

Arizona Statewide Issues Poll - February 2022

Prepared for the **State Innovation Exchange** *by* **TargetSmart**



Survey Methodology

TargetSmart designed and administered this multi-modal survey. The survey was conducted February 15 to 22, 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 survey reached 577 registered voters statewide (500 weighted) who were age 18 or older and indicated they were registered to vote in Arizona. The statewide sample was augmented by a suburban Valley oversample of 202 registered voters in the following ZIP codes:

Phoenix and Scottsdale: 85023, 85022, 85032, 85053, 85027, 85024, 85085, 85254, 85260, 85258, 85253, 85028

Mesa: 85202, 85210, 85204, 85203, 85213

Chandler and Gilbert: 85233, 85225, 85286, 85248, 85249

Seventy-nine respondents from the statewide base sample were registered to vote in the listed ZIP codes, and they were added to the 202 oversample respondents for a total of 281 Valley respondents (200 weighted).

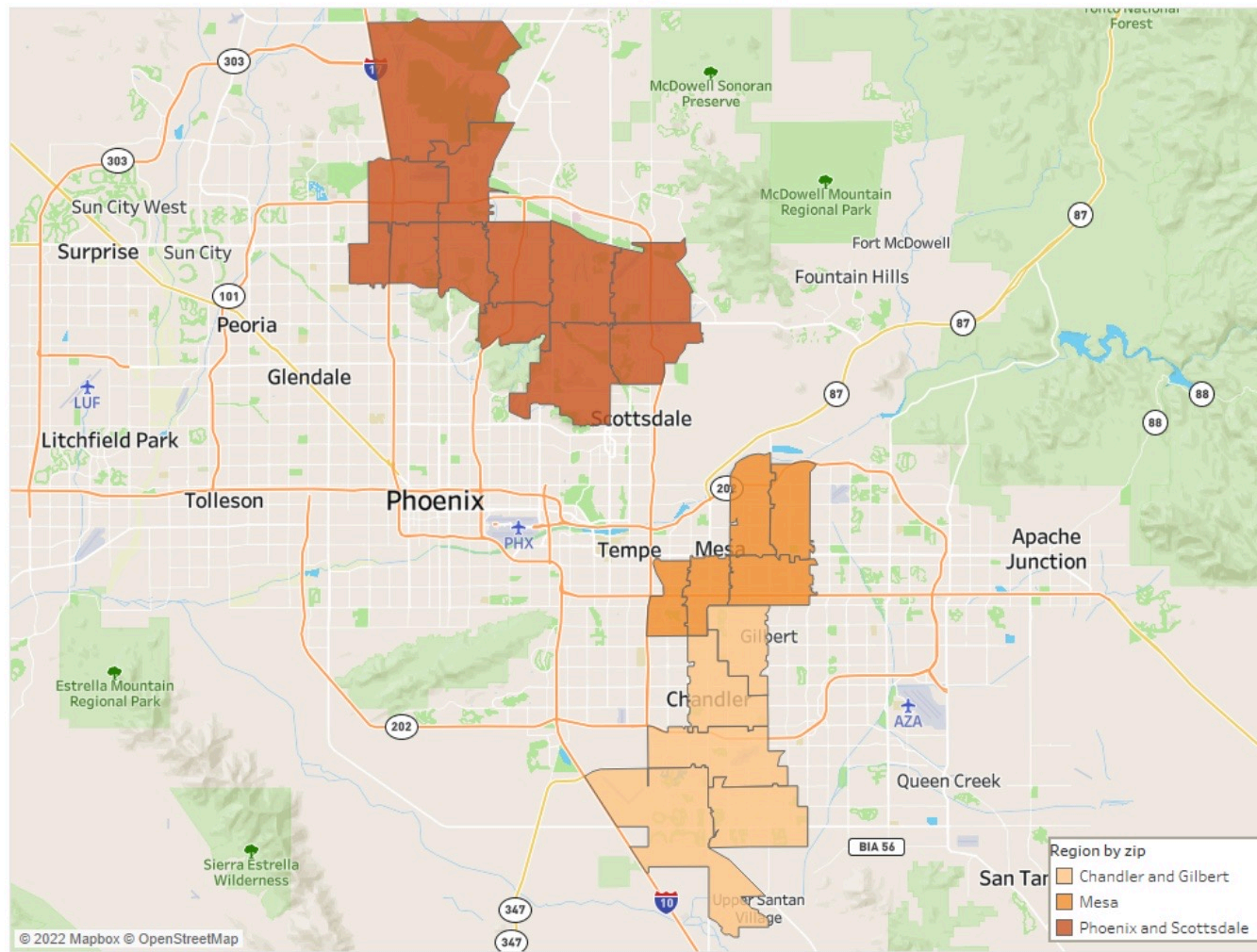
The sample was randomly selected from TargetSmart's enhanced voter file. Sixty-one percent of respondents were reached on phones (70 percent weighted). Thirteen percent of respondents completed the survey online and were reached via an email (8 percent weighted). Twenty-six percent of respondents were recruited from Dynata's web panel and matched to TargetSmart's voter file (22 percent weighted). Quotas were assigned to reflect the demographic distribution of registered voters in Arizona.

The data were weighted by gender, age, race on file, party registration from file, TargetSmart Midterm General Election Turnout Score, TargetSmart High School Only Score, self-reported vote for president in 2020, and region by county, State Senate district, and zip code 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% for the statewide total and +/- 6.9% for the Valley oversample.



Suburban Valley Oversample



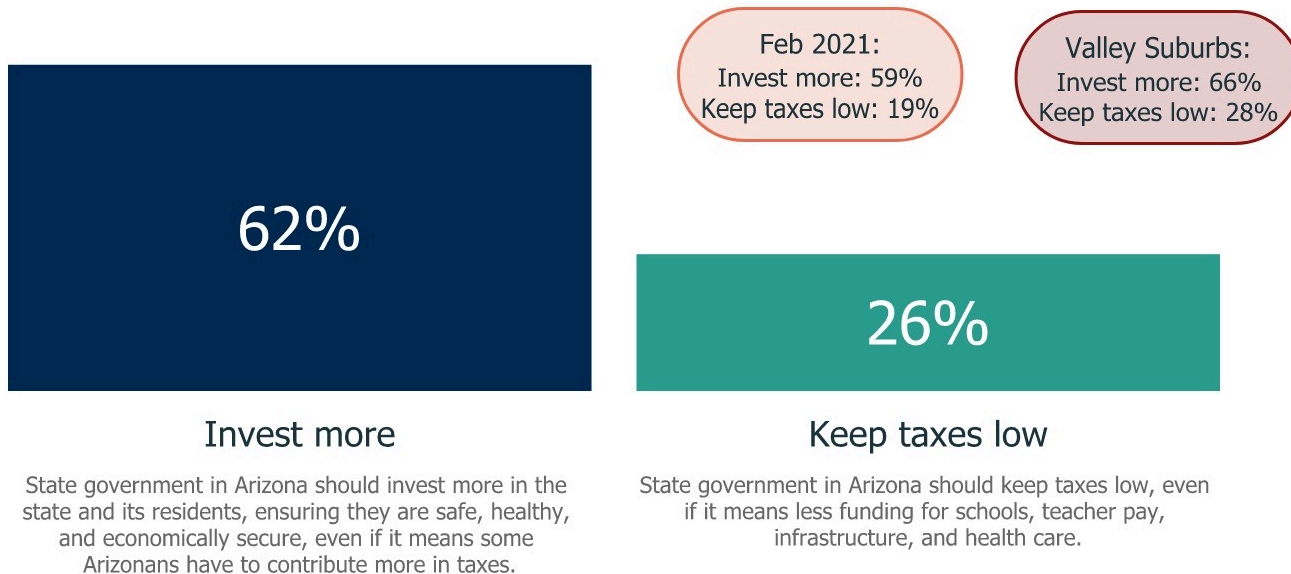
Key Findings

- Arizona voters are pessimistic about the direction of the state, and they continue to support more state investment over more and more austerity.
- Education funding and immigration are the top issues about which Arizonans are concerned. Rising costs, specifically food, gas, increasing rents and the high cost of housing, are also top of mind for voters.
- While a majority of Arizonans oppose abortion restrictions and a Texas-style abortion ban, voters are uncertain about the future of Roe vs. Wade, and few are following the issue closely.
- Although education funding is a key concern, voters are split on repealing the spending limits and are divided on expanding school vouchers.
- A majority of Arizonans feel voting should be more accessible, but voters are split on if barriers or fraud is a bigger issue, and almost two-thirds support voter ID requirements for vote-by-mail.
- Arizonans overwhelmingly support legislation to increase conservation efforts, and over 80% have concerns about Southwest Gas.



Priorities and Concerns

Across the board, Arizona voters prefer investments over service cuts



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



Investment vs. austerity argument unites Democrats, divides Republicans

% Invest More and Keep Taxes Low by Party Registration and Self-identified Party ID

	Invest More	Keep Taxes Low
All voters	62%	26%
Registered Democrats	83%	9%
Registered Unaffiliated	66%	24%
Registered Republicans	39%	44%
Dem and Ind. Lean Dem	83%	10%
Pure Independent	59%	28%
Rep and Ind. Lean Rep	41%	43%



Narrow majority of voters statewide, but 6-in-10 in key suburban areas, oppose additional corporate tax cuts

Keep corporate taxes +8

51%

Keep corporate taxes

The last thing we need is more tax cuts for politically connected Arizona corporations that already don't pay their fair share, making record profits while we continue to under pay teachers and under fund our schools.

Valley Suburbs: 60%

43%

Cut corporate taxes

We should cut taxes for corporations in Arizona to help bring down the costs of everyday essentials and ensure we remain one of the best states in the nation to do business.

Valley Suburbs: 35%

3%

Neither

4%

Unsure/refused

Q.21 And which of the following statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither of them is exactly right?



2-in-3 Republicans support cutting corporate taxes

Corporate Tax Support by Party Registration and Self-identified Party ID

	Keep corporate taxes	Cut corporate taxes
All voters	51%	43%
Registered Democrats	78%	15%
Registered Unaffiliated	51%	44%
Registered Republicans	24%	66%
Dem and Ind. Lean Dem	74%	19%
Pure Independent	50%	45%
Rep and Ind. Lean Rep	27%	65%



Voters remain pessimistic about direction of state

Direction of Arizona - Time Series

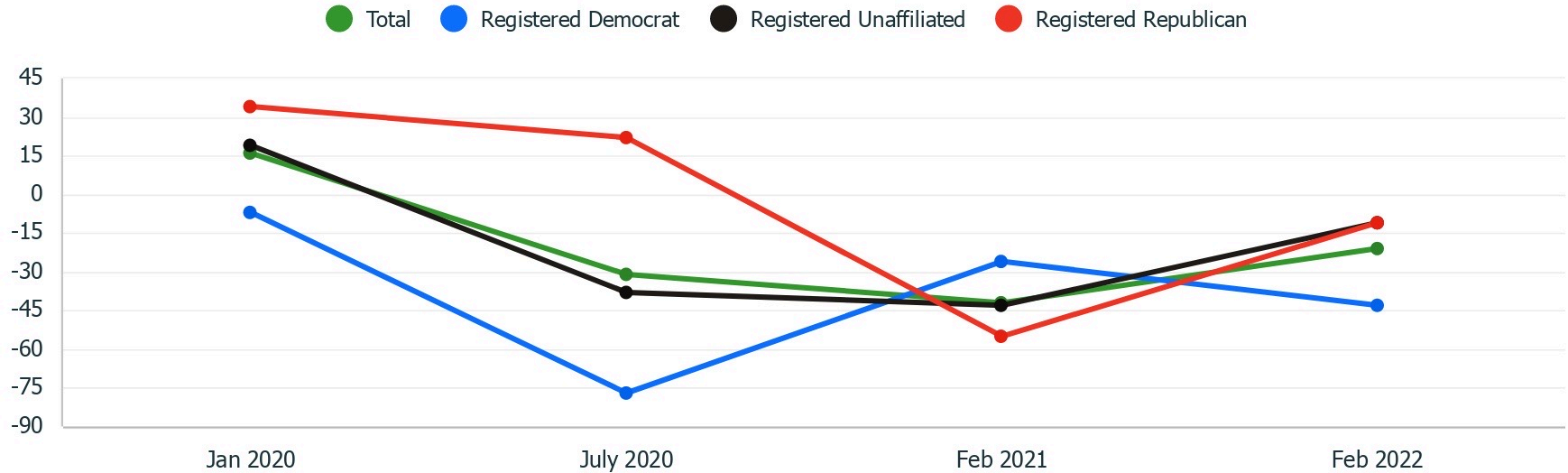


Q.5 Generally speaking, do you think that things in Arizona are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?



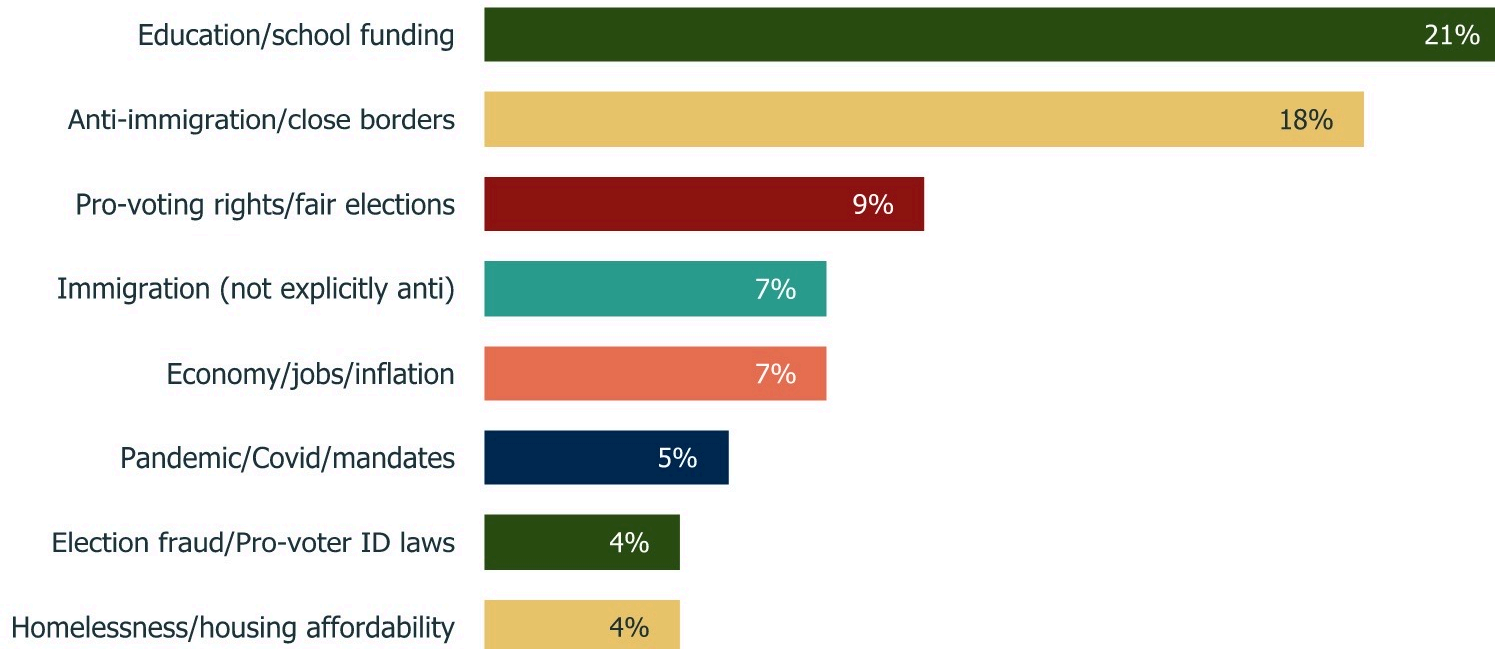
Almost two-thirds of Democrats feel Arizona is on the wrong track

Direction of Arizona: Right Direction - Wrong Track by Party Registration



Education and immigration top priorities in open end

Biggest Policy Issue: Most Frequent

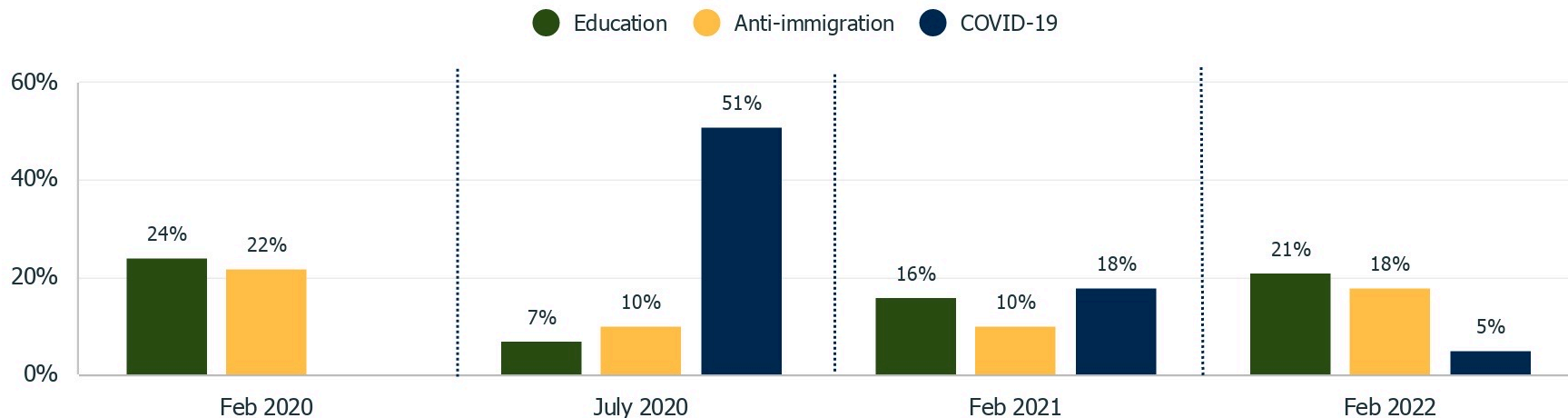


Q.6 What would you say is the biggest policy issue that you would like the Arizona legislature to prioritize?



While a majority of voters identified COVID-19 as the biggest issue in July 2020, we have seen a steady decline since

Biggest Policy Issue: Education, Anti-immigration, and COVID-19 by Year



Q.6 What would you say is the biggest policy issue that you would like the Arizona legislature to prioritize?



Partisan polarization impacts issue priorities

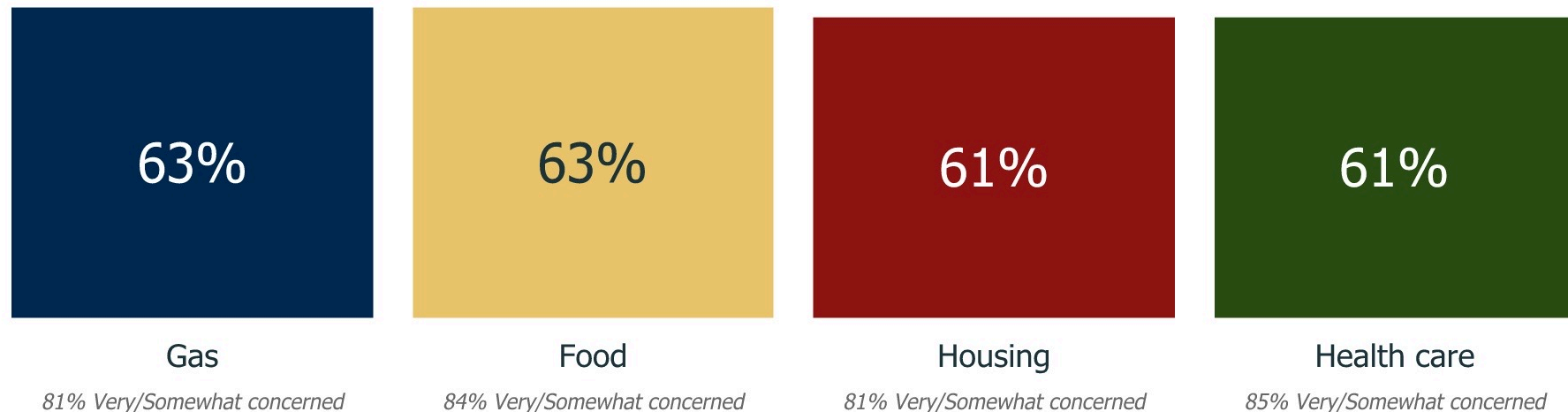
Biggest Policy Issue by Party Registration and Self-identified Party ID

	Education	Anti-immigration	Pro-voting rights	Immigration	Economy/jobs
All voters	21%	18%	9%	7%	7%
Registered Democrats	28%	2%	16%	4%	7%
Registered Unaffiliated	22%	15%	3%	6%	7%
Registered Republicans	14%	36%	8%	10%	6%
Dem and Ind. Lean Dem	30%	3%	14%	3%	7%
Pure Independent	21%	11%	5%	2%	10%
Rep and Ind. Lean Rep	14%	37%	5%	14%	3%



Gas, food, housing, and health care emerge as top inflation concerns

% Very Concerned - Top Tier



Q.8 Please tell me whether you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not at all concerned about rising costs for each of the following.

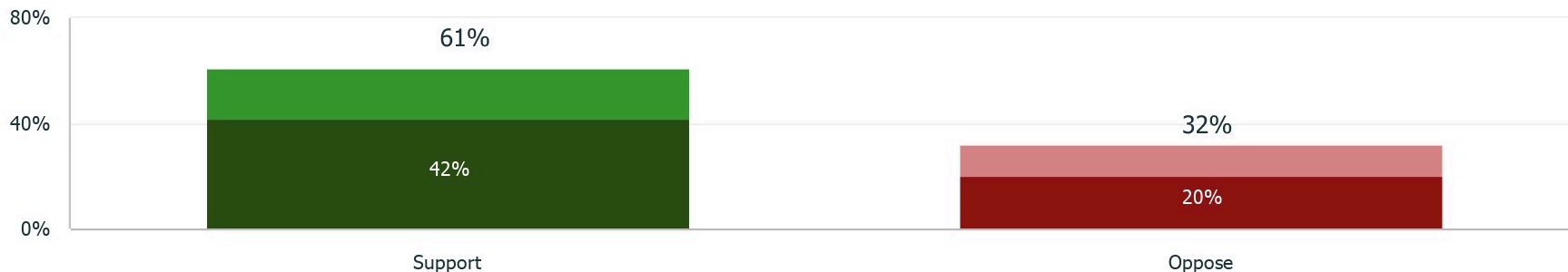


By a 2-to-1 margin, Arizona voters support a new ban on consumer price gouging

Support for Ban on Consumer Price Gouging

Support +29

● Somewhat ● Strongly



Q.12 Generally speaking do you support or oppose a new ban on consumer price gouging in Arizona for common necessities like groceries?



Price gouging ban has cross-partisan support

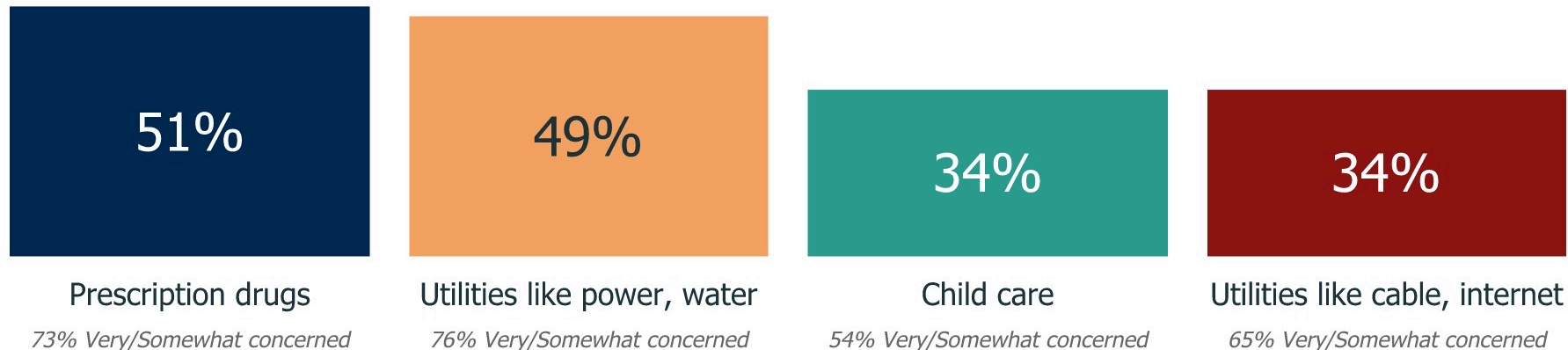
Support for Ban on Consumer Price Gouging by Party Registration and Self-identified Party ID

	Strongly support	Total Support	Strongly oppose	Total Oppose	Total Support - Total Oppose
All voters	42%	61%	20%	32%	+29
Registered Democrats	50%	68%	14%	24%	+44
Registered Unaffiliated	44%	62%	15%	32%	+31
Registered Republicans	31%	52%	32%	40%	+13
Dem and Ind. Lean Dem	52%	70%	13%	24%	+46
Pure Independent	36%	53%	21%	35%	+18
Rep and Ind. Lean Rep	35%	55%	26%	38%	+17



Majority concerned about rising costs of prescription drugs and utilities like power and water

% Very Concerned - Secondary Tier

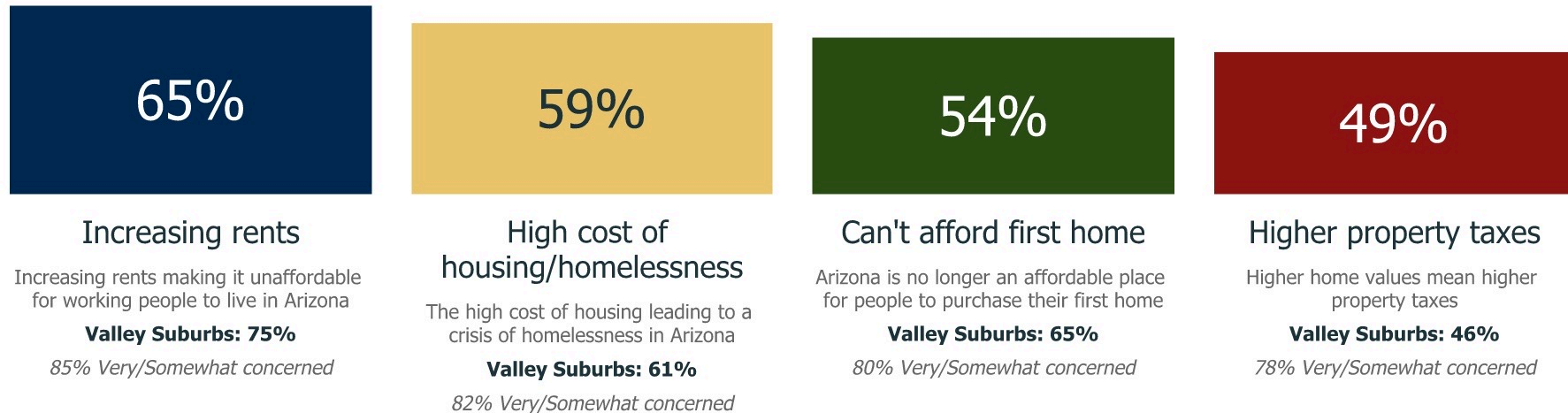


Q.8 Please tell me whether you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not at all concerned about rising costs for each of the following.



Broadest housing concern is related to increasing rents pricing working people out of the market

% Very Concerned



Q.9 When it comes to the topic of housing in Arizona, please tell me whether you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not at all concerned about each of the following.



Concern over housing is *not* tremendously polarized

% Very Concerned by Party Registration and Self-identified Party ID

	Rent	Homelessness	First home	Property taxes
All voters	65%	59%	54%	49%
Registered Democrats	72%	66%	59%	45%
Registered Unaffiliated	63%	56%	54%	41%
Registered Republicans	60%	54%	51%	59%
Dem and Ind. Lean Dem	72%	70%	56%	47%
Pure Independent	63%	52%	54%	45%
Rep and Ind. Lean Rep	59%	49%	53%	51%



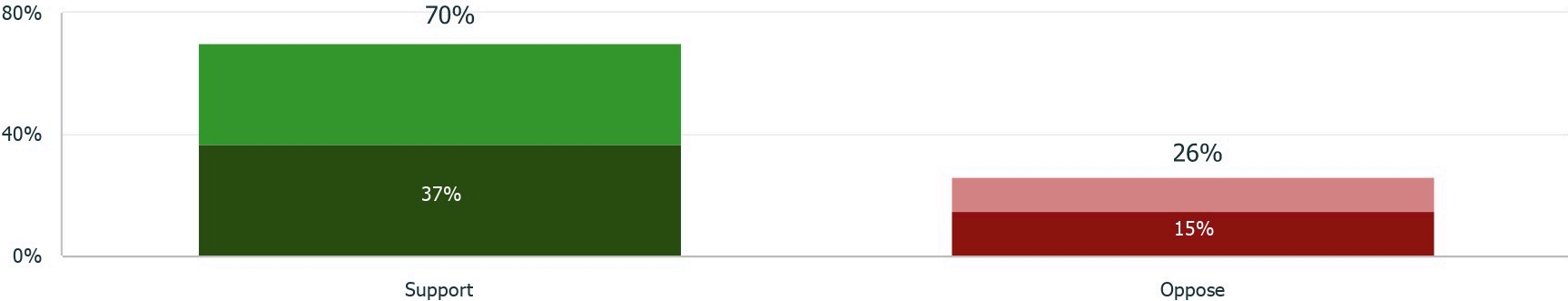
7-in-10 Arizona voters support rent assistance during the pandemic, down slightly from last year when 8-in-10 were supportive

Support for Rent Assistance

Support +44

● Somewhat ● Strongly

Feb 2021:
Total Support: 81%
Total Oppose: 16%



Q.11 Do you support or oppose rent assistance to help people who are struggling to stay in their homes due to losing work because of the pandemic?

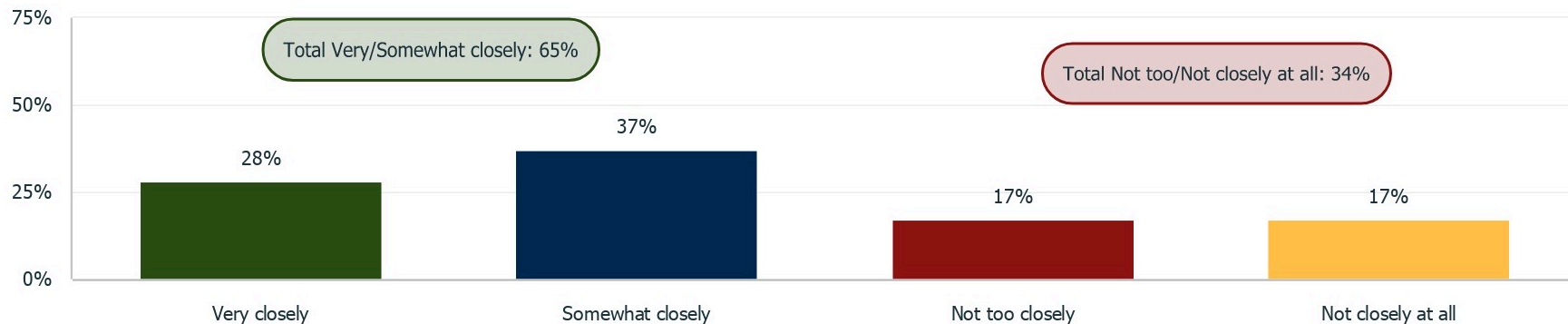


Abortion News and Legislation

Just 3-in-10 Arizona voters are closely following news about abortion these days

Following News about Abortion

Total Very/Somewhat closely +31

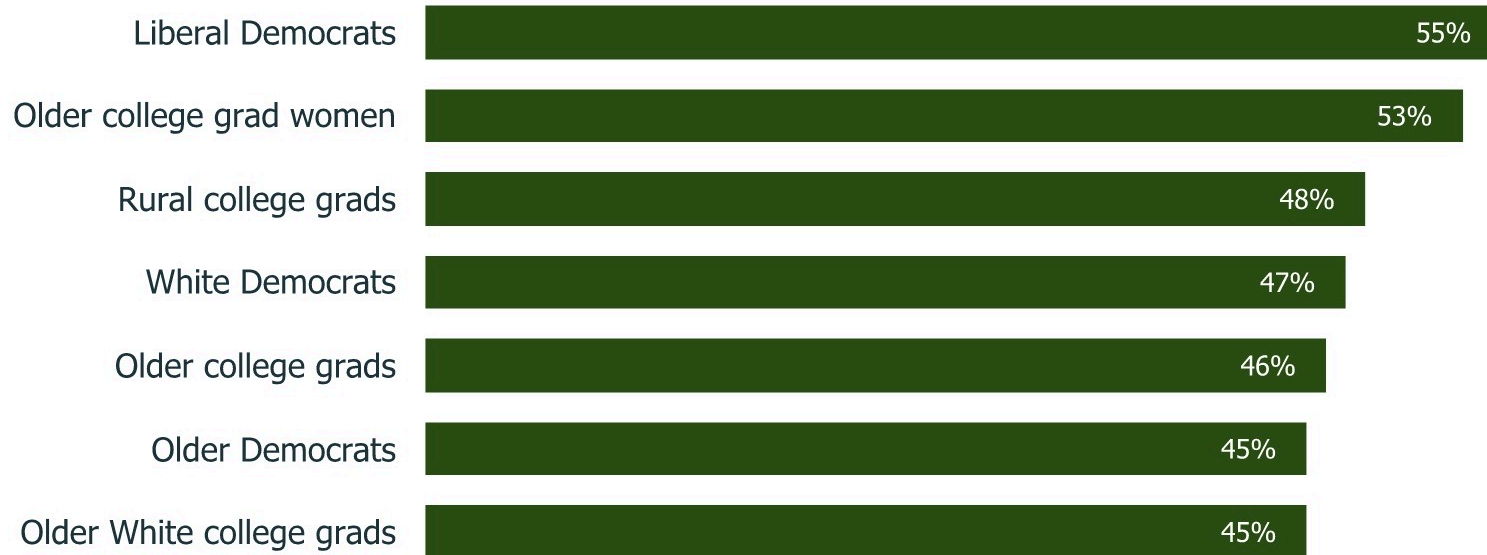


Q.14 How closely would you say you are following news about the issue of abortion these days -- very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not closely at all?



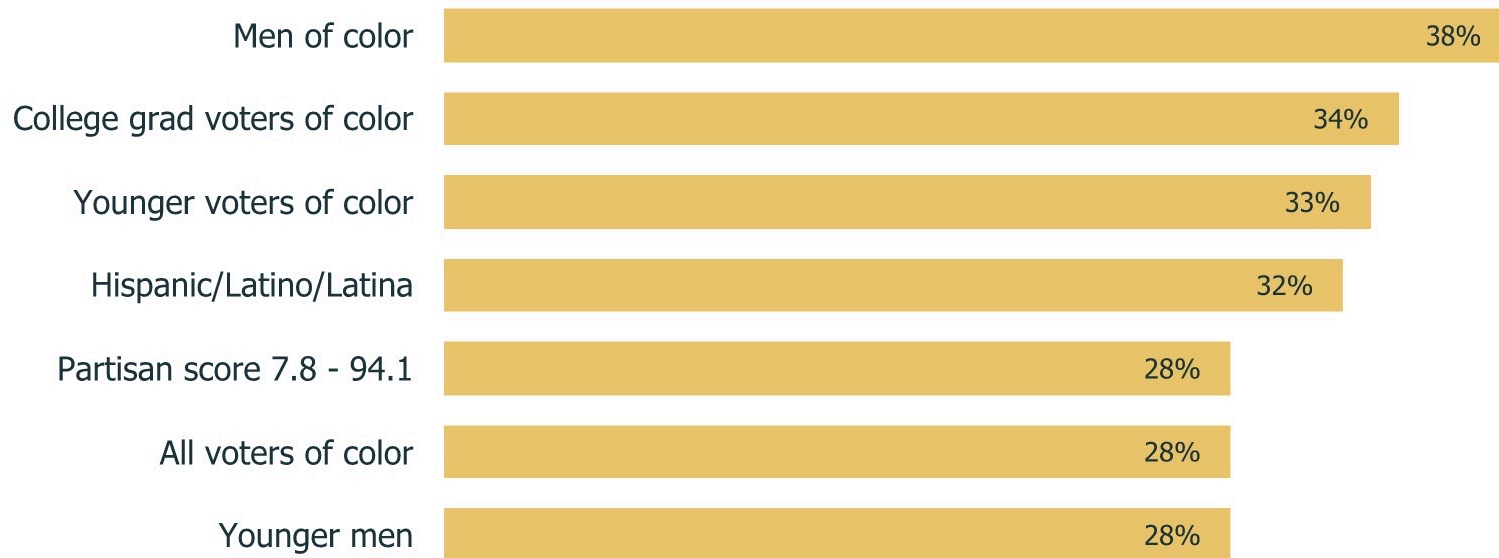
Older, college educated Democrats most likely to be following abortion news very closely

% Very Closely Following News about Abortion



Voters of color and younger voters least likely to follow abortion news

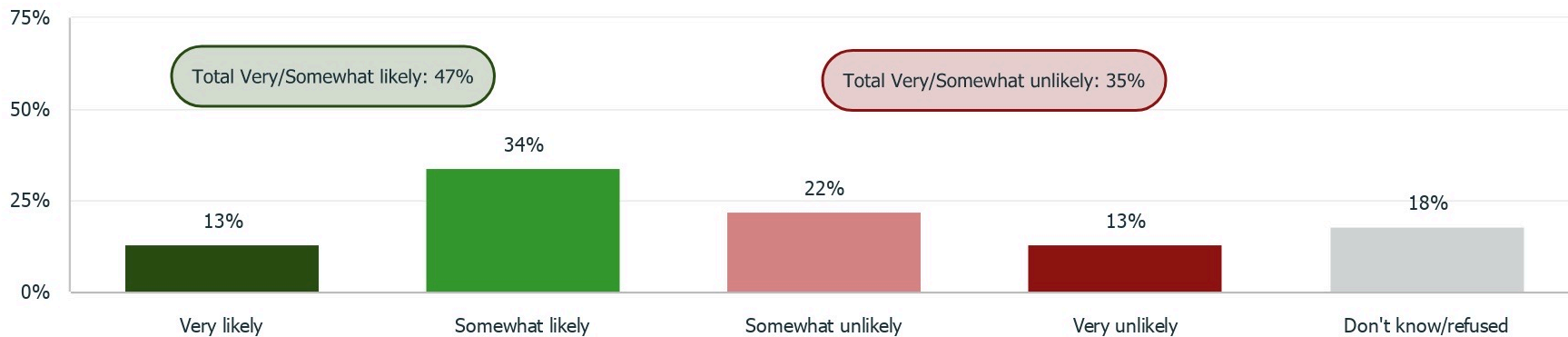
% Not Closely at All Following News about Abortion



Very soft opinions on the likelihood that Roe will be overturned

Likelihood SCOTUS will Overturn Roe Vs. Wade

Total Very/Somewhat likely +12



Q.15 Do you think it is very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely that this year the United States Supreme Court will overturn the Roe vs. Wade decision?

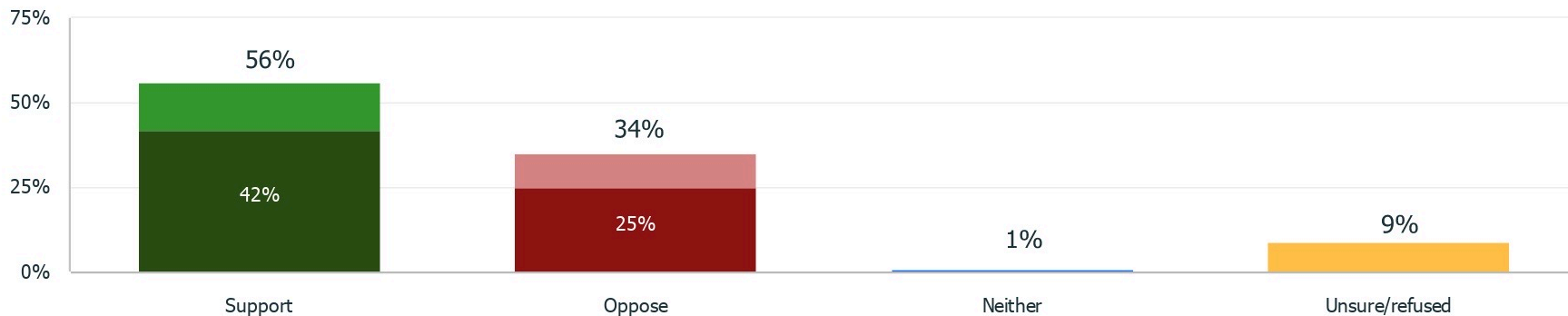


Majority of AZ voters support repealing 1901 abortion ban

Support Repeal +22

● Somewhat ● Strongly

Valley Suburbs:
Total Support: 60%
Total Oppose: 33%



Q.16 As you may know, there is a law on the books in Arizona that was passed in 1901 that outlaws all abortion in the state and provides for mandatory prison time for abortion providers. This Arizona law was invalidated in 1973 by the United States Supreme Court Roe versus Wade decision. If the United States Supreme Court overturns the Roe versus Wade decision, the 1901 ban on abortion in Arizona will come back into effect immediately.

Do you support or oppose repealing Arizona's 1901 abortion ban, to make abortion legal in Arizona regardless of what happens in the Supreme Court?



Repealing abortion ban highly charged along party lines

Support for Repealing 1901 Ban by Party Registration, Self-identified Party ID, and Pro-choice Score

	Strongly support	Total Support	Strongly oppose	Total Oppose	Total Support - Total Oppose
All voters	42%	56%	25%	34%	+22
Registered Democrats	57%	63%	20%	26%	+38
Registered Unaffiliated	44%	63%	18%	25%	+38
Registered Republicans	26%	42%	36%	52%	-11
Dem and Ind. Lean Dem	61%	71%	19%	23%	+48
Pure Independent	34%	53%	20%	32%	+21
Rep and Ind. Lean Rep	27%	43%	33%	49%	-5
Pro-choice score 0 - 14.2	24%	41%	35%	50%	-9
Pro-choice score 14.3 - 75.9	45%	64%	19%	26%	+38
Pro-choice score 76 - 100	55%	62%	20%	28%	+34



Younger voters and Latinx voters most likely to support repeal

Support for Repealing 1901 Ban by Gender, Race, and Age

	Strongly support	Total Support	Strongly oppose	Total Oppose	Total Support - Total Oppose
All voters	42%	56%	25%	34%	+22
Men	40%	53%	25%	38%	+16
Women	43%	56%	26%	33%	+23
White	41%	55%	26%	36%	+19
Latinx	47%	63%	19%	31%	+33
People of Color	47%	62%	18%	30%	+32
Ages 18-34	46%	65%	15%	26%	+39
Ages 35-49	43%	55%	27%	36%	+19
Ages 50+	39%	52%	29%	39%	+13



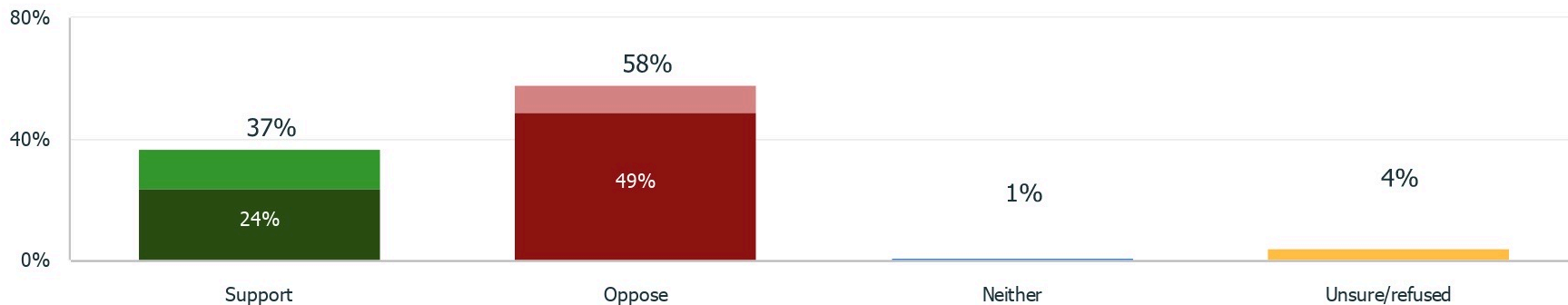
Broad opposition to Texas-style abortion law

Support for TX-style Abortion Legislation

Oppose +21

Valley Suburbs:
Total Support: 33%
Total Oppose: 63%

● Somewhat ● Strongly



Q.17 As you may know, Arizona lawmakers are considering new abortion restrictions that are similar to a law Texas recently adopted that would prohibit abortion once a heartbeat is detectable, usually around six weeks, and which allows private citizens to sue anyone who aids or abets those seeking abortions after six weeks. Do you support or oppose Arizona adopting this Texas-style abortion legislation?



3-in-10 Republicans oppose TX-style abortion ban

Support for TX-style Law by Party Registration, Self-identified Party ID, and Pro-choice Score

	Strongly support	Total Support	Strongly oppose	Total Oppose	Total Support - Total Oppose
All voters	24%	37%	49%	58%	-21
Registered Democrats	5%	9%	78%	89%	-81
Registered Unaffiliated	19%	32%	52%	58%	-27
Registered Republicans	47%	70%	18%	28%	+42
Dem and Ind. Lean Dem	5%	11%	77%	88%	-77
Pure Independent	9%	32%	48%	55%	-23
Rep and Ind. Lean Rep	52%	67%	22%	30%	+37
Pro-choice score 0 - 14.2	42%	59%	24%	35%	+25
Pro-choice score 14.3 - 75.9	21%	37%	50%	56%	-19
Pro-choice score 76 - 100	8%	15%	73%	83%	-68



Opposition to TX-style law broadest in Tucson market and outside rural areas

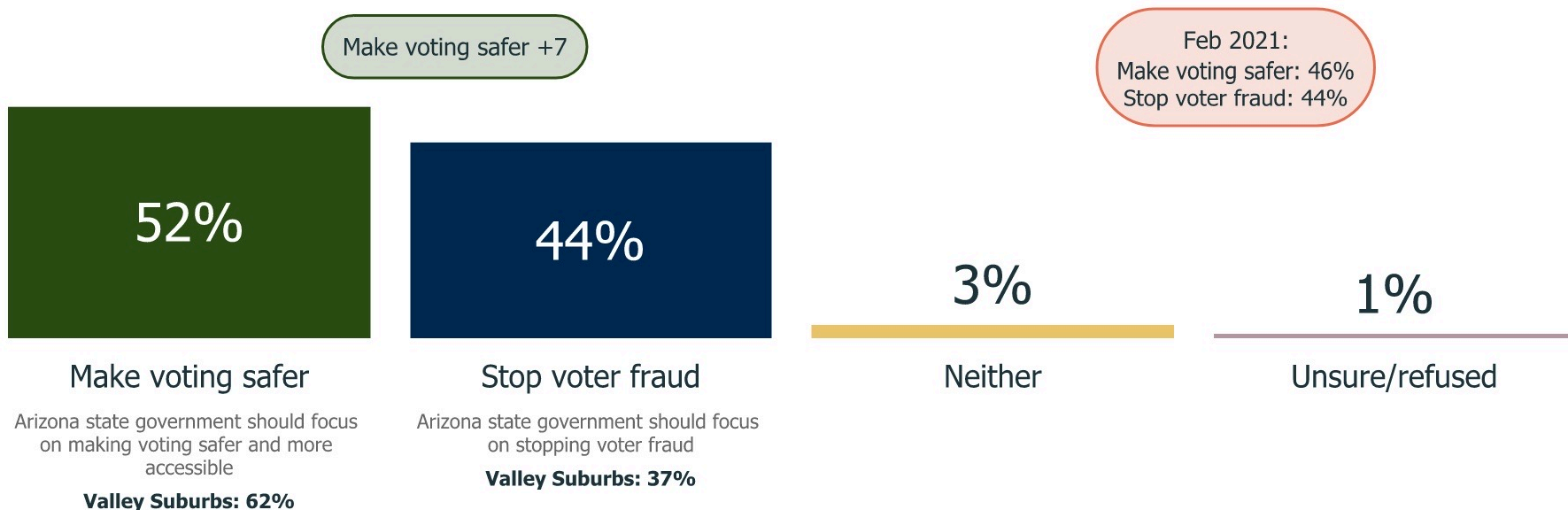
Support for TX-style Law by Region, Media Market, and Urbanicity

	Strongly support	Total Support	Strongly oppose	Total Oppose	Total Support - Total Oppose
All voters	24%	37%	49%	58%	-21
Phoenix	26%	40%	46%	55%	-15
Tucson	14%	26%	57%	68%	-42
Rural	34%	43%	43%	52%	-9
Suburban	20%	36%	50%	59%	-23
Urban	23%	36%	51%	60%	-24



Elections and Democracy

Arizona voters continue to be split on state government's focus when it comes to voting; prioritizing safe and accessible voting preferred by Valley Suburbs voters



Q.22 Switching gears again, which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither of them is exactly right?



Voters polarized by party when it comes to voting accessibility

Voting Focus by Party Registration and Self-identified Party ID

	Make voting safer	Stop voter fraud	Safer - Stop Fraud
All voters	52%	44%	+7
Registered Democrats	84%	13%	+72
Registered Unaffiliated	58%	39%	+19
Registered Republicans	15%	80%	-65
Dem and Ind. Lean Dem	88%	10%	+78
Pure Independent	56%	41%	+15
Rep and Ind. Lean Rep	14%	80%	-66



Women, voters of color more likely to support making voting safer/accessible

Voting Focus by Gender and Race

	Make voting safer	Stop voter fraud	Safer - Stop Fraud
All voters	52%	44%	+7
Men	47%	50%	-3
Women	54%	41%	+13
White	50%	47%	+3
Latinx	52%	35%	+17
People of Color	59%	34%	+24



Urban and densely populated suburban areas call for voting accessibility; exurban to rural voters call to crack down on fraud

Voting Focus by Region

	Make voting safer	Stop voter fraud	Safer - Stop Fraud
All voters	52%	44%	+7
East	38%	59%	-21
Maricopa - Inner suburbs	60%	37%	+24
Maricopa - Outer suburbs	47%	48%	-1
Maricopa - Urban core	67%	30%	+37
Pima County	61%	38%	+23
West	34%	58%	-24



Voters split on whether barriers or fraud is the bigger problem in Arizona



Q.23 Which of the following is a bigger problem in Arizona?



Polarization drives opinions about problems associated with voting

Voting Problem by Party Registration and Self-identified Party ID

	Barriers	Fraud	Barriers - Fraud
All voters	4%	45%	+1
Registered Democrats	77%	13%	+64
Registered Unaffiliated	48%	42%	+6
Registered Republicans	13%	77%	-64
Dem and Ind. Lean Dem	75%	17%	+58
Pure Independent	52%	34%	+18
Rep and Ind. Lean Rep	12%	79%	-67



Small divides by gender and ethnicity on biggest problem related to voting in Arizona

Voting Problem by Gender and Race

	Barriers	Fraud	Barriers - Fraud
All voters	4%	45%	+1
Men	40%	48%	-8
Women	48%	43%	+6
White	42%	47%	-5
Latinx	53%	40%	+14
People of Color	52%	37%	+15



In Maricopa County, Barriers vs. Fraud narrative is more polarizing than Safe and Accessible vs. Fraud narrative

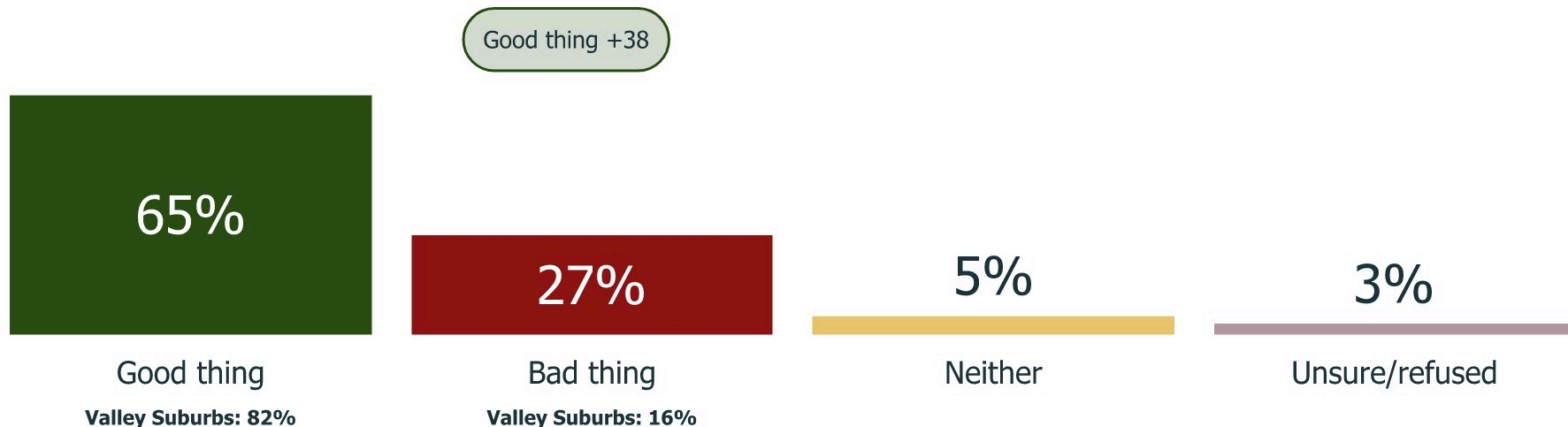
Voting Problem by Region, Media Market, and Urbanicity

	Barriers	Fraud	Barriers - Fraud
All voters	4%	45%	+1
East	30%	53%	-23
Maricopa - Inner suburbs	46%	41%	+5
Maricopa - Outer suburbs	41%	46%	-5
Maricopa - Urban core	47%	47%	0
Pima County	63%	30%	+33
West	42%	53%	-11
Phoenix	43%	47%	-4
Tucson	52%	37%	+15
Rural	39%	54%	-15
Suburban	44%	43%	+1
Urban	49%	42%	+7



Two-thirds of voters think it is a good thing to make vote-by-mail and early voting more accessible

Overwhelming Agreement in Valley Suburbs it would be a **GOOD** Thing



Q.24 And do you think it would be a good thing or bad thing for Arizona to preserve vote-by-mail and make early voting more widely accessible?



9-in-10 Democrats support making early voting more accessible; 40% of Republicans agree

Early Voting Accessibility by Party Registration and Self-identified Party ID

	Good thing	Bad thing	Good thing - Bad thing
All voters	65%	27%	+38
Registered Democrats	90%	7%	+83
Registered Unaffiliated	67%	26%	+41
Registered Republicans	41%	46%	-5
Dem and Ind. Lean Dem	93%	4%	+89
Pure Independent	69%	17%	+52
Rep and Ind. Lean Rep	36%	54%	-18



Strongest push back to VBM restrictions are characterizing them as a political stunt

% Very Concerned

56%

Political

New vote-by-mail restrictions are more about politics than protecting the integrity of our elections

69% Very/Somewhat concerned

44%

Impacts elderly

New vote-by-mail restrictions make it harder for elderly people to vote

66% Very/Somewhat concerned

41%

Impacts young and minority voters

New vote-by-mail restrictions disproportionately impact younger voters and minority voters

56% Very/Somewhat concerned

36%

Impacts military families

New vote-by-mail restrictions make it harder for military families to vote

62% Very/Somewhat concerned

Q.26 Now I am going to read you some criticisms that have been made about new voting restrictions that have been put in place on the vote-by-mail system in Arizona over the last couple of years. Please tell me whether each one is very concerning, somewhat concerning, a little concerning, or not at all concerning to you.



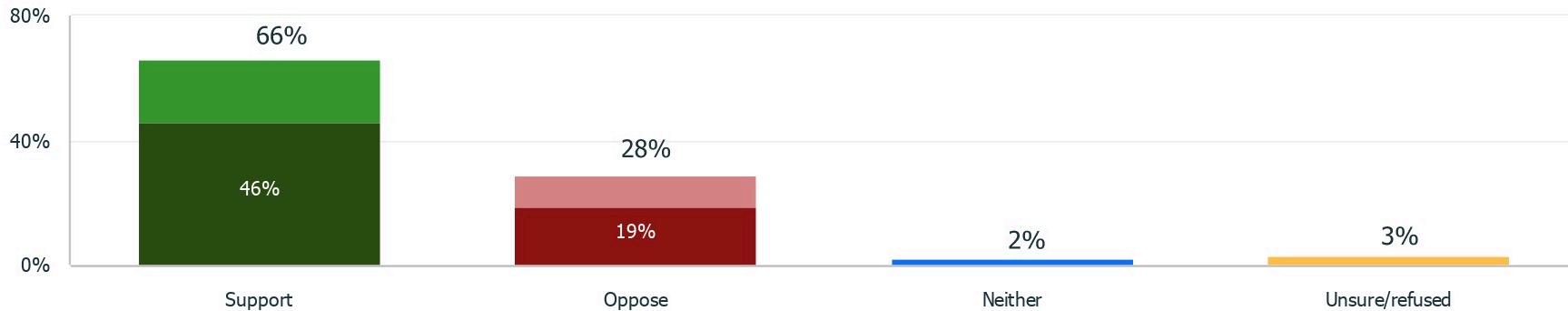
Conservation Efforts and Utility Concerns

Two-thirds of voters support 2030 conservation goals

Support for 30% Conservation by 2030

Support +38

● Somewhat ● Strongly



Q.27 Last year the Biden Administration established a national goal to conserve at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and freshwater and 30 percent of U.S. ocean areas by 2030, an initiative commonly referred to as 30 by 30. This initiative seeks to reverse the negative impacts of climate change by protecting more natural areas and improving access for all Arizonians. Do you support or oppose setting a national goal of conserving 30 percent of land and inland waters in America, and 30 percent of its ocean areas by the year 2030?

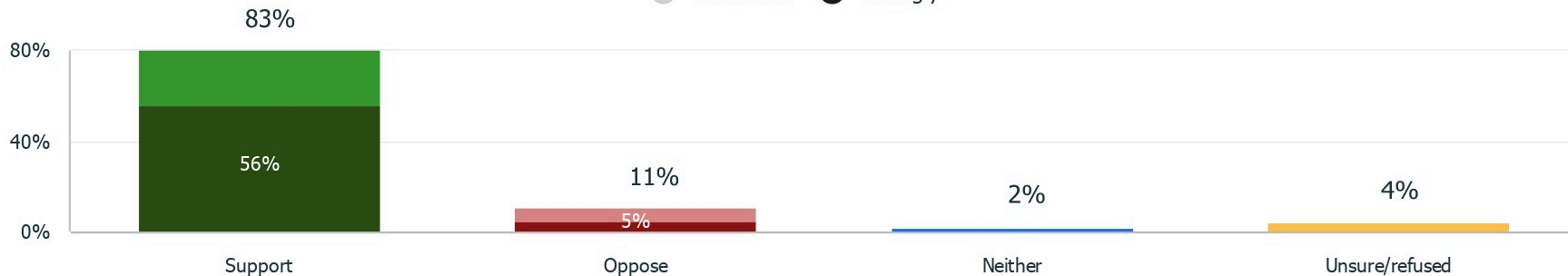


Over 80% support for protecting Arizona National Scenic Trail

Support for AZ National Scenic Trail

Support +72

● Somewhat ● Strongly



Q.28 Do you support or oppose funding and legislation to protect and maintain the Arizona National Scenic Trail, the 800-mile non-motorized path throughout the state that benefits Arizona's people, outdoor businesses, public safety, access to public lands, and community health and wellness?

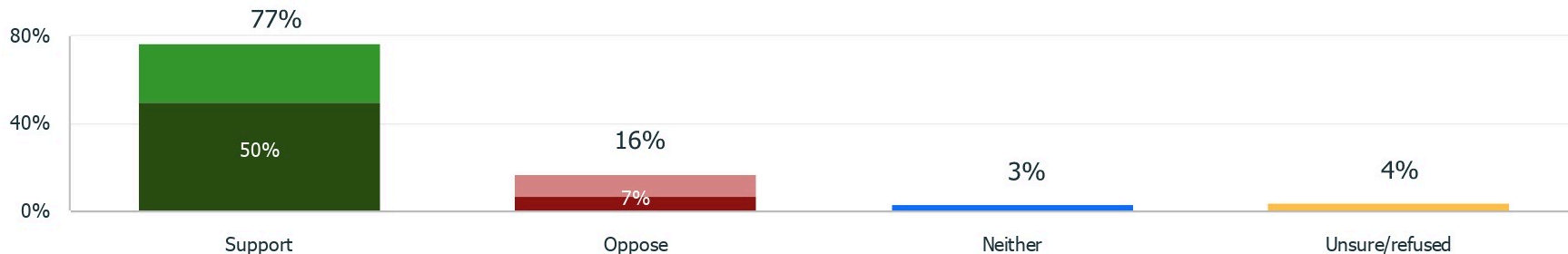


7-in-10 voters support restoring Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund

Support AZ State Parks Heritage Fund +61

● Somewhat ● Strongly

Feb 2020: 79% total support; 17% total oppose
Feb 2021: 70% total support; 15% total oppose



Q.29 As you may know, in 2010 the Arizona legislature cut \$10 million a year in funding for the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund, a voter-approved measure that supports local, regional, and state parks; trails and open spaces; and cultural heritage sites.

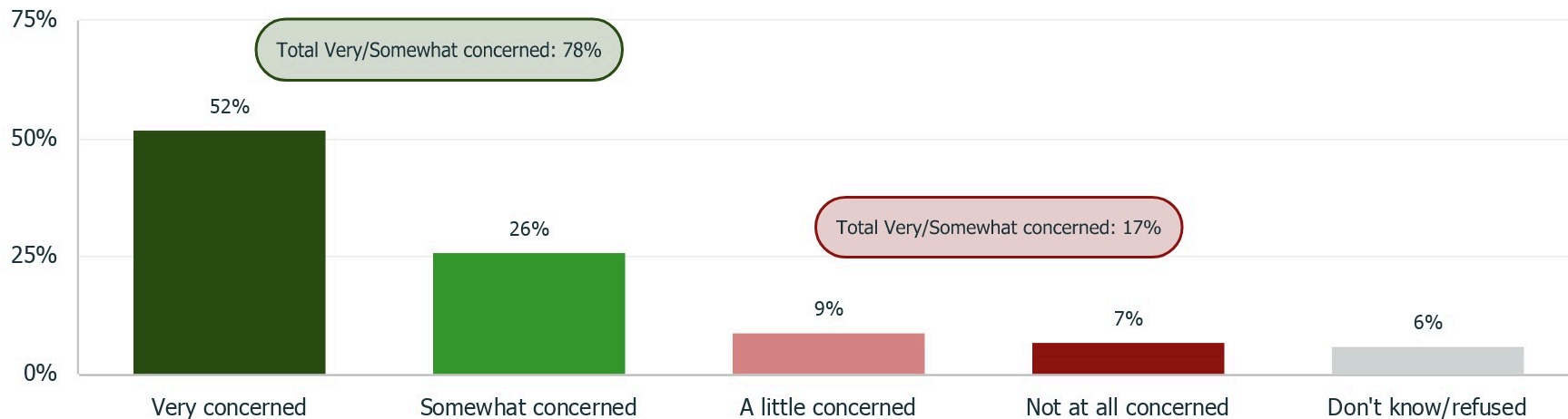
Do you support or oppose the Arizona legislature permanently restoring this funding for the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund?



Almost 80% of Arizonans concerned about Southwest Gas safety

Concerns about Southwest Gas -- Explosions and Leaks

Total Very/Somewhat concerned +61



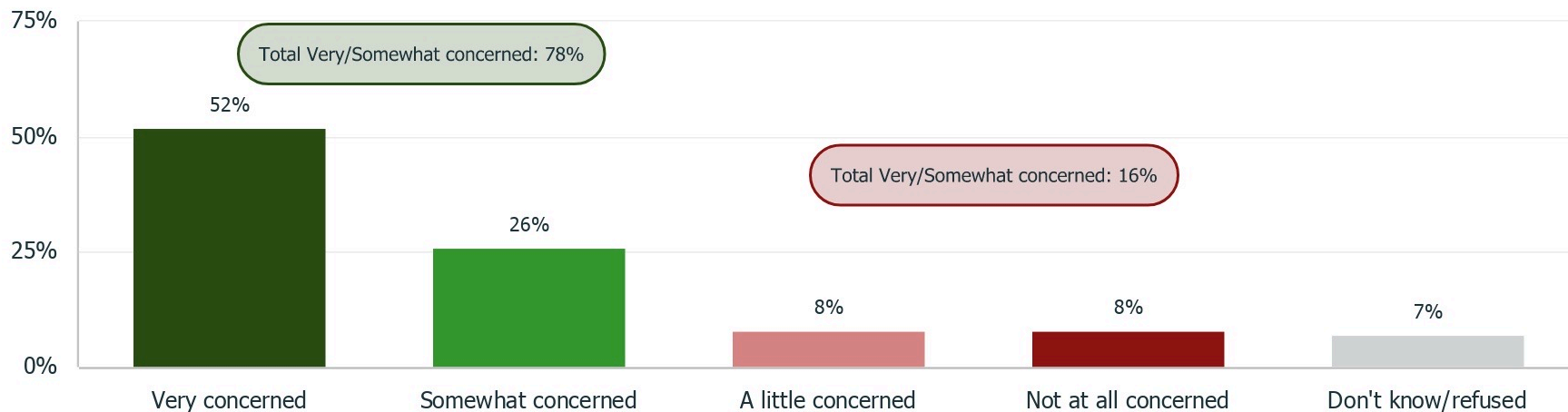
Q.30 Would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not at all concerned about two major gas explosions and numerous leaks and safety violations in Arizona since 2020 by Southwest Gas, more safety violations than any other gas supplier in the Western United States?



Little variation in messaging about corruption

Concerns about Southwest Gas -- Misleading Customers and Corruption

Total Very/Somewhat concerned +62



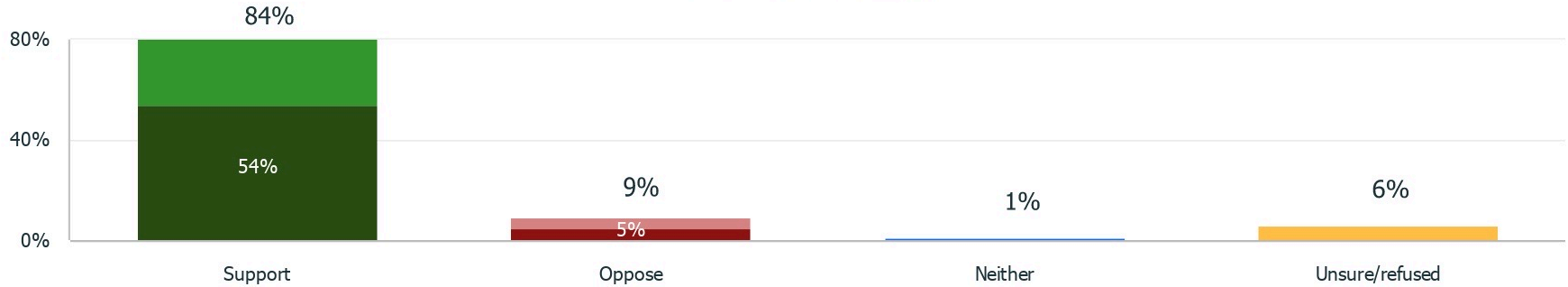
Q.31 Would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not at all concerned about Southwest Gas being questioned recently by regulators for misleading customers and corrupt business and political practices?



Over 80% of Arizona voters support investments in desalination to solve water issues

Support Desalination Investments +75

● Somewhat ● Strongly



Q.32 Desalination is the process of removing salts or other minerals and contaminants from seawater, brackish water, and wastewater to obtain fresh water for human consumption and domestic or industrial use. Do you support or oppose the Arizona legislature investing in desalination to help deal with Arizona's long term water shortage?



Questions?



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