



RONALD REAGAN INSTITUTE

Reagan Institute Summer Survey

Prepared by Beacon Research and Shaw & Company Research, June 2025



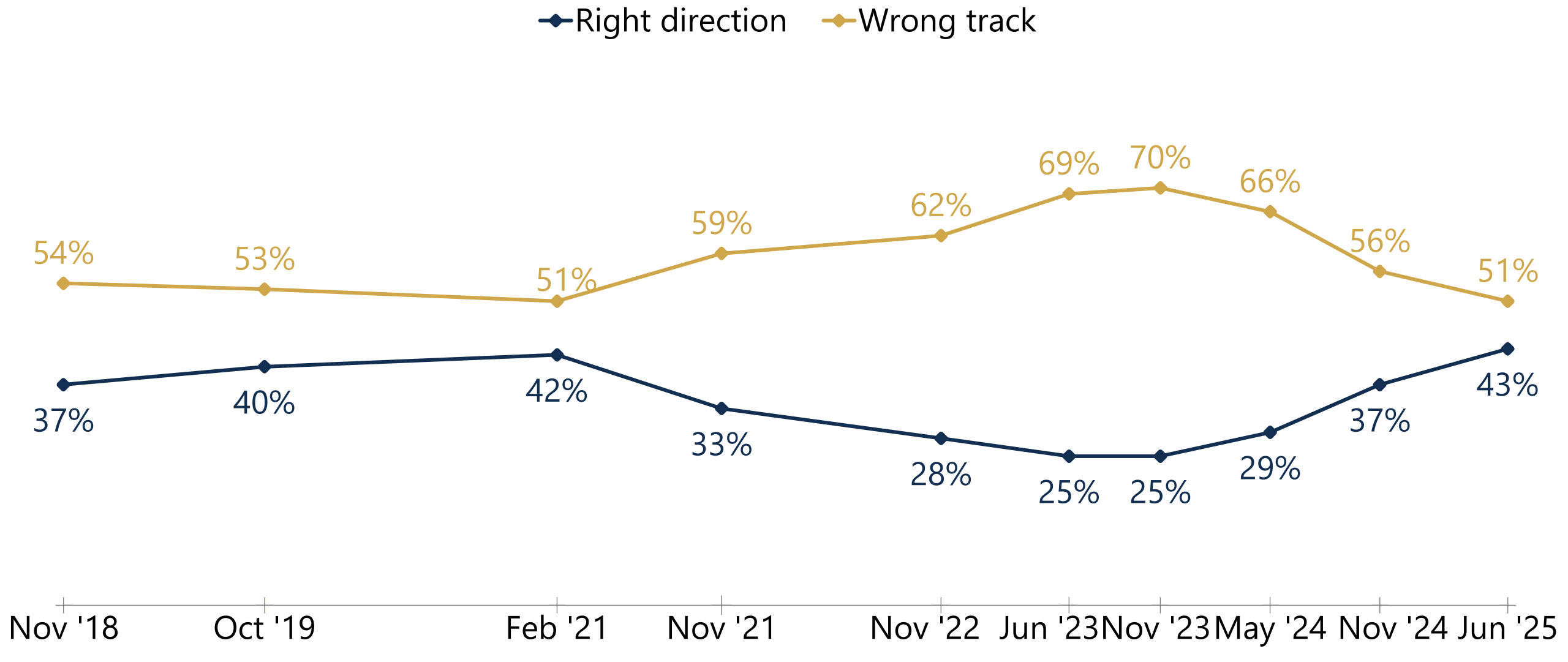
About the Survey

Mode	Combined telephone (n=478) and online panel (n=779) survey. Telephone interviews conducted by trained professionals calling landlines (50%) and cellphones (50%).
Sample	1,257 U.S. Adults.
Dates	May 27 – June 2, 2025
Weights	Slight weights were applied to ensure the sample accurately reflects the demographic profile of the U.S. population.
Margin of Error	±2.5% at the 95% confidence level for the entire sample, ±4% for split-sampled questions. The margin of error for subgroups is higher.
Research Partnership	 
Note	Some data may not add to 100% due to rounding.

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT



Pessimism about the direction of the country has declined.

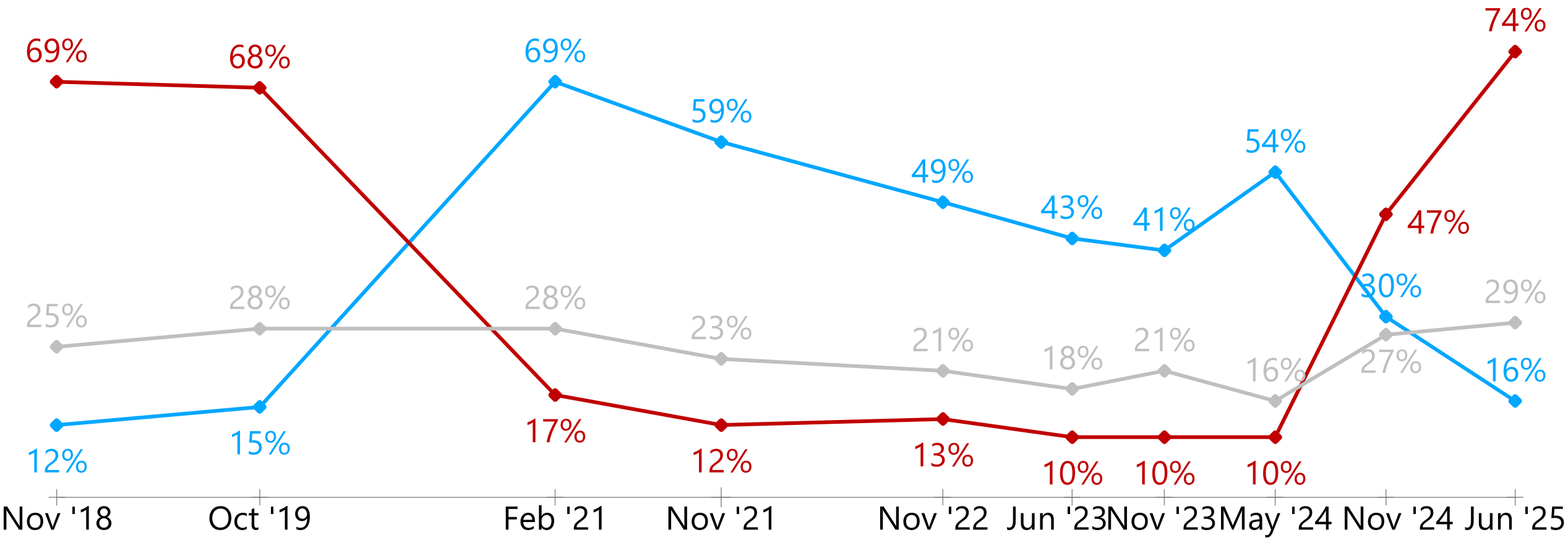


Q2. Would you say things in the United States today are heading in the...



Positive trend driven by Republicans.

Right Track ◆ Democrat ◆ Republican ◆ Independent



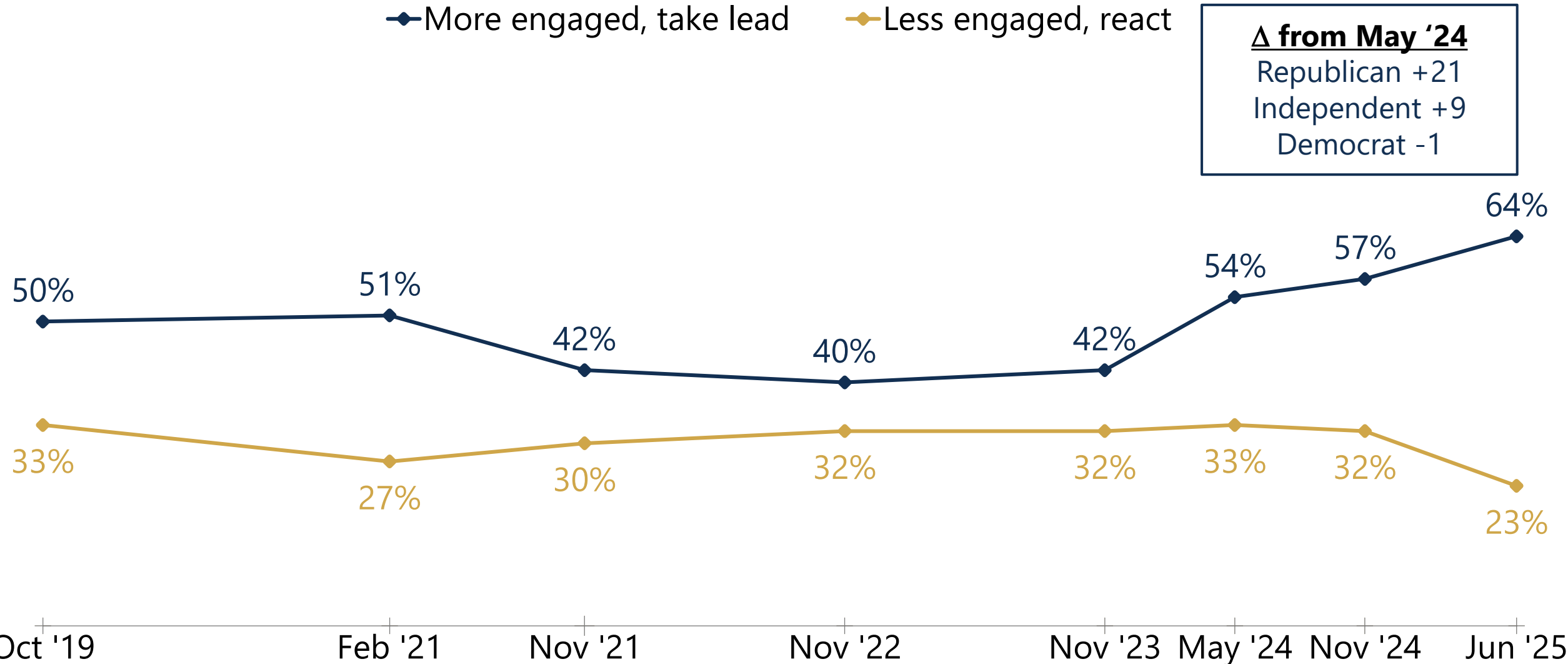
Q2. Would you say things in the United States today are heading in the...

FOREIGN POLICY PHILOSOPHY





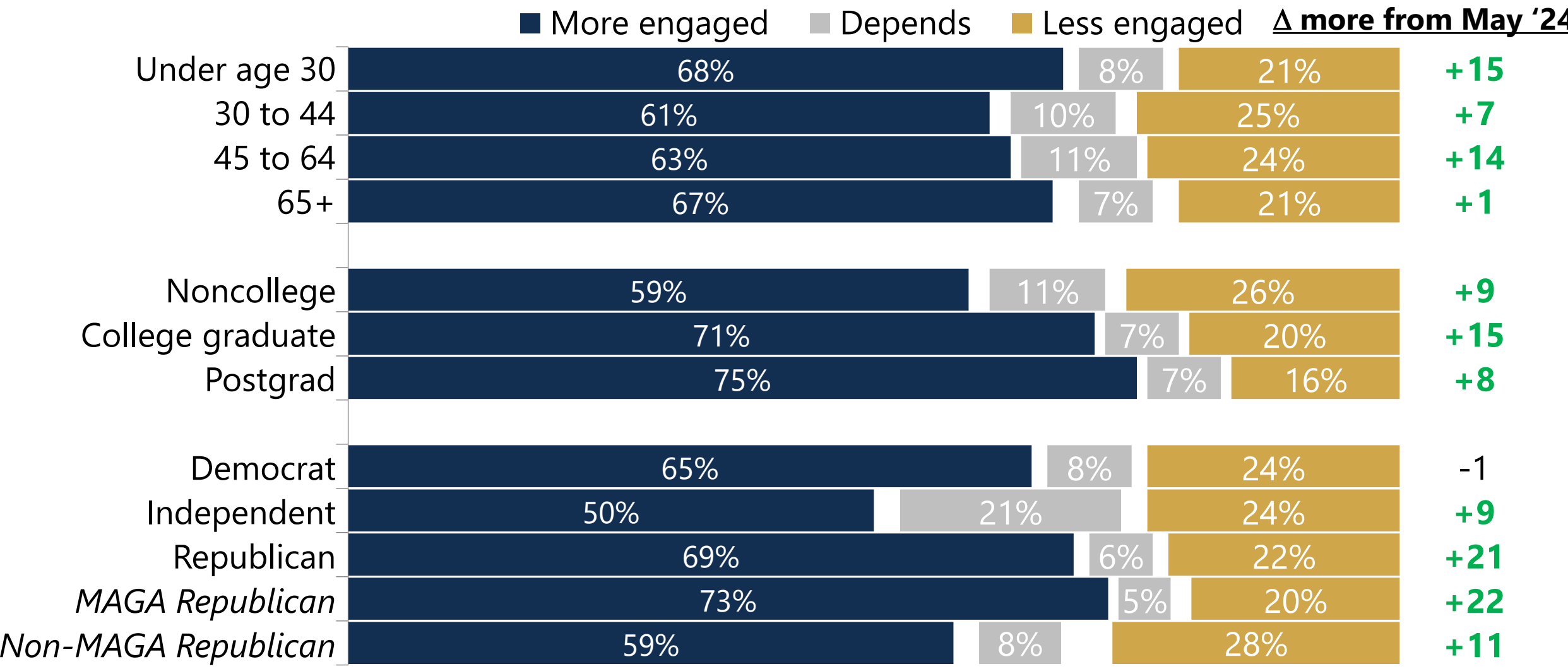
Americans increasingly want a more engaged foreign policy.



Q3. When it comes to international events, do you think it is better for the United States to be more engaged and take the lead, or to be less engaged and react to events?



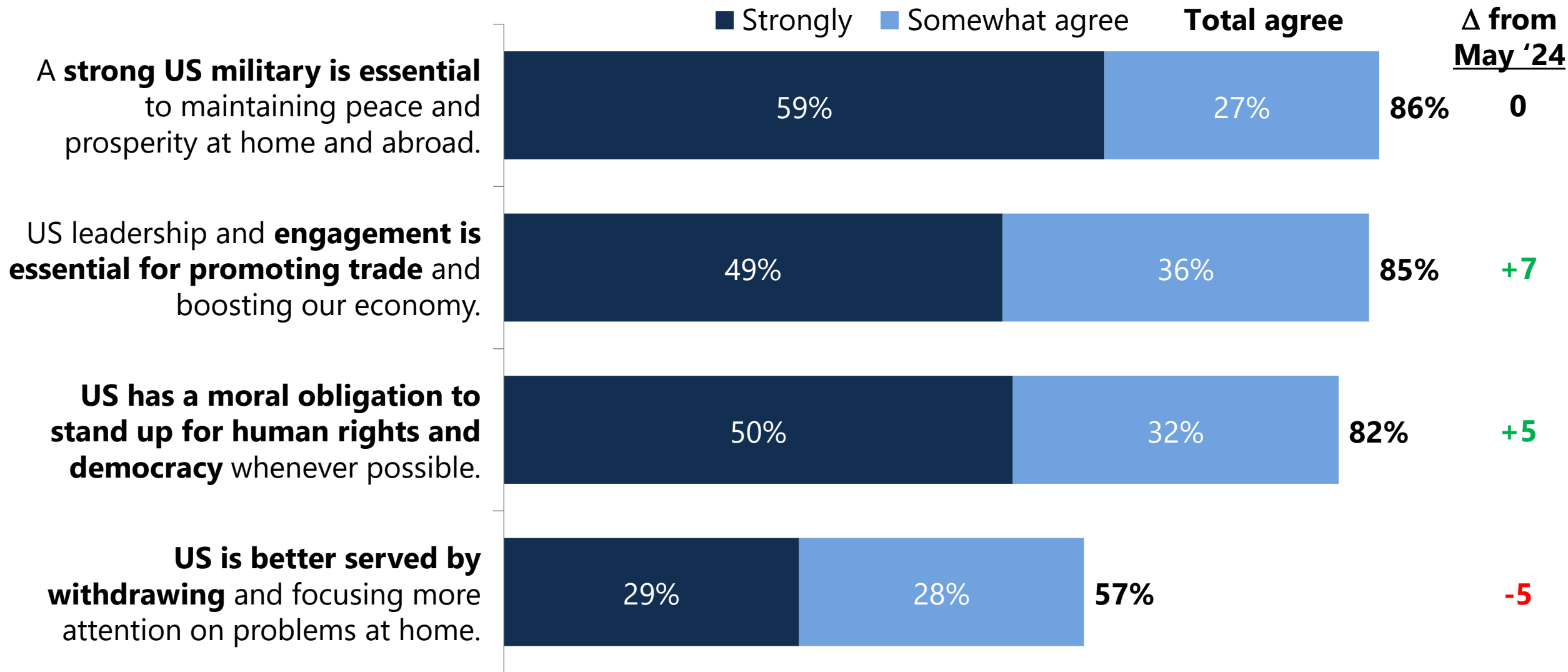
Preferred foreign policy posture, by subgroup.



Q3. When it comes to international events, do you think it is better for the United States to be more engaged and take the lead, or to be less engaged and react to events?

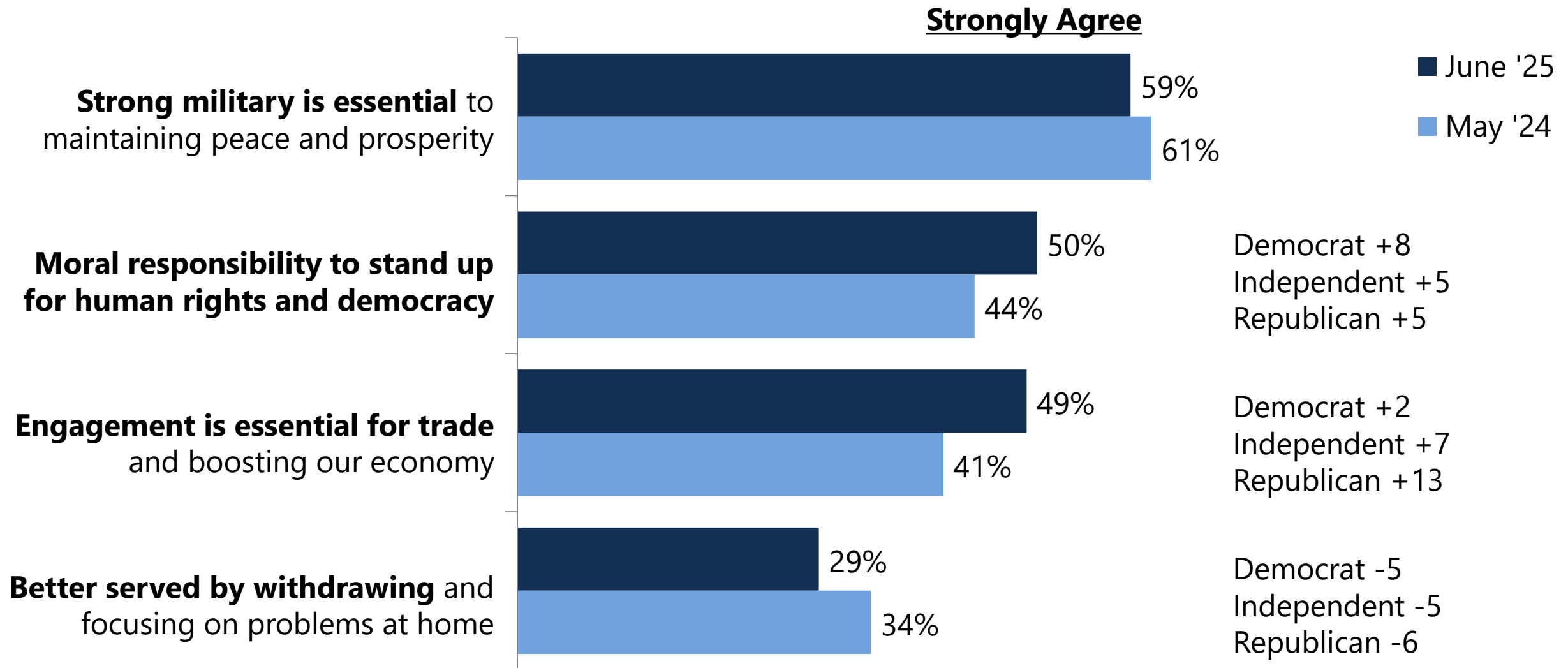


More agreement with specific forms of international engagement, than for isolationism.



Q4-7. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about US leadership and engagement in international events?

Increased agreement with human rights and economic rationales for engagement, more skepticism of isolationism.



Q4-7. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about US leadership and engagement in international events?



Views of foreign policy philosophy, by party ID.

Strongly Agree

Democrats

Republicans

Strong military is essential to maintaining peace and prosperity

47%

75%

Moral responsibility to stand up for human rights and democracy

63%

42%

Engagement is essential for trade and boosting our economy

50%

54%

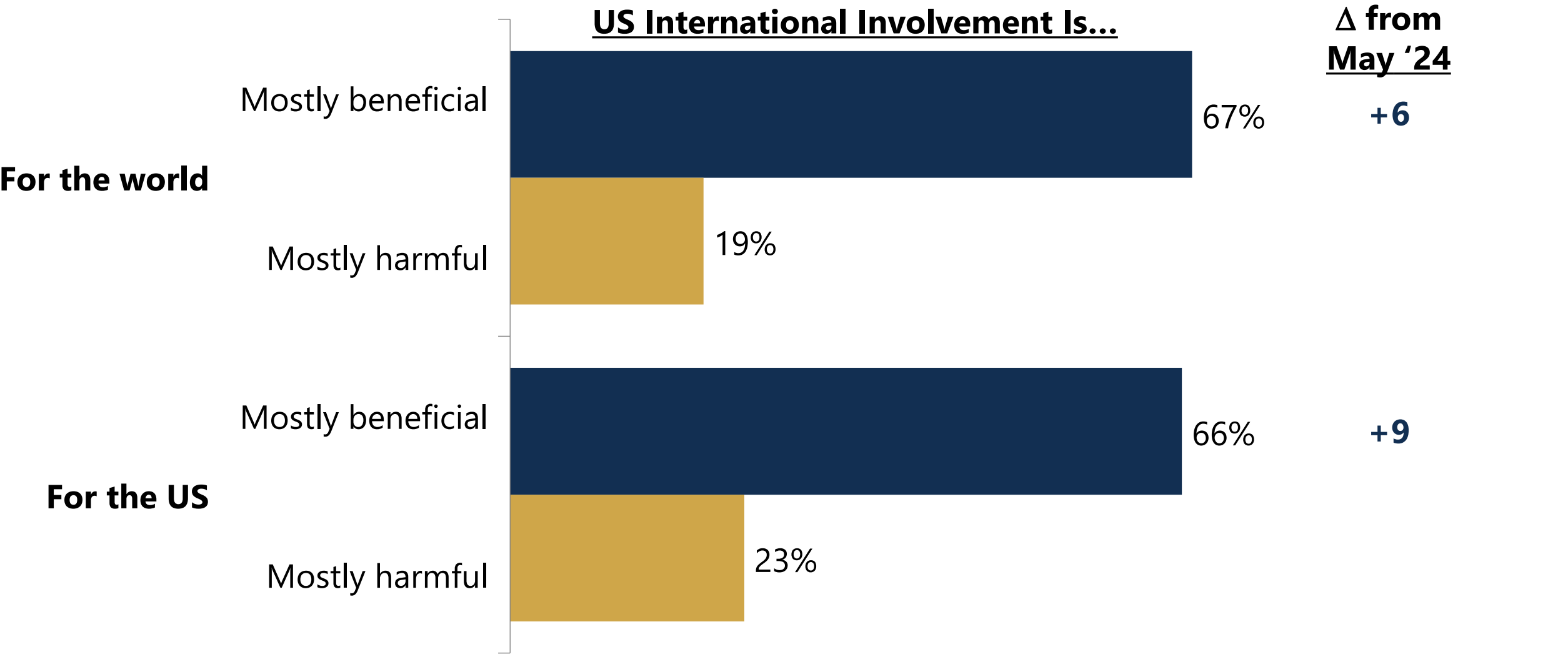
Better served by withdrawing and focusing on problems at home

23%

34%

Q4-7. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about US leadership and engagement in international events?

Two-thirds believe international involvement is beneficial to the country and the world.

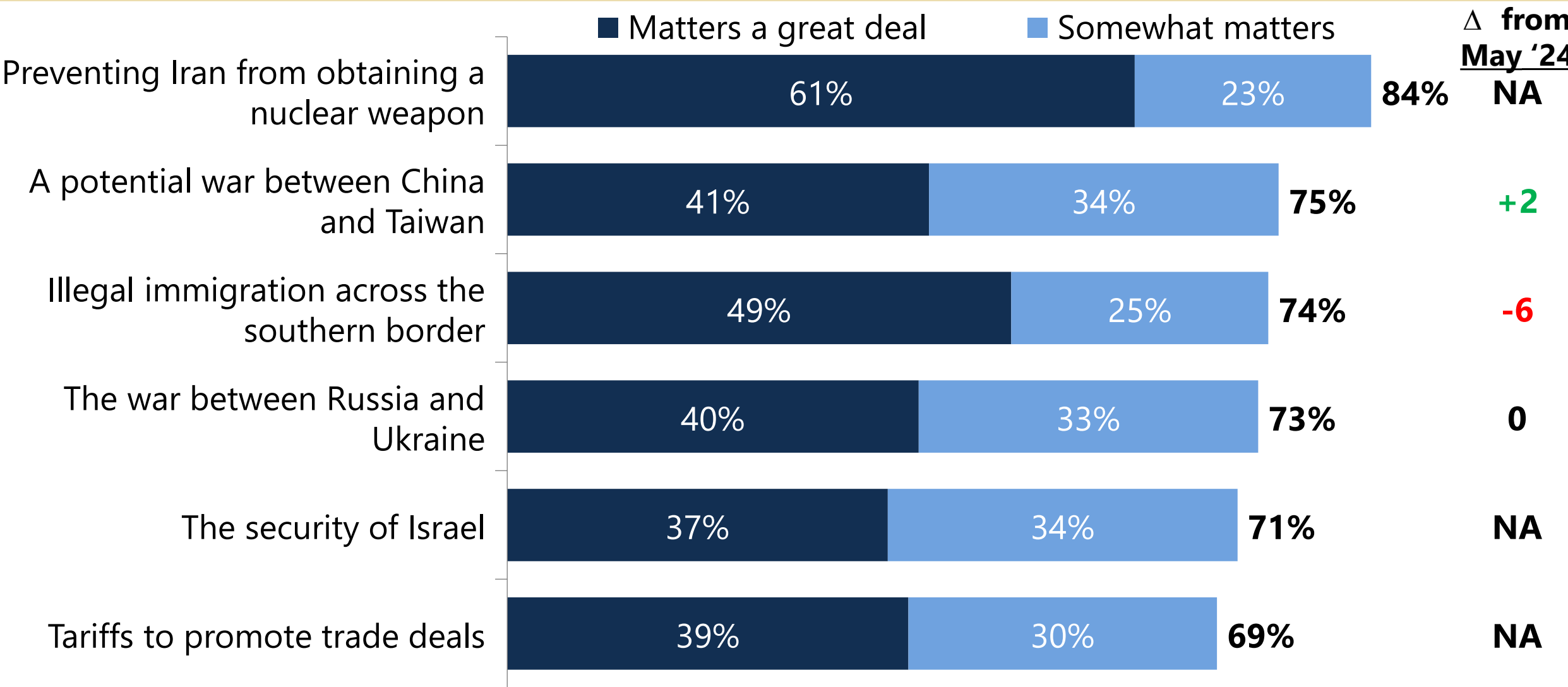


Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q8-9. Overall, do you think US involvement with international events is mostly beneficial for the world / for the US, or mostly harmful?



Preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon is seen as most consequential to US security.



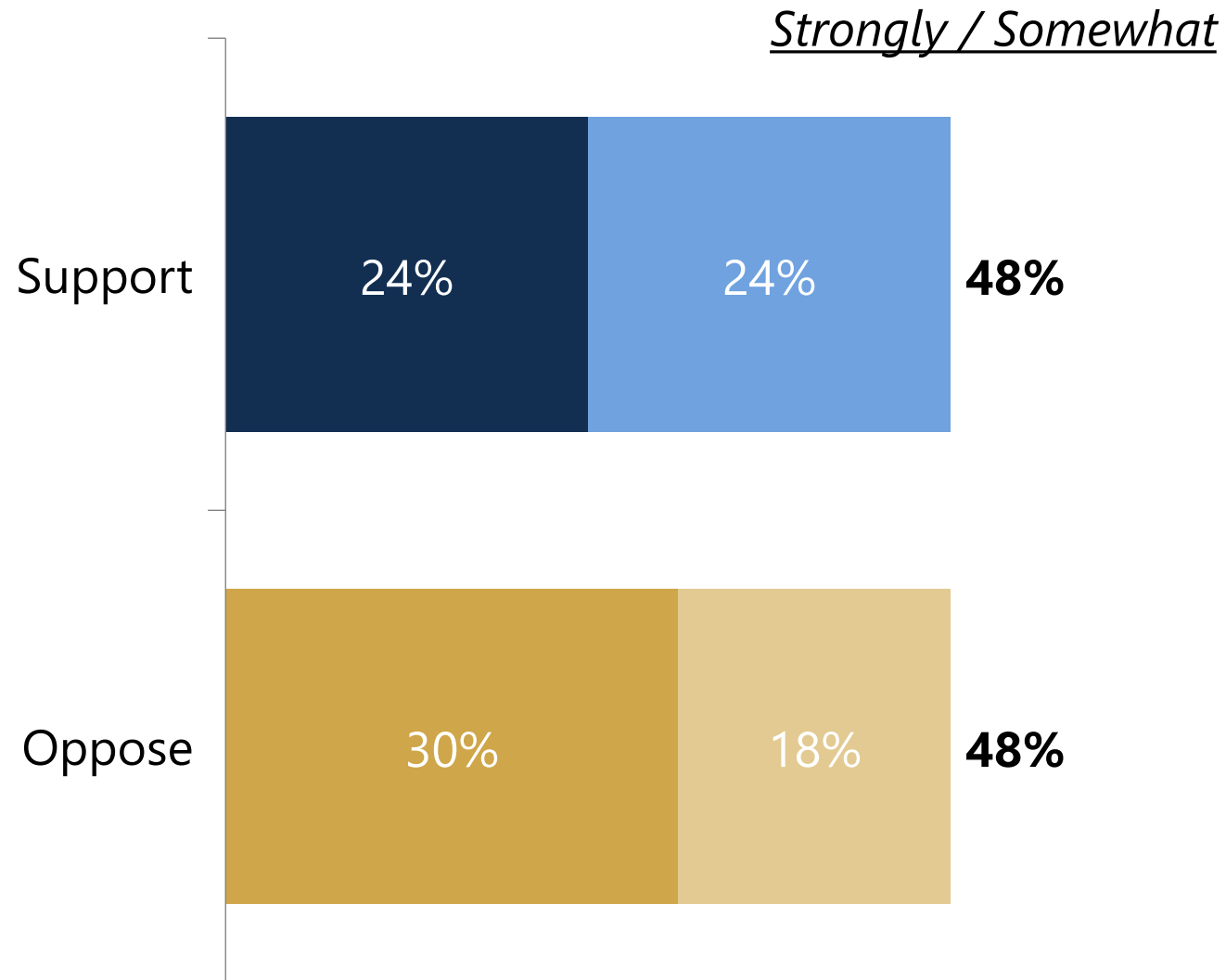
Q10-15. How much do you think each of the following matters to US security and prosperity?

TARIFFS AND TRADE POLICIES





Americans are split on tariffs as a foreign policy tool.

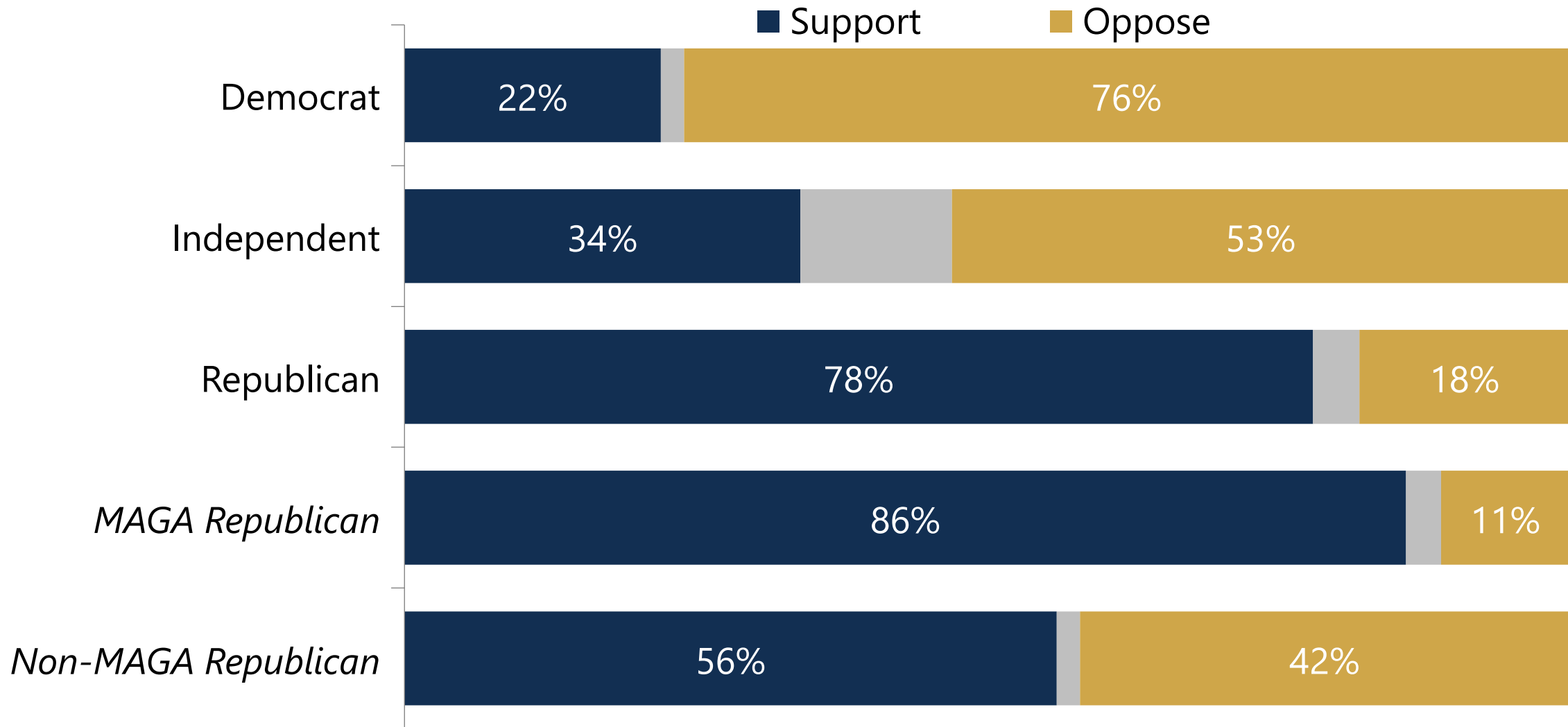


Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q16. Do you support or oppose the use of tariffs as a tool of US foreign policy?



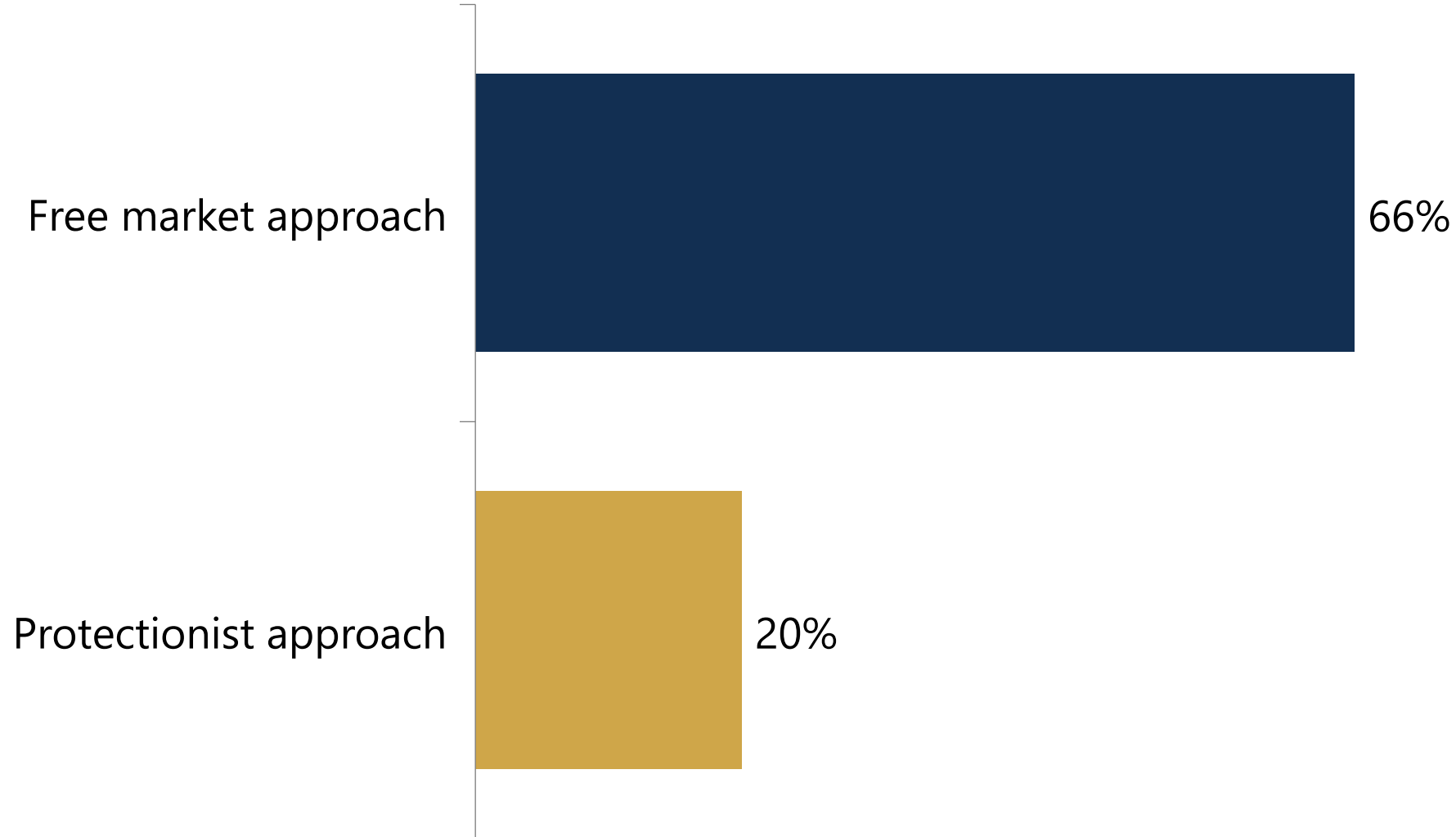
Views on tariffs, by PID.



Q16. Do you support or oppose the use of tariffs as a tool of US foreign policy?



Free market approach widely favored over protectionist.

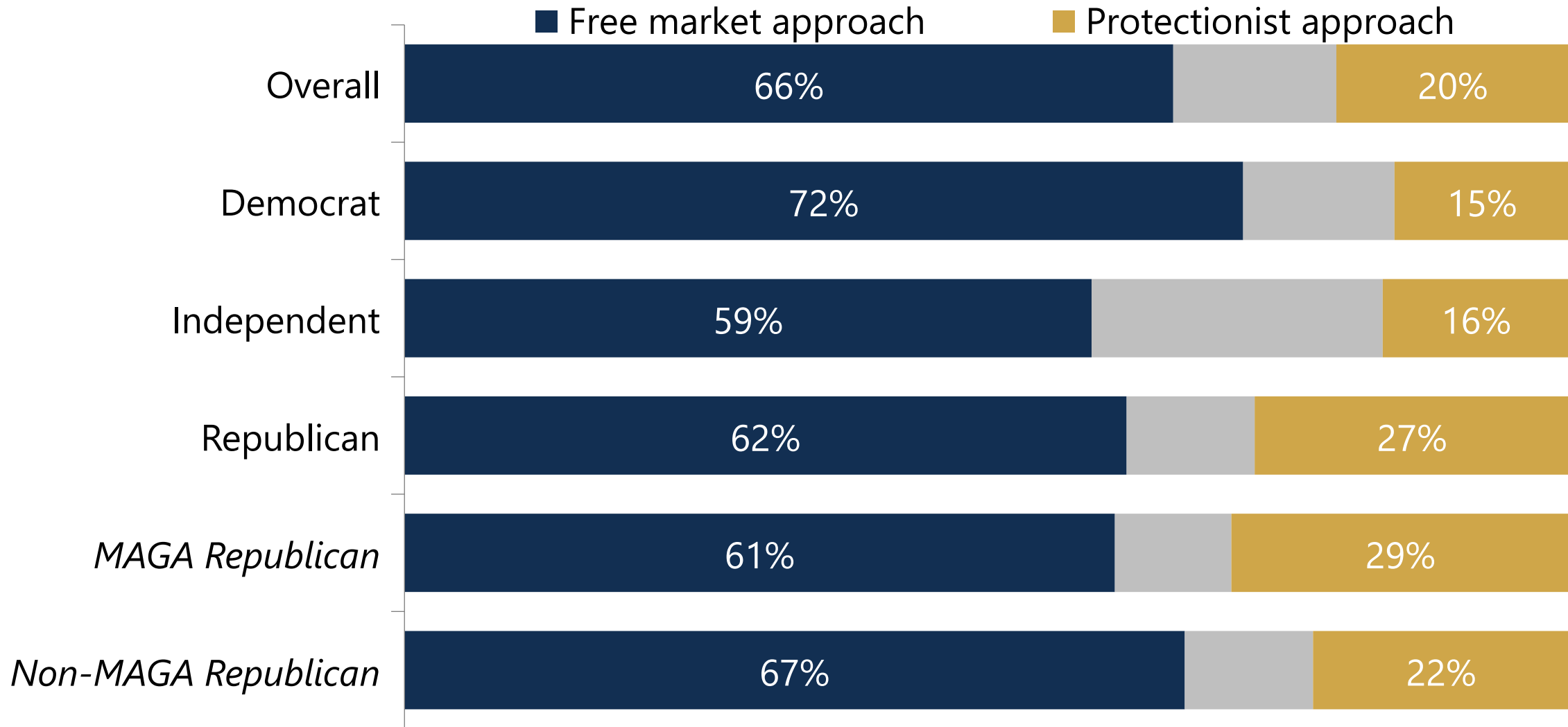


Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q17. When it comes to America's overall approach to trade policy, do you think the US should favor more of a free market approach with temporary and selective tariffs, or more of a protectionist approach with broad, long-term tariffs?



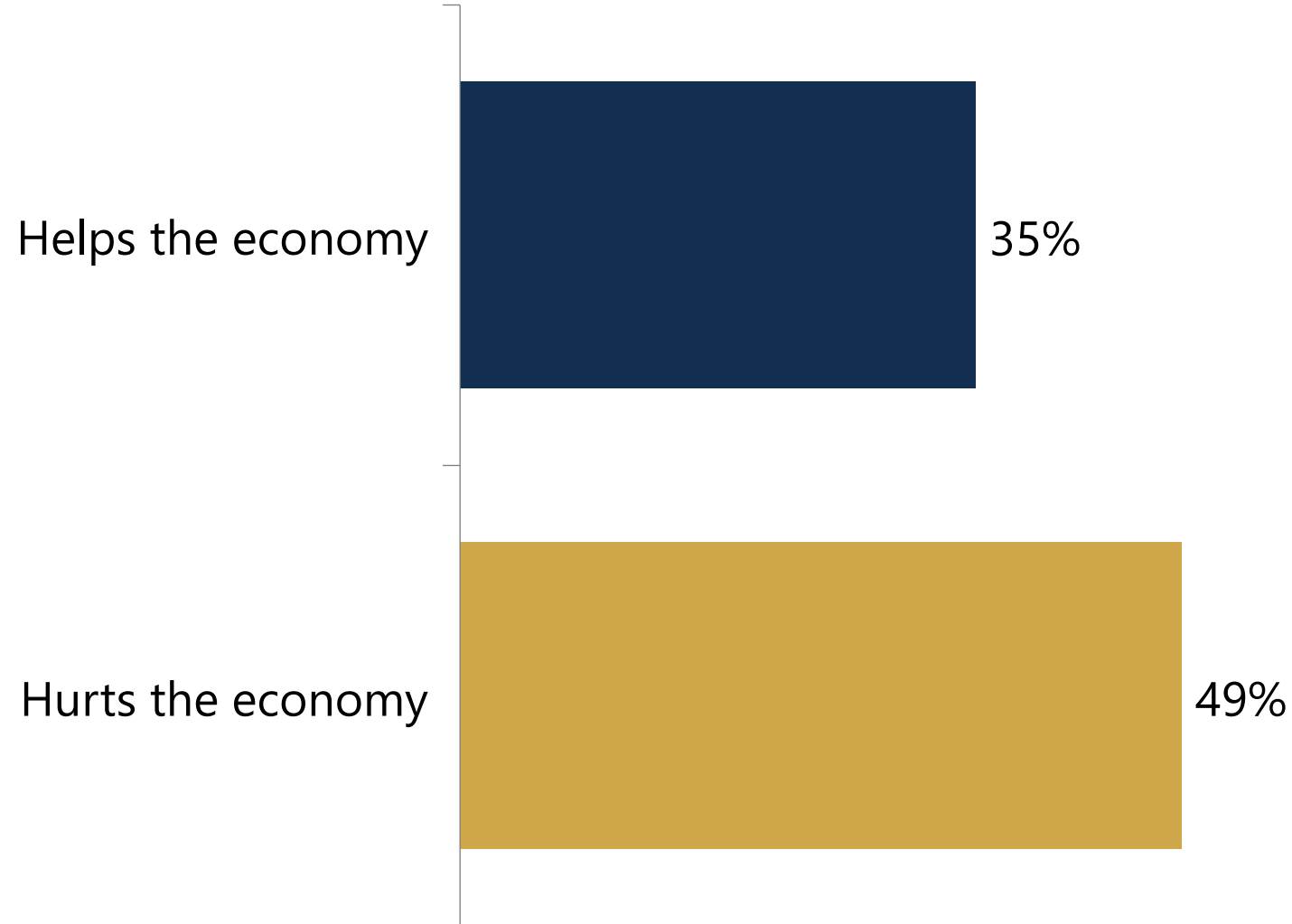
Trade philosophy, by PID.



Q17. When it comes to America's overall approach to trade policy, do you think the US should favor more of a free market approach with temporary and selective tariffs, or more of a protectionist approach with broad, long-term tariffs?



More think tariffs hurt than help the economy.

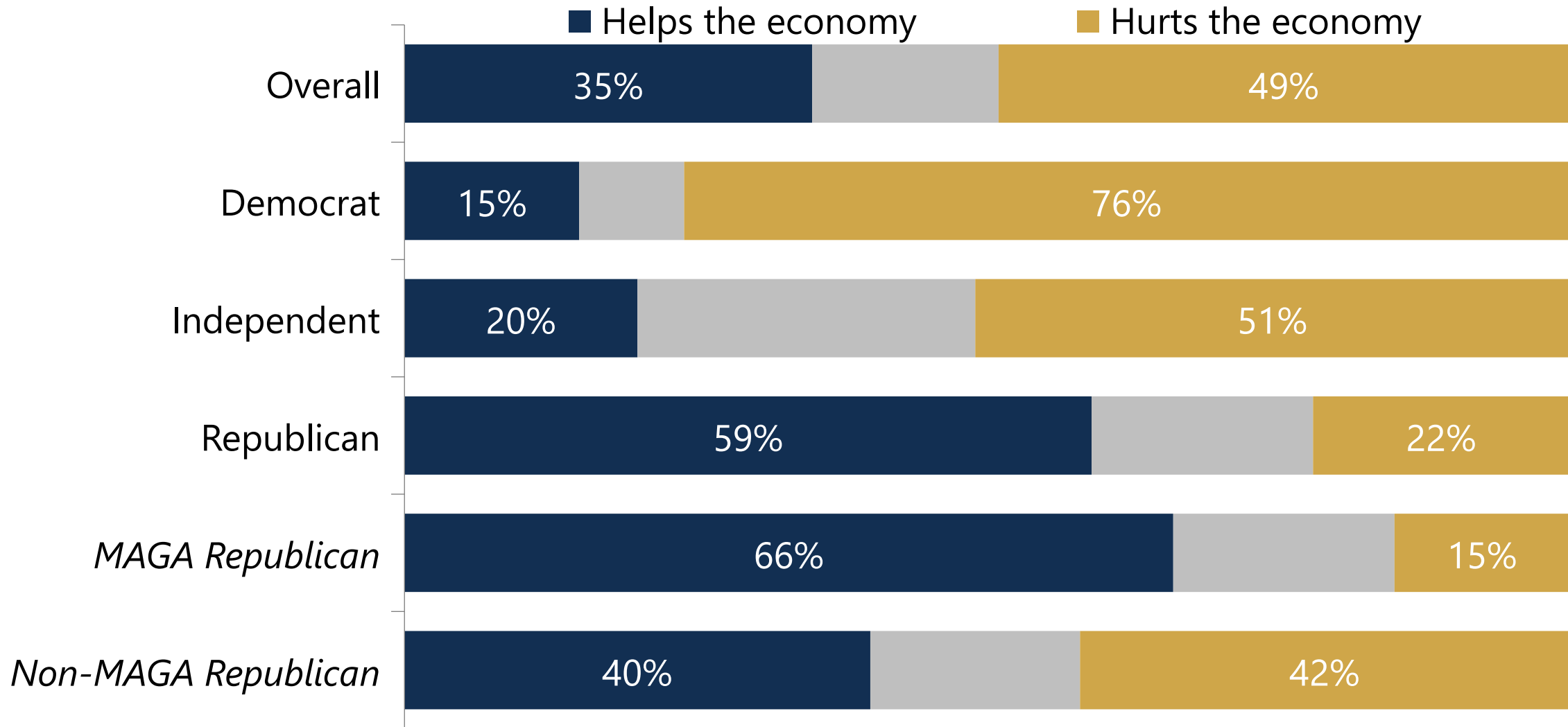


Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q18. Do you think imposing tariffs on goods imported into the US generally helps the US economy, hurts the US economy, or does it have no real impact?



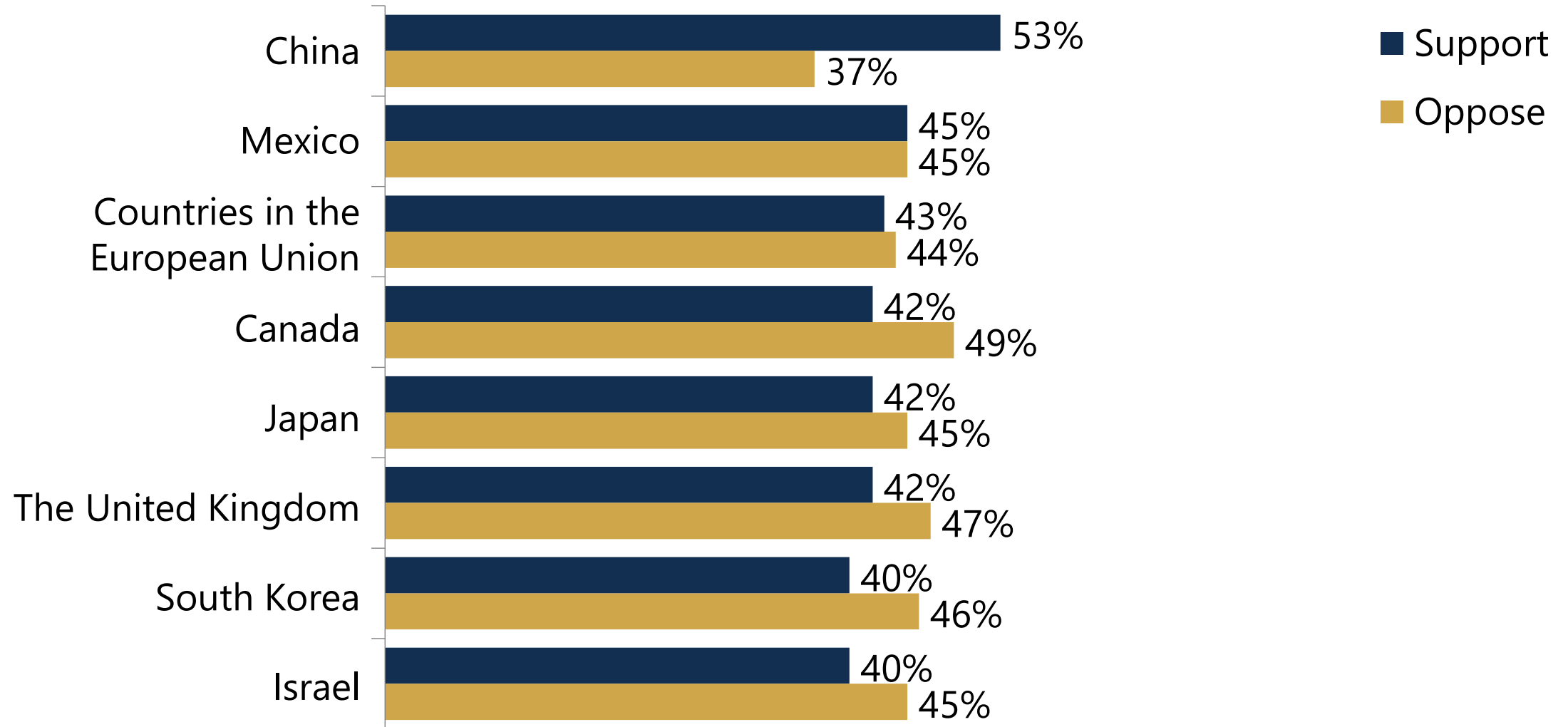
View on domestic economic impact of tariffs, by PID.



Q18. Do you think imposing tariffs on goods imported into the US generally helps the US economy, hurts the US economy, or does it have no real impact?



Views on tariffs vary by target country.



Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q19-26. Do you support or oppose imposing tariffs on the following countries:

Support for China tariffs erodes if it means higher prices for consumer goods in the US.



Yes, support even if prices rise

41%

No, keeping prices low is a higher priority

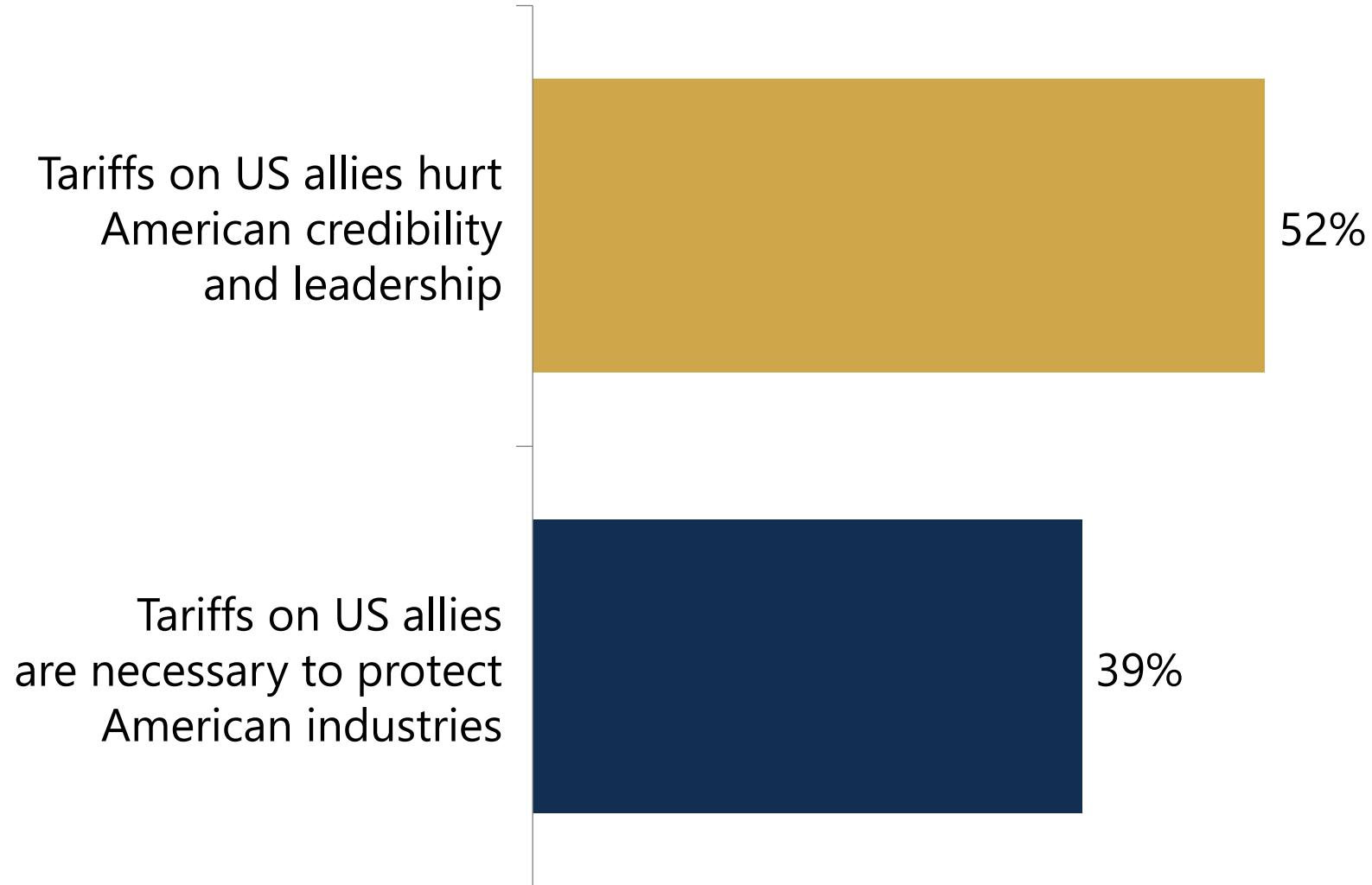
53%

Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q27. Would you support imposing much tougher trade restrictions on China if it meant higher prices for consumer goods in the US?



Most think tariffs on allies hurt American credibility.



Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

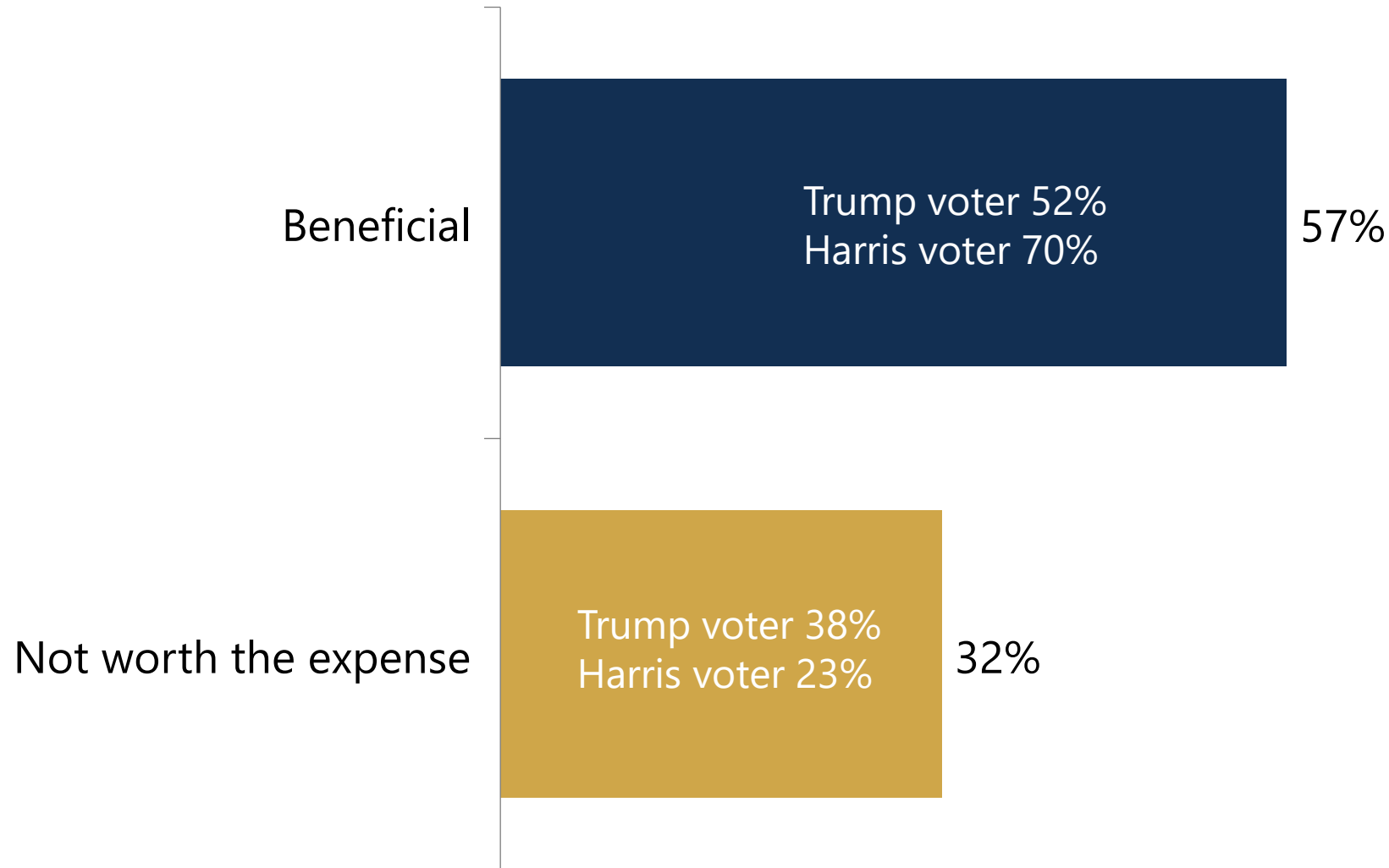
Q28. Which of these viewpoints are you more inclined to agree with:

PROMOTING FREEDOM ABROAD AND FUNDING





Majority see value in funding organizations to advance freedom and democracy abroad.



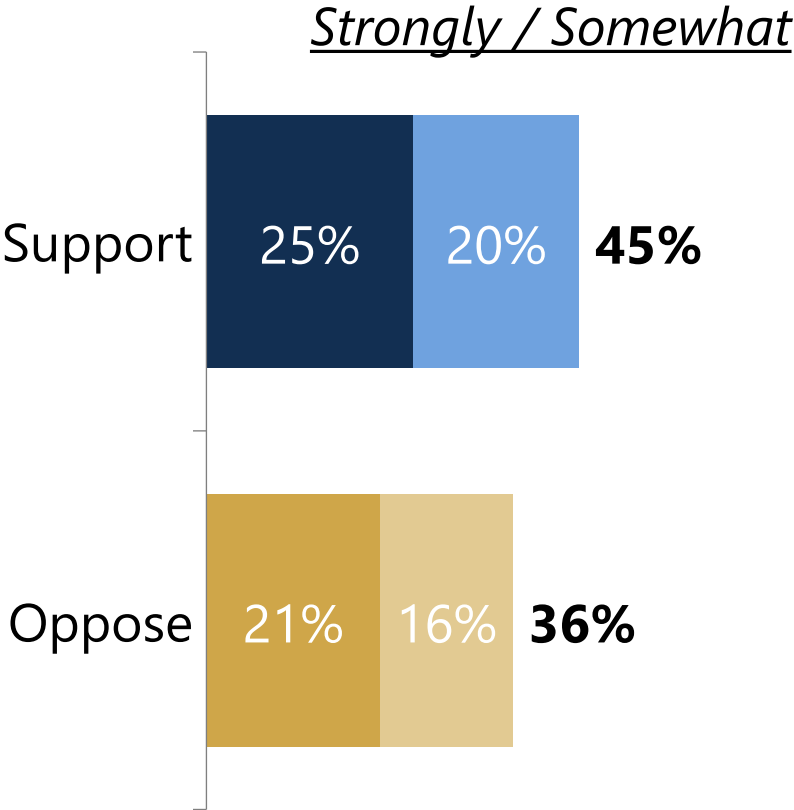
Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q29. When it comes to funding programs and organizations designed to advance freedom and democracy abroad, do you think those investments are generally beneficial to the US and its interests, or not worth the expense?

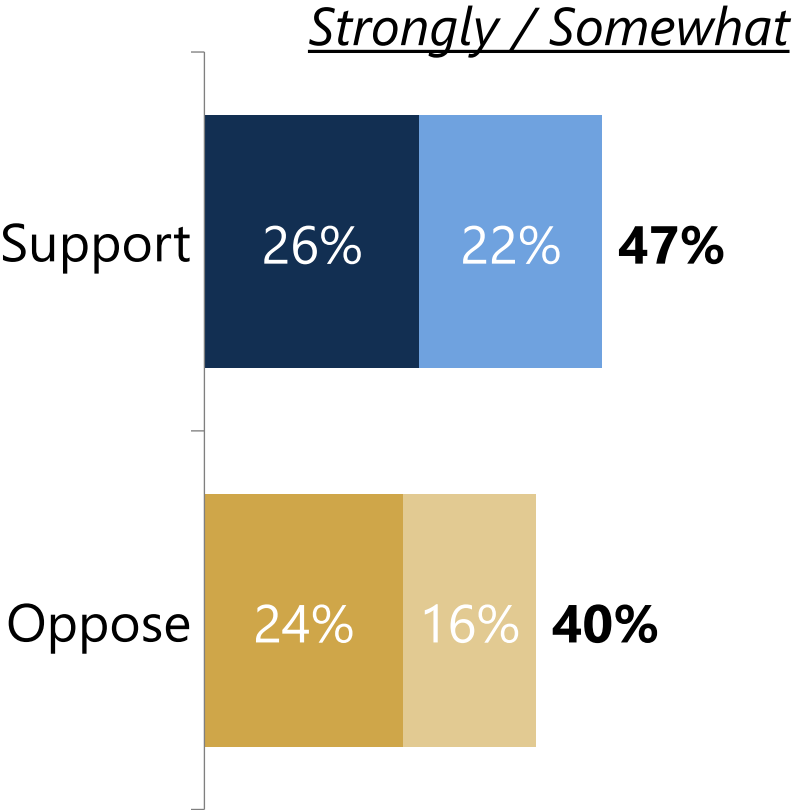


Pluralities support spending cuts at National Endowment for Democracy and US Agency for Global Media.

The National Endowment for Democracy

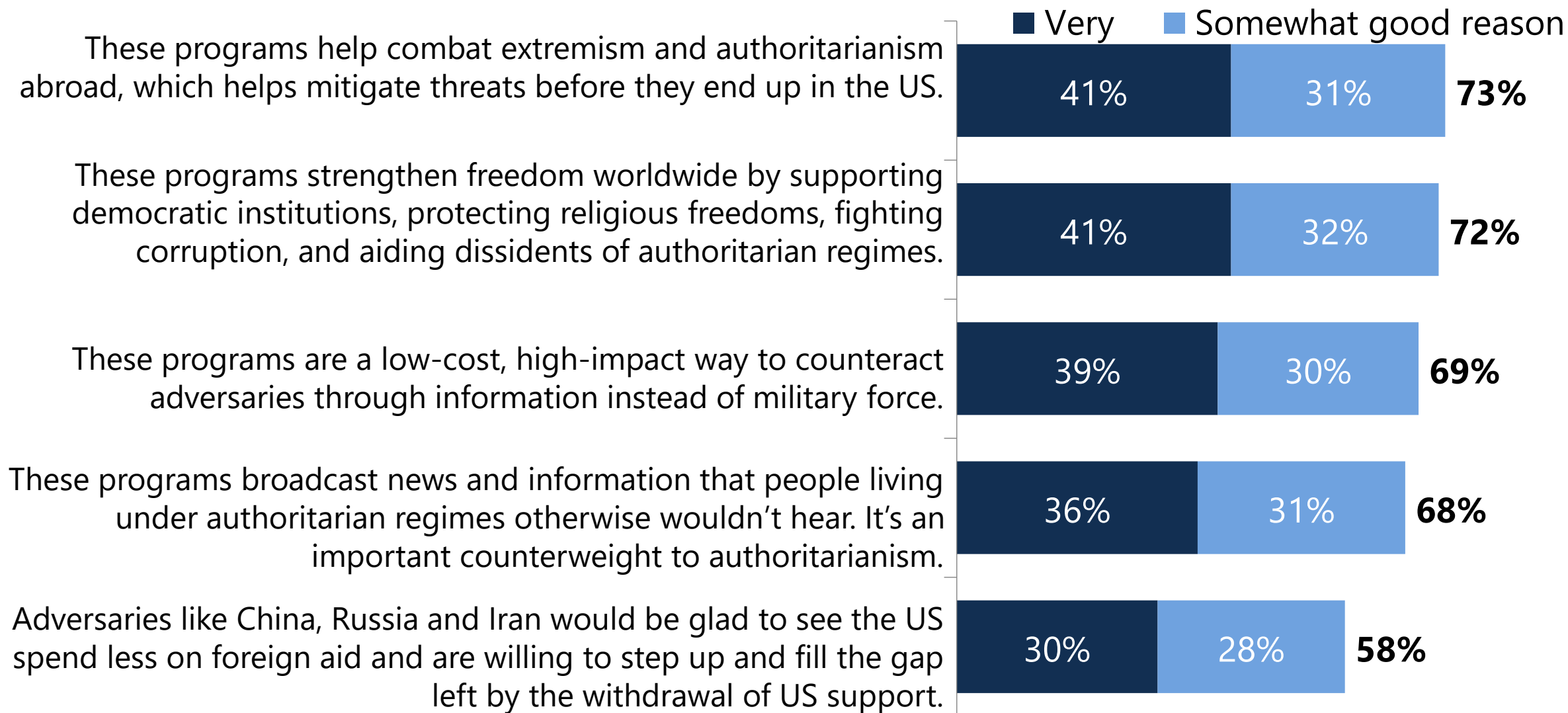


The US Agency for Global Media, and outlets like Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty, and Radio Free Asia



Q30-31. Thinking specifically about the recent spending cuts to programs and organizations designed to advance freedom and democracy abroad, do you support or oppose cutting funding to each of the following?

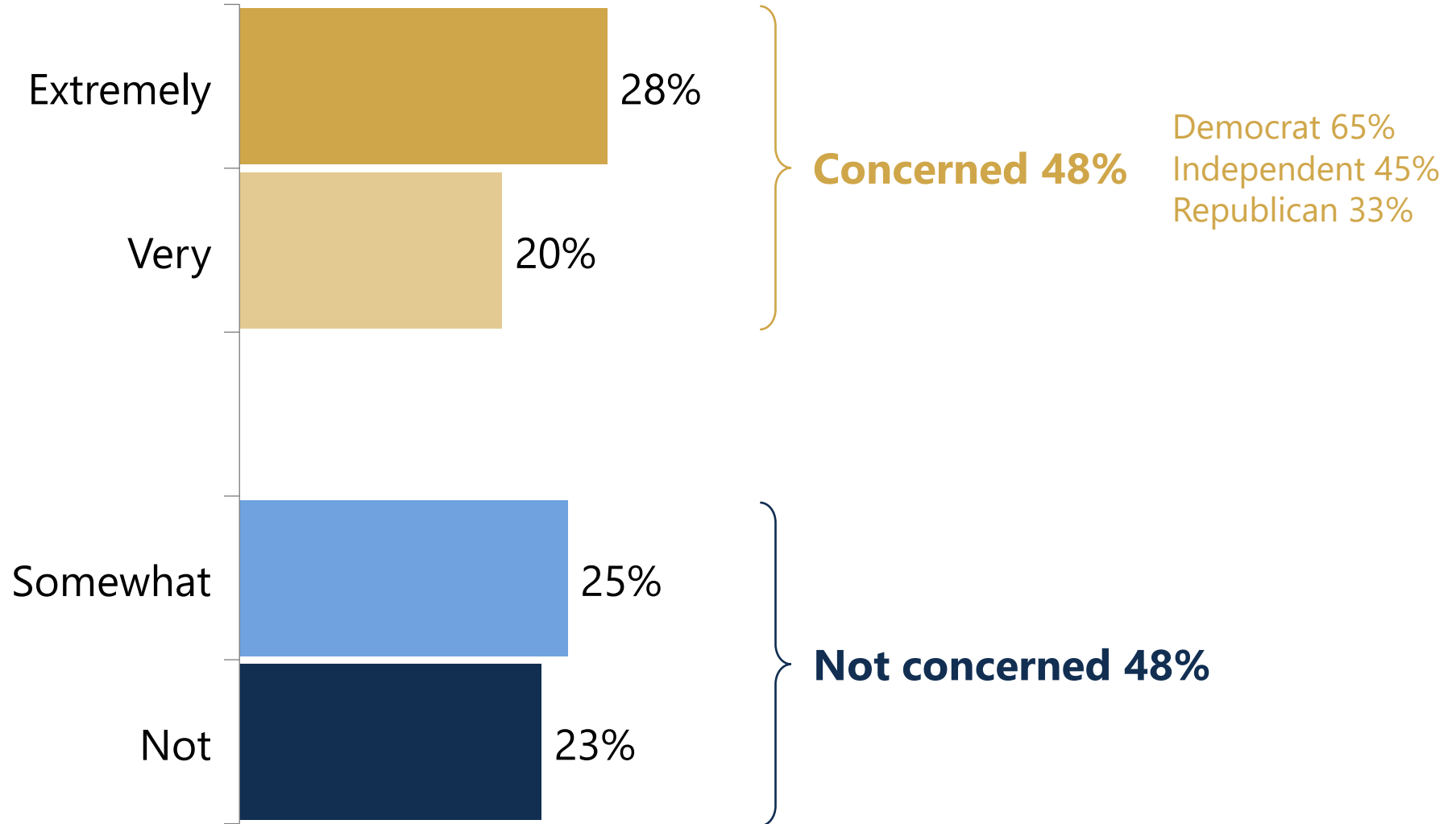
Mitigating threats and supporting democratic institutions are best reasons for funding programs to advance freedom.



Q32-36. Next, I'm going to read some reasons that have been given in favor of funding those programs and organizations designed to advance freedom and democracy abroad. For each, please tell me how good of a reason each is to continue funding those programs.



Americans split on concern that DOGE cuts to defense spending will undermine national security.



Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

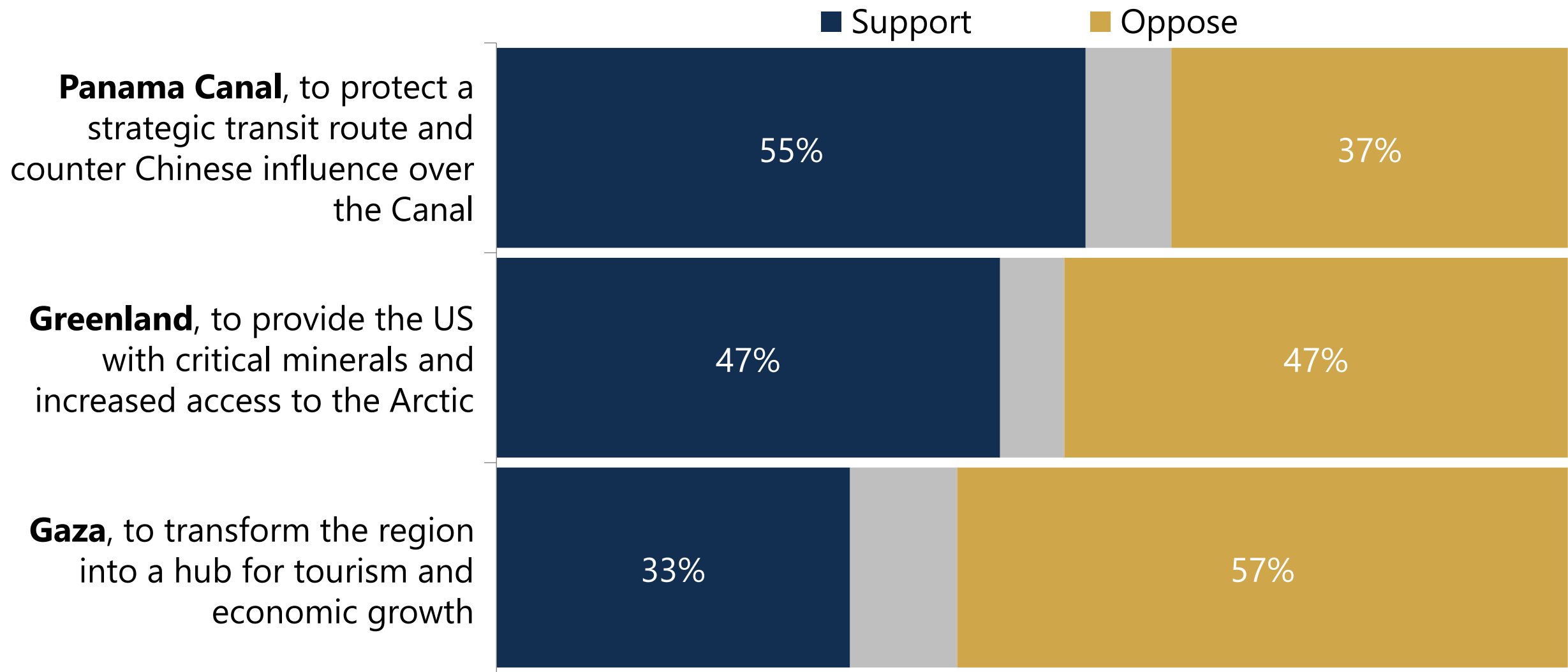
Q37. How concerned are you that cost-cutting on defense spending by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), will undermine national security?

EXPANSIONISM





Majority supports US acquisition of the Panama Canal.

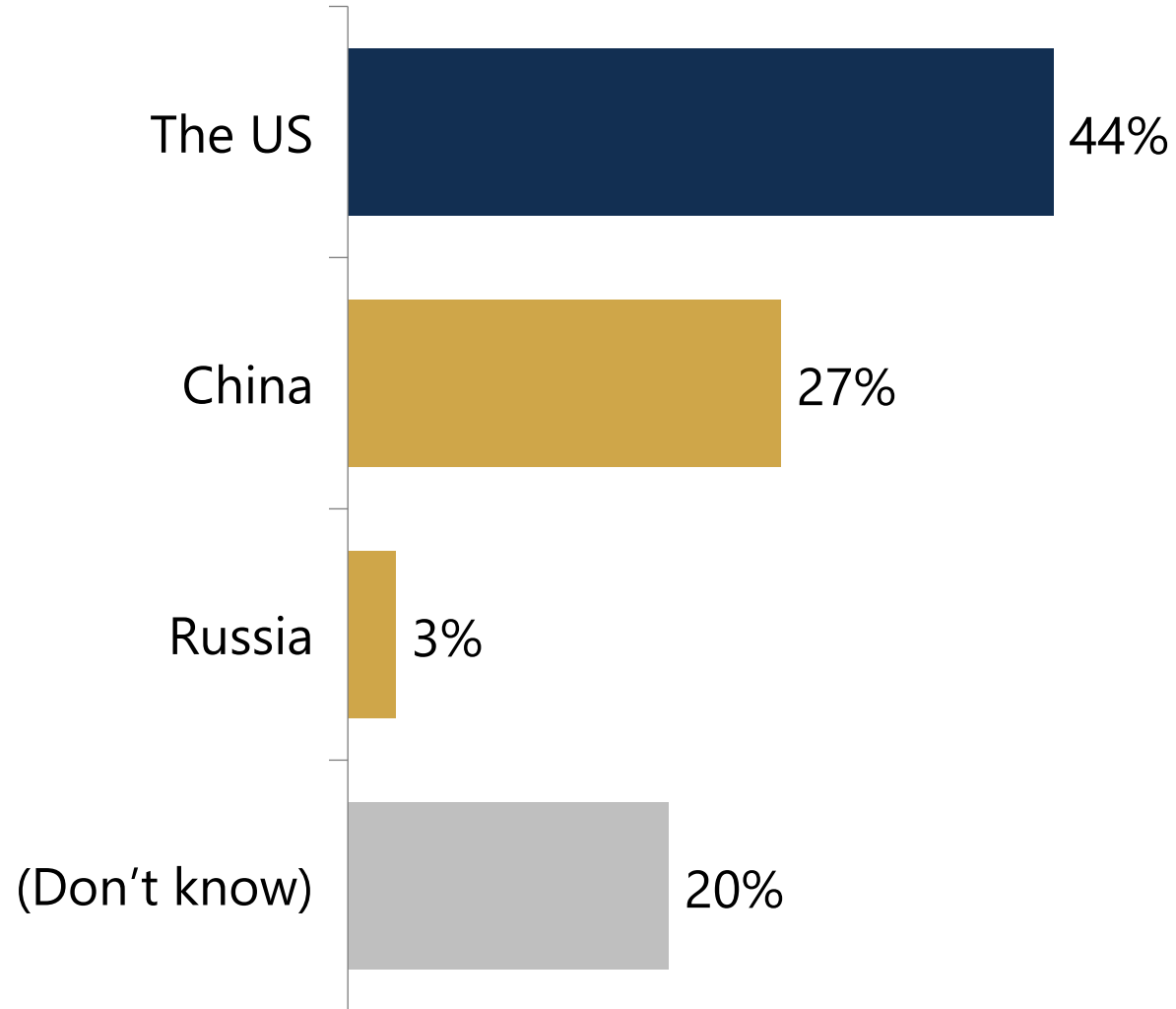


Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q38-40. Do you support or oppose pursuing the following proposals for US territorial expansion which have been discussed recently?



Fewer than half think US is winning the 21st century.

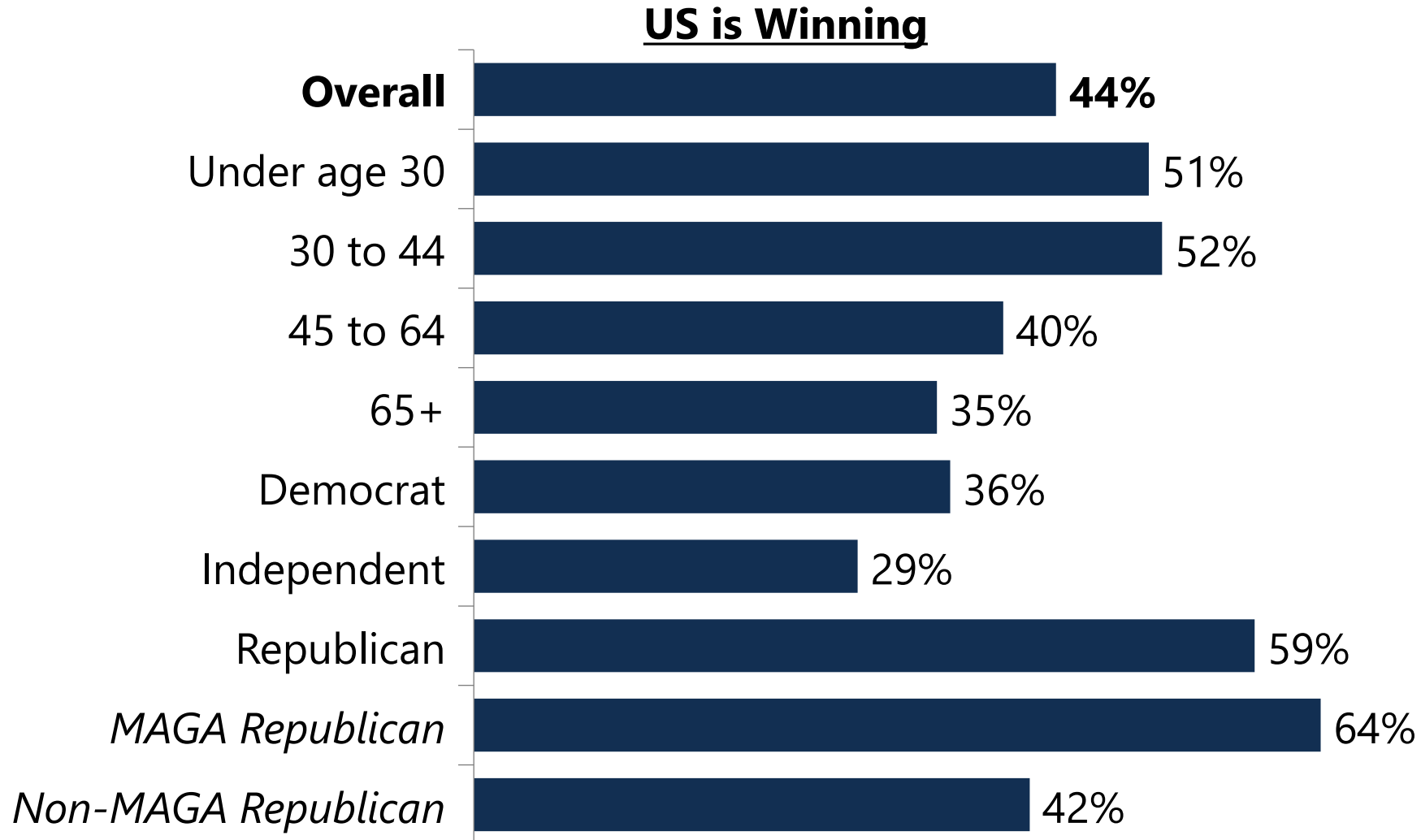


Note: Remainder Other / None / Nobody / Refused

Q41. Which country is winning the 21st century so far?



Belief that US is winning 21st century, by subgroups.



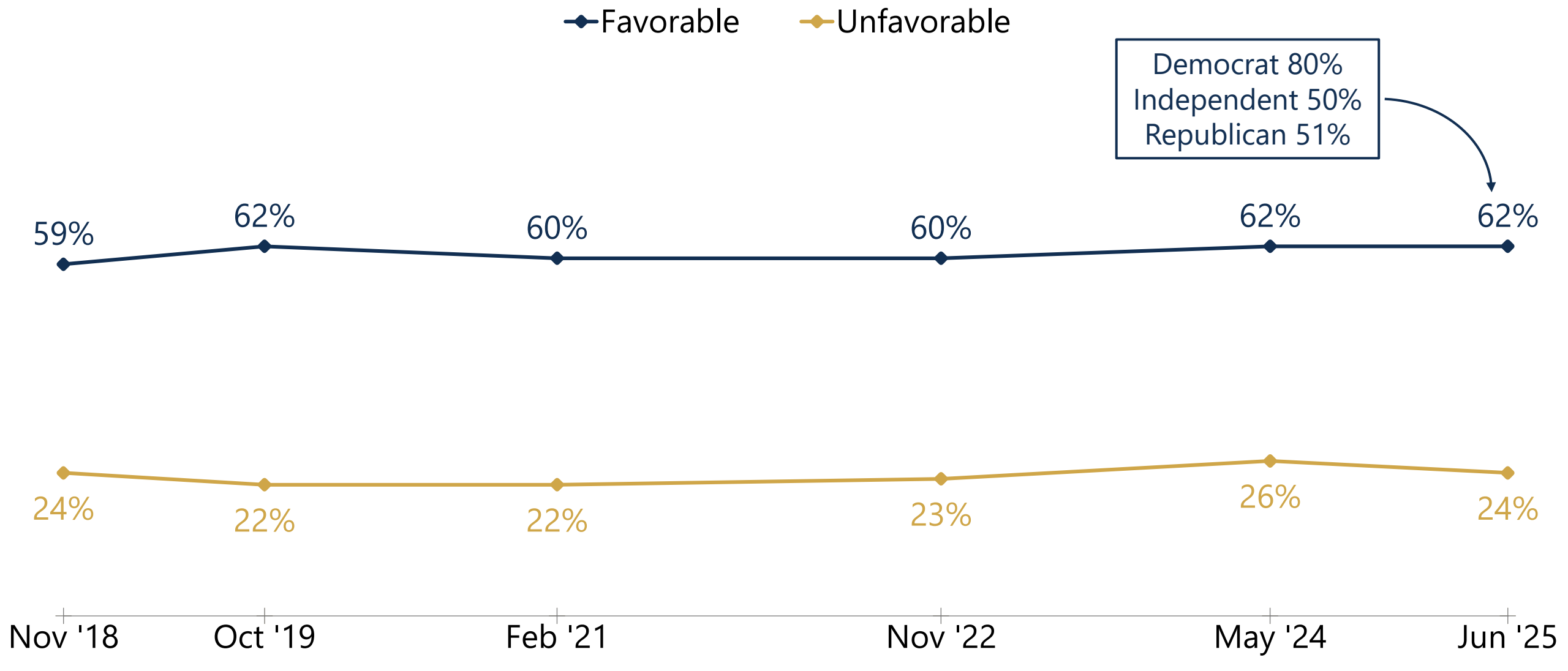
Q41. Which country is winning the 21st century so far?

NATO / EUROPE





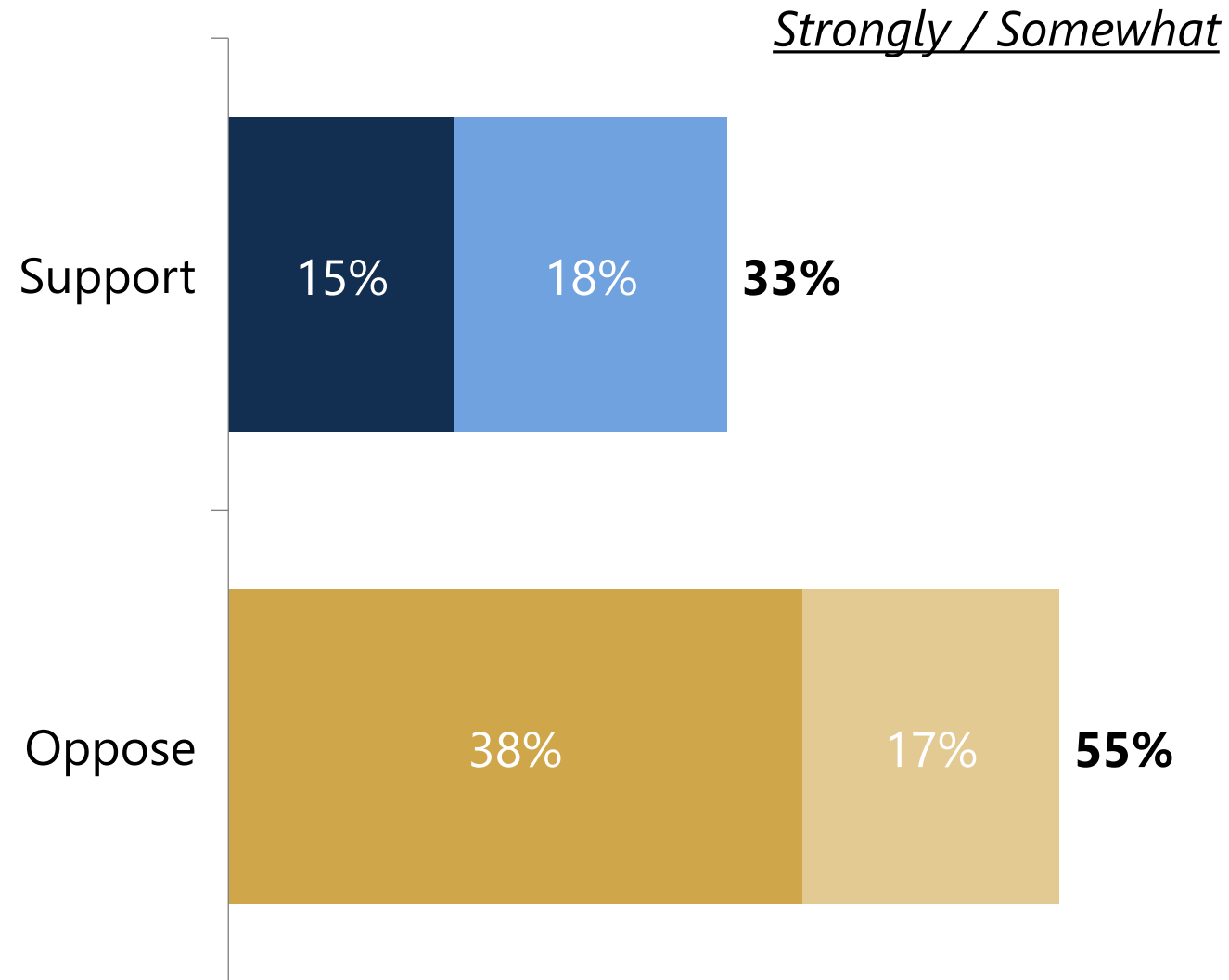
Attitudes toward NATO favorable and stable.



Q42. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable view of NATO?



Majority opposes withdrawing US from NATO.

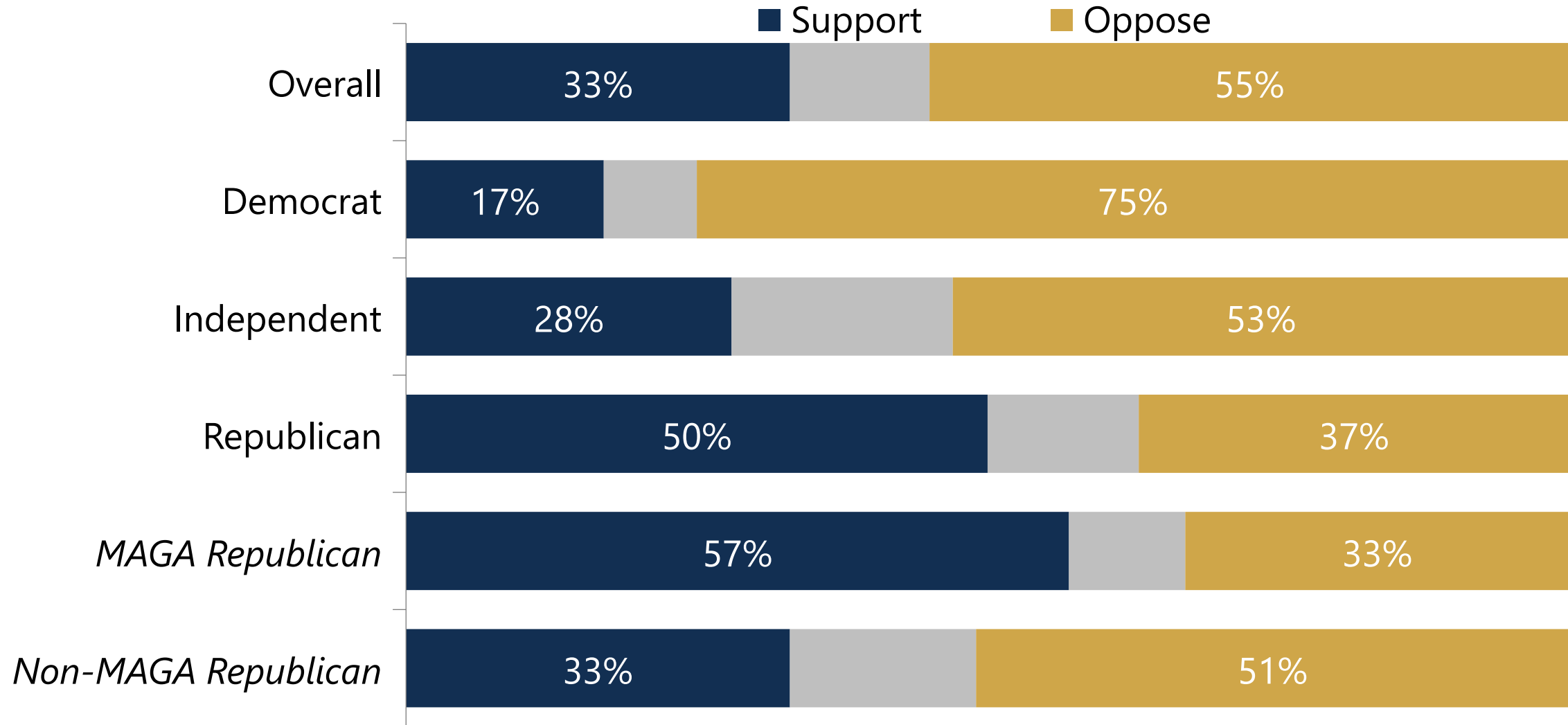


Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q43. Would you support or oppose withdrawing the United States from NATO?



Views on NATO withdrawal, by PID.

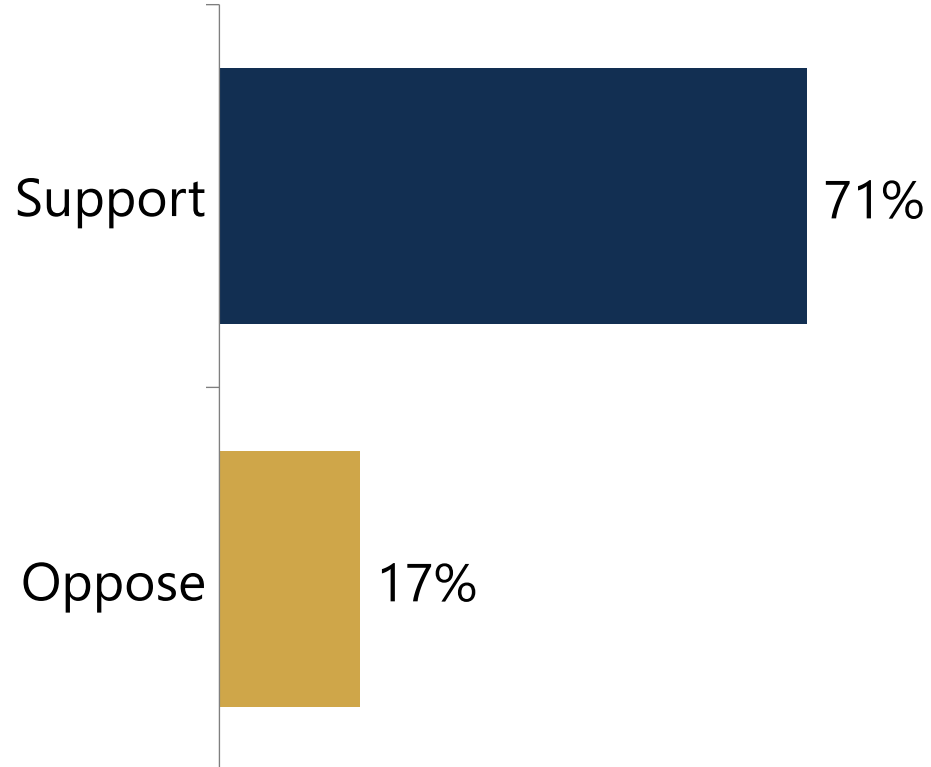


Q43. Would you support or oppose withdrawing the United States from NATO?

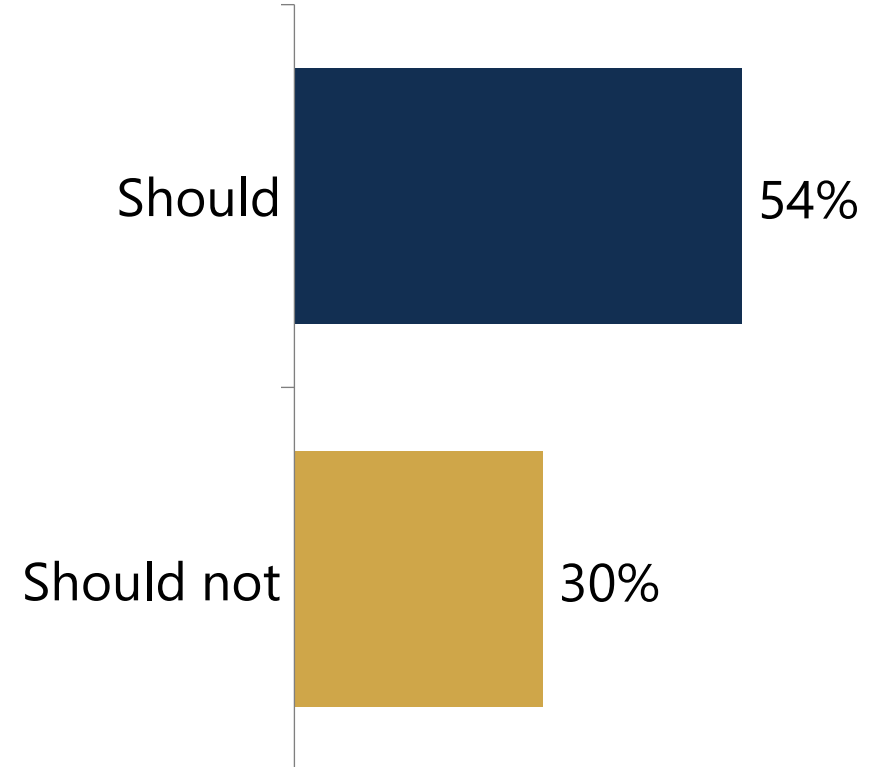


Strong support for keeping commitment to protect allied countries weakens if ally is not meeting spending pledge.

All NATO members are required to respond if one country in the alliance is attacked. This is called the collective defense principle. *Knowing this, would you support or oppose the US responding with military force if a NATO ally in Europe was attacked?*

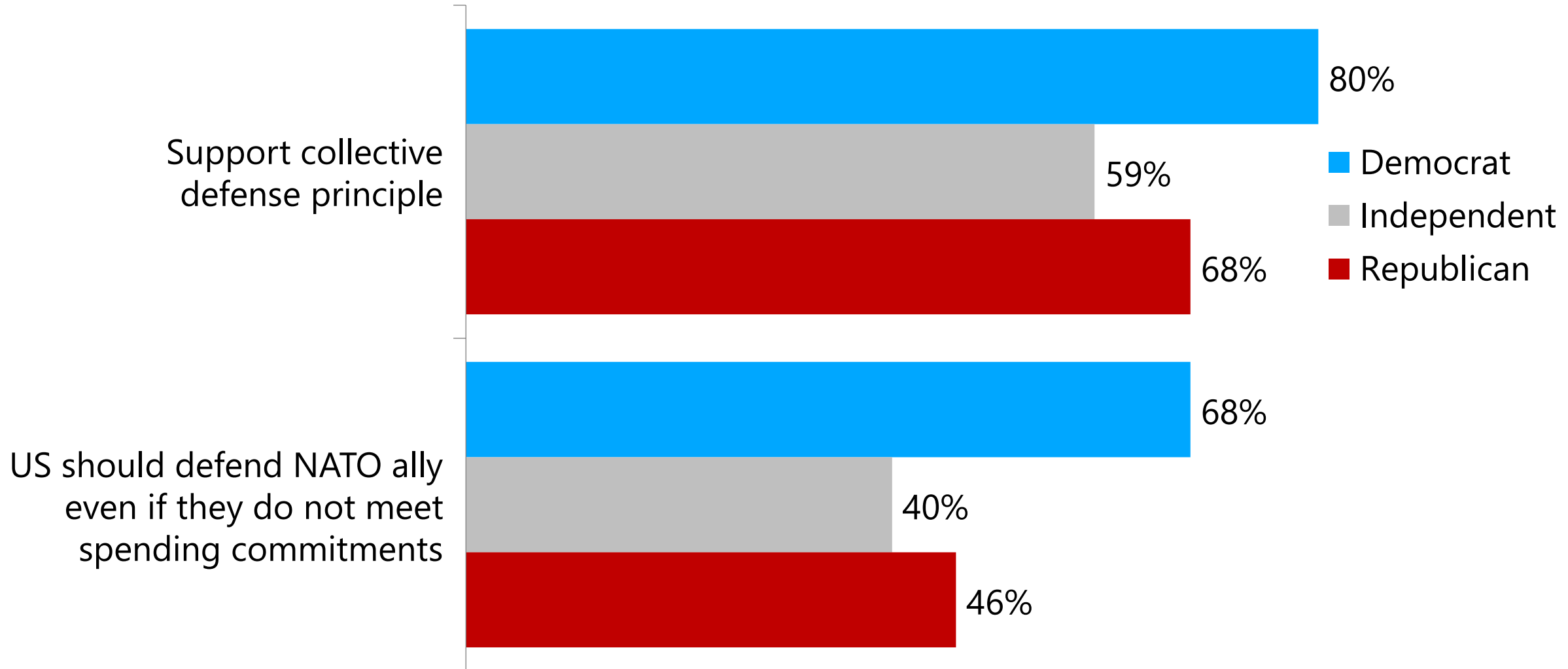


NATO countries pledge to spend a certain percentage of their GDP on their own national defense. *If a NATO ally is not spending that much on defense and is attacked, do you think the US should still come to that ally's defense, or not?*



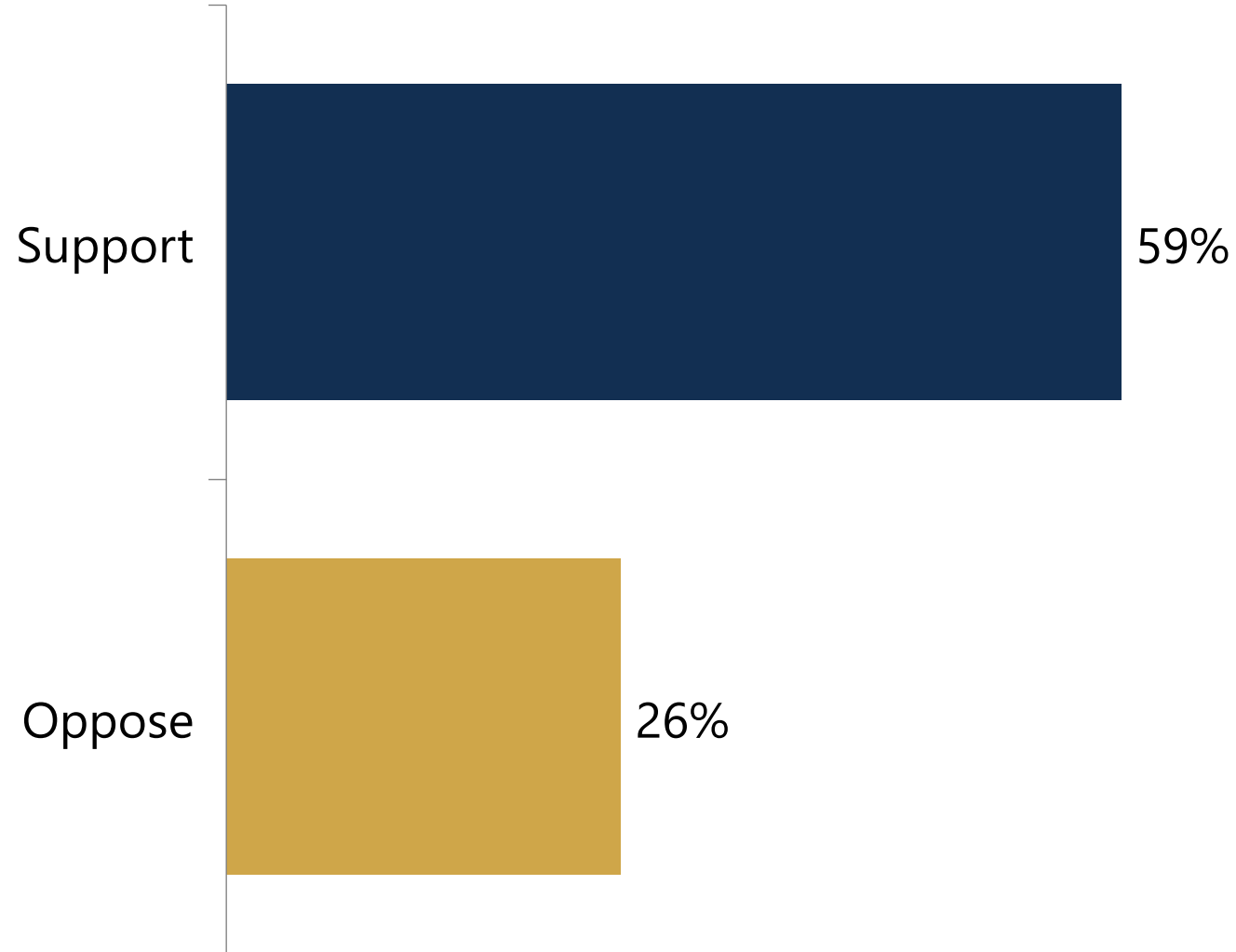


Views on collective defense, by PID.





By 2-to-1 margin, Americans support increasing US military presence in Eastern Europe to counter Russia.

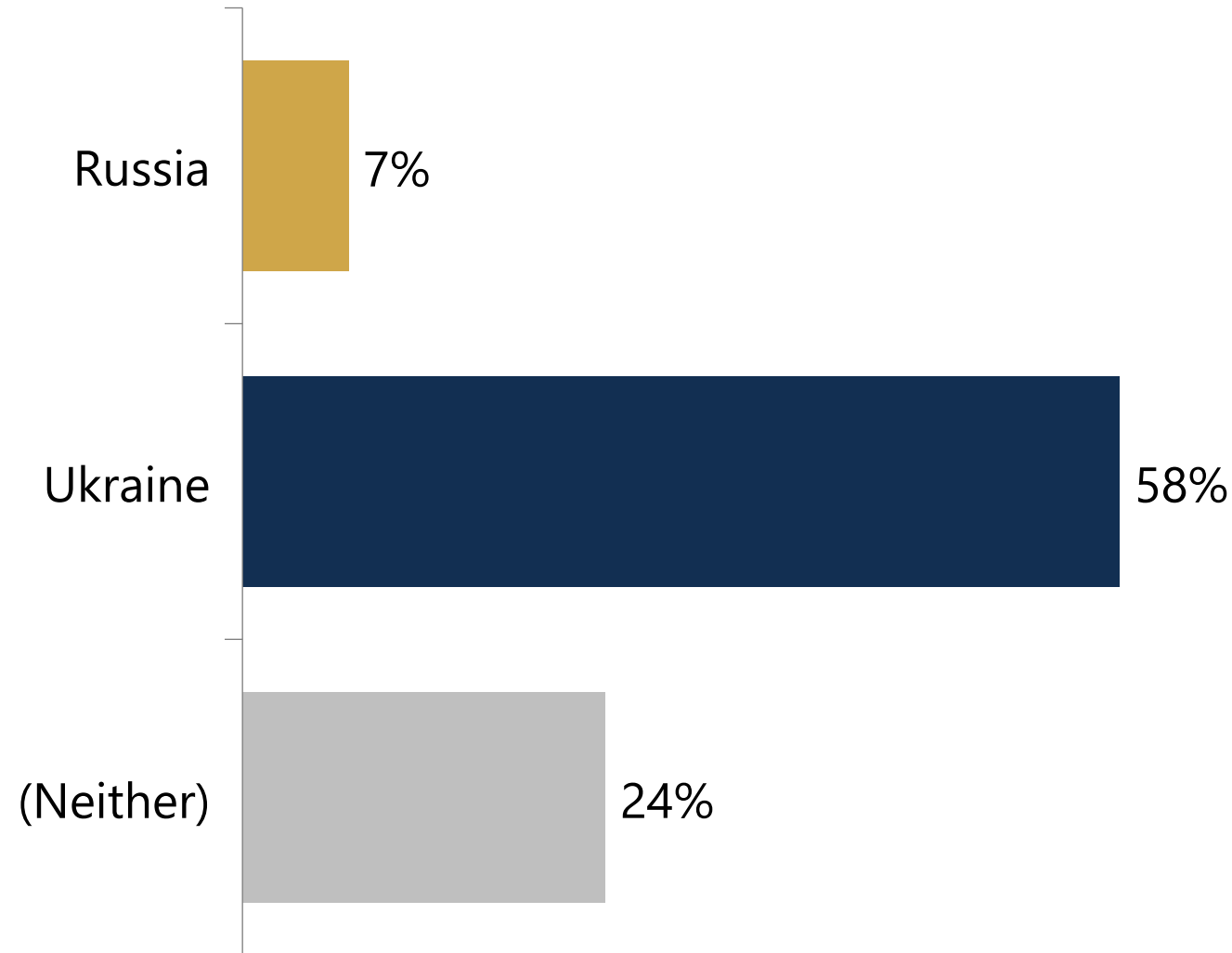


Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q46. To counter Russian aggression, would you support or oppose increasing the US military's presence in Eastern Europe?



Very few Americans want Russia to win war with Ukraine.



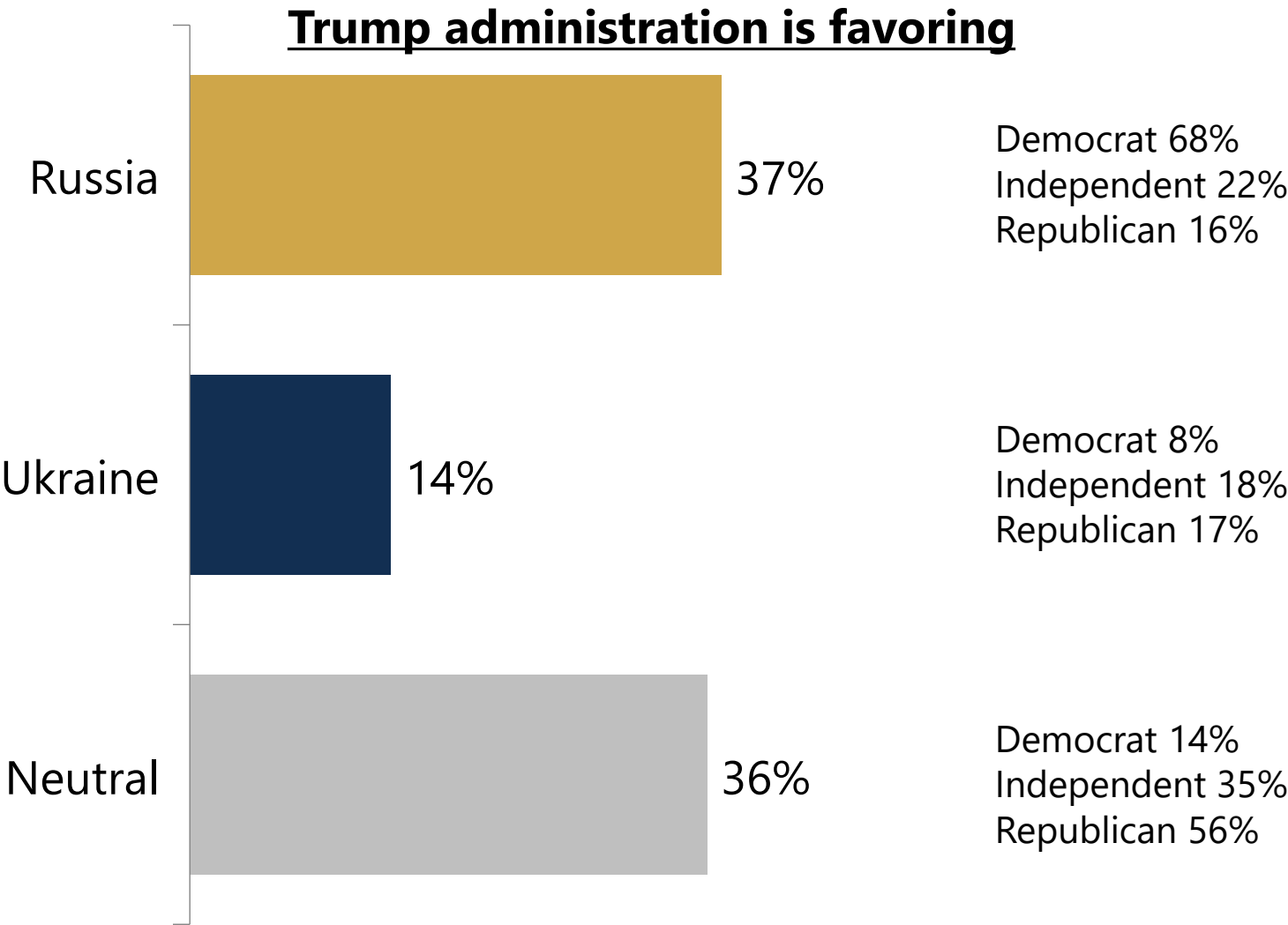
May 2024 Trend

Russia	7%
Ukraine	59
(Neither)	21

Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q47. Who do you want to win the war between Russia and Ukraine?

Americans more likely to think Trump administration favors Russia than Ukraine.



Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q48. When it comes to negotiating an end to the war, do you think the Trump administration is favoring Ukraine, Russia, or is it taking a neutral approach?

CHINA / TAIWAN



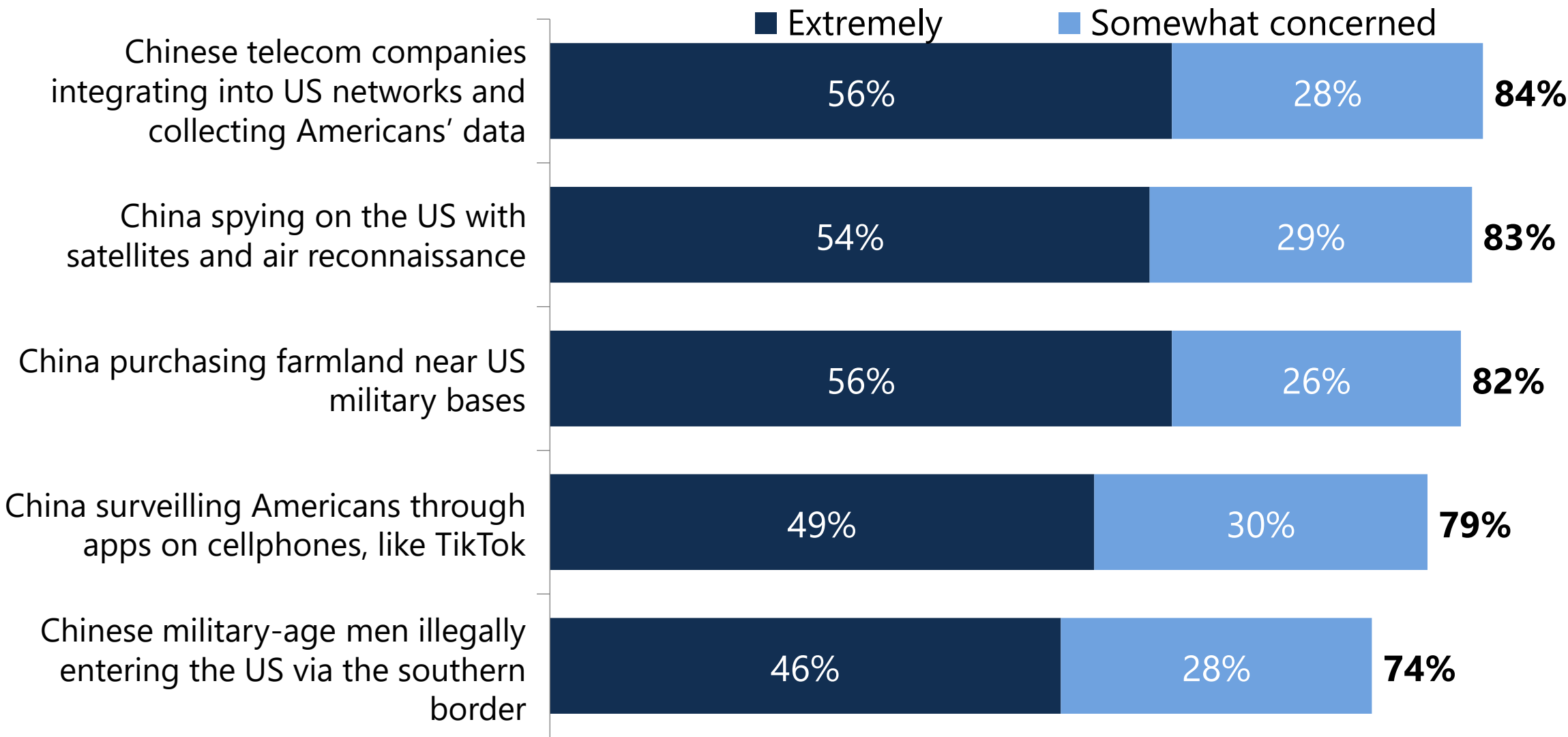


Americans highly and equally concerned about range of threats from China.



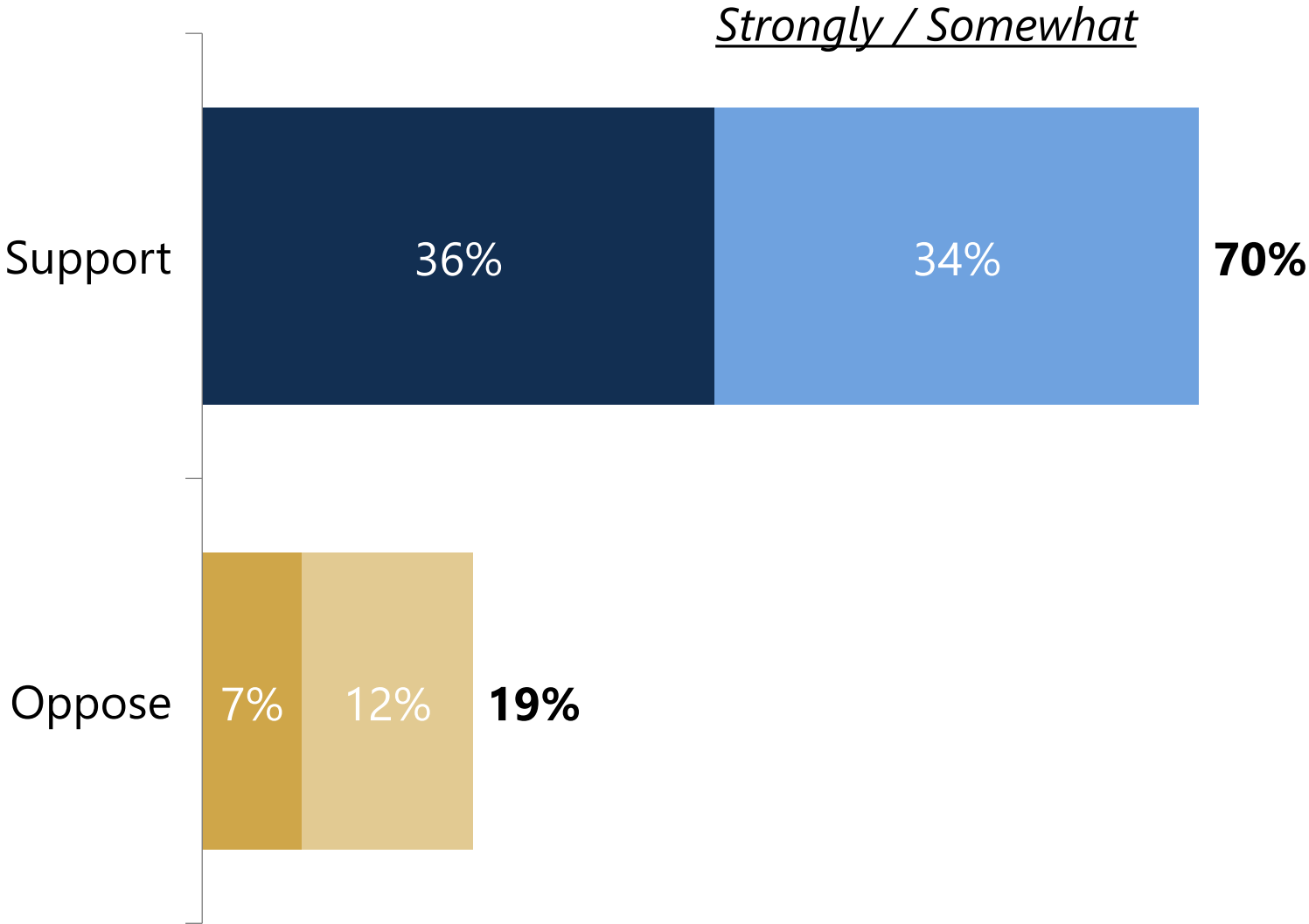
Q49-58. Thinking specifically about China, how concerned are you about each of the following?

Specific threats to the homeland extremely concerning to most.



Q59-63. Still thinking about China, how concerned are you about each of the potential threats posed to the US homeland?

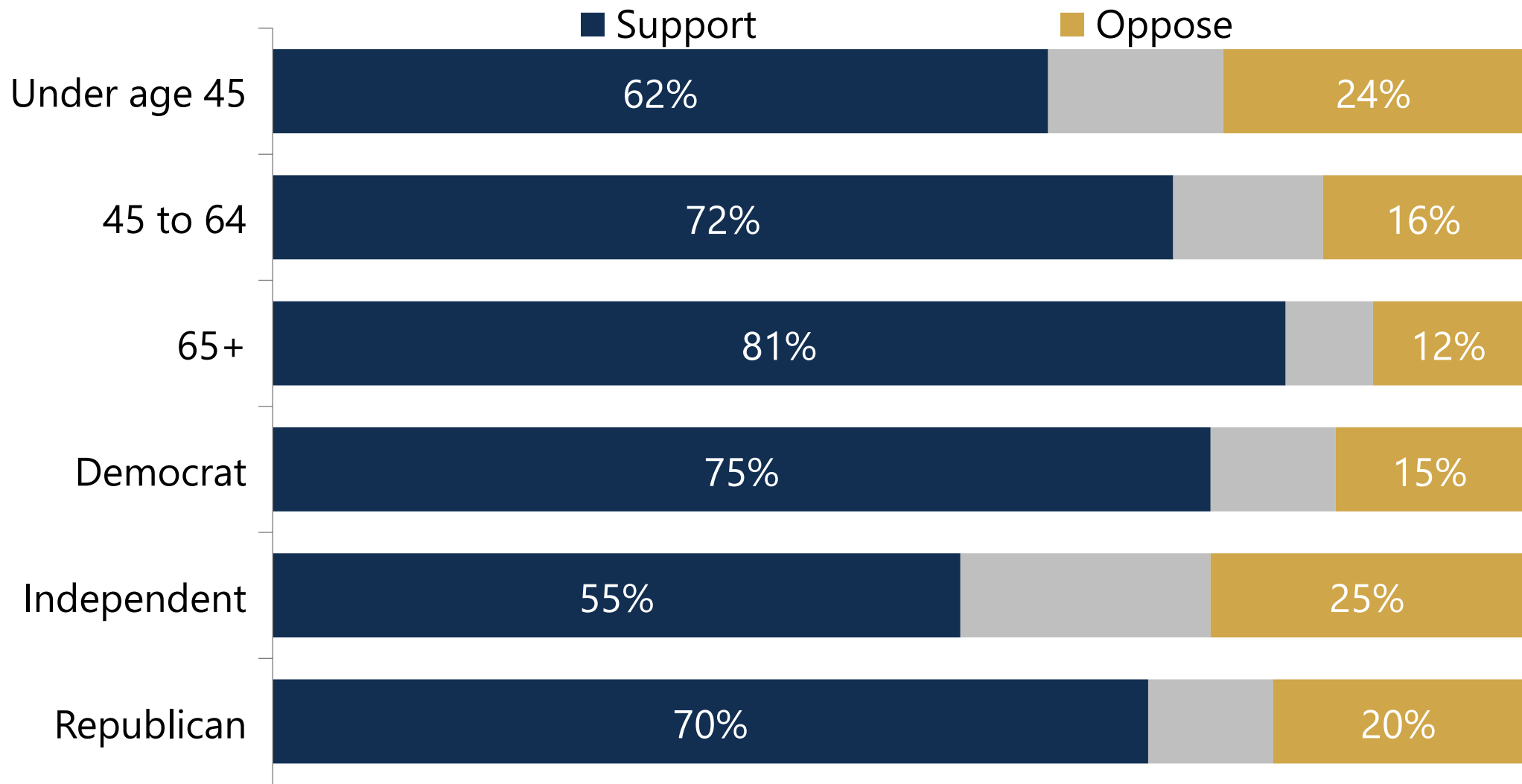
More than 3-to-1 support for using military action to defend Taiwan.



Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q64. If China were to invade or blockade Taiwan, would you support or oppose the US taking military actions to defend Taiwan?

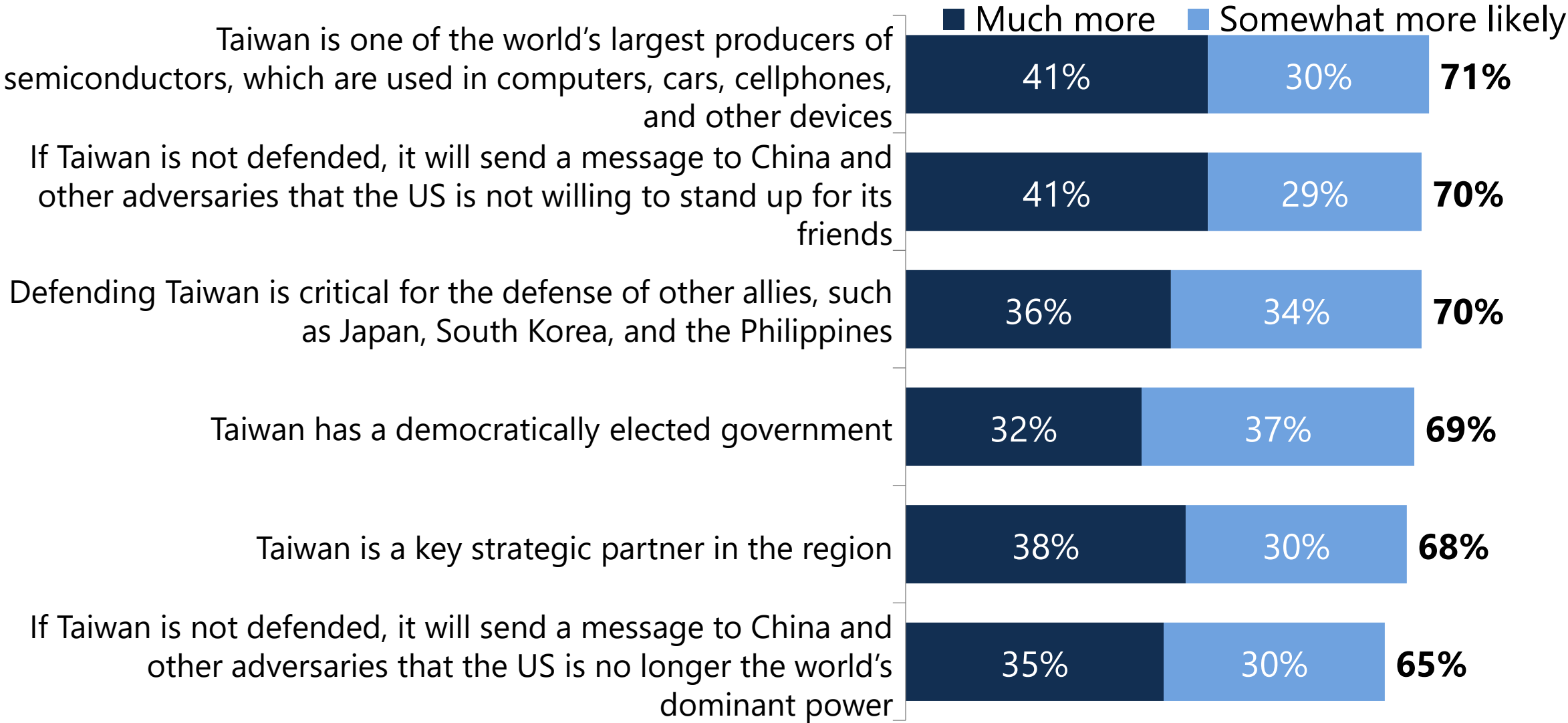
Bipartisan agreement on supporting Taiwan from Chinese aggression.



Q64. If China were to invade or blockade Taiwan, would you support or oppose the US taking military actions to defend Taiwan?

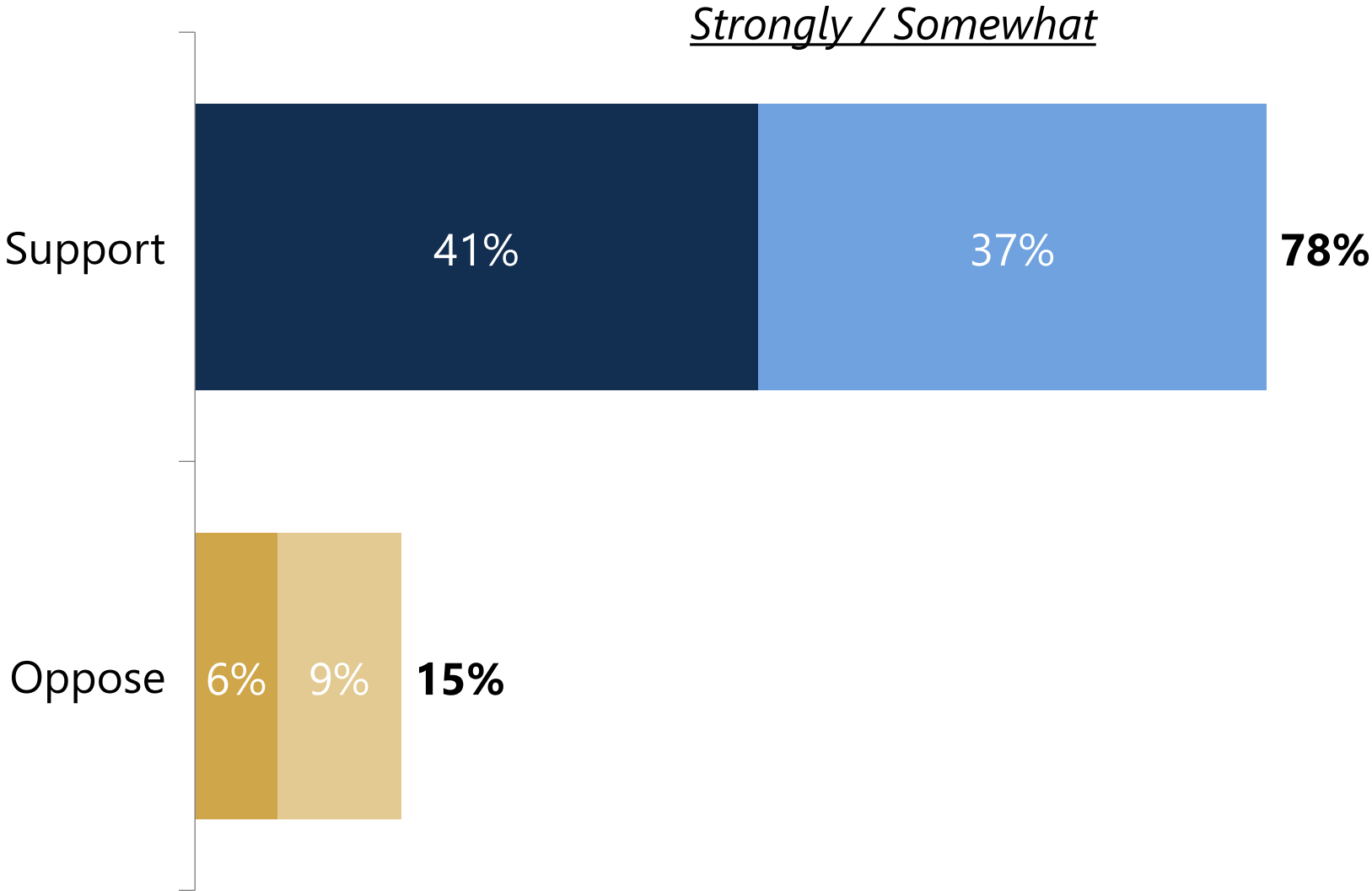


Semiconductor production and precedent are the most convincing reasons to defend Taiwan.



Q65-70. Next are some reasons you might hear for why it would be important to defend Taiwan against a Chinese invasion. Does hearing each make you more or less likely to support committing US forces to the defense of Taiwan if China invades, or does it have no effect?

Support reaches nearly 8-in-10 after Americans hear rationale for defending Taiwan.



Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

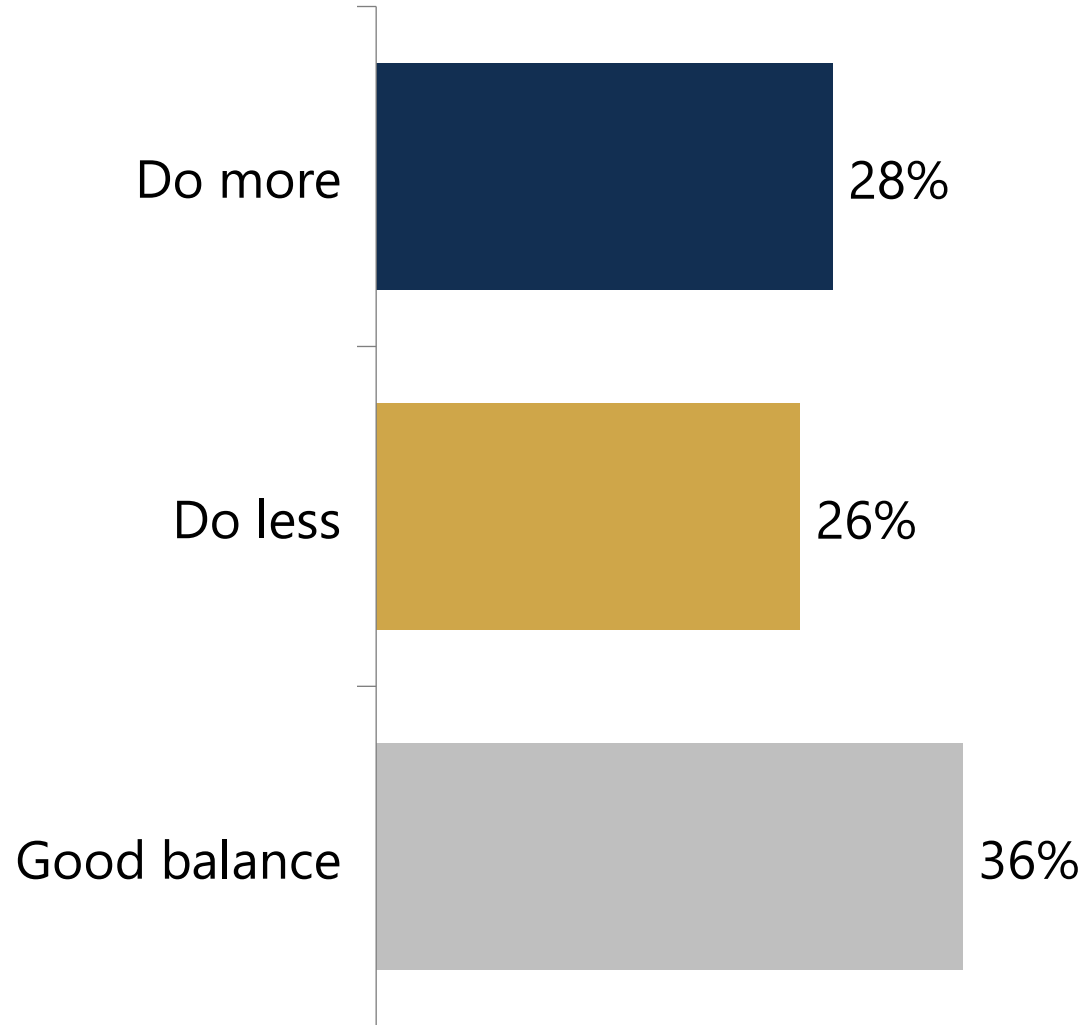
Q71. Having heard this, if China were to invade Taiwan, would you support or oppose the US taking military actions to defend Taiwan?

MIDDLE EAST





No consensus on amount of support US should provide Israel, even within political parties.

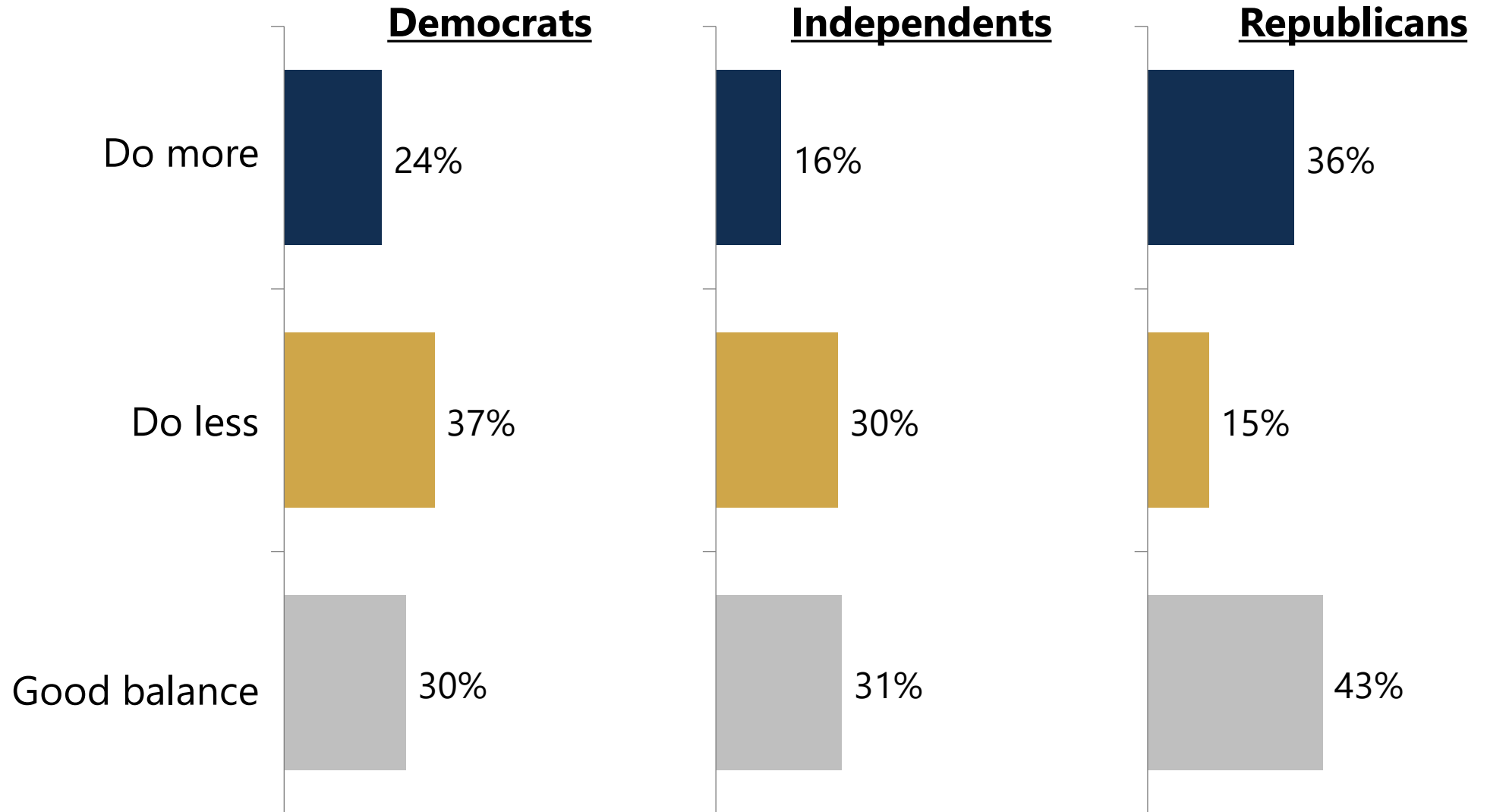


Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q72. When it comes to Israel's military actions against Hamas in Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon, should the US do more to support Israel, do less, or is the US striking a good balance?



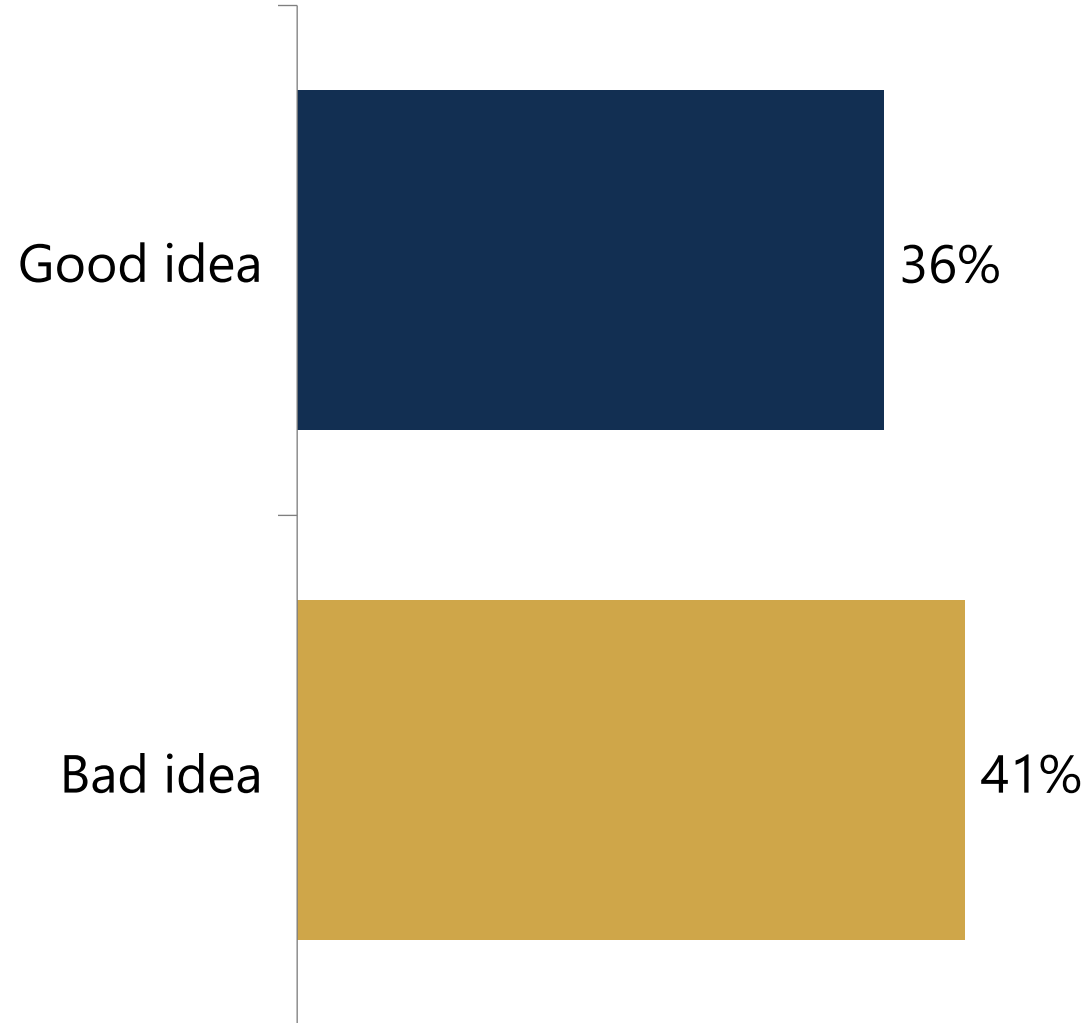
Views on US support for Israel, by party ID.



Q72. When it comes to Israel's military actions against Hamas in Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon, should the US do more to support Israel, do less, or is the US striking a good balance?



By slim margin, more voters think relocating Palestinians out of Gaza is a bad idea.

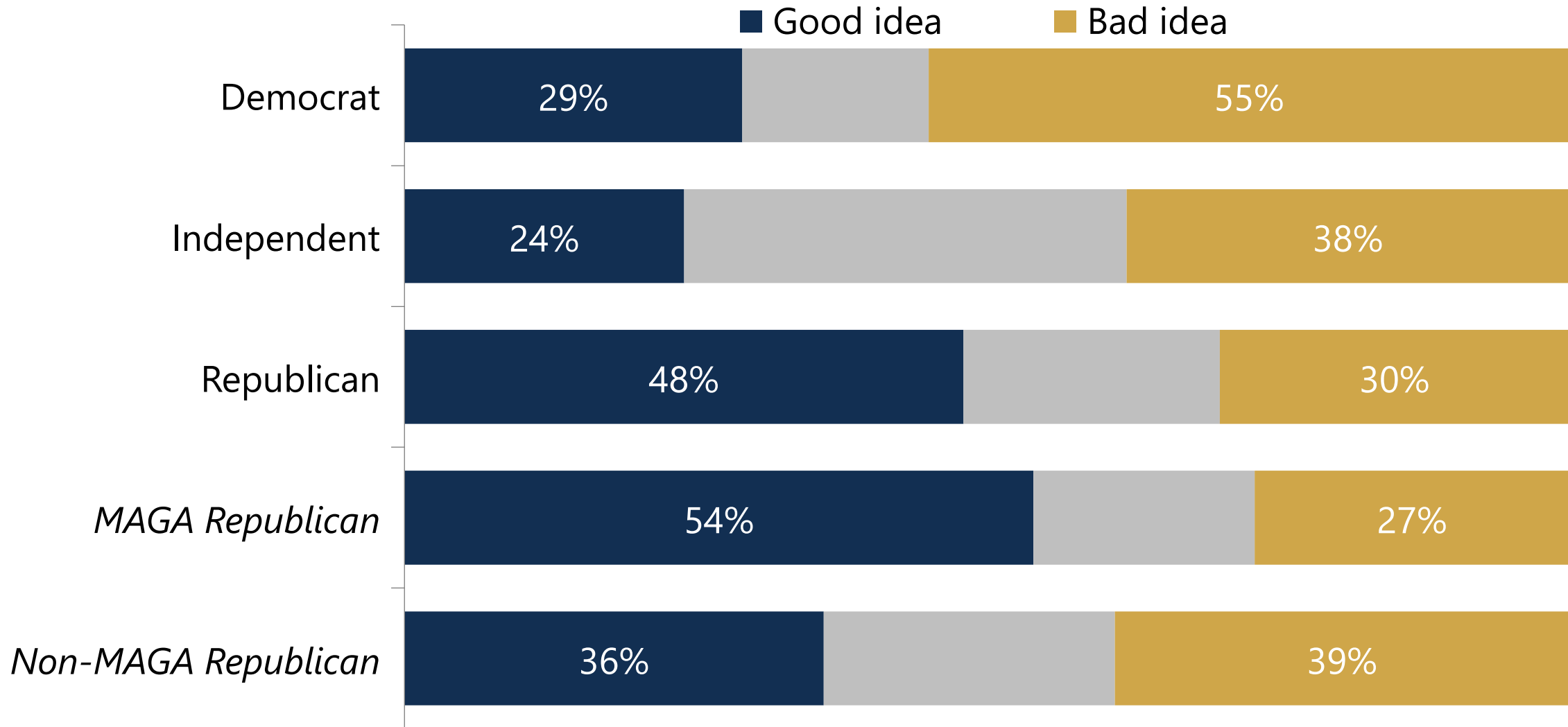


Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q73. Some US officials have suggested relocating Palestinians in Gaza to other countries in the region to improve Israel's security and allow for reconstruction in Gaza. Does this seem like a good idea or a bad idea?



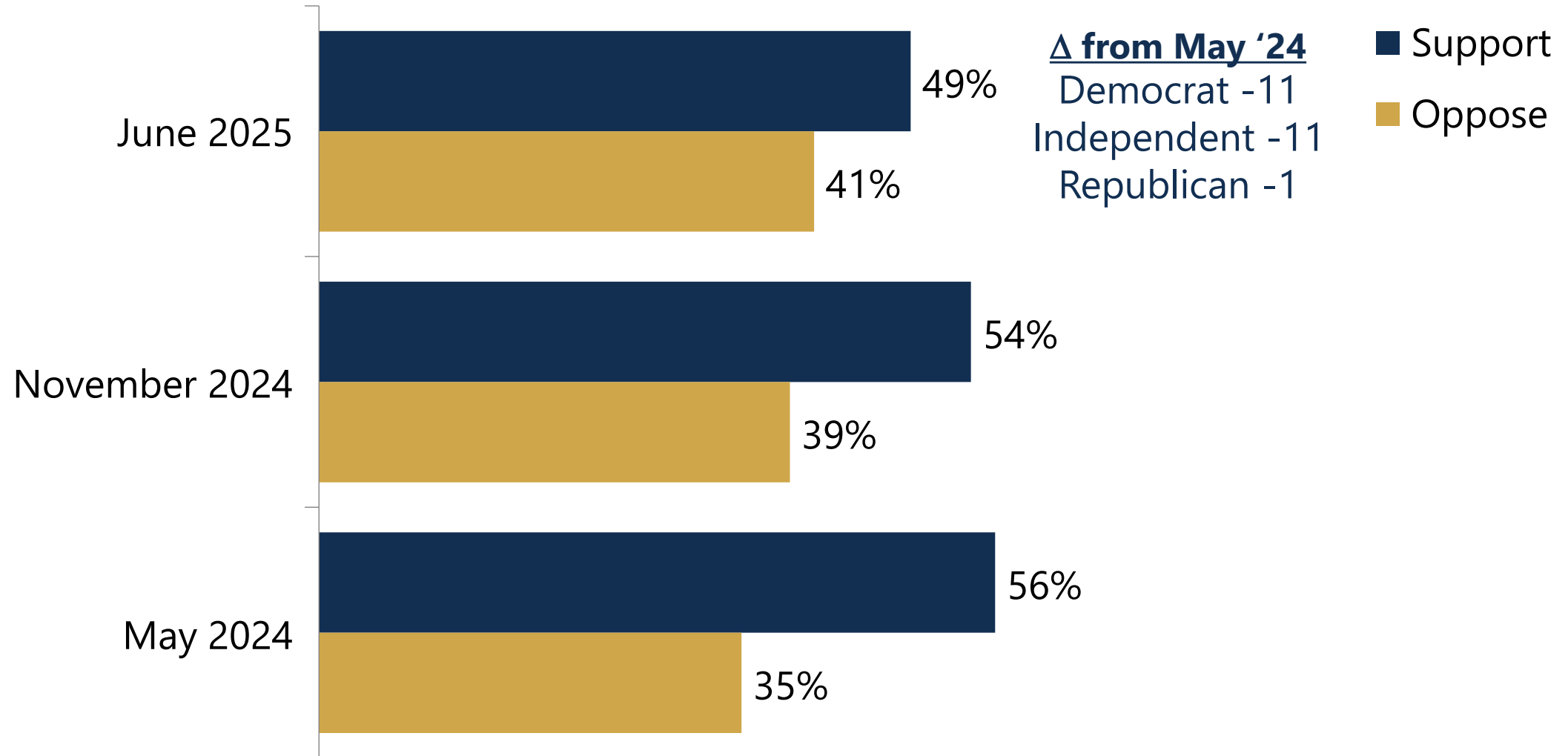
Views on Gazan relocation proposal, by PID.



Q73. Some US officials have suggested relocating Palestinians in Gaza to other countries in the region to improve Israel's security and allow for reconstruction in Gaza. Does this seem like a good idea or a bad idea?



Support for US sending weapons to Israel has decreased.

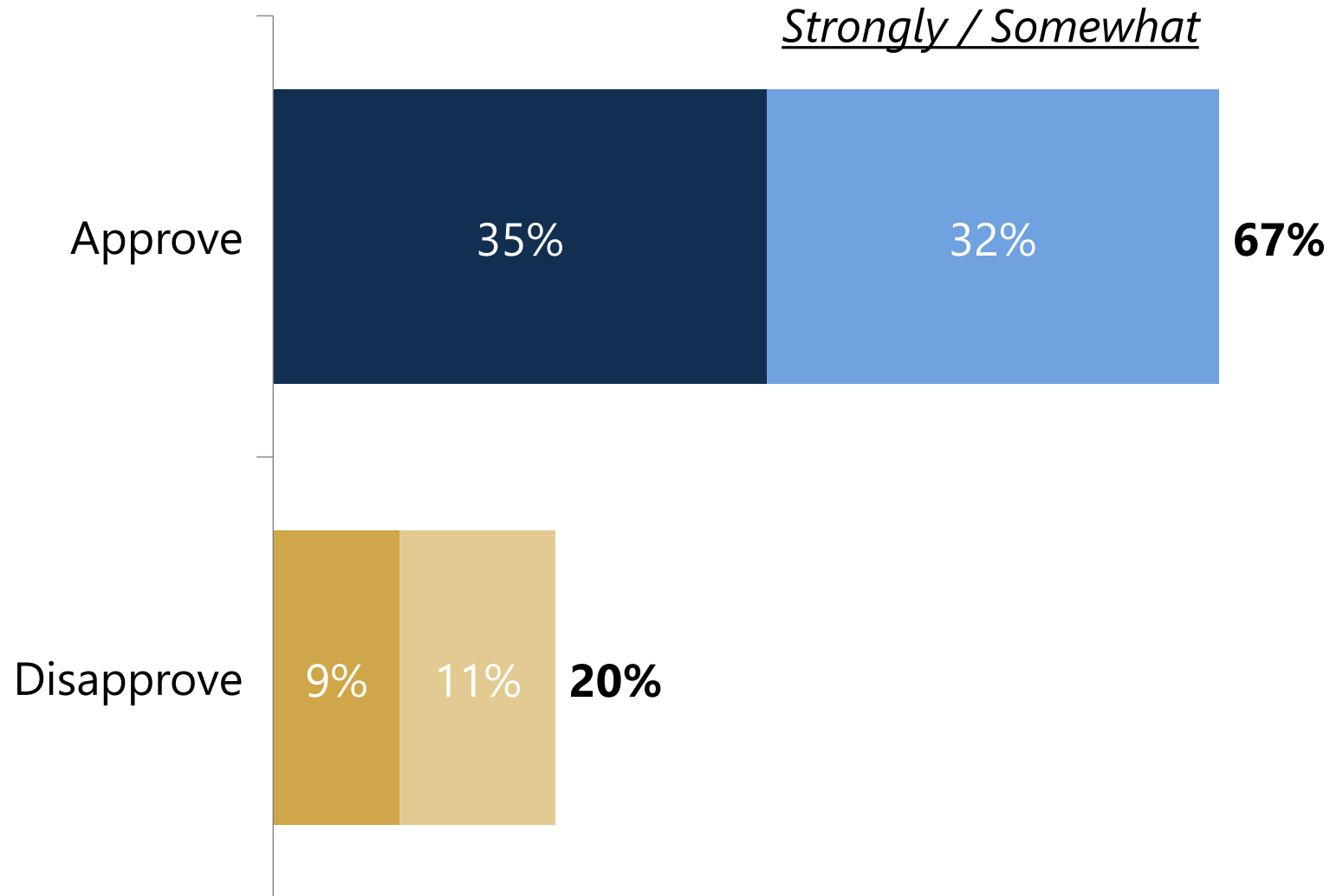


Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q74. Do you support or oppose the US sending weapons to Israel?



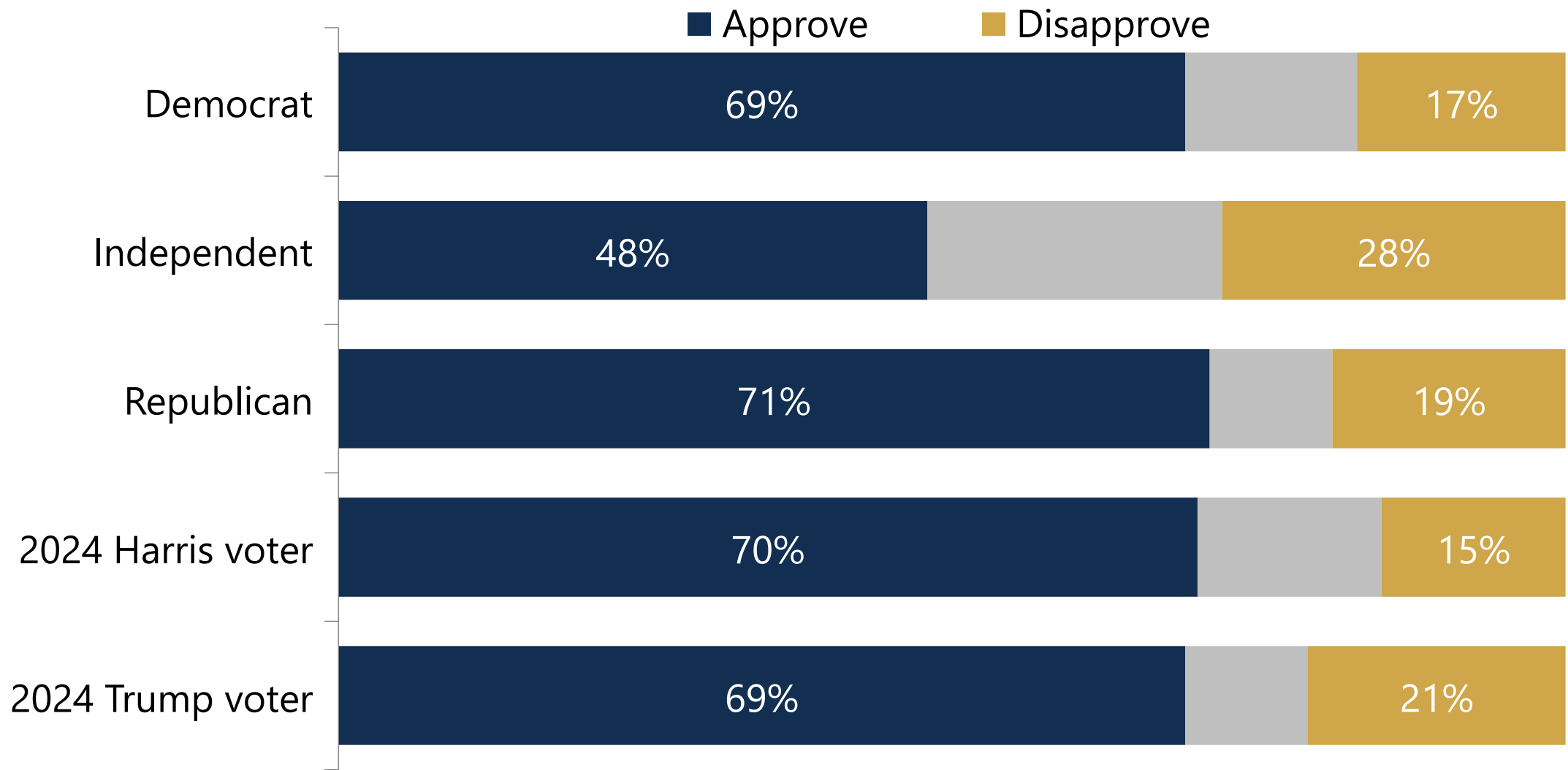
Two-thirds approval for negotiating a nuclear deal with Iran.



Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q75. Would you approve or disapprove of negotiating a nuclear deal with Iran that would be designed to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons in exchange for easing economic sanctions on the regime?

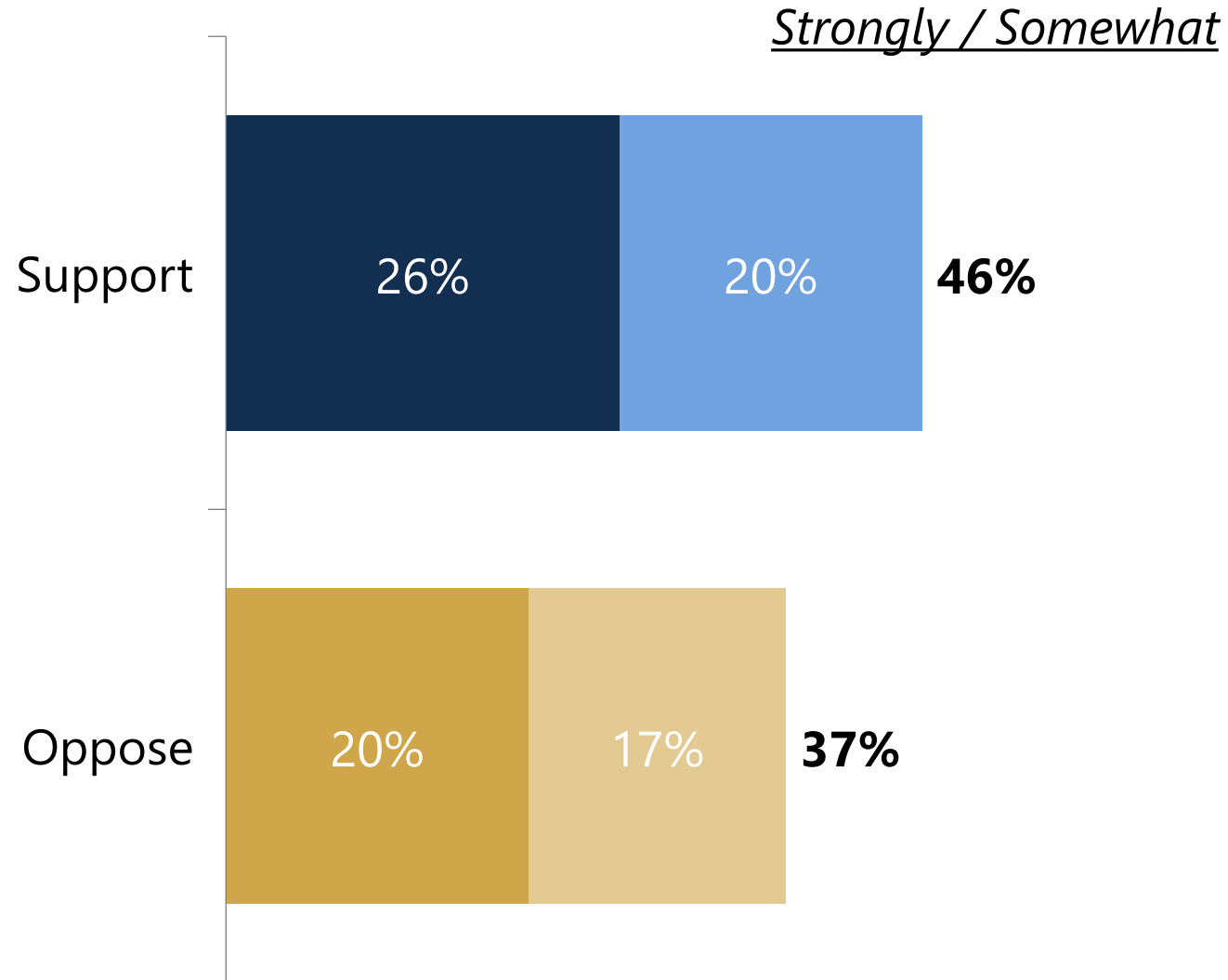
Approval for negotiating a nuclear deal with Iran is a point of agreement between Harris and Trump voters.



Q75. Would you approve or disapprove of negotiating a nuclear deal with Iran that would be designed to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons in exchange for easing economic sanctions on the regime?



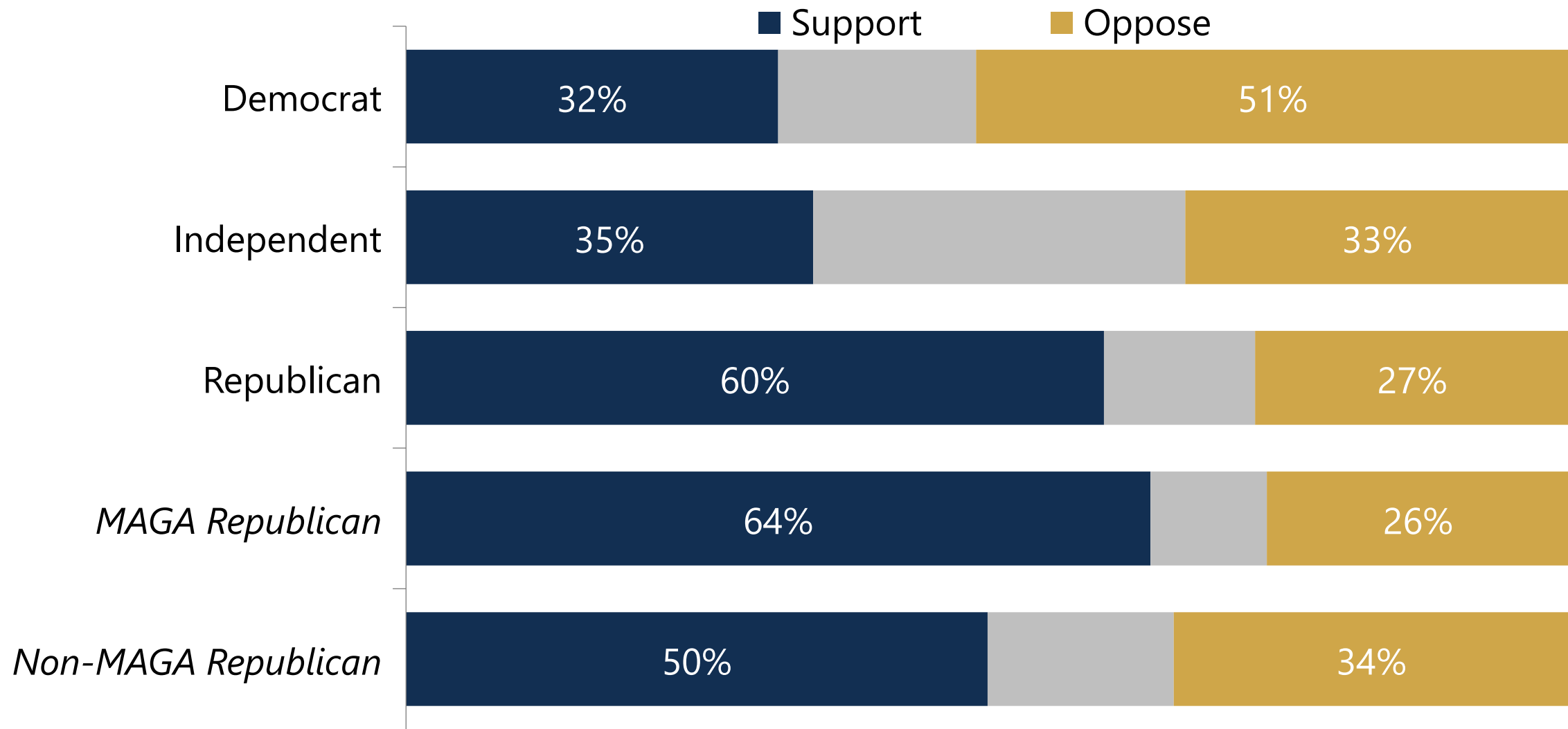
Plurality support Israel conducting targeted airstrikes against Iran's nuclear facilities if negotiations fail.



Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

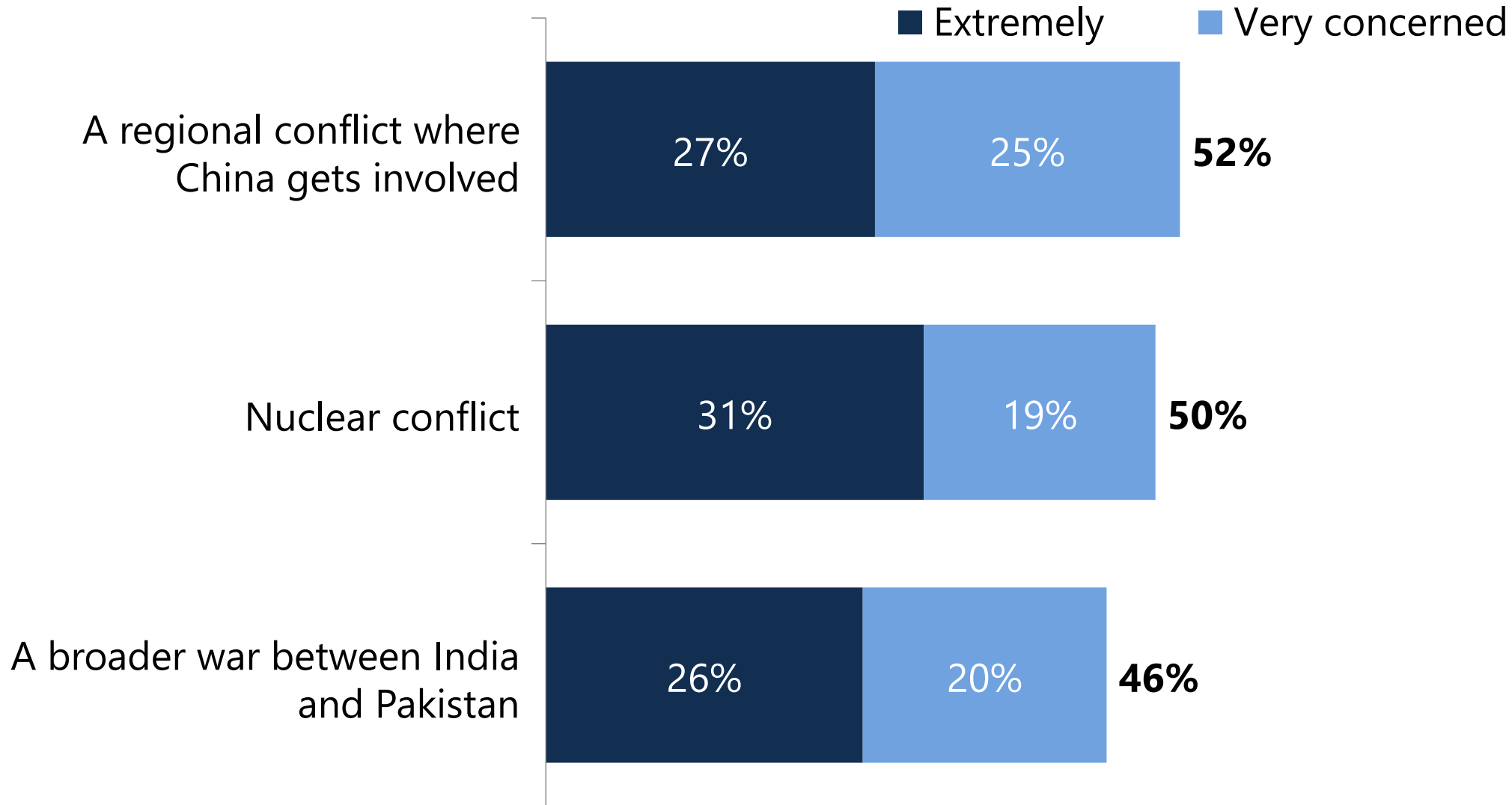
Q76. If diplomatic efforts with Iran fail, would you support or oppose Israel conducting targeted airstrikes against Iran's nuclear facilities?

Views on targeted airstrikes against Iran's nuclear facilities if negotiations fail, by PID.



Q76. If diplomatic efforts with Iran fail, would you support or oppose Israel conducting targeted airstrikes against Iran's nuclear facilities?

Majority concerned about China getting involved in India / Pakistan conflict.



Q77-79. As you may know, India and Pakistan recently had a 4-day military conflict involving missile, drone and air strikes by each side. How concerned are you about this leading to:



Profile of the Sample

Category	Group	% of Sample
Gender	Men	47%
	Women	53
Age	18-29	18
	30-44	25
	45-64	38
	65+	19
Race	White	72
	Black	14
	Hispanic or Latino	13
	Asian	3
Education	Noncollege	59
	College degree	25
	Postgraduate degree	15

Category	Group	% of Sample
Region	East	19%
	Midwest	21
	South	37
	West	24
Party Identification	Democrat	32
	Independent	30
	Republican	35
	<i>MAGA Republican</i>	72
	<i>Non-MAGA Republican</i>	23
Philosophy	Liberal	29
	Moderate	33
	Conservative	34

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