

REGULATE FRACKING AT WHAT SCALE?

COMPARISON OF PUBLIC AND ELITE OPINIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL FEDERALISM

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ALTERNATE MODELS OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEDERALISM

Matching principle?

Dynamic, cooperative?

Fracking as area where debate continues

ELITE VS. PUBLIC OPINION

Are there differences between elite and public opinion on environmental federalism—in “settled” and “disputed” issues?

How robust are differences to a change of context?

WHY MICHIGAN & ONTARIO?



THREE ISSUES – TWO CONTEXTS

	Settled or disputed	Current locus of power
Great Lakes water quality	Settled in both	Similar – cooperative
Fracking	More disputed in MI	Same – state/provincial
Wind energy	More disputed in ON	Different – local in MI; provincial in ON

OPINION POLLS

Public

Telephone

MI: n=267

ON: n=407

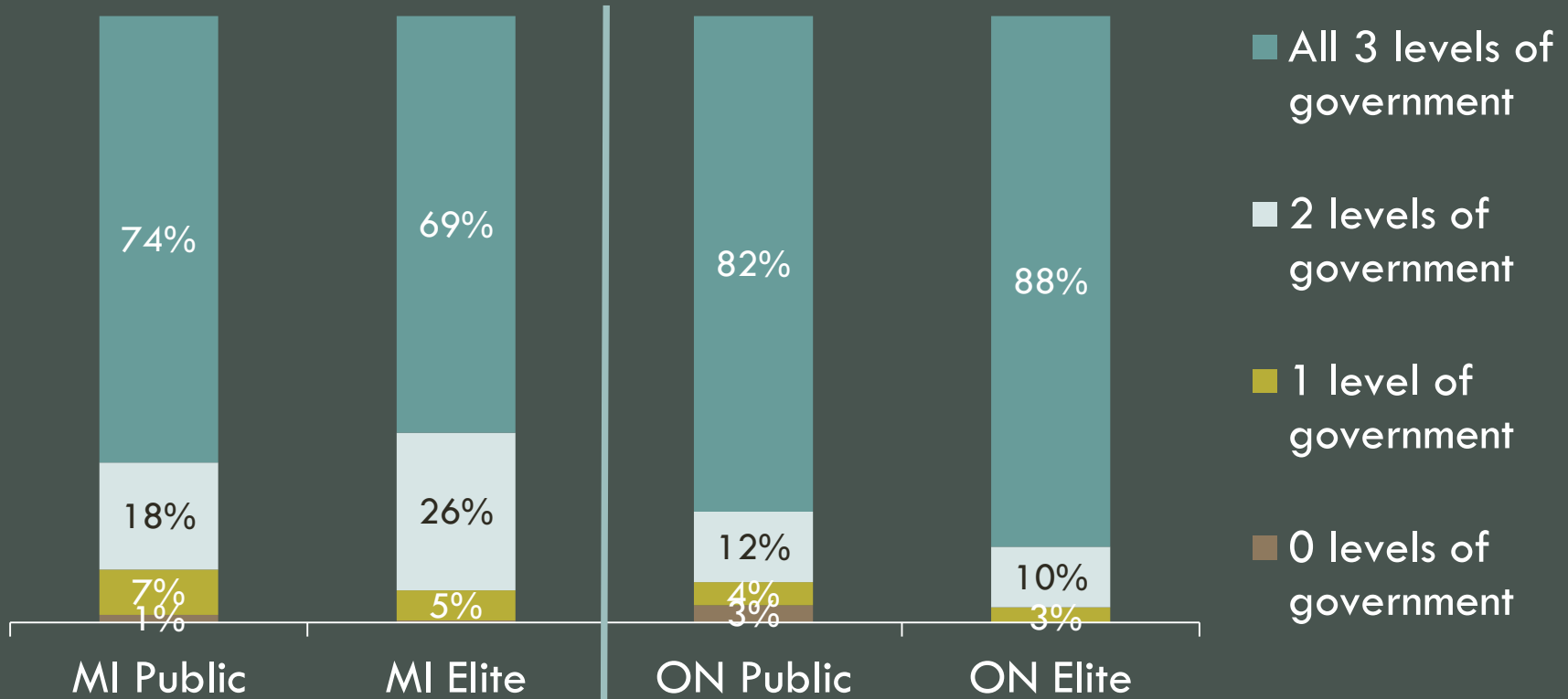
Local elites

Web & mail

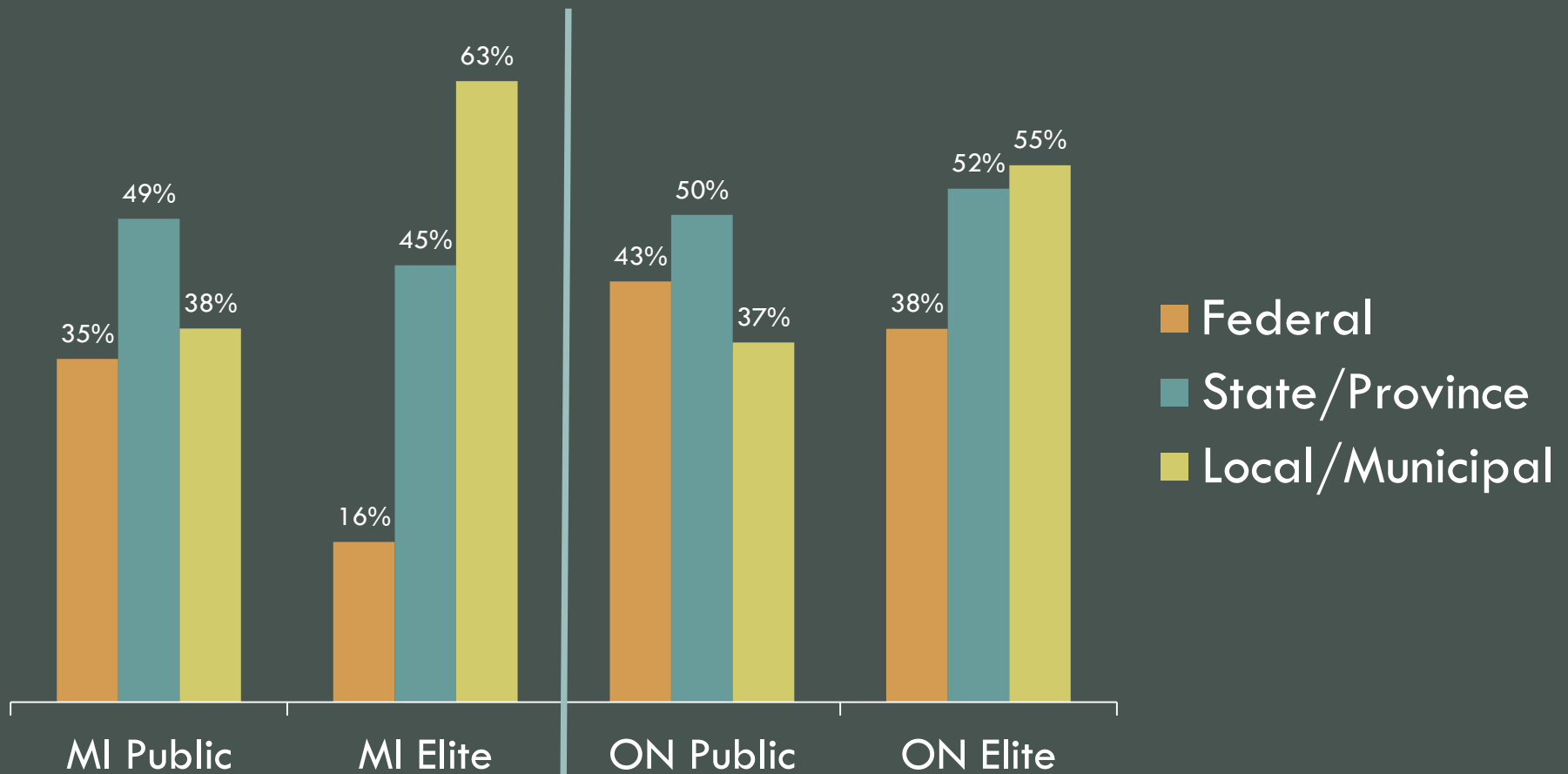
MI: n=1,353 (73%)

ON: n=50 (14%)

HOW SHOULD AUTHORITY FOR FRACKING BE SHARED?



WHICH LEVEL(S) OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE “A GREAT DEAL OF AUTHORITY” OVER FRACKING?



ACCOUNTING FOR POLITICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Logistic regression

$$Y_{ijk} = \beta_{ijk} + \beta_1 D_i + \beta_2 P_i + \beta_3 C_i + \varepsilon_{ijk}$$

Models run with/without Ontario

LOGISTIC REGRESSION – NO ONTARIO

	GL water quality			Wind energy			Fracking		
	Fed	State	Local	Fed	State	Local	Fed	State	Local
Republican	-0.8***		-0.4**	-1.4***	-0.7***		-0.9***		-0.4*
Other party	-0.5*			-0.7*					
Age	0.1*								
Education	0.3***	0.2*					0.2**	0.1*	
Female	-0.5***							-0.3*	0.3*
Official		1.3***	-0.4**	-1.7***	-1.6***	1.3***	-1.1***		1.3***

***p<0.001, ** p<0.01, * p < 0.05

LOGISTIC REGRESSION – WITH ONTARIO

	GL water quality			Wind energy			Fracking		
	Fed	State	Local	Fed	State	Local	Fed	State	Local
Age	0.1**								
Education	0.3***					0.2**	0.1*	0.1*	
Female	-0.4**		0.2*					-0.4**	
Official		1.4***	-0.5***	-1.7***	-1.4***	1.3***	-1.0***		1.2***
Michigan	-1.1***	-0.5*	-0.4**				-0.6**		

***p<0.001, ** p<0.01, * p < 0.05

CONFIRMING PREVIOUS STUDIES, BUT ADDING SOMETHING NEW

- Strength of political affiliation, education match Konisky (2011)
- Significant differences between elites and public, but agreement on some shared governance
- Differences in context (current allocation / governance disputes) don't seem to alter situation

CONFLICTING IDEAS ABOUT SCALE OF IMPACT, RATIONALE FOR SHARING?

- Does public see fracking & wind energy as regional/national in scale, elites see it as local?
- Does public favor greater involvement of all levels of government because of a view that more is better?