

# PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and their Government

Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner,  
Renatta DeFever, Lunna Lopes, Jui Shrestha  
*January 2015*

Supported with funding from The James Irvine Foundation



# 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
  - 308,000+ Californians since 1998
  - 140+ general, issue, and regional surveys



# Californians and Their Government

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- General series funded by The James Irvine Foundation
- State government
  - state budget and fiscal issues
  - approval ratings and water policy
- Federal government
  - approval ratings and divided government
  - health care, immigration reform; criminal justice
- Telephone interviews, January 11 to 20
  - 60% landline, 40% cell phone
  - 1,705 adults,  $\pm 3.6\%$  margin of error
  - 1,011 likely voters,  $\pm 4.6\%$  margin of error



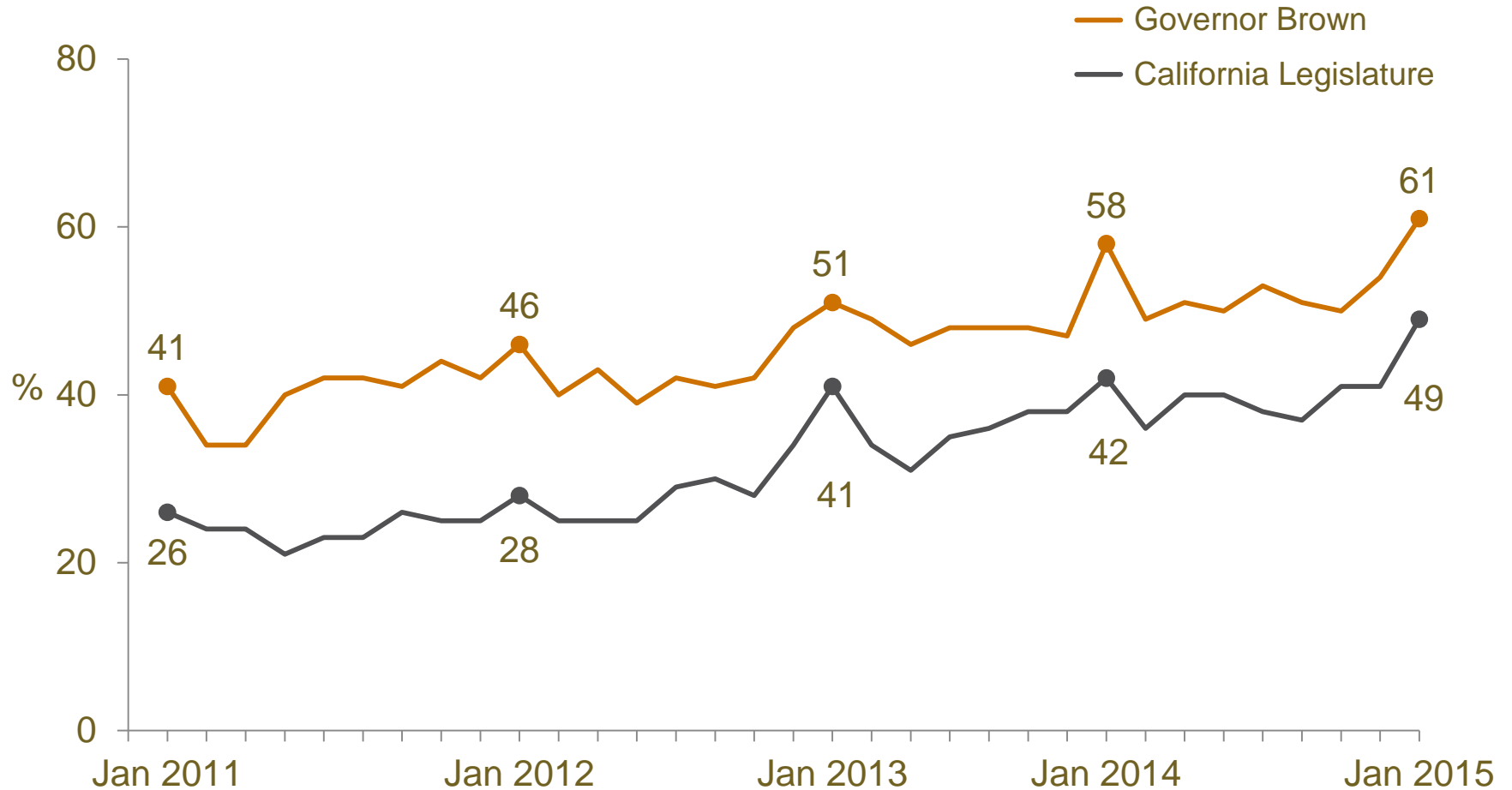
# Outline

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

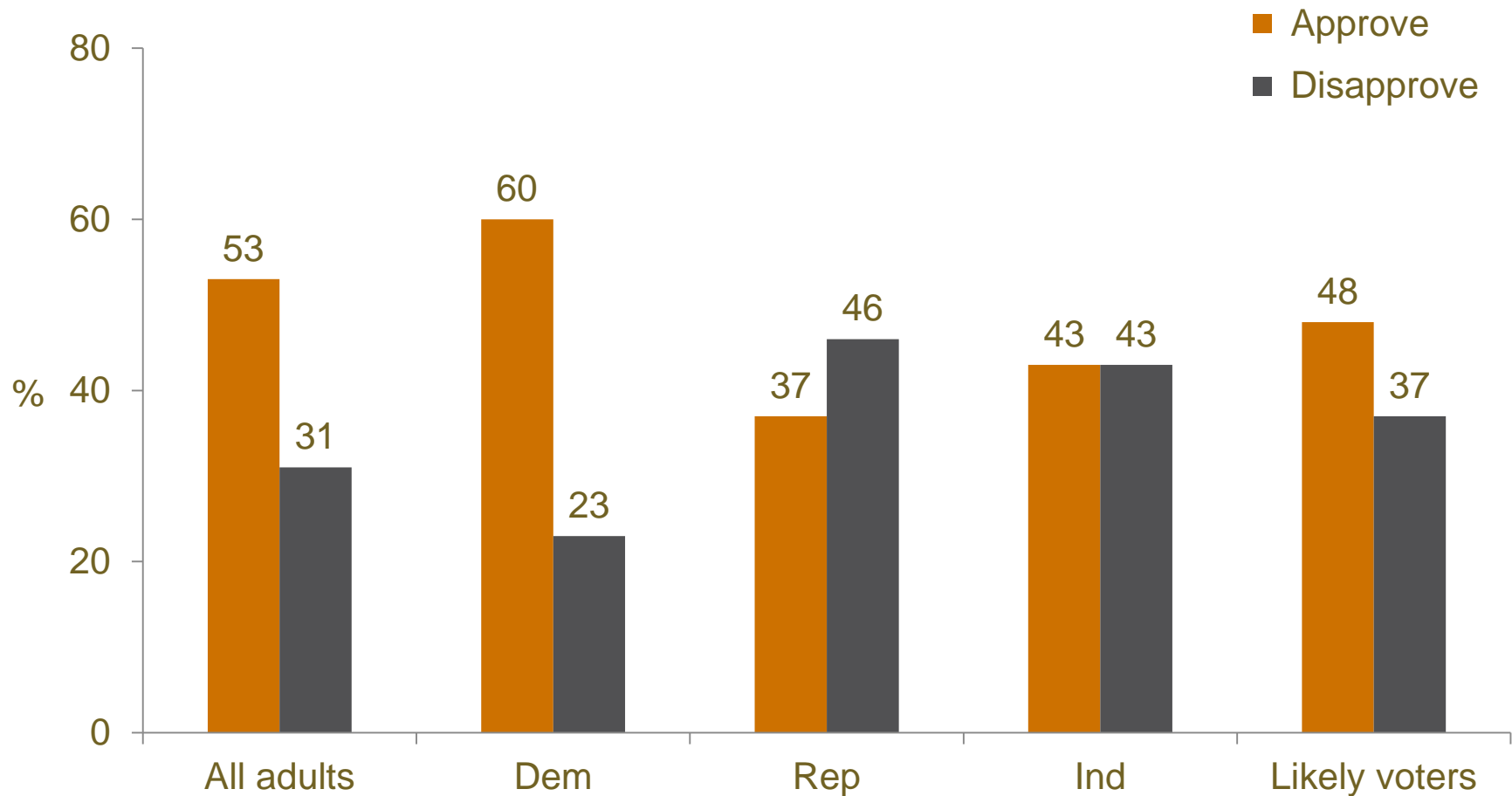


# Approval of state elected officials



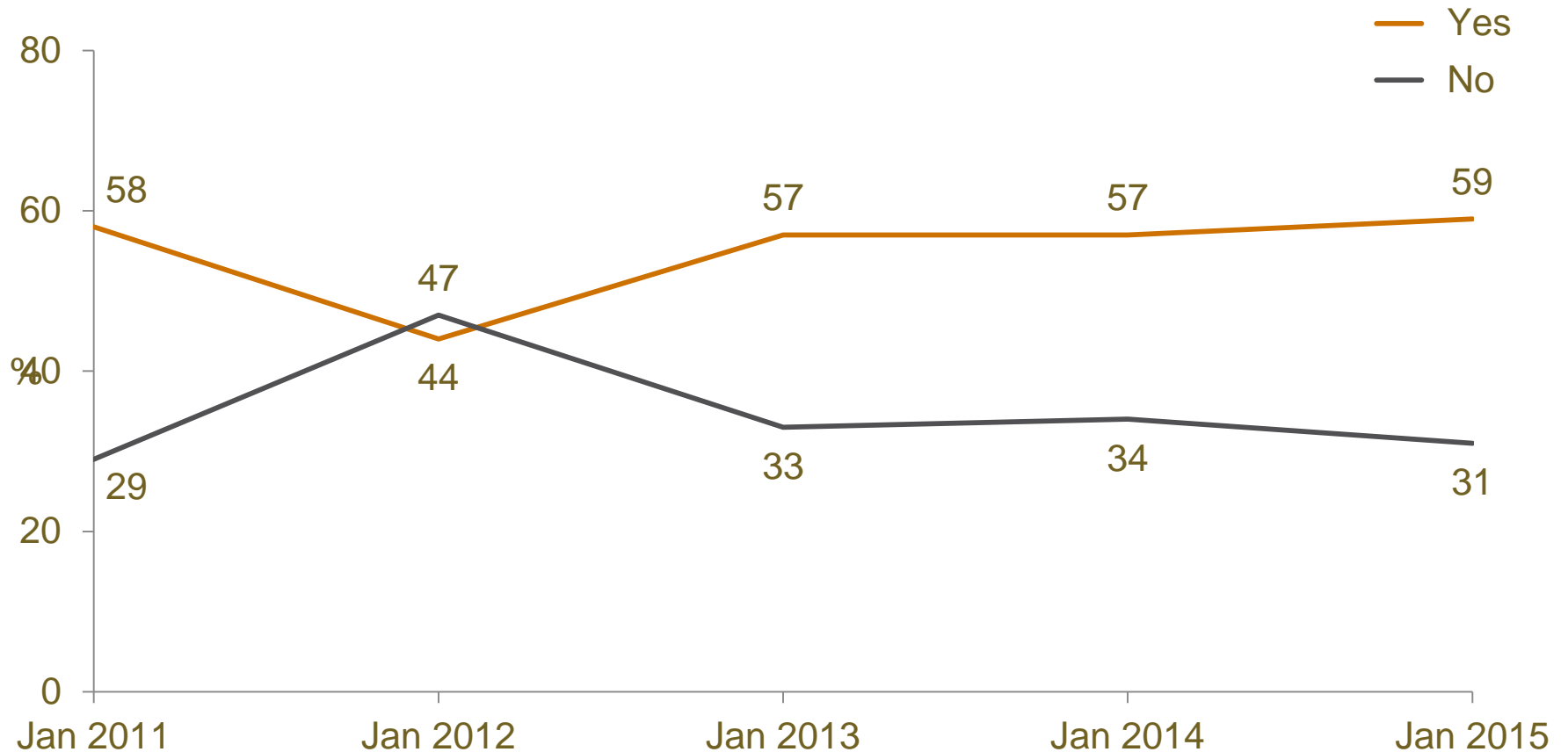
# Approval of own legislators

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



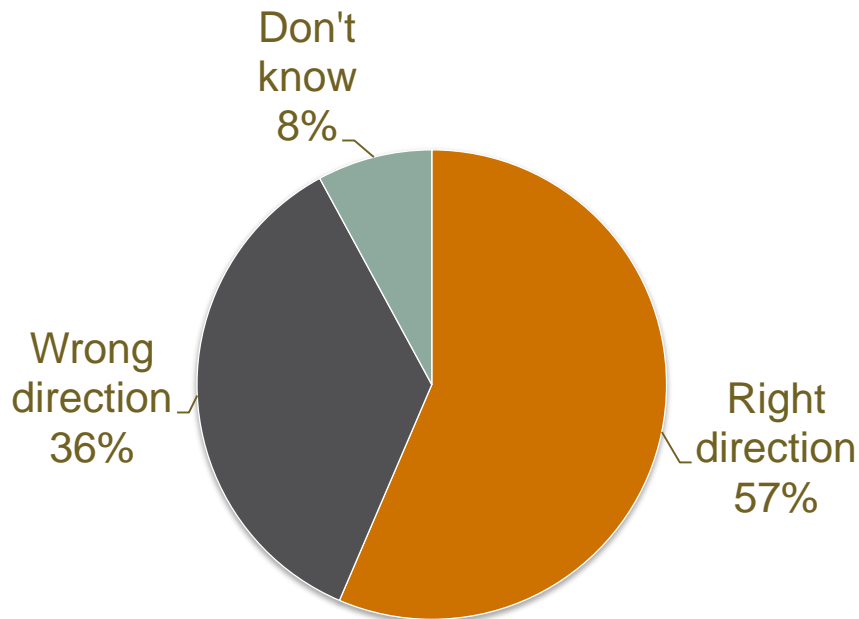
# Outlook for cooperation at state level

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?

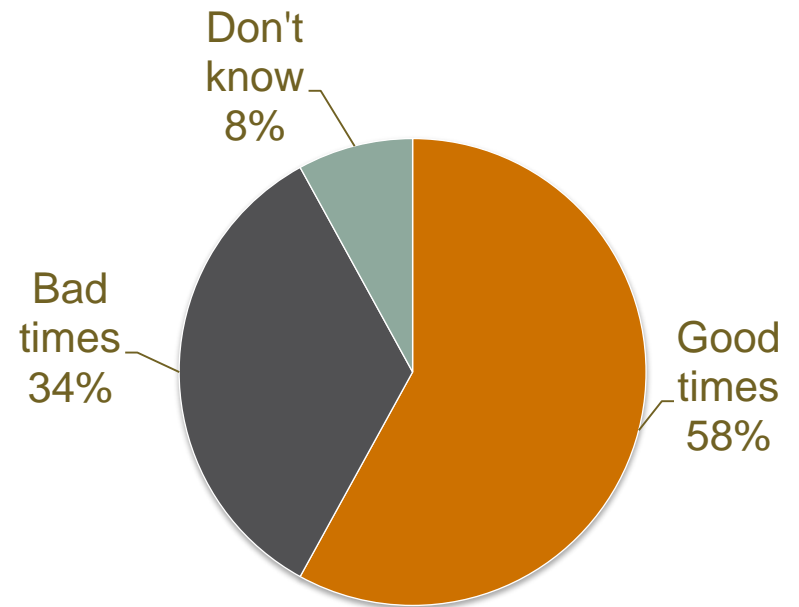


# Outlook for the state

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?



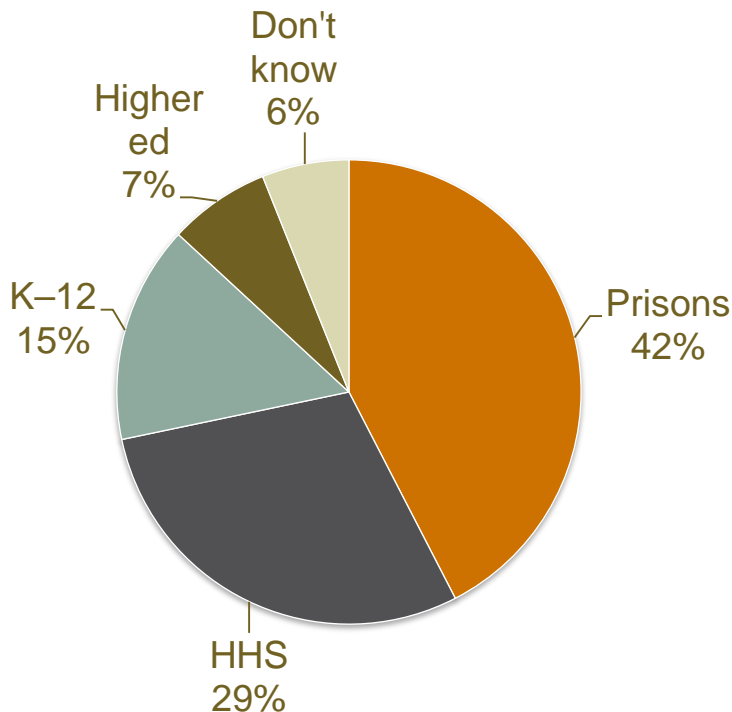
All adults



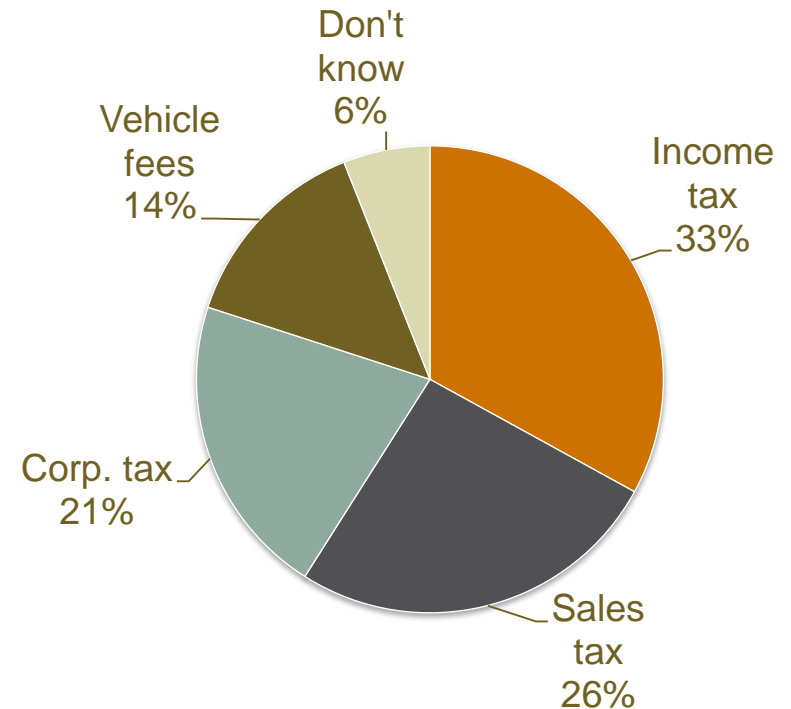


# Knowledge of state spending and revenue

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.

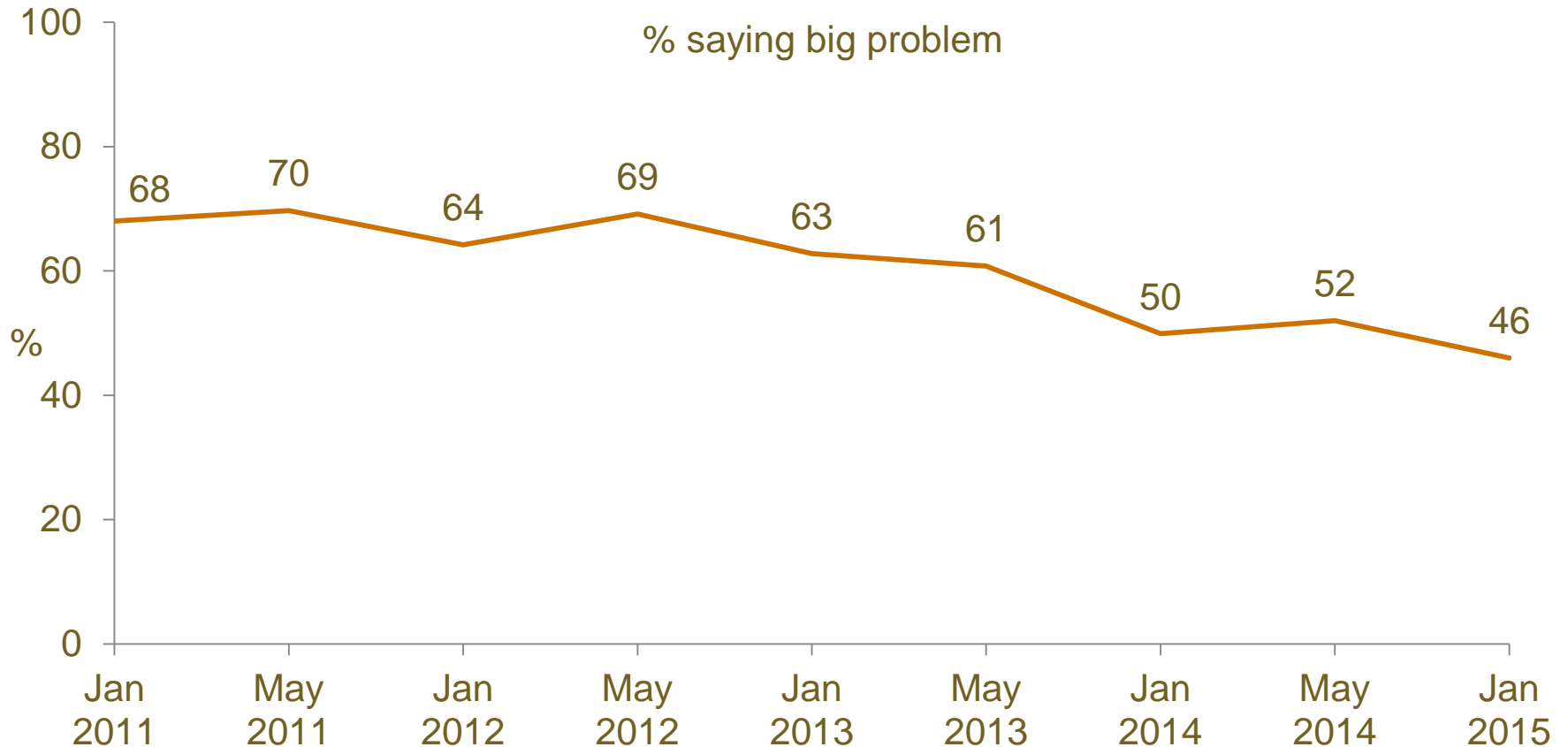


All adults



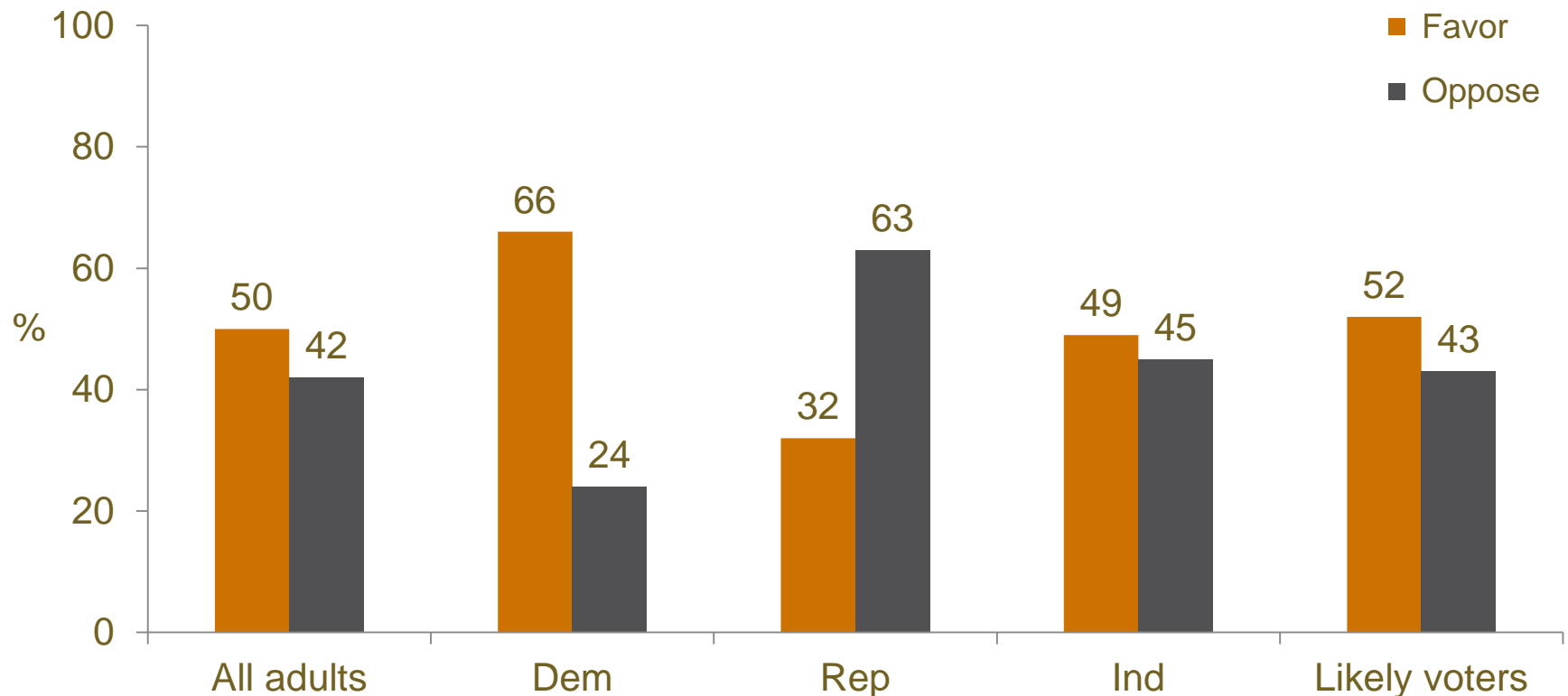
# Views of the state budget situation

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?



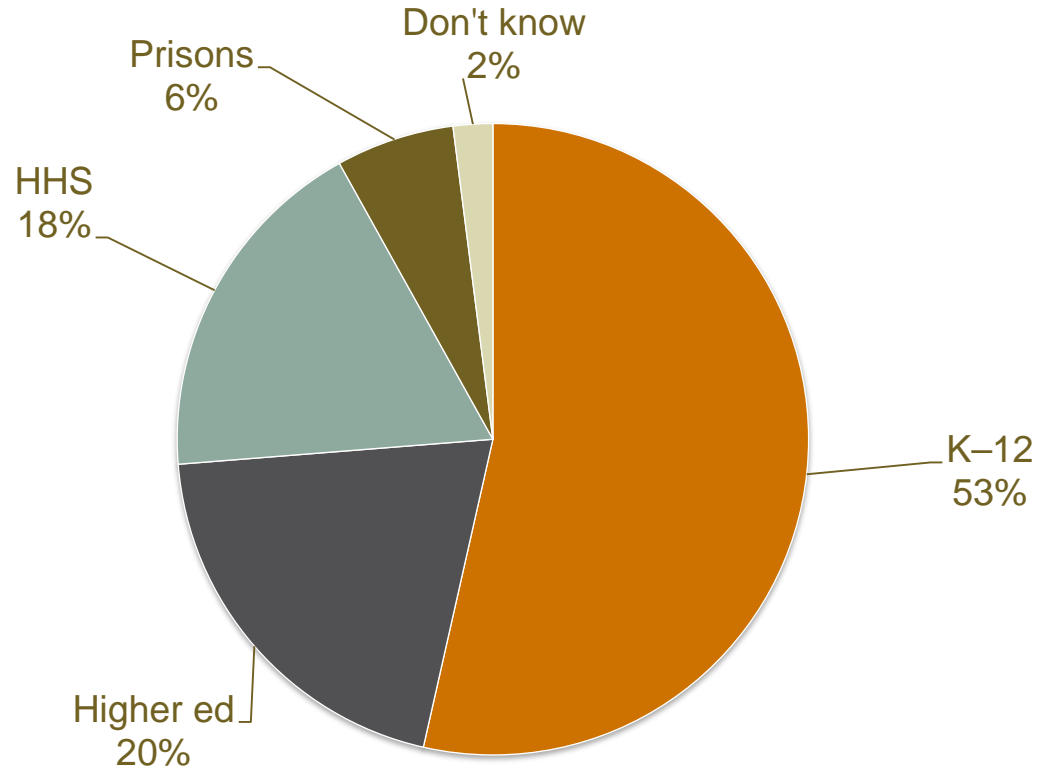
# Extension of Proposition 30 taxes

As you may know, voters passed Proposition 30 in November 2012. It increased taxes on earnings over \$250,000 for seven years and sales taxes by one quarter cent for four years, to fund schools and guarantee public safety realignment funding. Do you favor or oppose extending the Proposition 30 tax increases which are set to fully expire in 2018?



# Highest priority for state spending

Some of the largest areas for state spending are.... Thinking about these four areas of state spending, I'd like you to name the one you think should have the highest priority when it comes to state government spending.



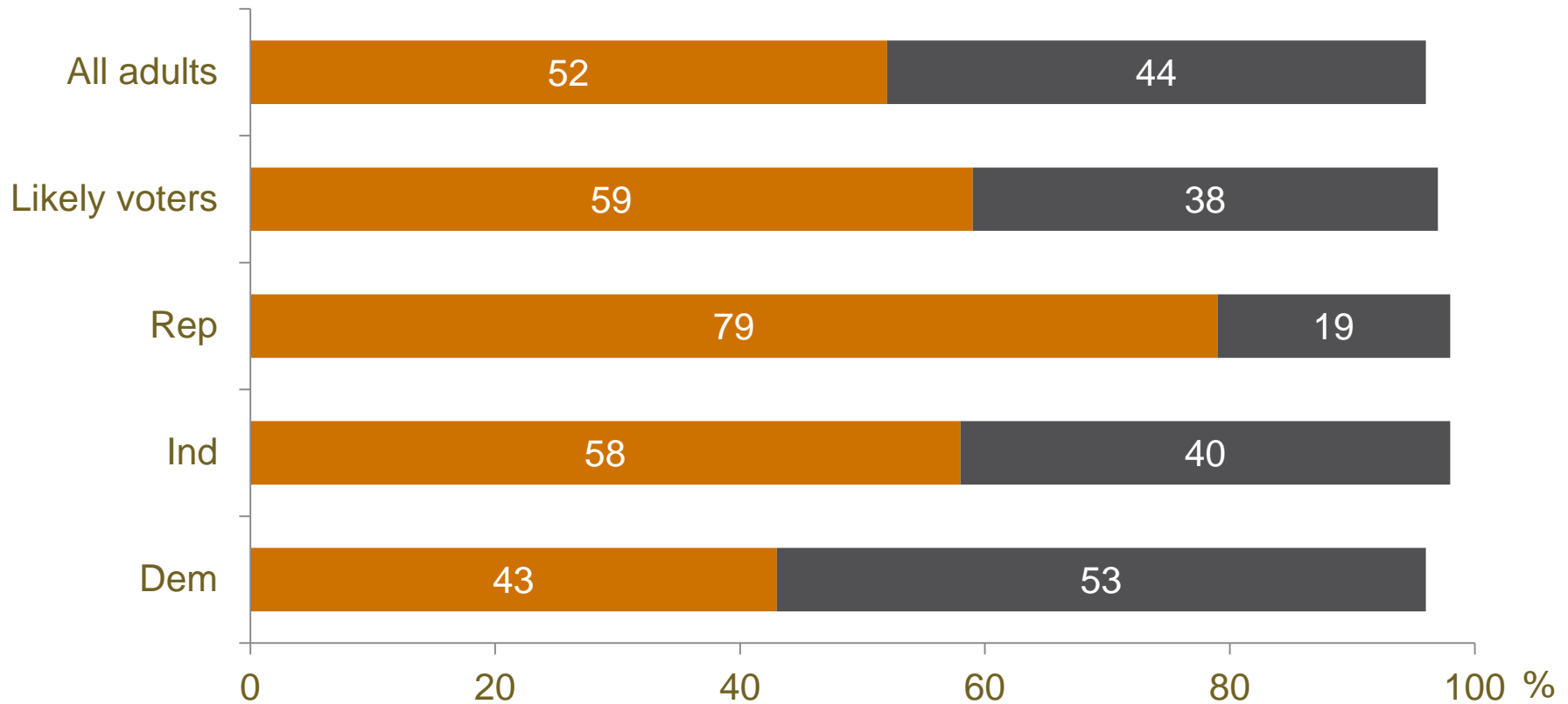
All adults



# Use of surplus budget funds

The state is projected to have a budget surplus of several billion dollars over the next several years. In general, how would you prefer to use this extra money?

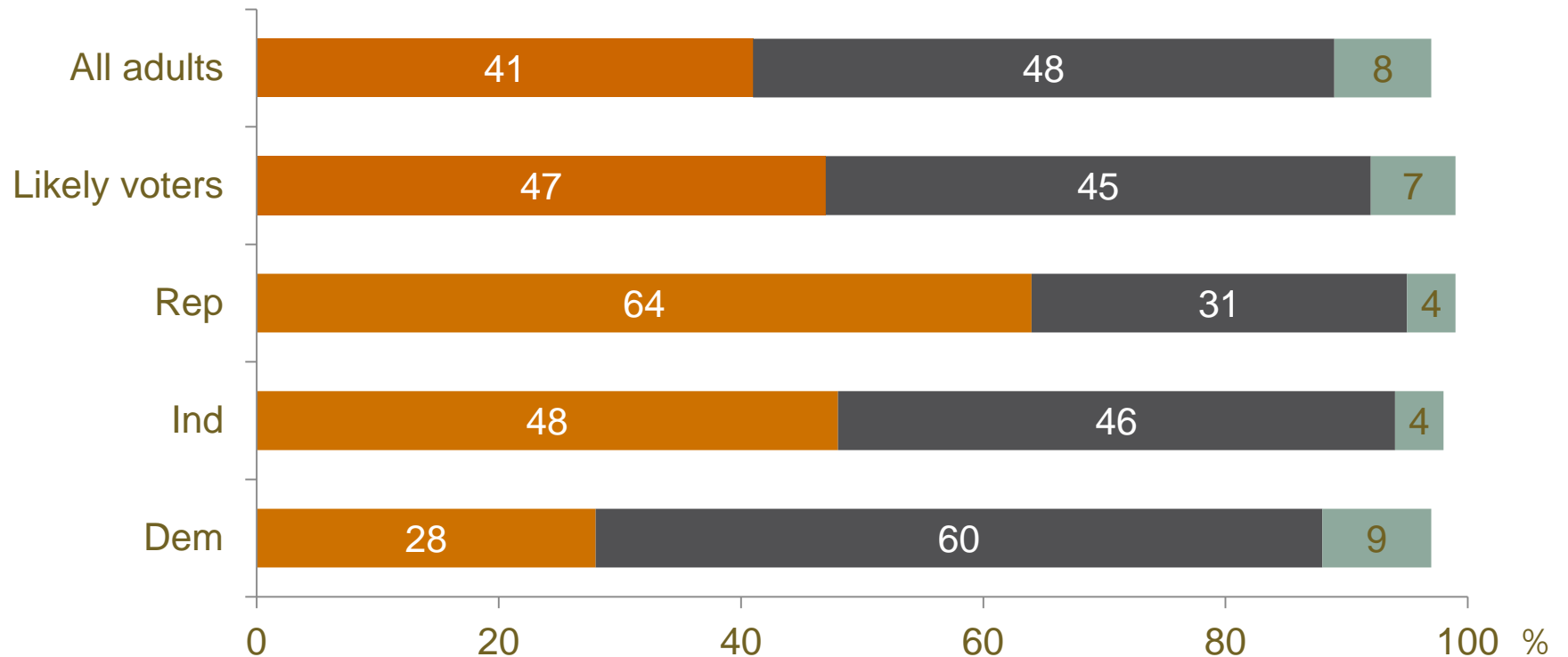
- Pay down state debt and build up the reserve
- Restore some funding for social service programs that were cut in recent years



# Higher education funding

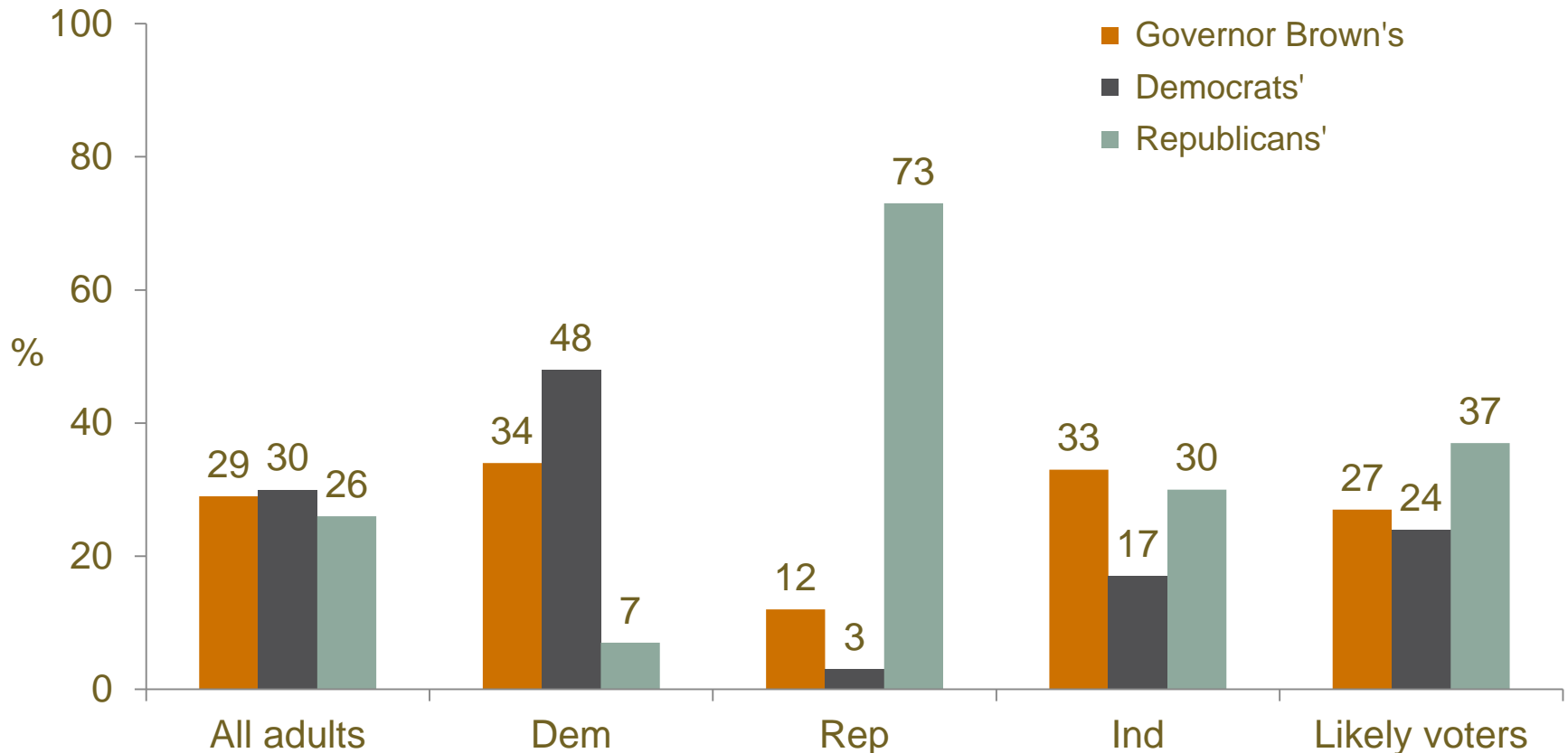
To significantly improve California's higher education system, which of the following statements do you agree with the most?

- Use existing funds more wisely
- Both use funds more wisely and increase funding
- Increase amount of funding



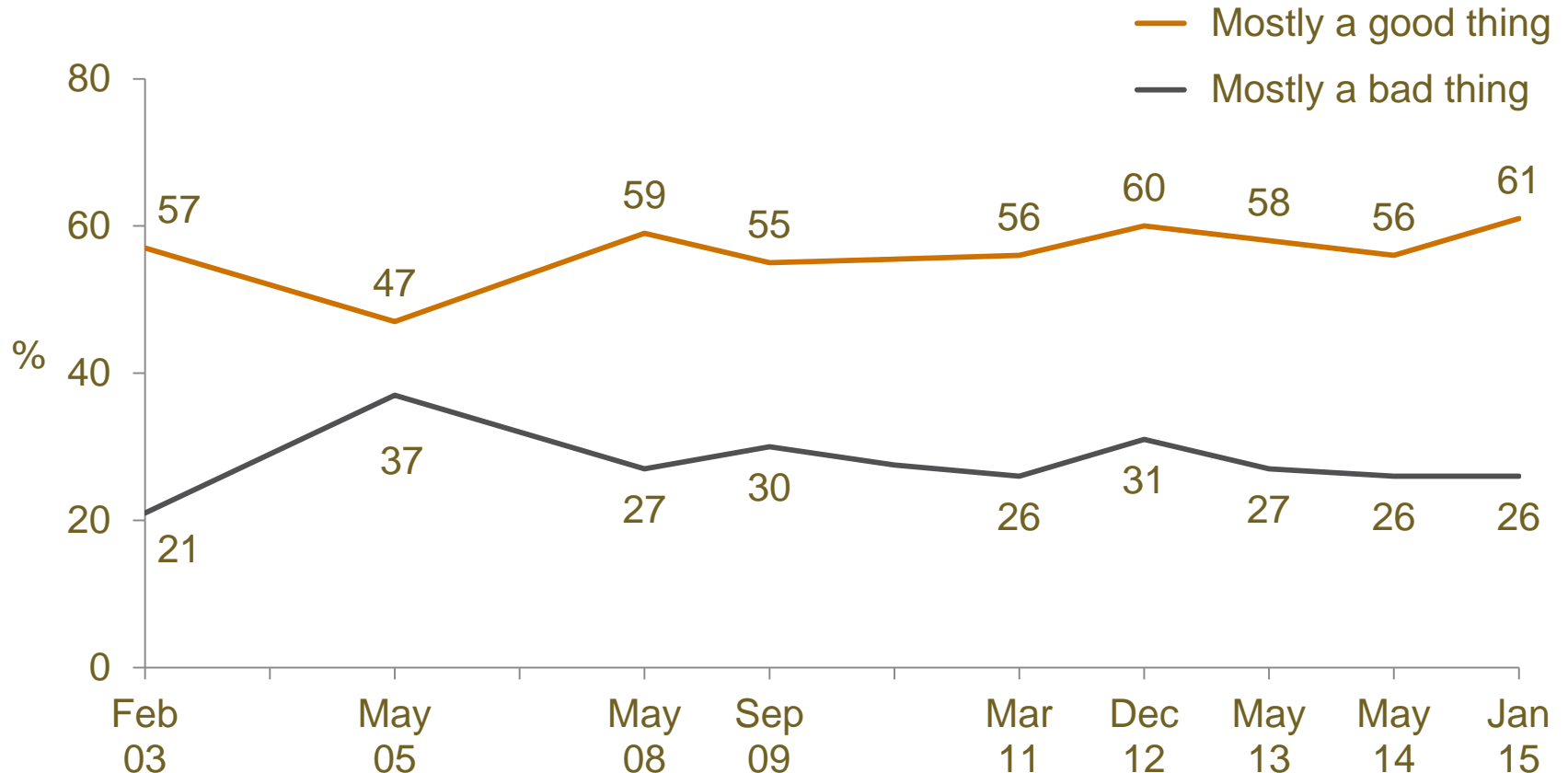
# Preferred fiscal approach

And when it comes to the tough choices involved in the state budget this year, both in deciding how much Californians should pay in taxes and how to fund state programs, whose approach do you most prefer?



# Views of Proposition 13

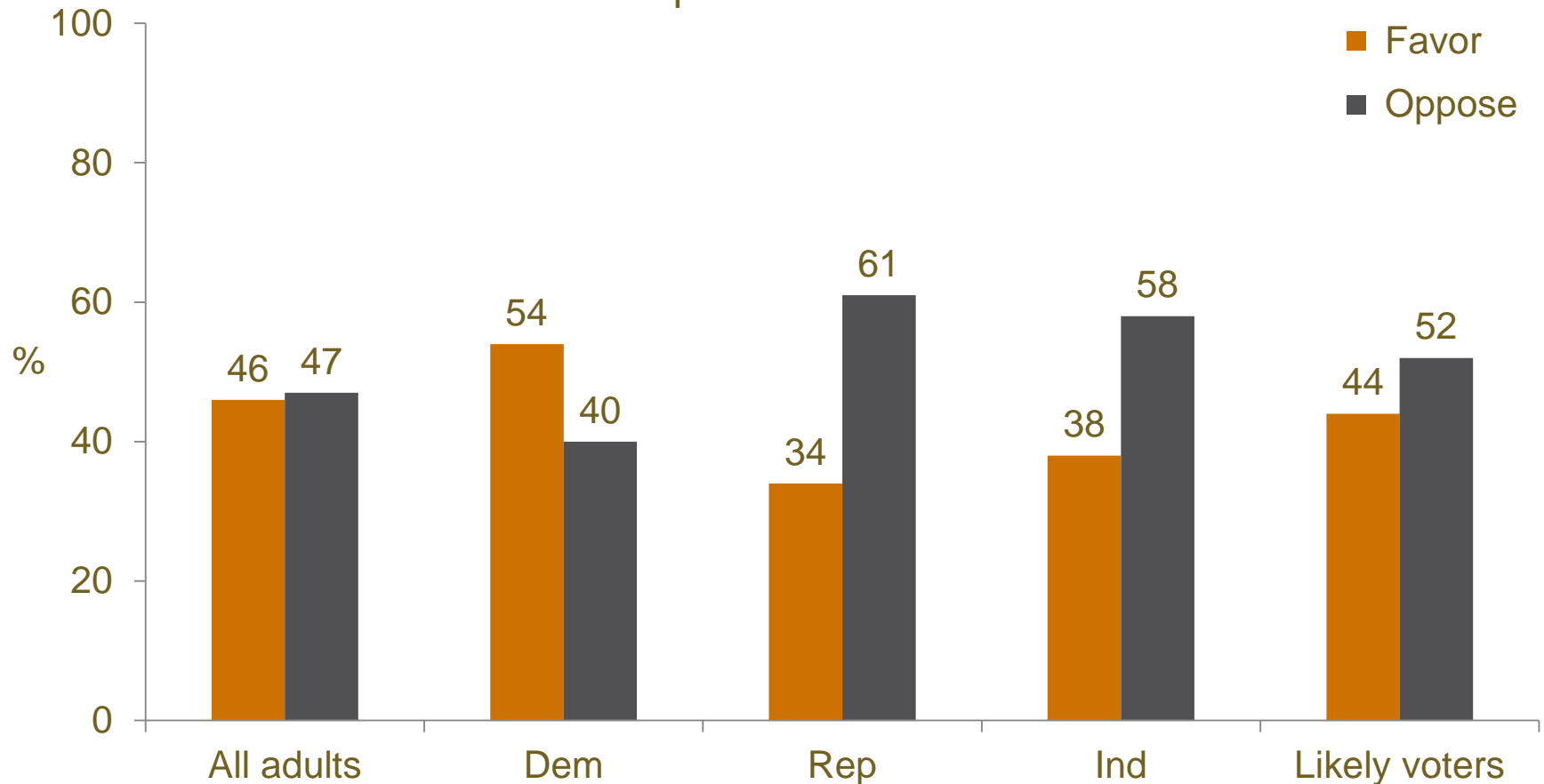
Overall, do you feel passing Proposition 13 turned out to be mostly a good thing for California or mostly a bad thing?





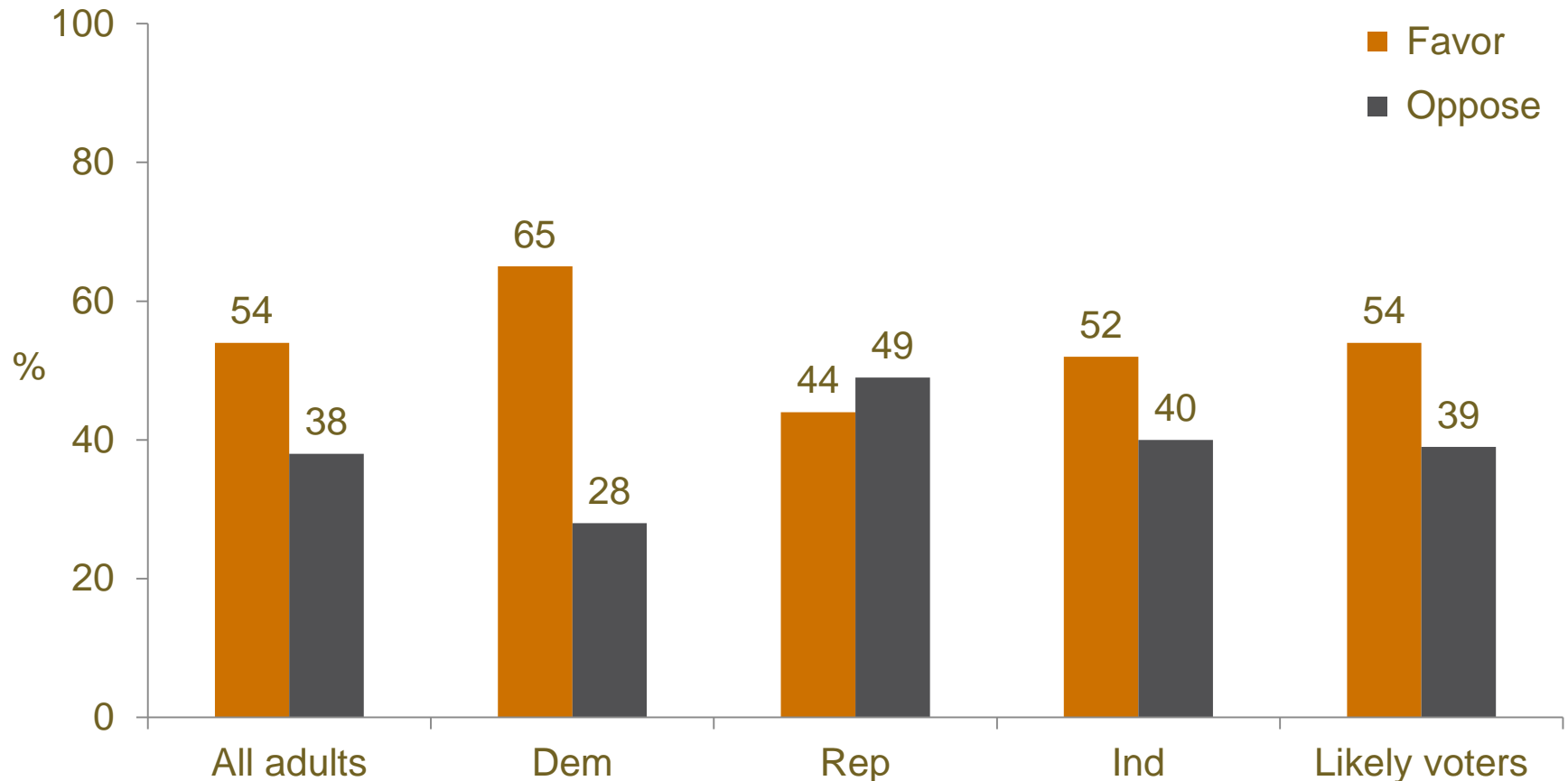
# Lowering the vote threshold for local special taxes

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?



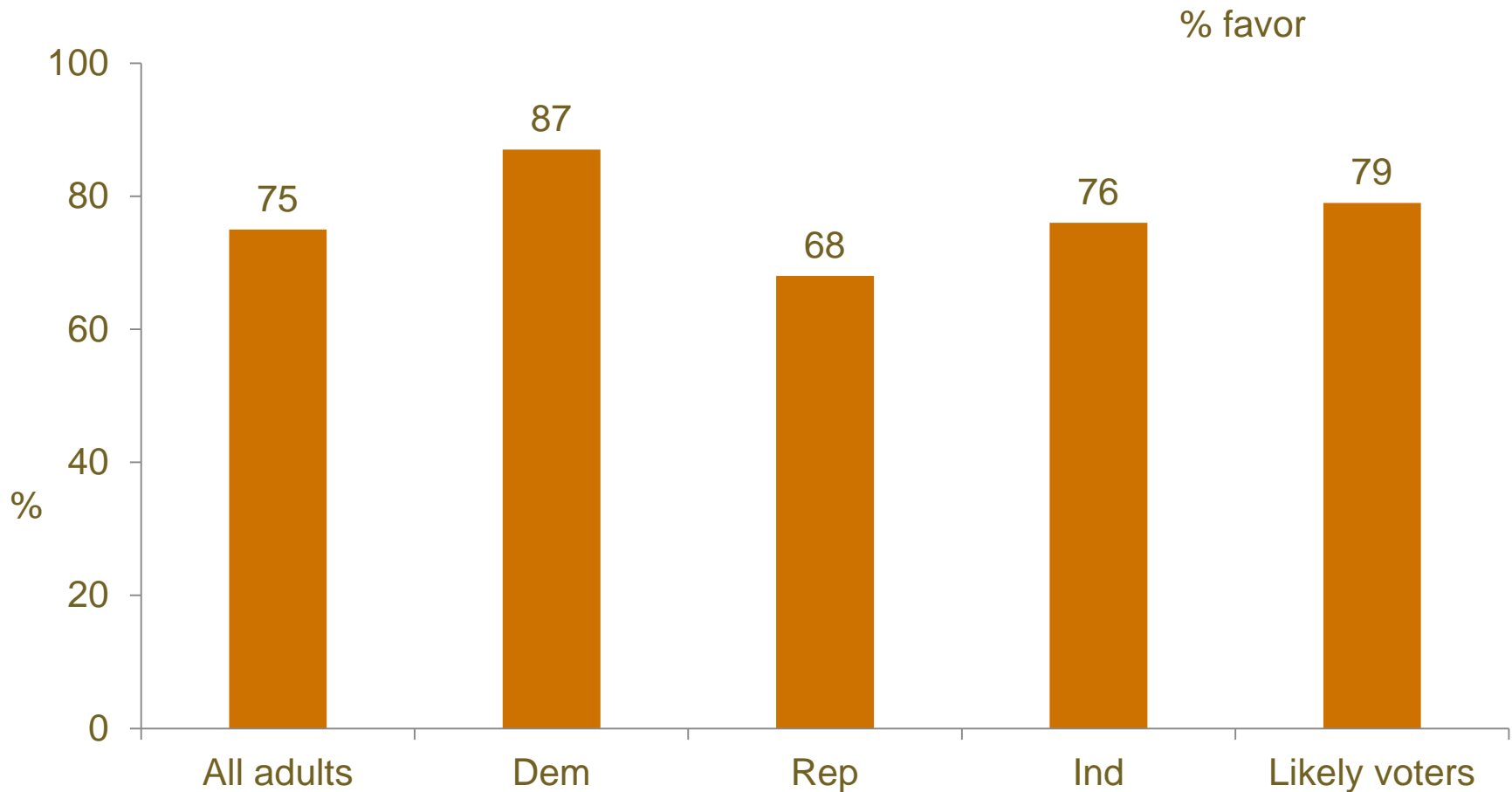
# Split roll property tax

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?



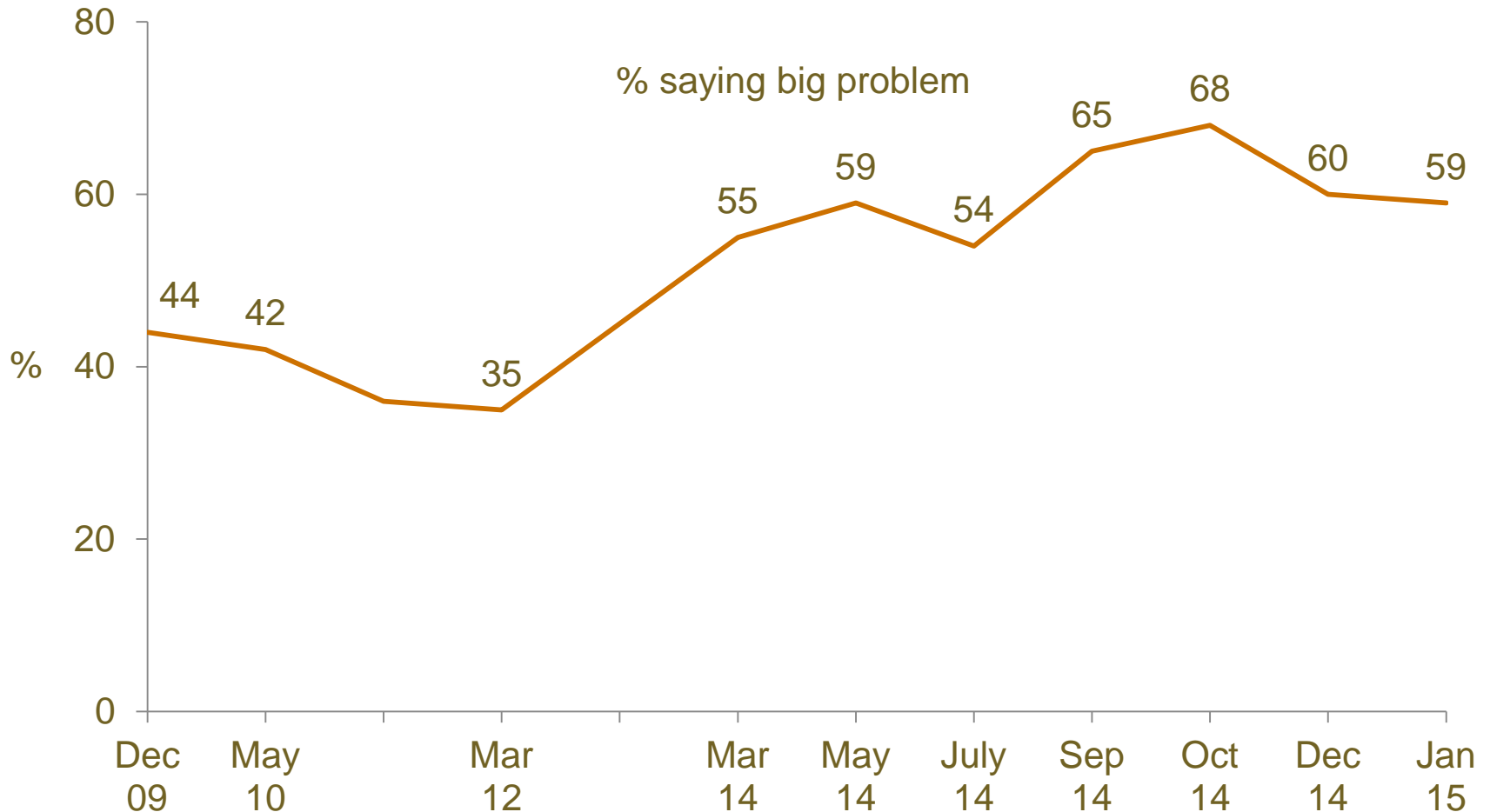
# Governor's budget proposal

In general, do you favor or oppose the governor's budget plan?



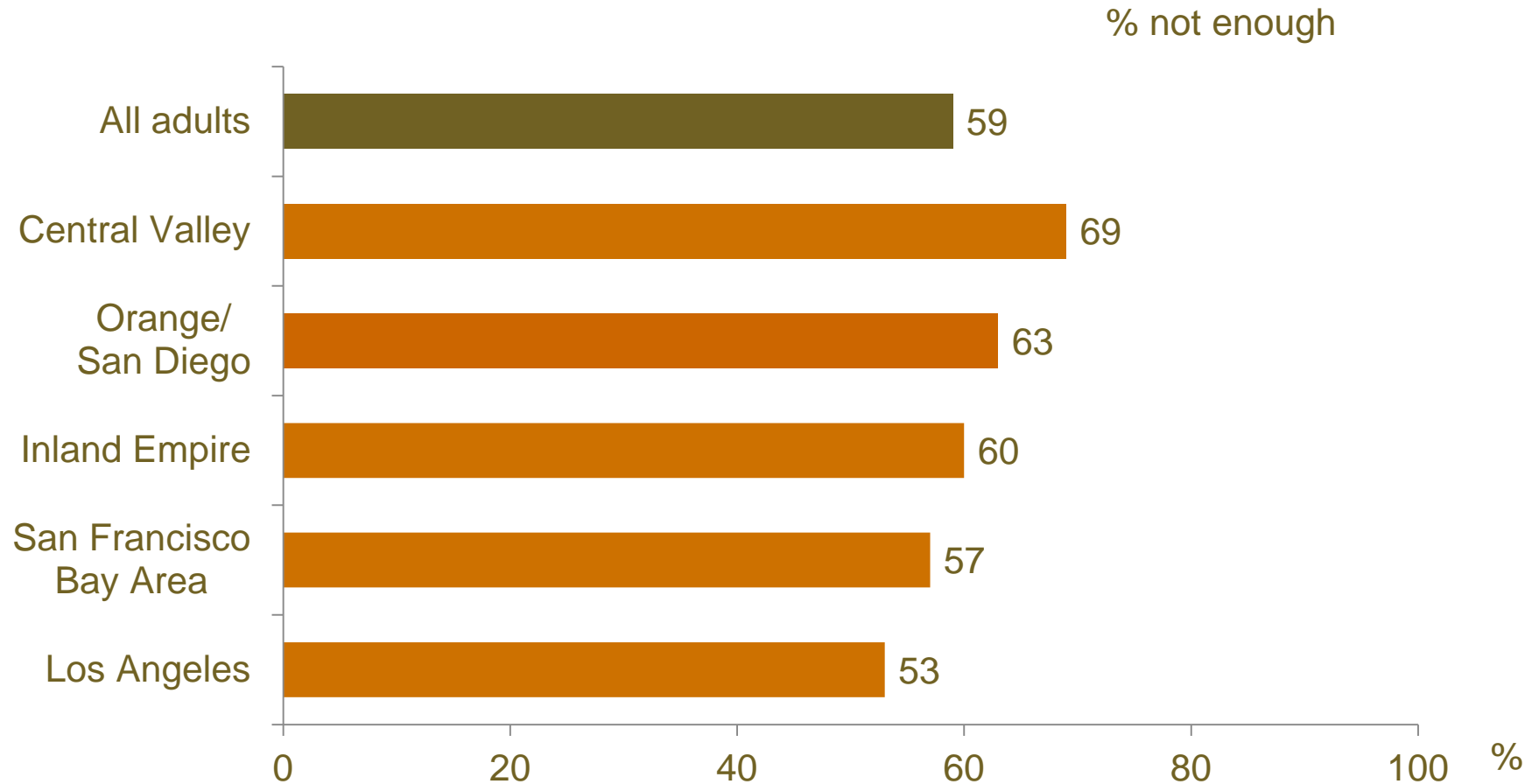
# Seriousness of water supply problem

Would you say that the supply of water is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your part of California?



# Government response to drought

Overall, do you think that the state and local governments are doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to respond to the current drought in California?



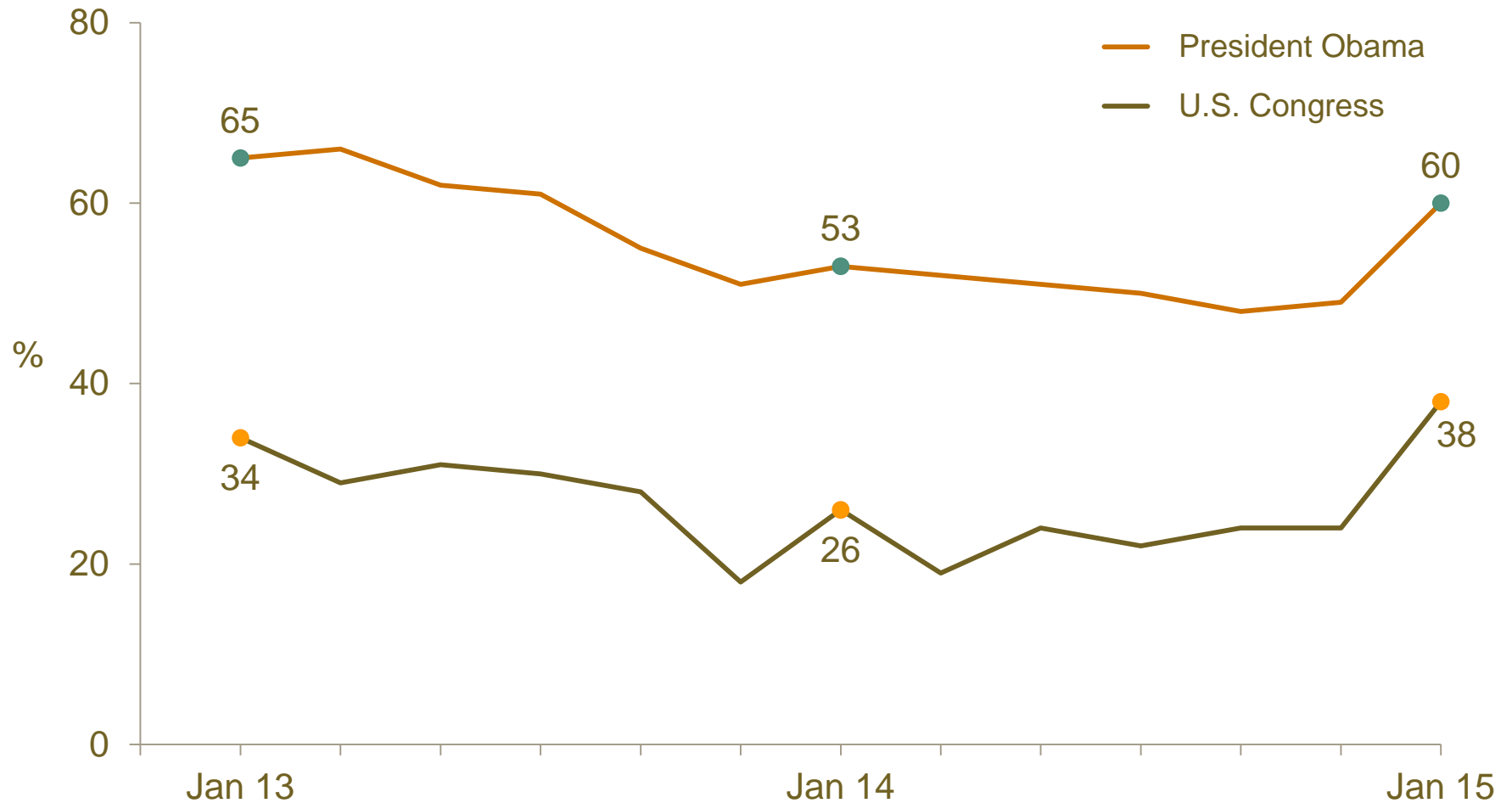
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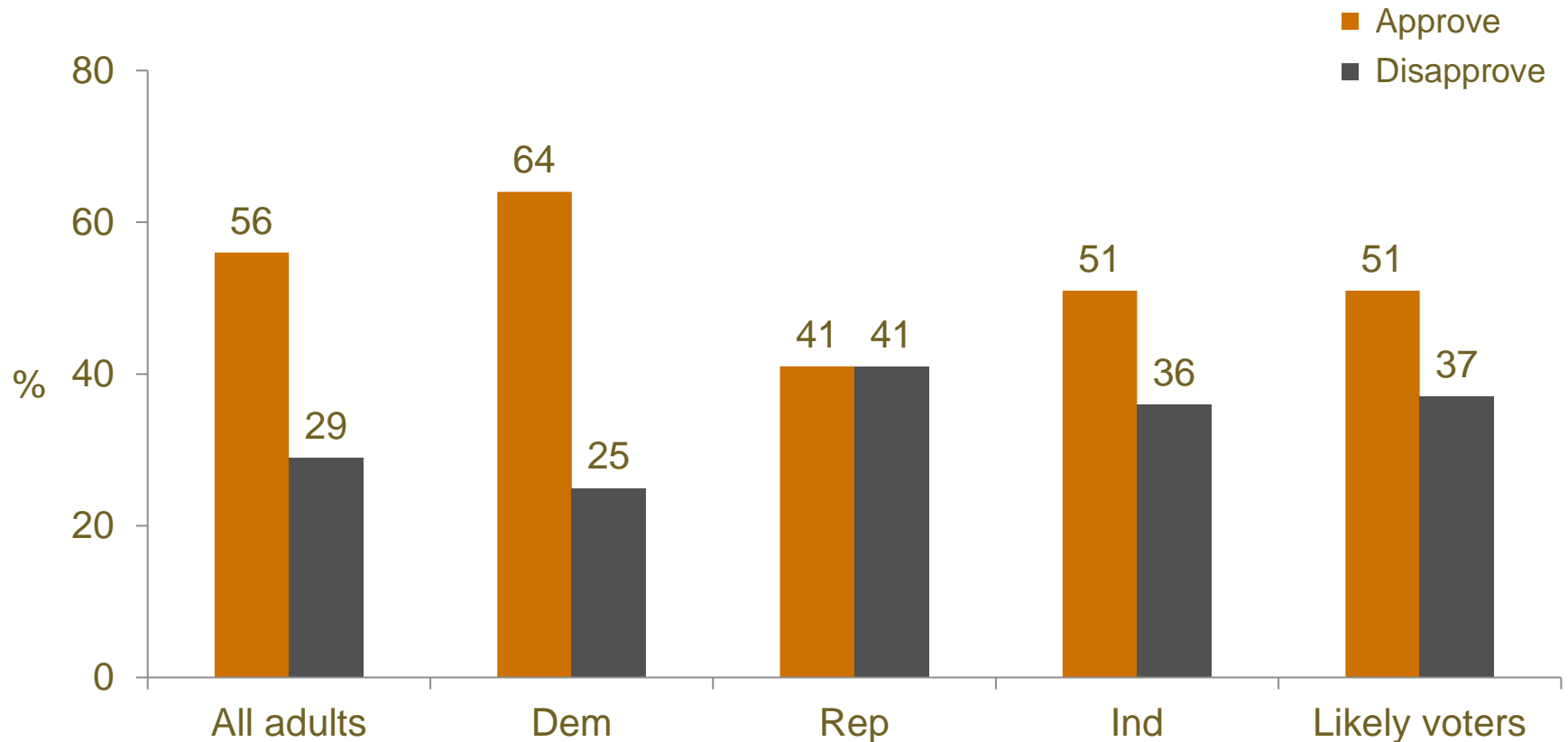


# Approval of federal elected officials



# Approval ratings of U.S. House representative

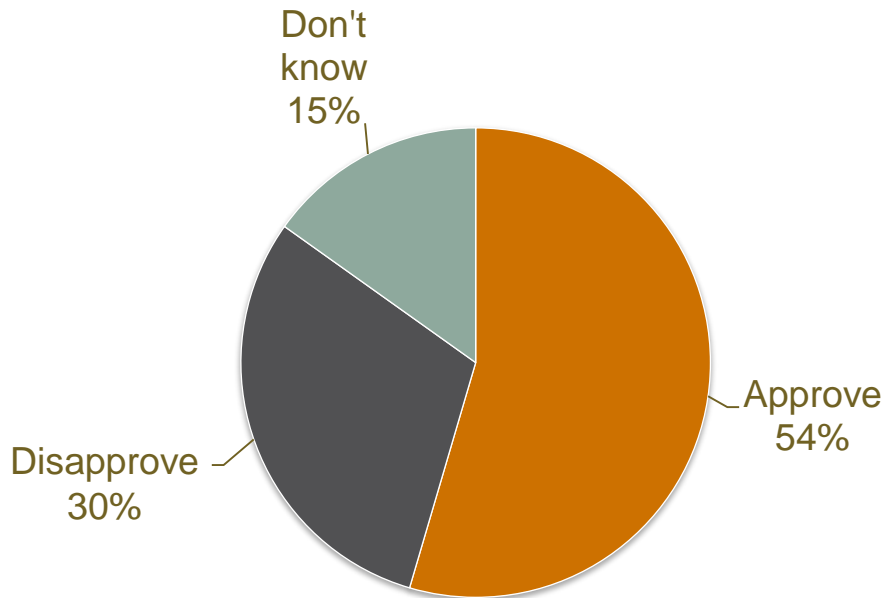
Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way your own representative to the U.S. House of Representatives in Congress is handling his or her job?



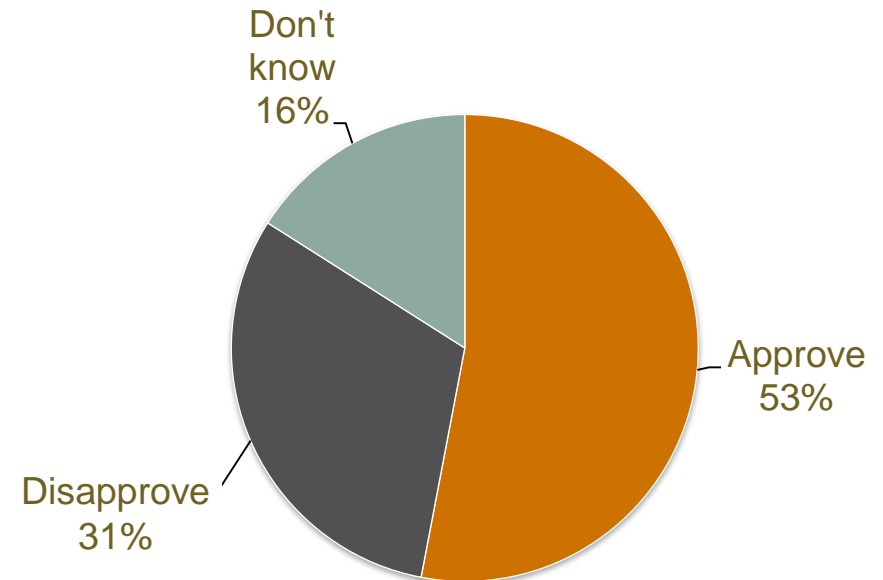


# Approval of California's U.S. senators

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?

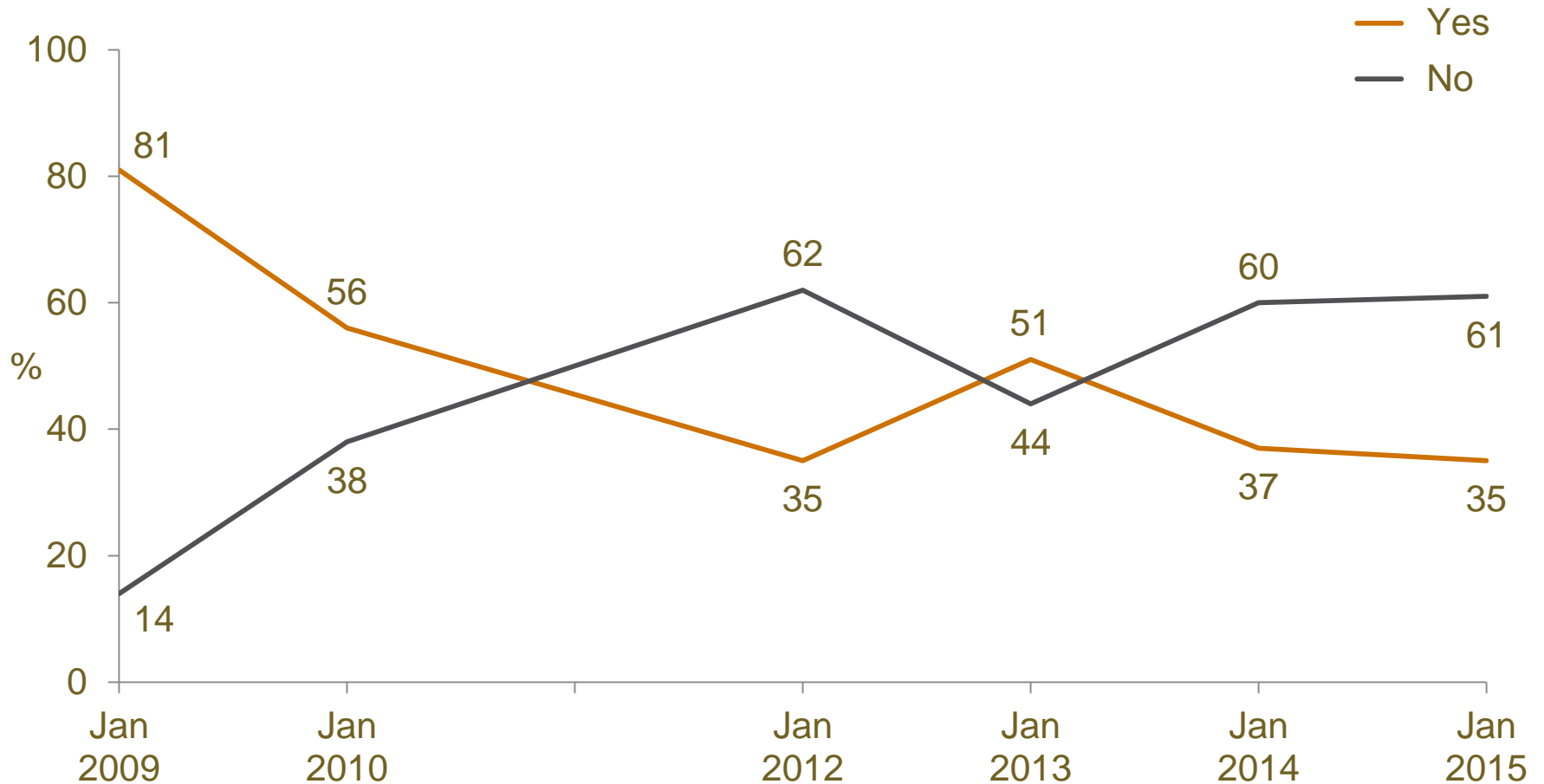


All adults



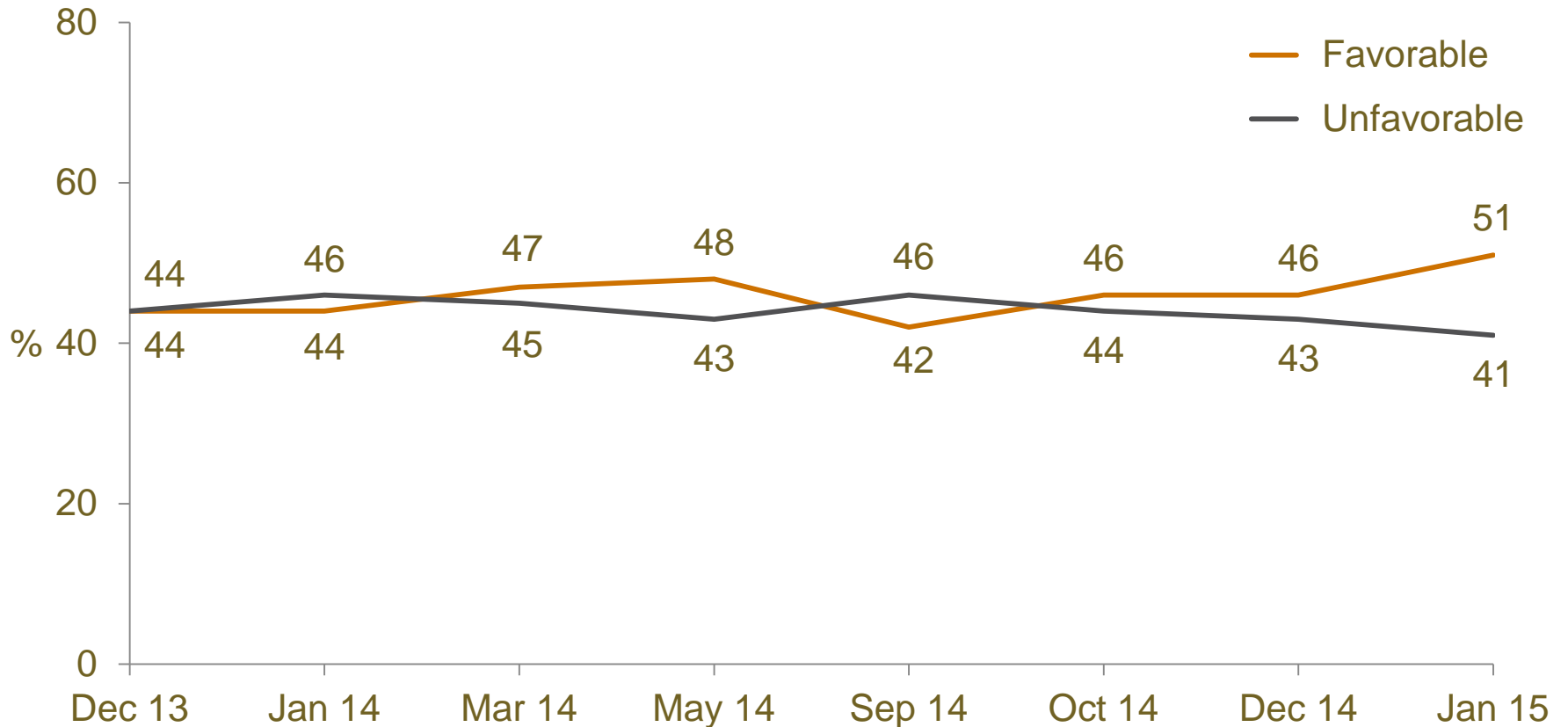
# Outlook for cooperation at federal level

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?



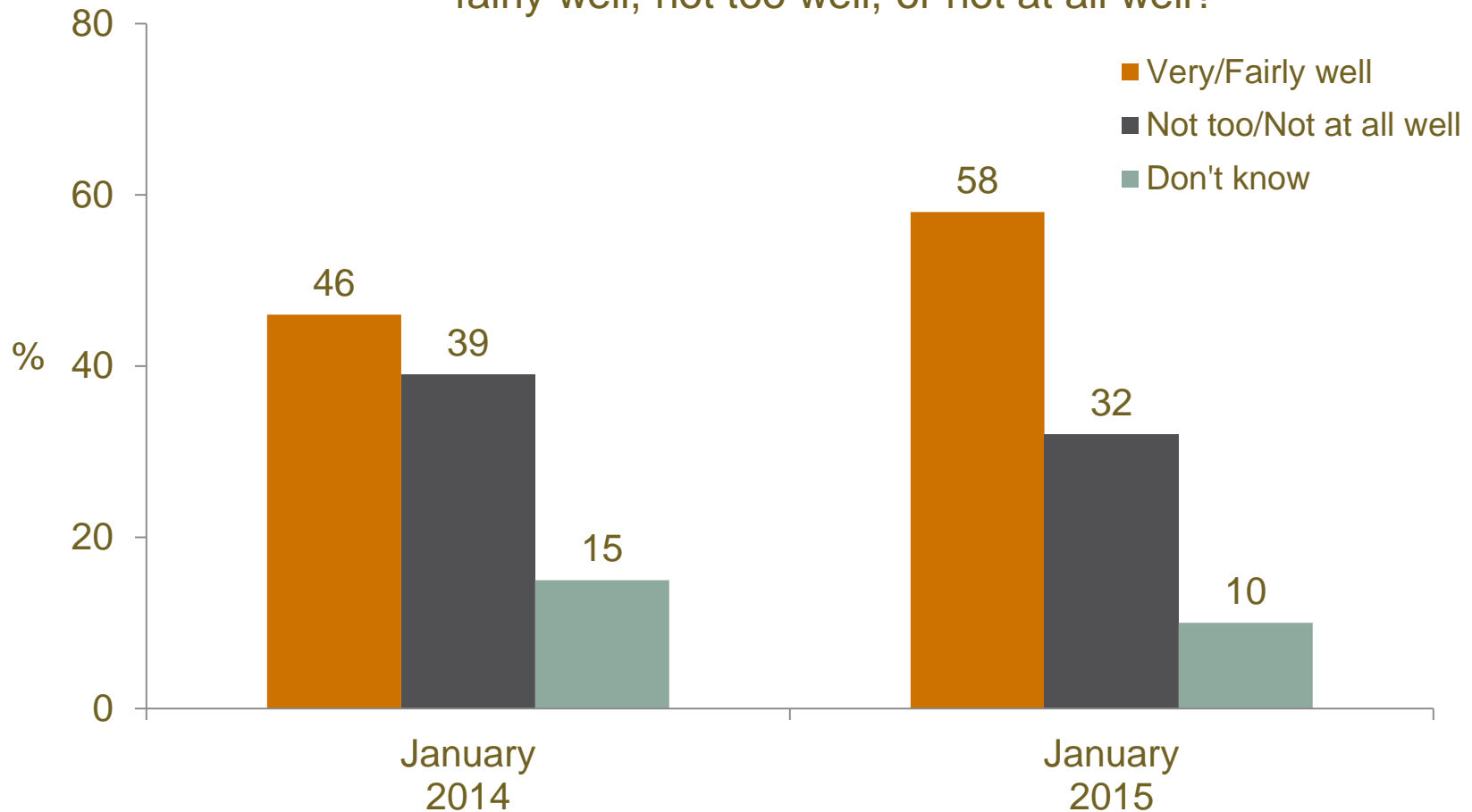
# Opinions of health reform law

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?



# Views on Covered California

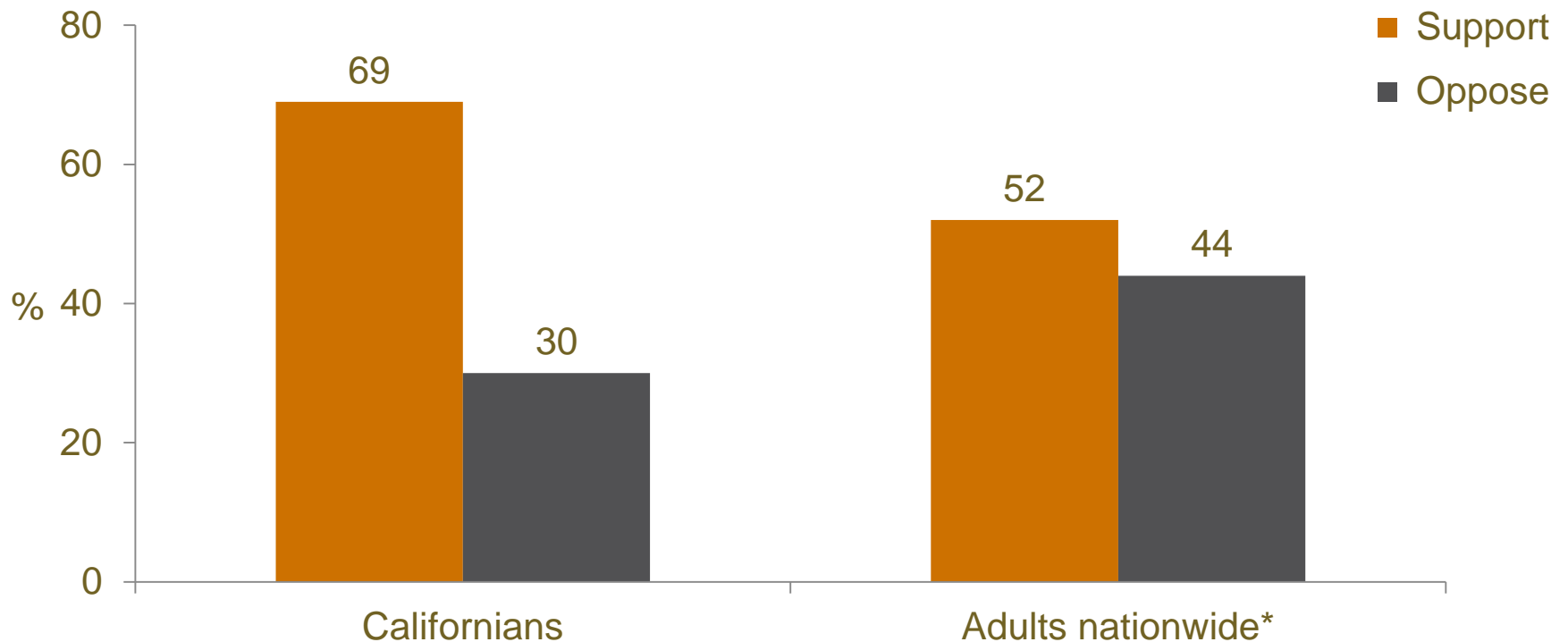
Just your impression, how well has California's health insurance exchange called "Covered California" been working—very well, fairly well, not too well, or not at all well?



# President Obama's executive action

President Obama has taken an executive action under which as many as four million of the country's undocumented immigrants will not face deportation over the next three years if they pass a background check and meet other requirements. Most will need to show that they have been in the United States for at least five years and have children who were born here.

Do you support or oppose this immigration program?

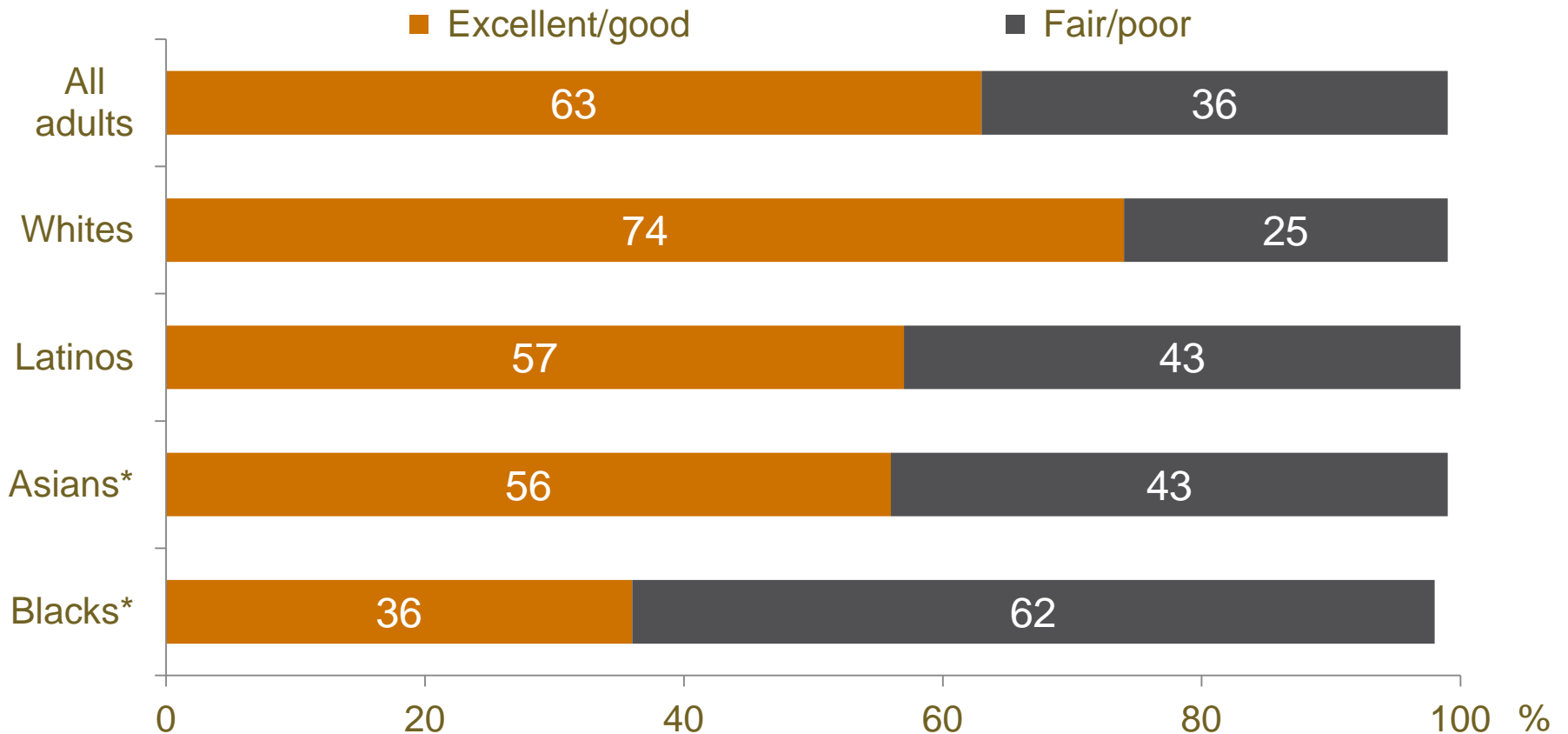


*\*ABC News/Washington Post, Dec 2014*



# Rating of local police

How would you rate the job your local police are doing in controlling crime in your community?

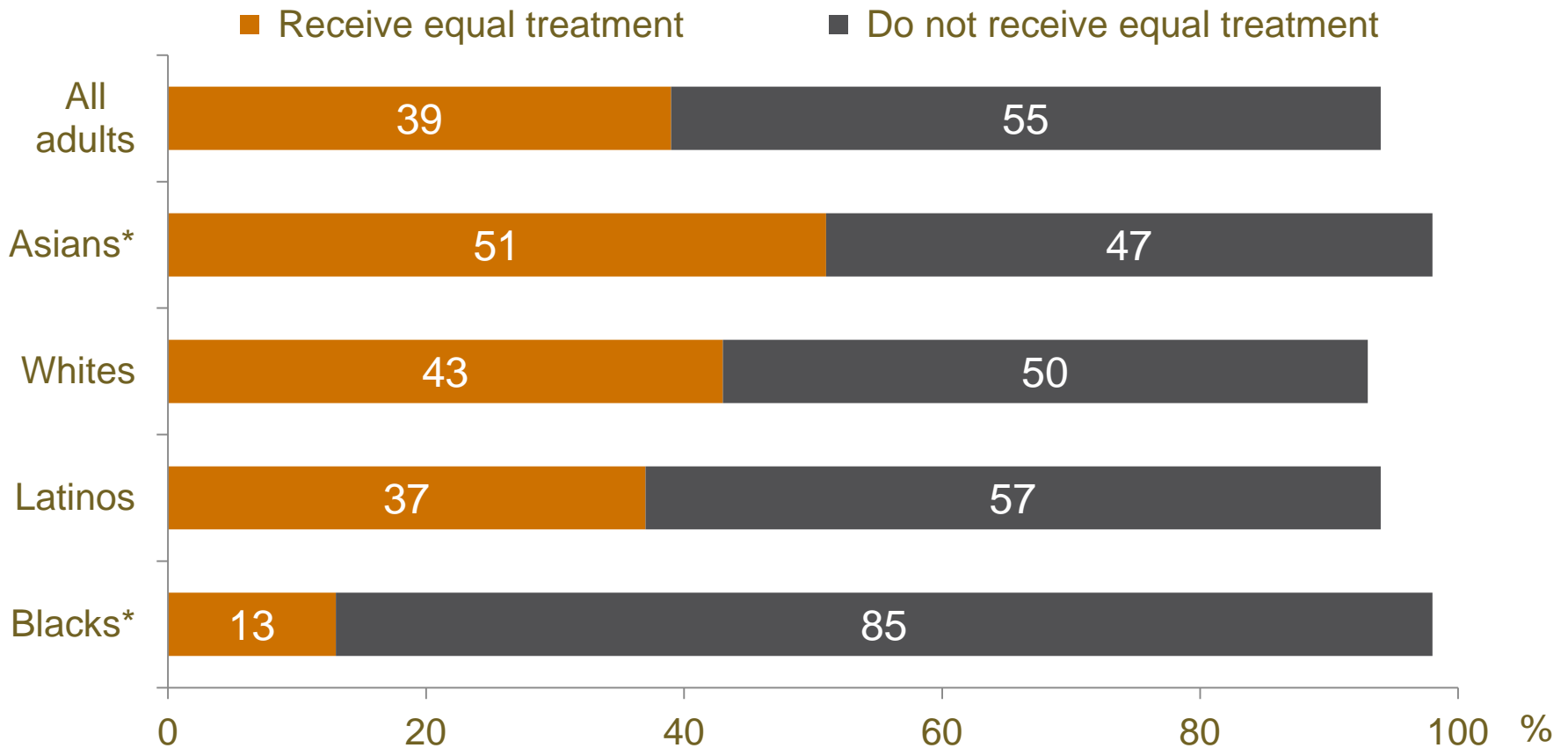


*\*Small sample sizes for Asians and blacks*



# Minorities in the criminal justice system

Do you think blacks and other minorities receive equal treatment as whites in the criminal justice system or not?



*\*Small sample sizes for Asians and blacks*



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# Conclusions

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- Approval of Governor Brown is at a record high; state legislature has highest approval in more than a decade
- Strong bipartisan support for the governor's budget
- Fewer than half view the budget as a big problem; half favor extending Proposition 30 taxes
- Approval of President Obama has rebounded, while fewer than four in 10 approve of Congress
- Half view the health reform law favorably and seven in 10 support President Obama's action on immigration
- More than half say minorities receive unequal treatment in the criminal justice system



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# Notes on the use of these slides

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

Thank you for your interest in this work.

