Minnesota Voters' Environmental Priorities in 2017

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

220-4733

Survey Methodology
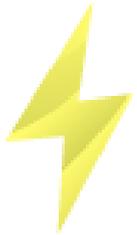
- 502 live telephone interviews with registered Minnesota voters, with an oversample of rural Minnesotans to yield 306 rural interviews and 196 urban interviews

  – *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
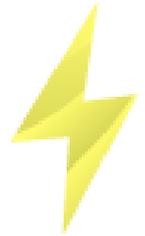
Transformation

Minnesotans favor increased investment in funding for bike and pedestrian routes.

Minnesota legislators and Governor Dayton may consider options for increasing funding for roads and transit during the upcoming legislative session. Would you favor or oppose including, in these proposals, additional funding for safe bicycle and pedestrian routes?

Strongly favor — 37%
Somewhat favor — 31%

Total Favor 68%

Somewhat oppose — 12%
Strongly oppose — 17%

Total Oppose 29%

Don't know/NA — 2%

Q23.
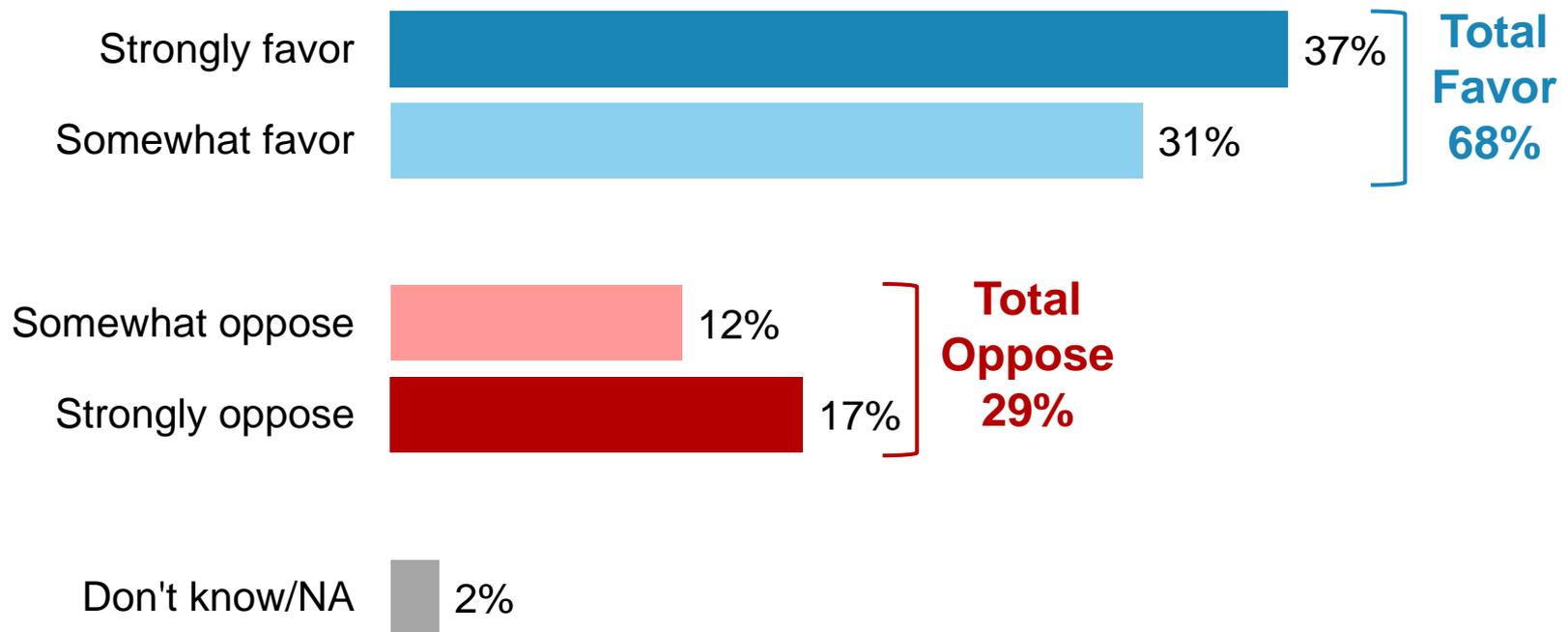
Younger women stand out as enthusiastic supporters of bike and pedestrian investments.

Minnesota legislators and Governor Dayton may consider options for increasing funding for roads and transit during the upcoming legislative session. Would you favor or oppose including, in these proposals, additional funding for safe bicycle and pedestrian routes?

By Gender by Age

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

		Total Favor	Total Oppose
Men 18-49	29% / 35% / 13% / 24%	**63%**	**37%**
Men 50+	30% / 32% / 2% / 13% / 22%	**63%**	**35%**
Women 18-49	55% / 33% / 5%	**87%**	**10%**
Women 50+	37% / 30% / 2% / 15% / 15%	**67%**	**31%**

Q23.

Both urban and rural voters are supportive, though urban voters with slightly more intensity.
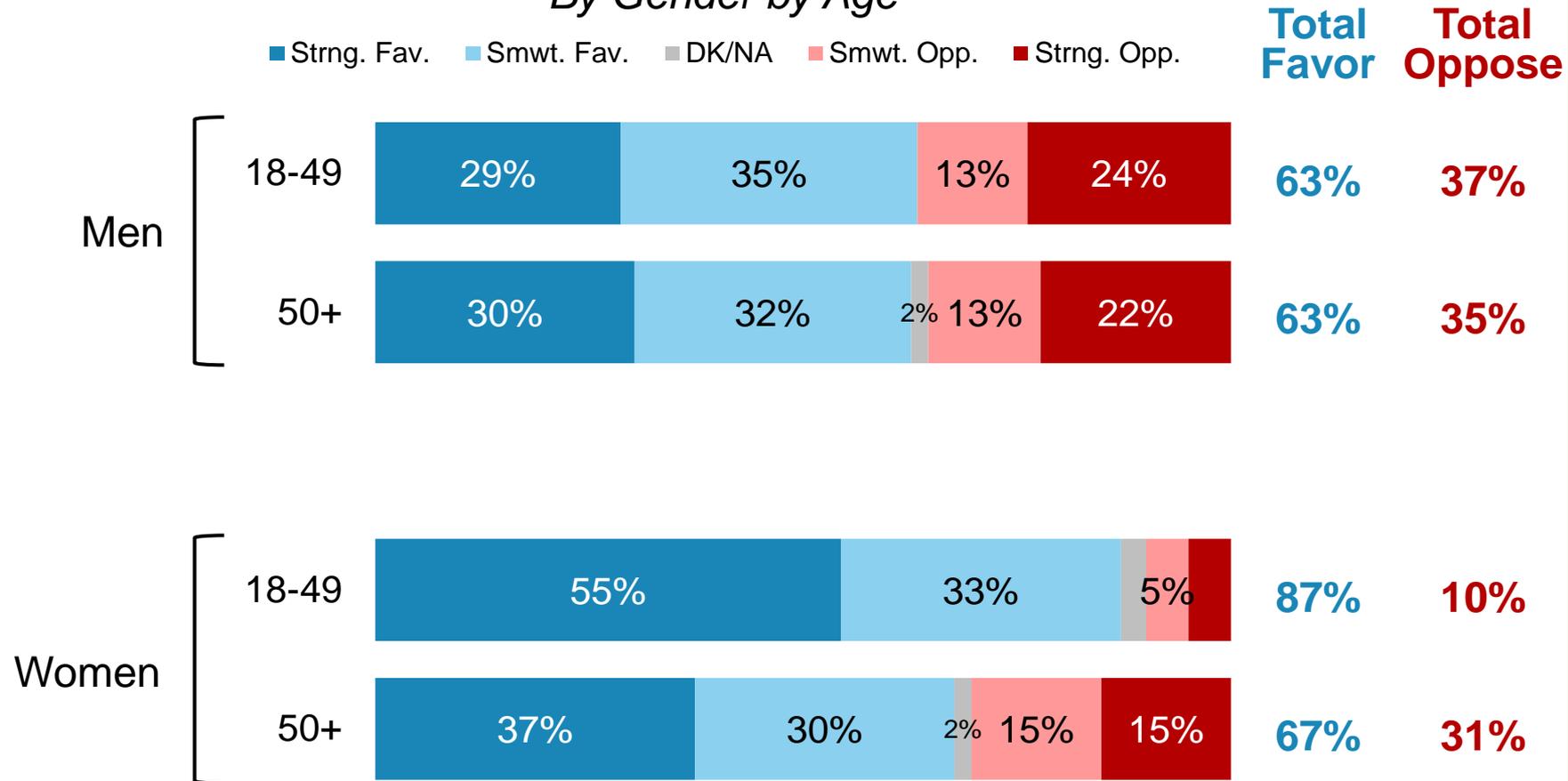
> Minnesota legislators and Governor Dayton may consider options for increasing funding for roads and transit during the upcoming legislative session. Would you favor or oppose including, in these proposals, additional funding for safe bicycle and pedestrian routes?

By Type of Area

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

	Strng. Fav.	Smwt. Fav.	DK/NA	Smwt. Opp.	Strng. Opp.	Total Favor	Total Oppose
Rural	34%	33%		13%	19%	66%	32%
Urban	40%	30%		12%	16%	70%	28%

Q23.
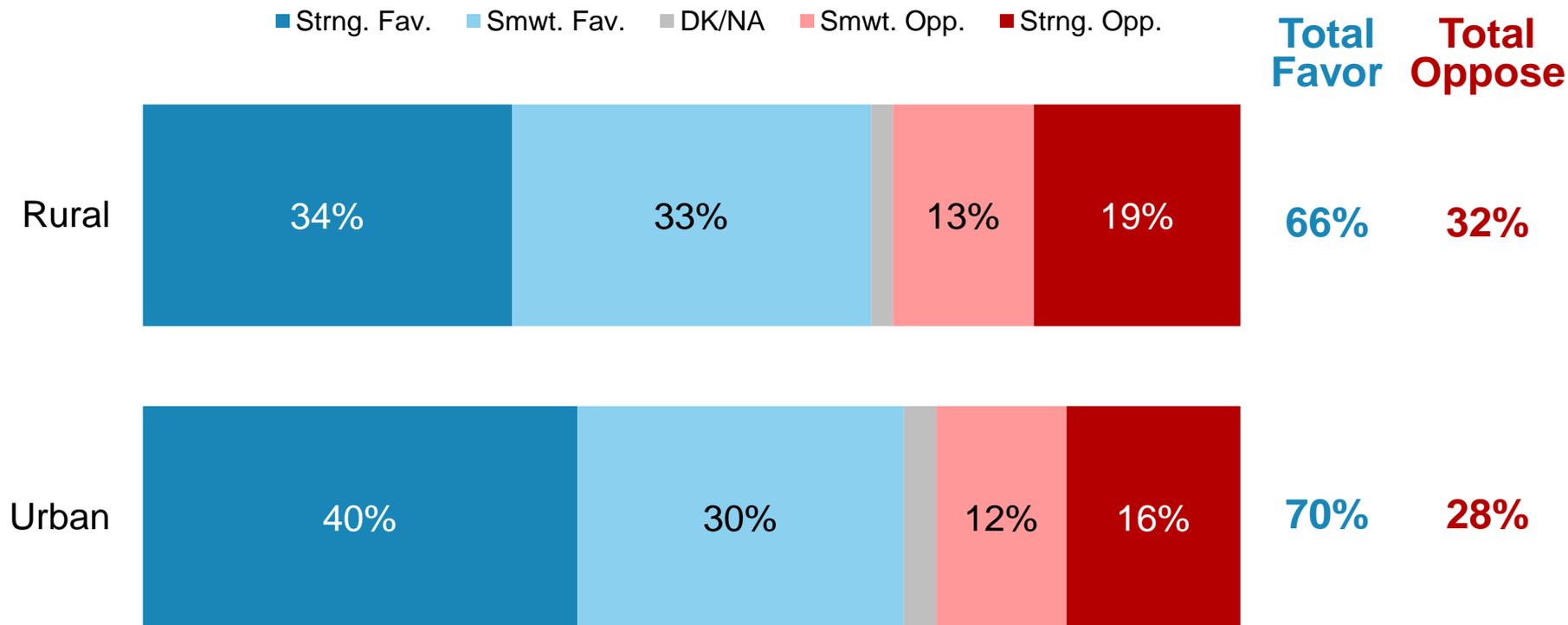
Nearly half of Minnesota voters say they are "very concerned" about rollbacks of environmental laws.

Rollbacks of laws that protect our land, air and water

■ Very Conc. ■ Smwt. Conc. ■ Not Too Conc. ■ Not At All Conc./DK/NA

Total Concerned

Year	Very Conc.	Smwt. Conc.	Not Too Conc.	Not At All Conc./DK/NA	Total Concerned
2017	45%	29%	12%	14%	**74%**
2013	29%	41%	16%	13%	**70%**
2012	39%	40%	12%	9%	**79%**

Q3h. Would you say that you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about each of the following? Split Sample
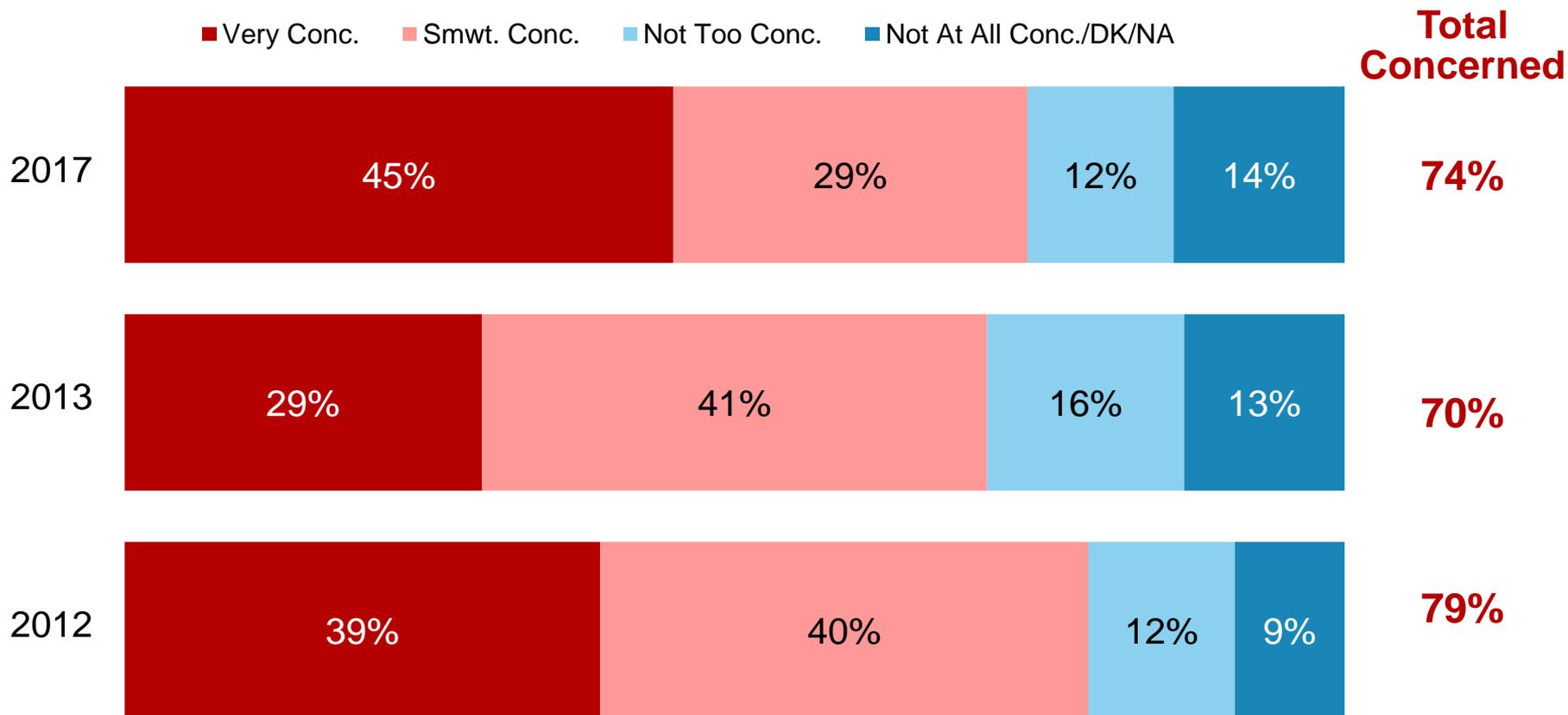
More than three in five voters want tougher laws or better enforcement of existing laws.

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

Toughen/ Enforce 62%

20%	Environmental laws need to be made tougher
42%	Environmental laws are tough enough but need better enforcement
20%	Both environmental laws and enforcement are at the right levels
12%	Environmental laws are too tough and should be loosened up
6%	Don't know/NA
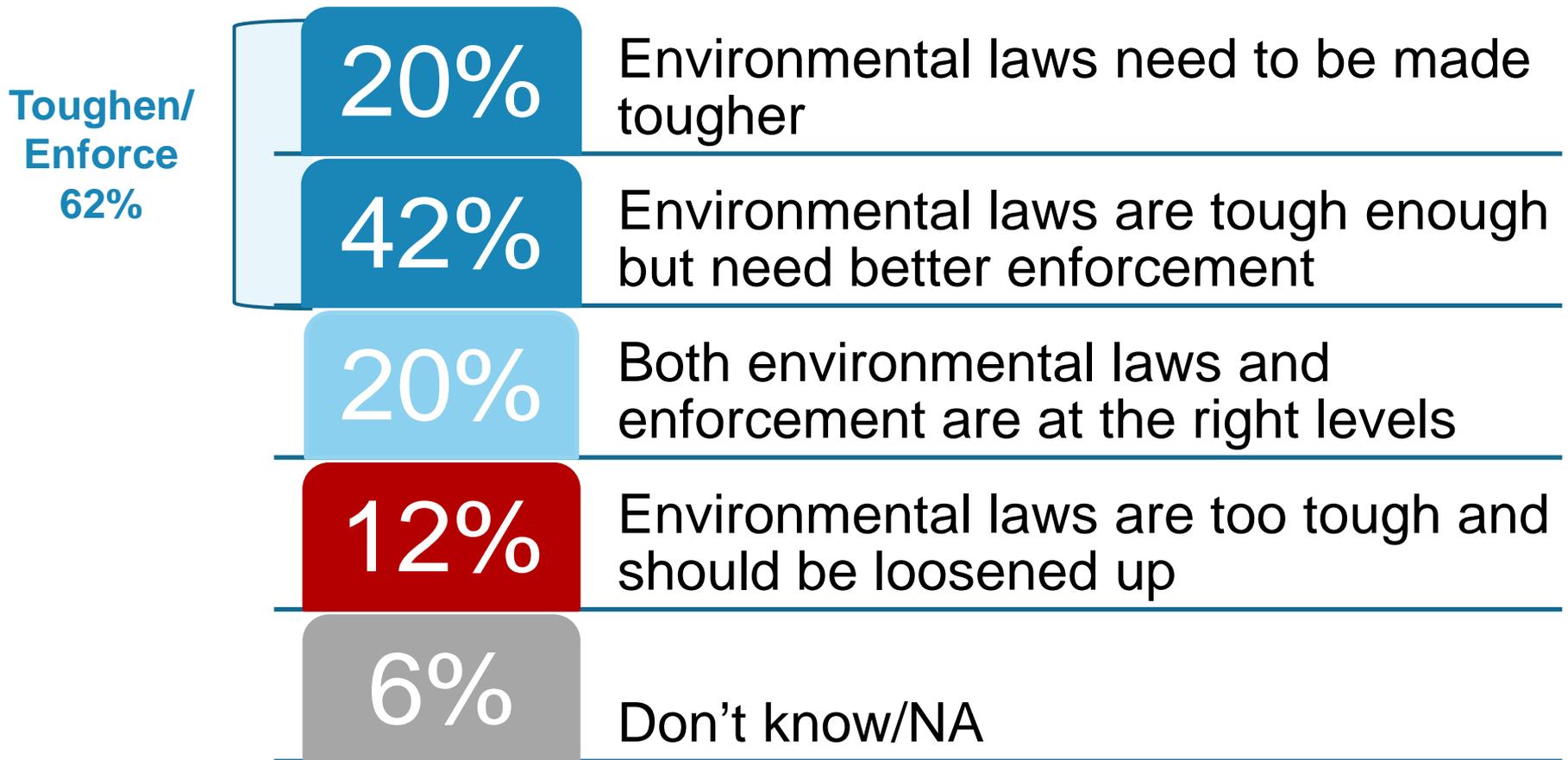
Nearly one-third of Democrats believe environmental laws should be made tougher.

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%

Q4. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of government regulations of the environment in Minnesota?

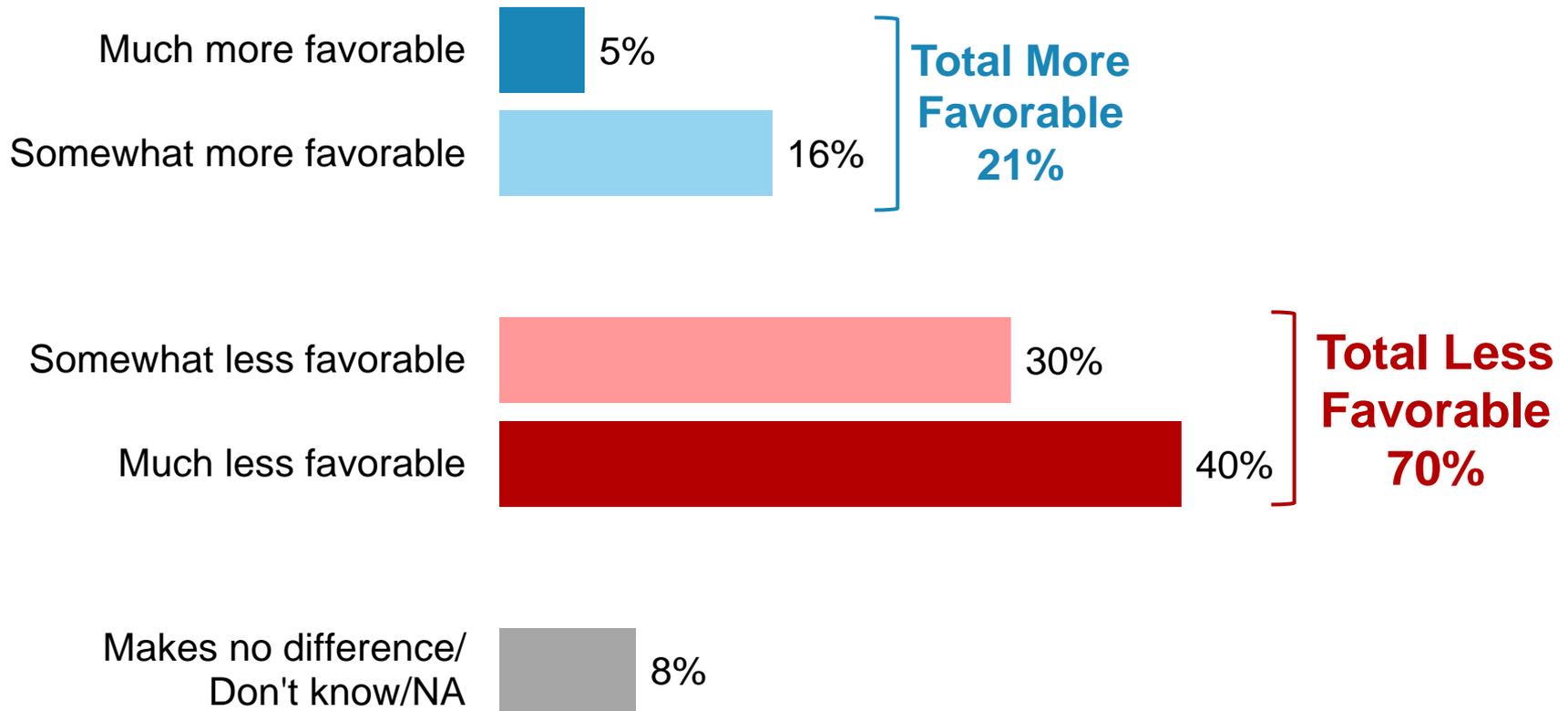# By a margin of more than three to one, voters say weakening environmental laws would give them a <u>less favorable</u> view of their legislator.

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

Much more favorable — 5%

Somewhat more favorable — 16%

Total More Favorable 21%

Somewhat less favorable — 30%

Much less favorable — 40%

Total Less Favorable 70%

Makes no difference/ Don't know/NA — 8%

Q5.

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%

Q5. Suppose that your state legislator voted to weaken environmental protection laws. Would you have a more favorable or less favorable view of them?

For more information, contact:

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