

# PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

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*October 2012*



# Outline

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- **PPIC Statewide Surveys**
- **November 2012 Election**
- **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
  - 272,000+ Californians since 1998
  - 129 general, issue, and regional surveys



# Californians and Their Government

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- General series funded by The Irvine Foundation
- 2012 November election
  - Presidential election, vote on tax measures to fund education and on governance measures
- State and national issues
  - Approval ratings, state budget, tax preferences, political trust, initiative process
- Telephone interviews, October 14–21
  - 2,006 adults / 993 likely voters
    - $\pm 3.2\%$  margin of error for adults
    - $\pm 4.0\%$  for likely voters



# Outline

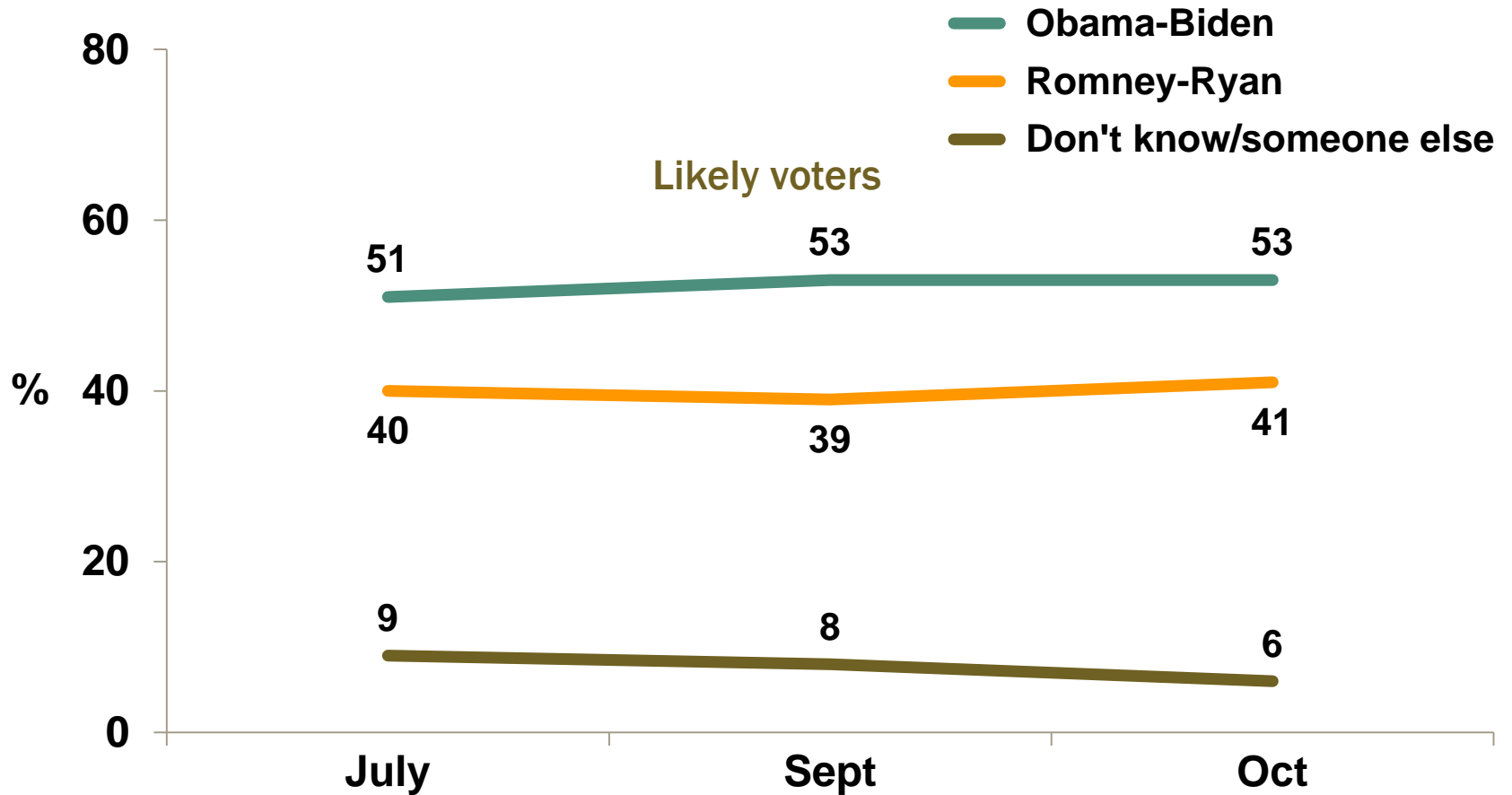
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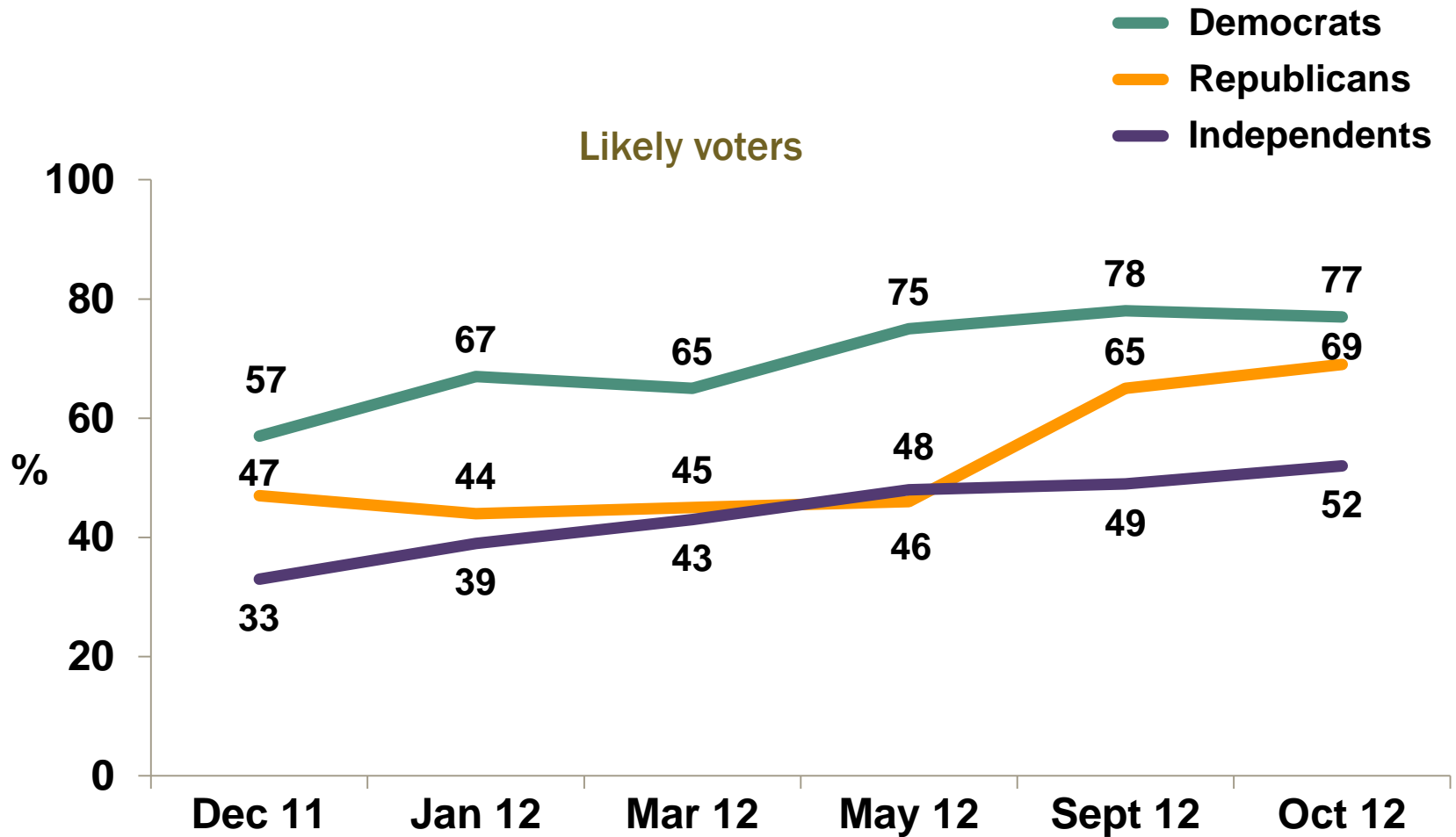
# Presidential Election

If the November 6th presidential election were being held today, would you vote for the Democratic ticket of Barack Obama and Joe Biden or the Republican ticket of Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan?



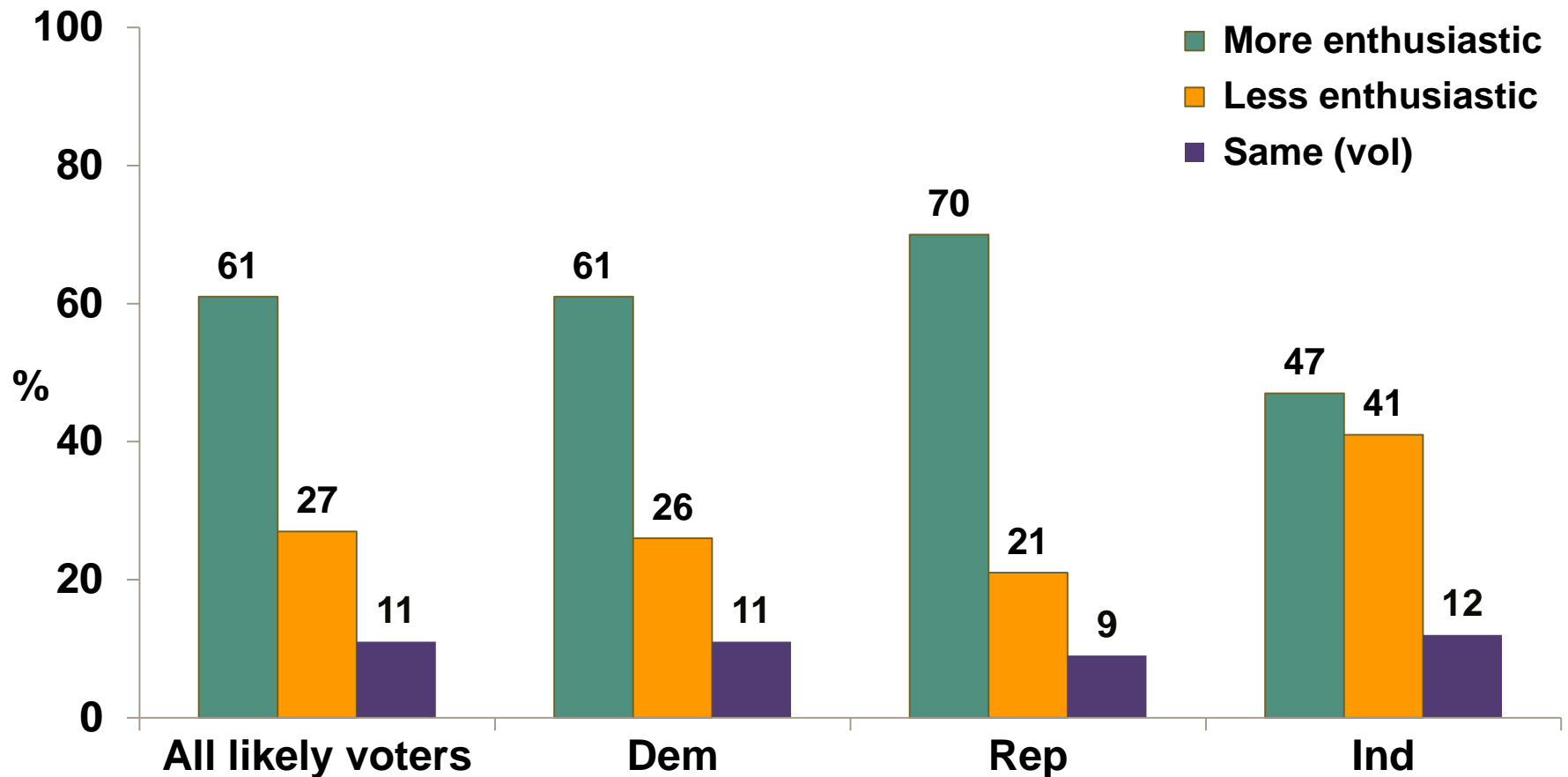
# Satisfaction with Presidential Candidate Choices

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?



# Enthusiasm about Voting

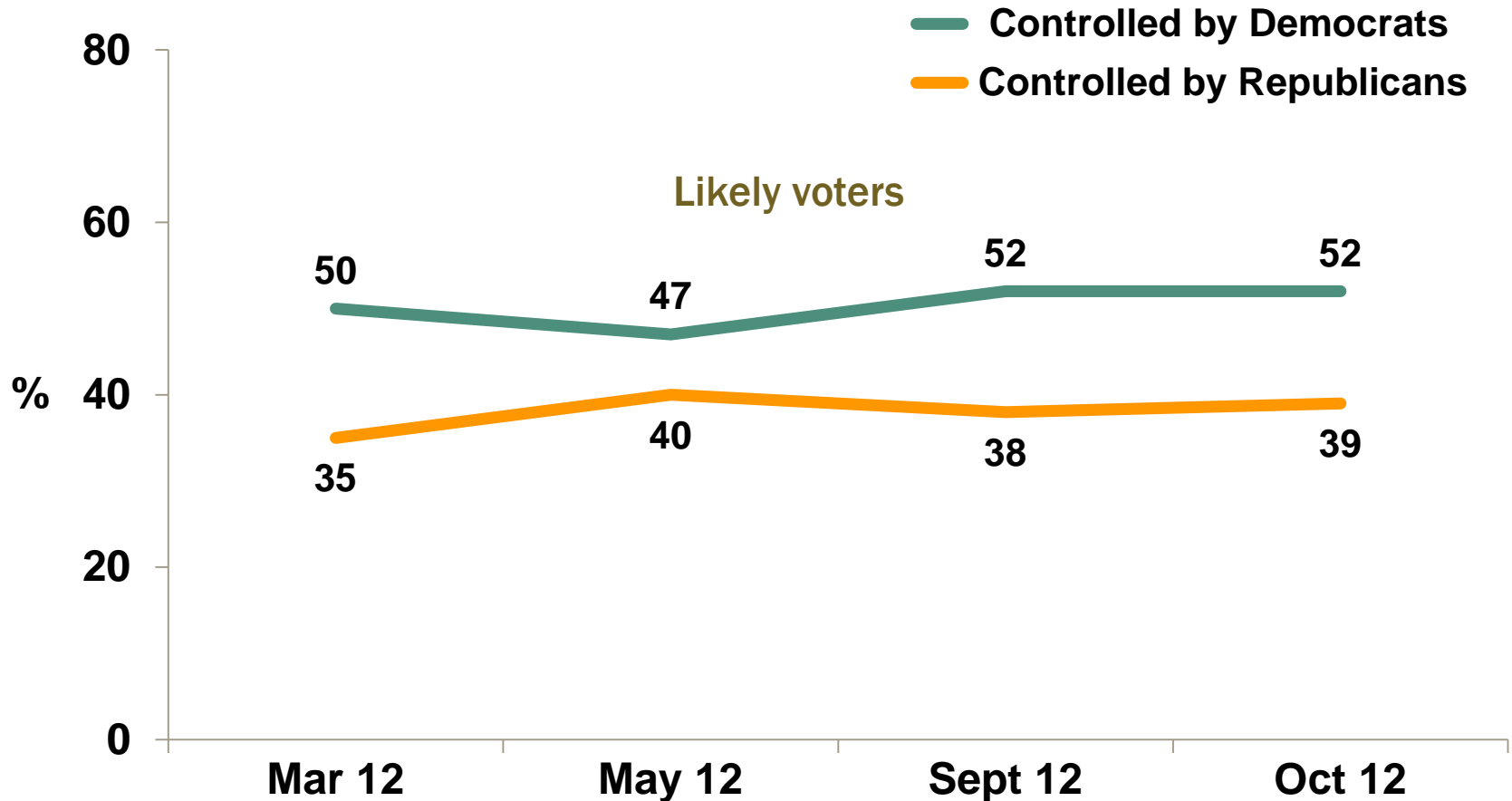
Thinking about the presidential election that will be held this November, are you more enthusiastic about voting than usual, or less enthusiastic?



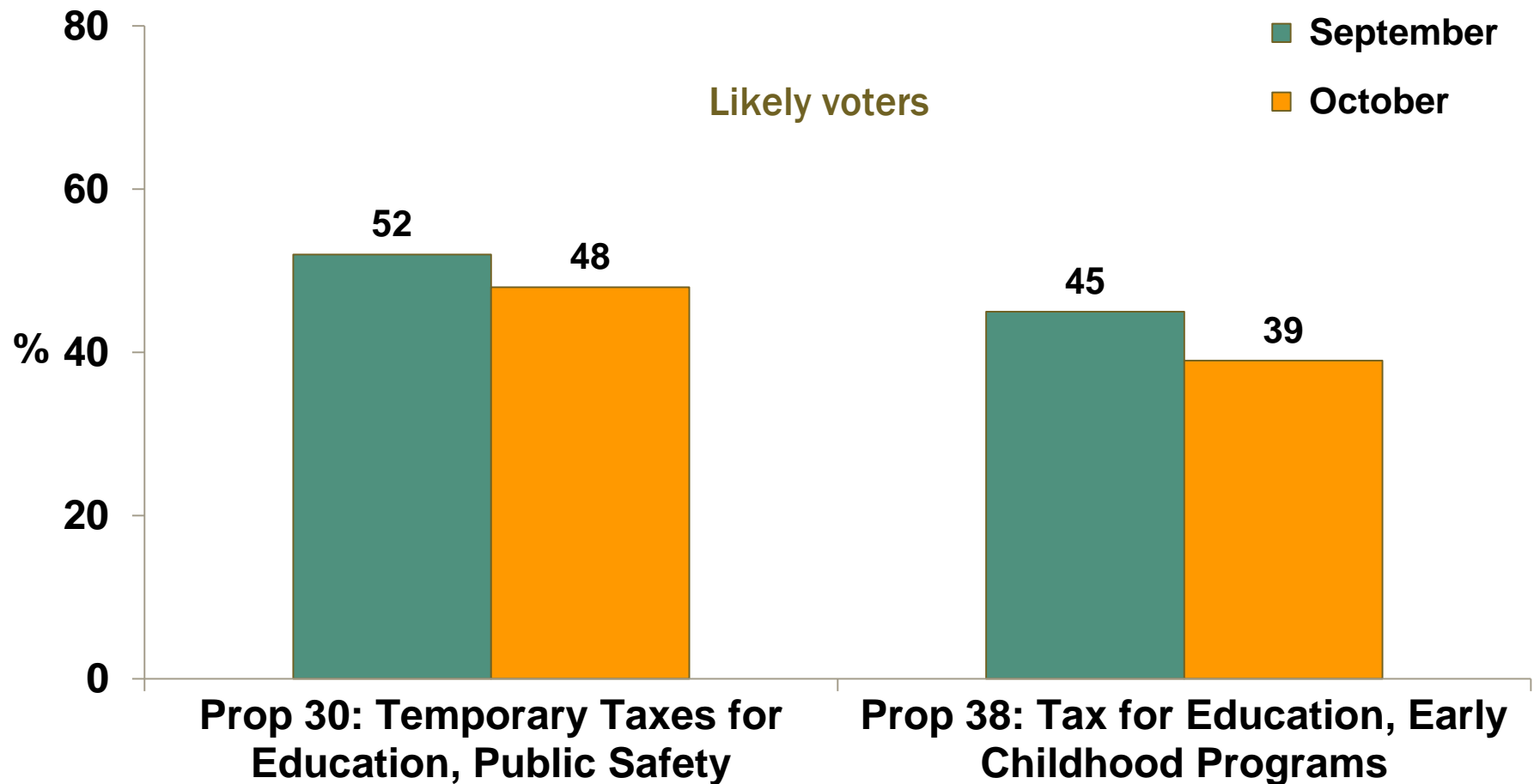


# Congressional Elections

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

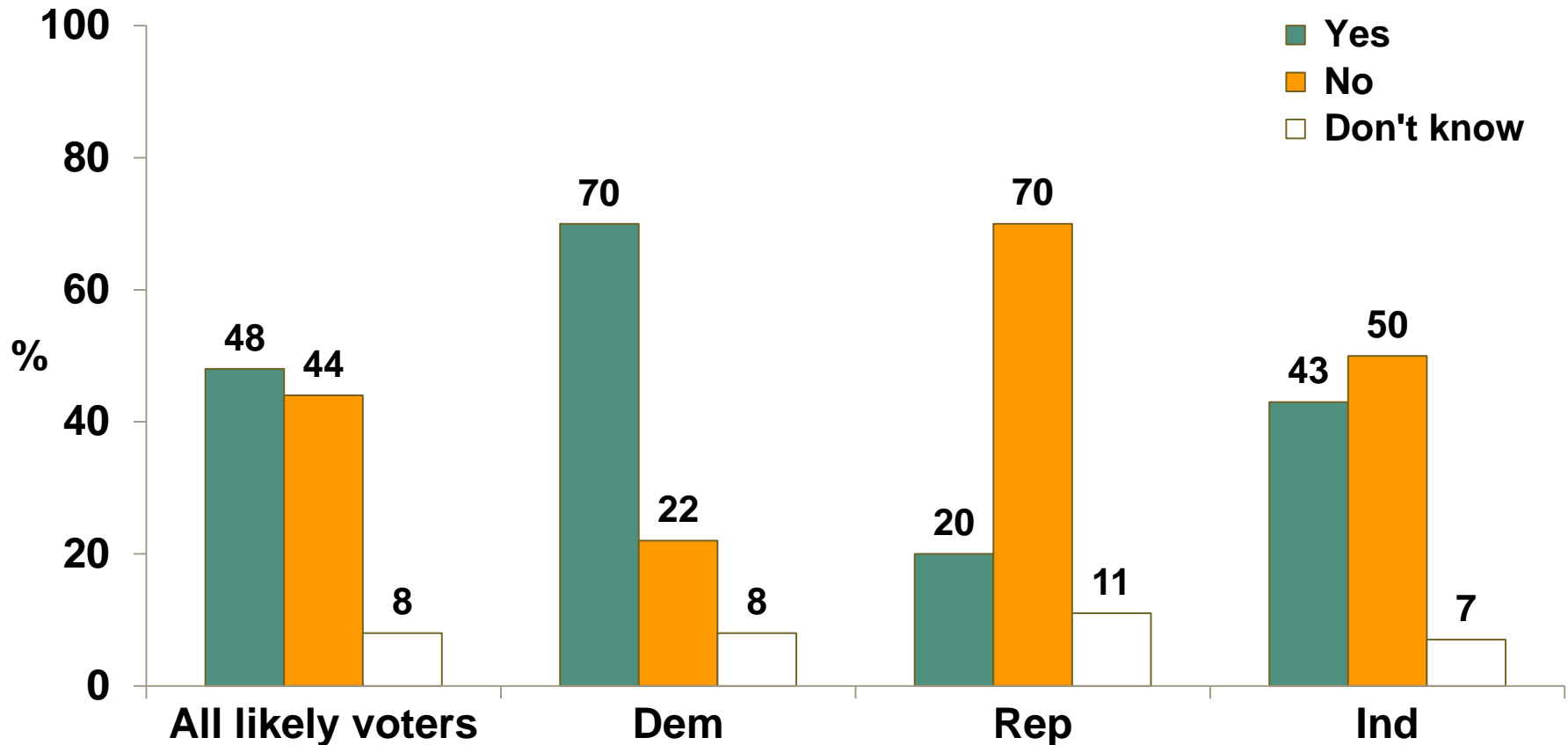


# Support on Tax Measures to Fund Education



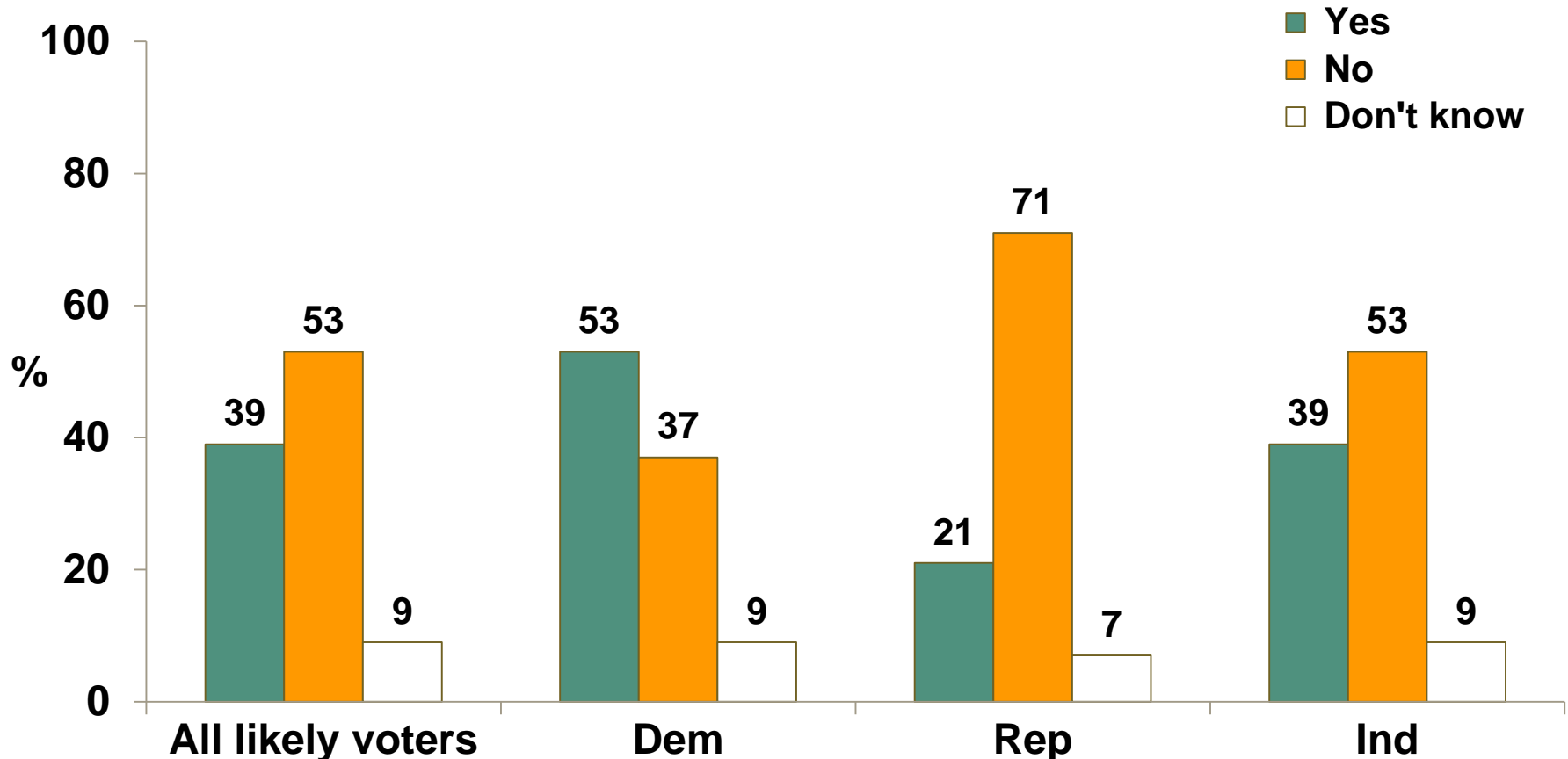
# Vote on Prop. 30: Temporary Taxes for Education, Public Safety

Proposition 30 is called 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 Proposition 30?



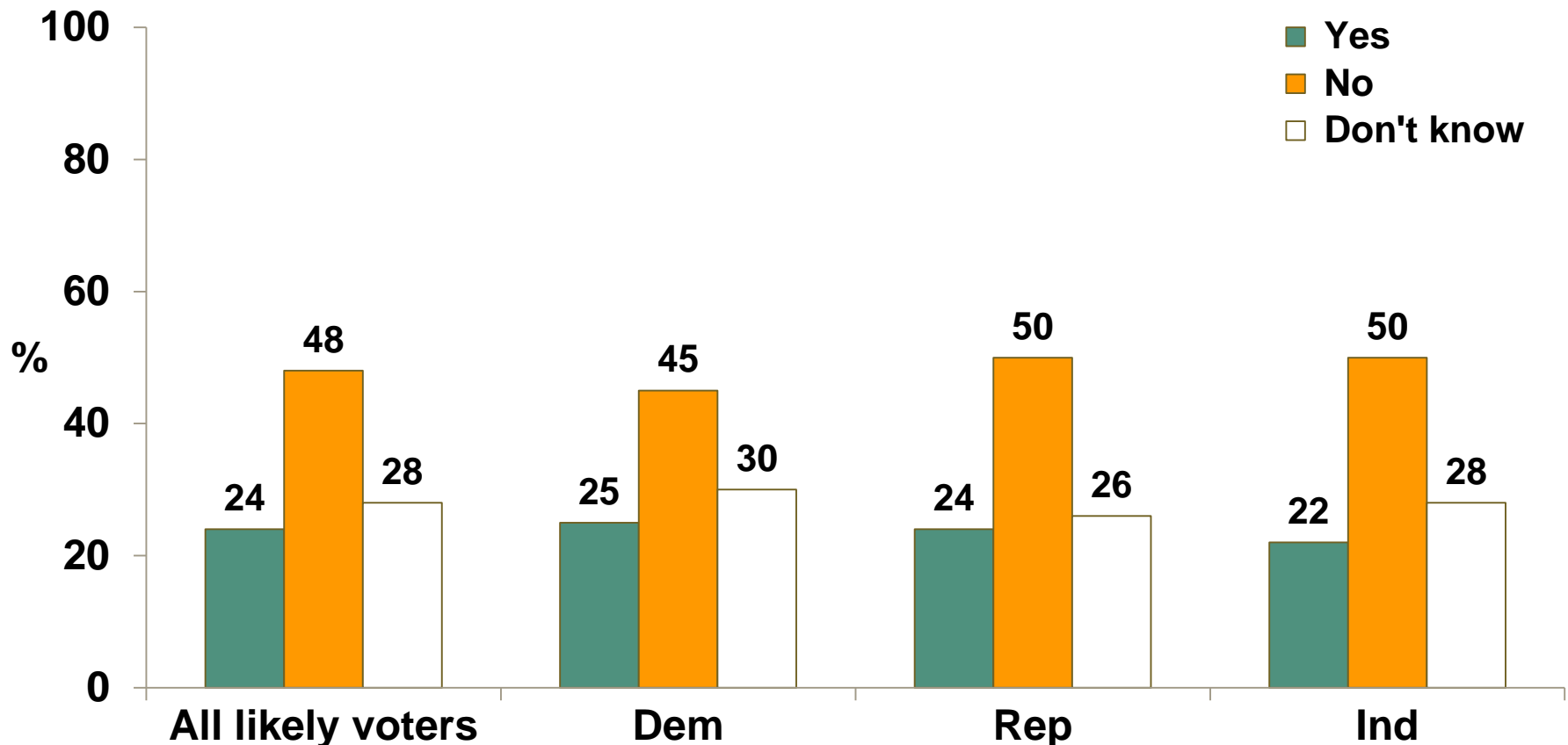
# Vote on Prop. 38: Tax for Education and Early Childhood Programs

Proposition 38 is called the “Tax for Education and Early Childhood Programs. Initiative Statute.”...If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 38?



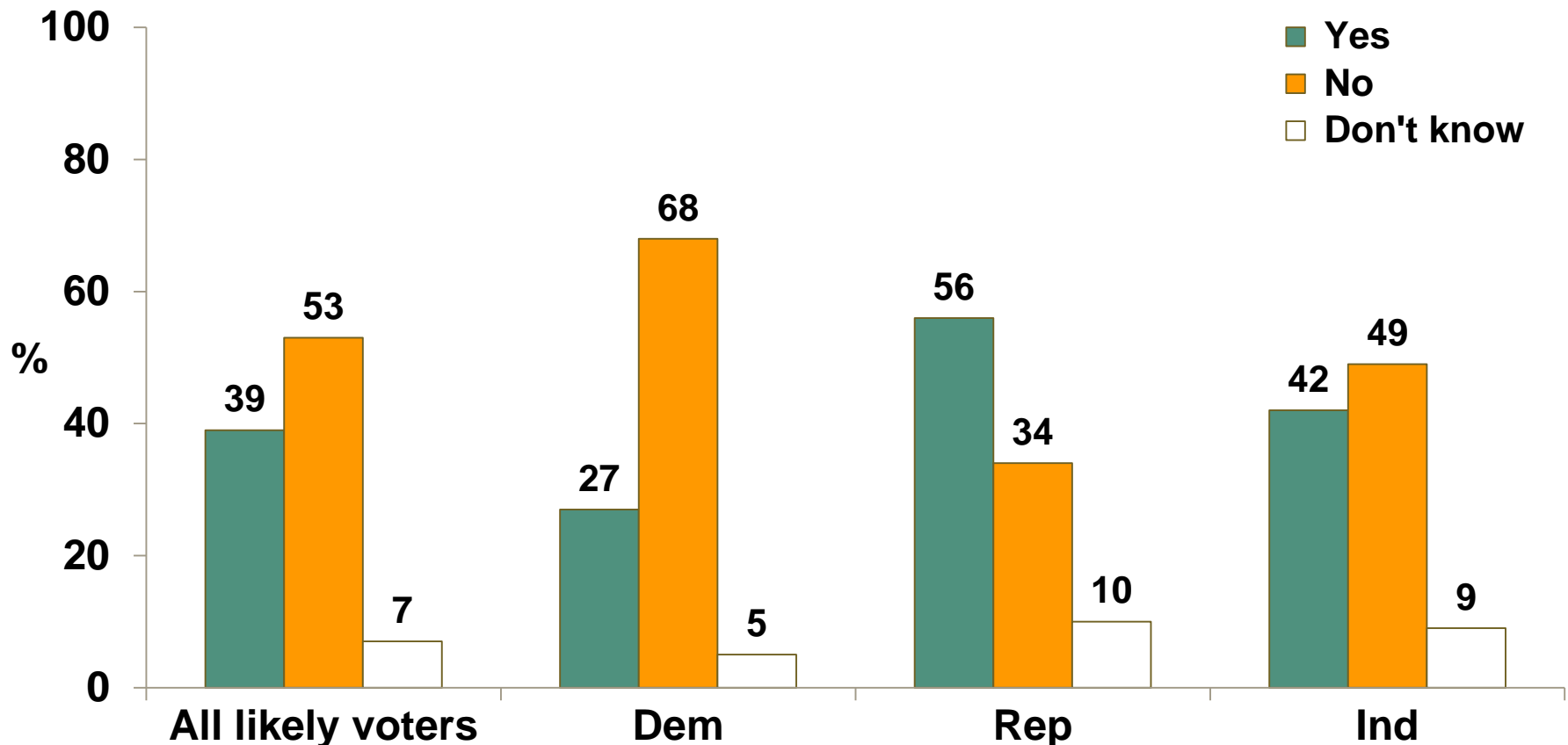
# Vote on Proposition 31: State Budget, State and Local Government

Proposition 31 is called the “State Budget, State and Local Government, Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.”...If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 31?



# Vote on Proposition 32: Political Contributions by Payroll Deduction

Proposition 32 is called the “Political Contributions by Payroll Deduction. Contributions to Candidates. Initiative Statute.”...If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 32?



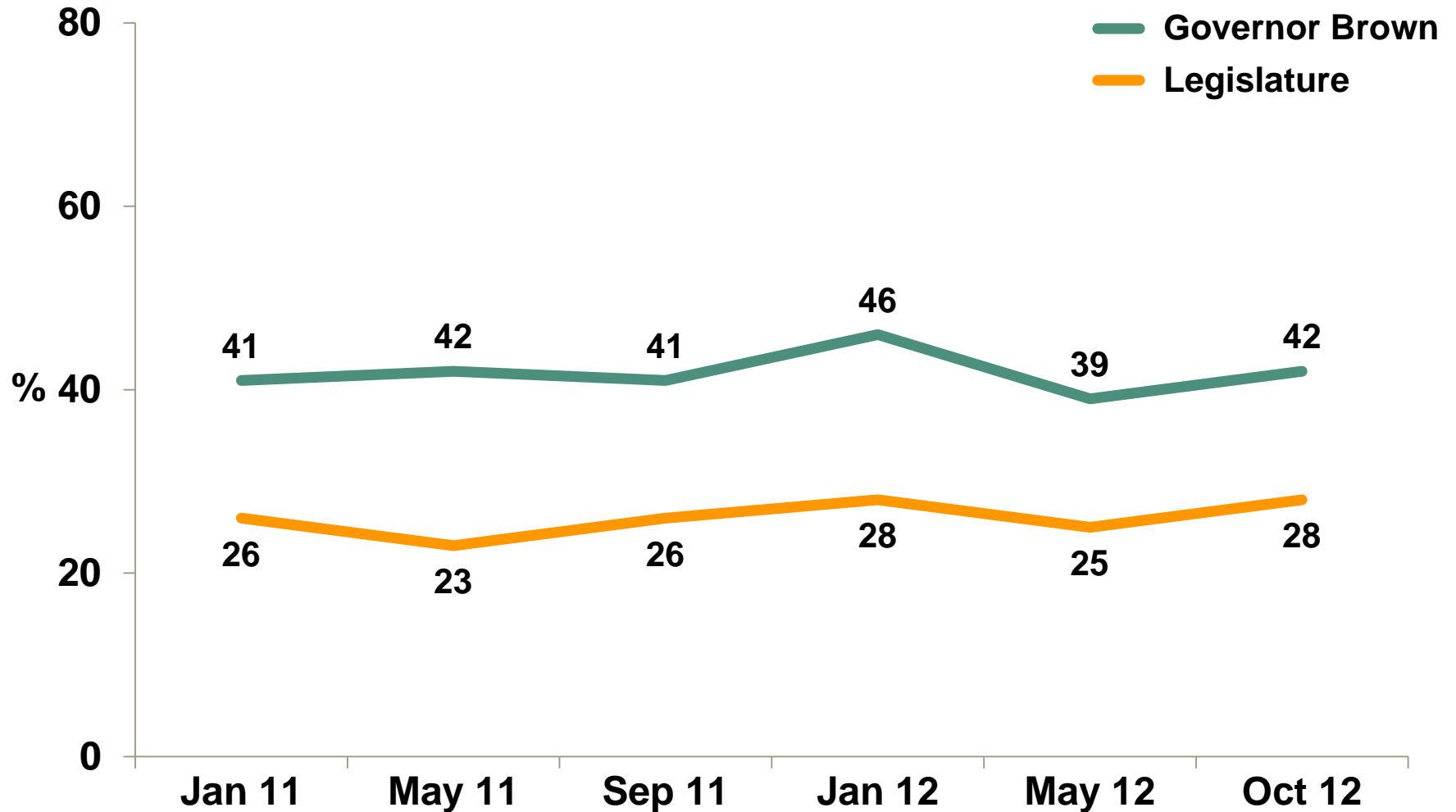
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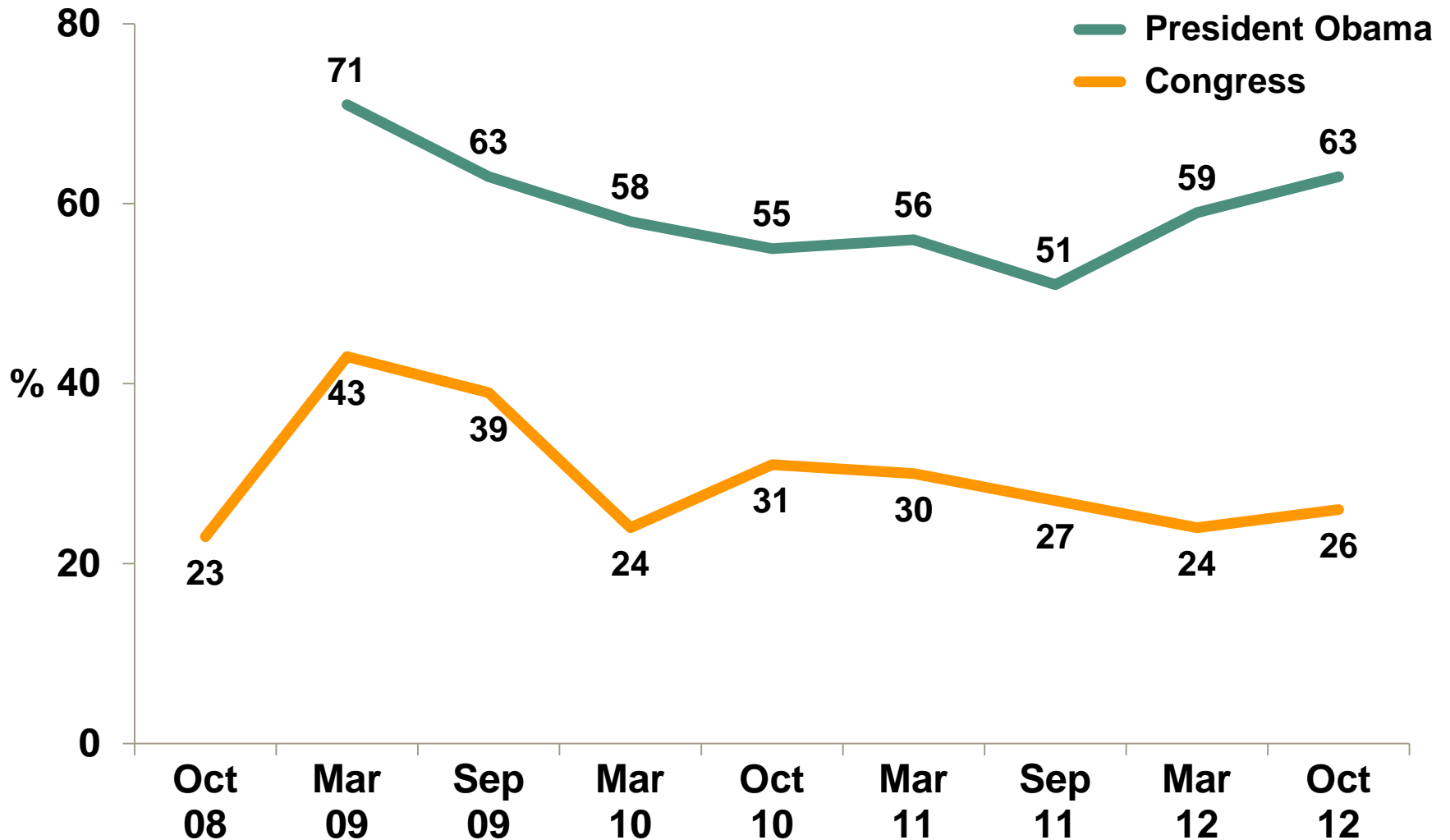


# Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials



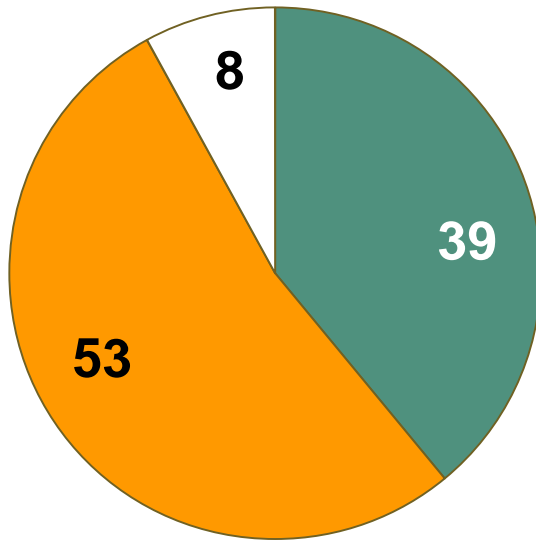


# Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials



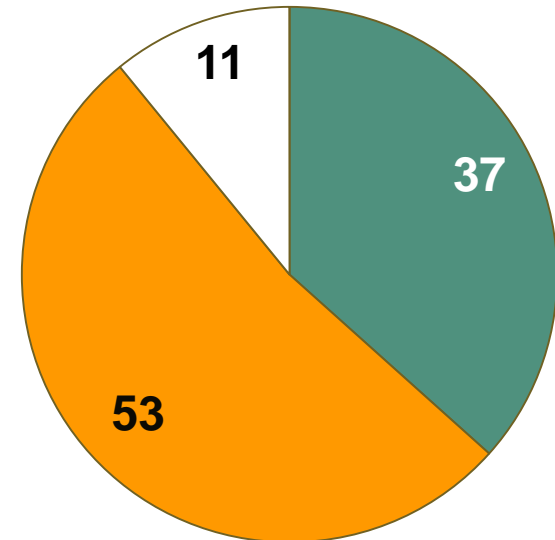
# Overall Mood of State

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?

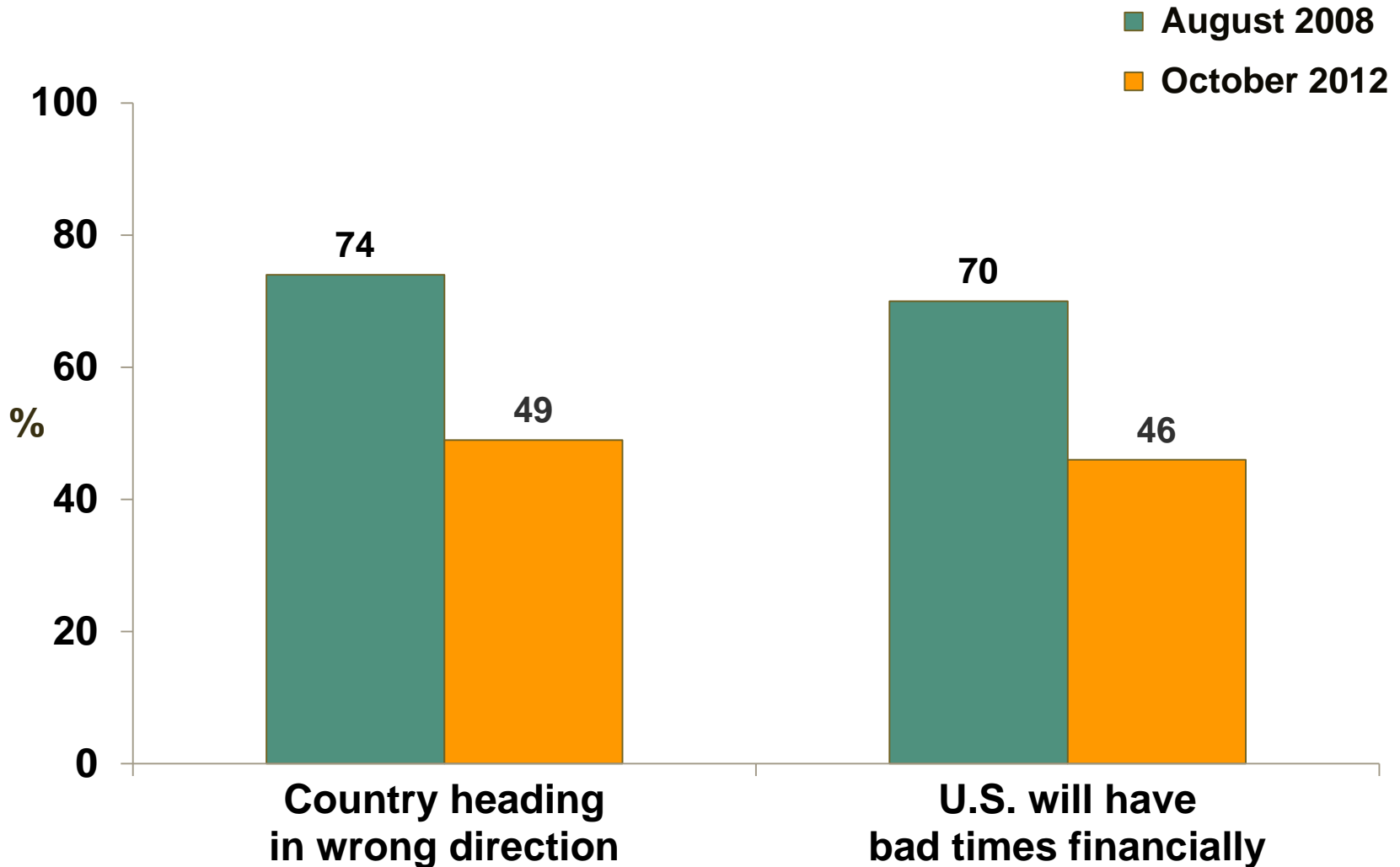


- Good times
- Bad times
- Don't know

All adults

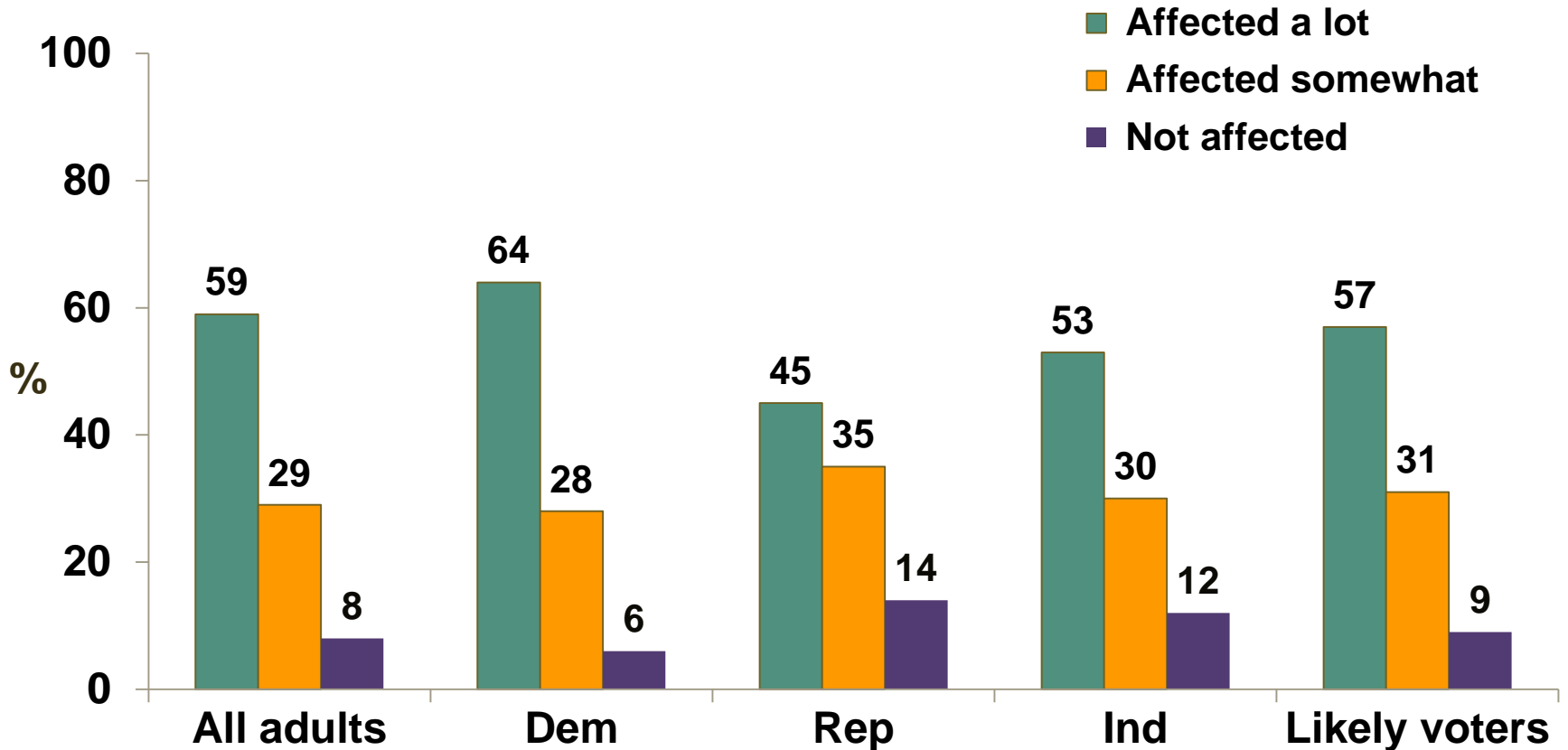


# Overall Mood of Nation



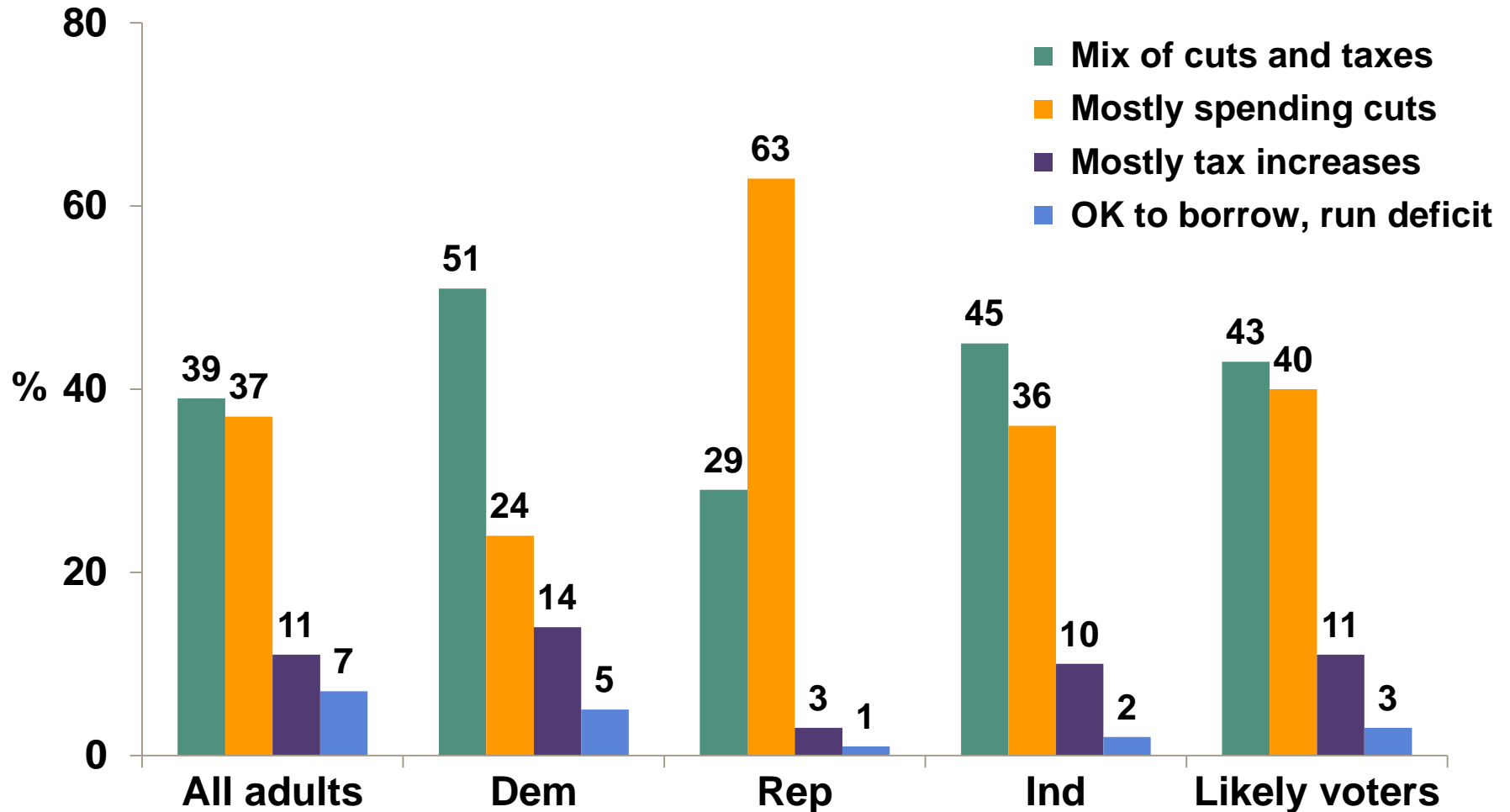
# Effects of State Budget Cuts

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? (If they have: “Have they been affected a lot or somewhat?”)



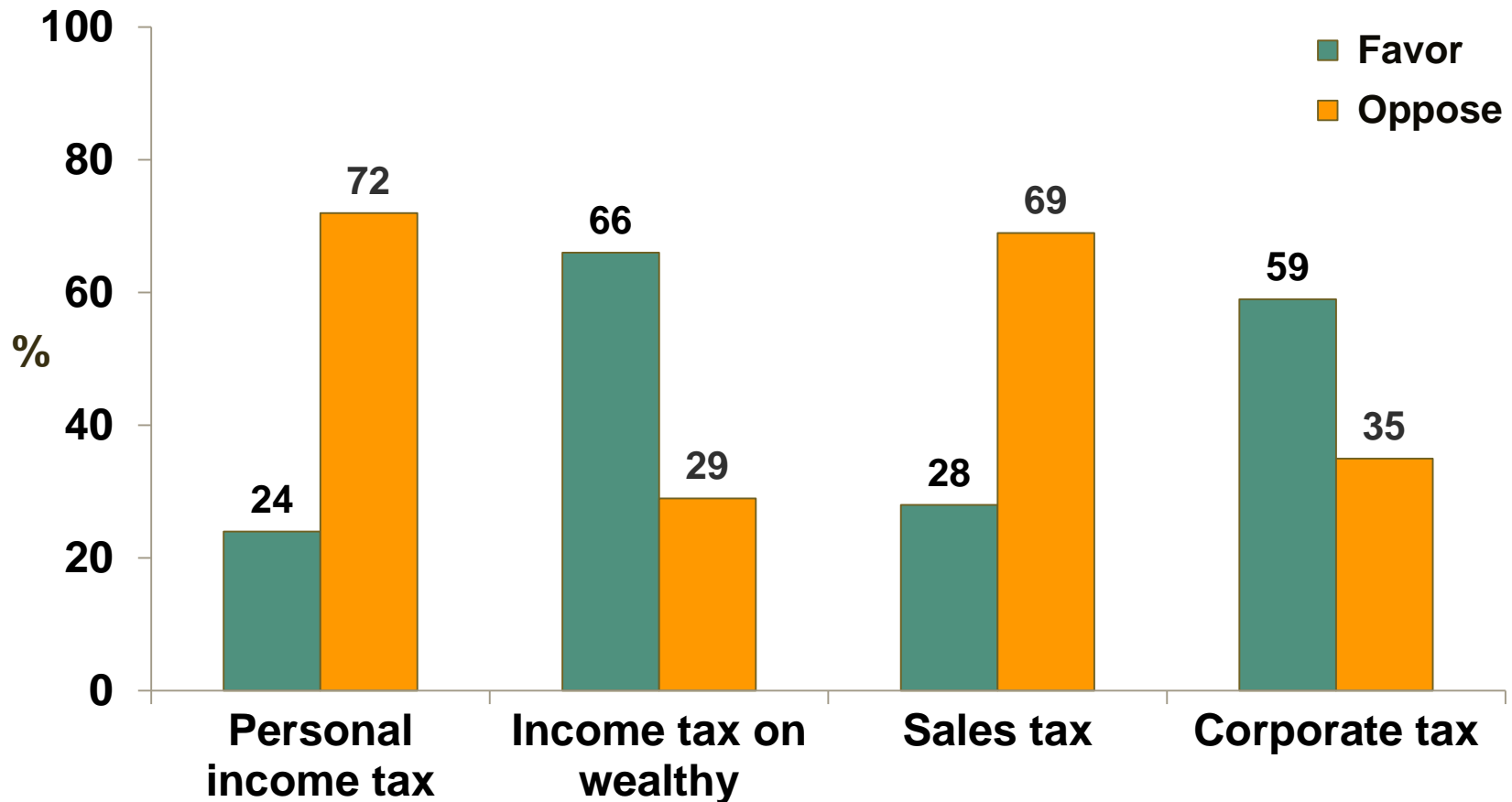
# Closing Potential Budget Deficit

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



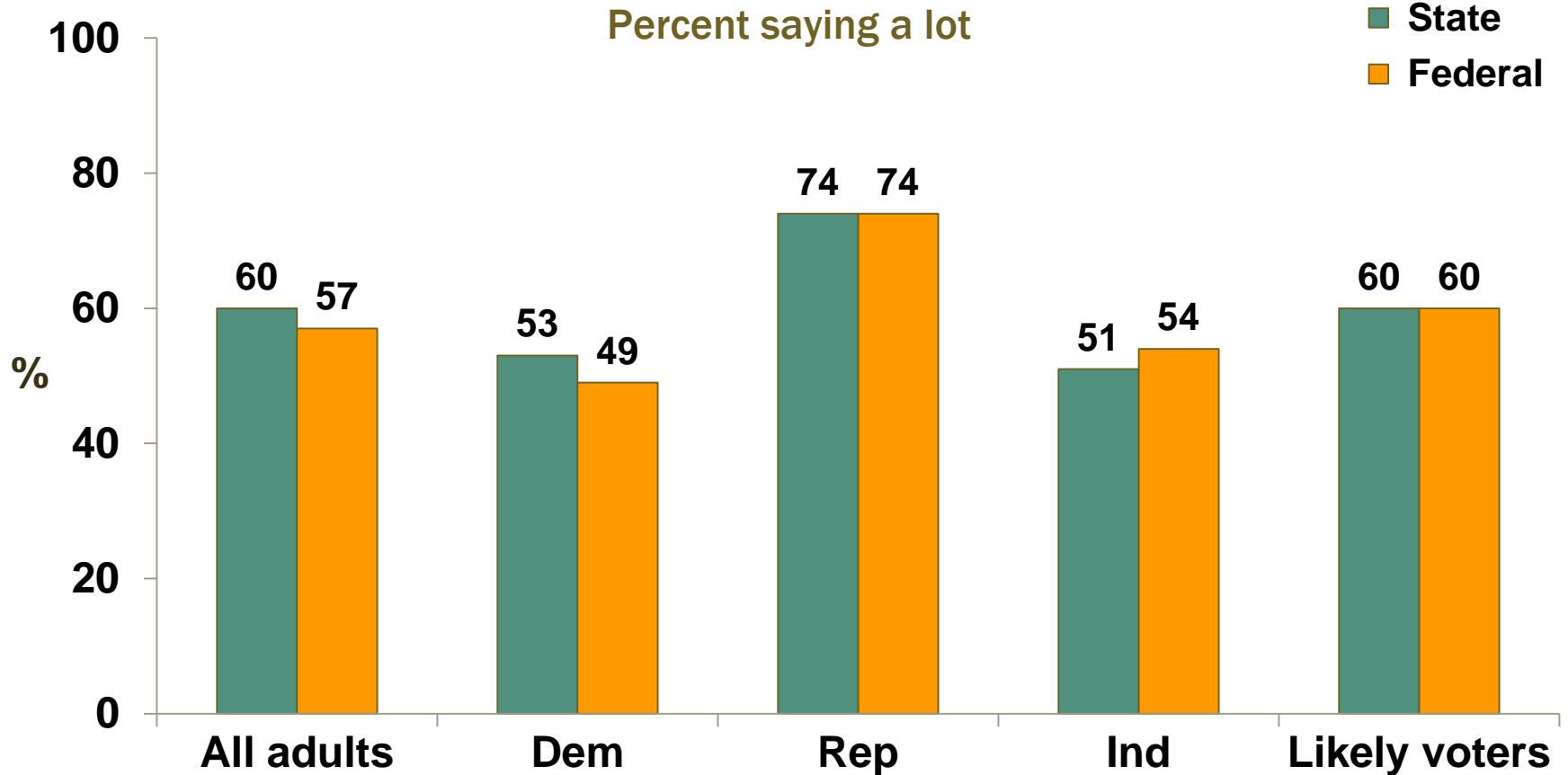
# Raising Taxes

For each of the following, please say if you favor or oppose the proposal. Do you favor or oppose raising \_\_\_\_\_?



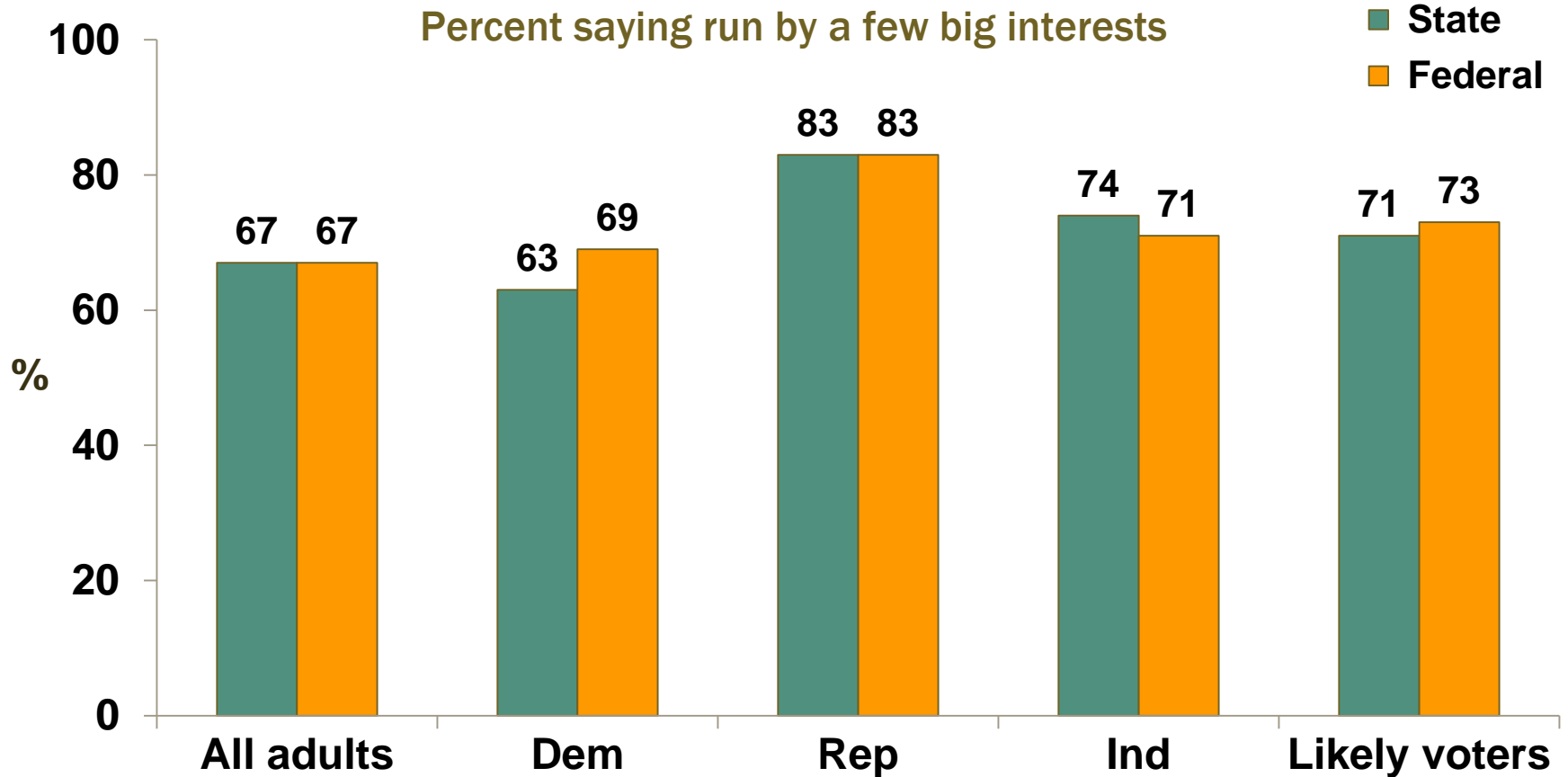
# Government Waste

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



# Role of Big Interests

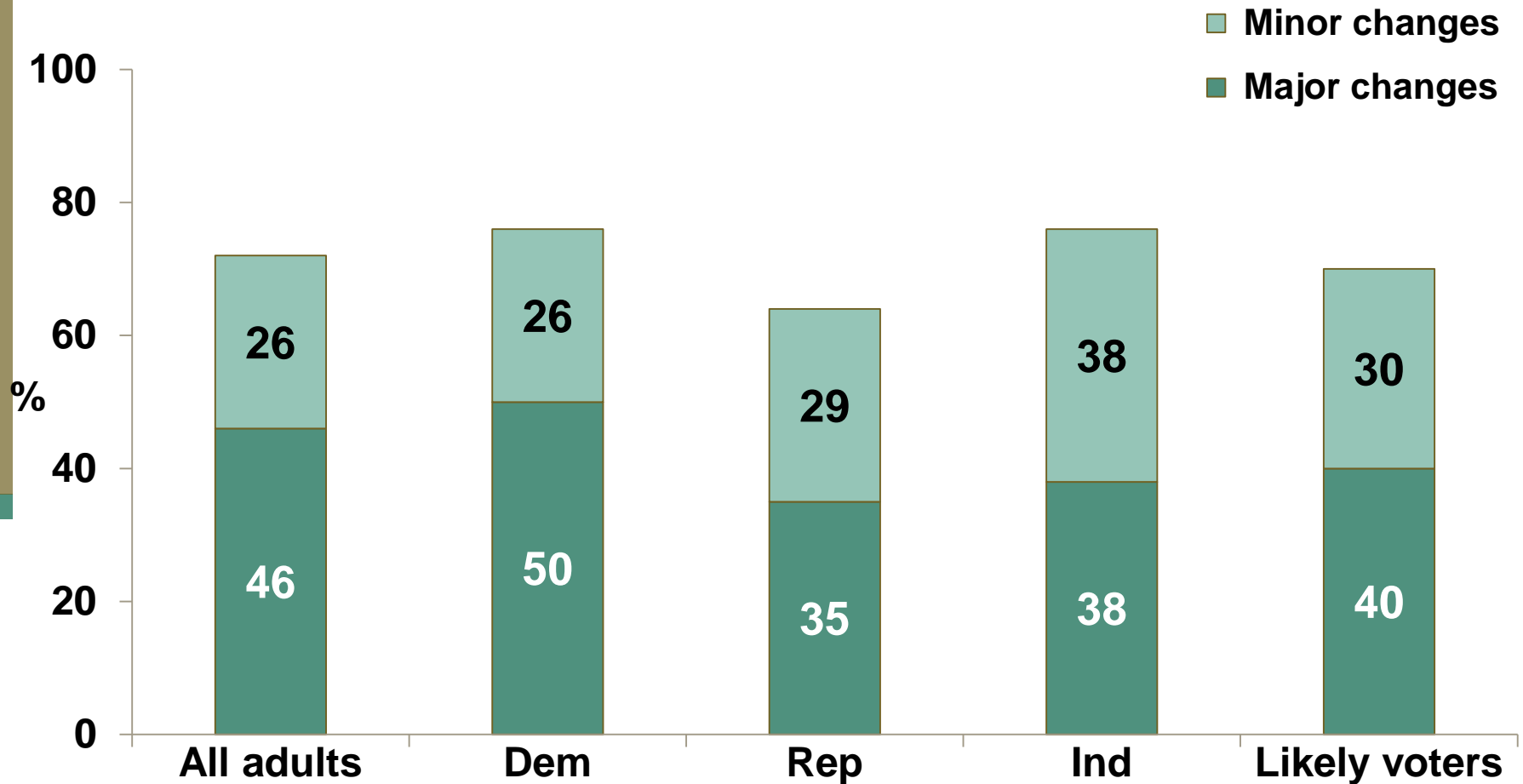
Would you say the ... government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, or that it is run for the benefit of all of the people?





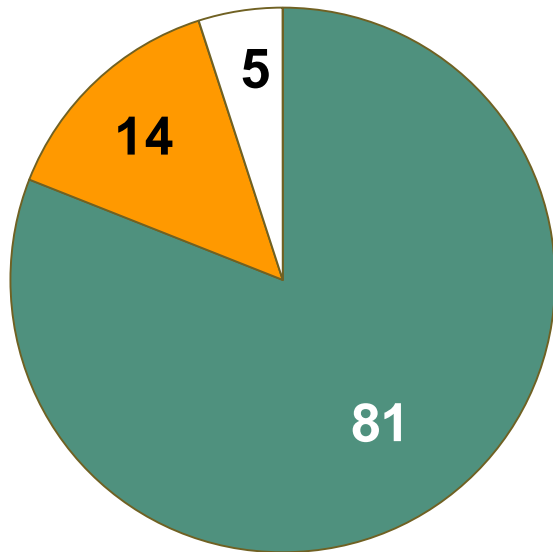
# Changes to Initiative Process

Do you think the citizens' initiative process in California is in need of major changes, minor changes, or that it is basically fine the way it is?

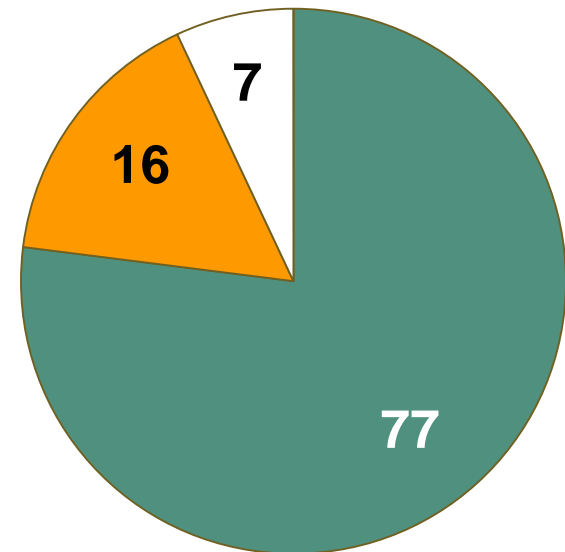


# Initiative Reform Proposals

How about having a period of time in which the initiative sponsor and the legislature could meet to see if there is a compromise solution before initiatives go to the ballot?



How about increasing public disclosure of funding sources for signature gathering and initiative campaigns?



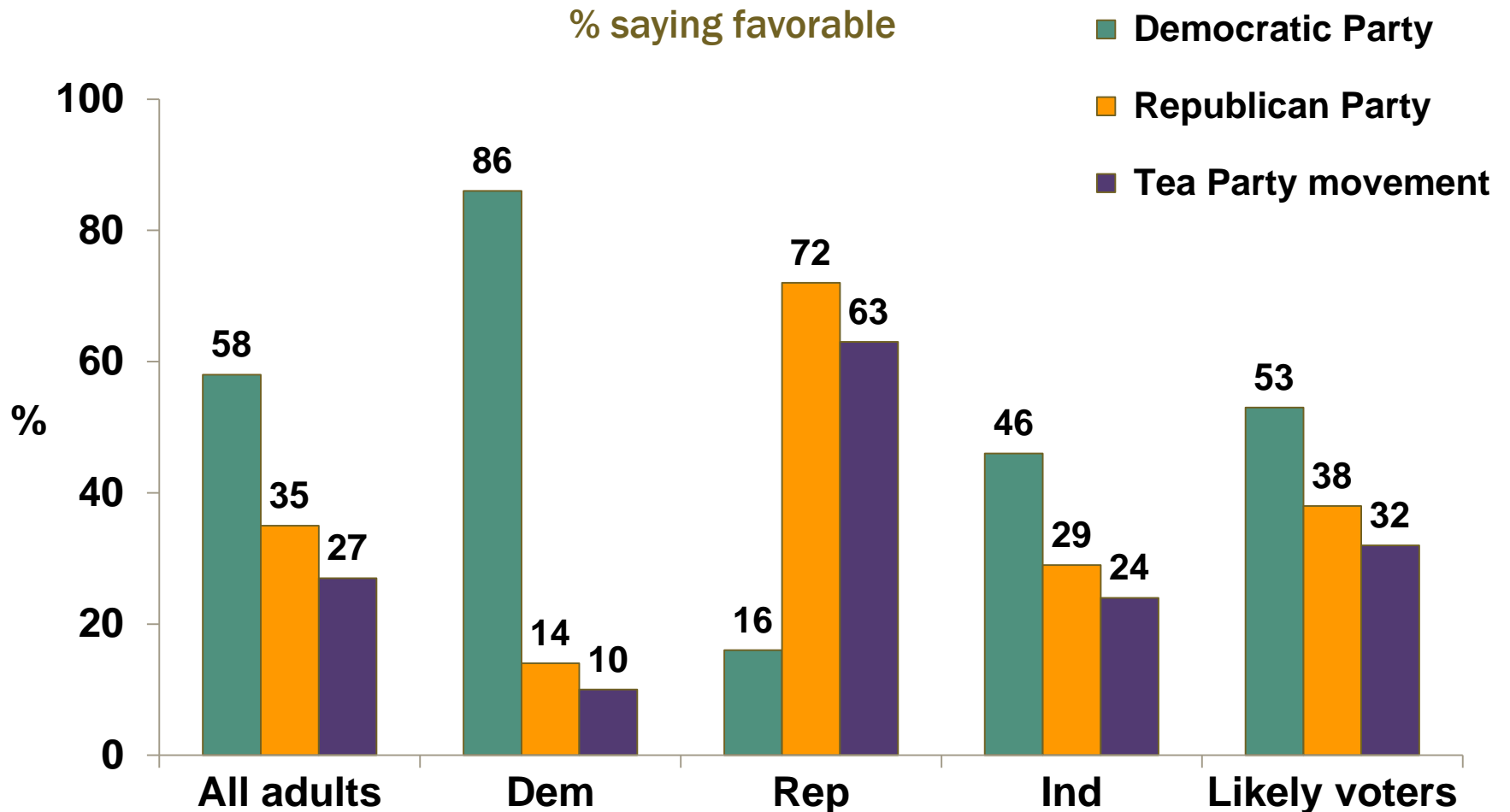
All adults

- Favor
- Oppose
- Don't know



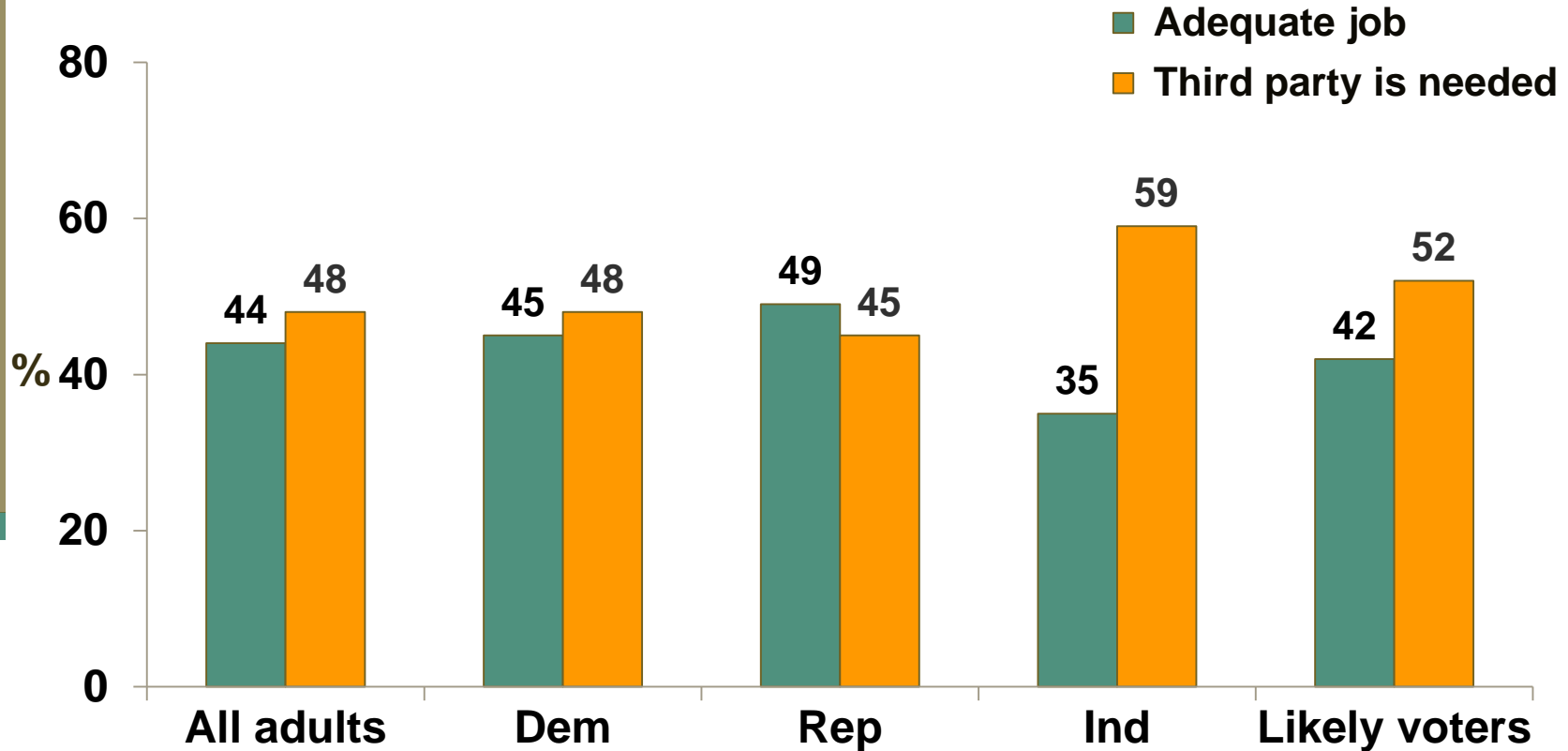
# Party Perceptions

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the...



# Need for a Third Party

In your view, do the Republican and Democratic parties do an adequate job representing the American people, or do they do such a poor job that a third major party is needed?



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# Conclusions

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- Obama-Biden lead Romney-Ryan by 12 points
- Just under half would vote yes on Proposition 30, support lower for Proposition 38
- Nearly half would vote no on Prop. 31 and many still undecided; just over half oppose Prop. 32
- Most Californians express distrust of both state and federal government
- Most say changes are needed to the initiative process and support reform
- A majority have a favorable impression of the Democratic Party; more negative views of the Republican Party or the Tea Party



# 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.

October 2012



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