

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

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Outline

- **PPIC Statewide Surveys**
- **California Budget and Fiscal Attitudes**
- **State and National Political Context**
- **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
 - 260,000+ Californians since 1998
 - 120+ general, issue, and regional surveys



Californians and Their Government

- General series funded by The Irvine Foundation
- California budget and fiscal attitudes
 - Assessments of current budget situation, attitudes toward spending and taxes
 - Governor's budget proposal and tax initiative
- State and national political context
 - Approval ratings, 2012 elections
- Telephone interviews, Jan. 10–17
 - 2,002 adults / 894 likely voters
 - $\pm 3.4\%$ margin of error for adults
 - $\pm 4.2\%$ for likely voters



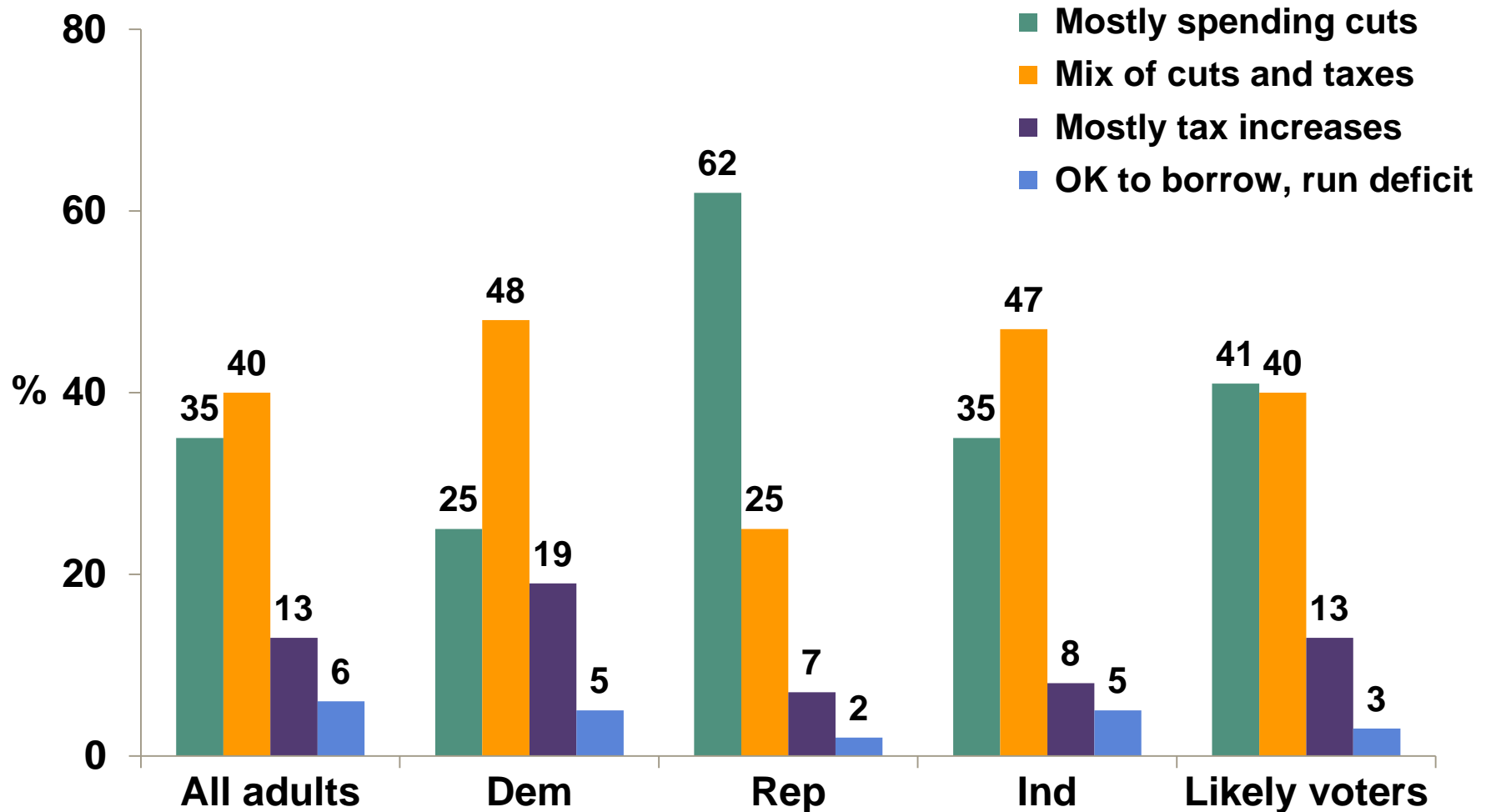
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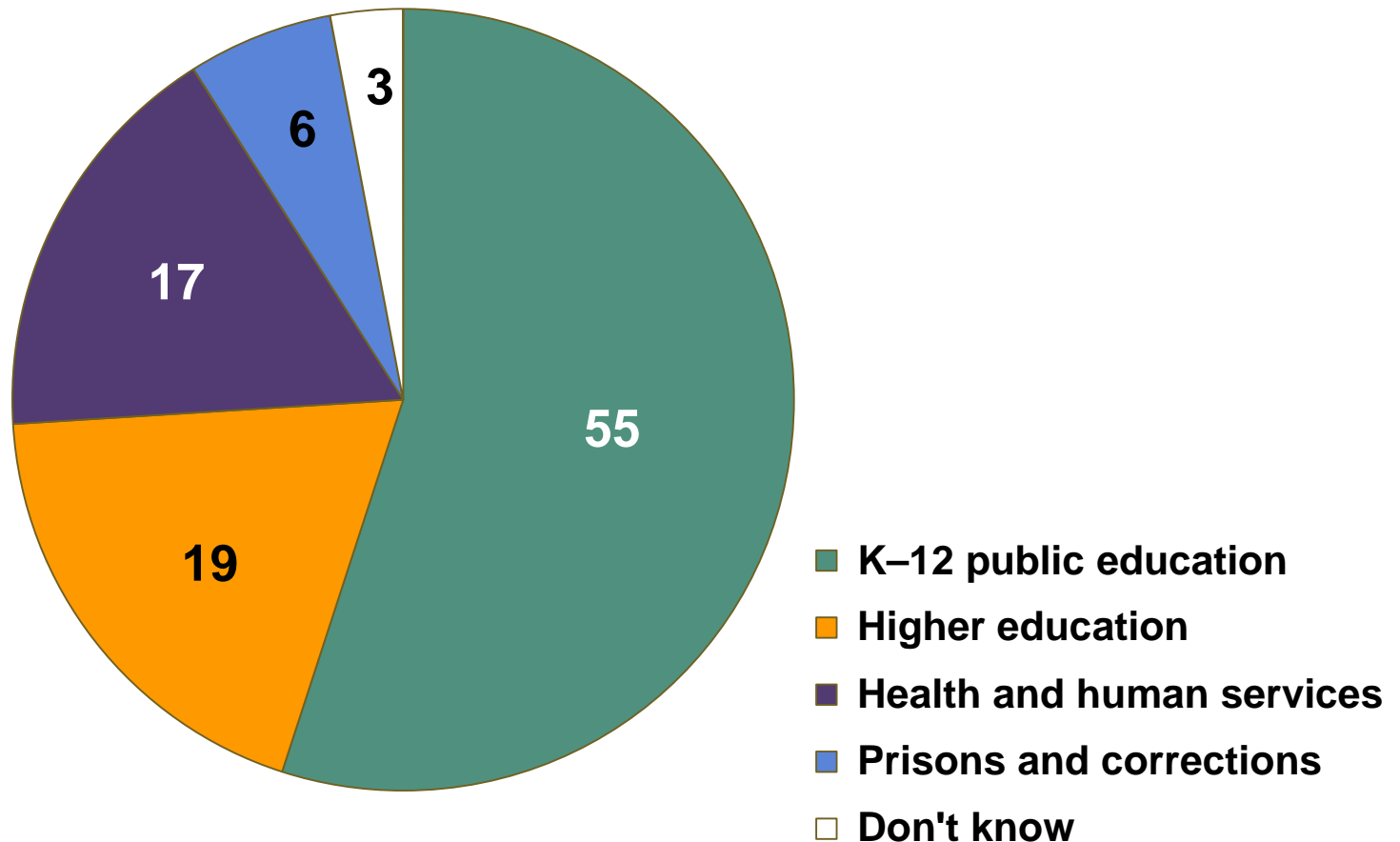
Closing the Budget Deficit

How would you prefer to deal with the state's budget gap?



Budget Area to Protect from Cuts

Thinking about these four areas of state spending, I'd like you to name the one you most want to protect from spending cuts.

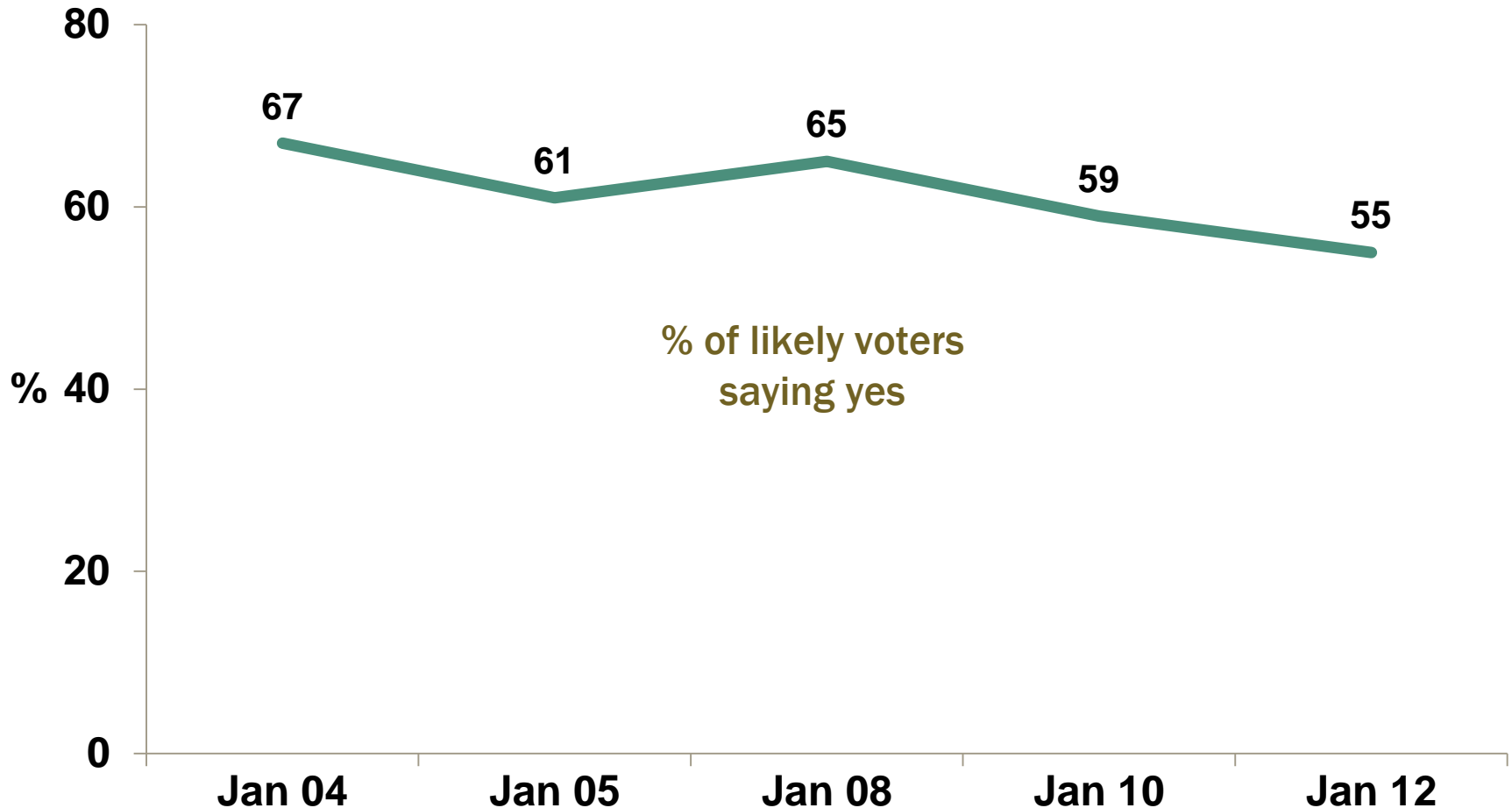


All adults



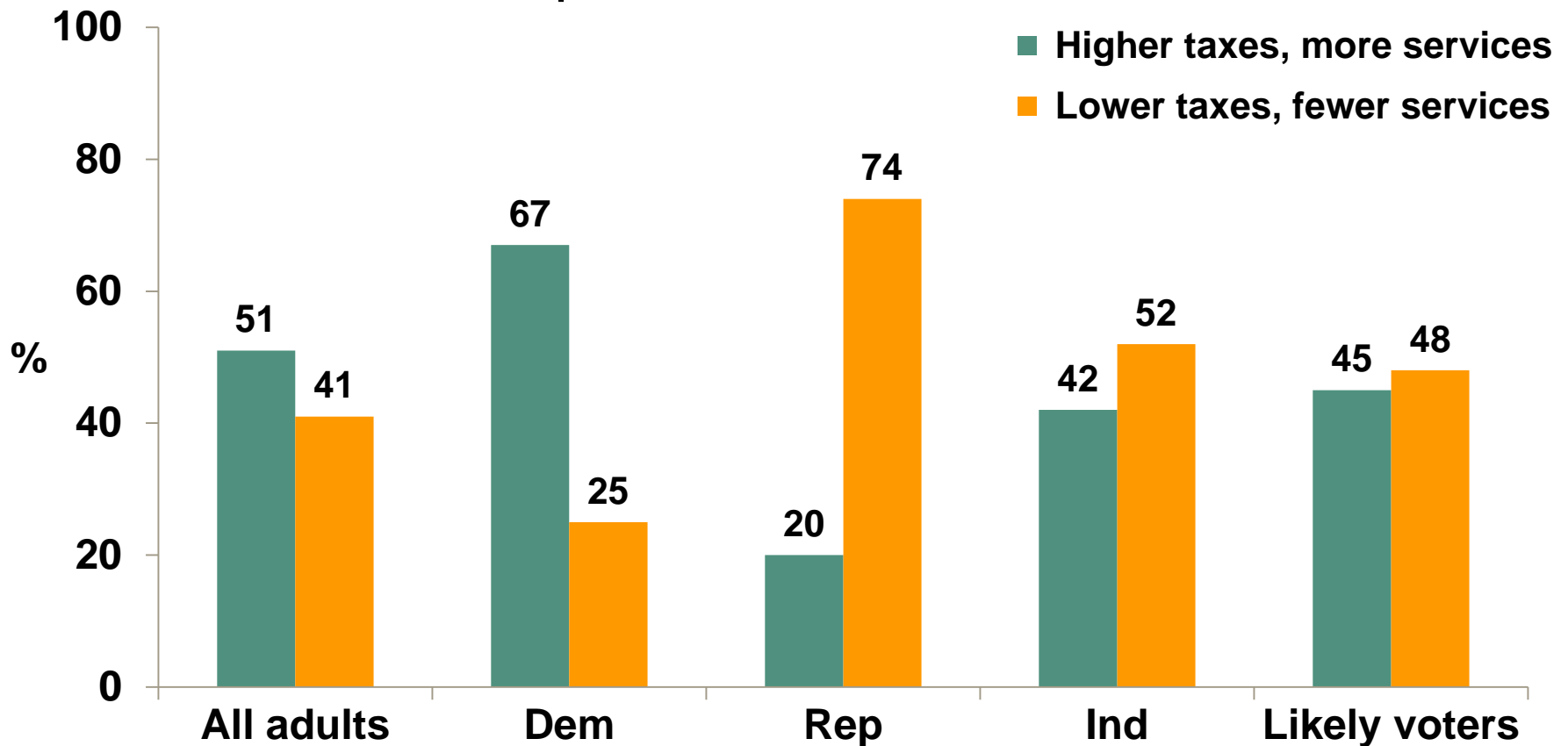
Efficiency of State Funding

In general, do you think the state government could spend less and still provide the same level of services, or not?



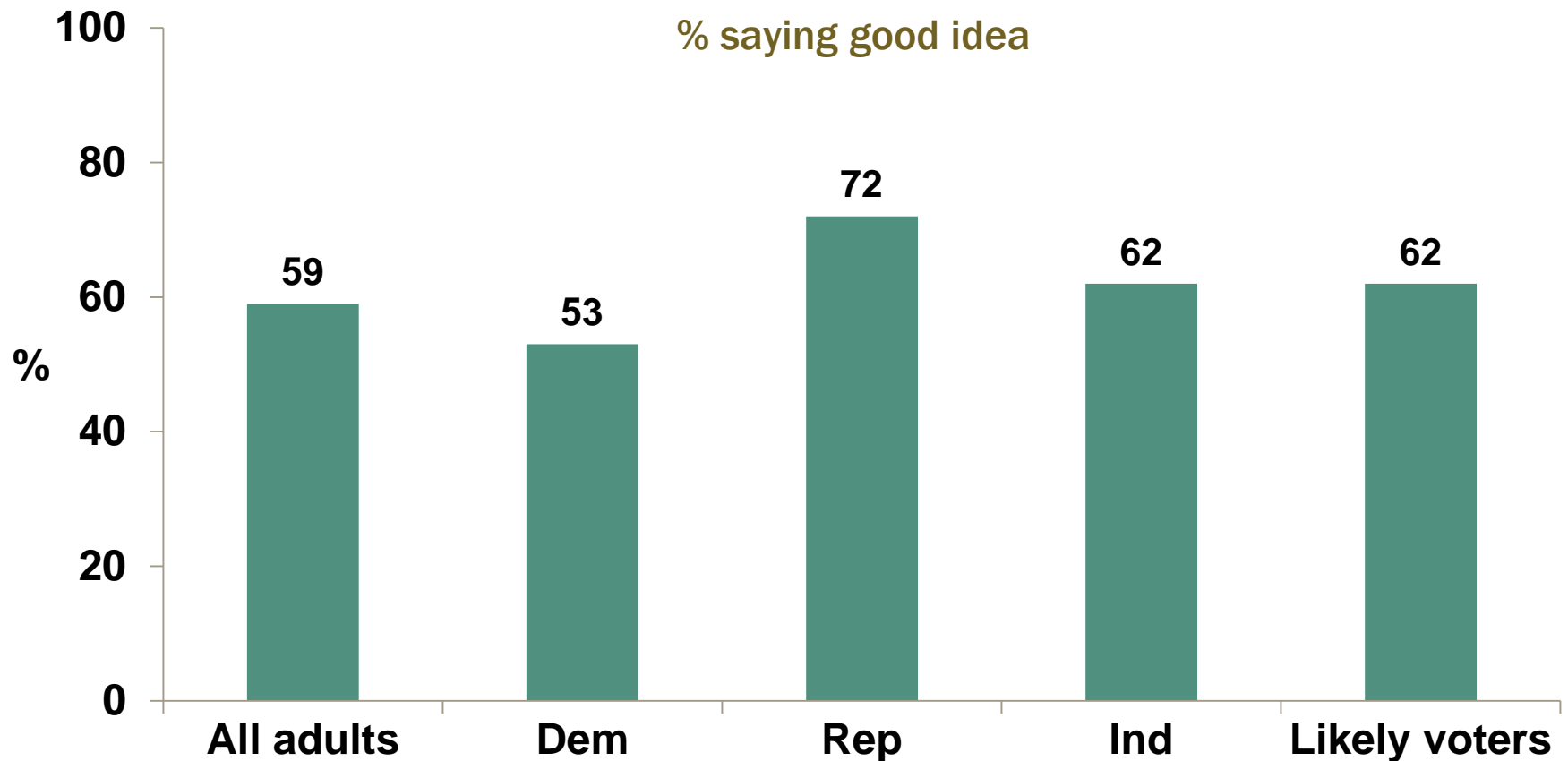
Taxes and Spending

In general, which of the following statements do you agree with more—I'd rather pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services, or I'd rather pay lower taxes and have a state government that provides fewer services?



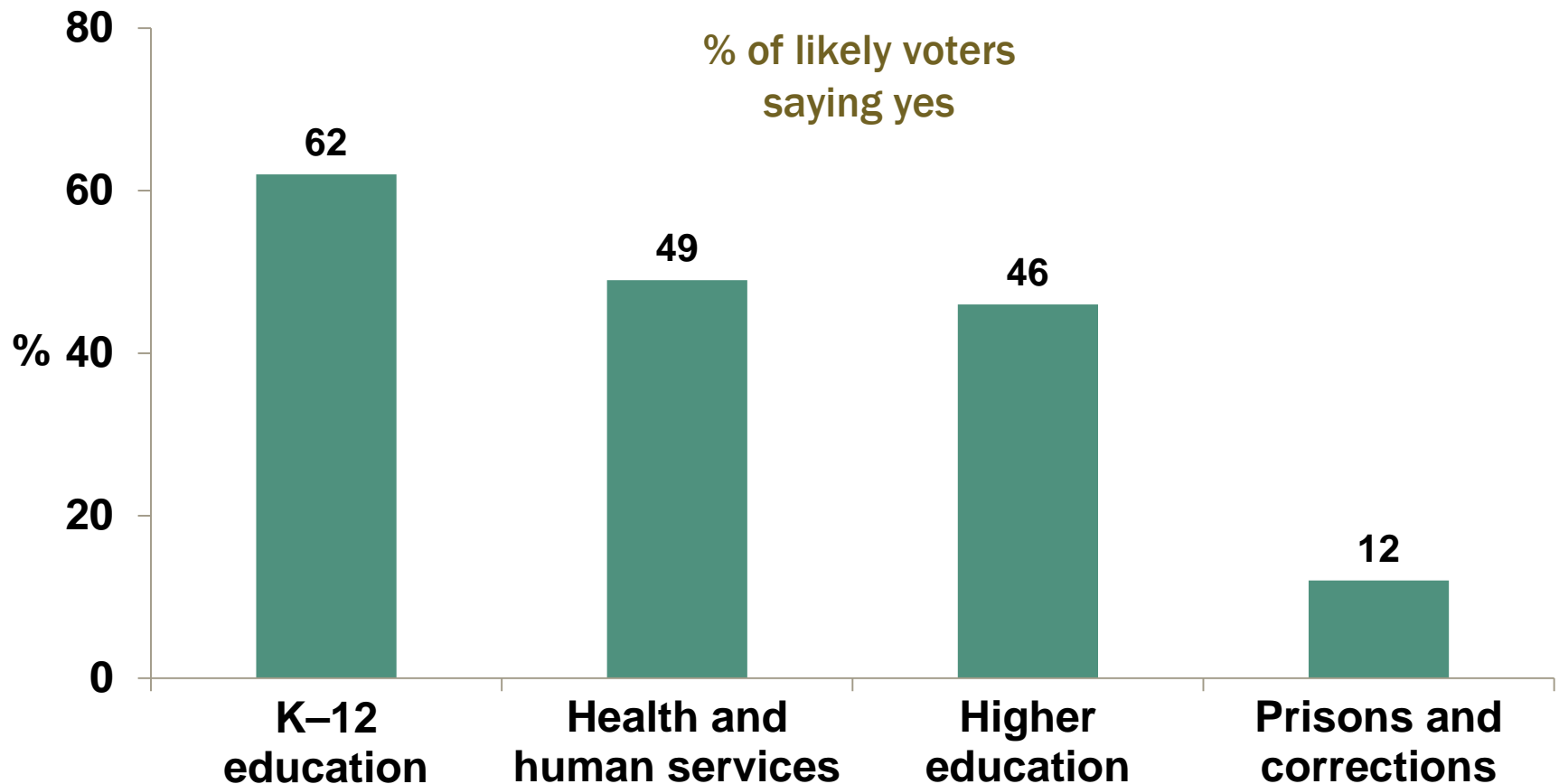
State Spending Limit

Fiscal reforms have been proposed to address the structural issues in the state budget. Do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea to strictly limit the amount of money that state spending could increase each year?



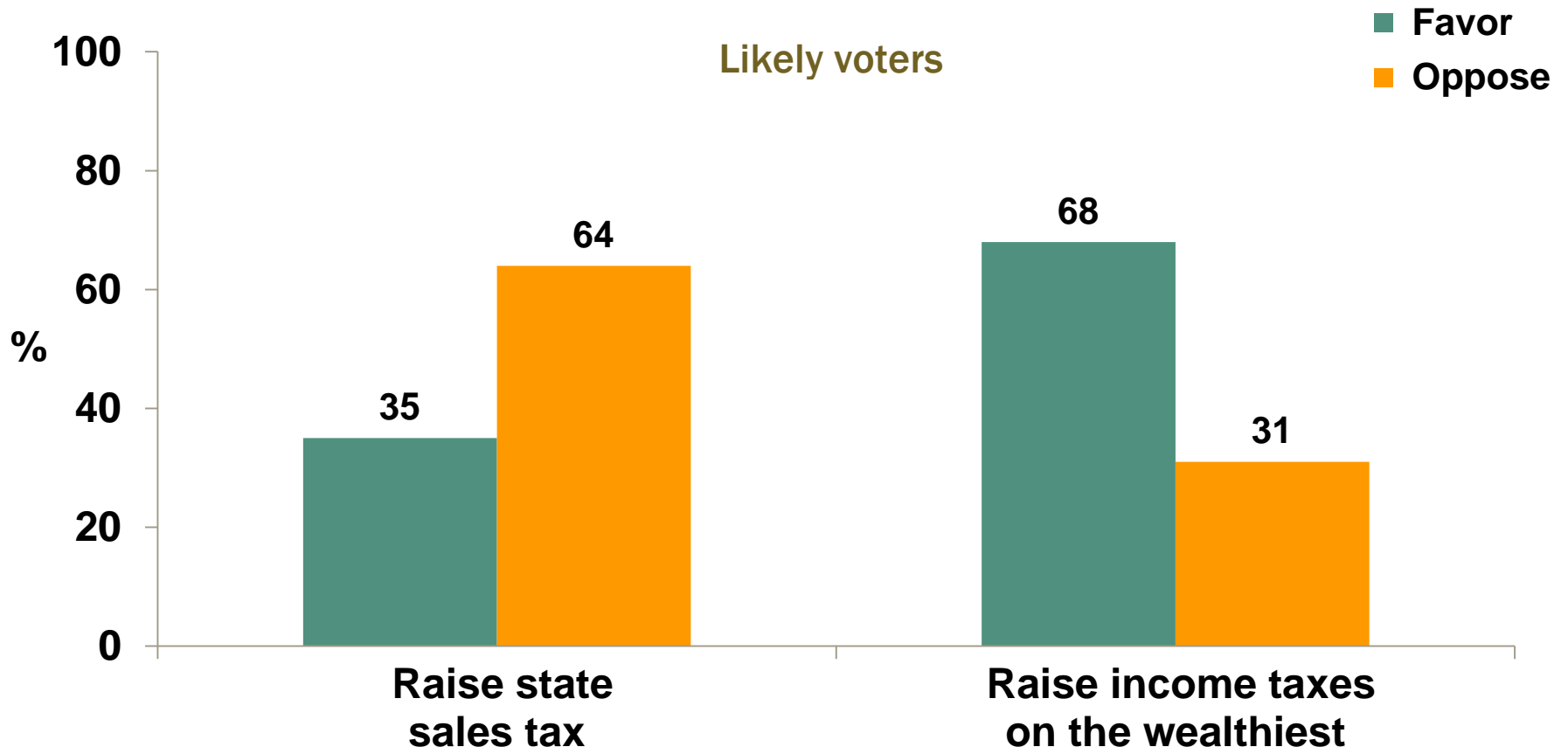
Raising Taxes for Specific Areas

What if the state said it needed more money just to maintain current funding for ...? Would you be willing to pay higher taxes for this purpose, or not?



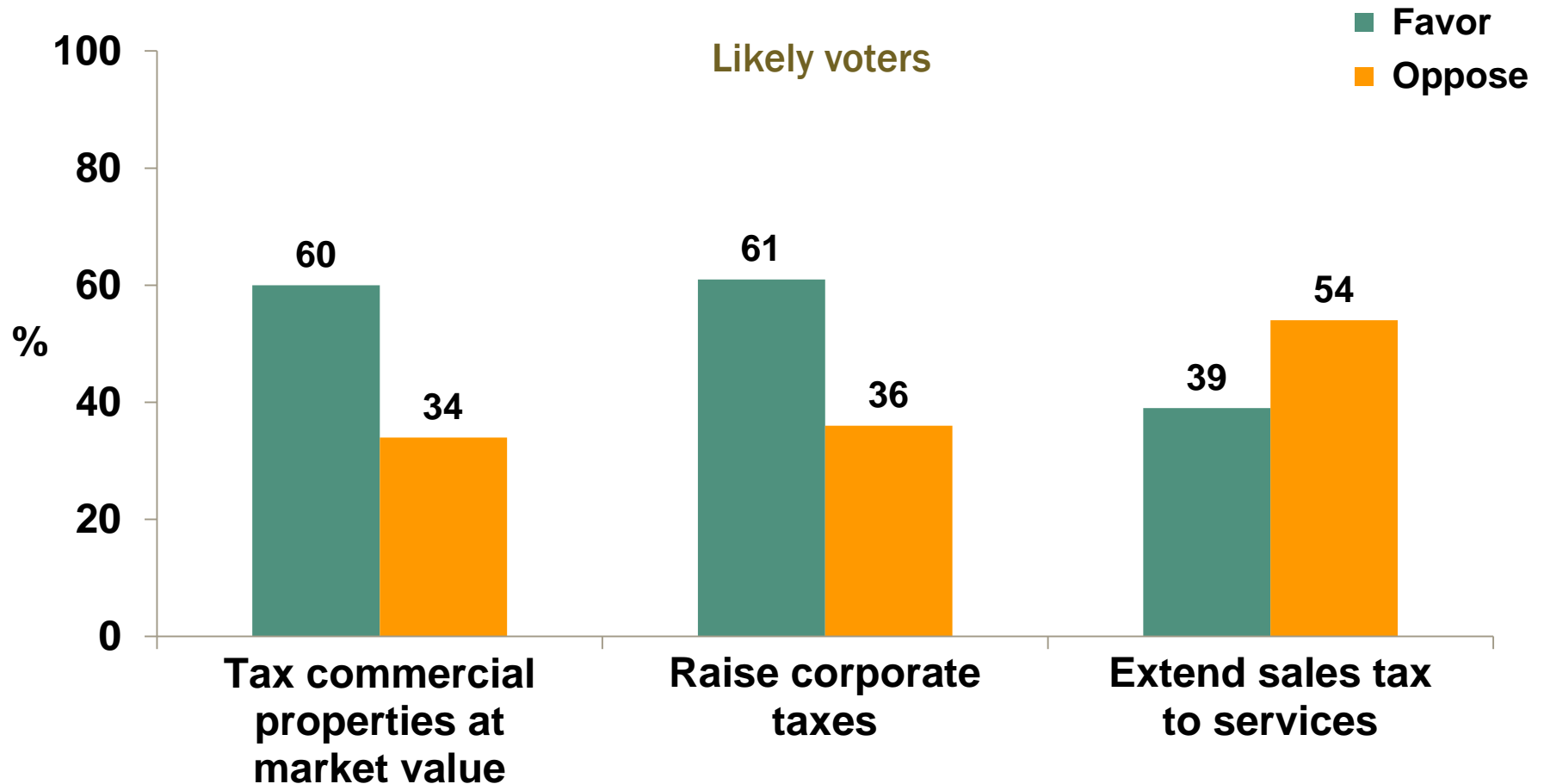
Raising Revenues

Tax and fee increases could be used to help reduce the state's large gap between spending and revenues. For each of the following, please say if you favor or oppose the proposal.



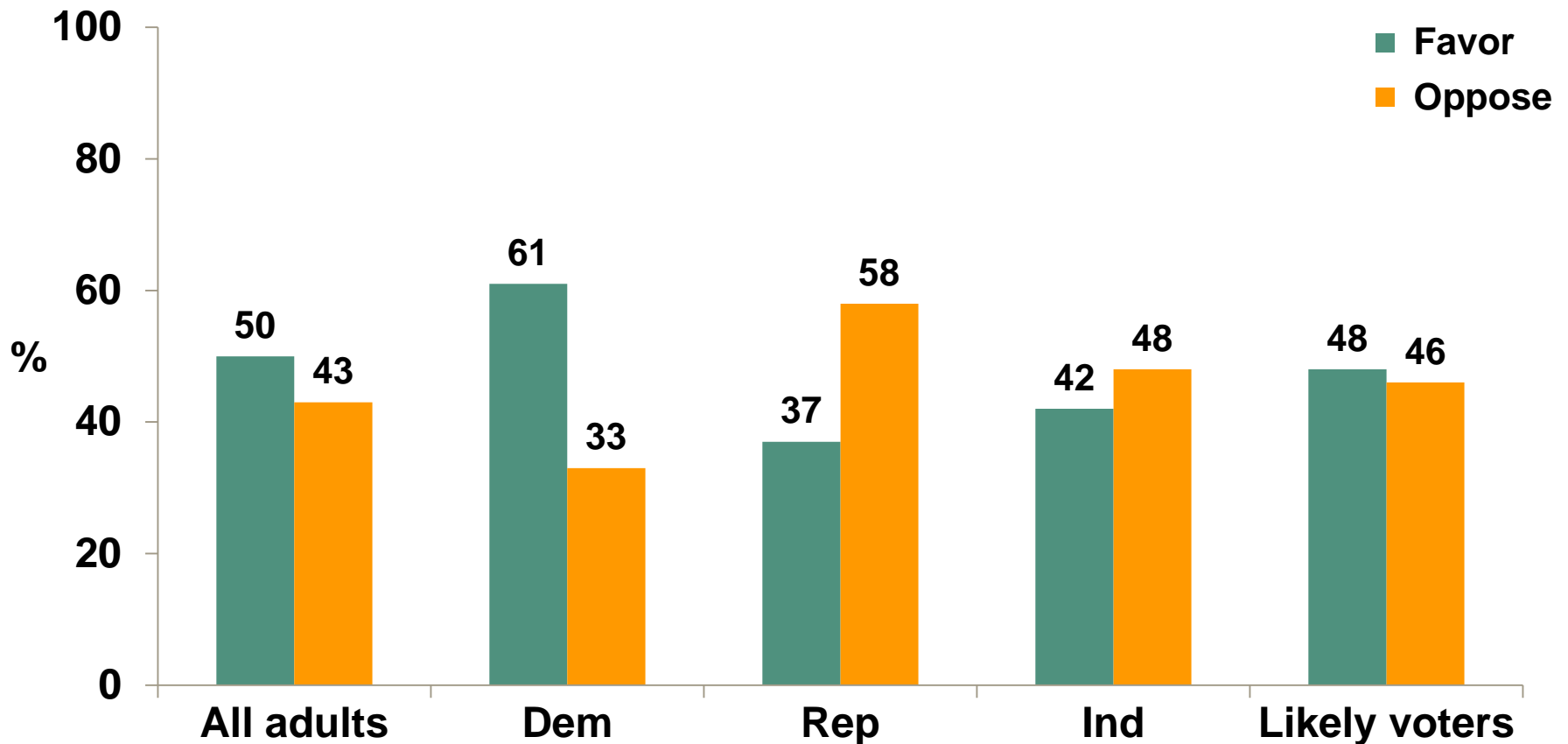
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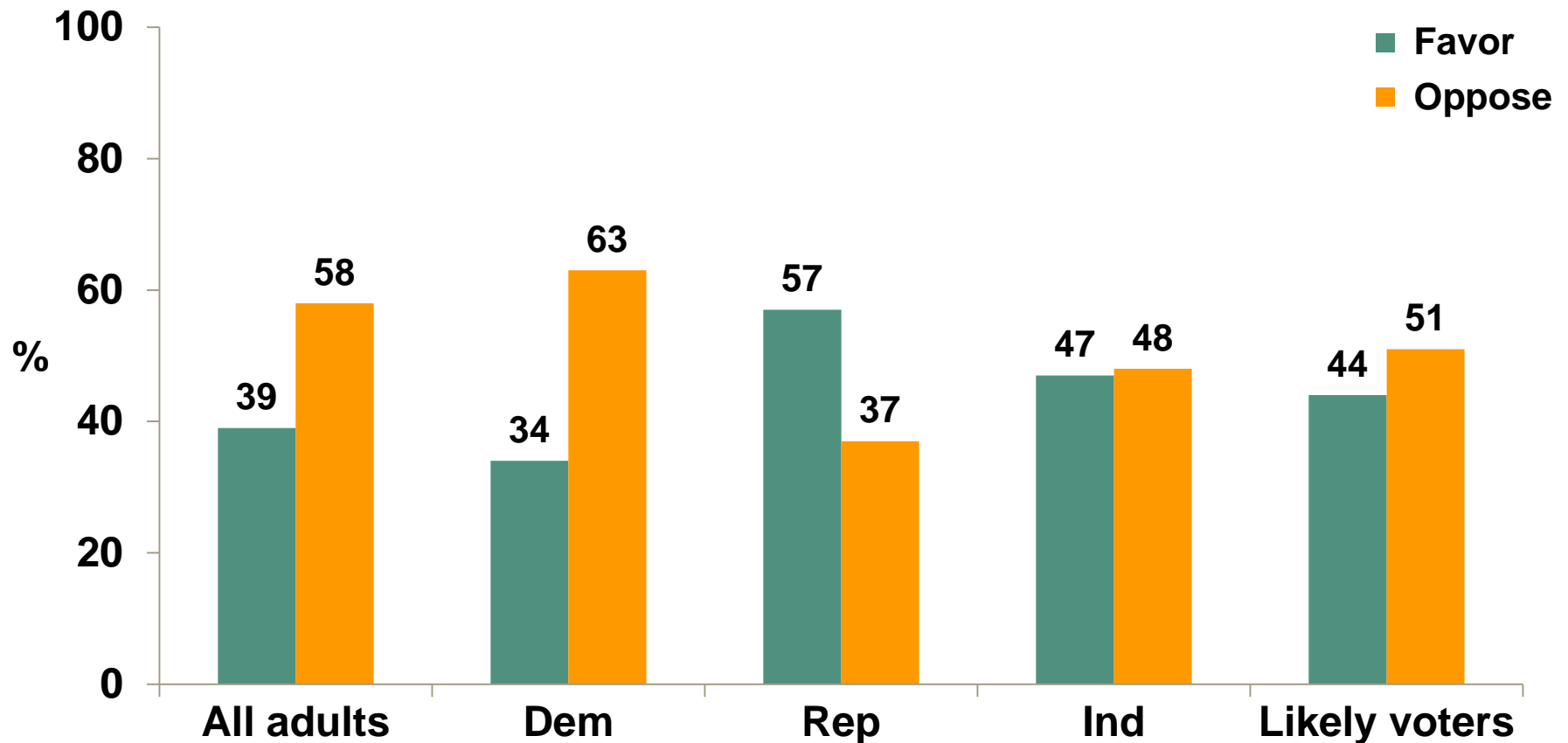
Governor's Budget Proposal

Governor Brown proposed a budget plan for the current and next fiscal year to close the state's projected \$9.2 billion budget deficit. ... In general, do you favor or oppose the governor's budget plan?



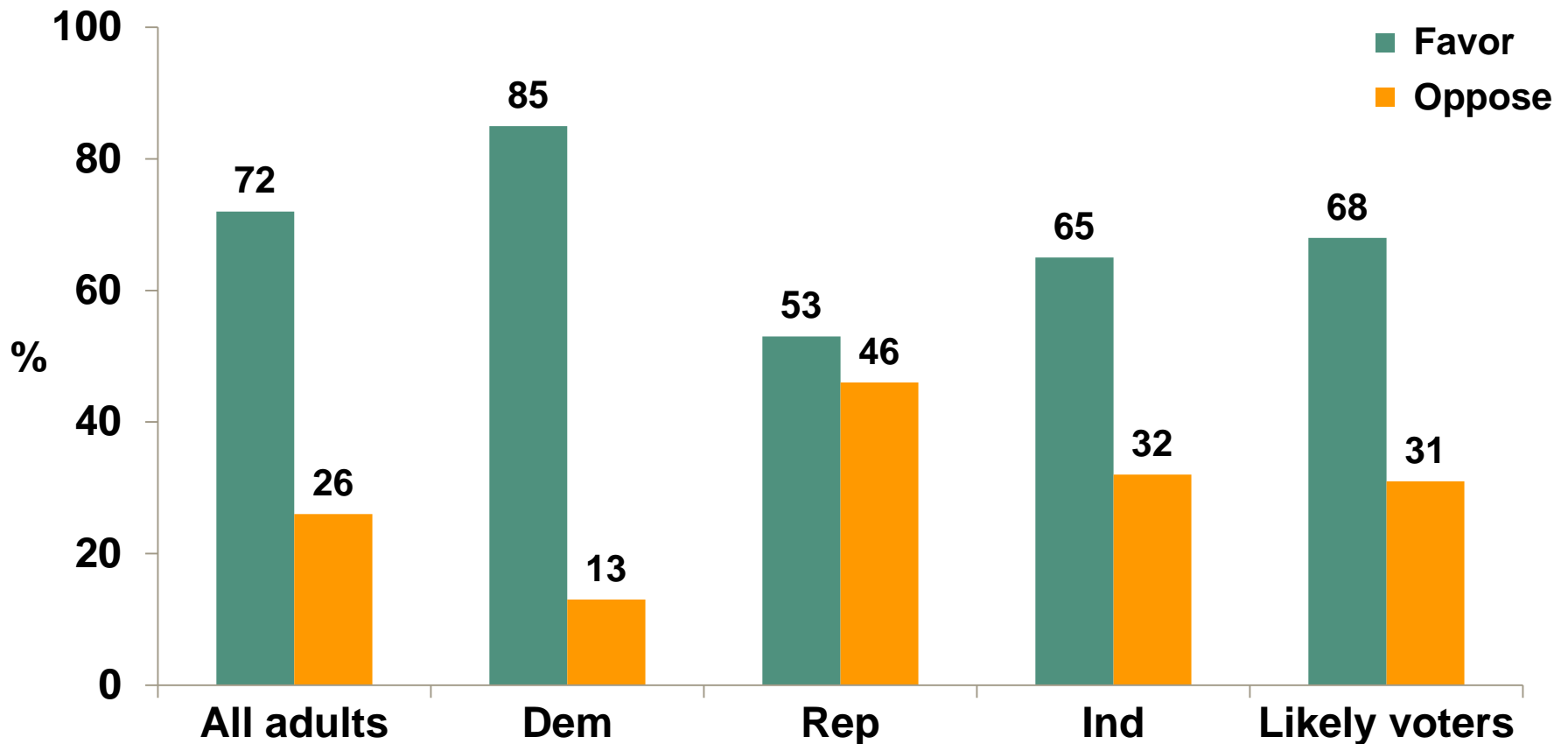
Proposed Cuts to Social Services

Do you favor or oppose Governor Brown's proposed spending cuts to welfare, child care, Medi-Cal, and other social service programs?



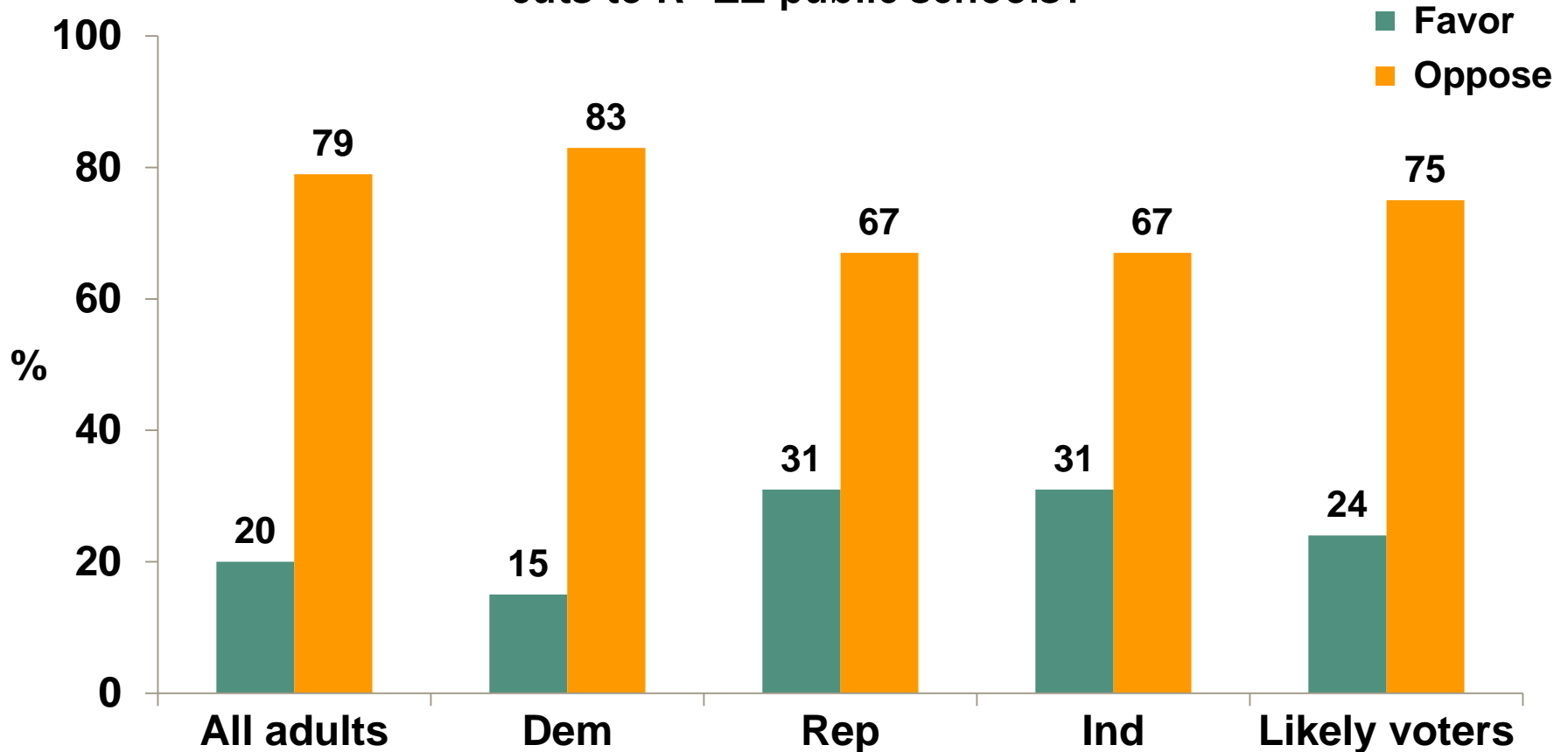
Proposed Tax Initiative

Governor Brown's proposed tax initiative on the November ballot includes... Do you favor or oppose the proposed tax initiative?

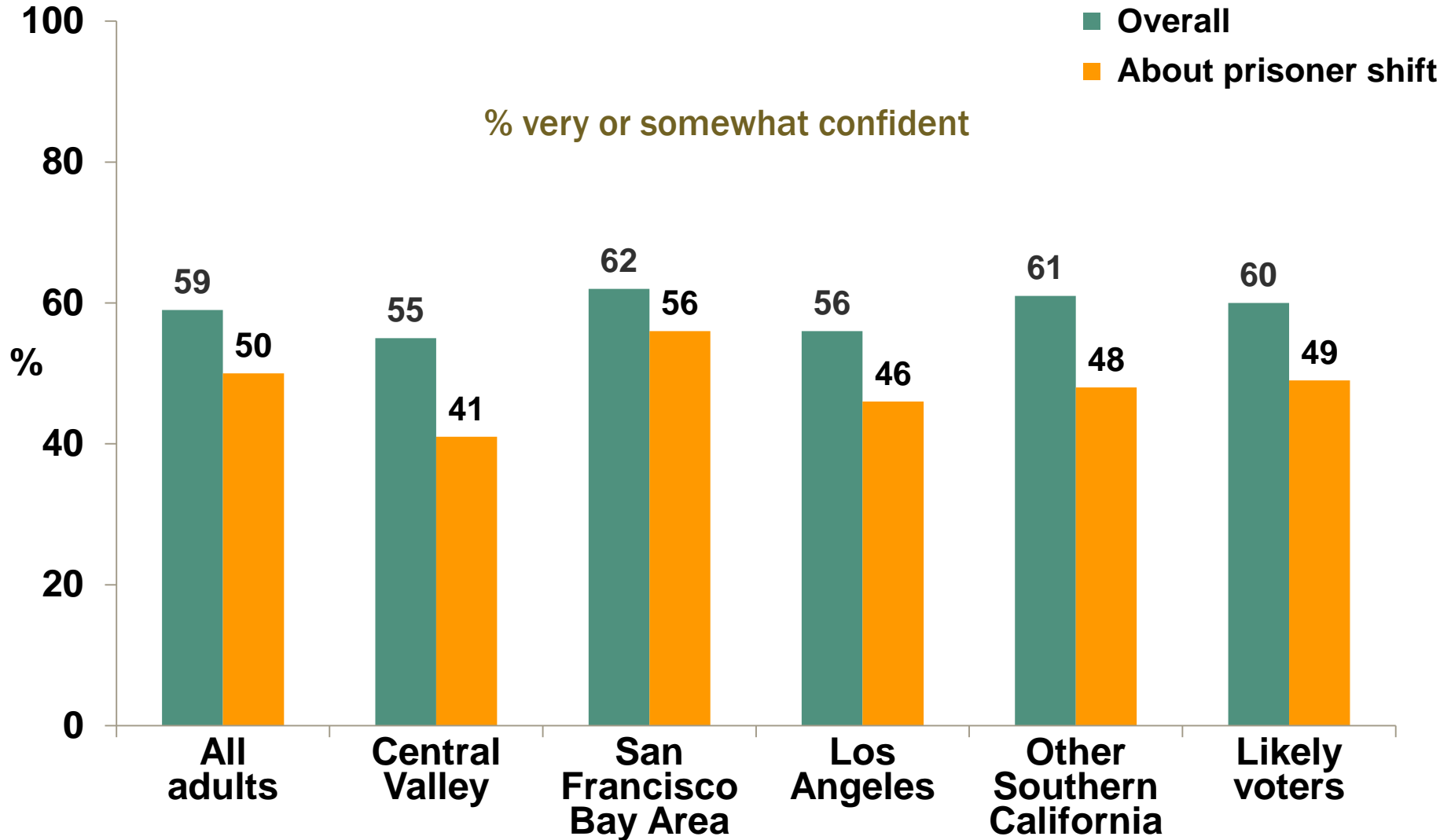


Proposed Trigger Cuts to K-12

If voters reject the proposed tax initiative on the November ballot, Governor Brown has said that automatic spending cuts will be made to K-12 public schools. Do you favor or oppose these automatic spending cuts to K-12 public schools?

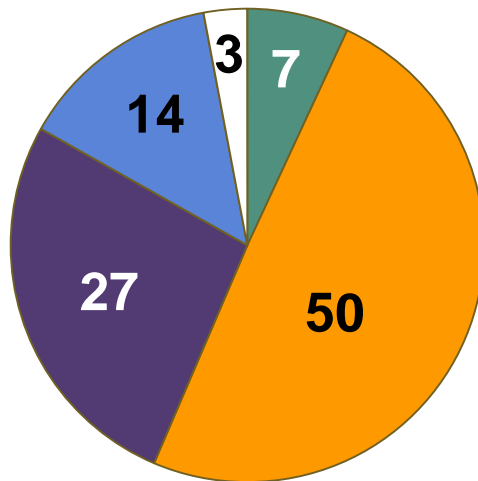


Confidence in Local Government to Handle Realignment



Perceptions of Tax System

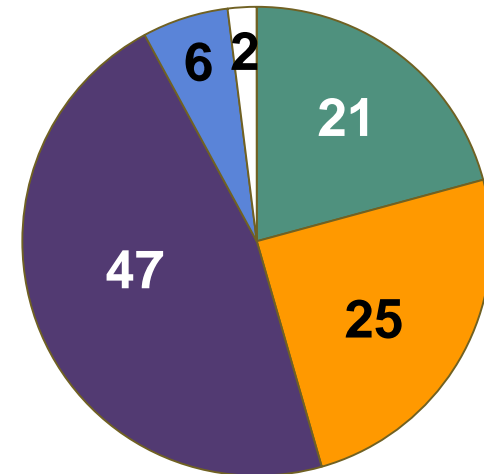
Overall, how fair do you think our present state and local tax system is?



- Very fair
- Moderately fair
- Not too fair
- Not at all fair
- Don't know

When you combine all of the taxes you pay to state and local governments, do you feel that you pay much more than you should, somewhat more than you should, about the right amount, or less than you should?

All adults

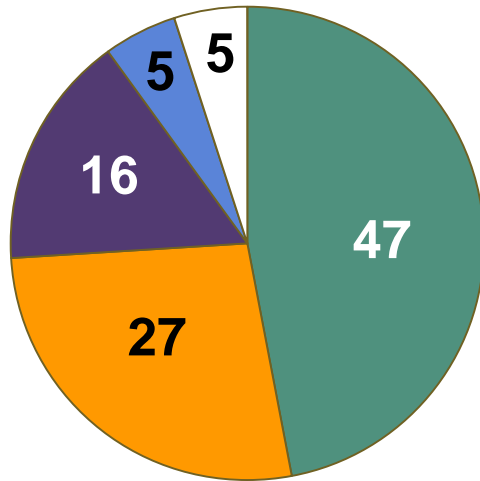


- Much more
- Somewhat more
- About right amount
- Less
- Don't know



Knowledge of State Budget

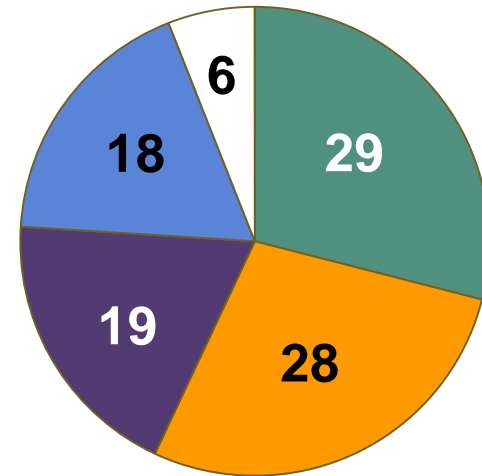
I'm going to name some of the largest areas for state spending. Please tell me the one that represents the most spending in the state budget.



All adults

- Prisons and corrections
- Health and human services
- K-12 education*
- Higher education
- Don't know

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.



- Personal income tax*
- Sales tax
- Motor vehicle fees
- Corporate tax
- Don't know

* Correct answer



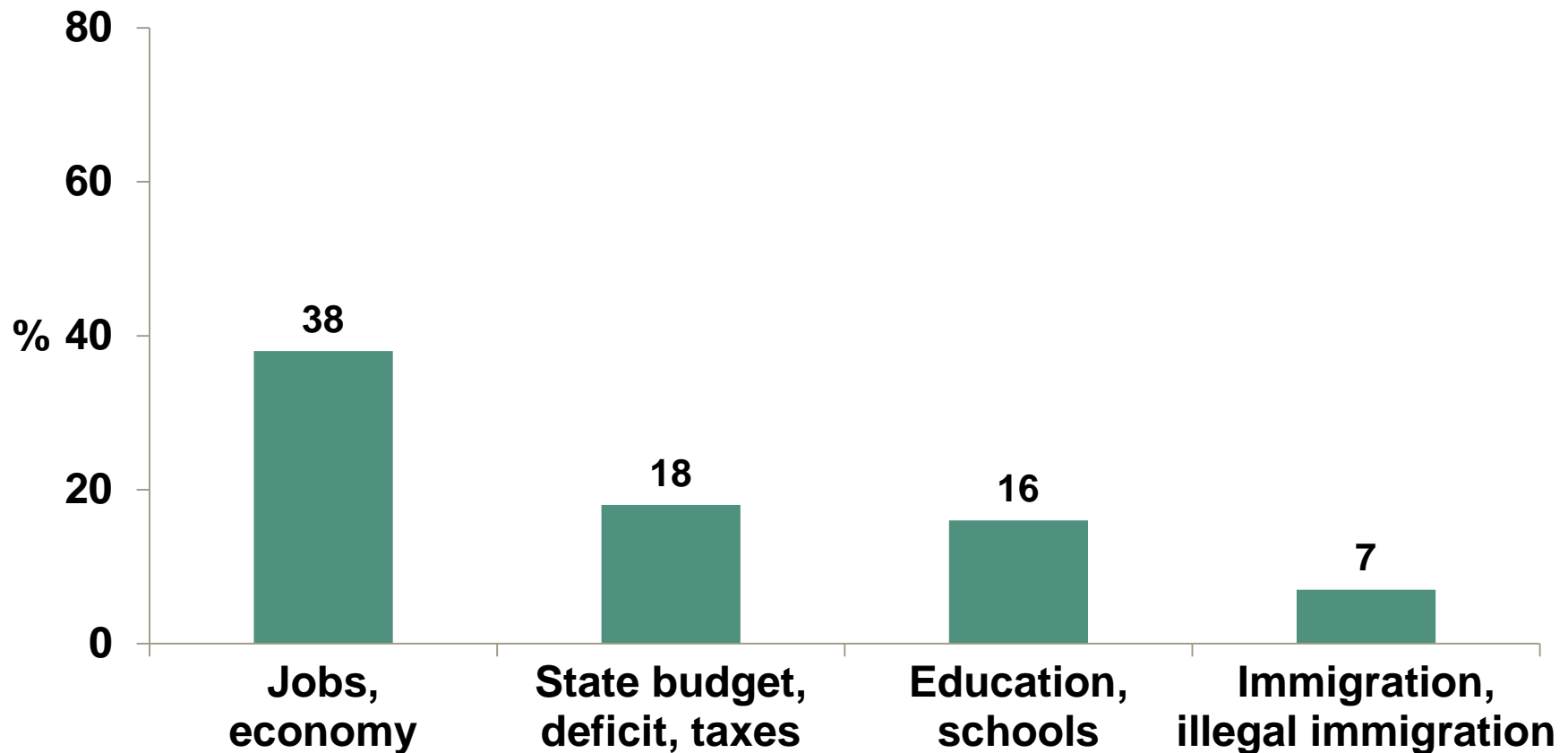
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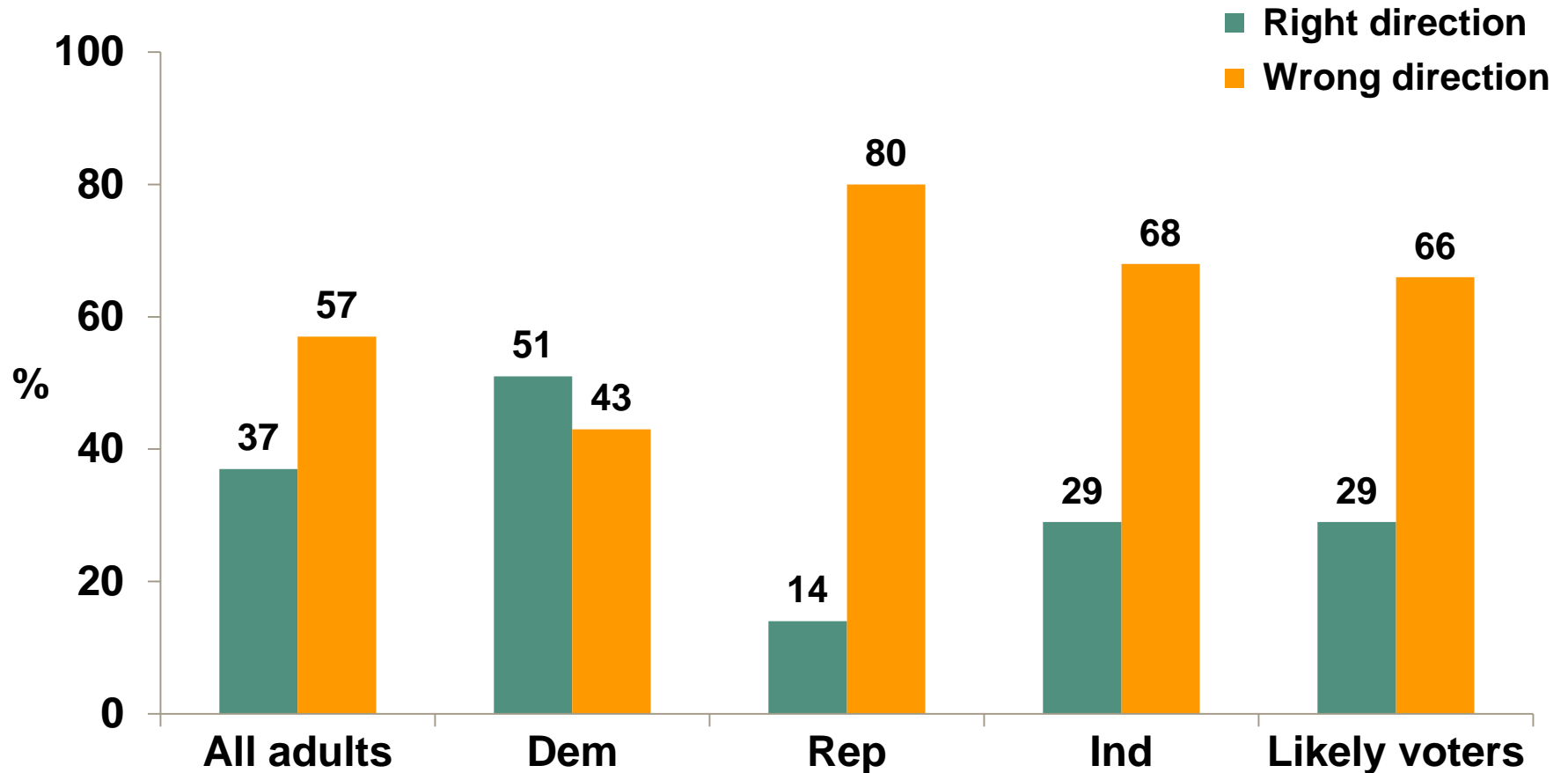
Most Important Issue to Work on in 2012

Which one issue facing California today do you think is the most important for the governor and state legislature to work on in 2012?

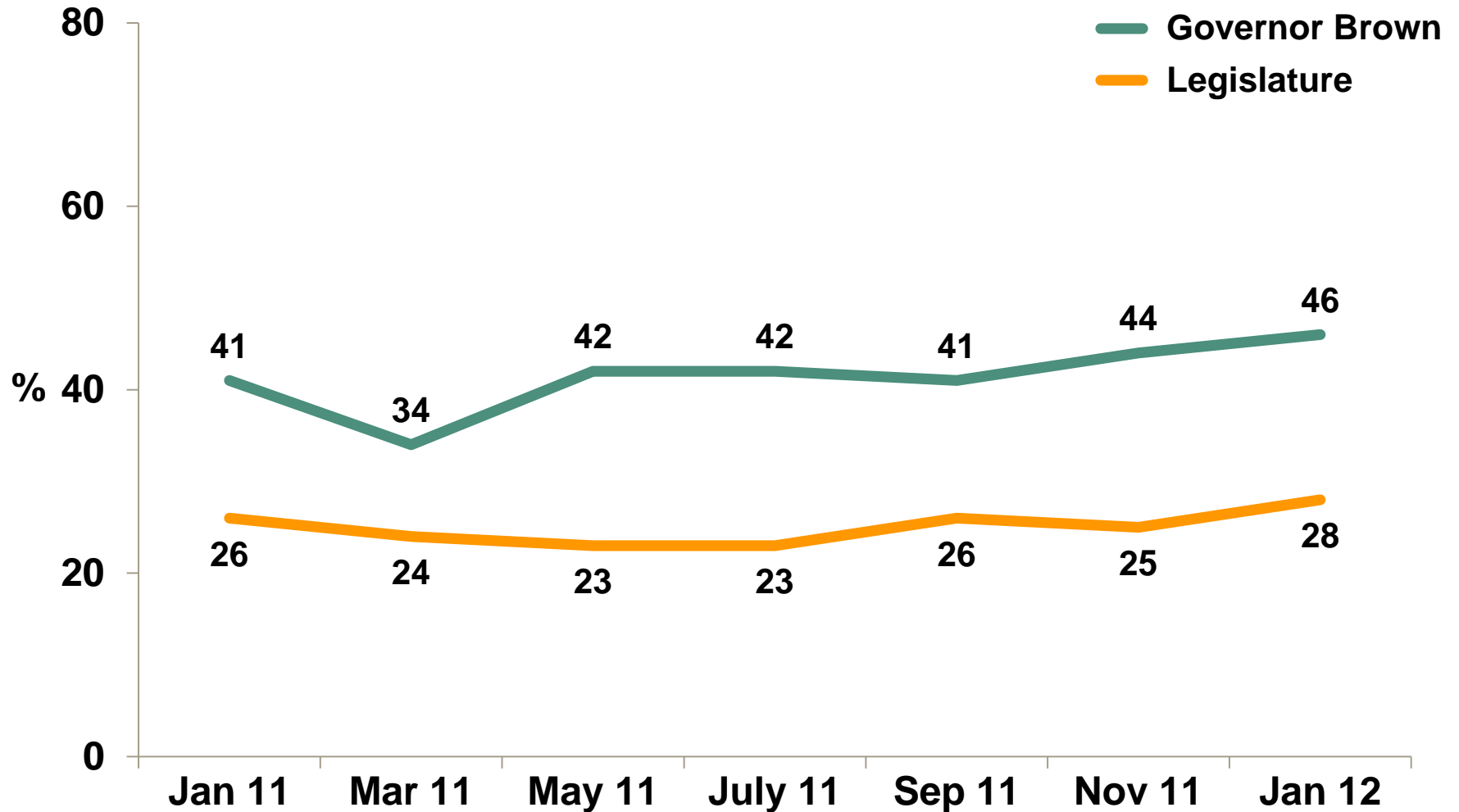


Direction of State

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

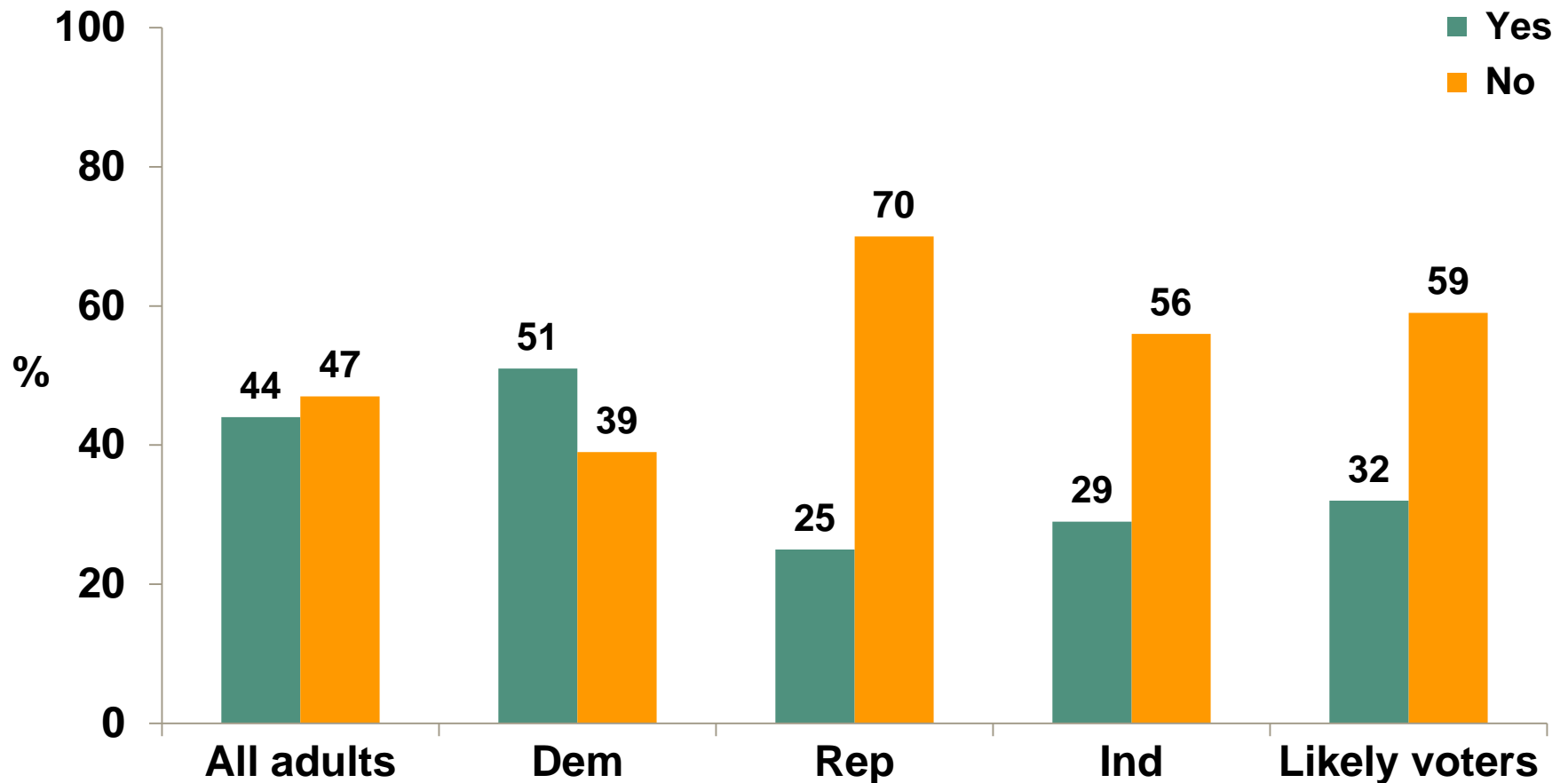


Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials



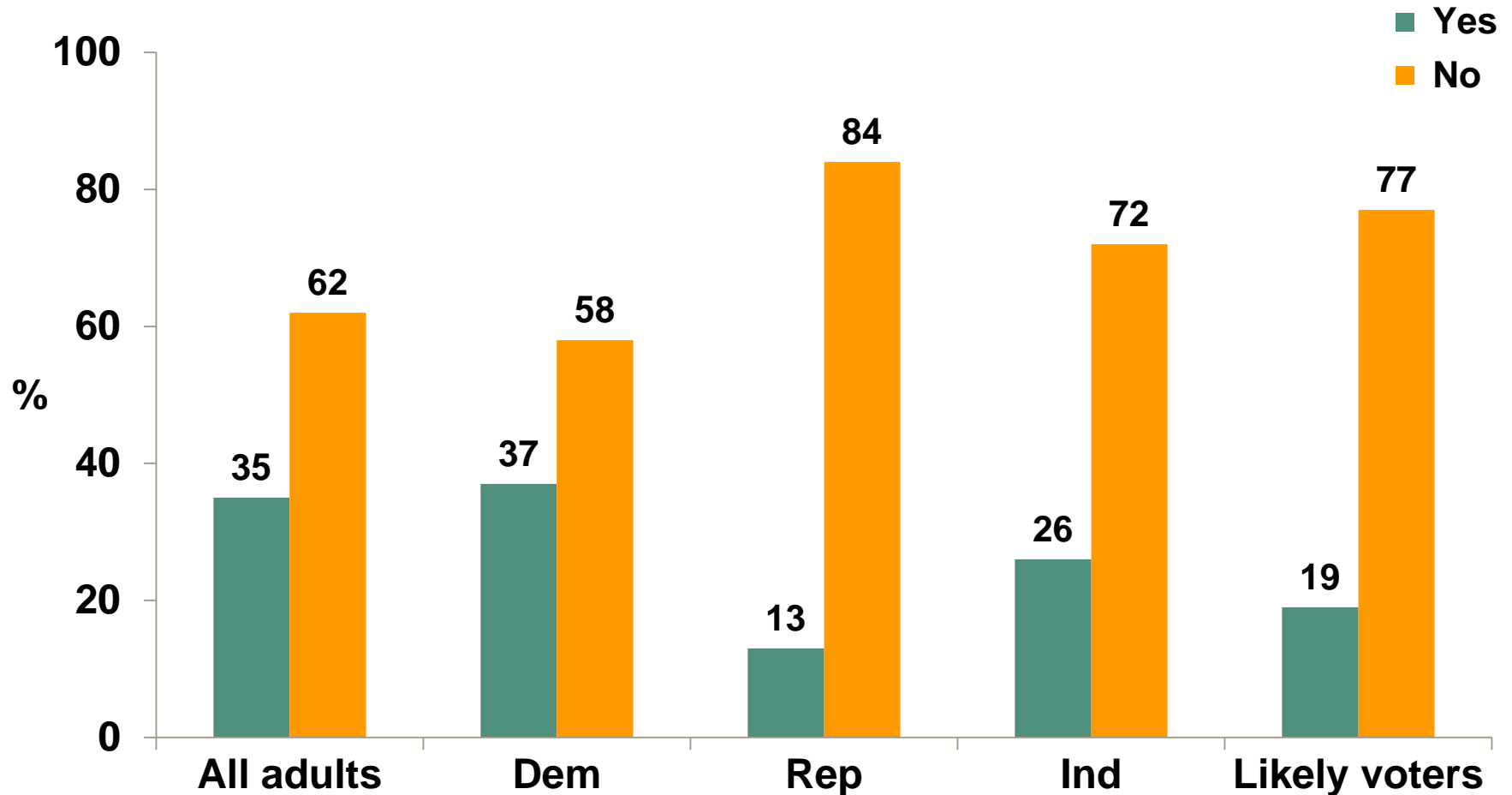
Prospects for Working Together: Governor and Legislature

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?

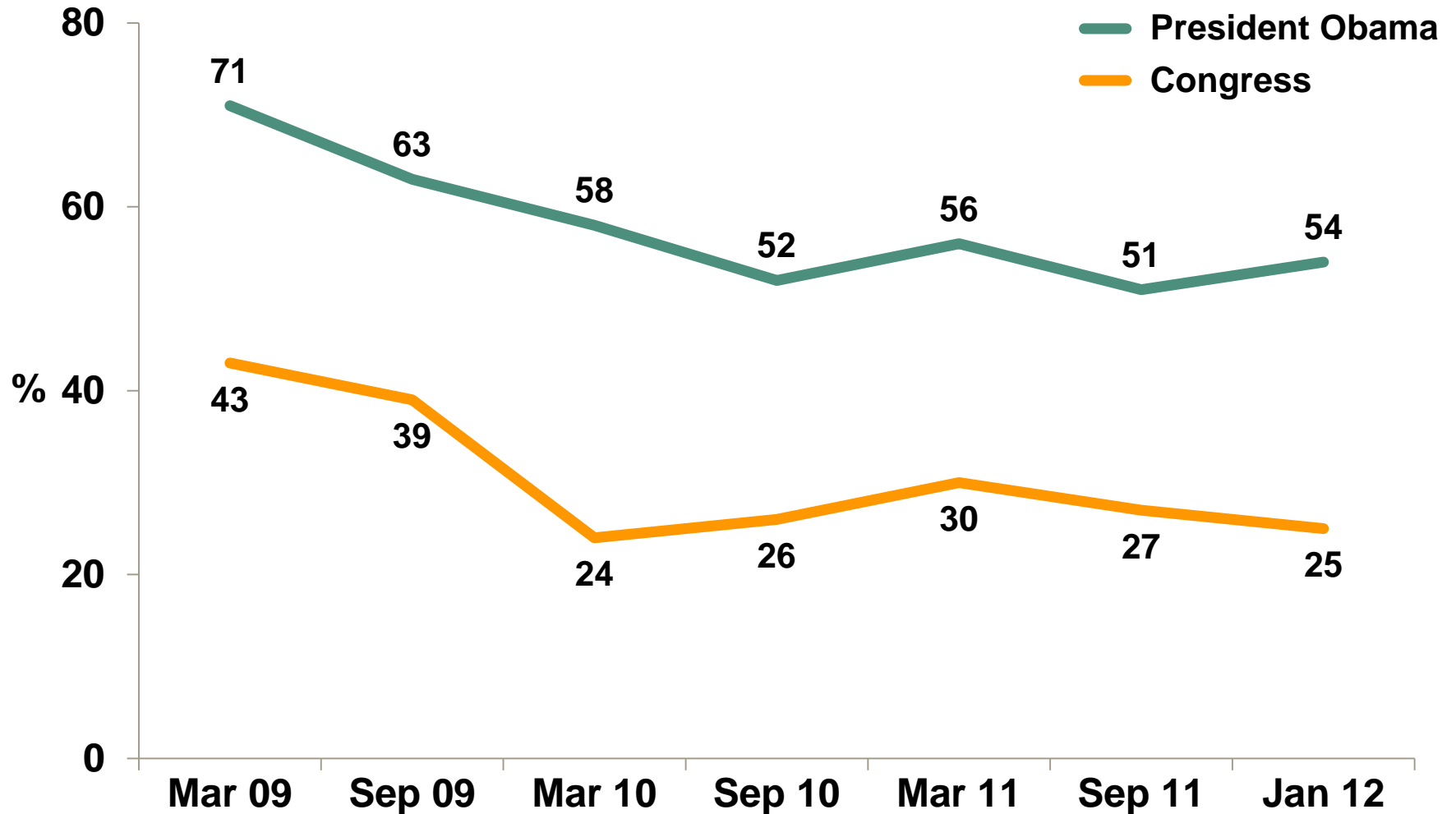


Prospects for Working Together: President and Congress

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?

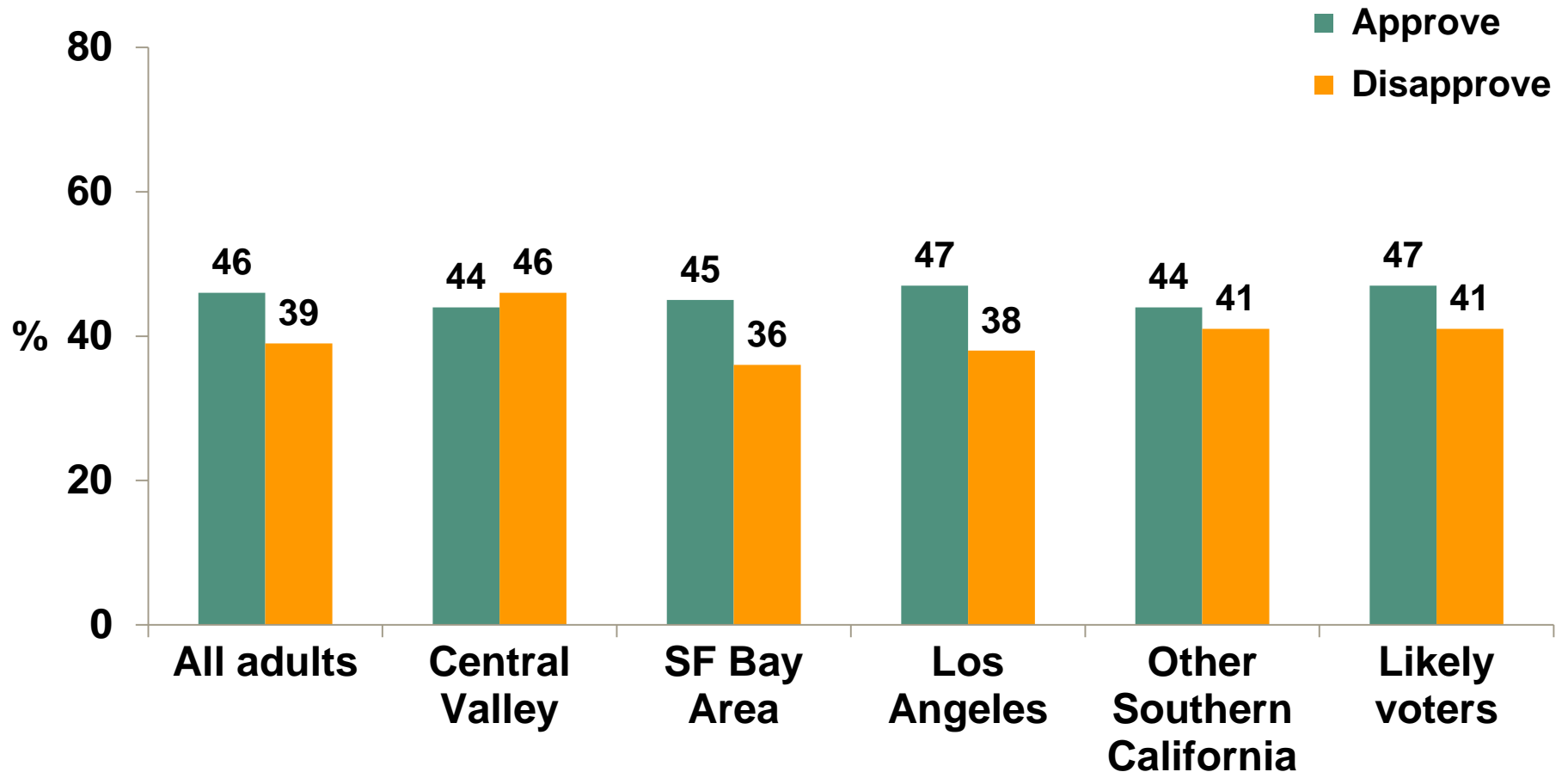


Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials



Approval Ratings of Own House Representative

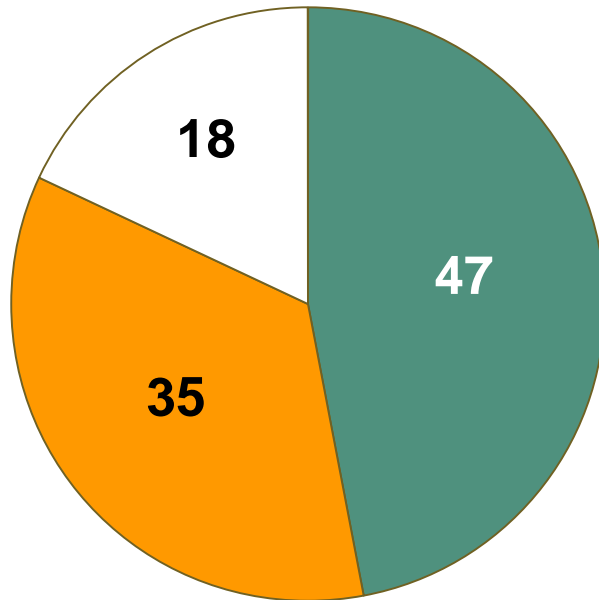
Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way your own representative to the U.S. House of Representatives in Congress is handling his or her job?



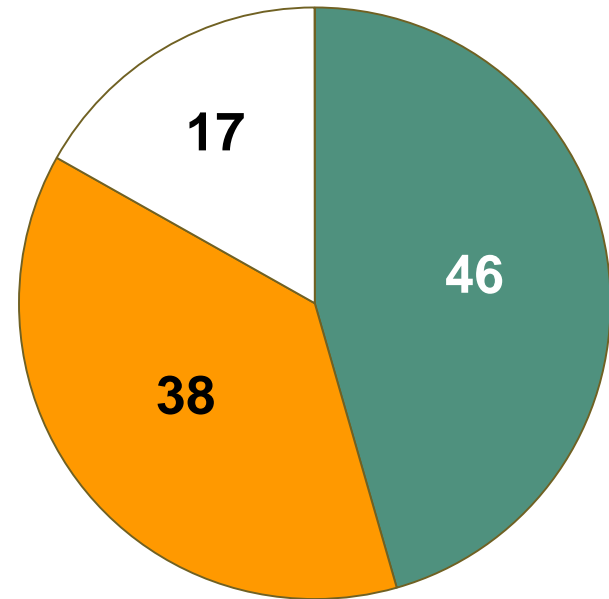
Approval Ratings of U.S. Senators

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

Dianne Feinstein



Barbara Boxer



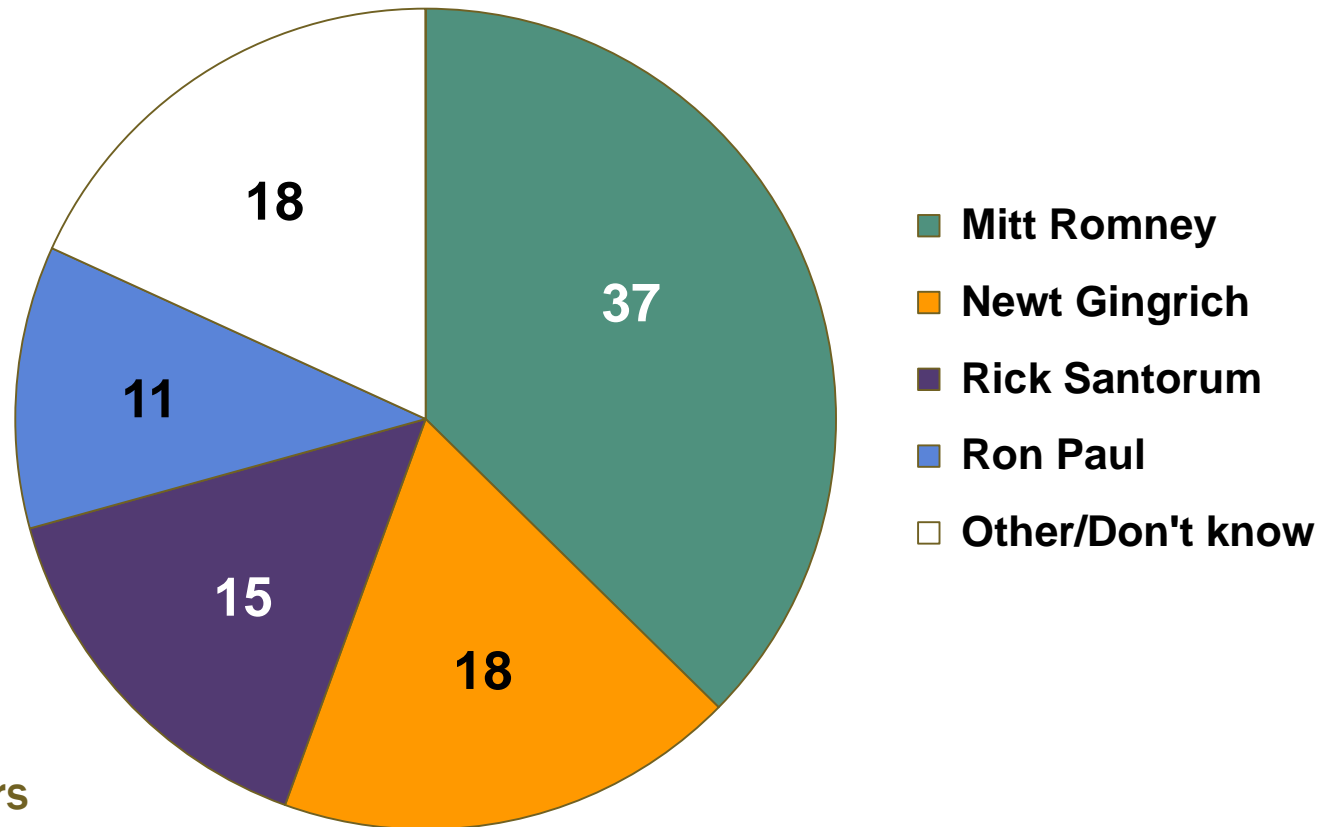
All adults

- Approve
- Disapprove
- Don't know



GOP Presidential Primary

If the 2012 Republican primary for president were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?

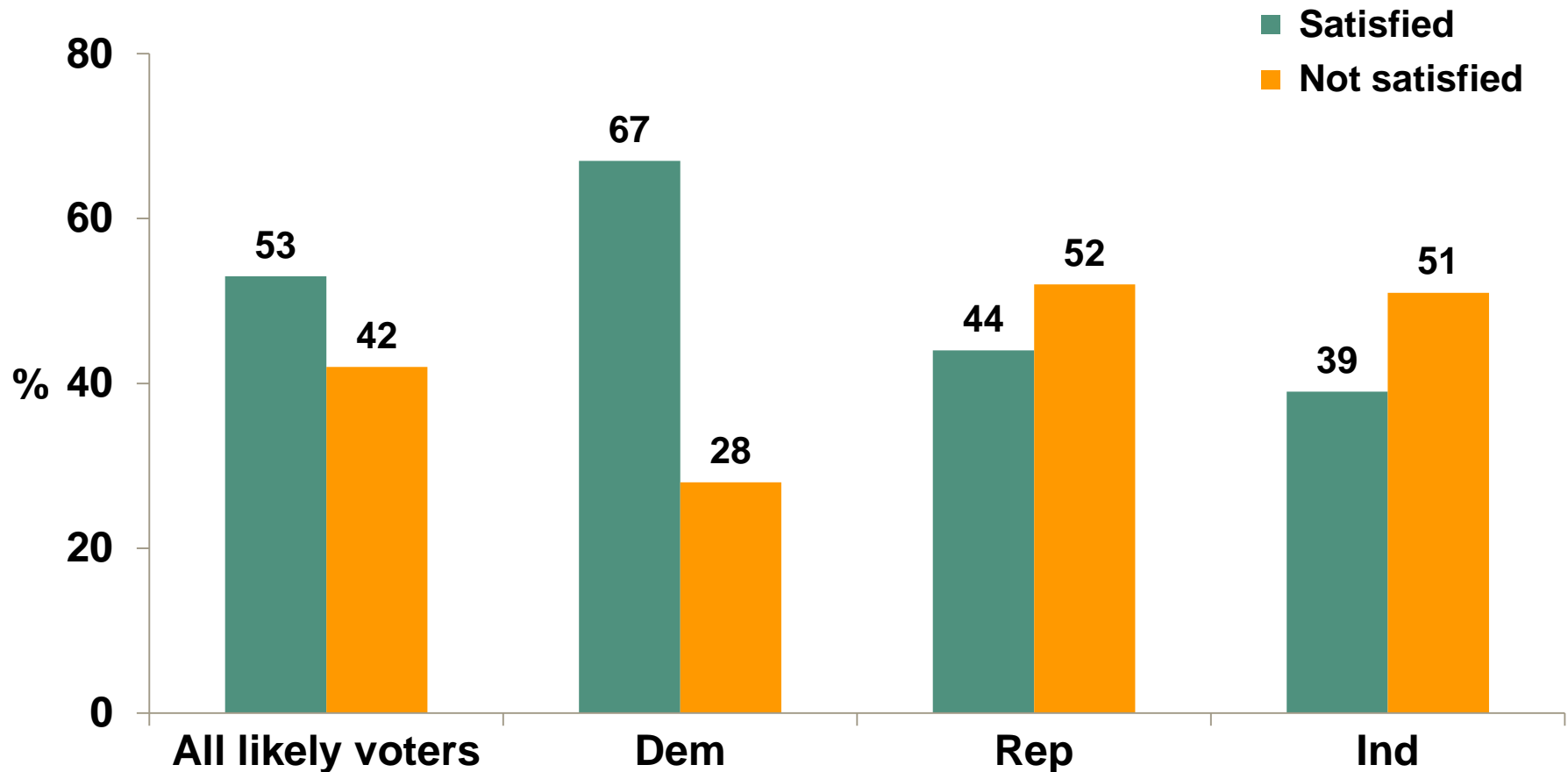


GOP likely voters



Satisfaction with Candidate Choices

In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the election for U.S. President in 2012?



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Conclusions, Budget and Fiscal Attitudes

- Californians want to protect K-12 education
 - Would pay higher taxes to maintain funding
- General support for raising taxes on wealthy
- General opposition to raising state sales tax
- Governor's budget plan has mixed reviews
 - Majorities favor his proposed tax initiative, but oppose trigger cuts to K-12



Conclusions, State and National Issues

- Most Californians pessimistic about state elected officials or federal elected officials working together and accomplishing a lot in the next year
- Romney leads GOP primary
- Democrats more satisfied than Republicans with candidate choices



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:

surveys@ppic.org

Thank you for your interest in this work.

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