Maryland Statewide Issues Poll

Prepared for the **State Innovation Exchange** *and* **Strong Future Maryland** *by* **TargetSmart**

Survey Methodology

TargetSmart designed and administered this multi-modal survey. The survey reached **552** adults (500 weighted), age 18 or older, who indicated they were registered to vote in Maryland. The survey was conducted **January 10-17, 2022,** via live phones with trained operators, online via a link from an email, and through Dynata's web panel and matched back to the voter file.

The phone sample was randomly selected from TargetSmart's enhanced voter file. Eighteen percent of respondents were reached on phones (29% weighted). Thirty-nine percent of respondents completed the survey online and were reached via an email or direct SMS invite (31% weighted). Forty-three percent of respondents were recruited from Dynata's web panel and matched to TargetSmart's voter file (40% weighted).

Quotas were assigned to reflect the demographic distribution of **registered voters voters in Maryland**. The data were weighted by gender, age, race from file, party registration, TargetSmart Midterm General Turnout Score, TargetSmart High School Only Score, and region by county to ensure an accurate reflection of the population.

Percentage totals may not add up precisely due to rounding. The credibility interval (the theoretical margin of error for a blended-methodology poll that relies partially on telephone-based probability sampling, and partially on non-probability based online panel sampling) is **+/- 4.4%**.

Key Findings

Workplace protections

Maryland voters broadly support prohibiting worker misclassification, wage boards, and fair scheduling.

Climate

Half of Maryland voters are very concerned about climate change, and the majority of voters say Maryland state government should work to slow climate change and mitigate its effects.

More than 2-in-3 agree decisions on energy policy and economic development should take climate change into account, and nearly the same amount say Maryland should pass legislation to reduce carbon emissions.
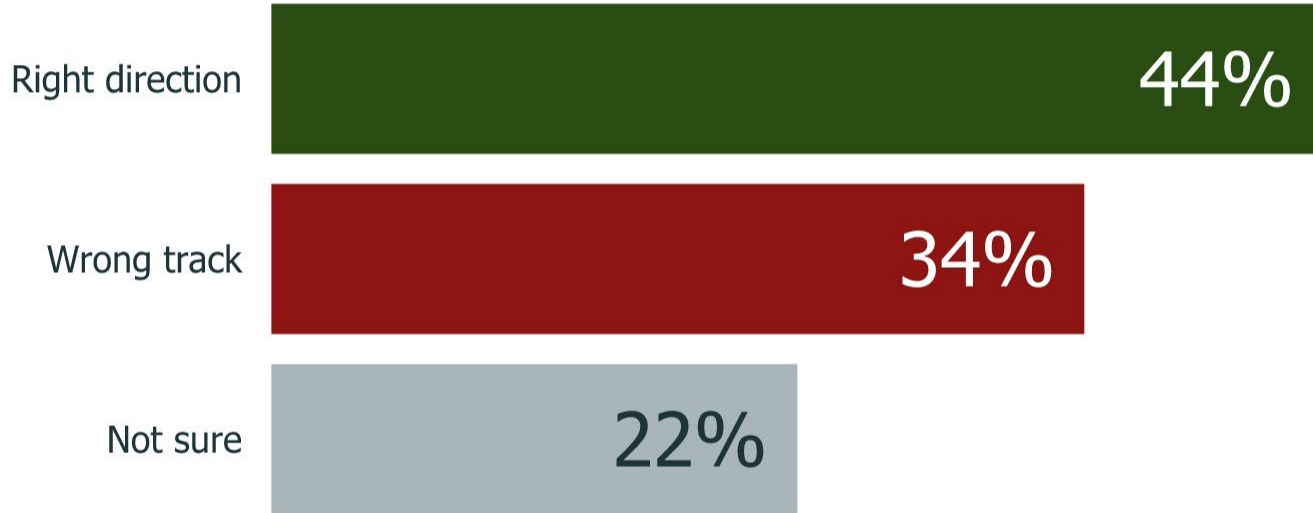
Taxes

While somewhat tax adverse (57 percent say taxes in Maryland are too high), Maryland voters generally support increasing taxes over austerity (66 percent for investment, 15 percent for keeping taxes low).

Higher taxes on wealthy people and corporations and closing tax loopholes are broadly popular.

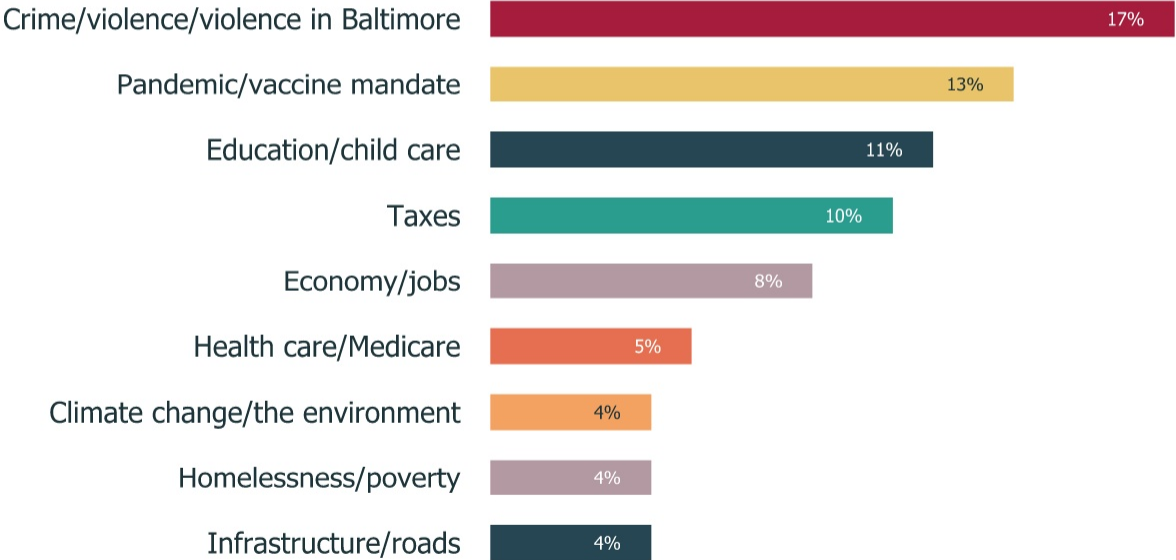# Voters split on state's direction

Maryland Direction

Q.5 Generally speaking, do you think that things in Maryland are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

Crime and pandemic top issues followed by education, taxes, and the economy

Biggest issues: Most Frequent

Issue	Percentage
Crime/violence/violence in Baltimore	17%
Pandemic/vaccine mandate	13%
Education/child care	11%
Taxes	10%
Economy/jobs	8%
Health care/Medicare	5%
Climate change/the environment	4%
Homelessness/poverty	4%
Infrastructure/roads	4%

Q.7 What would you say is the biggest issues in Maryland that you would like the governor and General Assembly to focus on?

Crime pops as a concern among independents, Republicans, and in Baltimore DMA

Top Issues by Party ID and Media Market

Democrats
15% Pandemic/ vaccine mandate
13% Crime
13% Education

Washington DMA
15% Education
11% Pandemic/vaccine mandate
11% Taxes

Independents
20% Crime
12% Pandemic/vaccine mandate

Baltimore DMA
26% Crime
16% Pandemic/vaccine mandate

Republicans
20% Crime
20% Taxes

Voters hard pressed to coalesce around GA accomplishments

Biggest accomplishment: Most Frequent

Category	Percentage
Don't know/refused	40%
Nothing/none	20%
Pandemic response	9%
Negative Maryland General Assembly comment	5%
Avoiding tax increases/lowering taxes	4%
Infrastructure/highway improvements/toll improvements	4%
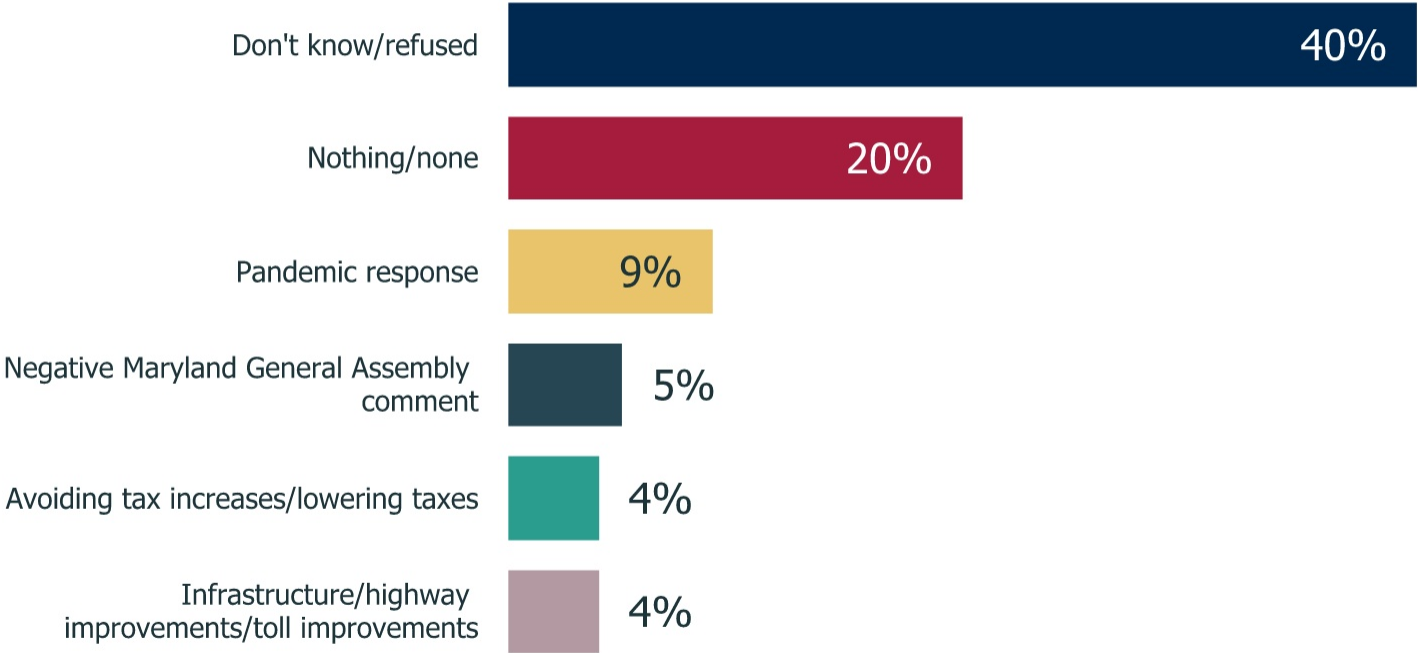
Q.8 What would you say is the biggest accomplishment the Maryland General Assembly has made during the last four years?

Across partisan, regional lines, voters have trouble coming up with GA accomplishment

General Assembly Biggest Accomplishment by Party ID and Media Market

Democrats
45% Don't know/refused
12% Nothing
11% Pandemic response

Independents
44% Don't know/refused
21% Nothing
10% Pandemic response

Republicans
32% Nothing
28% Don't know/refused
8% Negative MD General Assembly comment

Washington DMA
49% Don't know/refused
16% Nothing
10% pandemic response

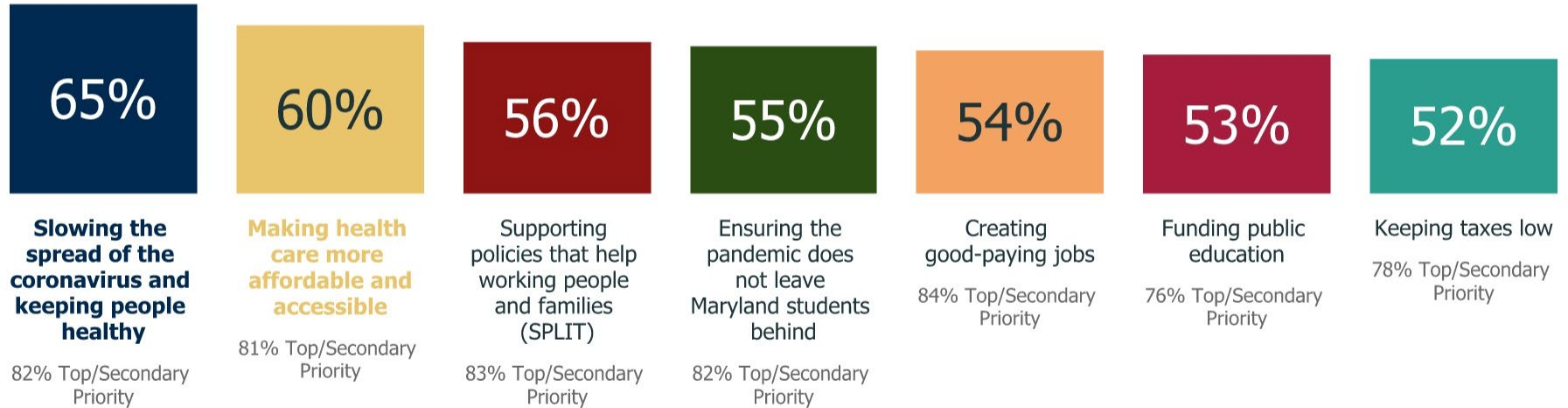**Baltimore DMA**
32% Don't know/refused
25% Nothing
10% Pandemic response

Health care concerns top list of priorities for elected officials

Top Tier Priorities: % Top Priority

65%	60%	56%	55%	54%	53%	52%

Slowing the spread of the coronavirus and keeping people healthy

82% Top/Secondary Priority

Making health care more affordable and accessible

81% Top/Secondary Priority

Supporting policies that help working people and families (SPLIT)

83% Top/Secondary Priority

Ensuring the pandemic does not leave Maryland students behind

82% Top/Secondary Priority

Creating good-paying jobs

84% Top/Secondary Priority

Funding public education

76% Top/Secondary Priority
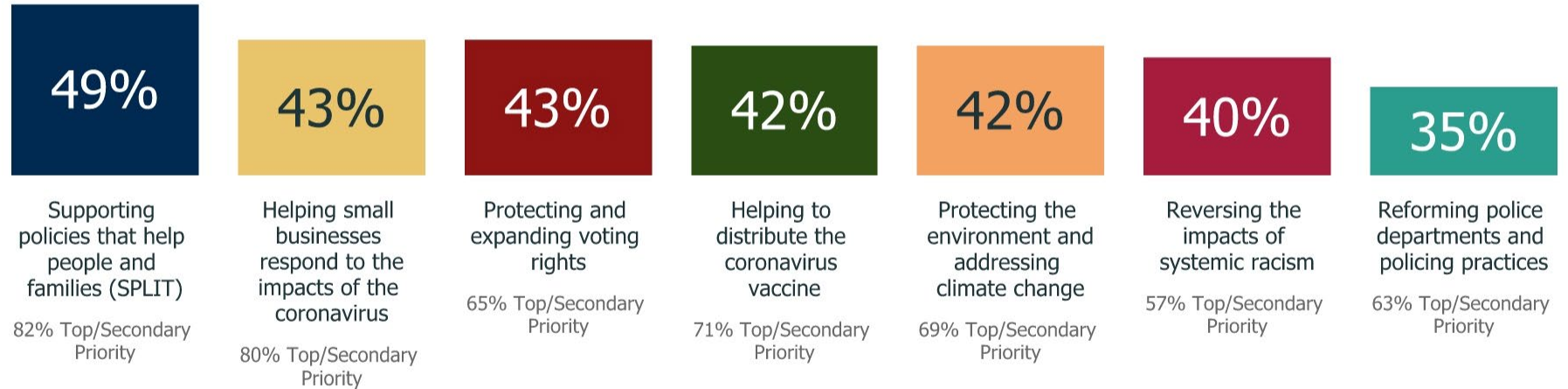
Keeping taxes low

78% Top/Secondary Priority

Q.9 Below is a list of priorities some voters have for their elected officials. Please indicate whether each one would be a top priority, a secondary priority, a small priority, or not a priority at all for you.
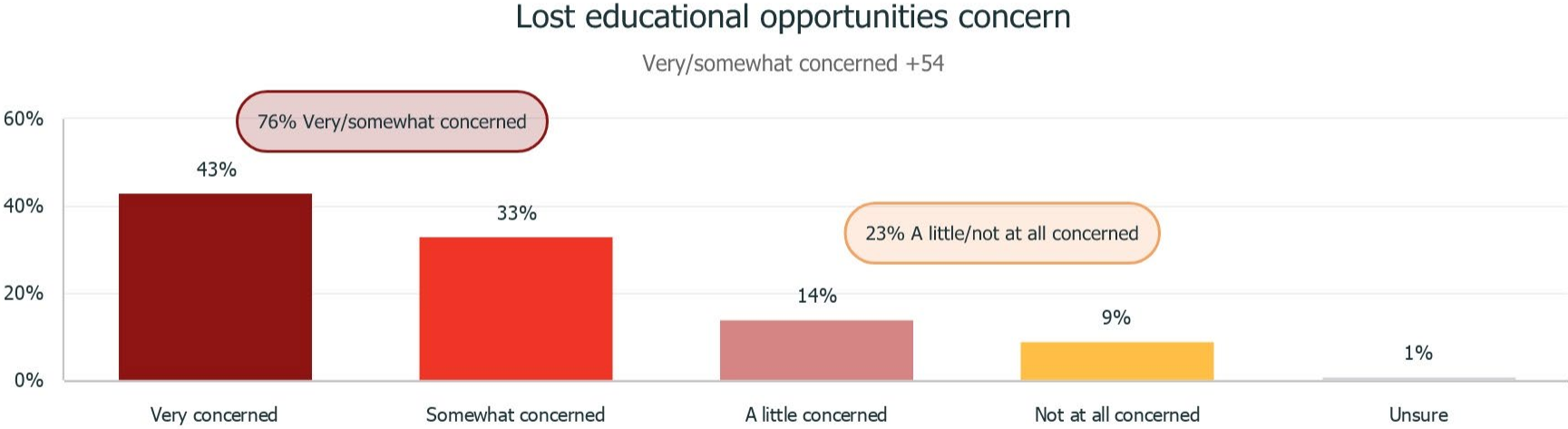
Second tier priorities

Second Tier Priorities: % Top Priority

49%	43%	43%	42%	42%	40%	35%
Supporting policies that help people and families (SPLIT)	Helping small businesses respond to the impacts of the coronavirus	Protecting and expanding voting rights	Helping to distribute the coronavirus vaccine	Protecting the environment and addressing climate change	Reversing the impacts of systemic racism	Reforming police departments and policing practices
82% Top/Secondary Priority	80% Top/Secondary Priority	65% Top/Secondary Priority	71% Top/Secondary Priority	69% Top/Secondary Priority	57% Top/Secondary Priority	63% Top/Secondary Priority

Q.9 Below is a list of priorities some voters have for their elected officials. Please indicate whether each one would be a top priority, a secondary priority, a small priority, or not a priority at all for you.

Plurality of MD voters very concerned students have lost educational opportunities during the pandemic

Lost educational opportunities concern

Very/somewhat concerned +54

76% Very/somewhat concerned

23% A little/not at all concerned

Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	A little concerned	Not at all concerned	Unsure
43%	33%	14%	9%	1%

Q.16 Would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not at all concerned that Maryland students are losing educational opportunities during the pandemic?

Women of color most likely to report high levels of concern about children losing educational opportunities

Lost educational opportunities by race, race/gender, and gender/age

|	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	A little concerned	Not at all concerned
All voters	43%	33%	14%	9%
White	38%	34%	18%	9%
Black	49%	30%	11%	10%
Voters of color	50%	31%	9%	10%
White men	39%	26%	21%	13%
White women	37%	42%	14%	5%
Men of color	39%	33%	11%	18%
Women of color	59%	30%	7%	3%
Younger men	32%	31%	19%	17%
Older men	46%	27%	15%	13%
Younger women	48%	41%	7%	3%
Older women	47%	32%	16%	5%

Urban voters more likely to be *very* concerned about lost educational opportunities

Lost educational opportunities by region

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	A little concerned	Not at all concerned
All voters	43%	33%	14%	9%
Rural	34%	38%	19%	9%
Suburban	41%	35%	16%	7%
Urban	50%	29%	9%	10%
Baltimore DMA	45%	32%	14%	9%
Washington DMA	40%	35%	14%	10%

2-in-3 believe the state should address economic barriers faced by Black people and the Black community

65%

21%

15%

Yes

No

Unsure
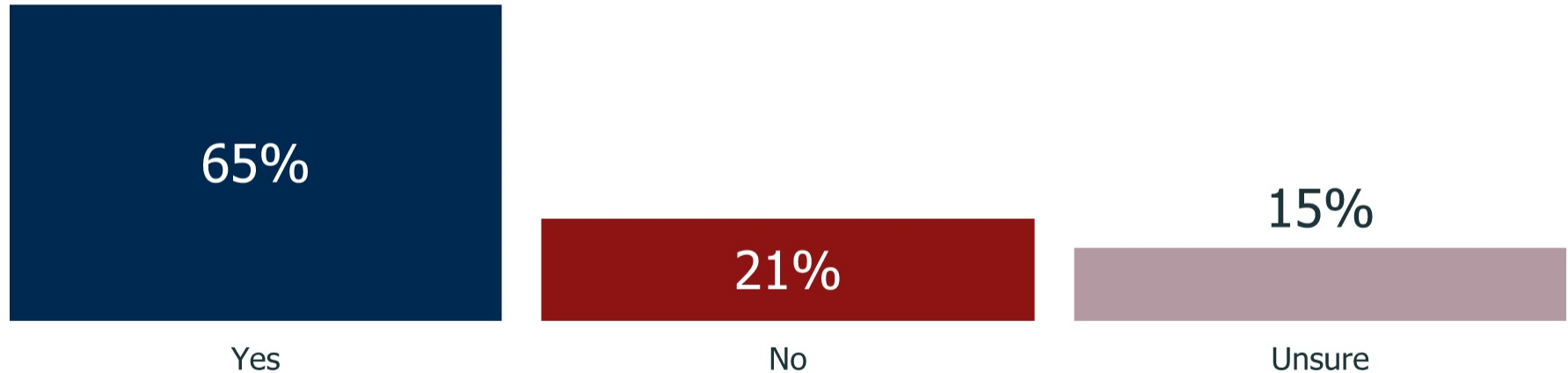
Q.10 Do you believe the state of Maryland should address economic barriers faced by Black people and the Black community?

Nearly all Black voters and just over half of white voters voice belief Maryland should address economic barriers faced by Black people

Belief MD should address economic barriers faced by Black people by race, race/gender, and gender/age

	Yes	No	Yes - No
All voters	65%	21%	+44
White	53%	25%	+28
Black	92%	7%	+85
Voters of color	80%	15%	+65
White men	50%	32%	+18
White women	56%	18%	+38
Men of color	70%	25%	+45
Women of color	88%	6%	+82
Younger men	69%	24%	+45
Older men	47%	35%	+12
Younger women	79%	10%	+69
Older women	61%	16%	+45

Broad support for employee protections

Top Tier Workplace Issue Proposals: % Strongly Support

| 51% | 50% | 50% | 42% |

Prohibit employers from misclassifying workers as contractors to avoid paying for employee benefits such as overtime pay and workers' compensation.

79% Total Support

Create wage boards that bring together businesses, government, and workers to ensure fair wages for employees across a specific industry and prevent employers from abusing the availability of cheap labor to drive down wages.

79% Total Support

Require employers to accommodate employees' requests to be off on certain days or at certain times due to urgent needs like child care or college classes.

77% Total Support

Require employers in Maryland to provide hourly wage workers with pay stubs in addition to their pay check or direct deposit.
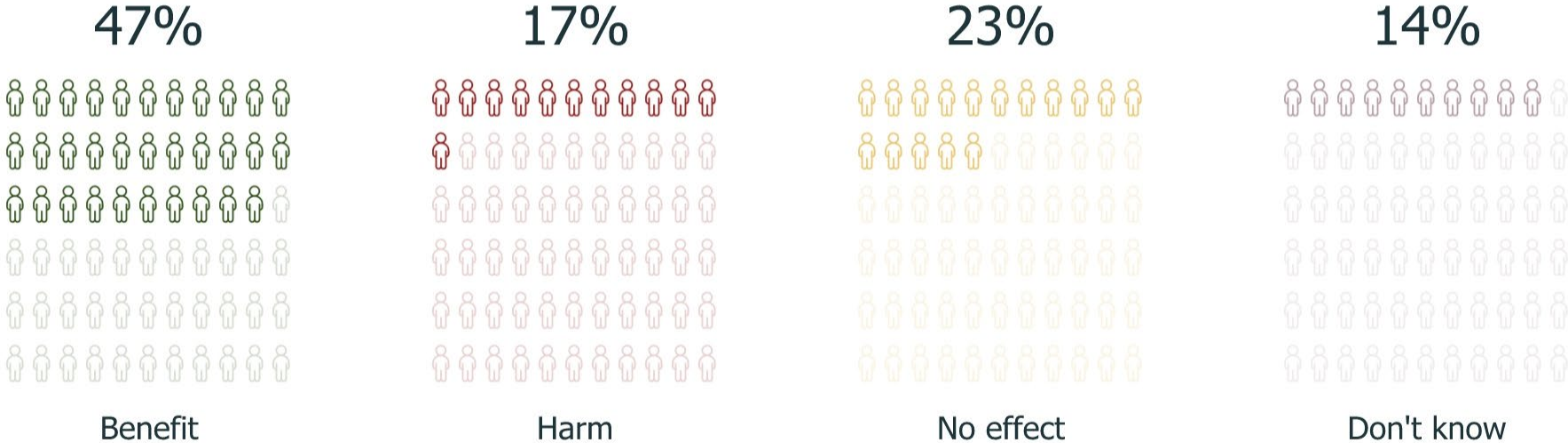
75% Total Support

Q.12 Please indicate if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose each of the following proposals related to issues in the workplace.

Plurality of voters say requiring paid leave would benefit economy

Effect of requiring paid leave on Maryland's economy

47%	17%	23%	14%

Benefit	Harm	No effect	Don't know

Q.15 Would requiring paid family and medical leave benefit, harm, or have no effect on the economy in Maryland?

Partisan divide on effect of requiring leave

Effect of requiring paid leave on Maryland's economy by key demographics

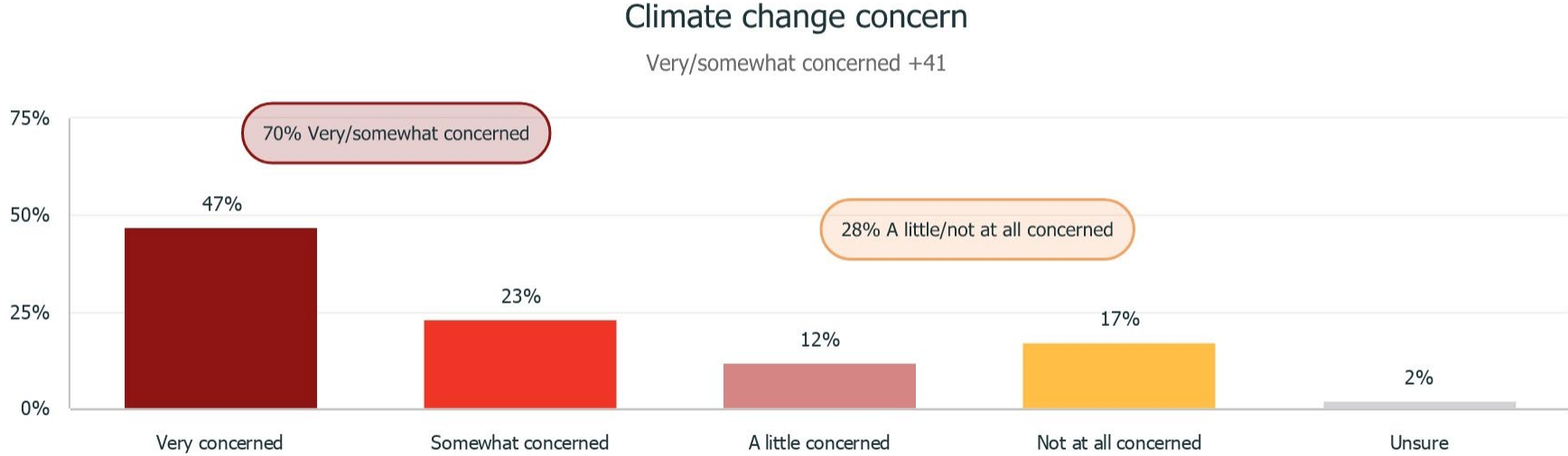|	Benefit	Harm	No effect
All voters	47%	17%	23%
ID Democrat	59%	5%	24%
ID independent	48%	17%	23%
ID Republican	19%	41%	22%
Men	37%	25%	28%
Women	55%	11%	19%
18-49	61%	9%	22%
50+	31%	25%	23%
College graduate	48%	18%	21%
Non-college	44%	16%	25%

Support for paid leave's benefits highest among women under the age of 50

Effect of requiring paid leave on Maryland's economy by race, race/gender, and gender/age

	Benefit	Harm	No effect
All voters	47%	17%	23%
White	41%	22%	21%
Black	59%	12%	22%
Voters of color	54%	12%	25%
White men	30%	31%	28%
White women	51%	13%	16%
Men of color	47%	16%	28%
Women of color	59%	8%	21%
Younger men	55%	14%	26%
Older men	19%	35%	30%
Younger women	66%	6%	20%
Older women	43%	17%	17%

Concerns about global climate change are both intense and broad in Maryland

Climate change concern

Very/somewhat concerned +41

70% Very/somewhat concerned

28% A little/not at all concerned

Category	Value
Very concerned	47%
Somewhat concerned	23%
A little concerned	12%
Not at all concerned	17%
Unsure	2%

Q.22 Would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not at all concerned about global climate change?

Attitudes about climate are polarized along partisan lines

Climate change concern by key demographics

	Very/somewhat concerned	A little/Not at all concerned	Very/somewhat - A little/Not at all
All voters	70%	28%	+41
ID Democrat	88%	10%	+78
ID independent	68%	31%	+37
ID Republican	37%	61%	-25
Men	61%	36%	+25
Women	77%	22%	+55
18-49	74%	25%	+49
50+	66%	33%	+33
College graduate	71%	28%	+43
Non-college	68%	30%	+39

Voters want Maryland state government to address climate change

Tax Statements: % Total Agree

76%	75%	73%		36%

The state of Maryland should invest in current renewable energy technology and gradually expand investments in new technology in order to combat climate change.

17% Total Disagree

State governments should invest in preparations for a future living with climate change.

16% Total Disagree

The state of Maryland should make major investments and set ambitious goals in order to expand renewable energy and other new technology to combat climate change.

20% Total Disagree

There is very little the Maryland governor and state elected officials can do to prevent or slow climate change and how it impacts people's lives.
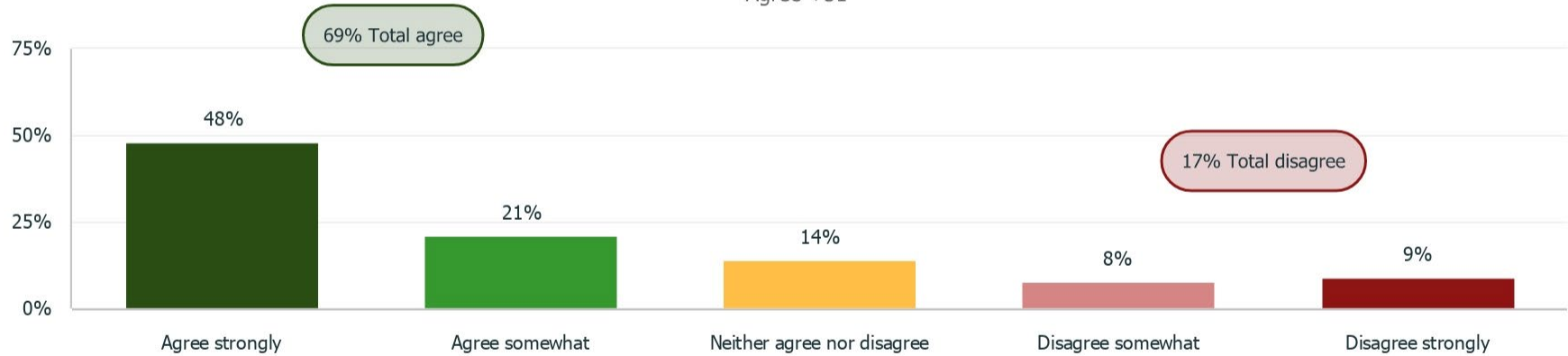
55% Total Disagree

Q.24 Please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements.

More than 2-in-3 want policy decisions to take climate change into account

Take climate change into account

Agree +51

69% Total agree

17% Total disagree

- Agree strongly: 48%
- Agree somewhat: 21%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 14%
- Disagree somewhat: 8%
- Disagree strongly: 9%

Q.21 Do you agree or disagree that the Maryland General Assembly and other policy makers should take climate change into account when deciding how to vote on issues such as energy policy and economic development?

9-in-10 Democrats, 2-in-3 independents want climate change taken into account

General Assembly take climate change into account by key demographics

	Agree	Disagree	Agree - Disagree
All voters	69%	17%	+51
ID Democrat	89%	4%	+86
ID independent	67%	18%	+49
ID Republican	31%	44%	-14
Men	61%	23%	+39
Women	75%	13%	+63
18-49	77%	13%	+65
50+	60%	22%	+37
College graduate	69%	20%	+49
Non-college	69%	15%	+54

Urban voters overwhelmingly want climate change taken into account

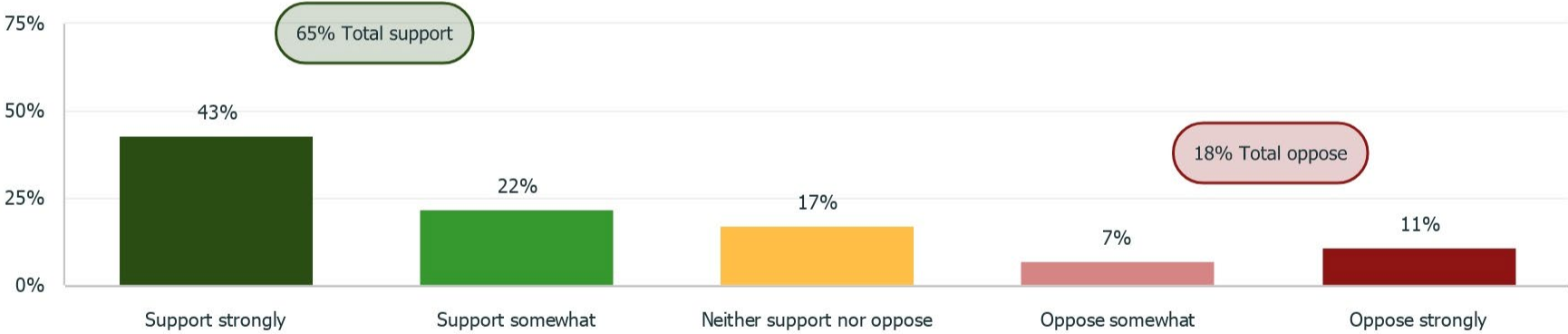General Assembly take climate change into account by region

	Agree	Disagree	Agree - Disagree
All voters	69%	17%	+51
Rural	50%	28%	+22
Suburban	65%	22%	+43
Urban	81%	8%	+73
Baltimore DMA	61%	24%	+37
Washington DMA	78%	10%	+68

Majority support major legislation on carbon emission reductions

Support for legislation to reduce emissions

Agree +48

65% Total support

18% Total oppose

- Support strongly: 43%
- Support somewhat: 22%
- Neither support nor oppose: 17%
- Oppose somewhat: 7%
- Oppose strongly: 11%

75%
50%
25%
0%

Q.23 Do you support or oppose the Maryland General Assembly passing major legislation to achieve significant reductions in carbon emissions?

Partisan, age divisions on legislation to reduce emissions

Support for legislation to reduce emissions by key demographics

	Support	Oppose	Support - Oppose
All voters	65%	18%	+48
ID Democrat	86%	6%	+80
ID independent	66%	21%	+44
ID Republican	26%	37%	-11
Men	63%	20%	+43
Women	68%	16%	+52
18-49	74%	12%	+62
50+	56%	23%	+33
College graduate	69%	16%	+53
Non-college	61%	20%	+41

Voters of color more supportive of legislation to reduce emissions than white voters

Support for legislation to reduce emissions by race, race/gender, and gender/age

	Support	Oppose	Support - Oppose
All voters	65%	18%	+48
White	57%	22%	+36
Black	80%	9%	+72
Voters of color	78%	12%	+66
White men	54%	25%	+29
White women	59%	18%	+41
Men of color	77%	12%	+65
Women of color	79%	12%	+67
Younger men	73%	10%	+62
Older men	53%	29%	+24
Younger women	76%	14%	+62
Older women	59%	18%	+41

Urban and suburban voters broadly support legislation to reduce emissions

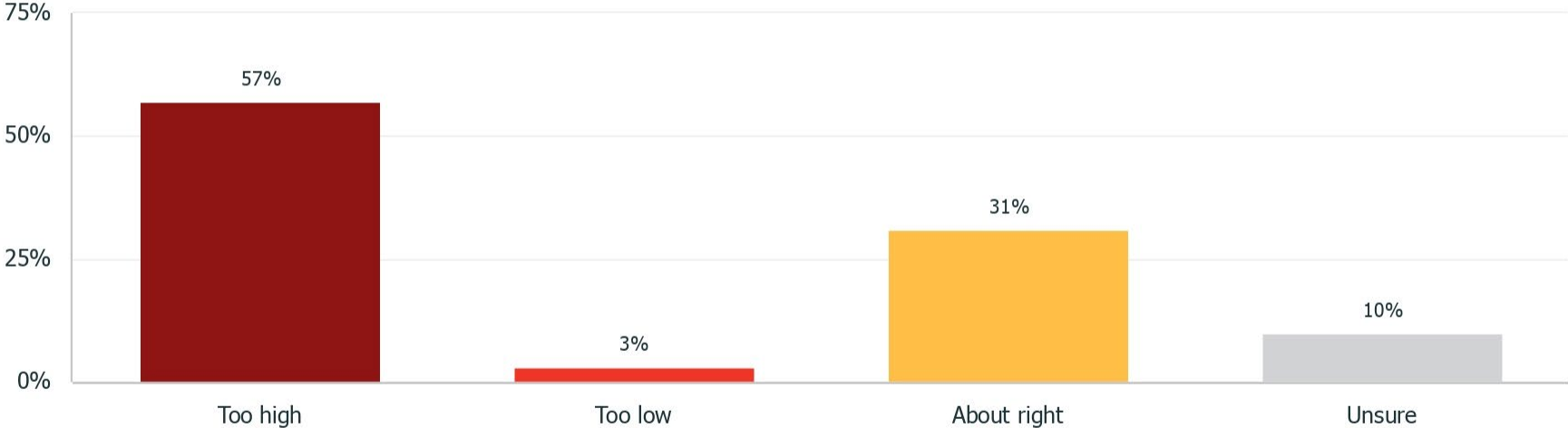Support for legislation to reduce emissions by region

	Support	Oppose	Support - oppose
All voters	65%	18%	+48
Rural	46%	24%	+22
Suburban	62%	20%	+43
Urban	77%	13%	+64
Baltimore DMA	61%	21%	+40
Washington DMA	71%	14%	+57

Majority say taxes in Maryland are too high

Tax level in Maryland

Too high +54

Q.17 Do you believe taxes in Maryland are too high, too low, or about right?

"Too high" tends to be plurality position across the board

Tax level by key demographics

	Too high	Too low	About right
All voters	57%	3%	31%
ID Democrat	39%	4%	40%
ID independent	61%	1%	31%
ID Republican	88%	1%	10%
Men	63%	3%	27%
Women	51%	2%	34%
18-49	44%	3%	40%
50+	69%	2%	21%
College graduate	55%	2%	36%
Non-college	59%	3%	24%

Suburban voters in the Baltimore market likely to believe taxes are too high
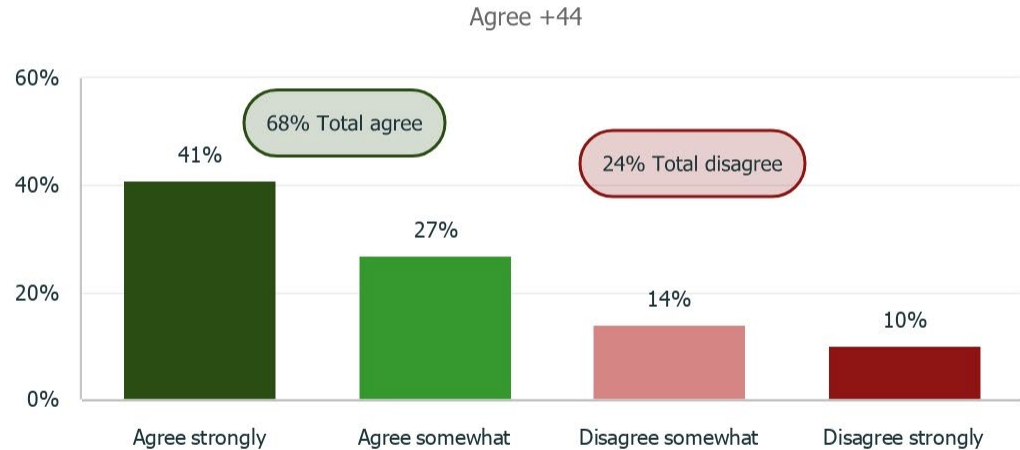
Tax level by region

	Too high	Too low	About right
All voters	57%	3%	31%
Rural	64%	4%	19%
Suburban	59%	2%	32%
Urban	51%	3%	36%
Baltimore DMA	61%	2%	27%
Washington DMA	51%	3%	34%

More than 2-in-3 say state should cut spending instead of raising taxes

Maryland has too many taxes. Raising taxes on Marylanders will harm our economy, punish retirees, and make it easier for lawmakers to tax the rest of us in the future. The General Assembly should focus on cutting spending, waste, fraud, and abuse.

Focus on cutting spending, waste, fraud, and abuse

Agree +44

68% Total agree

24% Total disagree

- Agree strongly: 41%
- Agree somewhat: 27%
- Disagree somewhat: 14%
- Disagree strongly: 10%

Q.20 Please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements.

# But that does not mean Maryland voters don't want to invest in the state and its residents

Q.11 Switching gears a bit -- which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither of them is exactly right?

State government in Maryland should invest more in the state and its residents, ensuring they are safe, healthy, and economically secure, even if it means corporations and the wealthy have to contribute more in taxes.

State government in Maryland should keep taxes low, even if it means cutting funding for education and infrastructure, and cutting unemployment insurance and healthcare coverage.
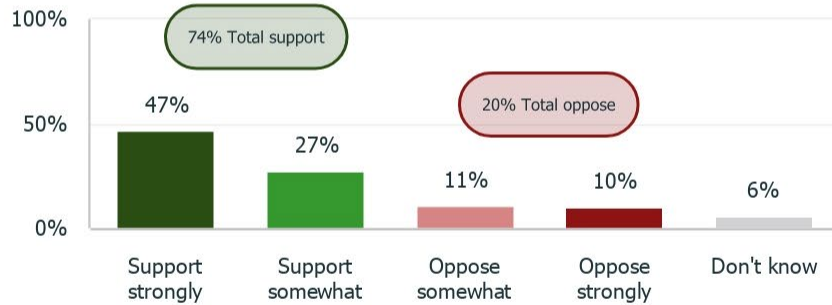
Invest more or keep taxes low

Invest more +51

	Invest more	Keep taxes low	Neither	Unsure
	66%	15%	11%	8%
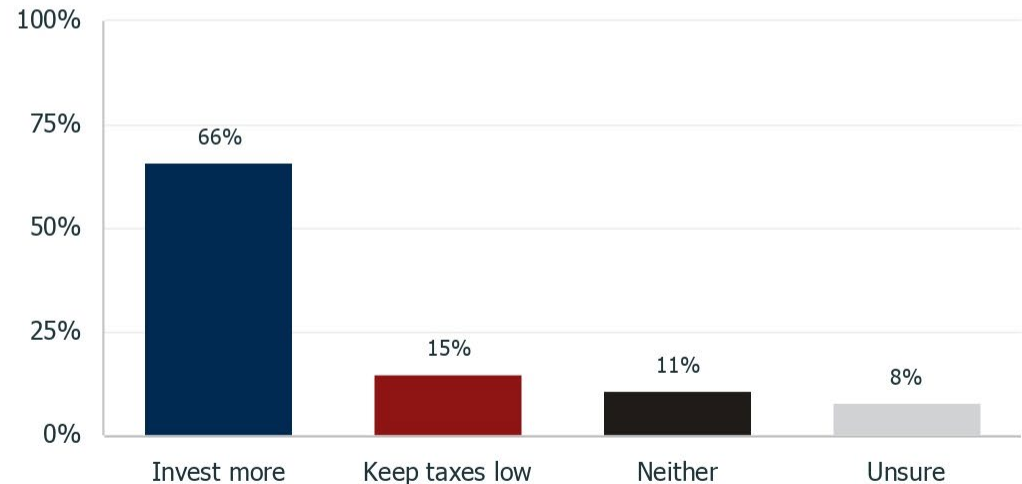
Maryland voters generally support higher taxes on the wealthy and corporations

Higher taxes on wealthy and corporations

Support +54

- Support strongly: 47%
- Support somewhat: 27%
- Oppose somewhat: 11%
- Oppose strongly: 10%
- Don't know: 6%

74% Total support
20% Total oppose

Higher taxes on wealthy and corporations to pay for job training, education, teacher pay

Support +49

- Support strongly: 54%
- Support somewhat: 18%
- Oppose somewhat: 10%
- Oppose strongly: 13%
- Don't know: 4%
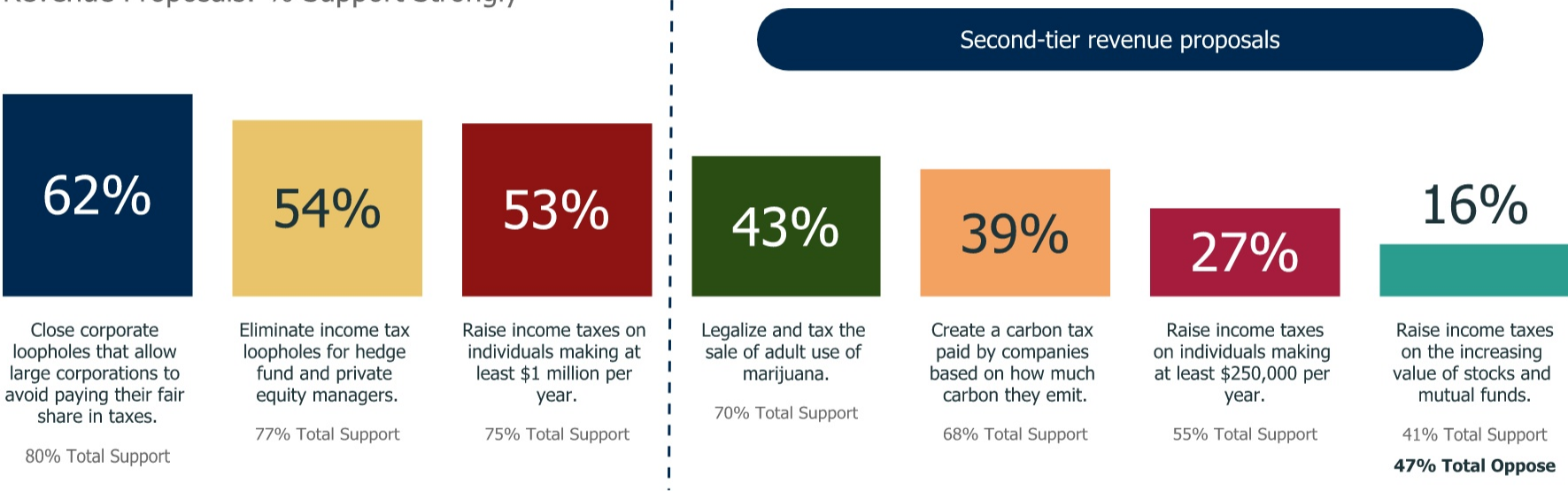
72% Total support
24% Total oppose
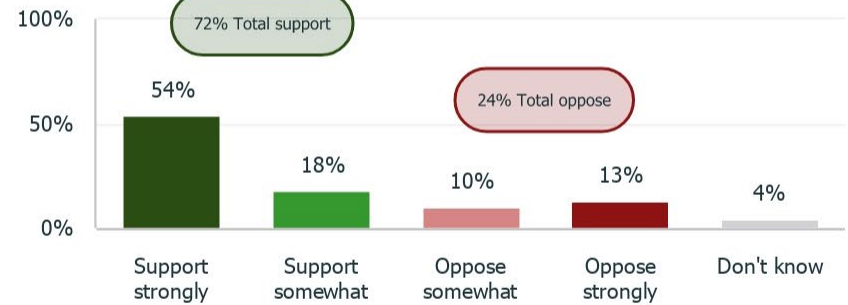
Q.13 (SPLIT A) Do you support or oppose higher taxes on wealthy corporations and the state's wealthiest residents?
Q.14 (SPLIT B) Do you support or oppose higher taxes on wealthy corporations and the state's wealthiest residents that would go towards job training programs, public education, and teacher pay?

Closing corporate tax loopholes and raising taxes on millionaires most popular revenue proposals

Revenue Proposals: % Support Strongly

Second-tier revenue proposals

62%
Close corporate loopholes that allow large corporations to avoid paying their fair share in taxes.

80% Total Support

54%
Eliminate income tax loopholes for hedge fund and private equity managers.

77% Total Support

53%
Raise income taxes on individuals making at least $1 million per year.

75% Total Support

43%
Legalize and tax the sale of adult use of marijuana.

70% Total Support

39%
Create a carbon tax paid by companies based on how much carbon they emit.

68% Total Support

27%
Raise income taxes on individuals making at least $250,000 per year.

55% Total Support

16%
Raise income taxes on the increasing value of stocks and mutual funds.

41% Total Support
47% Total Oppose

Q.19 Please indicate if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose each of the following proposals that will raise revenue for the state budget in Maryland.

Regardless of the argument, overwhelming majority of Maryland voters agree with statements that advocate for closing corporate tax loopholes

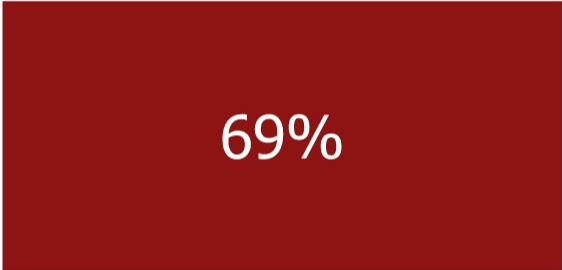Tax Statements: % Total Agree

74%	73%	69%

Maryland should close corporate tax loopholes and increase the tax rate for the very wealthiest, and place those revenues in our General Fund. It's a matter of basic fairness that everyone should pay their fair share.
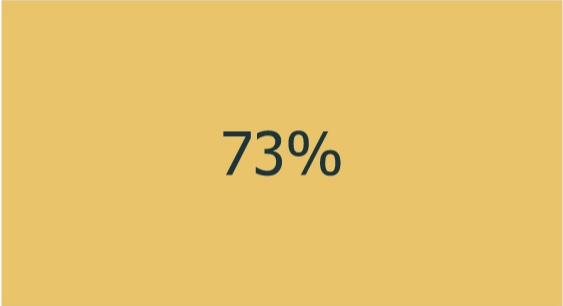
Maryland should close corporate tax loopholes and increase the tax rate for the very wealthy, provided that the revenue is dedicated to supporting schools and teachers. Strong schools mean a strong economy.

Maryland should close corporate tax loopholes and increase the tax rate for the very wealthy, provided that the revenue is dedicated to investing in improving and expanding transportation, and providing more free public transportation.

18% Total Disagree

20% Total Disagree

23% Total Disagree

Q.20 Please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements.

Tax argument is muddy in the end

Q.18 Please indicate which of the following statements about taxes comes closer to your own view, even if neither one of them is exactly right.

Wealthy corporations and wealthy and well-connected Marylanders don't pay their fair share in taxes. We should increase taxes on them to help pay for investments in infrastructure, education, and health care.

At a time when small businesses are struggling to find workers and stay afloat, the last thing we should do is increase taxes. The tax and spend agenda has led to higher prices and a culture of handouts.

Increase taxes to invest vs. avoid tax and spend agenda

Increase taxes to invest +10

Increase taxes to invest	Avoid tax and spend	Both	Neither/unsure
40%	30%	20%	10%
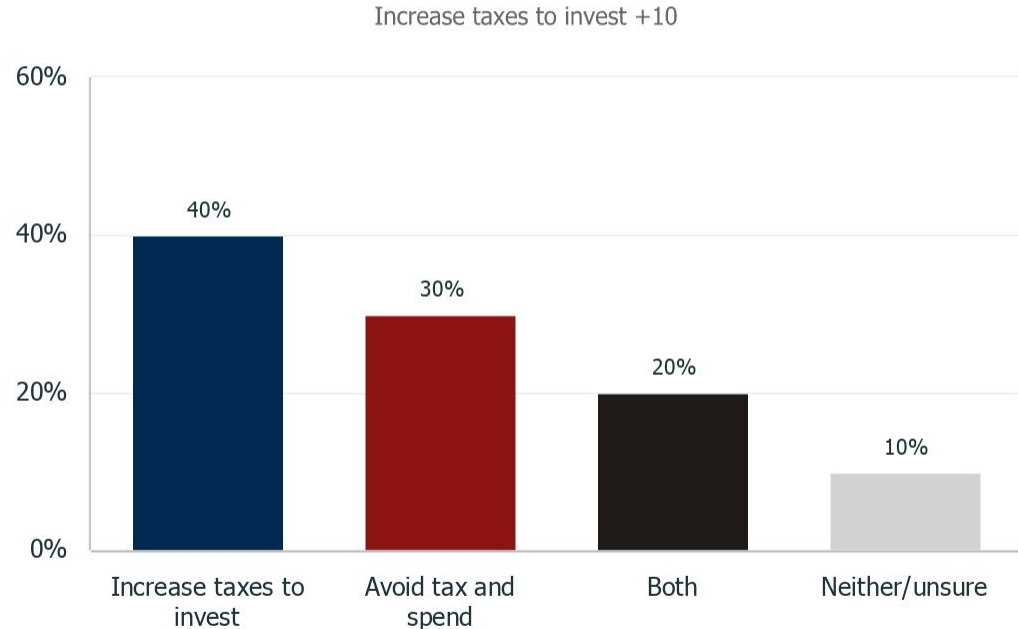
Sharp partisan divide on increasing taxes; independents split

Tax increase by key demographics

	Increase taxes to invest	Avoid tax and spend	Increase taxes to invest - Avoid tax and spend
All voters	40%	30%	+10
ID Democrat	59%	14%	+45
ID independent	35%	29%	+6
ID Republican	14%	60%	-47
Men	39%	35%	+4
Women	40%	26%	+14
18-49	47%	26%	+22
50+	32%	35%	-3
College graduate	46%	29%	+17
Non-college	32%	31%	+1

White men, men over 50 most likely to say MD should avoid tax and spend agenda

Tax increase by race, race/gender, and gender/age

	Increase taxes to invest	Avoid tax and spend	Increase taxes to invest - Avoid tax and spend
All voters	40%	30%	+10
White	40%	37%	+3
Black	45%	16%	+29
Voters of color	40%	21%	+19
White men	37%	45%	-8
White women	41%	29%	+12
Men of color	43%	21%	+22
Women of color	37%	20%	+17
Younger men	49%	22%	+27
Older men	30%	48%	-19
Younger women	45%	28%	+16
Older women	35%	23%	+11

Questions?

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