

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

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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
 - 290,000+ Californians since 1998
 - 130+ general, issue, and regional surveys



Californians and Their Government

- General series funded by The James Irvine Foundation
- State government
 - Approval ratings and trust in state government
 - Views on income inequality
- Federal government
 - Opinions on health care reform
 - Attitudes toward elected leaders and major parties
- Telephone interviews, November 12 to 19
 - 1,701 adults/1,081 likely voters
 - $\pm 3.6\%$ margin of error for adults
 - $\pm 4.5\%$ for likely voters

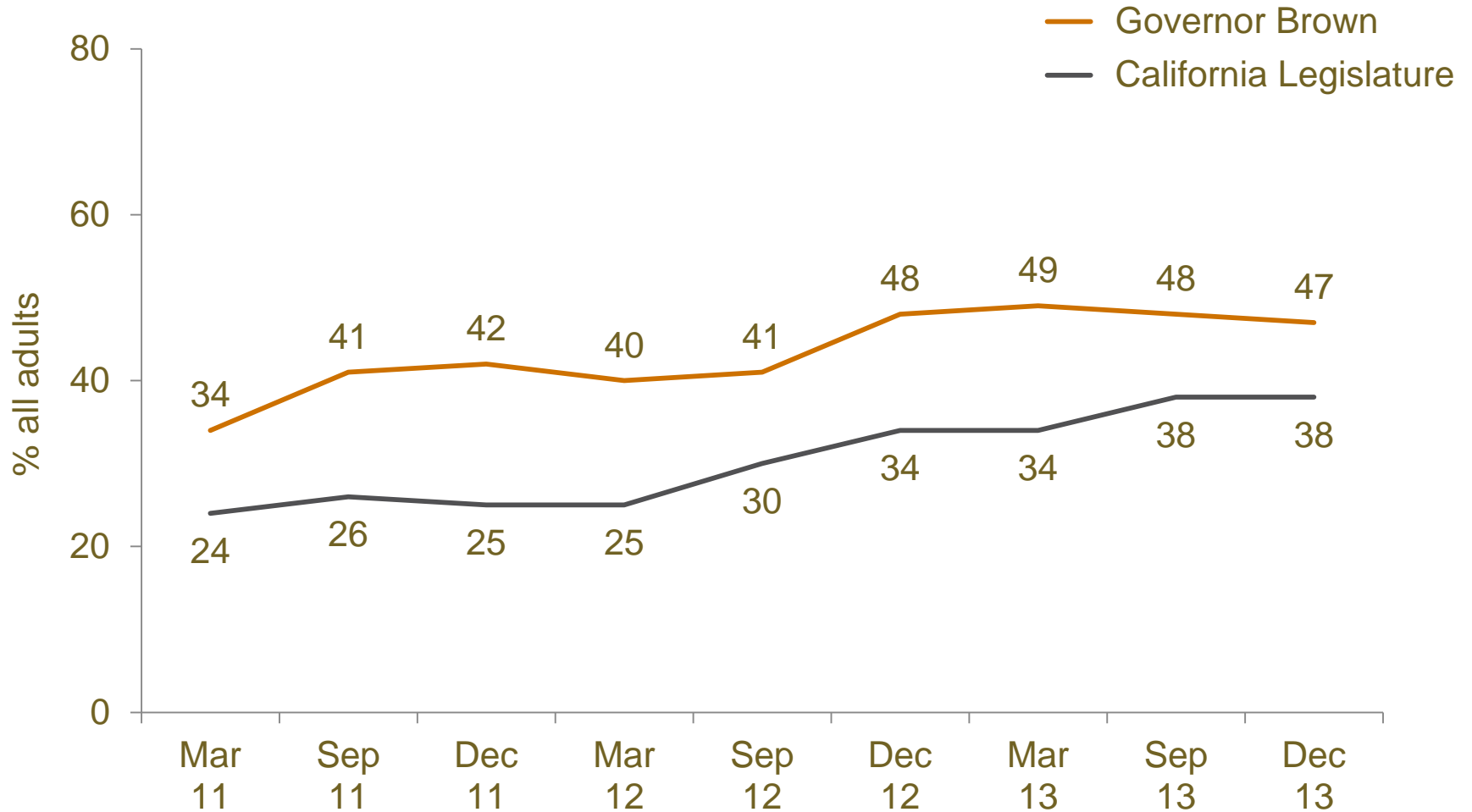


Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- State government
- Federal government
- Conclusions

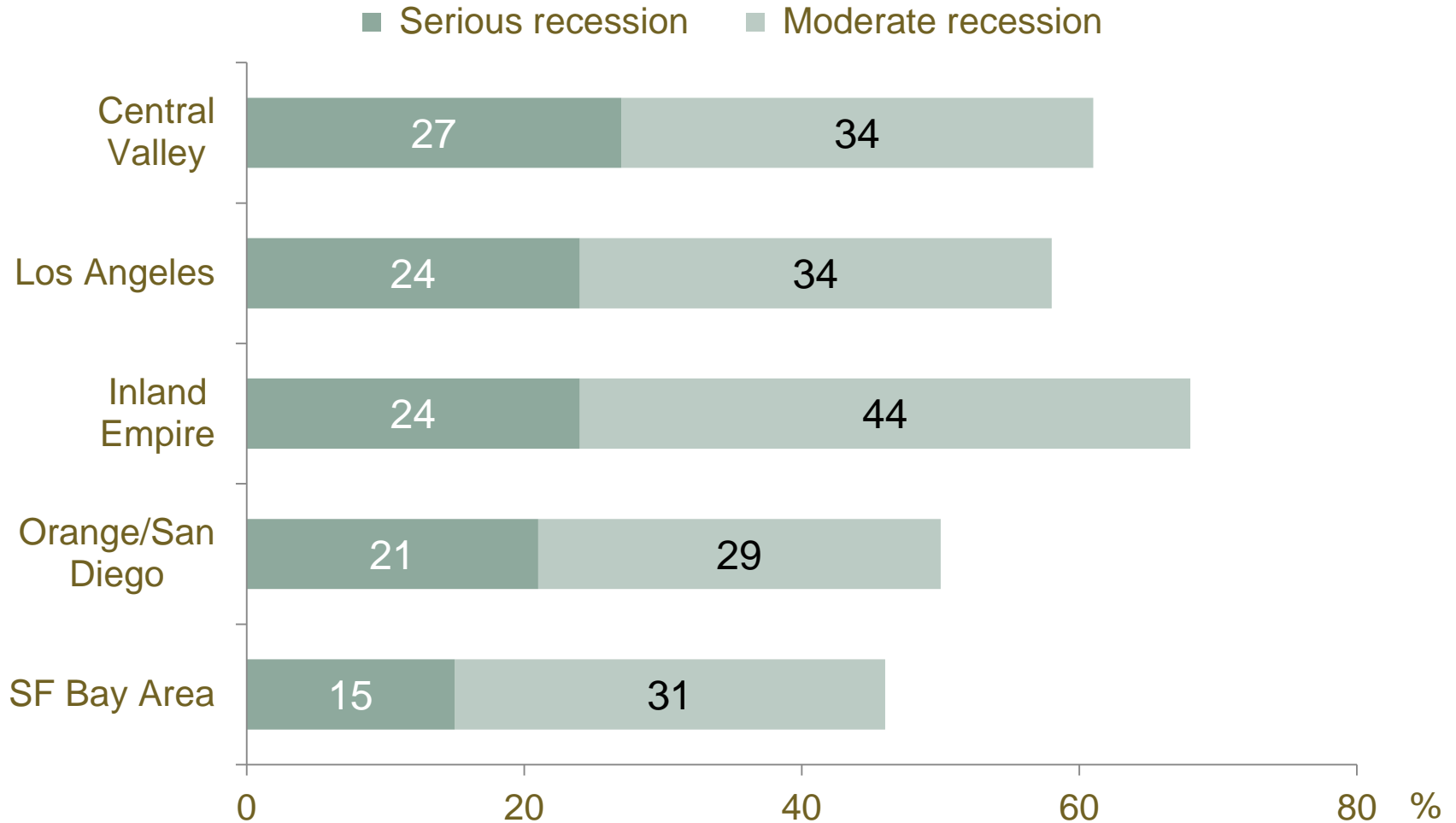


Approval of state elected officials



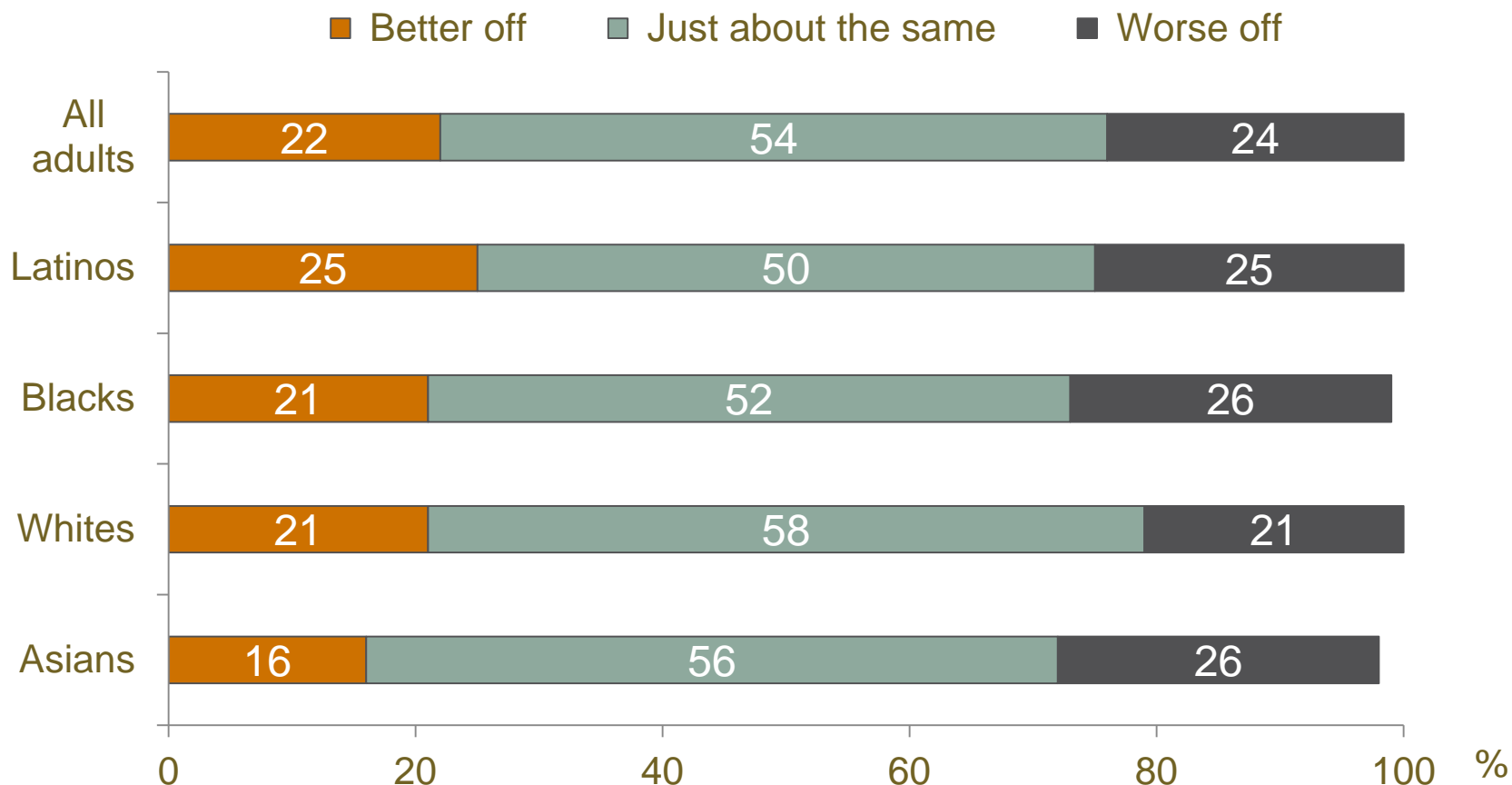
Is California in a recession?

Would you say that California is in an economic recession, or not?
(if yes: Do you think it is in a serious, a moderate, or a mild recession?)



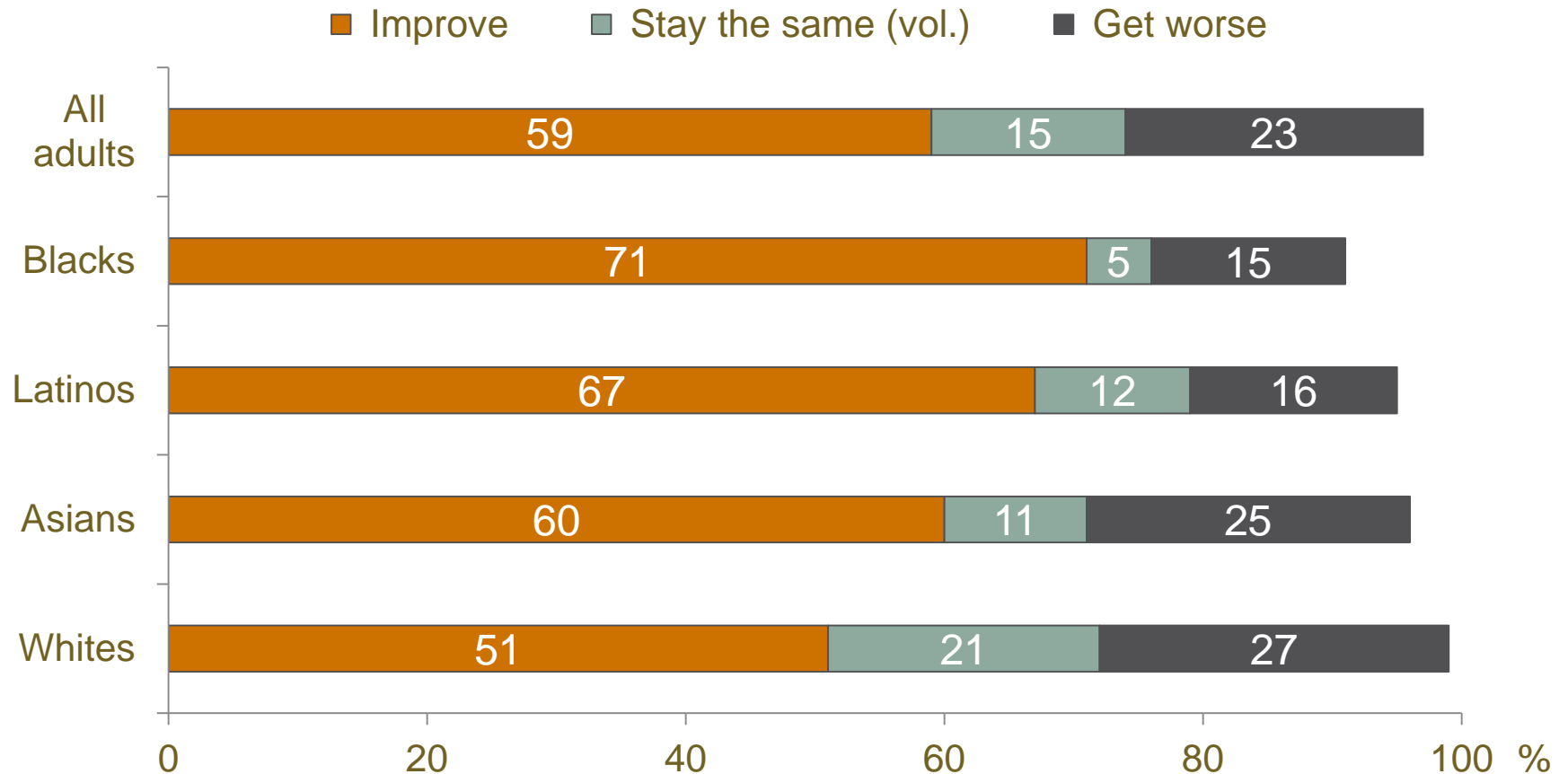
Assessment of personal financial situation

Would you say that you and your family are financially better off, worse off, or just about the same as you were a year ago?



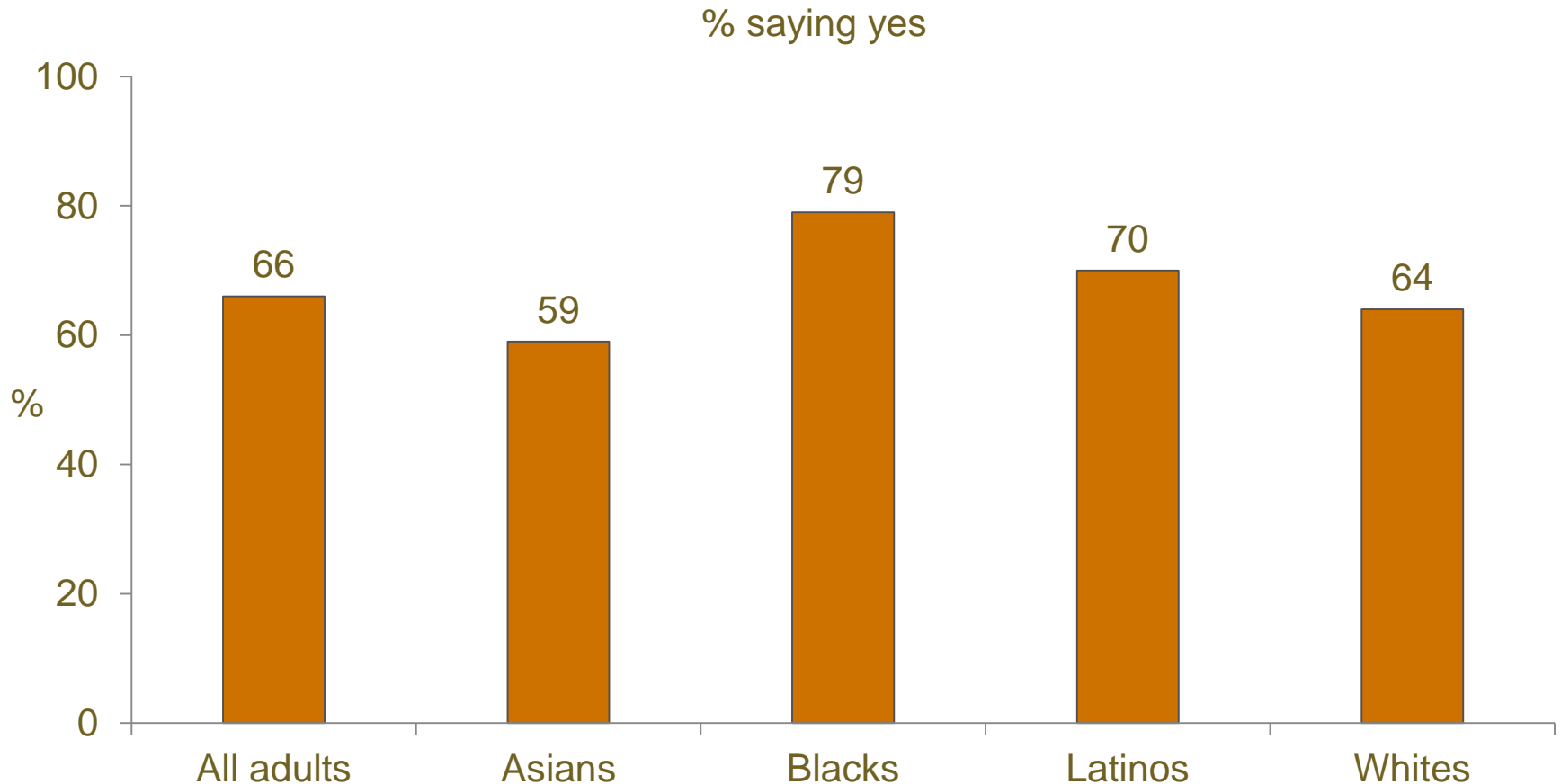
Personal financial situation: looking ahead

Over the course of the next year, do you think the financial situation of you and your family will improve a lot, improve some, get a little worse, or get a lot worse?



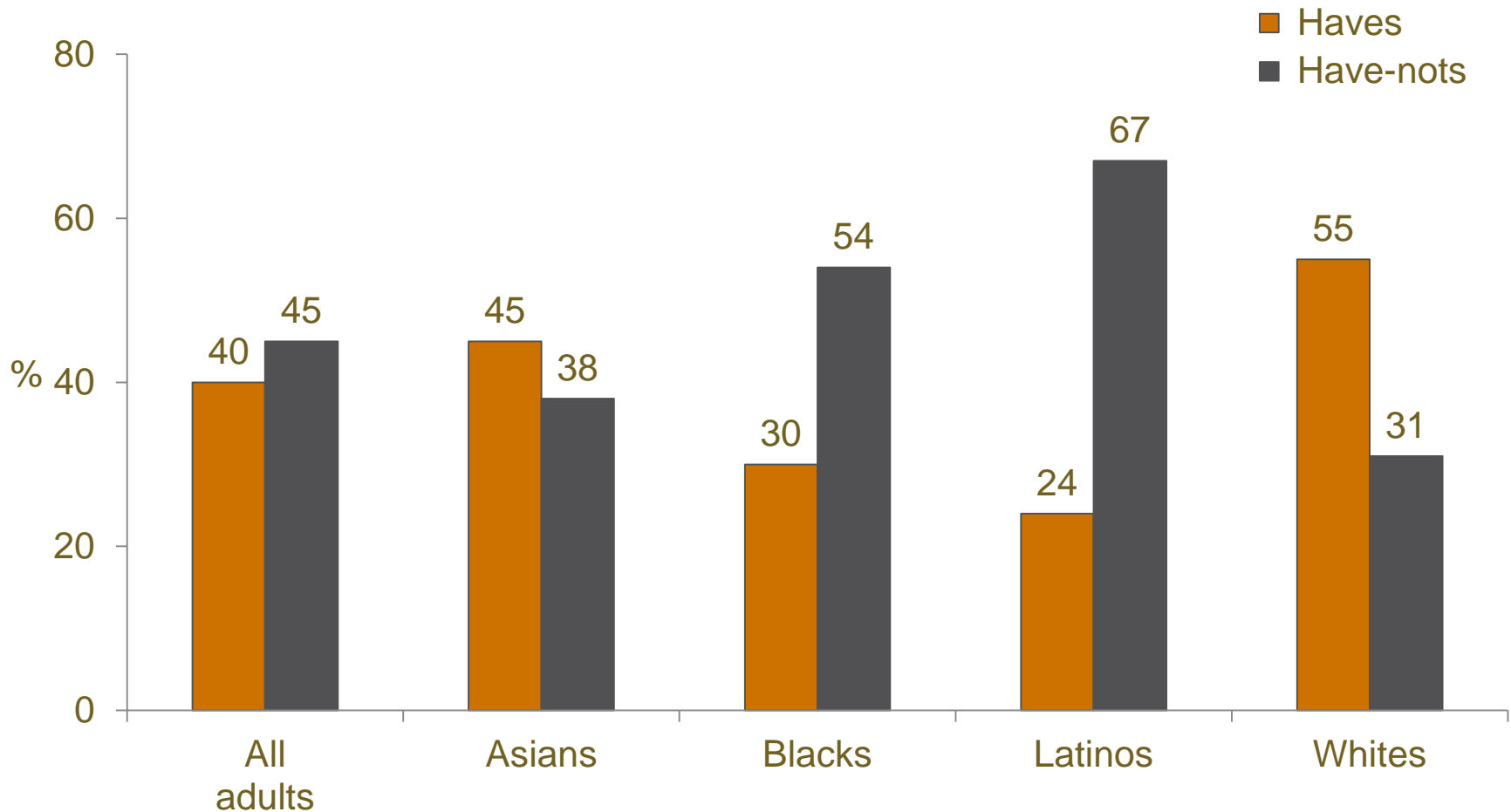
Income inequality in California

Do you think that California is divided into haves and have-nots, or do you think that California is not divided that way?



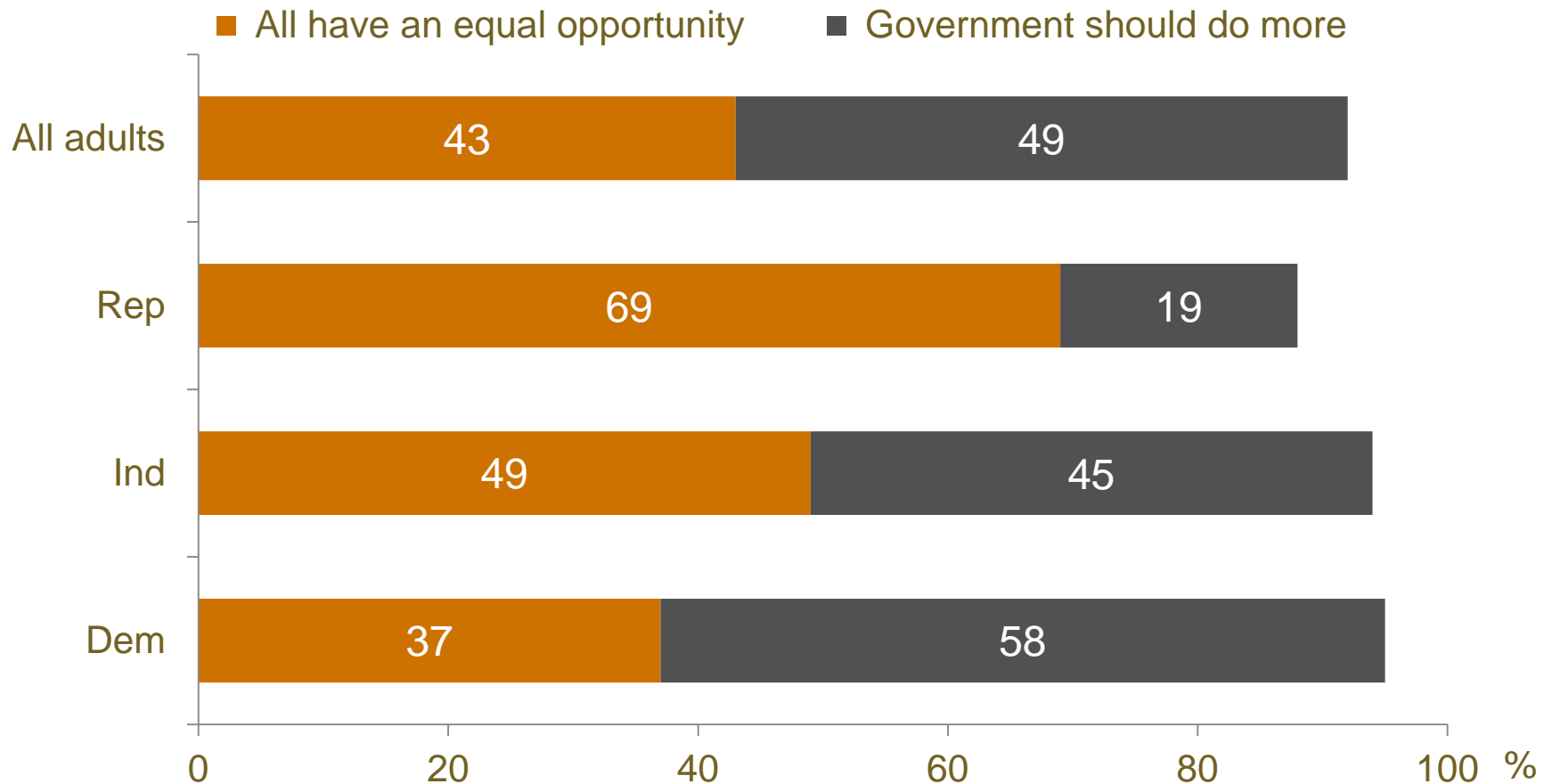
Who are the haves and the have-nots?

If you had to choose, which of these groups are you in—the haves or have-nots?



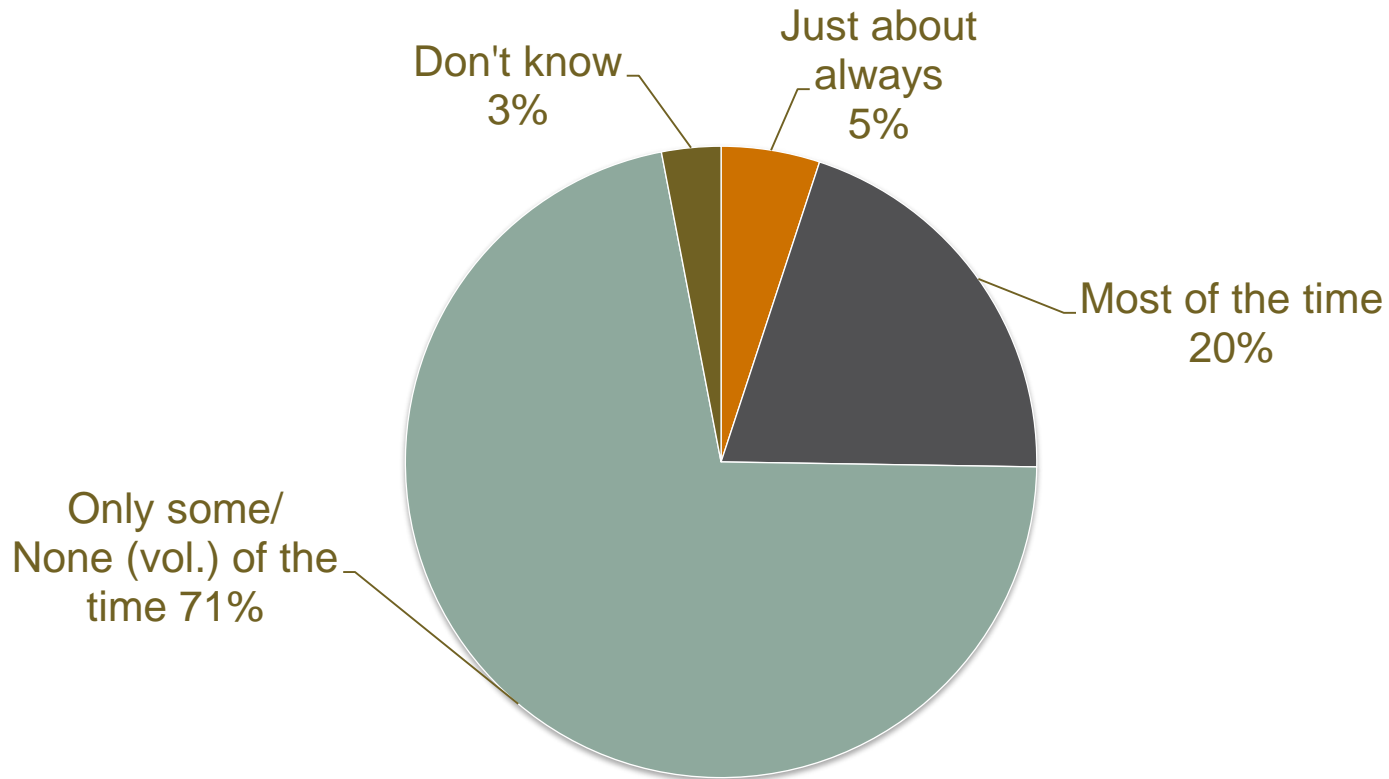
Do all Californians have an equal opportunity to get ahead?

Do you think that in California today all people have an equal opportunity to get ahead, or the government should do more to make sure that all Californians have an equal opportunity to get ahead.



Trust in state government

How much of the time do you think you can trust the state government in Sacramento to do what is right—just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

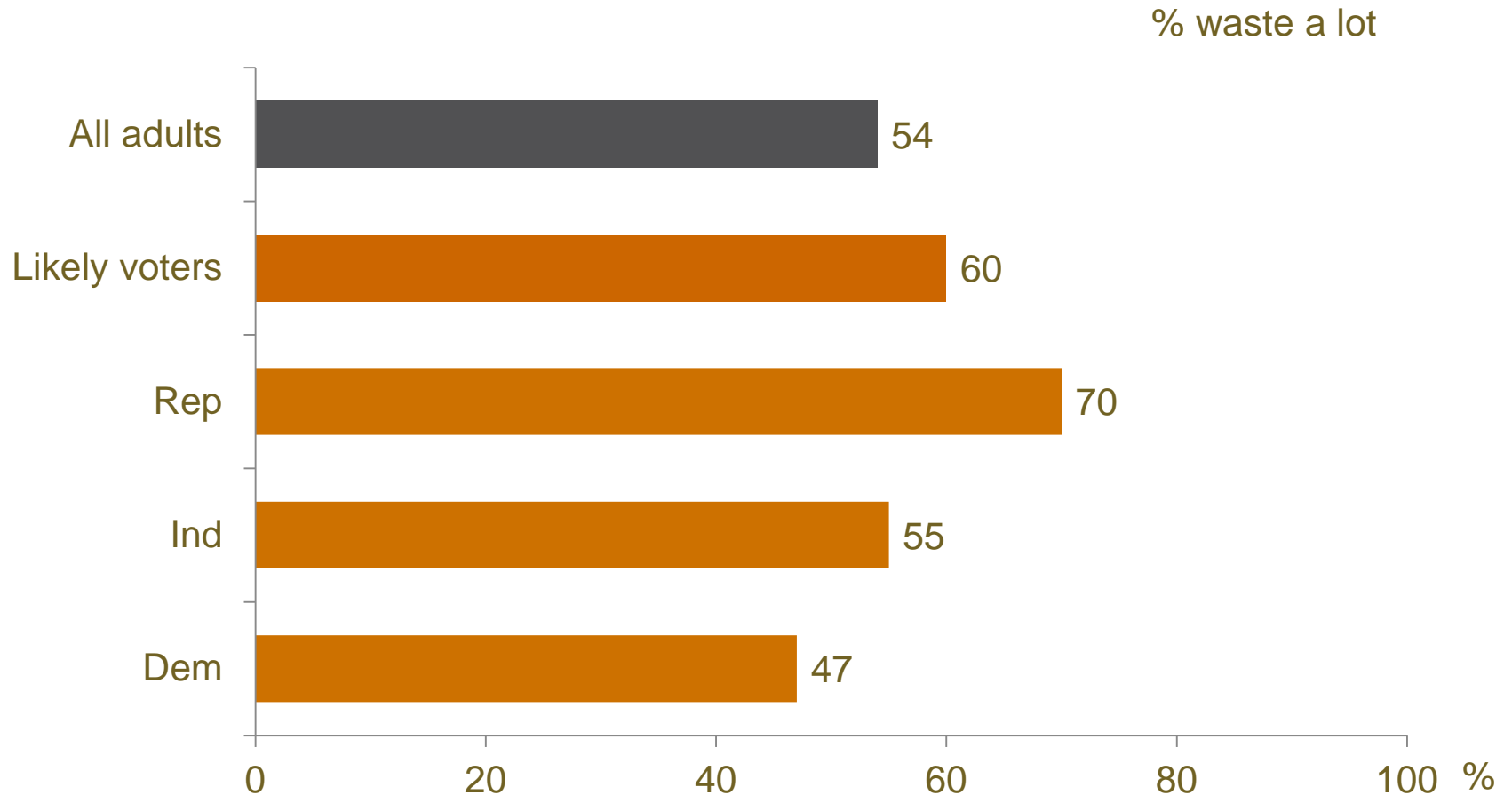


All adults



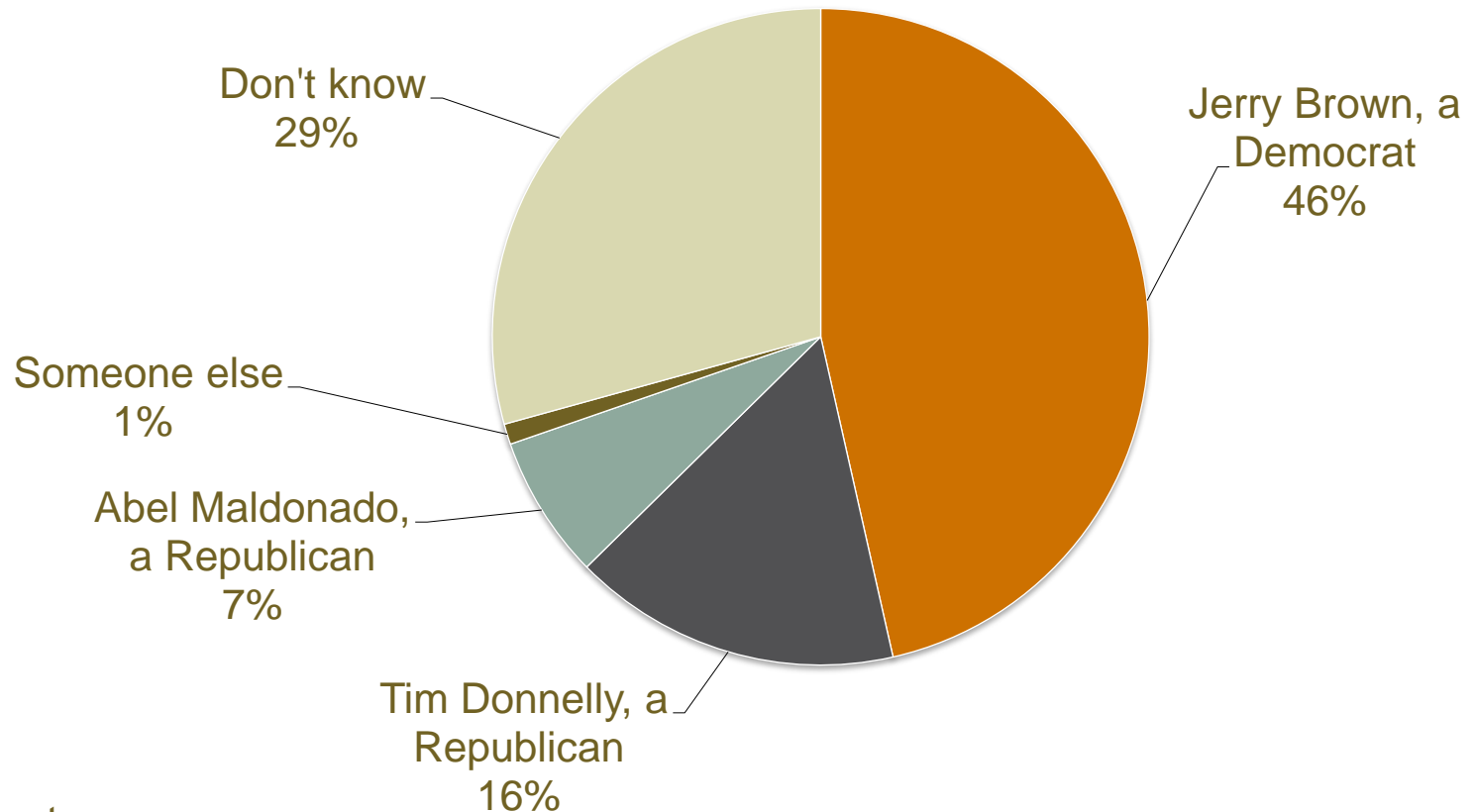
Views on state government waste

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



June gubernatorial primary

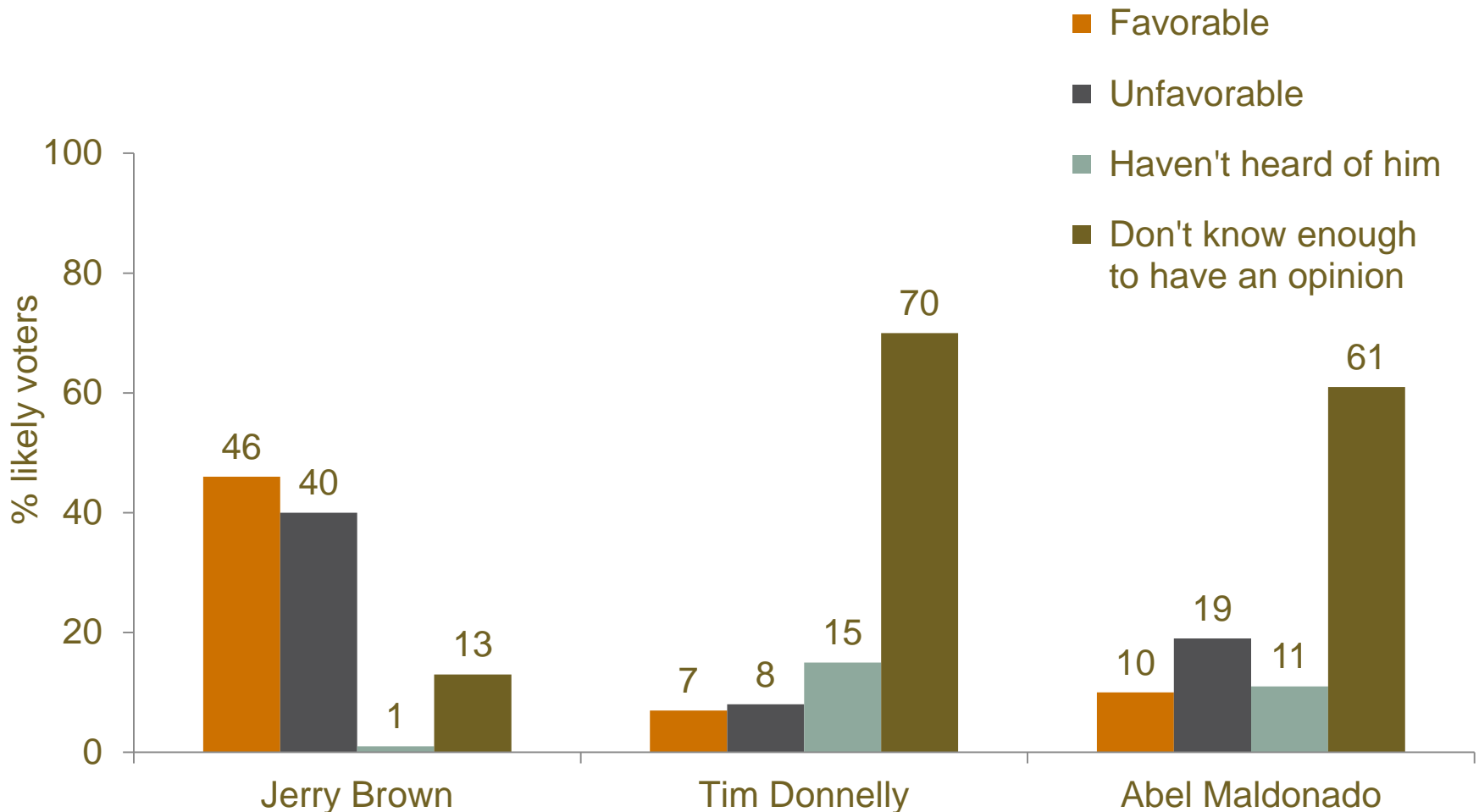
If the primary for governor were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?



Likely voters

Likely voters' opinions of candidates

Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of these candidates for governor, or don't you know enough about him to have an opinion. How about...?

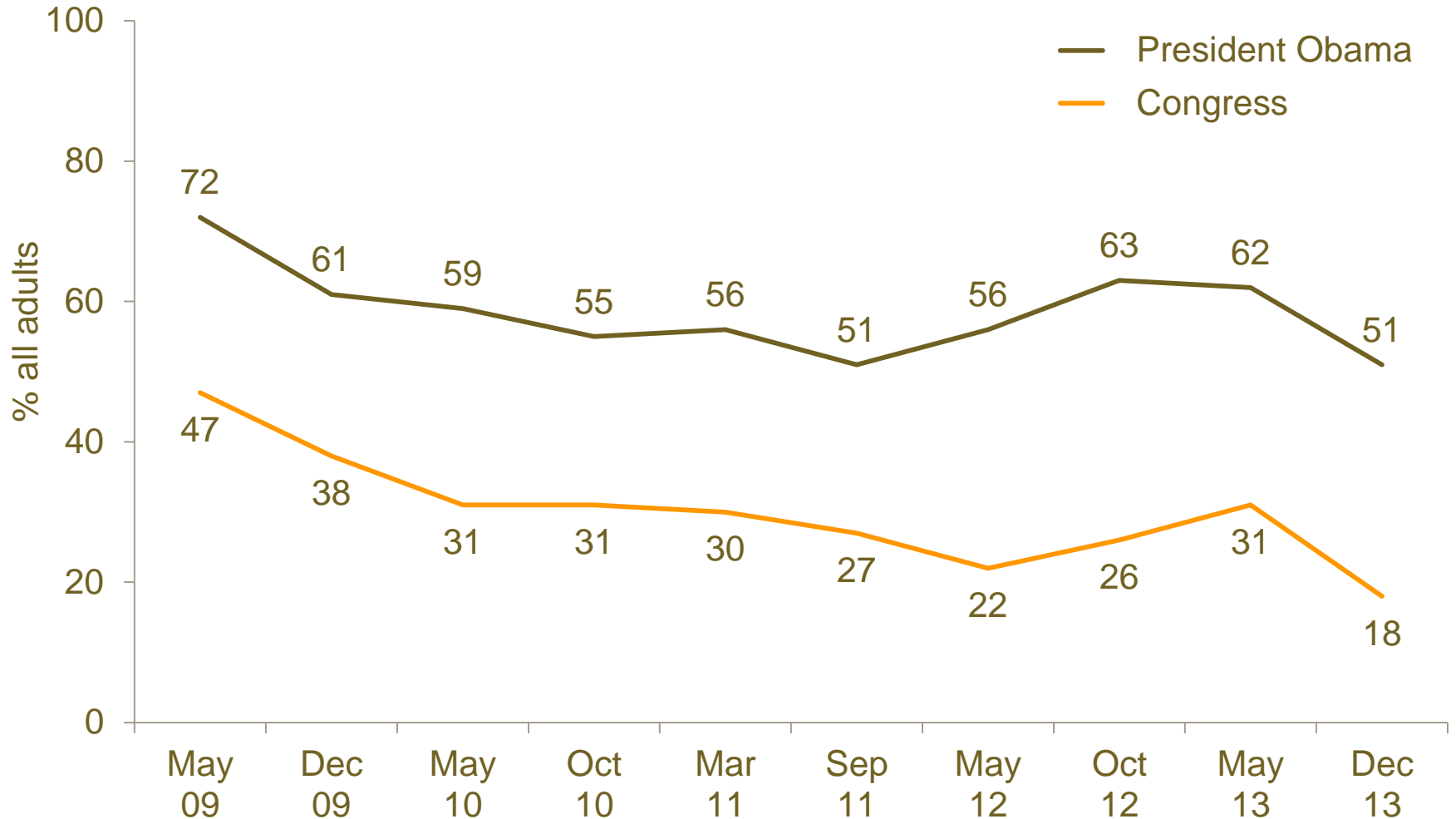


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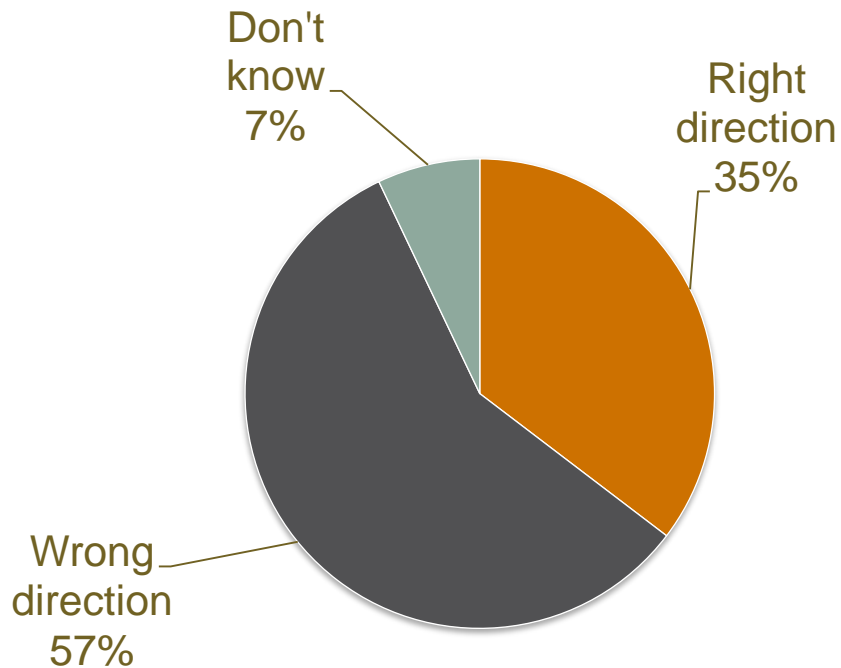


Approval of federal elected officials

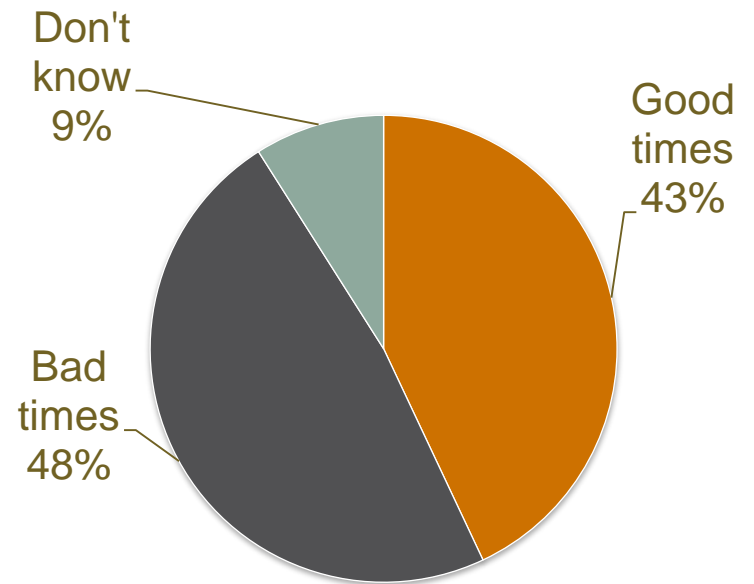


Outlook for the nation

Do you think things in the United States are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?



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

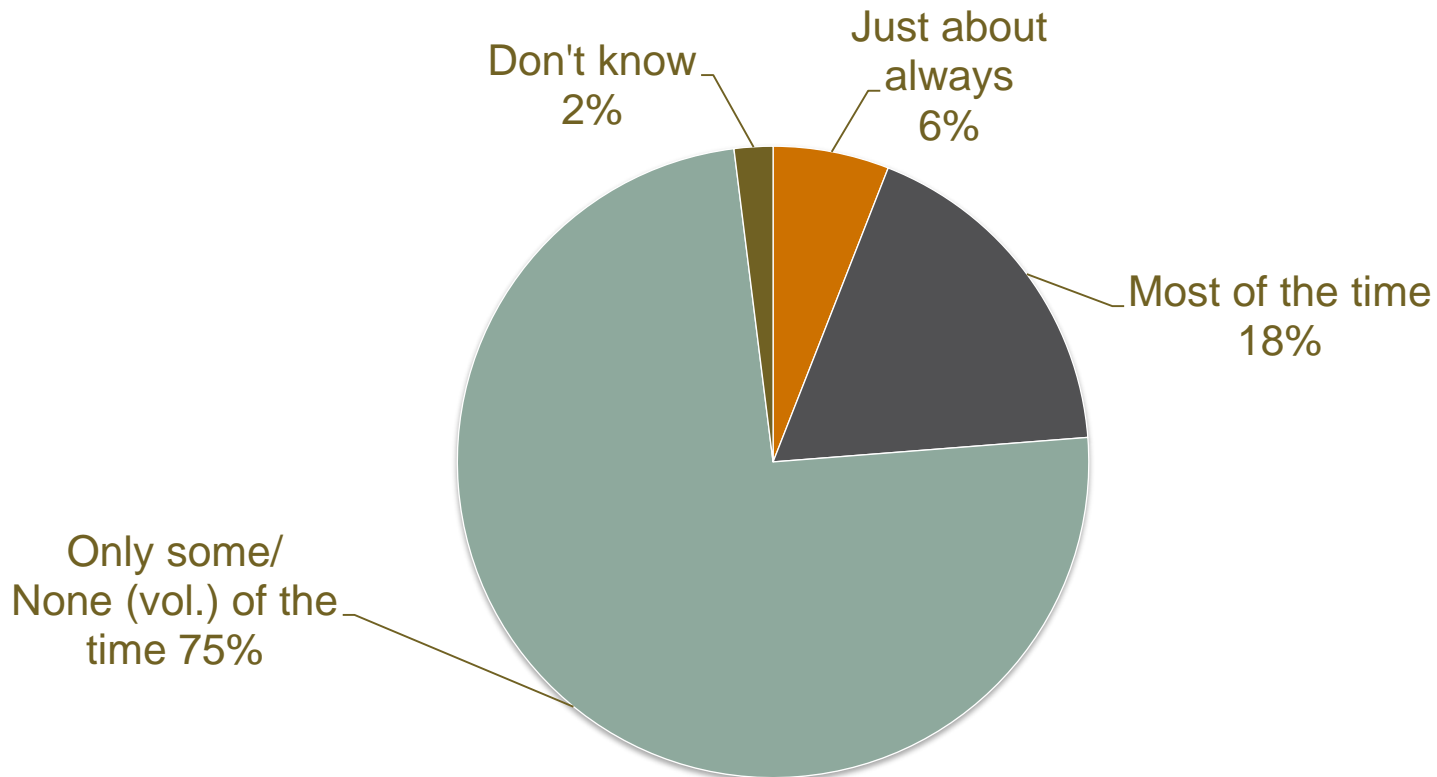


All adults



Trust in federal government

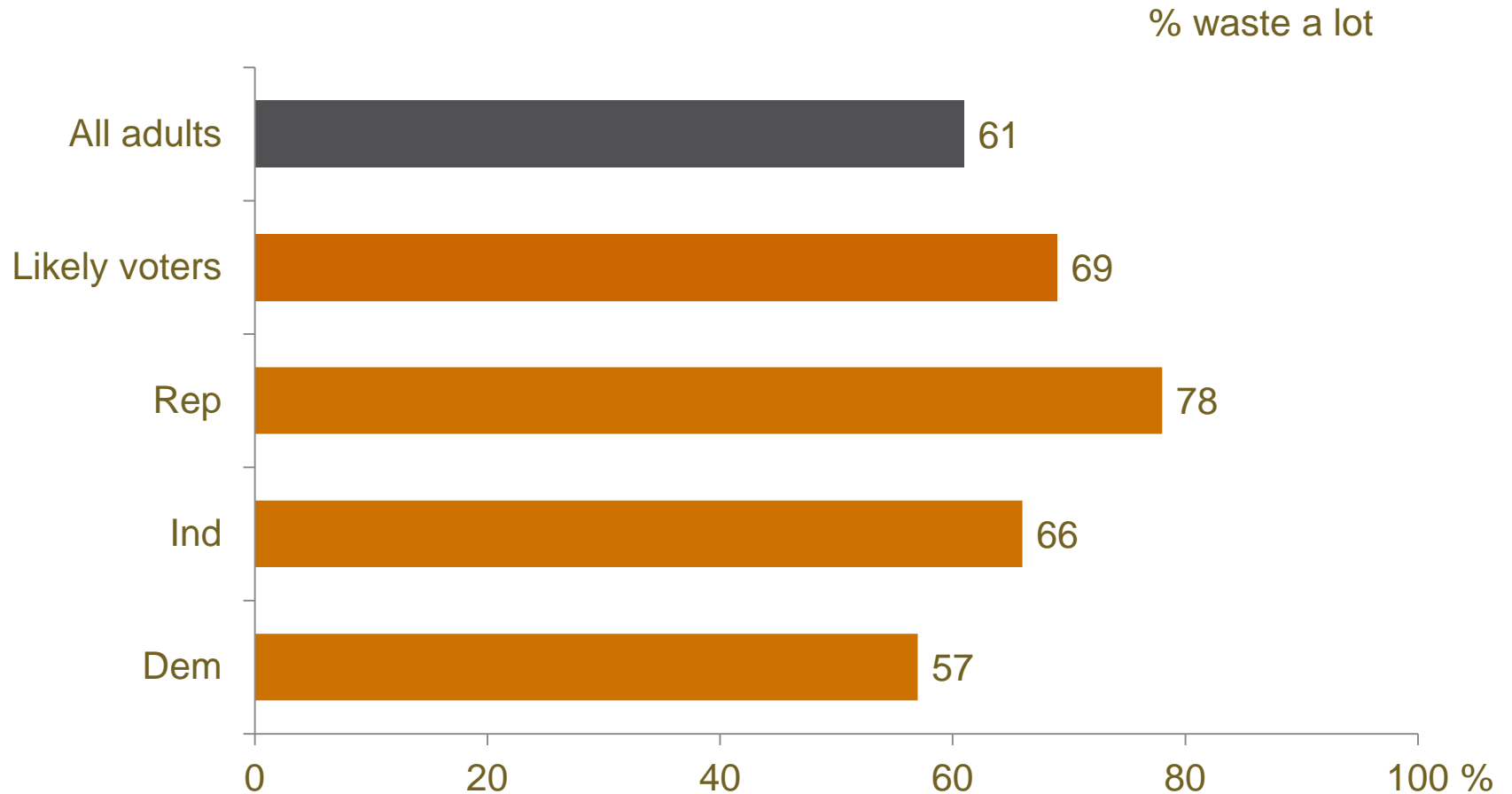
How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington to do what is right—just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?



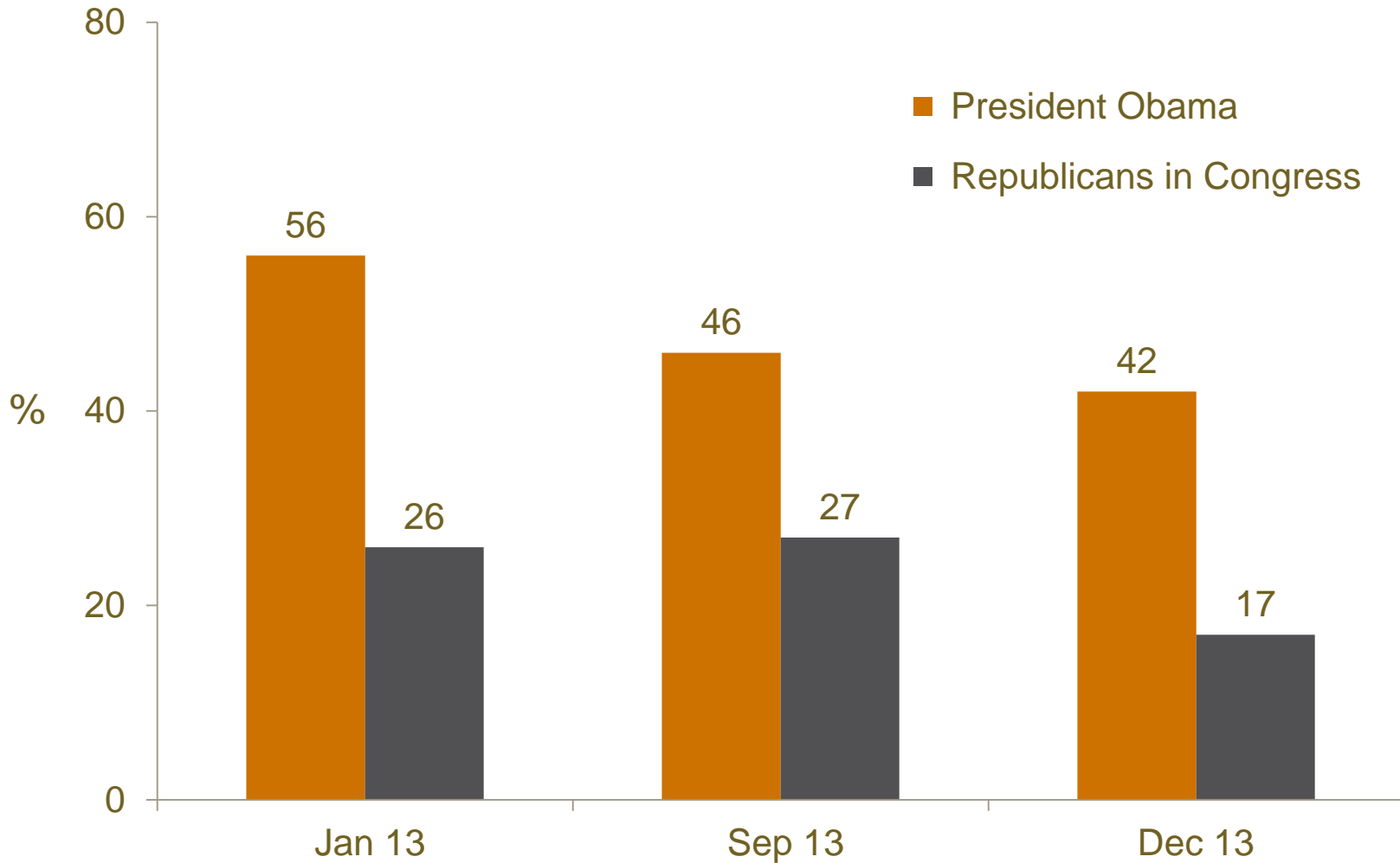
All adults

Views on federal government waste

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

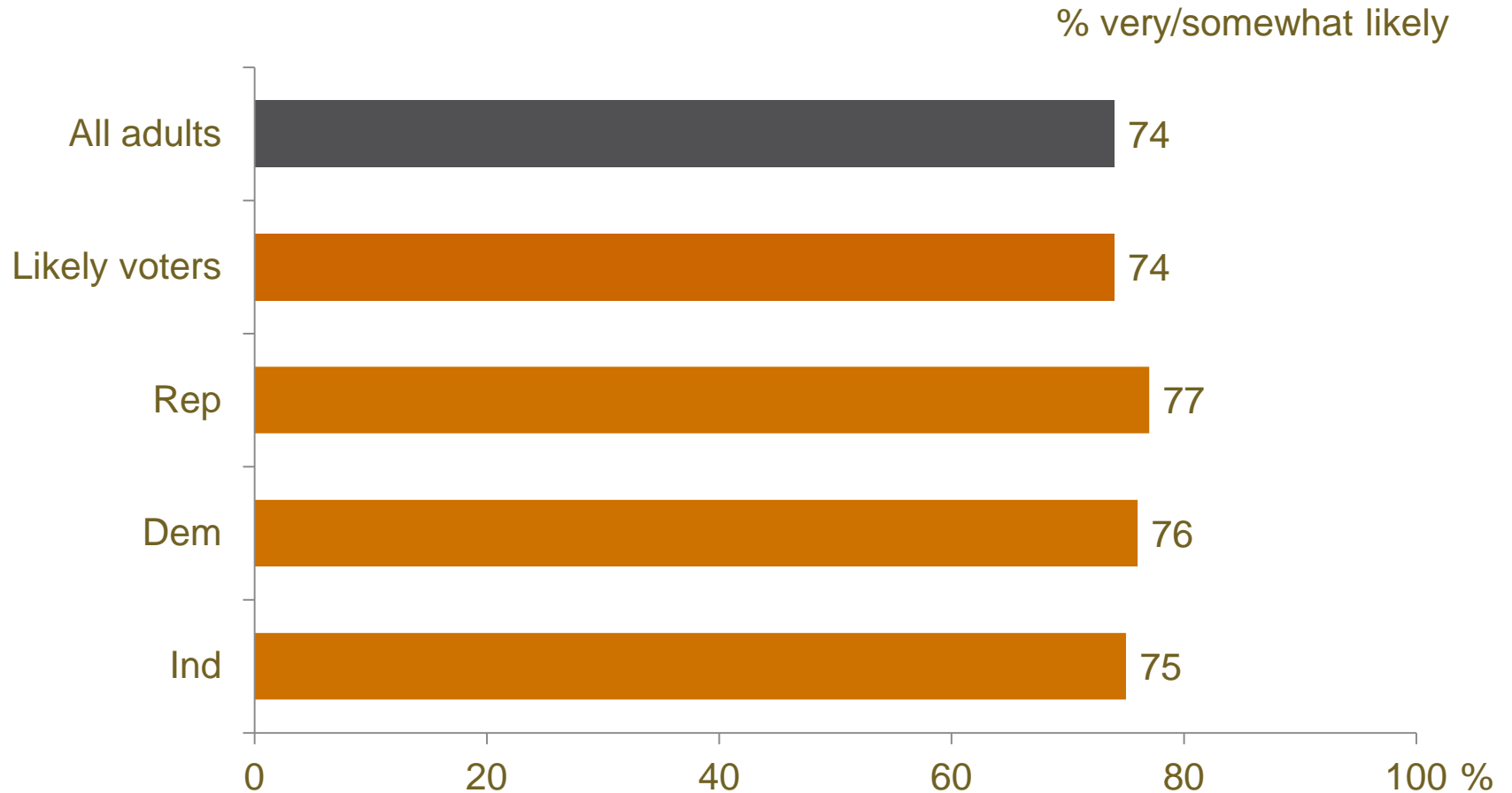


Handling of federal deficit and debt ceiling



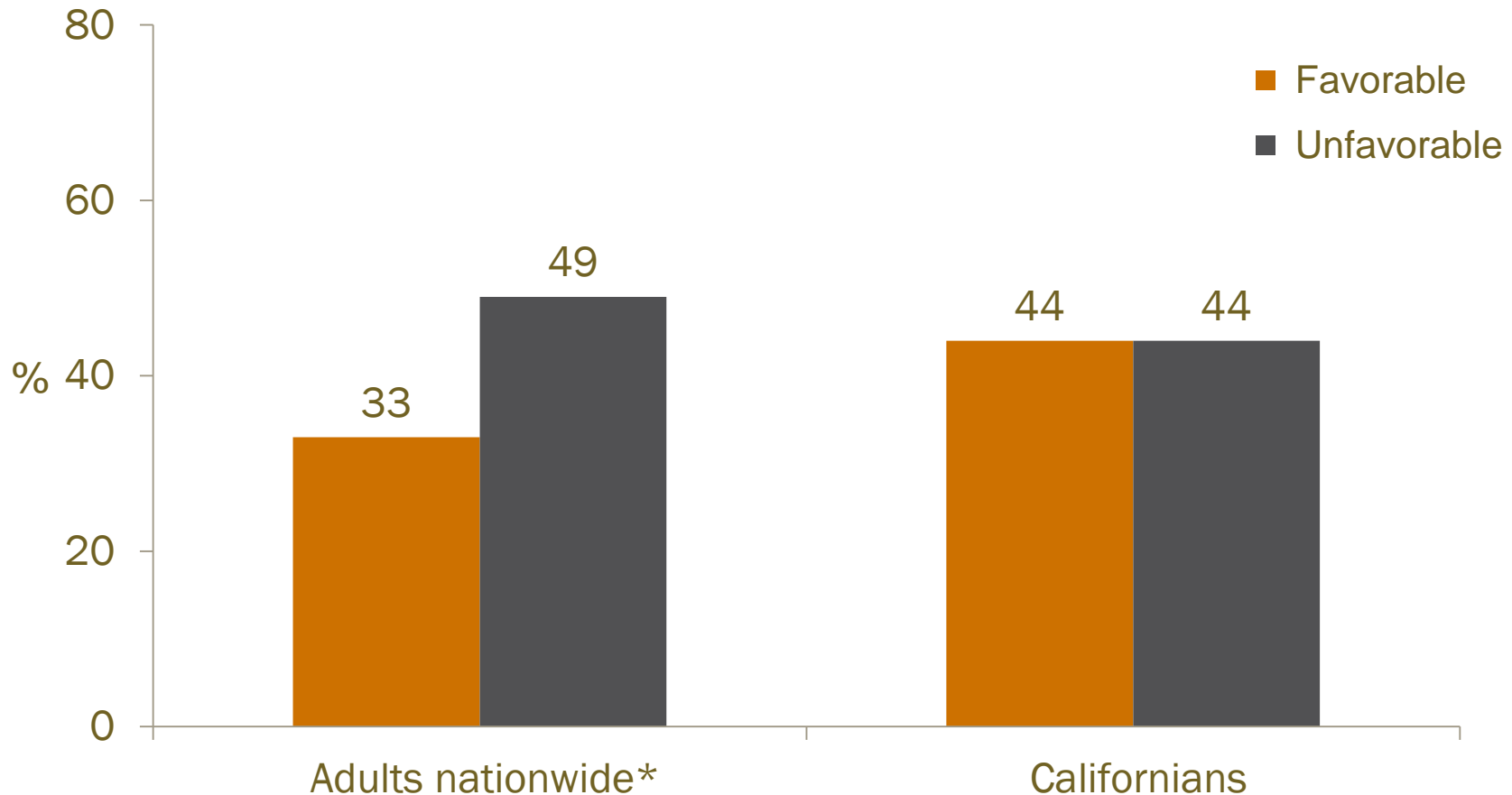
Likelihood of a January government shutdown

How likely do you think it is that the federal government will shut down again in January: very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not likely at all?



Opinions of health care reform

As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?

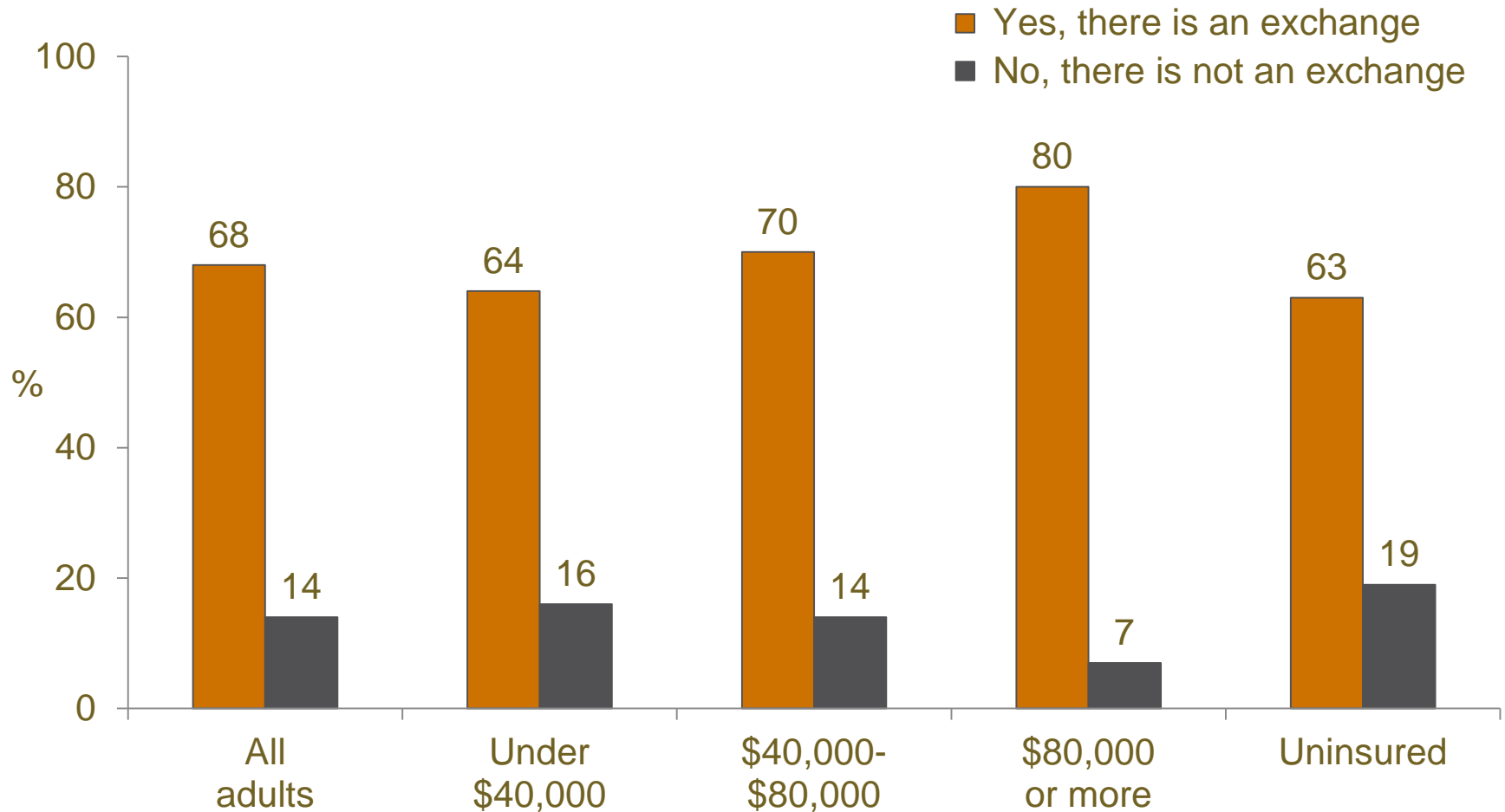


*Kaiser Family Foundation Poll, November 2013



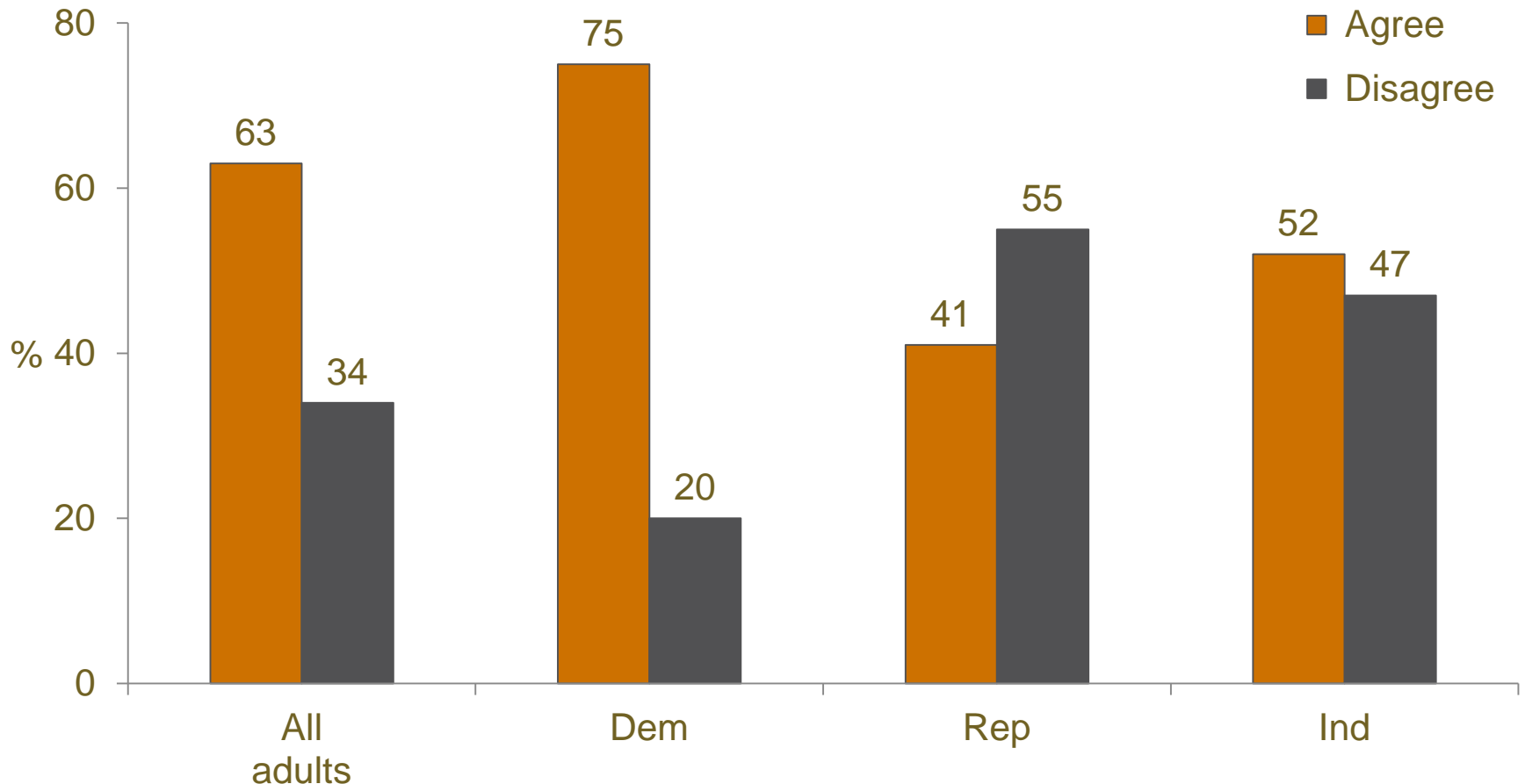
Awareness of state health insurance exchange

From what you've read and heard is there a health insurance exchange available to people in California, or not?



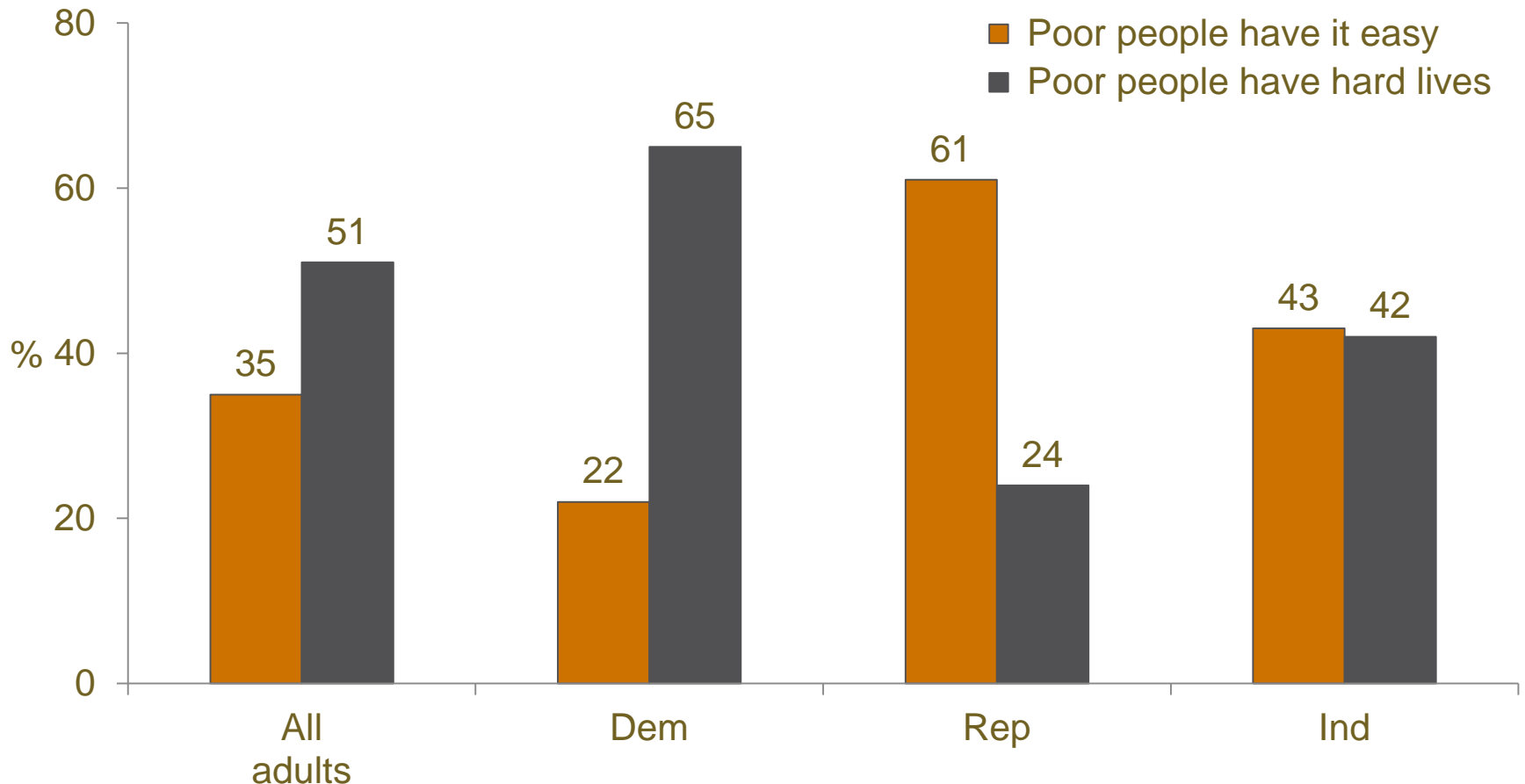
Government's role in addressing poverty

Thinking about the issue of poverty, do you agree or disagree with the following statement: It is the responsibility of government to take care of people who can't take care of themselves.



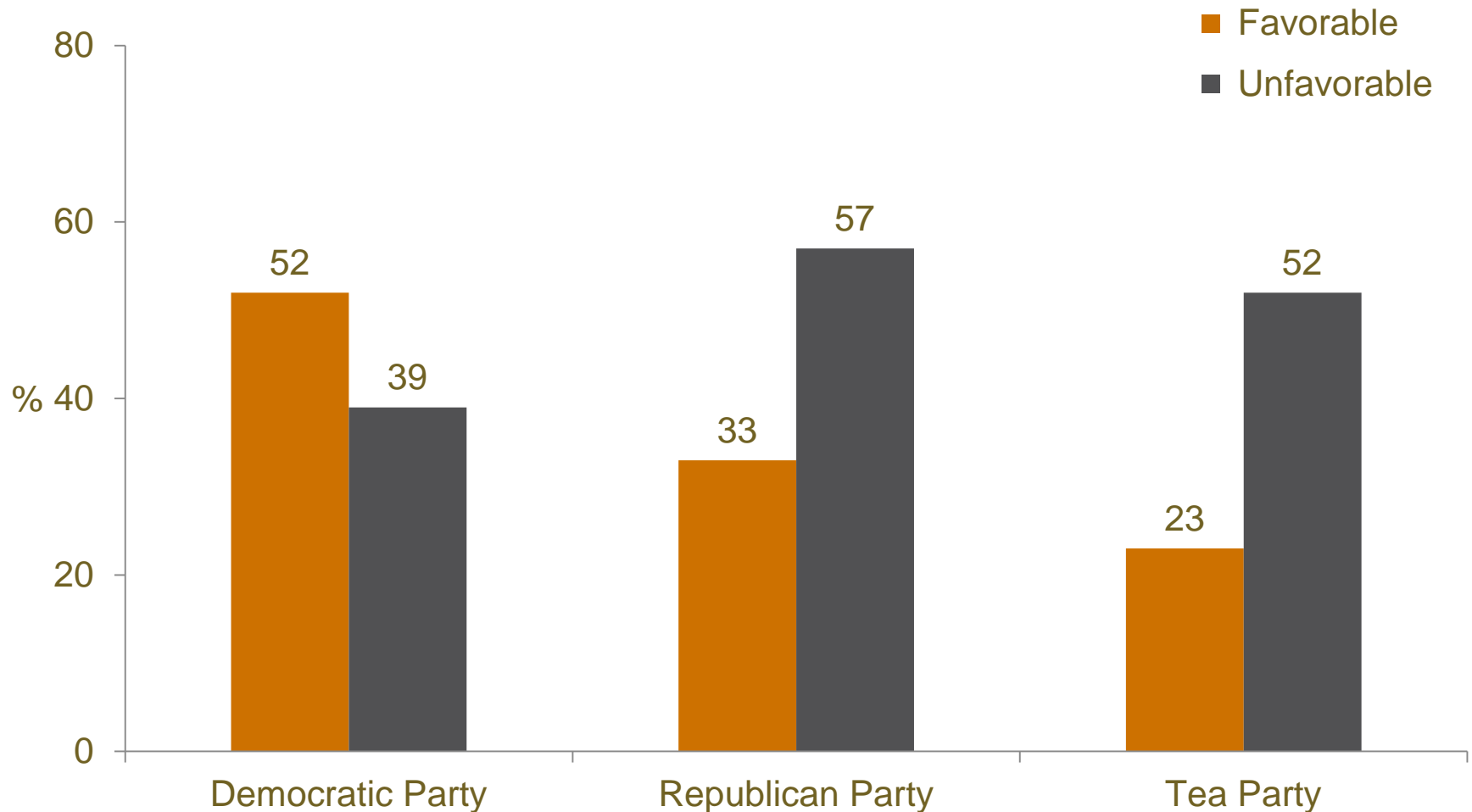
Perceptions of poverty

Please indicate which statement comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right: poor people have it easy because they can get government benefits without doing anything in return, or poor people have hard lives because government benefits don't go far enough to help them live decently.



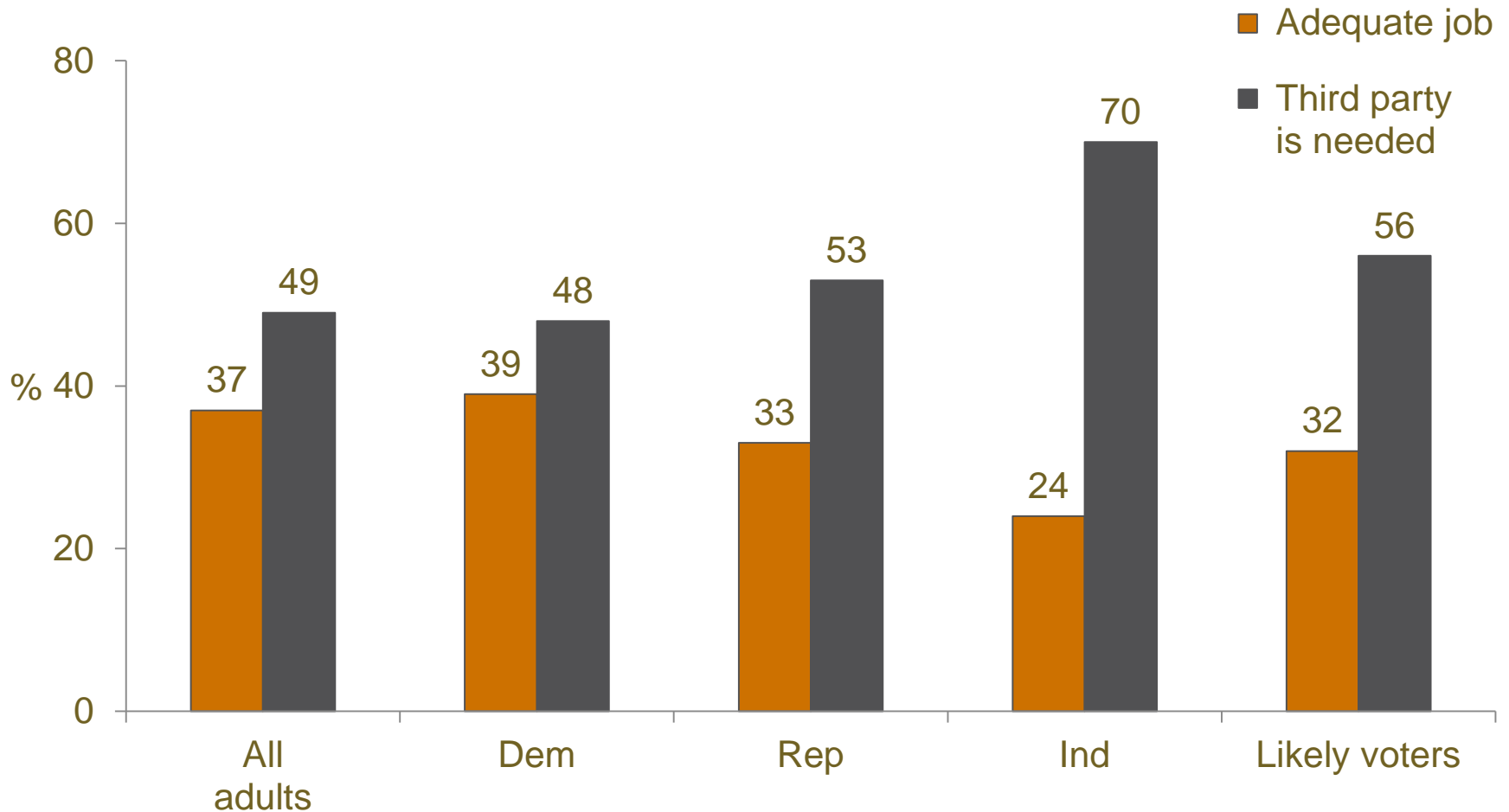
Views of major parties and the Tea Party

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



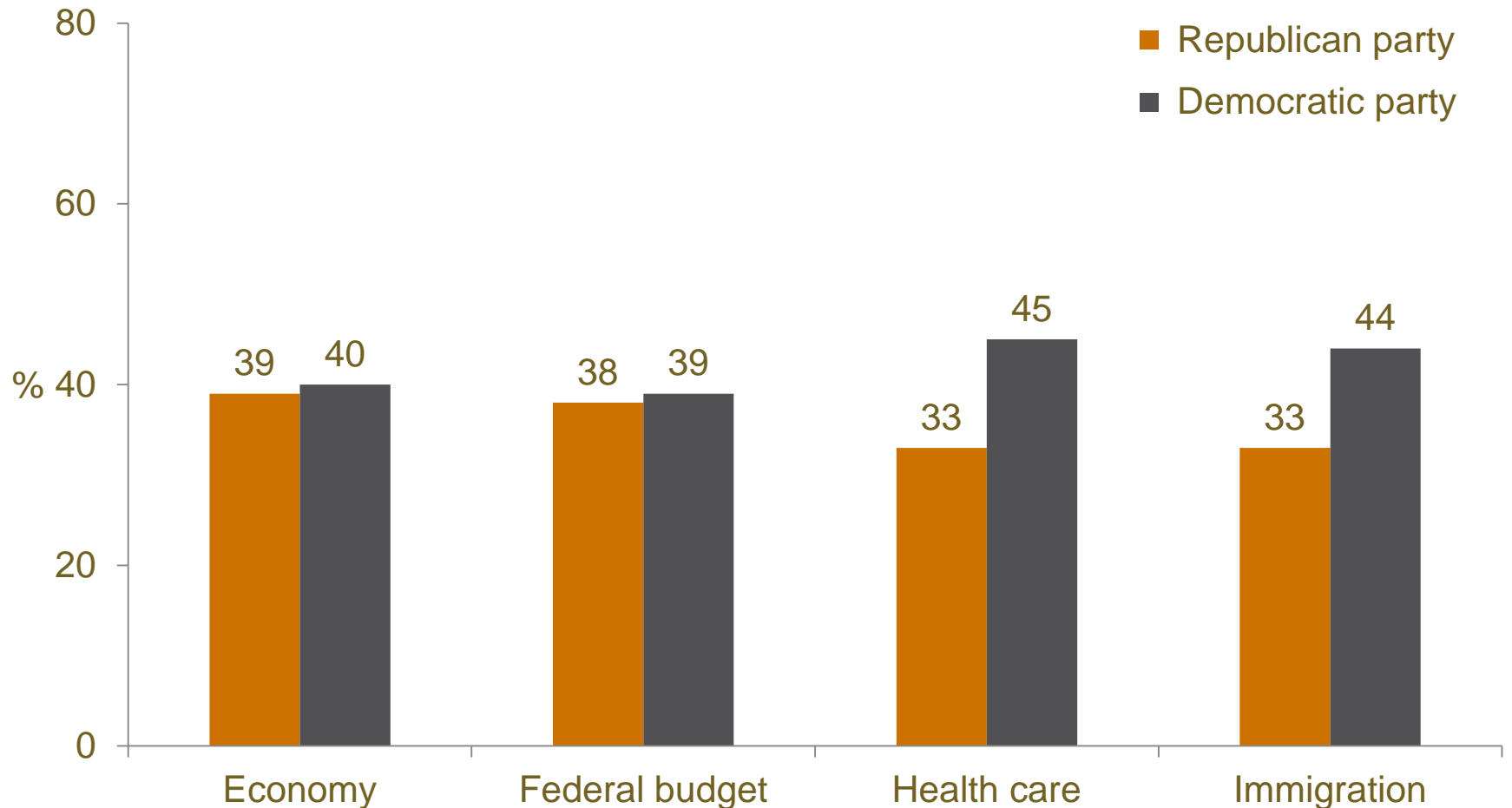
Is a third party needed?

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?



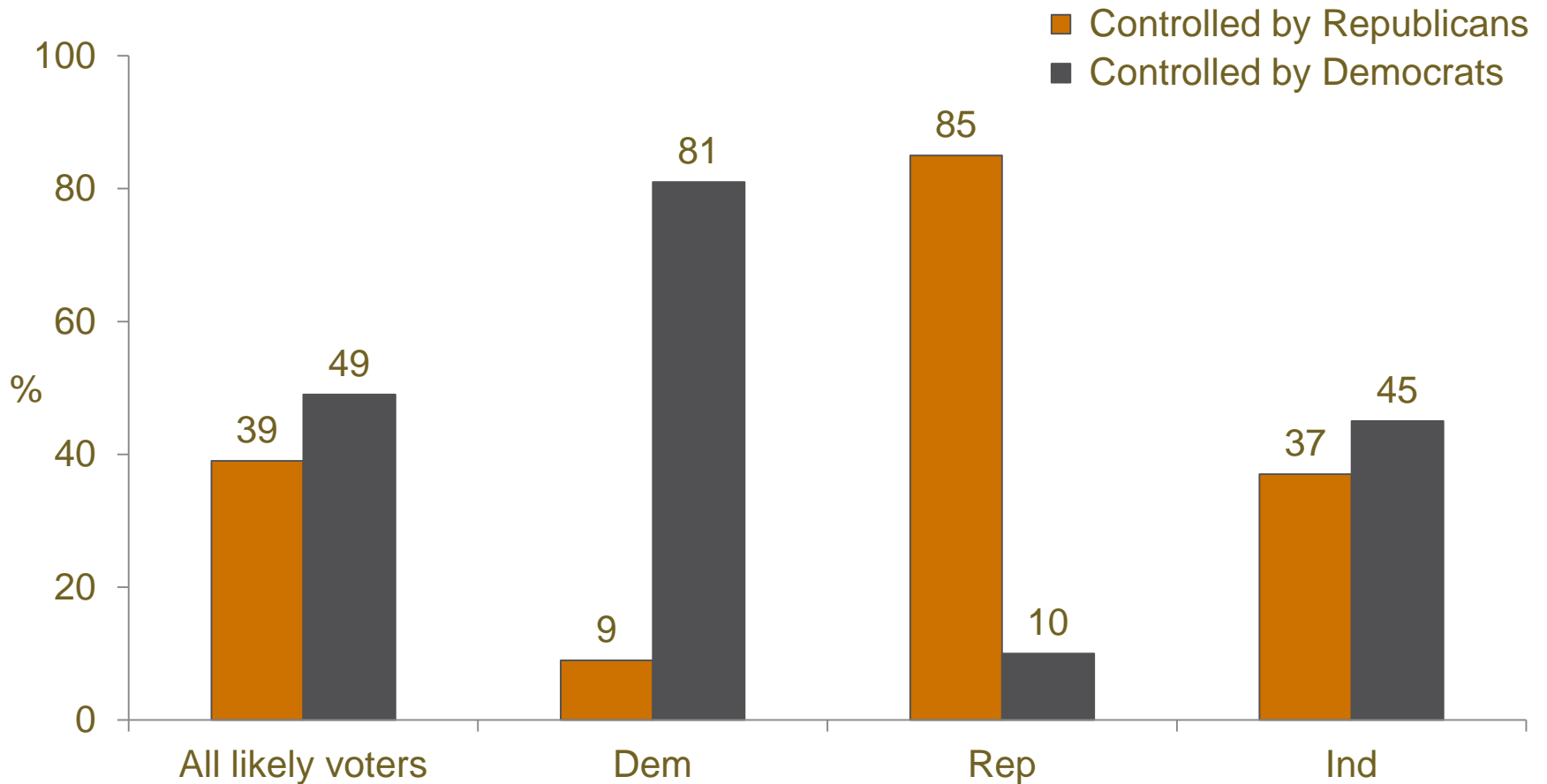
Parties' ability to handle major issues

Please tell me if you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party could do a better job of handling each of these national issues.



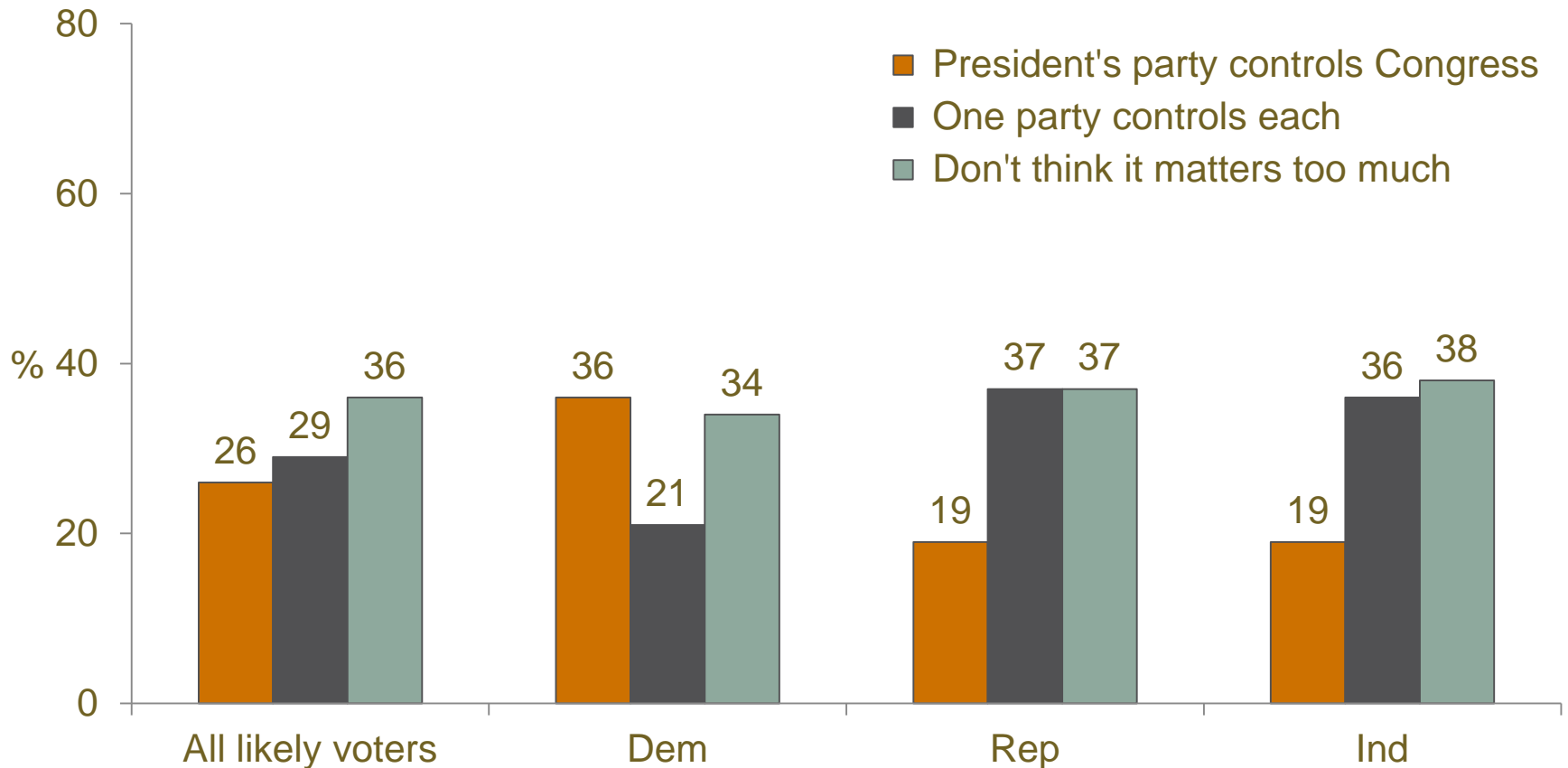
Which party should control Congress?

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



Views on divided government

Generally, what's the better situation: that a president's political party also has a controlling majority in Congress, or that one party controls the White House while the other party controls the Congress, or don't you think it matters too much one way or the other?



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Conclusions

- Californians are divided on the state's economic outlook; most say the state is in a recession
- Four in 10 rate their financial situation as excellent or good and about half say it is the same as a year ago
- There is little trust in state or federal government
- Approval of both the president and Congress is at a record low
- Most are aware of the state health insurance exchange; opinion of health care reform is divided
- Californians are divided on which party could better handle the economy and federal budget but prefer the Democrats on health care and immigration



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.

