

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Education

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PPIC

PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- State government and local schools
- Common Core and local control
- Early childhood education
- Conclusions

PPIC Statewide Survey mission

- 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
 - 320,000+ Californians since 1998
 - 150+ general, issue, and regional surveys

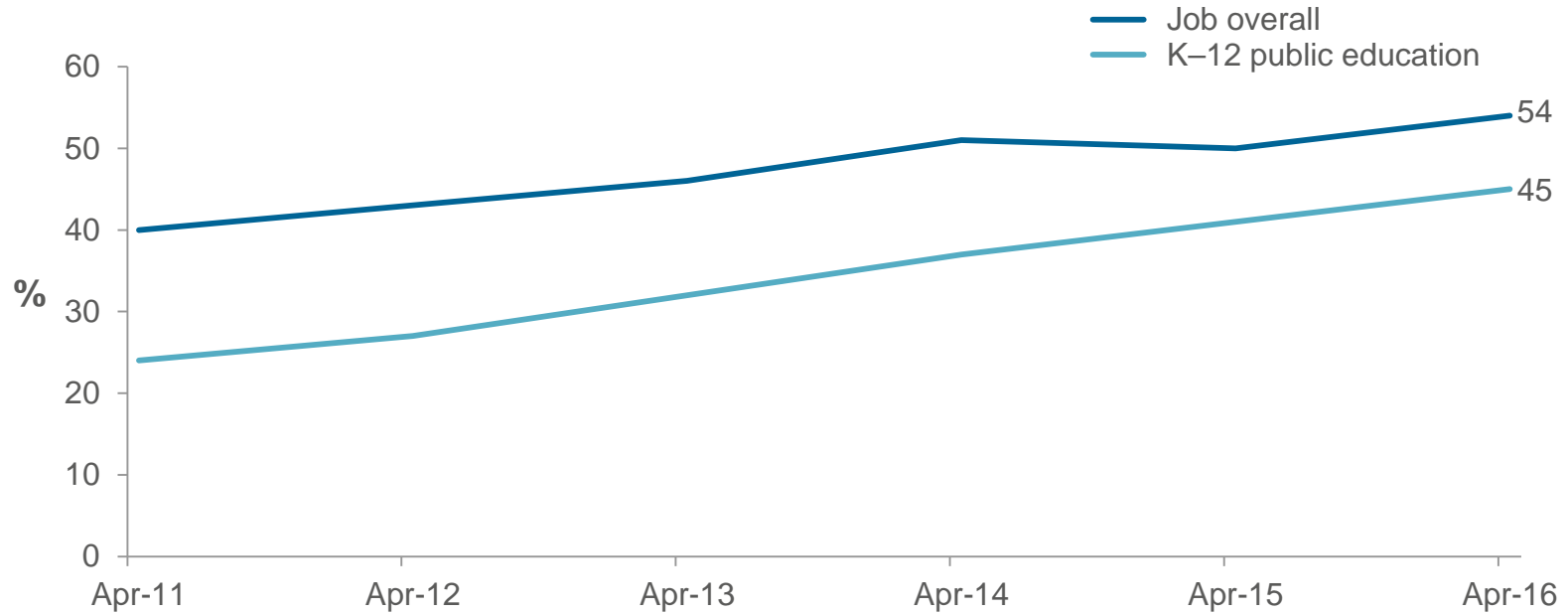
Californians and education

- Conducted with funding from the Bechtel, Kabcenell, Silver Giving, and Stuart Foundations and the LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment
- State government and local schools
 - Approval ratings, school funding, teacher quality and shortage
- Common Core and Local Control
- Early childhood education
- Telephone interviews, April 3–12
 - 1,703 adults, $\pm 3.5\%$ margin of error; 997 likely voters, $\pm 4.4\%$ margin of error
 - 507 parents of children 18 or younger, $\pm 6\%$ margin of error
 - 375 public school parents, $\pm 7\%$ margin of error

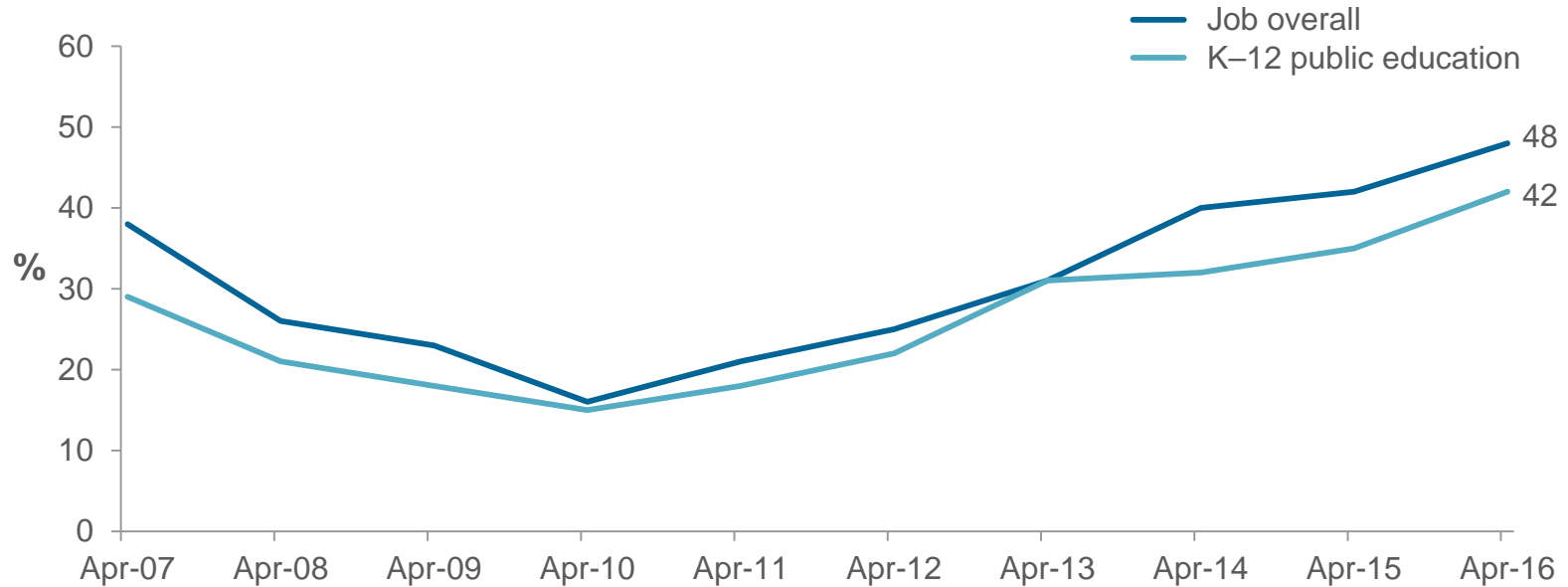
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Approval of Governor Brown

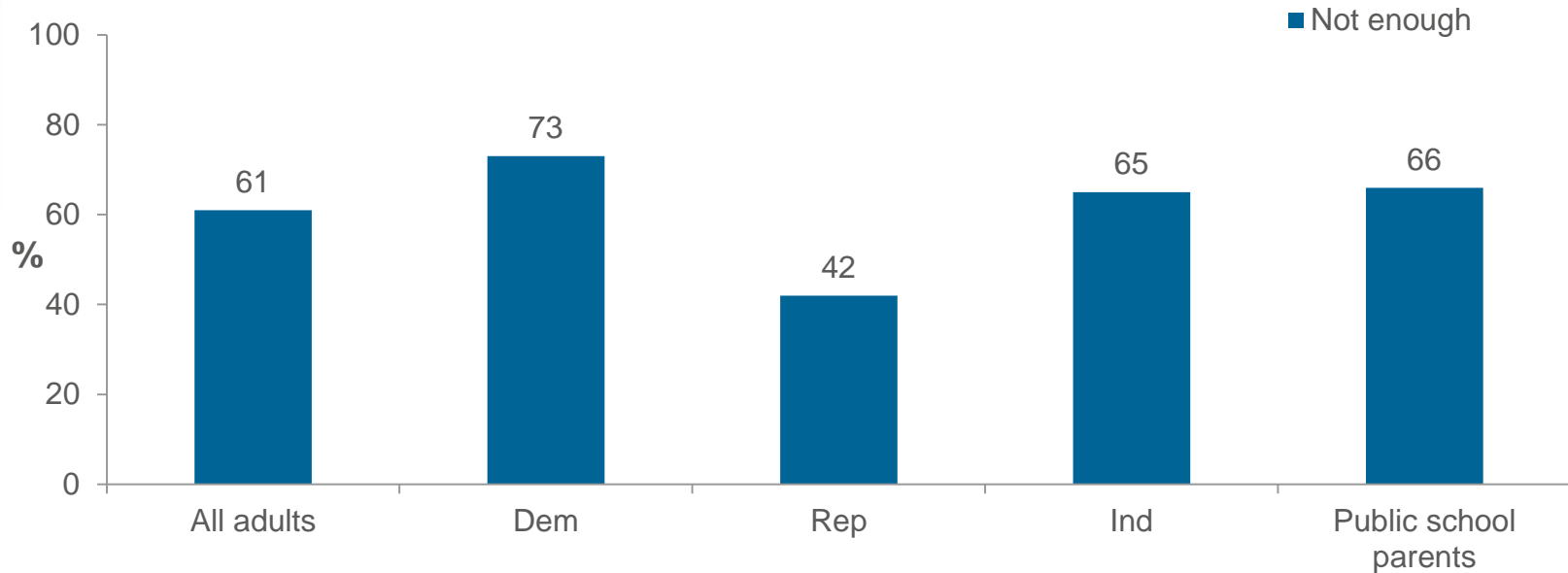


Approval of California Legislature



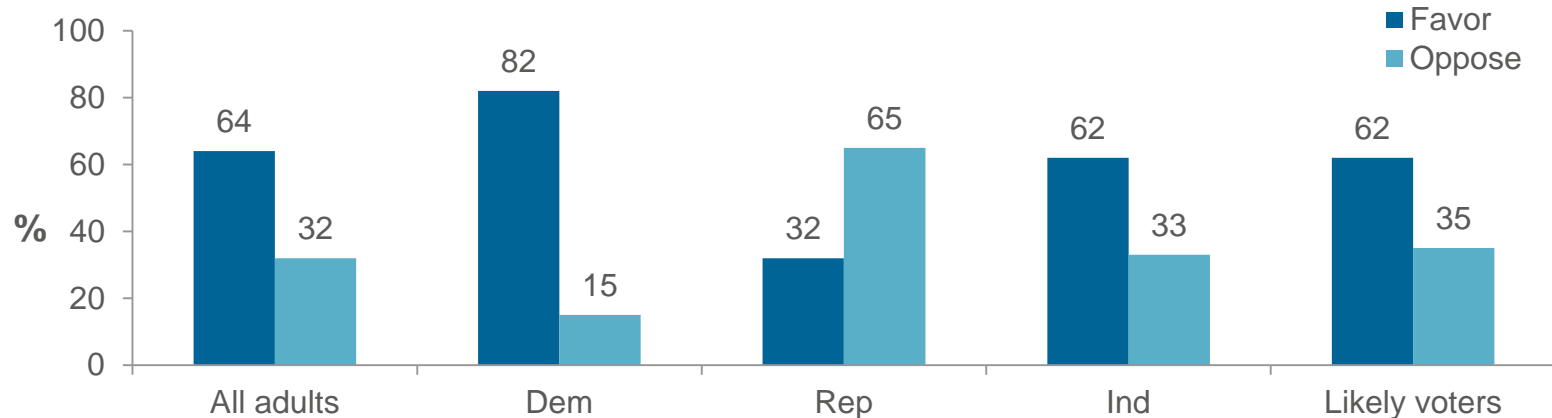
Level of state funding for local schools

Do you think the current level of state funding for your local public schools is more than enough, just enough, or not enough?



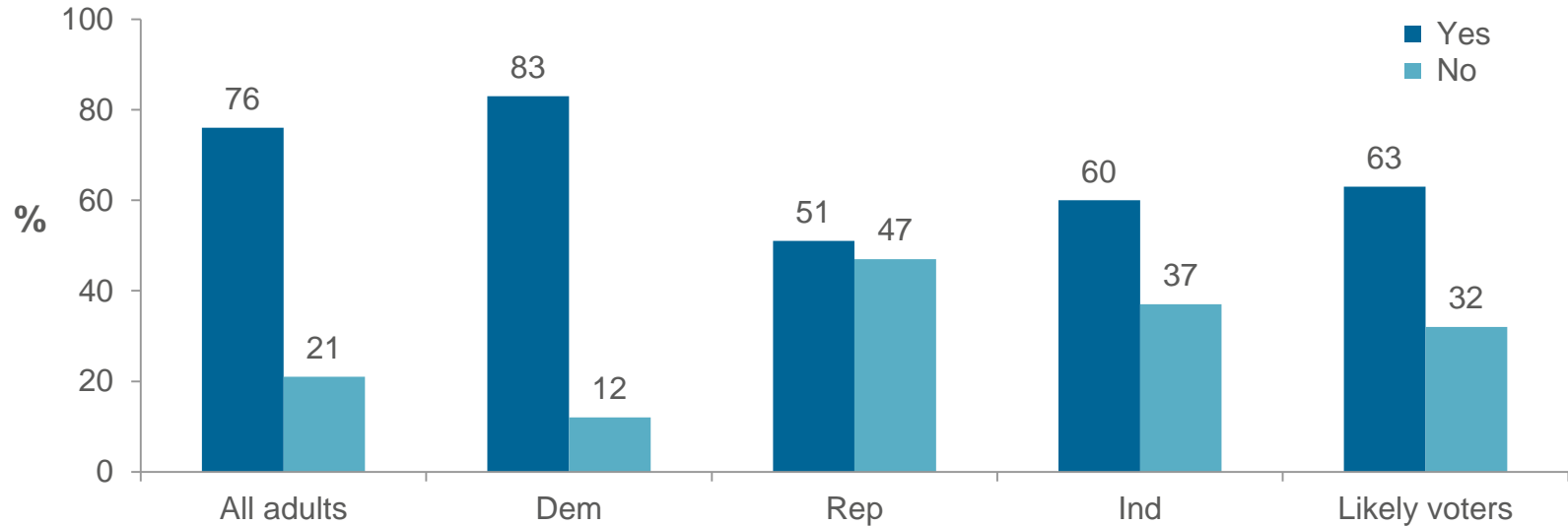
Extending the Proposition 30 income tax increase

As you may know, voters passed Proposition 30 in November 2012. It increased taxes on earnings over \$250,000 until 2018 and sales taxes by one-quarter cent until 2016. Do you favor or oppose extending for 12 years the tax increase on earnings over \$250,000 to fund education and healthcare?



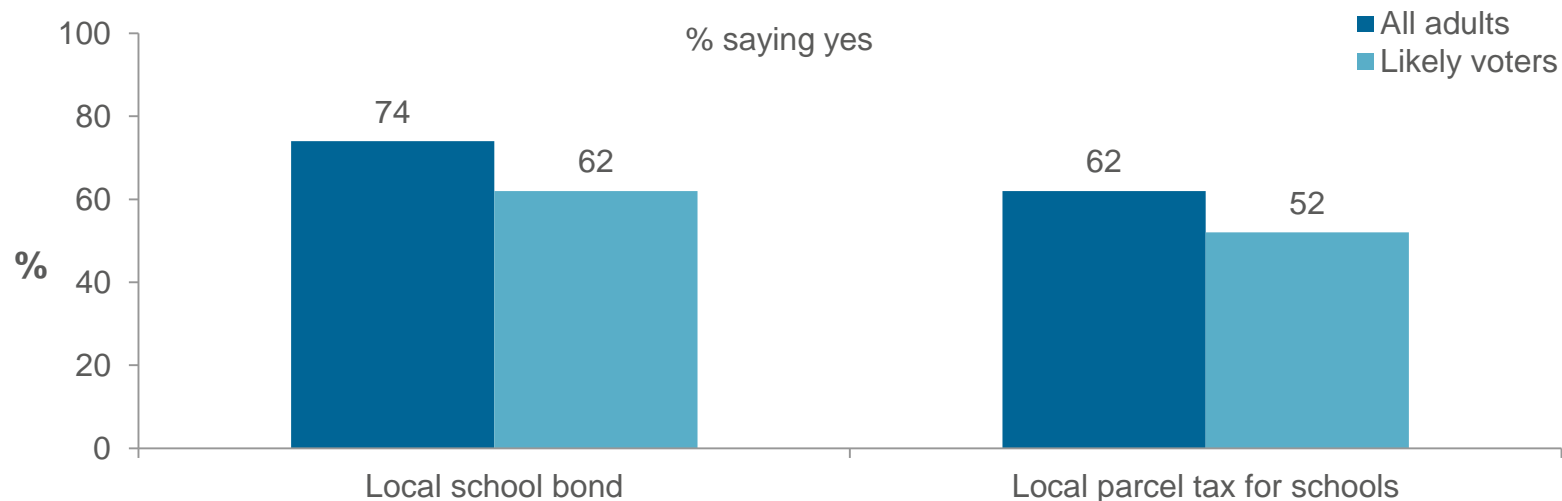
State bond for school construction

If the state ballot had a bond measure to pay for school construction projects, would you vote yes or no?



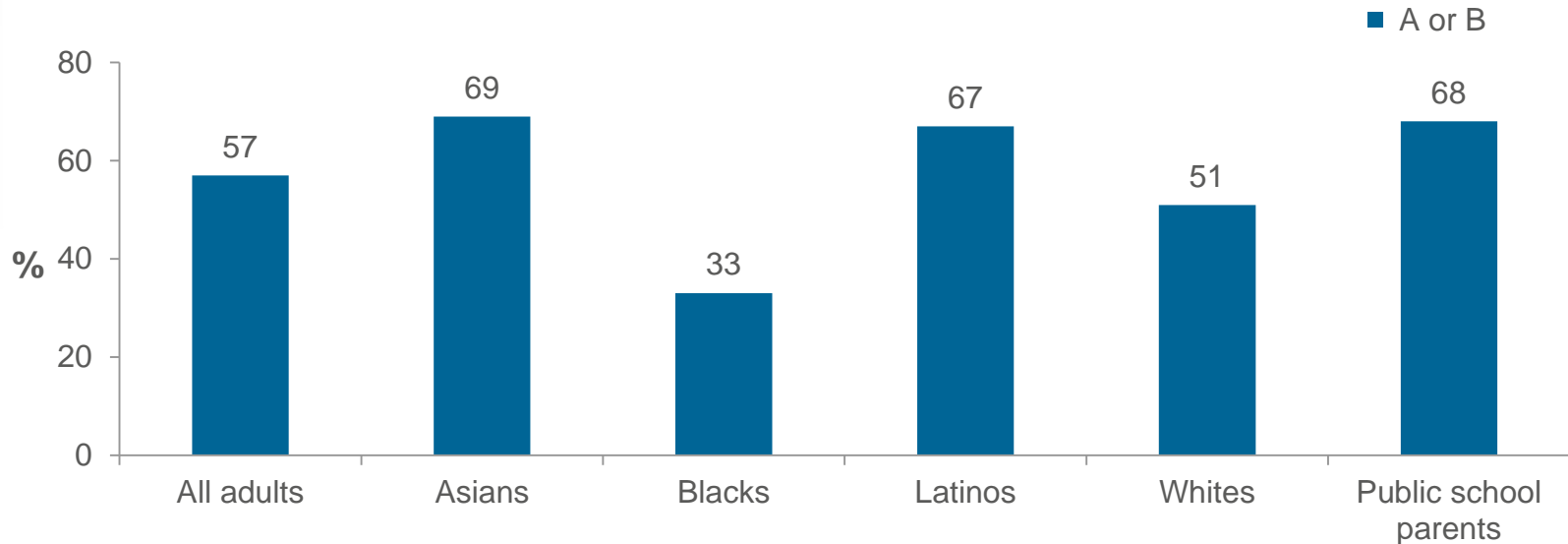
Support for local school bond and parcel tax

If your local school district had a bond measure on the ballot to pay for school construction projects, would you vote yes or no? What if there was a measure on your local ballot to increase local parcel taxes to provide more funds for the local public schools? Would you vote yes or no?



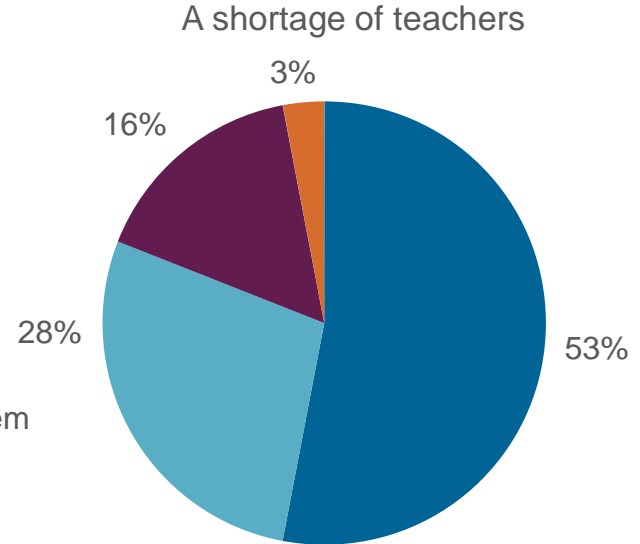
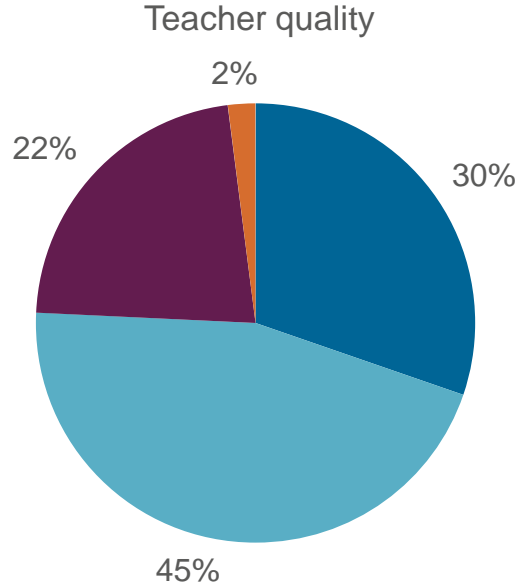
Grading local public schools

Overall, how would you rate the quality of public schools in your neighborhood today? If you had to give your local public schools a grade, would it be A, B, C, D, or F?



Teacher quality and quantity

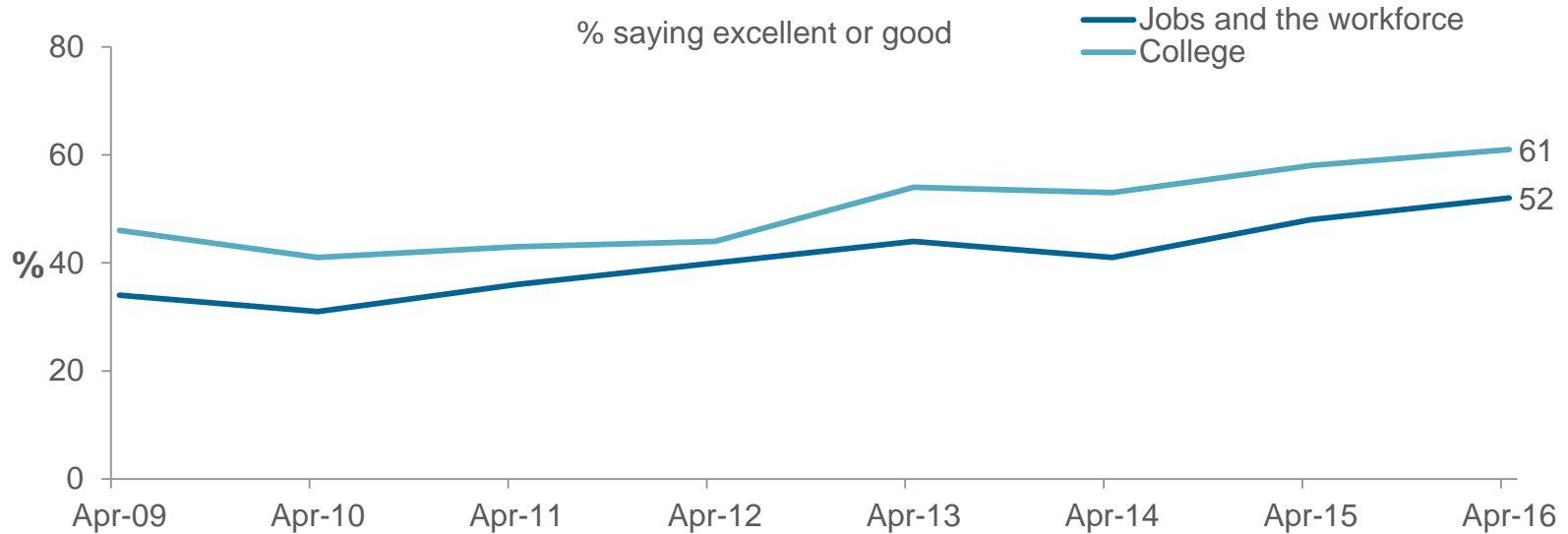
For each one, please tell me if you think it is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not really a problem. How about...?"



All adults

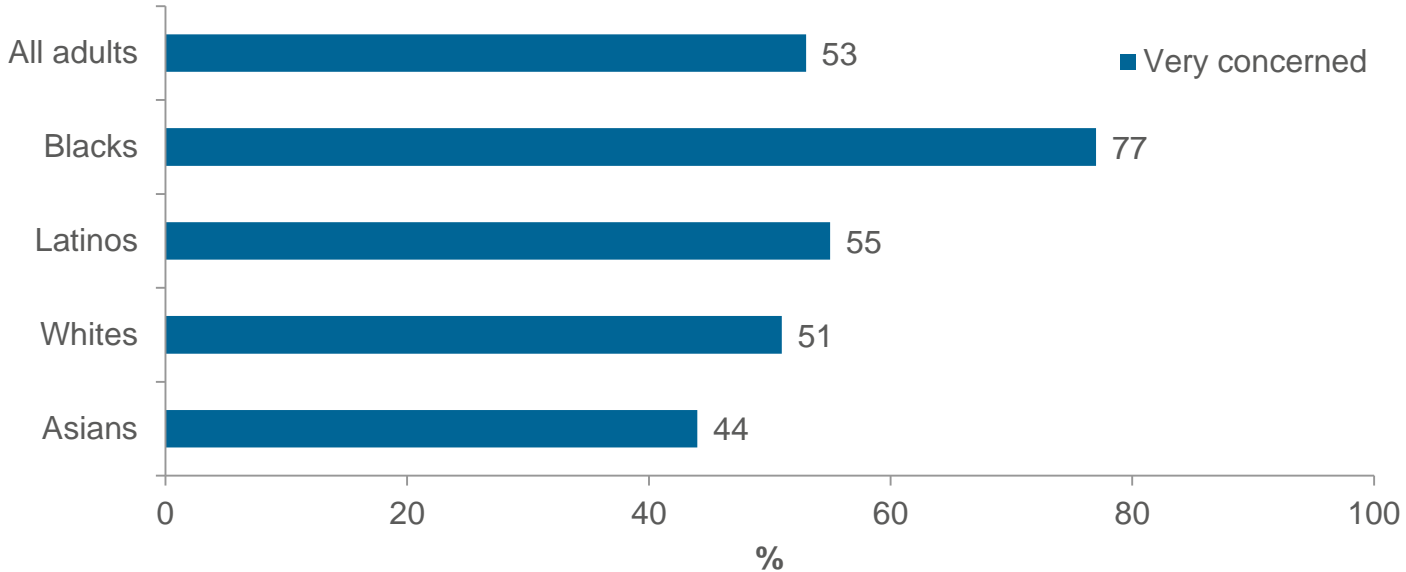
Schools preparing students for the future

Are your local public schools doing an excellent, good, not so good, or poor job in preparing students for...?



Concerns about college readiness in lower-income areas

How concerned are you that students in lower-income areas are less likely than other students to be ready for college when they finish high school?

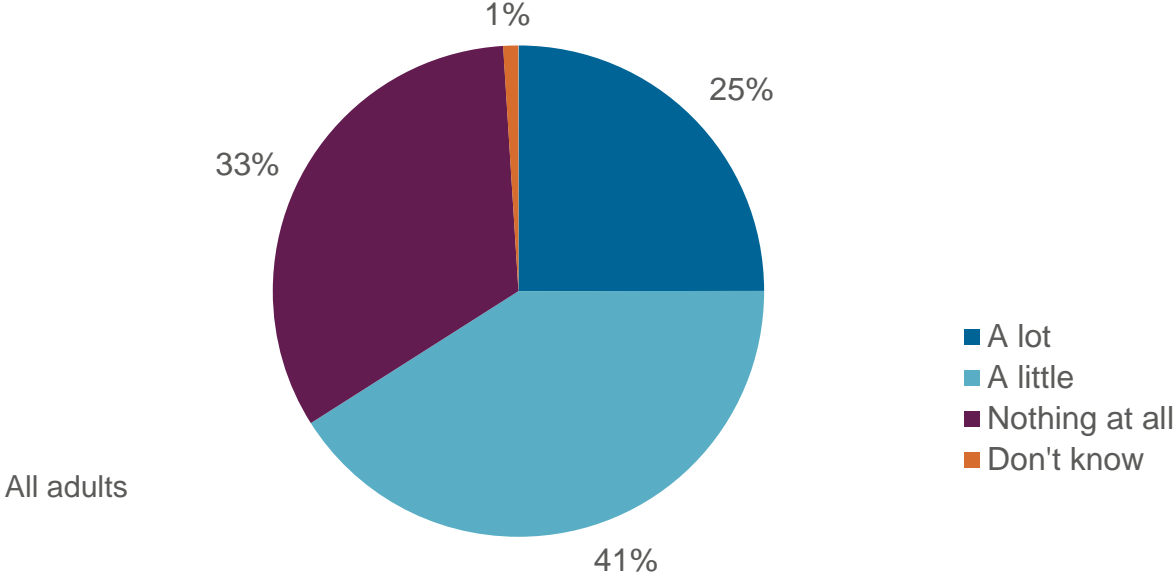


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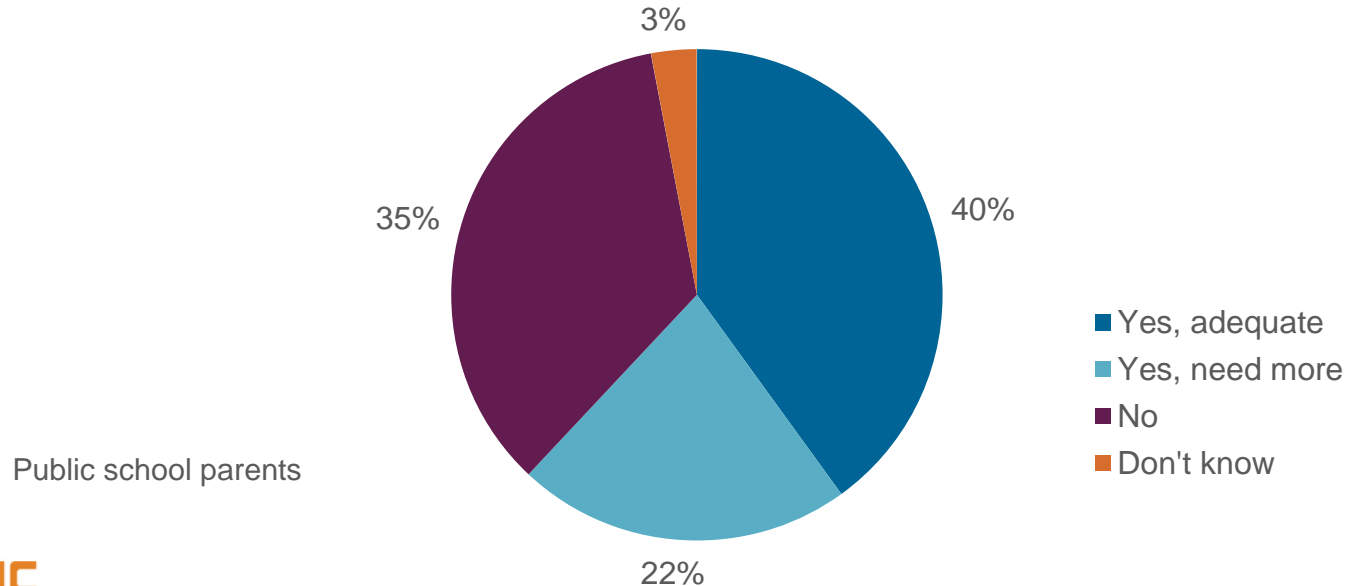
Californians' awareness of Common Core

How much, if anything, have you heard about the Common Core State Standards, a new set of English and math standards that the state began implementing in recent years?



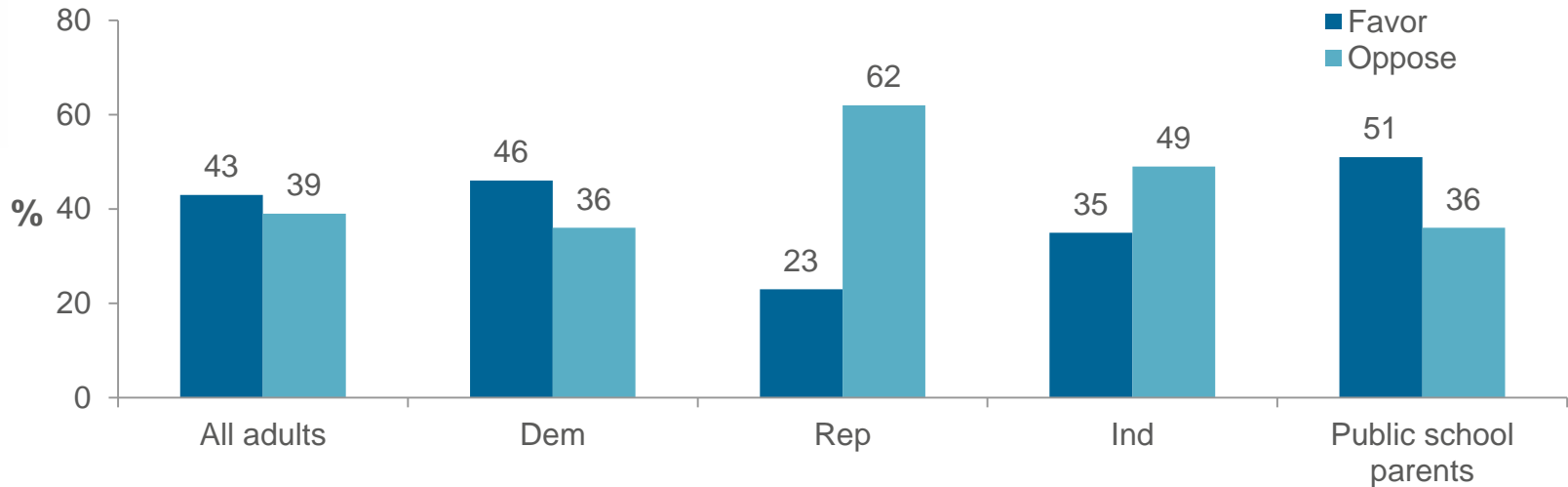
Informing parents about Common Core

Has your child's school or school district provided you with any information about Common Core State Standards, or not? (If yes: Was this information adequate in helping you understand how Common Core will affect your child or do you feel you need more information?)



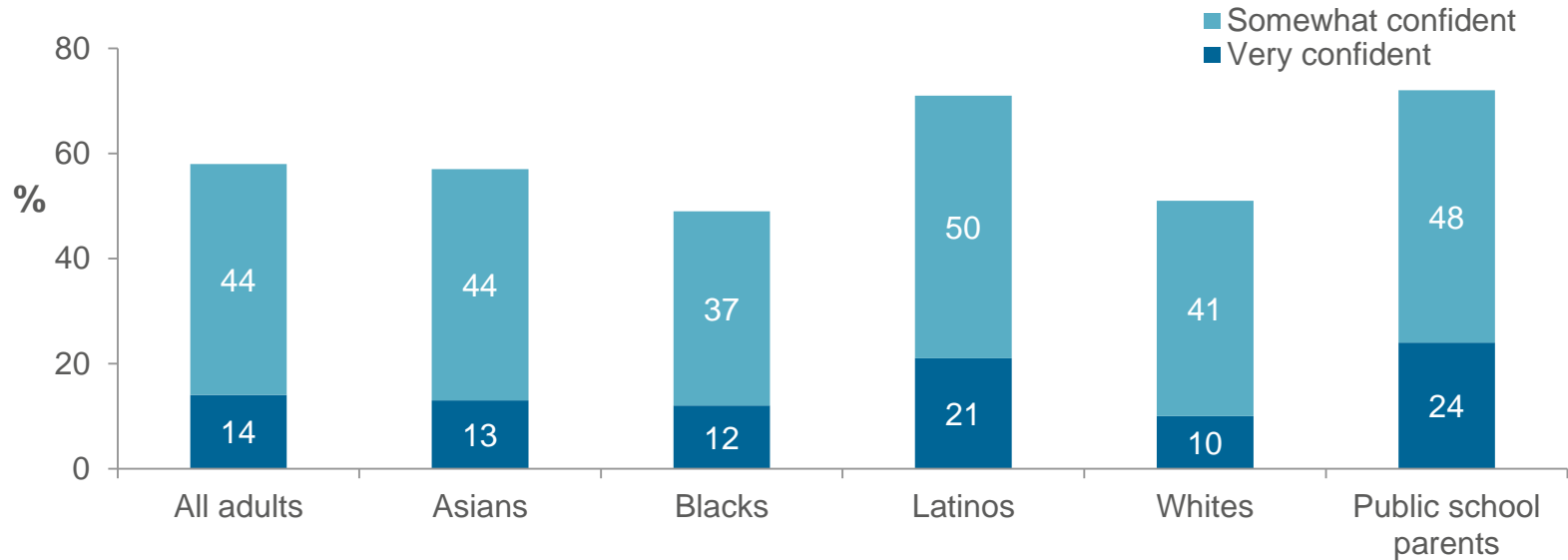
Support for Common Core standards

The Common Core State Standards are a single set of K-to-12 English language arts and math standards that most states, including California, have voluntarily adopted. From what you've read and heard, do you favor or oppose the Common Core education standards?



Teacher preparedness for Common Core

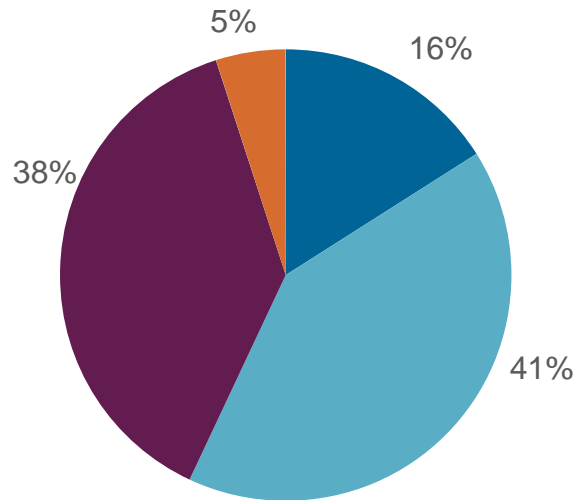
How concerned are you that California's public school teachers are not adequately prepared to implement the Common Core State Standards?



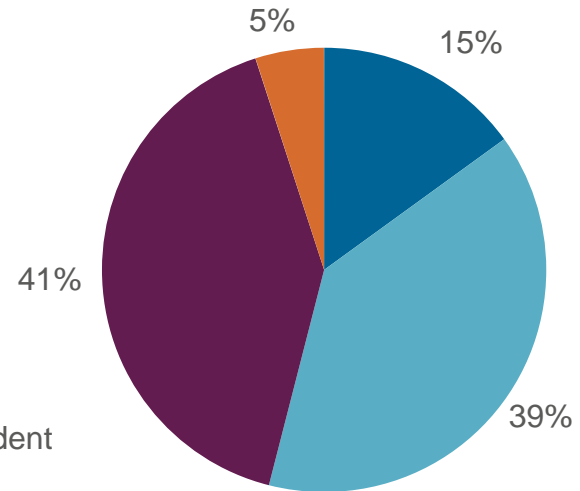
Common Core's impact on student outcomes

How confident are you that implementing Common Core in California's schools will...

Help students develop critical thinking and problem solving skills?



Make students more college or career ready upon graduation?

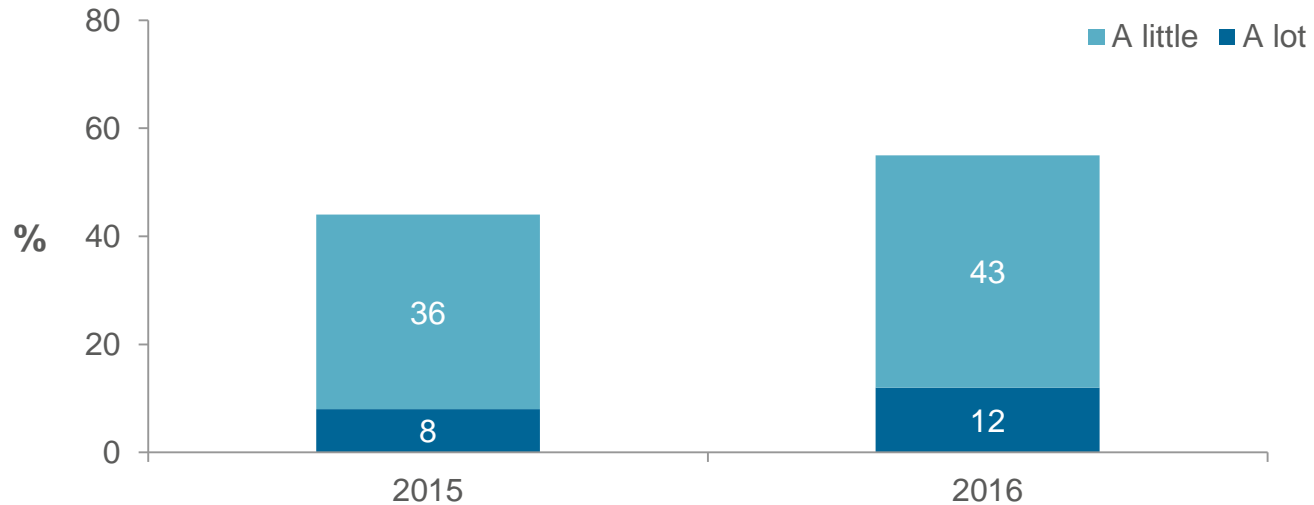


- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not too/Not at all confident
- Don't know

All adults

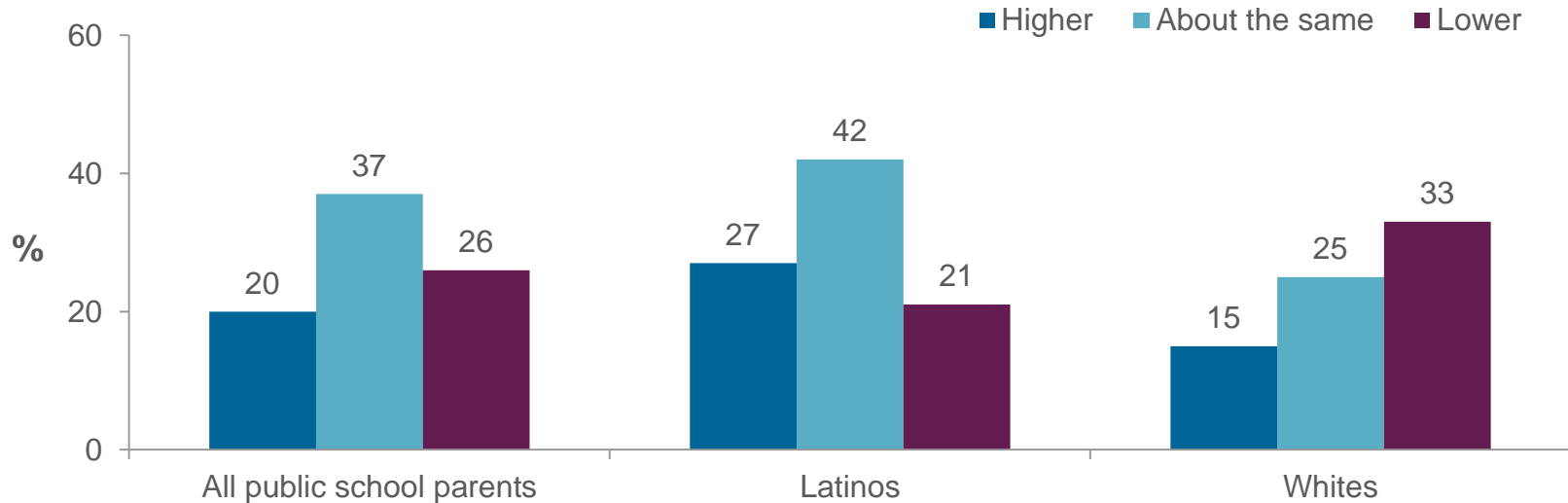
Parents' awareness of the Smarter Balanced Assessment tests

How much, if anything, have you heard about the Smarter Balanced Assessment tests, the new standardized tests which will be administered online in public schools in a number of states which have implemented the Common Core State Standards? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all?



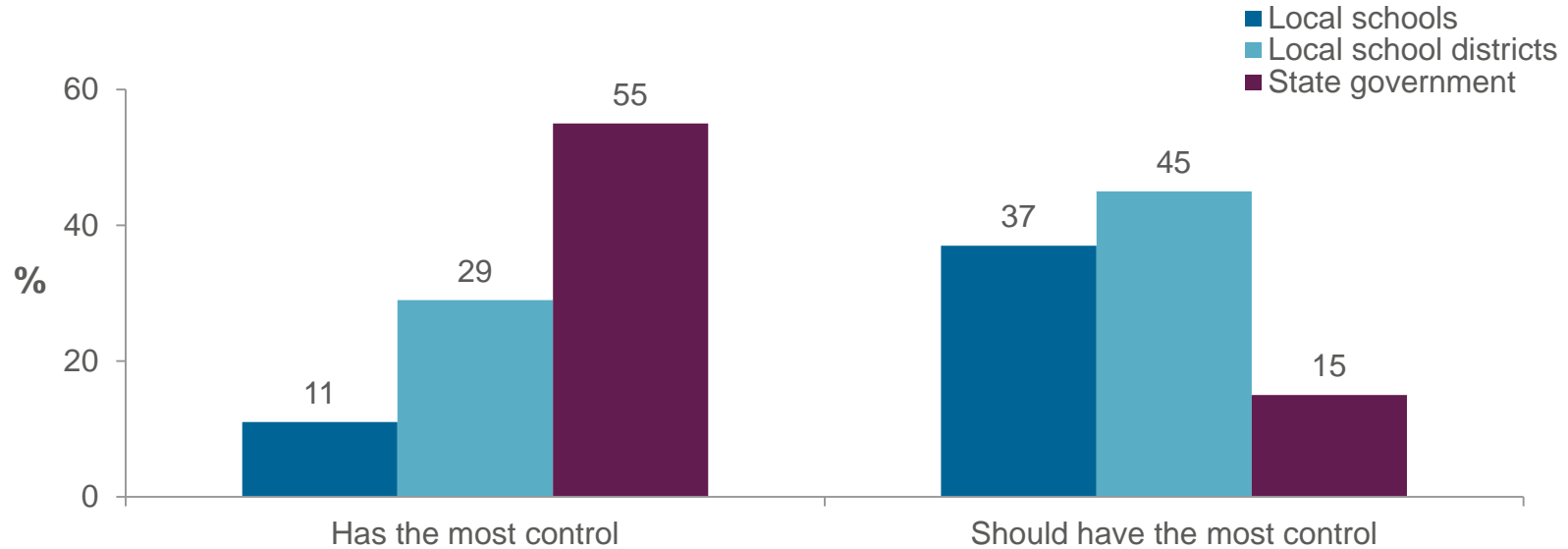
Student scores on first Smarter Balanced tests

Compared to past test scores do you think that as a whole California students scored higher, lower, or about the same on the new Smarter Balanced Assessment tests?



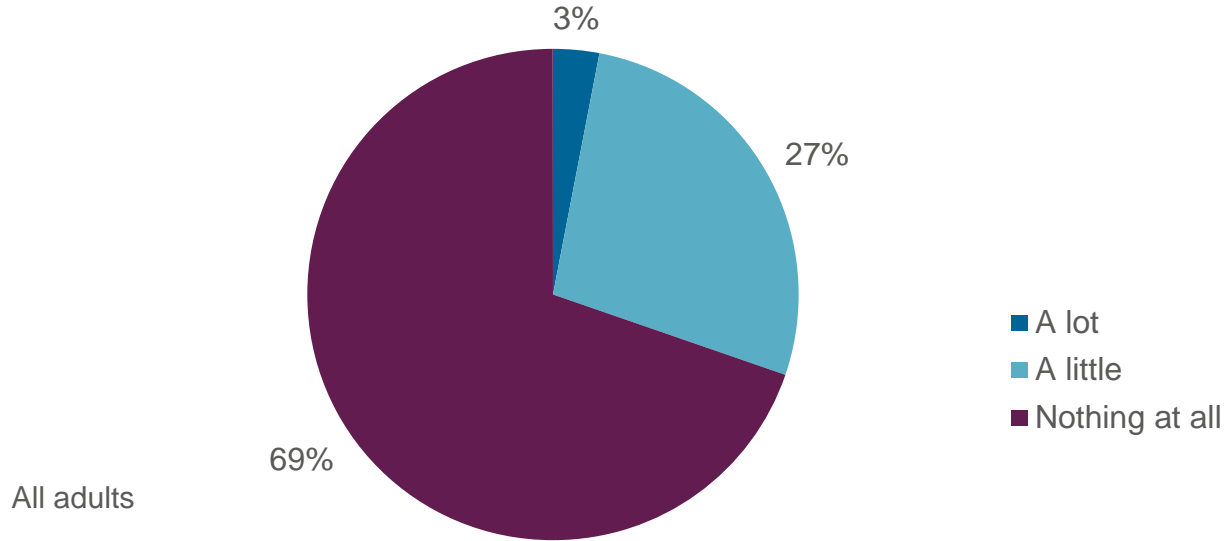
Control over local school funding

Who do you think _____ in deciding how the money from state government is spent in local public schools—the local schools, the local school districts, or the state government?



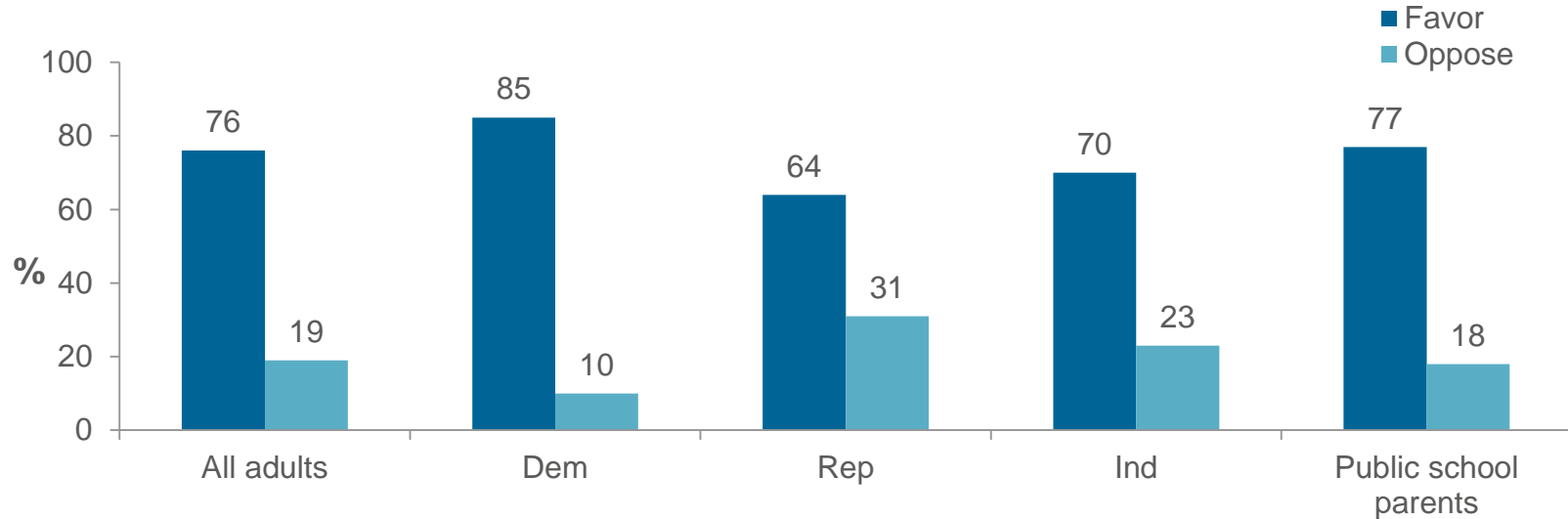
Californians' awareness of the Local Control Funding Formula

How much, if anything, have you heard about the Local Control Funding Formula, a policy enacted in recent years that changes the way K–12 public school districts are funded in California?



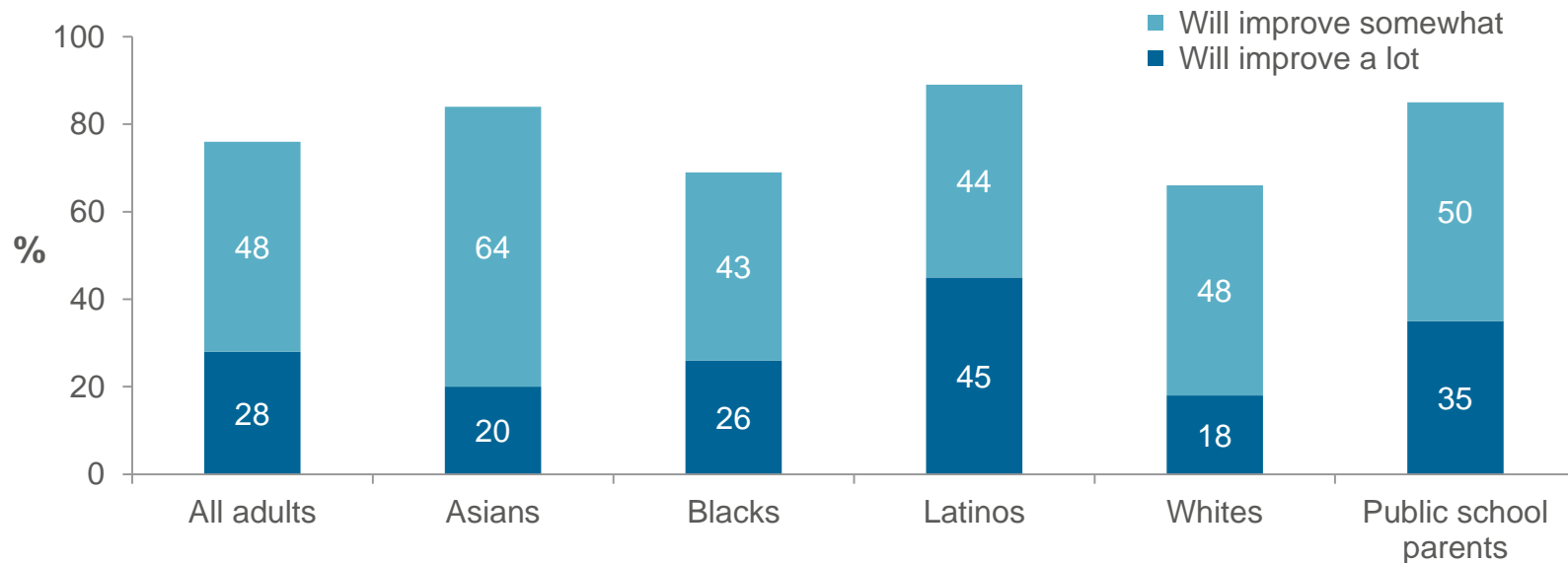
Support for the new funding formula

The Local Control Funding Formula provides additional funding to school districts that have more English language learners and lower-income students and gives local school districts more flexibility over how state funding is spent. In general, do you favor or oppose this plan?



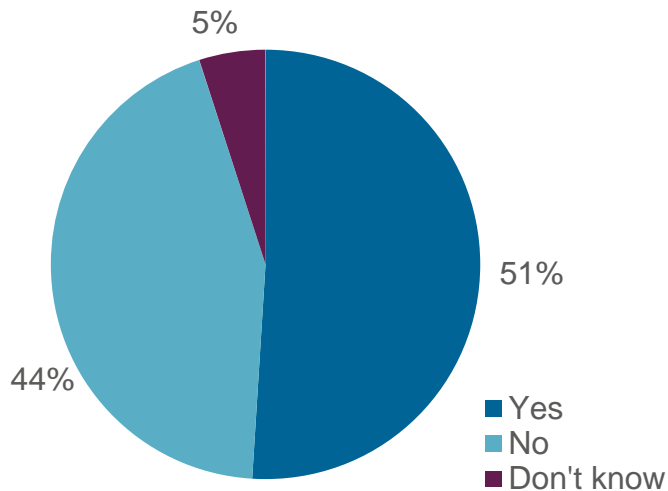
New funding plan's impact on student achievement

As the state implements the Local Control Funding Formula, do you think the academic achievement of English language learners and lower-income students will or will not improve?

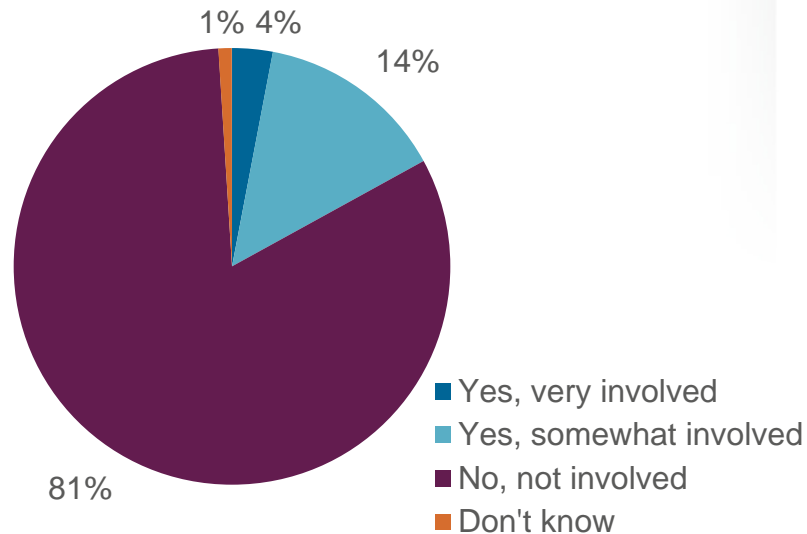


Parental involvement in district accountability plans

Did your child's school or school district provide you with information about how to become involved, or not?



And were you involved in the development of your local school district's accountability plan? (if yes: Were you very involved or somewhat involved?)



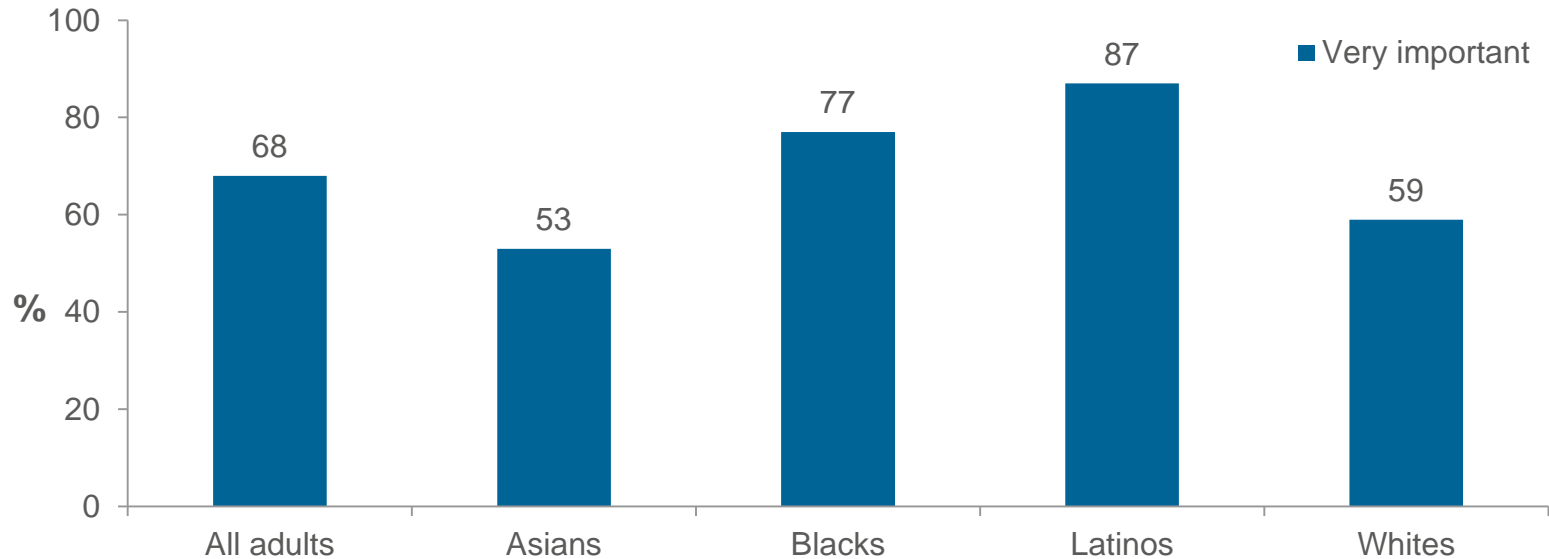
Public school parents

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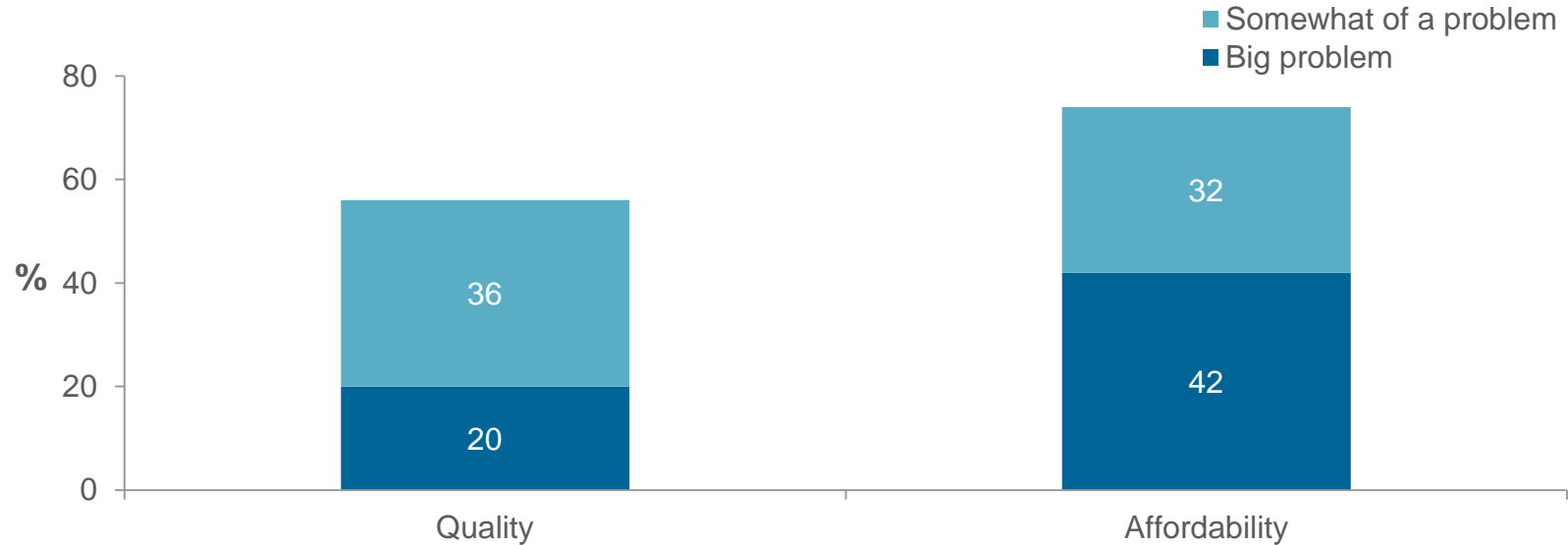
Importance of preschool for K–12 success

How important is attending preschool to a student's success in kindergarten through grade 12?



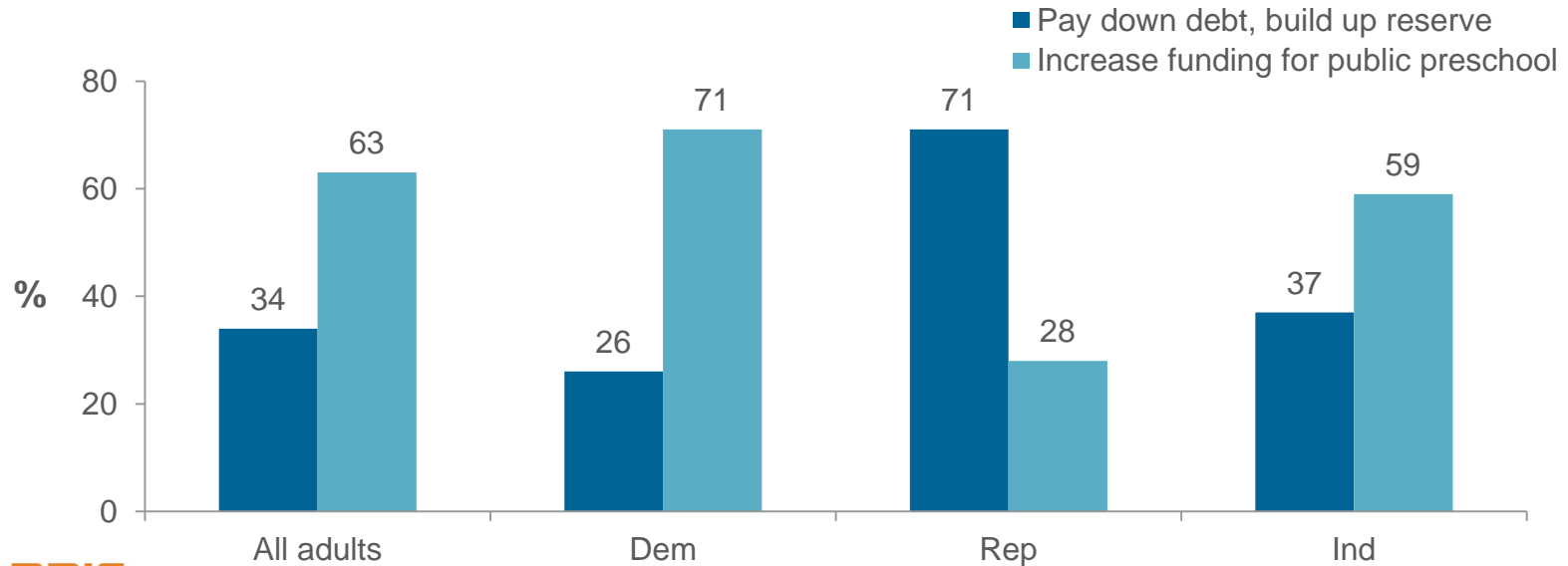
Preschool quality and affordability

How much of a problem is the _____ of preschool education in California today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?



Budget surplus and public preschool funding

In general, how would you prefer to use this extra money? Would you prefer to pay down state debt and build up the reserve or would you prefer to use some of this money to increase funding for public preschool and early childhood education programs in California?



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Conclusions

- Most Californians feel state funding for local schools is inadequate; solid majorities favor a Prop 30 income tax increase extension and state and local school bonds
- Though a majority of Californians give their local schools relatively high marks, there are concerns about inequity and overall quality of education in the state.
- There are partisan divisions on Common Core, but public school parents are confident that it will help students be college ready and develop critical thinking skills.
- Few Californians have heard about LCFF, but when presented with a short description of the policy, most are supportive.
- Californians see preschool as important for K–12 success and most prefer to spend some of the state budget surplus on early childhood education programs.

Notes on the use of these slides

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:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.