

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

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March 2011



Outline

- **PPIC Statewide Surveys**
- **State Issues**
- **National Issues**
- **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
 - 244,000+ Californians since 1998
 - 100+ general, issue, and regional surveys



Californians and Their Government

- General series funded by The Irvine Foundation
- State issues
 - Overall mood, ratings of state elected officials
 - State budget deficit, pensions, Proposition 13, term limits
- National issues
 - Ratings of federal elected officials
 - U.S. economic policy and federal budget deficit
- Telephone interviews, March 8–15
 - 2,000 adults / 935 likely voters
 - $\pm 2.8\%$ margin of error for adults
 - $\pm 4.2\%$ for likely voters



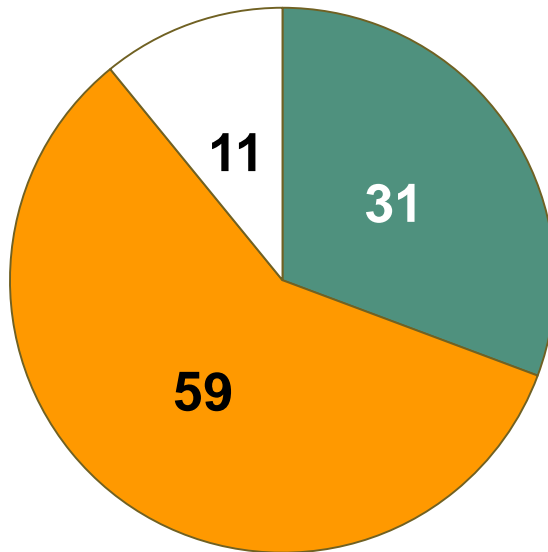
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Overall Mood

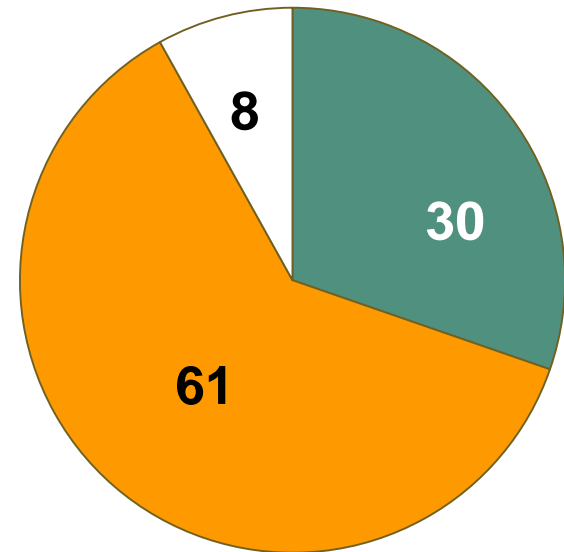
Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?



- Right direction
- Wrong direction
- Don't know

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

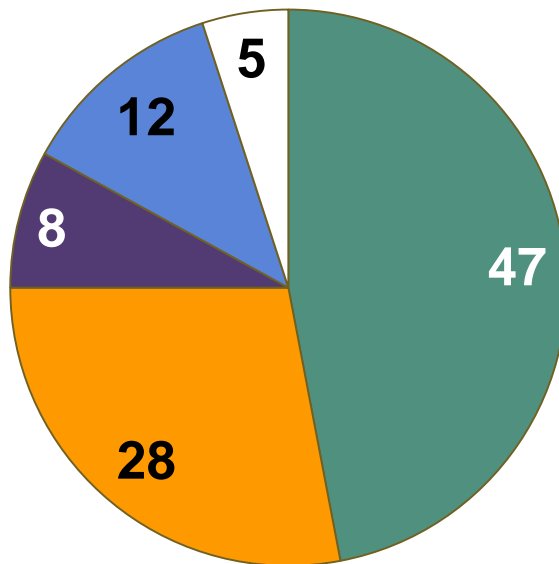


- Good times
- Bad times
- Don't know



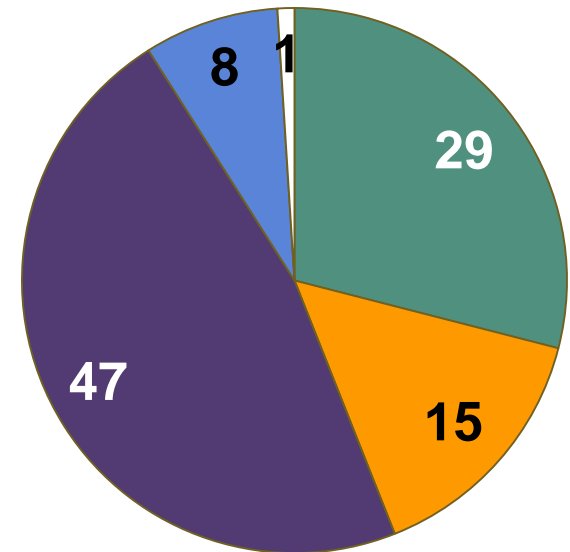
Economic Conditions

Would you say that California is in an economic recession, or not? (if yes: Do you think it is in a serious, moderate, or a mild recession)



- Serious recession
- Moderate recession
- Mild recession
- Not in a recession
- Don't know

Are you concerned that you or someone in your family will lose their job in the next year, or not? (if yes: Are you very concerned or somewhat concerned?)



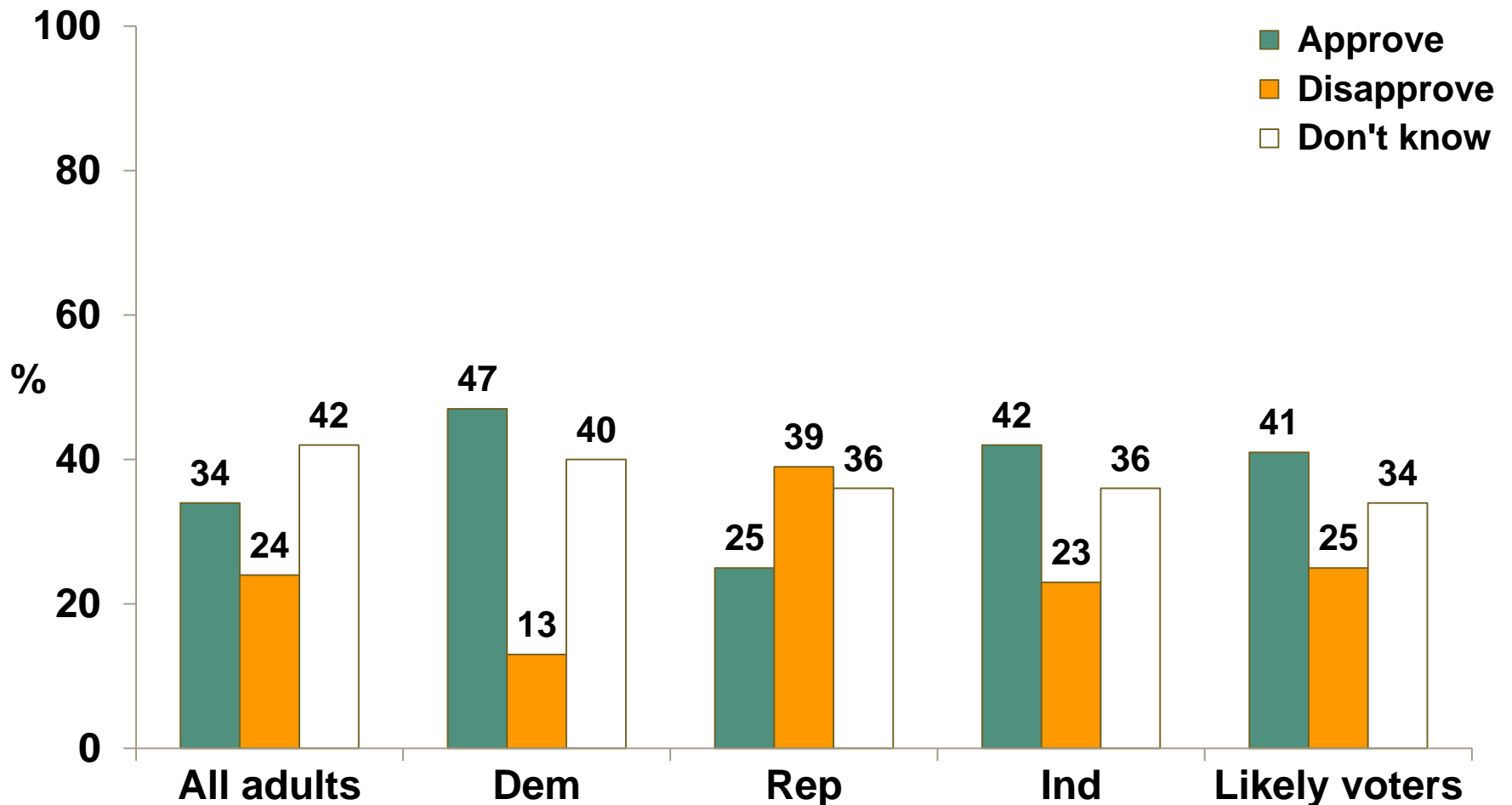
- Yes, very concerned
- Yes, somewhat concerned
- No
- Already lost job (vol)
- Don't know

All adults



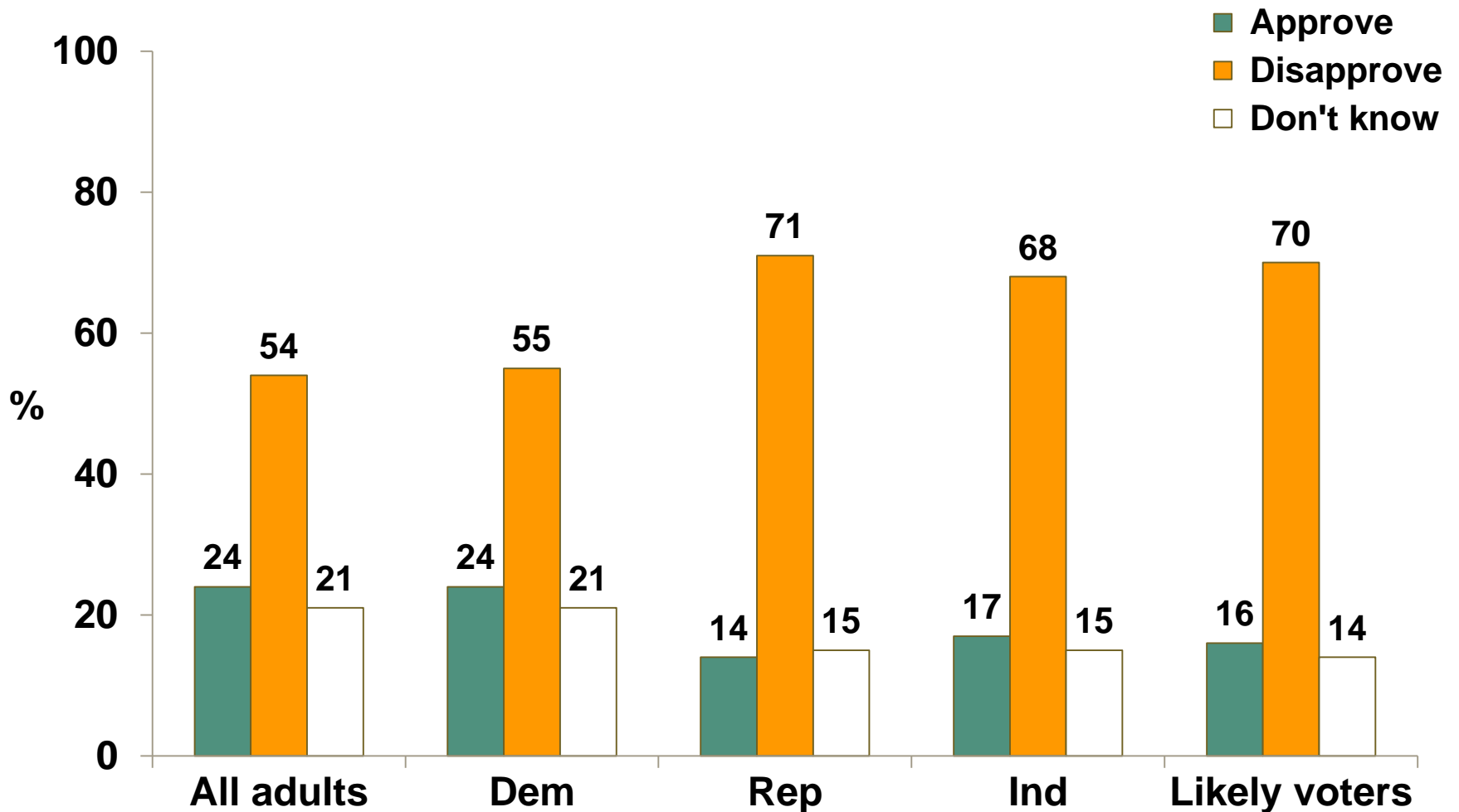
Approval Ratings of the Governor

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California?



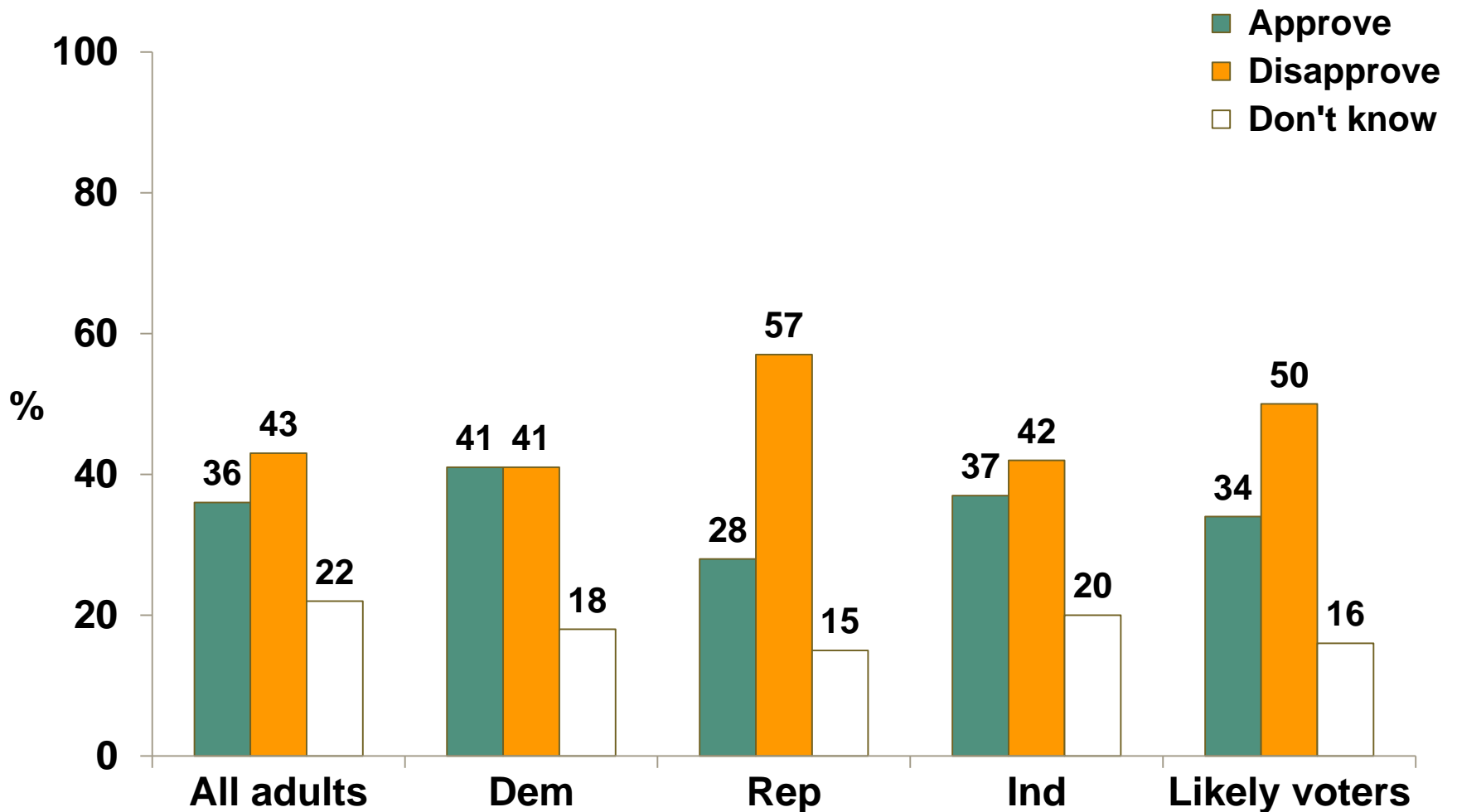
Approval Ratings of the Legislature

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job?



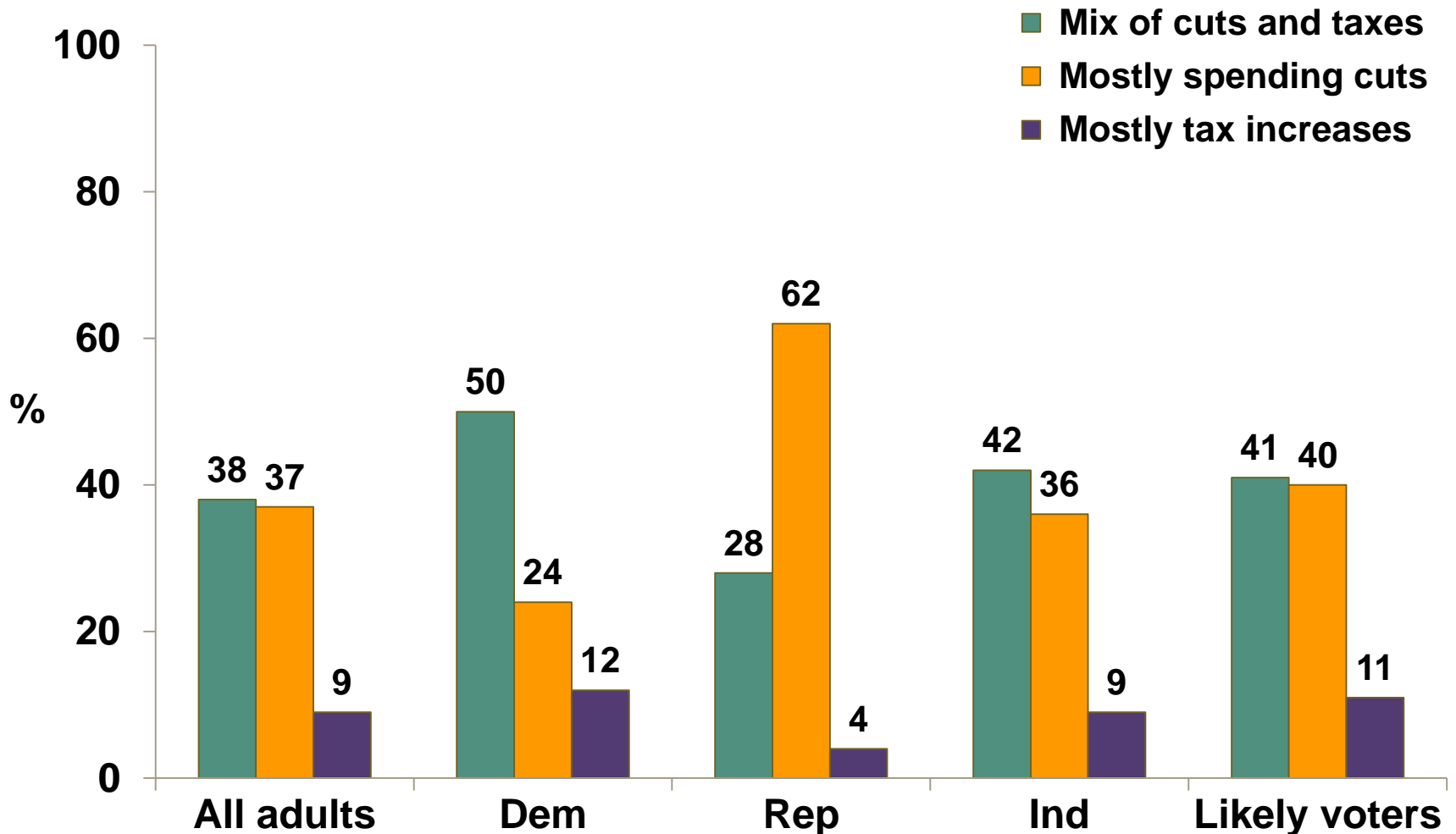
Approval Ratings of Own State Legislator

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



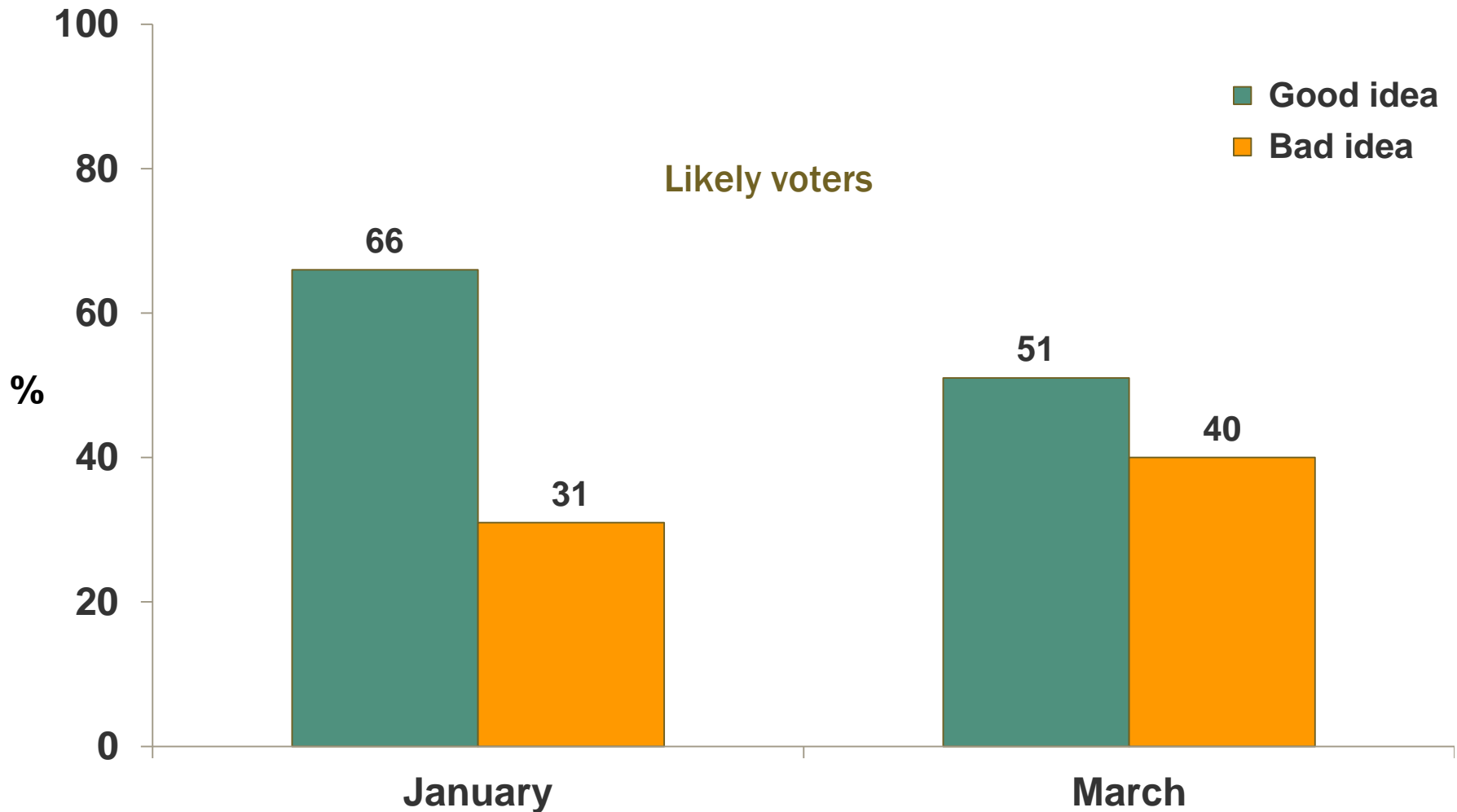
Dealing With the Budget Gap

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



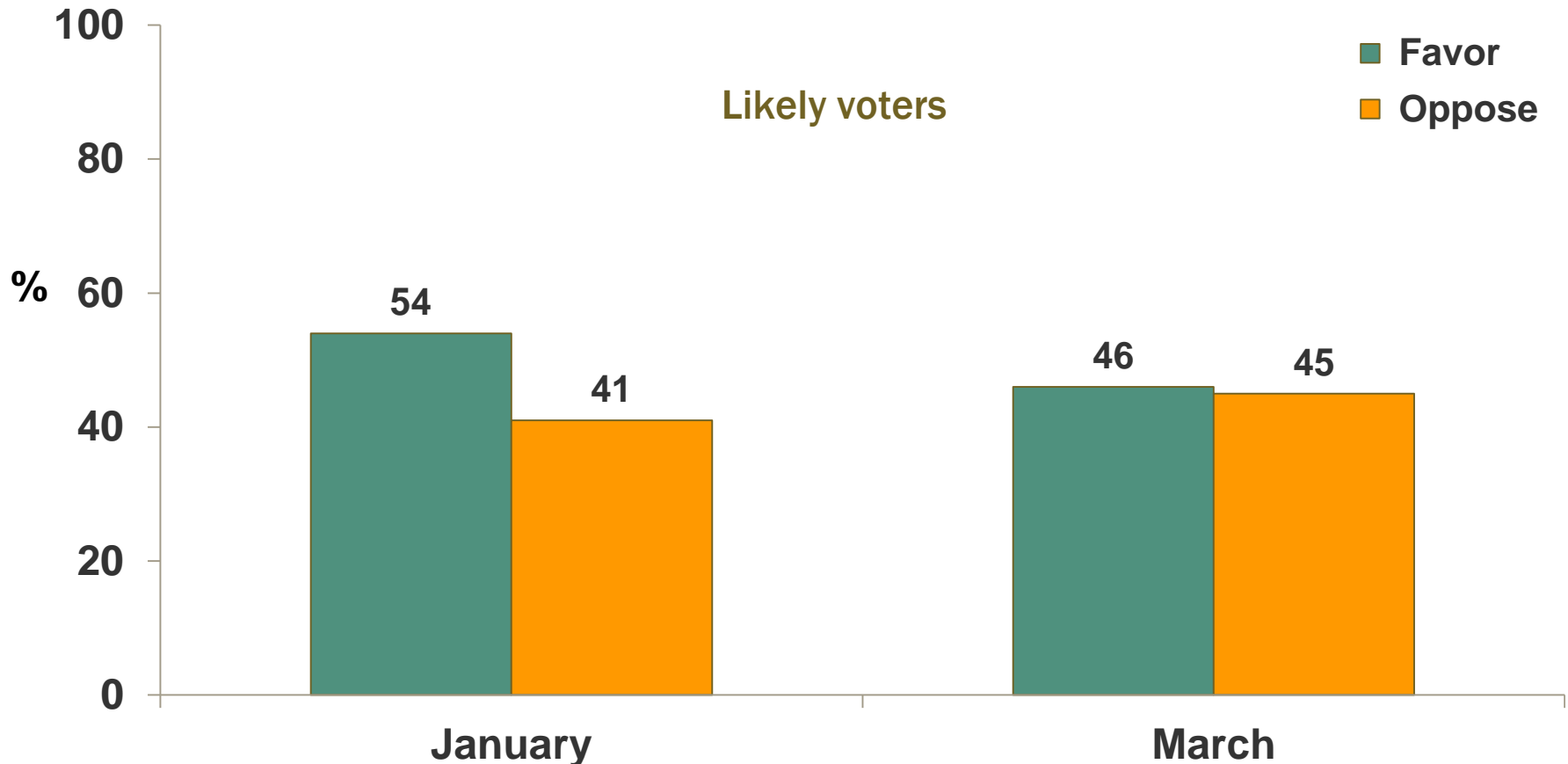
Governor's Proposal to Hold Special Election

In general, do you think the special election is a good idea or bad idea?



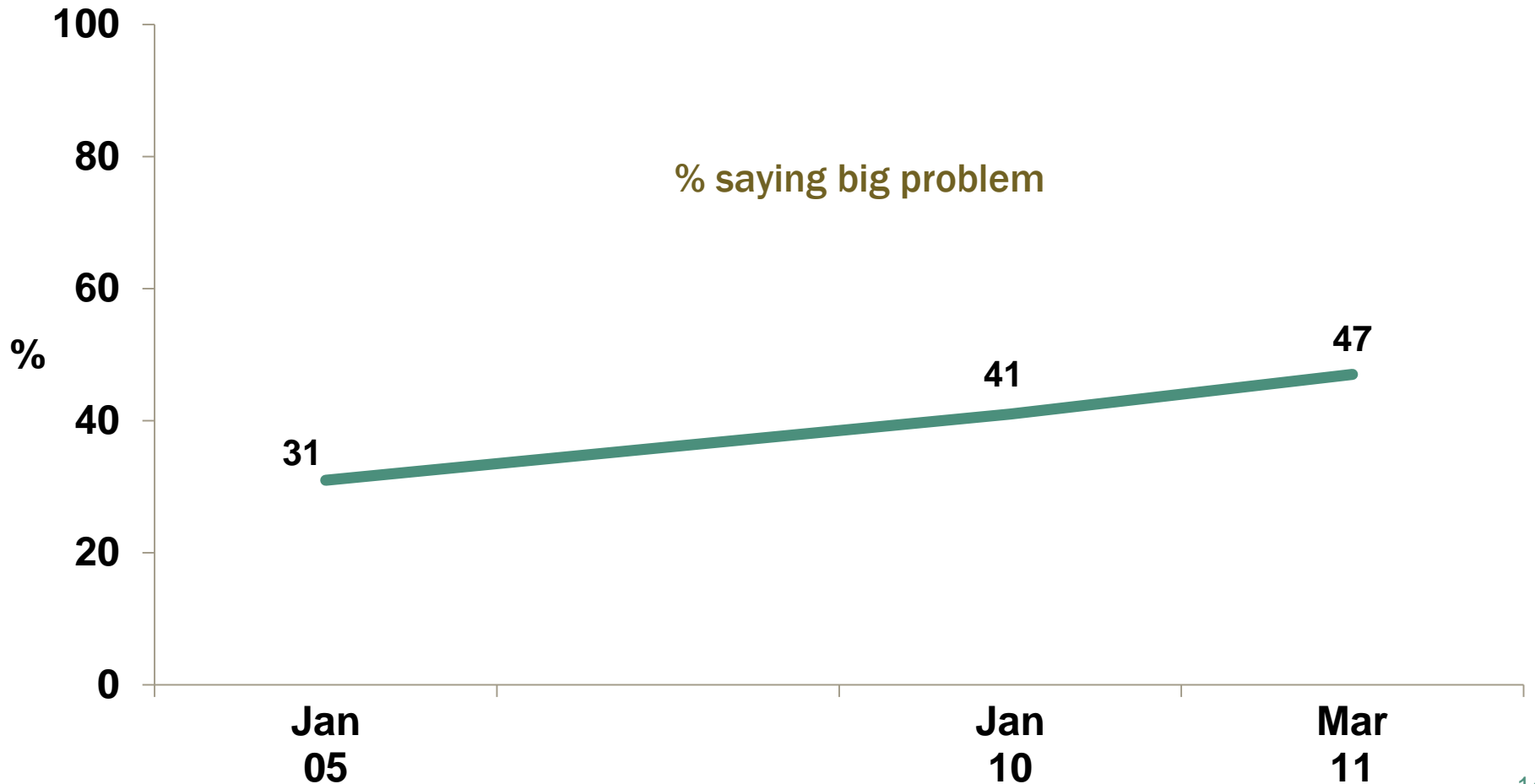
Governor's Special Election Proposal

In a special election, voters would be asked to extend—for five years—temporary increases in state personal income taxes, the state sales tax, and vehicle license fee that went into effect in 2009. Some revenues would be diverted to local governments for schools, public safety, and other services. If voters reject the proposal, additional cuts to services would be made. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?



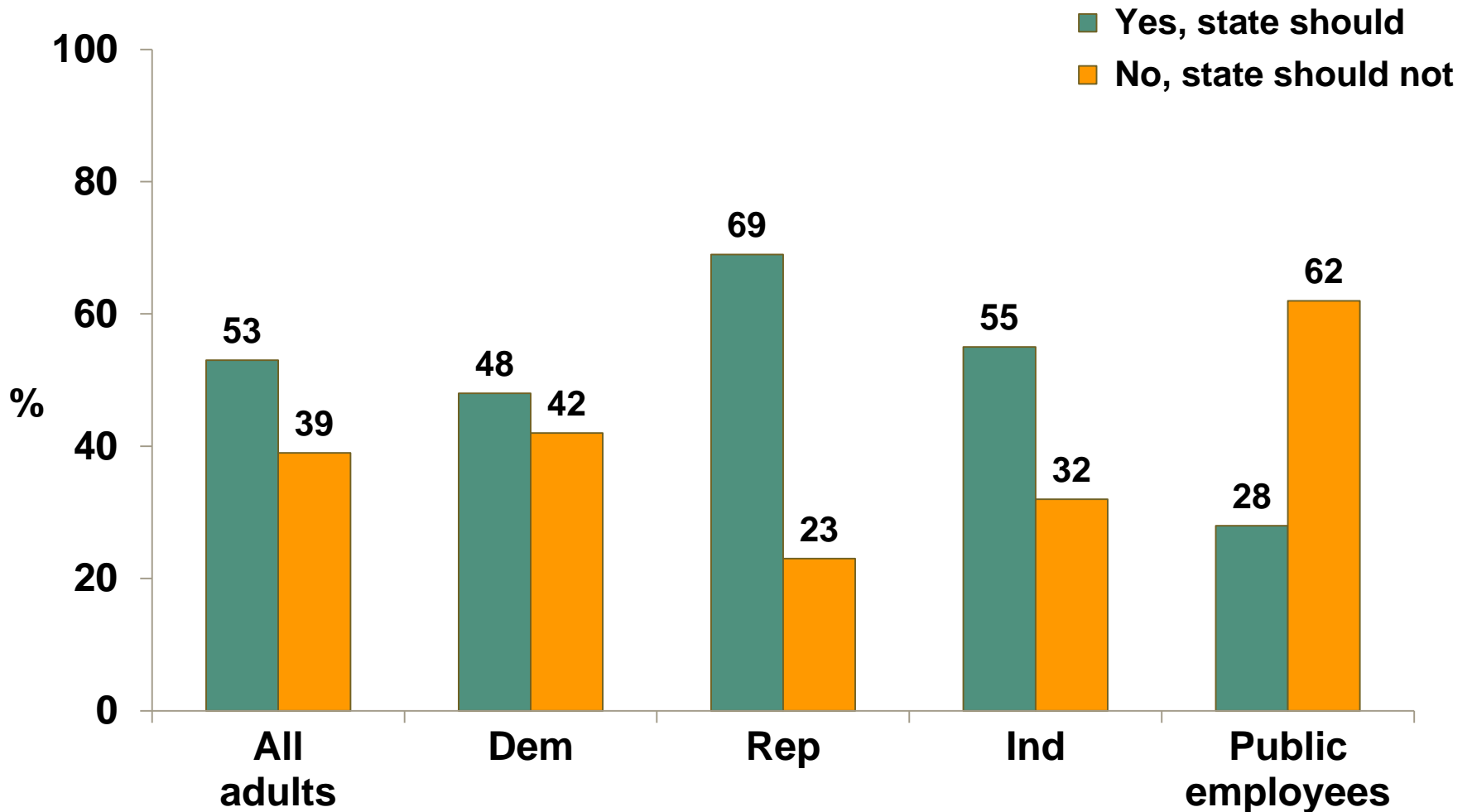
Perceptions of Public Pension Systems

At this time, 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?



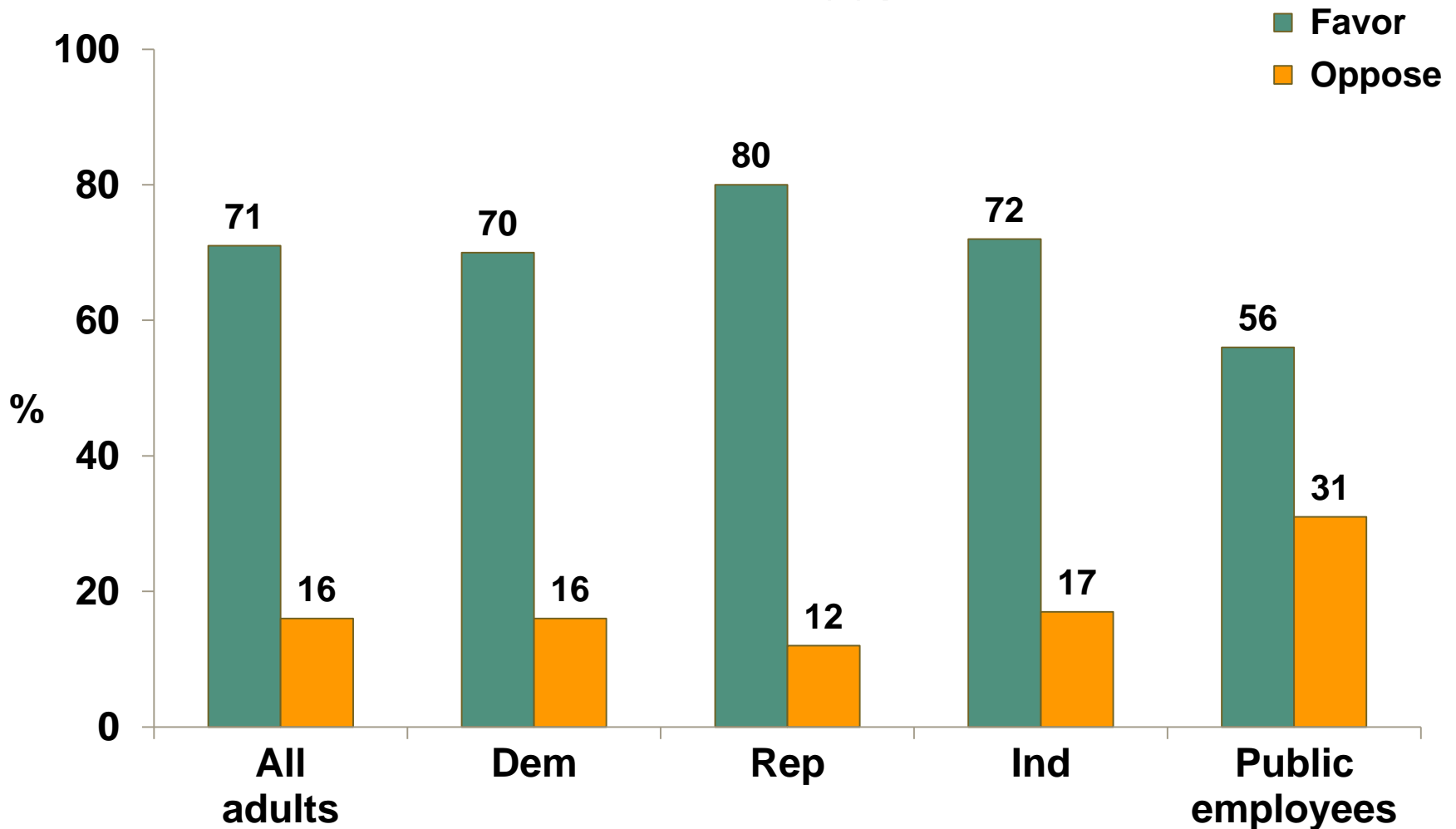
Pension Plans of Government Employees

As the state government looks for ways to balance the budget this year, do you think the state government should decrease the pension plans of government employees, or not?



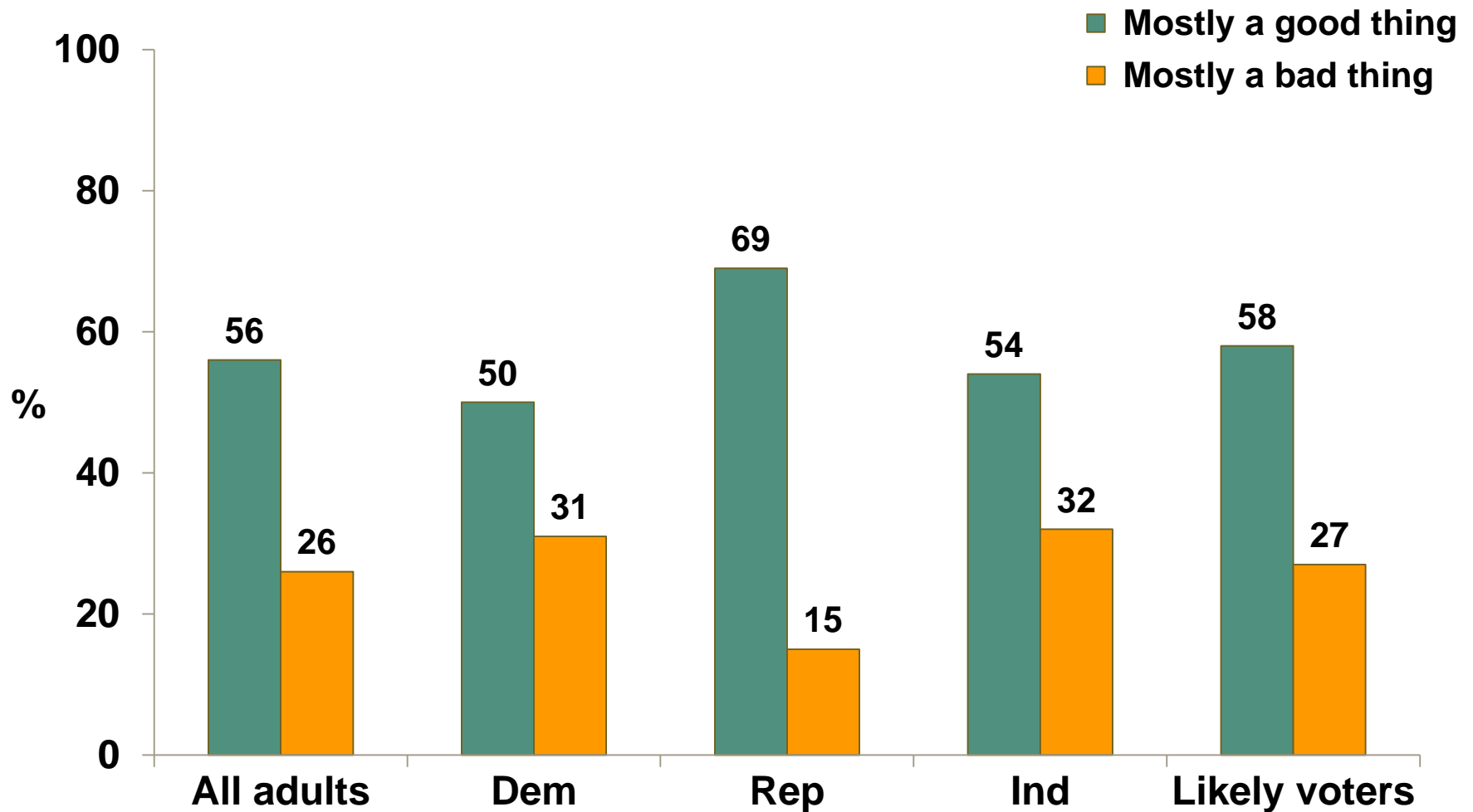
Pension Plans of Government Employees

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?



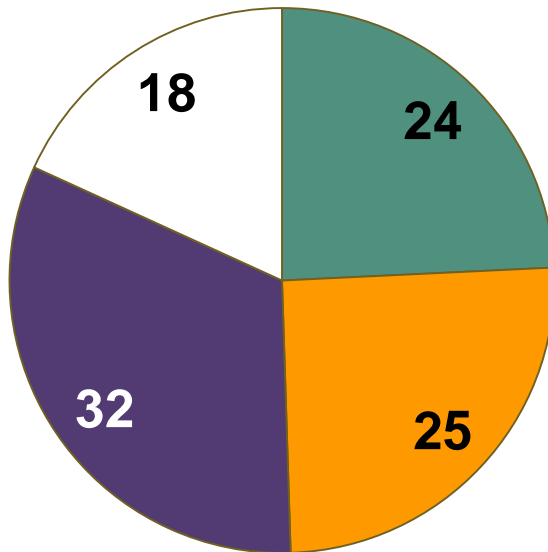
Overall Opinion of Proposition 13

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



Components of Proposition 13

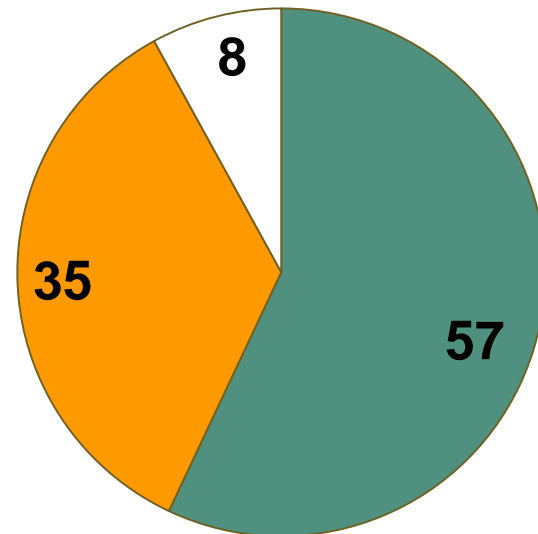
And, overall, do you think the property tax limitations imposed by Proposition 13 have had a good effect or a bad effect or no effect on local government services provided to residents in the state of California?



- Good effect
- Bad effect
- No effect
- Don't Know

Under Proposition 13, a two-thirds vote at the ballot box is required to pass any new local special taxes, such as a local sales tax to fund transportation projects. Do you favor or oppose this feature of Proposition 13?

All adults

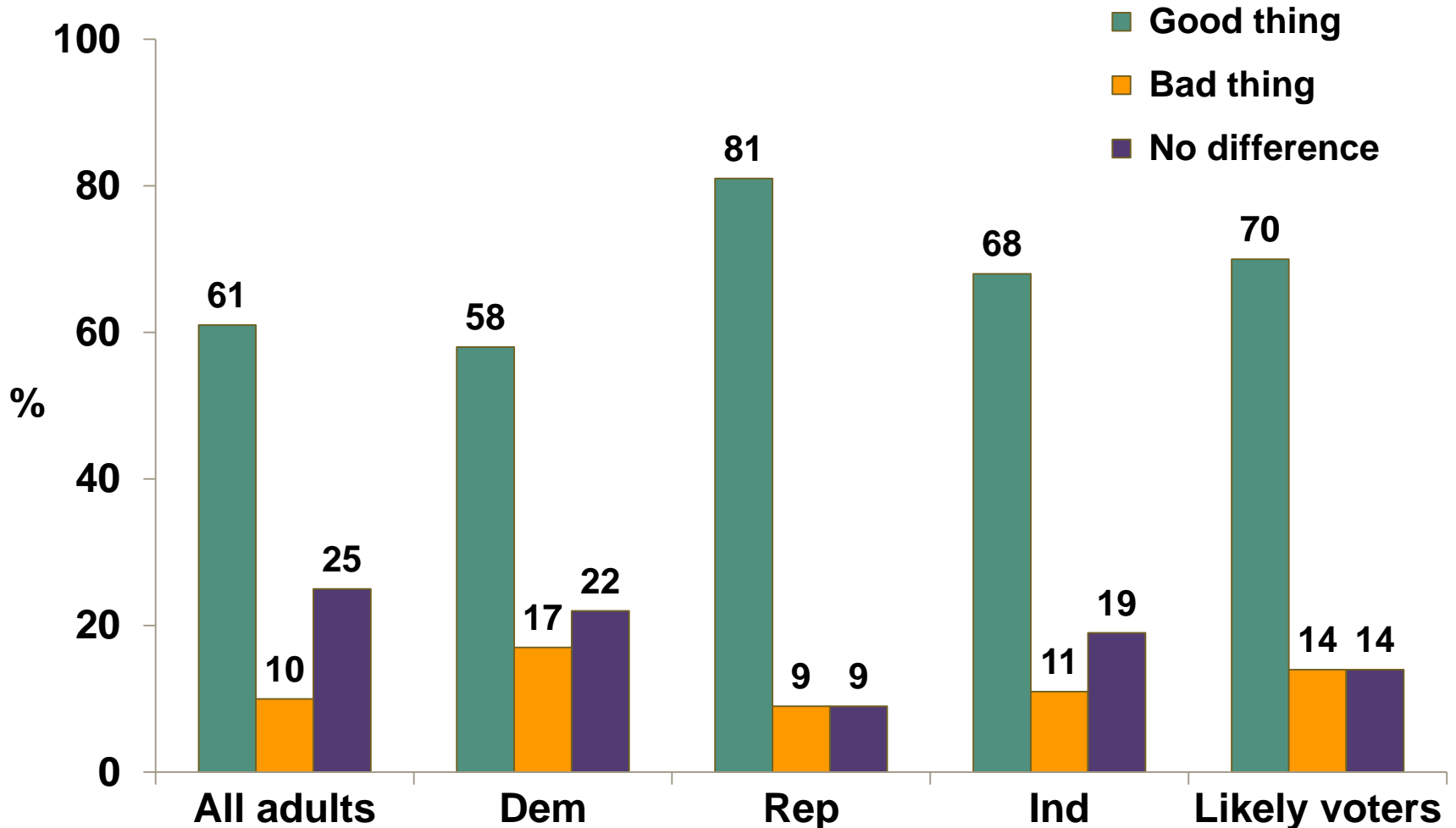


- Favor
- Oppose
- Don't know



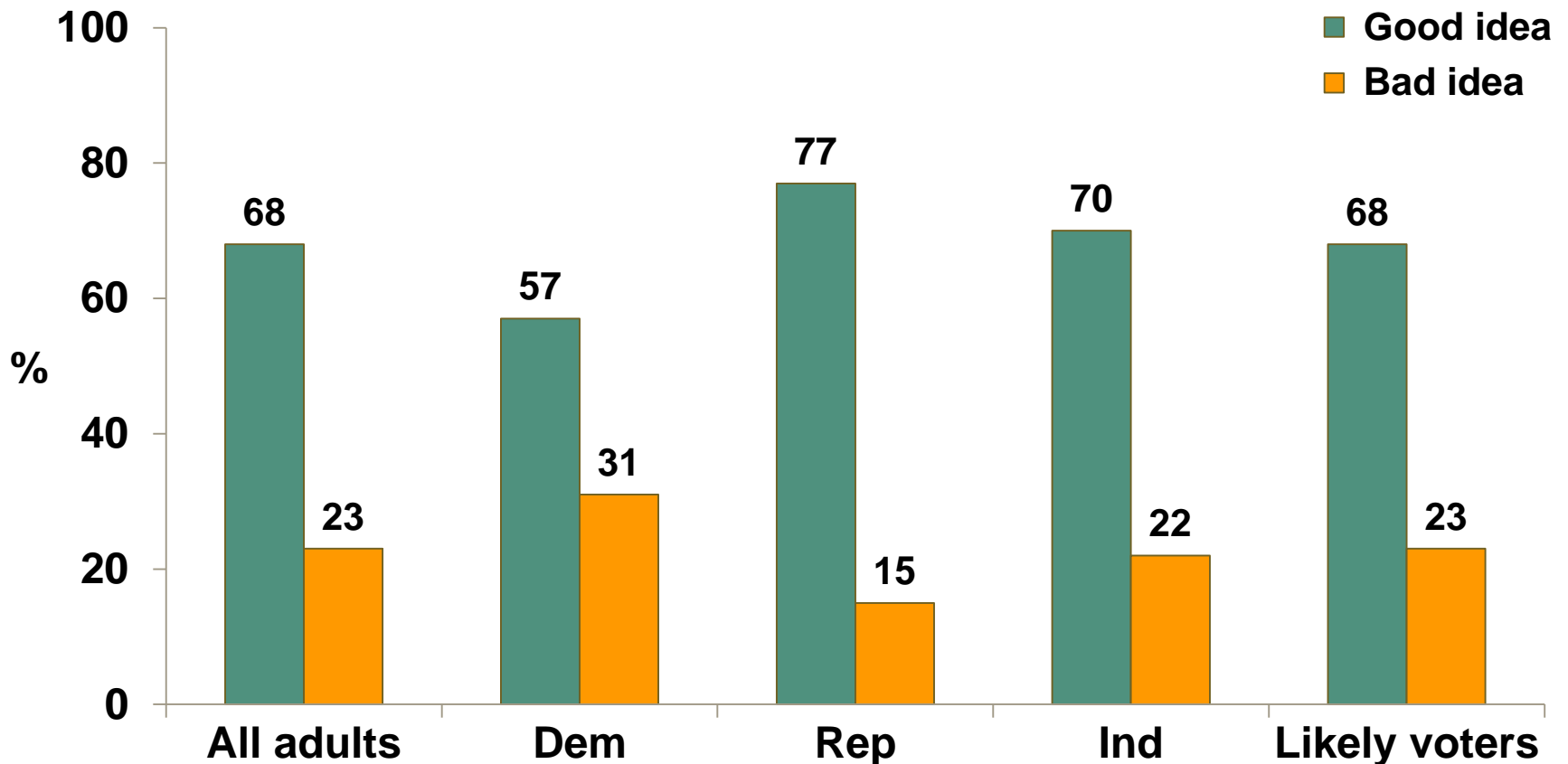
Legislative Term Limits

Do you think that term limits are a good thing or a bad thing for California, or do they make no difference?



Legislative Term Limits Reform

Some people have proposed reducing the total amount of time a person may serve in the state legislature from 14 years to 12 years and allowing a person to serve a total of 12 years either in the assembly, the senate, or a combination of both. Do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?

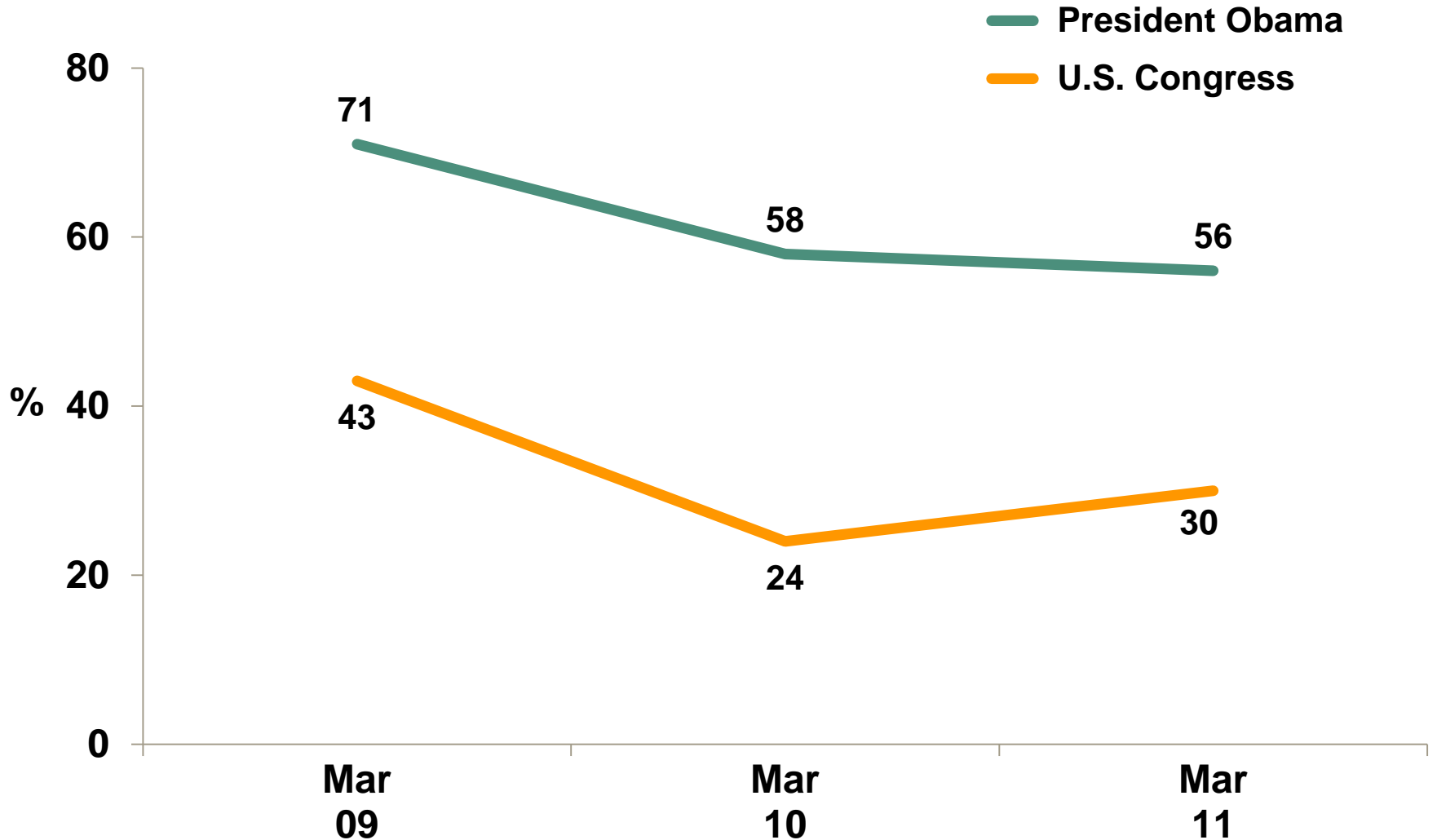


Outline

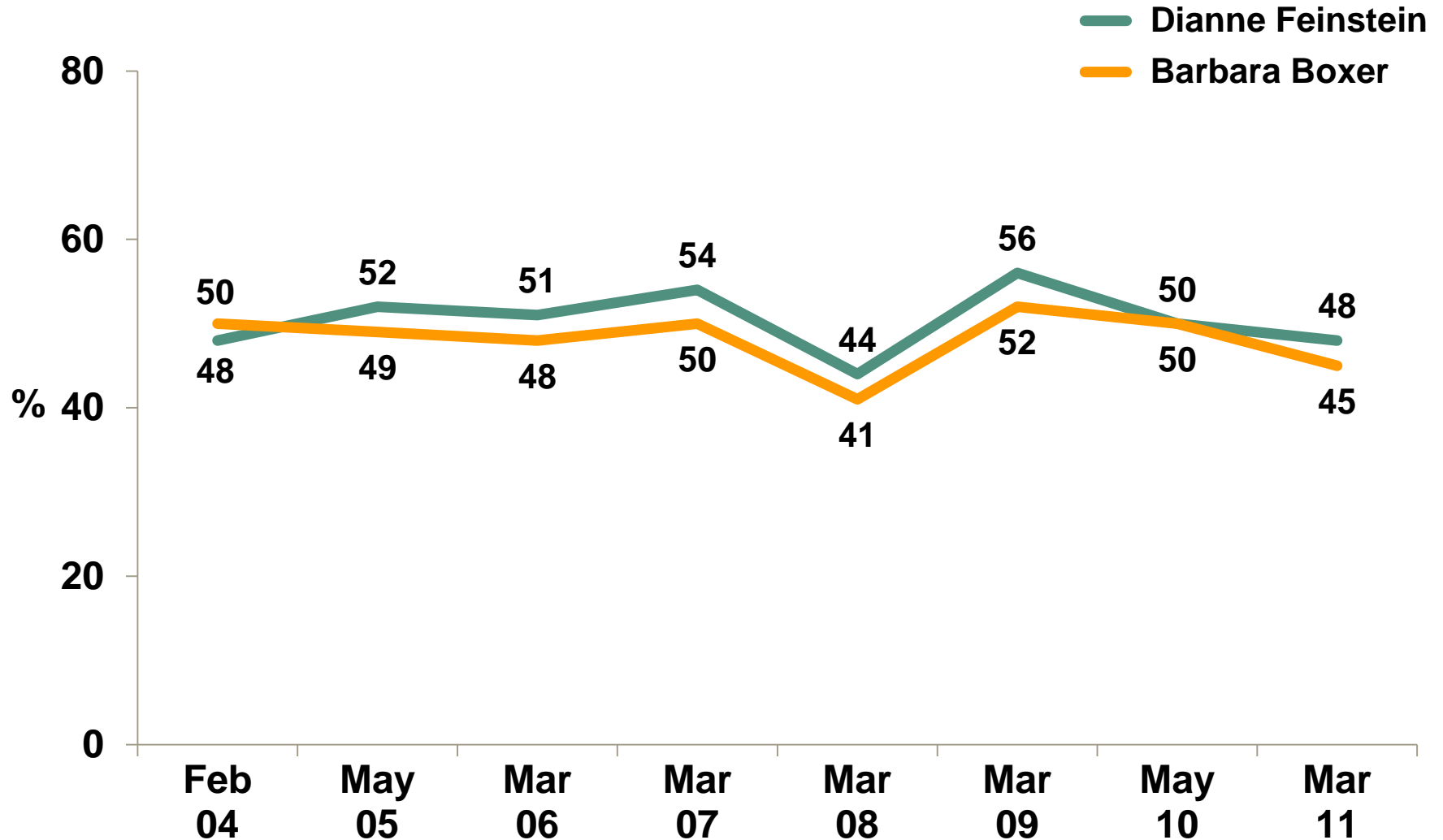
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Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials

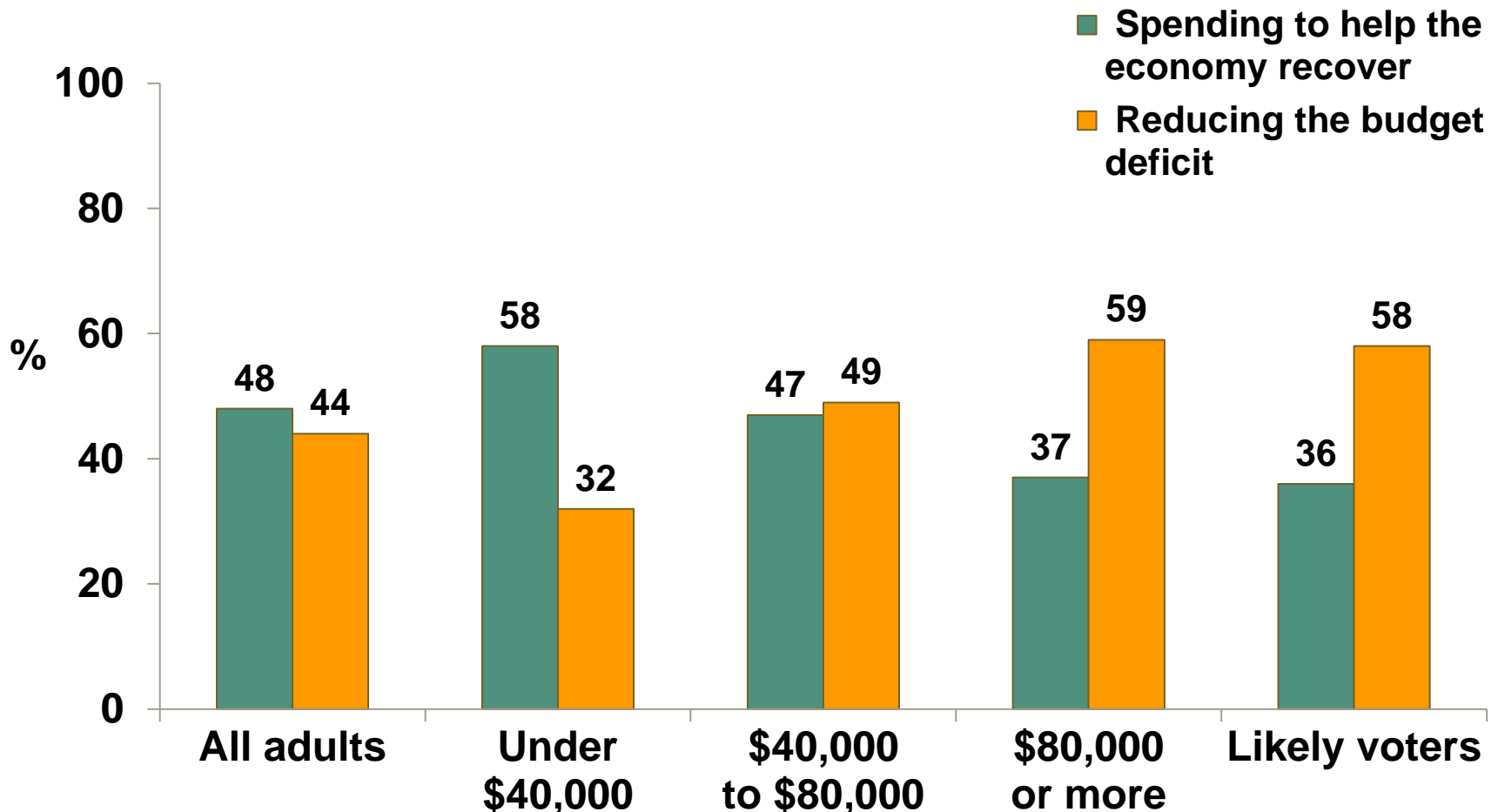


Approval Ratings of U.S. Senators



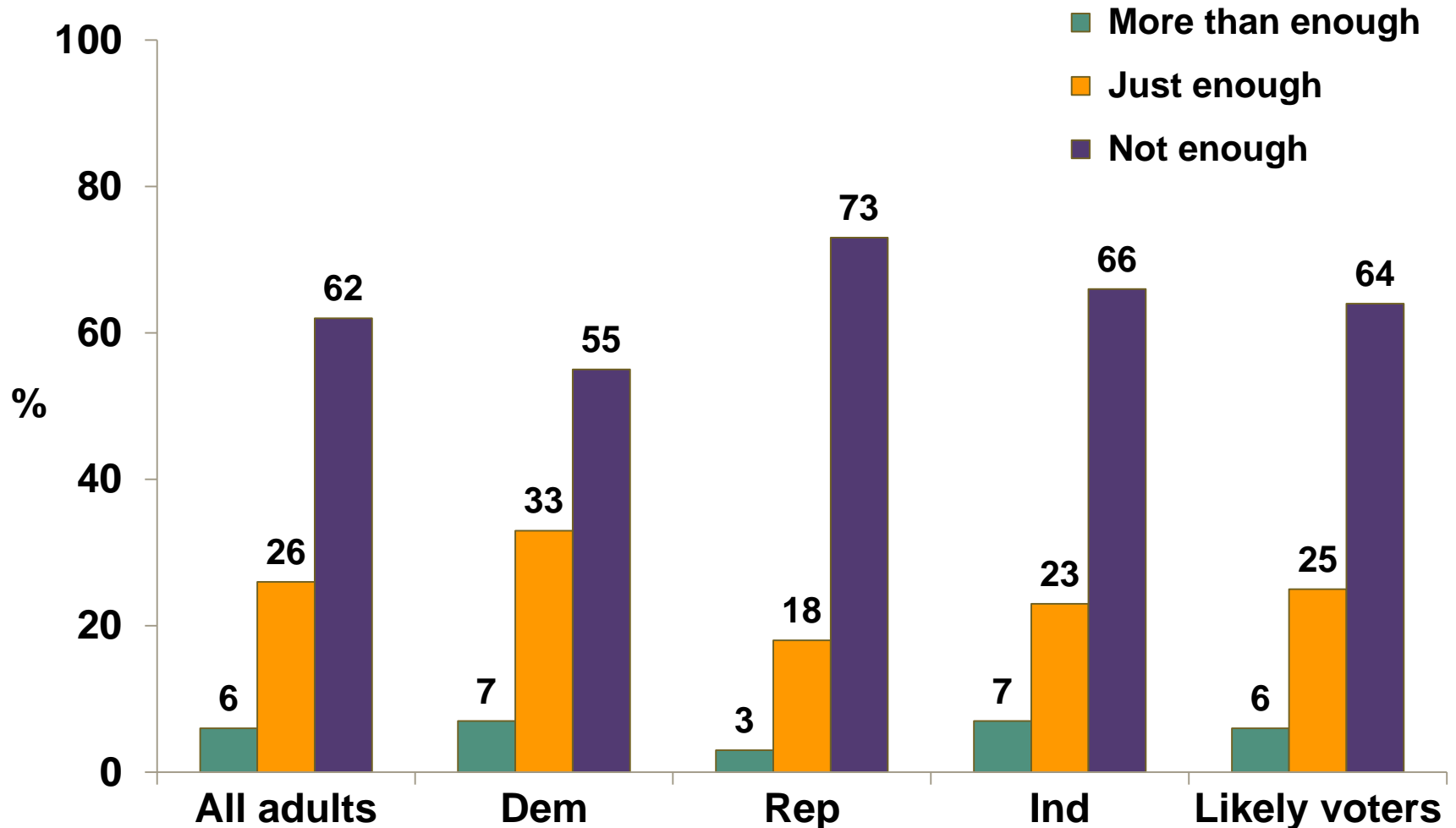
Priority for Federal Government

If you were setting priorities for the federal government these days, would you place a higher priority on spending to help the economy recover or a higher priority on reducing the budget deficit?



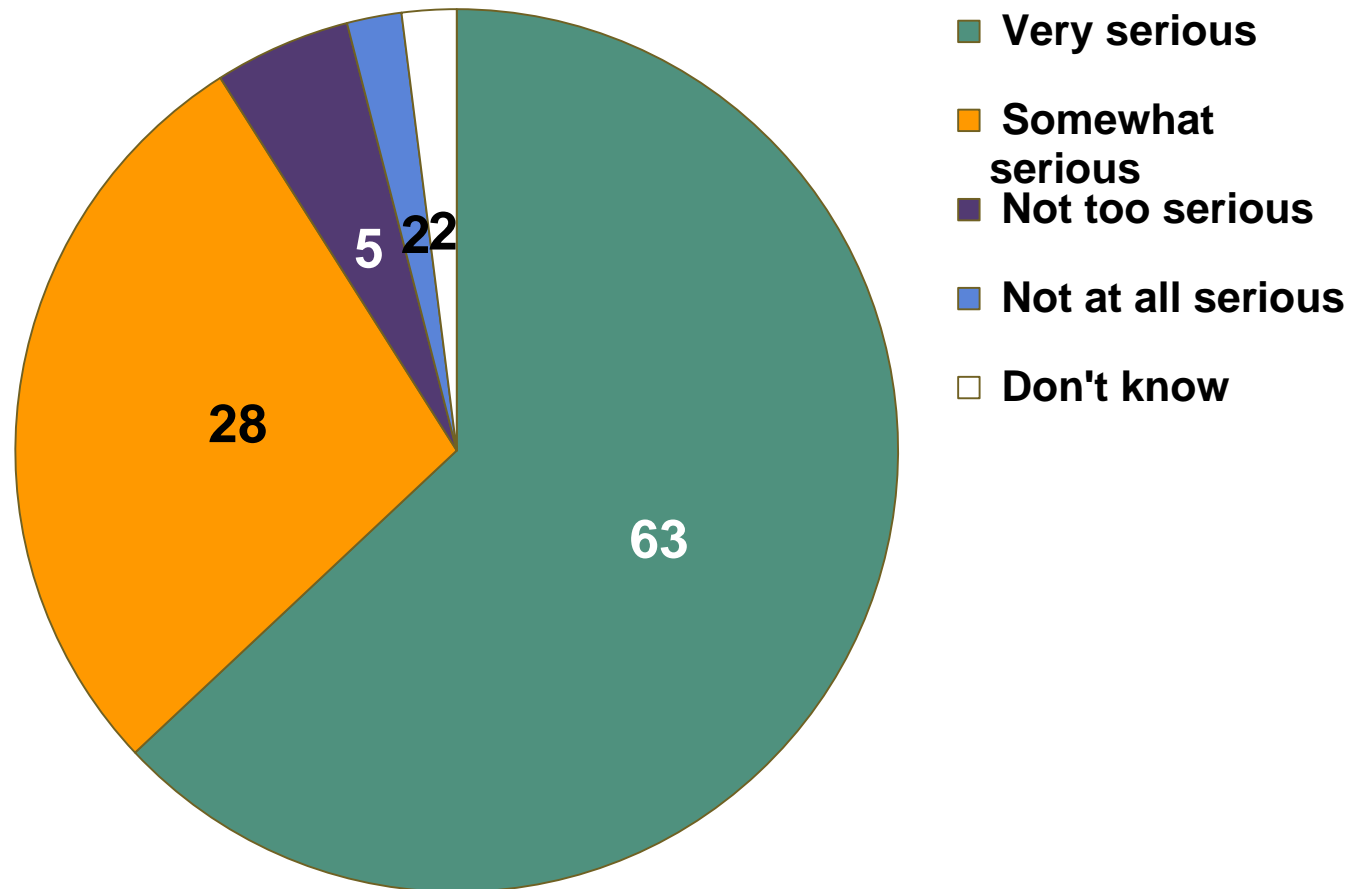
Job Creation

Overall, do you think that Congress and the Obama administration are doing more than enough, just enough, or not enough to help create jobs?



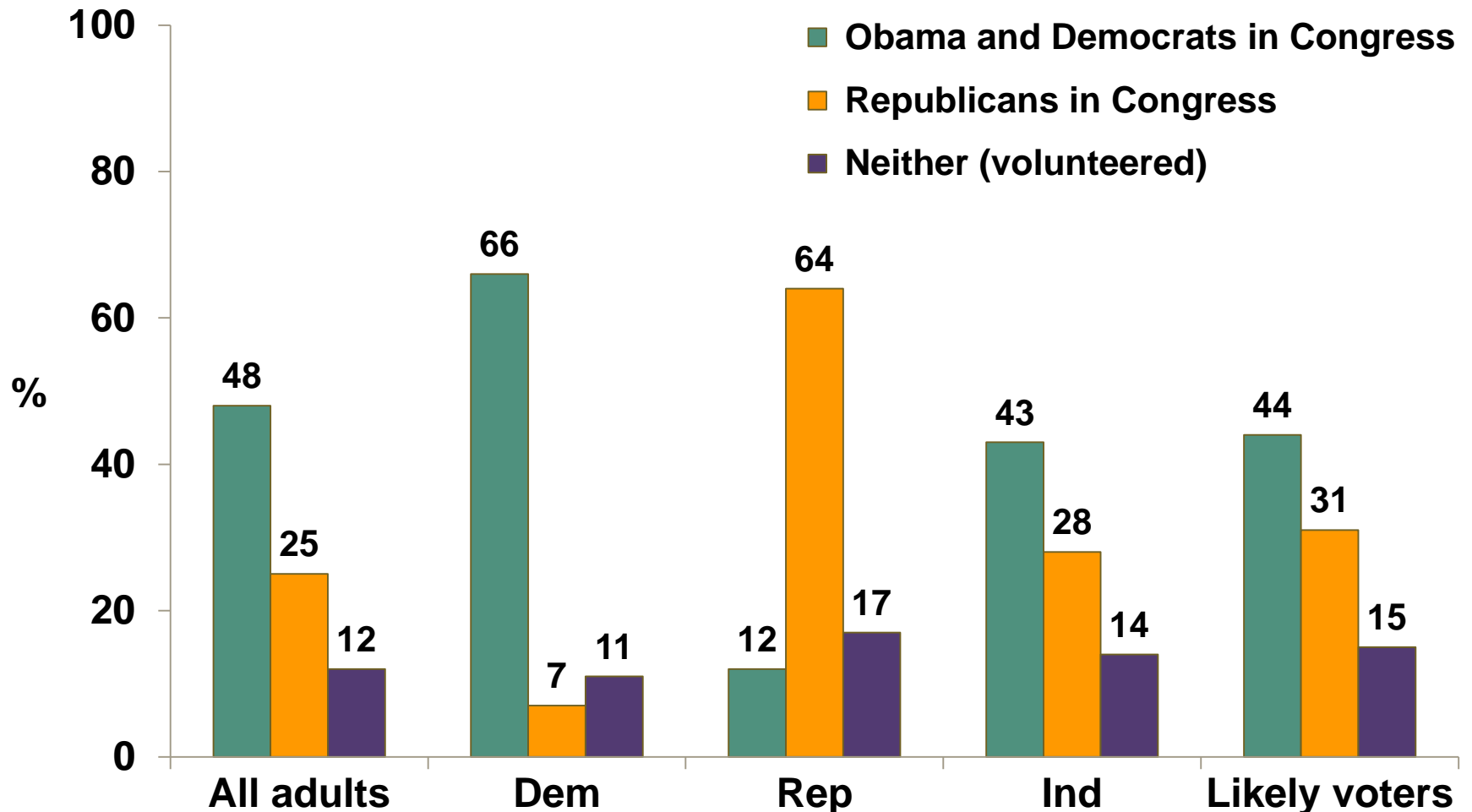
Seriousness of Federal Budget Deficit

How serious of a problem do you think the budget deficit is for the country right now?



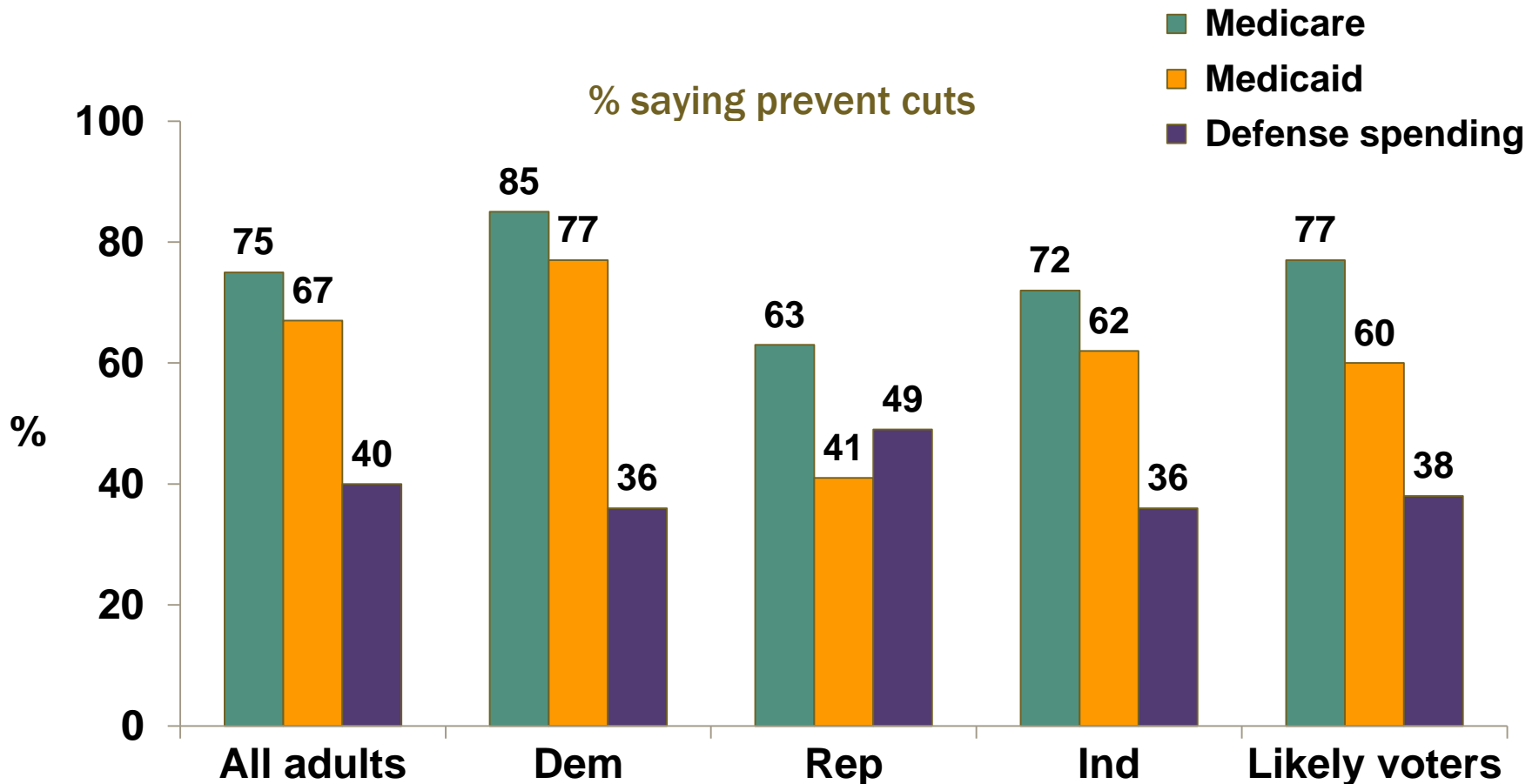
Federal Budget

Who do you think is doing the better job in the current efforts to agree on a new federal budget: Barack Obama and the Democrats in Congress, or the Republicans in Congress?



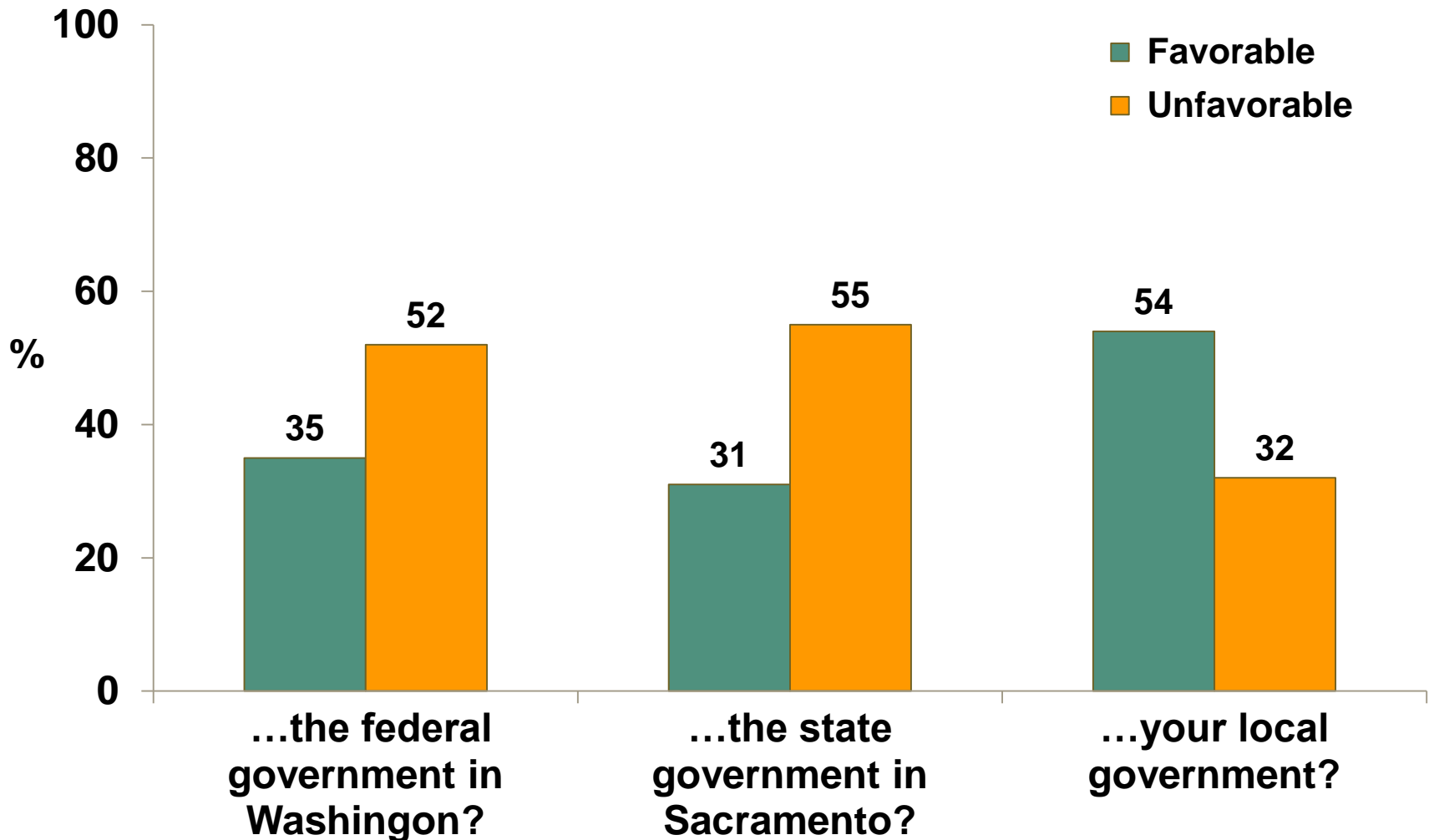
Addressing the Budget Deficit

As you may know, Congress may try to cut federal programs in order to reduce the budget deficit. Please tell me whether you think it is more important to reduce the federal budget deficit, or more important to prevent that program from being significantly cut.



Perceptions of Government

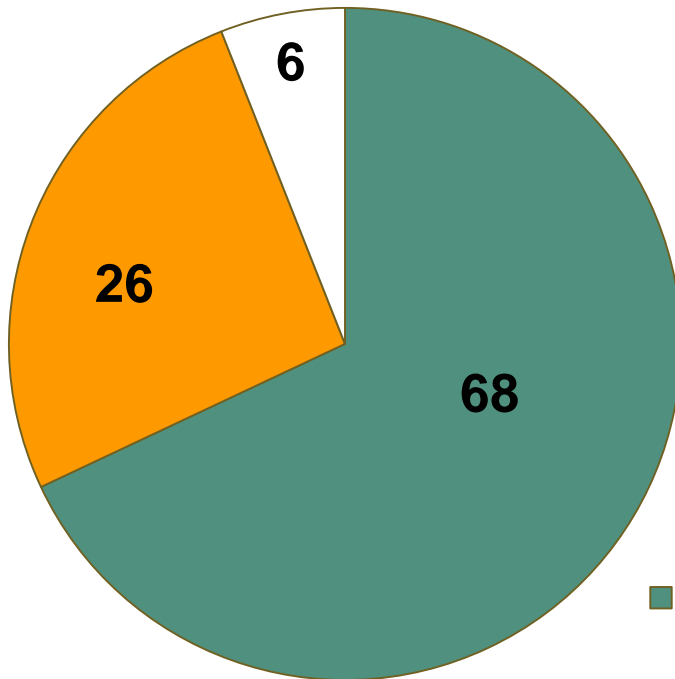
Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of...



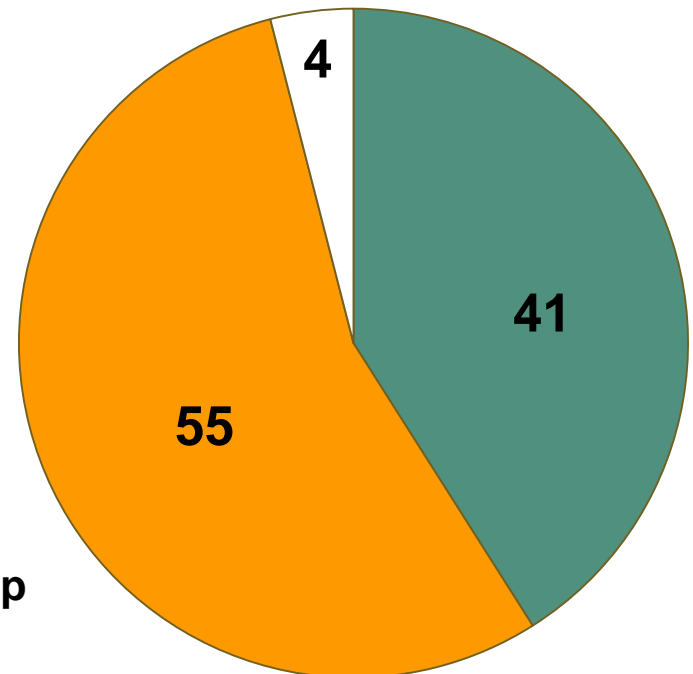
Immigration Reform

If you had to choose, what do you think should happen to most illegal immigrants who have lived and worked in the United States for at least two years? They should be given a chance to keep their jobs and eventually apply for legal status, or, they should be deported back to their native country?

Democrat



Republican

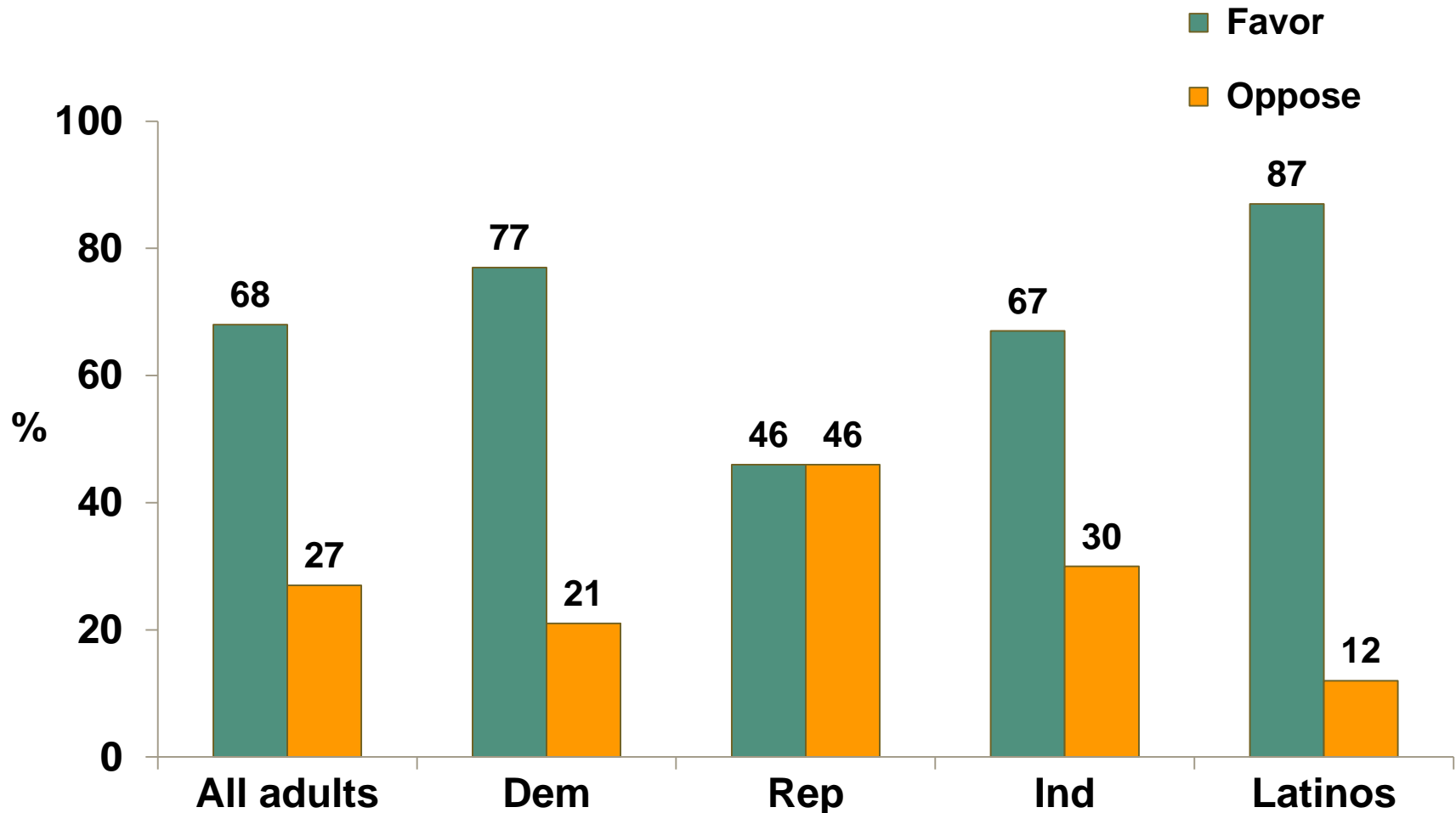


- Chance to keep their jobs
- Deported back to their native country
- Don't know



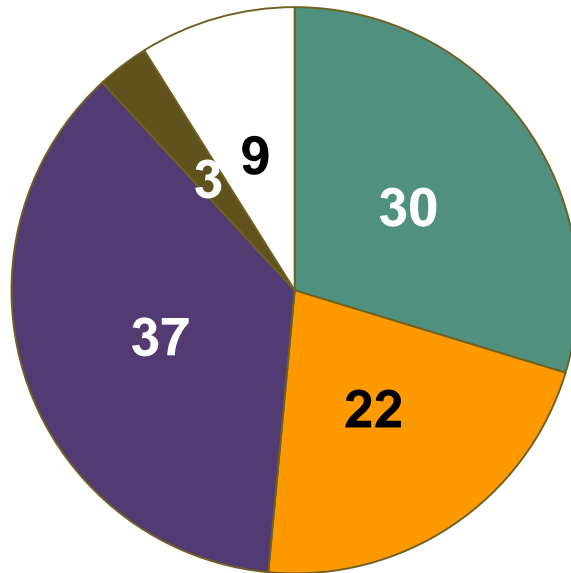
Immigration Reform

Do you favor or oppose a law that would allow illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they join the military or go to college?



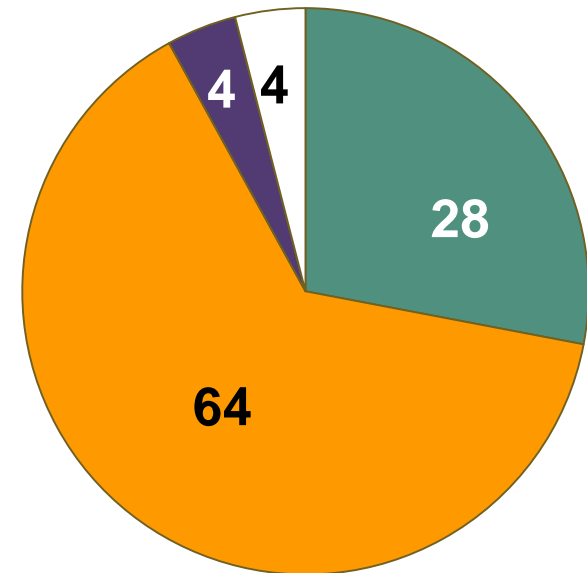
The Middle East

Will the recent protests in Arab countries increase or decrease the chances for peace and stability in that region, or not make much difference either way?



All adults

Do you think the U.S. has a responsibility to actively promote democracy around the world, or is that not the responsibility of the U.S.?



- Increase the chances
- Decrease the chances
- Not make much of a difference
- Too early to tell (volunteered)
- Don't know

- Does
- Does not
- Depends (volunteered)
- Don't know



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Conclusions

- Pluralities don't know how to rate Governor Brown; majorities disapprove of legislature
- Budget situation seen as a big problem; Californians divided about how to fix it
- Support for special election, tax and fee proposal have declined since January
- Most support public employee pension reforms
- Californians divided over federal economic priorities; majorities say not enough being done to create jobs
- Local government viewed more favorably than state, federal government



Upcoming PPIC Statewide Surveys

- April
 - *Californians and Education*
- May
 - *Californians and Their Government*
- June
 - *Californians and Information Technology*
- July
 - *Californians and the Environment*



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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:

Mark Baldassare or Dean Bonner:
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Thank you for your interest in this work.

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