

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

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May 2011



Outline

- **PPIC Statewide Surveys**
- **State Issues**
- **California State Budget**
- **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
 - 248,000+ Californians since 1998
 - 100+ general, issue, and regional surveys



Californians and Their Government

- General series funded by The Irvine Foundation
- State issues
 - Overall mood; approval ratings; state and local trust; initiative process
- California state budget
 - Spending and taxation; raising revenues
 - Governor's budget plan
- Telephone interviews, May 17–24
 - 2,005 adults / 989 likely voters
 - $\pm 3.6\%$ *margin of error for adults*
 - $\pm 4.3\%$ *for likely voters*

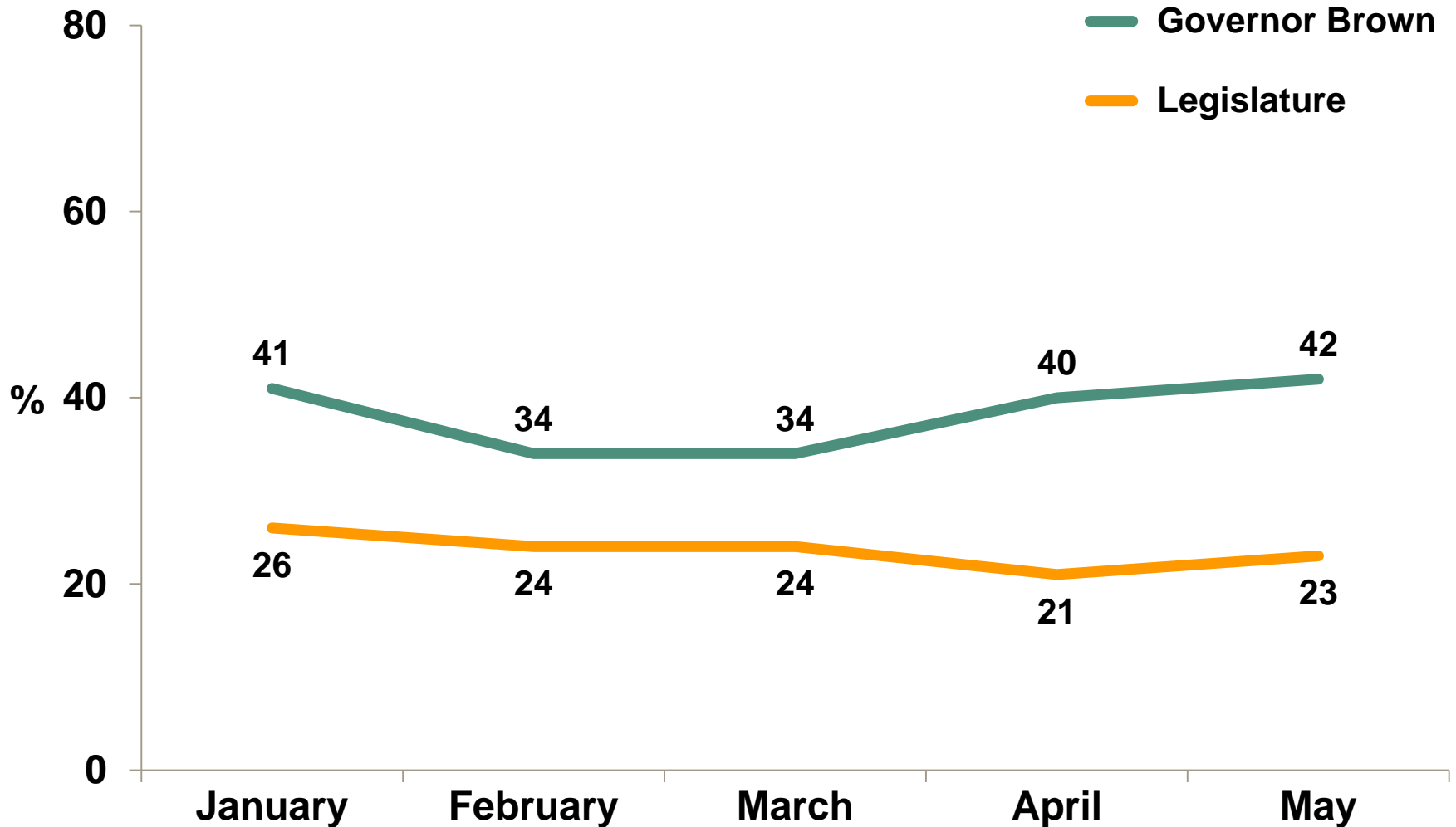


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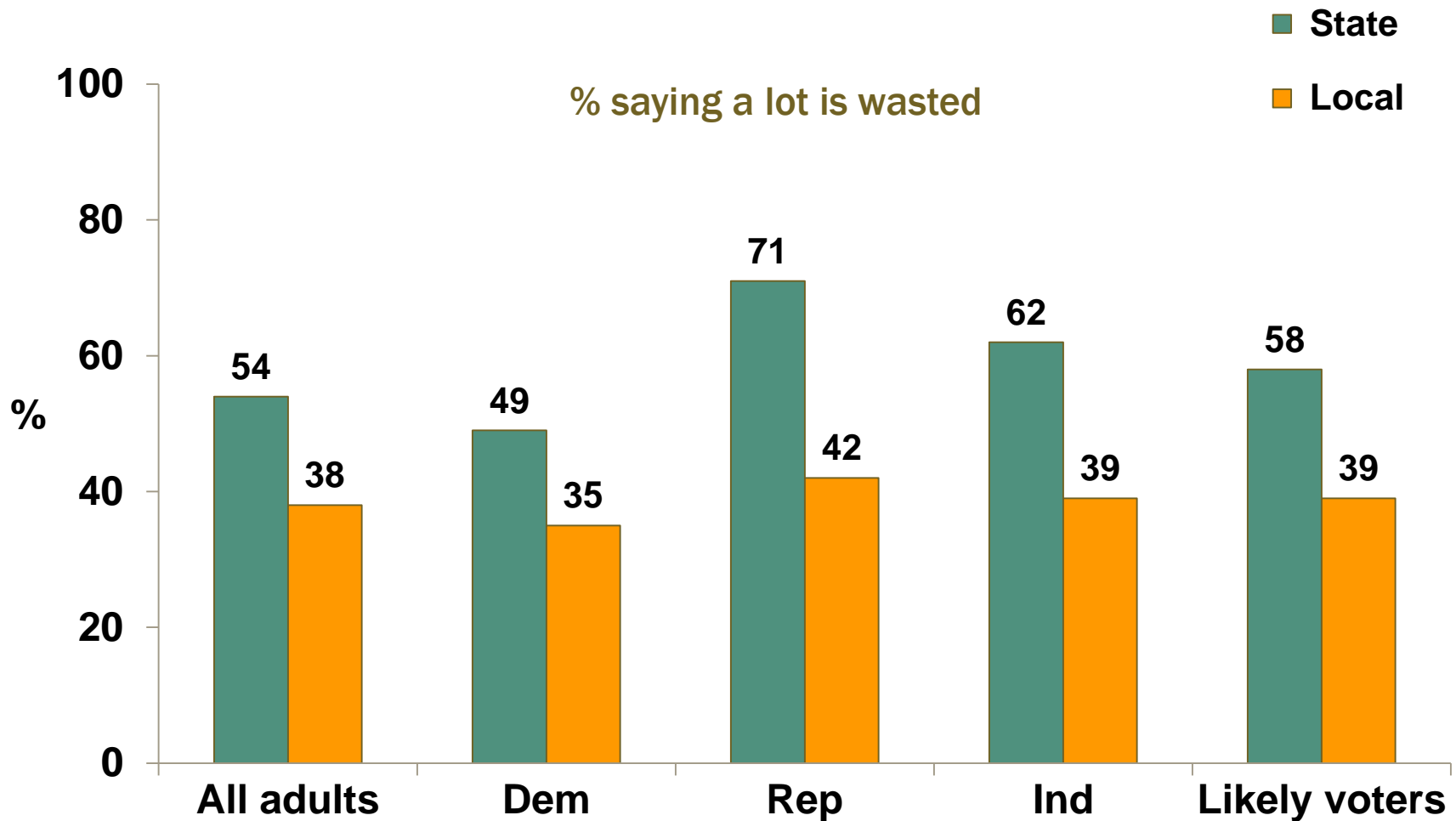


Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials



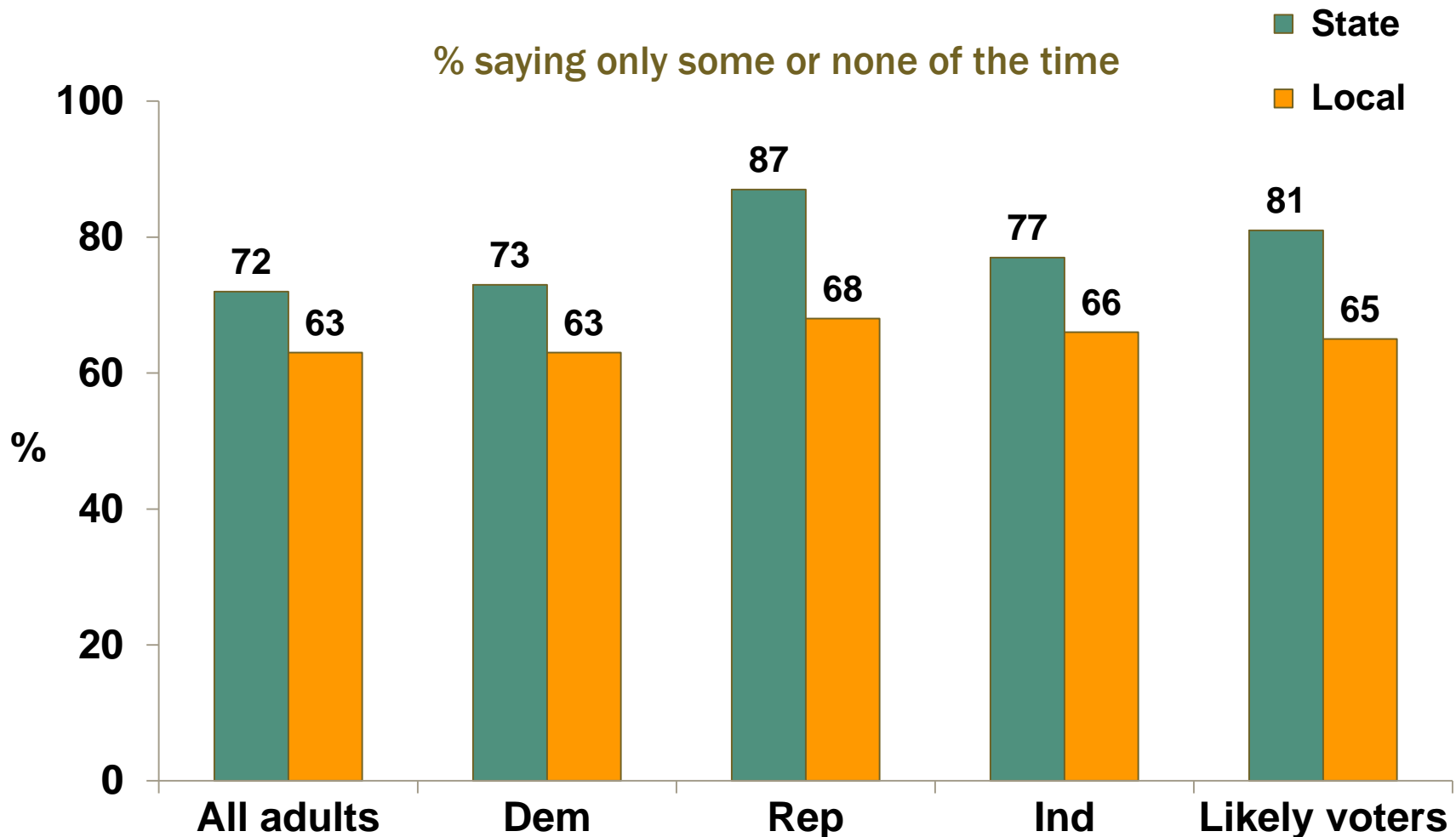
Waste in State and Local Government

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



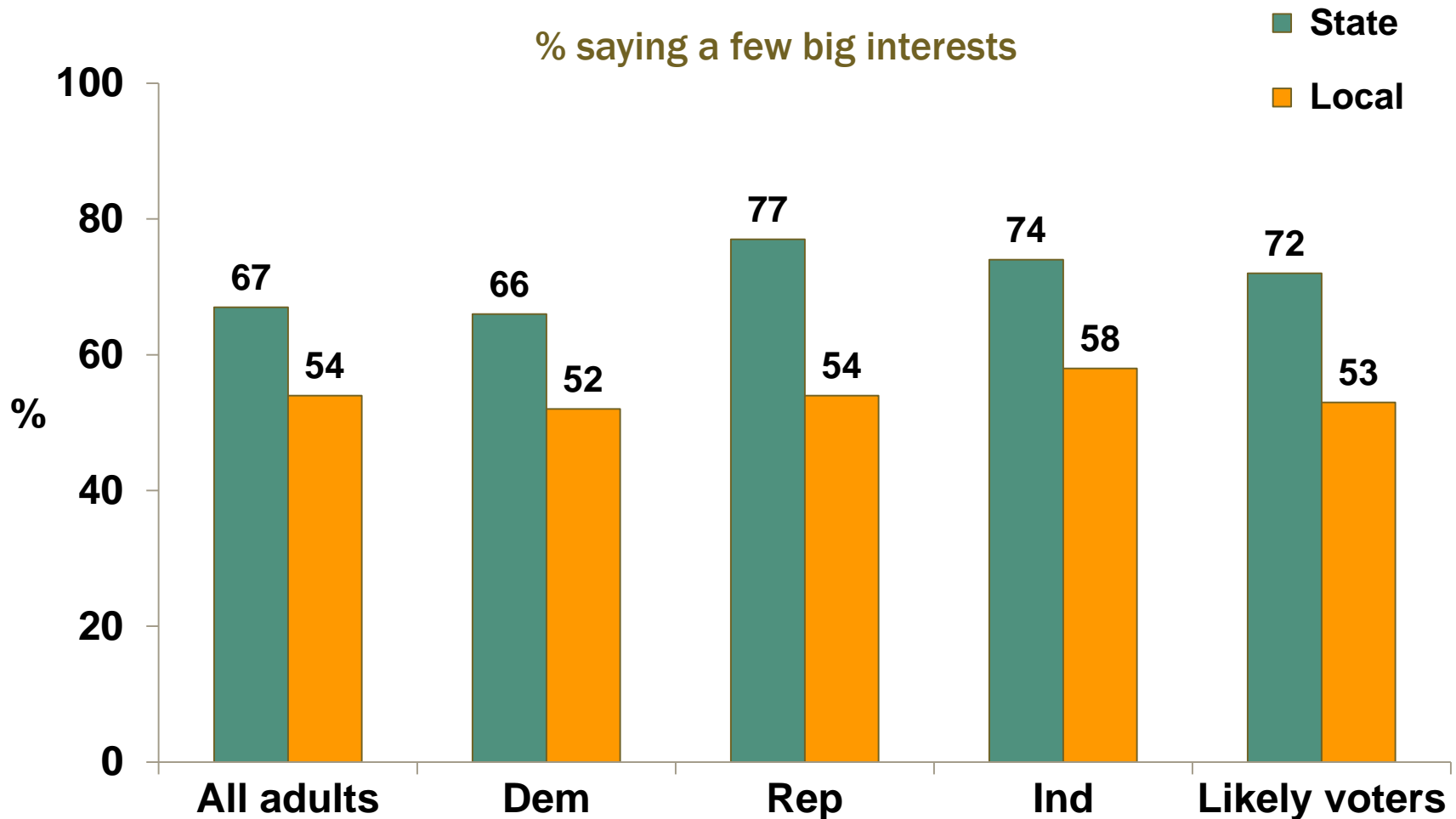
Trust in State and Local Government

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



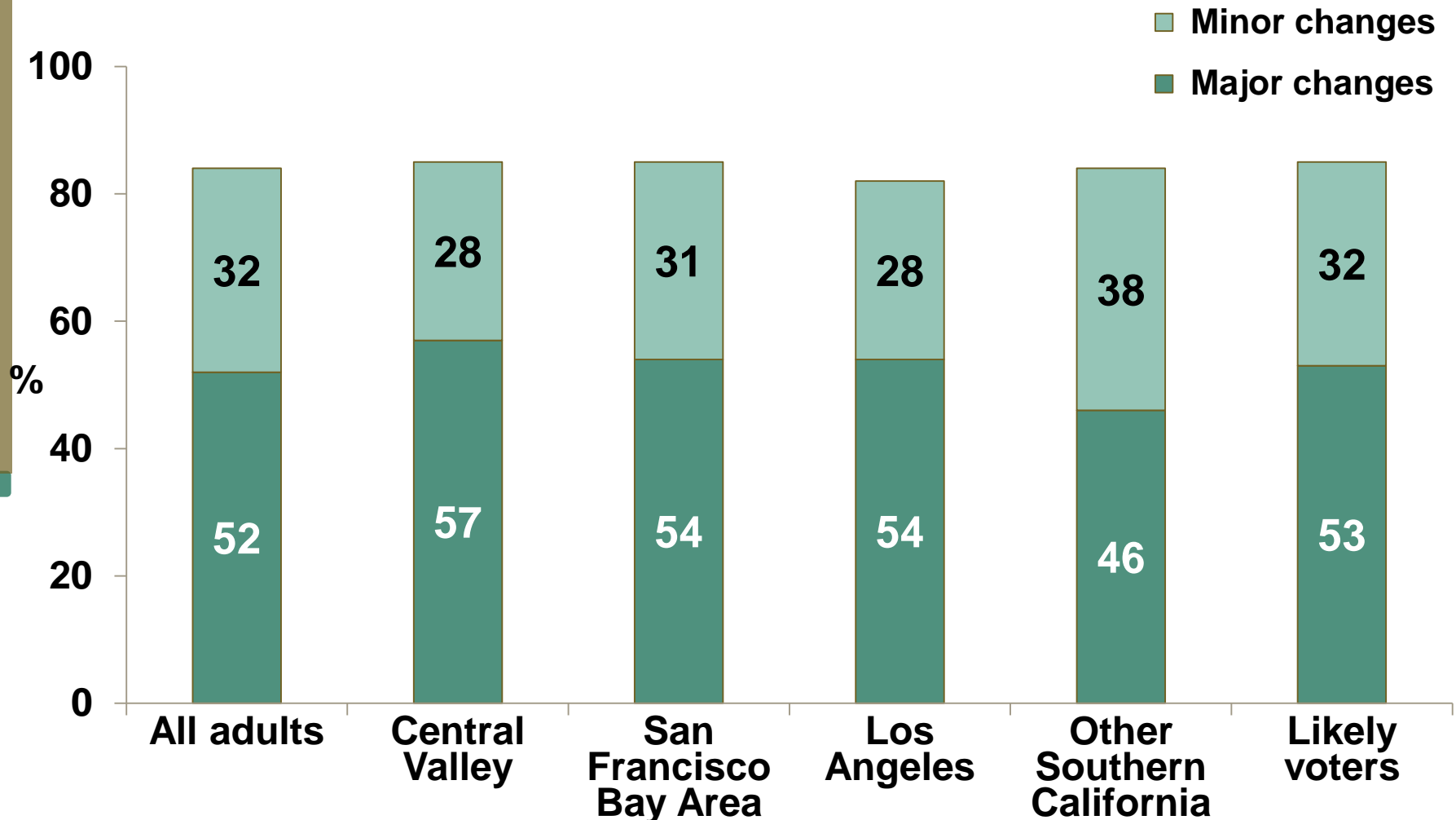
State and Local Government Run by a Few Big Interests?

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?



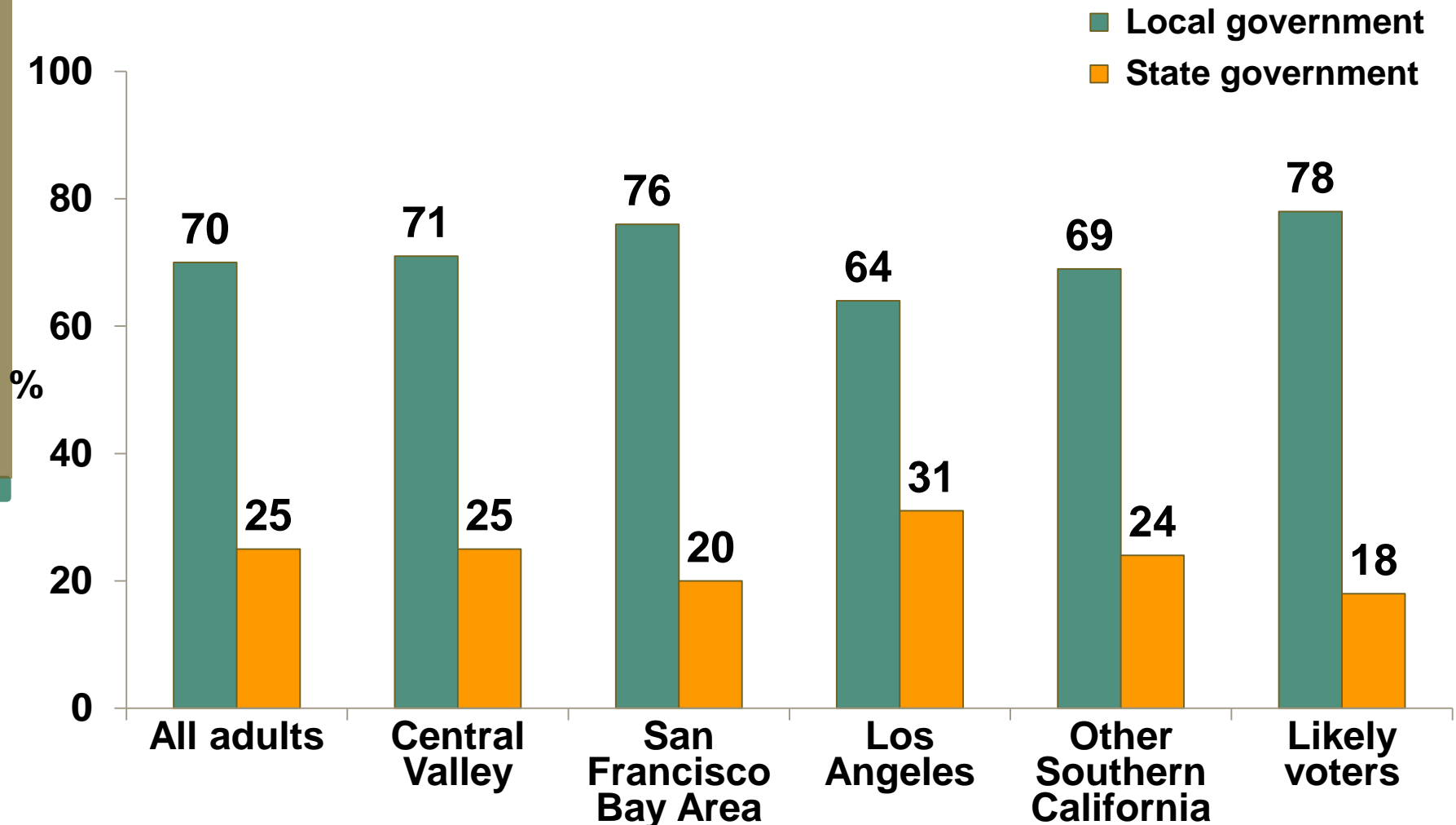
State and Local Relationship

Do you think that the relationship between state and local government is in need of major changes, minor changes, or is it basically fine the way it is?



Control Over State Money at Local Level

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



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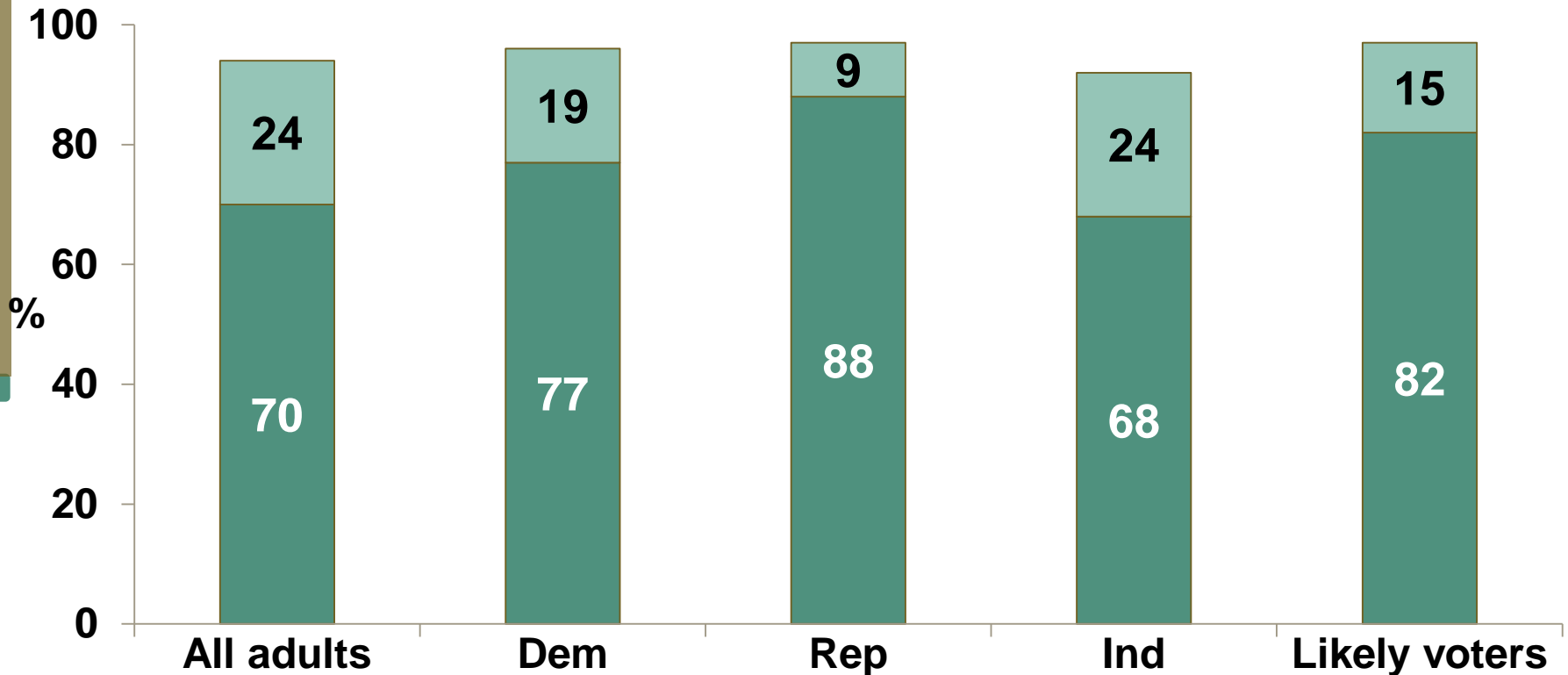
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Perceptions of the State Budget Situation

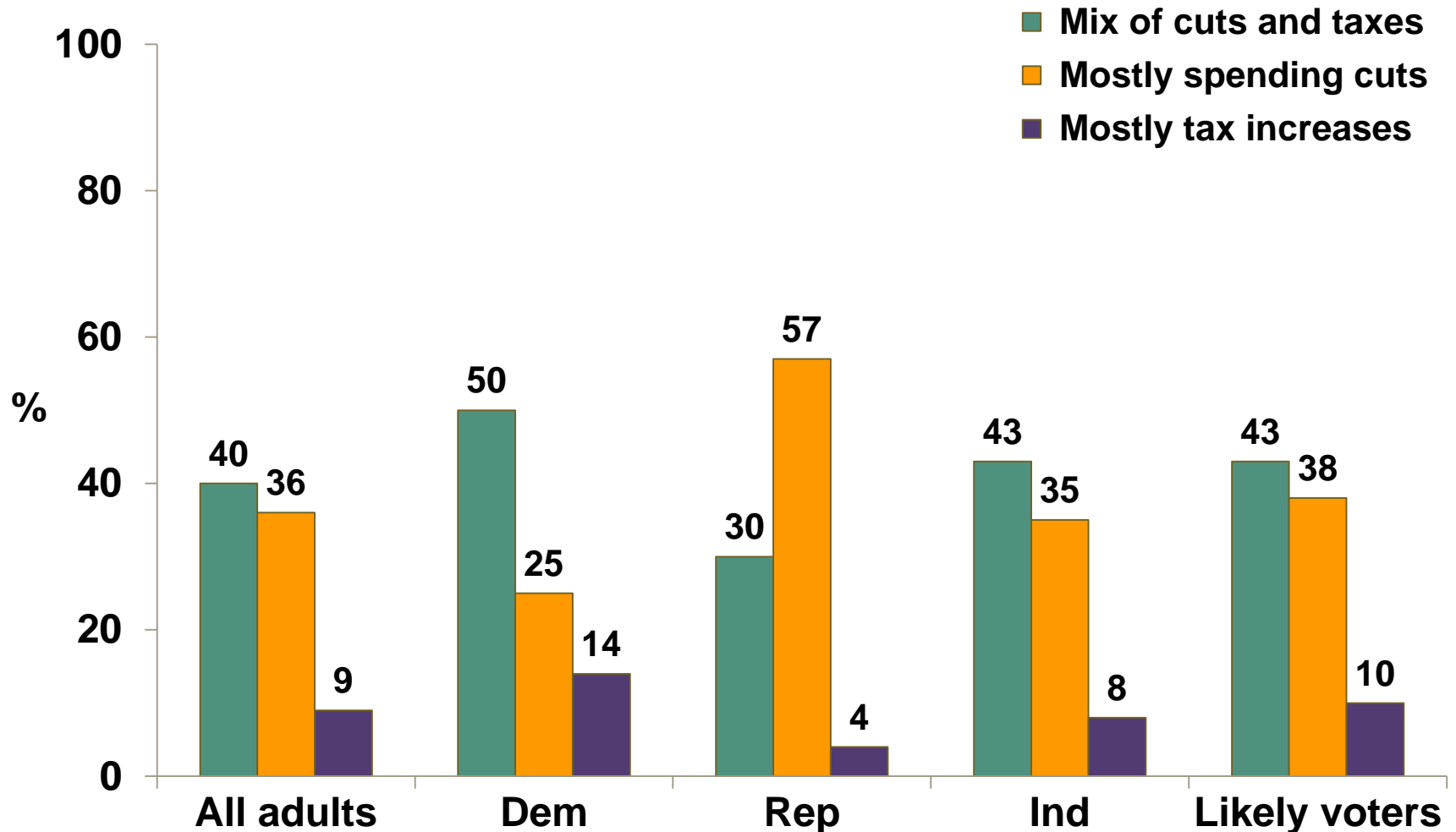
Do you think the state budget situation in California—that is, the balance between government spending and revenues—is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem for the people of California today?

- Somewhat of a problem
- Big problem



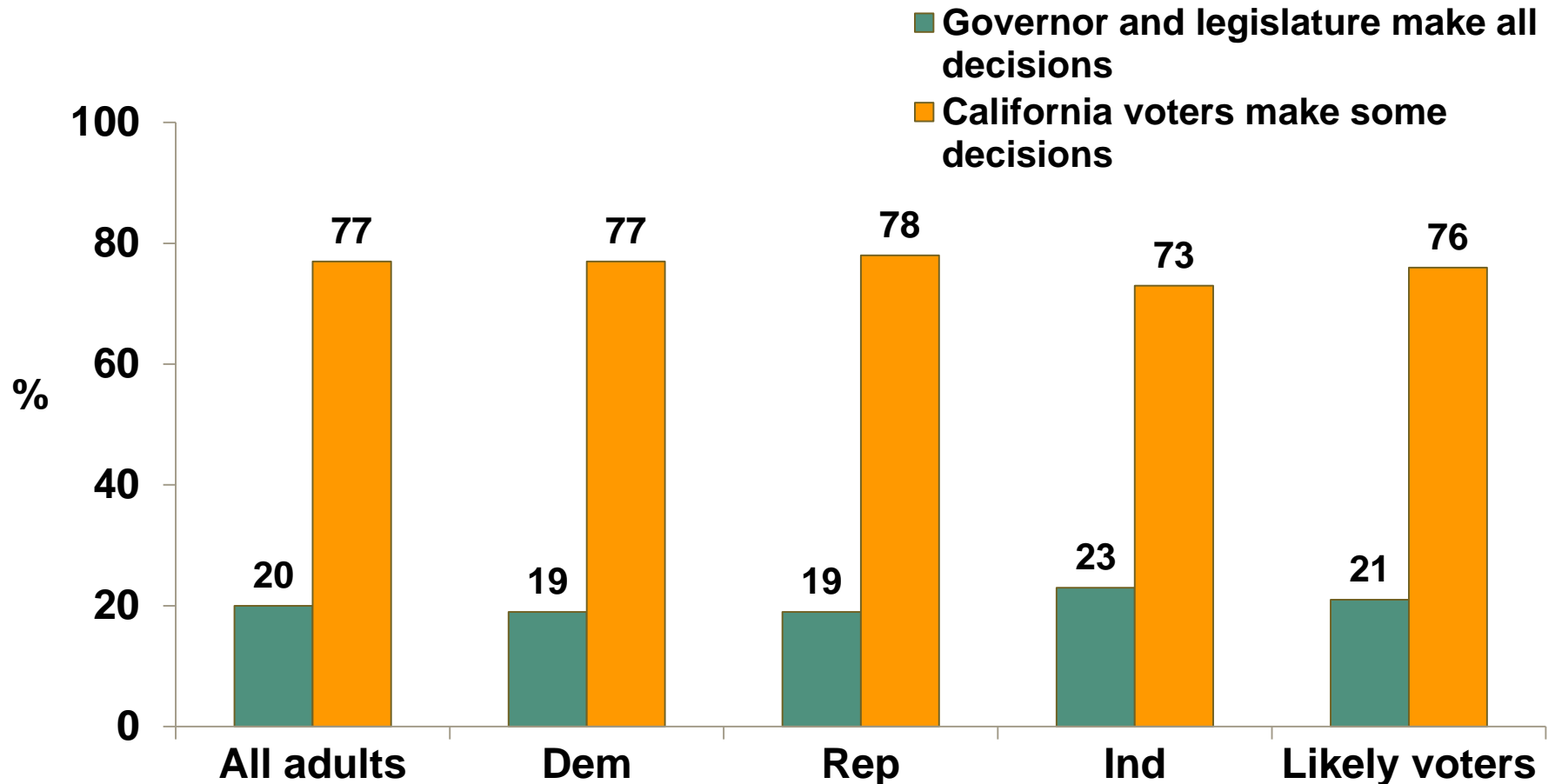
Dealing with the Budget Gap

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

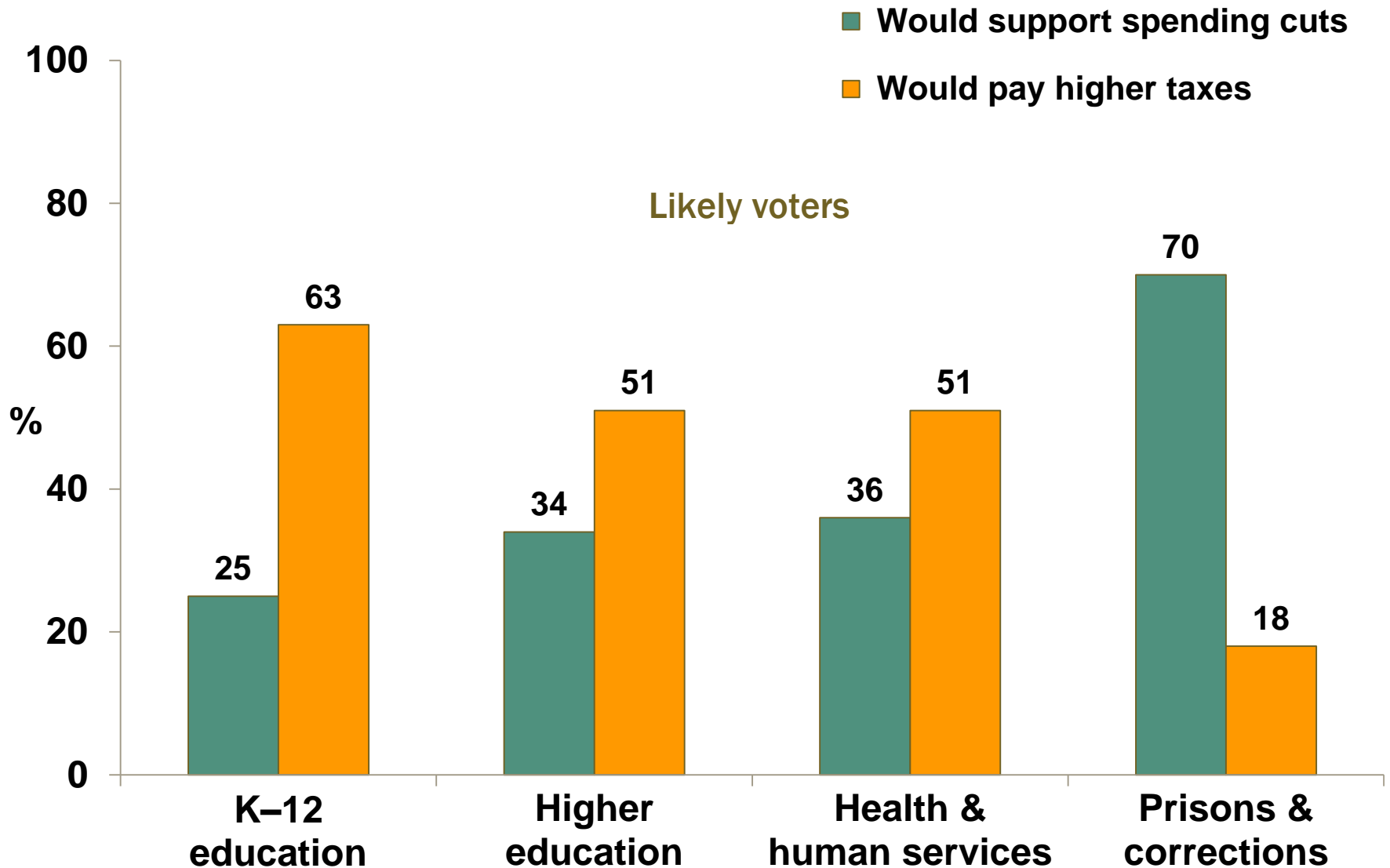


Voters' Role in State Budget This Year

And when it comes to the tough choices involved in the state budget this year, would you prefer: that the governor and legislature make all of the decisions about spending and taxes, or that California voters make some of the decisions about spending and taxes at the ballot box?

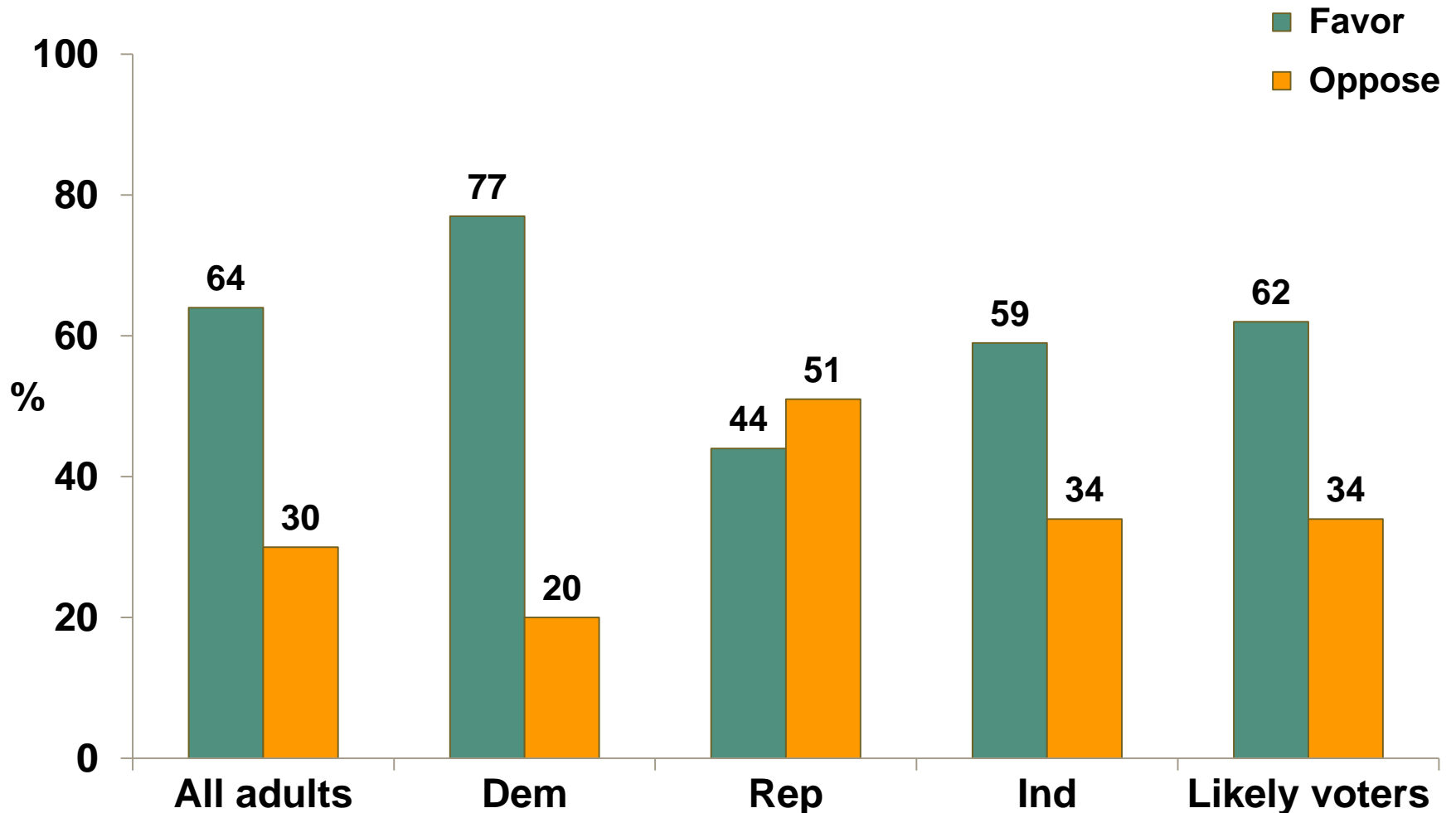


Preferences for Major Budget Areas



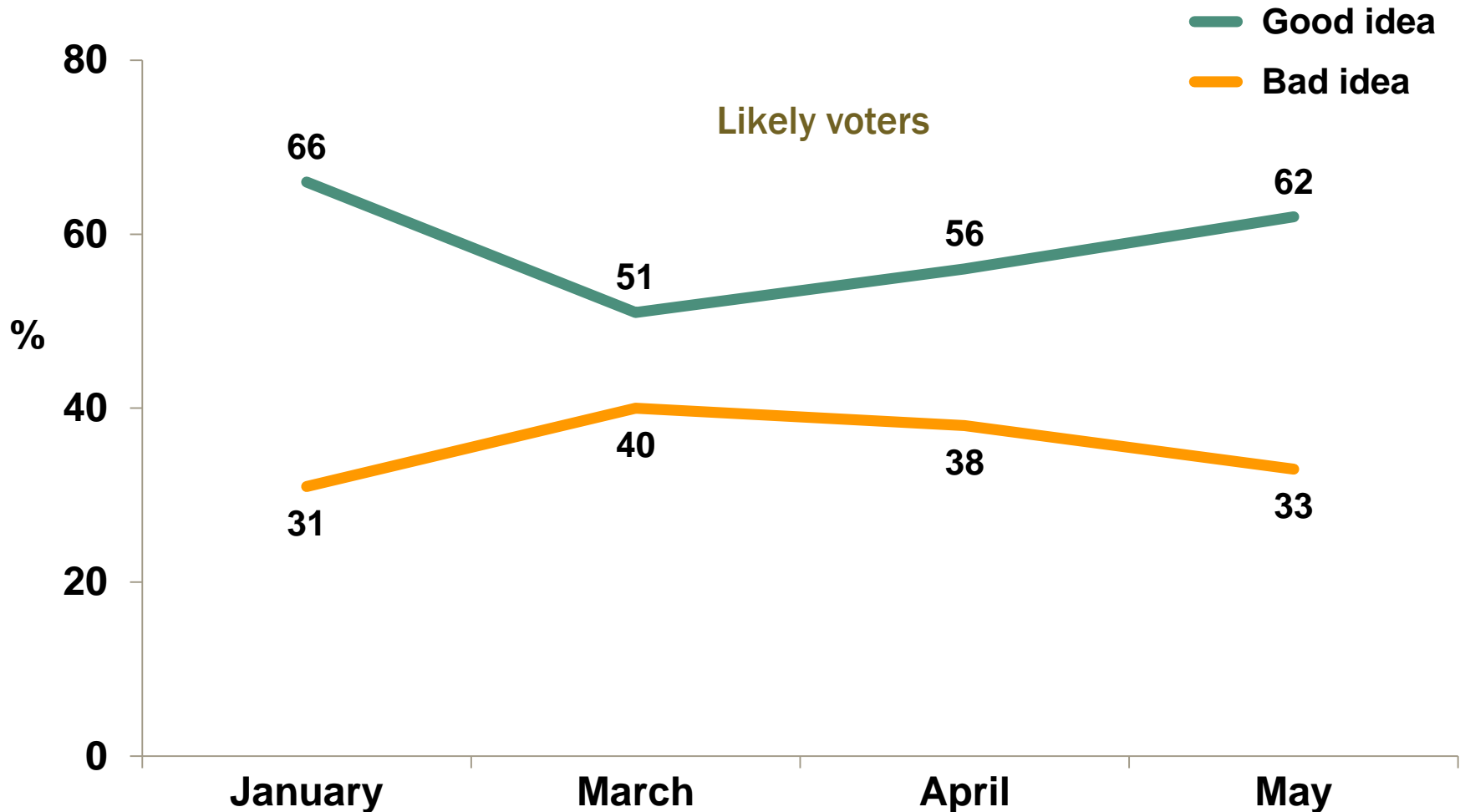
Governor's Budget Plan

...In general, do you favor or oppose the governor's budget plan?



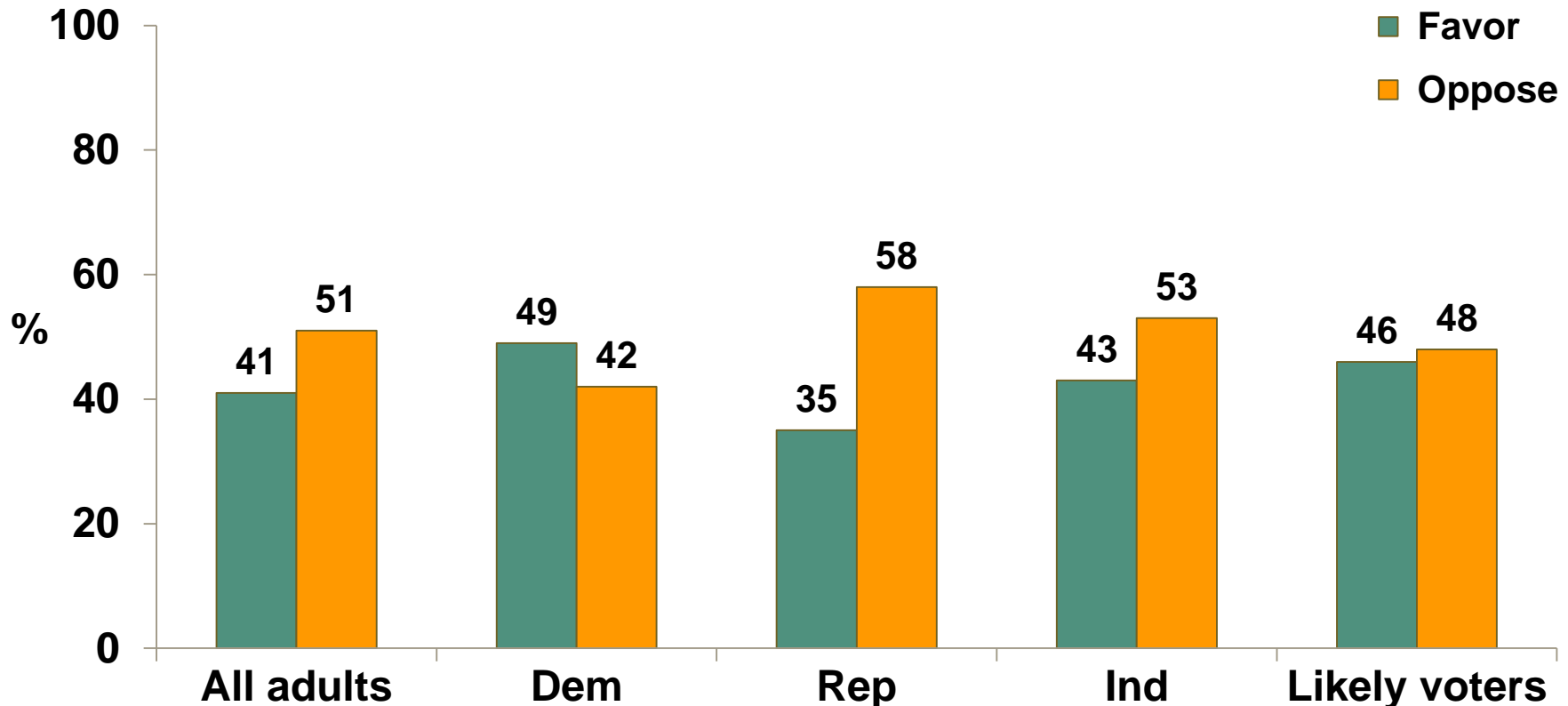
Governor Brown's Proposed Special Election

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 Tax and Fee Package

In a special election, voters would be asked to pass a tax and fee package that includes an extension of temporary increases—for five years—in the state sales tax and vehicle license fee, and beginning in 2012 a temporary increase—for four years—in state personal income taxes. If voters reject the proposal, additional cuts to services would be made. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?



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Conclusions

- Trust in local government is higher than trust in state government
- Most support the initiative process, but many also support initiative reforms
- Most Californians think voters should have a say in budget decisions this year
- Strong majorities oppose cuts to K–12 education, higher education, and health and human services
- Majorities favor Governor Brown’s overall budget proposal and his idea for a special election, but fewer than half support his tax and fee package



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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:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.

May 2011

