

# *Indianapolis Mayoral Election Issue Priorities*

## *August 2019*

American Strategies designed and administered this telephone survey conducted by professional interviewers. The survey reached 500 adults, age 18 or older, who indicated they were registered to vote in Indianapolis, Indiana, indicated that they always, sometimes, or the chances are 50-50 that they vote in local municipal elections, and indicated that they are almost certain or probably will vote in the Indianapolis election for mayor, city-county council, and other offices on November 5th.

The survey was conducted from August 13 to 18, 2019.

Thirty-eight percent of respondents were reached on wireless phones, eighteen percent on VOIP phones, and forty-four percent on landlines. Quotas were assigned to reflect the demographic distribution of likely November 2019 voters in Indianapolis, and the data were not weighted. The sample was drawn from a third-party vendor voter file. The overall margin of error is +/- 4.4%. The margin of error for subgroups is larger and varies. Percentage totals may not add up precisely due to rounding.

# Region Definition by Township

- **North Region**

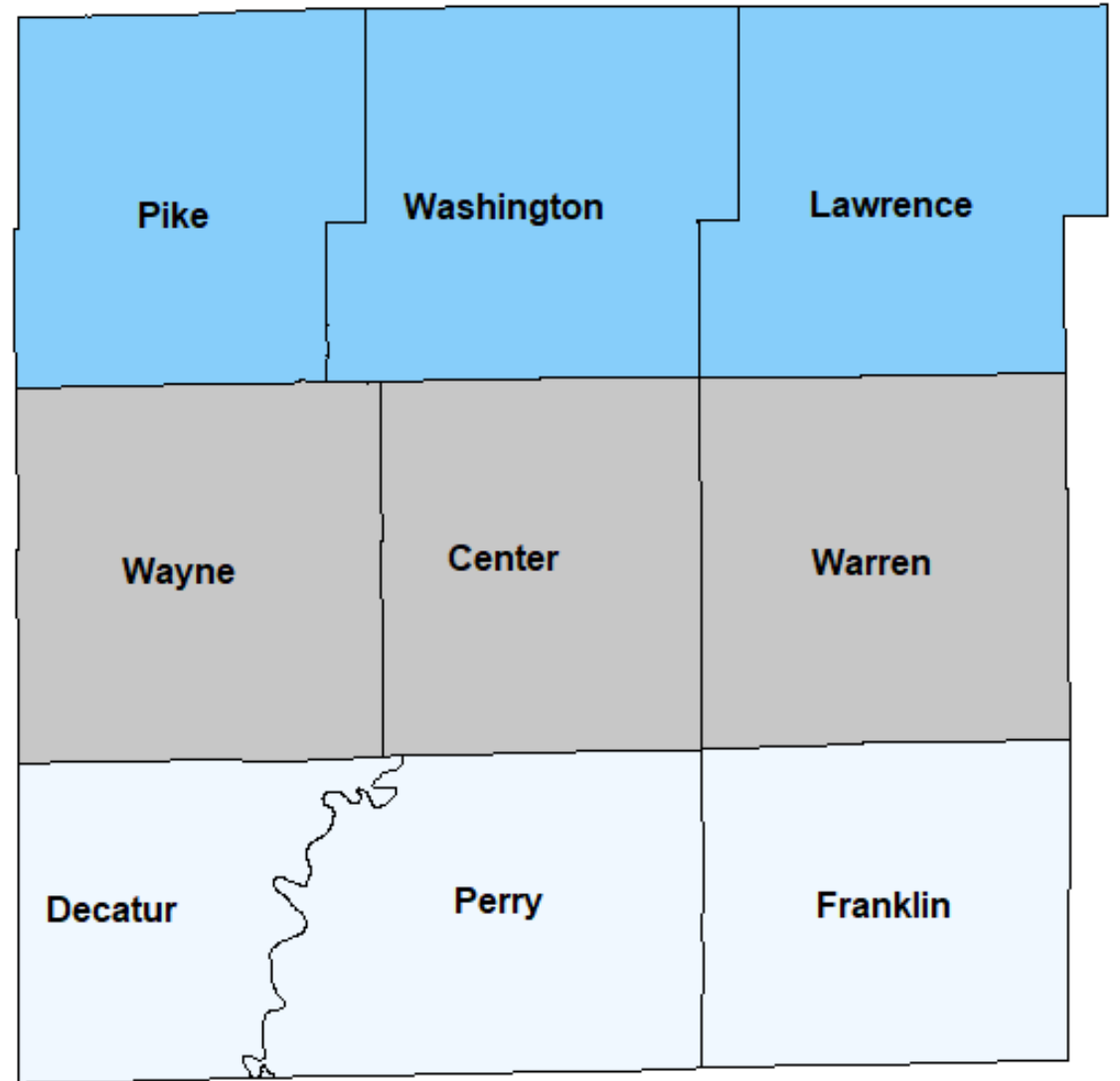
- Pike Township
- Washington Township
- Lawrence Township

- **Central Region**

- Wayne Township
- Center Township
- Warren Township

- **South Region**

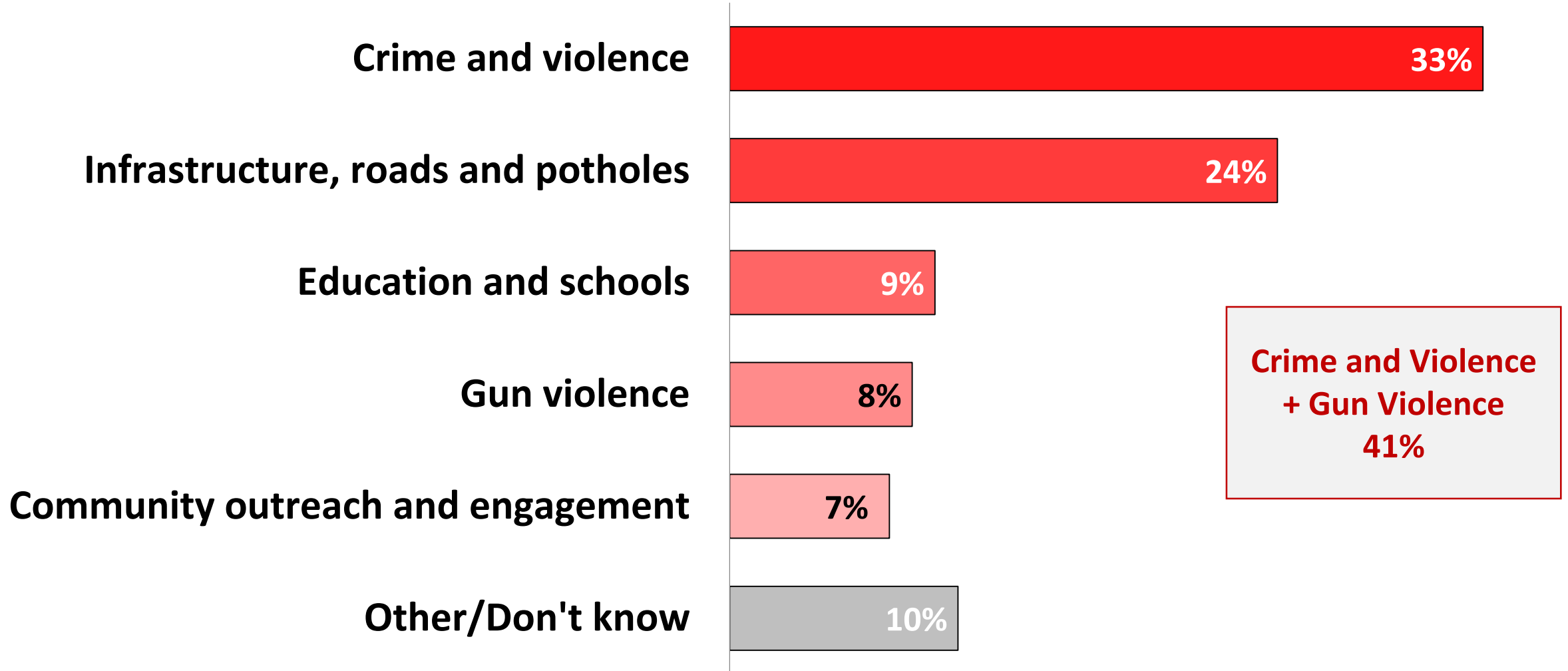
- Decatur Township
- Perry Township
- Franklin Township



# *Survey Results*

**What would you say is the most  
important issue in deciding your  
vote for  
Indianapolis mayor?**

# Most Voters Cite Crime or Infrastructure as Top Issue



# Quotes from Those Who Say Addressing Crime is Most Important

**I guess it is the violence. Everyday, there is always a shooting in Indianapolis. I wanted it stopped.**

**The violence in the city is just too much. They need to do something about the violence, like having a task force and putting cameras mostly in well-known areas of violence...**

**That would be crimes. The murder rate keeps on going up every year.**

**Violence, guns, and the relationship of the community with the police.**

**Crime. Our murder rate is extremely high. I am also concerned about the increase of shooting, gun violence, fire arms, robbery and assault. The city is out of control. We need more police.**

**It is the crime rate. The murder rate and the crime rate in general are horrible and bad, especially the murder.**

# Quotes from Those Who Say Addressing Local Infrastructure is Most Important

I would say infrastructure, improvements on the bus lines, and improvements on the roads.

I would say infrastructure. It is the major responsibility of the city government. We have a lot of issues, like roads, highways, and sewers in the city.

It is fixing the damn potholes

On the local issues, infrastructure would be my number one issue, like county roads and bridges.

It is the infrastructure. I would like to see improvements made to our roads, bridges, and highways. I think they need to be maintained.

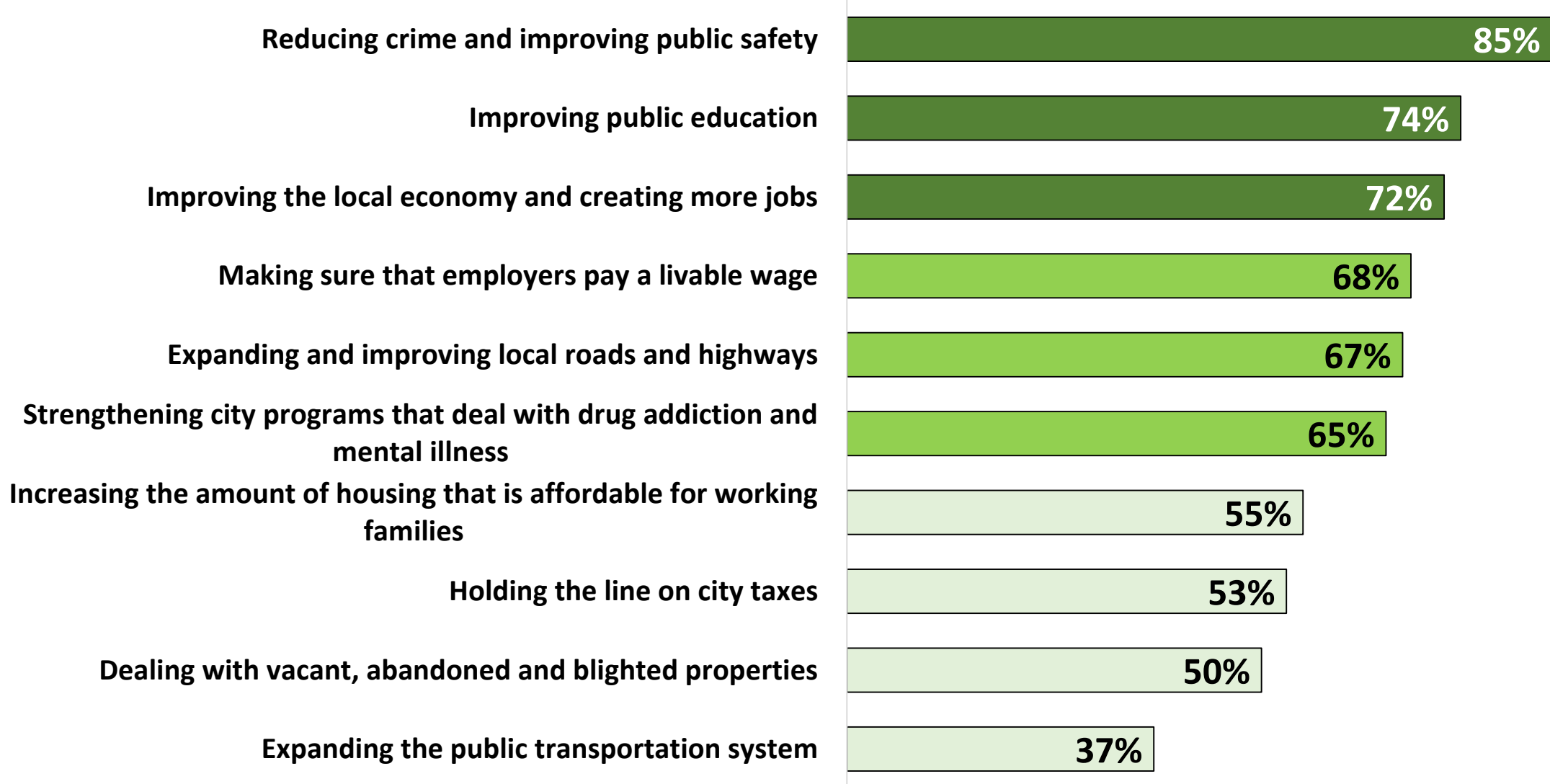
I would say infrastructure. It is falling apart. I don't think the taxes have been used correctly for our roads, bridges and schools. For me, there are curve cuts on the sidewalks. They put the partial sidewalks not the permanent sidewalks.

**Compared to other issues, please rate each of the following using a scale of one to ten, where one means that issue is not a priority for you, and ten means that issue is a top priority.**

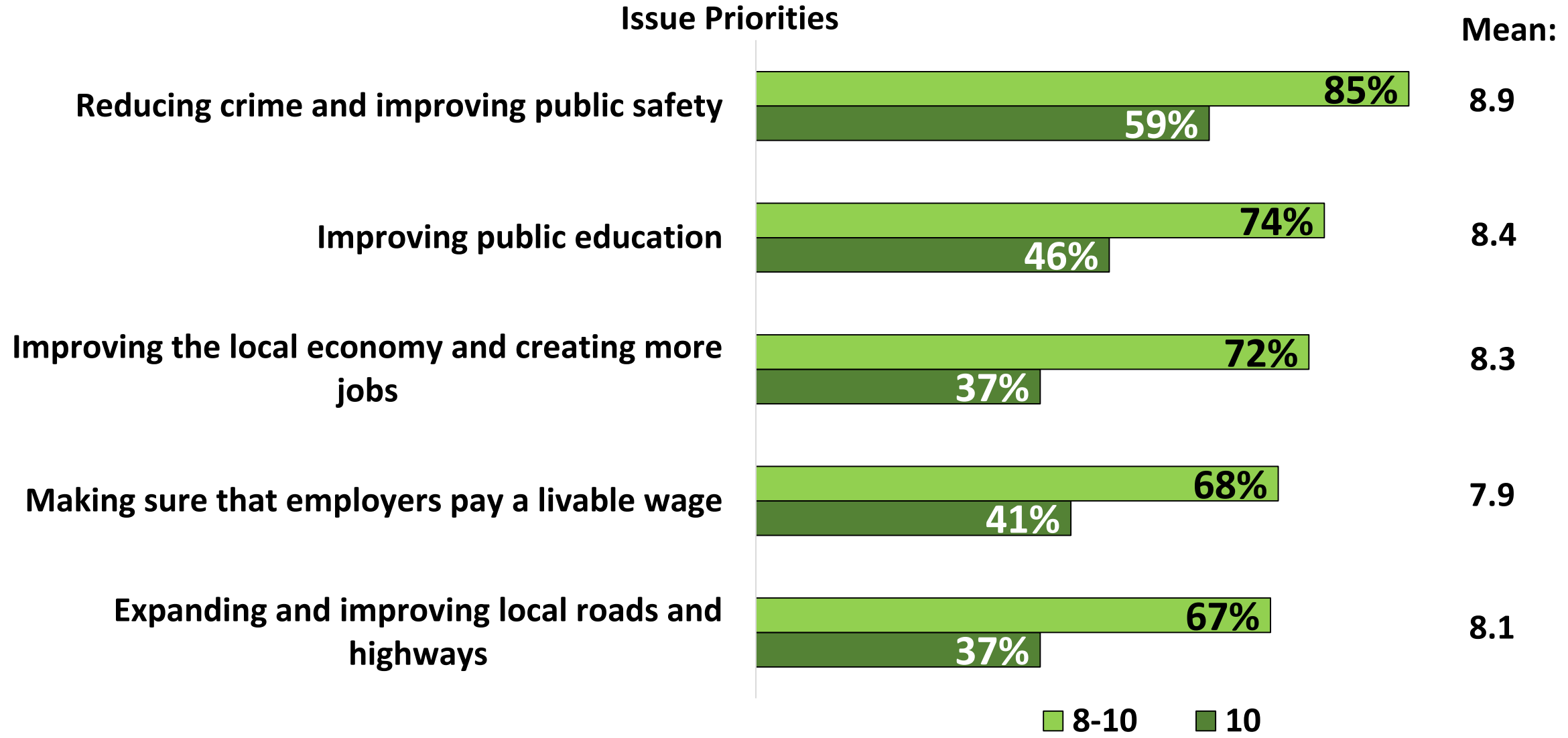


# Crime, Education and the Local Economy Are Top Priorities

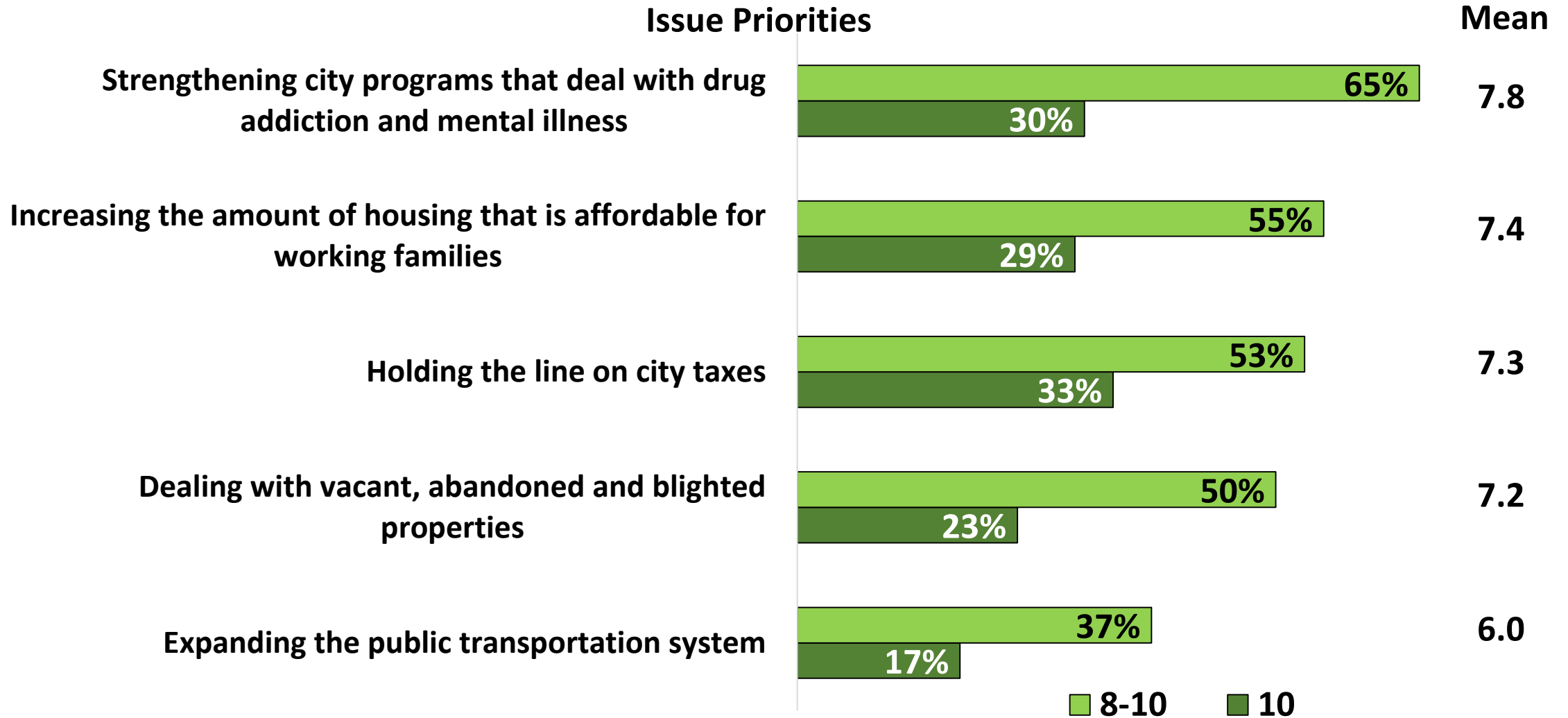
Issue Priorities (% ranked 8-10 on 10-point priority scale)



# Intensity Highest on Crime, Education, the Economy and Roads



# Housing Issues, Drug Addiction and Mental Illness, and Taxes Are All Important But Show Less Intensity



# Reducing Crime and Improving Roads Are Broad Non-Partisan Concerns

## Issue Priorities by Partisanship

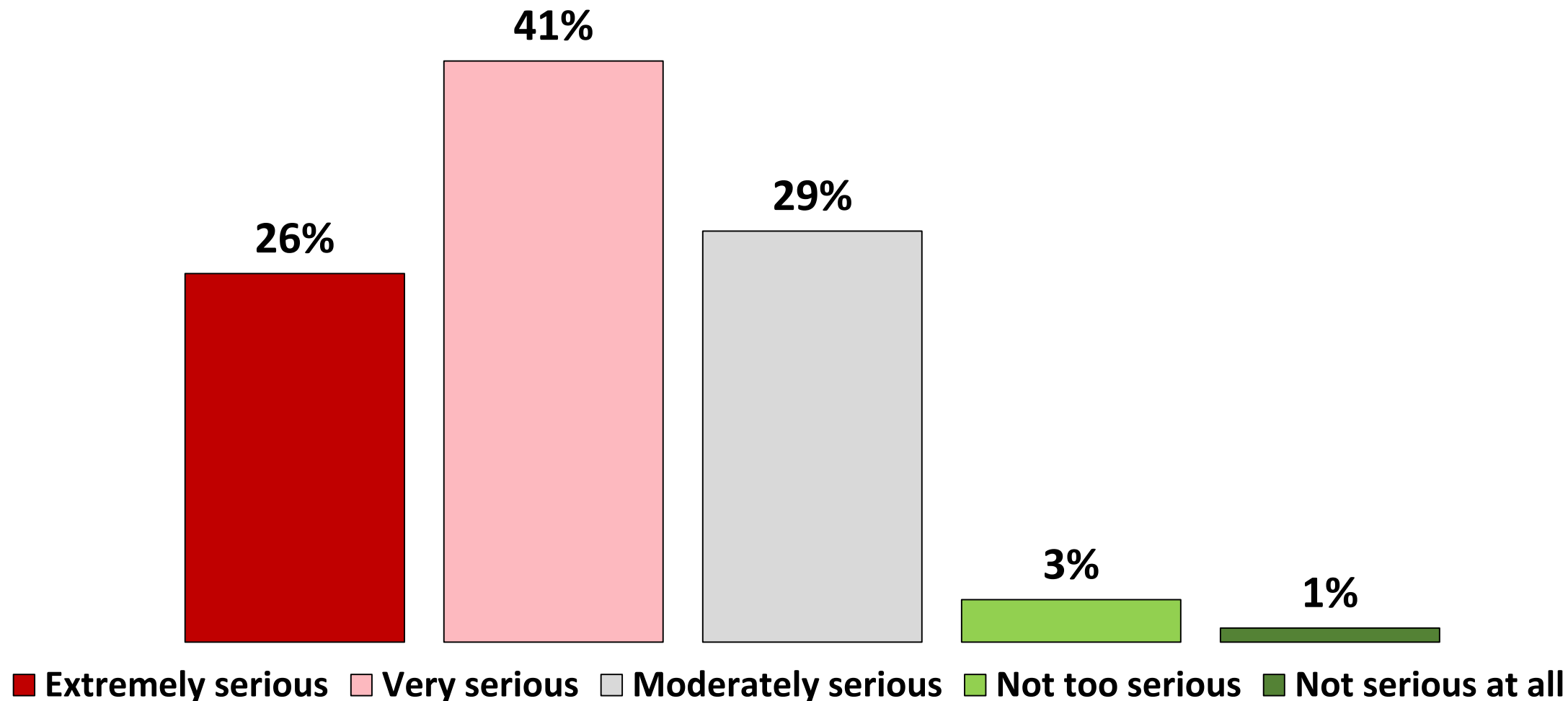
Issue	Dem Mean	Rep Mean	Difference	Most Important to:
Reducing crime	8.9	8.9	0	Over age 50, non-college graduates, & African Americans
Roads and highways	8.1	8.1	0	Everyone
Economy and jobs	8.5	8.0	.5	Everyone
Abandoned properties	7.6	6.8	.8	Central region, women, & seniors
Holding the line on taxes	6.8	8.0	-1.2	Seniors, non-college graduates, & African Americans
Drugs and mental health	8.3	7.2	1.1	Women, over age 50, & non-college graduates
Public education	8.9	7.7	1.2	Everyone, but especially African Americans
Affordable housing	8.1	6.5	1.6	African Americans & non-college women
Livable wage	8.8	6.6	2.2	African Americans, liberals, and older women
Public transportation	7.0	4.7	2.3	Democrats

# Overall, how would you describe the problem of crime in Indianapolis?

*Is it extremely serious, very serious, moderately serious, not too serious, or not serious at all?*

# Two-Thirds Say Crime in Indianapolis is Extremely or Very Serious

Opinion on Seriousness of Crime in Indianapolis

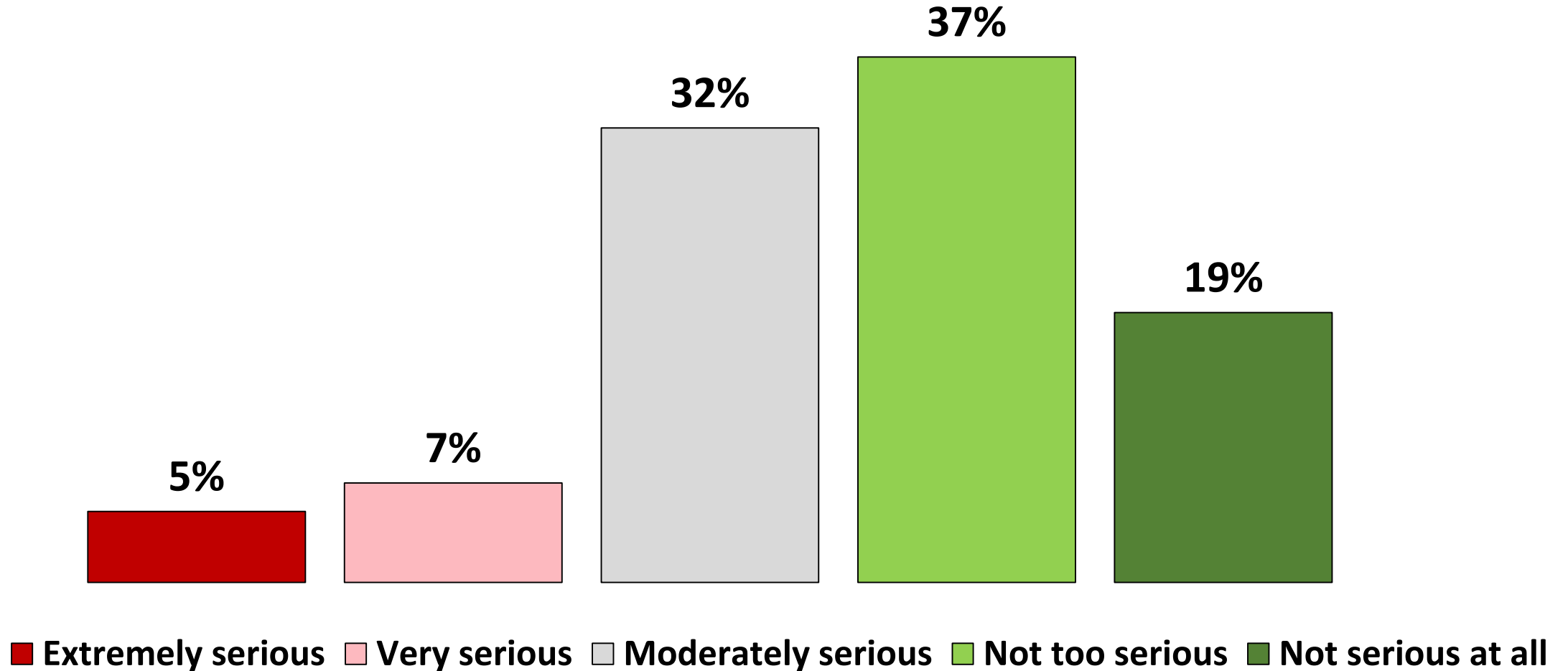


# Overall, how would you describe the problem of crime in your neighborhood ?

*Is it extremely serious, very serious, moderately serious, not too serious, or not serious at all?*

# Although Most Say Crime in Indianapolis is Serious, Very Few Say Crime in Their Neighborhood is Serious

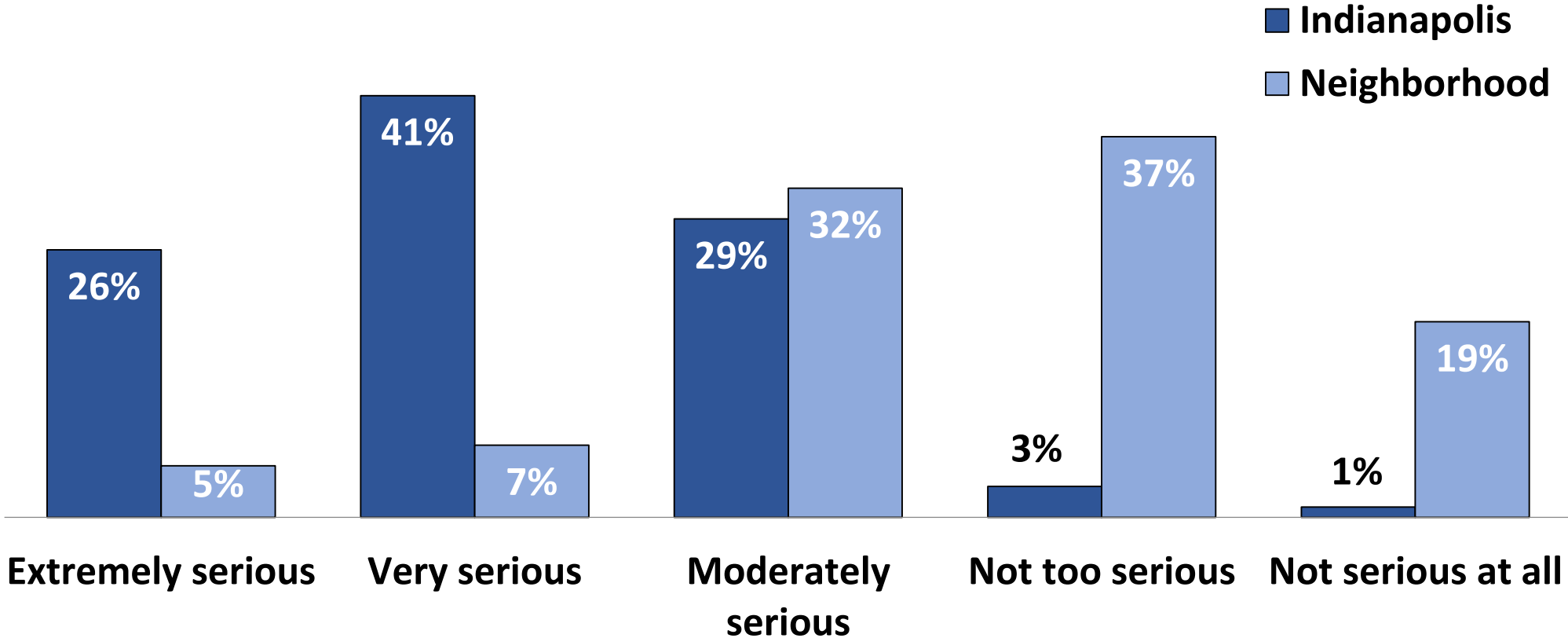
Opinion on Seriousness of Crime in Your Neighborhood





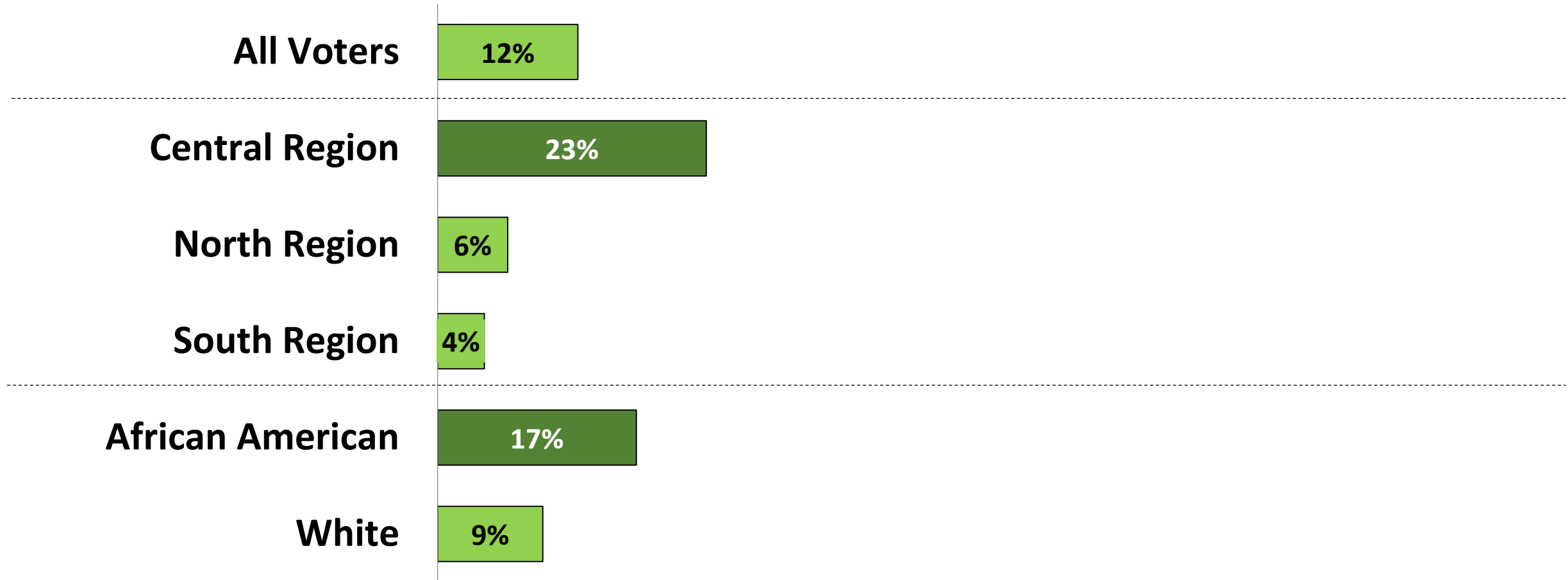
# Crime is Viewed as a Serious Problem in Indianapolis But Not a Local Neighborhood Problem

Crime Opinion in Indianapolis and Their Neighborhood



# Neighborhood Crime is Most Serious for Voters in the Central Region

Percent Who Say Crime in Their Neighborhood is Extremely or Very Serious



# *Community Aspects / Quality of Life*

**Please rate your satisfaction with each of the following on a scale of one to five, with one being very dissatisfied and five being very satisfied?**

*Parks and playgrounds*

*Trails for walking and jogging*

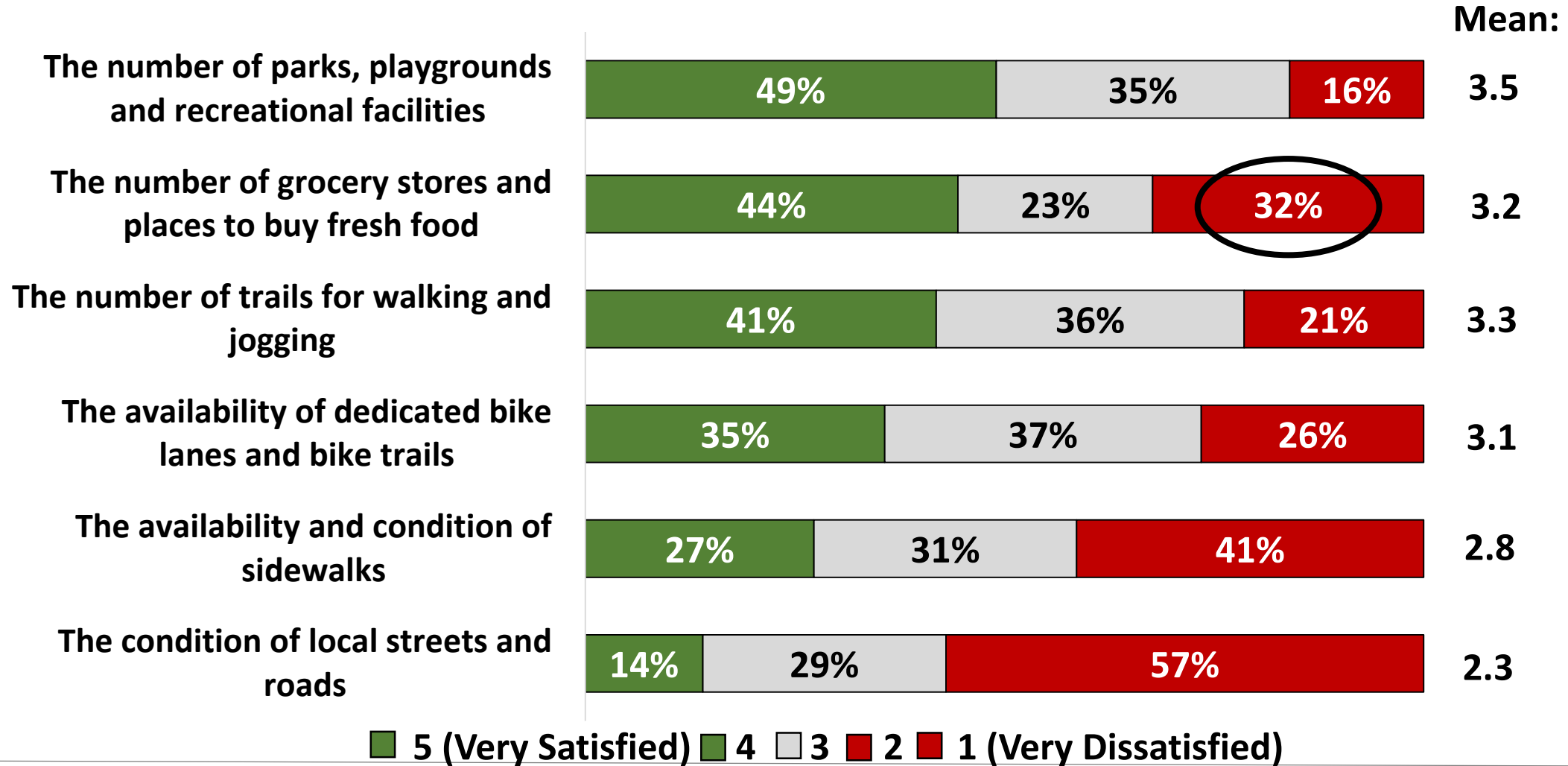
*Dedicated bike lanes and bike trails*

*Condition of local streets and roads/ Sidewalks*

*Number of grocery stores and places to buy fresh food*

# Voters Least Satisfied with the Condition of Local Roads and Streets

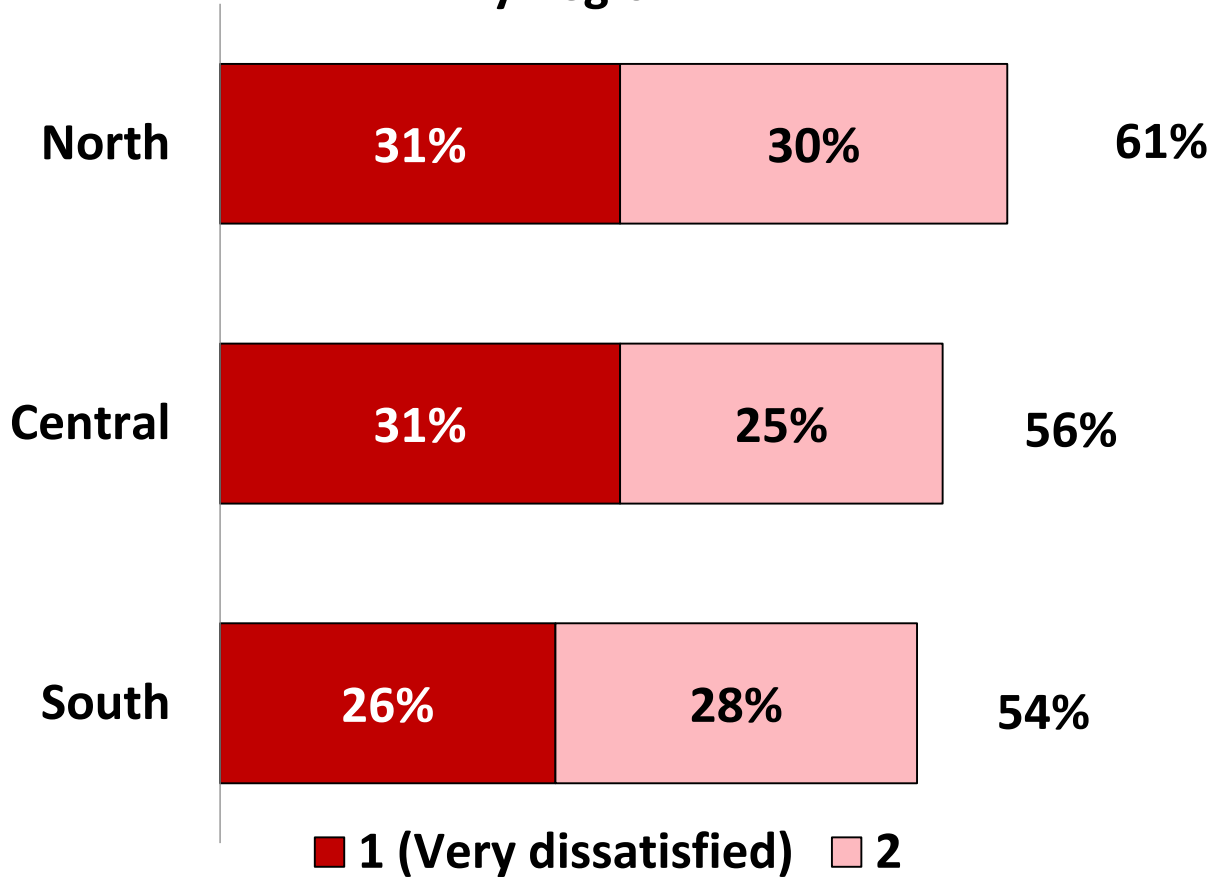
## Level of Satisfaction with Community Aspects



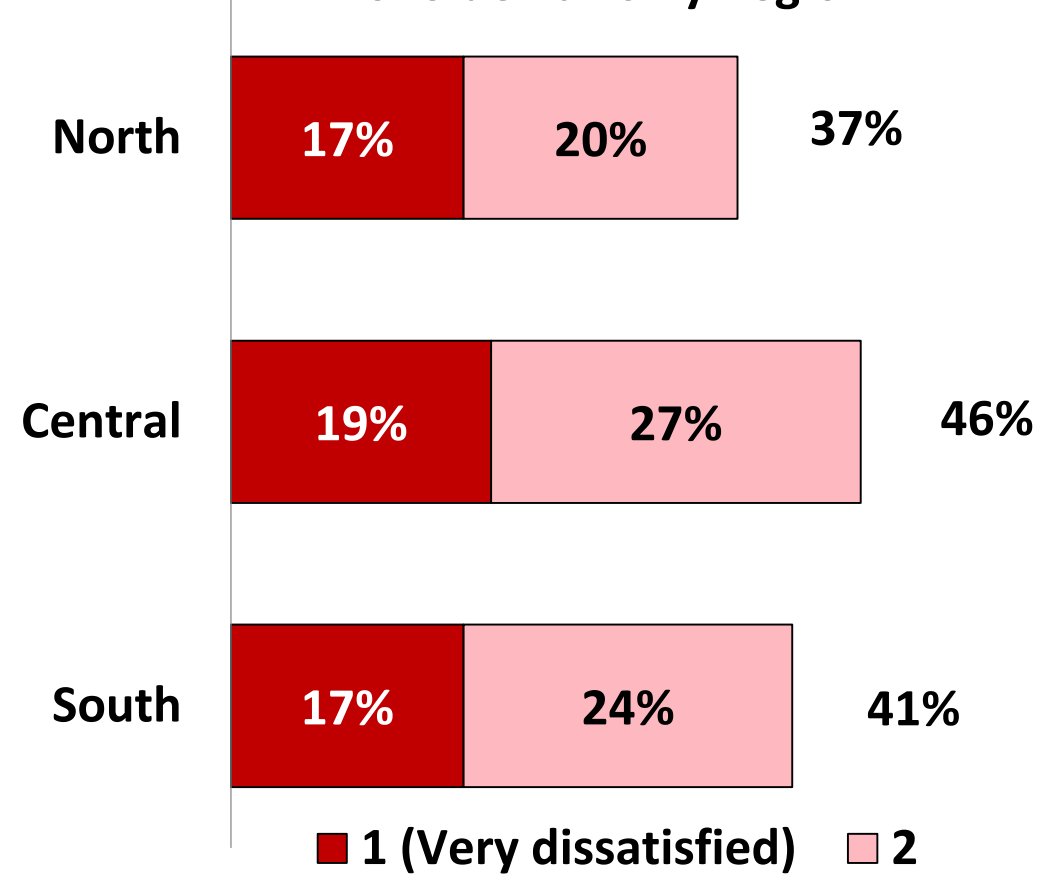
# Voters Across The City Are Dissatisfied with Streets and Roads

*A Plurality In All Regions Dissatisfied with Sidewalks*

### Dissatisfaction with Local Streets and Roads By Region

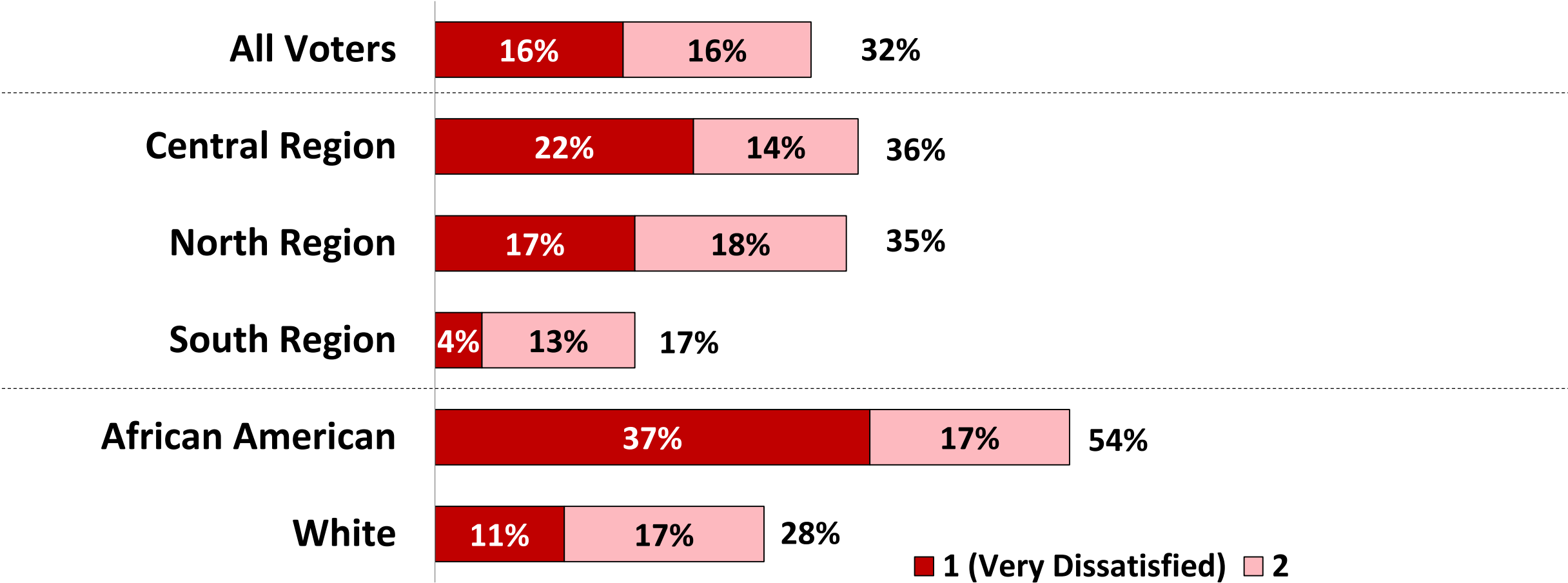


### Dissatisfaction with Availability and Condition of Sidewalks By Region



# African American Voters and Those in the Central and North Region Least Satisfied with Amount of Grocery Stores

Percent Dissatisfied with the Number of Grocery Stores and Places to Buy Fresh Food



# *Influence of National Political Debate and Events*



**How much of an influence would you say the national political debate and events have on which local candidate you will support?**

*A lot*

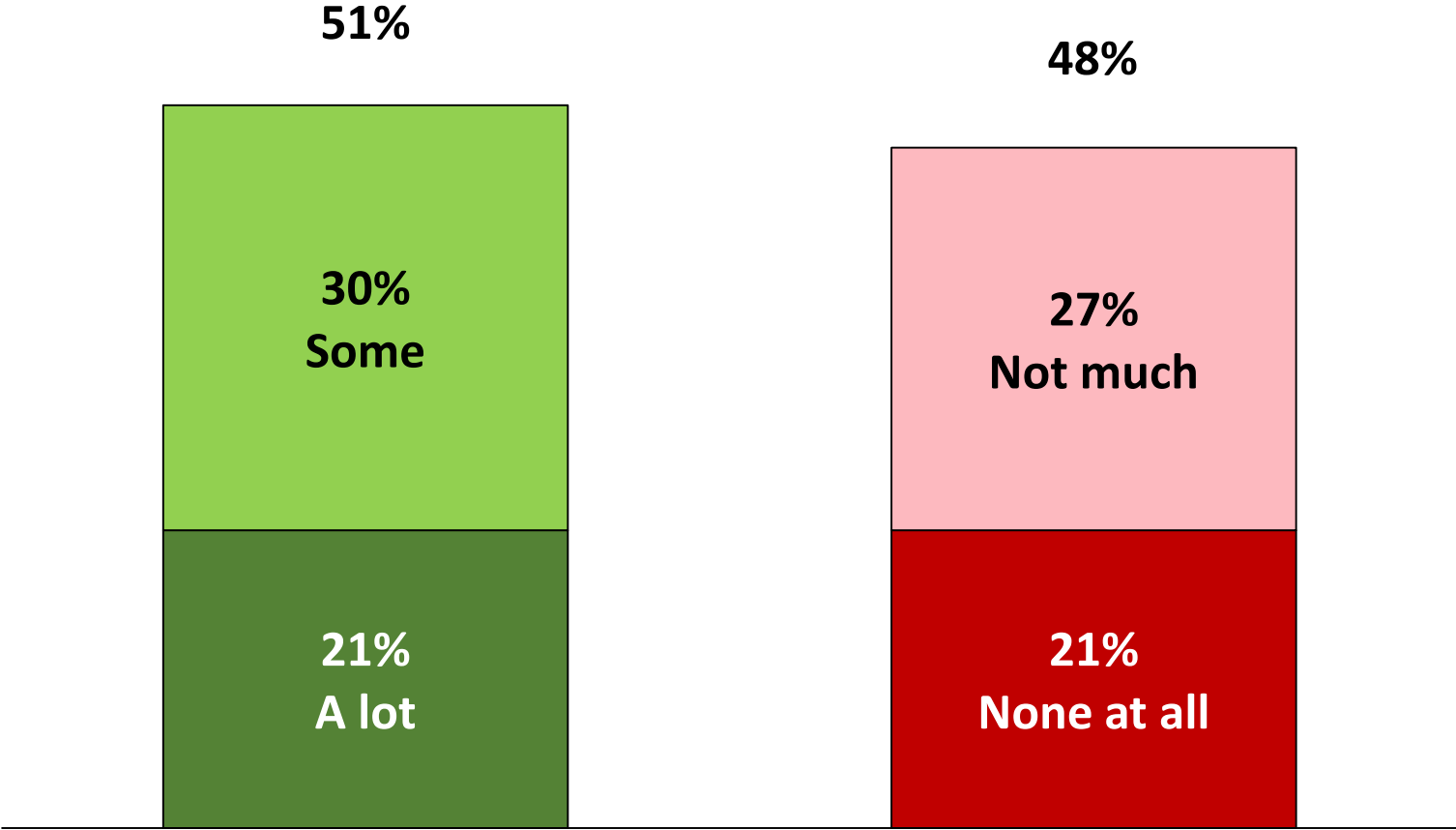
*Some*

*Not much*

*None at all*

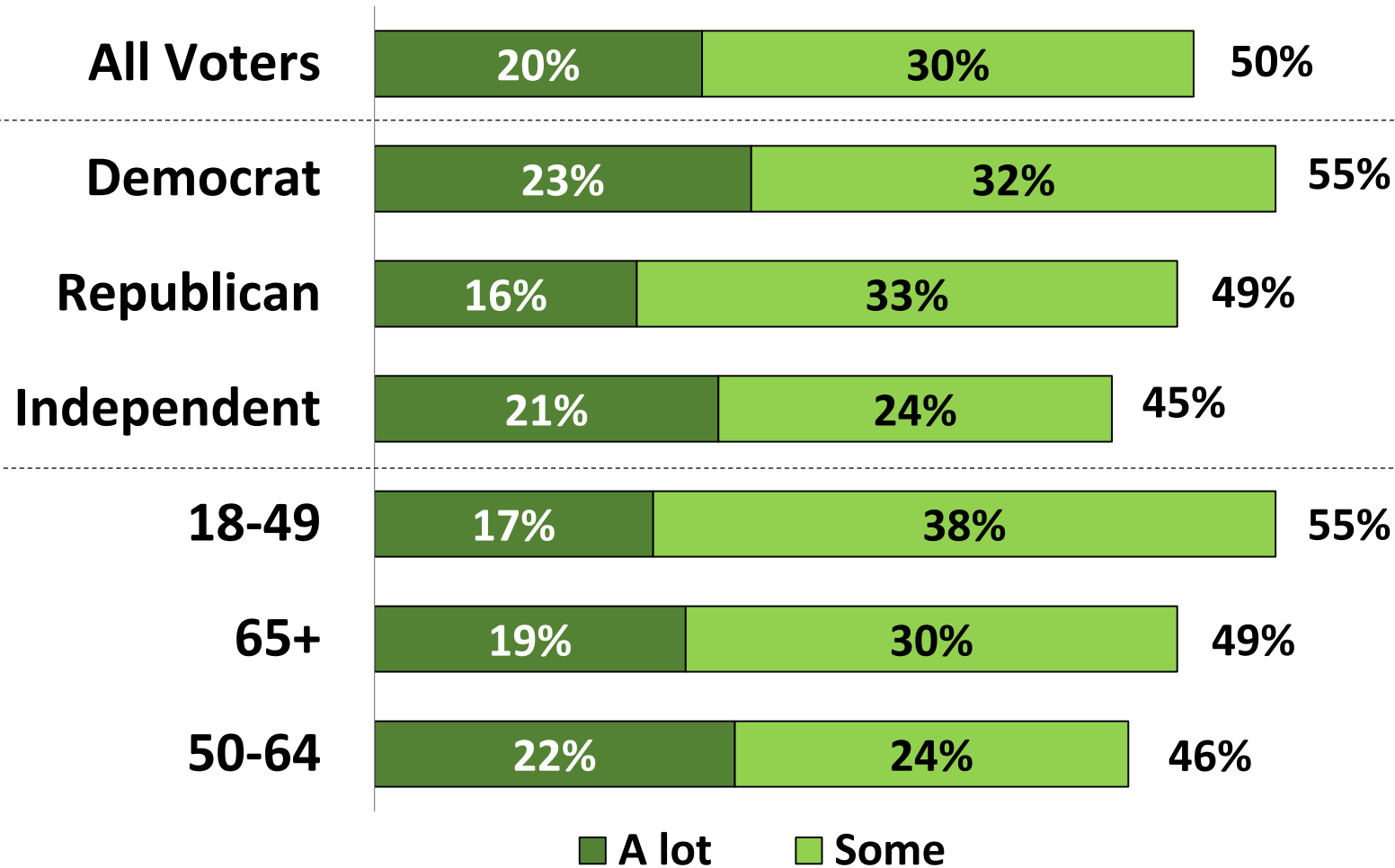
# Half Say National Political Debate Will Influence Local Vote

Influence of National Political Debate on Local Candidate Choice



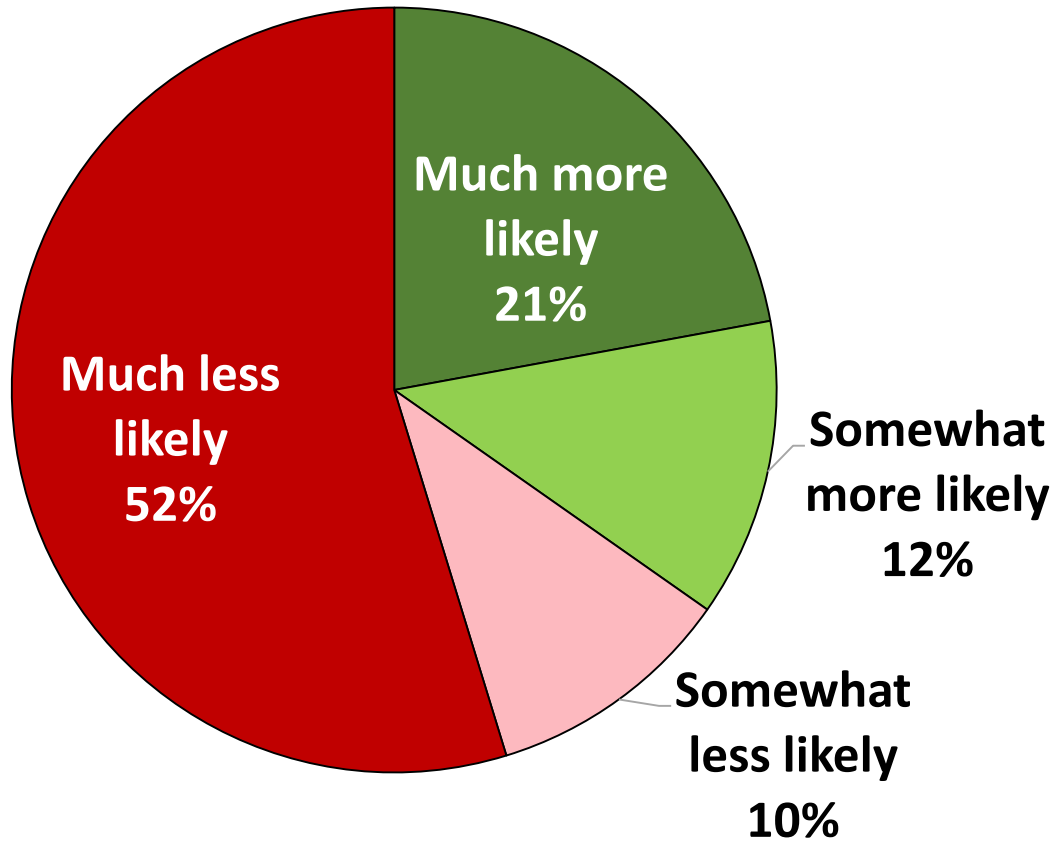
# Influence Somewhat Higher Among Democrats and Younger Voters

Percent Influenced A Lot or Some by National Politics  
by Party ID and Age

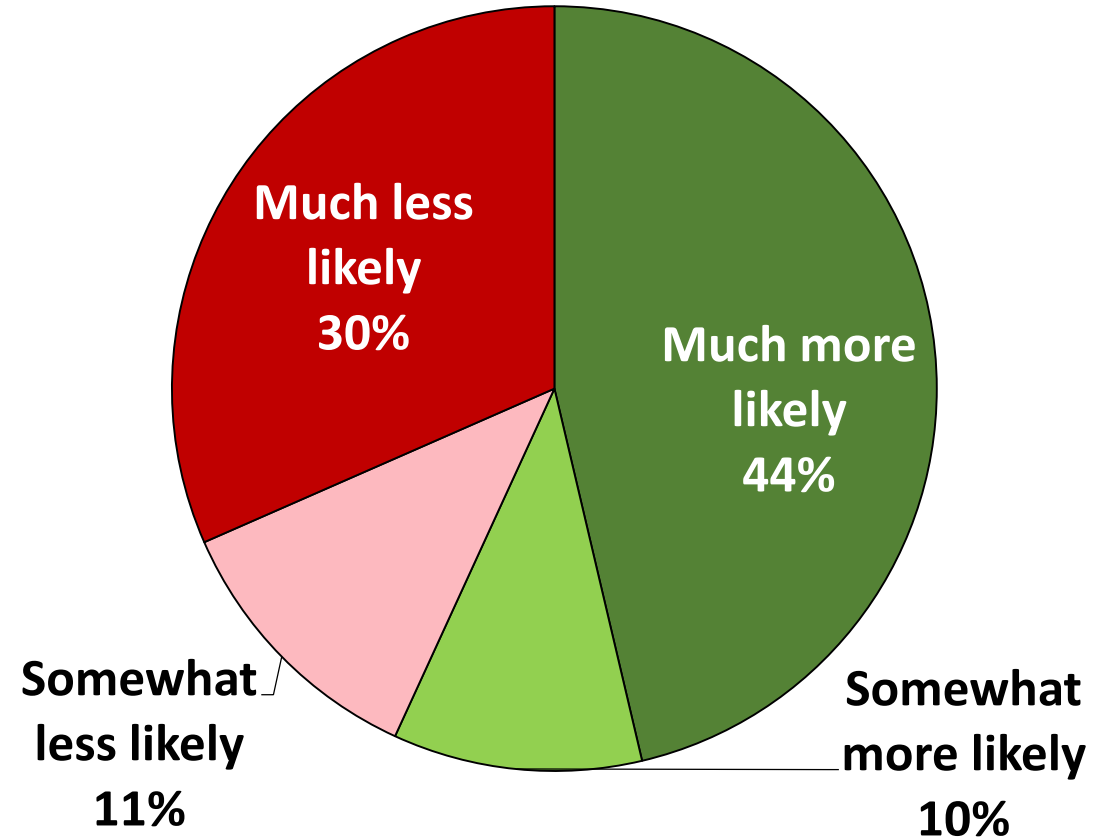


# Opposition to Trump's Policies Make a Majority More Likely to Support a Candidate for Mayor

A candidate who supports the policies of Donald Trump  
(250 respondents)



A candidate who opposes the policies of Donald Trump  
(250 respondents)



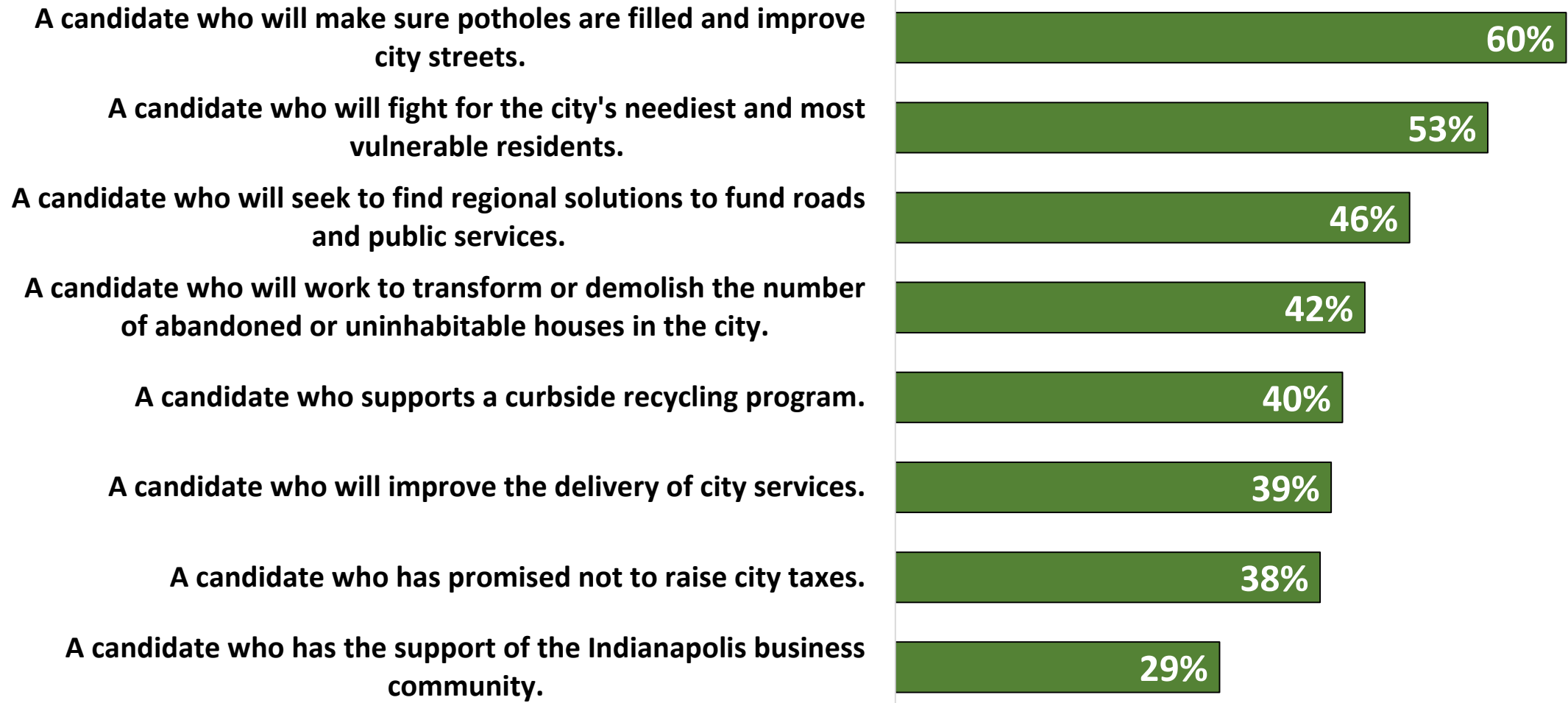
# CANDIDATE POSITIONS & TRAITS

**Would you be more or less likely to vote  
for this type of candidate?**

*And is that much MORE/LESS likely or somewhat MORE/LESS likely?*

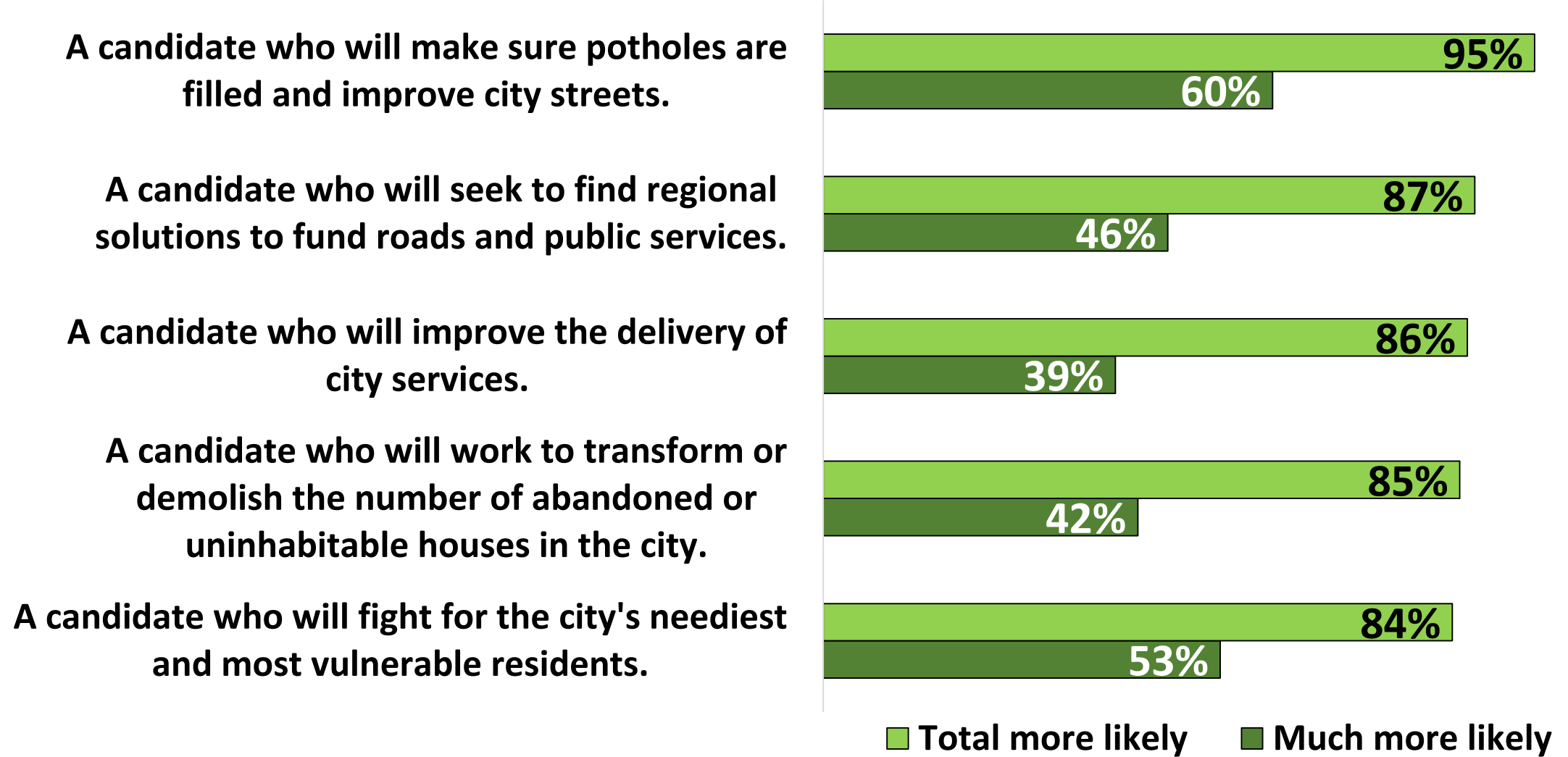
# Most Positions Resonate; Fixing Street Ranks Highest

## Percent *Much* More Likely to Support Candidate



# Intensity Highest For Fixing Potholes and Improving City Streets

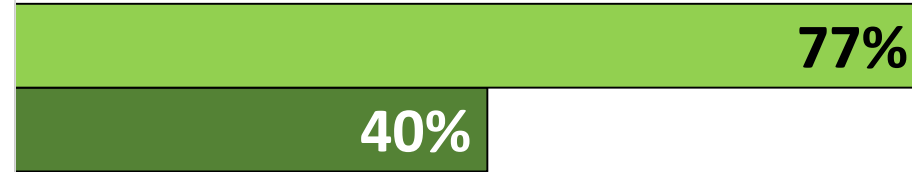
## Candidate Traits



# Candidates Who Support Recycling and Holding the Line on City Taxes Register Less Intensity

## Candidate Traits

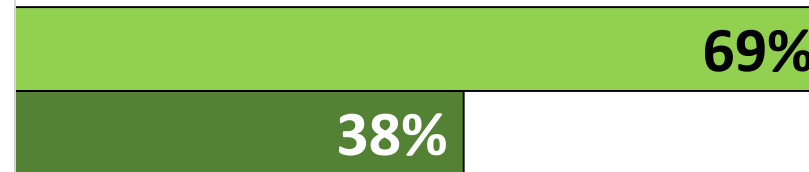
A candidate who supports a curbside recycling program.



A candidate who has the support of the Indianapolis business community.



A candidate who has promised not to raise city taxes.



■ Total more likely ■ Much more likely



# Infrastructure Concerns Top Non-Partisan Issue Priorities

Percent *Much* More Likely to Support Candidate

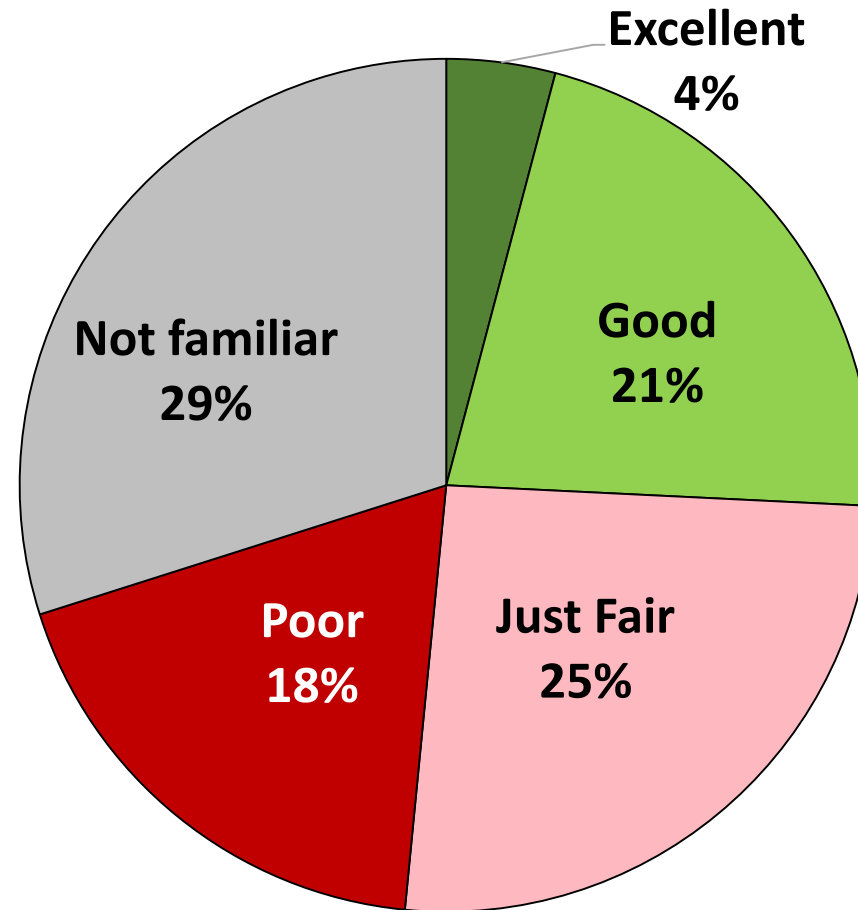
Issue	Total	Dems	Reps	Partisan Difference (D – R)	Most Important to:
Fix Potholes/streets	60	55	66	-11	Everyone & everywhere but especially African Americans, Non-college Men & Conservatives
Regional solutions to road issues	46	51	42	9	Men under 50 and Seniors
Transform or demolish abandoned houses	42	46	39	7	African Americans, High School Education or less, & Women Over 50
Support of business community	29	28	33	-5	Republican men and Seniors
Promised not to raise city taxes	38	32	47	-15	Conservatives & High School Education or less
Improving delivery of city services	39	45	31	14	African Americans
Curbside recycling	40	49	27	22	Liberals & College Women
Fight for the neediest	53	67	30	37	Liberals, African Americans, & Non-college Women

# *Education and Other Issues*

**How would you rate the quality of education provided by the public schools in Indianapolis – is it excellent, good, just fair or poor?**

# Plurality See Room for Improvement in Public Schools in Indianapolis

Rating of Public Schools in Indianapolis

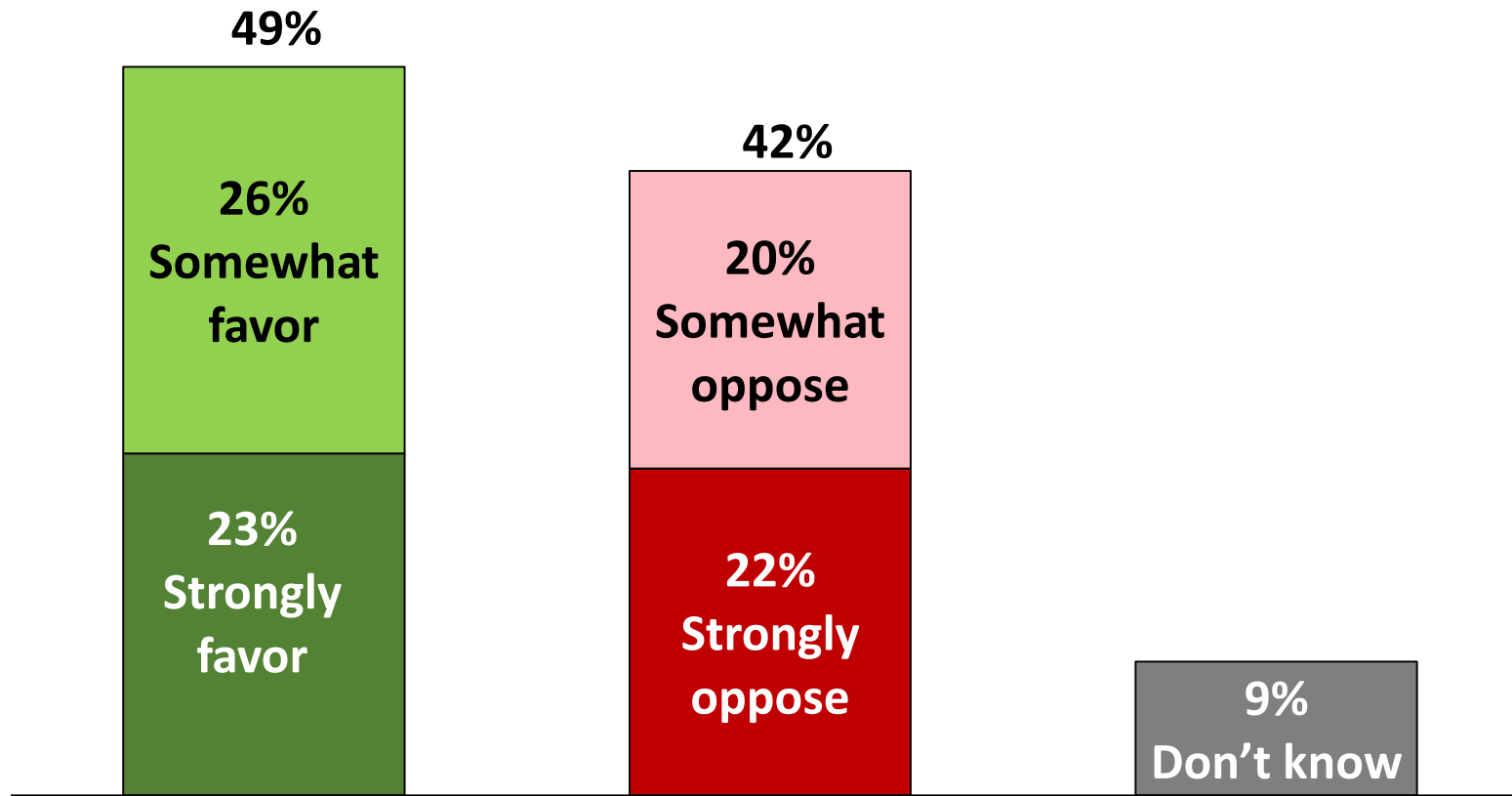


# **Do you favor or oppose the idea of charter schools?**

**Question Text: As you may know, public charter schools operate under a charter or contract that allows them to operate independently from many of the state rules and regulations imposed on regular public schools.**

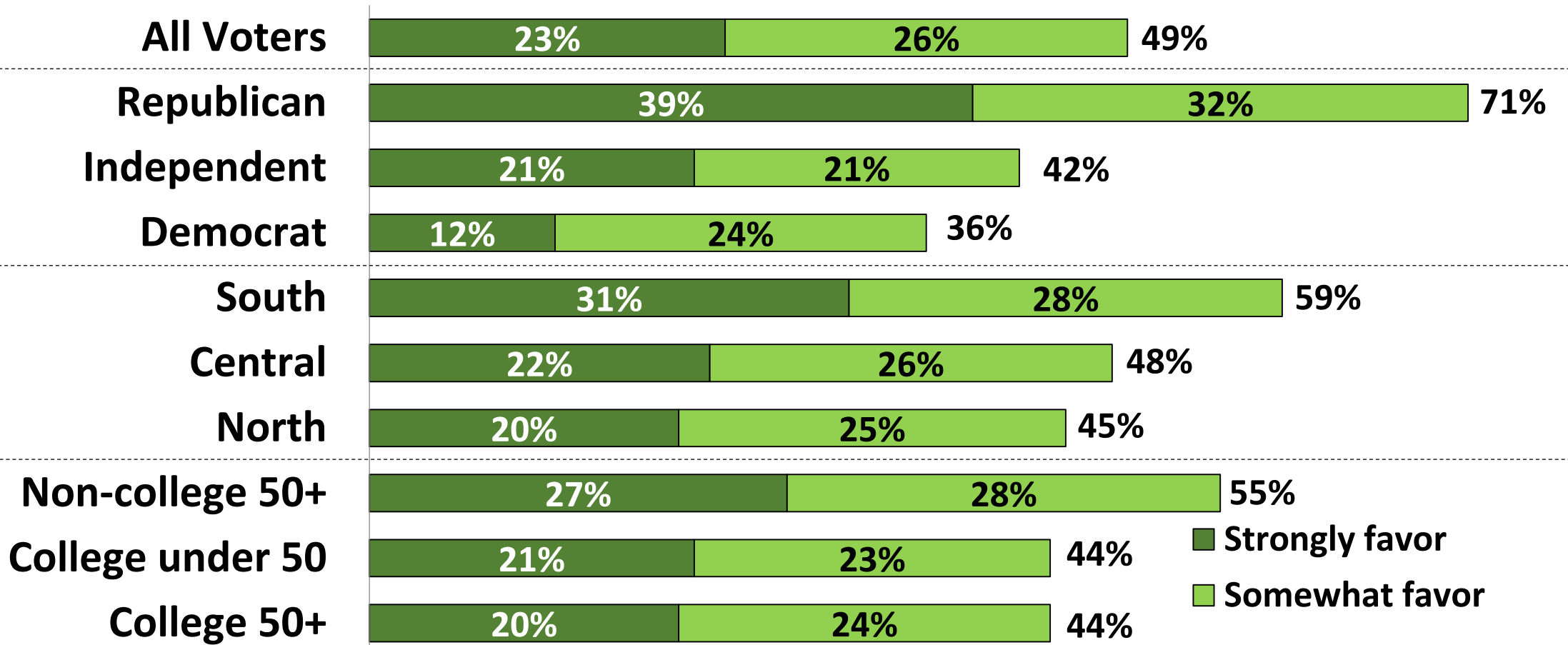
# Just Under Half of Voters Favor the Idea of Charter Schools

## Opinion on Charter Schools



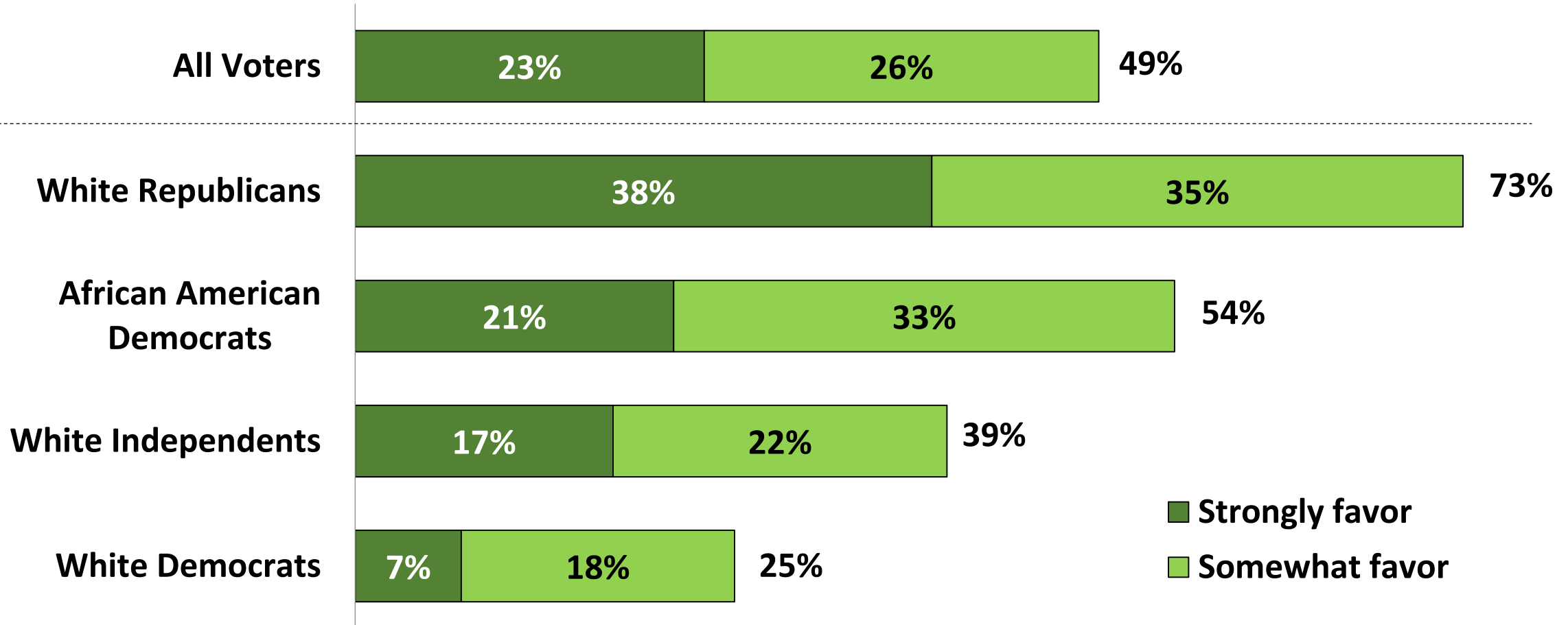
# Republicans and Voters in South Region are Strongest Supporters of Charter Schools

Percent Strongly Favor Charter Schools



# Most White Republicans And African American Democrats Are Supportive of Charter Schools

Percent Strongly Favor Charter Schools

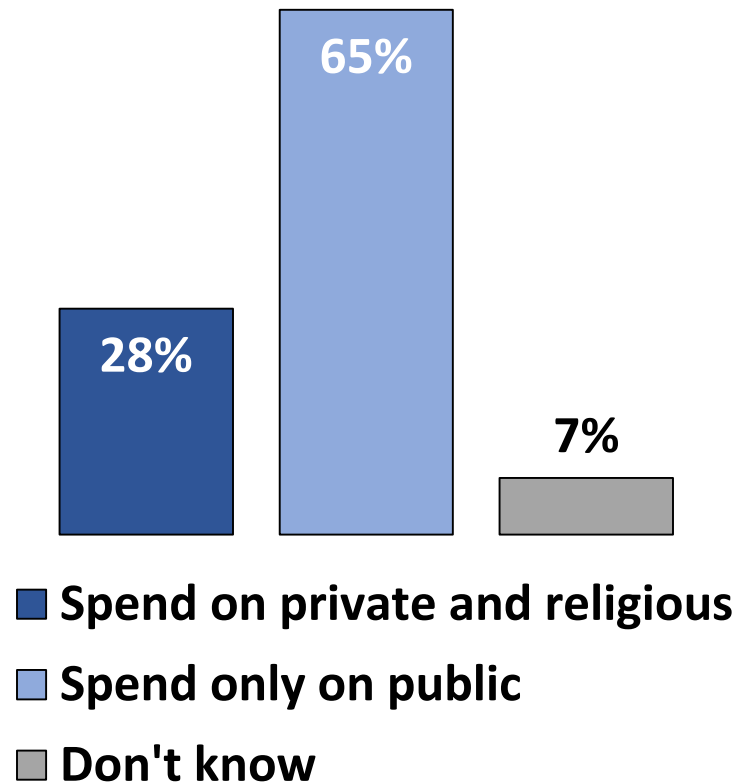




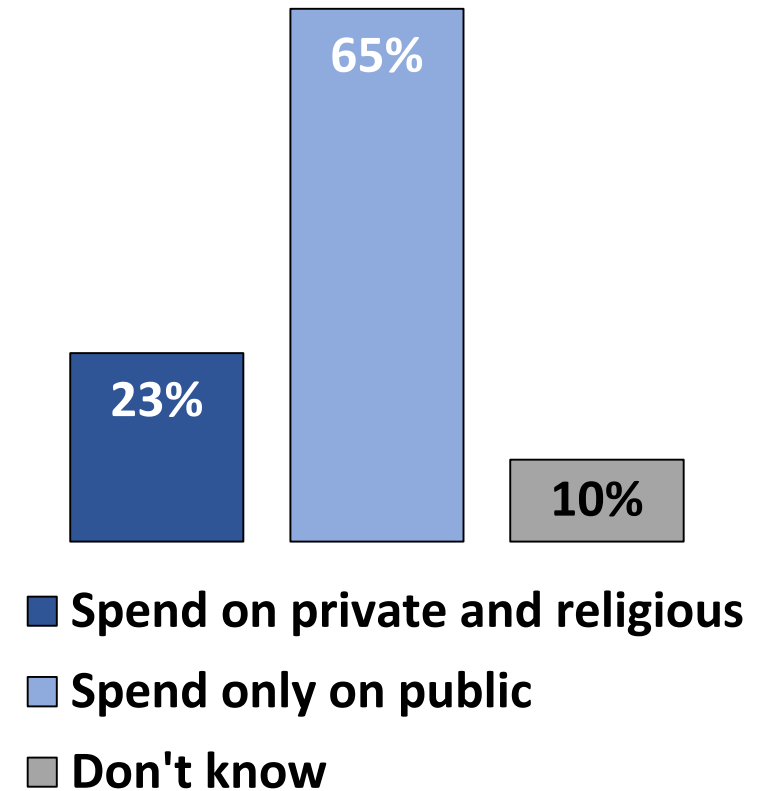
**Should the government spend money to assist families who want to send their children to private or religious schools, or should government money only be spent on children who attend public schools (including charters)?**

# Two-Thirds Favor Only Using Public Education Money for Public Schools

School Spending without Charter Schools Mentioned  
(250 respondents)



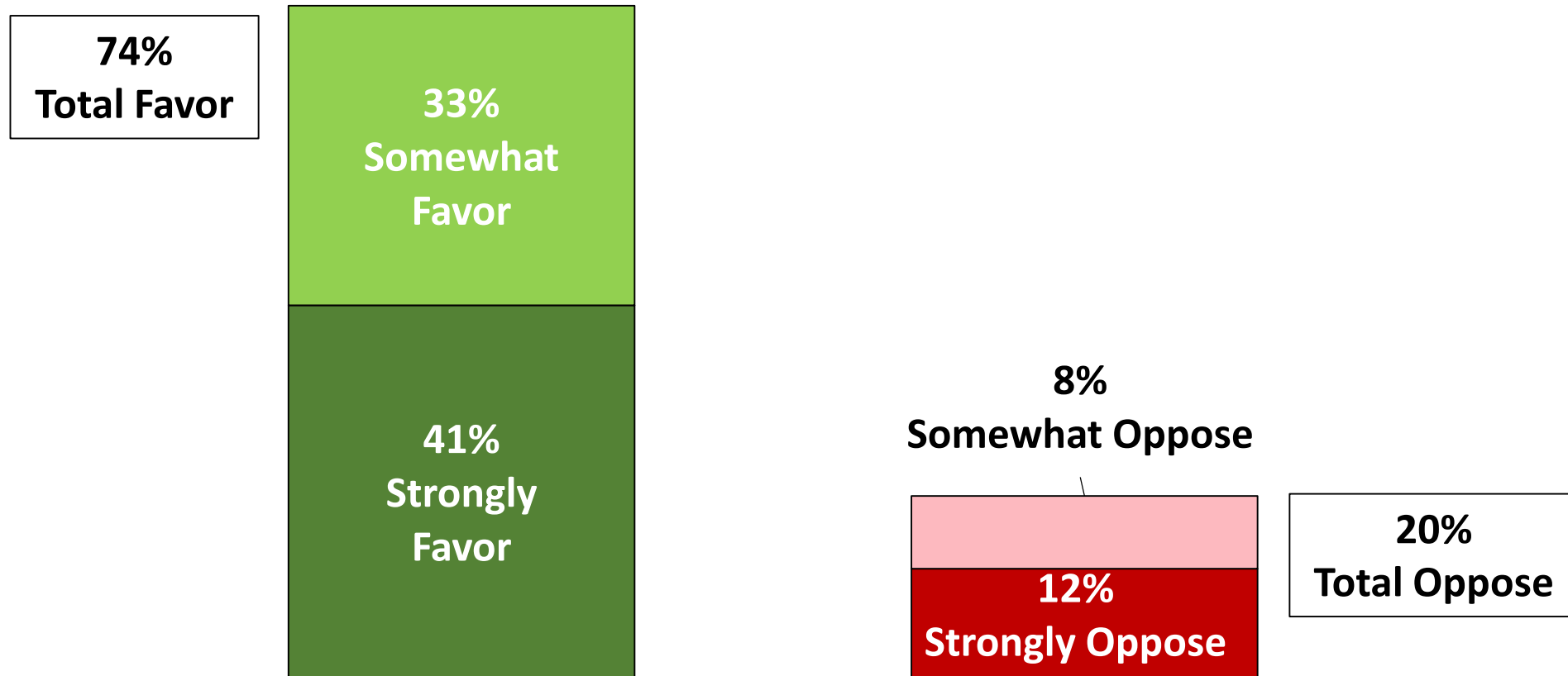
School Spending with Charter Schools Mentioned  
(250 respondents)



**Do you favor or oppose the creation of a regional funding structure that would include Marion and the surrounding counties to help pay for roads and other services in the Indianapolis metropolitan area?**

# Strong Majority Favor Regional Funding Structure for Local Infrastructure

## Favor or Oppose of Regional Infrastructure Funding



## Executive Summary

- **Top Issues: 1) Crime and violence 2) Streets and infrastructure**
- **Voters want to know how mayor will work to improve education**
- **Local economy and livable wages also important**
- **Programmatic issues resonate – abandoned properties, drug and mental health programs**
- **City streets and sidewalks in poor condition; many communities highly dissatisfied with access to grocery stores and fresh foods**

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