

# PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and the Environment

Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner,  
Sonja Petek, Jui Shrestha

*July 2011*



# Outline

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- **PPIC Statewide Surveys**
- **Environmental Issues, Air Pollution**
- **Climate Change, Energy Policy**
- **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
  - 252,000+ Californians since 1998
  - 115+ general, issue, and regional surveys



# Californians and the Environment

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- Funded by The Hewlett Foundation
- Environmental issues, air pollution
  - Approval ratings, most important issue, regional air quality, health risks
- Climate change, energy policy
  - Perceptions of global warming, state policies, economic considerations, energy policies
- Telephone interviews, July 5–19
  - 2,504 adults; 1,153 likely voters
    - *± 3% margin of error for adults*
    - *± 3.6% for likely voters*



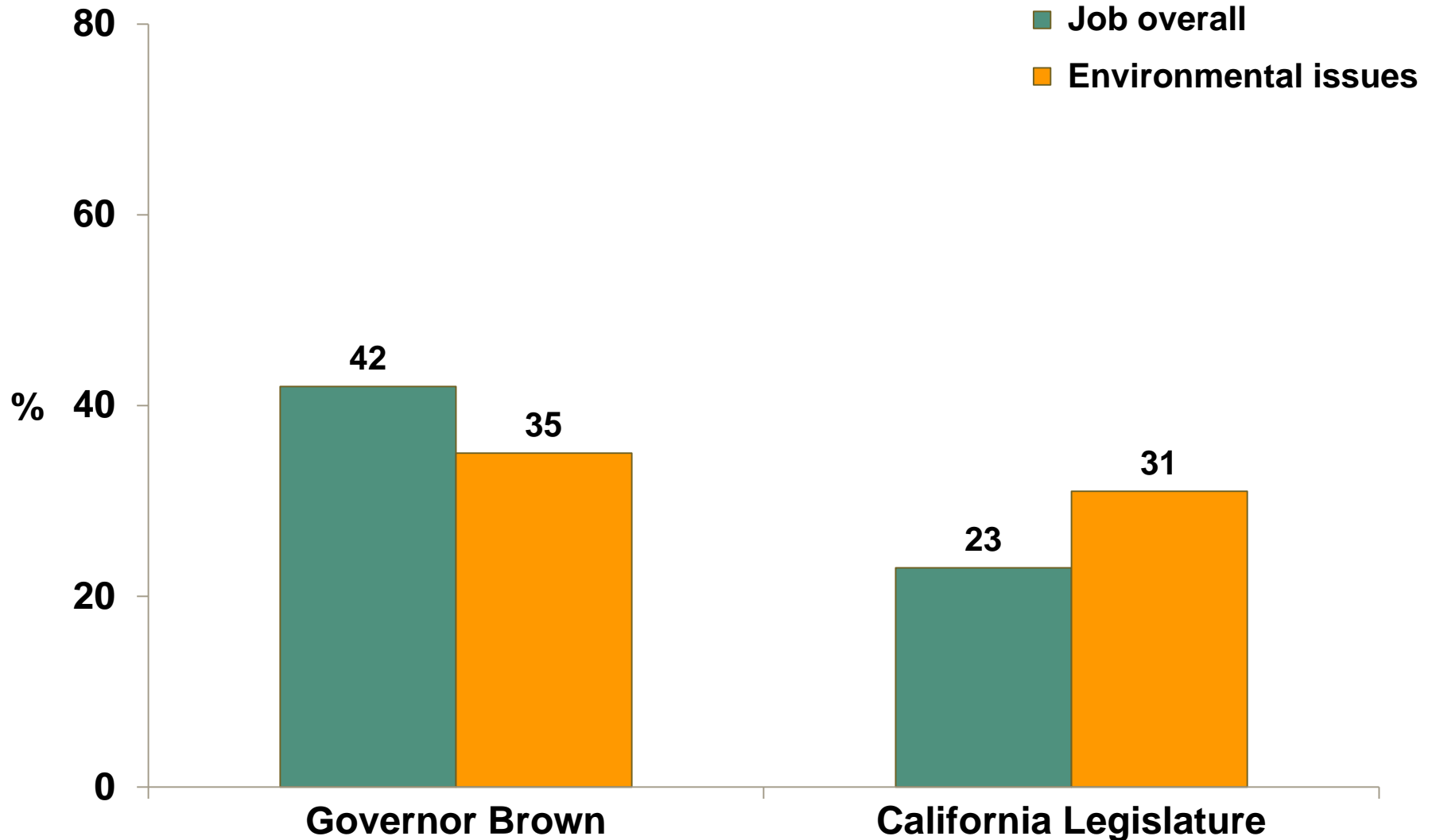
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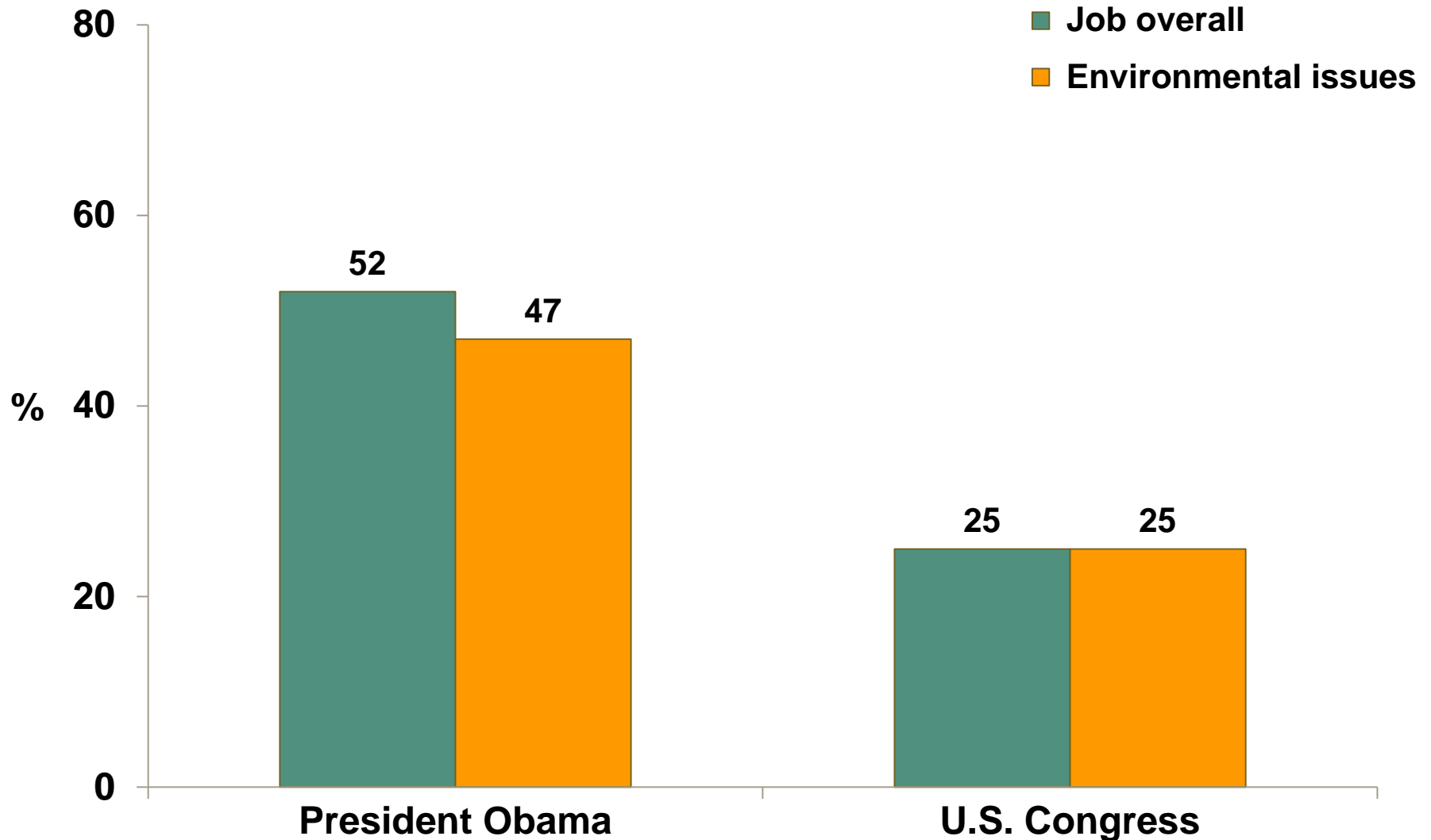
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# Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

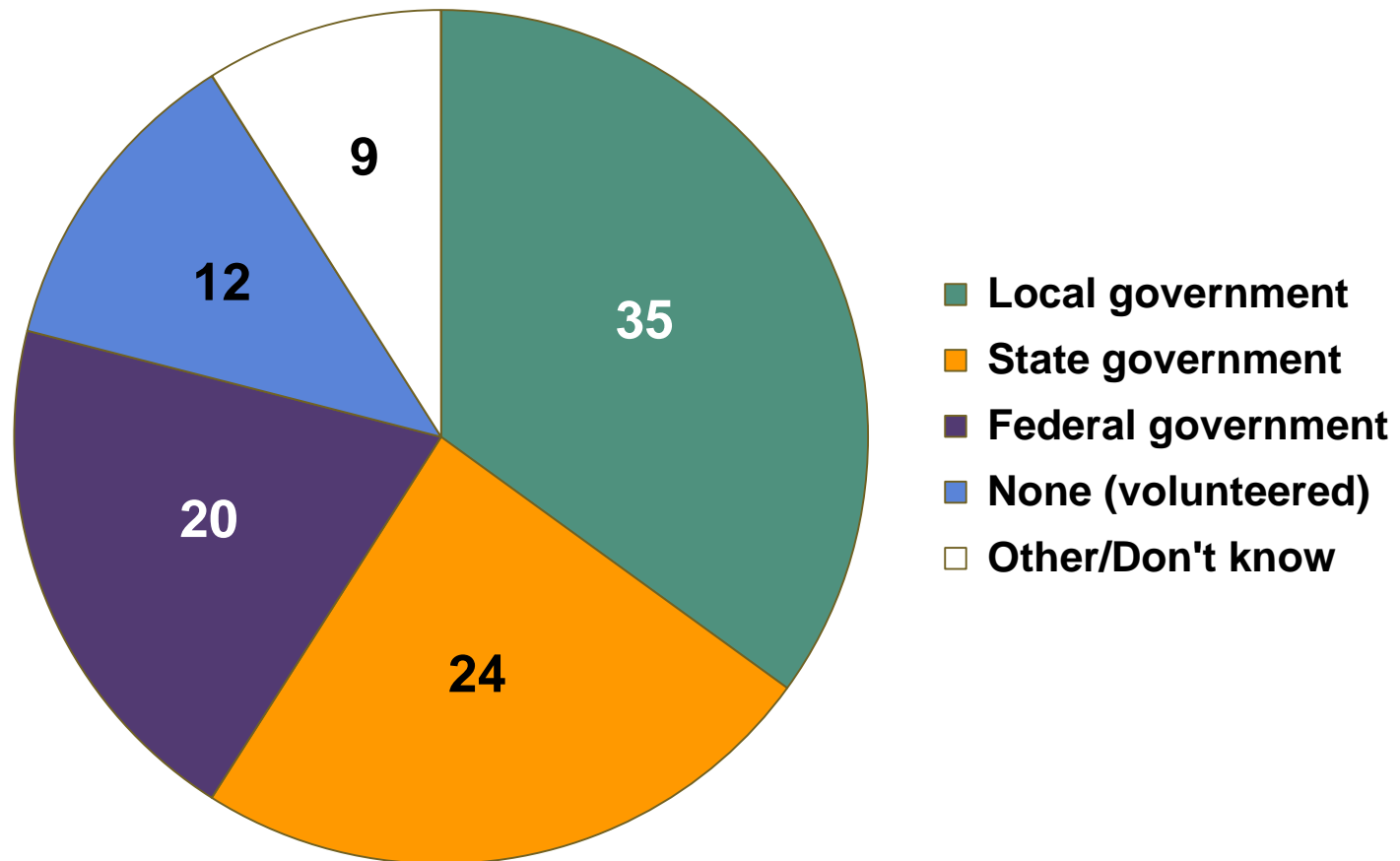


# Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials



# Trust in Handling Environmental Problems

Which level of government do you trust the most to deal with environmental problems?



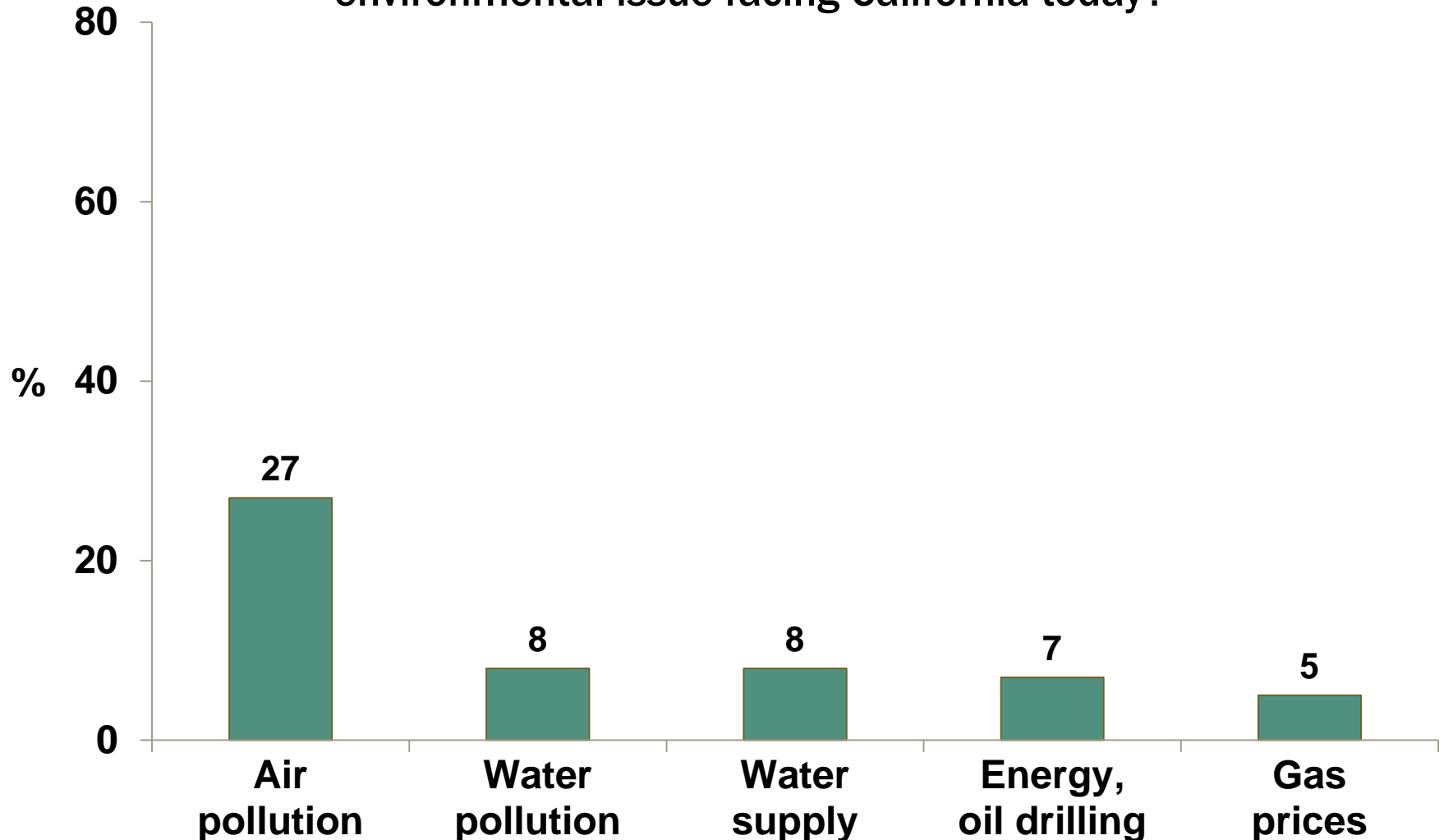
All adults





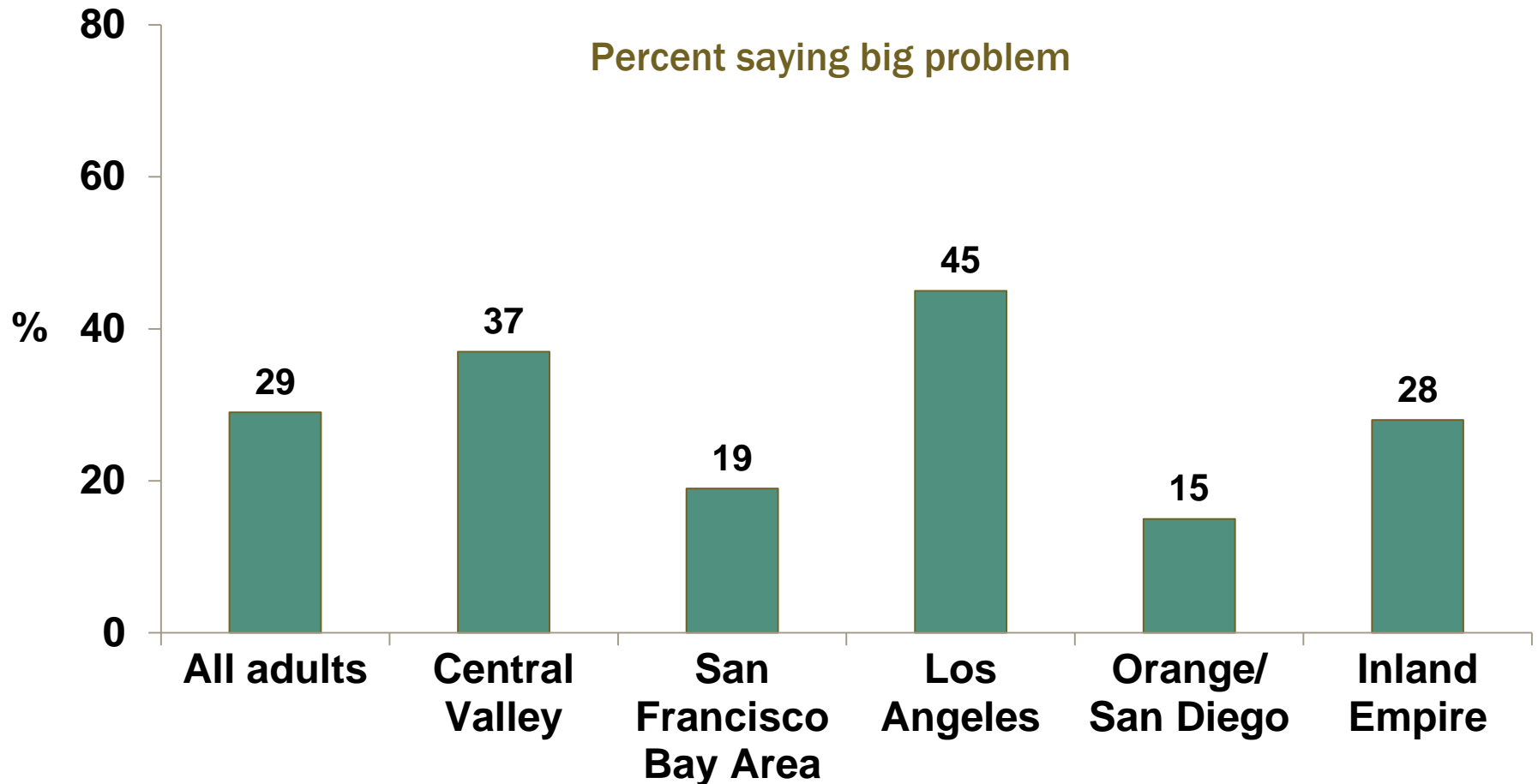
# Most Important Environmental Issue

What do you think is the most important environmental issue facing California today?



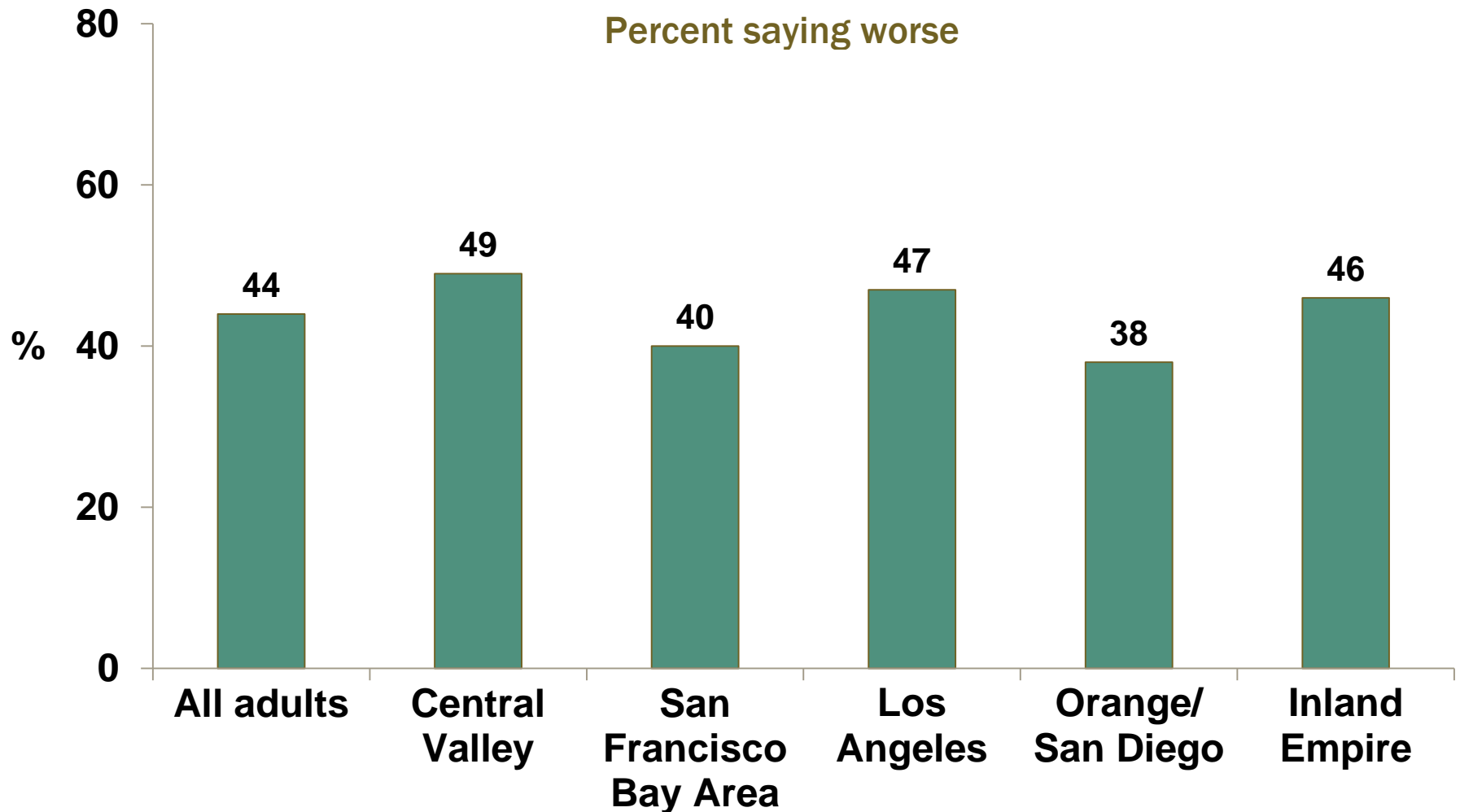
# Air Pollution

We are interested in the region of California that you live in. Would you say that air pollution is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in your region?



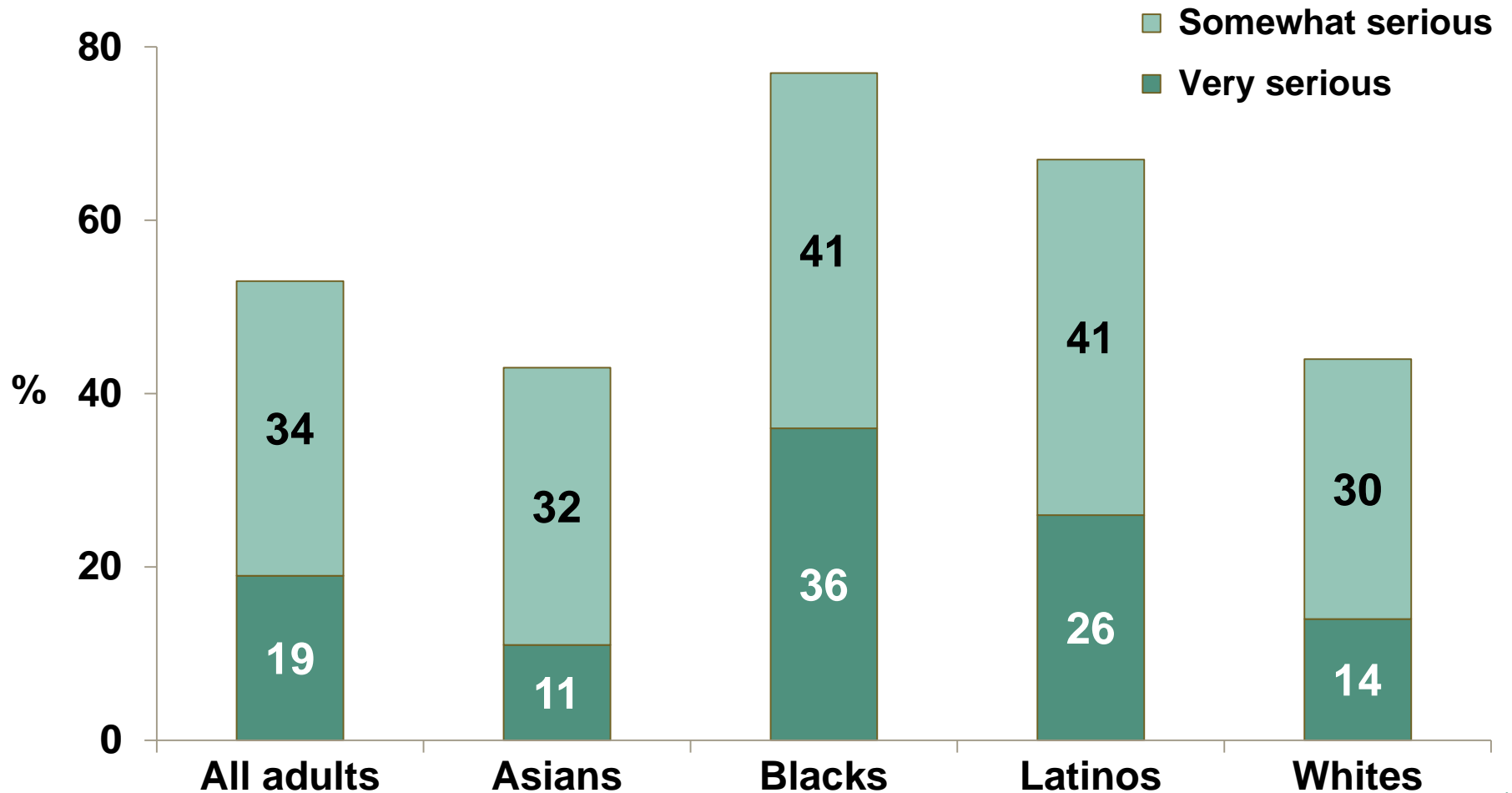
# Air Pollution Today Compared to 10 Years Ago

Is the air quality in your region better or worse than it was 10 years ago?



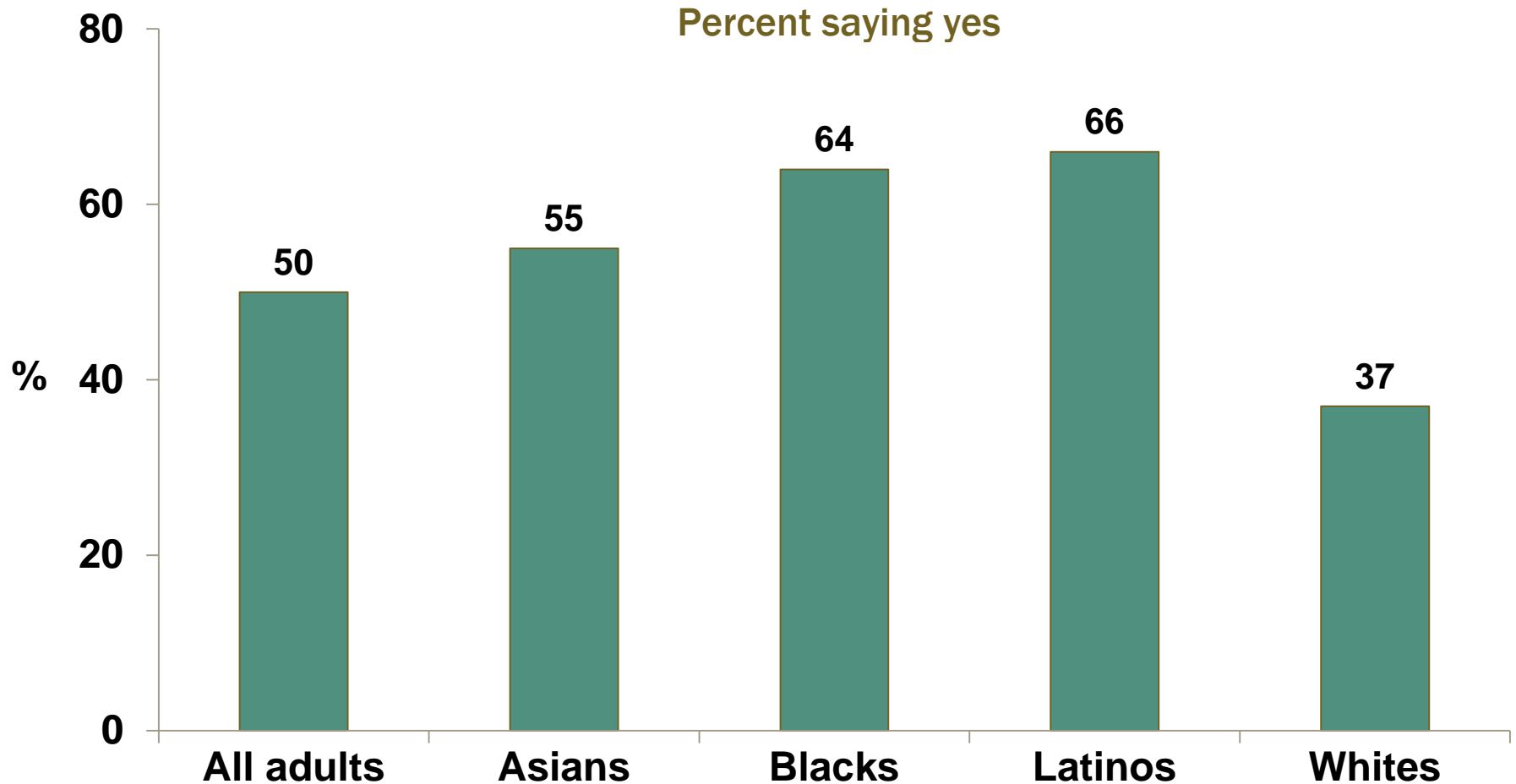
# Health Risks from Air Pollution

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



# Disparities in Health Risks

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



# Outline

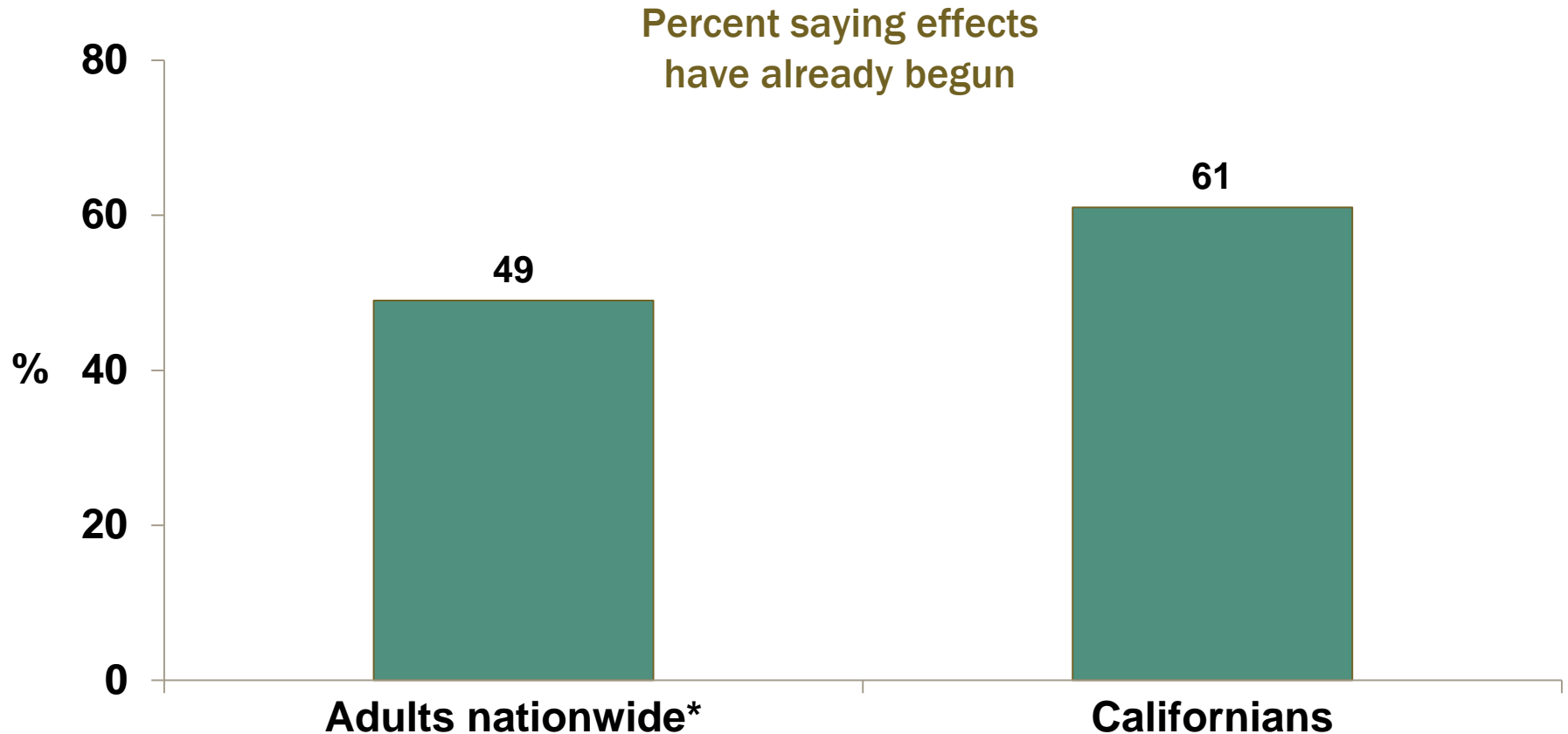
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# Onset of Global Warming

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

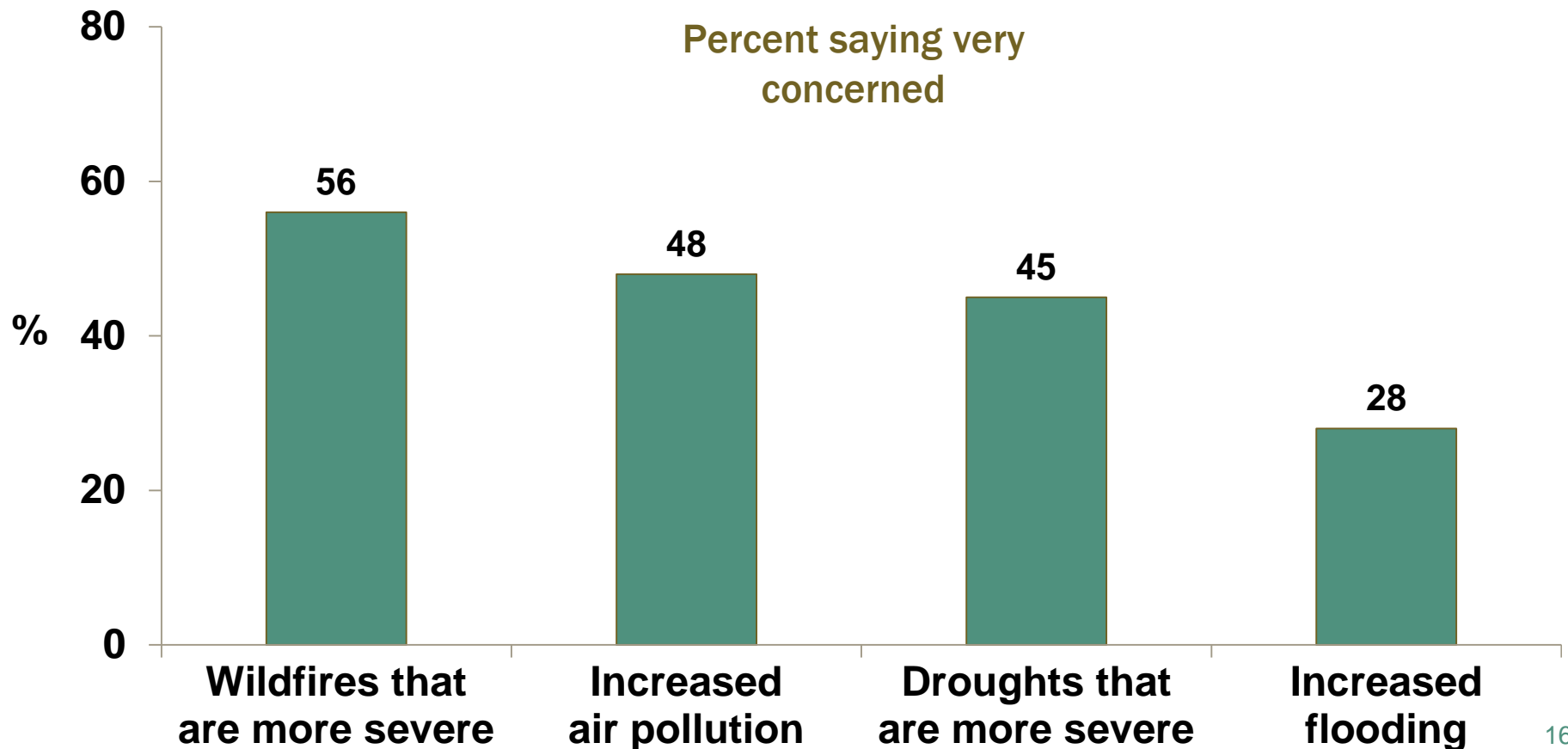


\*Gallup Poll, March 2011



# Impacts of Climate Change

I am going to name a few of the possible impacts of global warming in California, and I would like you to tell me whether you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about each one.

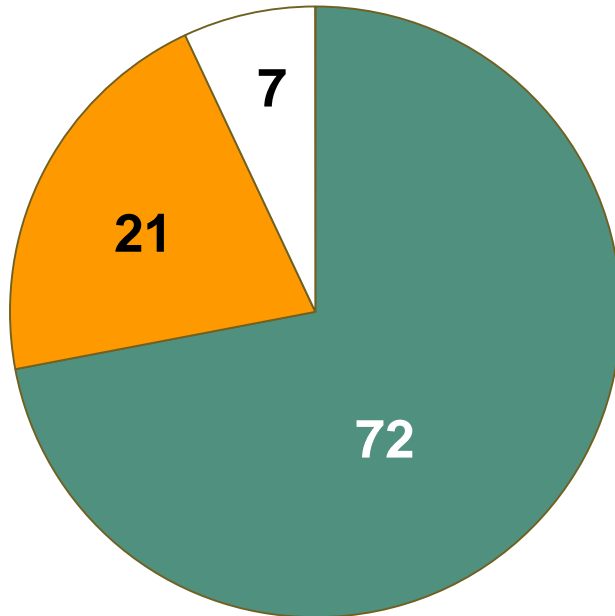




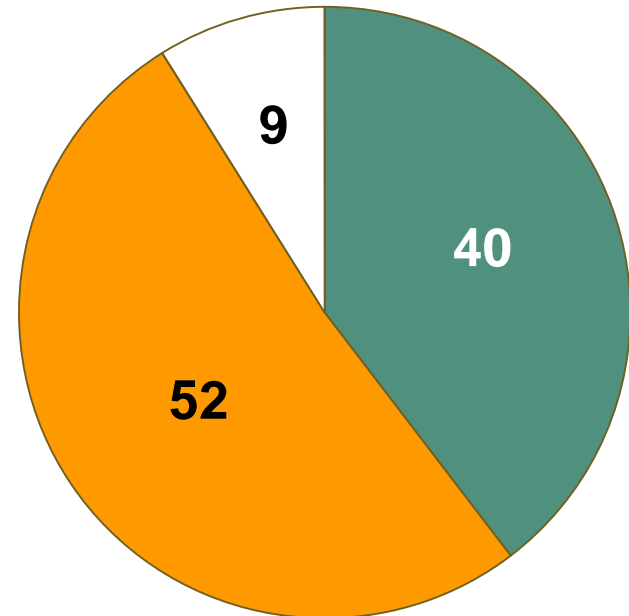
# Policymaking on Global Warming

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?

Democrats



Republicans

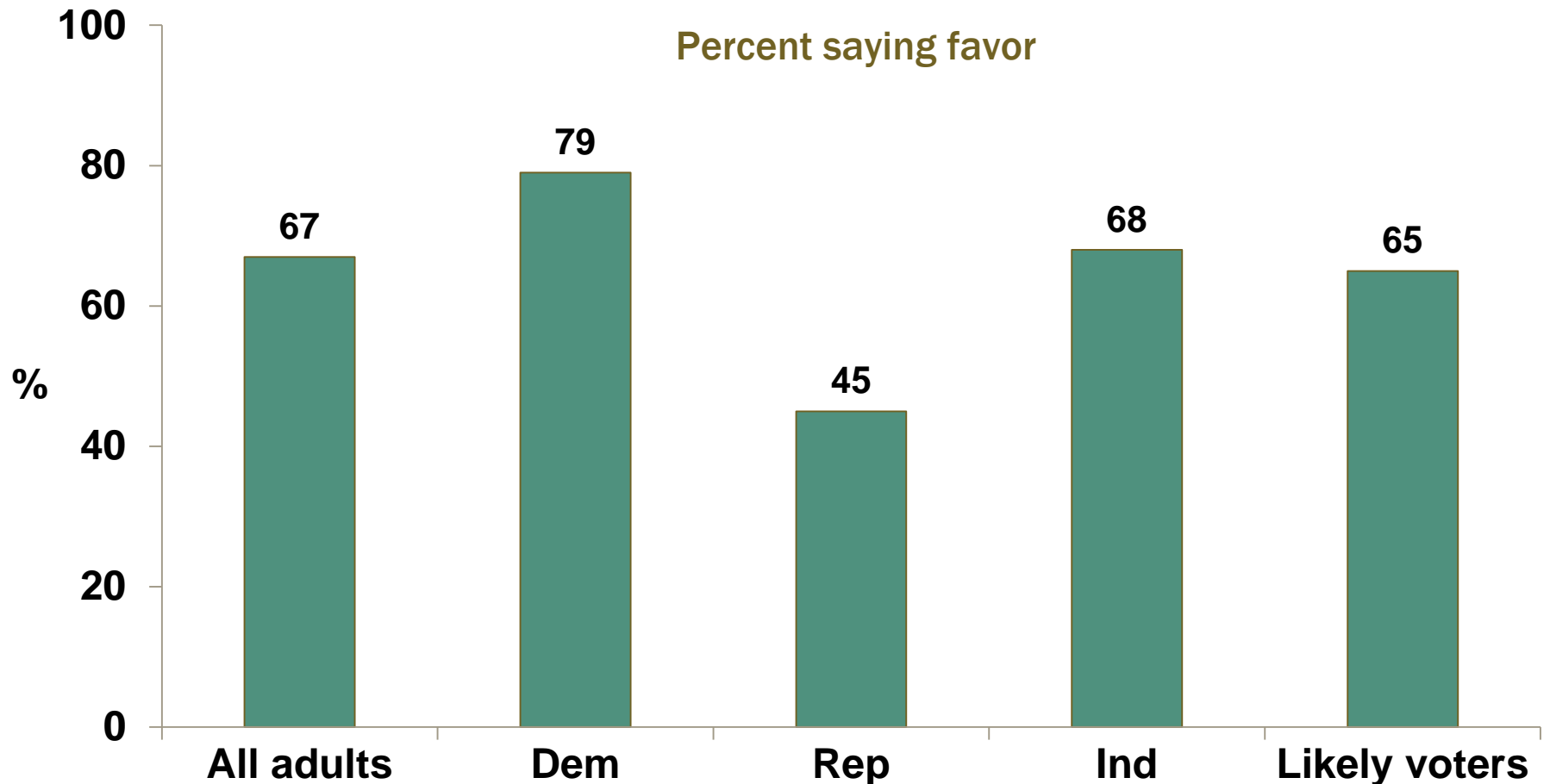


- Favor
- Oppose
- Don't know



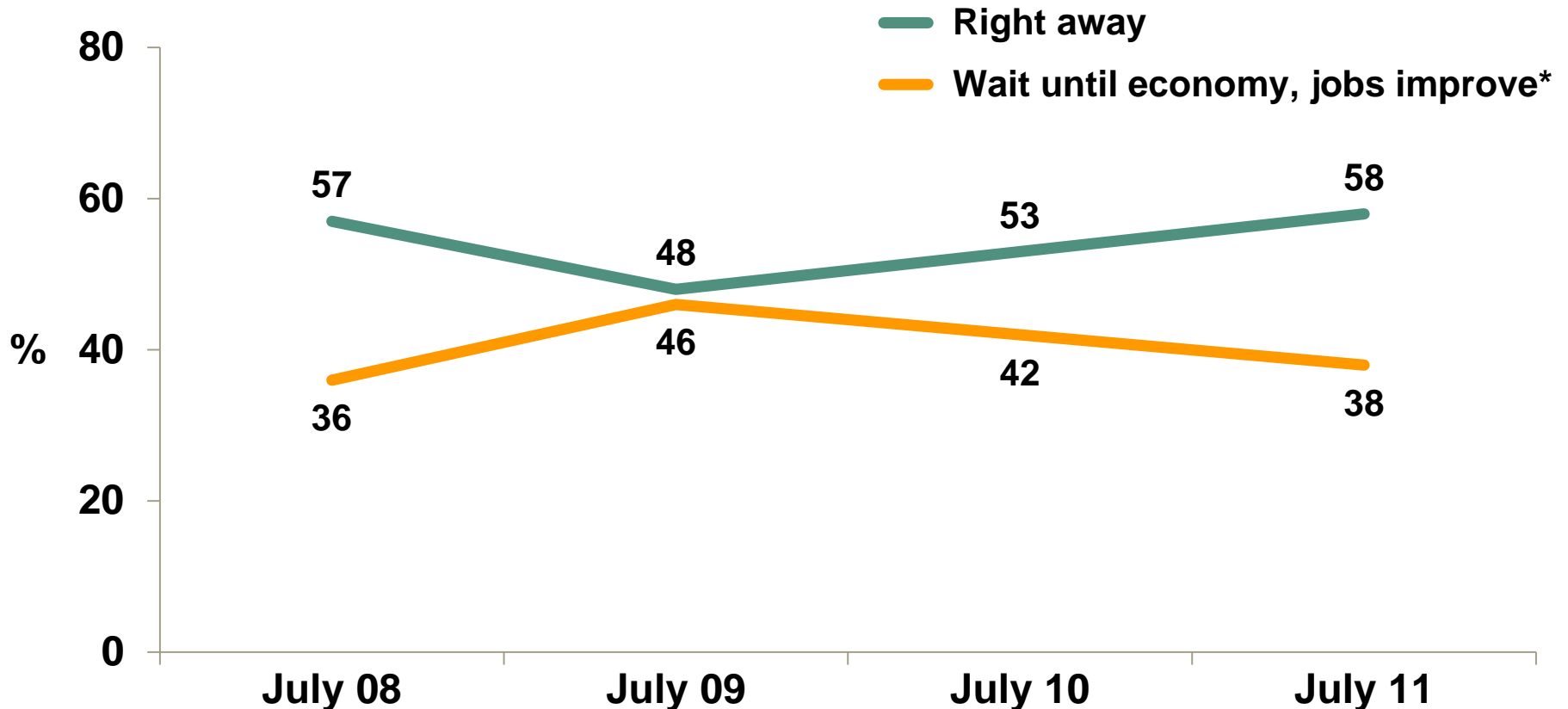
# AB 32

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?



# When to Act on AB 32

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?

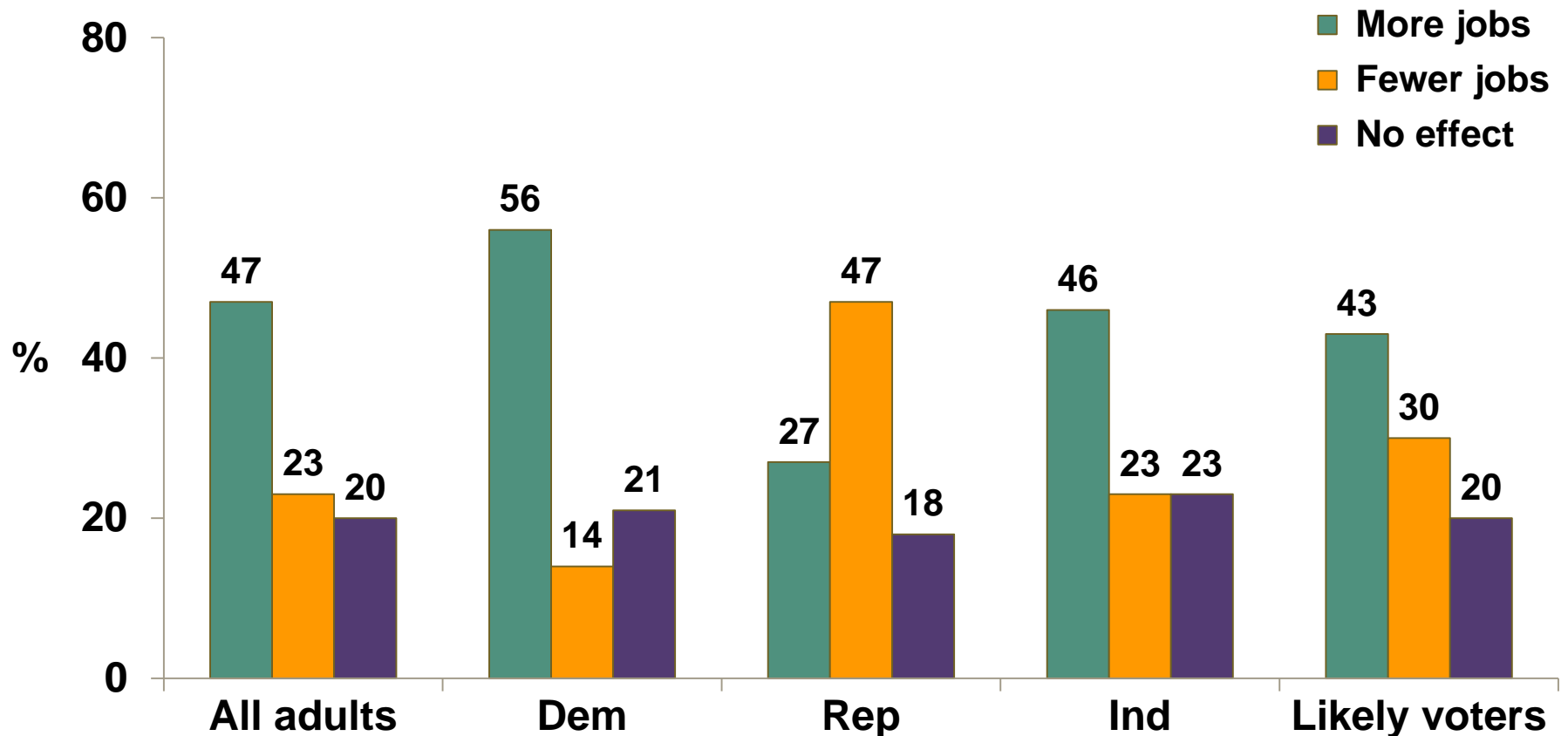


*\*In 2008 and 2009, question said "economy and budget situation"*



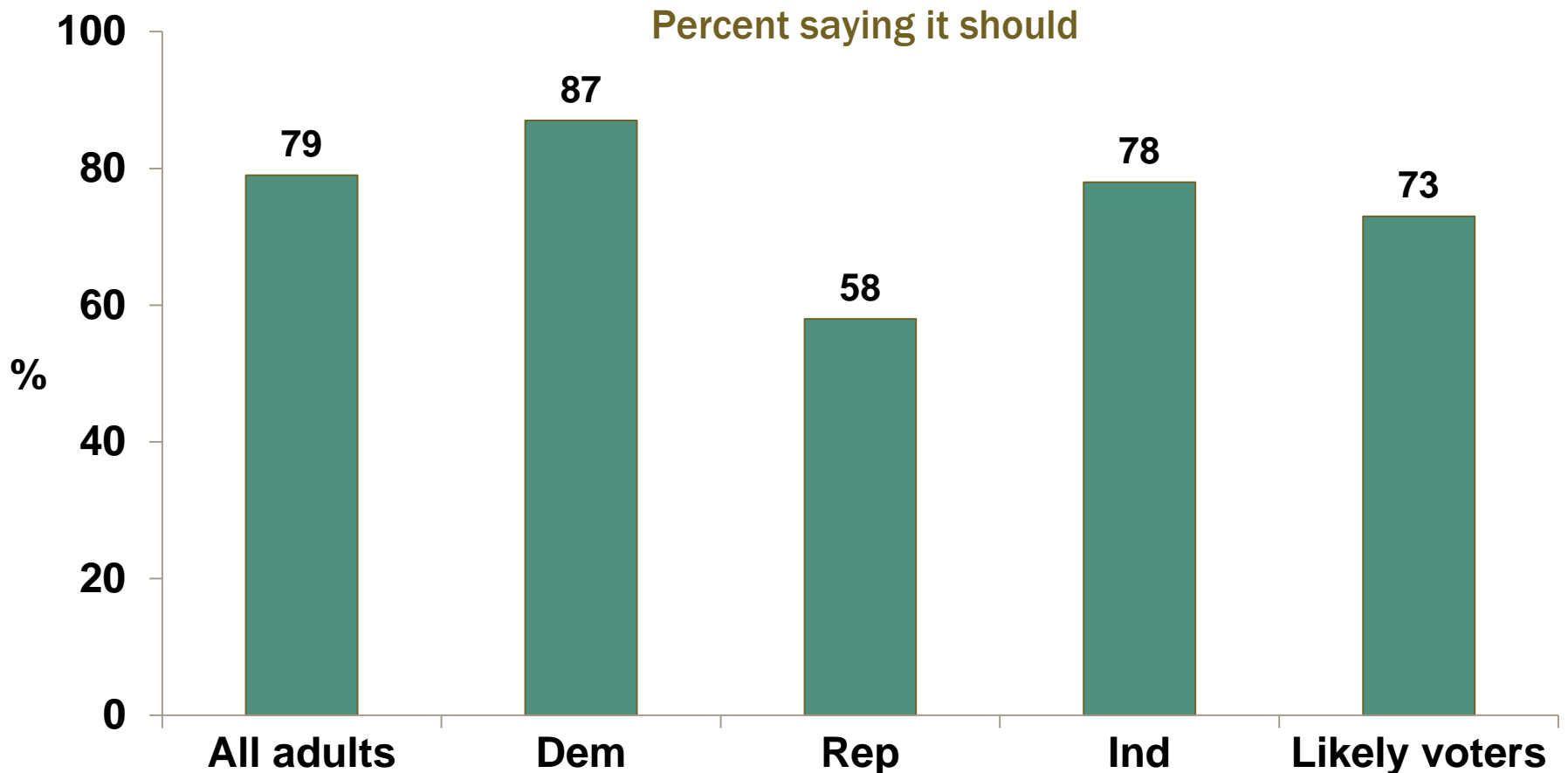
# Effect on Jobs

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?



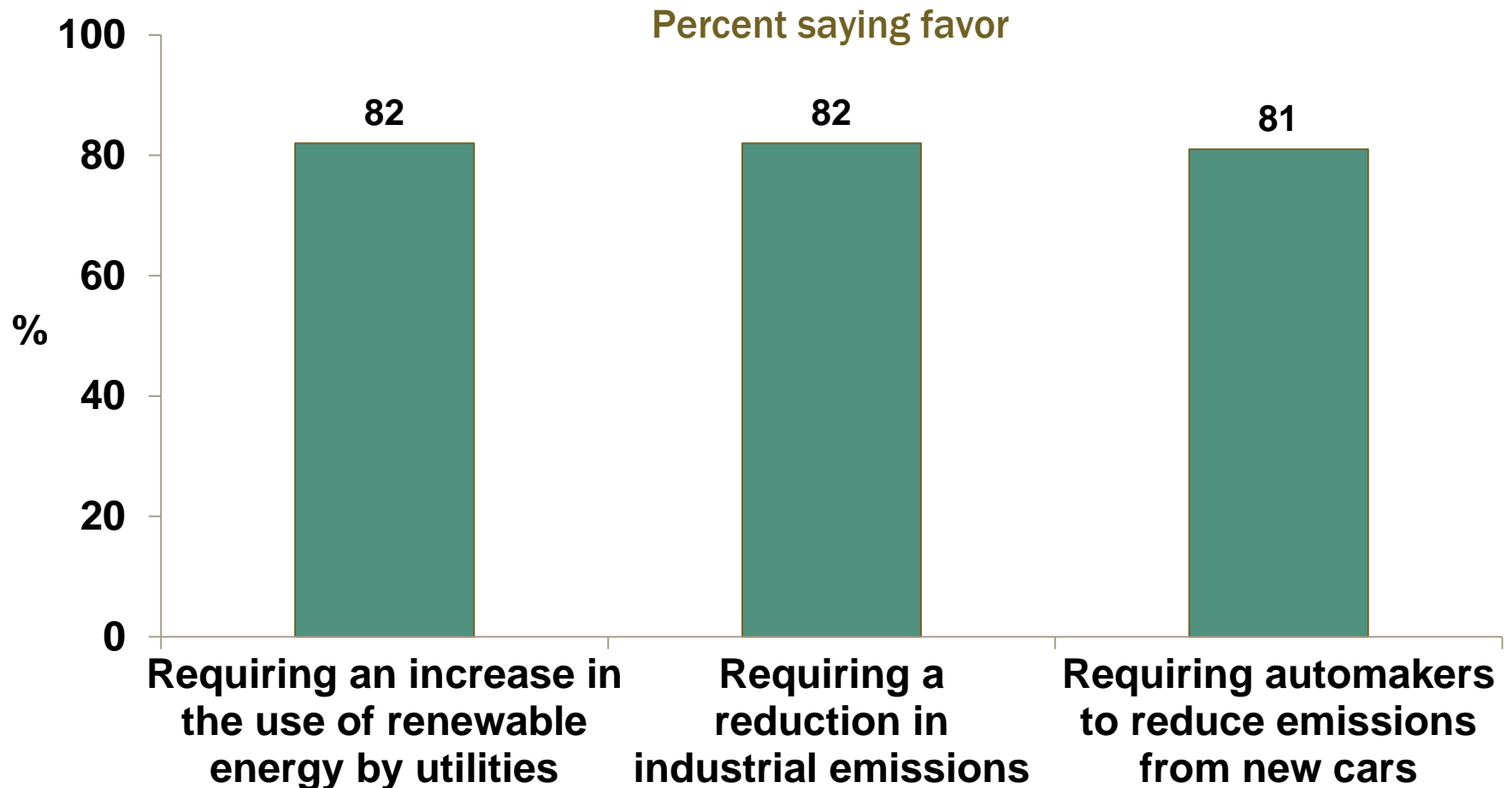
# Regulating Greenhouse Gases

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?



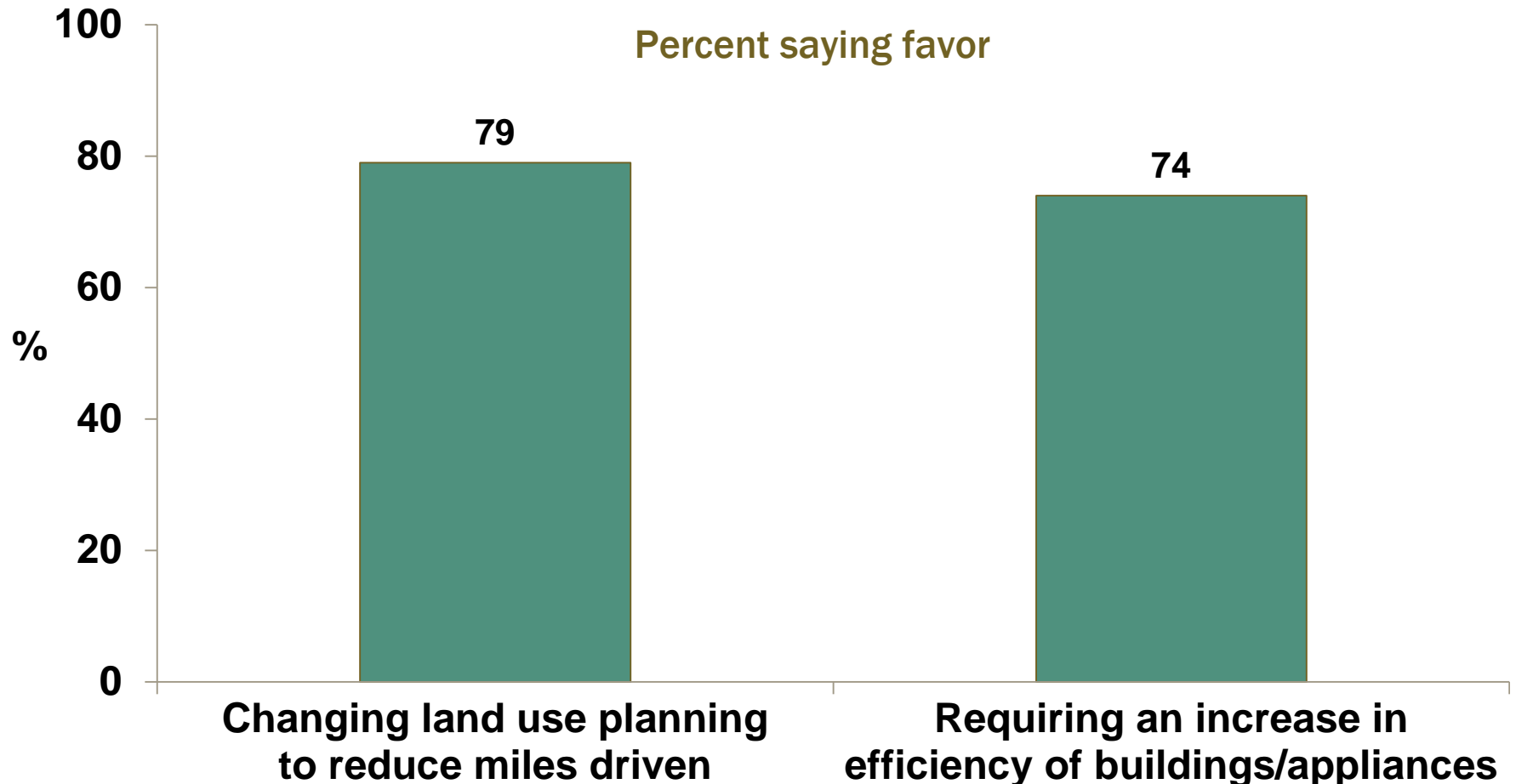
# Emissions Policies

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.



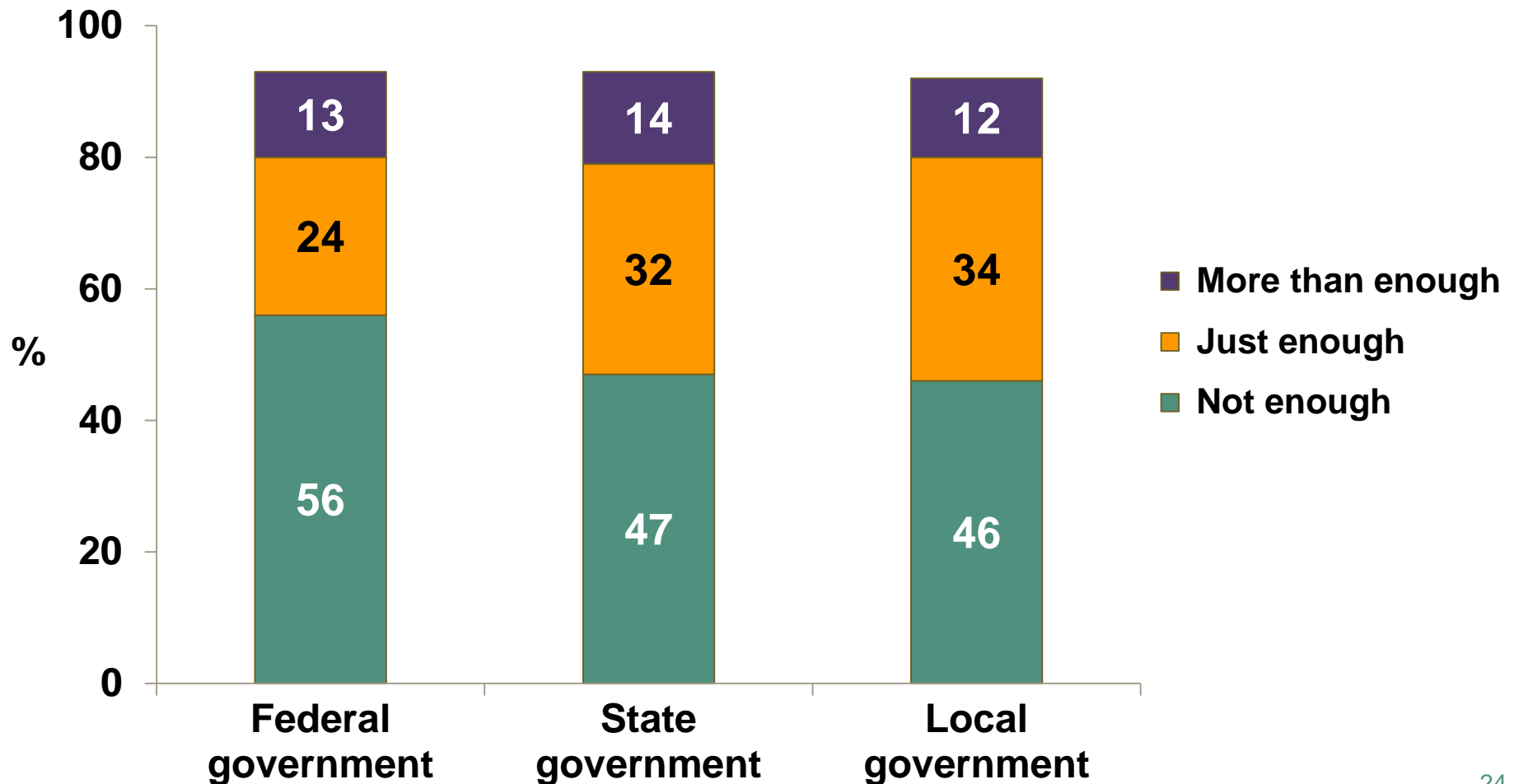
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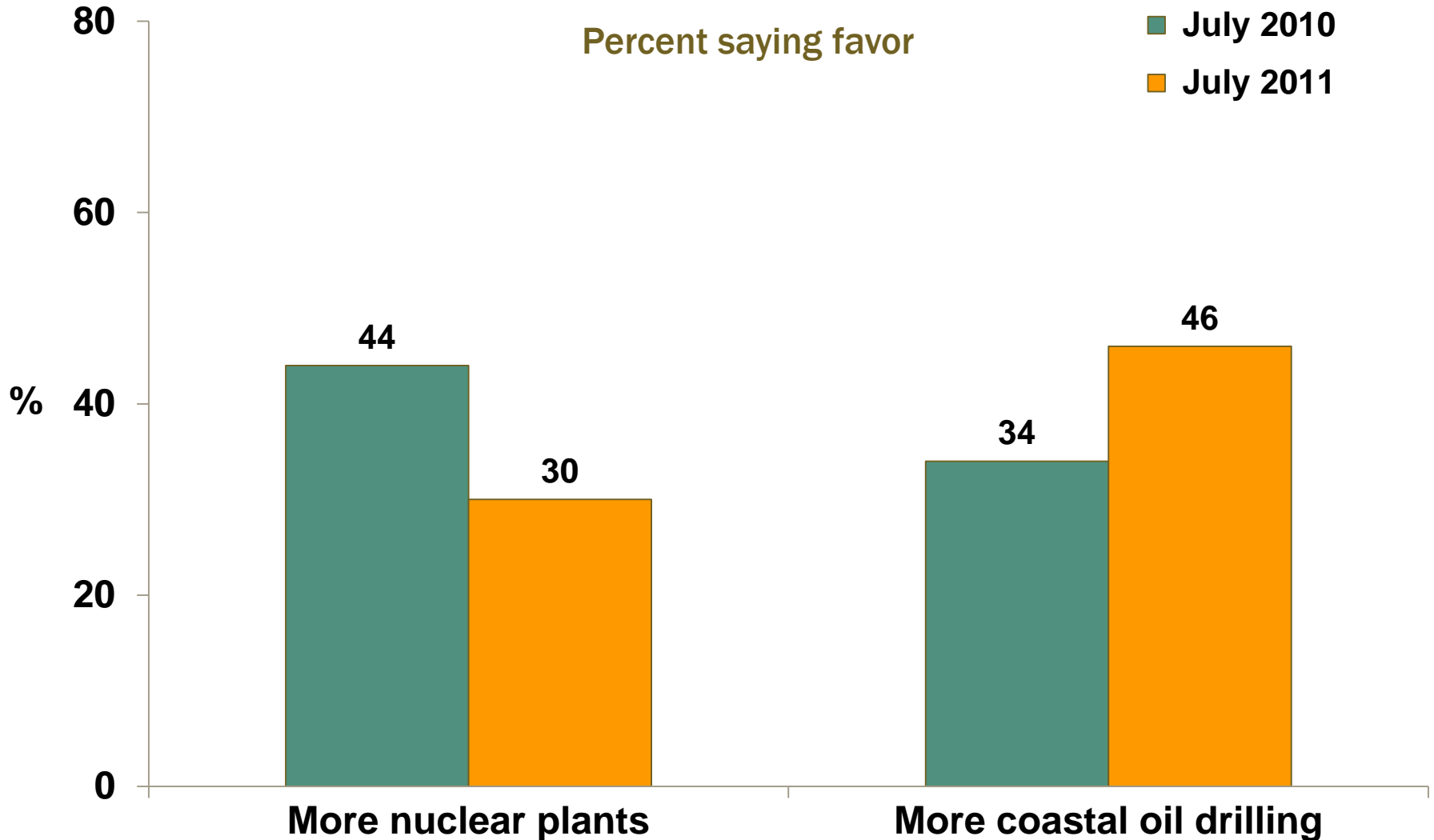
# State and Federal Policy

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



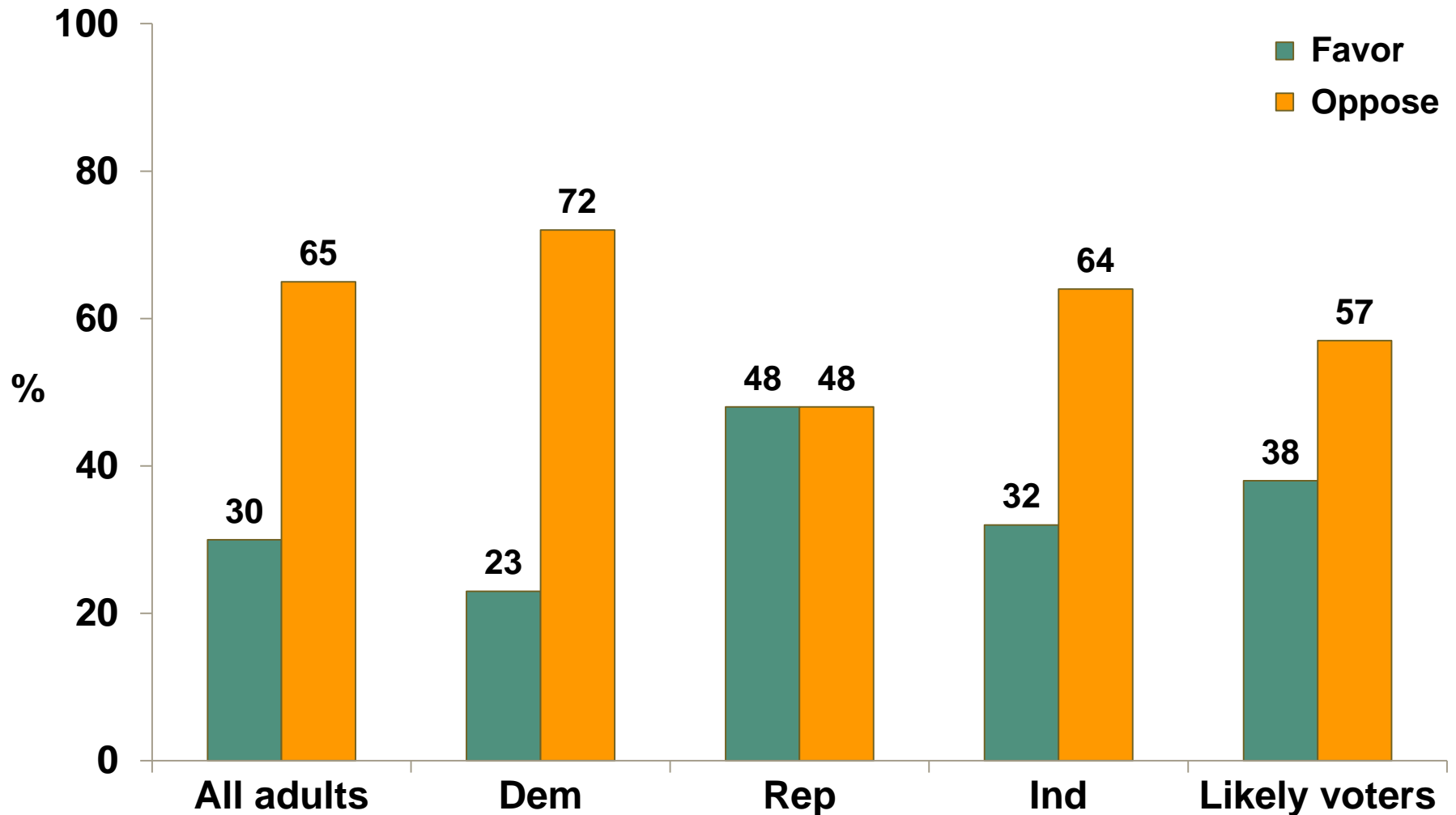


# Nuclear Power and Oil Drilling



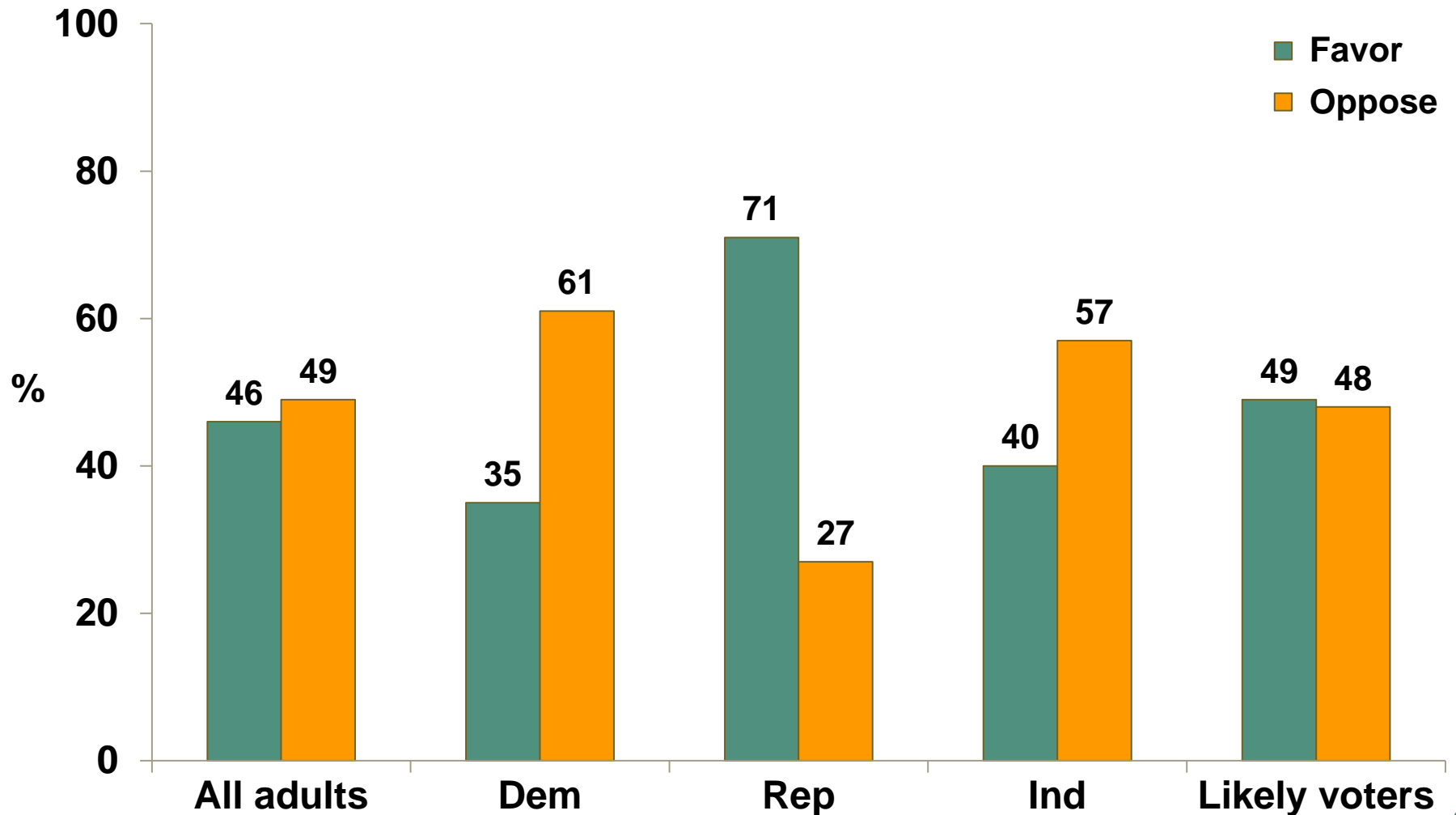
# Nuclear Power

How about building more nuclear power plants at this time?



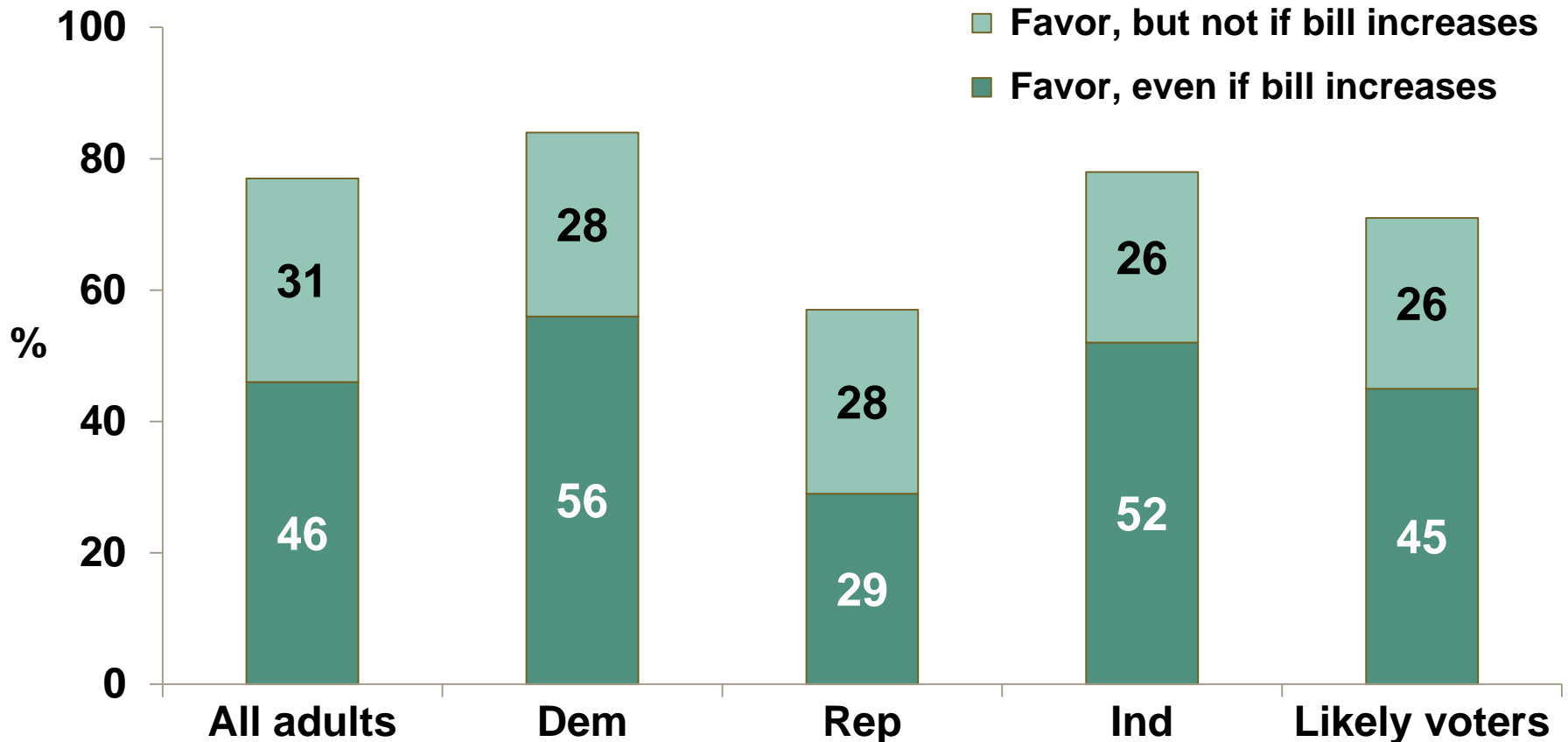
# Oil Drilling

How about allowing more oil drilling off the California coast?



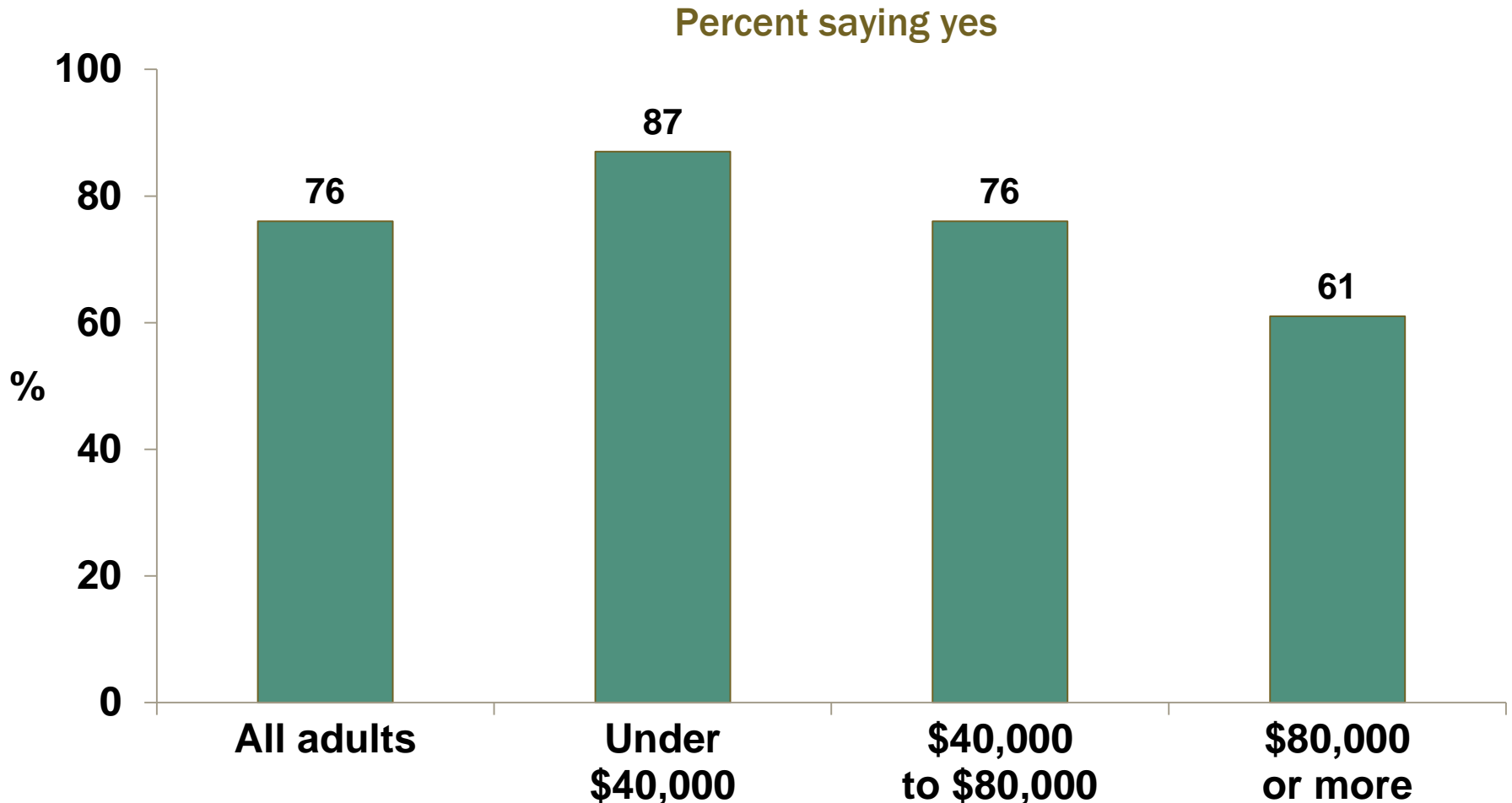
# Renewable Energy

How about requiring one-third of the state's electricity to come from renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, by the year 2020? (if favor: Do you still favor this proposal if it means an increase in your own electricity bill?)



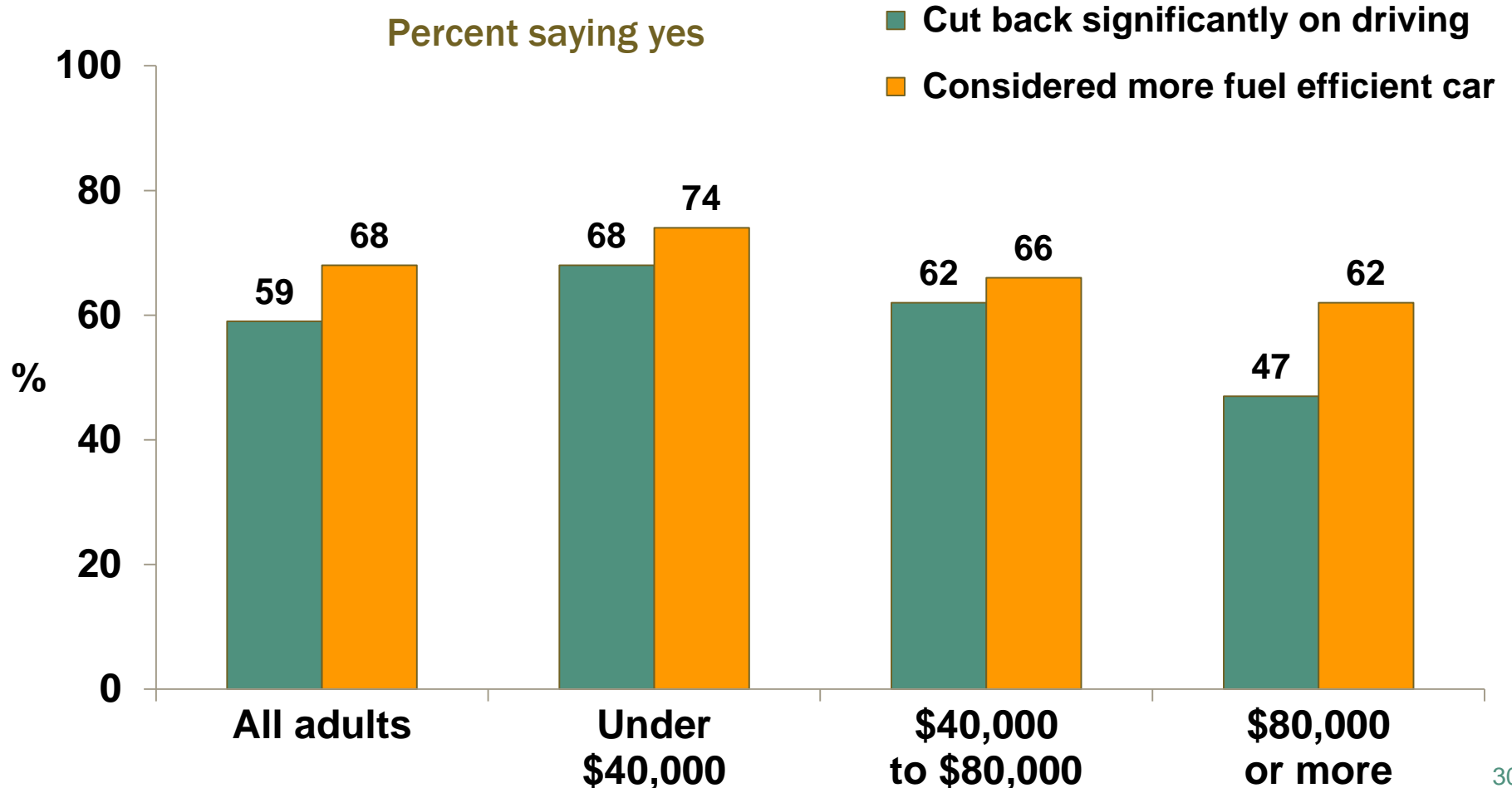
# Perceptions of Gas Prices

Have price increases in gasoline caused any financial hardship for you or your household?



# Response to Gas Prices

As a result of the recent rise in gasoline prices would you say that you have or have not...?



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# Conclusions

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- Perceptions of air pollution vary by region; blacks and Latinos most likely to see it as a health threat
- Strong support for AB 32; most say state should act on it right away
- Strong support for regulating emissions, including cars; most say government not doing enough
- Since last year, support up for oil drilling, down for nuclear plants
- Strong support for renewable energy; favor declines if electricity bills go up
- Wide partisan divides on approval ratings, climate change, AB 32, and energy policies





# Upcoming PPIC Statewide Surveys

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



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