



Minnesota
Environmental
Partnership

Minnesota Voters' Environmental Priorities in 2017

*Results of a Statewide Voter Survey
Conducted February 1-5, 2017*

220-4733

Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates – FM3

PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH & STRATEGY

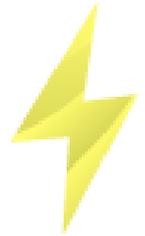


**PUBLIC OPINION
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Survey Methodology

- 502 live telephone interviews with registered Minnesota voters, with an oversample of rural Minnesotans to yield 306 rural interviews and 196 urban interviews
 - *Interviews conducted from February 1-5, 2017 on both landlines and cell phones*
 - *Data statistically weighted to reflect true geographic distribution of voters throughout the state*
- Margin of sampling error of +/-5.3% for statewide sample; +/-6.9% for urban voters and +/-5.7% for rural voters
- Some percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding



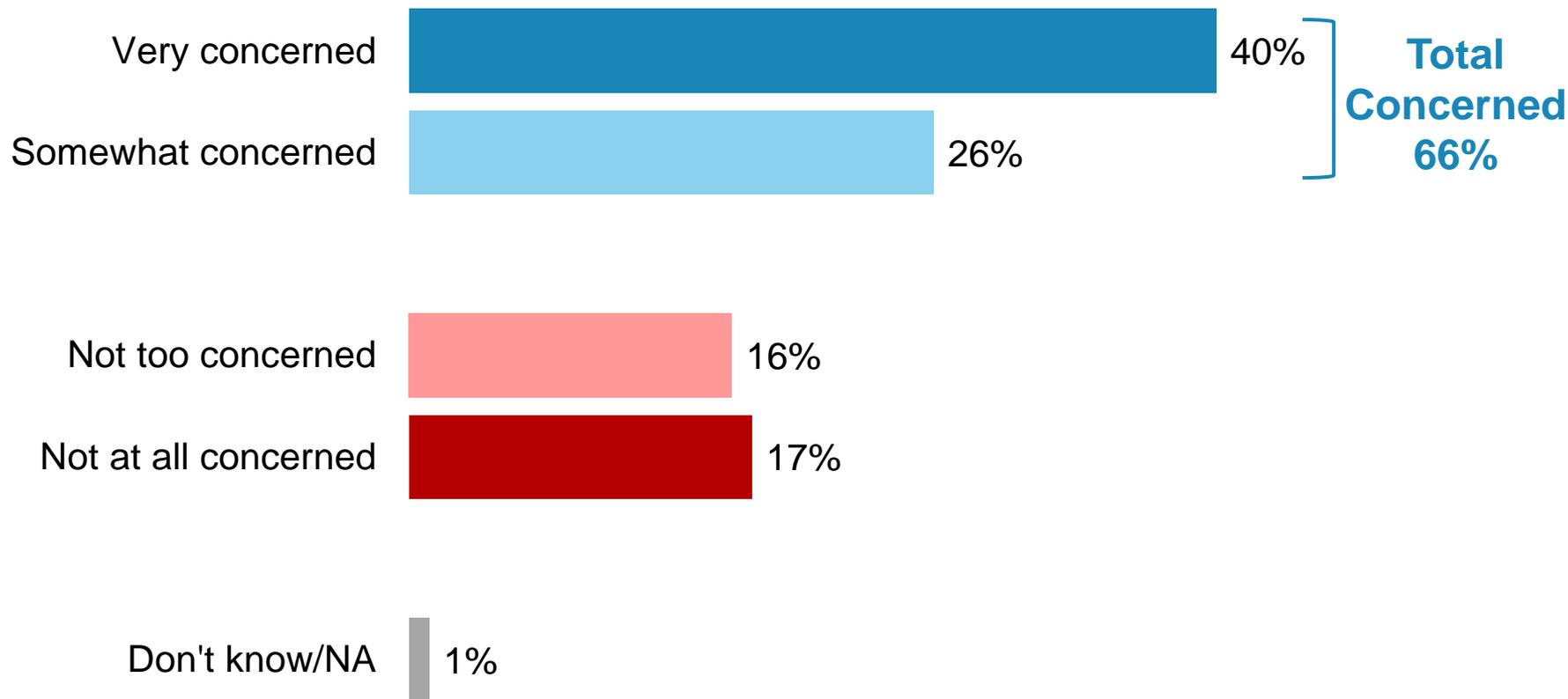


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Energy and Climate

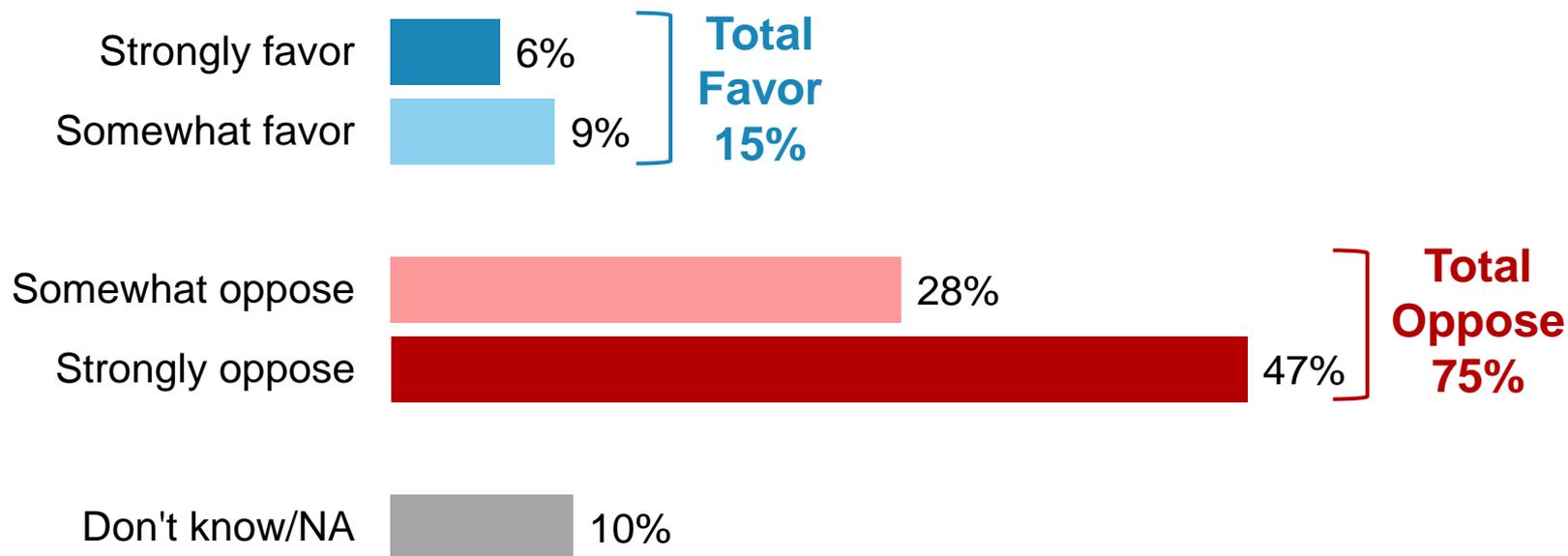
Two in five Minnesotans say they are “very concerned” about global warming.

Global warming



Given a brief explanation, three-quarters oppose lifting oversight of utility and co-op charges.

I would like to ask you a few questions about energy. When utility customers want to generate electricity on their own property through solar panels or farmers with wind turbines, they still need to be connected to the electric grid. Currently, the State of Minnesota regulates disputes over how much utilities and co-ops can charge homeowners, businesses, and farmers to connect their own solar panels or wind turbines to the grid. Some rural power companies have proposed passing a law that would remove this oversight, and allow utilities and co-ops to charge however much they want to homeowners, businesses, and farmers who connect their solar or wind power to the grid. Would you favor or oppose this proposed law?

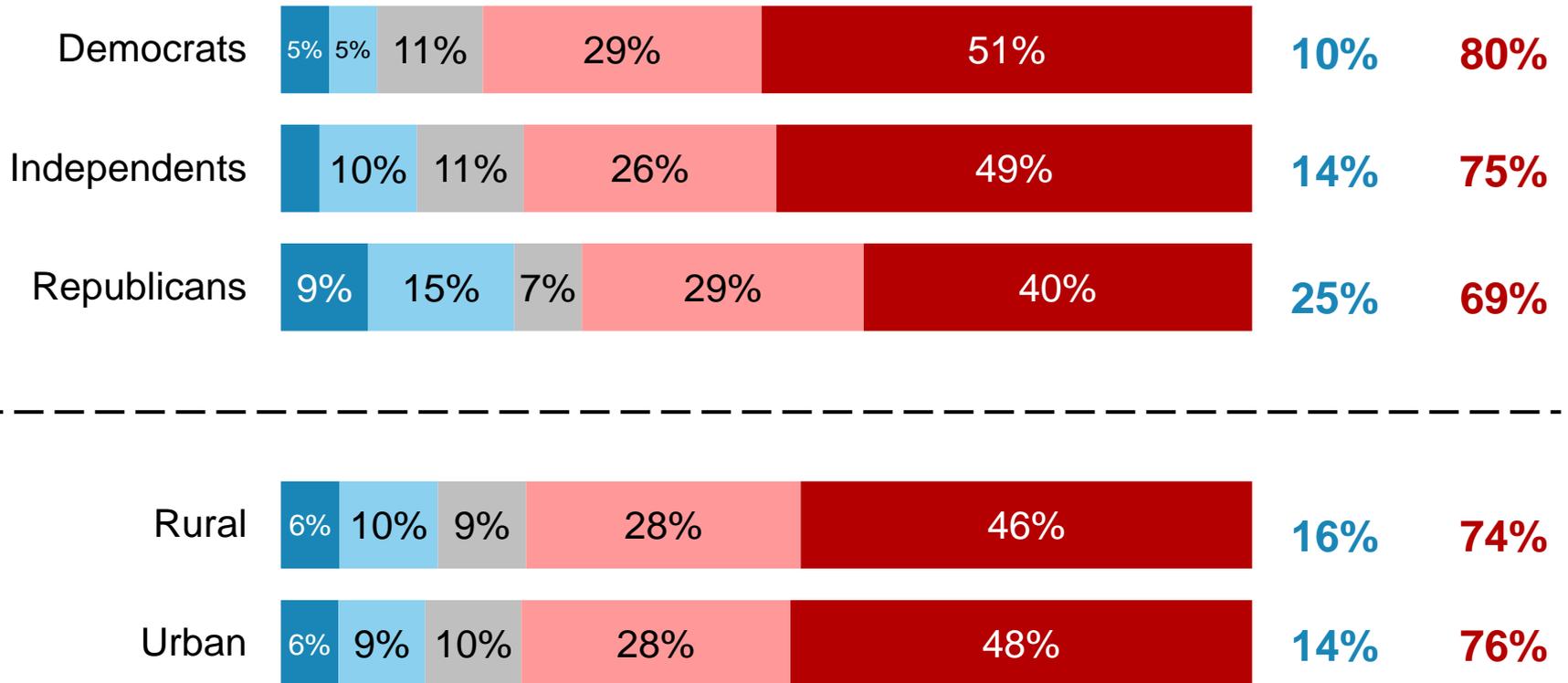


Nearly seven in ten Republicans oppose this proposal, two in five strongly.

Support for Deregulation by Party ID and Type of Area

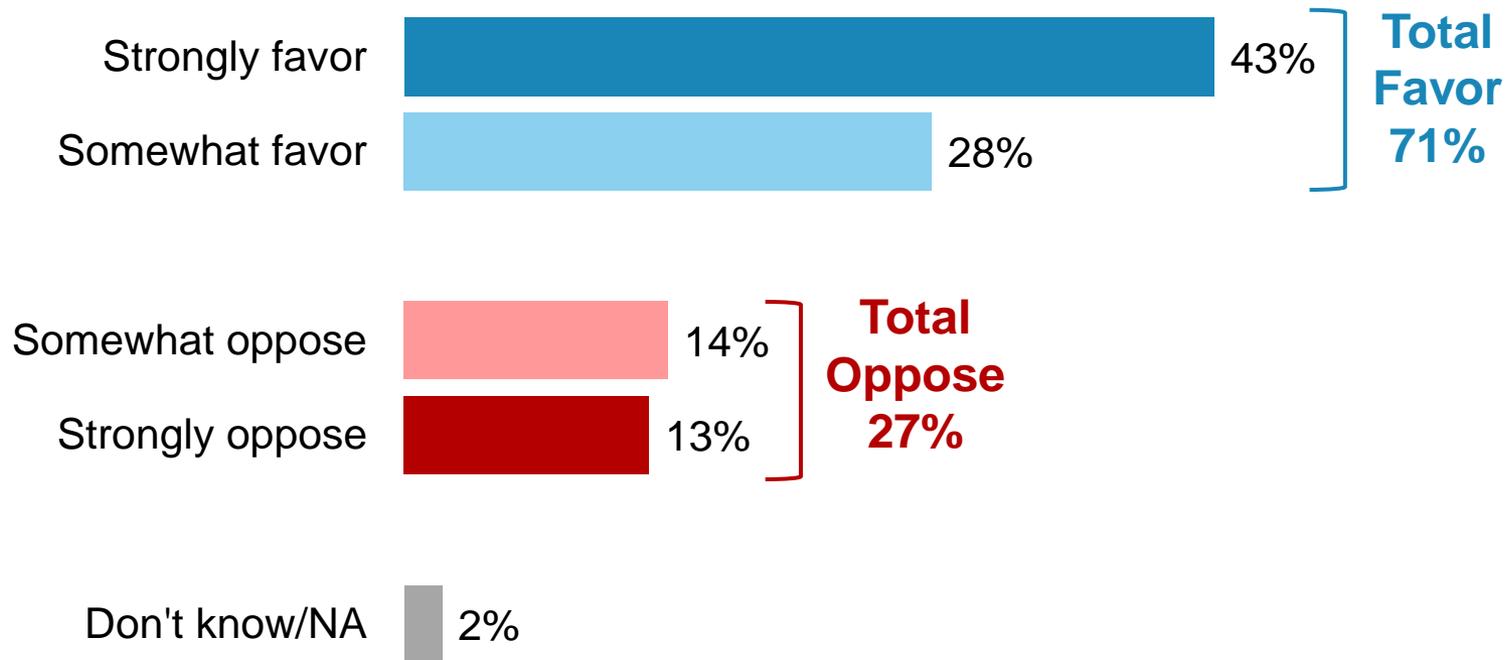
■ Strng. Fav. ■ Smwt. Fav. ■ DK/NA ■ Smwt. Opp. ■ Strng. Opp.

Total Favor **Total Oppose**



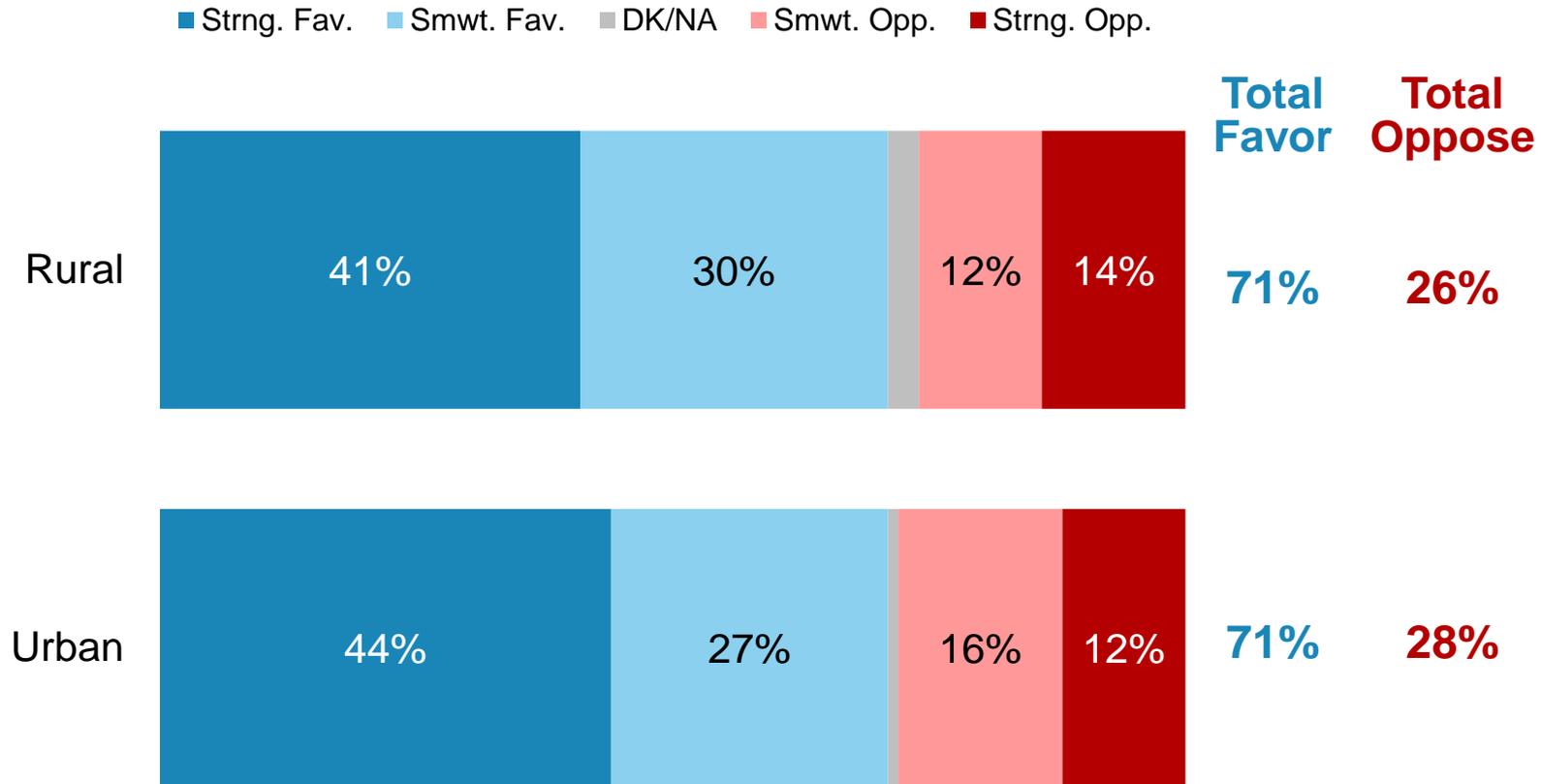
More than seven in ten favor a 50% clean energy goal.

Some people in Minnesota have proposed requiring that the state get 50% of its electricity from renewable sources like wind and solar. Does that sound like something you would favor or oppose?



Support for a 50% clean energy goal is high among both rural and urban Minnesotans.

Support for 50% Clean Energy by Type of Area



Intensity of support for the clean energy goal has increased significantly, though support and opposition overall remains flat.

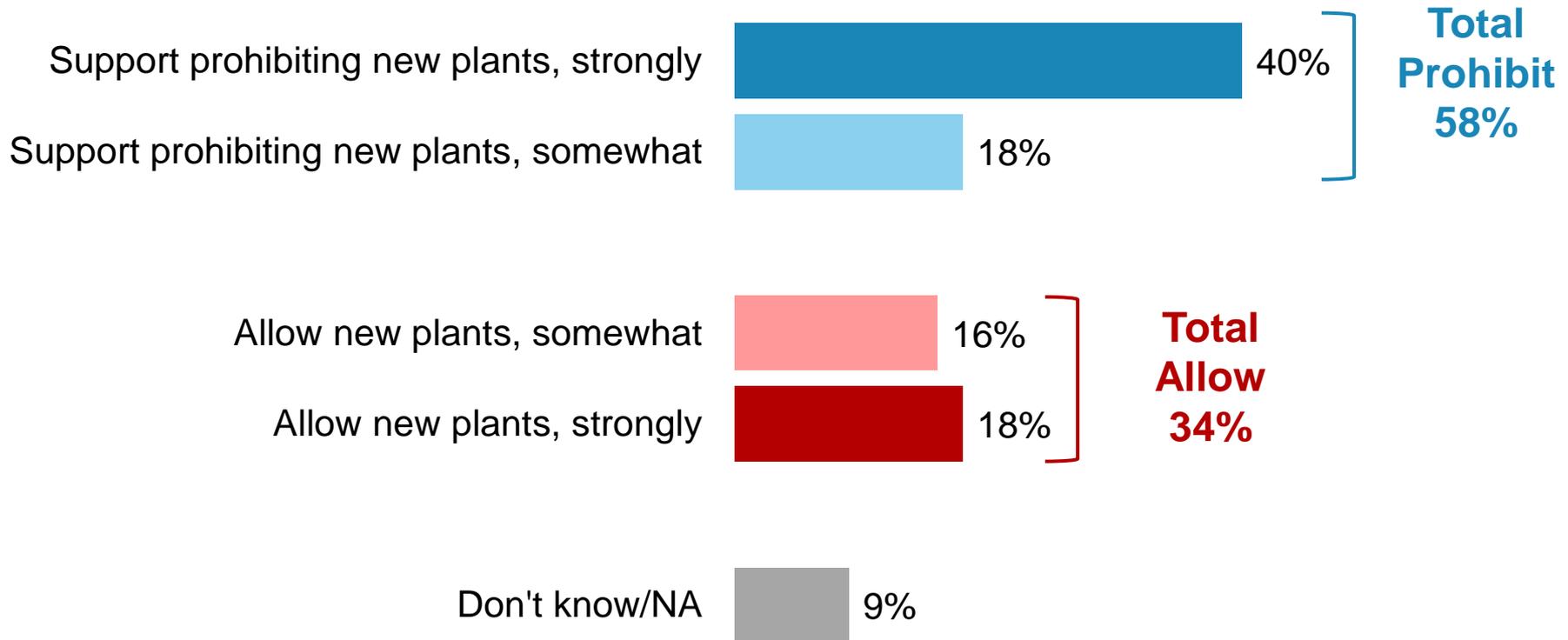
Favor/Oppose	2014	2017
Strongly favor	35%	43%
Somewhat favor	35%	28%
Total Favor	70%	71%

Somewhat oppose	14%	14%
Strongly oppose	14%	13%
Total Oppose	27%	27%

Don't know/NA	3%	2%
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A strong majority supports the moratorium on new nuclear power plants in the state.

Minnesota currently has a state law that prohibits the construction of new nuclear power plants. Do you support the existing law prohibiting new nuclear power plants, or do you want to allow new nuclear power plants to be built in Minnesota?



Strong support for new nuclear plants in Minnesota is falling.

	2009	2010	2012	2017
Support prohibiting new plants, strongly	41%	45%	45%	40%
Support prohibiting new plants, somewhat	11%	12%	12%	18%
Total Prohibit	52%	57%	57%	58%

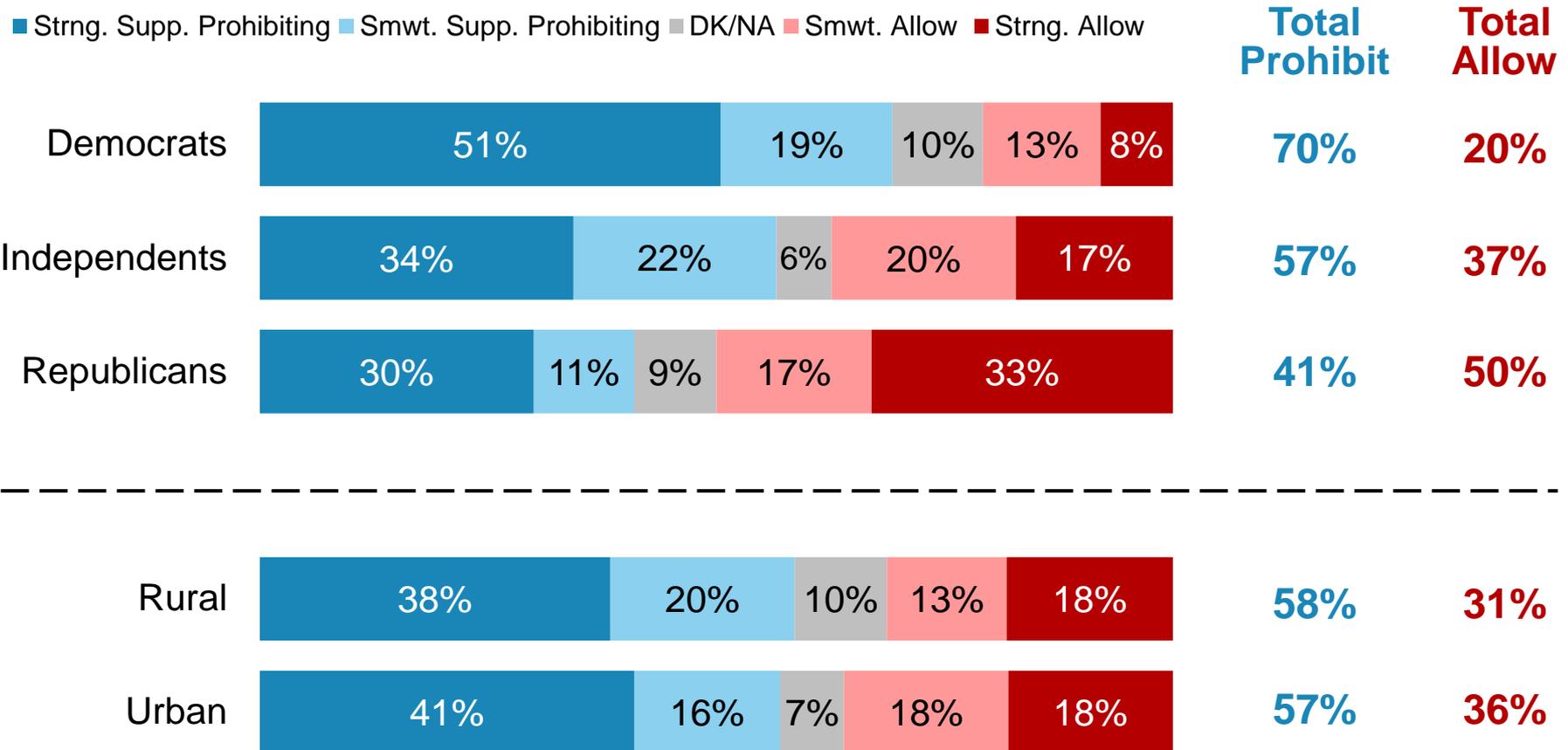
Allow new plants, somewhat	15%	16%	16%	16%
Allow new plants, strongly	24%	21%	21%	18%
Total Allow	39%	38%	38%	34%

Don't know/NA	9%	5%	6%	9%
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Q22. Minnesota currently has a state law that prohibits the construction of new nuclear power plants. Do you support the existing law prohibiting new nuclear power plants, or do you want to allow new nuclear power plants to be built in Minnesota?

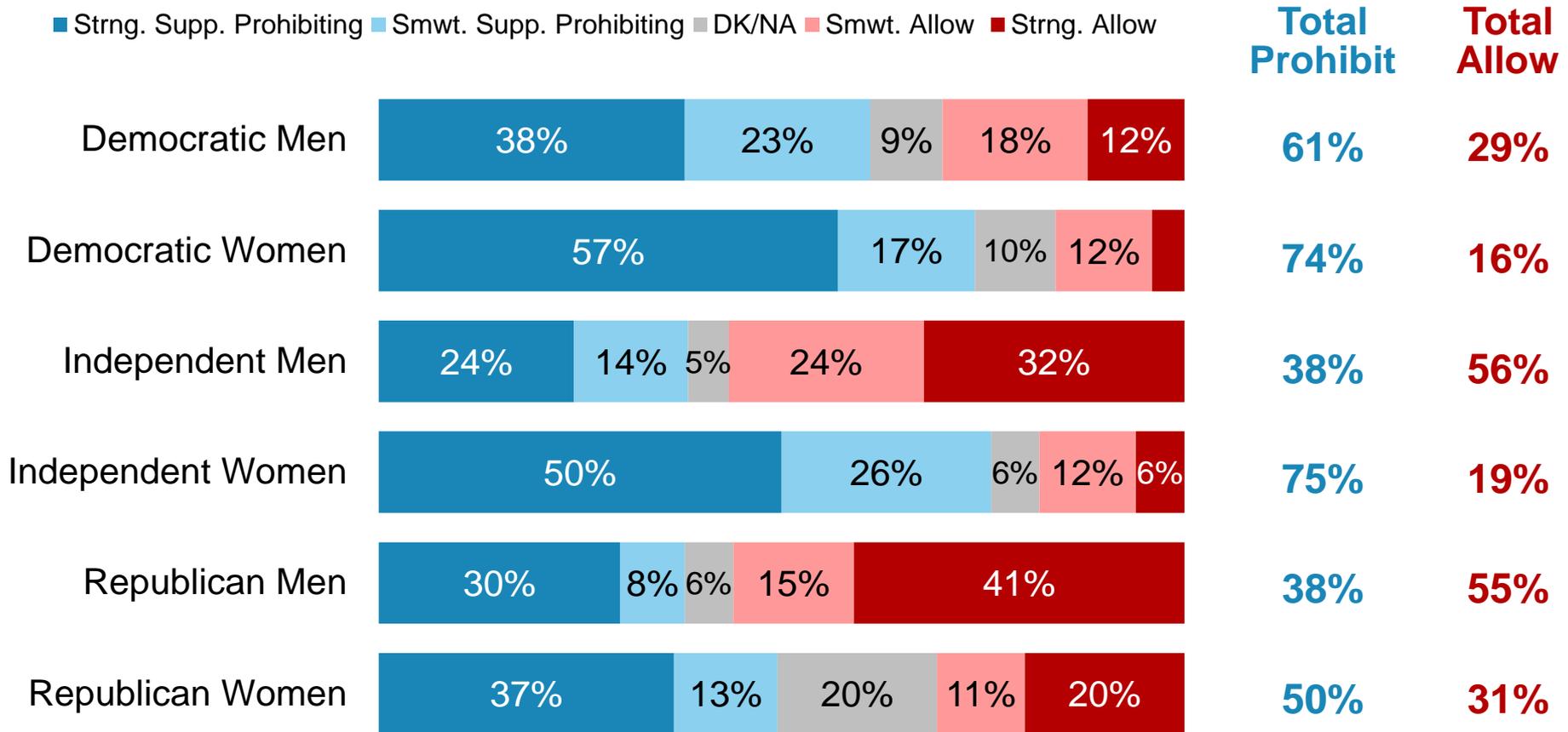
Majorities of Democrats, independents and both urban and rural voters support the moratorium.

Support for Nuclear Prohibition by Party ID and Type of Area



Republican and independent men drive the modest support for new plants; independent and Democratic women back the moratorium.

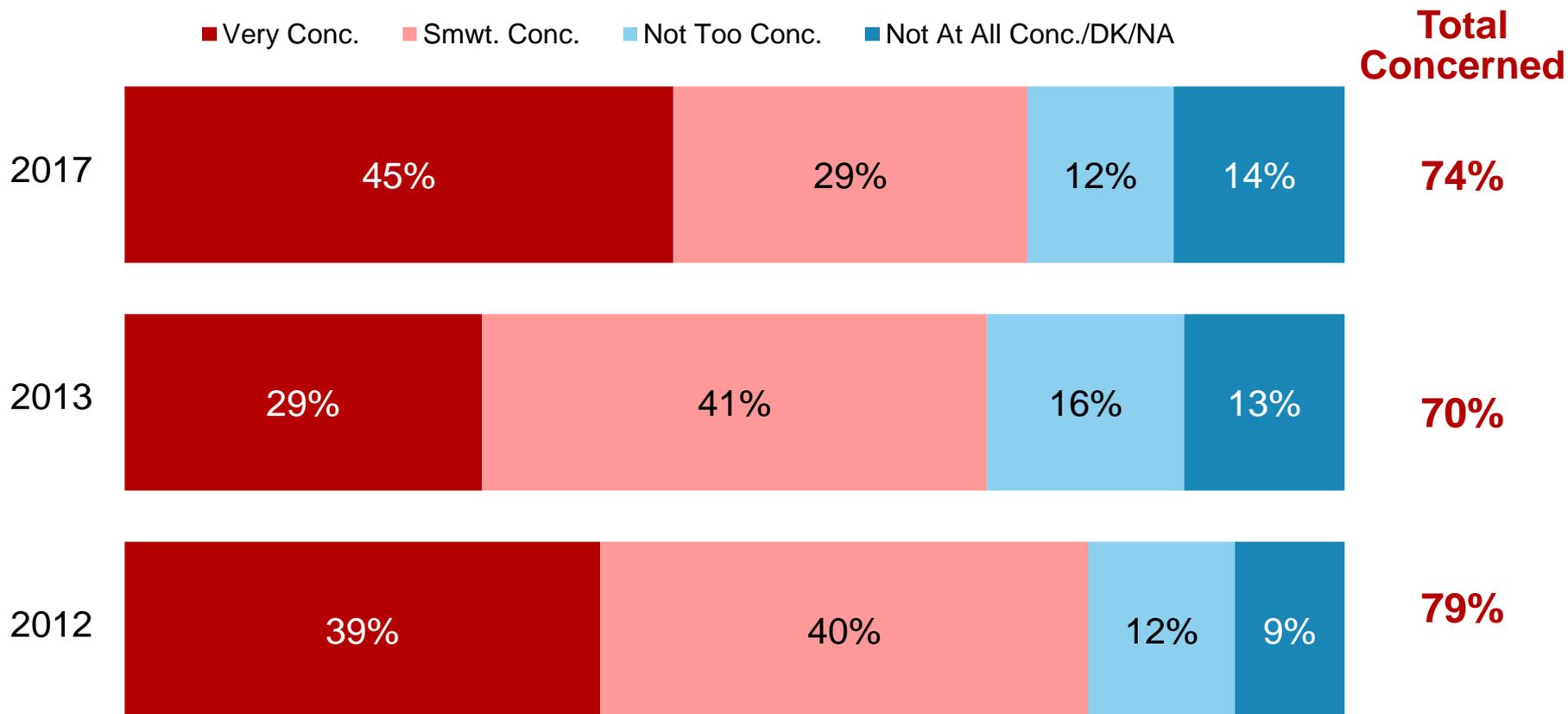
Support for Nuclear Moratorium by Party by Gender



Q22. Minnesota currently has a state law that prohibits the construction of new nuclear power plants. Do you support the existing law prohibiting new nuclear power plants, or do you want to allow new nuclear power plants to be built in Minnesota?

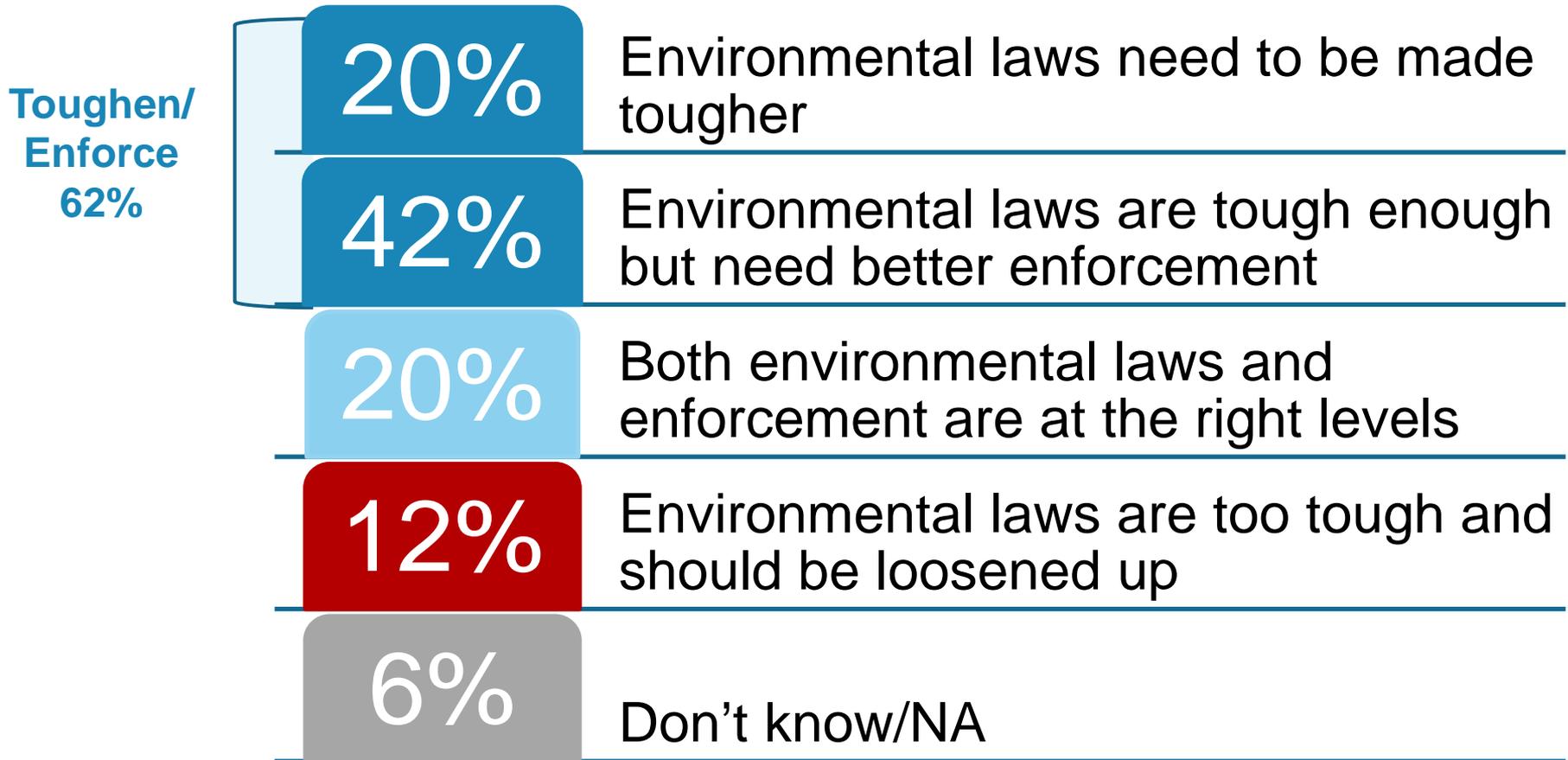
Nearly half of Minnesota voters say they are “very concerned” about rollbacks of environmental laws.

Rollbacks of laws that protect our land, air and water



More than three in five voters want tougher laws or better enforcement of existing laws.

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of government regulations of the environment in Minnesota?

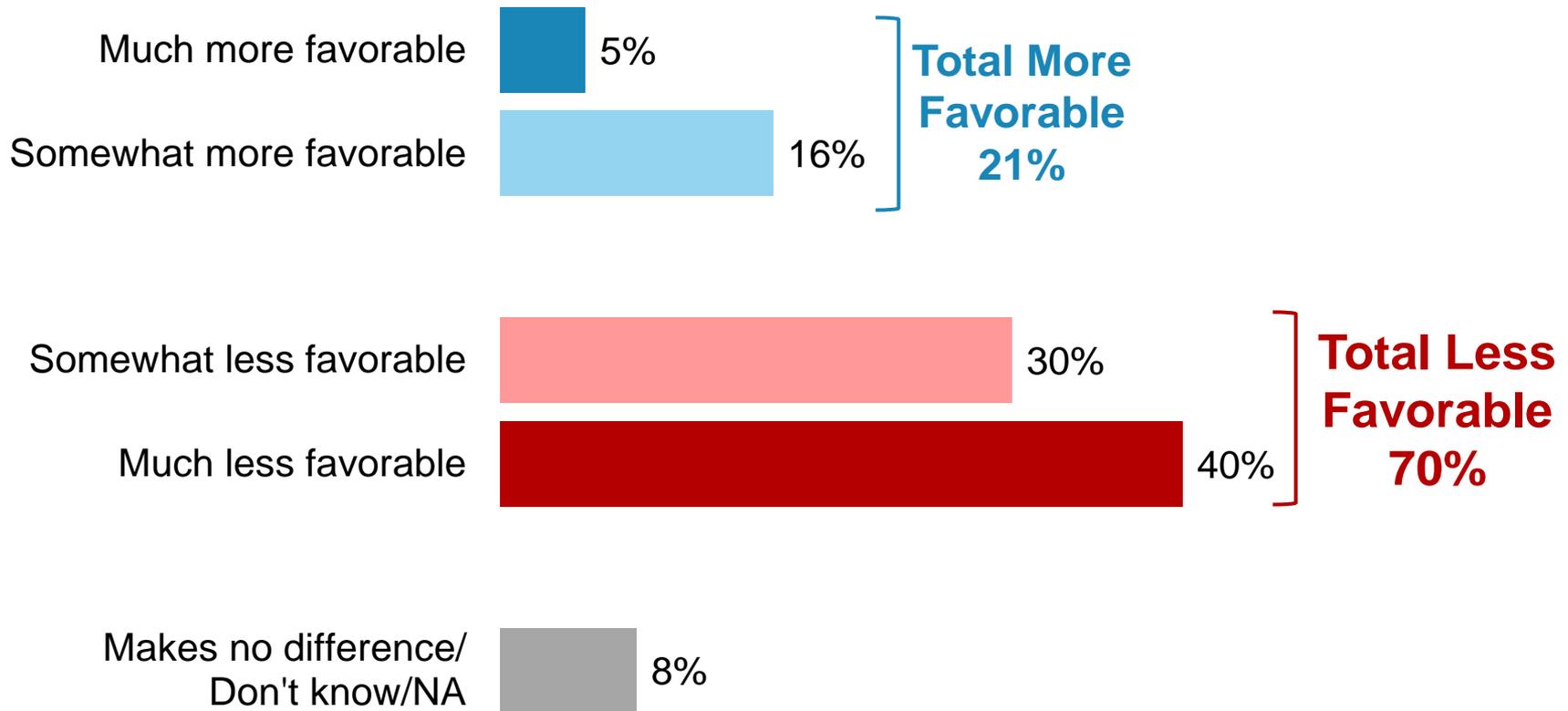


Nearly one-third of Democrats believe environmental laws should be made tougher.

Statement	All Voters	Party ID			Type of Area	
		Dems.	Inds.	Reps.	Rural	Urban
Environmental laws need to be made tougher	20%	32%	12%	10%	17%	22%
Environmental laws are tough enough but they need better enforcement	42%	47%	42%	37%	43%	42%
Both environmental laws and enforcement are at the right levels	20%	16%	21%	24%	22%	18%
Environmental laws are too tough and should be loosened up	12%	1%	14%	25%	14%	11%
Don't know/NA	6%	3%	11%	5%	5%	7%

By a margin of more than three to one, voters say less favorable view of their legislator.

Suppose that your state legislator voted to weaken environmental protection laws. Would you have a more favorable or less favorable view of them?



This impression varies along party lines, though with little difference between urban and rural.

Favorability	All Voters	Party ID			Type of Area	
		Dems.	Inds.	Reps.	Rural	Urban
Much more favorable	5%	1%	5%	10%	5%	5%
Somewhat more favorable	16%	6%	13%	33%	15%	17%
Total More Favorable	21%	7%	18%	43%	20%	22%
Somewhat less favorable	30%	30%	31%	30%	40%	24%
Much less favorable	40%	62%	37%	12%	31%	46%
Total Less Favorable	70%	92%	68%	42%	71%	69%
Makes no difference/ Don't know/NA	8%	1%	14%	14%	9%	8%

For more information, contact:

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