

# PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

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Renatta DeFever, Lunna Lopes, Jui Shrestha  
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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
  - 310,000+ 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
  - Approval ratings and water policy
  - Transportation and higher education funding
- Federal government
  - Approval ratings and income inequality
  - Immigration, health care, marijuana
- Telephone interviews, March 8 to 17
  - 60% landline, 40% cell phone
  - 1,706 adults,  $\pm 3.7\%$  margin of error
  - 1,064 likely voters,  $\pm 4.7\%$  margin of error



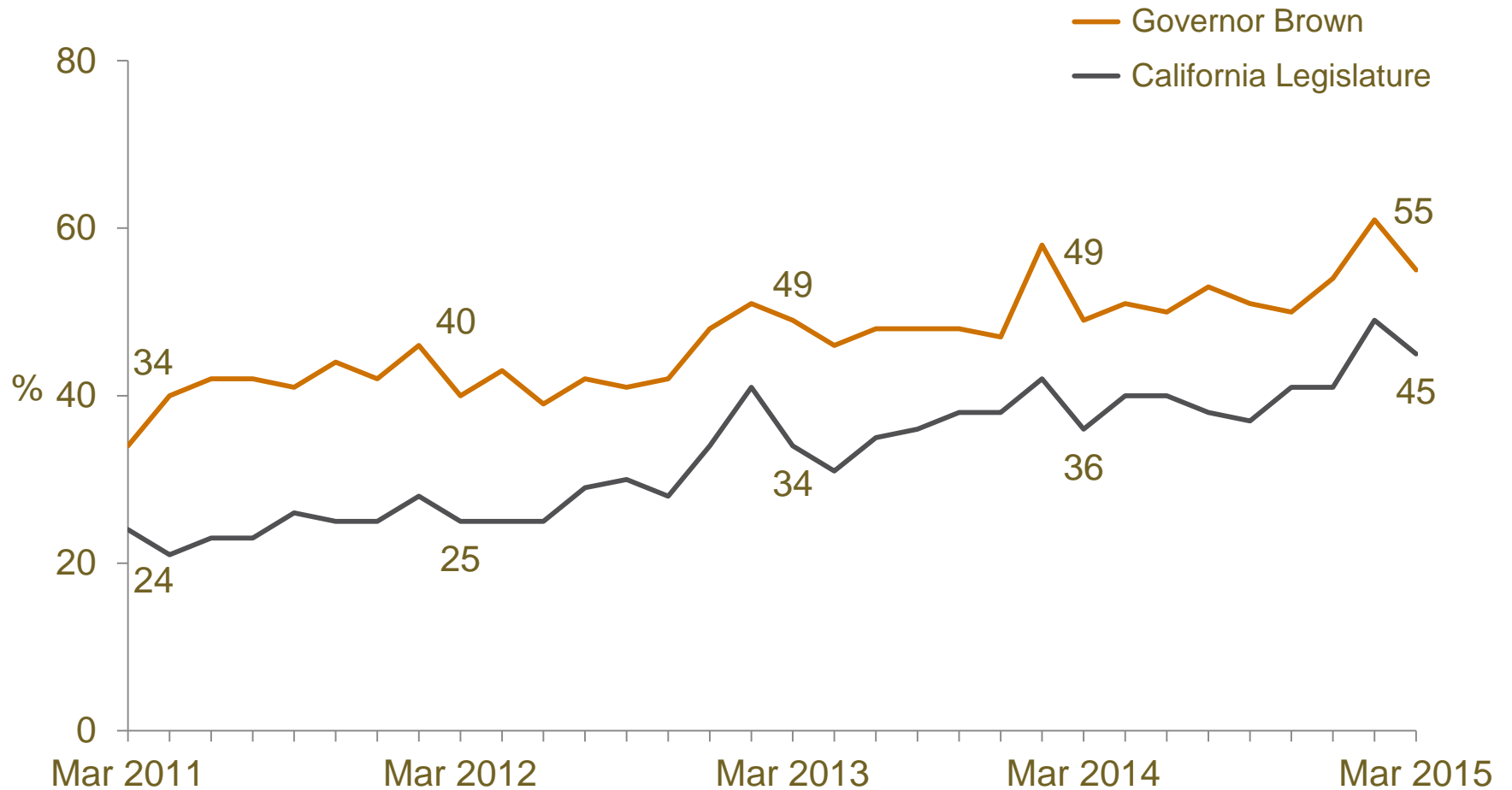
# Outline

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

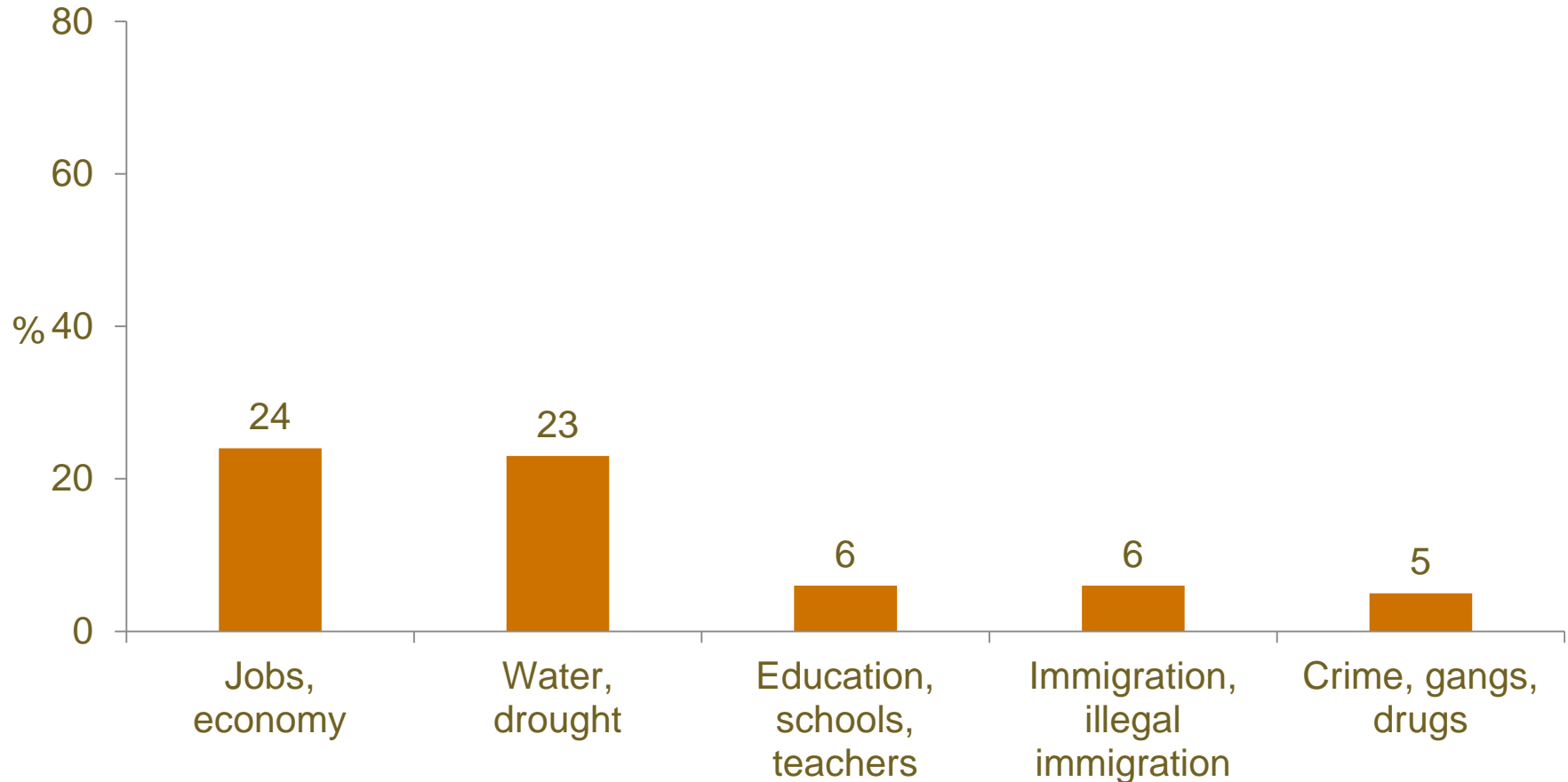


# Approval of state elected officials



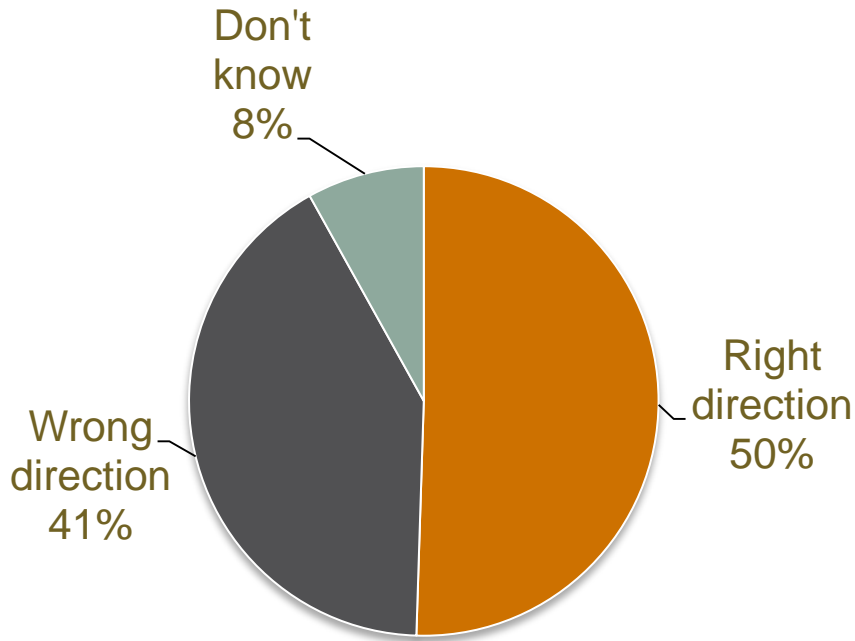
# Most important issue today

Thinking about the state as a whole, what do you think is the most important issue facing people in California today?

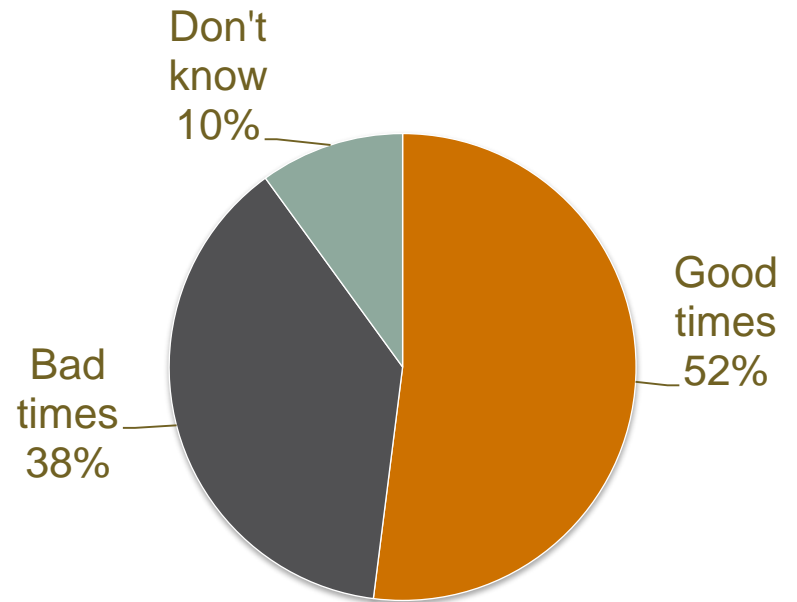


# Outlook for the state

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?

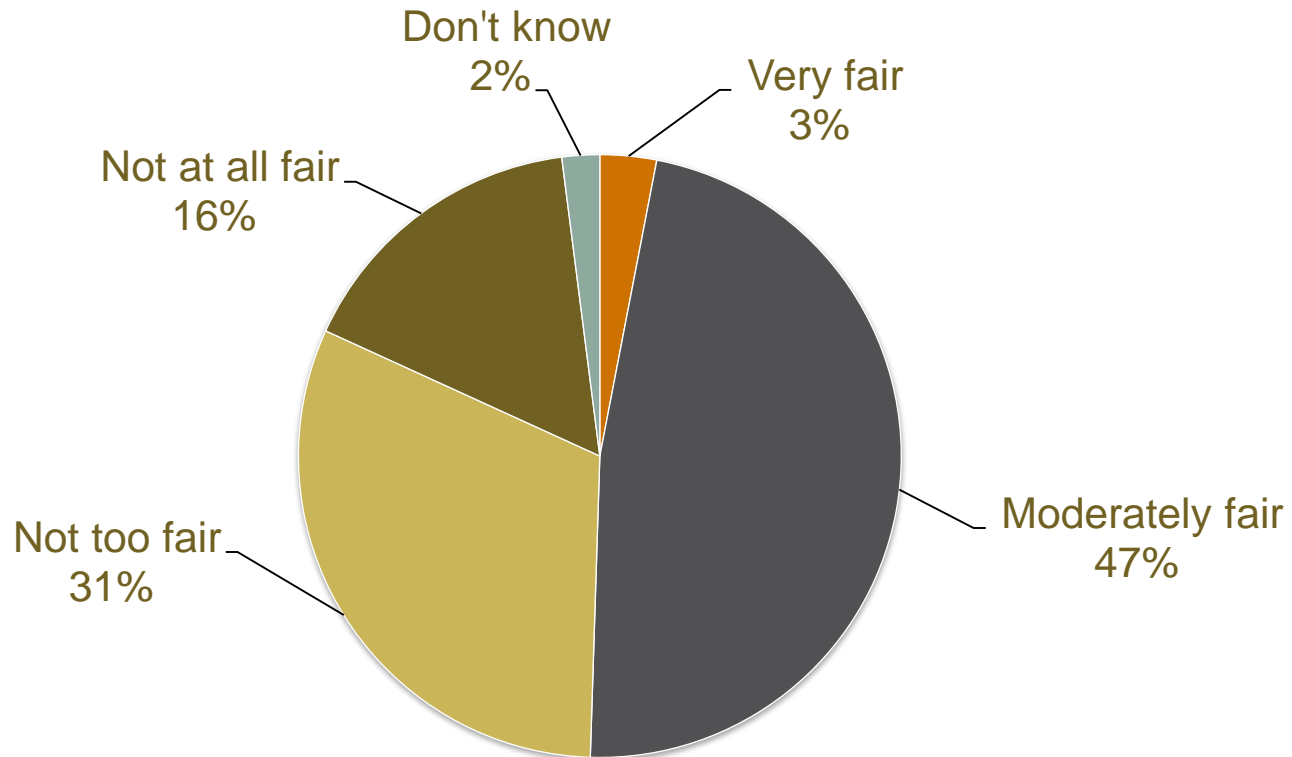


All adults



# Fairness of the state and local tax system

Overall, how fair do you think our present state and local tax system is—would you say it is very fair, moderately fair, not too fair, or not at all fair?



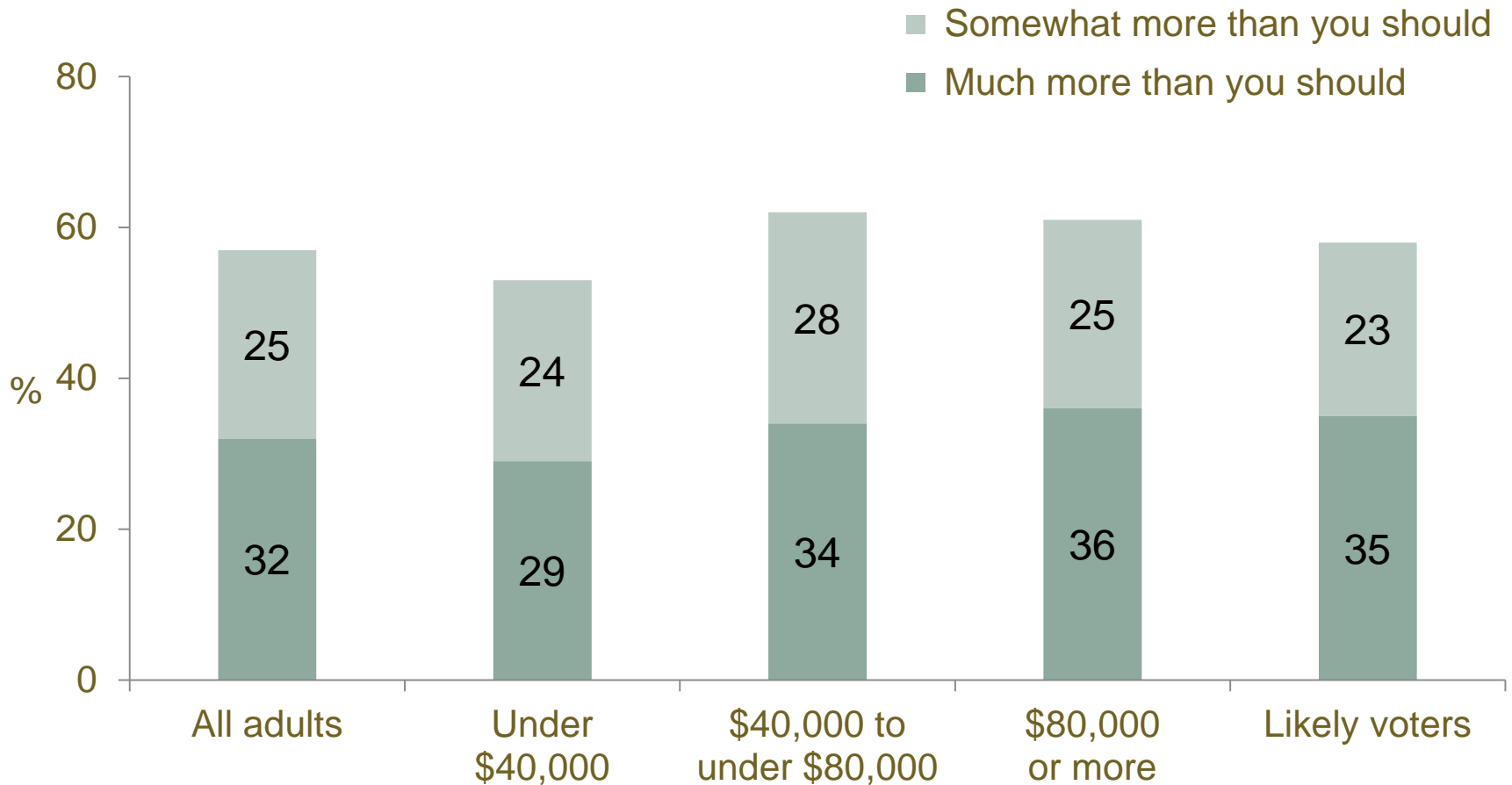
All adults





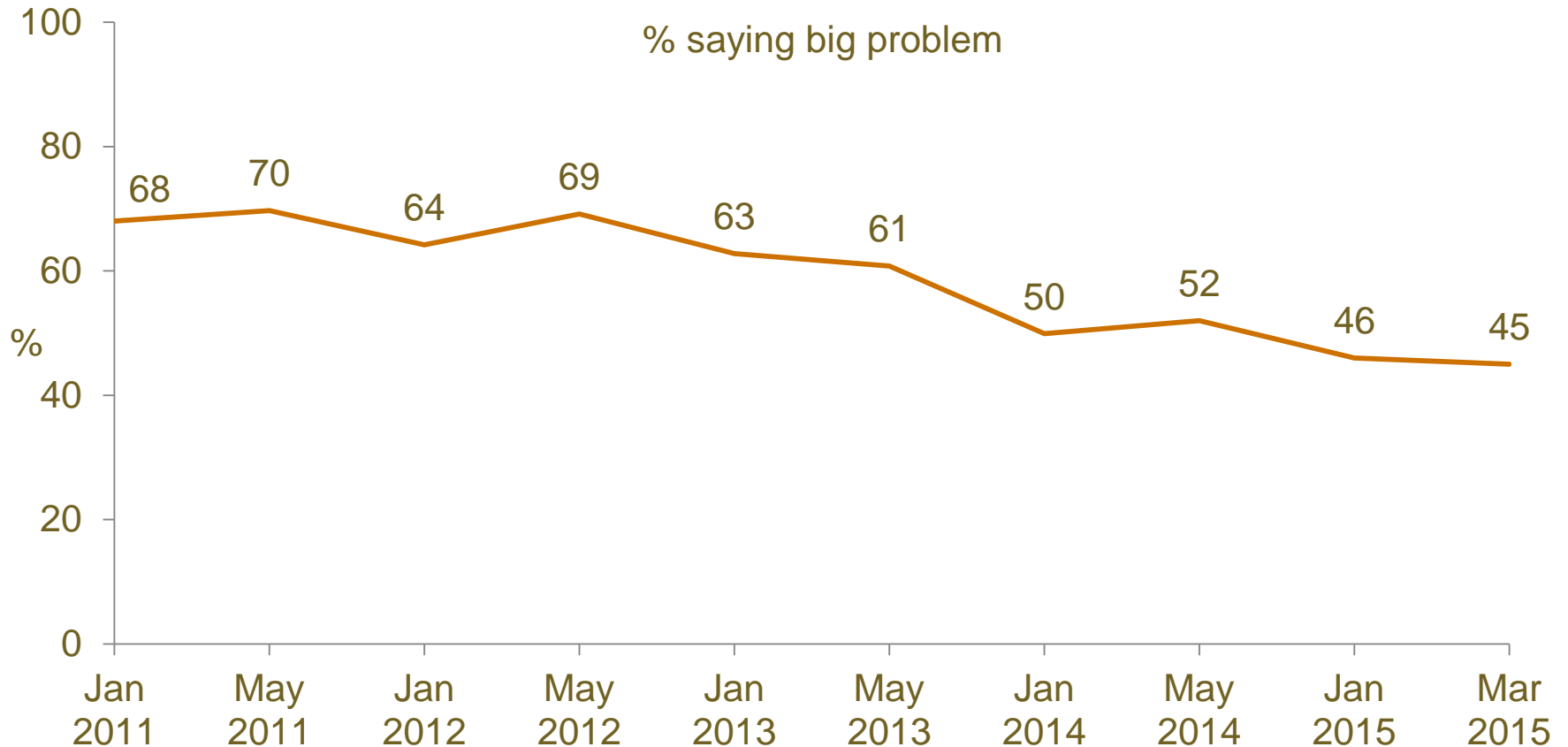
# Personal tax burden

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?



# 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?

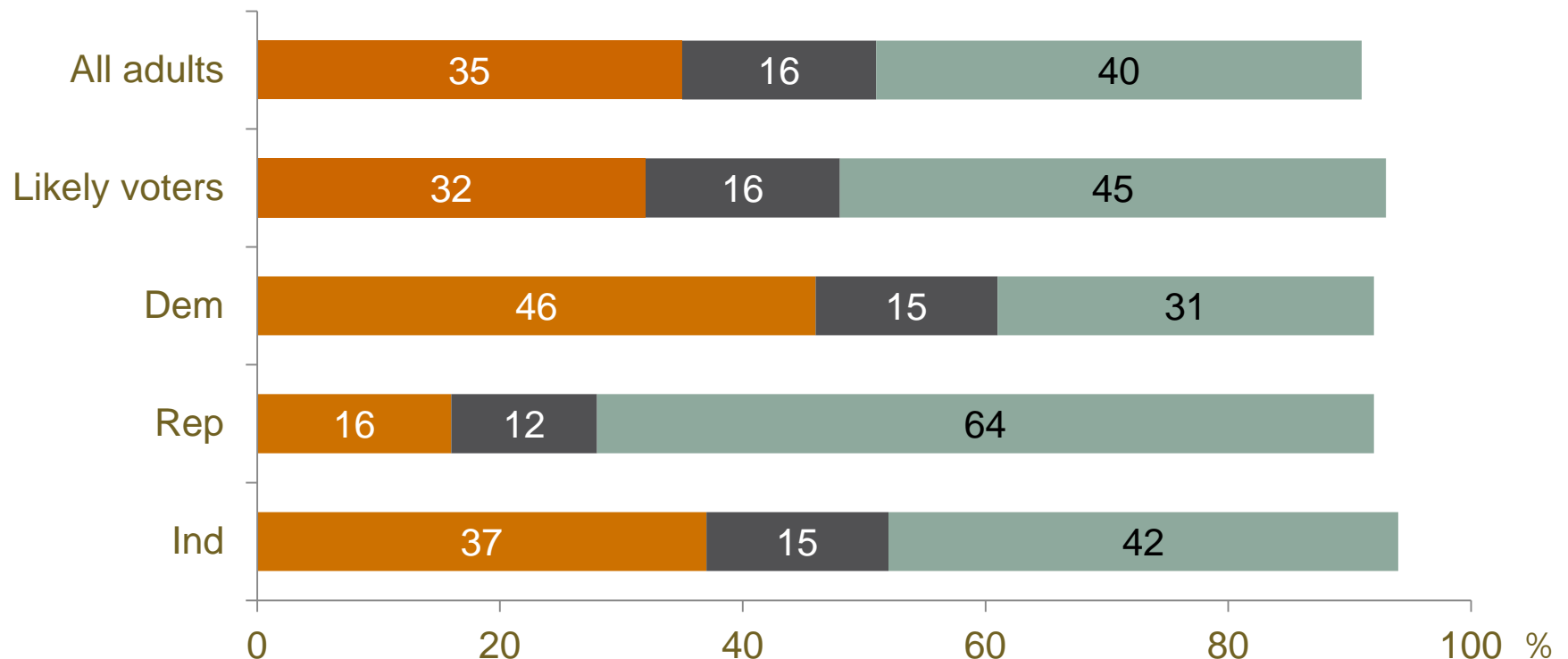


# Extension of Proposition 30 taxes

...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.

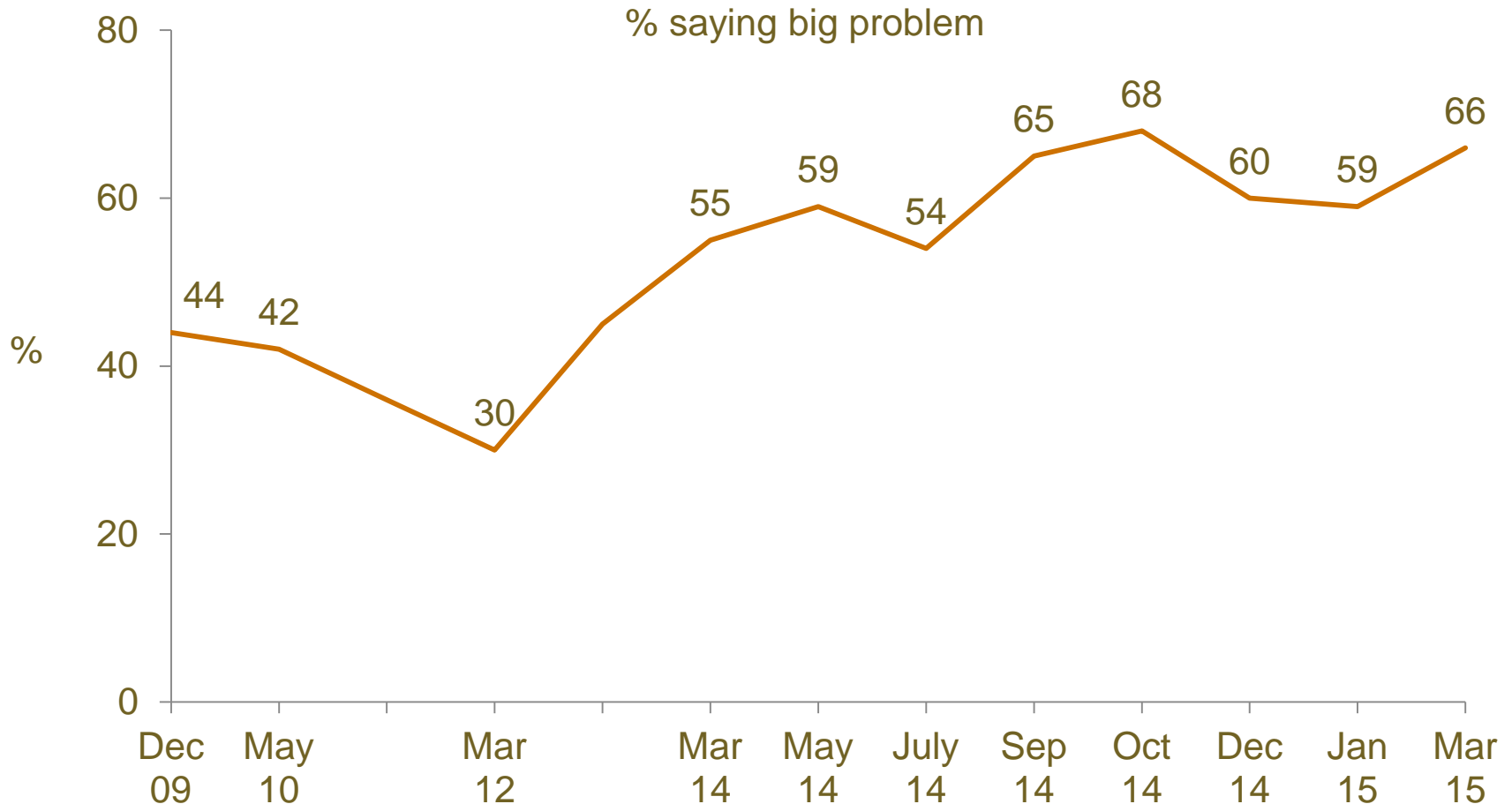
Do you favor or oppose extending the Proposition 30 tax increases ...?

■ Favor, even if permanent ■ Favor, but oppose if permanent ■ Oppose



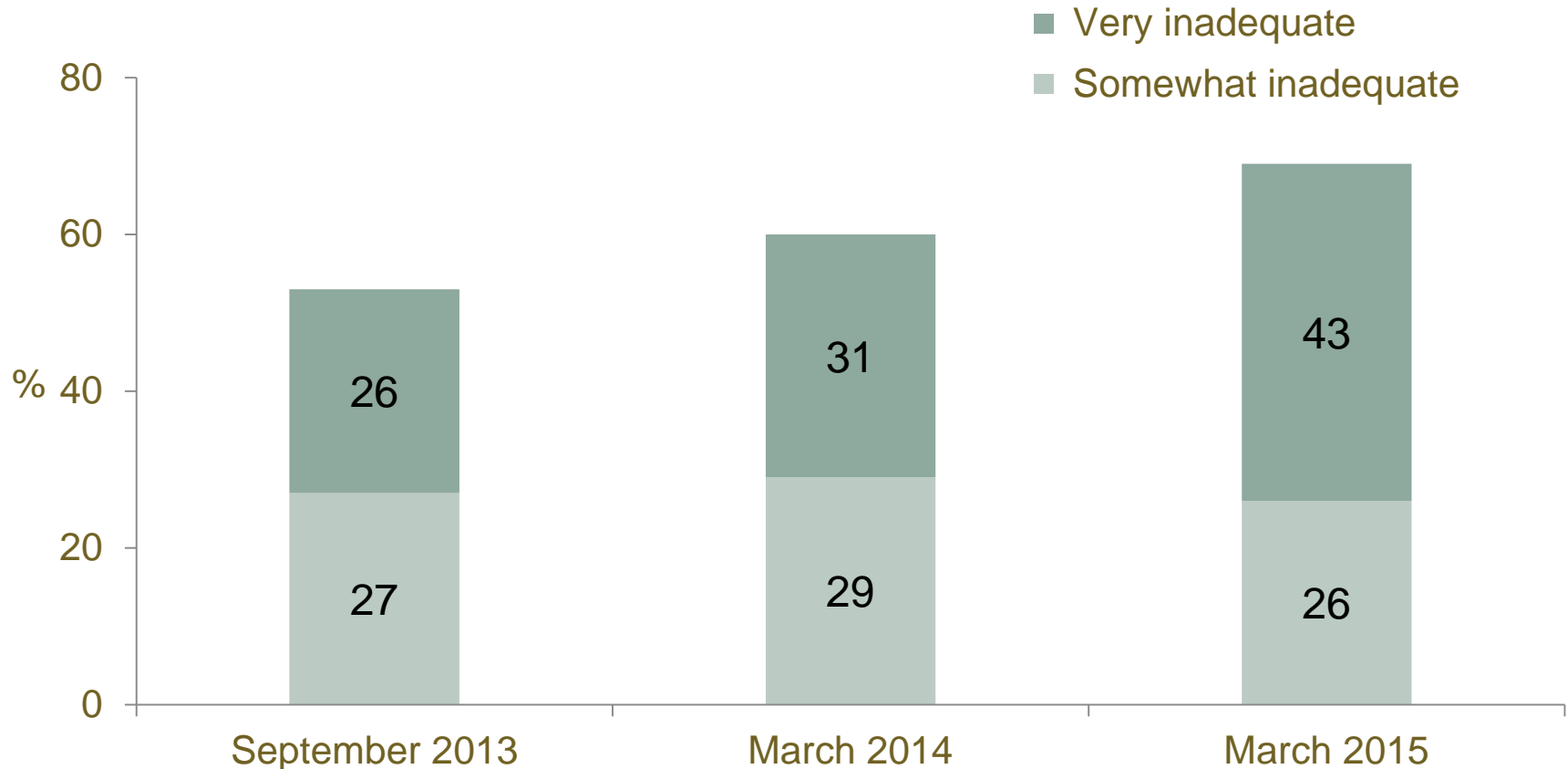
# Seriousness of water supply problem

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?



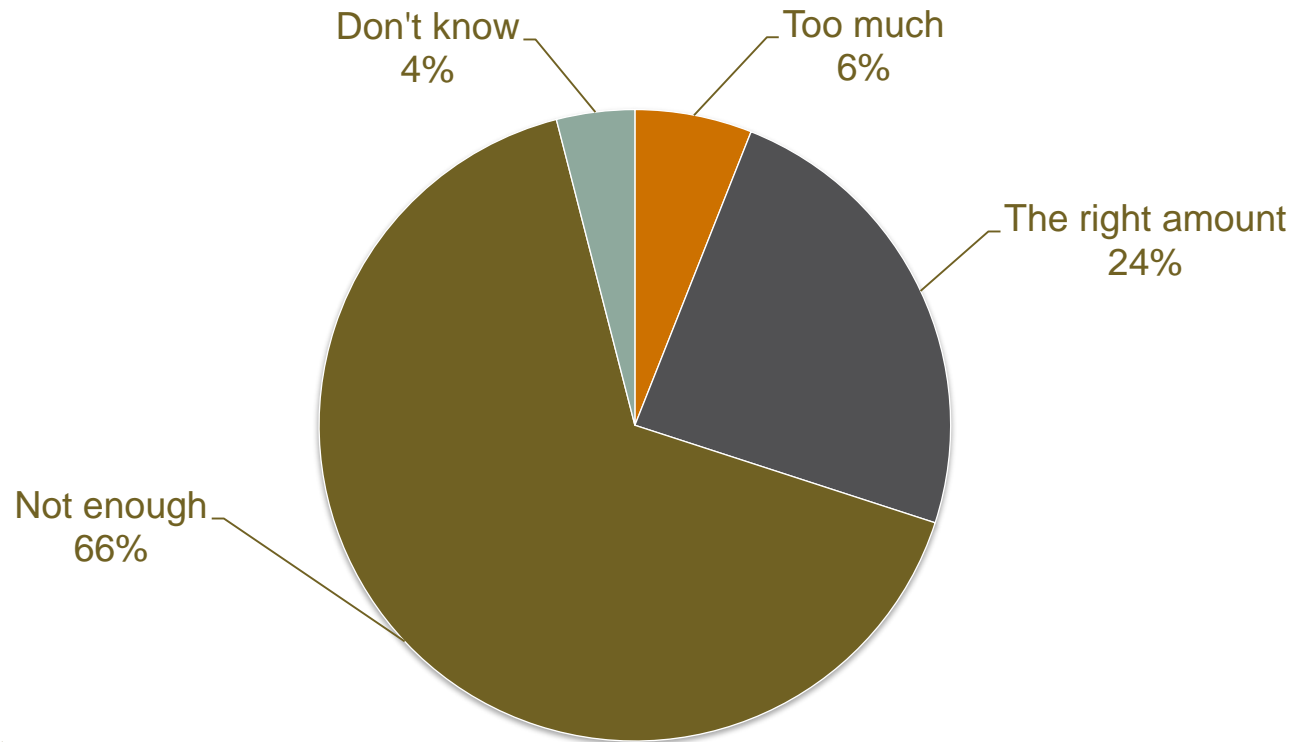
# Water supply in the next 10 years

Do you think the water supply that is available for your part of California will be adequate or inadequate for what is needed ten years from now?  
(If inadequate: Is that somewhat inadequate or very inadequate?)



# Residents' response to drought

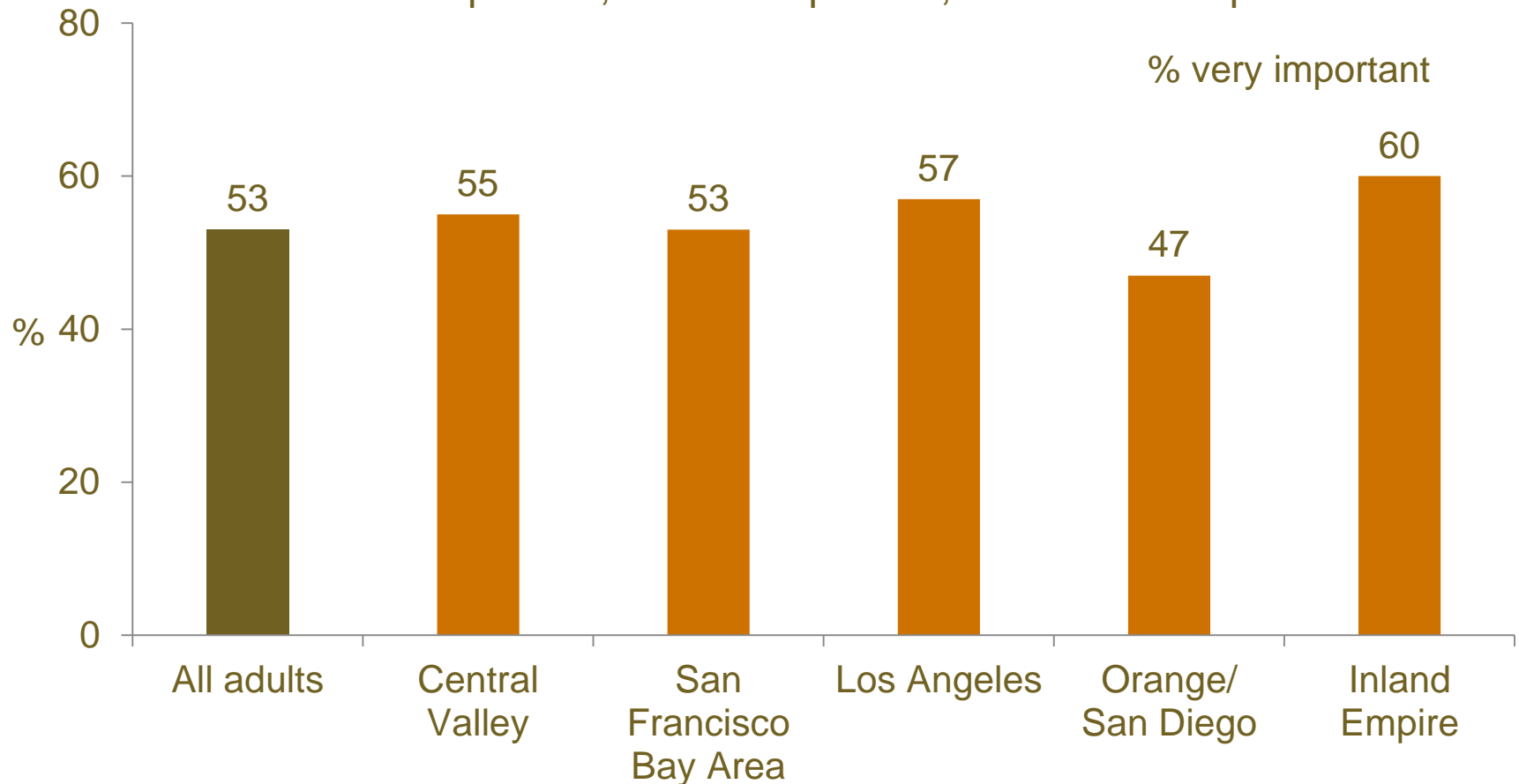
Overall, do you think that the people in your part of California are doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to respond to the current drought in California?



All adults

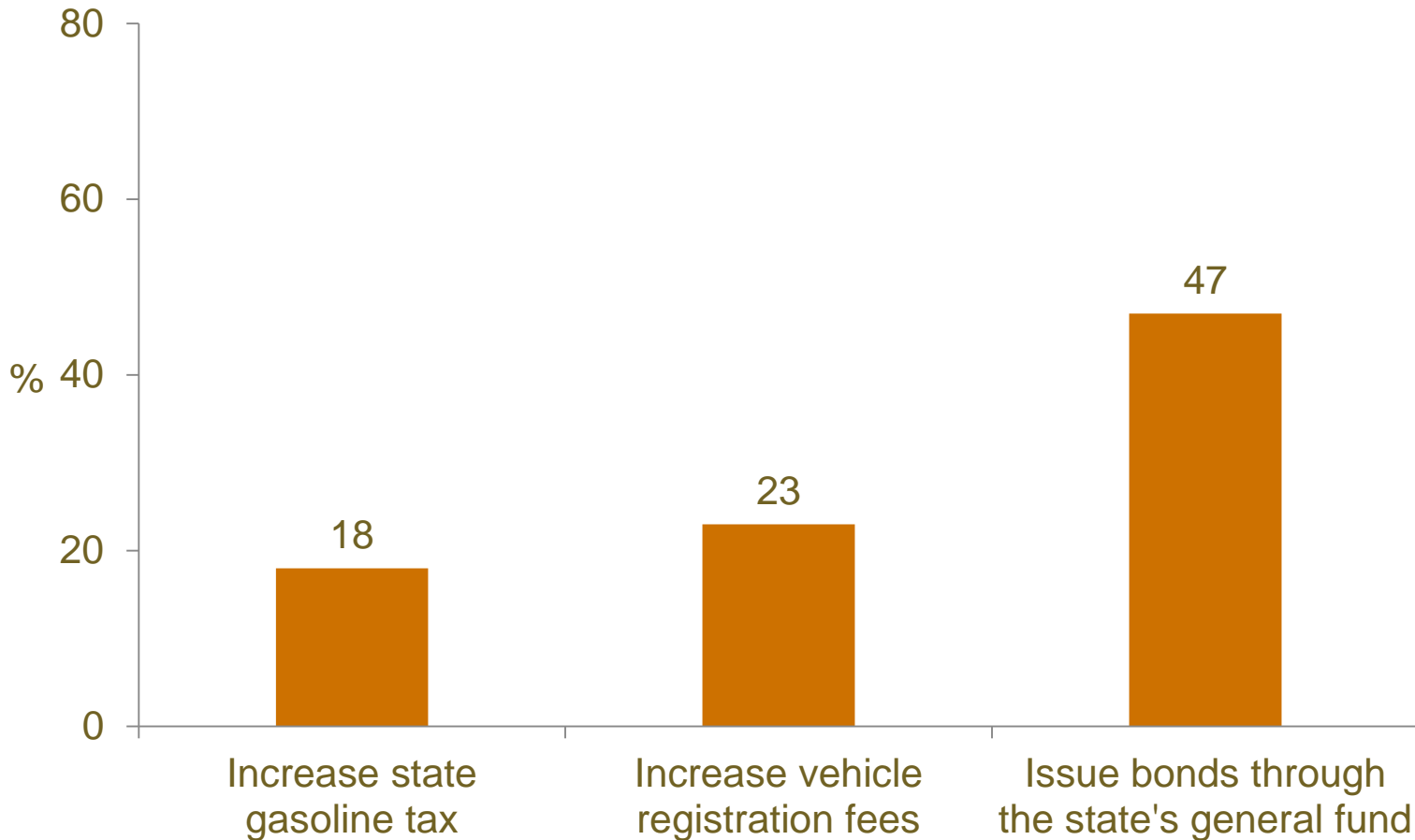
# Importance of spending on roads, highways, and bridges

Thinking ahead, how important is spending more money on the maintenance of California's roads, highways, and bridges for the future quality of life and economic vitality of California—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?



# Support for ways to raise funds for roads, highways, and bridges

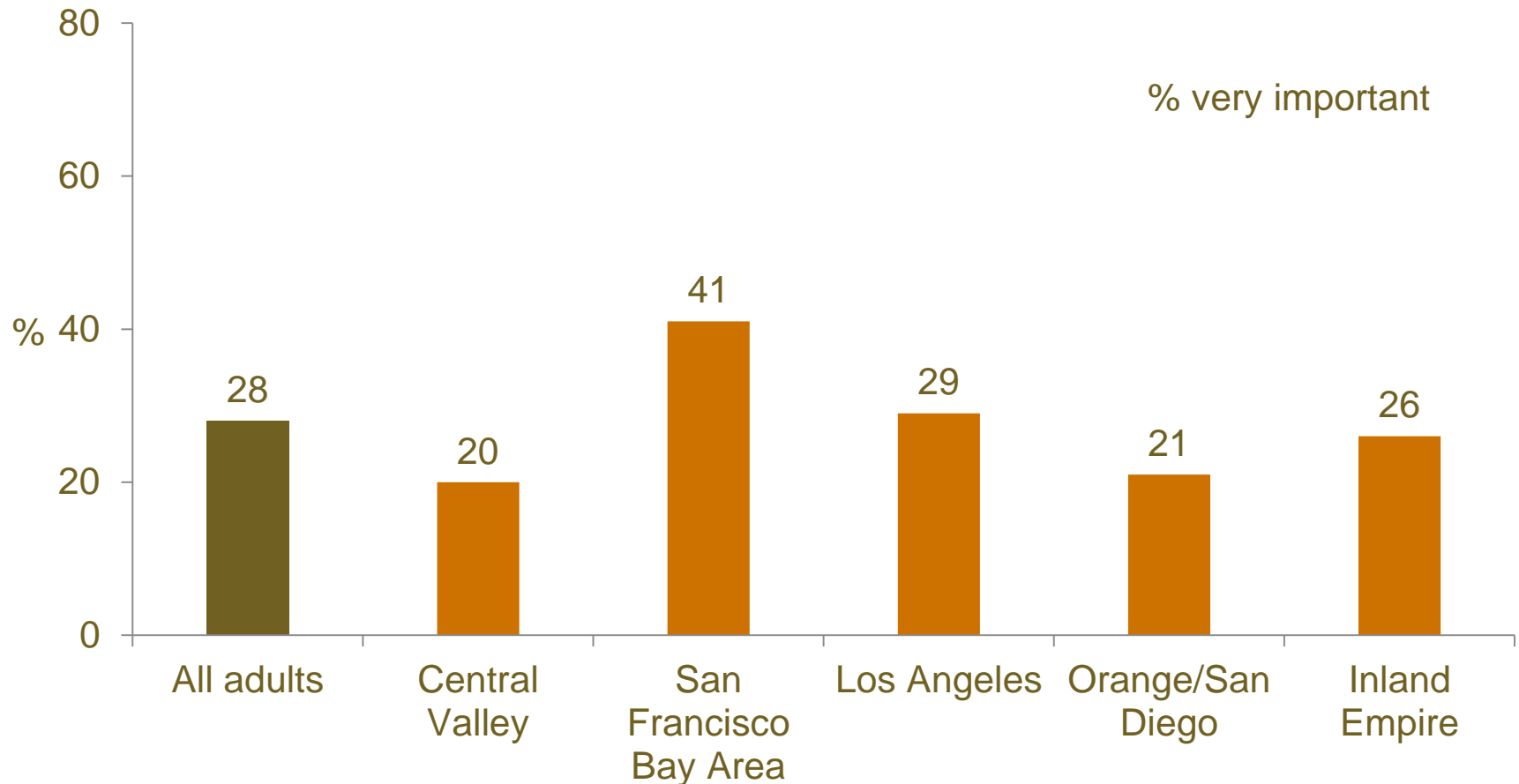
Please tell me if you favor or oppose each of the following proposals to increase state funding for California's roads, highways, and bridges.





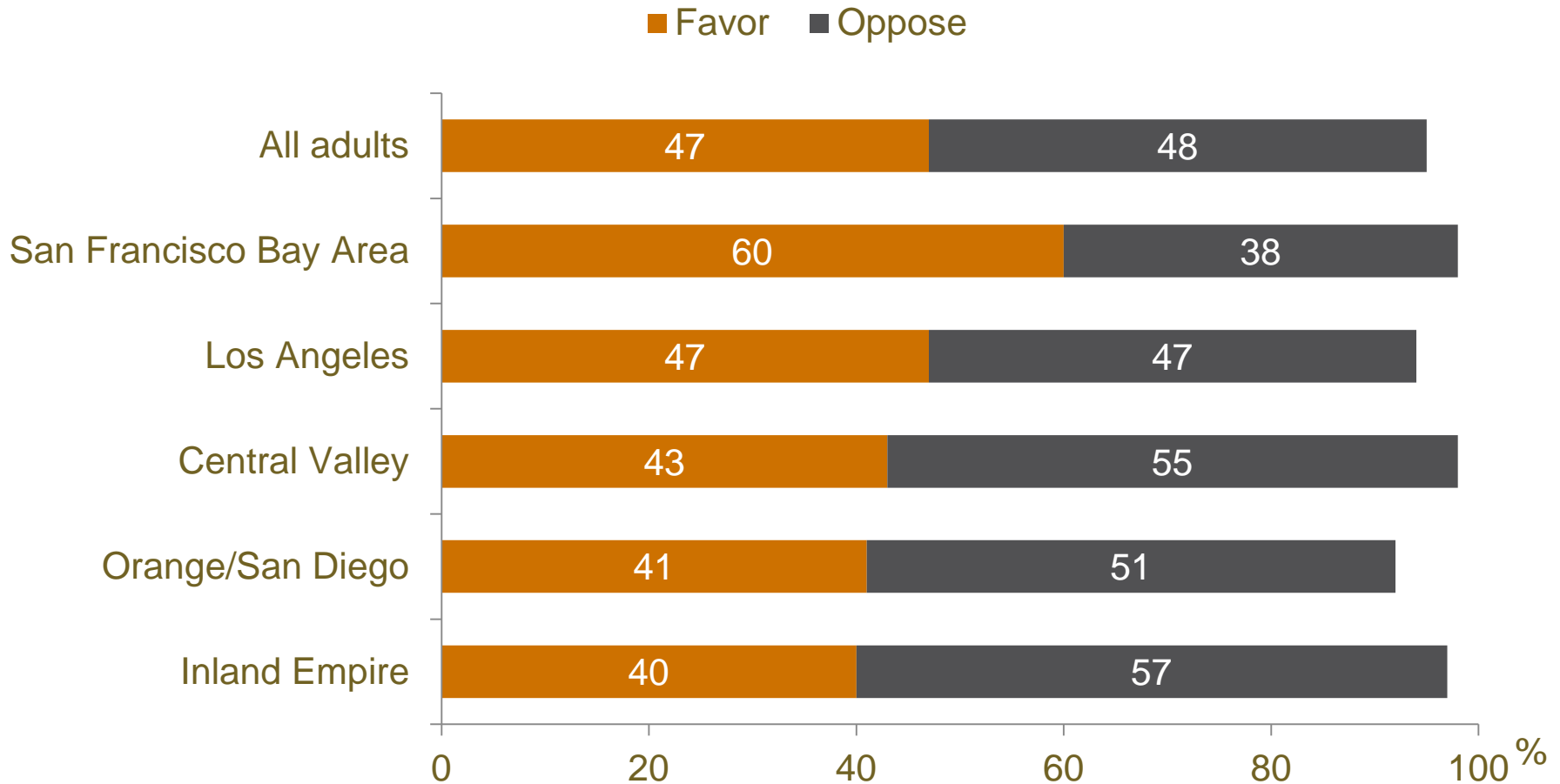
# Views of high-speed rail system

Thinking ahead, how important is the high-speed rail system for the future quality of life and economic vitality of California—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?



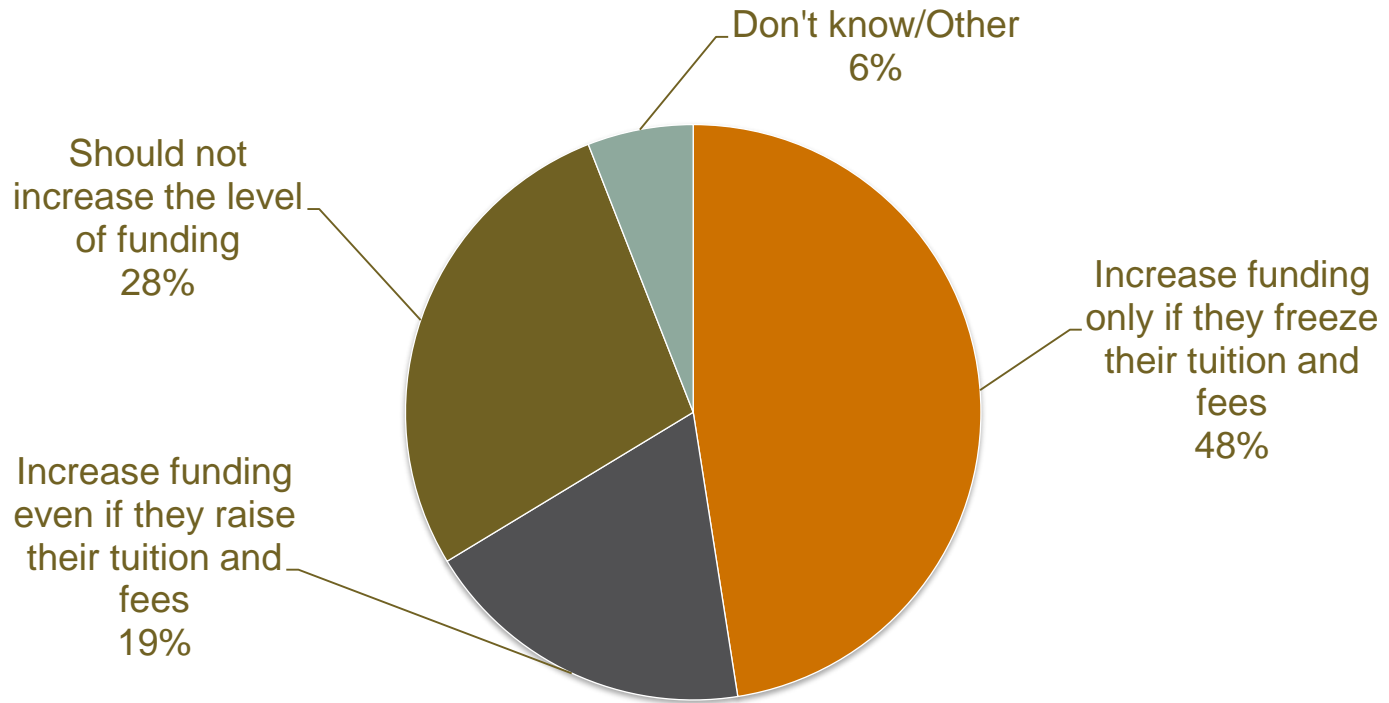
# Support for high-speed rail system

California voters passed a \$10 billion state bond in 2008 for planning and construction of a high-speed rail system ... The estimated costs associated with the high speed rail system are about \$68 billion over the next 20 years.



# Higher education funding

Governor Brown has proposed increasing state funding for California's public universities if they freeze tuition and fees for the next four years. Which of the following statements is closer to your view about increasing funding for California's public universities.

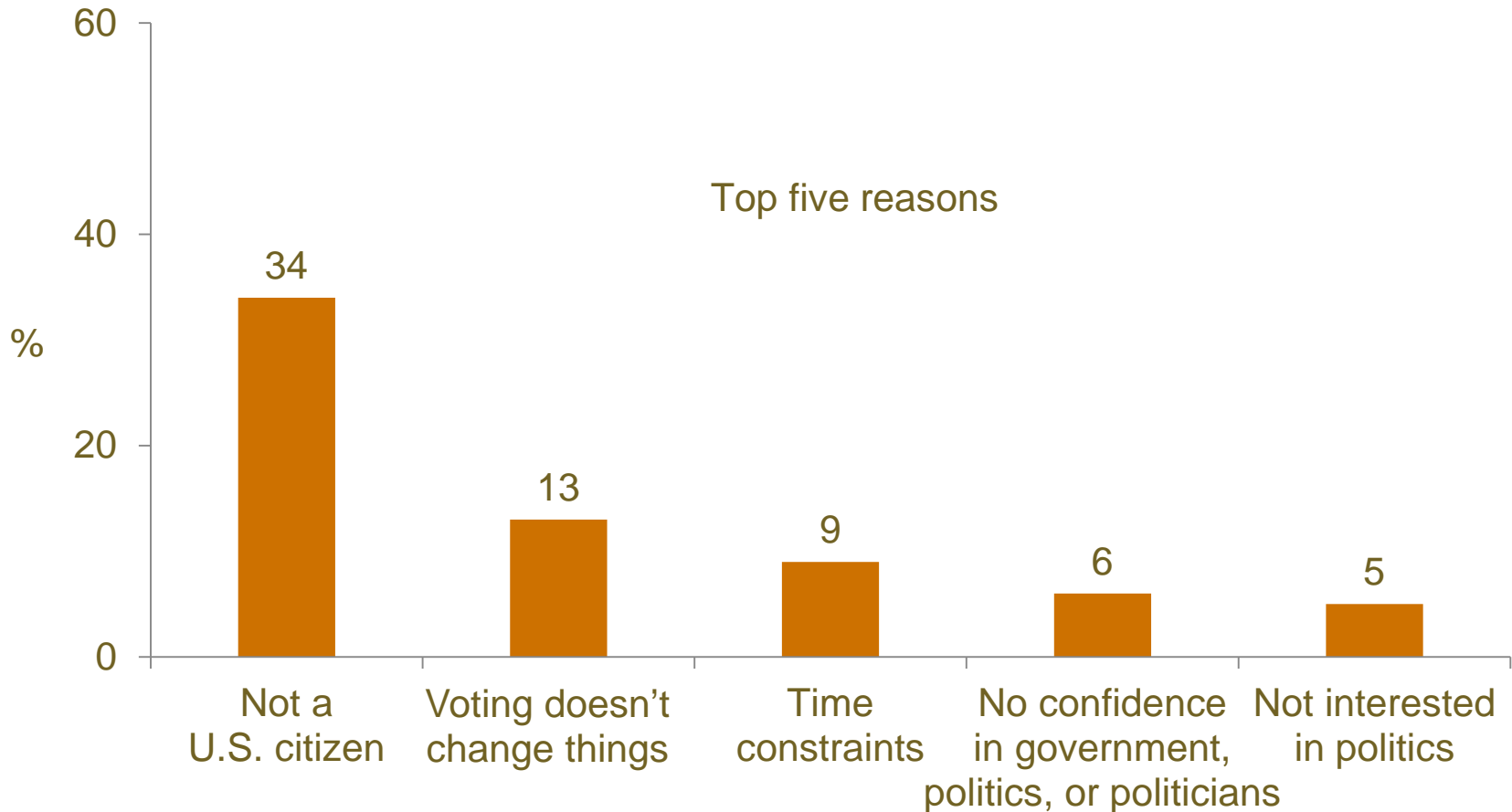


All adults



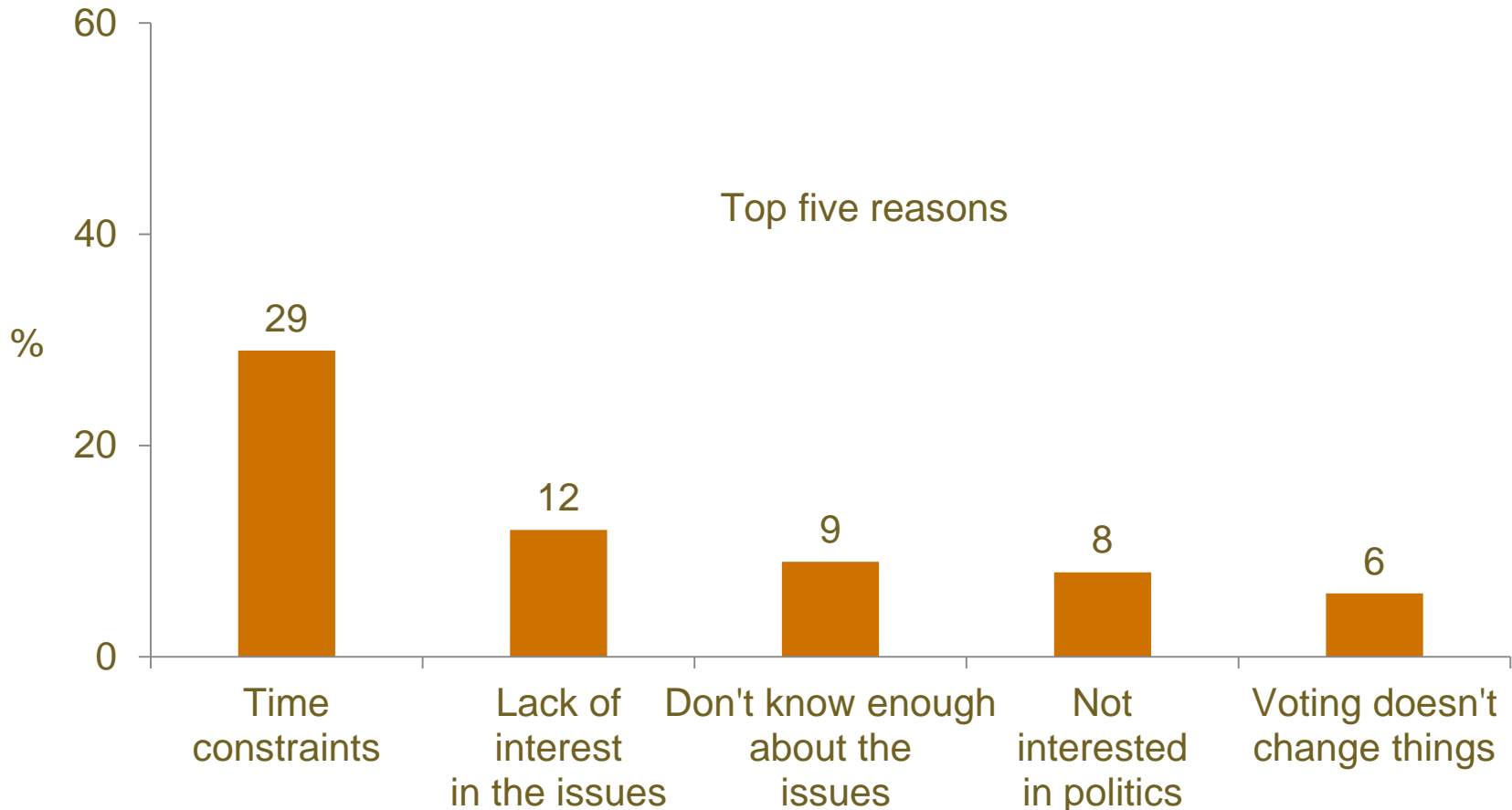
# Reasons for not registering to vote

There are many reasons why people don't register to vote. Could you please tell me the main reason why you're not registered to vote?



# Reasons for not voting

There are many reasons people aren't able to vote.  
Could you please tell me the main reason why you don't always vote?



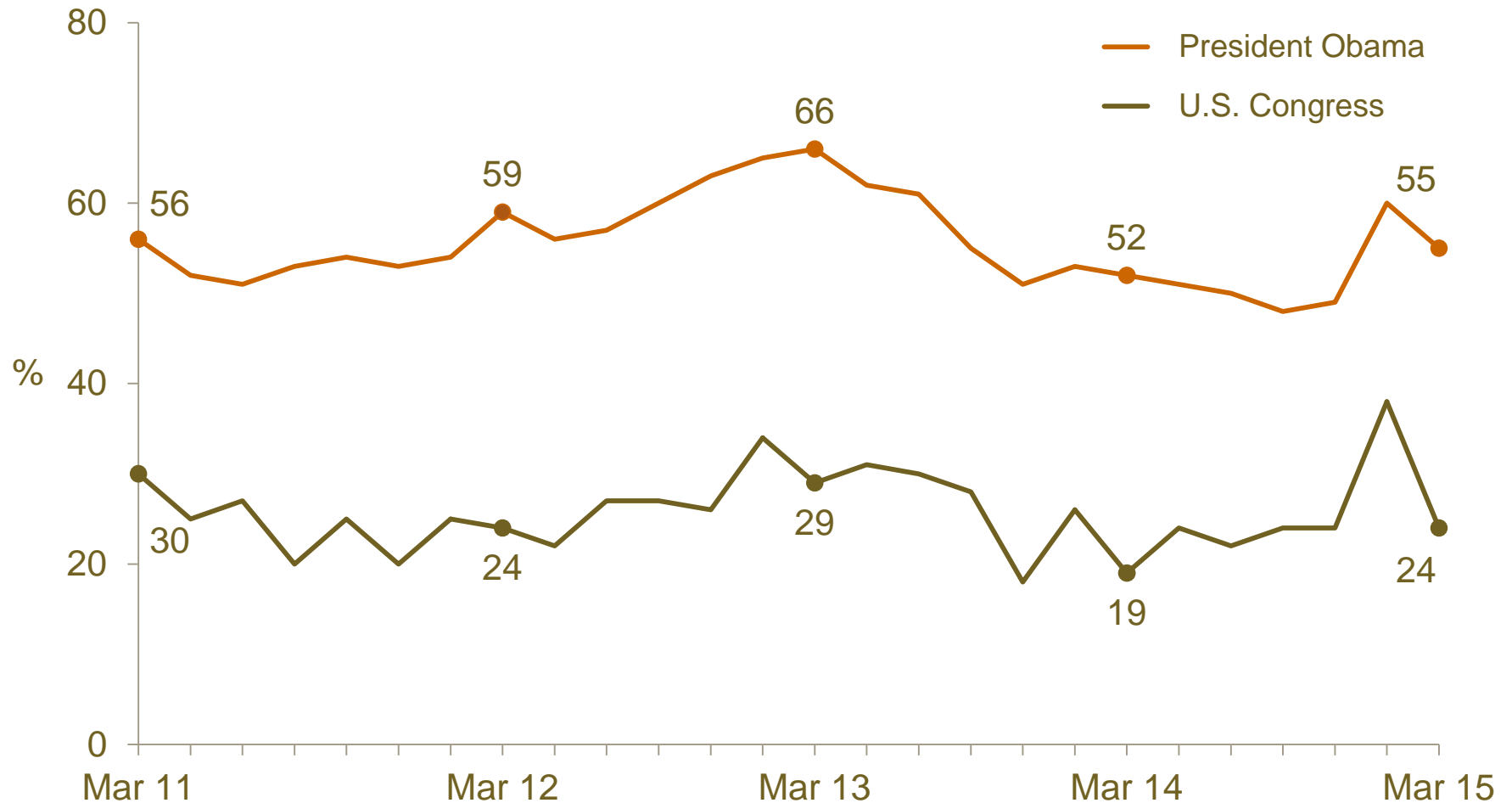
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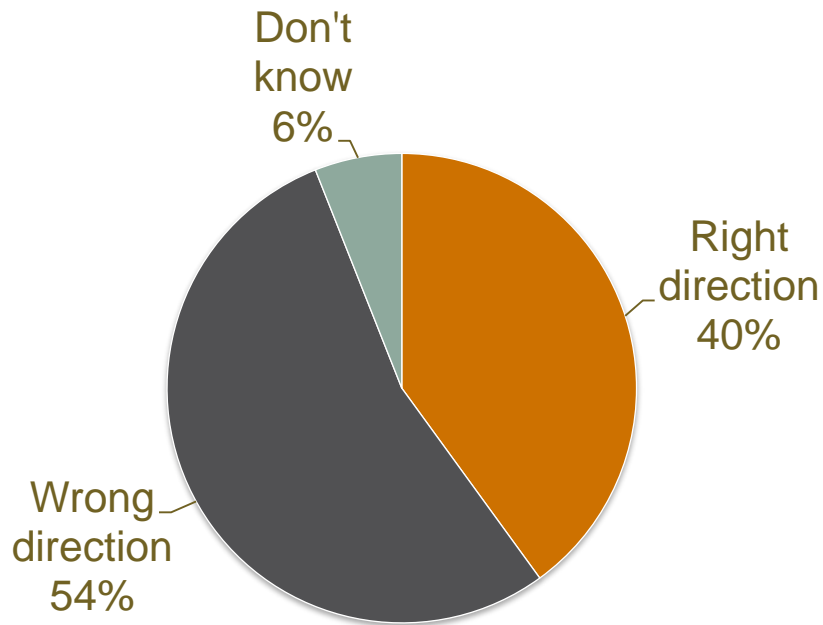


# Approval of federal elected officials

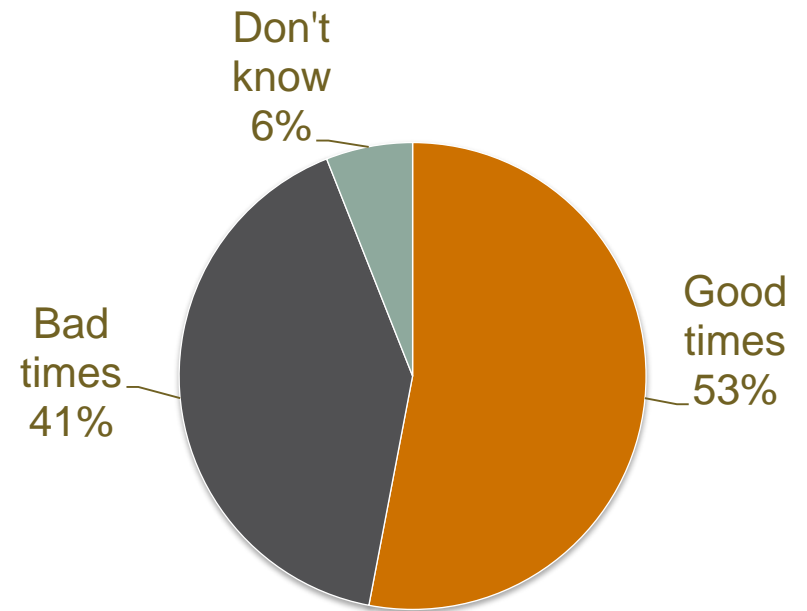


# Outlook for the nation

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



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



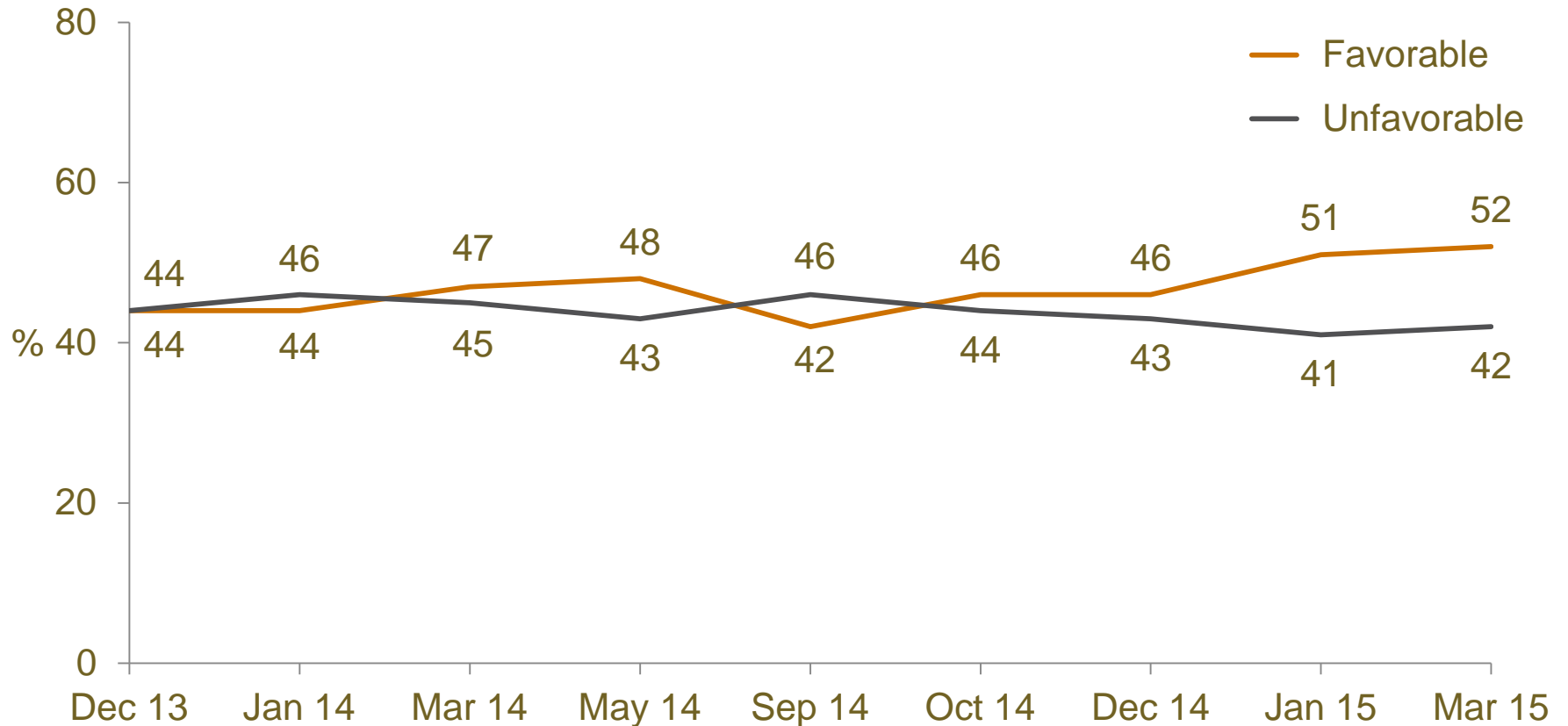
All adults





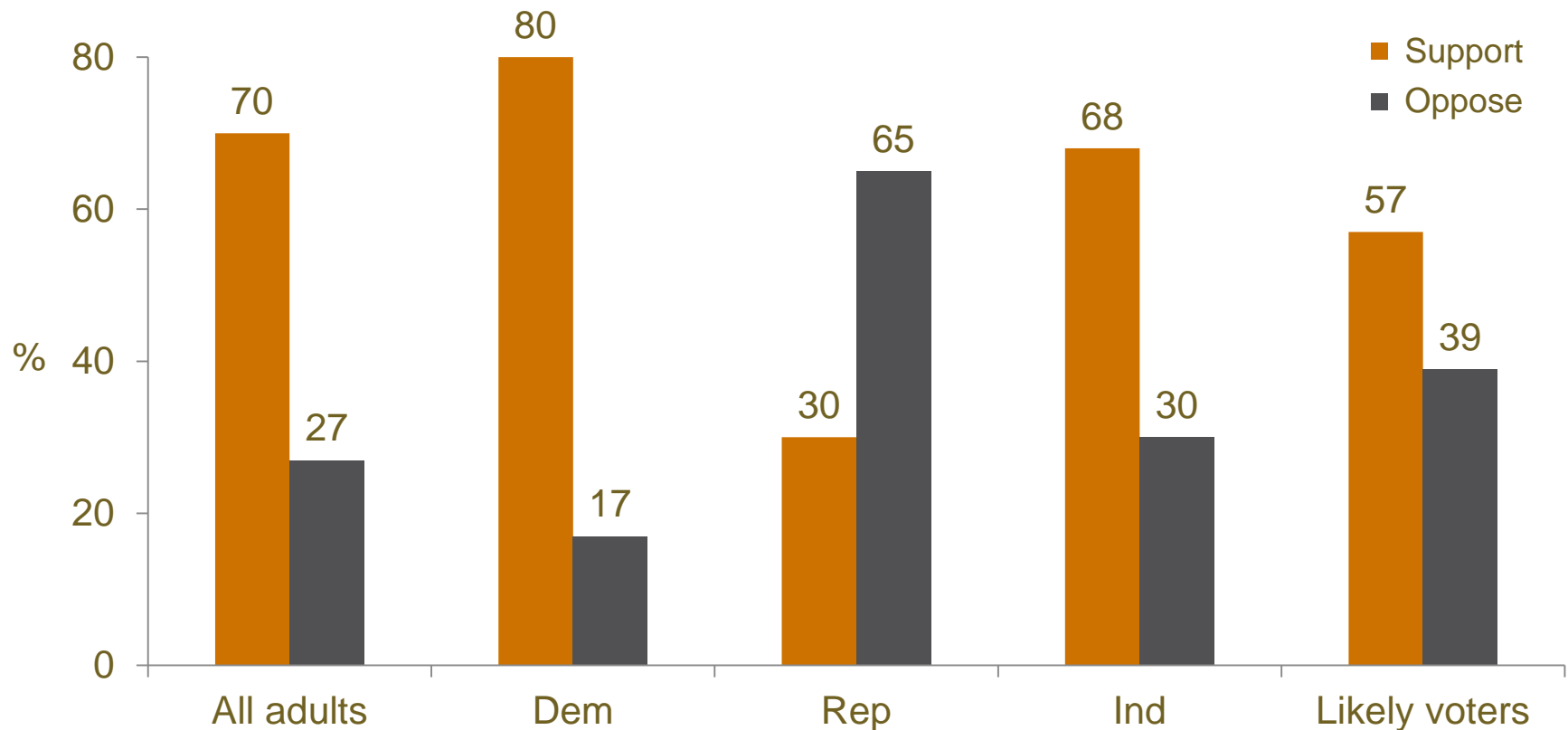
# Opinions of health reform law

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?



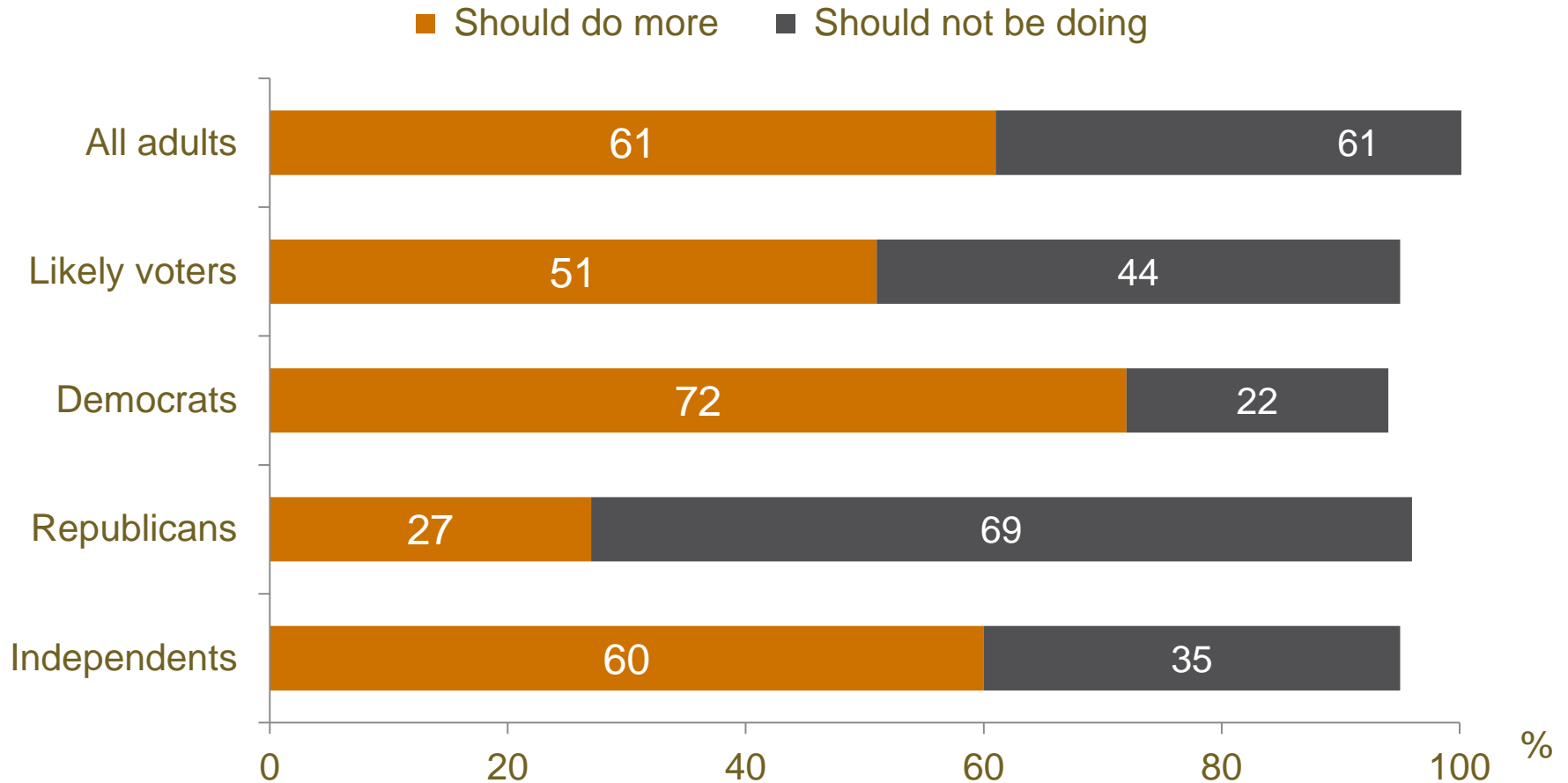
# President Obama's executive action on immigration

President Obama has taken an executive action under which as many as four million of the country's undocumented immigrants will not face deportation ... 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?



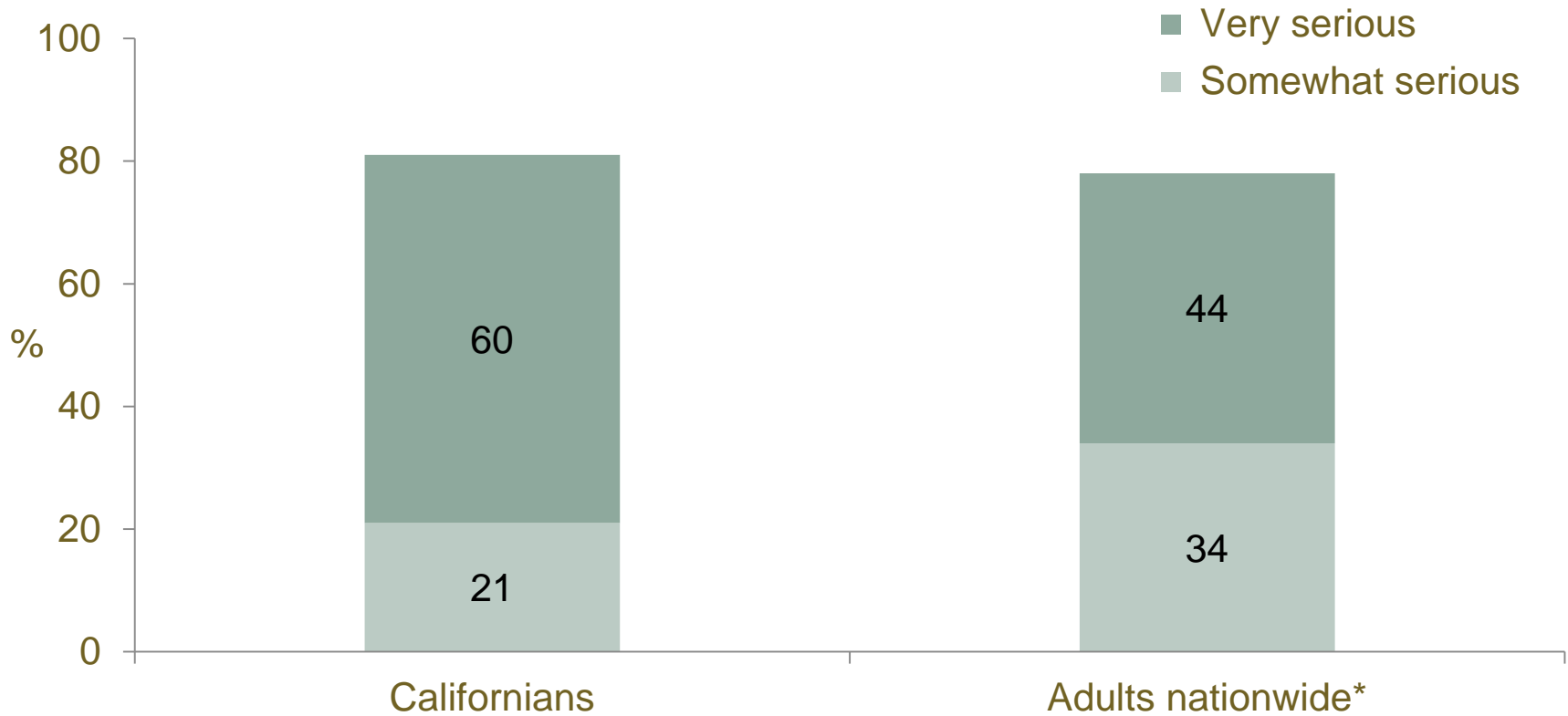
# Government role in reducing inequality

Should the government do more to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor in this country, or is this something the government should not be doing?



# Problem seriousness of global warming

If nothing is done to reduce global warming in the future, how serious a problem do you think it will be for the United States—very serious, somewhat serious, not so serious, or not serious at all?

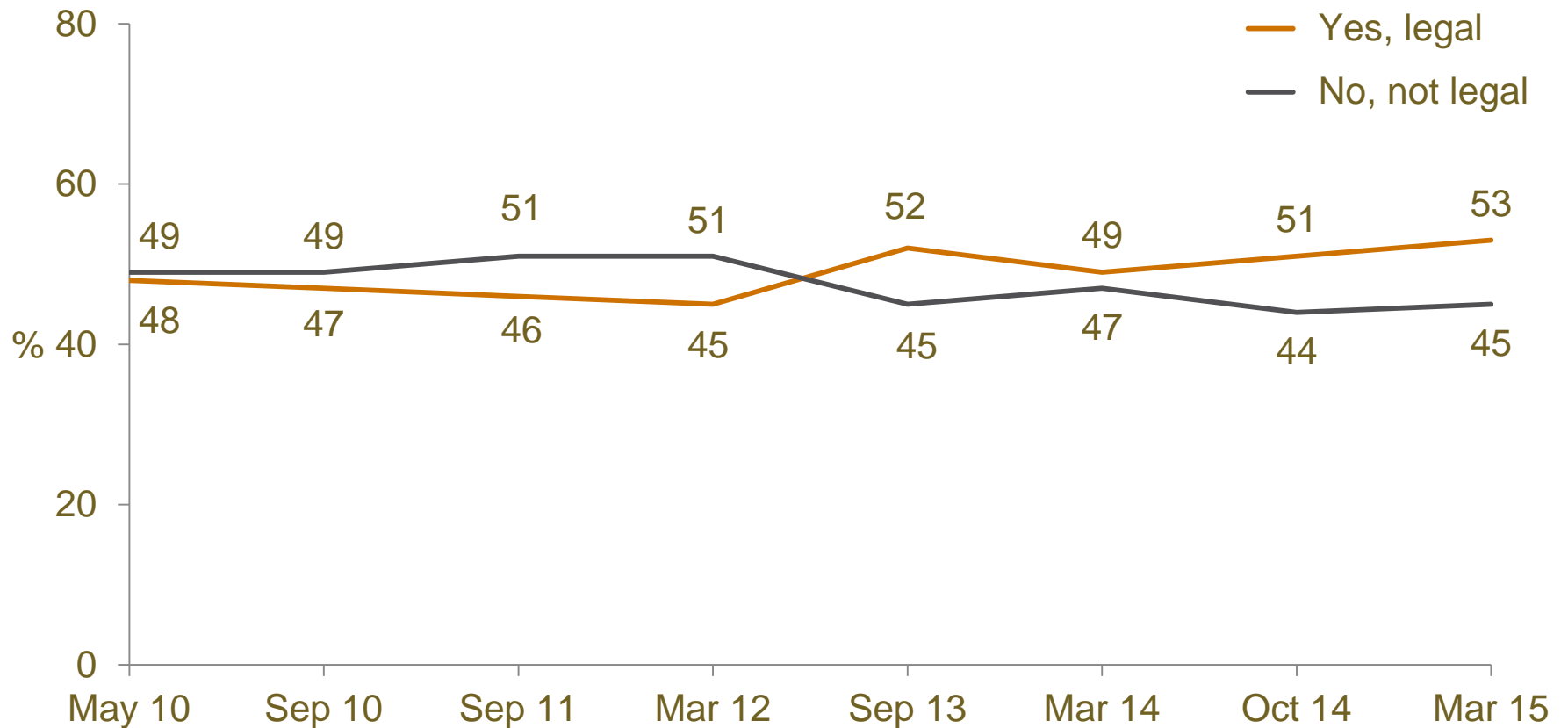


\*Stanford/NYT/RFF Poll, January 2015



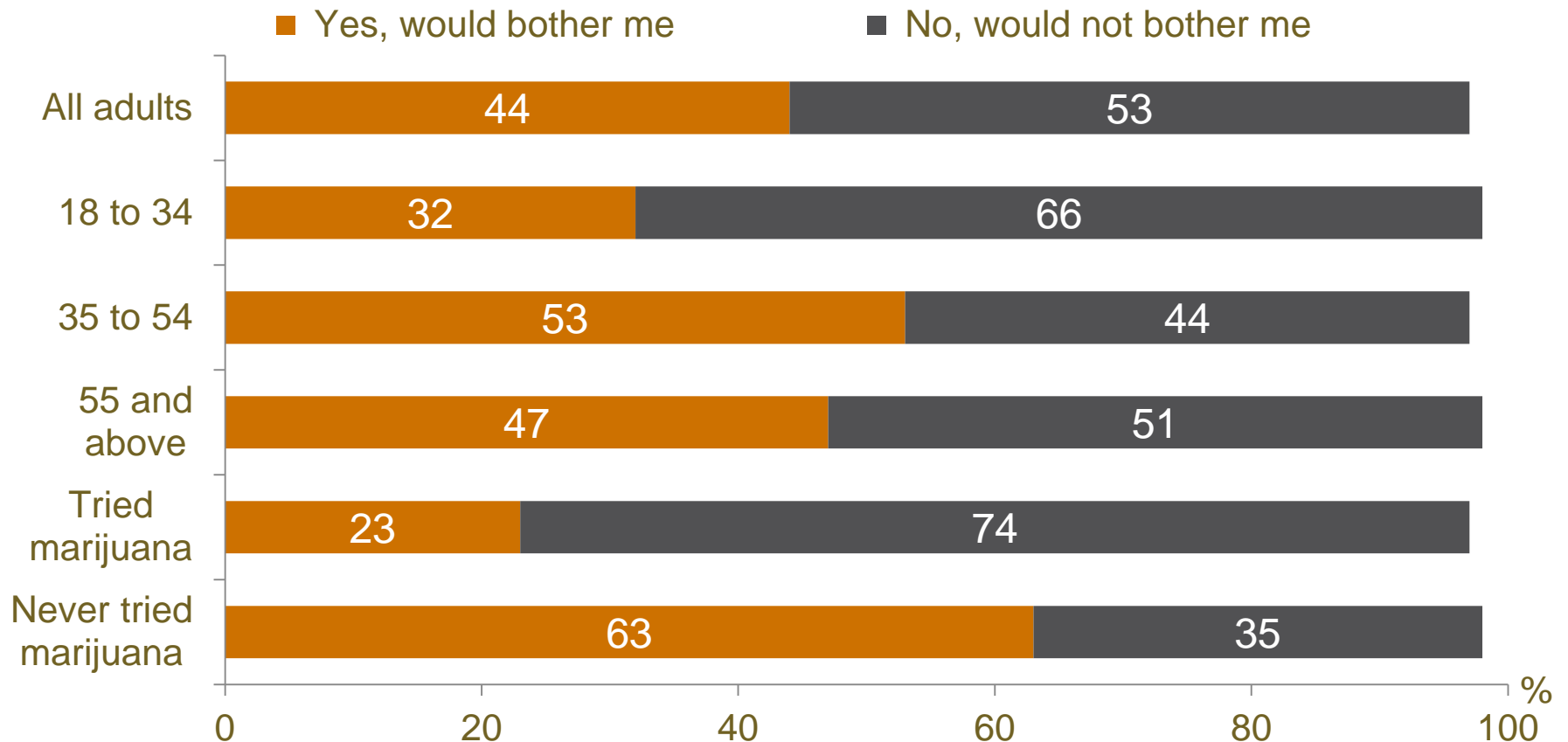
# Marijuana legalization

In general, do you think the use of marijuana should be legal, or not?



# Marijuana shop in neighborhood

If marijuana were legal, would it bother you if a store or a business selling marijuana opened up in your neighborhood or would this not bother you?



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# Conclusions

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- Approval ratings of state and federal elected officials higher than last March
- The drought is a top concern; most say residents not doing enough
- Support for Proposition 30 tax extension if not made permanent; most favor voters deciding on it
- Most view infrastructure spending as very important
- Californians consider global warming a serious problem
- Support for legalizing marijuana is at its highest level





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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.

