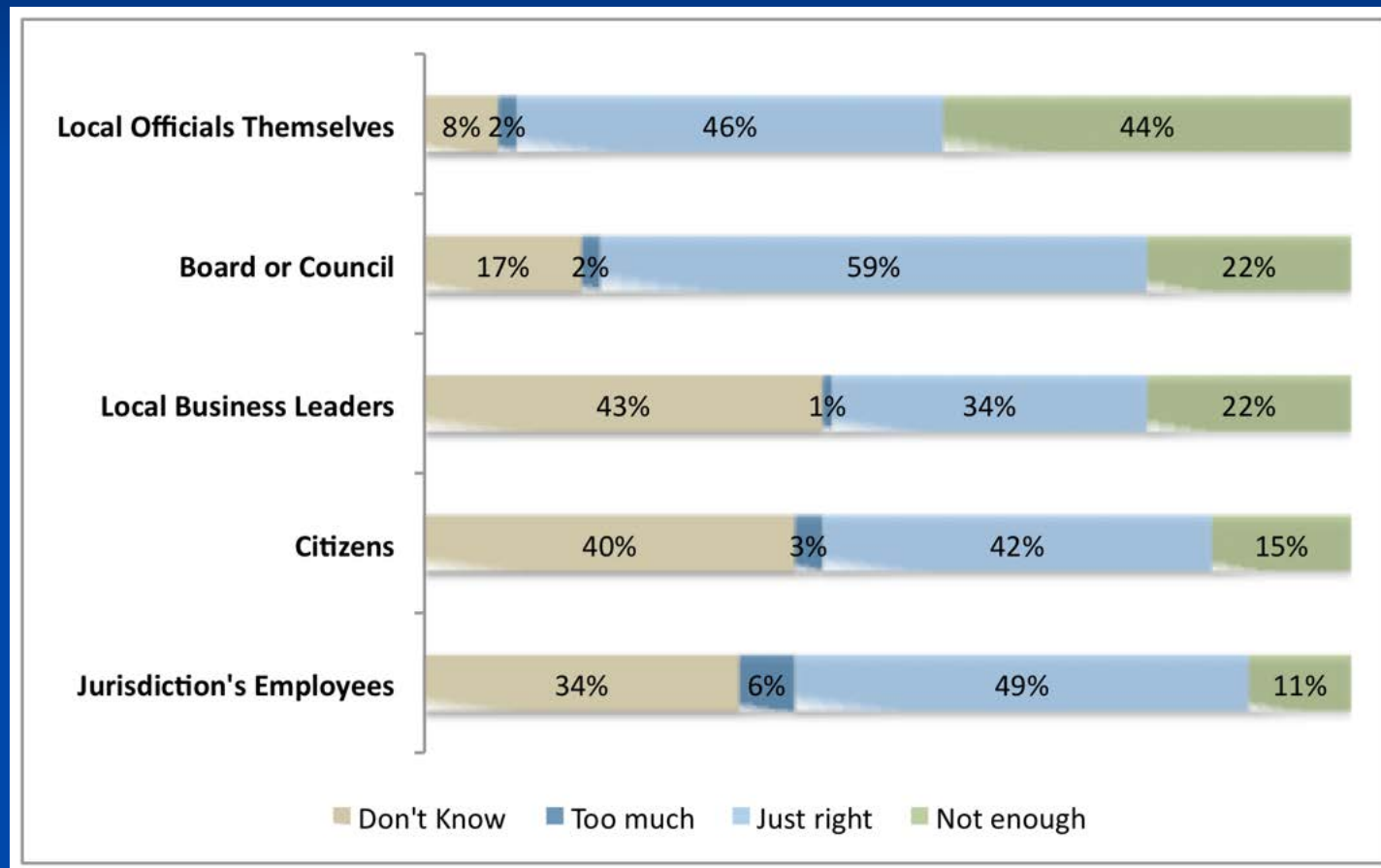
- Thinking about the next fiscal year, which action is your jurisdiction likely to take regarding the number and/or scope of interlocal agreements ... with other governments?

% of jurisdictions reporting increases in collaboration



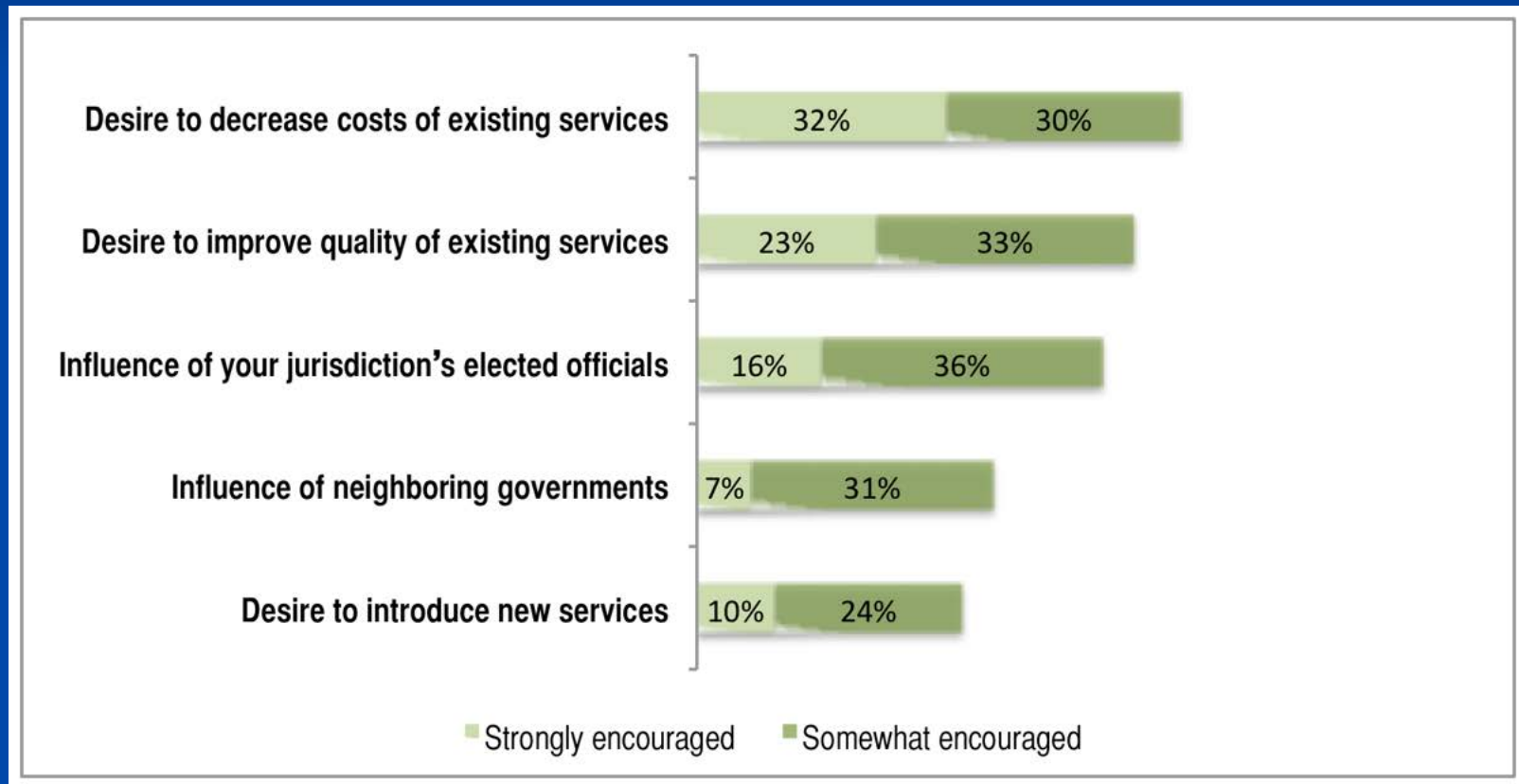
Who supports or opposes cooperation?

- In your view, how do the following people and groups in your jurisdiction feel about your government's current overall level of involvement in collaborative efforts?



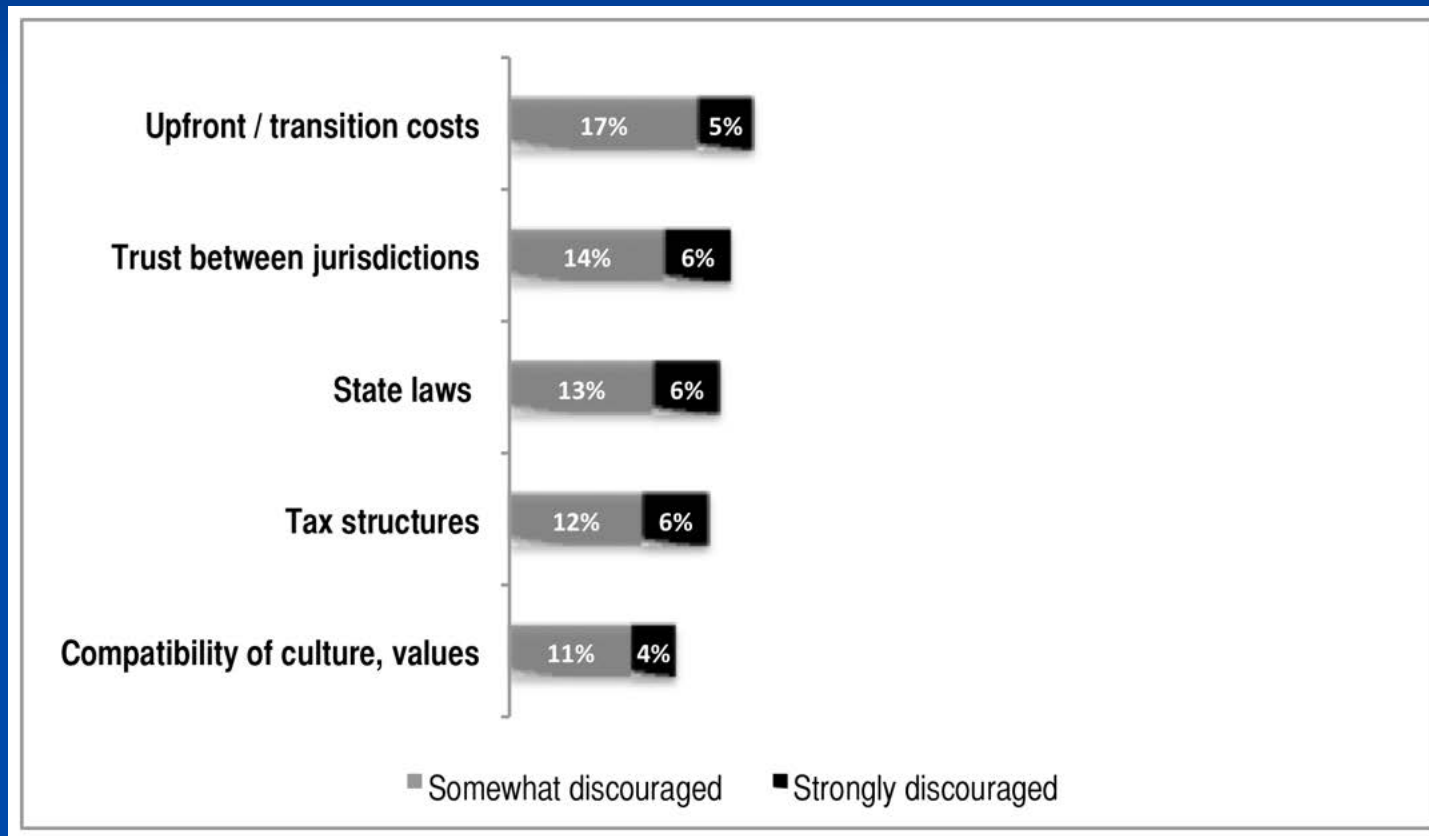
What factors encourage cooperation?

- ... to what extent overall have the following encouraged or discouraged your jurisdiction's decision(s) about collaboration for the provision of new or existing services?



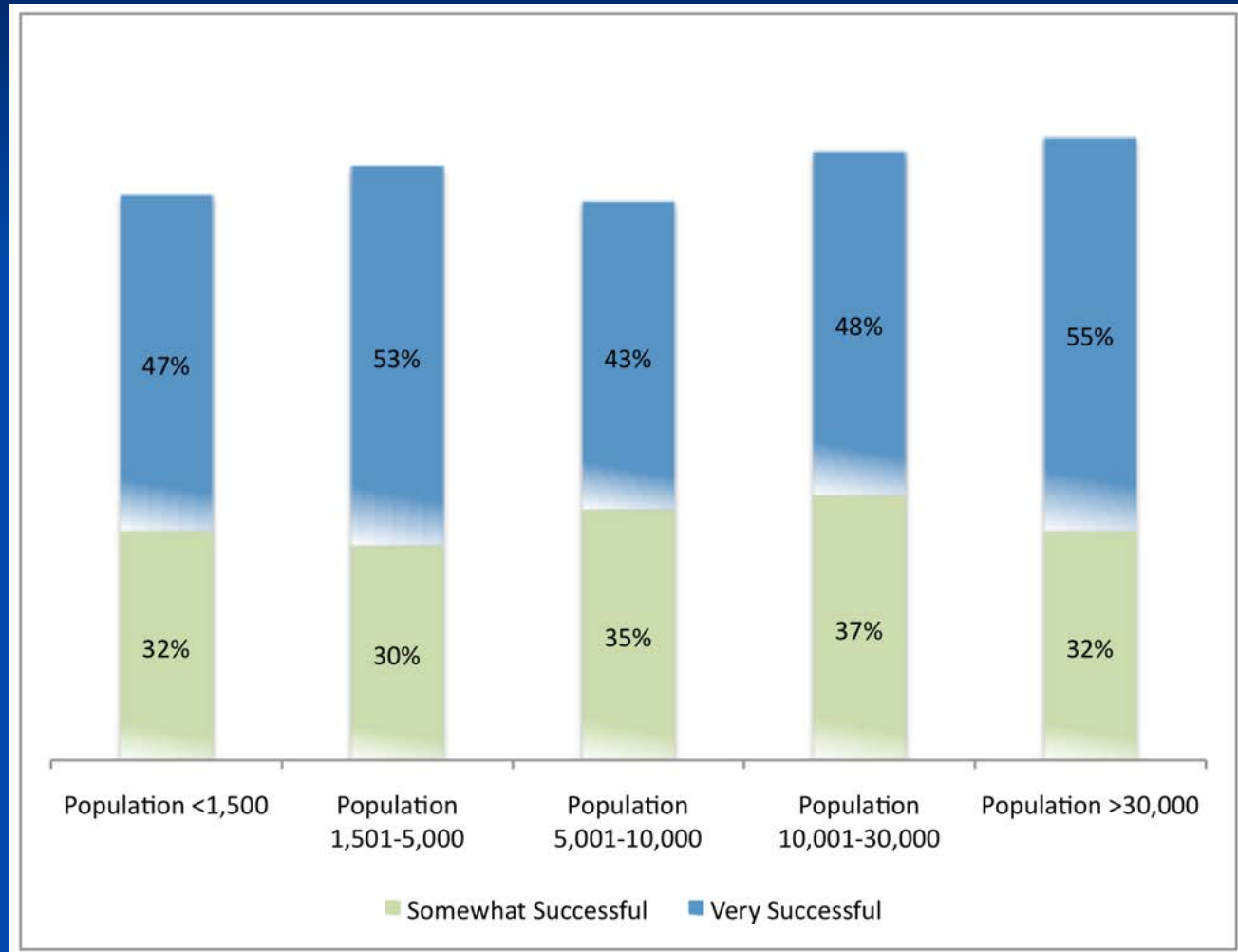
What factors discourage cooperation?

- ... to what extent overall have the following encouraged or discouraged your jurisdiction's decision(s) about collaboration for the provision of new or existing services?



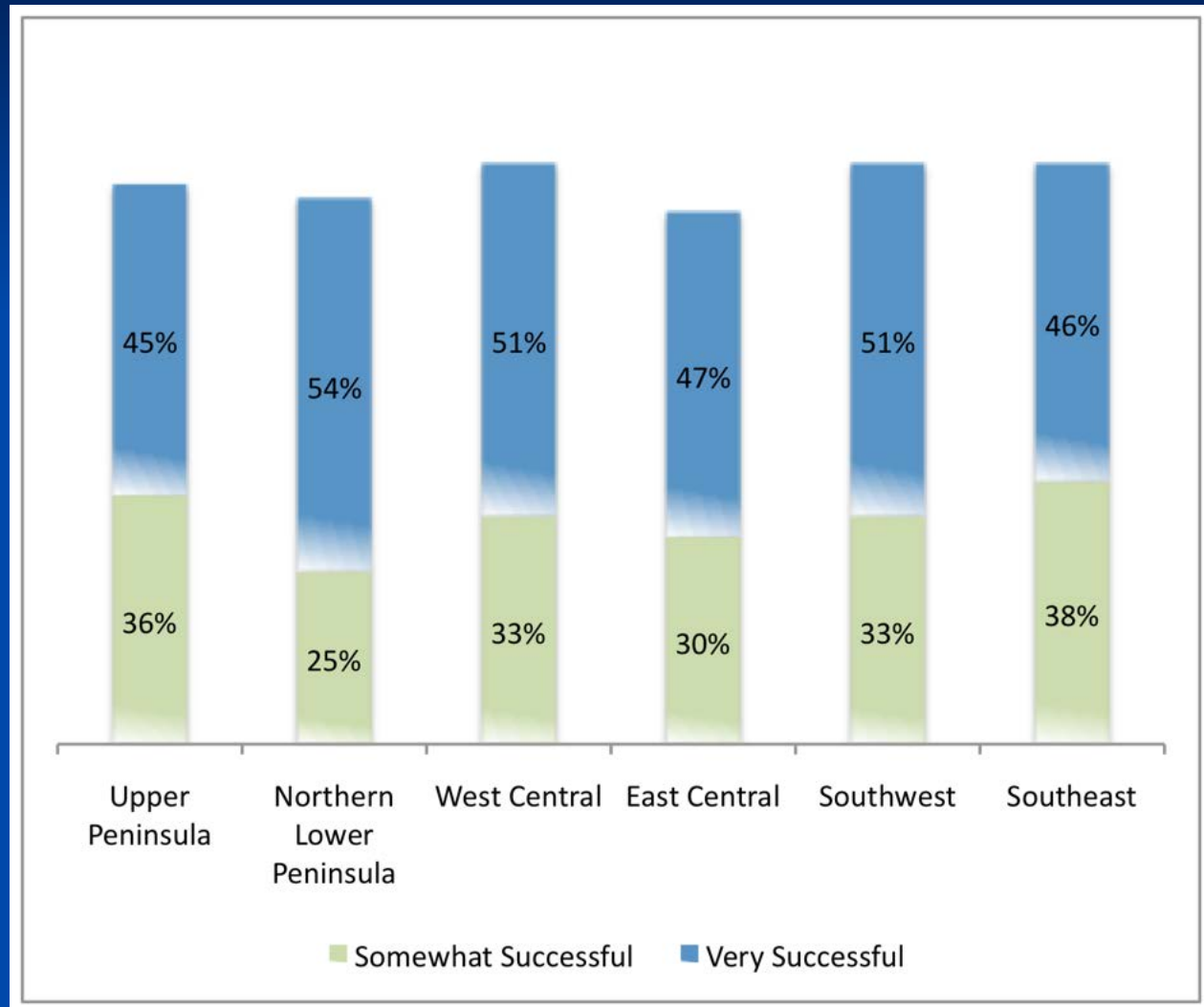
Is cooperation working?

- ... overall, would you say your jurisdiction's current collaborative efforts to date have been generally successful or unsuccessful?



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MPPS: Review of Key Findings

- Collaboration among Michigan local governments is widespread
- Local government leaders say their collaboration has been very successful
- They want more

MPPS: Review of Key Findings (con't)

- Overall, what factors are encouraging and discouraging Michigan local governments' decisions about collaborating?

Encouraging:

- Desire to improve quality & decrease costs of existing services
- Influence of the jurisdiction's elected officials & neighboring governments

Discouraging:

- Upfront transition costs
- Trust between governments
- State laws / tax structures

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