

# PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and the Environment

Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner,  
Sonja Petek, Nicole Willcoxon

*July 2010*



# Outline

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- **PPIC /Hewlett Survey Series**
- **Climate Change, Energy Policy, Air Pollution**
- **Environmental Politics and Preferences**
- **Conclusions**



# PPIC Statewide Survey Mission

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- Provide timely, relevant, nonpartisan data on political, social, and economic opinions
- Inform and improve state policymaking, raise awareness, encourage discussion
- Provide a voice for all Californians in important state policy debates
  - 230,000+ Californians since 1998
  - 100+ general, issue, and regional surveys



# Californians and the Environment

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- Tenth survey on the environment
  - Funded by The Hewlett Foundation
- Perceptions and policy preferences on climate change, energy, air pollution; environmental politics and preferences
- Telephone interviews, July 6–20
  - 2,502 adults, including 1,321 likely voters
  - 2,252 landline phones, 250 cell phones
    - ± 2% margin of error for all adults
    - ± 2.7% for likely voters



# Outline

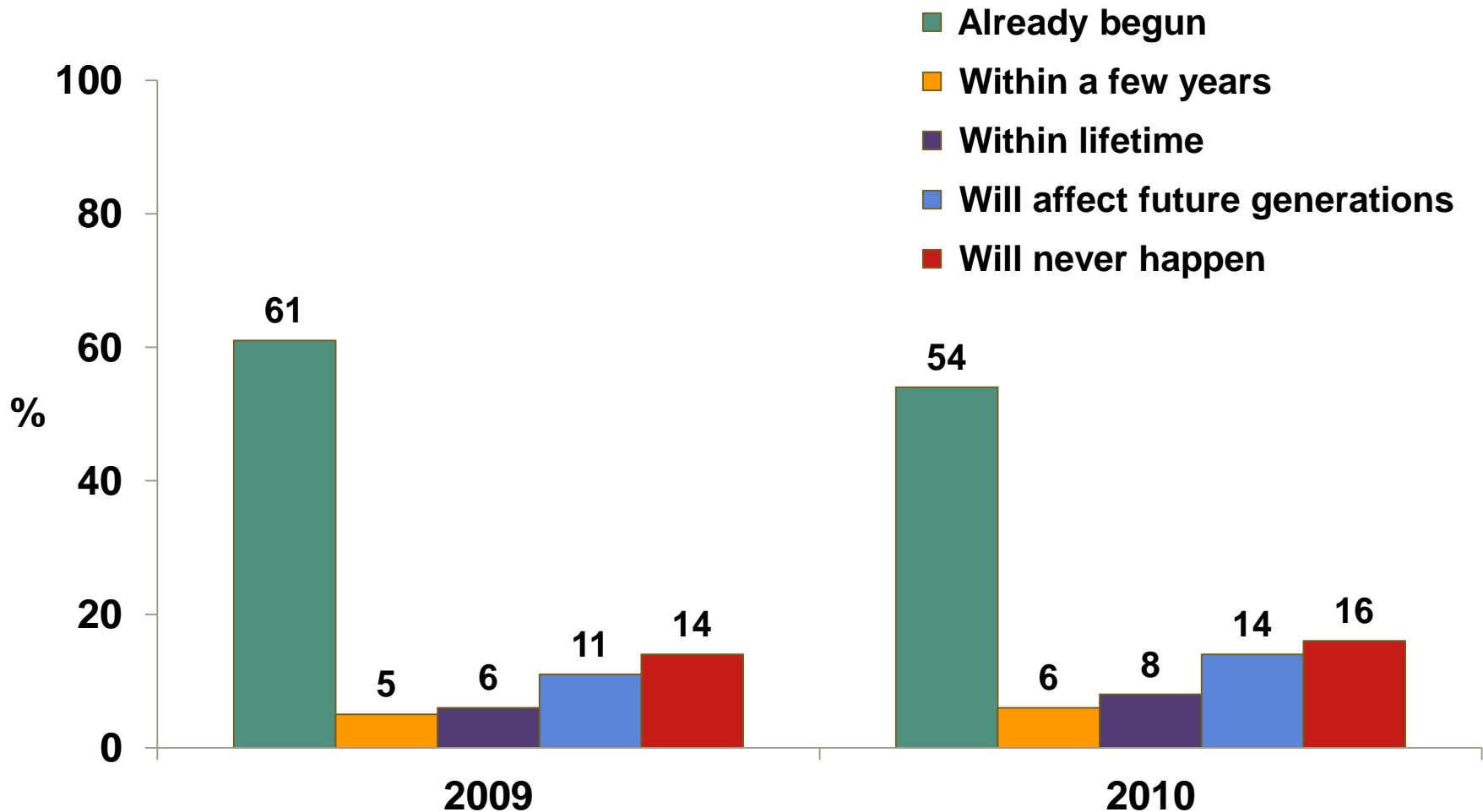
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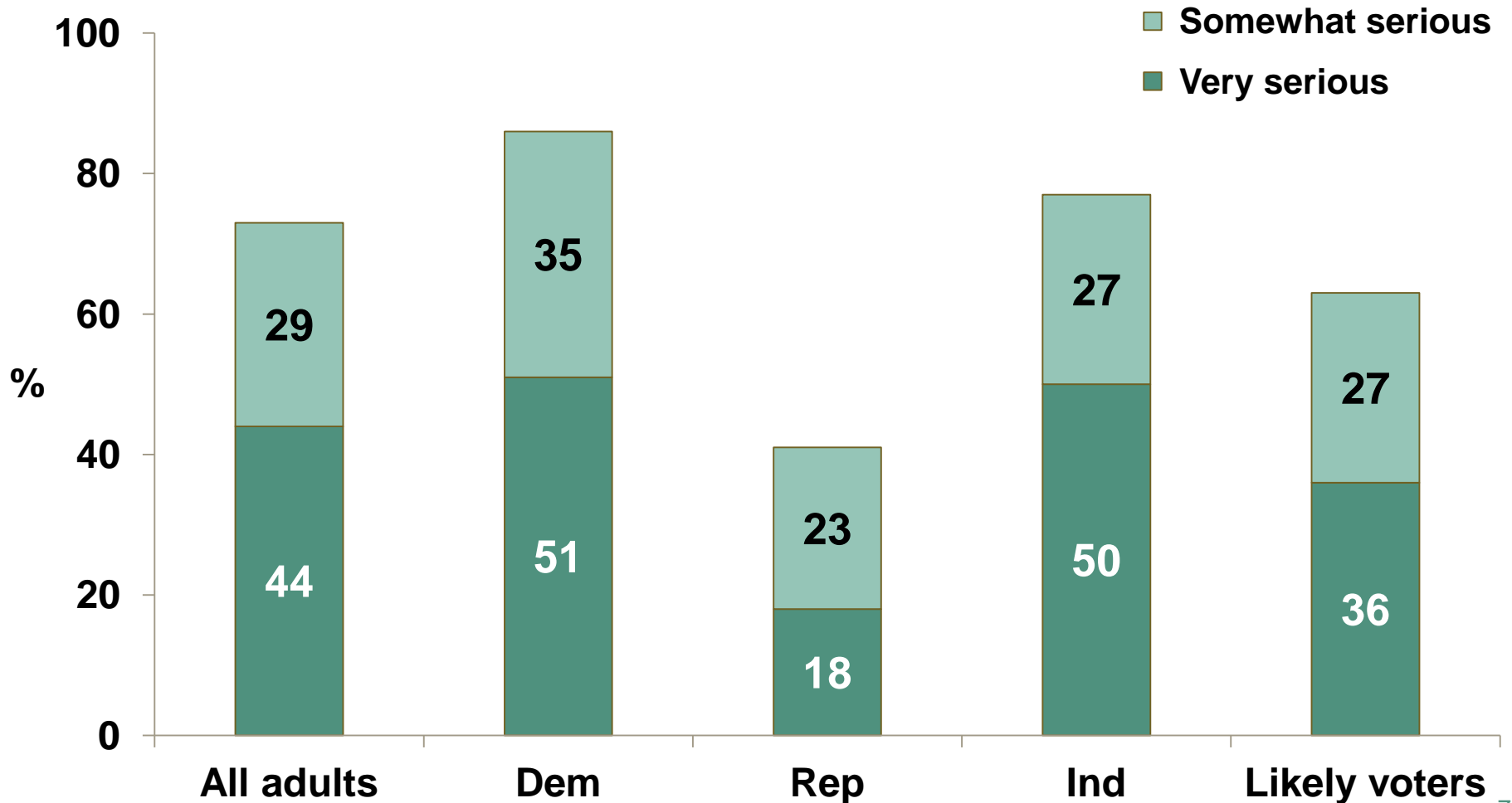
# Perceived Onset of Global Warming

Which of the following statements reflects your view of when the effects of global warming will begin to happen...?



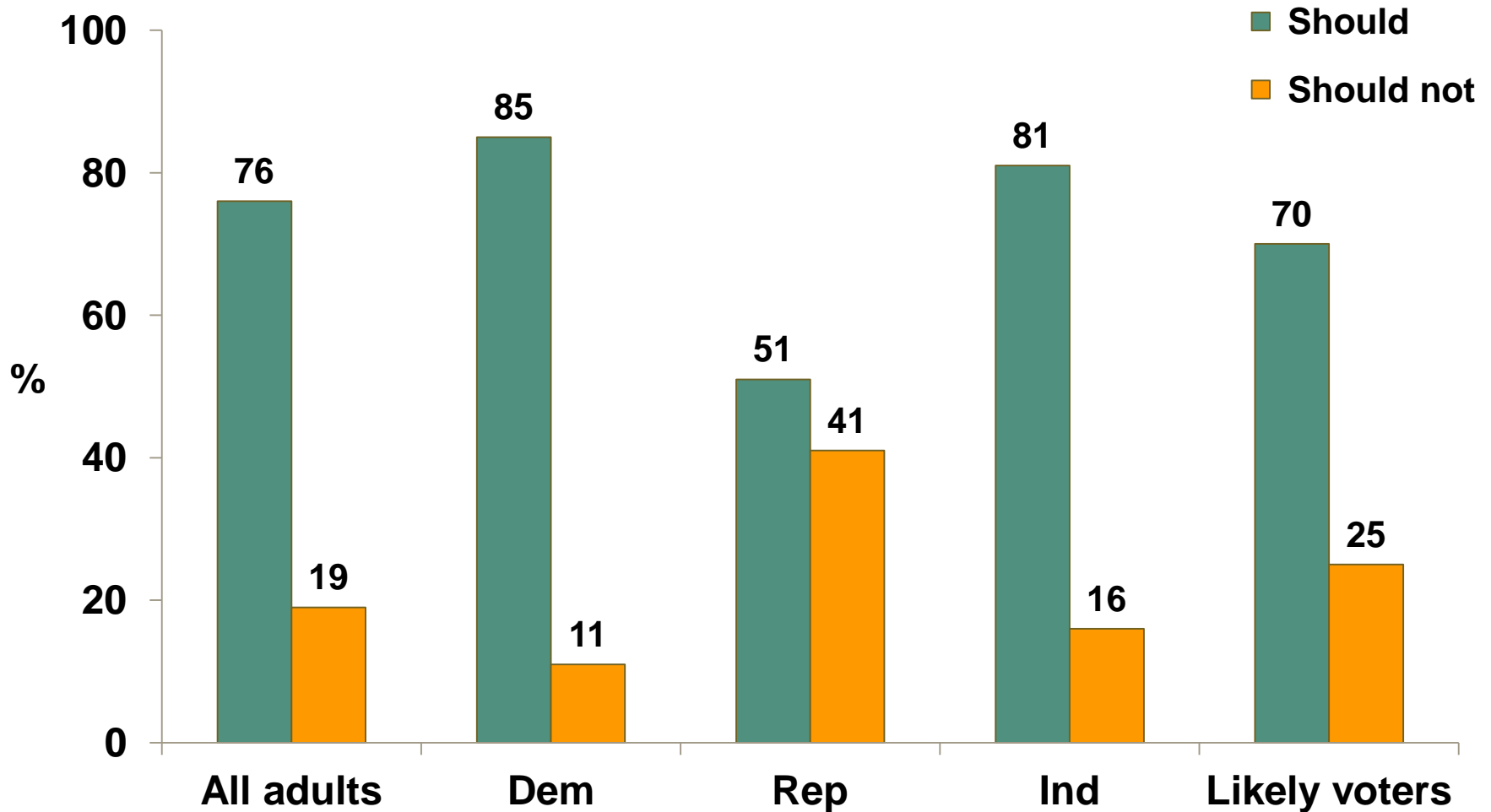
# Perceived Threat of Global Warming

How serious of a threat is global warming to the economy and quality of life for California's future?



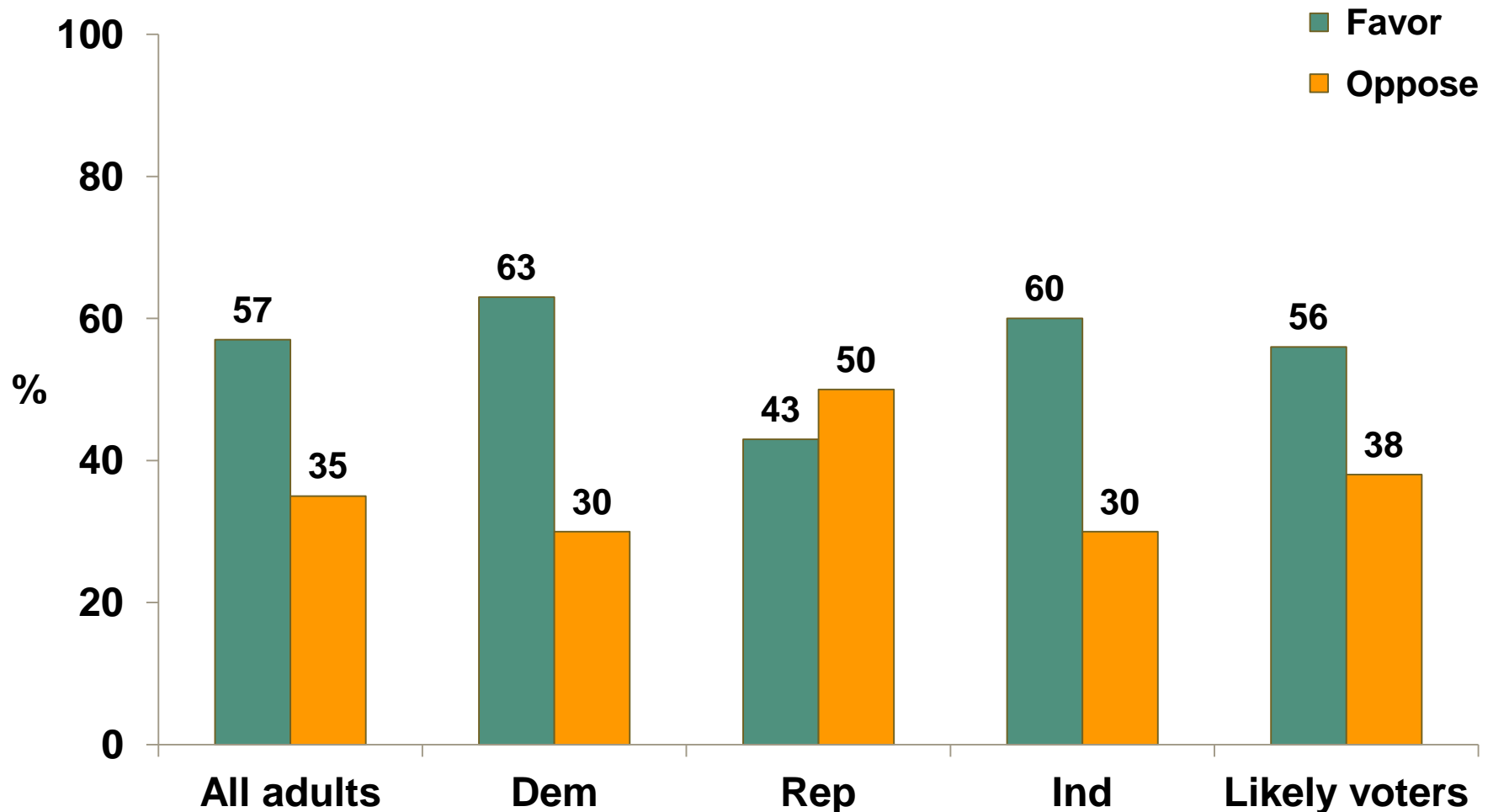
# Regulating Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Do you think the government should or should not regulate the release of greenhouse gases from sources like power plants, cars, and factories in an effort to reduce global warming?



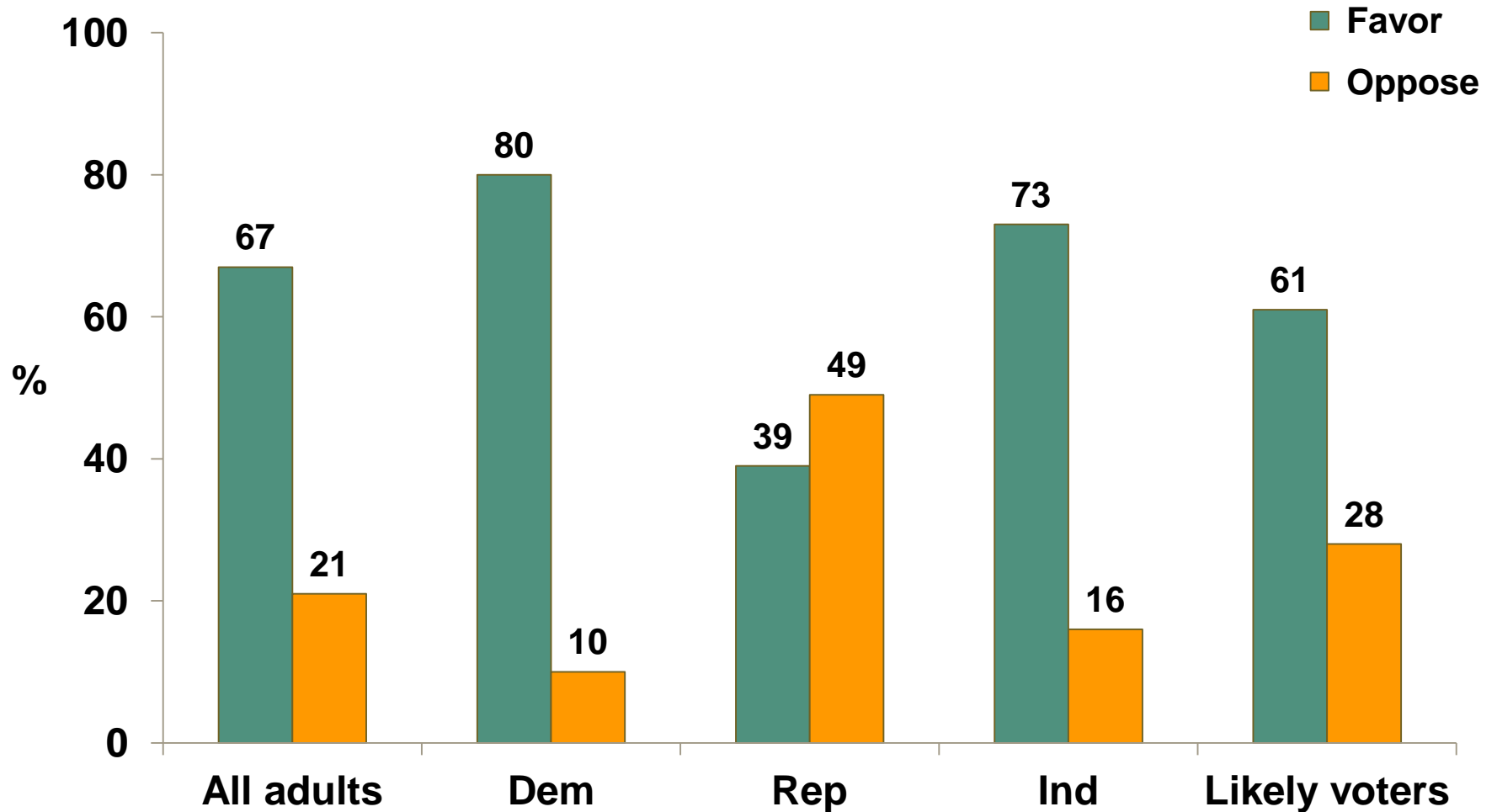
# Independent State Action on Global Warming

Do you favor or oppose the California state government making its own policies, separate from the federal government, to address the issue of global warming?



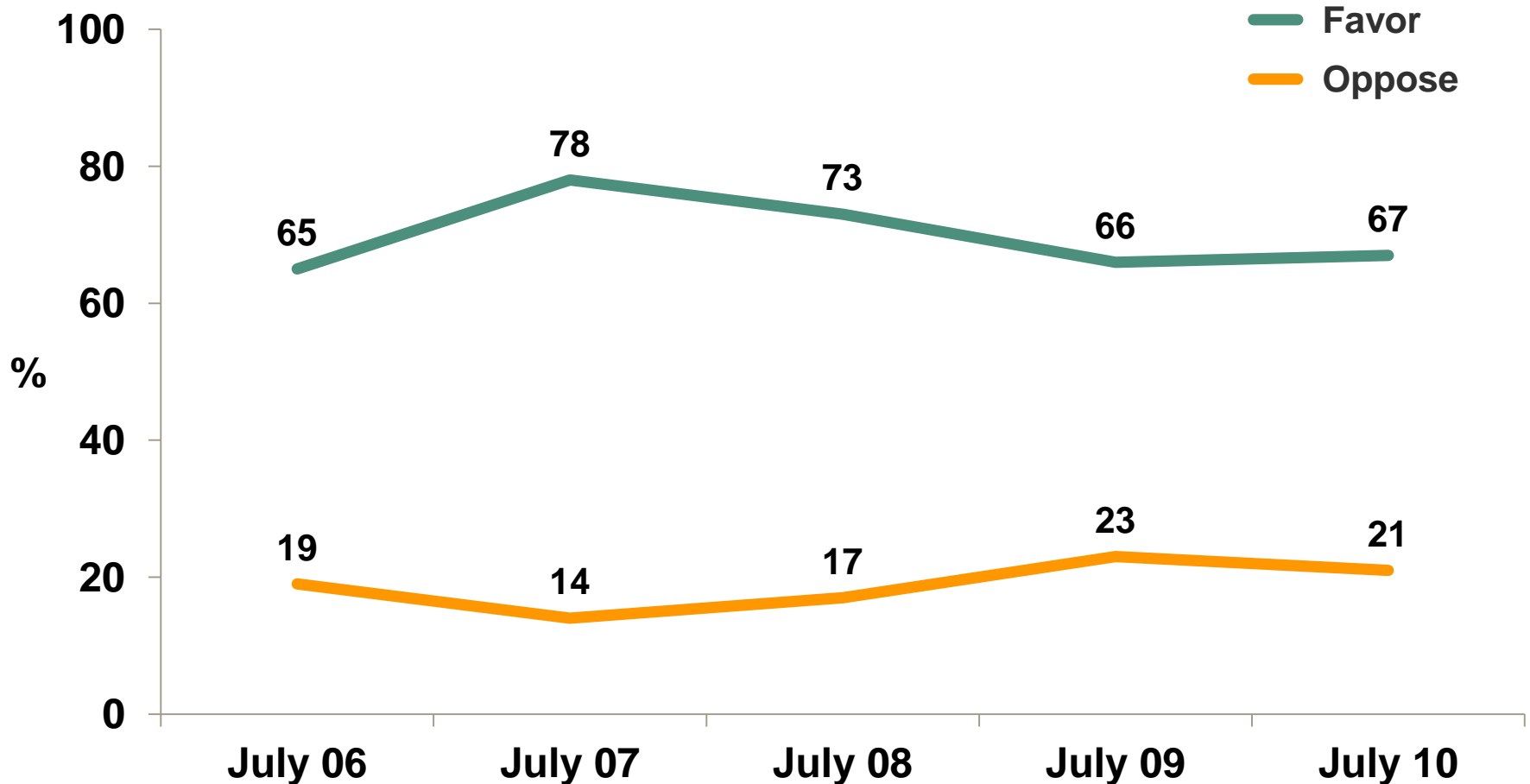
# Global Warming Solutions Act

To address global warming, do you favor or oppose the state law that requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions back to 1990 levels by the year 2020?



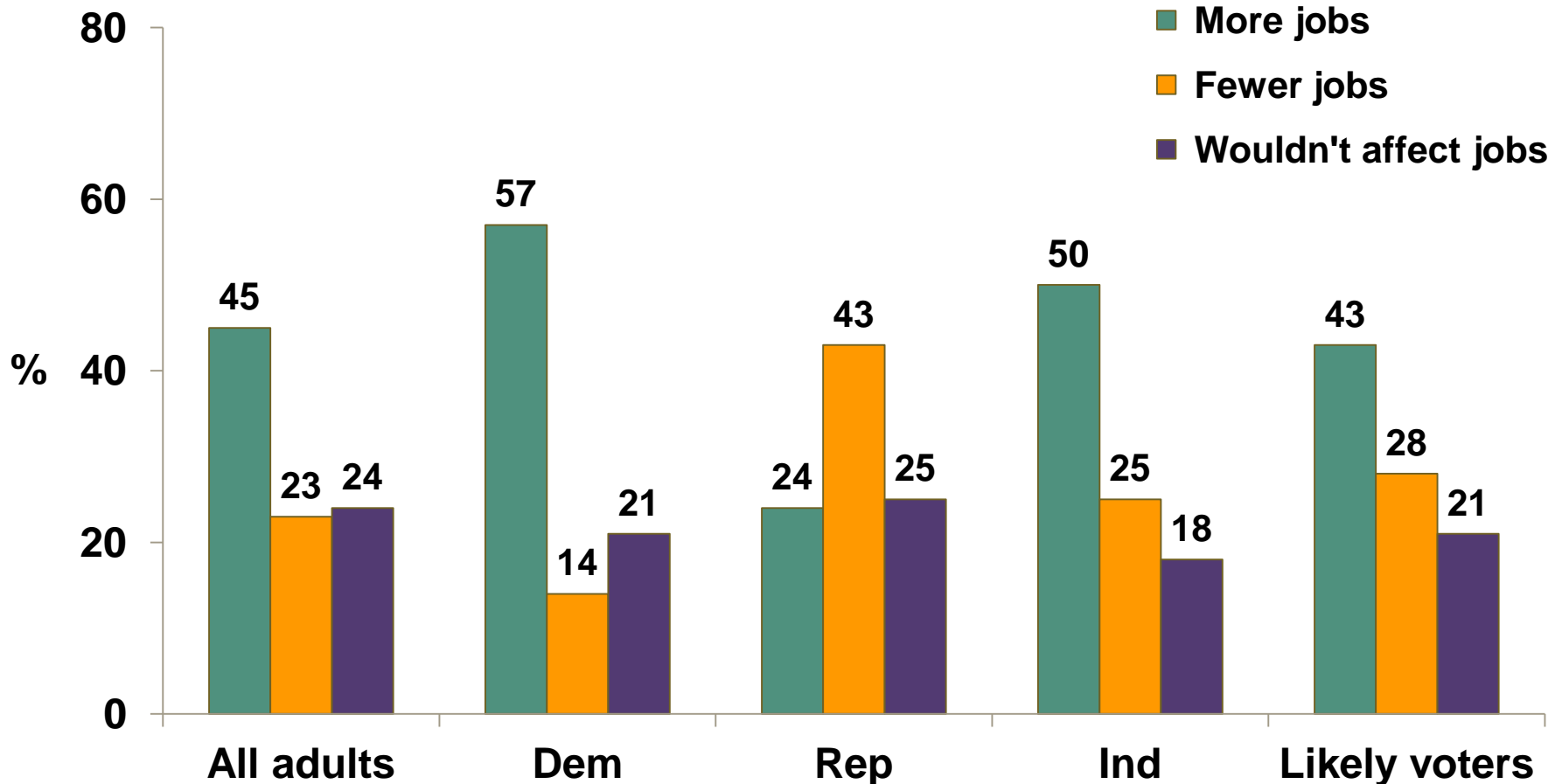
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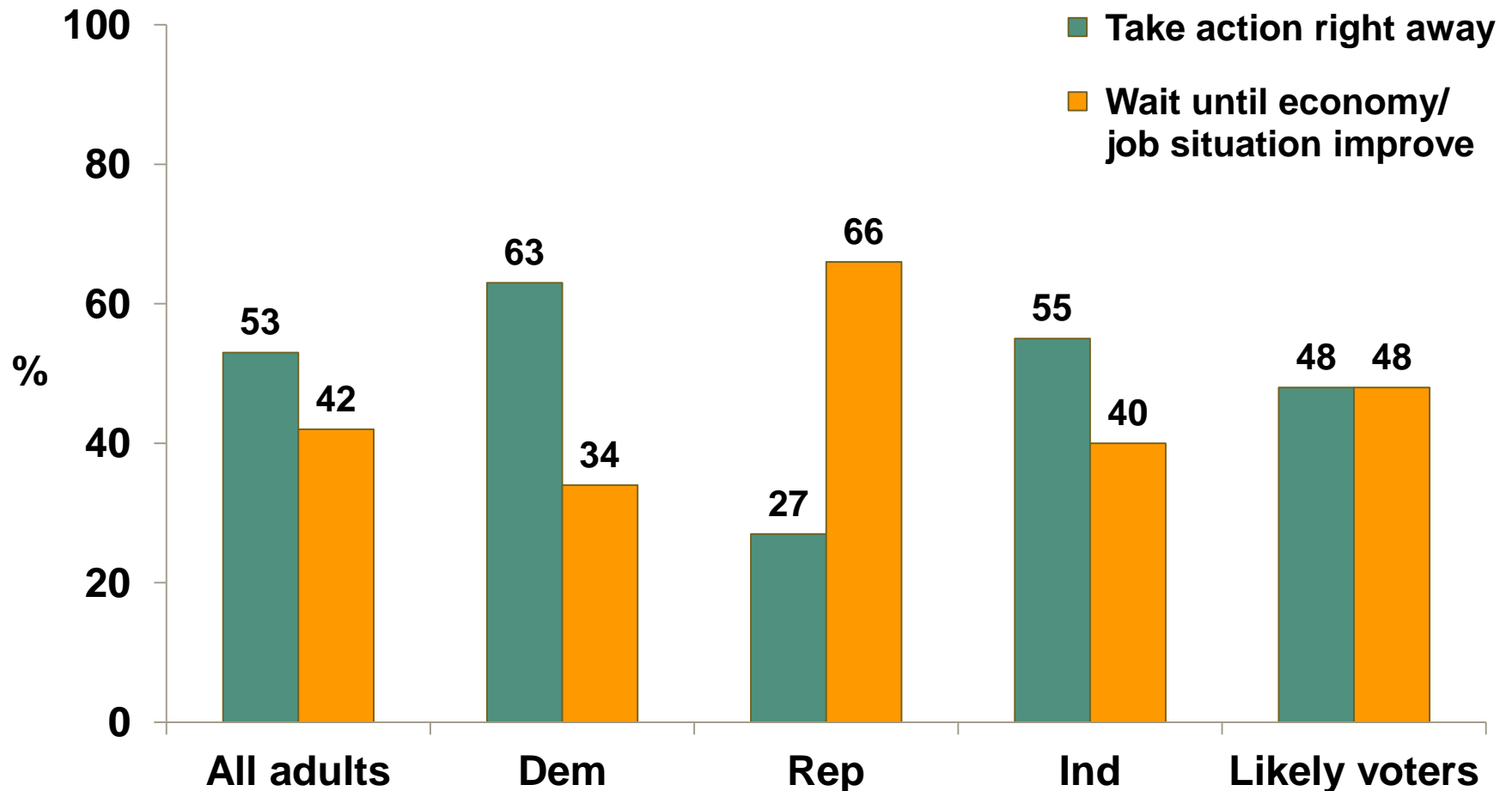
# Global Warming Policy and Jobs in California

Do you think that California doing things to reduce global warming in the future would cause there to be more jobs for people around the state, would cause there to be fewer jobs, or wouldn't affect the number of jobs for people around the state?



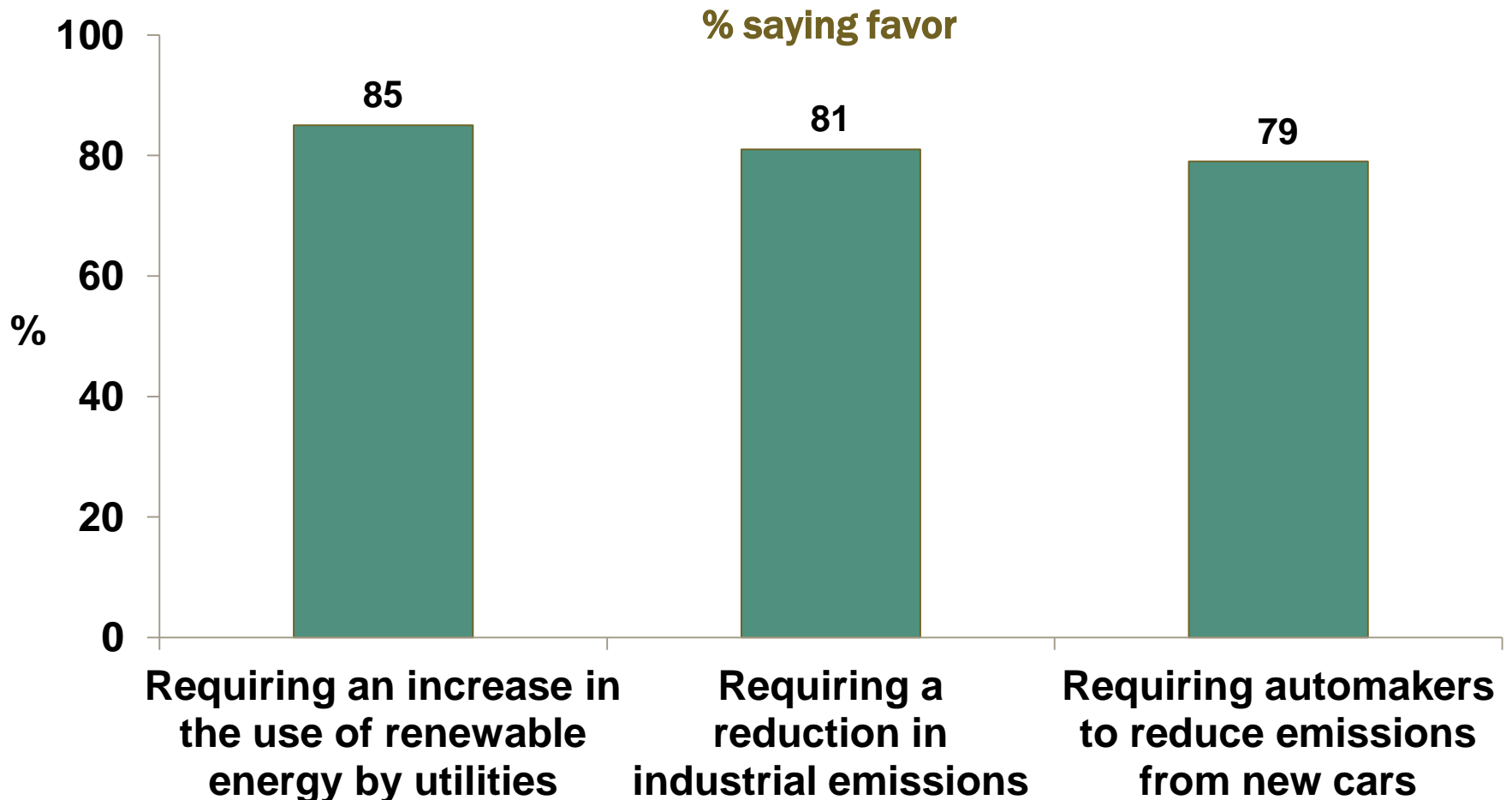
# Preferences for State Action on Greenhouse Gas Emissions

When it comes to the state government's plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, should it take action right away or should it wait until the state economy and job situation improve to take action?



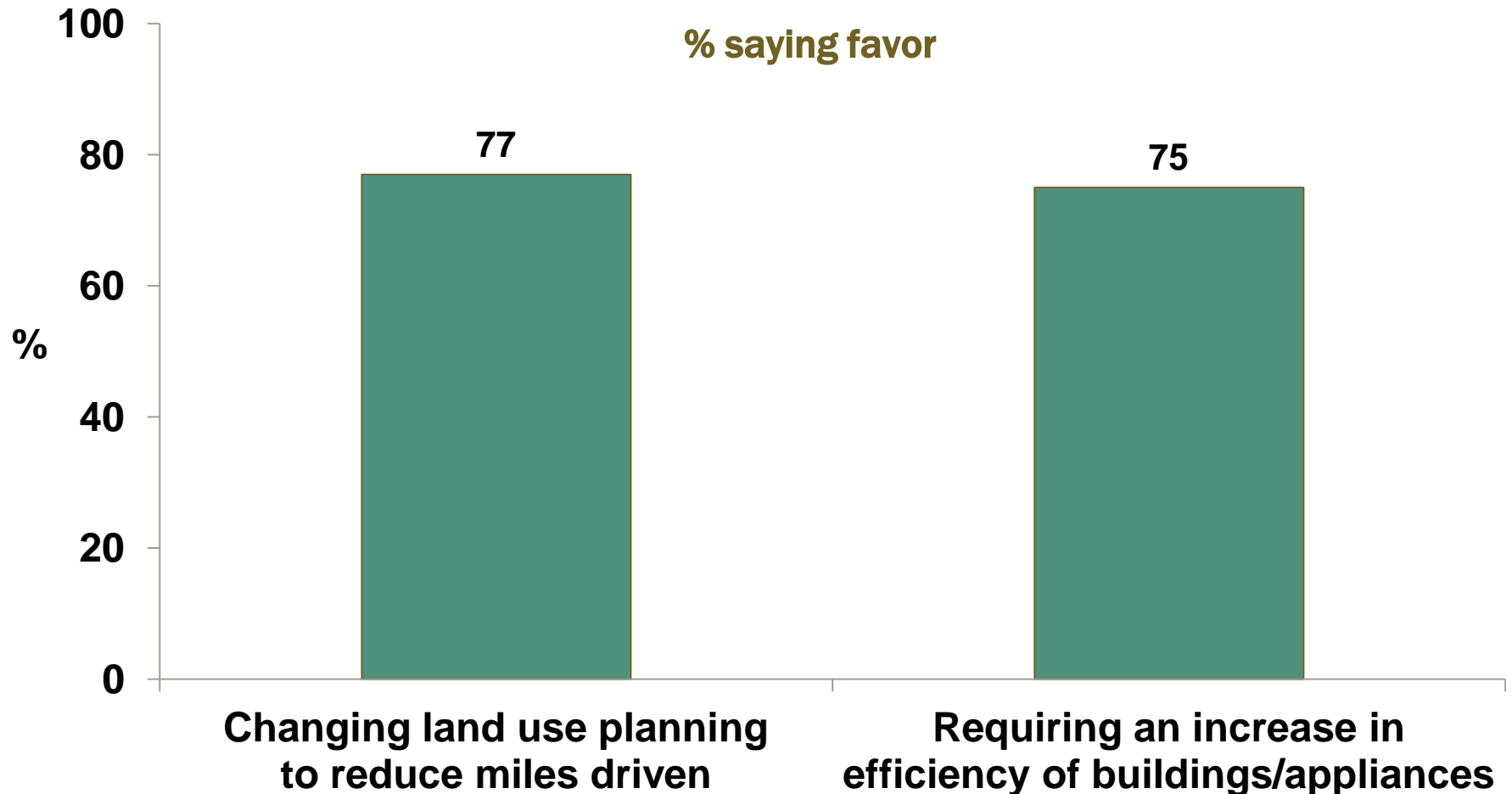
# Emissions Policies

Officials in the state and federal governments are discussing ways to address global warming. Please tell me if you favor or oppose the following plans to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



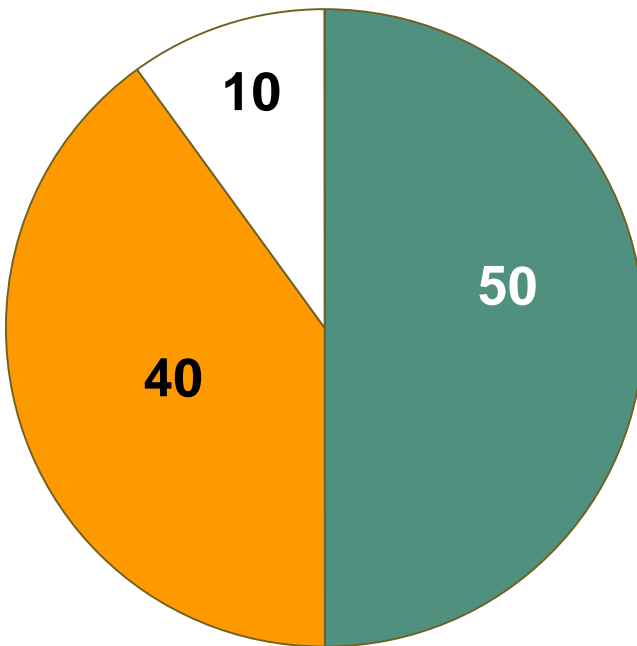
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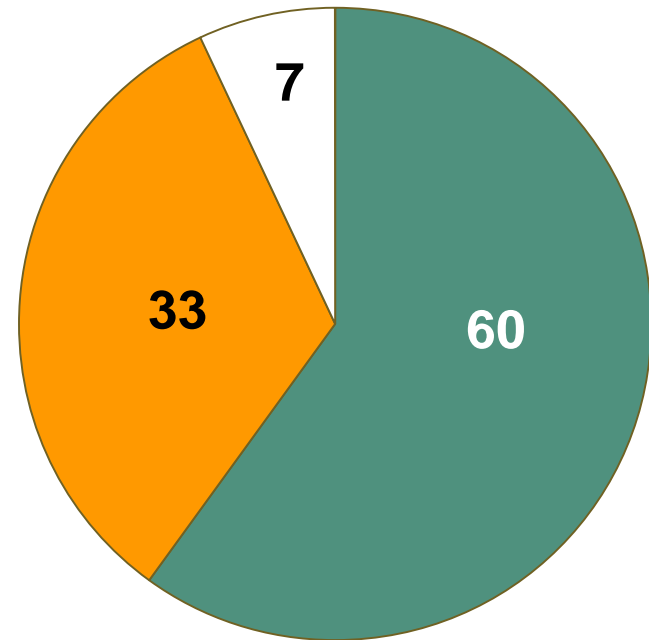
# Cap and Trade Vs. Carbon Tax

In the proposed system called “cap and trade...” Would you favor or oppose this system?



Would you favor or oppose a carbon tax on companies for their greenhouse gas emissions?

All adults



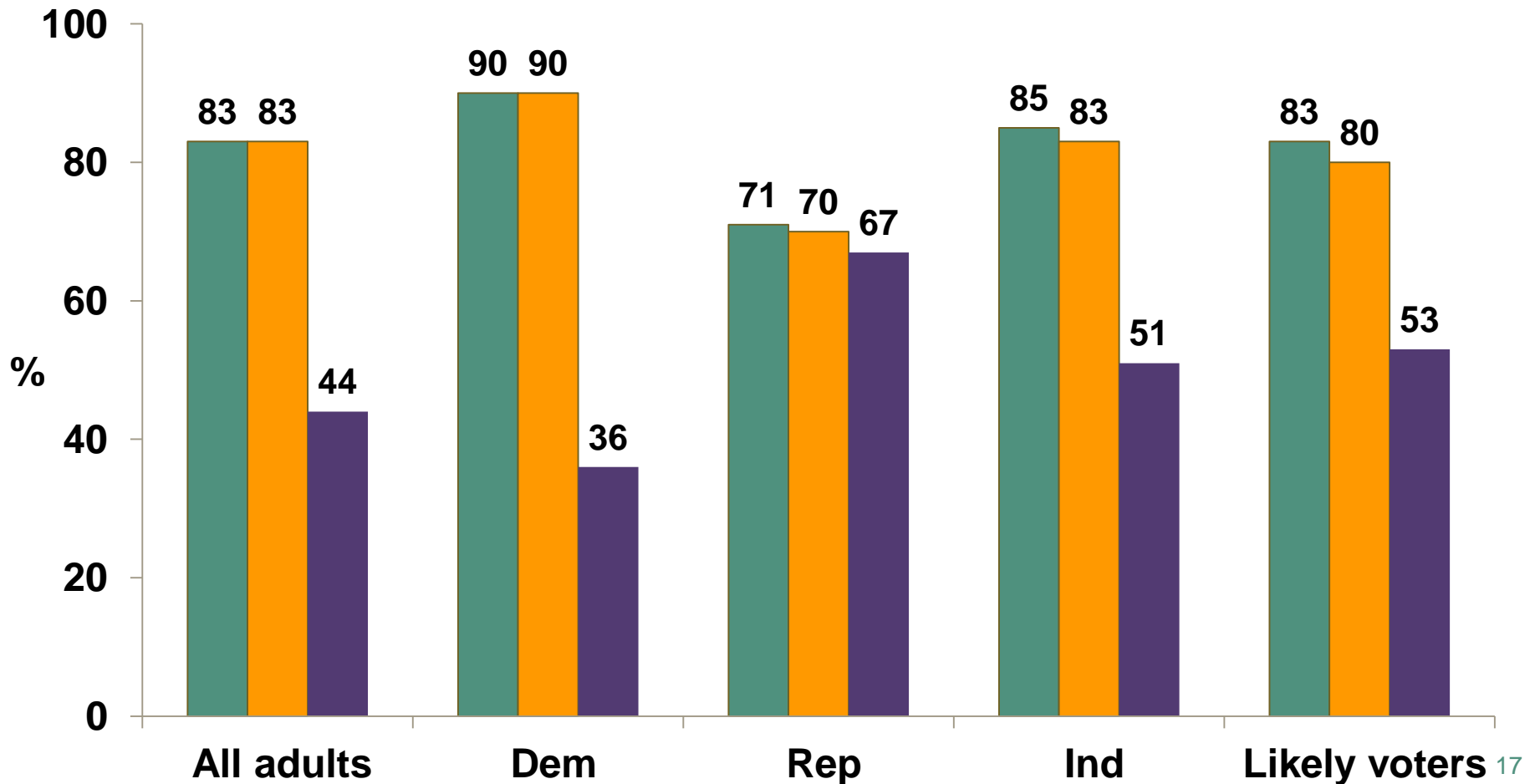
- Favor
- Oppose
- Don't know



# Energy Policies

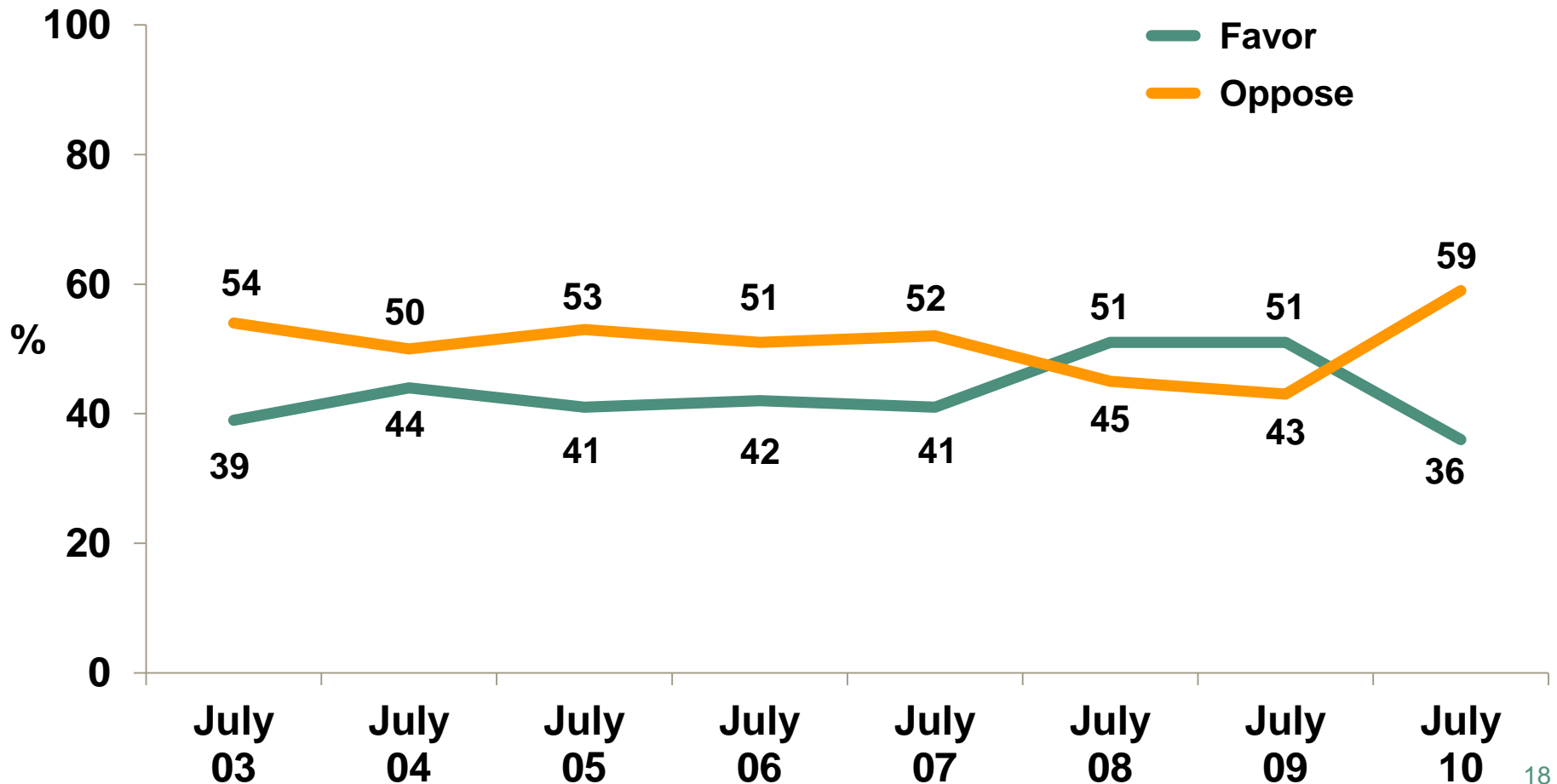
% saying favor

- Improved fuel efficiency
- More funding for renewable energy
- More nuclear power plants



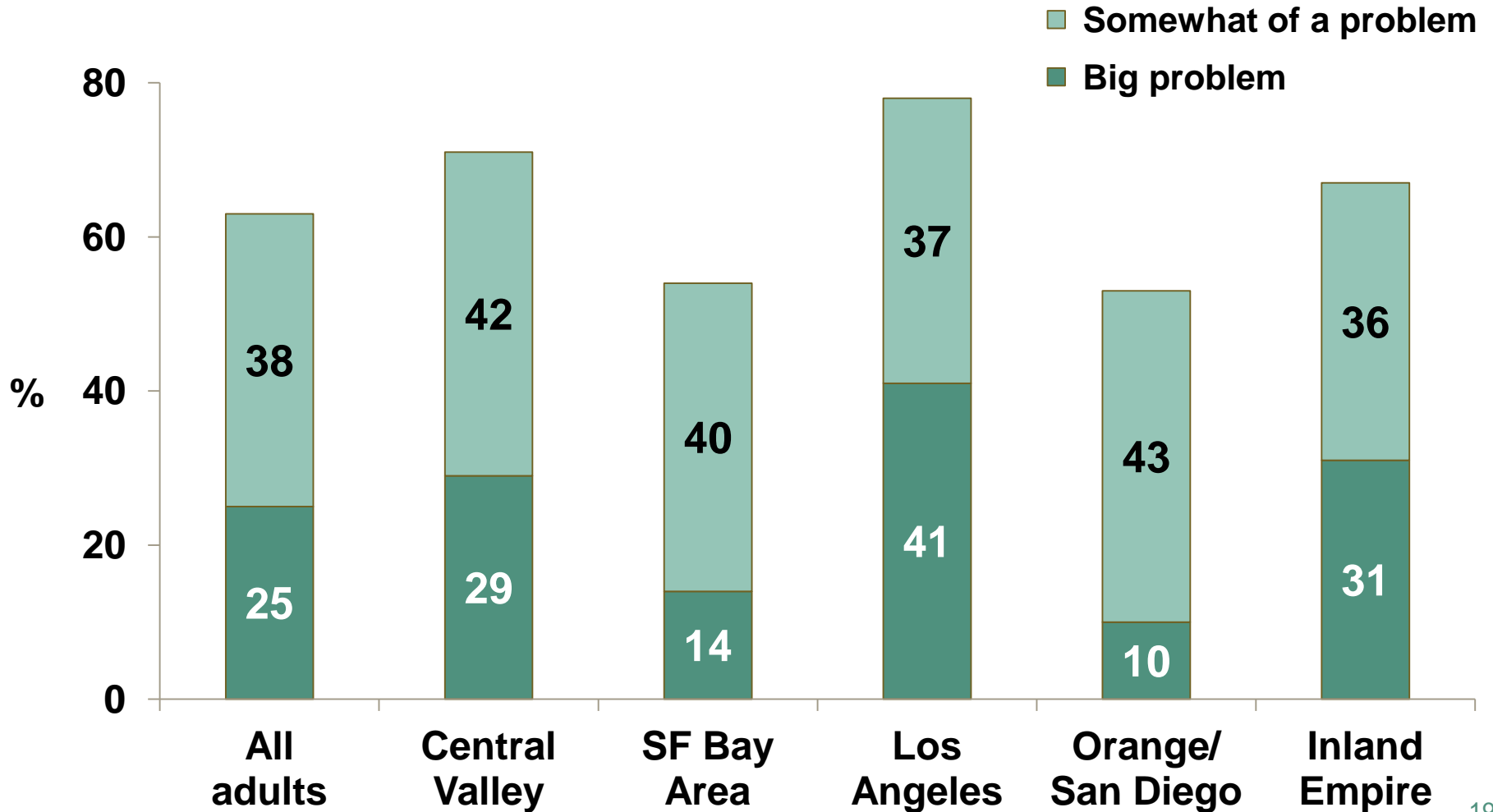
# Offshore Oil Drilling

Thinking about the country as a whole, to address the country's energy needs and reduce dependence on foreign oil sources, do you favor or oppose the following proposals? How about allowing more oil drilling off the California coast?



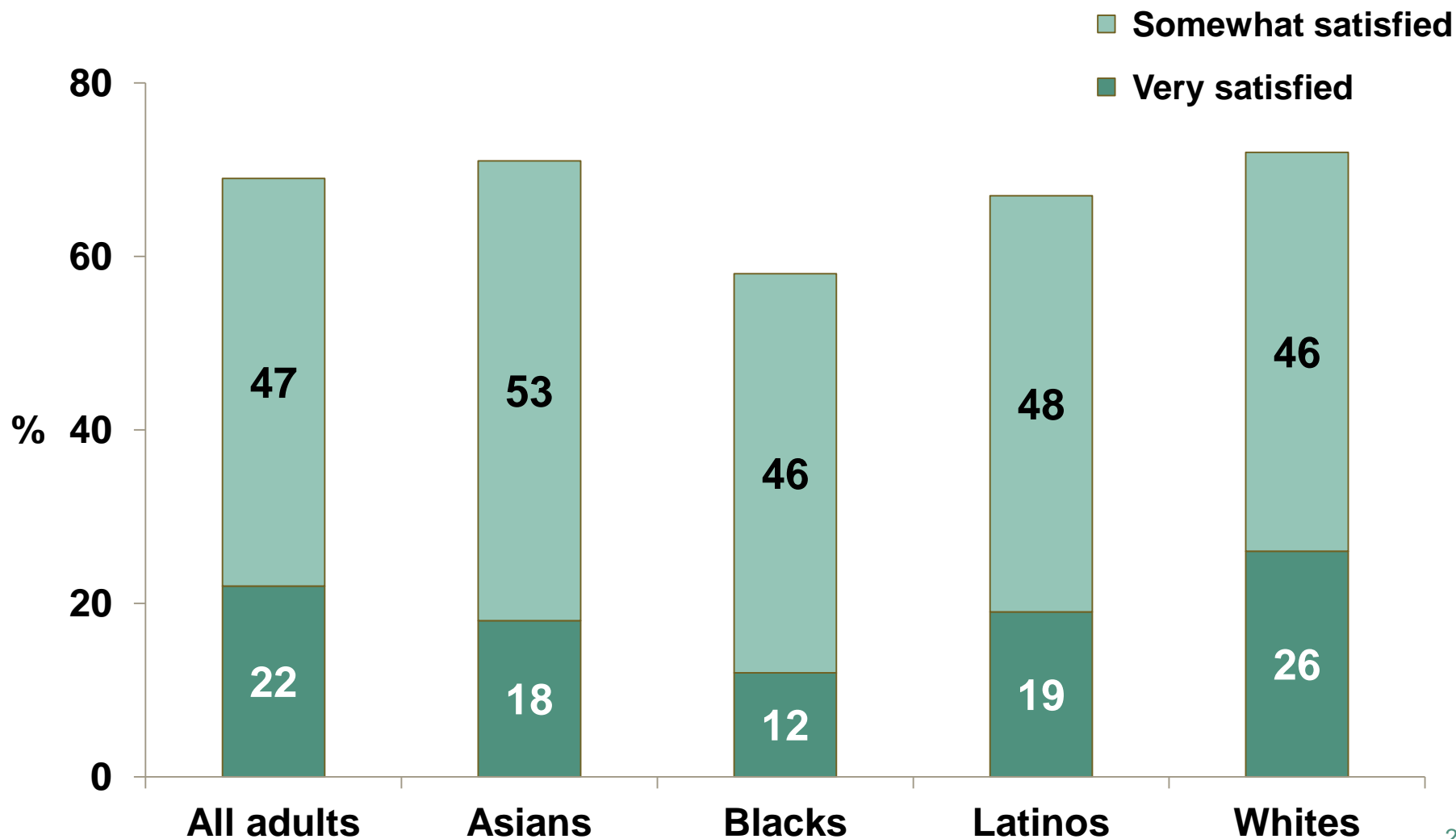
# Regional Air Pollution

Would you say that air pollution is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in your region?



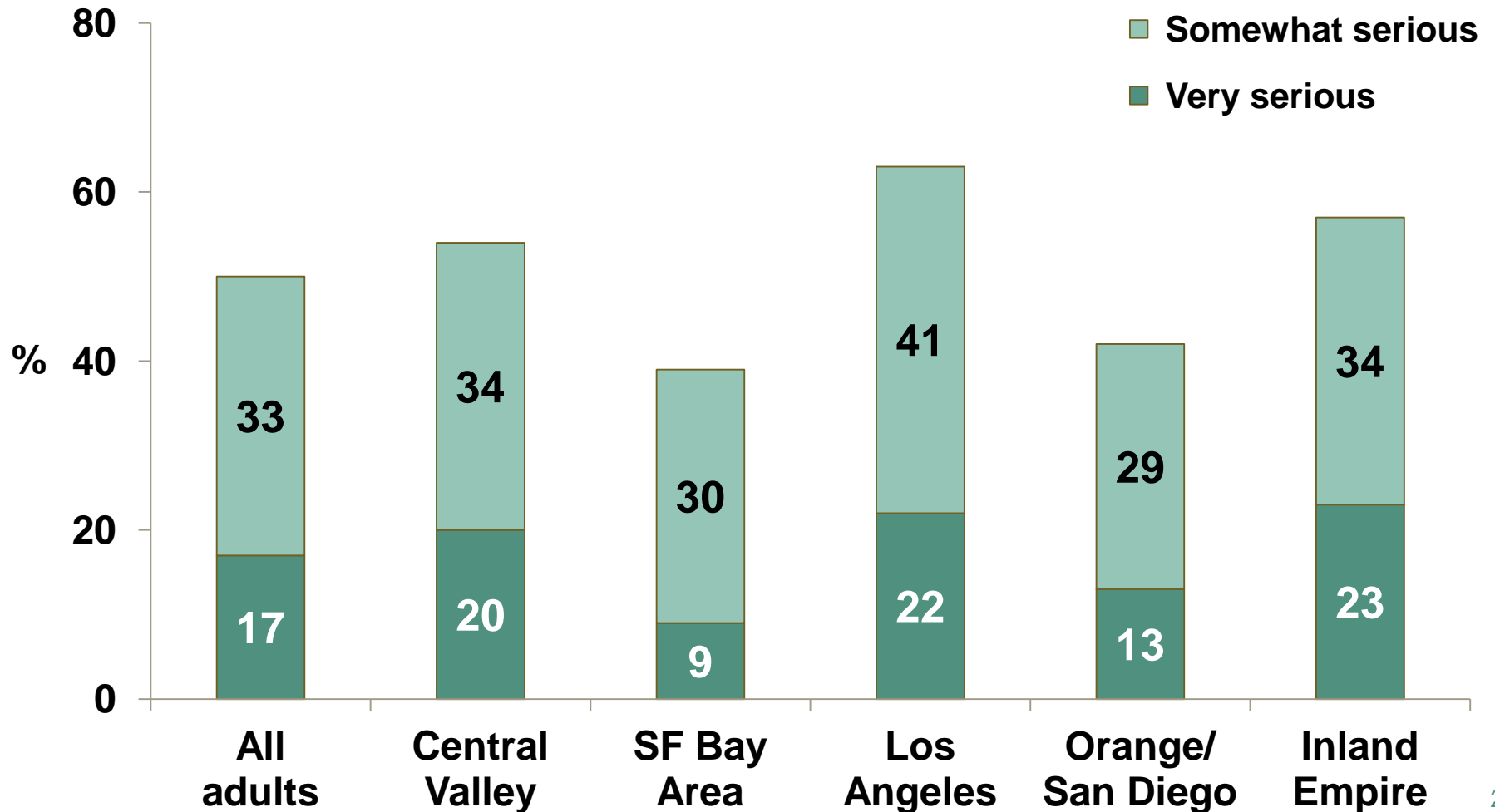
# Satisfaction with Air Quality

How satisfied are you with the air quality in your region today?



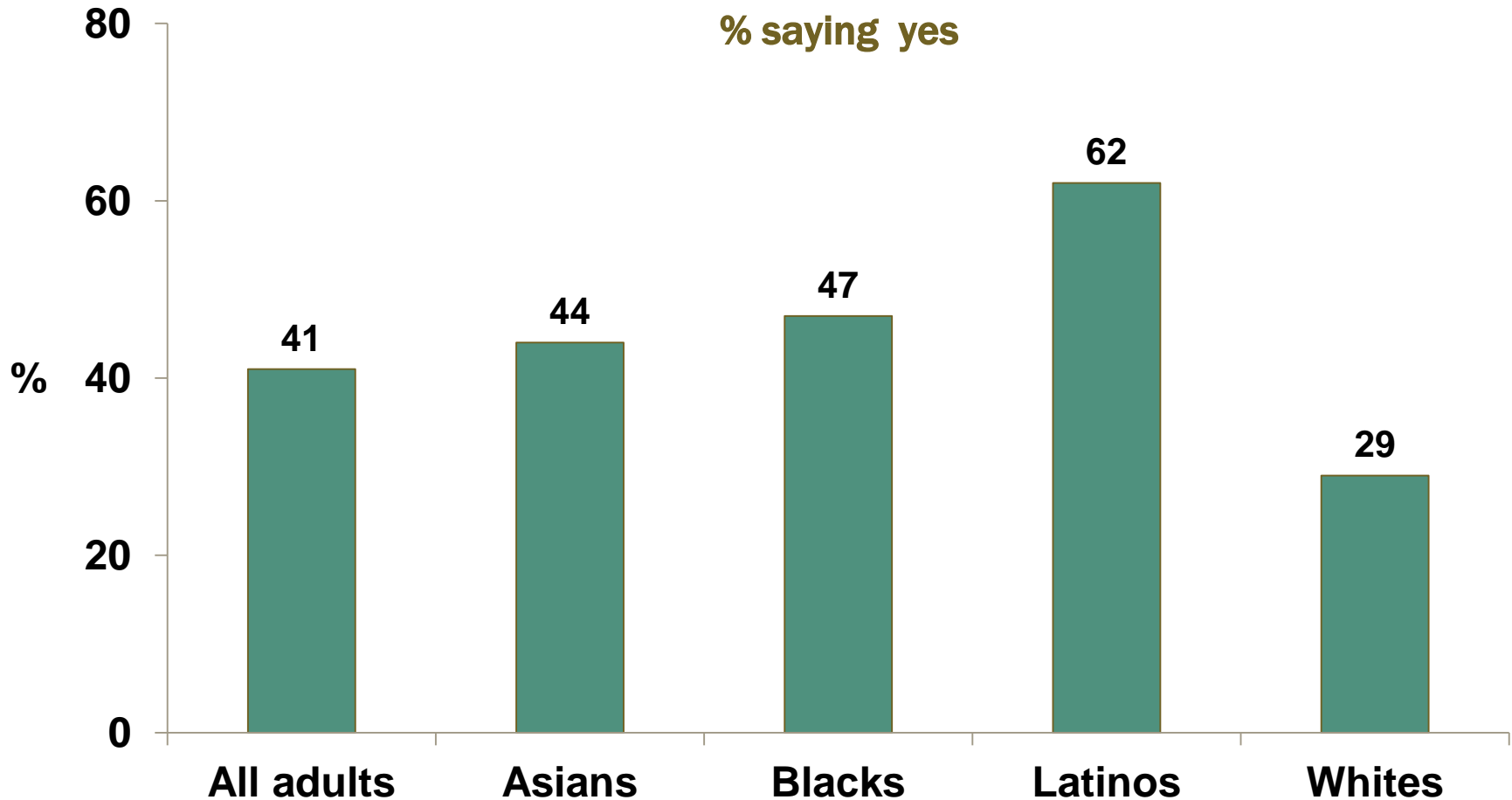
# Health Threat of Air Pollution

How serious of a health threat is air pollution in your region to you and your immediate family?



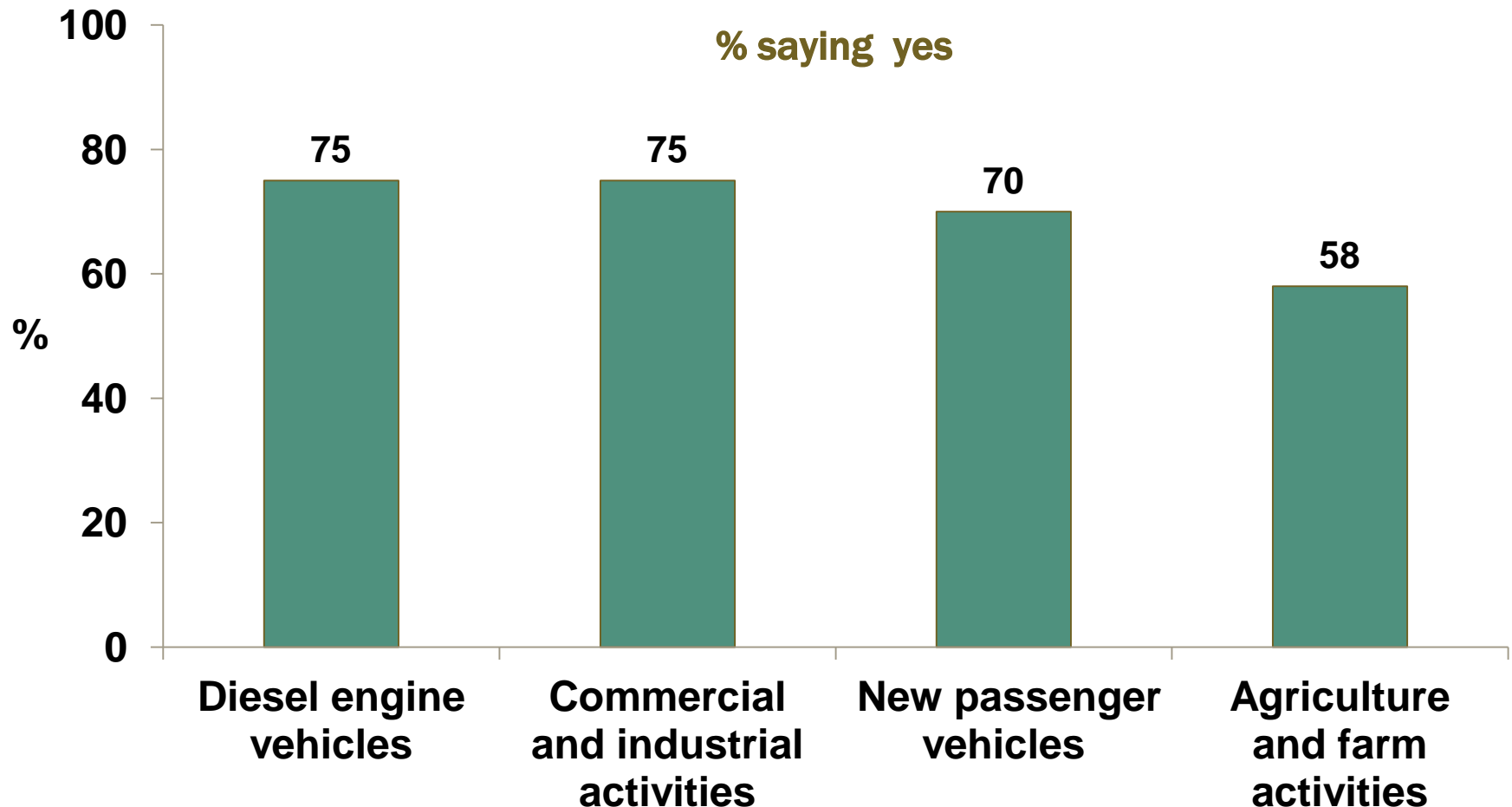
# Perceptions of Disparities

Do you think that air pollution is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than other areas in your region, or not?



# Air Quality Policies

We are interested in knowing what people are willing to do in order to reduce air pollution in their region. Would you be willing to see tougher air pollution standards on...?



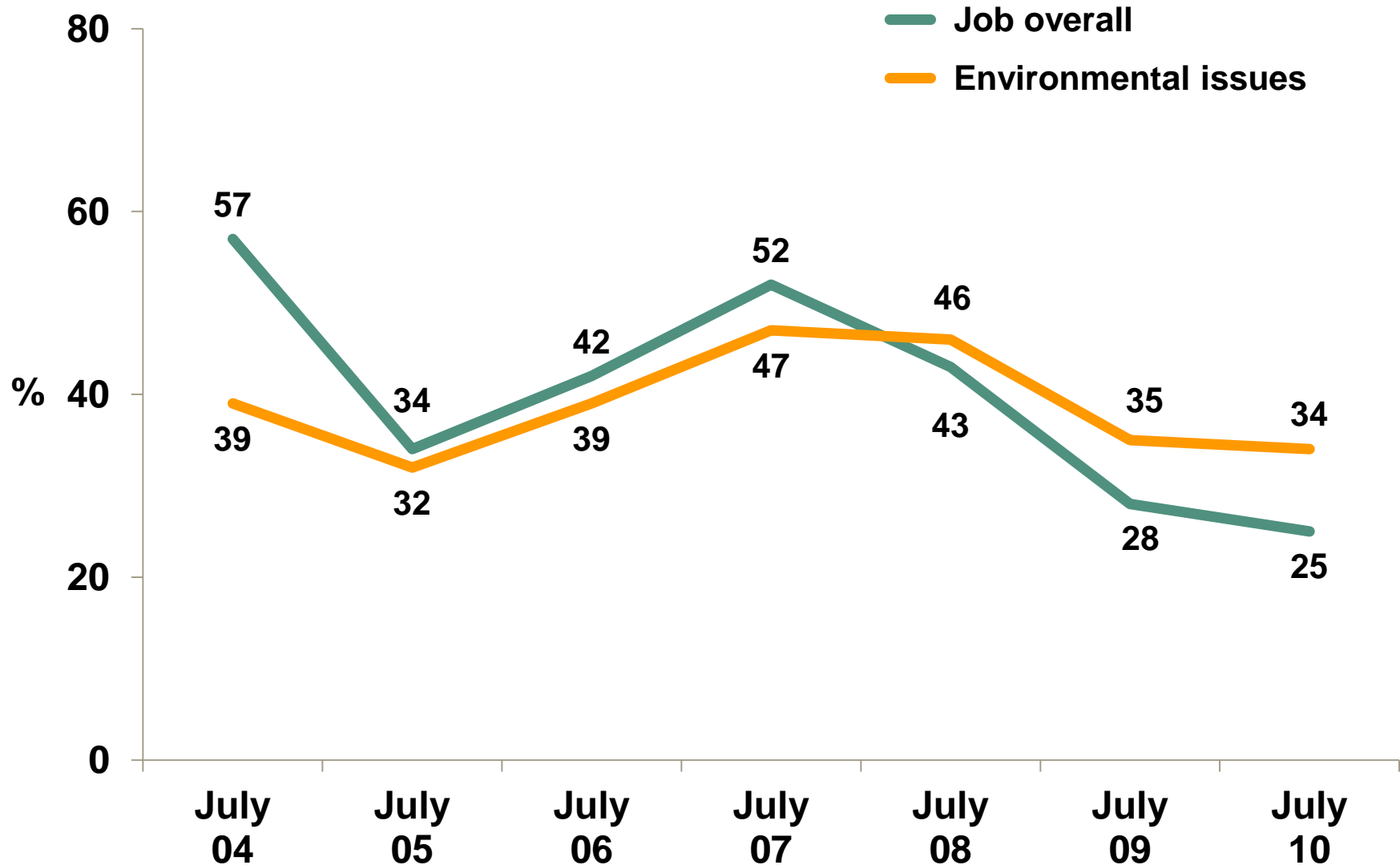
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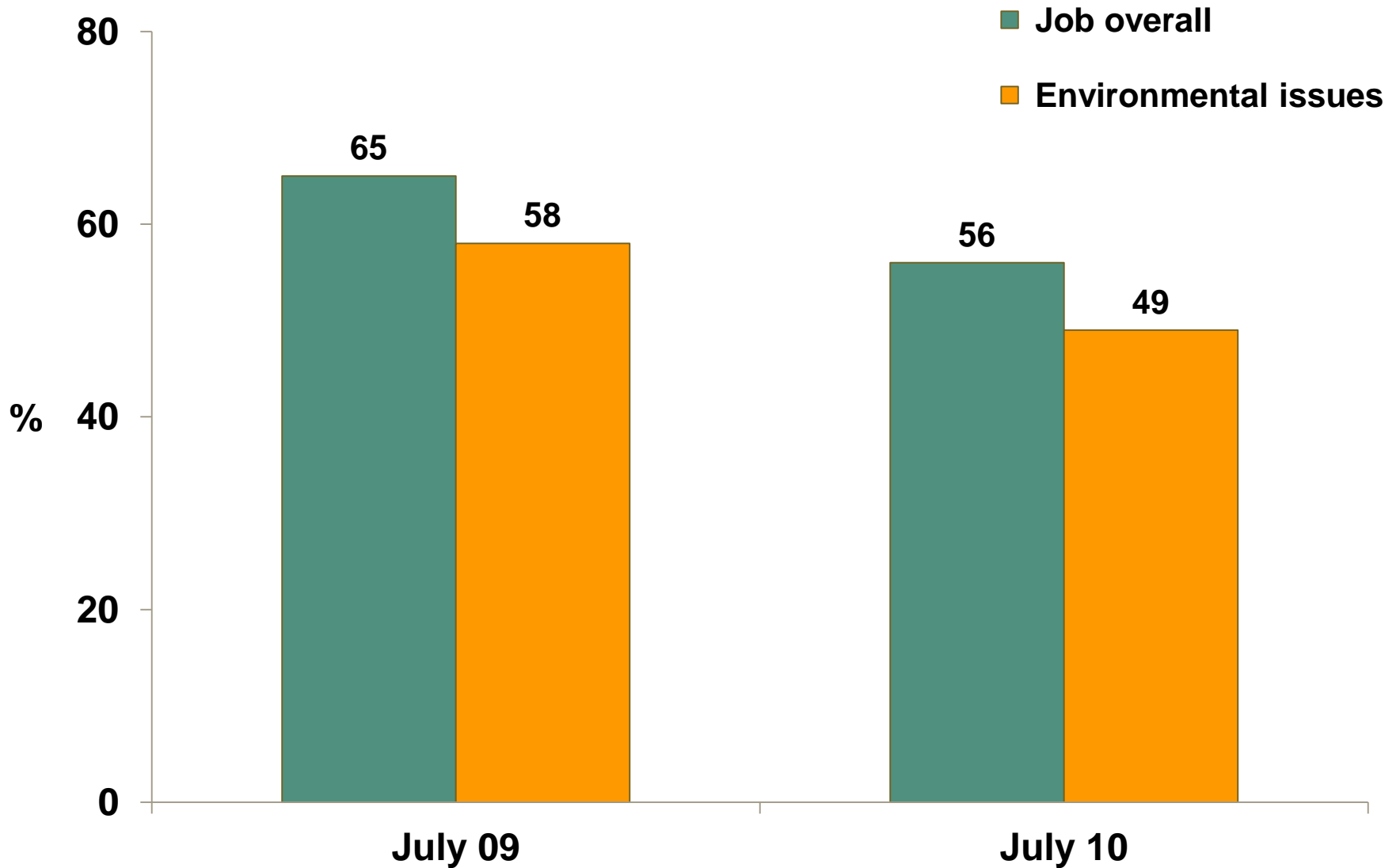
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# Governor's Approval Ratings

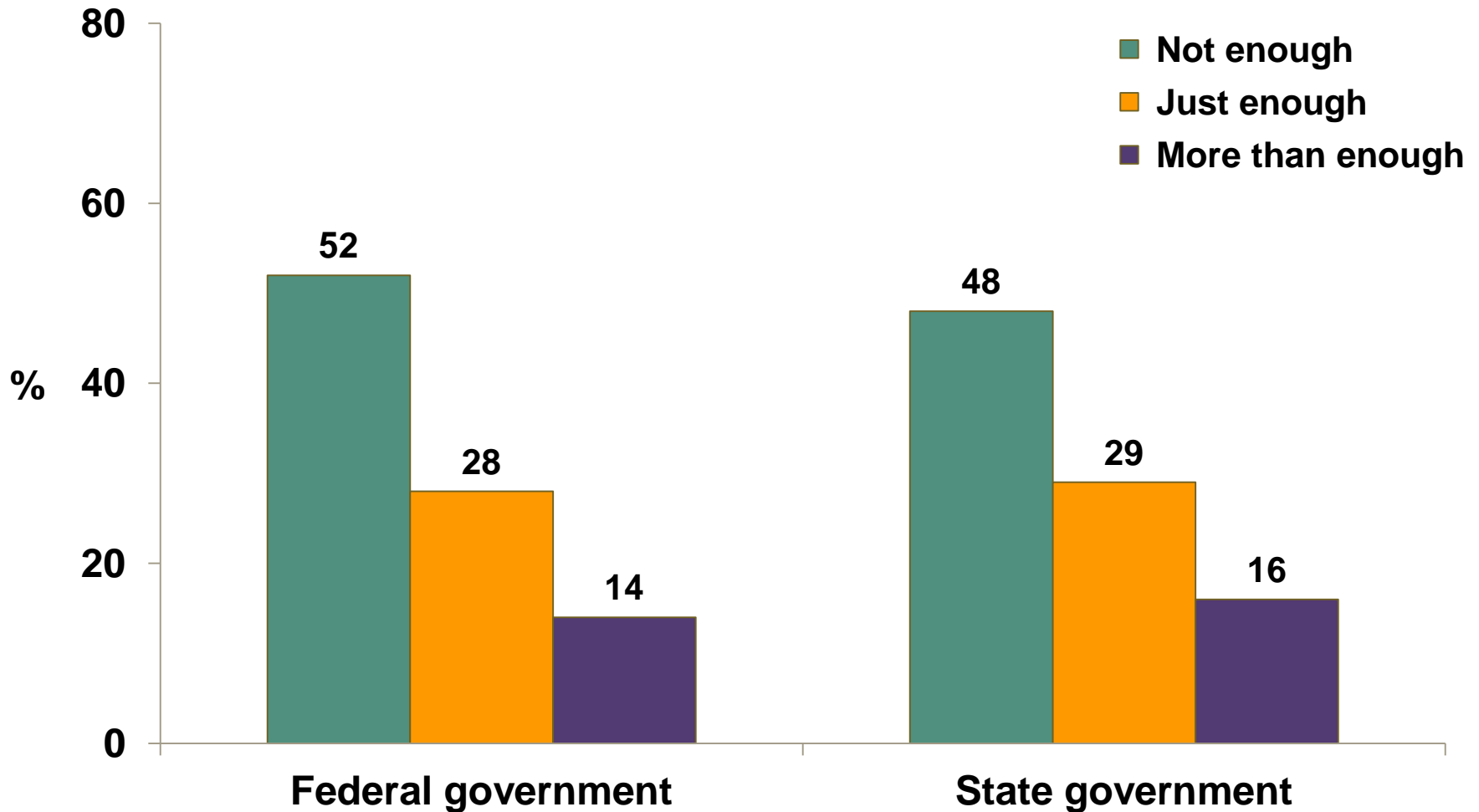


# President's Approval Ratings



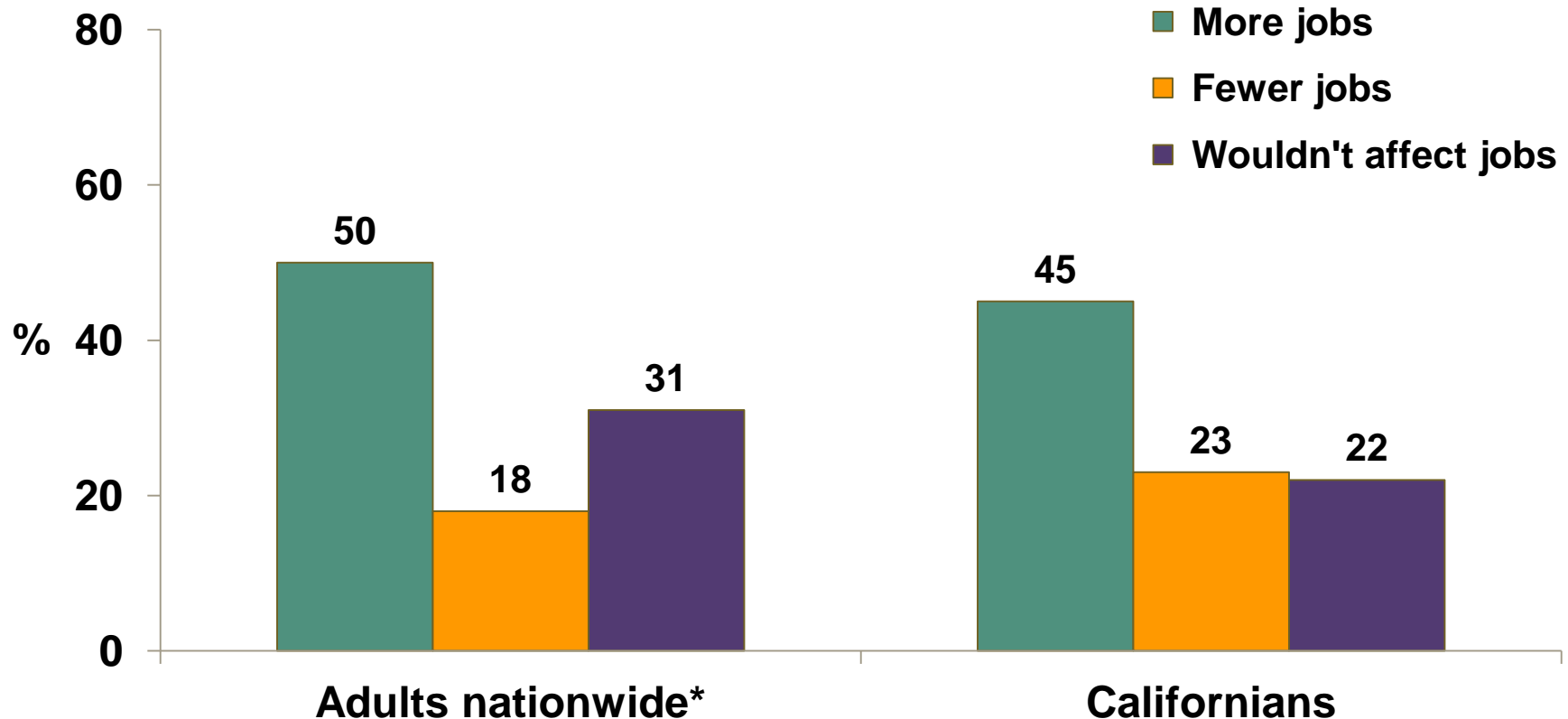
# Government Action on Global Warming

Overall, do you think that the ... is doing more than enough, just enough, or not enough to address global warming?



# Global Warming Policy and Jobs in the U.S.

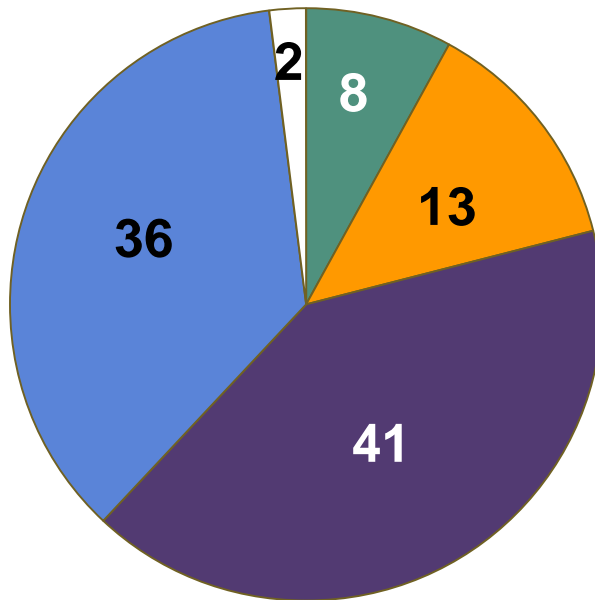
Do you think that the United States doing things to reduce global warming in the future would cause there to be more jobs for people around the country, would cause there to be fewer jobs, or wouldn't affect the number of jobs for people around the country?



\*Stanford Global Warming Poll, June 2010

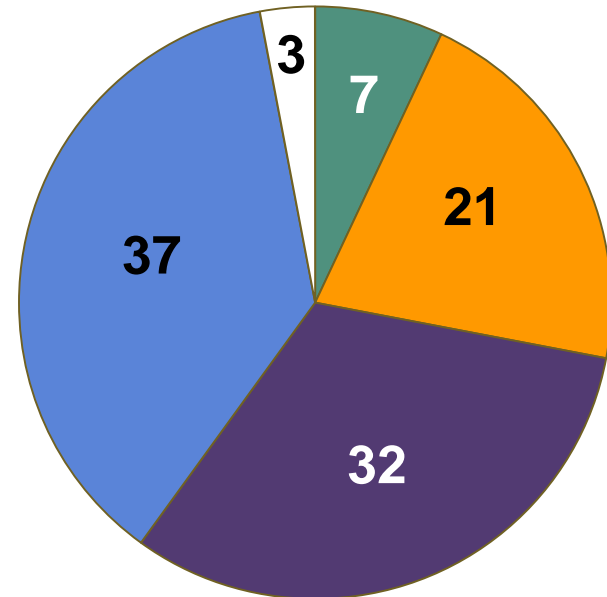
# Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico

How much confidence do you have in the federal government to make the right decisions in dealing with the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico?



- Great deal
- Good amount
- Just some
- None at all
- Don't know

How confident are you that the federal government can prevent another oil spill like the one in the Gulf of Mexico?



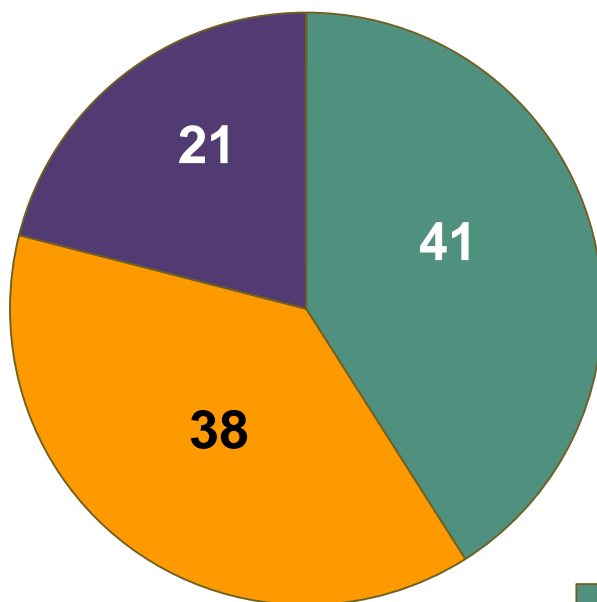
- Very confident
- Fairly confident
- Not very confident
- Not confident at all
- Don't know

All adults

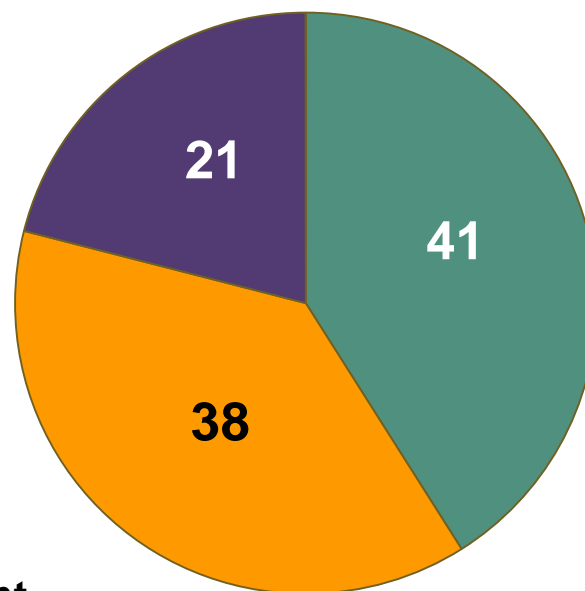
# 2010 Elections and Environmental Positions

In thinking about the California ... in November, how important to you are the candidates' positions on the environment—such as air pollution, global warming, and energy policy—in determining your vote?

Governor's election



U.S. Senate election



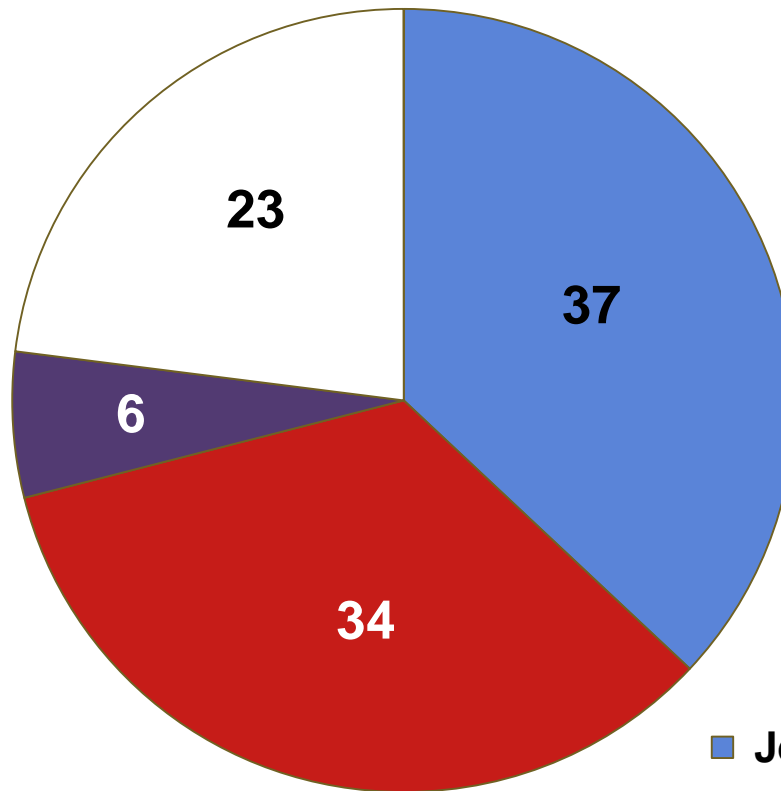
Likely voters

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not too important



# Governor's Race

If the November 2nd election for governor were being held today, would you vote for...?

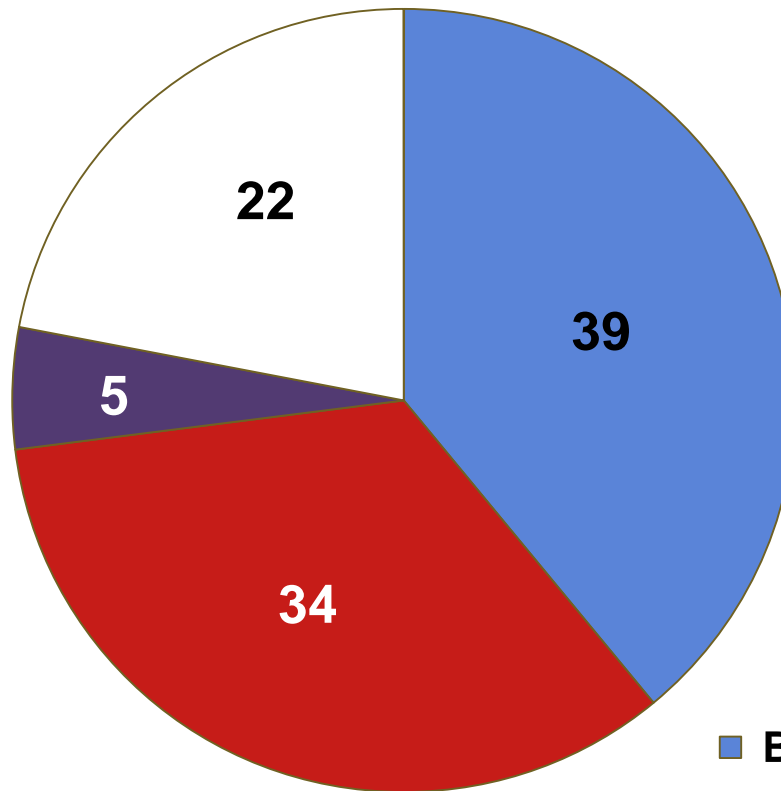


- Jerry Brown, the Democrat
- Meg Whitman, the Republican
- Other candidates
- Don't know

Likely voters

# U.S. Senate Race

If the November 2nd election for U.S. Senate were being held today, would you vote for...?



- Barbara Boxer, the Democrat
- Carly Fiorina, the Republican
- Other candidates
- Don't know

Likely voters

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# Conclusions

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- Continuing concerns about climate change and support for policy actions
- Partisan divide on climate change policies and their economic impacts
- Many believe that action on climate change will result in more U.S. and California jobs
- Most believe that federal and state actions on climate change are inadequate
- Opposition to offshore oil drilling has increased sharply in the past year
- Environmental positions have an important role in close governor and U.S. Senate races

# Upcoming PPIC Statewide Surveys

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- September
  - *Californians and Their Government*
- October
  - *Californians and Their Government*
- November
  - *Californians and Higher Education*
- December
  - *Californians and Their Government*



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# Notes on the use of these slides

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These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact us.

Questions? Contact [survey@ppic.org](mailto:survey@ppic.org)

For More Information: The full report and interactive tools are available at [www.ppic.org](http://www.ppic.org).

Thank you for your interest in this work.

