

The Pulse of Washington

A Survey of Registered Voters



SE60

October 23, 2024



Survey Methodology

Strategies 360 conducted a mixed-mode, representative survey among **600 registered voters** in Washington State.

Interviews were conducted **October 11 – 16, 2024**. A combination of web-hosted survey interviews accessed via text message and voter-file-matched online panel interviews were used to ensure greater coverage of the population sampled. All interviews were conducted with **registered voters** derived from the state voter file.

The **margin of error for a survey of 600 interviews is $\pm 4\%$ at the 95% confidence level**. The margin of error is higher for subsamples.



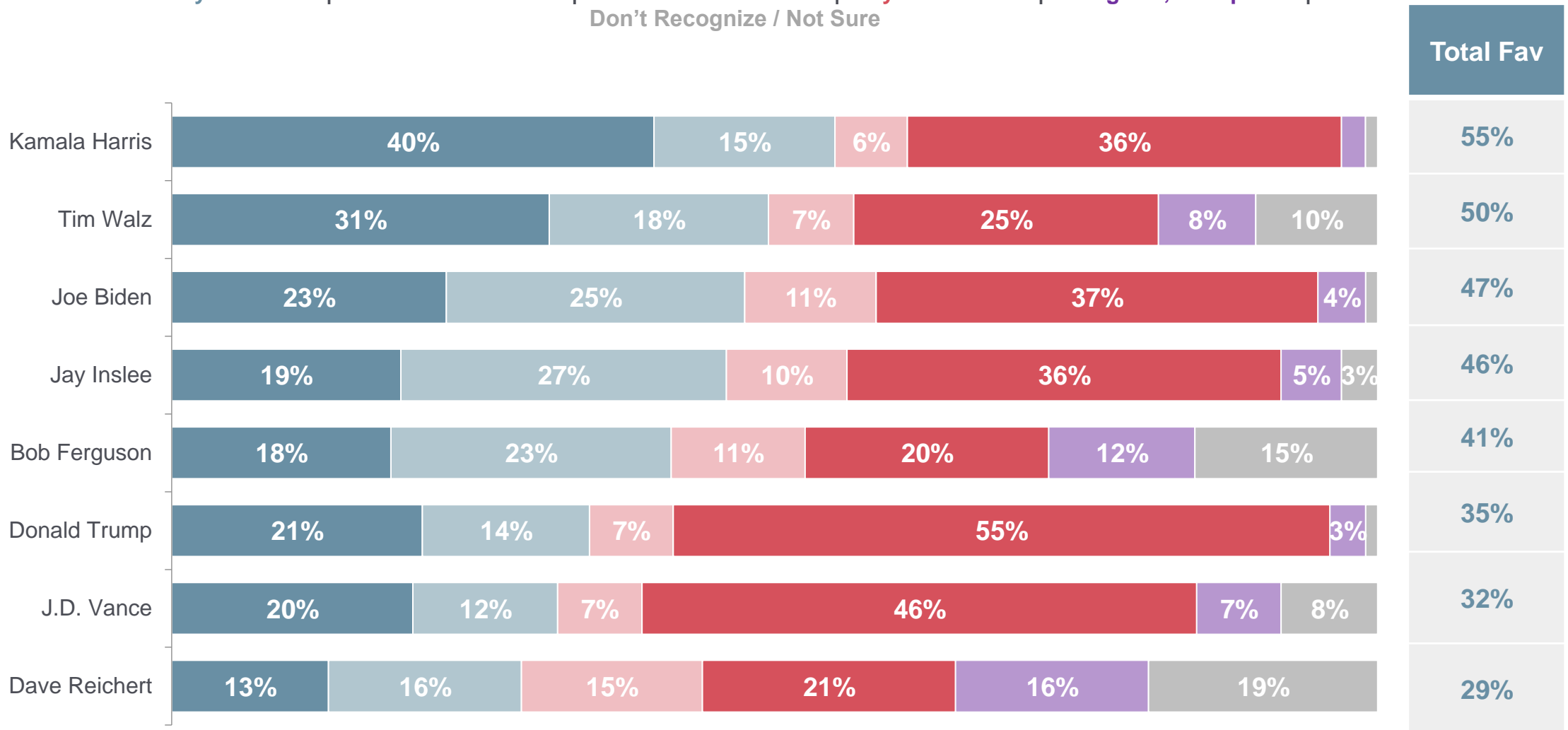
Candidate Elections



Democratic presidential ticket candidates are the only candidates receiving favorable ratings from a majority of voters.

Favorable and Name Identification Ratings*

Very Favorable | Somewhat Favorable | Somewhat Unfavorable | Very Unfavorable | Recognize, No Opinion | Don't Recognize / Not Sure

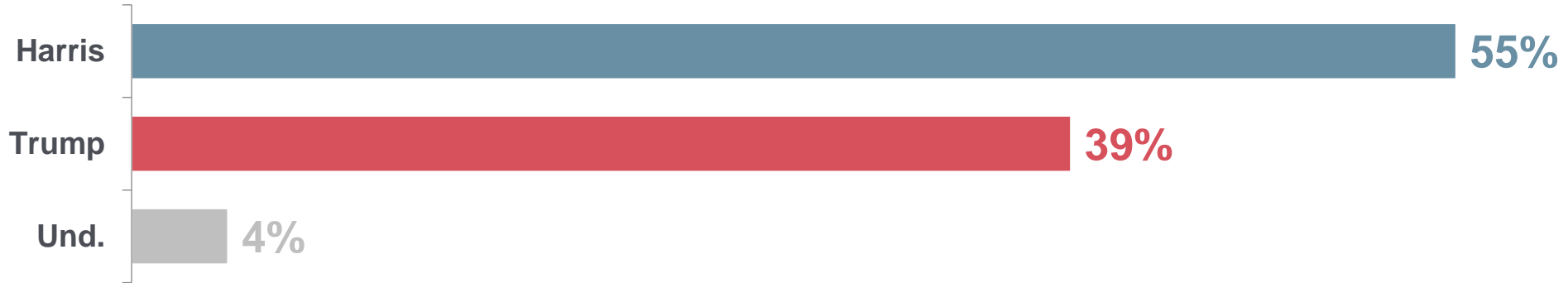


*Here is a list of some public figures you may have heard of. Please indicate whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of each one. If you don't recognize the name or if you recognize the name but do not have an opinion, please indicate that. (randomized)

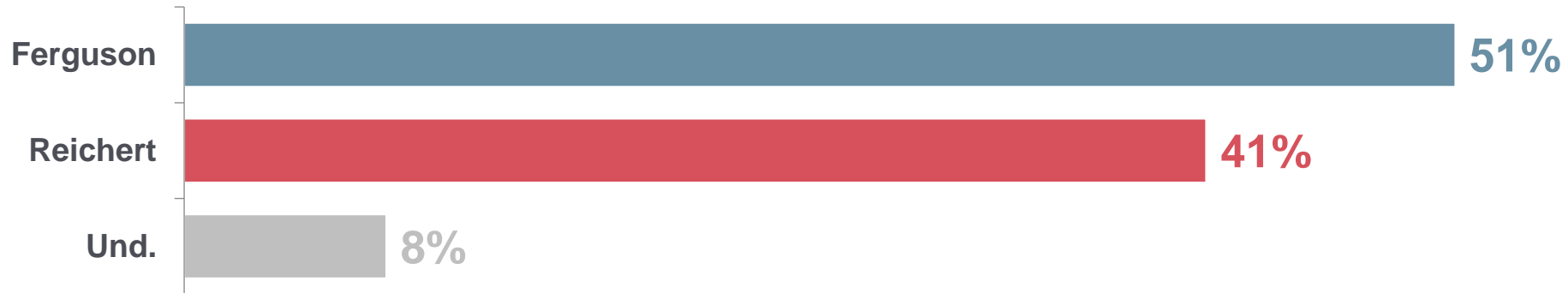
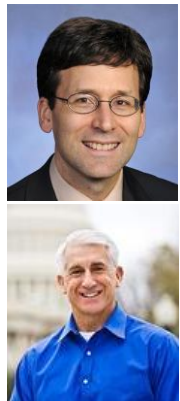


Kamala Harris holds 16-point lead over Donald Trump, Harris is on trajectory to match Biden's 2020 margin of victory in Washington. Ferguson holds a 10-point lead in the election for Governor.

U.S. President Horse Race* among registered voters



WA Governor Horse Race** among registered voters



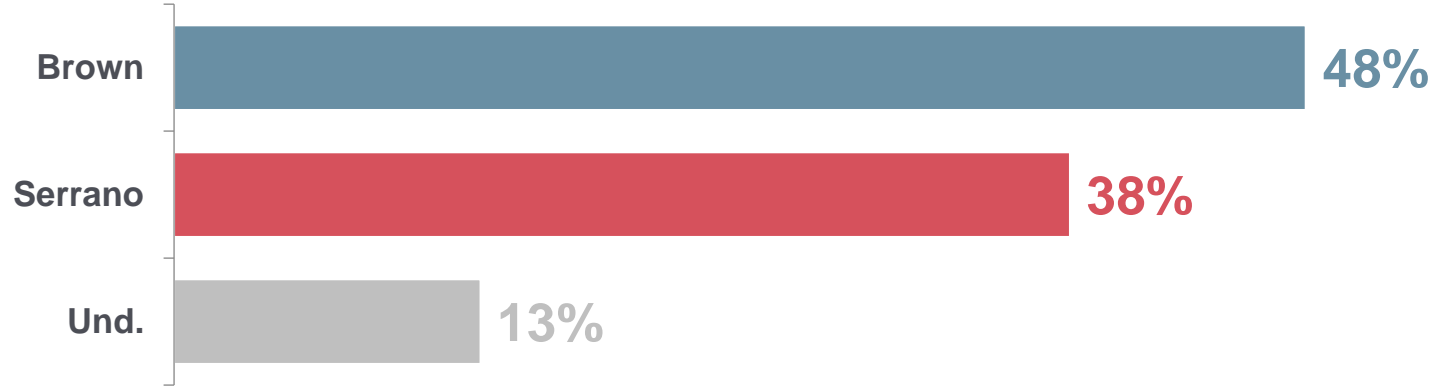
*If the election were held today, would you vote for Democrat Kamala Harris or Republican Donald Trump?

**And thinking about the election for Governor of Washington, if the election were held today, would you vote for Democrat Bob Ferguson or Republican Dave Reichert?

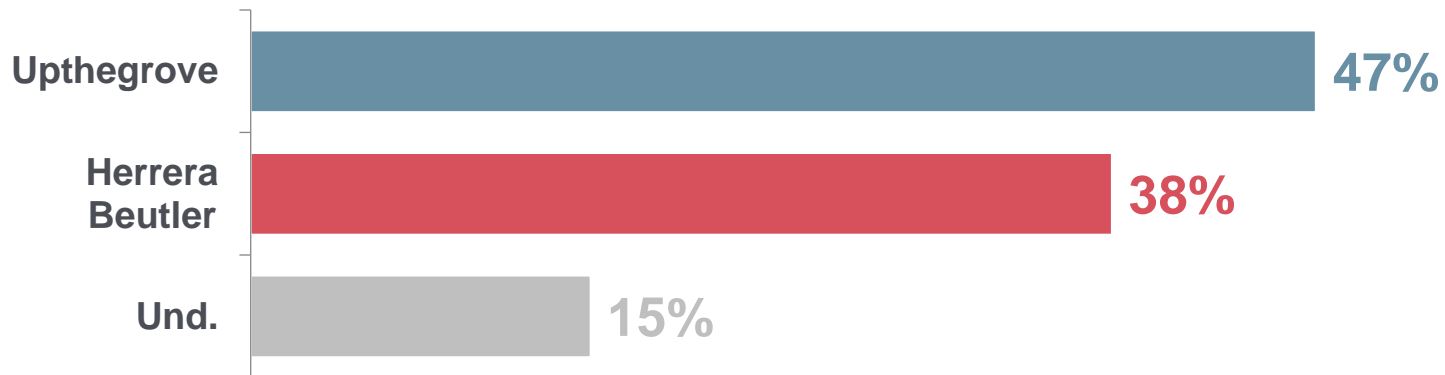
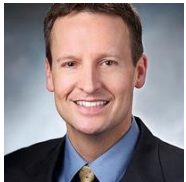


Democrats Nick Brown and Dave Upthegrove hold statistically significant leads over their Republican opponents, though a significant number of voters remain undecided.

WA Attorney General Horse Race* among registered voters



WA Public Lands Commissioner Horse Race* among registered voters

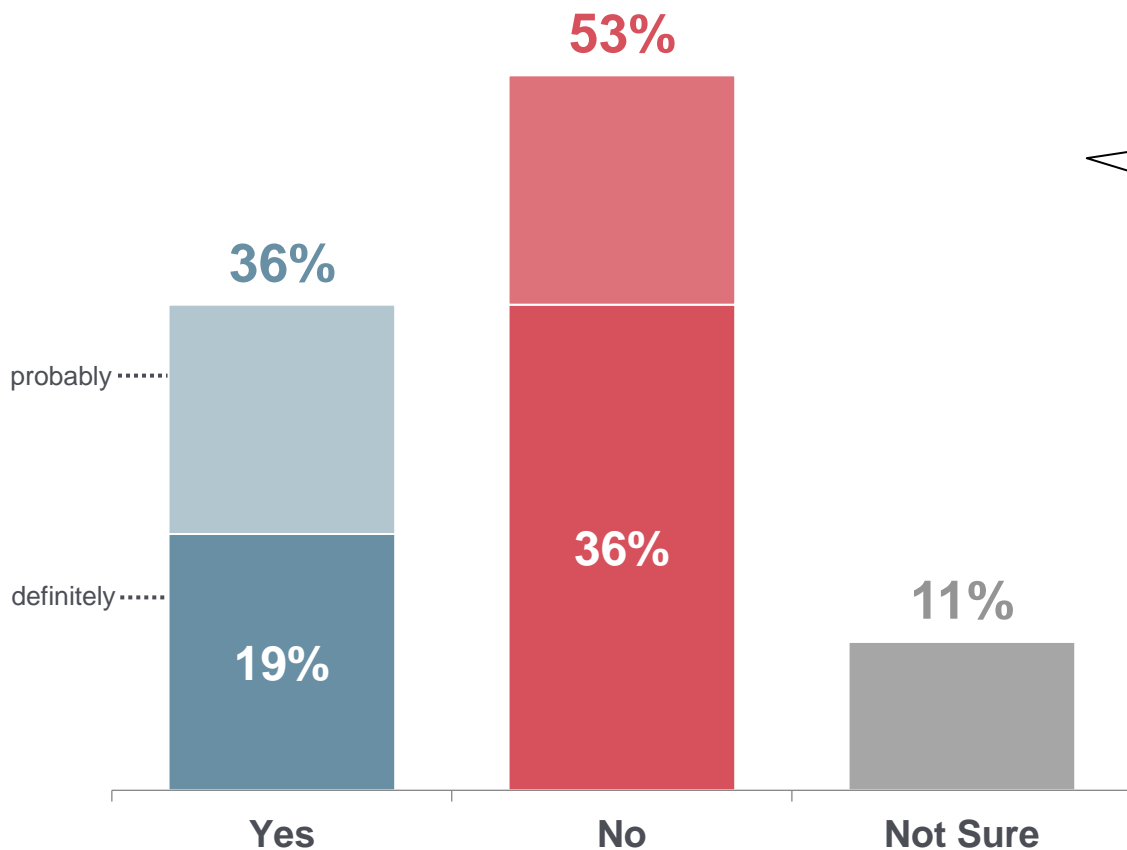


*Thinking about the election for Attorney General of Washington, if the election were held today, would you vote for Democrat Nick Brown or Republican Pete Serrano?

**And if the election for Washington Public Lands Commissioner were held today, would you vote for Democrat Dave Upthegrove or Republican Jaime Herrera Beutler?

Initiative 2117 appears headed for defeat, with a MAJORITY opposing the measure the effort to repeal carbon tax credit trading, including 36% strongly opposing the measure.

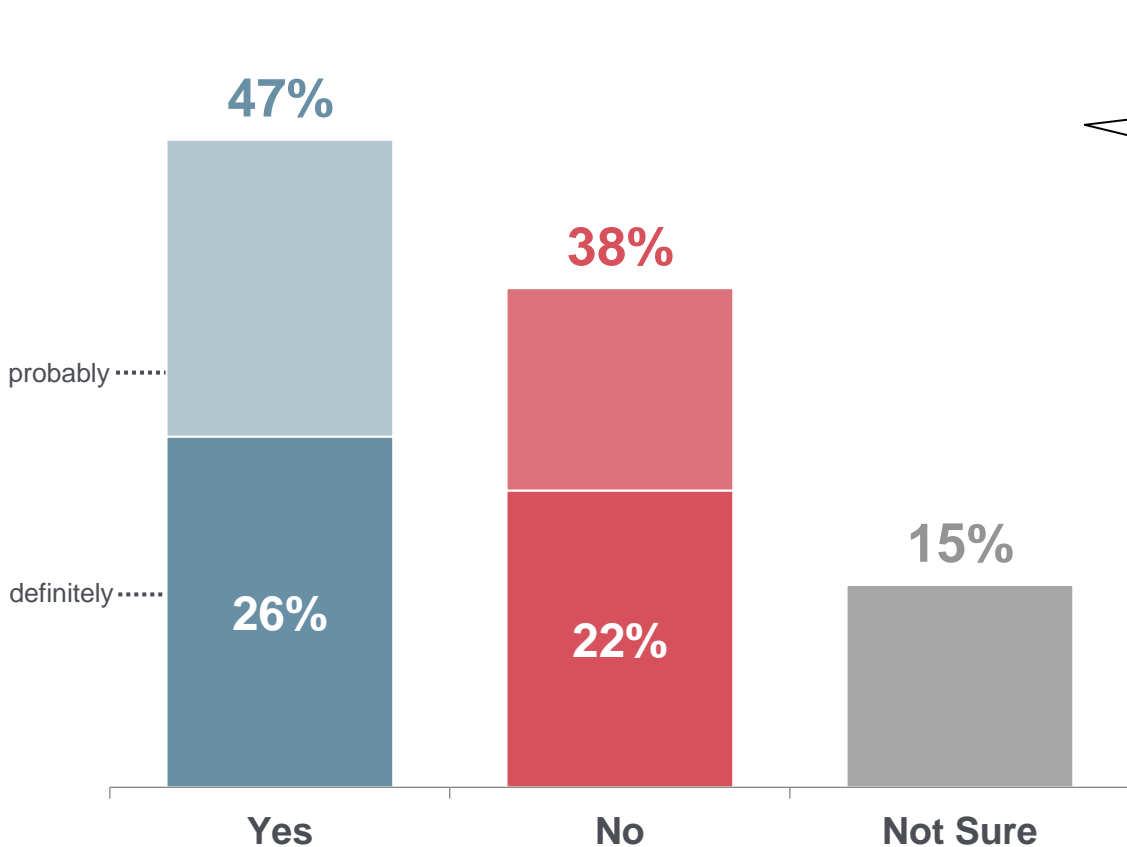
Support for Initiative Measure No. 2117



*This measure would **prohibit state agencies from imposing any type of carbon tax credit trading and repeal the 2021 Washington Climate Commitment Act (CCA), which established a cap and invest program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This measure would decrease funding for investments in transportation, clean air, renewable energy, conservation, and emissions-reduction.***

Voters are divided on Initiative 2066, related to natural gas regulation, though it appears likelier than not to pass, with 15% still undecided.

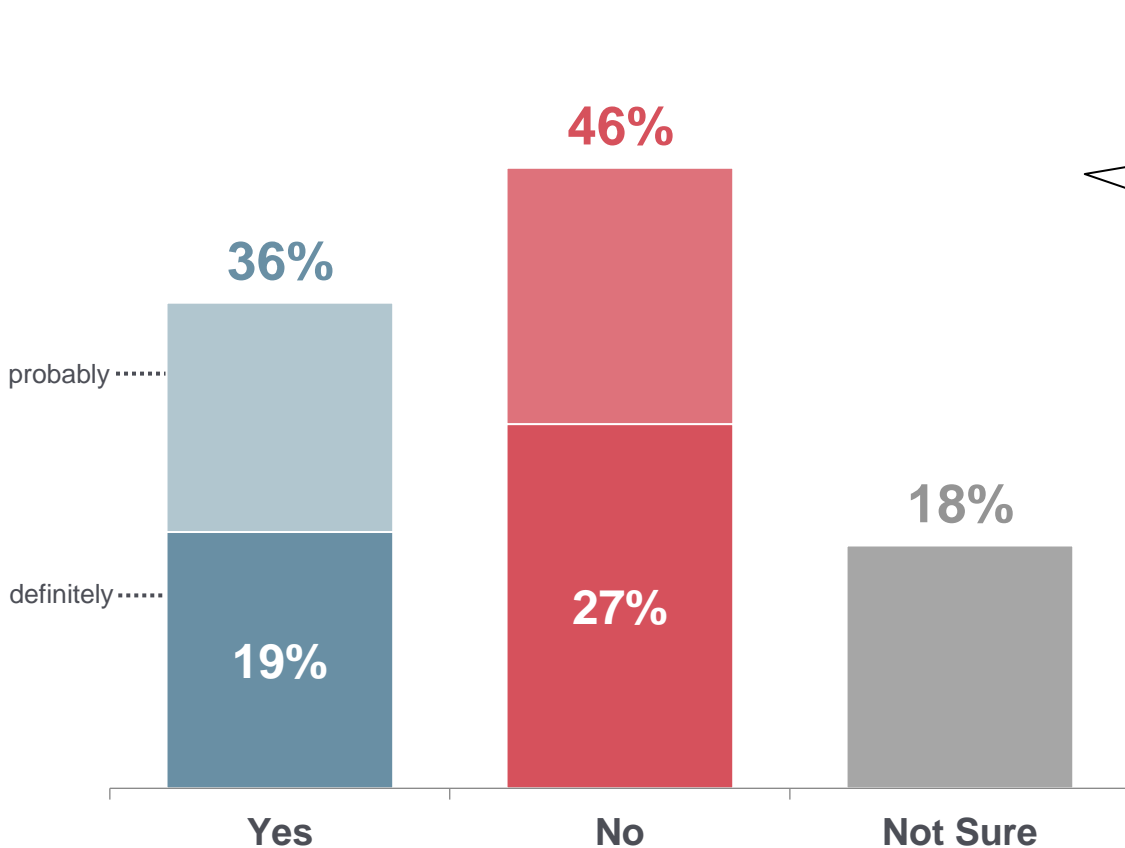
Support for Initiative Measure No. 2066



*This measure would **repeal or prohibit certain laws and regulations that discourage natural gas** use and/or promote electrification, and require certain utilities, such as Puget Sound Energy (PSE), and local governments to provide natural gas to eligible customers.*

Initiative 2124 appears headed for defeat, although almost 1-in-5 voters haven't made up their minds on the measure about WA Cares funding.

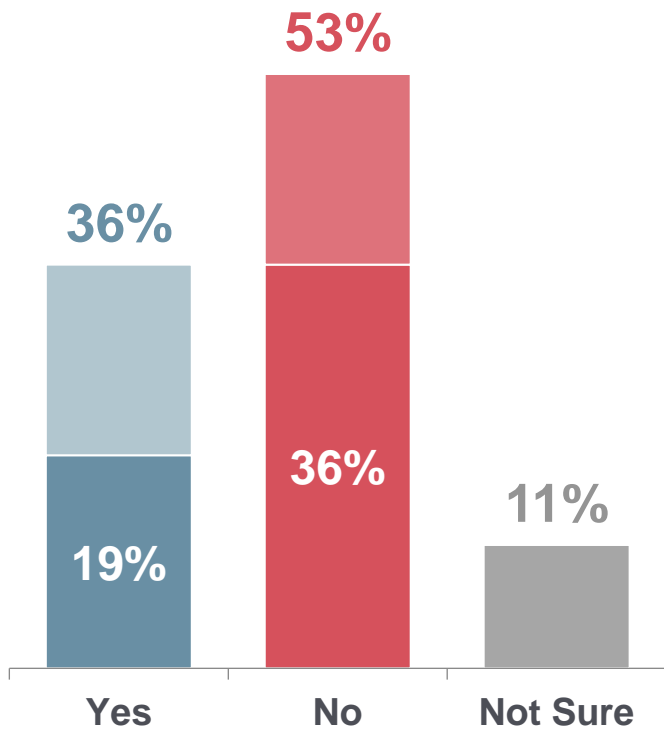
Support for Initiative Measure No. 2124



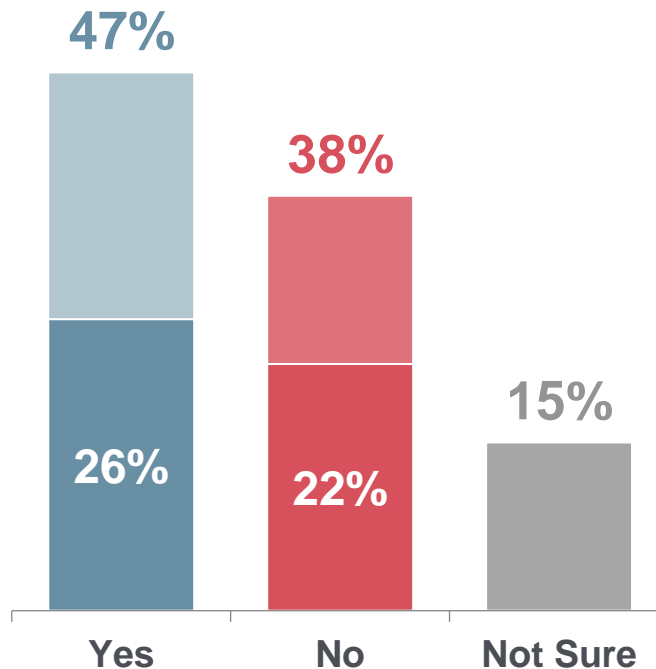
*This measure would **provide that employees and self-employed people must elect to keep coverage under WA Cares and could opt-out any time.** It would also repeal a law governing an exemption for employees. This measure would decrease funding for Washington's public insurance program providing long-term care benefits and services.*

Between all measure initiatives, Initiative No. 2066 has the best of chance of passing.

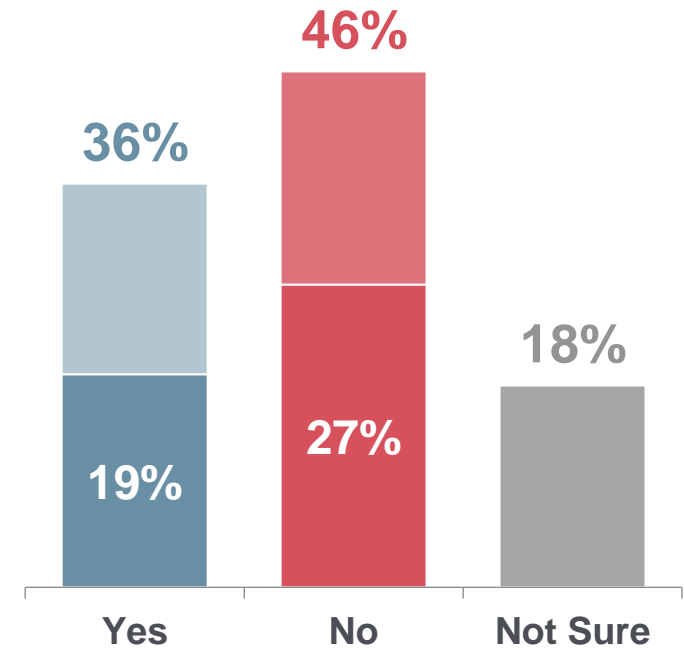
Initiative No. 2117 (Repeal CCA)



Initiative No. 2066 (Protect Natural Gas)



Initiative No. 2124 (Weaken WA Cares)





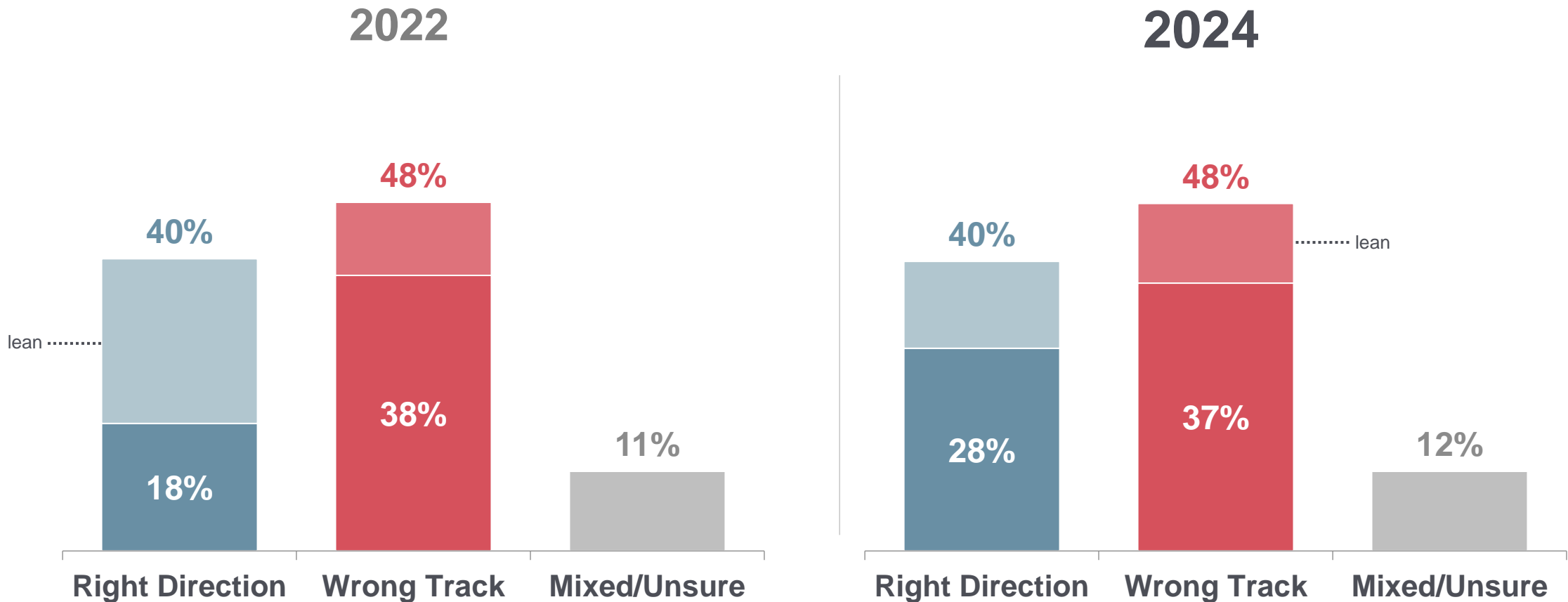
Statewide Political Environment





Washington voters have mixed feelings regarding the direction of the state, a perception which has not changed since 2022.

Direction of Washington state*



*In general, would you say that things in the state of Washington are heading in the right direction or are things off on the wrong track?

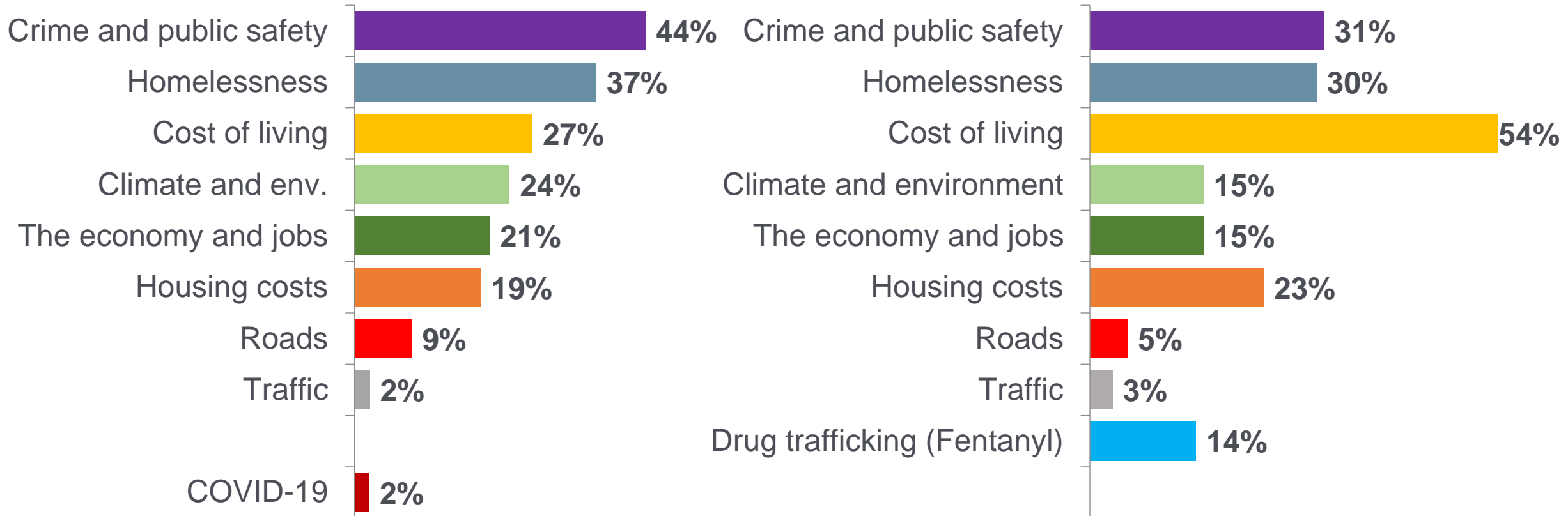


Washington voters are now most concerned with the cost of living, with twice as many voters citing the issue as did in 2022; priority rank of crime and safety declined somewhat, but drug trafficking including fentanyl is a rising concern.

Top Two Issues in Washington State*

2022

2024

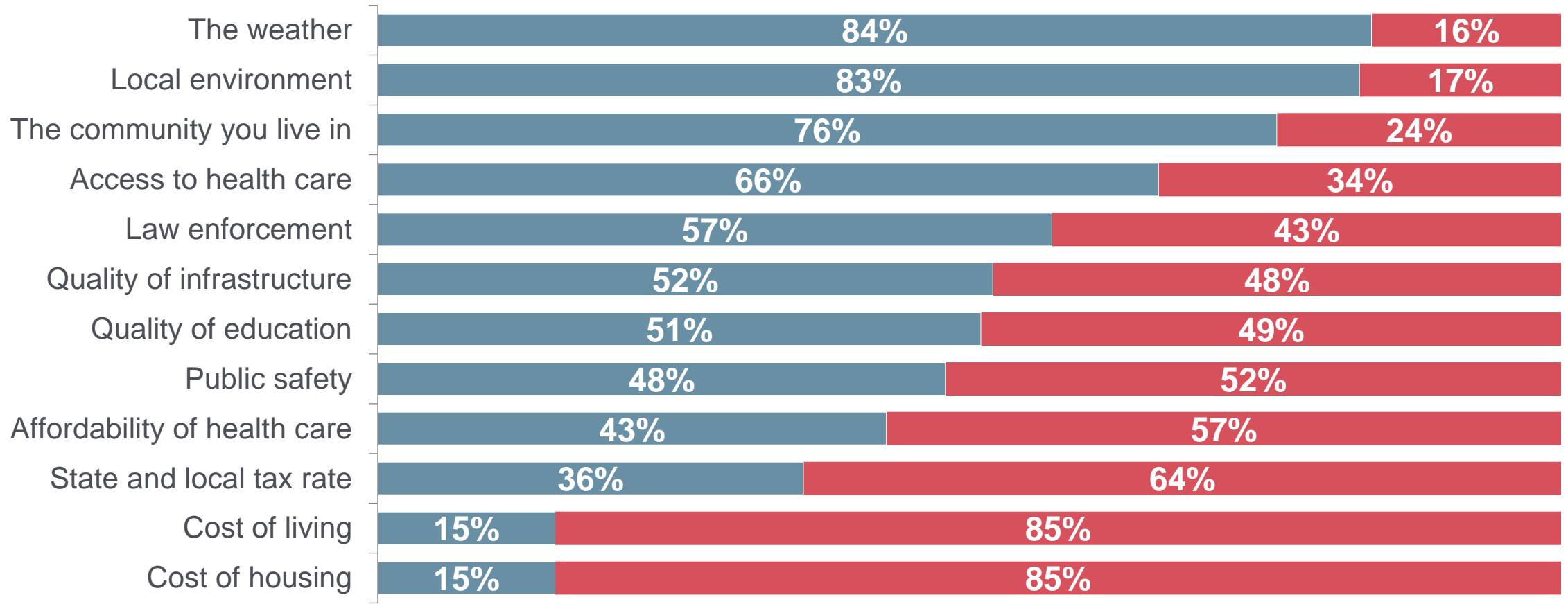




Registered voters across the state are satisfied with their communities and the environments, but deeply dissatisfied with the cost of living, cost of healthcare and the cost of housing.

Statewide Satisfaction Levels*

total satisfied | total dissatisfied



*Would you say you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the quality of the following where you live in Washington State?
Would you say you lean more towards satisfied or dissatisfied?

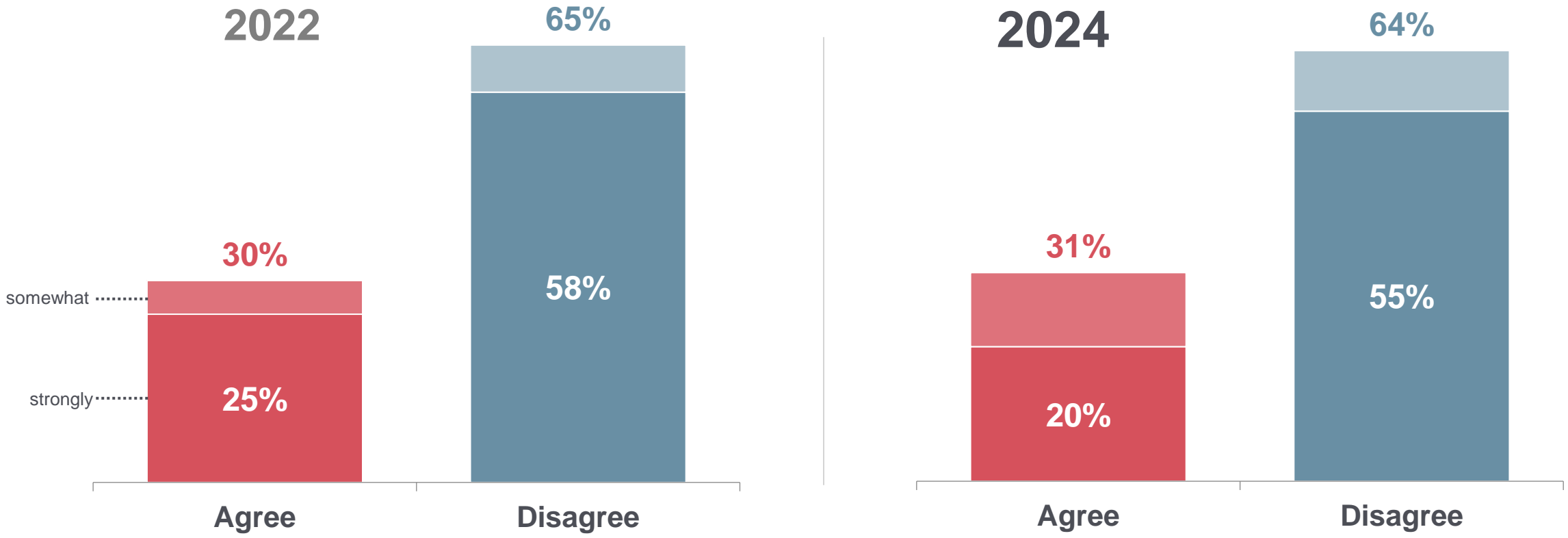
Reproductive Rights, Public Safety and Crime





The issue of choice remains a powerful and motivating factor in this election, with opinions little changed from 2022 to 2024.

Opposition to the *Dobbs* decision and *Roe v. Wade* being overturned* among registered voters



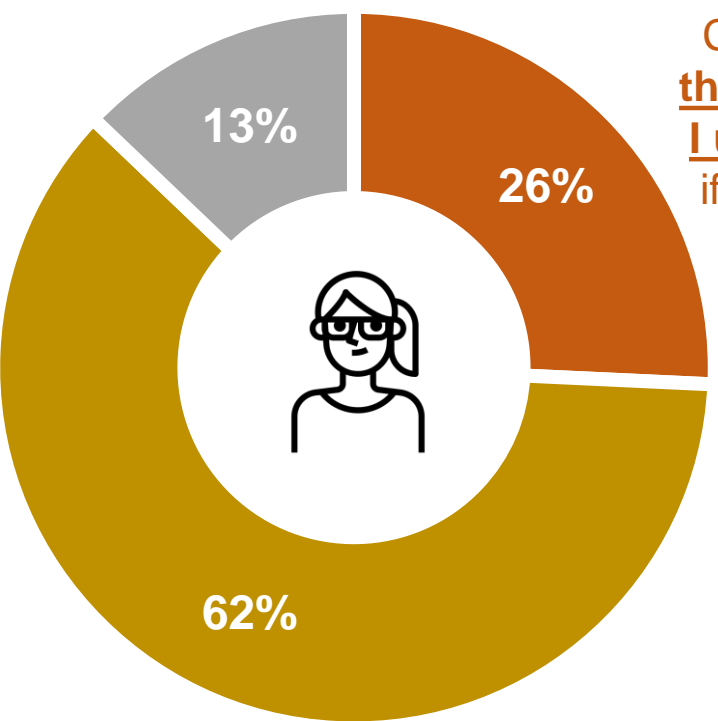
*Do you agree or disagree with the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*?



Nearly two-thirds of registered voters say a candidate's views on abortion matter more than party, a slight increase from 2022.

Reproductive Rights: Effect on Candidate Preference* among registered voters

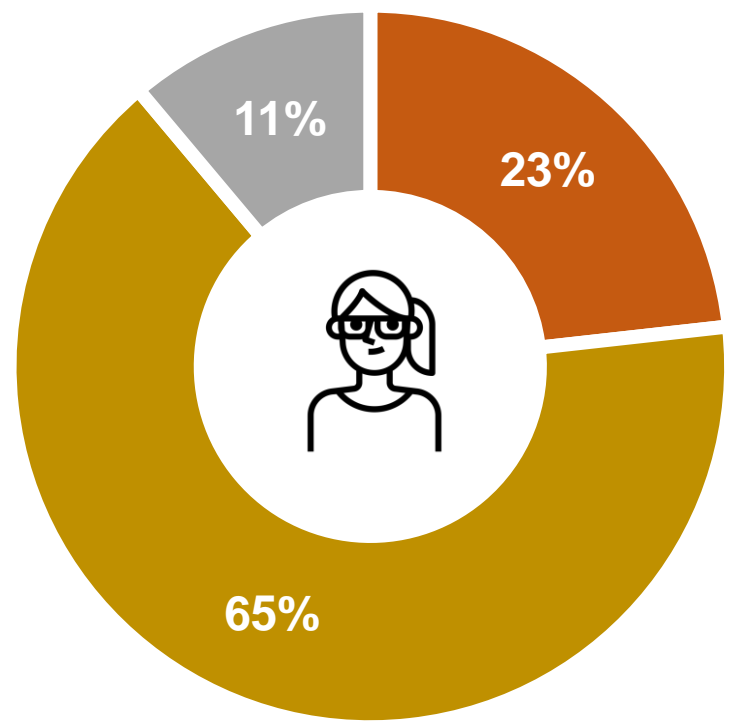
2022



It's more important to me to elect a candidate for Congress who is from the same political party I usually vote for, even if they do not share my views on abortion.

It's more important to me to elect a candidate for Congress who shares my views on abortion, even if they are not from the same political party that I usually vote for.

2024



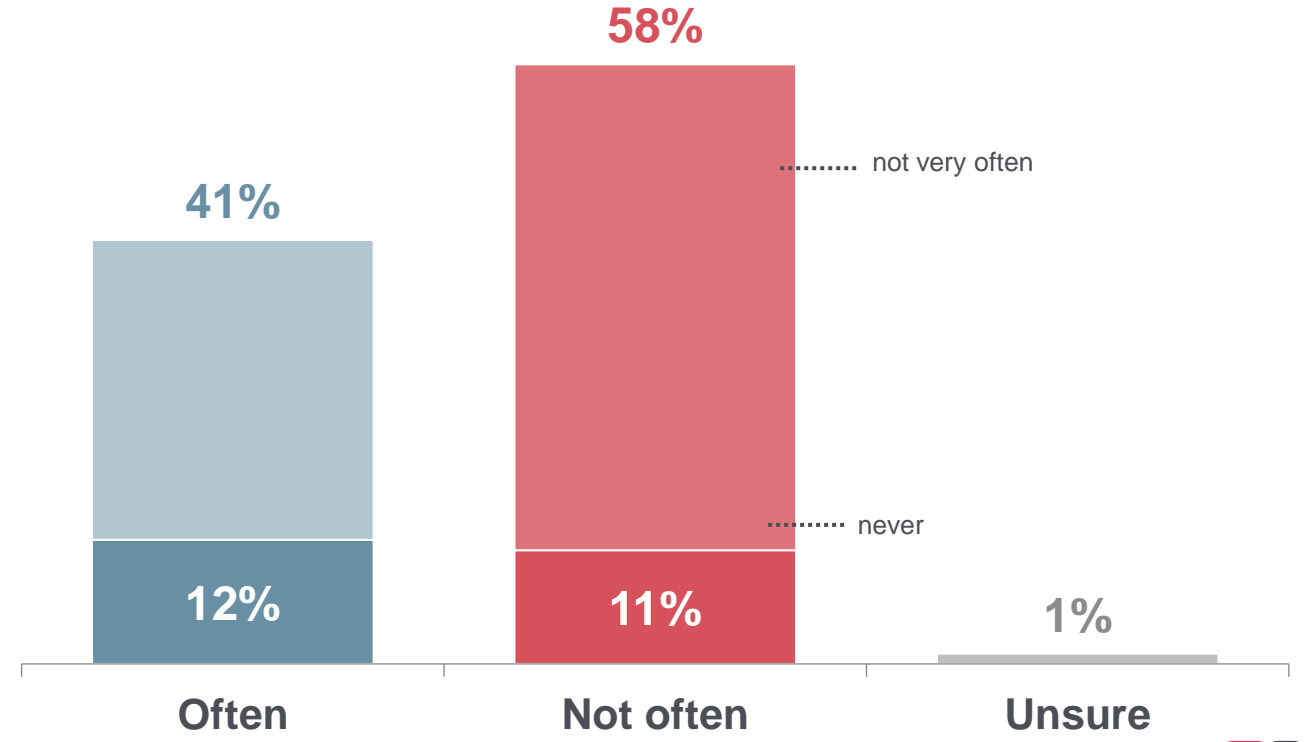
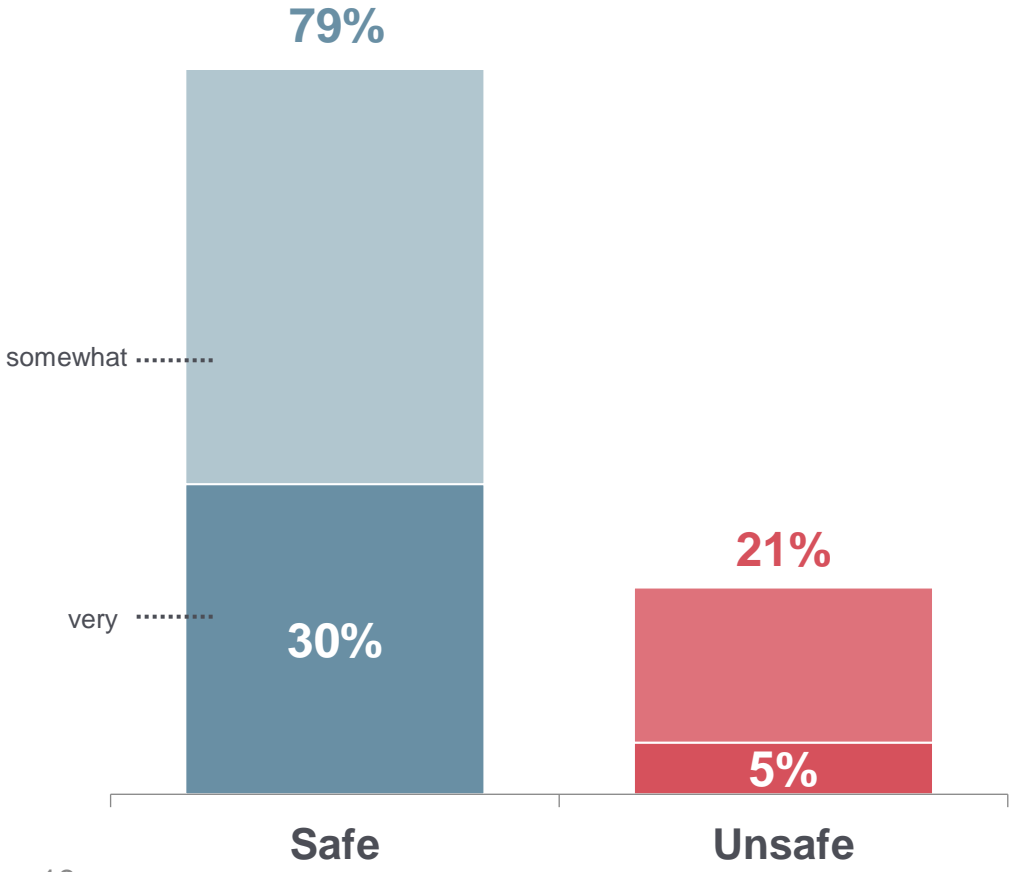
*Which of these beliefs do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly correct? (ROTATE)



Most registered voters in Washington feel relatively safe out in their community, and a majority *do not* report seeing crime often.

How safe or unsafe do you feel when you are out in your community?

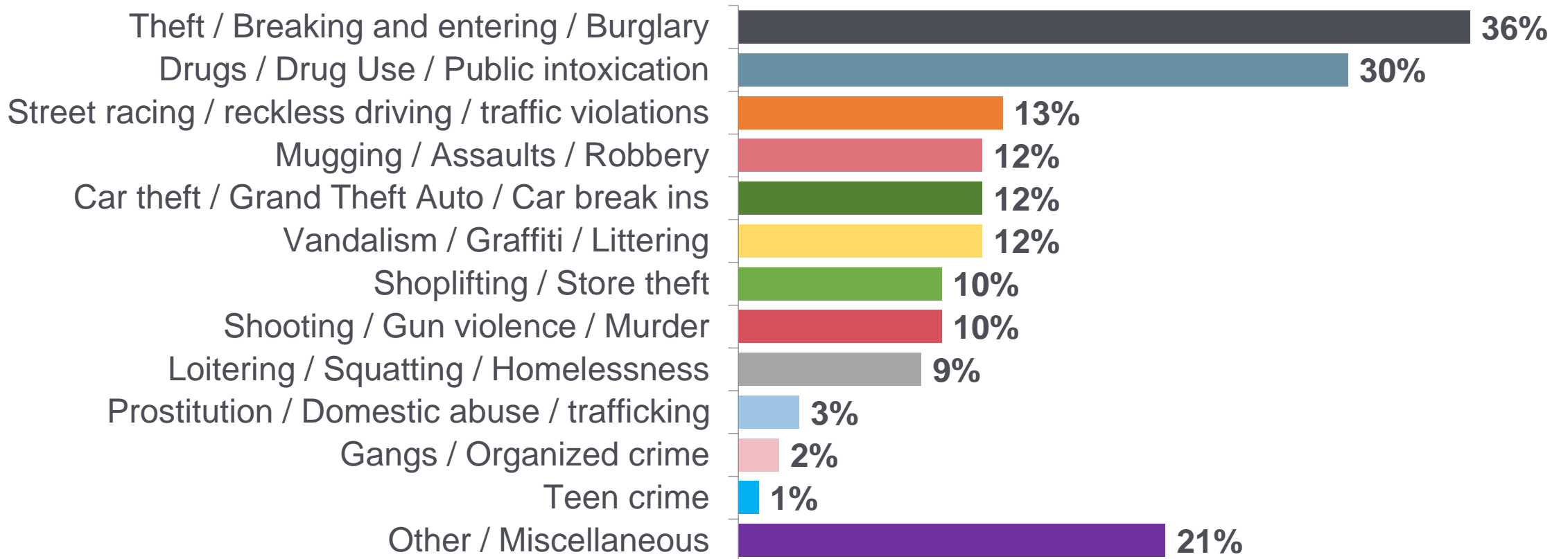
In your community, how often do you see crime?





Among the 41% of registered voters who observe crime often, these voters describe burglary, theft, drug use and public intoxication as crimes seen most in their community.

What type of crime do you see in your community?*



*Being as specific as possible, what type of crime do you see in your community? (Multiple responses accepted; total doesn't add to 100%)

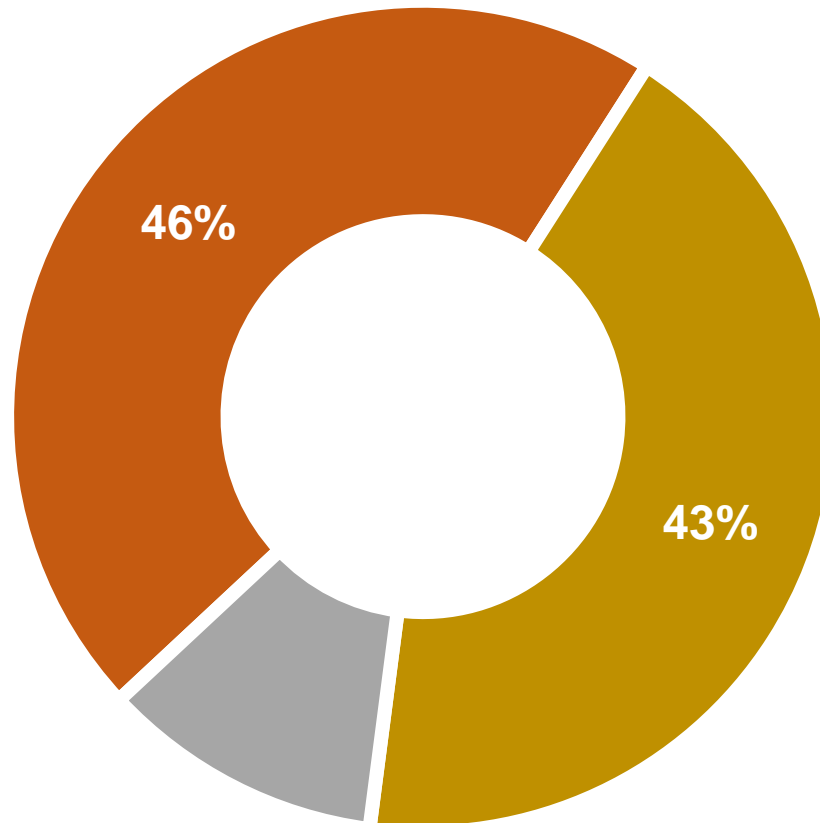


After the 2024 U.S. Supreme Court's *Grants Pass* decision, registered voters are split on the best approach to reducing homelessness.

What is the best approach to reducing homelessness

A U.S. Supreme Court decision this year decided that it is not cruel and unusual punishment if local officials enforce anti-camping laws by dismantling homeless encampments and fining unhoused persons. In your opinion, should public policies to address homelessness and the unhoused population in Washington State prioritize:

Public policies should be more **sympathetic** to the unhoused population by increasing alternative housing options.



Public policies should be **tougher**, by clearing out encampments and fining individuals.

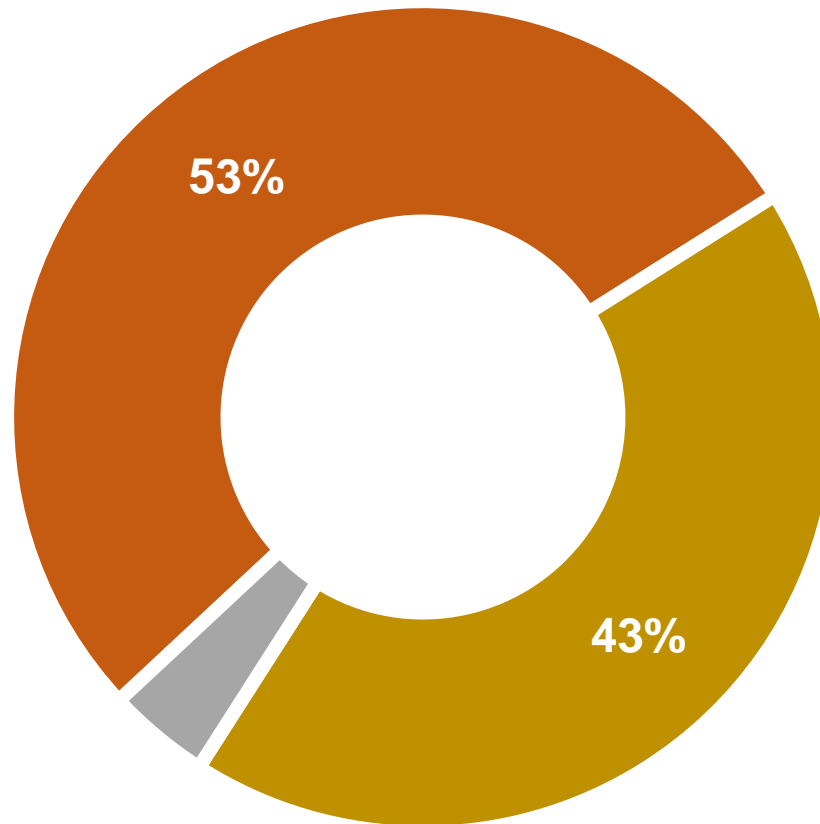


A narrow majority of registered voters believe there is more crime now because criminals are not facing enough consequences for their actions.

Why is there more crime now?*

“Some people say / others say...”

There is more crime now because **criminals are not facing the consequences for their actions and are released** back into our streets to commit more crimes.



There is more crime now because **the criminal justice system is too focused on incarceration rather than rehabilitation** and that makes it hard for people to return back into society, receive support, maintain a job, and remain crime-free.

*Which of these beliefs do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly correct?

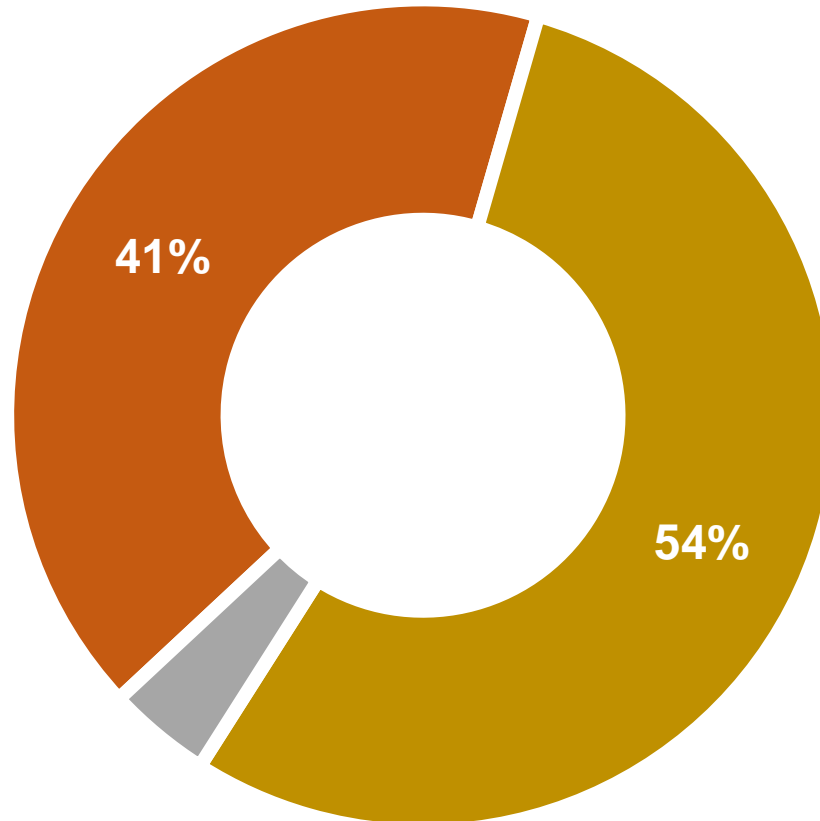


A narrow majority of registered voters in Washington believe the solution to reducing drug addiction lies in treatment and rehabilitation, not a crackdown and increased police staffing.

Why is there more drug addiction now?*

“Some people say / others say...”

There is more drug addiction now because politicians are allowing open-air drug dealing, cutting back on **police staffing** levels, and refusing to address the rise of new, more dangerous drugs such as synthetic fentanyl.



There is more drug addiction now because the criminal justice system is treating chemical drug dependency as a problem to incarcerate and throw in jail rather than treating it with proven **medical treatment** like methadone.

*Which of these beliefs do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly correct?



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