

# PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

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*March 2012*



# Outline

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- **PPIC Statewide Surveys**
- **2012 Elections**
- **State and National Issues**
- **Conclusions**



# 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
  - 262,000+ Californians since 1998
  - 120+ general, issue, and regional surveys



# Californians and Their Government

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- General series funded by The Irvine Foundation
- 2012 elections
  - Republican presidential primary, June 5 state primary, water bond, governor's tax initiative
- State and national issues
  - High-speed rail, health care reform, role of government, same-sex marriage
- Telephone interviews, February 21–28
  - 2,001 adults / 859 likely voters
    - *± 3.4% margin of error for adults*
    - *± 4.2% for likely voters*



# Outline

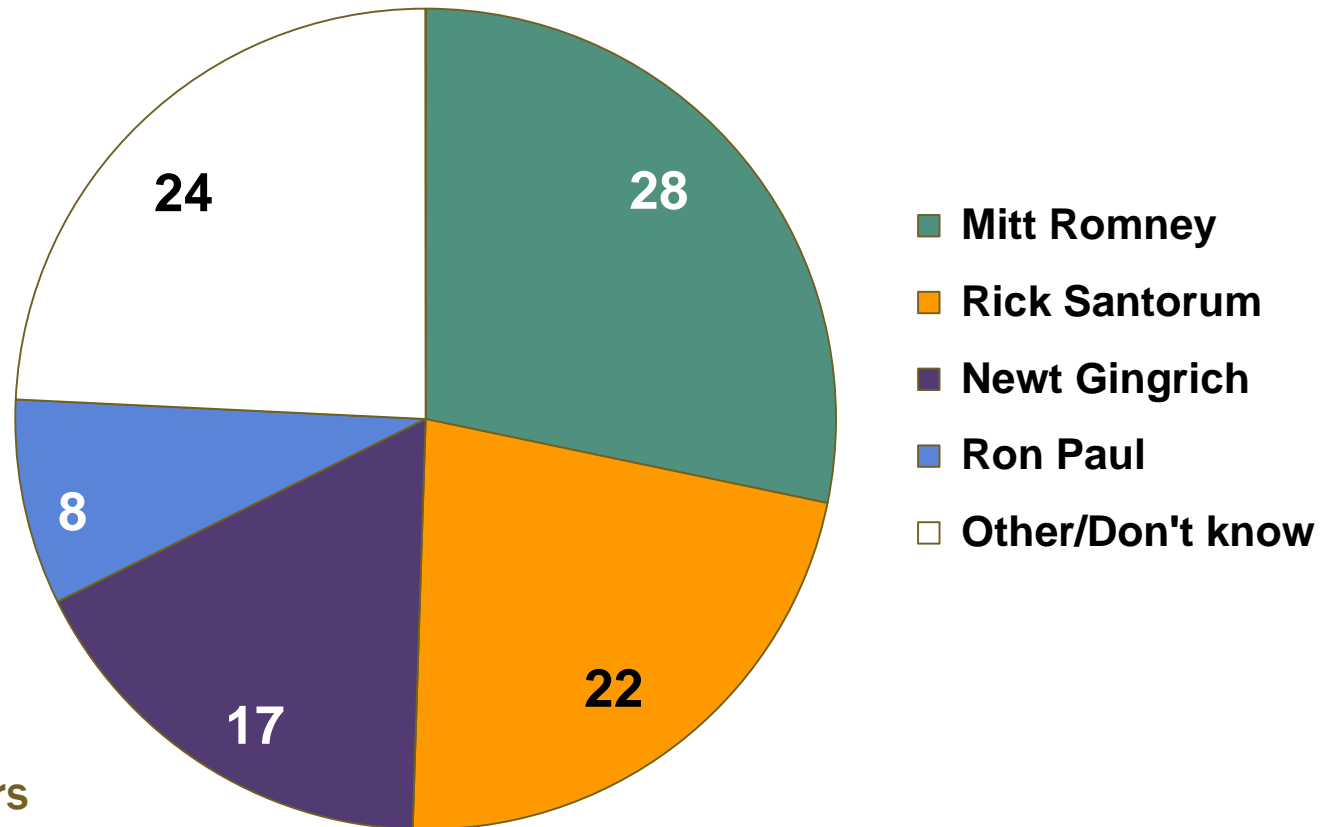
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# Republican Presidential Primary

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

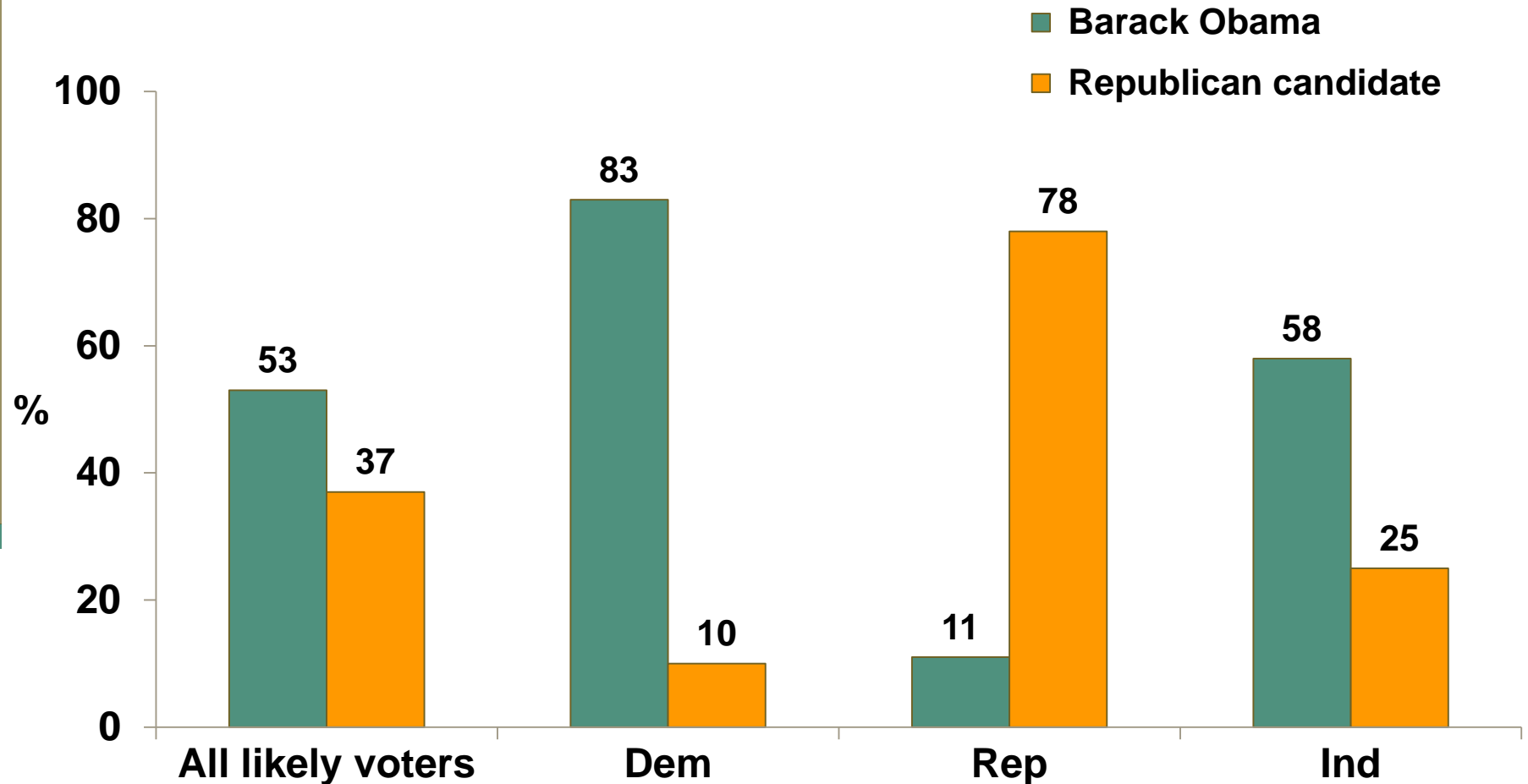


GOP likely voters



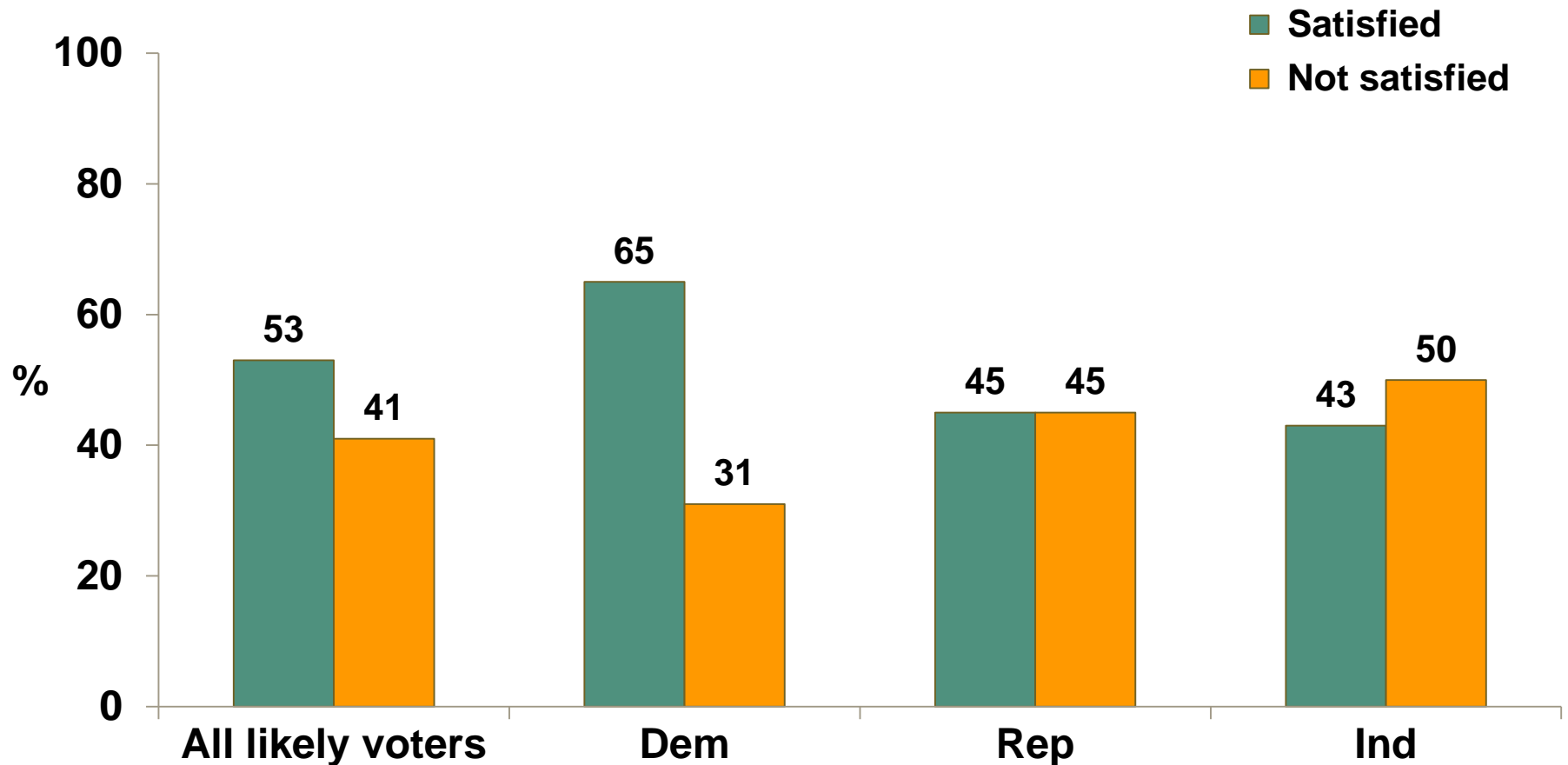
# Presidential Election

If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, would you vote for Barack Obama, the Democrat, or for the Republican candidate?



# Satisfaction with Candidate Choices

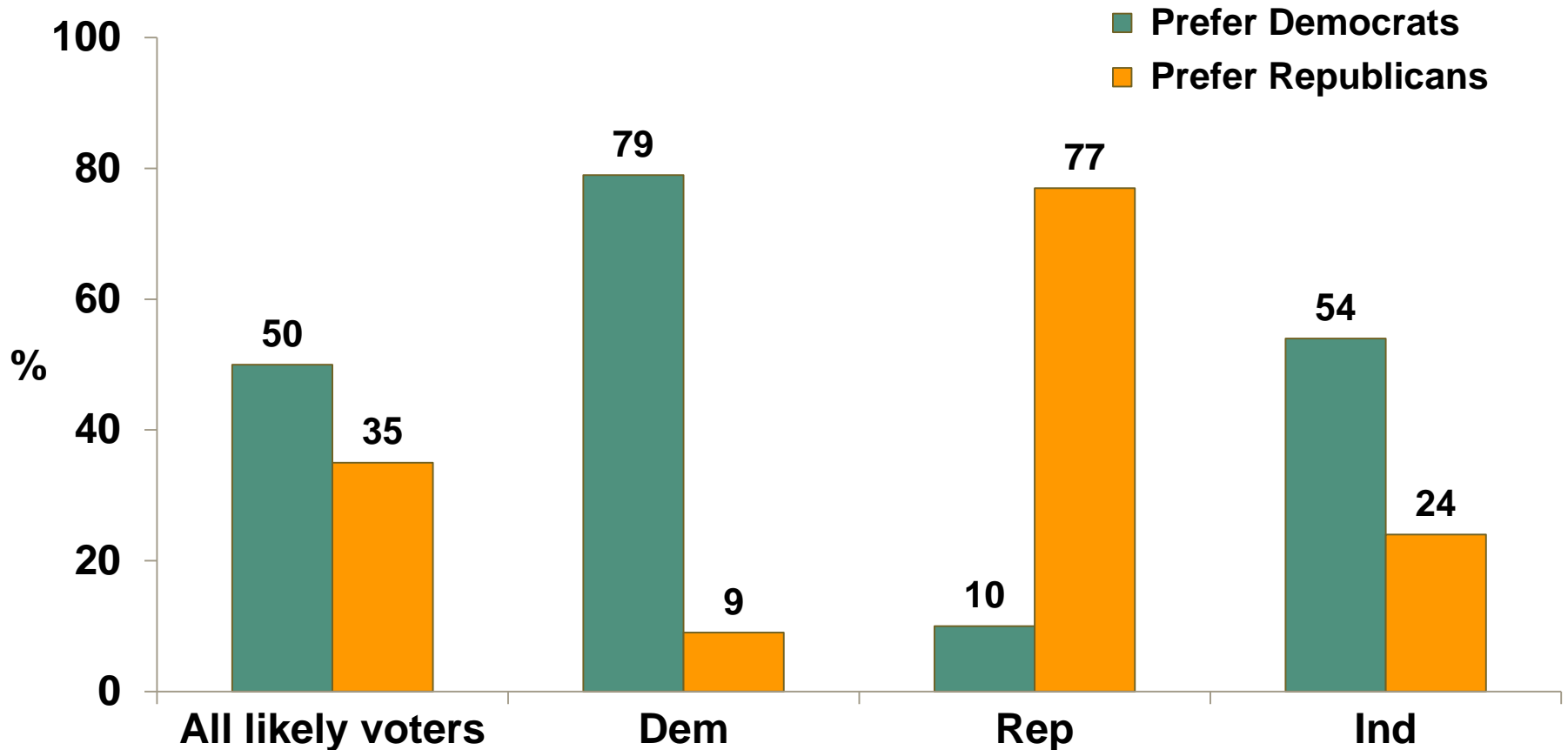
In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the election for U.S. president in 2012?





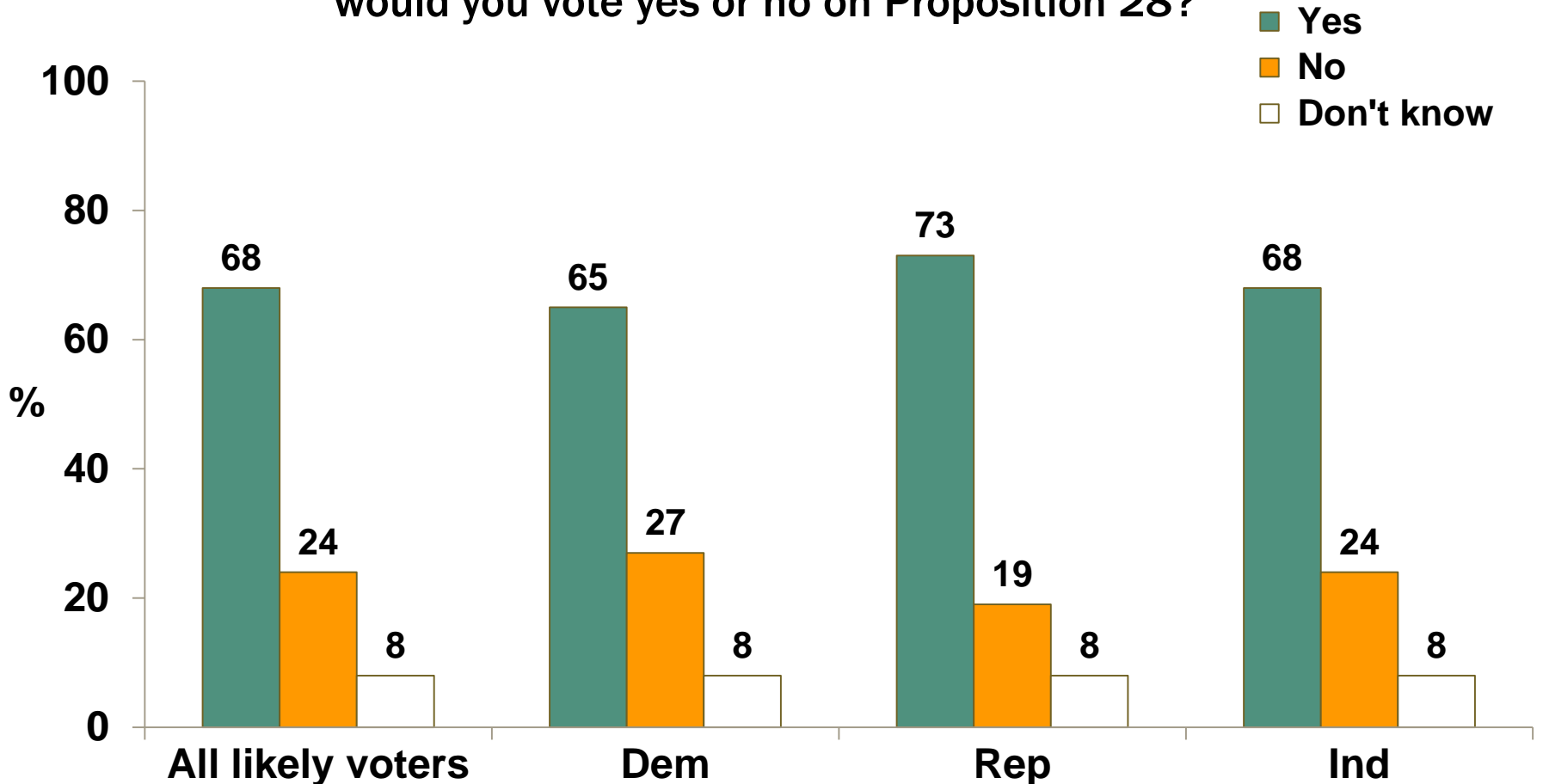
# Congressional Elections

What is your preference for the outcome of this year's congressional elections: a Congress controlled by Republicans or a Congress controlled by Democrats?



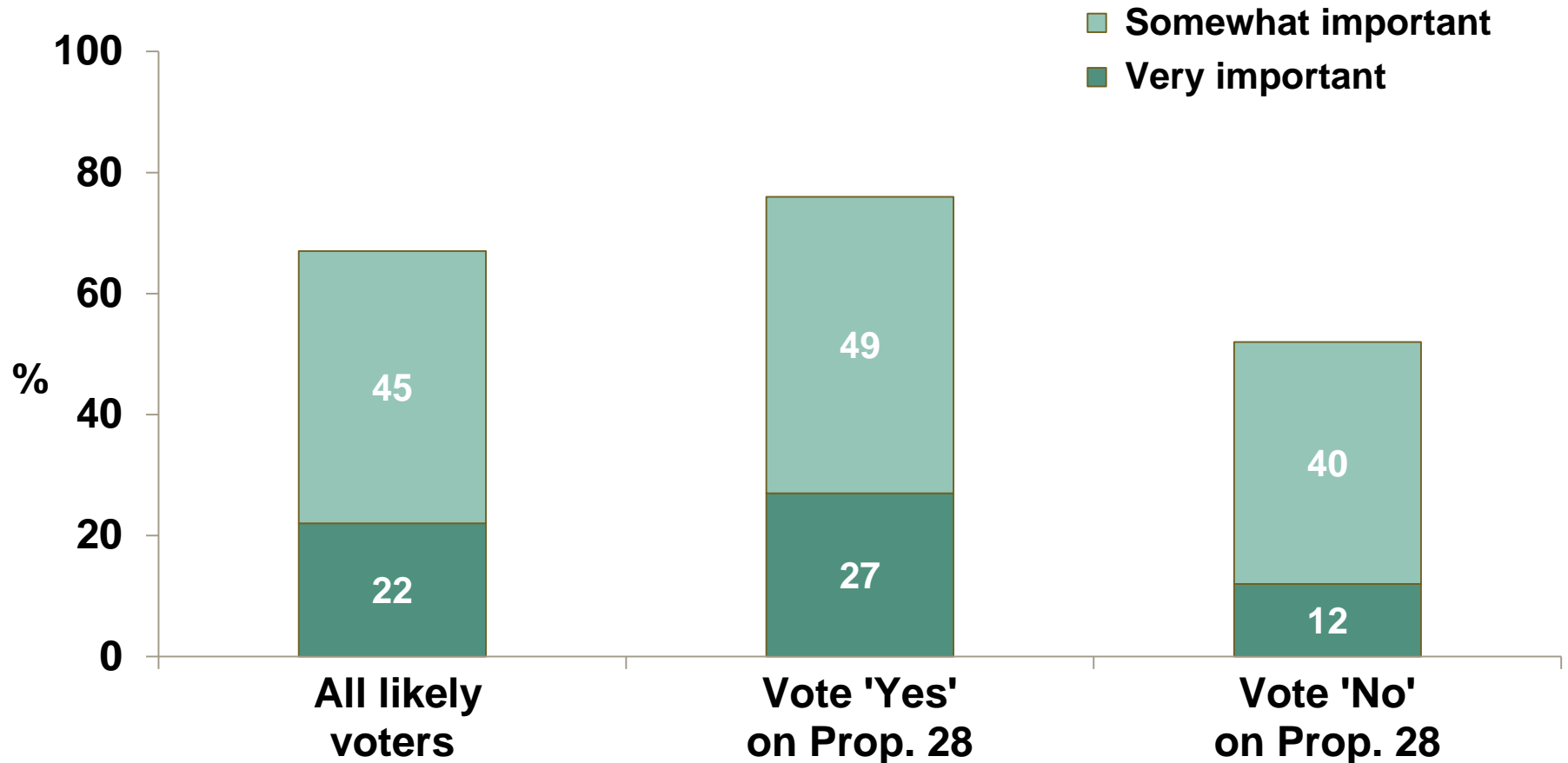
# Vote on Proposition 28: Legislative Term Limits

Proposition 28 is called the “Limits on Legislators’ Terms in Office, Initiative Constitutional Amendment.” ...If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 28?



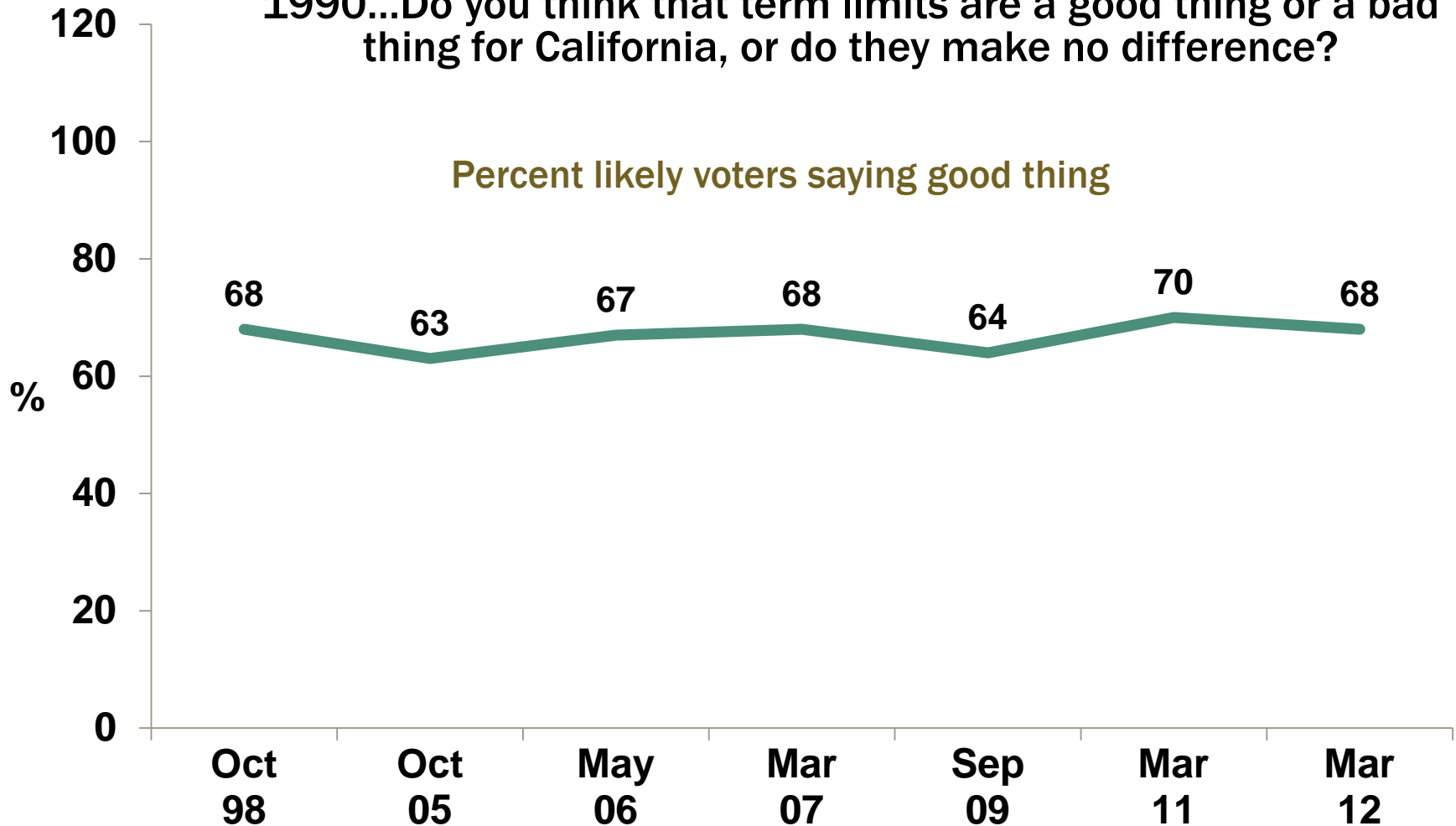
# Importance of Prop. 28 Outcome

How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 28?



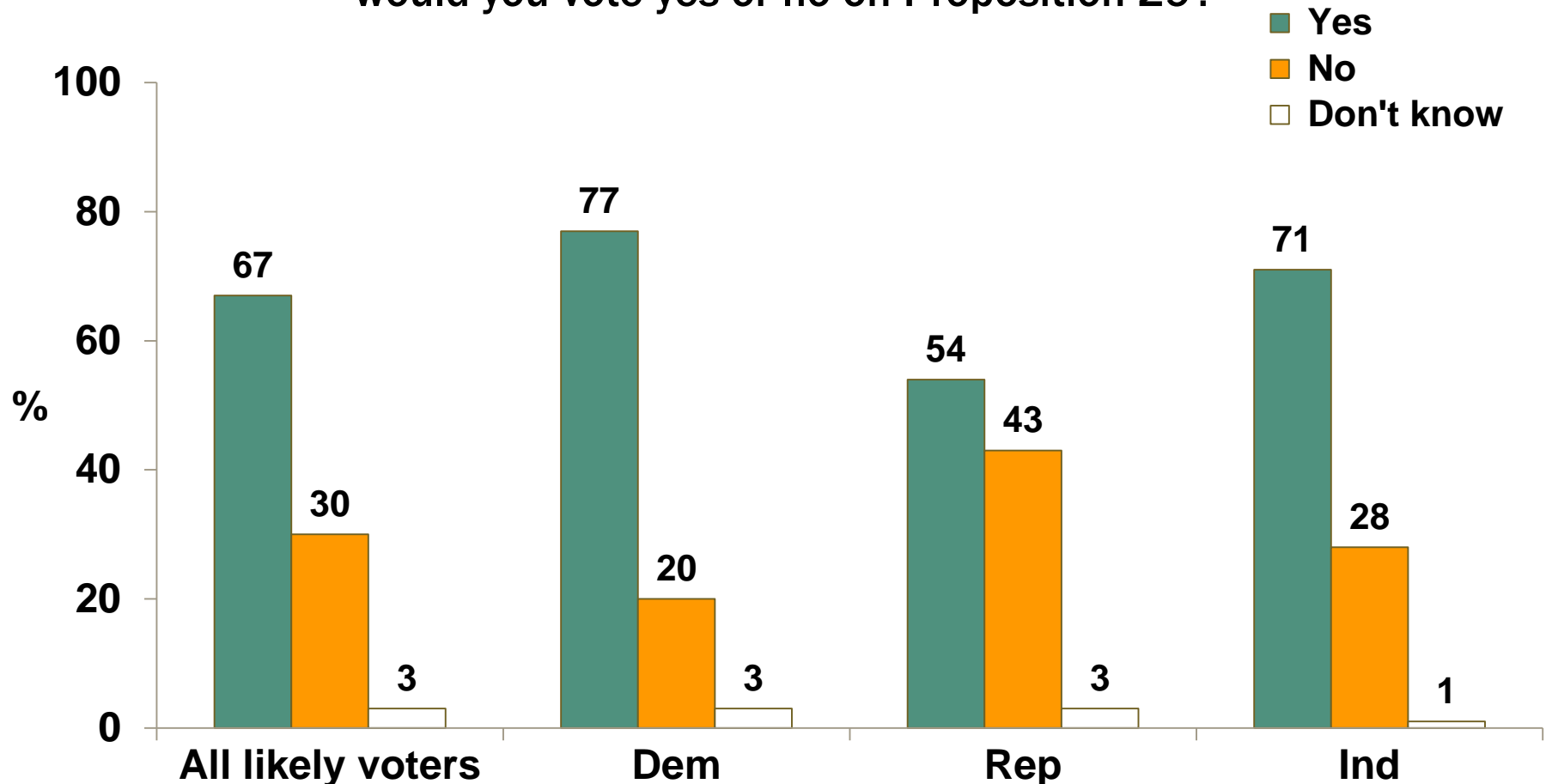
# Perceptions of Existing Term Limits

The California Legislature has operated under term limits since 1990...Do you think that term limits are a good thing or a bad thing for California, or do they make no difference?



# Vote on Proposition 29: Additional Tax on Cigarettes

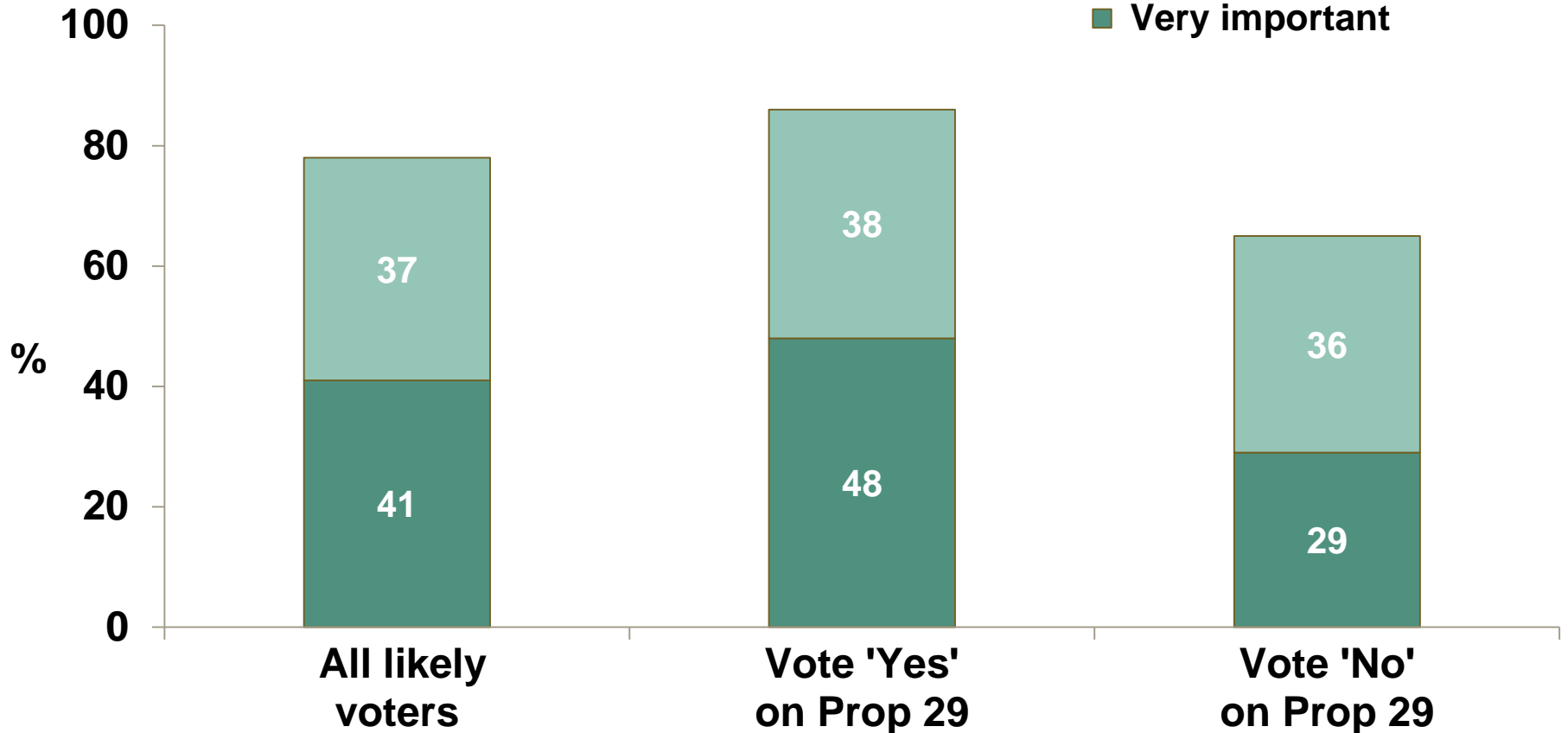
Proposition 29 is called the “Imposes Additional Tax on Cigarettes for Cancer Research, Initiative Statute.” ...If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 29?



# Importance of Prop. 29 Outcome

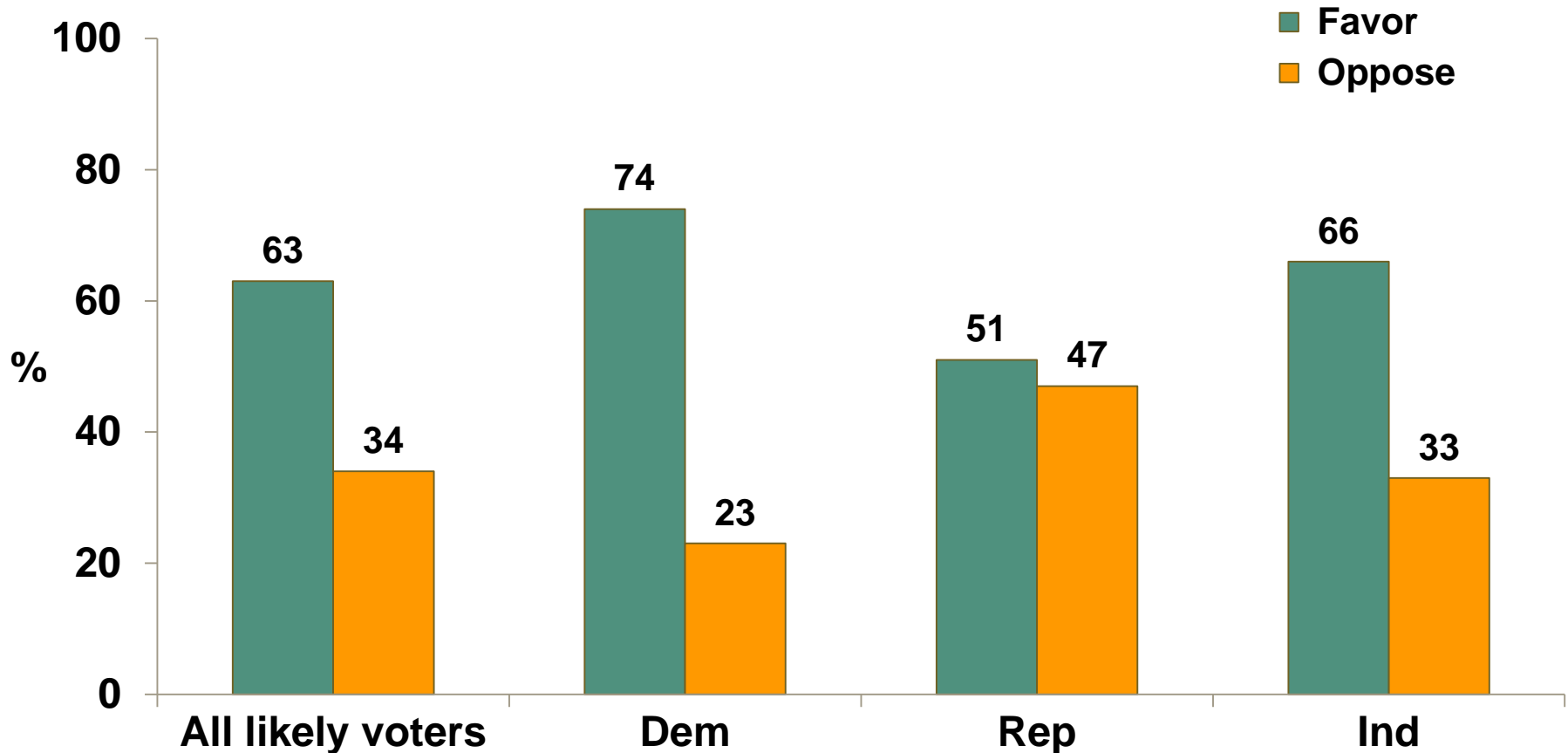
How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 29?

■ Somewhat important  
■ Very important



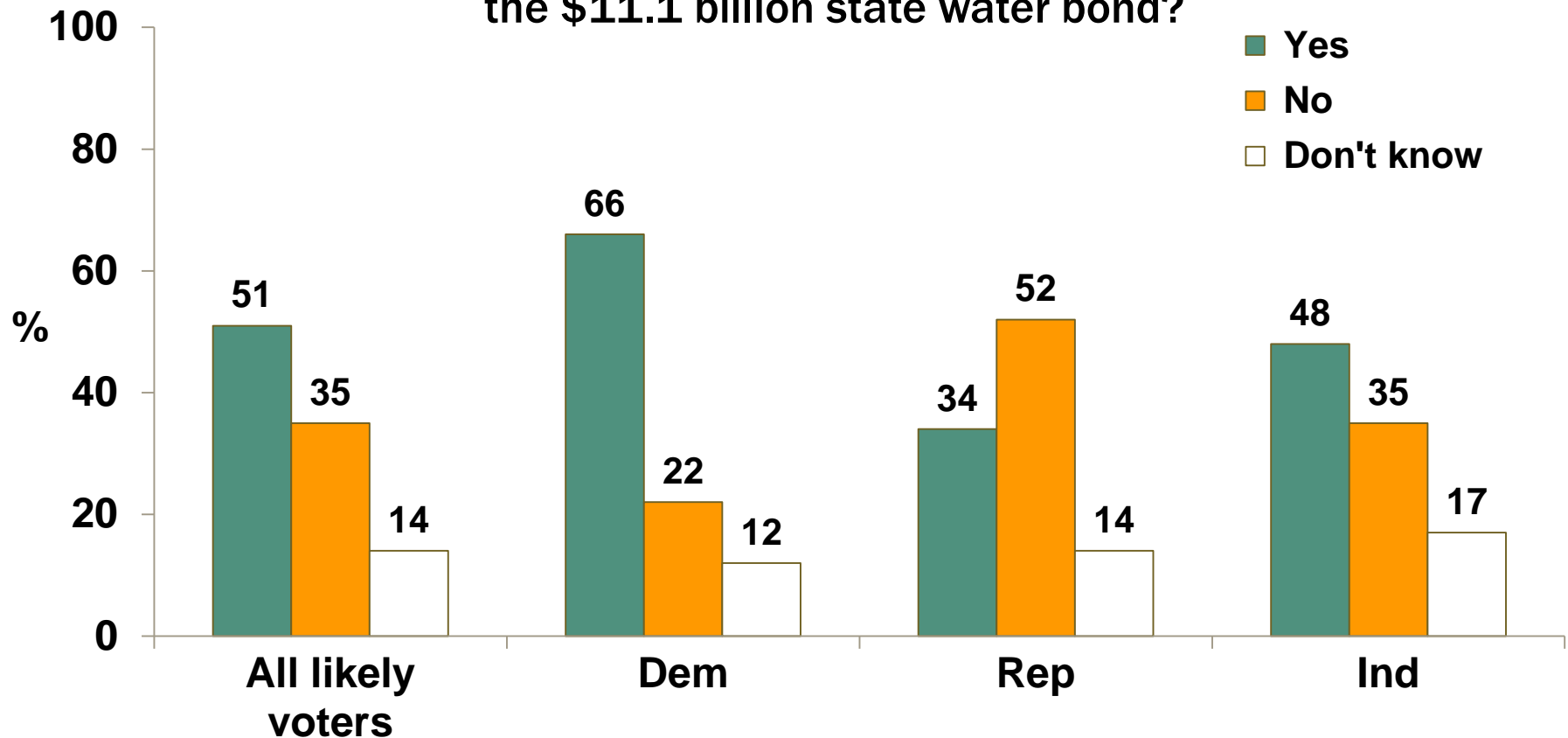
# Taxing Cigarettes

Tax increases could be used to help pay for state spending.  
In general, would you favor or oppose increasing taxes  
on the purchase of cigarettes?



# State Water Bond

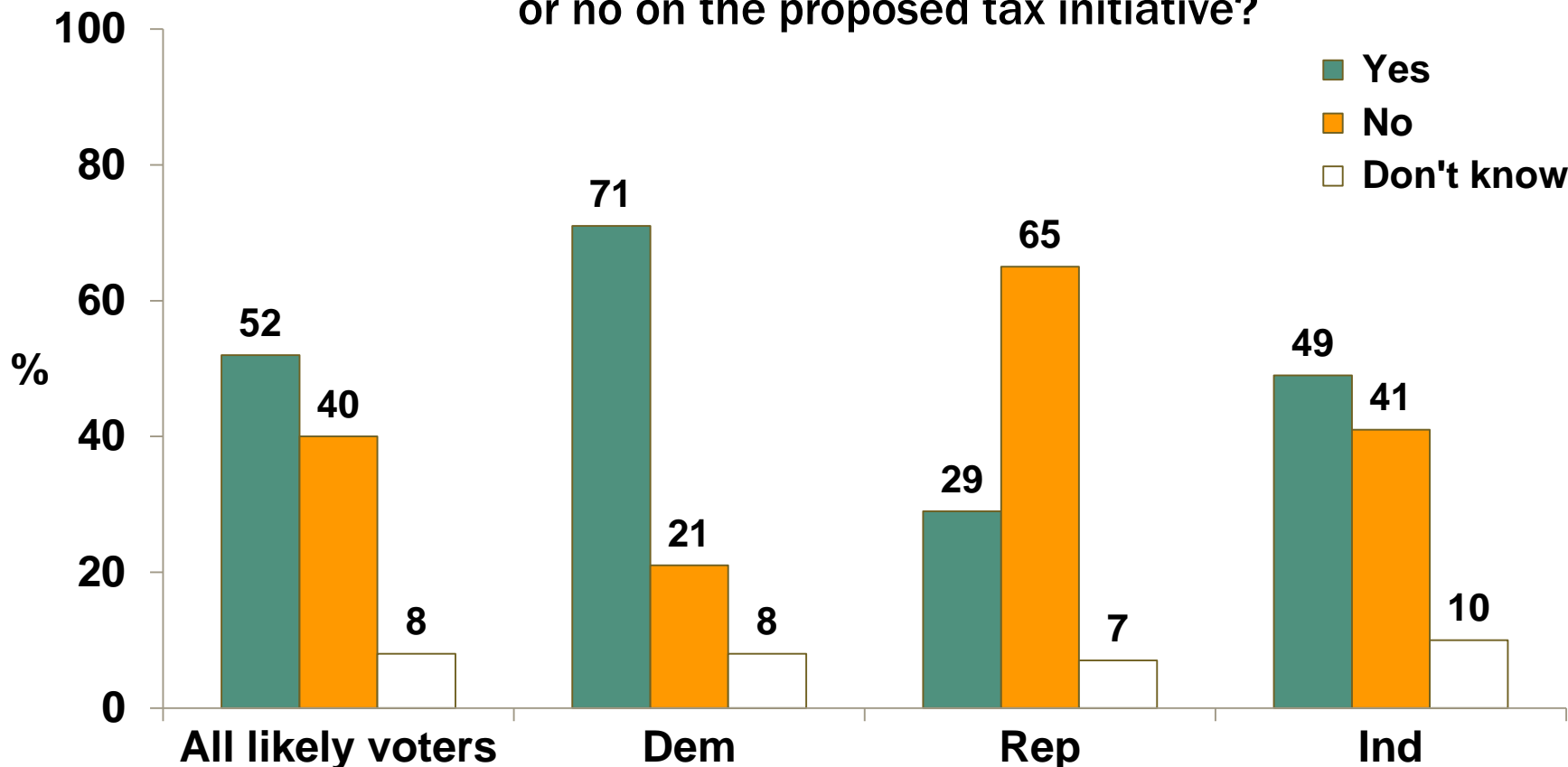
The governor and legislature passed a water package in 2010...this package includes an \$11.1 billion state water bond measure on the November 2012 ballot to pay for water projects. If the election were being held today, would you vote yes or no on the \$11.1 billion state water bond?





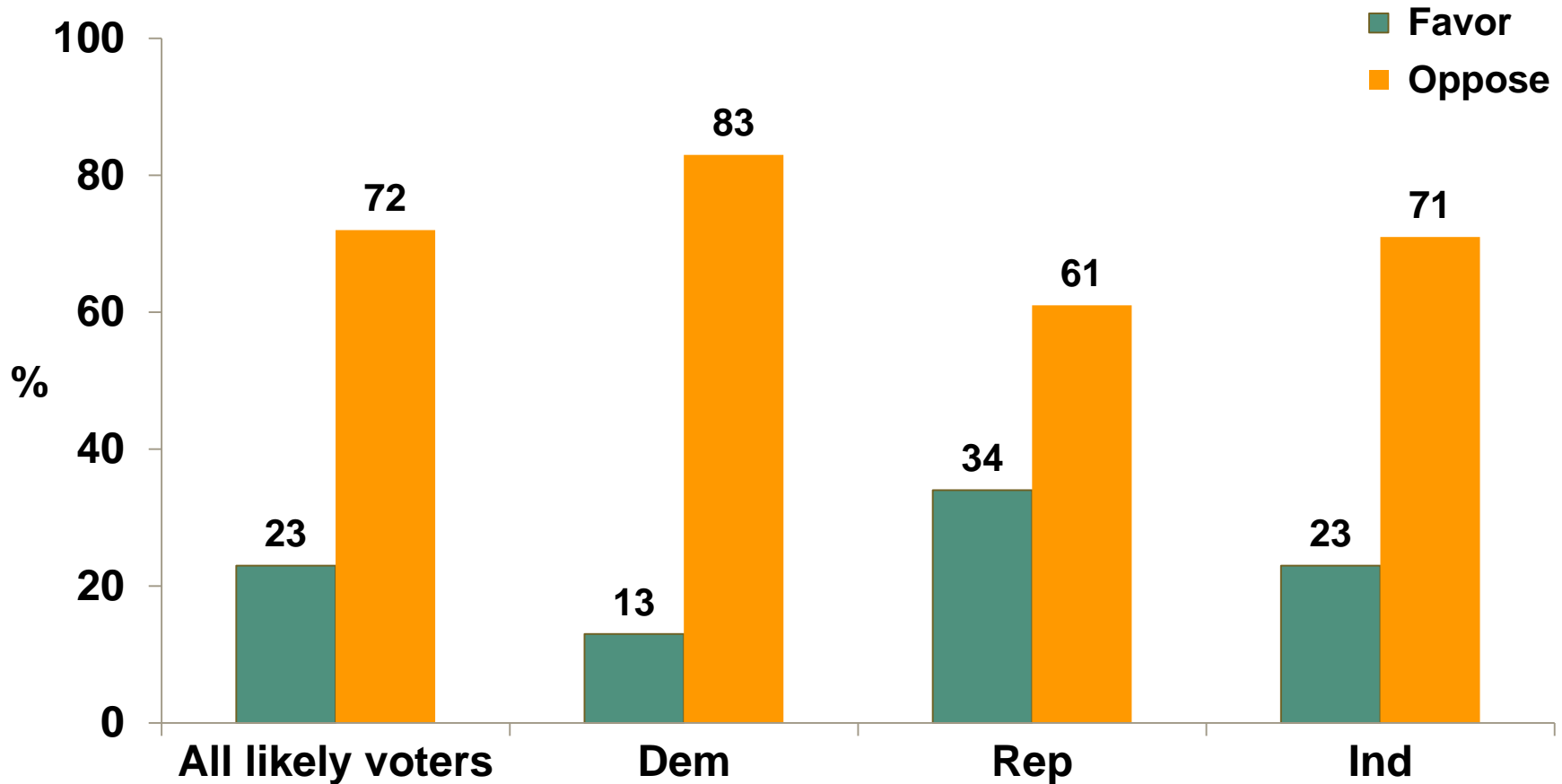
# Governor Brown's Proposed Tax Initiative

Governor Brown has proposed a tax initiative for the November ballot titled the "Temporary Taxes to Fund Education. Guaranteed Local Public Safety Funding. Initiative Constitutional Amendment."  
...If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on the proposed tax initiative?



# Proposed Trigger Cuts to K-12

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



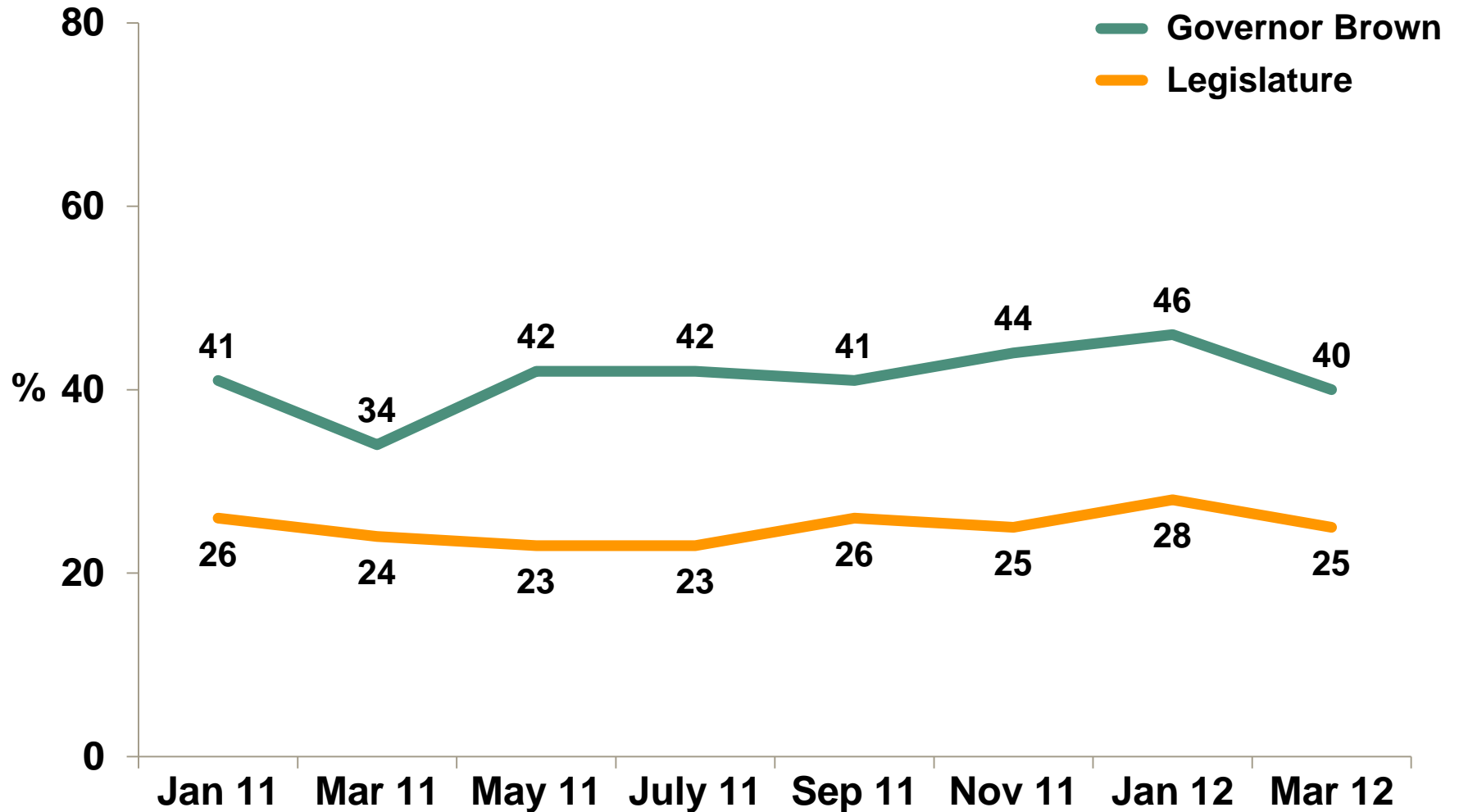
# Outline

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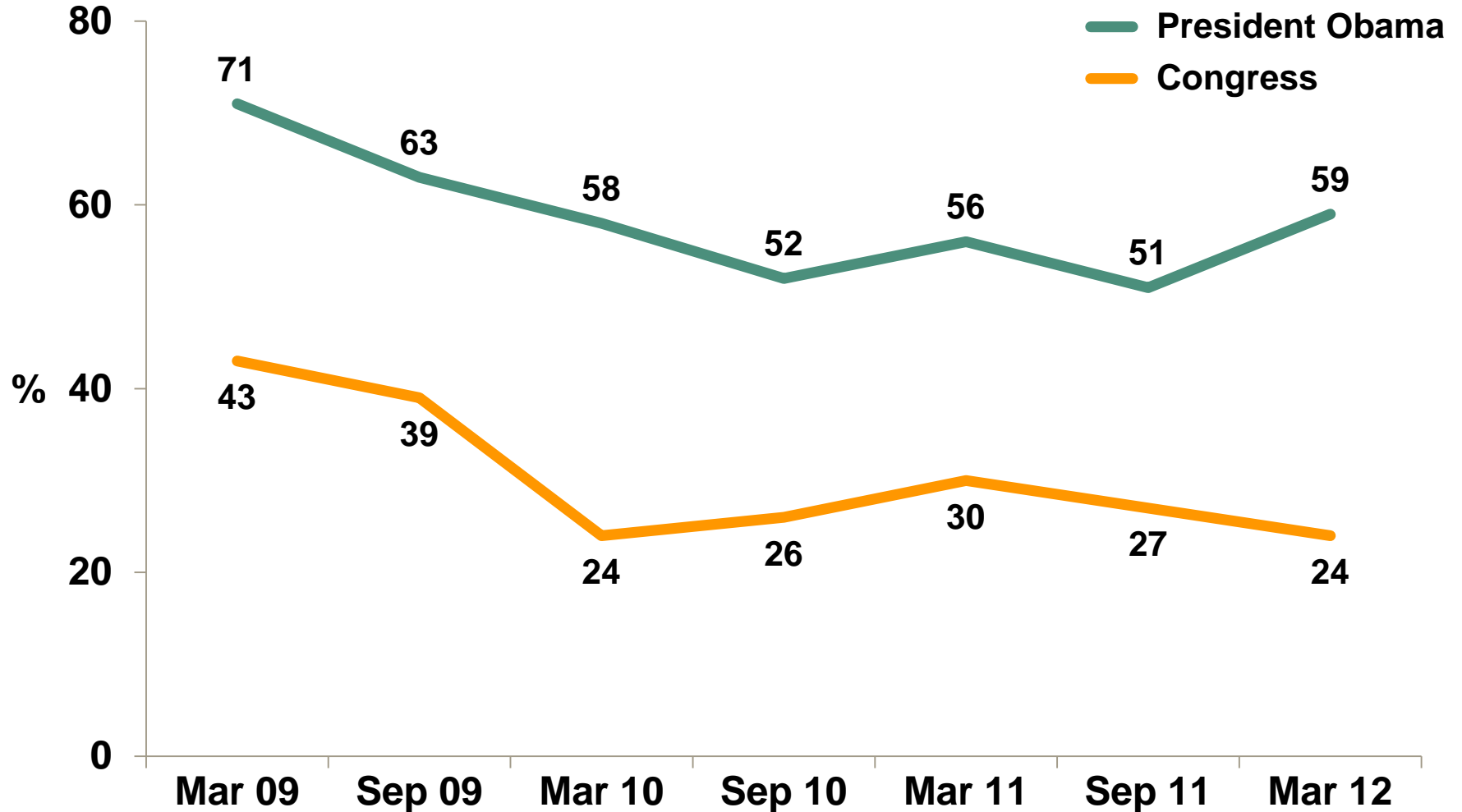
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# Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

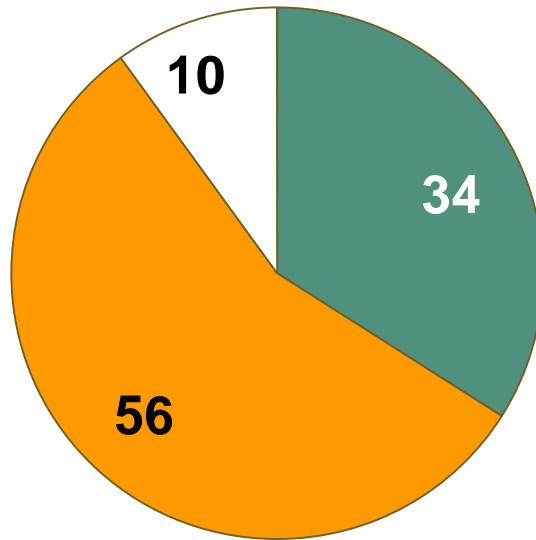


# Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials



# Economic Conditions

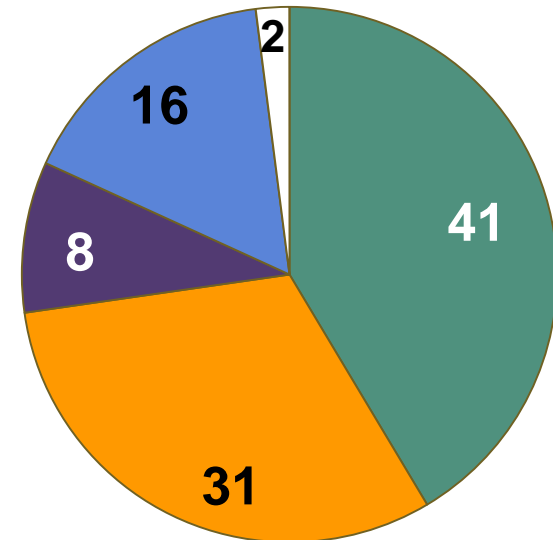
Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?



- Good times
- Bad times
- Don't know

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?)

All adults

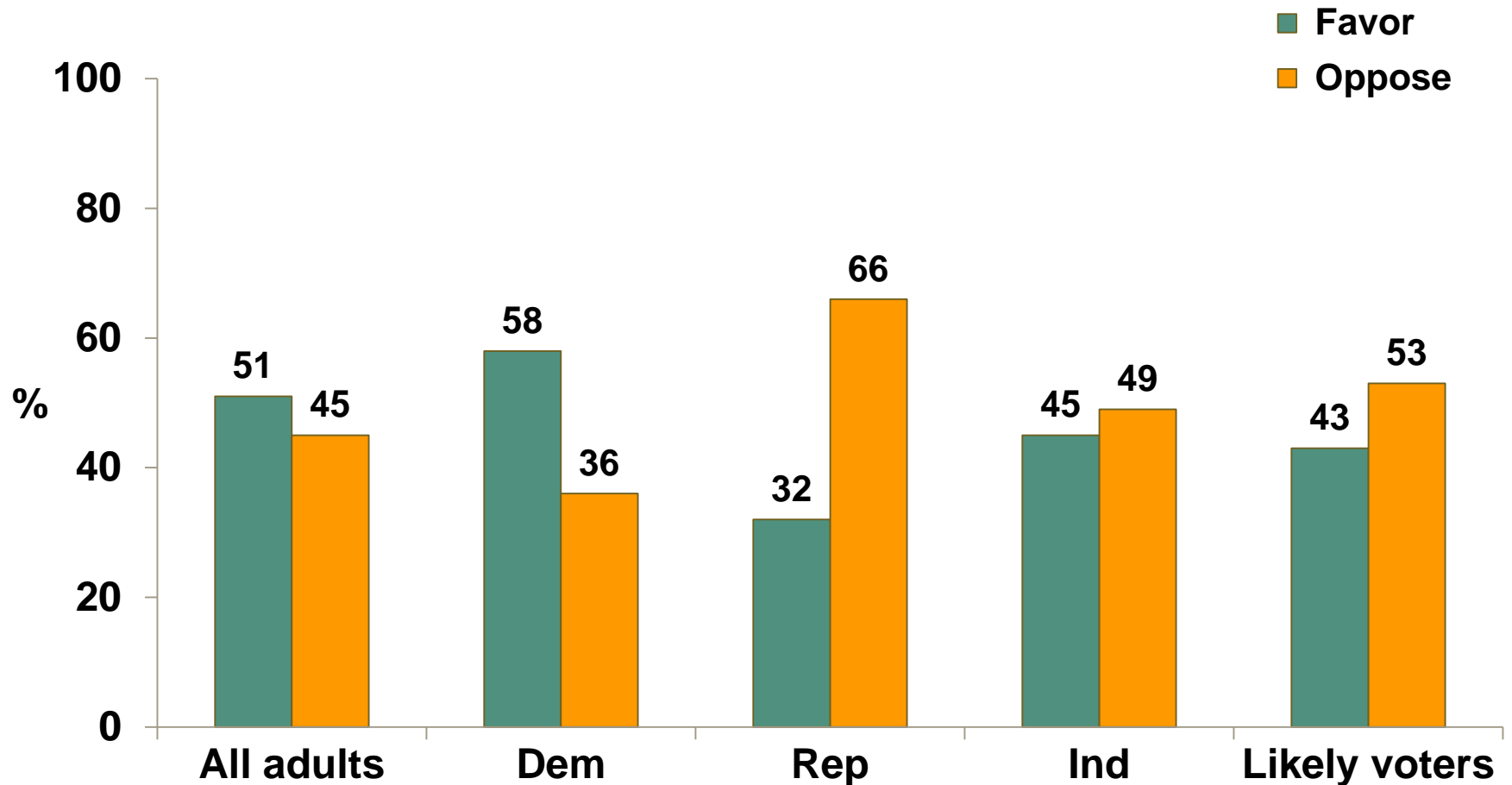


- Serious recession
- Moderate recession
- Mild recession
- Not in a recession
- Don't know



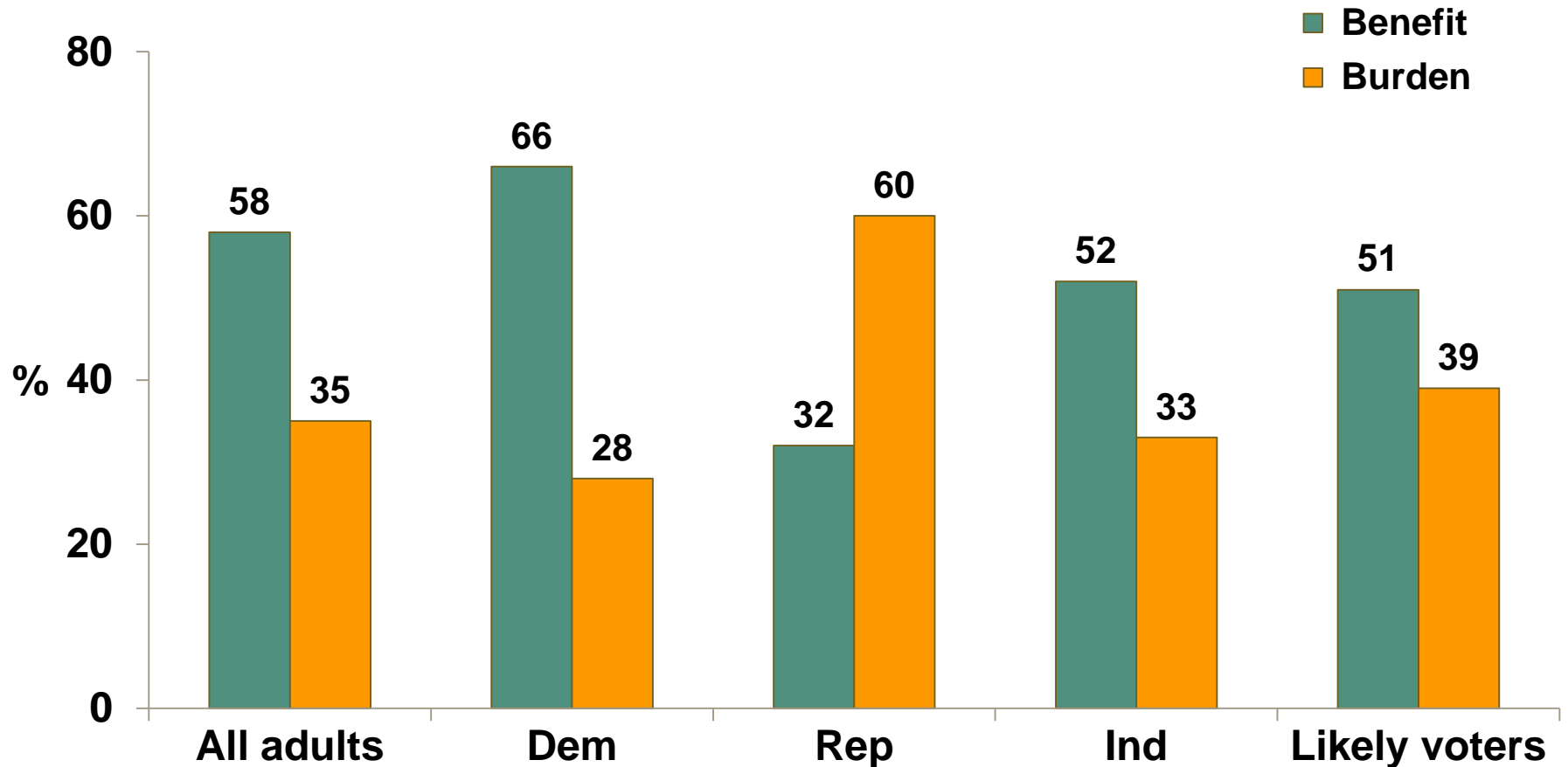
# High-Speed Rail in California

Do you favor or oppose building a high-speed rail system in California?



# Immigrants in California

Immigrants today are a benefit to California because of their hard work and job skills or immigrants today are a burden to California because they use public services?

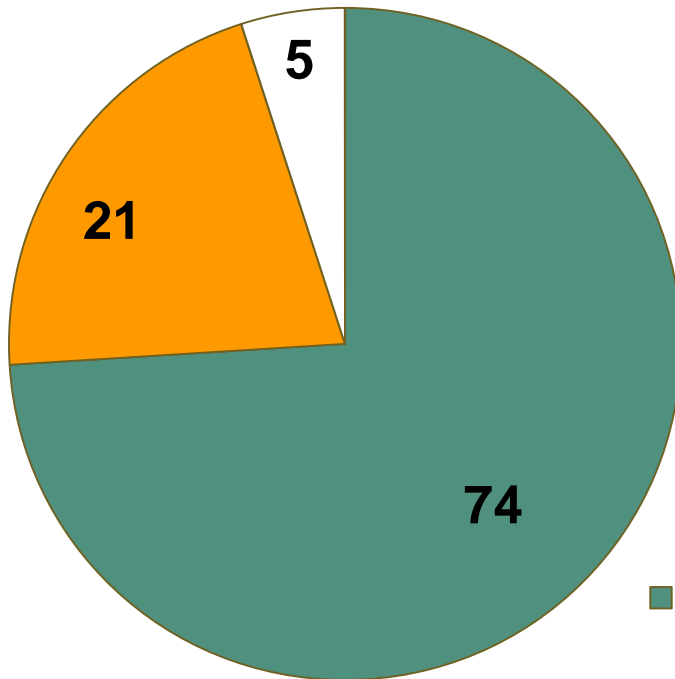




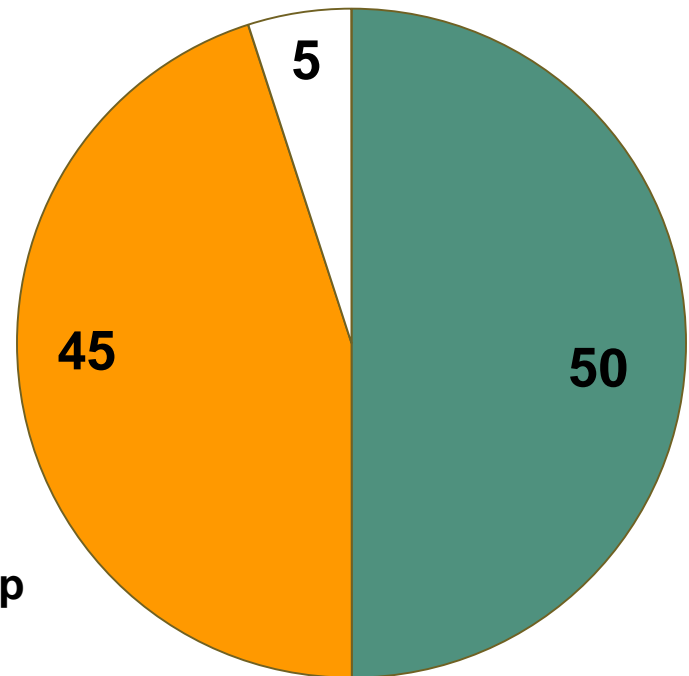
# Immigration Reform

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?

Democrats



Republicans



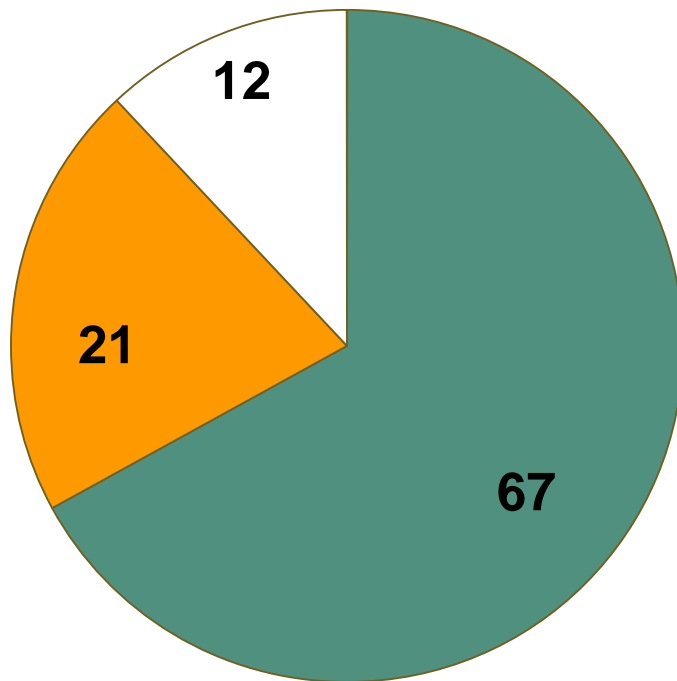
- Chance to keep their jobs
- Deported back to their native country
- Don't know



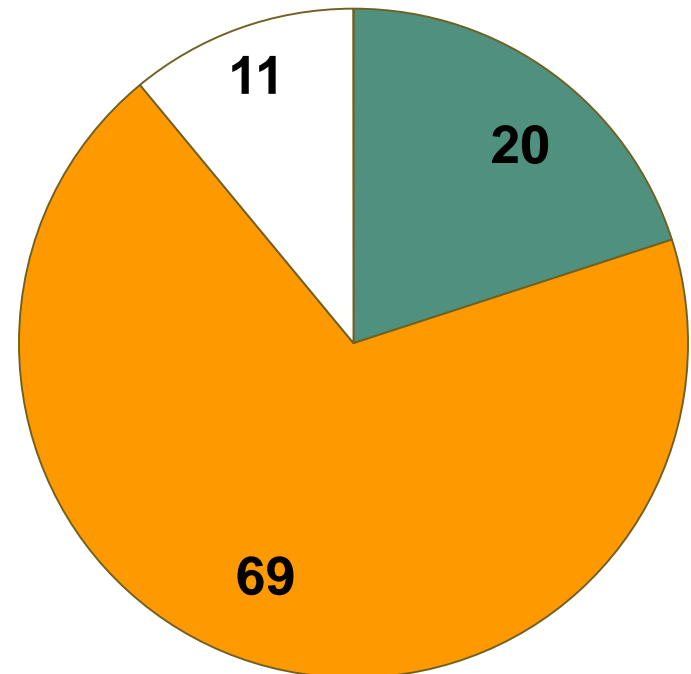
# Health Care Reform

Overall, given what you know about them, would you say you support or oppose the changes to the health care system that have been enacted by Congress and the Obama administration?

Democrats



Republicans

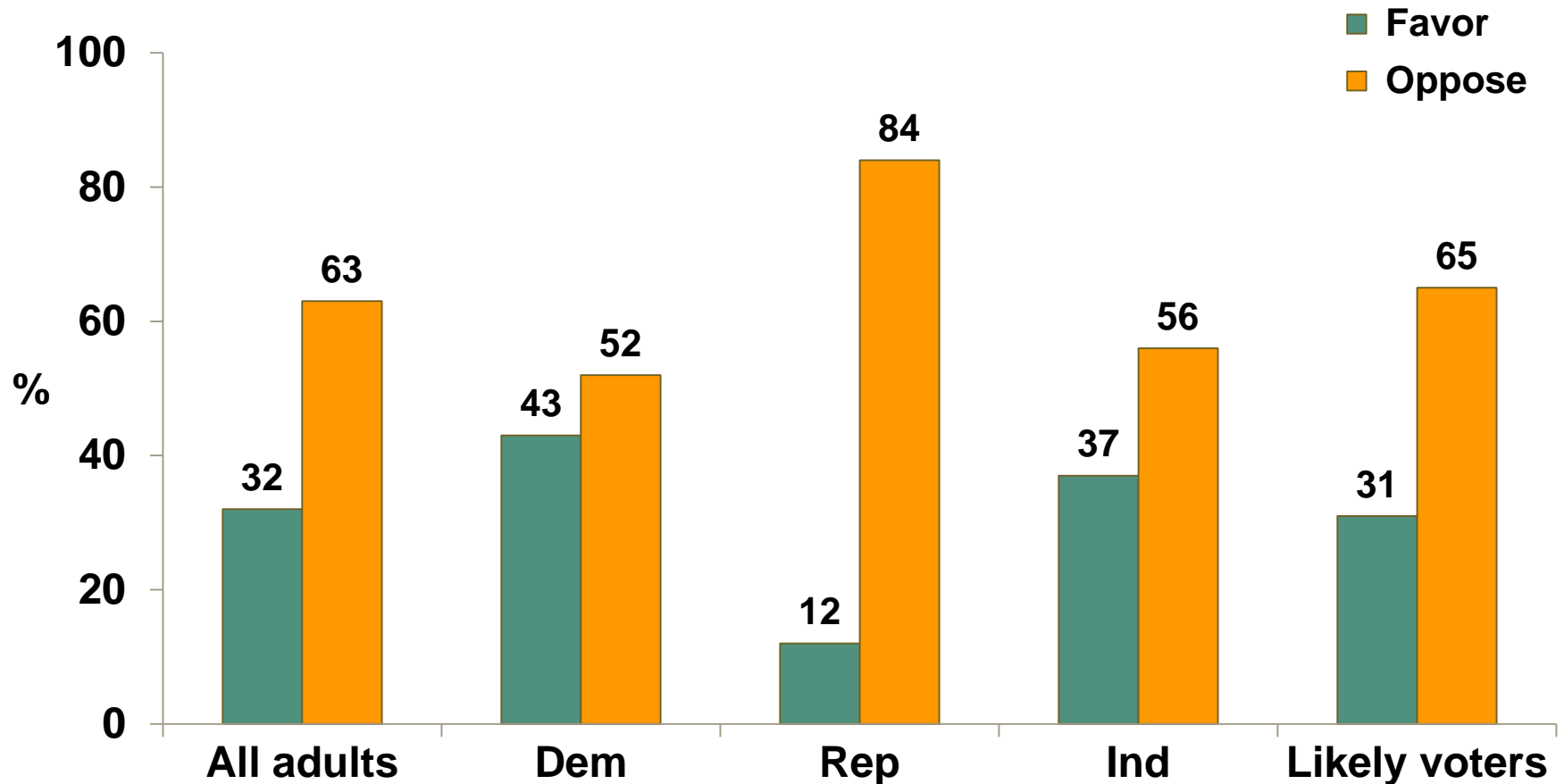


- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know



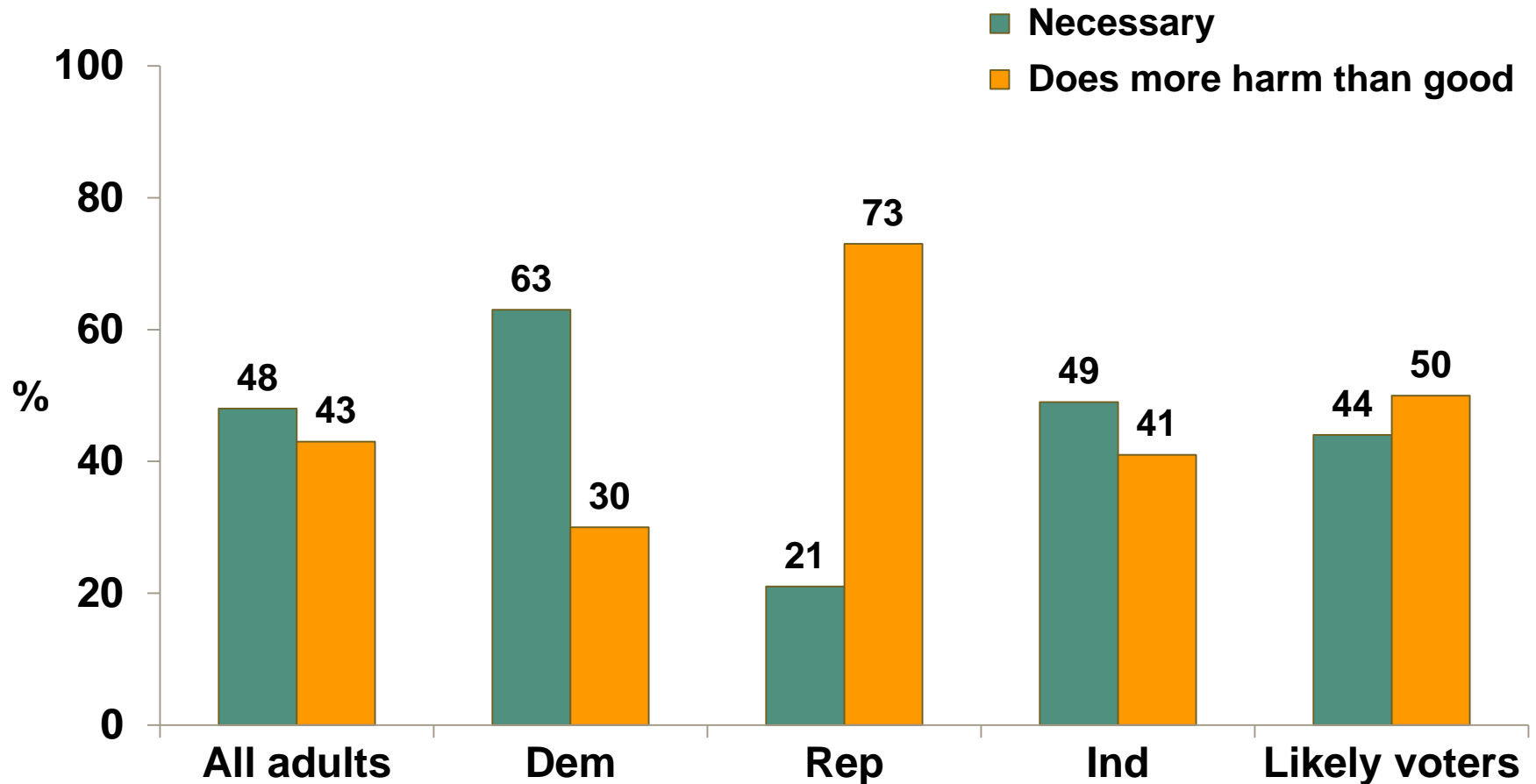
# Mandatory Health Insurance

Do you favor or oppose requiring all Americans to have health insurance or pay a fine if they don't?



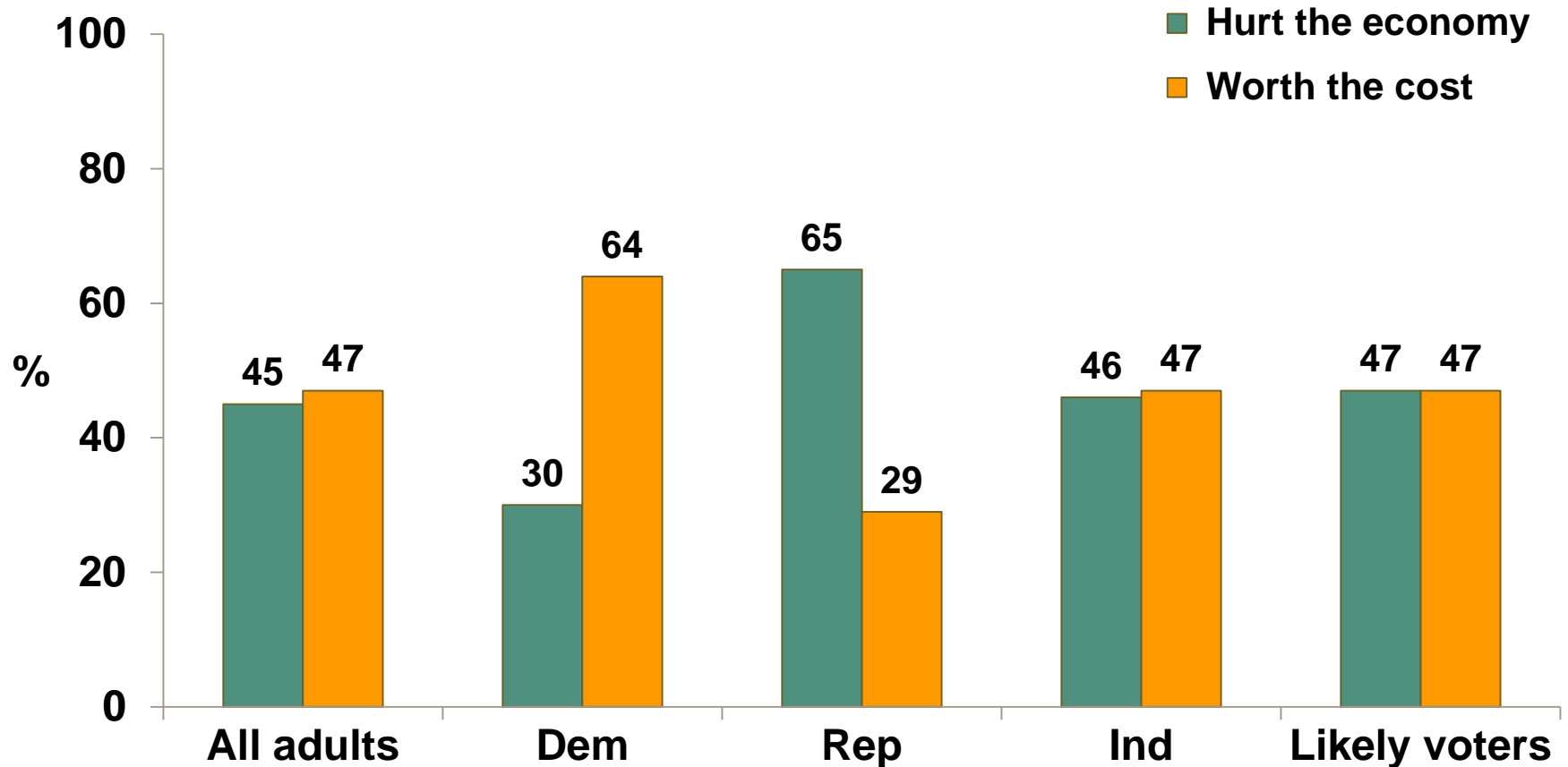
# Role of Government: Business Regulation

Government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest or government regulation of business does more harm than good.



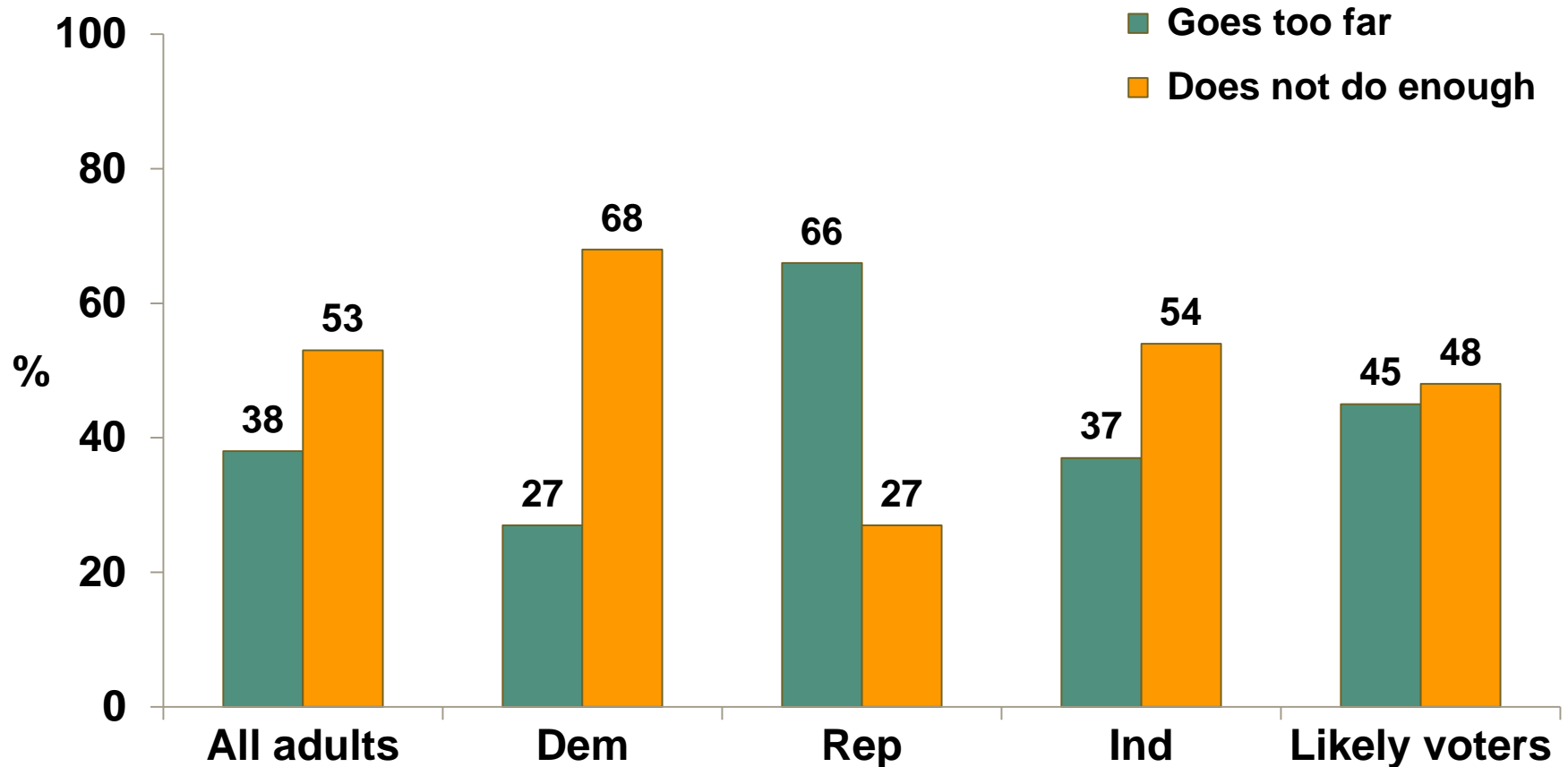
# Role of Government: Environmental Protection

Stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy or stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost.



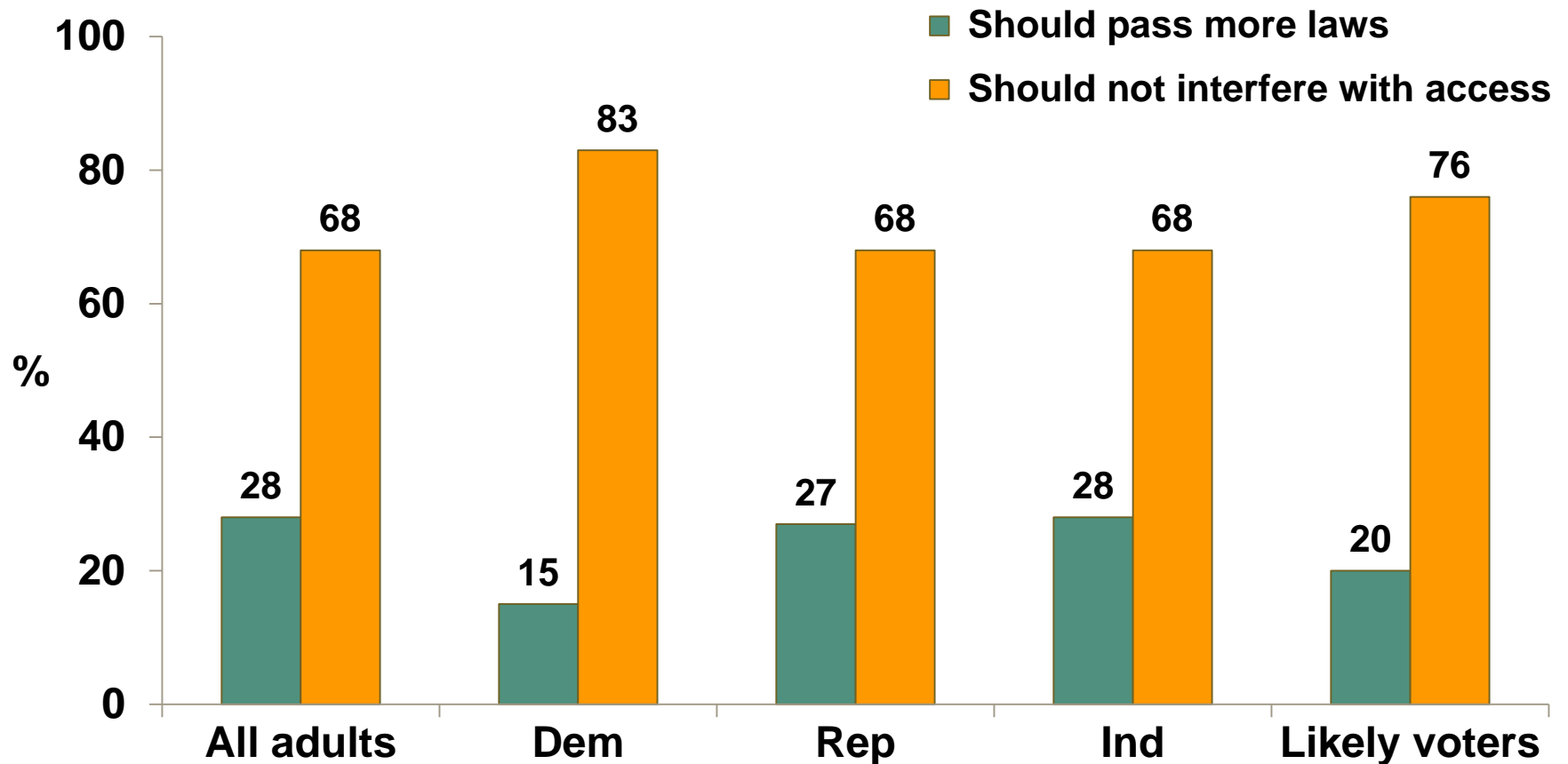
# Role of Government: Gun Ownership

The government goes too far in restricting the rights of citizens to own guns or the government does not do enough to regulate access to guns.



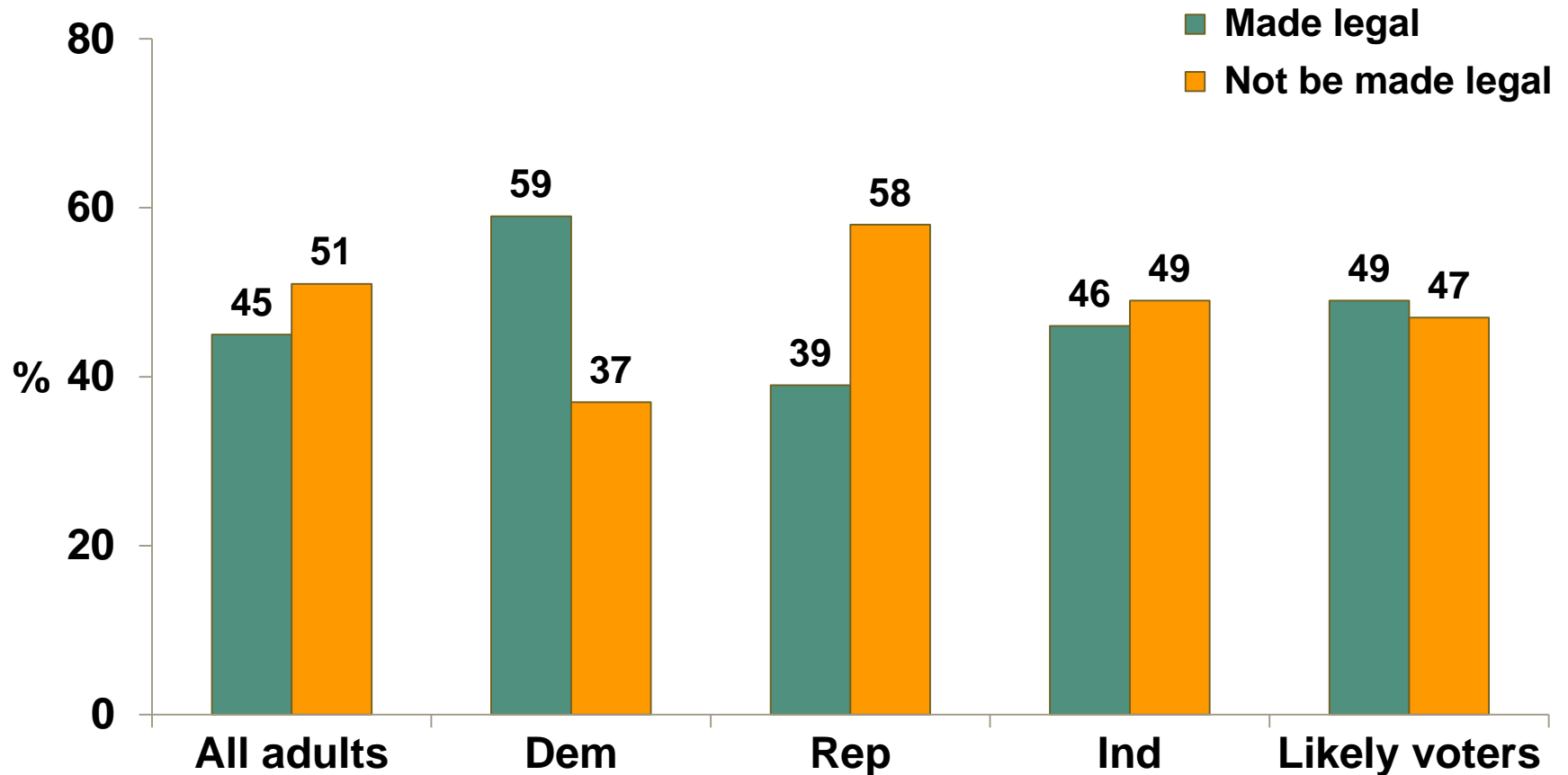
# Role of Government: Access to Abortion

The government should pass more laws that restrict the availability of abortion or the government should not interfere with a woman's access to abortion.



# Legalizing Marijuana Use

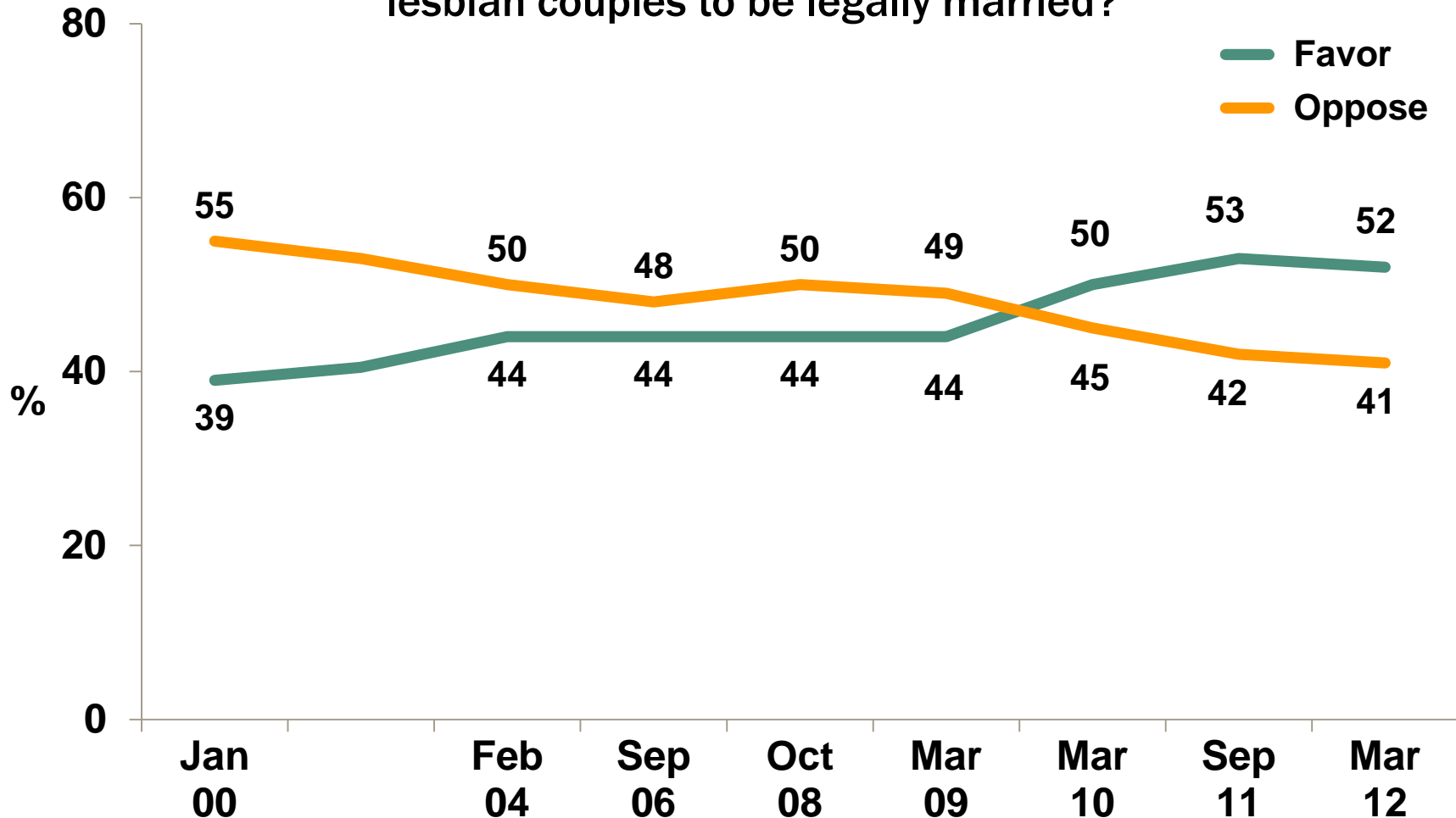
In general, do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?





# Allowing Same-Sex Marriage

Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to be legally married?



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# Conclusions

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- Romney and Santorum close in GOP primary
- Solid majorities would vote yes on June propositions; half support November water bond
- Half would vote yes on the governor's tax initiative; strong opposition to K-12 trigger cuts
- Divided on high-speed rail
- Majorities oppose mandatory health insurance
- Most say government should not interfere with access to abortion
- Continued support for same-sex marriage



# 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.

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