

# PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

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*May 2013*



# PPIC Statewide Survey Mission

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- 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
  - 282,000+ Californians since 1998
  - 130+ general, issue, and regional surveys



# Californians and Their Government

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- General series funded by The James Irvine Foundation
- State government
  - Opinions on the governor's revised budget plan
  - Attitudes toward Prop. 13 and the initiative process
- Federal government
  - Opinions on budget cuts, guns, global warming, immigration reform, and same-sex marriage
- Telephone interviews, May 14 to 20
  - 1,704 adults/1,129 likely voters
    - $\pm 3.8\%$  margin of error for adults
    - $\pm 4.6\%$  for likely voters



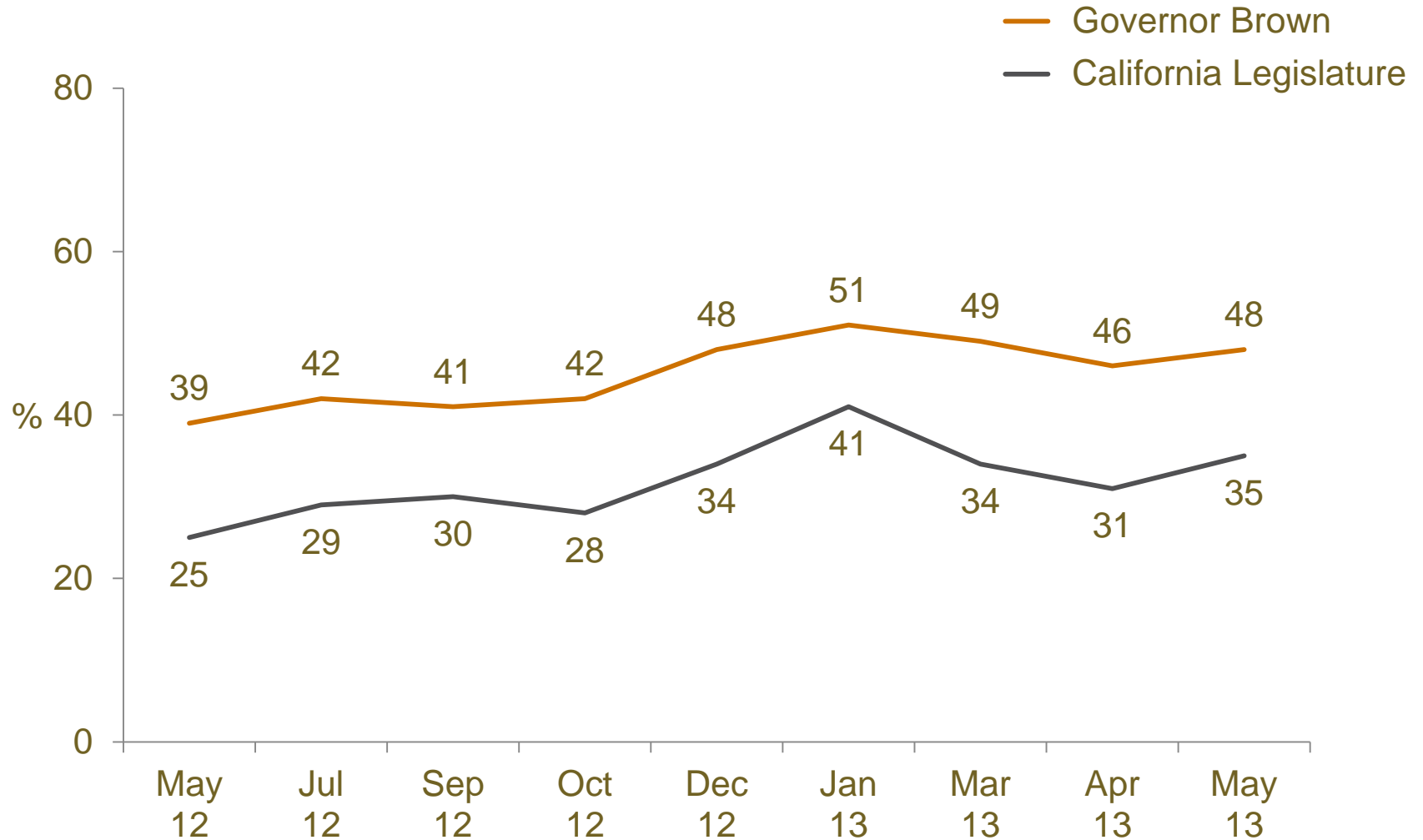
# Outline

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

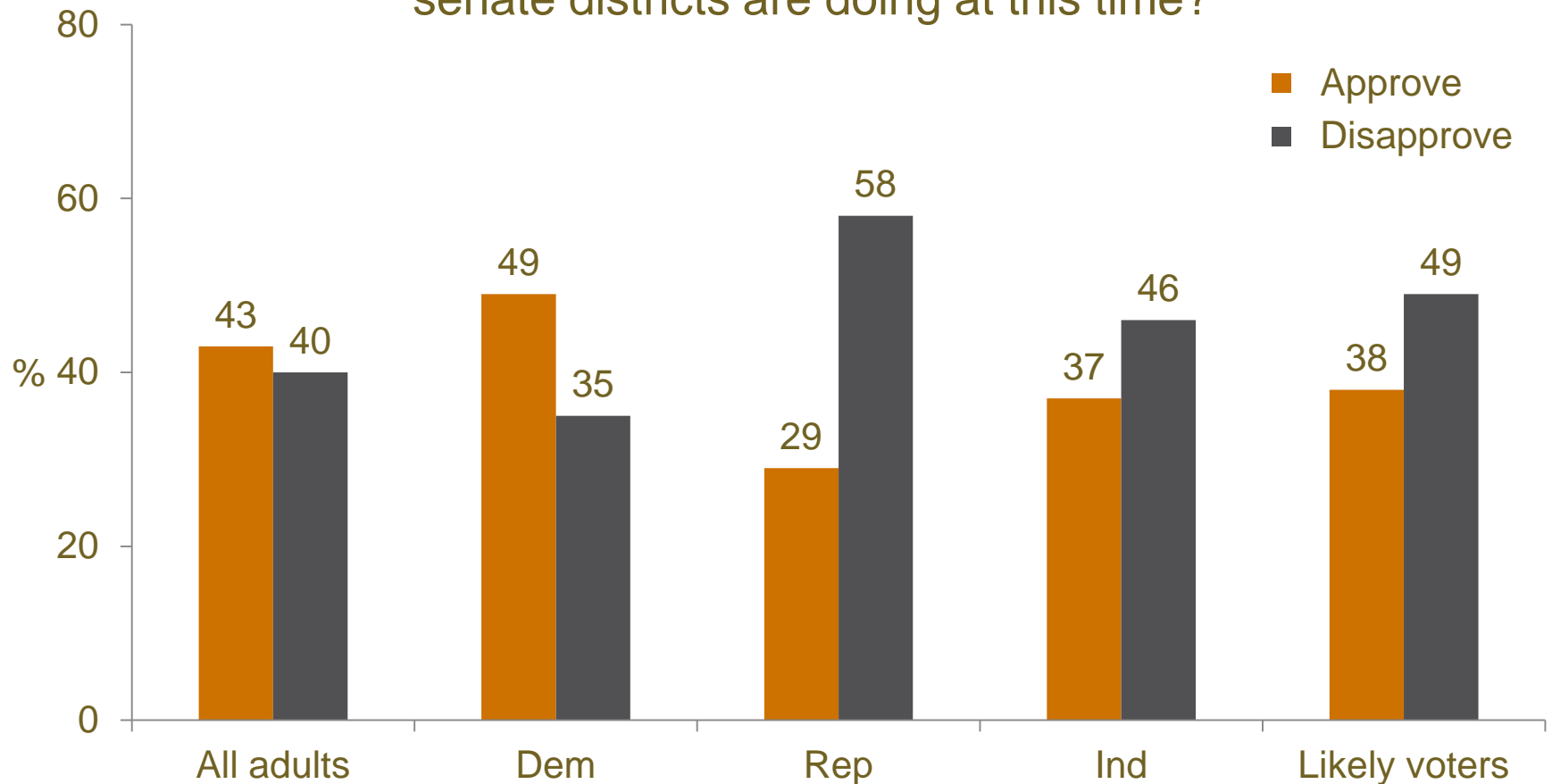


# Approval ratings of state elected officials



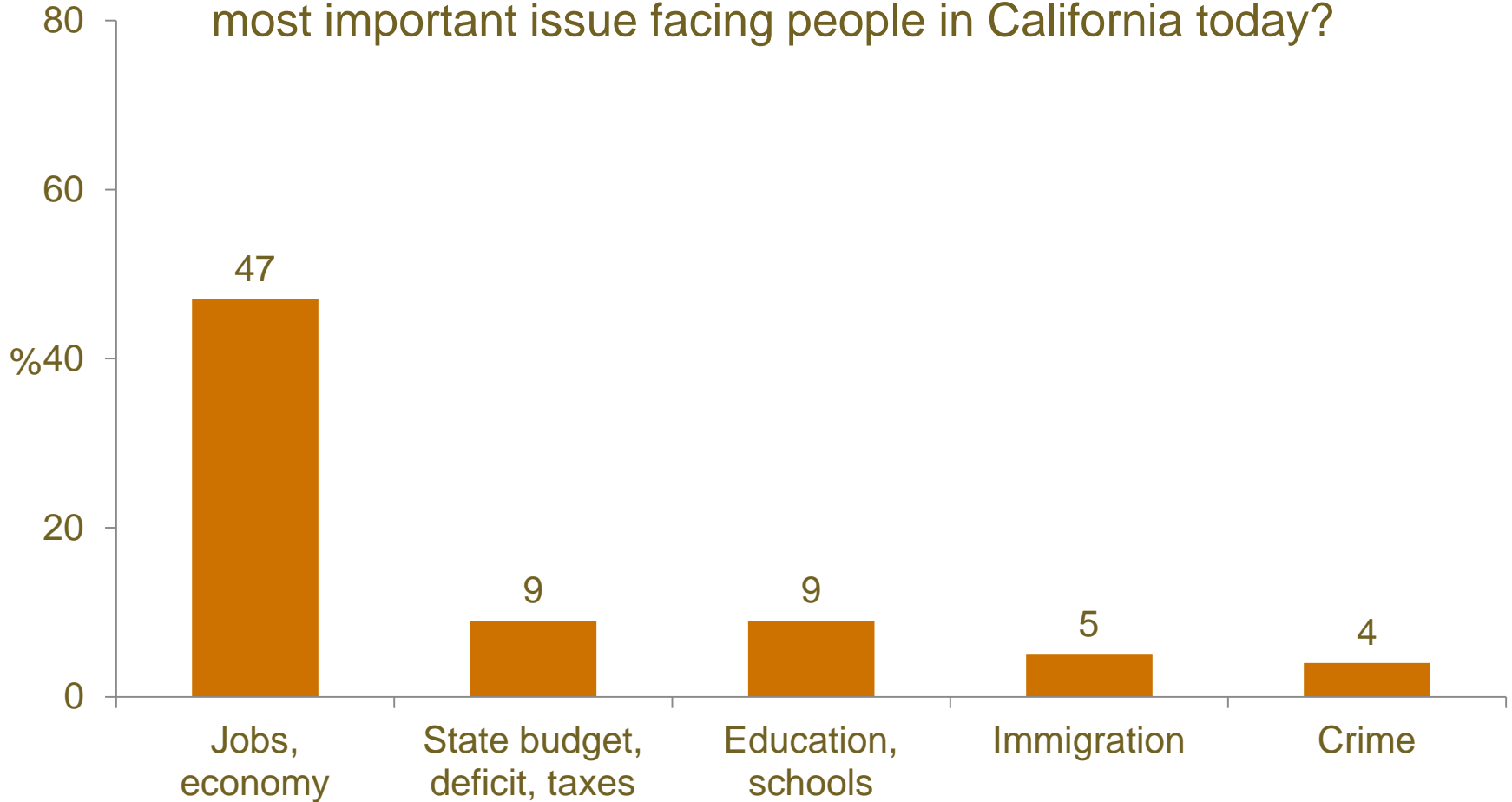
# Approval ratings of own legislator

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job that the state legislators representing your assembly and senate districts are doing at this time?



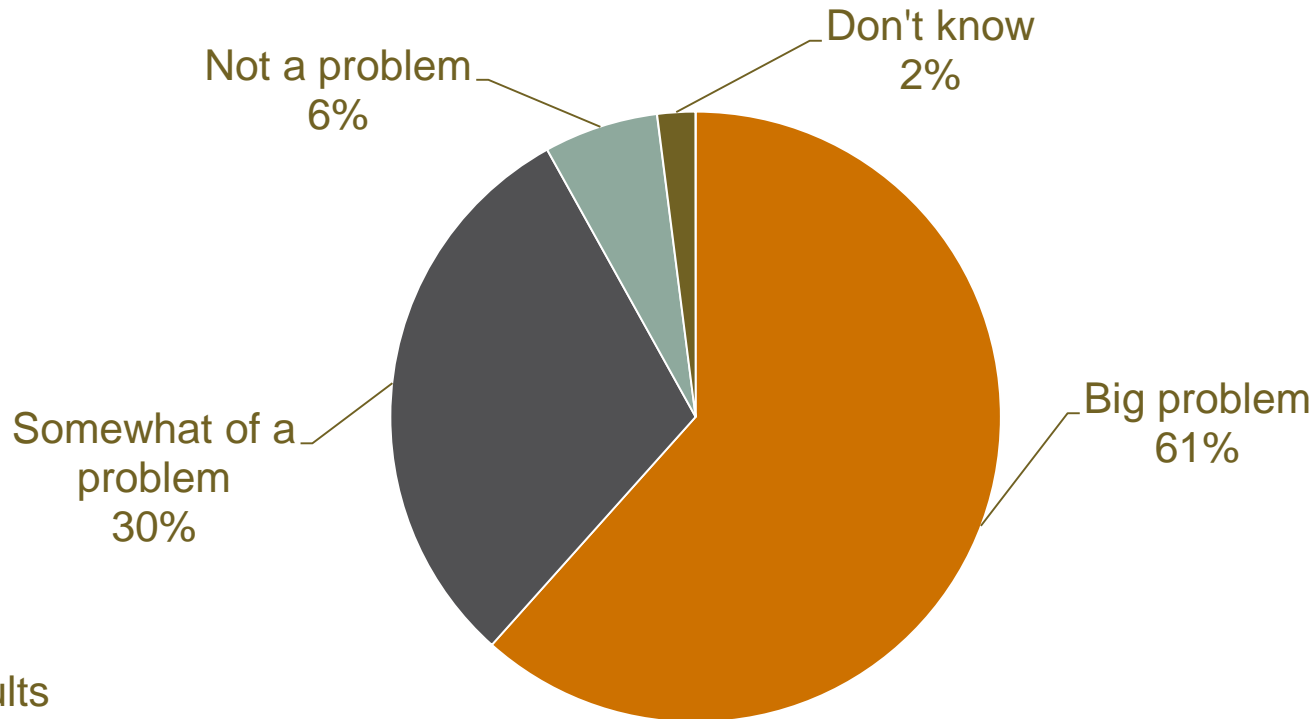
# Most important issue facing the state

Thinking about the state as a whole, what do you think is the most important issue facing people in California today?



# 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?



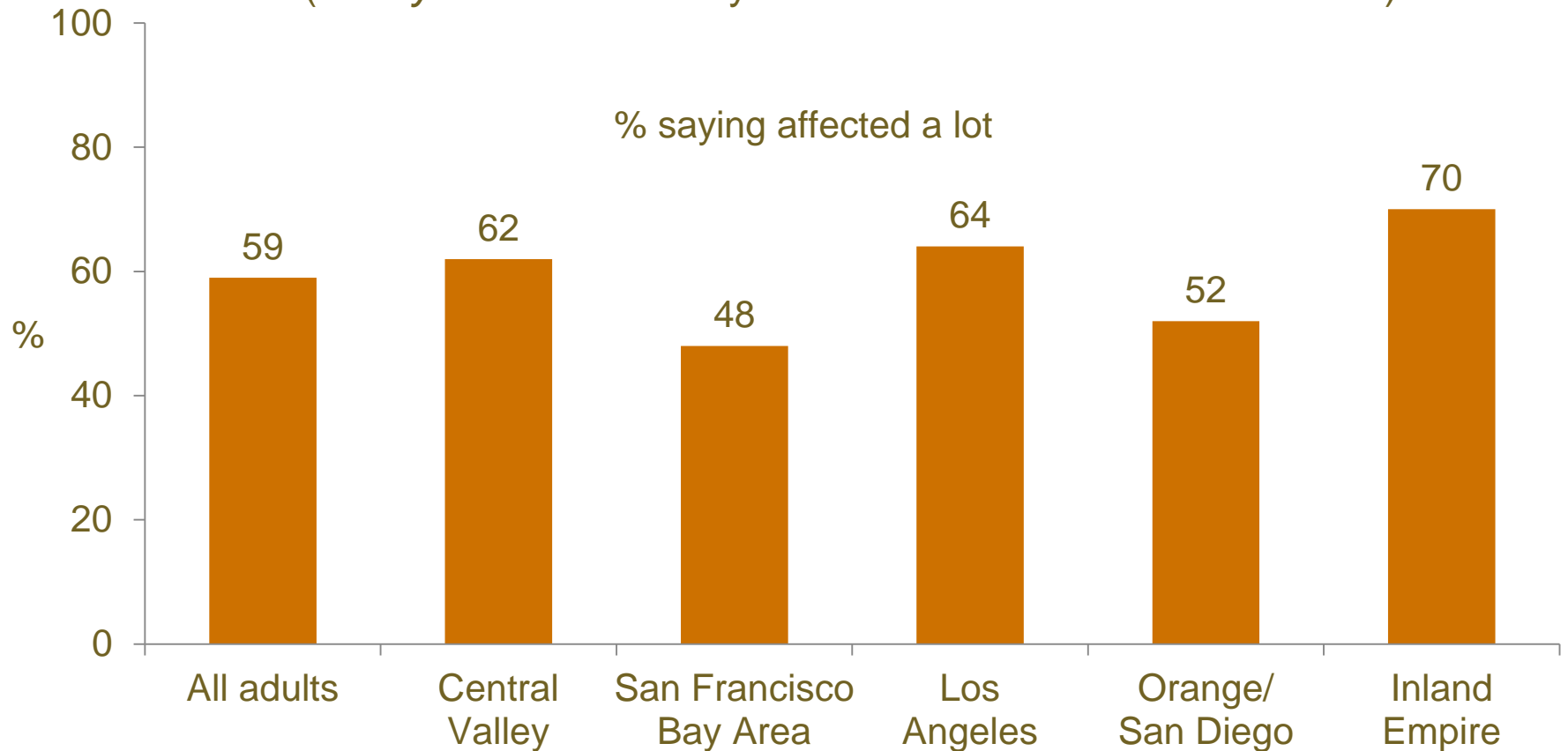
All adults





# Effect of state budget cuts on local services

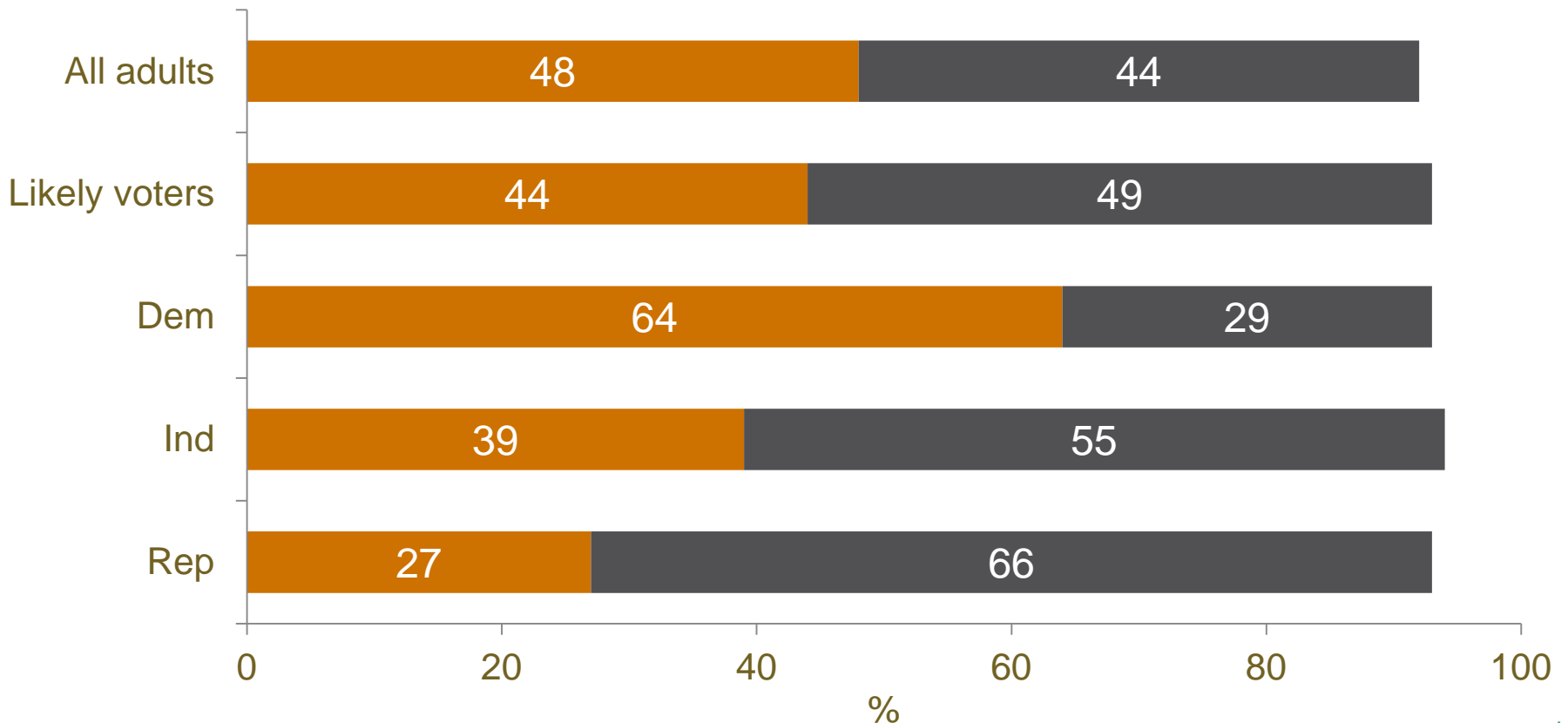
Would you say that your local government services—such as those provided by city and county governments and public schools—have or have not been affected by recent state budget cuts?  
(If they have: Have they been affected a lot or somewhat?)



# Size of government

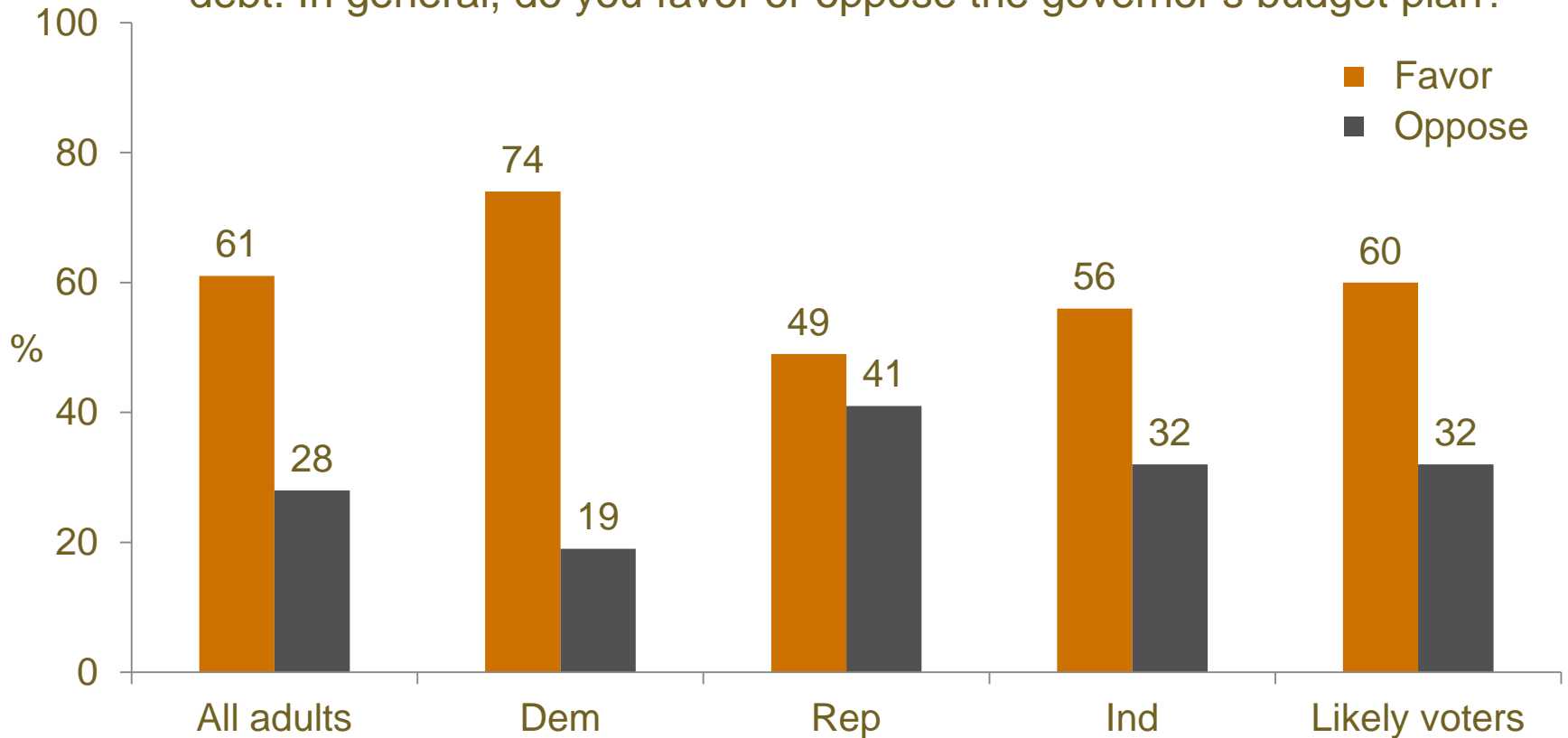
In general, which of the following statements do you agree with more: I'd rather pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services, or I'd rather pay lower taxes and have a state government that provides fewer services?

■ Pay higher taxes, have more services ■ Pay lower taxes, have fewer services



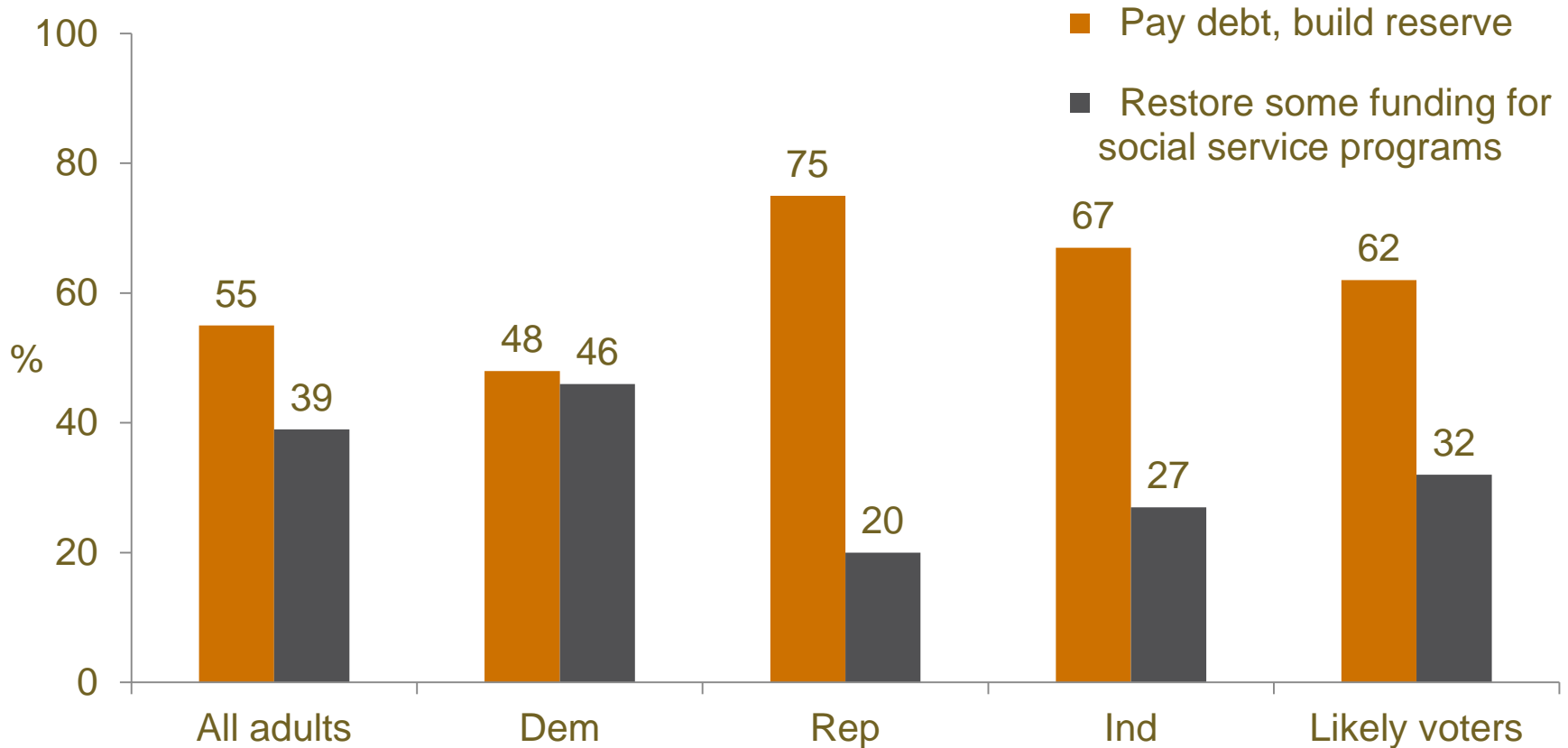
# Governor Brown's revised budget proposal

Governor Brown recently released a revised budget plan for the current and next fiscal year that will increase spending on K–12 schools, higher education, health and human services, and corrections and rehabilitation, create a \$1.1 billion reserve, and pay down the state's debt. In general, do you favor or oppose the governor's budget plan?



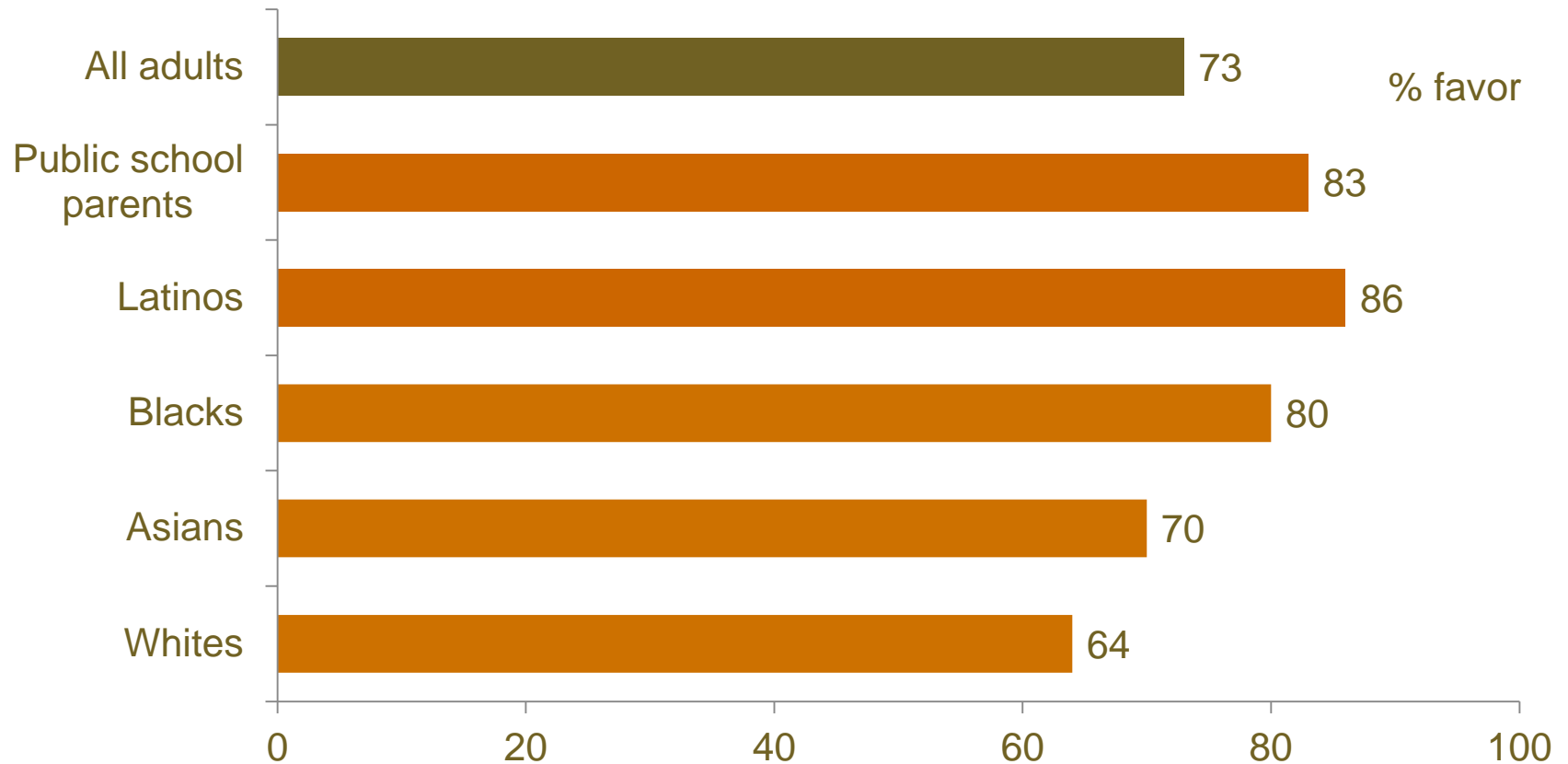
# State budget tradeoffs

Governor Brown's budget plan proposes to pay down state debt and build up the reserve. In general, do you prefer the governor's plan to pay down state debt and build up the reserve, or would you prefer to use some of this money to restore some funding for social service programs that were cut in recent years?



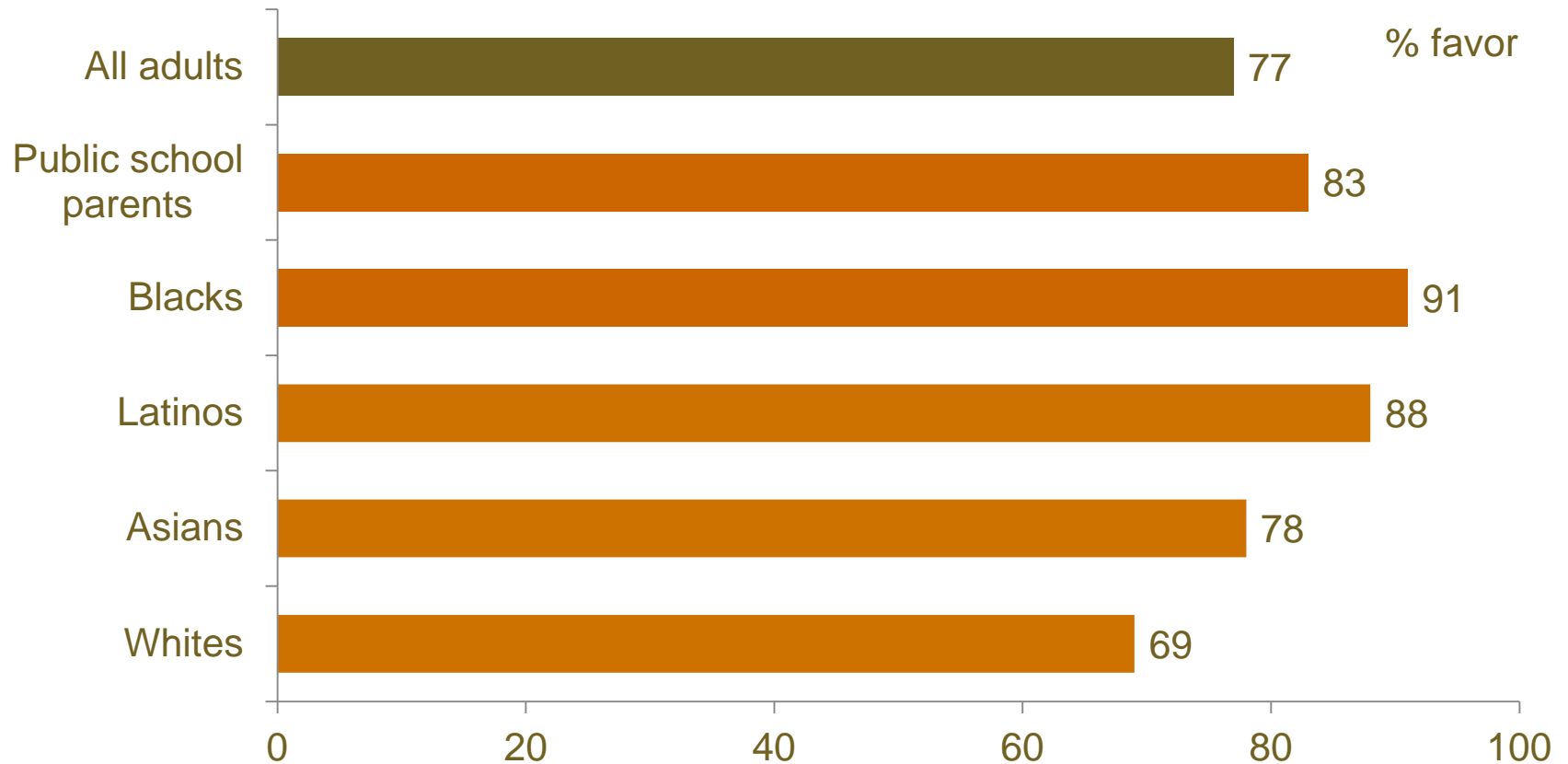
# Funds for implementation of Common Core State Standards

As part of his revised budget plan, Governor Brown proposes providing K–12 schools with \$1 billion in one-time revenues to ... support the implementation of the “Common Core State Standards,” a new set of English and math standards that the state will roll out in 2014. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?



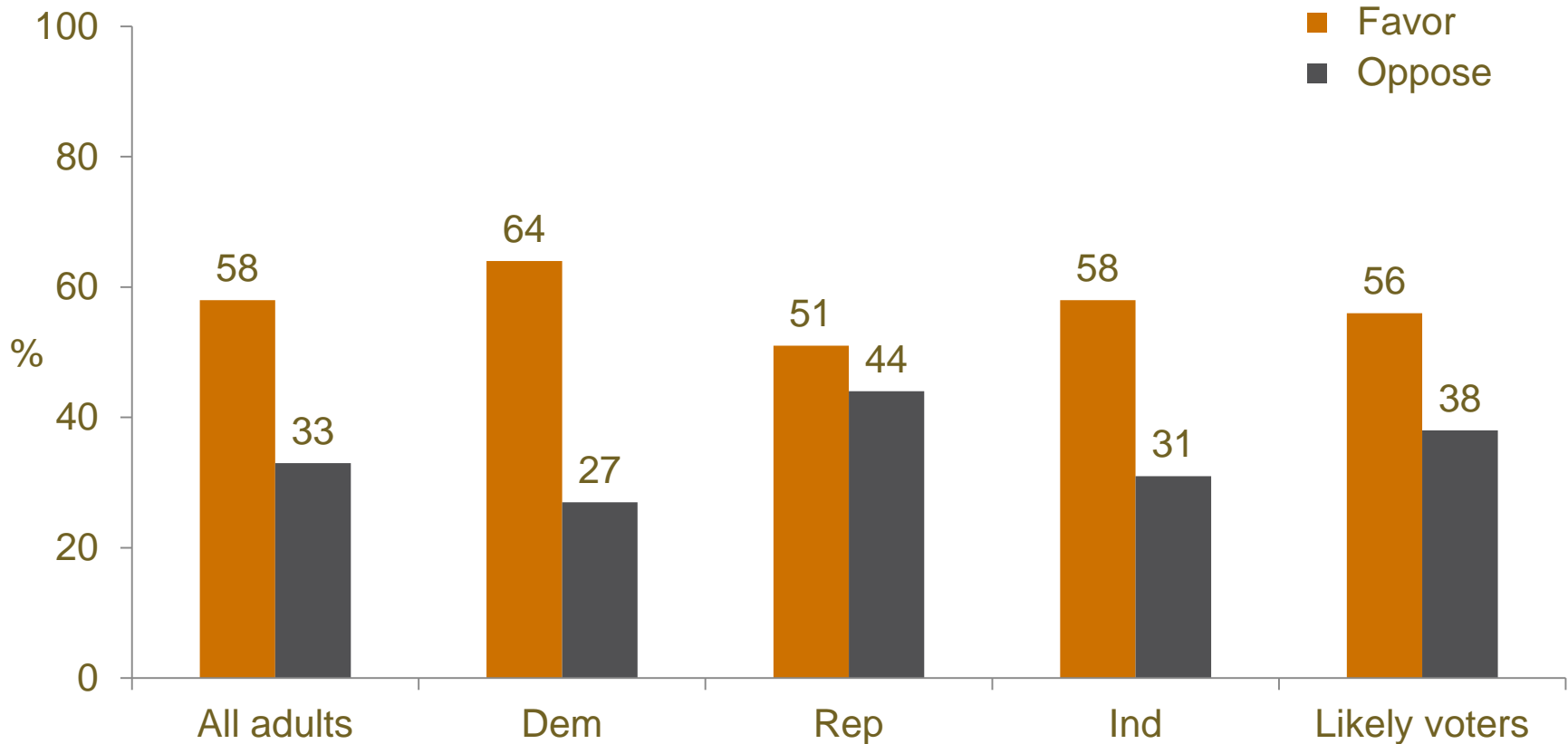
# Extra funding for districts with more disadvantaged students

Governor Brown proposes giving each K–12 public school district more funding than they received in 2011–12 and providing additional funding to school districts that have more English language learners and lower-income students. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?



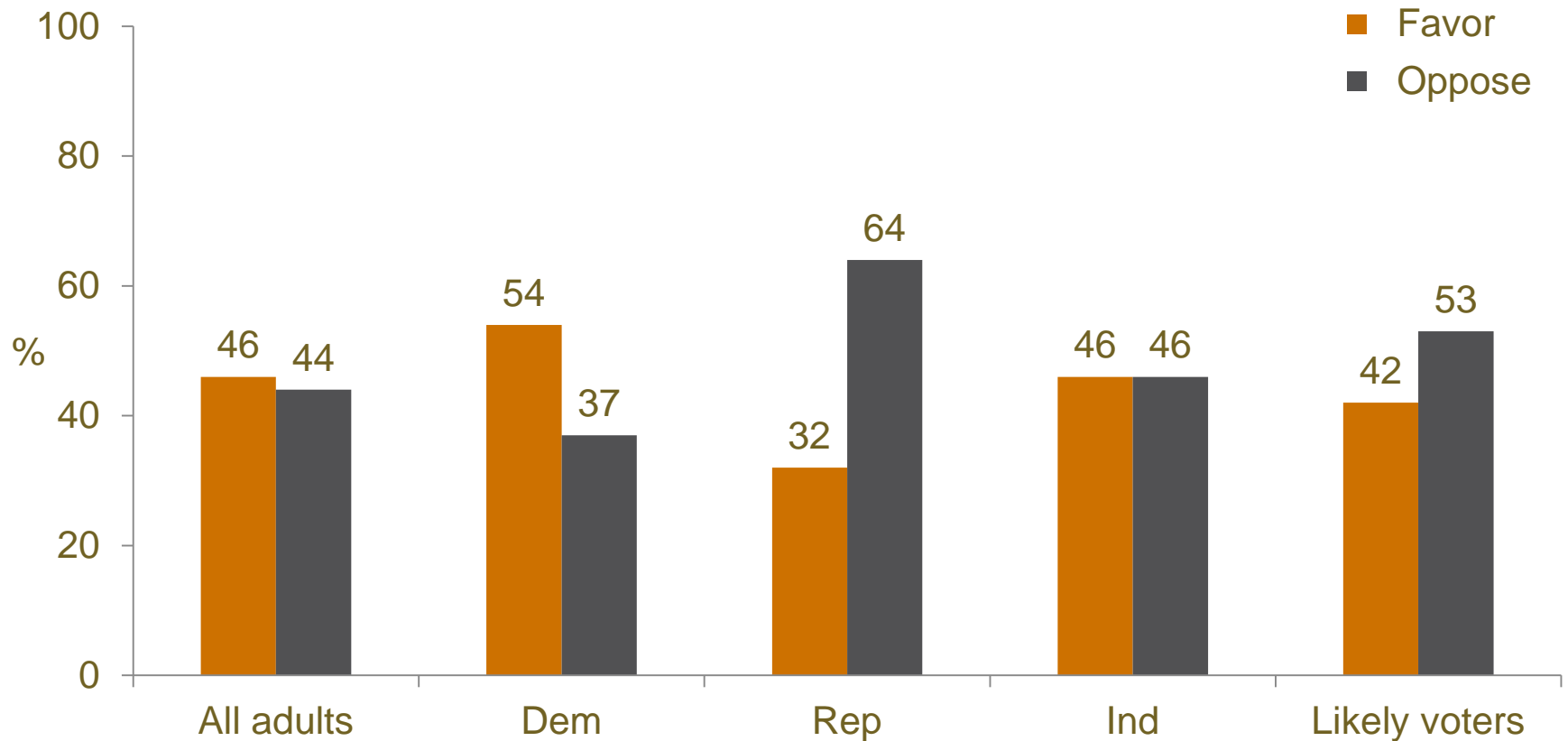
# Split-roll property tax

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?



# Lowering the vote threshold to pass local special taxes

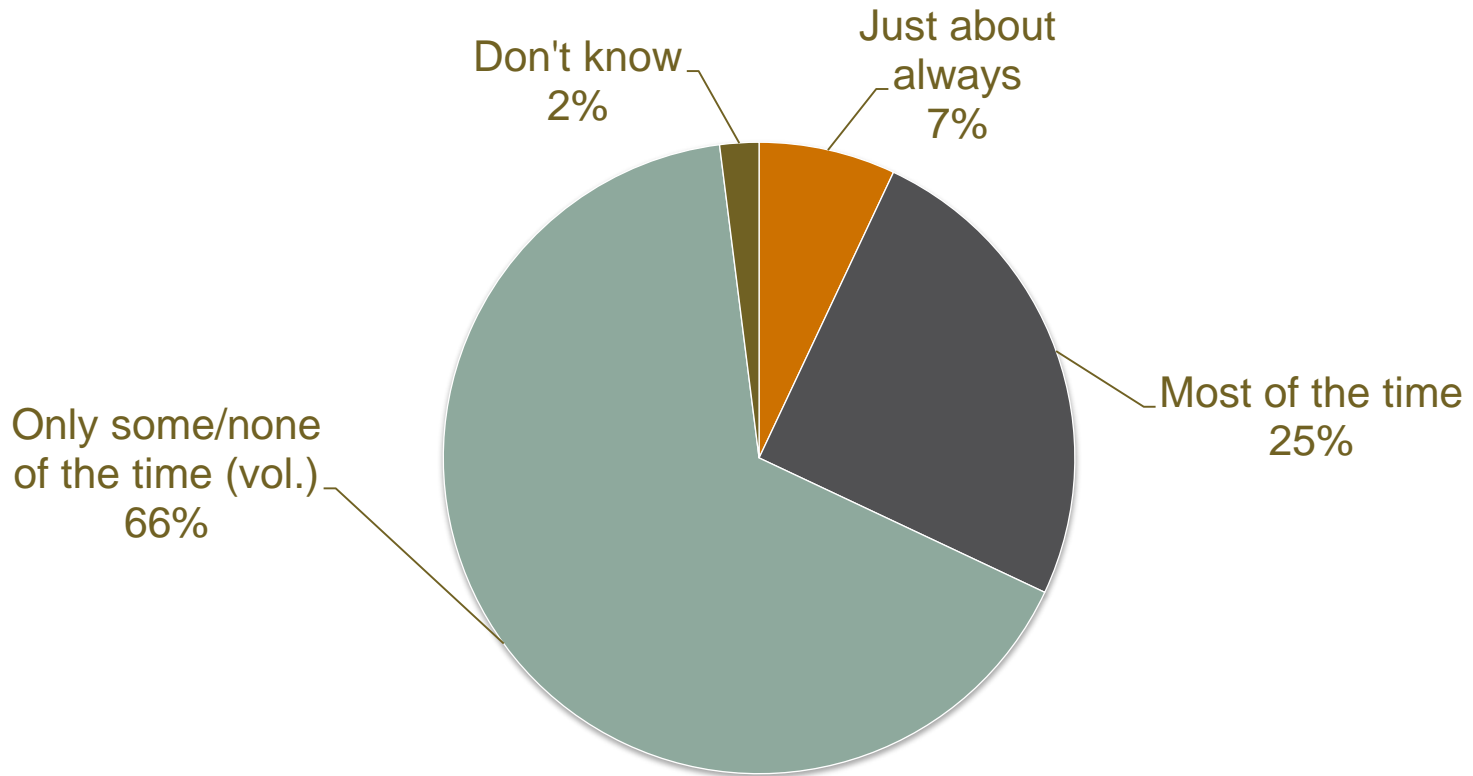
Under Proposition 13, a two-thirds vote at the ballot box is required to pass any new local special tax. Would you favor or oppose replacing the two-thirds vote requirement with a 55 percent majority vote for voters to pass local special taxes?





# Trust in state government

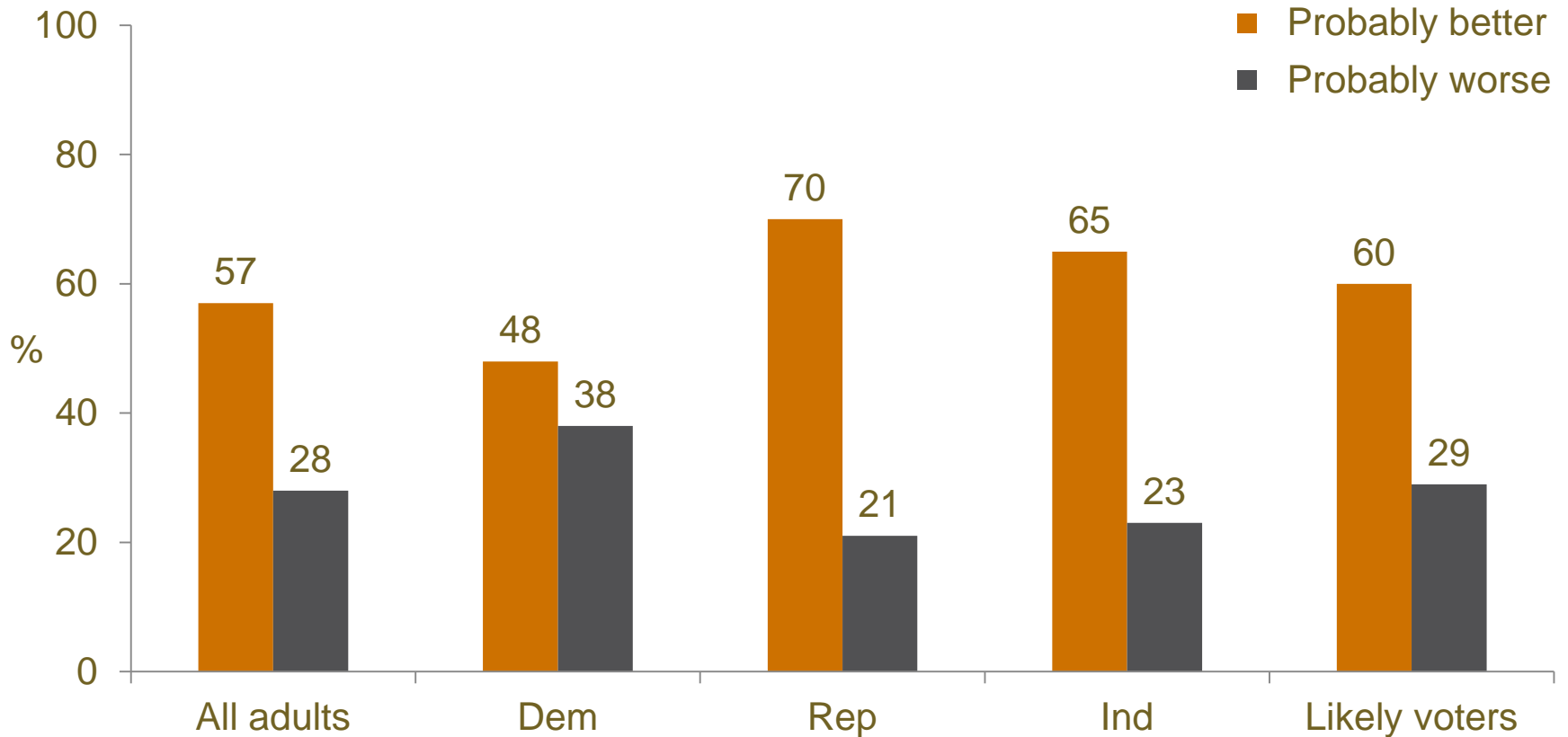
How much of the time do you think you can trust the state government in Sacramento to do what is right—just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?



All adults

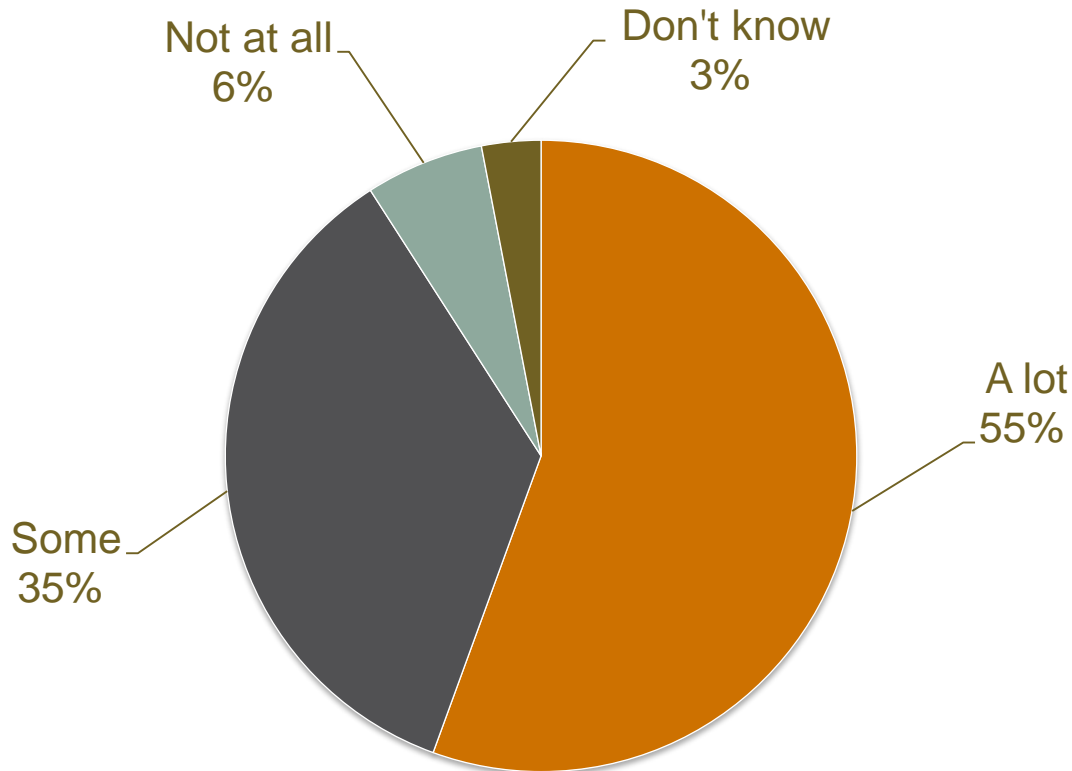
# Do voters make better public policy decisions?

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?



# Special interests and the initiative process

Overall, how much would you say that the initiative process in California today is controlled by special interests—a lot, some, or not at all?



All adults

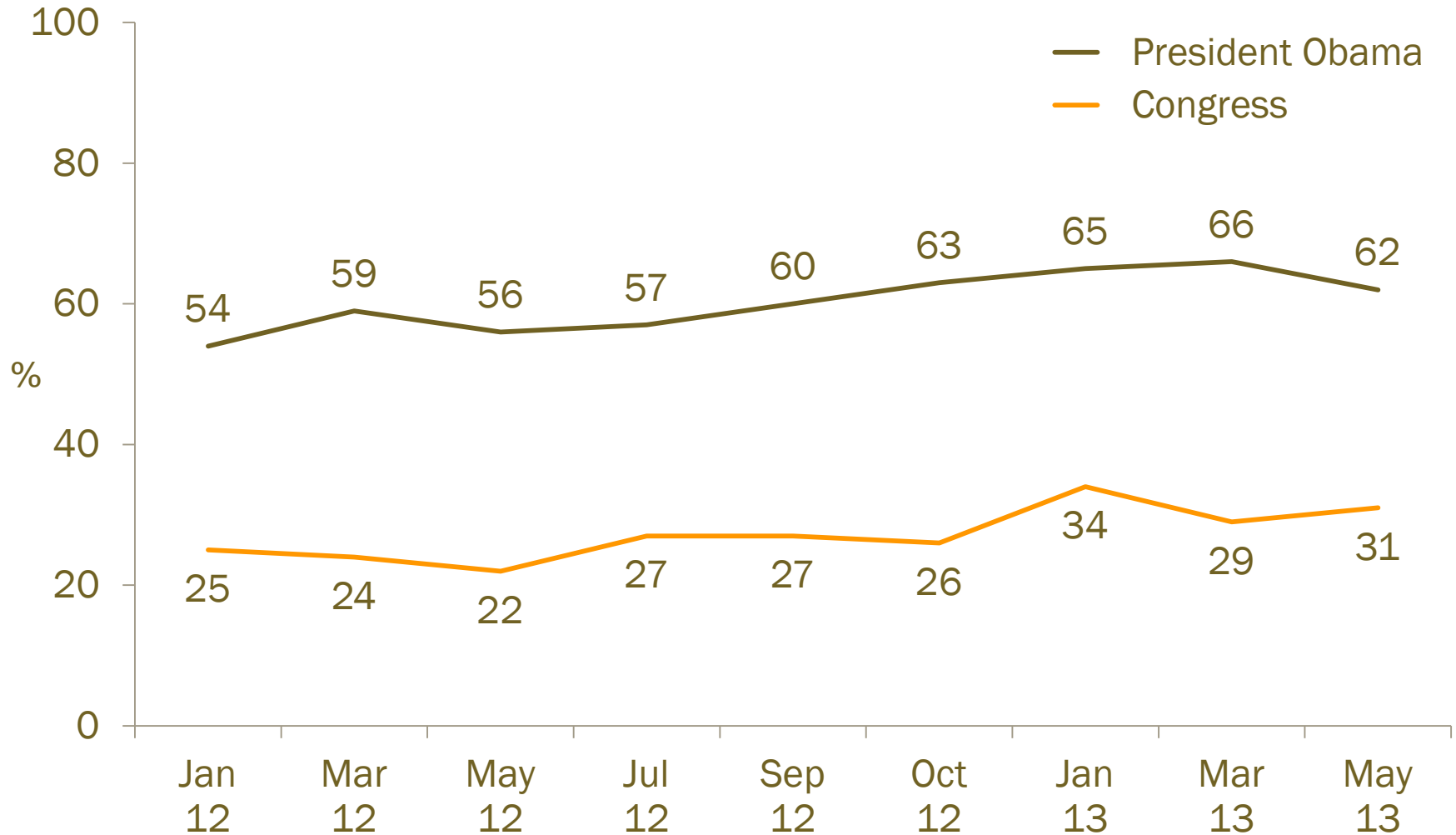
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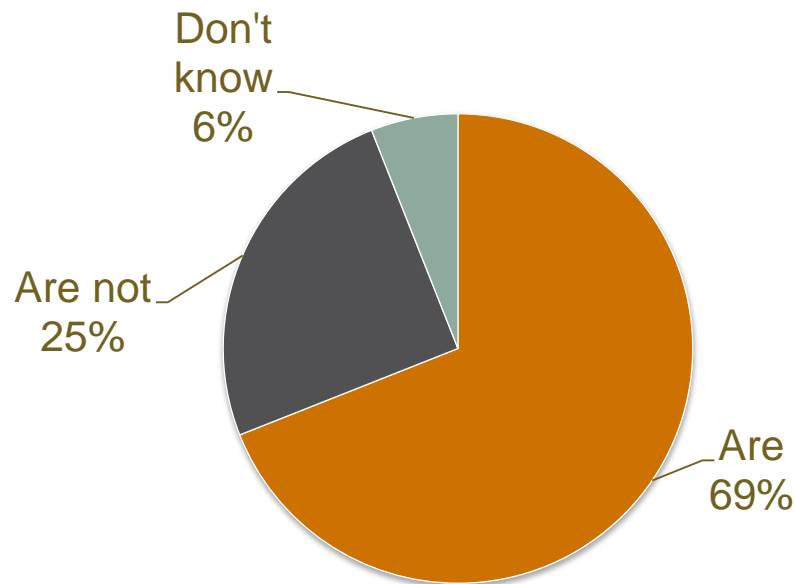
# Approval ratings of federal elected officials



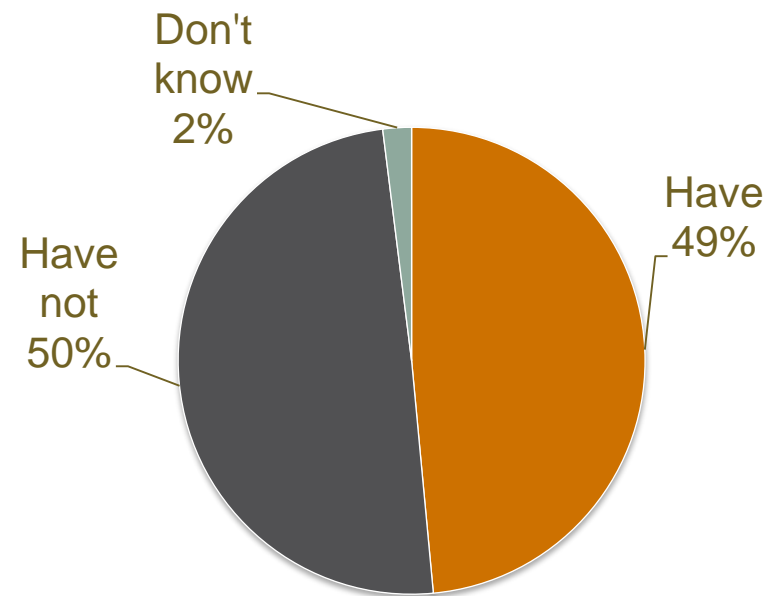
# Effects of sequestration cuts

Automatic across-the-board cuts in federal spending have begun to take effect because President Obama and the Republicans in Congress were unable to reach a budget agreement earlier this year.

Do you think these budget cuts are or are not hurting the economy?



Have you personally felt any negative impact of these budget cuts, or not?

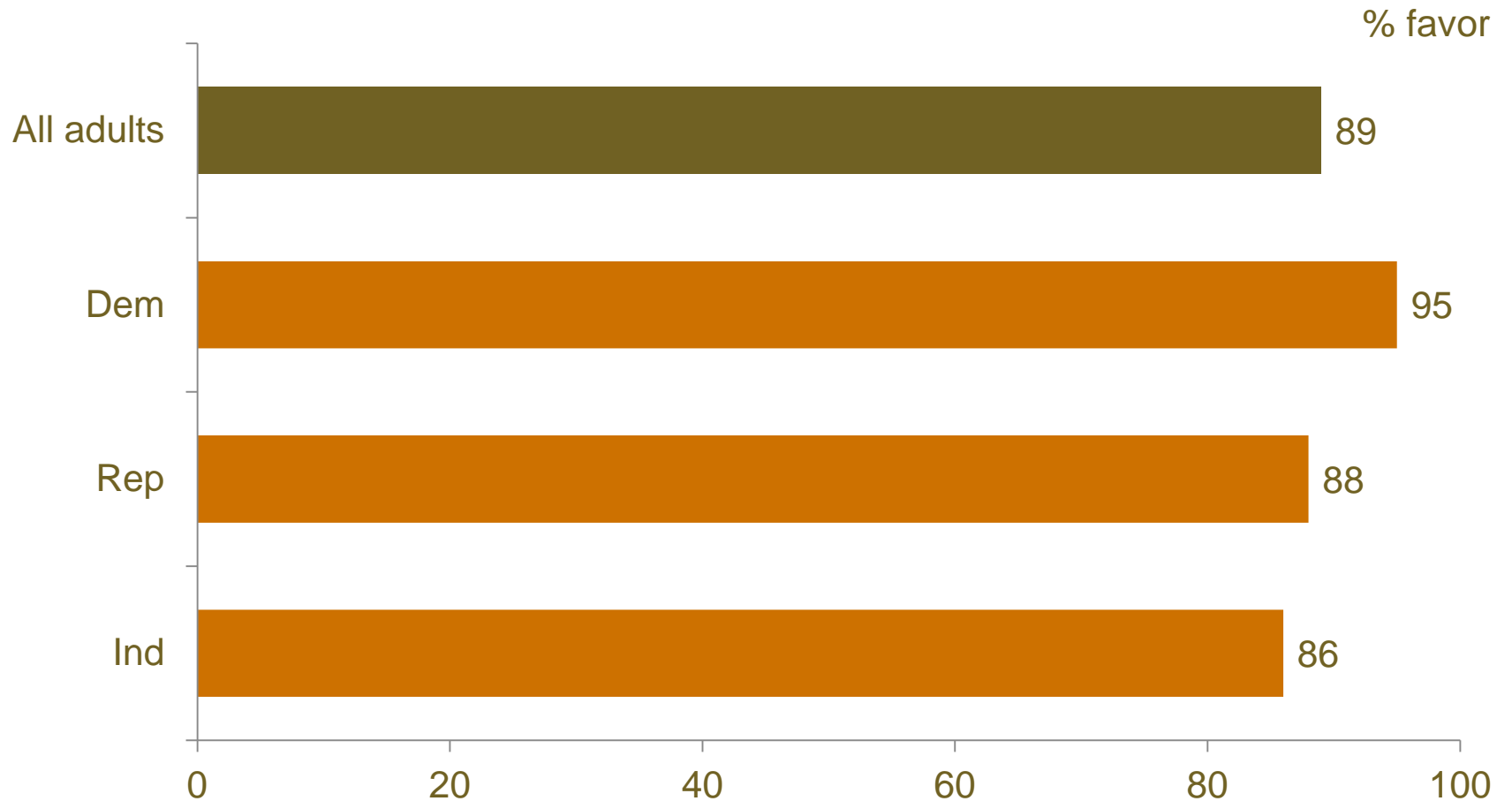


All adults



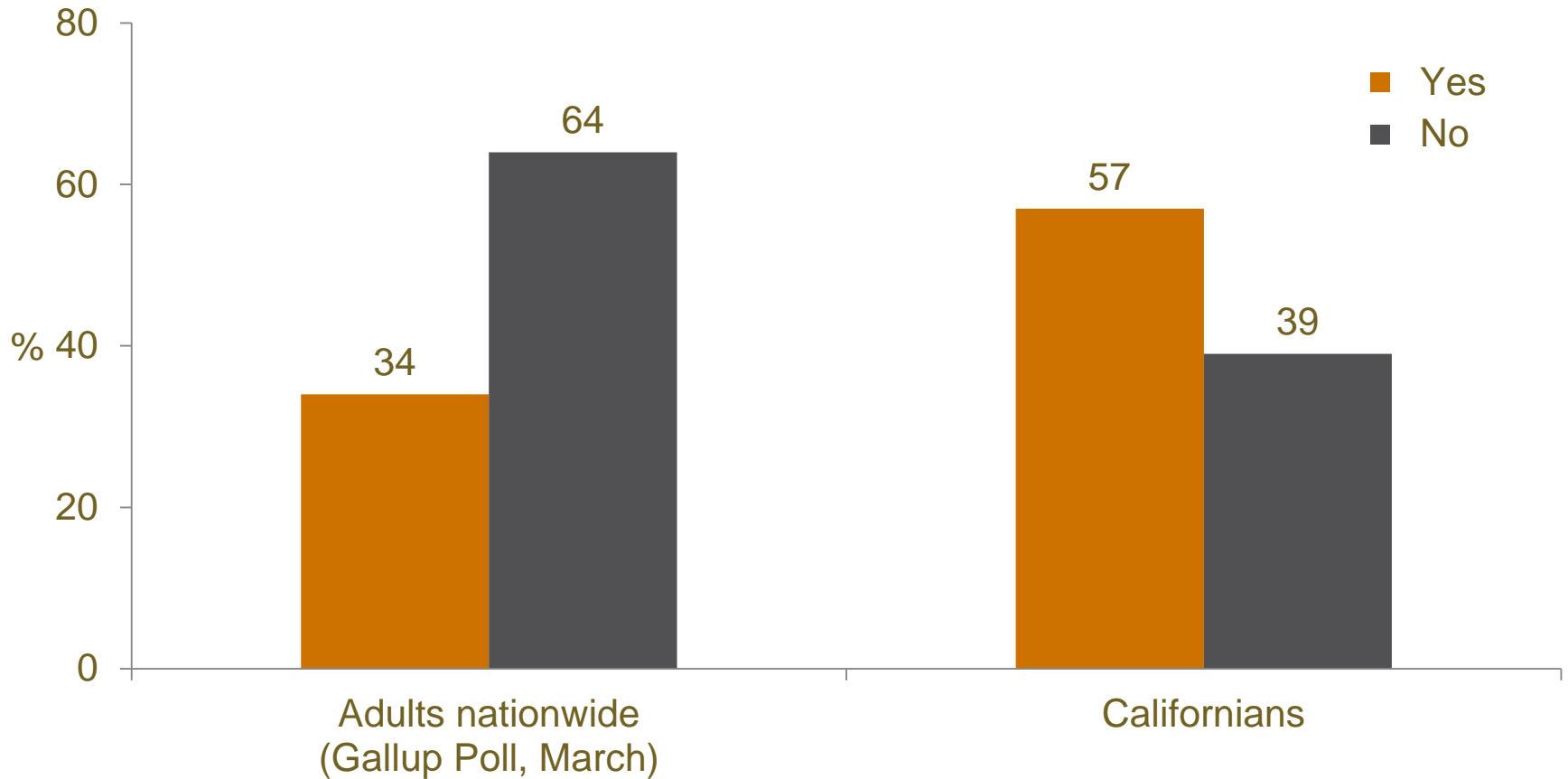
# Gun regulation: background checks

Do you favor or oppose a federal law requiring background checks on all potential gun buyers?



# Threat of global warming

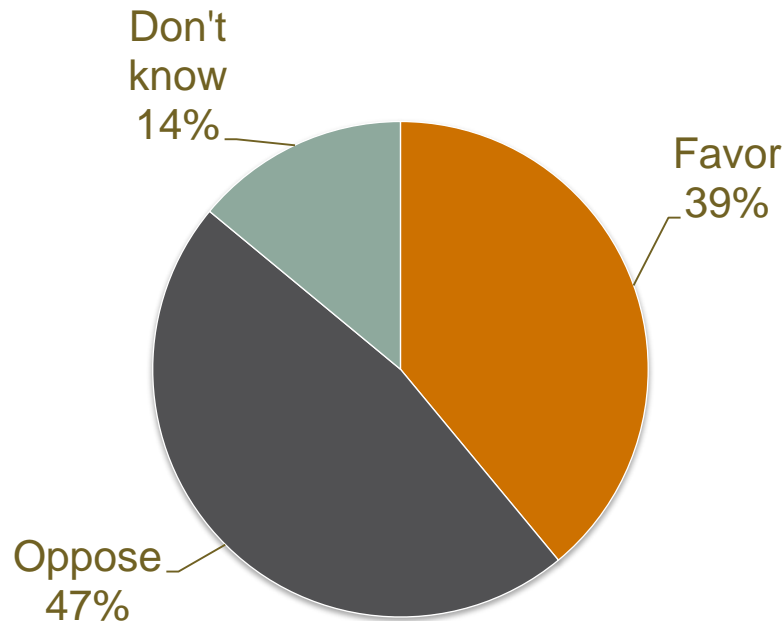
Do you think that global warming will pose a serious threat to you or your way of life in your lifetime?



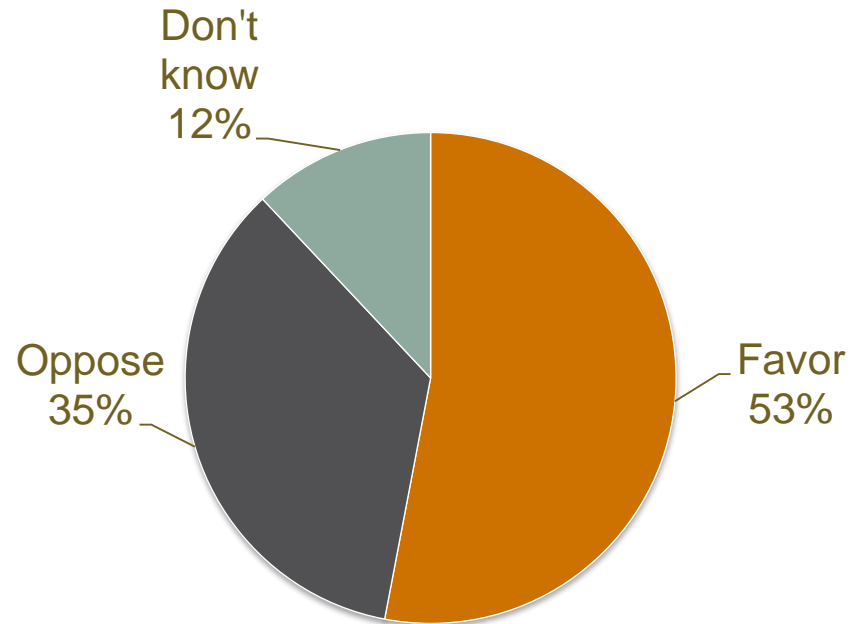


# Energy policies

Do you favor or oppose increased use of fracking, a drilling method that uses high-pressure water and chemicals to extract oil and natural gas from underground rock formations?



Do you favor or oppose building the Keystone XL pipeline that would transport oil from Canada's oil sands region through the Midwest to refineries in Texas?

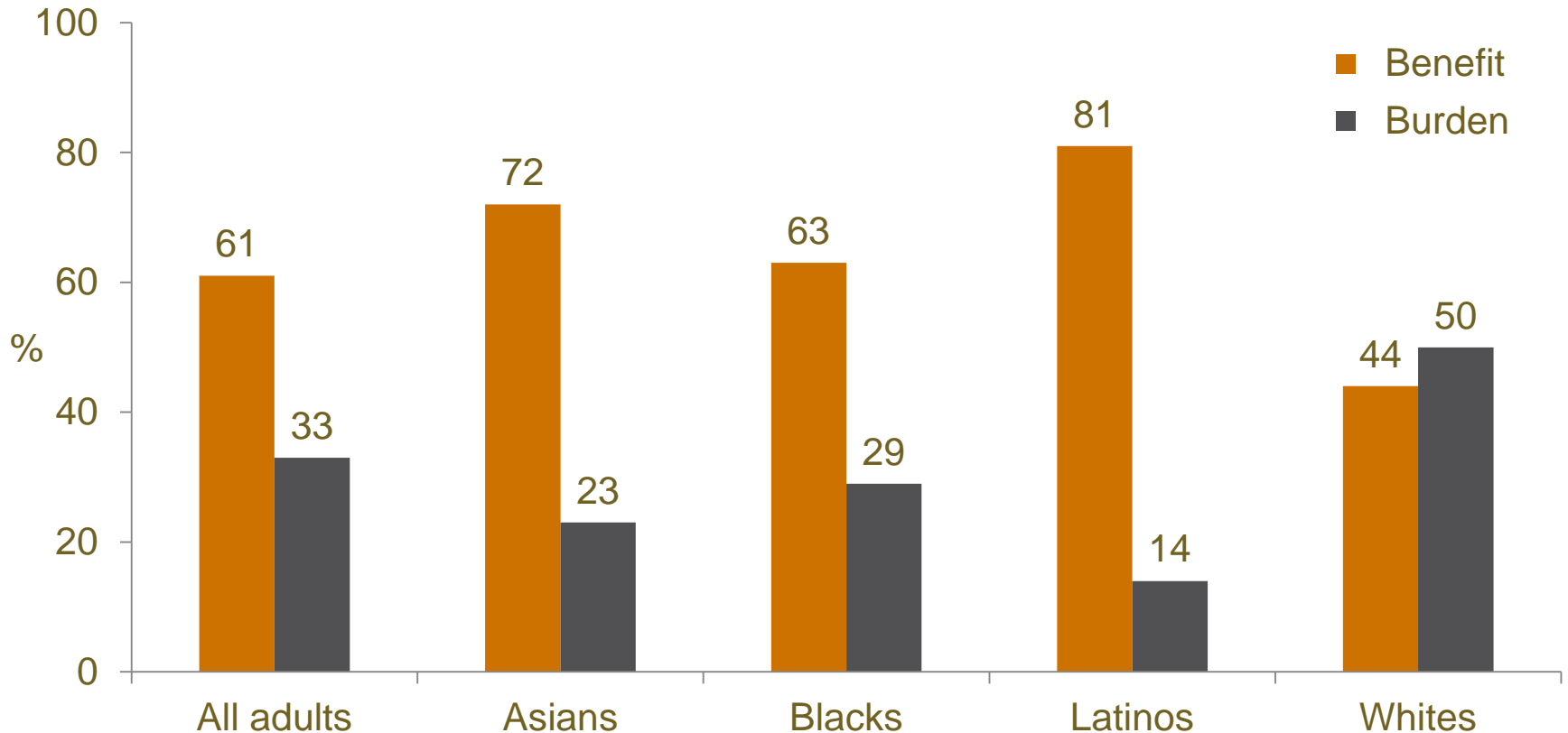


All adults



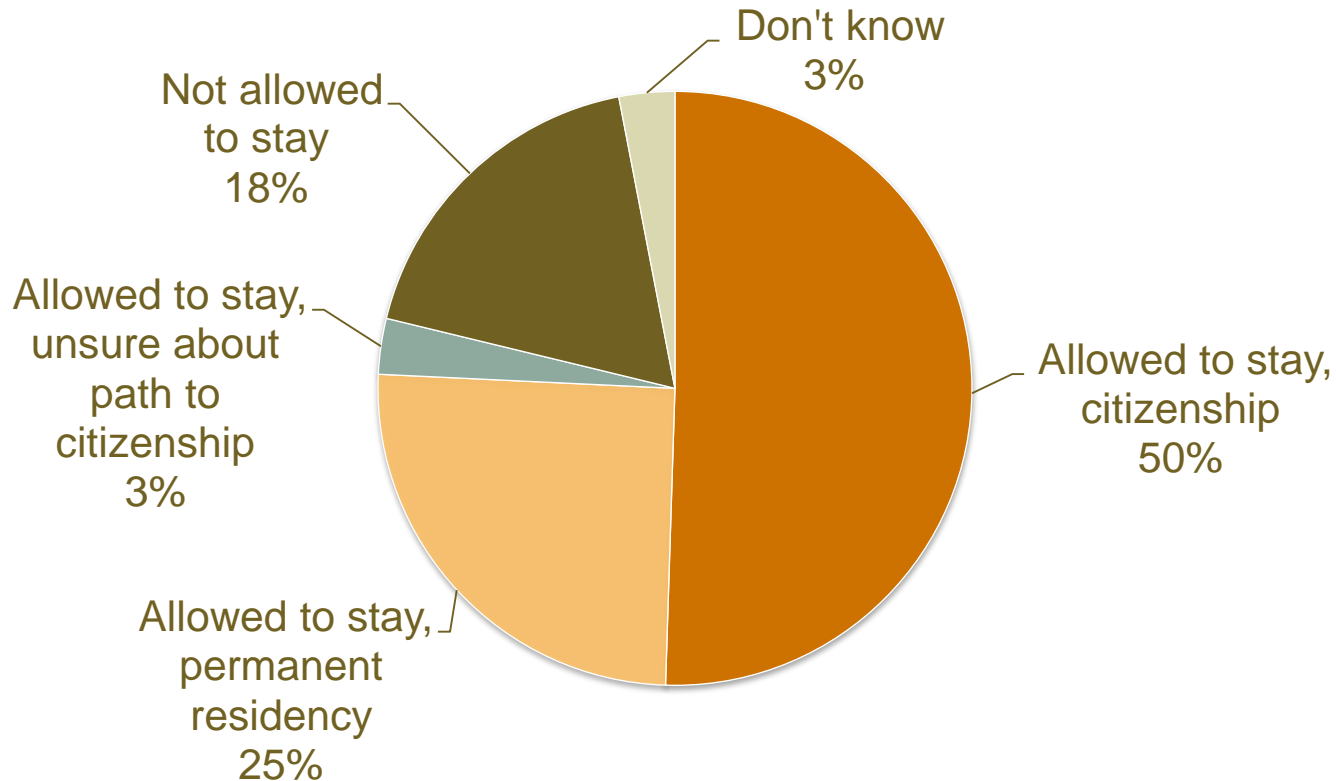
# Immigrants in California

Please indicate which statement comes closest to your own view—even if neither is exactly right. Immigrants today are a benefit to California because of their hard work and job skills, or immigrants today are a burden to California because they use public services.



# Immigration reform

How to handle immigrants who are now living in the U.S. illegally? They should not be allowed to stay in the country legally or there should be a way for those who meet certain requirements to stay in the country legally. *[if allowed to stay]* ... should be able to apply for U.S. citizenship or should be able to apply for permanent residency, but not U.S. citizenship.

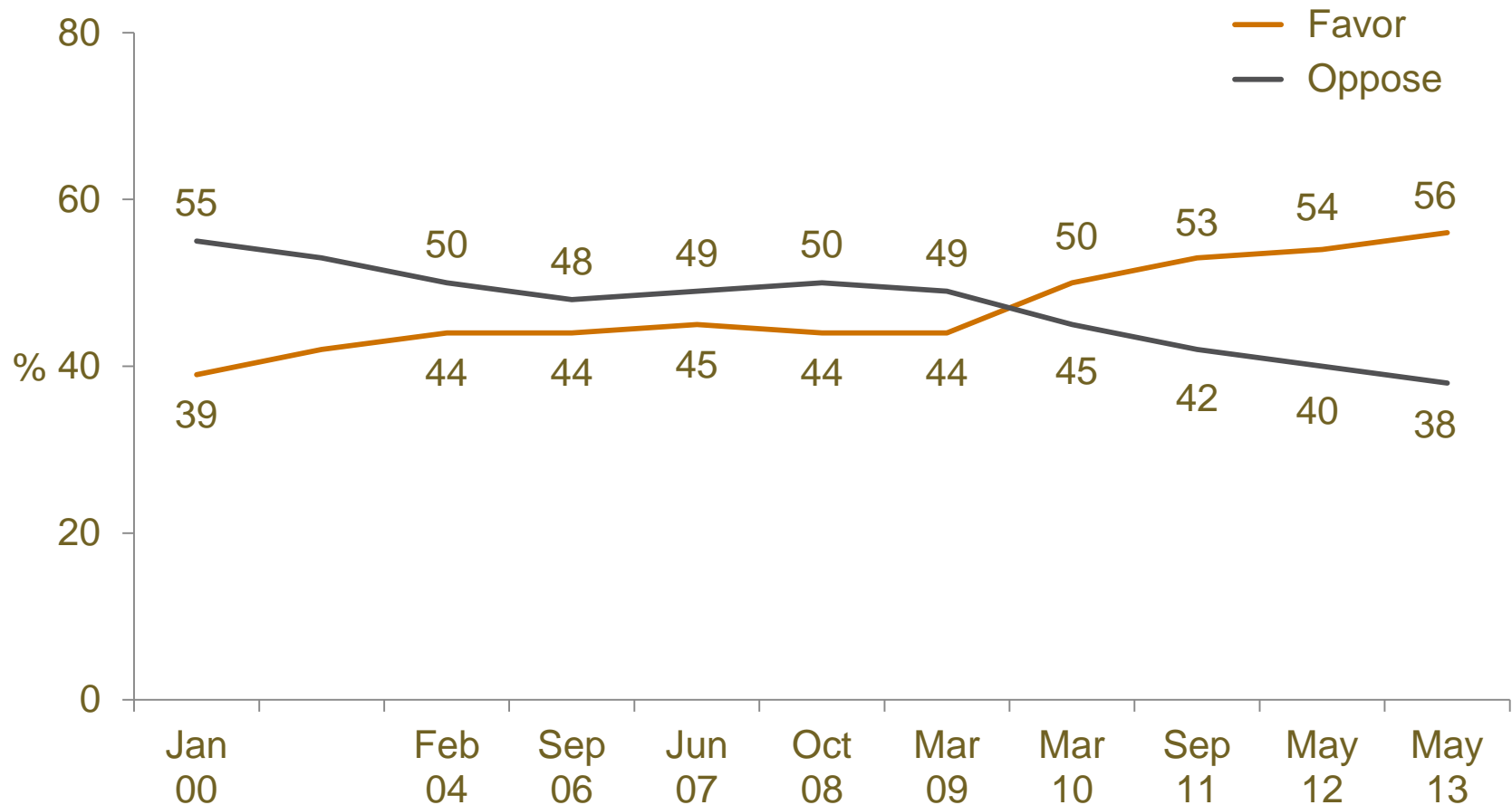


All adults



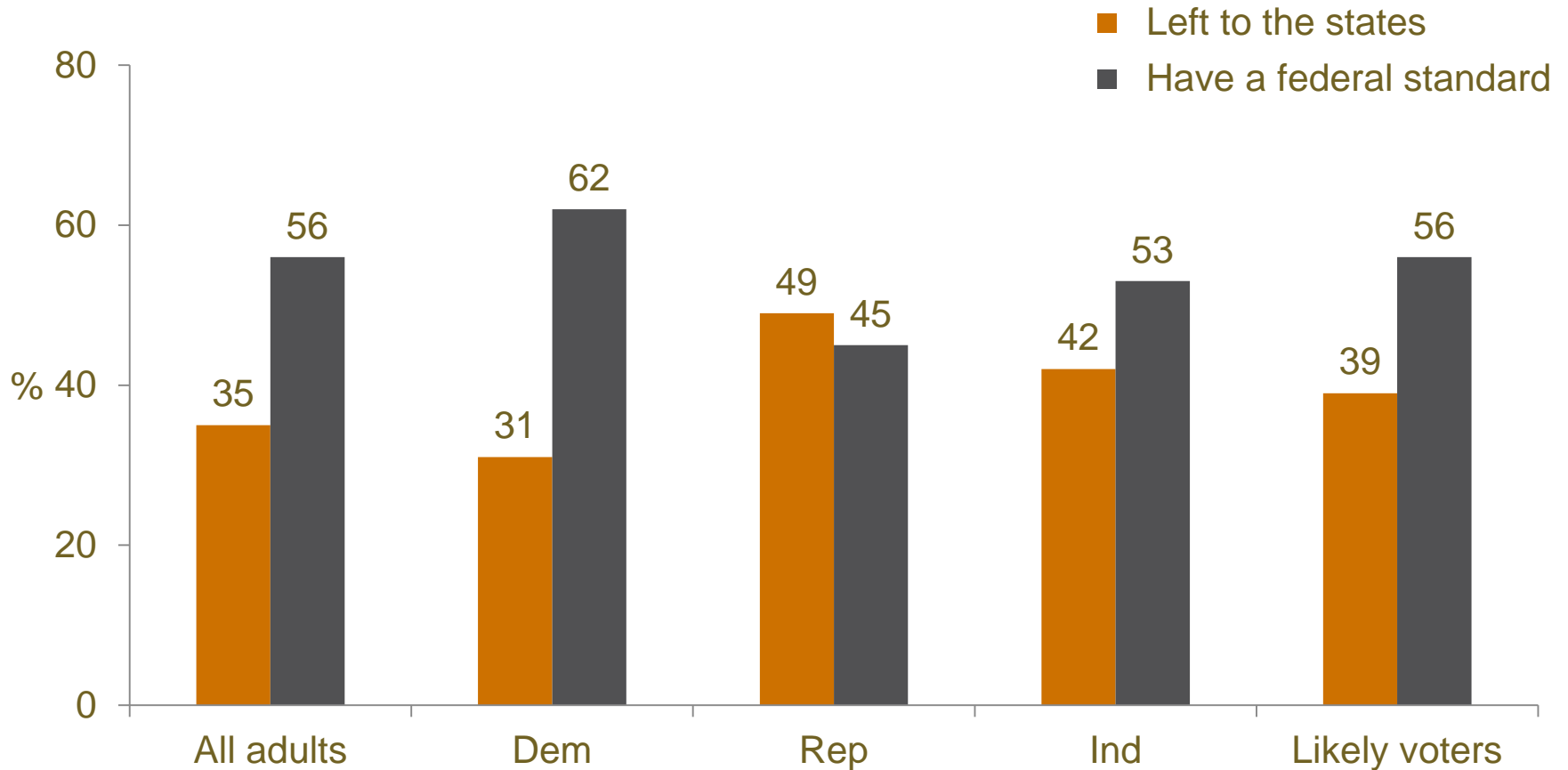
# Same-sex marriage

Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to be legally married?



# State or federal decision on same-sex marriage?

Should the question of allowing same-sex marriages be left to the states, or should there be a federal standard defining marriage across the country?



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# Conclusions

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- Majorities favor Governor Brown's revised budget proposal, including his K–12 funding plan
- Majorities support a split-roll property tax; fewer support lowering the vote threshold to pass local special taxes
- Californians are more likely than adults nationwide to say global warming will be a threat to their way of life
- Most Californians favor allowing immigrants living in the U.S. illegally to stay; half say these immigrants should be allowed to apply for citizenship.
- Support for same-sex marriage is at a new high



# Notes on the use of these slides

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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](mailto:surveys@ppic.org)

Thank you for your interest in this work.





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