

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Education

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April 2012



Outline

- **PPIC Statewide Surveys**
- **Fiscal Attitudes and Policy Preferences**
- **General Perceptions**
- **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
 - 264,000+ Californians since 1998
 - 125 general, issue, and regional surveys



Californians and Education

- Conducted with funding from: The Kabcenell, Stuart, and Silver Giving Foundations
- Governor's tax initiative, raising taxes for education, concerns about cuts, reforms
- Approval ratings, comparing California to other states, rating local schools, parents' perceptions
- Telephone interviews, April 3–10
 - 2,005 adults; 823 likely voters; 620 public school parents
 - *± 3.4% margin of error for adults*
 - *± 4.3% for likely voters*
 - *± 6.2% for public school parents*



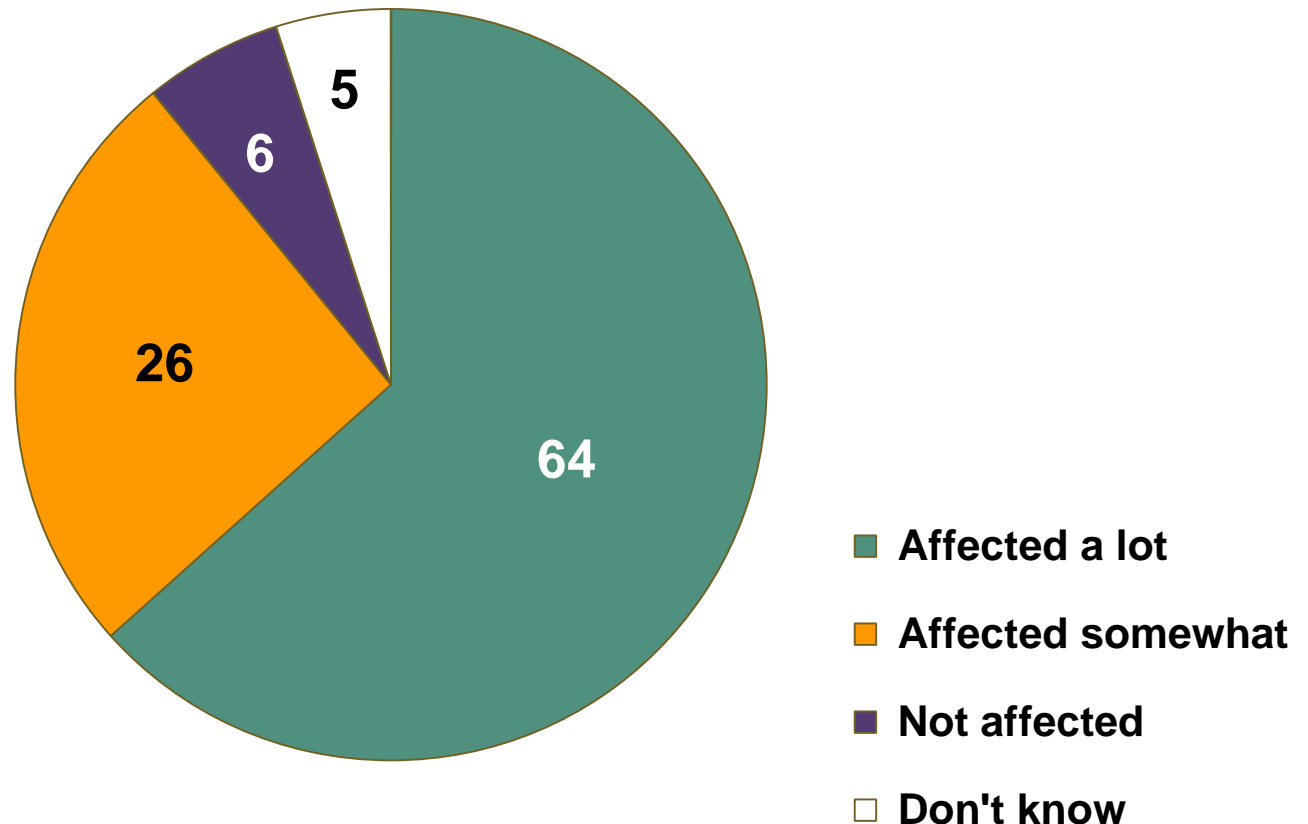
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State Budget Situation

Would you say that your local government services—such as those provided by city and county governments and public schools—have or have not been affected by recent state budget cuts?

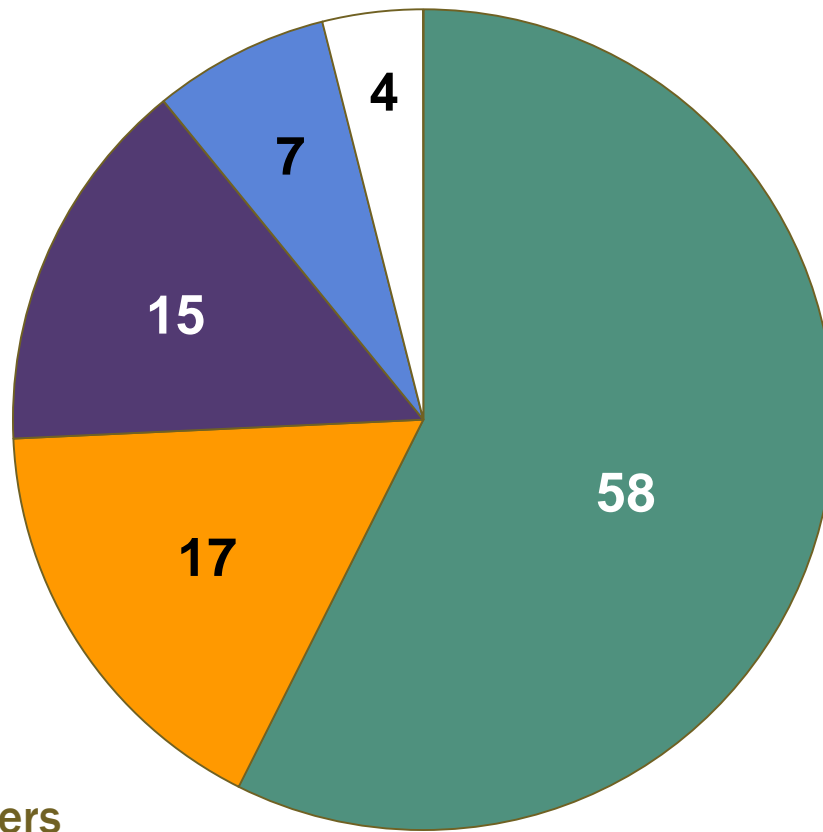


Likely voters



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.



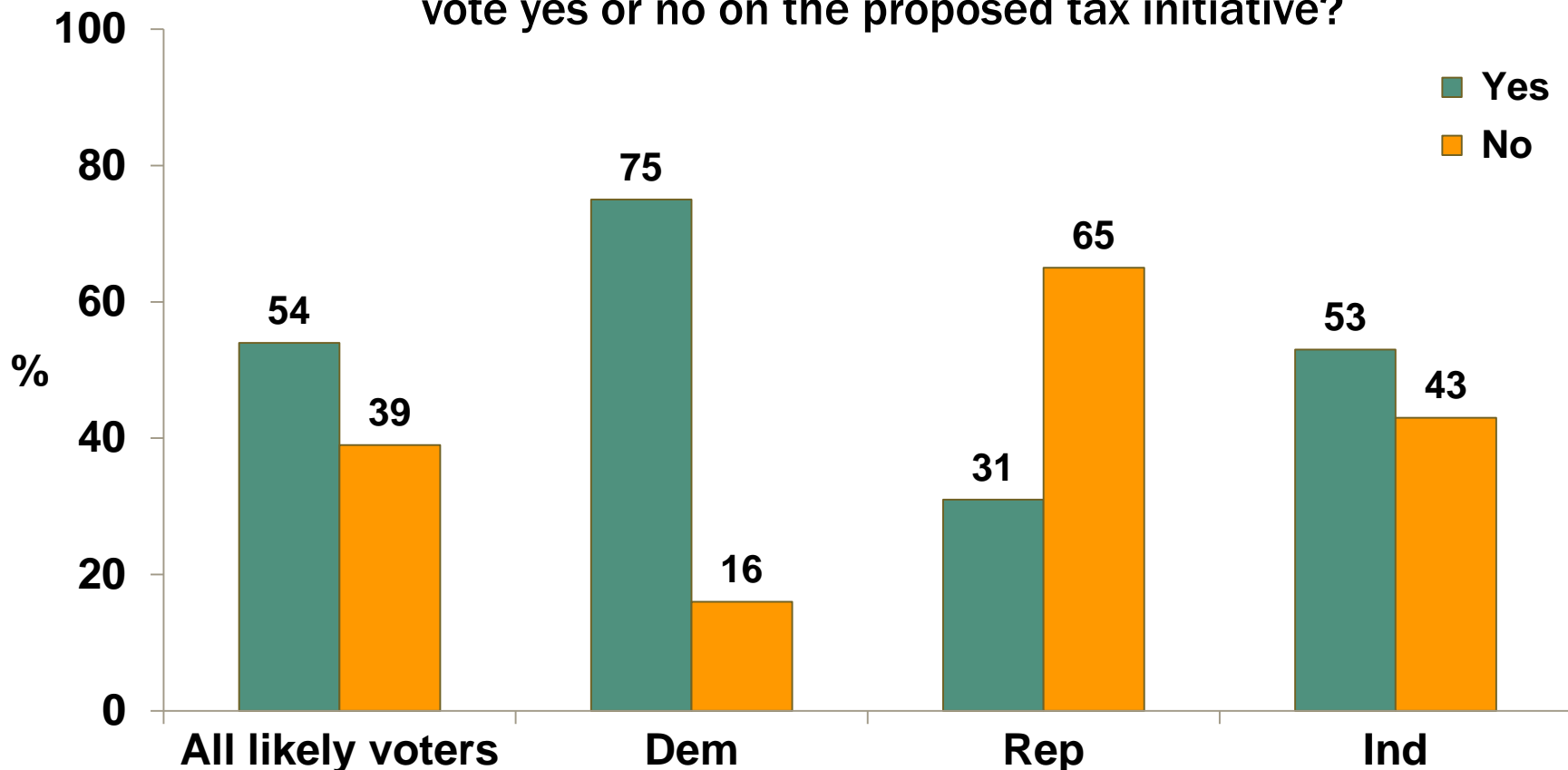
- K-12 public education
- Higher education
- Health and human services
- Prisons and corrections
- Don't know

Likely voters



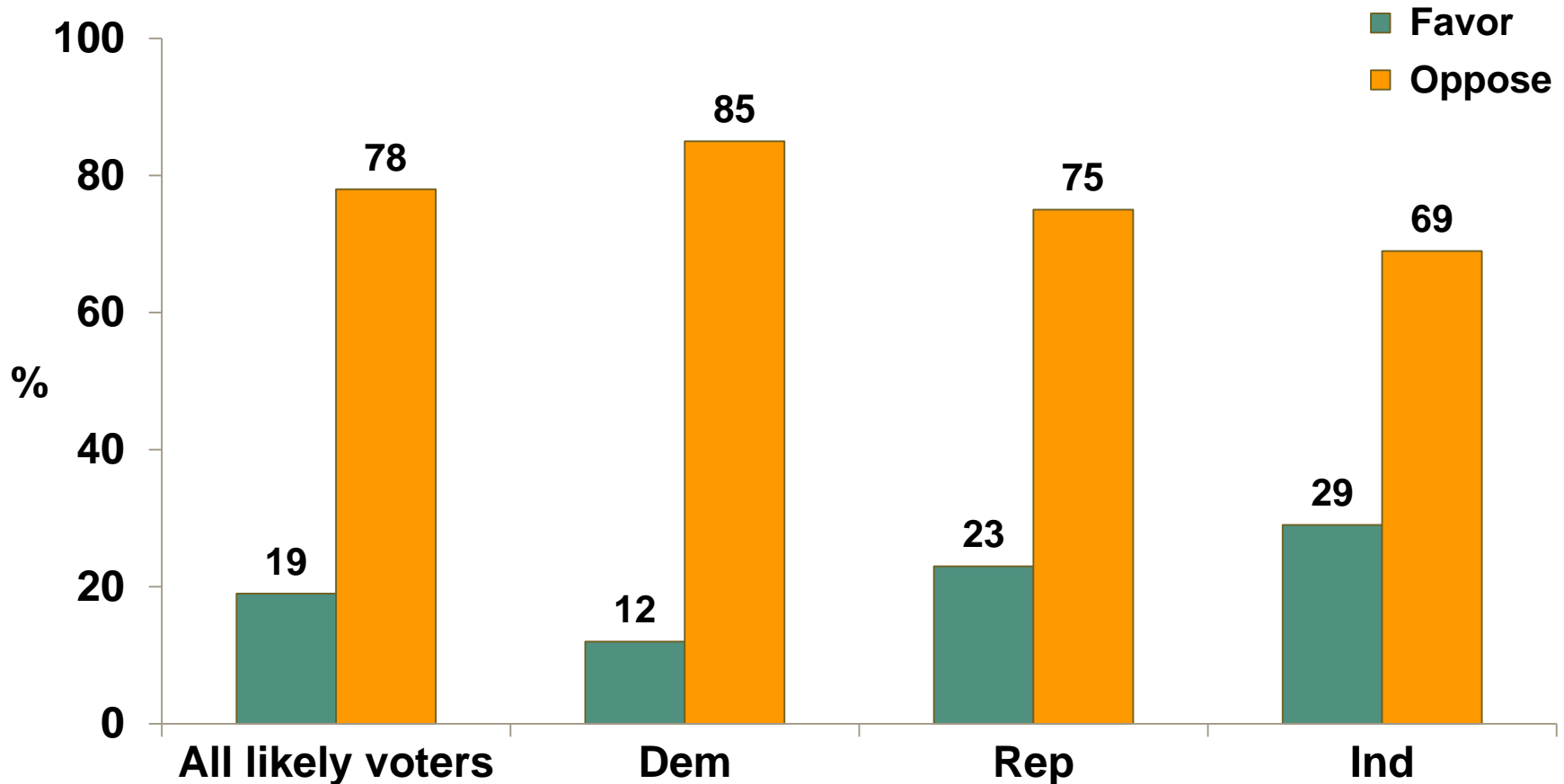
Governor Brown's Proposed Tax Initiative

Governor Brown and others have 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?



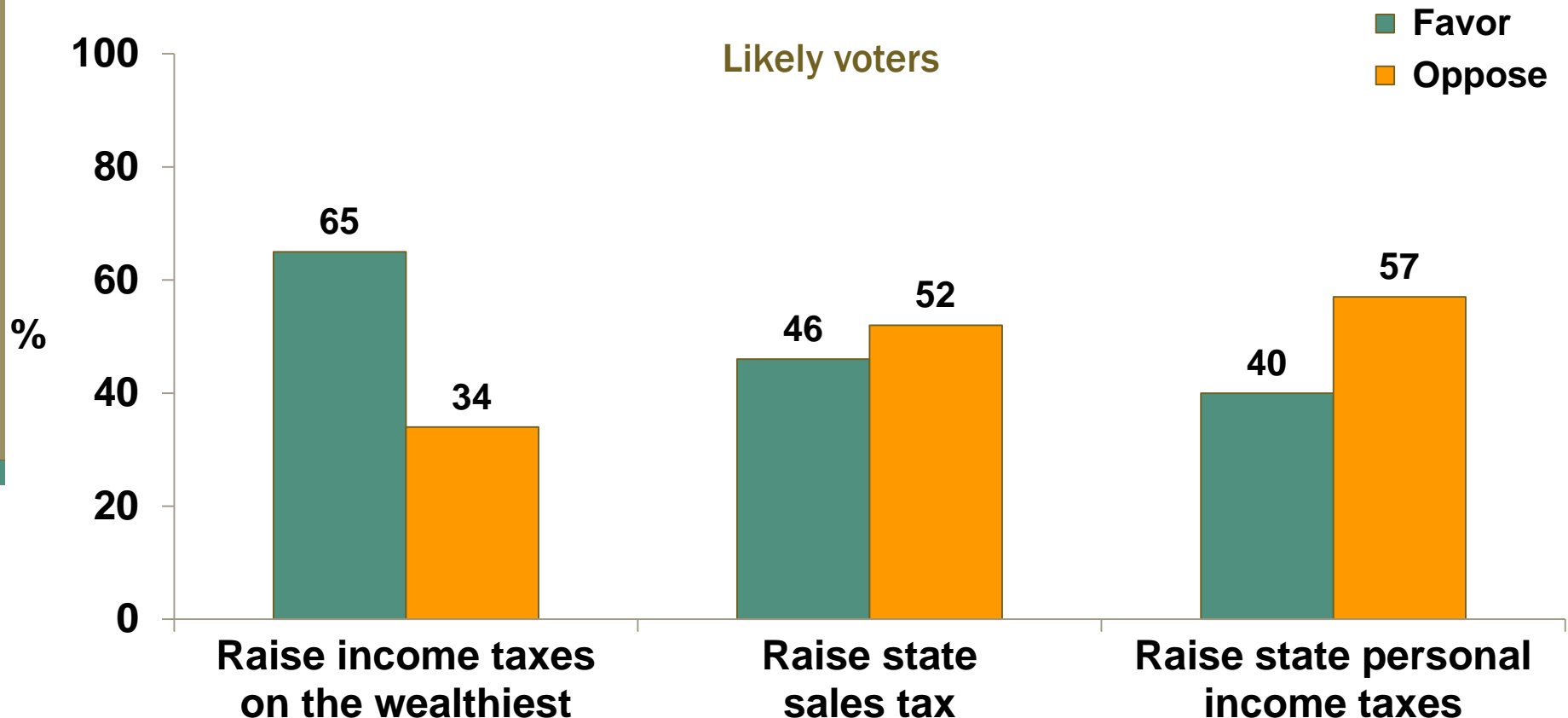
Proposed Trigger Cuts to K-12

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?



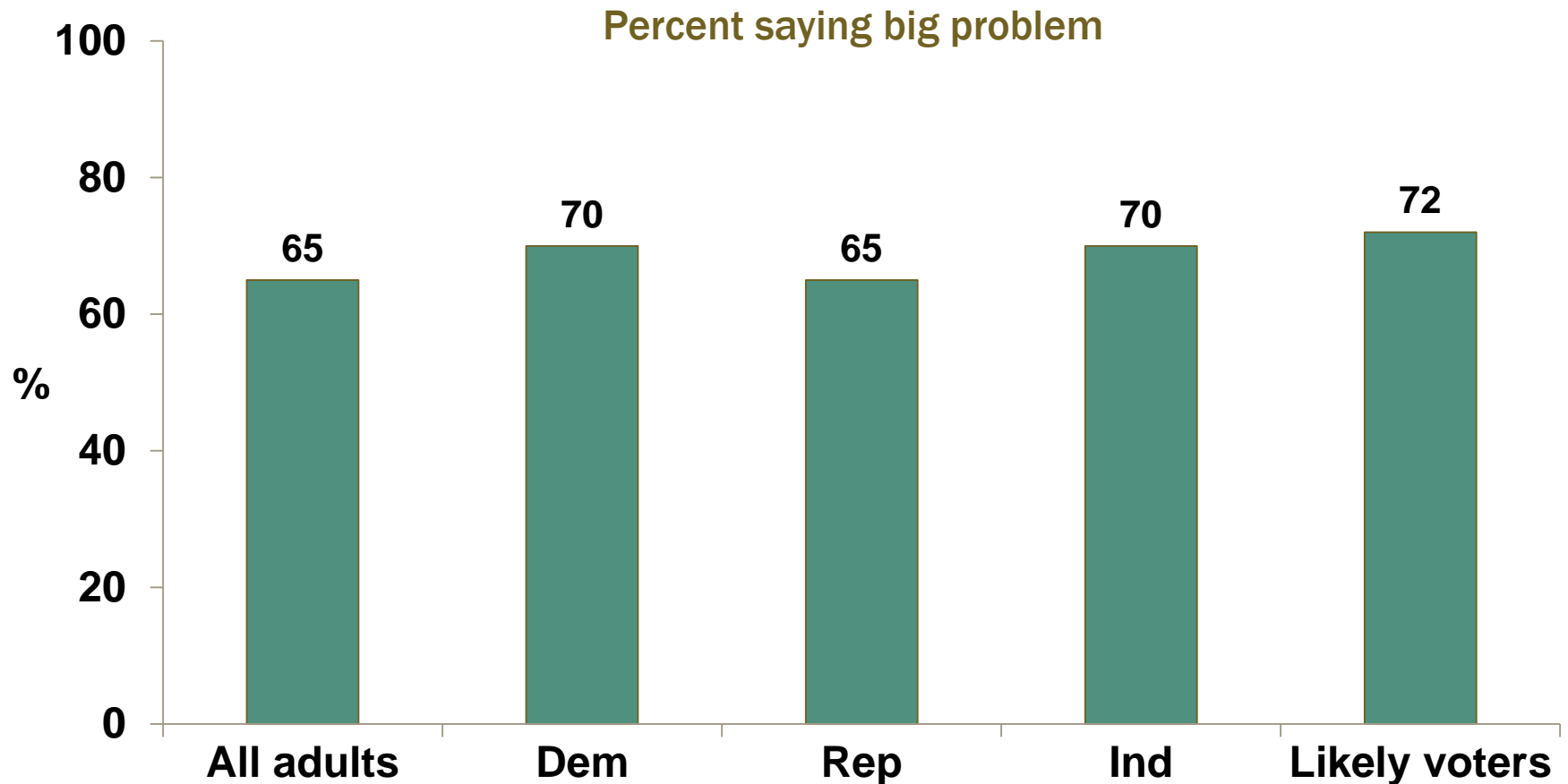
Raising State Revenues for Education

Here are some ideas that have been suggested to raise state revenues to provide additional funding for K-12 public education. For each of the following, please say if you favor or oppose the proposal.



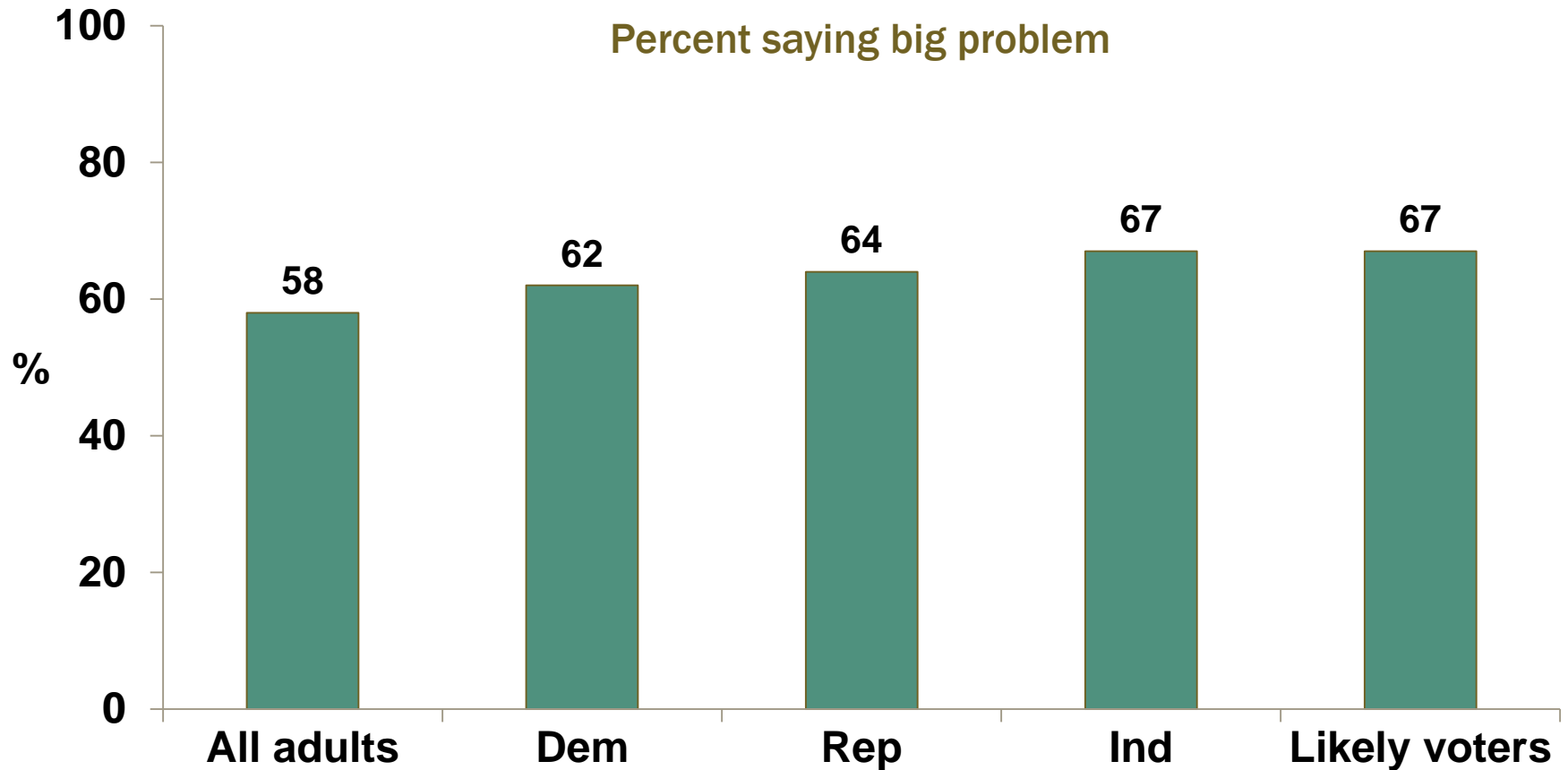
State Budget and Education

How much of a problem is the overall state budget situation for California's K-12 public schools today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?



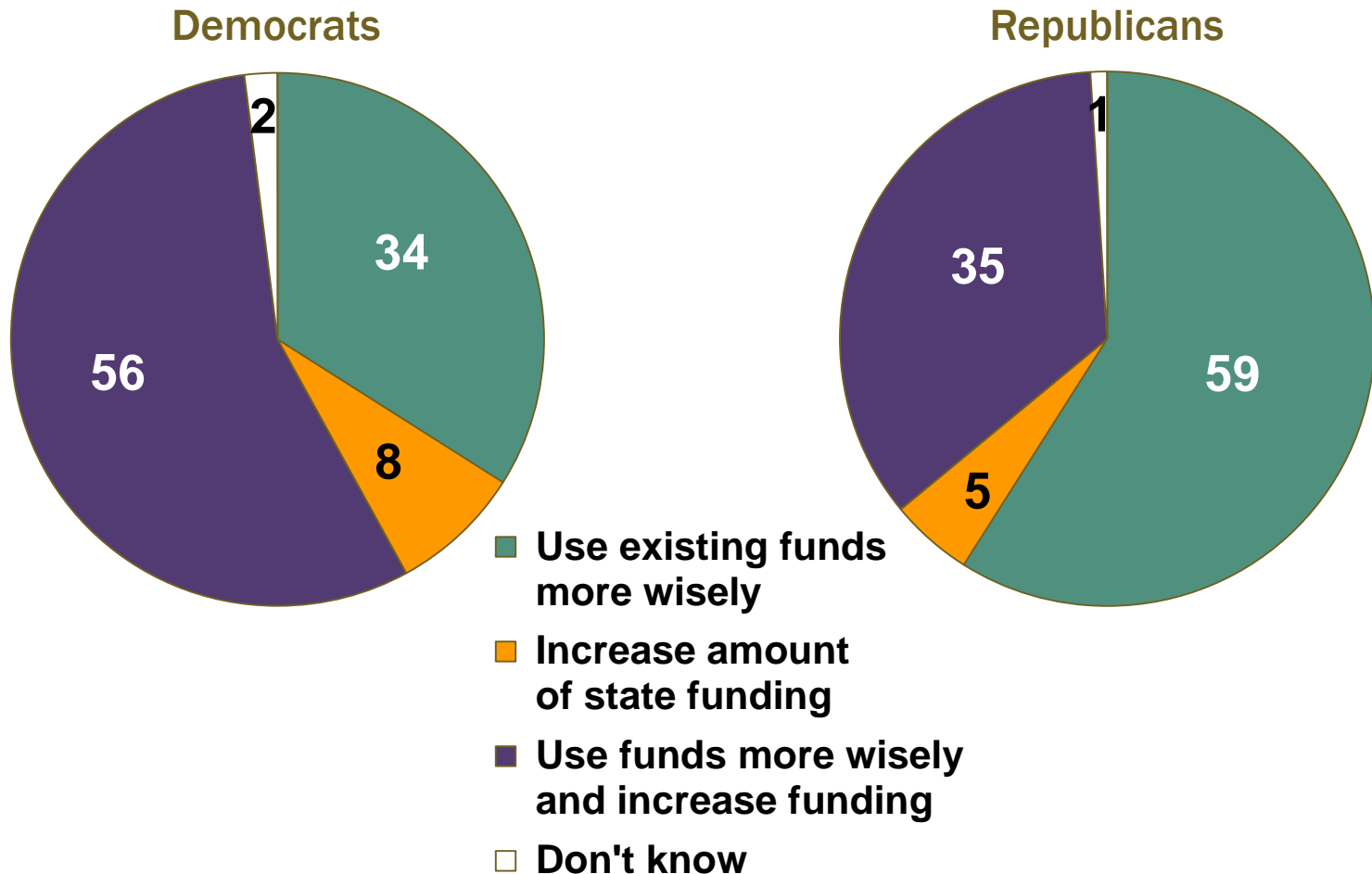
Educational Quality

How much of a problem is the quality of education in California's K-12 public schools today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?



State Funding and Educational Quality

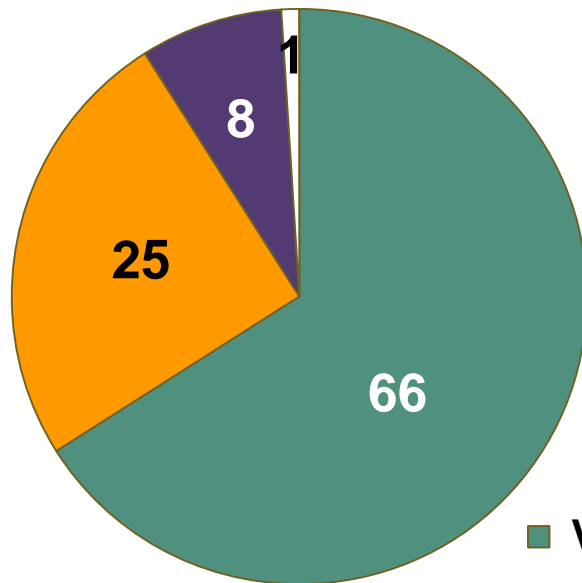
To significantly improve the quality of California's K-12 public schools, which of the following statements do you agree with the most?



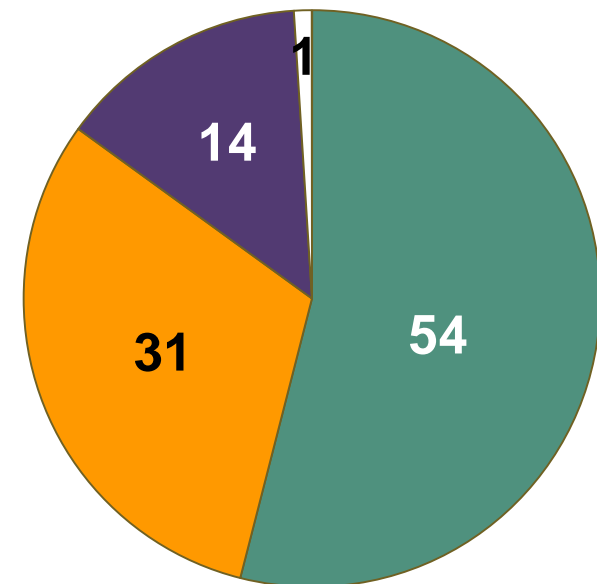
Concerns about Specific Spending Cuts

There are a number of ways for the state's K-12 public schools to cut spending to deal with decreased state and local funding. For each of the following, please tell if you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

Laying off teachers



Having fewer days of school instruction



All adults

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not too/Not at all concerned
- Don't know

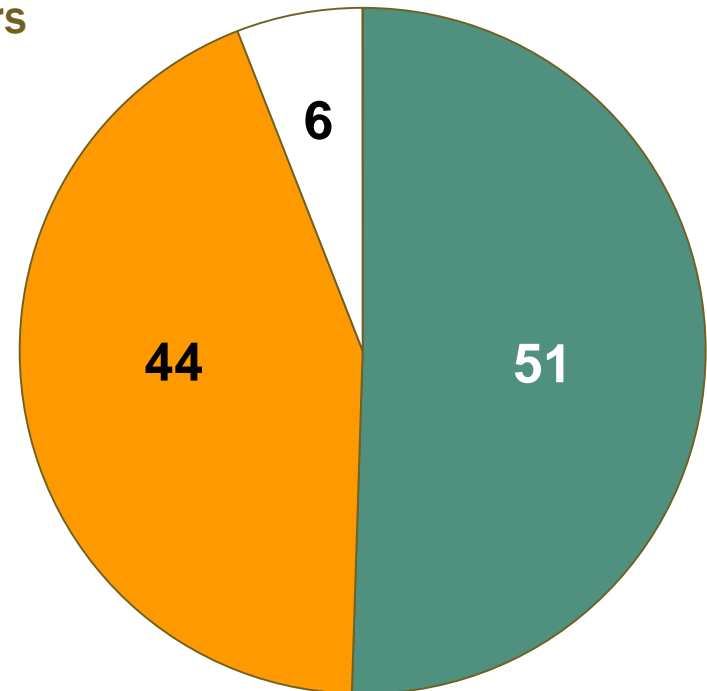
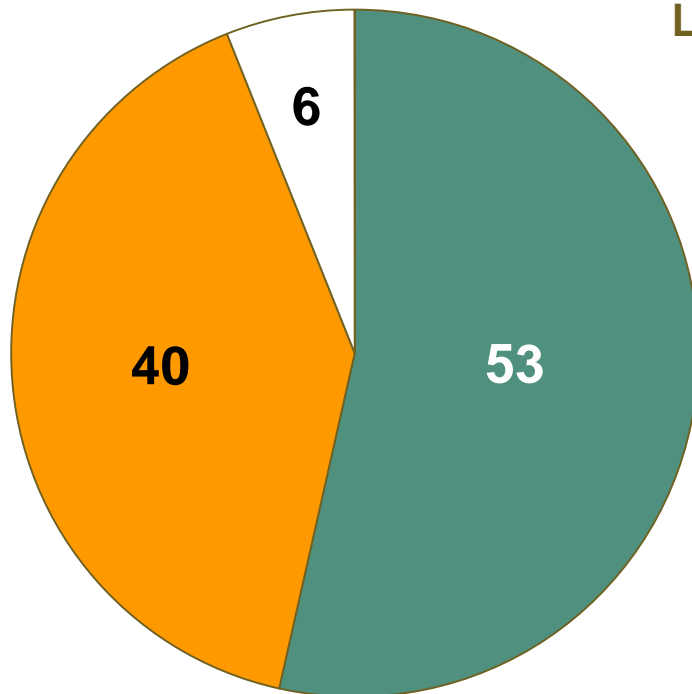


Raising Local Revenues

If your local school district had a bond measure on the ballot to pay for school construction projects, would you vote yes or no?

What if there was a measure on your local ballot to increase local parcel taxes to provide more funds for the local public schools? Would you vote yes or no?

Likely voters

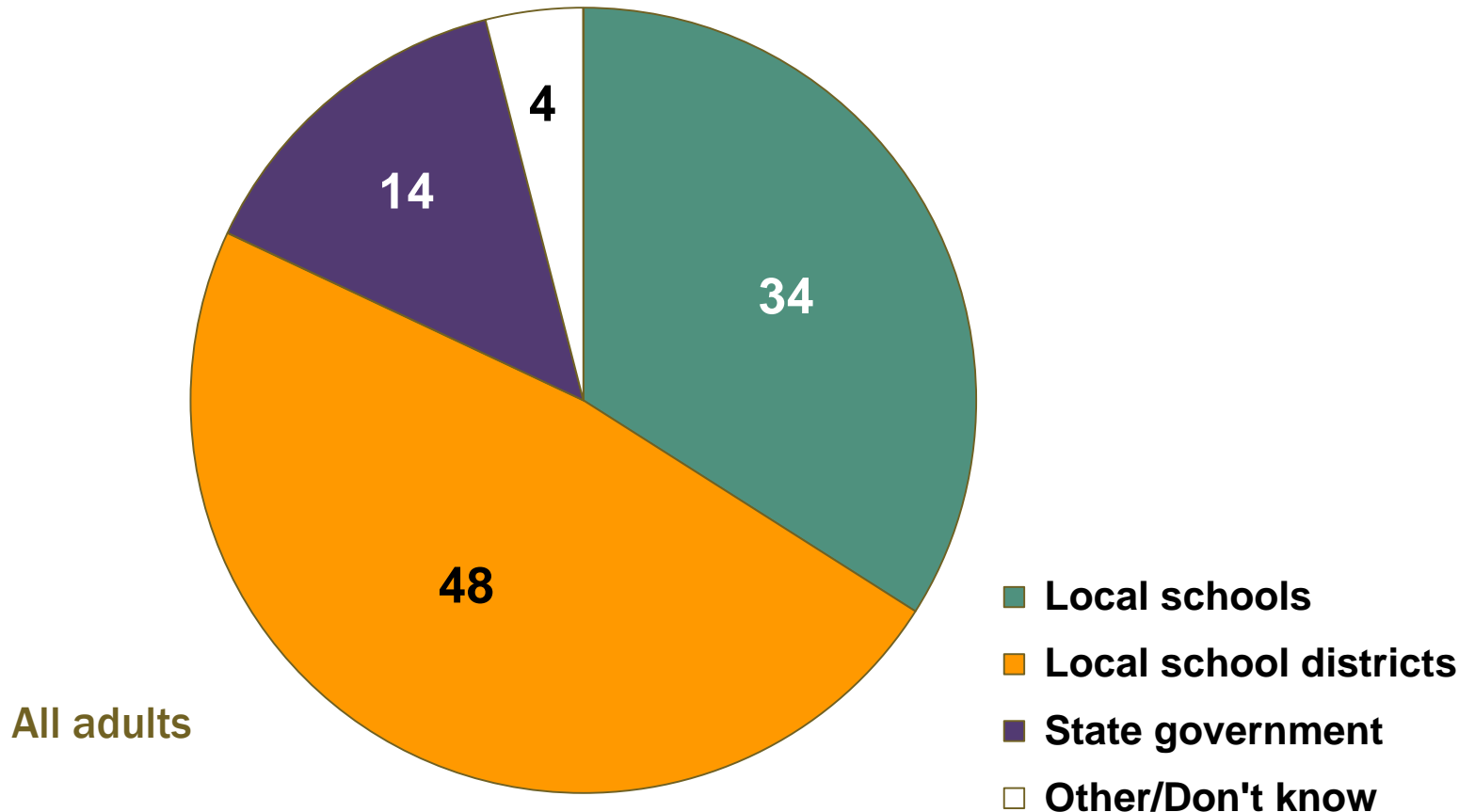


- Yes
- No
- Don't know



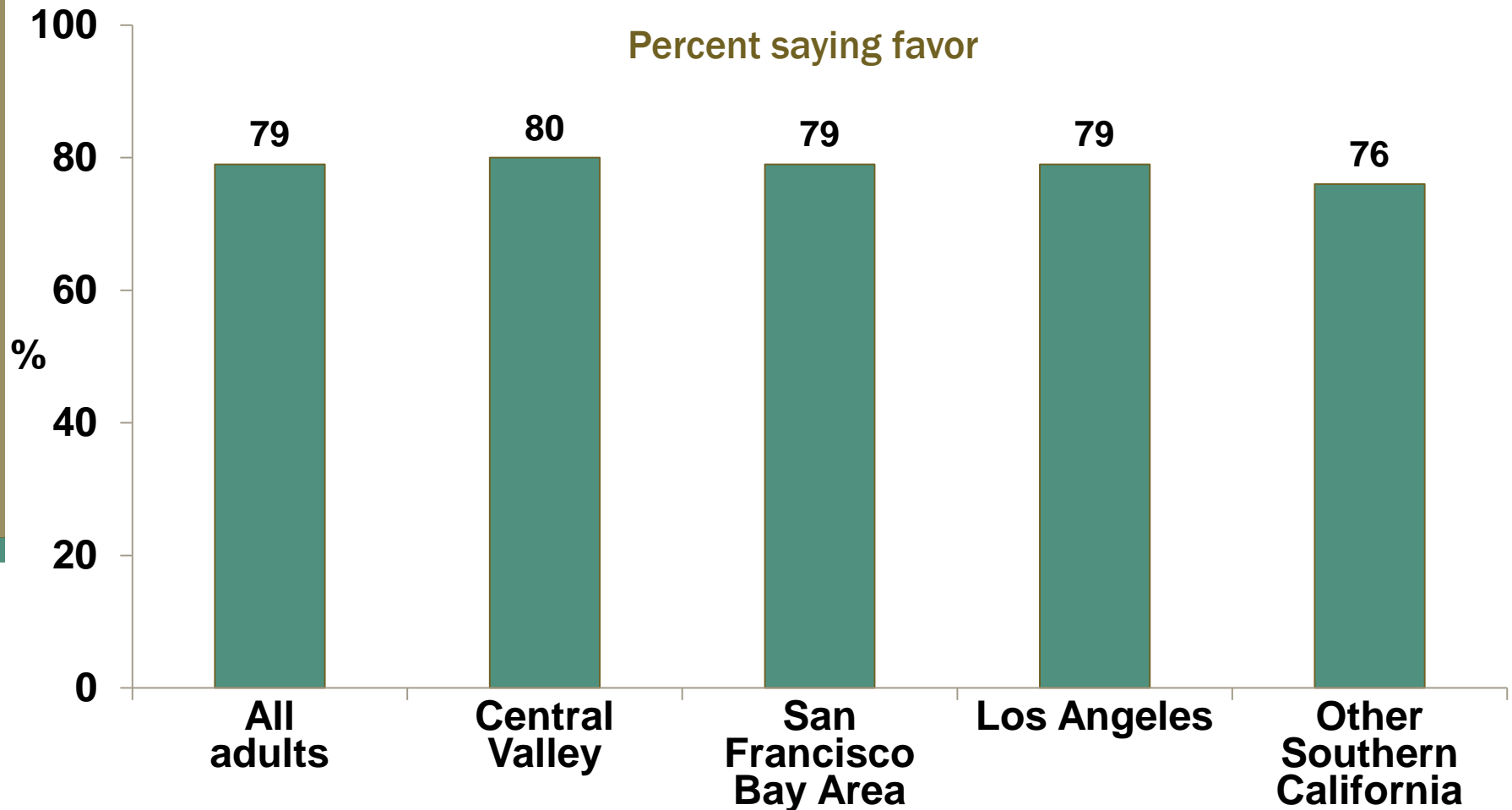
Control Over Local Spending Decisions

Who do you think should have the most control in deciding how the money from state government is spent in local public schools?



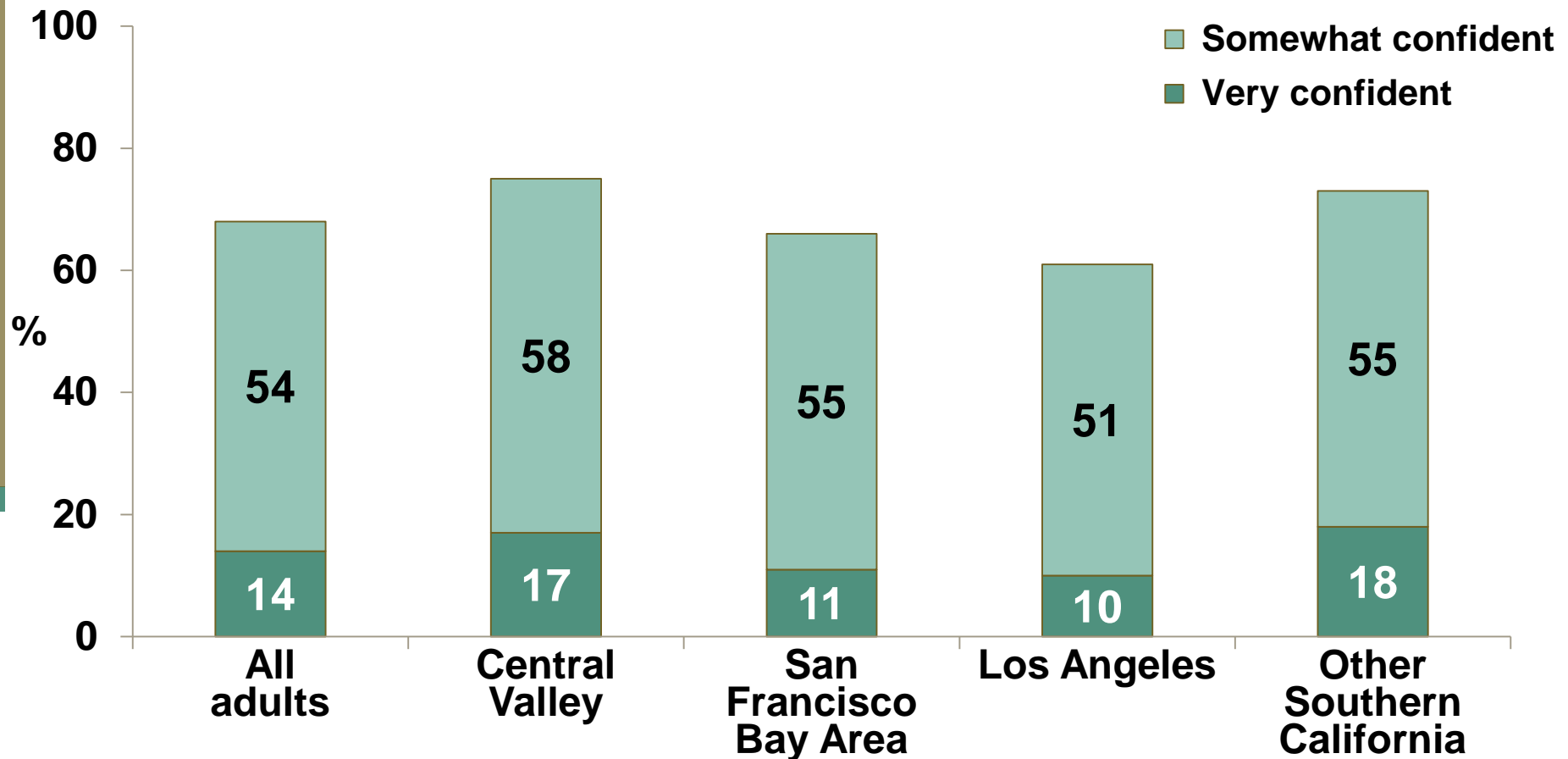
Local Flexibility

Would you favor or oppose giving local school districts more flexibility over how state funding is spent?



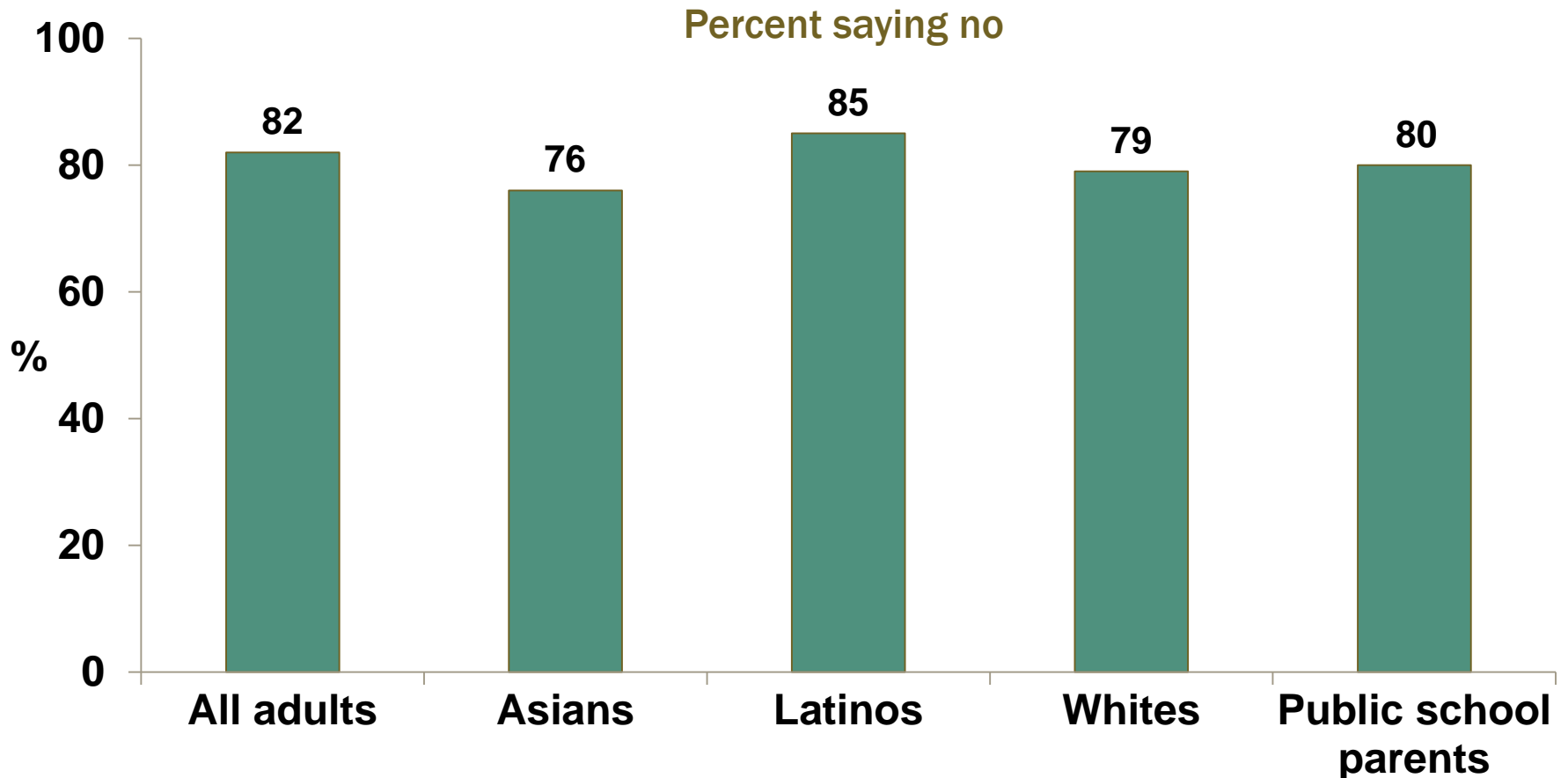
Confidence in Local School Districts to Handle Realignment

If the state were to give local school districts more flexibility over how state funding is spent, how confident are you that local school districts would use this money wisely?



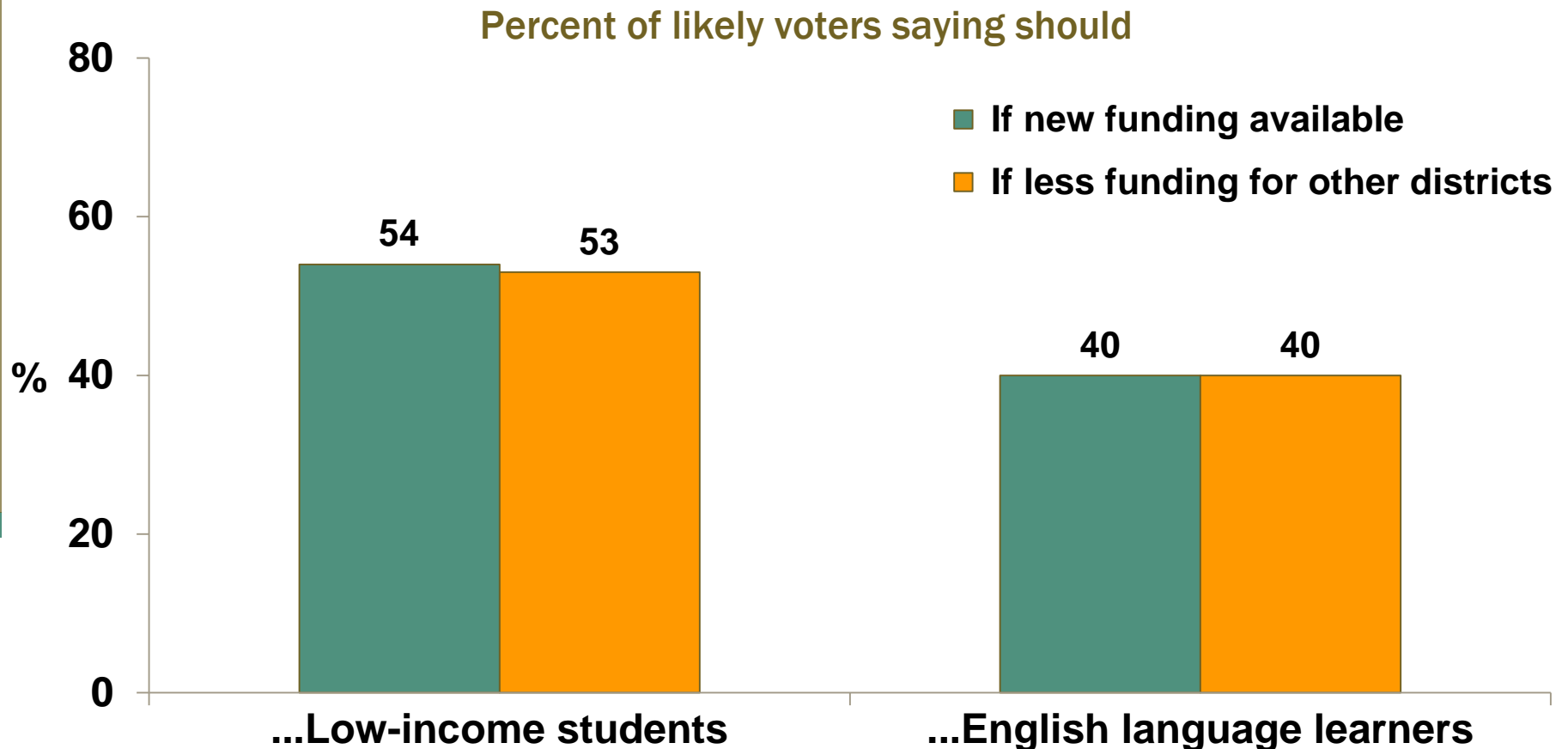
Resource Equity

Do you think that school districts in lower-income areas of the state have the same amount of resources—including good teachers and classroom materials—as school districts in wealthier areas, or not?



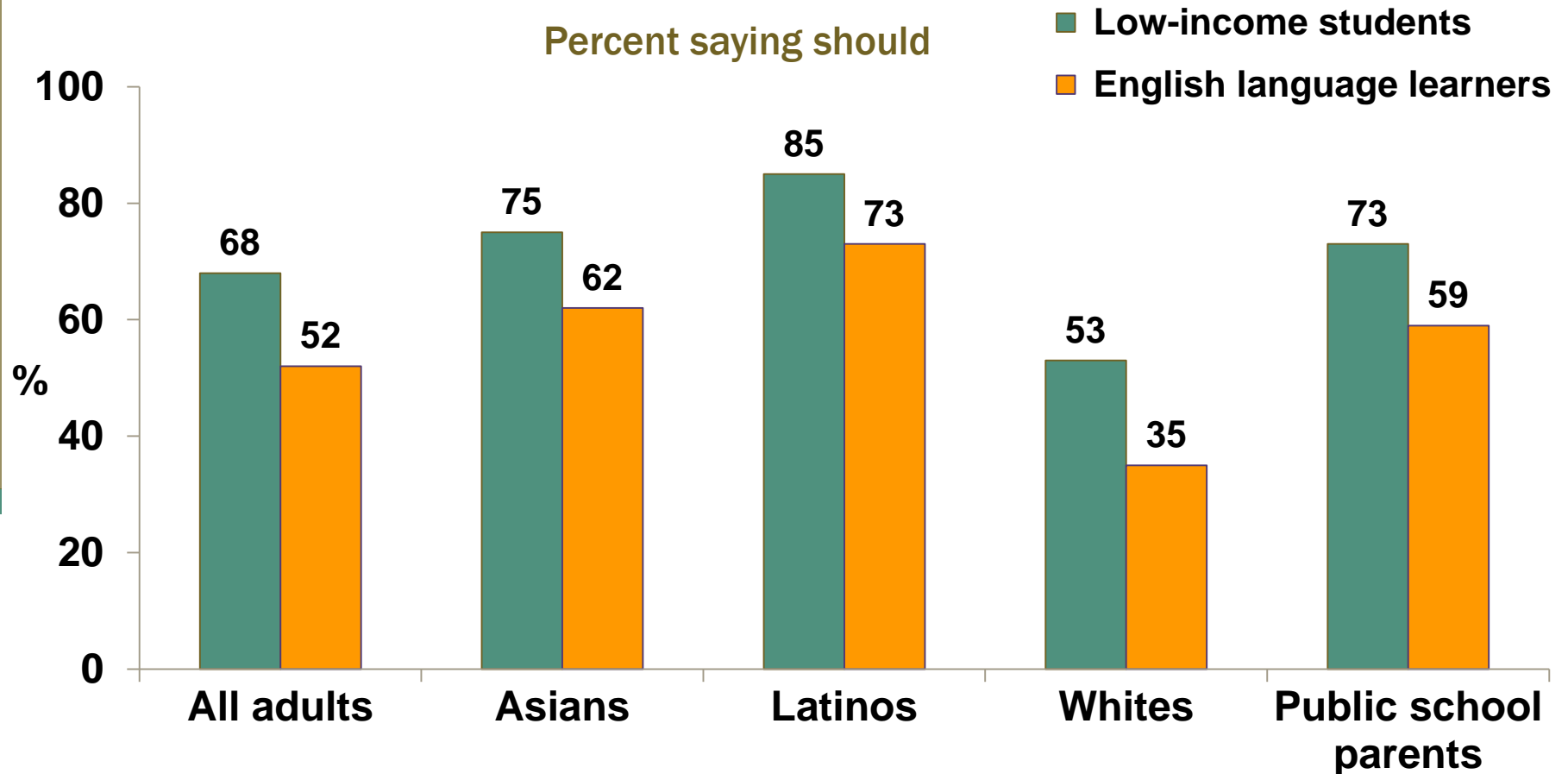
Support for Targeting Money to Specific School Districts

Do you think school districts that have more ... should or should not get more funding than other school districts?



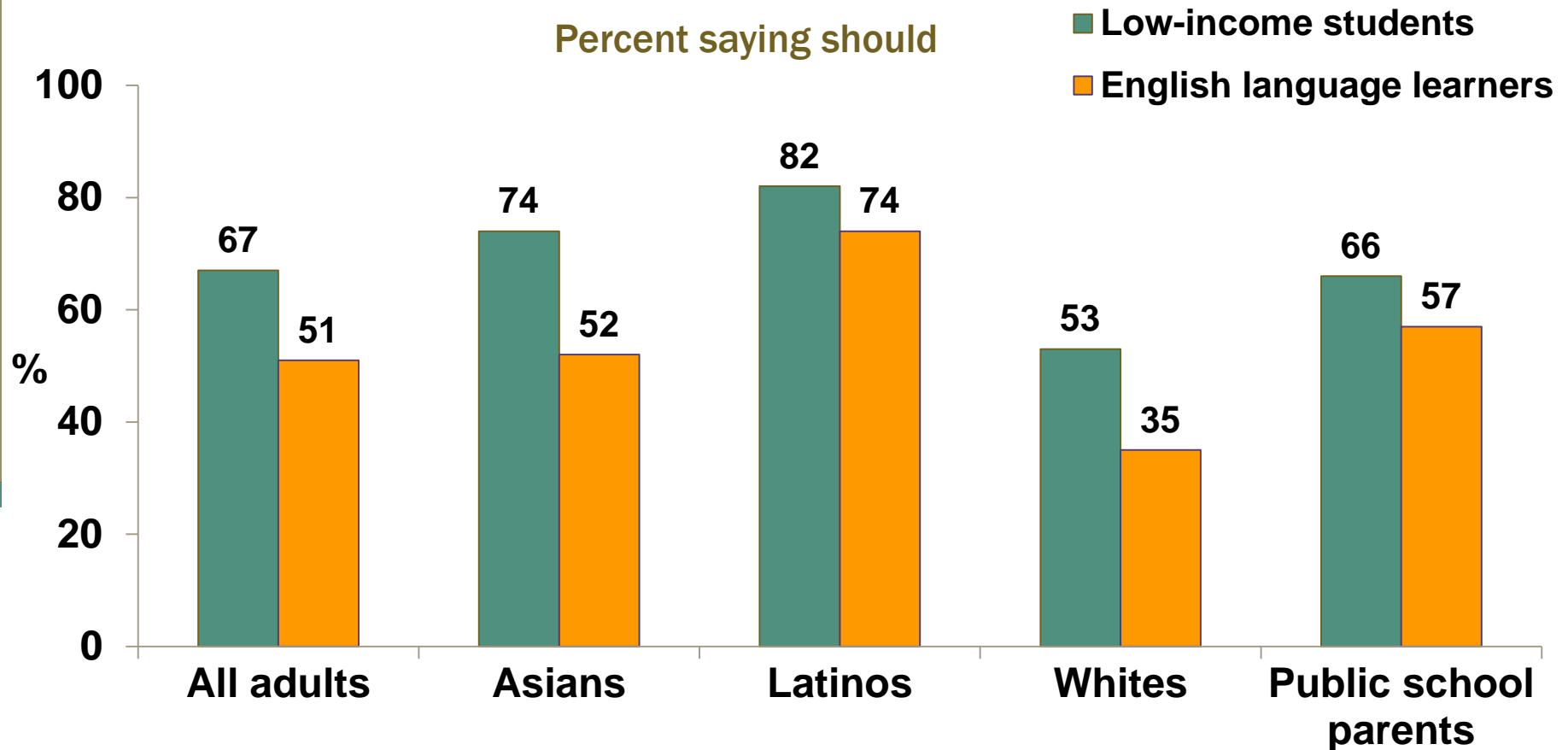
Distributing New Funding

If new state funding becomes available, do you think school districts that have more ... should or should not get more of this new funding than other school districts?



Distributing Funding If Less Funding for Other School Districts

If it means less funding for other school districts, do you think school districts that have more ... should or should not get more funding from the state?



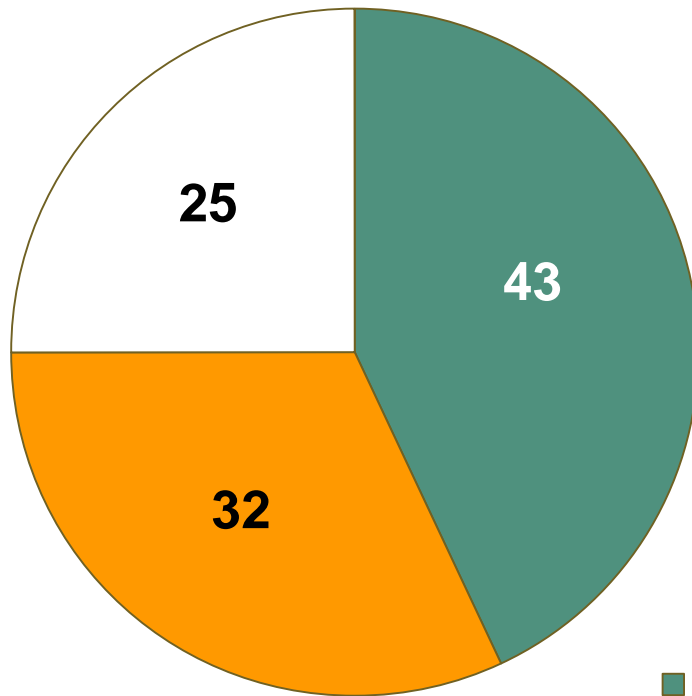
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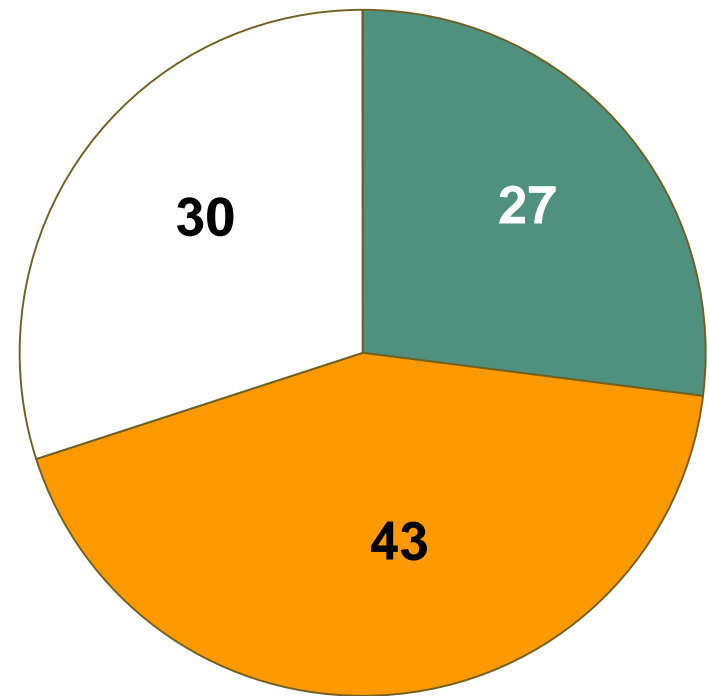


Governor Brown's Approval Ratings

Handling His Job Overall



Handling the K-12 System



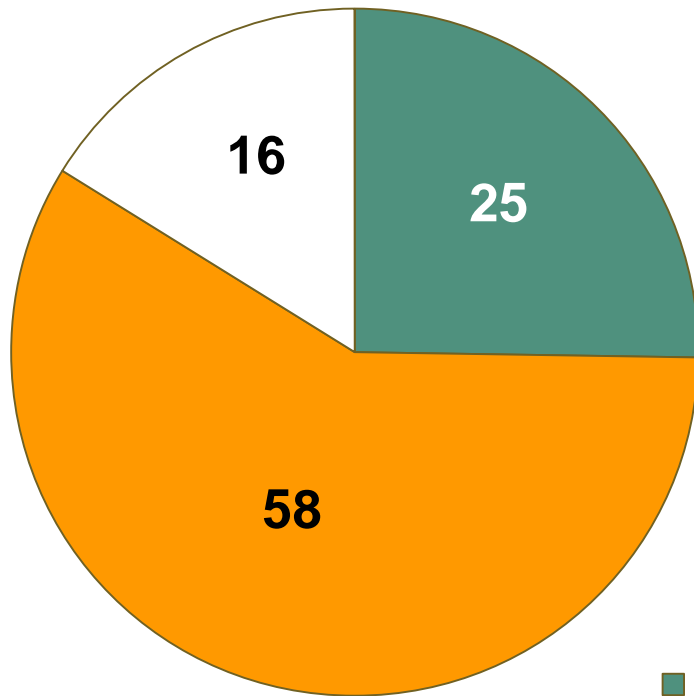
All adults

- Approve
- Disapprove
- Don't know

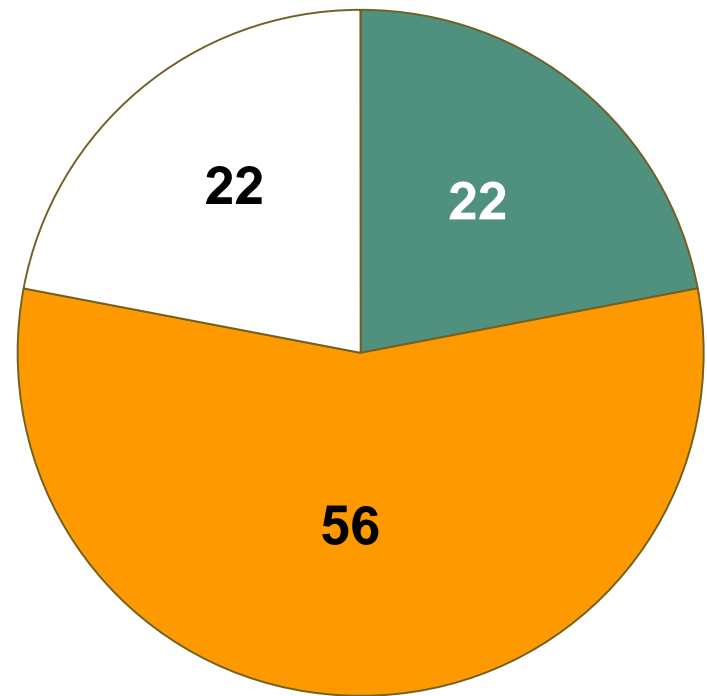


Legislature's Approval Ratings

Handling Its Job Overall



Handling the K-12 System



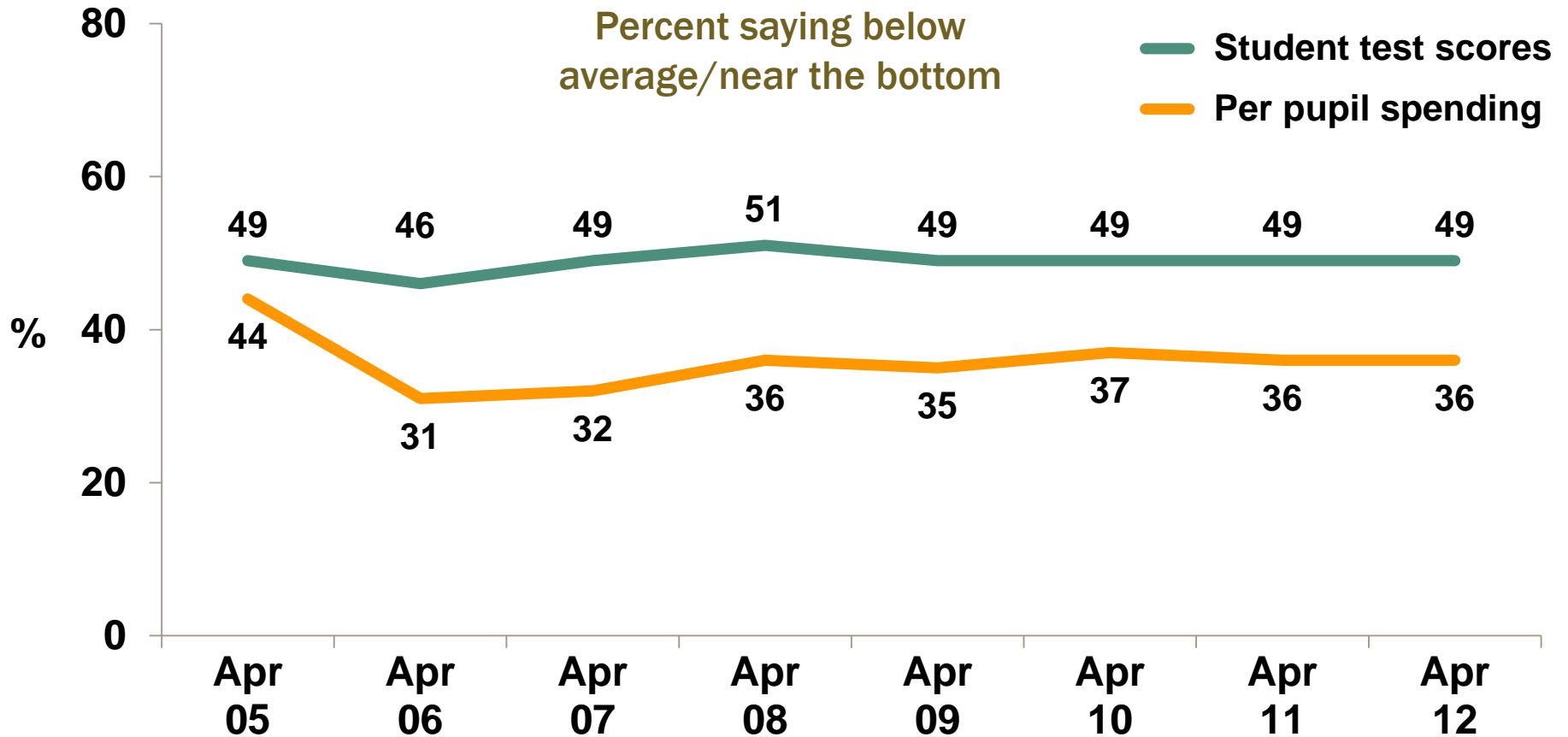
All adults

- Approve
- Disapprove
- Don't know



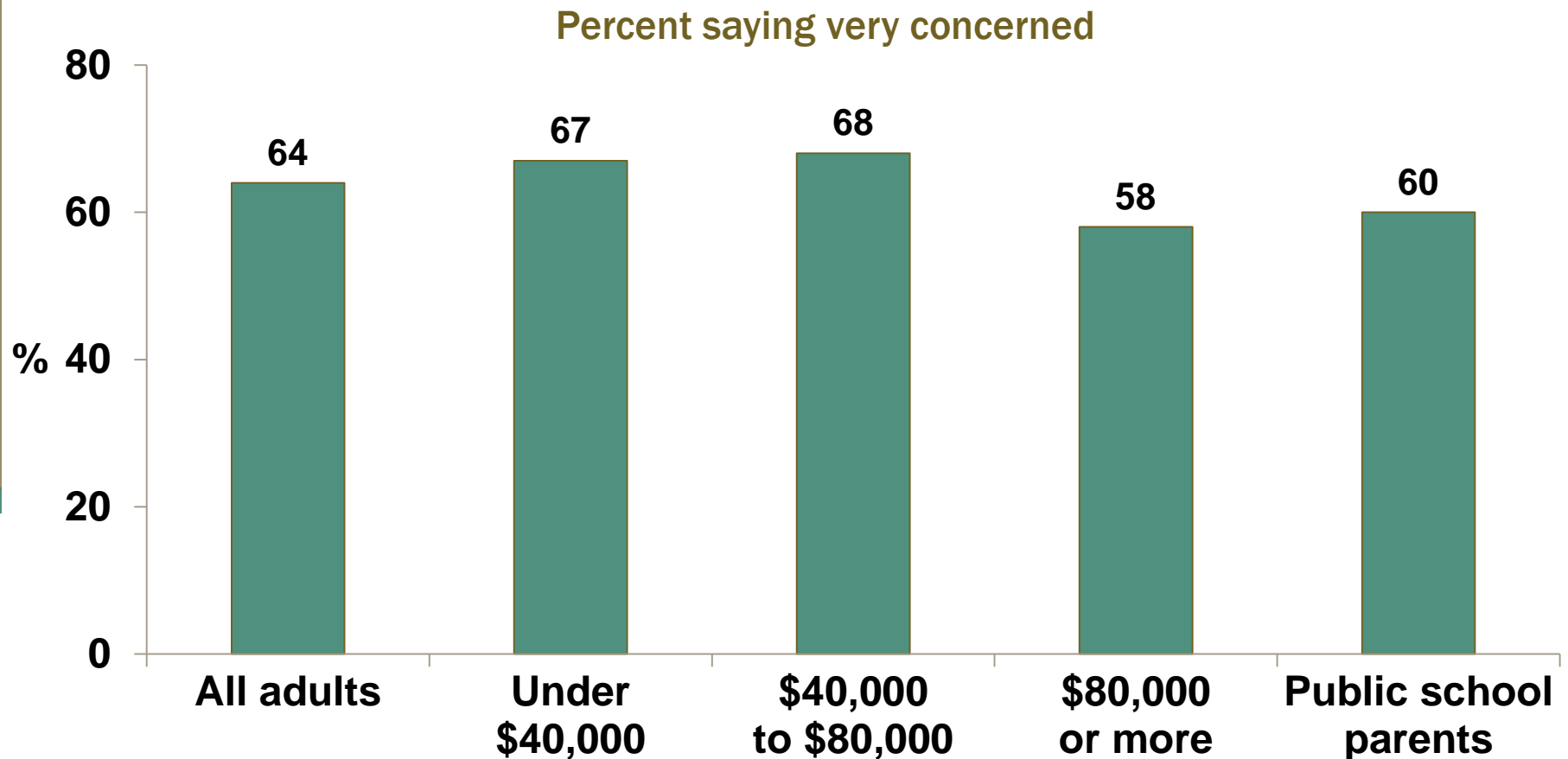
California's Relative Rankings

Where do you think California currently ranks in ... for K-12 public schools? Compared to other states, is California near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?



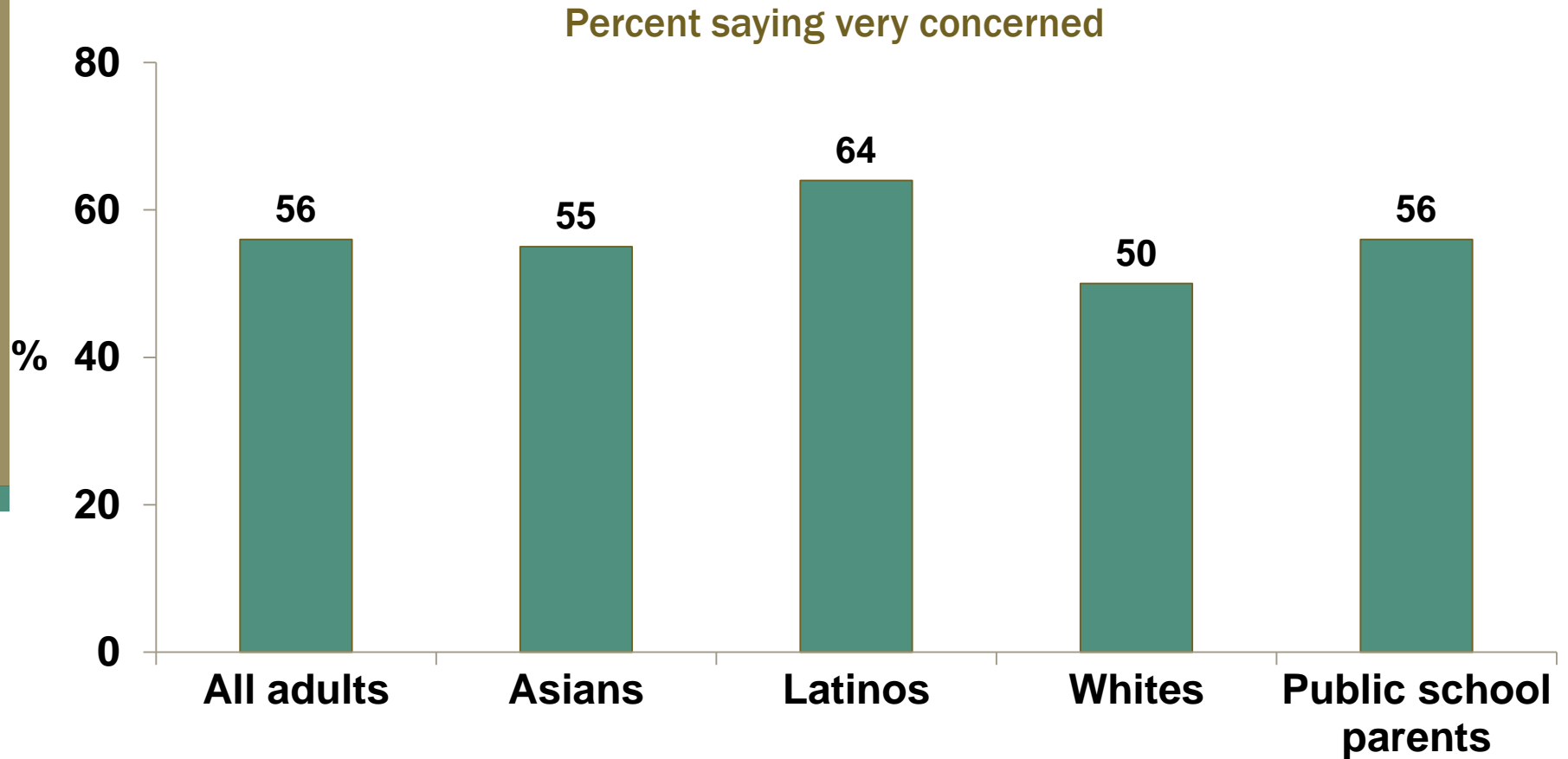
Teacher Shortage in Lower-Income Areas

How concerned are you that schools in lower-income areas have a shortage of good teachers compared to schools in wealthier areas?



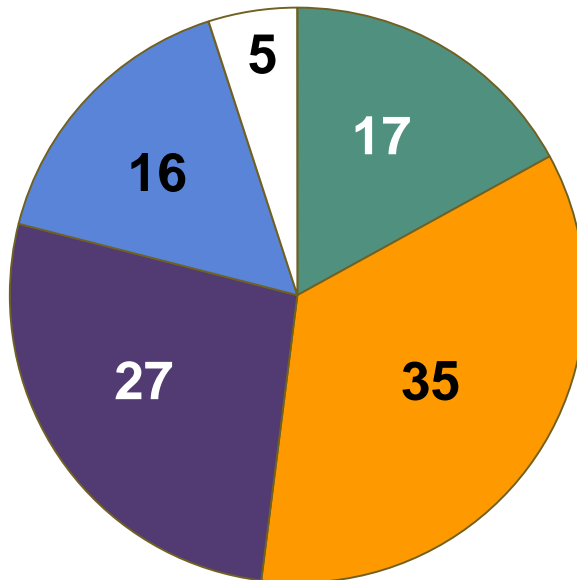
English Learners' Test Scores

How concerned are you that English language learners in California's schools today score lower on standardized tests than other students?



Rating Local Public Schools

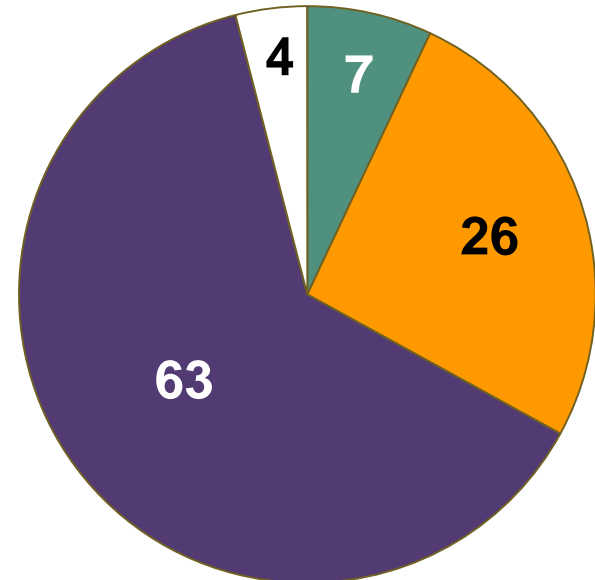
Overall, how would you rate the quality of public schools in your neighborhood today?



- A
- B
- C
- D or F
- Don't know

Do you think the current level of state funding for your local public schools is more than enough, just enough, or not enough?

All adults



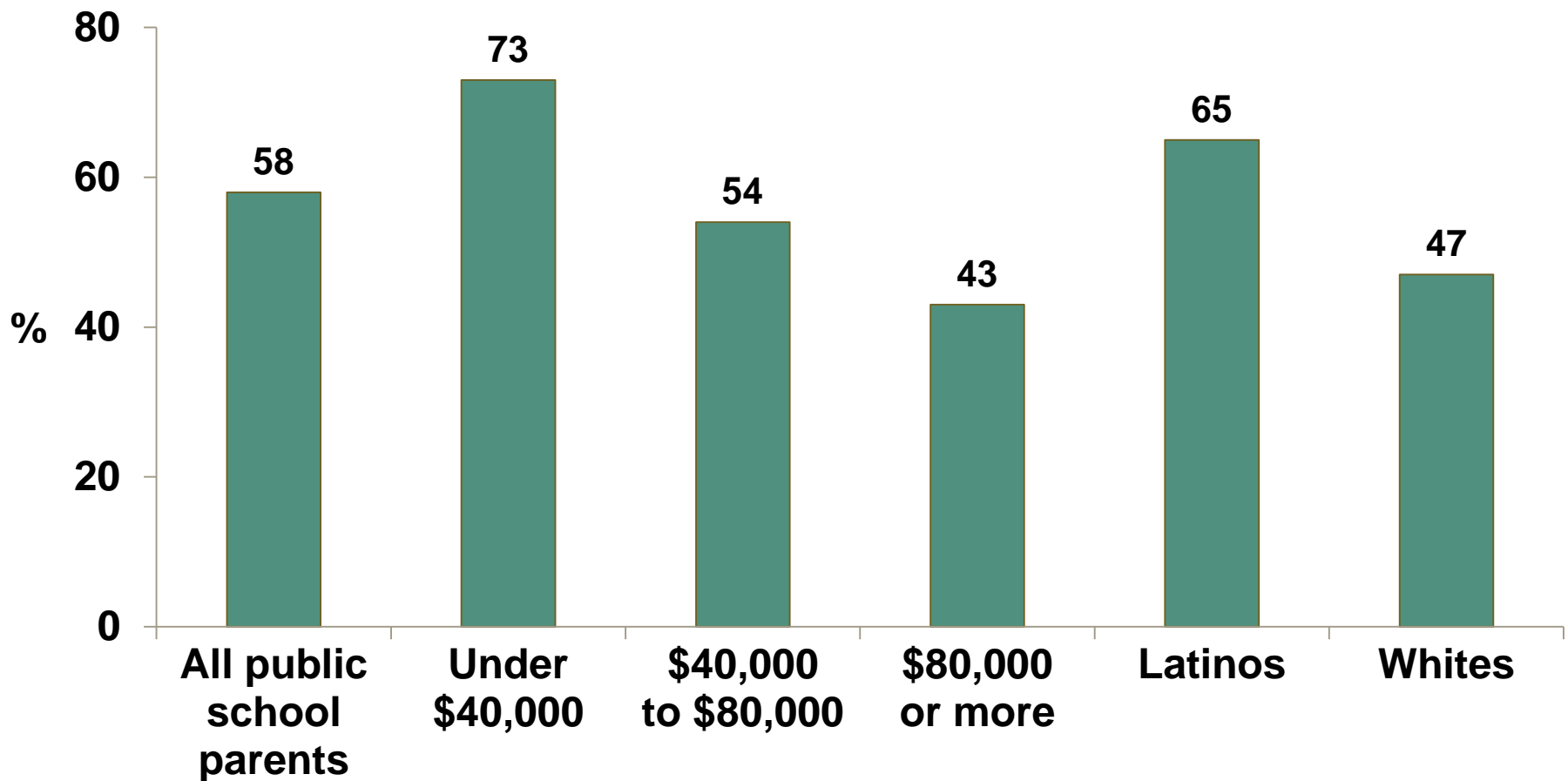
- More than enough
- Just enough
- Not enough
- Don't know



Parents' Concern About Teacher Layoffs

How concerned are you about teacher layoffs at your child's public school?

Percent of public school parents saying very concerned



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Conclusions

- 54% of likely voters would vote yes on governor's tax initiative; strongly oppose K-12 trigger cuts
- Majorities favor raising income taxes on wealthy, oppose raising sales tax, for education
- Strong support for local control of spending decisions
- More support for directing money to districts with low-income students than with English learners
- Most say funding not enough at local schools
- Lower-income, Latino parents more concerned than other parents about teacher layoffs



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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:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.

April 2012

