

# THE NEW CENTER

Where is the political center in America?

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*September 2020*



Most Americans, while they self identify to the center or slightly to the right, hold nuanced views on a variety of policy issues.

But are today's political parties meeting the needs of voters?

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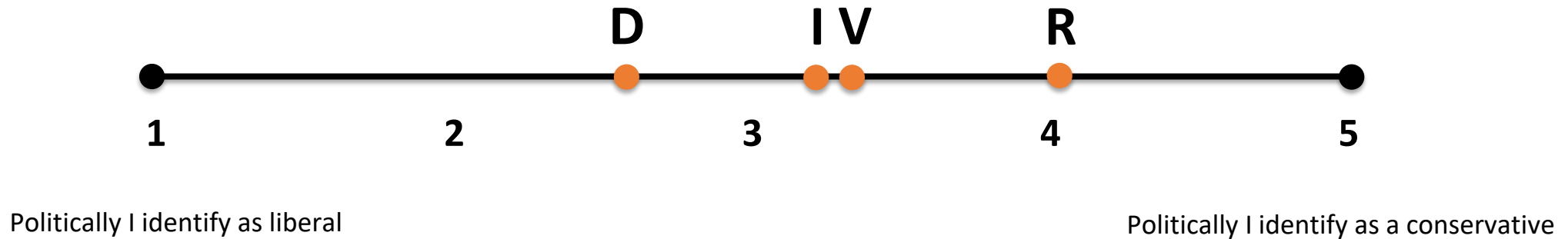
# A Nuanced American Electorate

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- Most Americans self-identify to the center or slightly to the right.
- People are moving to the left on retirement security, and they believe the government should be doing more to help seniors. At the same time, people are moving to the right on gun ownership, and express strong support for protecting the First Amendment.
- Americans are squarely behind capitalism. Yet, they want more government regulations to protect public health, and believe the government has a role in securing healthcare and education access for those who cannot afford it.
- The deficit is a concern for voters, and they want a balanced solution which includes less spending and higher taxes for the wealthy.
- America is still perceived as a force for good in the world, but more focus should be placed on problems at home versus problems abroad.

# Left, Right, or Center

America is a center-right country.

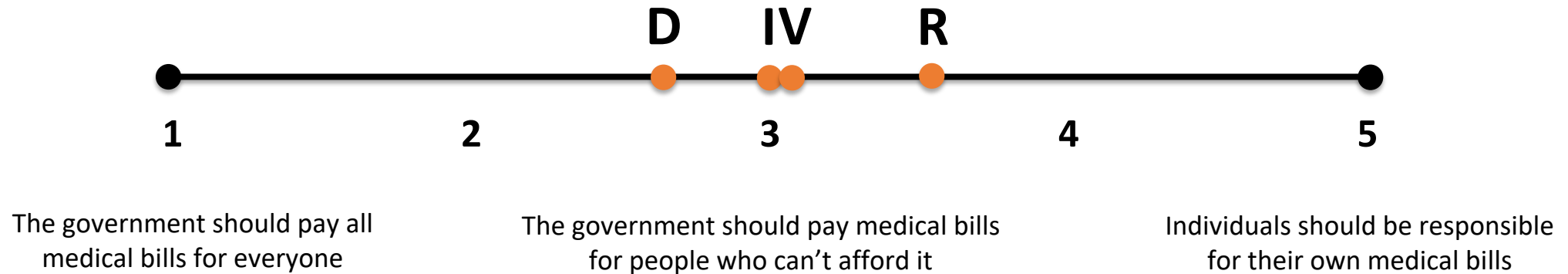


Number	1	2	3	4	5
All Voters	11%	13%	36%	20%	20%

V= All Voters  
D= Democrat  
R= Republican  
I= Independent

# Large Government vs. Small Government

Healthcare is a right, but individuals should pay for it if they can afford it.

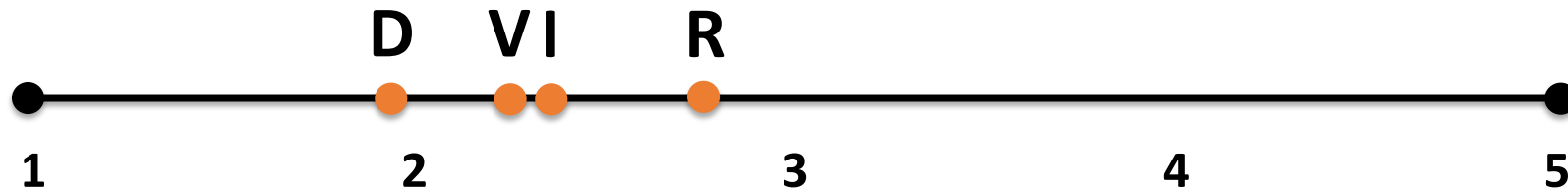


Number	1	2	3	4	5
All Voters	13%	14%	41%	19%	13%

V= All Voters  
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# Large Government vs. Small Government

The American people are moving left on retirement security.



The government should do more to provide healthcare and a secure income for retired people

The government should do less to provide healthcare and a secure income for retired people

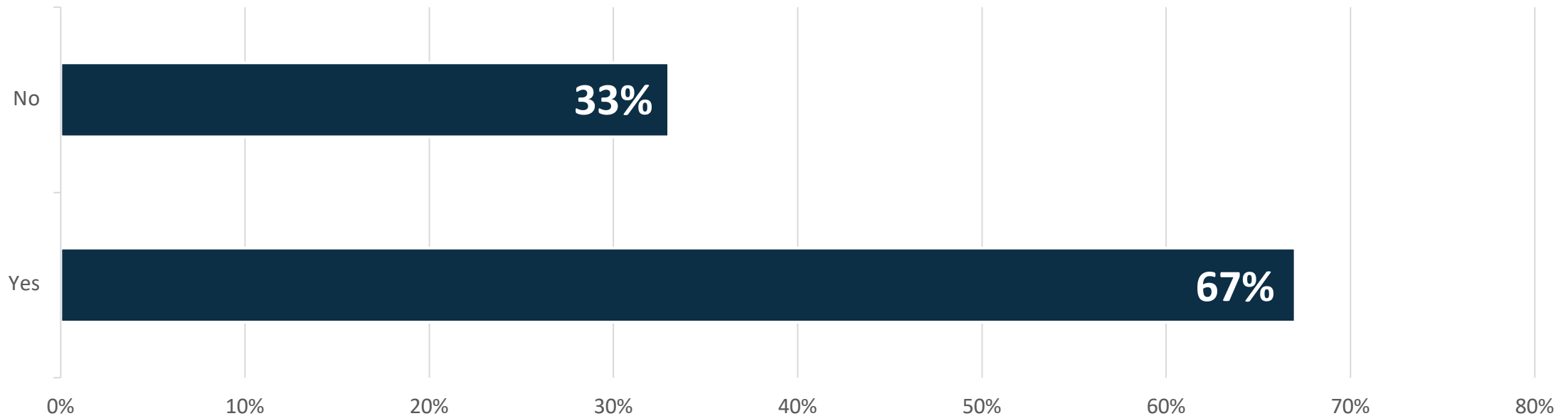
Number	1	2	3	4	5
All Voters	30%	29%	24%	10%	6%

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D= Democrat  
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I= Independent

# Large Government vs. Small Government

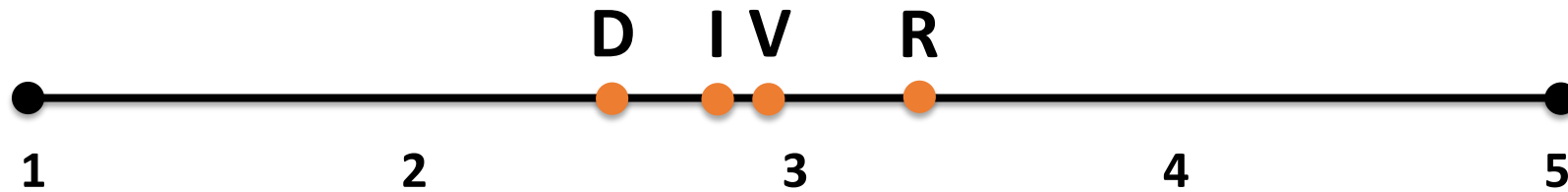
Telehealth's time has arrived.

Should the government be doing more to expand telehealth services?



# Regulation

A balanced approach to environmental regulation.



Protecting the environment should be done primarily through government regulation

Protecting the environment should be done primarily through the private sector and individual actions

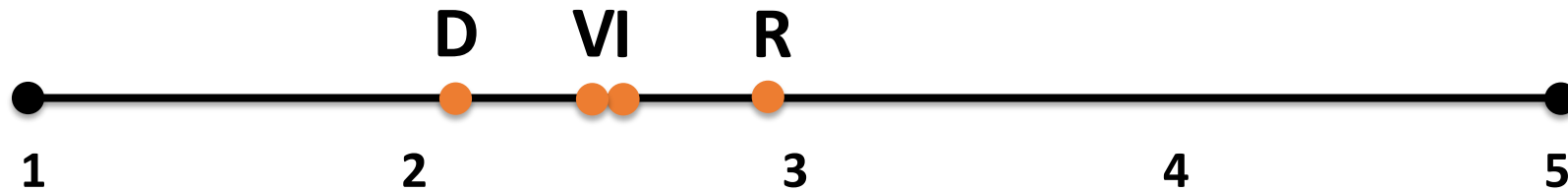
Number	1	2	3	4	5
All Voters	16%	22%	35%	16%	12%

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# Regulation

More government leadership to protect public health.



The government should have more regulations to protect public health

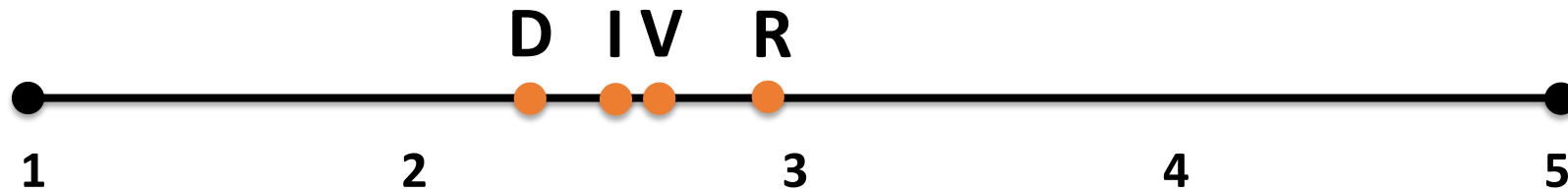
The government should have fewer regulations to protect public health

Number	1	2	3	4	5
All Voters	23%	26%	32%	12%	6%

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# Regulation

More consumer protections, please.



The government should have more regulations to protect consumers

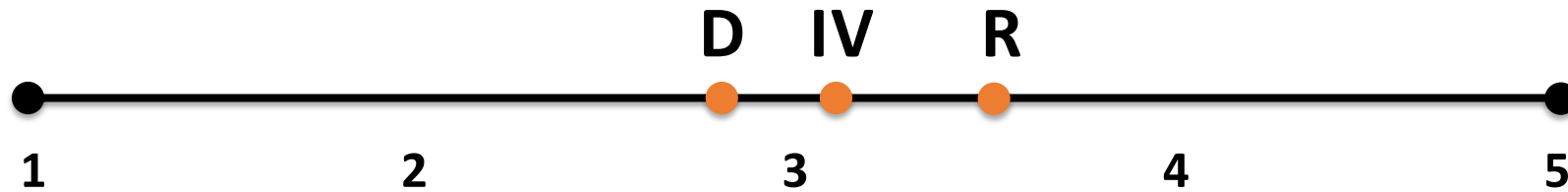
The government should have fewer regulations to protect consumers

Number	1	2	3	4	5
All Voters	20%	28%	32%	12%	7%

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# Internationalist vs. Nationalist

More focused on problems at home than abroad.



America should be more involved in solving the world's problems

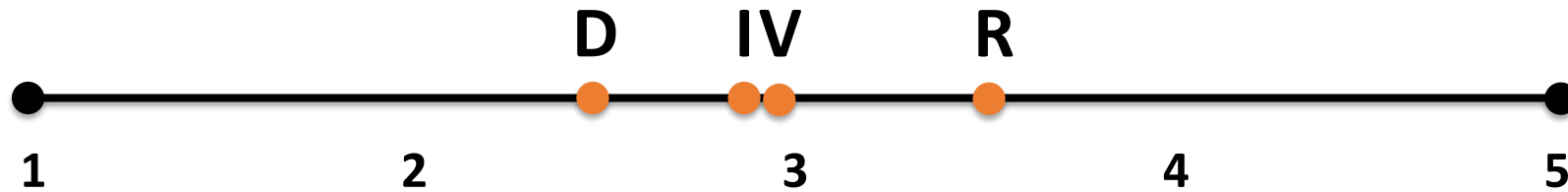
America should be less involved in solving the world's problems

Number	1	2	3	4	5
All Voters	12%	17%	31%	24%	16%

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# Internationalist vs. Nationalist

On climate change, America shouldn't go it alone, but it should not necessarily be constrained by international agreements, either.



On the issue of climate change, America should adhere to international agreements

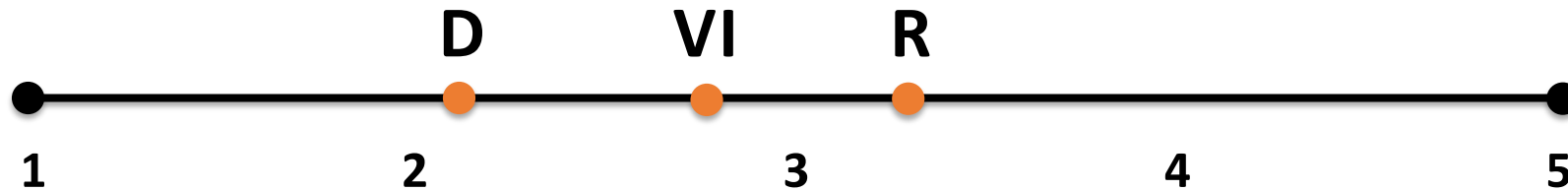
America should set its own policies

Number	1	2	3	4	5
All Voters	20%	20%	25%	18%	17%

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# Internationalist vs. Nationalist

American gets more benefits, than harm, from being in UN and WHO.



America benefits from memberships in international organizations like the United Nations and the World Health Organization

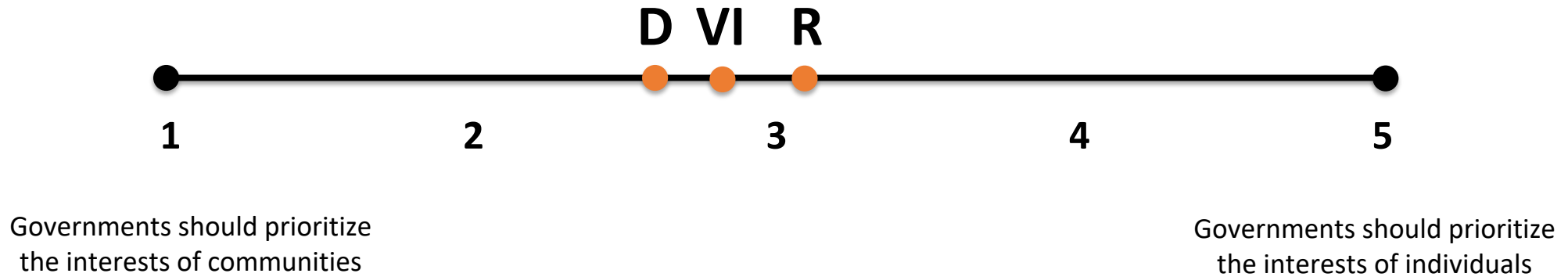
America is harmed by memberships in international organizations like the United Nations and the World Health Organization

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All Voters	22%	21%	29%	16%	11%

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# Individual vs. Community Rights

A balance between the interests of communities and individuals.

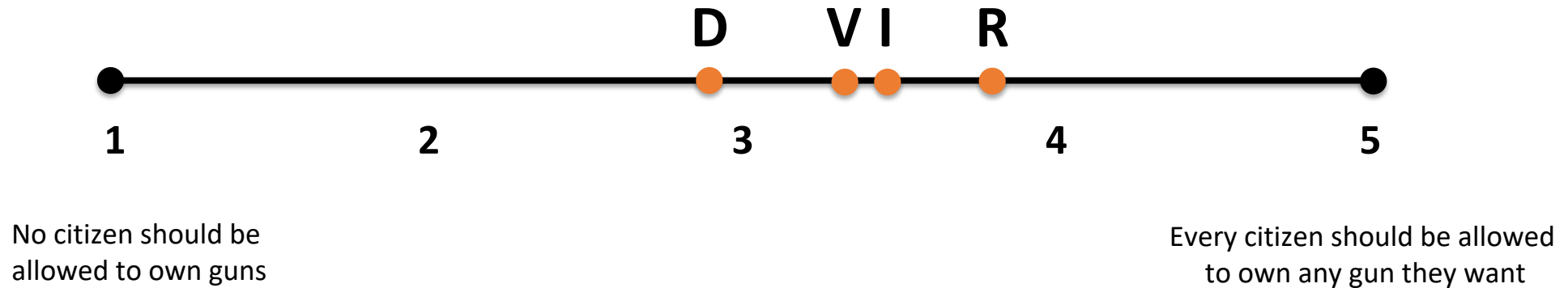


Number	1	2	3	4	5
All Voters	13%	20%	42%	15%	11%

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# Individual vs. Community Rights

Broad support for gun ownership.

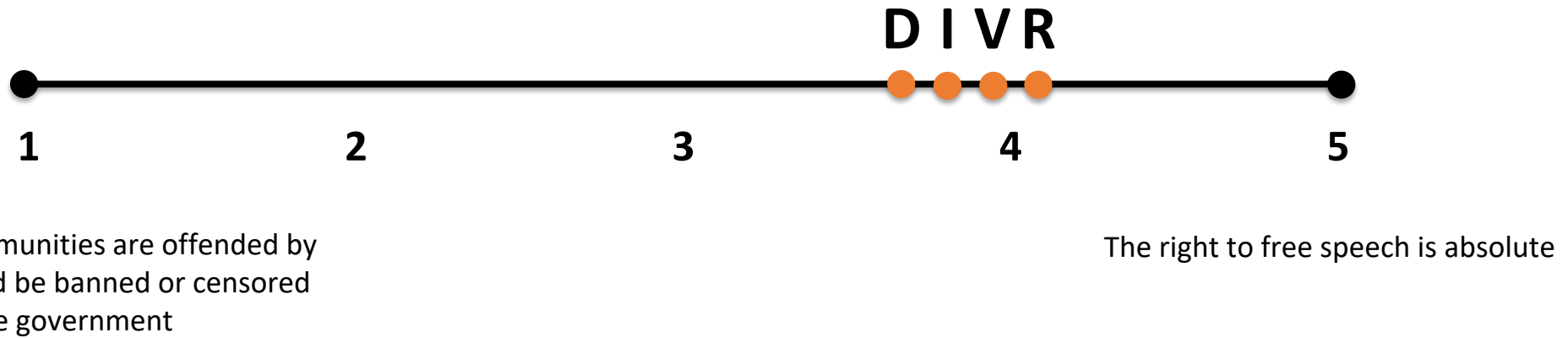


Number	1	2	3	4	5
All Voters	8%	12%	32%	24%	23%

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# Individual vs. Community Rights

Robust support for free speech.



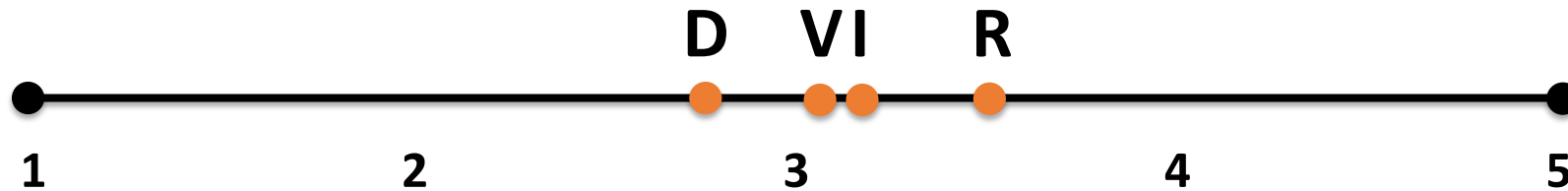
Number	1	2	3	4	5
All Voters	4%	6%	23%	30%	37%

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# Individual vs. Community Rights

Americans generally do not support social media companies censoring views.



Social media companies should heavily regulate speech on their platforms

Social media companies should allow any and all speech on their platforms

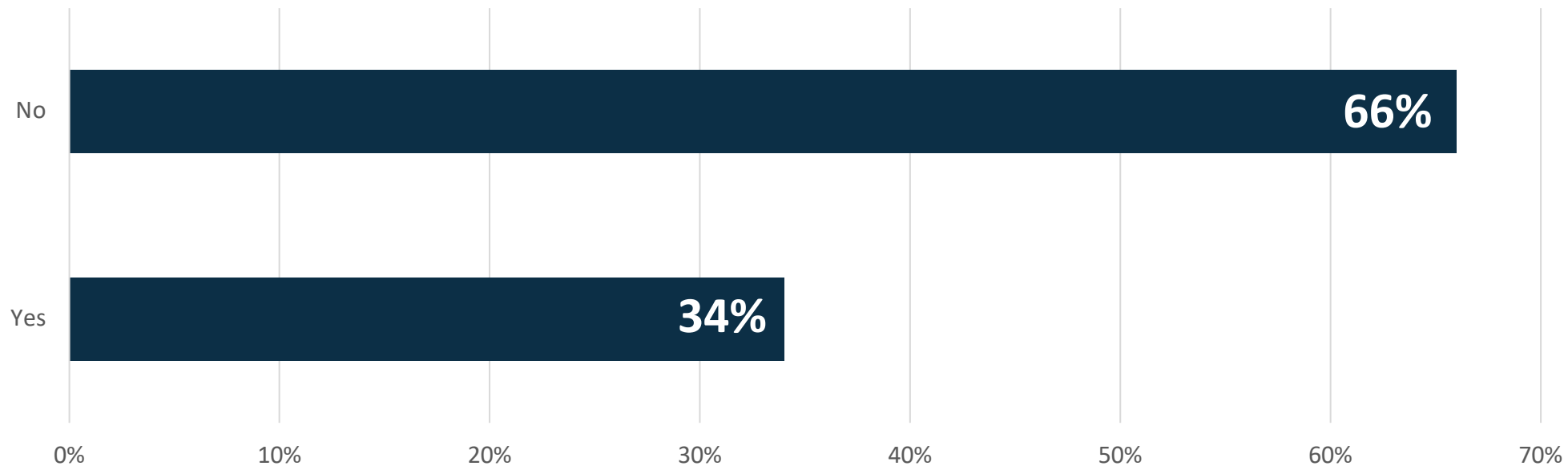
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# Individual vs. Community Rights

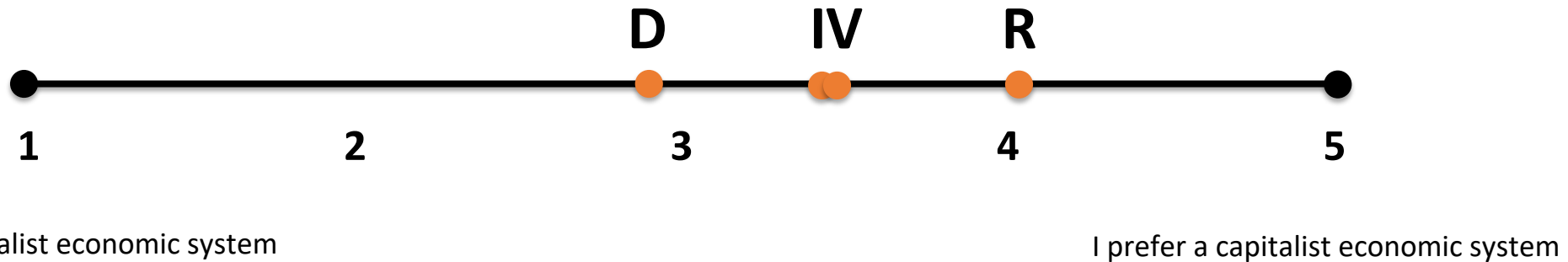
1/3 of workers are worried they could be “cancelled” by their employer.

**Are you worried that you could be punished or fired from your job for sharing your political beliefs at your workplace?**



# Socialist vs. Capitalist

Americans prefer capitalism over socialism.

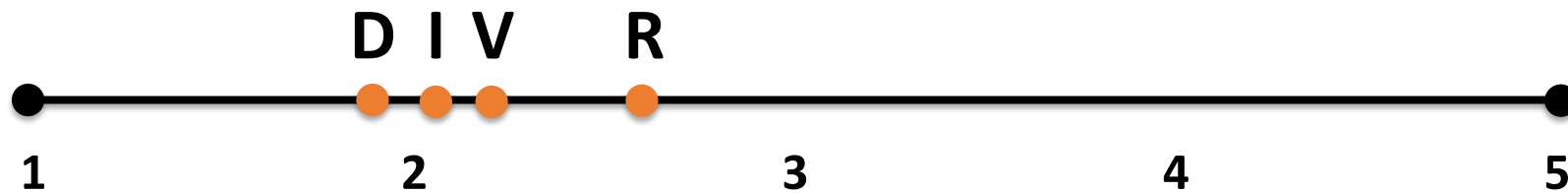


Number	1	2	3	4	5
All Voters	7%	12%	36%	17%	28%

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# Socialist vs. Capitalist

Americans believe the wealthy should pay more taxes.



The wealthy should pay much more in taxes

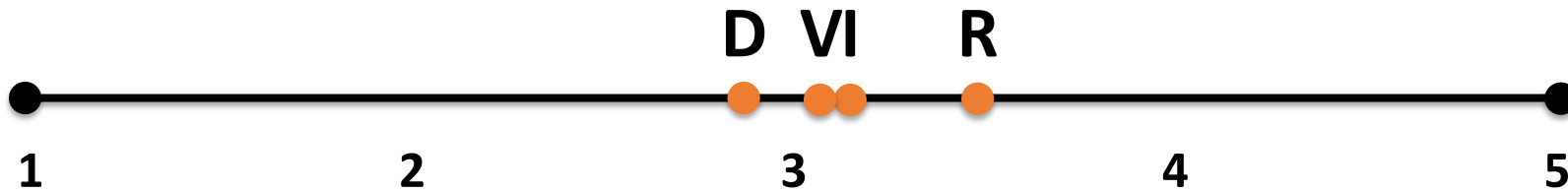
The wealthy should pay much less in taxes

Number	1	2	3	4	5
All Voters	34%	27%	28%	7%	5%

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I= Independent

# Socialist vs. Capitalist

Both the private and public sector should play a role in investing throughout the economy.



The government should play the primary role in where money is invested across our economy

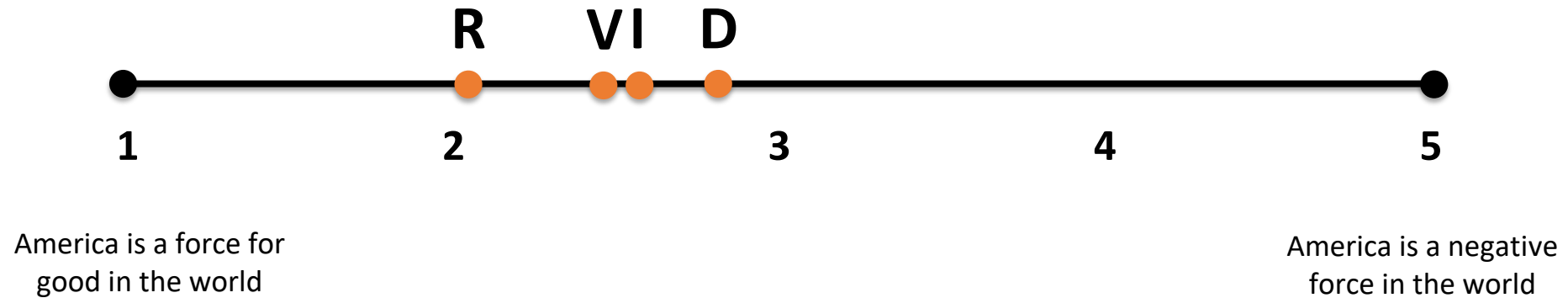
Private businesses should play the primary role in where money is invested across our economy

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All Voters	7%	16%	41%	23%	14%

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# New Patriots vs. Old Patriots

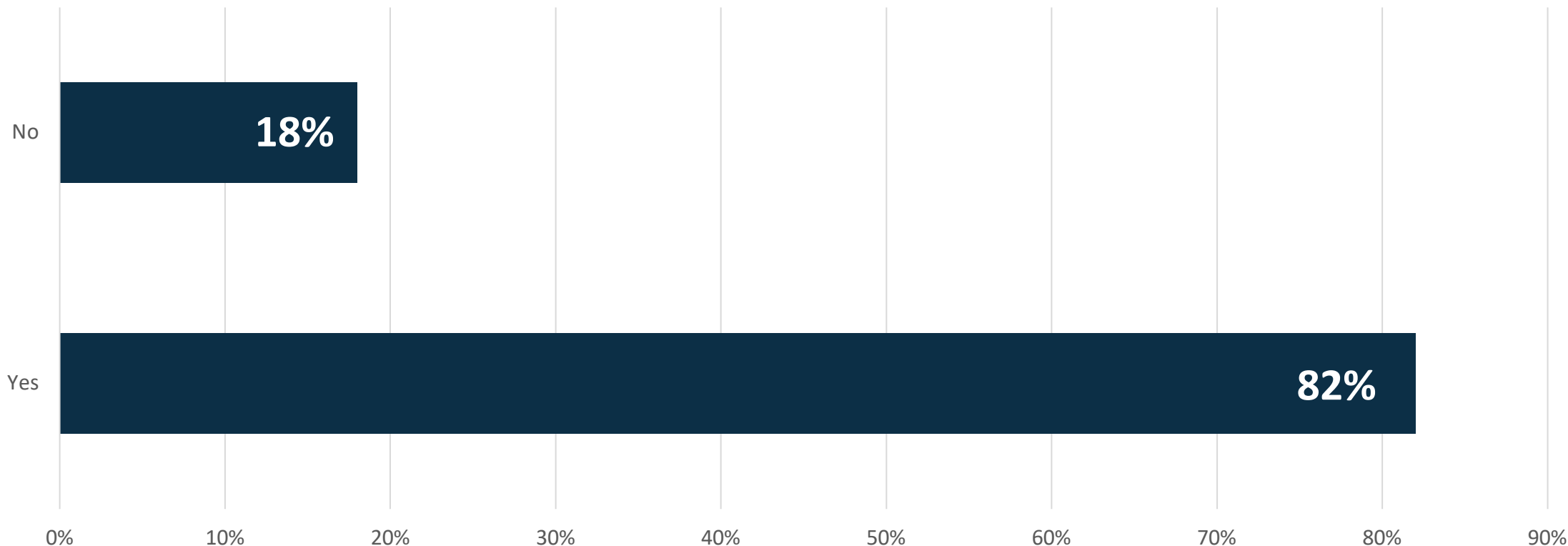
America is still a force for good in the world.



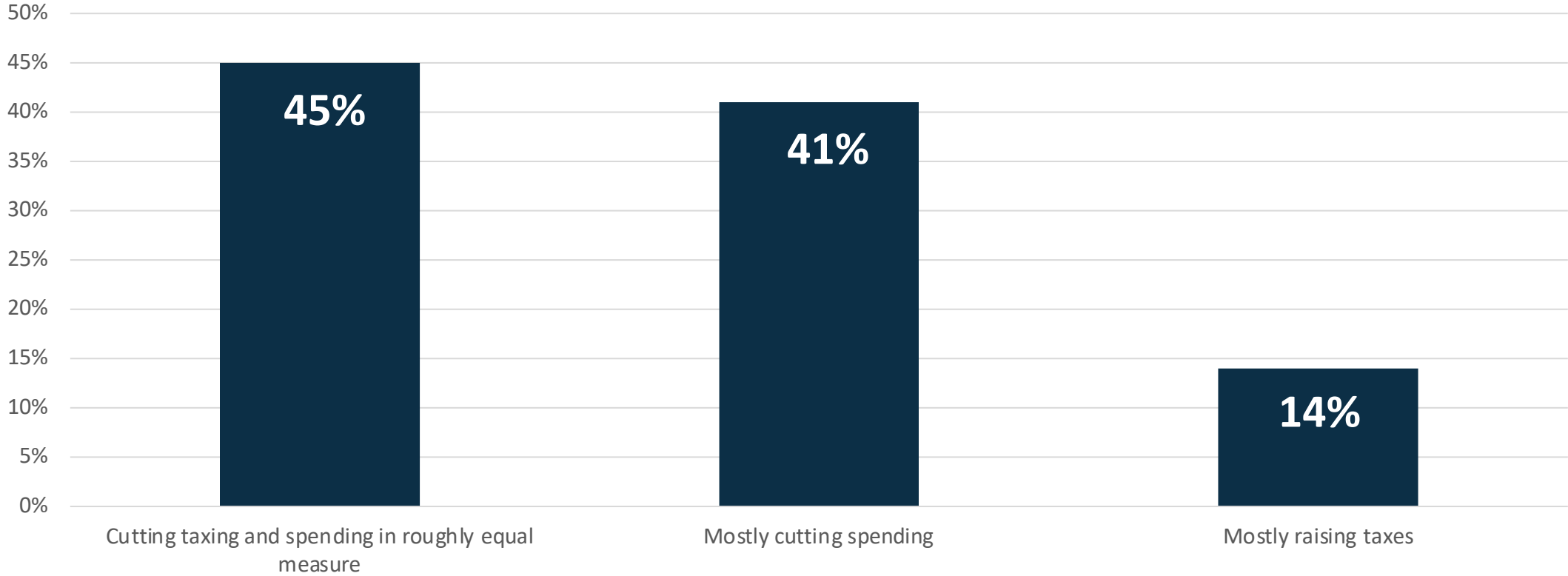
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**By the end of 2020, America's national debt is expected to reach \$3.8 trillion (18.7 percent of GDP). Do you think the government should make it a priority to reduce the debt?**

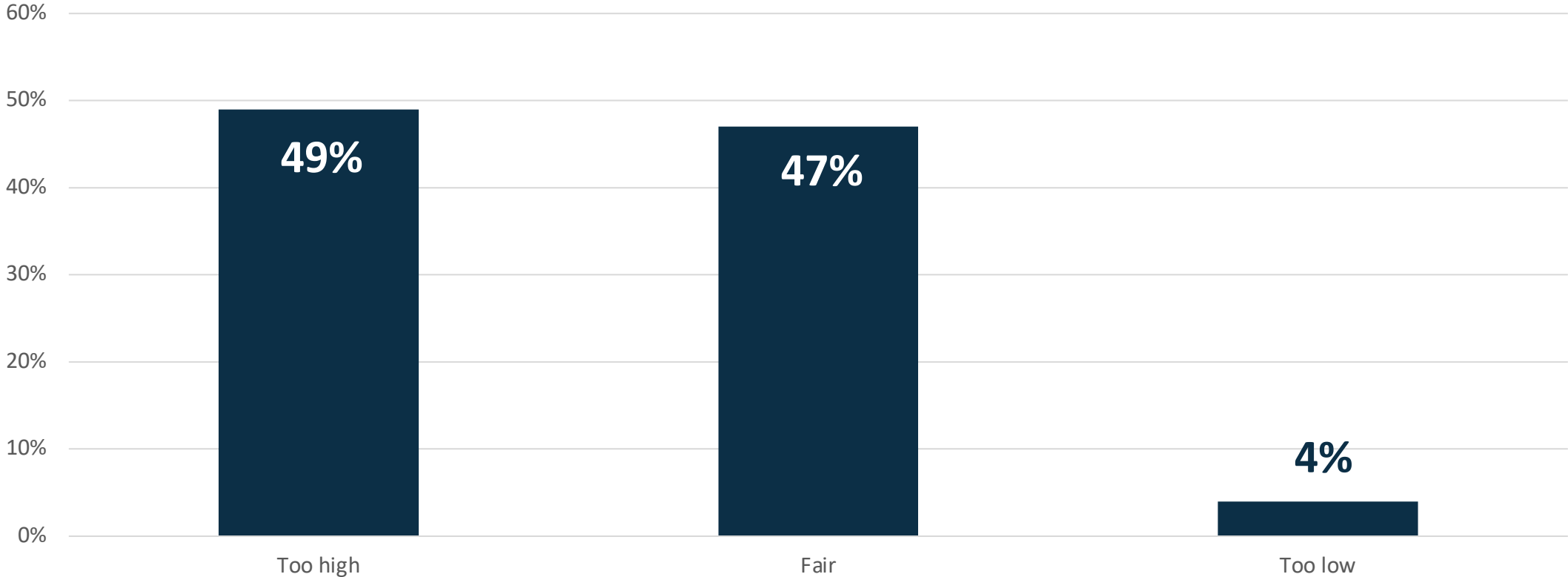


# Should the government reduce debt by:

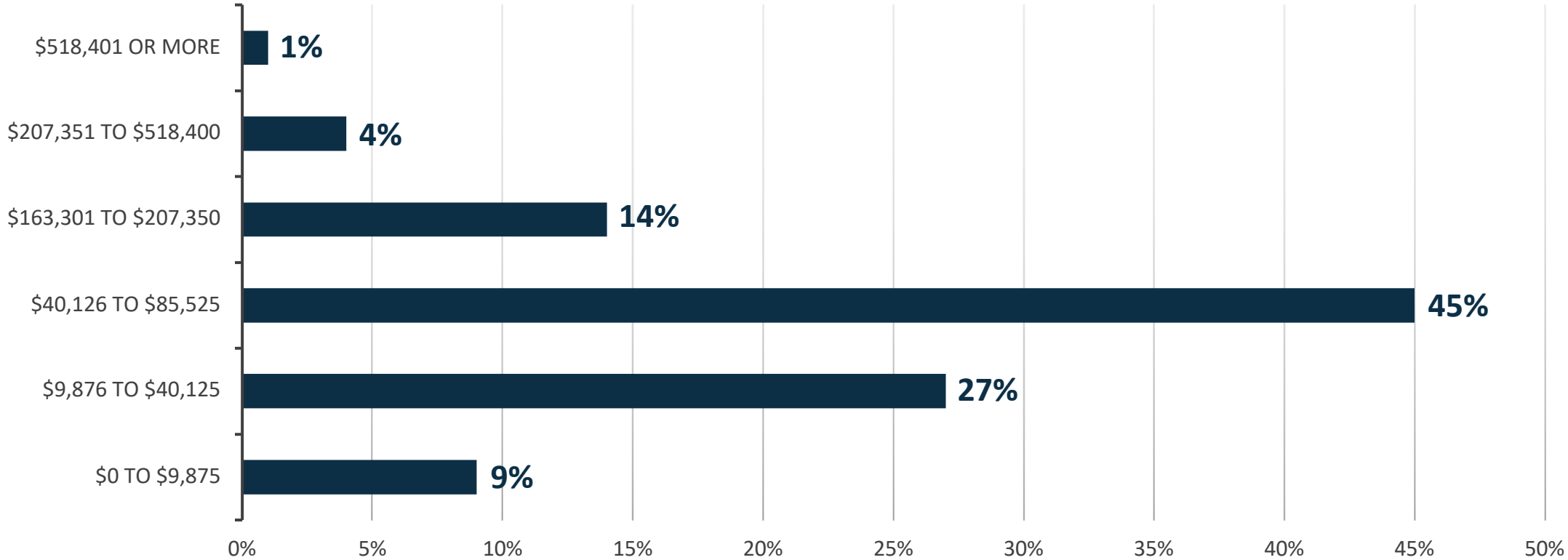




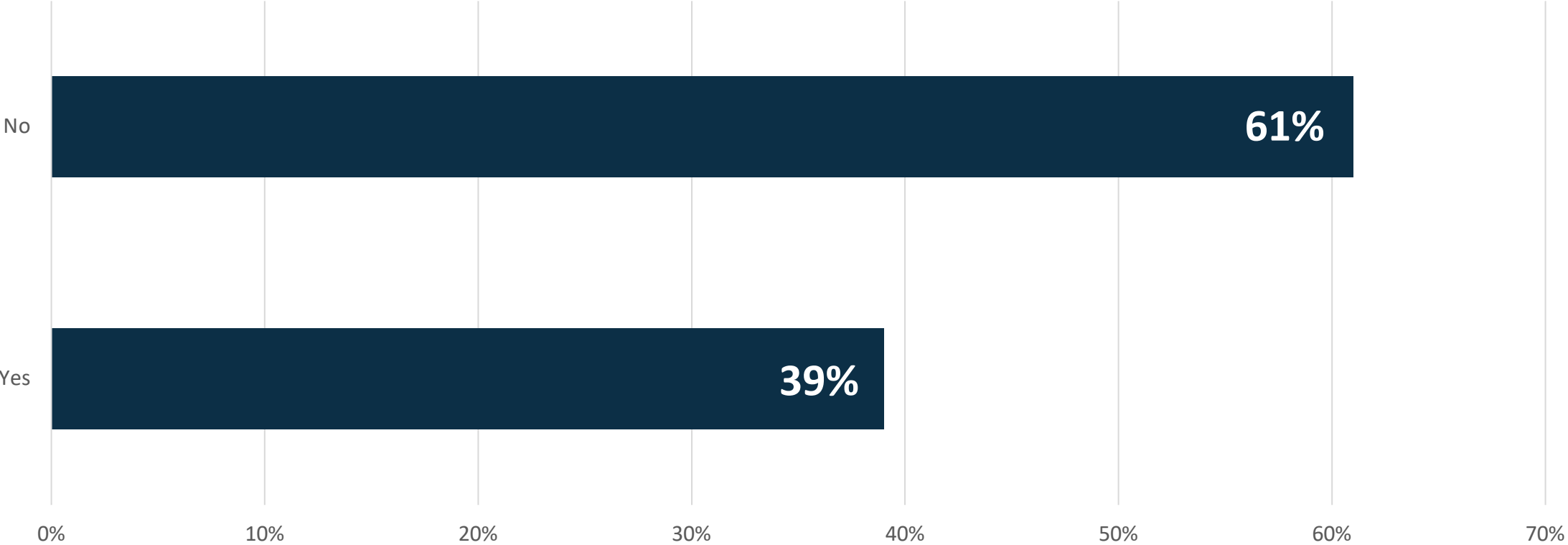
# Do you think the amount you pay in taxes is:



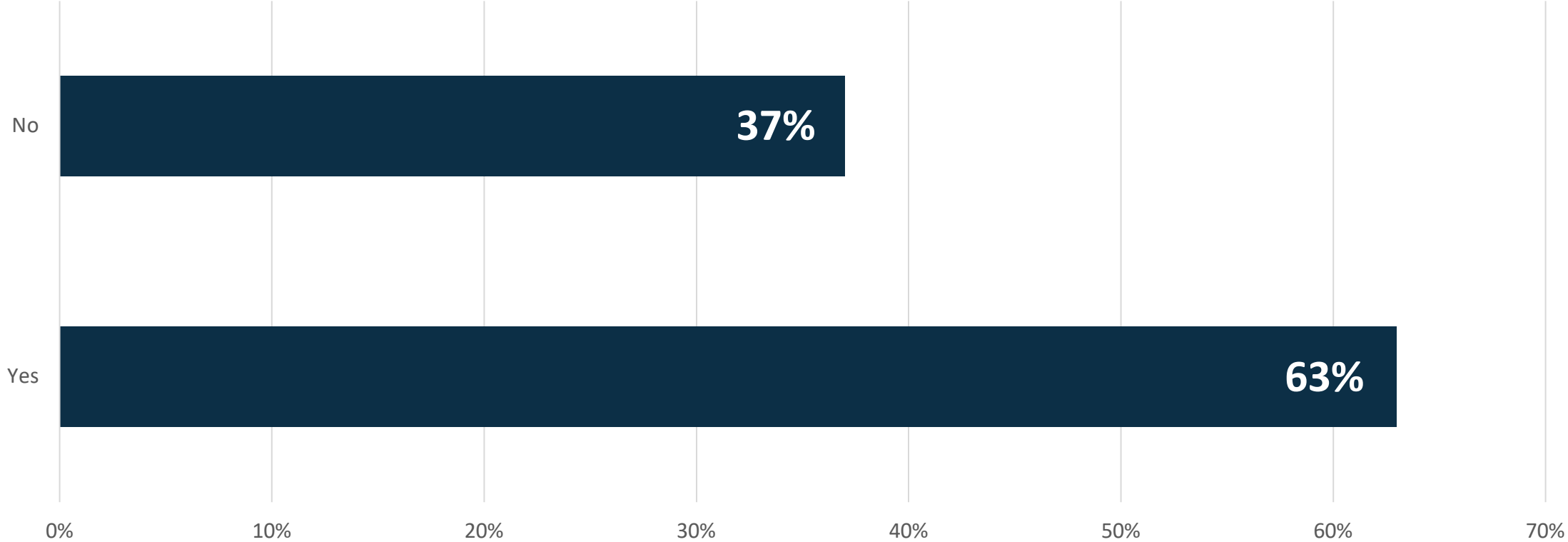
# What is your income?



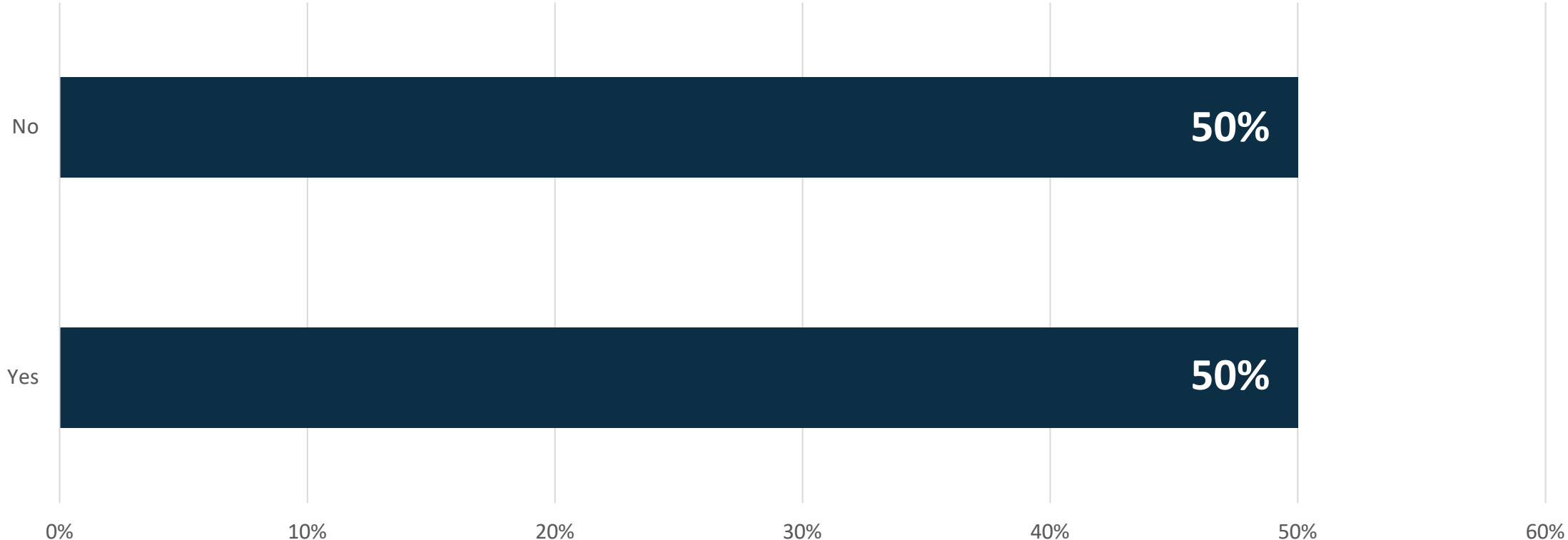
# Is personal debt a major source of stress or worry in your life?



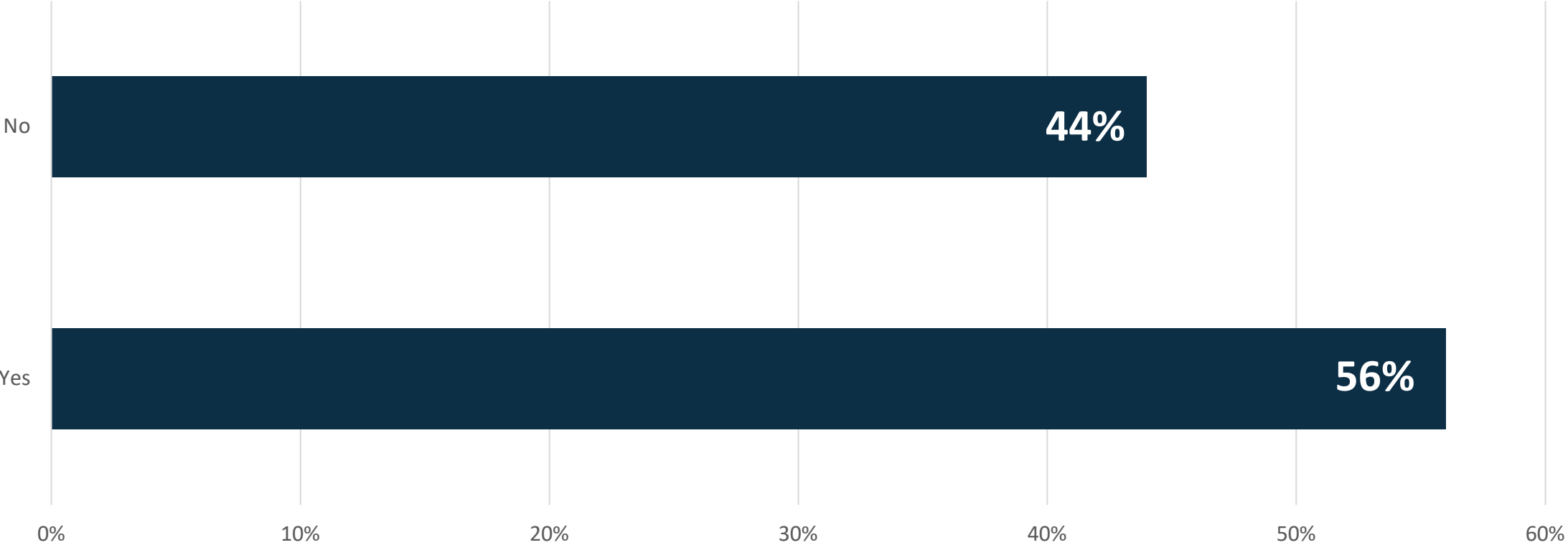
# Should the federal government forgive up to \$50,000 in student loan debt for those earning less than \$100,000 in annual income?



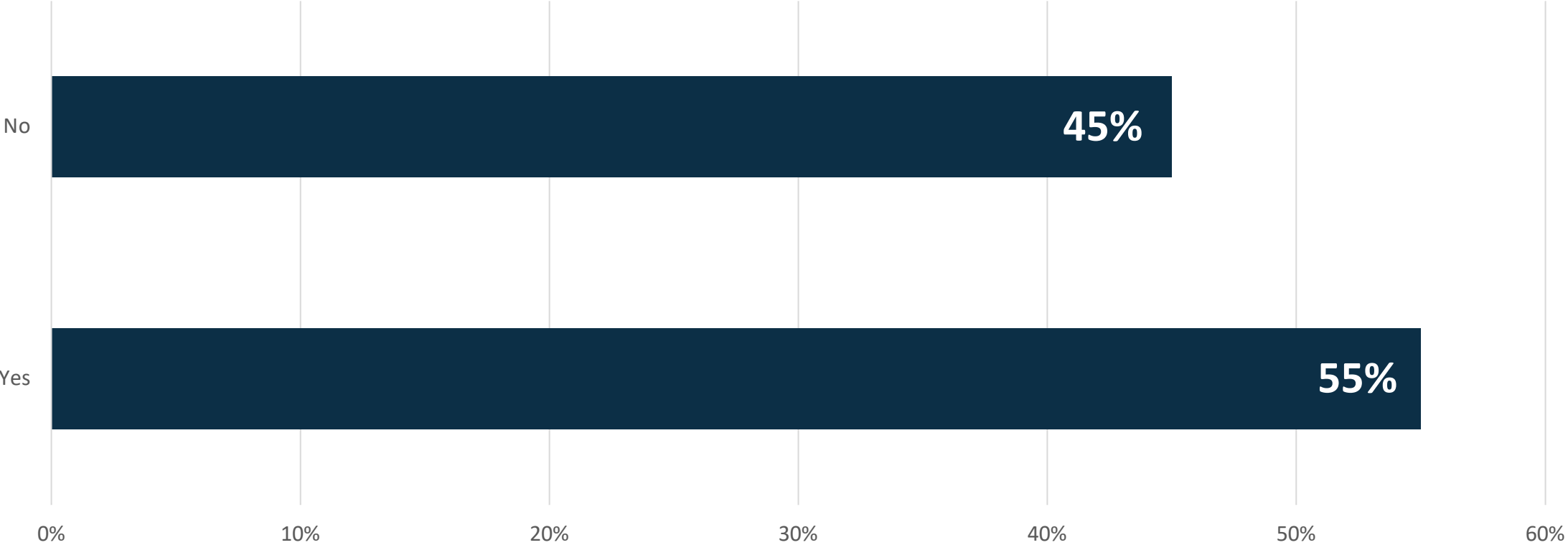
# If parents don't like the traditional public school options in their community, do you think the federal government should provide them with vouchers to attend private or religious schools of their choice?



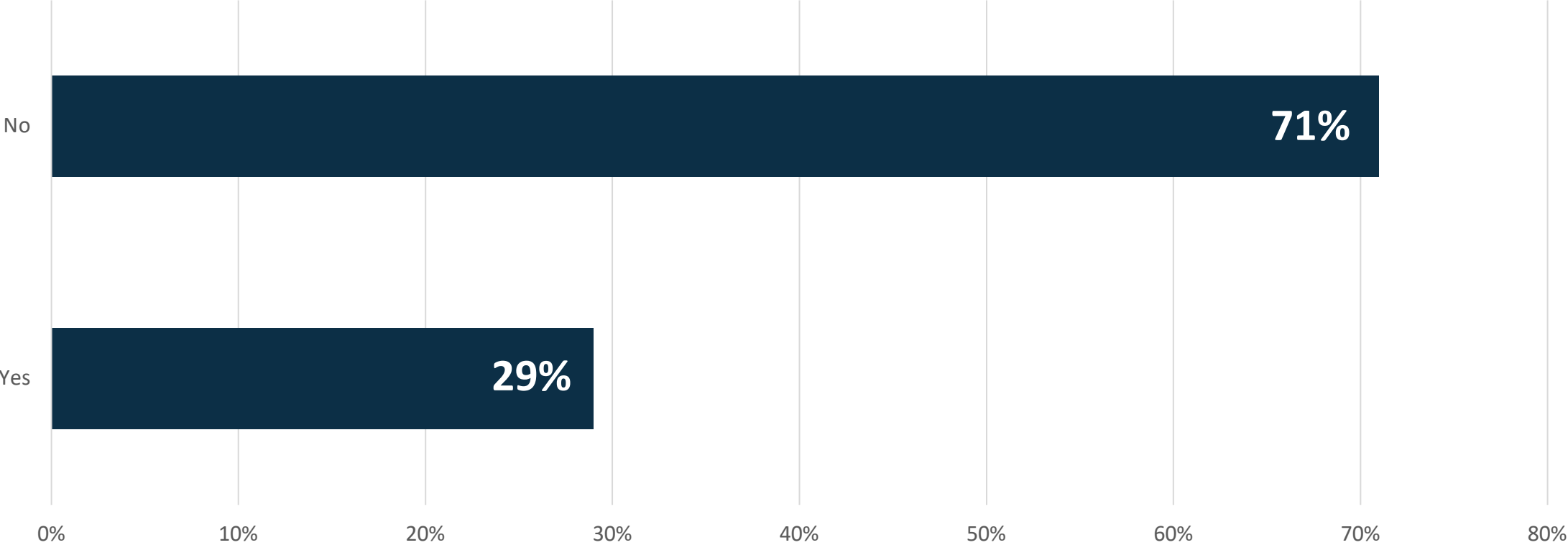
**Charter schools are publicly funded but are not managed by their local school boards. These schools are expected to meet promised objectives but are exempt from state regulations. Do you support the formation of charter schools?**



# Would you support a universal basic income in which the federal government sent every U.S. citizen \$1,000 per month?

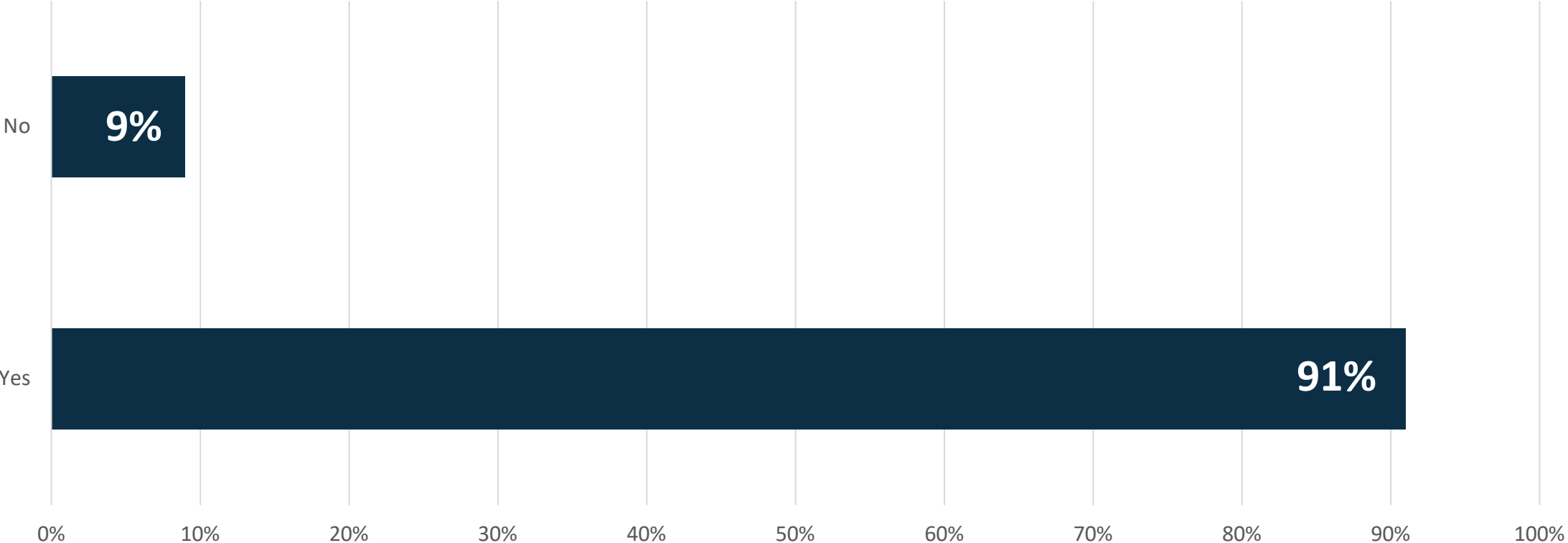


**Would you support a universal basic income in which the federal government sent every U.S. citizen \$1,000 per month, if at the same time, the federal government eliminated several other welfare programs, such as food stamps?**

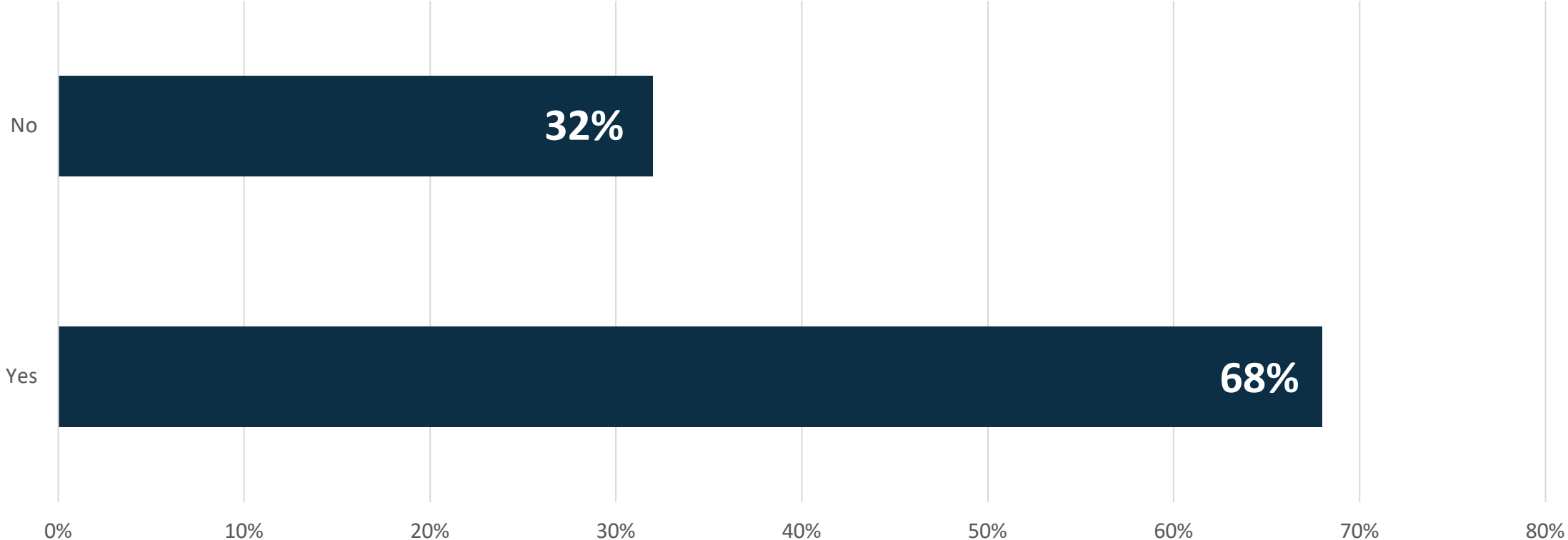




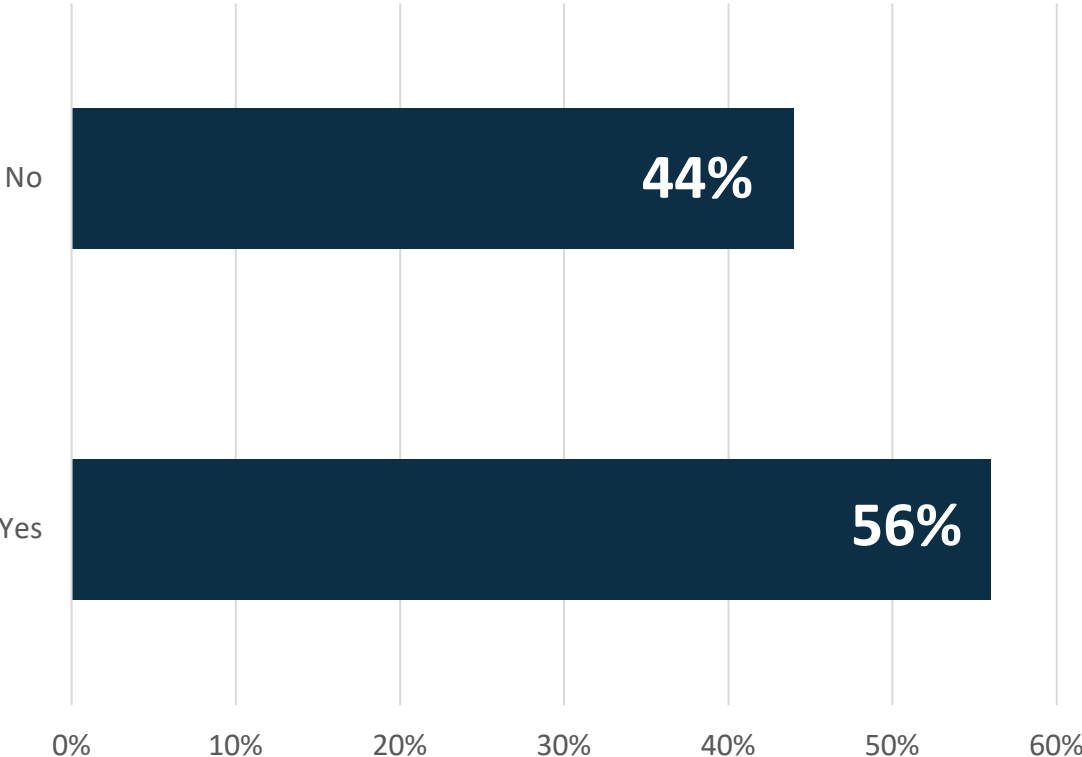
# Do you have access to a fast, reliable wireless internet connection at home?



# Do you think the government should be doing more to ensure that all Americans have access to fast, reliable, and affordable wireless internet in their homes?



# Is America a racist country or not a racist country?



## Political Party Breakdown

Political Party	Yes	No
Republican	37%	63%
Democrat	74%	26%
Independent	56%	44%

# About the Findings

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Market research firm HarrisX ran a poll of 2,000 registered voters between September 4-7, 2020 for the Society of Presidential Pollsters, an organization created by the George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management. Their findings are reflected in slides 3-34.

The Harvard CAPS / Harris Poll is conducted by The Harris Poll online within the United States every month and captures the responses of over 2,000 registered voters. Their findings are reflected in slide 35.

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