

## Type of Republican, Self-Identified Using Example Pairs

### *The Question, As Presented*

What type of Republican do you normally consider yourself to be?

- Conservative Republican (Reagan & Agema)
- Liberal Republican (Romney & Milliken)
- Libertarian Republican (Paul & Amash)
- Moderate Republican (Ford & Engler)
- Tea Party Republican (Palin & McMillin)

### *District-by-District Breakdown of Responses*

What type of Republican do you normally consider yourself to be?					
MOE = ±4.08%	Conservative	Liberal	Libertarian	Moderate	Tea Party
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>46.91%</b>	<b>1.75%</b>	<b>26.48%</b>	<b>9.27%</b>	<b>15.59%</b>
District # 1	47.06%	0.00%	31.76%	7.06%	14.12%
District # 2	45.59%	0.00%	30.88%	7.35%	16.18%
District # 3	46.05%	1.32%	26.32%	9.21%	17.11%
District # 4	58.49%	0.00%	24.53%	7.55%	9.43%
District # 5	59.09%	2.27%	11.36%	11.36%	15.91%
District # 6	42.62%	1.64%	22.95%	18.03%	14.75%
District # 7	44.12%	1.47%	33.82%	4.41%	16.18%
District # 8	44.78%	0.00%	25.37%	19.40%	10.45%
District # 9	43.24%	5.41%	24.32%	13.51%	13.51%
District # 10	57.14%	3.57%	21.43%	5.36%	12.50%
District # 11	45.07%	2.82%	26.76%	4.23%	21.13%
District # 12	46.15%	0.00%	23.08%	3.85%	26.92%
District # 13	13.33%	13.33%	53.33%	6.67%	13.33%
District # 14	35.29%	5.88%	17.65%	11.76%	29.41%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Margin of error, response deviation, and ballot lead analysis cannot be reliably applied to the district-by-district results. They are for informational purposes only.</li> </ul>					

### *Discussion and Analysis*

Contrary to some of the feedback that we received regarding this question, we don't view this as being evidence of an internal rift within the Michigan Republican Party, but rather as five philosophical dispositions within the party, each with a different number of adherents.

How to frame this question was the subject of an all-day (literally) discussion and debate amongst the iCaucus Michigan executive staff, both in the number of options that we should offer and in whom should be used in which example pair (once we agreed that that was how we'd define the various options). Ultimately, the consensus was built to present the question as we did with the response options as offered. In each case, the philosophical disposition is

typified by an example pair that is considered to typically represent that discipline; one member of the pair is a prominent national figure, while the other is more Michigan-specific.

By unstated implication, to identify oneself with a particular republican school of thought is to publicly align oneself with the example pair that represents that philosophy. We believe the percentage of those self-identifying as “Conservative Republican” may be artificially high, given that more than a handful of those doing so are known to have publicly shredded Dave Agema’s record, or to have publicly maligned Ronald Reagan’s legacy. We’re not saying that Agema hasn’t drawn a just rebuke at least once, or that Reagan was perfect, but rather that the behavior in question was “persistently over the top” from someone who claims to be conservative. Likewise for a few who claim to be “Tea Party Republican,” but are known to have publicly vilified Sarah Palin (way beyond what might be considered justified in a specific instance).

However, we trust that Providence will smoke out the hypocrites in due course, and thus report the numbers as is.

Right away, three things struck us about these results, both statewide and district-by-district:

- First, no philosophical disposition has a statewide majority of adherents, though four districts have an in-district majority.
- Second, while “Conservative Republican” is the dominant philosophy of the republicans in Michigan, in one district (the 13<sup>th</sup>) a different school of thought (“Libertarian Republican”) has a majority presence.
- Third, Tea Party Republicans, interestingly, are the second-largest plurality only in districts 5, 12, and 14, and are exactly tied with Conservative Republicans and Liberal Republicans in the 13<sup>th</sup> District.

Our interpretation of this is straightforward: If the Michigan Republican Party intends to accomplish anything in the biennial general election campaigns, or in the process of providing sound governance (both internally and publicly), then they have to routinely undertake the process of internal coalition building before engaging their external opposition. This also applies to the tea party network in Michigan as well as the libertarian caucus of the party, who, while arguably having a “critical mass” in every district, don’t individually have the dominant plurality in any district (save the aforementioned exception of the 13<sup>th</sup> District), collectively have a dominant plurality only in the 14<sup>th</sup> District (in addition to the 13<sup>th</sup> District), and are additionally on par collectively with conservative republicans only in districts 7, 11, and 12.

For those members of the tea party network in Michigan or of the Republican Liberty Caucus in Michigan who honestly believe, and openly state, that the self-identified conservative republicans *must* work with them in order to obtain a working majority, we point out the sobering mathematical reality that Conservative Republicans need not do so. In addition to the three districts where they already have a majority presence (the 4<sup>th</sup>, the 5<sup>th</sup>, and the 10<sup>th</sup>), they can achieve a working majority in six additional districts (the 1<sup>st</sup>, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the 6<sup>th</sup>, the 8<sup>th</sup>, and the 9<sup>th</sup>) by collaborating with the Moderate Republicans. This is also true statewide.

The clear admonishment then, to the leadership of all five philosophical dispositions within the party, is that they learn to honestly listen to each other, constructively address their differences of opinion, and genuinely incorporate each others' concerns into their own strategic, operational, and legislative planning.

We also found it useful to provide crosstab breakdown the responses to the remaining questions by self-identified philosophy within the Michigan Republican Party, as well as by congressional district. How do the conservatives feel about Governor Snyder? What about the liberals, the libertarians, the moderates, or the tea partiers?

As a closing sidebar to this discussion point, we do wonder if, by enthusiastically running a Libertarian Republican in either or both of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> districts, perhaps the Michigan Republican Party could flip a couple of long-held democrat strongholds congressionally.