

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner,
Sonja Petek, Jui Shrestha
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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
 - 288,000+ Californians since 1998
 - 130+ general, issue, and regional surveys



Californians and Their Government

- General series funded by The James Irvine Foundation
- State government
 - Opinions on state prison system, local public safety
 - Attitudes toward fracking, water policy
- Federal government
 - Opinions on the Syrian crisis, health care reform, immigration reform, abortion, marijuana, and same-sex marriage
- Telephone interviews, September 10 to 17
 - 1,703 adults/1,102 likely voters
 - $\pm 3.7\%$ margin of error for adults
 - $\pm 4.5\%$ for likely voters

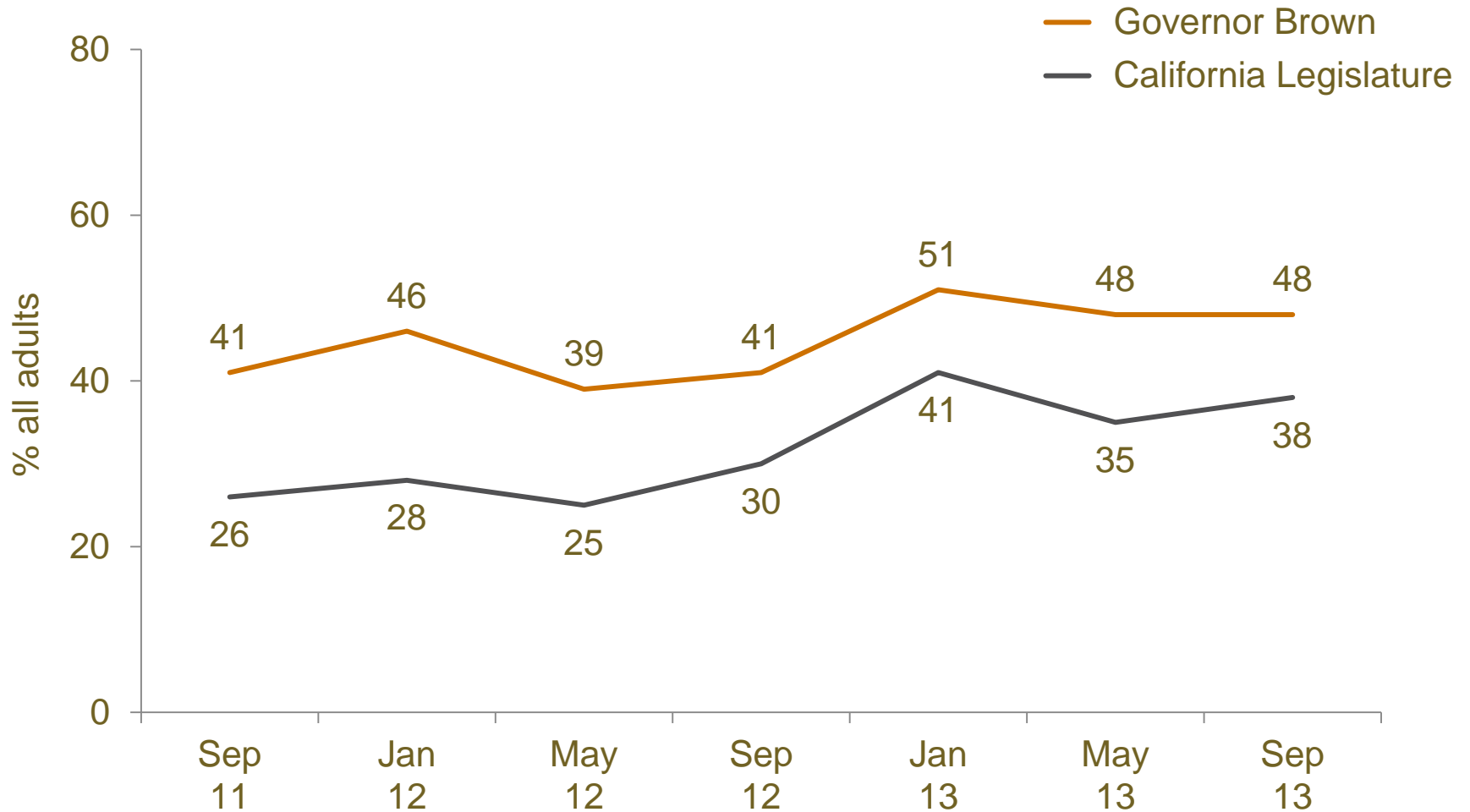


Outline

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

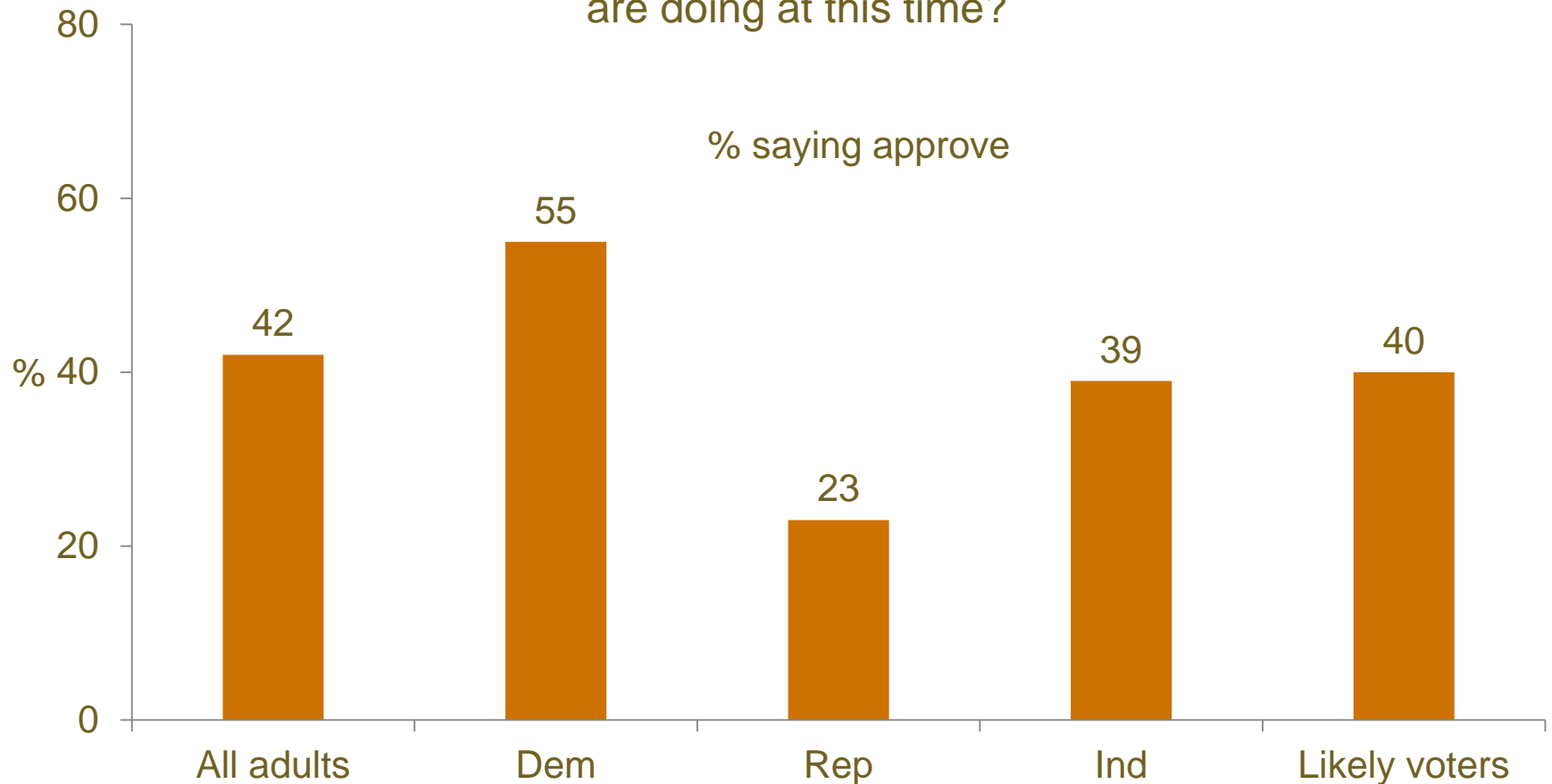


Approval ratings of state elected officials



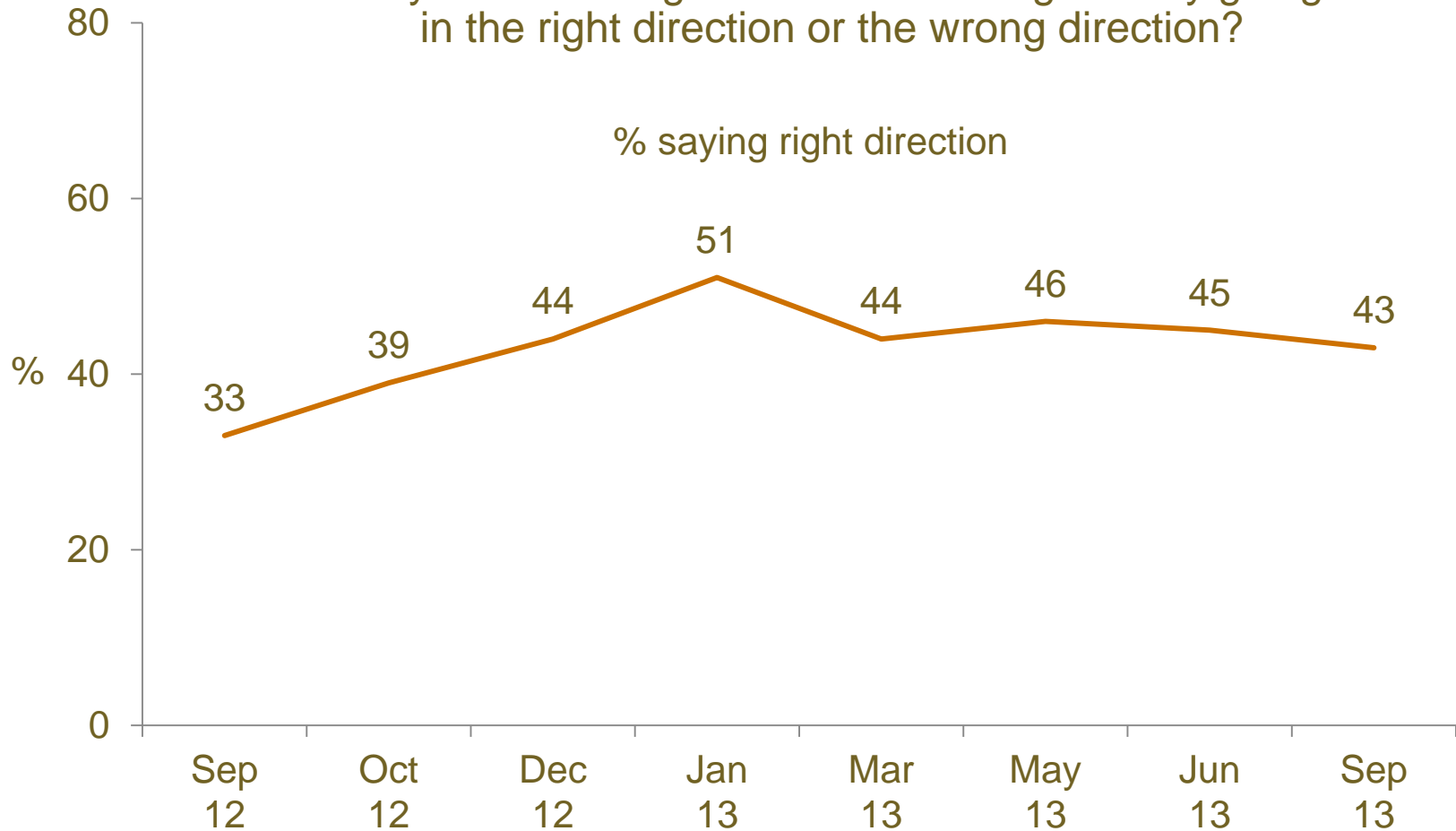
Approval ratings of own legislators

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



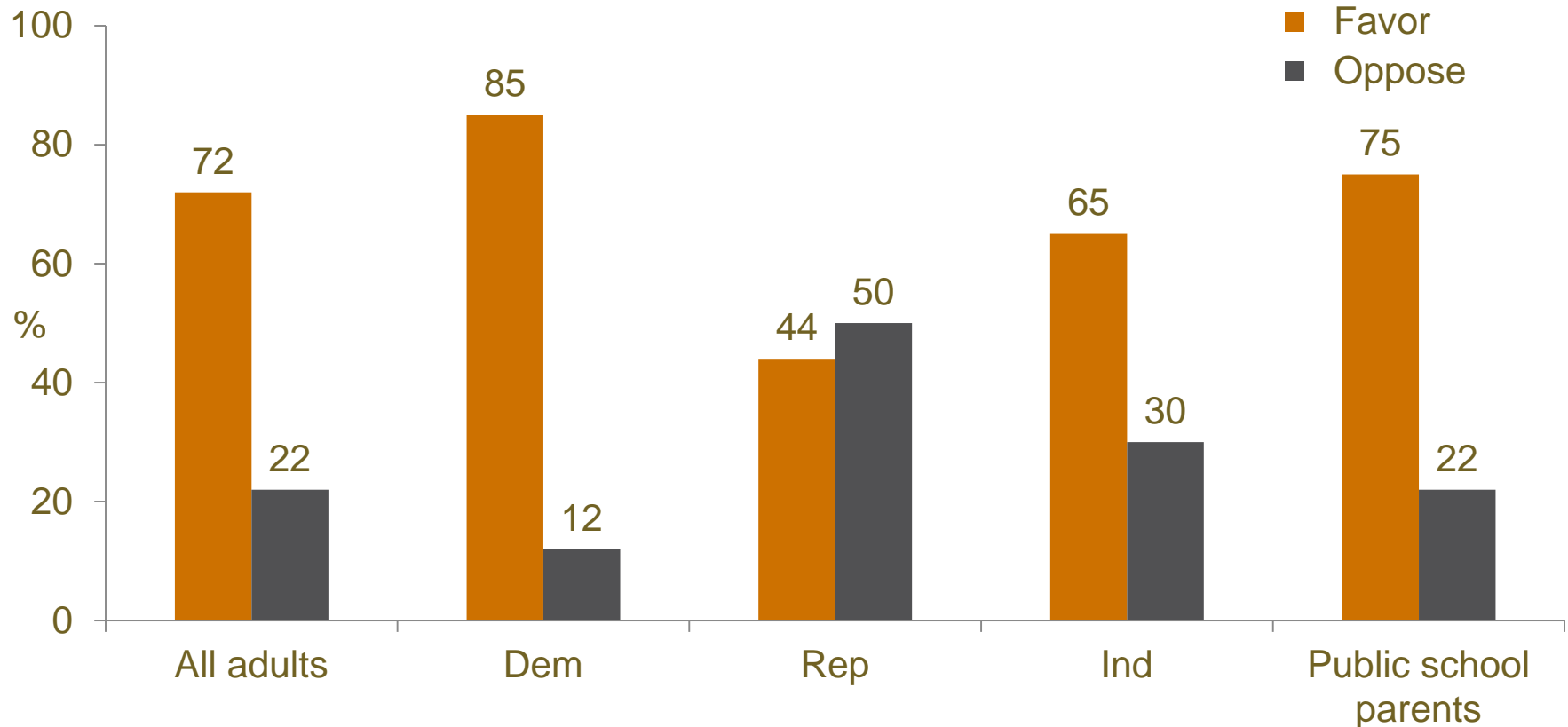
Overall outlook

Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?



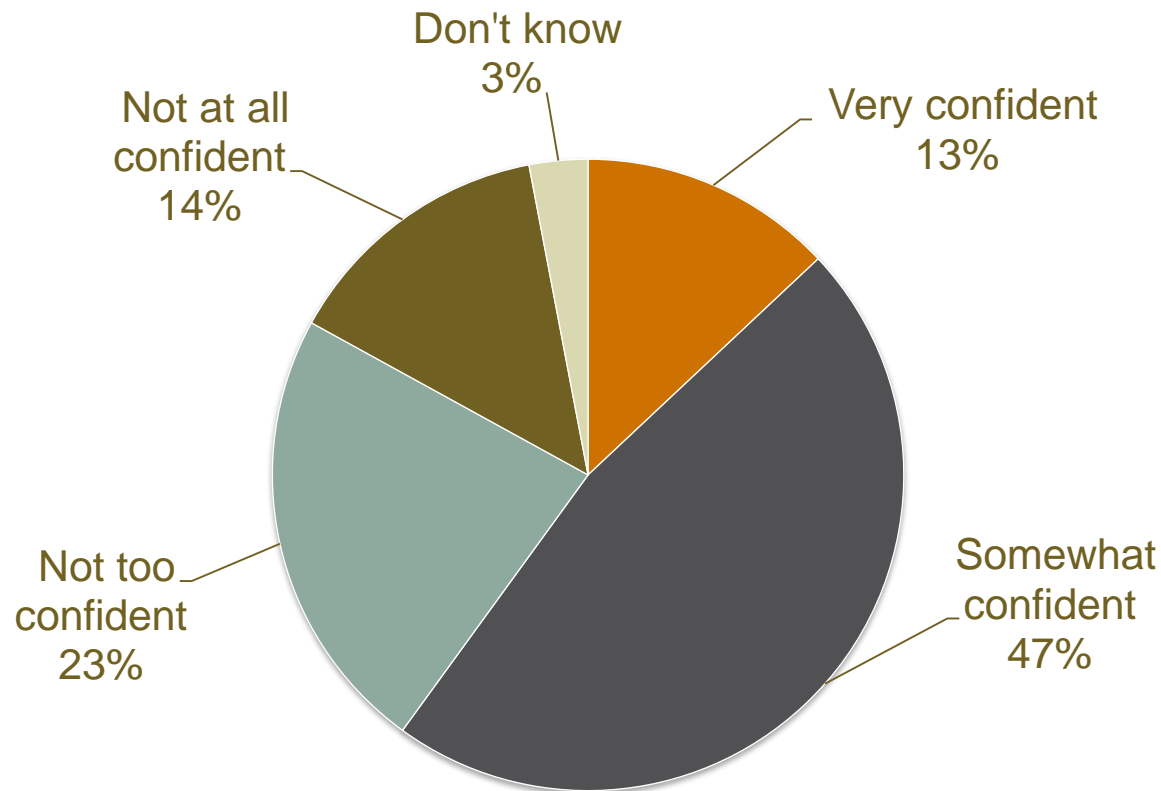
Support for education spending plan

The current state budget gives each K–12 public school district more funding than they received in 2011-12 and provides additional funding to school districts that have more English language learners and lower-income students. Do you favor or oppose this plan?



Confidence in local school districts to spend state funds wisely

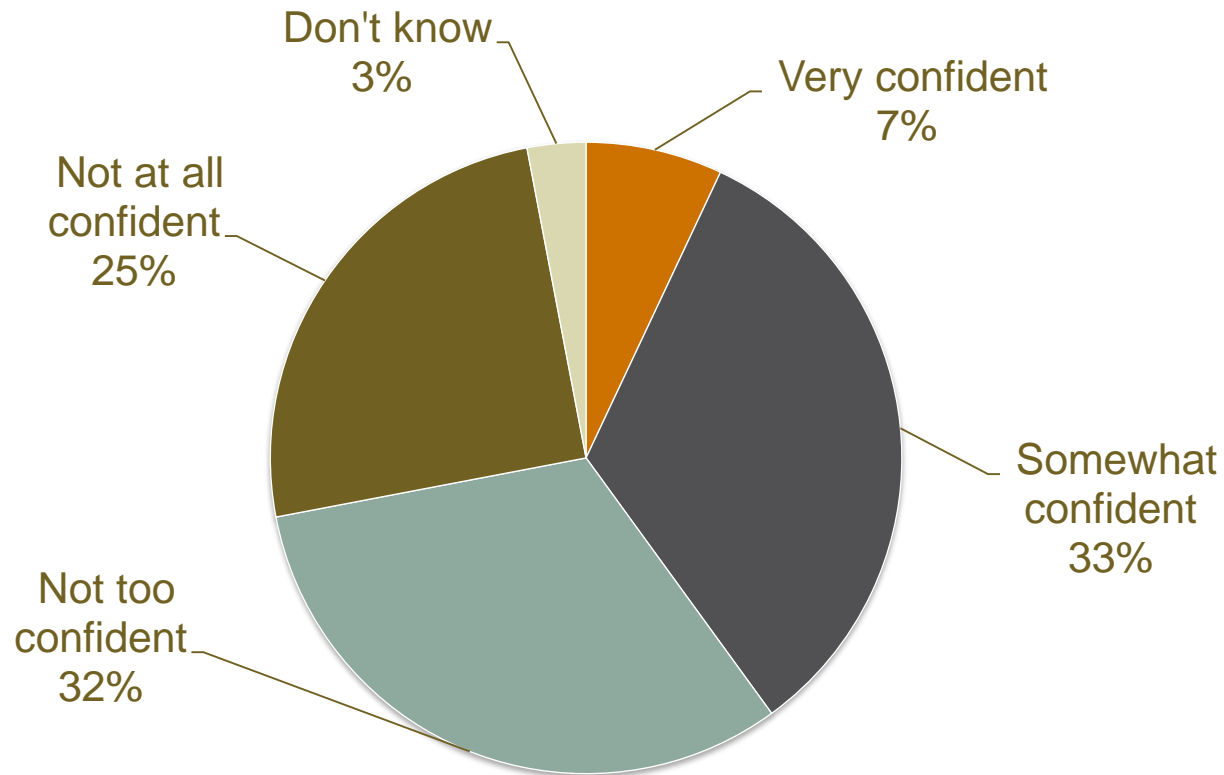
The state is giving local school districts more flexibility over how state funding is spent. How confident are you that local school districts will use this money wisely?



All adults

Confidence in county jails to handle prisoner shift

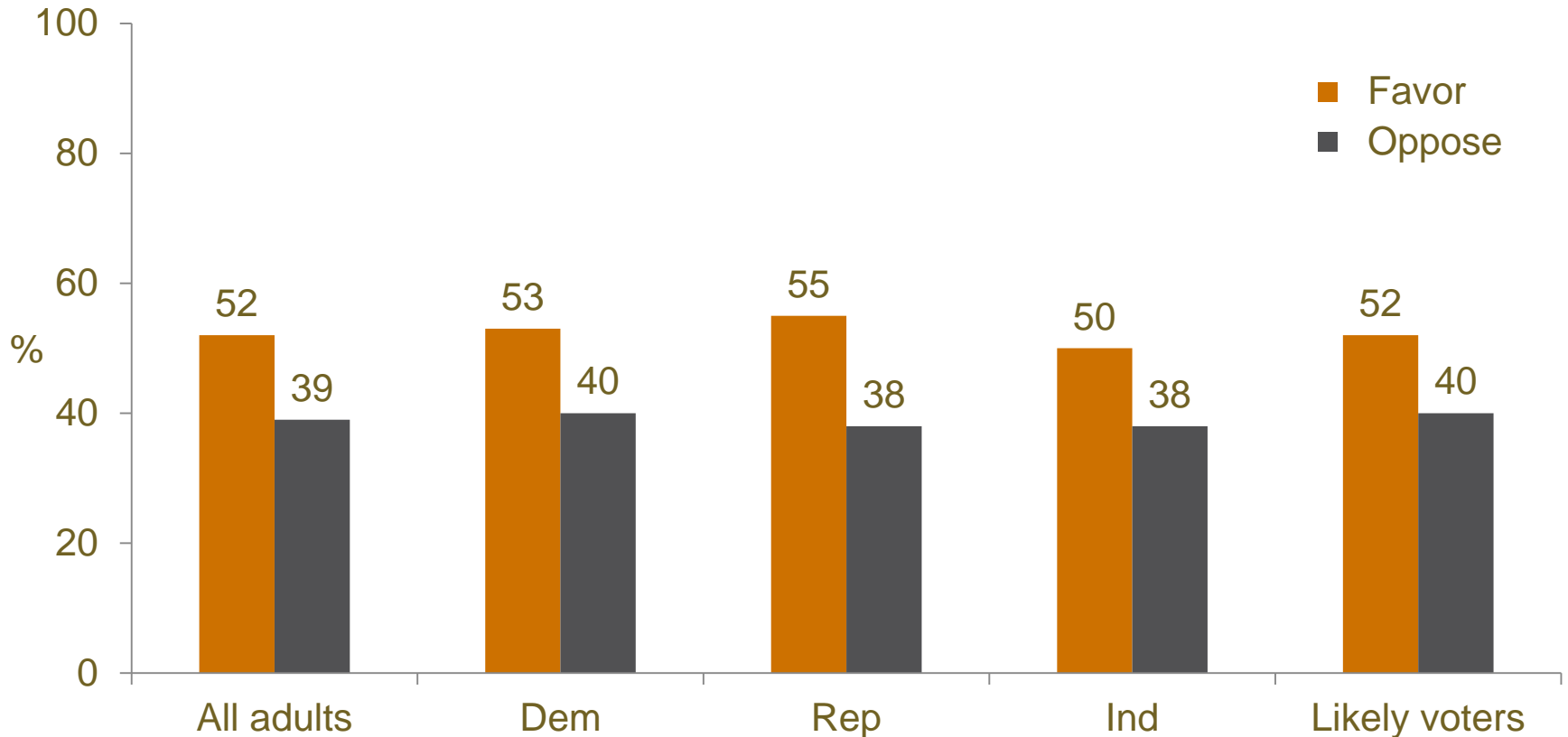
As you may know, state funding is being provided to shift some of the lower-risk inmates from state prisons to county jails to reduce prison overcrowding and lower state costs. How confident are you that your local government is able to take on this responsibility?



All adults

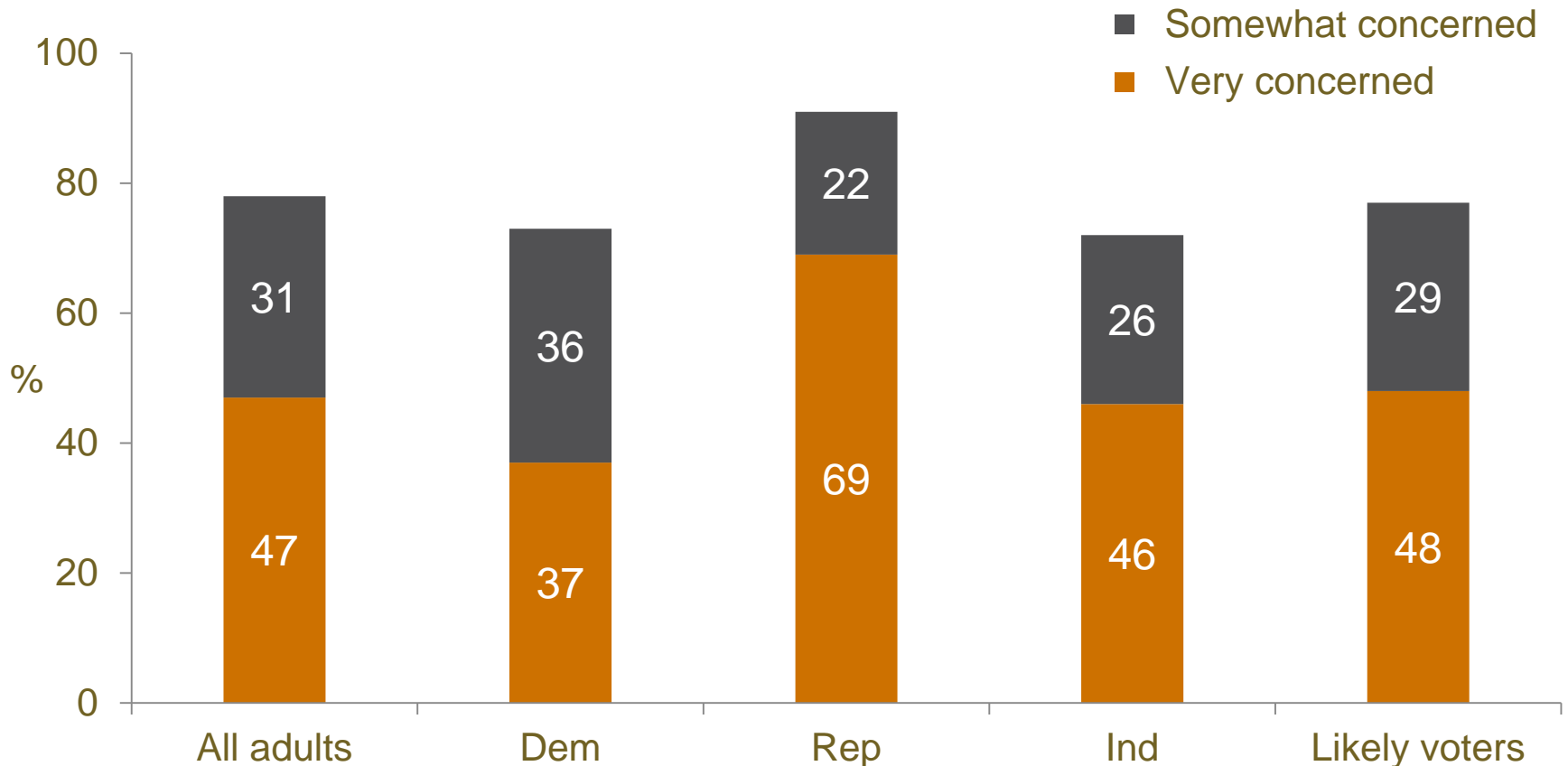
Opinion on plan to ease prison overcrowding

...They have proposed asking the court for a three year extension to reduce the prison population by providing rehabilitation programs in an effort to reduce the number of repeat offenders. If the court denies this request, they propose moving inmates to private, local, and out-of-state facilities to prevent the early release of inmates. Do you favor or oppose this plan?



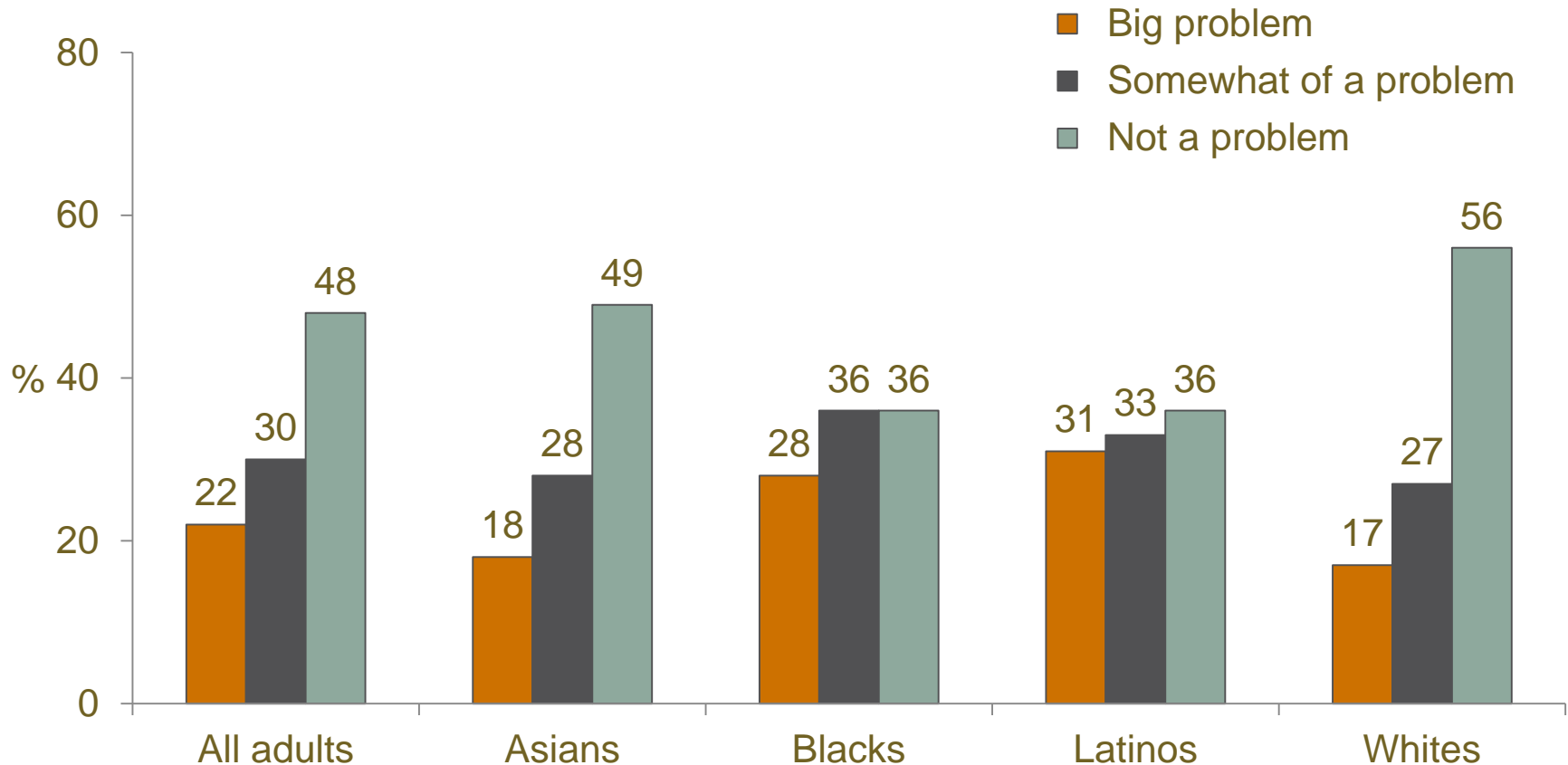
Concern about possible early release of state prisoners

How concerned are you about the possible early release of these state prisoners?



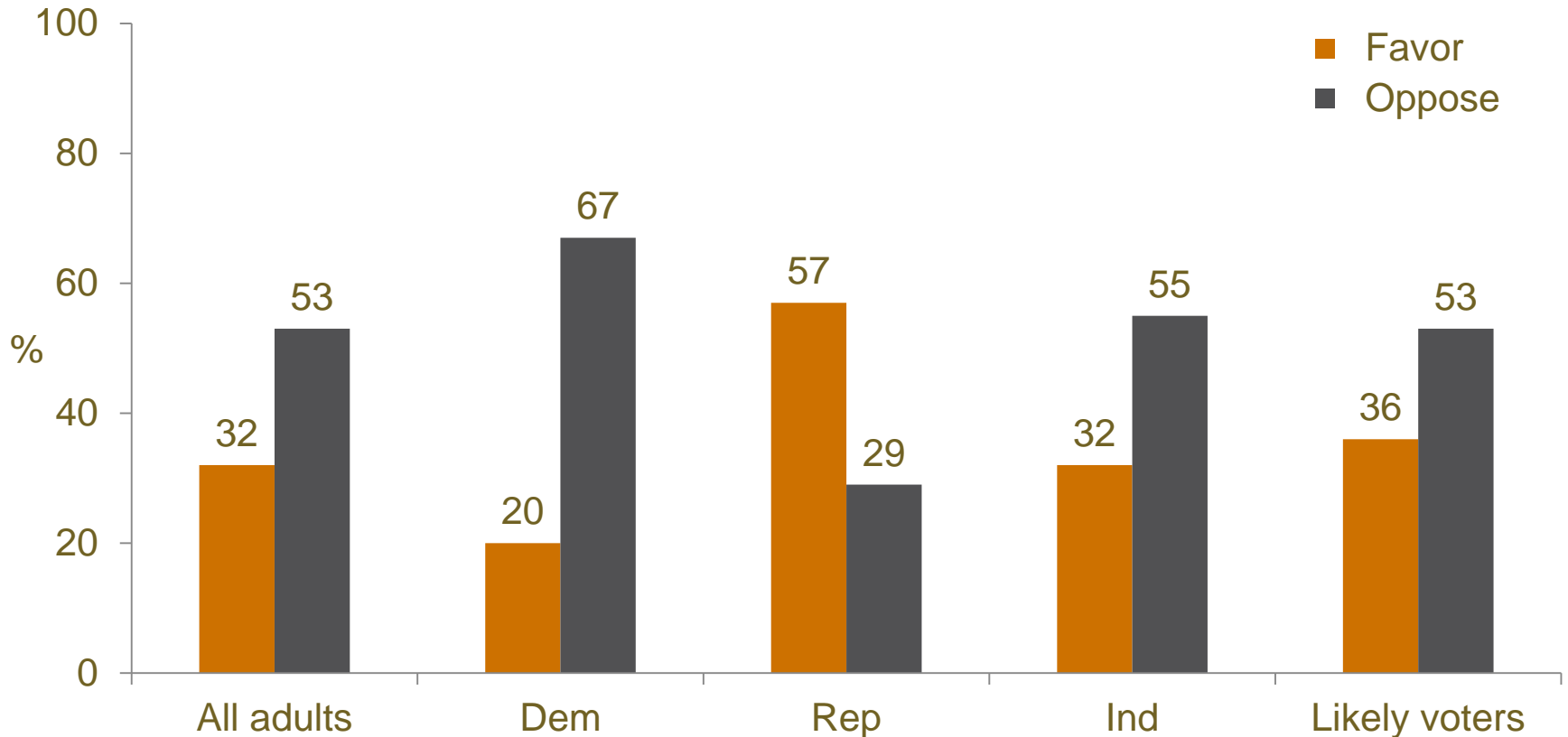
Violence and street crime in local community

How much of a problem are violence and street crime in your local community today?



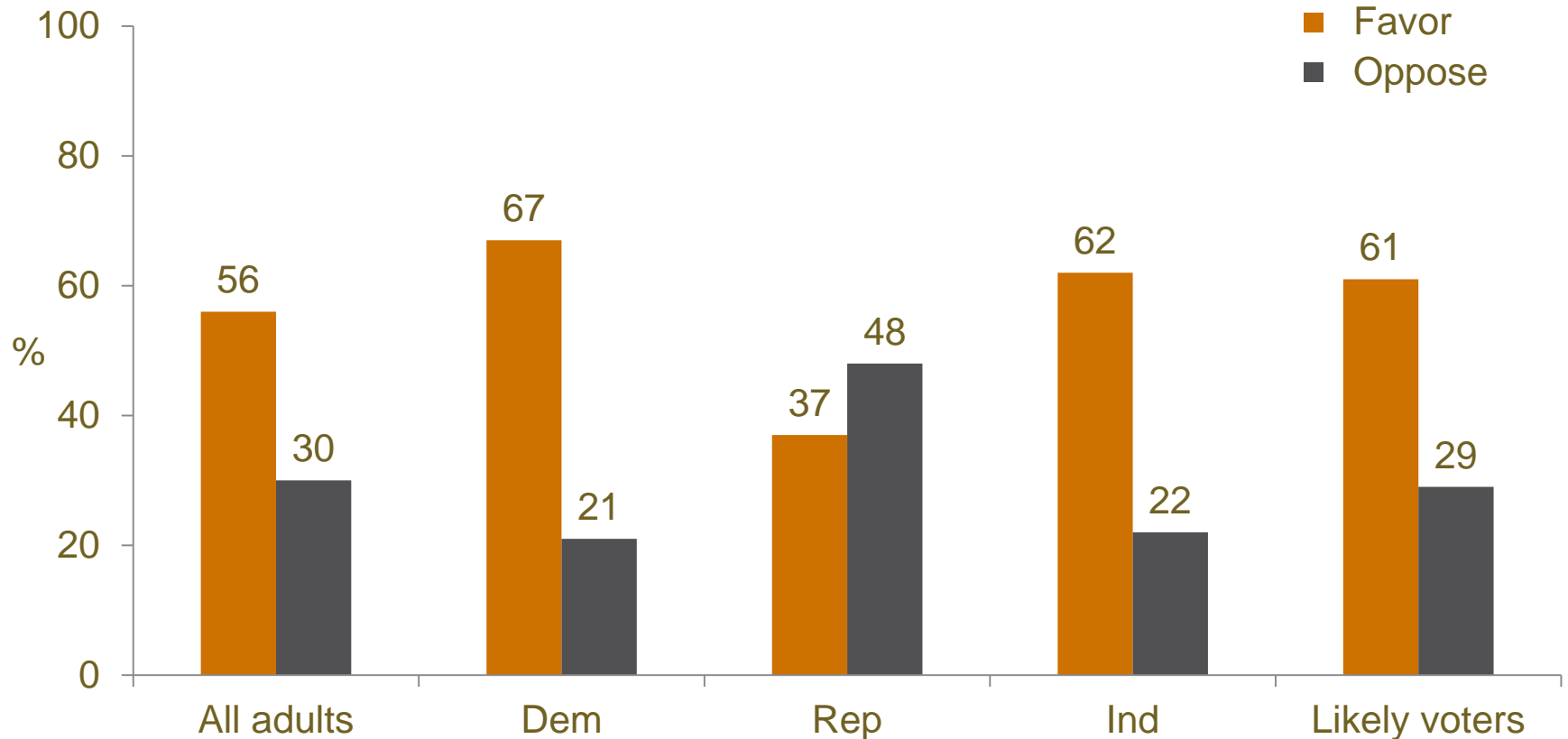
Increased use of fracking

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



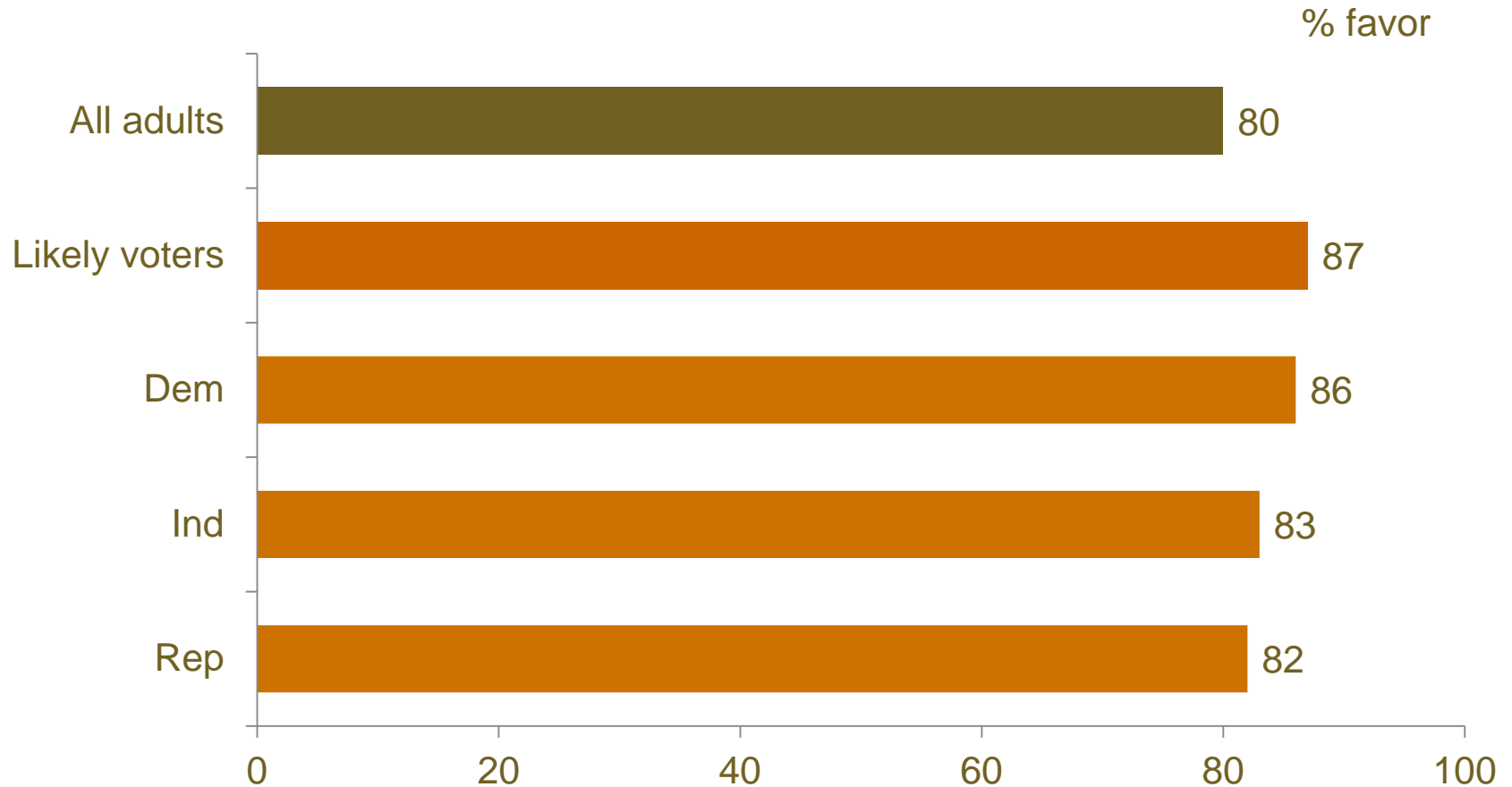
Stricter fracking regulations

As you may know, fracking is currently taking place in California. Do you favor or oppose stricter state regulation of fracking in California?



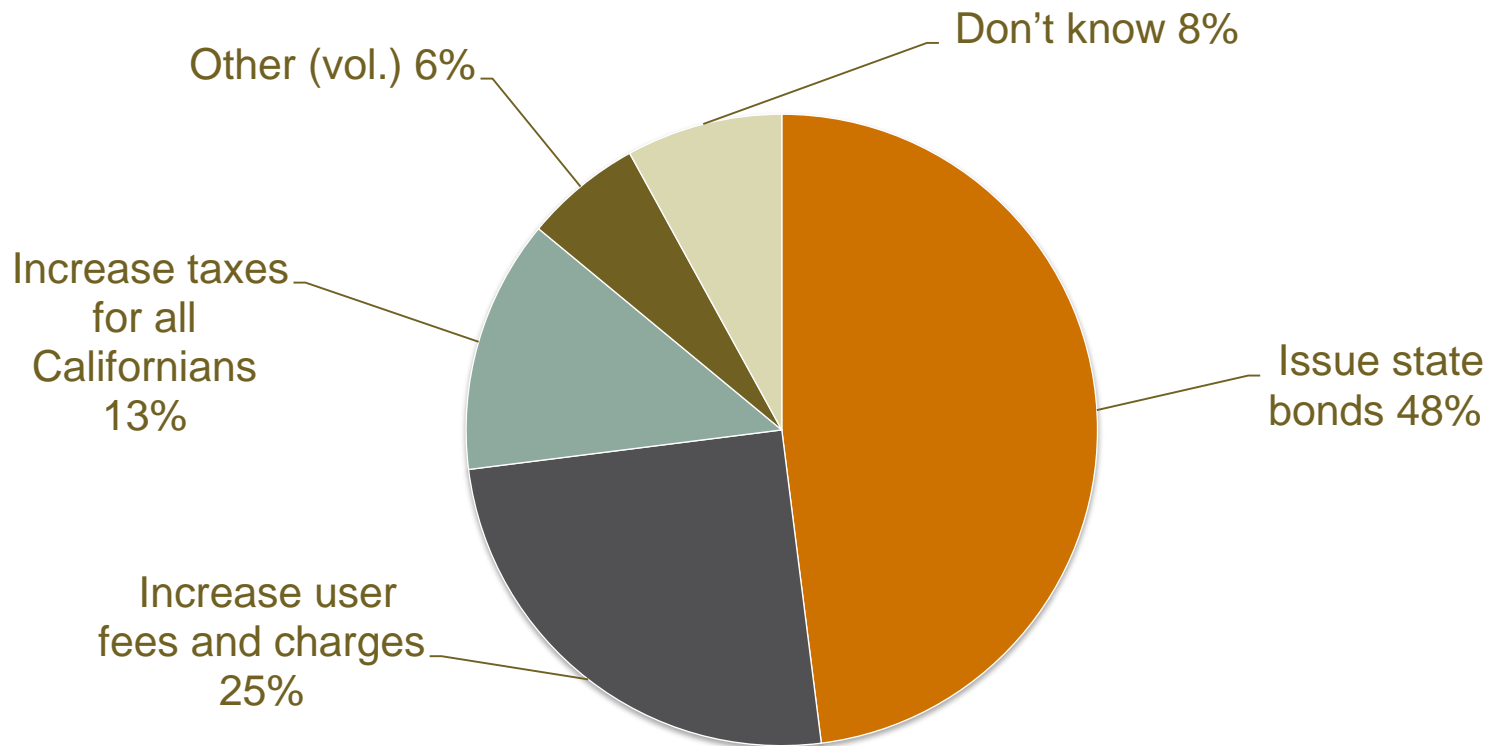
Requiring permits and increased disclosure of chemicals used

Do you favor or oppose requiring oil companies to obtain permits and disclose information about the chemicals used in fracking and other oil extraction techniques in California?



Increasing funding for water projects

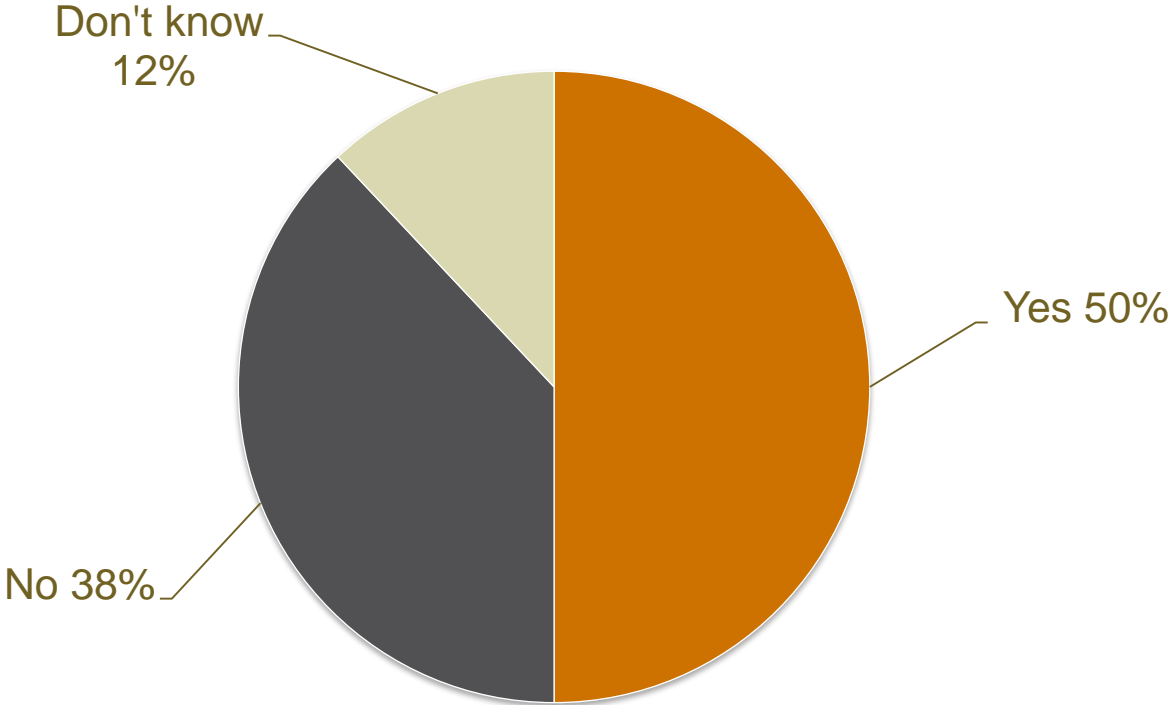
How would you most prefer that the state government increase the level of current funding for water and other infrastructure projects: increase taxes for all Californians, increase user fees and charges, issue state bonds paid for through the state's general fund?



All adults

Vote on water bond

The legislature is considering an approximately \$6.5 billion bond measure for the November 2014 ballot to pay for state water projects. If the election were being held today, would you vote yes or no on this state water bond?



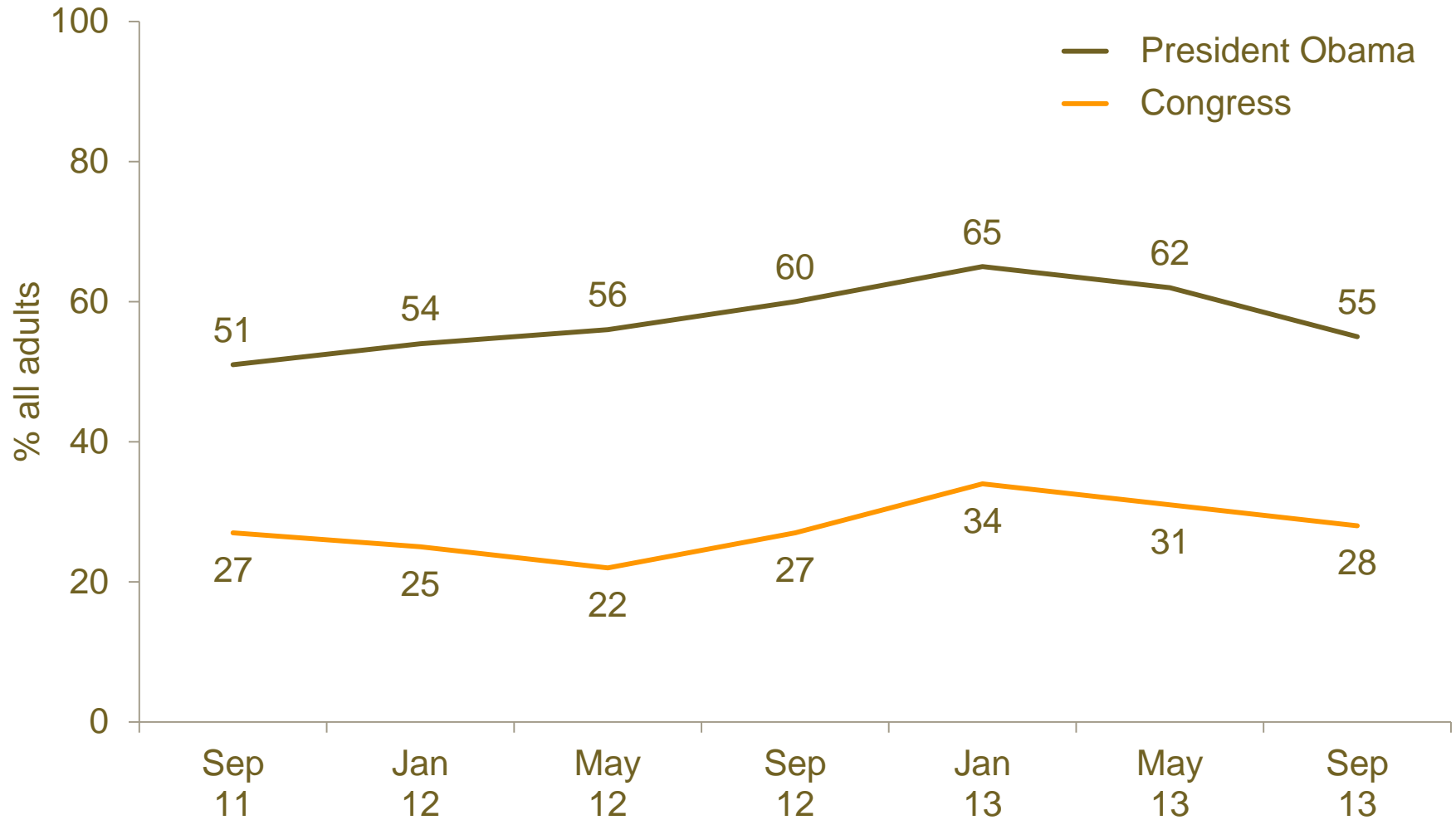
Likely voters

Outline

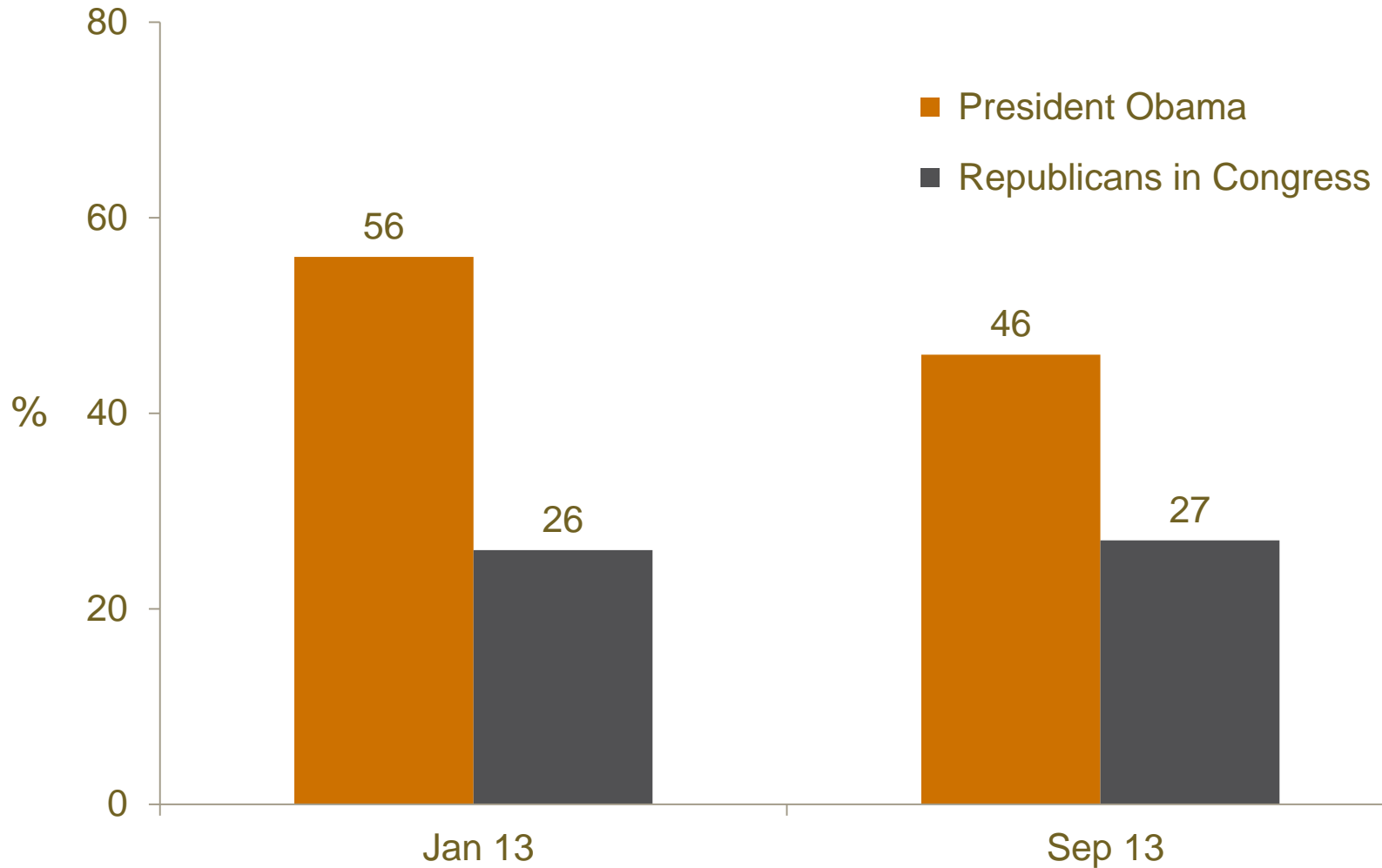
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Approval ratings of federal elected officials

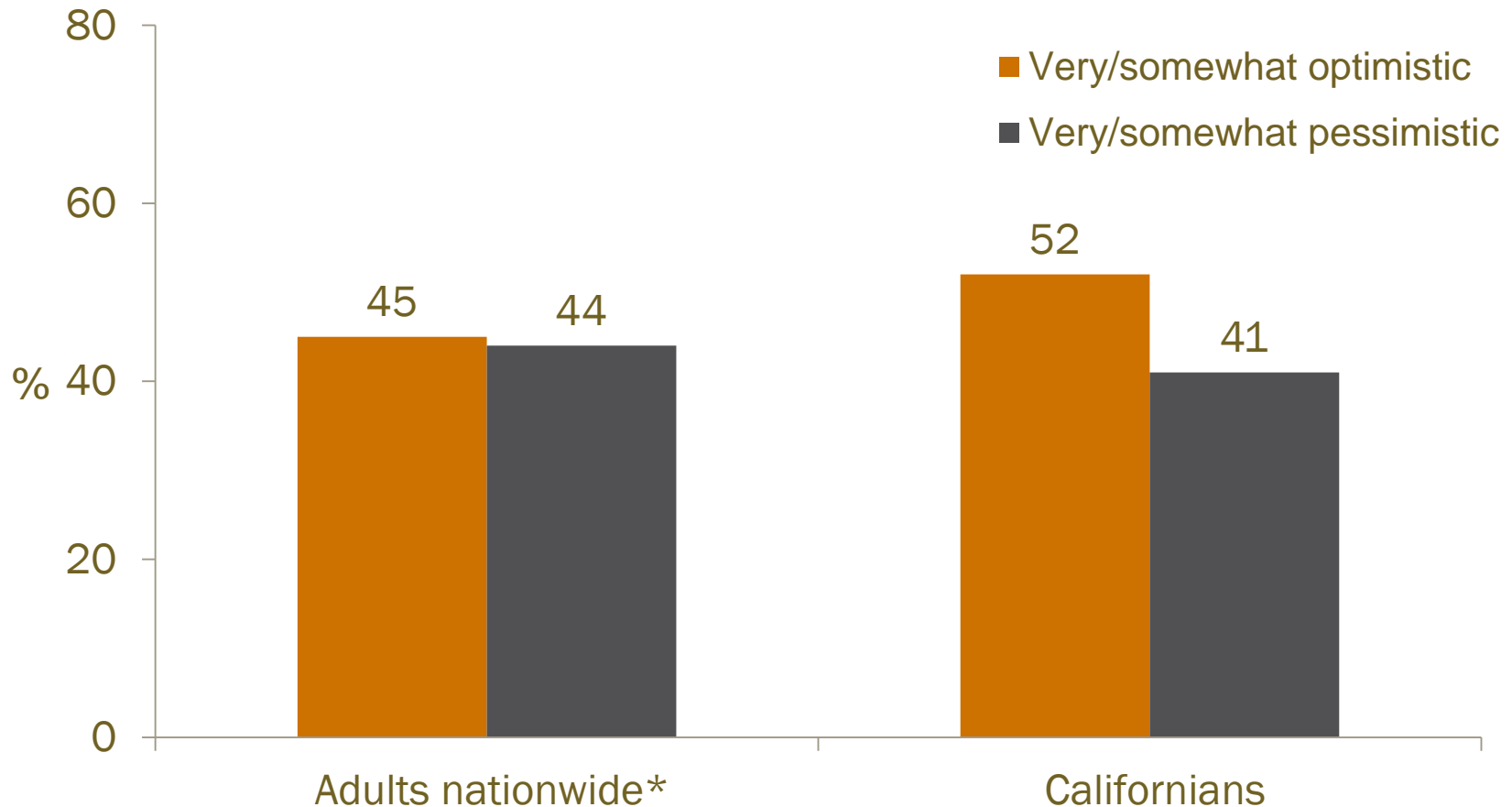


Approval ratings on handling federal deficit and debt ceiling



Outlook for international plan to destroy Syria's chemical weapons

As you may know, Russia has proposed a plan that an international team take over and destroy Syria's stockpile of chemical weapons.
Are you optimistic or pessimistic that this plan will succeed?

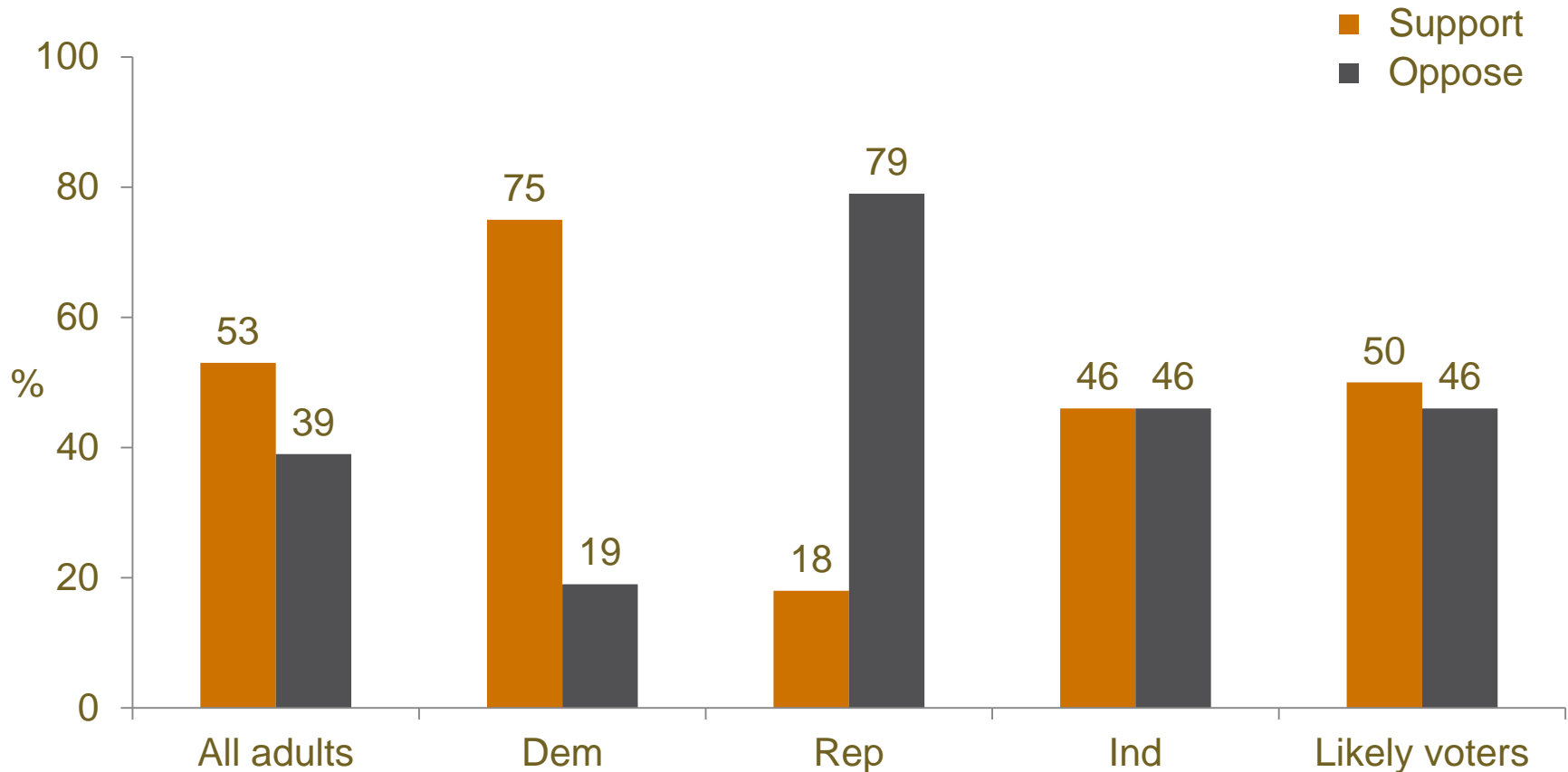


*Gallup Poll, Sep 11-12



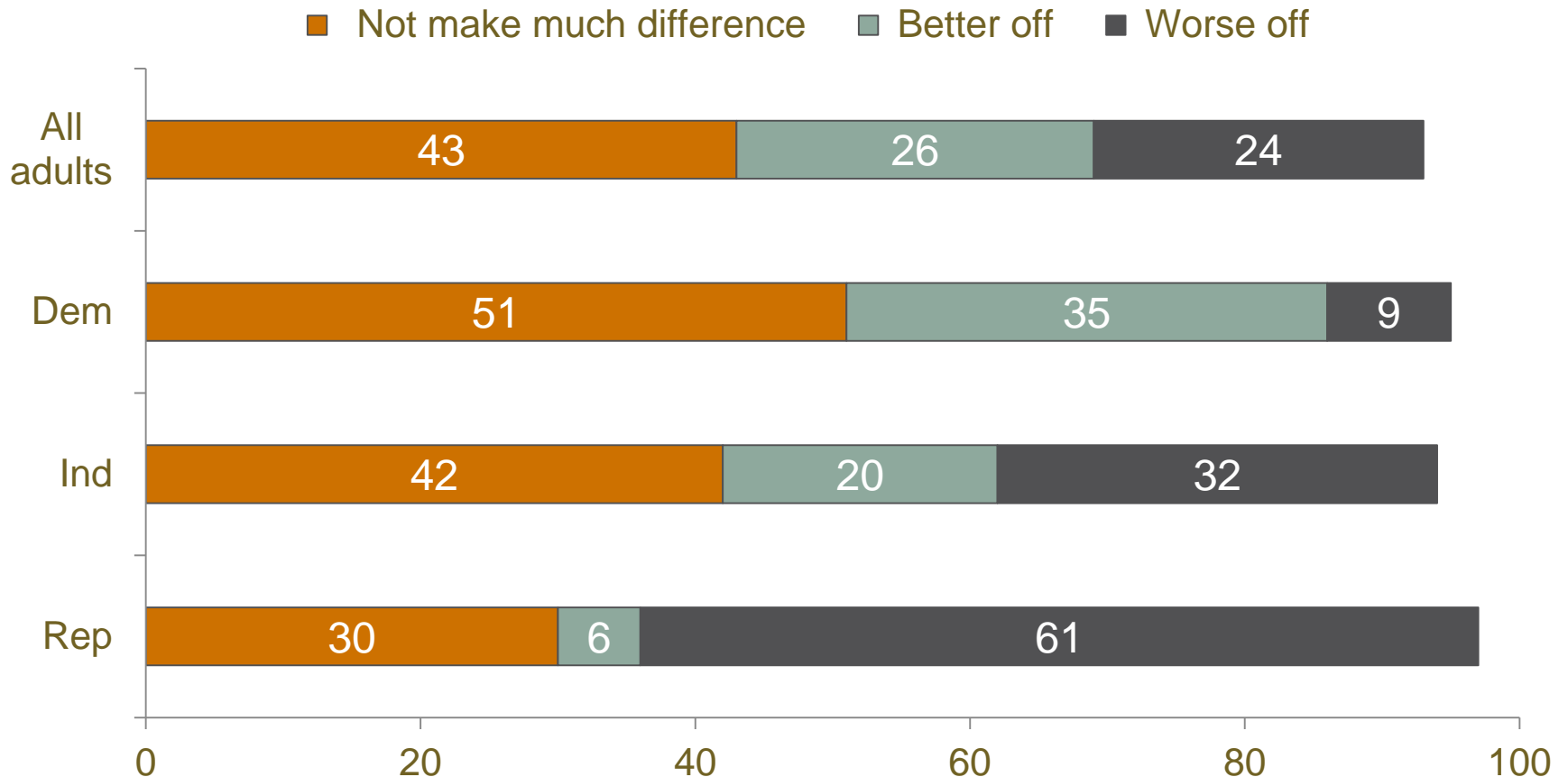
Healthcare reform

Overall, given what you know about them, would you say you support or oppose the changes to the health care system that have been enacted by Congress and the Obama administration?



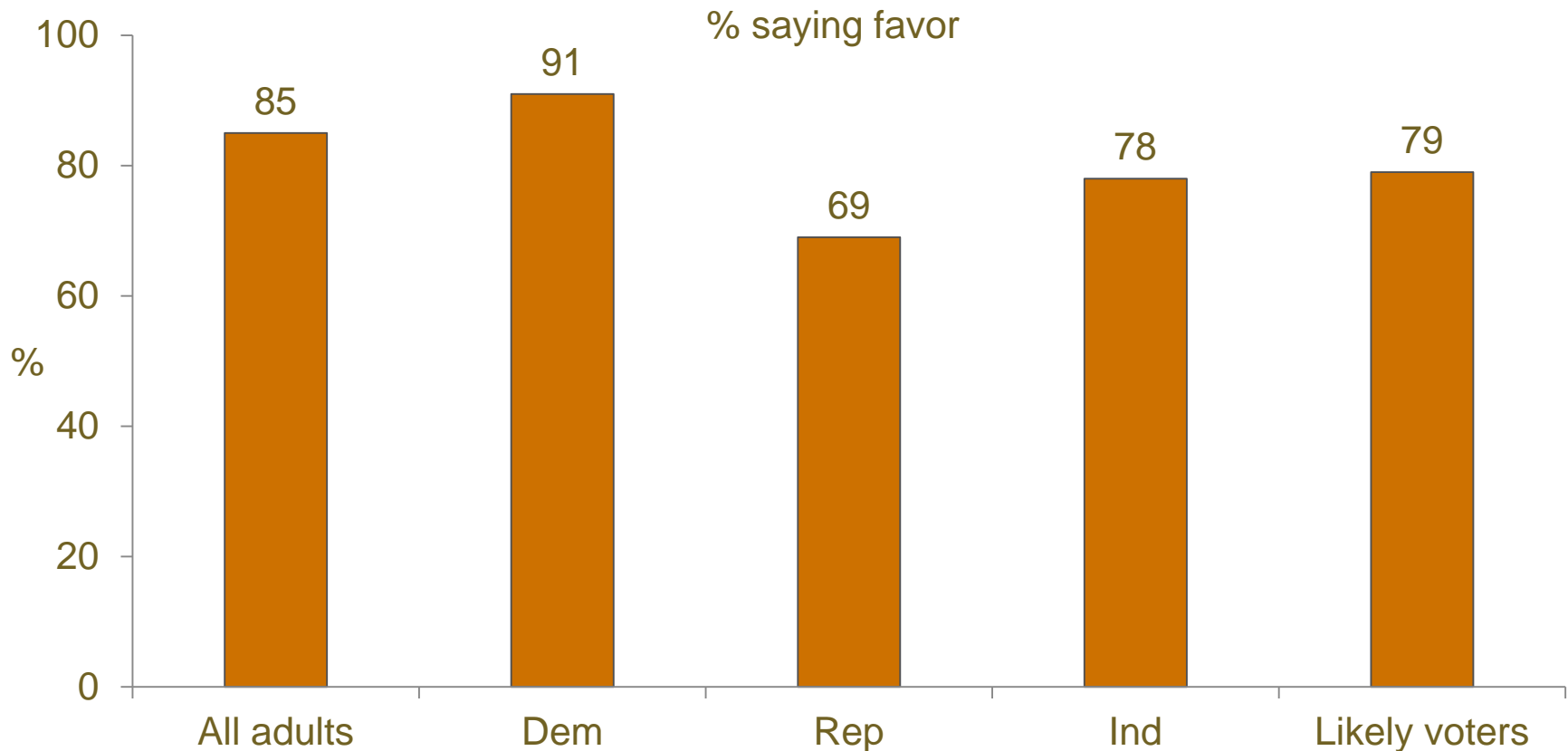
Healthcare reform's personal effects

Do you think that you and your family will be better off worse off under the health reform law, or don't you think it will make much difference?



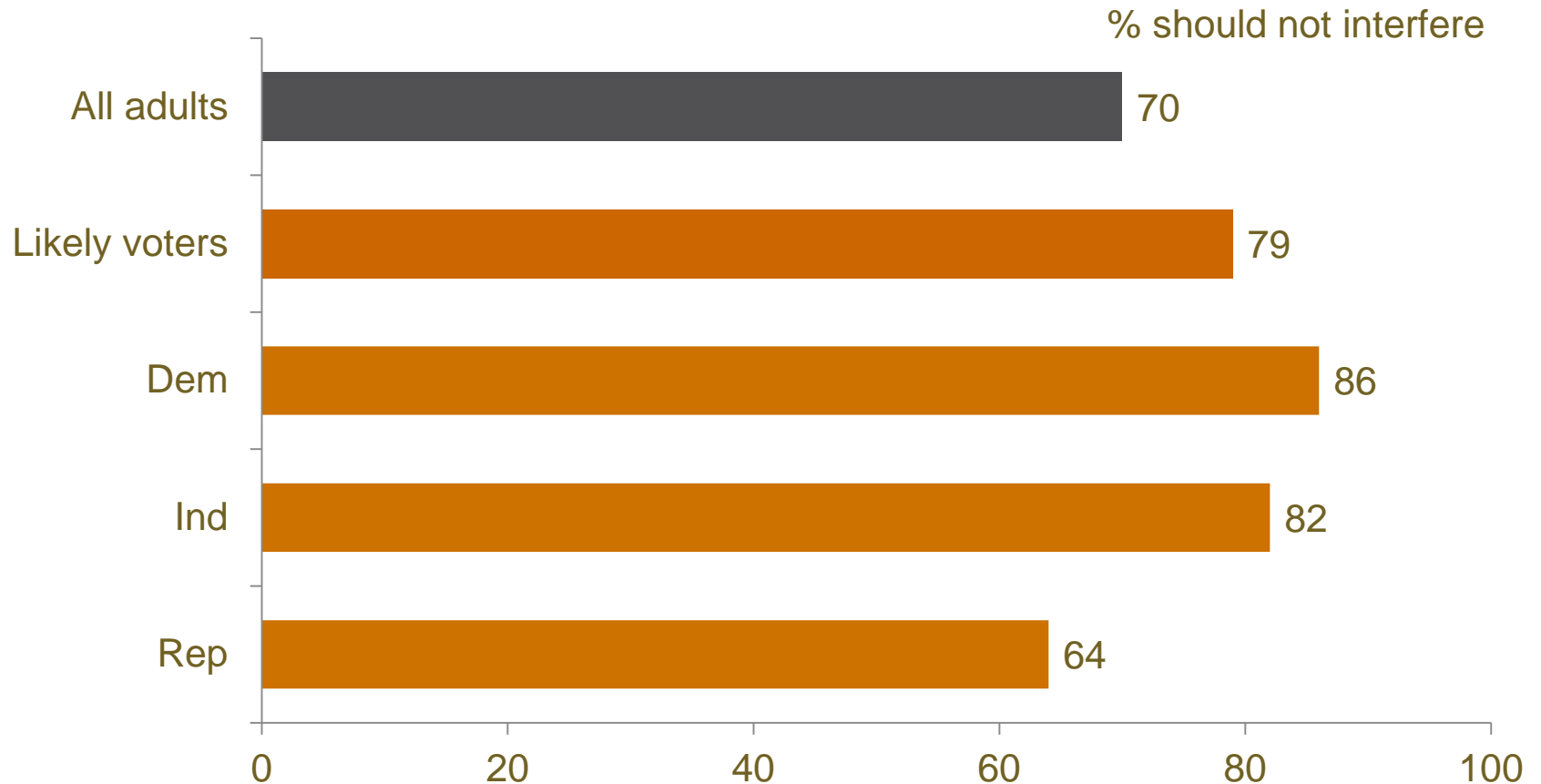
Immigration reform

Would you favor or oppose providing a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants in the U.S. if they met certain requirements including a waiting period, paying fines and back taxes, passing criminal background checks, and learning English?



Government role in abortion

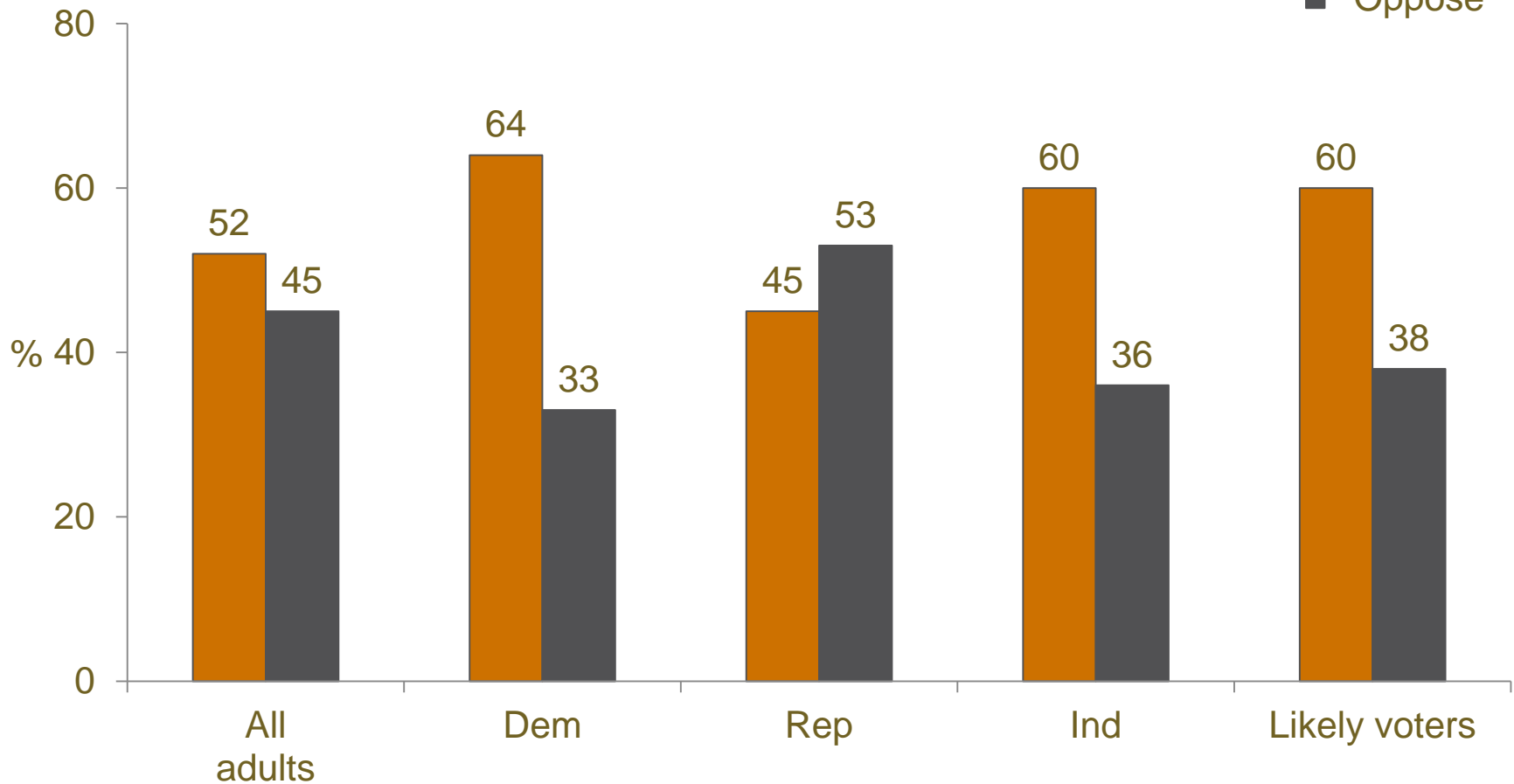
Which of the following statements comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right: The government should pass more laws that restrict the availability of abortion; or the government should not interfere with a woman's access to abortion.



Marijuana legalization

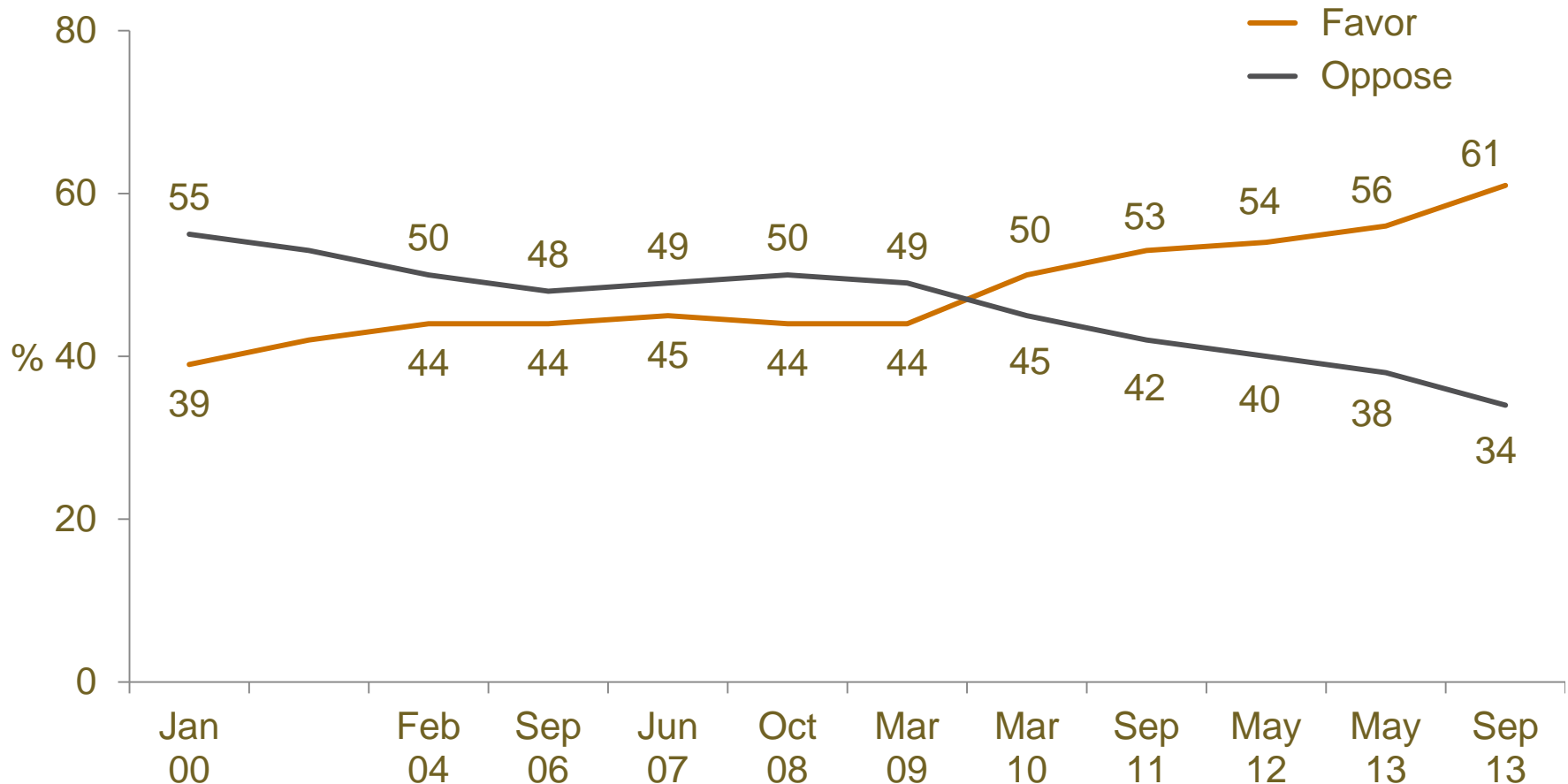
In general, do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?

■ Favor
■ Oppose



Same-sex marriage

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



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Conclusions

- About half favor the plan to ease prison overcrowding
- Four in 10 are confident about local government's ability to handle prisoner shift to county jails
- Majorities favor stricter regulations on fracking; overwhelming support for requiring permits and disclosure of chemicals used in the process
- President Obama's ratings on handling the federal deficit and the debt ceiling declines from January
- A slim majority favor health care reform; overwhelming support for path to citizenship for immigrants
- Support for legalizing marijuana and same-sex marriage at a new high



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:

surveys@ppic.org

Thank you for your interest in this work.

