

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

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May 2012



Outline

- **PPIC Statewide Surveys**
- **2012 Elections**
- **State and 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
 - 266,000+ Californians since 1998
 - 125+ general, issue, and regional surveys



Californians and Their Government

- General series funded by The Irvine Foundation
- 2012 elections
 - Presidential candidates, June 5 state primary, governor's tax initiative
- State and national issues
 - Approval ratings, state budget, raising taxes, government waste
- Telephone interviews, May 14–20
 - 2,002 adults / 894 likely voters
 - *± 3.4% margin of error for adults*
 - *± 4.2% for likely voters*

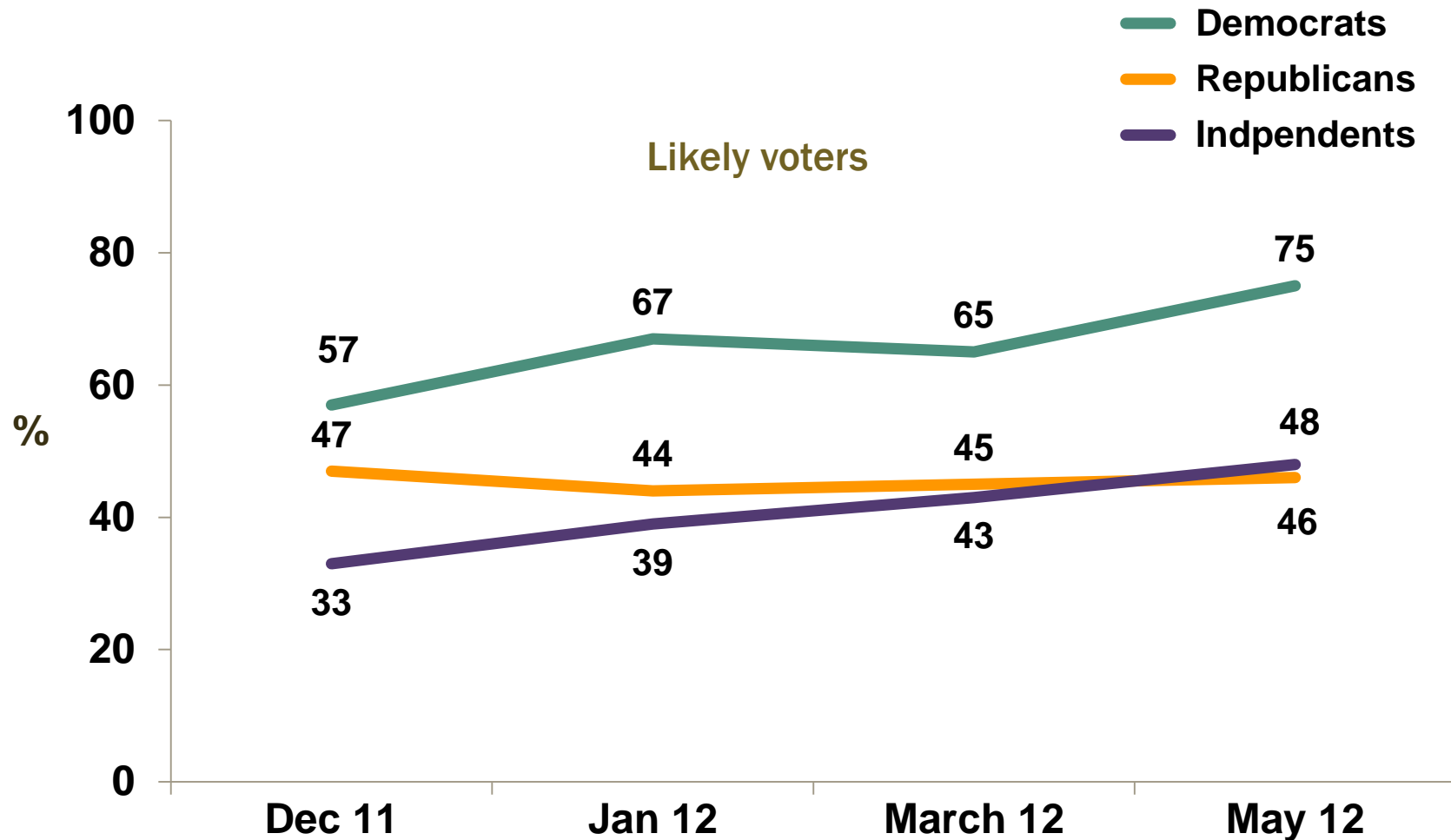


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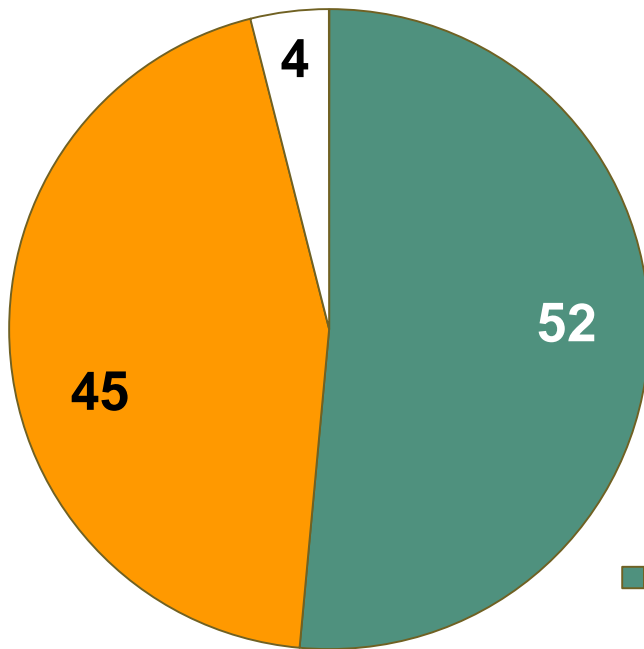
Satisfaction with Presidential Candidates



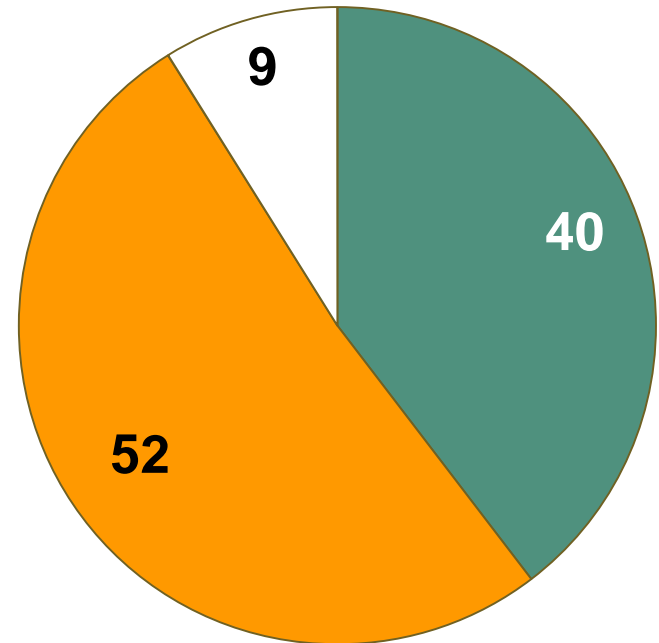
Candidate Favorability Ratings

Please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following presidential candidates. How about _____?

Barack Obama



Mitt Romney



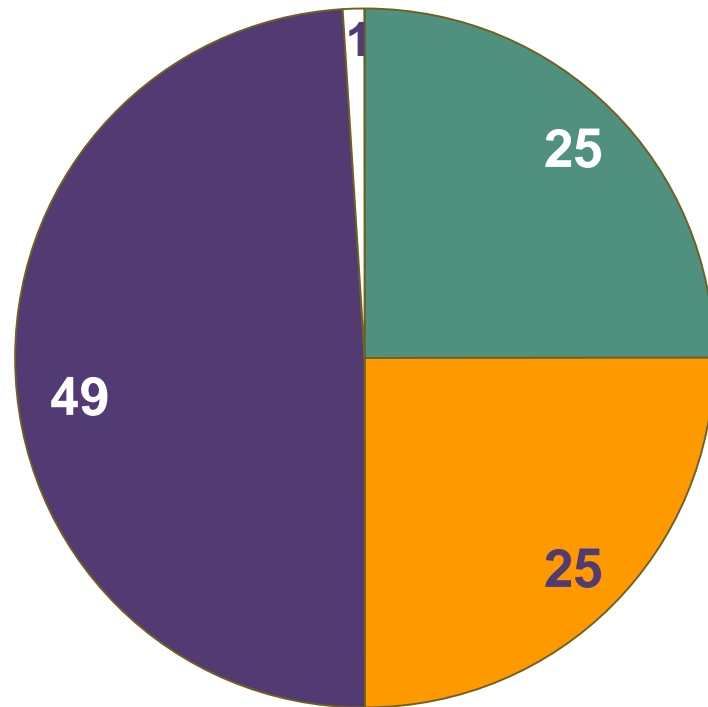
- Favorable
- Unfavorable
- Don't know/Never heard of him

Likely voters



Obama's Support for Same-Sex Marriage

Did President Obama expressing his support for gay marriage make you think more favorably of him, less favorably of him, or did it not affect your opinion of Barack Obama?



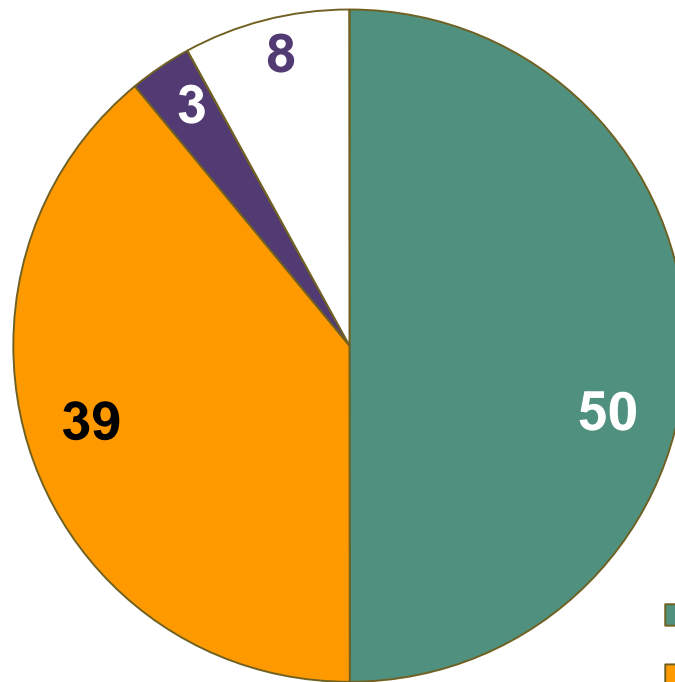
- More favorably
- Less favorably
- Did not affect opinion
- Don't know

Likely voters



Presidential Race

If the November 6th presidential election were being held today, would you vote for Barack Obama, the Democrat or Mitt Romney, the Republican?



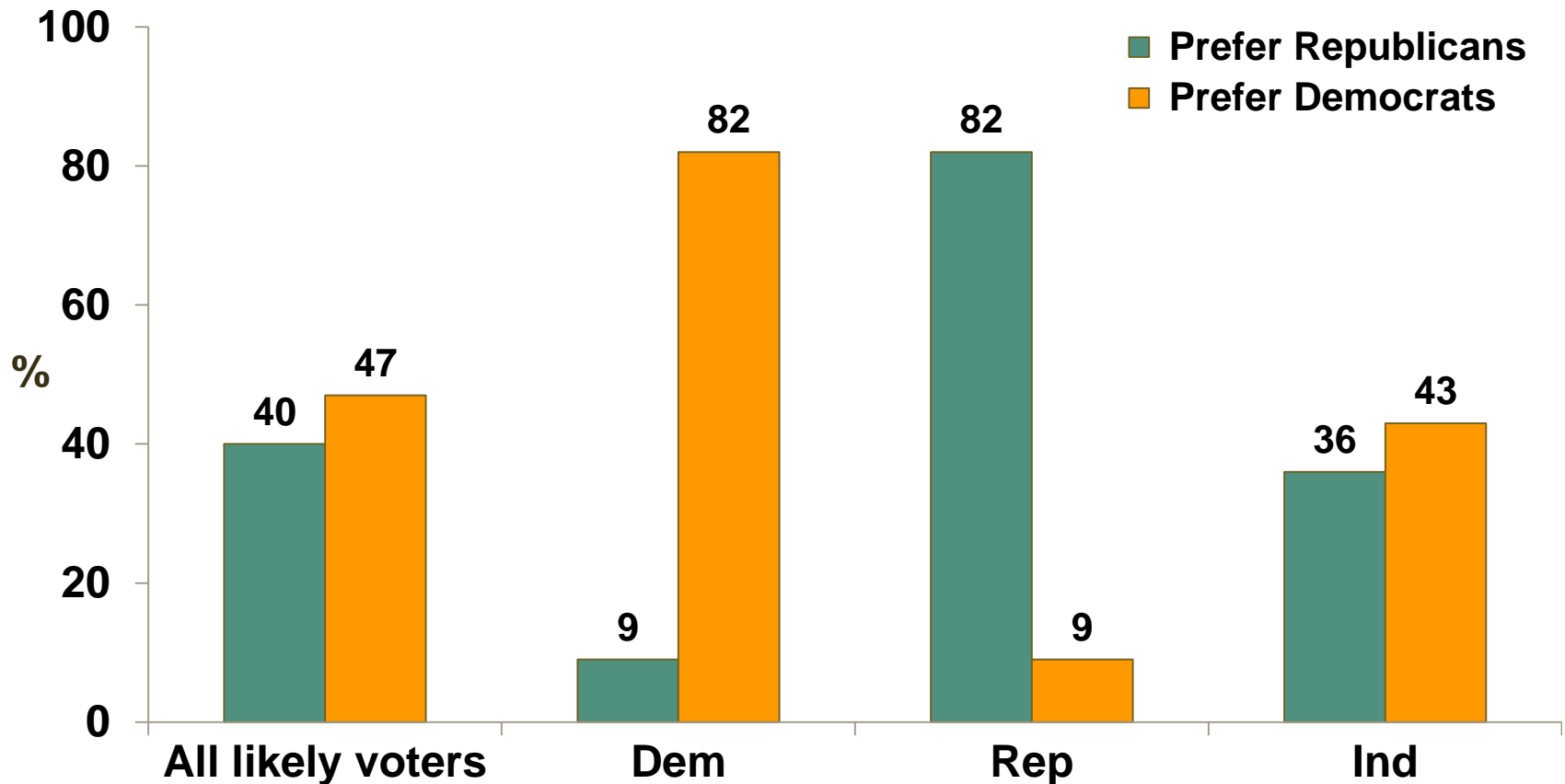
- Barack Obama, the Democrat
- Mitt Romney, the Republican
- Someone else (vol)
- Don't know

Likely voters



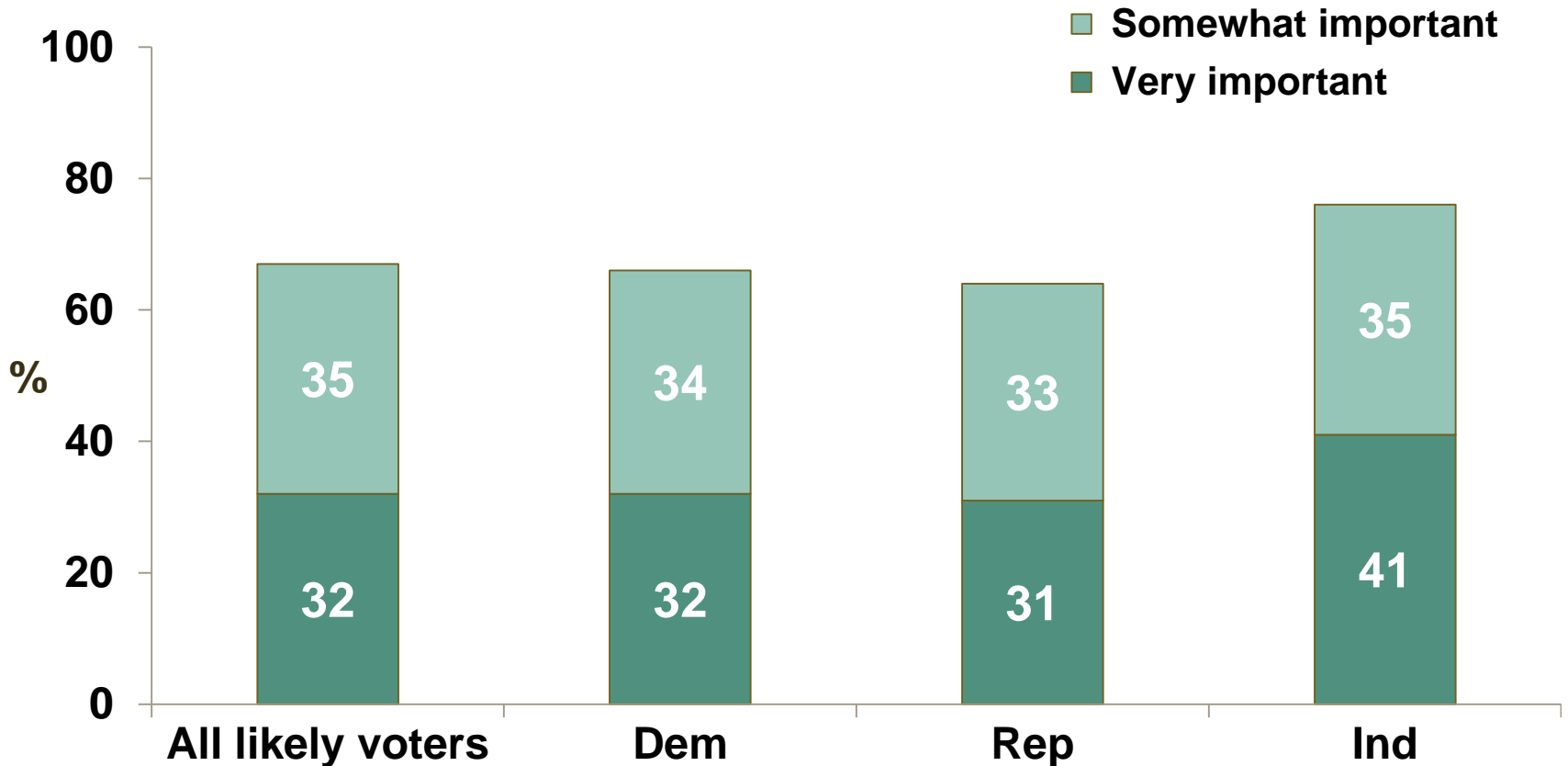
Congressional Elections

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



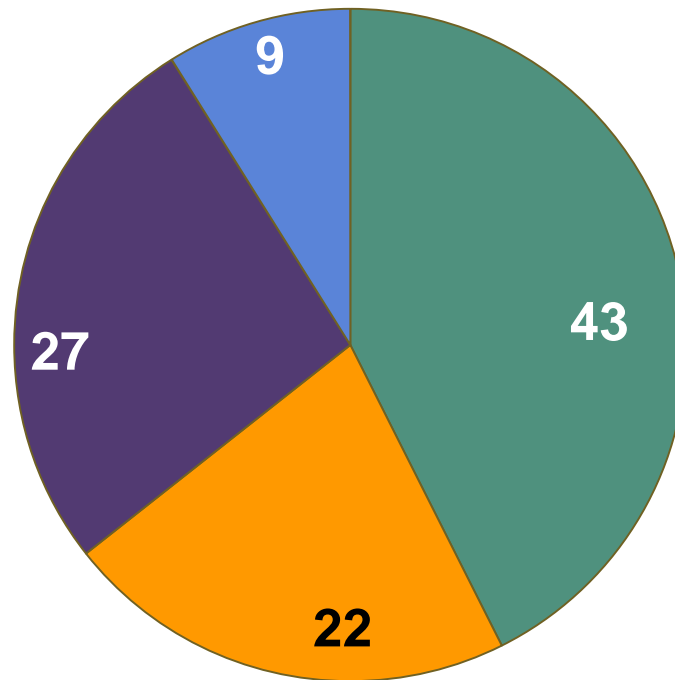
Importance of Top-two Primary System

How important to you is having the top-two primary system? Is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?



Top-two Primary System for California Elections

Do you think that having the top-two primary system is a good thing or a bad thing for California elections, or does it make no difference for California elections?



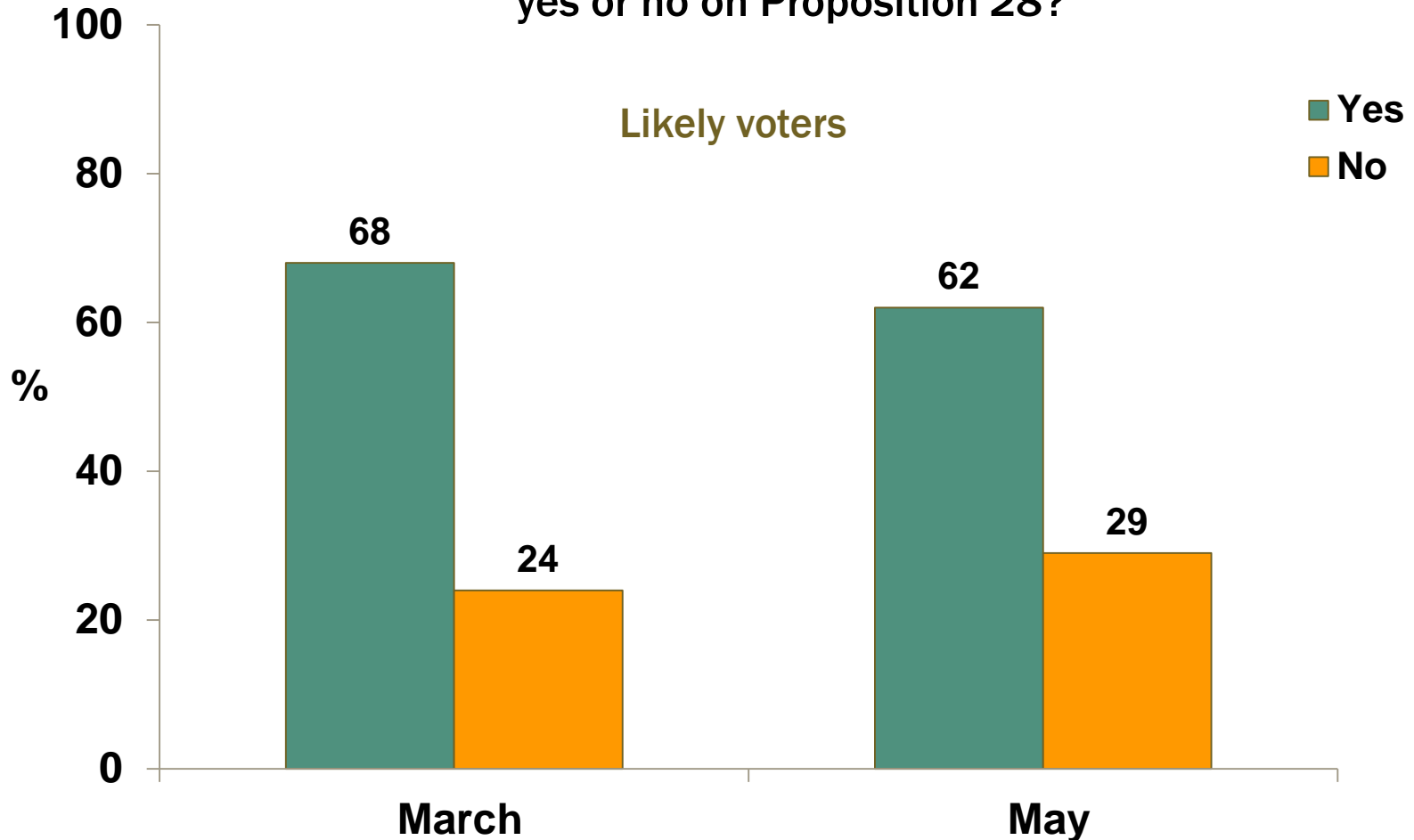
- Good thing
- Bad thing
- No difference
- Don't know

Likely voters



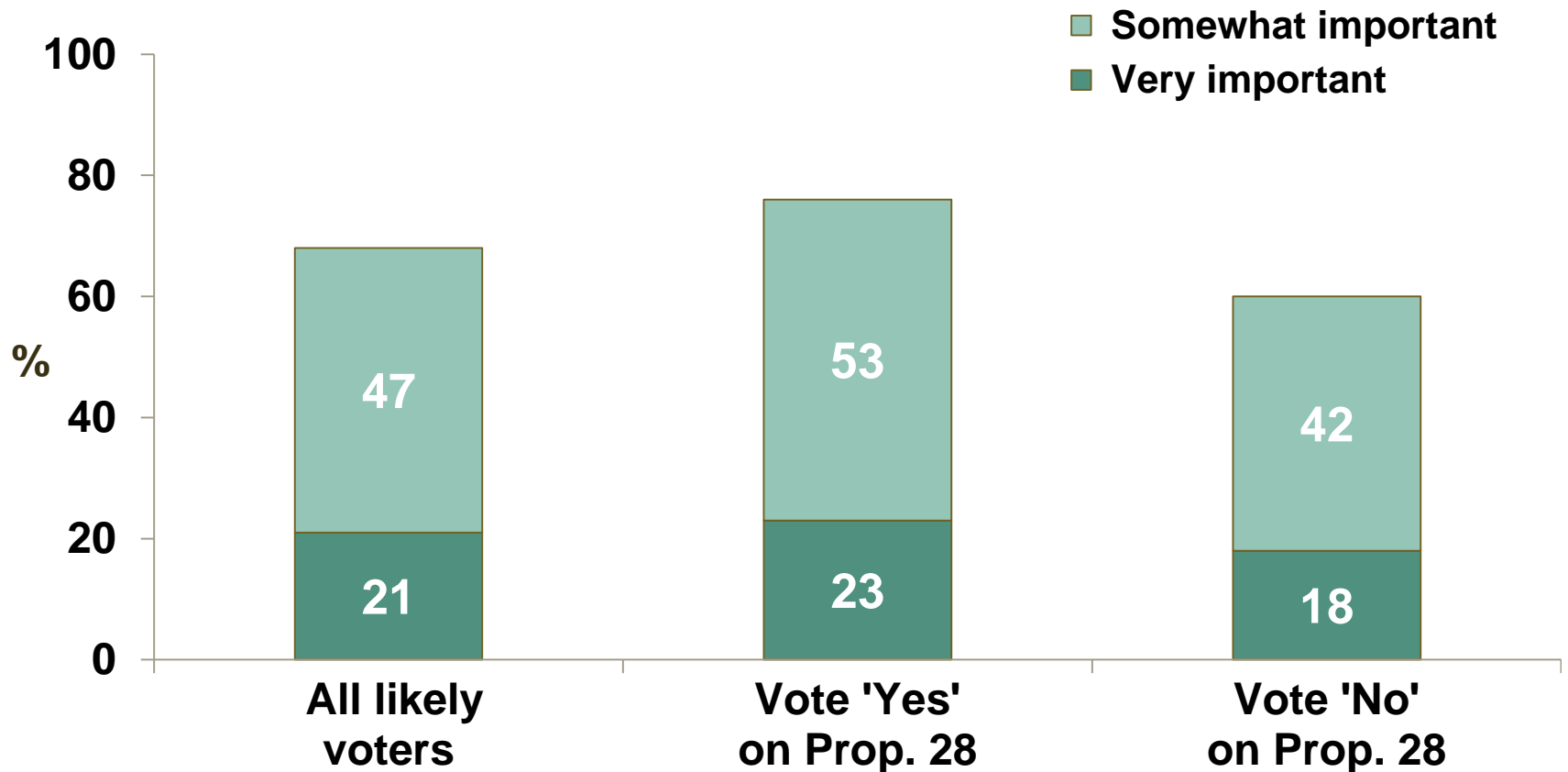
Vote on Proposition 28: Legislative Term Limits

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?



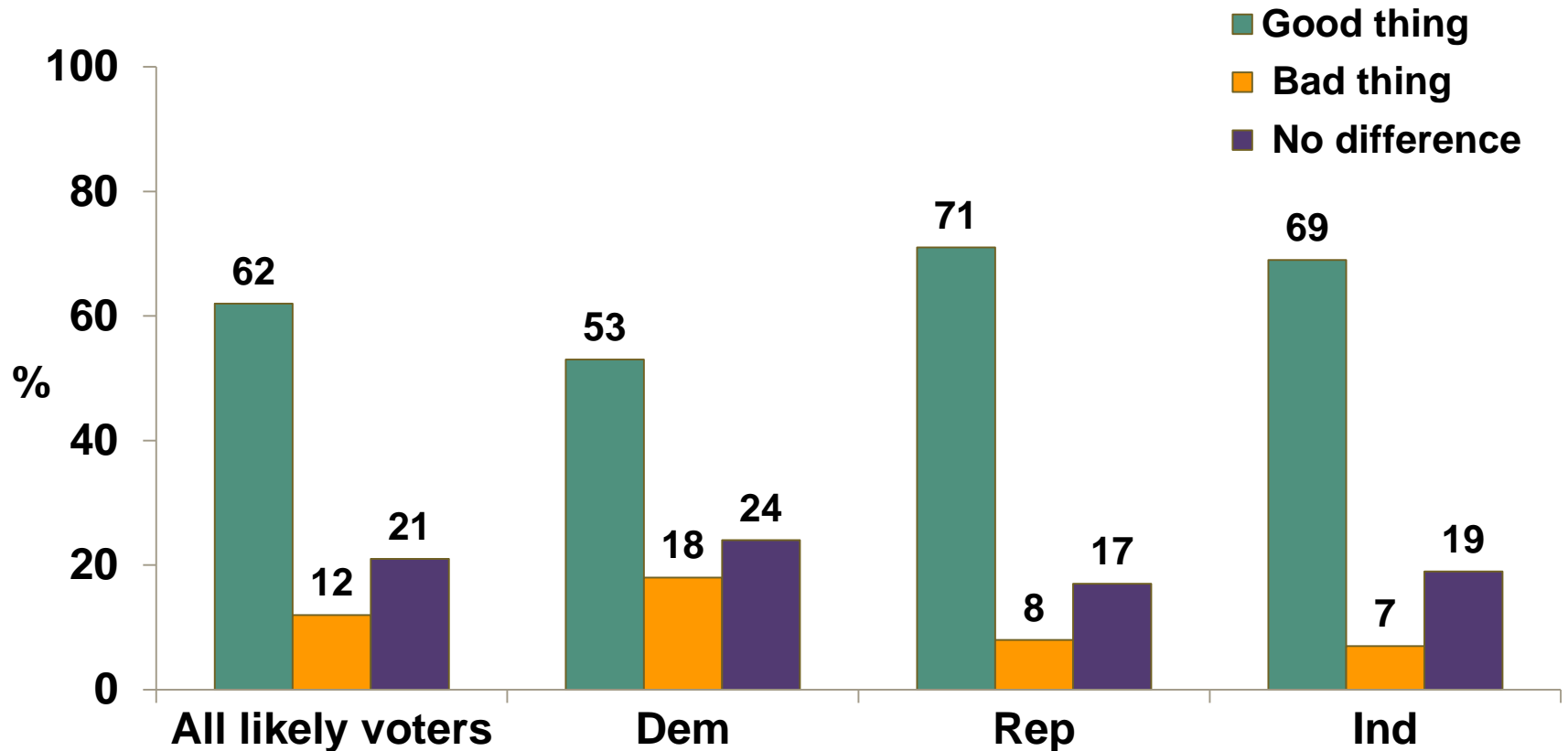
Importance of Prop. 28 Outcome

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



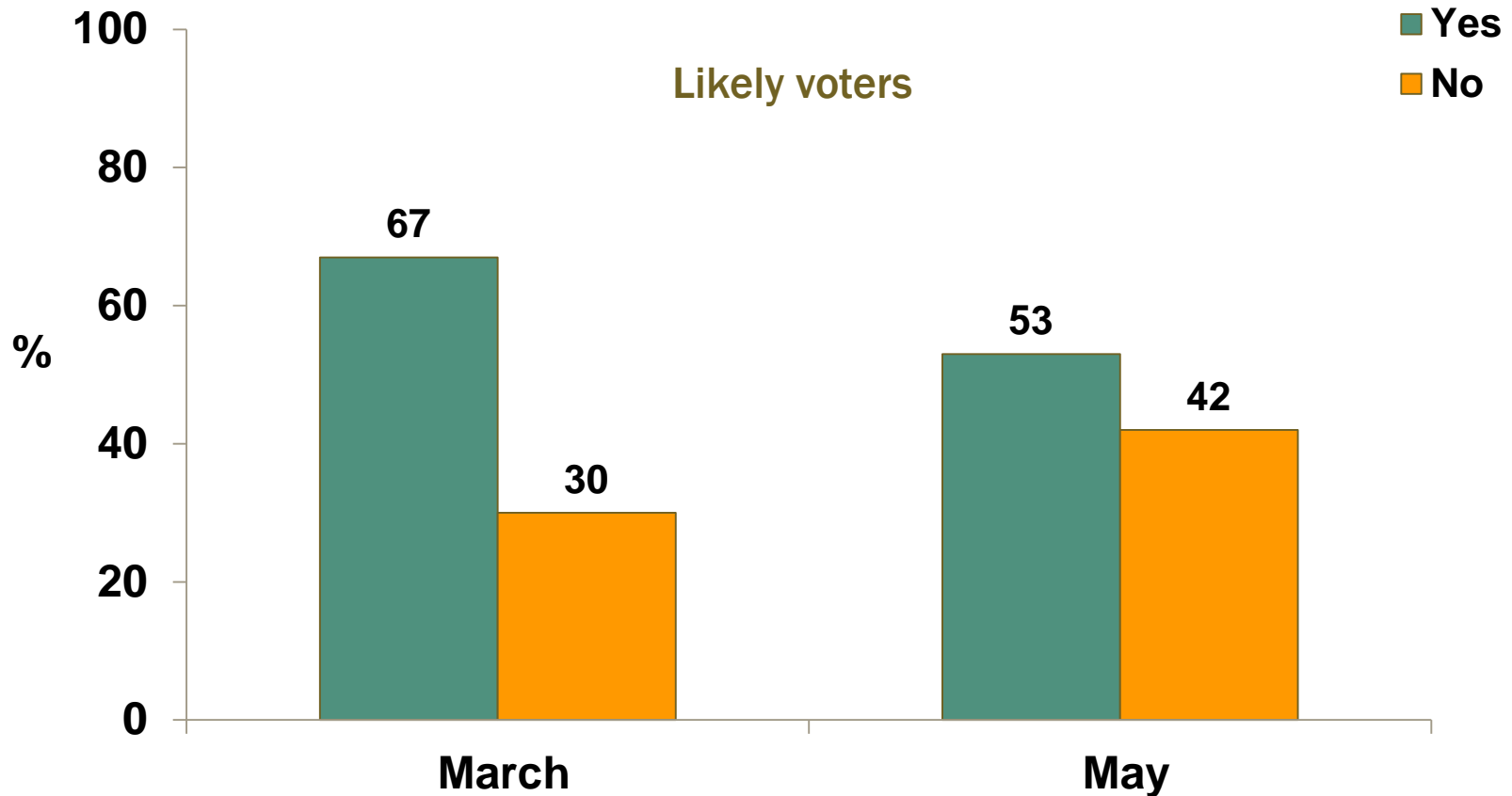
Term Limits in California

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?



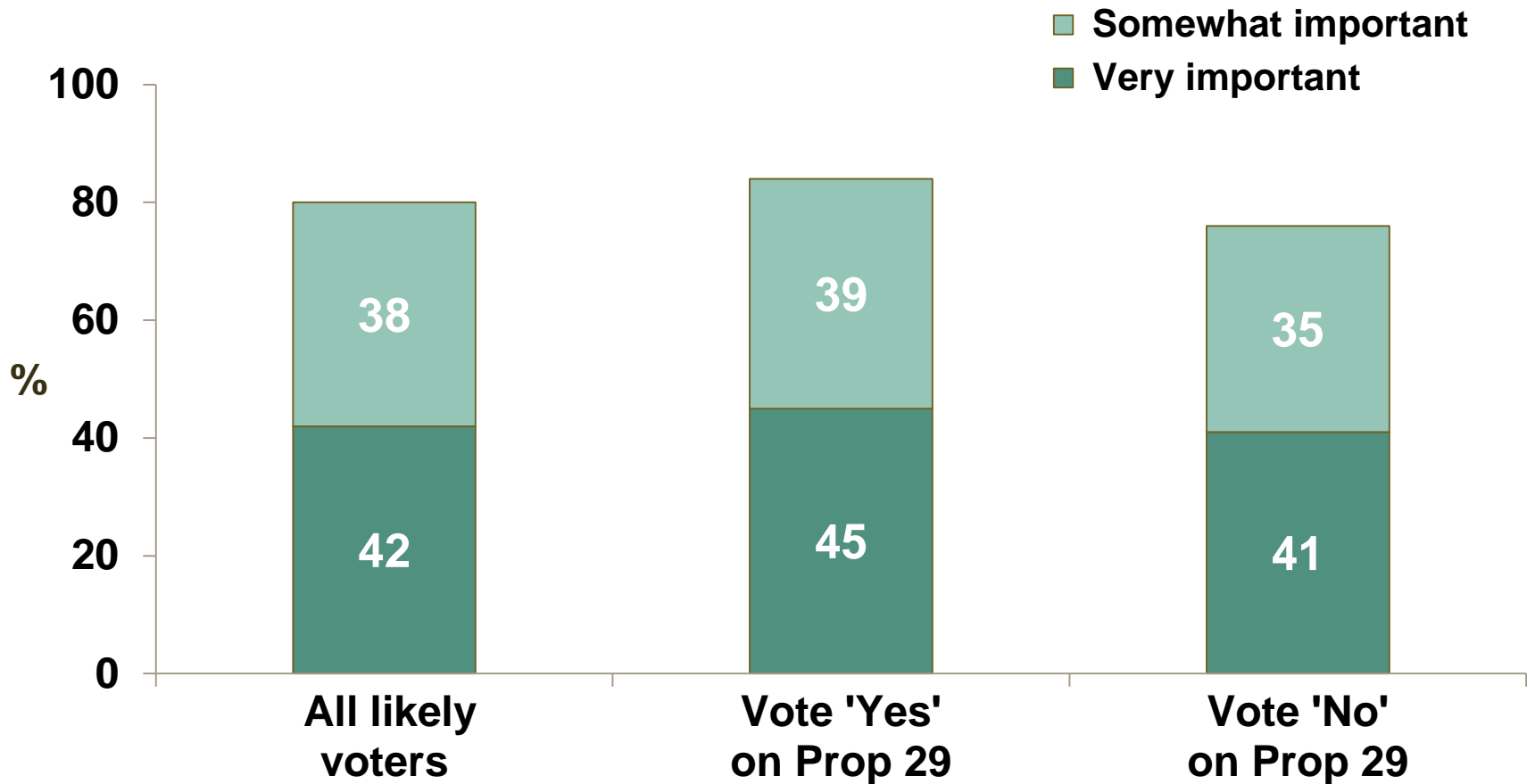
Vote on Proposition 29: Additional Tax on Cigarettes

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?



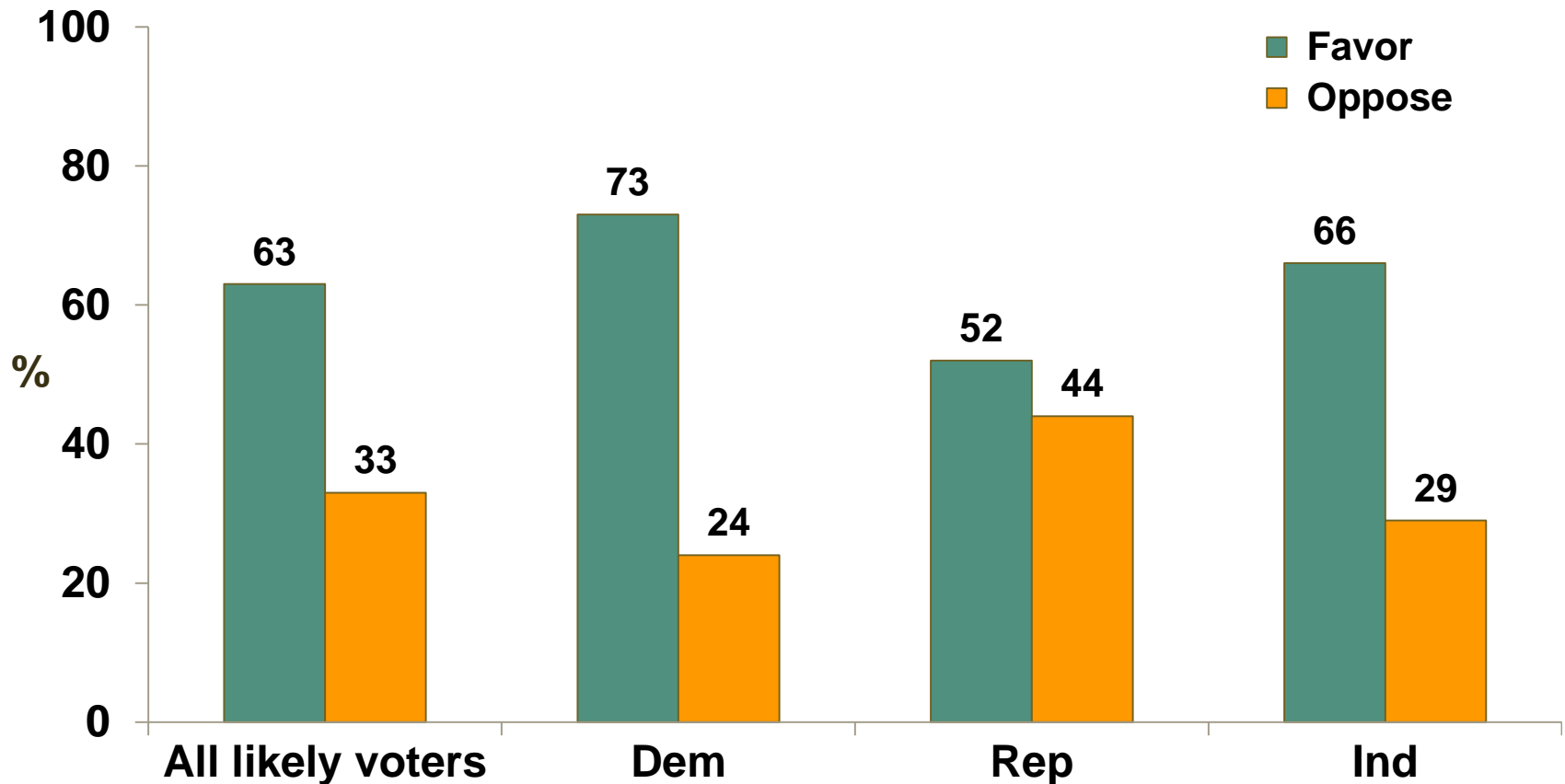
Importance of Prop. 29 Outcome

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



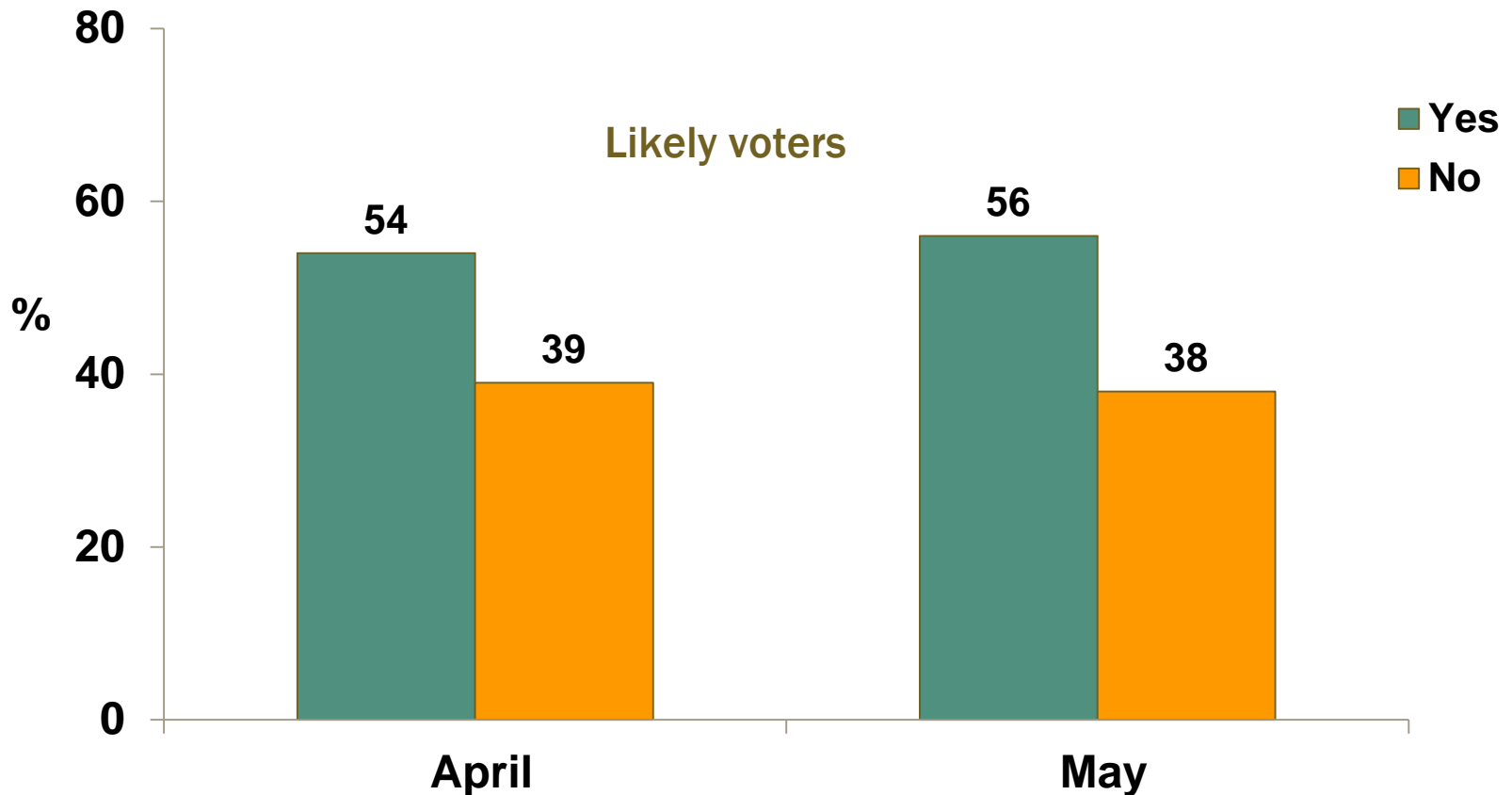
Taxing Cigarettes in General

In general, would you favor or oppose increasing taxes on the purchase of cigarettes?



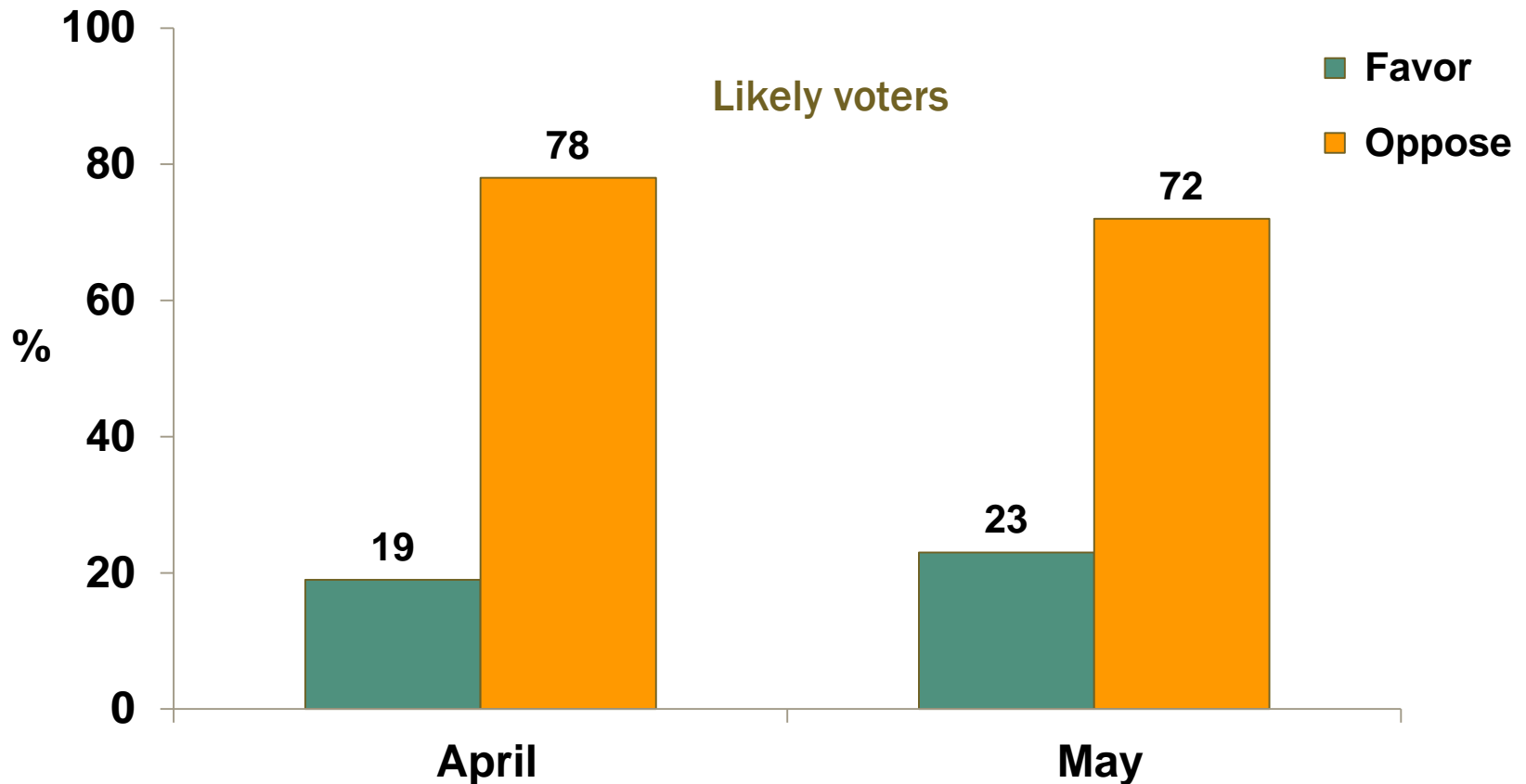
Governor Brown's Proposed Tax Initiative

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?

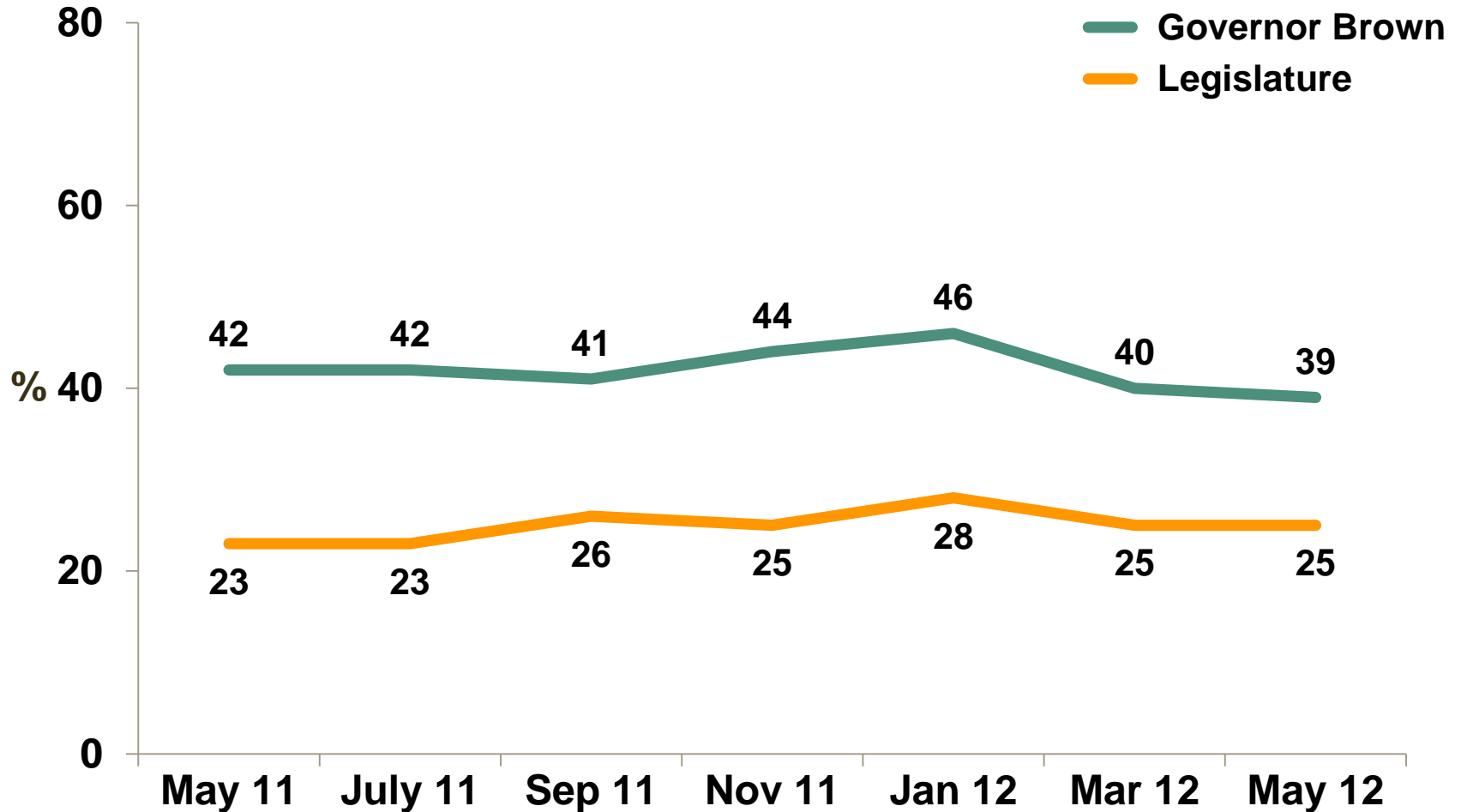


Outline

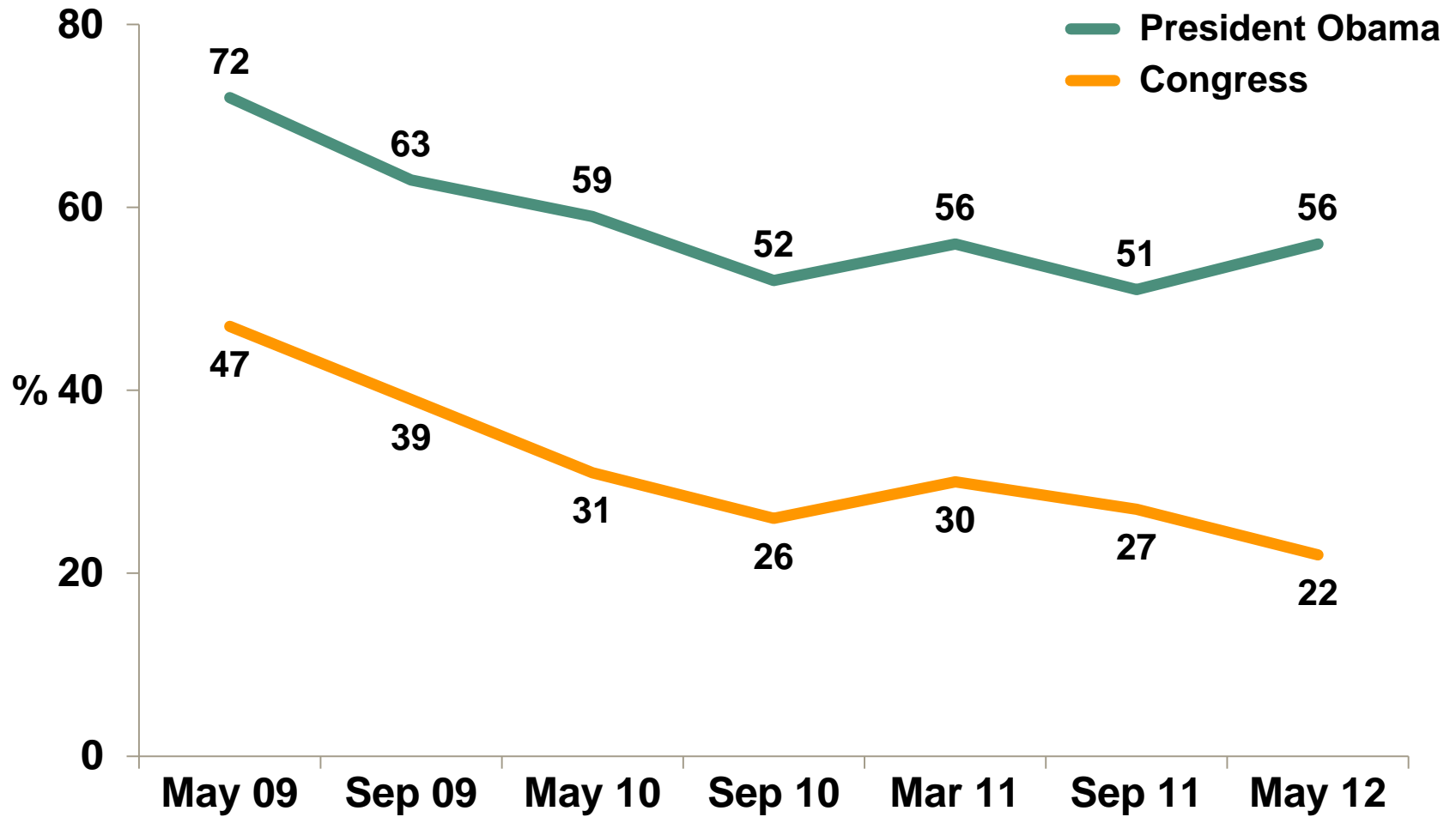
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Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

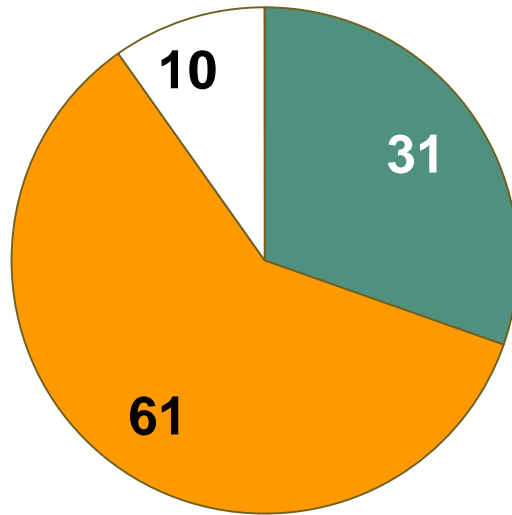


Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials



Economic Conditions

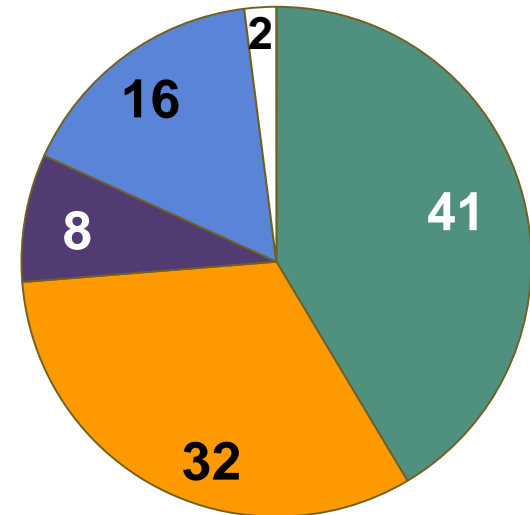
Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?



All adults

- 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?)

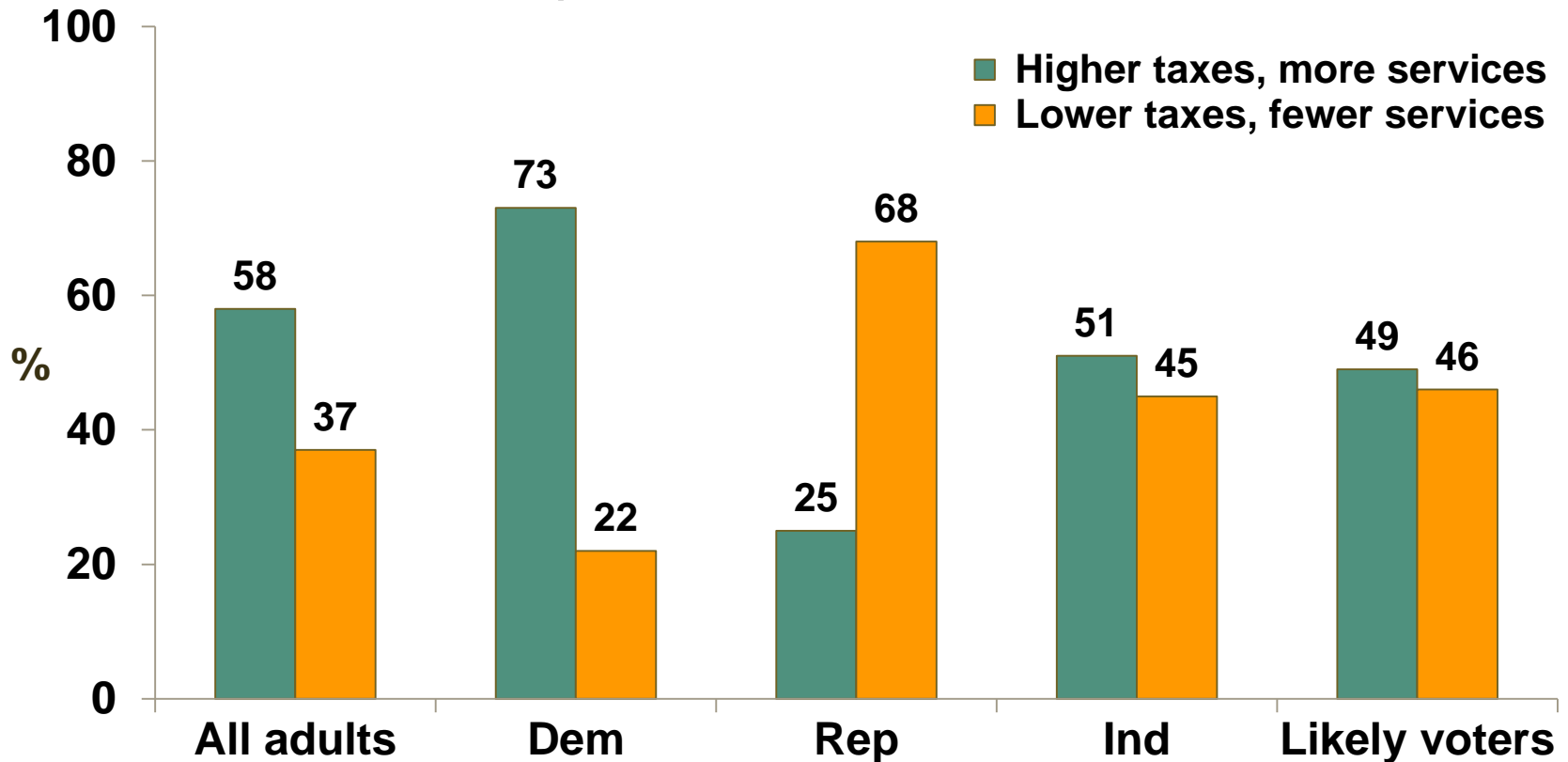


- Serious recession
- Moderate recession
- Mild recession
- Not in a recession
- Don't know



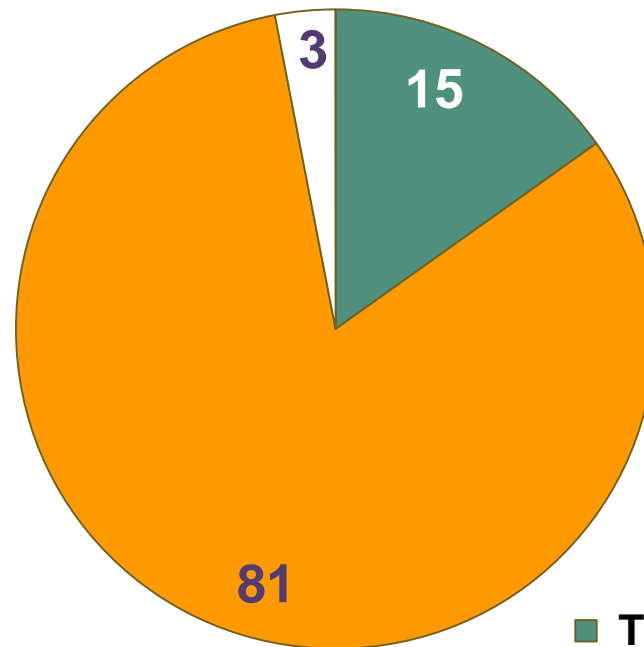
Preference for Taxes and Level of Government Services

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?



Preference for Making Tough Budget Choices

And when it comes to the tough choices involved in the state budget this year, would you prefer that the governor and legislature make all of the decisions about spending and taxes; that California voters make some of the decisions about spending and taxes at the ballot box?



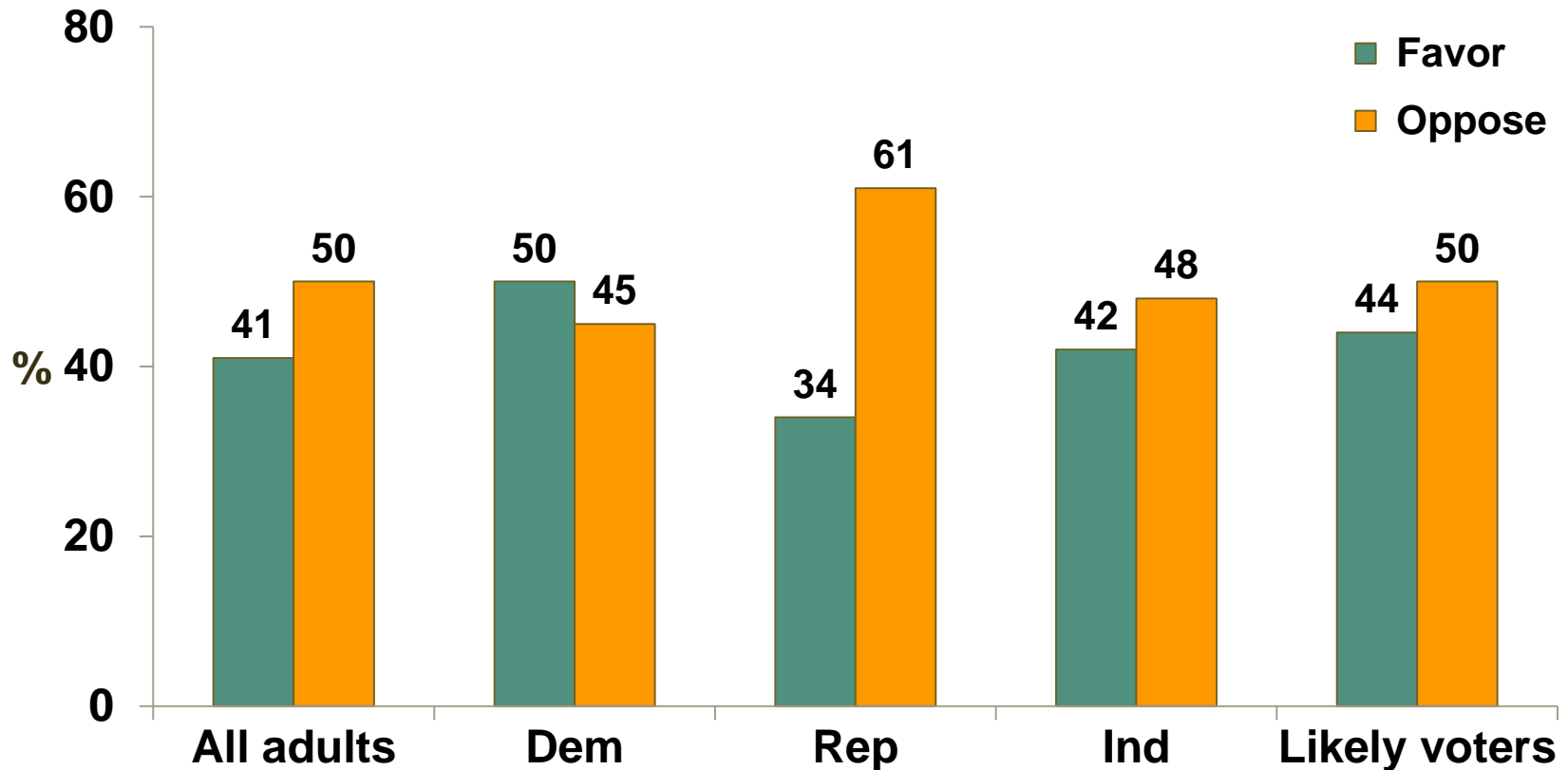
- The governor and legislature
- California voters
- Don't know

Likely voters



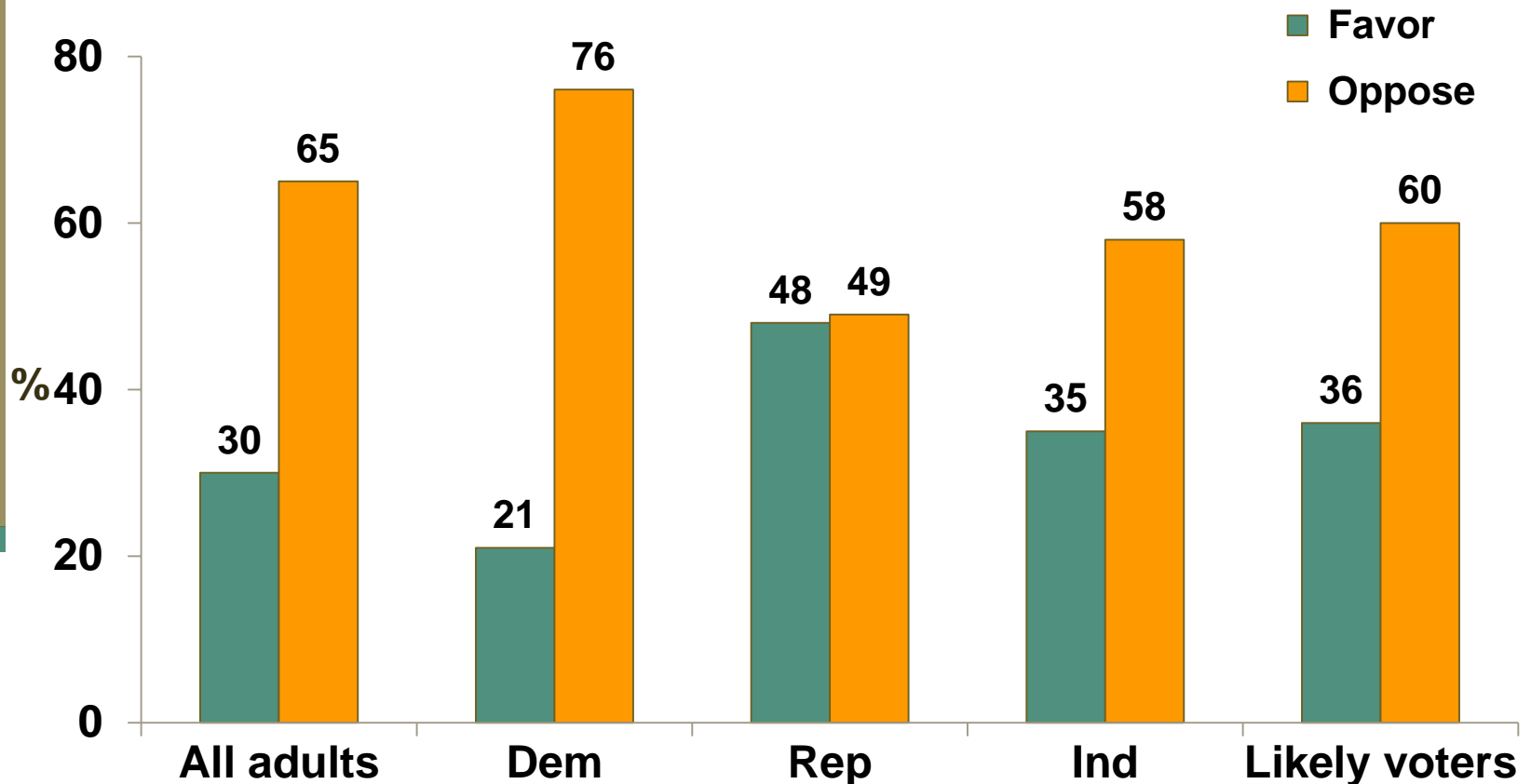
Governor's Revised Budget Plan

Governor Brown recently released a revised budget plan for the next fiscal year to close the state's projected \$15.7 billion dollar budget deficit...In general, do you favor or oppose the governor's budget plan?



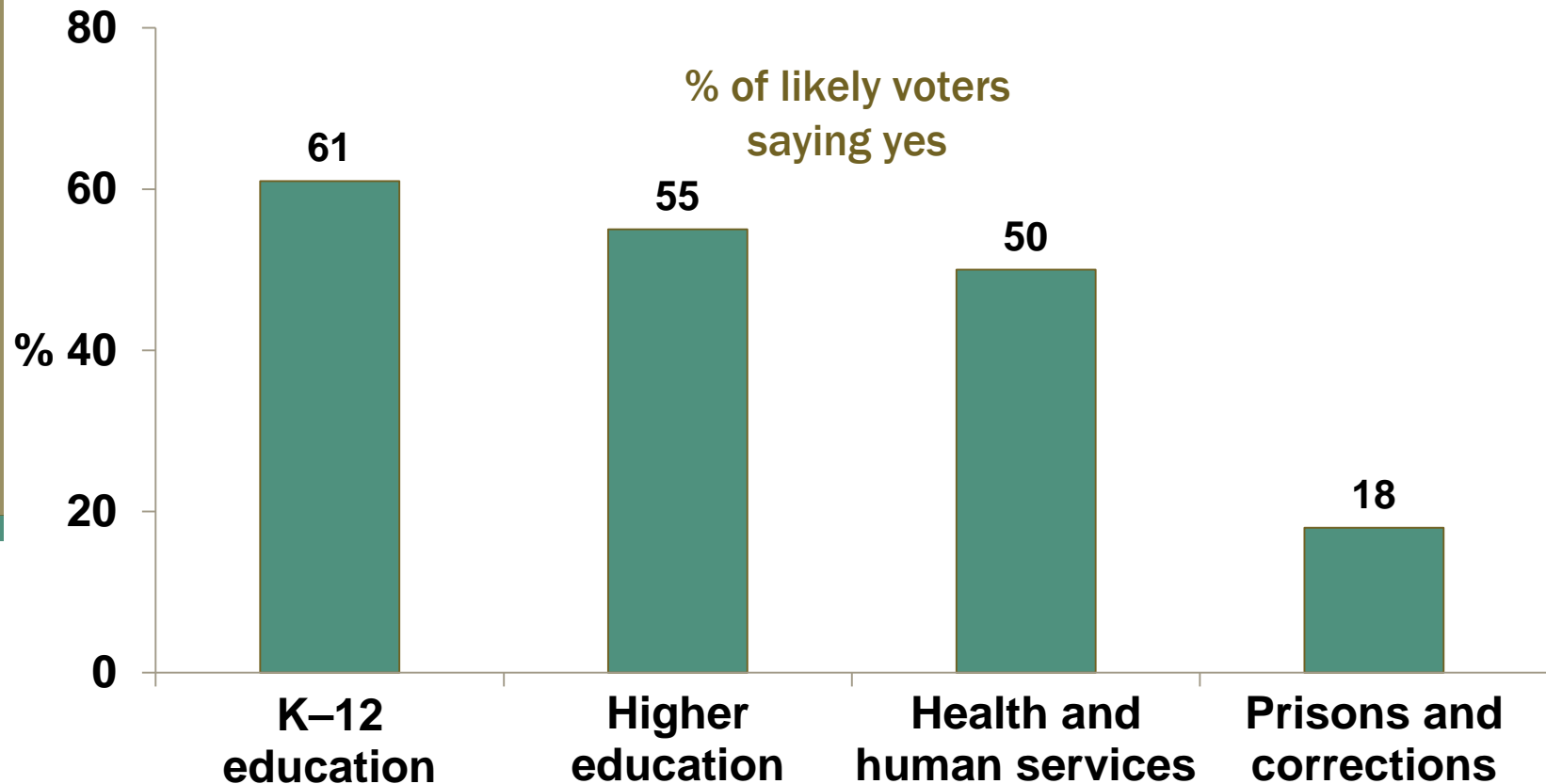
Social Service Cuts in Budget Plan

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



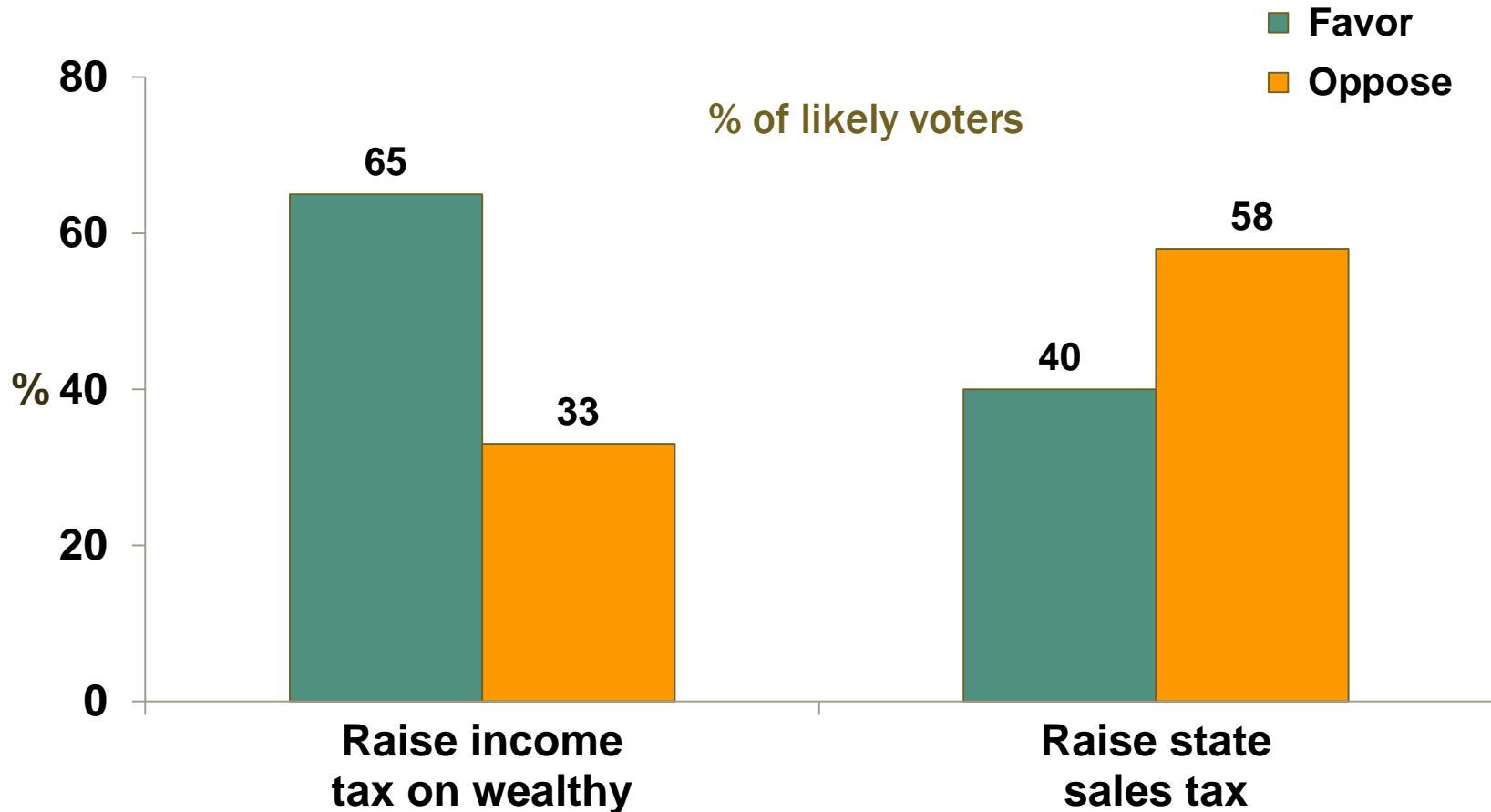
Raising Revenues for Specific Budget Areas

Tax increases could be used to help reduce the state budget deficit. For each of the following areas of state spending, please indicate whether you would be willing to pay higher taxes, or not.



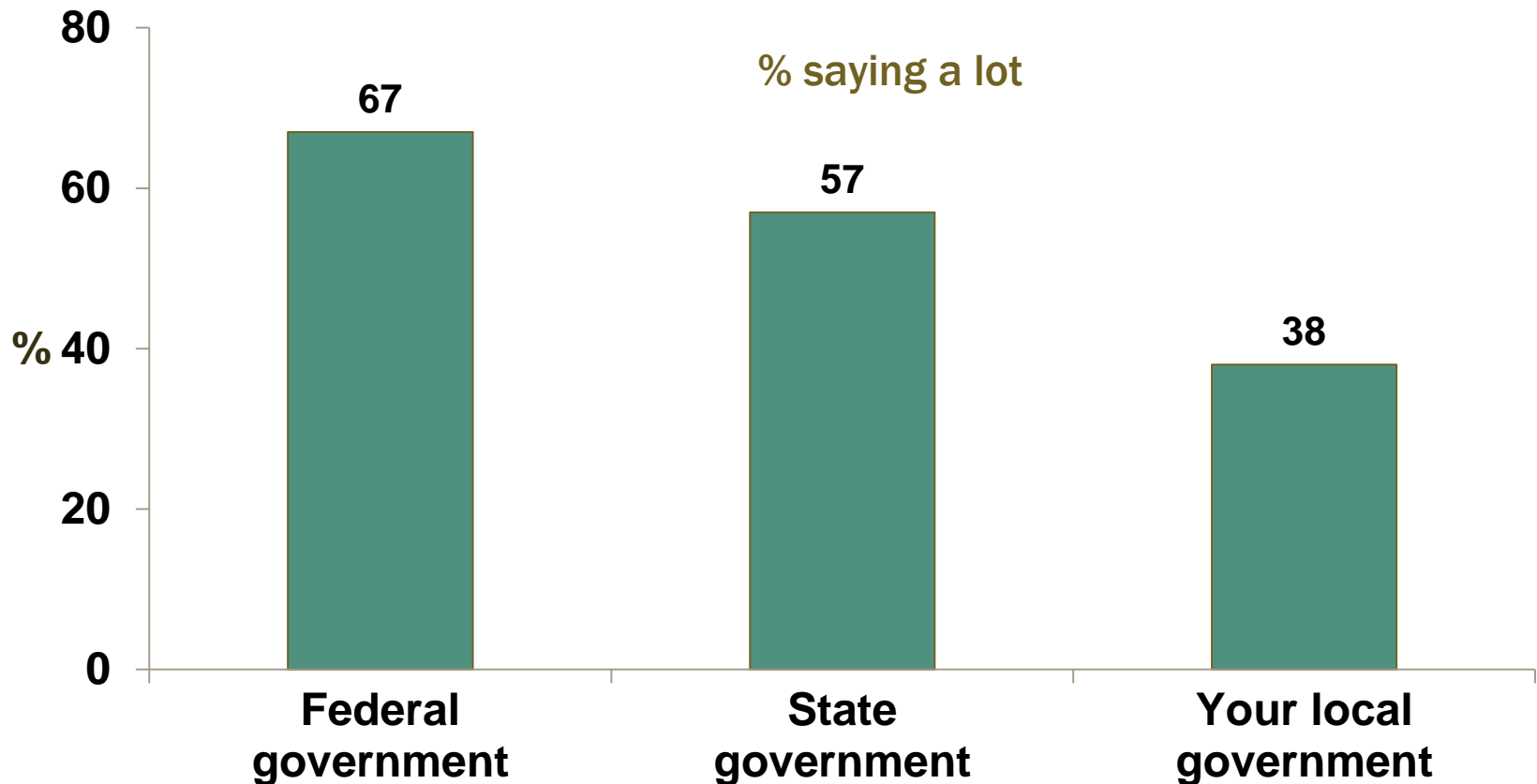
State Revenue Sources

For each of the following, please say if you favor or oppose the proposal.



Trust in Government Spending

Do you think the people in ... waste a lot of the money we pay in taxes, waste some of it, or don't waste very much of it?



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Conclusions

- Obama leads Romney in presidential matchup
- Big decline in support for Prop 29 (taxing cigarettes), slight decline for Prop 28 (term limits) since March
- A majority of likely voters support the governor's proposed tax initiative
- Half oppose the governor's revised budget plan
- Vast majority say voters should be involved in making state budget decisions
- Majorities say federal and state government wastes a lot; fewer say this about localities



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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