

# PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and the Environment

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*July 2012*



# Outline

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- **PPIC Statewide Surveys**
- **Government Ratings, Air Pollution**
- **Climate Change, Energy Policy**
- **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
  - 268,000+ Californians since 1998
  - 127 general, issue, and regional surveys



# Californians and the Environment

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- Conducted with funding from The Hewlett Foundation
- 12th annual survey on environmental issues
- Presidential election, approval ratings, air pollution, health risks, and air standards
- Global warming (perceptions and policies), cap and trade, energy policy, fracking
- Telephone interviews, July 10–24
  - 2,500 adults; 1,131 likely voters
    - $\pm 2.9\%$  *margin of error for adults*
    - $\pm 3.6\%$  *for likely voters*



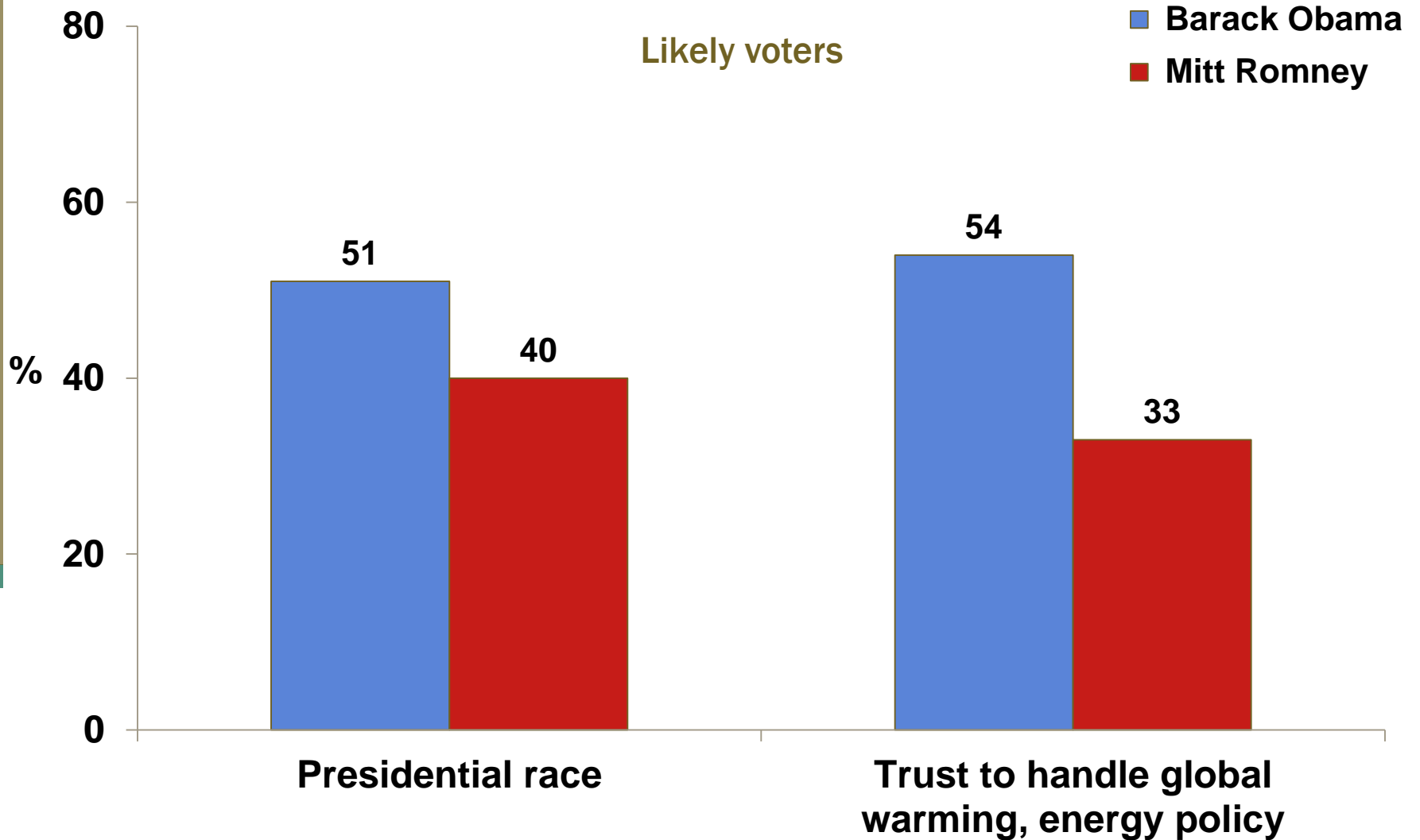
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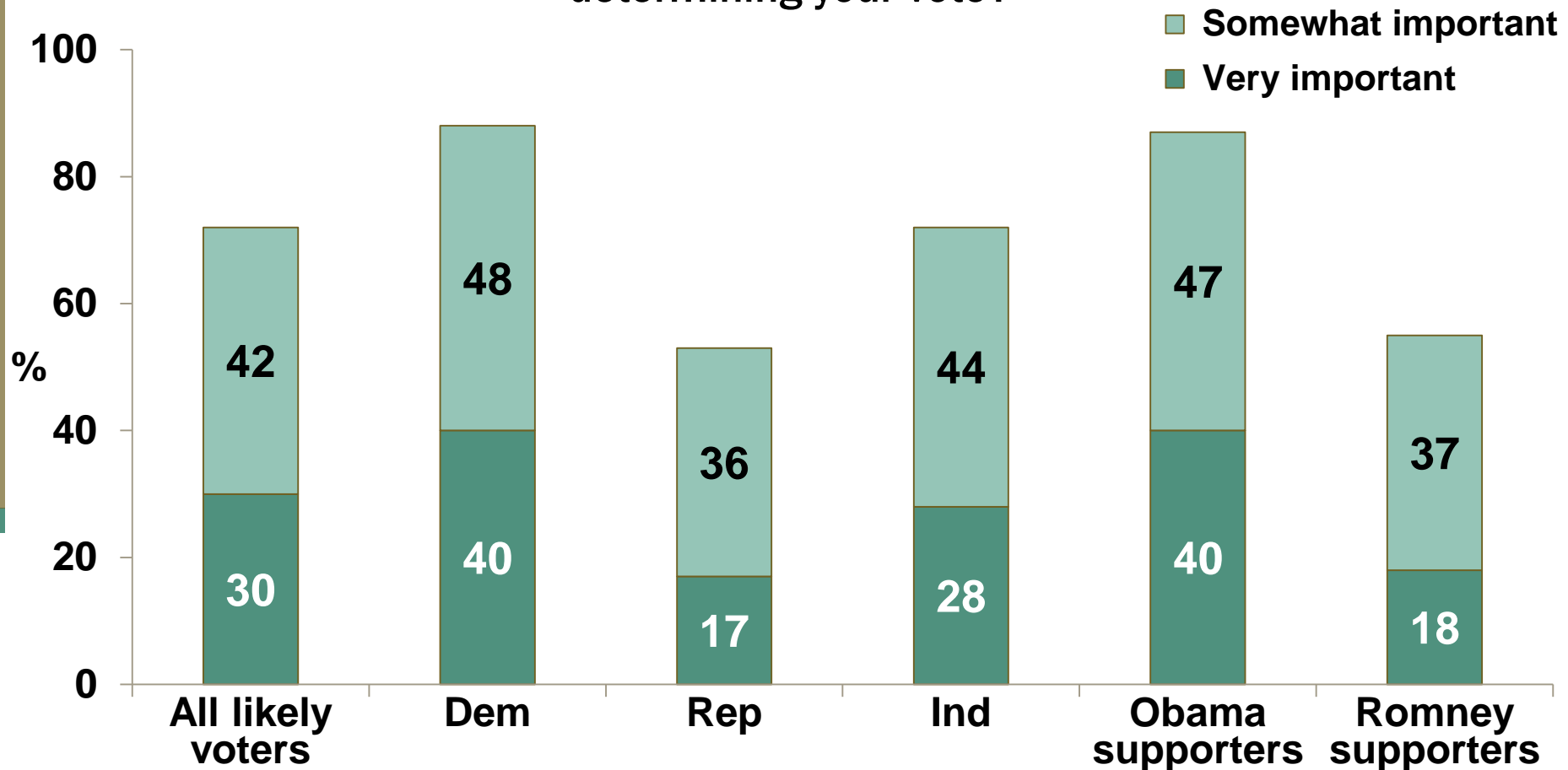


# 2012 Presidential Election

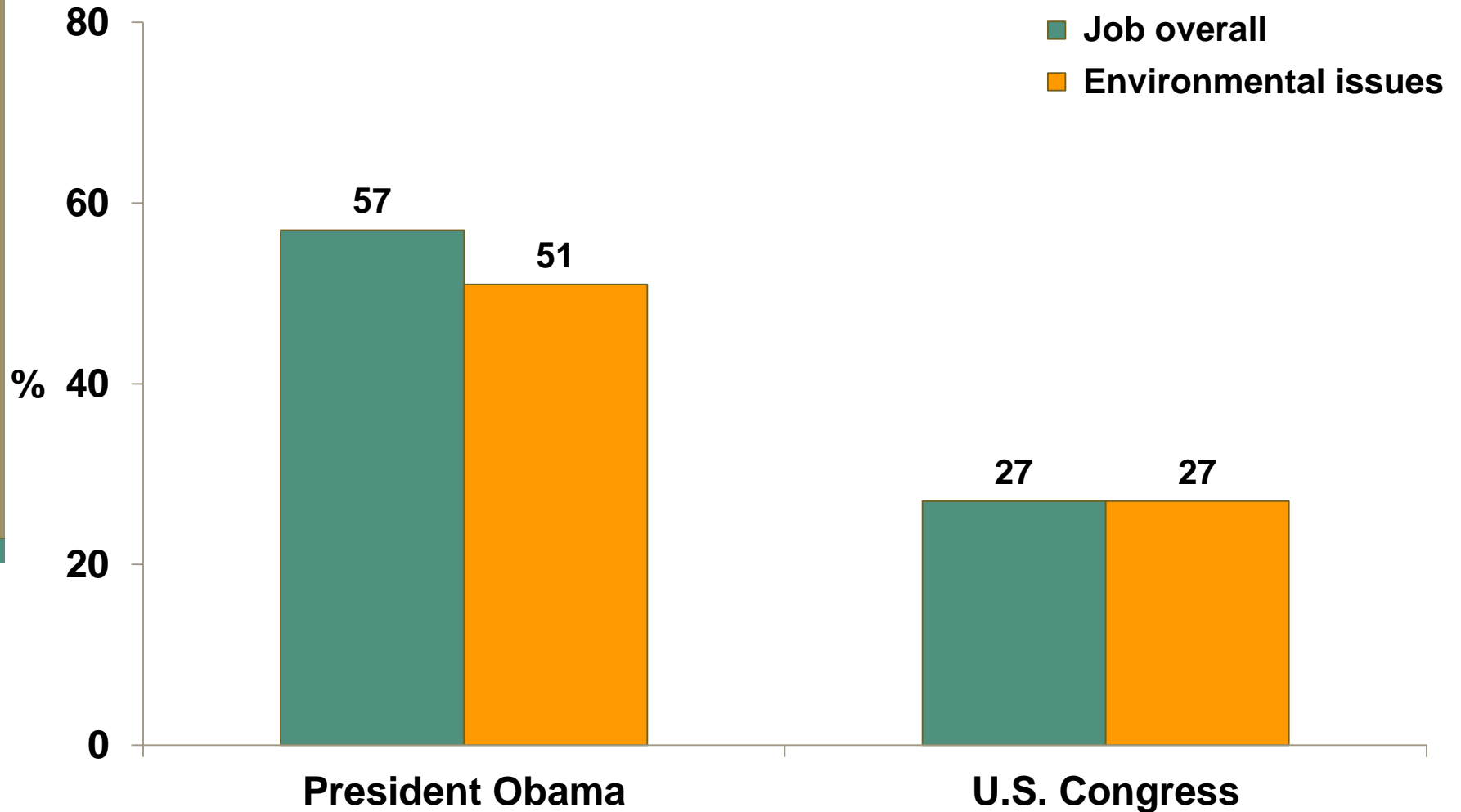


# Candidate Positions on Global Warming and Energy Policy

In thinking about the presidential election in November, how important to you are the candidates' positions on global warming and energy policy in determining your vote?

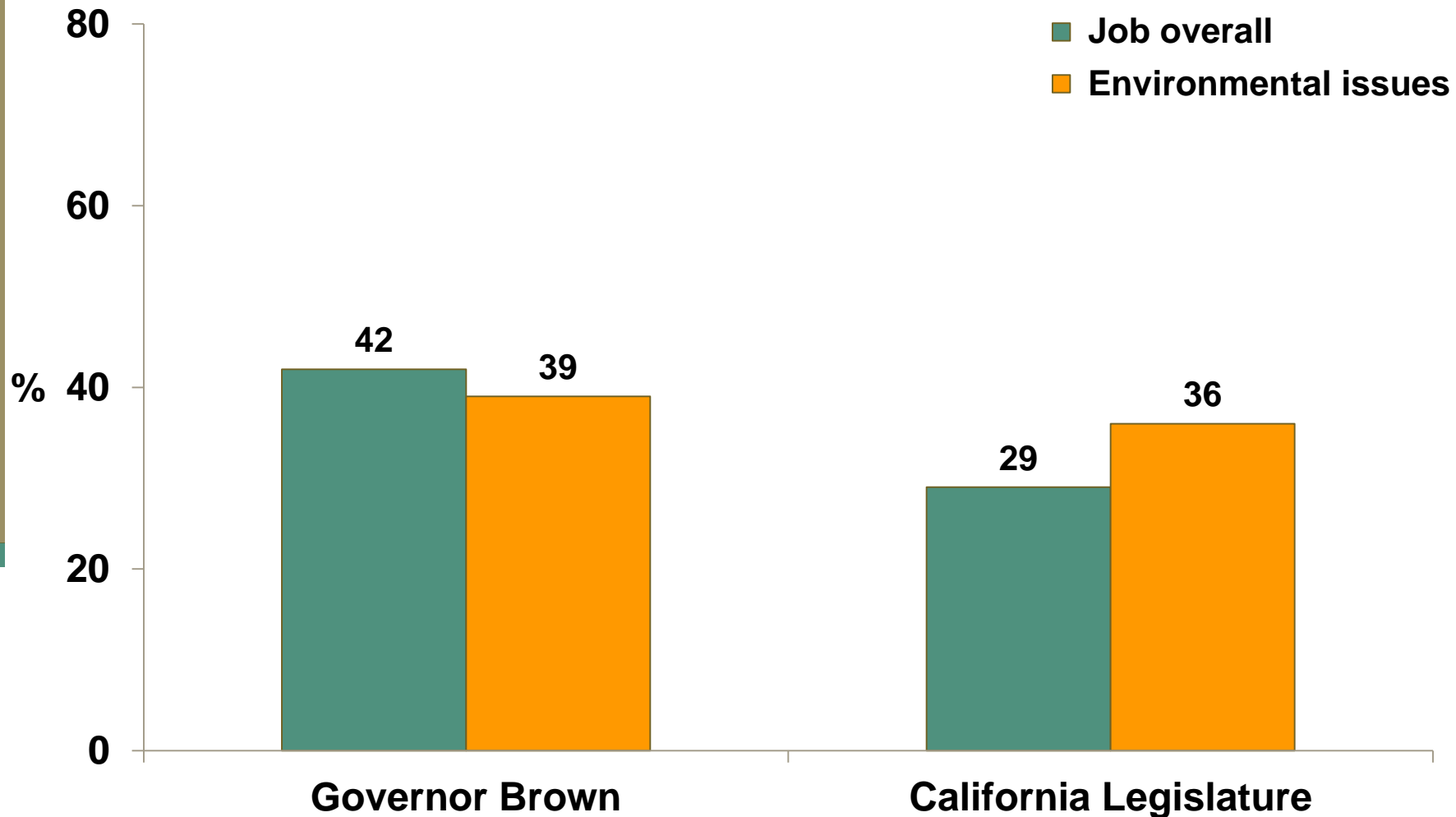


# Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials



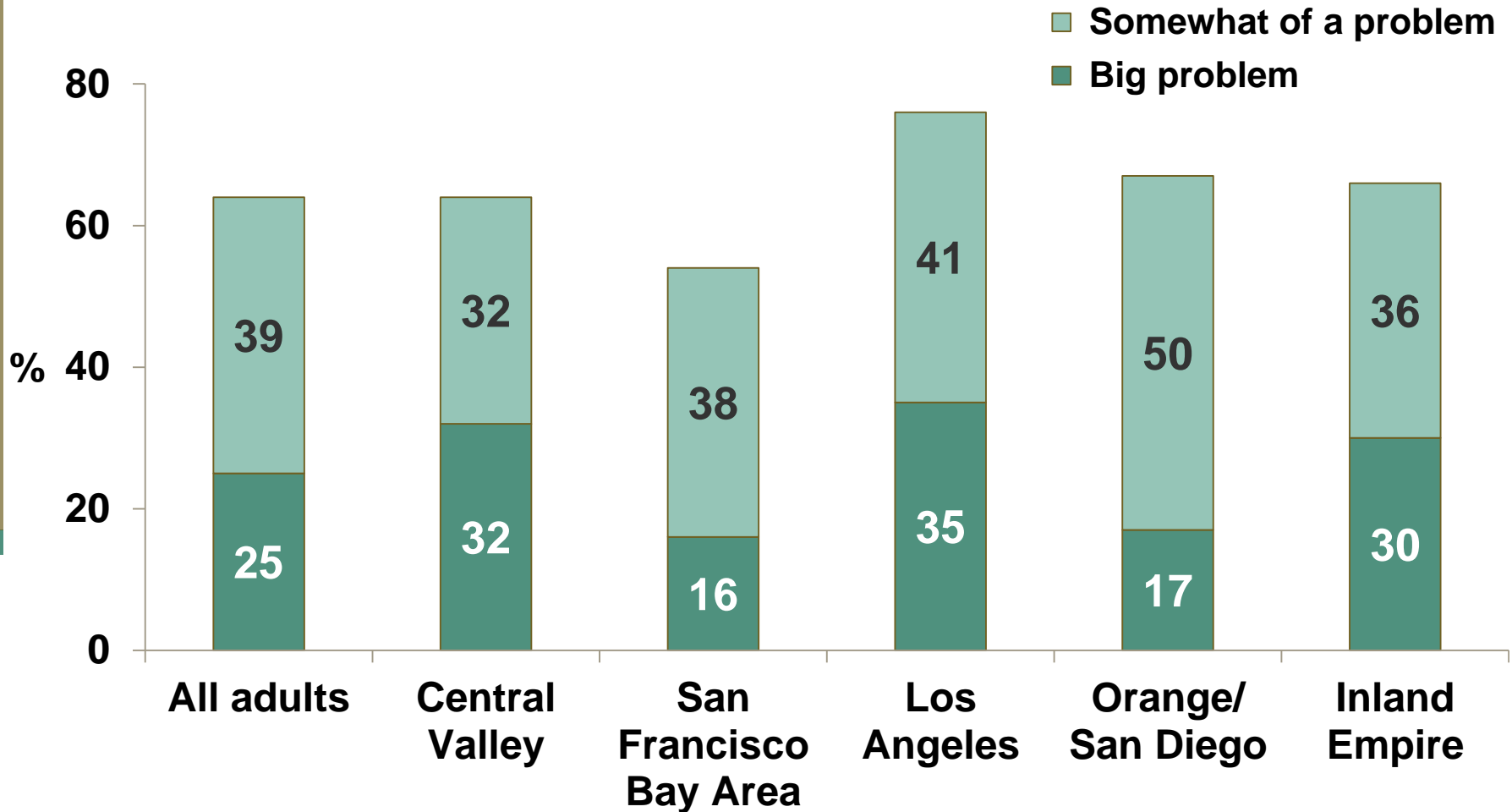


# Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials



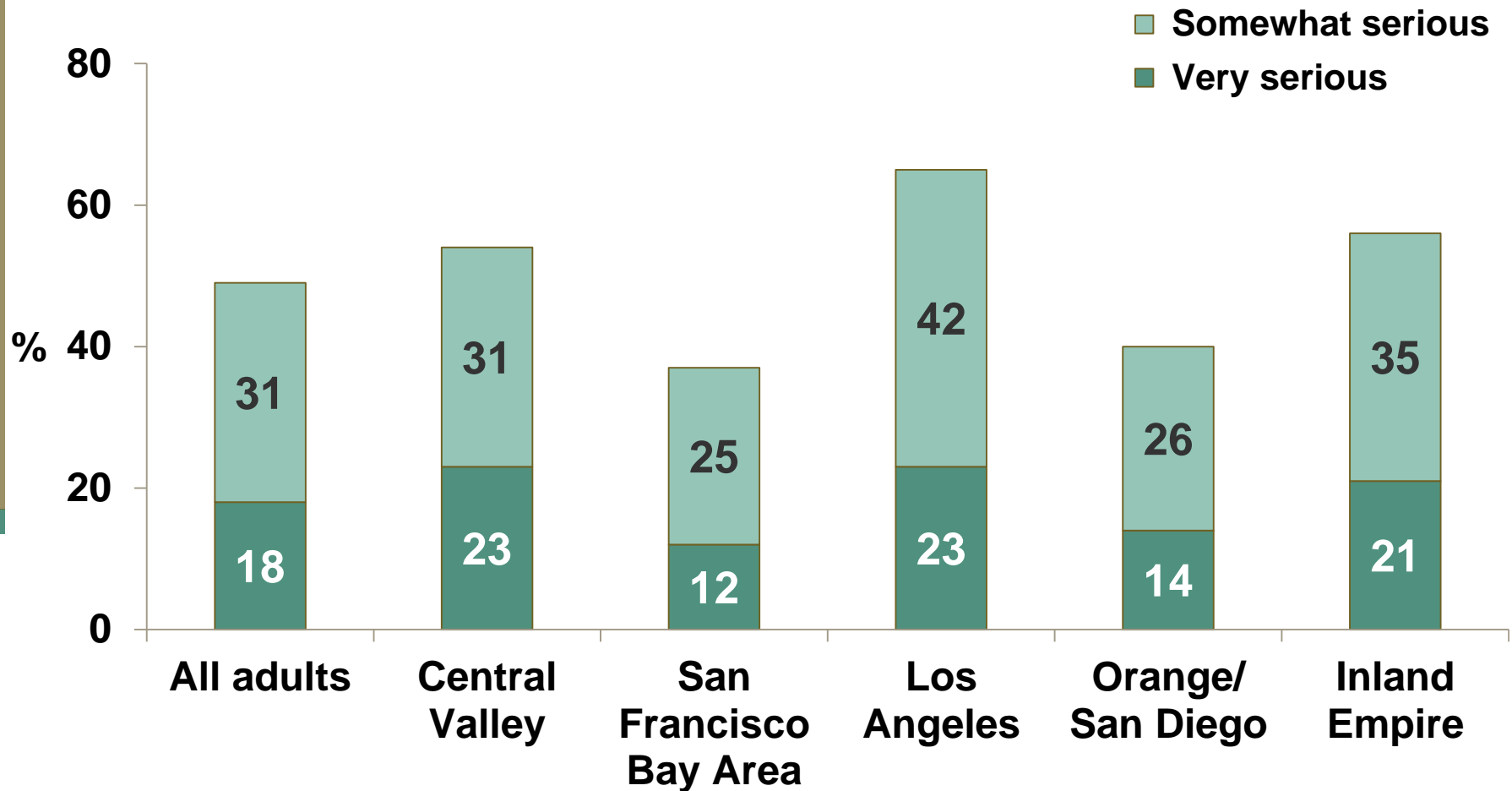
# Regional Air Pollution

Would you say that air pollution is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in your region?



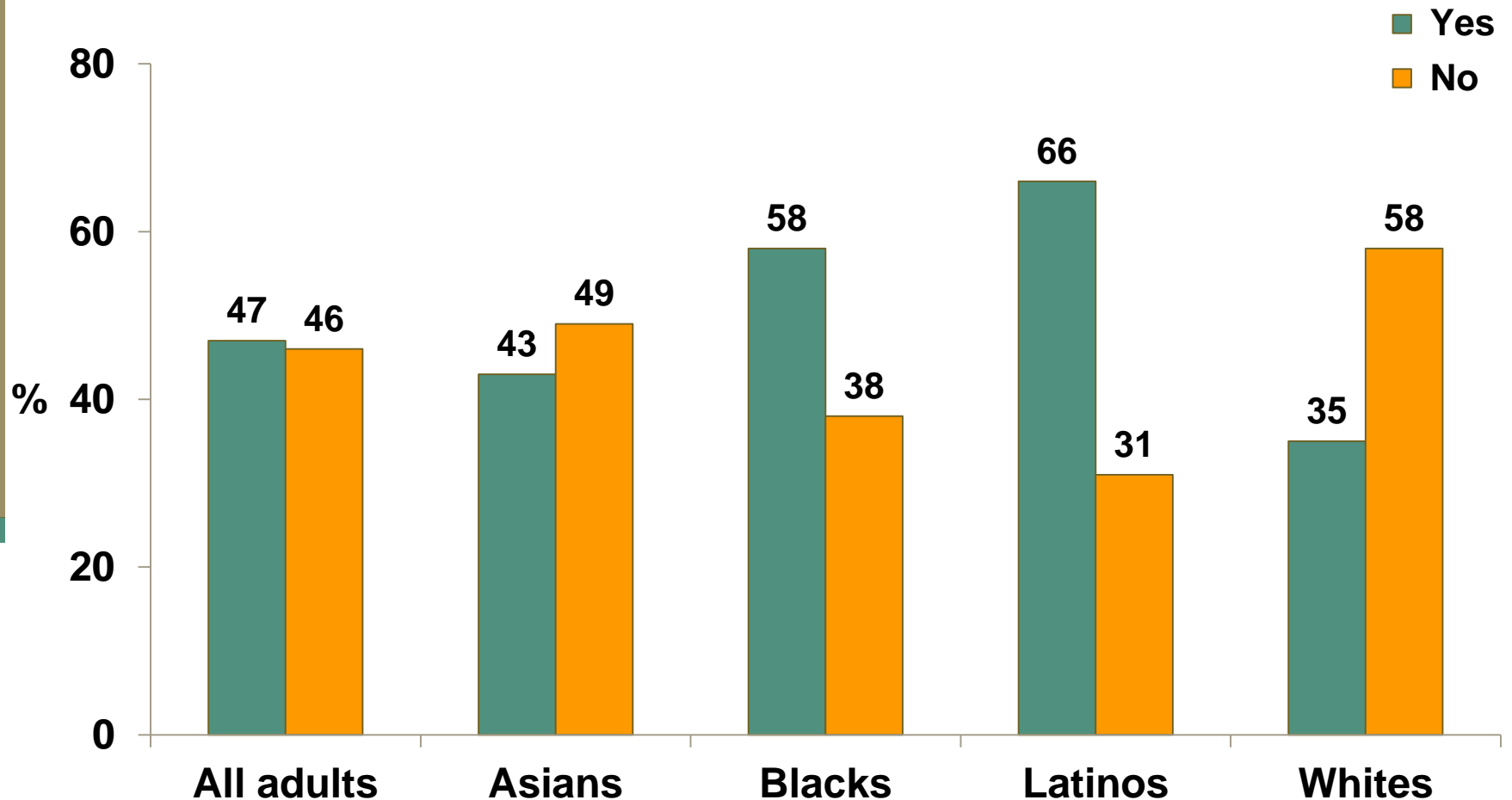
# Health Threat of Air Pollution

How serious of a health threat is air pollution in your region to you and your immediate family?



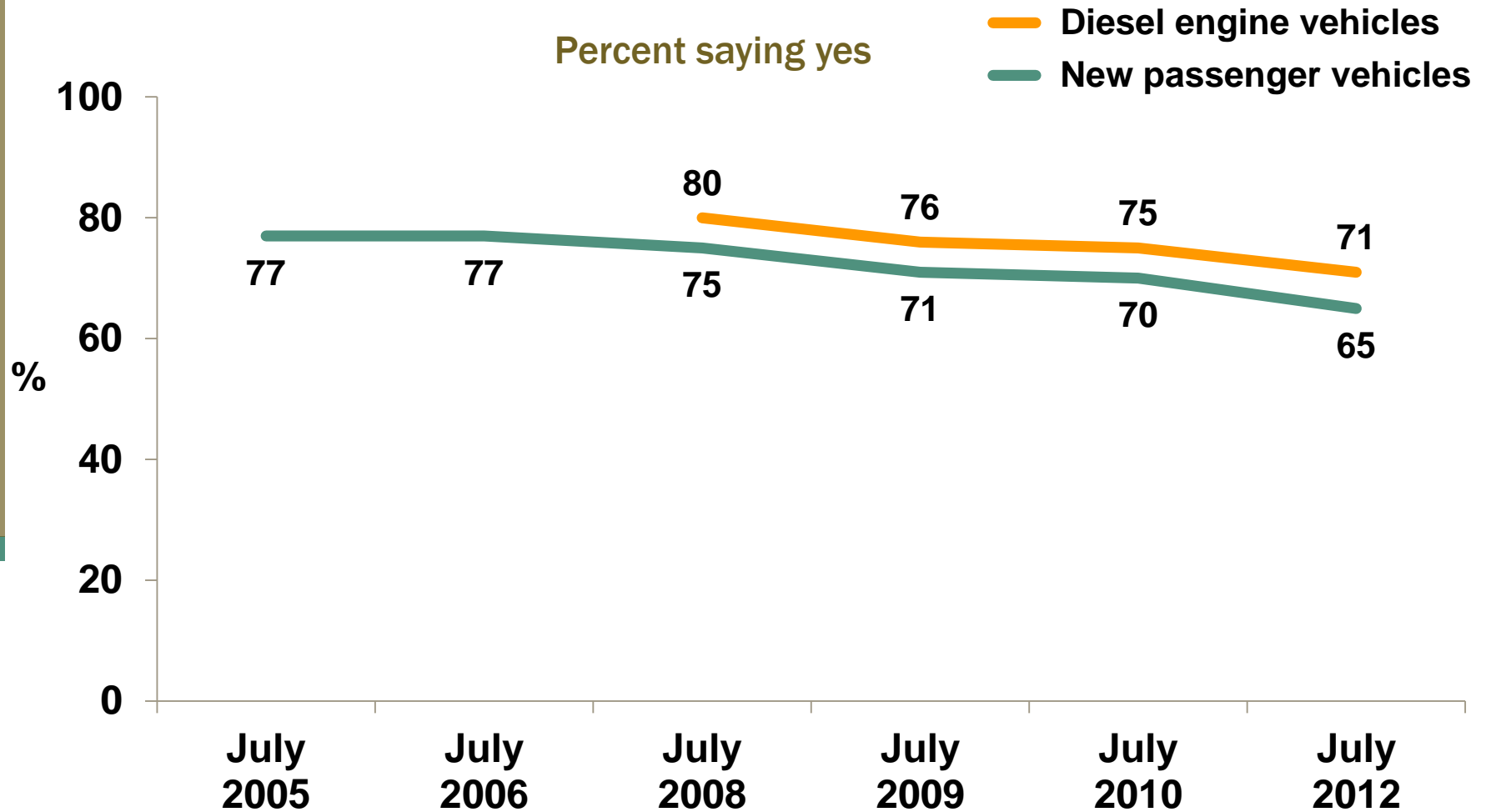
# Air Pollution Disparities

Do you think that air pollution is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than other areas in your region, or not?



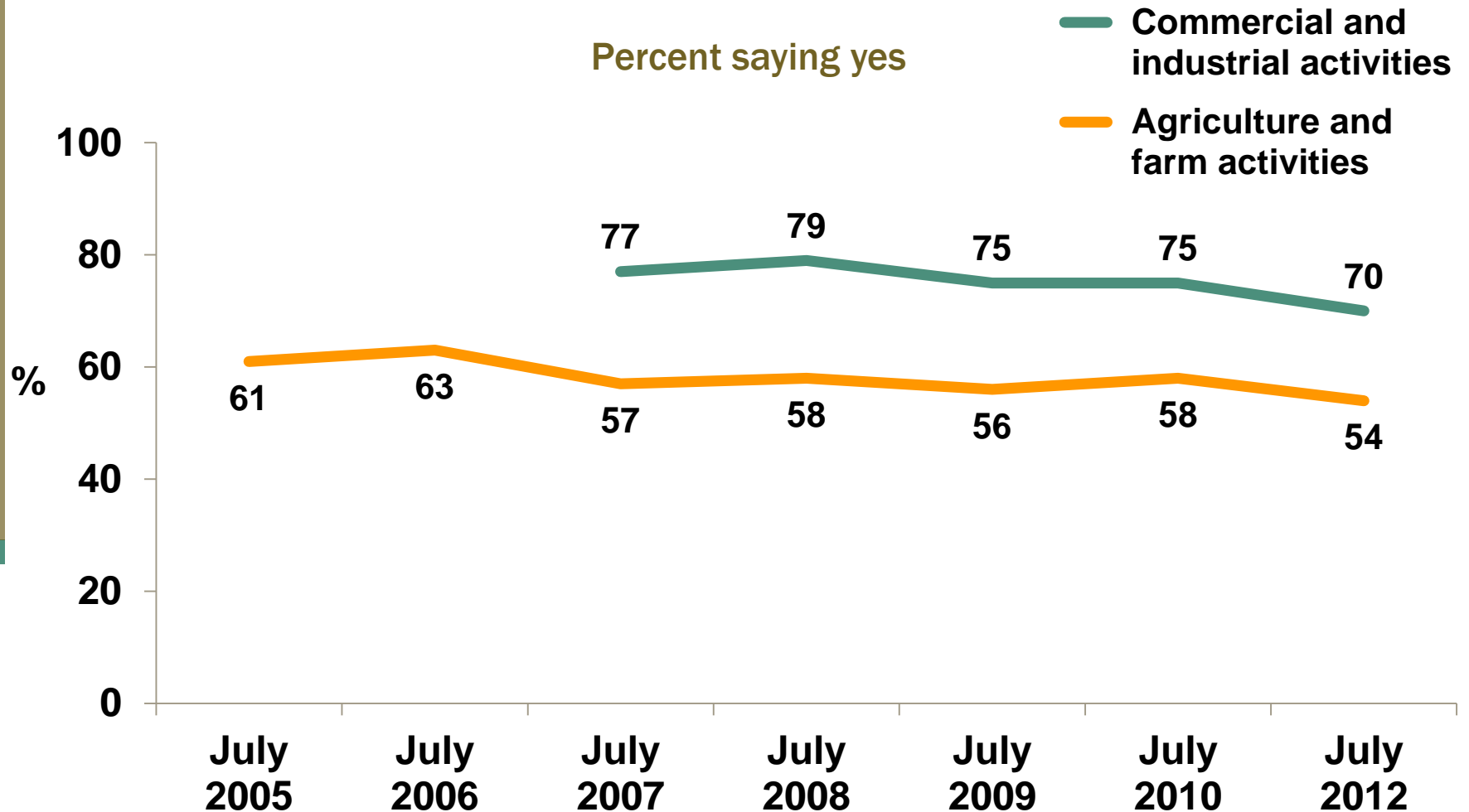
# Air Pollution Standards

Would you be willing to see tougher air pollution standards on...?



# Air Pollution Standards (continued)

Would you be willing to see tougher air pollution standards on...?



# Outline

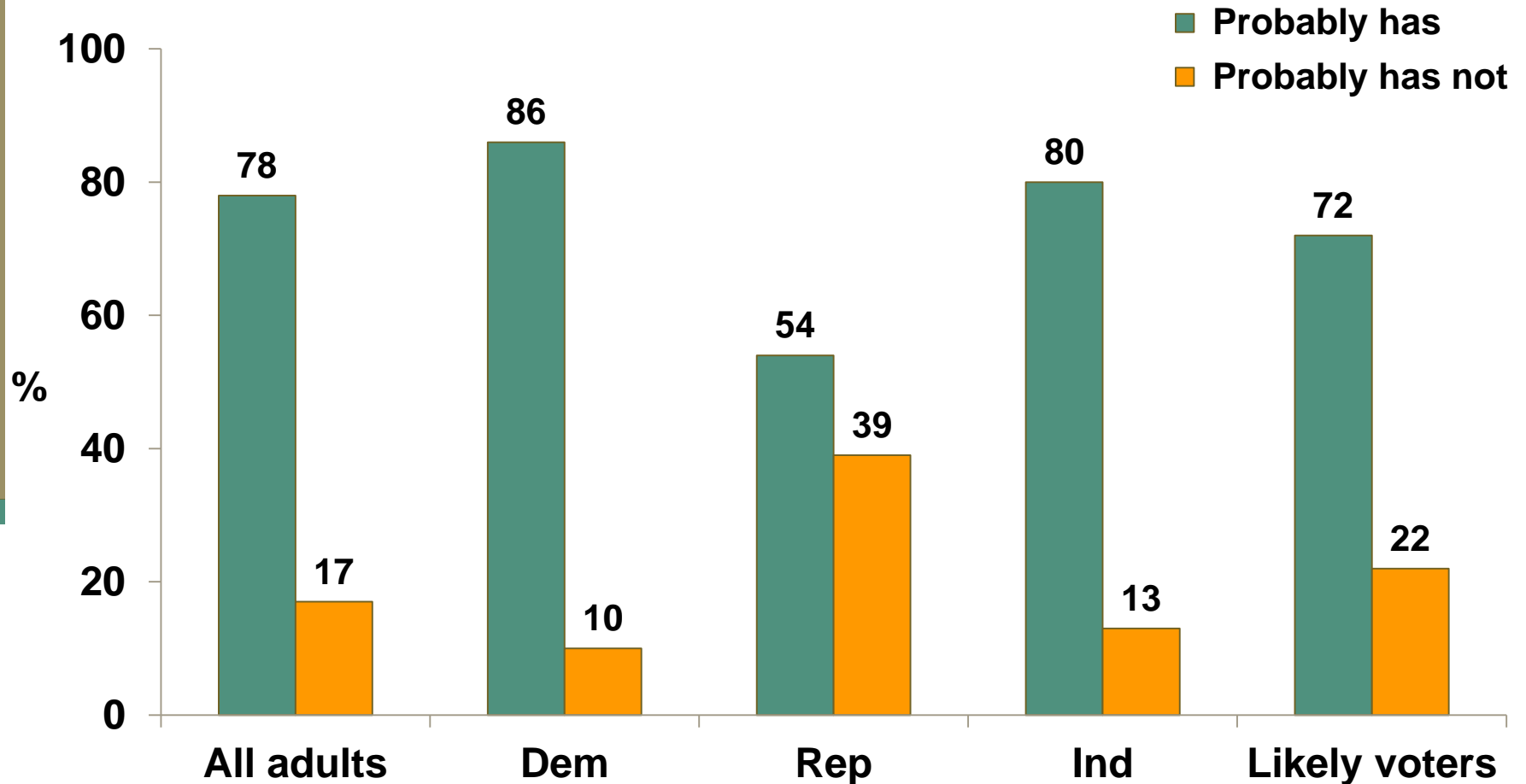
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# Rise in World's Temperature

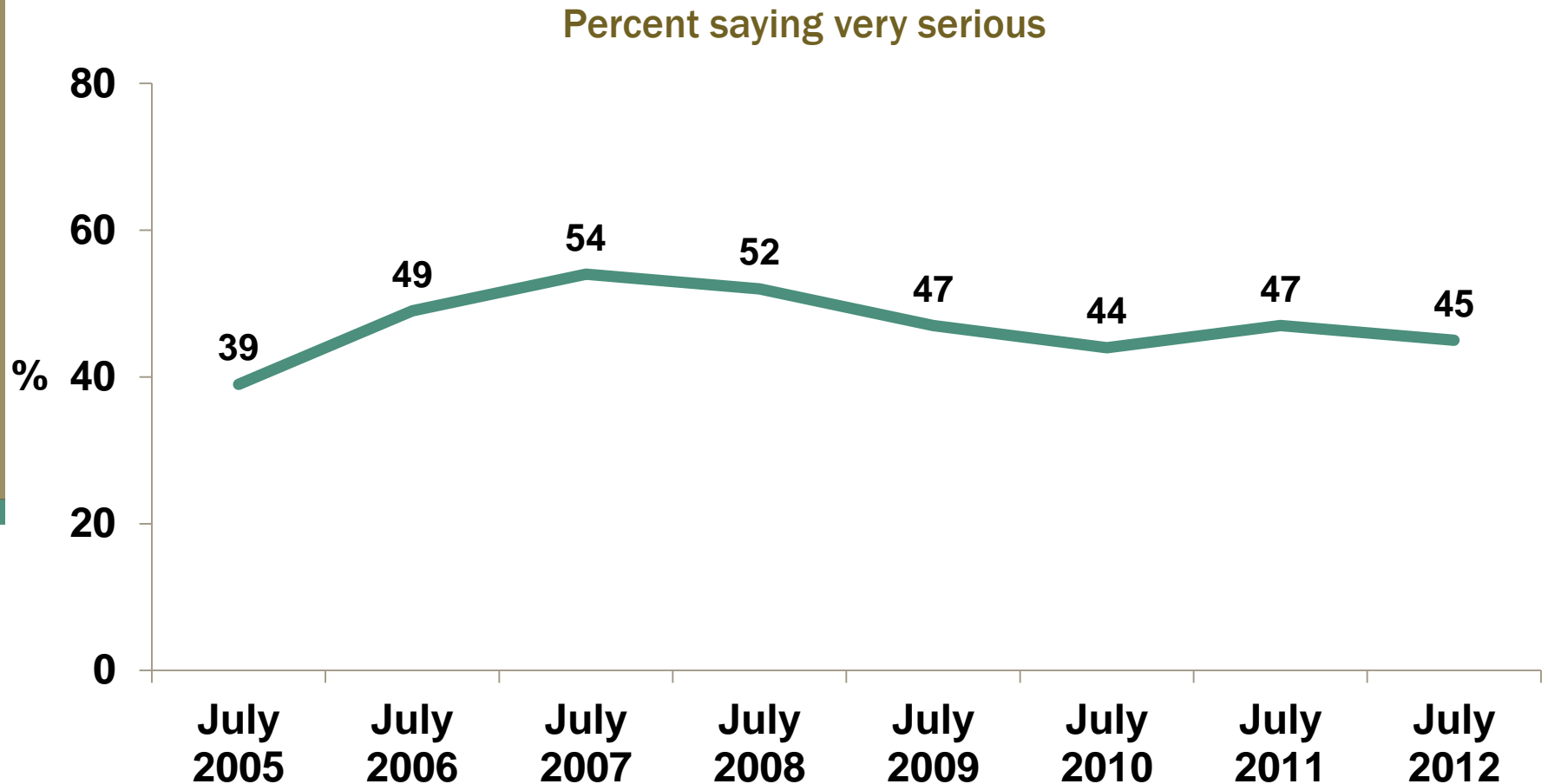
What is your personal opinion? Do you think that the world's temperature probably has been going up over the past 100 years, or do you think this probably has not been happening?





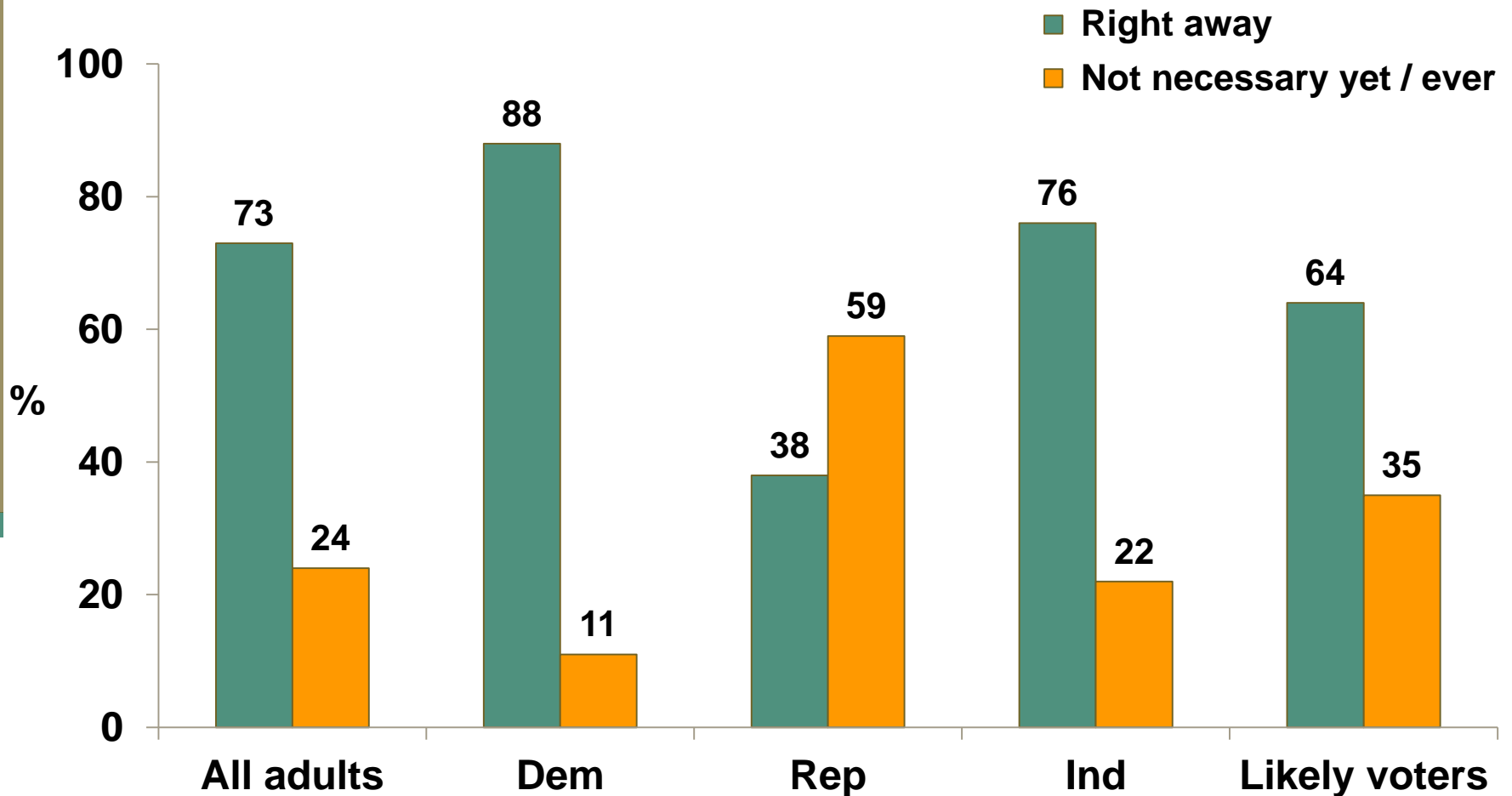
# Threat of Global Warming

How serious of a threat is global warming to the economy and quality of life for California's future?



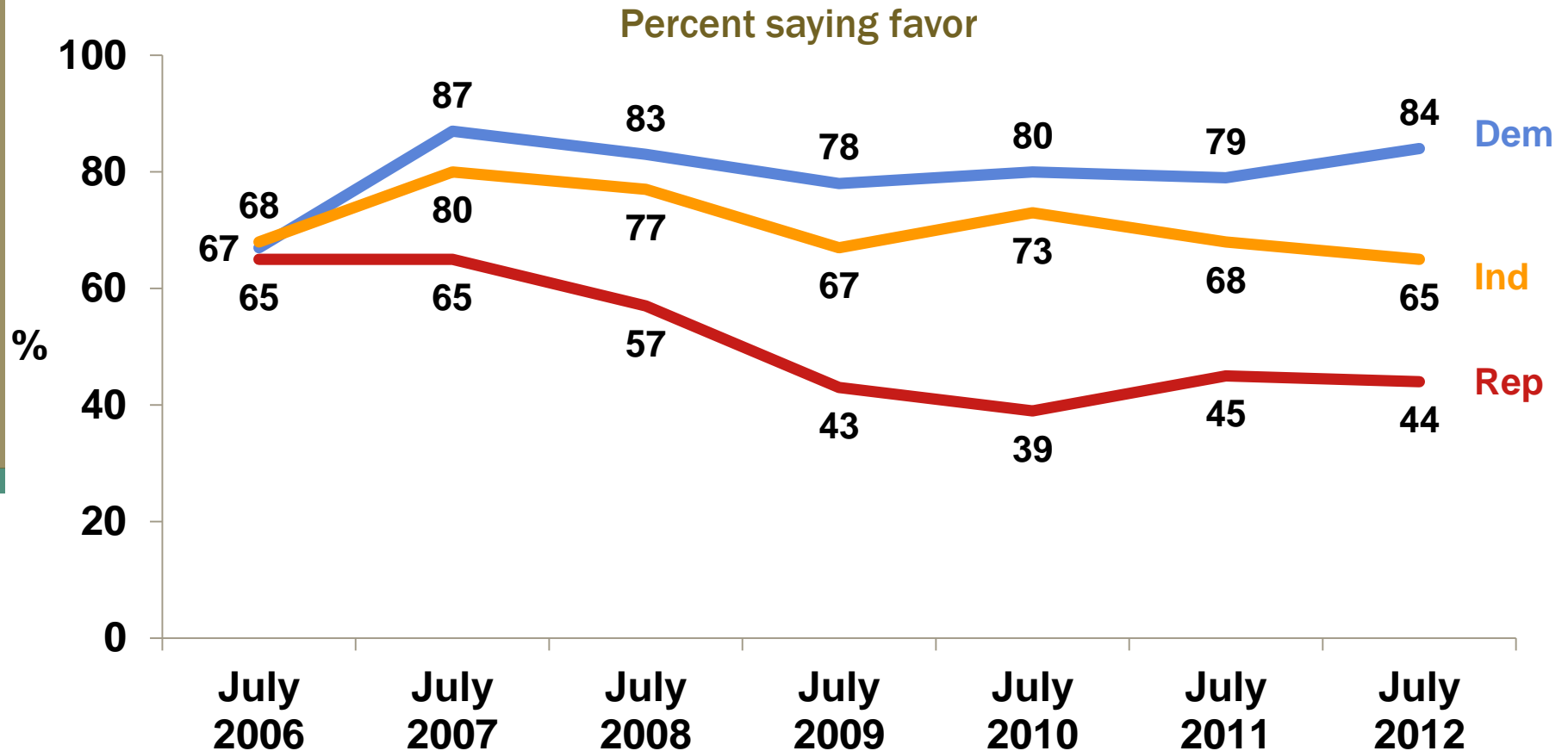
# Taking Steps to Counter Global Warming

Do you think it is necessary to take steps to counter the effects of global warming right away, or do you think it is not necessary to take steps yet?



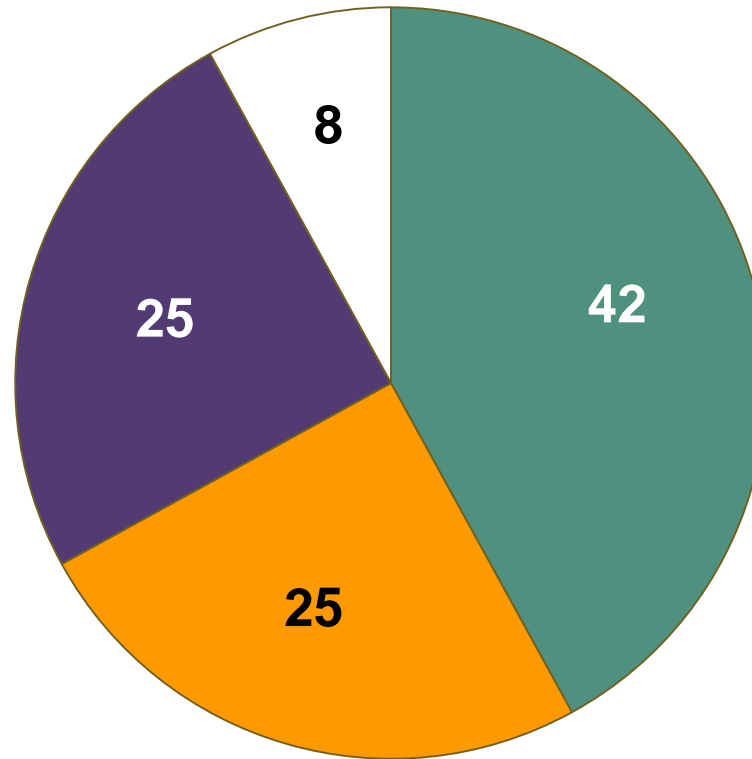
# Support for AB 32

To address global warming, do you favor or oppose the state law that requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions back to 1990 levels by the year 2020?



# Effect on Jobs

Do you think that California doing things to reduce global warming in the future would cause there to be more jobs for people around the state, would cause there to be fewer jobs, or wouldn't affect the number of jobs for people around the state?



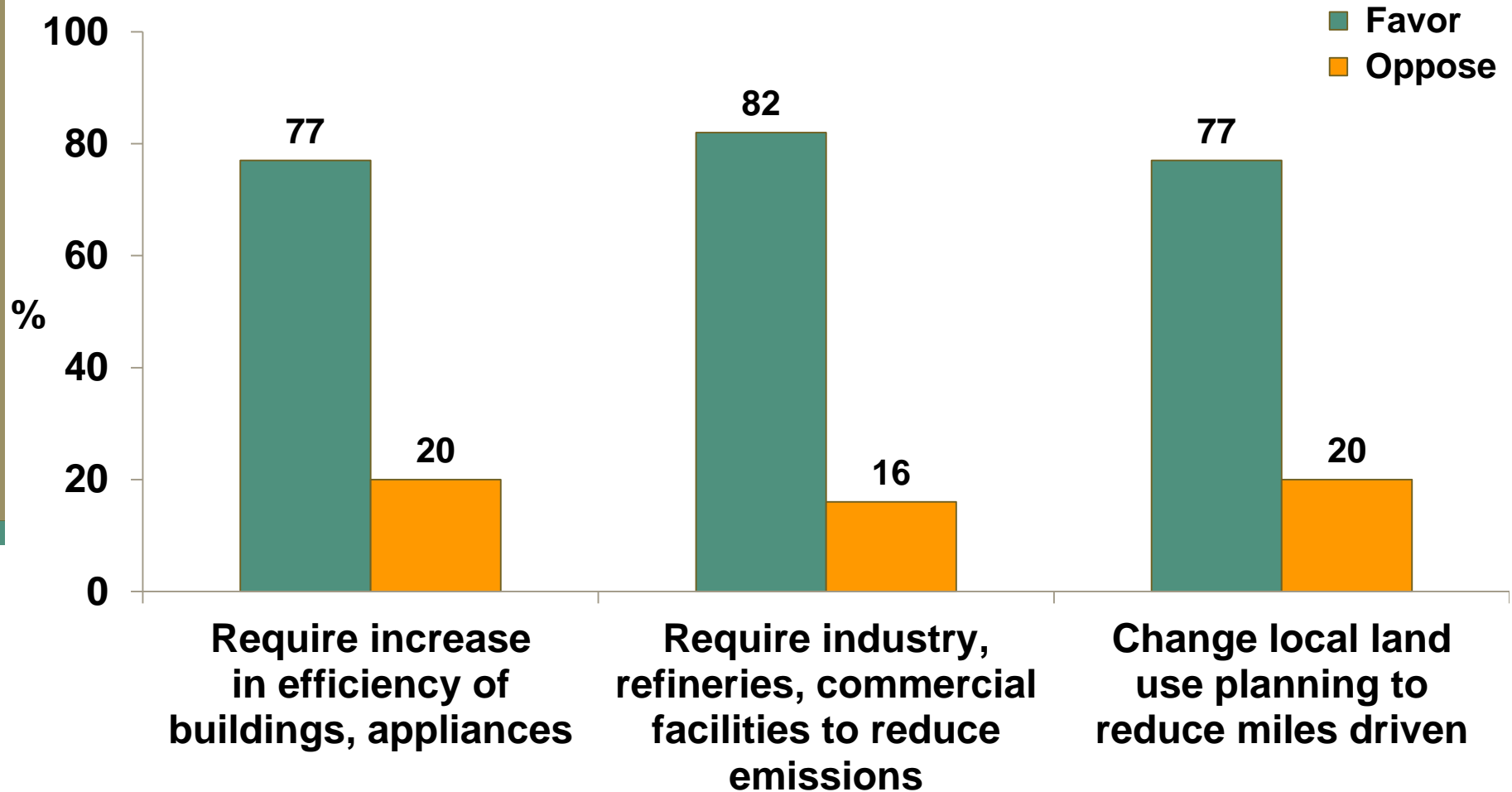
All adults

- More jobs
- Wouldn't affect number
- Fewer jobs
- Don't know



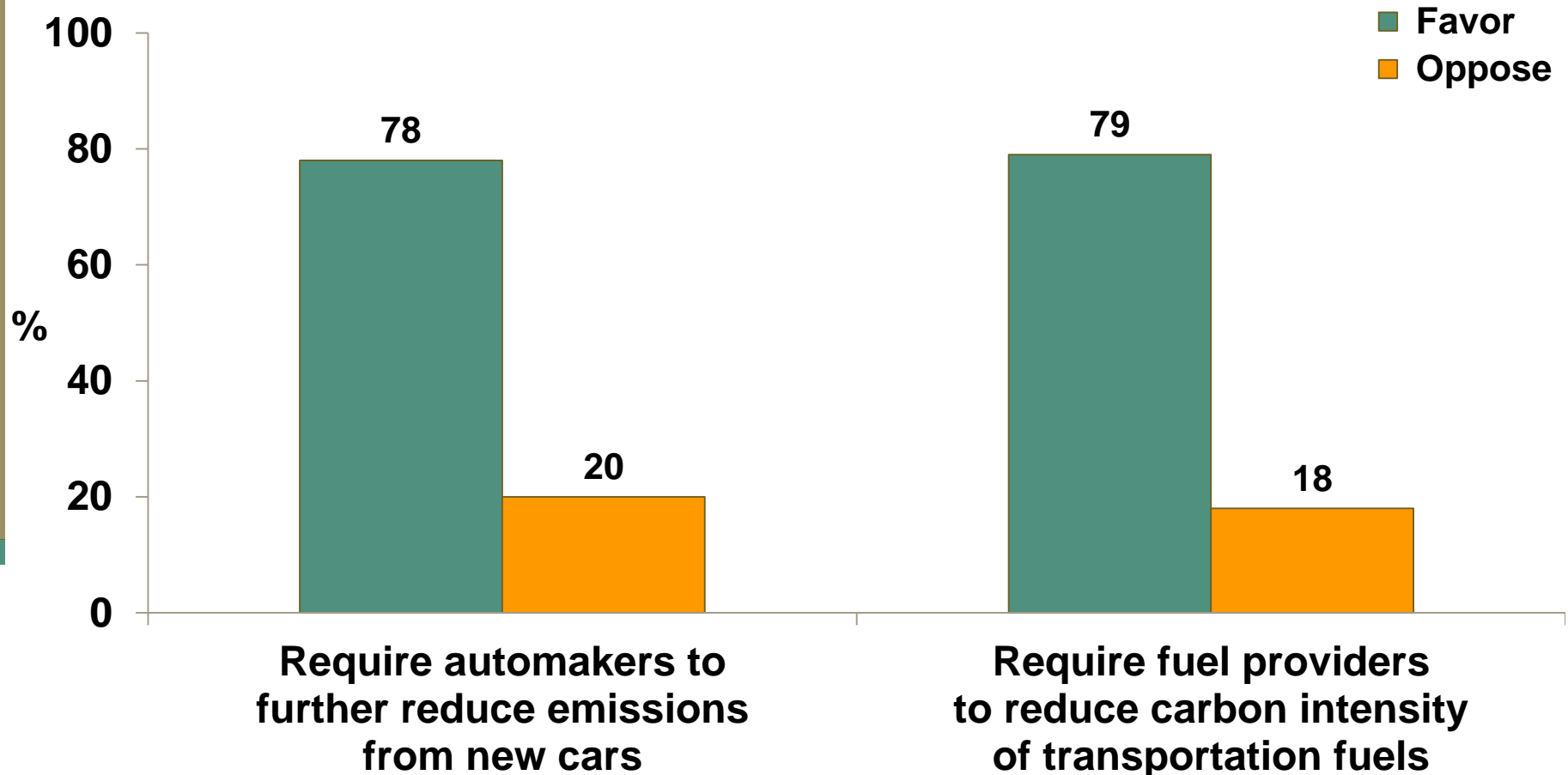
# Regulating Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Please tell me if you favor or oppose the following plans to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



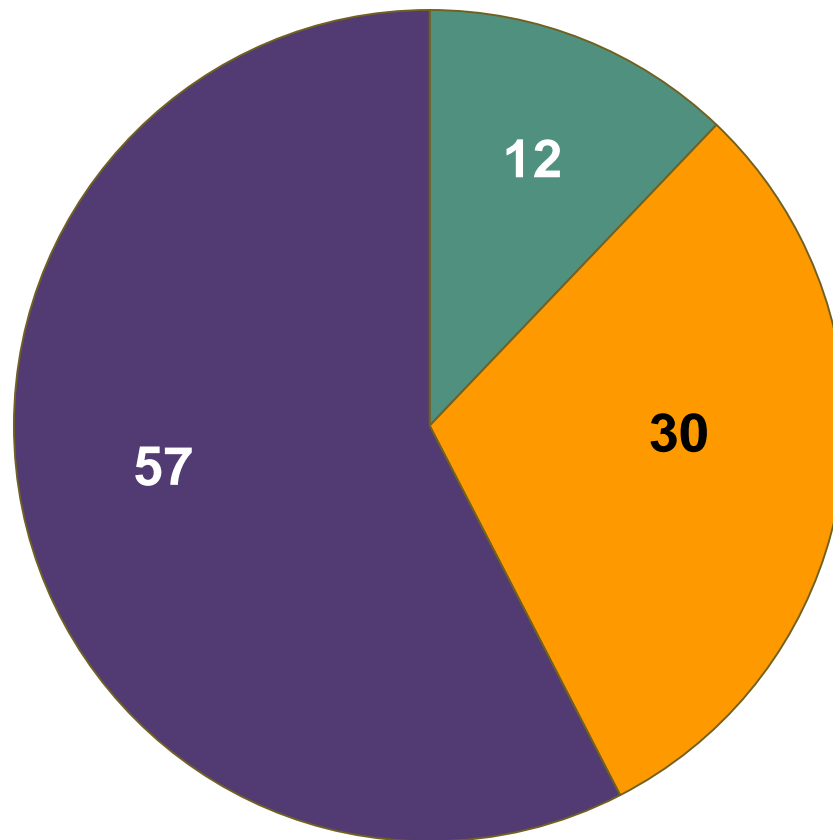
# Regulating Greenhouse Gas Emissions (*continued*)

Please tell me if you favor or oppose the following plans to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



# Awareness of Cap and Trade

How much, if anything, have you heard about the state government policy called cap and trade that will set limits on carbon dioxide emissions?



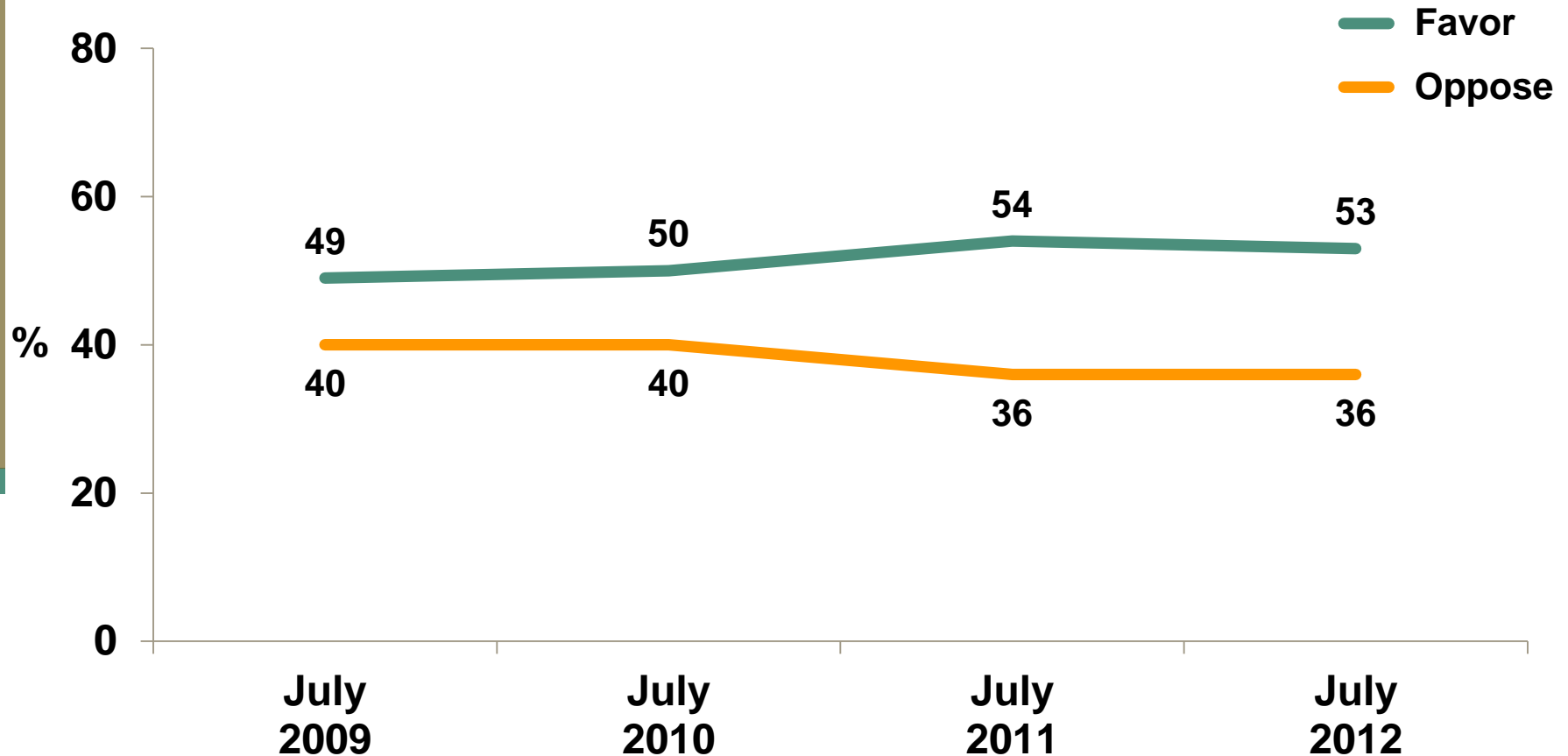
All adults

- A lot
- A little
- Nothing at all



# Cap and Trade, Time Trend

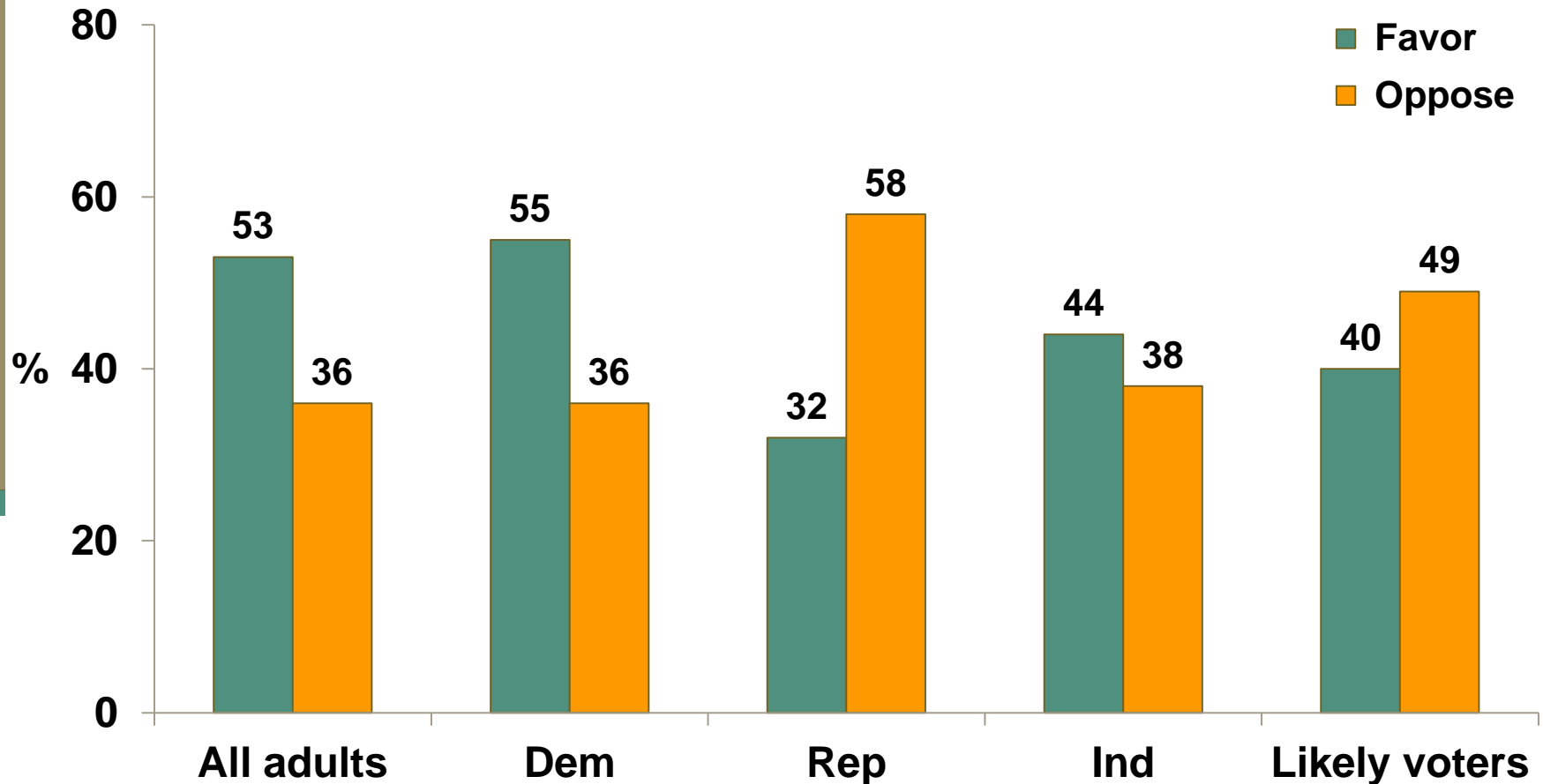
In the system called cap and trade, the California state government will issue permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out...Do you favor or oppose the cap-and-trade system?





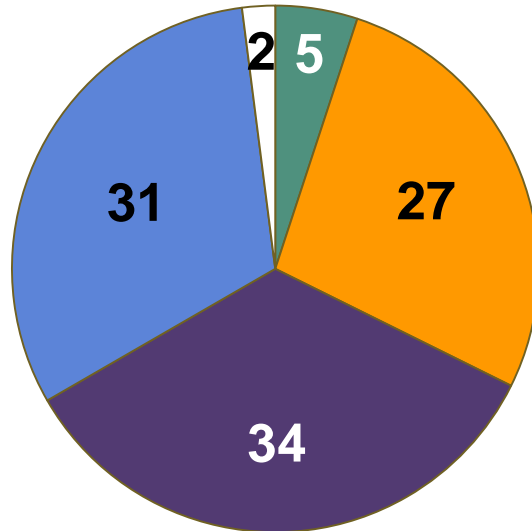
# Cap and Trade, by Party

In the system called cap and trade, the California state government will issue permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out...Do you favor or oppose the cap-and-trade system?



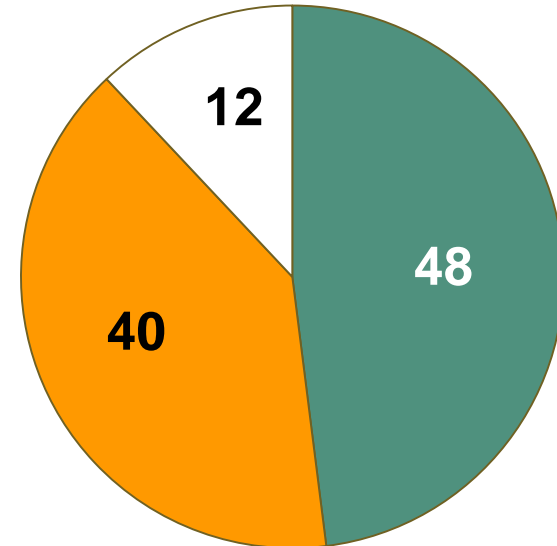
# Implications of Cap and Trade

The market for permits created by California's cap-and-trade system is expected to generate new revenues... How much confidence do you have in the state government to use this money wisely?



- A great deal
- Only some
- Very little
- None
- Don't know

Do you think that companies buying permits to release emissions under California's cap-and-trade system will create a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than other areas in your region, or not?

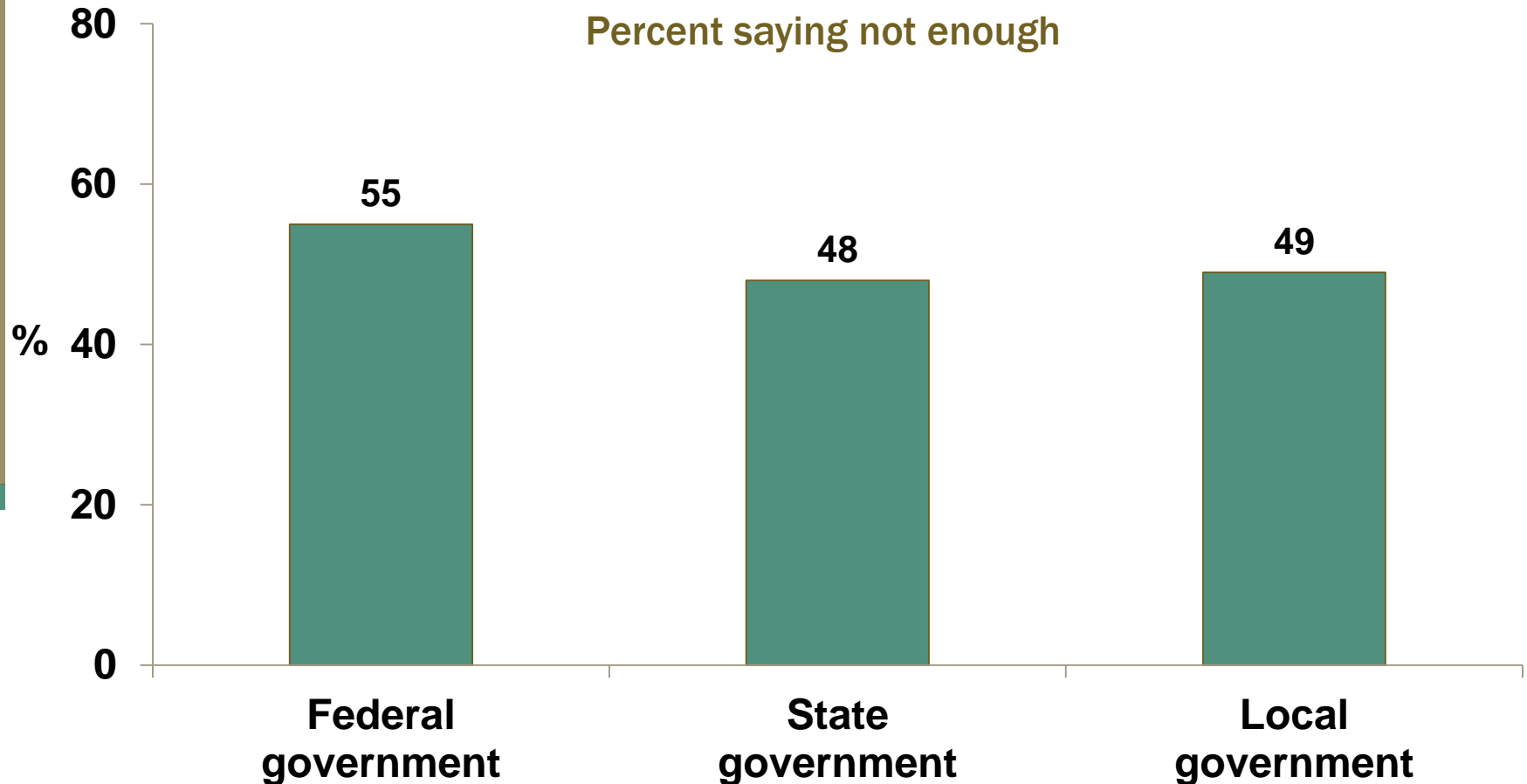


- Yes
- No
- Don't know



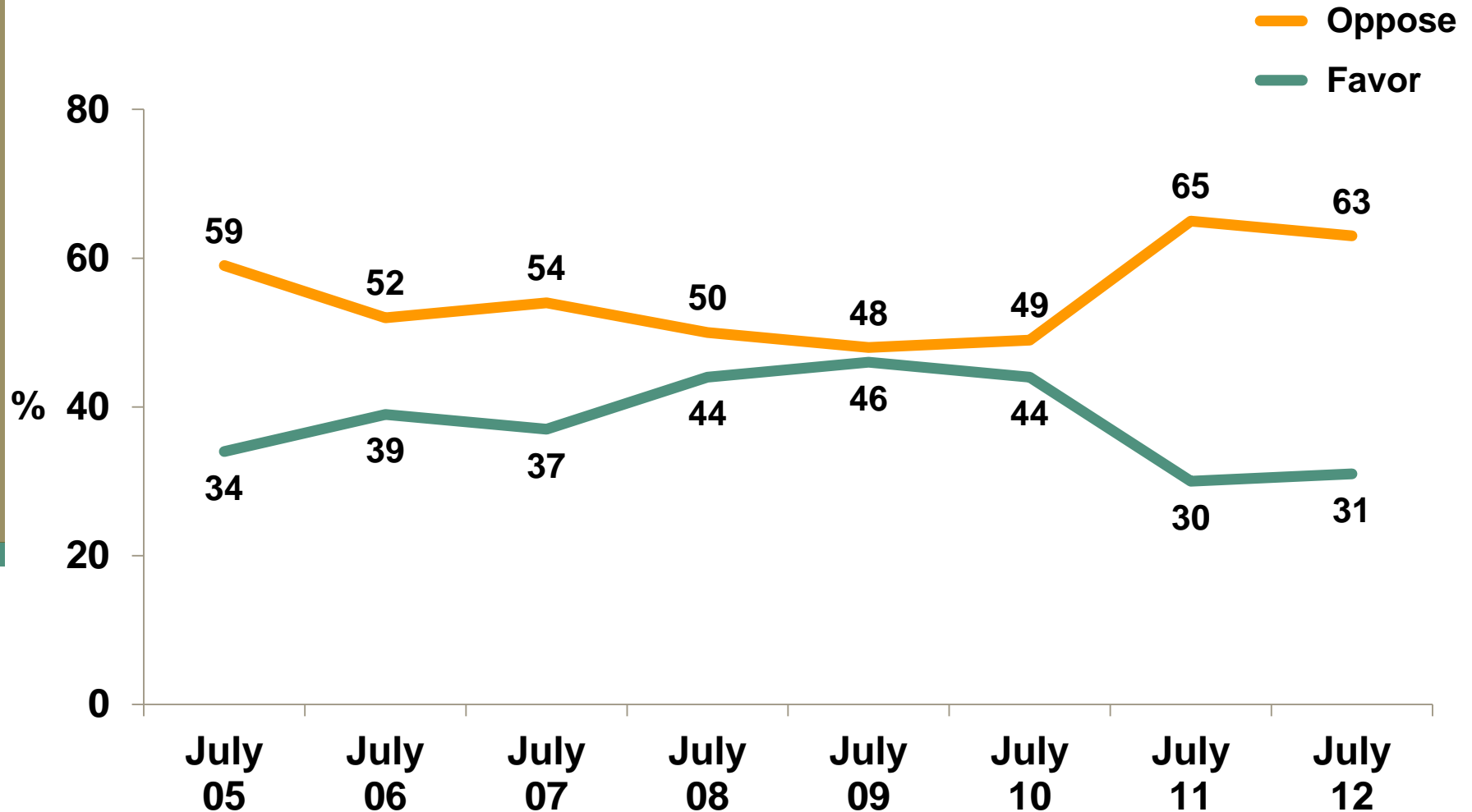
# Government Action on Global Warming

Overall, do you think that the ... government is doing more than enough, just enough, or not enough to address global warming?



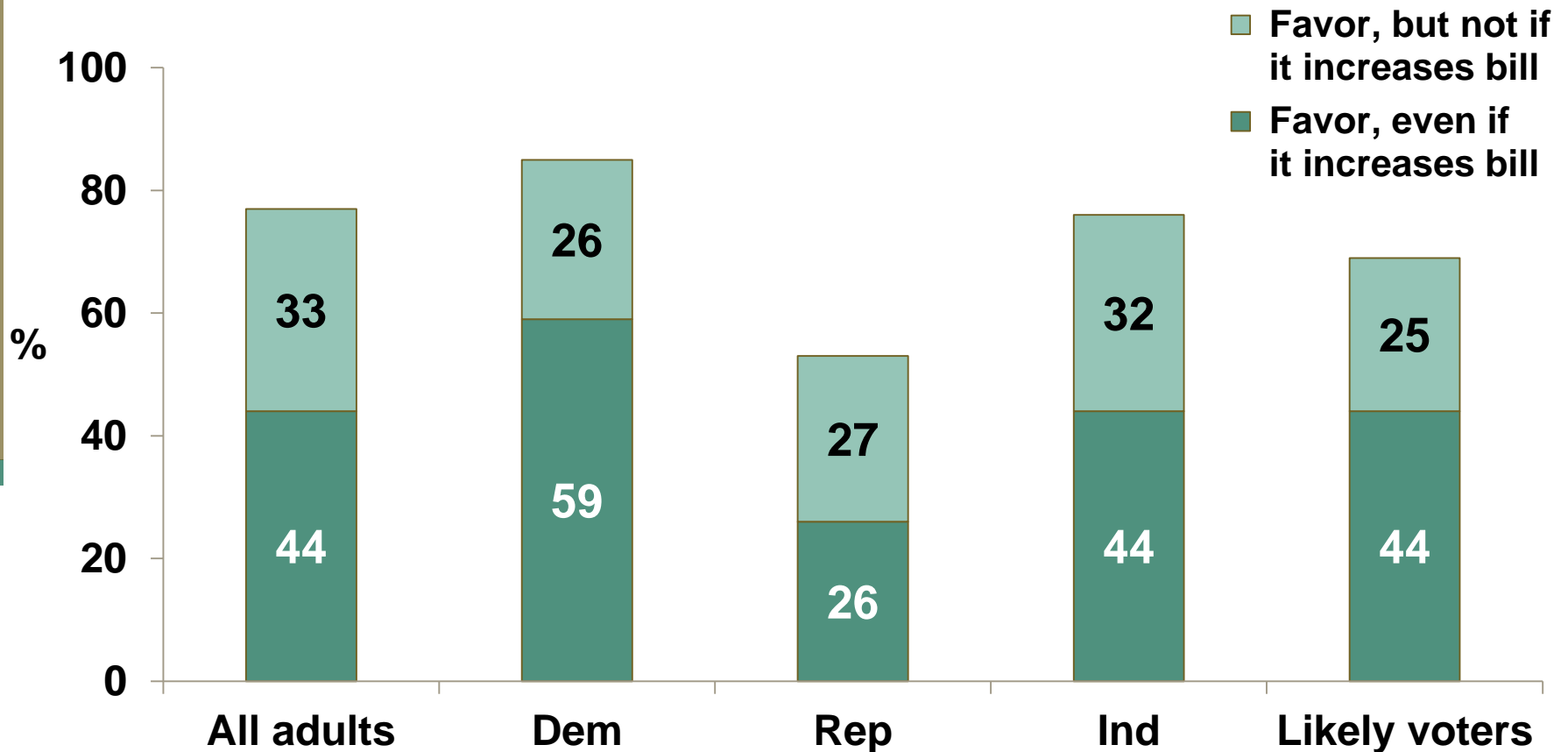
# Building More Nuclear Plants

How about building more nuclear power plants at this time?



# State's Renewable Energy Requirement

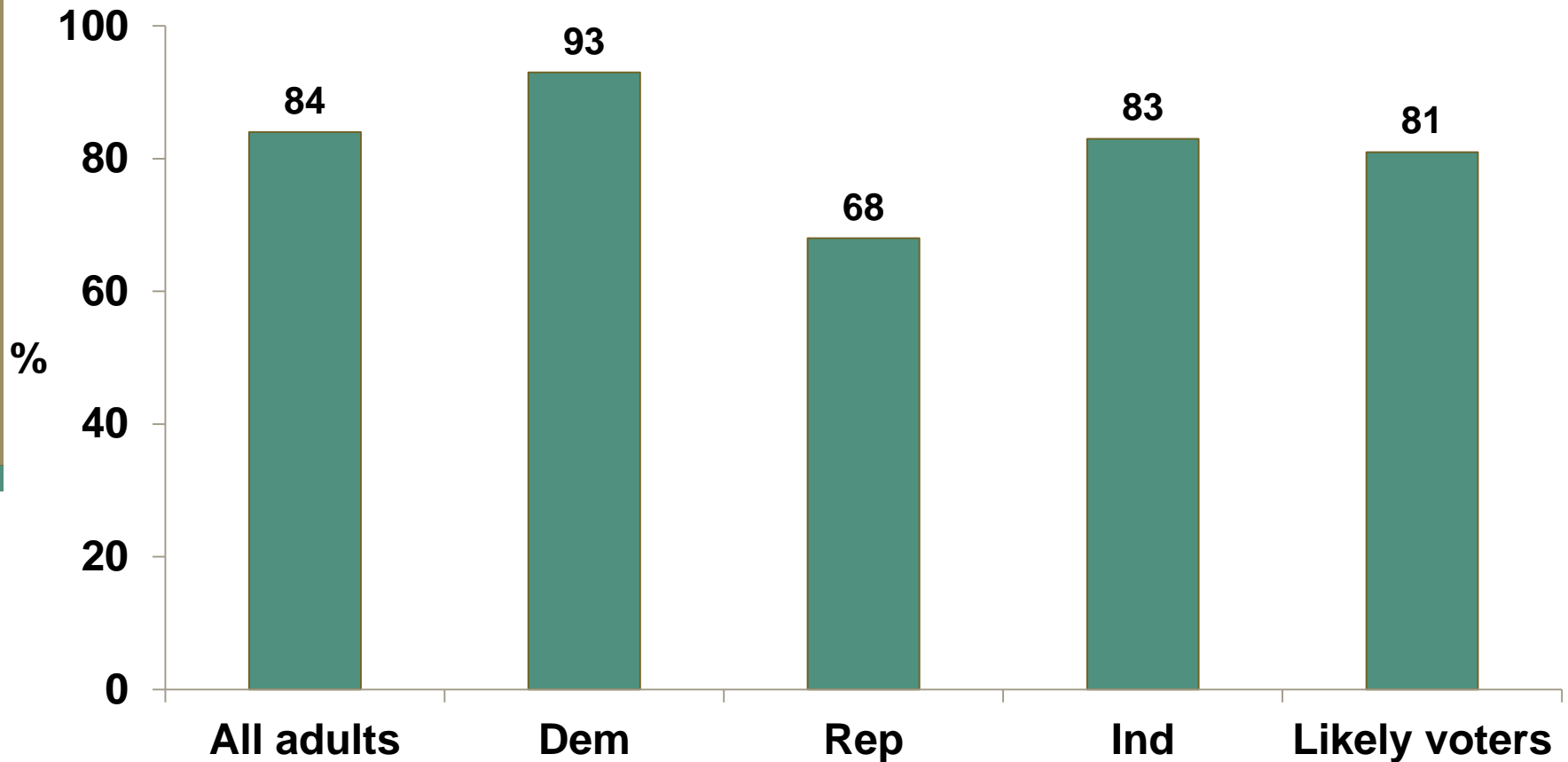
How about requiring one-third of the state's electricity to come from renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, by the year 2020? Do you favor or oppose this state law? (*if favor: Do you still favor this state law if it means an increase in your own electricity bill?*)



# Fuel Efficiency

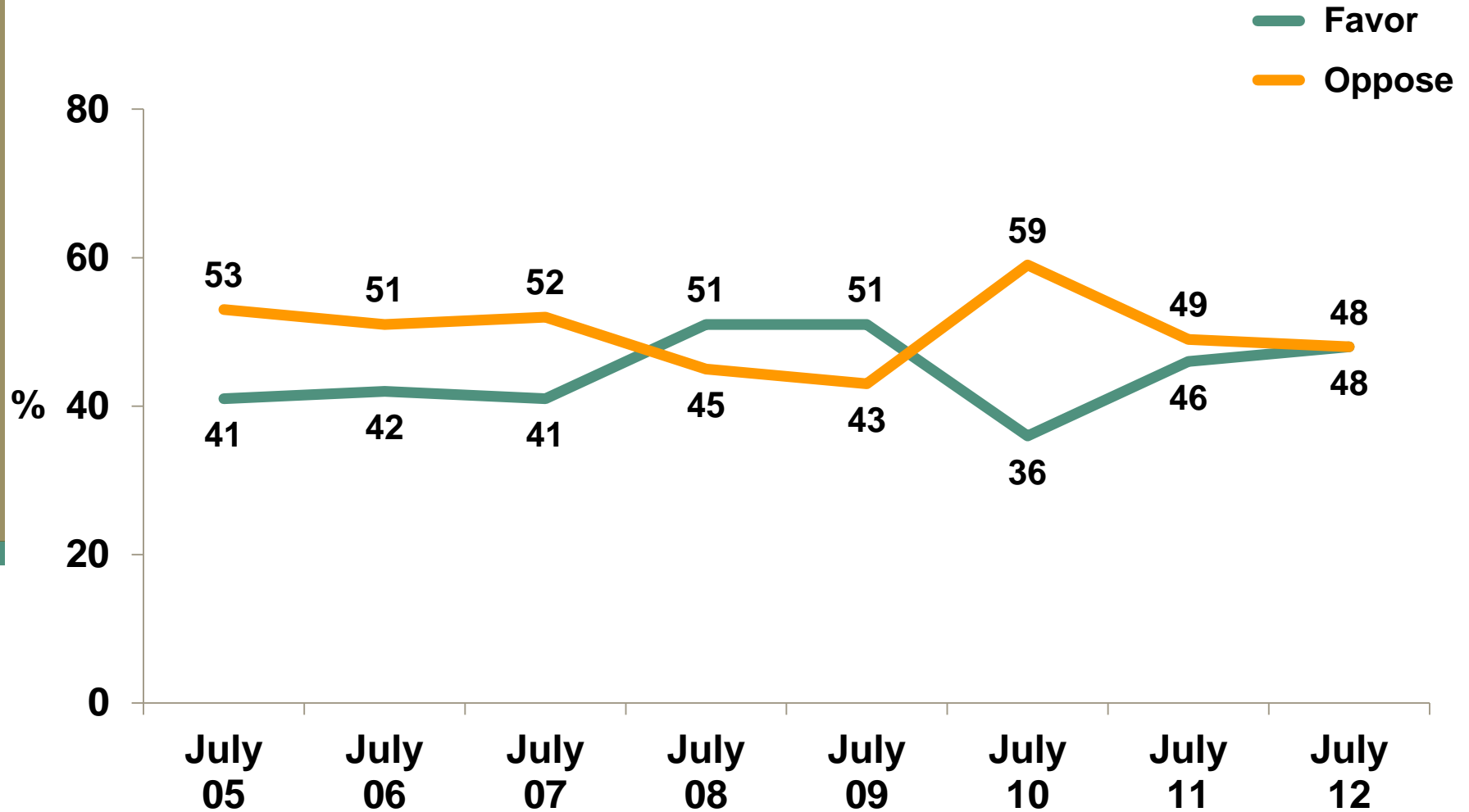
How about requiring automakers to significantly improve the fuel efficiency of cars sold in this country?

Percent saying favor



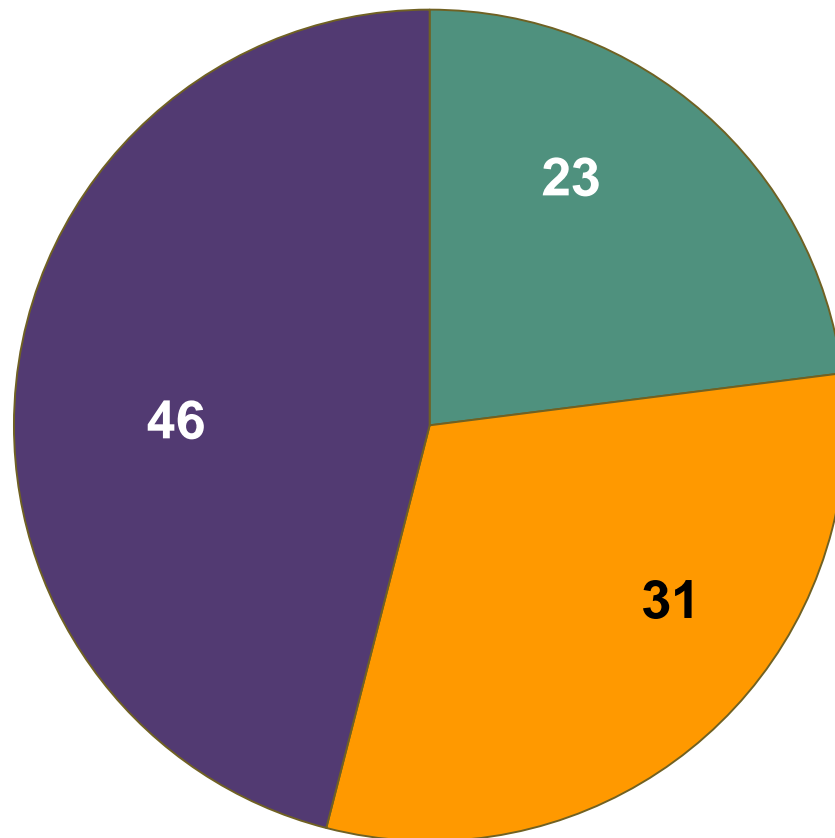
# Allowing More Oil Drilling

How about allowing more oil drilling off the California coast?



# Awareness of Fracking

How much, if anything, have you heard about a drilling method called hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” that is used to extract oil and natural gas from underground rock formations?



All adults

- A lot
- A little
- Nothing at all

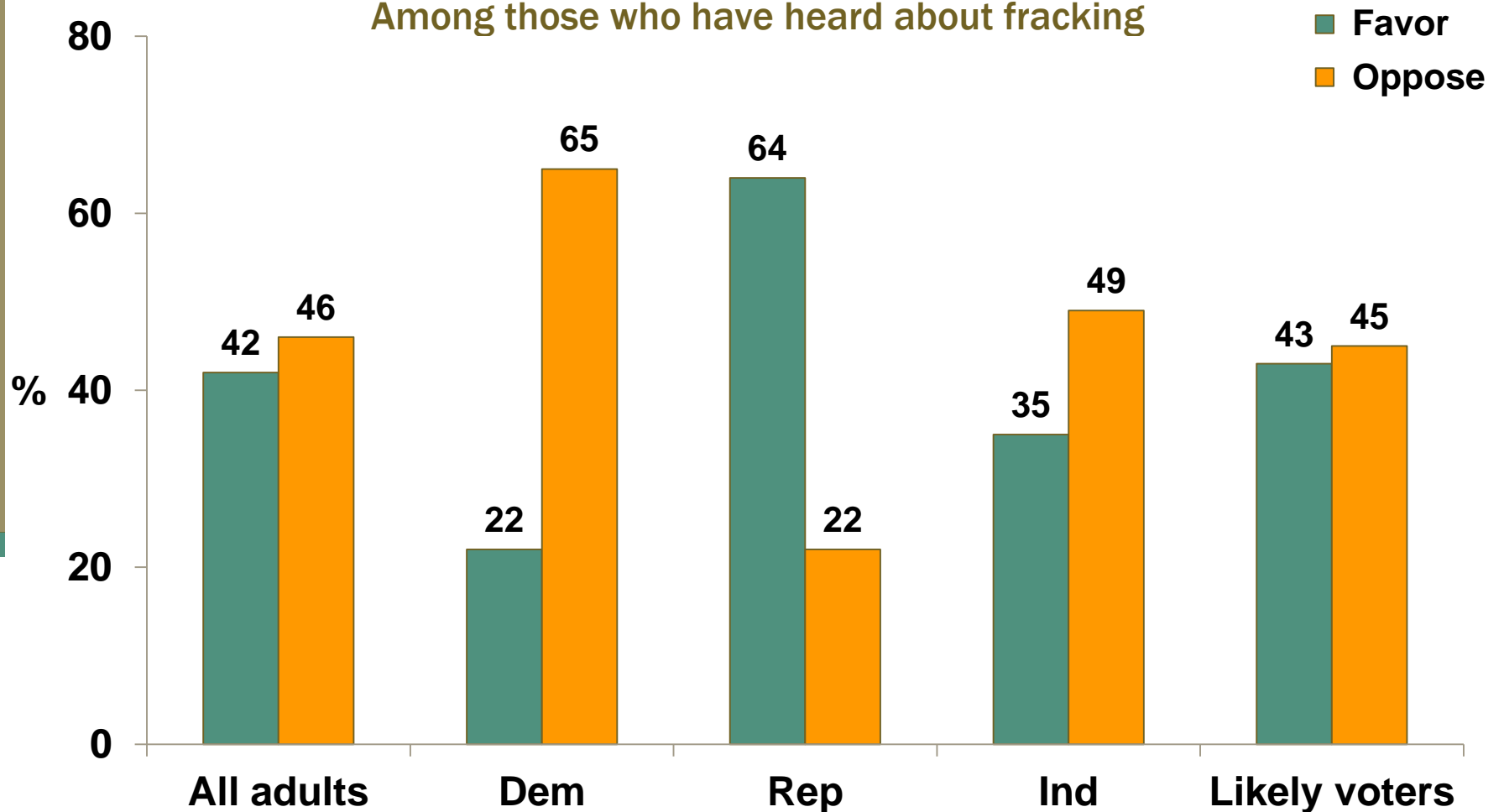




# Support for Fracking

Do you favor or oppose fracking in California?

Among those who have heard about fracking



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# Conclusions

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- Obama trusted over Romney on environment
- Air pollution seen as greater health threat in LA
- Most say world temperature increasing, steps to mitigate should be taken right away
- Strong support for AB 32, growing partisan gap
- Strong support for policies to reduce emissions, except mixed views on cap and trade
- Strong support for renewables, but not if utility bills higher
- Mixed views, and many unsure, about fracking in California



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# 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.

