

# The Political Landscape Approaching the 2018 Election



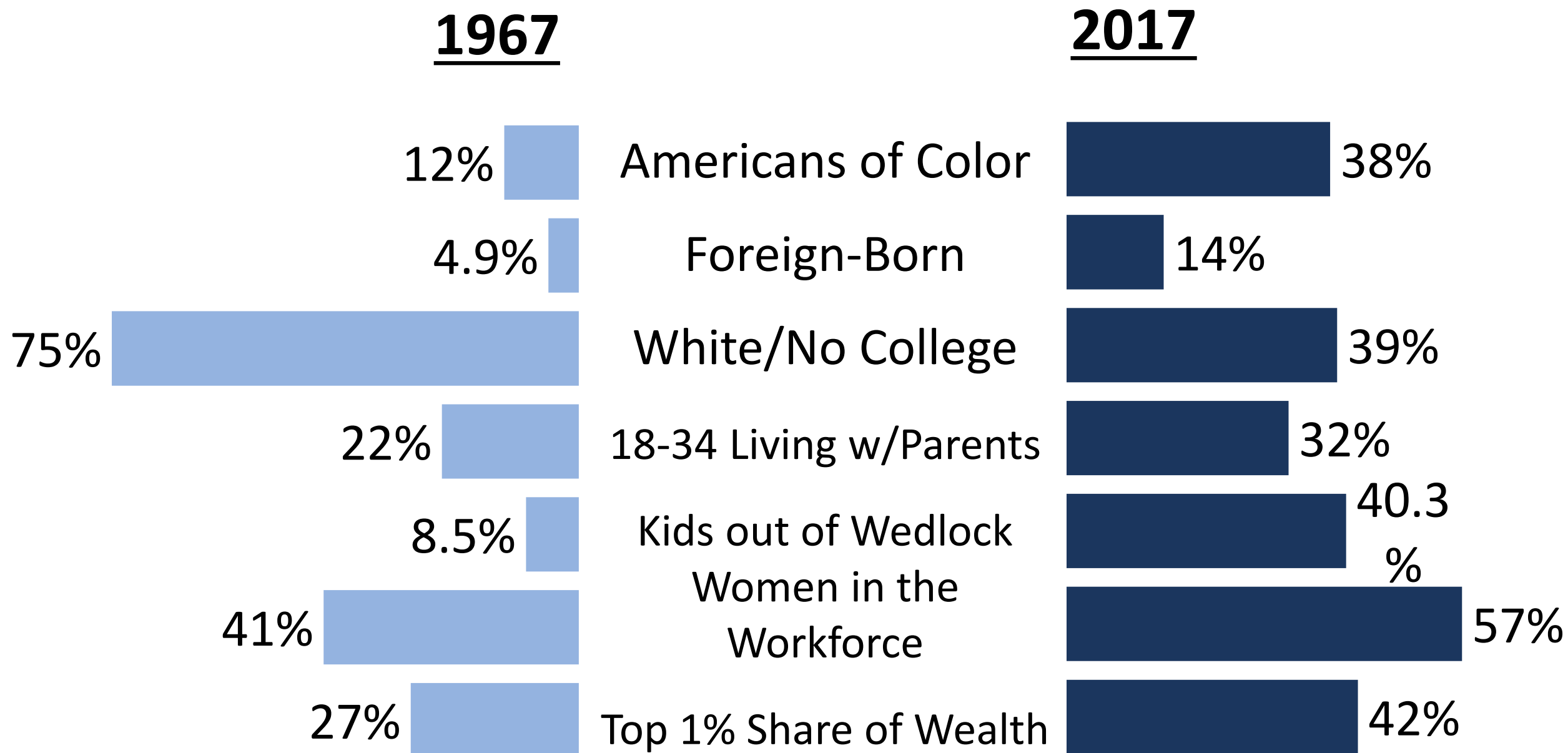
October 17, 2018

*Dave Metz, Partner*



OPINION  
RESEARCH  
& STRATEGY

# The structure of American society has changed markedly over five decades.



Source: Census, Pew, CDC ChildTrends, US Dept. of Labor, T. Pikety

**80%** of Americans see the country as  
“mainly divided”...



...while just **20%** see it “mainly united.”

# Four decades after Watergate, trust in government is near a record low.

*Proportion Believing Federal Government Can be Trusted to Do What is Right "All or Most of the Time"*

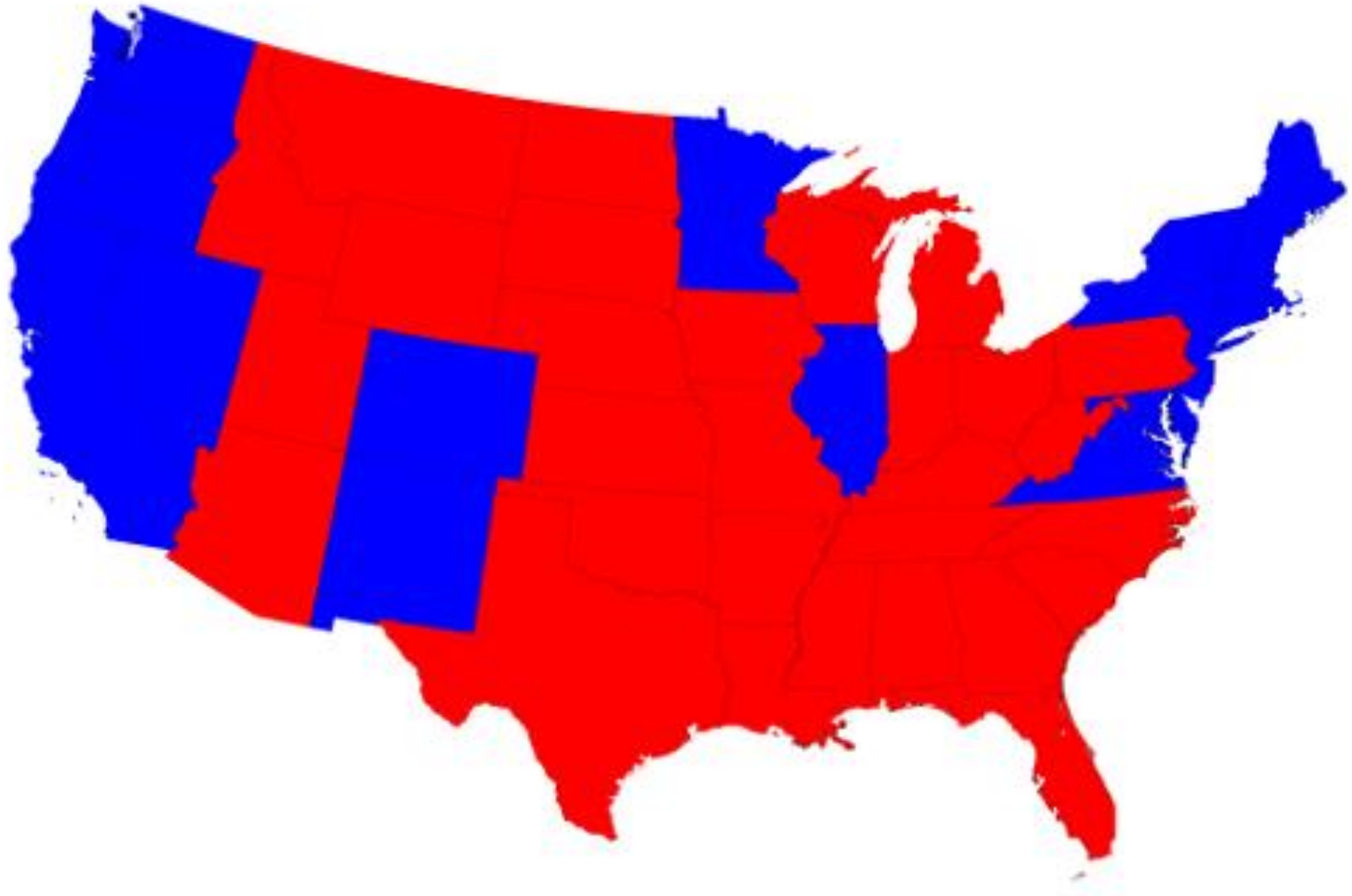
1972

1974

December 2017

53% 36% 18%

# But how divided are we, really?

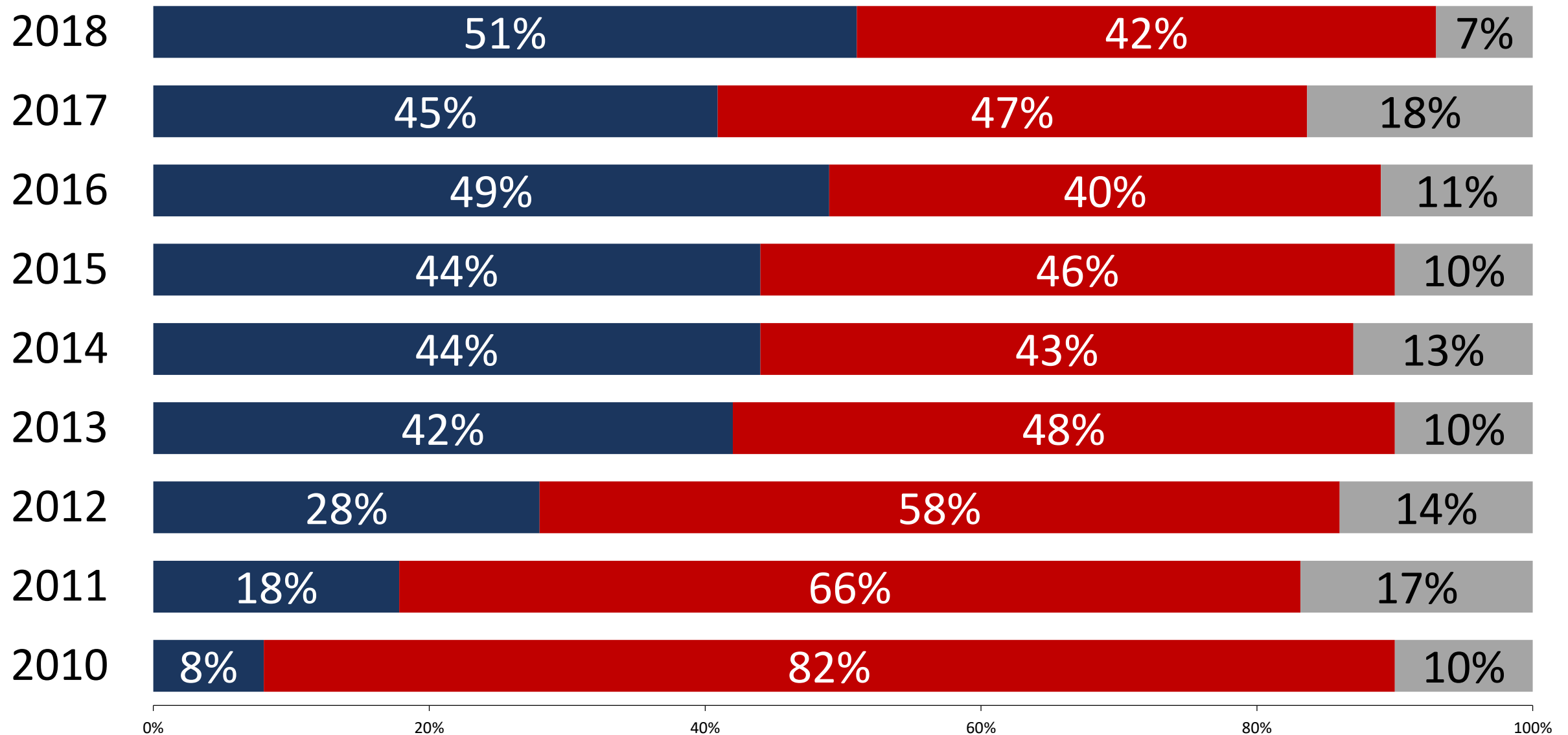


## 2016 Vote for President

# In California, voters are becoming modestly more optimistic.

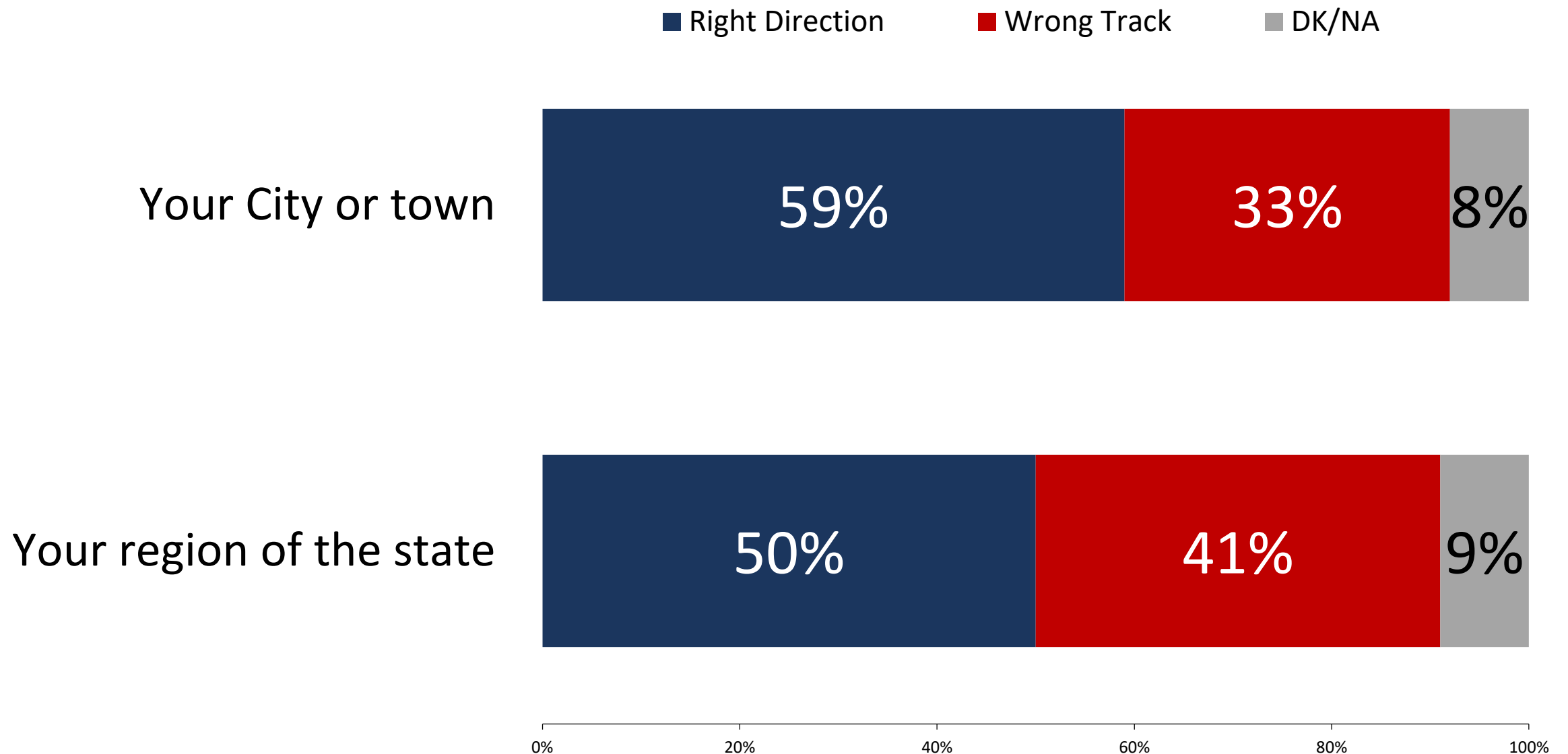
*Would you say that things in the State of California are generally headed in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?*

■ Right Direction ■ Wrong Track ■ Mixed/DK/NA



# Voters have an even more positive feeling about how things are going at the local level.

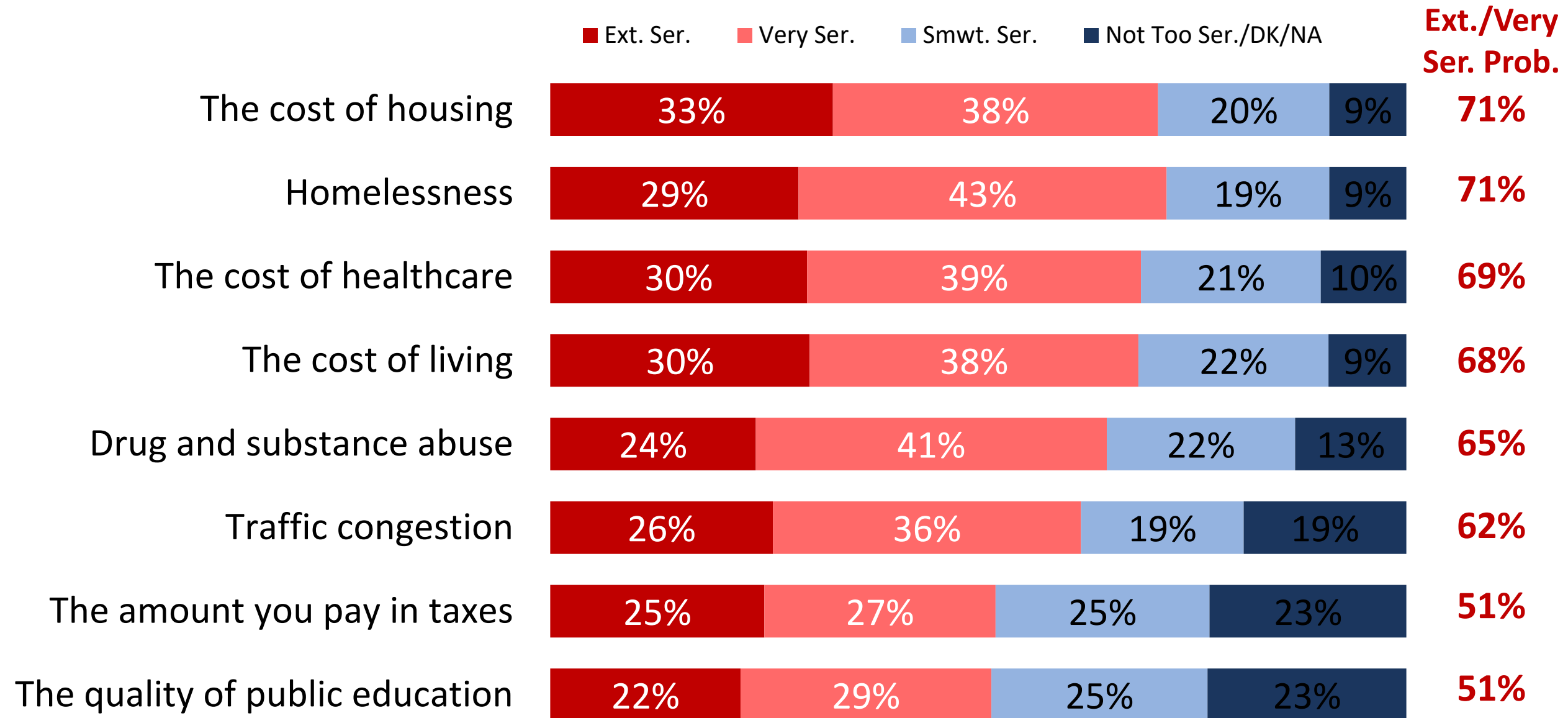
*Generally speaking, would you say that things in \_\_\_\_\_ are headed in the right direction or do you feel that things are pretty seriously off on the wrong track?*





# Housing, homelessness, and the cost of healthcare are voters' top concerns.

*Please tell me whether you think each is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, somewhat serious problem, or not too serious a problem in your area.*



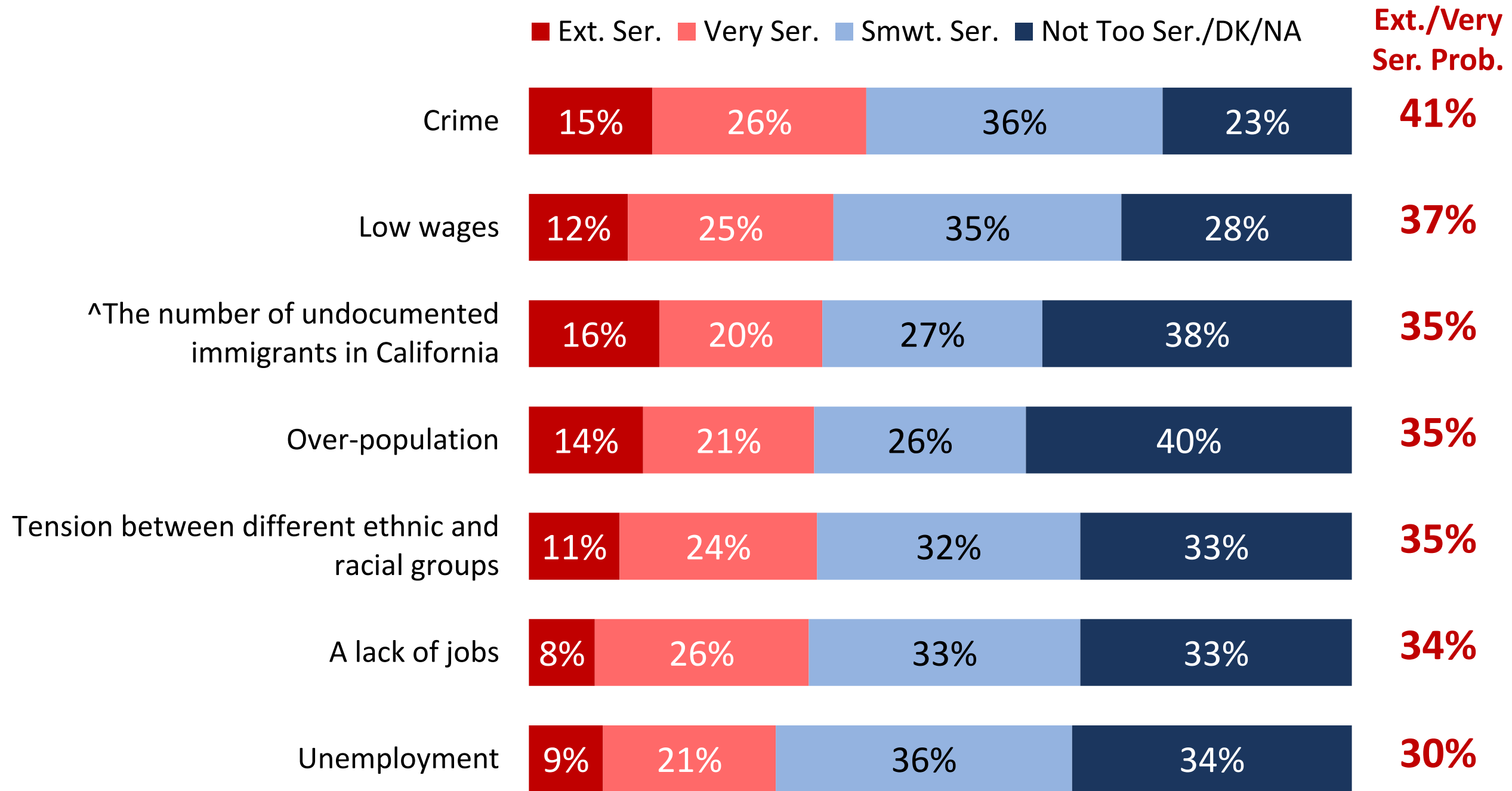


**Just 11% of Californians are “very confident” that their children or grandchildren will be able to afford to live in the same community they themselves do now.**



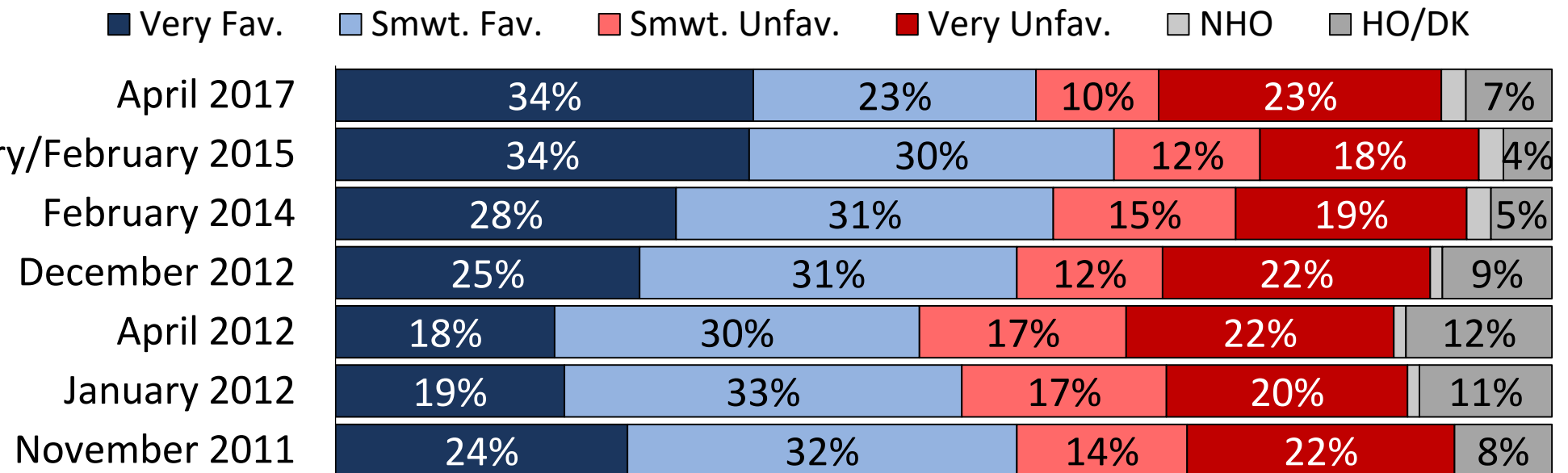


# In a strong contrast to a few years ago, unemployment ranks dead last.

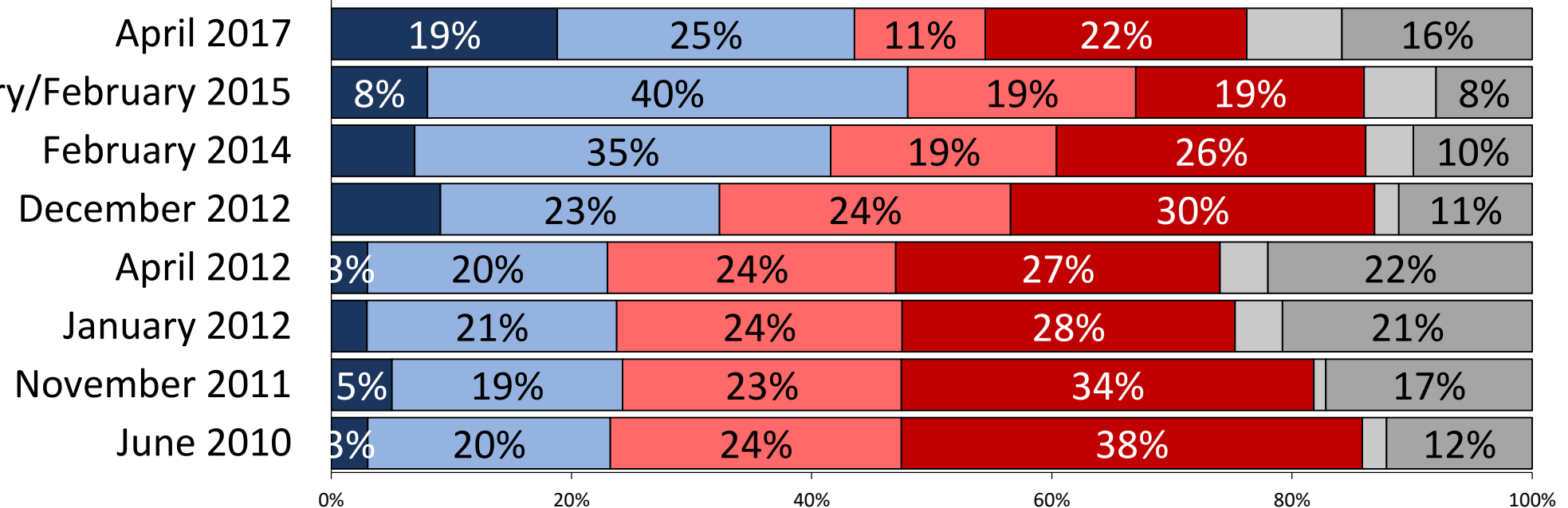


# Impressions of the Governor and Legislature remain net positive.

## Governor Jerry Brown



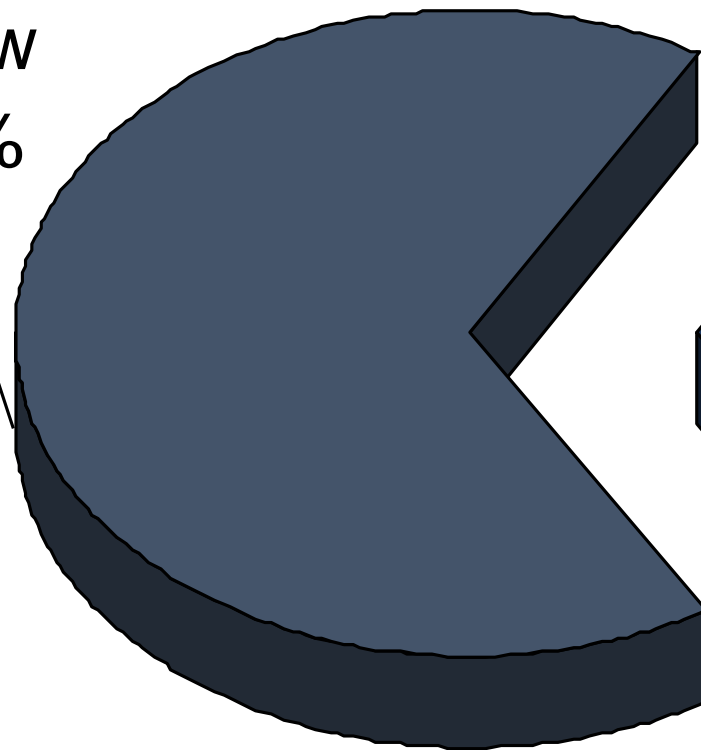
## The California State Legislature



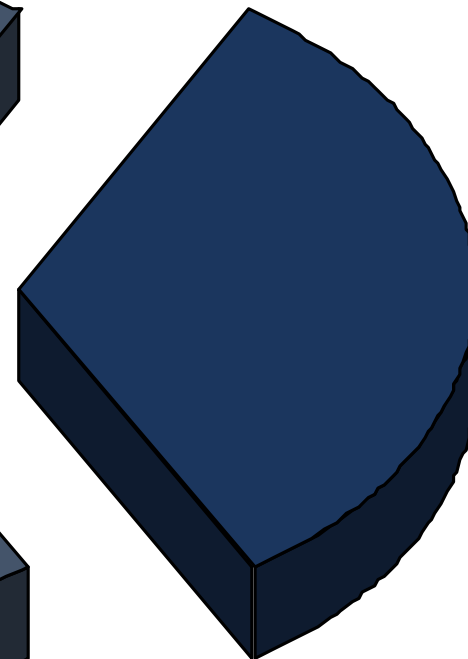
# Of course, voters have very little idea of who actually represents them.

*“Can you tell me the name of the person who represents your area in the California State Senate?”*

Don't  
know  
67%





Name  
offered  
33%



*Only 7% of  
California voters  
are able to  
correctly name  
their state  
senator.*

# There is a powerful incentive for Democrats in California to position themselves as standing up to Trump.

	 <b>Trump</b>	 <b>Clinton</b>	<b>Difference</b>
California	<b>32%</b> <b>(4,483,810)</b>	<b>62%</b> <b>(8,753,788)</b>	<b>Clinton +30%</b>
Rest of the U.S.	<b>50.7%</b> <b>(58,369,538)</b>	<b>49.3%</b> <b>(56,761,628)</b>	<b>Trump +1.4%</b>
Alameda County	<b>15%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>Clinton +64%</b>
Los Angeles County	<b>23%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>Clinton +49%</b>

# The “enthusiasm gap” is minimal.

Group	% 91-100
Republicans	67%
Democrats	63%
Independents	68%
Whites	69%
Latinos	53%
All Voters of Color	60%
Non-College	61%
College-Educated	72%
Under age 50	62%
Age 50-64	67%
Age 65+	71%
Men	64%
Women	68%

*“In November, there will be a state of California election for Governor, U.S. Senator, Congress, state legislature and ballot measures. How interested are you in the November election: please use a scale from zero to one hundred, where zero means you are not at all interested and 100 means you are extremely interested?”*



# The California Ballot

**PROP 1** AUTHORIZES BONDS TO FUND SPECIFIED HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE.

**PROP 2** AUTHORIZES BONDS TO FUND EXISTING HOUSING PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE.

**PROP 3** AUTHORIZES BONDS TO FUND PROJECTS FOR WATER SUPPLY AND QUALITY, WATERSHED, FISH, WILDLIFE, WATER CONVEYANCE, AND GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AND STORAGE. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

**PROP 4** AUTHORIZES BONDS FUNDING CONSTRUCTION AT HOSPITALS PROVIDING CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

**PROP 5** CHANGES REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNERS TO TRANSFER THEIR PROPERTY TAX BASE TO REPLACEMENT PROPERTY. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE.

**PROP 6** ELIMINATES CERTAIN ROAD REPAIR AND TRANSPORTATION FUNDING. REQUIRES CERTAIN FUEL TAXES AND VEHICLE FEES BE APPROVED BY THE ELECTORATE. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

**PROP 7** CONFORMS CALIFORNIA DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME TO FEDERAL LAW. ALLOWS LEGISLATURE TO CHANGE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME PERIOD. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE.

**PROP 8** REGULATES AMOUNTS OUTPATIENT KIDNEY DIALYSIS CLINICS CHARGE FOR DIALYSIS TREATMENT. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

**PROP 10** EXPANDS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' AUTHORITY TO ENACT RENT CONTROL ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

**PROP 11** REQUIRES PRIVATE-SECTOR EMERGENCY AMBULANCE EMPLOYEES TO REMAIN ON-CALL DURING WORK BREAKS. ELIMINATES CERTAIN EMPLOYER LIABILITY. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

**PROP 12** ESTABLISHES NEW STANDARDS FOR CONFINEMENT OF SPECIFIED FARM ANIMALS; BANS SALE OF NONCOMPLYING PRODUCTS. INITIATIVE STATUTE.





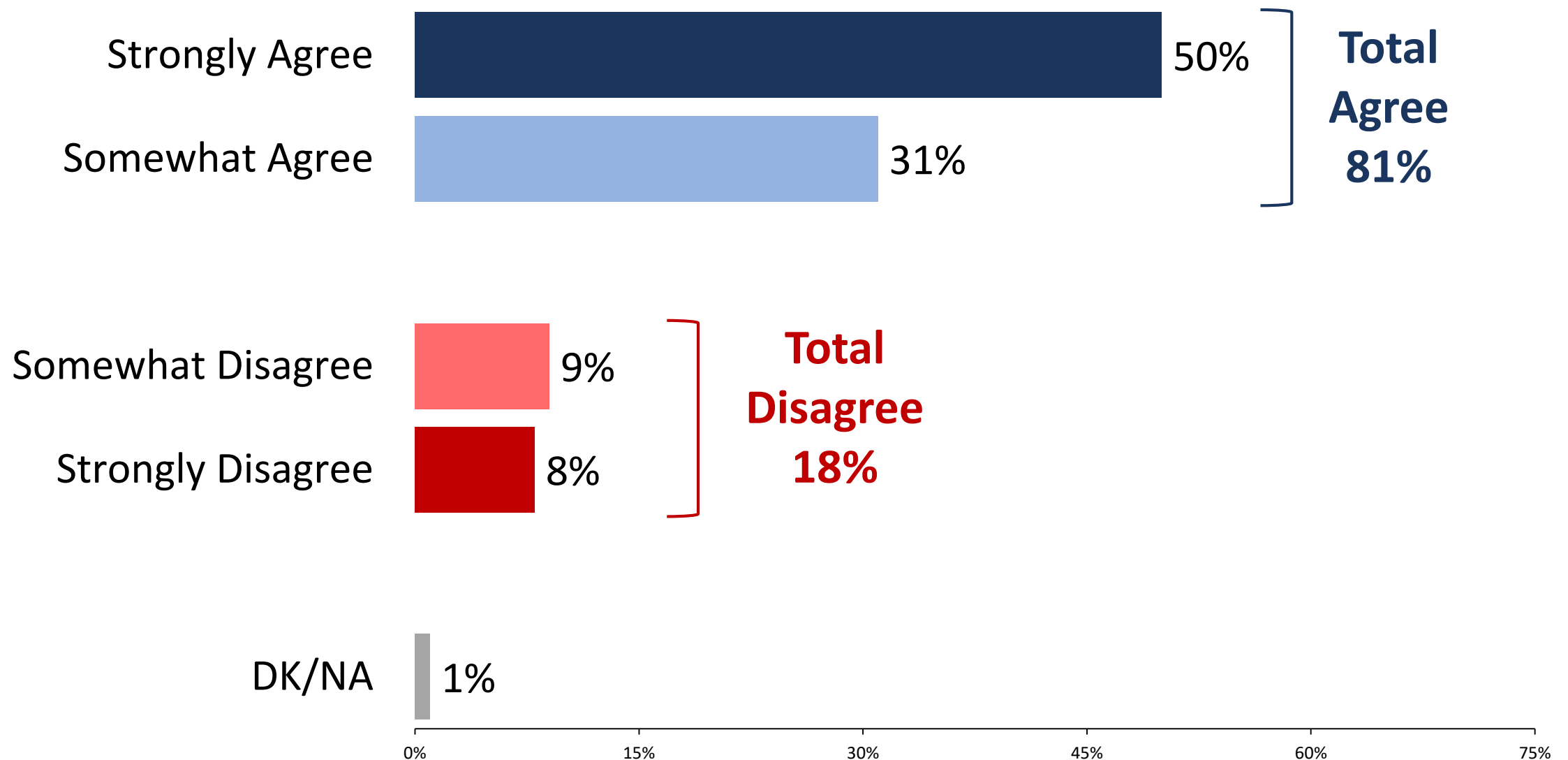
**75% of voters statewide think early childhood education prepares children for school.**

**72% of voters statewide think there is a need for funding for early childhood education.**

**63% of parents of children under 5 say the state should be doing more to provide opportunities for children to attend preschool.**

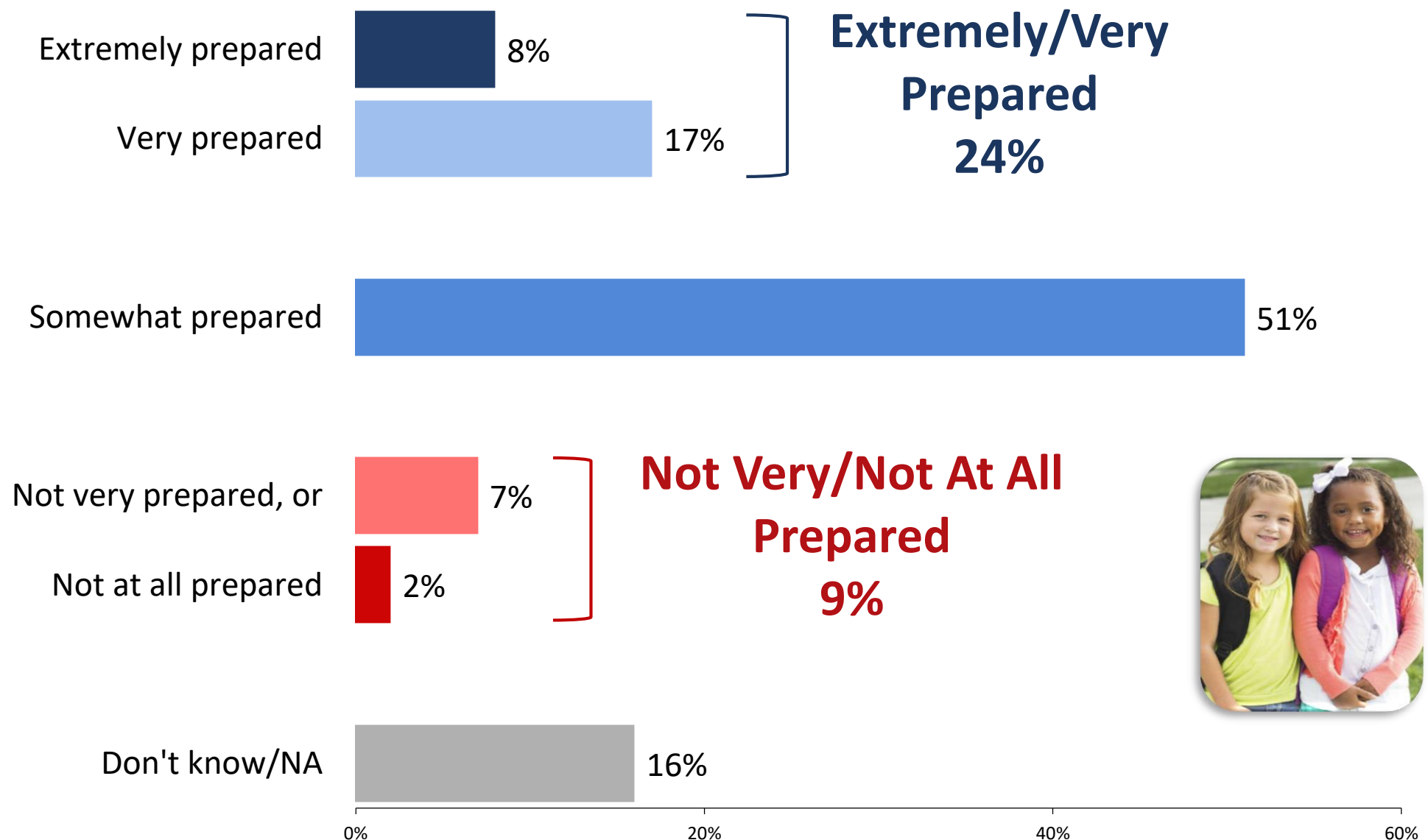
# Locally, voters feel a strong sense of collective responsibility for helping kids.

*“All Solano County residents have a shared responsibility in helping local children grow up healthy and ready to learn.”*



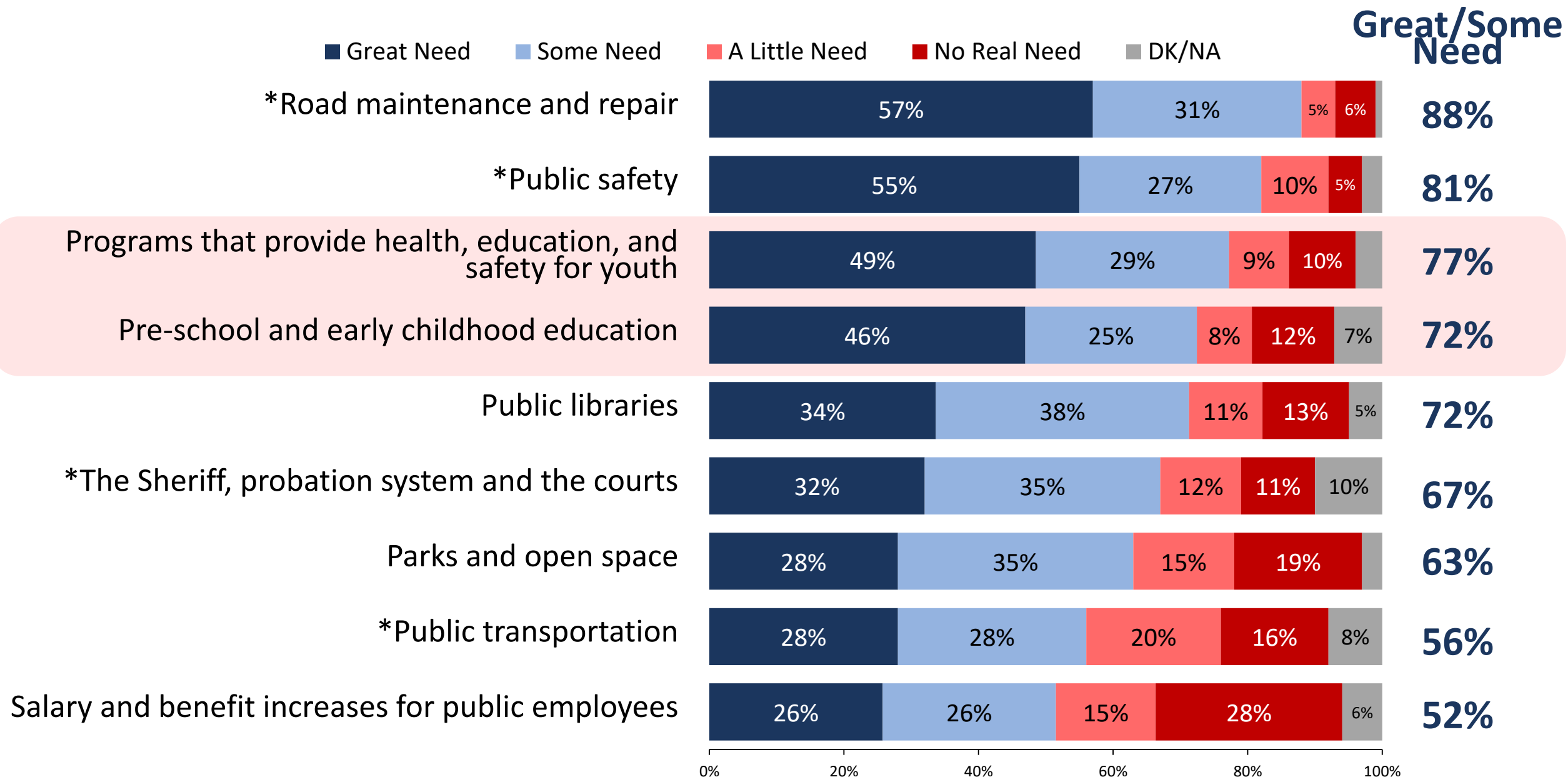
# Only one-quarter believe children are well-prepared for kindergarten.

*How prepared do you think San Mateo County's children are for learning when they enter kindergarten: are they...*



# Youth services rank in a top tier of funding needs.

*I am going to read a list of public services in San Joaquin County. Please tell me if you think there is a great need for additional funding, some need, a little need or no real need for additional funding for that service.*



# June 2018 Voter Support for Local Funding for Kids



76.7% Yes

67.5% Yes

50.9%

Yes

66.2%

Yes

# Questions?





# For more information, contact:



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