

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Education

Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner,
Sonja Petek, Jui Shrestha

April 2011



Outline

- **PPIC Statewide Surveys**
- **General Perceptions**
- **Fiscal Attitudes and Policy Preferences**
- **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
 - 246,000+ Californians since 1998
 - 100+ general, issue, and regional surveys



Californians and Education

- Funded by The Hewlett Foundation
- General perceptions
 - K-12 quality, concerns, parents' perspectives
- Fiscal attitudes and policy preferences
 - State budget situation, raising revenues
- Telephone interviews, April 5-19
 - 2,504 adults; 1,209 likely voters; 763 public school parents
 - *± 3% margin of error for adults*
 - *± 3.5% for likely voters*
 - *± 5.5% for public school parents*



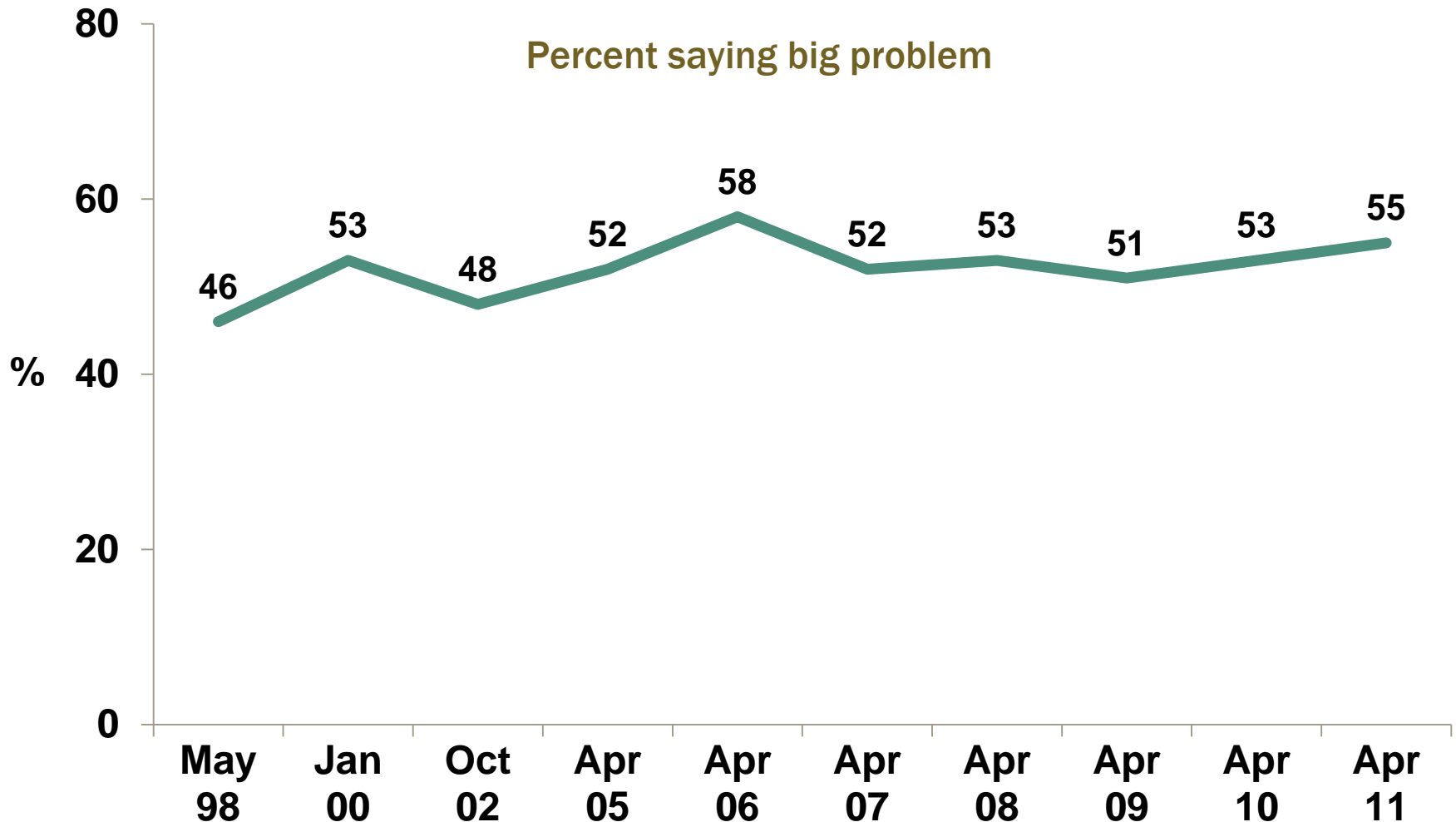
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- Conclusions



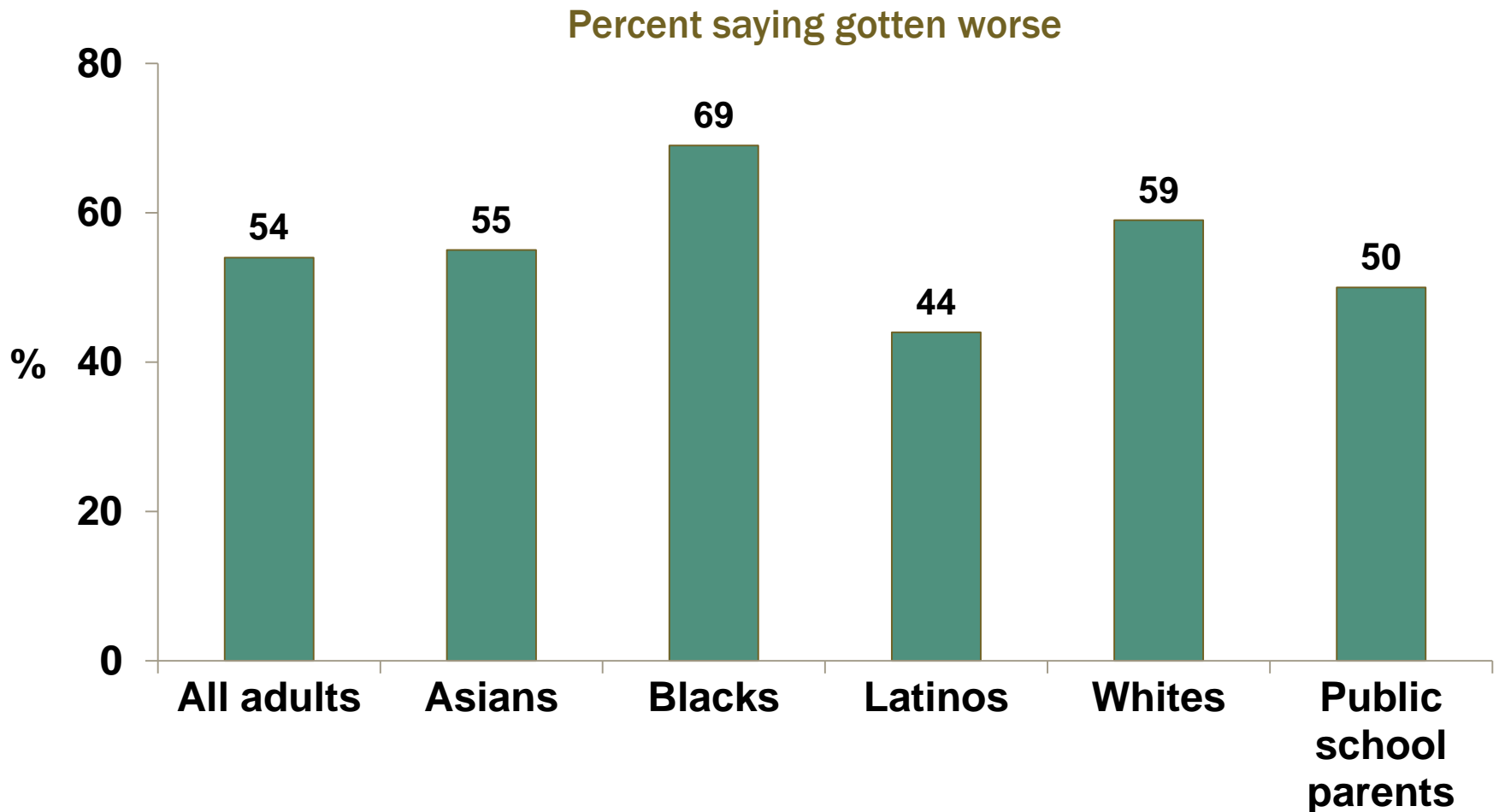
Quality of K-12 Education

How much of a problem is the quality of education in California's K-12 public schools today?



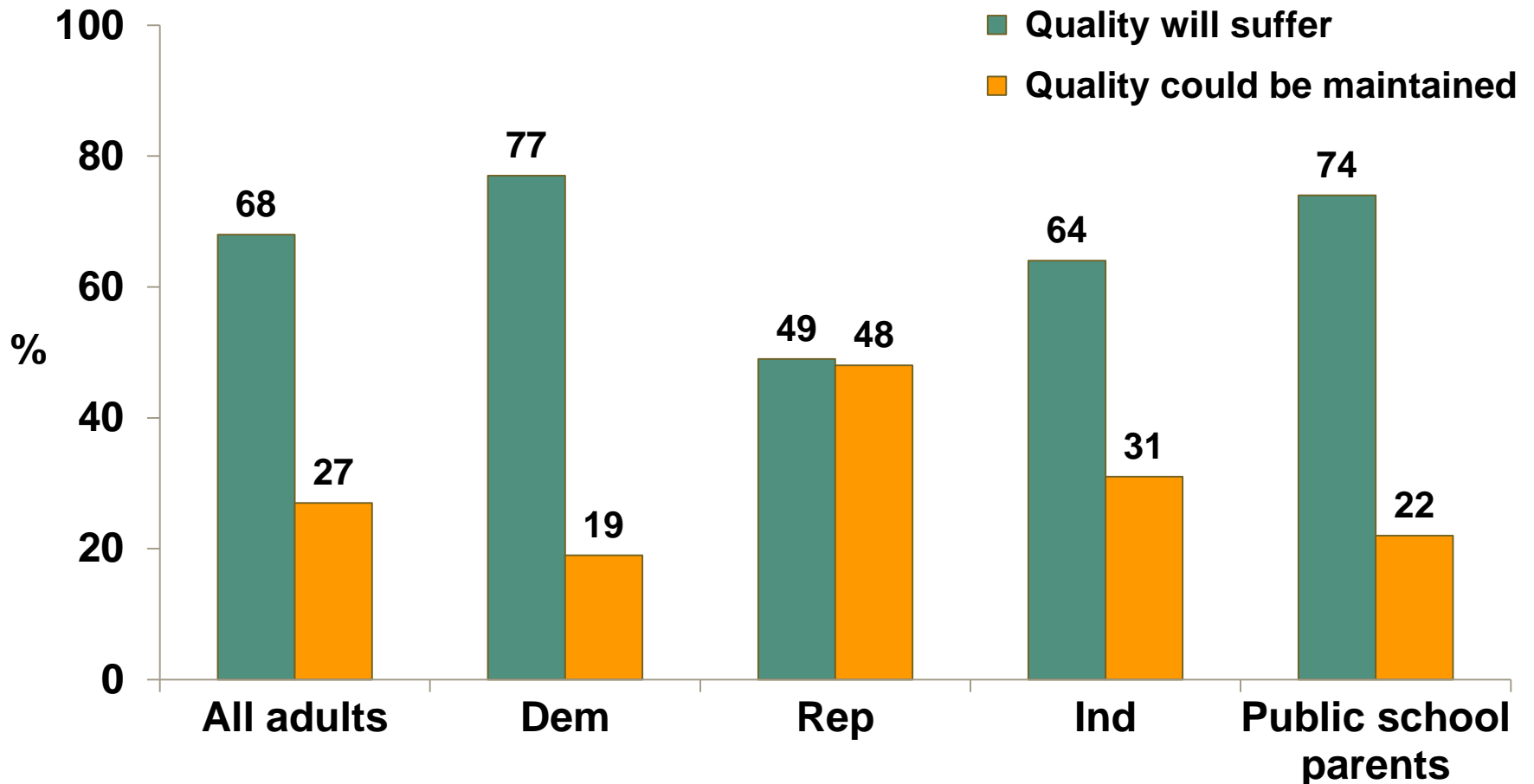
Changes in K-12 Quality

Over the past few years, do you think the quality of education in California's K-12 public schools has improved, gotten worse, or stayed the same?



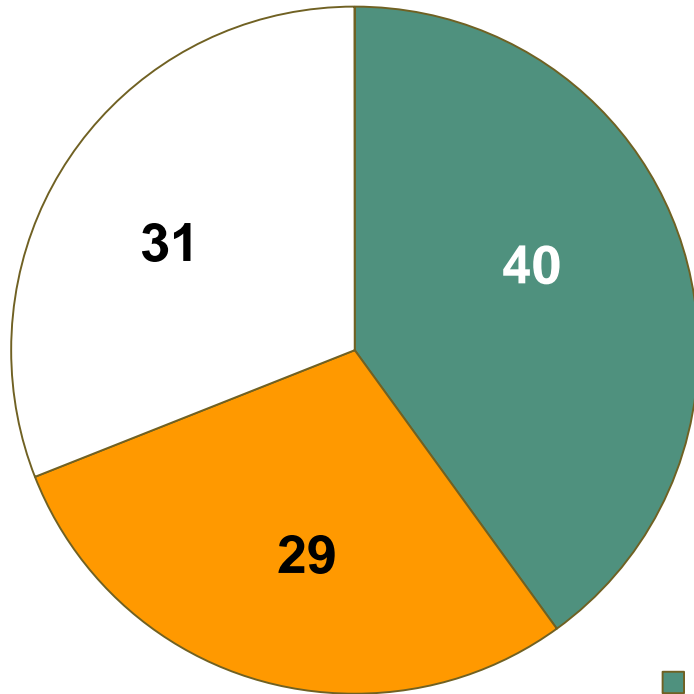
Budget Cuts Affecting Quality

Which comes closer to your view? If the state government makes budget cuts in K-12 public education, the quality of education will suffer, or the state government could make budget cuts in K-12 public education and still maintain the quality of education.

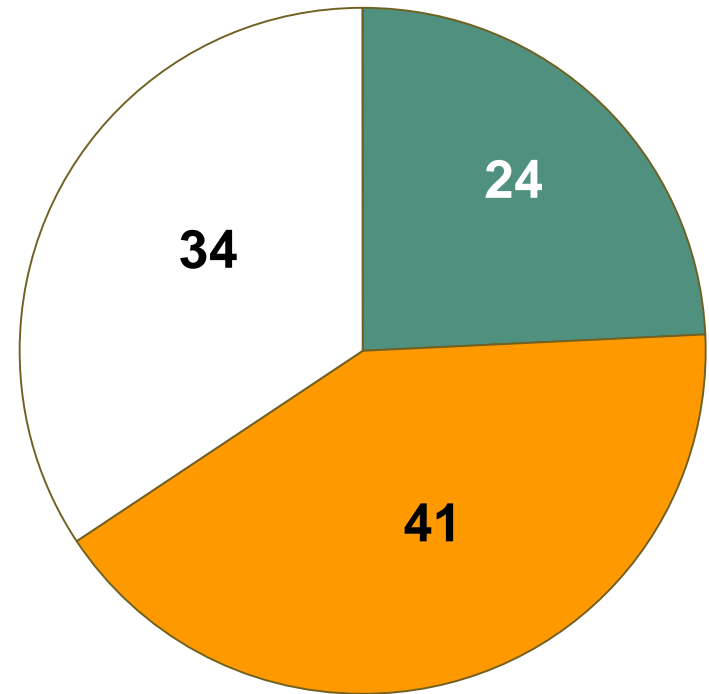


Governor Brown's Approval Ratings

Handling His Job Overall



Handling the K-12 System



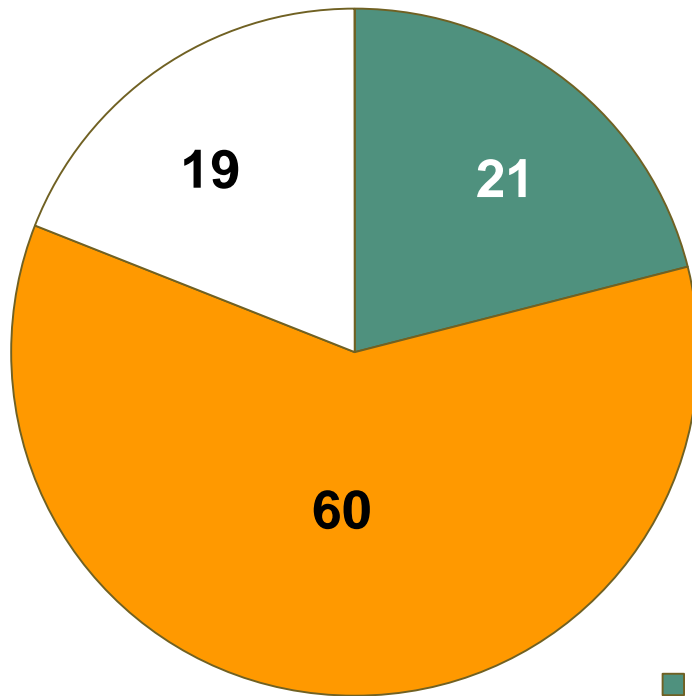
All adults

- Approve
- Disapprove
- Don't know

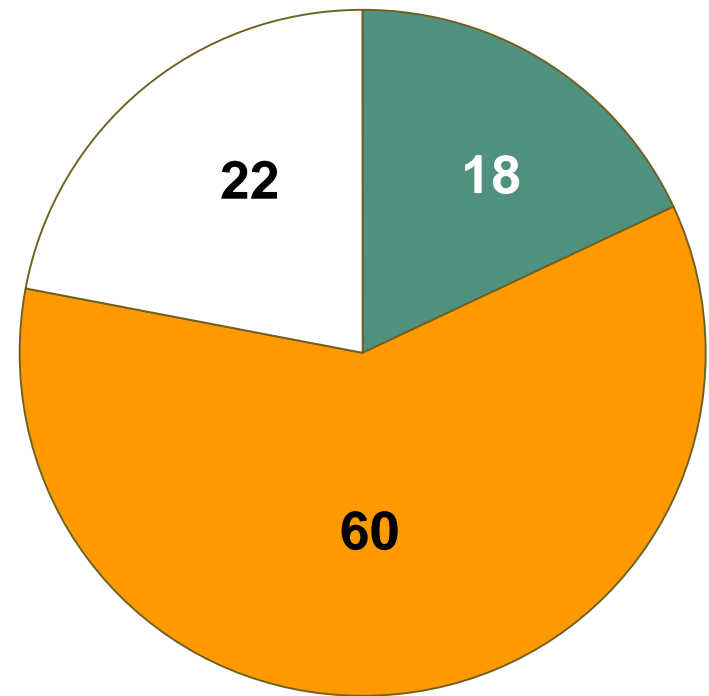


Legislature's Approval Ratings

Handling Its Job Overall



Handling the K-12 System



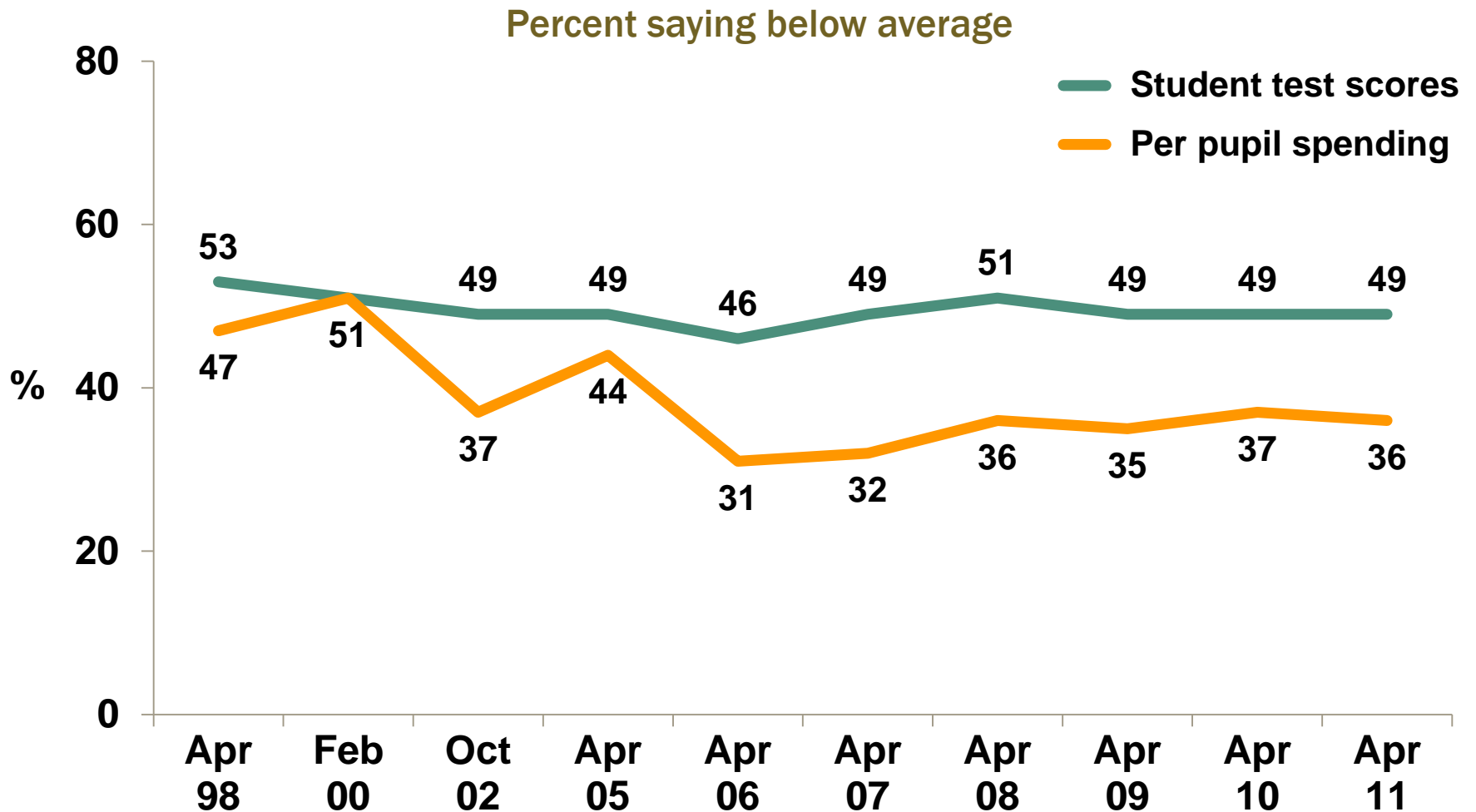
All adults

- Approve
- Disapprove
- Don't know



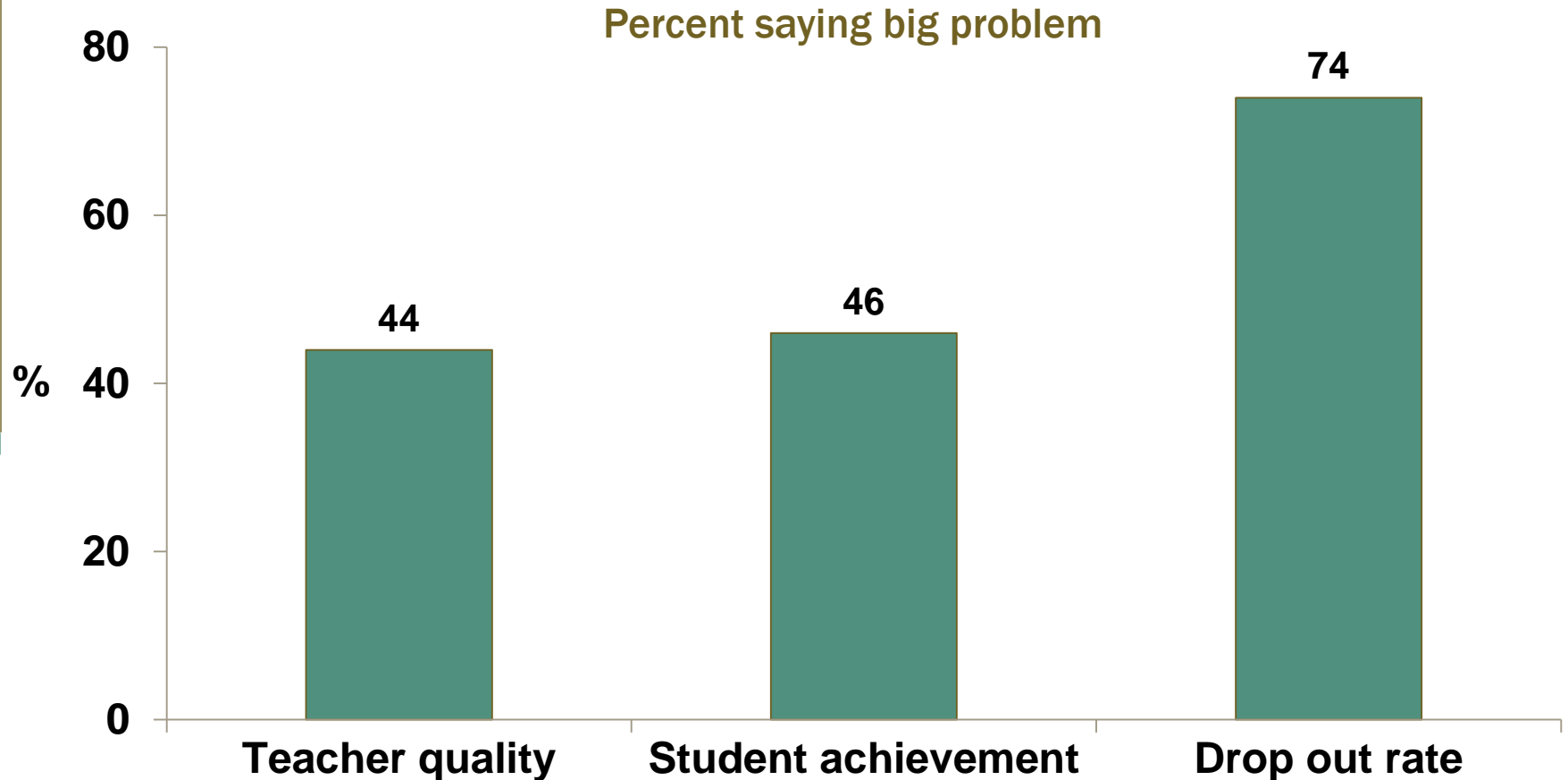
Per Pupil Spending and Student Test Scores

Compared to other states, where do you think California currently ranks in ... for K-12 public schools?



Challenges in the System

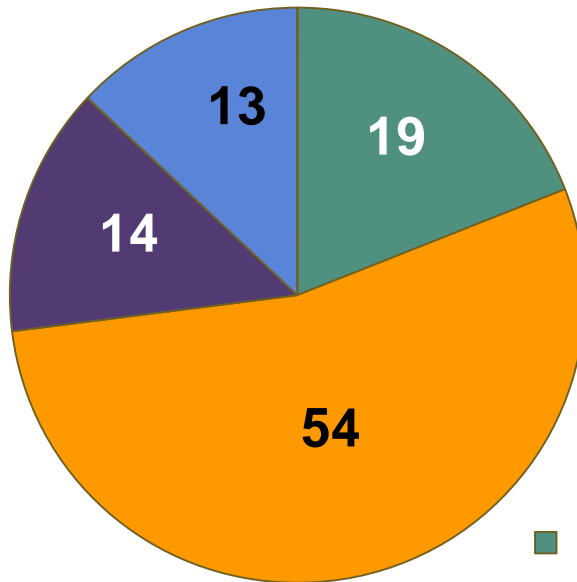
I'm going to read you a list of issues people have mentioned when talking about California's K-12 public schools today. For each one, please tell me if you think it is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not really a problem.



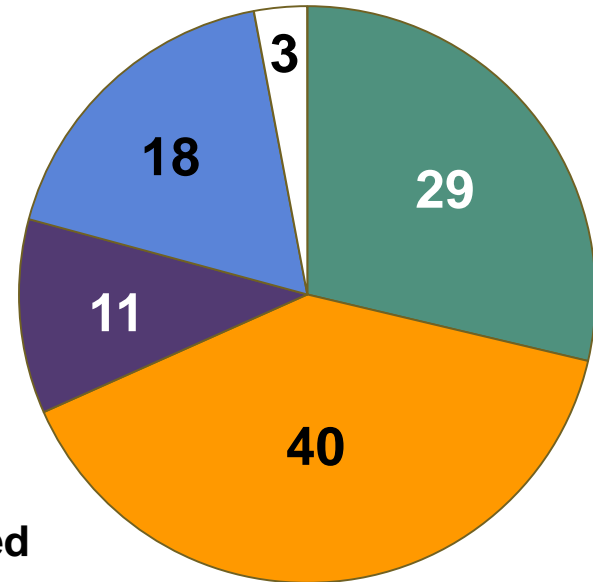
Tying Teacher Salaries to Student Achievement

In your opinion, how closely should a teacher's salary be tied to his or her students' academic achievement?

Adults Nationwide*



Californians



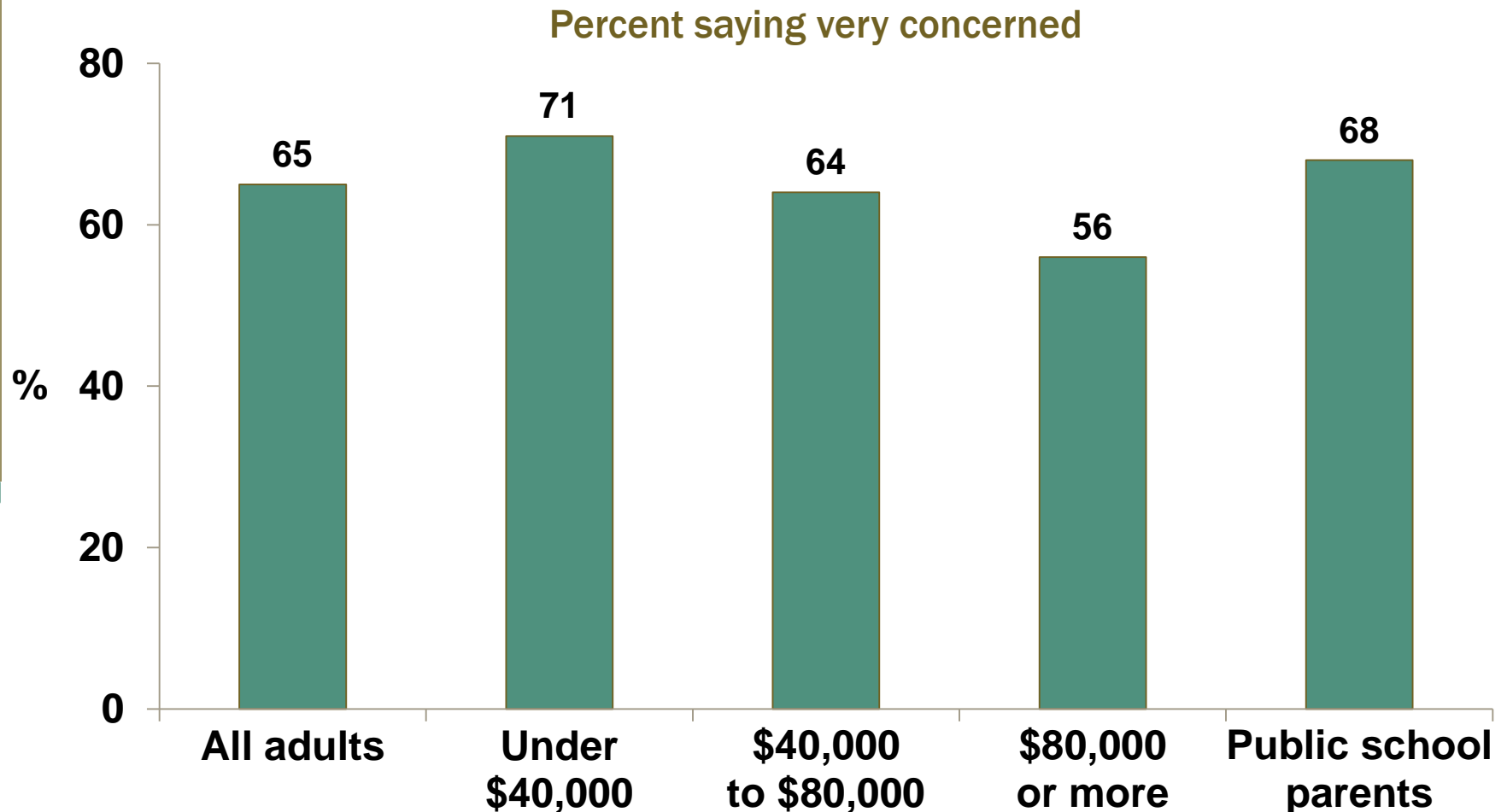
- Very closely tied
- Somewhat closely tied
- Not very closely tied
- Not at all tied
- Don't know

* Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup poll, June 2010



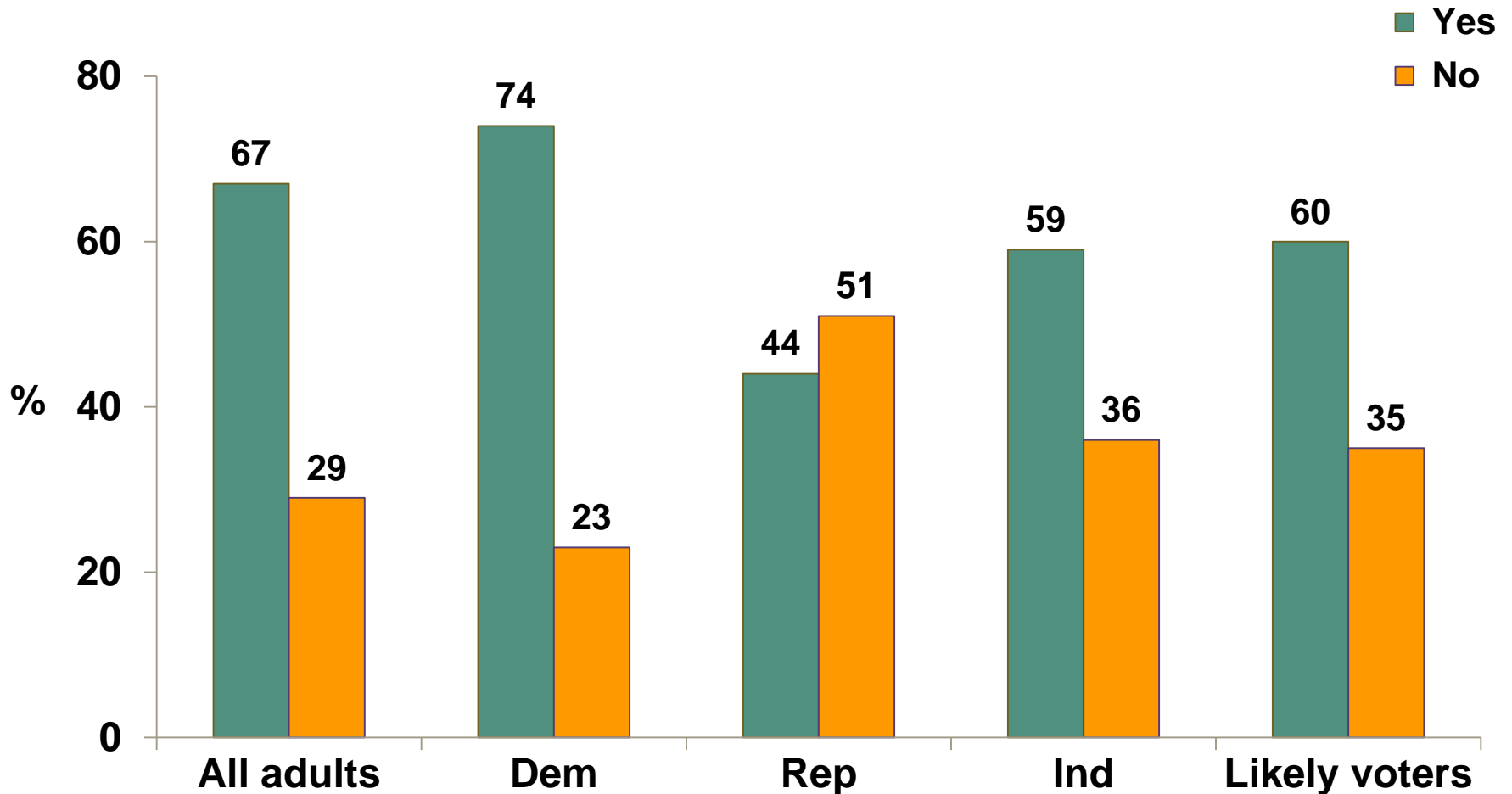
Teacher Shortage in Lower-Income Areas

How concerned are you that schools in lower-income areas have a shortage of good teachers compared to schools in wealthier areas?



Distributing Resources

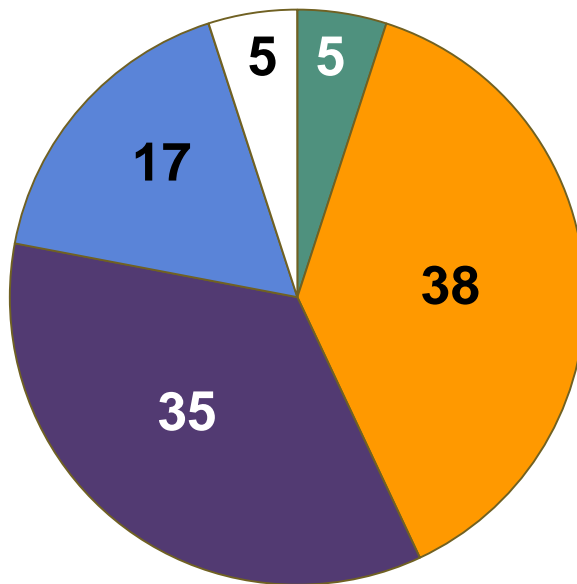
If new state funding becomes available, should schools in lower-income areas get more of this funding than other schools to help pay for teachers and classroom materials, or not?



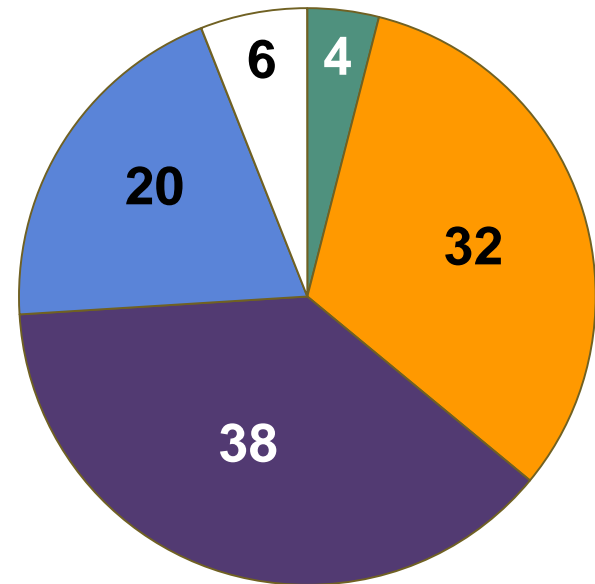
Preparing Students for the Future

Are California's K-12 public schools doing an excellent, good, not so good, or poor job in preparing students for...?

College



Jobs and the workforce



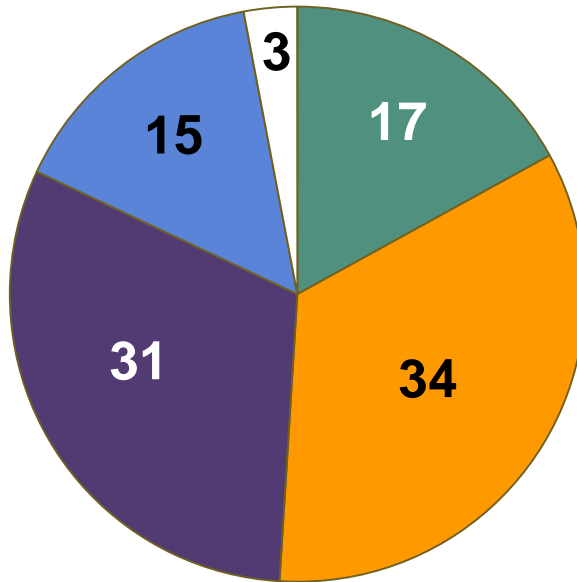
All adults

- Excellent
- Good
- Not so good
- Poor
- Don't know



Rating Local Public Schools

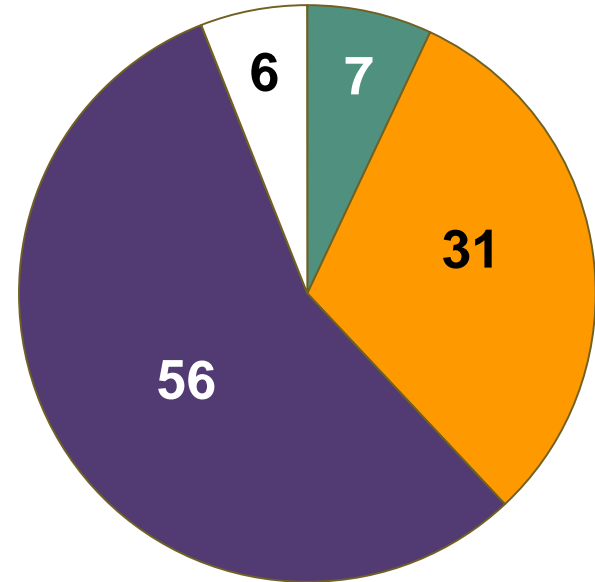
Overall, how would you rate the quality of public schools in your neighborhood today?



- A
- B
- C
- D or F
- Don't know

Do you think the current level of state funding for your local public schools is more than enough, just enough, or not enough?

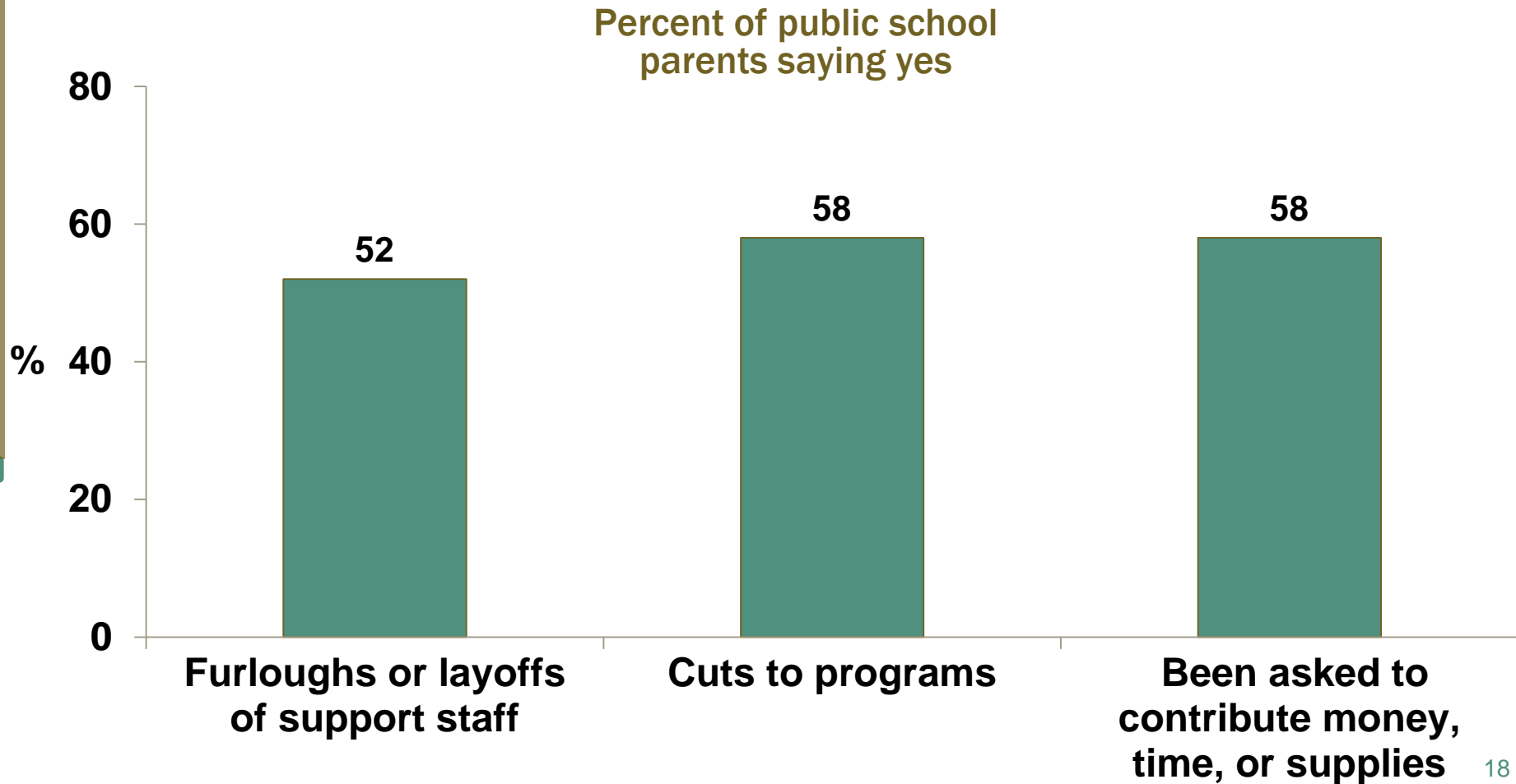
All adults



- More than enough
- Just enough
- Not enough
- Don't know

Impact of Budget Cuts

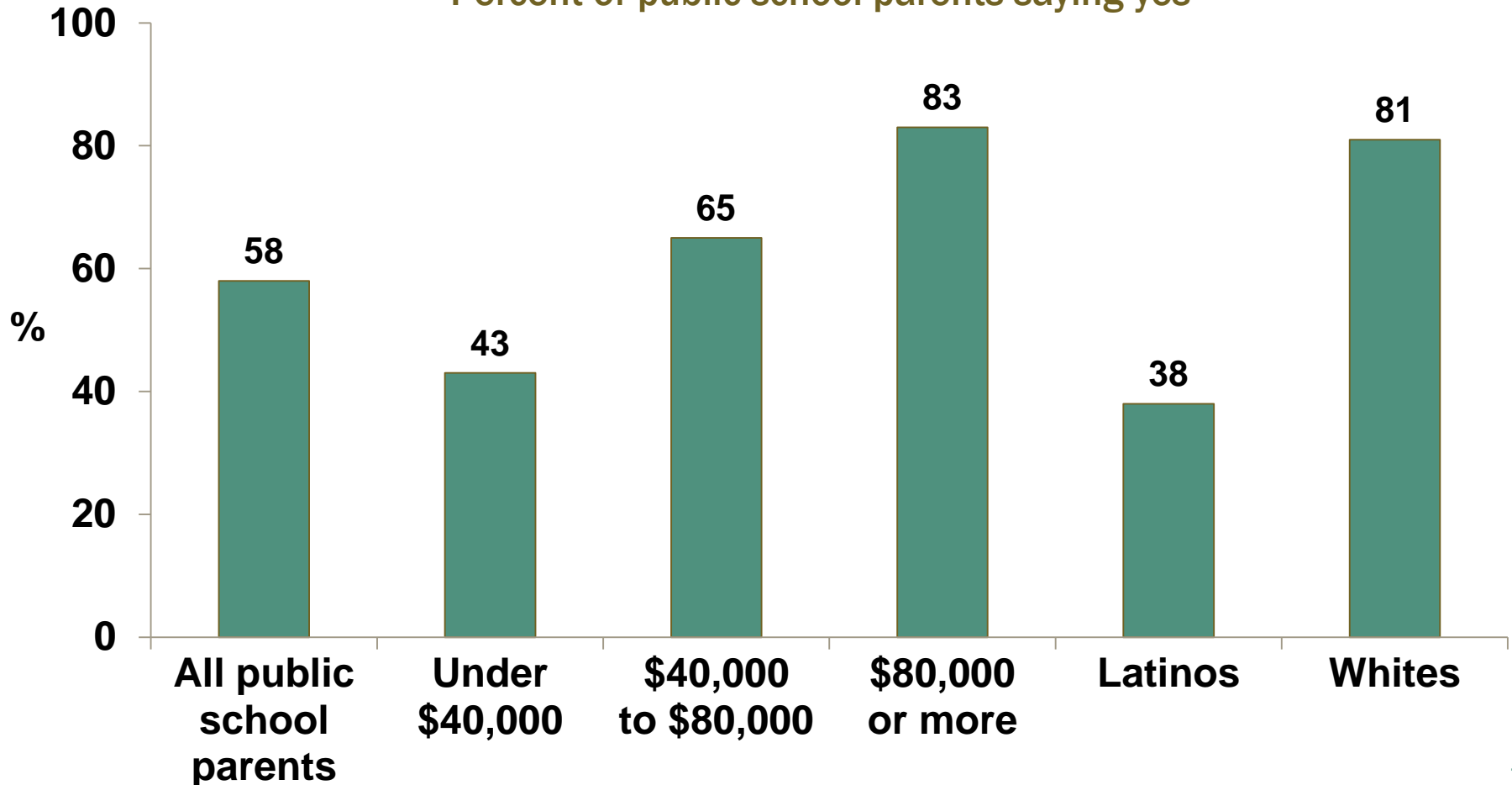
Please tell me if you've noticed any of the following at your child's public school as a result of budget cuts.



Contributing to Public Schools

Have you been asked to contribute money, time, or supplies to your child's public school, or not?

Percent of public school parents saying yes



Outline

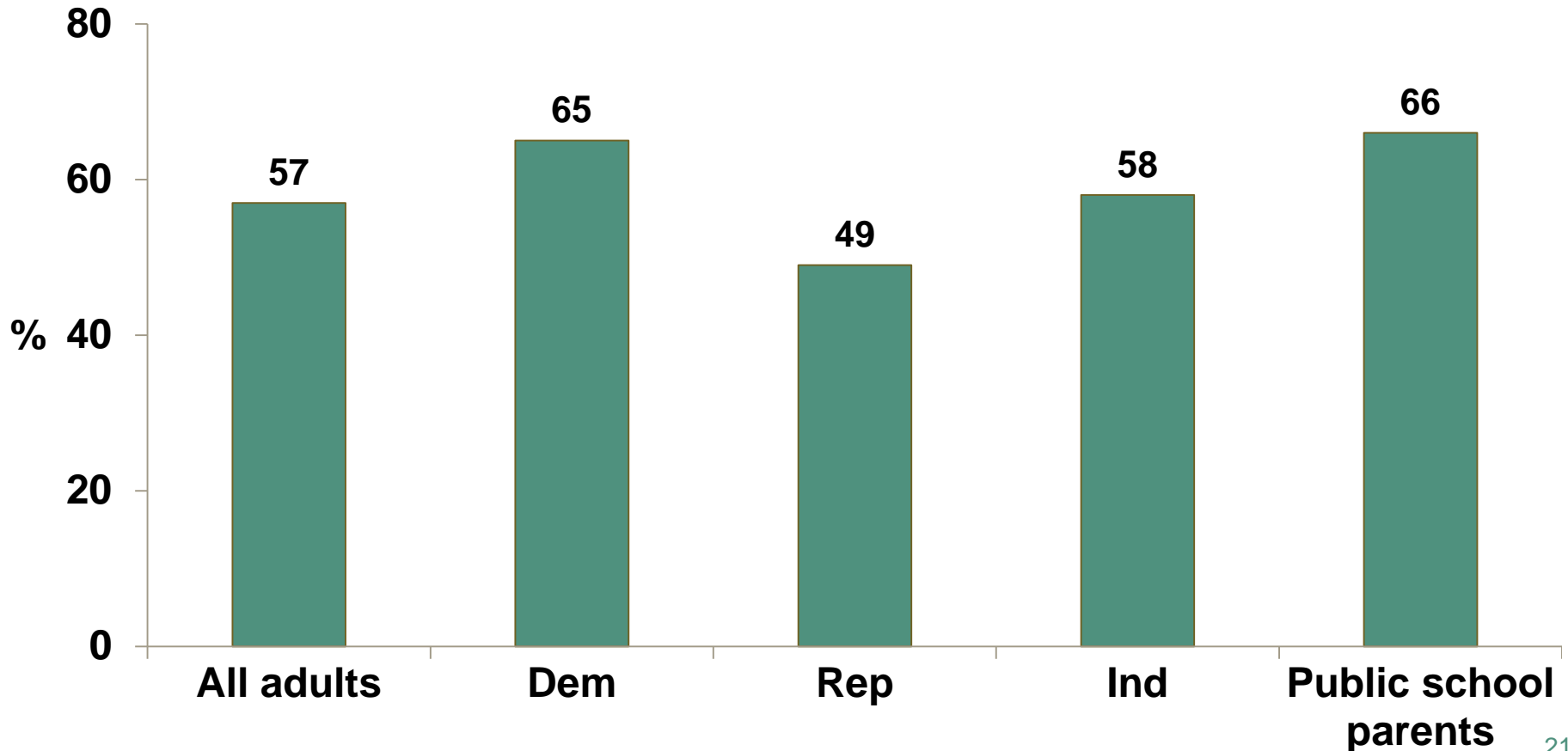
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Concerns about State Budget Cuts

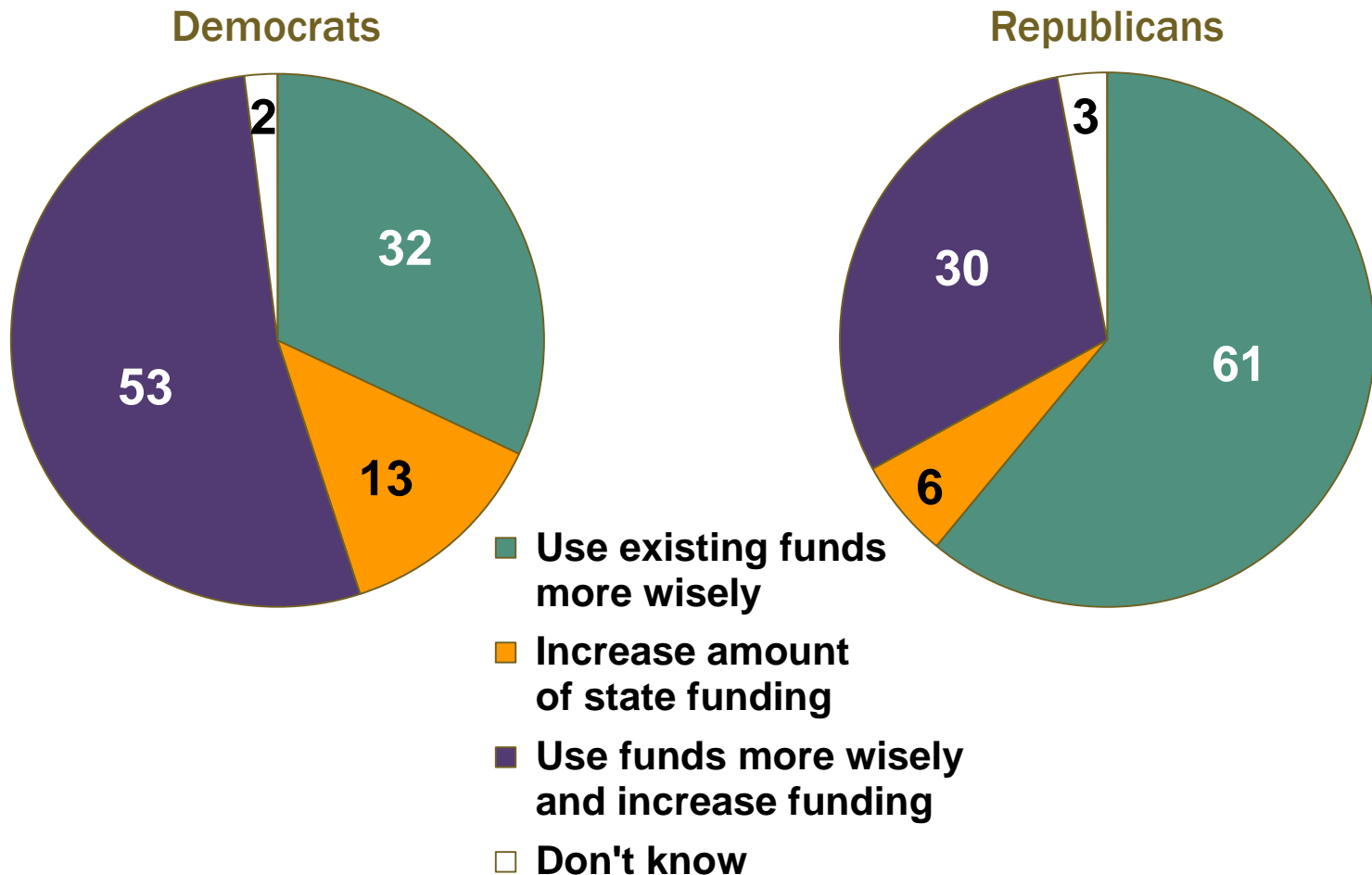
How concerned are you that the state's budget gap will cause significant spending cuts in K-12 public education?

Percent saying very concerned



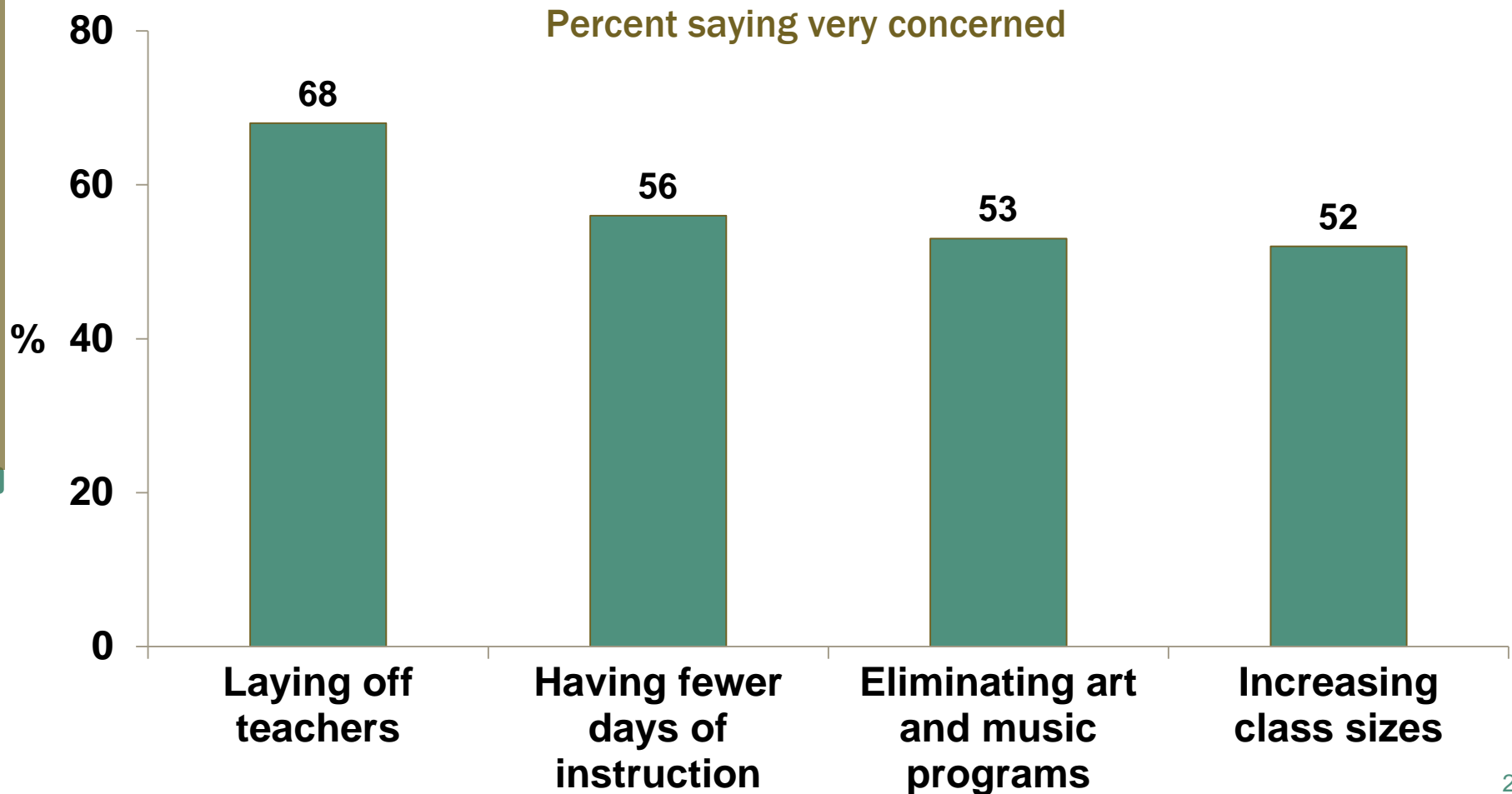
State Funding for Public Schools

To significantly improve the quality of California's K-12 public schools, which of the following statements do you agree with the most?



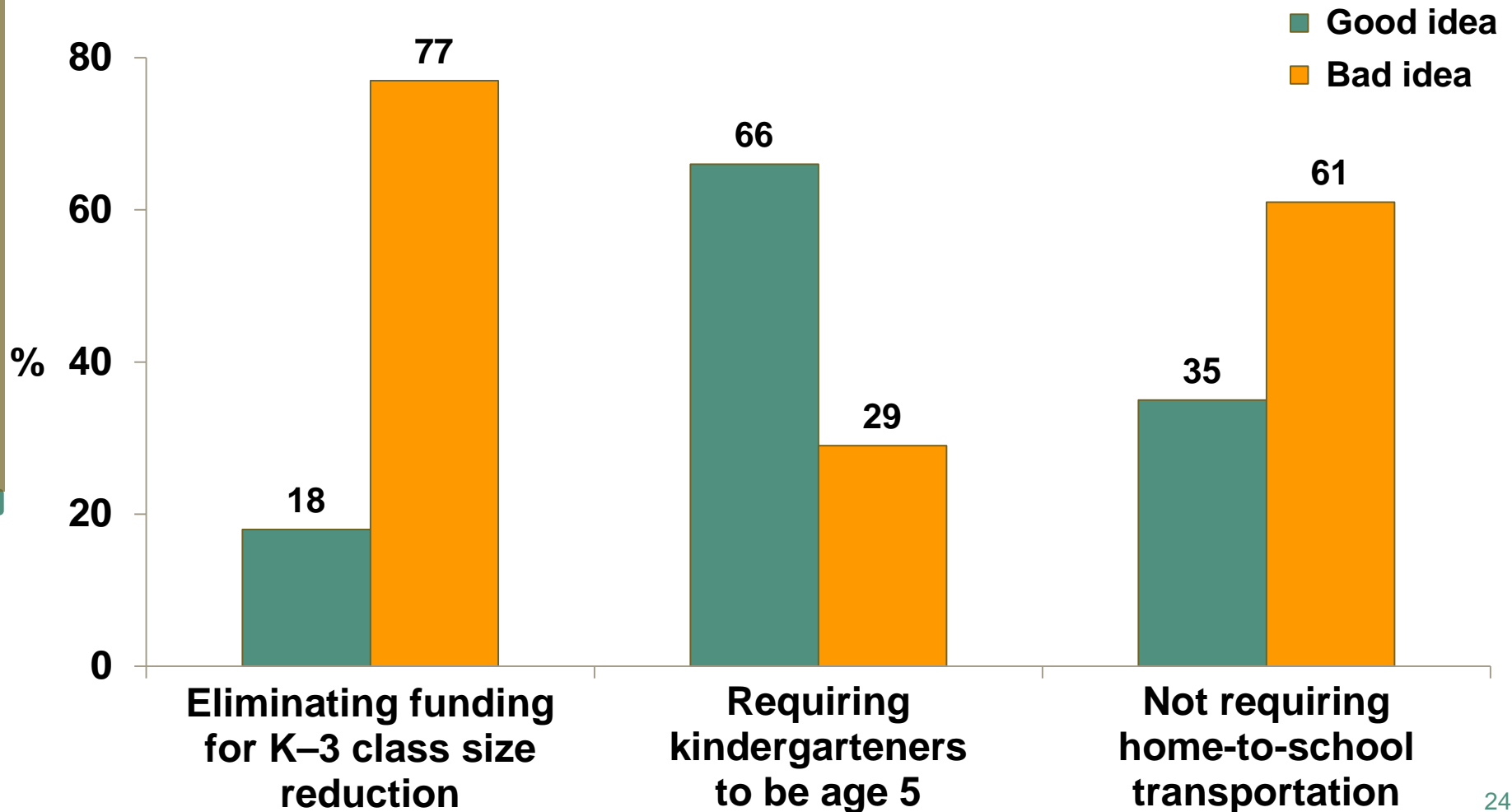
Concerns about Specific Spending Cuts

There are a number of ways for the state's K-12 public schools to cut spending to deal with decreased state and local funding...



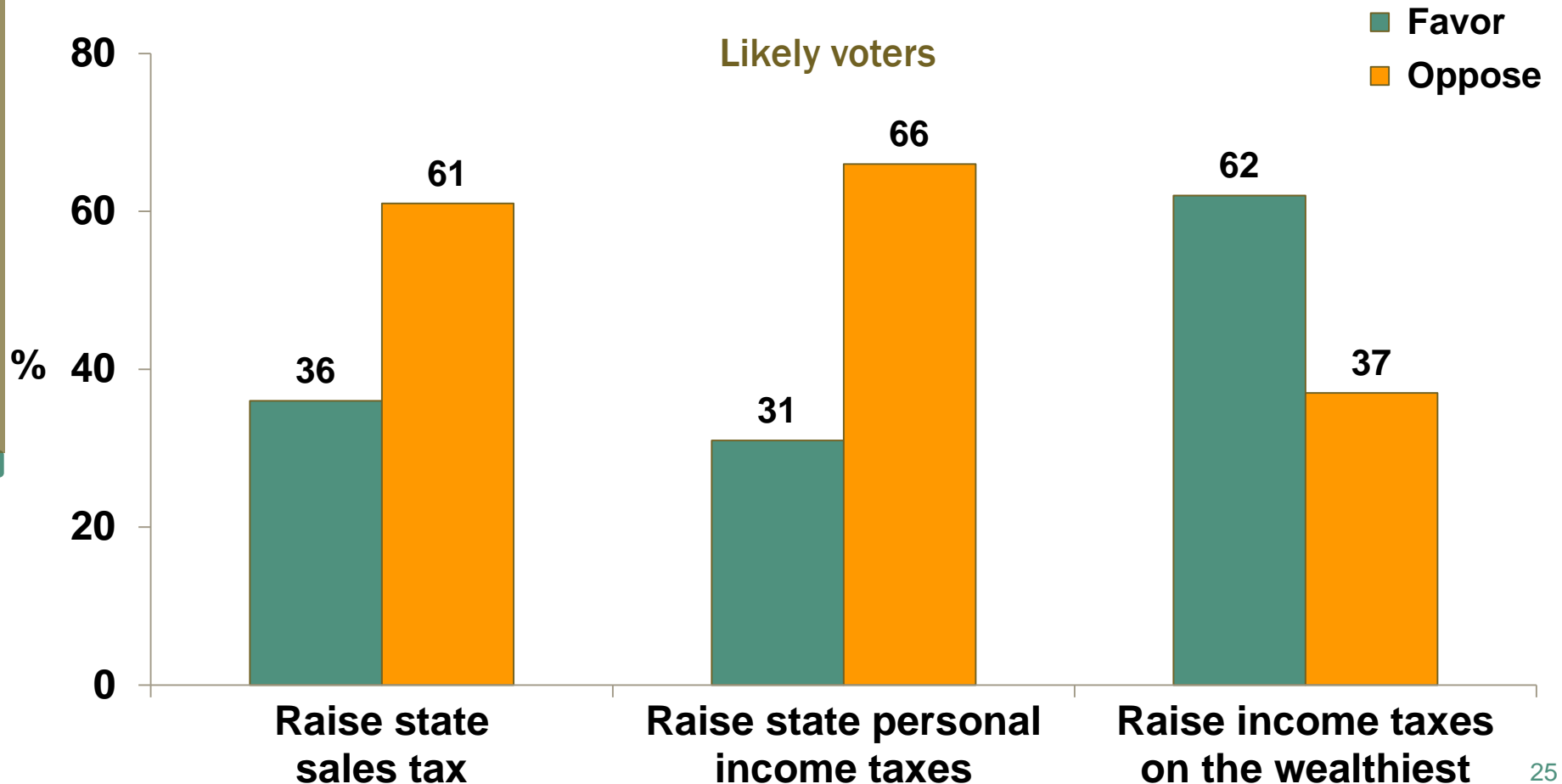
Other Ideas for Spending Cuts

To deal with potential budget cuts this year, please say if you think each of the following is a good idea or a bad idea.



Ways to Raise State Revenues

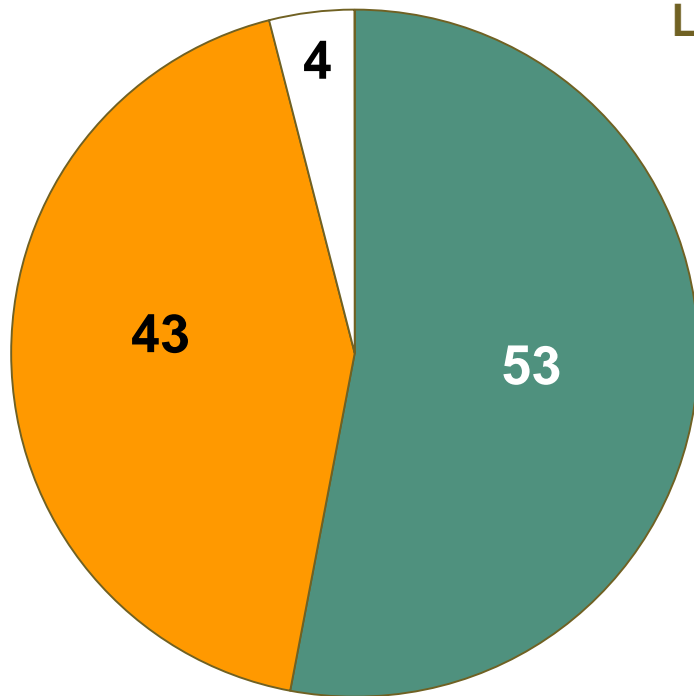
Here are some ideas that have been suggested to raise state revenues to maintain current funding for K-12 public education. For each of the following, please say if you favor or oppose the proposal.



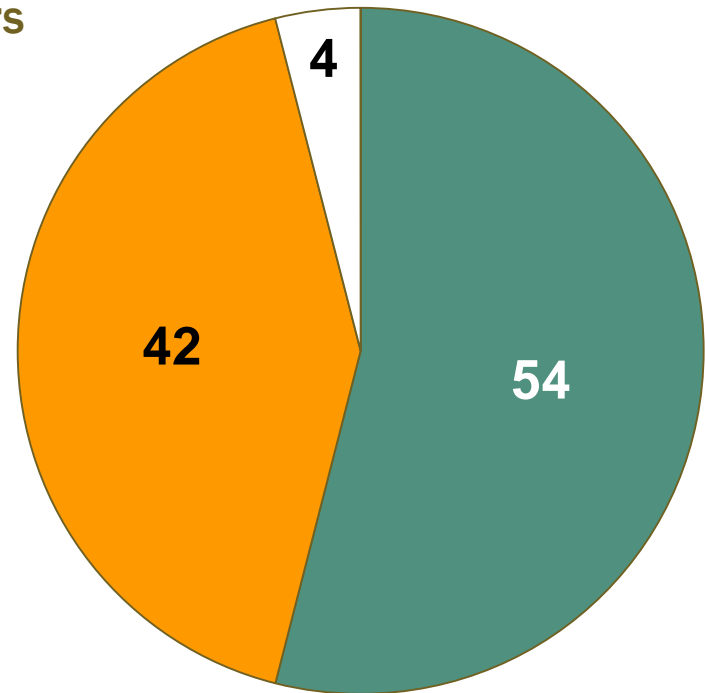
Ways to Raise Local Revenues

If your local school district had a bond measure on the ballot to pay for school construction projects, would you vote yes or no?

What if there was a measure on your local ballot to increase local parcel taxes to provide more funds for the local public schools? Would you vote yes or no?



Likely voters

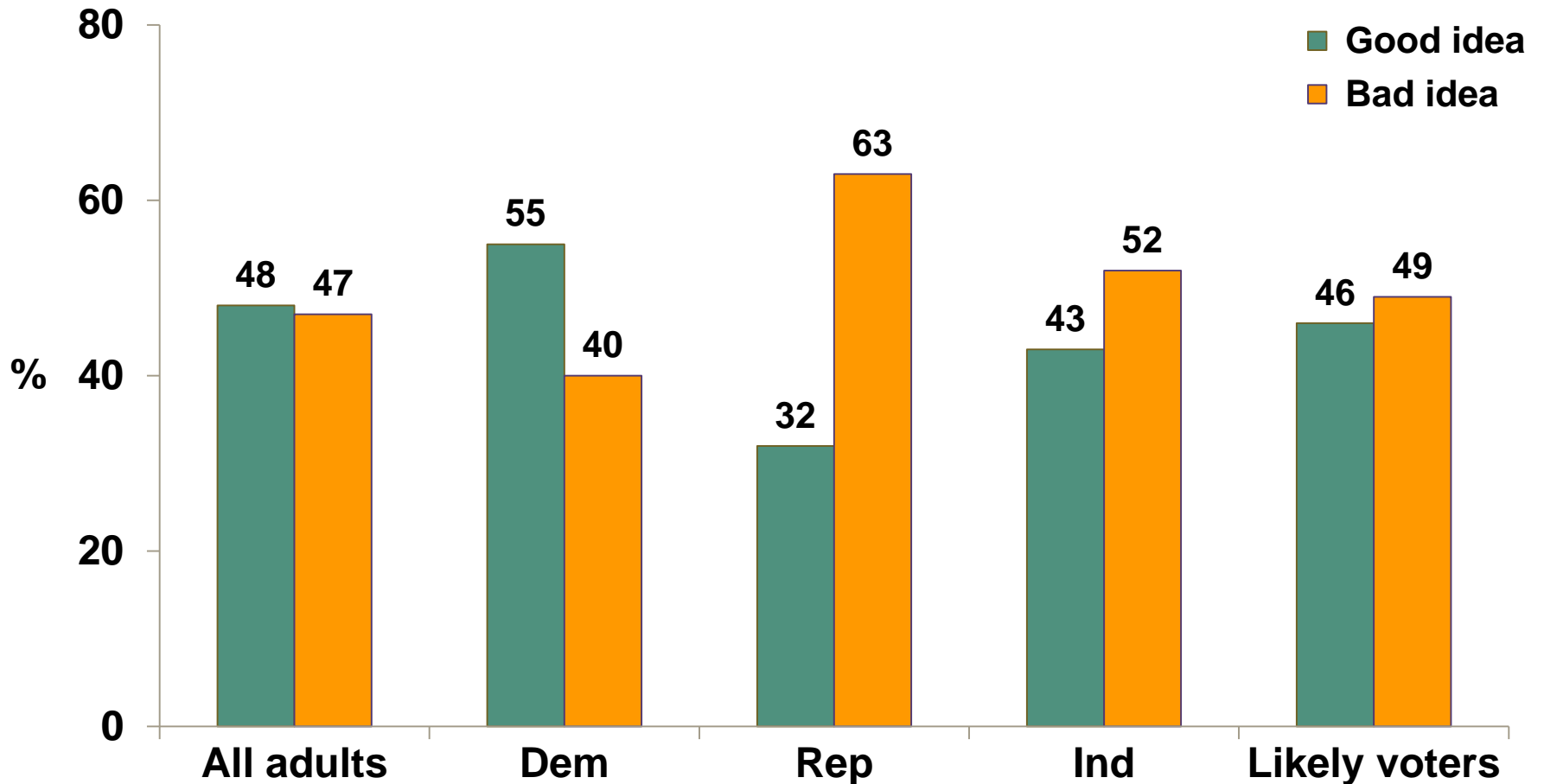


- Yes
- No
- Don't know



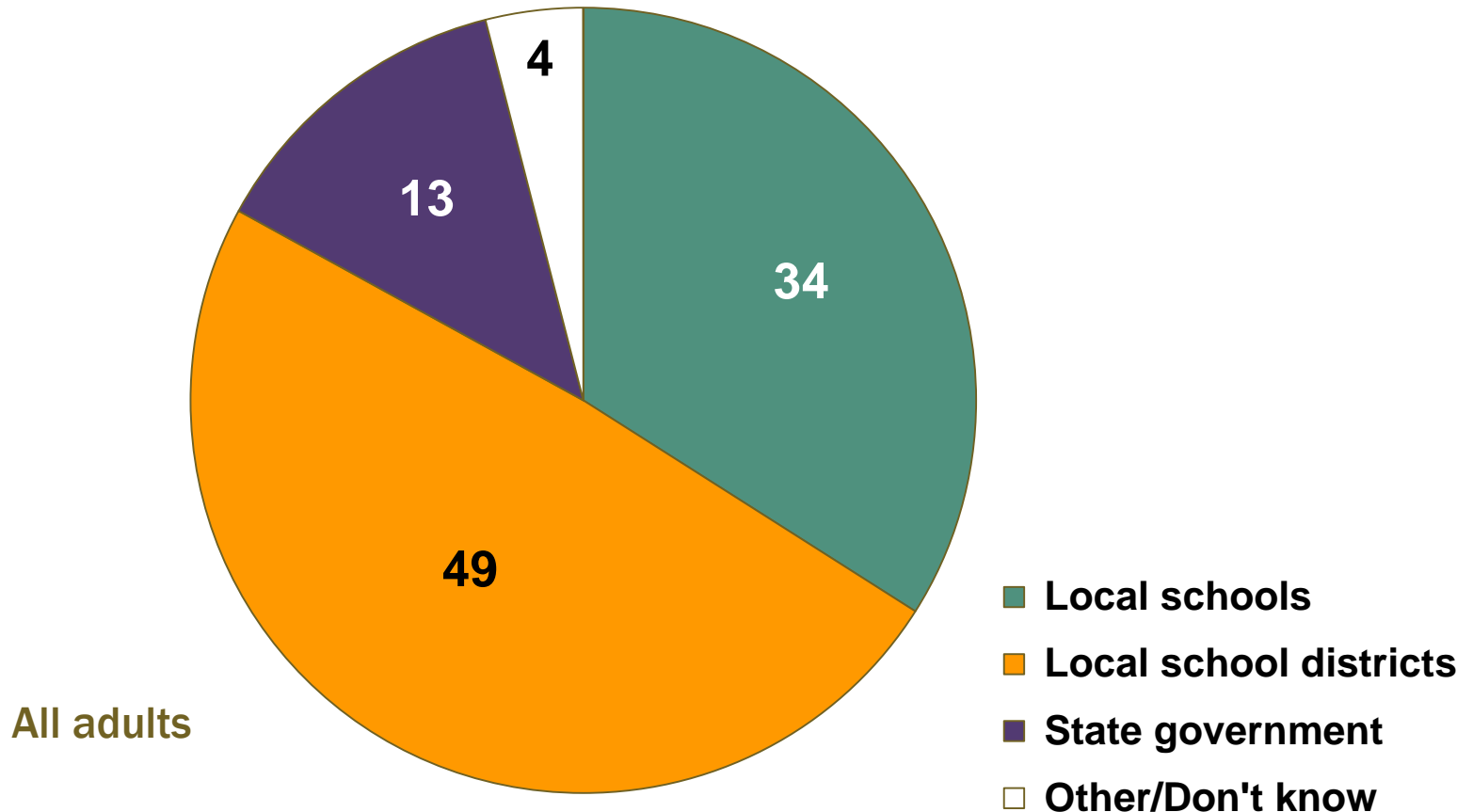
Lowering Vote to Pass Parcel Taxes

Do you think it's a good idea or a bad idea to replace the two-thirds vote requirement with a 55 percent majority vote for voters to pass local parcel taxes for the local public schools?



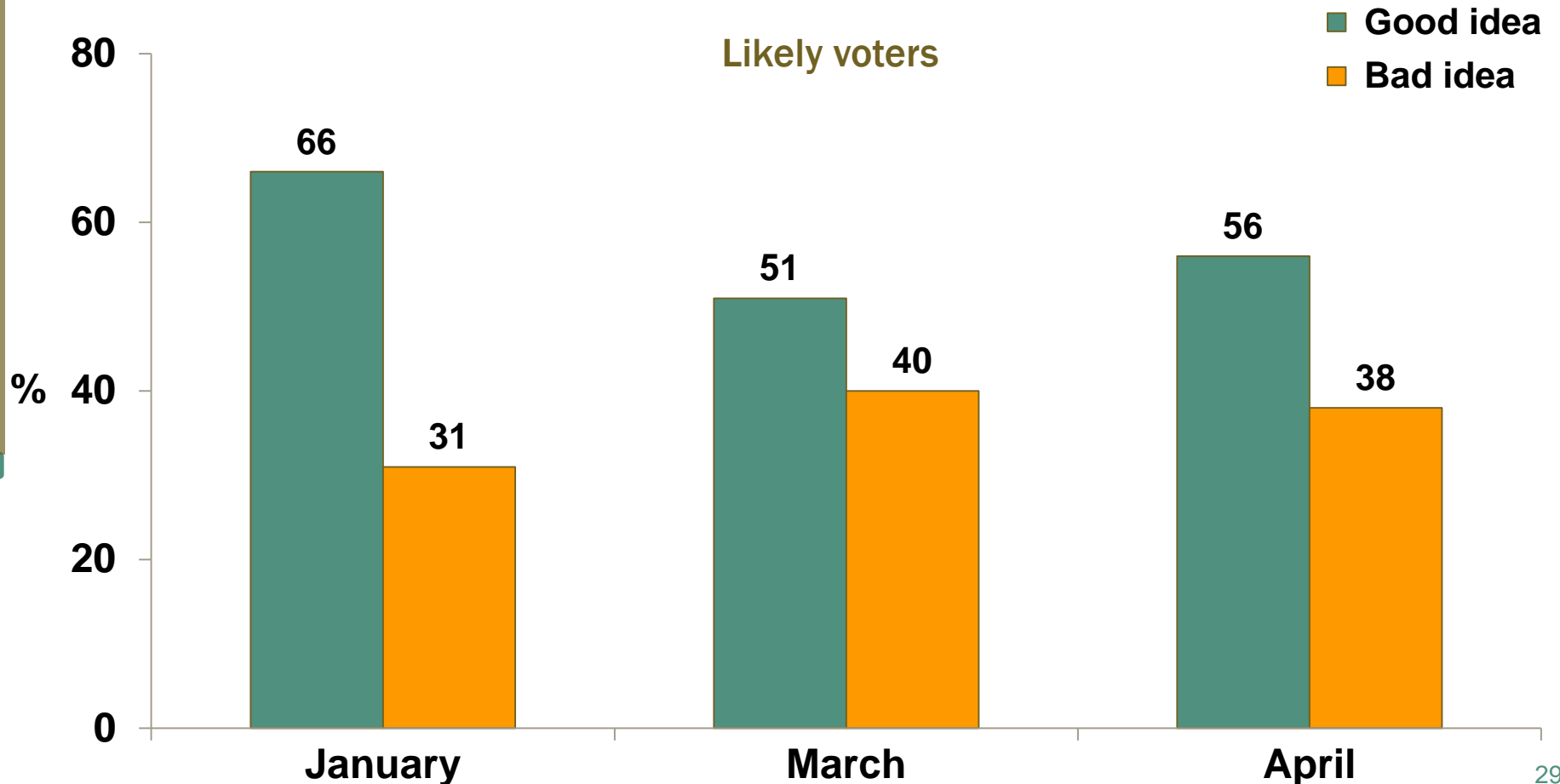
Control Over Local Spending Decisions

Who do you think should have the most control in deciding how the money from state government is spent in local public schools?



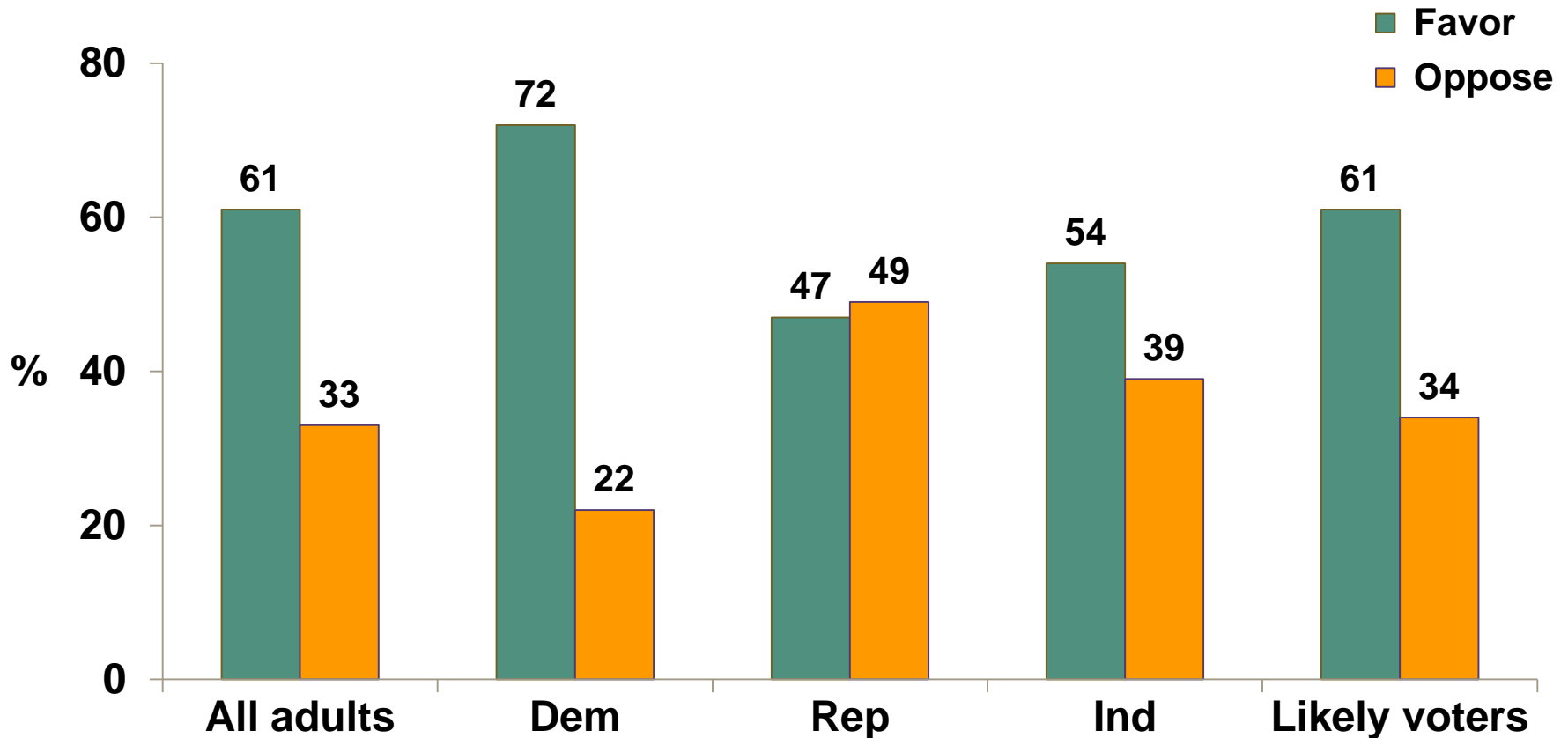
Special Election

Governor Brown has proposed having a special election this year for voters to vote on a tax and fee package to prevent additional state budget cuts. In general, do you think the special election is a good idea or bad idea?



Governor's Budget Plan

Governor Brown had proposed closing the \$26 billion state budget deficit with the following plan—about half through spending cuts and about half through temporary tax increases... If temporary tax increases are passed, the governor does not plan to cut spending to K-12 education.



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Conclusions

- Most say K–12 quality has worsened recently, and will suffer if state makes budget cuts
- Most public school parents have noticed specific cuts at child’s school and been asked to contribute
- Opposition to hikes in sales tax and income tax, unless on wealthy
- Six in 10 support governor’s budget plan



Upcoming PPIC Statewide Surveys

- May
 - *Californians and Their Government*
- June
 - *Californians and Information Technology*
- July
 - *Californians and the Environment*



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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:

Mark Baldassare or Sonja Petek:
surveys@ppic.org

Thank you for your interest in this work.

April 2011

