

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Education

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April 2013



Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- Fiscal attitudes and policy preferences
- Perceptions and attitudes
- 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
 - 280,000+ Californians since 1998
 - 133 general, issue, and regional surveys



Californians and Education

- Conducted with funding from The Kabcenenell, Silver Giving, and Stuart Foundations
- Governor's K-12 funding proposal, support for targeted funding and local flexibility
- Approval ratings, rating local schools, student testing, teacher evaluation, parents' perceptions
- Telephone interviews, April 2-9
 - 1,705 adults; 1,134 likely voters; 416 public school parents
 - $\pm 3.7\%$ *margin of error for adults*
 - $\pm 4.4\%$ *for likely voters*
 - $\pm 7\%$ *for public school parents*



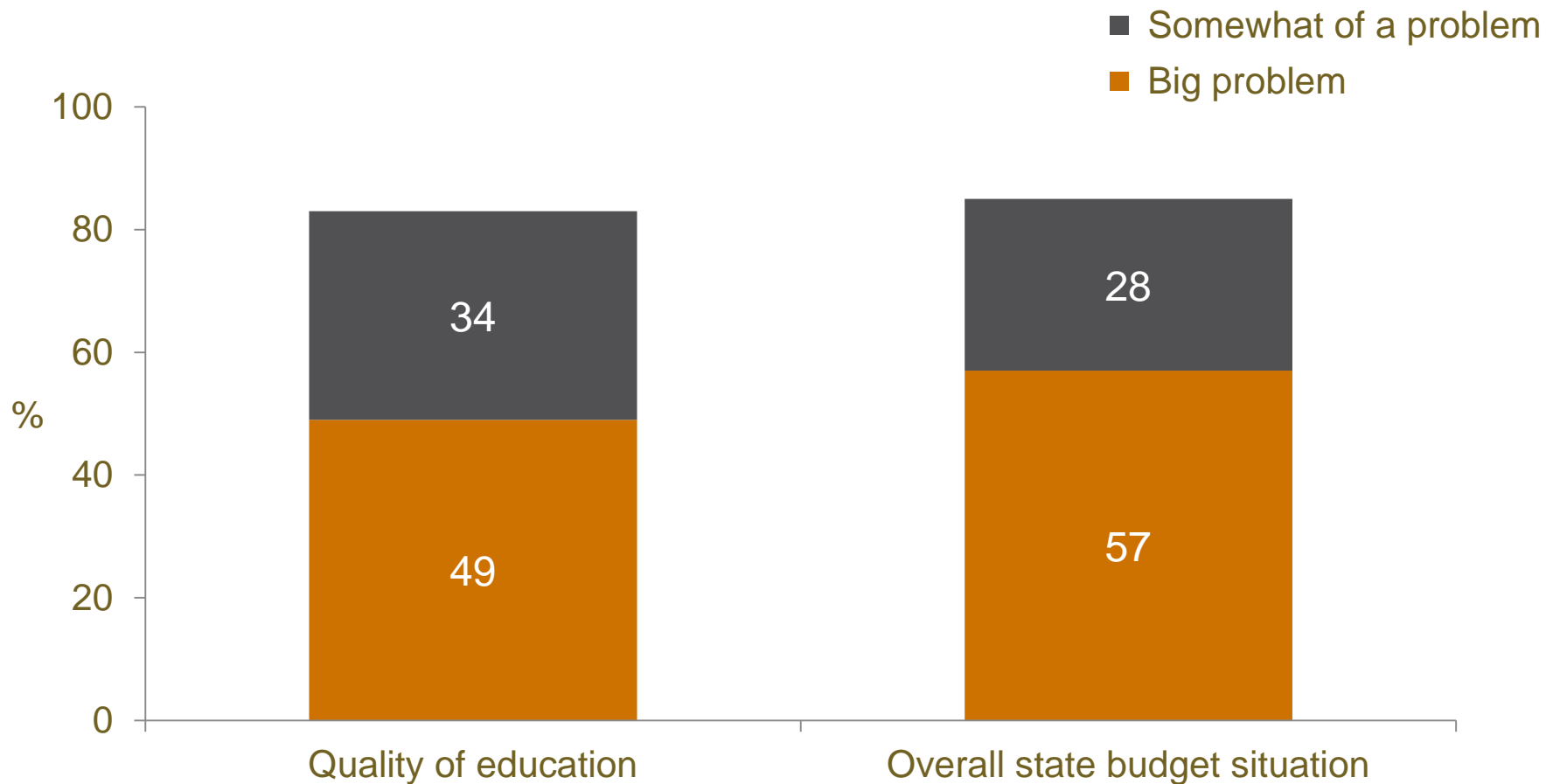
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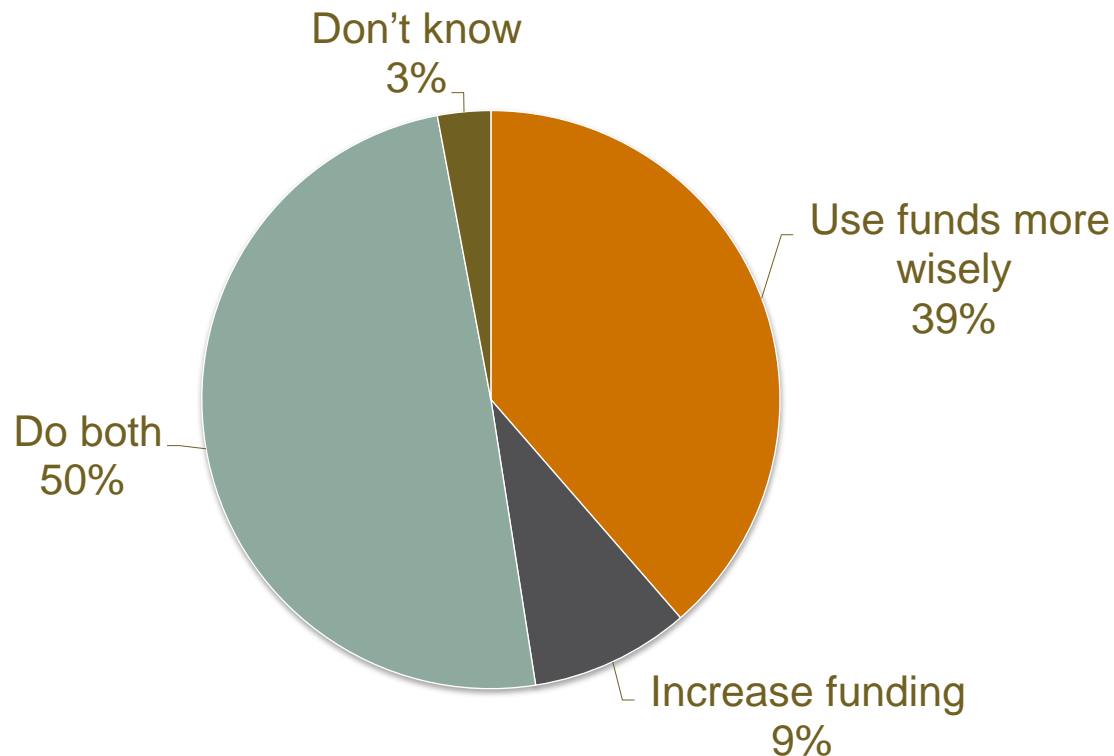
Educational quality and budget situation

How much of a problem is ... for California's K-12 public schools today?



Adequacy and efficiency of state funding

To significantly improve the quality of California's K–12 public schools, which of the following statements do you agree with the most? We need to use existing state funds more wisely; we need to increase the amount of state funding; or we need to use existing state funds more wisely and increase the amount of state funding.

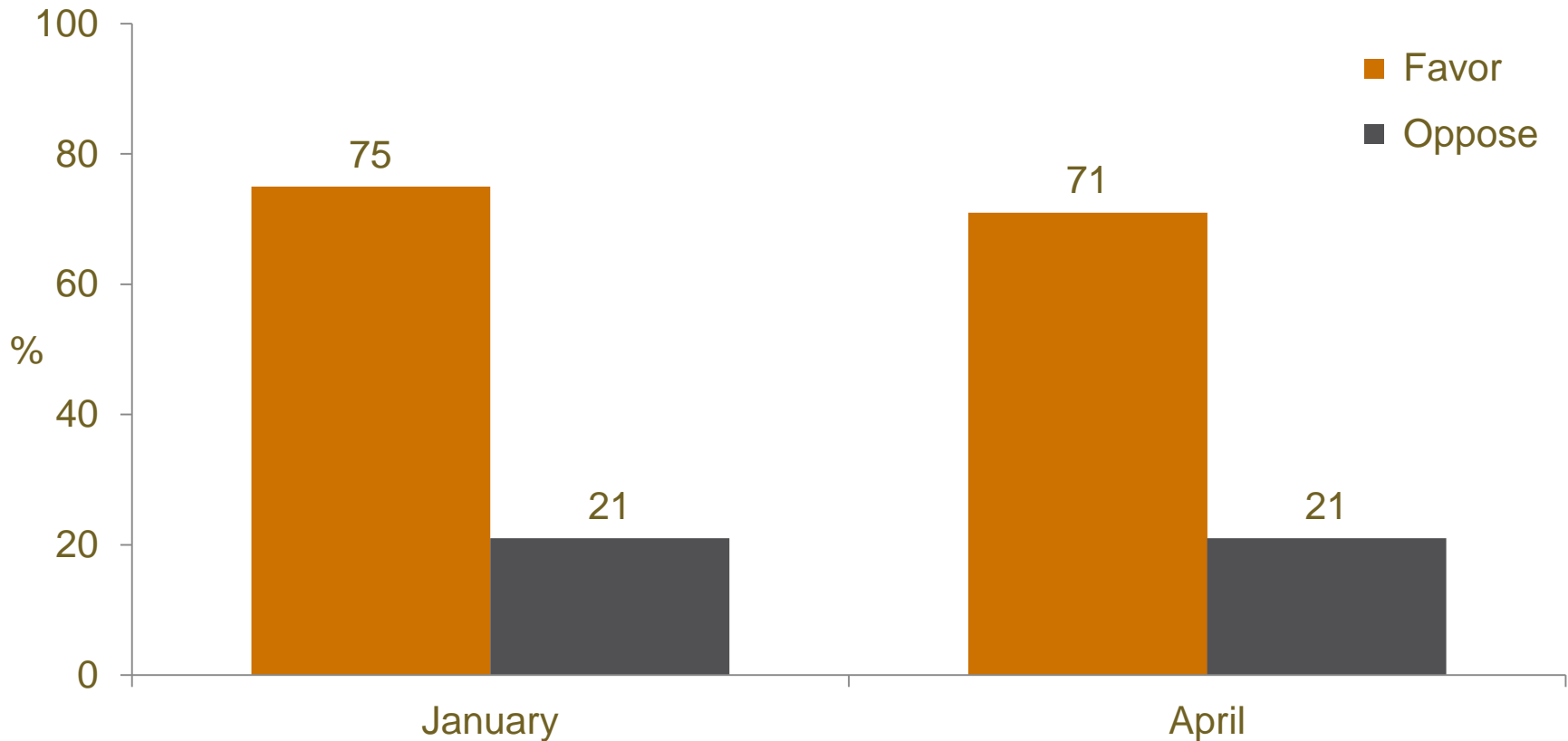


All adults



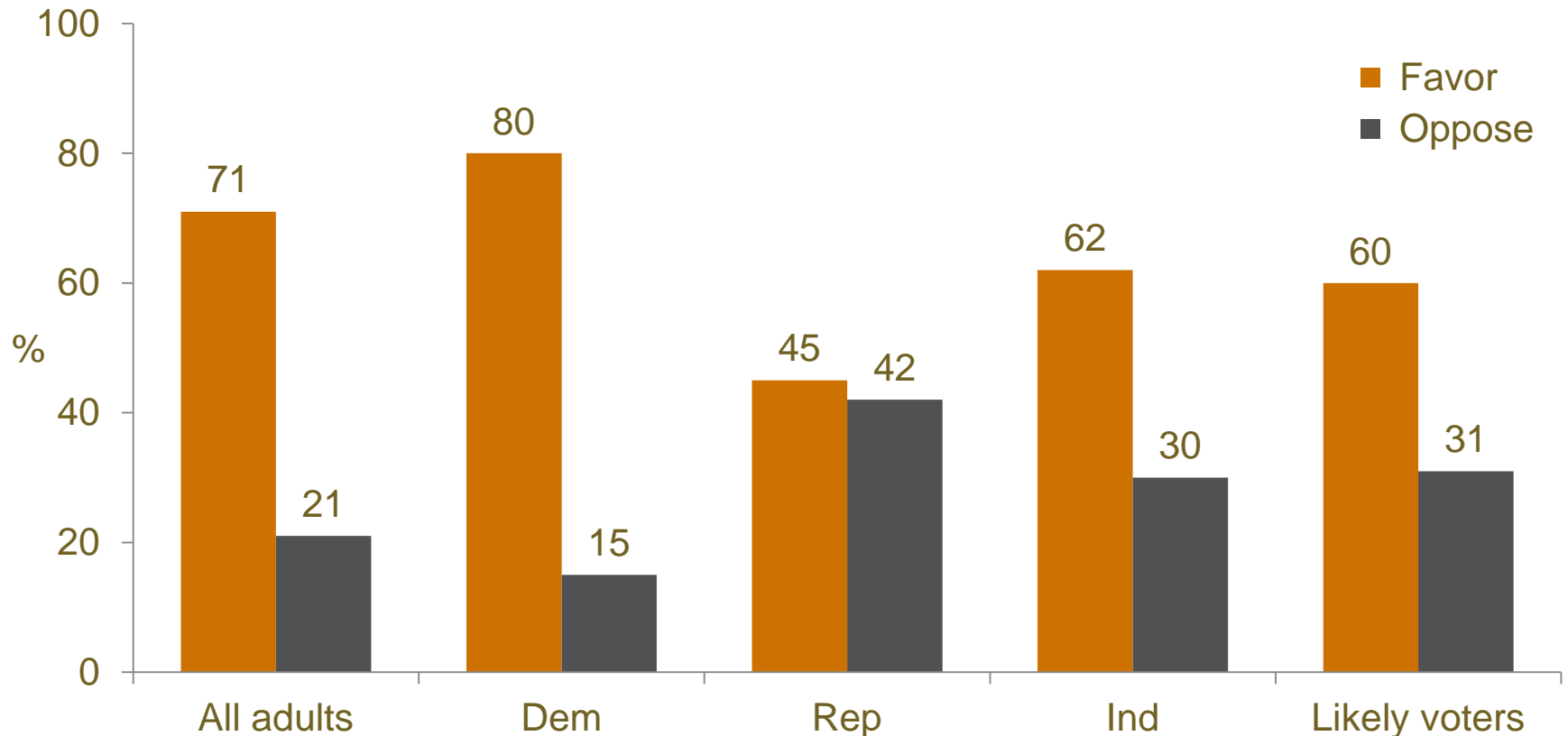
Governor's K-12 funding formula

As you may know, Governor Brown's proposed budget plan for the next fiscal year includes new K-12 school funding that will mostly go to local school districts that have more English language learners lower-income students. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?



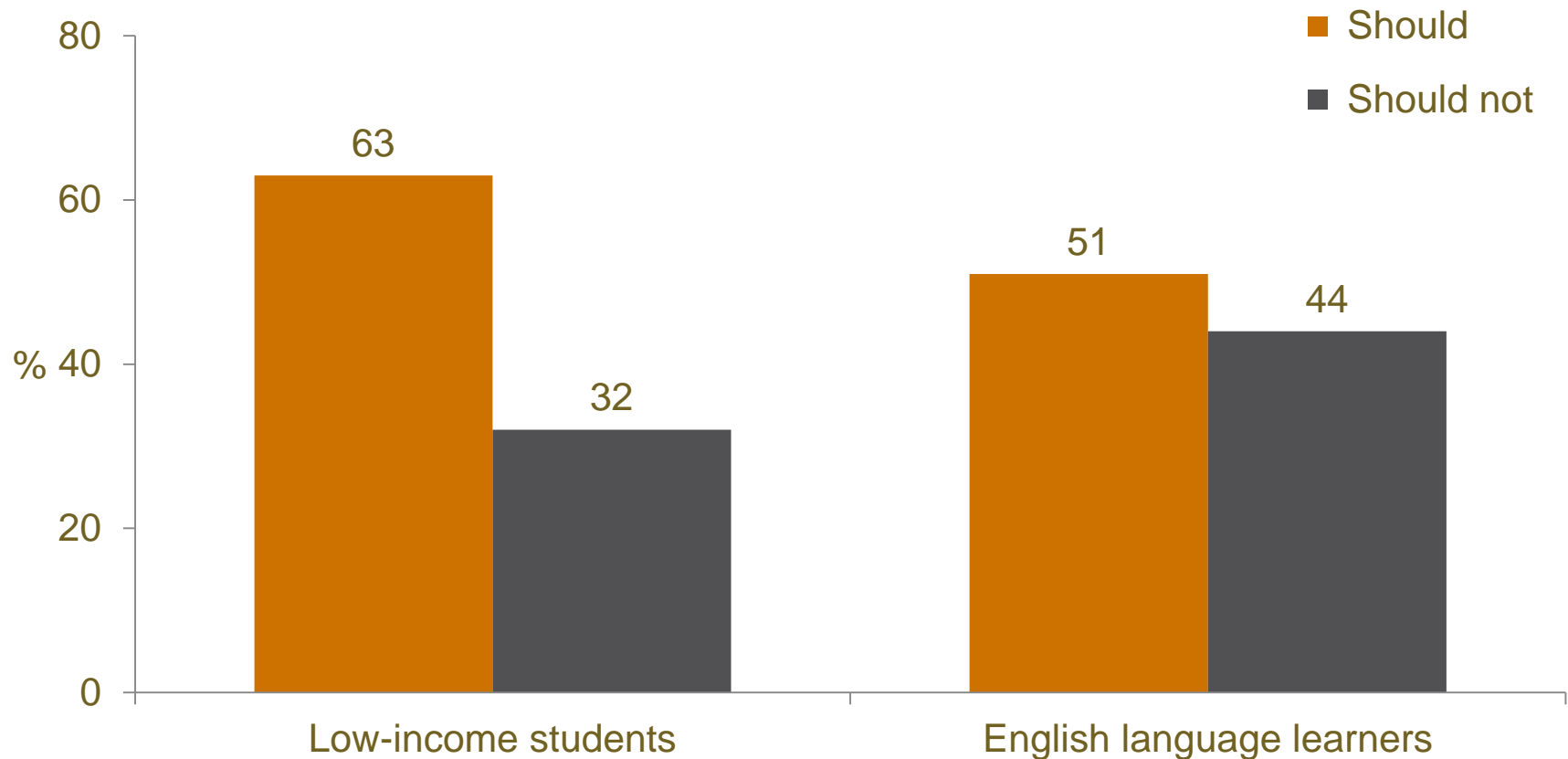
Governor's K-12 funding formula, by party

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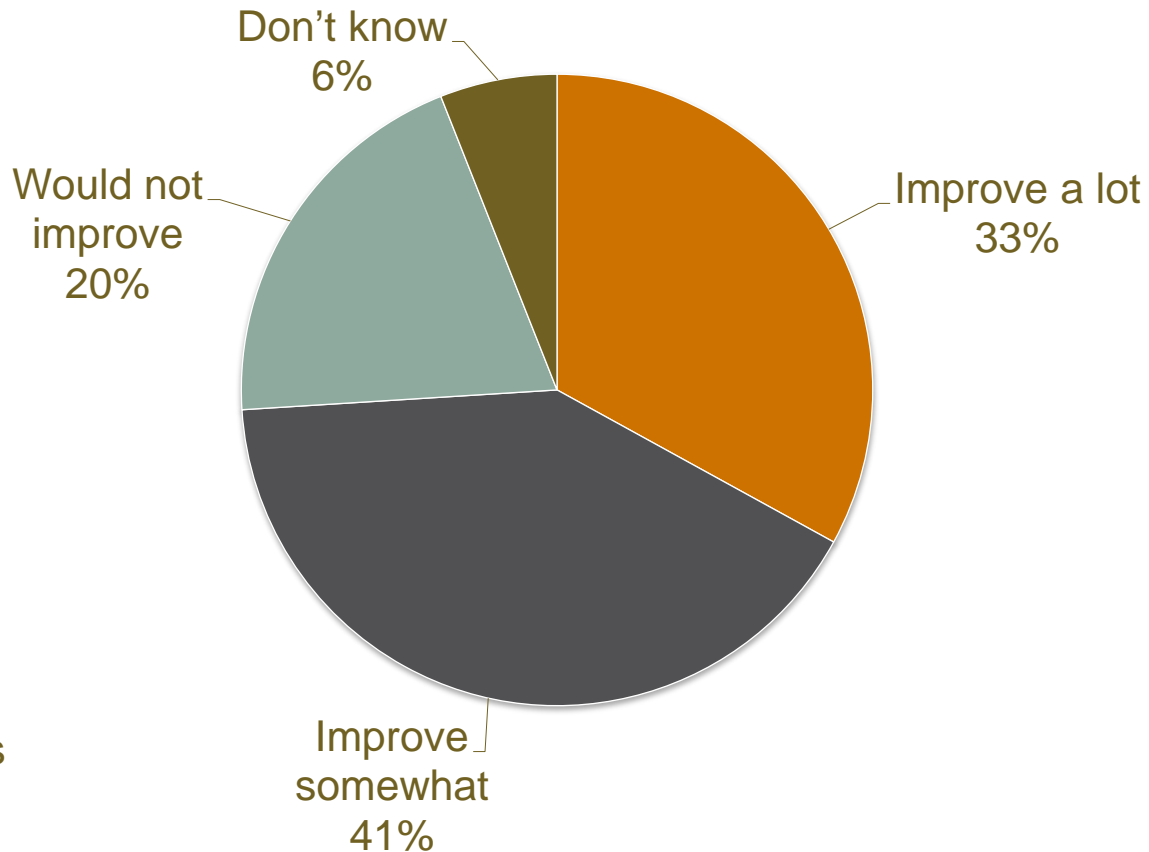
Targeted funding

Do you think school districts that have more ... should or should not get more of any new state funding than other school districts?



Impact of targeted funding

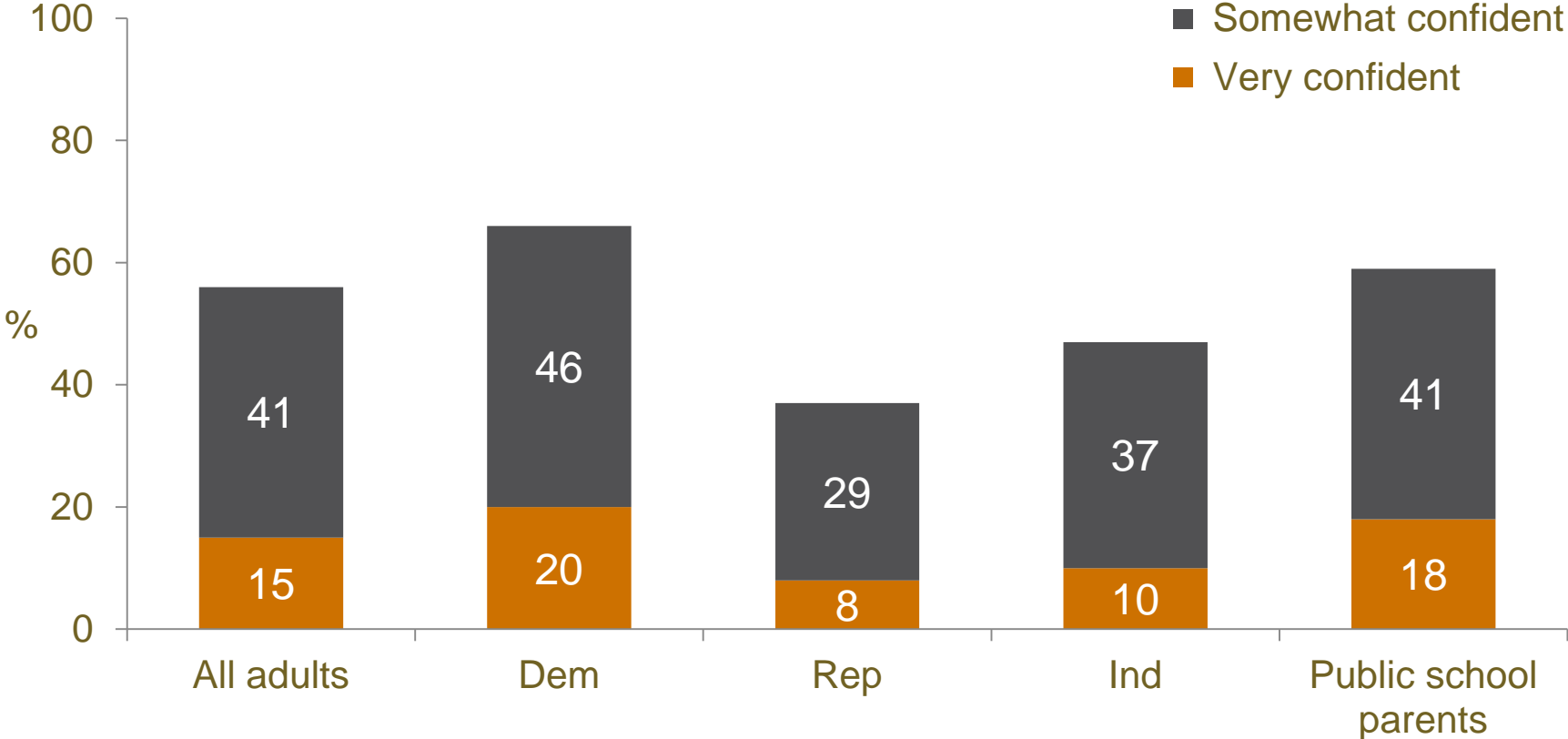
If the state were to give extra funding to local school districts that have more English language learners lower-income students, do you think the academic achievement of these students would or would not improve?



All adults

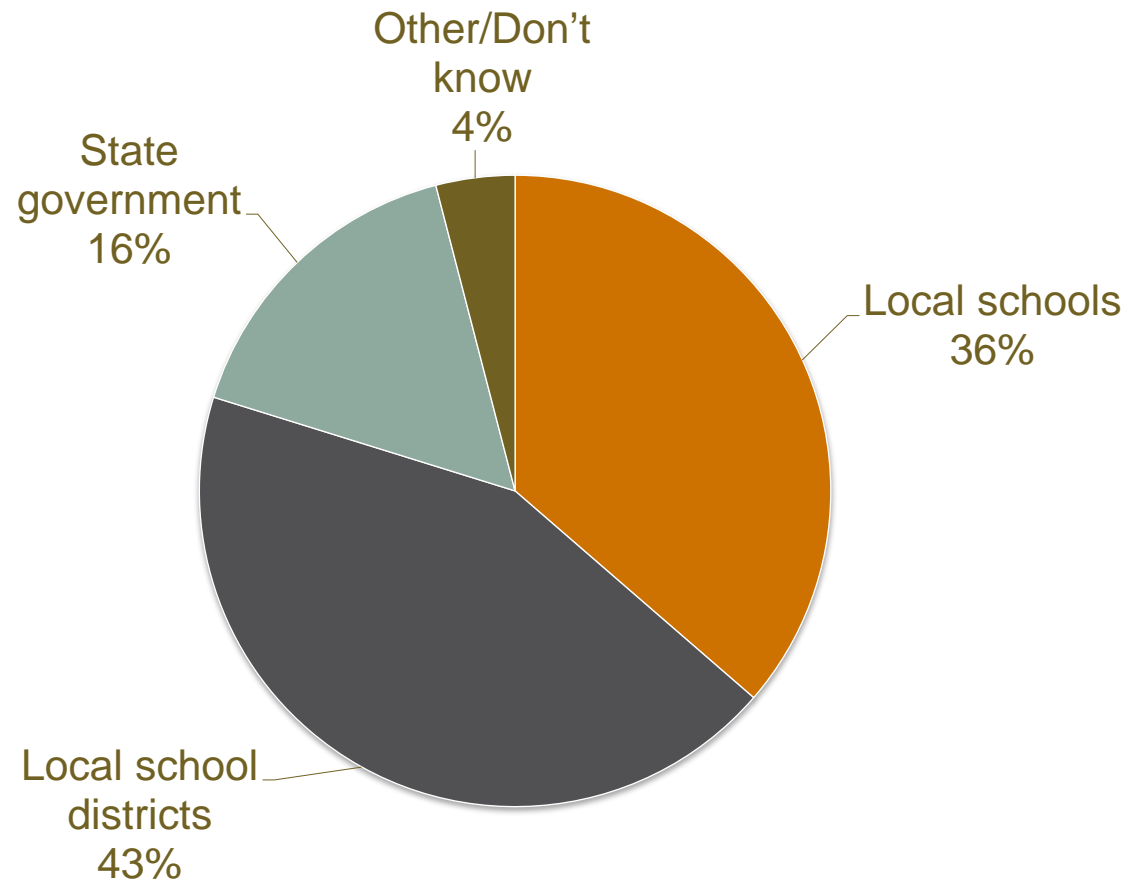
Confidence that local districts will spend targeted money wisely

If the state were to give extra funding to local school districts that have more English language learners and lower-income students, how confident are you that local school districts would use this money wisely?



Control of 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?

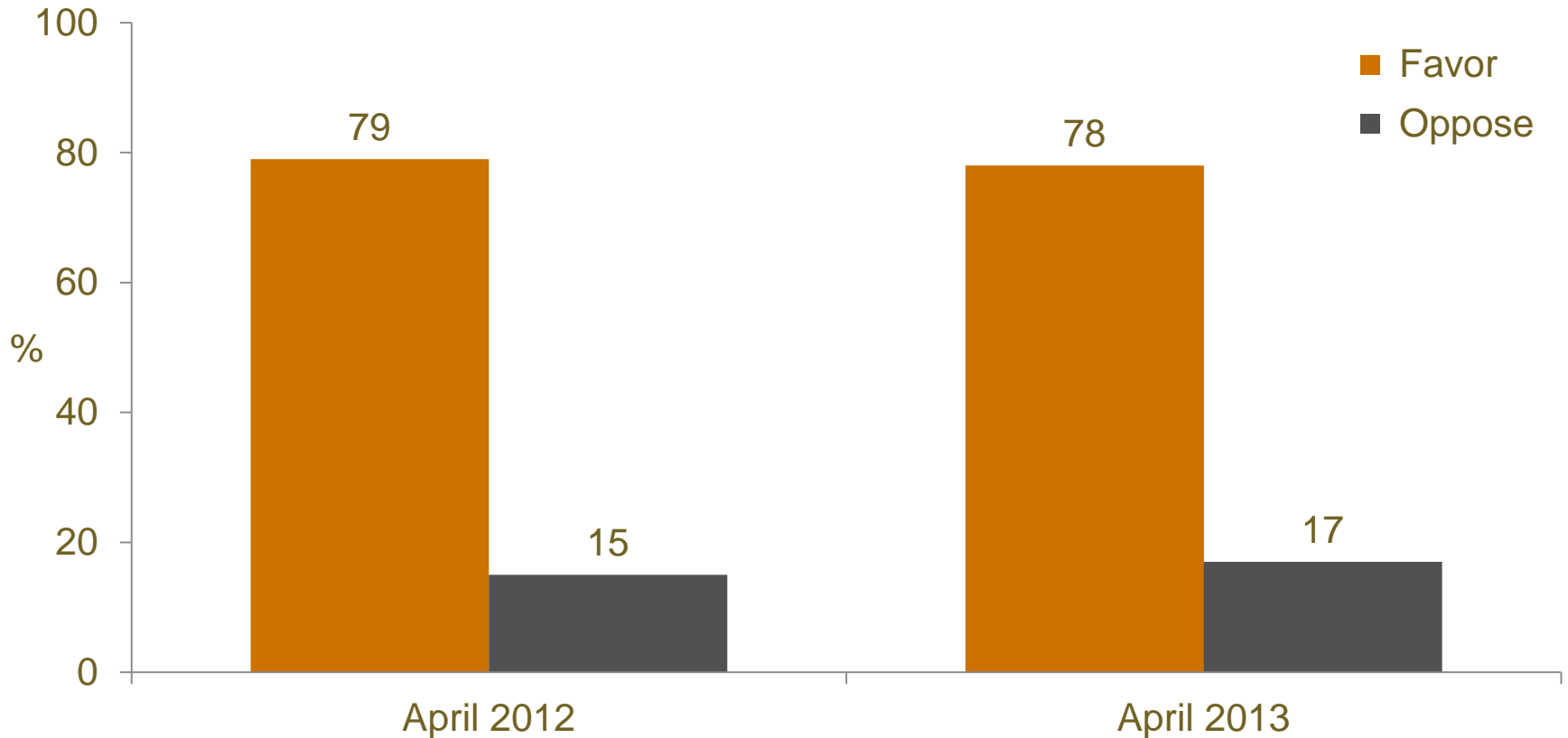


All adults



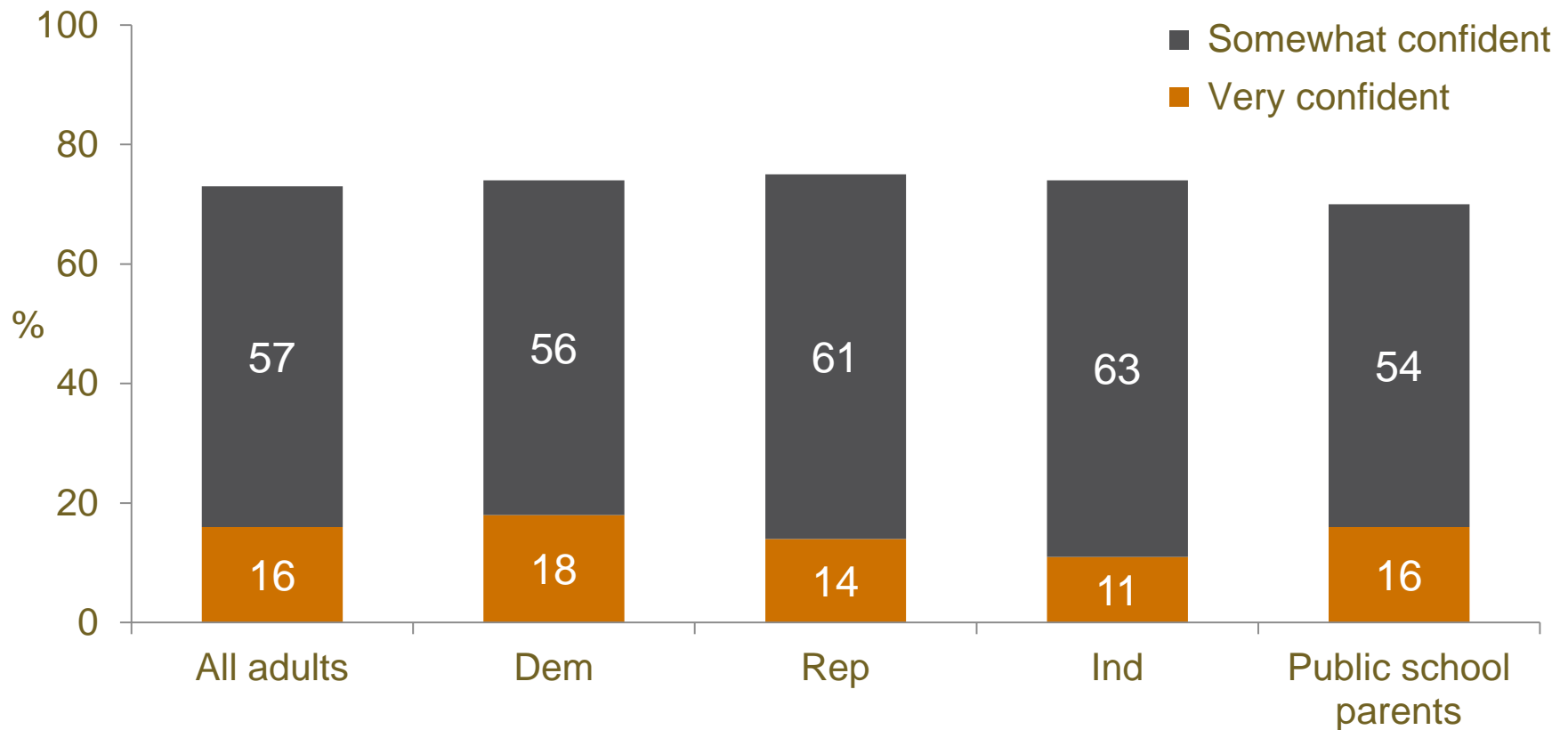
Increasing local flexibility

As you may know, some of the funding the state provides to K–12 public school districts is earmarked for specific programs and goals. Would you favor or oppose giving local school districts more flexibility over how state funding is spent?



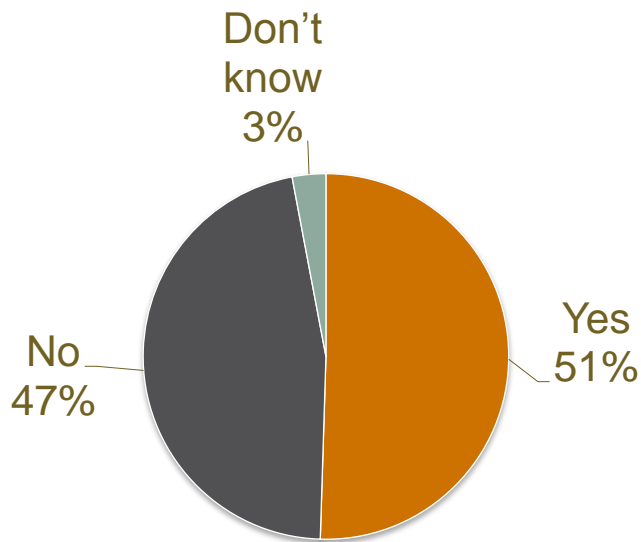
Confidence that local districts will use flexible funding wisely

If the state were to give local school districts more flexibility over how state funding is spent, how confident are you that local school districts would use this money wisely? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

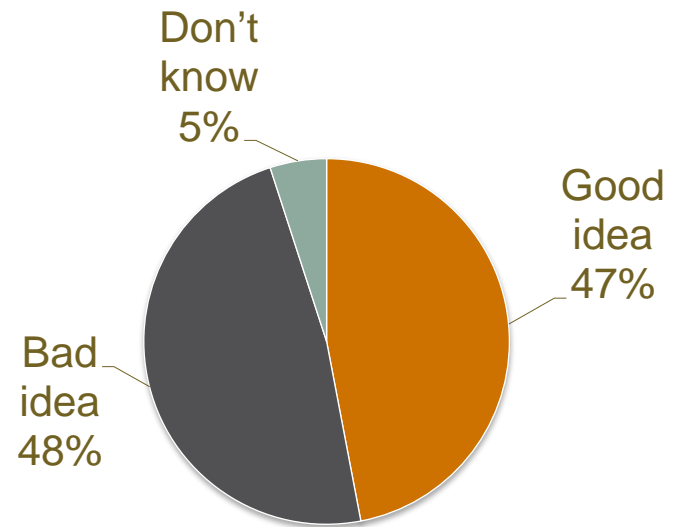


Parcel taxes

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?



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?



Likely voters

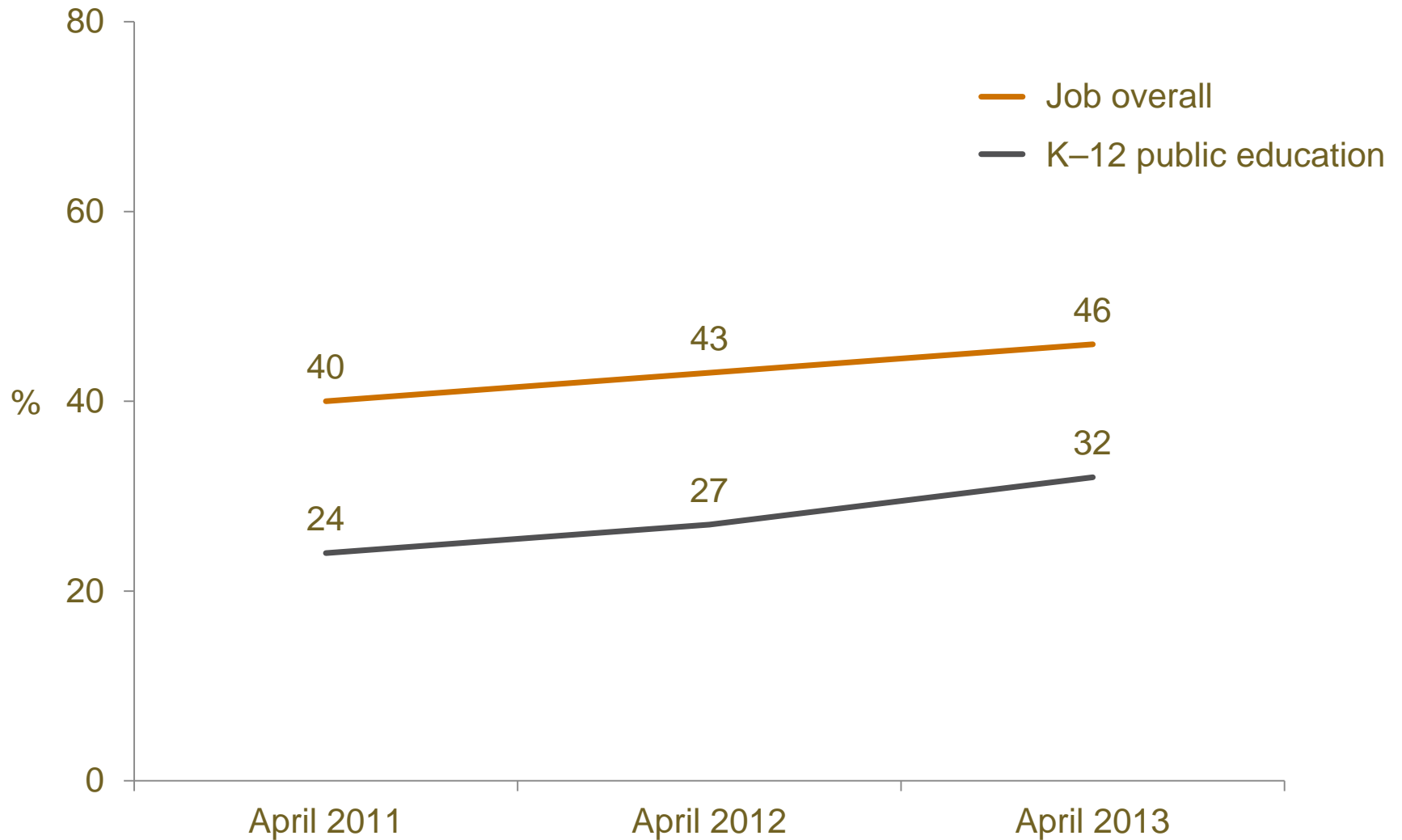


Outline

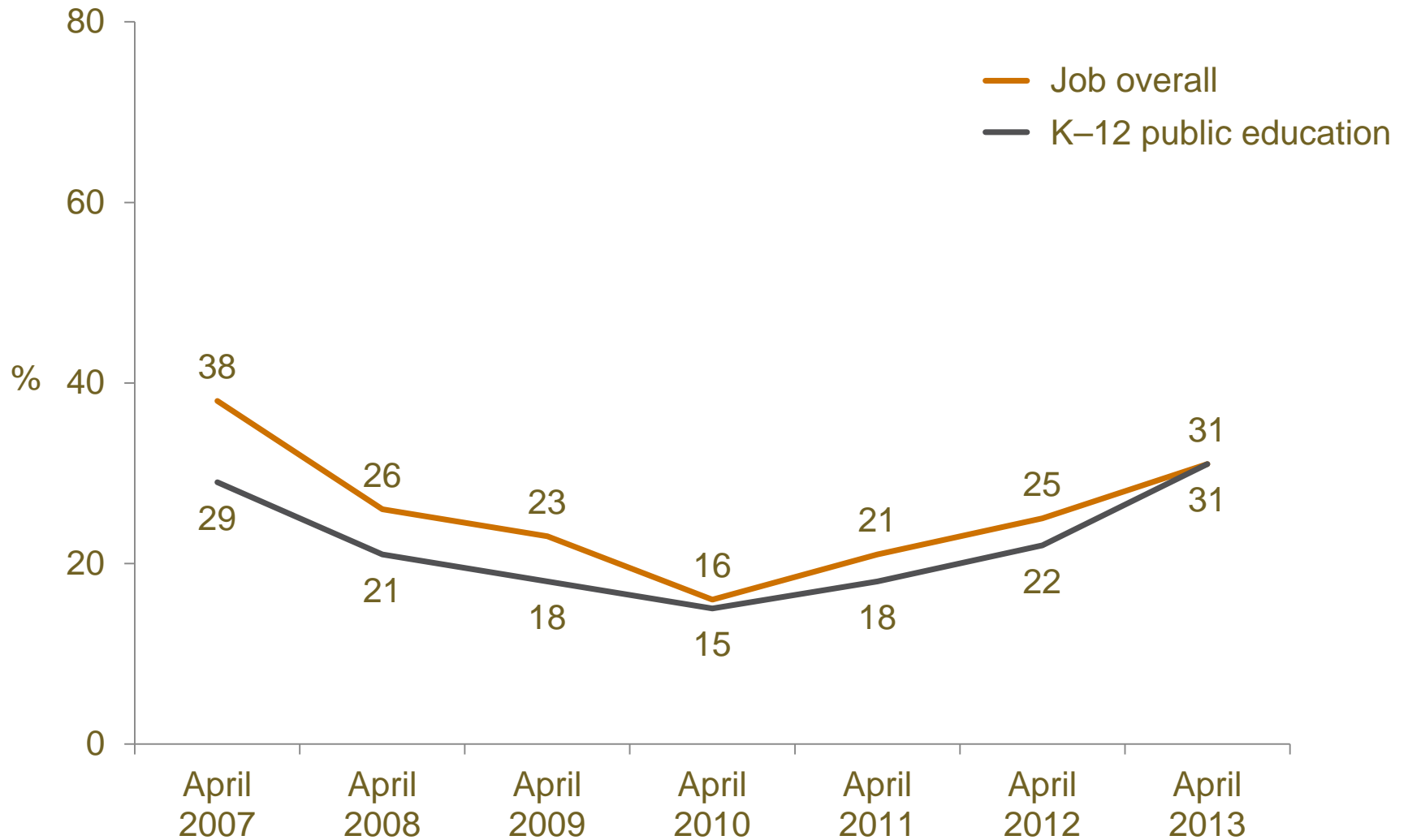
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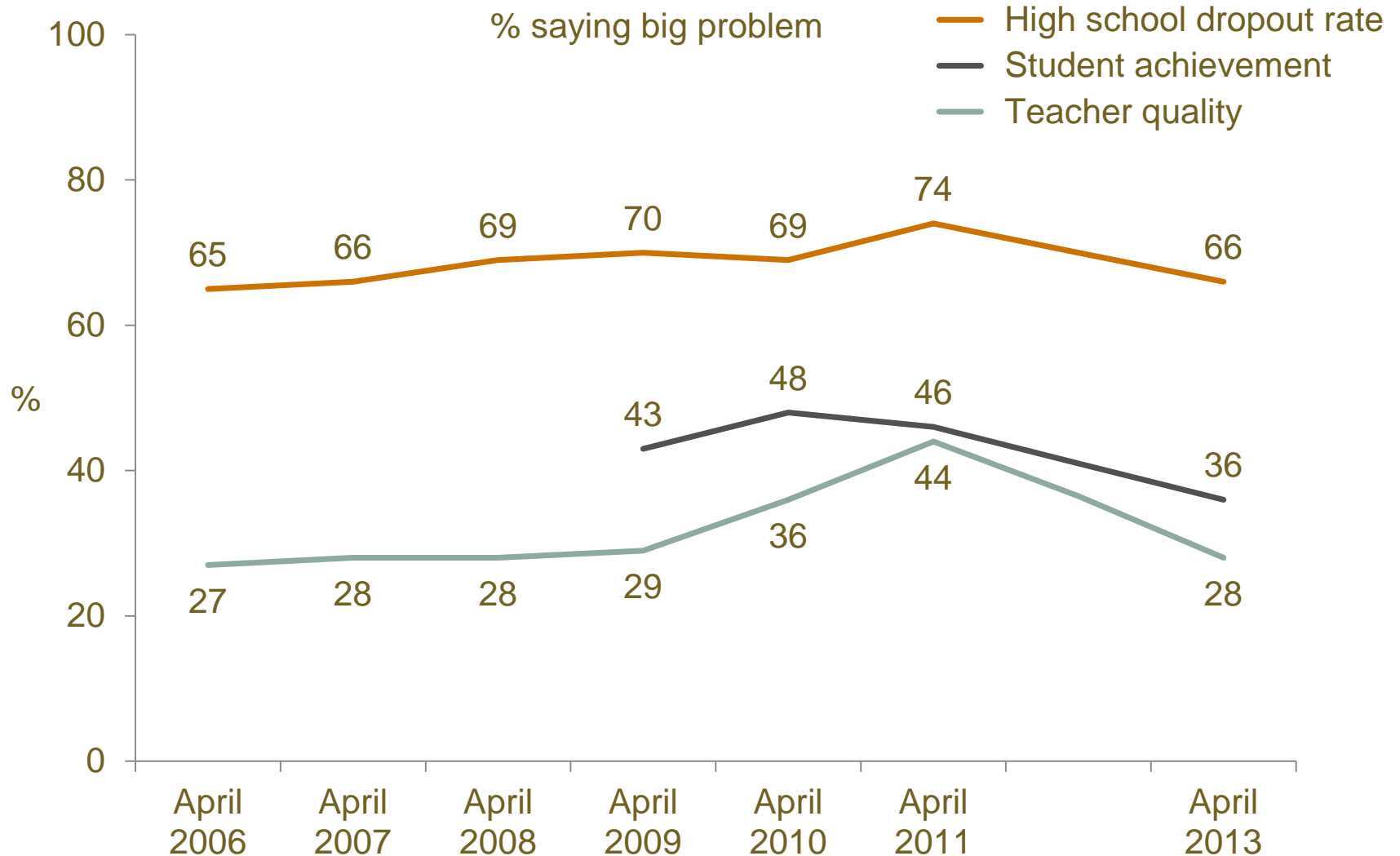
Approval ratings of Governor Brown



Approval ratings of California Legislature

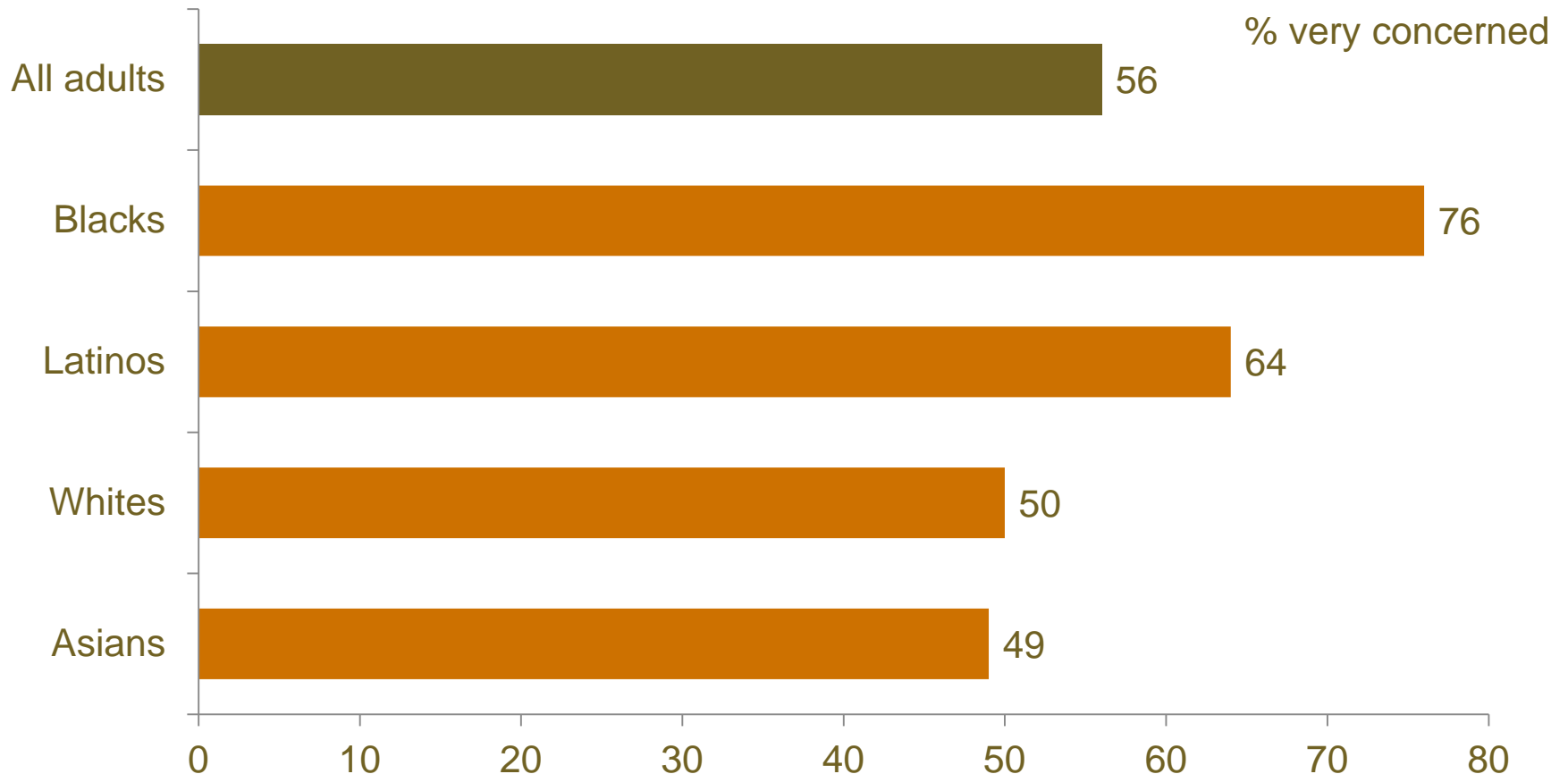


Perceived problems in the K-12 system



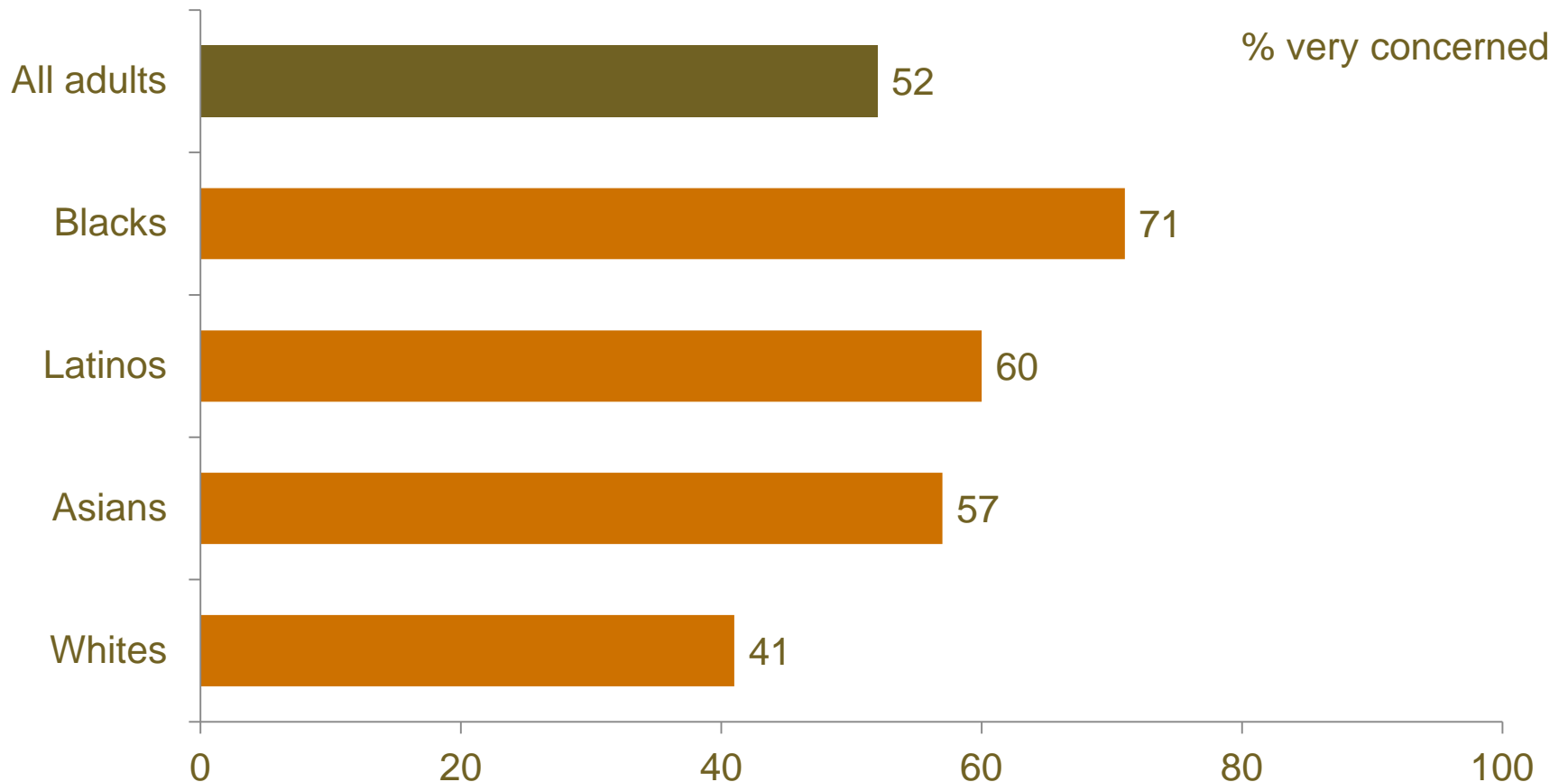
Concerns about college readiness

How concerned are you that students in lower-income areas are less likely than other students to be ready for college when they finish high school?



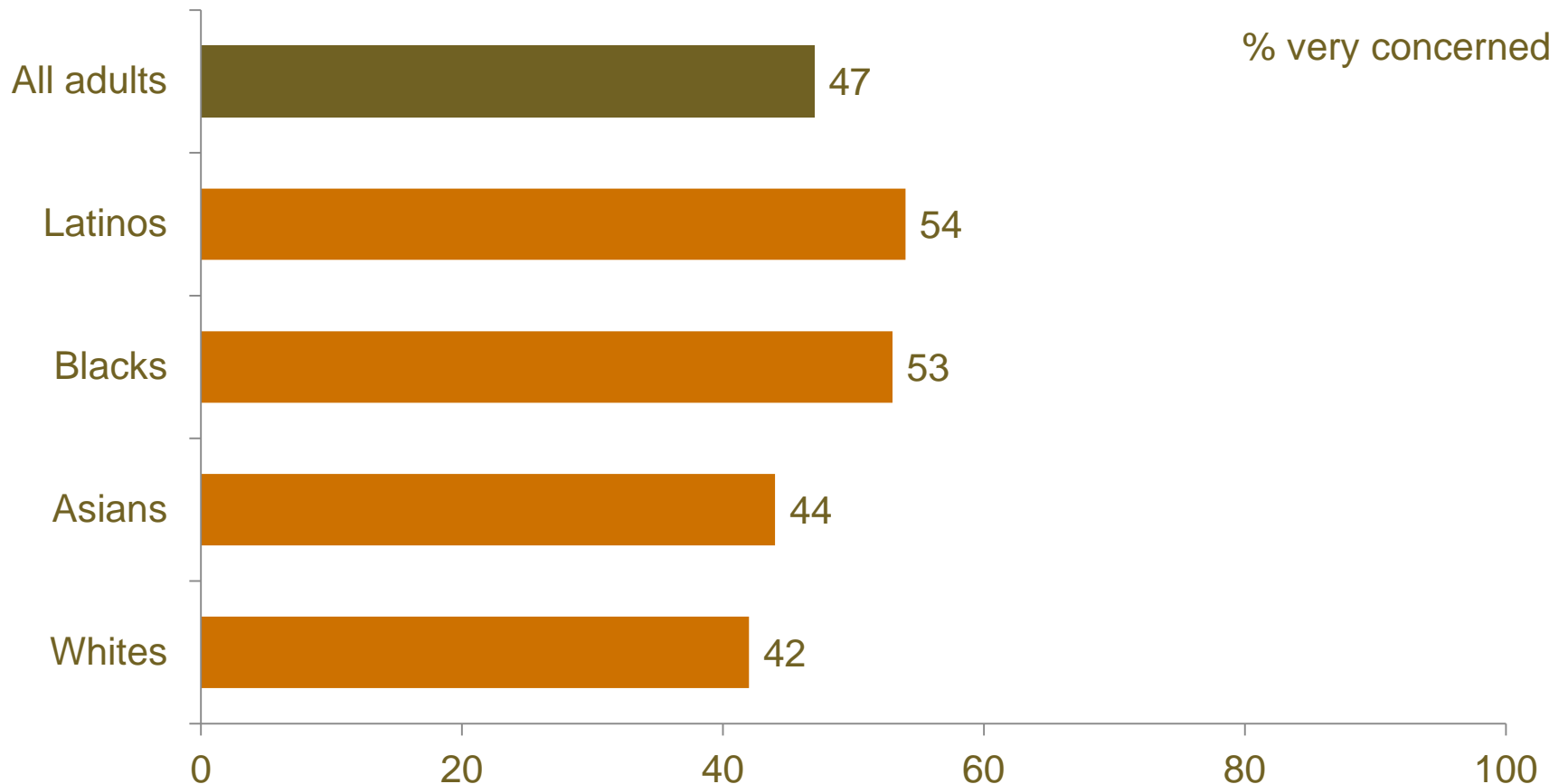
Concerns about teacher shortage in lower-income areas

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



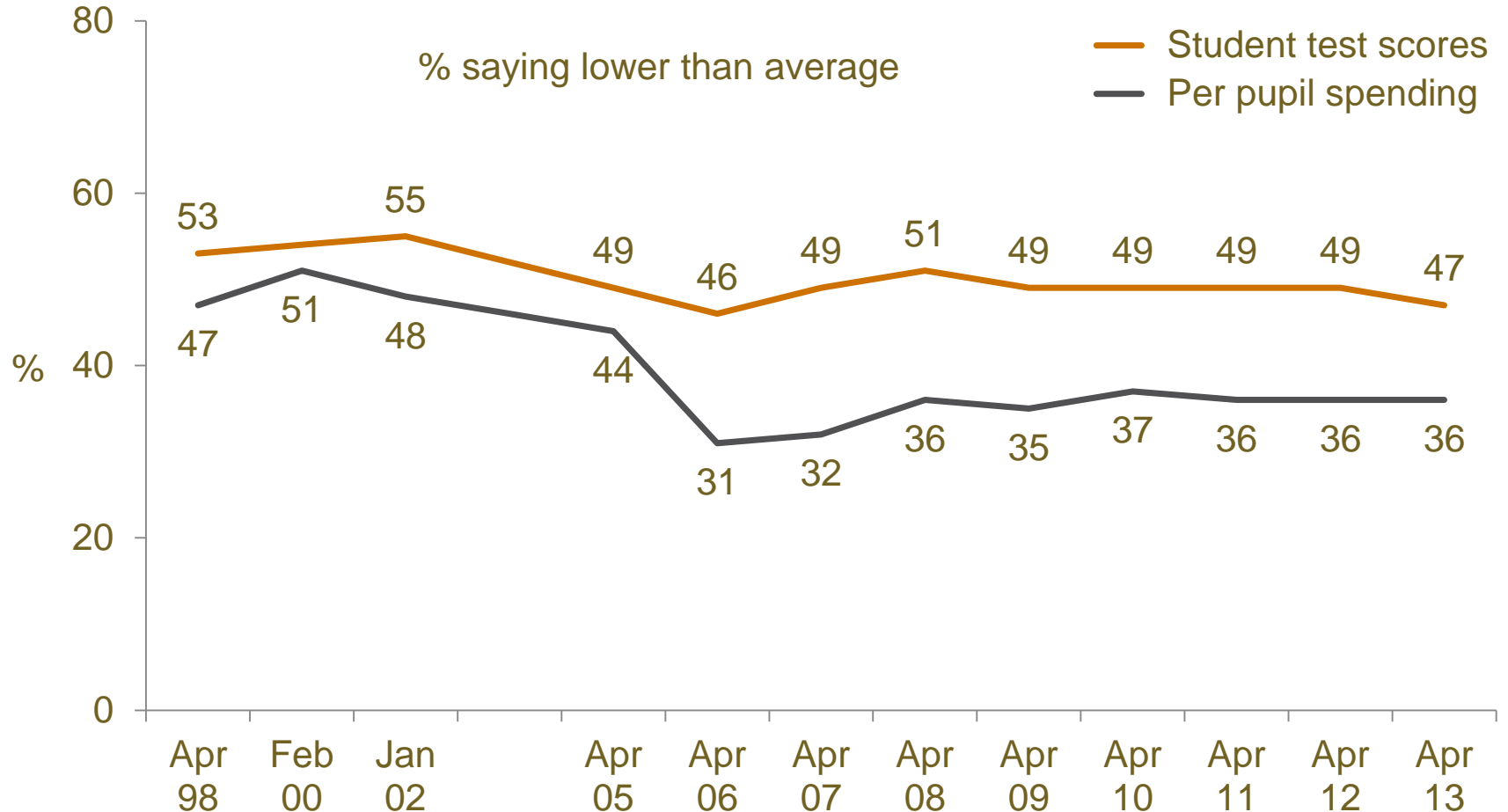
Concerns about test scores of English Learners

How concerned are you that English language learners in California's schools today score lower on standardized tests than other students?



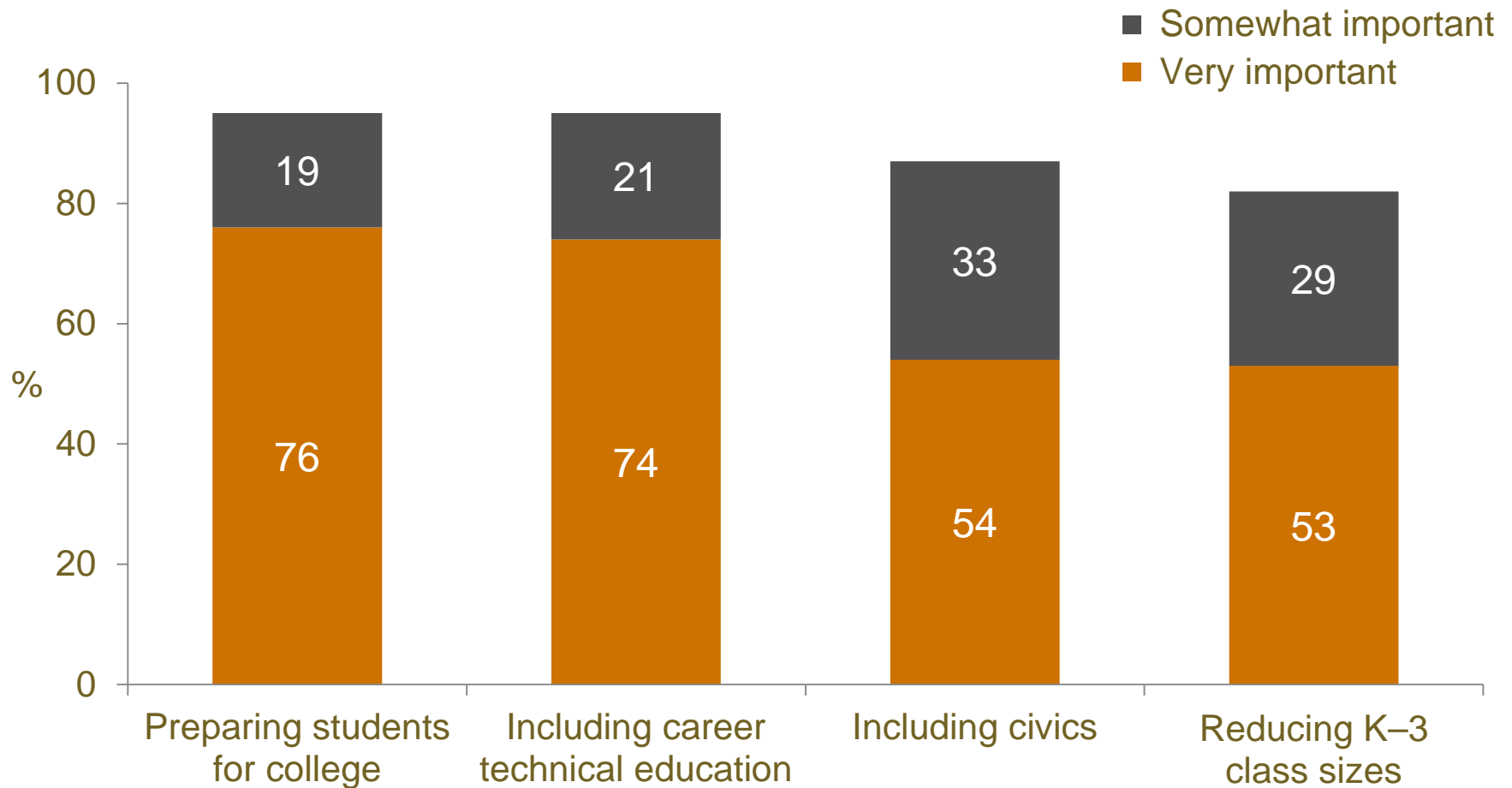
California's relative rankings

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



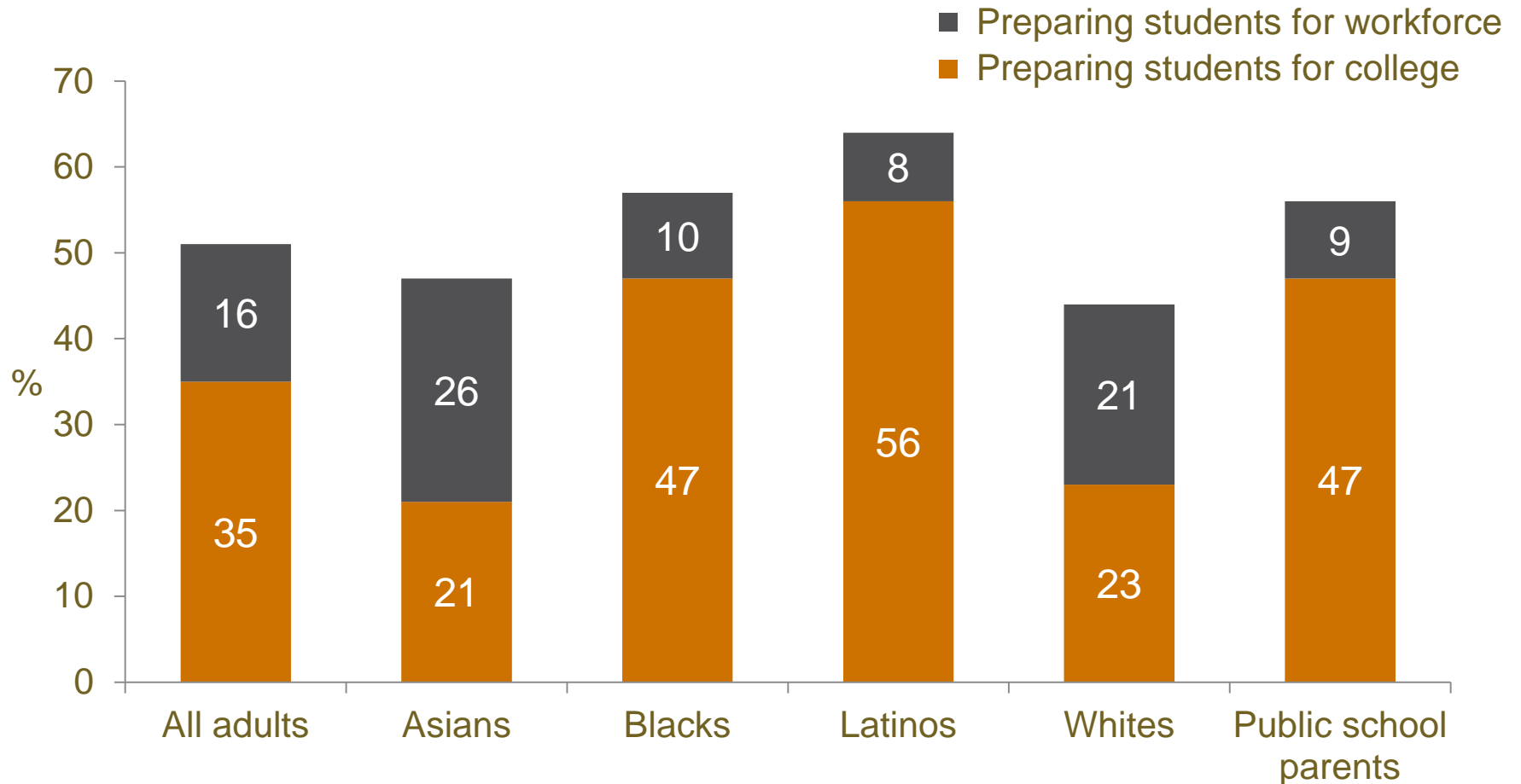
Importance of educational programs

Please tell me if each of the following is very important, somewhat important, or not too important to you.



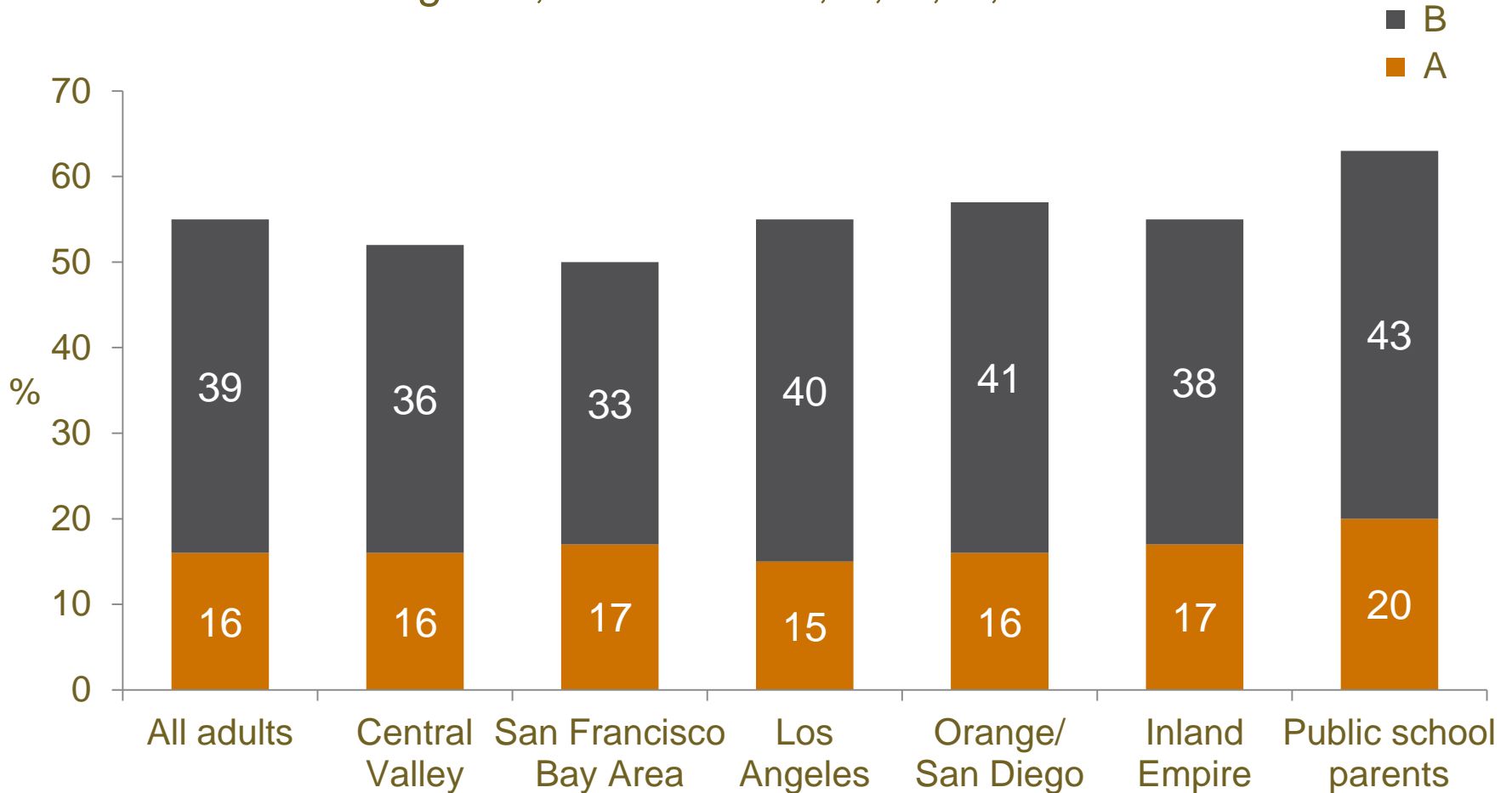
Most important goal of K-12 system

In your opinion, what is the most important goal of California's K-12 public education system?



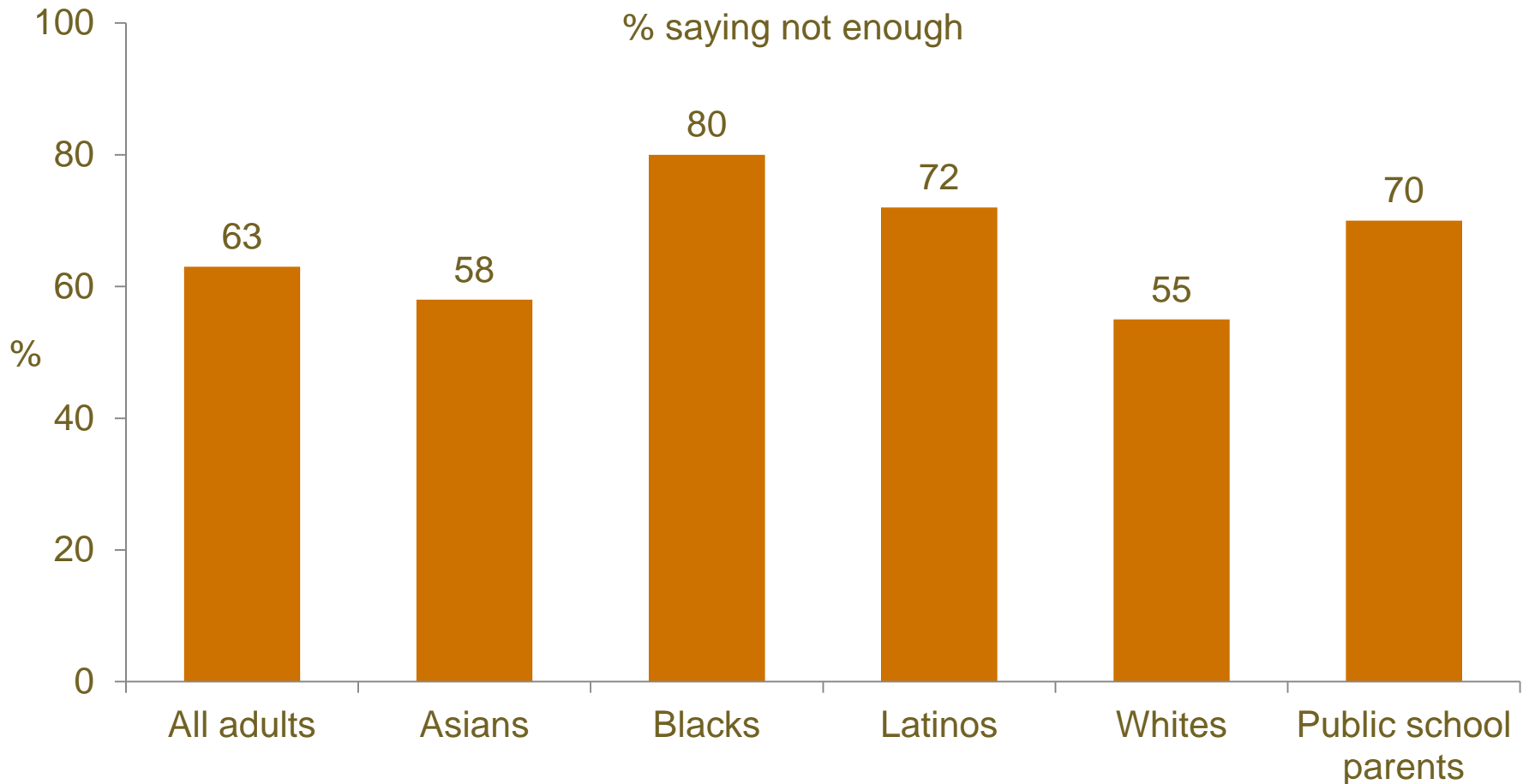
Grading local public schools

Overall, how would you rate the quality of public schools in your neighborhood today? If you had to give your local public schools a grade, would it be A, B, C, D, or F?



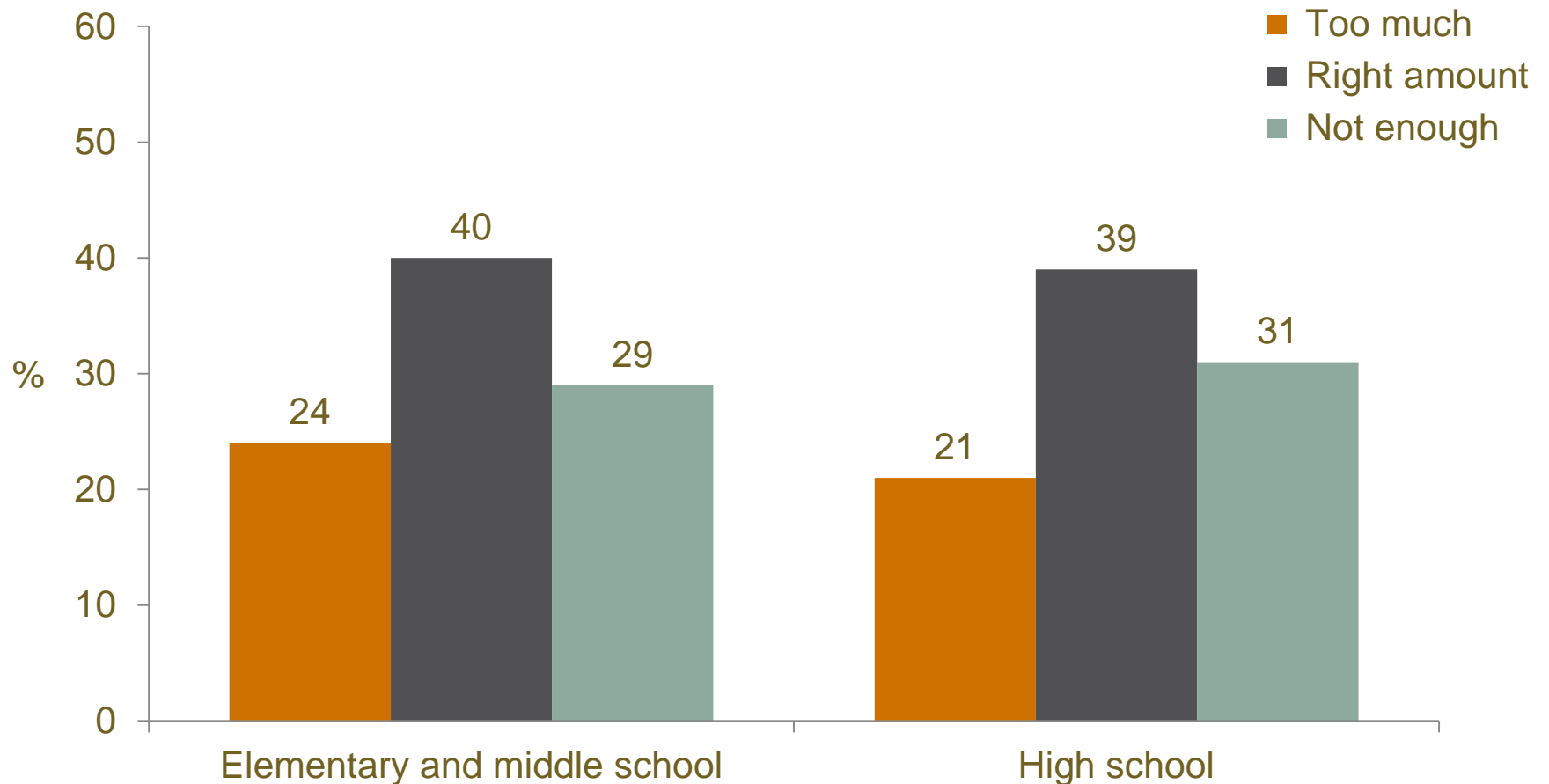
Level of state funding for local schools

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



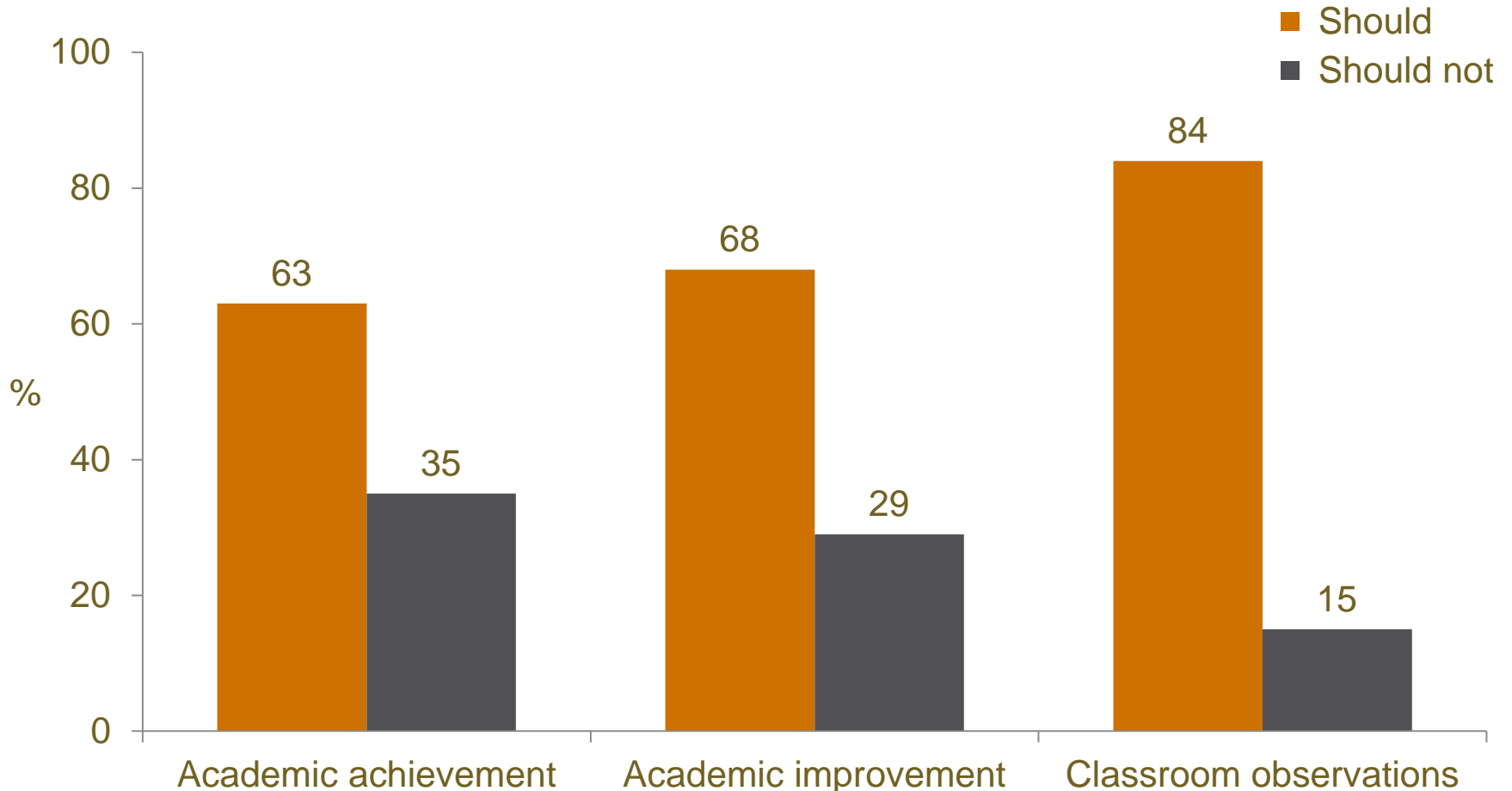
Amount of student testing

Do you think the amount of standardized testing of ... students in your community is too much, the right amount, or not enough?



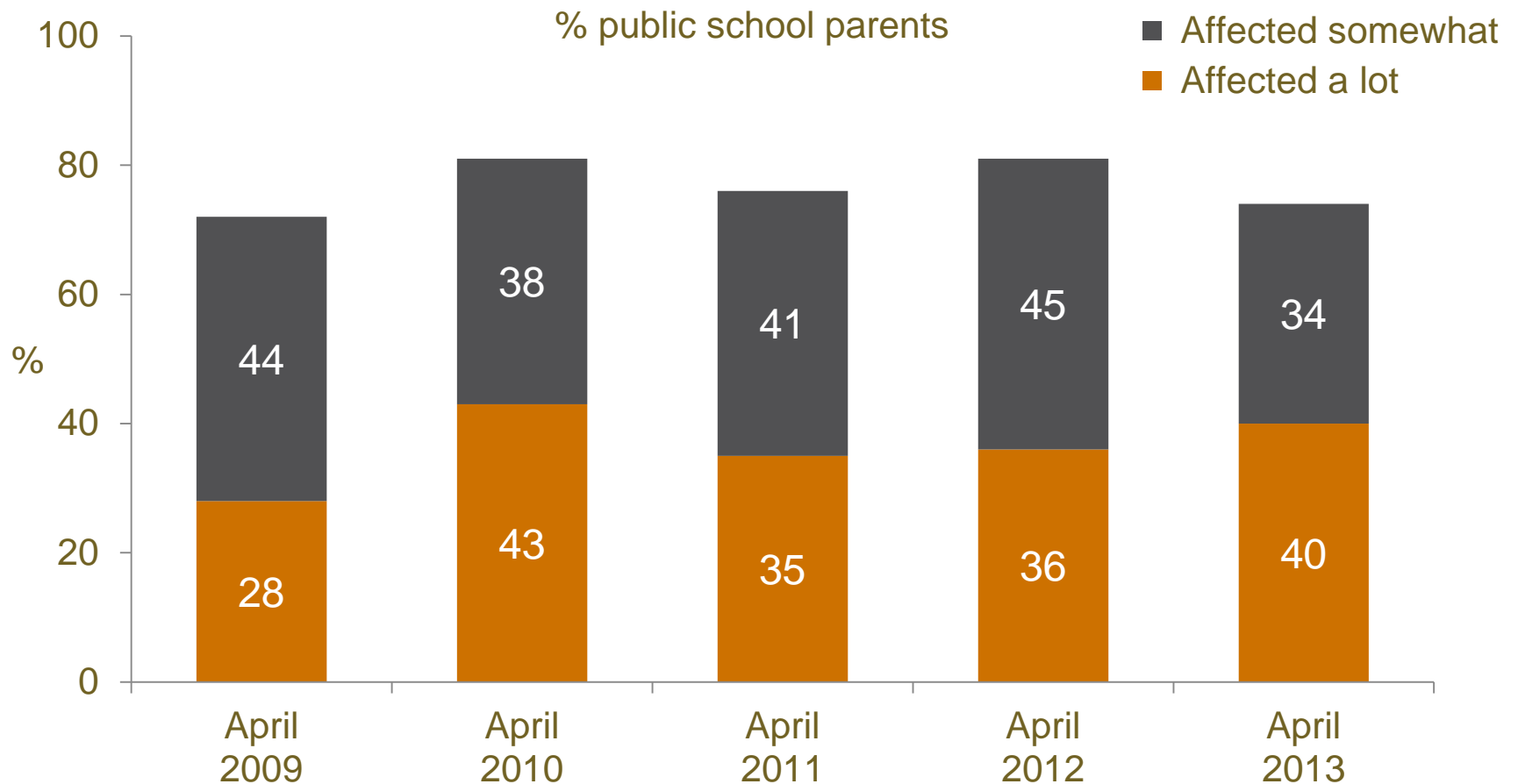
Factors in teacher evaluation

Please tell me if you think each of the following factors should or should not be used in evaluating teacher performance.



Public school parents on the effect of state budget cuts

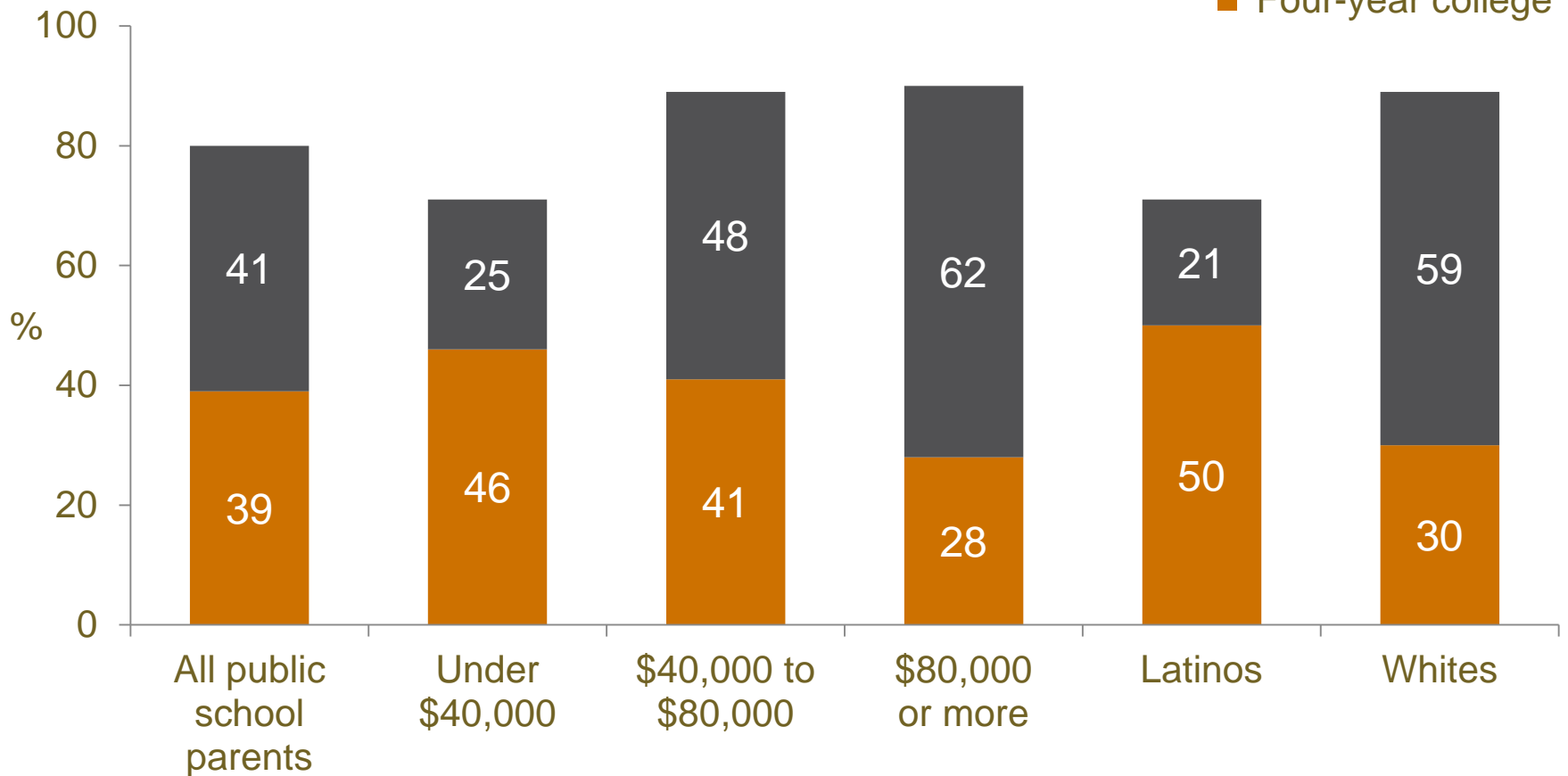
Would you say your child's public school has or has not been affected by recent state budget cuts? (*If it has: Has it been affected a lot or somewhat?*)



Public school parents' educational hopes

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

- Graduate degree
- Four-year college



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Conclusions

- Seven in 10 favor the governor's K–12 funding proposal and most think targeted funding will improve student achievement
- Eight in 10 favor increasing local flexibility
- A slim majority support lowering the vote to 55% to pass parcel taxes
- More than six in 10 say state funding at local schools is not enough
- Three in four public school parents say their child's school has been affected by recent budget cuts



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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:

survey@ppic.org

Thank you for your interest in this work.

