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Michigan Voters Back Ban on LGBT Discrimination Survey Findings

To: Interested Parties

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Our new statewide survey in Michigan¹ finds very strong support across the political spectrum for a proposal to ban discrimination in housing and employment based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Nearly two-thirds of Michigan voters (65 percent) favor a proposal to add anti-discrimination protections for gay and transgendered people in Michigan, while just 26 percent are in opposition. Every political and ideological block outside of conservative Republicans supports the proposal by at least 45 points, including Democrats, Independents, liberals, moderates and even moderate Republicans. Support is strong across all geographic and demographic boundaries including race, age and education.

Democrats, Independents, Moderate Republicans Strongly Support Proposal

Michigan voters strongly support a proposal to ban discrimination against gay and transgender people, by a margin of 65 to 26 percent. The full text of the language tested is below:

As you may know, the Michigan legislature will be considering a proposal to ban discrimination against gay and transgender people. It would prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, and access to public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity just as discrimination based on gender or race is currently banned. Would you favor or oppose the legislature adding anti-discrimination protections for gay and transgender people?

Support for the proposal crosses partisan and demographic boundaries. It is supported by three-quarters of Democrats, two-thirds of independents and a even a majority of Republicans. About 80 percent of both liberals and moderates support the proposal and even 72 percent of liberal or moderate Republicans are also in favor. Only conservative Republicans are split, with a 45 to 41 percent plurality still in favor.

Support is relatively consistent across nearly all geographic and demographic groups. Slightly more younger voters (those under 40) support the proposal, but so do 65 percent of seniors. Over 60 percent of both college and non-college educated voters are supportive. Table 1 shows a full demographic breakdown.

¹ Memo based on a survey of 615 likely 2012 voters in Michigan, including 515 2010 voters and 100 2010 non-voters, conducted December 9-14, 2010. The margin of error for this survey is +/- 3.9 percentage points.

■ **Table 1:** Support for proposal to ban discrimination against gay and transgendered people

	Favor	Oppose	Net
Total	65	26	+39
Democrats	76	20	+56
Independents	67	20	+47
Republicans	51	38	+13
Liberals	81	12	+69
Moderates	79	15	+64
Conservatives	48	39	+9
Cons. Dems.	75	20	+55
Mod. Reps.	72	19	+53
Cons. Reps.	45	41	+4
Detroit MM	67	22	+45
GR MM	59	34	+25
Flint MM	71	21	+50
Men	62	27	+35
Women	68	24	+44
Under 50	65	24	+41
Over 50	65	27	+38
College	67	24	+43
Non College	64	27	+37
White	66	24	+42
Non-White	65	30	+35