

Michigan Statewide Issues Poll

Prepared for the **State Innovation Exchange**



Survey Methodology



TargetSmart designed and administered this multi-modal survey. The survey reached 695 adults (600 weighted), age 18 or older, who indicated they were registered to vote in Michigan. The survey was conducted from June 4 to 9, 2021. The sample was randomly selected from TargetSmart's enhanced voter file.

One hundred respondents (102 weighted) were reached via phone interviews, 106 respondents (94 weighted) completed the survey online and were reached via an email or direct SMS invite, and 489 (404 weighted) were recruited from Dynata's web panel and matched to TargetSmart's voter file. Seventy-five percent of live phone respondents were reached on a wireless phone (77 percent weighted). Quotas were assigned to reflect the demographic distribution of registered Michigan voters. The data were weighted by gender, age, race from file, TargetSmart Partisan Score, TargetSmart Midterm General Election Turnout Score, TargetSmart High School Only Score, region by congressional district, and asked 2020 presidential vote to ensure an accurate reflection of the population.

The overall credibility interval associated with this data is +/- 4.0%. The margin of error for subgroups is larger and varies. Percentage totals may not add up precisely due to rounding.



Key Takeaways



Half of Michiganders, including nearly 4-in-10 independents, say the state should prioritize investing in people over austerity.



A plurality (41 percent) say American Rescue Plan funds should go towards investments in people rather than businesses.



A plurality (42 percent) agree voting measures put in place during the pandemic should be kept in place.



Findings

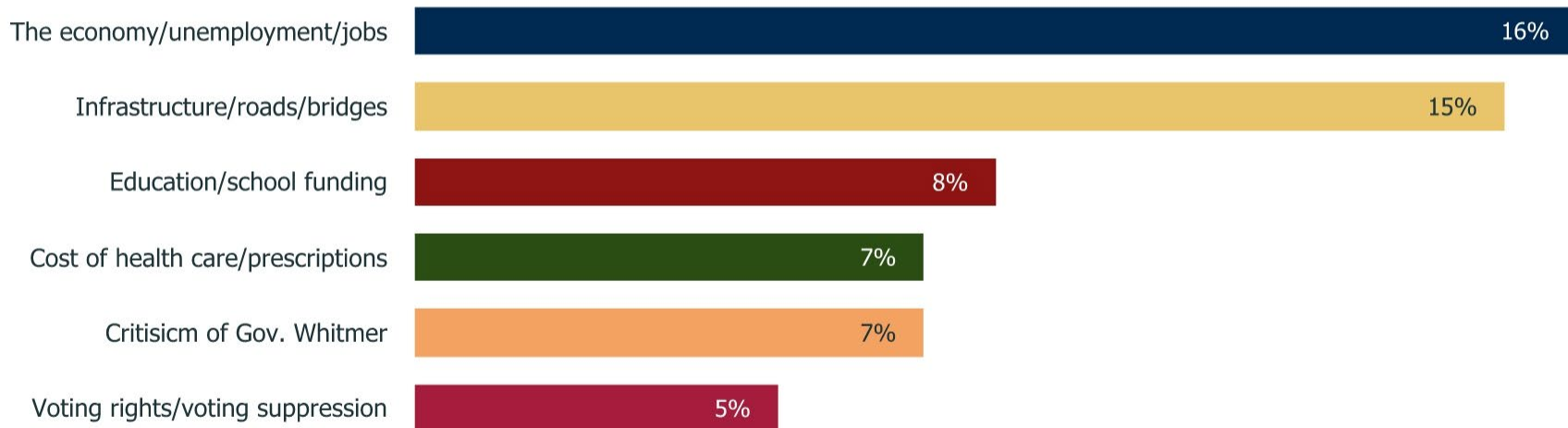
- As the Michigan economy continues to recover from the pandemic, this poll shows clearly that Michigan voters have a big appetite for public investment, and little appetite for an agenda fixated on tax cuts and austerity.
- The poll shows Michigan voters prioritize investing American Rescue Plan funds in Michigan families and Michigan workers.
- The poll shows Michigan voters view a range of public investments as effective ways to improve the economy, including in high-speed internet, affordable child care, job training, workplace safety, and affordable college.
- The poll highlights a number of proposals for American Rescue Plan funding that are met with overwhelming popularity by Michigan voters including investments in water infrastructure, mental health, keeping seniors in their homes, hazard pay for front line workers, high speed internet, and low interest loans for small businesses.



General Environment

Economy and infrastructure top concerns for Michiganders

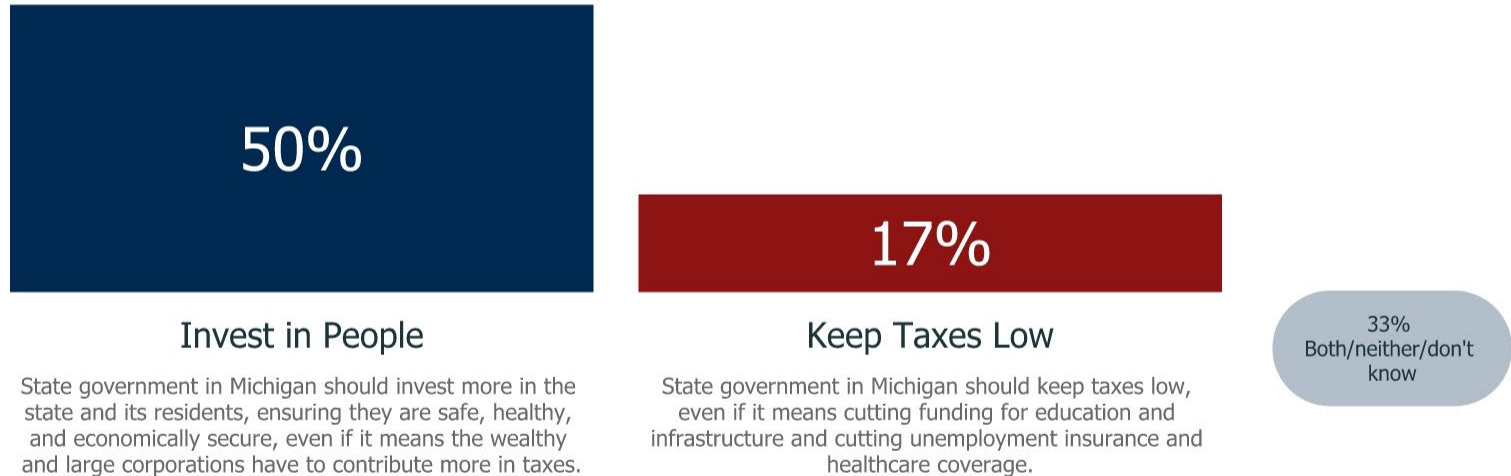
Biggest Policy Issue for Michigan Legislature



Q.7 What would you say is the biggest policy issue that you would like the Michigan state legislature to focus on?



By a nearly 3-to-1 margin, voters choose investment over austerity



Q.9 Which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither of them is exactly right?



4-in-10 independents support investing in people

Attitudes Towards State Budget by Key Demographics

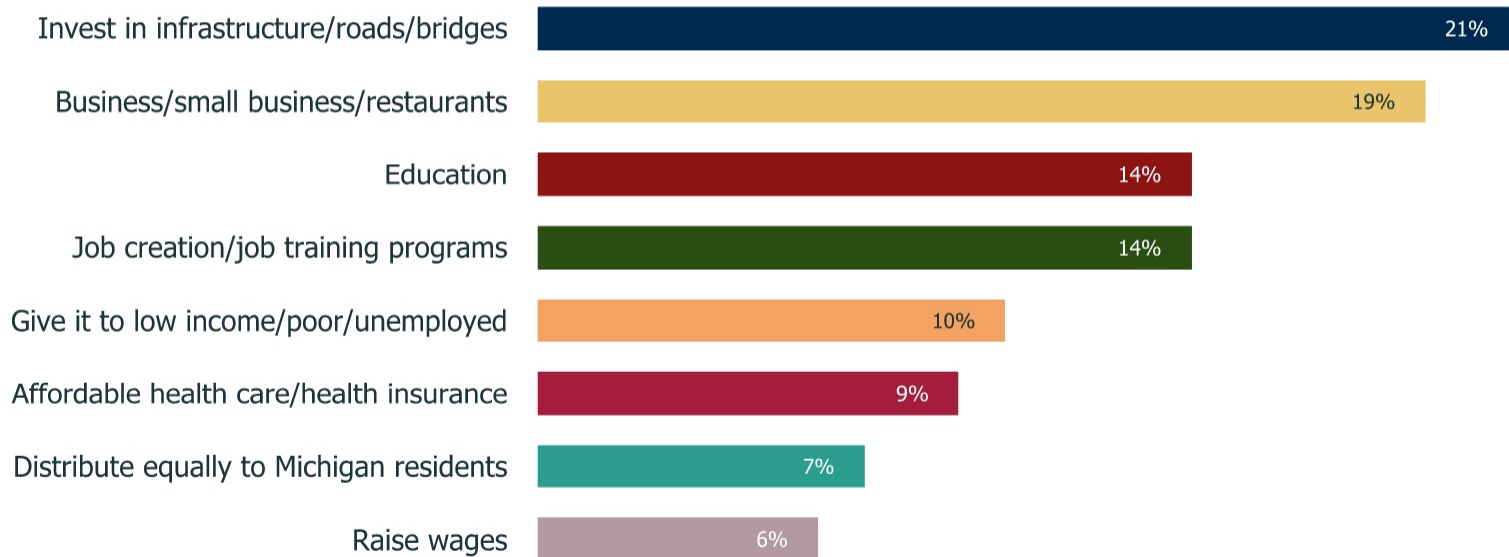
	Invest in People	Keep Taxes Low	Difference
Total	50%	17%	+33
ID Democrat	73%	6%	+67
ID independent	39%	14%	+25
ID Republican	29%	31%	-1
Men	47%	22%	+25
Women	53%	11%	+42
Age 18 to 49	54%	13%	+41
Age 50+	46%	20%	+27
White	51%	18%	+32
People of color	51%	9%	+42
POC 18 to 49	42%	10%	+32
POC 50+	70%	8%	+61



Attitudes Towards American Rescue Plan

No clear consensus on how to use ARP funds in open-ended exercise

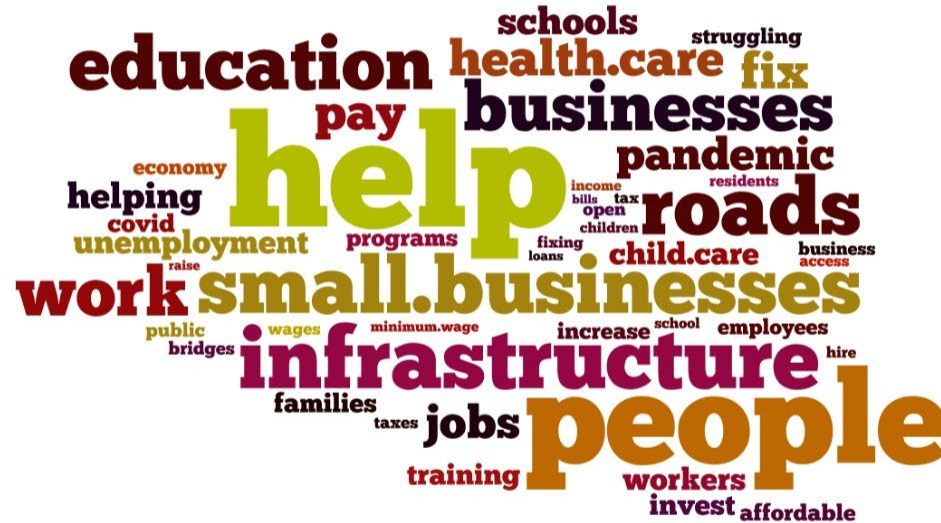
ARP Use



Q.13 As you may know, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic the United States Congress passed, and President Biden signed into law, the American Rescue Plan. The state of Michigan has received \$5.7 billion dollars in federal funding as part of the American Rescue Plan. In your own words, how do you think the state of Michigan should use this federal funding?



Help for people, small businesses, education, and infrastructure surface in word cloud of open ended responses



Q.13 As you may know, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic the United States Congress passed, and President Biden signed into law, the American Rescue Plan. The state of Michigan has received \$5.7 billion dollars in federal funding as part of the American Rescue Plan. In your own words, how do you think the state of Michigan should use this federal funding?

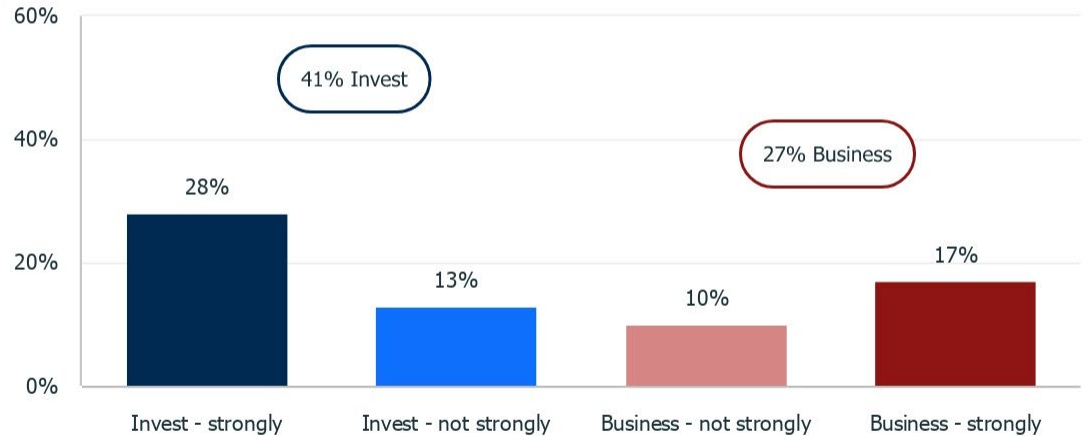
1-in-4 *strongly* prefer investment in people over investment in businesses

INVEST: *Invest in helping Michigan families and workers recover from the pandemic.*

OR

BUSINESS/SAVING: *Invest in Michigan businesses and save the rest to avoid debt.*

Initial Ask: ARP Funds Towards Investment or Business/Saving



Q.14 Generally speaking, would you prefer the state of Michigan use American Rescue Plan funds to...



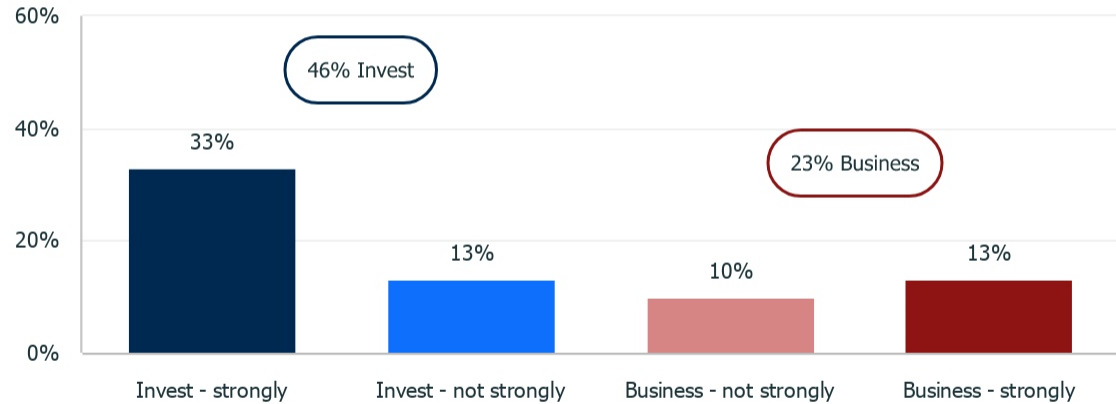
Some movement towards investing in people vs. informed ask

INVEST: *Invest in helping Michigan families and workers recover from the pandemic.*

OR

BUSINESS/SAVING: *Invest in Michigan businesses and save the rest to avoid debt.*

Informed Ask: ARP Funds Towards Investment or Business/Saving



Q.18 After hearing some more information about the American Rescue Plan, let me ask you again, would you prefer the state of Michigan use American Rescue Plan funds to...



Macomb County residents swing towards invest in people argument

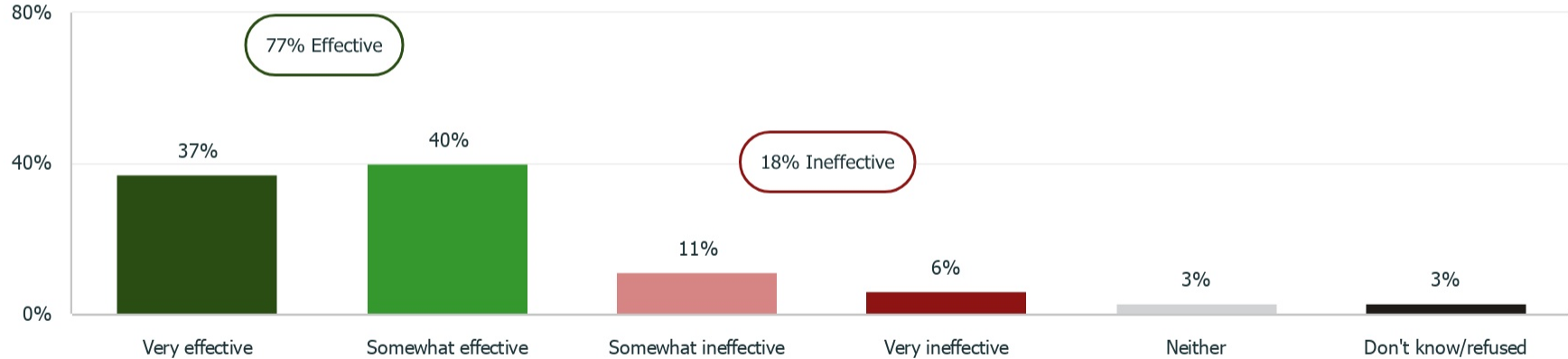
American Rescue Plan Fund Investment vs. Business/Saving by Key Demographics

	Initial			Informed			Informed - Initial
	Invest	Business	Invest - Business	Invest	Business	Invest - Business	Invest - Business
Total	41%	27%	+14	46%	23%	+24	+10
Rural	33%	31%	+2	41%	26%	+15	+13
Suburban	45%	29%	+17	49%	24%	+25	+8
Urban	44%	18%	+26	50%	17%	+33	+7
Detroit media market	42%	24%	+18	50%	20%	+30	+12
Flint/Saginaw media market	44%	27%	+16	42%	24%	+17	+1
Grand Rapids media market	39%	30%	+10	45%	29%	+16	+7
Macomb County	27%	31%	-3	47%	22%	+25	+28
Oakland County	45%	23%	+22	47%	19%	+28	+6
Wayne County	48%	18%	+30	54%	15%	+39	+9



3-in-4 see funding job training programs and higher education as a way to improve state economy

Funding affordable job training programs and higher education.



Q.12 Please tell me whether you believe each of the following policies would be a very effective, somewhat effective, somewhat ineffective, or very ineffective way to improve the economy in Michigan.



People of color very likely to say affordable jobs and education programs would improve economy

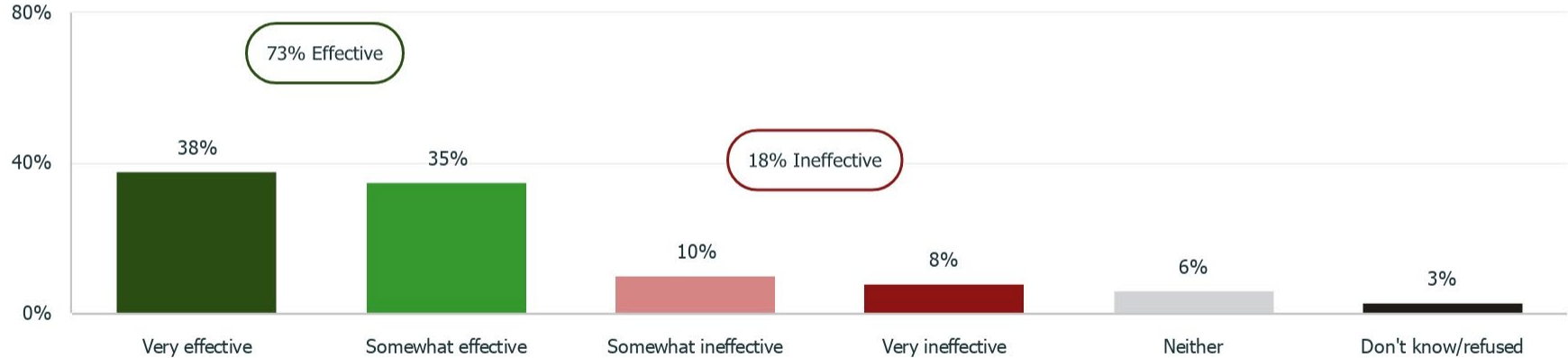
Affordable Job Trainings and Higher Education by Key Demographics

	Total Effective	Total Ineffective
Total	77%	18%
ID Democrat	92%	5%
ID independent	78%	16%
ID Republican	59%	33%
Men	72%	23%
Women	81%	12%
Age 18 to 49	76%	17%
Age 50+	77%	18%
White	75%	19%
People of color	85%	10%
POC 18 to 49	87%	9%
POC 50+	80%	1%



7-in-10 say child care affordability would improve MI economy

Making child care more affordable for Michigan families.



Q.12 Please tell me whether you believe each of the following policies would be a very effective, somewhat effective, somewhat ineffective, or very ineffective way to improve the economy in Michigan.



8-in-10 women, 6-in-10 independents and Republicans think affordable child care would improve economy

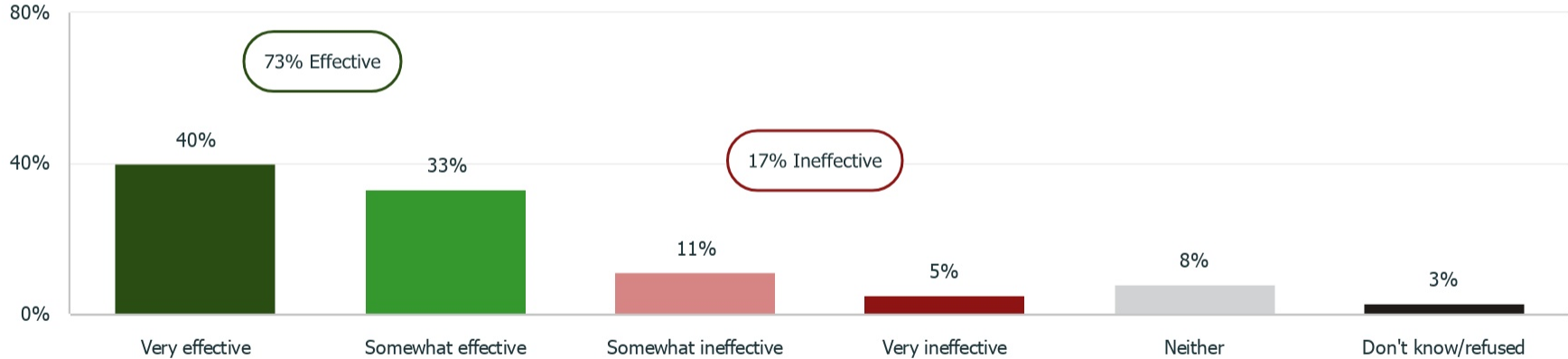
Child Care Affordability by Key Demographics

	Total Effective	Total Ineffective
Total	73%	18%
ID Democrat	92%	3%
ID independent	62%	24%
ID Republican	58%	32%
Men	63%	26%
Women	83%	10%
Age 18 to 49	76%	14%
Age 50+	70%	22%
White	72%	19%
People of color	78%	12%
POC 18 to 49	78%	12%
POC 50+	78%	11%



4-in-10 say accessible, affordable internet would be *very* effective way to improve economy

Making high-speed internet more accessible and affordable across Michigan.



Q.12 Please tell me whether you believe each of the following policies would be a very effective, somewhat effective, somewhat ineffective, or very ineffective way to improve the economy in Michigan.



Strong majorities across groups, including 8-in-10 older voters of color, think high speed internet is an effective way to improve Michigan's economy

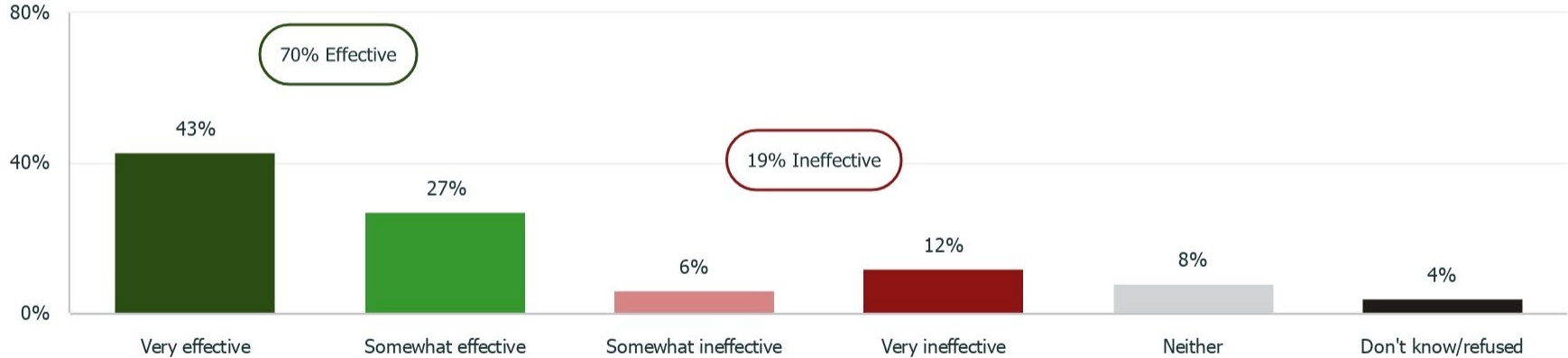
Affordable and Accessible High-speed Internet by Key Demographics

	Total Effective	Total Ineffective
Total	73%	17%
ID Democrat	83%	12%
ID independent	70%	15%
ID Republican	66%	22%
Men	71%	19%
Women	75%	15%
Age 18 to 49	74%	16%
Age 50+	72%	18%
White	74%	15%
People of color	73%	20%
POC under 50	69%	25%
POC 50+	82%	9%



Strong majority say workplace safety would improve economy

Making sure workers have safe workplaces and aren't exposed to COVID-19.

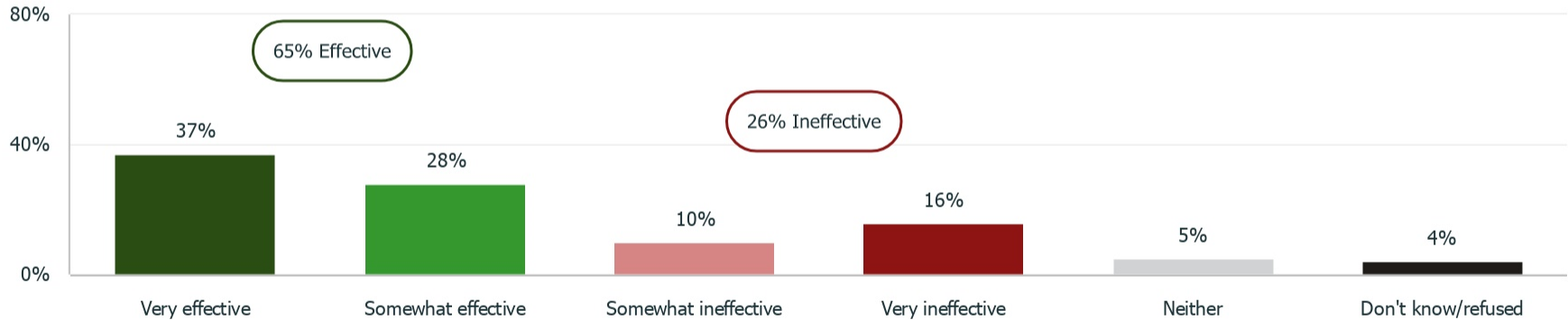


Q.12 Please tell me whether you believe each of the following policies would be a very effective, somewhat effective, somewhat ineffective, or very ineffective way to improve the economy in Michigan.



Nearly 2-in-3 say removing student debt, protecting against predatory loans would aid economy

Removing the burden student debt places on families by making college and training more affordable and protecting borrowers from predatory loan providers.



Q.12 Please tell me whether you believe each of the following policies would be a very effective, somewhat effective, somewhat ineffective, or very ineffective way to improve the economy in Michigan.



Strong majorities of women and people of color indicate removing debt and loans would improve economy

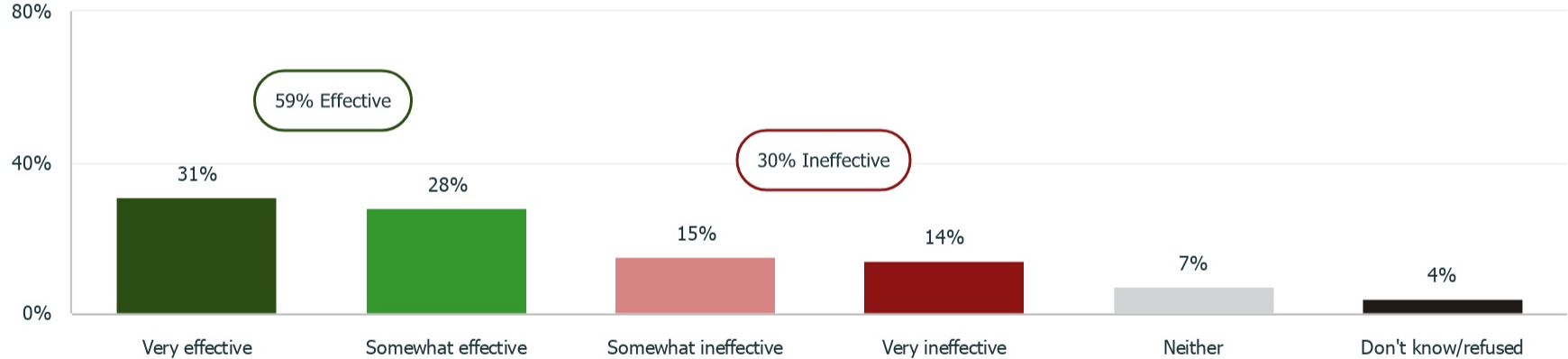
Removing Student Debt and Predatory Loans by Key Demographics

	Total Effective	Total Ineffective
Total	65%	26%
ID Democrat	86%	10%
ID independent	56%	26%
ID Republican	48%	43%
Men	57%	33%
Women	73%	18%
Age 18 to 49	71%	18%
Age 50+	60%	32%
White	64%	27%
People of color	76%	18%
POC 18 to 49	77%	16%
POC 50+	74%	20%



Majority say helping people struggling with bills would improve economy

Directing help to those struggling to pay bills so they can put that money back into the local economy.

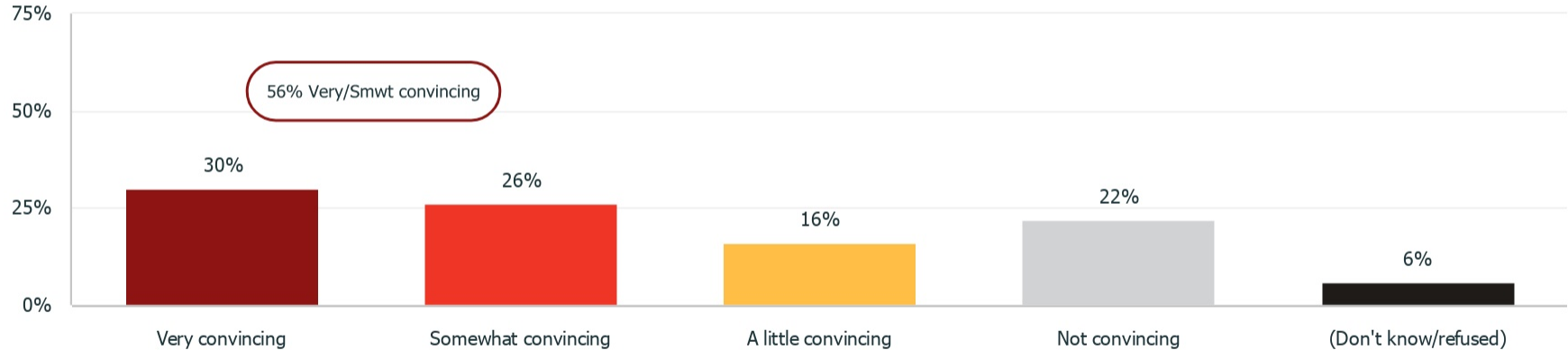


Q.12 Please tell me whether you believe each of the following policies would be a very effective, somewhat effective, somewhat ineffective, or very ineffective way to improve the economy in Michigan.



Majority see role for ARP funds to address inequality

INEQUALITY: *The pandemic made inequality in America much worse as the wealthiest people and big businesses made billions in profits while millions of out-of-work Americans could not afford basic needs like food and housing. American Rescue Plan investments in Michigan provide an opportunity to hit the reset button on our unequal and out-of-balance economy by investing in services we all need like health care, child care, and aid to families and small businesses.*

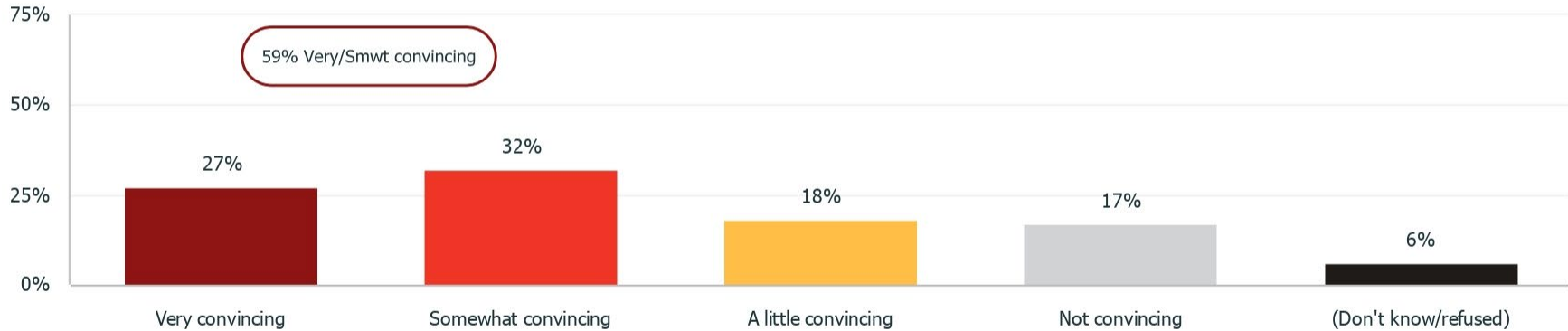


Q.17 Now I am going to read you a few arguments that some policy makers have made about using American Rescue Plan funds. Please tell me whether you find each argument to be very convincing, somewhat convincing, a little convincing, or not at all convincing.



Majority say ARP funds should help hardest-hit get back on their feet

HARDEST HIT: This pandemic hit Michiganders hard and the American Rescue Plan will ensure that the hardest hit communities in Michigan can get back on their feet by funding job training, public education, health care, and housing.



Q.17 Now I am going to read you a few arguments that some policy makers have made about using American Rescue Plan funds. Please tell me whether you find each argument to be very convincing, somewhat convincing, a little convincing, or not at all convincing.



Overwhelming support for several ARP proposals

Proposals for American Rescue Plan Funds -- % Total Support



Q.16 OK, now I am going to ask you about several ways the state of Michigan can use the federal funding from the American Rescue Plan. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of these proposals for using American Rescue Plan funding.



Broad support for other proposals, except limiting ARP use to after restrictions are lifted

Second Tier Proposals for American Rescue Plan Funds -- % Total Support

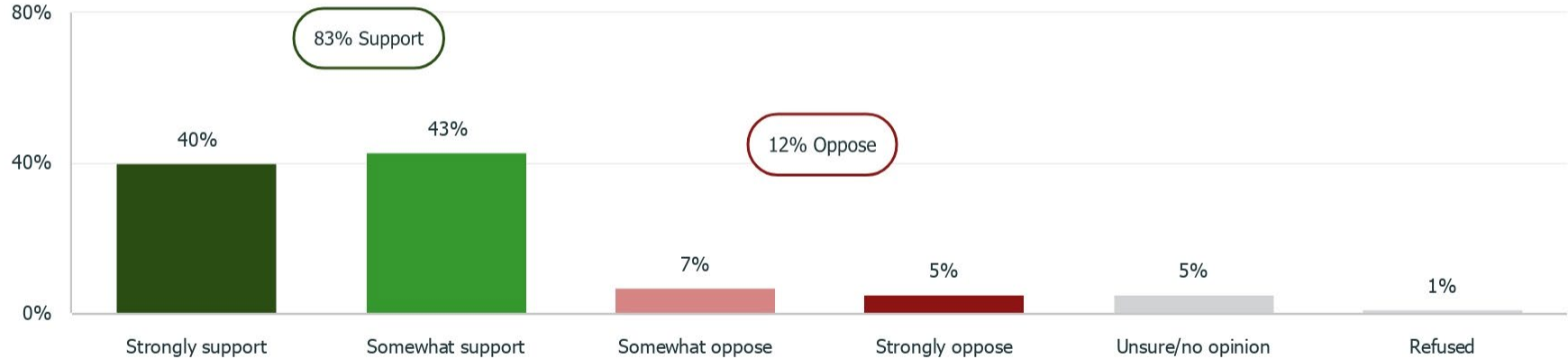


Q.16 OK, now I am going to ask you about several ways the state of Michigan can use the federal funding from the American Rescue Plan. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of these proposals for using American Rescue Plan funding.



8-in-10 want ARP funds to go to small business low-interest loans

Fund low-interest loans for small businesses.

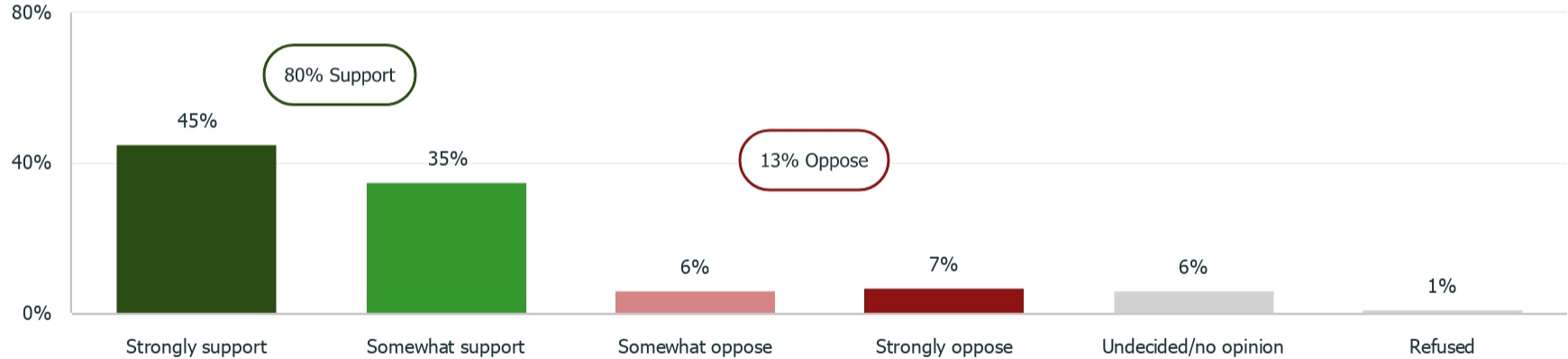


Q.16 OK, now I am going to ask you about several ways the state of Michigan can use the federal funding from the American Rescue Plan. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of these proposals for using American Rescue Plan funding.



Michiganders support updating water infrastructure by 6-to-1 margin

Create jobs and protect public health by updating water infrastructure like lead pipe replacements.



Q.16 OK, now I am going to ask you about several ways the state of Michigan can use the federal funding from the American Rescue Plan. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of these proposals for using American Rescue Plan funding.



Strong majorities across groups support using ARP funds on water infrastructure

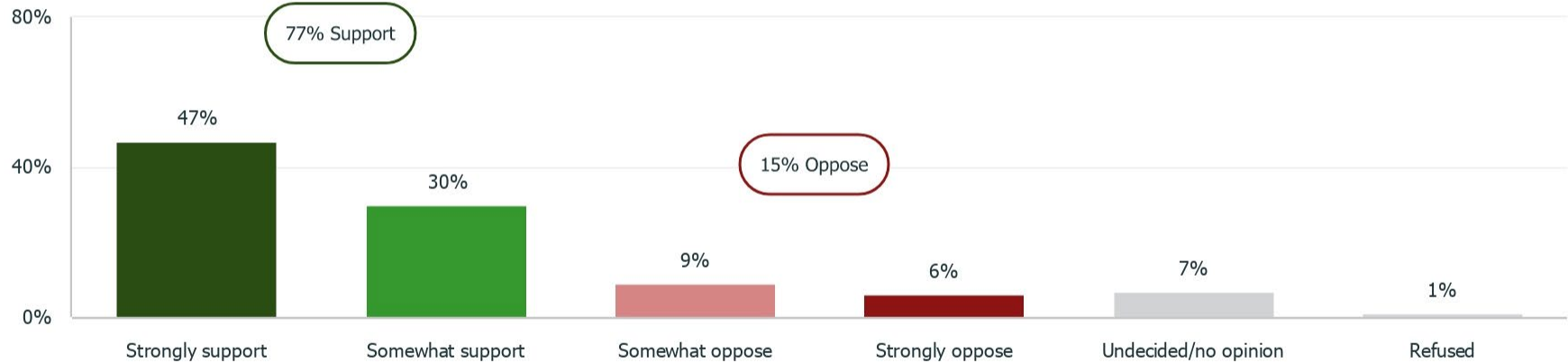
Water Infrastructure by Key Demographics

	% Support	% Oppose
Total	80%	13%
ID Democrat	88%	6%
ID independent	78%	14%
ID Republican	72%	21%
Men	81%	16%
Women	79%	10%
Age 18 to 49	75%	14%
Age 50+	84%	13%
White	81%	12%
People of color	75%	15%
POC under 50	71%	18%
POC 50+	83%	10%



3-in-4 support expanding access to mental health care

Expand access to mental health care.



Q.16 OK, now I am going to ask you about several ways the state of Michigan can use the federal funding from the American Rescue Plan. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of these proposals for using American Rescue Plan funding.



4-in-5 women support expanding mental health care

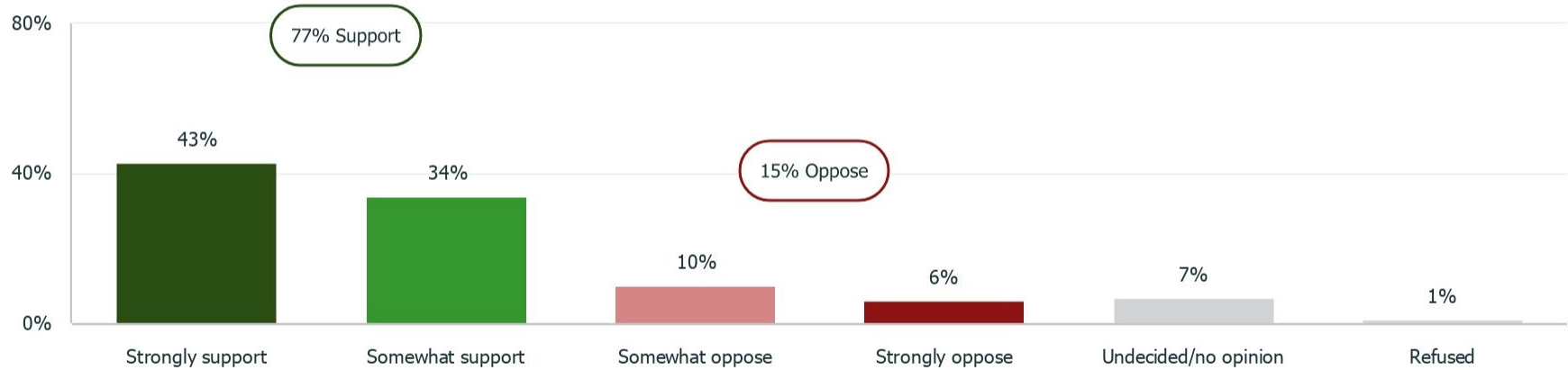
Expand Mental Health Care by Key Demographics

	% Support	% Oppose
Total	77%	15%
ID Democrat	90%	5%
ID independent	70%	22%
ID Republican	67%	23%
Men	74%	21%
Women	80%	9%
Age 18 to 49	77%	14%
Age 50+	77%	16%
White	77%	15%
People of color	76%	16%
POC under 50	74%	18%
POC 50+	81%	13%



More than 3-in-4 say ARP funds should go towards helping seniors stay in their homes

Fund measures to help seniors stay in their homes.



Q.16 OK, now I am going to ask you about several ways the state of Michigan can use the federal funding from the American Rescue Plan. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of these proposals for using American Rescue Plan funding.



Solid support across groups for using ARP funds to help seniors stay at home

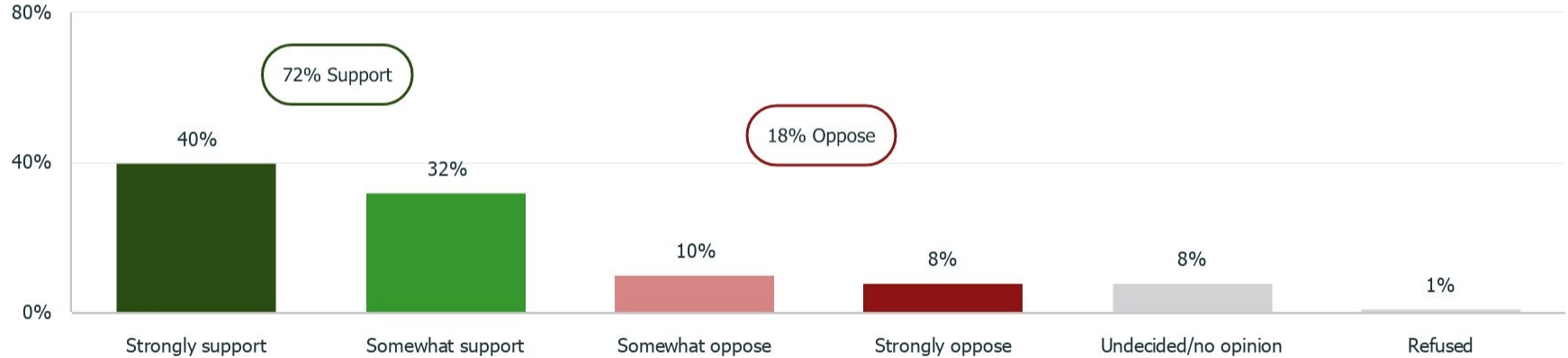
Help Seniors by Key Demographics

	% Support	% Oppose
Total	77%	15%
ID Democrat	86%	7%
ID independent	70%	19%
ID Republican	70%	23%
Men	76%	18%
Women	78%	12%
Age 18 to 49	73%	17%
Age 50+	80%	14%
White	76%	17%
People of color	83%	8%
POC under 50	80%	11%
POC 50+	90%	2%



Michiganders support providing hazard pay to frontline workers by 4-to-1 margin

Provide hazard pay to front-line workers during the pandemic

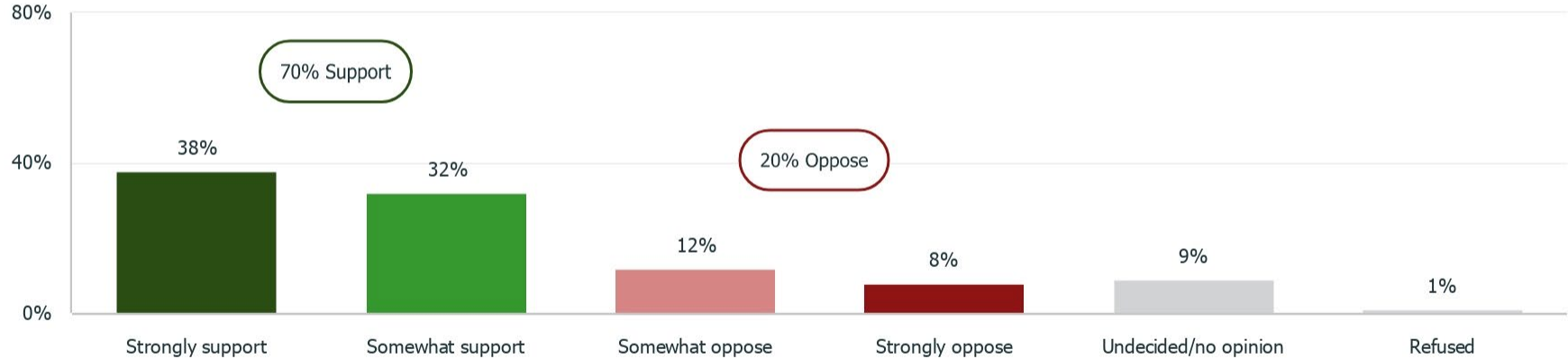


Q.16 OK, now I am going to ask you about several ways the state of Michigan can use the federal funding from the American Rescue Plan. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of these proposals for using American Rescue Plan funding.



7-in-10 say ARP funds should go towards high-speed internet

Expand access to high-speed internet.



Q.16 OK, now I am going to ask you about several ways the state of Michigan can use the federal funding from the American Rescue Plan. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of these proposals for using American Rescue Plan funding.



Broad support for expanding high-speed internet access with ARP funds

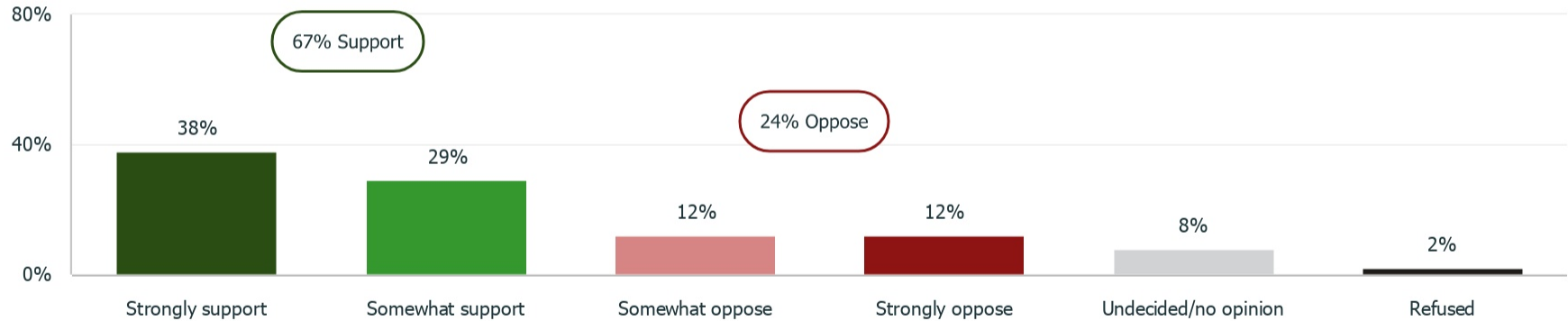
Expand Access to High-Speed Internet by Key Demographics

	% Support	% Oppose
Total	70%	20%
ID Democrat	80%	11%
ID independent	70%	20%
ID Republican	61%	30%
Men	69%	24%
Women	72%	16%
Age 18 to 49	70%	18%
Age 50+	70%	22%
White	71%	20%
People of color	70%	19%
POC under 50	65%	23%
POC 50+	82%	12%



2-in-3 say ARP funds should go towards creating a paid leave plan

Create a paid family and medical leave insurance plan that will provide paid leave to workers to care for a sick family member, bond with a new baby, or recover from a major illness or injury.



Q.16 OK, now I am going to ask you about several ways the state of Michigan can use the federal funding from the American Rescue Plan. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of these proposals for using American Rescue Plan funding.



Women, people of color, and young voters support creating a paid leave plan with ARP funds

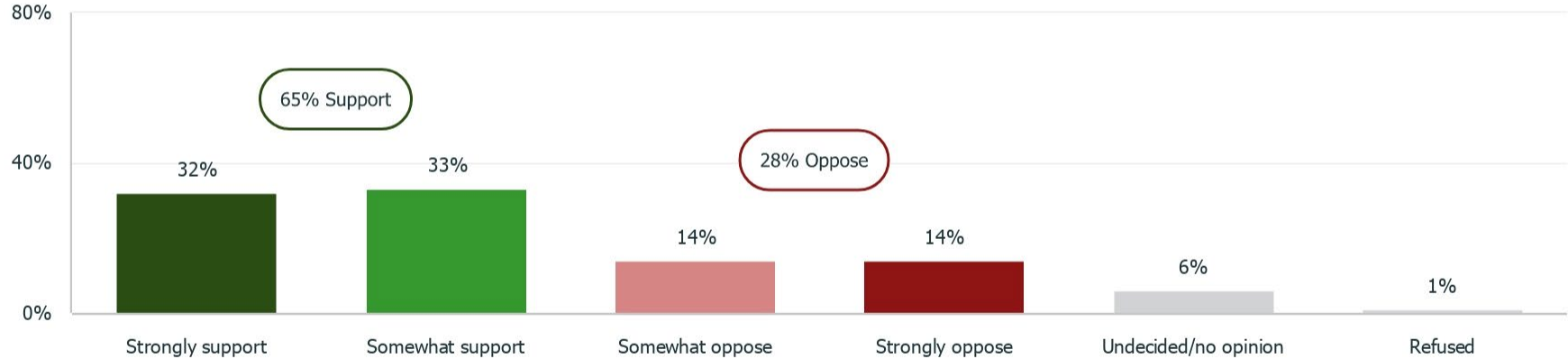
Paid Leave Plan by Key Demographics

	% Support	% Oppose
Total	67%	24%
ID Democrat	85%	7%
ID independent	48%	36%
ID Republican	56%	37%
Men	60%	32%
Women	74%	15%
Age 18 to 49	73%	18%
Age 50+	62%	29%
White	66%	25%
People of color	72%	18%
POC under 50	69%	18%
POC 50+	77%	17%



Nearly two-thirds support putting ARP funds towards affordable housing

Fund quality affordable housing.

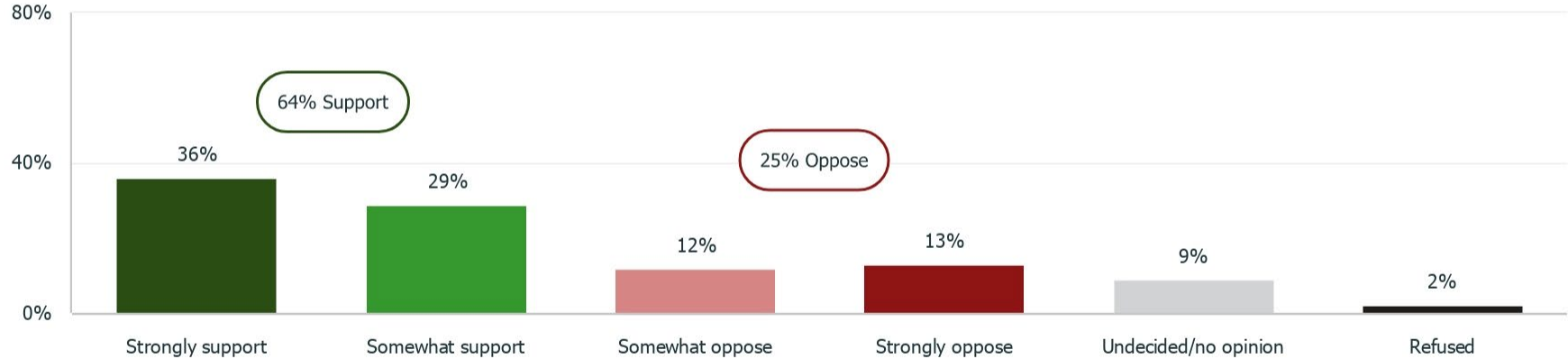


Q.16 OK, now I am going to ask you about several ways the state of Michigan can use the federal funding from the American Rescue Plan. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of these proposals for using American Rescue Plan funding.



1-in-3 *strongly* support funding investment in hardest hit communities with ARP

Fund investments in low-income White, Black, and Brown communities hit hardest by the pandemic.

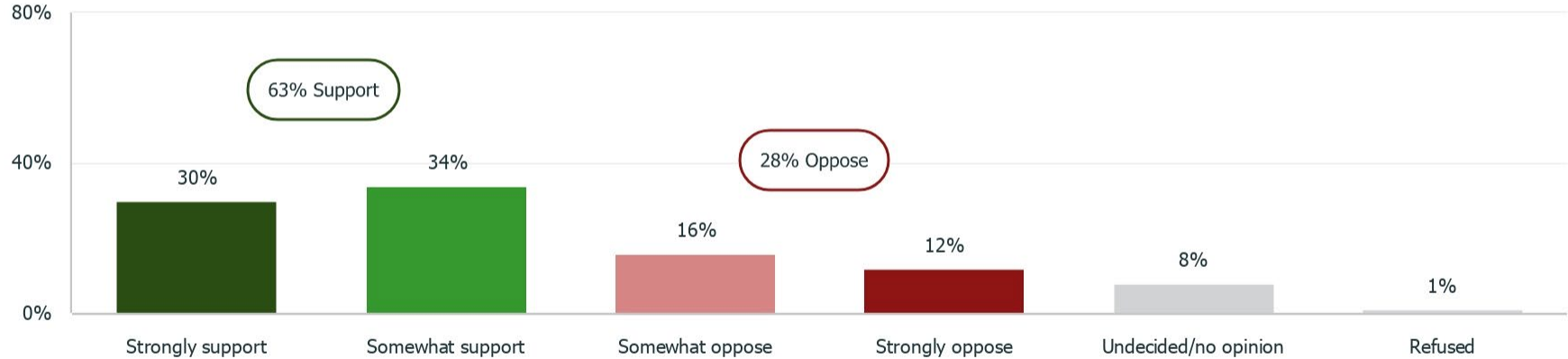


Q.16 OK, now I am going to ask you about several ways the state of Michigan can use the federal funding from the American Rescue Plan. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of these proposals for using American Rescue Plan funding.



Majority support using ARP funds to provide grants to offset taxes

Provide grants to offset taxes for working people with low incomes

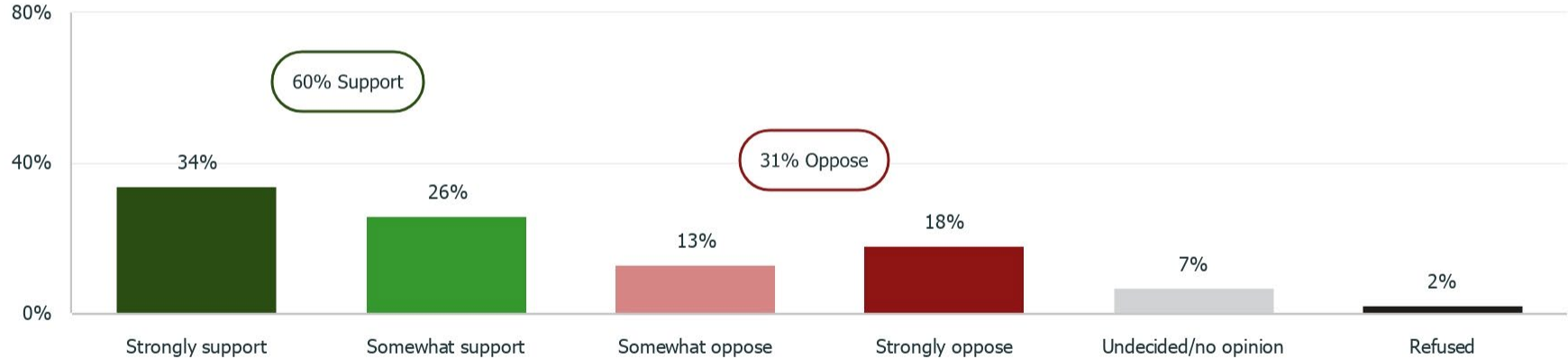


Q.16 OK, now I am going to ask you about several ways the state of Michigan can use the federal funding from the American Rescue Plan. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of these proposals for using American Rescue Plan funding.



1-in-3 *strongly* support using ARP funds to address inequalities in schools

Reduce economic and racial inequality in the funding of Michigan public schools.

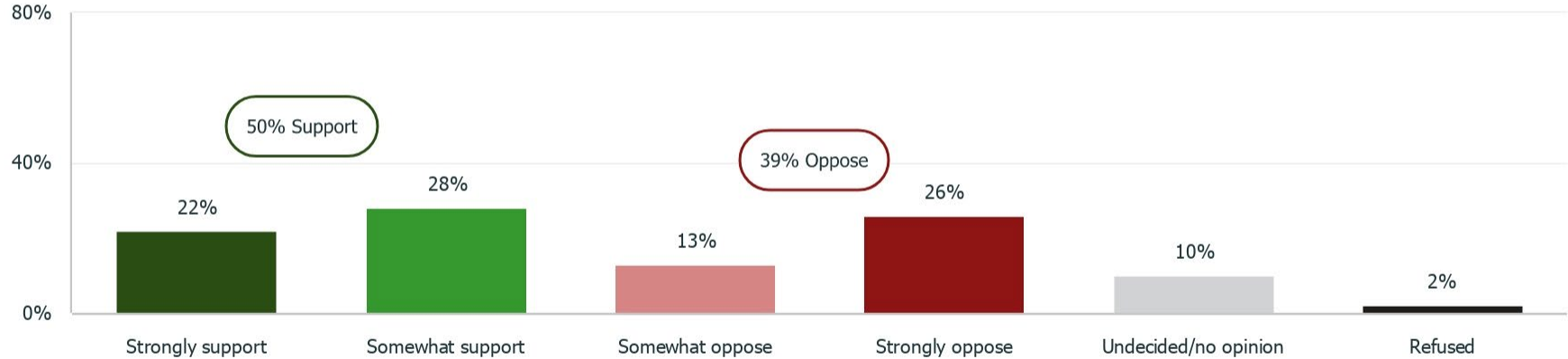


Q.16 OK, now I am going to ask you about several ways the state of Michigan can use the federal funding from the American Rescue Plan. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of these proposals for using American Rescue Plan funding.



Narrow majority supports funding EV infrastructure with ARP funds

Fund infrastructure like charging stations to speed transition to electric vehicles.



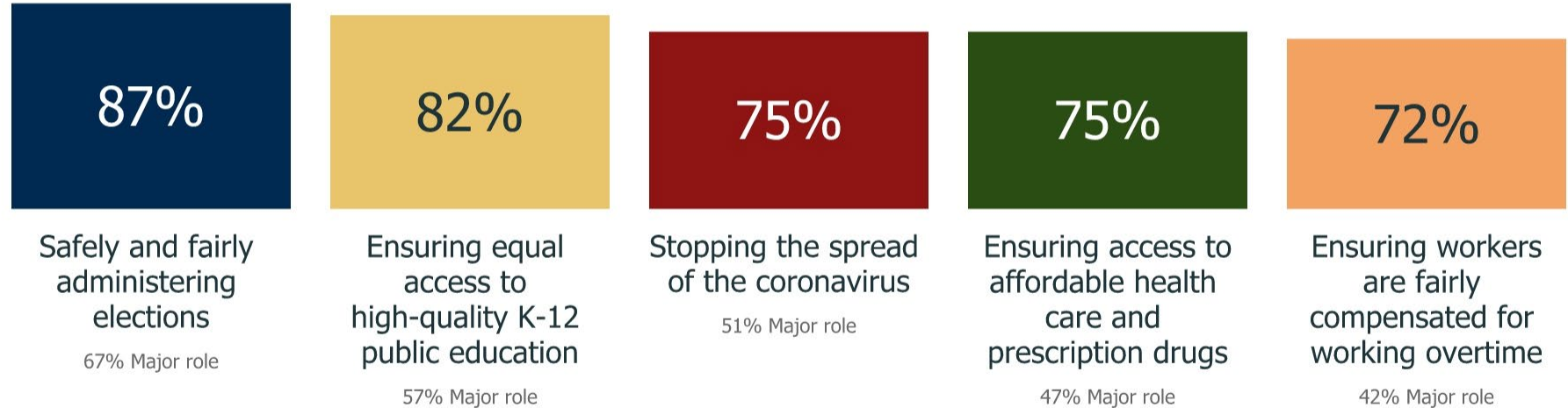
Q.16 OK, now I am going to ask you about several ways the state of Michigan can use the federal funding from the American Rescue Plan. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of these proposals for using American Rescue Plan funding.



Democracy and the Role of Government

3-in-4 see role for government in elections, education, COVID response, and drug costs

Government Role, Most Consensus: % Major/some role

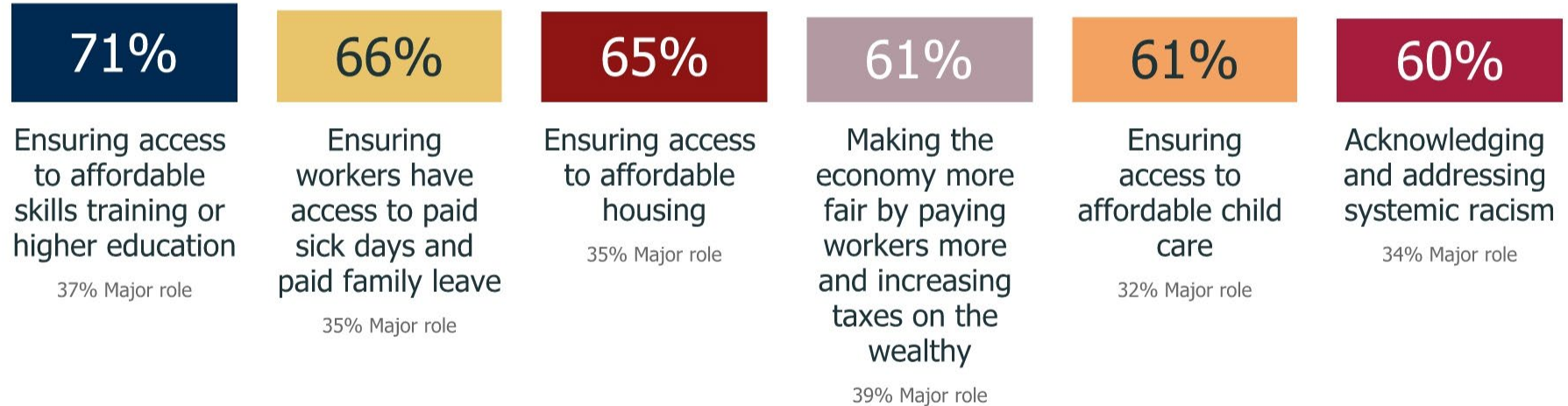


Q.8 Please tell me whether you think state government in Michigan should have a major role, some role, a minor role, or no real role in dealing with each of the following issues.



2-in-3 see role for government in addressing education and paid leave issues

Government Role, Lower Consensus: % Major/some role



Q.8 Please tell me whether you think state government in Michigan should have a major role, some role, a minor role, or no real role in dealing with each of the following issues.

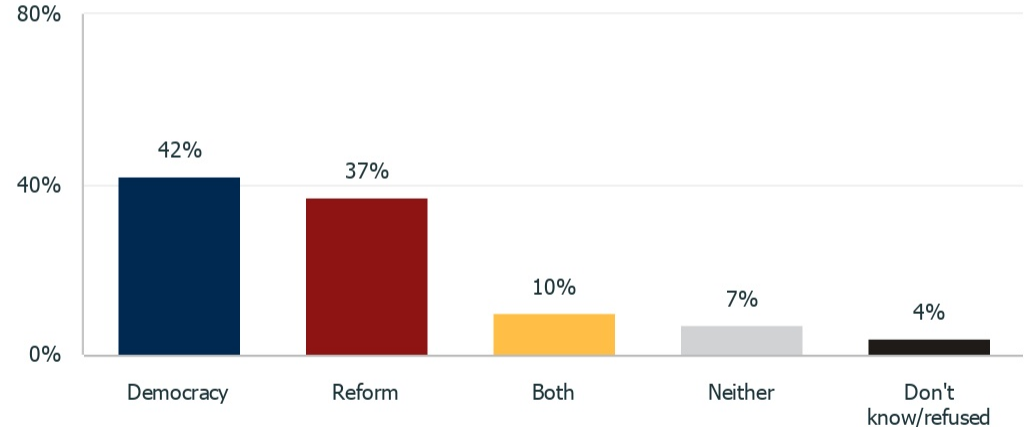


Democracy debate drives a wedge between Michigan voters

DEMOCRACY: *The pandemic required many states to offer additional access to voting, such as greater uses of vote-by-mail and secure drop boxes. We should continue these and build upon them to ensure more participation in democracy.*

REFORM: *The pandemic allowed election officials to weaken voting security measures, making them vulnerable to fraud and outside influence. We need to reform the process to crack down on fraud and make it harder to cheat.*

Democracy vs. Reform



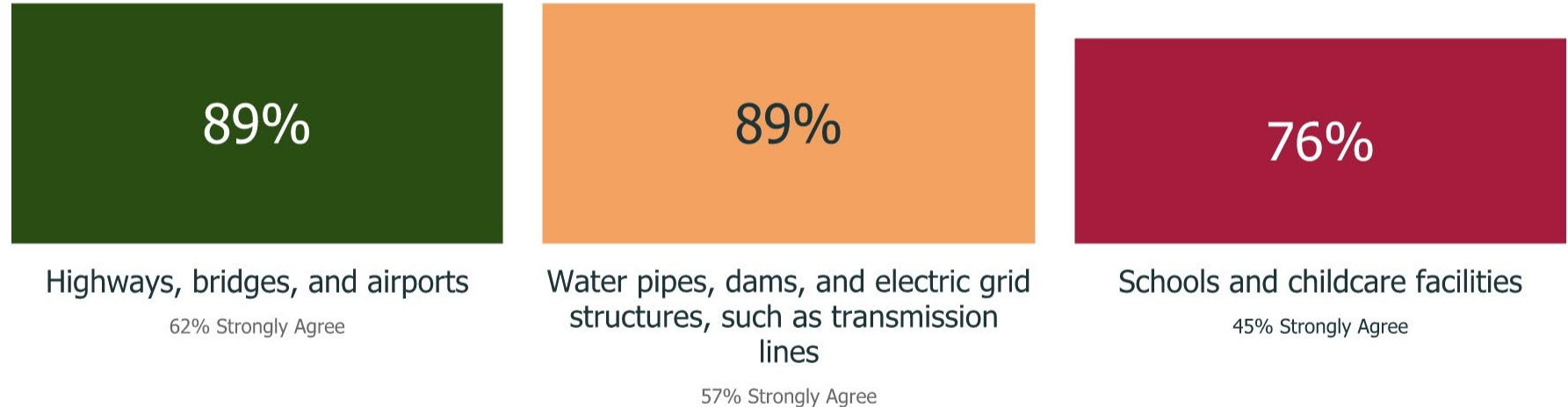
Q.10 Which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither of them is exactly right?



Infrastructure, Internet, and Child Care

3-in-4 agree schools and child care facilities should be considered infrastructure

Infrastructure: % Agree

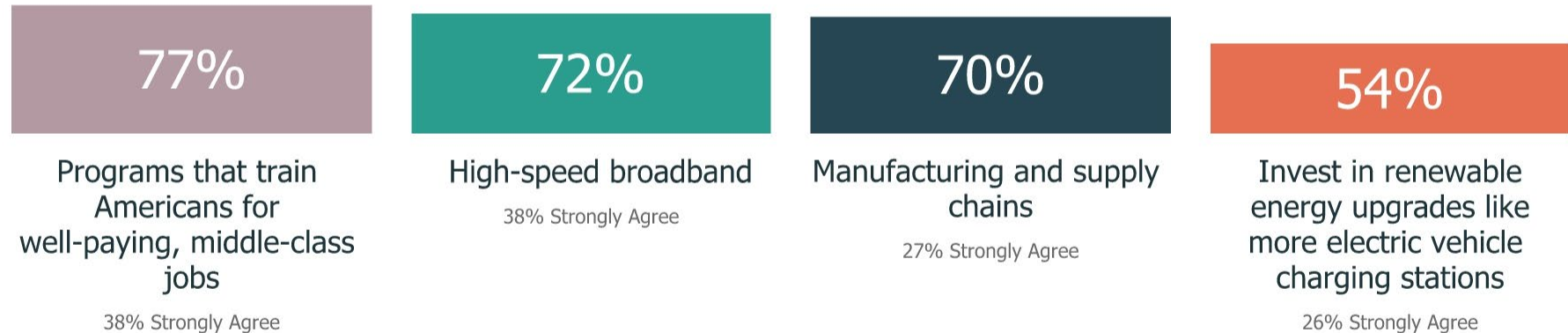


Q.19 Please tell me whether you agree or disagree that each of the following should be considered part of Michigan's infrastructure.



Near consensus that job training programs, high-speed broadband, and manufacturing and supply chains should be considered infrastructure

Infrastructure: % Agree



Q.19 Please tell me whether you agree or disagree that each of the following should be considered part of Michigan's infrastructure.



Broadly held beliefs around high-speed internet

Internet Statements: % Agree

83%

Reliable, affordable high-speed internet is a lifeline to educational and economic success in rural communities.

54% Strongly Agree

83%

We need to make sure that rural, urban, and under-served communities have access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet.

53% Strongly Agree

80%

State lawmakers should require internet companies to offer more affordable high-speed internet.

52% Strongly Agree

Q.20 Okay, now I am going to read you some statements about internet access in Michigan. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement.



Michigan voters coalesce around child care messages focused on equality and parents

Child Care: % Agree

81%

Access to affordable, high-quality child care helps ensure that children are ready for school. Every child deserves an equal shot at success regardless of race, income, or zip code.

55% Strongly Agree

81%

No parent, regardless of income, should be denied access to safe, high-quality child care.

54% Strongly Agree

80%

In order to get everyone back to work and get Michigan's economy fully running, parents need access to quality, affordable child care so they know that their kids are safe and in an environment where they can learn.

51% Strongly Agree

Q.21 Okay, we're almost done! I am going to read you some statements about child care in Michigan. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement.



Questions?



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