



Poll on California Fair Elections Act

Findings from a survey of 839 likely November 2024 voters in California done from May 23-June 10, 2024.

California Clean Money Campaign



Survey Specifics and Methodology

- California Clean Money Campaign designed and administered this survey, conducted by online and smartphone respondents using the Pollfish polling platform entirely in English.
- March 2024 poll determined that ballot measure repealing the ban on public funding of campaigns polled best when including public funding requirements. This poll tested proposed amendments.
- Survey of 839 likely November 2024 voters done from May 23-June 10, 2024, weighted by gender, age, race, political party, and education based on the PDI turnout model.
- Margin of error: +/- 3.4% at the 95% confidence interval.
+/- 4.8% for half samples.
- Ballot questions asked first without any leading questions. Only questions asked before them were political party and zip code.

(Note: Not All Results Will Sum to 100% Due to Rounding)



Possible Titles and Summaries of Proposed SB 42, California Fair Elections Act

Split A: “Repeals” + Increases Fines.

PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING. FOREIGN CONTRIBUTIONS. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE.

Repeals ban on public funding of political campaigns. Requires candidates to abide by expenditure limits and meet strict criteria to qualify for public funds. Prohibits use of public funds for legal defense or fines. Increases fines for illegal foreign campaign contributions or expenditures. **Fiscal Impact:** Potential for increased state and local government costs, possibly exceeding \$1 million annually, to provide public funds for election campaigns.

Supporters: League of Women Voters California, AARP California, California Nurses Association, California Clean Money, Common Cause. **Opponents:** California Senior Advocates League, California Small Business Action Committee, Los Angeles Police Protective League.

Split B: “Replaces”. Fines not mentioned.

PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING. FOREIGN CONTRIBUTIONS. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE.

Replaces ban on public funding of political campaigns with ban on using funds earmarked for education, transportation, or public safety. Requires candidates to abide by expenditure limits and meet strict criteria to qualify for public funds. Prohibits use of public funds for legal defense or fines. **Fiscal Impact:** Potential for increased state and local government costs, possibly exceeding \$1 million annually, to provide public funds for election campaigns.

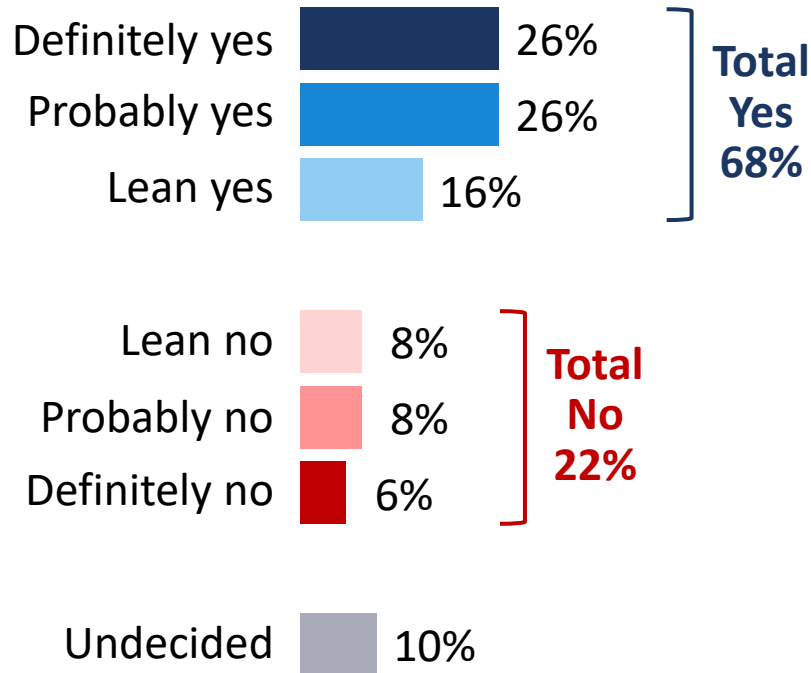
Supporters: League of Women Voters California, AARP California, California Nurses Association, California Clean Money, Common Cause. **Opponents:** California Senior Advocates League, California Small Business Action Committee, Los Angeles Police Protective League.



Both describe same measure, but in Split A tests “Repeals the ban on public funding of election campaigns” and includes “Increases fines for illegal foreign campaign contributions or expenditures.” Split B tests “Replaces ban on public funding of political campaigns with ban on using funds earmarked for education, transportation, or public safety”, but has no space for mention of increasing fines.

68% of likely November 2024 voters said they'd vote "Yes" on the measure SB 42 would put on the ballot.

Combining both Split A and Split B Title and Summary to give better margin of error and since we don't know which is closer to what Attorney General might write.



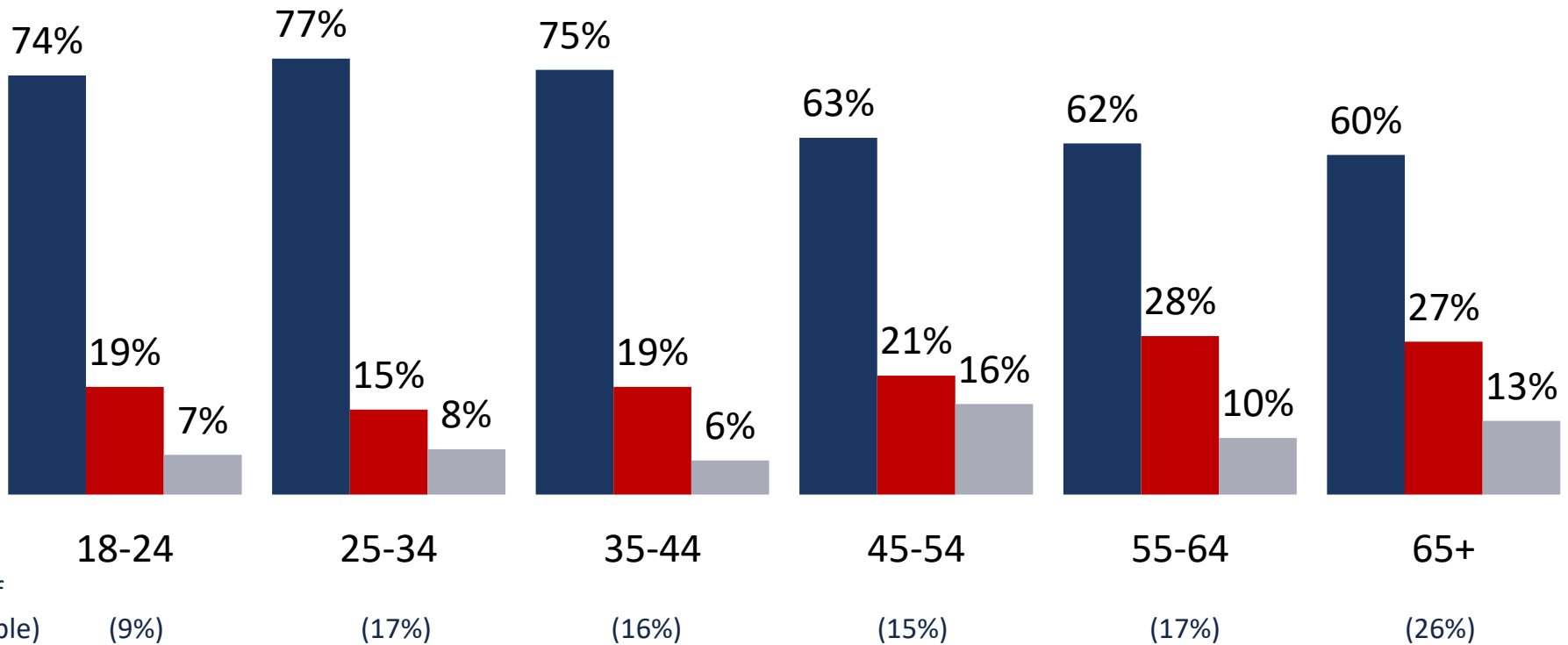
Q. Below is a proposition that may appear on the ballot in the November election. Please read it carefully. If the election were today, would you vote "Yes" or "No"?

Split A by itself responded with 68% Yes, 22% No. Split B by itself was 65% Yes, 23% No.

There is strong support for proposed amended California Fair Elections Act across age groups.

Combined Vote by Age

■ Total Yes ■ Total No ■ Undecided



(% of Sample)

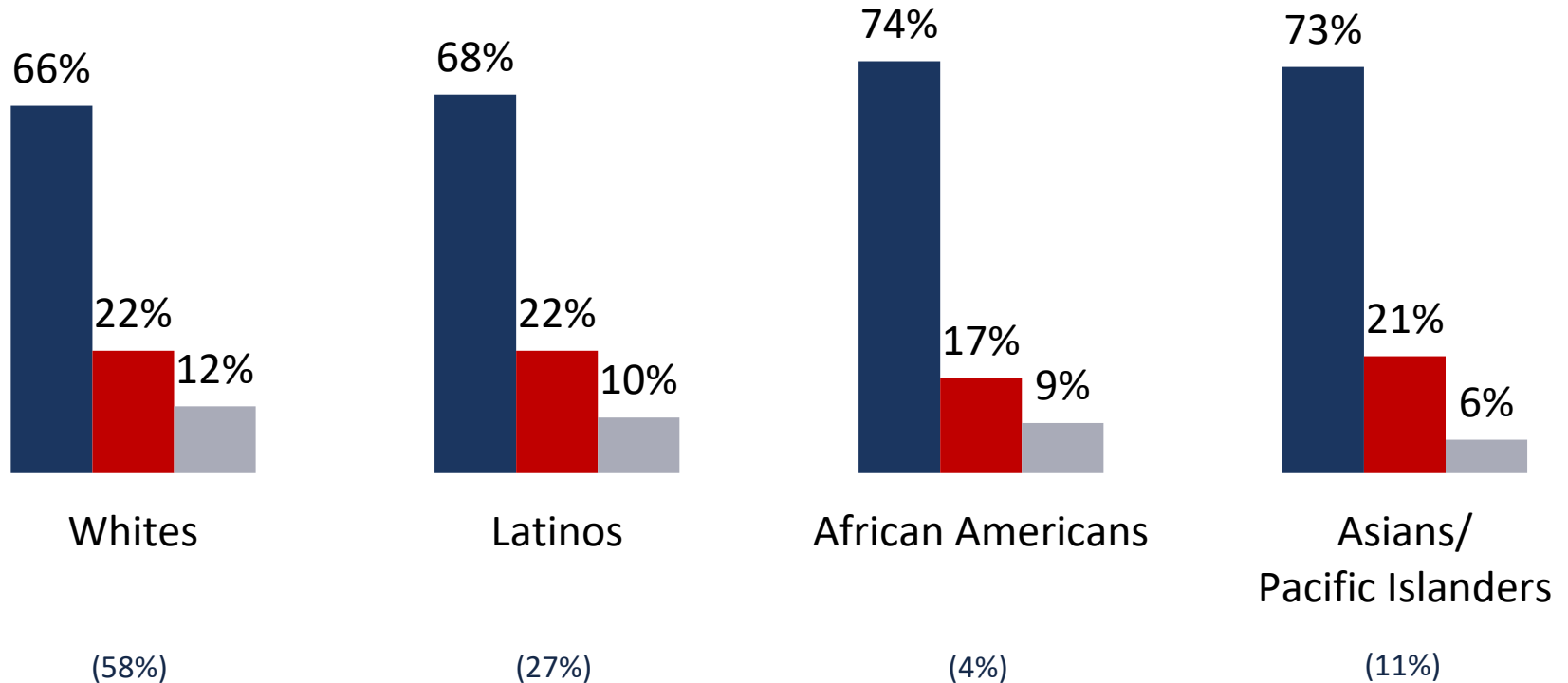


Q. Below is a proposition that may appear on the ballot in the November election. Please read it carefully. If the election were today, would you vote "Yes" or "No"?

Strong majorities of voters support the measure across racial and ethnic groups.

Combined Vote by Race/Ethnicity

■ Total Yes ■ Total No ■ Undecided



(% of Sample)

(58%)

(27%)

(4%)

(11%)

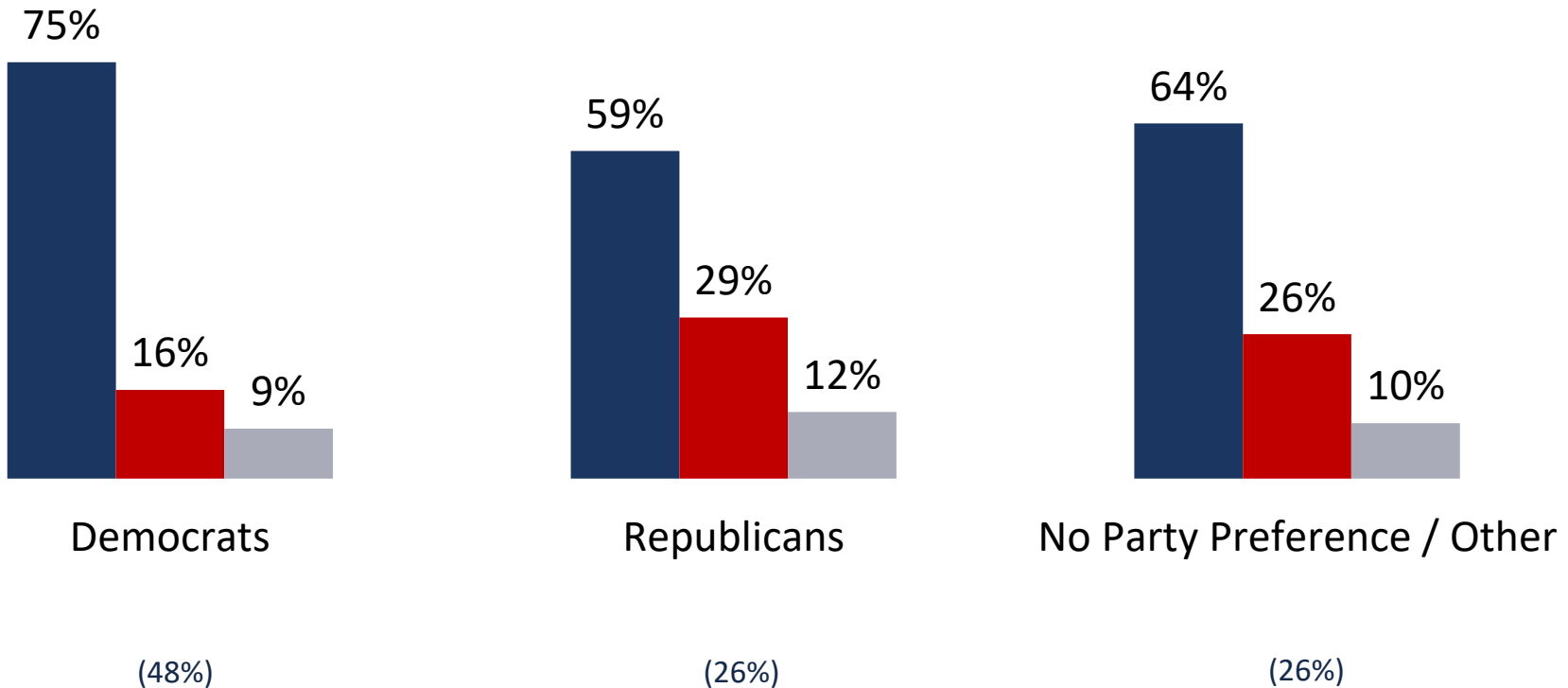


Q. Below is a proposition that may appear on the ballot in the November election. Please read it carefully. If the election were today, would you vote "Yes" or "No"?

Large majorities of voters support the repeal the ban measure across political parties.

Combined Vote by Political Party

■ Total Yes ■ Total No ■ Undecided



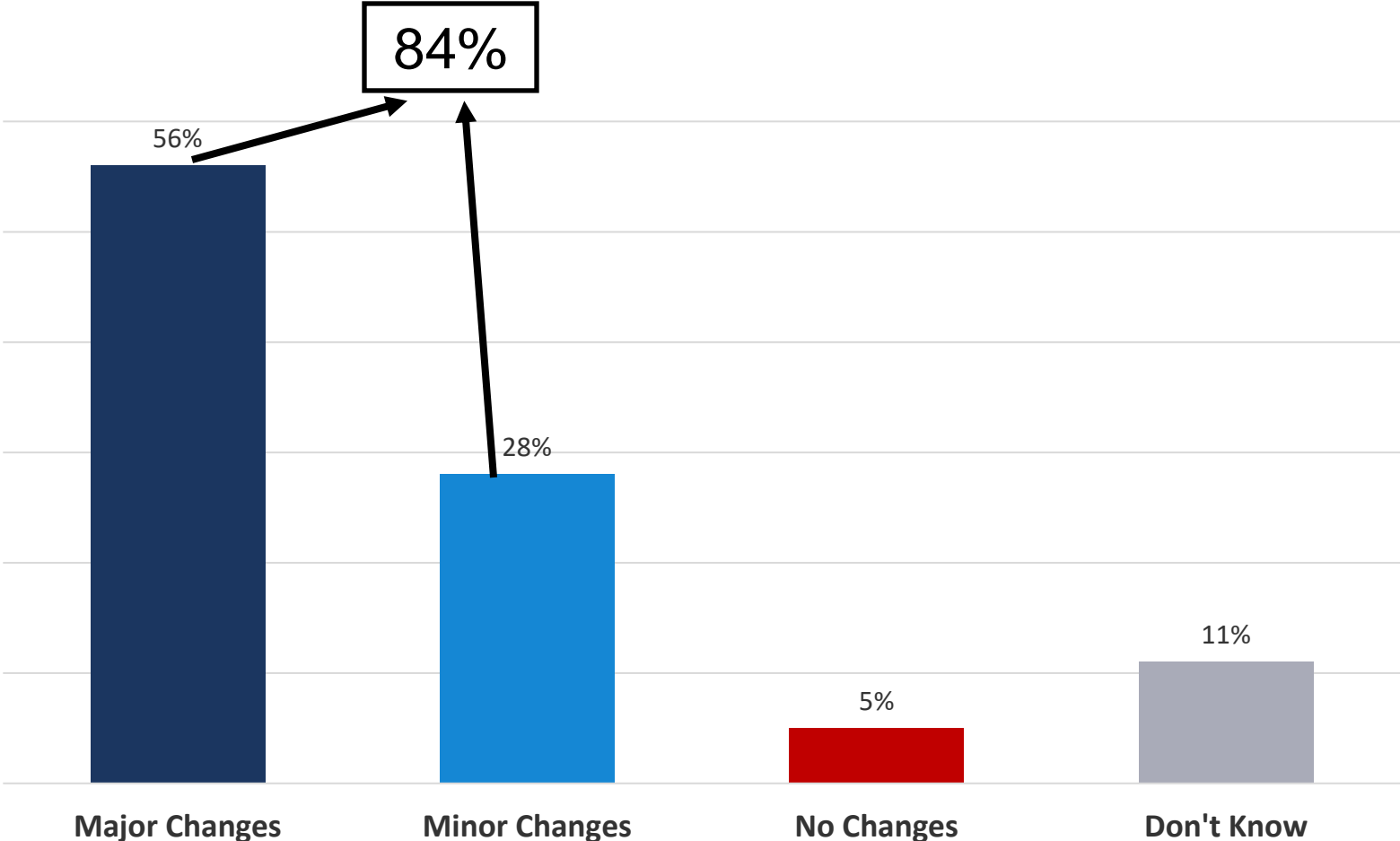
(% of Sample)

Q. Below is a proposition that may appear on the ballot in the November election. Please read it carefully. If the election were today, would you vote "Yes" or "No"?



84% of voters want to change the way elections in California are financed.

“When it comes to the way we finance election campaigns, do you think we need to make major changes, minor changes, no changes, or you don't know?”

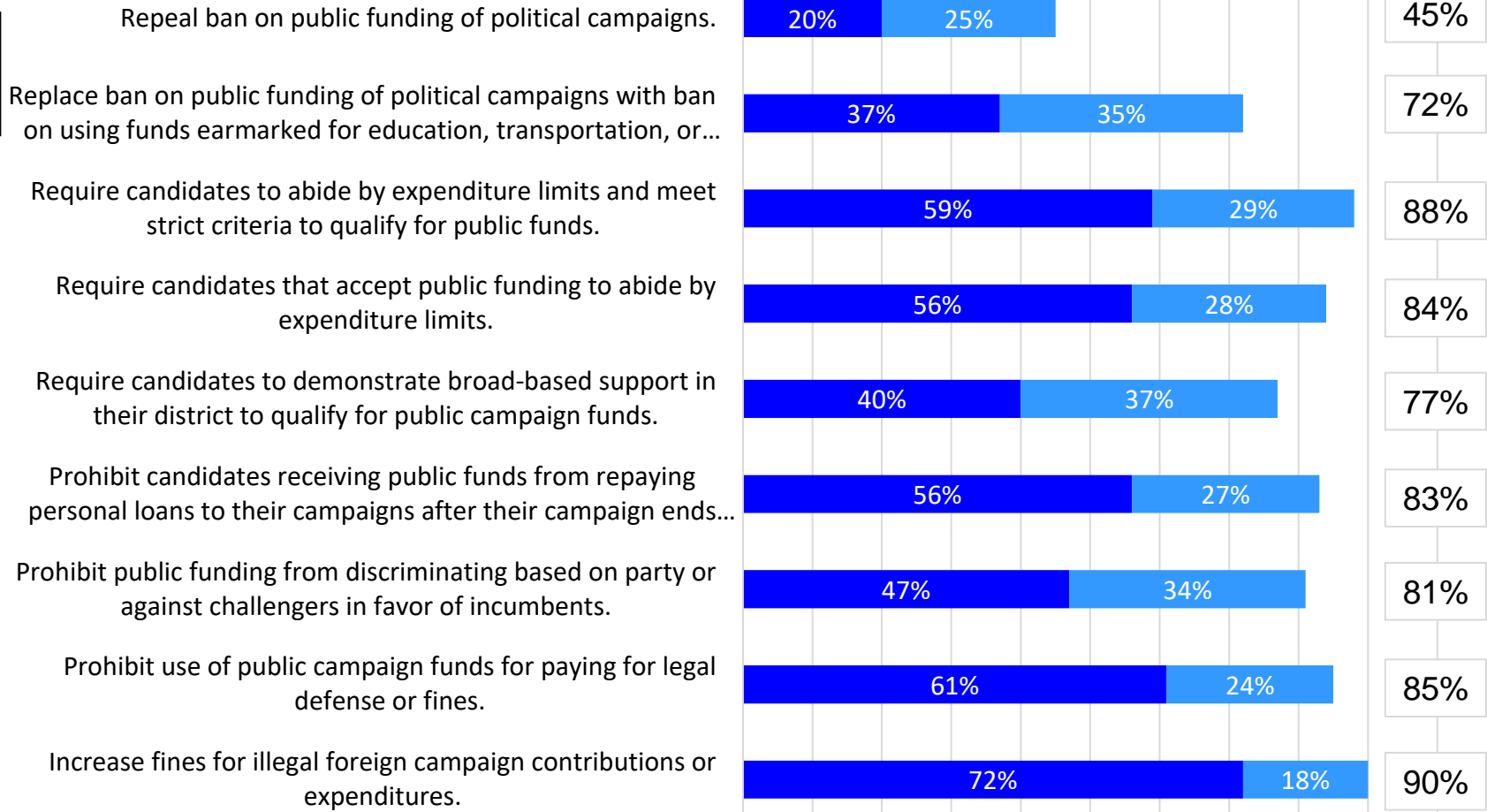


Policy Options and Arguments For and Against

Policy Options Included in Measure

■ Strongly Support ■ Somewhat Support

Depends
on AG
wording



Q. Below are some proposals that could be included in propositions like the ones we have been discussing. After reading each proposal, please say whether you would support or oppose it.

Arguments tested in support of the public financing measures resonate strongly with voters.

(Tested in Split A)

■ Very Convincing ■ Somewhat Convincing



The amount of money in politics is outrageous, and it's corrupting the system. Since 2020, over \$500 million dollars has been raised by California politicians. All this fundraising buys access for the special interests, but it shuts out the rest of us. We need to change the way we finance election campaigns so politicians focus on the job we sent them to accomplish.

Requirement to Run

51%

36%

87%

It almost seems like a requirement that to run for office and win, a candidate needs to be wealthy or know wealthy donors. But there are plenty of qualified Californians more like us, people with good ideas who can't compete in today's money-driven elections. We need to open up the process so we can elect those who are the most able, not just the best fundraisers.

Working in Other States

38%

43%

81%

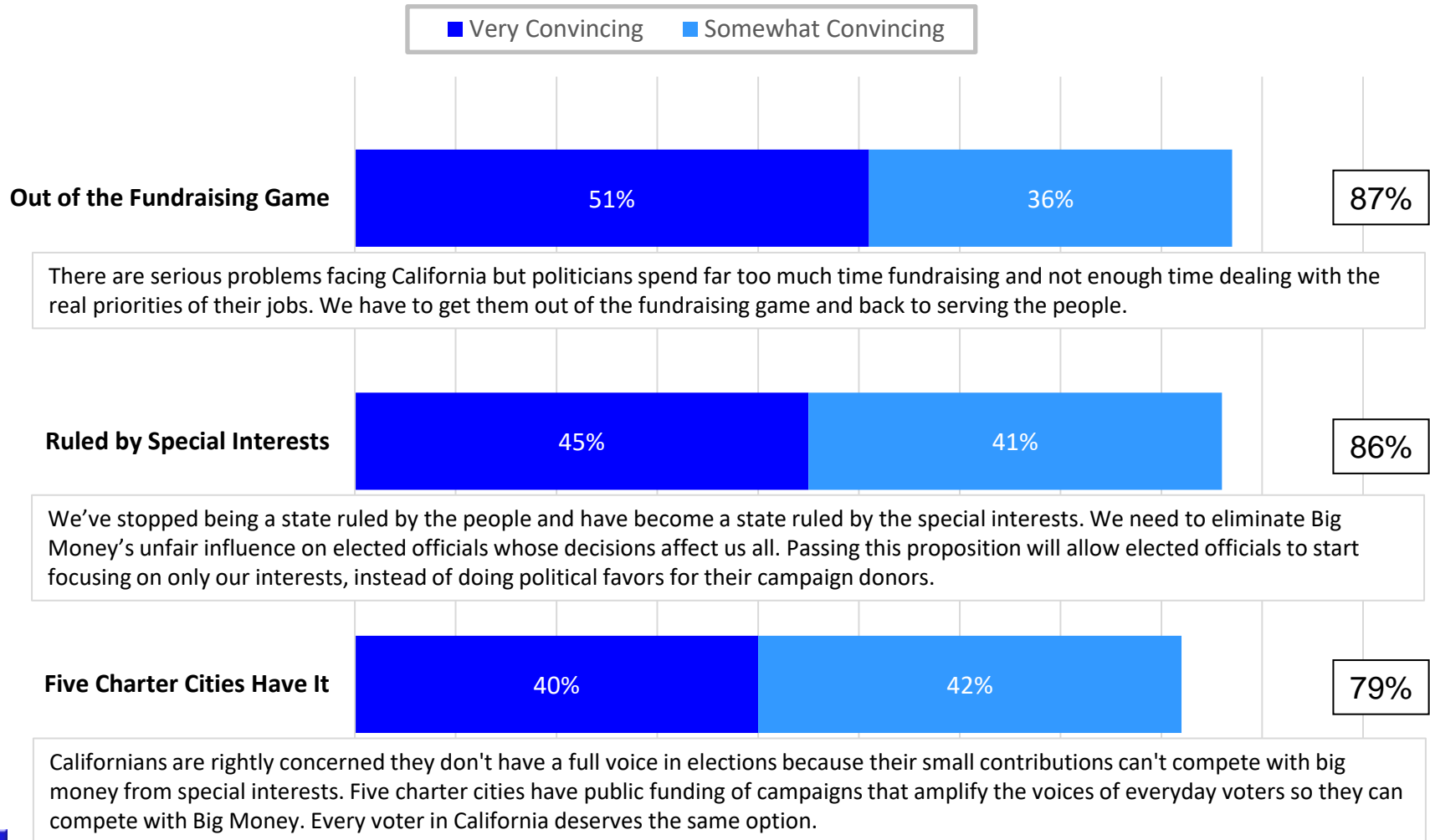
We know this reform will work because it's working in other states. Thousands of candidates from different backgrounds have been elected in fifteen states using similar systems. They are new people with good ideas from all walks of life. Because they don't rely on wealthy donors, they can speak their mind and work for the people, not the special interests.



Q. Below are some statements made by people who support ballot propositions like the ones we have been discussing. After reading each statement, please say how convincing you find it to be, if you don't believe it, or have no opinion.

Arguments in support of the public financing measures resonate strongly with voters.

(Tested in Split B)

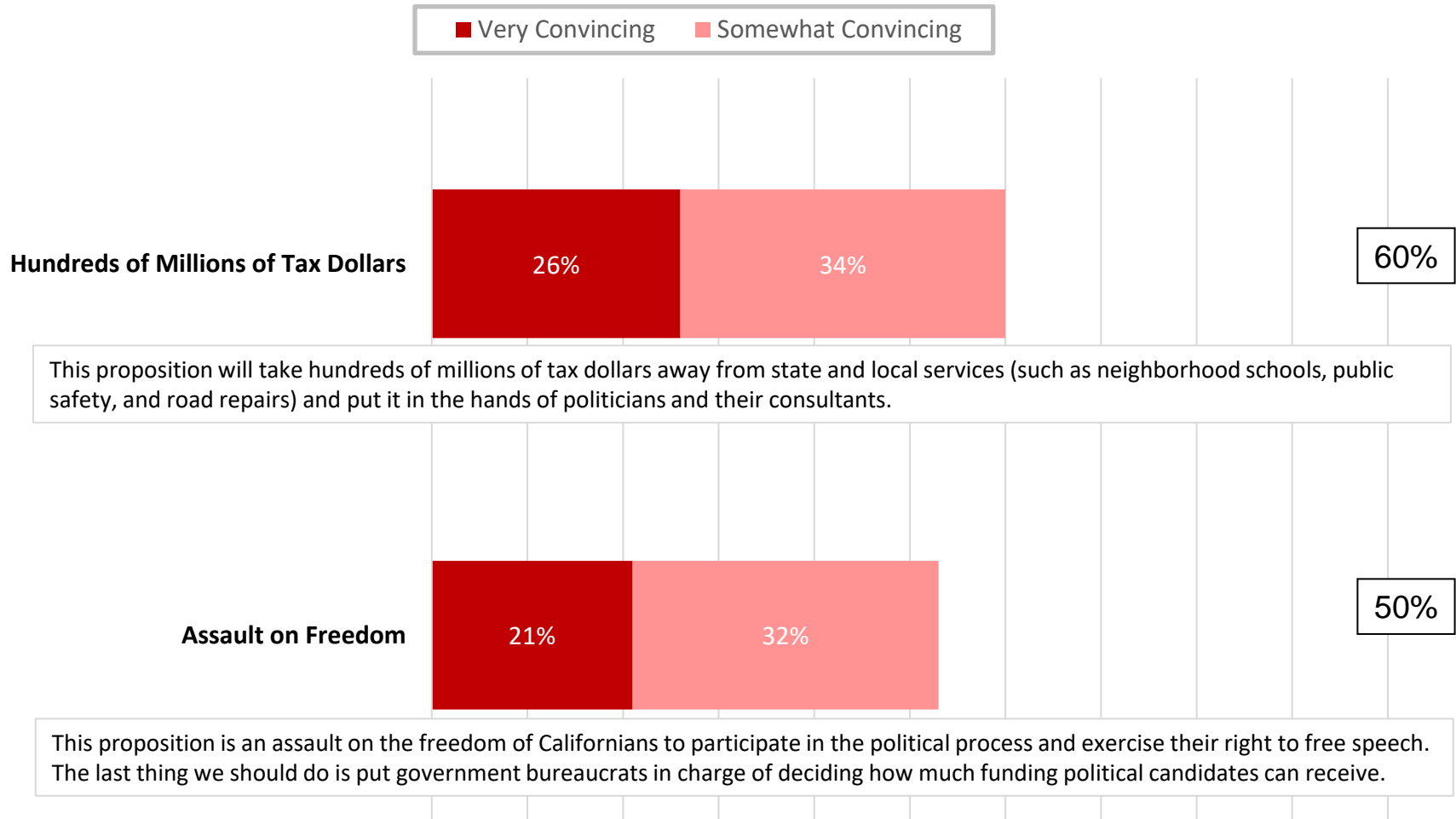


Q. Below are some statements made by people who support ballot propositions like the ones we have been discussing. After reading each statement, please say how convincing you find it to be, if you don't believe it, or have no opinion.



Arguments in opposition are not as convincing as arguments in support.

(Tested in Split A)

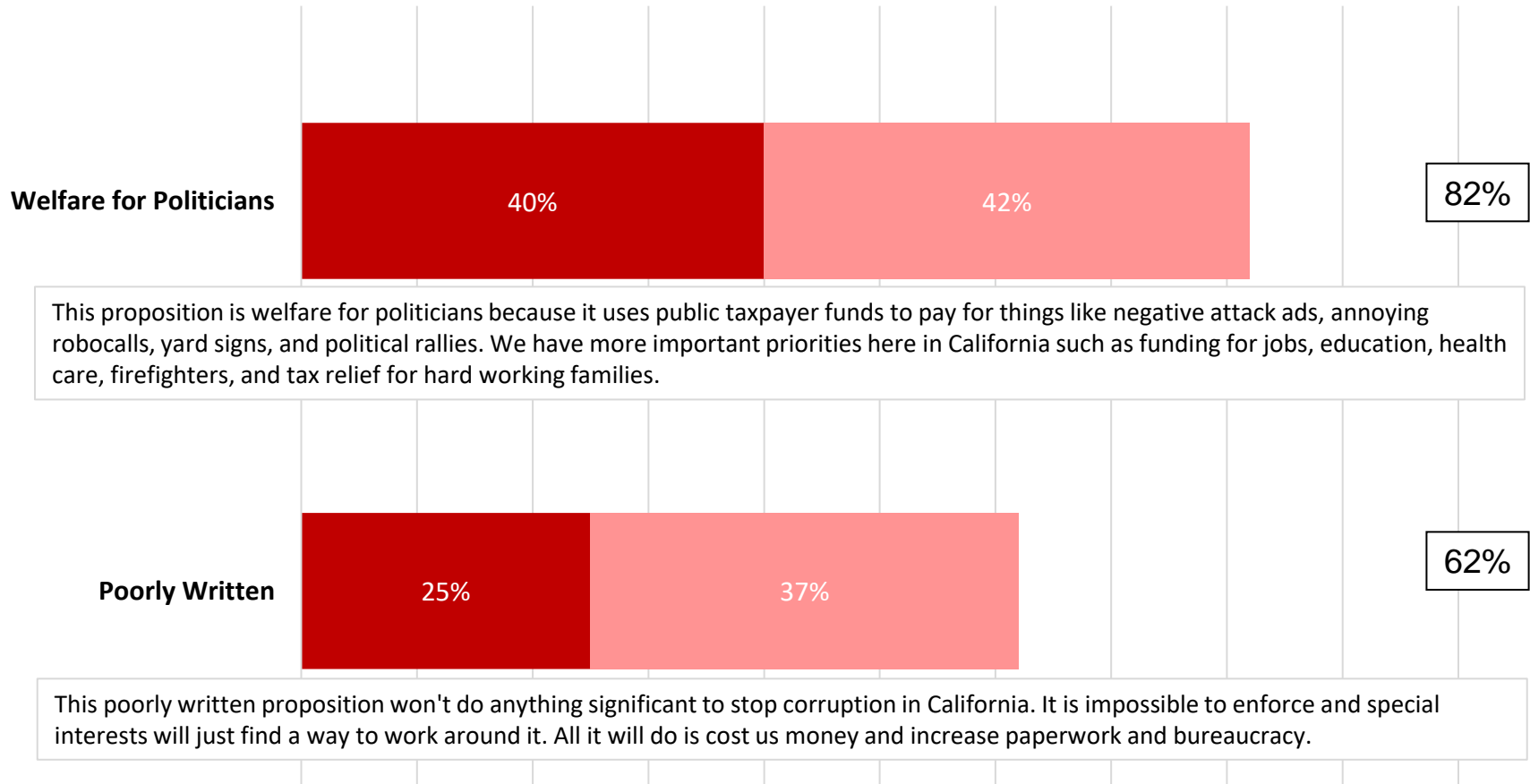


Q. Below are some statements made by people who oppose ballot propositions like the ones we have been discussing. After reading each statement, please say how convincing you find it to be, if you don't believe it, or have no opinion.

Arguments in opposition are not as convincing as arguments in support.

(Tested in Split B)

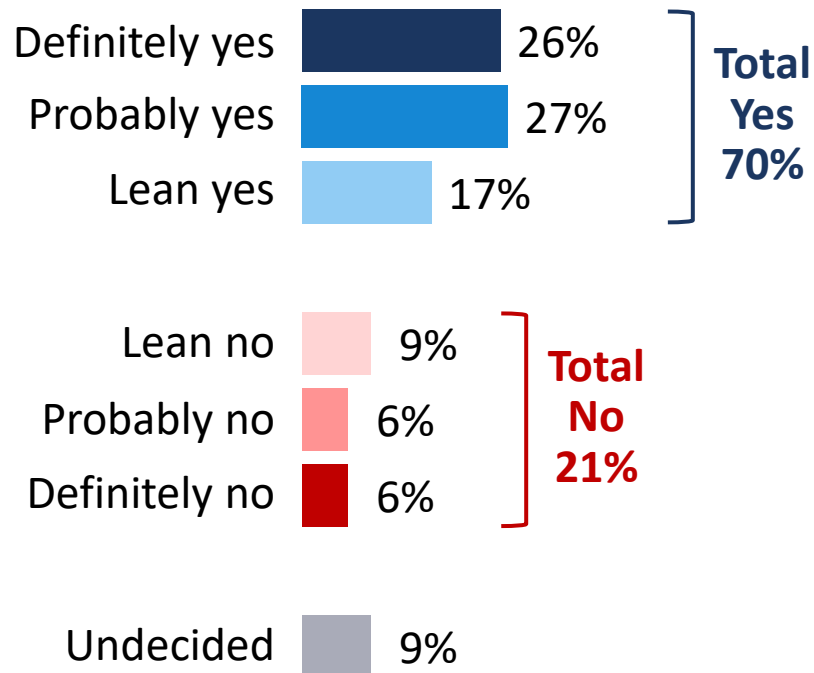
Very Convincing Somewhat Convincing



Q. Below are some statements made by people who oppose ballot propositions like the ones we have been discussing. After reading each statement, please say how convincing you find it to be, if you don't believe it, or have no opinion.

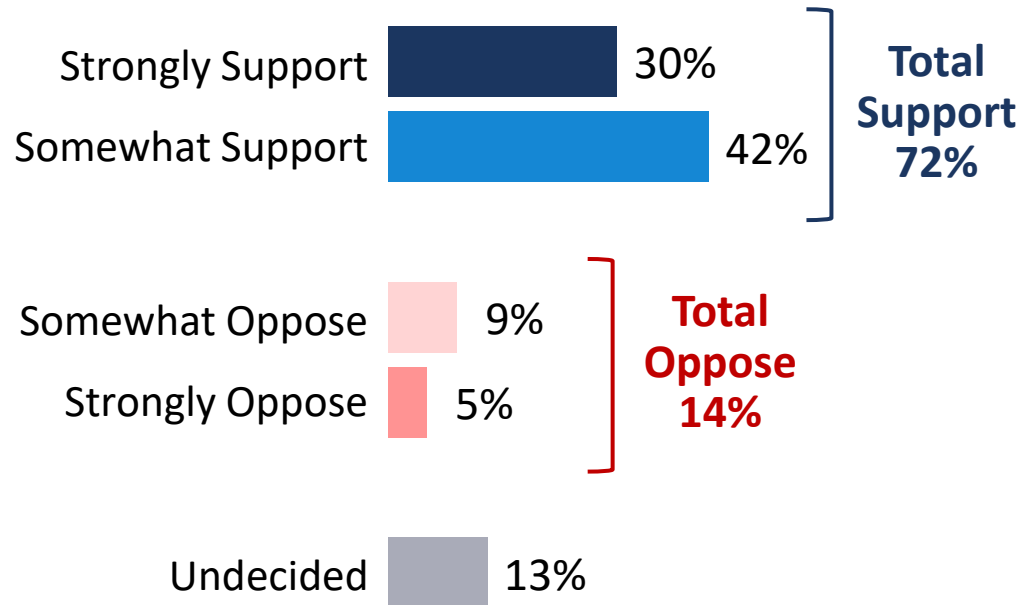
Measure gets even greater support after hearing options and pro/con arguments.

Combining both Split A and Split B Title and Summary to give better margin of error and since we don't know which is closer to what Attorney General might write.



Q. Now that you've heard some arguments about this type of program, below is the first proposition we told you that may appear on the ballot in the November election. Please read it carefully. If the election were today, would you vote "Yes" or "No"?

72% of voters support a bill to put the California Fair Elections Act to repeal the ban on the ballot.



Q. The legislature is currently considering a bill called the California Fair Elections Act to put the proposition we've been talking about on the ballot to repeal the ban on public funding of campaigns so every city and the state has the same option as charter cities to empower voters and allow qualified candidates to run for office without raising large campaign contributions. Based on what you know, do you support or oppose this bill, or don't know?

Conclusions

- The proposed measure that SB 42 would put on the ballot to repeal the ban on public funding, tested with likely supporters and opponents, starts in a very good position for November 2026 with 68% support.
- Arguments in support are convincing to between 79%-89% of voters, substantially better than opposition arguments.
- Support after policy detail questions and pro/con arguments increases to 70%.