

# PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

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PPIC



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# 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
  - 292,000+ Californians since 1998
  - 135+ general, issue, and regional surveys



# Californians and Their Government

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- General series funded by The James Irvine Foundation
- State government
  - Approval ratings, most important issues
  - State budget situation, 2014–15 budget proposal
  - Spending preferences, fiscal reforms
- Federal government
  - Approval ratings
  - Opinions on health care and immigration reform
- Telephone interviews, January 14 to 21
  - 1,706 adults/1,151 likely voters
    - $\pm 3.8\%$  margin of error for adults
    - $\pm 4.6\%$  for likely voters



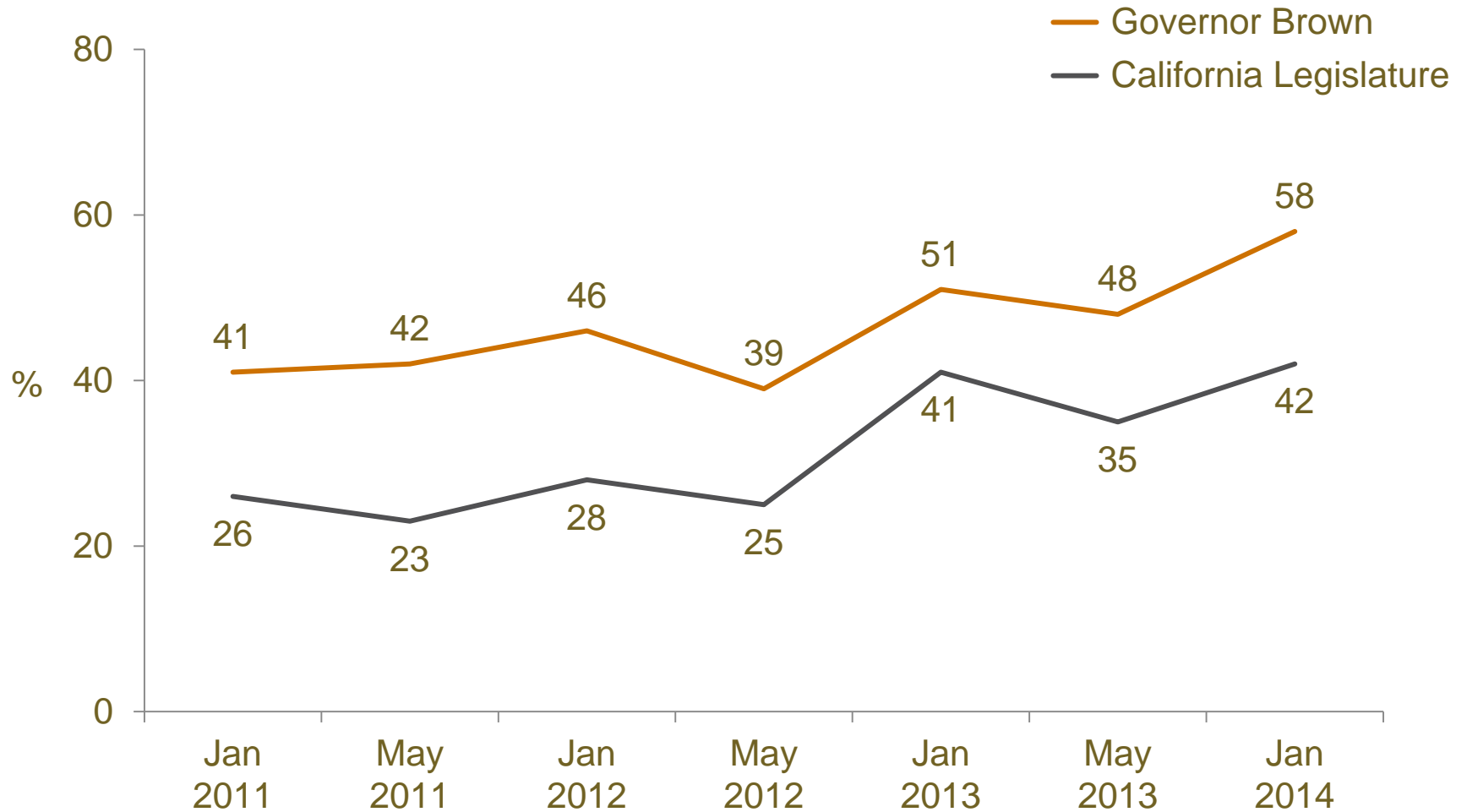
# Outline

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- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- State government
- Federal government
- Conclusions

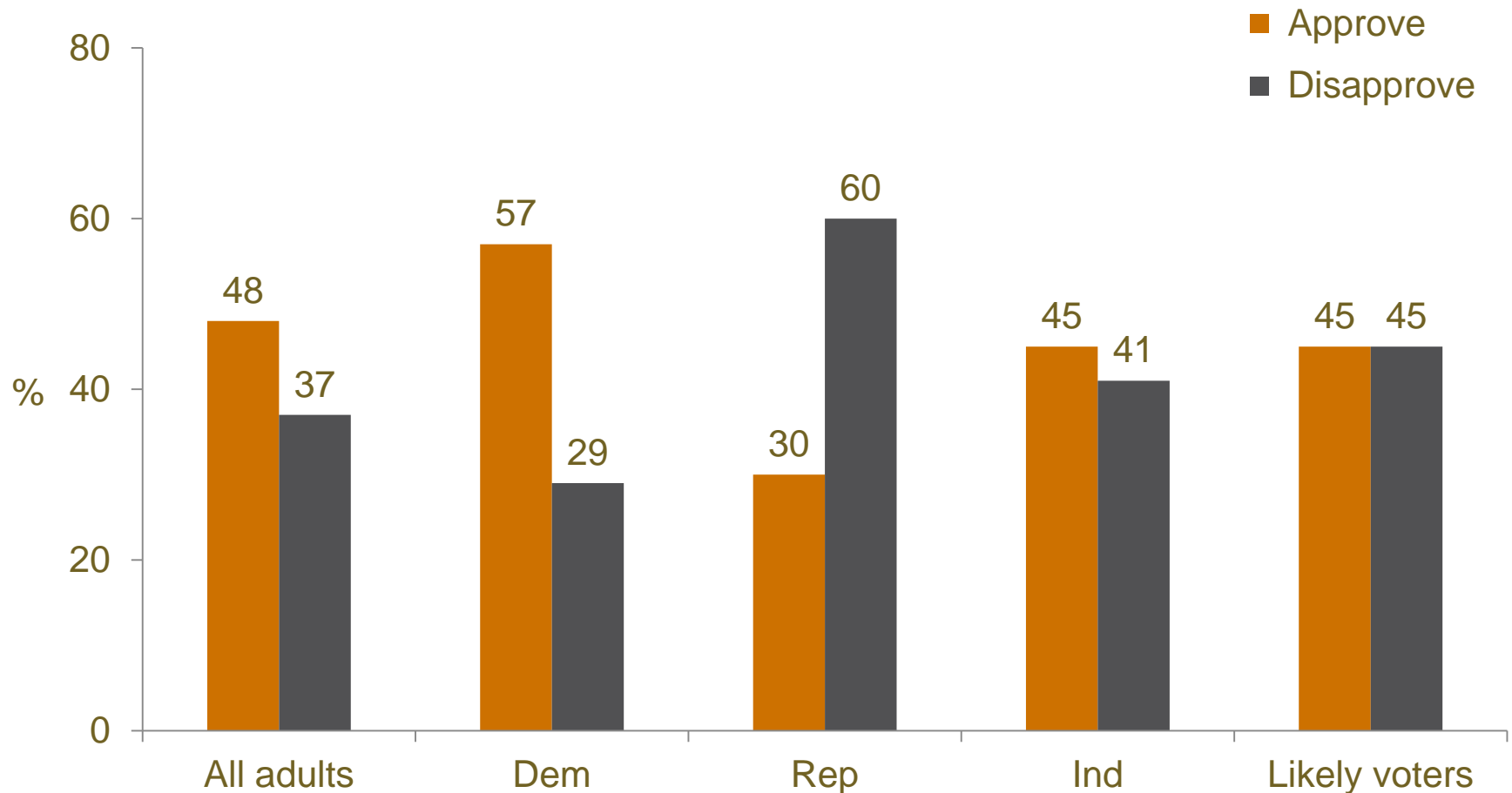


# Approval of state elected officials



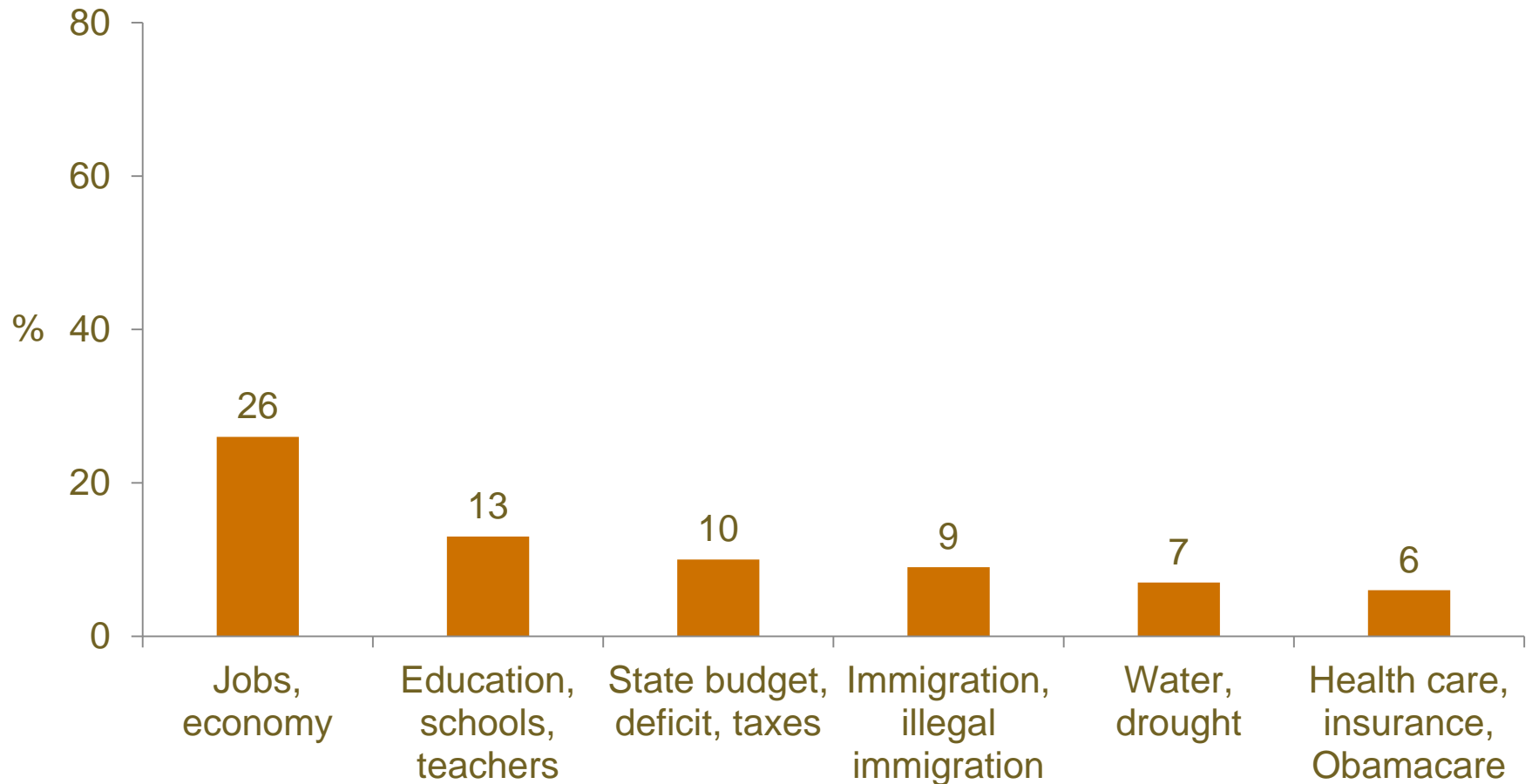
# Approval of own legislators

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job that the state legislators representing your assembly and senate districts are doing at this time?



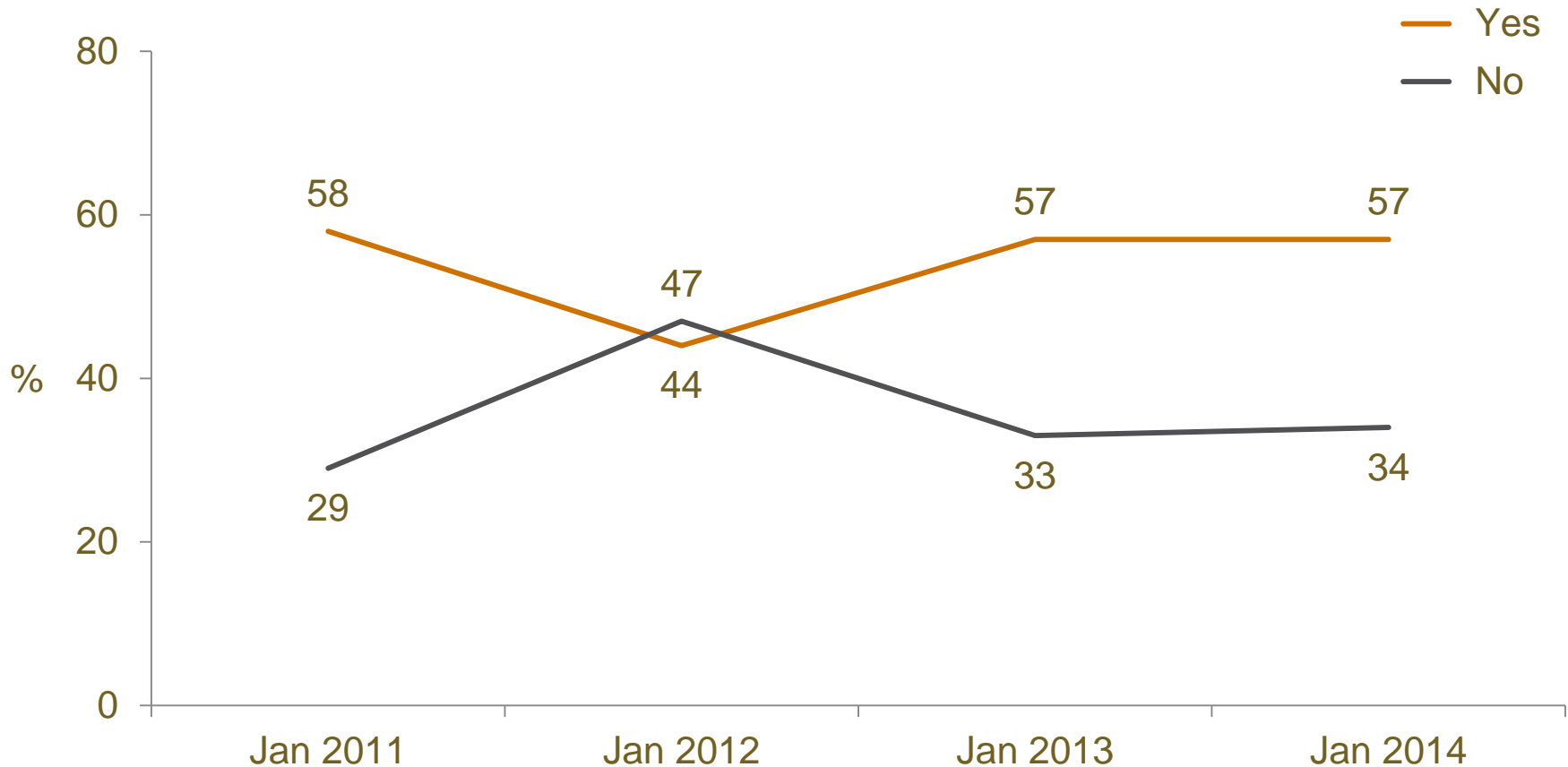
# Most important issue in 2014

Which one issue facing California today do you think is the most important for the governor and state legislature to work on in 2014?



# Outlook for cooperation at state level

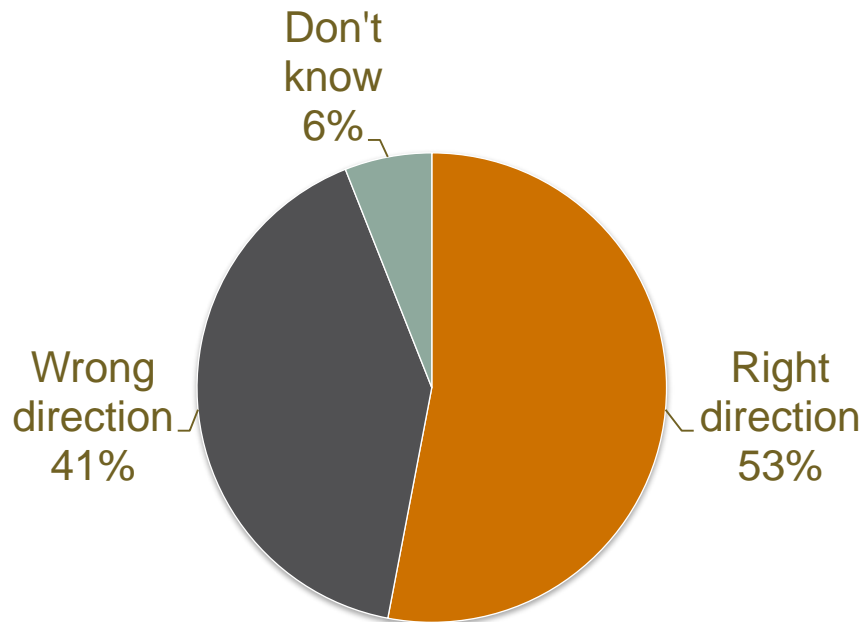
Do you think that Governor Brown and the state legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?



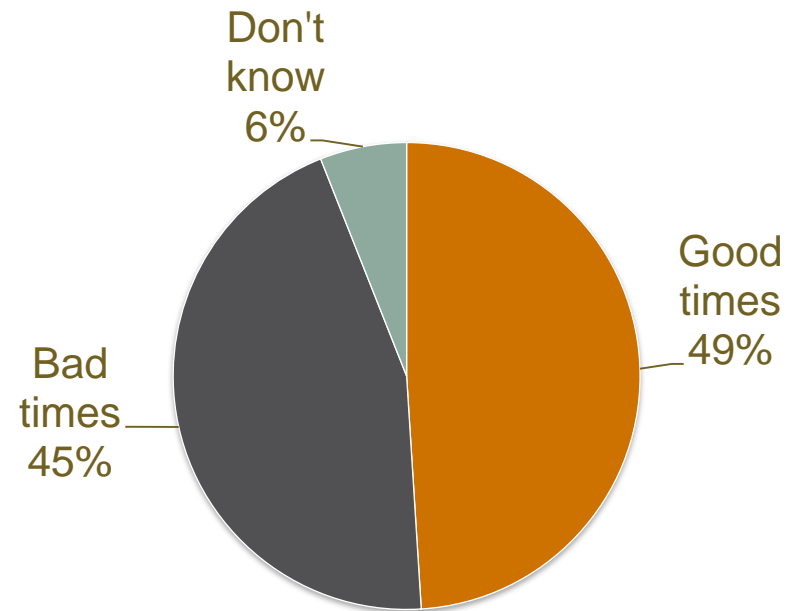


# Outlook for the state

Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?



Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?

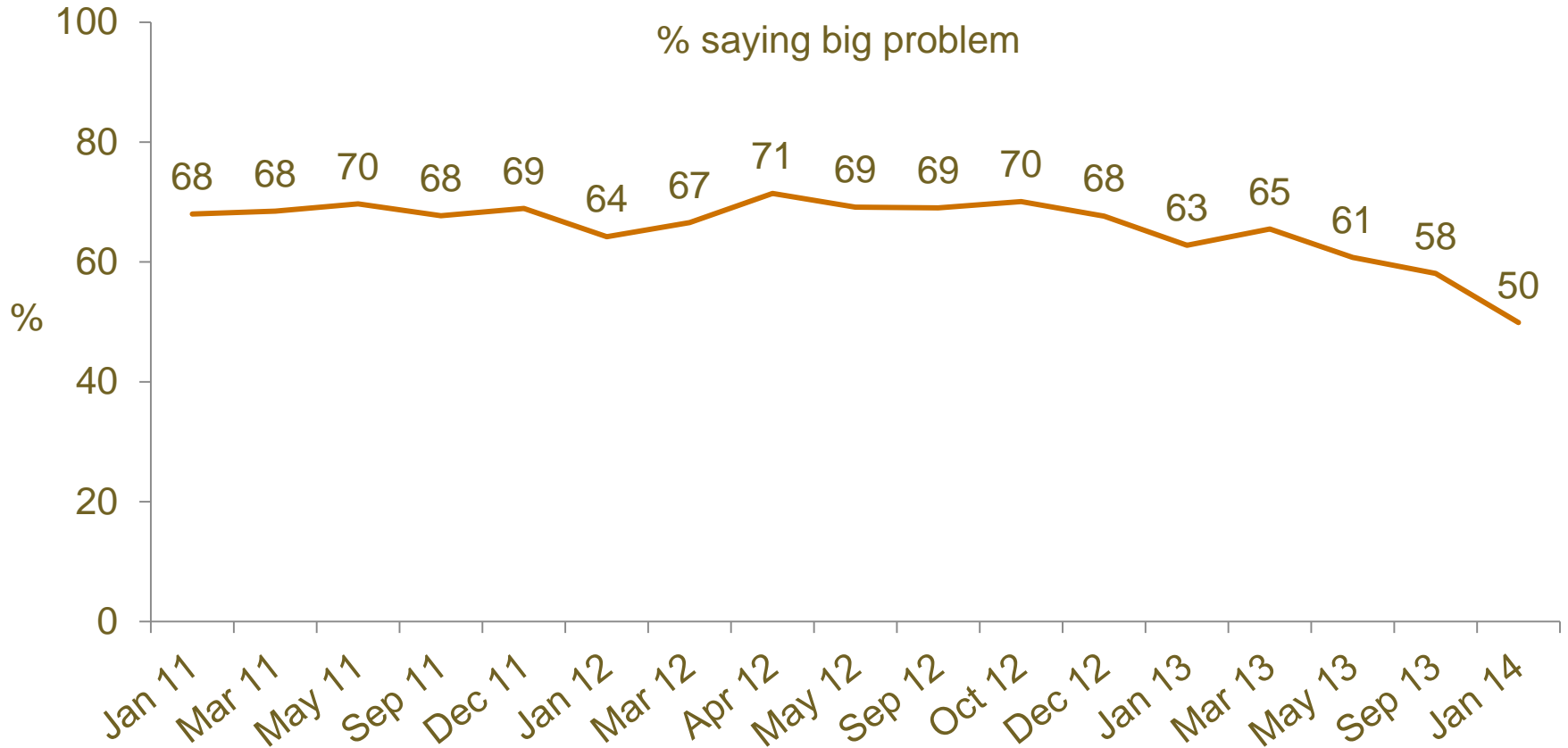


All adults



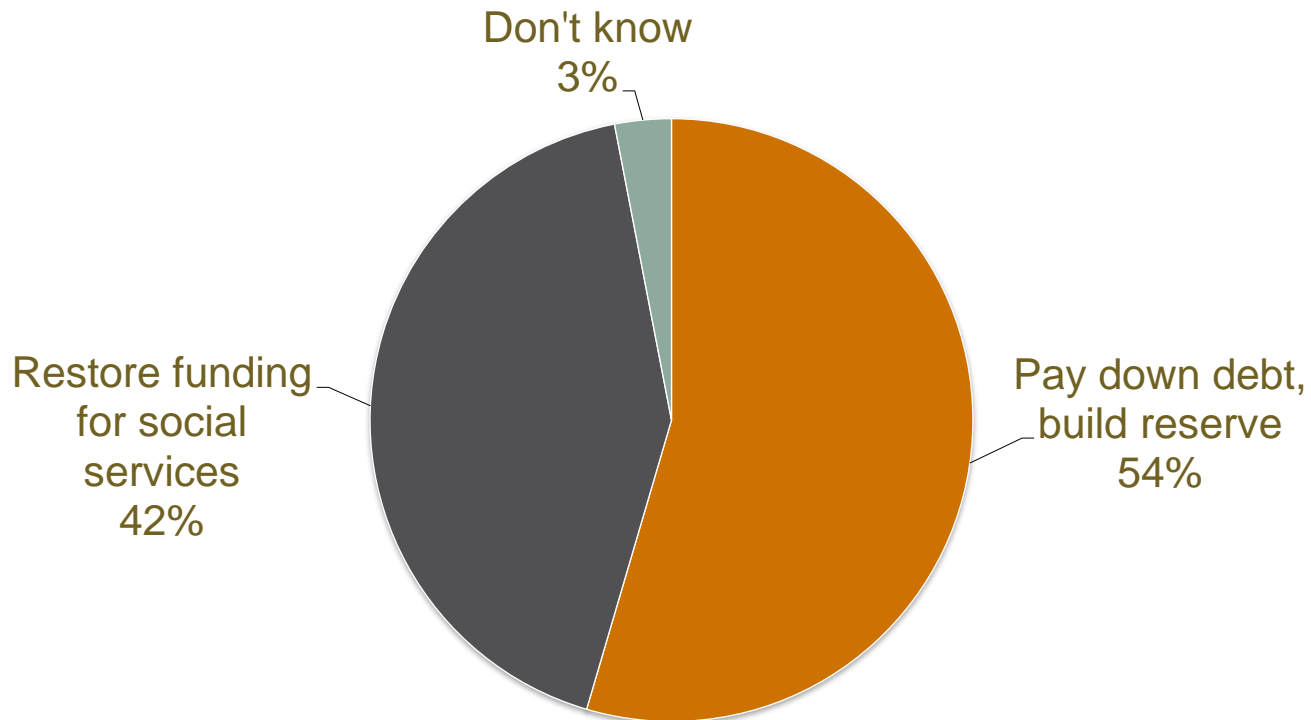
# Views of the state budget situation

Do you think the state budget situation in California—that is, the balance between government spending and revenues—is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem for the people of California today?



# Preferences for use of state surplus

Would you prefer to pay down state debt and build up the reserve, or would you prefer to use some of this money to restore some funding for social service programs that were cut in recent years?

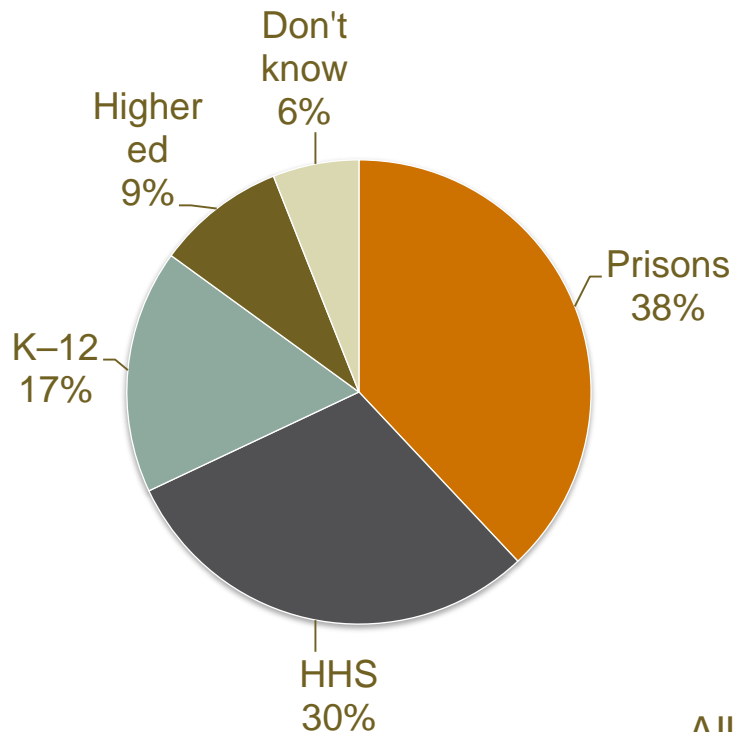


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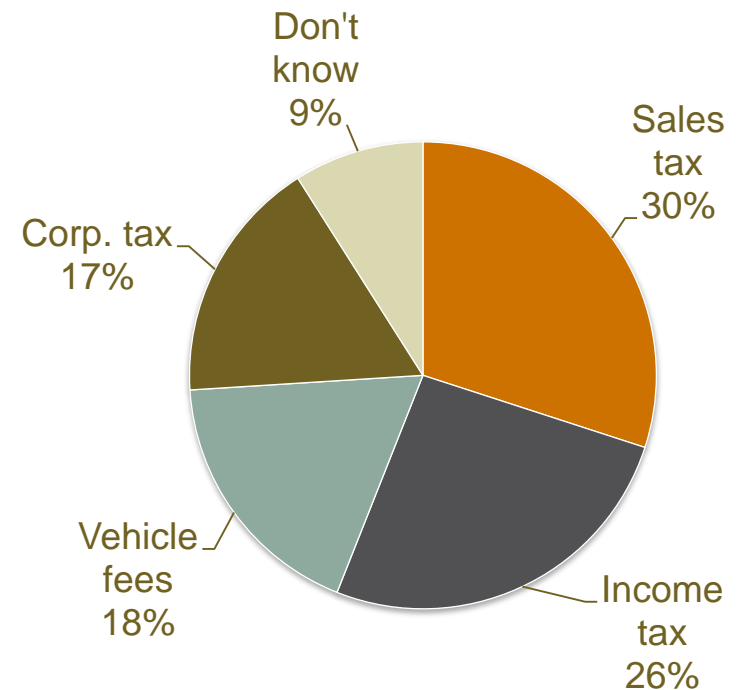


# Knowledge of state spending and revenue

I'm going to name some of the largest areas for state spending. Please tell me the one that represents the most spending in the state budget.



I'm going to name some of the largest areas for state revenues. Please tell me the one that represents the most revenue for the state budget.



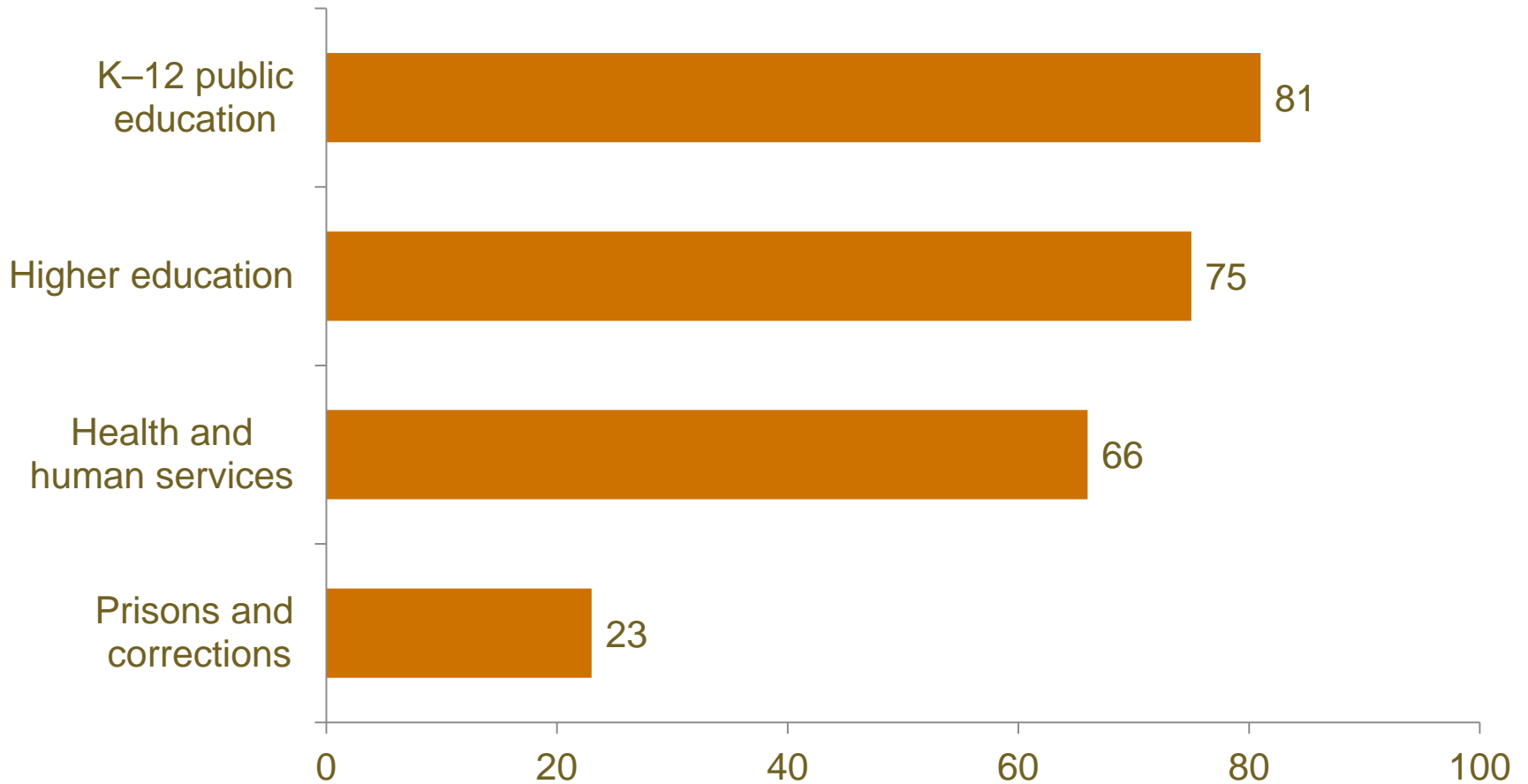
All adults



# Preferences for state spending

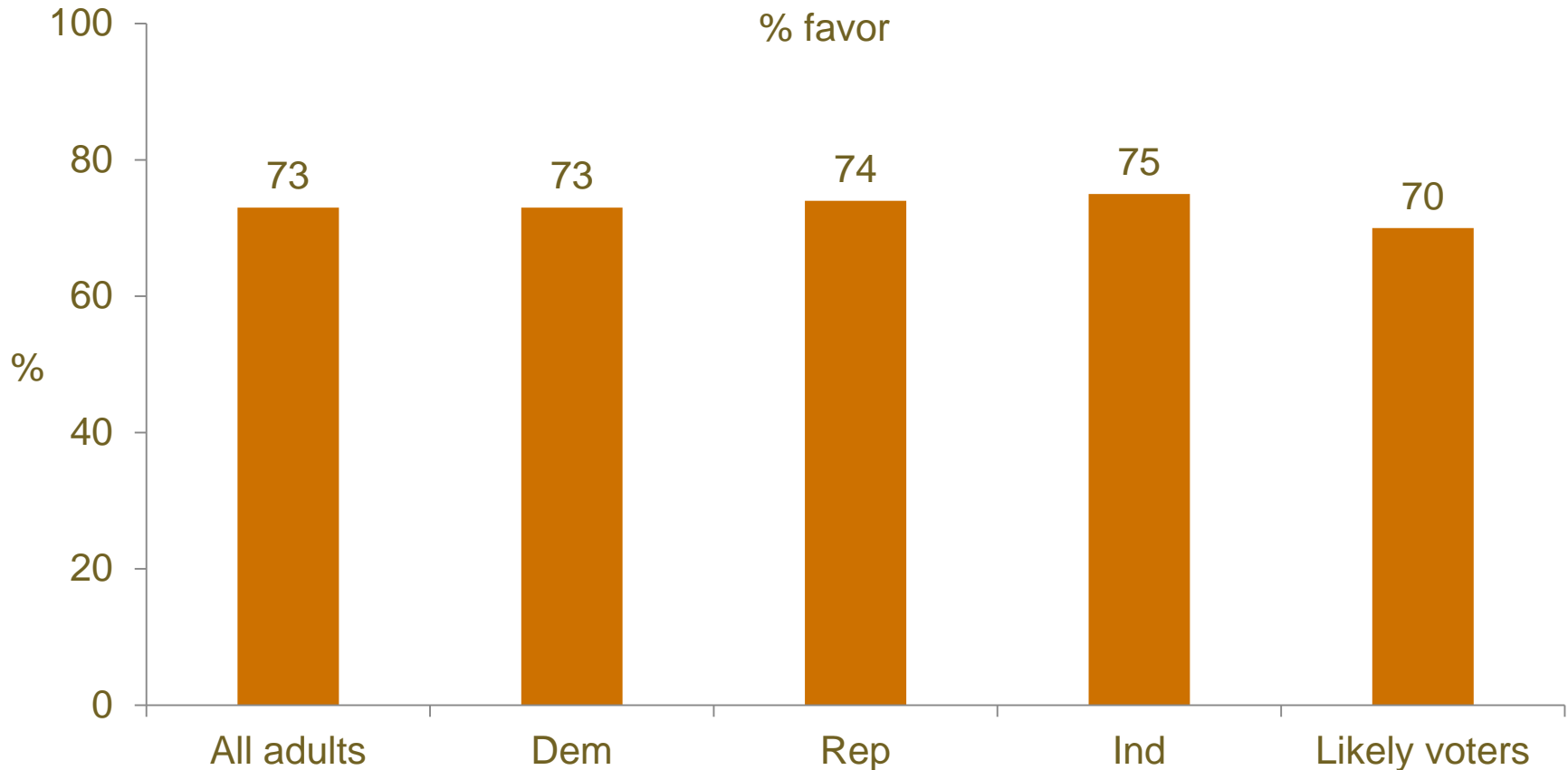
Please tell me if you favor or oppose increasing state spending in the following areas?

% favor



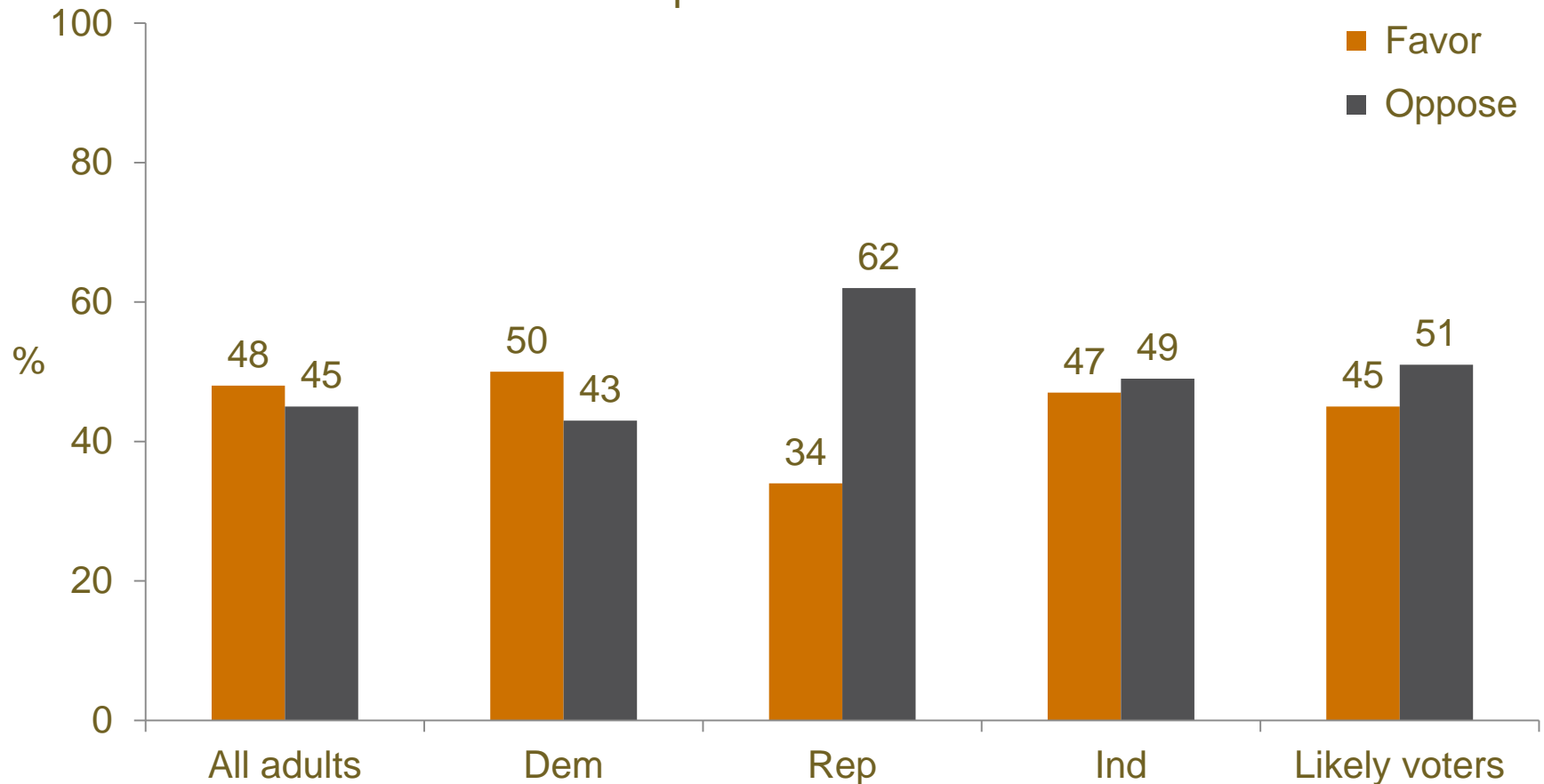
# Increasing the rainy day fund

Do you favor or oppose increasing the size of the state's rainy day fund and requiring above-average revenues to be deposited into it for use during economic downturns?



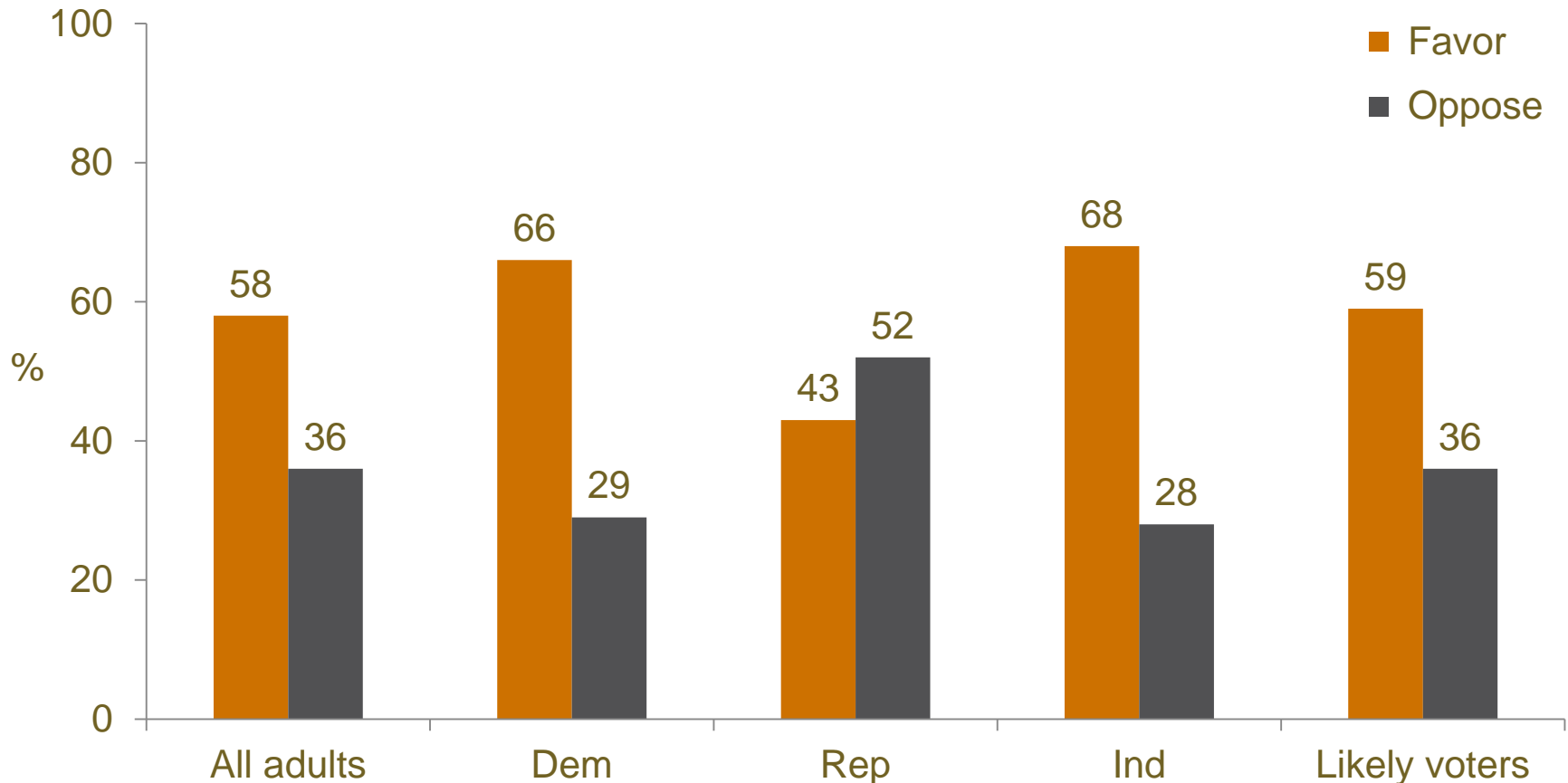
# Lowering the vote threshold for local special taxes

Under Proposition 13, a two-thirds vote at the ballot box is required to pass any new local special tax. Do you favor or oppose replacing the two-thirds vote requirement with a 55 percent majority vote for voters to pass local special taxes?



# Split roll property tax

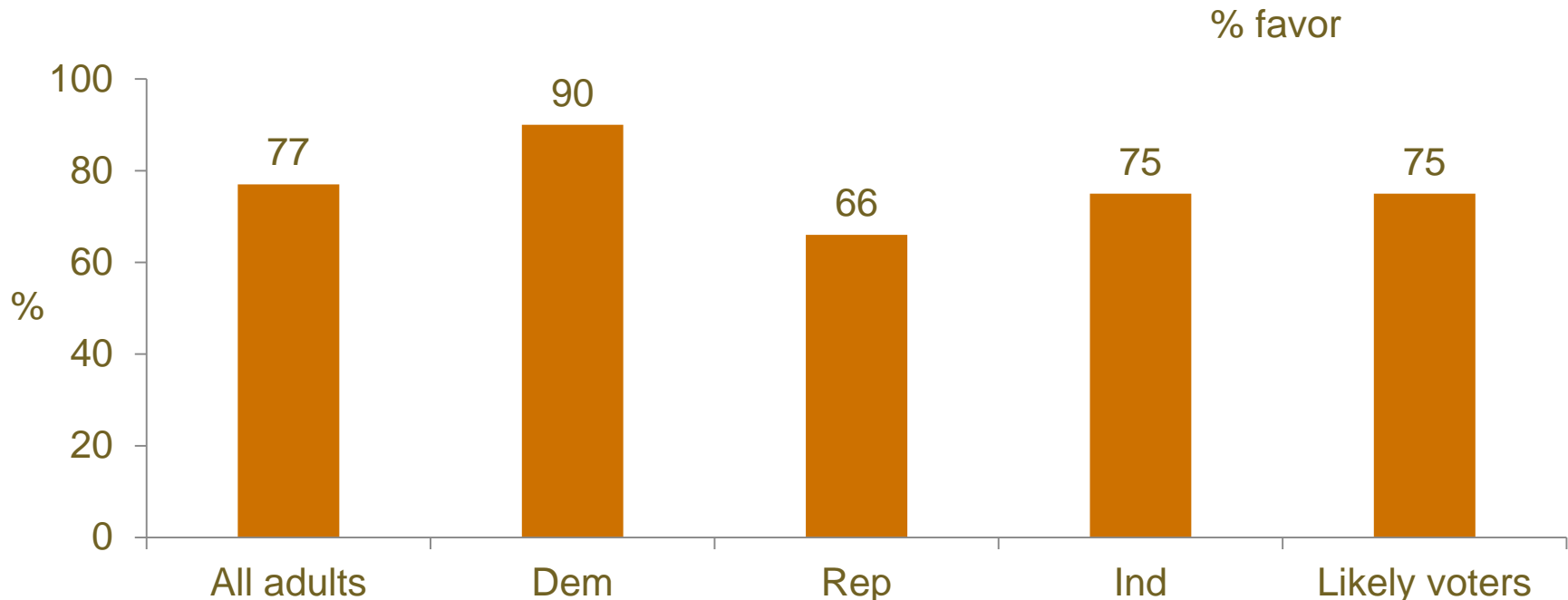
Under Proposition 13, residential and commercial property taxes are both strictly limited. What do you think about having commercial properties taxed according to their current market value? Do you favor or oppose this proposal?





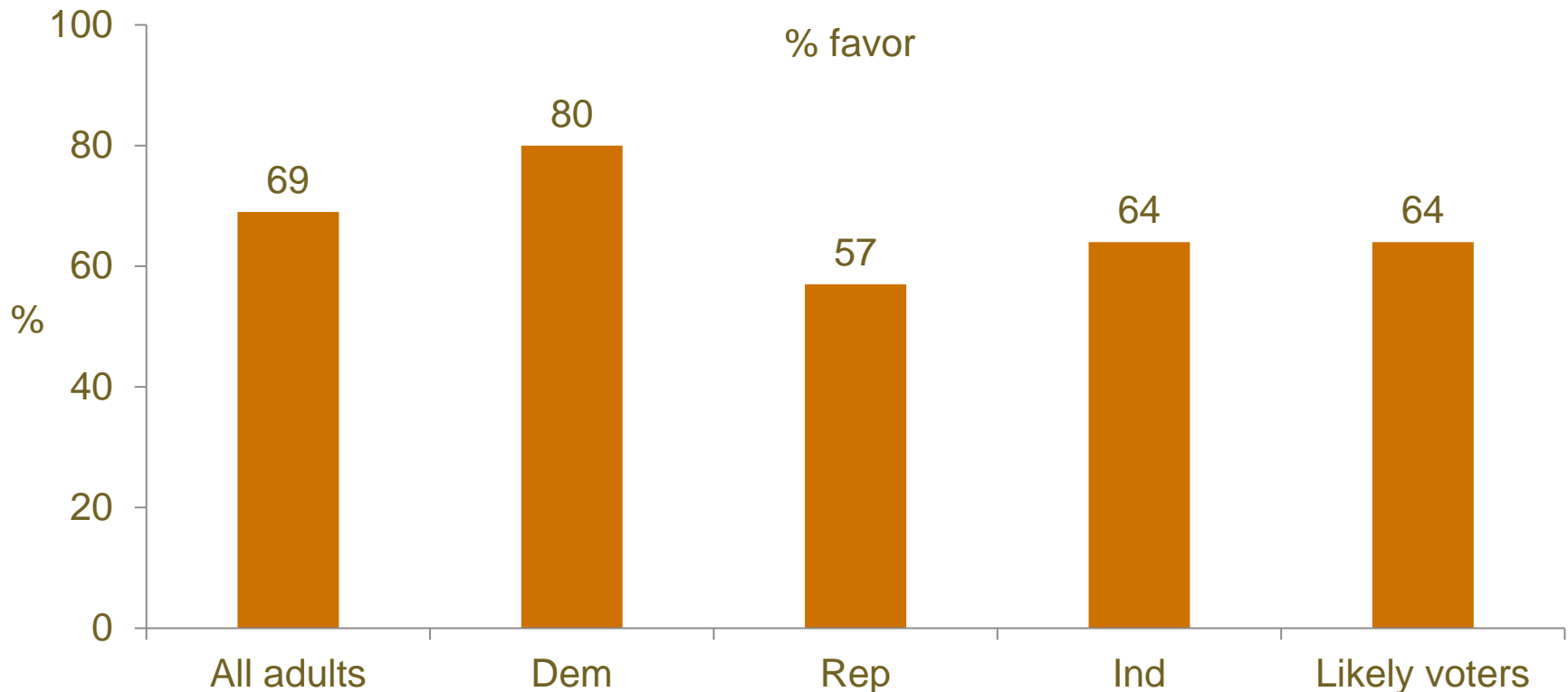
# Governor's budget proposal

Governor Brown proposed a budget plan for the next fiscal year that will increase spending on K–12 and higher education, and modestly increase spending on health and human services, prisons, and courts. The plan includes \$11 billion to pay down the state's debt including repayment of previously deferred payments to K–12 schools and paying off economic recovery bonds that were passed in 2004 to balance the budget. The plan puts \$1.6 billion into the state's rainy day fund and includes no new taxes. In general, do you favor or oppose the governor's budget plan?



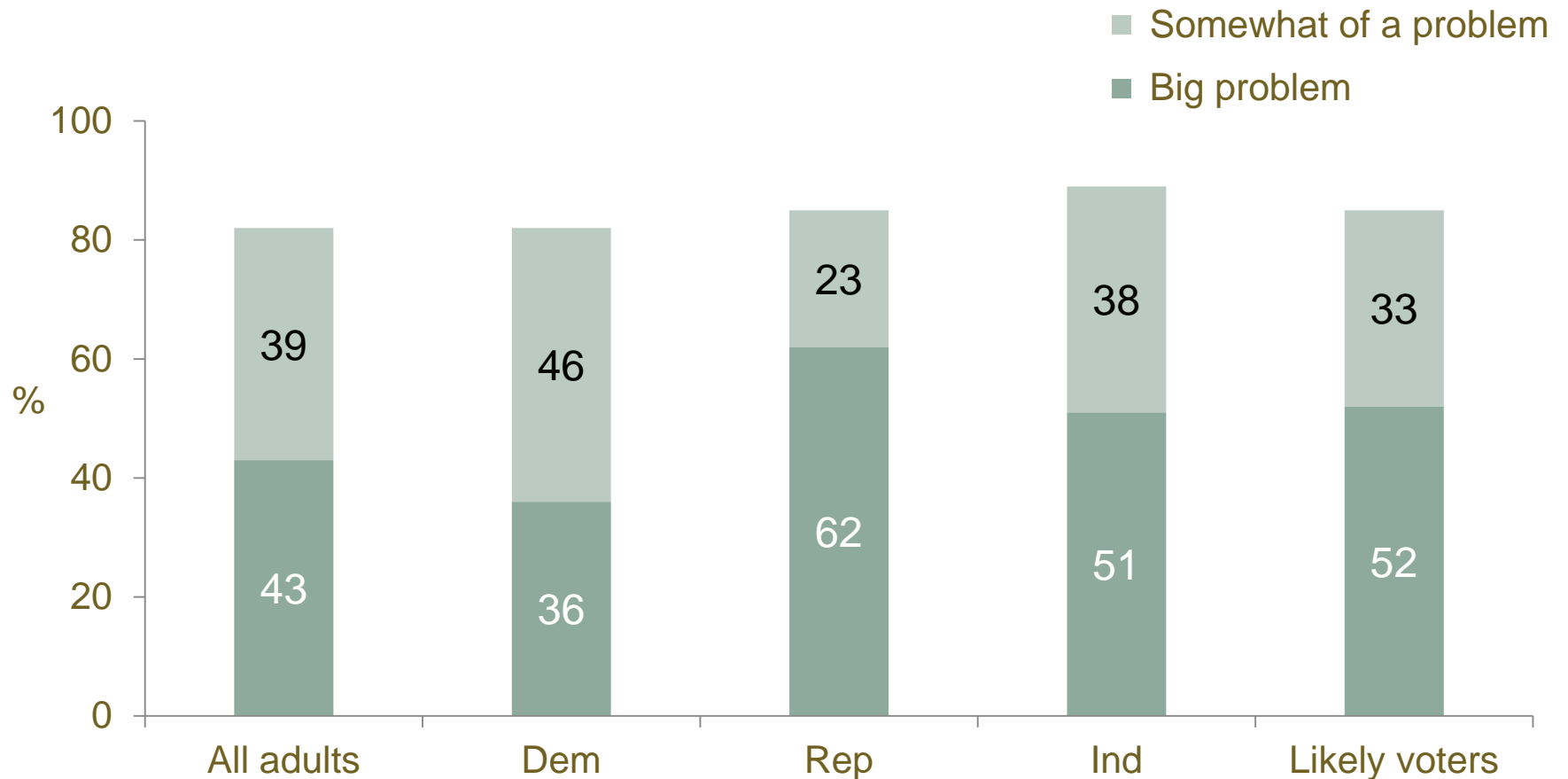
# Governor's rainy day fund proposal

The governor's budget plan calls for a constitutional amendment on the November 2014 ballot that would change the state's rainy day fund. It would include basing deposits on capital gains revenues, creating a reserve for K-12 schools, and setting limits on how funds can be withdrawn during a recession. In general, do you favor or oppose this plan?



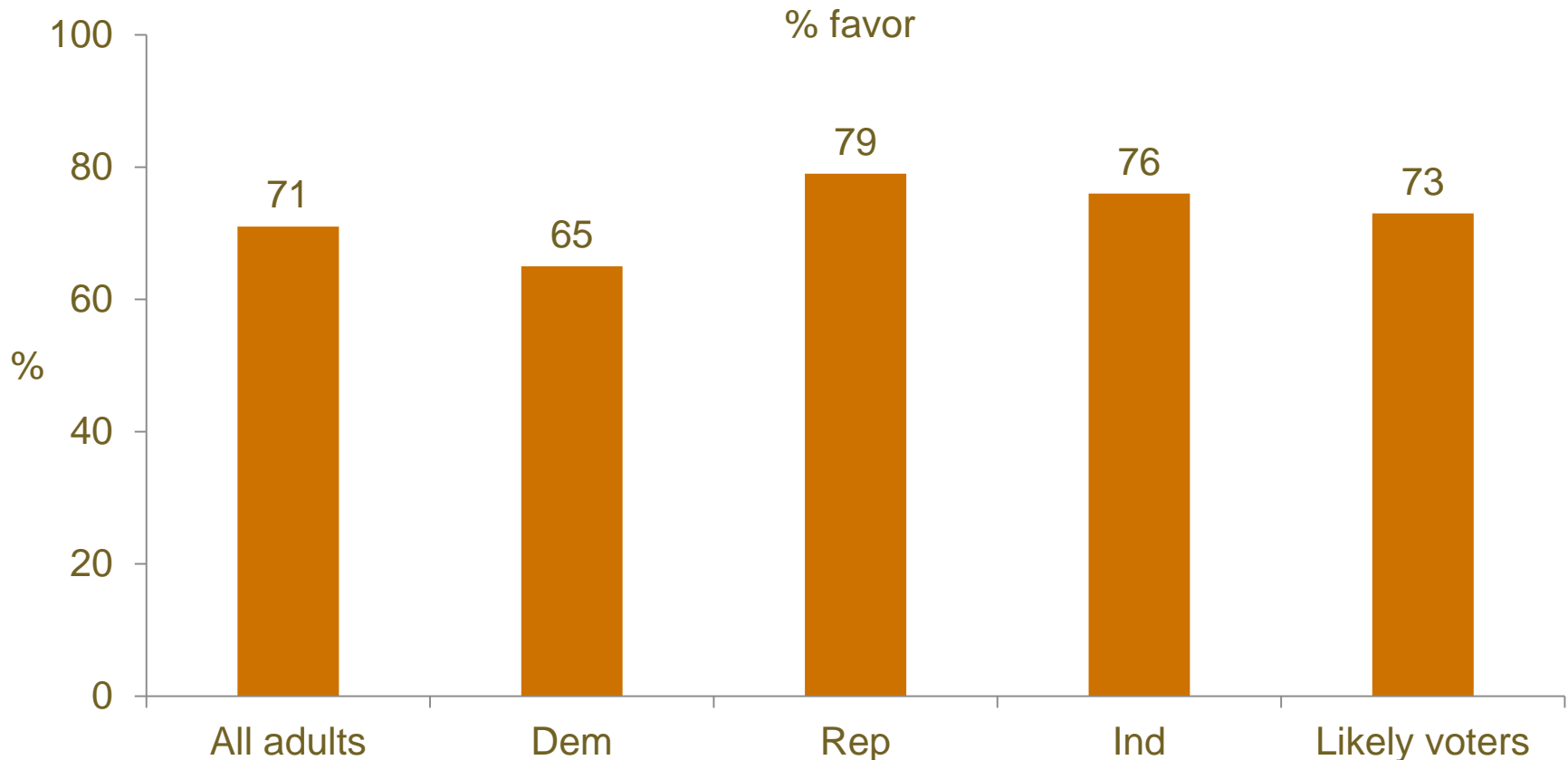
# Are public employee pensions a problem?

How much of a problem for state and local government budgets is the amount of money that is being spent on their public employee pension or retirement systems?



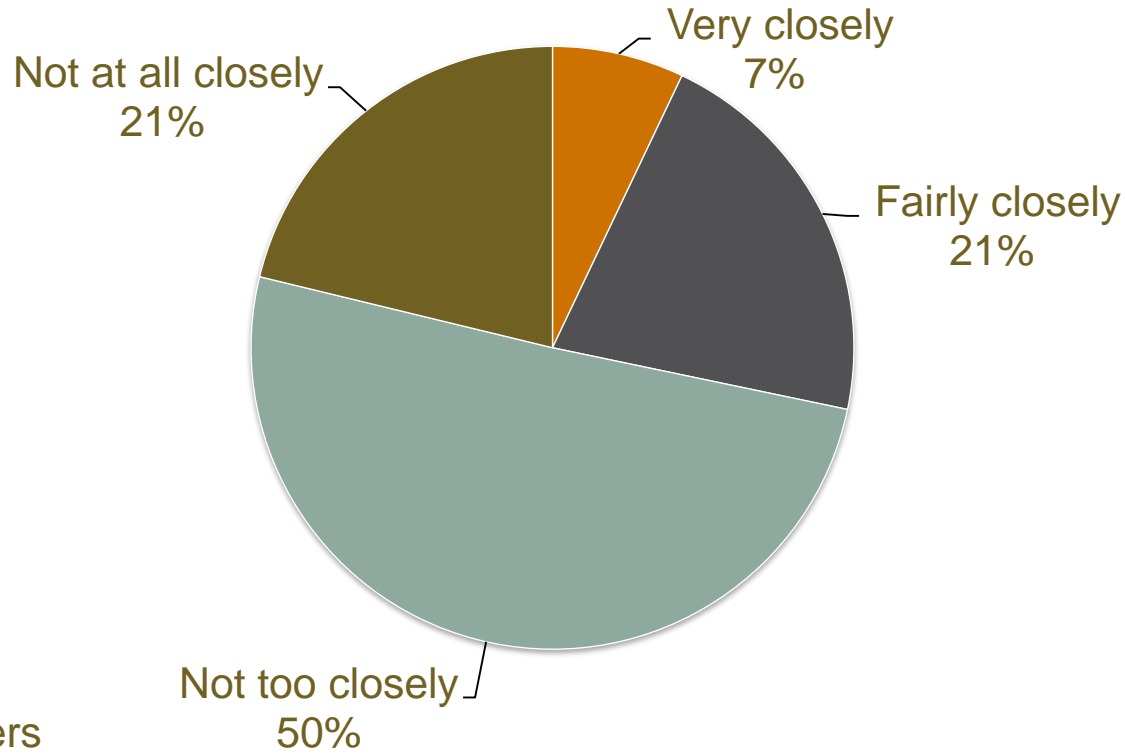
# Changing pensions for new employees

Would you favor or oppose changing the pension systems for new public employees from defined benefits to a defined contribution system similar to a 401(k) plan?



# Attention to governor's race

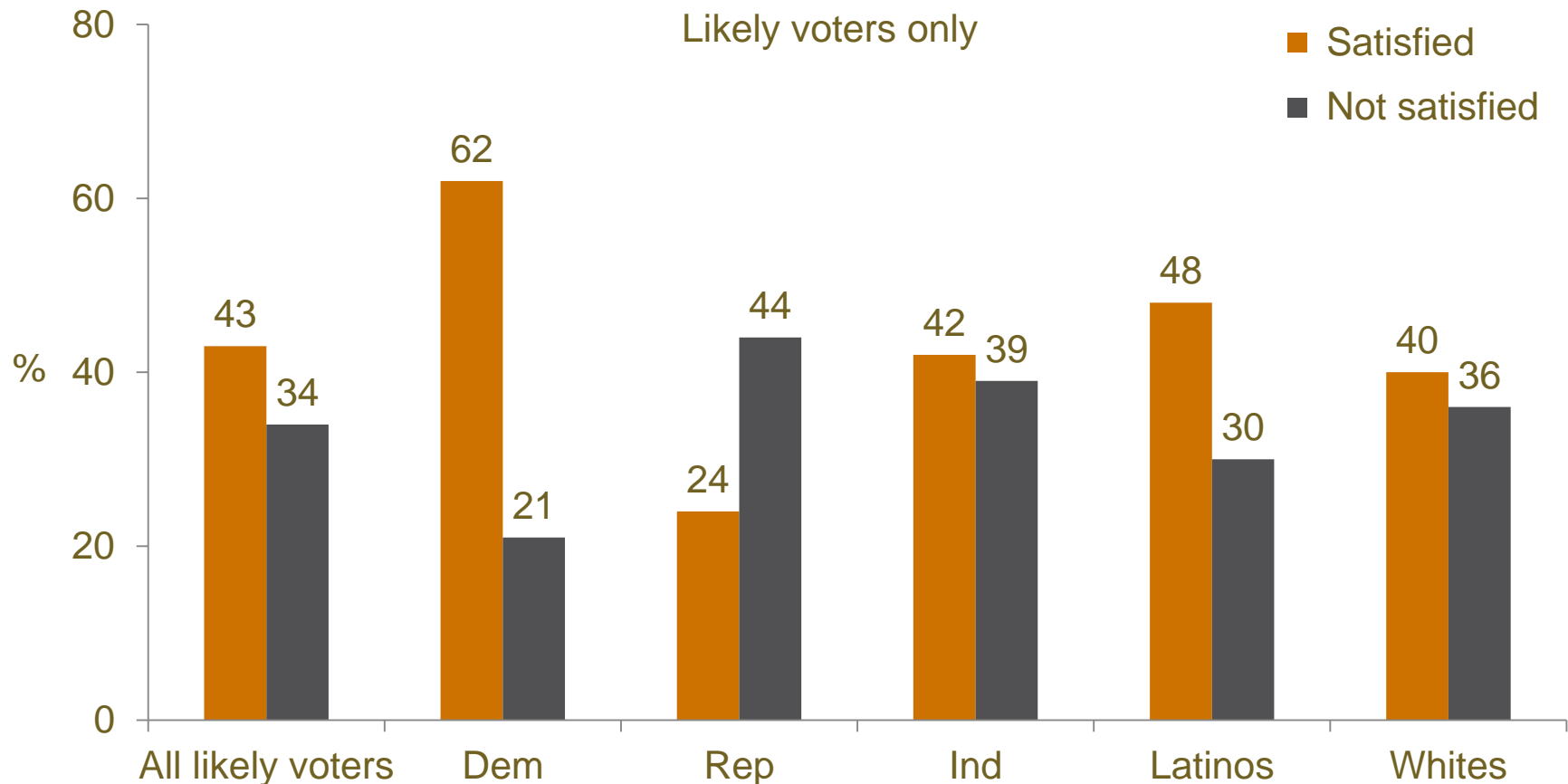
How closely are you following news about candidates for the 2014 governor's election?



Likely voters

# Satisfaction with choice of candidates

In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the primary election for governor this June?



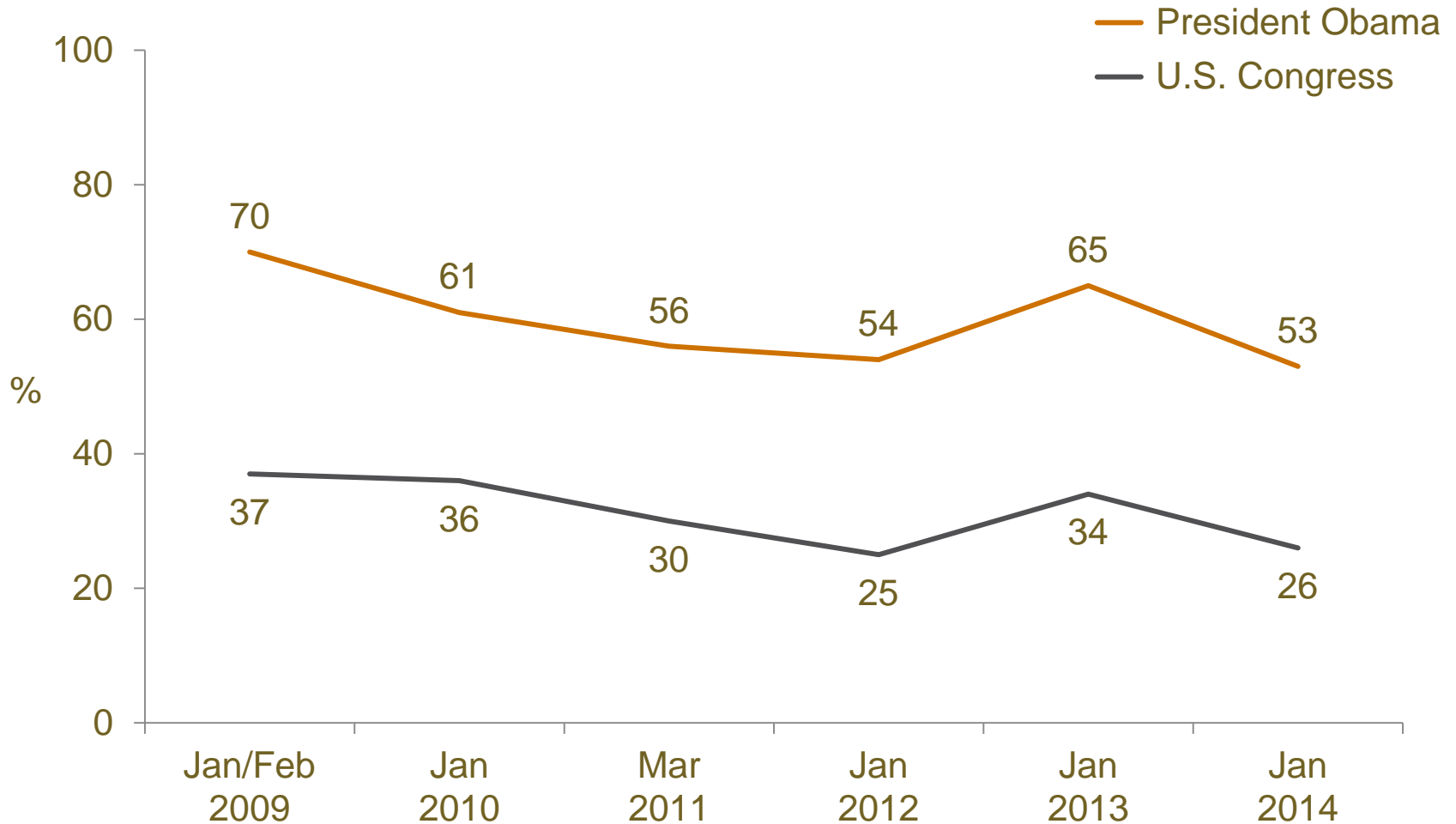
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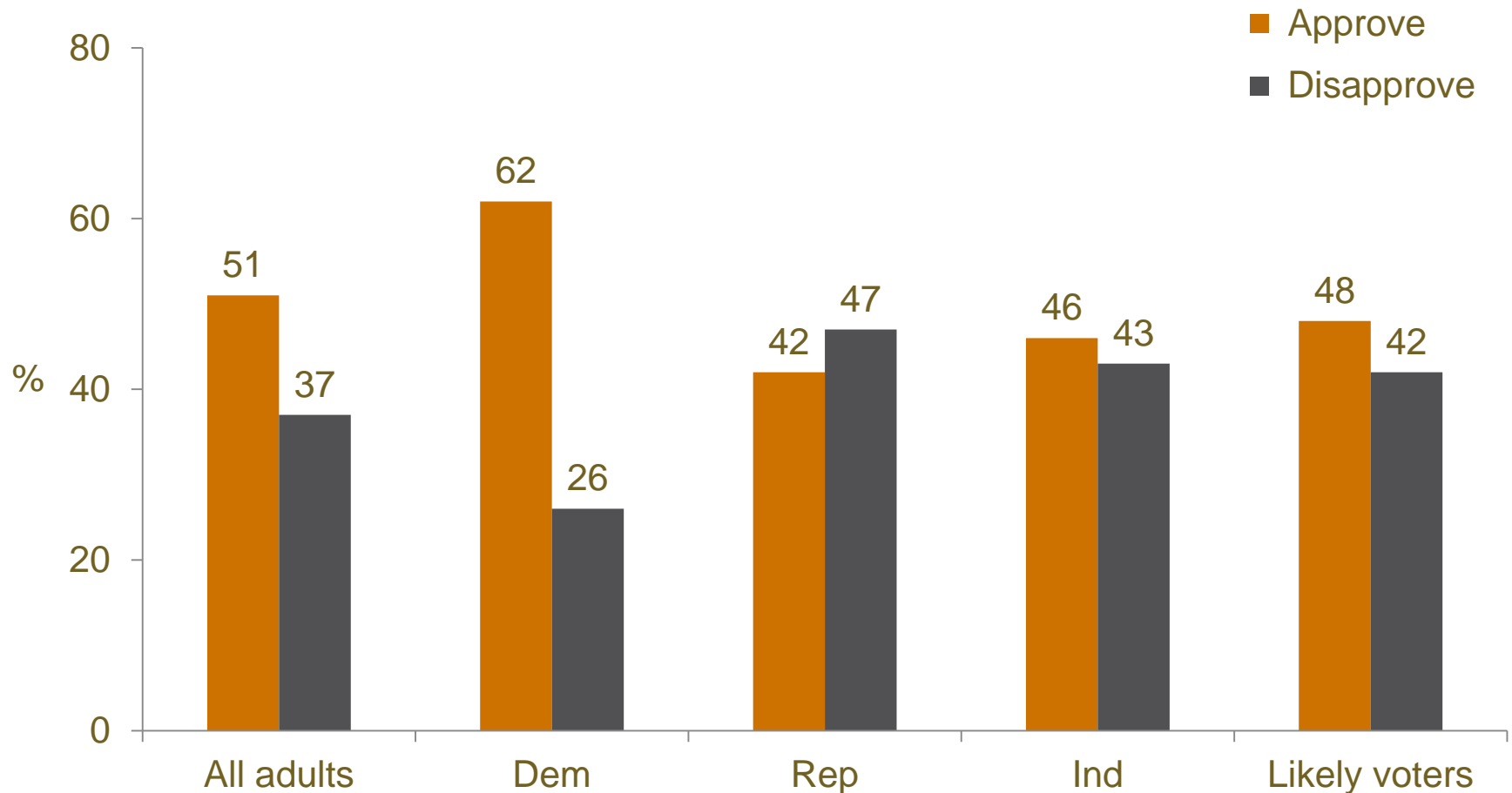
# Approval of federal elected officials





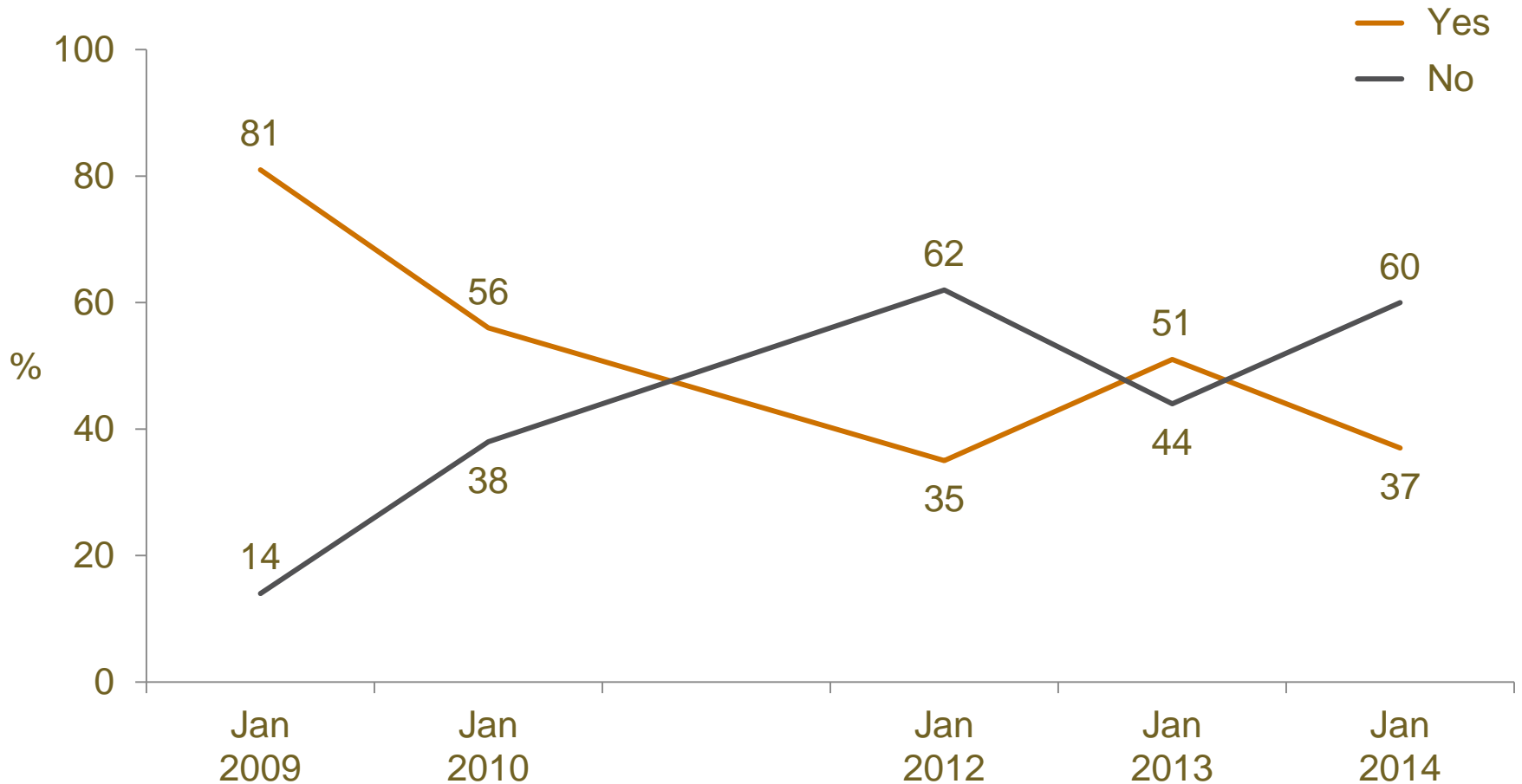
# Approval of own House representative

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way your own representative to the U.S. House of Representatives in Congress is handling his or her job?



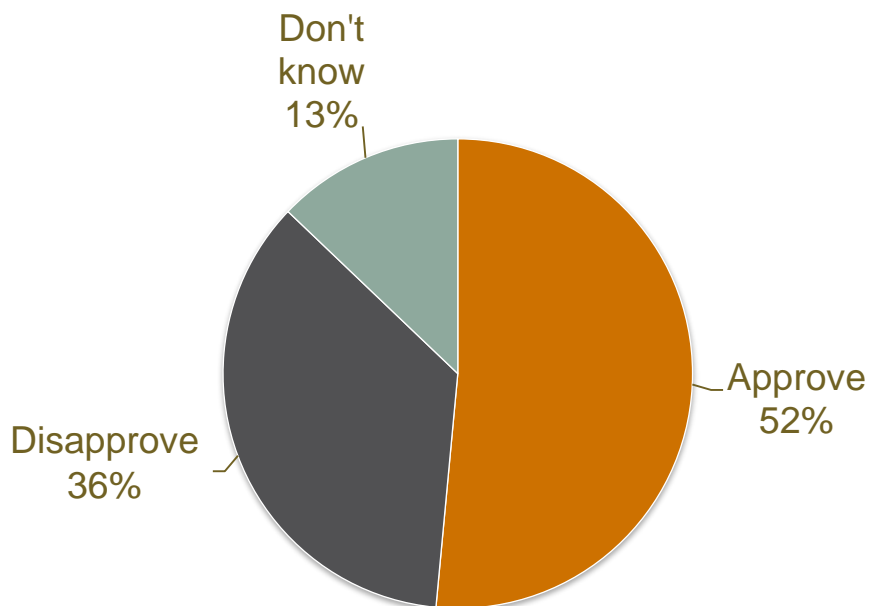
# Outlook for cooperation at federal level

Do you think that President Obama and the U.S. Congress will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?

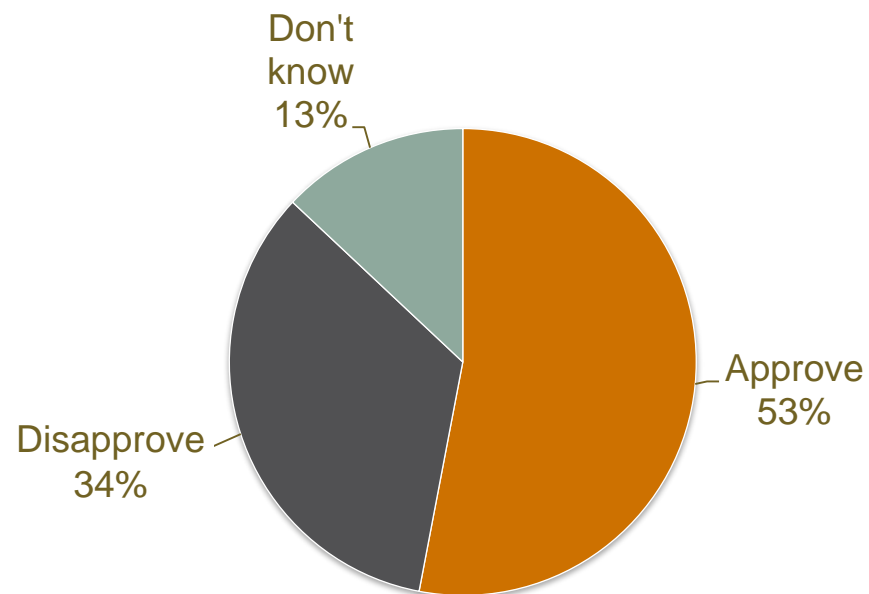


# Approval of U.S. Senators

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Dianne Feinstein is handling her job as U.S. Senator?



Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Barbara Boxer is handling her job as U.S. Senator?

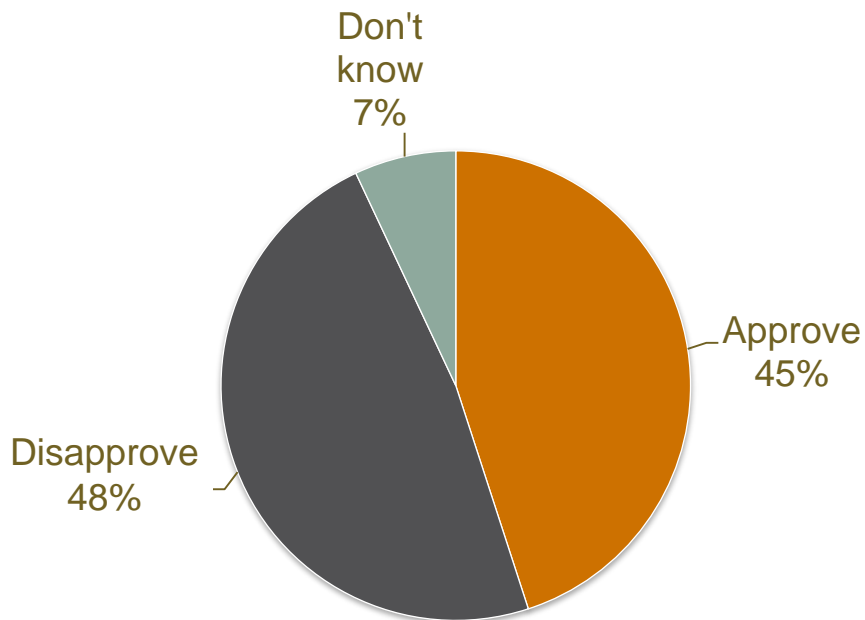


All adults

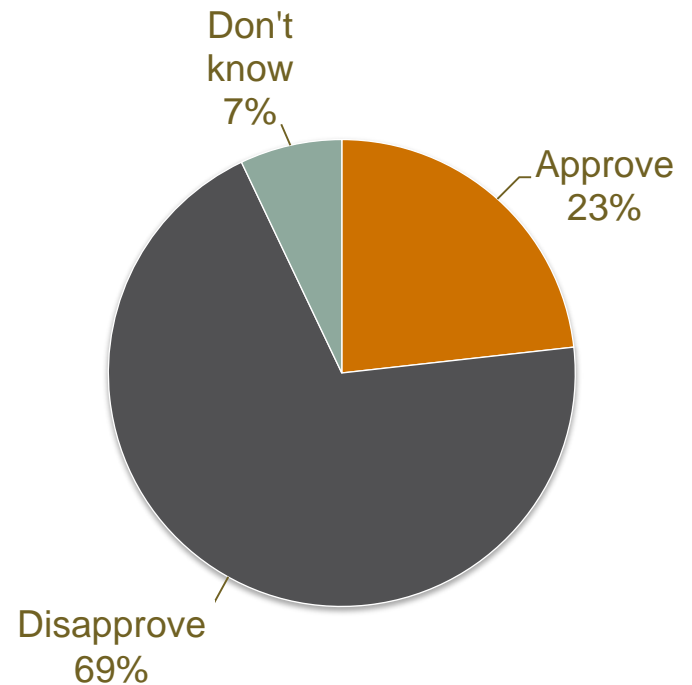


# Handling of the deficit and debt ceiling

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Obama is handling the federal deficit and debt ceiling?



Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the Republicans in Congress are handling the federal deficit and debt ceiling?

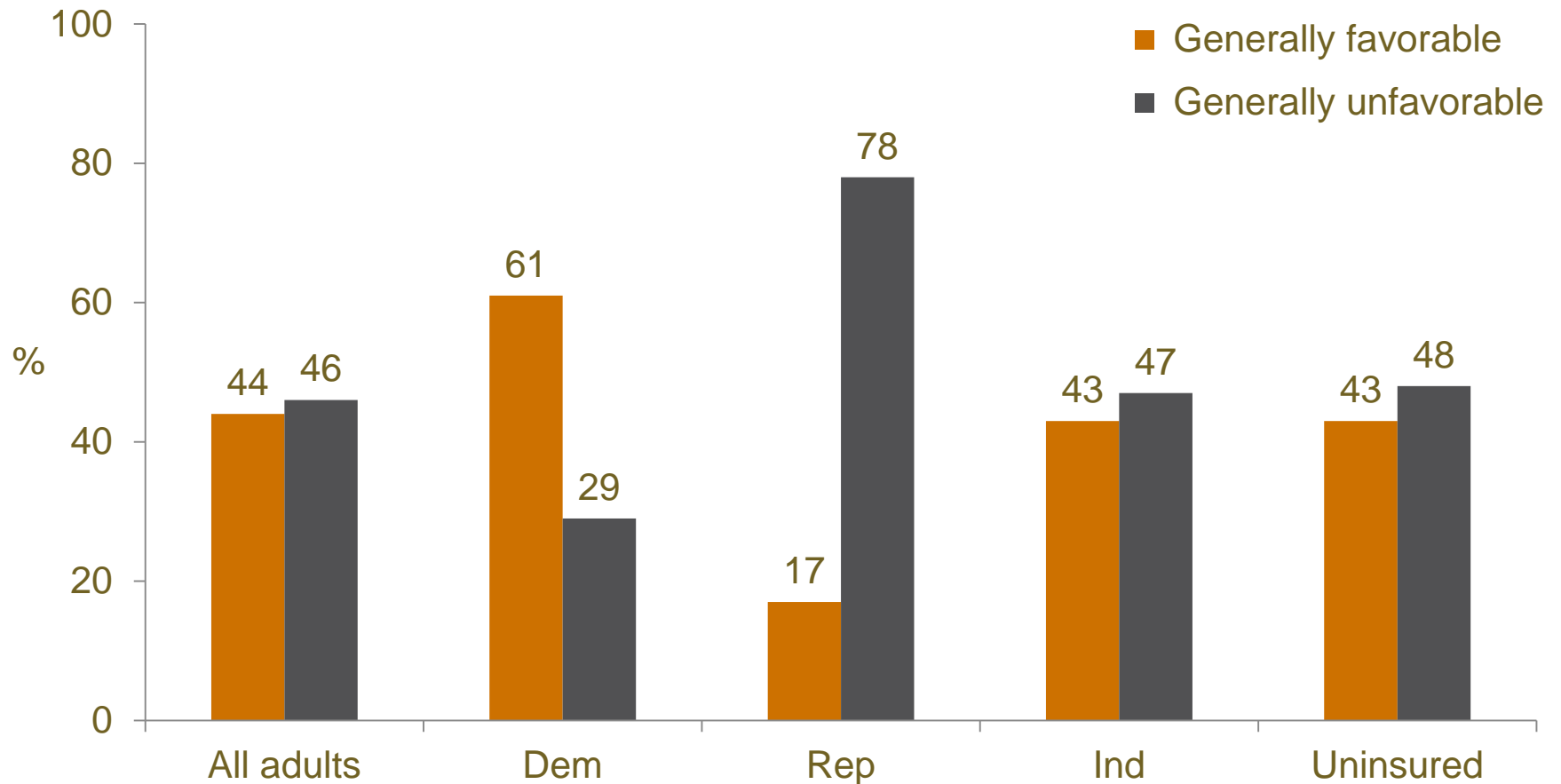


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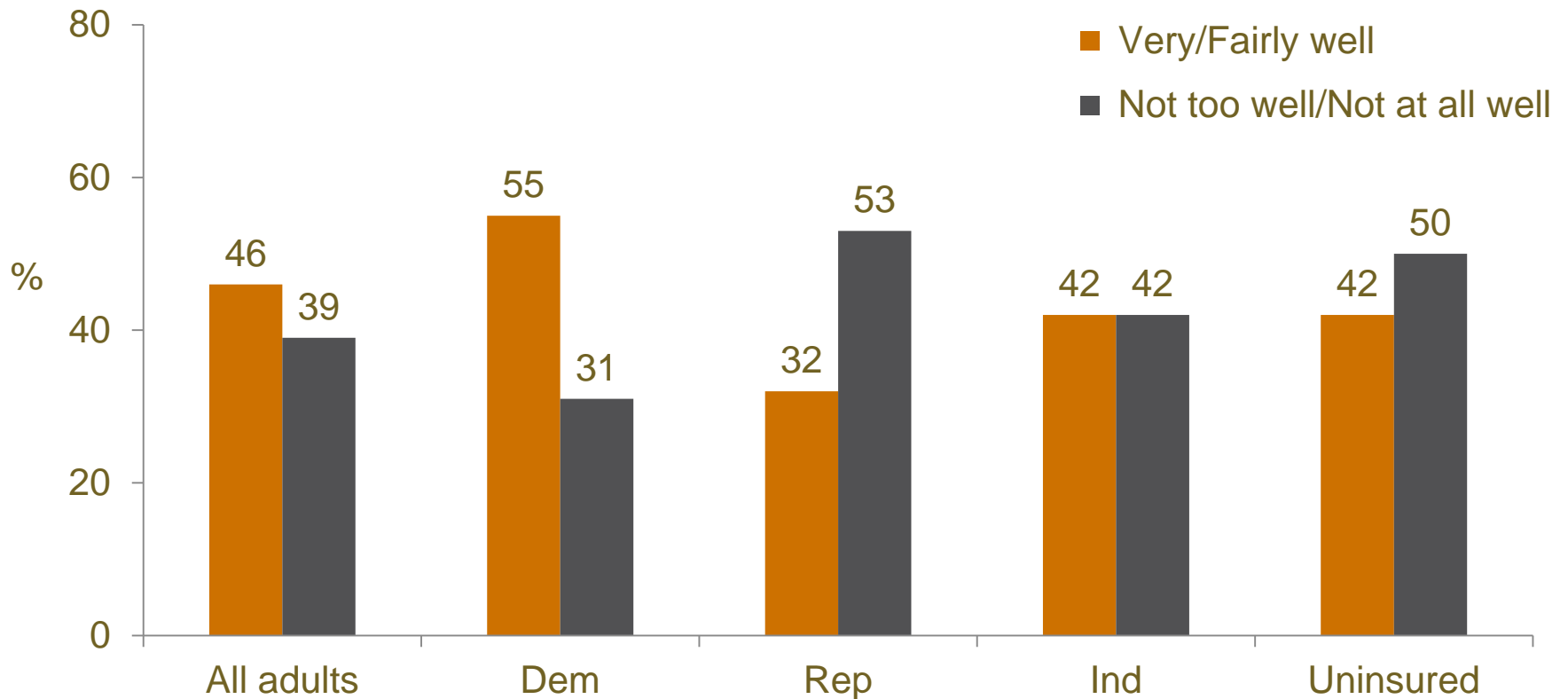
# Opinions of health care reform

As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?



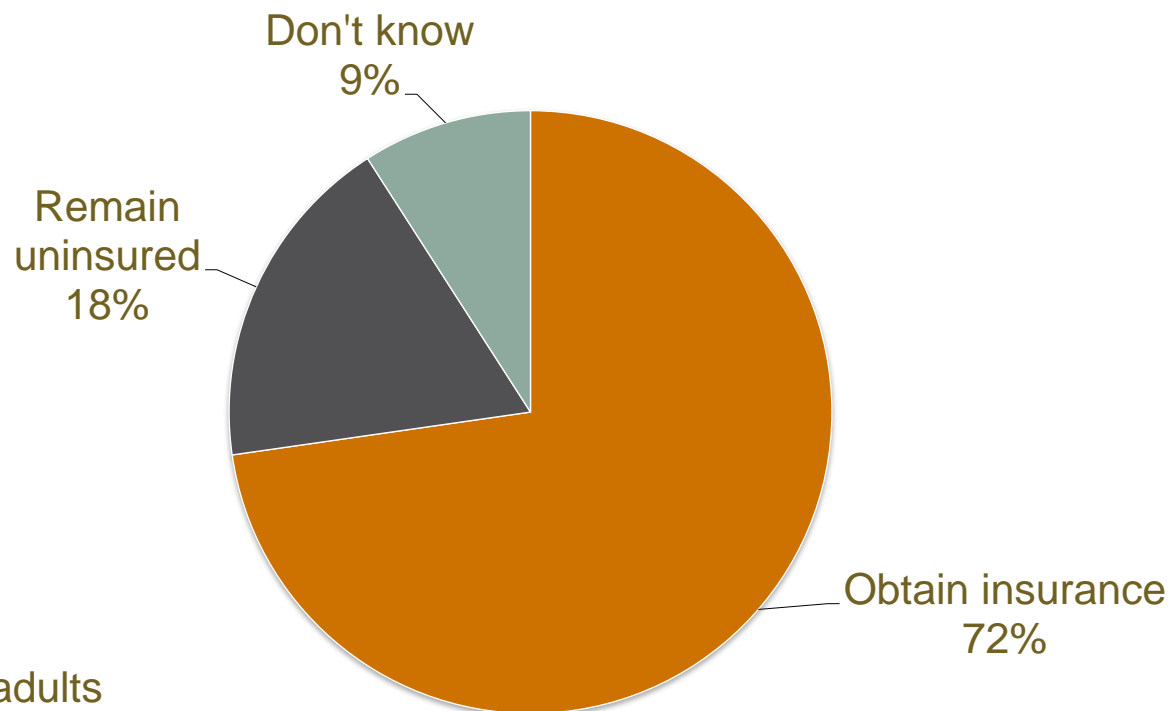
# How well is Covered California working?

As you may know, as part of the 2010 health care law the government has set up health insurance exchanges around the country that people can use to compare plans and purchase health insurance. Just your impression, how well has California's online health insurance exchange called "Covered California" been working?



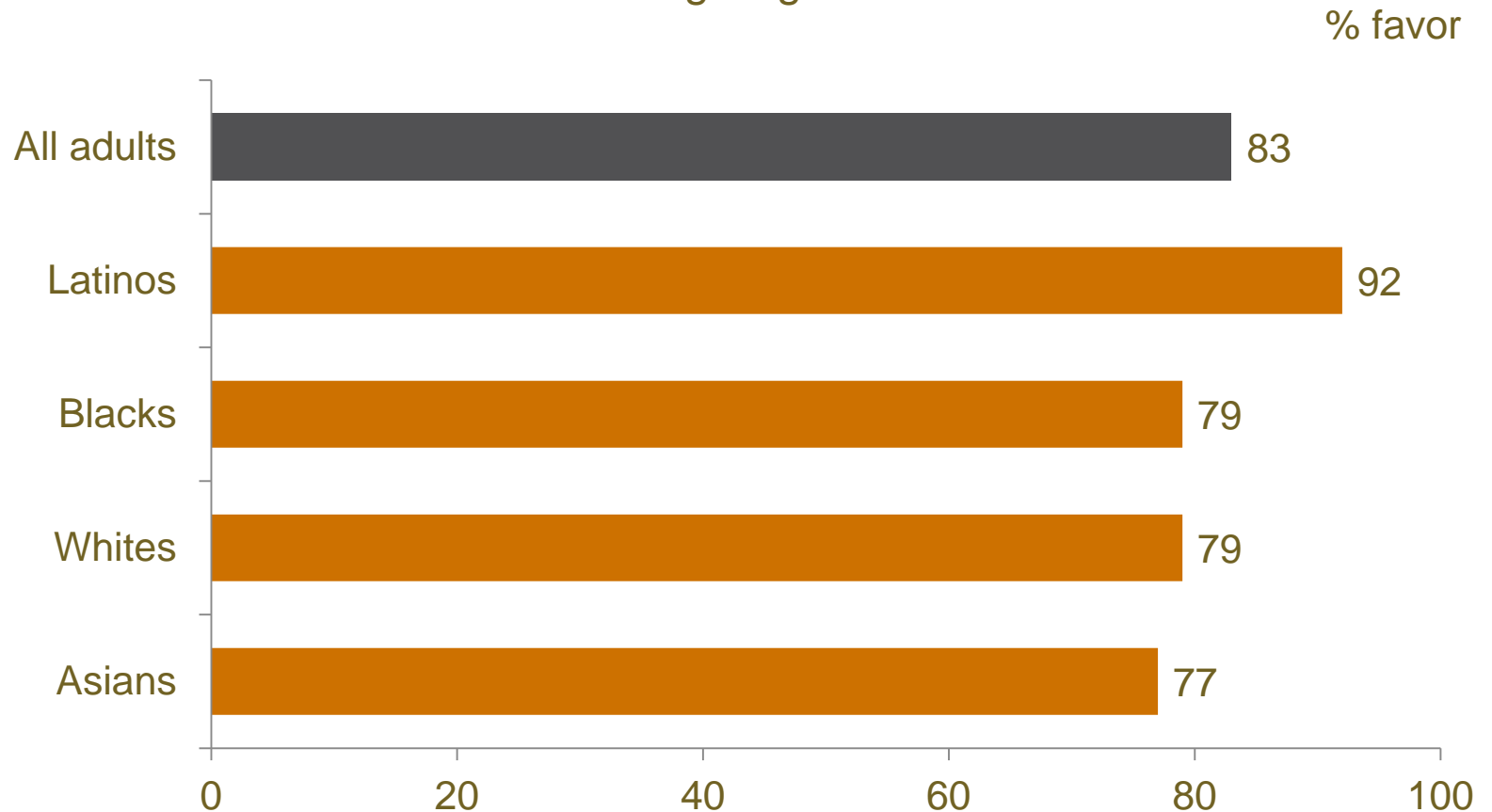
# Obtaining insurance in 2014

As you may know, the 2010 health care law requires nearly all Americans to have health insurance in 2014 or else pay a fine. Do you think you will obtain health insurance in 2014, or do you think you will remain uninsured?



# Support for immigration reform

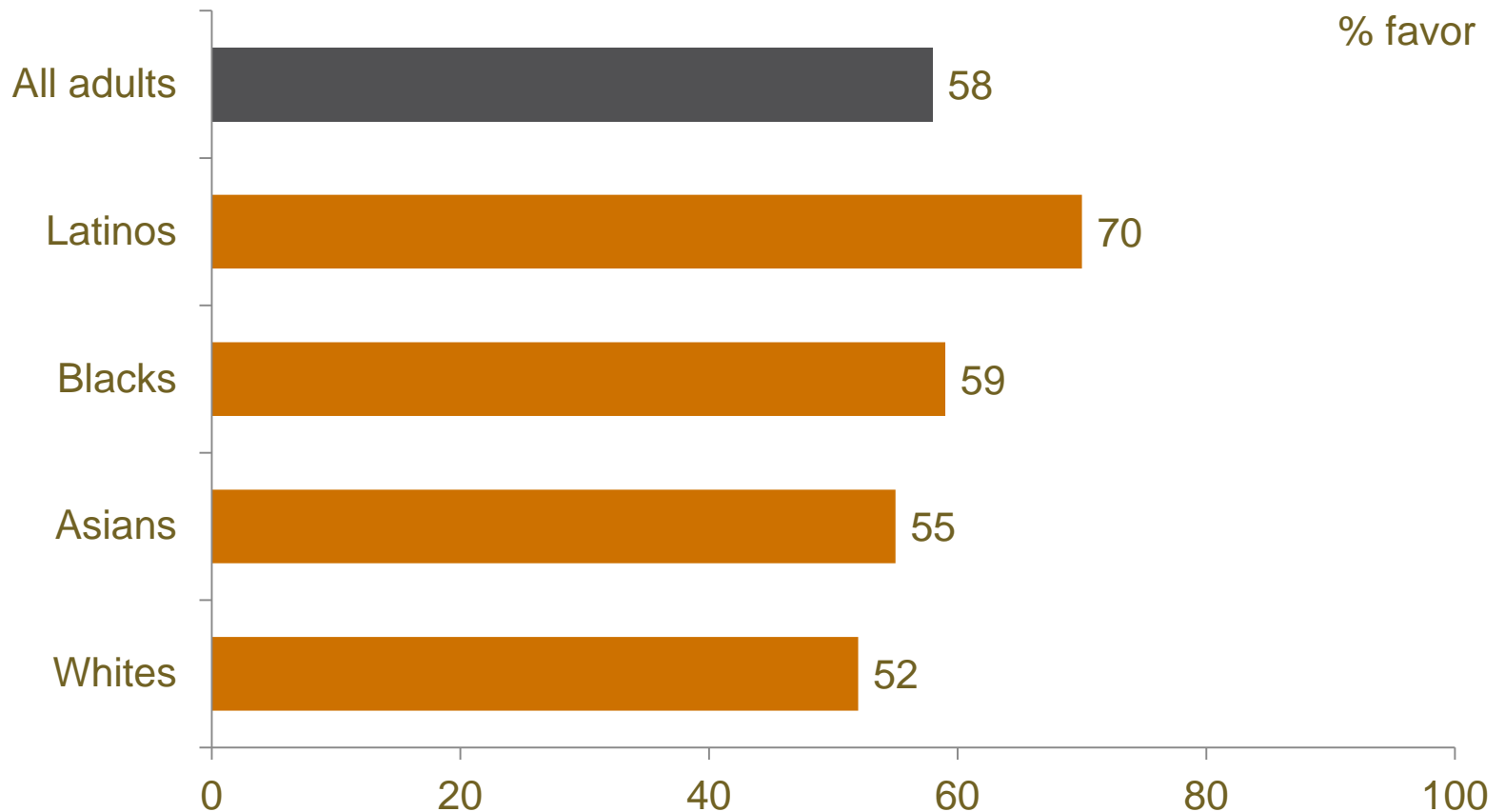
Would you favor or oppose providing a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants in the U.S. if they met certain requirements including a waiting period, paying fines and back taxes, passing criminal background checks, and learning English?





# Should California make its own immigration policies?

Do you favor or oppose the California state government making its own policies, separate from the federal government, to address the needs of illegal immigrants currently in the state?



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# Conclusions

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- A record-high 58% approve of Governor Brown
- More Californians prefer to pay down debt and save than to restore funding for social services
- Governor Brown's budget and rainy day fund proposals receive bipartisan support
- Californians are pessimistic about the president and Congress being able to work together
- 72% of the uninsured intend to get insurance this year
- A majority favor California making its own immigration policies



# 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:

[surveys@ppic.org](mailto:surveys@ppic.org)

Thank you for your interest in this work.

