

FRANK CHURCH INSTITUTE

Perceptions of Democracy Survey

OCTOBER 2021



METHODOLOGY

This poll was conducted between September 24 - October 26 2021 among a sample of 1899 Adults in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Adults in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming based on gender by age, educational attainment, race and ethnicity and 2020 presidential vote choice (including not voting).

Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points

KEY FINDINGS

1. **Perceptions of democracy, fairness, and confidence related to the federal government are weak among adults in the five states surveyed.**

- Less than one in ten adults have a *very favorable* view of the federal government and Congress in each of the states surveyed. And, less than one in ten adults have *a lot* of confidence in the federal government and Congress to act in the best interest of the public in each of the states surveyed.
- Three quarters of adults in the five states surveyed say they *often* or *sometimes* feel alienated from their federal government (74%). And, half of adults in the five states surveyed believe that everyday people (51%) and people in rural areas (48%) are treated unfairly by the federal government.
- Most adults in the five states surveyed (55%) agree with the statement “*The federal government works to benefit other groups of people, but not people like me.*”

2. **However, this is not true for all levels of government. Adults in the five states surveyed express a higher confidence in democracy and fairness at the state and local level.**

- Majorities of adults in the five states surveyed have a favorable view of their local government (57%) and their state government (53%). And, majorities of adults in the five states surveyed have confidence in their local government (61%) and their state government (57%) to act in the best interest of the general public.
- Adults in the five states surveyed are more likely to be concerned about democracy in the United States (85%) than in their own state (57%). And, out of the entities or officials tested, adults in each of the five states surveyed are less likely to say they feel alienated by their local government.
- Pluralities of adults in the five states surveyed believe everyday people (41%) and people in rural areas (44%) are treated fairly by their local government. And, across each of the states surveyed, adults are least likely to agree “*local government works to benefit other groups of people, but not people like me*” compared to the same statement for the federal and state government.

KEY FINDINGS

3. Respondents say finding common ground across political ideologies is difficult.

- 80% of adults in the five states surveyed say they believe Americans of different political viewpoints have a difficult time talking to one another about politics.

4. Adults in the five states surveyed are worried about the health of democracy but say there are ways to strengthen it.

- Majorities of adults in the five states surveyed are concerned about democracy in the United States (85%) and in their own state (57%).
- However, of the options tested, adults in the five states surveyed say instituting term limits (29%) and holding politicians accountable for illegal or unethical behavior (28%) would be **most** likely to strengthen democracy.

5. Adults in the five states surveyed worry about misinformation and many distrust the legitimacy of the 2020 presidential election.

- Strong majorities of adults in the five states surveyed say they are worried about misrepresentation of facts (83%) and misinformation (83%). And, only 51% of adults in the five states surveyed believe that former Vice President Joe Biden legitimately defeated incumbent President Donald Trump in the November 2020 Presidential election.

6. Thinking about the events of January 6th, 2021 on the U.S. Capitol, majorities adults in the five states surveyed say political violence is not justified; however, a smaller share do. And, many believe it is likely we will see political violence in the future.

- While 58% of adults in the five states surveyed say political violence is not justified in a democracy, 20% say political violence is justified when things have gotten so bad that the government is not acting in the best interest of the people.
- Majorities of adults in the five states surveyed say it is likely the U.S. sees violence in the future similar to the events at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th, 2021.

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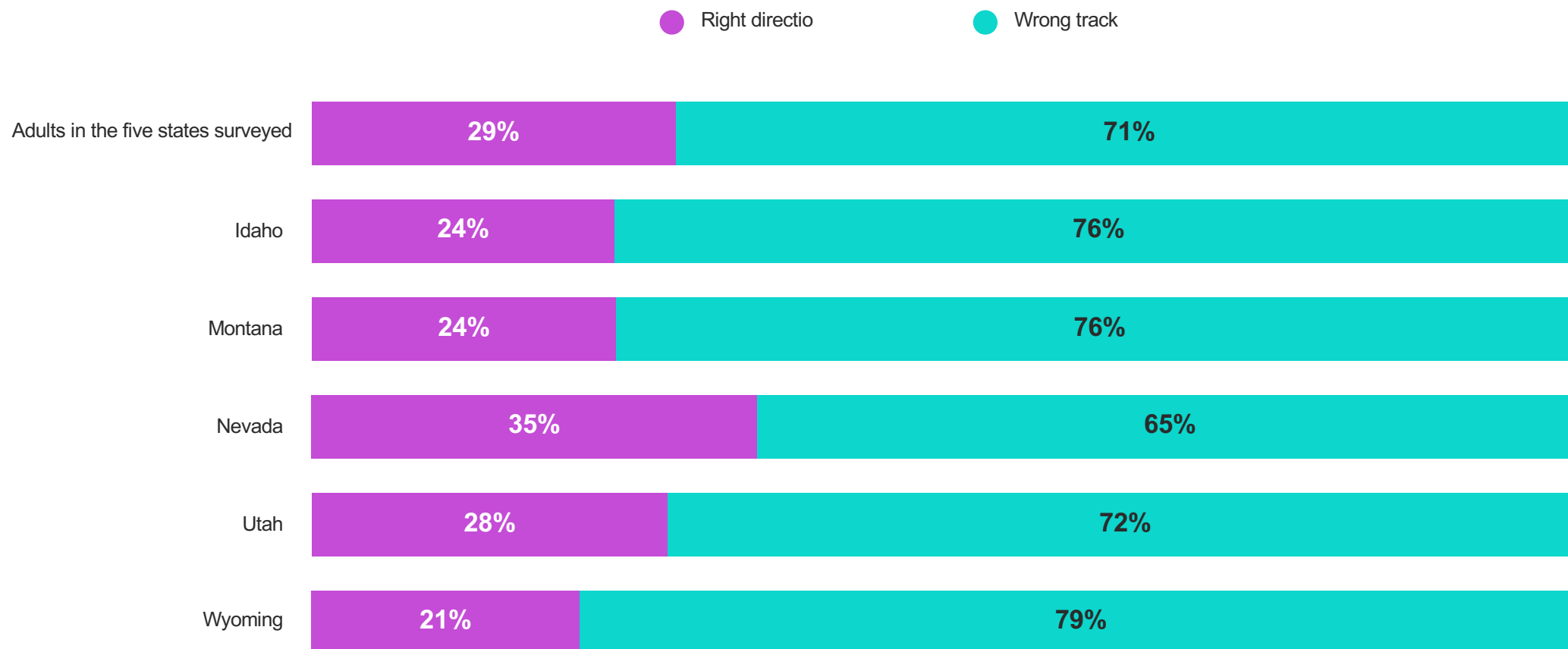
KEY FINDINGS: GENERAL SENTIMENT

- 1. Adults in the five states surveyed believe things in the country are headed in the wrong track (71%); however, they are split on whether things are going in the right direction (53%) or the wrong track (47%) when it comes to their own state.**
- 2. While majorities of adults in the five states surveyed have a favorable view of the United States (62%), their local government (57%), and their state government (53%), less than one in ten say they have a favorable opinion of the federal government (7%) and Congress (6%).**
- 3. Adults in the five states surveyed are less likely to have confidence in the Presidency (35%), the federal government (36%), and Congress (31%) to act in the best interest of the public than they do their state (57%) and local government (61%).**

GENERAL SENTIMENT

Approximately three quarters of adults in the five states surveyed believe things in the country are generally headed off on the wrong track (71%).

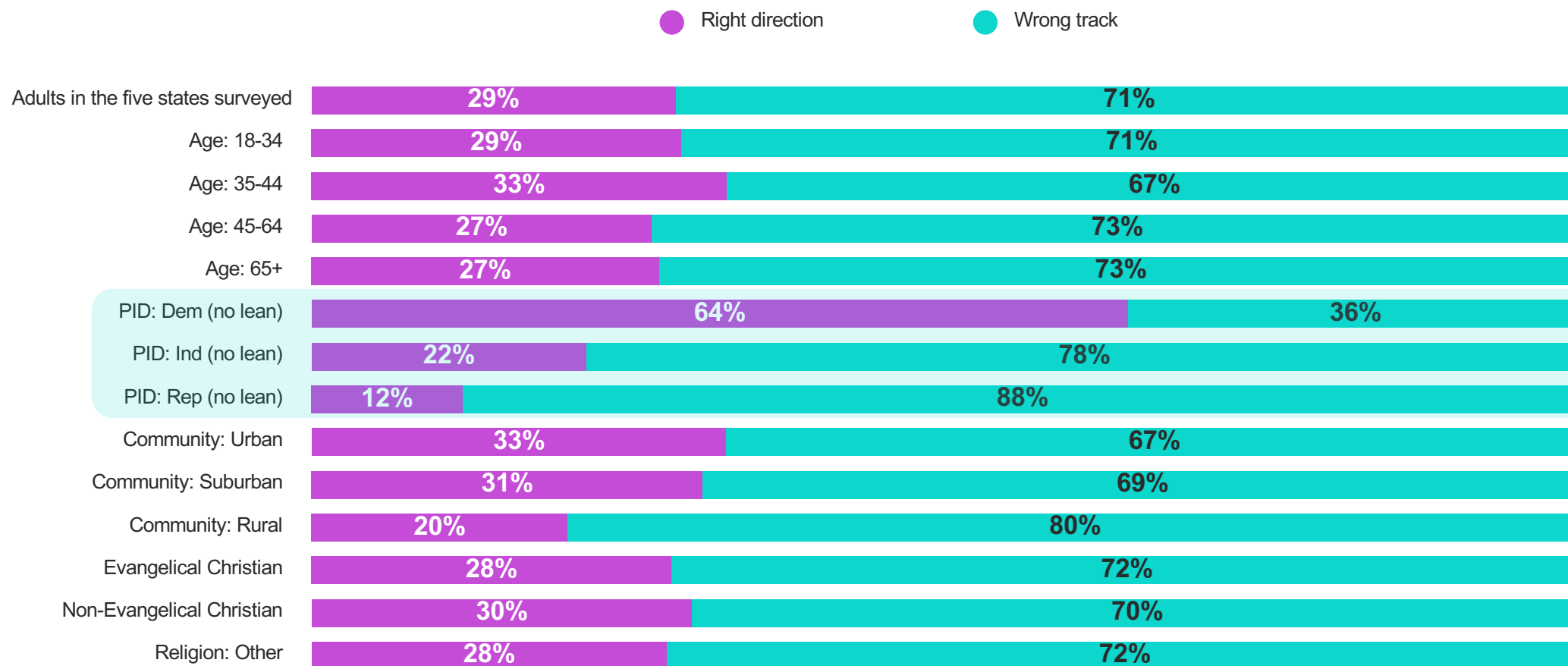
Generally speaking, would you say that things in the country are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel things are headed off on the wrong track?



GENERAL SENTIMENT

Republicans (88%) and Independents (78%) in the five states surveyed are more likely than Democrats (36%) to believe things in this country are generally headed off on the wrong track.

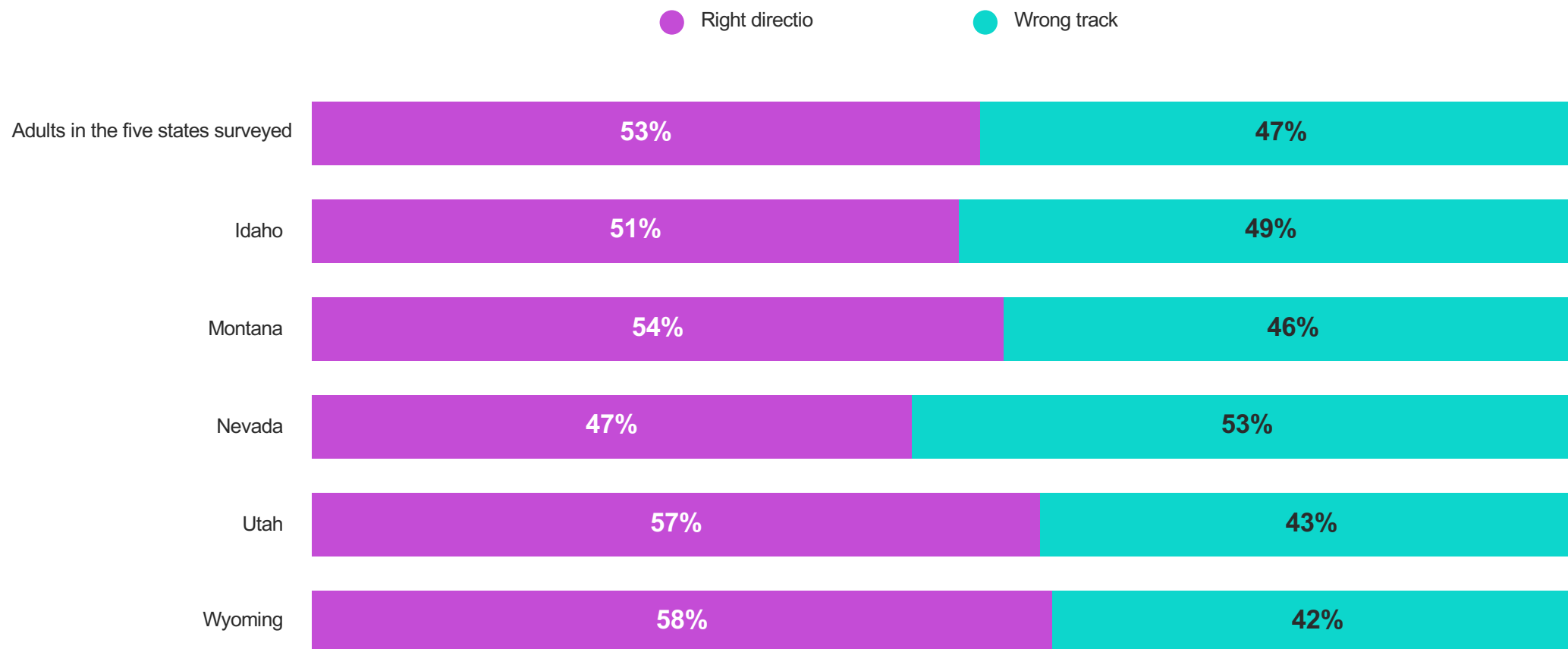
Generally speaking, would you say that things in the country are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel things are headed off on the wrong track?



GENERAL SENTIMENT

However, half of adults in the five states surveyed believe things in their state are generally headed in the right direction (53%).

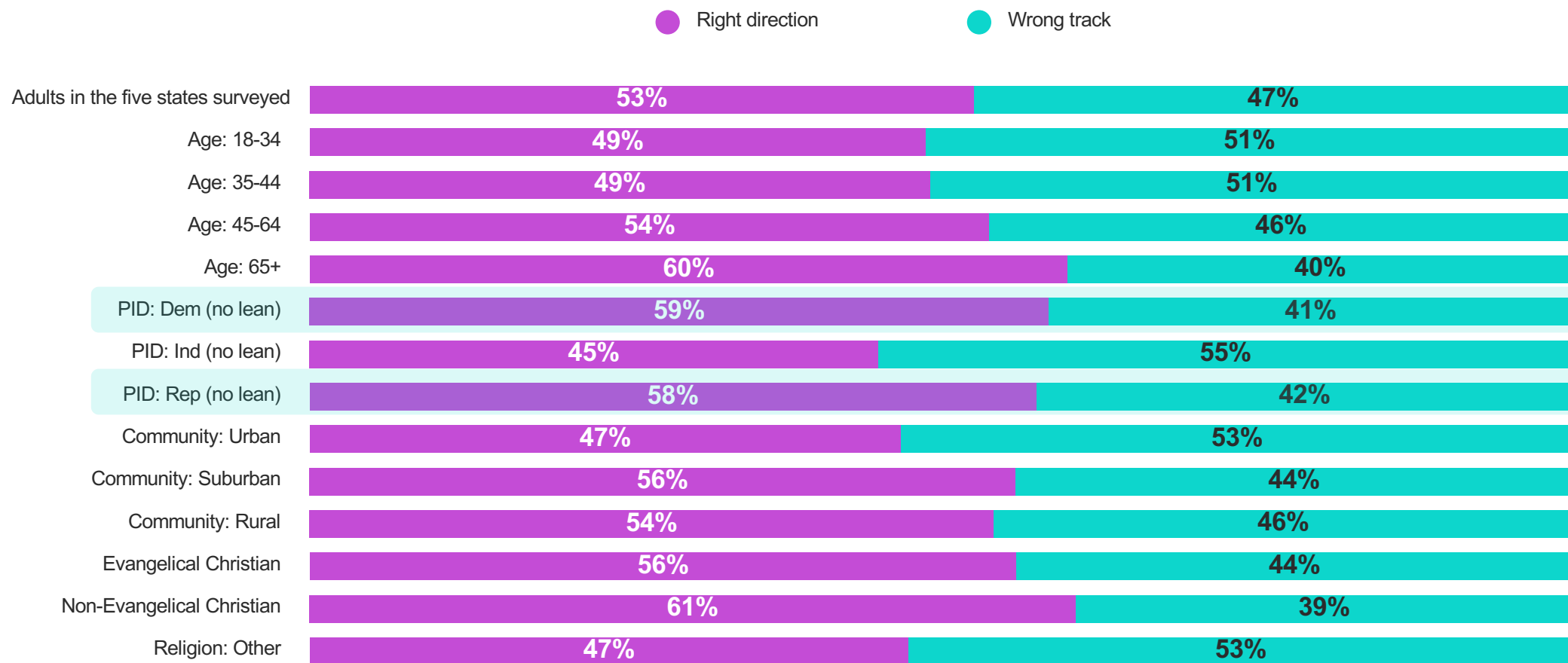
Now thinking specifically about your state, would you say that things in [STATE] are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel things are headed off on the wrong track?



GENERAL SENTIMENT

A bipartisan majority of adults in the five states surveyed believe things in their state are generally headed in the right direction (Dem. 59%, Rep. 58%).

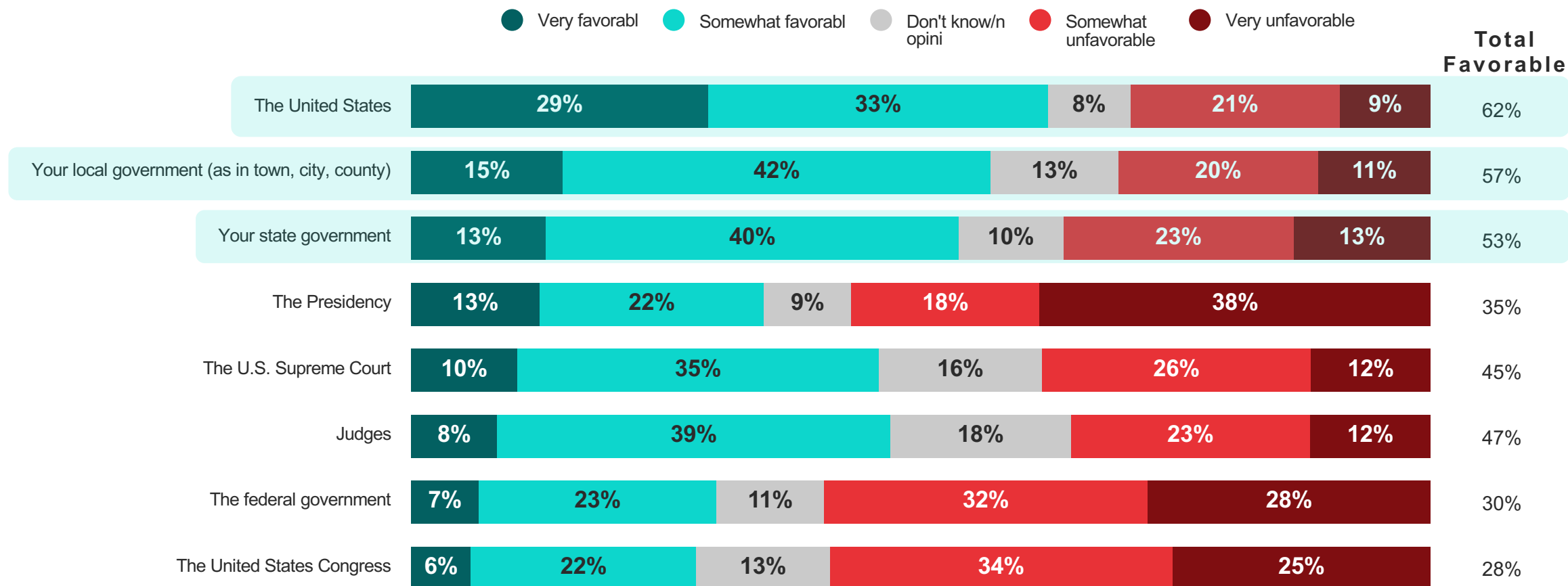
Now thinking specifically about your state, would you say that things in [STATE] are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel things are headed off on the wrong track?



GENERAL SENTIMENT

Majorities of adults in the five states surveyed have a favorable view of the United States (62%), their local government (57%) and their state government (53%).

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of each of the following?



GENERAL SENTIMENT

However, less than one in ten adults have a *very favorable* view of the federal government and Congress in each of the states surveyed.

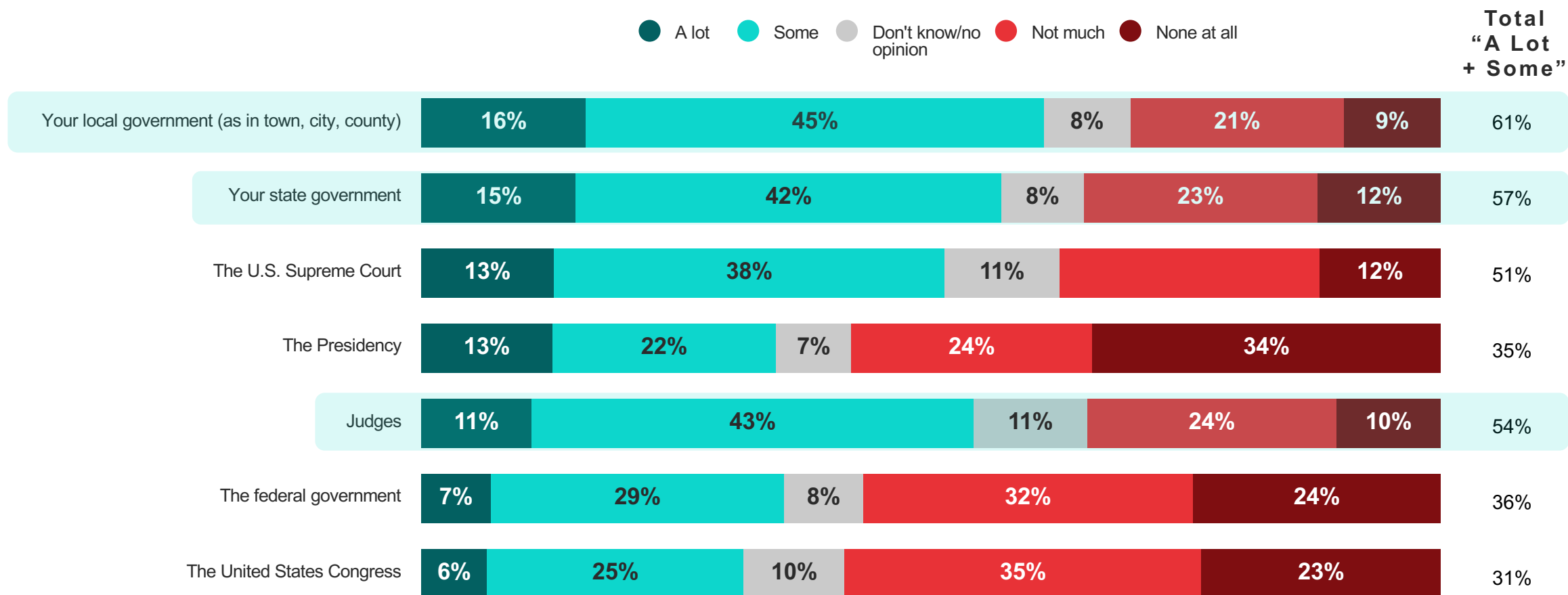
Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of each of the following?

% very favorable / total favorable	Five states	Idaho	Montana	Nevada	Utah	Wyoming
The United States	29% / 62%	35% / 65%	32% / 66%	27% / 62%	26% / 60%	32% / 59%
Your local government	15% / 57%	14% / 58%	17% / 60%	13% / 49%	17% / 64%	18% / 60%
Your state government	13% / 53%	9% / 53%	17% / 59%	14% / 46%	12% / 58%	15% / 57%
The Presidency	13% / 35%	11% / 30%	10% / 35%	17% / 42%	11% / 32%	8% / 24%
The U.S. Supreme Court	10% / 45%	10% / 45%	10% / 47%	12% / 46%	9% / 47%	9% / 43%
Judges	8% / 47%	8% / 50%	8% / 51%	9% / 44%	8% / 48%	9% / 42%
The federal government	7% / 30%	5% / 28%	5% / 30%	8% / 36%	6% / 26%	8% / 23%
The United States Congress	6% / 28%	6% / 25%	4% / 23%	7% / 32%	5% / 29%	8% / 23%

GENERAL SENTIMENT

Majorities of adults in the five states surveyed have confidence in their local government (61%), their state government (57%), and judges (54%) to act in the best interest of the public.

How much confidence do you have in each of the following, if any, to act in the best interests of the public?



GENERAL SENTIMENT

However, less than one in ten adults have *a lot* of confidence in the federal government and Congress to act in the best interest of the public in each of the states surveyed.

How much confidence do you have in each of the following, if any, to act in the best interests of the public?

% a lot / total confidence	Five states	Idaho	Montana	Nevada	Utah	Wyoming
Your local government	16% / 61%	14% / 62%	19% / 67%	15% / 53%	17% / 66%	20% / 66%
Your state government	15% / 57%	12% / 58%	16% / 60%	15% / 50%	17% / 62%	17% / 61%
The U.S. Supreme Court	13% / 51%	13% / 52%	14% / 53%	13% / 48%	13% / 54%	12% / 51%
The Presidency	13% / 35%	12% / 30%	10% / 35%	19% / 42%	9% / 33%	10% / 26%
Judges	11% / 54%	13% / 54%	10% / 55%	10% / 54%	10% / 54%	10% / 49%
The federal government	7% / 36%	5% / 33%	5% / 33%	9% / 41%	6% / 33%	8% / 29%
The United States Congress	6% / 31%	6% / 29%	3% / 28%	9% / 37%	5% / 29%	6% / 26%

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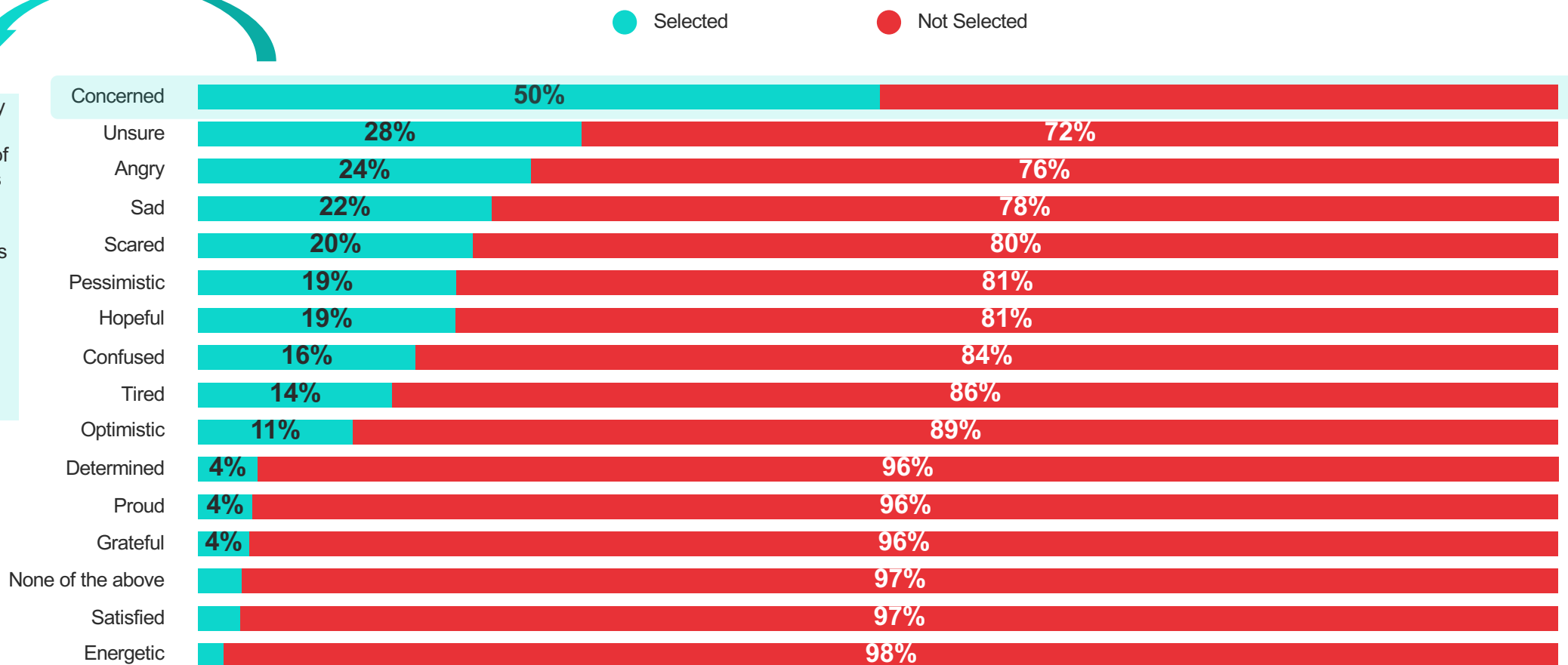
- 1. Half of adults in the five states surveyed say ‘concerned’ best describes their views on health of democracy in the United States (50%).**
- 2. When asked directly, nearly all adults (85%) in the five states surveyed say they are concerned about the health of democracy in the United States and majorities say they are concerned about the health of democracy in their state (57%).**
- 3. Majorities of adults say the spread of misinformation (64%), money in politics (56%), and politically motivated violence (54%) are *very concerning* for democracy in the United States. And, of the options tested, adults in the five states surveyed say instituting term limits (29%) and holding politicians accountable for illegal or unethical behavior (28%) would be most likely to strengthen democracy.**

STATE OF DEMOCRACY

Of the sentiments tested, adults in the five states surveyed are most likely to say they are concerned about the health of democracy in the United States (50%).

Thinking about the health of democracy in the U.S., which of the following best describes how you feel? Please select up to three options.

Approximately half of adults across each of the five states surveyed say 'concerned' best describes the way they feel about the health of democracy in the United States .

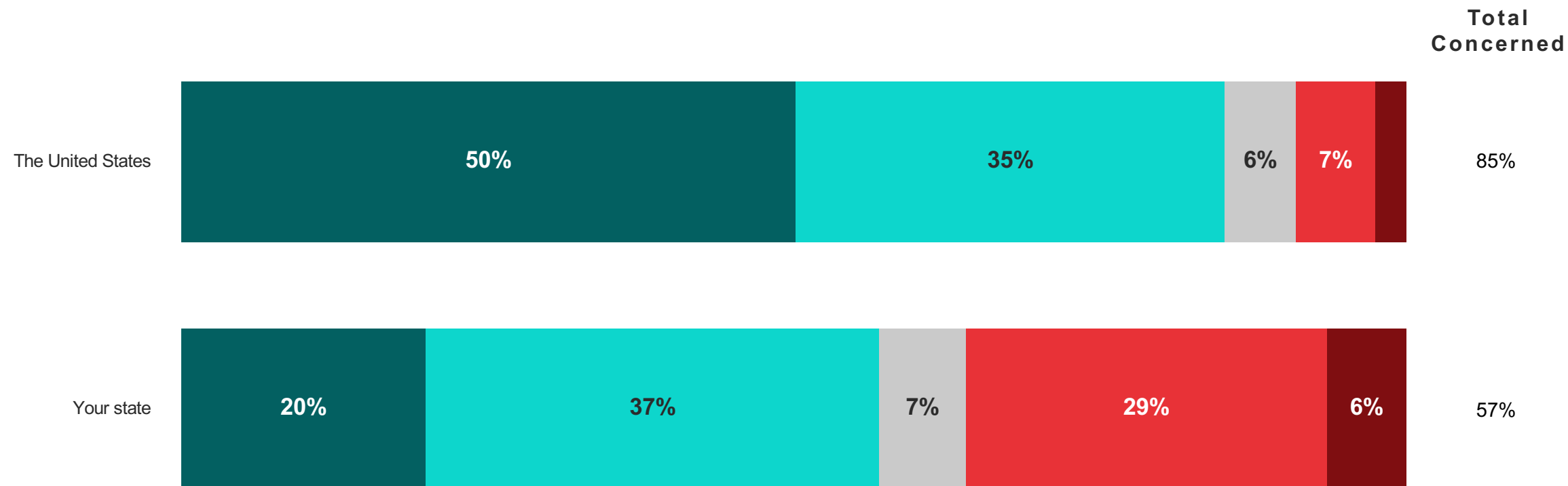


STATE OF DEMOCRACY

Adults in the five states surveyed are more likely to be concerned about democracy in the United States (85%) than in their own state (57%).

How concerned are you, if at all, about the health of democracy in each of the following:

● Very concerned
 ● Somewhat concerned
 ● Don't know/unsure
 ● Not too concerned
 ● Not at all concerned



STATE OF DEMOCRACY

Out of the states surveyed, adults in Nevada are most likely to be *very concerned* about the health of democracy in their state (27%).

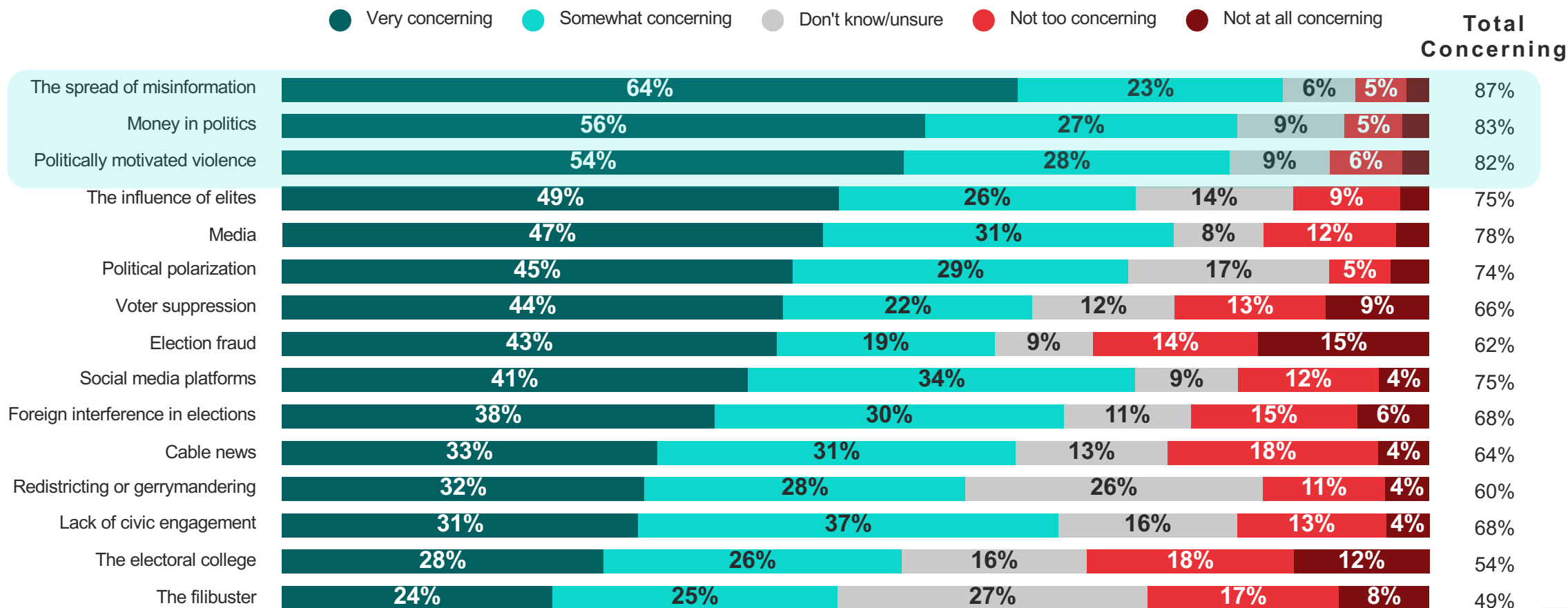
How concerned are you, if at all, about the health of democracy in each of the following:

% very concerned / total concerned	Five states	Idaho	Montana	Nevada	Utah	Wyoming
The United States	50% / 85%	52% / 87%	57% / 91%	49% / 82%	47% / 85%	54% / 88%
Your state	20% / 57%	18% / 58%	20% / 55%	27% / 63%	15% / 52%	15% / 54%

STATE OF DEMOCRACY

Majorities of adults in the five states surveyed say the spread of misinformation (64%), money in politics (56%), and politically motivated violence (54%) are *very concerning* for democracy in the United States.

How concerning, if at all, are each of the following for democracy in the U.S.?

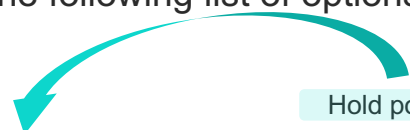


STATE OF DEMOCRACY

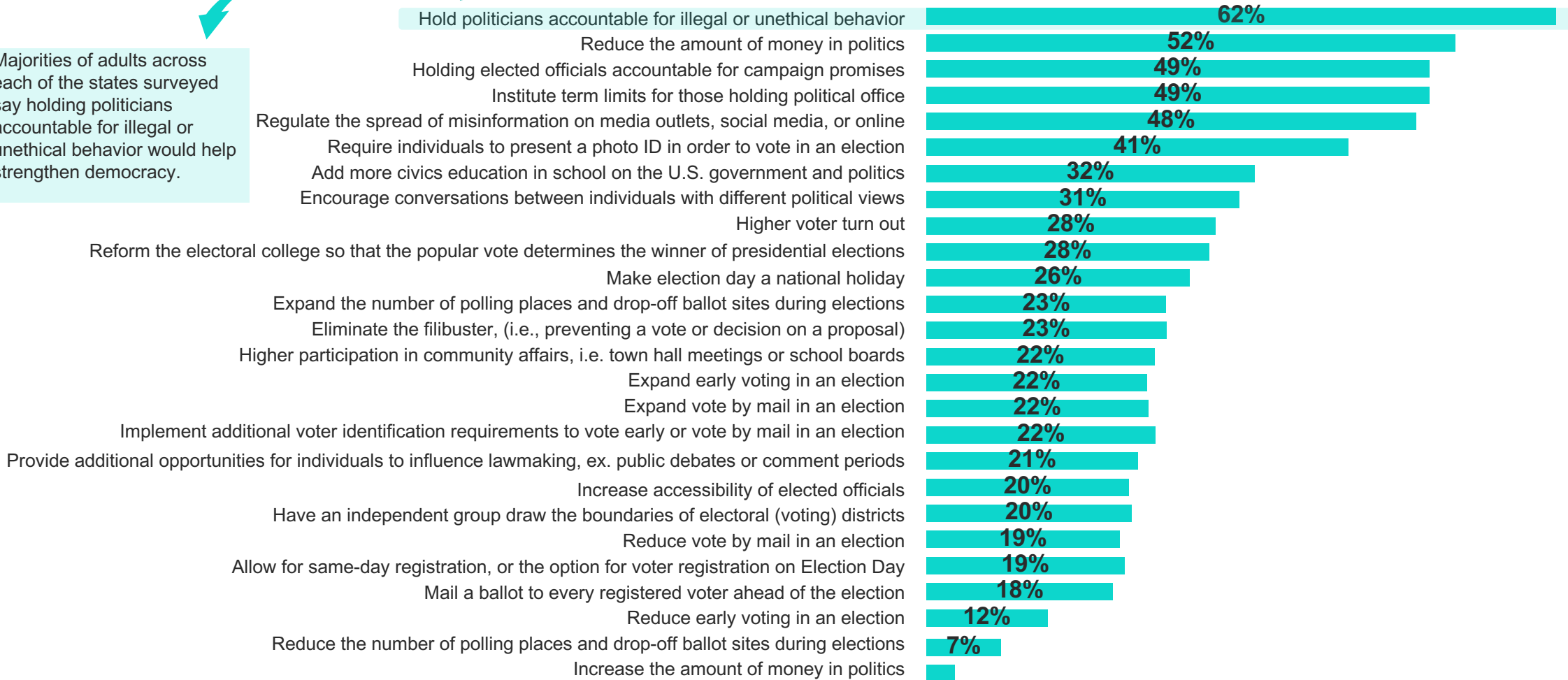
Of the options tested, adults in the five states surveyed are most likely to say holding politicians accountable for illegal or unethical behavior would help strengthen democracy (62%).

From the following list of options, what do you believe, if anything, would help strengthen democracy in the U.S.? Please select all that apply.

Majorities of adults across each of the states surveyed say holding politicians accountable for illegal or unethical behavior would help strengthen democracy.



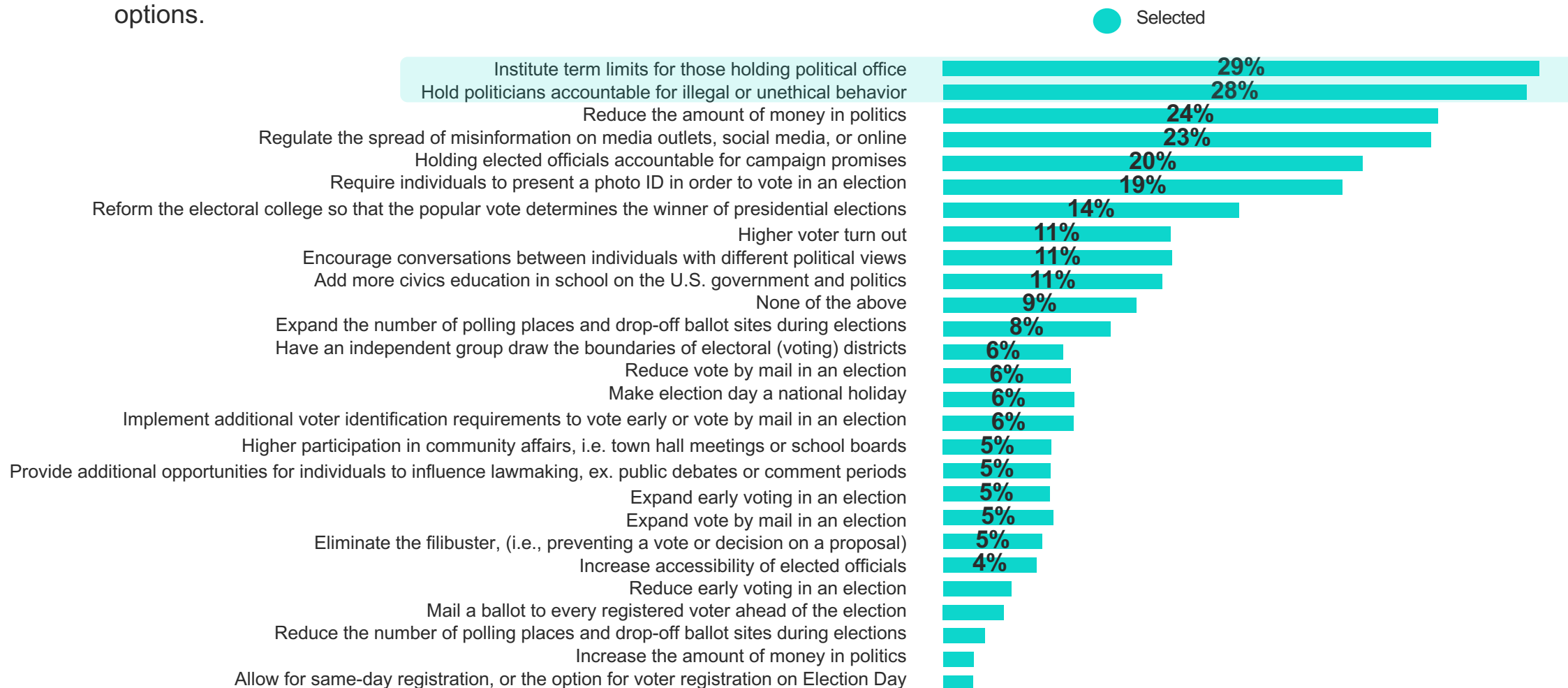
Selected



STATE OF DEMOCRACY

Of the options tested, adults in the five states surveyed say instituting term limits (29%) and holding politicians accountable for illegal or unethical behavior (28%) would be **most** likely to strengthen democracy.

And which of the following do you believe would be MOST likely to help strengthen democracy in the U.S.? Please select up to three options.



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KEY FINDINGS: PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

- 1. Strong majorities of adults in the five states surveyed say they believe Americans of different political viewpoints have a difficult time talking to one another about politics (80%). And, approximately two thirds of adults in the five states surveyed say Americans *rarely* or *never* shift their own (62%) or someone else's political opinions (65%).**
- 2. Adults in the five states surveyed say they feel alienated from their federal government (74%). And, majorities of adults in the five states surveyed believe Americans living in rural areas do not have enough influence in national politics (59%).**
- 3. Adults in the five states surveyed are also more likely to say rural adults are treated unfairly by the federal government (48%) than they are to say the same about their state (38%) and local government (34%).**

PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

Approximately two thirds of adults in the five states surveyed say they *rarely* or *never* shift their own (63%) or someone else’s political opinions (69%).

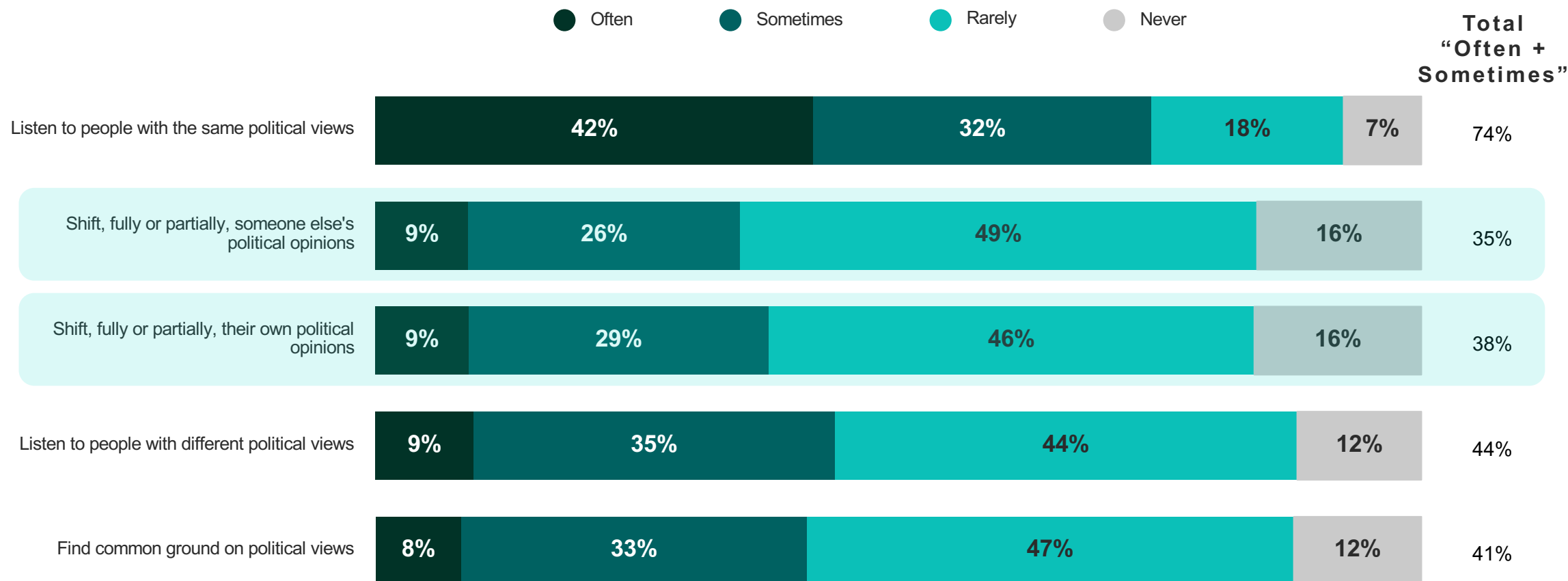
How often, if at all, would you say you do each of the following?



PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

And, approximately two thirds of adults in the five states surveyed say American adults *rarely* or *never* shift their own (62%) or someone else’s political opinions (65%).

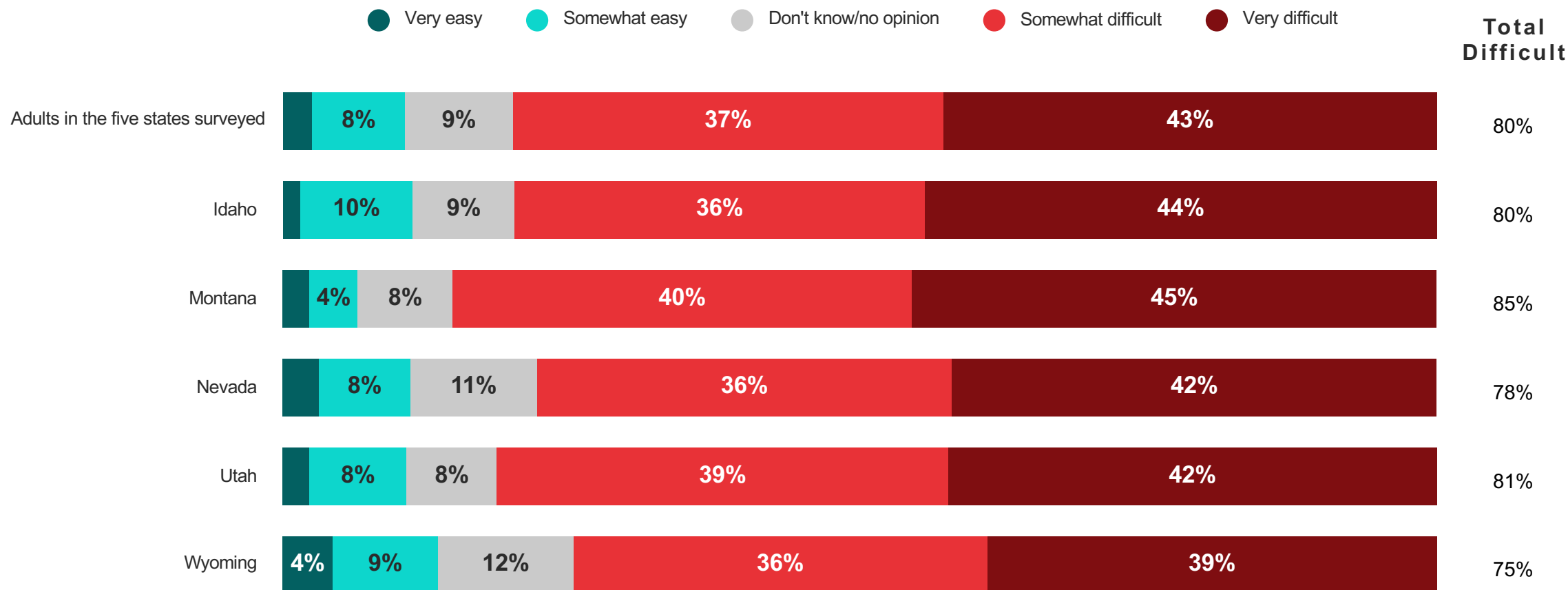
And, how often, if at all, would you say American adults do each of the following?



PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

80% of adults in the five states surveyed say they believe Americans of different political viewpoints have a difficult time talking to one another about politics.

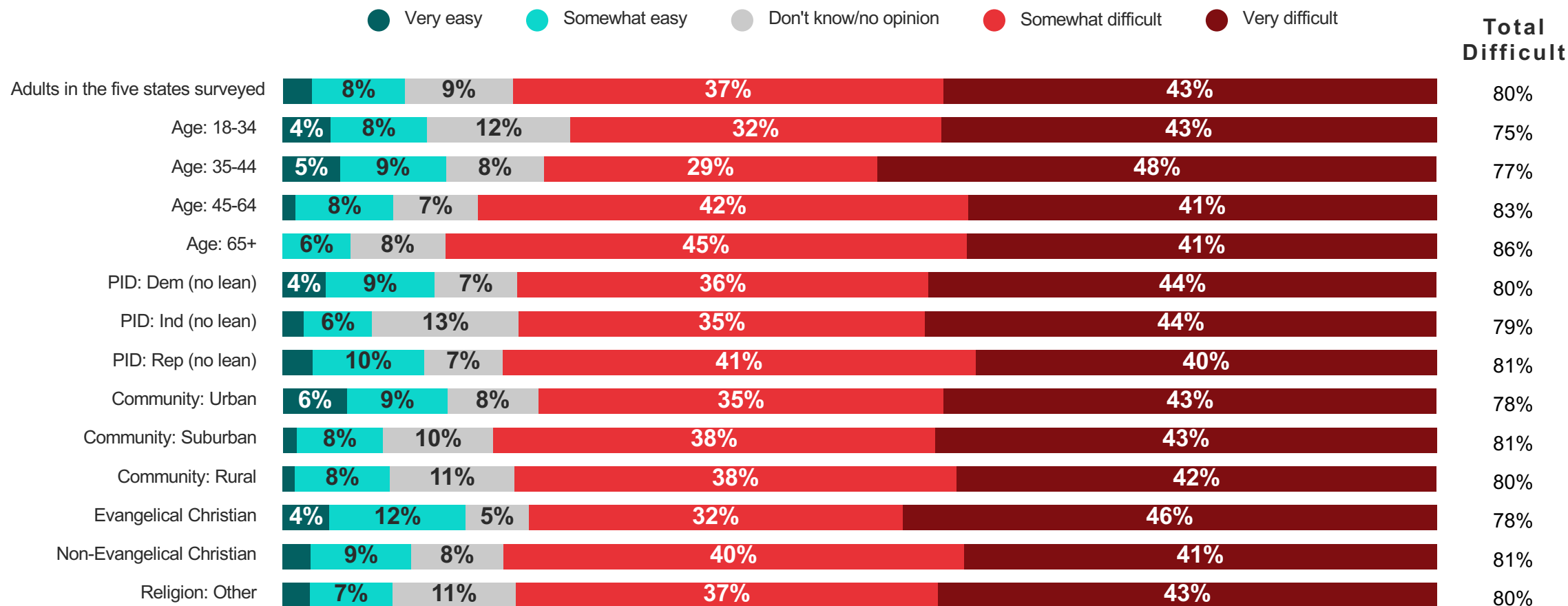
Generally, do you believe that Americans of different political viewpoints have an [easy] time or [difficult] time talking to one another about politics?



PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

Majorities of adults in the five states surveyed across key demographics believe that Americans of different political viewpoints have difficult time talking to one another about politics.

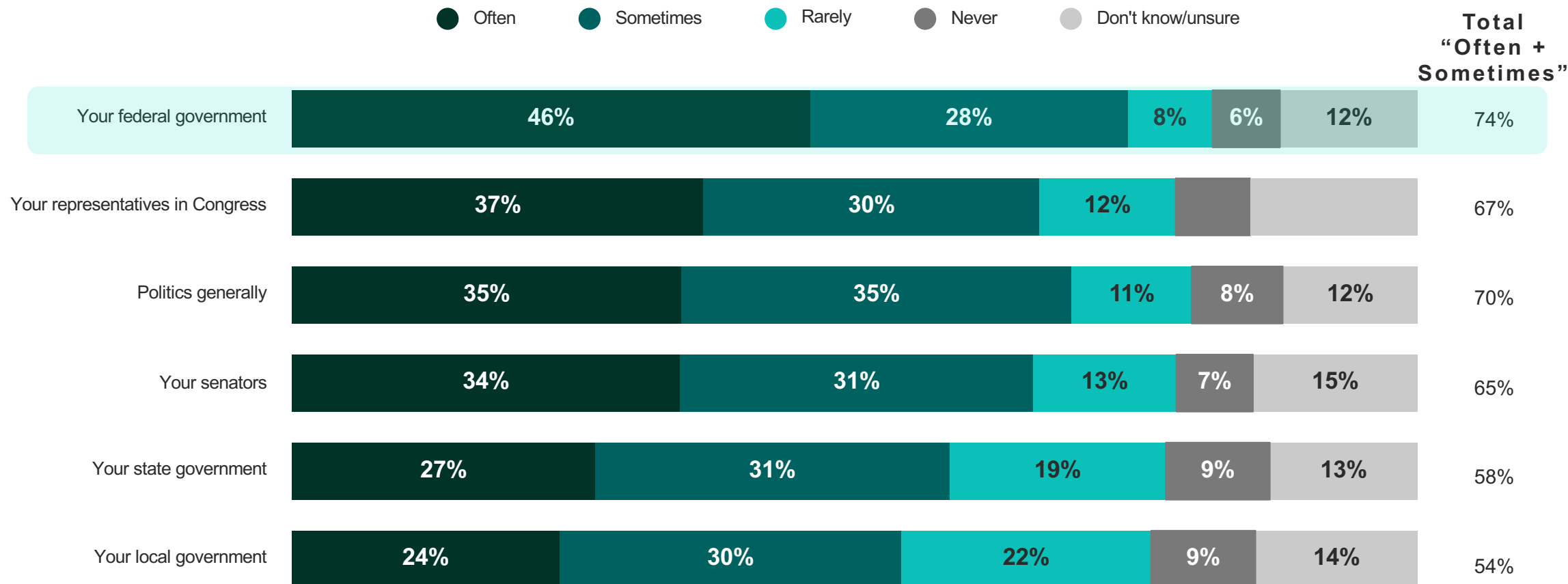
Generally, do you believe that Americans of different political viewpoints have an [easy] time or a [difficult] time talking to one another about politics?



PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

Three quarters of adults in the five states surveyed say they *often* or *sometimes* feel alienated from their federal government (74%).

How often, if ever, do you feel alienated from:



PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

Out of the entities or officials tested, adults in each of the five states surveyed are less likely to say they feel alienated by their local government.

How often, if ever, do you feel alienated from:

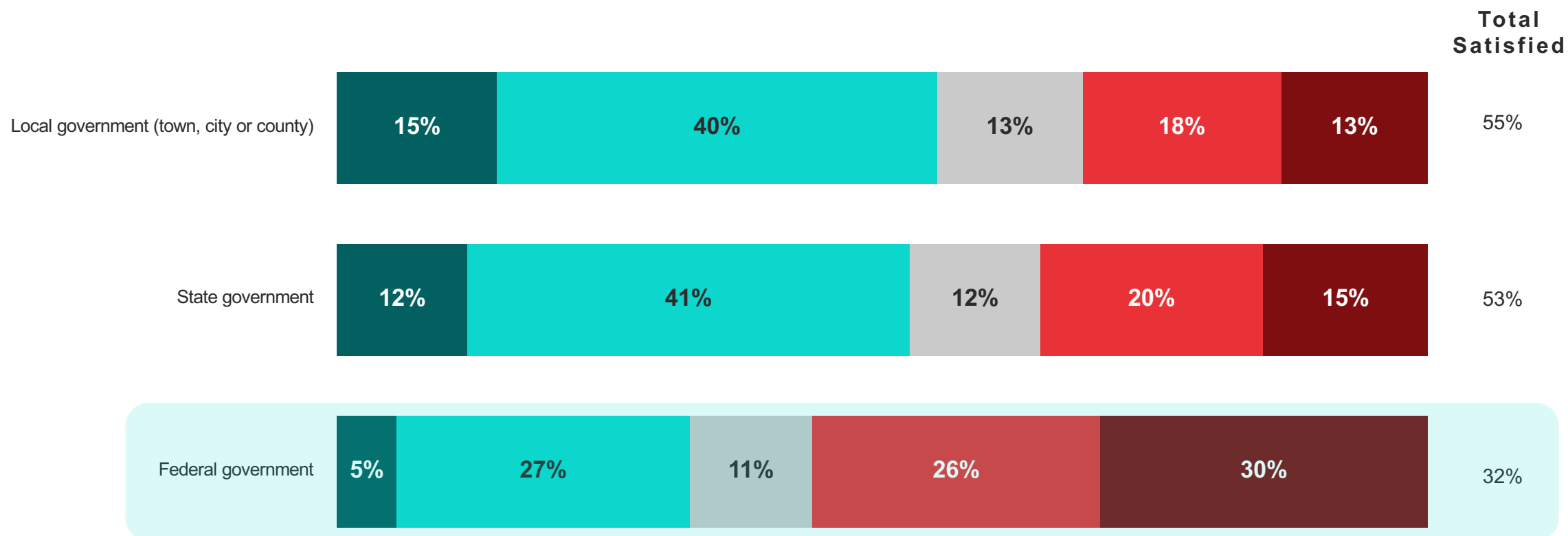
% often / often + sometimes alienated	Five states	Idaho	Montana	Nevada	Utah	Wyoming
Your federal government	46% / 74%	45% / 75%	54% / 80%	42% / 68%	48% / 78%	45% / 71%
Your representative in Congress	37% / 67%	34% / 65%	46% / 75%	37% / 61%	35% / 70%	32% / 62%
Politics generally	35% / 70%	34% / 68%	43% / 77%	30% / 66%	37% / 72%	35% / 65%
Your senators	34% / 65%	32% / 64%	34% / 71%	36% / 62%	36% / 71%	30% / 58%
Your state government	27% / 58%	25% / 59%	30% / 63%	30% / 57%	25% / 59%	20% / 52%
Your local government	24% / 54%	20% / 51%	25% / 55%	26% / 57%	23% / 53%	23% / 53%

PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

Adults in the five states surveyed are less likely to be satisfied with services they receive from the federal government than they are with those from their local or state government.

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the services you receive from the following?

● Very satisfied
 ● Somewhat satisfied
 ● Don't know/no opinion
 ● Somewhat dissatisfied
 ● Very dissatisfied



PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

Majorities of adults in Idaho (57%), Montana (57%), Utah (59%), and Wyoming (53%) say they are satisfied with the services they receive from local government.

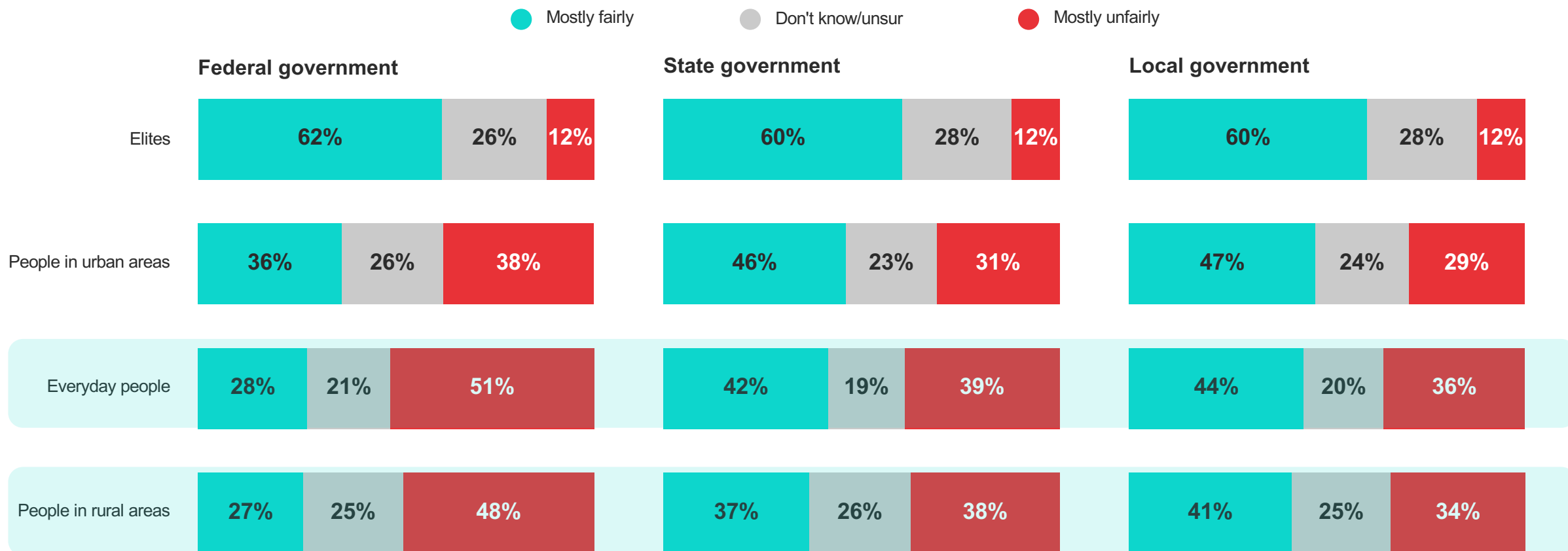
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the services you receive from the following?

% very satisfied / total satisfied	Five states	Idaho	Montana	Nevada	Utah	Wyoming
Local government	15% / 55%	11% / 57%	15% / 57%	13% / 49%	18% / 59%	16% / 53%
State government	12% / 53%	8% / 49%	13% / 54%	14% / 49%	12% / 58%	11% / 53%
Federal government	5% / 32%	4% / 27%	4% / 32%	7% / 38%	5% / 31%	5% / 28%

PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

Half of adults in the five states surveyed believe that everyday people (51%) and people in rural areas (48%) are treated unfairly by the federal government.

Please indicate if you believe each of the following groups of people gets treated fairly or unfairly by the...



PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

Majorities of adults in each of the five states surveyed say elites are treated fairly by the federal government, but not people in urban areas, everyday people or people in rural areas.

Please indicate if you believe each of the following groups of people gets treated fairly or unfairly by the federal government

% mostly fairly	Five states	Idaho	Montana	Nevada	Utah	Wyoming
Elites	62%	55%	63%	65%	64%	55%
People in urban areas	36%	40%	37%	35%	35%	35%
Everyday people	28%	30%	22%	26%	30%	24%
People in rural areas	27%	26%	22%	29%	26%	24%

PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

Majorities of adults in each of the five states surveyed say elites are treated fairly by the state government, but not everyday people or people in rural areas.

Please indicate if you believe each of the following groups of people gets treated fairly or unfairly by the state government

% mostly fairly	Five states	Idaho	Montana	Nevada	Utah	Wyoming
Elites	60%	57%	62%	59%	64%	56%
People in urban areas	46%	51%	46%	42%	48%	46%
Everyday people	42%	44%	40%	36%	46%	45%
People in rural areas	37%	38%	39%	35%	37%	41%

PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

However, two in five adults in each of the states surveyed say that people in rural areas are treated fairly by the local government.

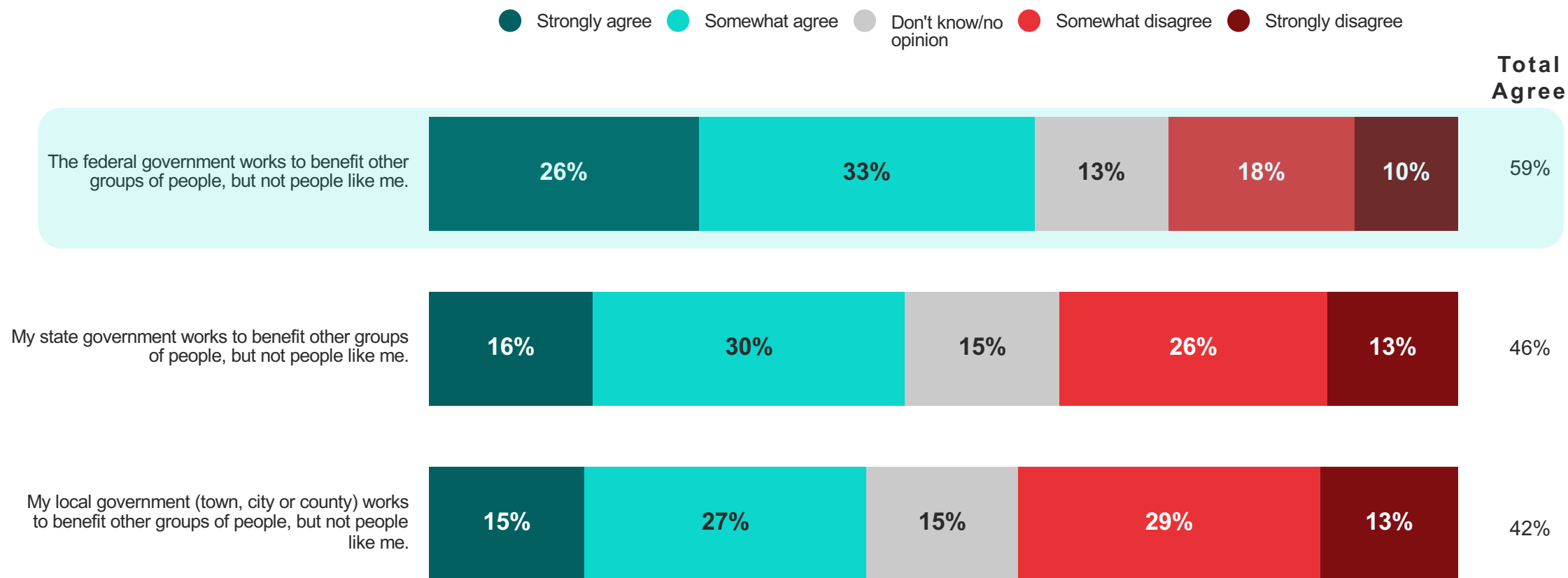
Please indicate if you believe each of the following groups of people gets treated fairly or unfairly by your local (town, city, or county) government

% mostly fairly	Five states	Idaho	Montana	Nevada	Utah	Wyoming
Elites	60%	59%	63%	60%	61%	53%
People in urban areas	47%	53%	48%	44%	48%	42%
Everyday people	44%	52%	44%	39%	45%	43%
People in rural areas	41%	45%	43%	38%	42%	39%

PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

Of those tested, adults in the five states surveyed are **most likely** to agree with the statement “*The federal government works to benefit other groups of people, but not people like me* (55%).”

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?



PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

Across each of the states surveyed, adults are **least likely** to agree “*local government works to benefit other groups of people, but not people like me,*” of the statements tested.

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statement?

% strongly agree / total agree	Five states	Idaho	Montana	Nevada	Utah	Wyoming
The federal government works to benefit other groups of people, but not people like me	26% / 59%	28% / 59%	30% / 63%	26% / 60%	25% / 58%	27% / 57%
My state government works to benefit other groups of people, but not people like me	16% / 46%	15% / 44%	15% / 49%	19% / 53%	14% / 41%	15% / 44%
My local government works to benefit other groups of people, but not people like me	15% / 42%	12% / 39%	13% / 42%	21% / 50%	11% / 36%	17% / 44%

PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

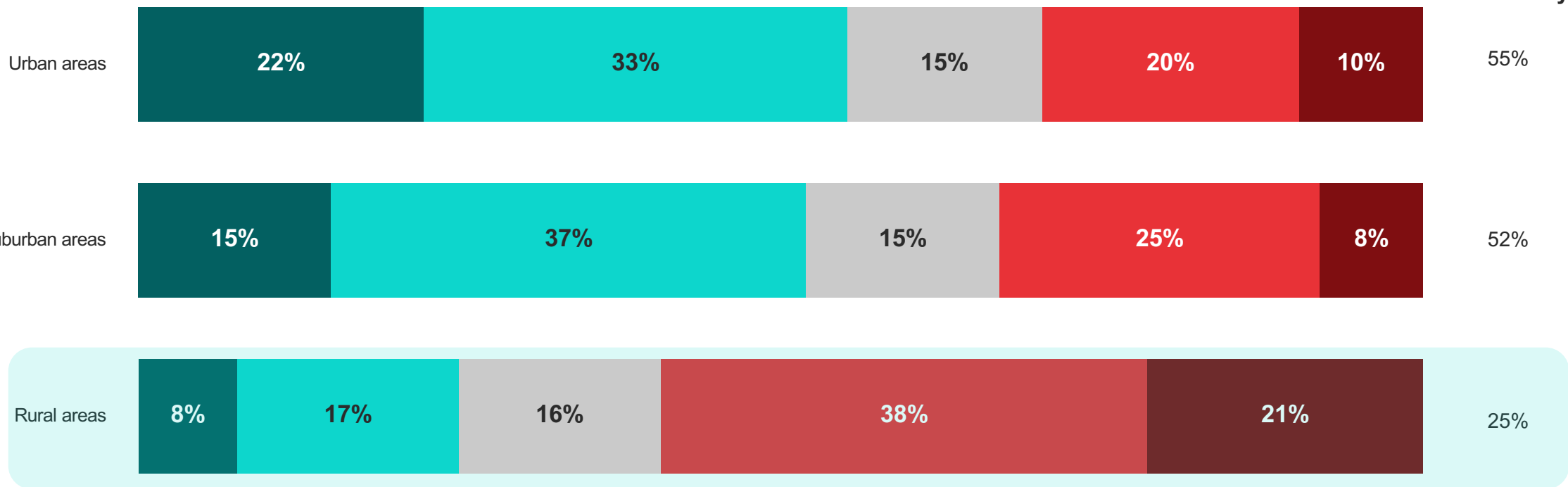
Majorities of adults in the five states surveyed believe Americans living in rural areas do not have enough influence in national politics (59%).

Thinking specifically about where people reside, do you believe Americans living in each of the following have enough influence in national politics?

● Definitely
 ● Probably
 ● Don't know/no opinion
 ● Probably not
 ● Definitely not

**Total
“Definitely
+ Probably”**

Only 18% of rural adults in the five states surveyed say Americans in rural areas have enough influence in national politics compared to 25% of suburban and 30% of urban adults who say the same



PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

Less than approximately one in ten adults in each of the states surveyed say that rural adults *definitely* have enough influence in national politics.

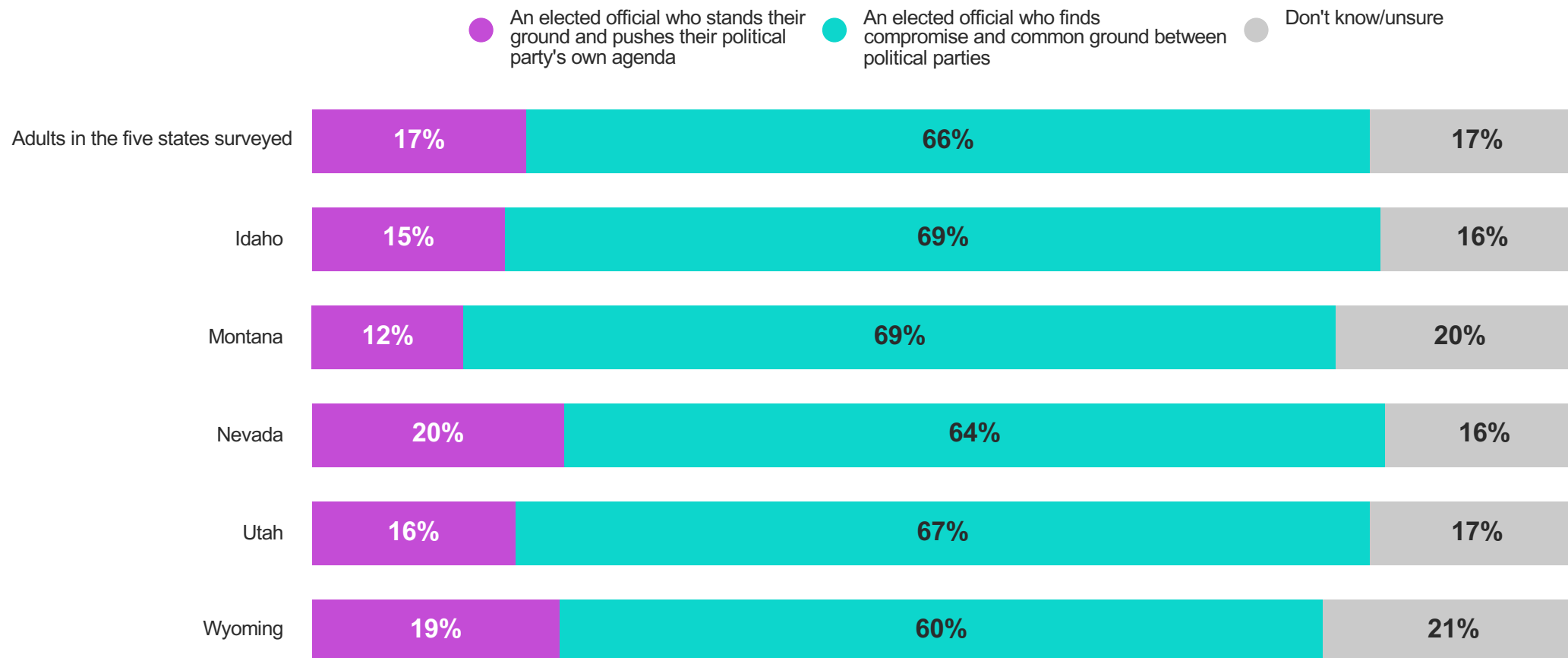
Thinking specifically about where people reside, do you believe Americans living in each of the following have enough influence in national politics?

% definitely / definitely + probably	Five states	Idaho	Montana	Nevada	Utah	Wyoming
Urban areas	22% / 55%	19% / 52%	20% / 52%	24% / 56%	24% / 59%	20% / 51%
Suburban areas	15% / 52%	14% / 51%	10% / 53%	18% / 53%	14% / 51%	13% / 49%
Rural areas	8% / 25%	6% / 24%	5% / 19%	11% / 29%	7% / 25%	7% / 21%

PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

Two thirds of adults in the five states surveyed say finding compromise and common ground (66%) is more important to them in an elected official than standing their ground and pushing their own party's agenda (17%).

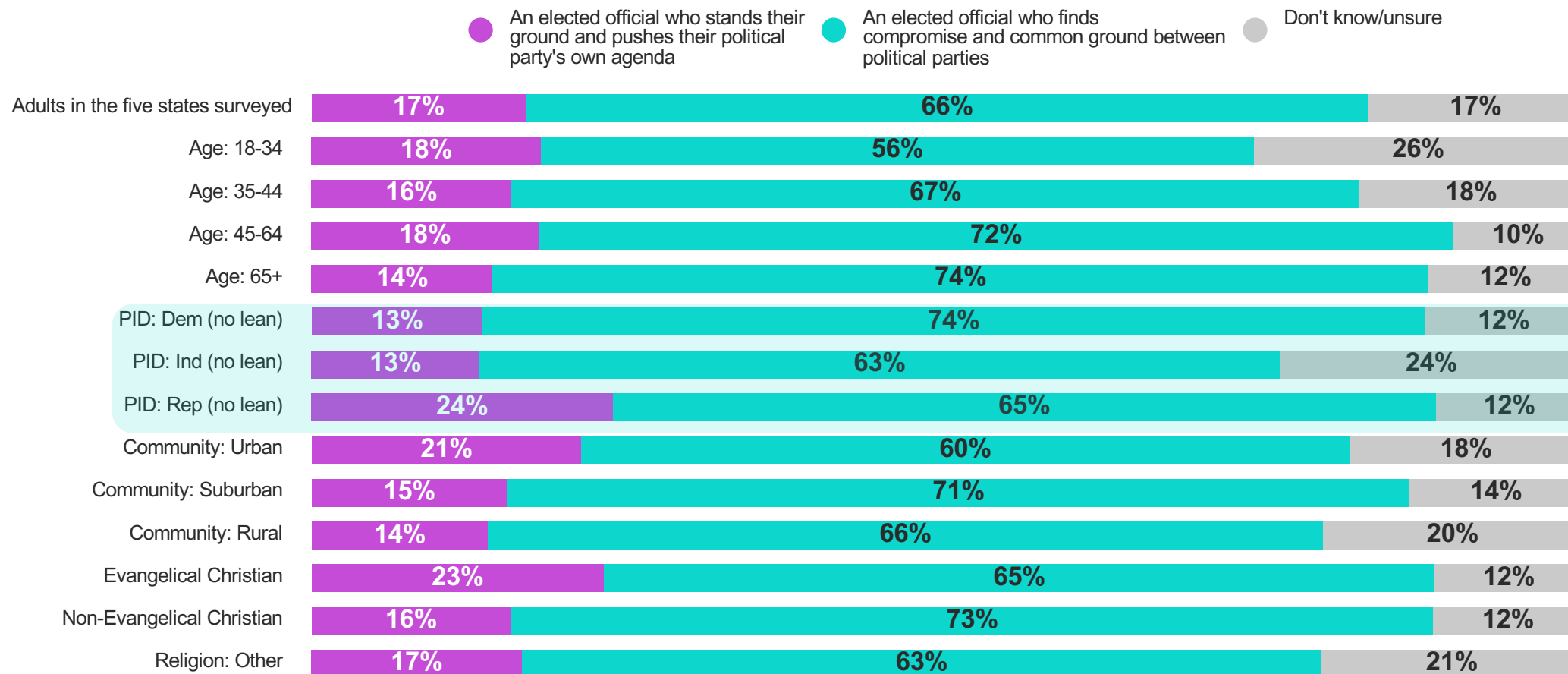
Thinking about what you want out of an elected official, which of these attributes is more important to you?



PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

Republicans (24%) are slightly more likely than Democrats (13%) in the five states surveyed to want an elected official who stands their ground and pushes their political party's own agenda.

Thinking about what you want out of an elected official, which of these attributes is more important to you?



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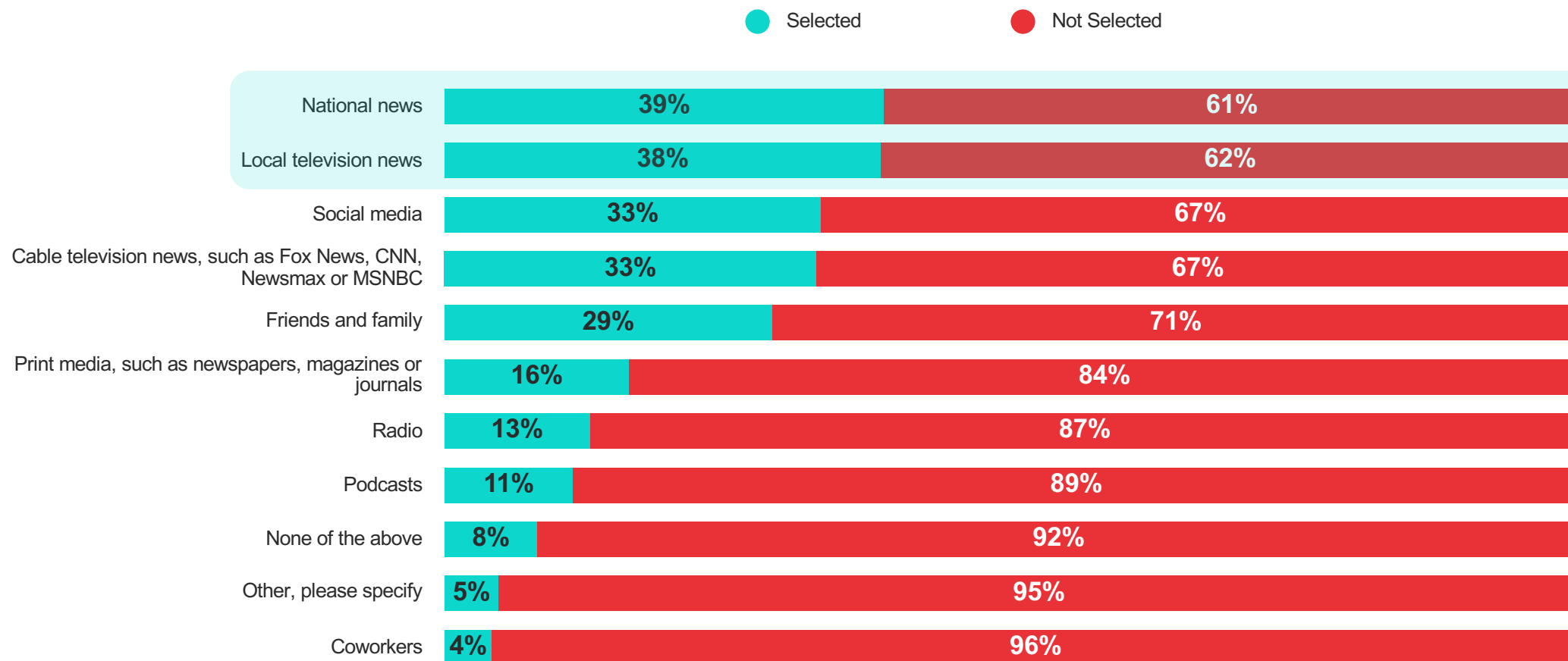
KEY FINDINGS: MEDIA AND MISINFORMATION

- 1. Adults in the five states surveyed are most likely to get their news from national news (39%) and local television news (38%), of the options tested. Of the media channels tested, adults in these states are most likely to watch Fox News at least once a week (31%).**
- 2. Strong majorities of adults in the five states surveyed, including both Democrats and Republicans, say they are worried about misrepresentation of facts (83%) and misinformation (83%). Republicans (60%) in the five states surveyed are more likely than Democrats (26%) in those states to say there is *a lot of* misinformation spread on news media.**
- 3. A bipartisan majority in the five states surveyed agree with the statement “*‘Fake news’ is used to purposefully mislead people.*”**

MEDIA & MISINFORMATION

Adults in the five surveyed states are most likely to get their information on government and politics from national news (39%) and local television news (38%), of the options tested. However, one third say they get their news from social media (33%).

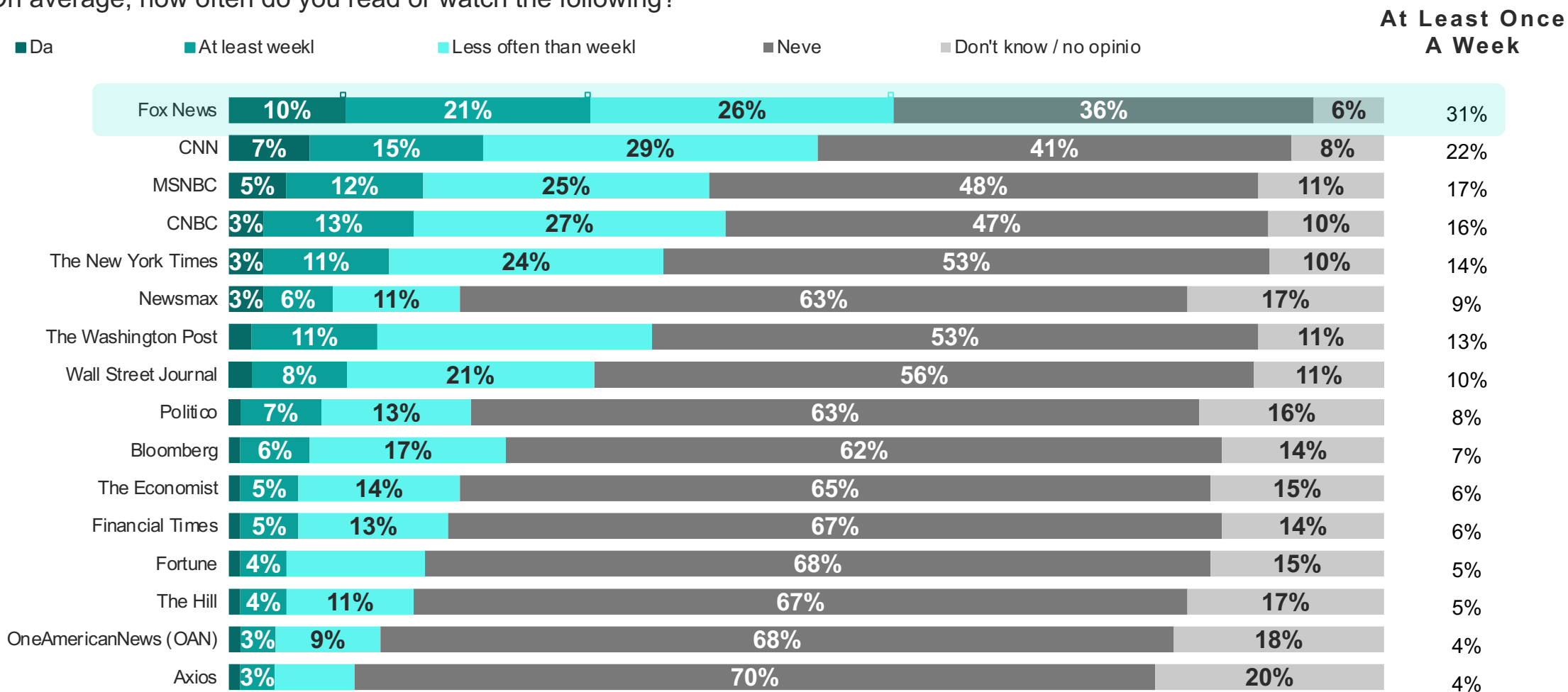
Thinking specifically about information on government and politics, from which of the following do you get the majority of your information on government and politics? Please select up to three options.



MEDIA & MISINFORMATION

Of the news sources tested, adults in the five states surveyed are most likely to watch Fox News at least once a week (31%).

On average, how often do you read or watch the following?*



*Answer option definitions are as follows:

Daily = Daily

At least weekly = A few times a week + Once a week

Less often than weekly = Every few weeks + Once a month + Less than once a month

MEDIA & MISINFORMATION

Majorities of adults in the five states surveyed say that *a lot* of misinformation is spread on social media (73%) and internet sources (58%).

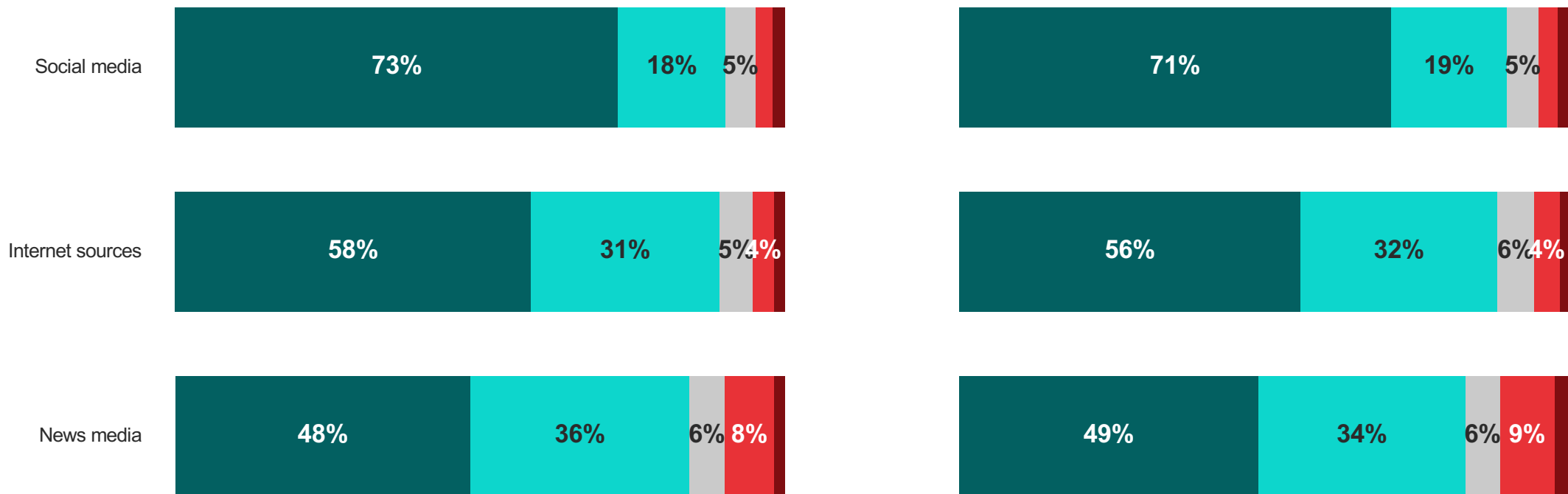
How much misinformation / misrepresentation of facts do you believe are spread on each of the following platforms?

● A lot
 ● Some
 ● Don't know/unsure
 ● Not much
 ● None

Misinformation

Misrepresentation of facts

Republicans (60%) in the five states surveyed are more likely than Democrats (26%) in those states to say there is *a lot* of misinformation spread on news media.



MEDIA & MISINFORMATION

Nearly all adults say they believe there is *a lot* or *some* spread of misinformation and misrepresentation of facts in social media across all states surveyed.

How much misinformation / misrepresentation of facts do you believe are spread on each of the following platforms?

Misinformation

% a lot / a lot + some	Five states	Idaho	Montana	Nevada	Utah	Wyoming
Social Media	73% / 91%	76% / 91%	75% / 94%	71% / 88%	71% / 91%	77% / 90%
Internet sources	58% / 89%	60% / 92%	65% / 91%	58% / 87%	54% / 89%	65% / 88%
News media	48% / 84%	50% / 86%	48% / 87%	45% / 82%	49% / 85%	58% / 85%

Misrepresentation of facts

% a lot / a lot + some	Five states	Idaho	Montana	Nevada	Utah	Wyoming
Social Media	71% / 90%	76% / 92%	75% / 94%	67% / 86%	70% / 91%	71% / 89%
Internet sources	56% / 88%	56% / 92%	60% / 93%	56% / 85%	53% / 87%	60% / 86%
News media	49% / 83%	50% / 86%	50% / 86%	47% / 79%	49% / 84%	54% / 83%

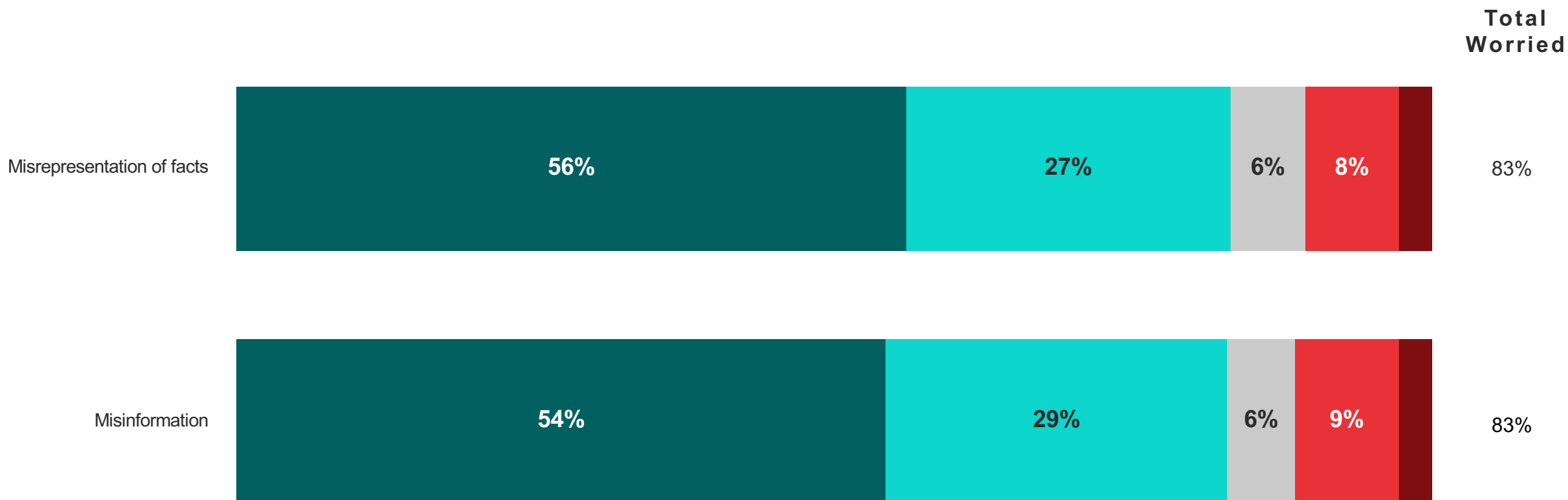
MEDIA & MISINFORMATION

Strong majorities of adults in the five states surveyed say they are worried about misrepresentation of facts (83%) and misinformation (83%).

How worried are you, if at all, about each of the following?

Very worried Somewhat worried Don't know/no opinion Not too worried Not at all worried

Republicans and Democrats in the five states surveyed are just as likely to be worried about misinformation (Dem. 85%, Rep. 86%) and misrepresentation of facts (Dem. 85%, Rep. 87%).



MEDIA & MISINFORMATION

Approximately four in five adults say they are worried about both misinformation and misrepresentation of facts across each of the five states surveyed.

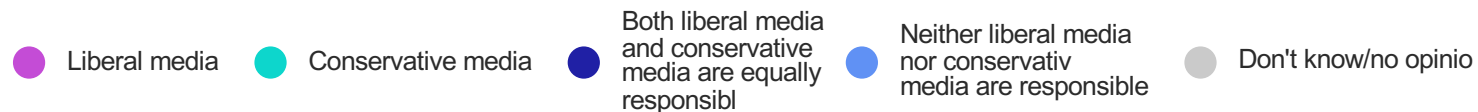
How worried are you, if at all, about each of the following?

% very worried / total worried	Five states	Idaho	Montana	Nevada	Utah	Wyoming
Misinformation	54% / 83%	58% / 84%	52% / 86%	54% / 79%	54% / 84%	51% / 86%
Misrepresentation of facts	56% / 83%	60% / 84%	56% / 86%	57% / 79%	54% / 86%	53% / 84%

MEDIA & MISINFORMATION

Pluralities of adults in the five states surveyed say both liberal media and conservative media are equally responsible when it comes to misrepresentation of facts (47%) and misinformation in the news (46%).

When it comes to misinformation in the news, which do you believe is primarily responsible for each of the following?



37% of Democrats in the five states surveyed say conservative media is primarily responsible for misinformation, while 44% of Republicans say liberal media is primarily responsible for misinformation.

Misrepresentation of facts



Misinformation



MEDIA & MISINFORMATION

Pluralities of adults across the five states surveyed say both liberal and conservative media are equally responsible for misinformation and misrepresentation of facts.

When it comes to misinformation in the news, which do you believe is primarily responsible for each of the following?

% both liberal media and conservative media are equally responsible	Five states	Idaho	Montana	Nevada	Utah	Wyoming
Misinformation	46%	48%	41%	46%	48%	42%
Misrepresentation of facts	47%	48%	43%	46%	49%	41%

MEDIA & MISINFORMATION

Majorities of adults in the five states surveyed (56%) *strongly agree* with the statement “*Fake news*’ is used to purposely mislead people.”

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

● Strongly agree ● Somewhat agree ● Don't know/no opinion ● Somewhat disagree ● Strongly disagree

Total Agree

Democrats (84%) and Republicans (83%) in the five states surveyed are just as likely to agree with the statement “*Fake news*’ is used to purposefully mislead people.”

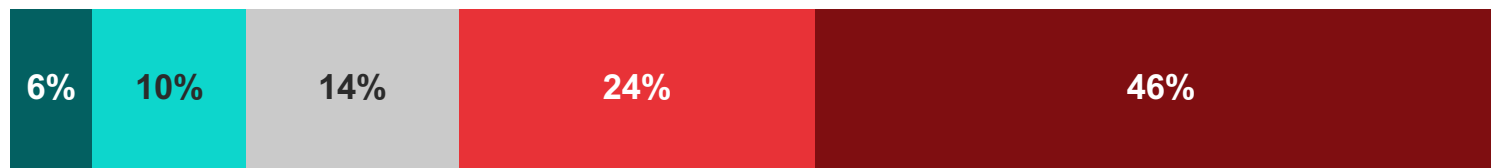
'Fake news' is used to purposely mislead people



Politicians use 'fake news' to dismiss facts that are actually true



'Fake news' is usually stated accidentally



MEDIA & MISINFORMATION

Less than a quarter of adults across the five states surveyed agree with the statement “*‘Fake news’ is usually stated accidentally.*”

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

% strongly agree / total agree	Five states	Idaho	Montana	Nevada	Utah	Wyoming
‘Fake news’ is used to purposefully mislead people	56% / 81%	57% / 83%	61% / 86%	59% / 79%	51% / 81%	58% / 79%
Politicians use ‘fake news’ to dismiss facts that are actually true	46% / 76%	52% / 80%	51% / 80%	47% / 76%	41% / 74%	47% / 76%
‘Fake news’ is usually stated accidentally	6% / 16%	6% / 15%	4% / 15%	7% / 17%	5% / 16%	3% / 12%

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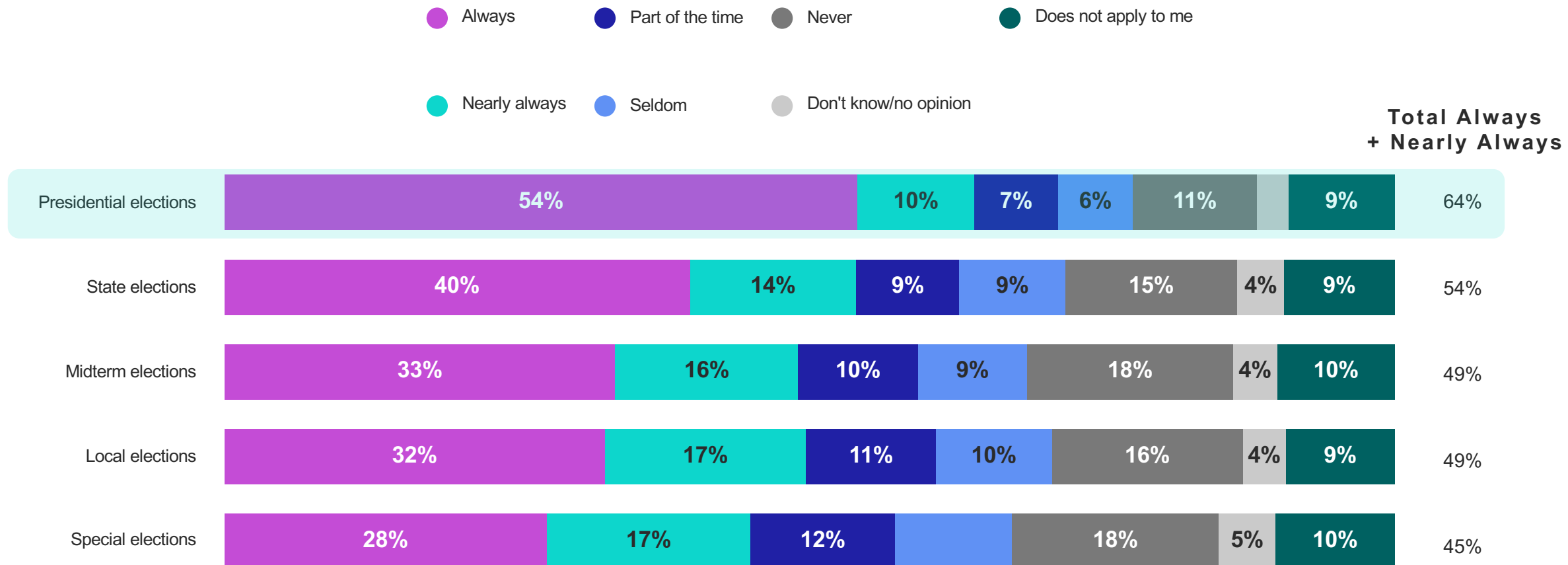


KEY FINDINGS: 2020 ELECTION

- 1. Majorities of Republicans in the five states surveyed say the last several presidential elections have been generally less secure than presidential elections held before then (63%).**
- 2. And, only 51% of adults in the five states surveyed believe that former Vice President Joe Biden legitimately defeated incumbent President Donald Trump in the November 2020 Presidential election.**
- 3. Distrust in the election stems mainly from perceptions of illegal voting, among the options tested. Half of adults in the five states surveyed say that people voting illegally happened *a lot* or *some* in the November 2020 U.S. presidential elections (50%).**

Two thirds of adults in the five states surveyed say they *always* or *nearly always* vote in presidential elections (64%).

How often would you say you vote in each of the following types of elections?



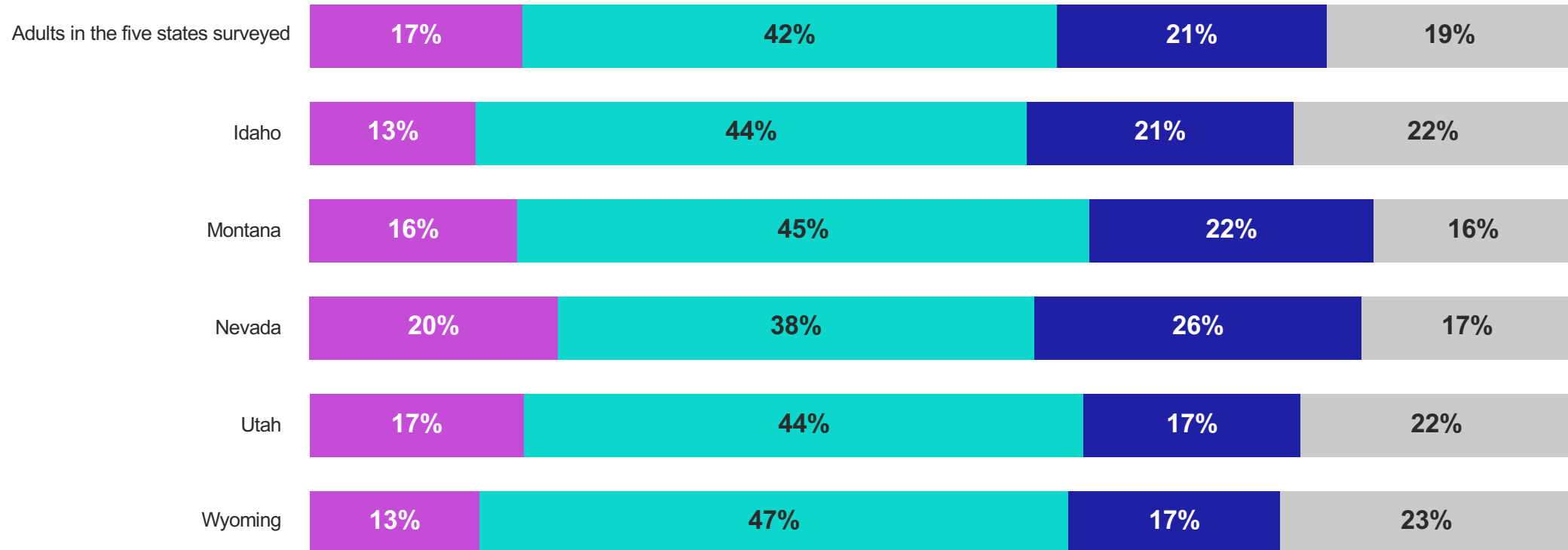
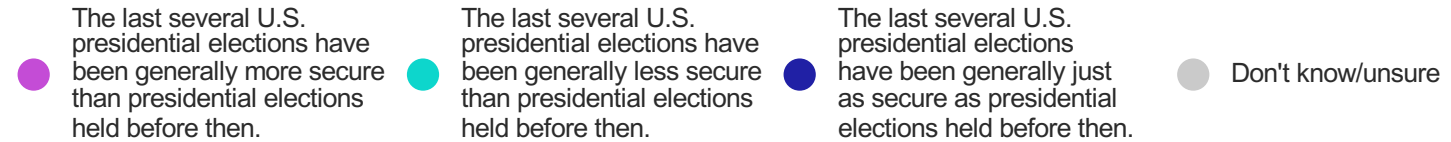
Adults over 65 years old in the five states surveyed are more likely than younger adults to say they always or nearly always vote in each of the elections tested.

How often would you say you vote in each of the following types of elections?

% always + nearly always	Five states	Age: 18-34	Age: 35-44	Age: 45-64	Age: 65+	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Presidential elections	64%	44%	59%	73%	89%	72%	48%	77%
State elections	54%	30%	44%	66%	84%	62%	40%	66%
Midterm elections	49%	24%	41%	58%	82%	57%	34%	61%
Local elections	49%	24%	41%	62%	81%	56%	37%	60%
Special elections	45%	21%	37%	55%	76%	53%	31%	56%

Pluralities of adults in the five states surveyed say the last several U.S. presidential elections have been generally less secure than presidential elections held before then (42%).

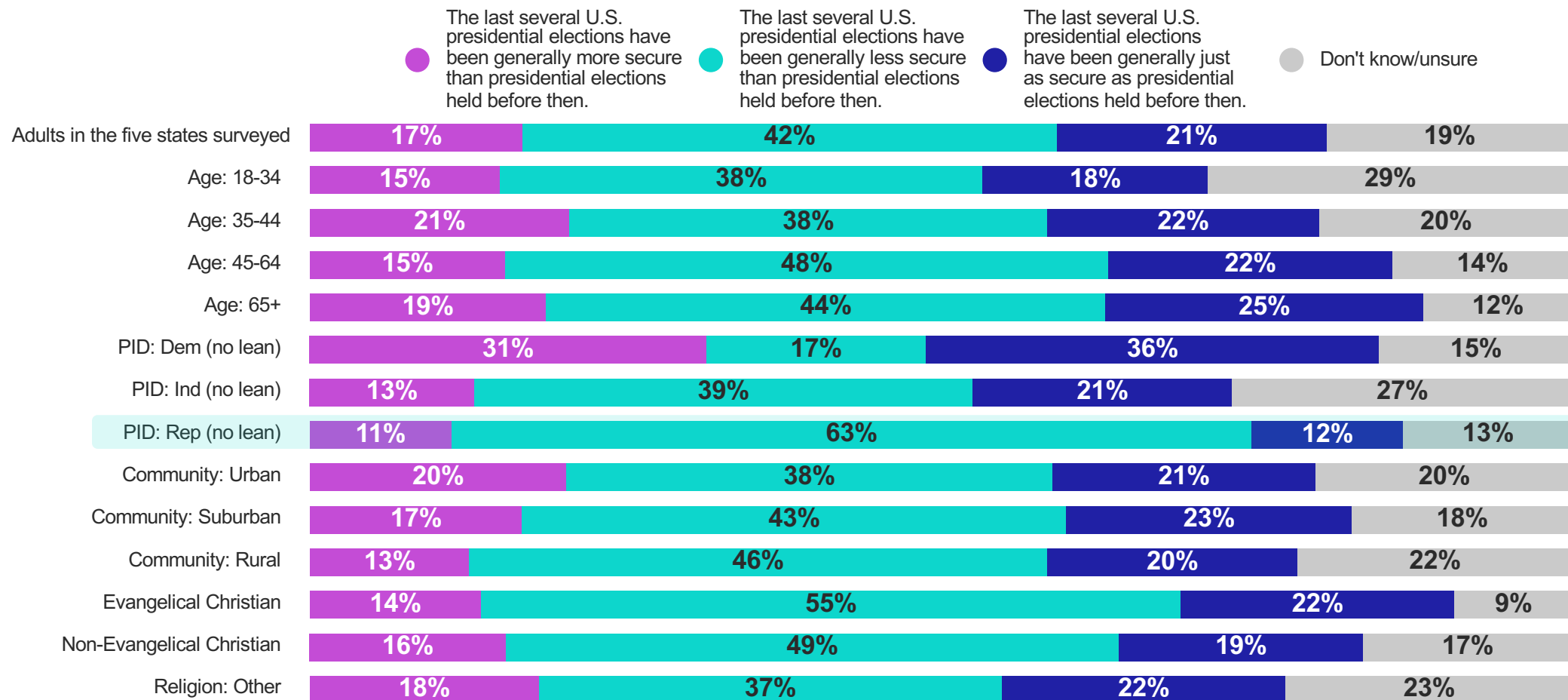
Thinking about the last several presidential elections in the U.S., do you think the last several presidential elections have been generally more secure or less secure than those held in the past?



2020 ELECTION

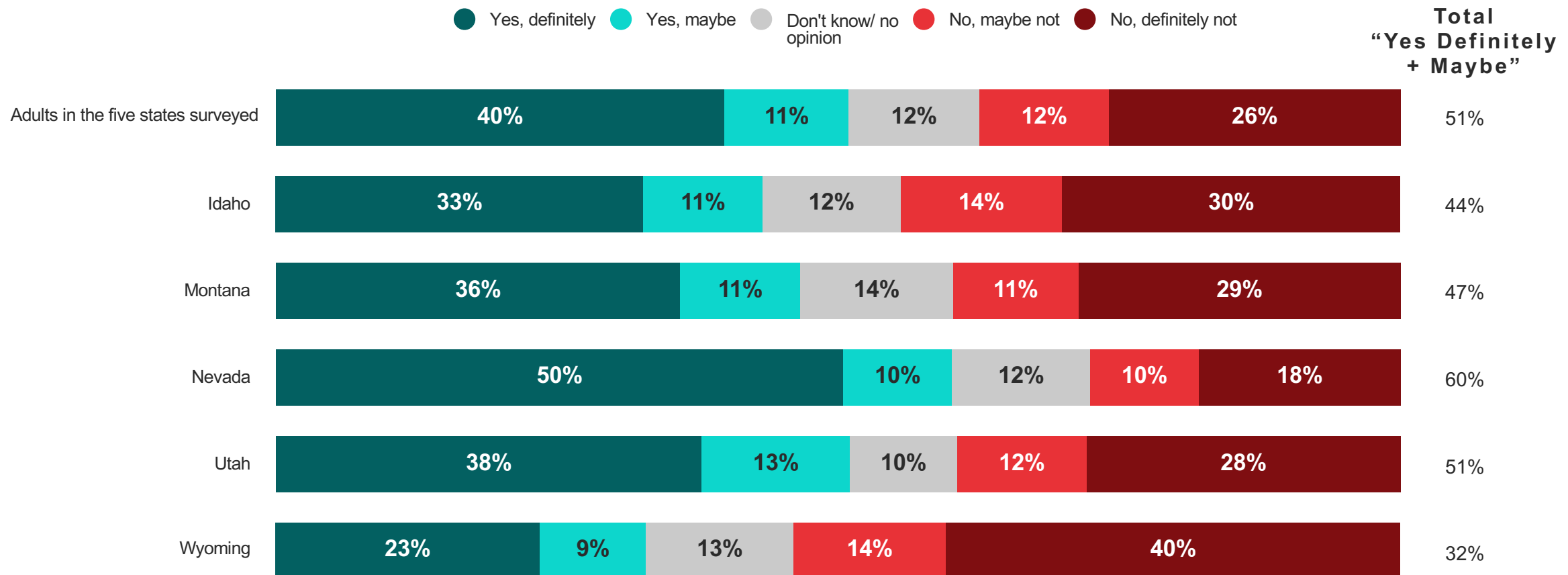
Republicans (63%) in the five states surveyed are more likely than Democrats (39%) to say the last several presidential elections have been generally less secure than presidential elections held before then.

Thinking about the last several presidential elections in the U.S., do you think the last several presidential elections have been generally more secure or less secure than those held in the past?



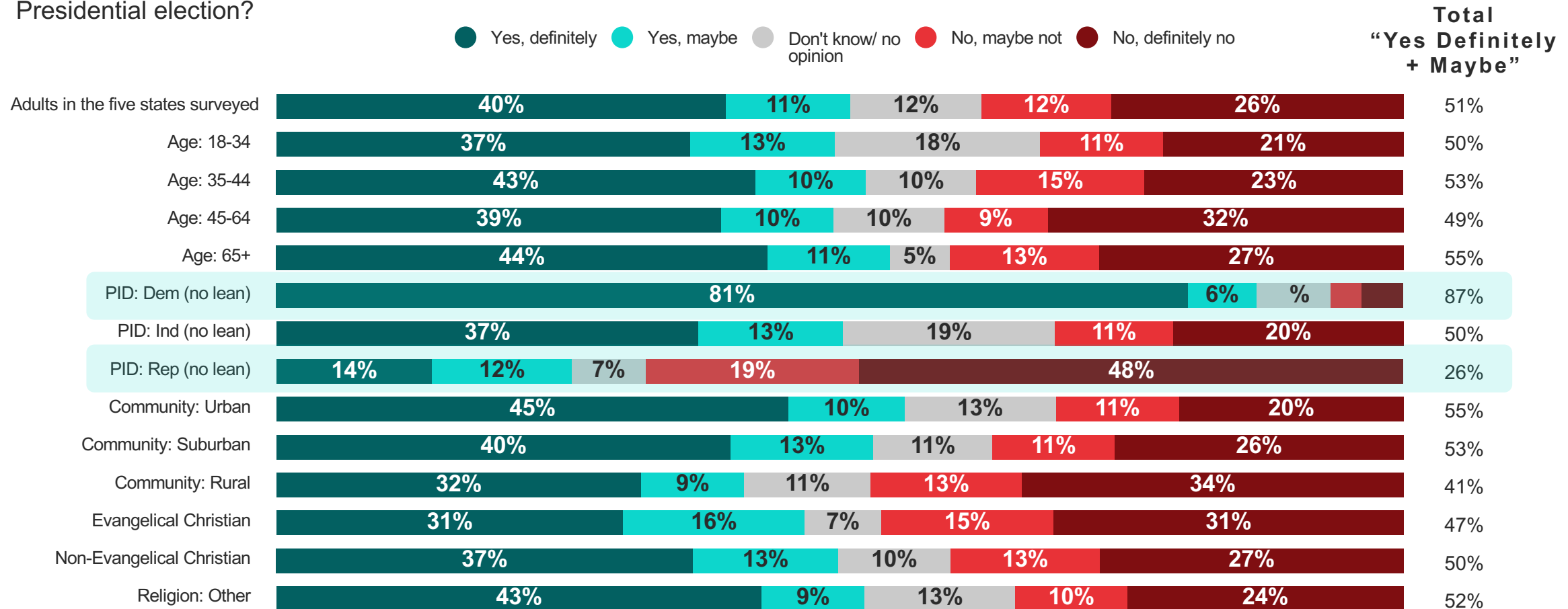
Half of adults (51%) in the five states surveyed believe that former Vice President Joe Biden legitimately defeated incumbent President Donald Trump in the November 2020 Presidential election.

Do you believe that former Vice President Joe Biden legitimately defeated incumbent President Donald Trump in the November 2020 Presidential election?



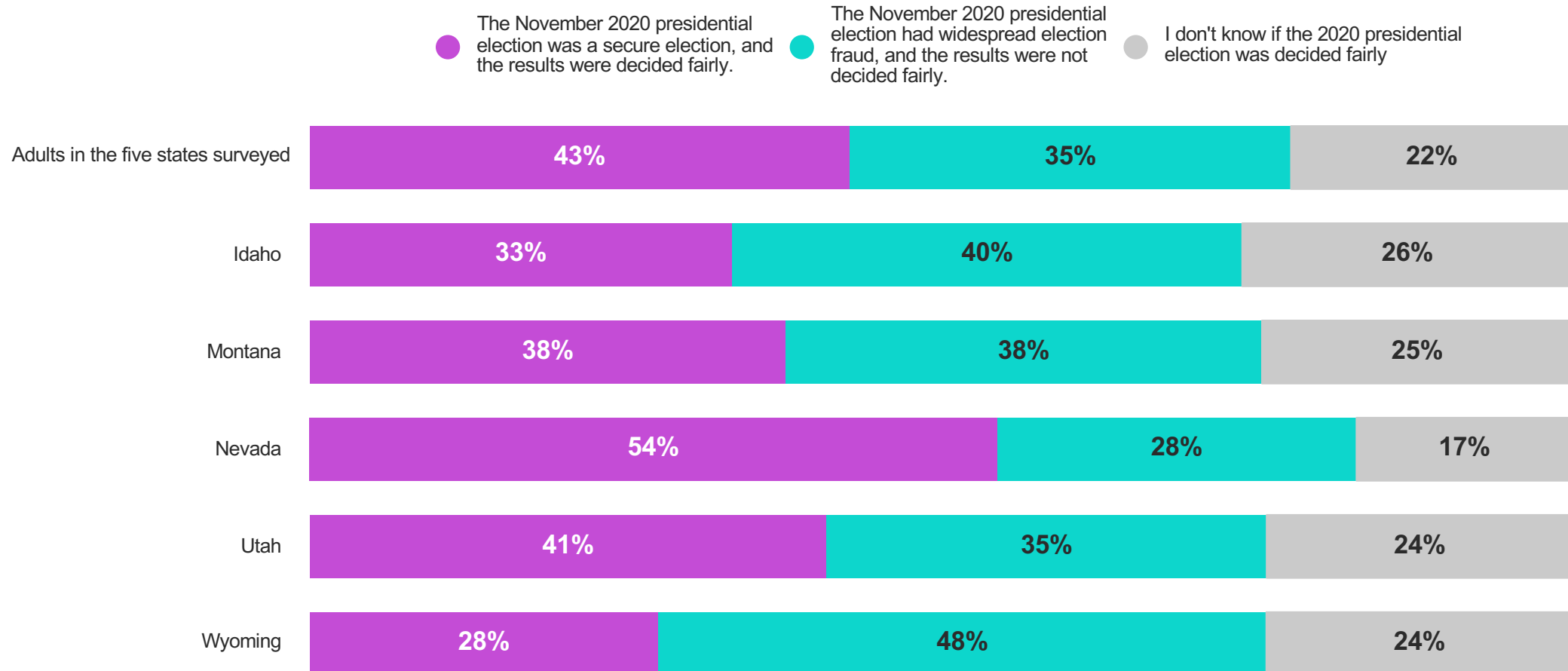
One quarter of Republicans in the five states surveyed say they believe that Vice President Joe Biden legitimately defeated incumbent President Donald Trump in the November 2020 Presidential election (26%). And, 81% of Democrats say the same.

Do you believe that former Vice President Joe Biden legitimately defeated incumbent President Donald Trump in the November 2020 Presidential election?



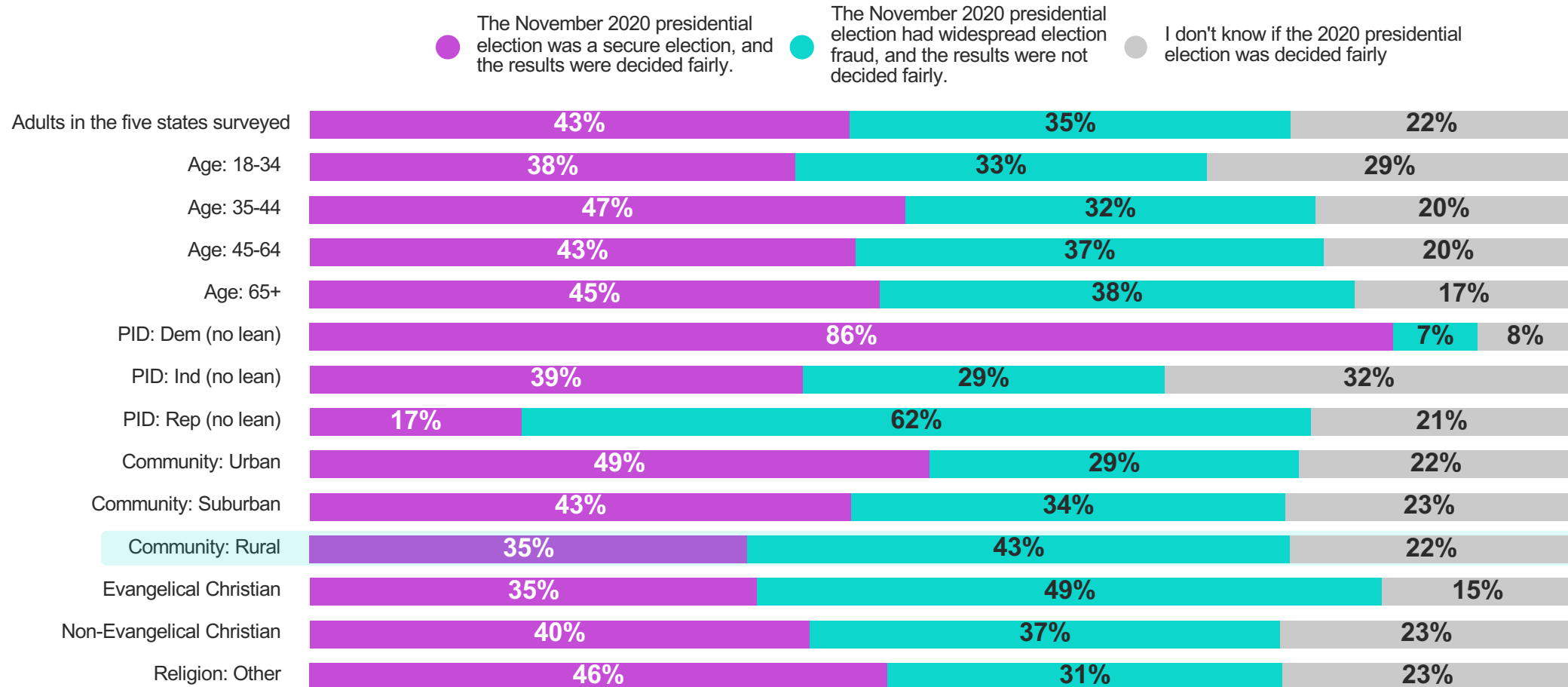
A plurality of adults in the five states surveyed say the November 2020 election was secure, and the results were decided fairly (43%).

And, which of the following comes closest to your opinion, even if neither of the statements are exactly right?



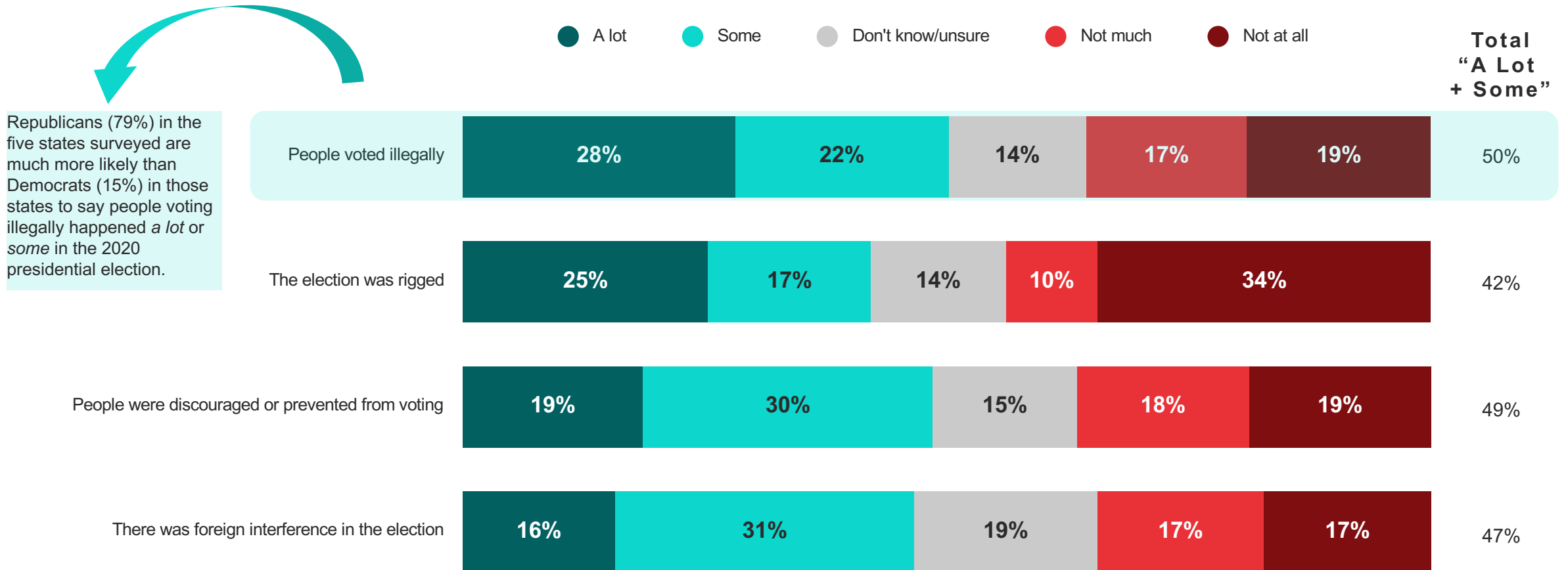
A plurality of rural adults in the five states surveyed say the November 2020 presidential election had widespread fraud, and the results were not decided fairly (43%).

And, which of the following comes closest to your opinion, even if neither of the statements are exactly right?



Half of adults in the five states surveyed say that people voting illegally happened *a lot* or *some* in the November 2020 U.S. presidential elections (50%).

To what extent do you believe each of the following happened in the November 2020 U.S. presidential election?



PERCEPTIONS ON COMMON GROUND

Of the five states surveyed, adults in Wyoming are more likely to say the election was rigged (55%).

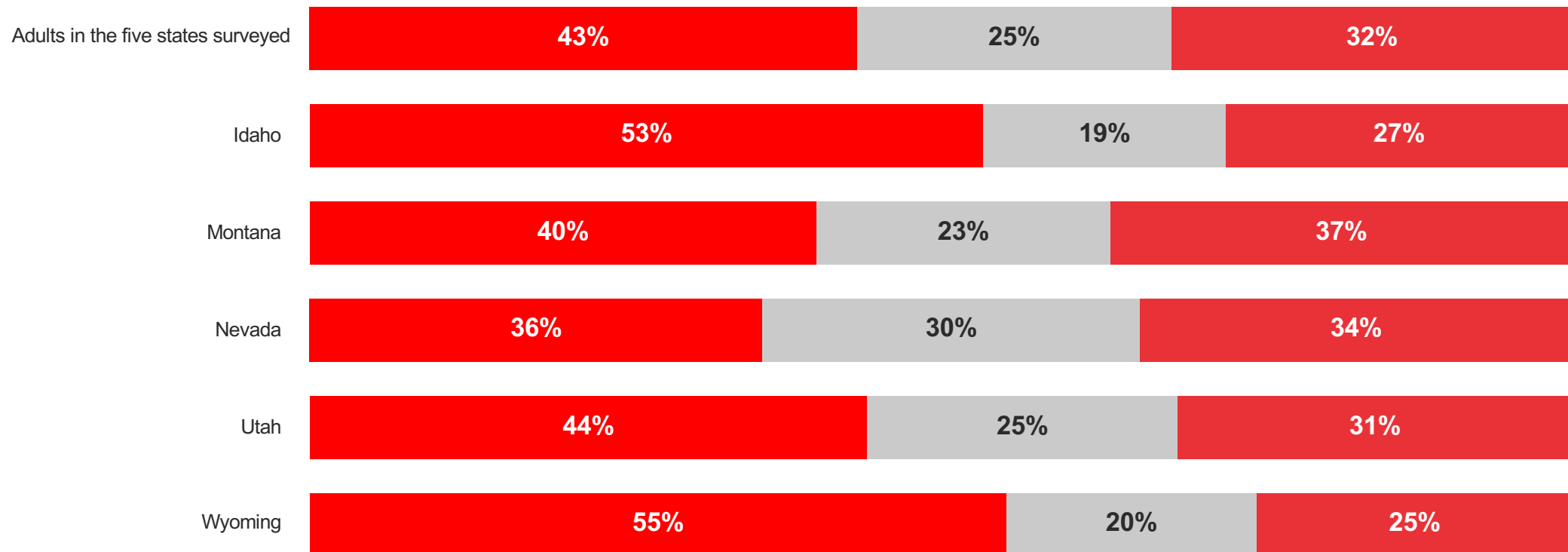
To what extent do you believe each of the following happened in the November 2020 U.S. presidential election?

% a lot / a lot + some	Five states	Idaho	Montana	Nevada	Utah	Wyoming
People voted illegally	28% / 50%	32% / 59%	31% / 50%	24% / 42%	27% / 52%	40% / 62%
The election was rigged	25% / 42%	29% / 49%	27% / 45%	19% / 34%	27% / 42%	35% / 55%
People were discouraged or prevented from voting	19% / 49%	19% / 49%	20% / 54%	17% / 47%	20% / 49%	21% / 45%
There was foreign interference in the election	16% / 47%	16% / 50%	17% / 48%	16% / 42%	14% / 48%	20% / 50%

When forced to choose, adults in the five states surveyed are more likely to say people voting illegally (43%) was a bigger problem than people being discouraged from voting in the November 2020 U.S. presidential election (32%).

In your opinion, if you had to choose, which of the following was a bigger problem in the November 2020 U.S. presidential election?

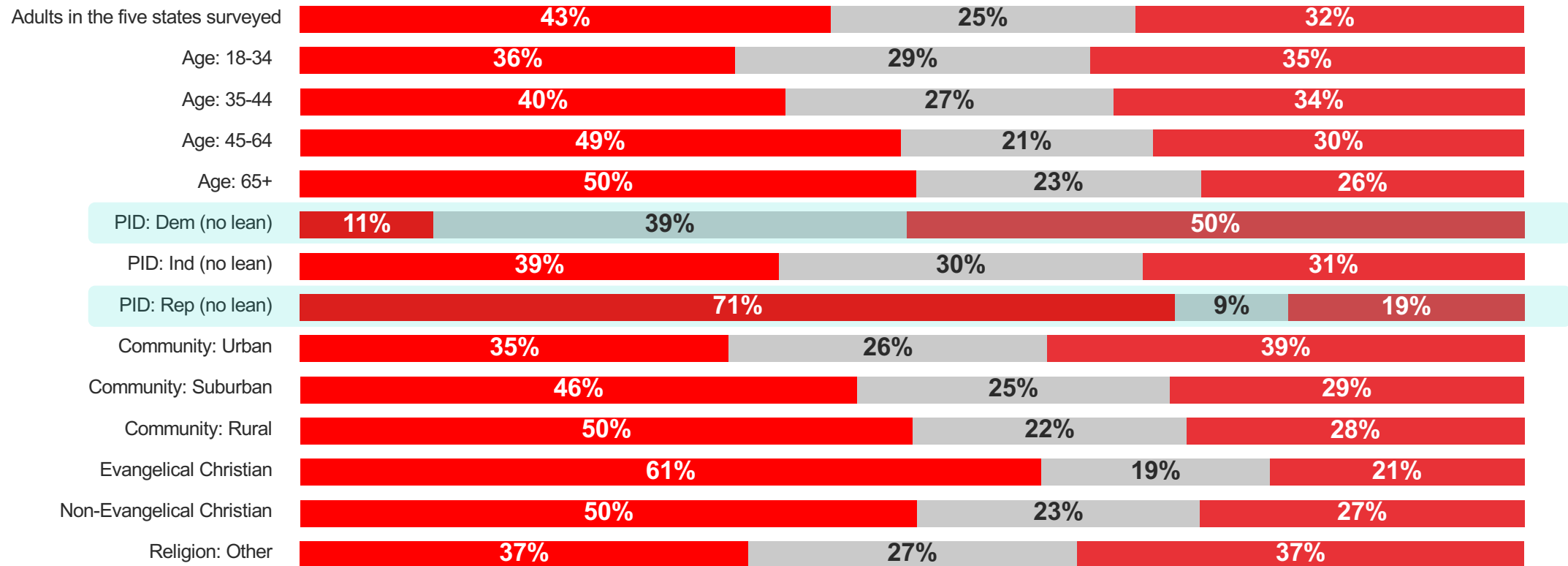
● Some people voting illegall
 ● Neither was a problem in the electio
 ● Some people were discouraged or prevented from voti



Democrats in the five states surveyed are more likely to say people being discouraged from voting (50%) was a bigger problem than people voting illegally in the November 2020 U.S. presidential election (11%). The opposite is true for Republicans (18% versus 71%).

In your opinion, if you had to choose, which of the following was a bigger problem in the November 2020 U.S. presidential election?

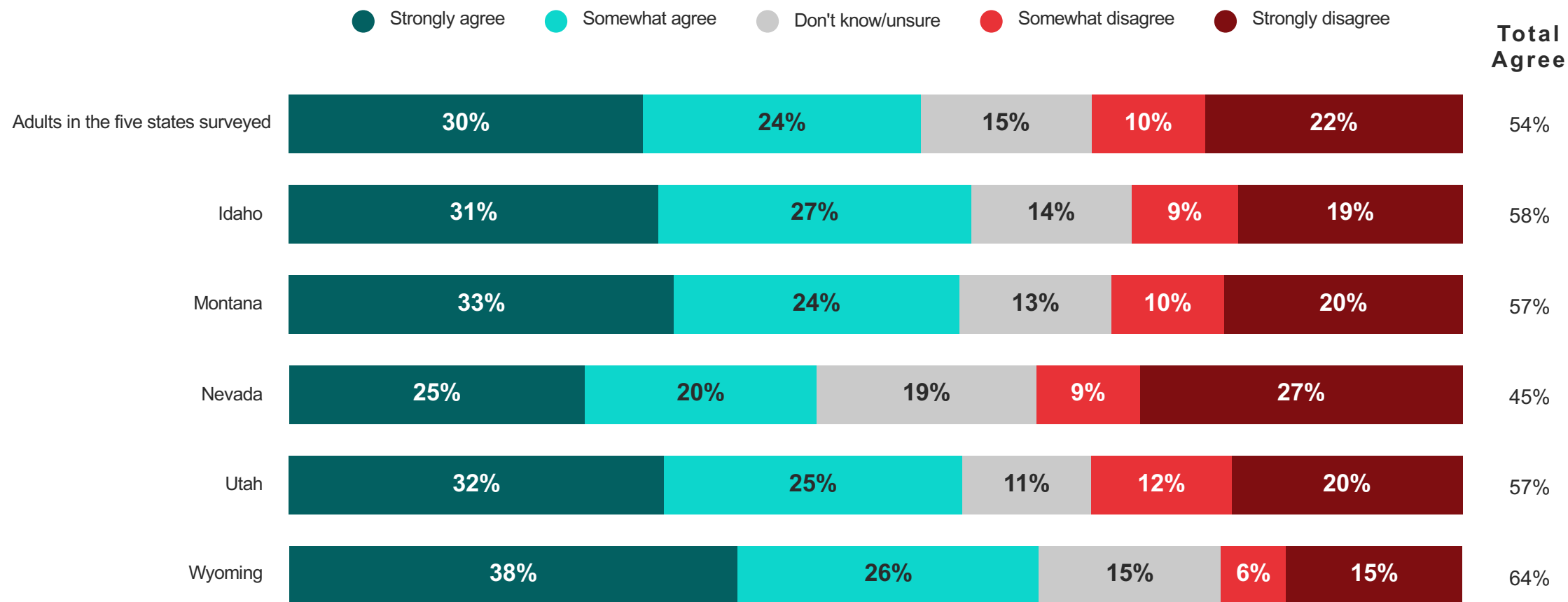
● Some people voting illegally
 ● Neither was a problem in the election
 ● Some people were discouraged or prevented from voting



2020 ELECTION

Majorities of adults in the five states surveyed (54%) agree with the statement, “claims that the November 2020 U.S. presidential election had widespread election fraud, and the results were not decided fairly, undermine my confidence in democracy.”

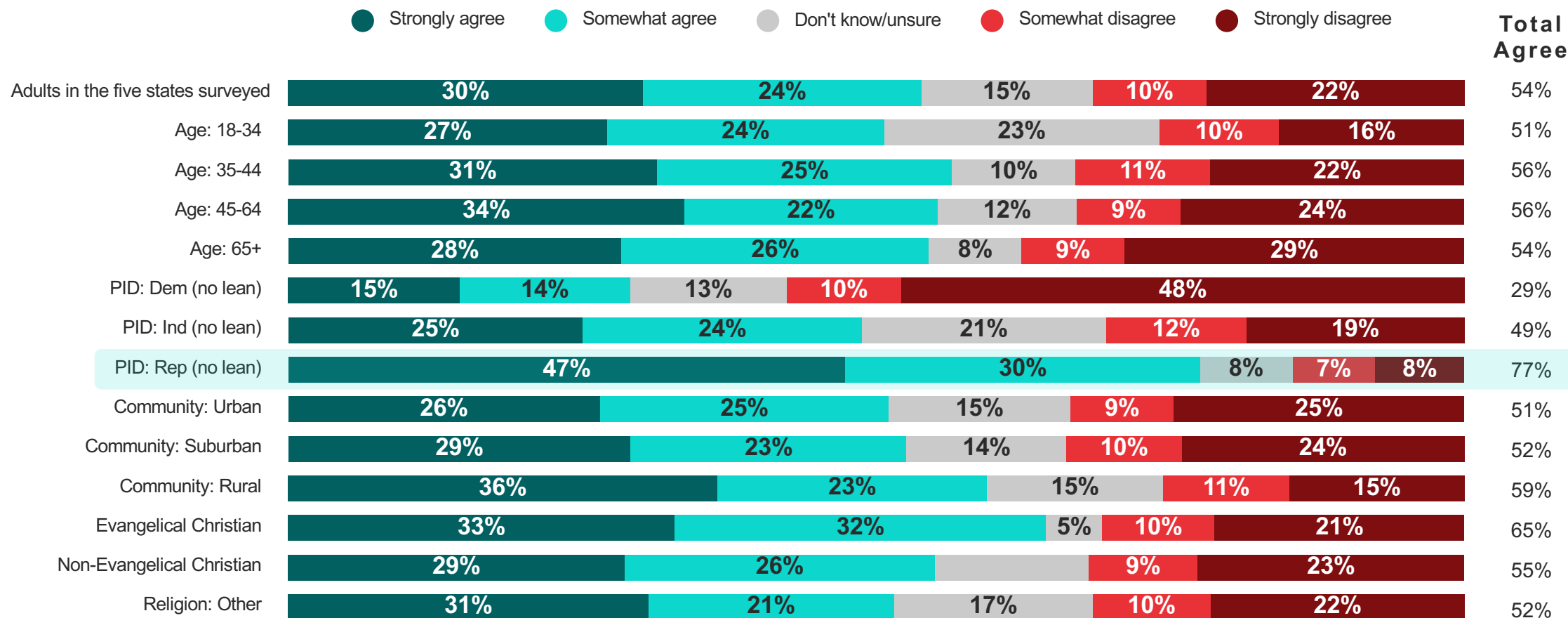
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Claims that the November 2020 U.S. presidential election had widespread election fraud, and the results were not decided fairly, undermine my confidence in democracy.



2020 ELECTION

Three quarters of Republicans in the five states surveyed (77%) agree with the statement “claims that the November 2020 U.S. presidential election had widespread election fraud, and the results were not decided fairly, undermine my confidence in democracy.”

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Claims that the November 2020 U.S. presidential election had widespread election fraud, and the results were not decided fairly, undermine my confidence in democracy.



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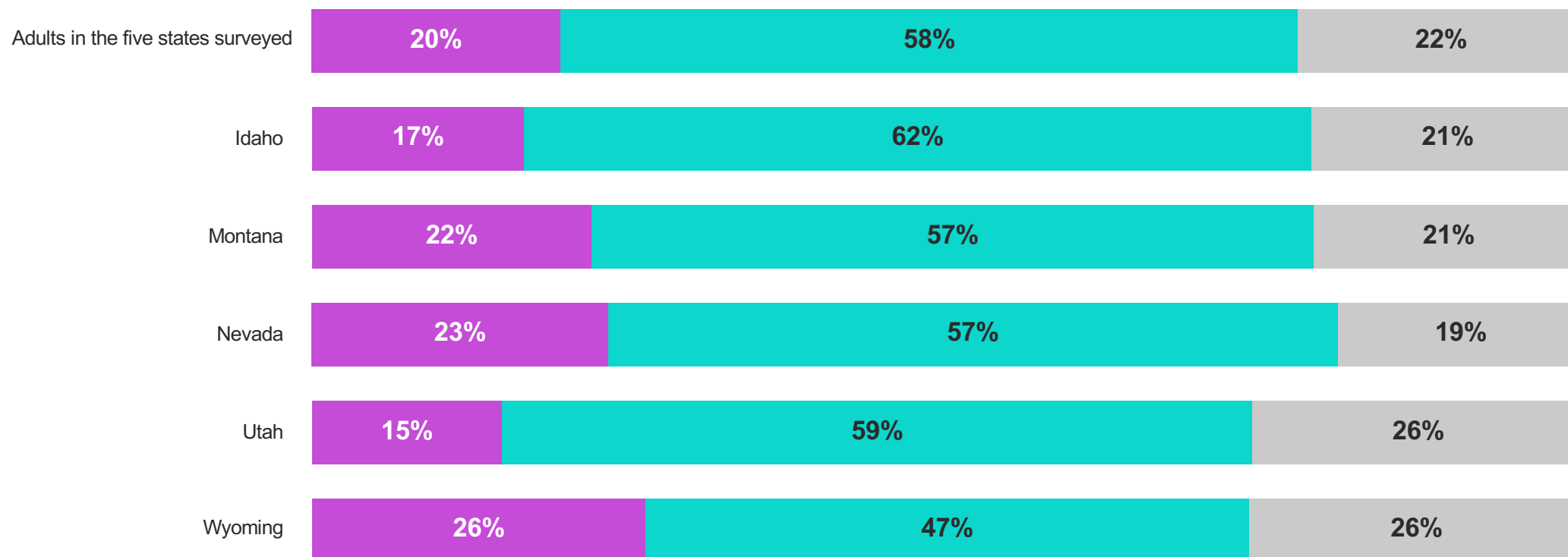
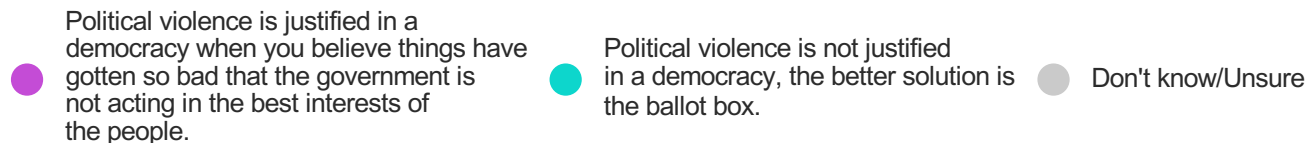
KEY FINDINGS: VIEWS ON JANUARY 6TH VIOLENCE

- 1. While 58% of adults in the five states surveyed say political violence is not justified in a democracy, 20% say political violence is justified when things have gotten so bad that the government is not acting in the best interest of the people.**
- 2. However, approximately three quarters of adults in the five states surveyed say the actions of those involved in the violence at the U.S. Capitol were not justified (71%).**
- 3. Democrats (79%) in the five states surveyed are much more likely than Republicans (13%) in those states to say Former President Donald Trump was most responsible for violence at the U.S. Capitol.**
- 4. And, majorities of adults in the five states surveyed say it is likely the U.S. sees violence in the future similar to the events at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th, 2021.**

— VIEWS ON JANUARY 6TH VIOLENCE

58% of adults in the five states surveyed say political violence is not justified in a democracy.

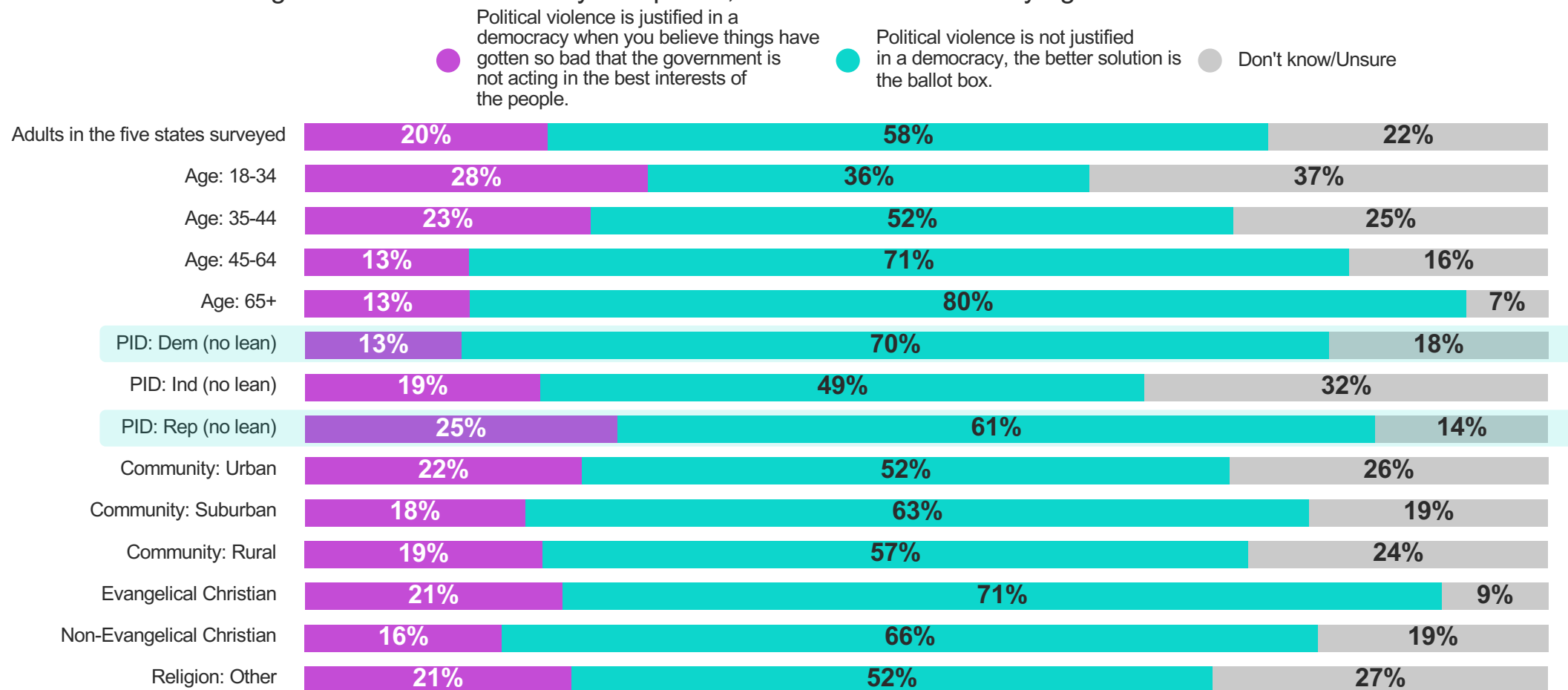
Which of the following statements is closer to your opinion, even if neither is exactly right?



— VIEWS ON JANUARY 6TH VIOLENCE

Republicans in the five states surveyed (25%) are more likely than Democrats (13%) to say political violence is justified in a democracy when you believe things have gotten so bad that the government is not acting in the best interests of the people.

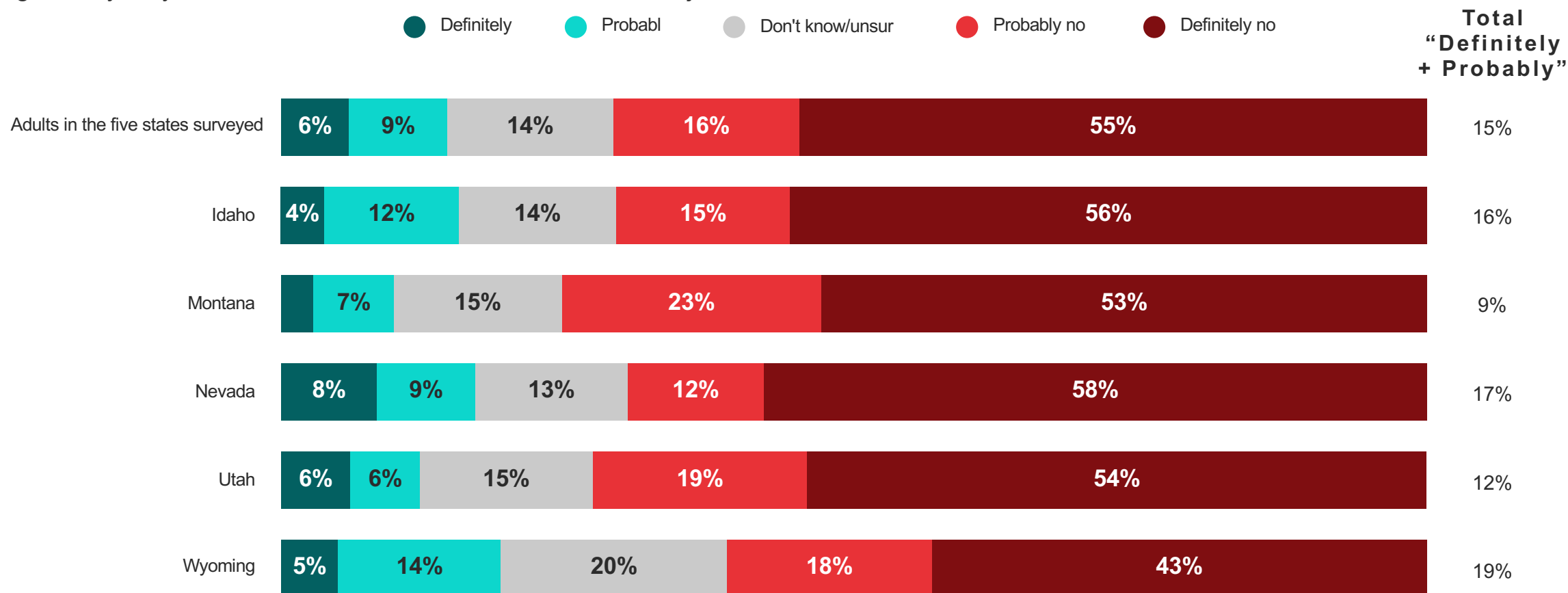
Which of the following statements is closer to your opinion, even if neither is exactly right?



— VIEWS ON JANUARY 6TH VIOLENCE

Approximately three quarters of adults in the five states surveyed say the actions of those involved in the violence at the U.S. Capitol were not justified (71%).

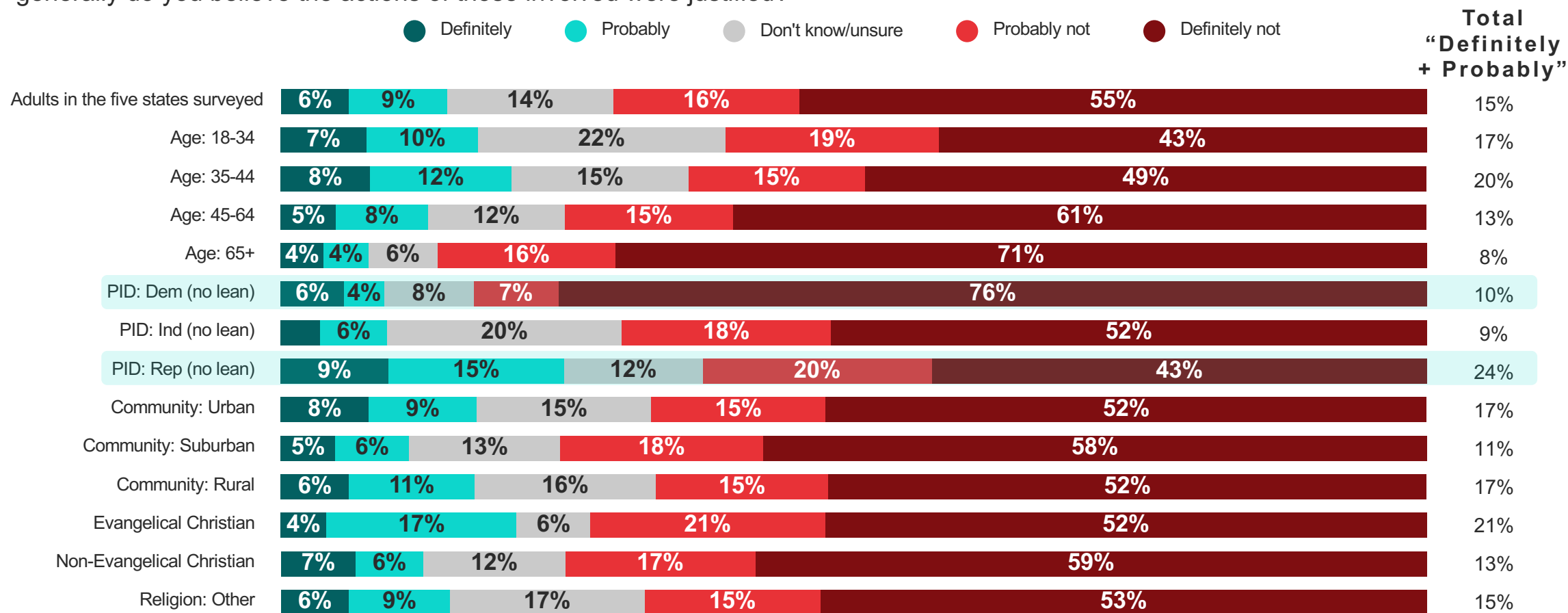
Violence occurred at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th, 2021. The violence disrupted a joint session of Congress convened to certify the results of the November 2020 presidential election and threatened those in the Capitol. Thinking about the violence at the U.S. Capitol, generally do you believe the actions of those involved were justified?



— VIEWS ON JANUARY 6TH VIOLENCE

Republicans (24%) in the five states surveyed are more likely than Democrats (10%) to say the actions of those involved in the violence at the U.S. Capitol were justified.

Violence occurred at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th, 2021. The violence disrupted a joint session of Congress convened to certify the results of the November 2020 presidential election and threatened those in the Capitol. Thinking about the violence at the U.S. Capitol, generally do you believe the actions of those involved were justified?



— VIEWS ON JANUARY 6TH VIOLENCE

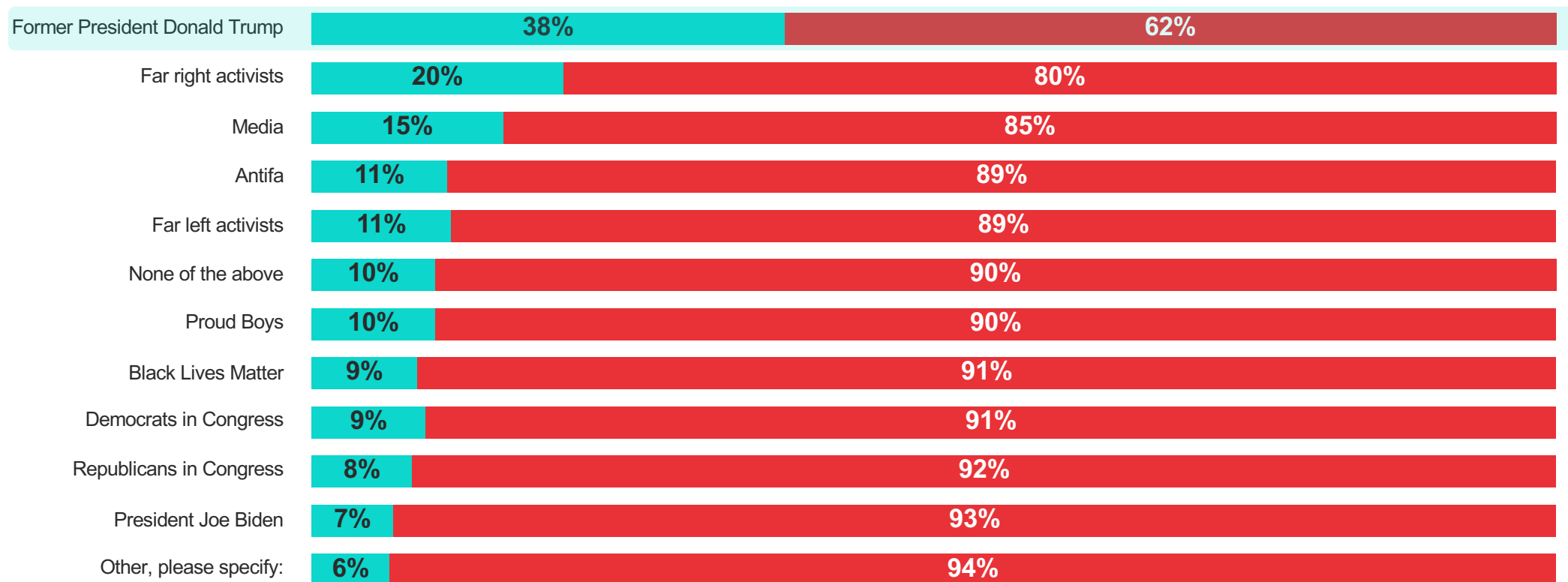
Of the options tested, adults in the five states surveyed say Former President Donald Trump was most responsible for violence at the U.S. Capitol (38%).

Who was most responsible for the violence at the U.S. Capitol? Please select up to two options.



● Selected ● Not Selected

Democrats (79%) in the five states surveyed are much more likely than Republicans (13%) in those states to say Former President Donald Trump was most responsible for violence at the U.S. Capitol.



VIEWS ON JANUARY 6TH VIOLENCE

Of the five states surveyed, adults in Wyoming are least likely to say Former President Donald Trump was most responsible for the violence at the U.S. Capitol (28%).

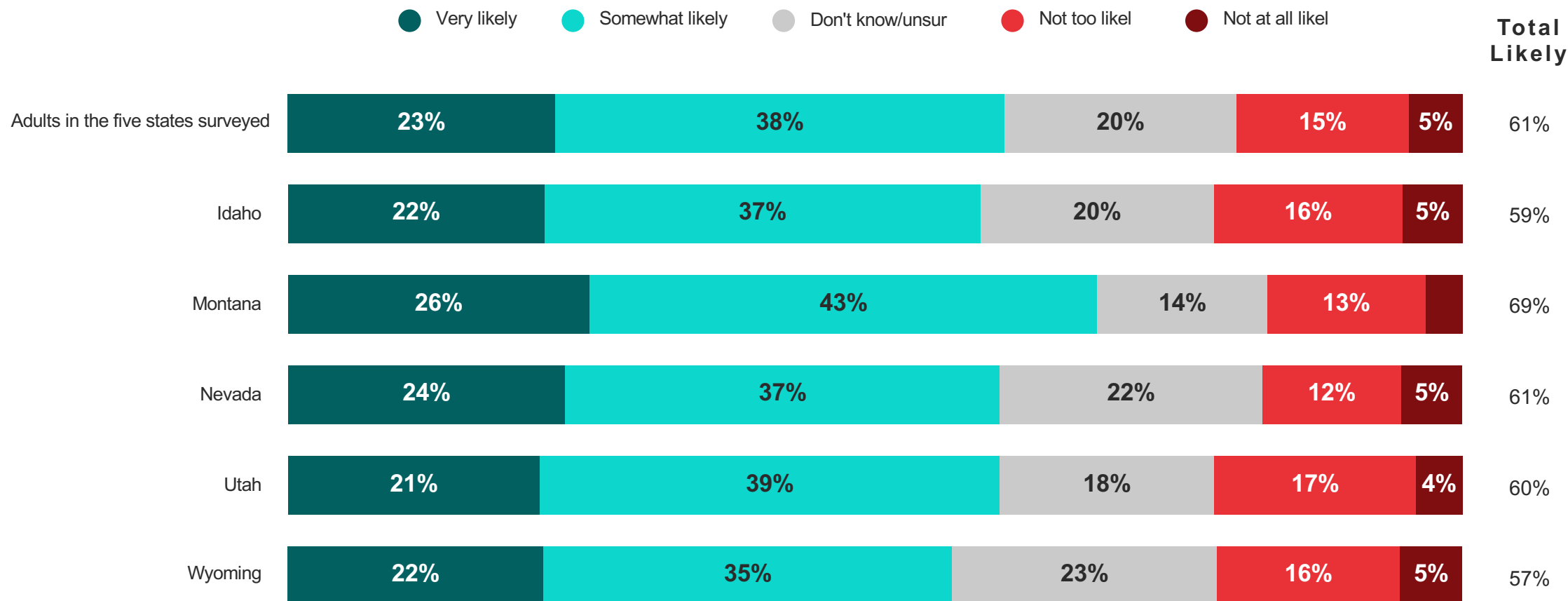
Who was most responsible for the violence at the U.S. Capitol? Please select up to two options.

% selected	Five states	Idaho	Montana	Nevada	Utah	Wyoming
Former President Donald Trump	38%	33%	40%	44%	36%	28%
Far right activists	20%	20%	19%	21%	22%	13%
Media	15%	19%	21%	9%	18%	19%
Antifa	11%	15%	12%	10%	8%	15%
Far left activists	11%	13%	10%	10%	13%	9%
Proud boys	10%	7%	8%	13%	10%	7%
Black Lives Matter	9%	8%	8%	8%	8%	14%
Democrats in Congress	9%	9%	6%	8%	11%	13%
Republicans in Congress	8%	5%	7%	12%	7%	4%
President Joe Biden	7%	8%	9%	4%	7%	11%

— VIEWS ON JANUARY 6TH VIOLENCE

Majorities of adults in the five states surveyed say it is likely the U.S. sees violence in the future similar to the events at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th, 2021.

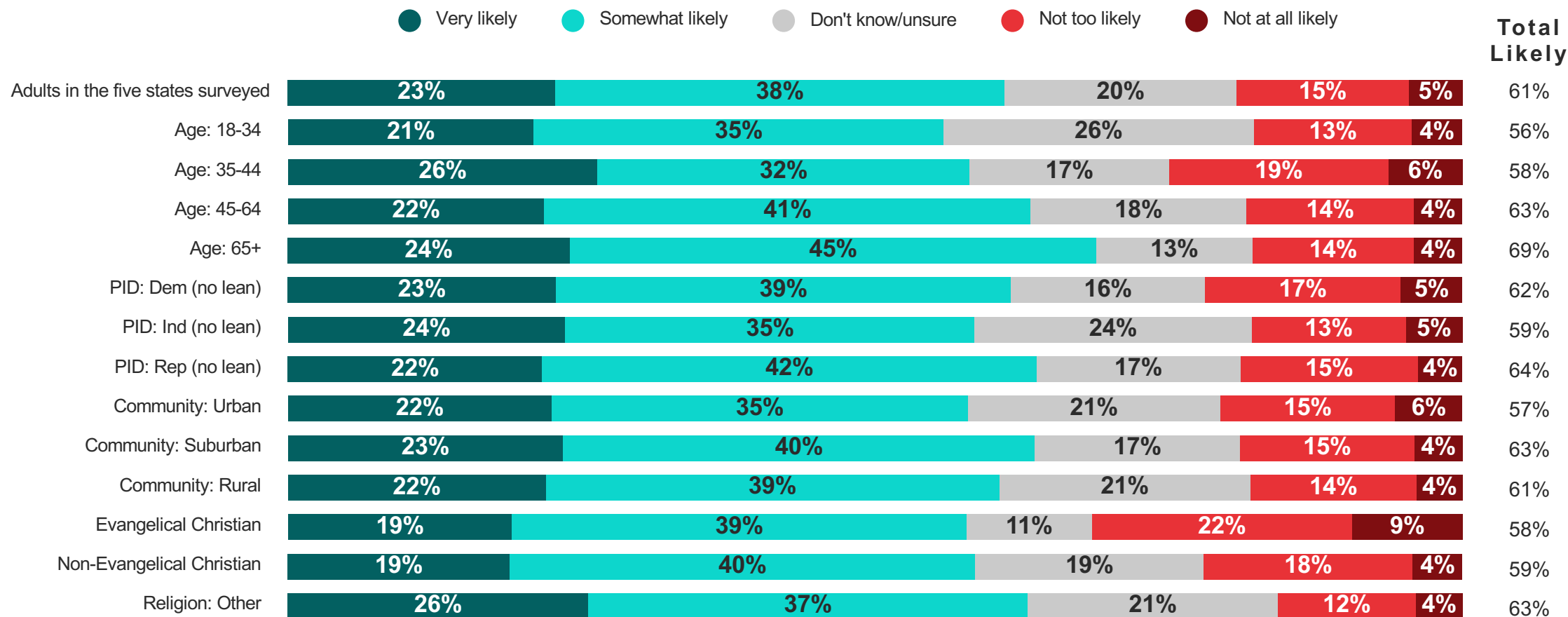
In your view, how likely or unlikely is it that the U.S. sees violence in the future on government officials or buildings, similar to the violence at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th, 2021?



— VIEWS ON JANUARY 6TH VIOLENCE

Majorities of adults across key demographic groups in the five states surveyed say it is likely the U.S. sees violence in the future similar to the events at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th, 2021.

In your view, how likely or unlikely is it that the U.S. sees violence in the future on government officials or buildings, similar to the violence at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th, 2021?





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