

# The Education Pulse of Washington



November 19, 2024

9360



# 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.



# Statewide Public Opinion Environment

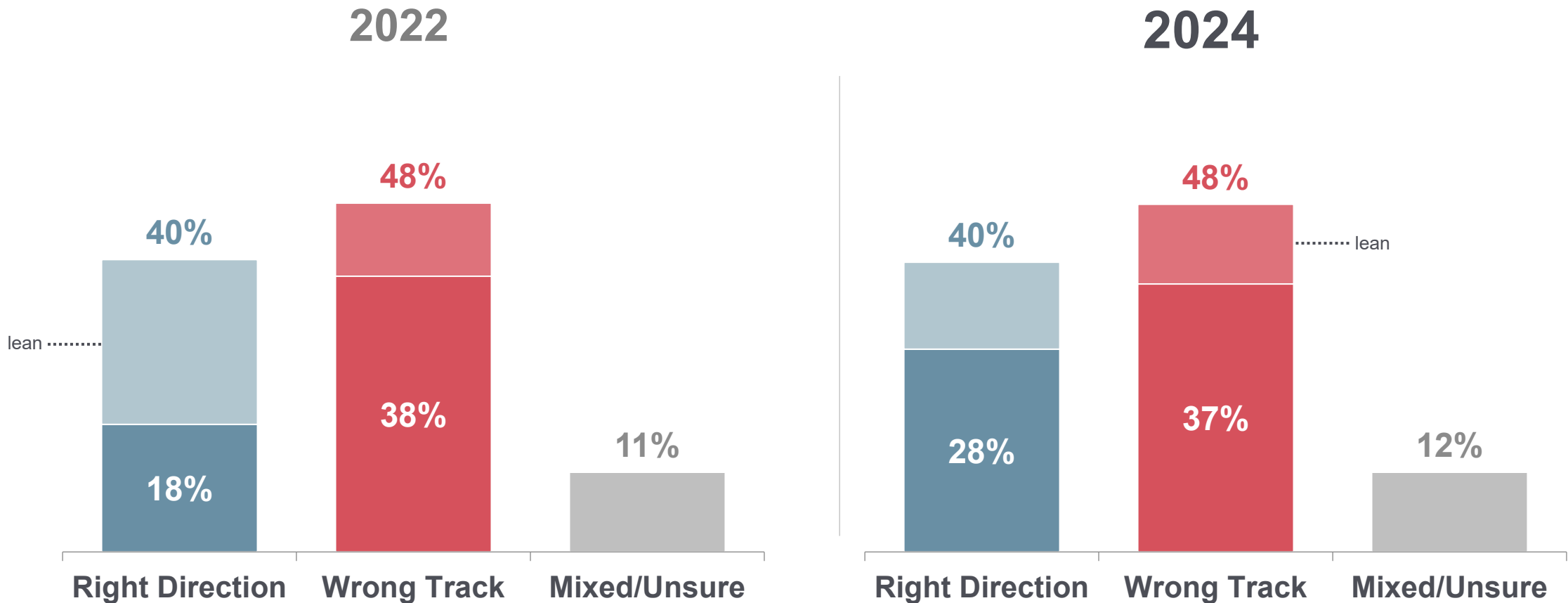
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Washington voters have mixed feelings regarding the direction of the state, a perception which has not changed since 2022.

### Direction of Washington state\*



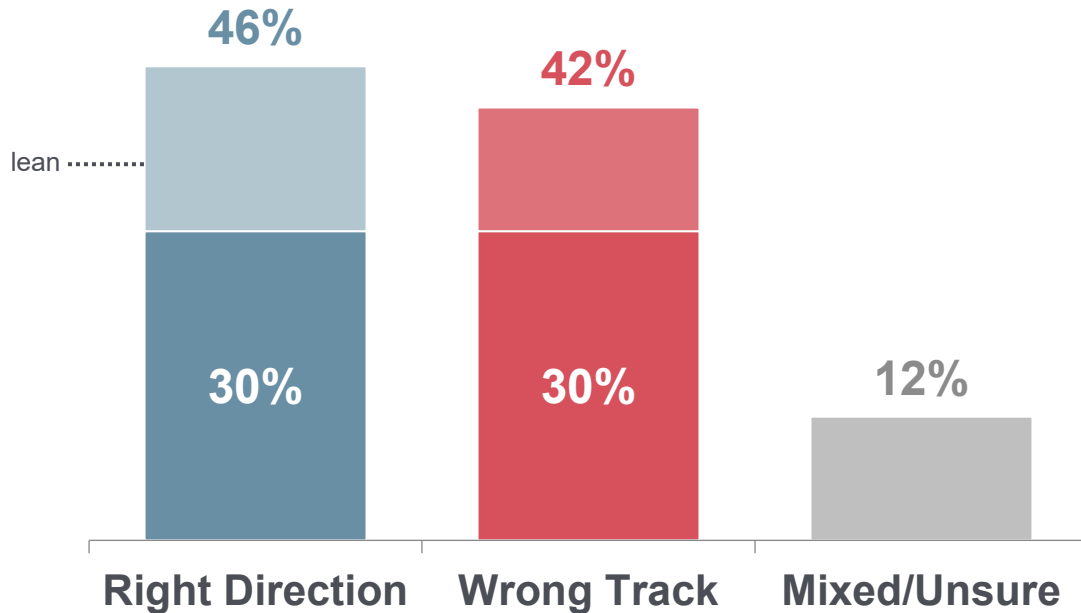
\*In general, would you say that things in the state of Washington are heading in the right direction or are things off on the wrong track?



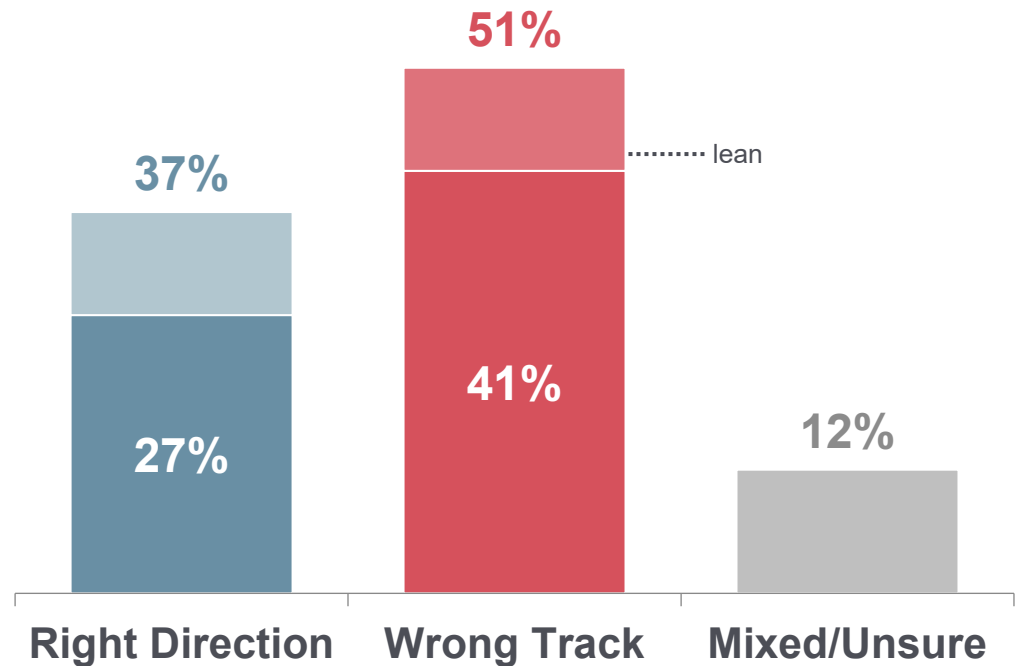
Striking distinction between King County voters (+4 right direction) contrasted with voters from the remainder of Washington State (-14 wrong direction).

### Direction of Washington state\*

#### 2024: King County



#### 2024: Remainder of WA



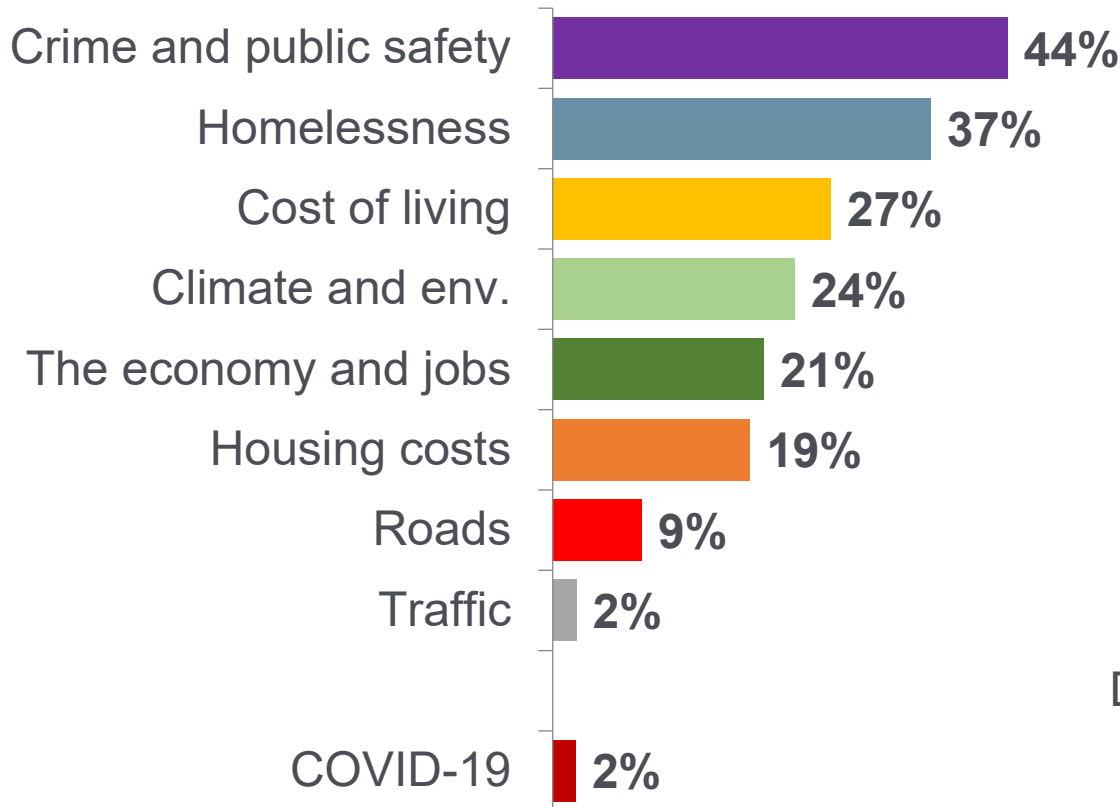
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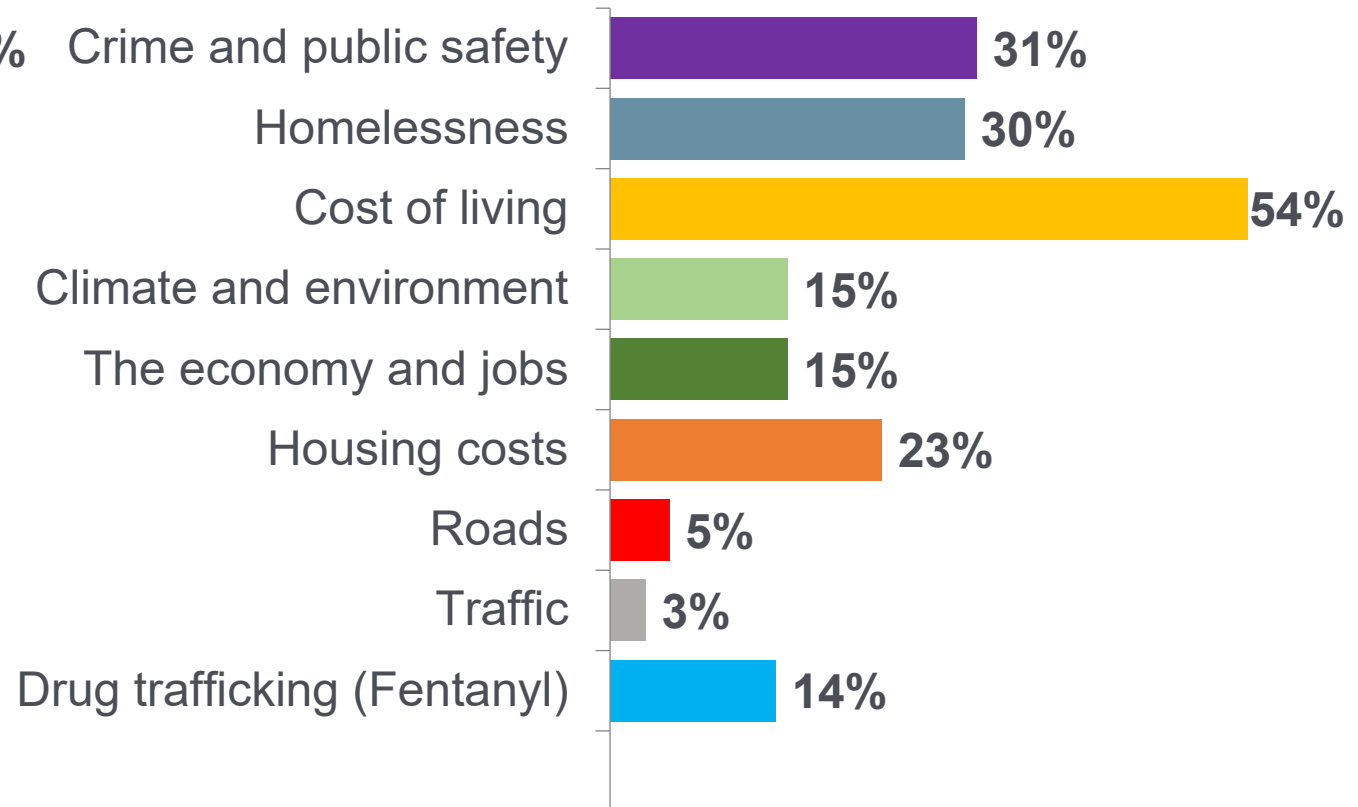
Washington voters are now most concerned with the cost of living, with twice as many voters citing the issue as did in 2022; priority rank of crime and safety declined somewhat, but drug trafficking including fentanyl is a rising concern.

### Top Two Issues in Washington State\*

2022



2024



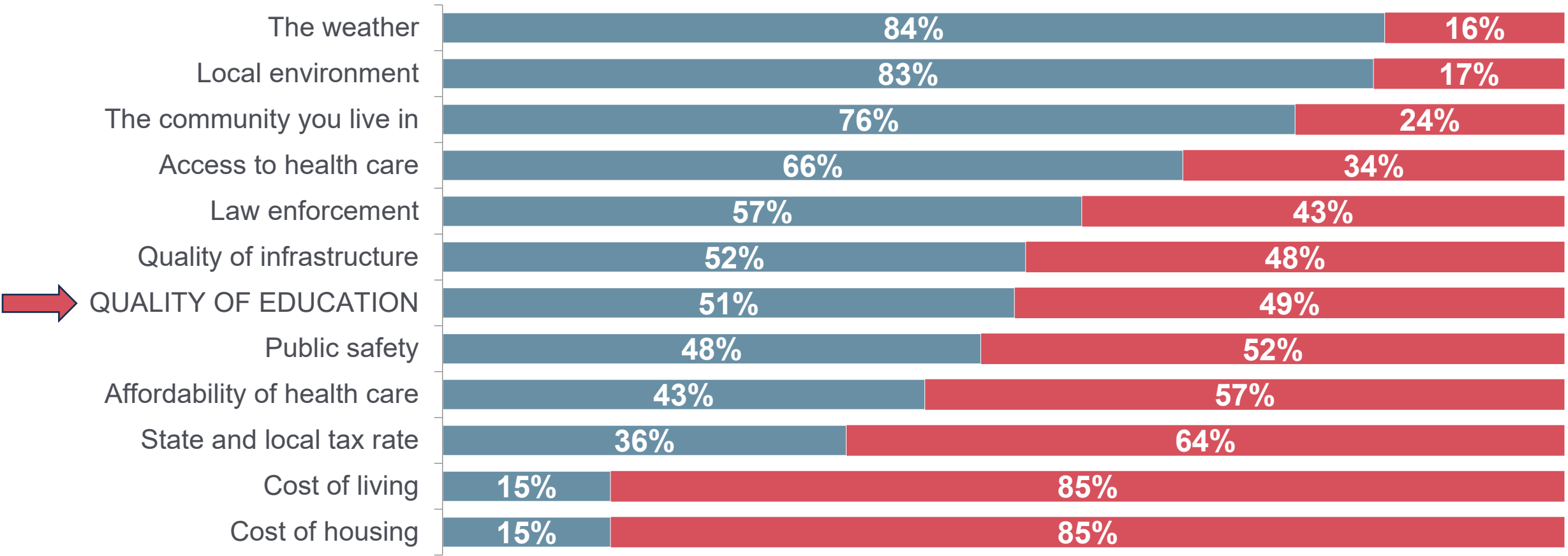
\*Please indicate which two of the following issues you think should be the top priorities for Washington's elected leaders to focus on. (Multiple responses accepted; total doesn't add to 100%)



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. Local education lies squarely in the middle.

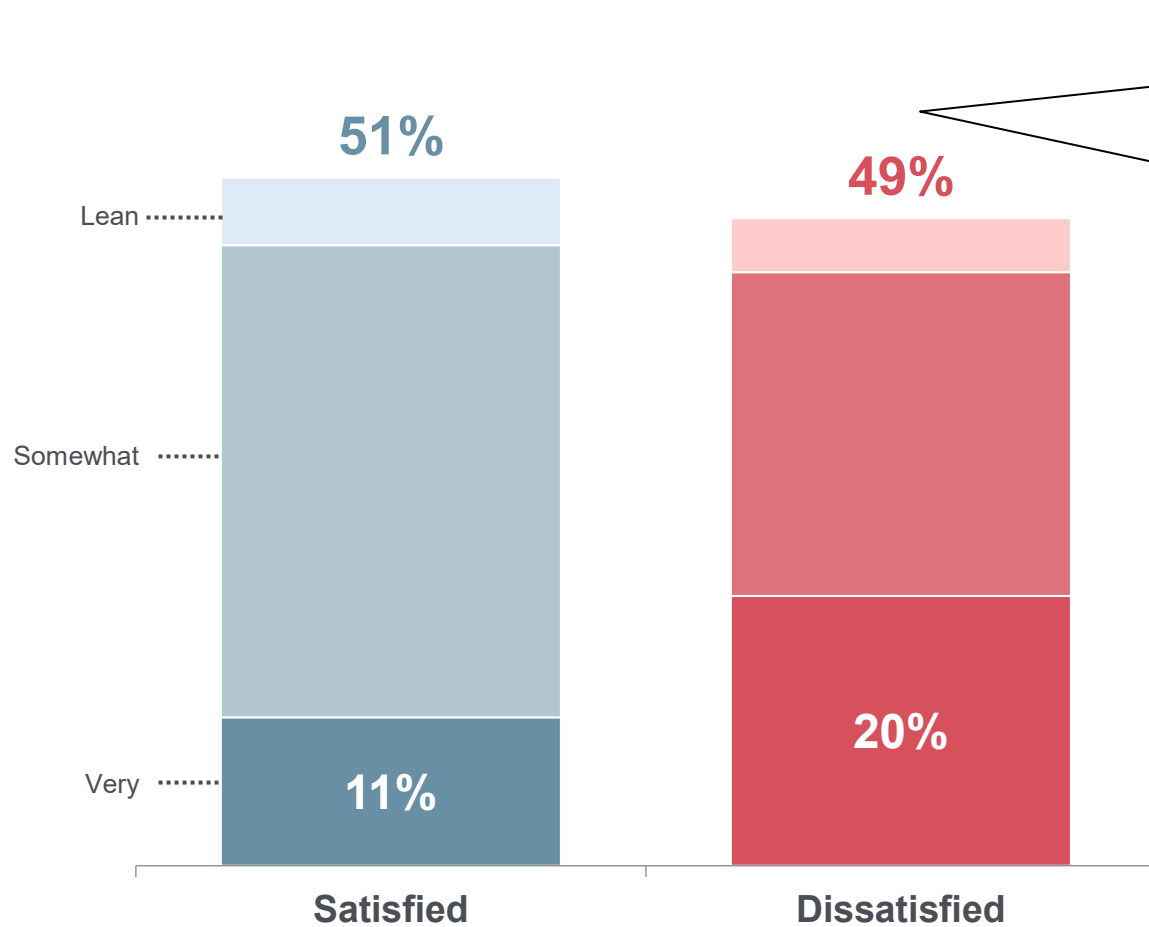
### Statewide Satisfaction Levels, 2024

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?

## Satisfaction with the Education Children Receive Where You Live Statewide 2024



*Would you say you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the quality of...?*

***... \* The quality of education that children receive (where you live in Washington state)***



Regional differences: Votes everywhere except one region are evenly divided over satisfaction vs. dissatisfaction towards local education.

### Satisfaction Ratings for Local Children's Education\*

Very Satisfied | Somewhat Satisfied | Lean Satisfied | Lean Dissatisfied | Somewhat Dissatisfied | Very Dissatisfied



9 \*Would you say you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the quality of the education that children receive where you live in Washington State?

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# Perception of Local Education 2022 - 2024

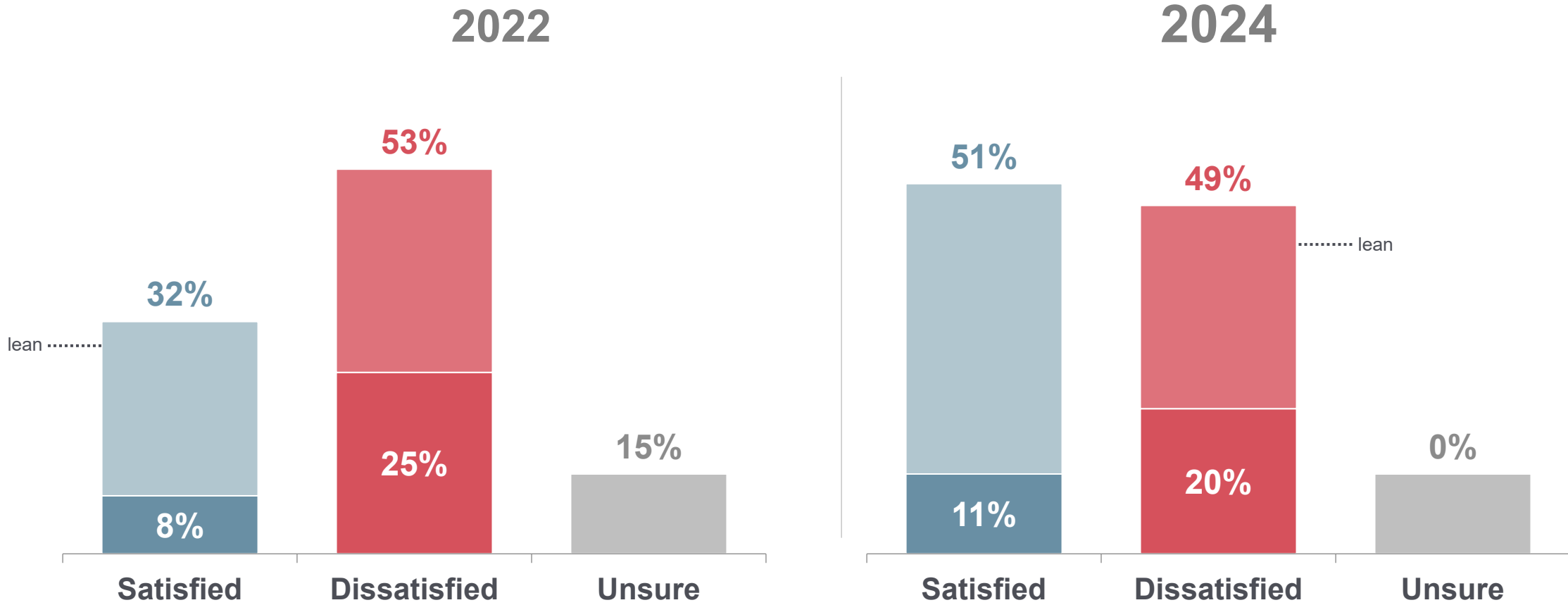
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Washington residents' perceptions of local education have improved since 2022.

### Washington Residents' Satisfaction with Local Children's Education in...\*



\*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?



# Perceptions of Public Safety & Related Policy Preferences: 2024 Statewide

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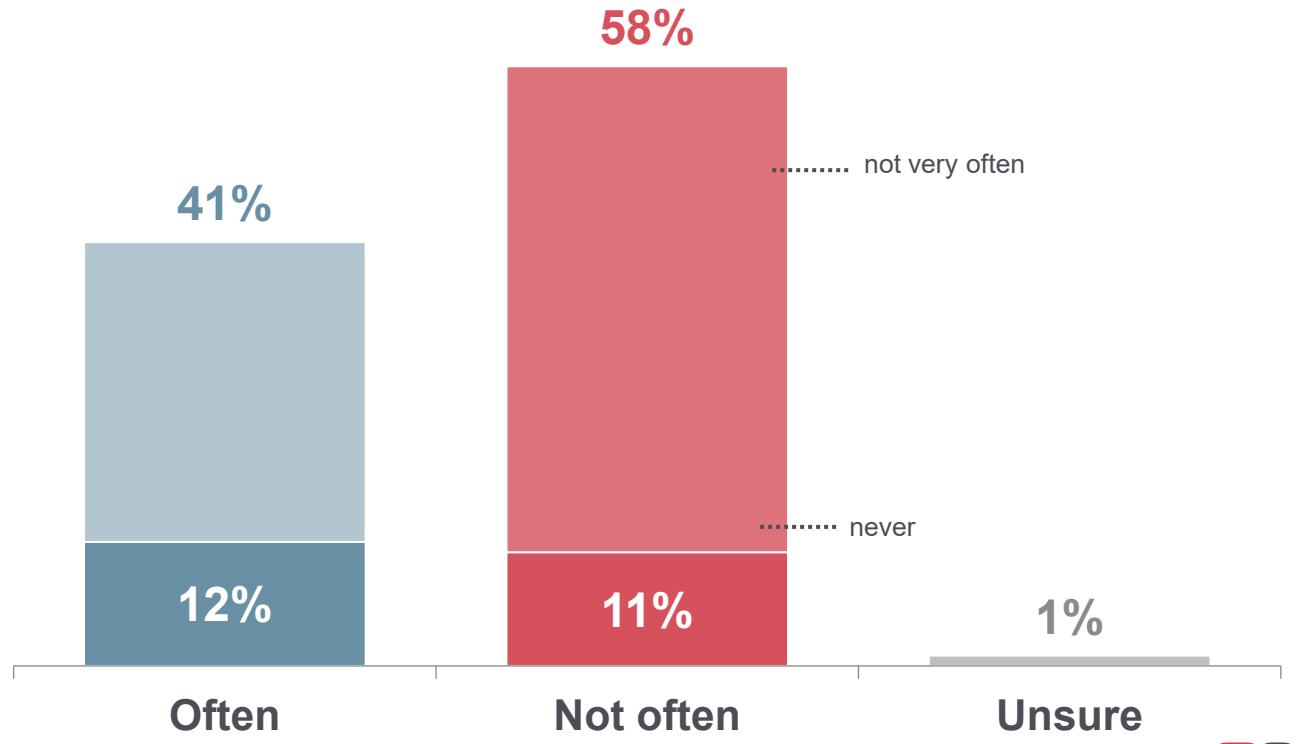
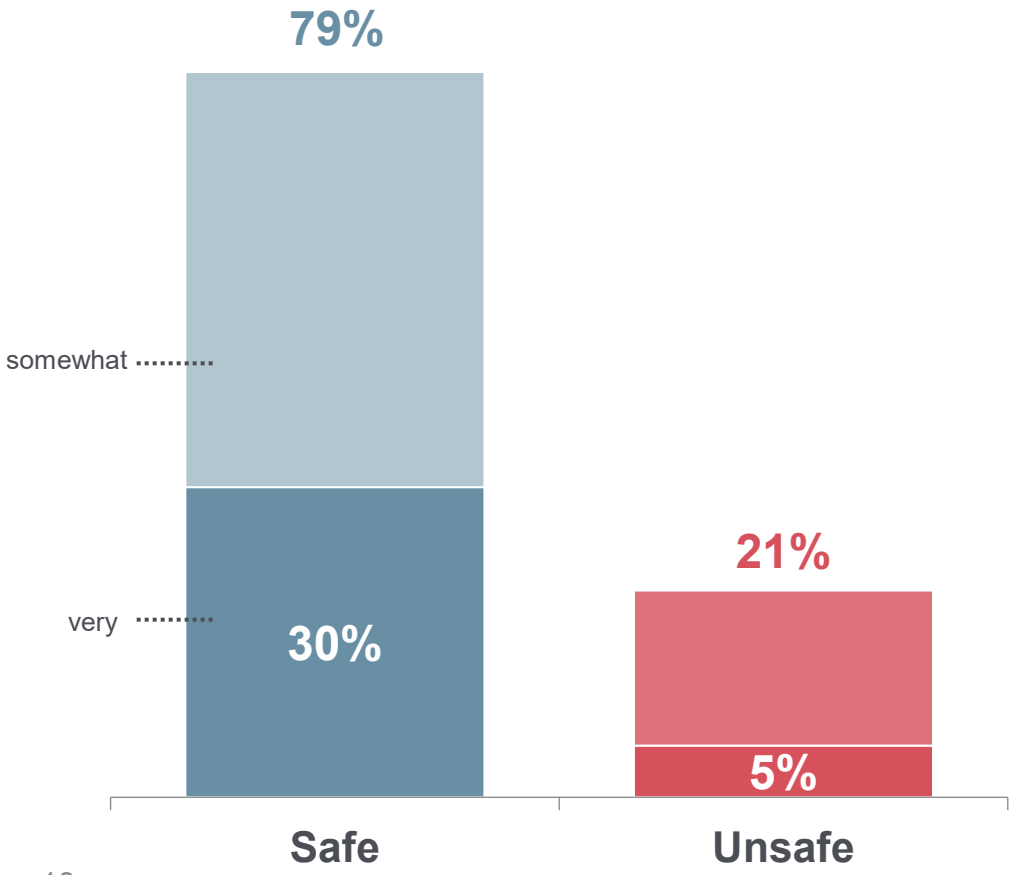




Most registered voters in Washington feel relatively safe out in their community, and a majority *do not* report seeing crime often.

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

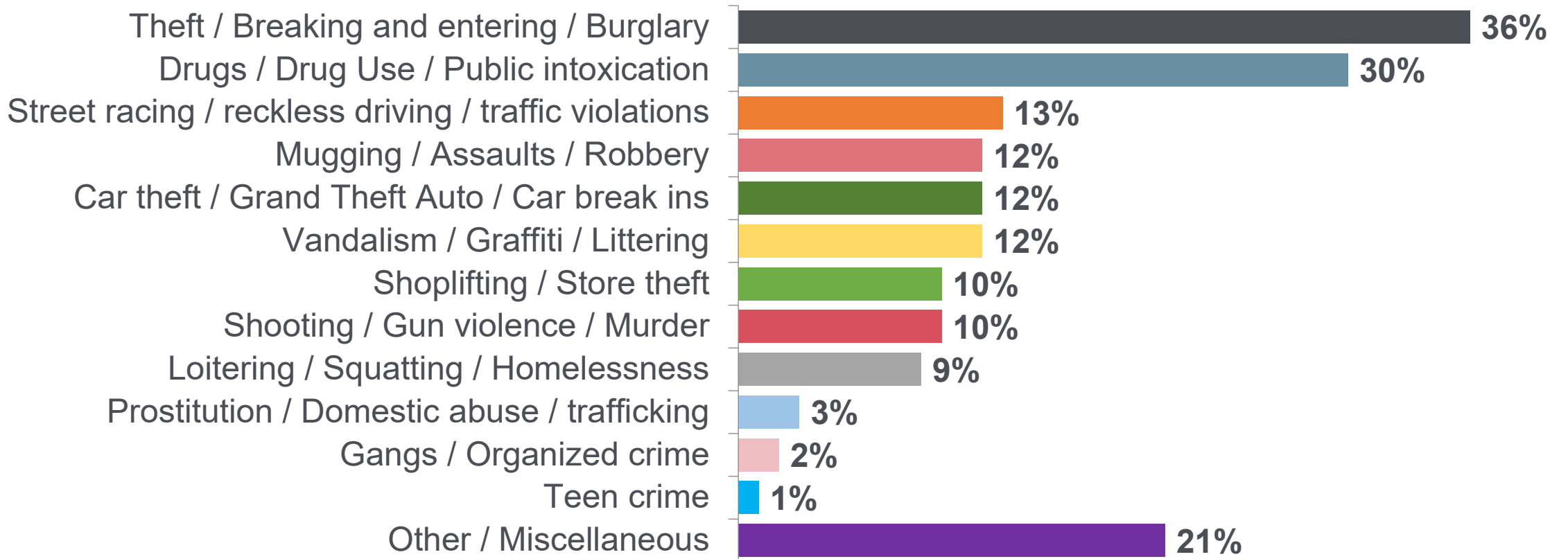
### In your community, how often do you see crime?





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%)

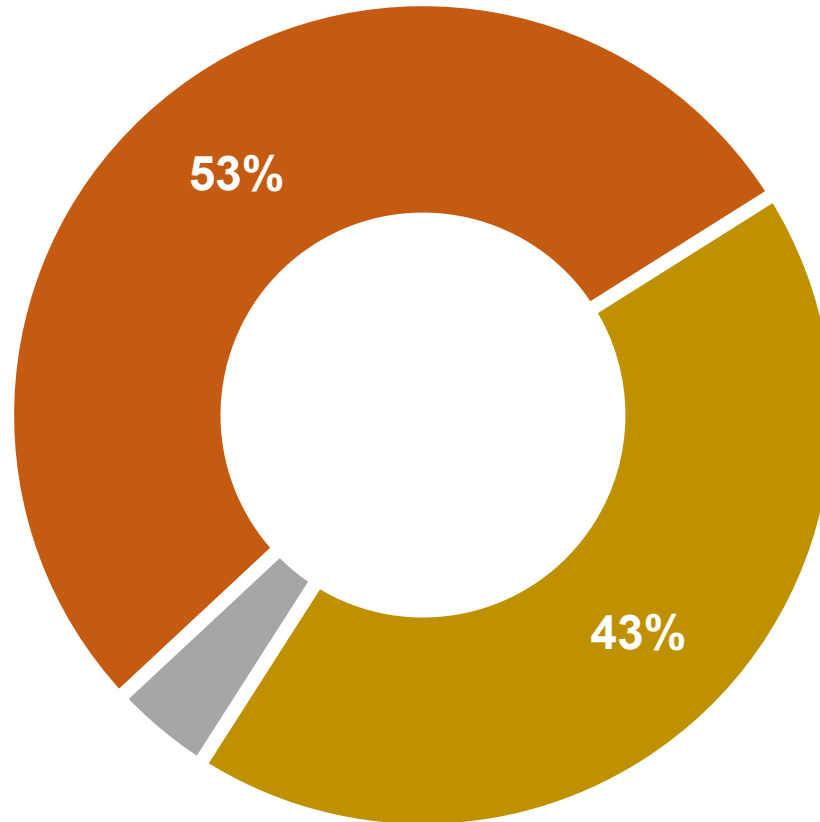


Voters' opinion are highly polarized and divided on public policy approach toward crime.

### 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?

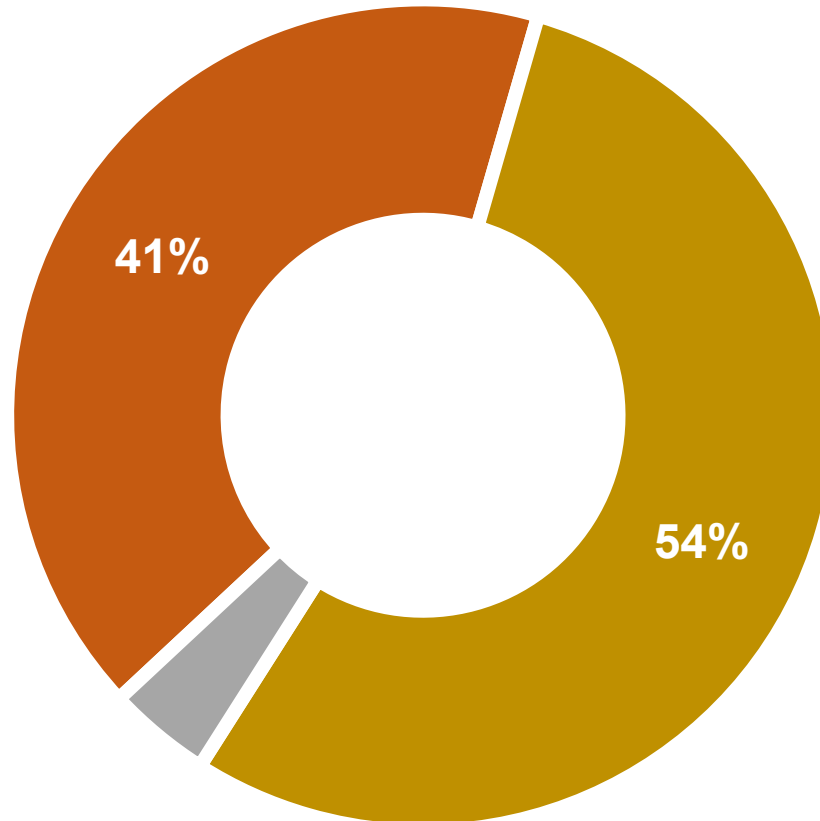


Voters' opinions are highly polarized and divided on public policy approach toward drug addiction.

### 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?



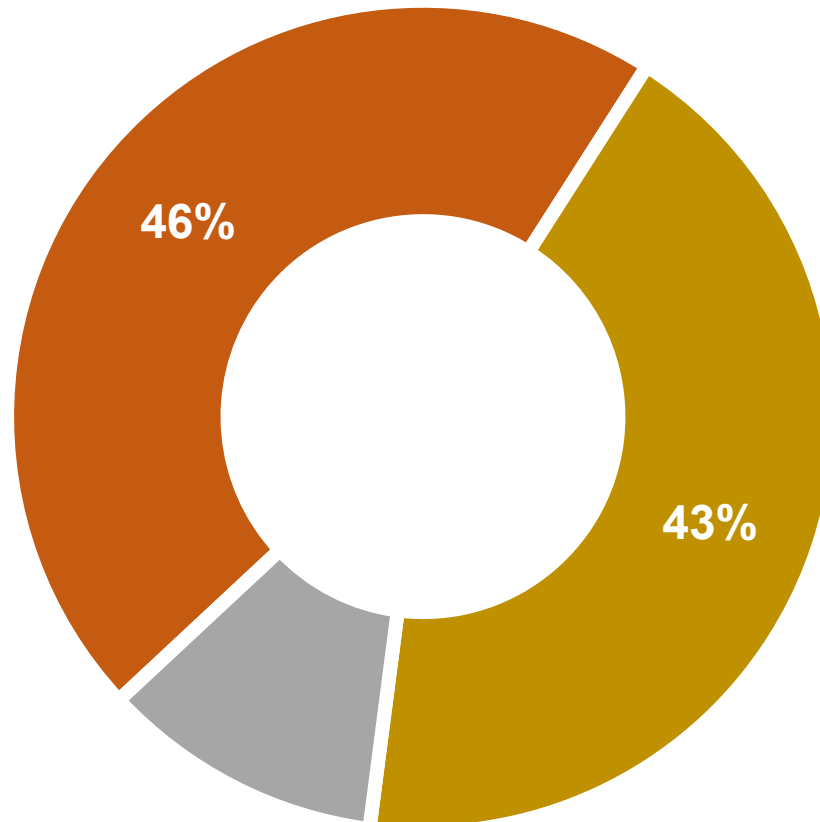


After the 2024 U.S. Supreme Court's *Grants Pass* decision, registered voters are split on the best approach to reducing homelessness.

### 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.

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