



Agenda

SAFF General Membership Meeting-Hybrid

Friday, October 25, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

I.	Call to Order	DeEtta Moos
II.	Approval of Agenda	DeEtta Moos
III.	Introduction of New Member Districts and Executive Board Committee Members	DeEtta Moos
IV.	Overview of Organization	Jeff Elstad
V.	Introduction of Capitol Hill Associates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbyist Sam Walseth & Nick Zerwas 	DeEtta Moos Jeff Elstad
VI.	Program 10:00-11:00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Leatherman and Dr. Bill Morris 	DeEtta Moos
VII.	Secretary Report and Approval	Ann-Marie Foucault
VIII.	Treasurer's Report and Approval	Jeff Elstad
IX.	Review of Draft Legislative Platform	Sam Walseth Nick Zerwas
X.	SAFF Website and Email	DeEtta Moos
XI.	New Business	DeEtta Moos
XII.	Adjournment	DeEtta Moos

- SAFF Districts**
- Albany
 - Albert Lea
 - Annandale
 - Austin
 - Becker**
 - Belle Plaine
 - Big Lake
 - Blue Earth**
 - Braham
 - Cambridge-Isanti
 - Cannon Falls
 - Centennial
 - Central**
 - Chisago Lakes
 - Dassel-Cokato
 - Delano
 - East Central
 - Faribault
 - Forest Lake
 - Fridley
 - Hinckley-Finlayson
 - Hutchinson
 - Jordan
 - Kasson-Mantorville
 - Kimball
 - Lake City
 - Litchfield
 - Medford
 - Melrose
 - Milaca
 - Mora
 - New London-Spicer
 - New Prague
 - North Branch
 - Owatonna
 - Paynesville
 - Princeton
 - Rockford
 - Rocori
 - Rush City
 - Sartell-St. Stephen
 - St. Francis
 - St. Michael-Albertville
 - Stewartville
 - Tri-City United**
 - Waconia
- Associate Members**
- Resource Training and Solutions
 - St. Croix River Education District
 - SW Metro Intermediate District
- *New member districts are in bold**

SCHOOLS ADVOCATING FOR FAIR FUNDING



Our Vision:

- ✓ Advocating for improved tax equalization to address the unfair tax burden on taxpayers who reside in low-property wealth school districts
- ✓ Educating and engaging state leaders
- ✓ Facilitating opportunities for learning and collaboration for district administrators and school board members
- ✓ Providing financial data analysis and comparison

Organizational Structure

Membership

Staff Executive Board

Executive Director

Financial Specialist

Office Manager

Chief Lobbyist



LOBBYIST INTRODUCTION



Nick Zerwas
Sam Walseth



CAPITOL HILL ASSOCIATES

- TRUSTED ADVISORS
- LONG-STANDING RELATIONSHIPS
- RECOGNIZABLE POINT PERSON AT THE CAPITOL FOR EDUCATION ISSUES
- DEEP EXPERIENCE IN CONTENT SPECIALTIES OF SAFF
- HISTORIC KNOWLEDGE OF LEGISLATIVE BATTLES AND RESULTING STATUTORY FRAMEWORKS
- HISTORIC SUCCESSES ON CORE SAFF ISSUES = EQUALIZATION & FAIR FUNDING



2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

1. Legislative Leadership

Who will the voters send to St. Paul?

House & Senate control on the ballot

2. Governor

Walz or Flanagan

A budget plan is due by late January

3. Budget Forecast

November & February

Reality check on what is doable

4. Interest Group Priorities

Elevating Equalization to the “top 2”

SAFF 2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The quality of a student's education should not depend on their zip code.

The levy equalization programs that promoted tax fairness and equitable access to educational programming across the public school system have greatly eroded since they were first established in the 1990's. Levies are a necessary component of the education funding system, but equalization formulas must be updated to protect students and property taxpayers in low property wealth districts.

Failure to update these programs is penalizing students and property taxpayers in low property wealth school districts. Improving levy equalization is SAFF's top budget priority for Minnesota Legislative action.



SAFF 2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Specifically, during the 2025 legislative session SAFF is advocating for:

Legislative Plank #1:

Make education-related levies fairer & more consistent by converting all equalization formulas to fixed percents of property tax wealth per pupil *instead of fixed dollar amounts of property wealth per pupil.*

The current system relies too heavily on the latter format, which erodes state funded equalization as property valuations naturally increase. The former method will help keep state equalization support more consistent over time.



SAFF 2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Legislative Plank #2:

Improve the Stability of School Funding to Promote Greater Fairness

Make certain that the new programs enacted in 2023—particularly the expansion of unemployment insurance and the investments in curriculum acquisition and professional development in the Read Act—are fully funded and that new cross-subsidies are not created for school districts to navigate.

Increase the amount of Local Option Revenue a district can generate to the statewide average operating referendum revenue amount per pupil unit to provide support for districts without operating referenda.

Increase the amount of revenue districts can access through the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue formula.

Improve the Equity Formula to help districts that don't receive resources either through the current array of categorical formulas or the operating referendum.





CAPITOL HILL
ASSOCIATES

THANK YOU

QUESTIONS? REACH OUT!

✉ kim@saffmn.org

✉ nick@capitolhillassoc.com

✉ sam@capitolhillassoc.com

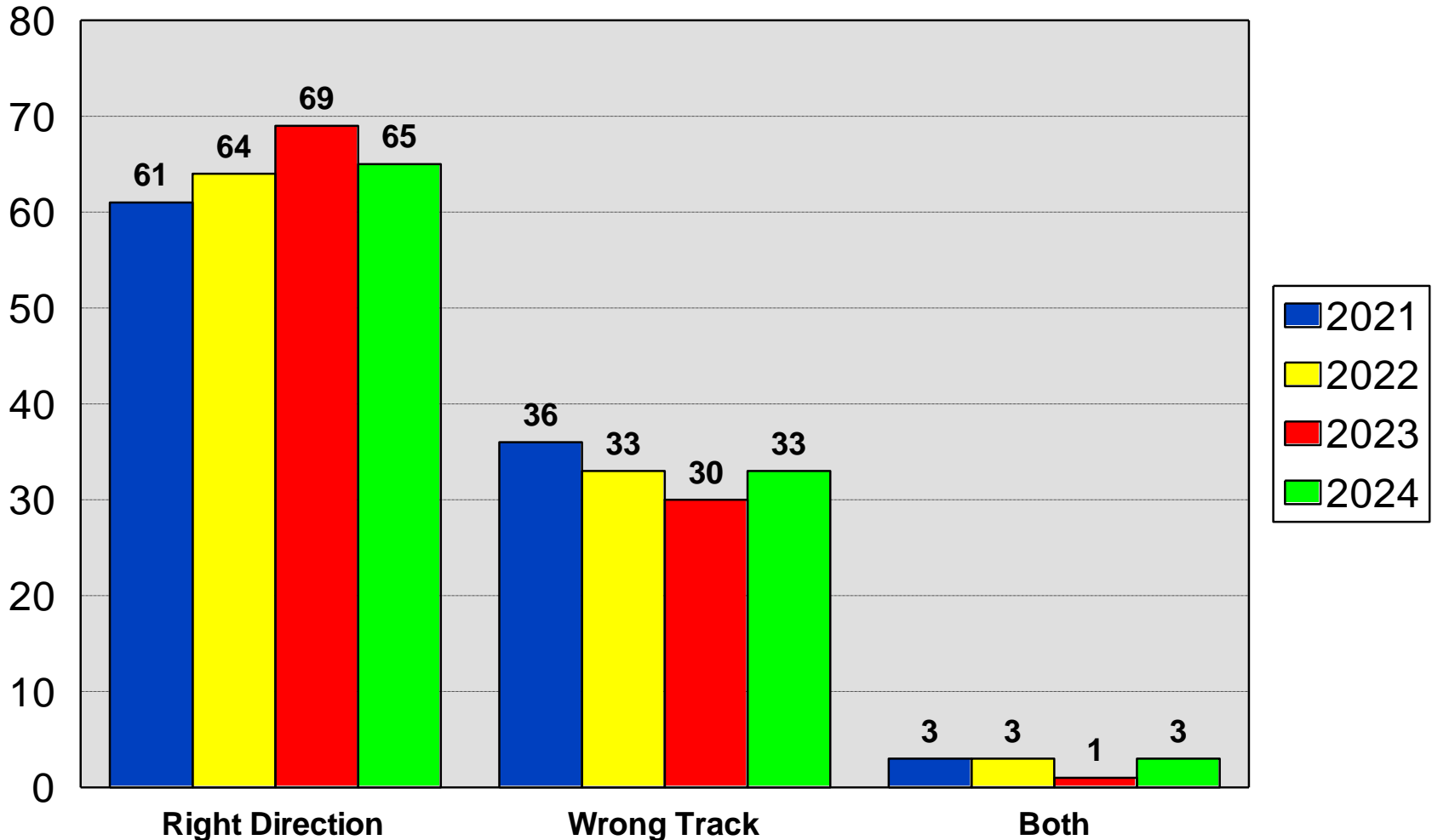
November 2024 = November 1992
“It’s the economy, stupid!”

Schools Advocating for Fair Funding
October 25, 2024

Morris Leatherman Company

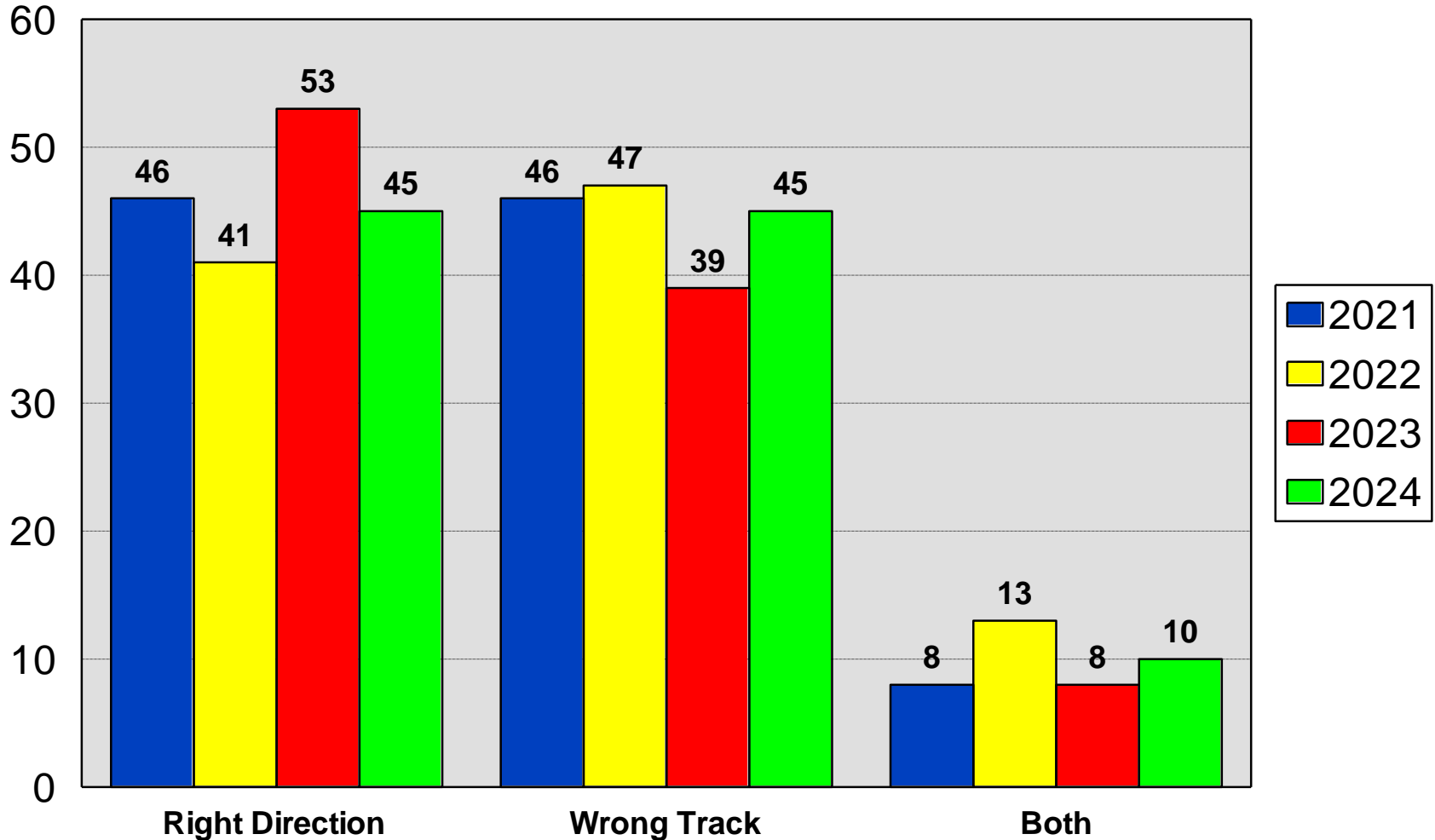
Direction of Minnesota

2024 August Statewide Survey



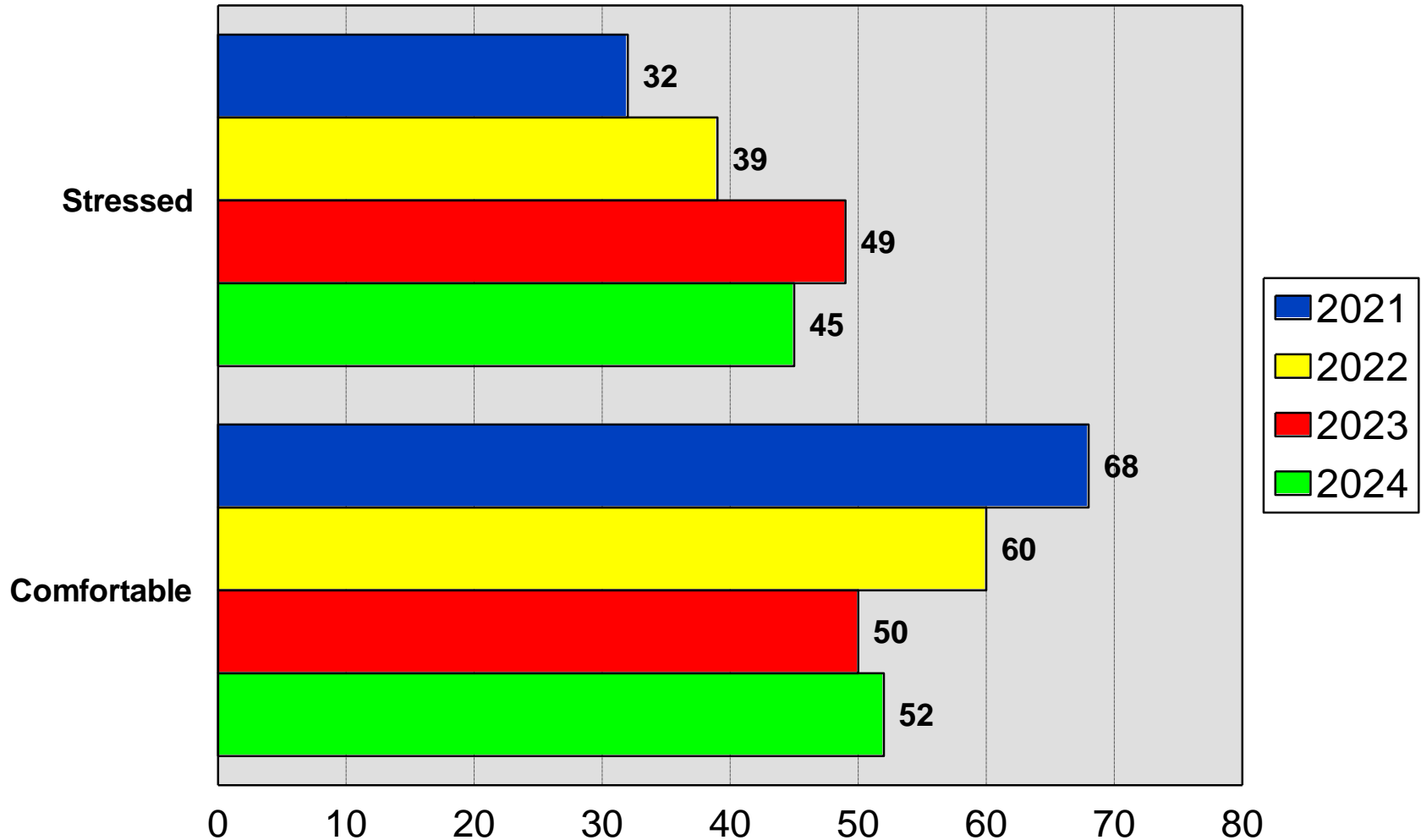
Direction of United States

2024 August Statewide Survey



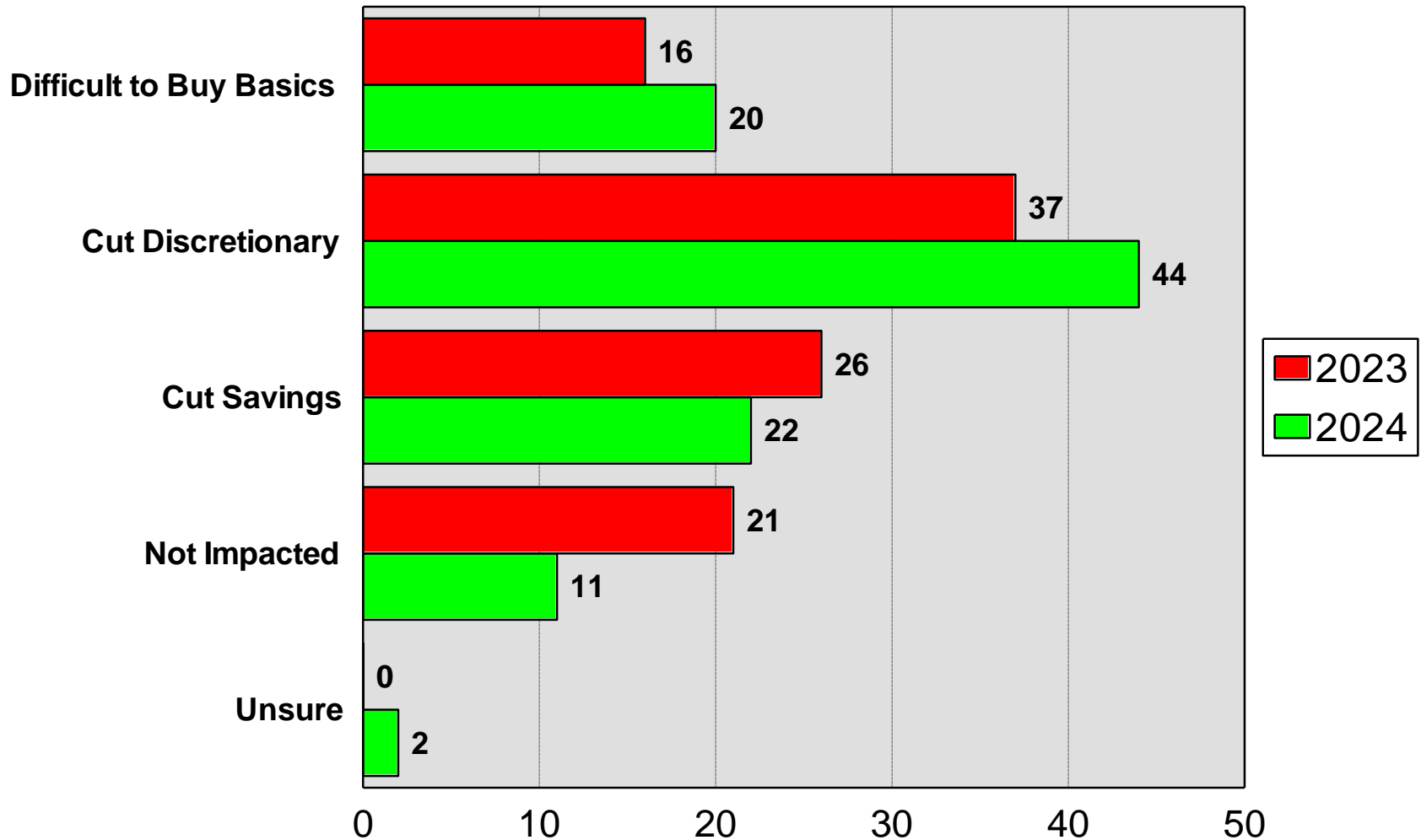
Financial Situation

2024 October Statewide Survey



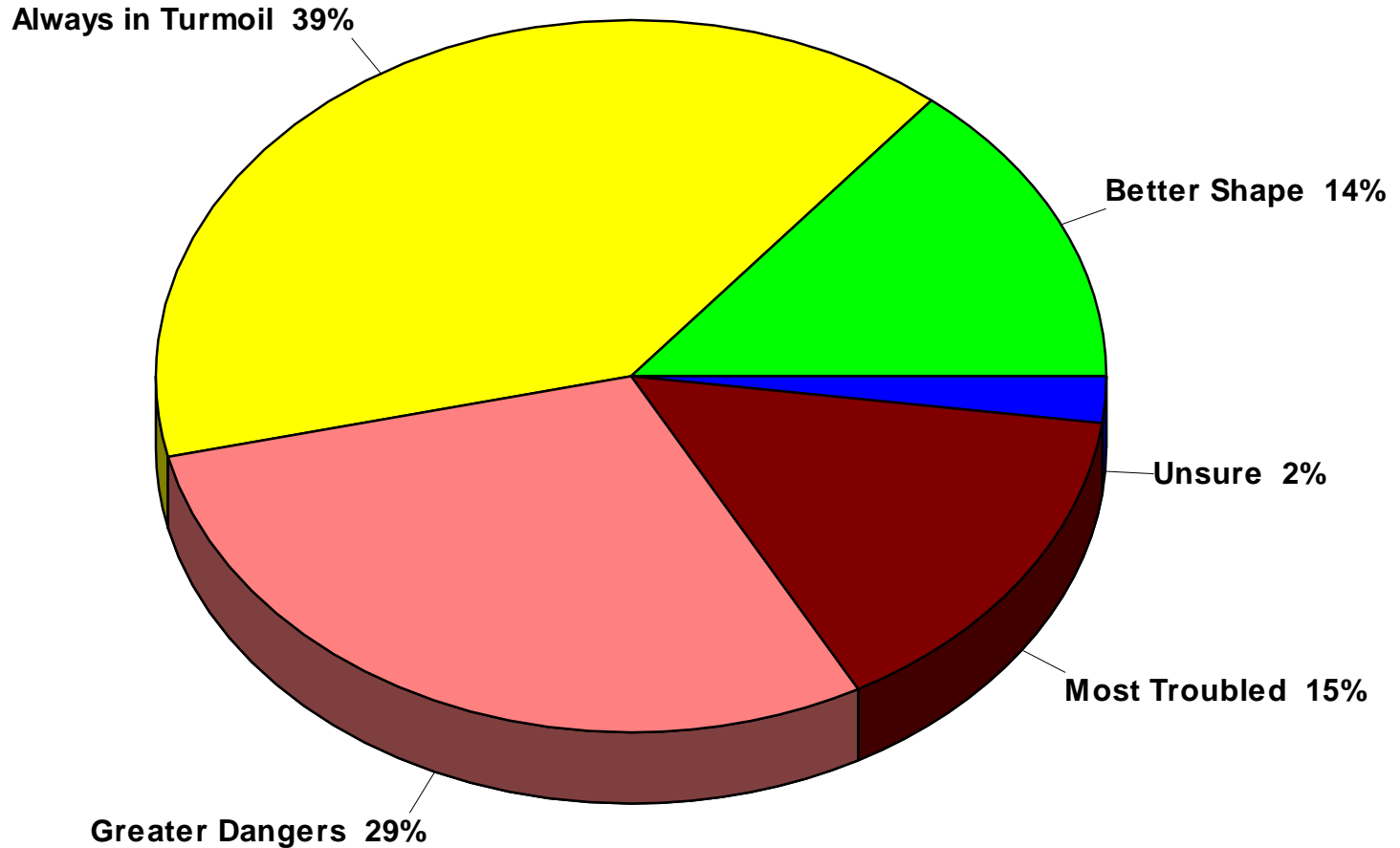
Impact of Inflation on Household

2024 August Statewide Survey



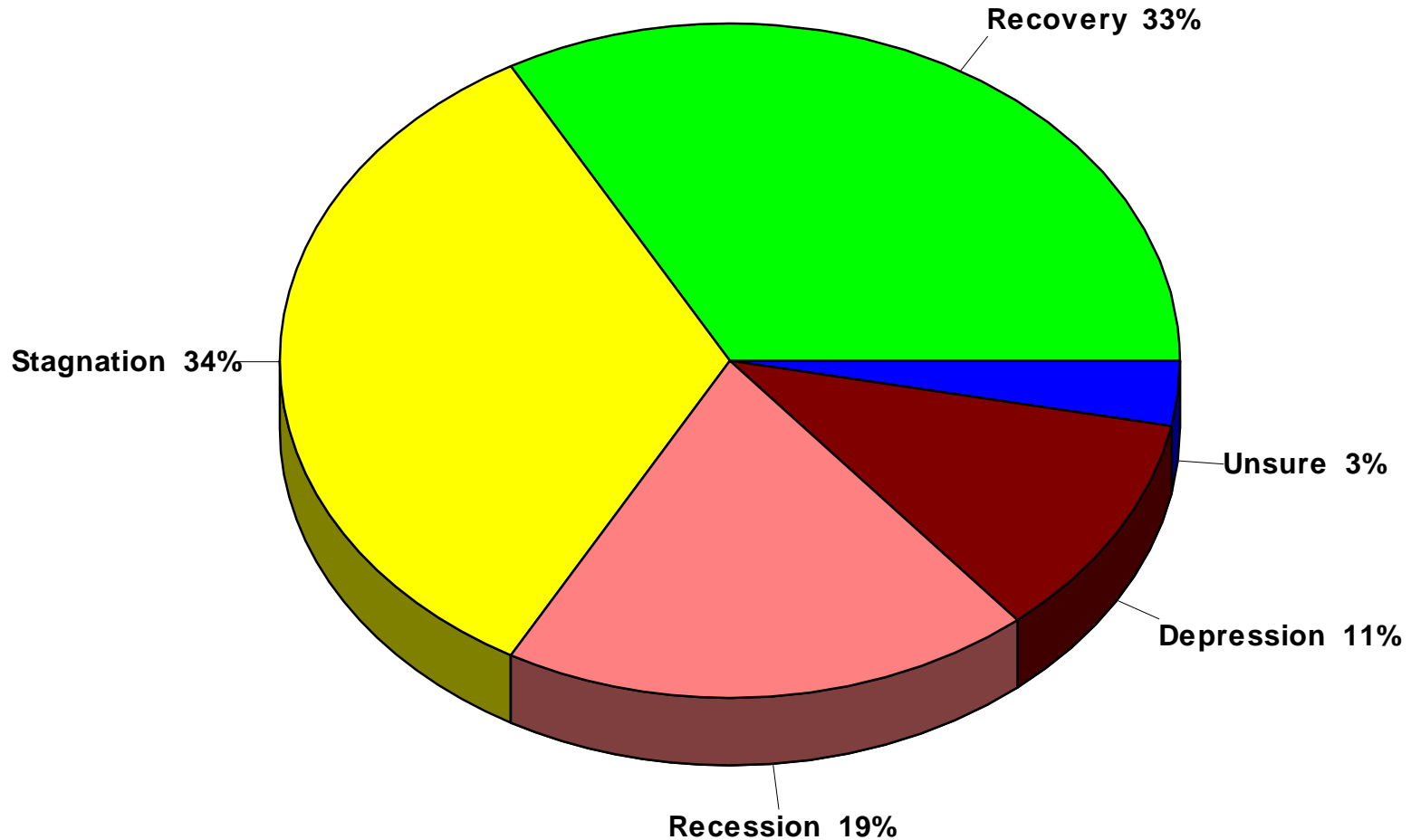
State of the World Today

2024 August Statewide Survey



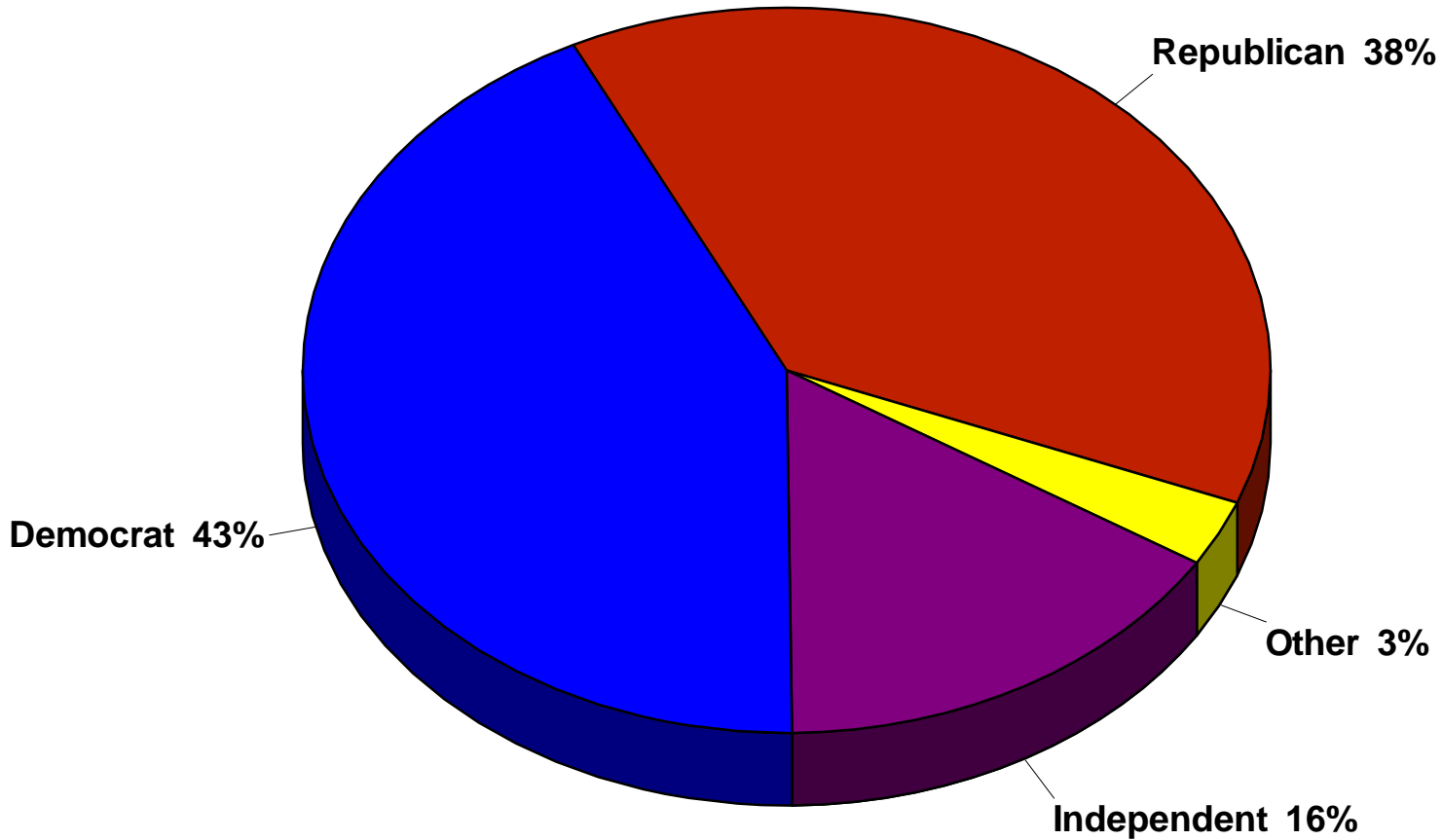
United States Economy

2024 August Statewide Survey



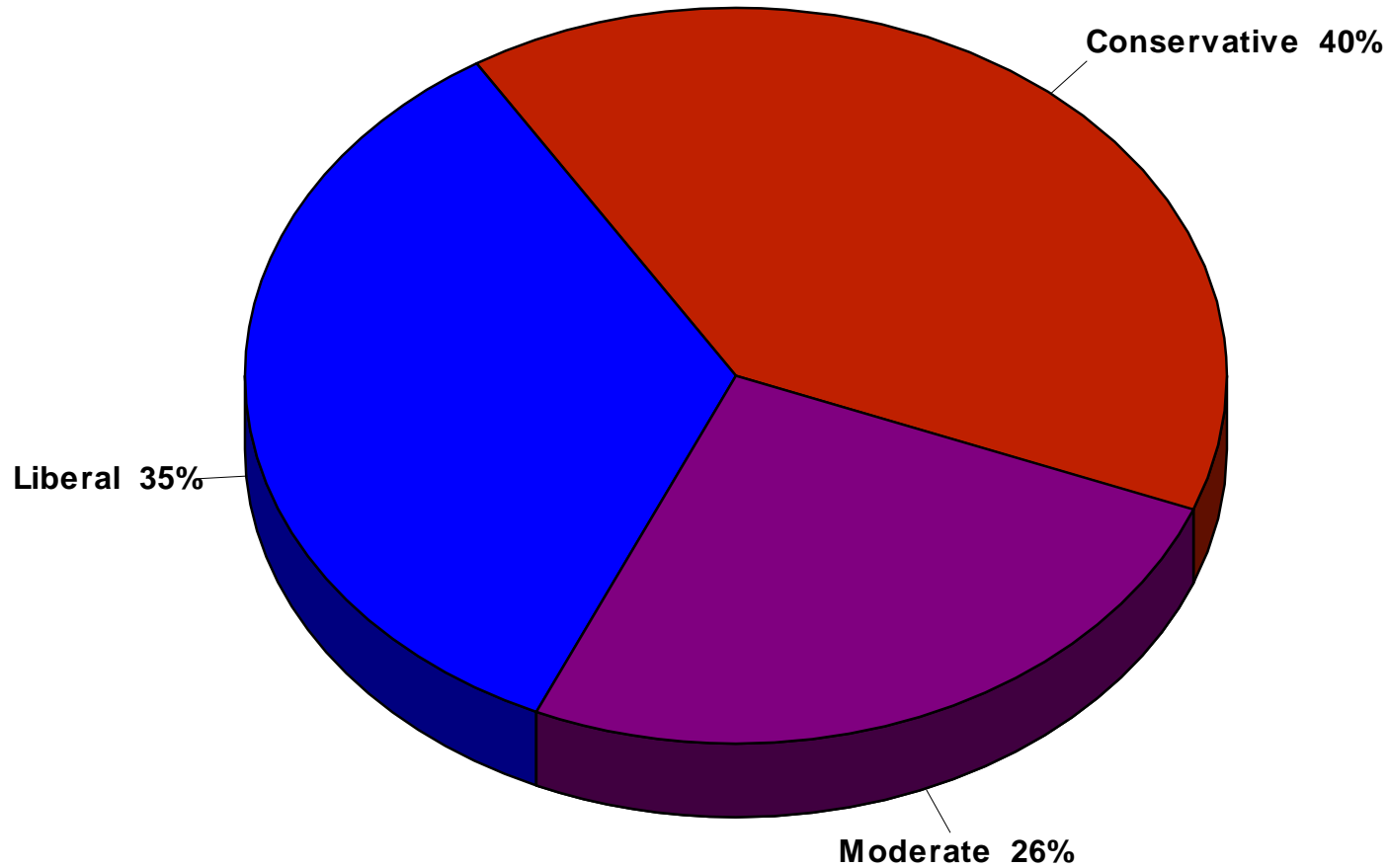
Party Identification

2024 October Statewide Survey



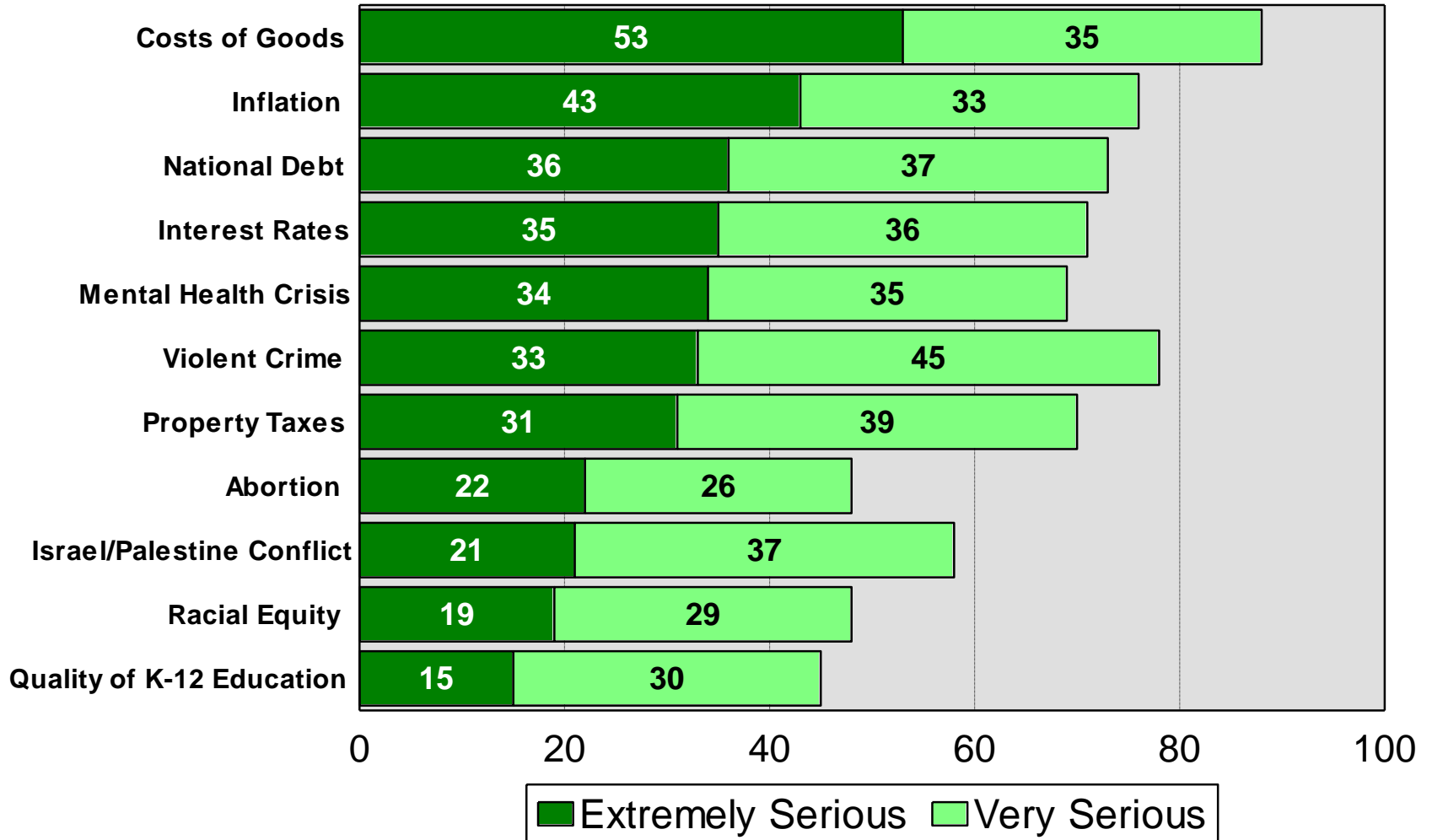
Political Ideology

2024 October Statewide Survey



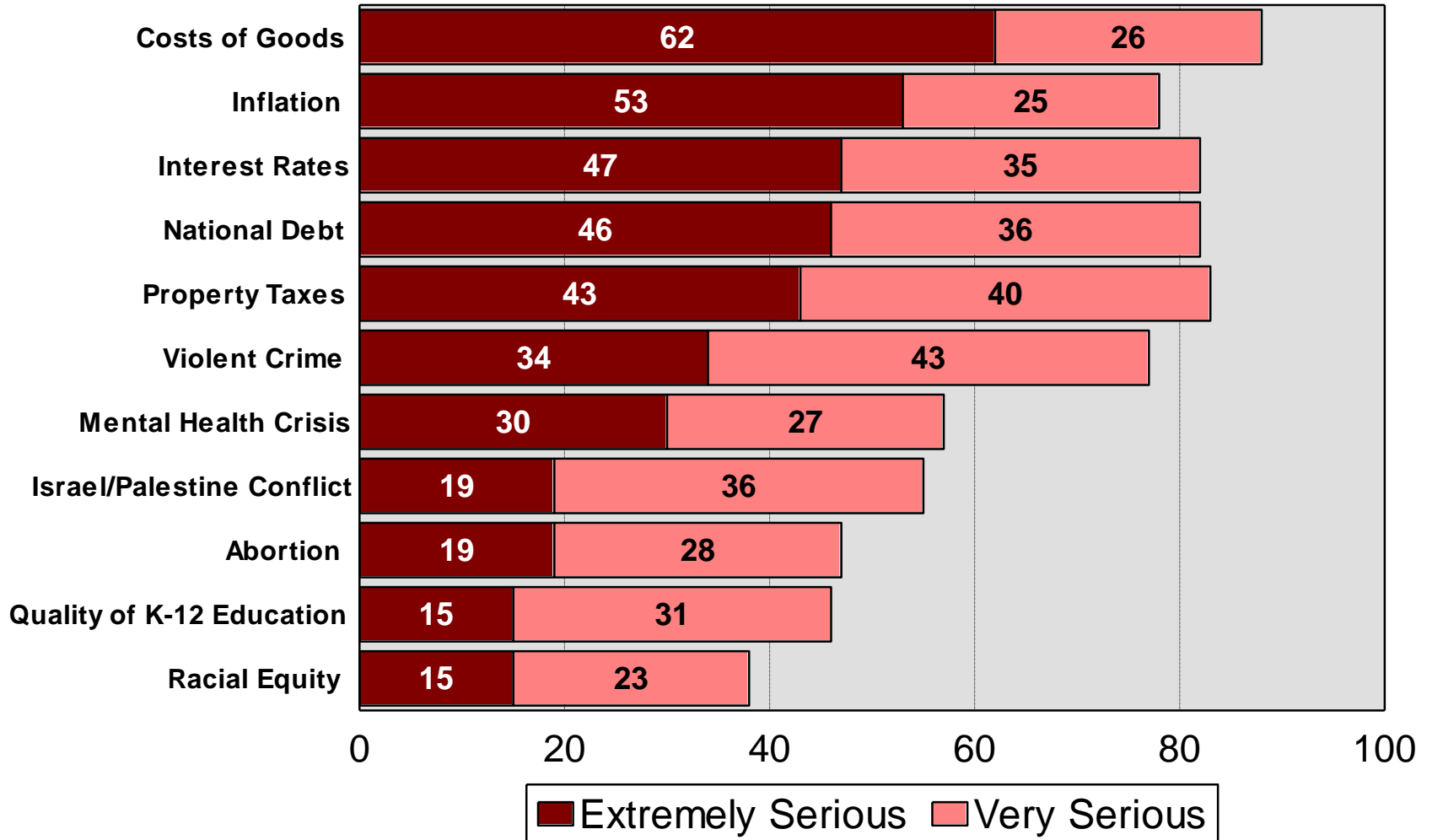
Issue Concerns

2024 August Statewide Survey



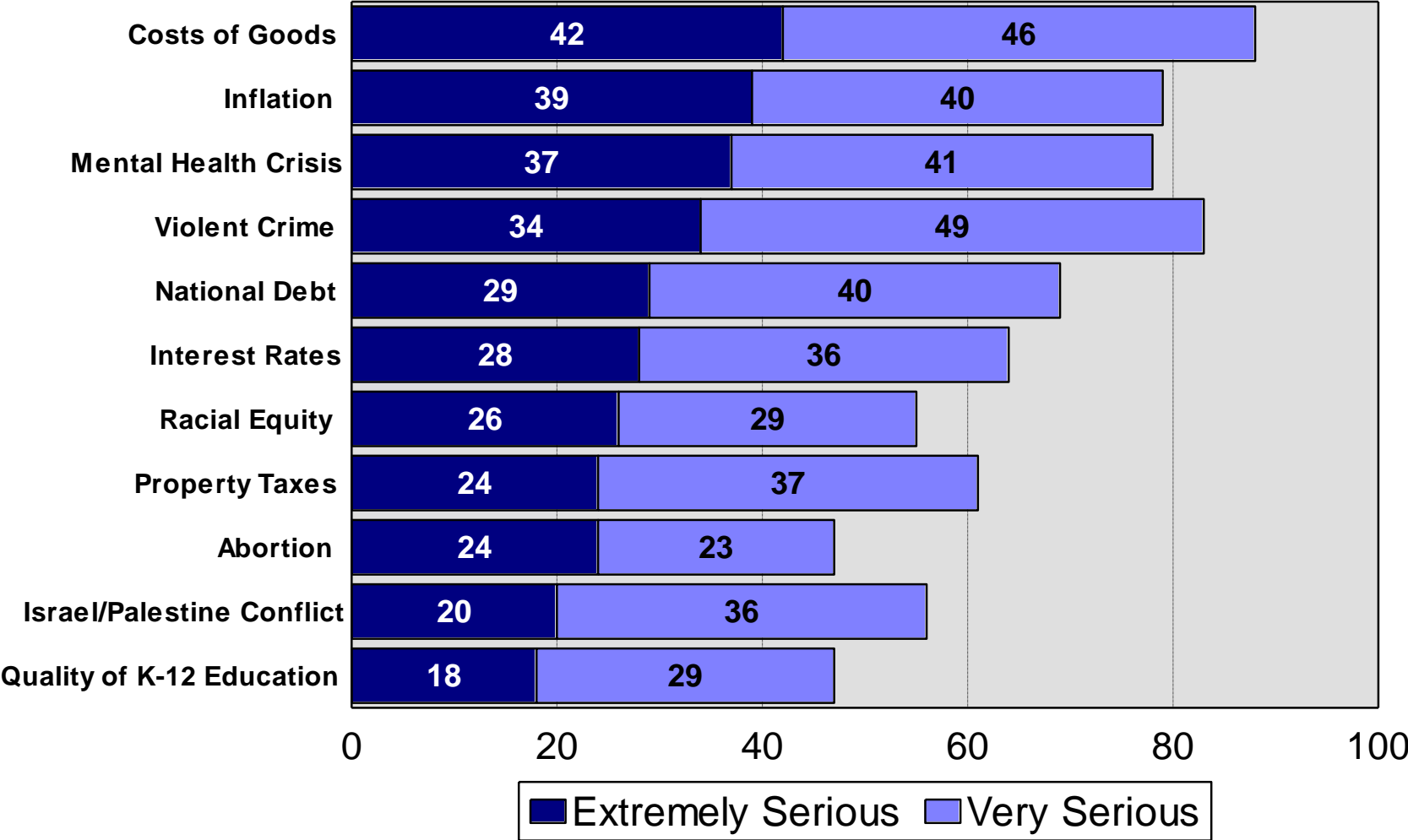
Republican Issue Concerns

2024 August Statewide Survey



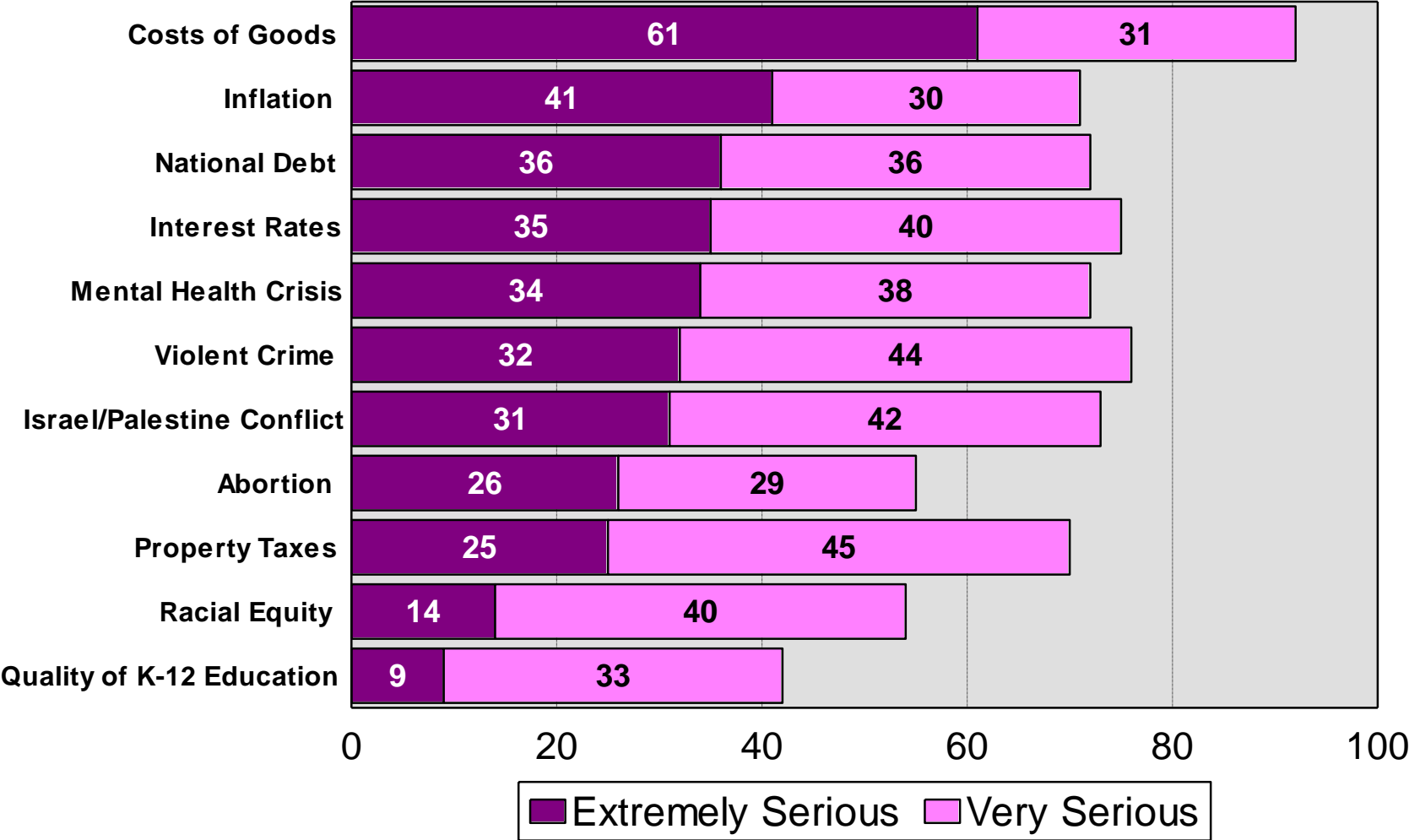
Democrat Issue Concerns

2024 August Statewide Survey



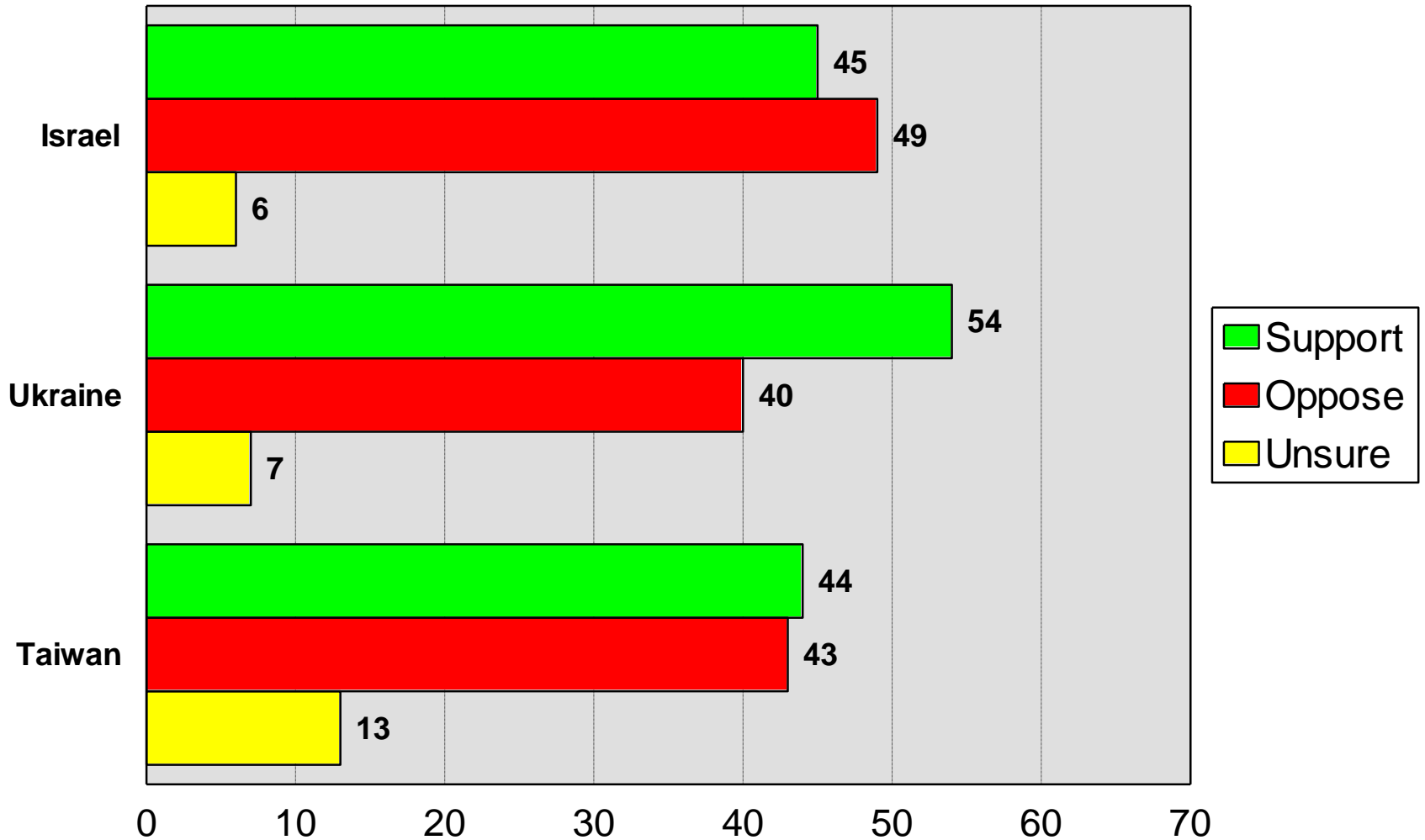
Independent Issue Concerns

2024 August Statewide Survey



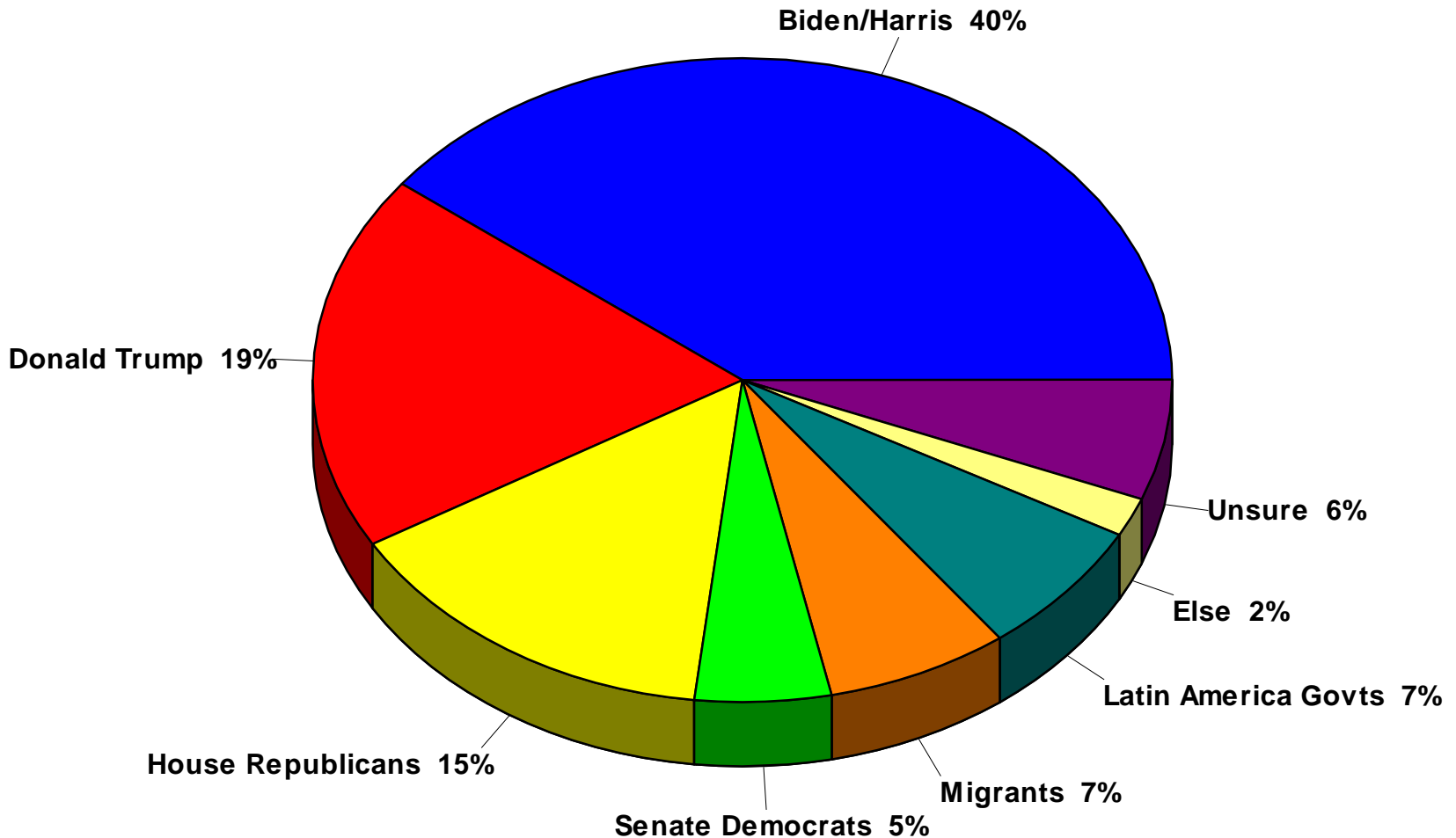
Military Aid to....

2024 August Statewide Survey



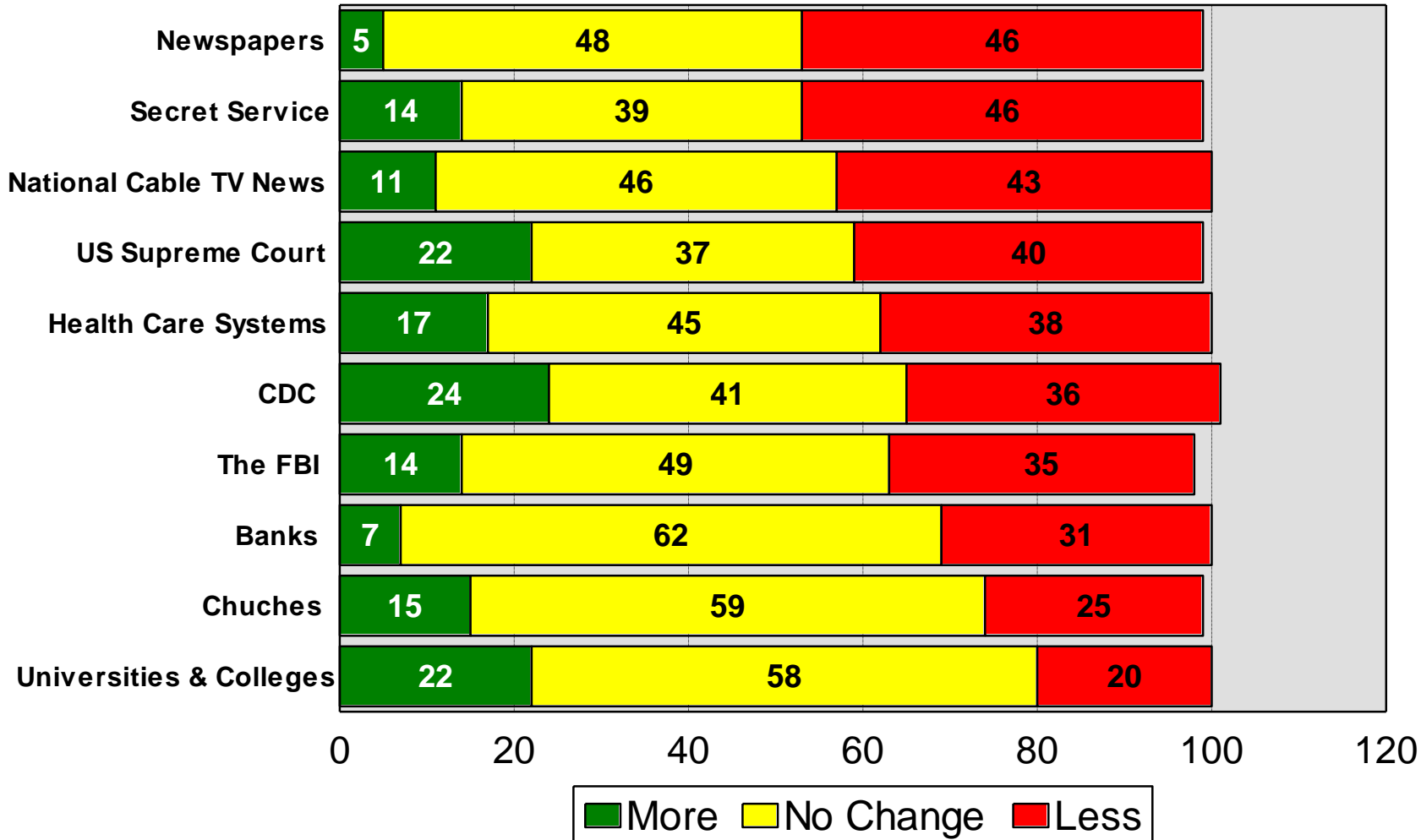
Most Responsible for Migrant Situation

2024 August Statewide Survey



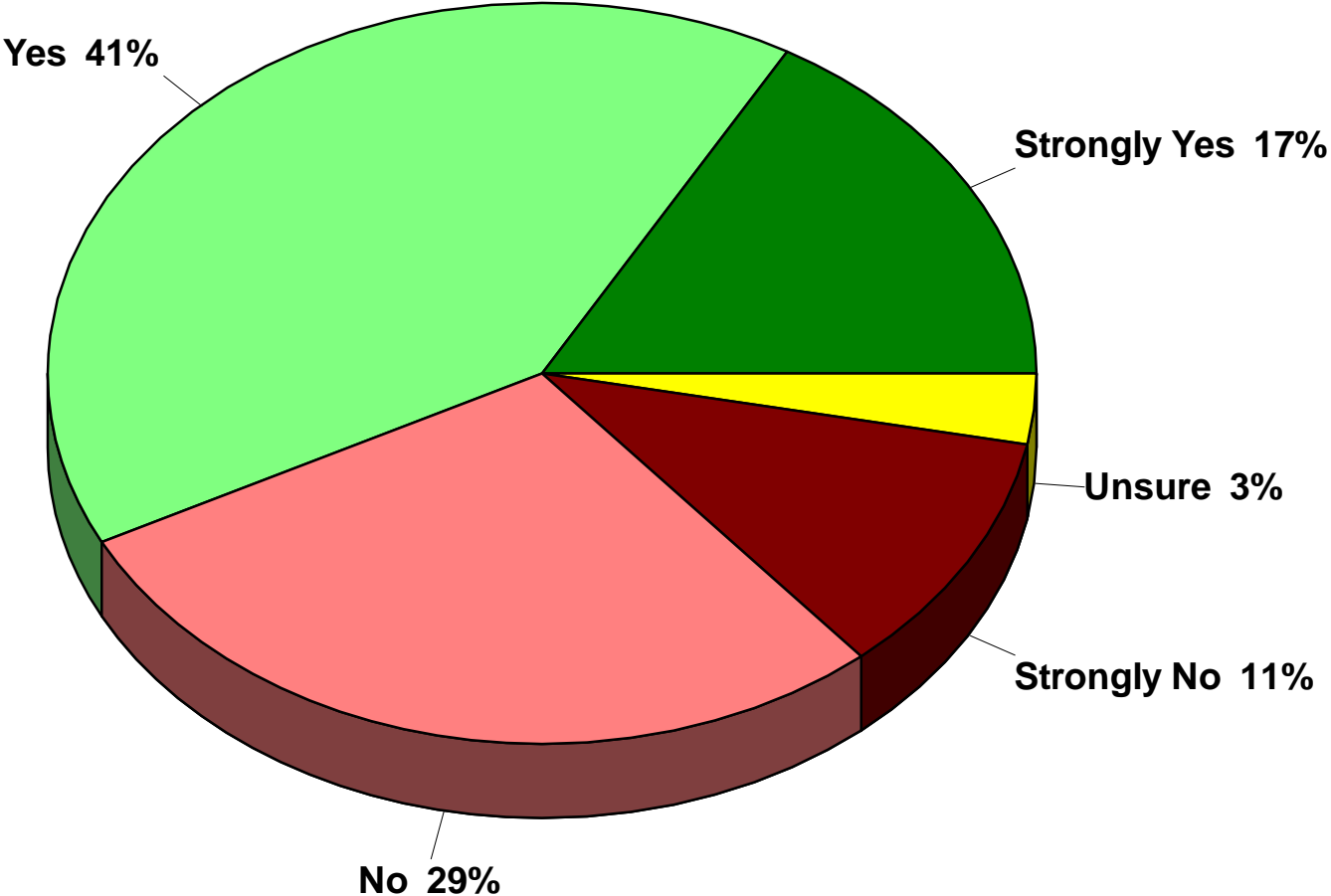
Trust in institutions over the past five years

2024 August Statewide Survey



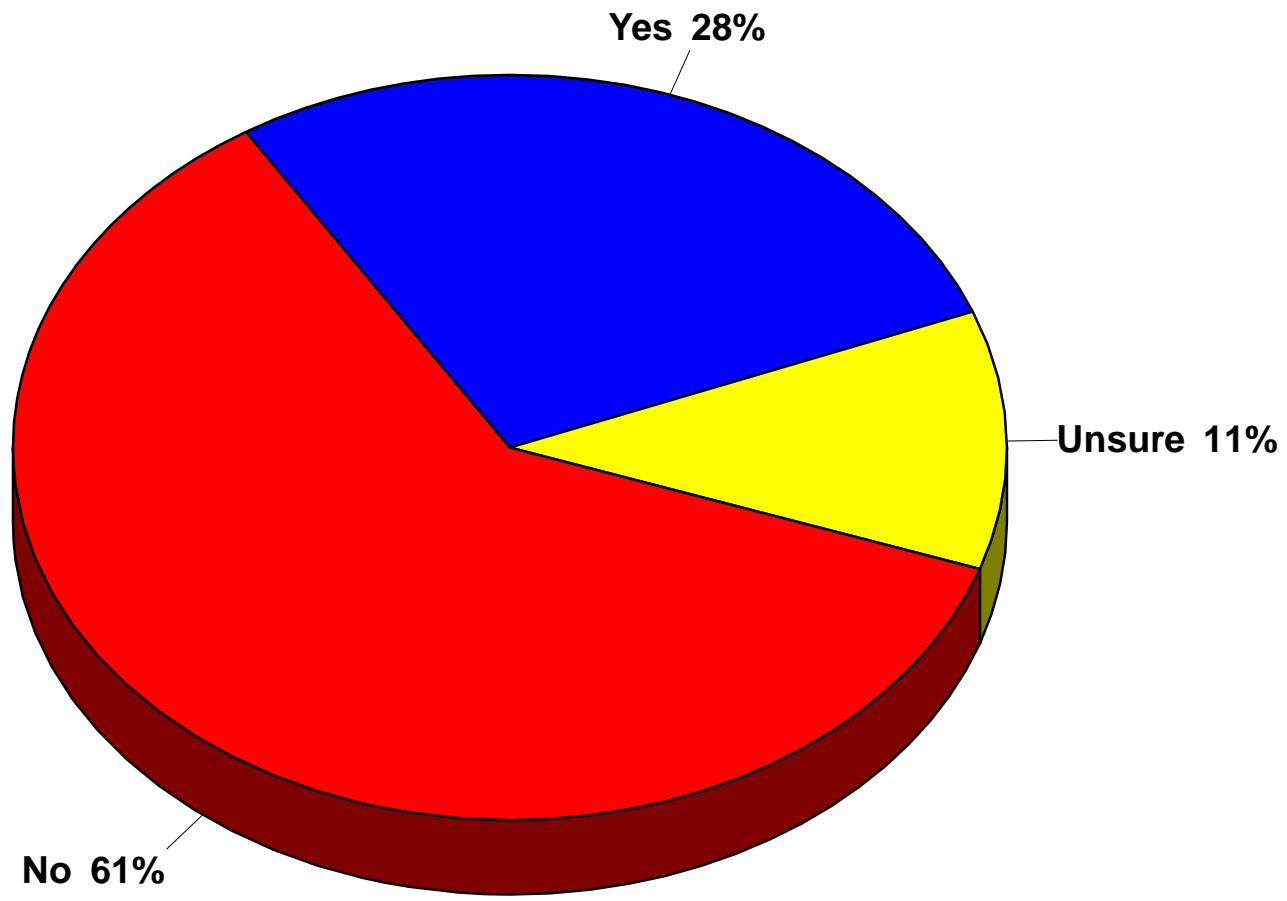
Government Require Parents to Get Child Vaccinated against Contagious Diseases

2024 August Statewide Survey



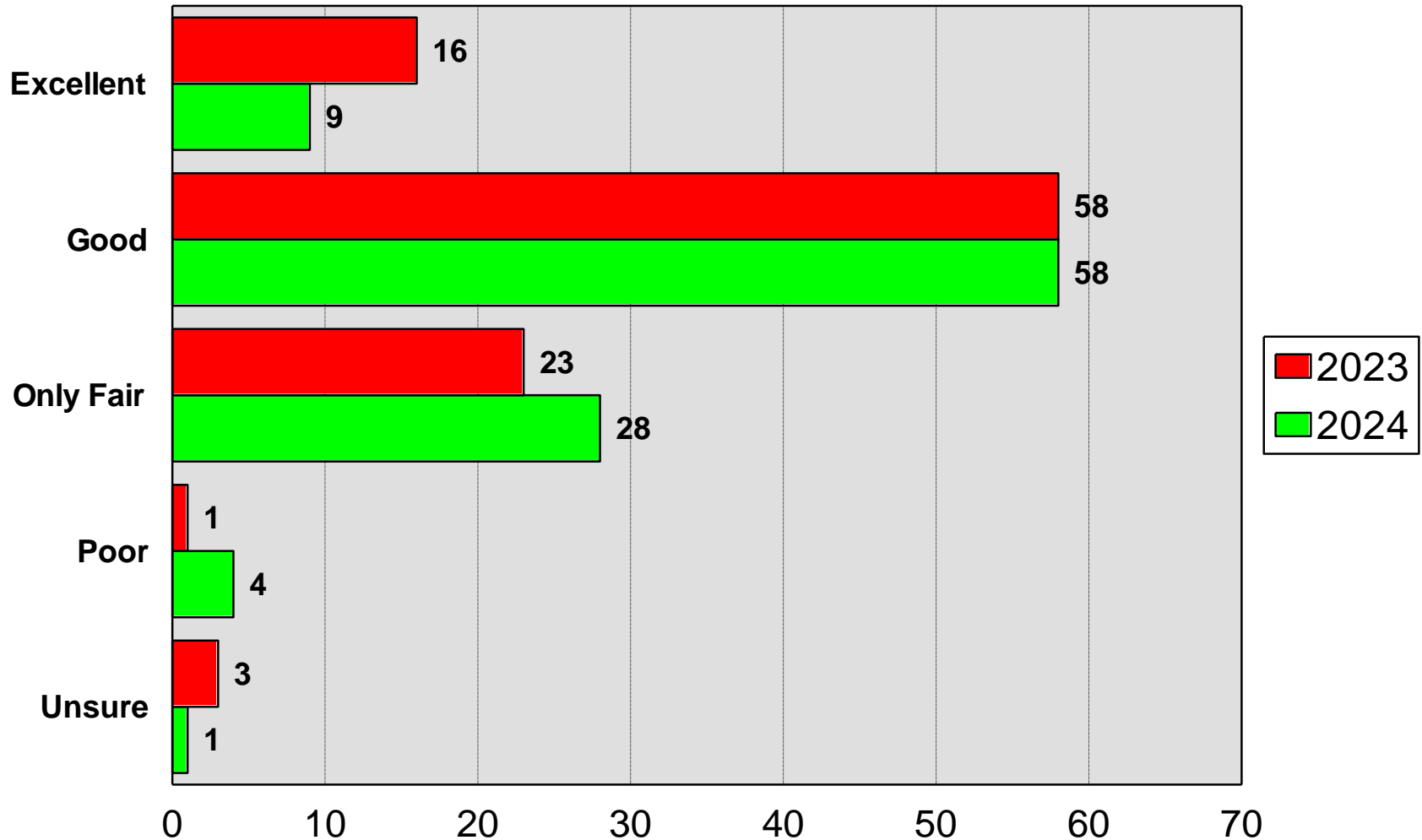
Think Certain Vaccines Cause Autism in Children

2024 August Statewide Survey



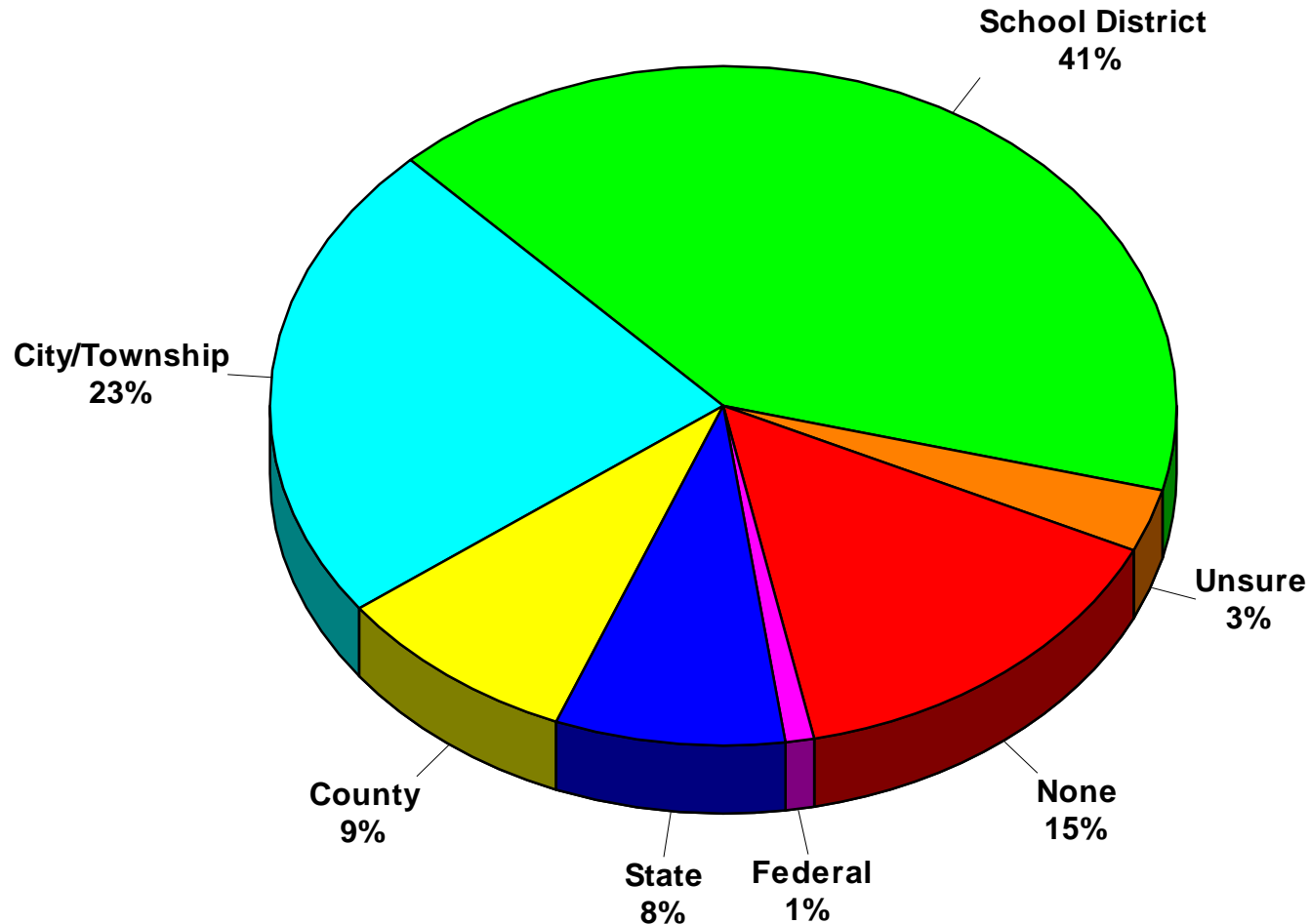
Quality of Life and Value of Taxes

2024 August Statewide Survey



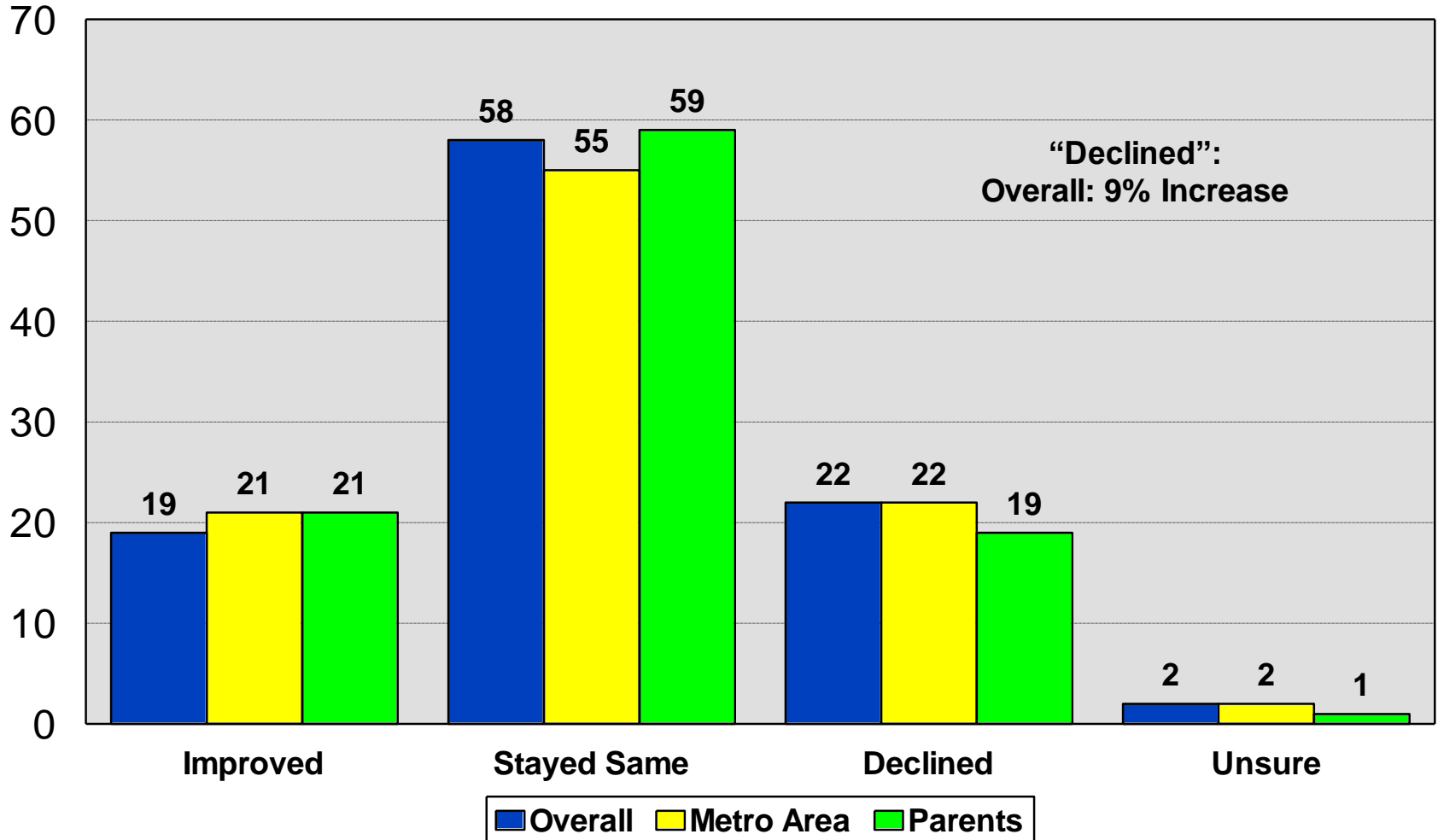
\$100 Tax Increase Go To....

2024 August Statewide Survey



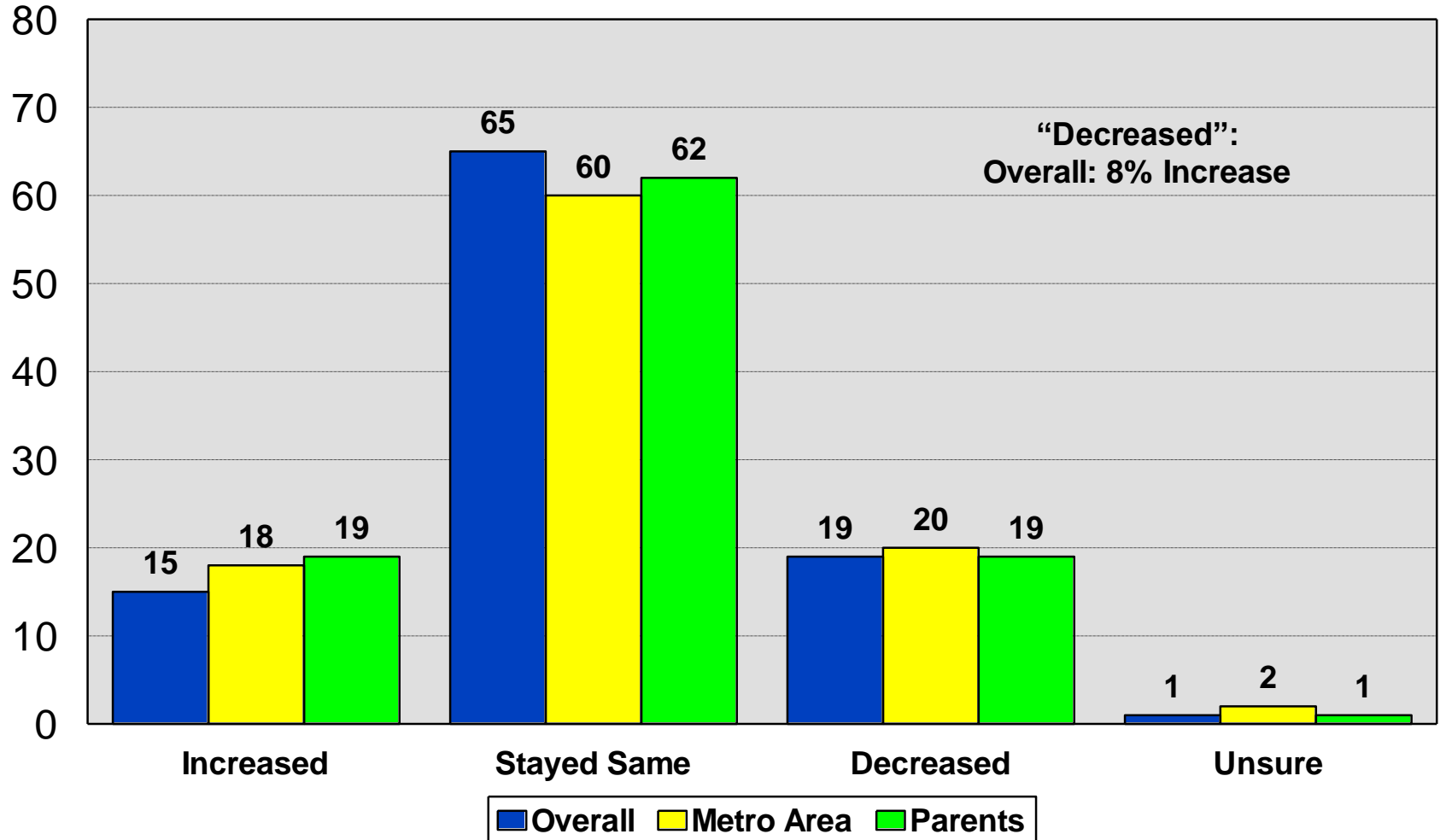
Quality of K-12 Education over the Past Three Years

2024 August Statewide Survey



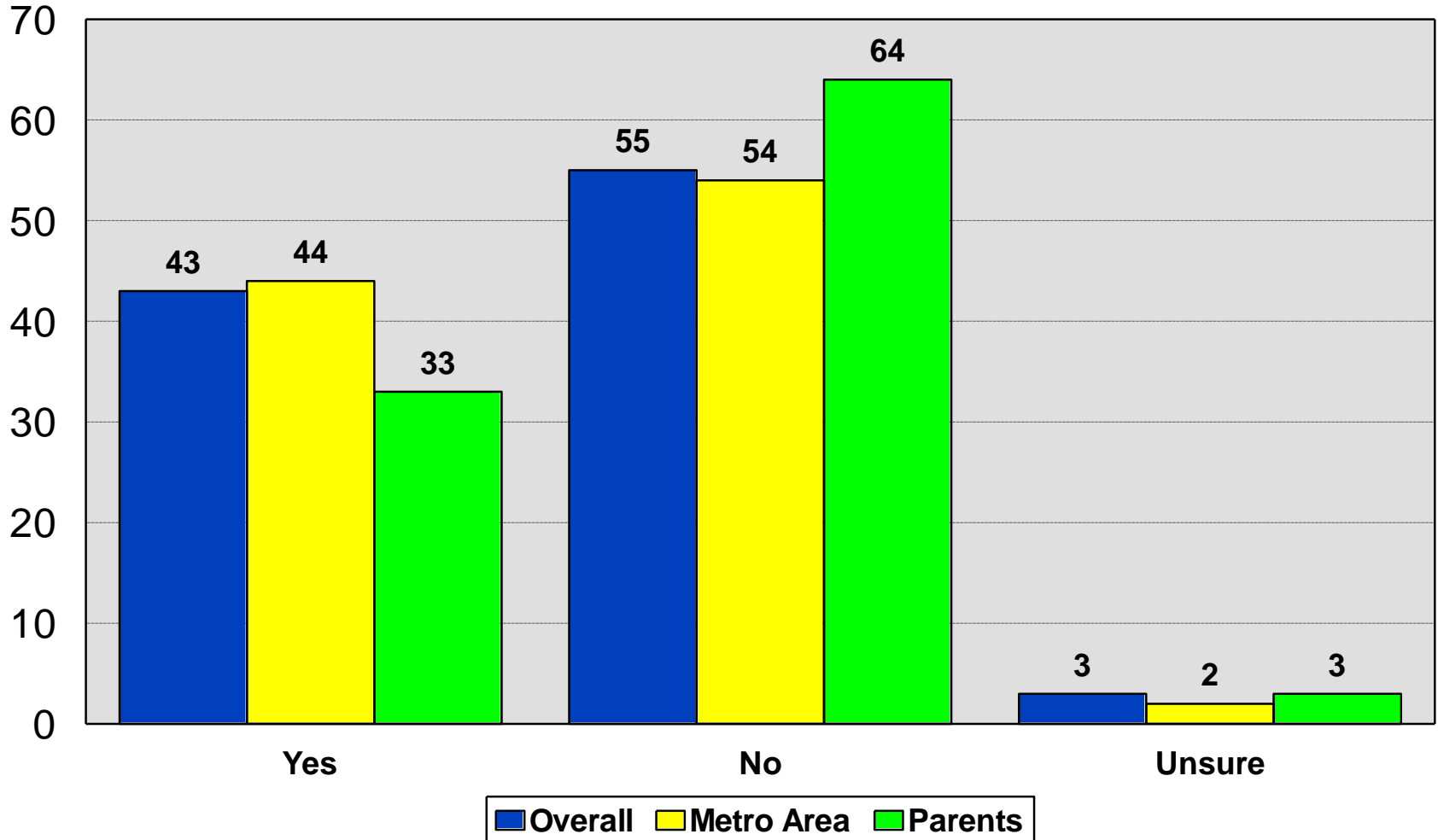
Trust in School Board Decision-making over the Past Three Years

2024 August Statewide Survey



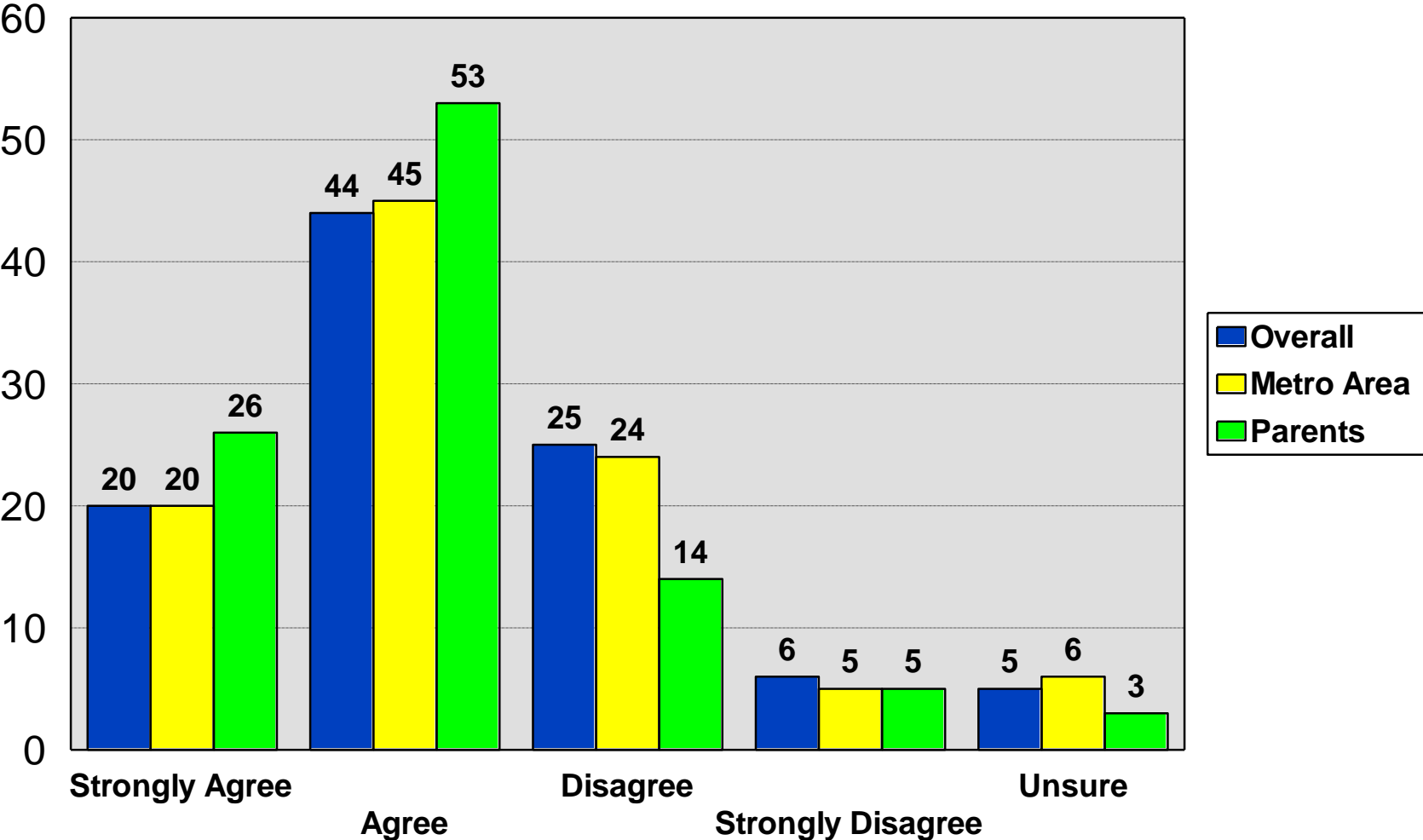
Adequacy of Funding of Local Schools

2024 August Statewide Survey



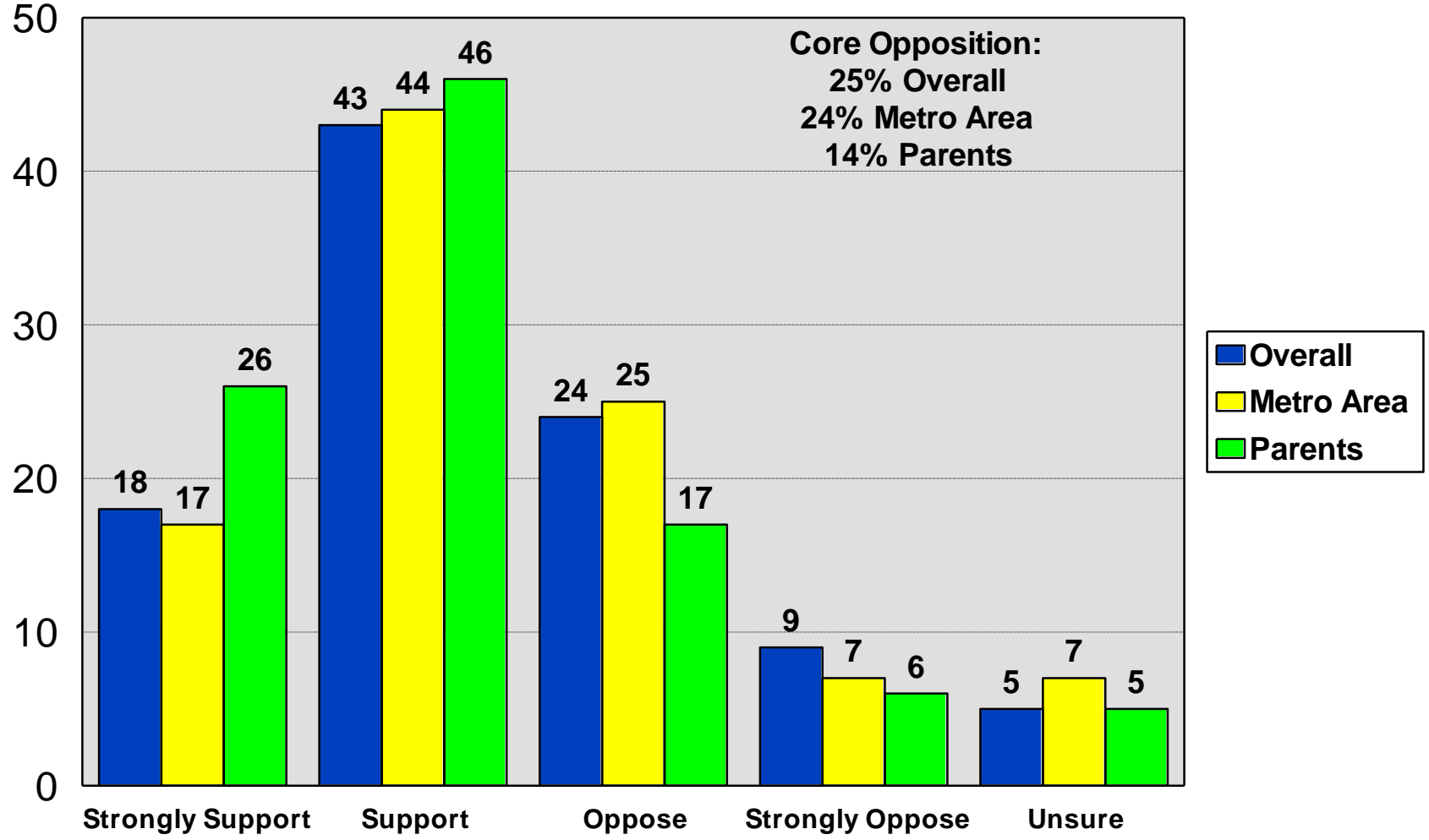
Support Property Tax Increase for Local Public Schools

2024 August Statewide Survey



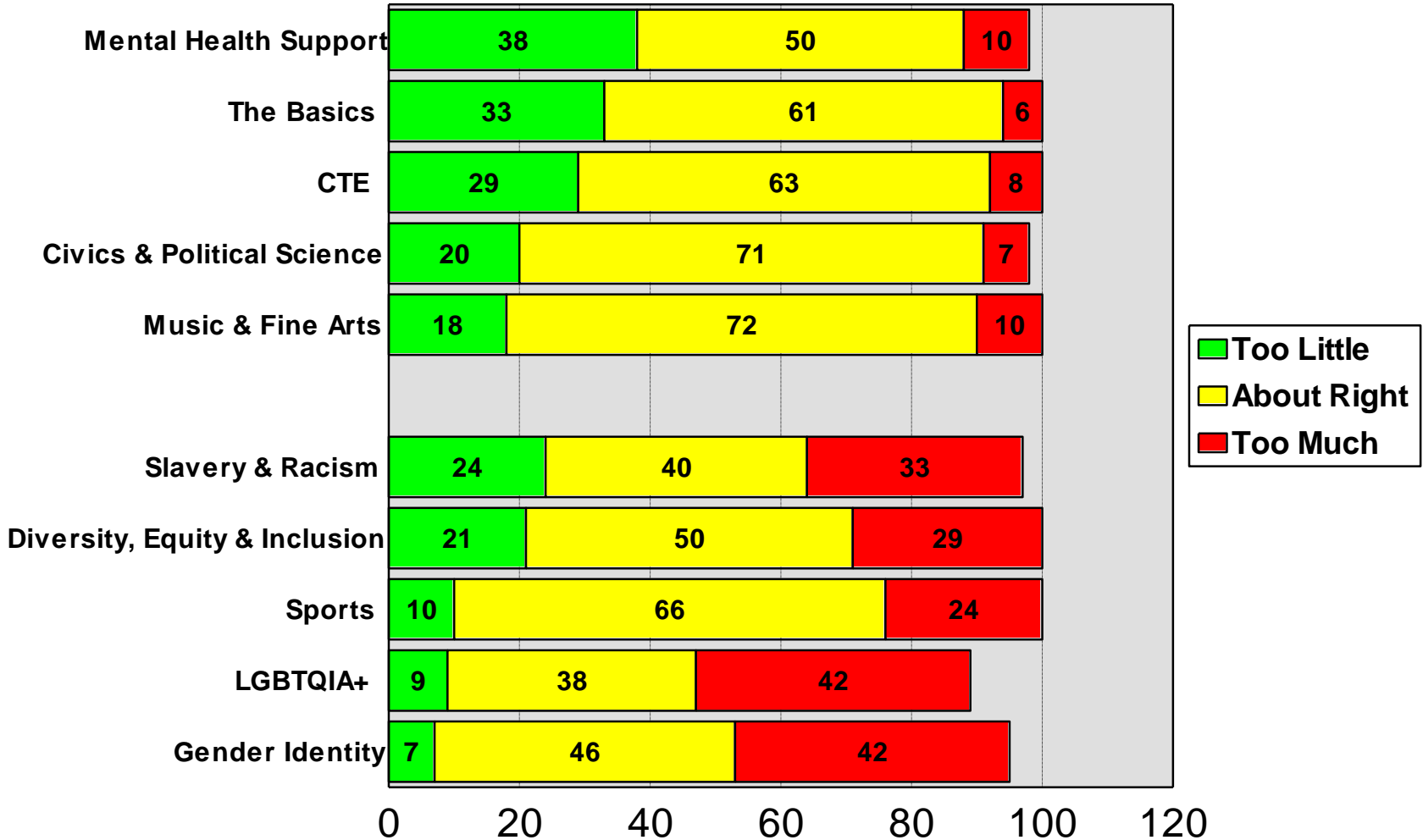
Parents be able to choose to send their children to a private or parochial school instead of their local public school district and receive state funding for tuition and transportation

2024 August Statewide Survey



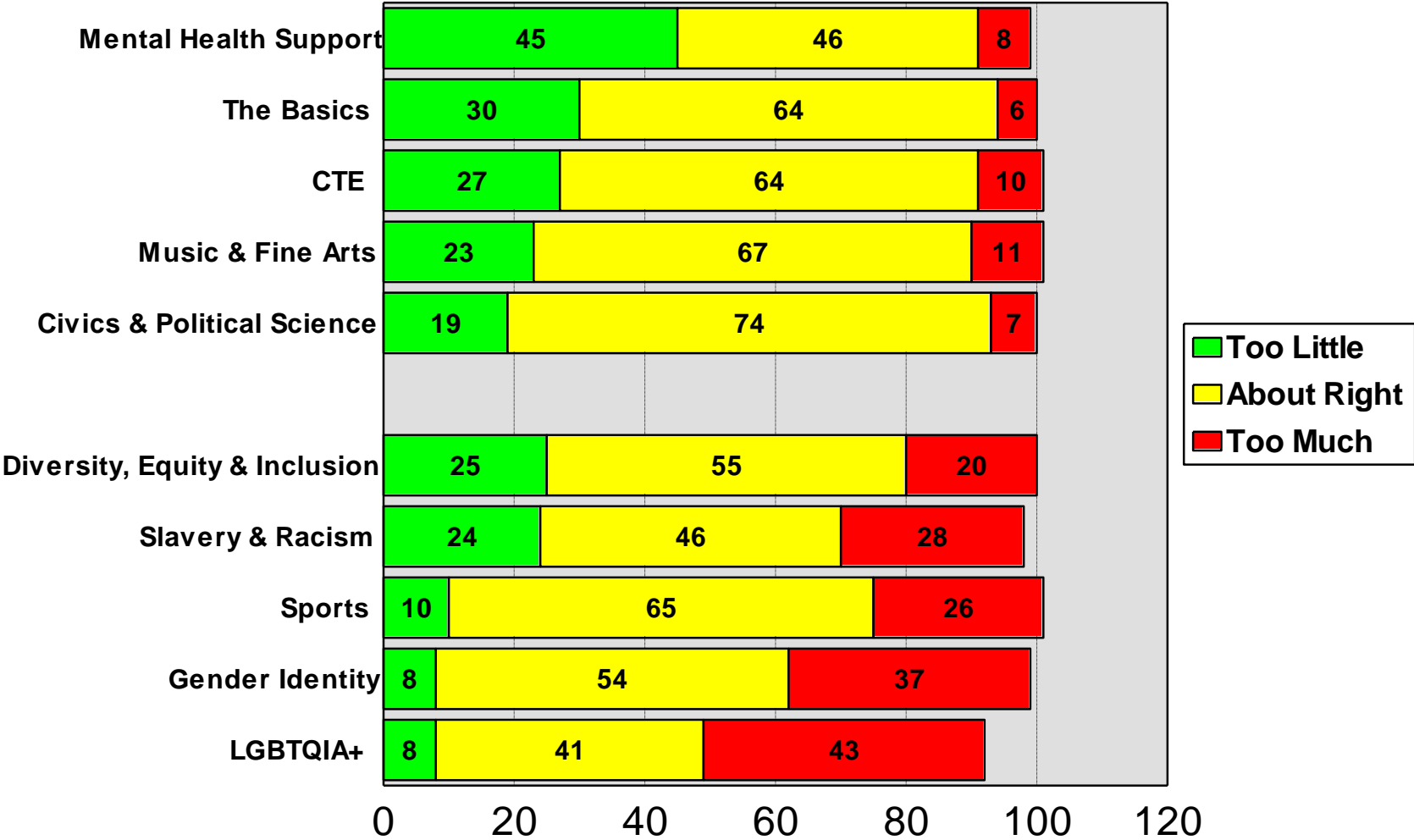
Emphasis on.... (Overall)

2024 August Statewide Survey



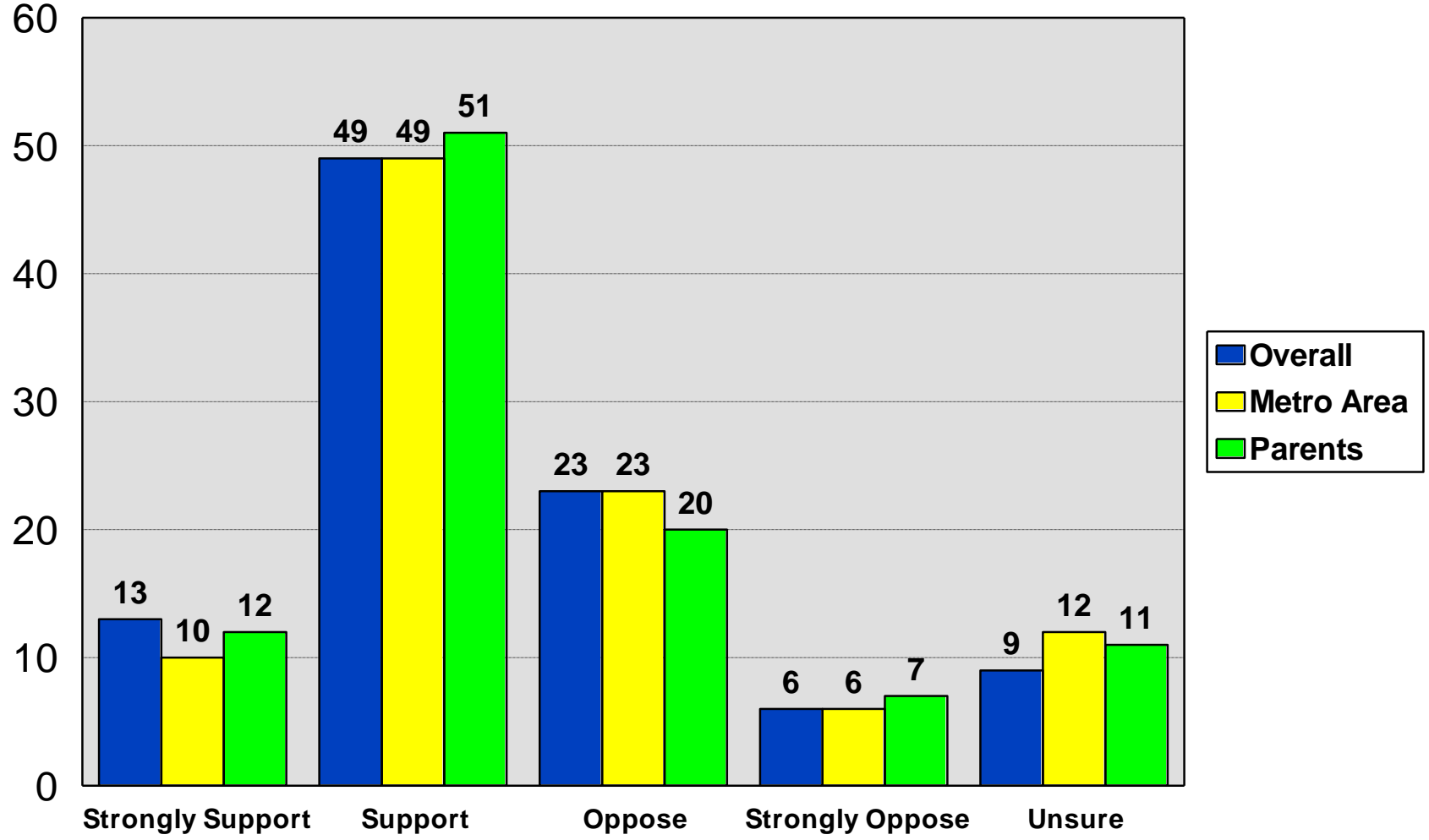
Emphasis on.... (Parents)

2024 August Statewide Survey



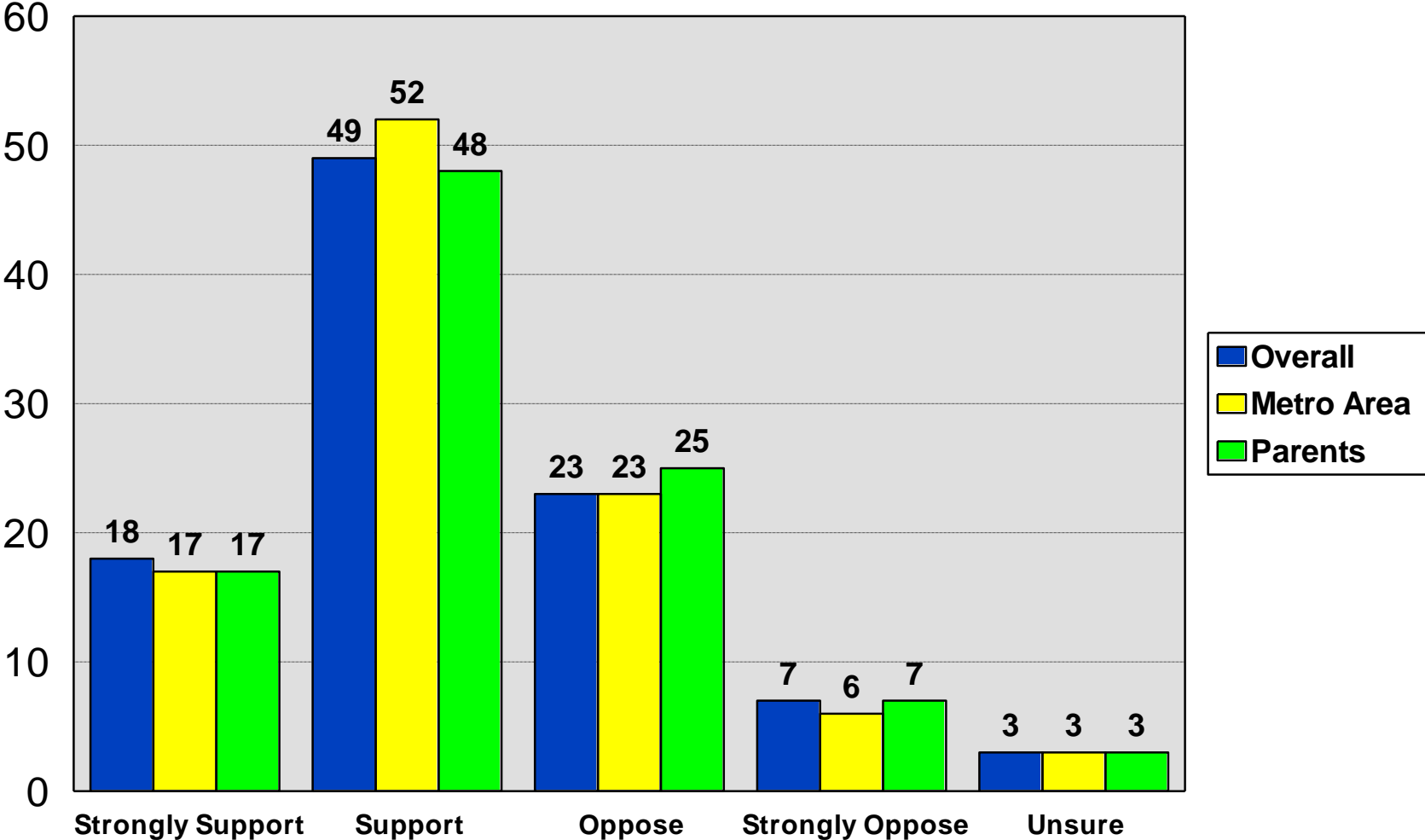
Minnesota change from its current seat-time requirements for high school graduation to mastery-based requirements

2024 August Statewide Survey



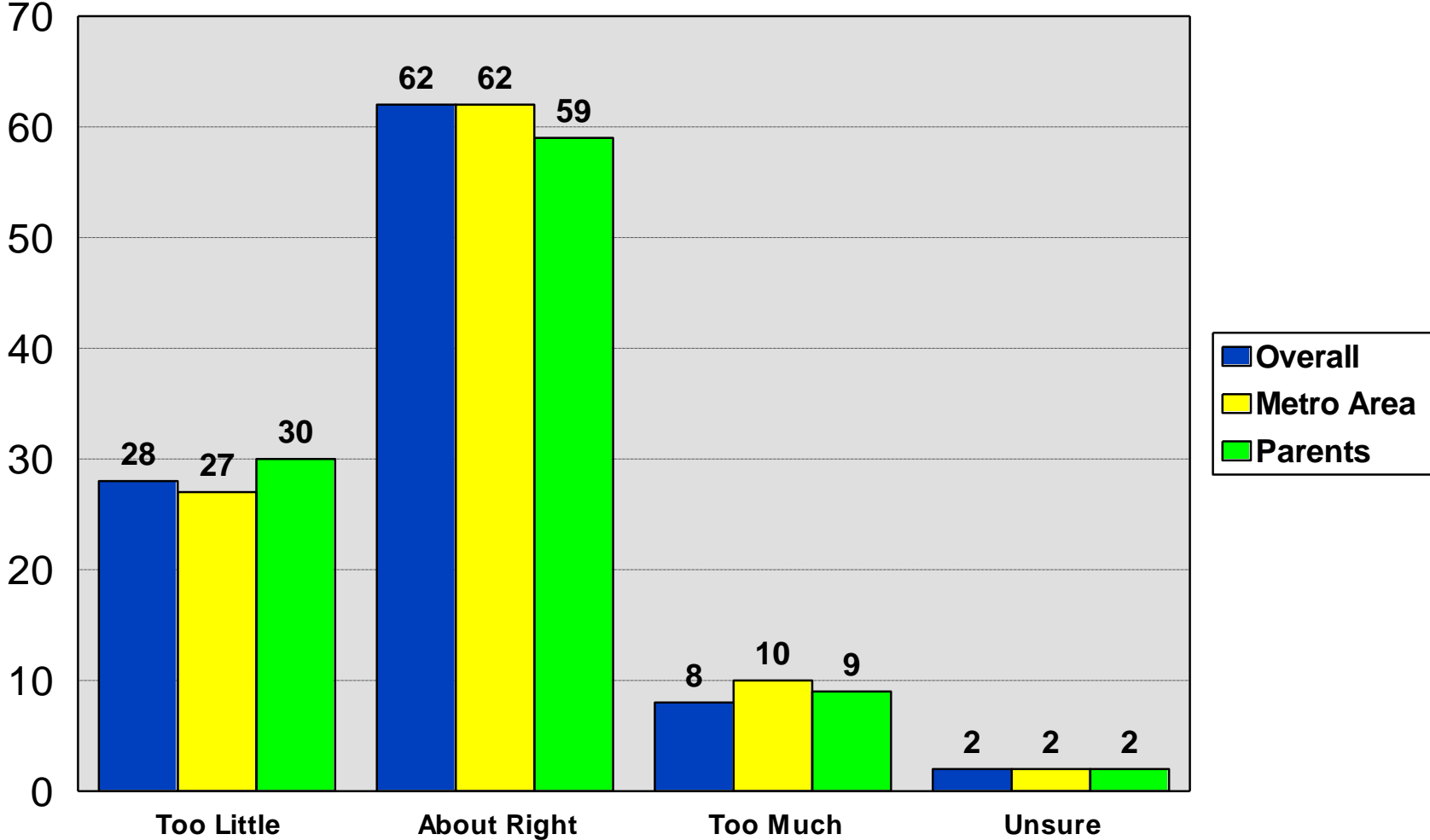
Policy prohibiting the use of personal devices, including cell phones, during the school day, with exceptions being made for students with medical or special needs

2024 August Statewide Survey



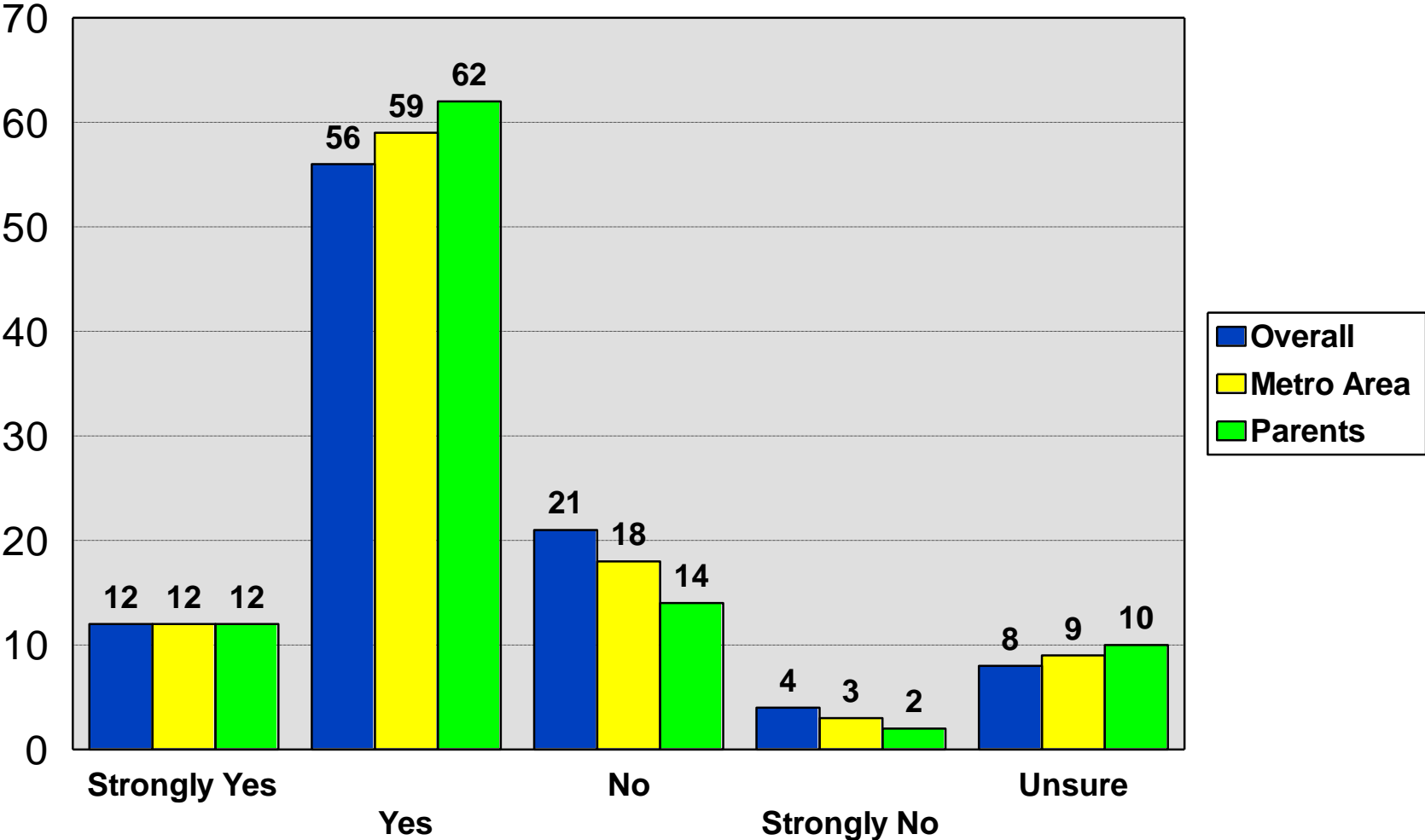
Amount of Parent Say in Child's Education

2024 August Statewide Survey



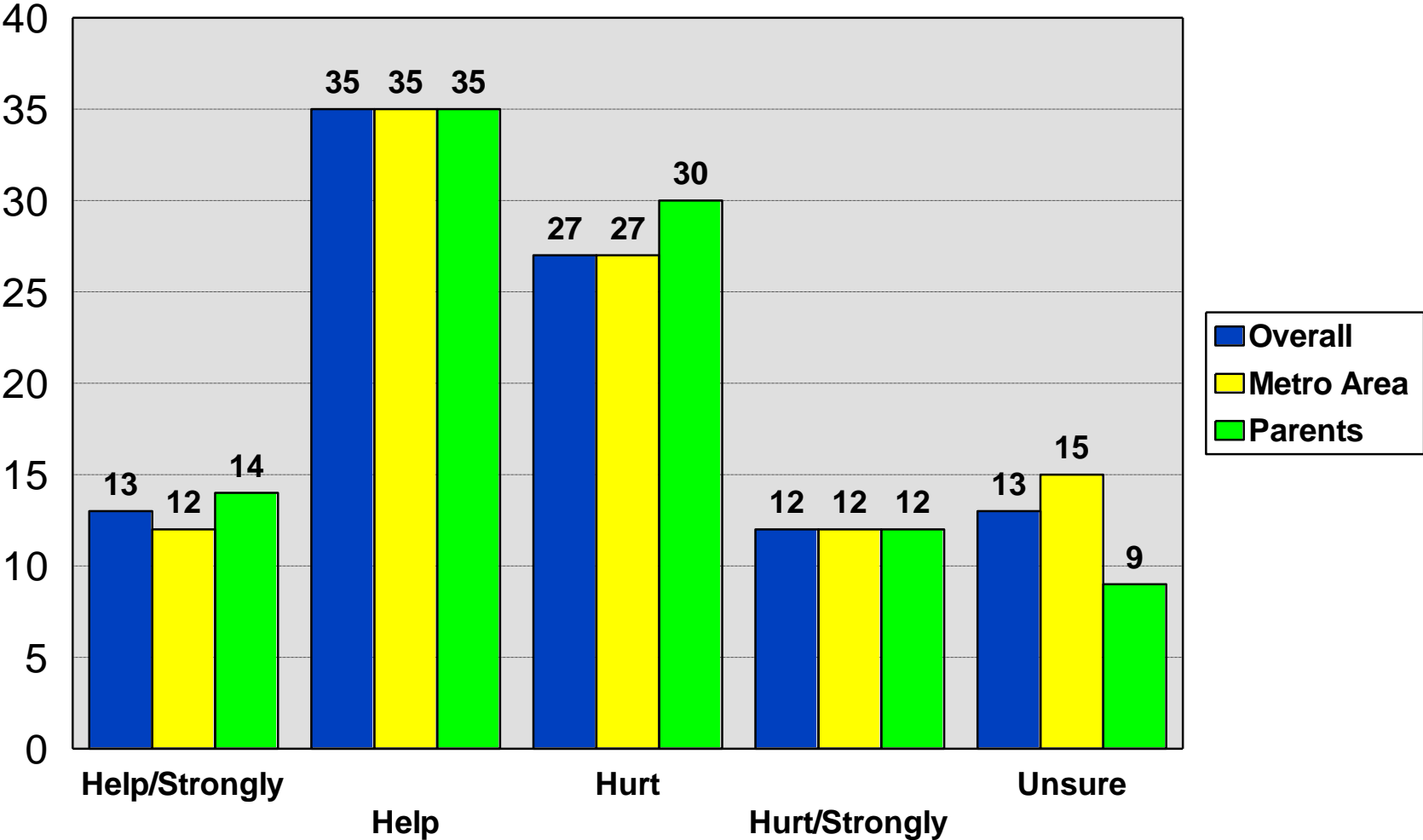
Trust Teachers Unions to Do What is Right For Children

2024 August Statewide Survey



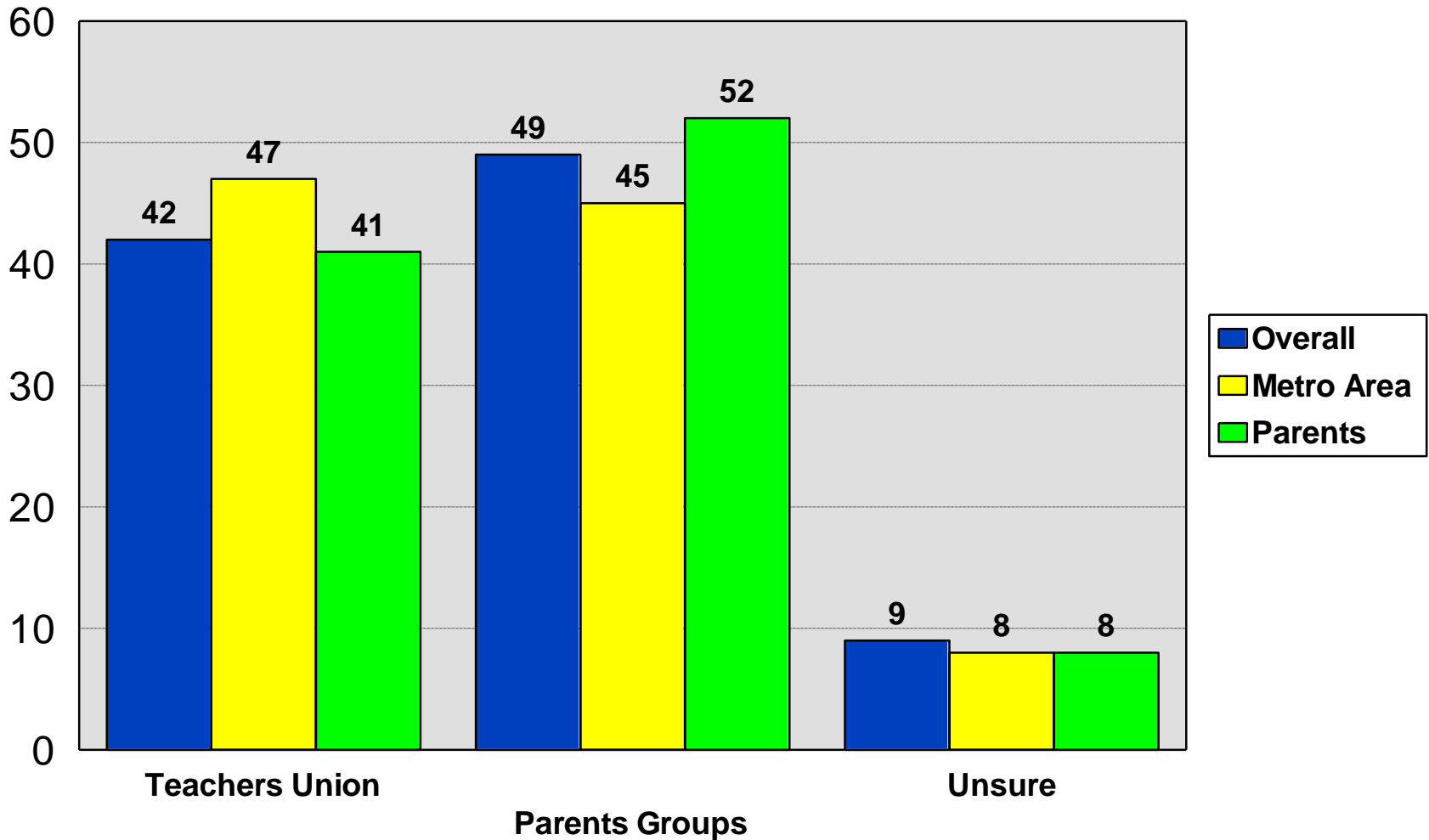
School Board Endorsements Help or Hurt the Quality of Education

2024 August Statewide Survey



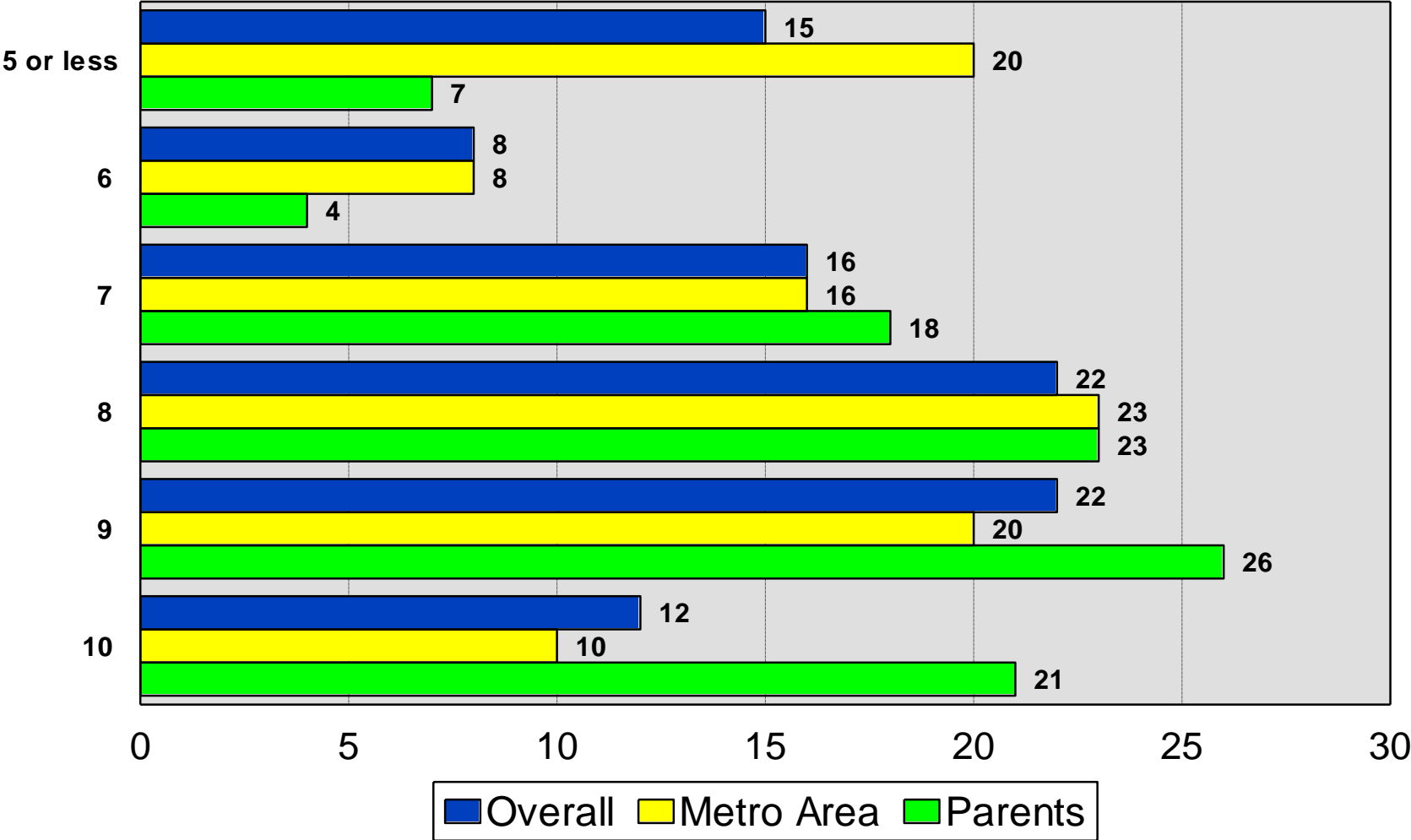
Endorsements Most Likely to Trust

2024 August Statewide Survey



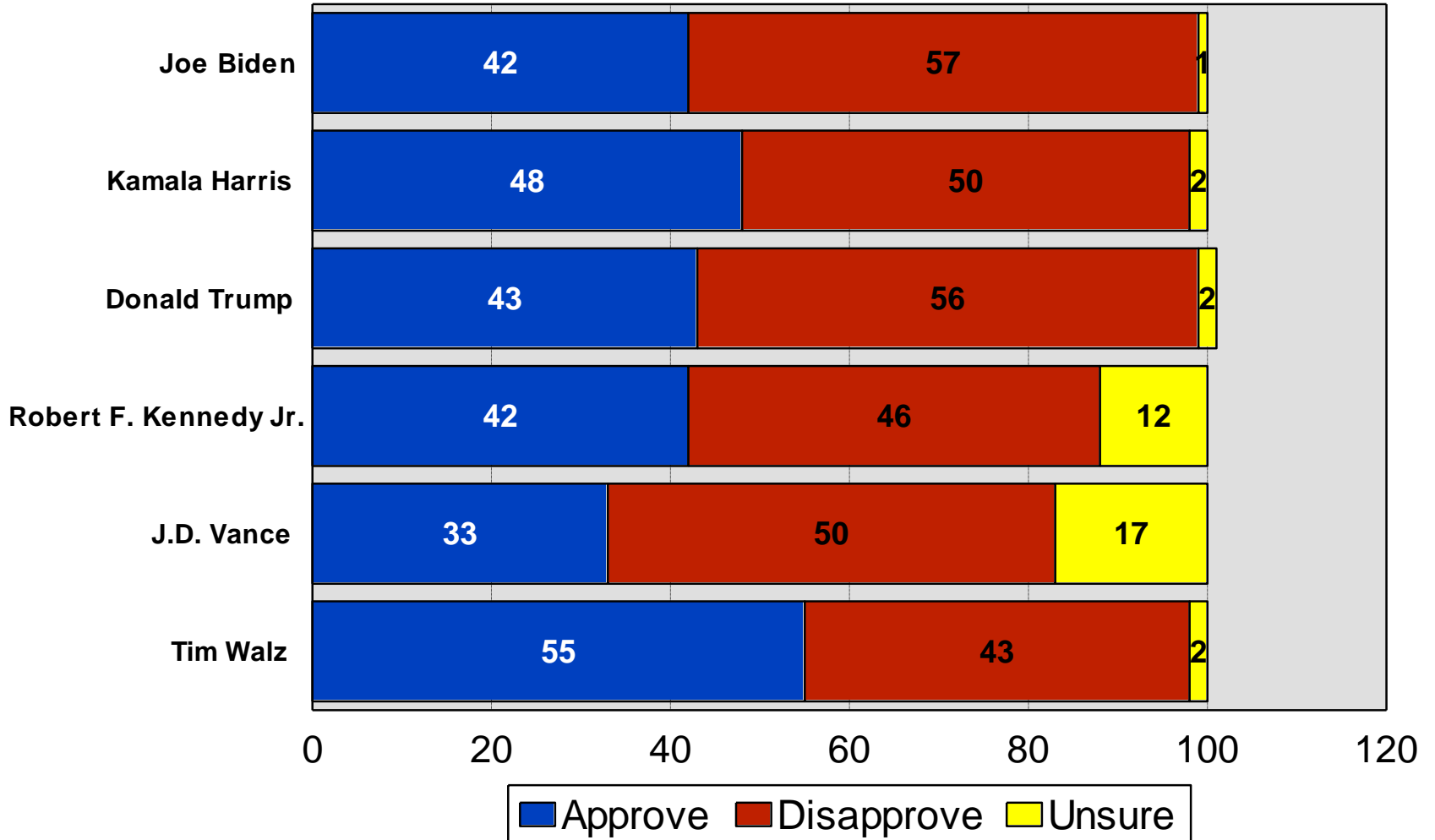
Local School District Meeting Expectations

2024 October Statewide Survey



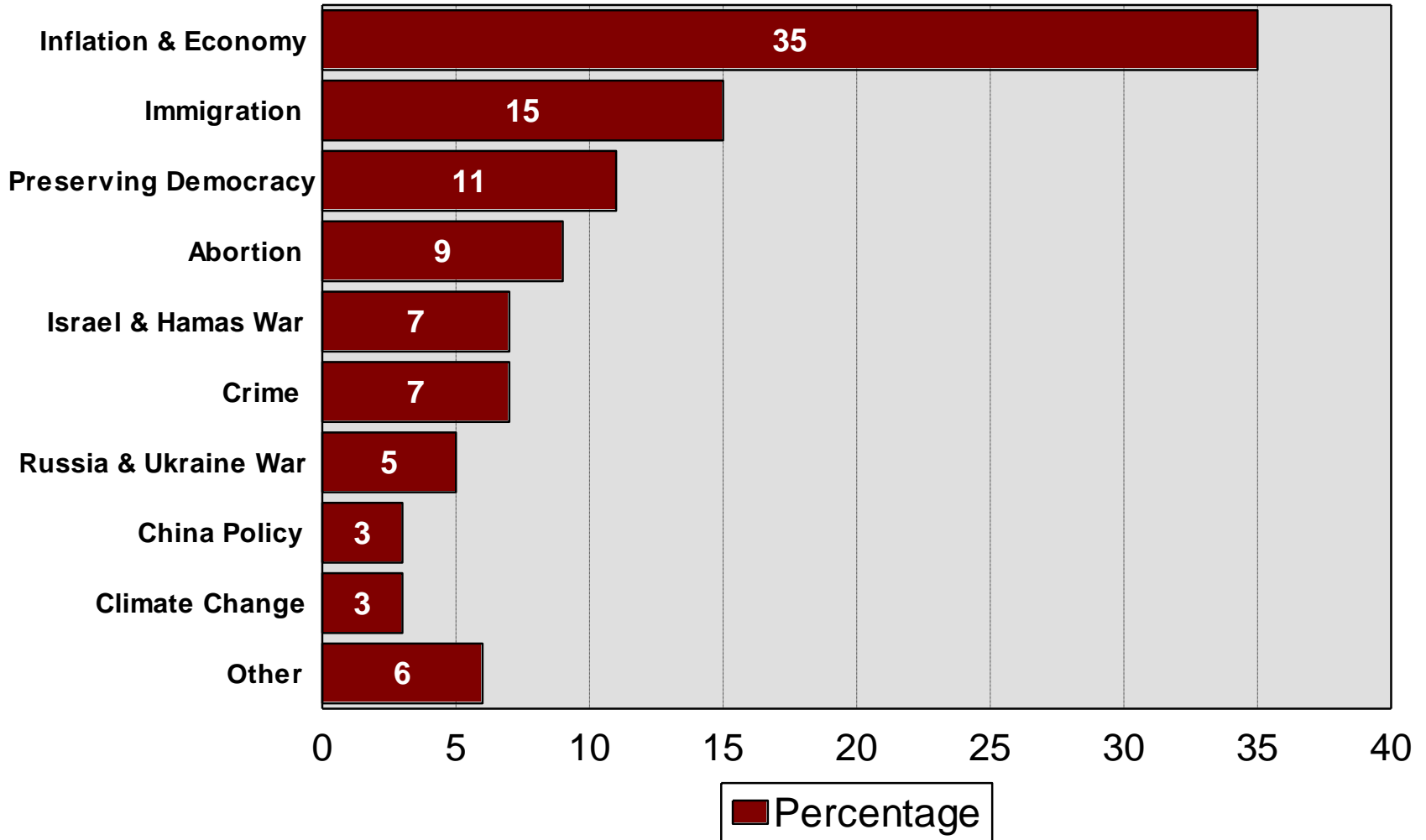
Job Performance Ratings

2024 August Statewide Survey



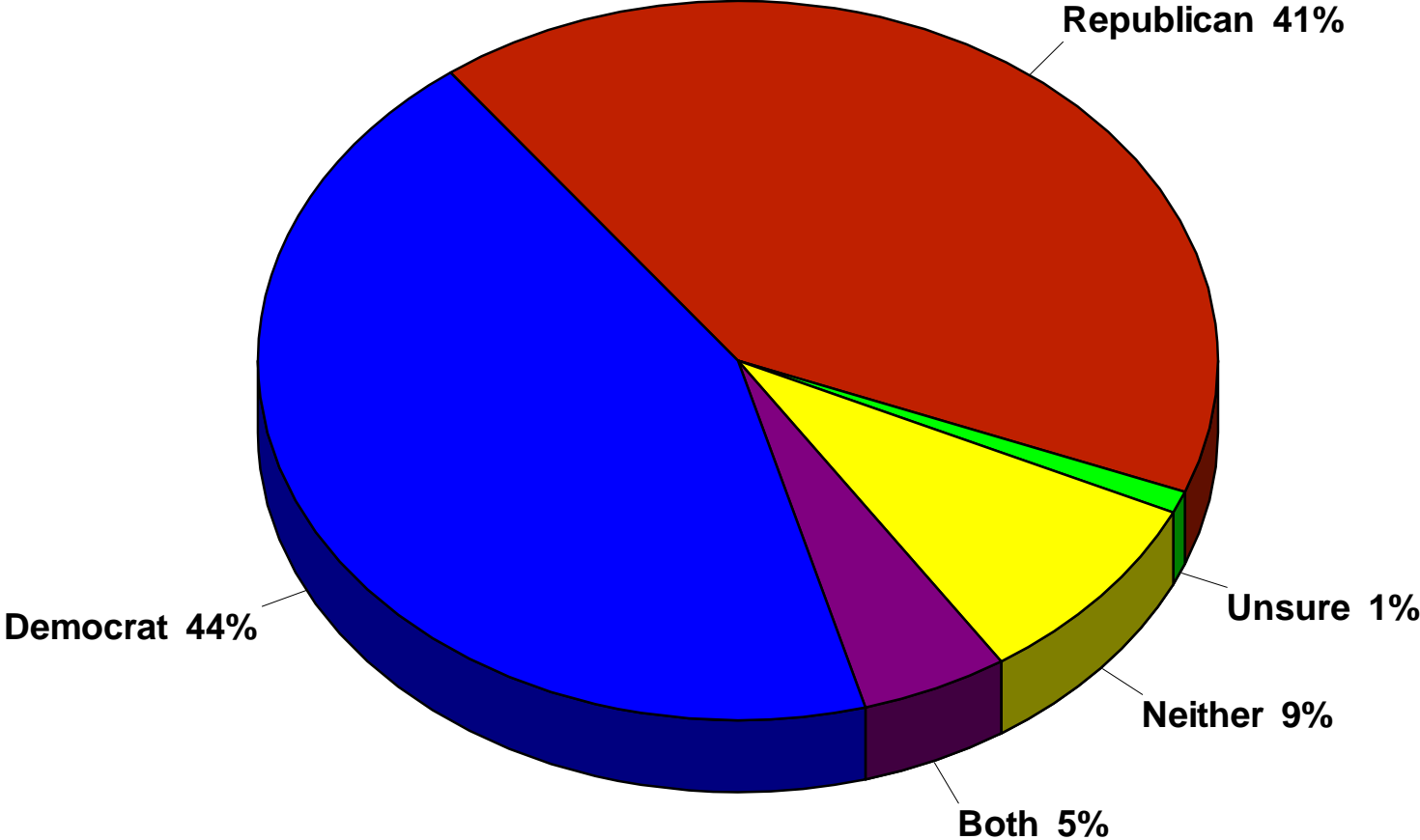
Issue determining your vote....

2024 October Statewide Survey



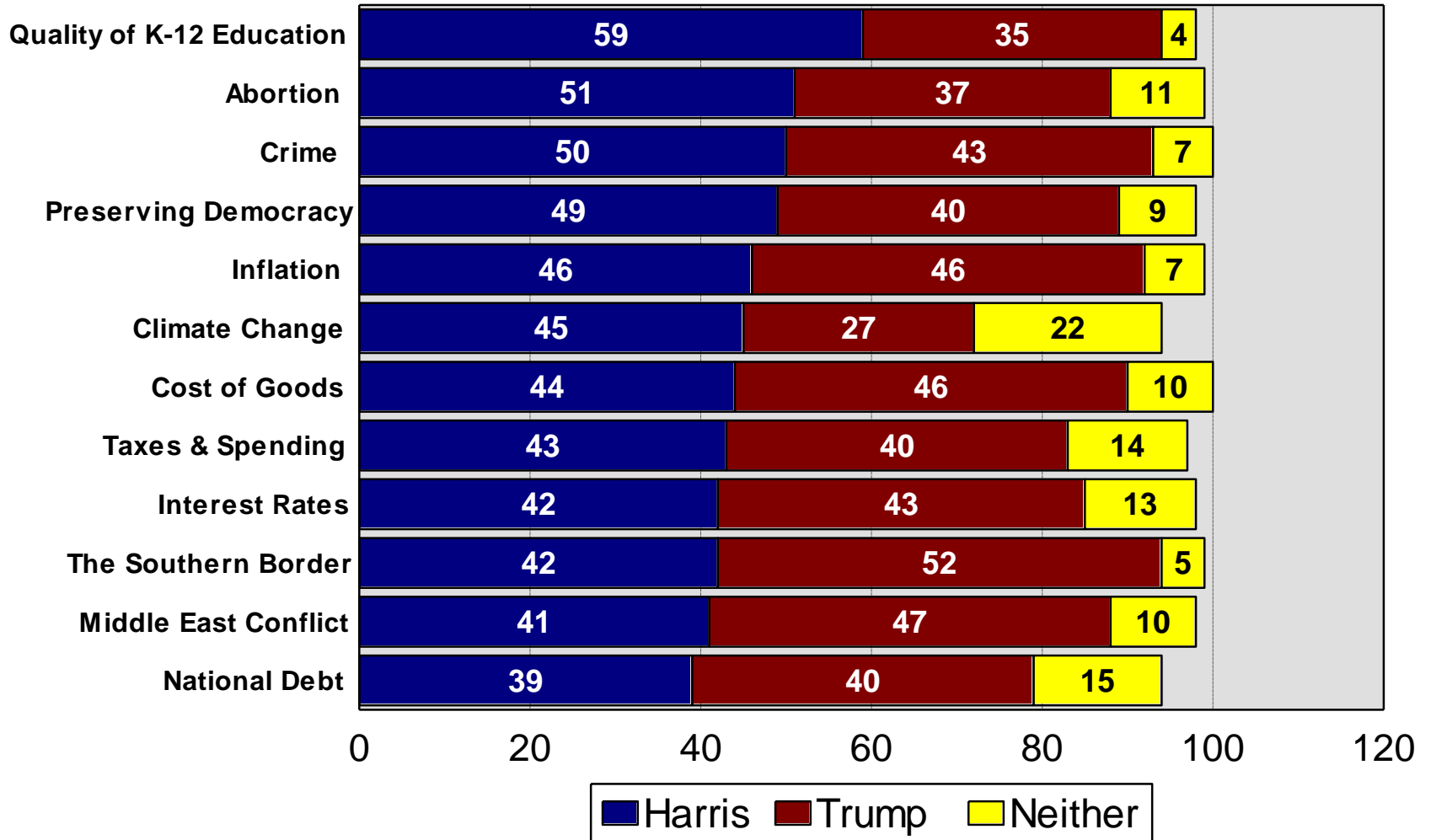
Trust to Address Top Issue

2024 October Statewide Survey



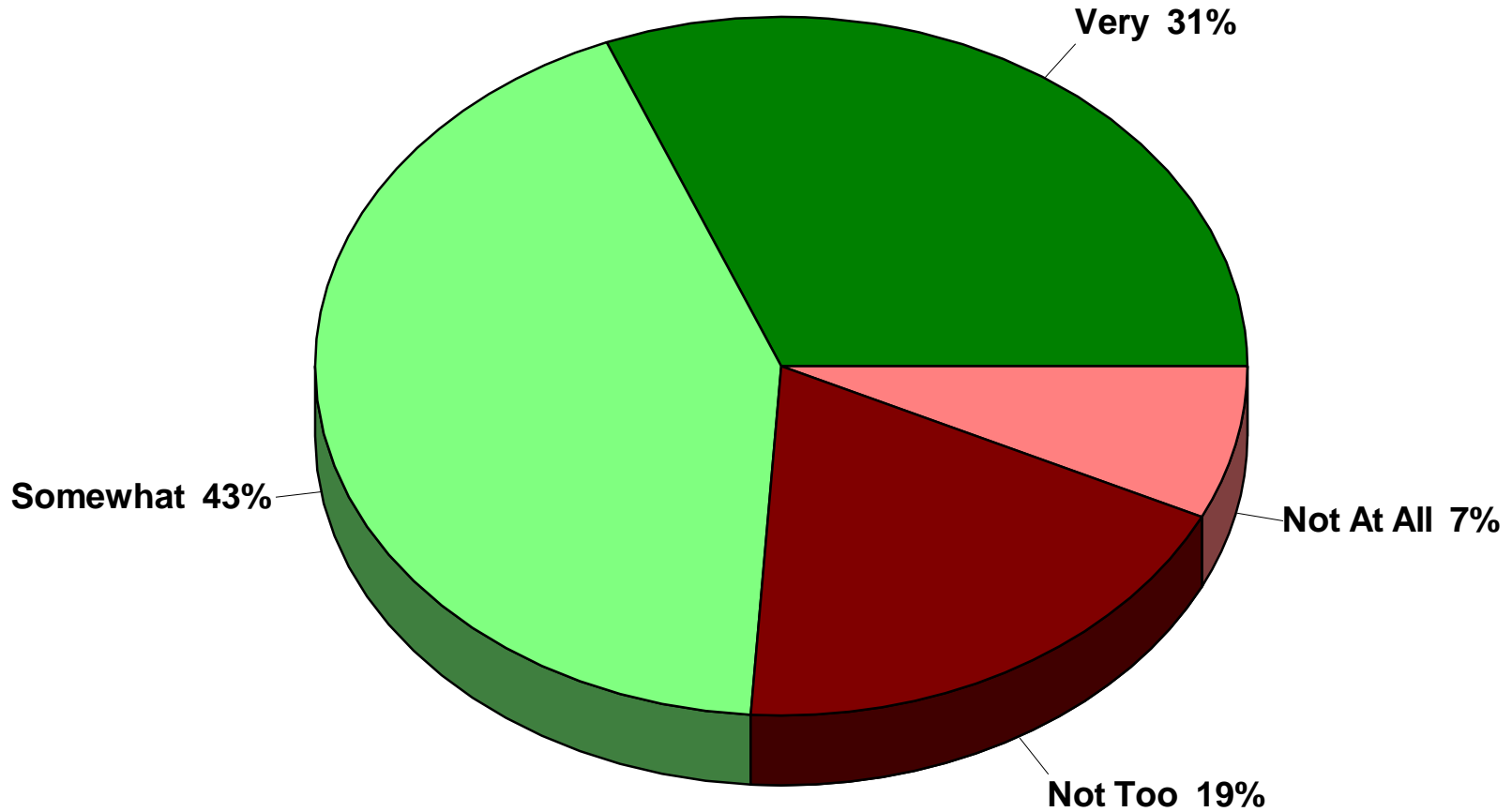
Trust Best to Handle Issue

2024 October Statewide Survey



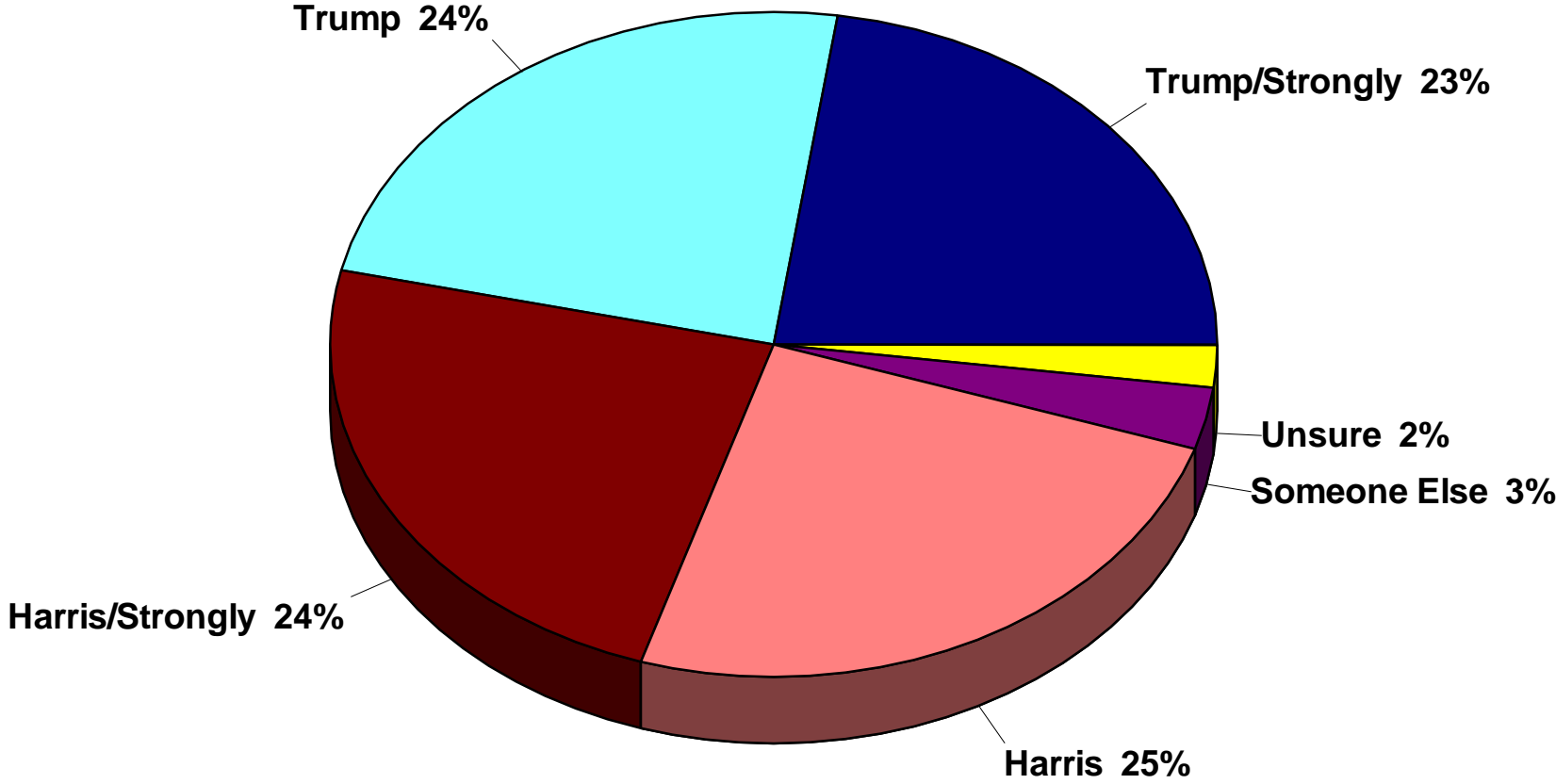
Enthusiastic about Election

2024 October Statewide Survey



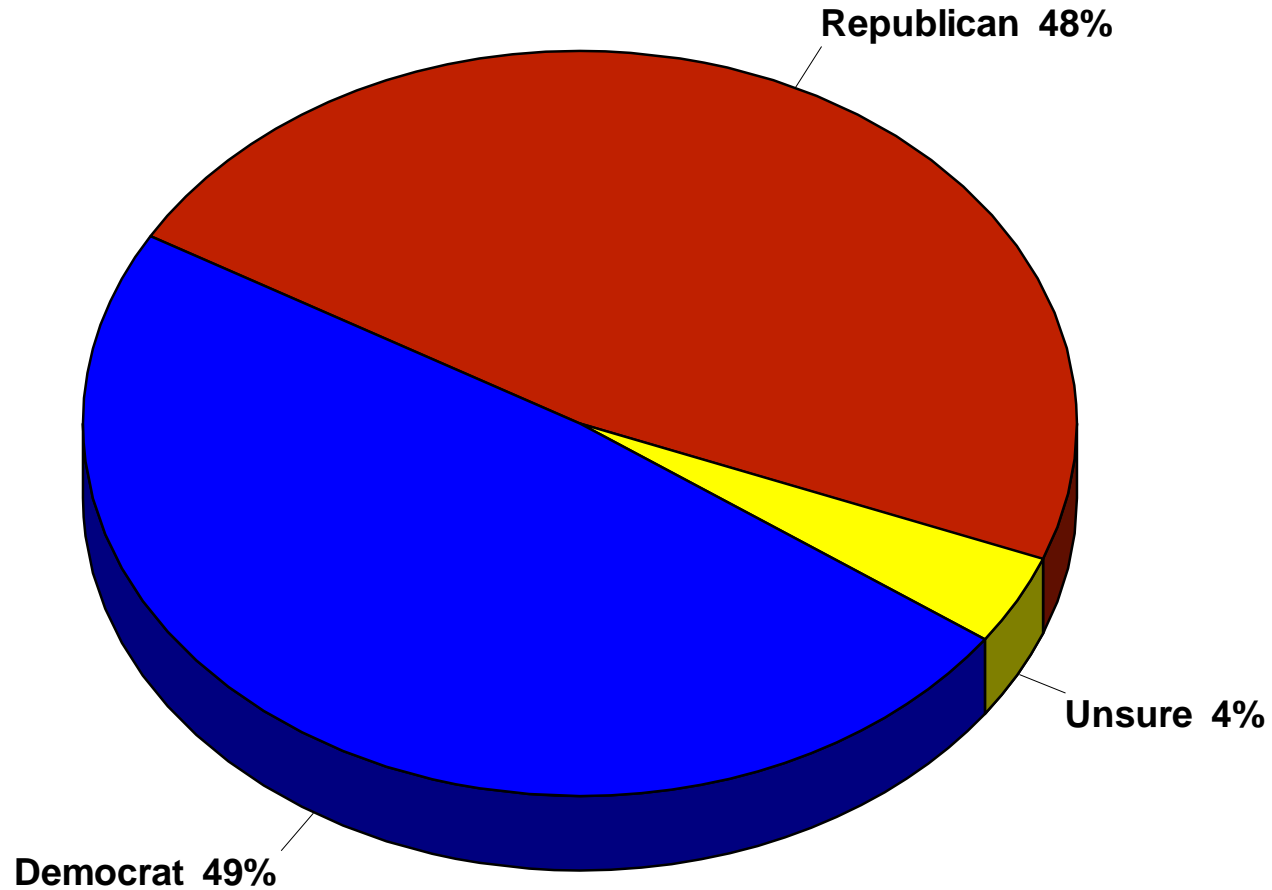
2024 Presidential Election

2024 October Statewide Survey



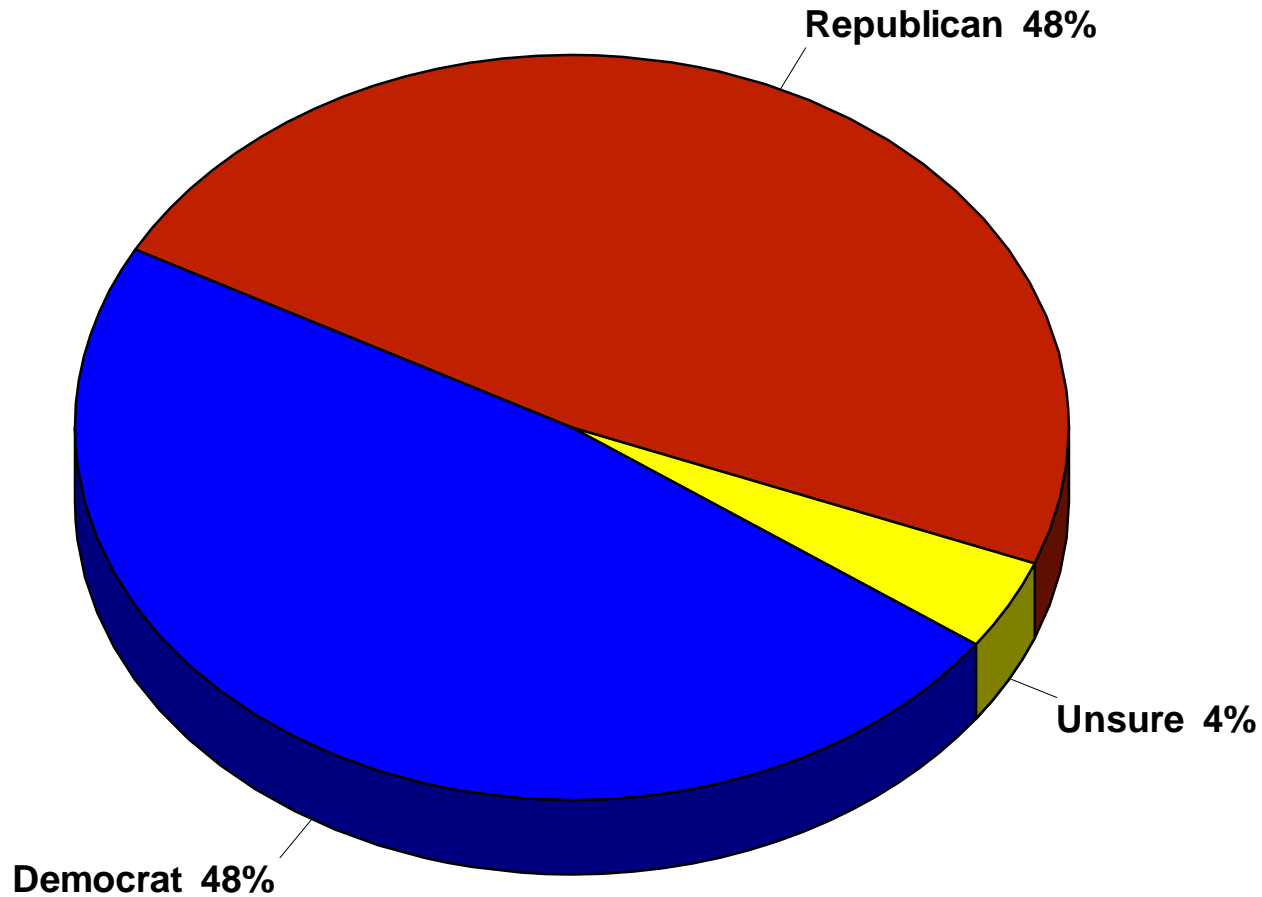
Support for U.S. House of Representatives

2024 October Statewide Survey



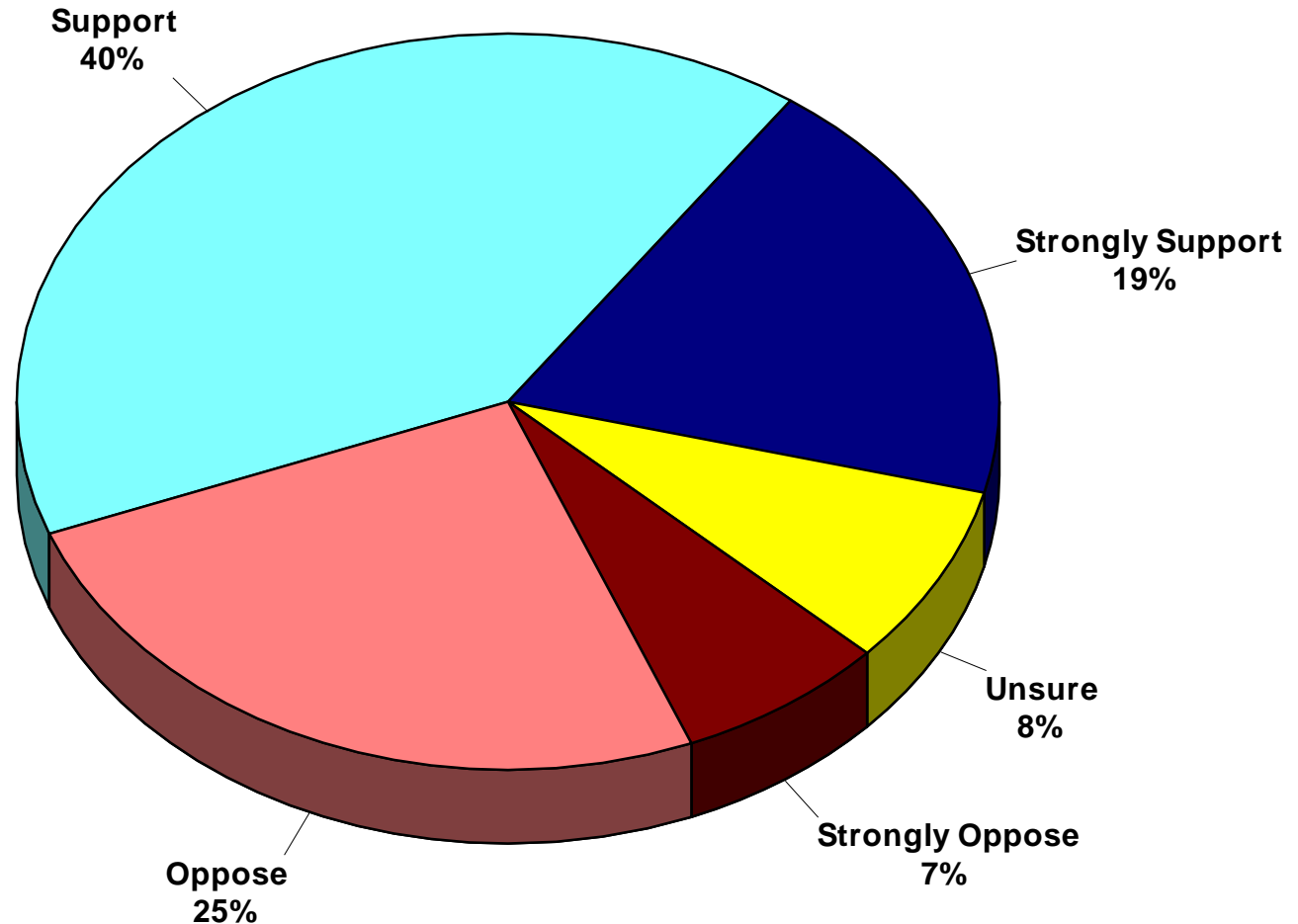
Support for Minnesota House

2024 October Statewide Survey



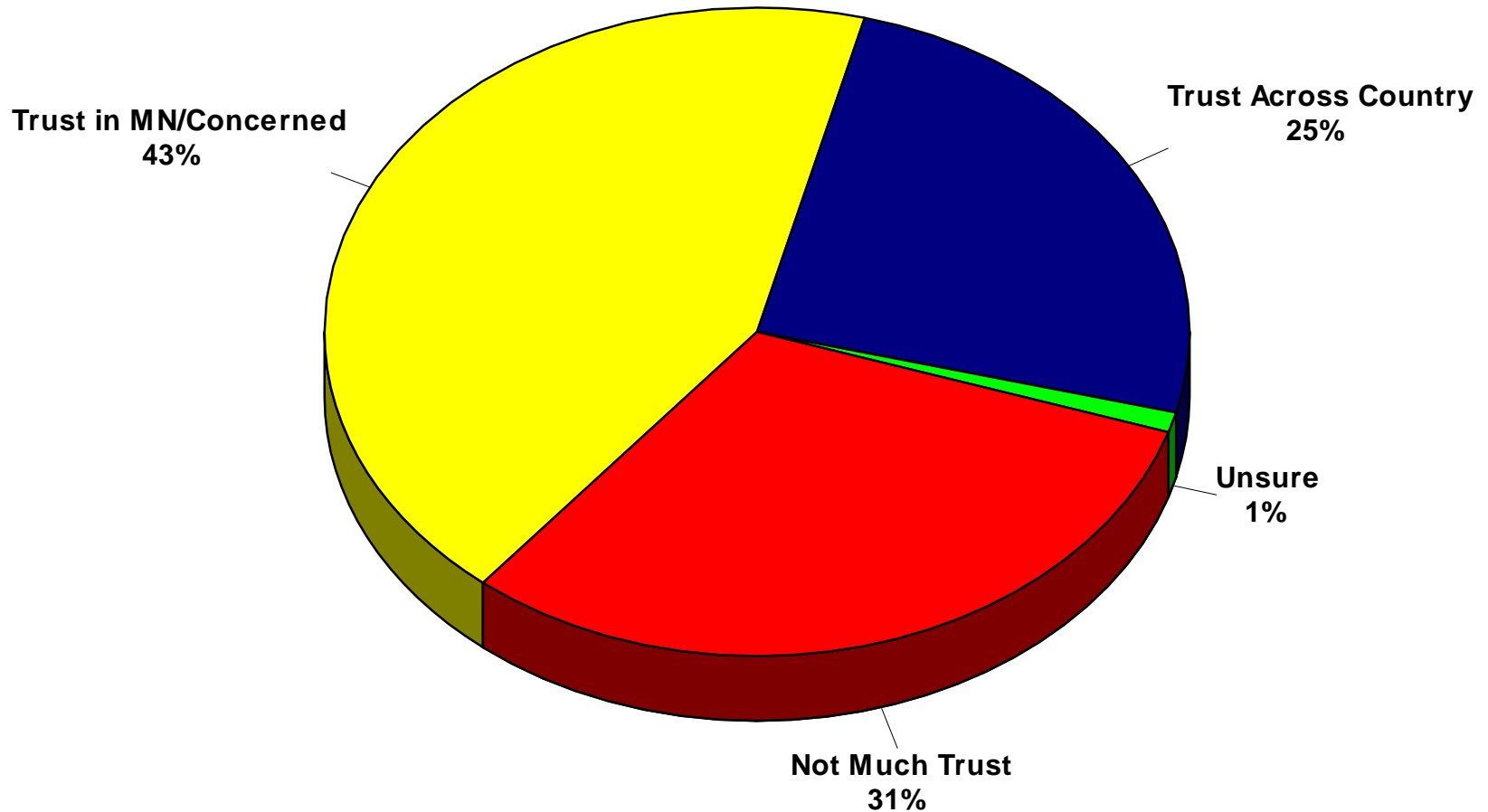
Maximum Age Limit for Federal Offices

2024 August Statewide Survey



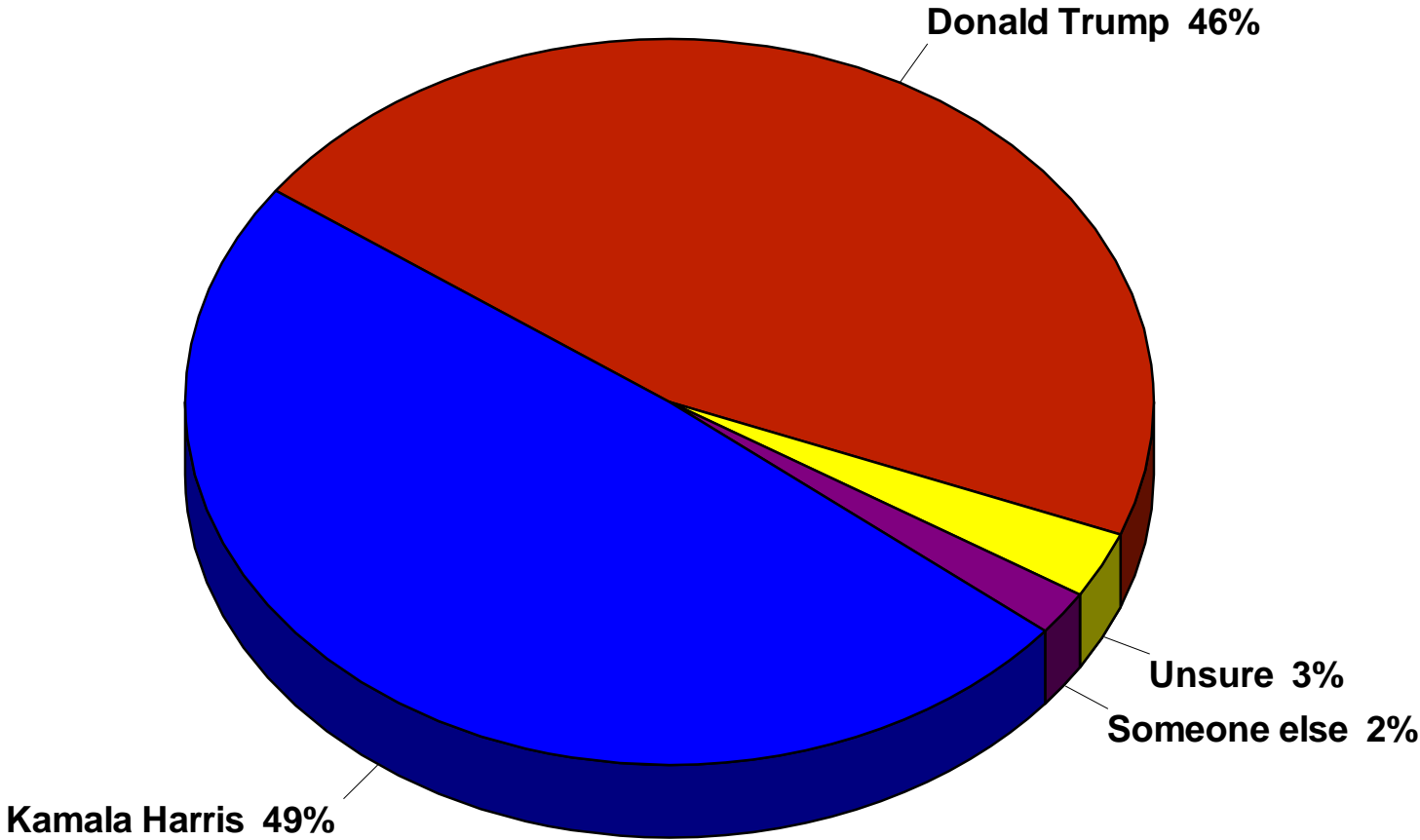
Trust in Elections Officials

2024 August Statewide Survey



Who will win the 2024 Presidential Election

2024 October Statewide Survey





Attendees:

Albany: **Scott Hanson**, **Anoka-Hennepin:** Michelle Trelstad, **Austin:** Cece Kroc, Joey Page, **Belle Plaine:** **Ryan Laager**, **Big Lake:** **Ashley Schabillion**, Tim Truebenbach, **Braham:** Connie Gelle, Ken Gagner, **Cambridge-Isanti:** **DeEtta Moos**, Mark Solberg, **Centennial:** Jeff Holmberg, Jessica Schwinn, **Chisago Lakes:** Brian Dietz, Lori Berg, **Jeff Lindman**, Sarah Aadland, **Delano:** Rachel Depa, **East Central:** Stef Youngberg, Angie Presley, Judy Loken, **Forest Lake:** **Hinckley-Finlayson:** Brian Masterson, **Kasson-Montorville:** Dave Thompson, **Kimball:** Erik Widvey, **Lake City:** Ariana Wright, **Melrose:** Greg Winter, Becky Feldewerd, **Mora:** Dan Voce, Amy Schultz, **New London Spicer:** Jamie Boelter, Del Brouwer, **New Prague:** Andy Vollmuth, Sandy Linn, **North Branch:** **Heather Naegele**, **Owatonna:** **Jeff Elstad**, **Paynesville:** Thomas Pierson, **Janelle Bullard**, **Princeton:** Ben Barton, Deb Ulm, **Rockford:** **Jeff Ridlehoover**, Beth Praska, **Sartell-St. Stephens:** Thomas Lee, Jen Smith, **Stewartville:** Belinda Selfors, **St. Francis:** Karsten Anderson, **St. Michael-Albertville:** **Ann-Marie Foucault**, Sonja Buckmeier, Travis Weber, **Waconia:** Brian Gersich

*****Names in blue are Executive Committee Board Members*

Guests:

Brightworks: Bill Harvey, **Blue Earth Area:** Mandy Fletcher

SEE:

Brad Lundell, Kim Springer, Kristen Hoheisel

**SAFF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MINUTES May 23, 2024**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by DeEtta Moos at 9:32 a.m.

II. AGENDA REVIEW

DeEtta Moos reviewed the agenda. Ridlehoover/Gersich. Motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

III. PROGRAM

MDE Finance Director Cathy Erickson and MDE Director of Government Relations Adosh Unni shared provisions in the 2024 bills recently signed by the Governor. Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) Executive Director Michelle Hersh Vaught also spoke about legislative changes to teacher licensure.

IV. SECRETARY'S REPORT

President DeEtta Moos shared the minutes from the April 26, 2024 general membership meeting. Anderson/Gagner. Motion to approve the April 26, 2024 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

Executive Board Treasurer Jeff Elstad reviewed the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual Statement. Anderson/Ridlehoover. Motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Lundell reflected on the 2024 legislative session. He also shared the history of he became a lobbyist for this organization. He thanked all who worked with him in the past, current and all members of SEE.

VII. ELECTION of EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

President Moos shared the 2024-2025 Election of Executive Board Members Ballot. Open positions include president-elect, secretary, and three directors at large (all positions unopposed). Heather Naegele (North Branch) was elected as the president-elect, Ann-Marie Foucault (STMA) was elected as secretary, and Scott Hanson (Albany), Deb Ulm (Princeton), and Jeff Lindman (Chisago Lakes) were elected as directors at large. The secretary and directors at large are three-year terms (2025-2028) while the president-elect is a two-year team (2024-2026). Barton/Thomas. Motion to elect candidates listed on the 2024-2025 Election of Executive Board Members Ballot. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. APPROVAL OF FEES 2024-2025

Executive Board Director, Superintendent Ryan Laager shared the proposed membership fees for 2024-2025. He also explained the fee structure. Ridlehoover/Barton. Motion to approve the 2024-2025 membership fees as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. MEMBER RECOGNITION

Executive Director Brad Lundell recognized Executive Board Director Sue VanHooser, Princeton School Board member for her years of service in SEE. Executive Board Director, Superintendent Ryan Laager recognized Executive Director Brad Lundell for his many years of service to SEE.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Gagner/Ridlehoover. Motion to adjourn at 11:49 am. Motion carried unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted,
Ann-Marie Foucault*

Schools Advocating for Fair Funding
Balance Sheet
As of September 30, 2024

	Sep 30, 24
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
100 · Cash	
105 · Cash - Checking	3,143
110 · Cash - Savings	169,450
Total 100 · Cash	172,593
Total Checking/Savings	172,593
Accounts Receivable	
150 · Accounts Receivable	(0)
Total Accounts Receivable	(0)
Other Current Assets	
160 · Prepaid Expenses	(7)
Total Other Current Assets	(7)
Total Current Assets	172,586
Other Assets	
185 · Accumulated amortization	(7,500)
180 · Capitalized software - website	15,000
Total Other Assets	7,500
TOTAL ASSETS	180,086
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
250 · Accounts Payable	2,261
Total Accounts Payable	2,261
Other Current Liabilities	
2100 · Payroll Liabilities	(0)
260 · Payroll Withholdings Paya...	0
265 · Accrued Vacation Payable	(0)
Total Other Current Liabilities	(0)
Total Current Liabilities	2,261
Long Term Liabilities	
270 · Accrued Severance Payable	(0)
Total Long Term Liabilities	(0)
Total Liabilities	2,260
Equity	
390 · Net assets - unrestricted	123,947
3900 · Retained Earnings	(104,504)
Net Income	158,383
Total Equity	177,826
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	180,086

Schools Advocating for Fair Funding
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 July through September 2024

	Jul - Sep 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
400 · Revenues				
410 · Membership Dues	183,000	183,000	0	100%
440 · Interest Revenue	124	0	124	100%
Total 400 · Revenues	<u>183,124</u>	<u>183,000</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>100%</u>
Total Income	183,124	183,000	124	100%
Expense				
6560 · Payroll Expenses	1,452	1,452	0	100%
500 · Executive Director				
505 · Salary	0	0	0	0%
510 · Benefits	0	0	0	0%
Total 500 · Executive Director	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0%</u>
515 · Other Associate Services				
525 · Communications/Comm. Consult...	18,978	18,978	0	100%
530 · Financial and Admin. Consultant	0	0	0	0%
533 · Benefits - Comm Trainee	0	0	0	0%
Total 515 · Other Associate Services	<u>18,978</u>	<u>18,978</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>100%</u>
550 · Communication Services				
581 · Website	150	0	150	100%
555 · Newsletter	680	0	680	100%
565 · Telephone and Fax	140	0	140	100%
570 · Postage	130	0	130	100%
580 · Expanded Communications	173	0	173	100%
Total 550 · Communication Services	<u>1,274</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,274</u>	<u>100%</u>
600 · General and Admin. Expenses				
610 · Luncheon Expenses	0	0	0	0%
630 · Miscellaneous Expenses	285	0	285	100%
640 · Travel Expenses	139	0	139	100%
Total 600 · General and Admin. Expenses	<u>424</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>424</u>	<u>100%</u>
700 · Office/Secretarial Expenses				
720 · Supplies	0	0	0	0%
730 · Rent	84	0	84	100%
740 · Miscellaneous	30	0	30	100%
Total 700 · Office/Secretarial Expenses	<u>113</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>100%</u>
800 · Legal and Accounting Expenses				
815 · Accounting Services	2,500	2,500	0	100%
Total 800 · Legal and Accounting Expens...	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>100%</u>
Total Expense	<u>24,741</u>	<u>22,930</u>	<u>1,812</u>	<u>108%</u>
Net Income	<u><u>158,383</u></u>	<u><u>160,070</u></u>	<u><u>(1,688)</u></u>	<u><u>99%</u></u>



SAFF 2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The quality of a student's education should not depend on their zip code.

The levy equalization programs that promoted tax fairness and equitable access to educational programming across the public school system have greatly eroded since they were first established in the 1990's. Levies are a necessary component of the education funding system, but equalization formulas must be updated to protect students and property taxpayers in low property wealth districts.

Failure to update these programs is penalizing students and property taxpayers in low-property-wealth school districts. Improving levy equalization is SAFF's top budget priority for Minnesota Legislative action. Specifically, during the 2025 legislative session SAFF is advocating for:

Legislative Plank #1: Make Education-Related Levies Fairer & More Consistent by

- Converting all equalization formulas to fixed percentages of property tax wealth per pupil instead of fixed dollar amounts of property wealth per pupil. The current system relies too heavily on the latter format, which erodes state funded equalization as property valuations naturally increase. The former method will help keep state equalization support more consistent over time.

Legislative Plank #2: Improve the Stability of School Funding to Promote Greater Fairness

- Make certain that the new programs enacted in 2023—particularly the expansion of unemployment insurance and the investments in curriculum acquisition and professional development in the Read Act—are fully funded and that new cross-subsidies are not created for school districts to navigate.
- Increase the amount of Local Option Revenue a district can generate to the statewide average operating referendum revenue amount per pupil unit to provide support for districts without operating referenda.
- Increase the amount of revenue districts can access through the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue formula.
- Improve the Equity Formula to help districts that do not receive resources either through the current array of categorical formulas or the operating referendum.

Proper levy equalization programs promote tax fairness and help narrow funding gaps between high-property wealth and low-property-wealth school districts.

For questions or concerns contact:

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