



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*



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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





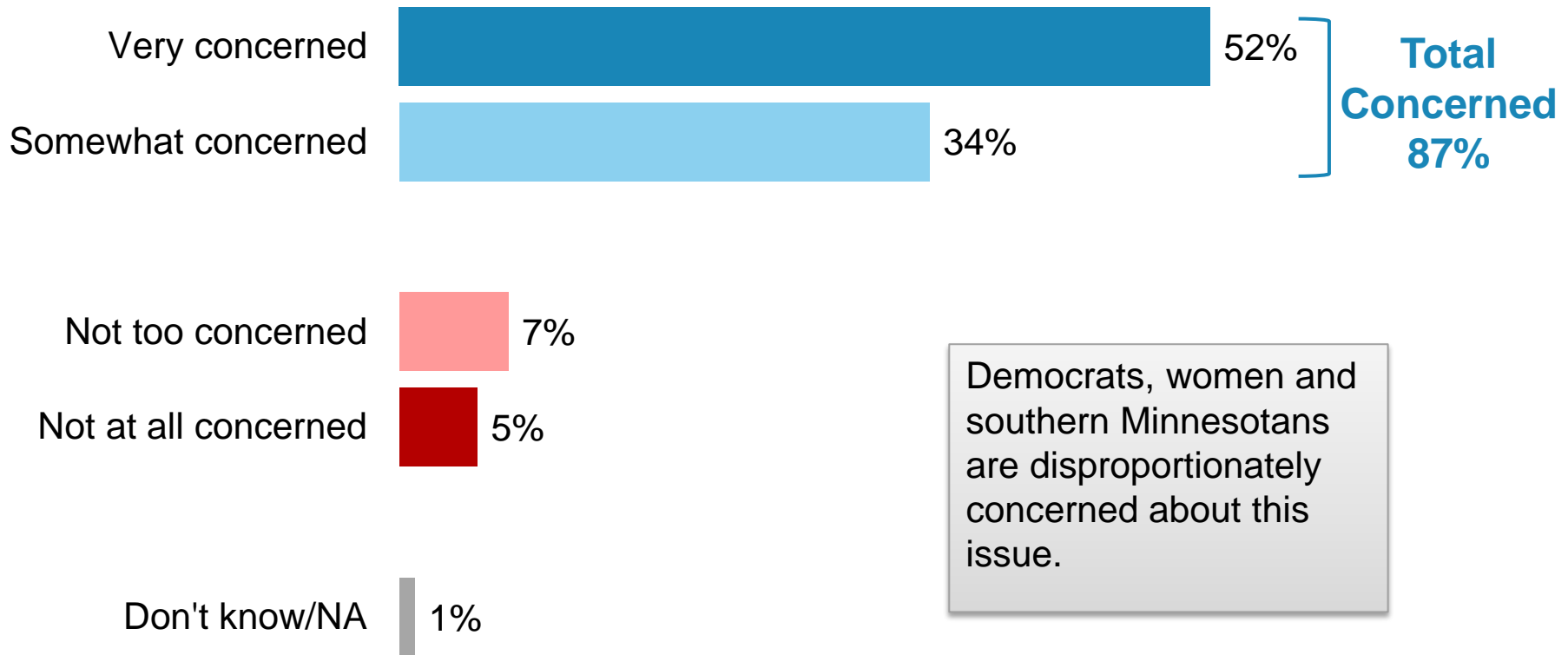
# Pollinators



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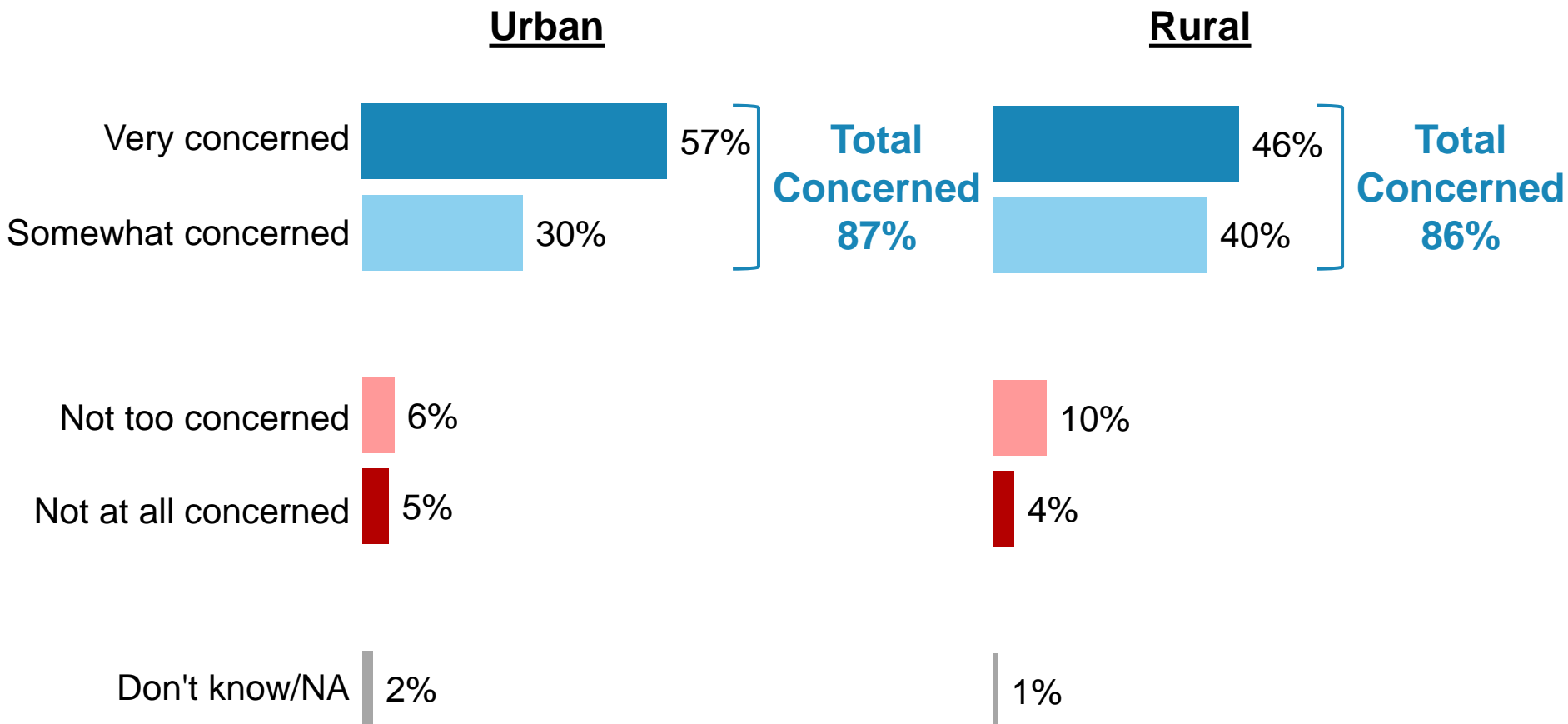
# Concern about disappearing pollinators is quite strong in Minnesota.

*Disappearance of species essential for pollinating crops, like honeybees and monarch butterflies*



# Intensity of concern about disappearing pollinators is especially high among urban voters.

*Disappearance of species essential for pollinating crops, like honeybees and monarch butterflies*



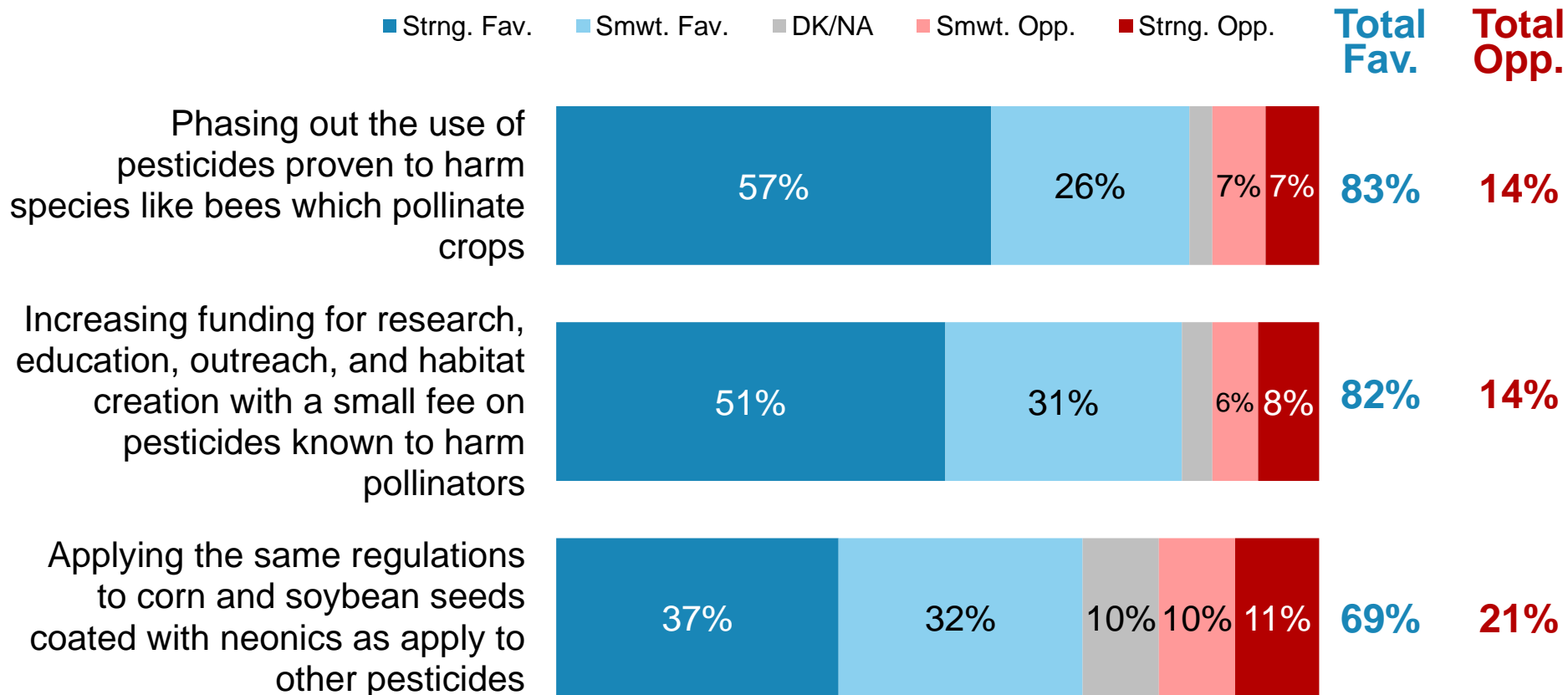
# Background on Neonics and Pollinators

My next questions have to do with another subject. For more than a decade, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, has allowed the use of a new class of pesticides known as neonics. Unlike traditional pesticides that are sprayed and applied to the surface of plants, neonics are taken or absorbed into the plant and then found in every plant part, including the flower pollen and nectar. After years of study, many scientists believe this new class of pesticides is a main contributing factor in the declining population of honeybees and other species which pollinate crops.



# A majority favors phasing out certain pesticides and increasing funding for research.

Here are a series of ideas that have been proposed to help prevent the decline of pollinator species. Please tell me whether each sounds like something you would favor or oppose.



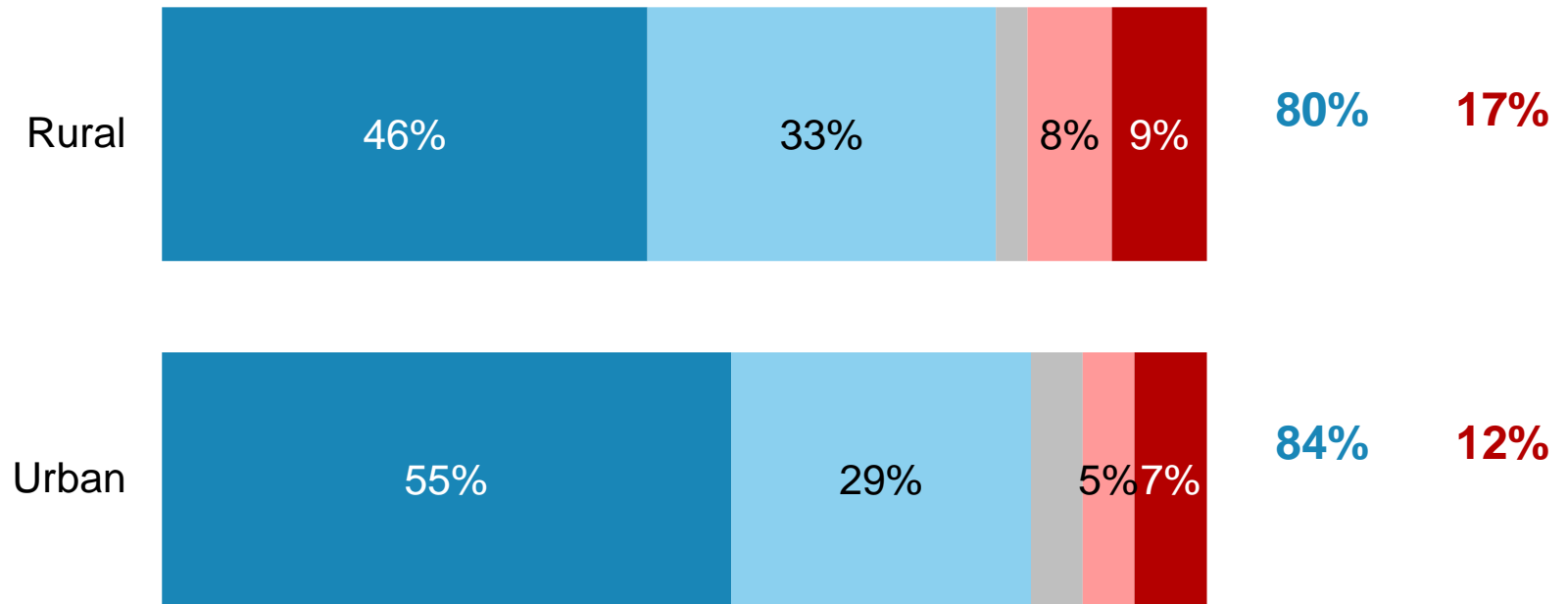
# A majority of the state's urban voters strongly support funding research with a small pesticide fee.

*Increasing funding for research, education, outreach, and habitat creation with a small fee on pesticides known to harm pollinators.*

By Type of Area

**Total Favor** **Total Oppose**

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

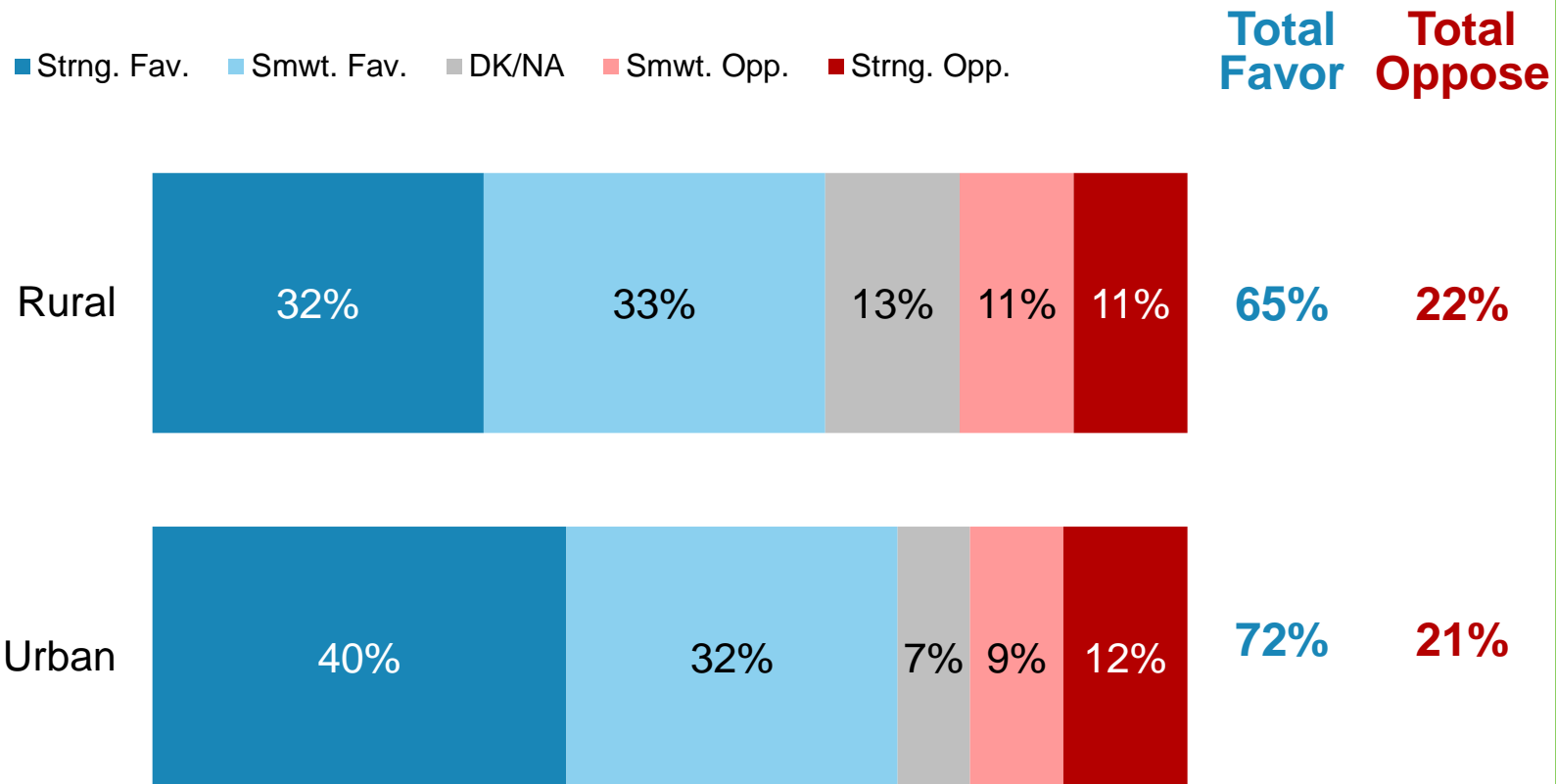




# Two in five urban voters strongly favor regulations on neonics.

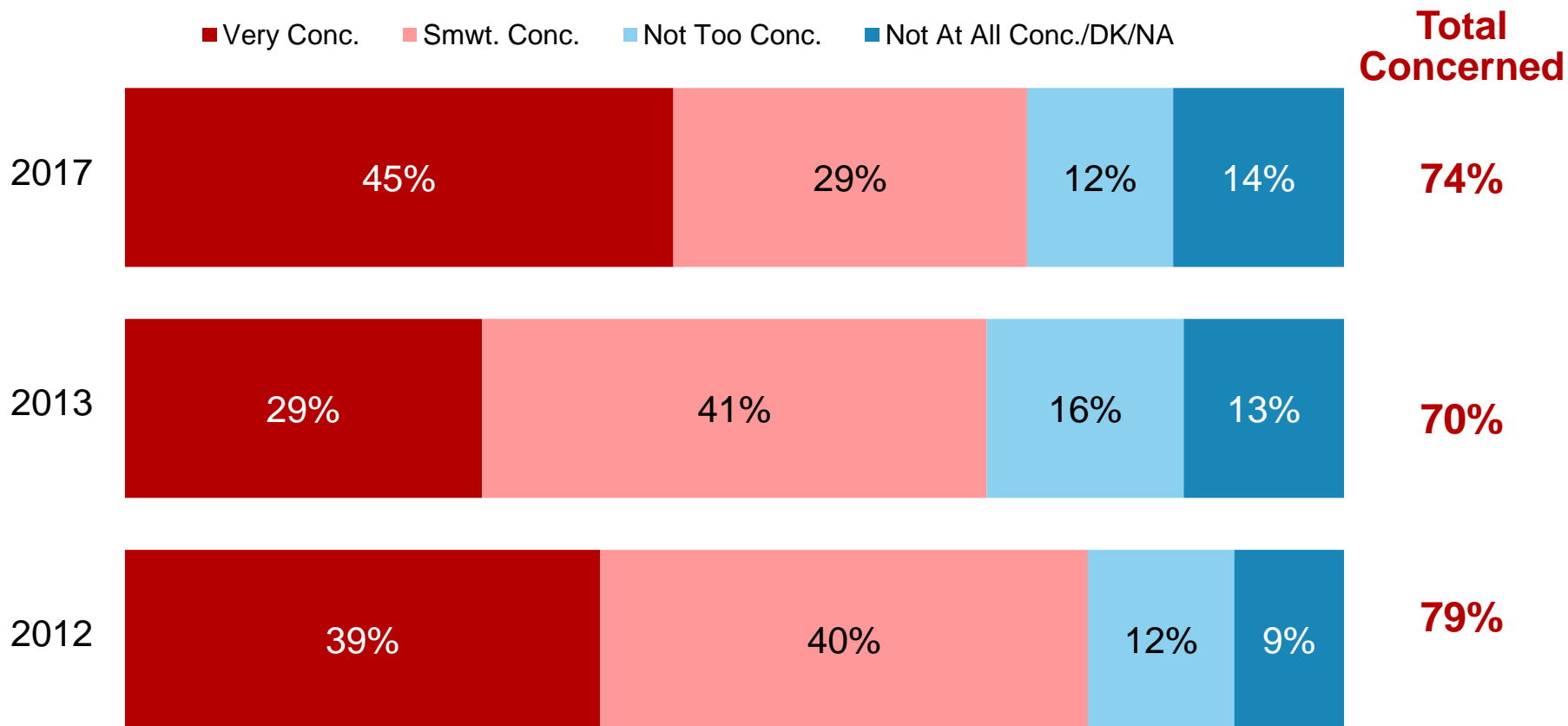
*Applying the same regulations to corn and soybean seeds coated with neonics as apply to other pesticides.*

*By Type of Area*



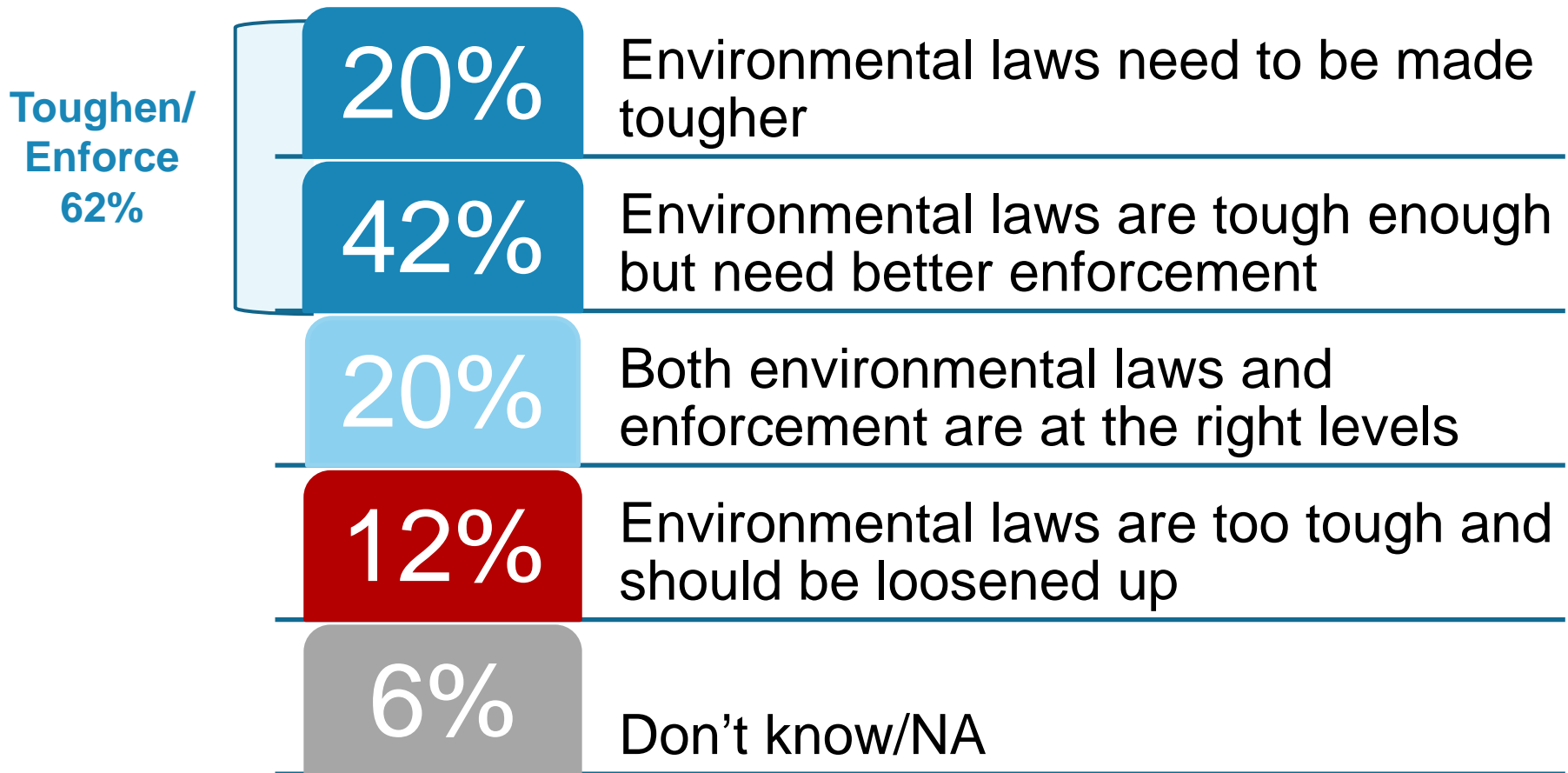
# Nearly half of Minnesota voters say they are “very concerned” about rollbacks of environmental laws.

*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?*

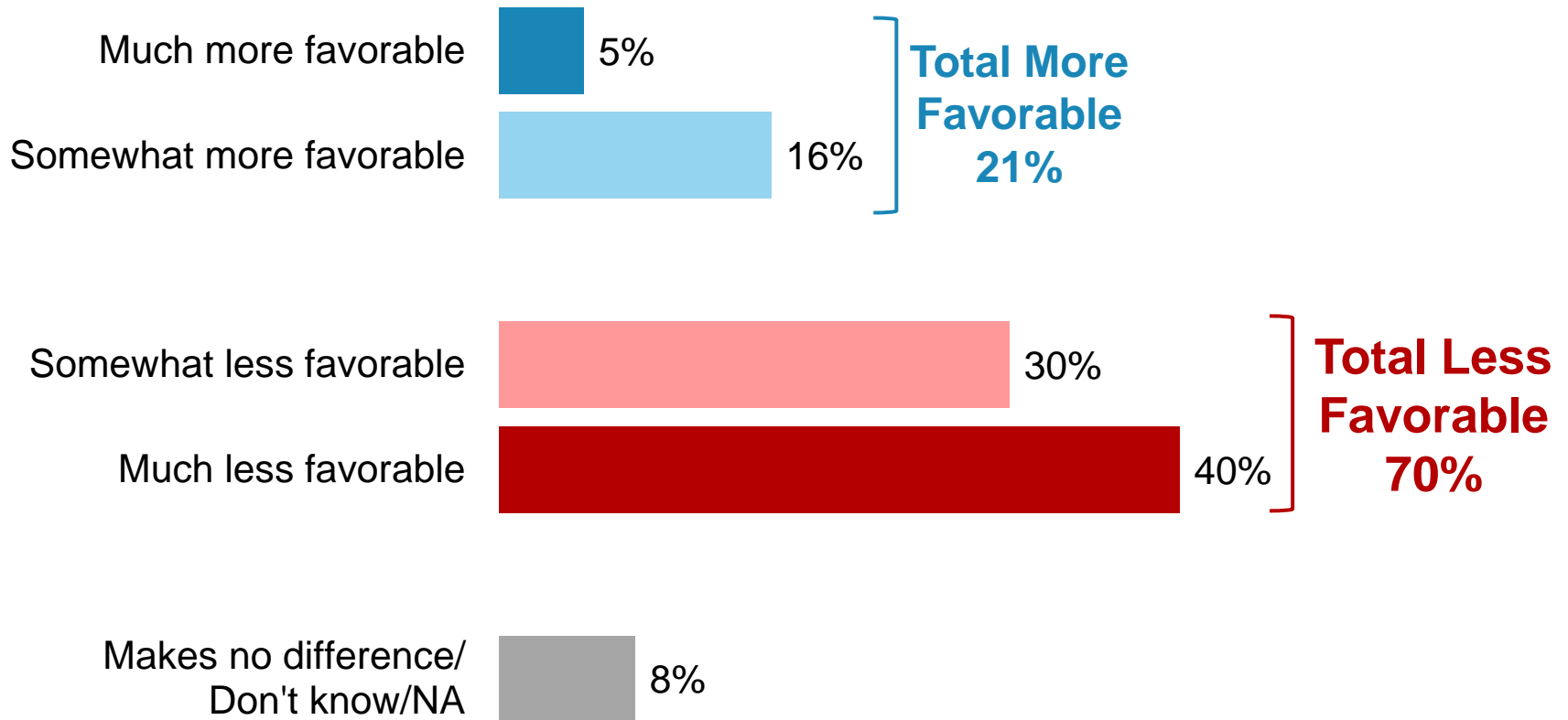


# Nearly one-third of Democrats believe environmental laws should be made tougher.

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 weakening environmental laws would give them a 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%
<b>Total More Favorable</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>22%</b>

Somewhat less favorable	30%	30%	31%	30%	40%	24%
Much less favorable	40%	62%	37%	12%	31%	46%
<b>Total Less Favorable</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>69%</b>

Makes no difference/ Don't know/NA	8%	1%	14%	14%	9%	8%
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# For more information, contact:

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