

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and the Future

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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
 - 274,000+ Californians since 1998
 - 130 general, issue, and regional surveys



Californians and the Future

- Supported by the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, The San Francisco Foundation, The David and Susan Coulter Family Foundation, and the Walter S. Johnson Foundation
- Current and future outlook of state, passage of Prop.30, higher education system, water policy
- Opinions on Prop. 13; electoral, legislative, spending, fiscal, and initiative process reforms
- Telephone interviews, November 13–20
 - 2,001 adults; 1,025 likely voters
 - $\pm 3.5\%$ margin of error for adults
 - $\pm 4.0\%$ for likely voters



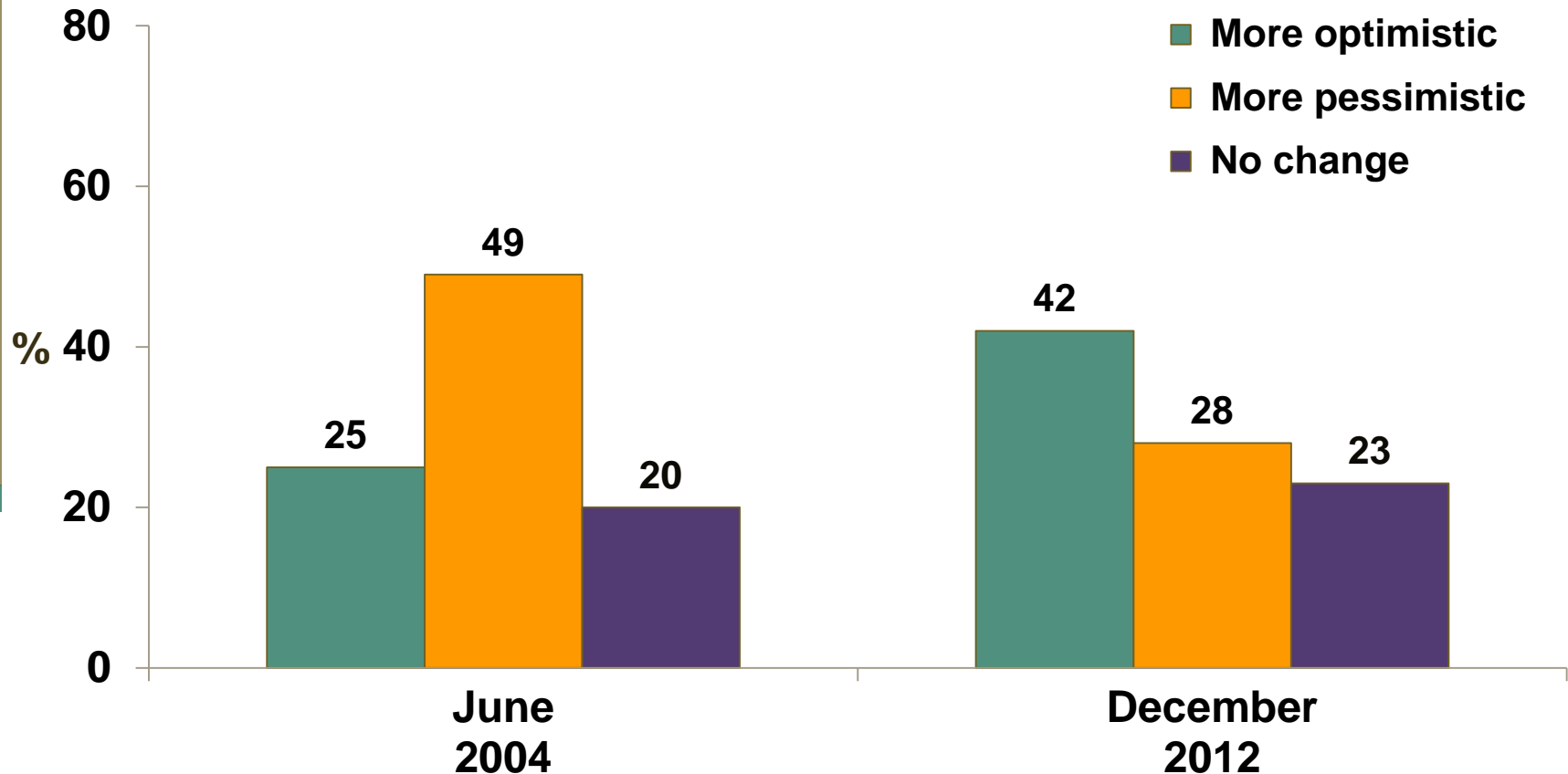
Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- **Planning for the Future**
- Fiscal and Governance Reforms
- Conclusions

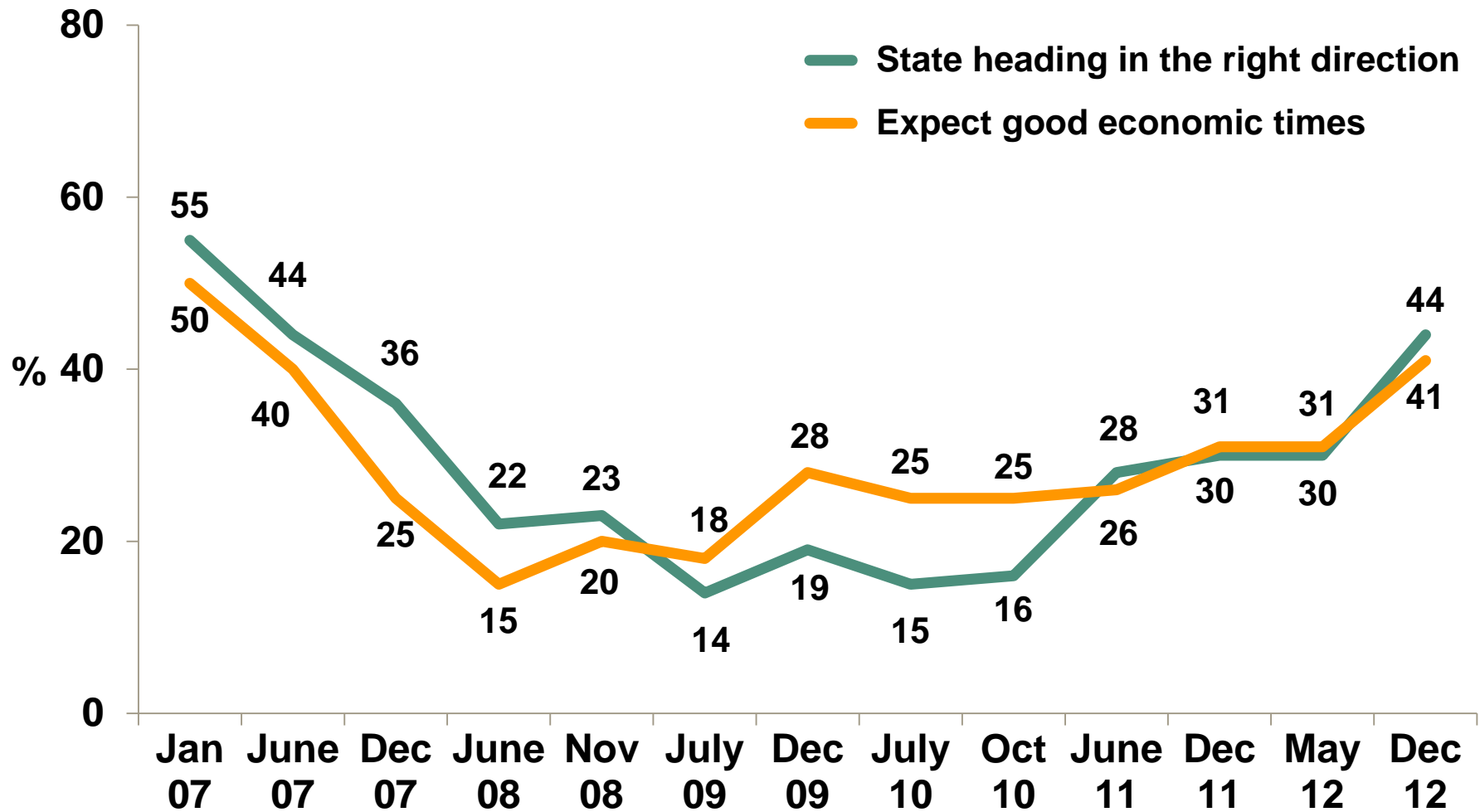


Future Outlook

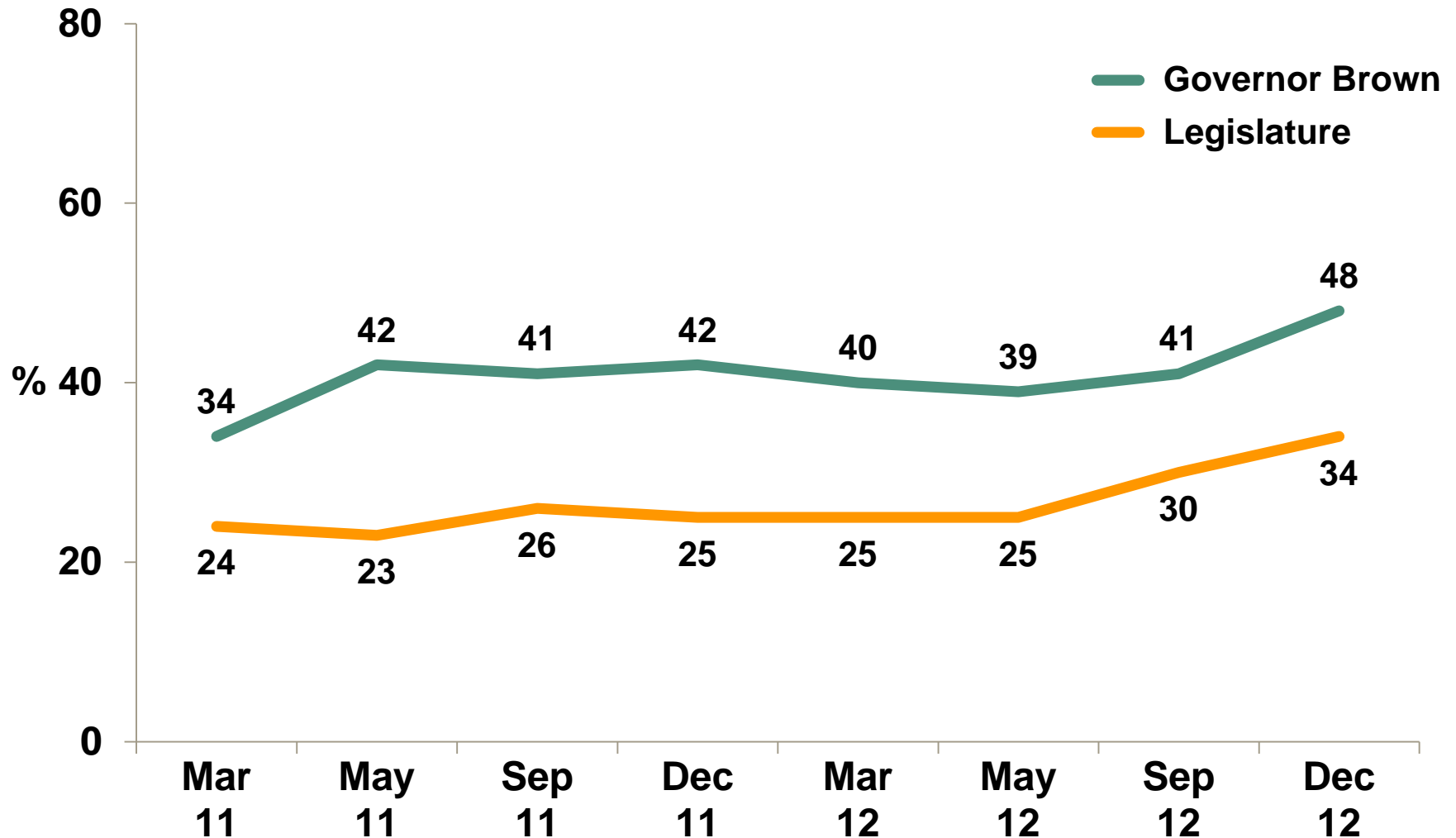
Overall, do you think that in 2025 California will be a better place to live than it is now or a worse place to live than it is now or will there be no change?



Current Outlook

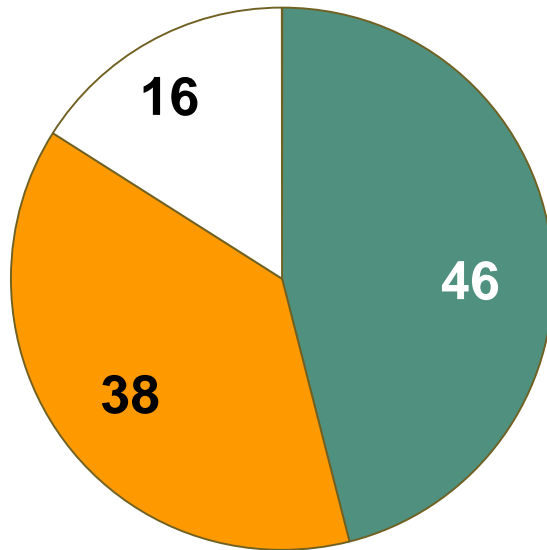


Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

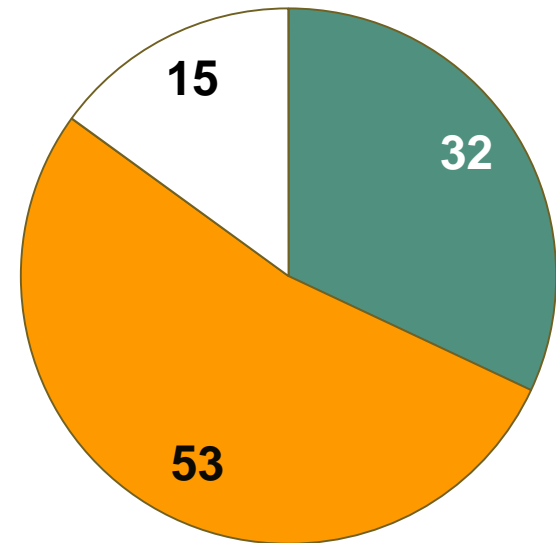


Approval Ratings on Ability to Plan for California's Future

Governor Brown



The California Legislature



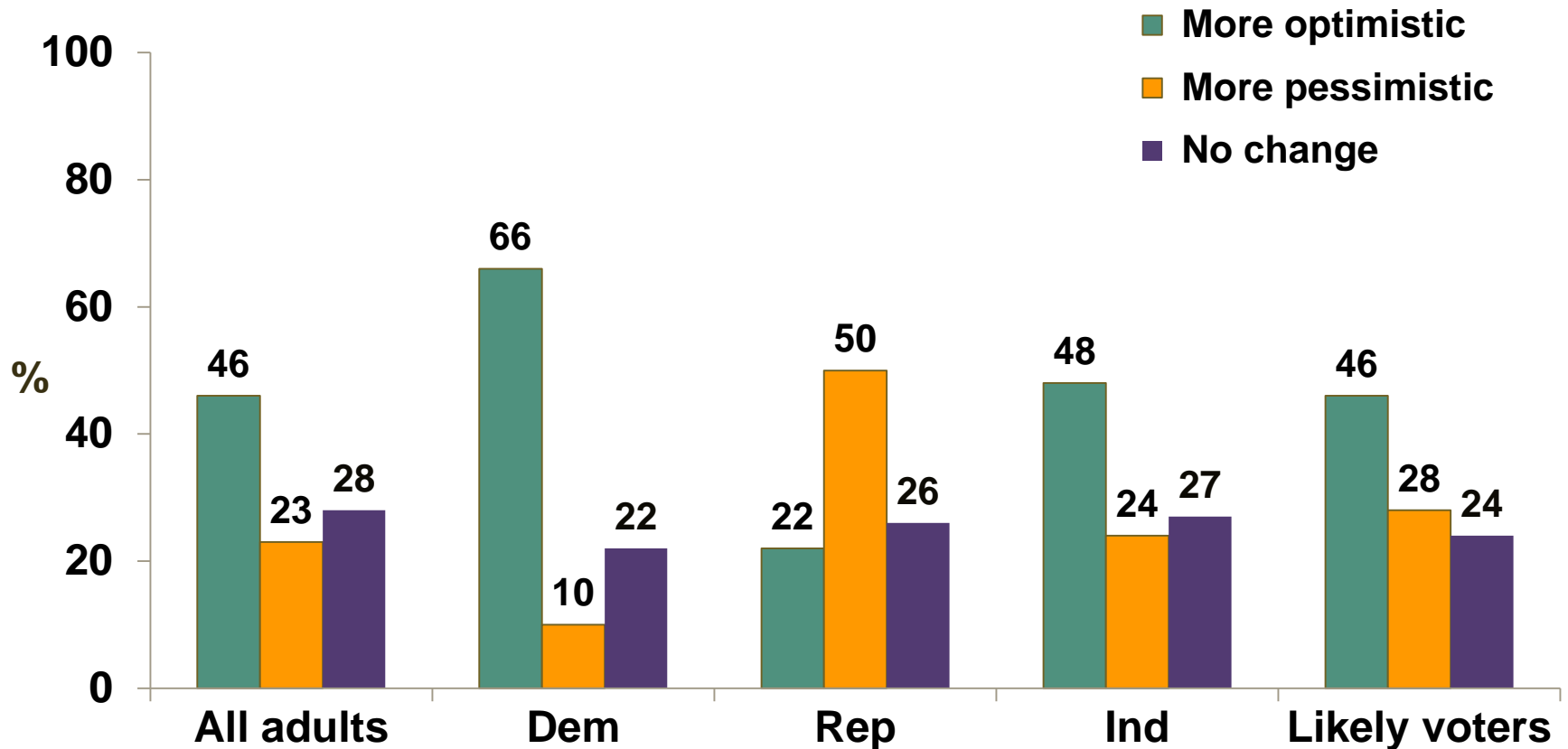
All adults

- Approve
- Disapprove
- Don't know



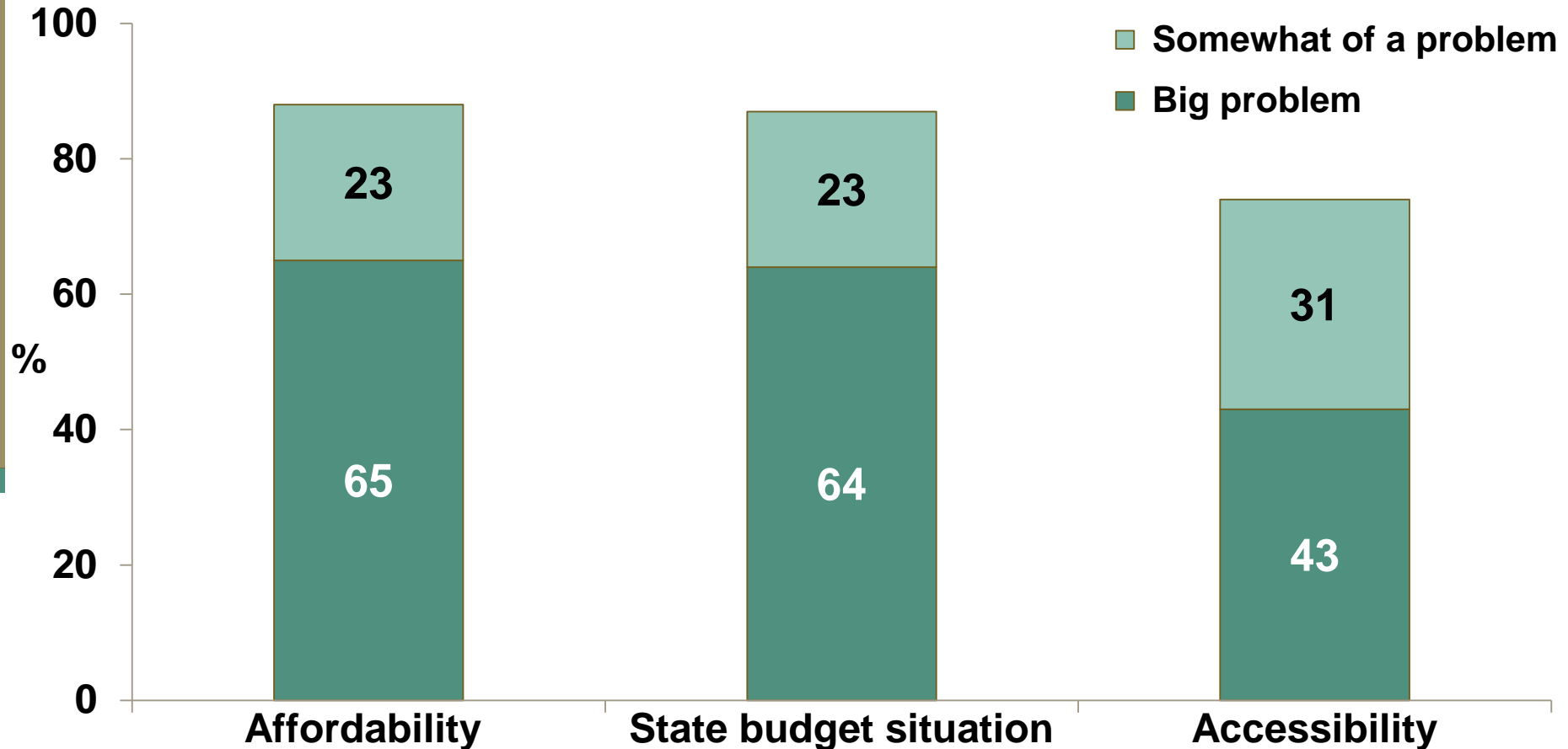
Prop. 30 and the State Budget Situation

...Does the passage of Proposition 30 make you more optimistic about the state's budget situation, more pessimistic, or does this not change the way you feel about California's budget situation?

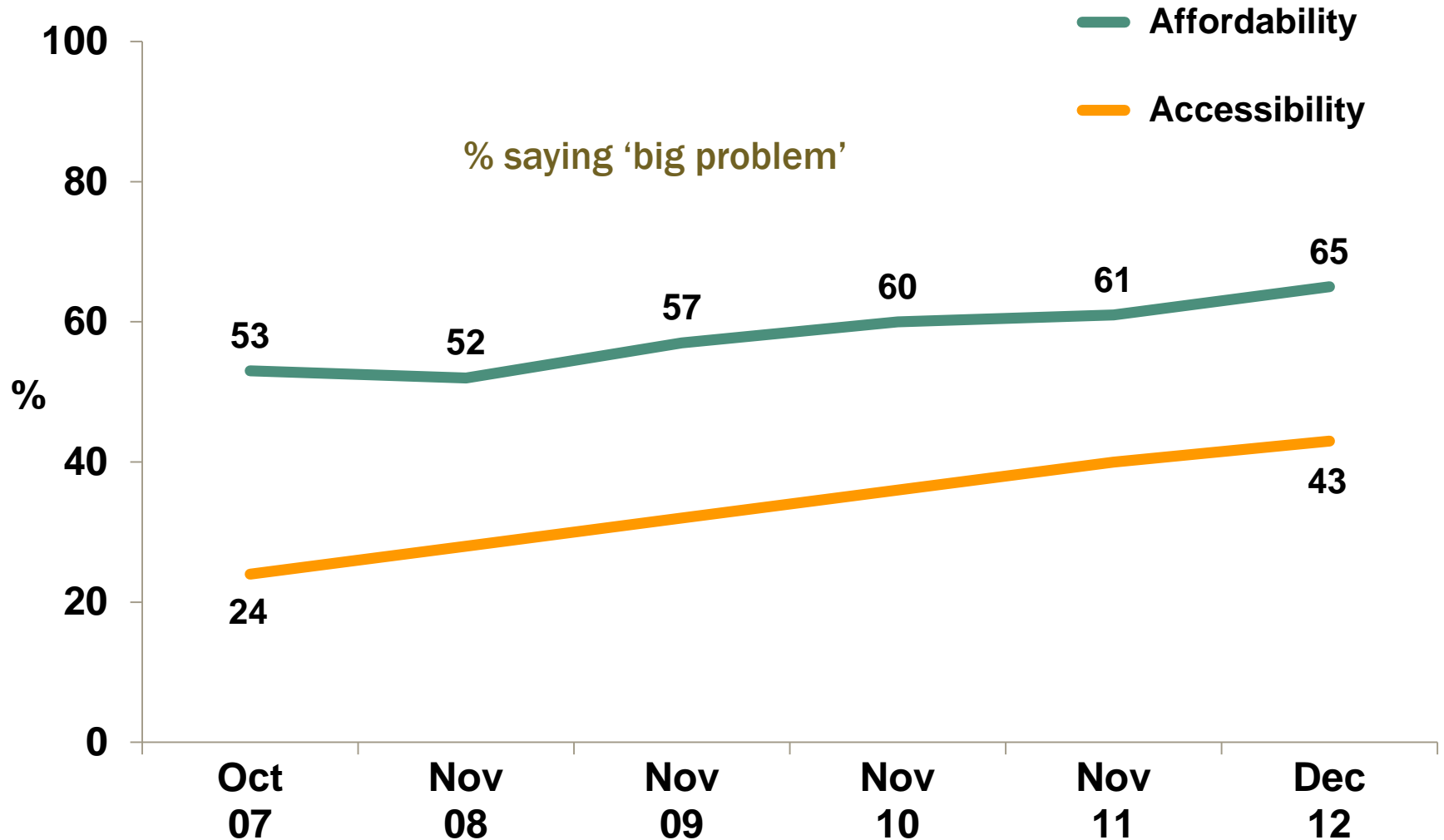


Issues Facing the Higher Education System

I'm going to read you a list of issues people have mentioned when talking about California's public higher education system today...please tell me if you think it is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem.

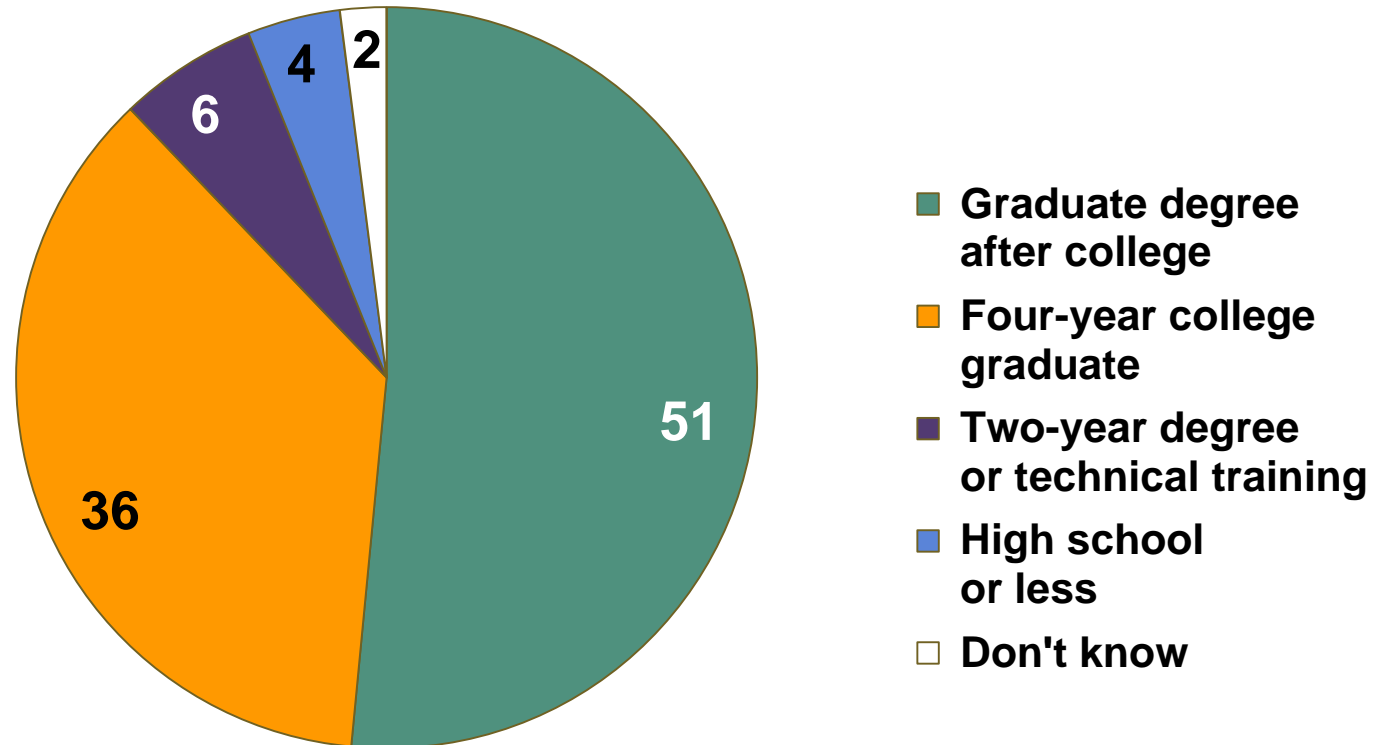


Issues Facing the Higher Education System



Parents' Educational Hopes

What do you hope will be the highest grade level that your youngest child will achieve?

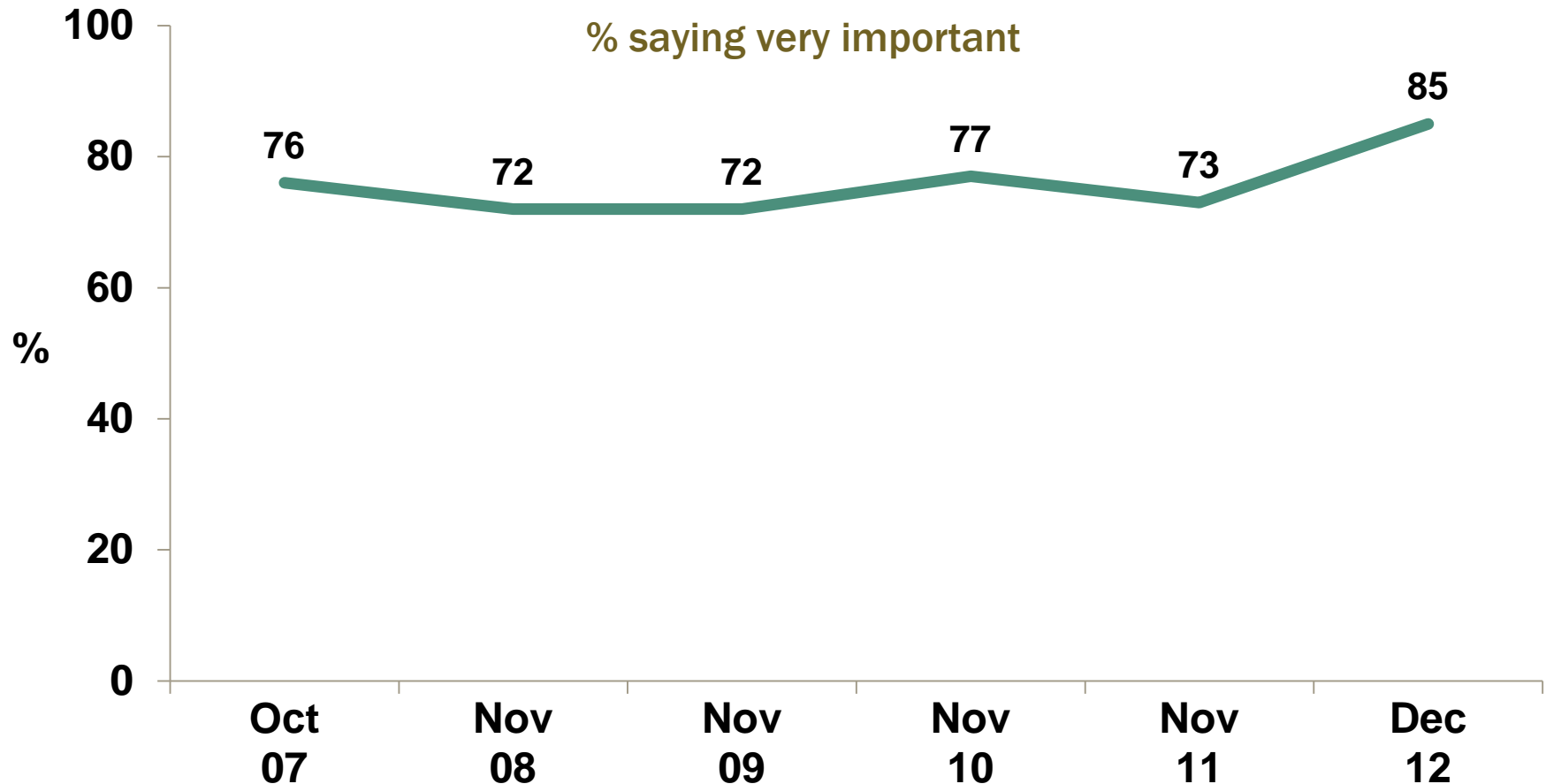


Parents of children
18 or younger



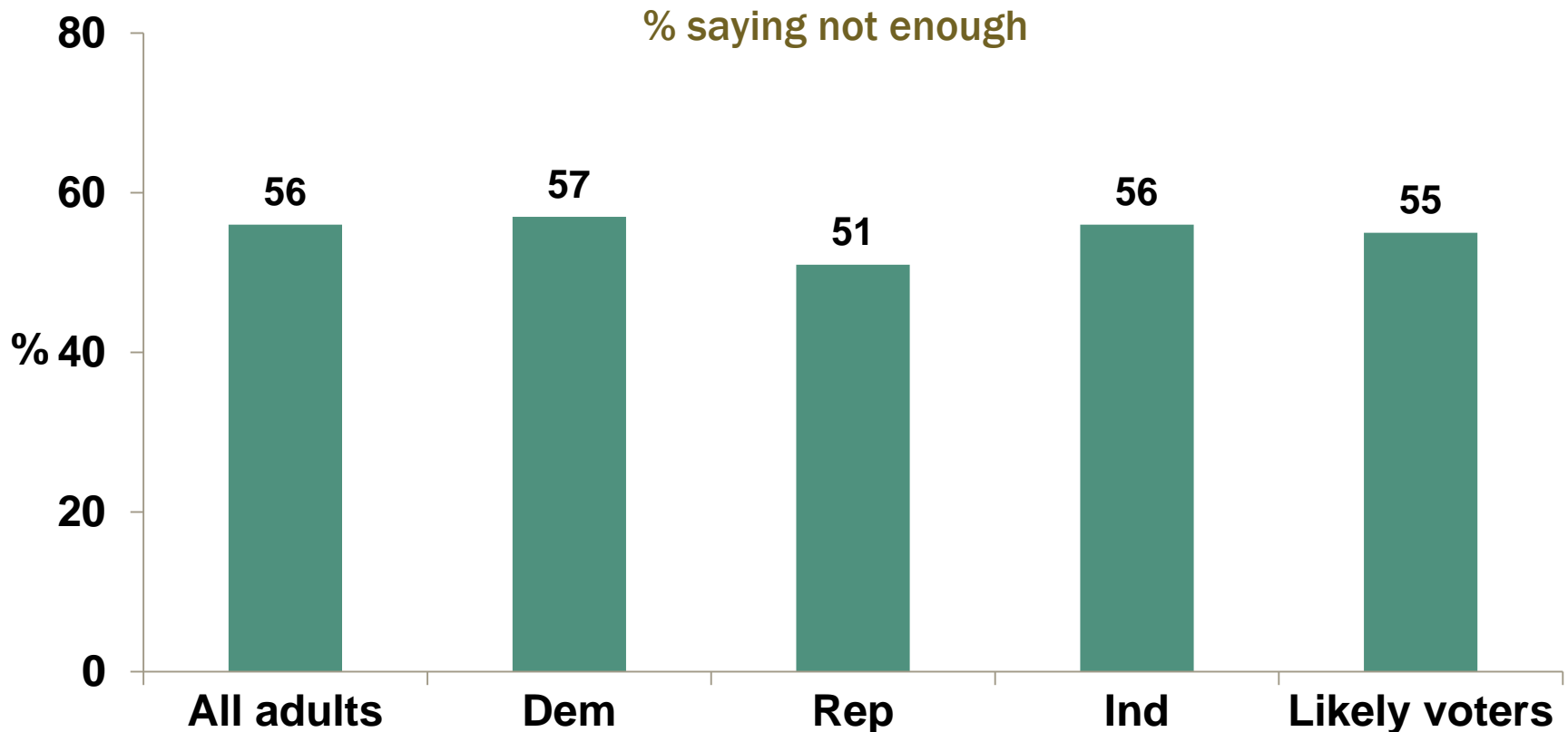
Importance of the Public Higher Education System

In general, how important is California's public higher education system to the quality of life and economic vitality of the state over the next 20 years?



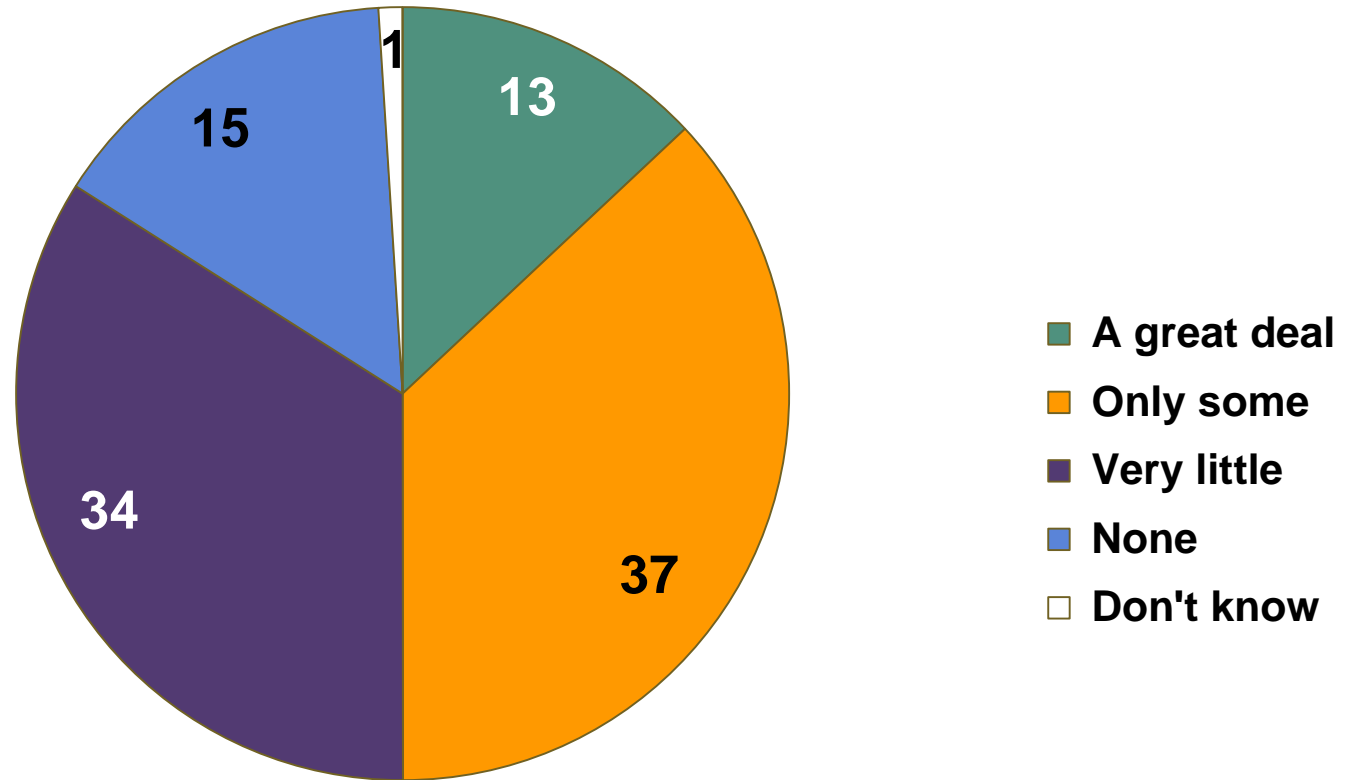
Future Workforce

In thinking ahead 20 years, if current trends continue, do you think California will have more than enough, not enough, or just enough college-educated residents needed for the jobs and skills likely to be in demand?



Confidence in Future Planning

How much confidence do you have in the state government's ability to plan for the future of California's higher education system?

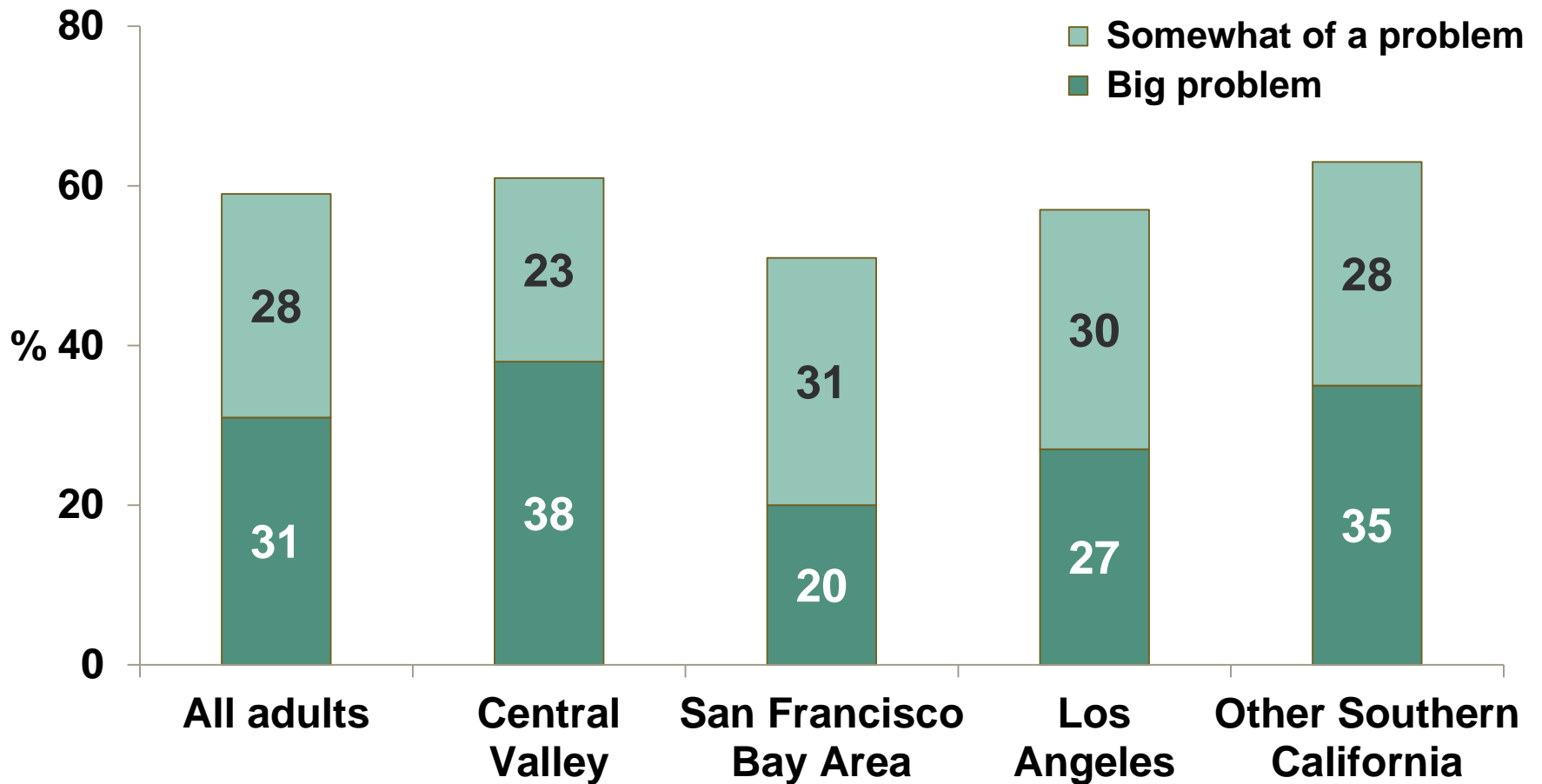


All adults



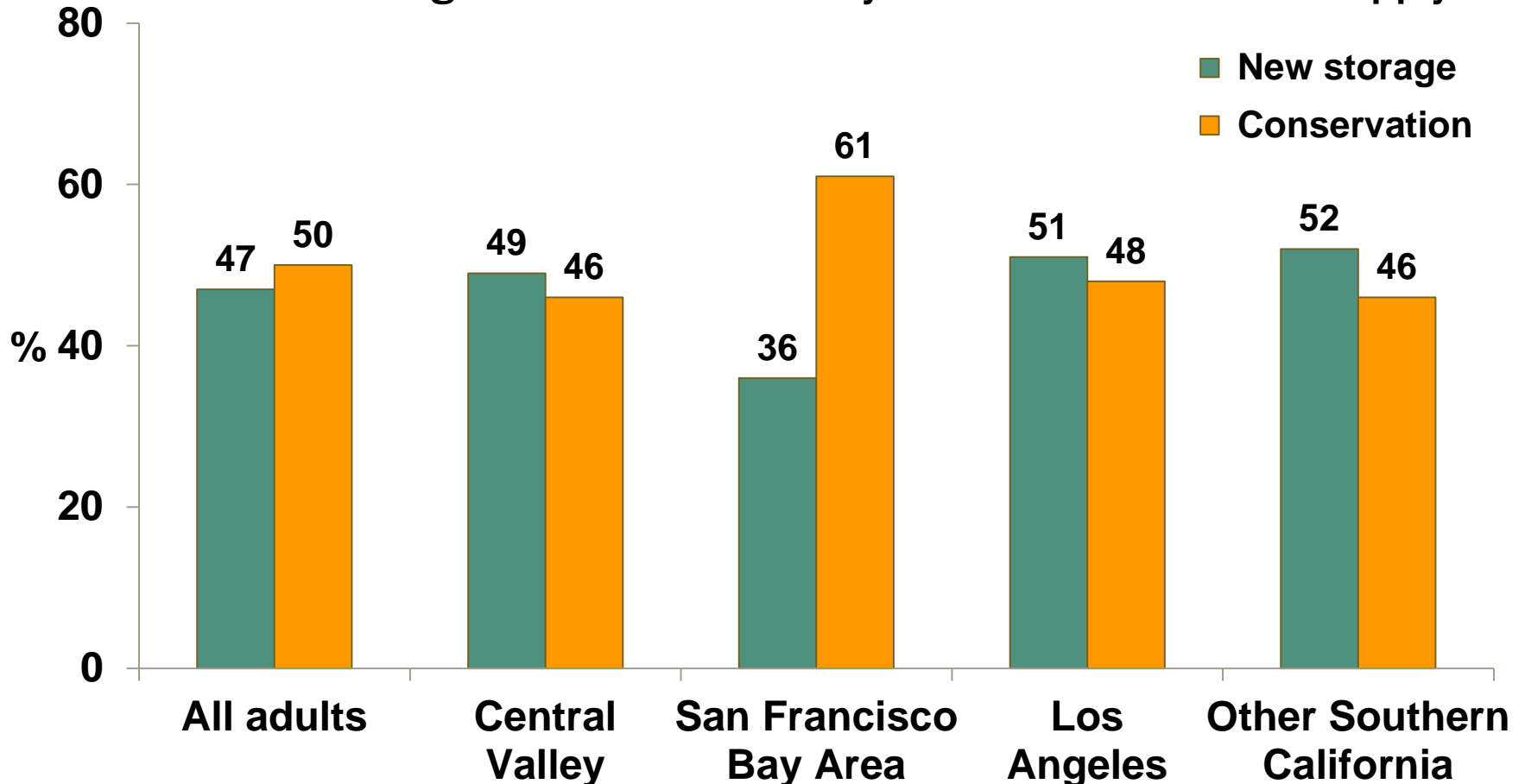
Water Supply

Would you say that the supply of water is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your part of California?



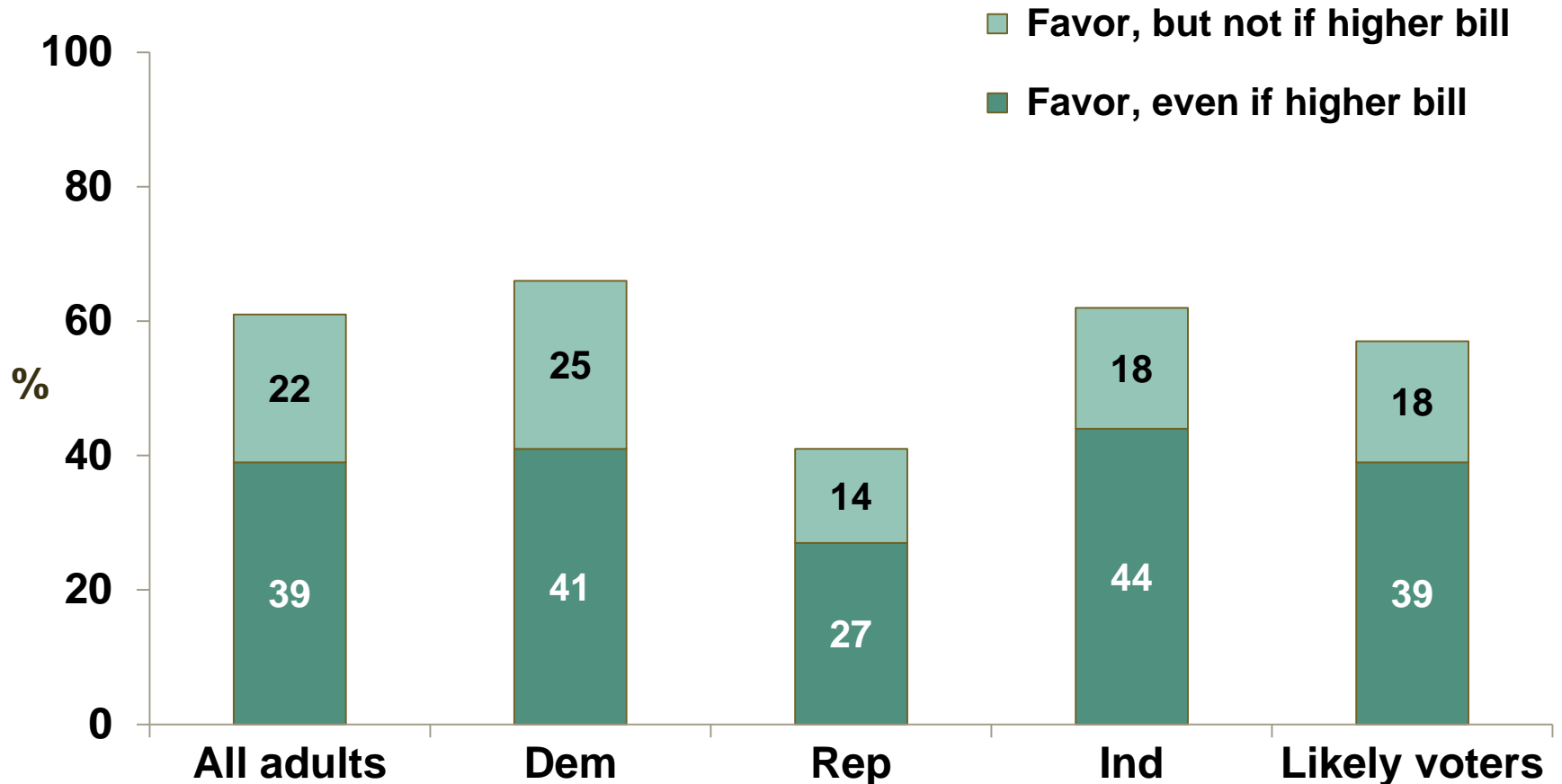
Water Policy Preferences

Which of the following statements is closer to your views ...? We should focus on building new water storage systems and increasing the water supply; or we should focus on water conservation, user allocation, pricing, and other strategies to more efficiently use the current water supply.



Conditions for Native Fish

Do you favor or oppose increasing state spending to improve conditions for native fish? (*If favor: Do you still favor this if it means an increase in residents' water bills?*)



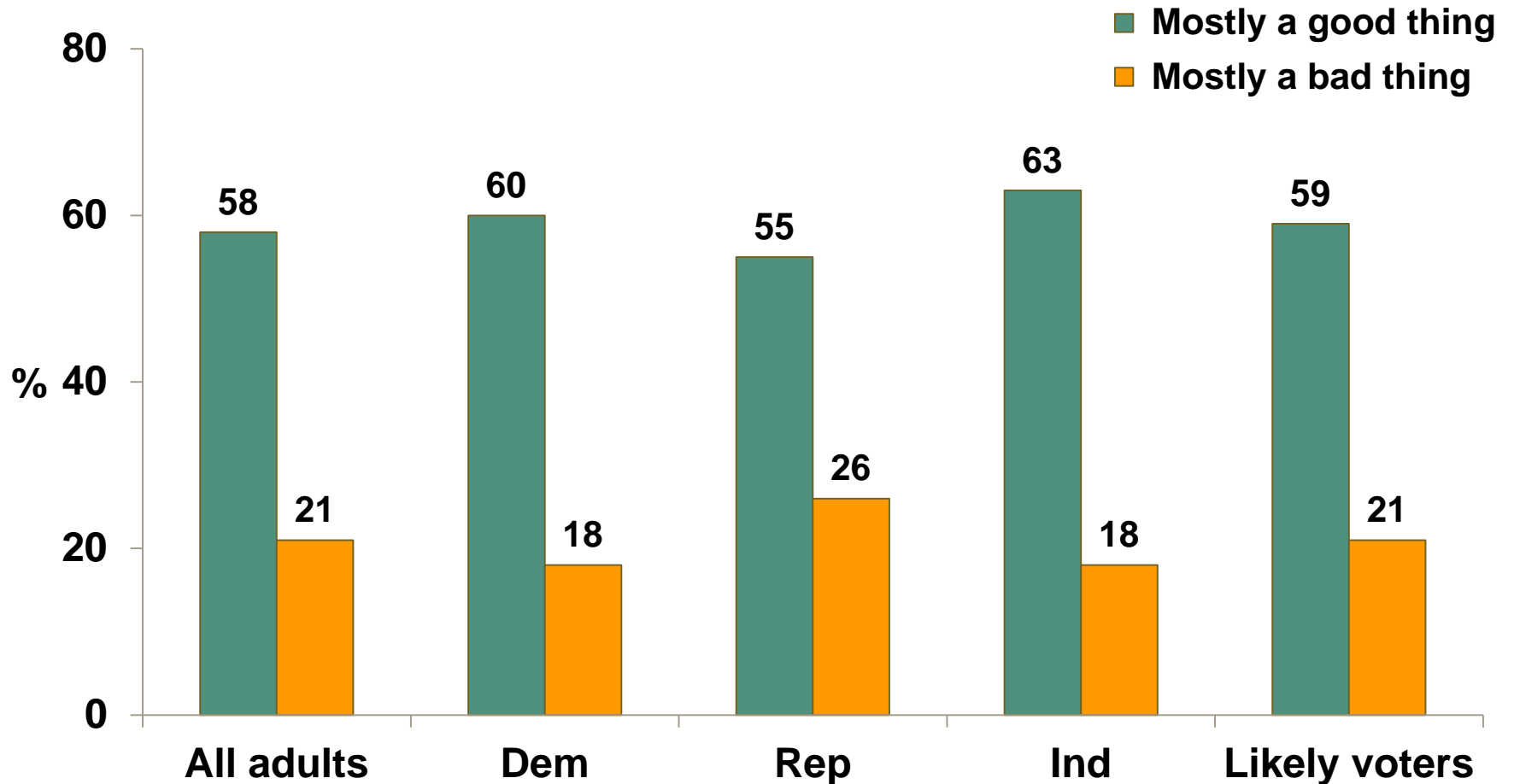
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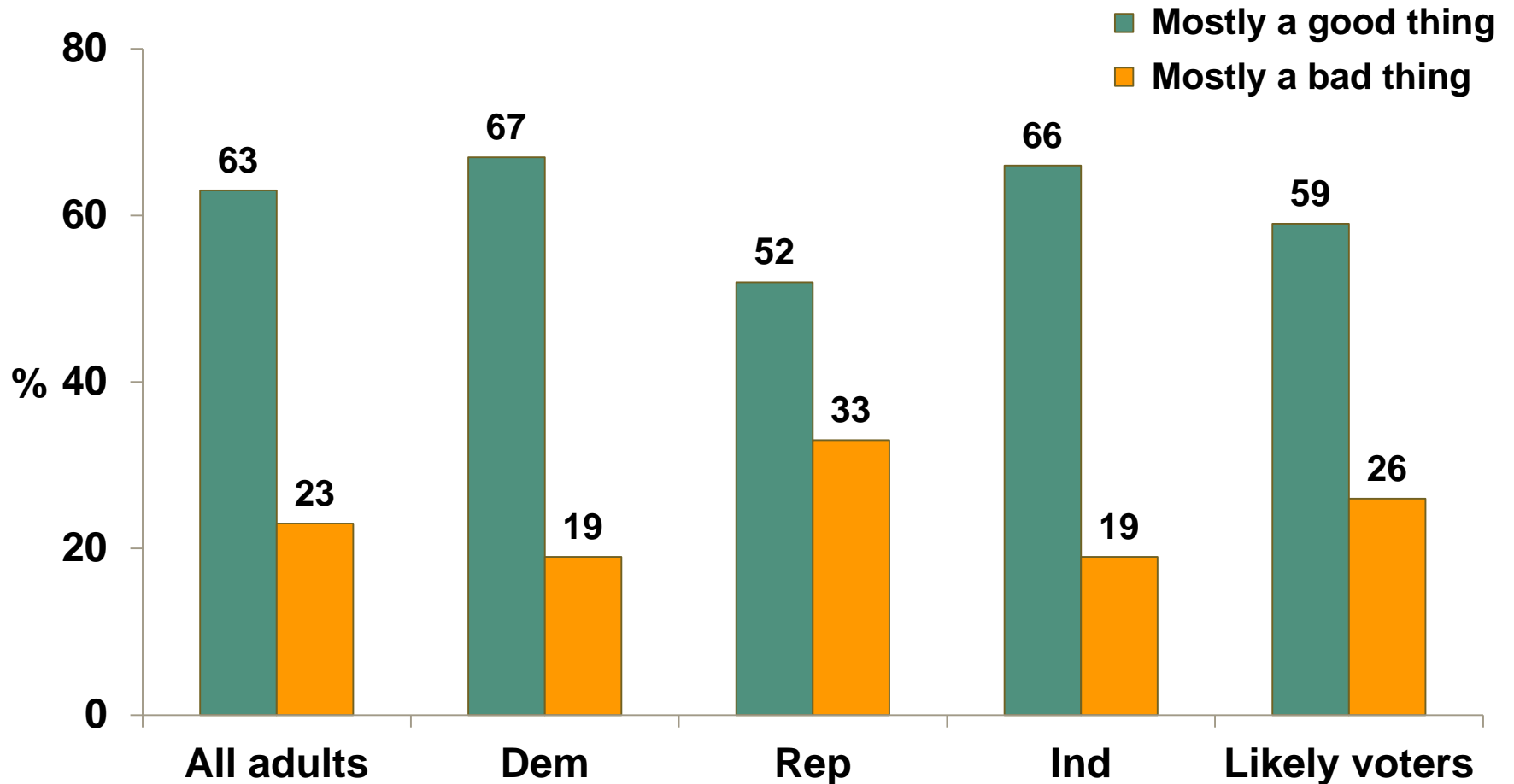
Prop. 11: Independent Redistricting

Overall, do you feel that passing Proposition 11 turned out to be mostly a good thing for California or mostly a bad thing?



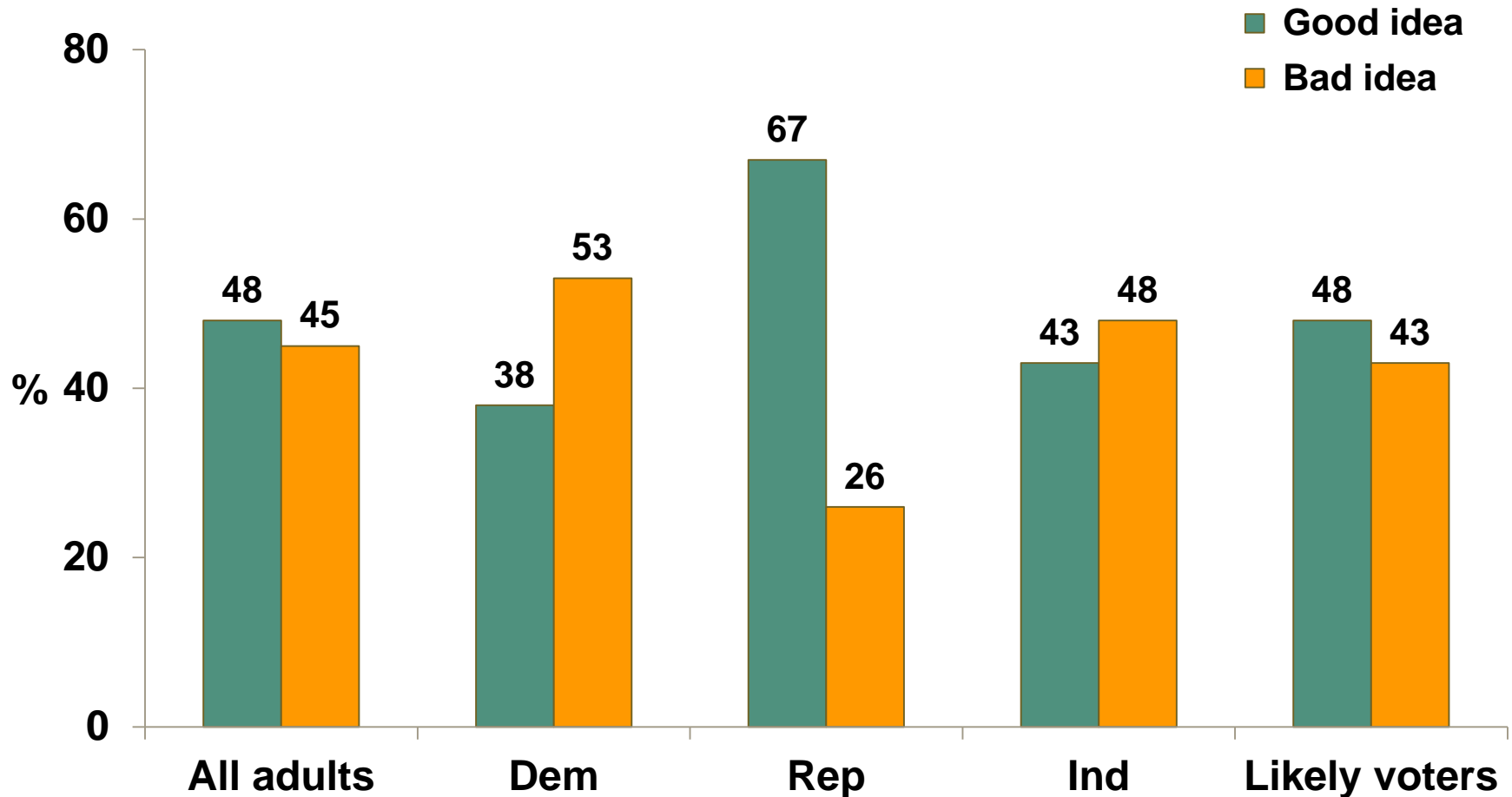
Prop. 14: Top-Two Primary System

Overall, do you feel that passing Proposition 14 turned out to be mostly a good thing for California or mostly a bad thing?



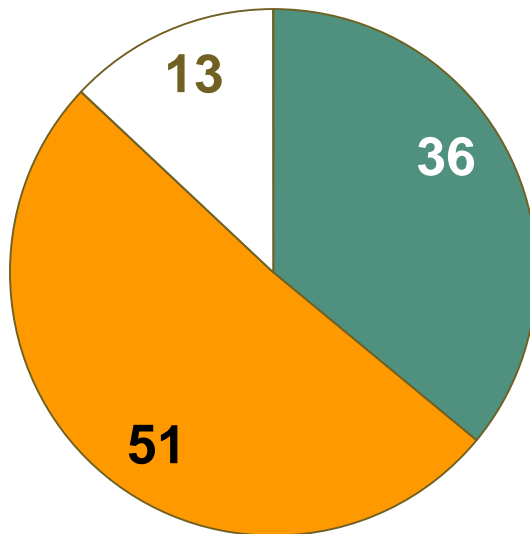
Legislative Reform Proposals: Part-Time Legislature

How about changing the California Legislature from full-time status to part-time status?

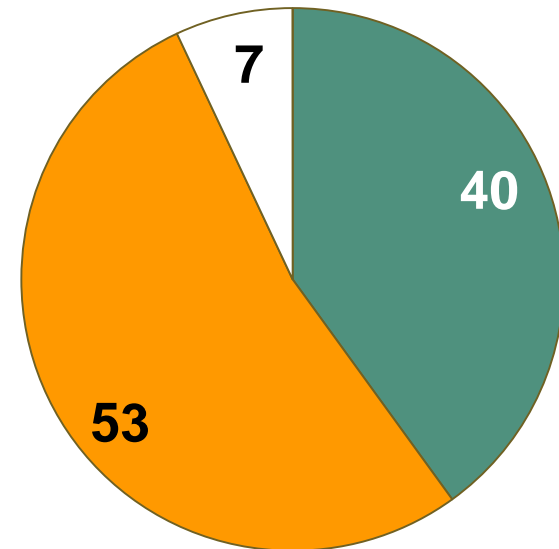


Legislative Reform Proposals

How about changing the California Legislature from two houses—the 80-member state assembly and 40-member state senate—to a single house with 120 members?



How about increasing the number of legislators in the California Legislature so that each member represents fewer people?



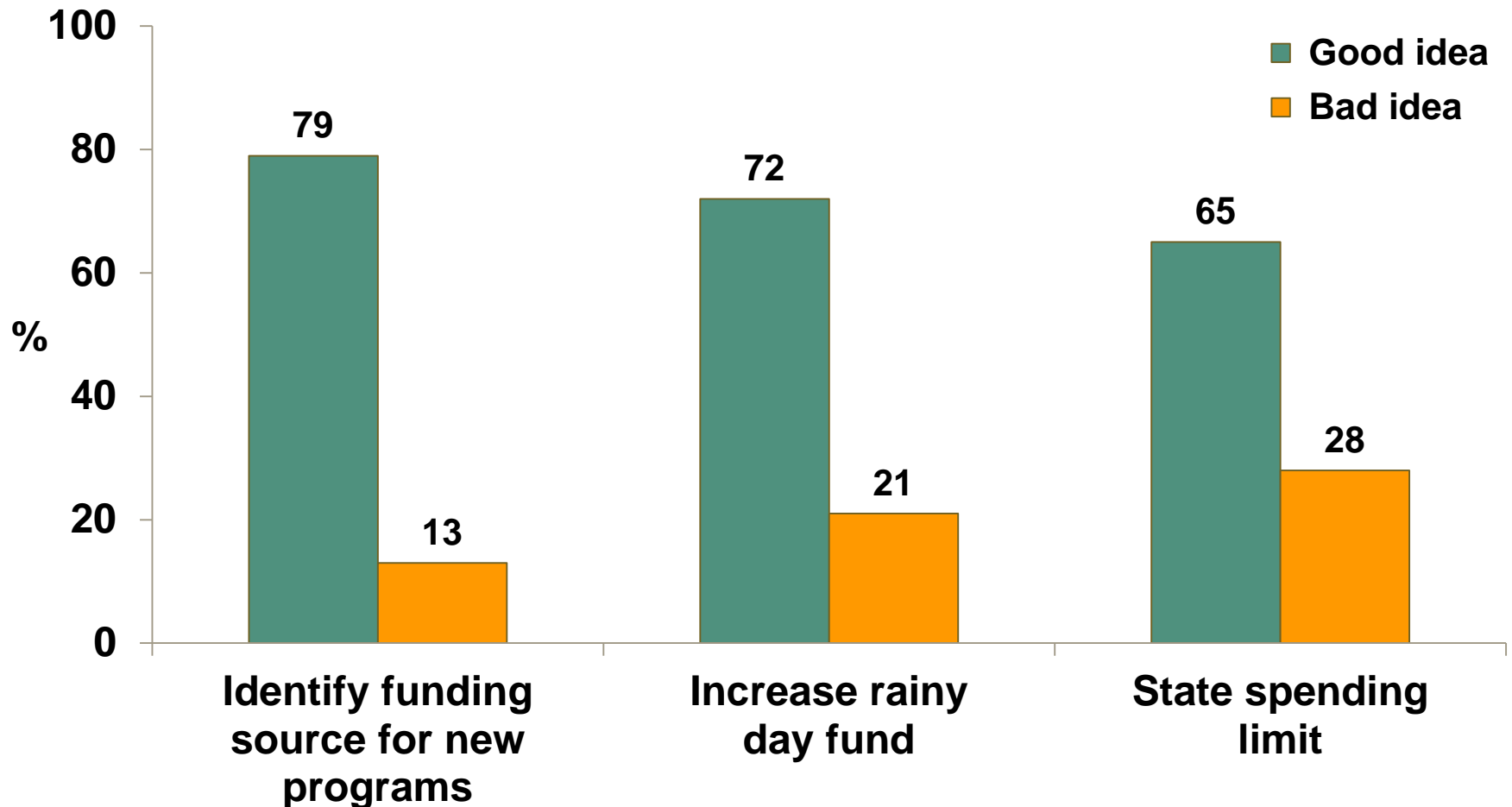
All adults

- Good idea
- Bad idea
- Don't know



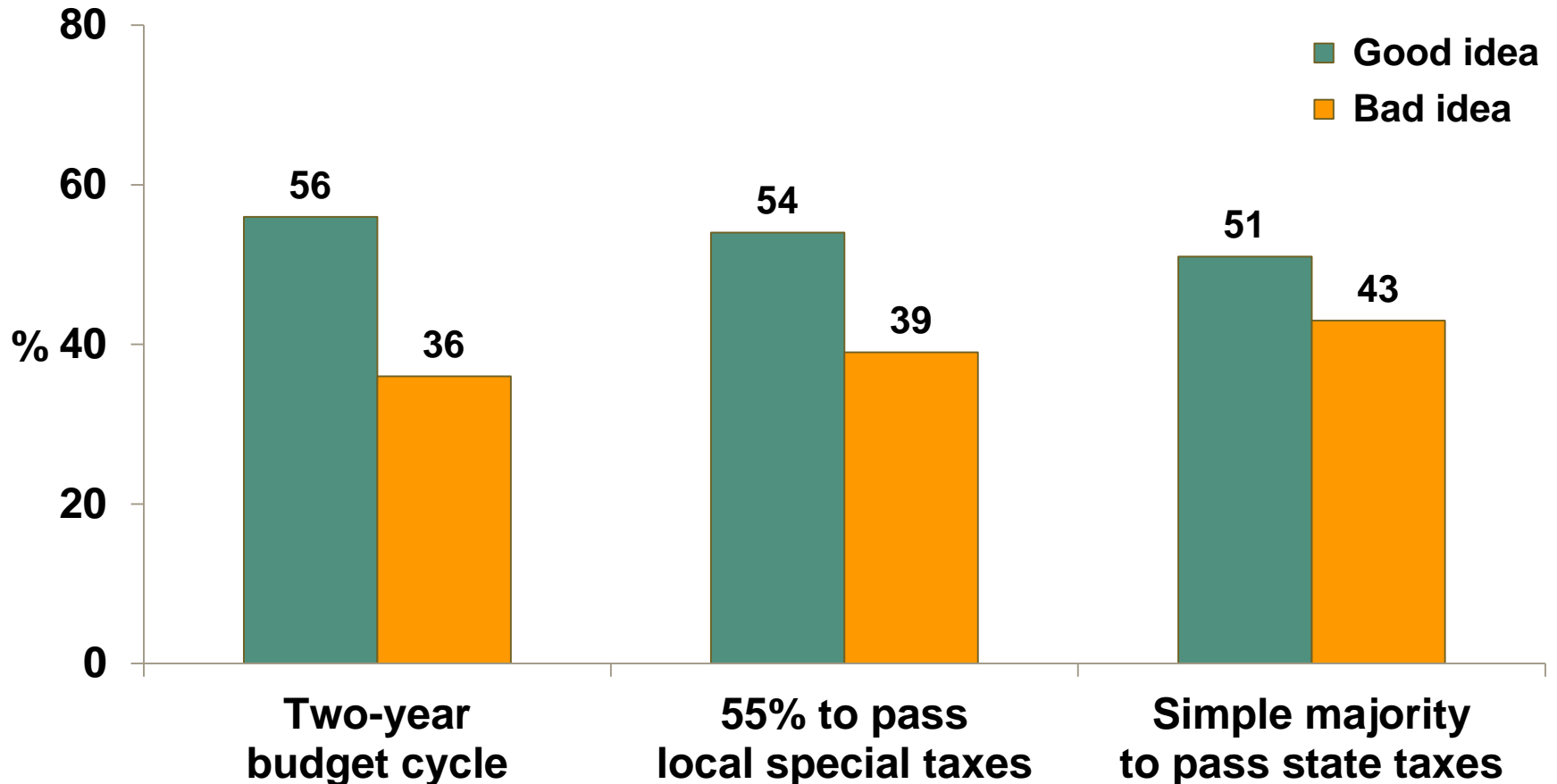
State Spending Reform Proposals

Fiscal reforms have been proposed to address the structural issues in the state budget and local budget issues. For each of the following, please say if you think the proposal is a good idea or a bad idea.



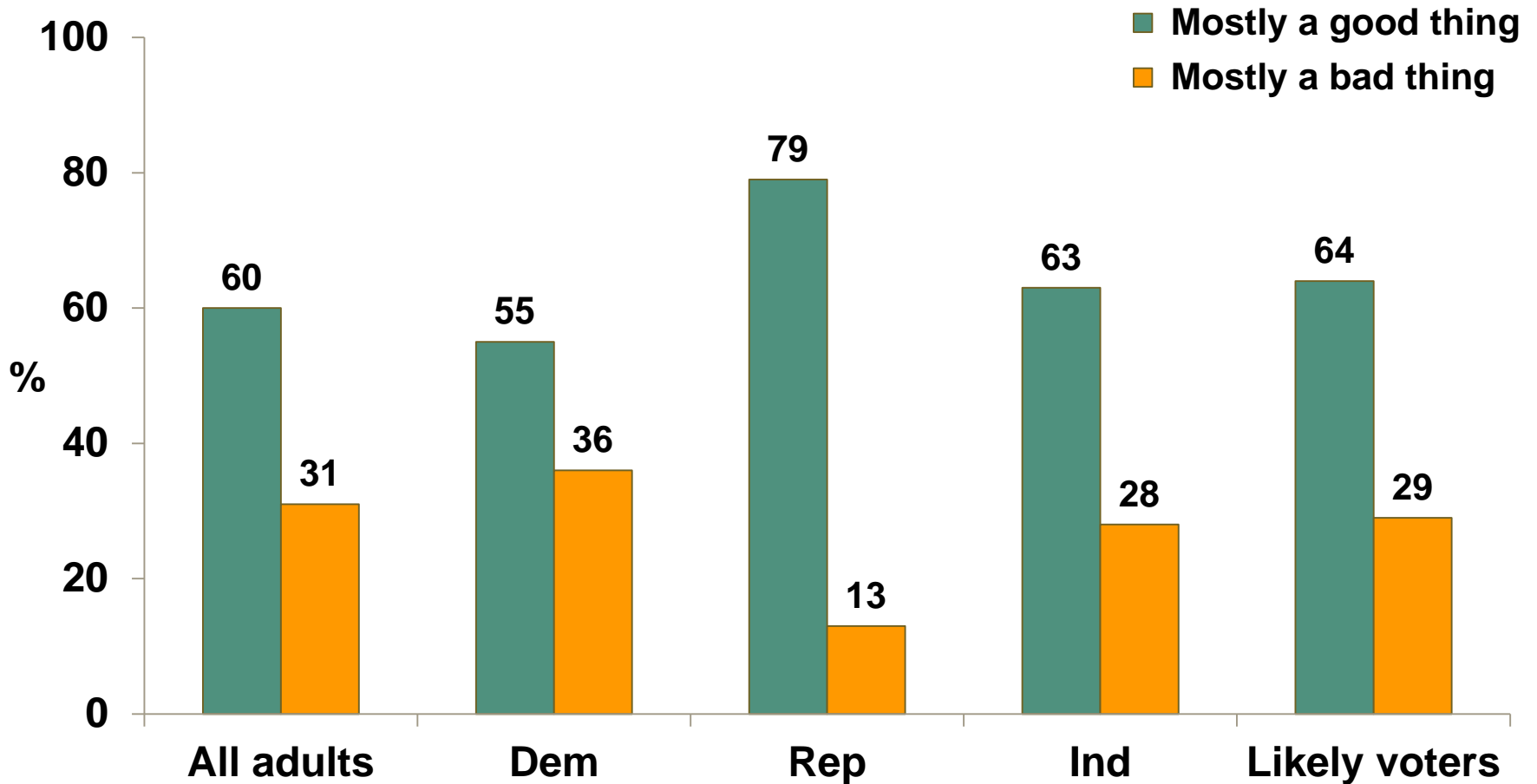
Fiscal Reform Proposals

Fiscal reforms have been proposed to address the structural issues in the state budget and local budget issues. For each of the following, please say if you think the proposal is a good idea or a bad idea.



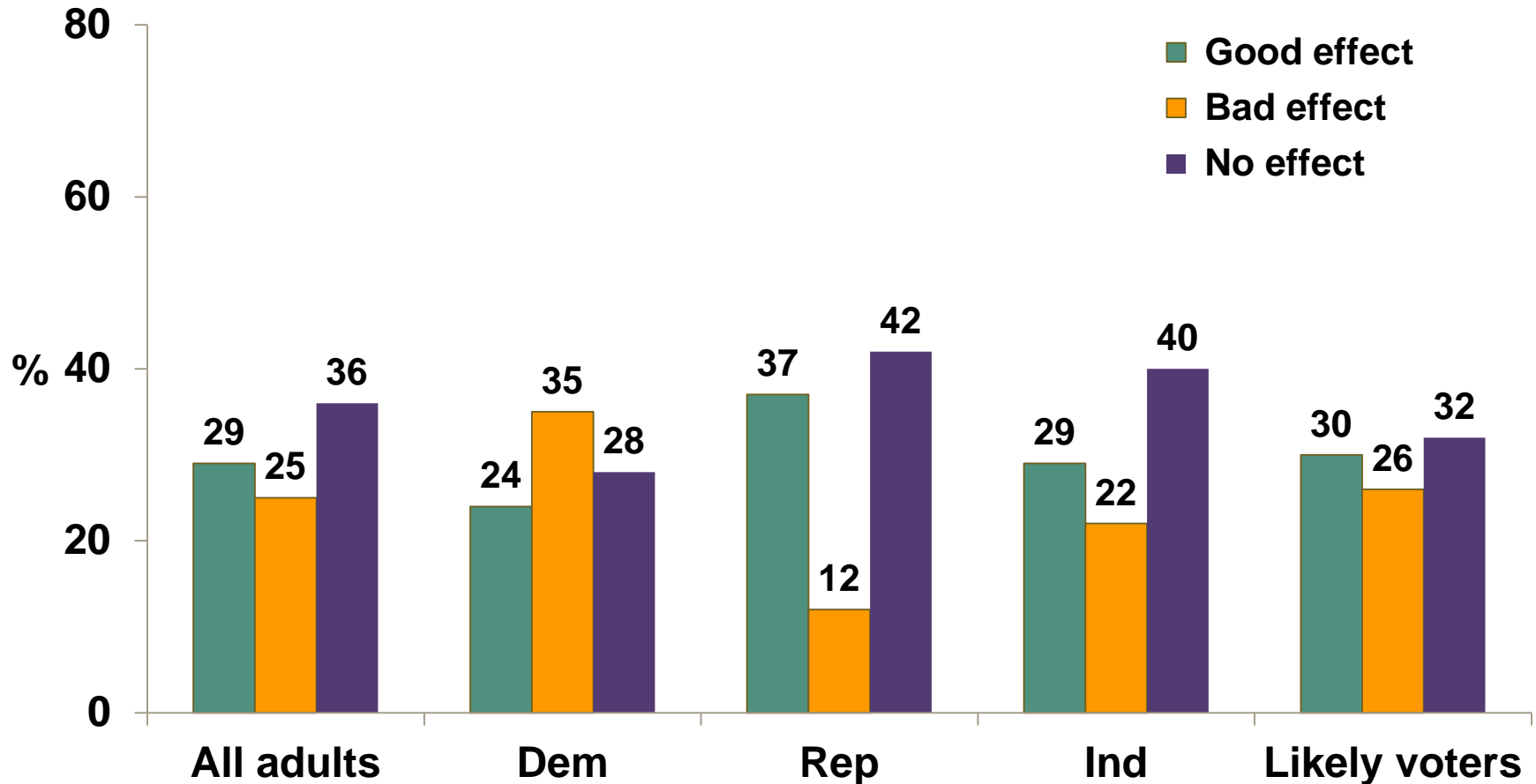
Proposition 13

Overall, do you feel passing Proposition 13 turned out to be mostly a good thing for California or mostly a bad thing?



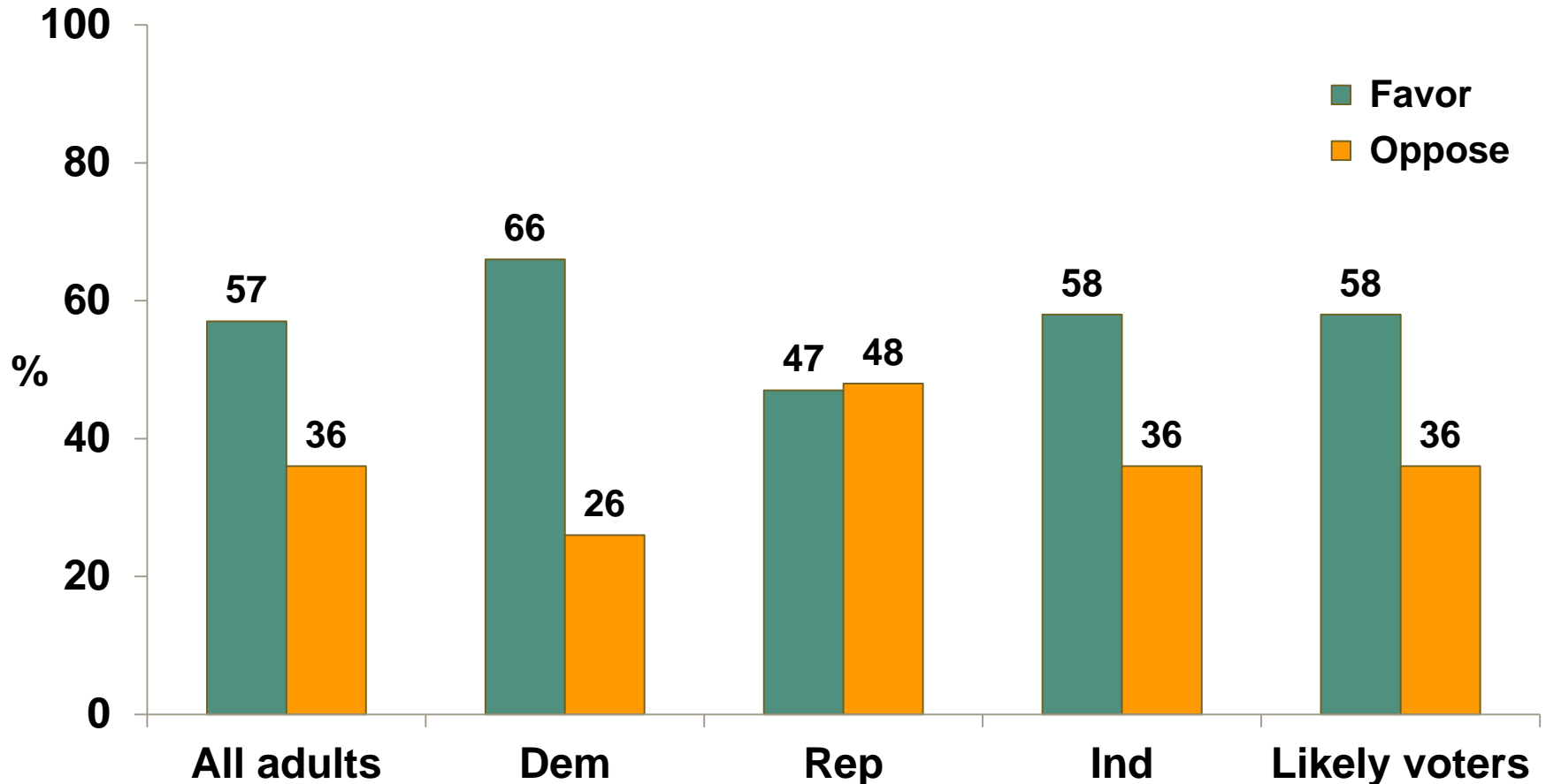
Local Impact of Proposition 13

Overall, do you think the property tax limitations imposed by Proposition 13 have had a good effect or a bad effect or no effect on local government services provided to residents in the state of California?



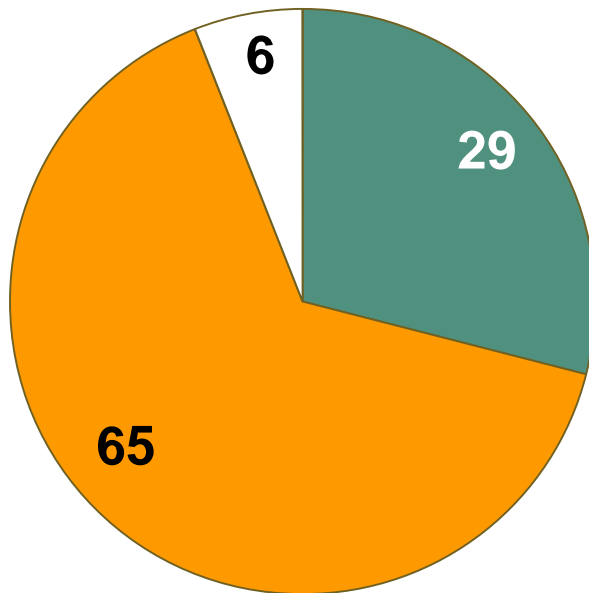
“Split Roll” Property Tax

Under Proposition 13, residential and commercial property taxes are both strictly limited. What do you think about having commercial properties taxed according to their current market value? Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

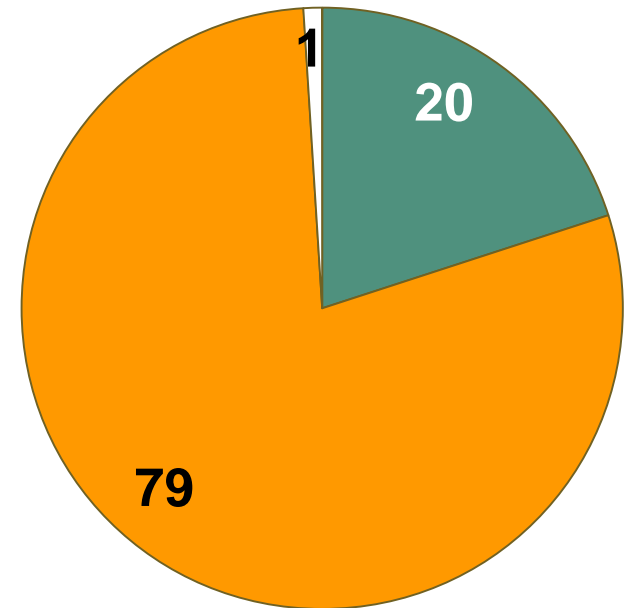


Expanding the Tax Base

How about extending the state sales tax to services that are not currently taxed?



How about increasing the vehicle license fee?



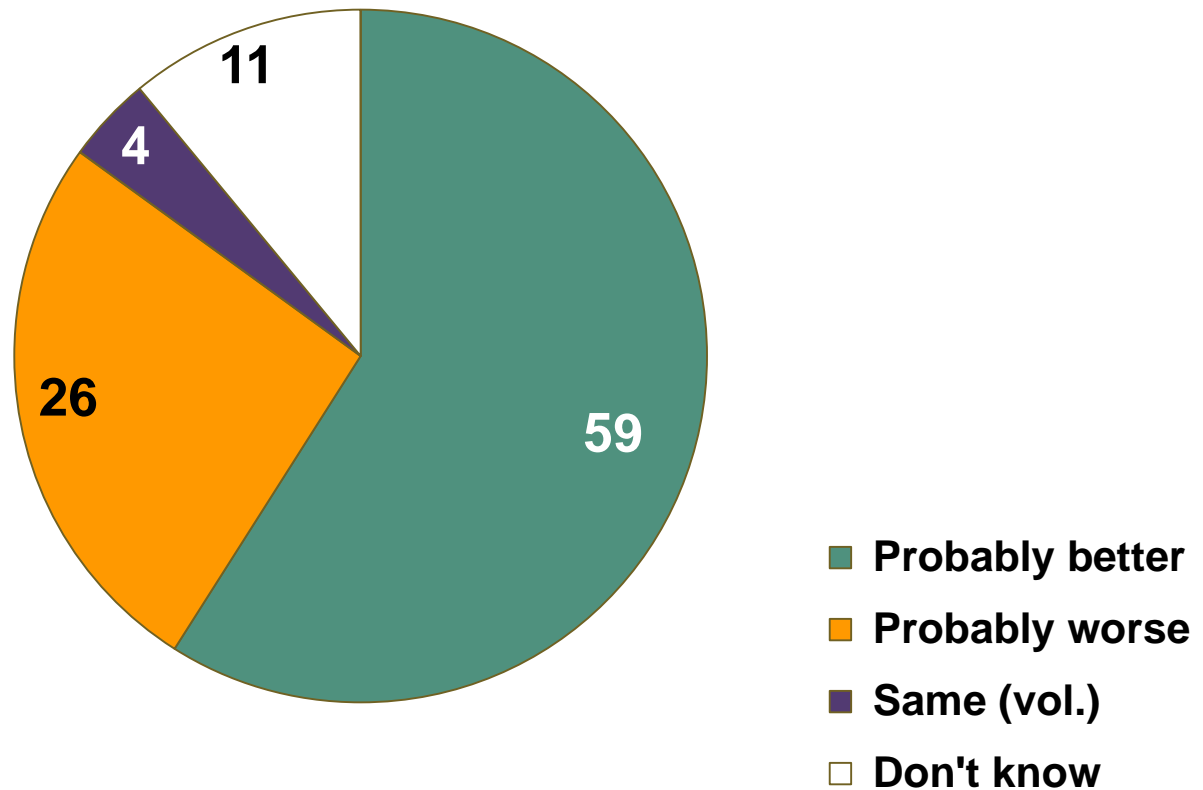
All adults

- Favor
- Oppose
- Don't know



Public Policy Decisions by the Initiative Process

Overall, do you think public policy decisions made through the initiative process by California voters are probably better or probably worse than public policy decisions made by the governor and state legislature?

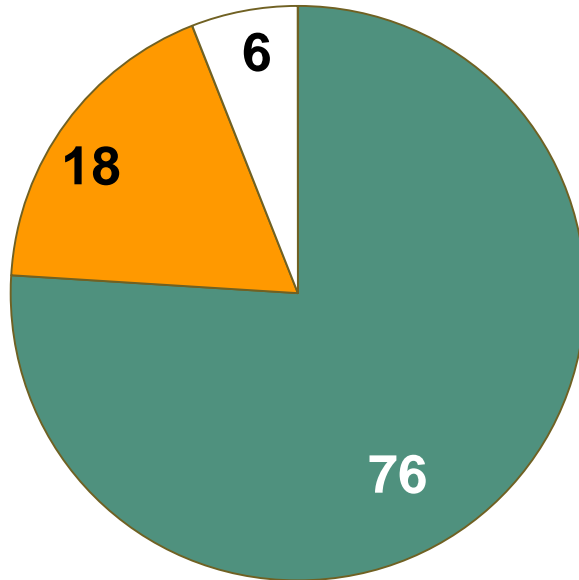


All adults

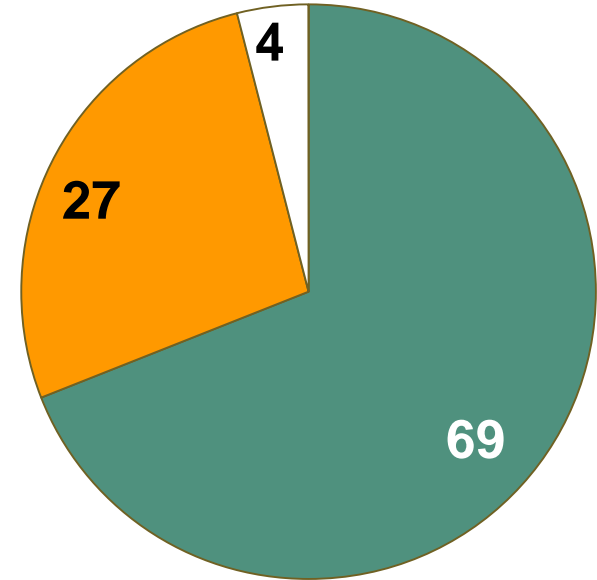


Initiative Process Reforms

How about requiring the yes and no campaigns for initiatives to increase disclosure of their contributors?



How about requiring voters to renew initiatives after a certain number of years, by voting on them again?



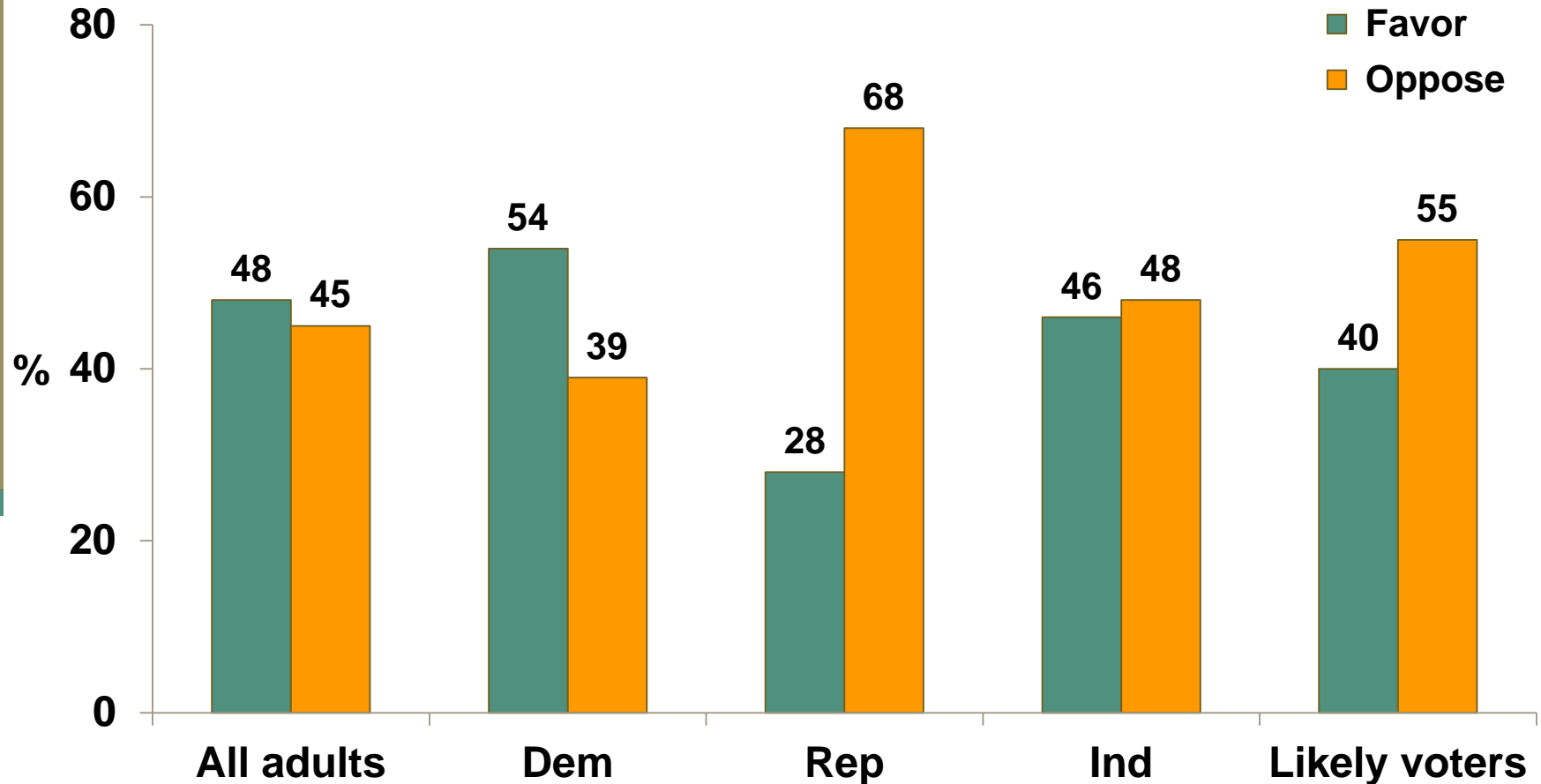
All adults

- Favor
- Oppose
- Don't know



Initiative Process Reforms: Amending Initiatives

How about allowing the legislature, with the governor's approval, to amend initiatives after a certain number of years?



Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
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- **Conclusions**



Conclusions

- Increased optimism about the state's future
- Record high approval of Governor Brown
- Growing concerns over affordability and accessibility of higher education
- Division on water policy options
- Slim majority support for lowering vote thresholds to pass taxes; likely voters divided
- Record high opposition to taxing services, increasing vehicle license fee; majorities support “split roll” property tax
- Strong support for state spending reforms, and certain reforms to the initiative process



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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:

surveys@ppic.org

Thank you for your interest in this work.

