

Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute

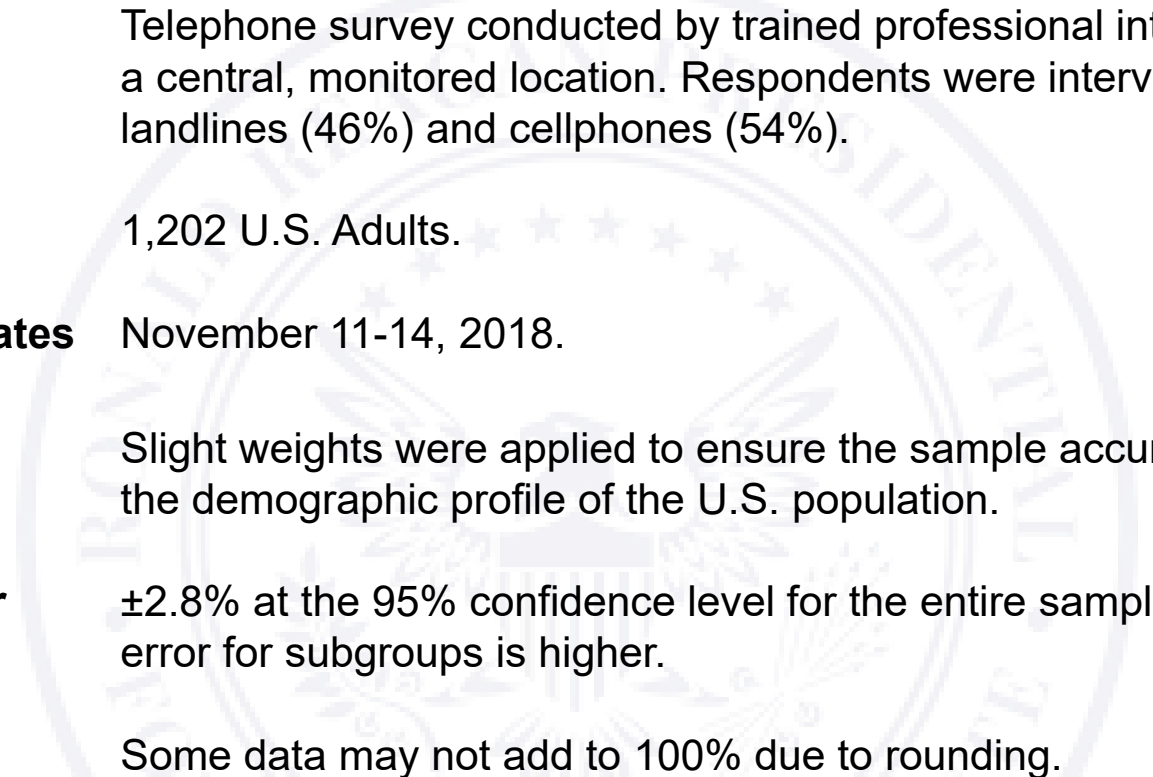
**ANDERSON
ROBBINS**
RESEARCH



2018 National Defense Survey



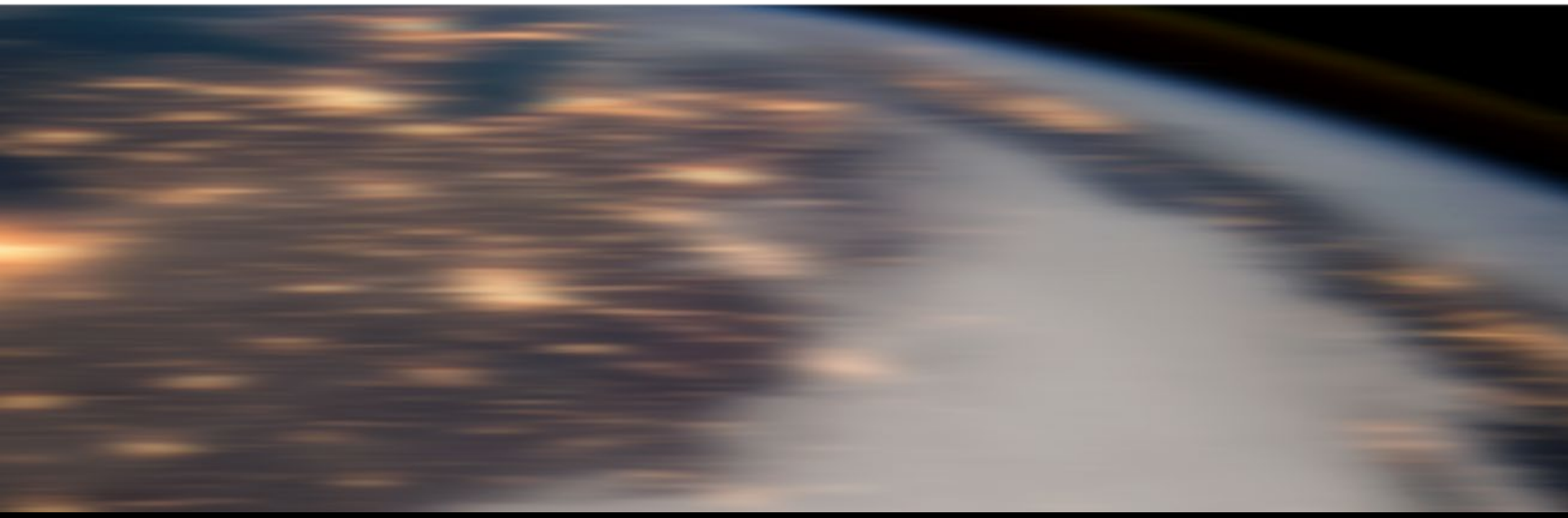
About the Survey



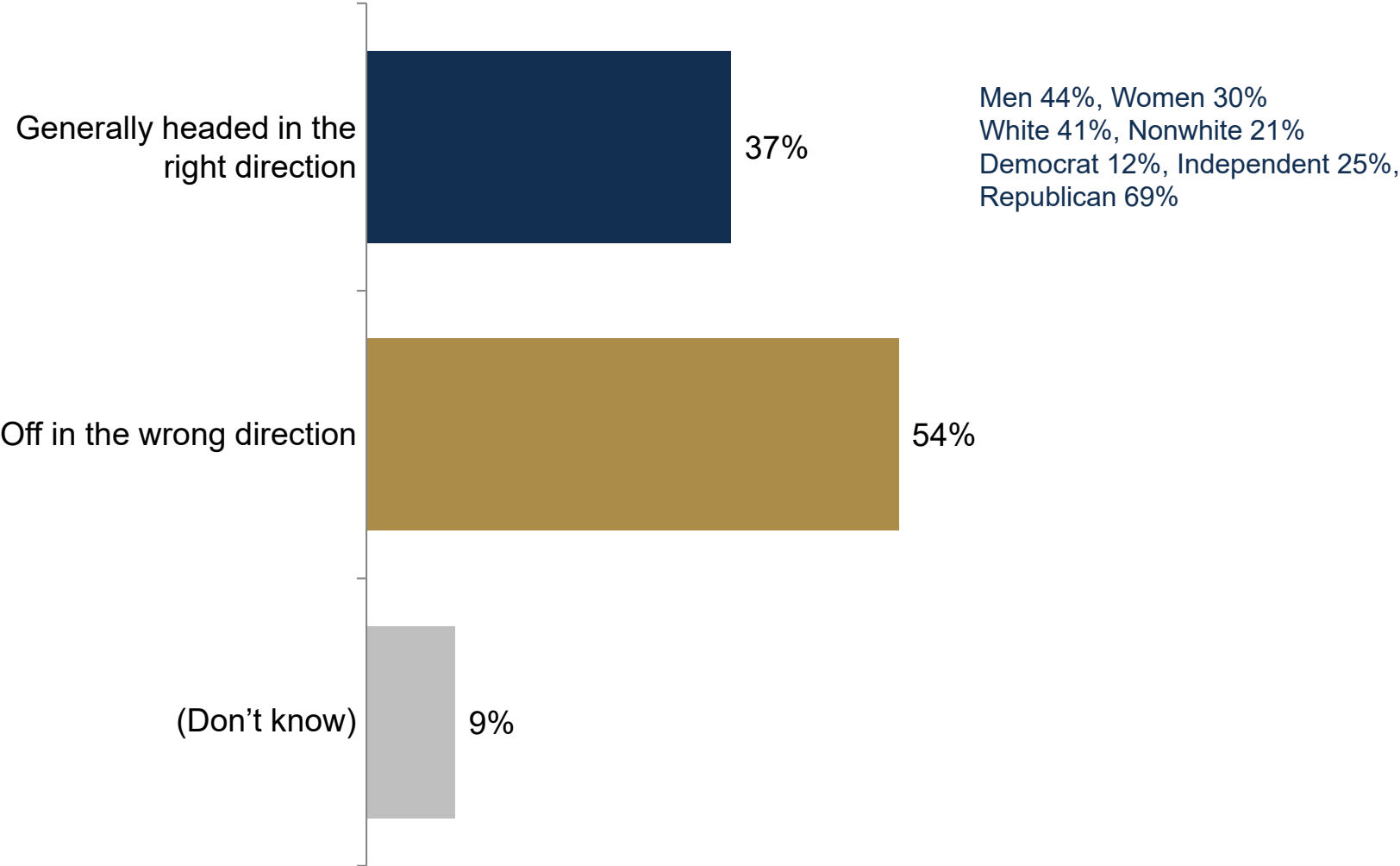
Mode	Telephone survey conducted by trained professional interviewers from a central, monitored location. Respondents were interviewed on landlines (46%) and cellphones (54%).
Sample	1,202 U.S. Adults.
Interviewing Dates	November 11-14, 2018.
Weights	Slight weights were applied to ensure the sample accurately reflects the demographic profile of the U.S. population.
Margin of Error	±2.8% at the 95% confidence level for the entire sample; the margin of error for subgroups is higher.
Note	Some data may not add to 100% due to rounding.



Mood of the country



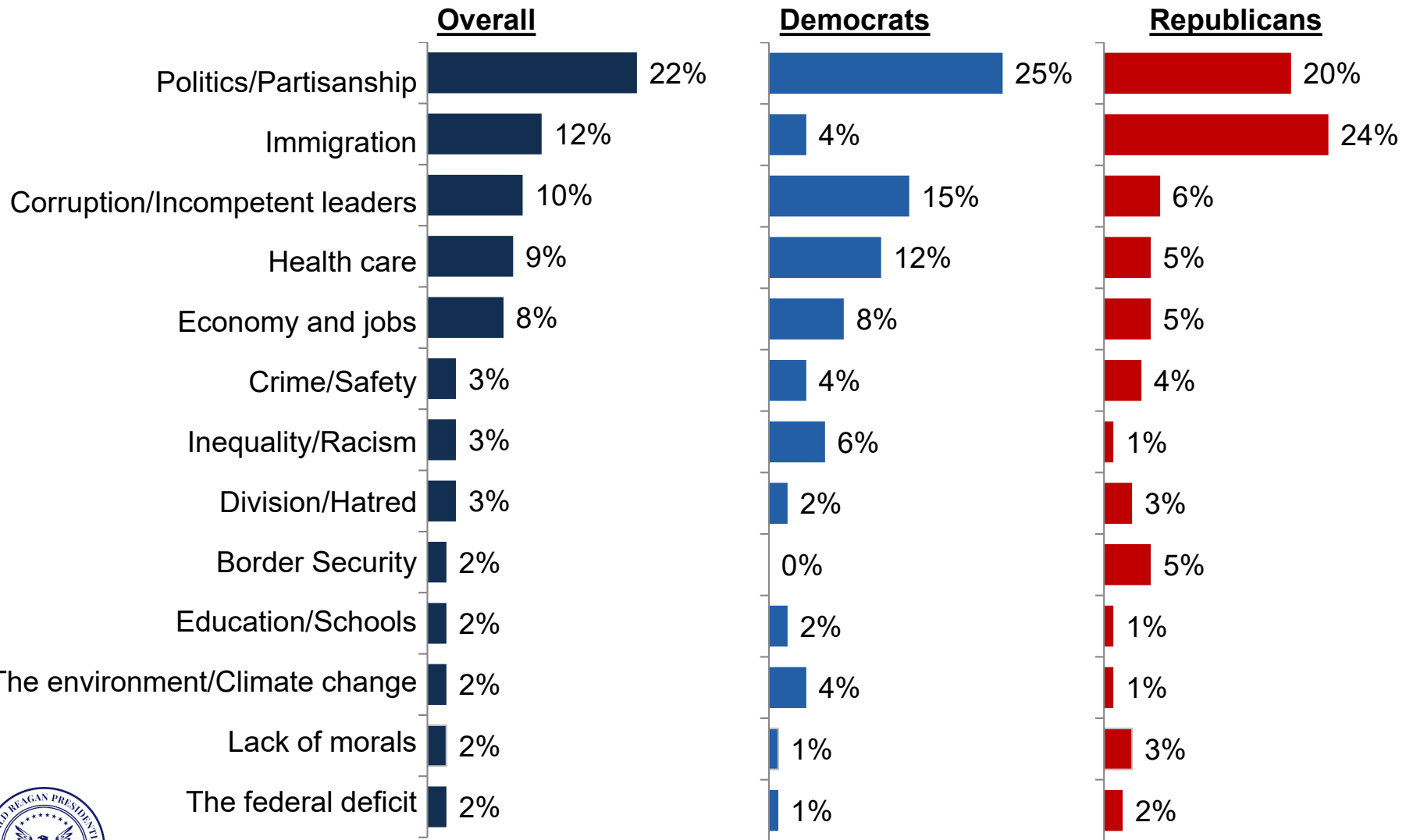
A majority of Americans think the United States is heading in the wrong direction.



Q2: Would you say things in the United States today are:



There is bipartisan agreement that partisanship is the top problem facing the country.



Note: Asked as an open-ended question. Responses under 2% (overall) not shown. Remainder Other / Don't know

Q3: What would you say is the most important problem facing this country today? [RECORD VERBATIM]

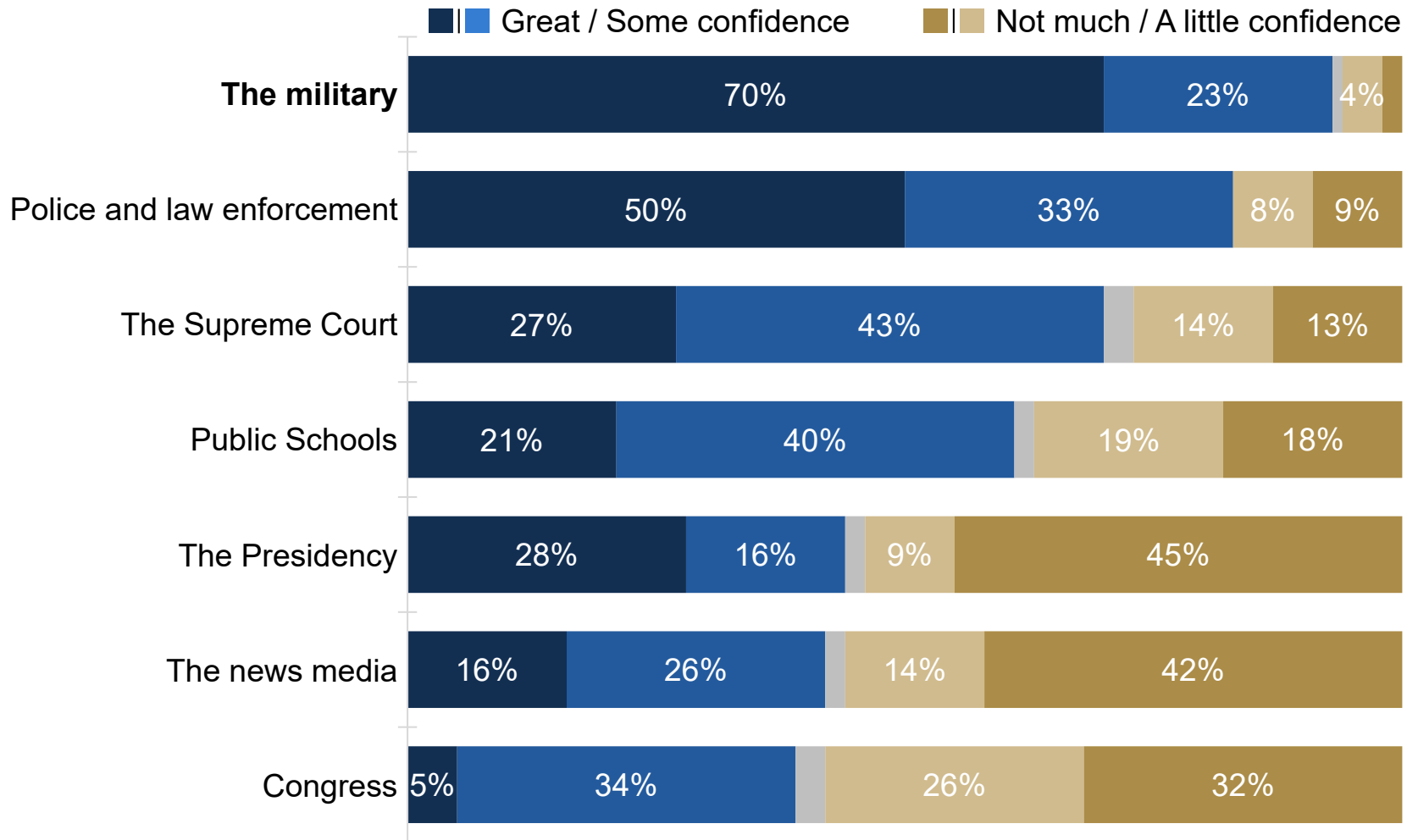




Confidence in the *Military,* Institutions, and Professions

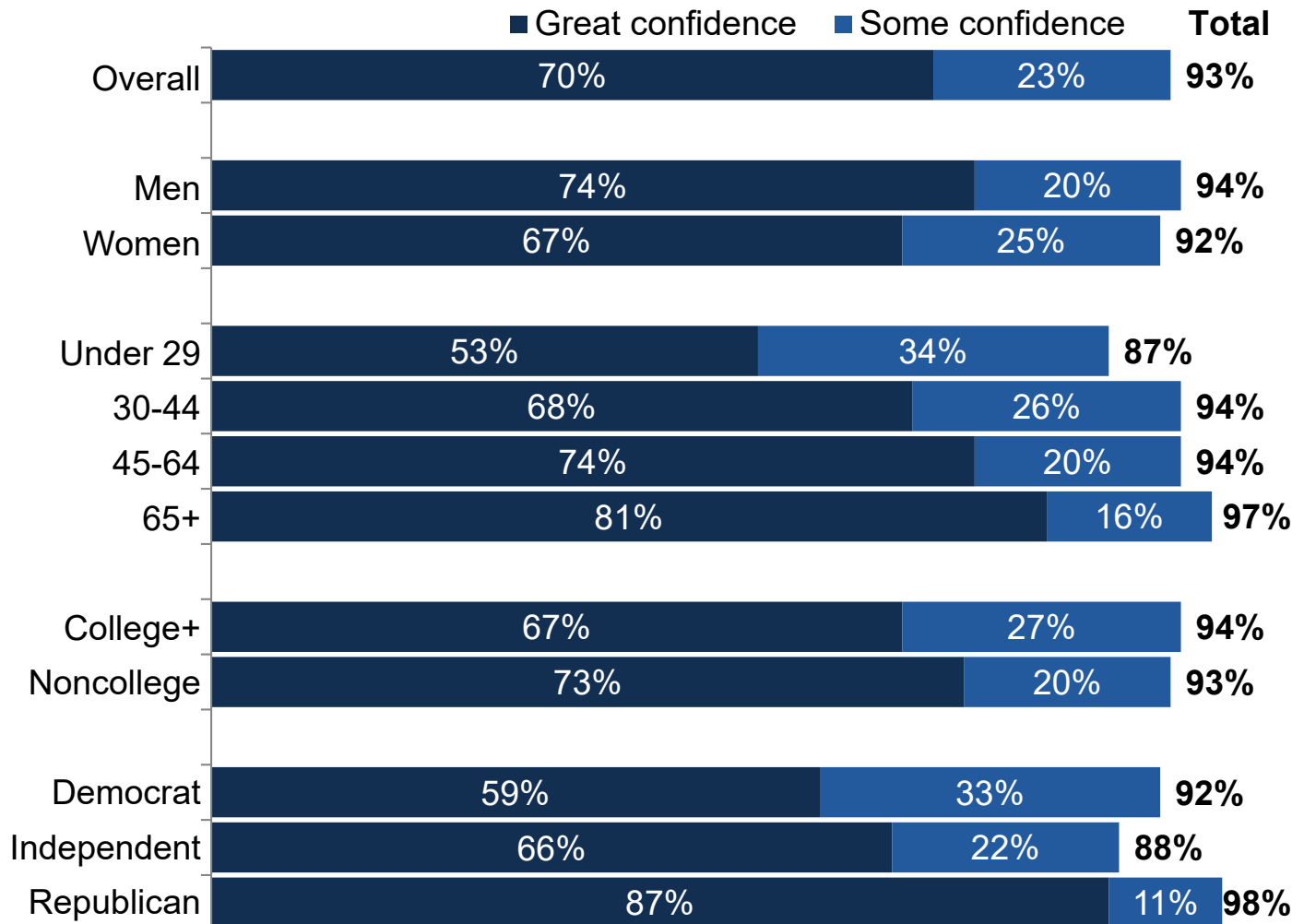


The military is a very highly trusted institution; Congress is not.



Q4 – Q10: For each of the following groups or institutions, please tell me how much trust and confidence you have in them?

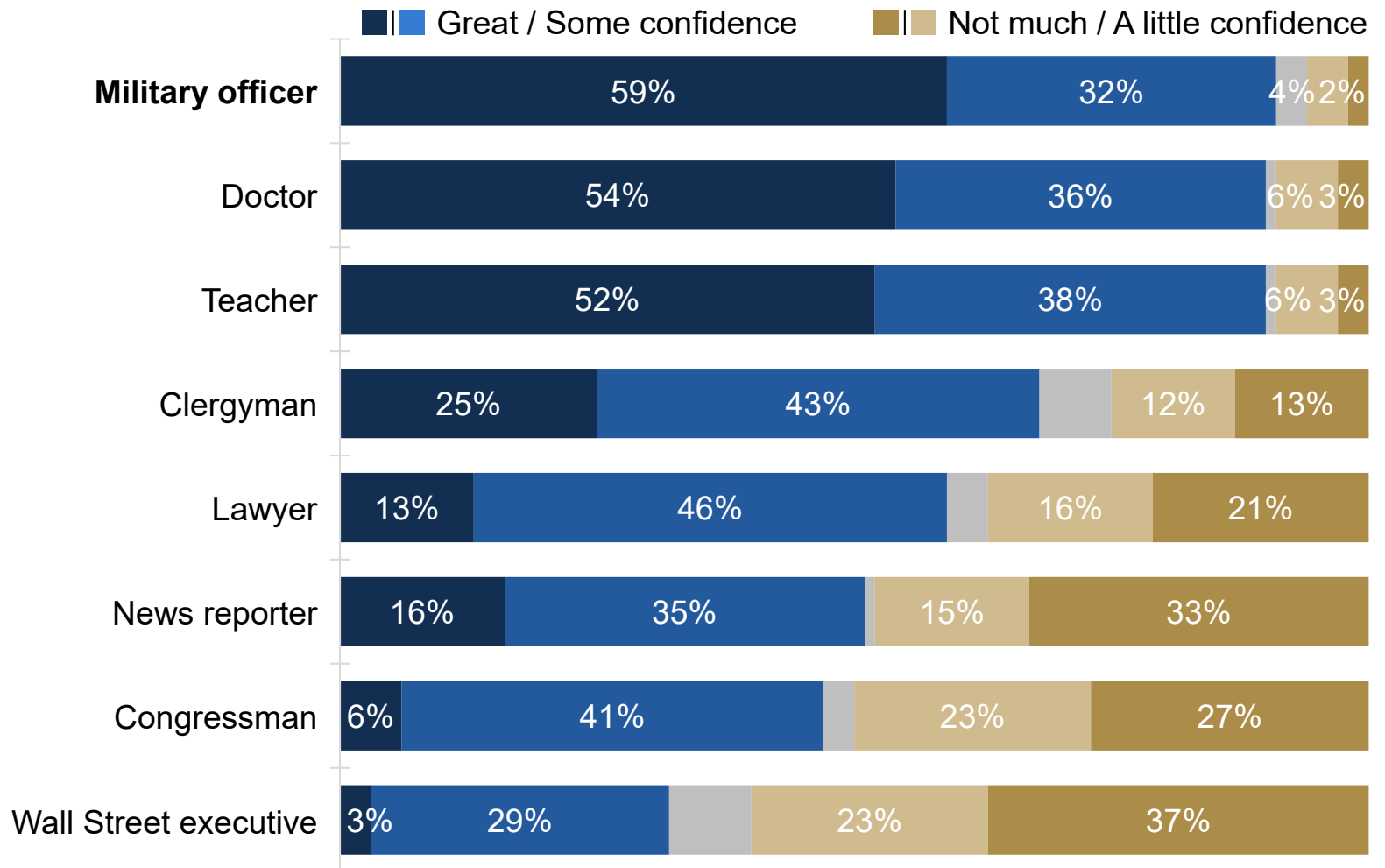
While all Americans have confidence in the military, older citizens and Republicans are particularly likely to have a great deal of confidence.



Q8: For each of the following groups or institutions, please tell me how much trust and confidence you have in them?
[The Military]

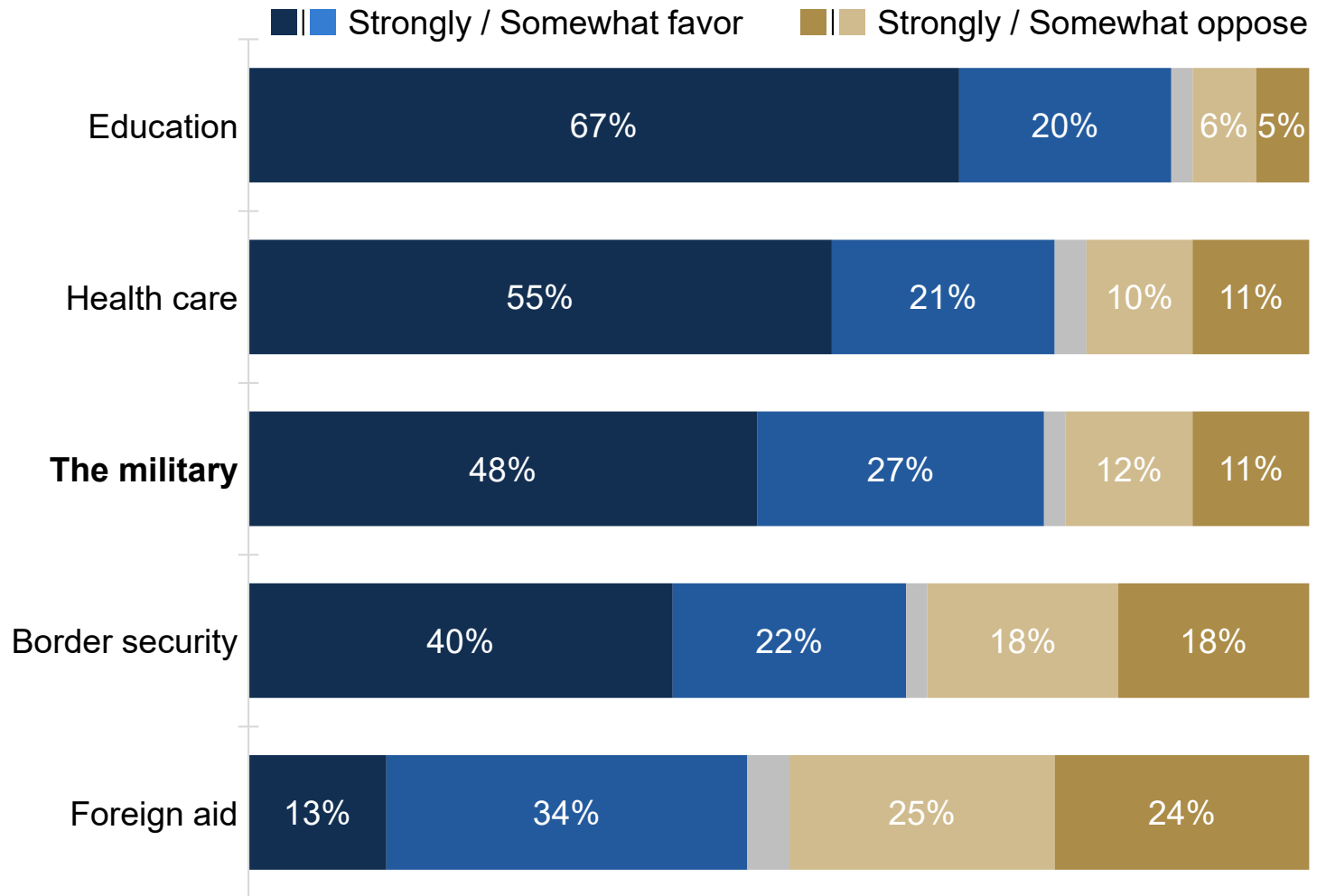


Military leaders are even more trusted than doctors and teachers.



Q11 – Q18: For each of the following individuals, please tell me how much trust and confidence you have in them?

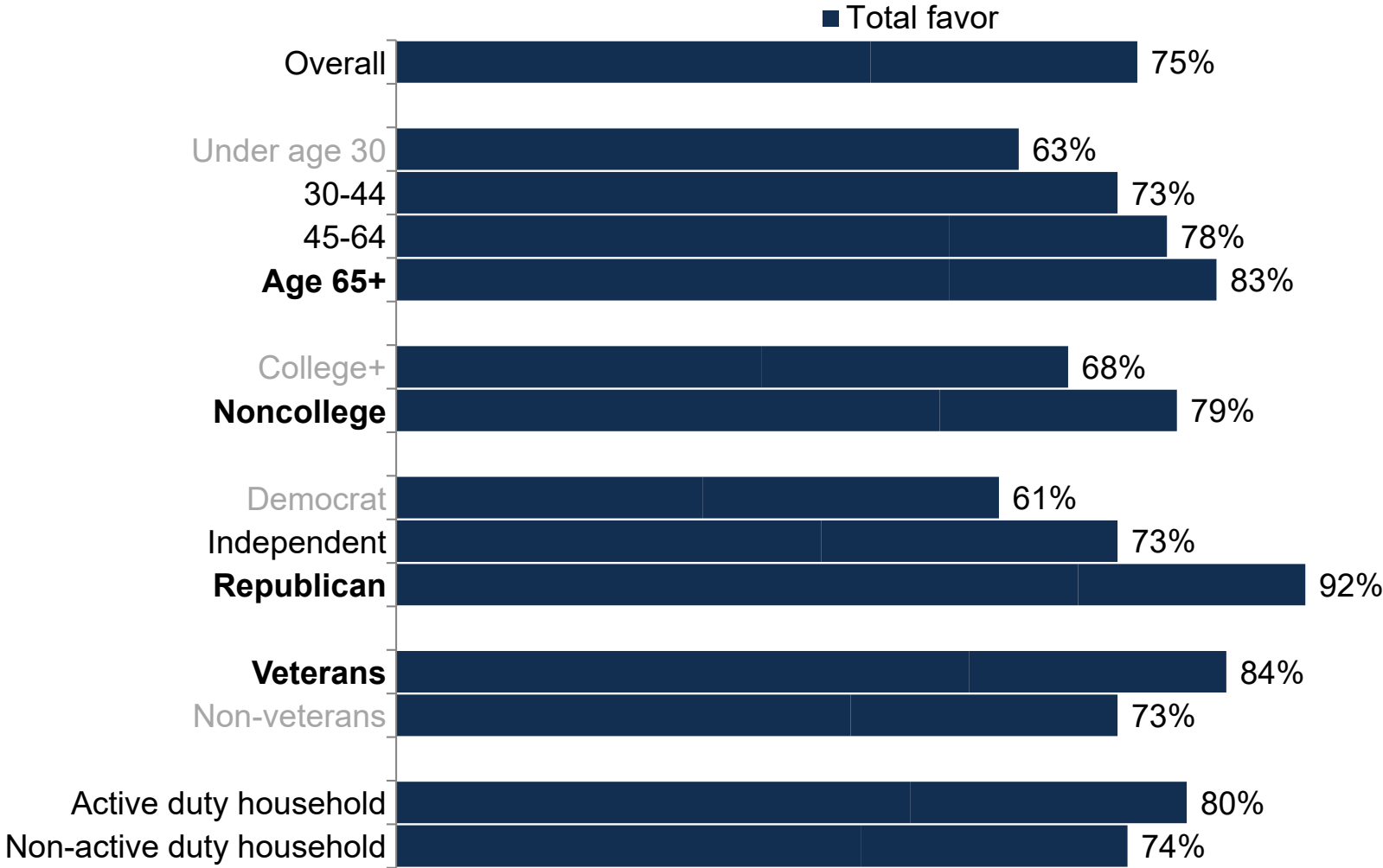
Three-quarters favor increased government spending on the military.



Q19 – Q23: Please tell me if you favor or oppose increasing government spending in each of the following areas.



Younger citizens and Democrats are among the *least* likely to favor increased military spending.

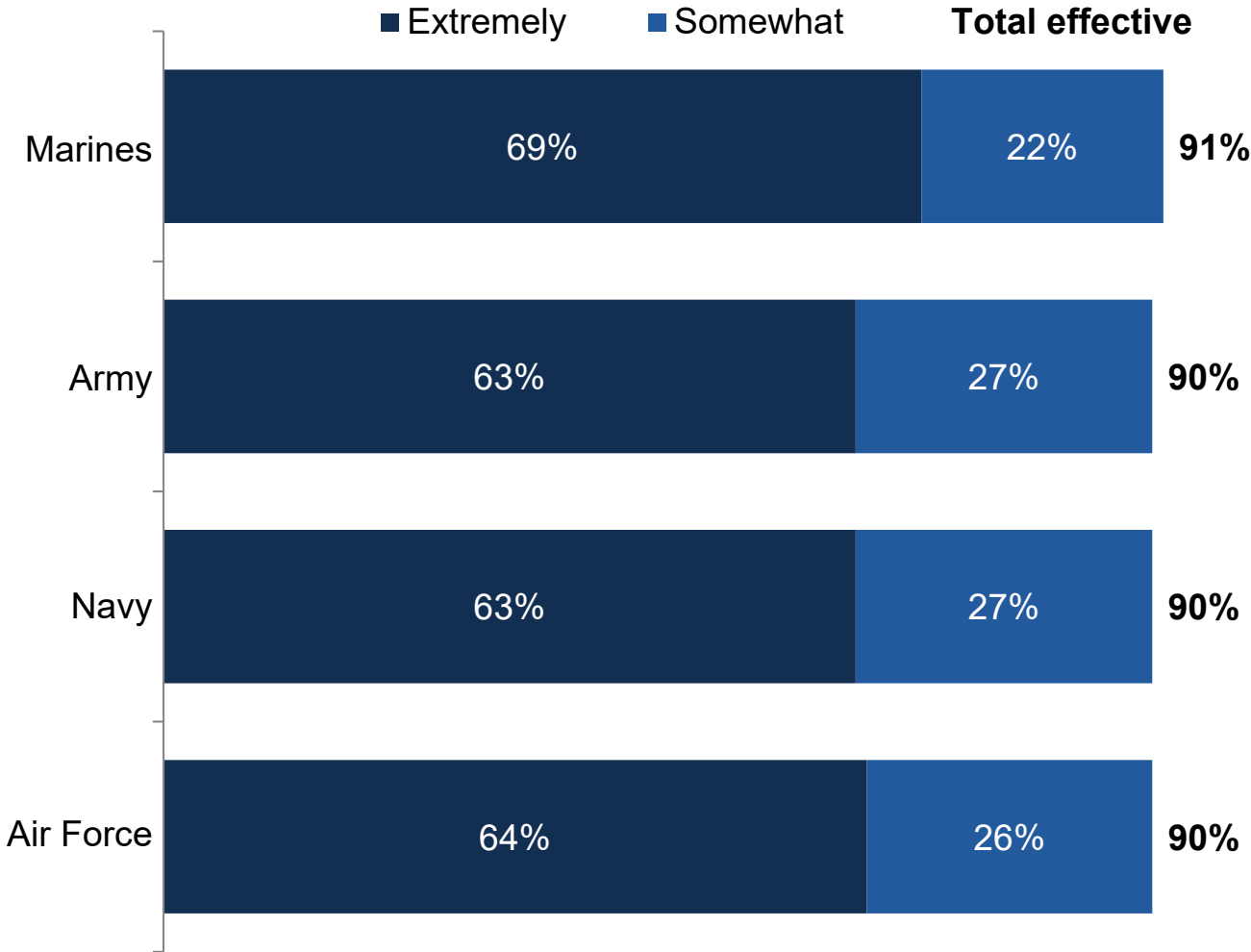


Q19: Please tell me if you favor or oppose increasing government spending on the military?



Assessments of U.S. Military Effectiveness and Efficiency

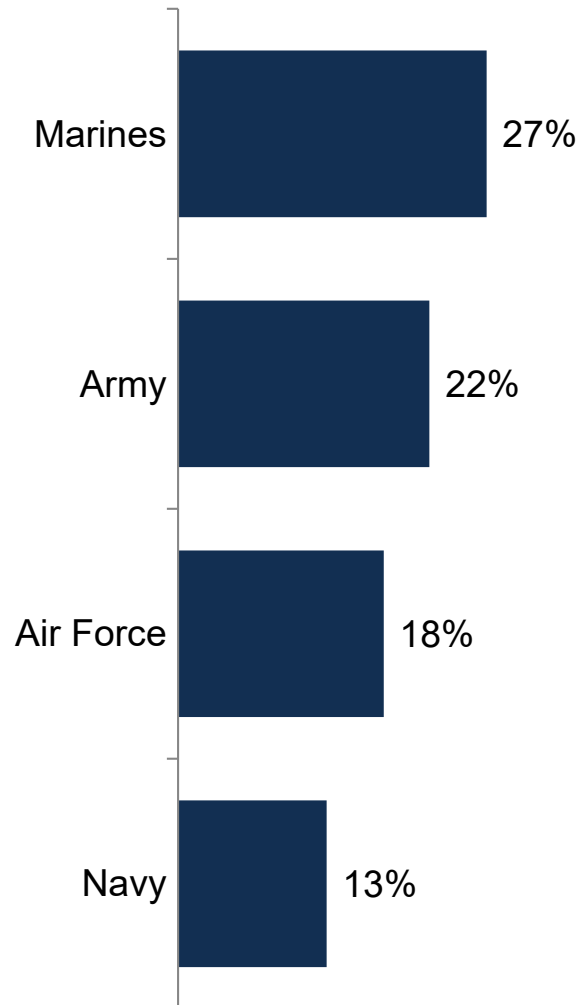
Americans believe that all four branches of the military are extremely effective.



Q24 – Q27: How effective are each of the branches of the U.S. military?



When forced to choose, Marines are rated the most effective.

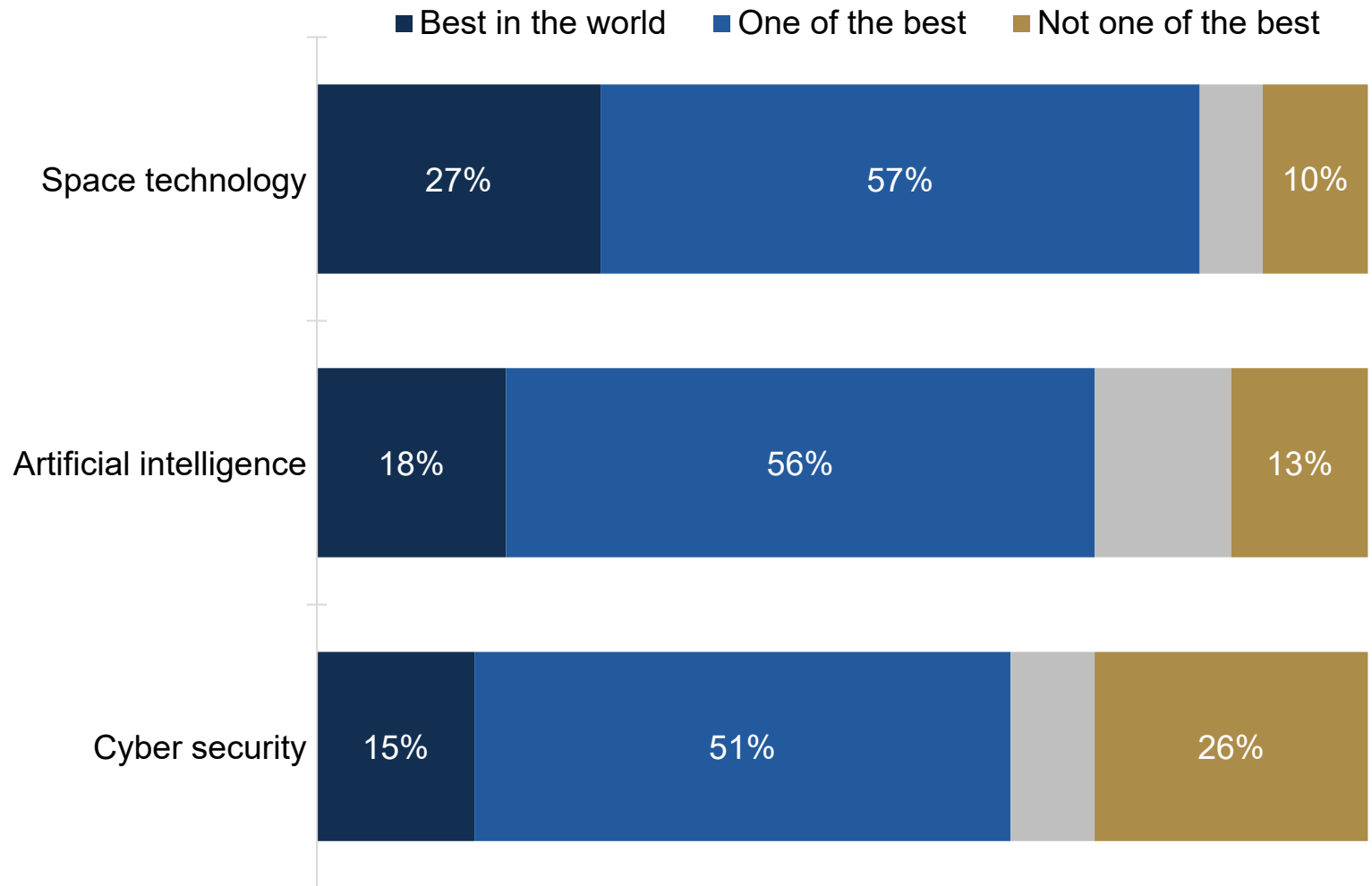


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q28: Which branch of the military do you think is MOST effective?



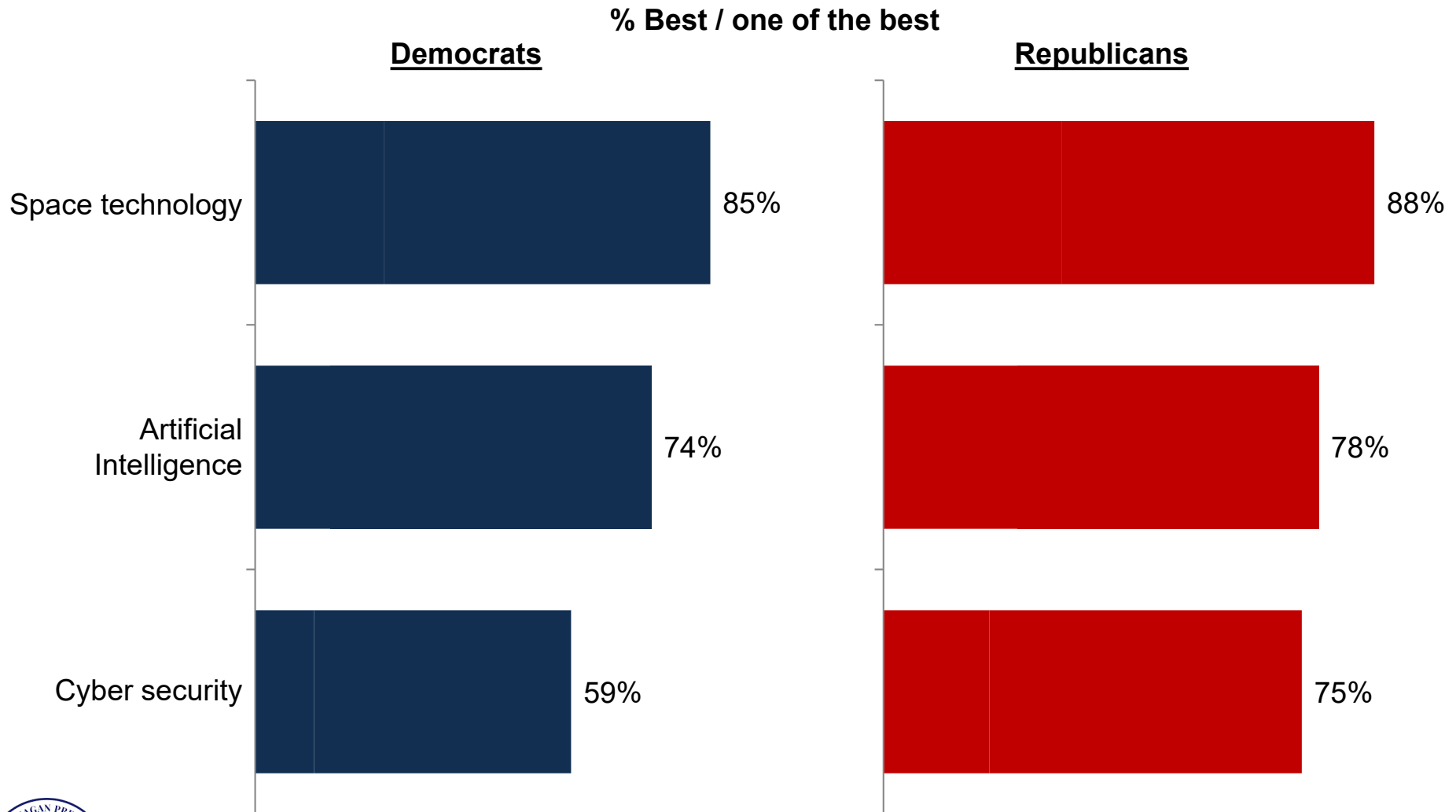
U.S. military is viewed as among the best in emergent technologies.



Q30 – Q32: For each of the following, please tell us how you think the U.S. military is doing compared to the military in other countries. Are we the best in the world, one of the best, or are we not one of the best?



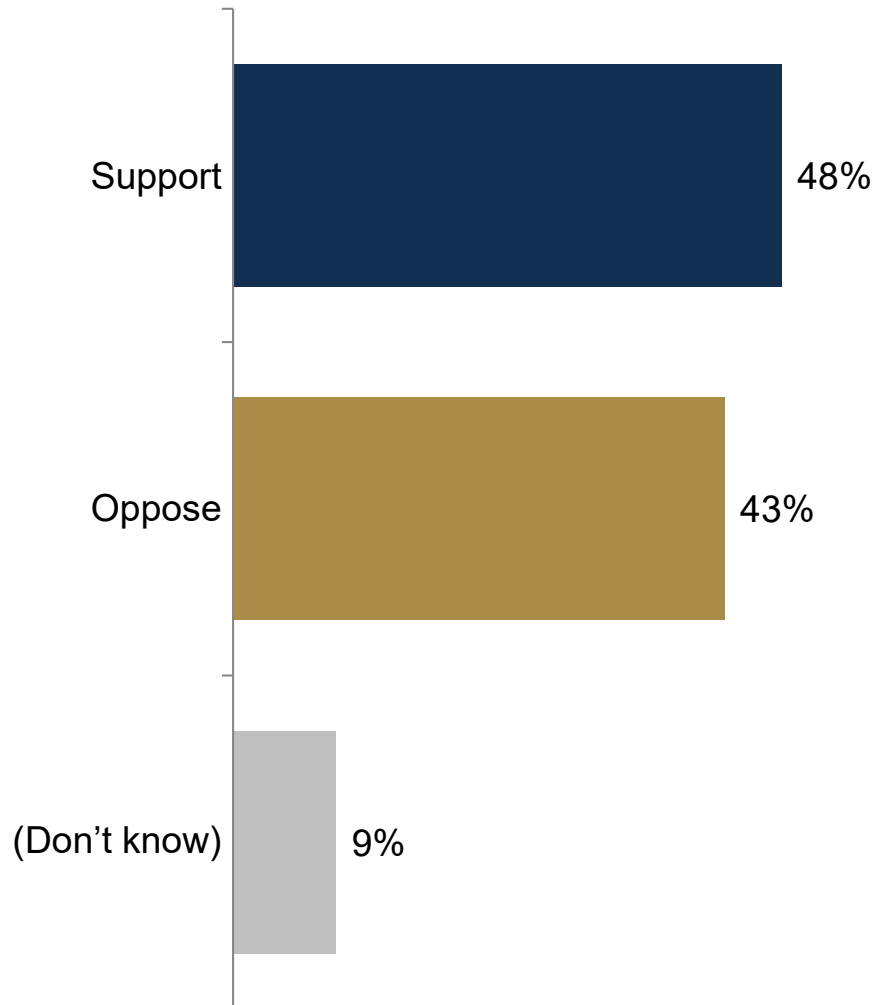
Partisans agree on evaluations of US space and AI capabilities – but disagree on cyber security.



Q30 – Q32: For each of the following, please tell us how you think the U.S. military is doing compared to the military in other countries. Are we the best in the world, one of the best, or are we not one of the best?



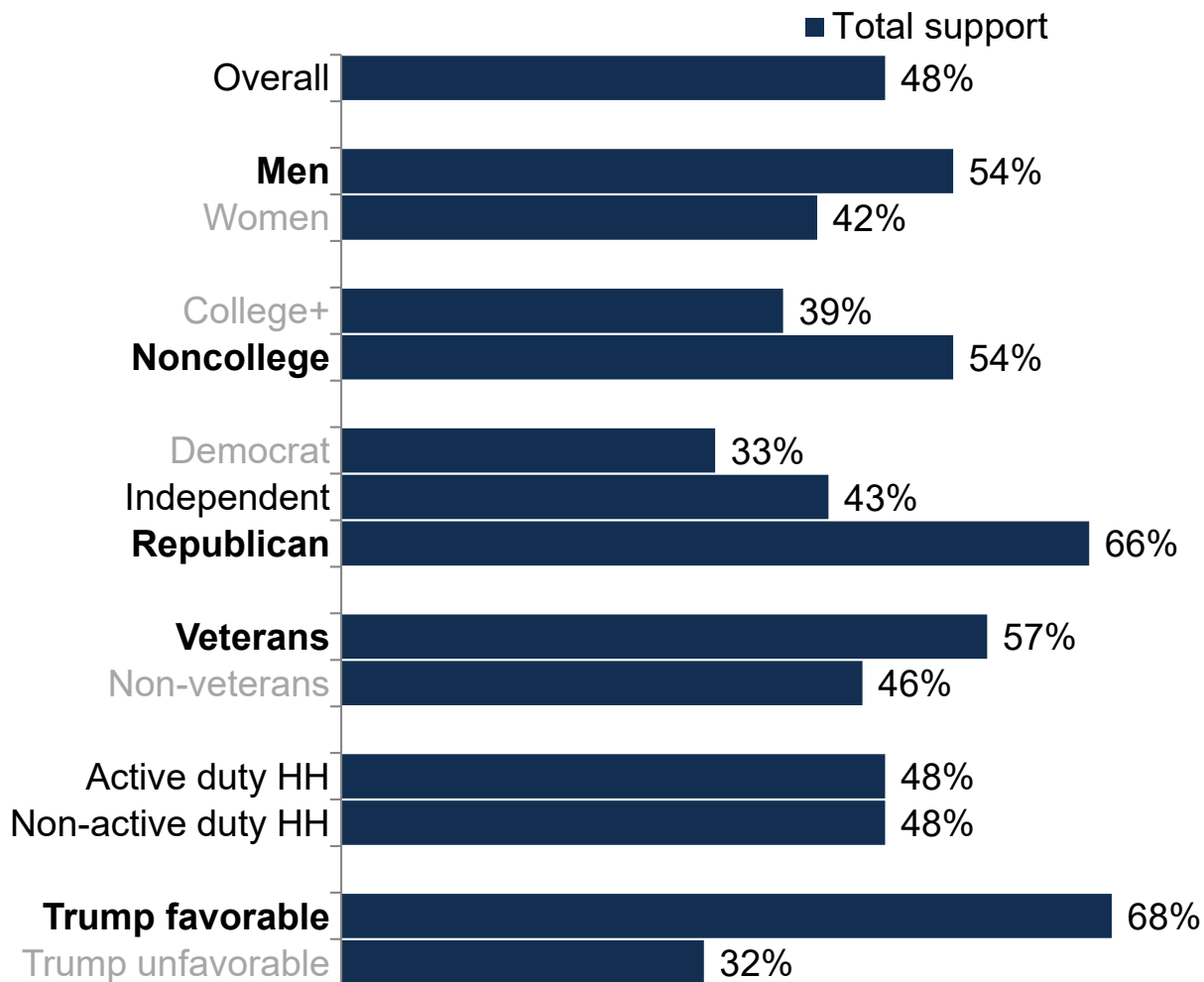
Creation of a Space Force lacks broad support.



Q29: Do you support or oppose the creation of the Space Force, which would be dedicated to protecting and defending U.S. interests in space?



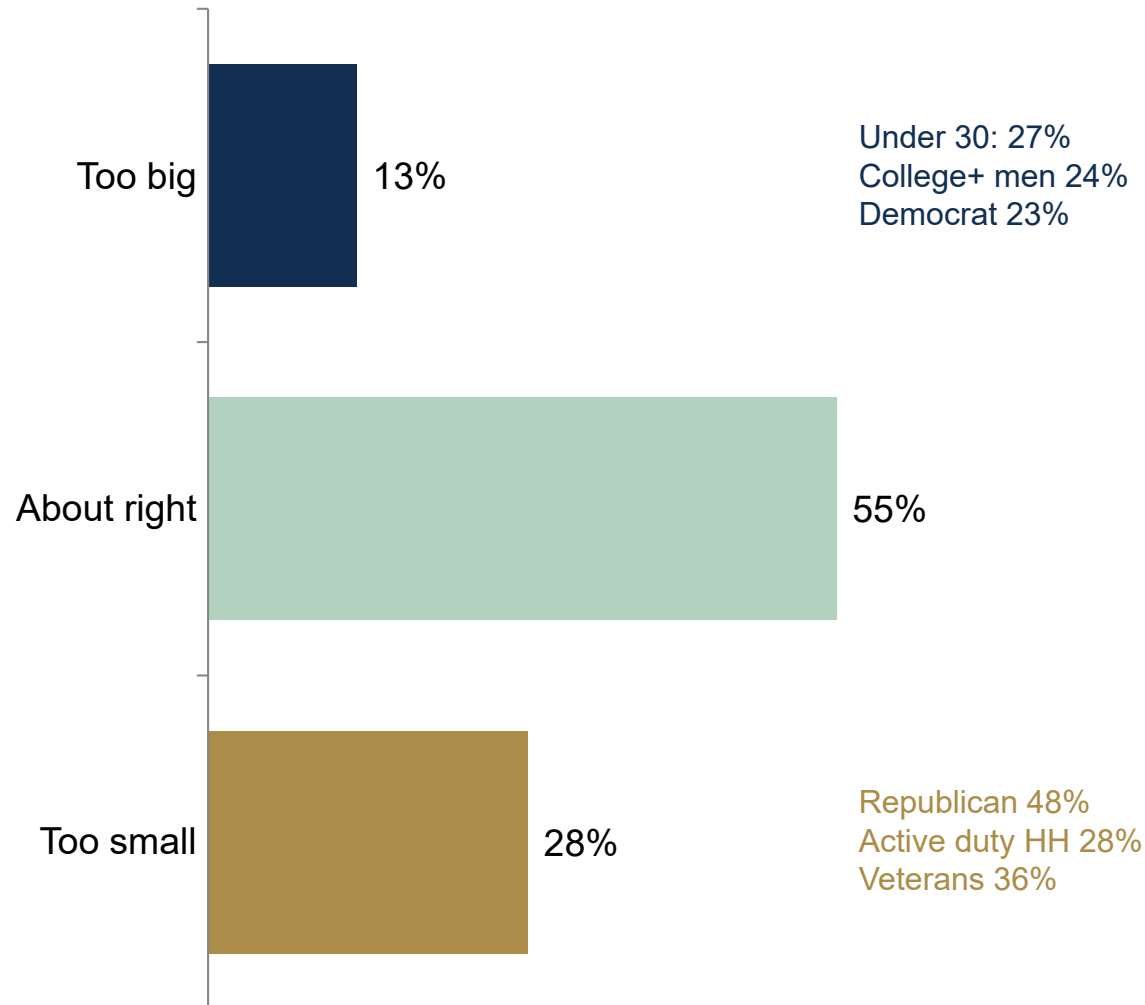
Support for creation of a Space Force tracks closely with views of President Trump.



Q29: Do you support or oppose the creation of the Space Force, which would be dedicated to protecting and defending U.S. interests in space?



Most Americans think the current size of the military is about right.

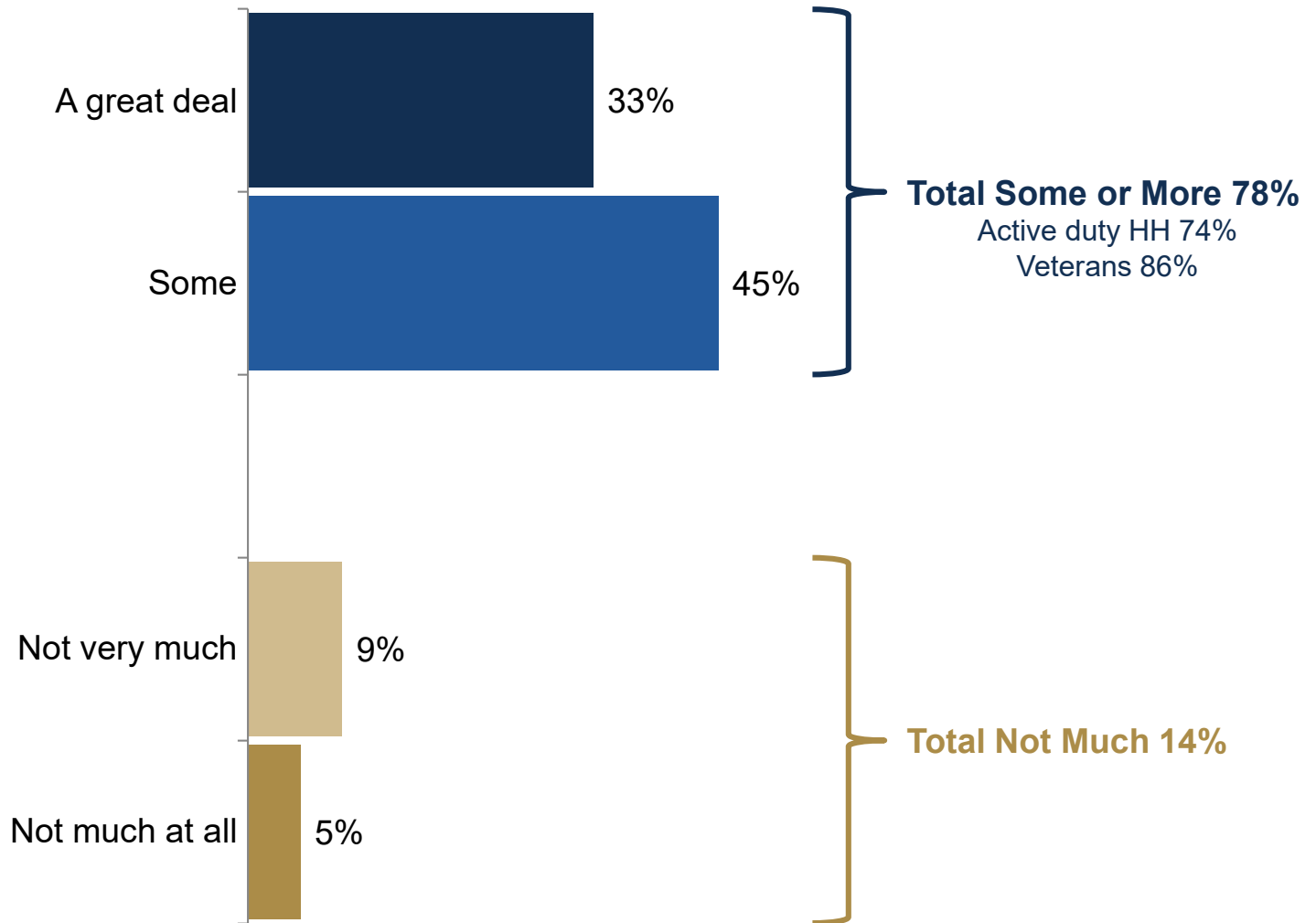


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q33: Do you think the U.S. military is currently too big, too small, or just about right?

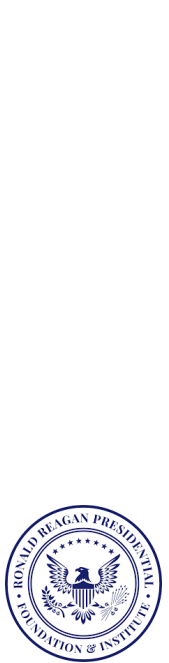


Most Americans see waste and fraud in the U.S. military budget.

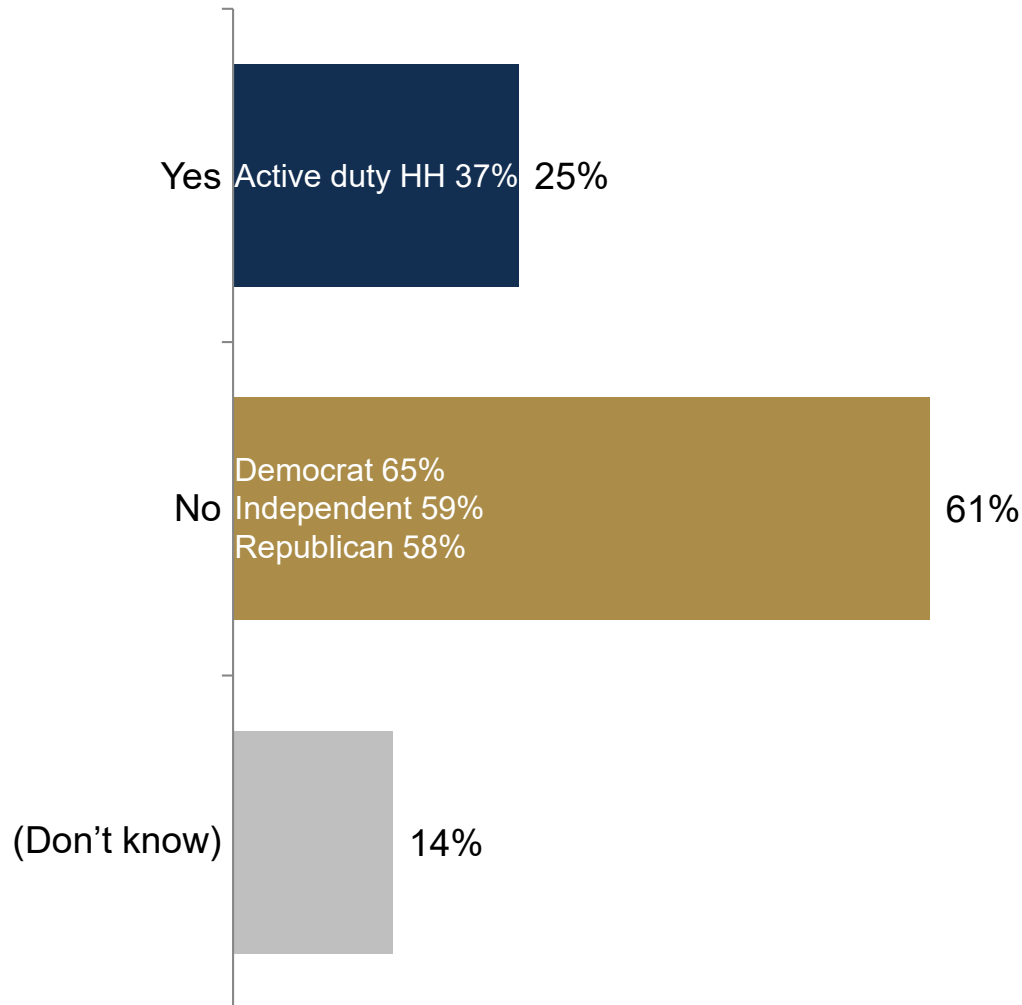


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q35: How much waste and fraud do you think there is in the U.S. military budget?



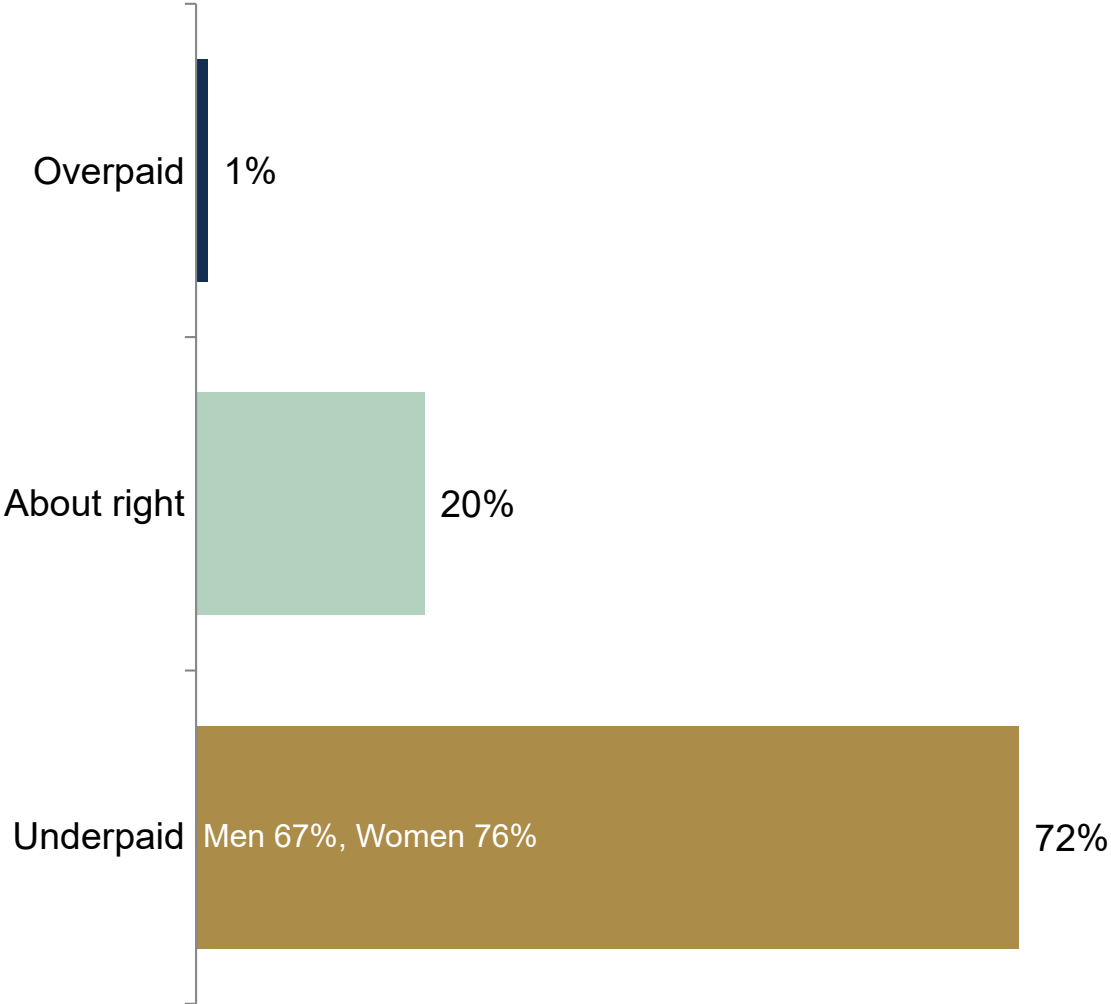
Few believe Congress provides adequate oversight of Defense spending.



Q36: Does Congress provide adequate oversight of Defense spending?



A large majority of Americans think U.S. troops are underpaid.



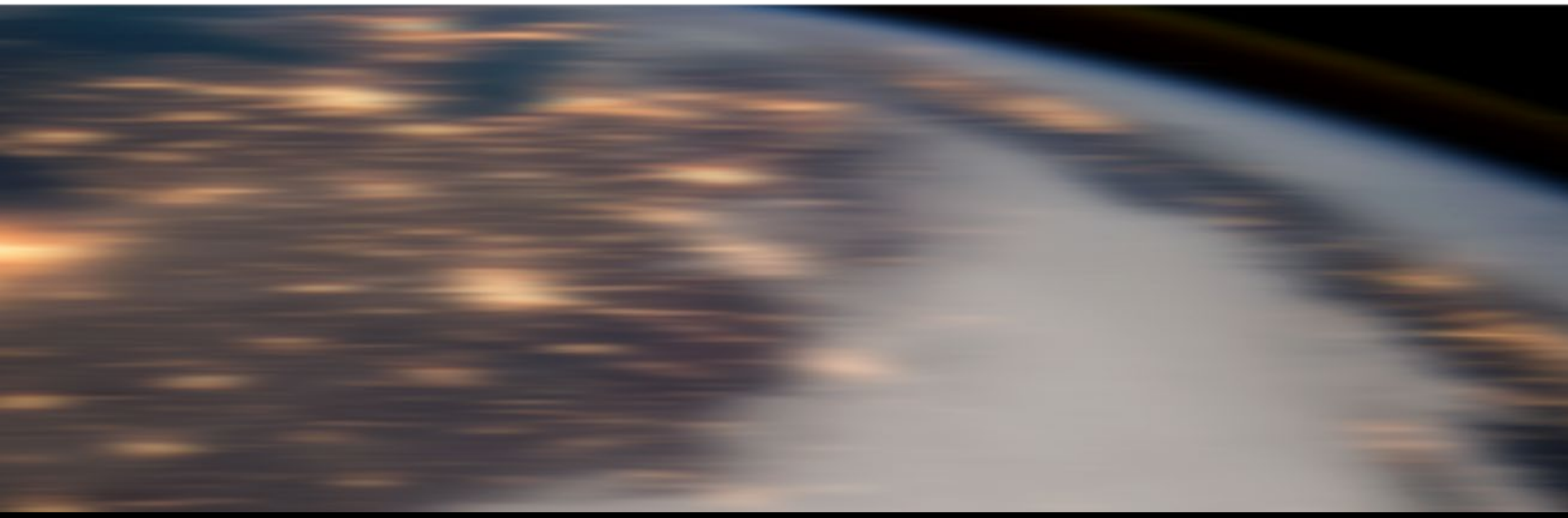
Note: Remainder Don't know

Q34: Do you think U.S. troops are overpaid, underpaid, or is their pay about right?

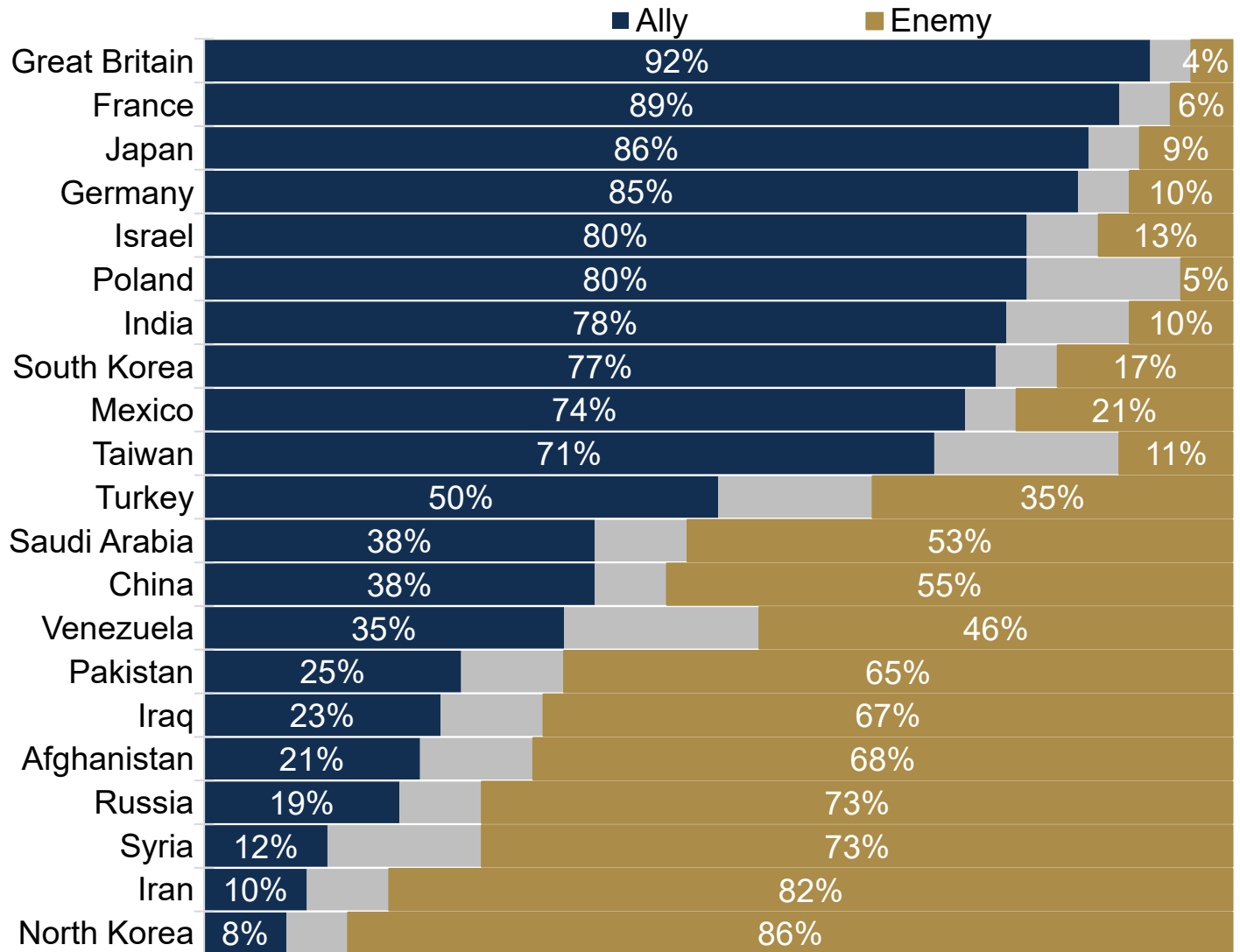




Assessments of Other Countries



Summary of Views on Allies and Enemies

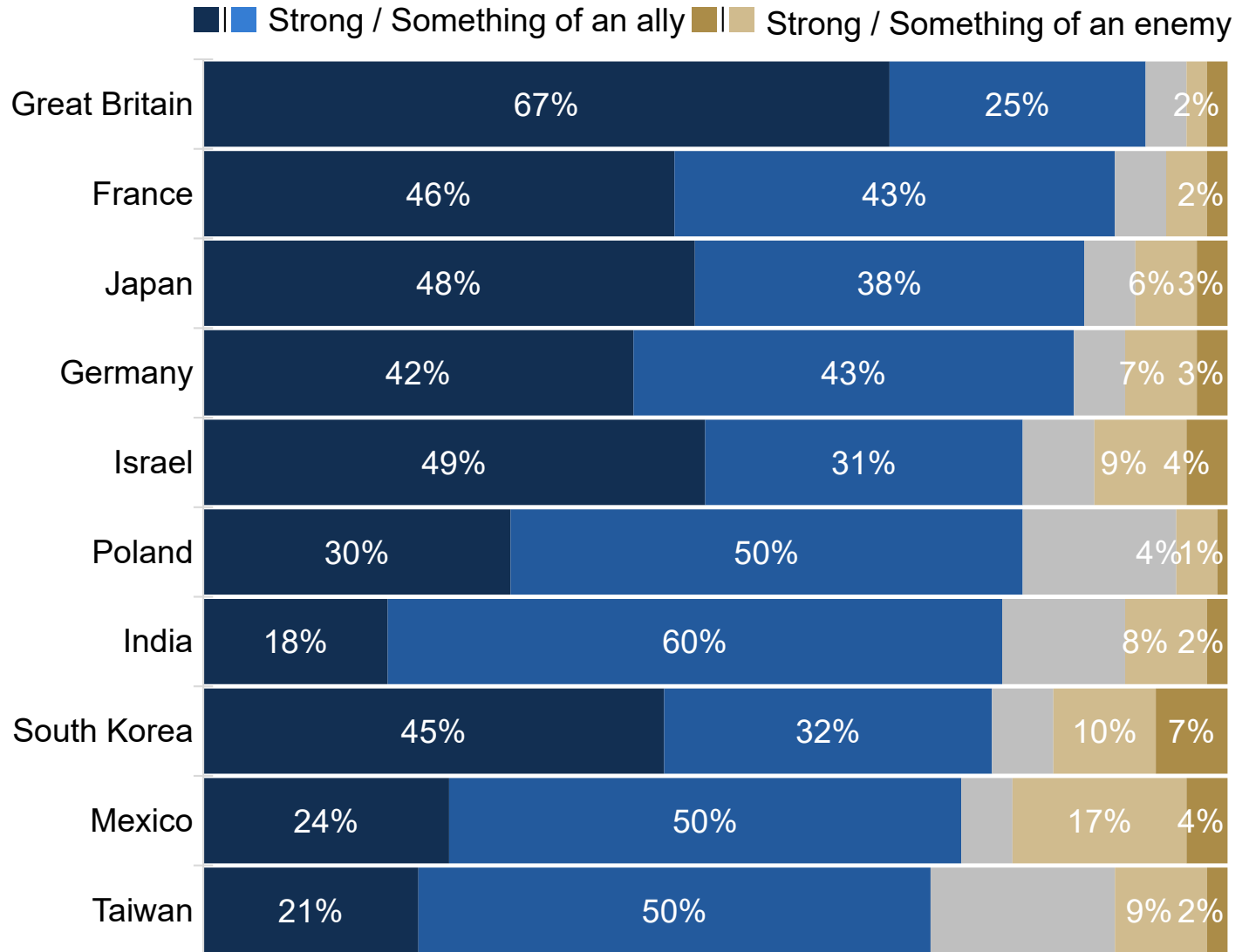


Q38 – Q58: For each of the following countries, please tell us whether you see them as a strong ally, something of an ally, something of an enemy, or a strong enemy?



Key Allies

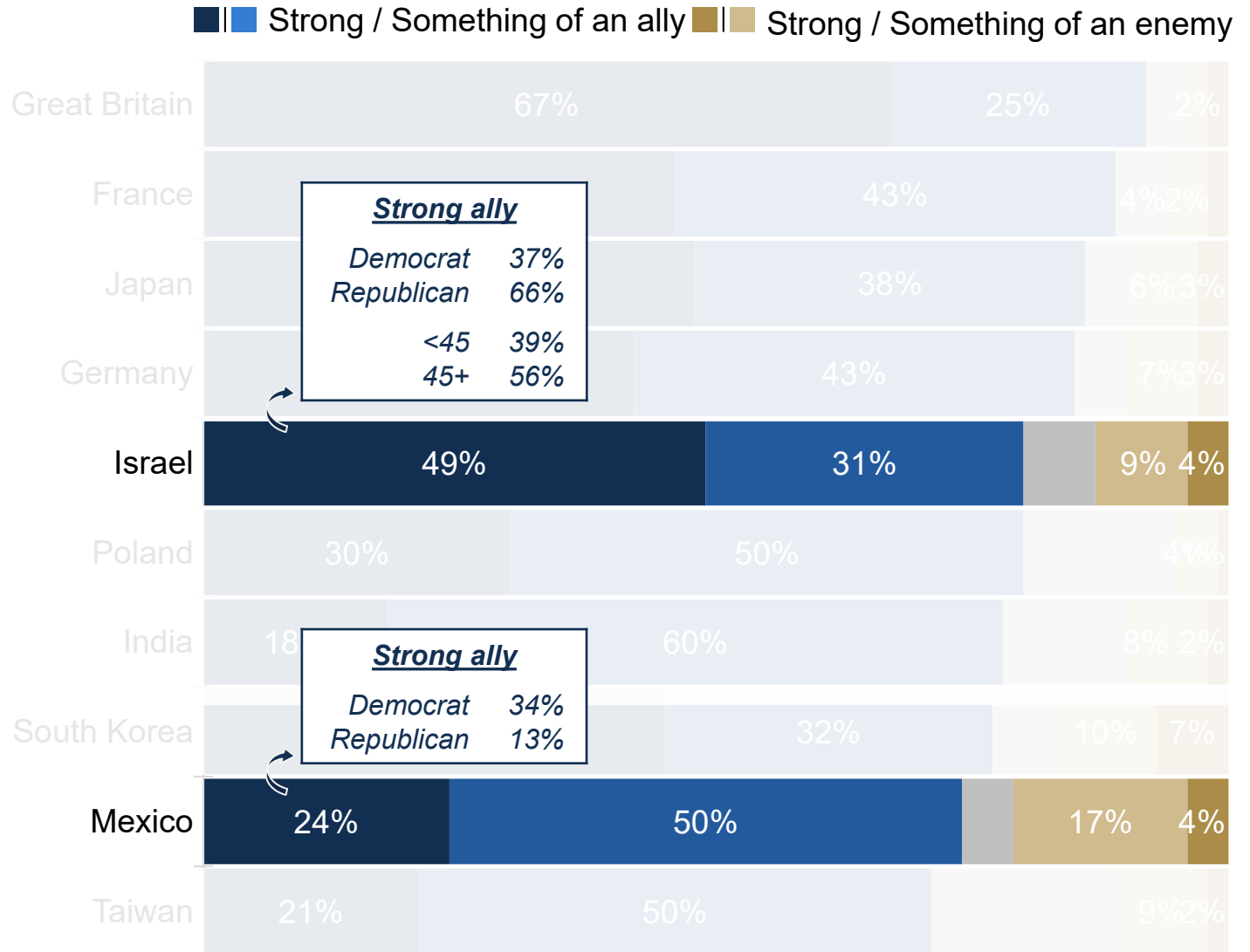
Strong views on Britain and Israel, more nuanced views of NATO



Q38 – Q58: For each of the following countries, please tell us whether you see them as a strong ally, something of an ally, something of an enemy, or a strong enemy?



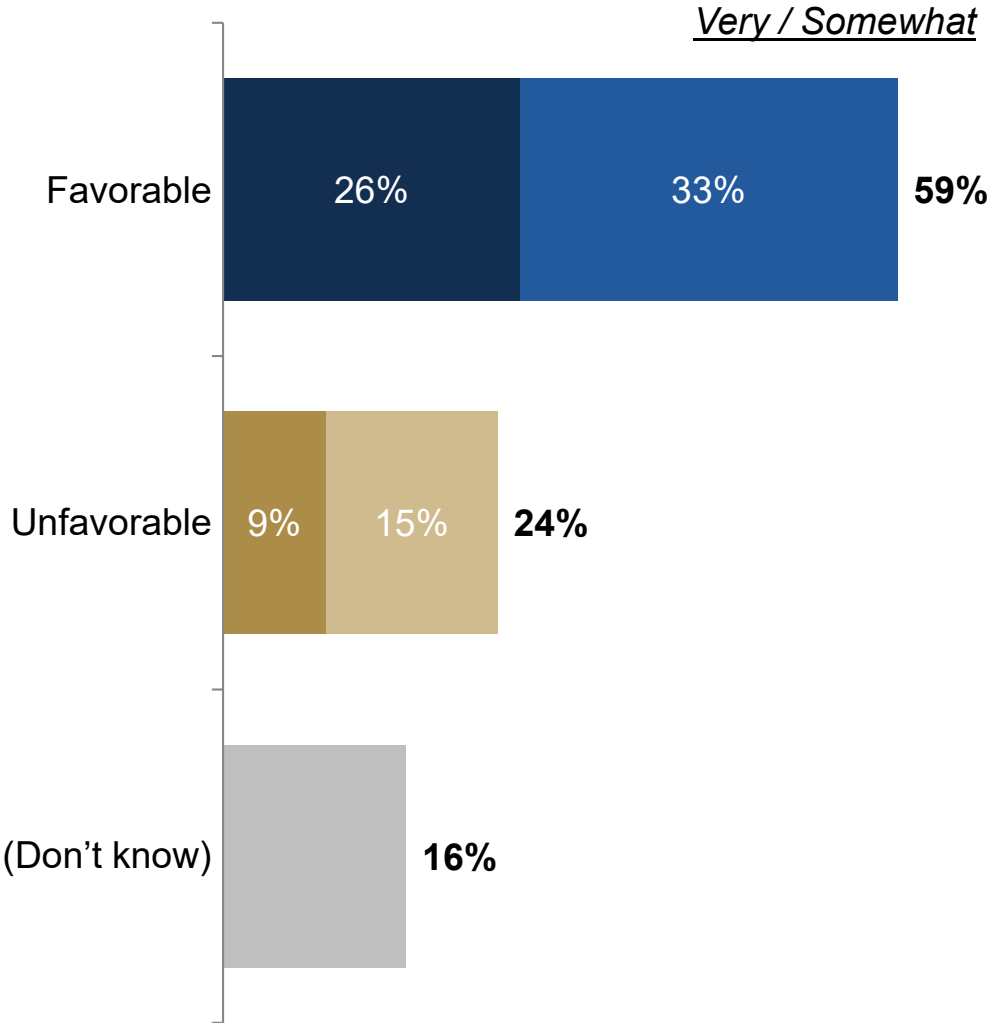
Partisans view Israel and Mexico differently.



Q38 – Q58: For each of the following countries, please tell us whether you see them as a strong ally, something of an ally, something of an enemy, or a strong enemy?



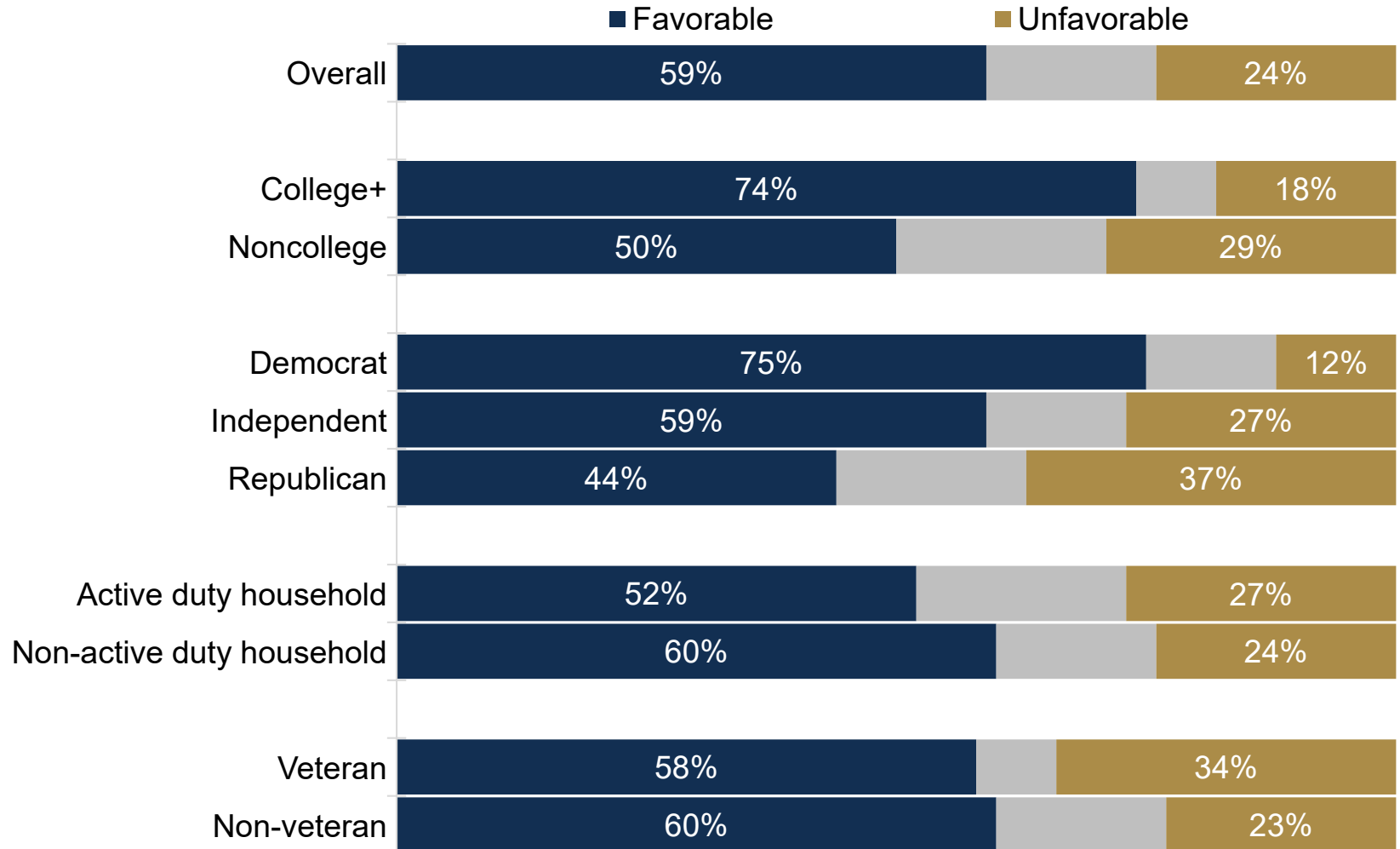
A majority of Americans are favorable towards NATO.



Q78: Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable view of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also known as NATO?



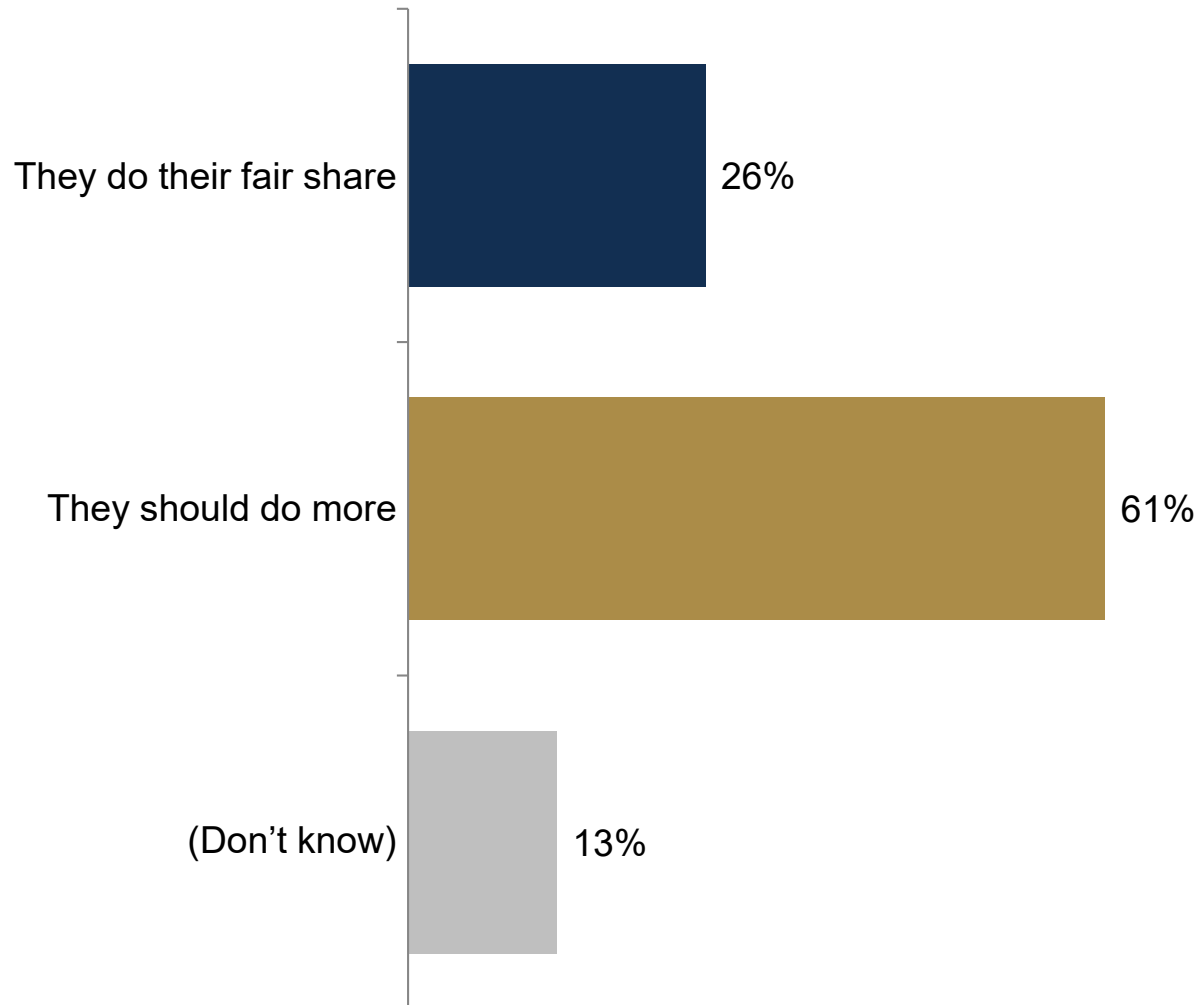
Republicans have the least favorable views of NATO.



Q78: Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable view of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also known as NATO?



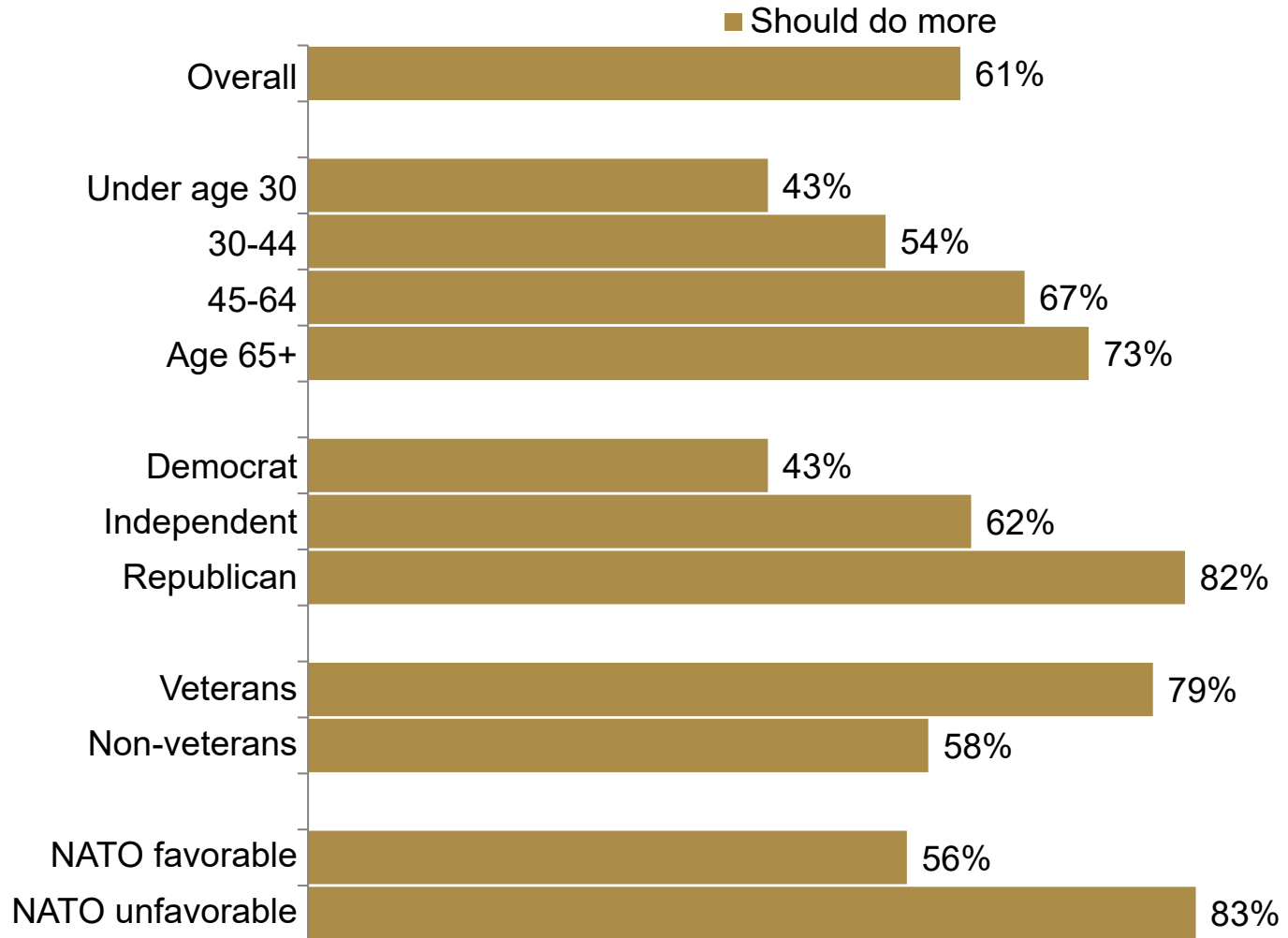
Majority thinks NATO allies should be doing more.



Q79: Do you think our NATO allies pay their fair share or should they do more?



Even a majority of those with a *favorable* view of NATO think our allies should do more.

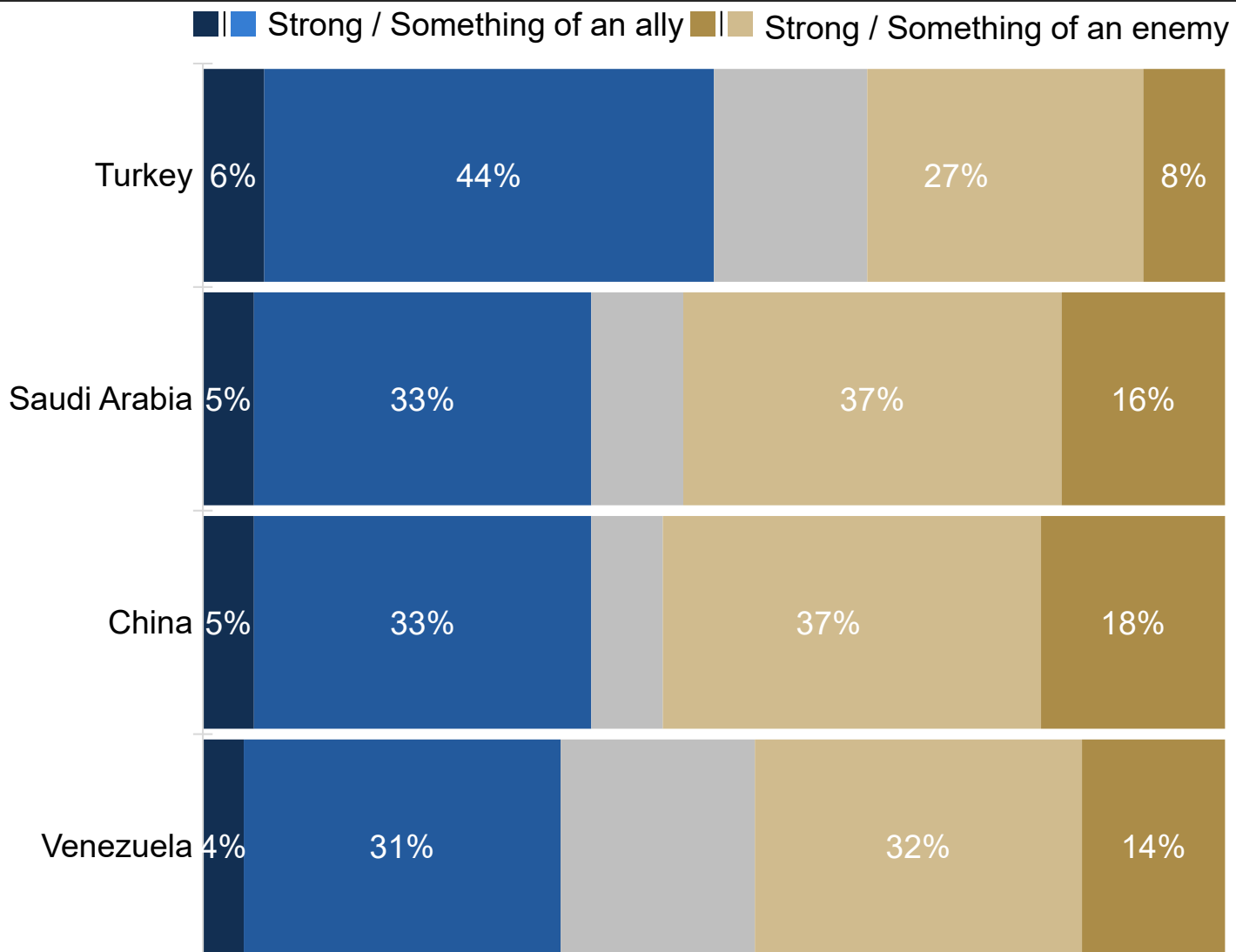


Q79: Do you think our NATO allies pay their fair share or should they do more?



Friends or Foes?

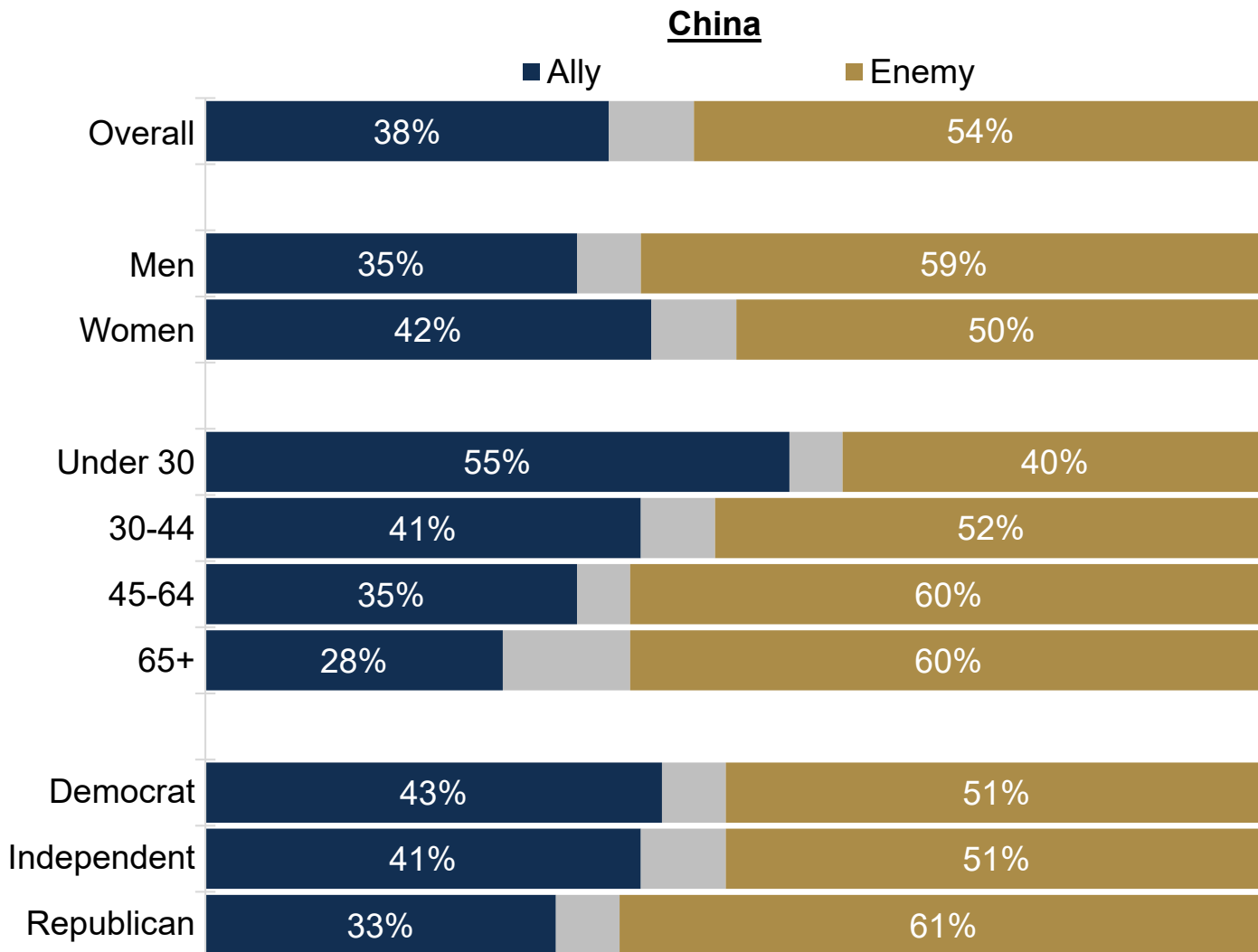
Views toward strategic partners in the Middle East are decidedly mixed; high-level evaluations of Saudi Arabia and China are strikingly similar



Q38 – Q58: For each of the following countries, please tell us whether you see them as a strong ally, something of an ally, something of an enemy, or a strong enemy?



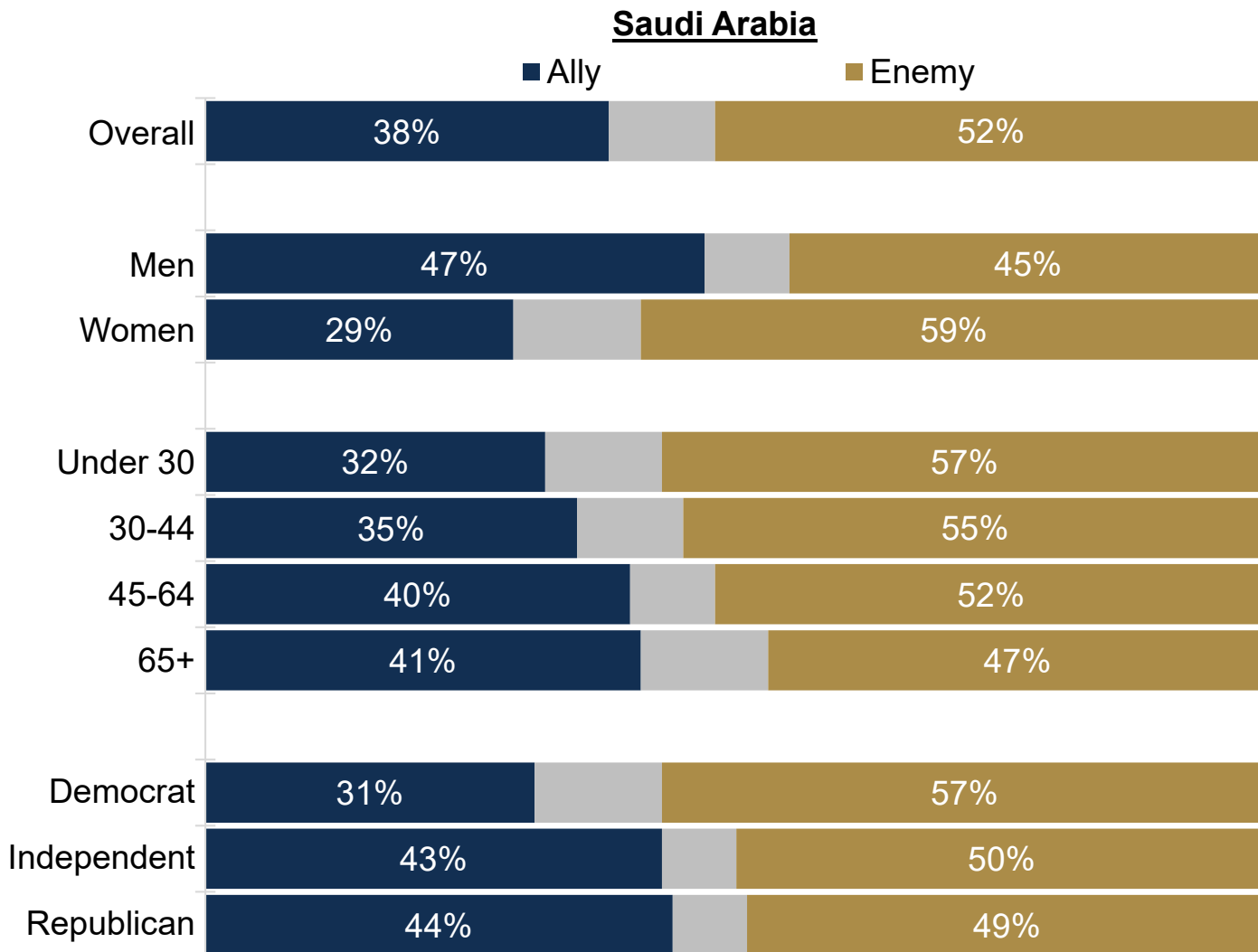
Younger citizens see China as more of an ally; older citizens and Republicans see China as an enemy.



Q53: For each of the following countries, please tell us whether you see them as a strong ally, something of an ally, something of an enemy, or a strong enemy? [China]



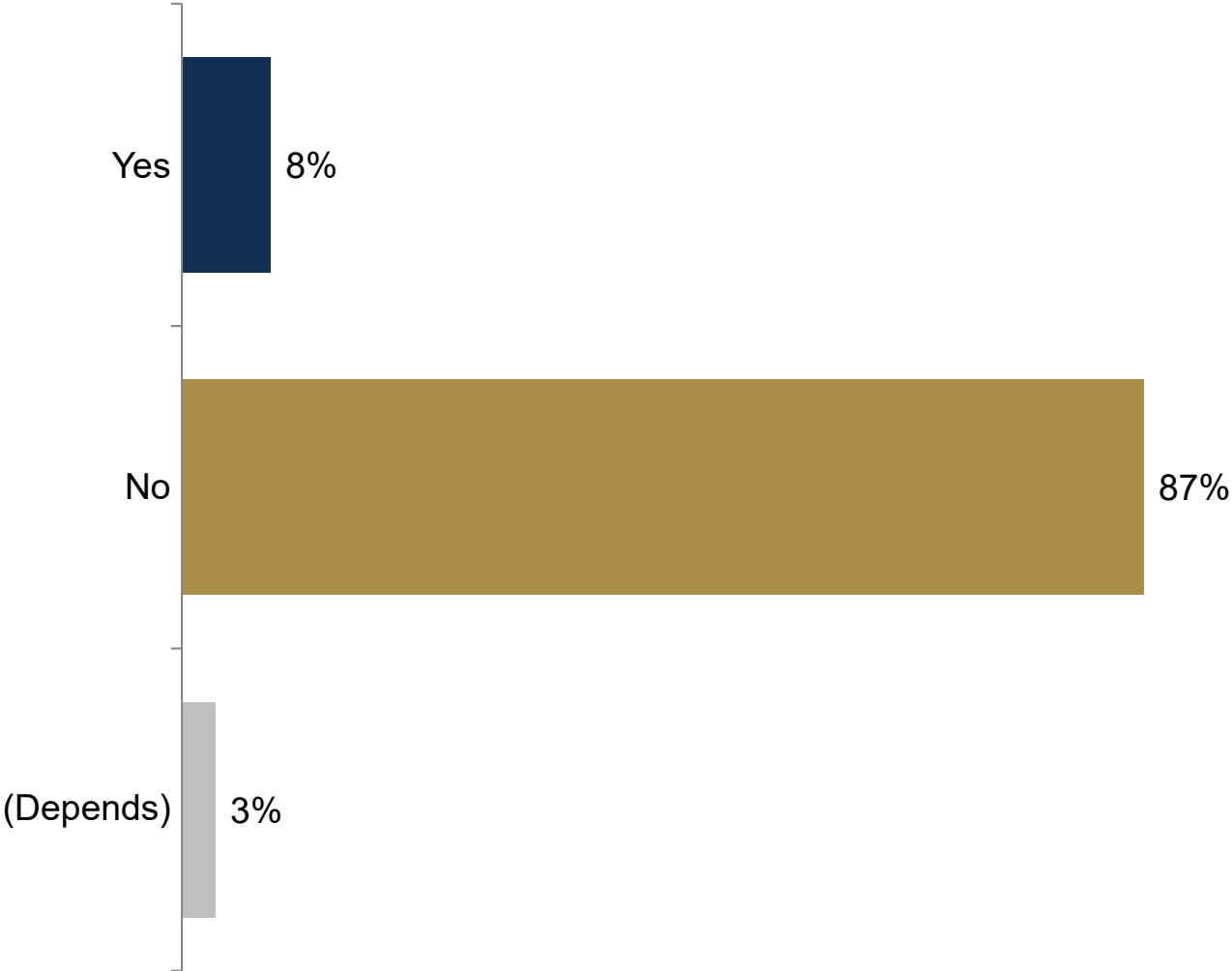
Women, Democrats, and younger citizens are more likely to see Saudi Arabia as an enemy.



Q42: For each of the following countries, please tell us whether you see them as a strong ally, something of an ally, something of an enemy, or a strong enemy? [Saudi Arabia]



Nearly 9-in-10 oppose arms sales to authoritarian countries that are not strong allies.



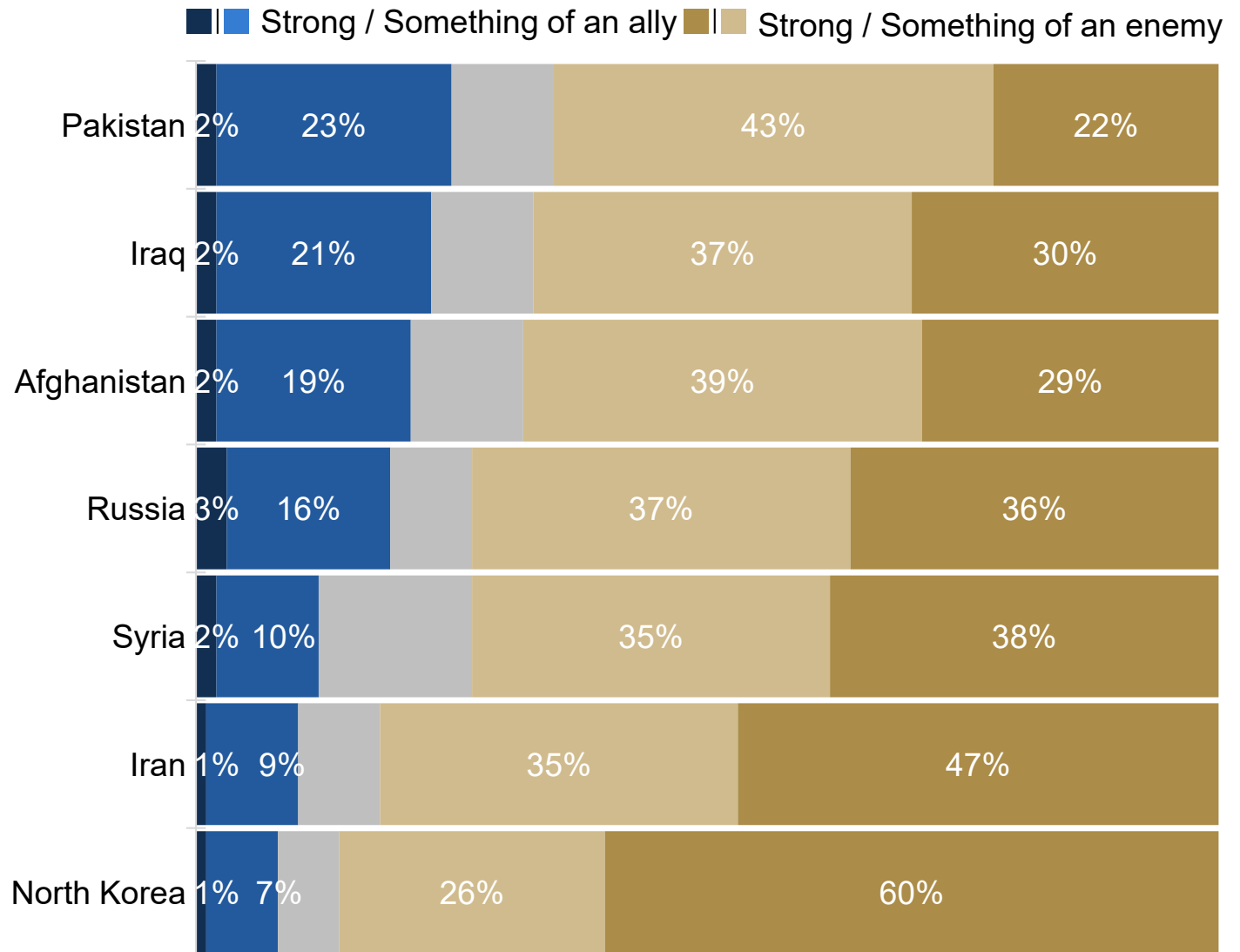
Note: Remainder Don't know

Q60: Would you be willing to consider selling arms to an authoritarian country that is not a strong ally?



Enemies and Threats

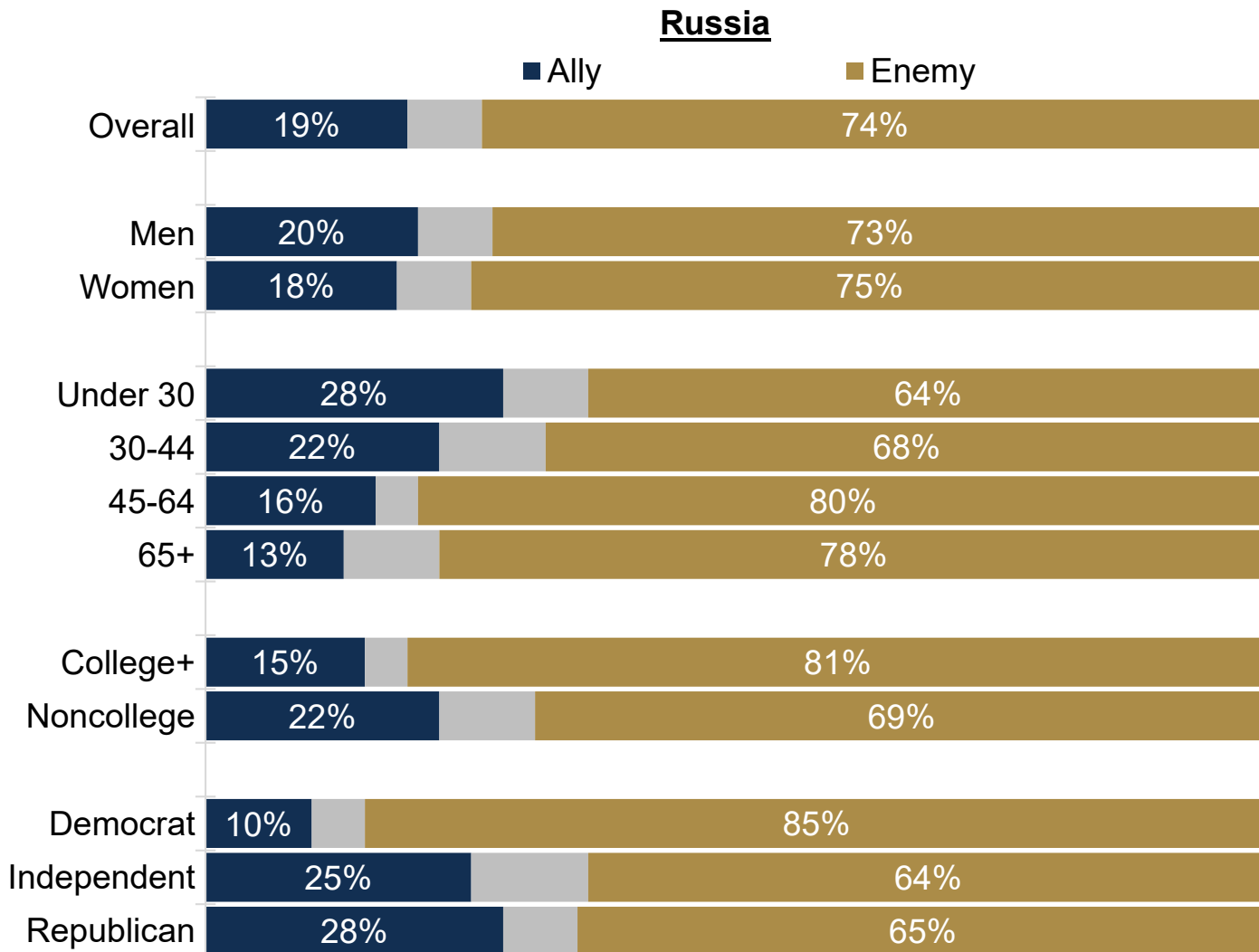
North Korea seen as a primary adversary; partisan disagreement about Russia



Q38 – Q58: For each of the following countries, please tell us whether you see them as a strong ally, something of an ally, something of an enemy, or a strong enemy?



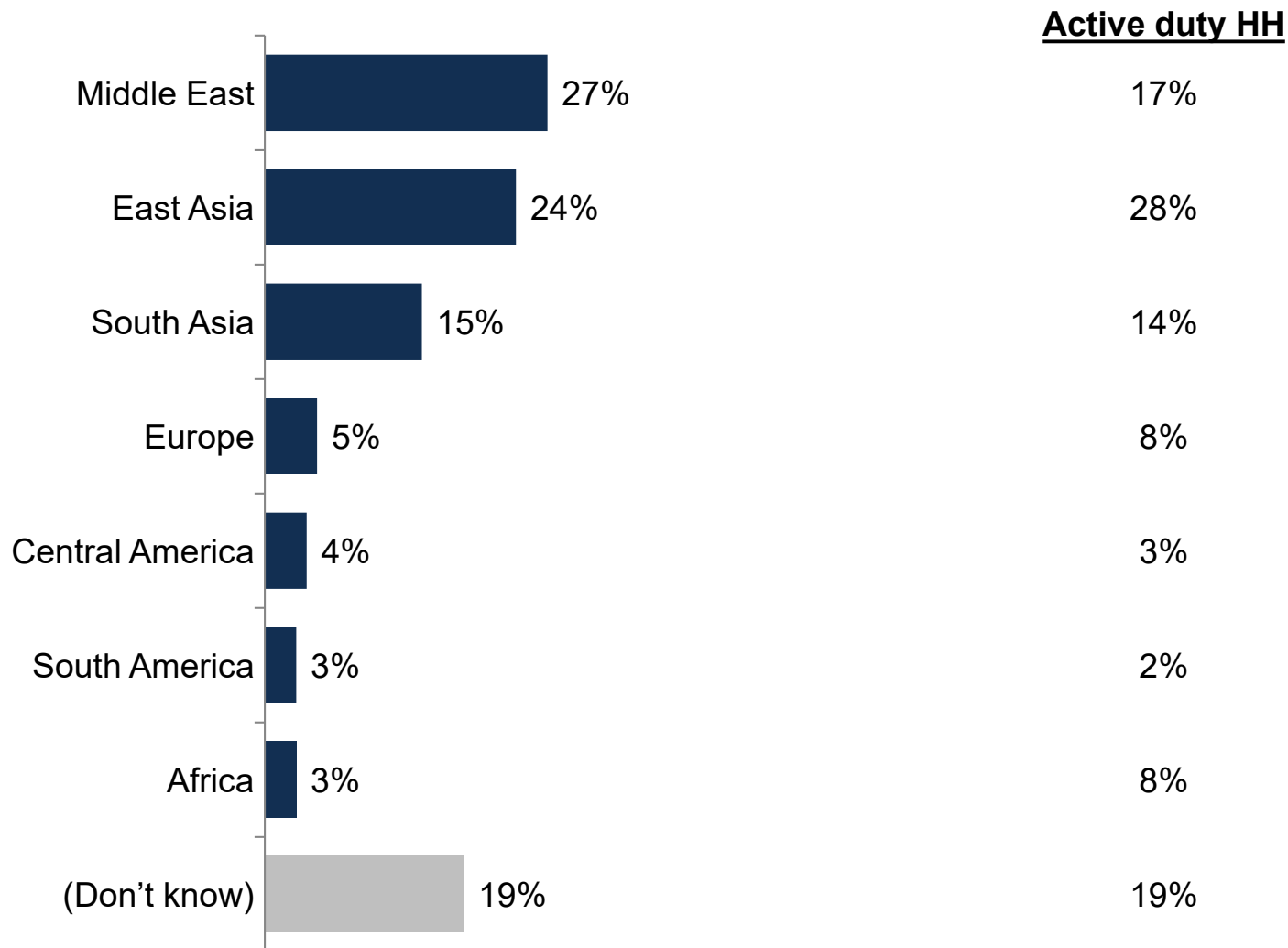
Younger Americans and Republicans are less likely to see Russia as an enemy.



Q58: For each of the following countries, please tell us whether you see them as a strong ally, something of an ally, something of an enemy, or a strong enemy? [Russia]



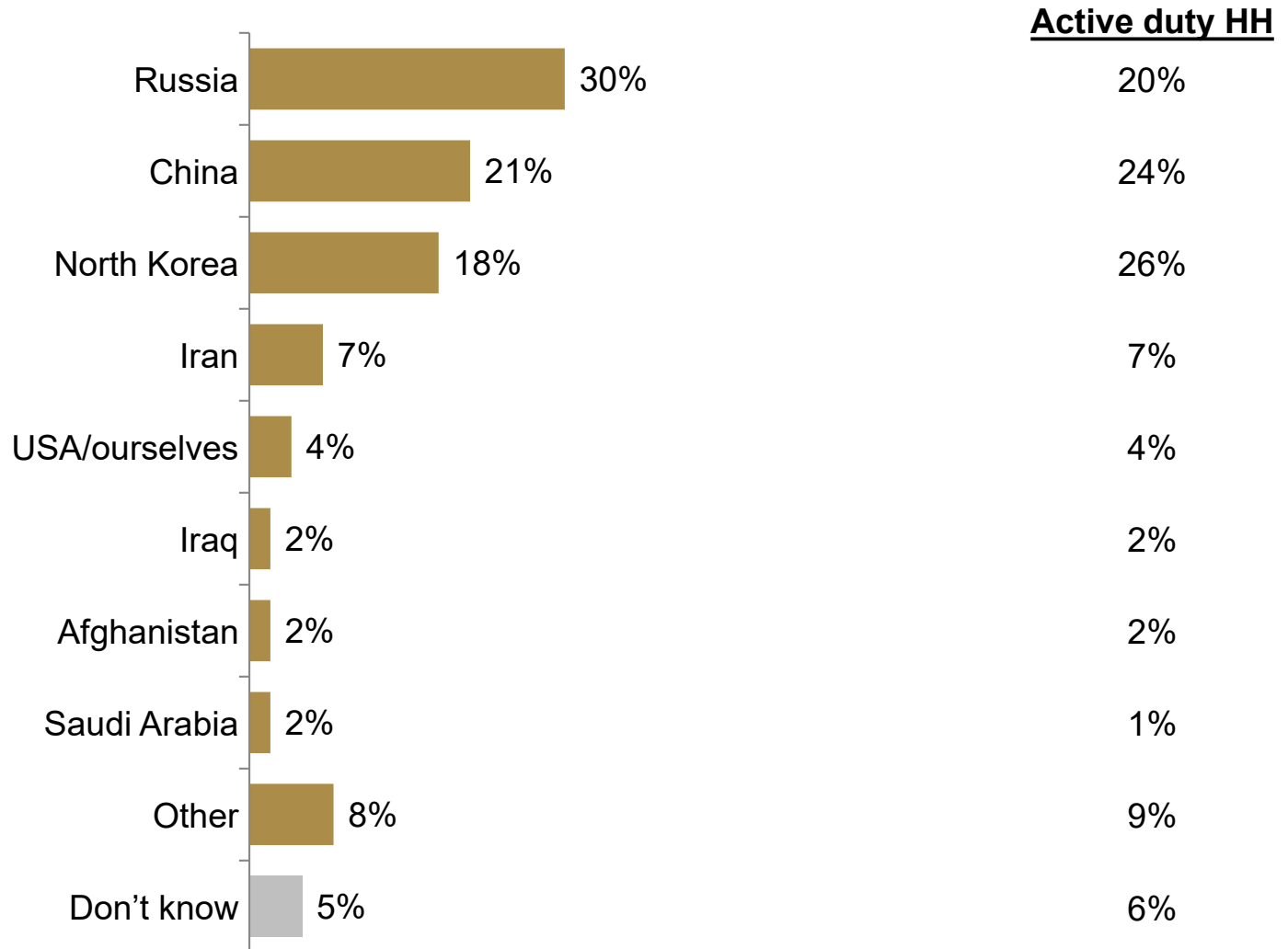
Americans see the biggest regional challenges in the Middle East and East Asia.



Q37: Thinking about American interests and the threats that exist in the world today, where do you think the U.S. should focus its military forces?



Russia and China are seen as the greatest threats to the U.S.

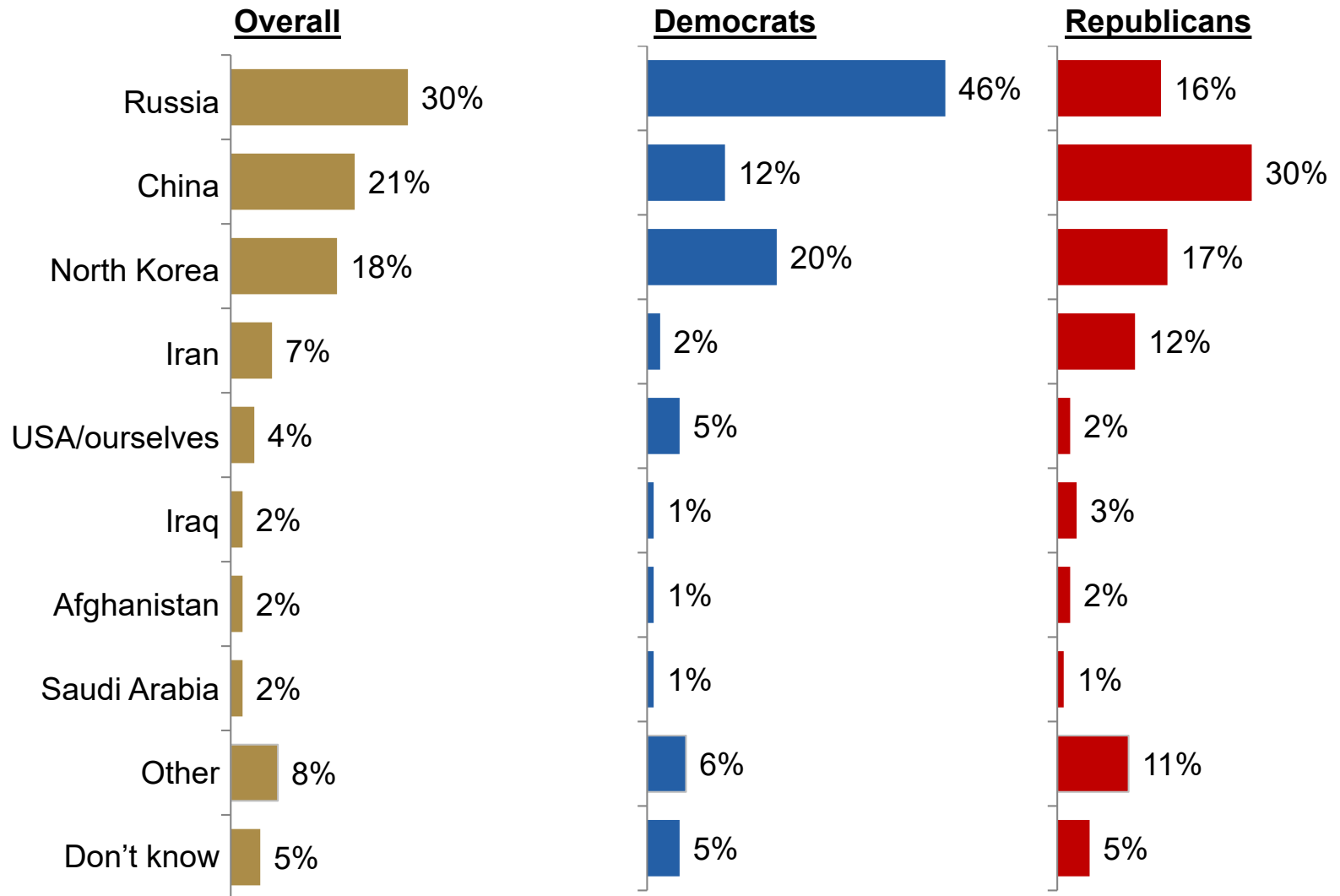


Note: Asked as an open-ended question. Responses under 2% included in "other"

Q59: Which country do you see as the greatest threat to the U.S.? [OPEN-END]



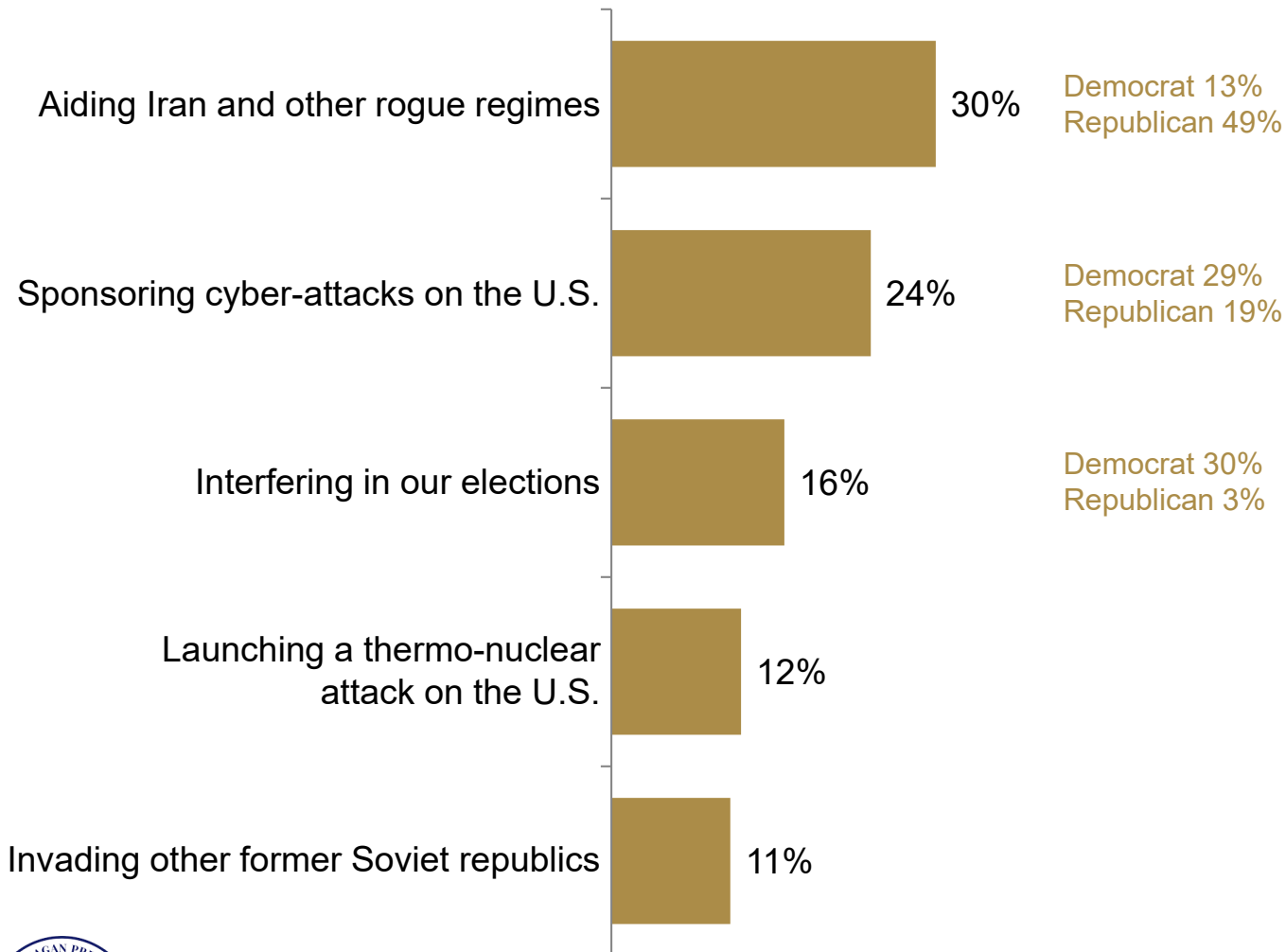
Partisans agree about the threat from North Korea, but diverge on the threat posed by Russia and China.



Q59: Which country do you see as the greatest threat to the U.S.? [OPEN-END]



Biggest concerns with Russia

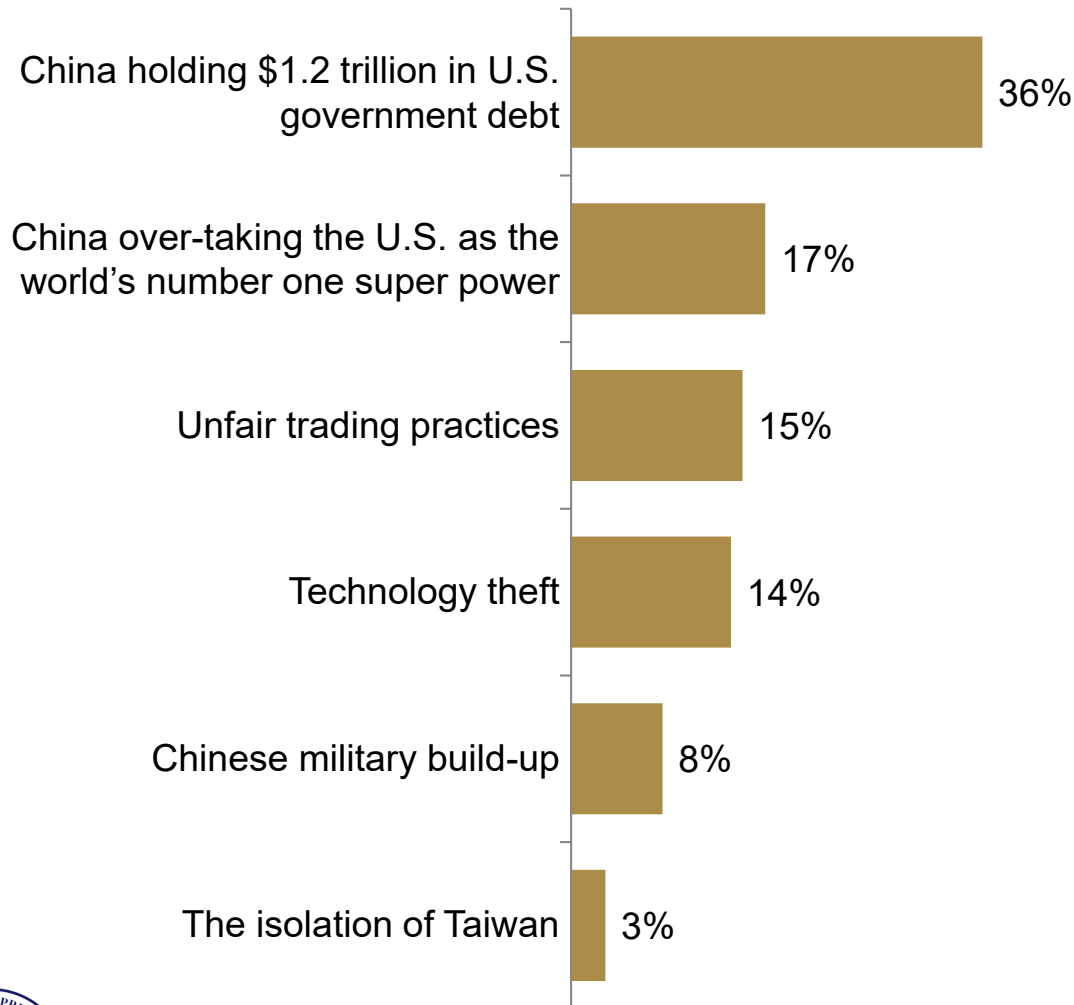


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q72: Which of the following most concerns you about Russia?



Biggest concerns with China

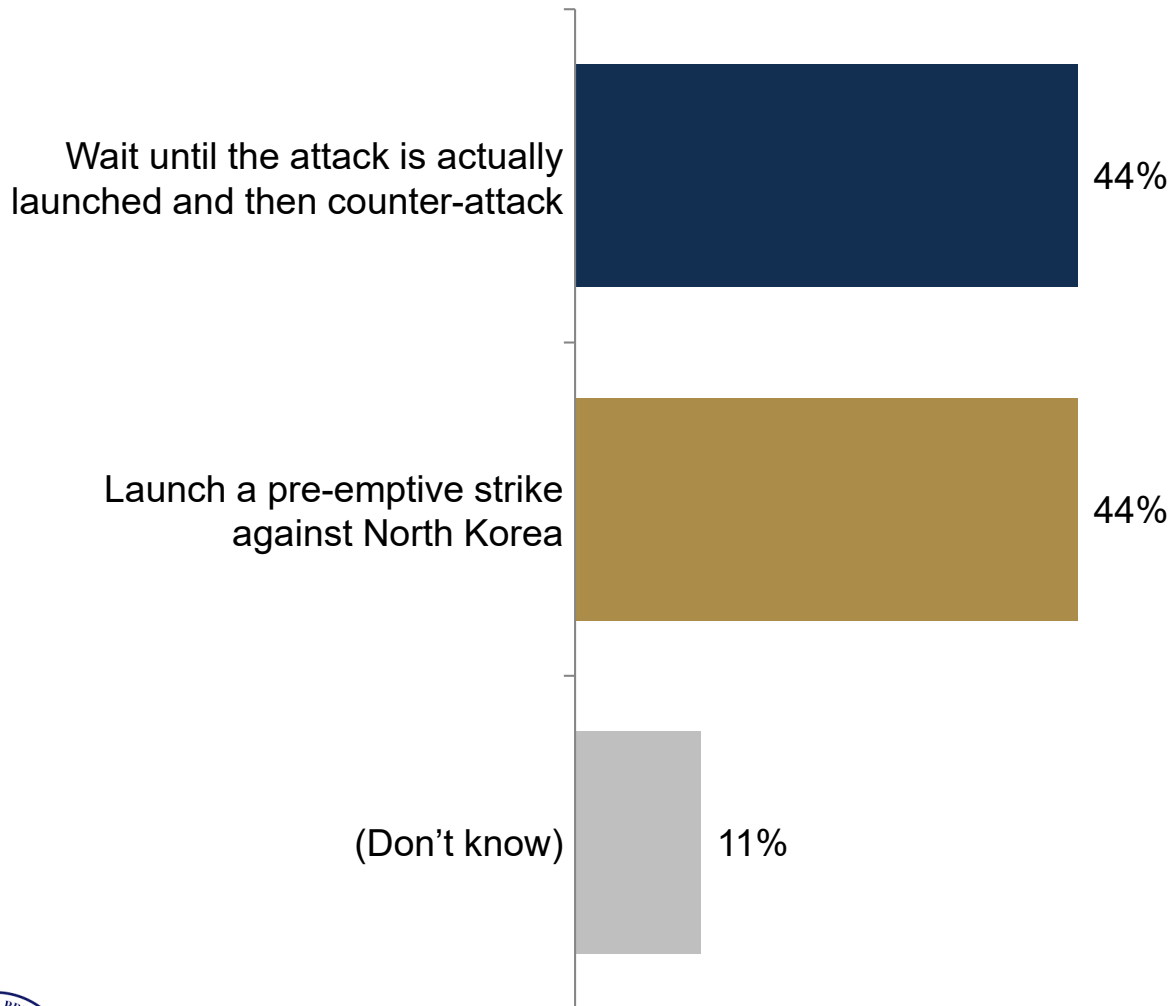


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q71: Thinking now about China, which of the following most concerns you about U.S. relations with China?



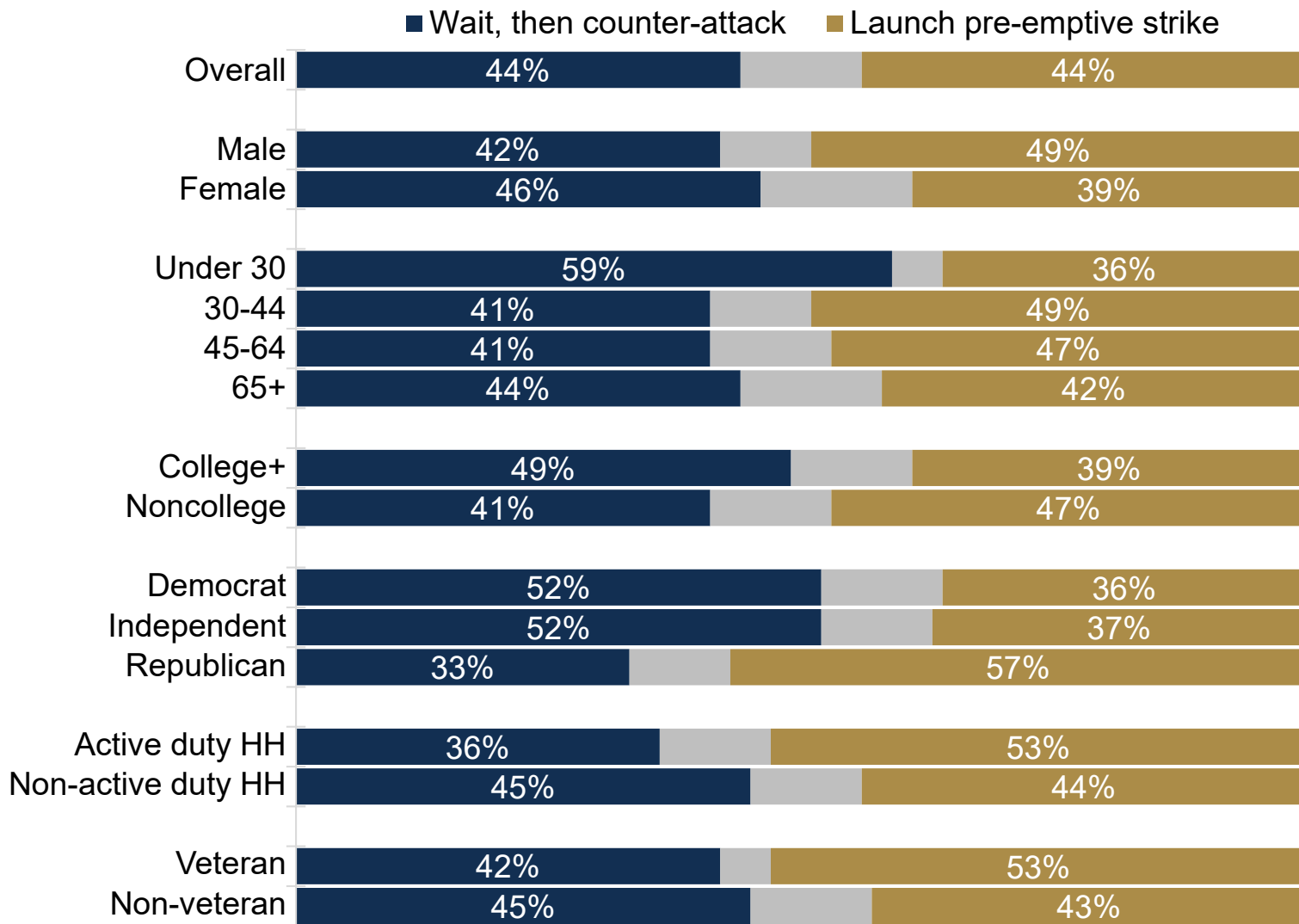
Split decision about how the U.S. should respond to an imminent North Korean attack.



Q67: If the U.S. suspected that North Korea was going to launch an attack against the U.S. and its allies, South Korea and Japan, which of the following options would you prefer?



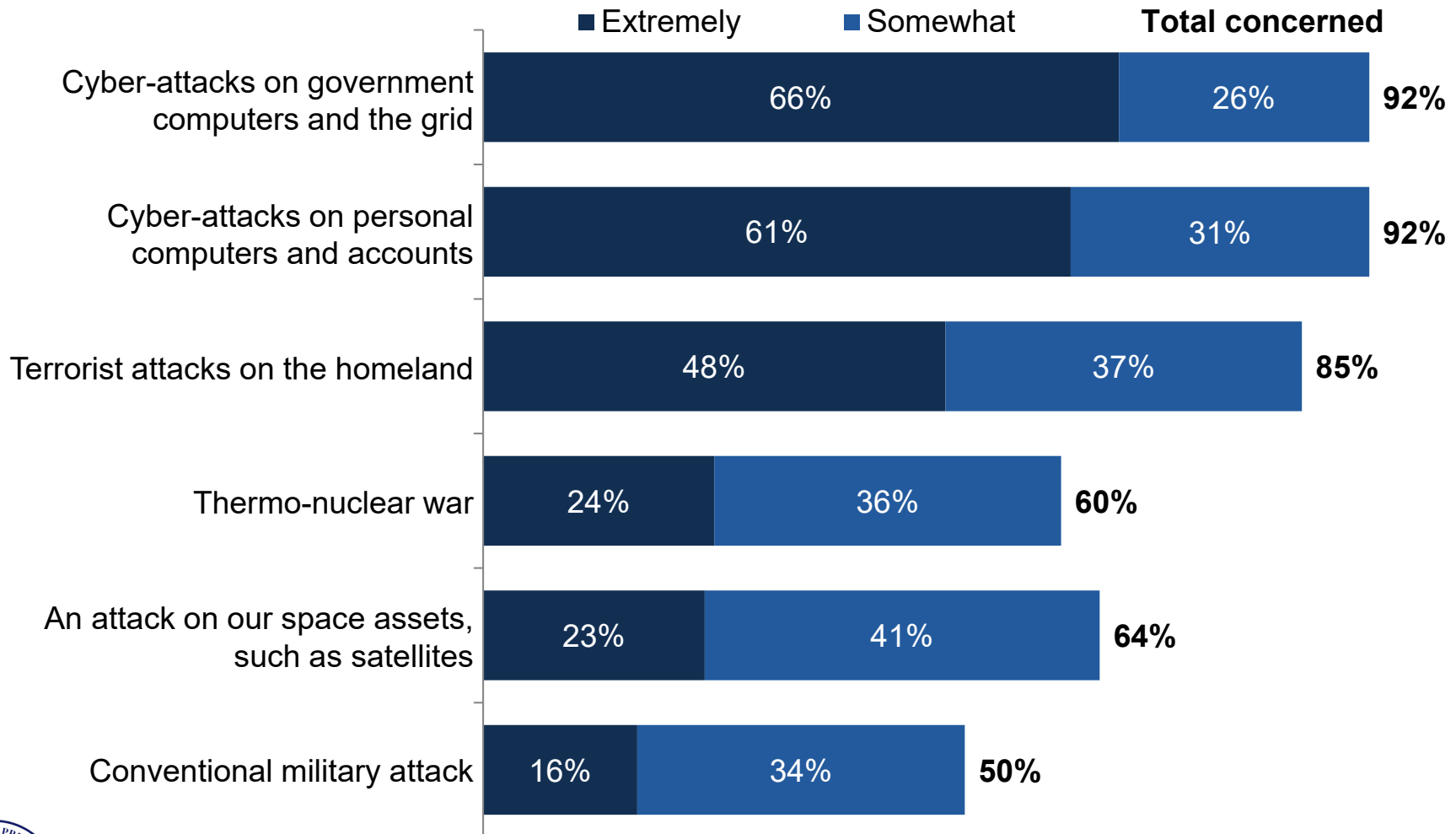
Non-college citizens, Republicans, and military families favor preemptive strikes.



Q67: If the U.S. suspected that North Korea was going to launch an attack against the U.S. and its allies, South Korea and Japan, which of the following options would you prefer?



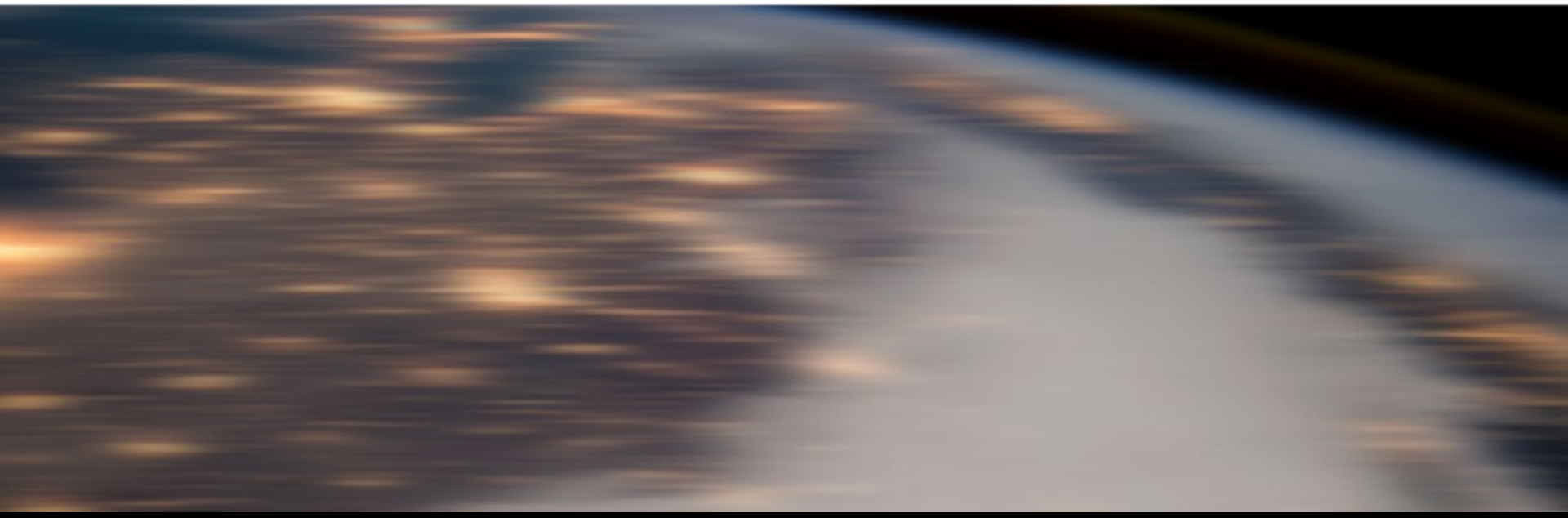
Americans are extremely concerned about cyber-attacks.



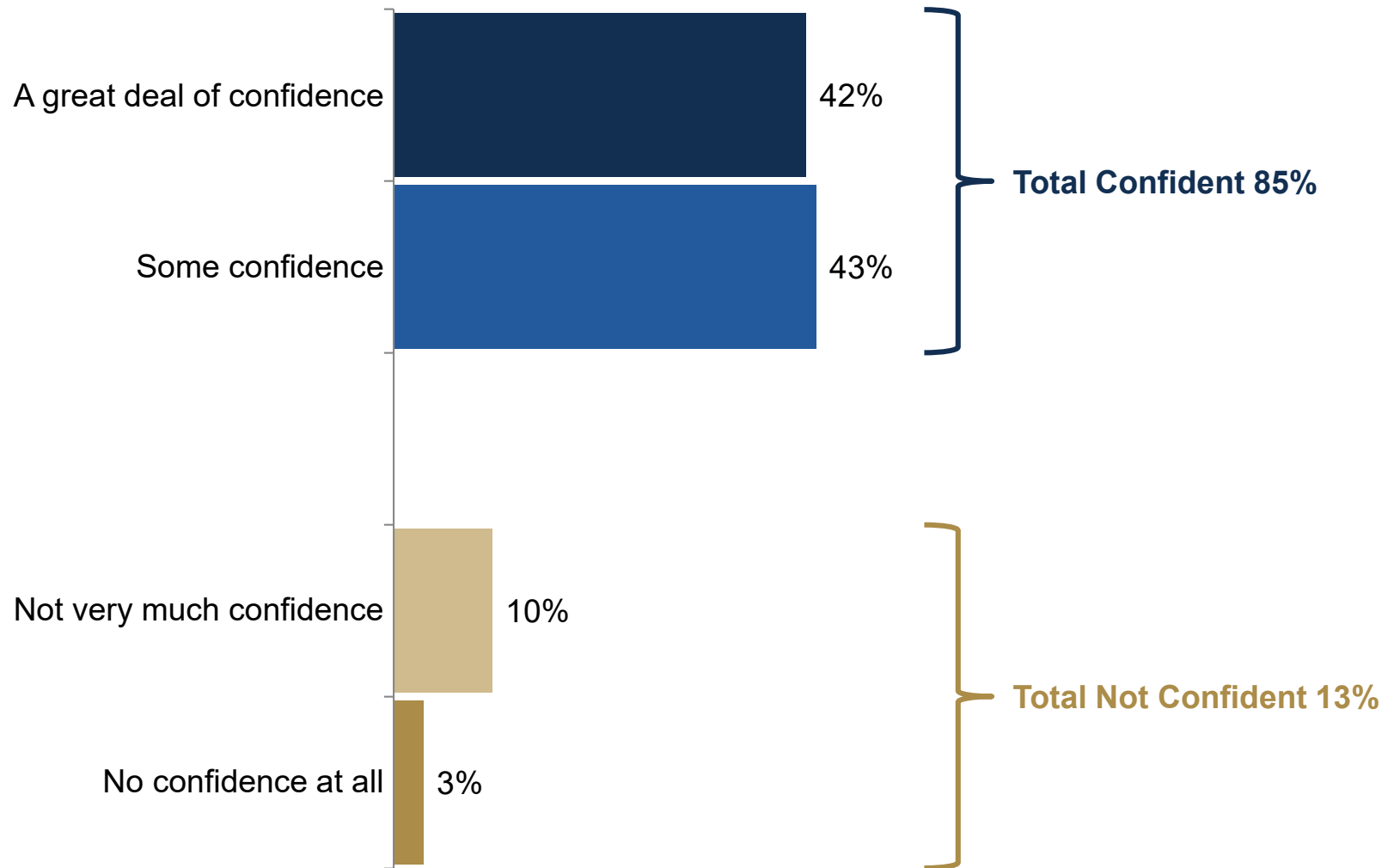
Q61 – Q66: How concerned are you about the threat of each of the following in the next five years?



Nuclear Issues



Most Americans have at least some confidence in the military's ability to shoot down nuclear missiles launched by another country.

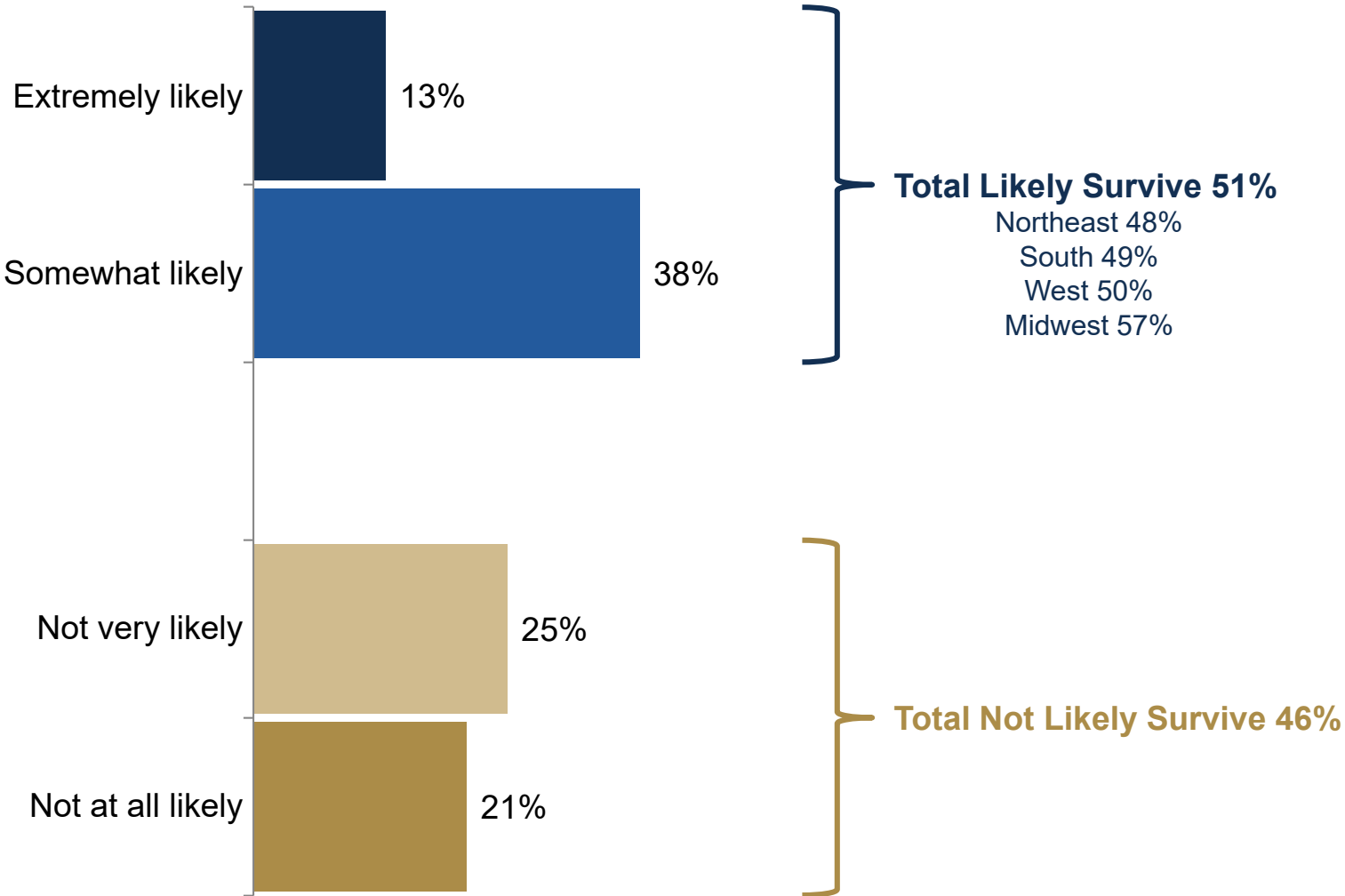


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q68: How much confidence do you have that the U.S. can shoot down nuclear missiles launched by another country?



Just half of Americans think they would survive a nuclear attack on the U.S.

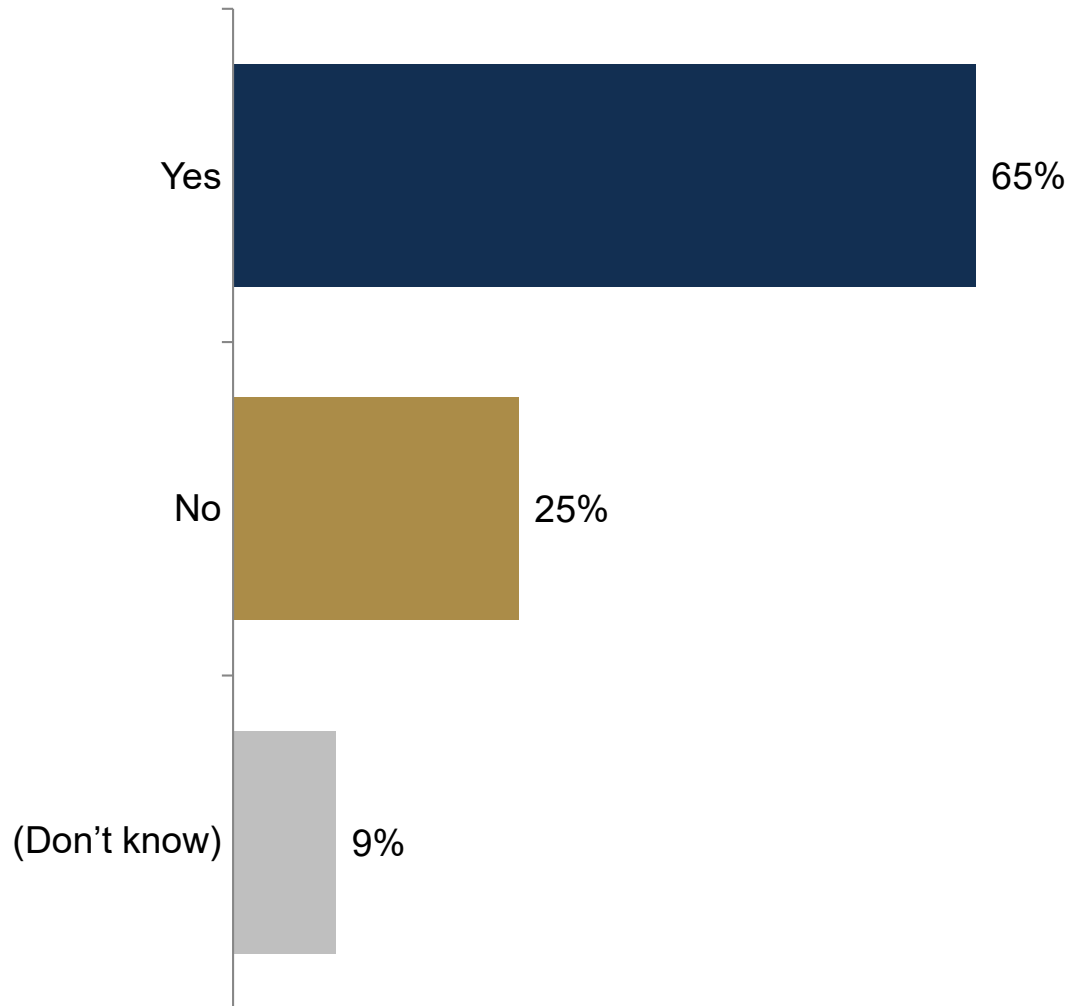


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q69: How likely do you think it is that you personally would survive a nuclear attack on the U.S. from another country?



Most Americans think the U.S. would win a war against a nuclear power.

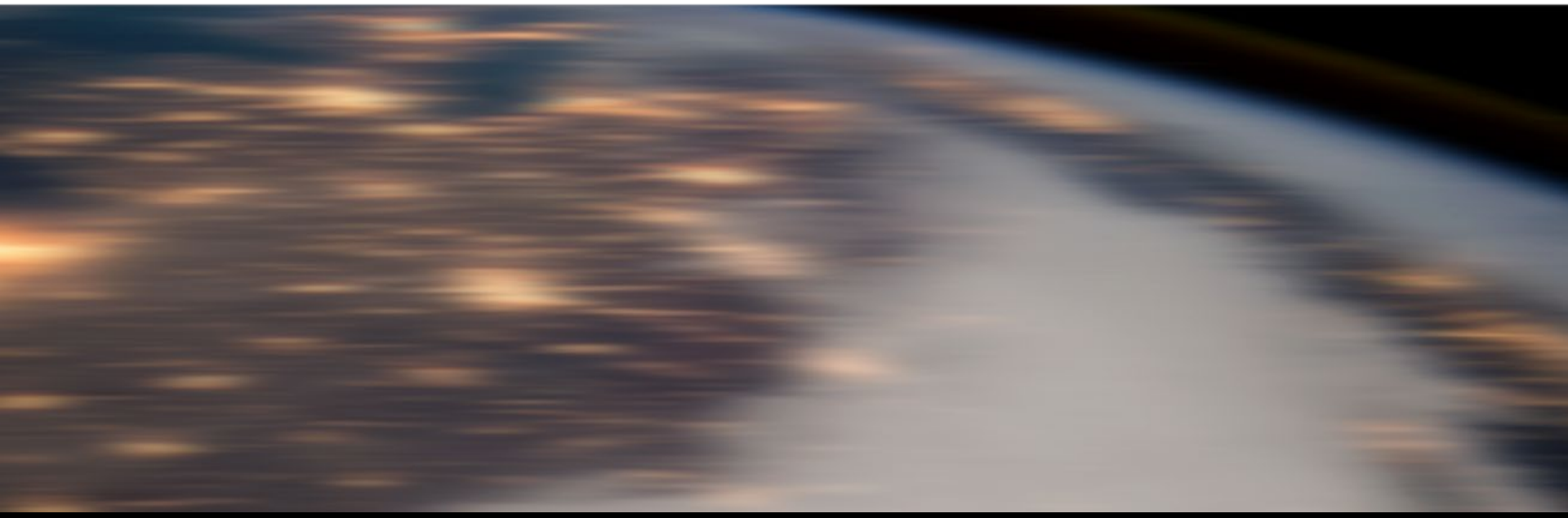


Q70: Do you think the U.S. would win a war against a nuclear power?

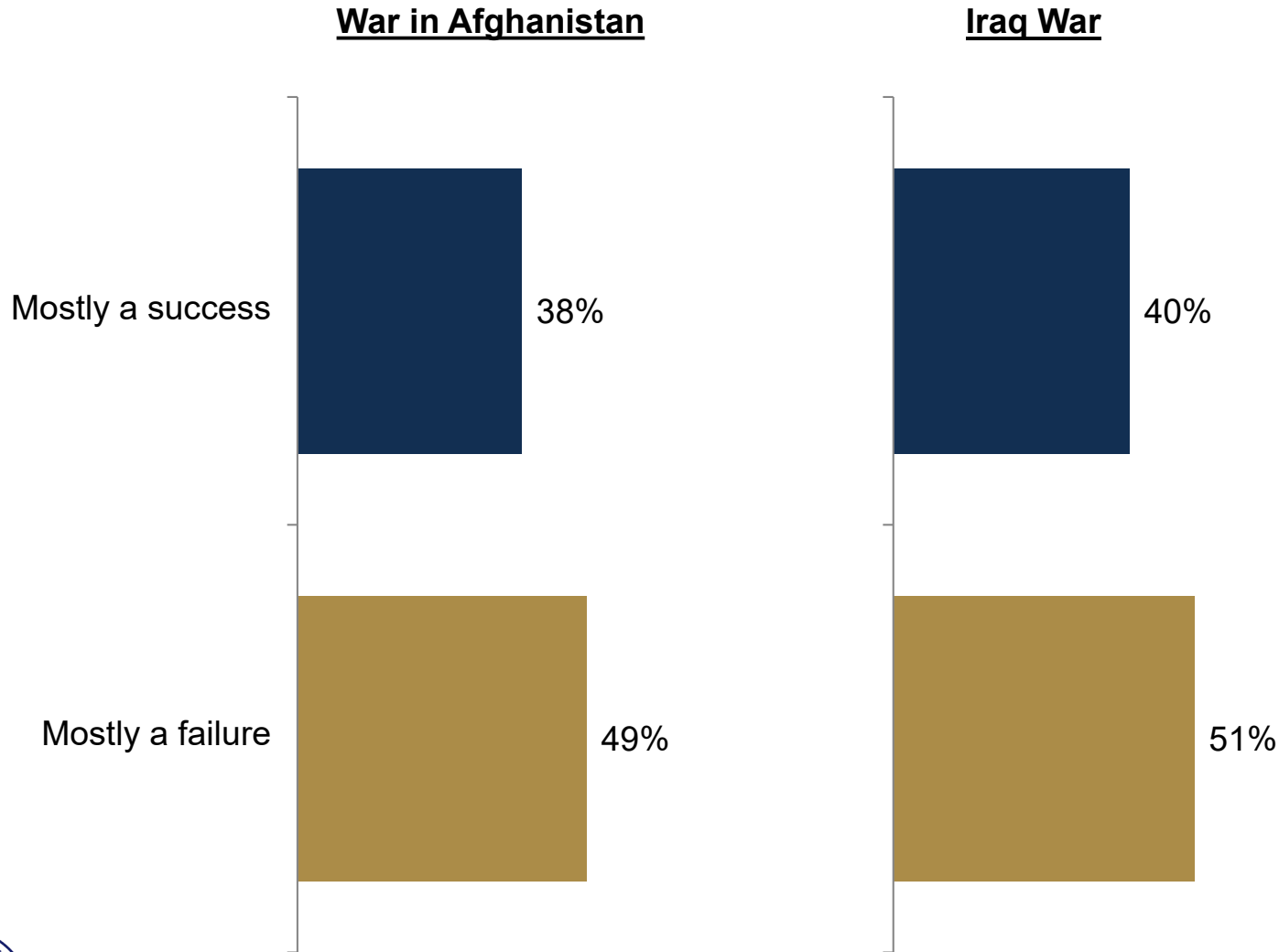




Iraq and Afghanistan



More Americans see failure than success in Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

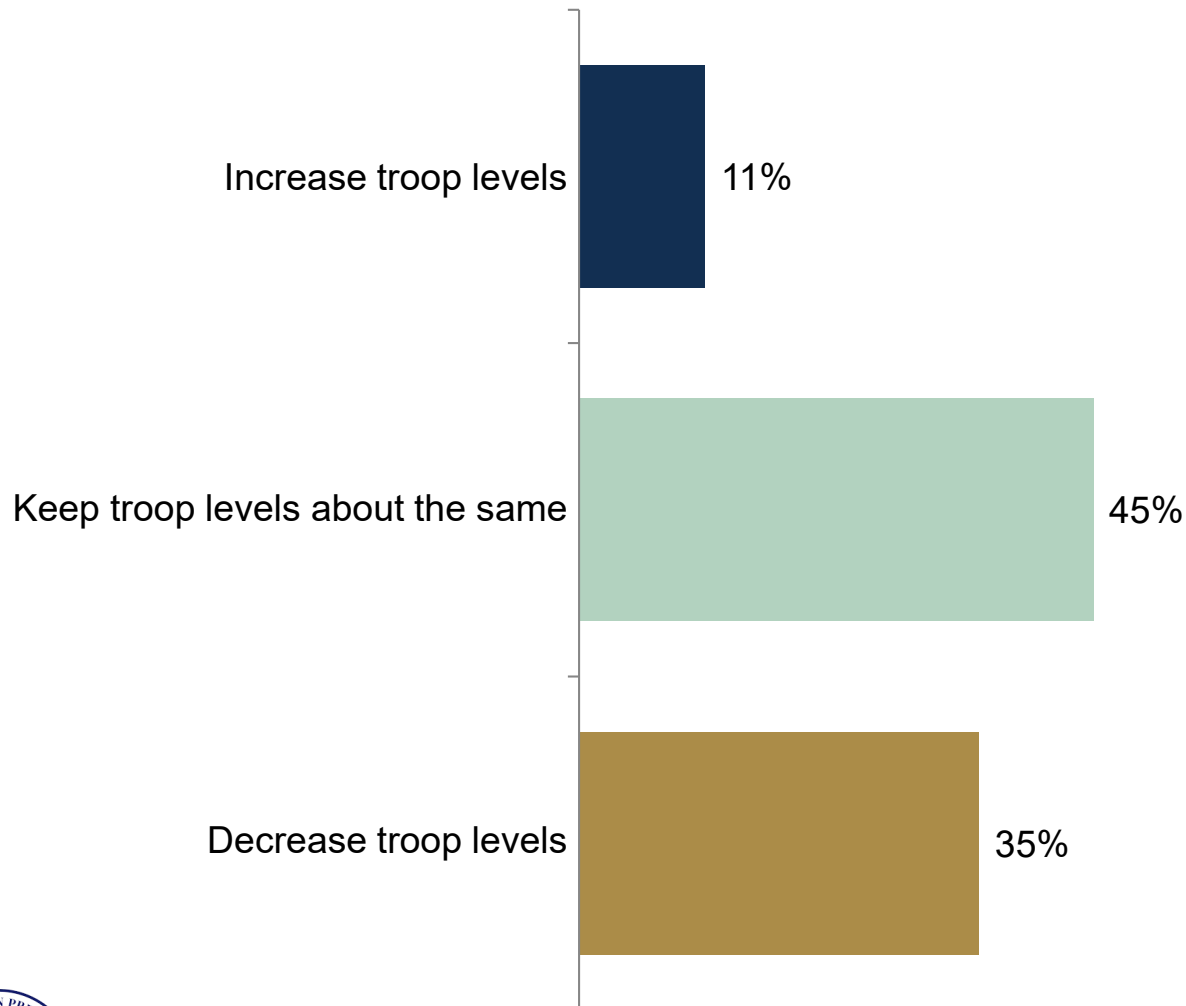


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q76/77: Do you think the war in (Afghanistan/Iraq) has been mostly a success or mostly a failure?



Few want to see additional U.S. troops in Afghanistan.



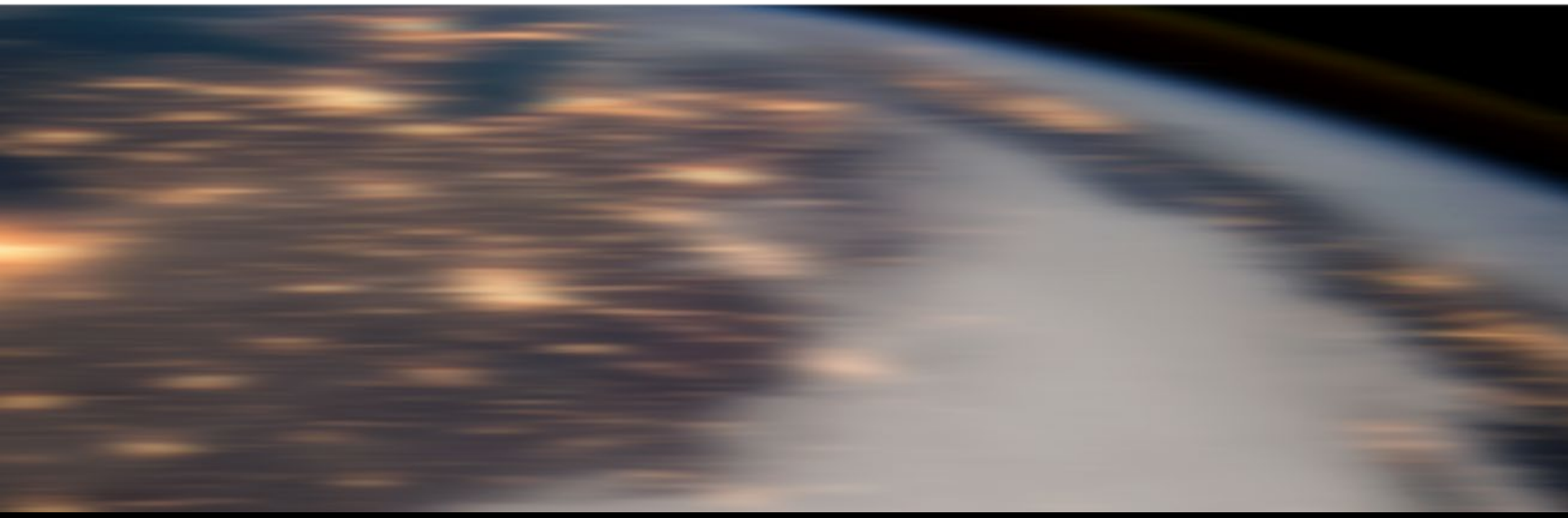
Note: Remainder Don't know

Q73: In Afghanistan, would you prefer that the U.S.:

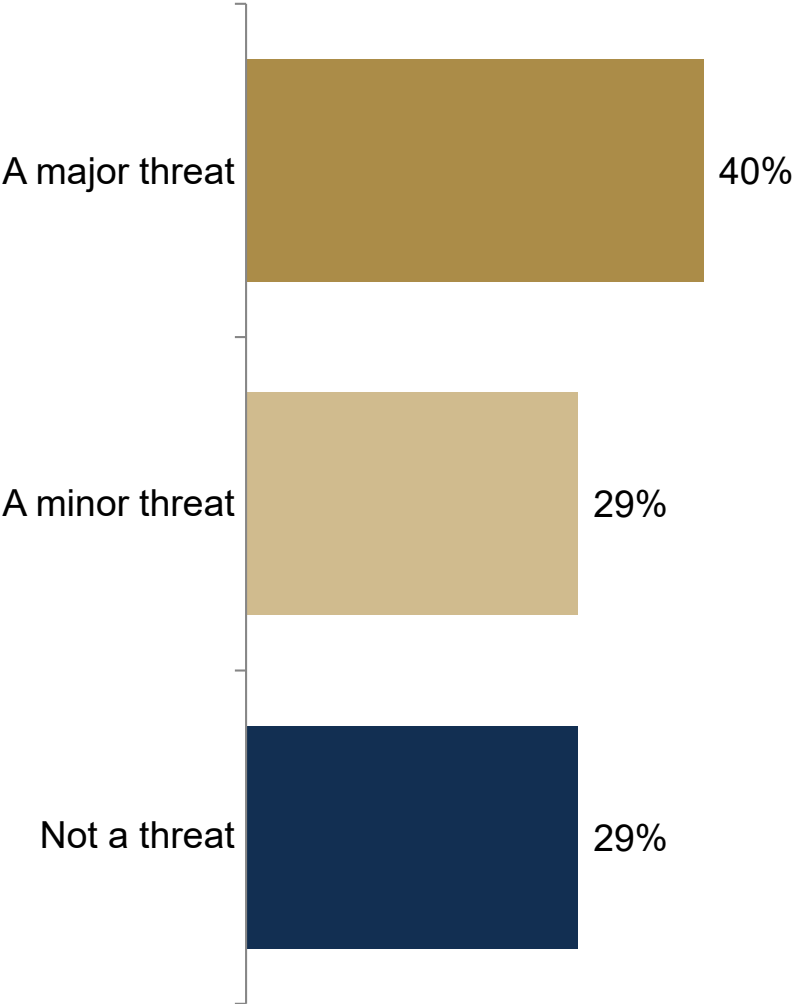




Immigration



4-in-10 view illegal immigration on the southern border as a major threat.

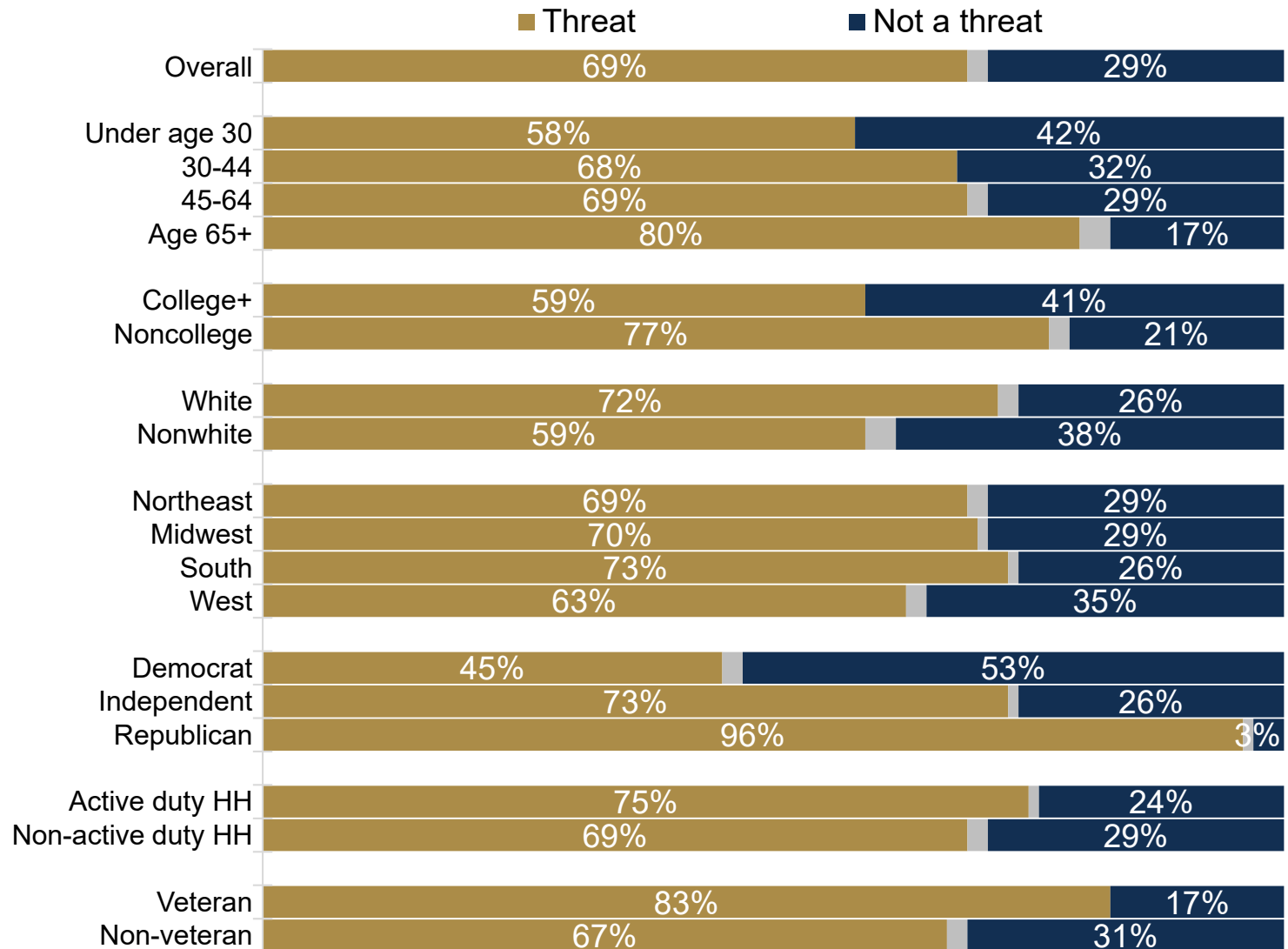


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q74: In your view, how much of a security threat is illegal immigration across our southern border?



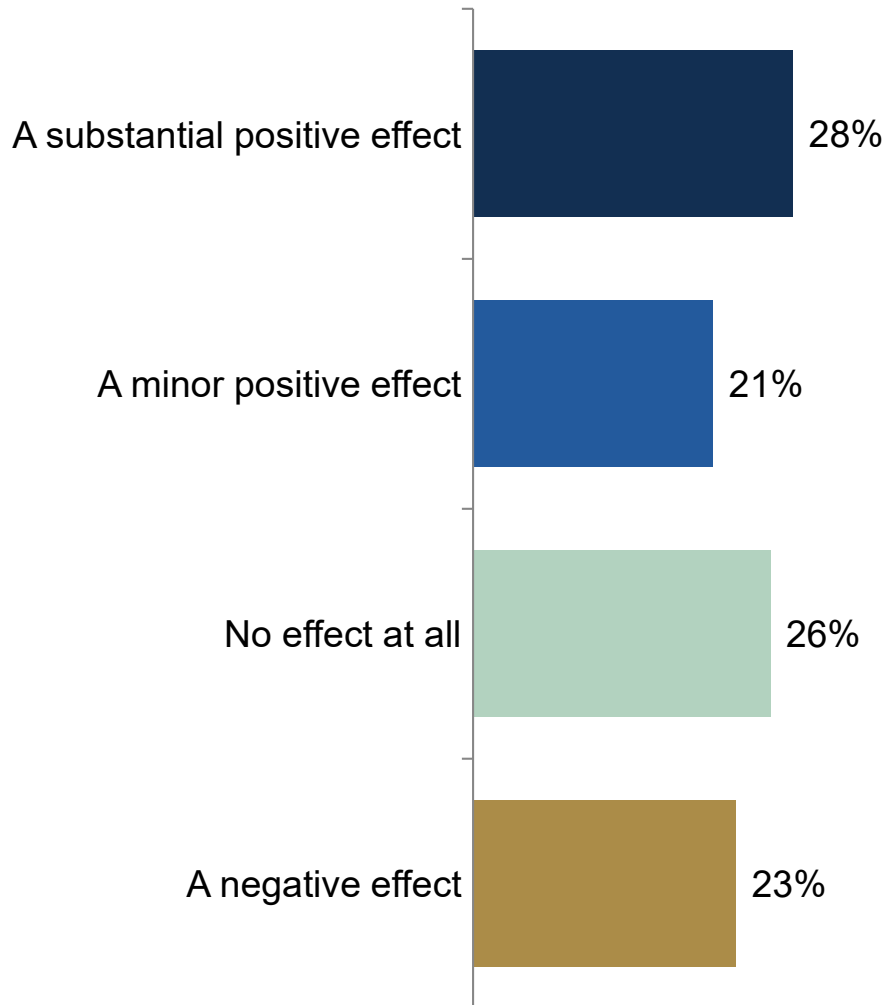
Older, noncollege, white citizens and Republicans are particularly likely to see illegal immigration as a threat.



Q74: In your view, how much of a security threat is illegal immigration across our southern border?



Less than 3-in-10 think a border wall would have a substantial positive effect on U.S. security.

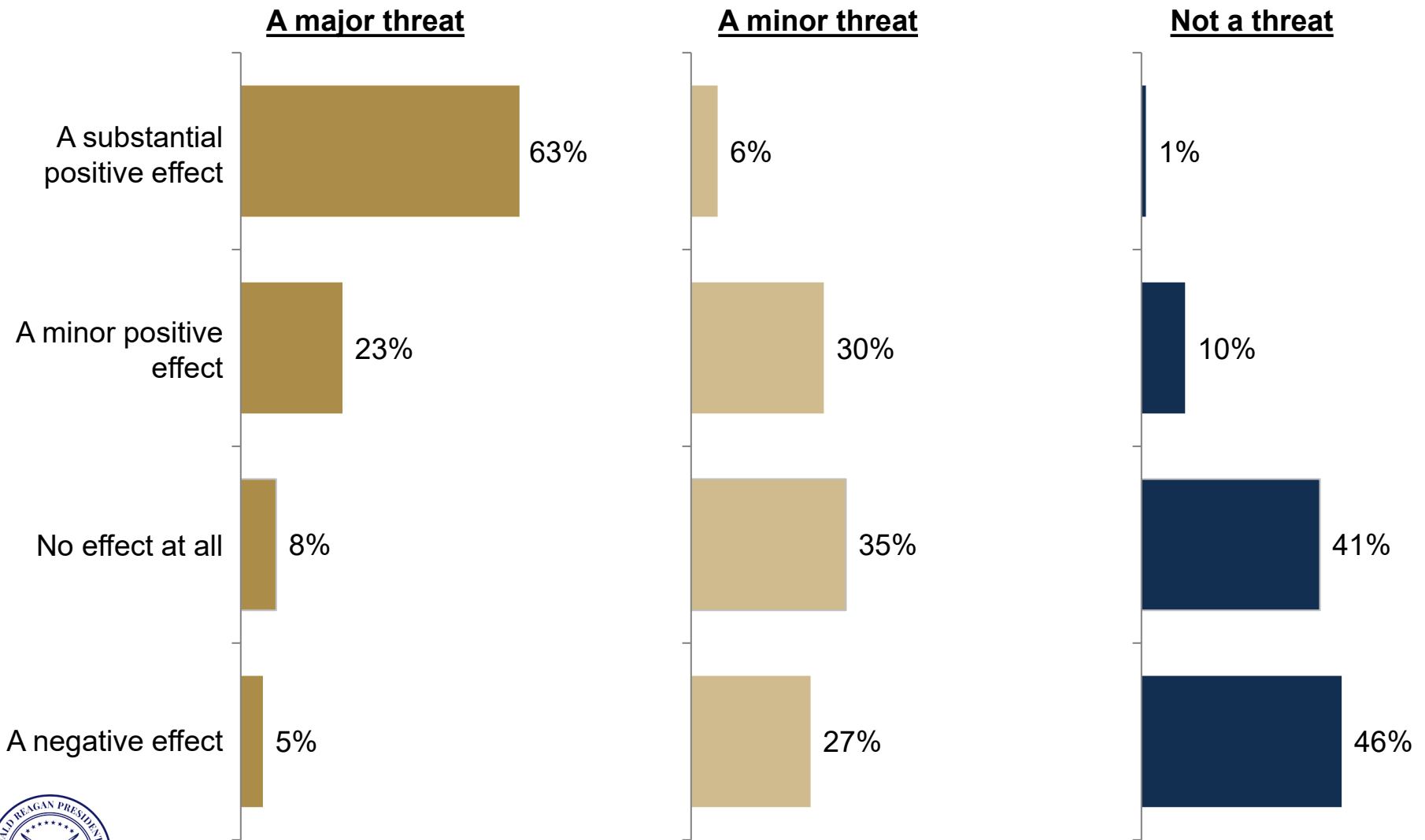


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q75: What effect would building a wall across our southern border have on U.S. security?



Only those who see illegal immigration as a major threat think a border wall would have a substantial positive effect.

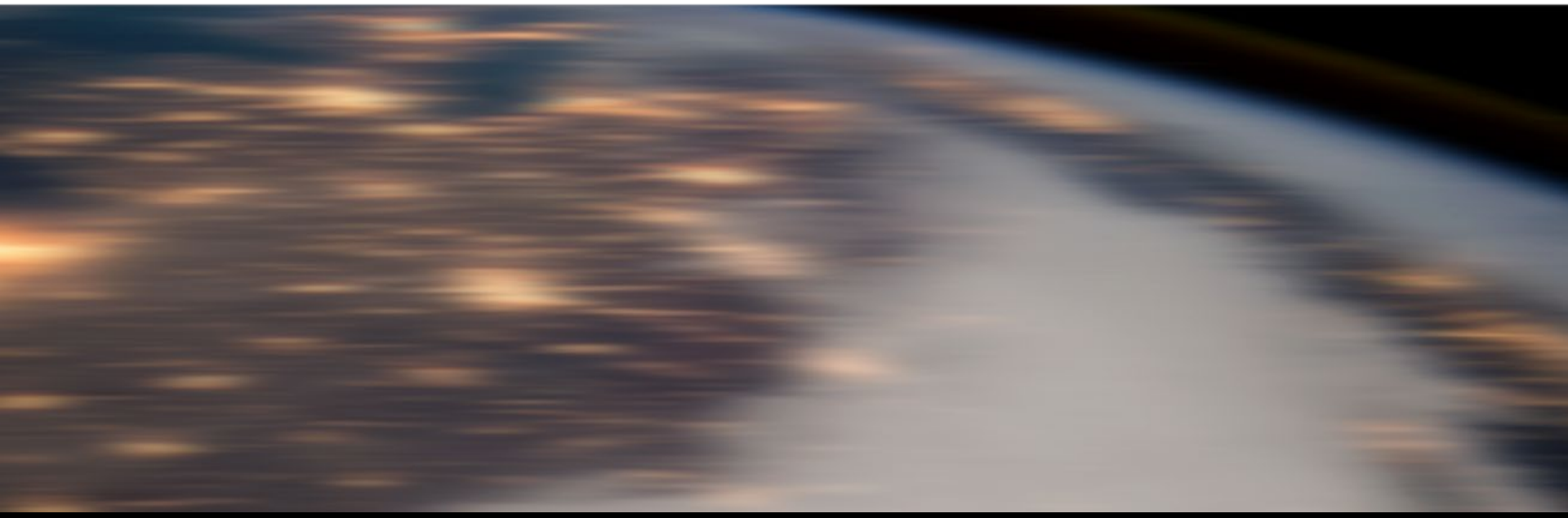


Q74: In your view, how much of a security threat is illegal immigration across our southern border?
AND Q75: What effect would building a wall across our southern border have on U.S. security?

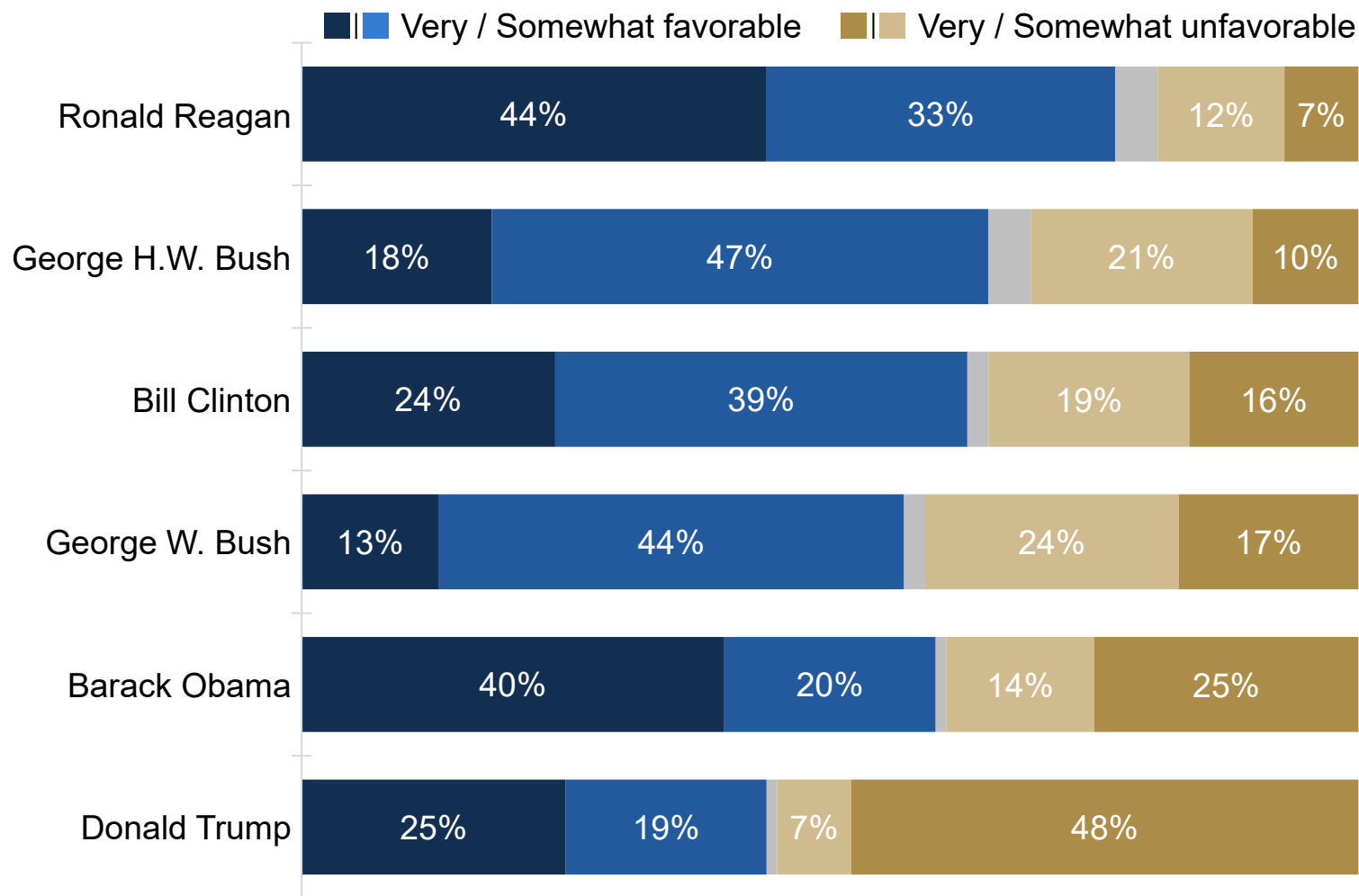




Evaluations of Presidents



Ronald Reagan viewed most favorably among recent past presidents.



Q80 – Q85: Thinking now about recent presidents, please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of each one I mention.



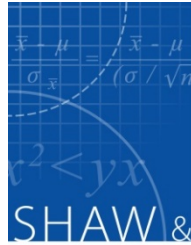
Profile of the Sample

Category	Group	% of Sample
Gender	Male	47
	Female	53
Age	18-29	17
	30-44	24
	45-64	39
	65+	20
Ethnicity	White	74
	Black	12
	Hispanic	5
Education	Noncollege	59
	College graduate	25
	Graduate degree	15
Income	Under \$50K	30
	\$50K-\$100K	31
	\$100K+	30

Category	Group	% of Sample
Registered Voter	Yes	91
	No	9
2016 Vote	Trump	36
	Clinton	36
Party Identification	Democrat	43
	Independent	15
	Republican	39
Political Philosophy	Very liberal	11
	Somewhat liberal	18
	Moderate	26
	Somewhat conservative	23
	Very conservative	18
Region	Northeast	18
	Midwest	22
	South	37
	West	22

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