

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

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September 2011



Outline

- **PPIC Statewide Surveys**
- **State Issues**
- **National Issues**
- **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
 - 254,000+ Californians since 1998
 - 100+ general, issue, and regional surveys



Californians and Their Government

- General series funded by The Irvine Foundation
- State issues
 - Overall mood; economy; approval ratings
 - State and local relationship; initiative process
- National Issues
 - Overall mood; approval ratings
 - U.S. economic policy; federal budget deficit
- Telephone interviews, September 6–13
 - 2,002 adults / 958 likely voters
 - *± 3.6% margin of error for adults*
 - *± 4.2% for likely voters*



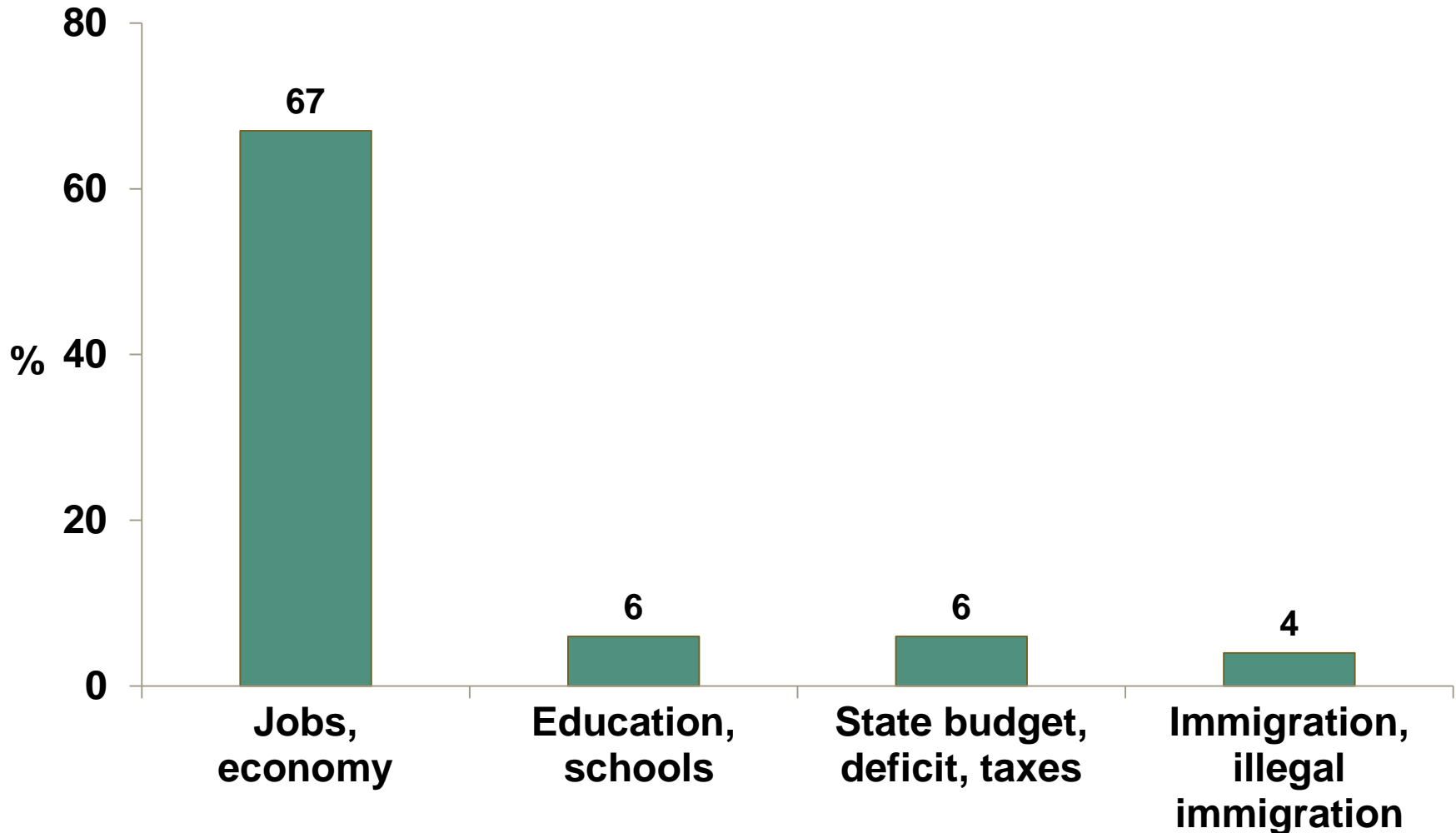
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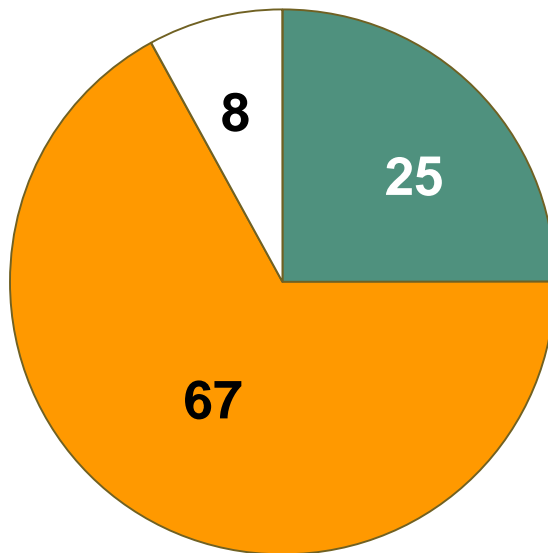
Most Important Issue

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



Economic Conditions

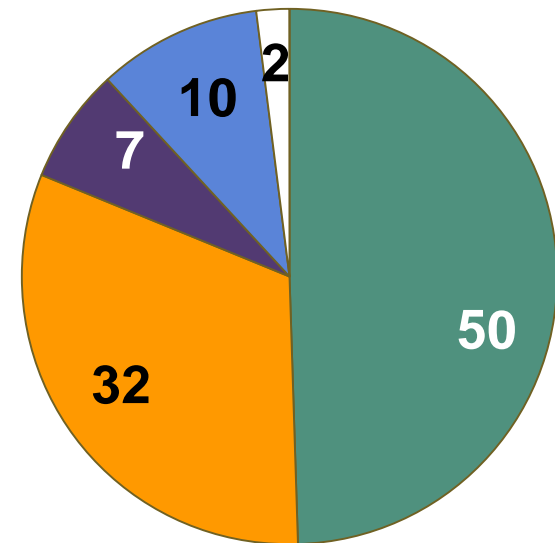
Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?



- Good times
- Bad times
- Don't know

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

All adults

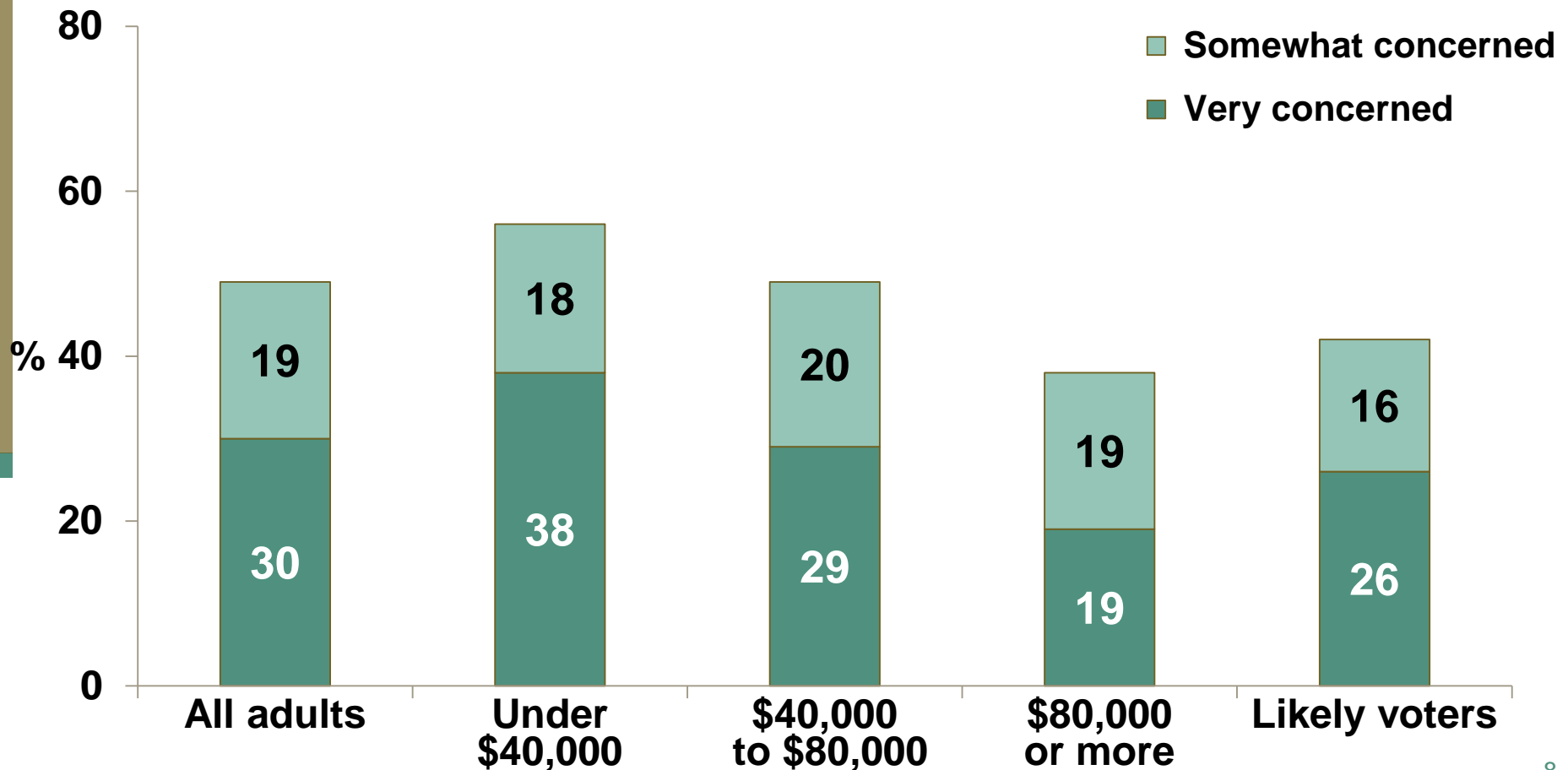


- Serious recession
- Moderate recession
- Mild recession
- Not in a recession
- Don't know

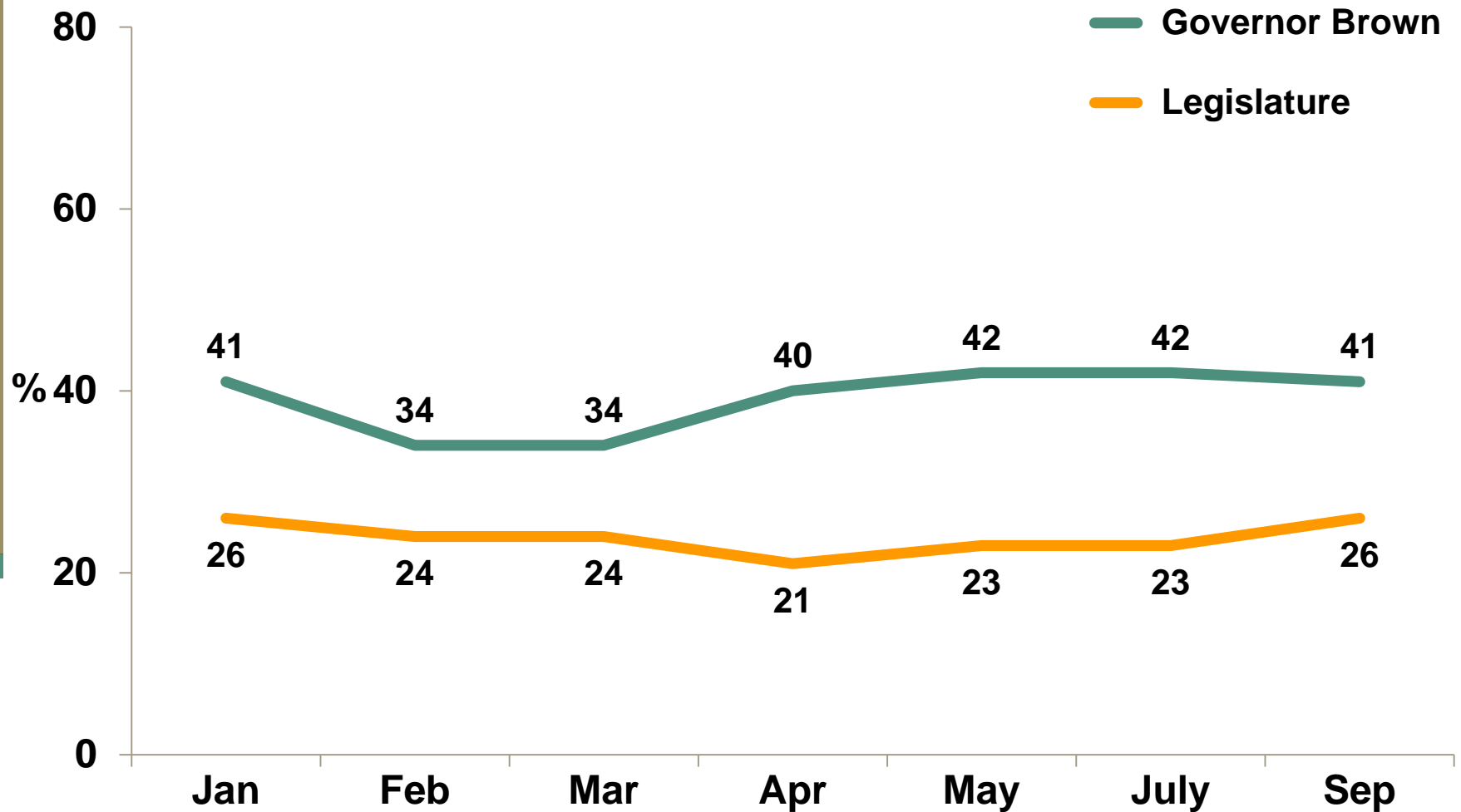


Concern About Job Loss

Are you concerned that you or someone in your family will lose their job in the next year, or not? (if yes: Are you very concerned or somewhat concerned?)

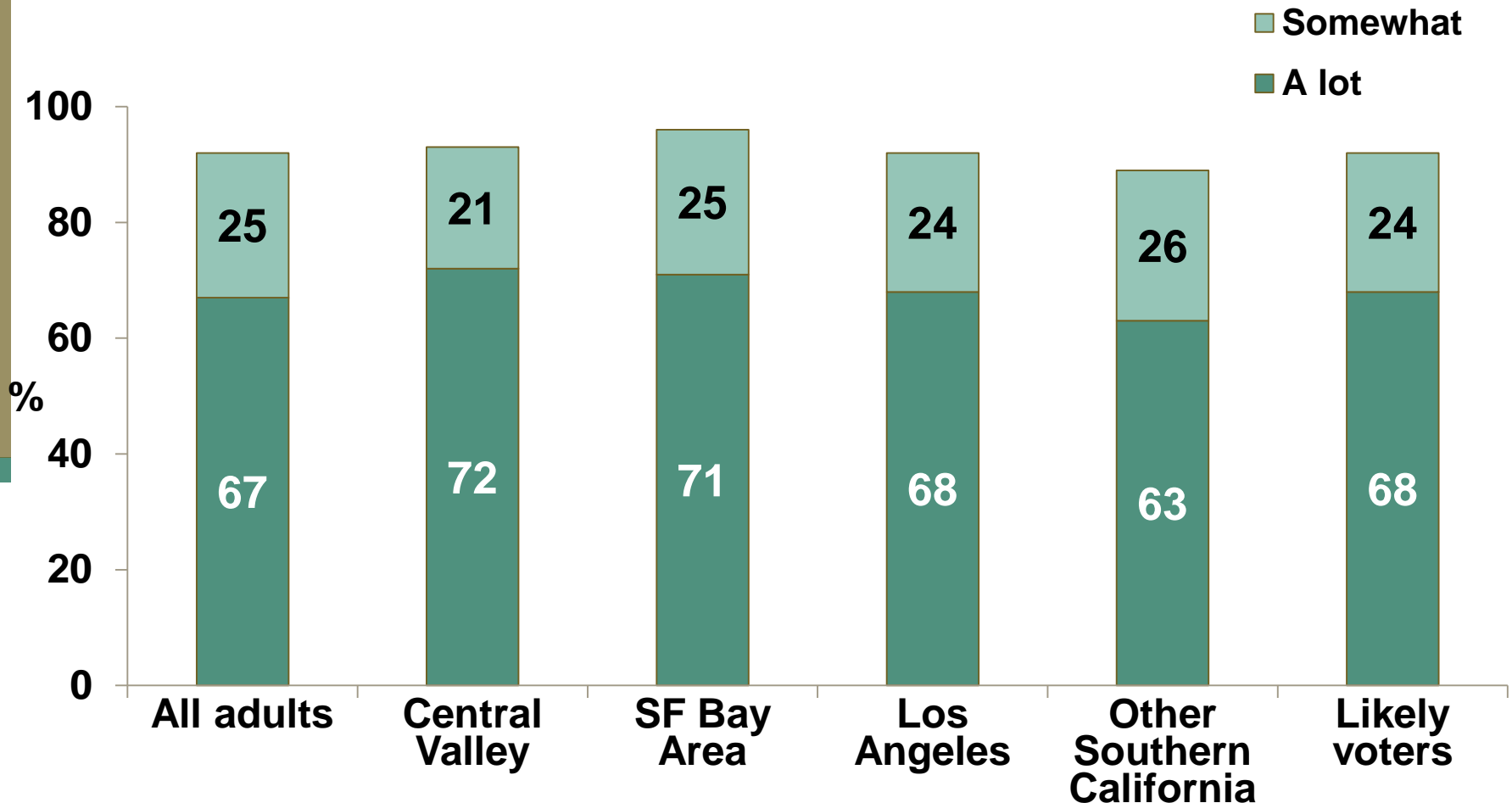


Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials



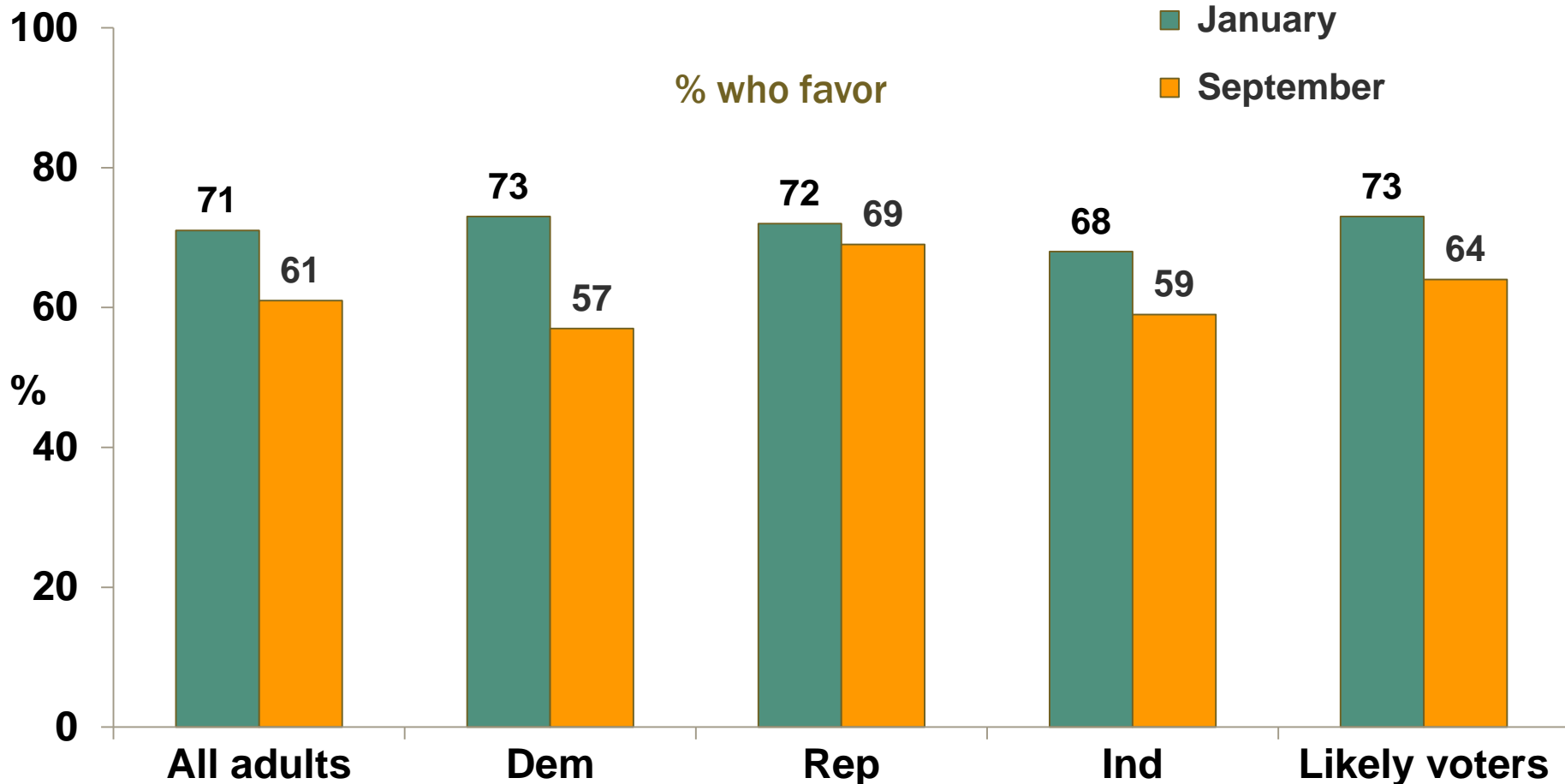
Local Government Services

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, ask: “Have they been affected a lot or somewhat?”)

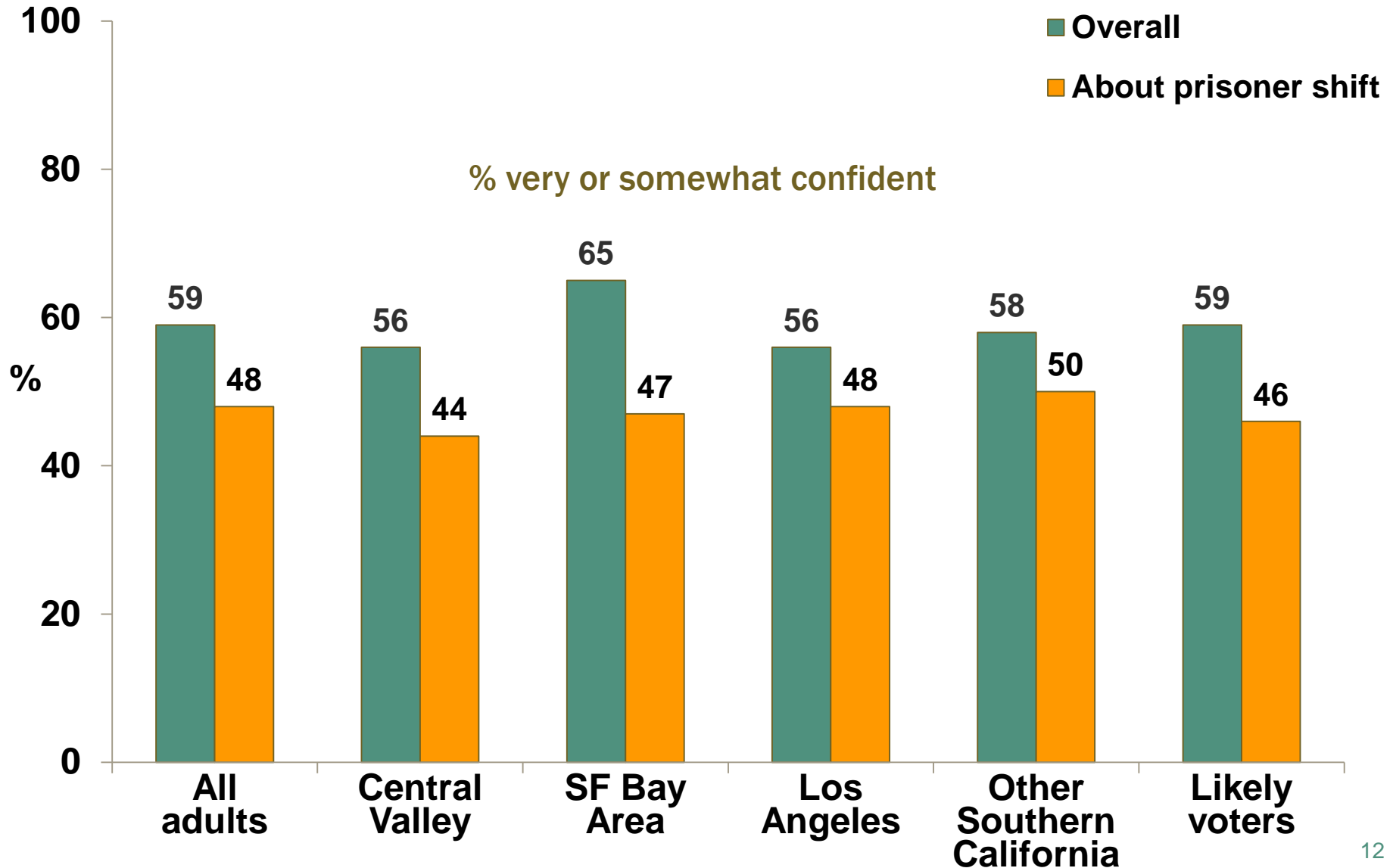


State and Local Realignment

Would you favor or oppose a shift of some tax dollars and fees from the state government to local governments, in order for local governments to take on the responsibility of running certain programs currently run by the state?

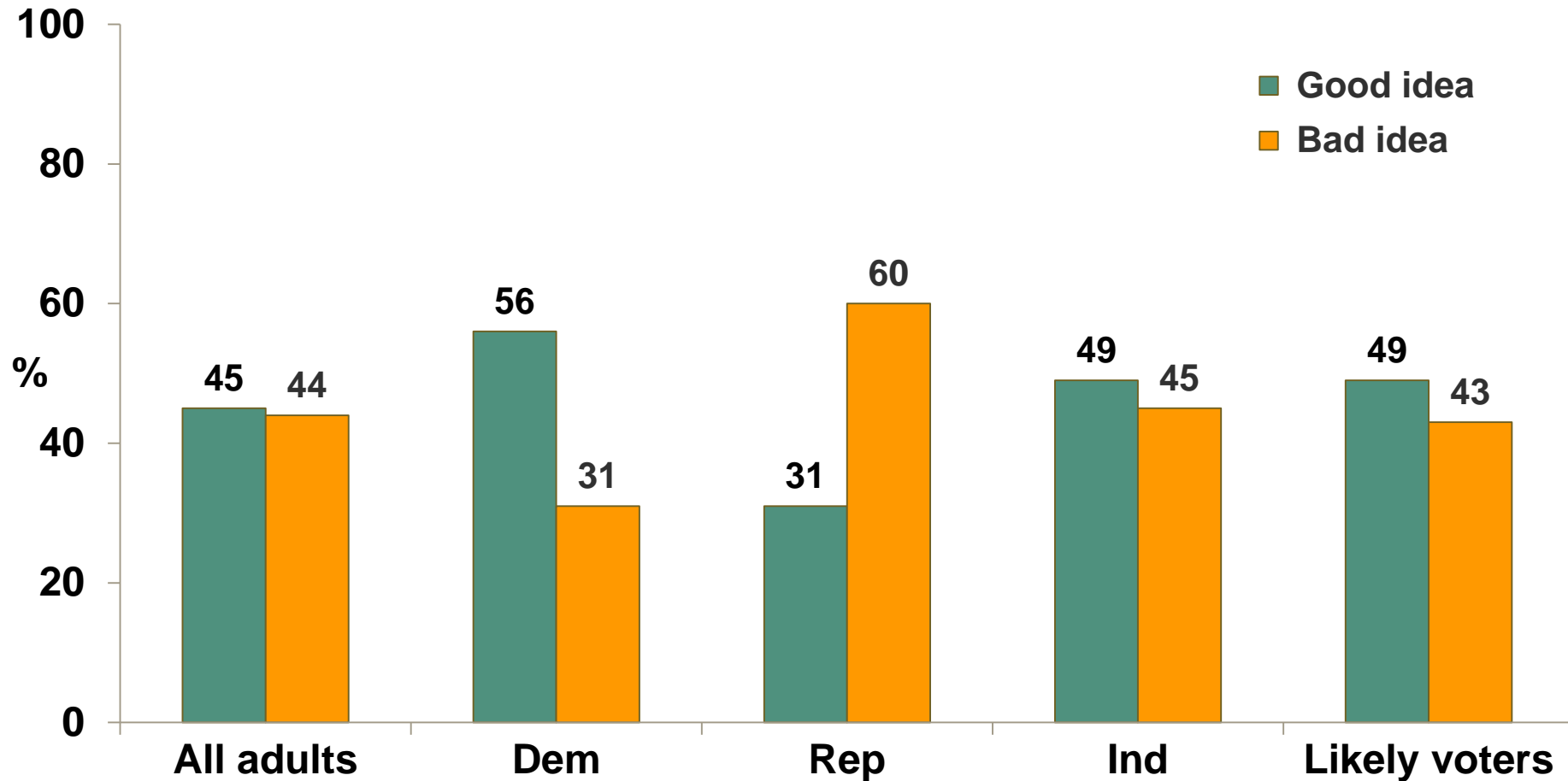


Realignment and Confidence in Local Government



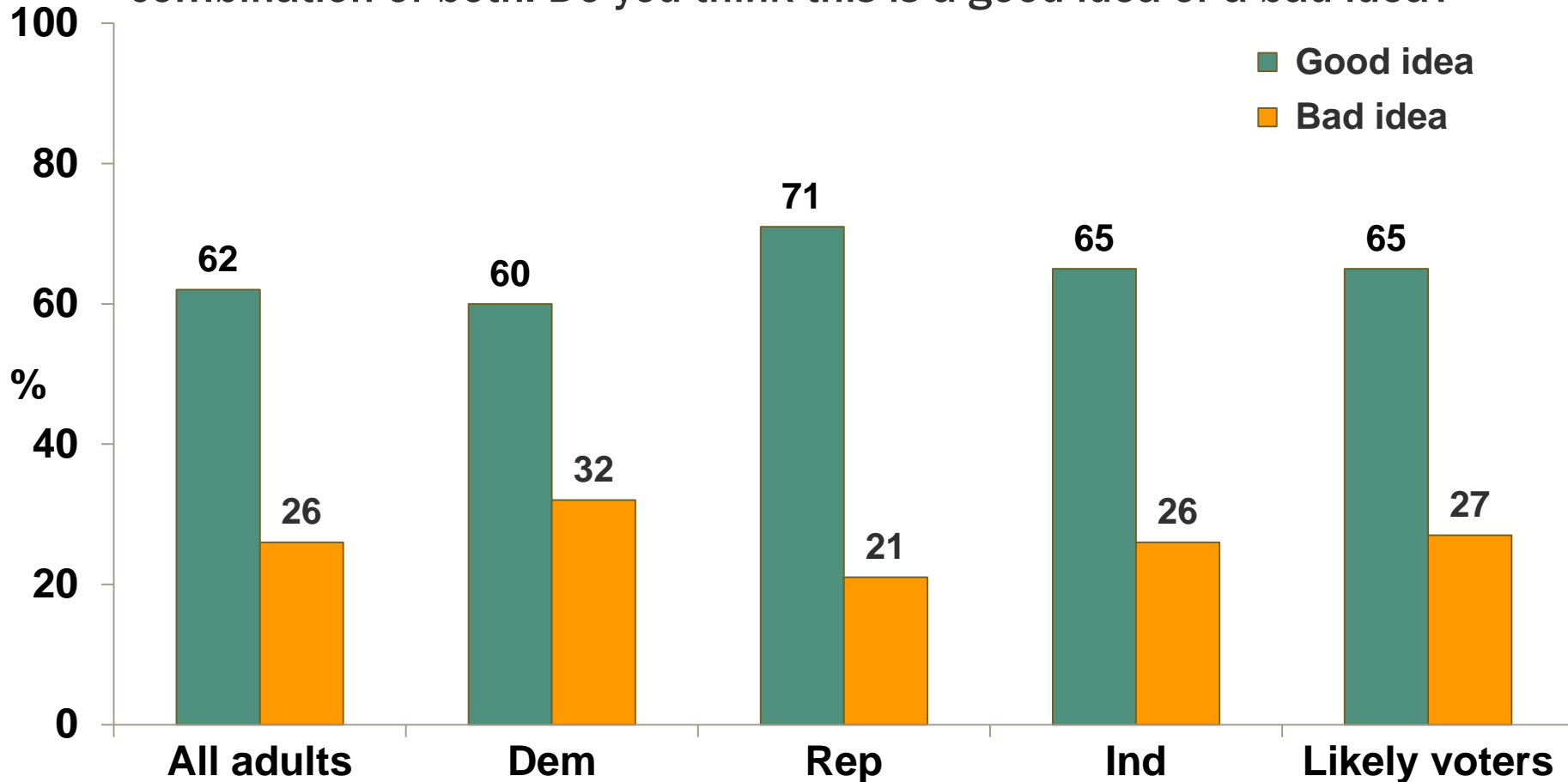
Budget Reform

Do you think it is a good idea or bad idea to lower the vote requirement to pass a state budget and state taxes from a two-thirds vote to a simple majority or 50 percent plus one vote?



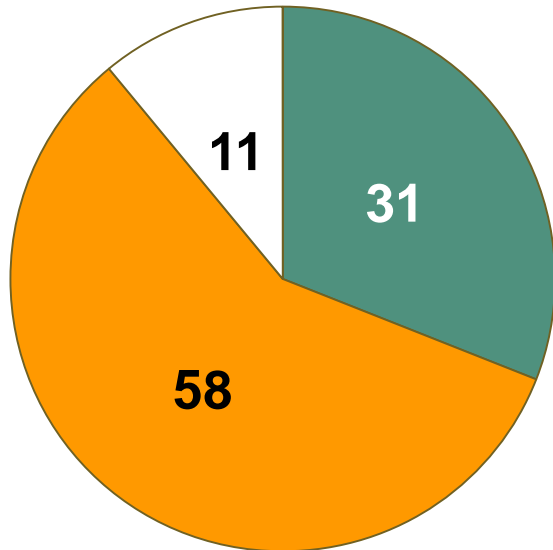
Term Limits Reform

Some people have proposed reducing the total amount of time a person may serve in the state legislature from 14 years to 12 years and allowing a person to serve a total of 12 years either in the assembly, the senate, or a combination of both. Do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?

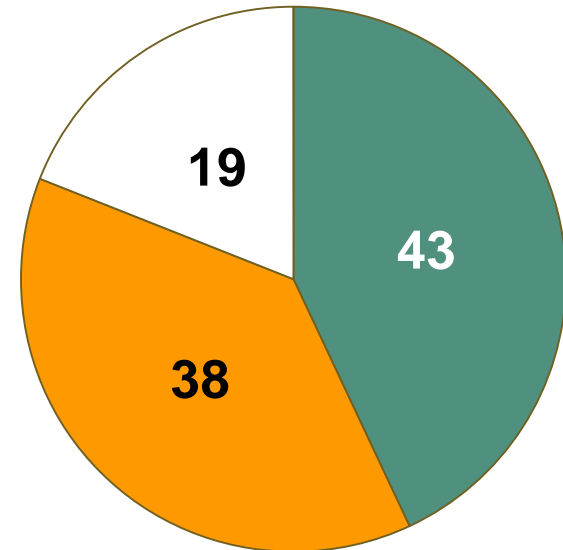


Legislative Reforms

Do you think that having a part-time legislature is a good idea or a bad idea?



Do you think that having a single body of 120-members in the legislature is a good idea or a bad idea?



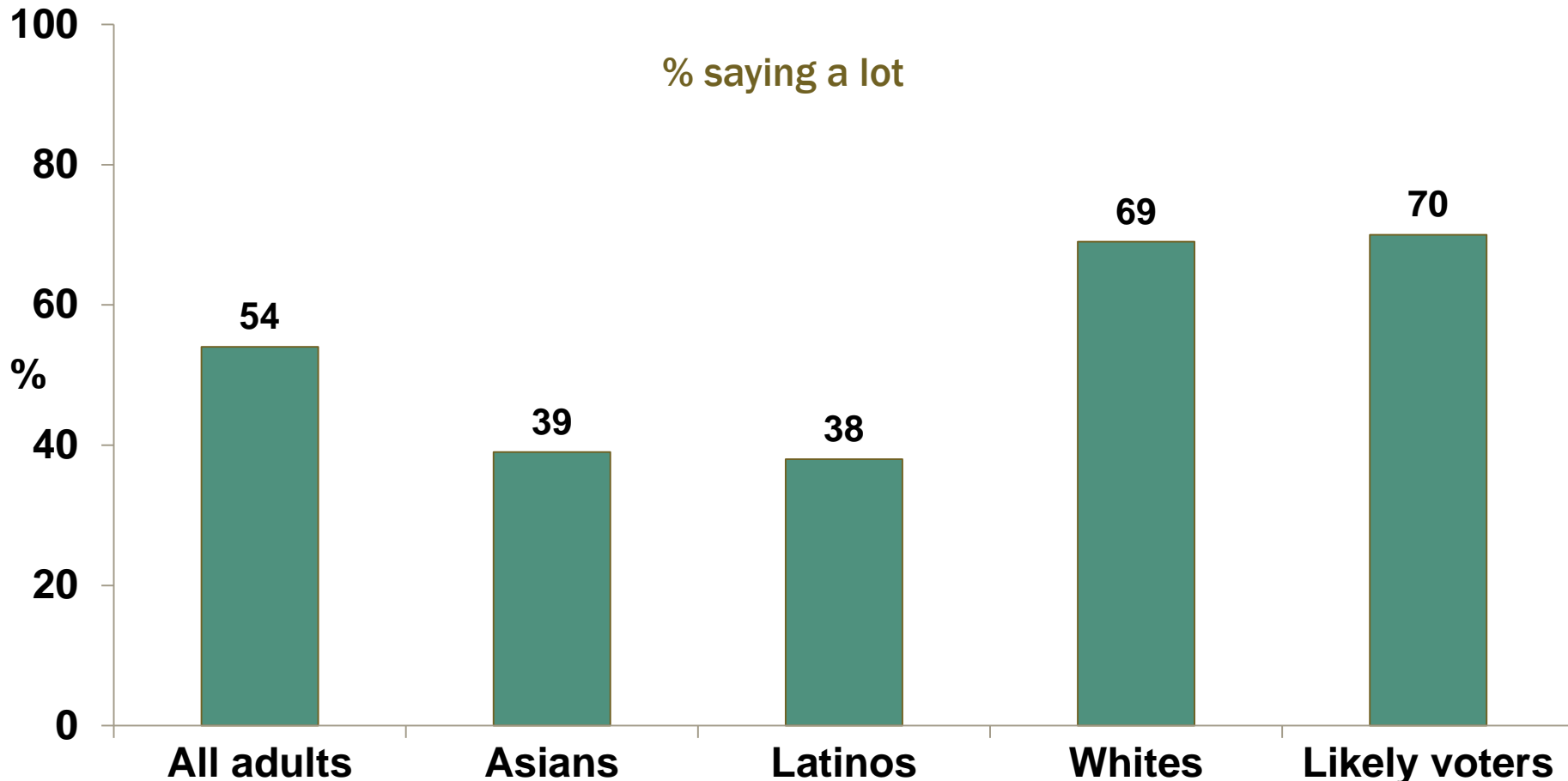
All adults

- Good idea
- Bad idea
- Don't know



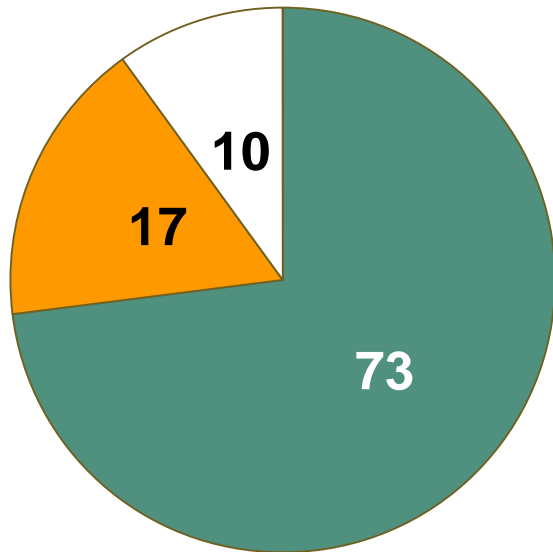
Special Interests and the Initiative Process

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?

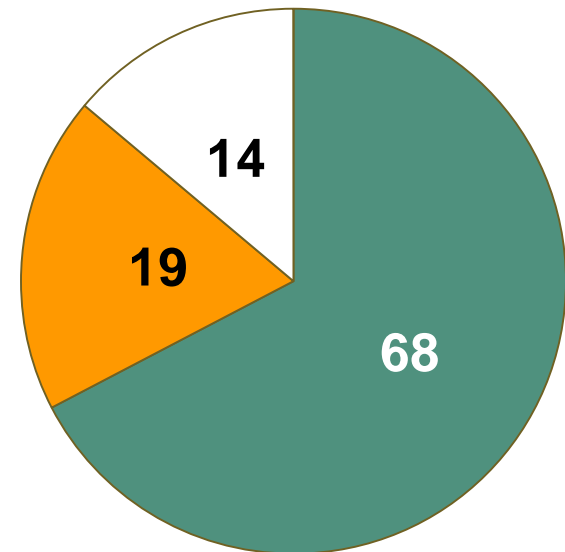


Initiative Reform Proposals

How about requiring initiatives which create new programs or reduce taxes to identify a specific funding source?



How about a system of review and revision of proposed initiatives to try to avoid legal issues and drafting errors?



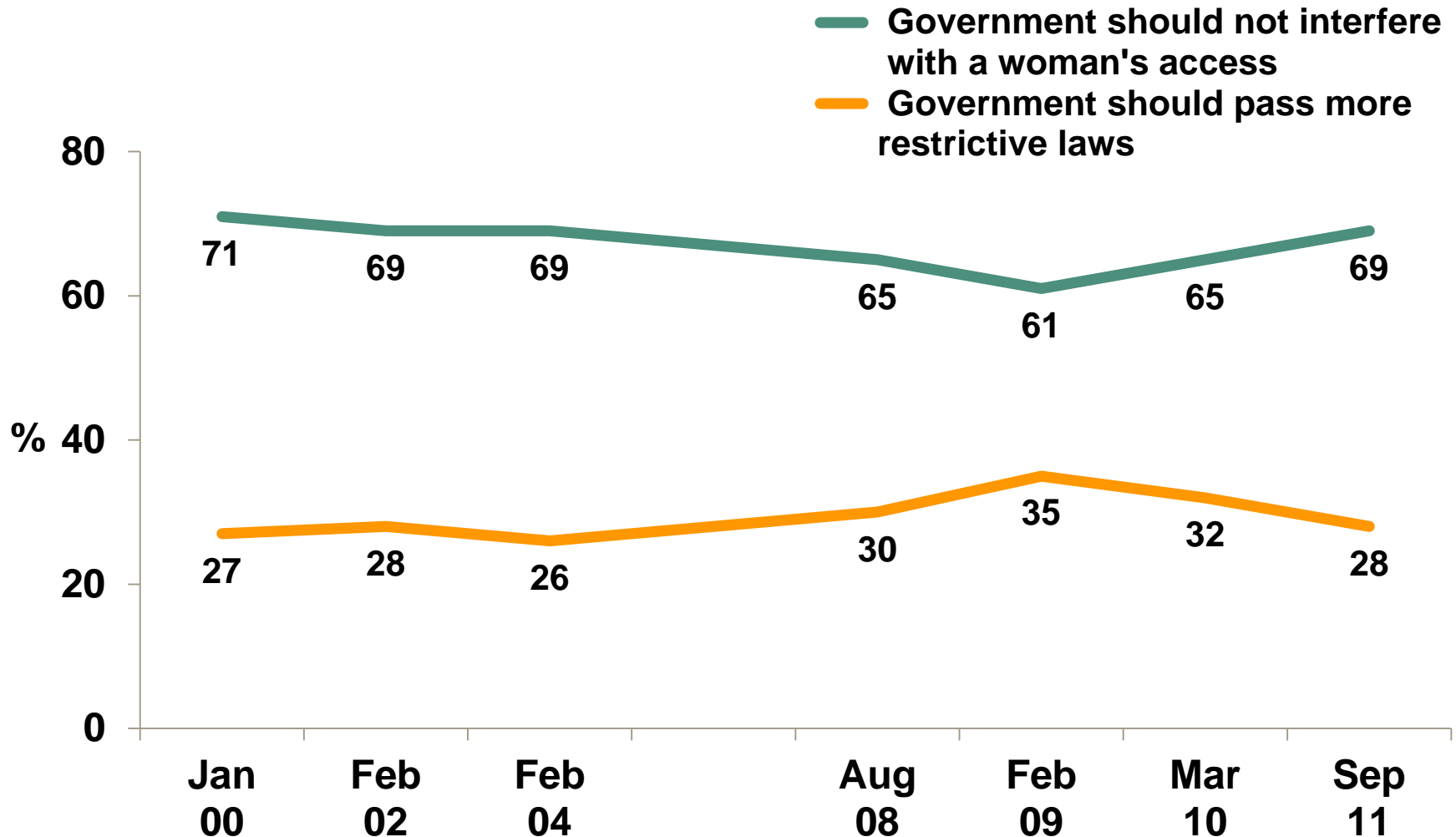
All adults

- Favor
- Oppose
- Don't know



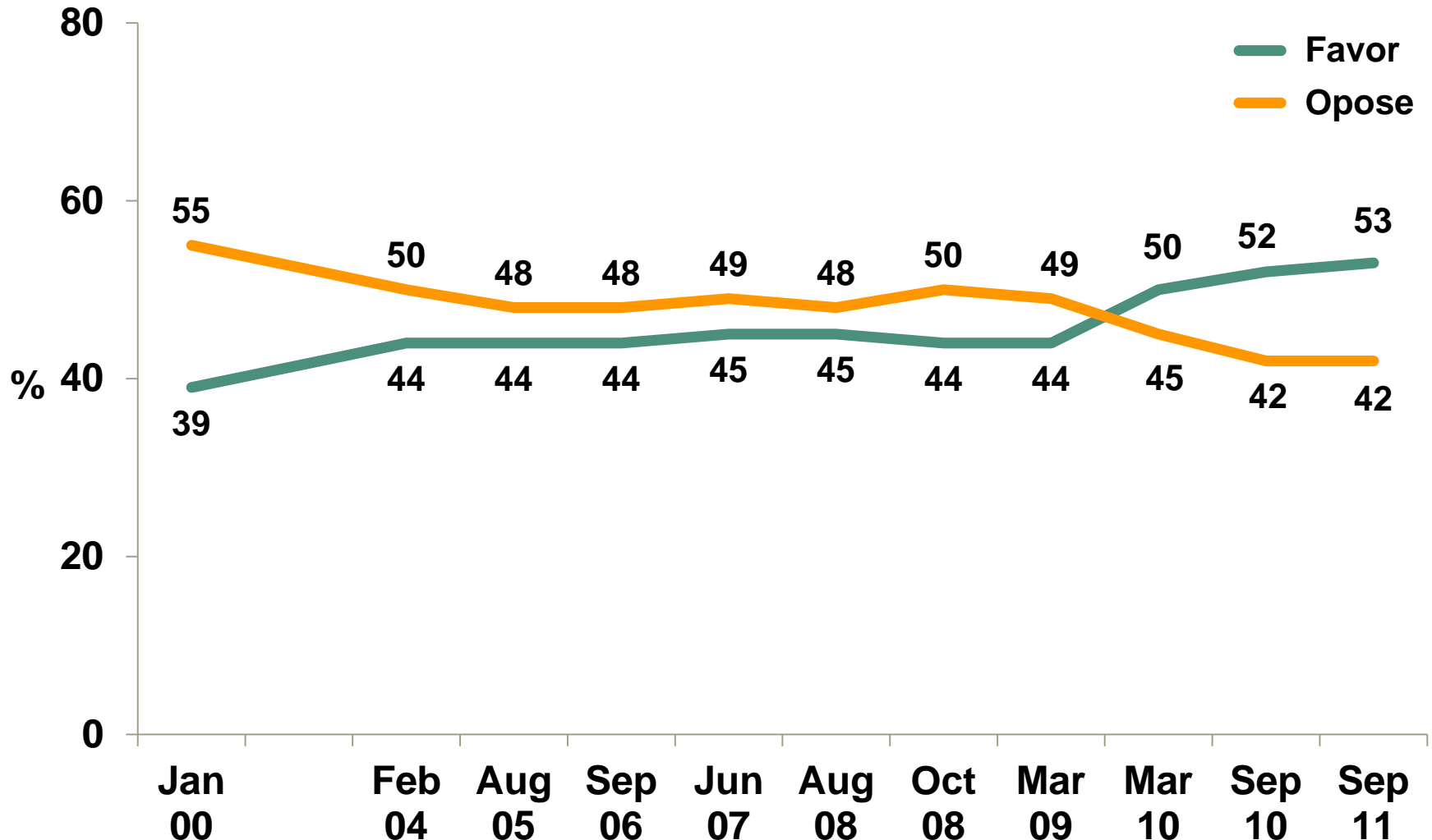
Abortion

Which of the following statements comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right?



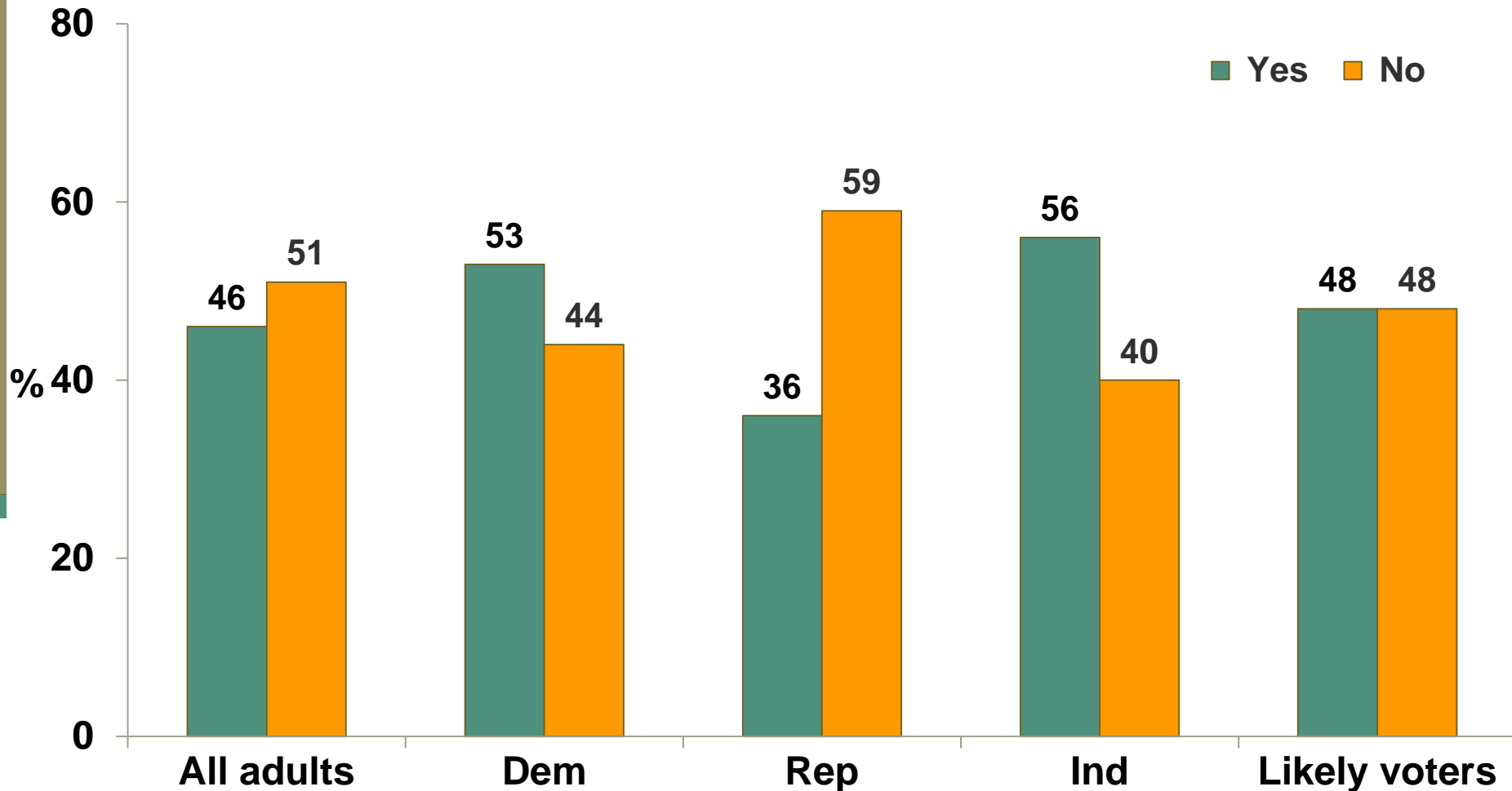
Same-Sex Marriage

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



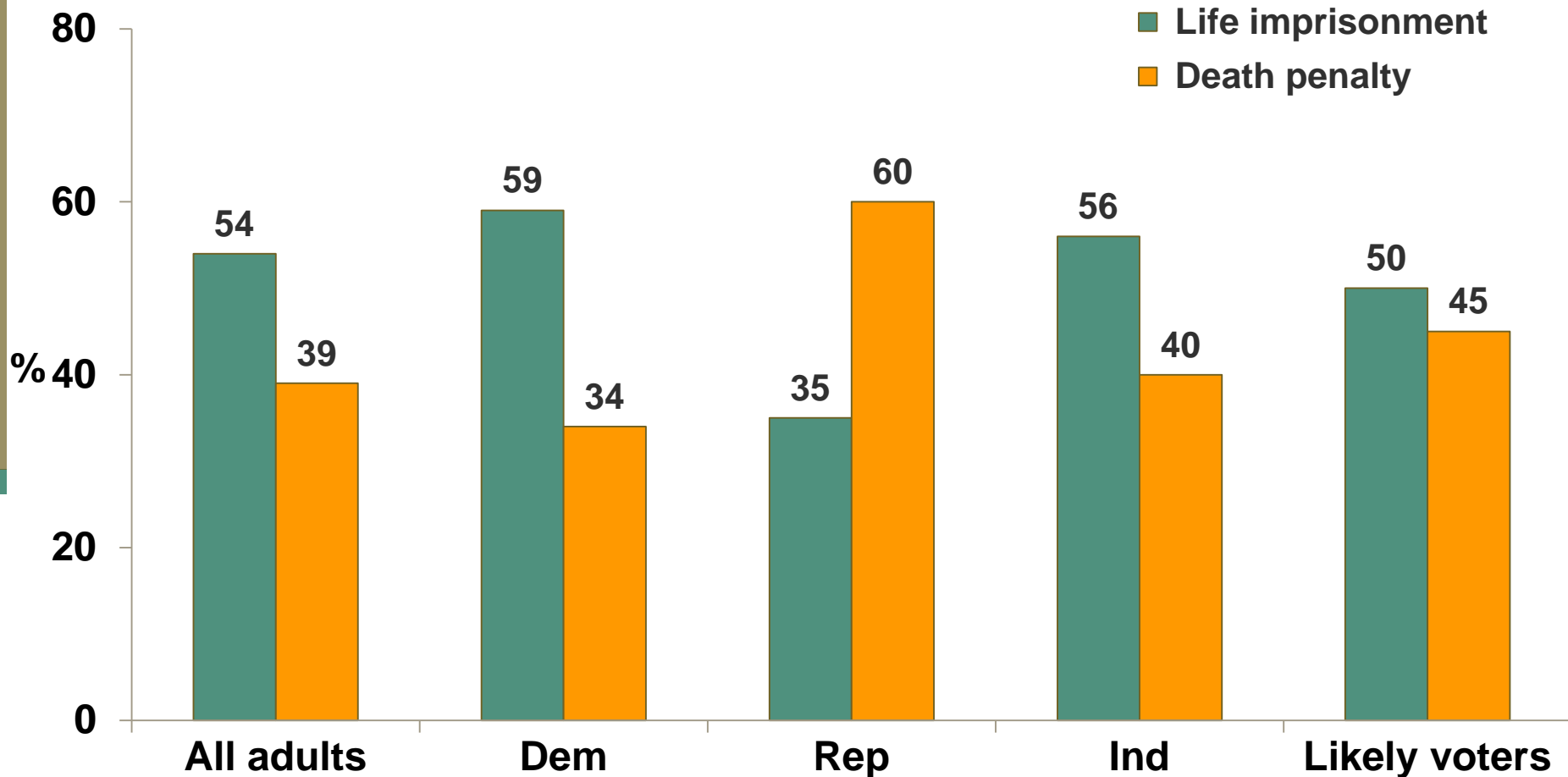
Marijuana Legalization

In general, do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?



Death Penalty

Which of the following statements do you agree with more? The penalty for first-degree murder should be the death penalty; or the penalty for first-degree murder should be life imprisonment with absolutely no possibility of parole.

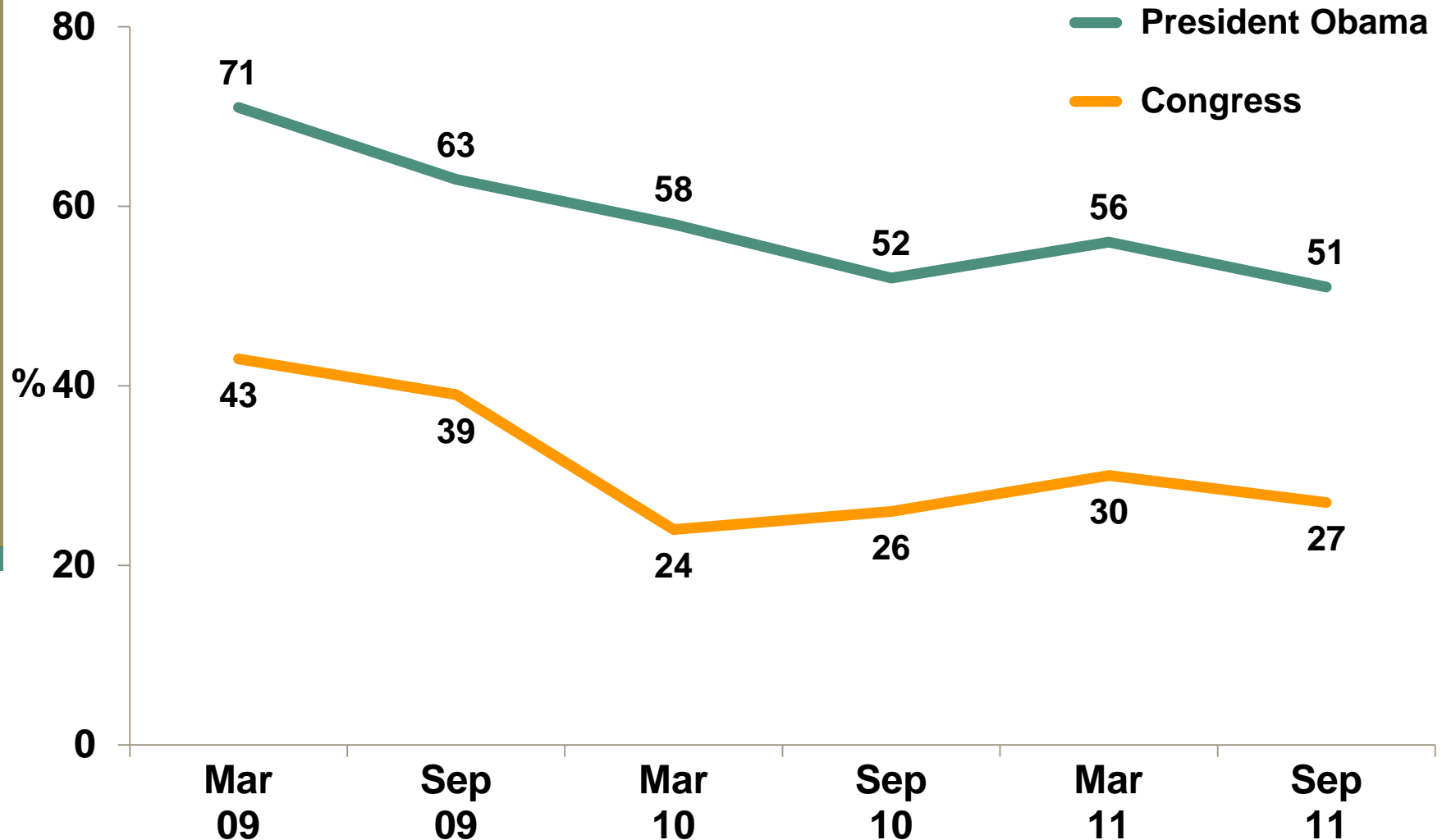


Outline

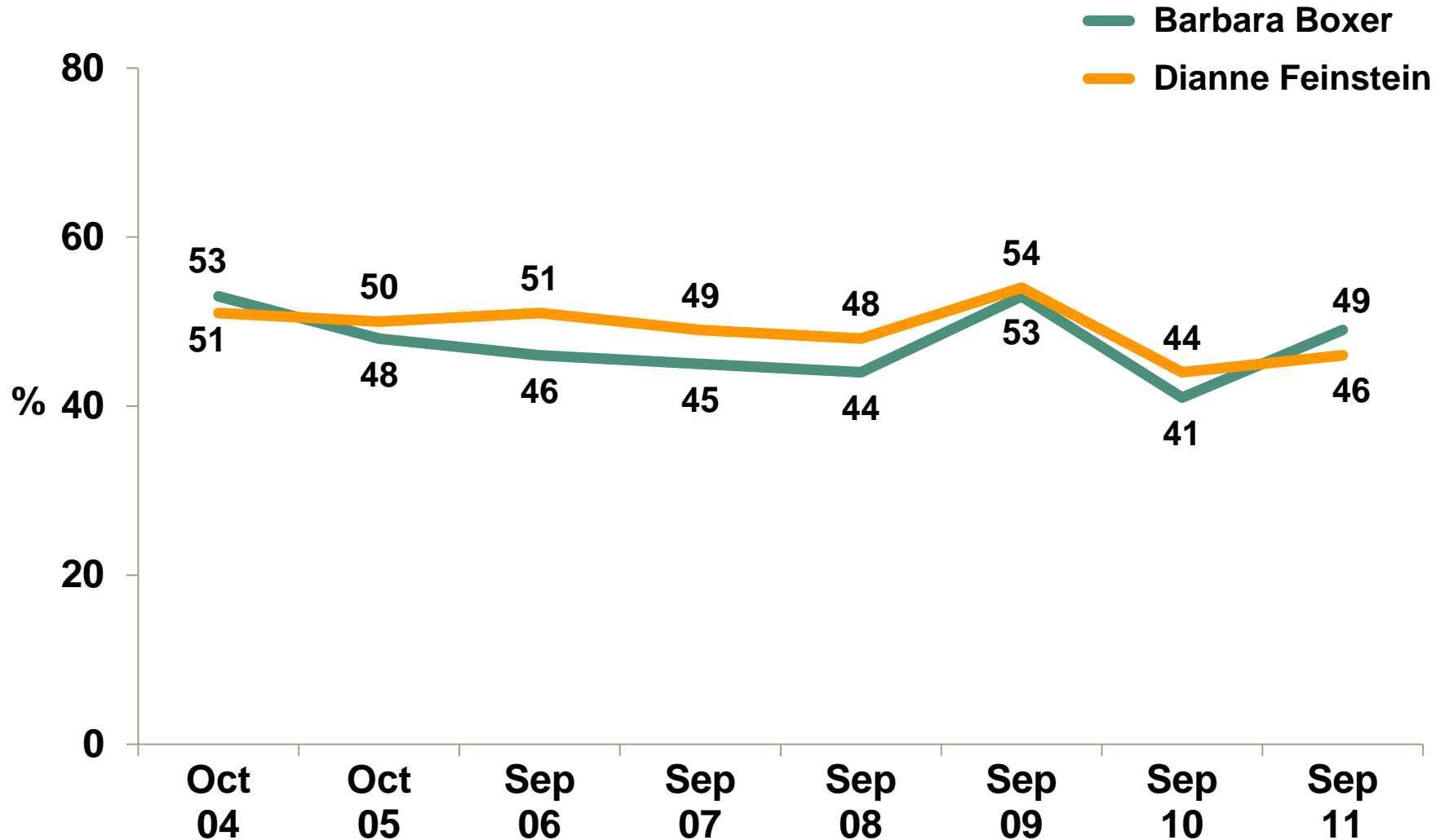
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Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials

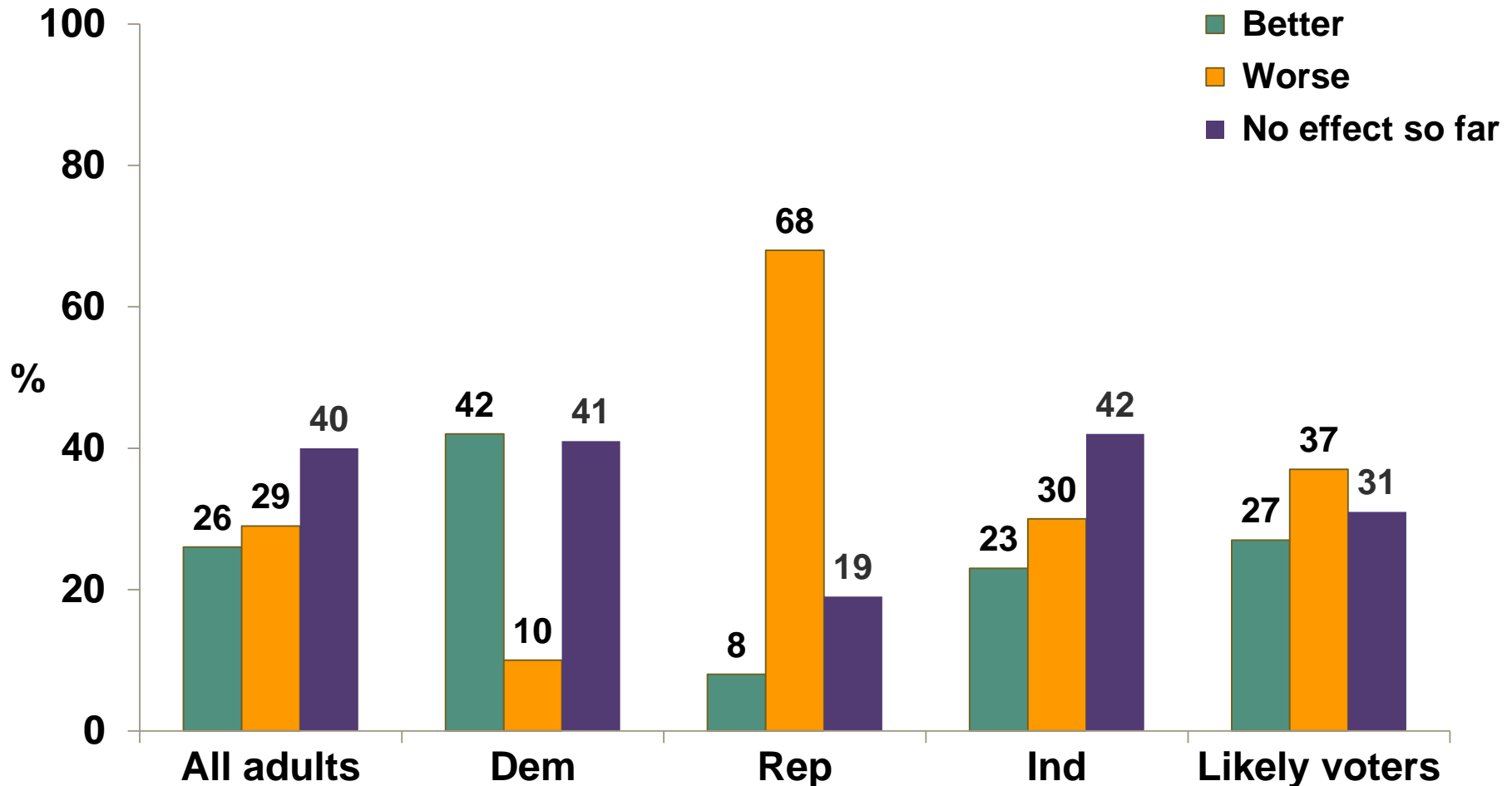


Approval Ratings of U.S. Senators



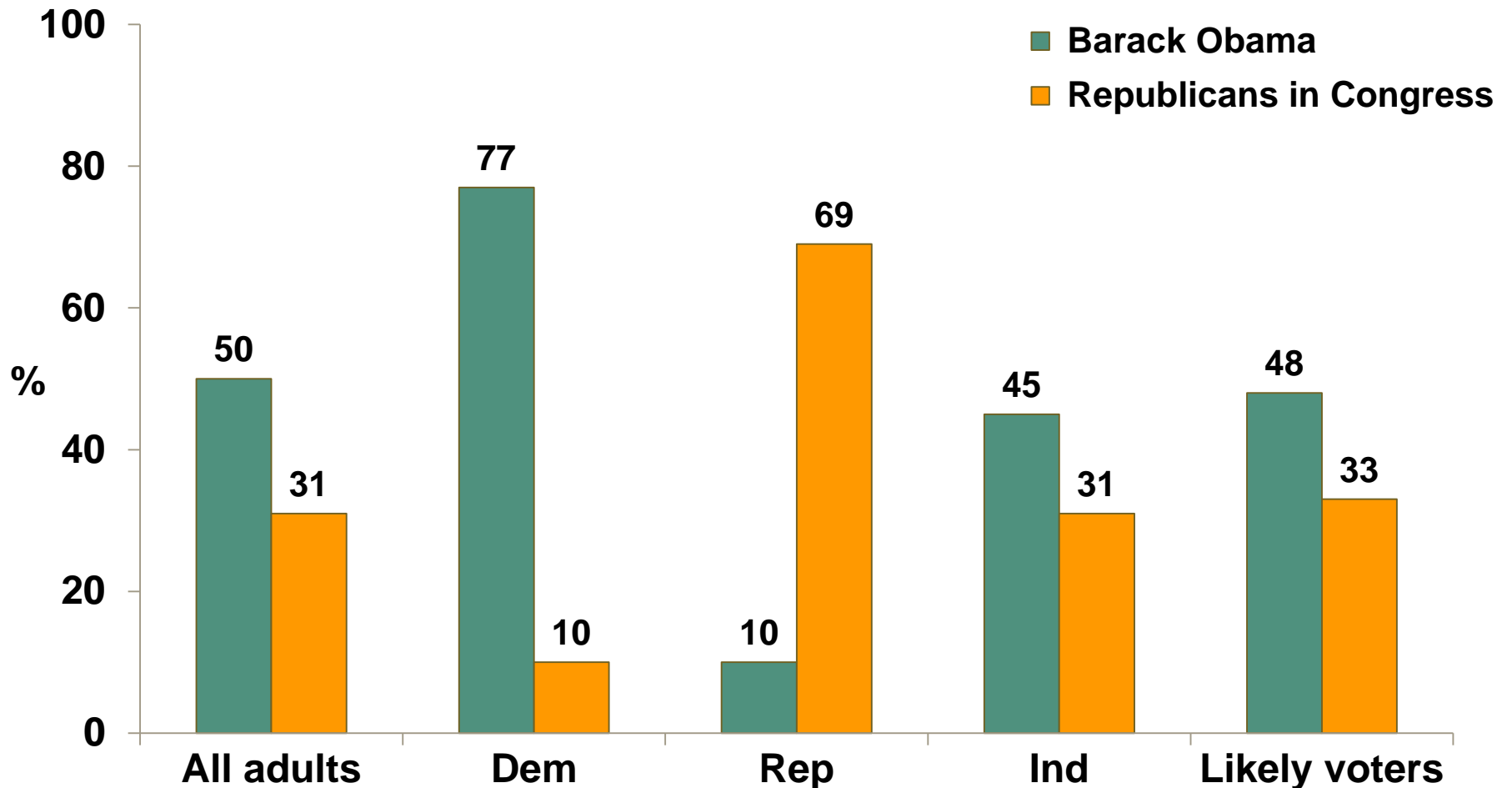
Obama's Economic Policies

Since taking office, have Barack Obama's economic policies made economic conditions better, worse, or not had an effect so far?



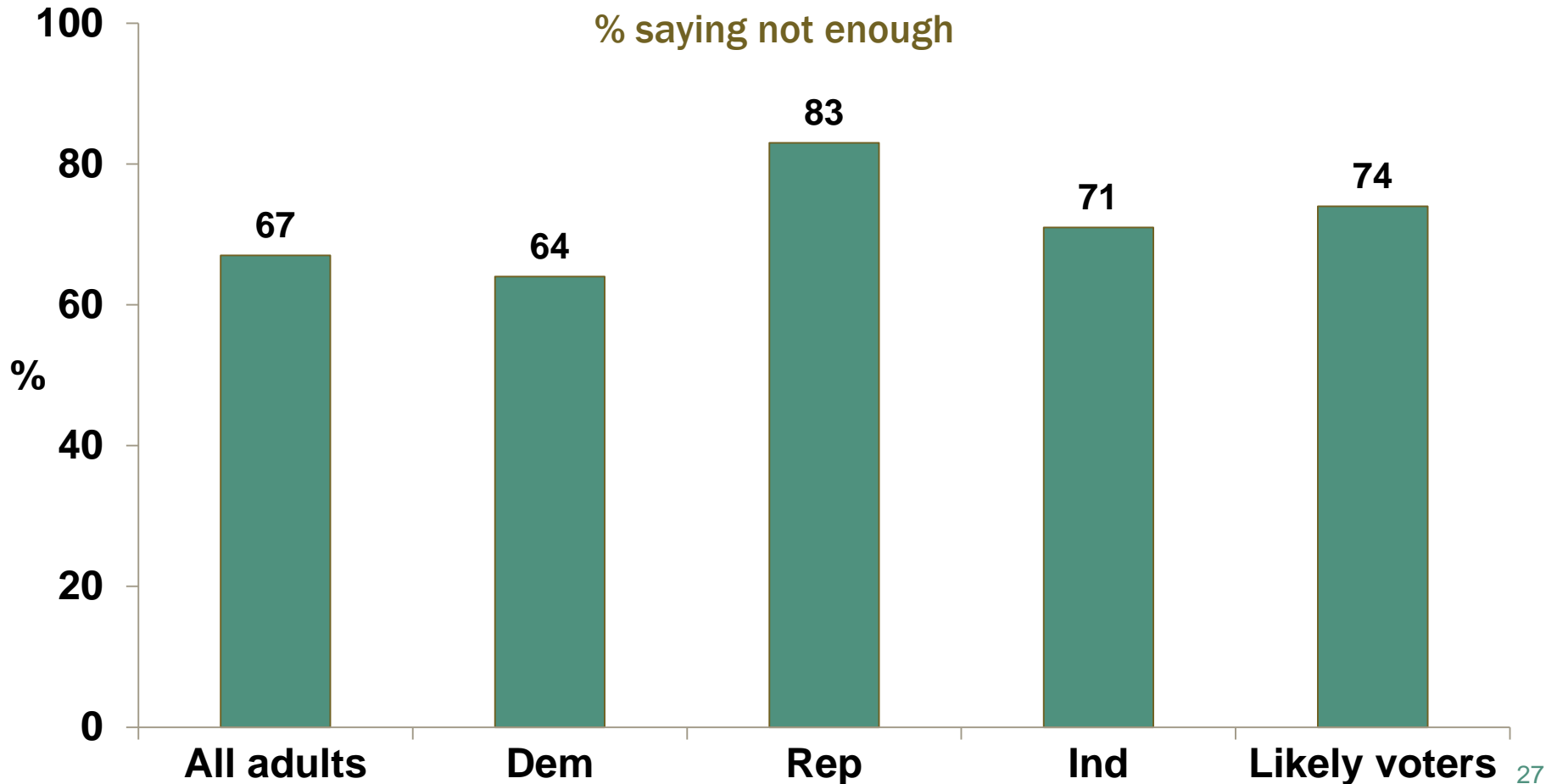
Trust and Economic Policy

Who do you trust more to make the right decisions about the nation's economy?



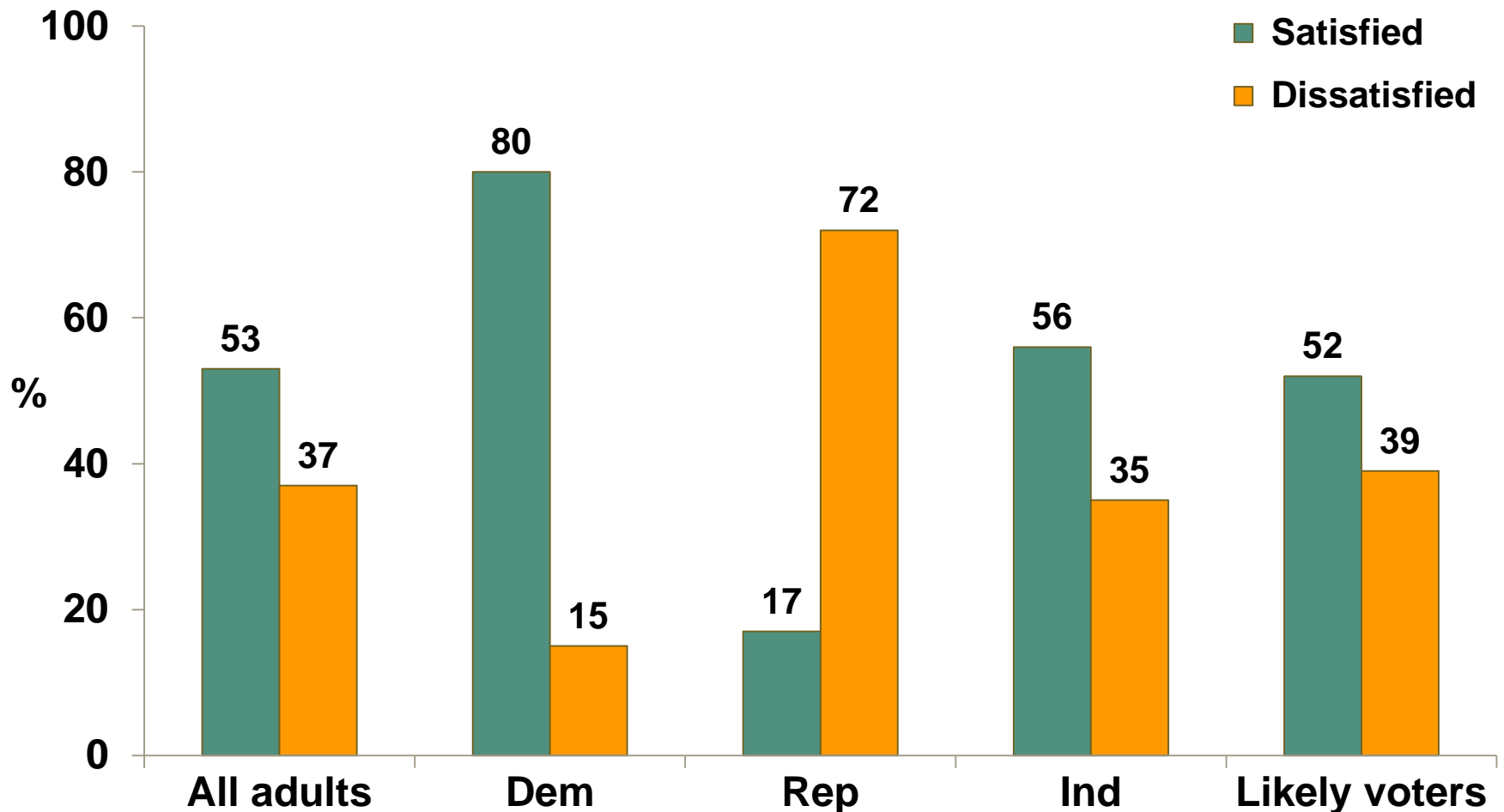
Job Creation

Overall, do you think that Congress and the Obama administration are doing more than enough, just enough, or not enough to help create jobs?



American Jobs Act

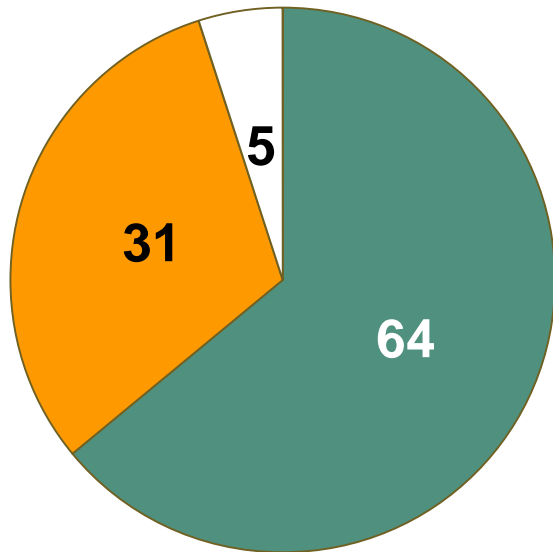
In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the president's plan?



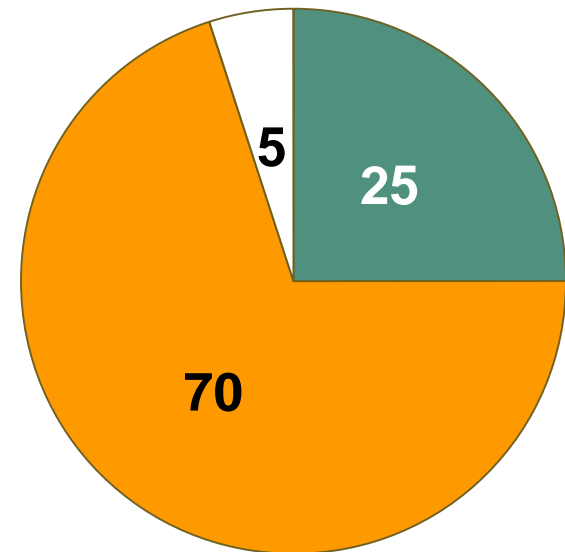
Federal Budget Deficit

If you were setting priorities for the federal government these days, would you place a higher priority on spending to help the economy recover or a higher priority on reducing the budget deficit?

Democrats



Republicans

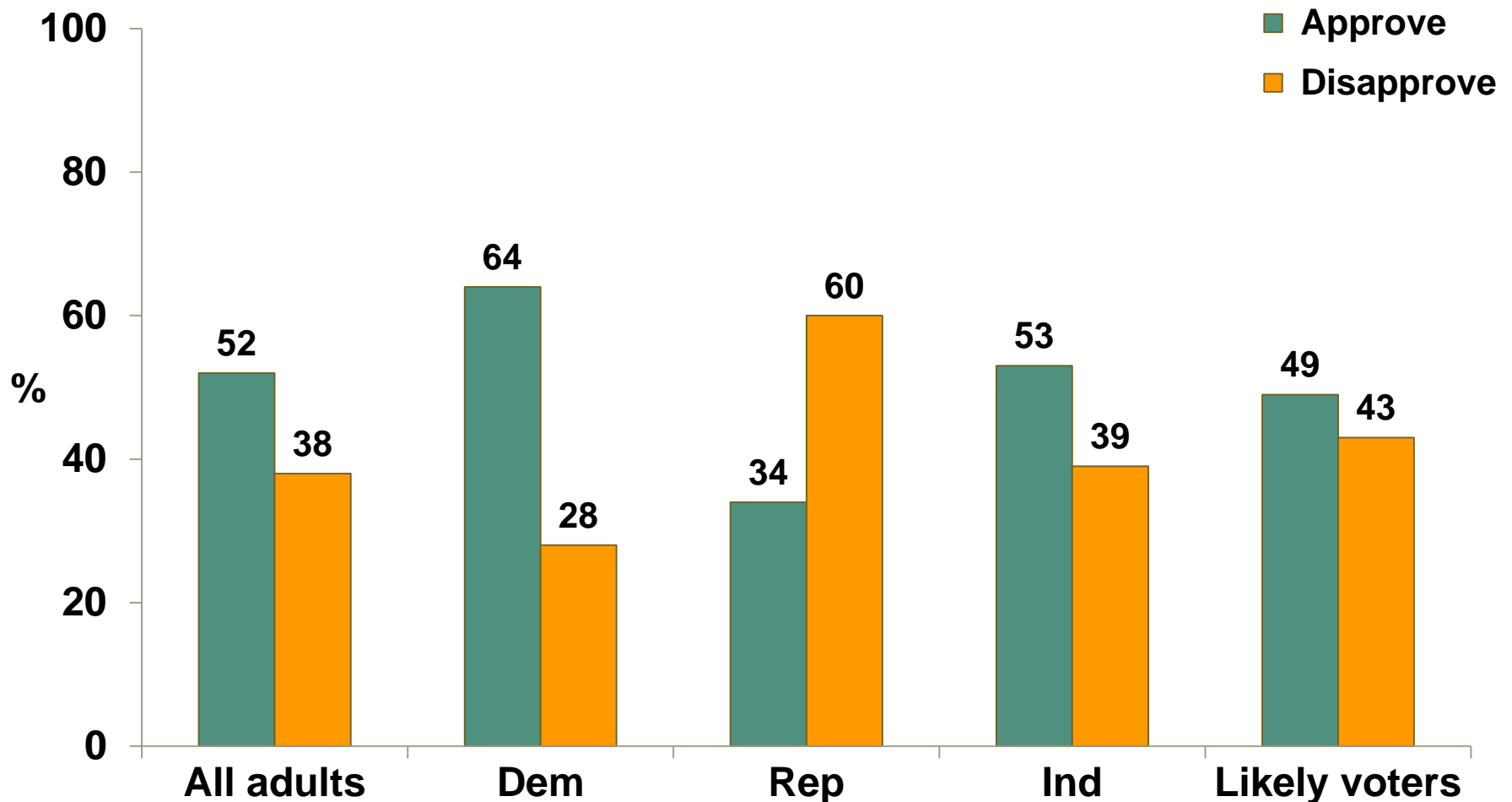


- Spending to help economy recover
- Reducing the budget deficit
- Don't know



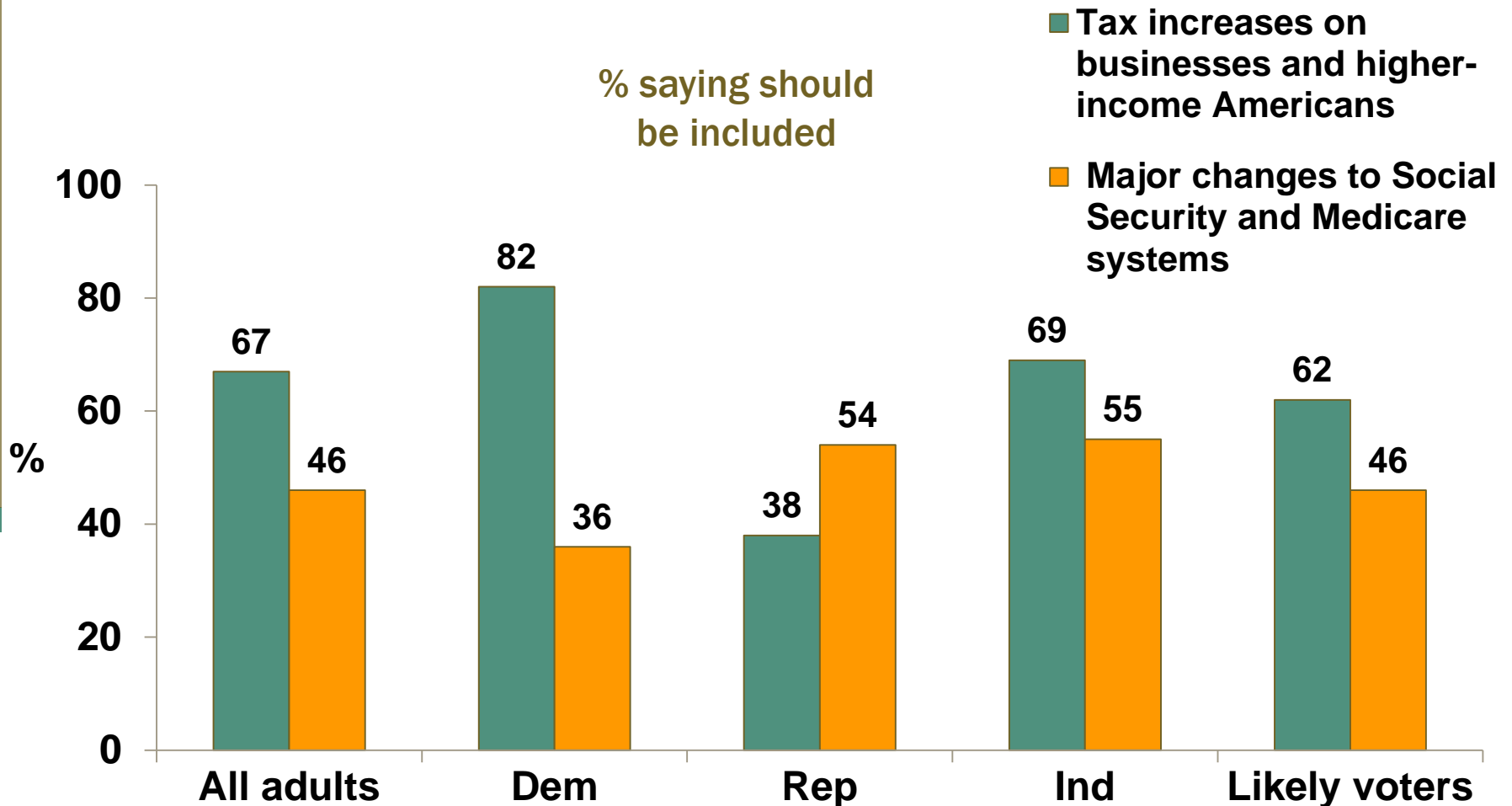
Debt Ceiling Agreement

Based on what you have read or heard,
do you approve or disapprove of that bill?



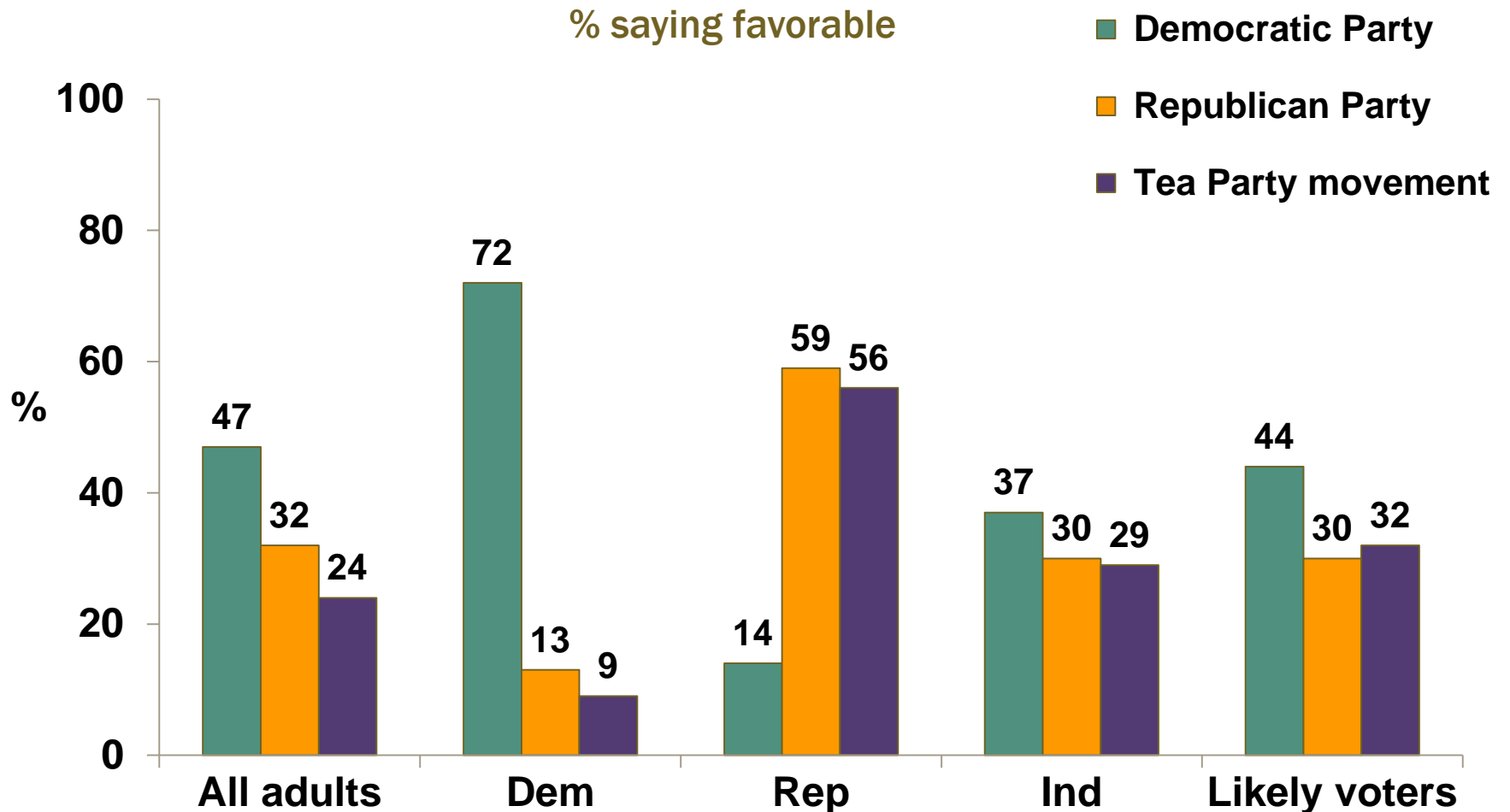
Deficit Reduction Proposal

Please tell me whether you think each of the following should or should not be included in that deficit reduction proposal.



Party Perceptions

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



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Conclusions

- Record high mention of jobs and the economy as California's most important issue
- Majorities say local services affected by state budget cuts
- Overall confidence in realignment higher than confidence in handling prisoner shift
- Californians trust Obama over congressional Republicans on economy
- Majorities say not enough being done to create jobs
- Californians support spending to help economy recover over deficit reduction



Upcoming PPIC Statewide Surveys

- November
 - *Californians and Higher Education*
- December
 - *Californians and Their Government*
- January
 - *Californians and Their Government*



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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.

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