



Sacred Heart
UNIVERSITY

Sacred Heart University
Institute for Public Policy

greatblue

Report of Findings

January 2018

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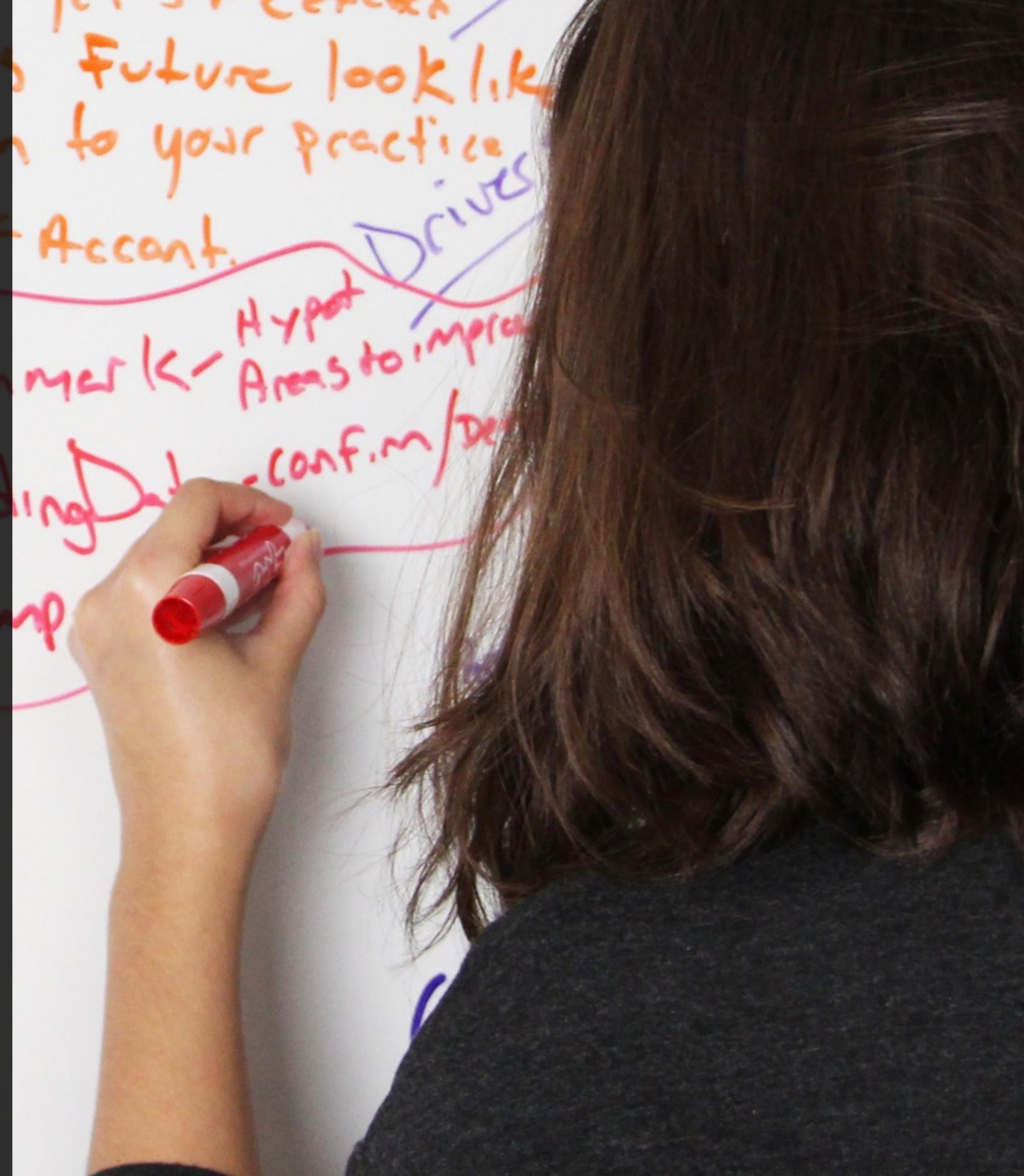
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Sacred Heart
UNIVERSITY



Our Story

Sacred Heart University and GreatBlue Research are partnering through the Institute for Public Policy to analyze salient issues facing the State of Connecticut. This collaboration combines the academic excellence of a top-rated private University with the research design, analysis, and reporting expertise of GreatBlue Research.

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Areas of Investigation

The Sacred Heart University Institute for Public Policy leveraged quantitative research through a multi-mode methodology to address the following areas of investigation:

- Thoughts on the quality of life in Connecticut
- Satisfaction with the resolution of the State's budget crisis
- Opinions of how the State might continue to improve this budget crisis
- Thoughts on the State of Connecticut's economy and areas for improvement
- Support of the nonprofit sector and charitable organizations
- Demographic profiles of respondents

Research Methodology Snapshot

| | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Methodology | No. of Completes | No. of Questions | Sample |
| Dual mode (phone and digital survey)** | 1,000 | 37* | Connecticut residents |
| Target | Margin of Error | Confidence Level | Research Dates |
| Connecticut residents | +/- 3.02% | 95% | Jan. 8 - 18 |

* This represents the total possible number of questions; not all respondents will answer all questions based on skip patterns and other instrument bias.

** Supervisory personnel in addition to computer-aided interviewing platforms ensure the integrity of the data is accurate.

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71.5%

would still purchase
at an increased
price point

8.9%

5.4%

2.8%

0.0%

Negative Impact

Boomers

No Impact

Positive Impact

SHU Institute for Public Policy - 4th Quarter 2017 Headlines

- ❖ Quarter over quarter data indicates little immediate quality of life impact has been seen by Connecticut residents from the resolution of the budget crisis.
- ❖ A consistent rate of residents continue to report their quality of life in Connecticut is “excellent” or “good” in Quarter 4 of 2017 (61.9% over 62.1% in Quarter 3 of 2017).
 - Further, a slightly higher rate of residents report the quality of life is “declining” in the State (34.3% in Quarter 4 of 2017 over 30.3% in Quarter 3 of 2017).
 - Perceptions of quality of life were influenced by party affiliation as 43.8% of Republicans perceived the quality of life to be declining compared to only 25.1% of Democrats.
- ❖ Residents do not perceive it to be any easier or more difficult to maintain their standard of living in Quarter 4 of 2017. 64.9% of residents perceived it to be “difficult” to maintain their standard of living in Quarter 4 compared to 63.9% who reported the same in Quarter 3 of 2017.
 - The resolution to the State’s budget crisis did not appear to have an impact on this perception as “high taxes” (43.9%) and “State taxes” (43.5%) continued to be the primary driver in the difficulty maintaining a standard of living.
 - Further, 72.6% of residents with children reported it was “difficult” to maintain their standard of living in Quarter 4 of 2017 (compared to 70.4% in Quarter 3 of 2017).

SHU Institute for Public Policy - 4th Quarter 2017 Headlines

- ❖ 85.0% of Republicans and 76.1% of Democrats perceive the costs of living in Connecticut to be “higher” as compared to other nearby States.
- ❖ Only one-fifth of residents (20.0%) were “satisfied” with the bipartisan budget agreement that funded the State Government through 2019.
 - Further, only 22.2% of Connecticut residents were “optimistic” about the future direction of the State now that the budget has been past.
- ❖ As a result of the budget, there was bipartisan support for some of the new taxes and fees that resulted from the agreement. 69.8% of Democrats and 62.8% of Republicans supported the “increase in cigarette tax of .45 cents.” 66.6% of Democrats and 55.3% of Republicans supported the “new tax of fantasy sports betting.”
- ❖ After record-breaking winter weather gripped much of the Northeastern United States, high energy costs are of major concern to Connecticut residents. 75.4% of respondents believed high energy costs in the State were limiting individuals’ ability to prosper, compared to 61.9% who reported the same in Quarter 3 of 2017. In addition, 60.0% believed high energy costs were also limiting businesses’ ability to prosper in the State, compared to 48.8% who reported the same in Quarter 3 of 2017.

SHU Institute for Public Policy - 4th Quarter 2017 Headlines

- ❖ 47.4% of Connecticut residents “opposed” the \$143 million cut in the State budget to the University of Connecticut and UConn Health Center center over the next two years, compared to 39.8% who “supported” this measure.
 - 78.0% of residents believed it was “important” for the State government to invest in the State’s public and private colleges and universities in order to foster economic development growth, innovation and future job growth.
- ❖ Residents were divided on shifting social services currently provided by the State to being provided by nonprofits and community organizations. While 45.7% of residents “supported” this shift in an effort to reduce State costs, another 38.1% “opposed” this shift.
- ❖ Finally, 72.4% of Connecticut residents planned on making a charitable donation in the next year. 64.1% reported the amount of this donation would be “about the same as in the past,” and 23.6% reported that it would be “less than in the past.”

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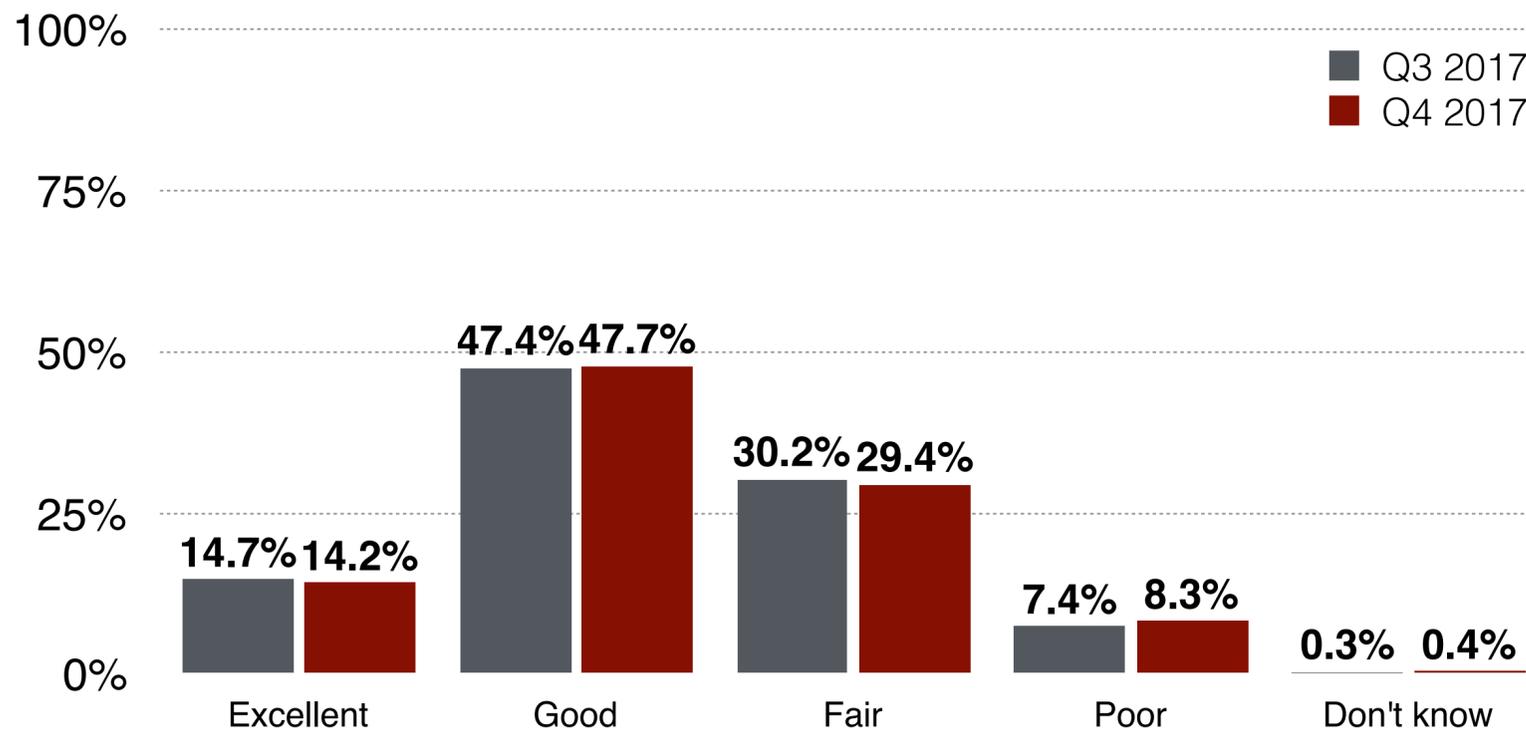
No Impact

Positive Impact

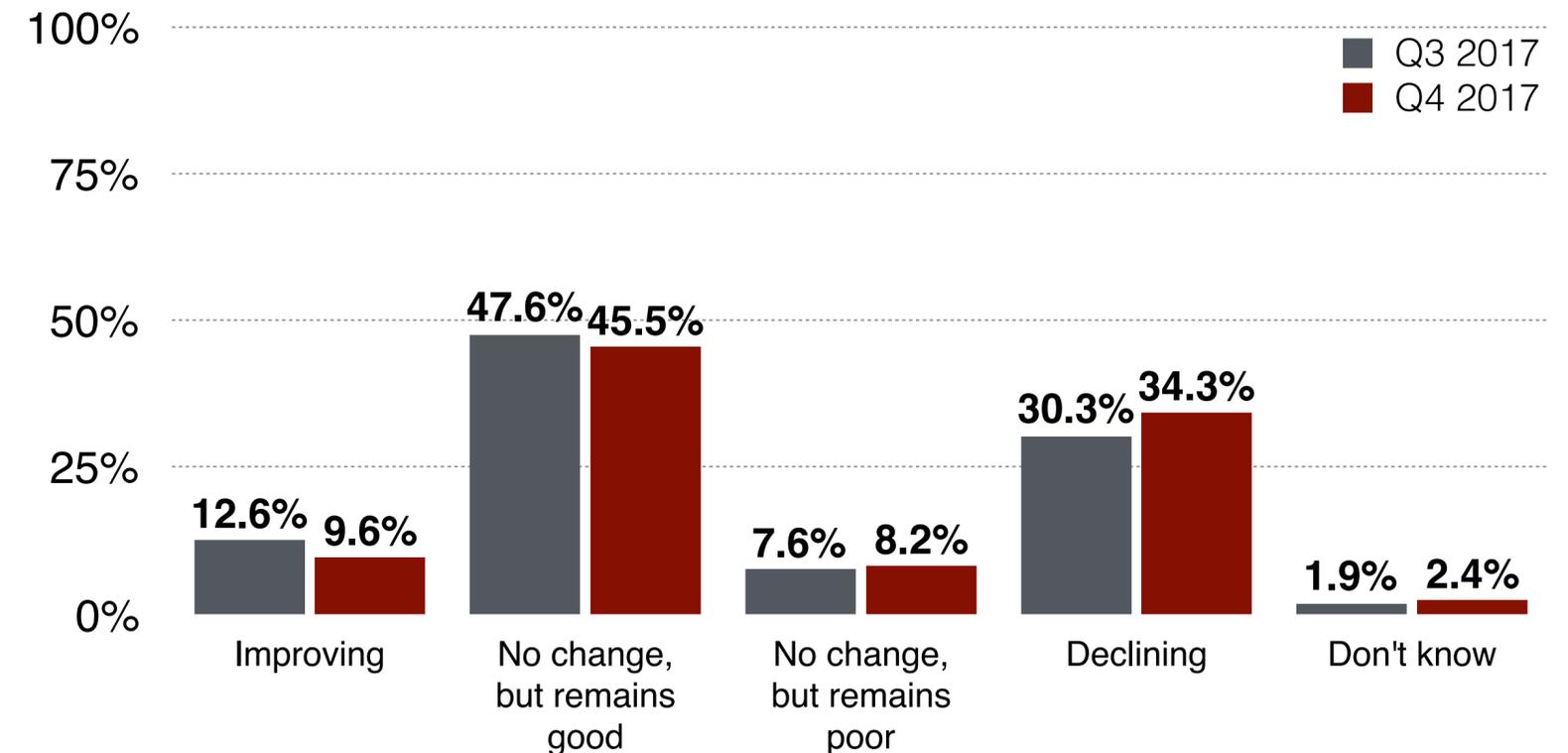
Quality of Life in Connecticut

While more than three-fifths of residents (61.9%) reported the quality of life in CT as “excellent” or “good,” over one-third of respondents believe the quality of life has been declining in the recent past (34.3%).

- ❖ 70.0% of Democrat reported the quality of life as “excellent” or “good” in Connecticut, compared to only 58.0% of Republicans.
- ❖ 43.8% of Republicans reported the quality of life as “declining,” compared to only 25.1% of Democrats in Connecticut.
- ❖ 13.0% of residents who are under the age of 35 reported the quality of life as “improving” in Quarter 4 of 2017, compared to 20.9% of residents under the age of 35 in Quarter 3 of 2017.



Q How would you rate your overall quality of life in Connecticut?

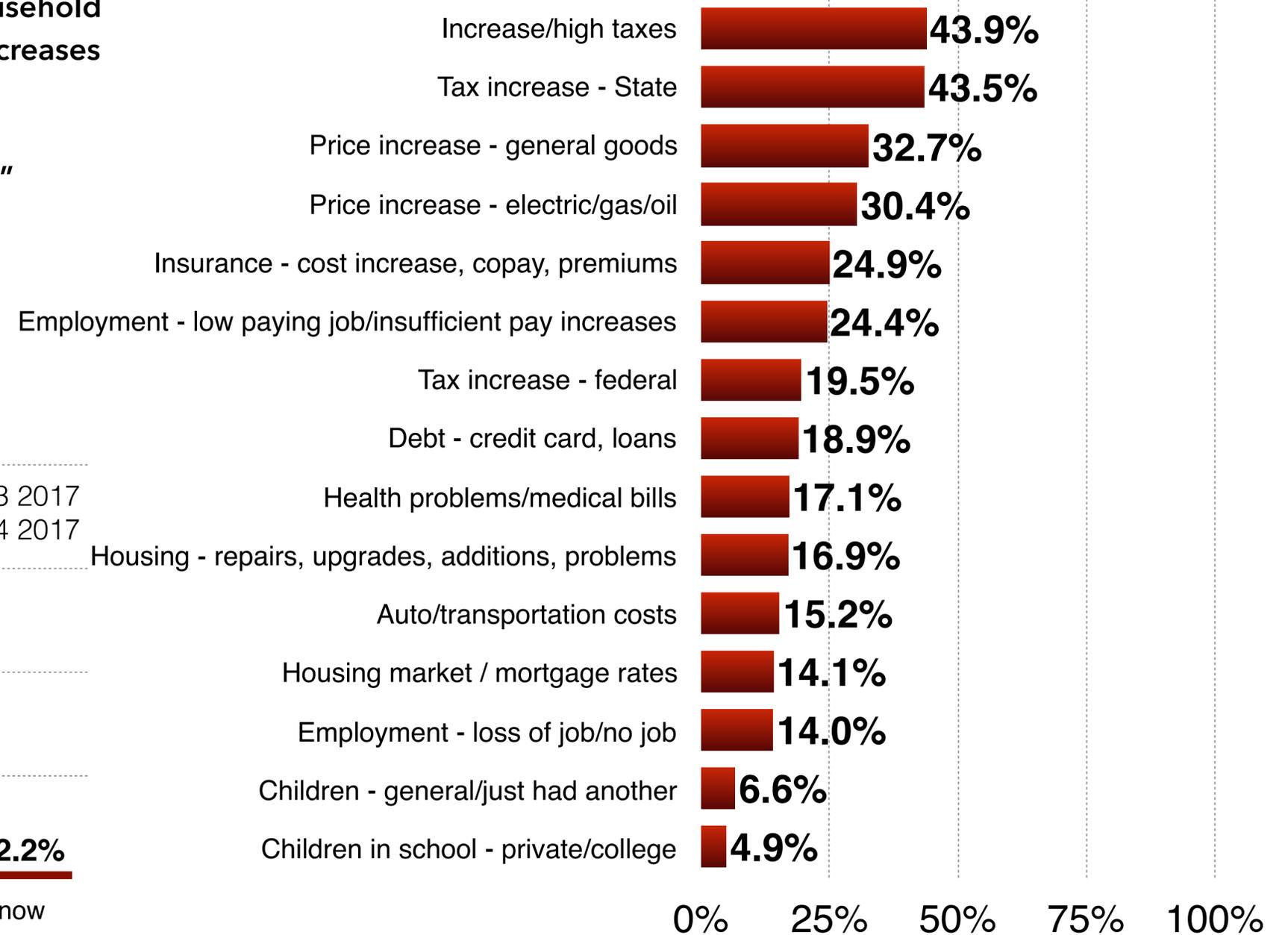
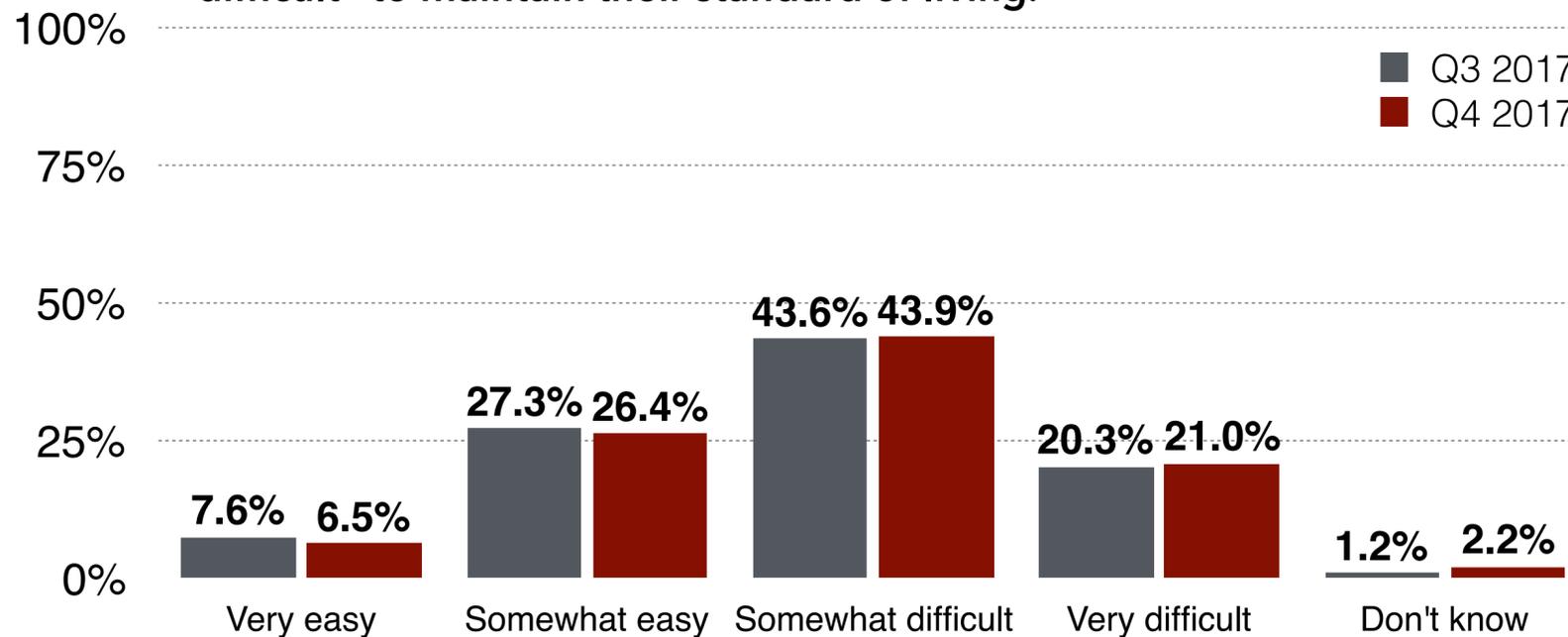


Q Would you say, overall, your quality of life in Connecticut is...

Quality of Life in Connecticut

More than three-fifths of residents (64.9%) reported it was "very" or "somewhat" difficult to maintain their standard of living based on their current total household income. This difficulty was driven by "increase/high taxes" (43.9%), "tax increases - State" (43.5%), and "price increase - general goods" (32.7%).

- ❖ 74.9% of residents earning \$50,000 or less reported it was "difficult" to maintain their standard of living.
- ❖ 72.0% of residents ages 35-54 in the household reported it was "difficult" to maintain their standard of living, compared to only 57.8% of residents under age 35.
- ❖ 72.6% of residents with children in the household reported it was "difficult" to maintain their standard of living.



Q Overall, how easy or difficult are you finding it to maintain your standard of living out of your total household income today?

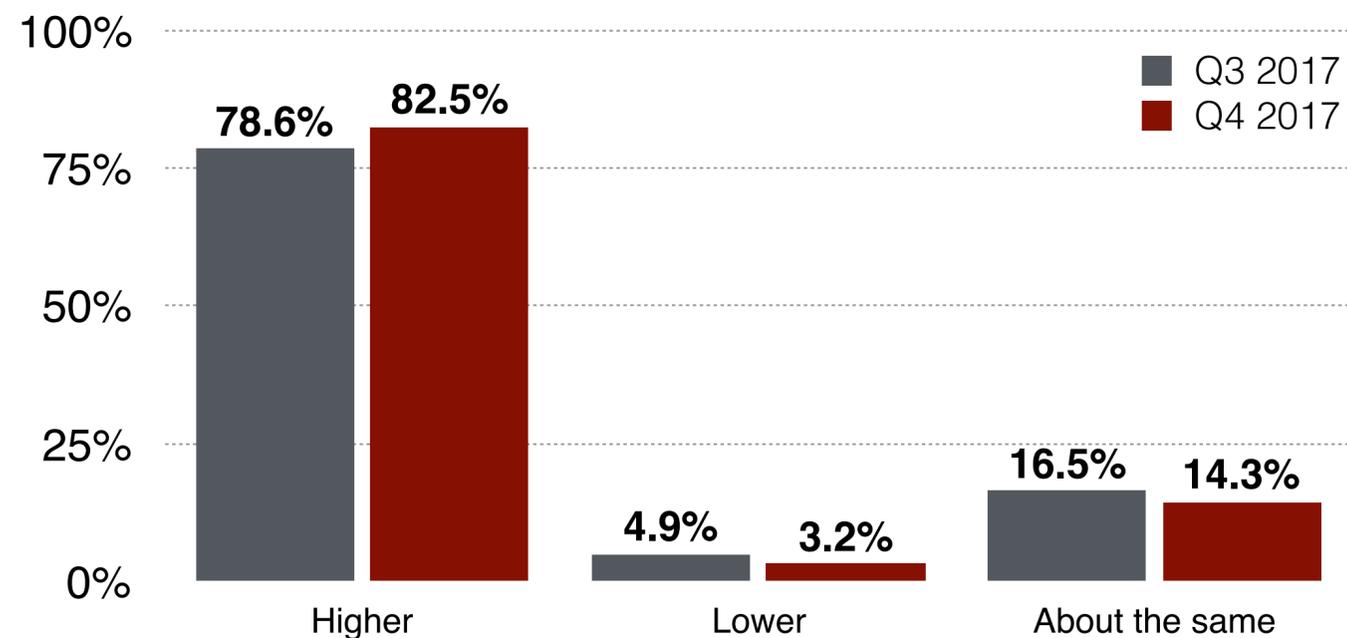
Q Please indicate why?



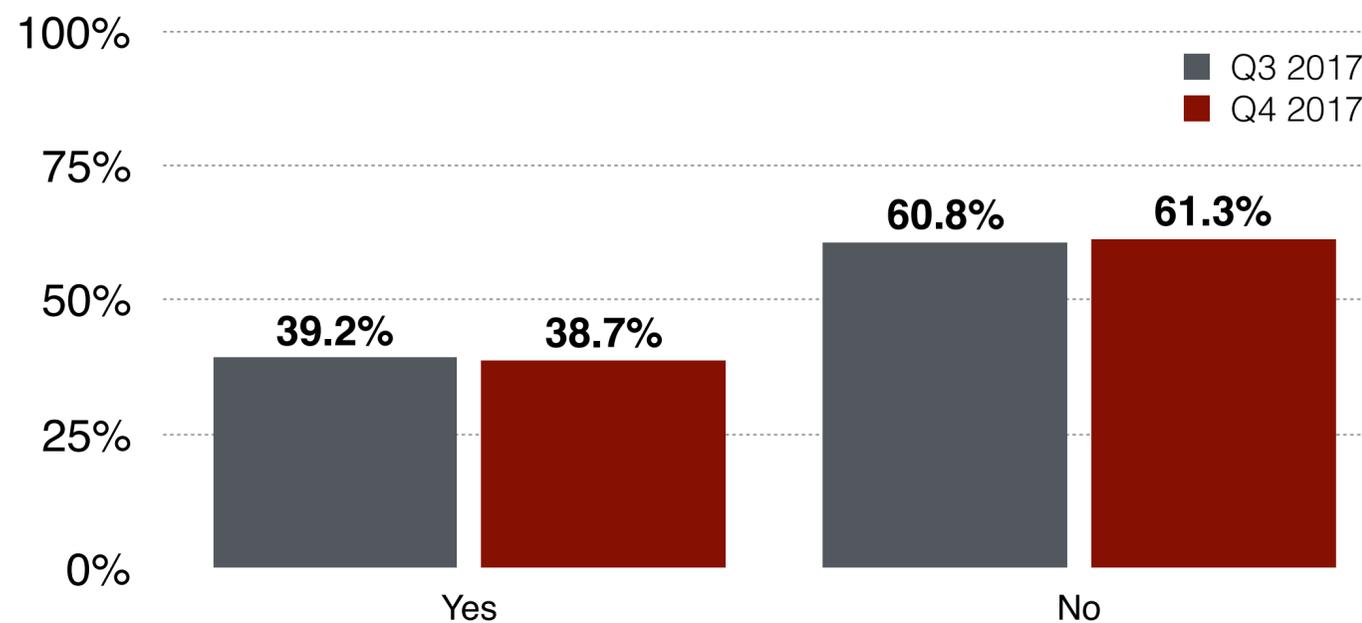
Quality of Life in Connecticut

More than four-fifths of residents believe the cost of living in CT is “higher” (82.5%) when compared to other surrounding States in the area (compared to 78.6% in Quarter 3 2017). Further, 38.7% of respondents indicated they were considering moving out of the State in the next 5 years.

- ❖ 85.0% of Republicans believe the cost of living is “higher” in Connecticut in relation to other States, compared to 76.1% of Democrats in the State.
- ❖ 33.0% of residents earning \$150,000 or more are considering moving to a different State within the next 5 years, compared to 49.1% who reported the same in Quarter 3 of 2017.
- ❖ 43.8% of Republicans in Connecticut are considering moving to a different State within the next 5 years, compared to 33.1% of Democrats in the State.



Q Do you believe that the cost of living in Connecticut is higher, lower, or about the same as other surrounding States?

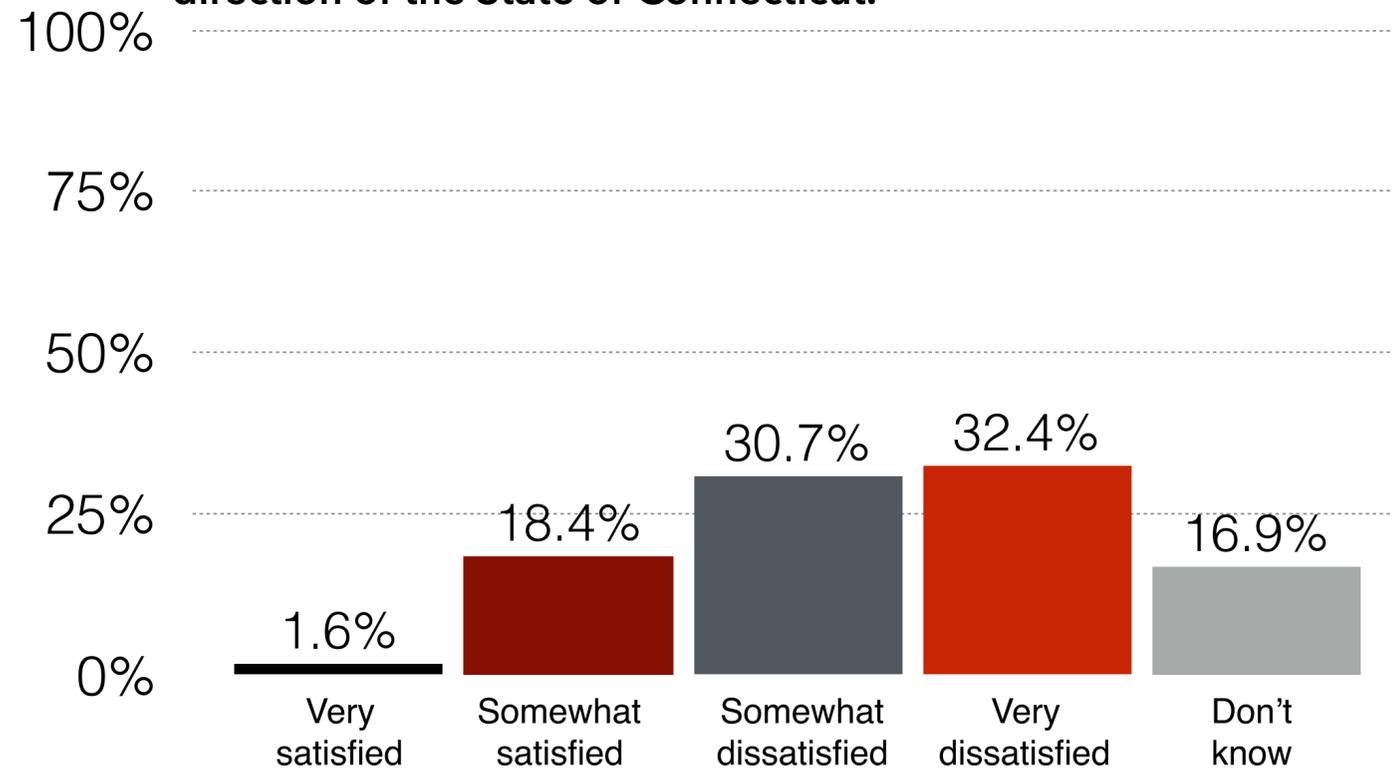


Q Are you considering changing your residence to a different State within the next 5 years?

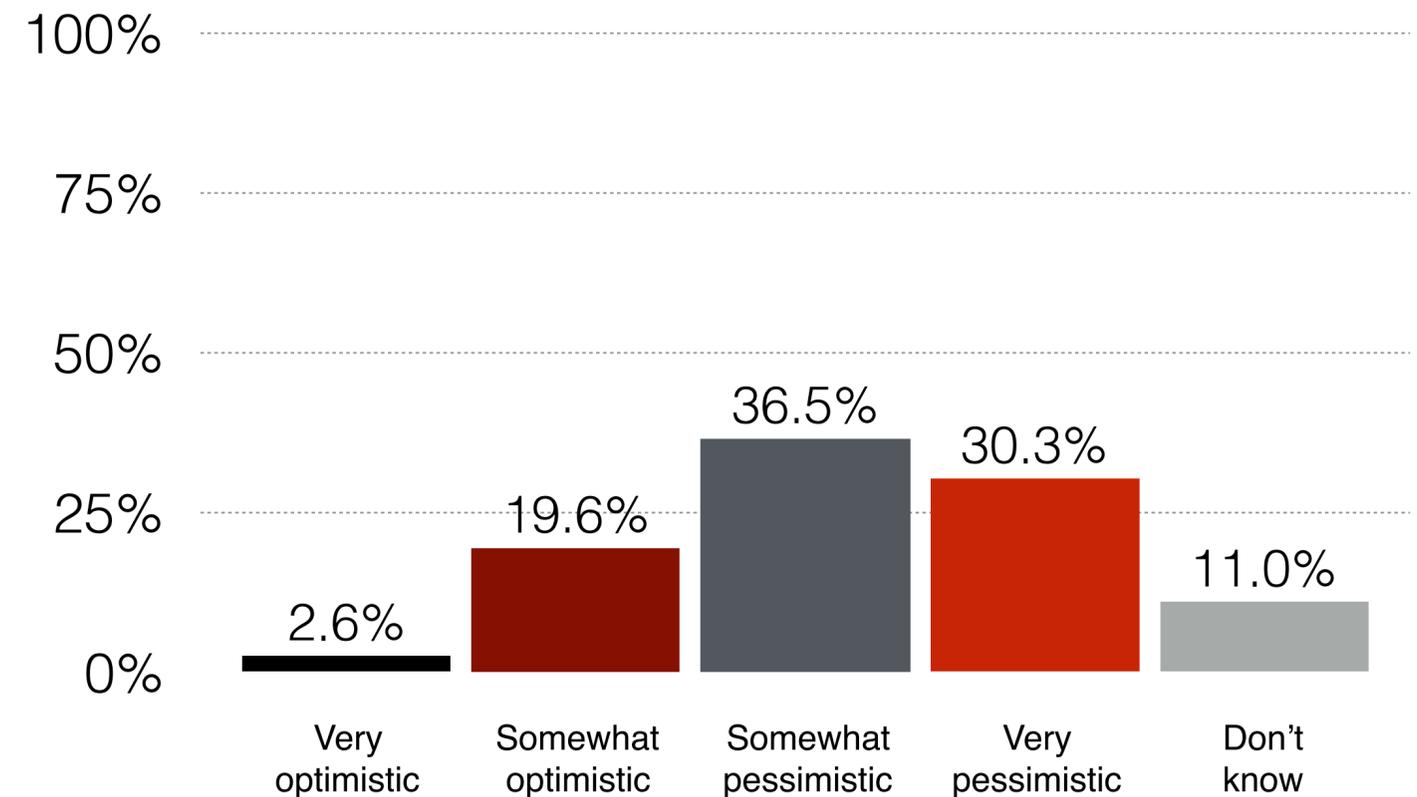
Resolution of CT Budget Crisis

One-fifth of residents (20.0%) reported being either “very” or “somewhat” satisfied with the resolution of the State’s budgetary crisis, corresponding with a similar rate of residents reporting they were either “very” or “somewhat” optimistic about the future direction of the State of Connecticut after this budget signing (22.2%).

- ❖ 25.9% of Democrats in Connecticut were “satisfied” with the resolution to the State’s budgetary crisis, compared to 15.9% of Republicans in the State.
- ❖ 74.2% of residents earning \$100,000 to \$150,000, and 70.7% of residents earning \$150,000 or more were “pessimistic” about the future direction of the State of Connecticut.



Q On October 31, 2017, Gov. Malloy signed a bipartisan budget agreement to fund the State Government through 2019. Based on all you know or may have heard, how satisfied were you with the resolution of the budgetary crisis in the State legislature? Would you say...

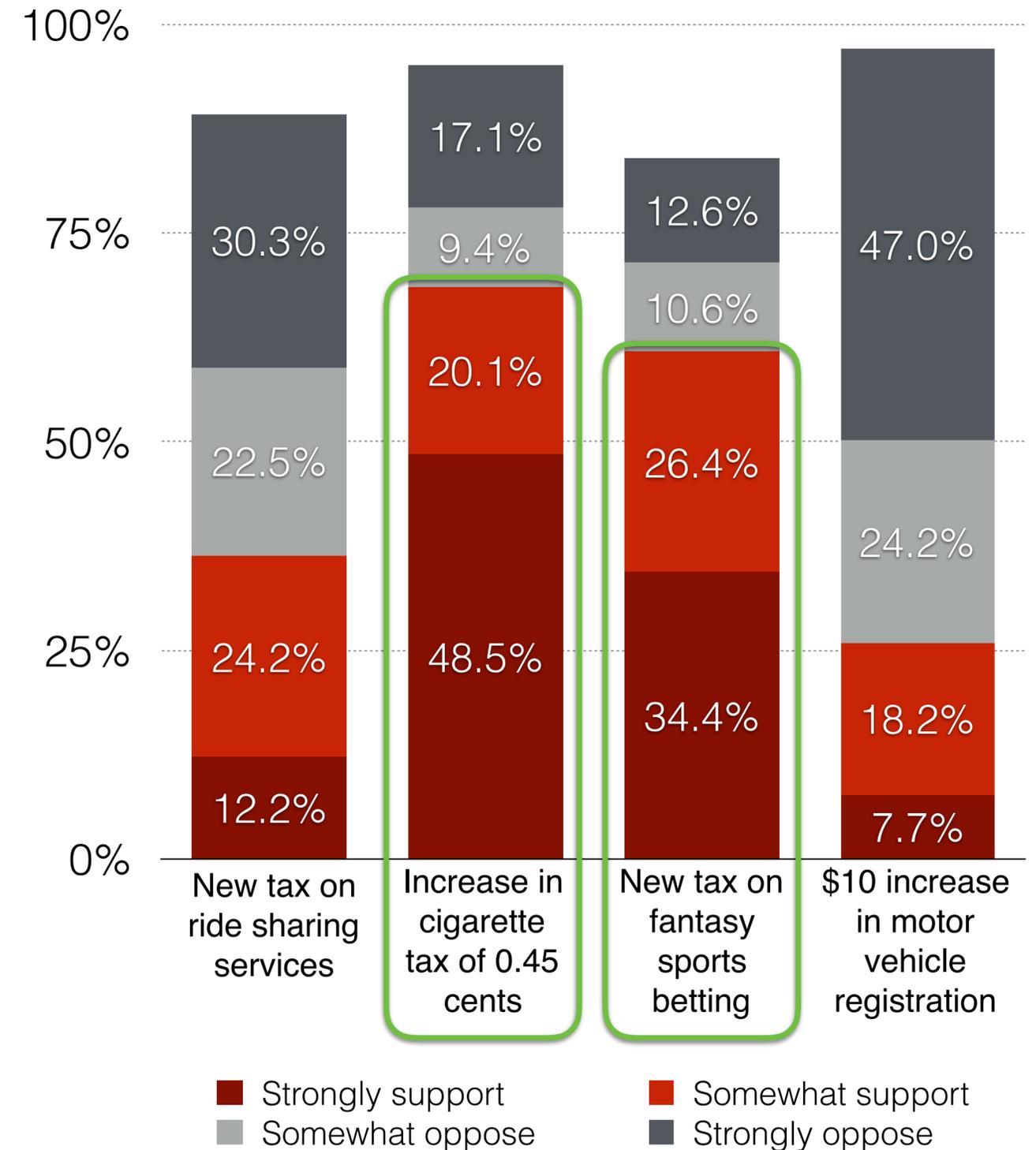


Q Now that the budget has been passed and signed by the Governor, how optimistic or pessimistic are you about the future direction of the State of Connecticut?

Resolution of CT Budget Crisis

When asked to evaluate the new taxes and fees that resulted from the most recent budget agreement, over two-third of residents supported the “increase in cigarette tax of .45 cents” (68.6%), and three-fifths supported a “new tax on fantasy sports betting” (60.8%).

- ❖ 69.8% of Democrats and 62.8% of Republicans supported the “increase in cigarette tax of .45 cents.”
- ❖ 66.6% of Democrats and 55.3% of Republicans supported the “new tax of fantasy sports betting.”
- ❖ 63.6% of residents under age 35 supported the “new tax of fantasy sports betting.”

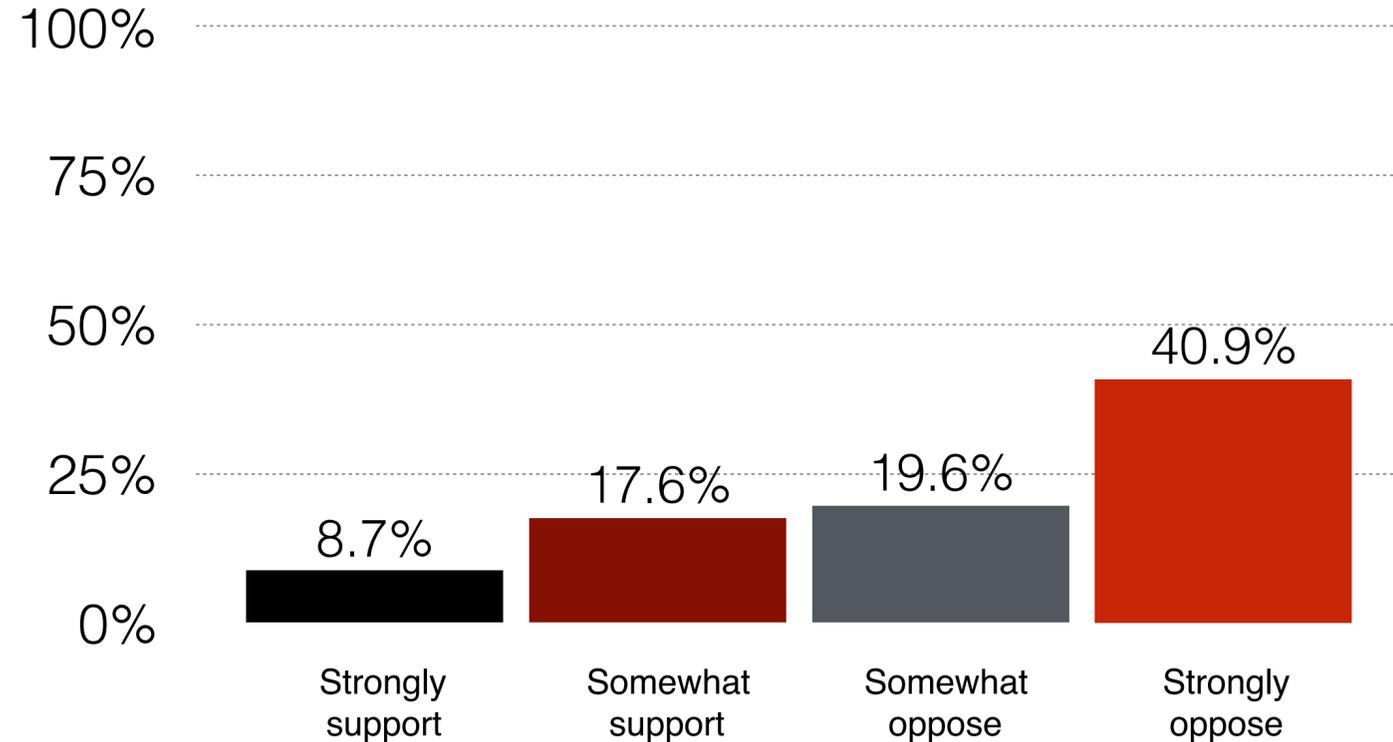


Q The following is a list of general ways the State of Connecticut has addressed the current budget crisis through new taxes and fees. After each, please indicate how strongly you support or oppose each measure.

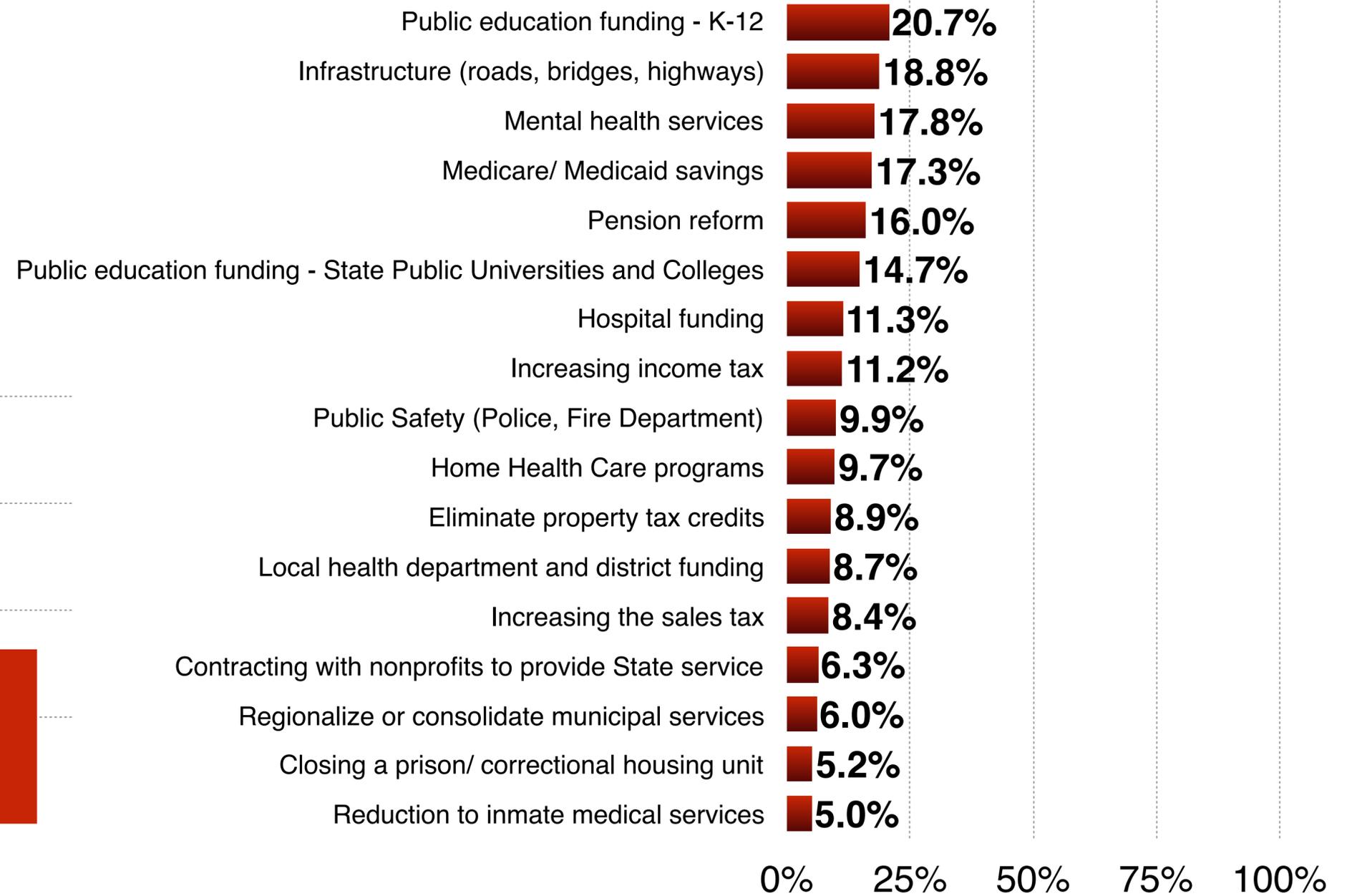
Resolution of CT Budget Crisis



20.7% of residents reported the public education funding was not addressed to their satisfaction in the recent State budget talks, and 18.8% reported infrastructure items such as roads, bridges, and highways were not addressed to their satisfaction.



As part of the tax bill recently passed by Congress, there is now a \$10,000 limit on the amount of State and property tax that can be deducted on federal income taxes. How strongly do you support or oppose this measure?

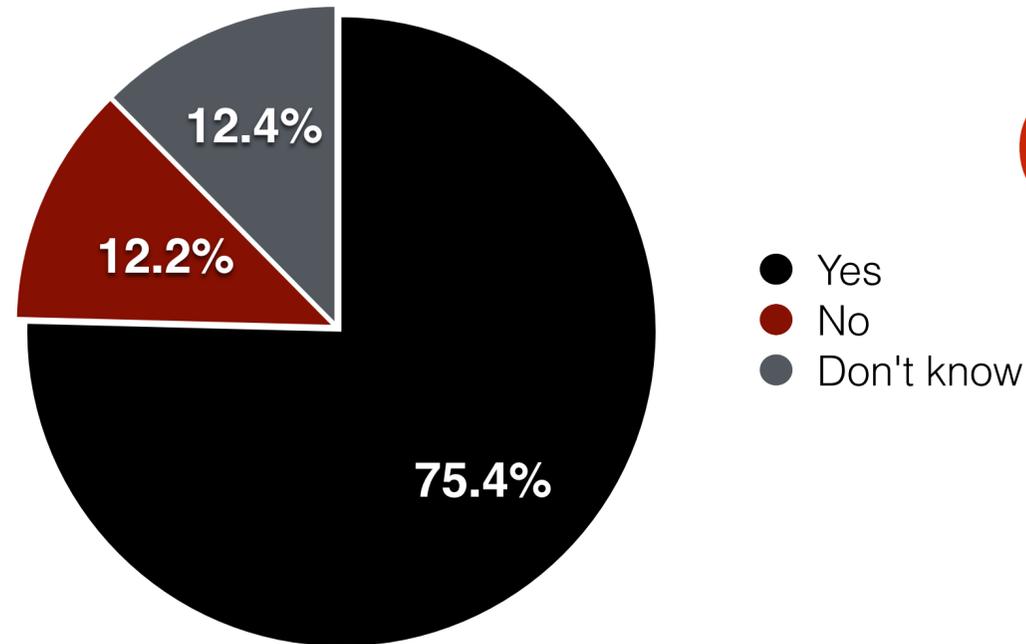


Based on all you know or have heard, which, if any, of the following do you believe were not addressed to your satisfaction in the recent State budget talks or were missed opportunities?

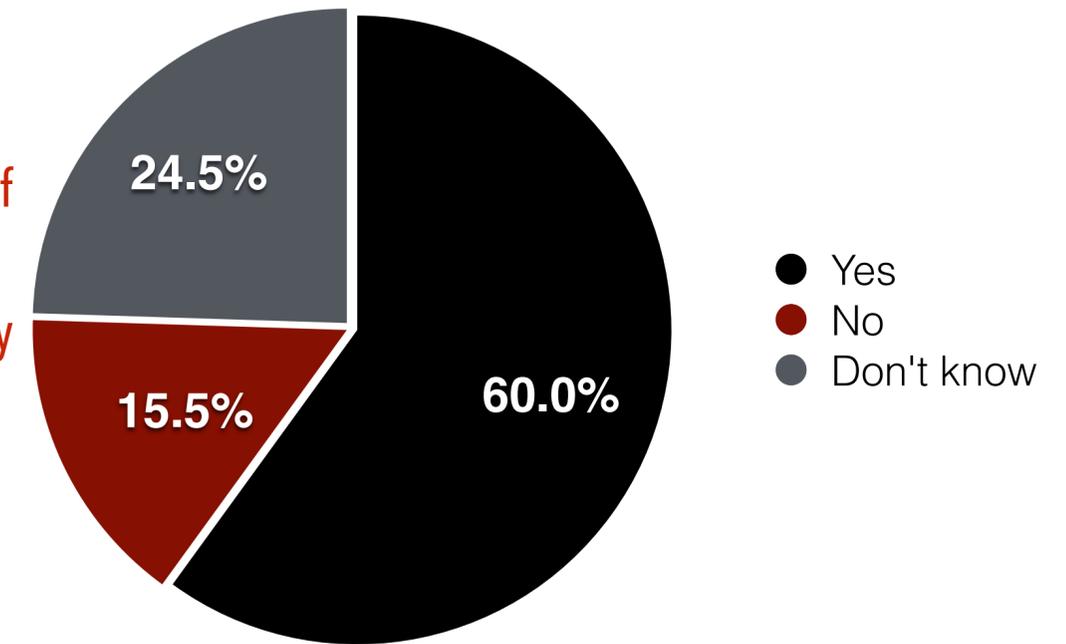
CT: State of the Economy

High energy costs were a concern among residents surveyed, as 75.4% of respondents believed high energy costs in the State were limiting individuals' ability to prosper, compared to 61.9% who reported the same in Quarter 3 of 2017. Further, 60.0% believed high energy costs were also limiting businesses' ability to prosper in the State, compared to 48.8% who reported the same in Quarter 3 of 2017.

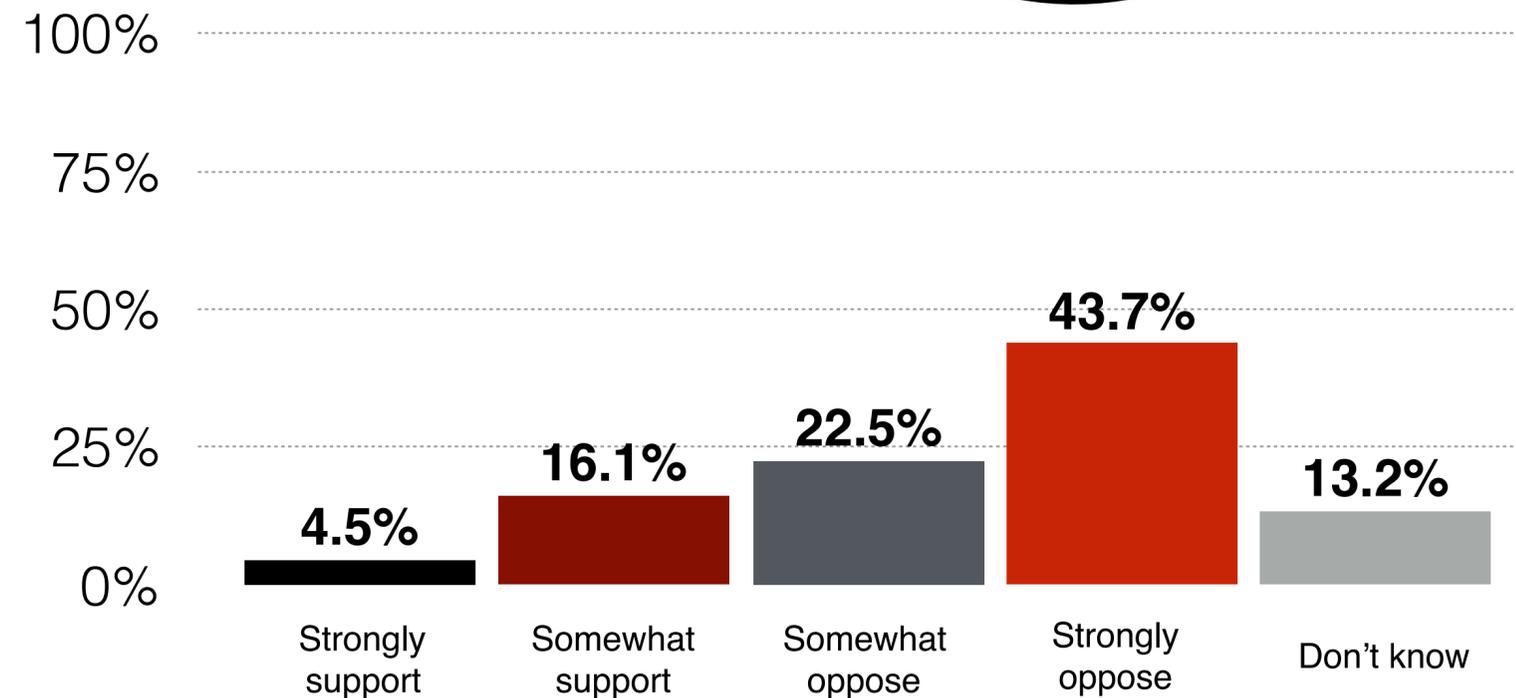
Q Are high energy costs in the State of Connecticut affecting the ability for individuals to be prosperous in the State?



Q Are high energy costs in the State of Connecticut affecting the ability for businesses to be prosperous in the State?



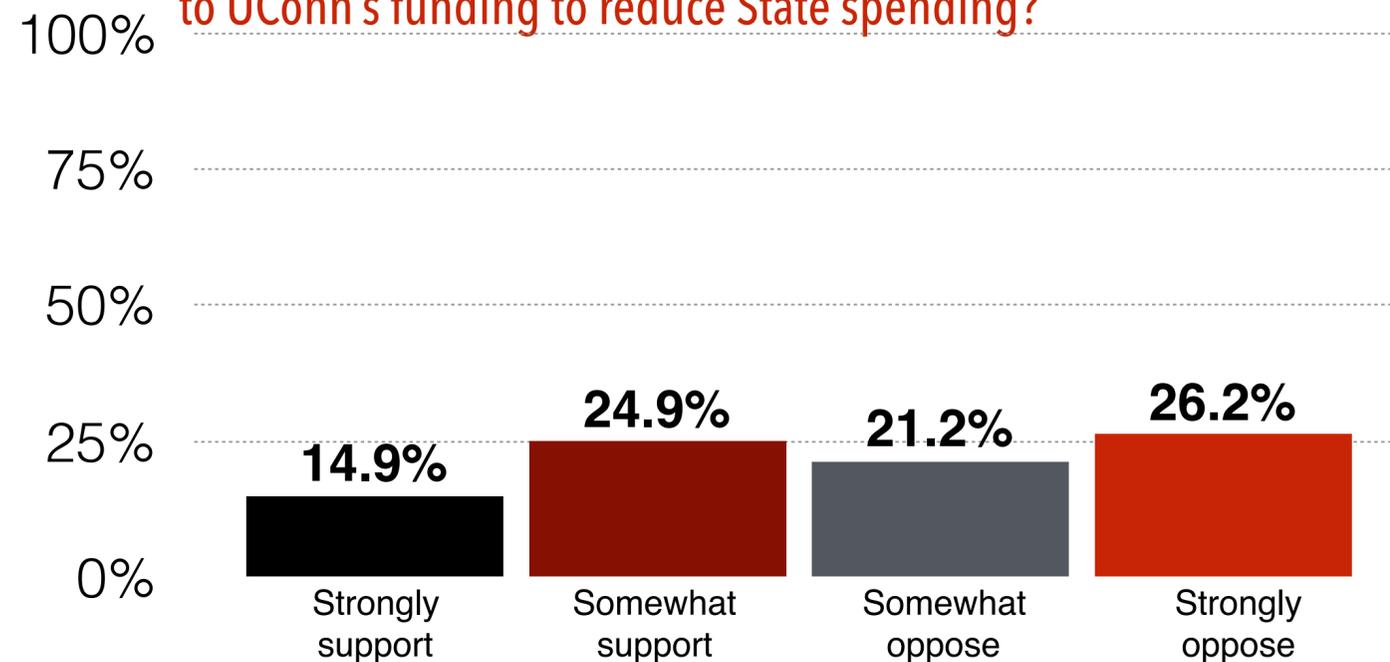
Q In order to close the budget deficit, \$127 million was diverted from the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund to the State's general fund. How strongly do you support or oppose the State's cut to the energy efficiency fund? Would you say...



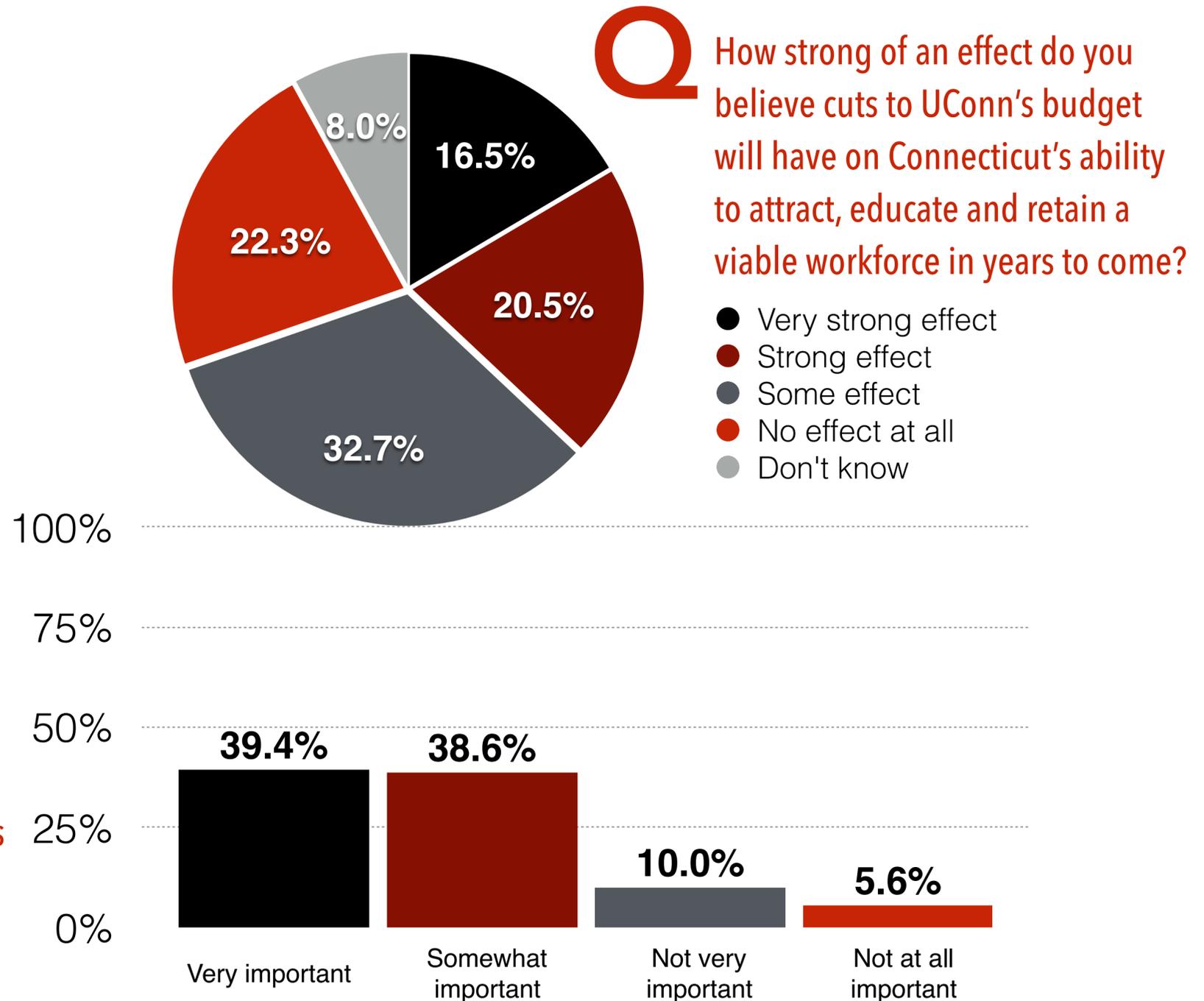
CT: State of the Economy

39.8% of residents supported the State legislature's \$143 million cut to the University of Connecticut and the UConn Health Center over the next two years, compared to 47.4% who opposed this cut. Further, over three-quarters of residents reported it was important for the State government to invest in the State's public and private colleges and universities in order to foster economic development, innovation and future job growth (78.0%).

Q In order to close the State budget gap, the State legislature cut \$143 million to the University of Connecticut and the UConn Health Center over the next two years. How strongly do you support or oppose cuts to UConn's funding to reduce State spending?



Q Overall, how important do you believe it is for the State government to invest in the State's public and private colleges and universities in order to foster economic development, innovation and future job growth?

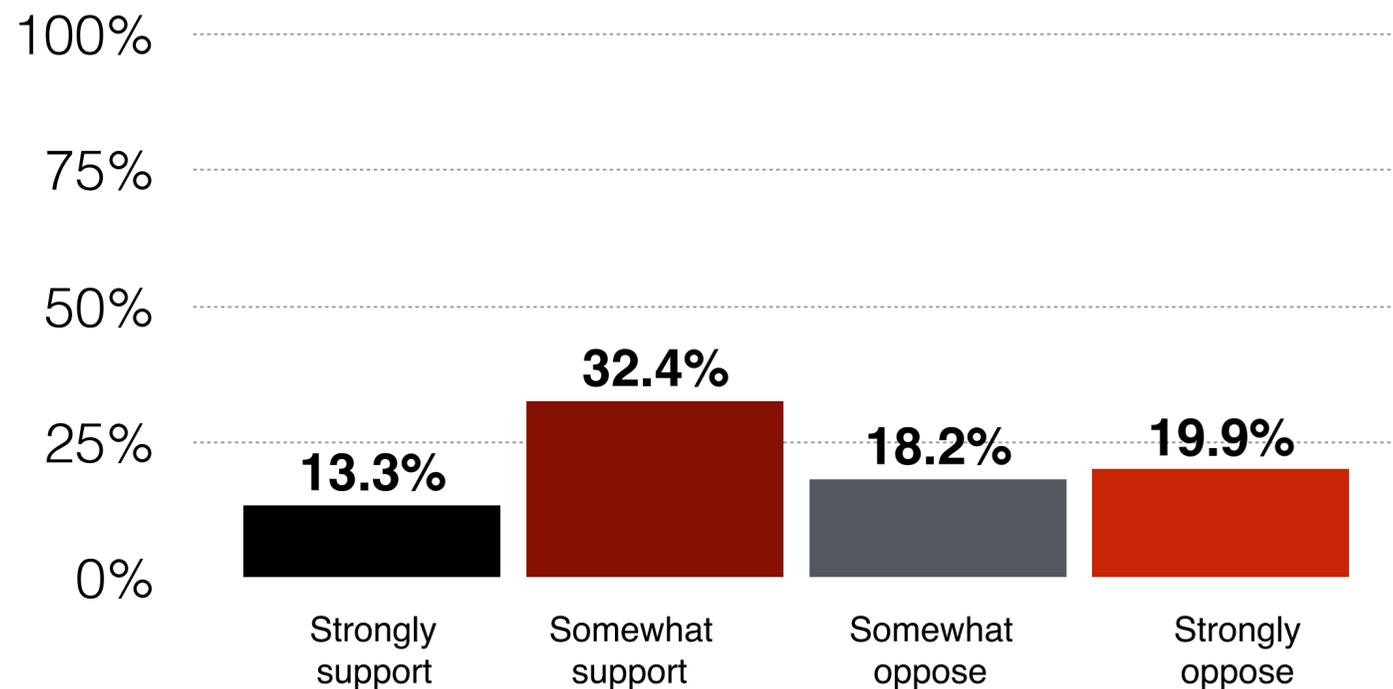
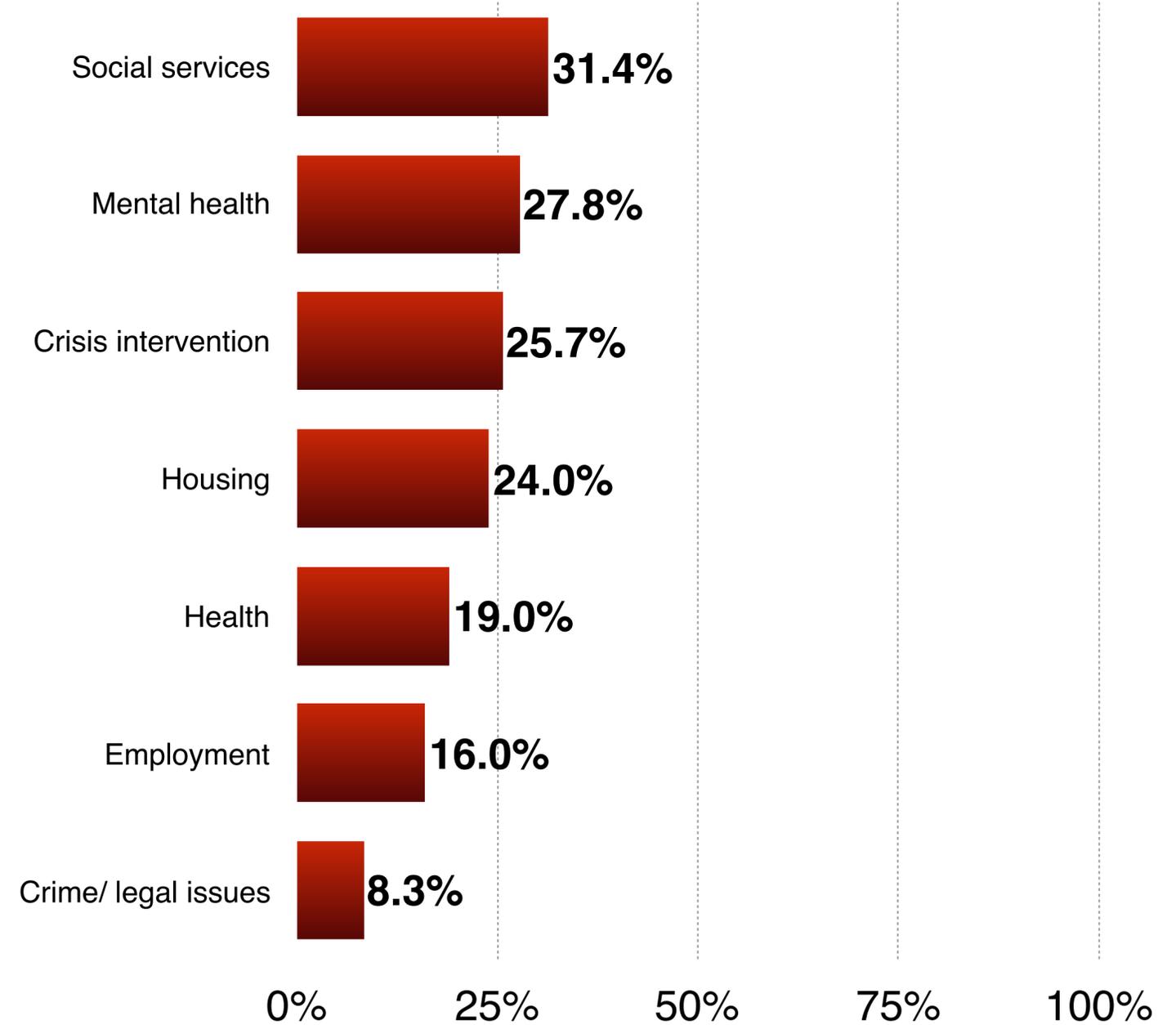


Nonprofit sector of Connecticut



In an effort to reduce State costs, less than half of residents supported a shift in social services from being provided by the State to nonprofit and community organizations (45.7%).

Among those services residents were open to shifting, 31.4% perceived "social services" better suited being handled by nonprofits and community organizations, 27.8% were open to shifting "mental health" services, and 25.7% were open to shifting "crisis intervention."



Q To address Connecticut's budget issues and reduce State costs, some have suggested shifting social services provided by the State to nonprofit and community organizations. How strongly would you support or oppose this shift?

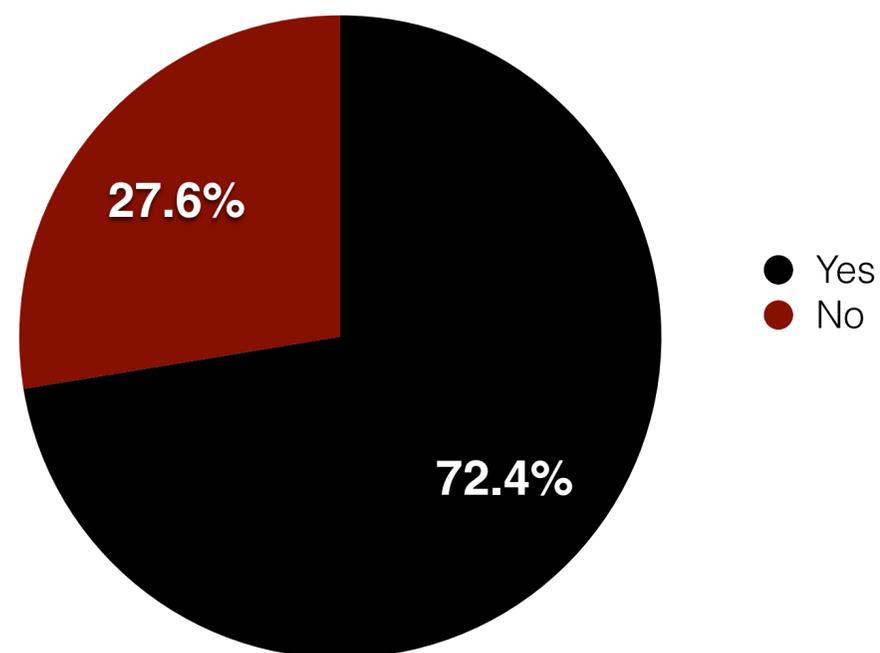
Q Which, if any, of the following services do you think would be better suited to be handled by local nonprofits or community organizations rather than the State government?



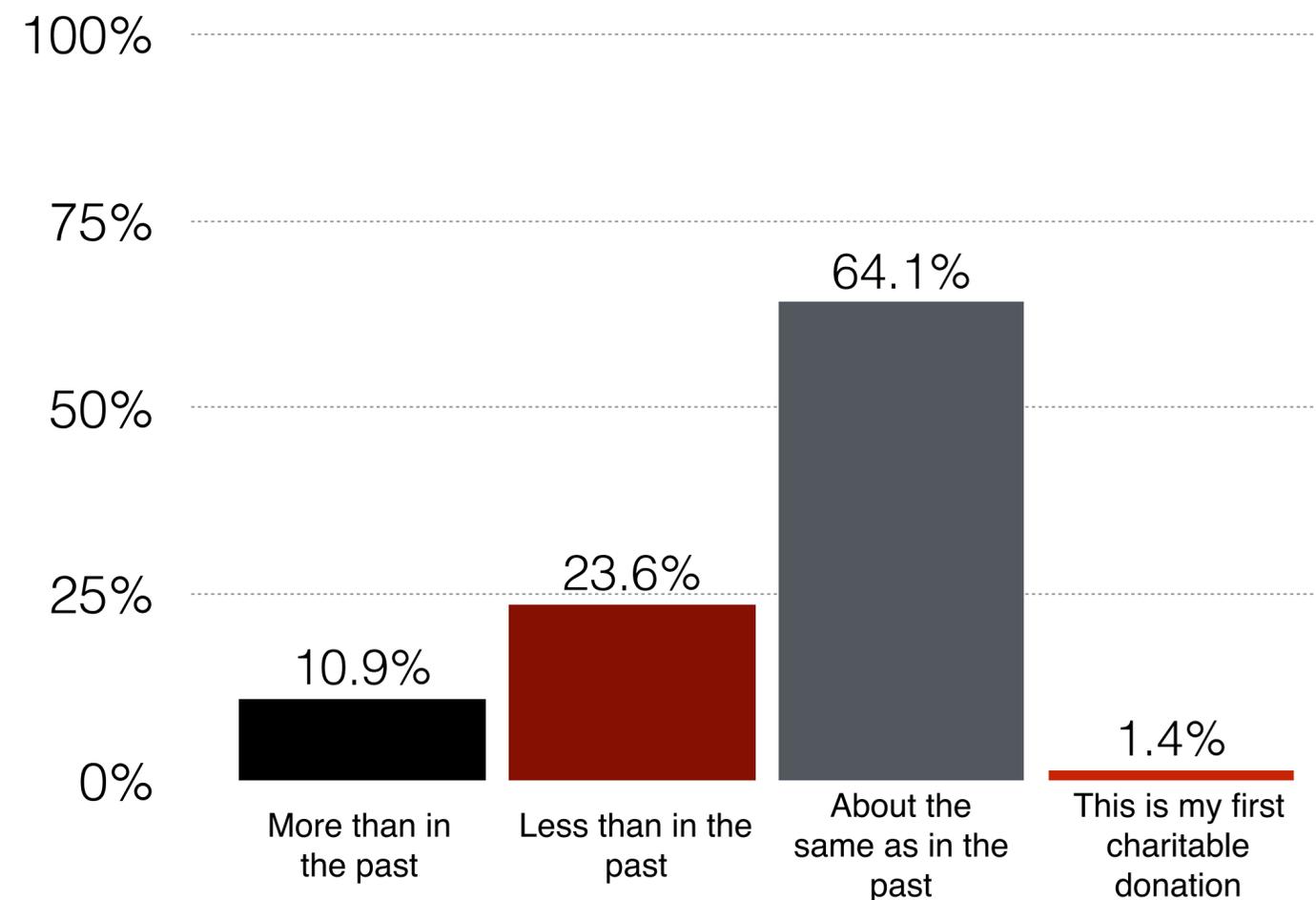
Nonprofit sector of Connecticut

Almost three-quarters of residents reported a likelihood to make charitable donations to nonprofit organizations in the next year (72.4%). 64.1% of those respondents report this donation was going to be "about the same as in the past" and 23.6% reported being likely to donate "less than in the past."

- ❖ 86.2% of residents earning \$150,000 or more were likely to make a charitable donation next year.
- ❖ 77.6% of residents over the age of 55 were likely to make a charitable donation next year.

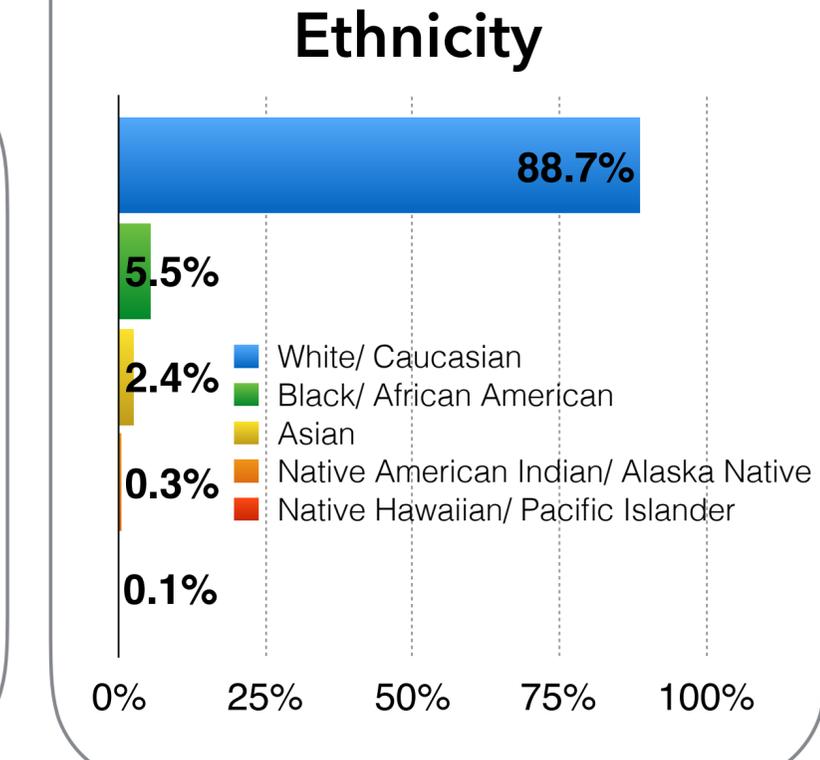
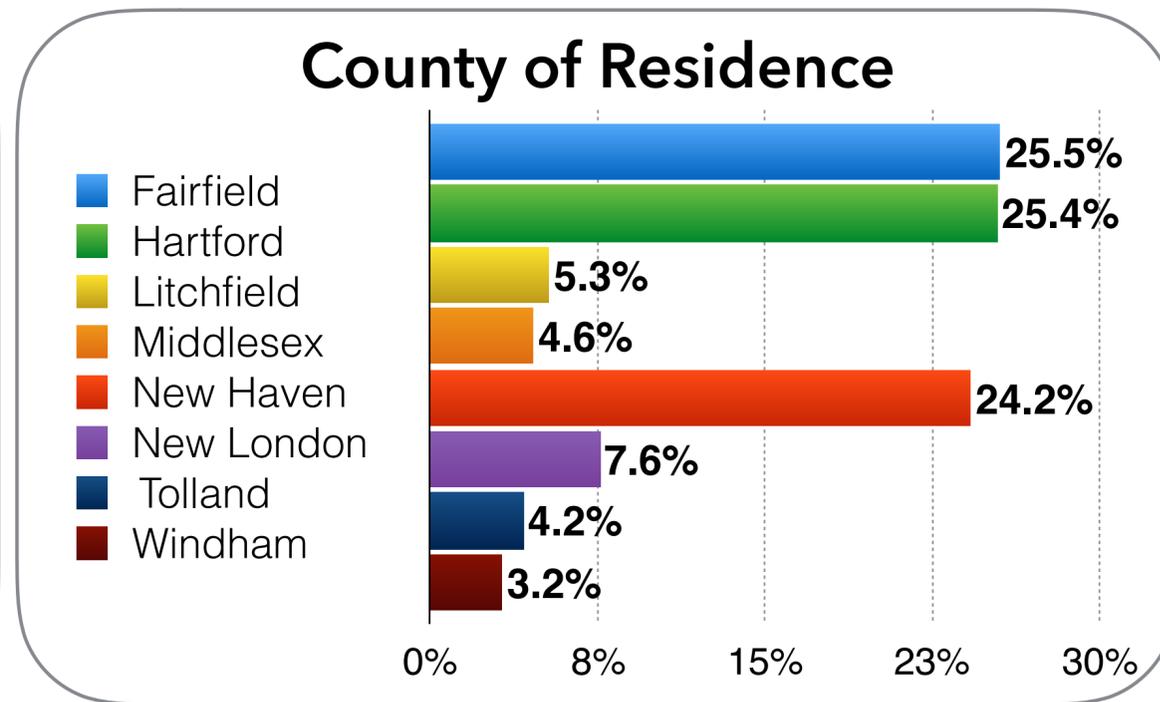
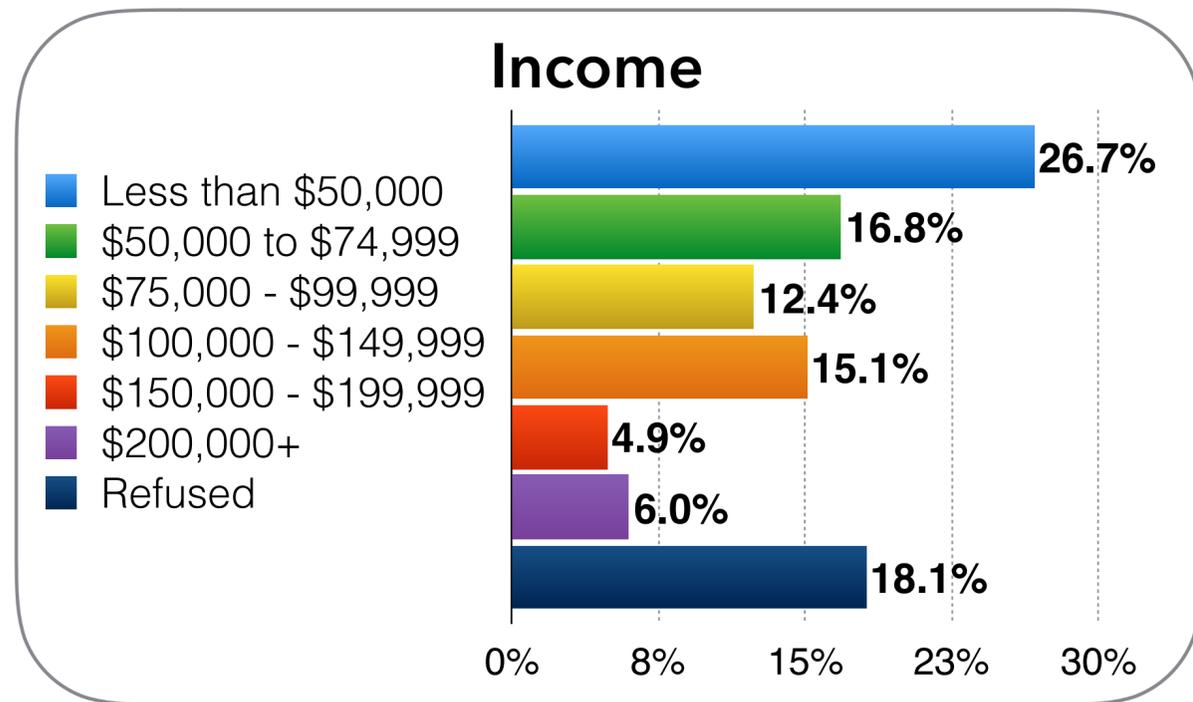
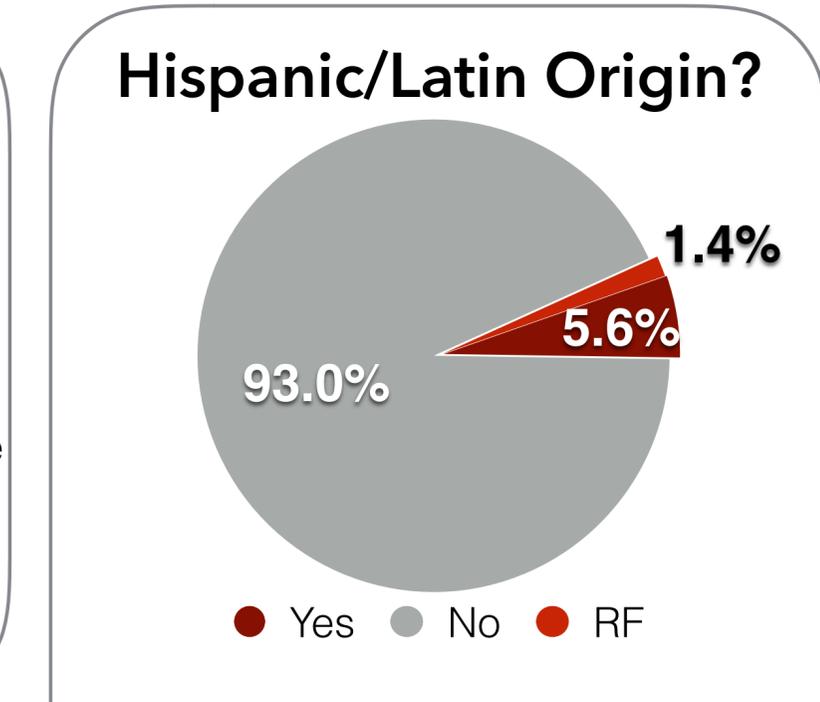
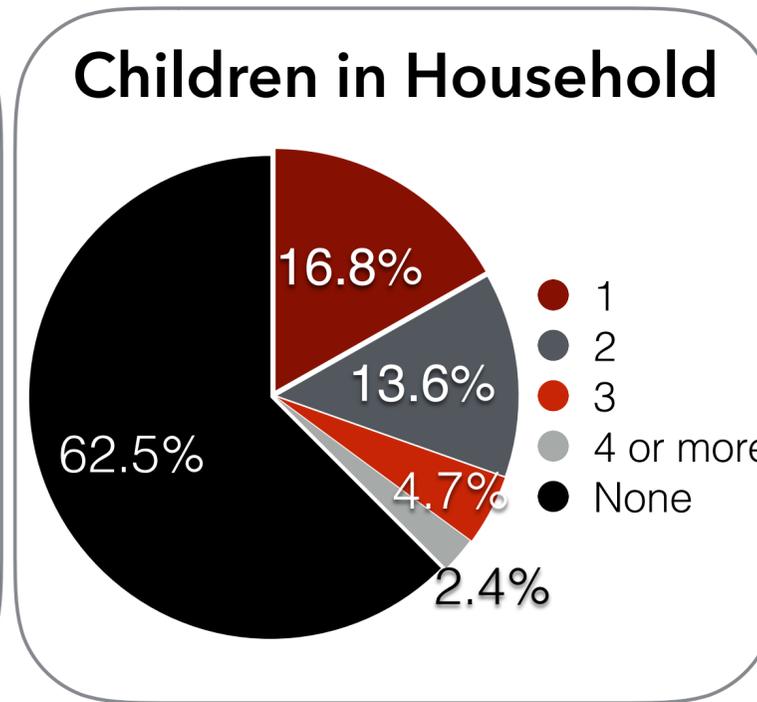
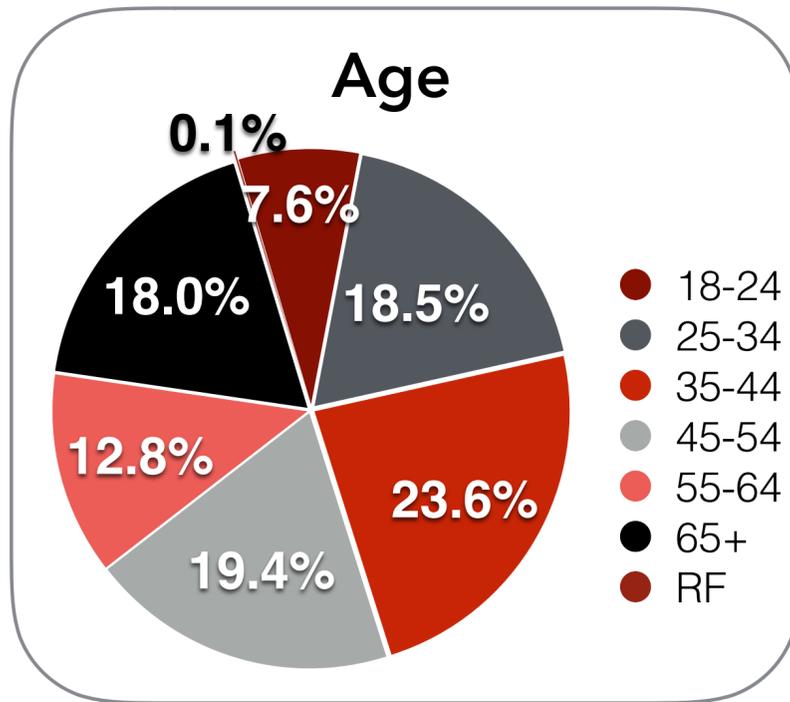
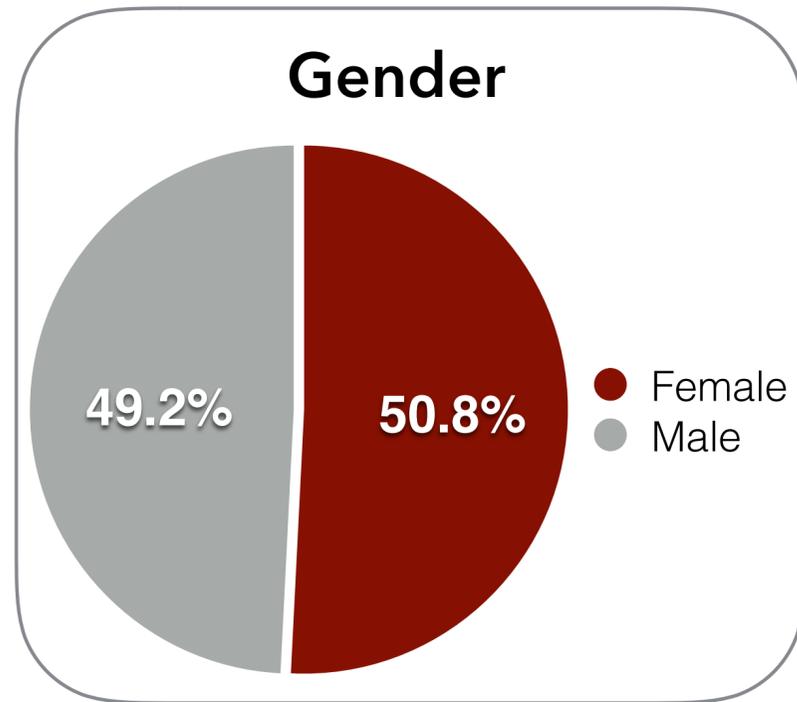


Q Do you plan on making any charitable donations to nonprofit organizations in the next year?



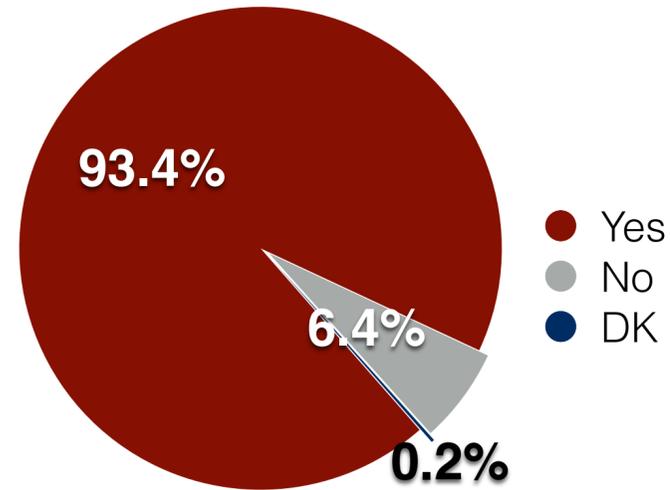
Q Compared to past donations you may have made, do you anticipate this year's donations being more than past donations, less than past donations, or about the same?

Demographic Profile - 2017

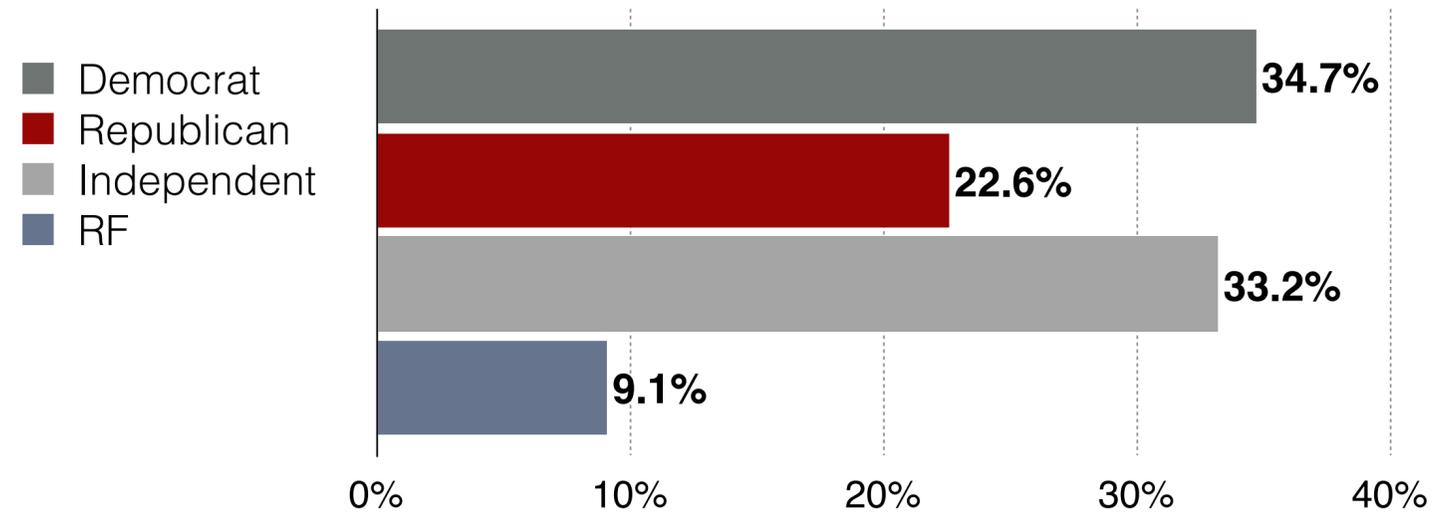


Voter Profile - 2017

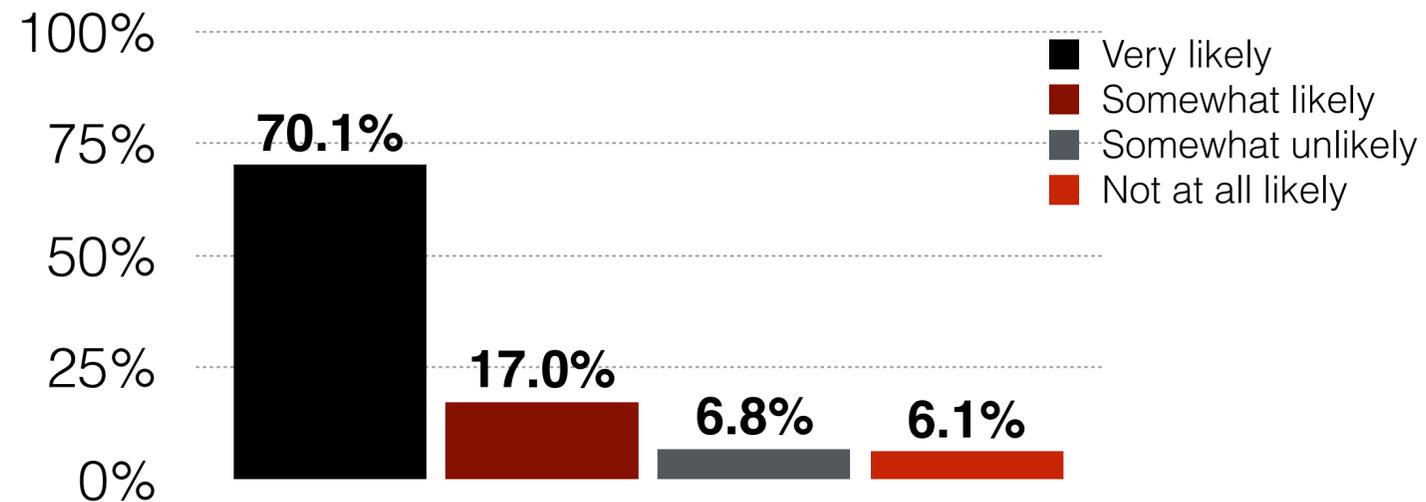
Are you currently registered to vote?



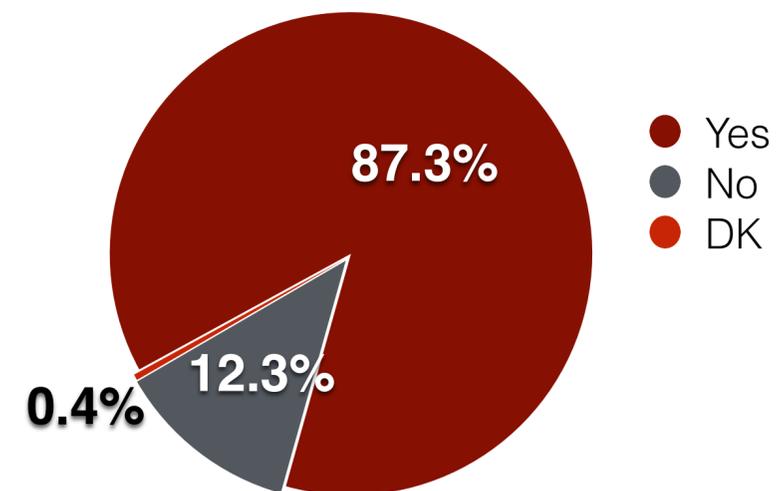
What is your current party affiliation?



How likely are you to vote in the mid-term elections of 2018?



Did you vote in the election of 2016?





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