

# The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

welcomes you to the public launch of the



## CRITICAL ISSUES POLL

*With Nielsen Scarborough*

## American Politics, Race, and Foreign Policy

To Tweet about this event, please use  
**#CriticalIssuesPoll**

# Survey Methodology

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The survey was conducted October 5-14, 2016 with a panel consisting of a probability-based representative sample. The panel was recruited by Nielsen Scarborough from its larger probability-based national panel, which was recruited by mail and telephone using a random sample of households provided by Survey Sampling International. A national sample of 1528 panelists completed the survey. Responses were weighted by age, gender, income, education, race, and geographic region using benchmarks from the US Census. The survey was also weighted by partisan identification.

The margin of error is 2.5%

**Shibley Telhami and Stella Rouse  
Principal Investigators**

**A survey sponsored by  
University of Maryland Critical Issues Poll  
fielded by Nielsen Scarborough**

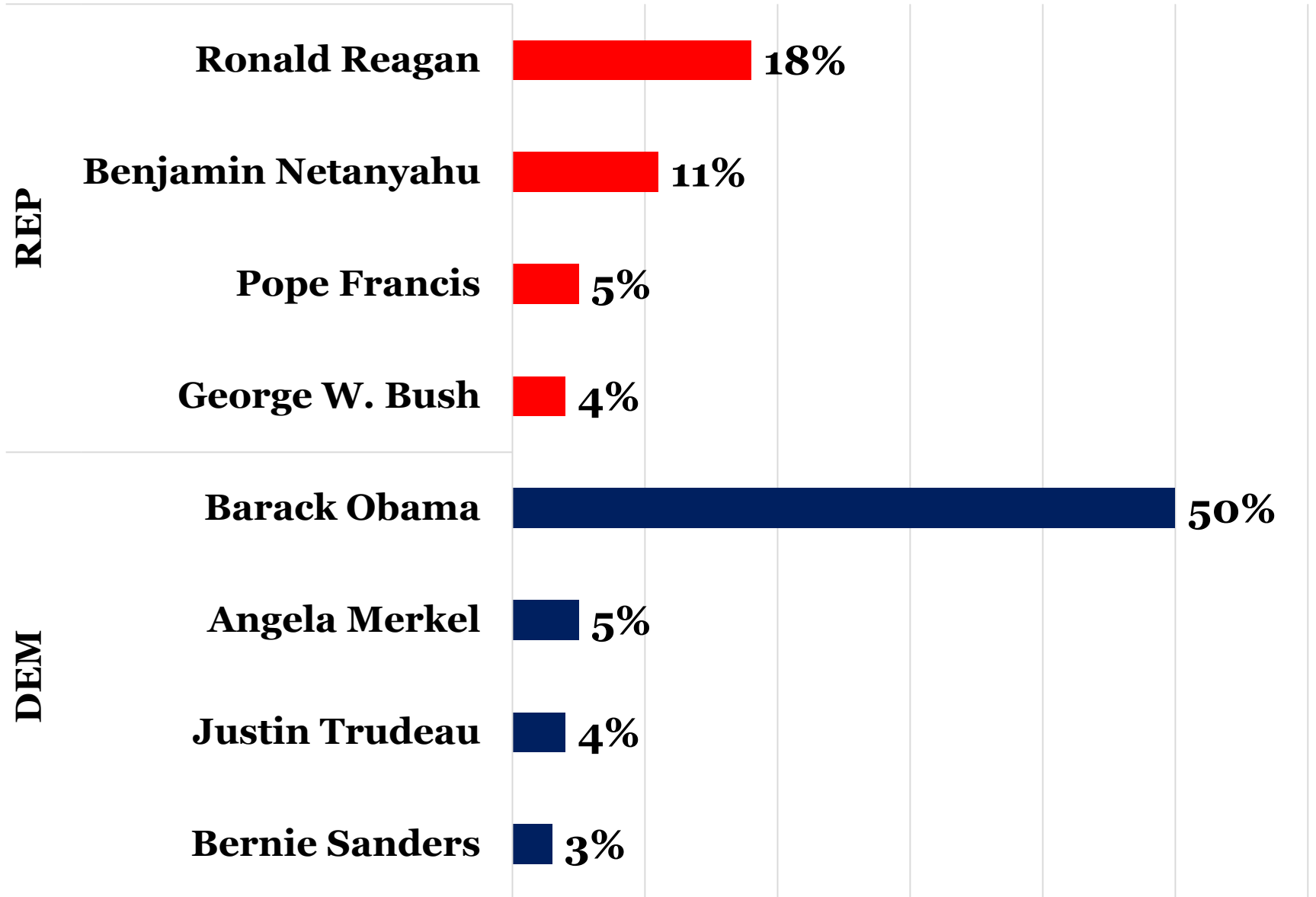
**Valuable assistance was provided by Neil Schwartz, Scott Willoth, and Jordan Evangelista from Nielsen Scarborough. Michael Hanmer, Brittany Kyser, and Jared McDonald were particularly helpful.**

# Foreign Policy

**Please name a  
national or world  
leader you admire  
most**

# [Open-Ended Question]

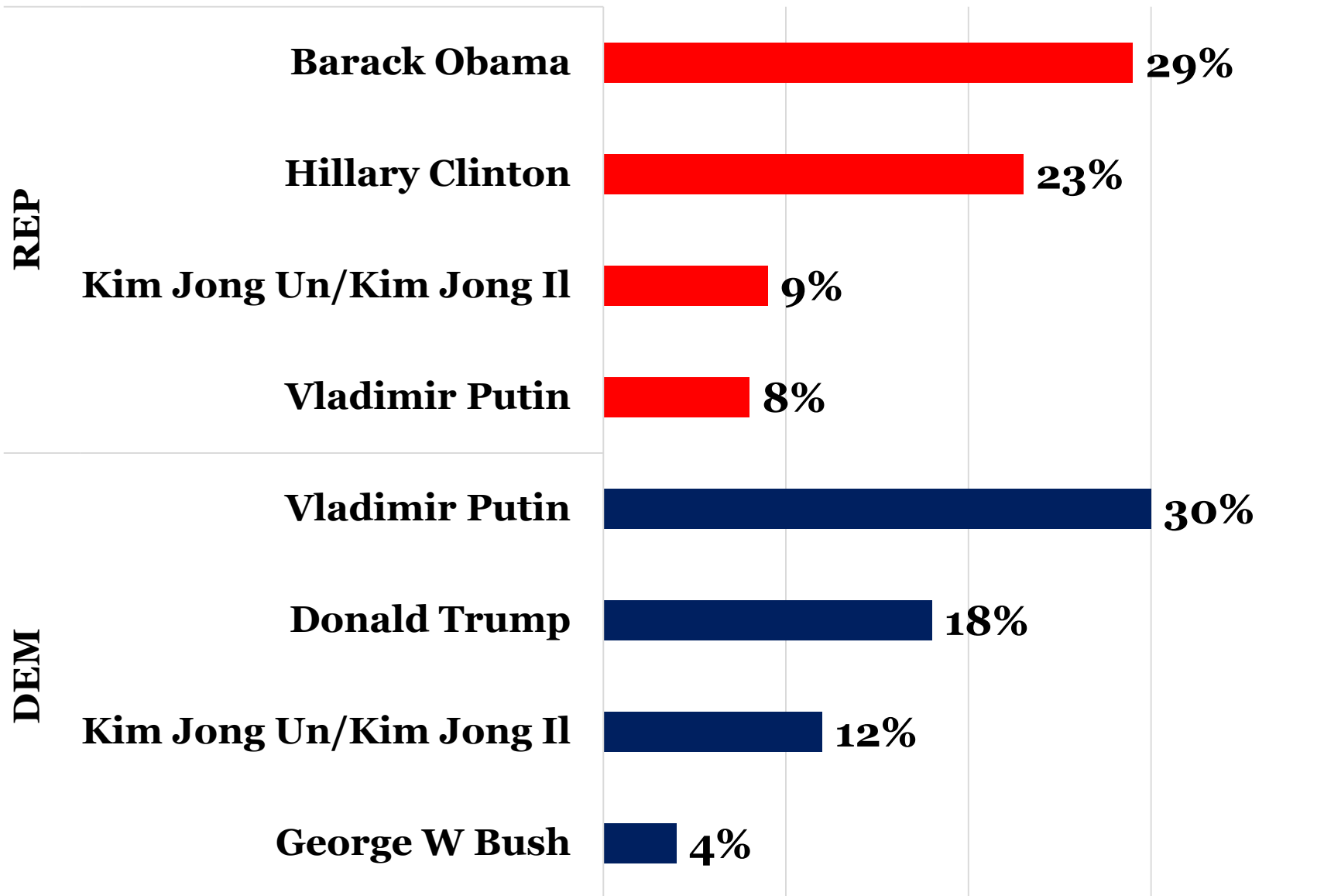
Please name a national or world leader you admire most



**Please name a  
national or world  
leader you dislike  
most**

# [Open-Ended Question]

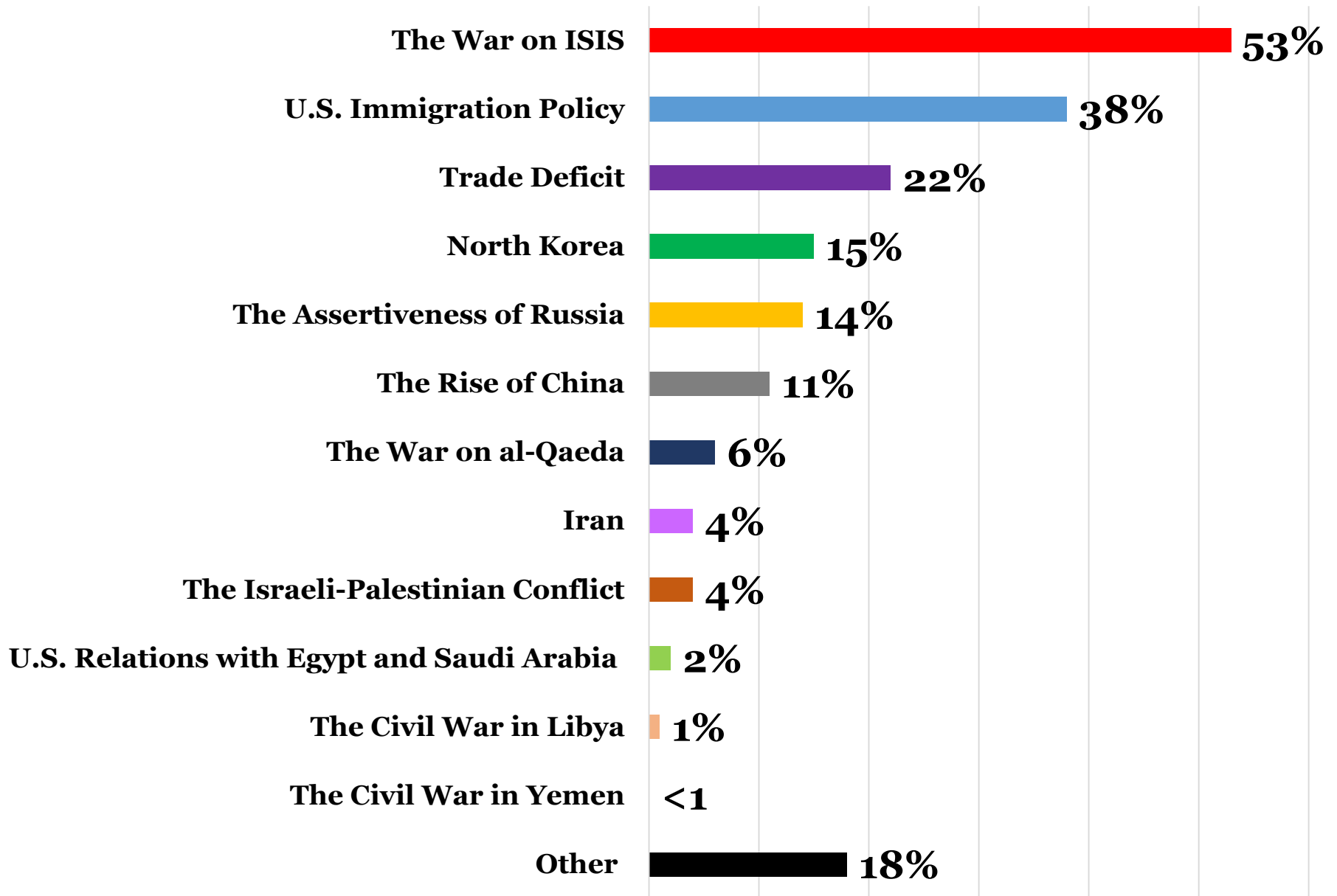
Please name a national or world leader you dislike most





**Which of the  
following issues  
should be America's  
top global priorities?  
(Please Select Two)**

# Which of the following issues should be America's top global priorities? (Please Select Two)

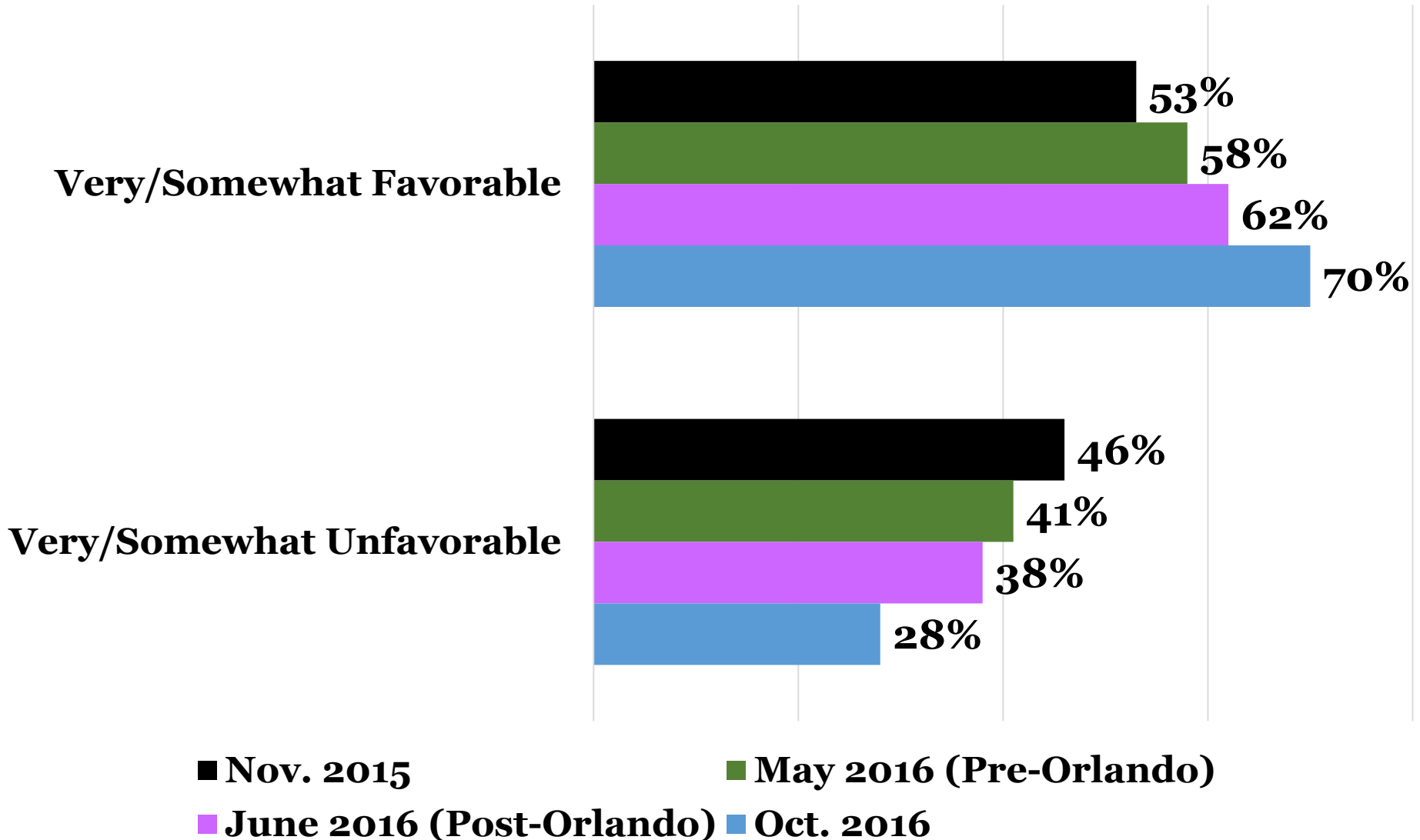


**What is your attitude about  
each of the following?**

**The Muslim People**

# What is your attitude about each of the following?

## The Muslim People

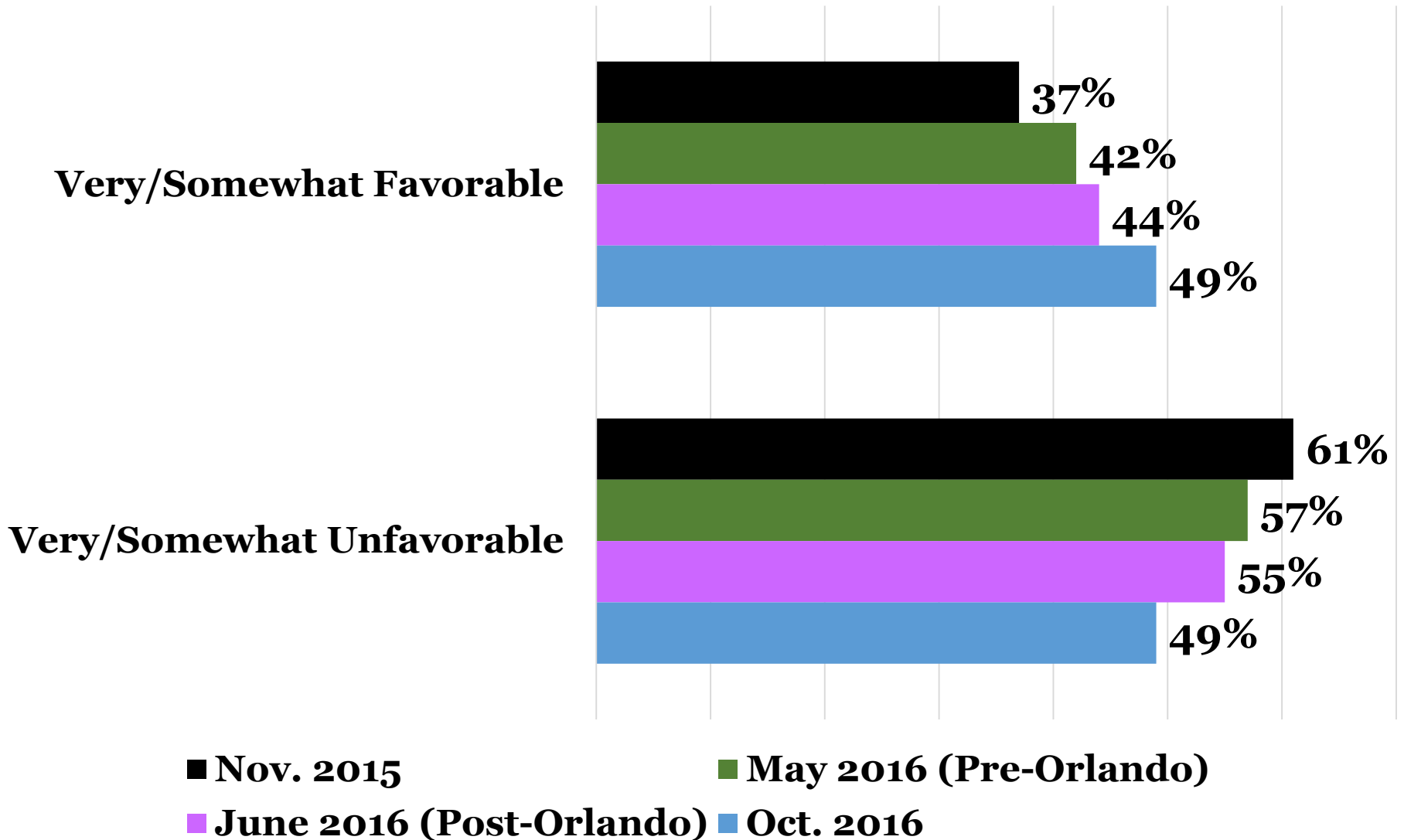


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## The Muslim Religion



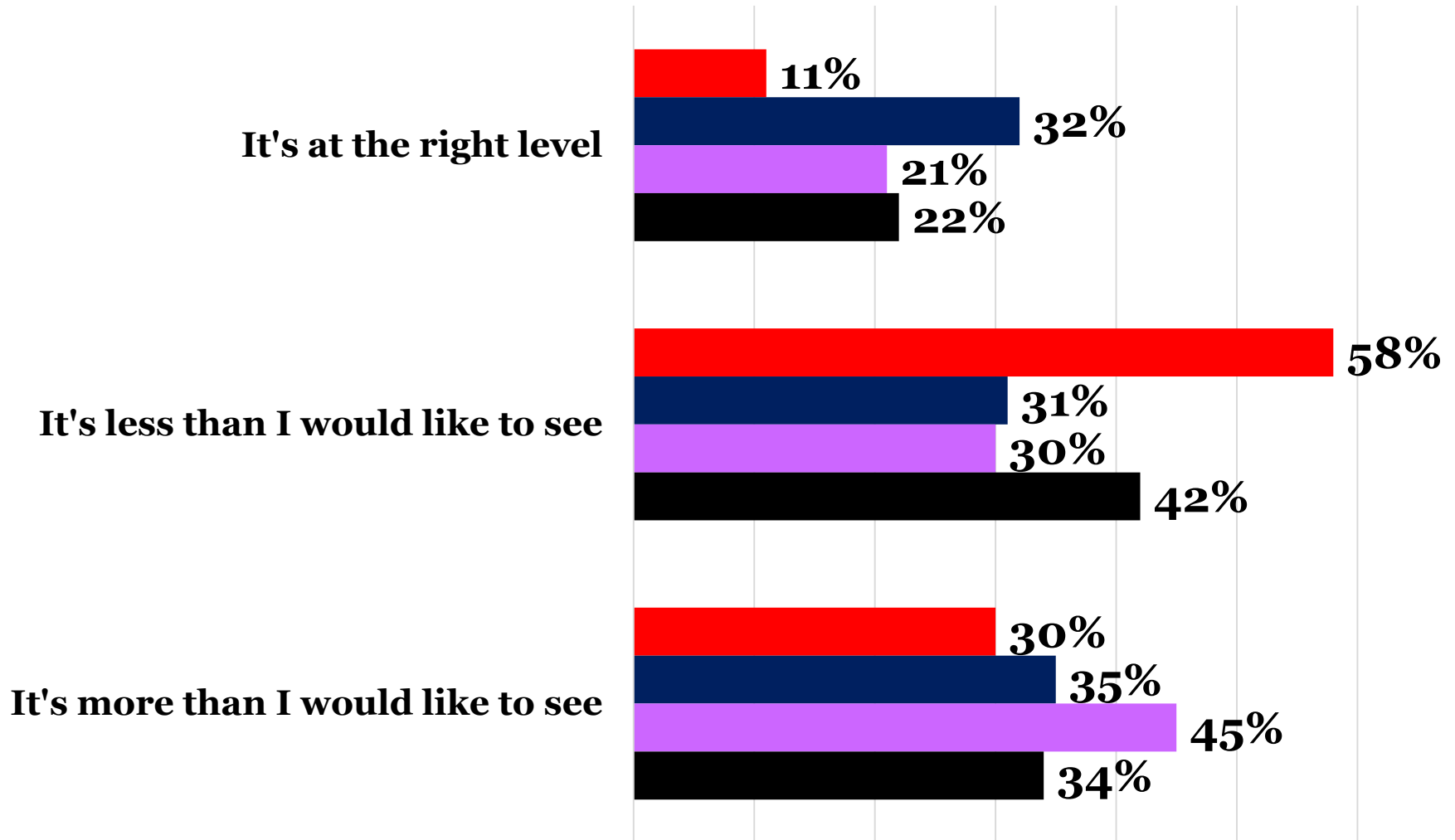
# **ISIS and Syria**

**What's your impression  
of the current level of  
U.S. military involvement  
in Syria?**



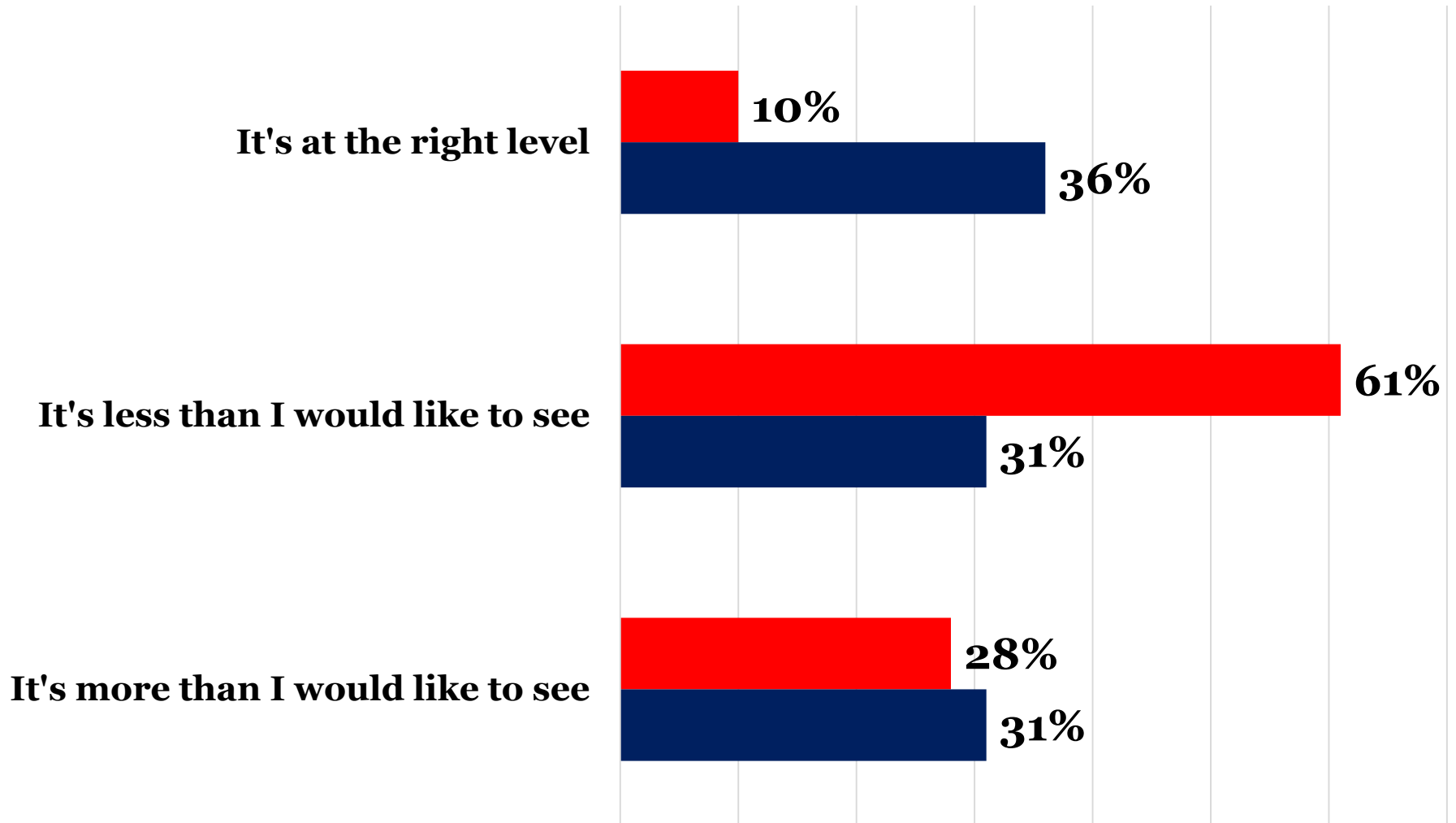
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■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total



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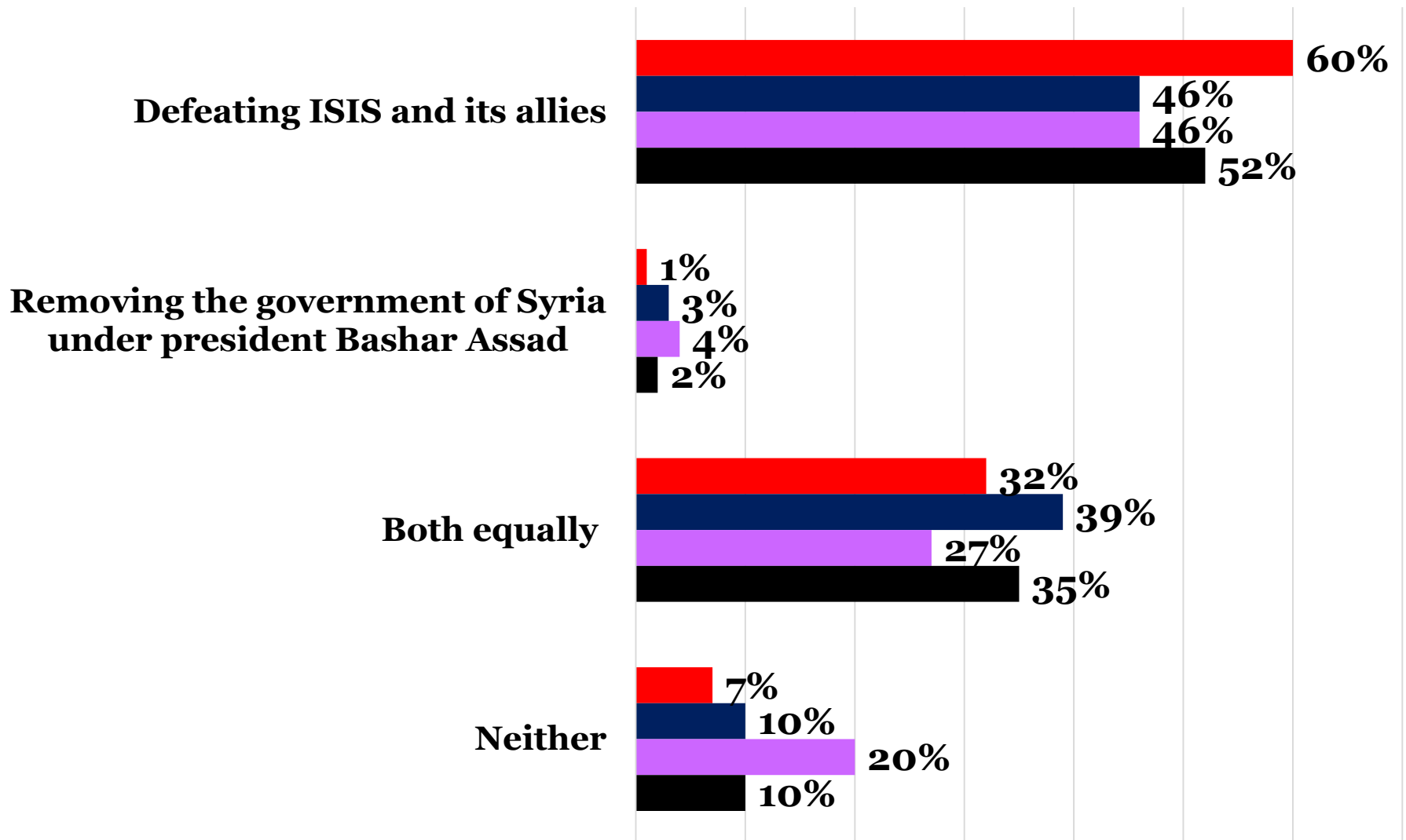
**Trump Supporters**      **Hillary Supporters**



**What should be the  
primary objective of  
U.S. military  
involvement in Syria?**

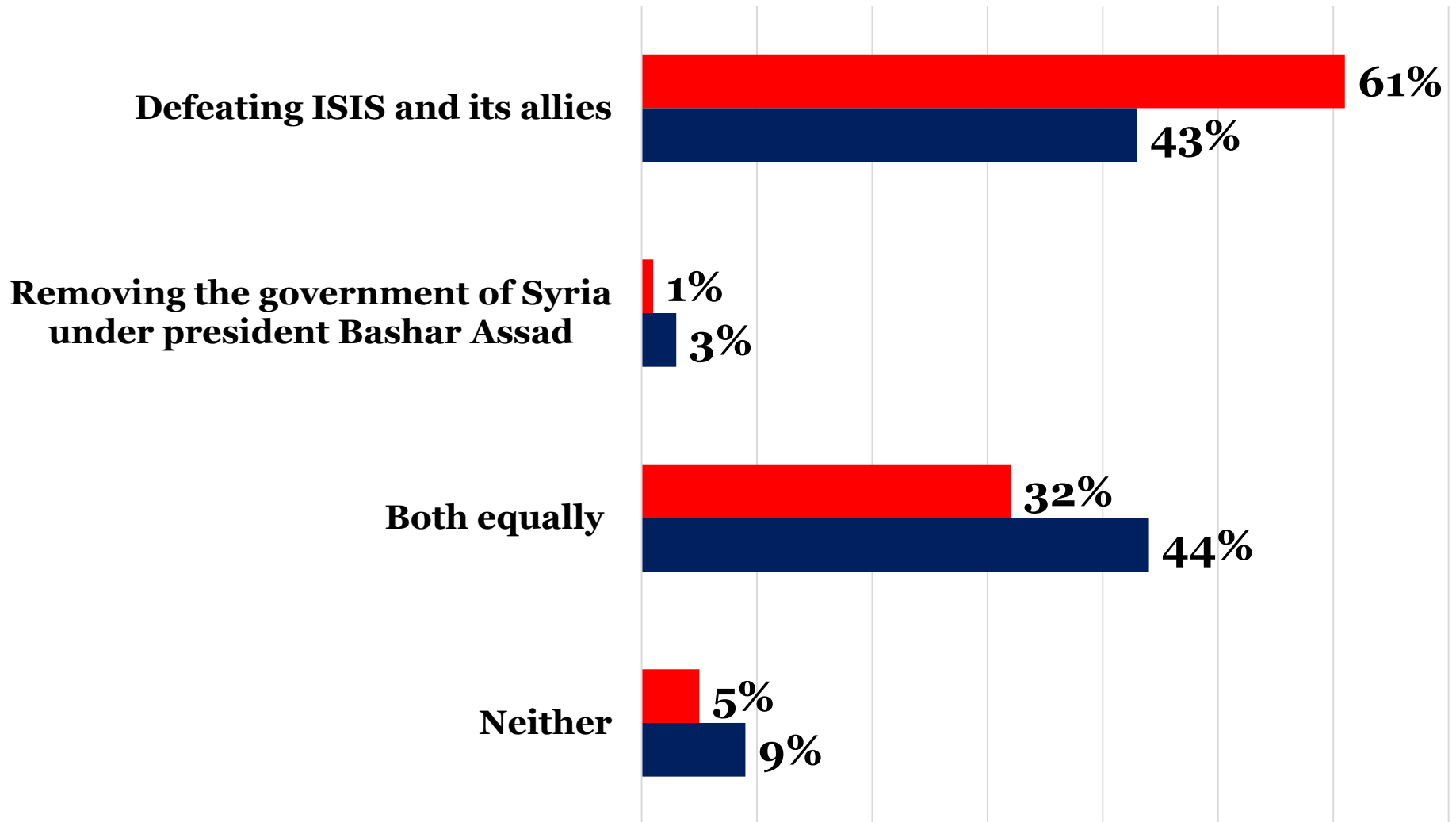
# What should be the primary objective of U.S. military involvement in Syria?

■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total



# What should be the primary objective of U.S. military involvement in Syria?

**■ Trump Supporters**     **■ Hillary Supporters**

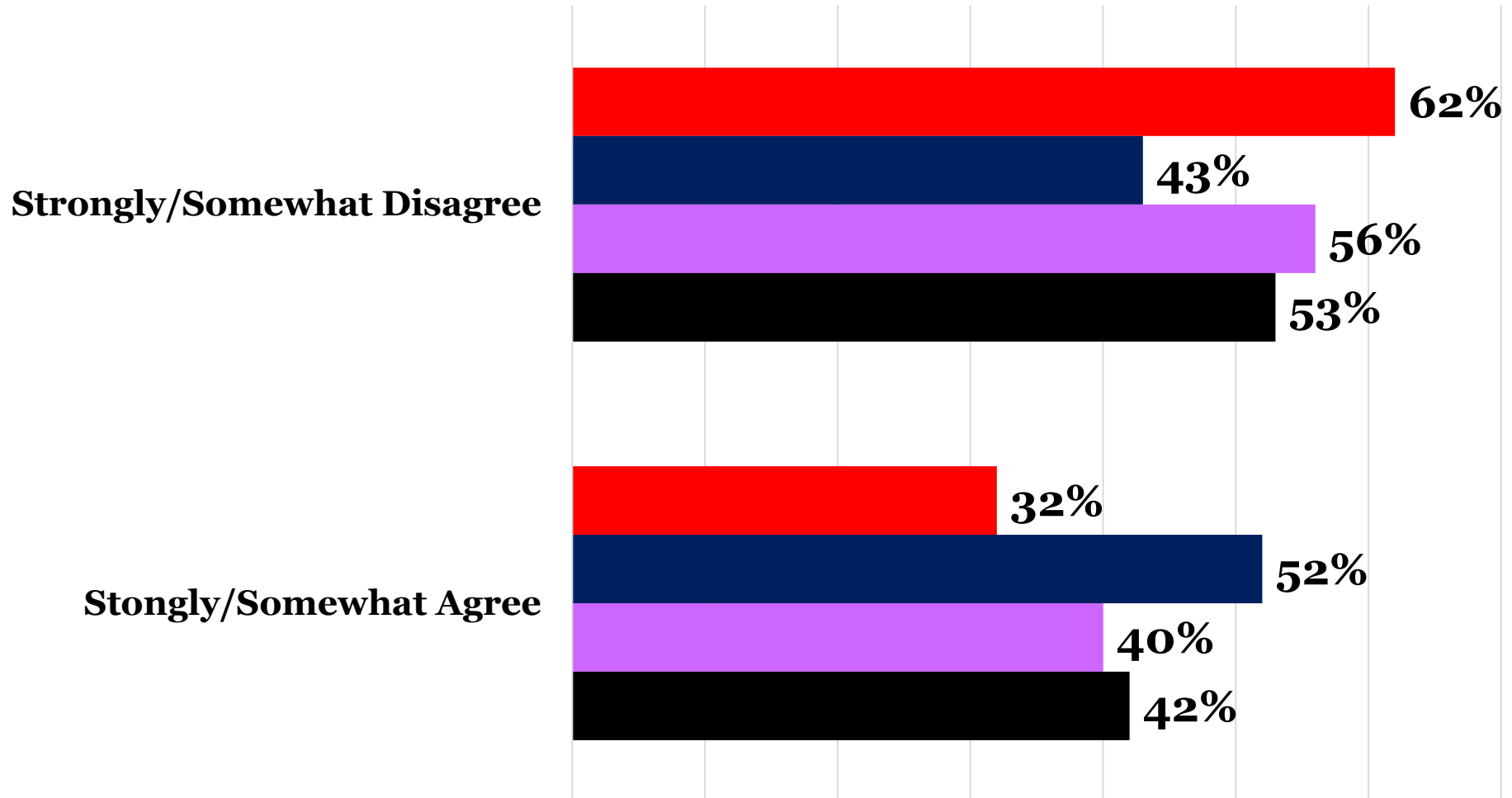


**Rebels fighting the Syrian regime include many Islamists groups. Tell me how much you agree/disagree with following statements:**

**The U.S. should support Syrian rebels even if some of our aid goes to some of the Islamist rebels, as long as the aid doesn't go to ISIS and al-Qaeda specifically. We need to rely on proxy forces to counter not only the Syrian regime but its external backers like Iran and Hezbollah**

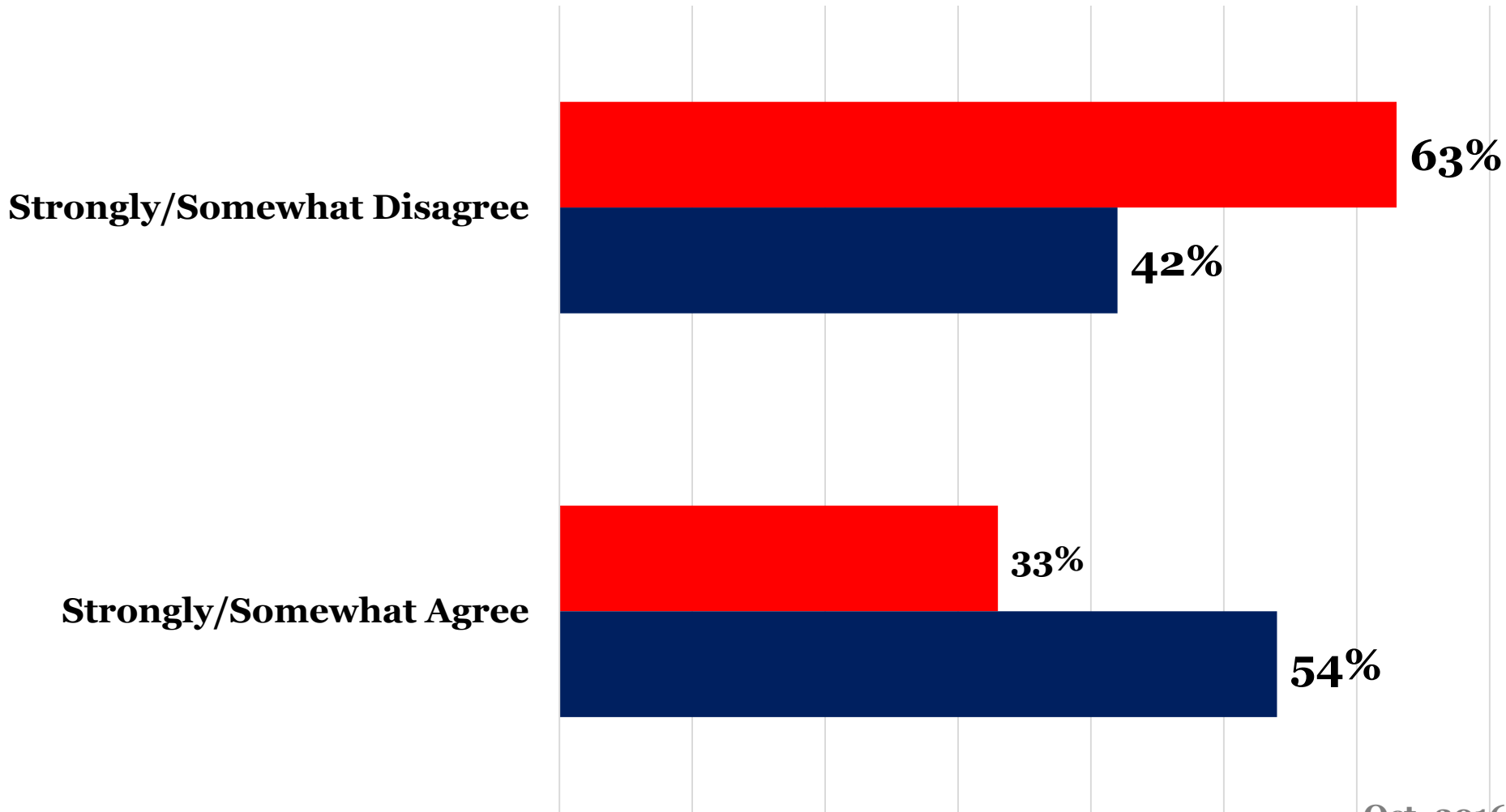
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**■ Trump Supporters     ■ Hillary Supporters**



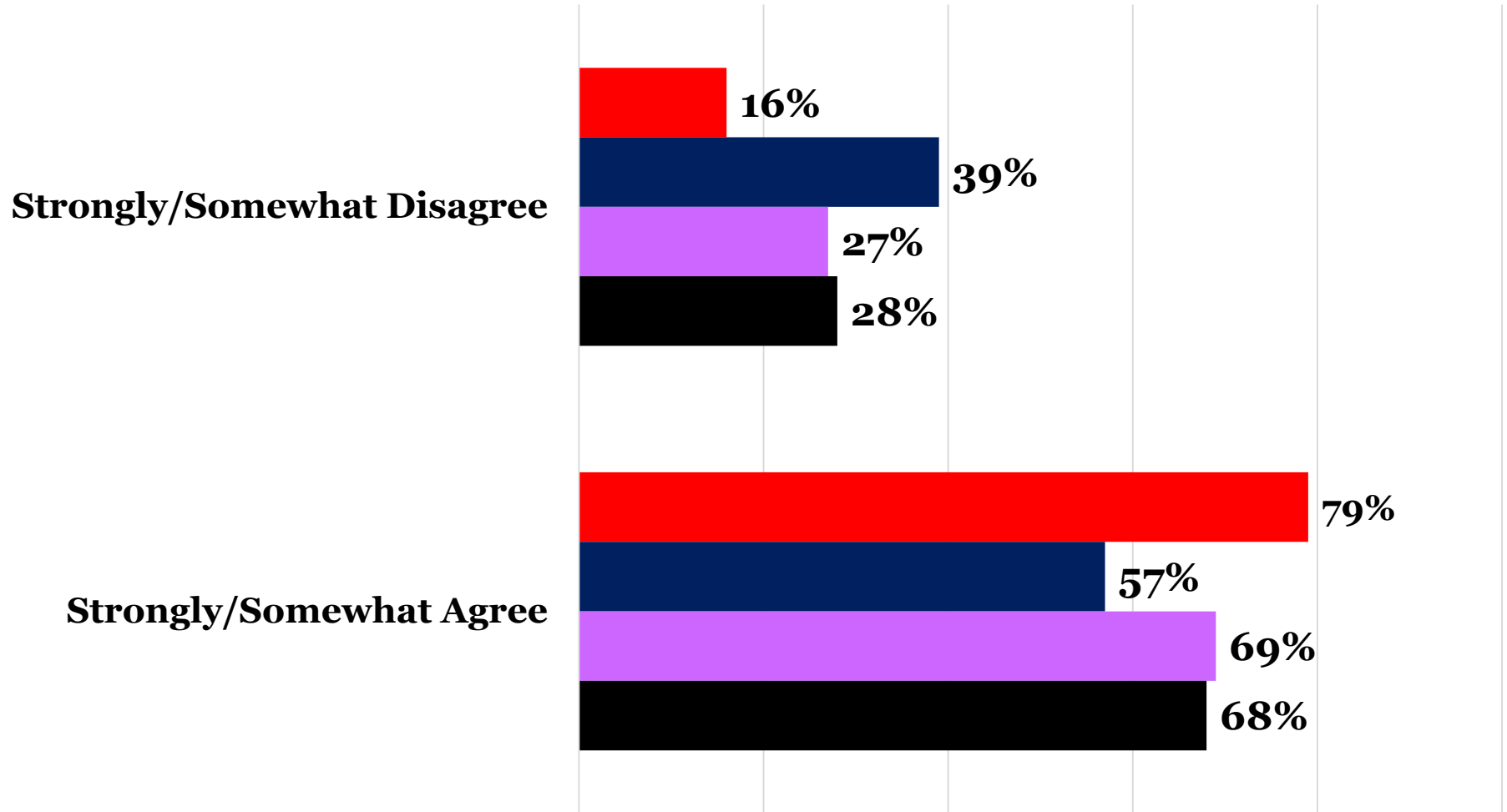


**Rebels fighting the Syrian regime include many Islamists groups. Tell me how much you agree/disagree with the following statements:**

**The U.S. should not support Syrian rebels if they include Islamists as this could come back to haunt us; there is no way to ensure aid wouldn't reach ISIS and al-Qaeda, or that the Islamist groups we back won't eventually turn against us**

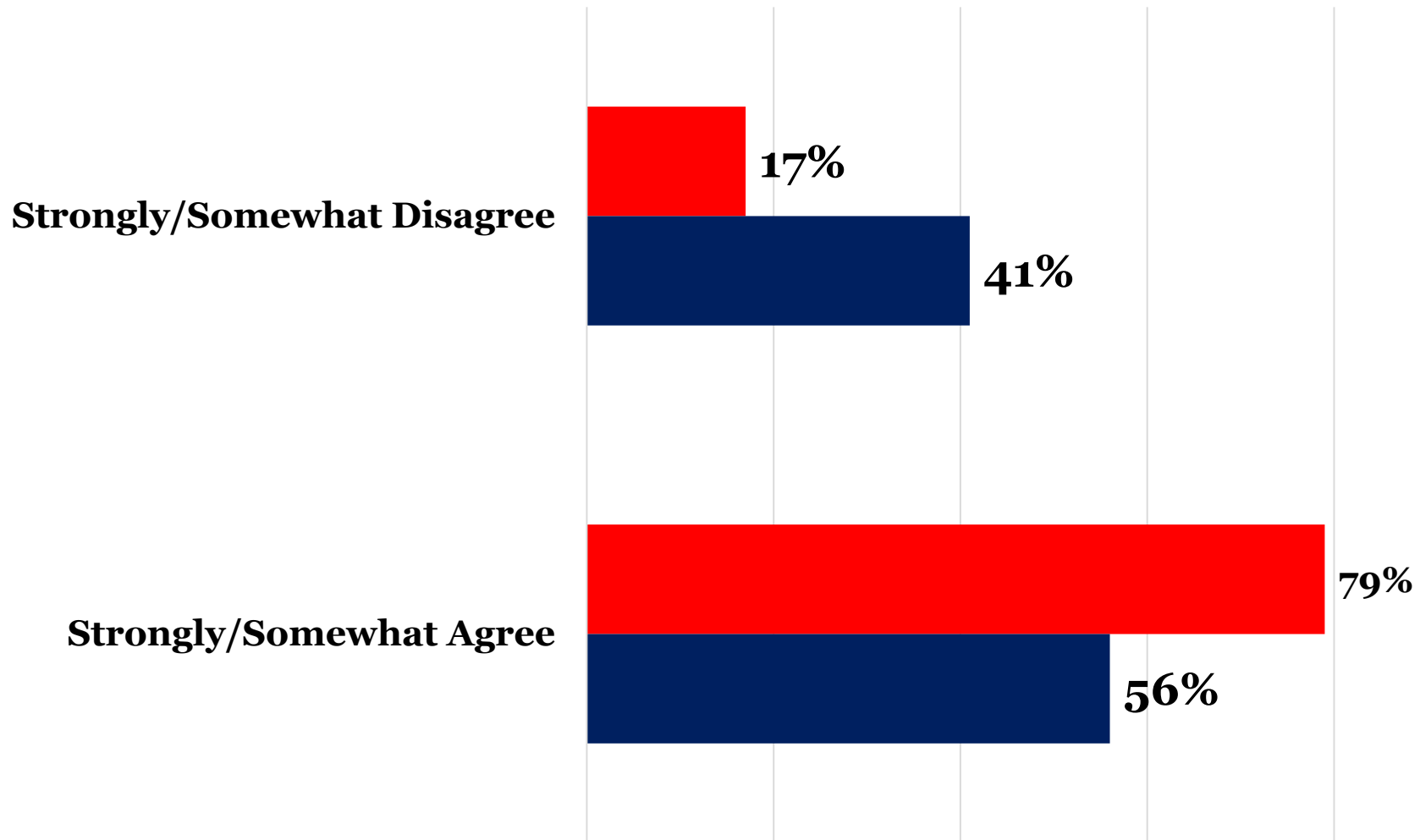
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**■ Trump Supporters    ■ Hillary Supporters**

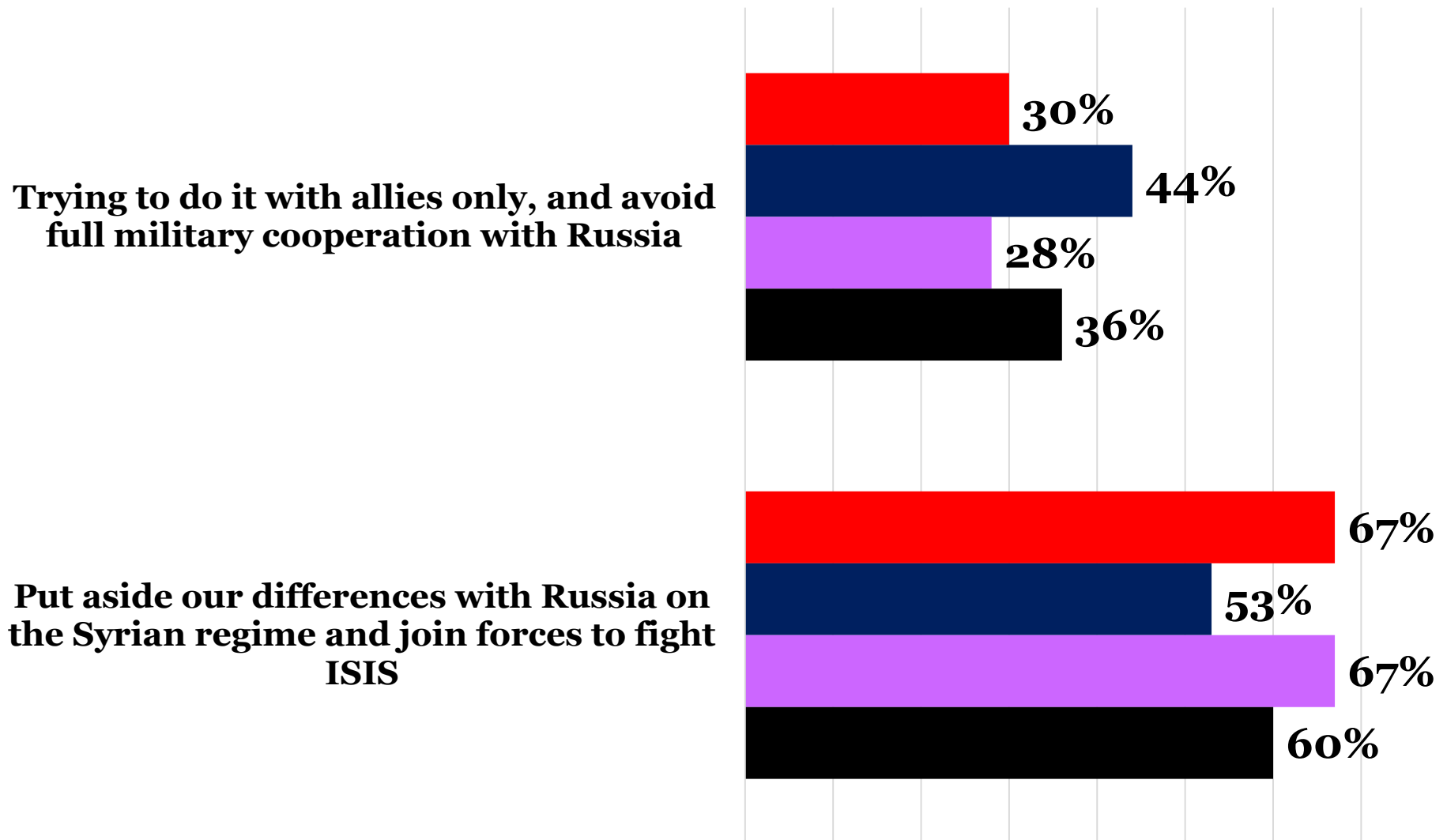


**As you may know, Russia supports the Syrian government while the United States supports Syrian rebels trying to overthrow this government.**

**But both Russia and the U.S. are opposed to ISIS. What in your opinion is the best American path to fighting ISIS?**

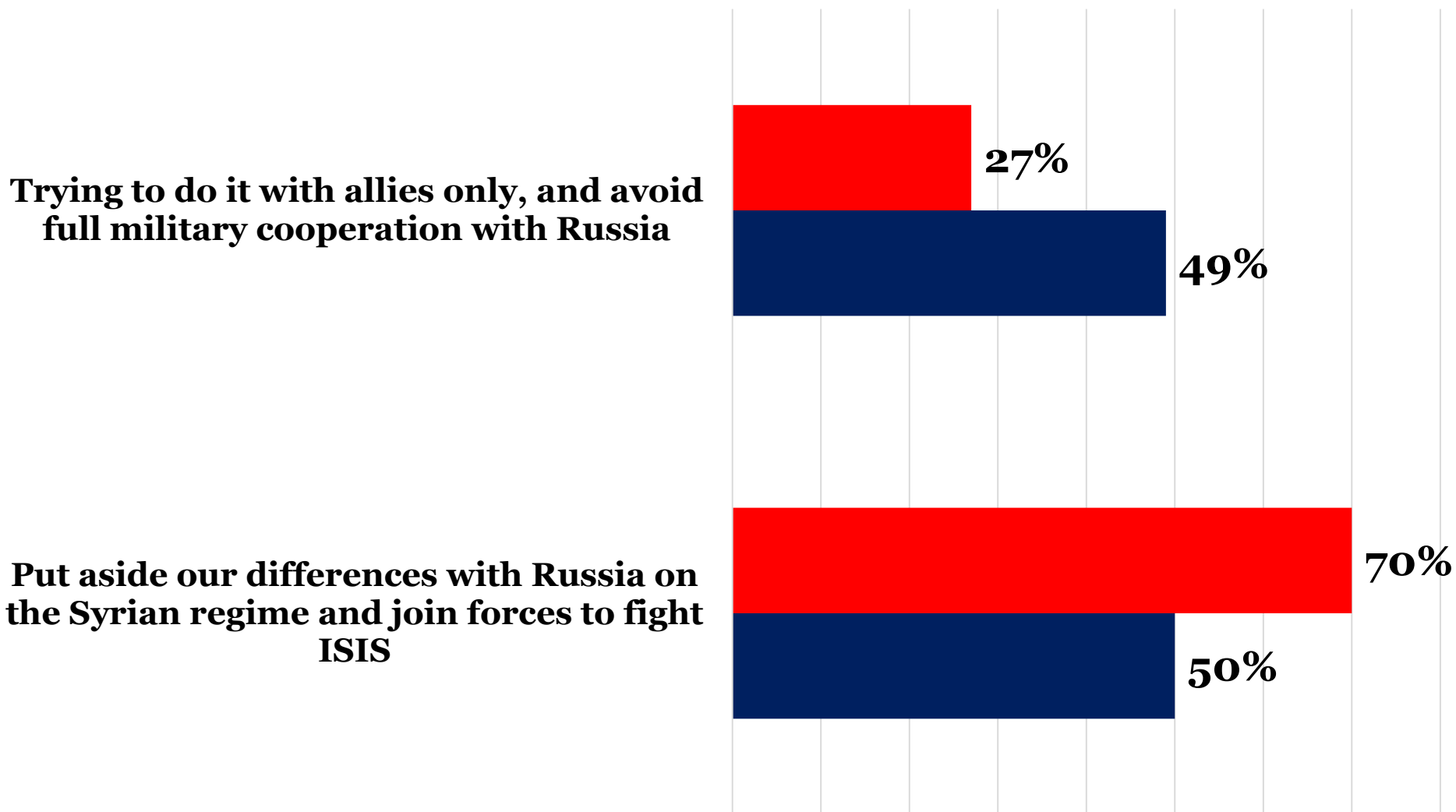
# What in your opinion is the best American path to fighting ISIS?

■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total



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**■ Trump Supporters**     **■ Hillary Supporters**

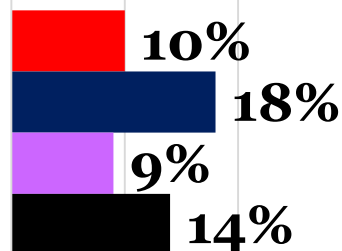


**Overall, how would you describe the degree of Russian-American cooperation over the Syrian conflict so far?**

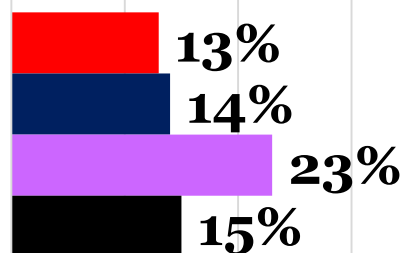
# Overall, how would you describe the degree of Russian-American cooperation over the Syrian conflict so far?

■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total

It has been at the right level



It has been more than I would like to see



It has been less than I would like to see

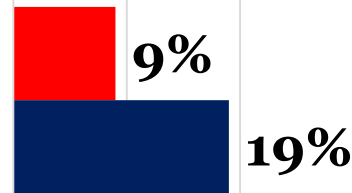




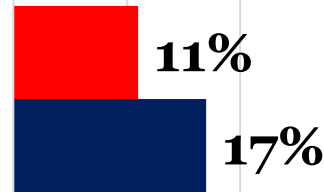
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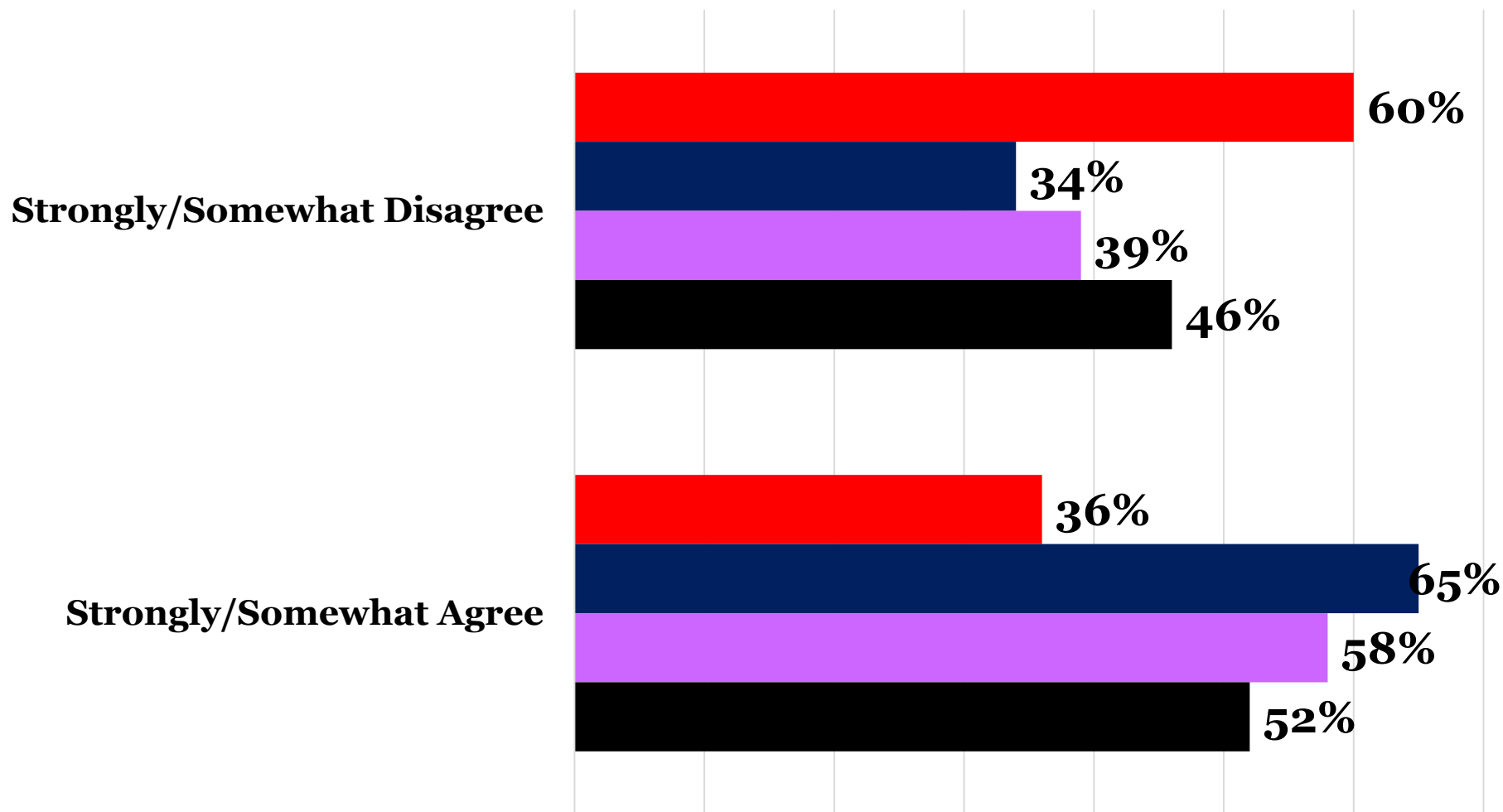
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**While ISIS is a major threat to American interests that must be confronted, it is not such an existential threat that it warrants huge investment in lives and treasure, and the degree of our commitment must be carefully weighed**

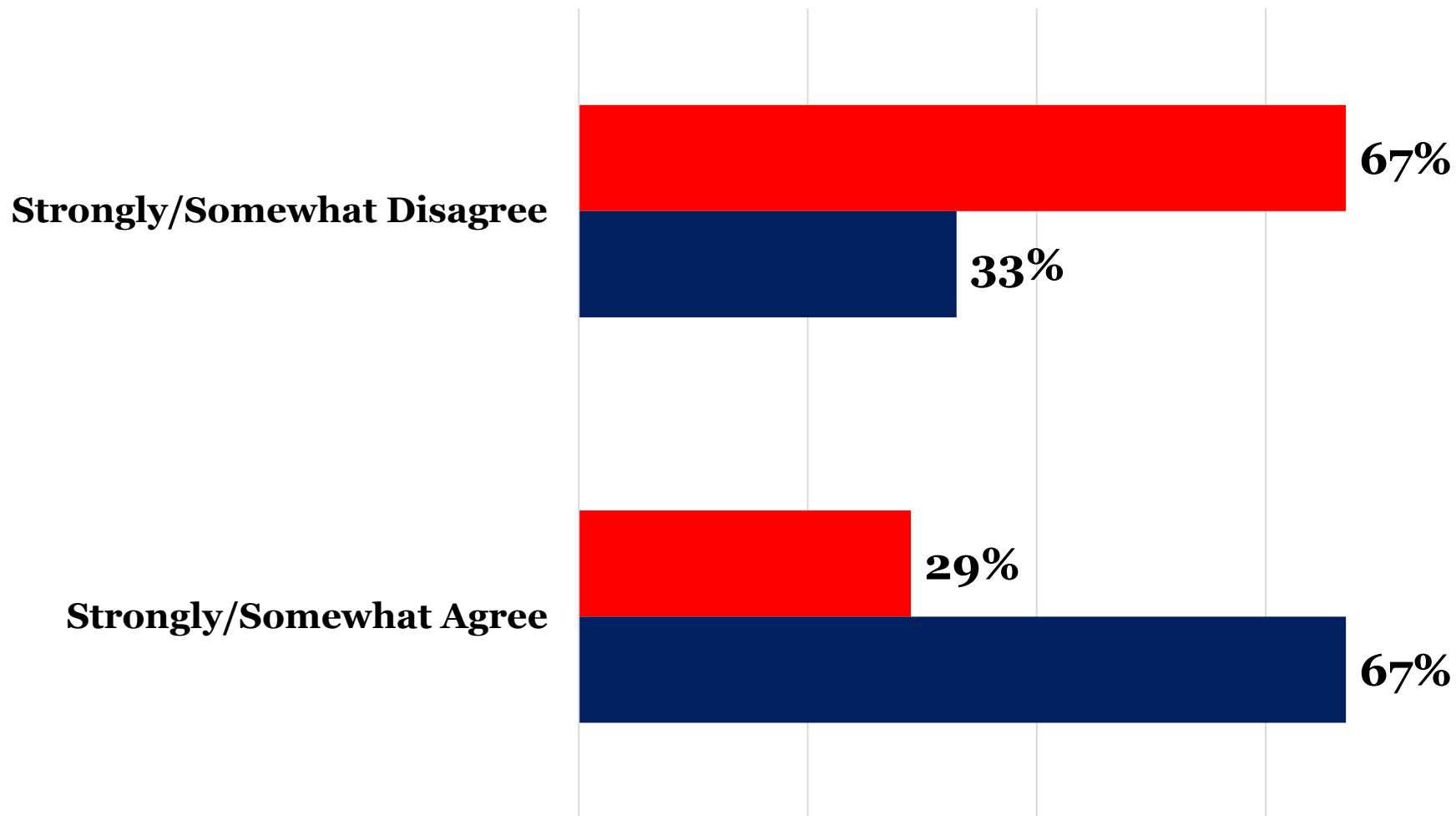
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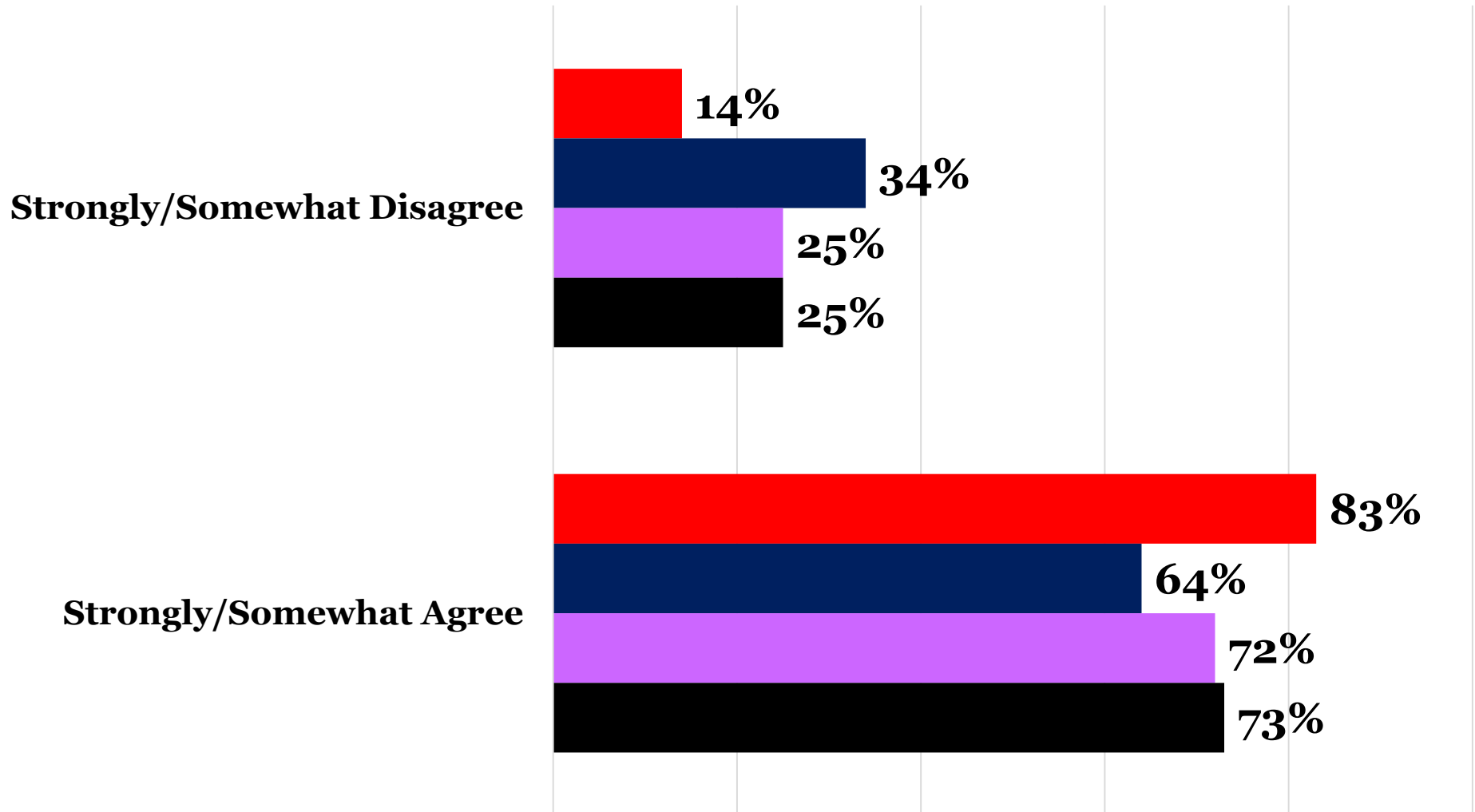
**■ Trump Supporters    ■ Hillary Supporters**



**ISIS is the top threat to American national security and could become an existential threat. We must spare no effort in assuring that it's destroyed.**

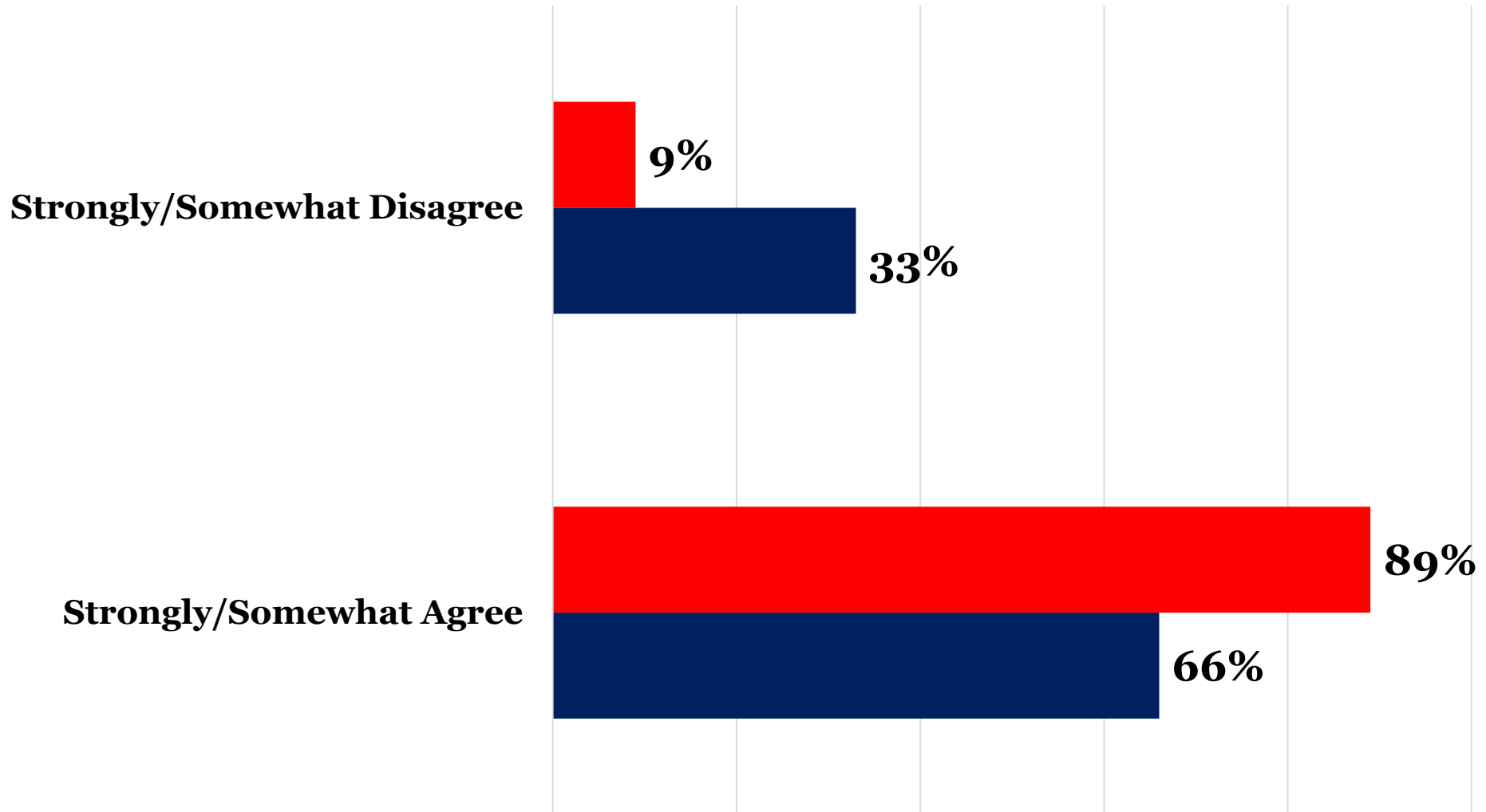
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**■ Trump Supporters   ■ Hillary Supporters**



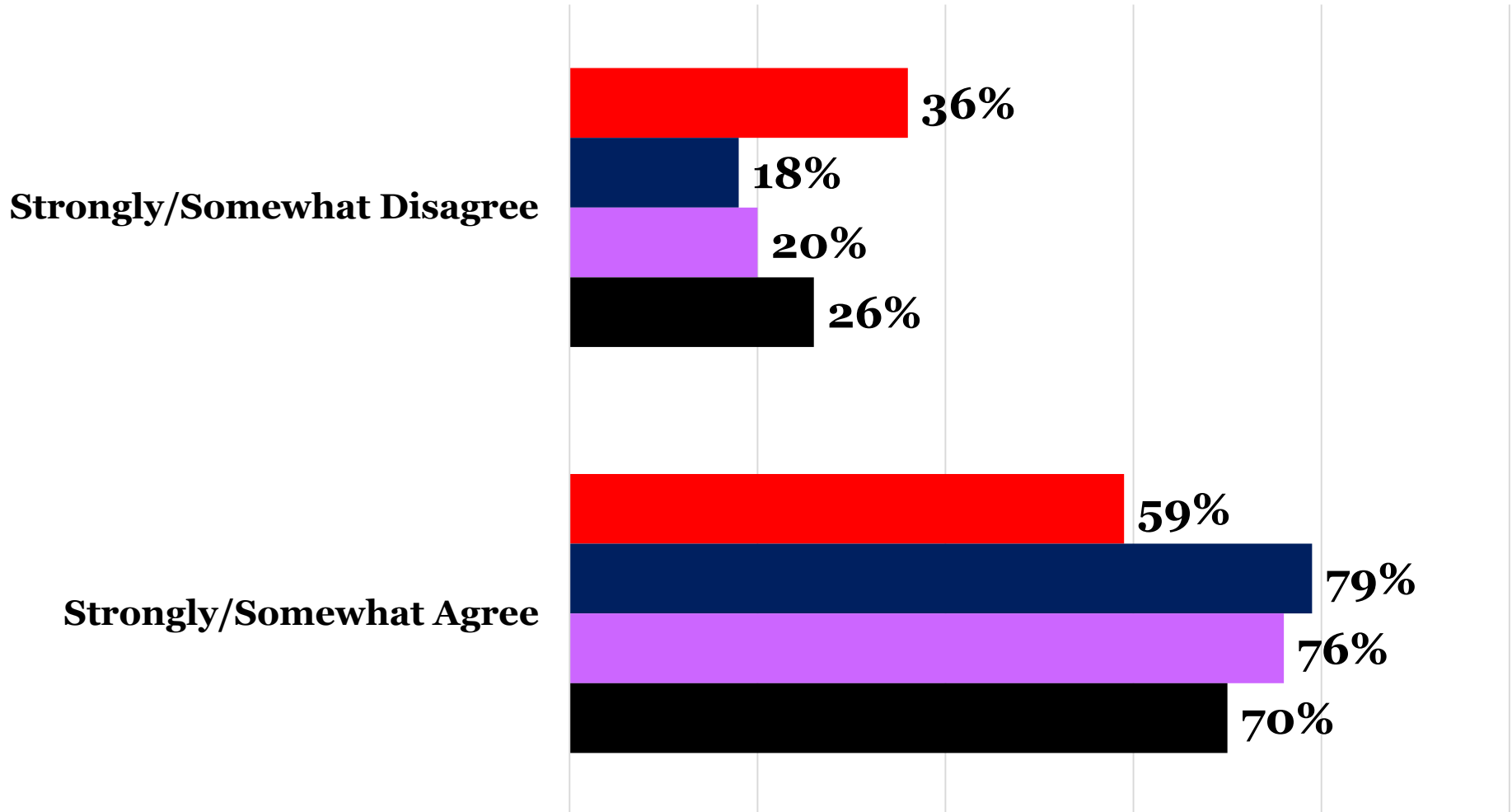
**A large American ground force to fight ISIS in Syria and Iraq is risky, costly, and unlikely to achieve the desired objectives.**

**There are also always unintended consequences. Even the significant intervention in the 2003 Iraq war failed to bring the right outcome for American interests or prevent the rise of groups like ISIS. Conflicts in these countries are messy and complicated with multiple parties. Sending more forces would be costly, extended, and make more enemies than friends. Even if we defeat ISIS, groups like it would emerge as soon as we withdraw our forces. Besides, ISIS is a threat to a host of other nations even more than it is.**



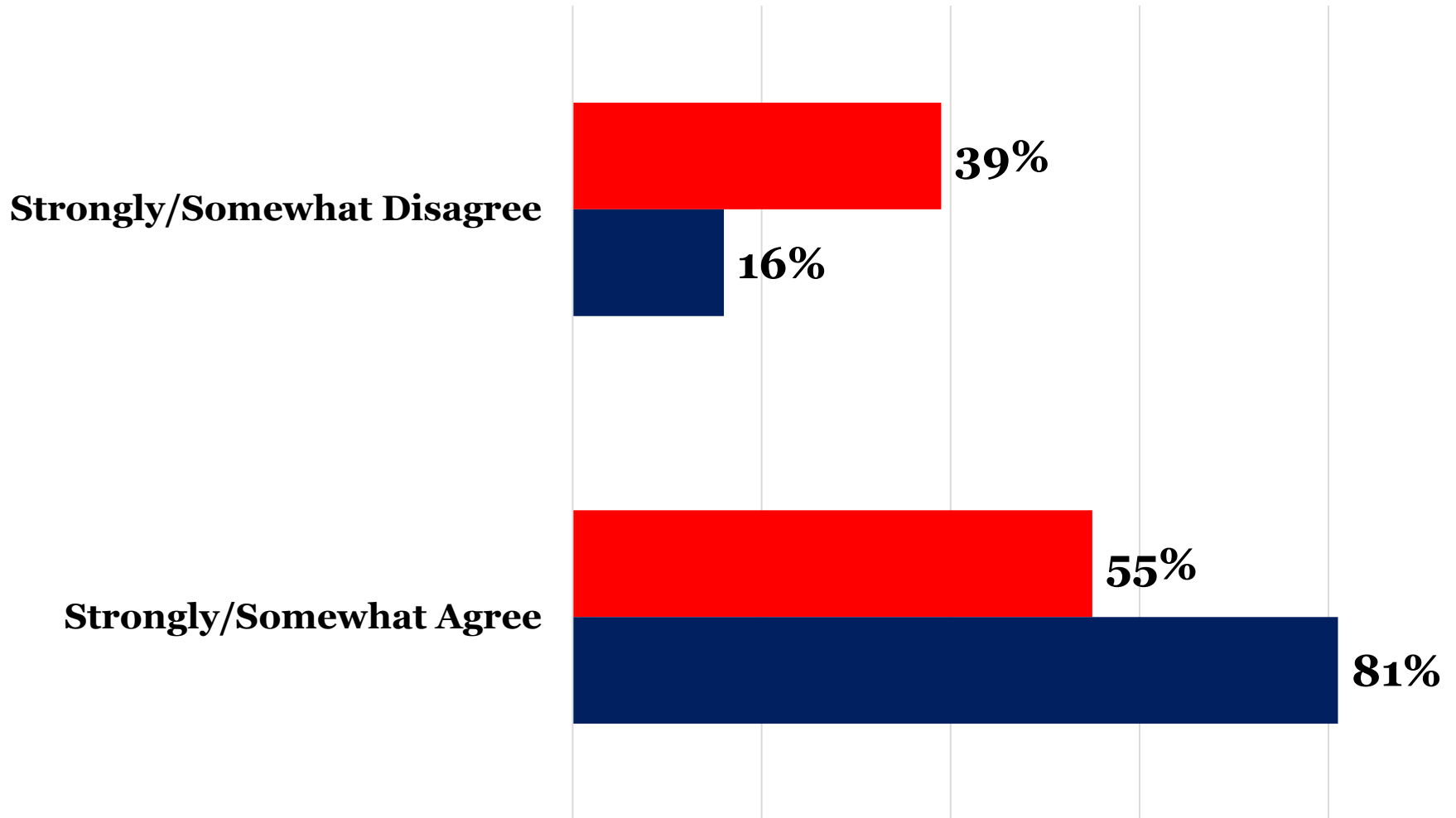
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**■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total**



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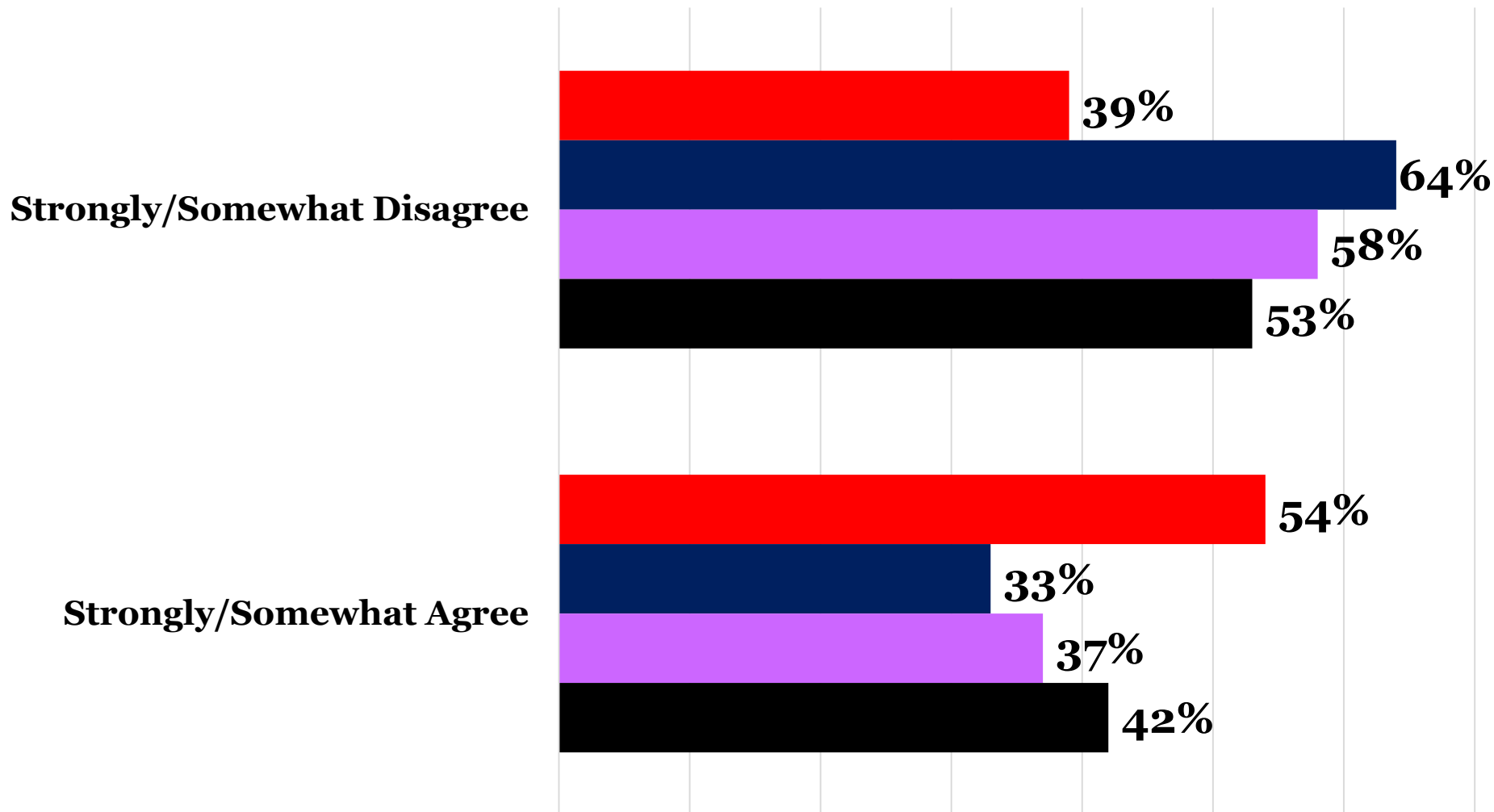
**■ Trump Supporters     ■ Hillary Supporters**



**A large American ground force is essential to fight ISIS in Syria and Iraq and we cannot allow the risk to stop us. ISIS presents a major threat to us, causes regional and global instability, and generates refugee crises that pose both moral and security dilemmas. Deploying ground forces is the only way to defeat it and is worth the investment, even if it means our forces would have to remain there for a sustained period of time. We cannot allow our experience in Iraq to hold us back. Besides, the task may be achievable even without having to leave our forces in the region for a long period of time.**

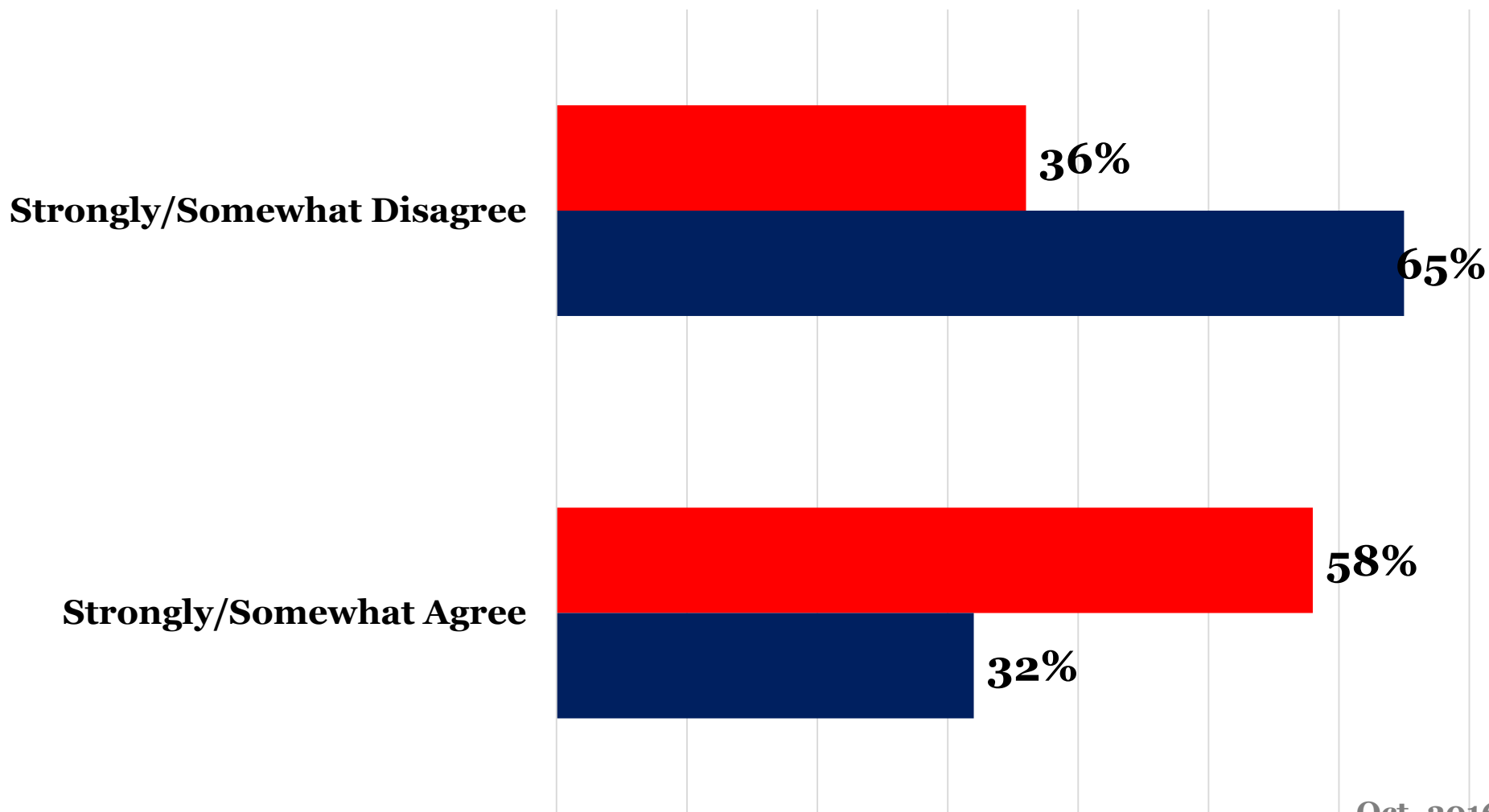
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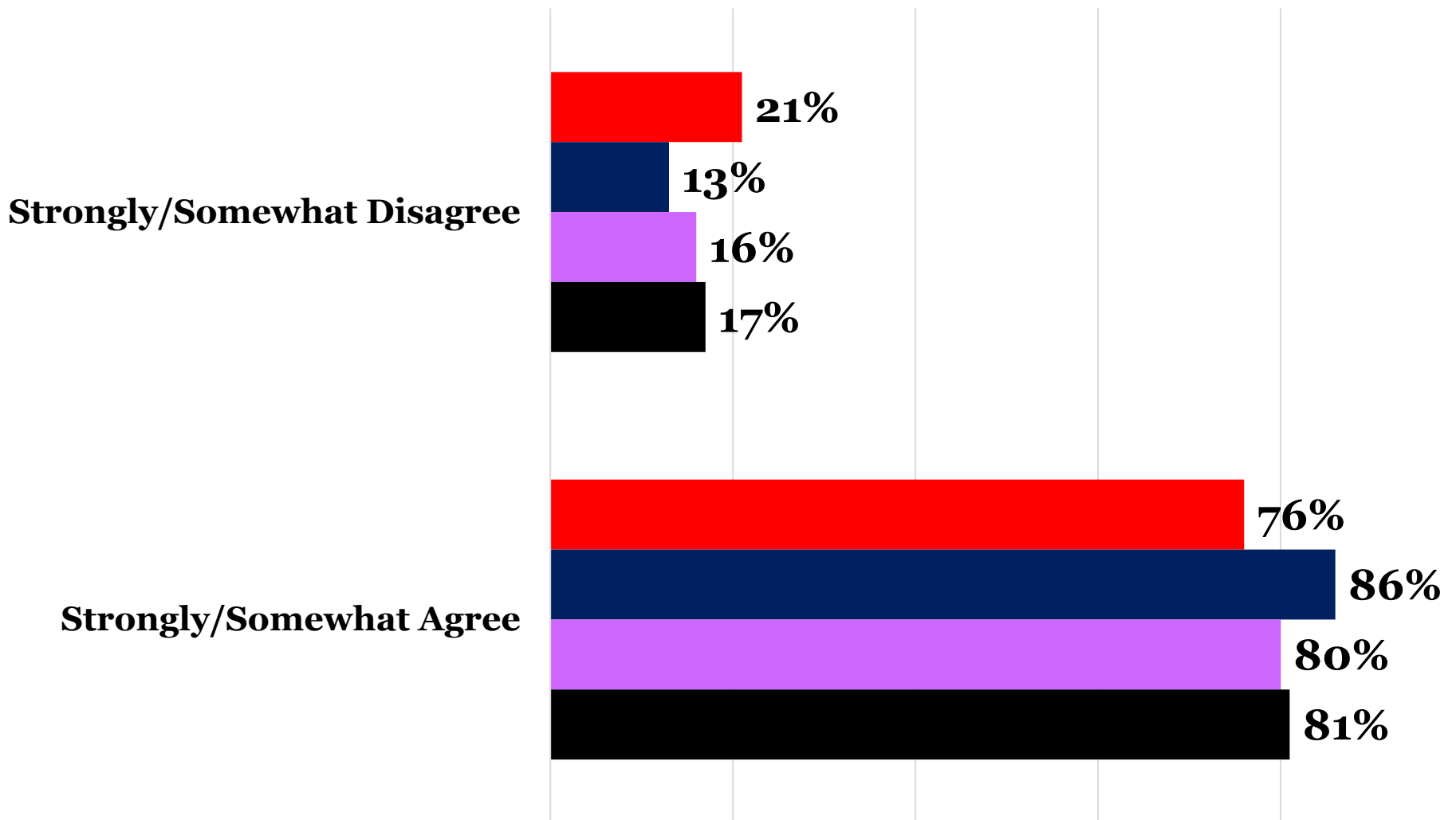


**Tell me how much you agree/disagree with  
the following statements:**

**Even if we defeat ISIS by  
deploying a large force on the  
ground, it, or groups like it, will  
reemerge as soon as we withdraw  
our forces**

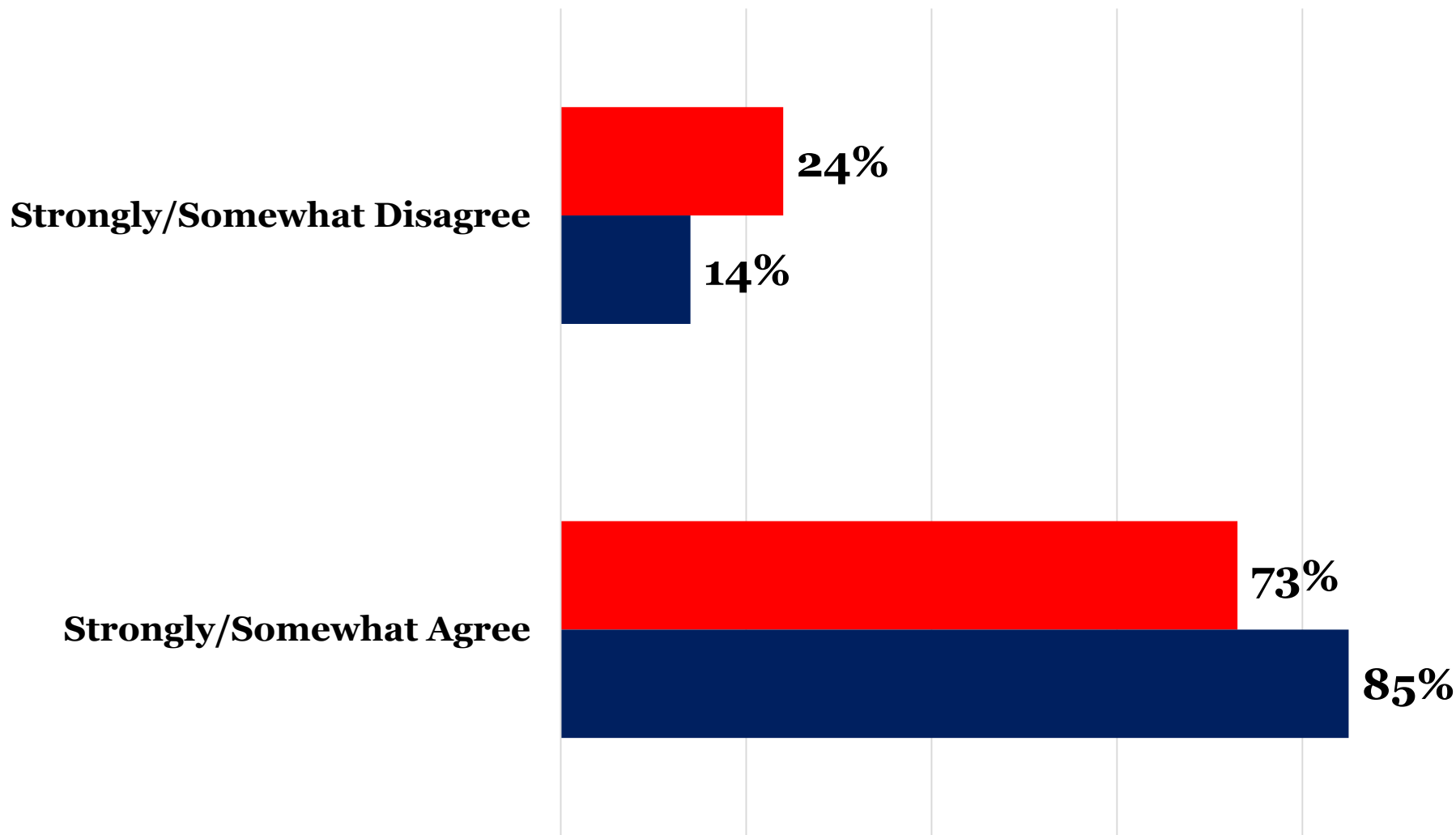
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**■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total**



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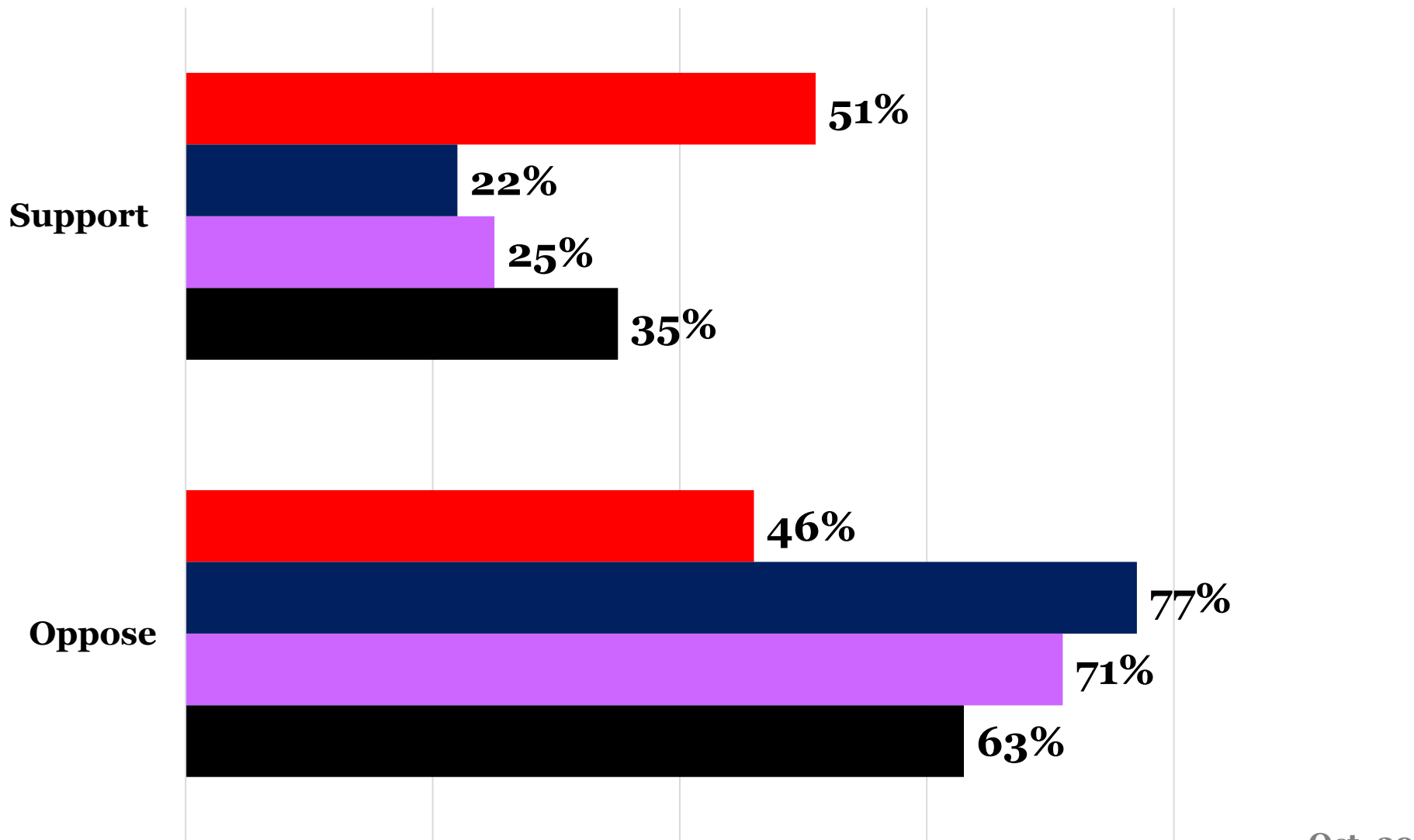
Oct. 2016



**Now, tell me if you  
support or oppose the  
deployment of a large  
American ground force in  
Syria and Iraq to fight  
ISIS**

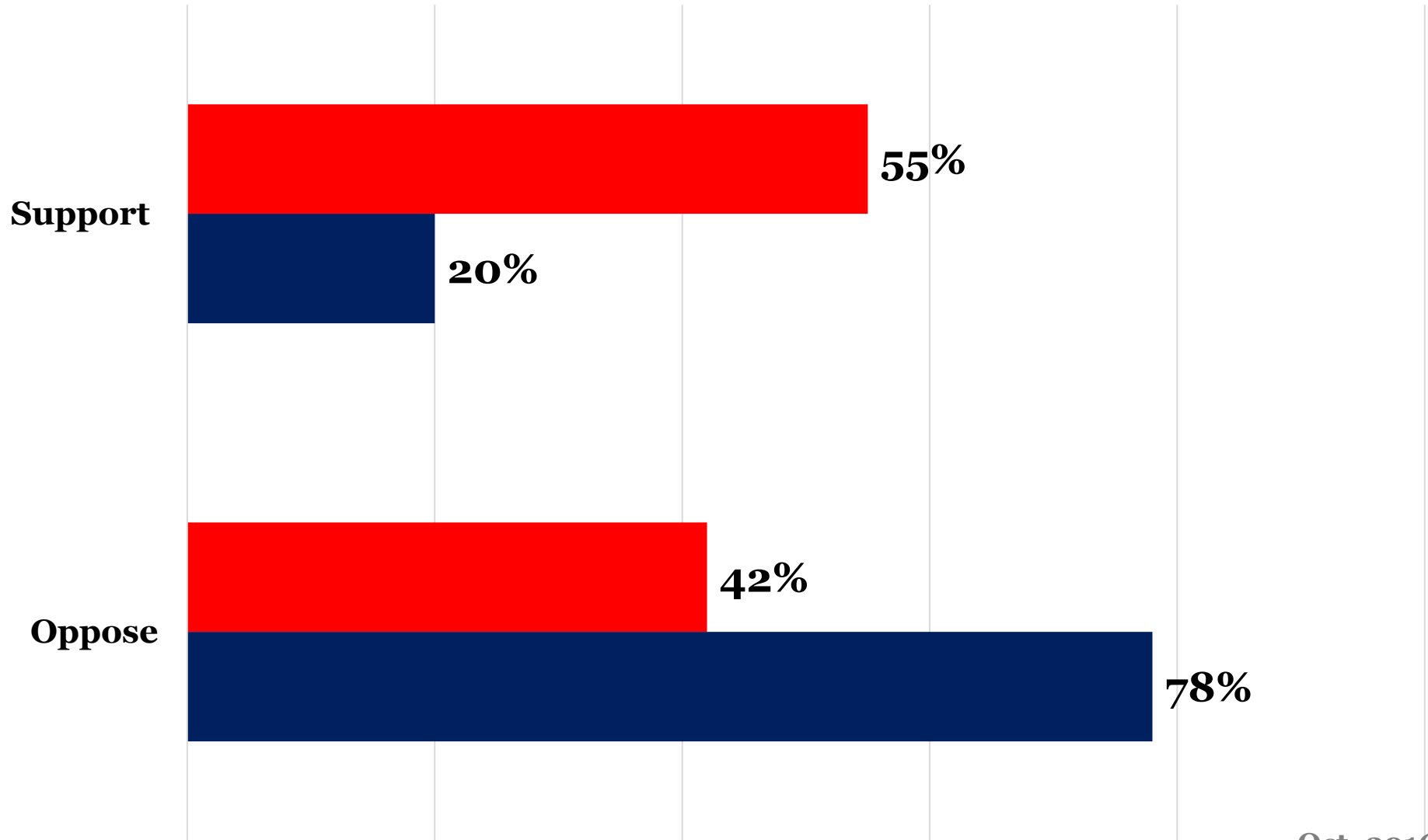
# Now, tell me if you support or oppose the deployment of a large American ground force in Syria and Iraq to fight ISIS

■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total



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**Trump Supporters**      **Hillary Supporters**

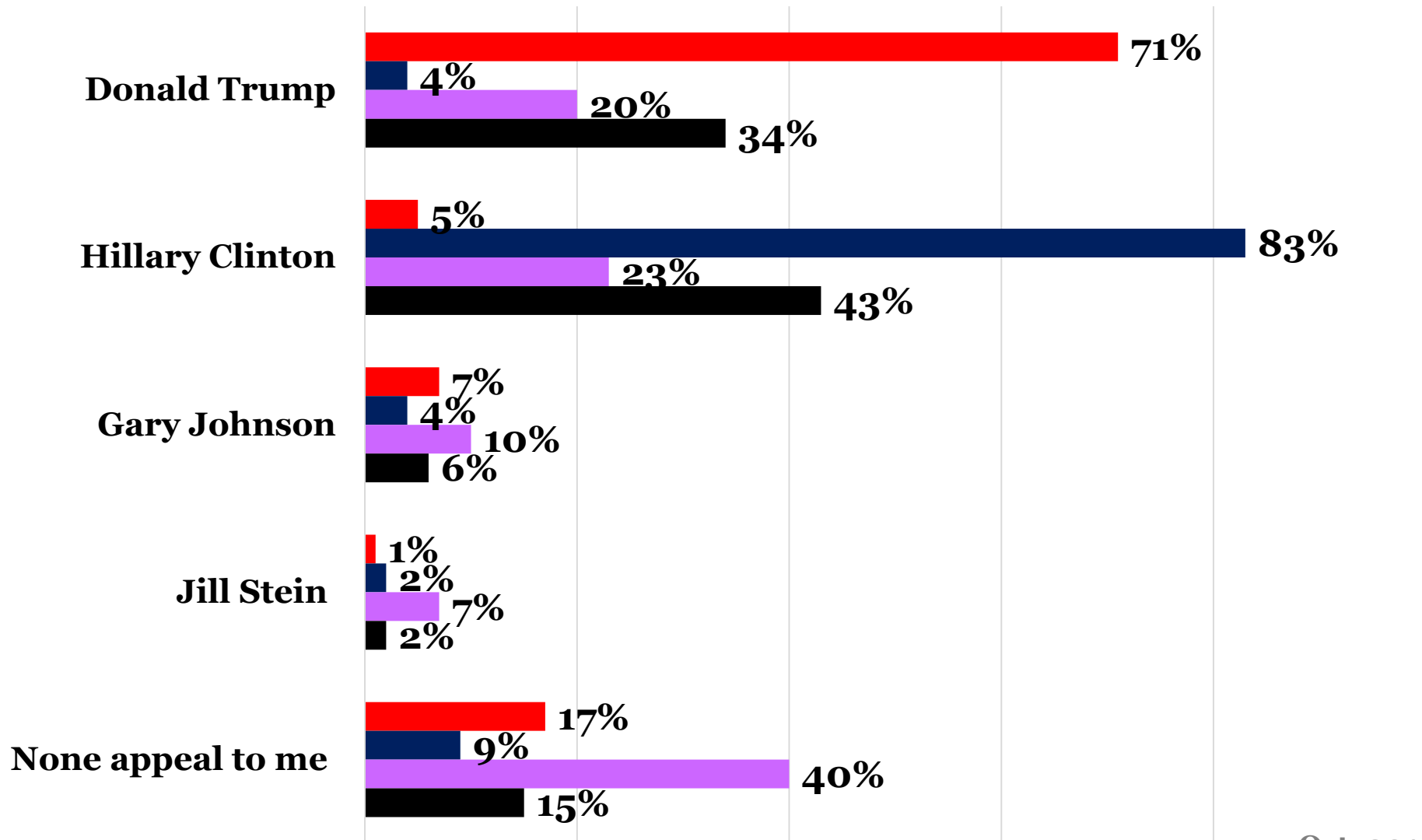


# **American Politics**

**If the elections were held today,  
which of the following  
presidential candidates would  
you be most likely to vote for?**

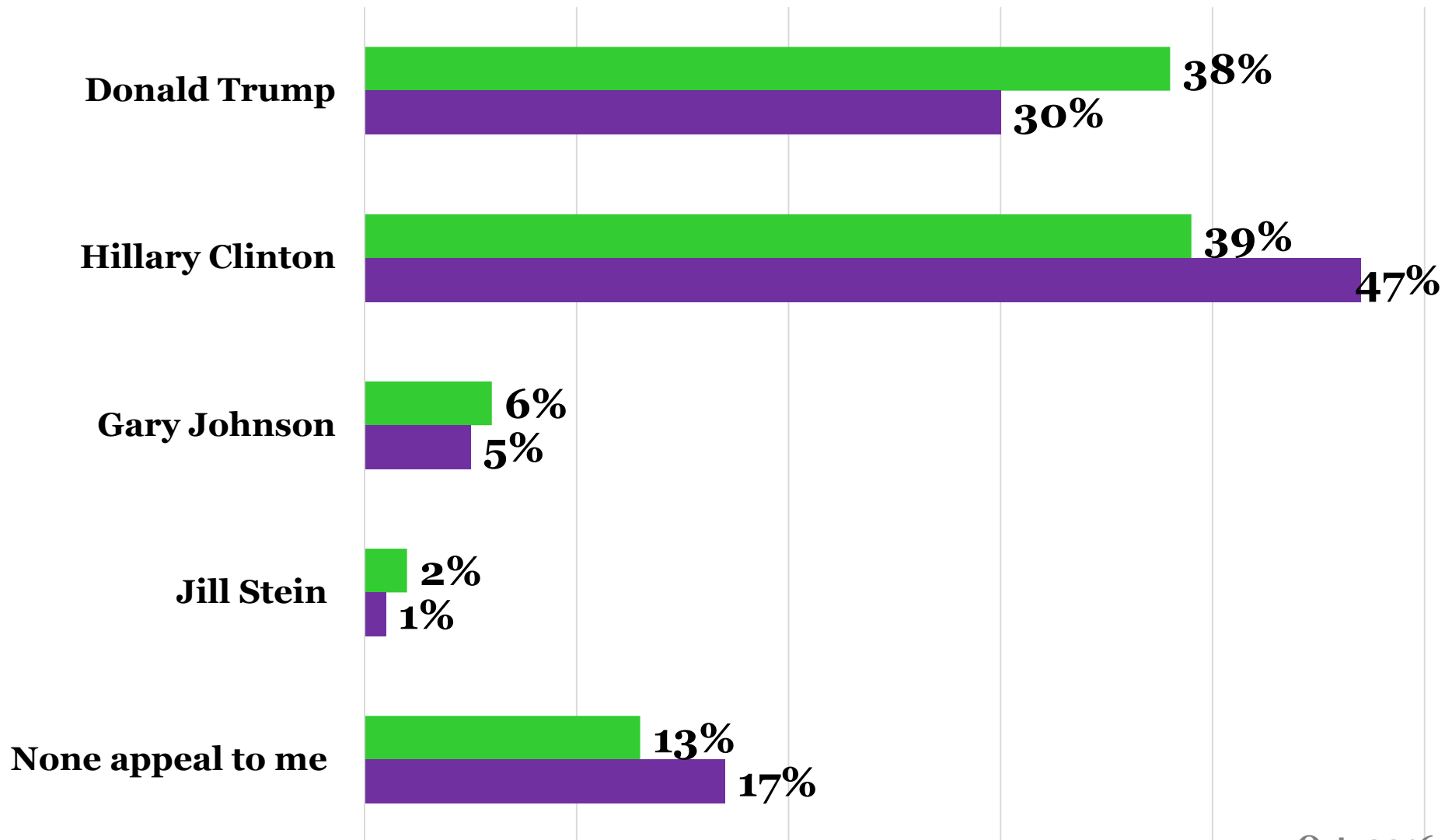
# If the elections were held today, which of the following presidential candidates would you be most likely to vote for?

■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total



# If the elections were held today, which of the following presidential candidates would you be most likely to vote for?

Men Women

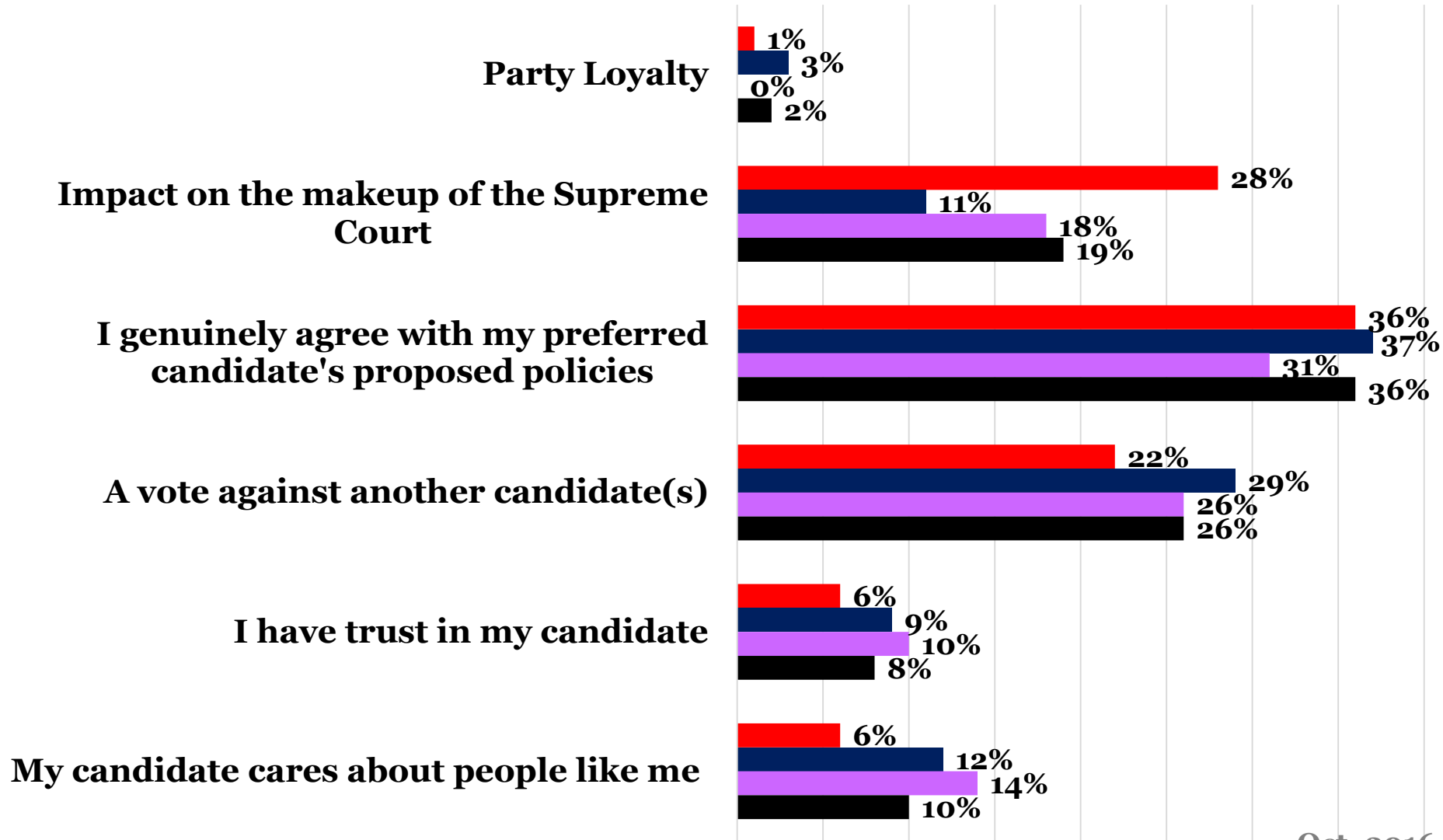


**Now, which of these is  
the most important  
reason for your vote?**



# Now, which of these is the most important reason for your vote?

■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total

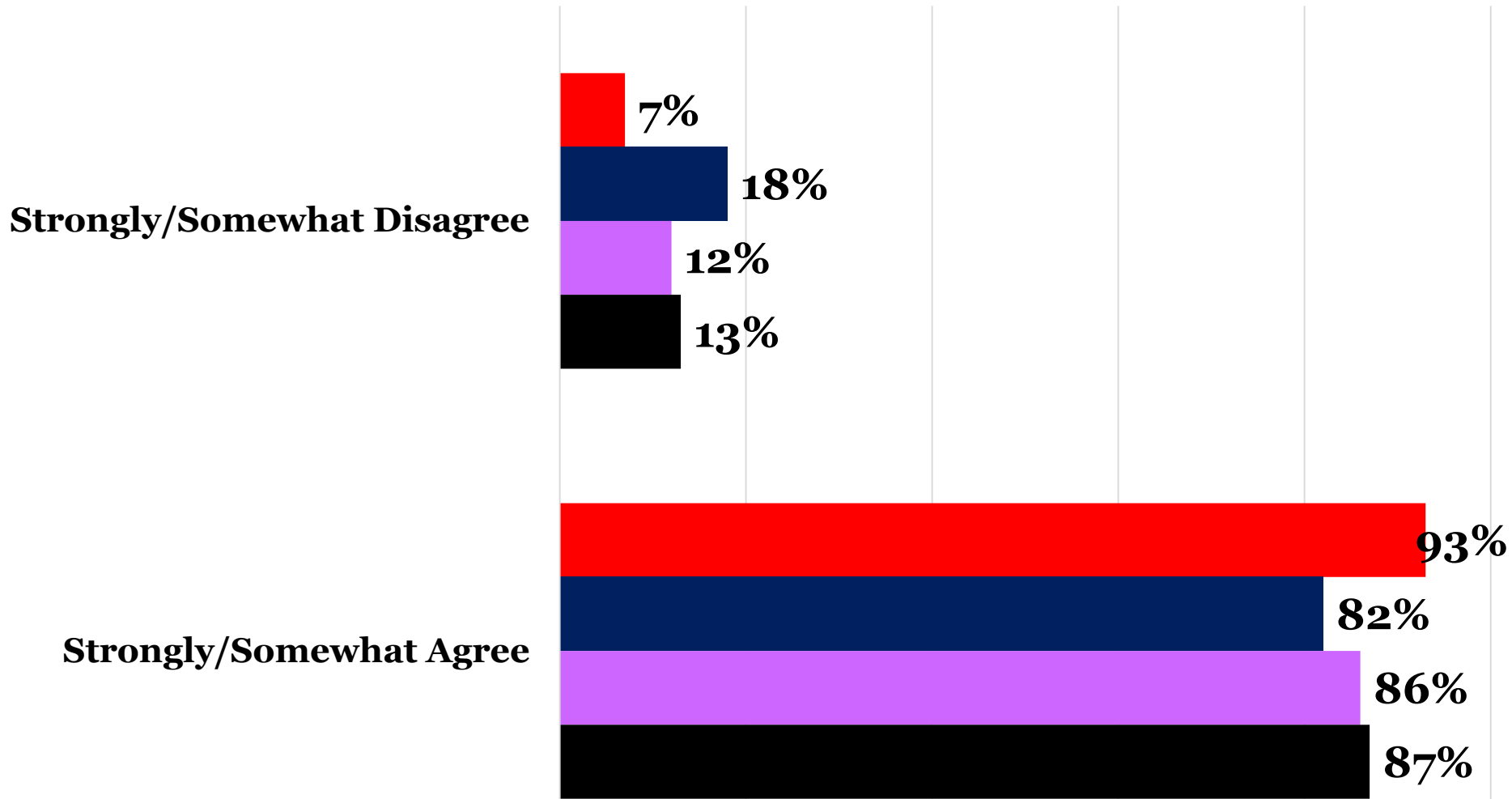


Please rate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement:

**There are Americans who will vote for Donald Trump in the presidential election even though they are not prepared to state that openly**

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**Republicans**   **Democrats**   **Independents**   **Total**

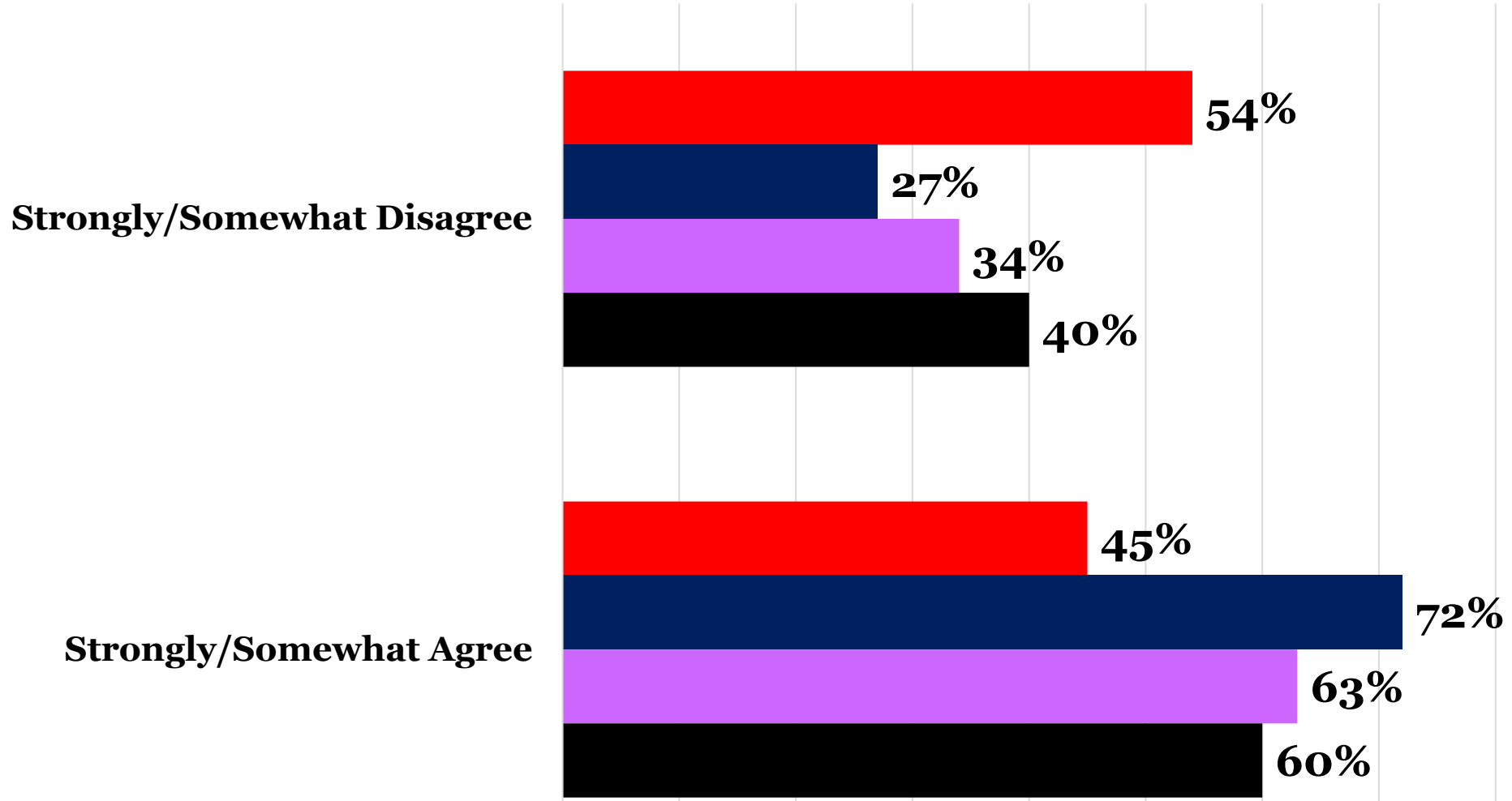


**Please rate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement:**

**There are Americans who will vote for Hillary Clinton in the presidential election even though they are not prepared to state that openly**

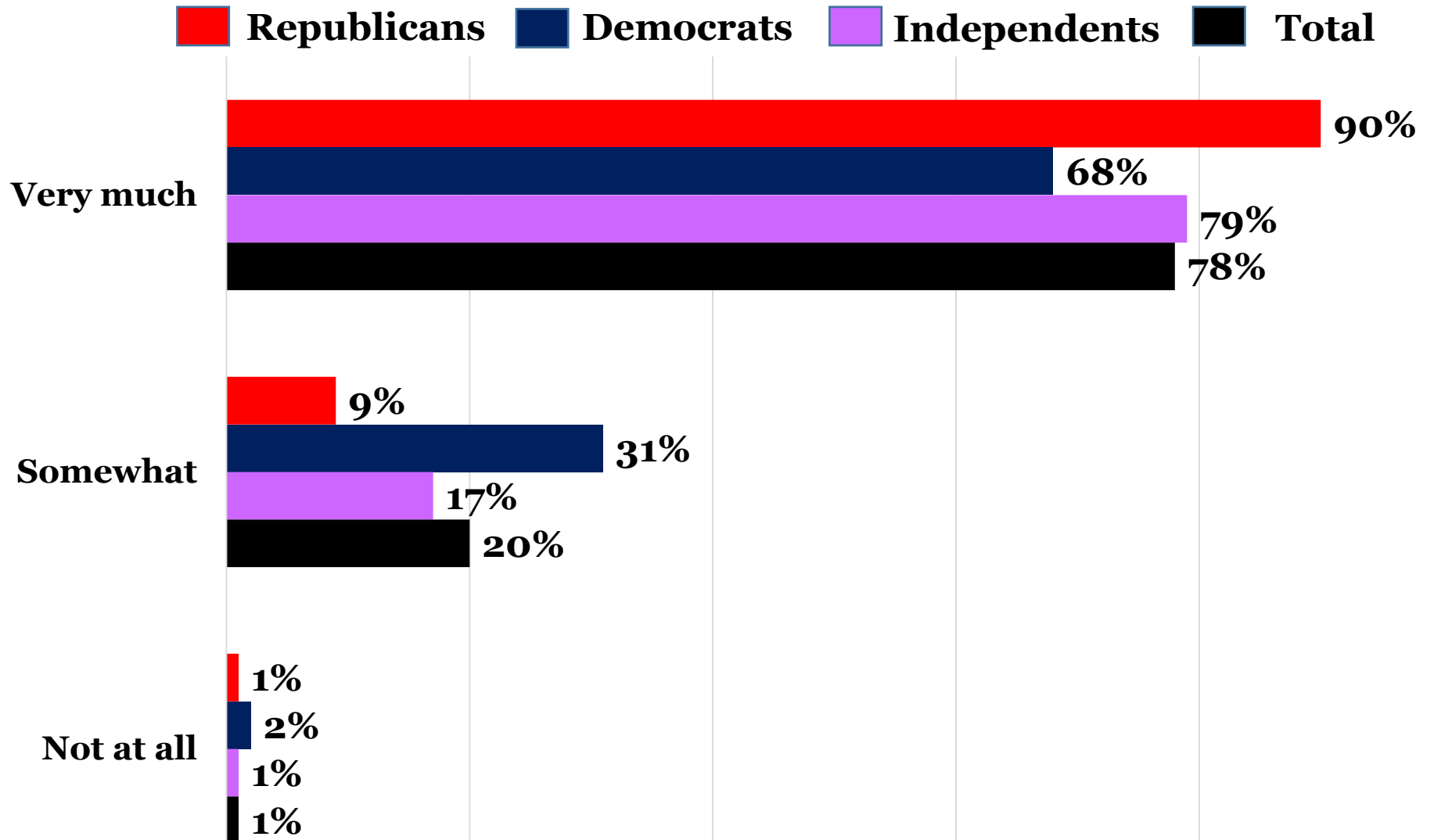
**Please rate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement:  
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election even though they are not prepared to state that openly**

**■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total**

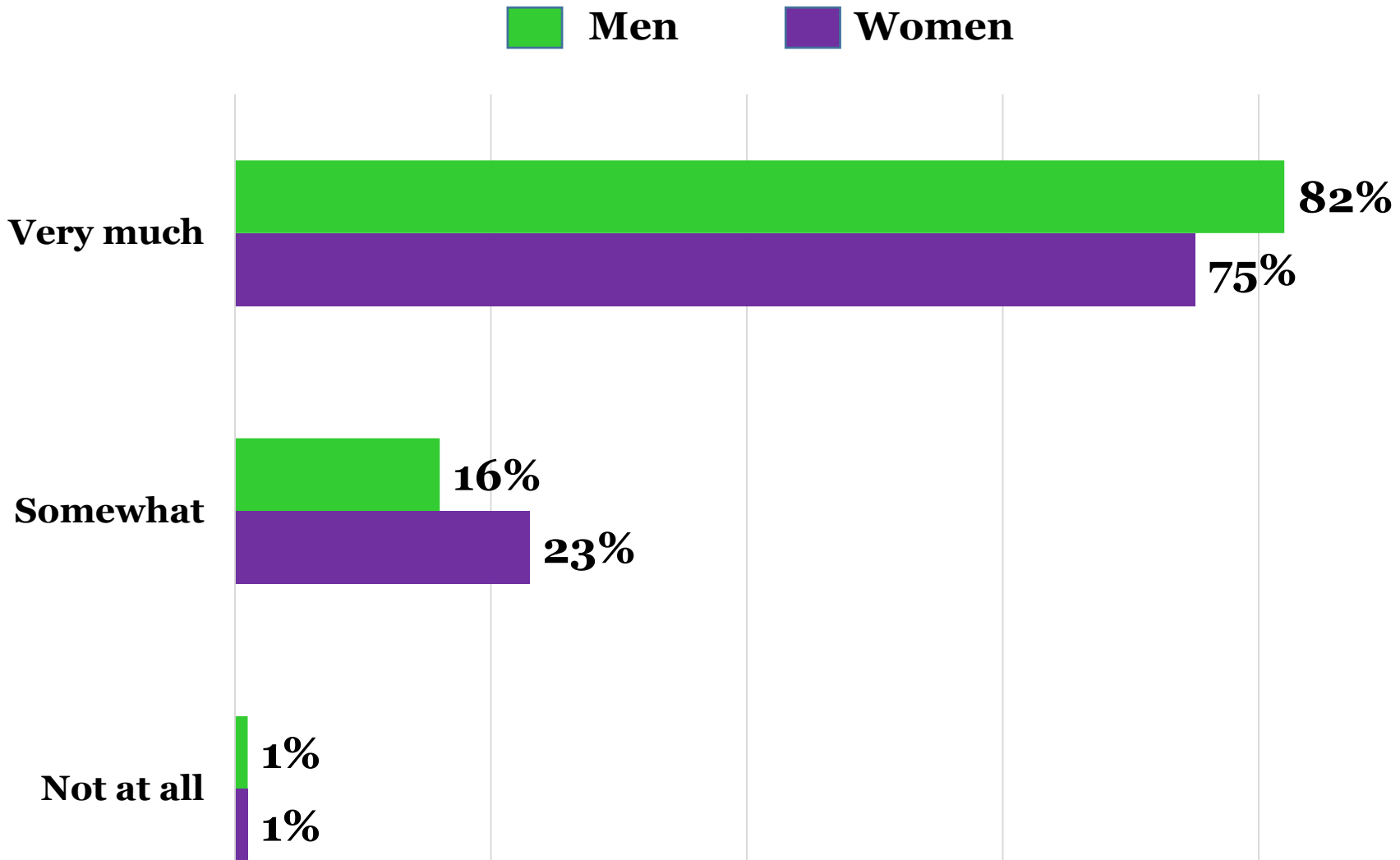


**How much do you want  
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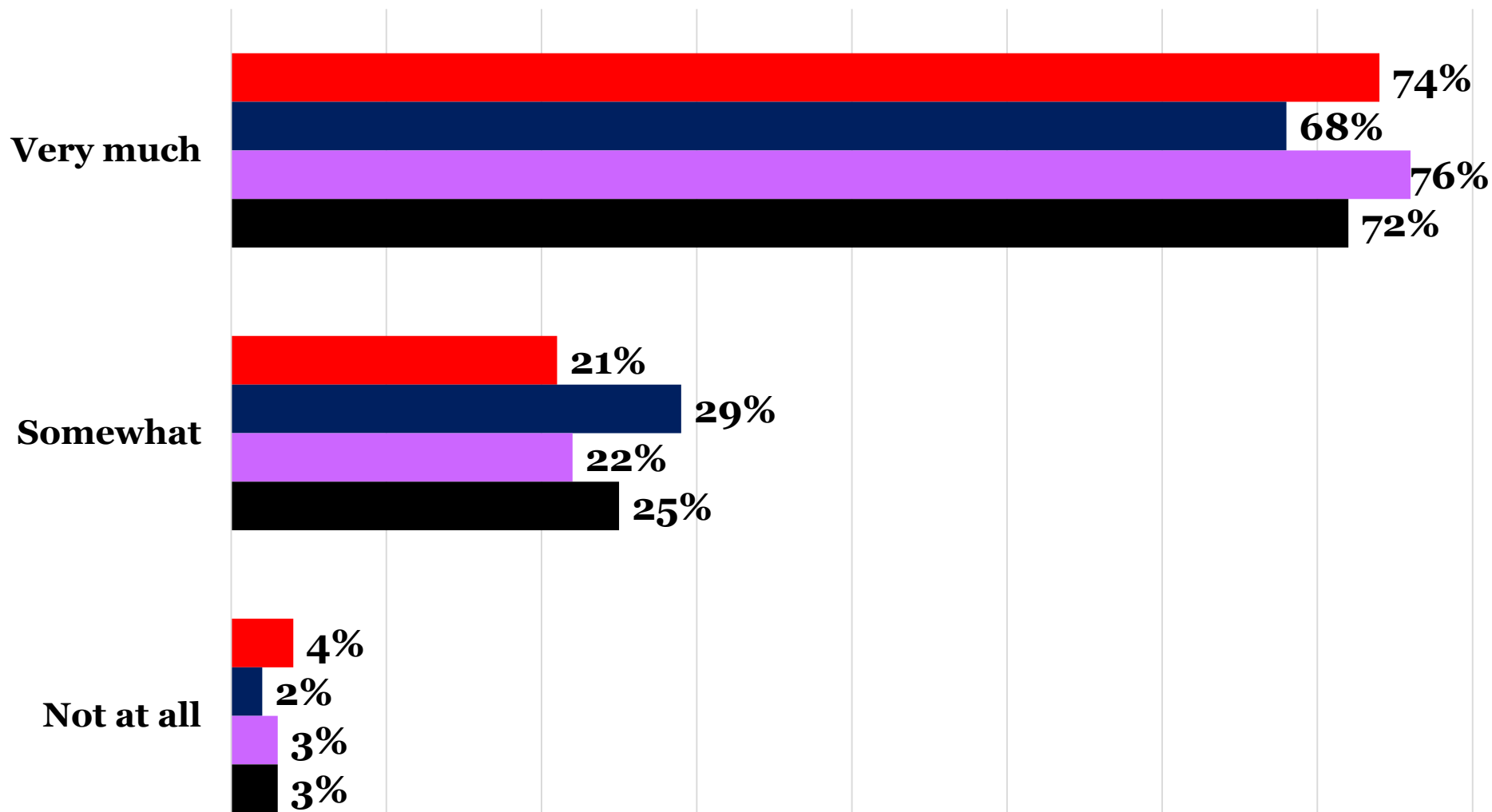




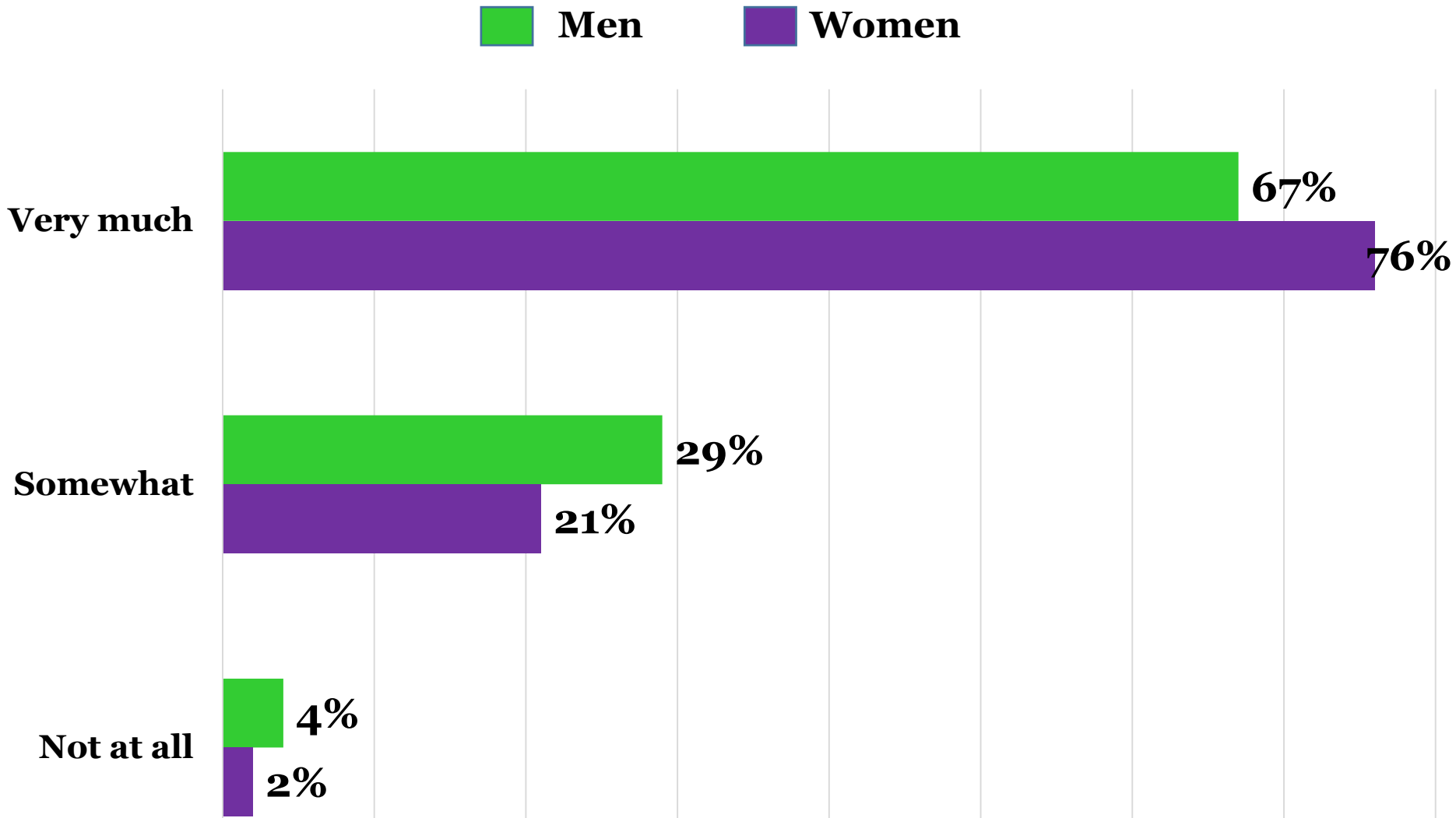
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■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total



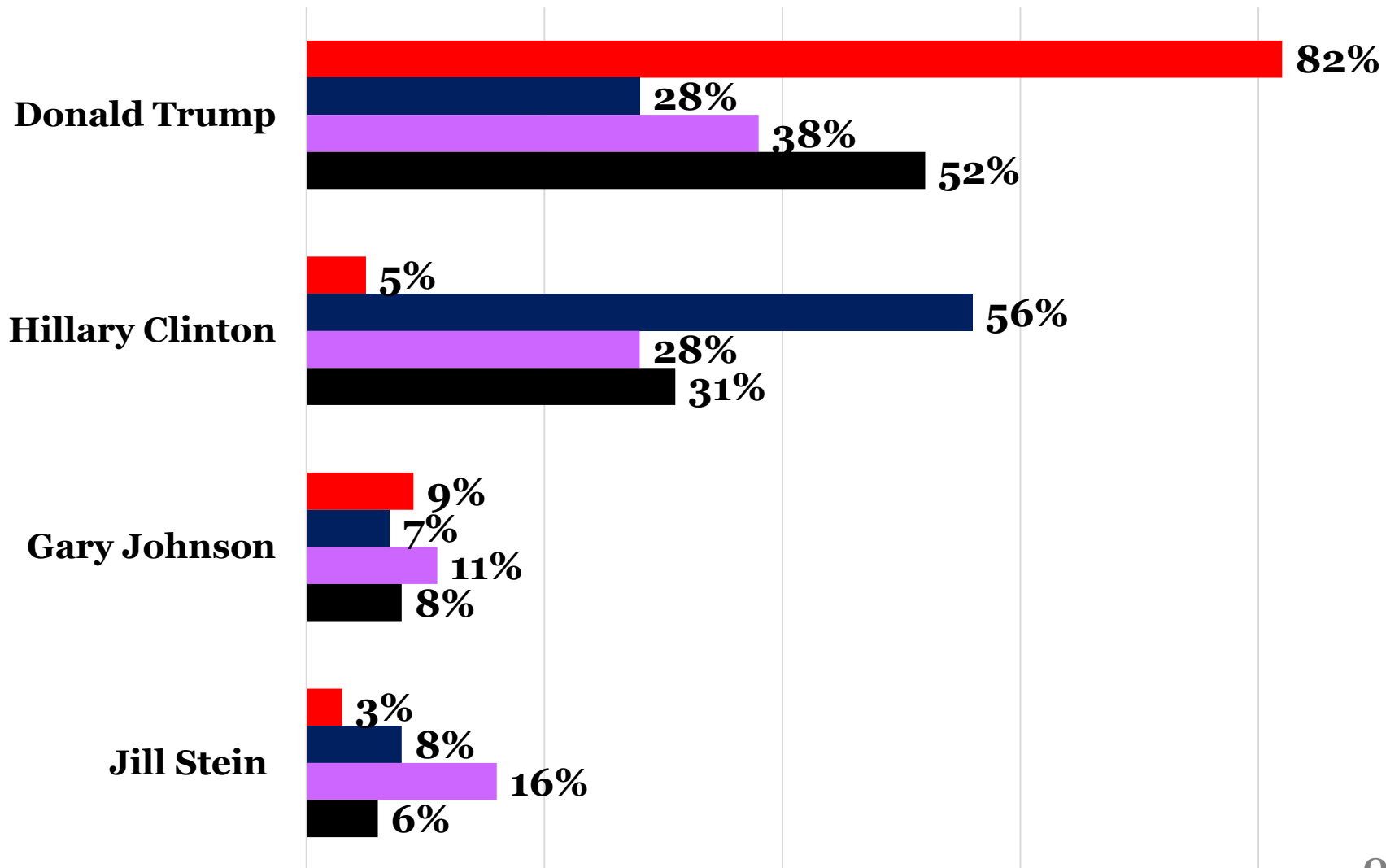
# How much do you want significant change to the American economic system?



**Which candidate is more likely to bring significant political change to the American system?**

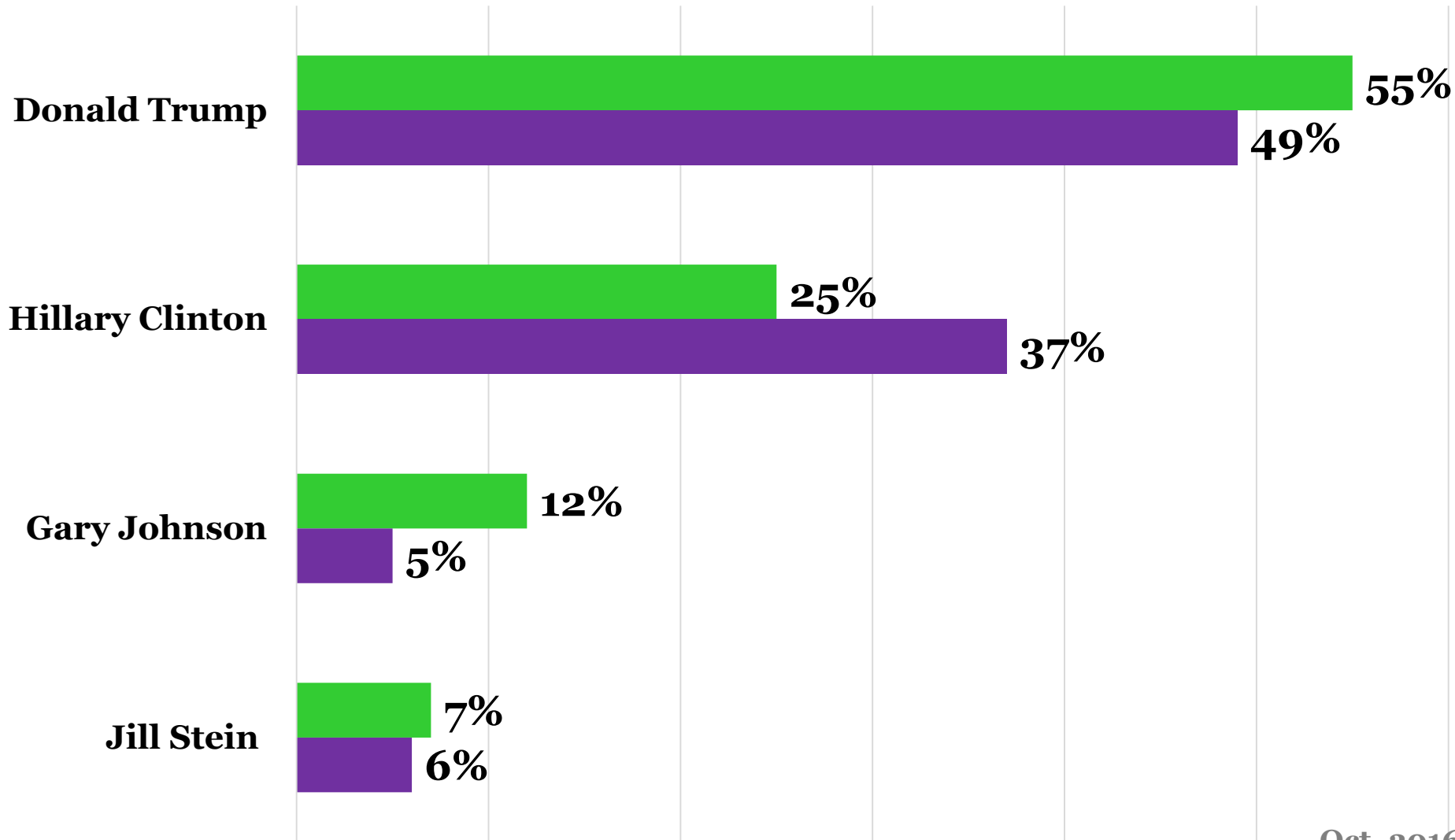
# Which candidate is more likely to bring significant political change to the American system?

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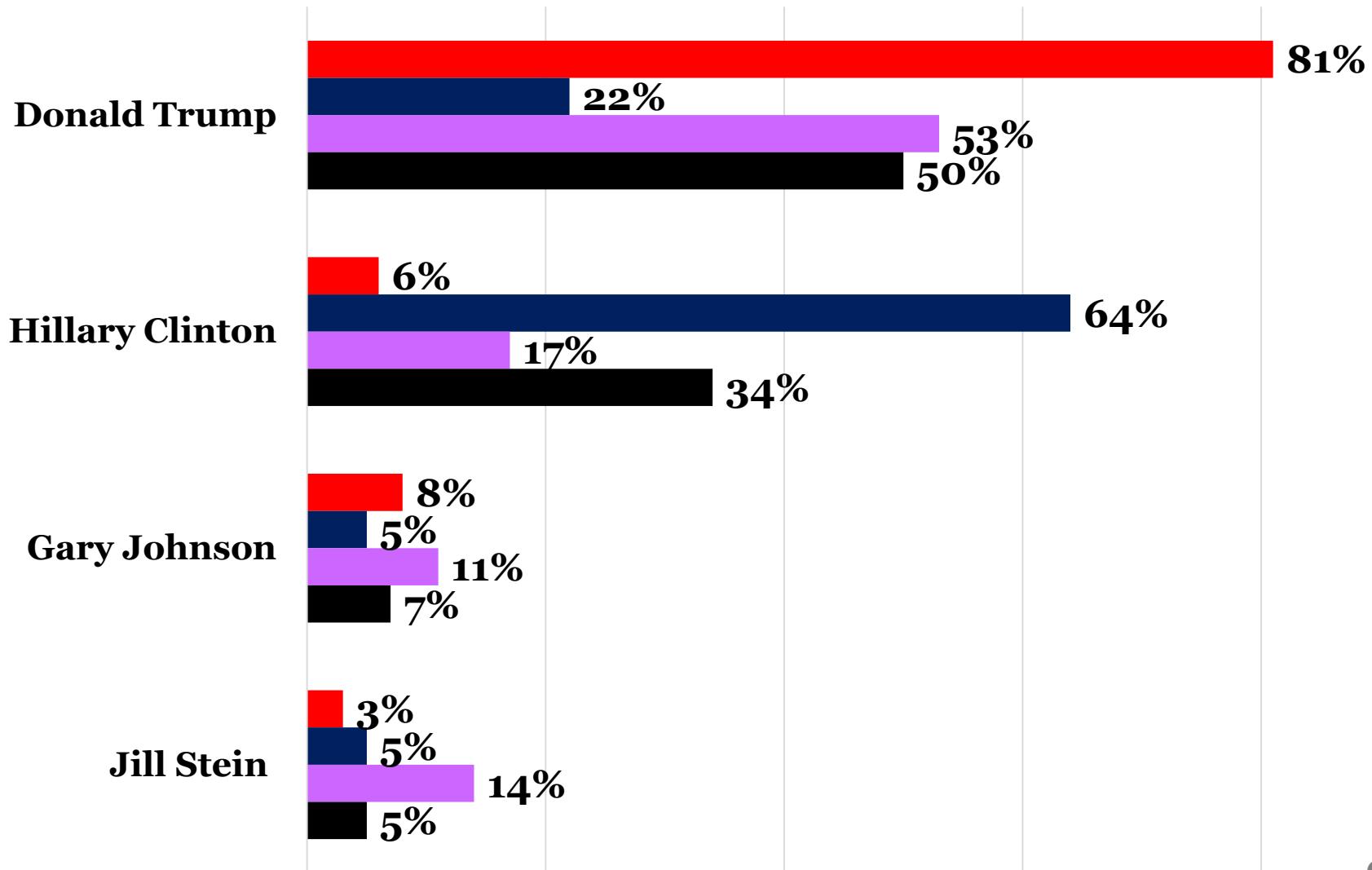
Men Women



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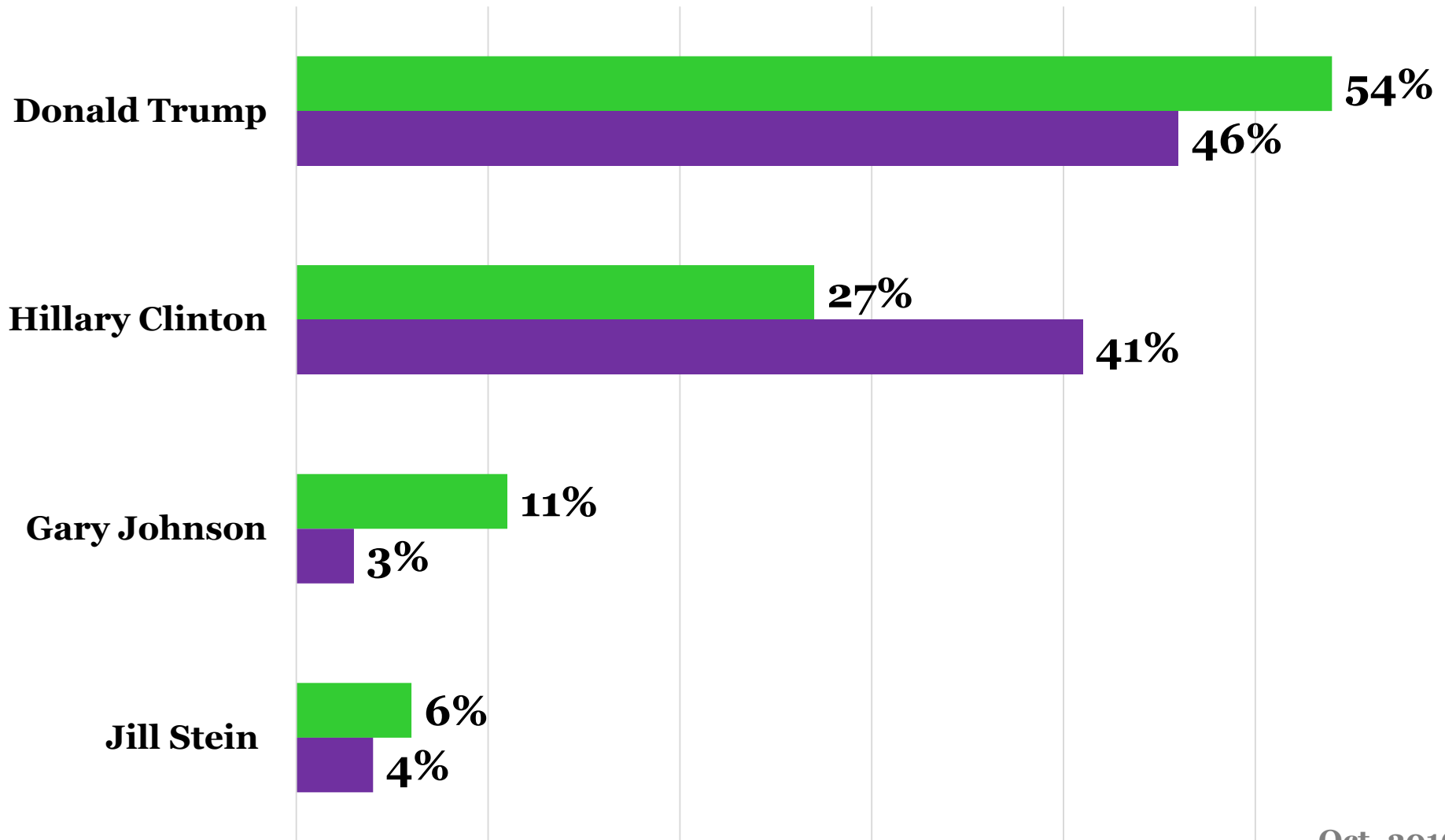
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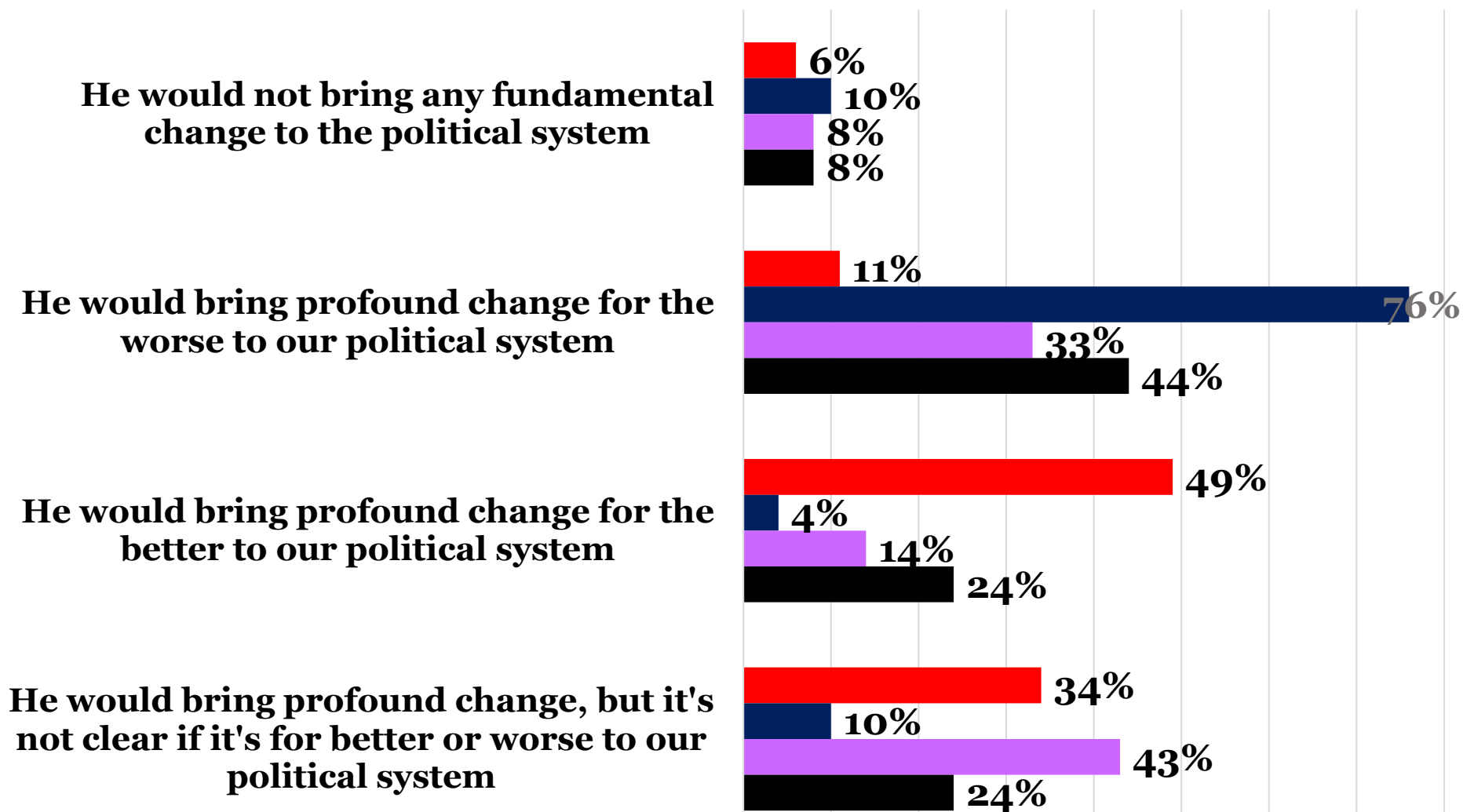
Men Women



**Which of the following is  
closest to your view of  
the impact on our  
political system, were  
Donald Trump to become  
president?**

# Which of the following is closest to your view of the impact on our political system, were Donald Trump to become president?

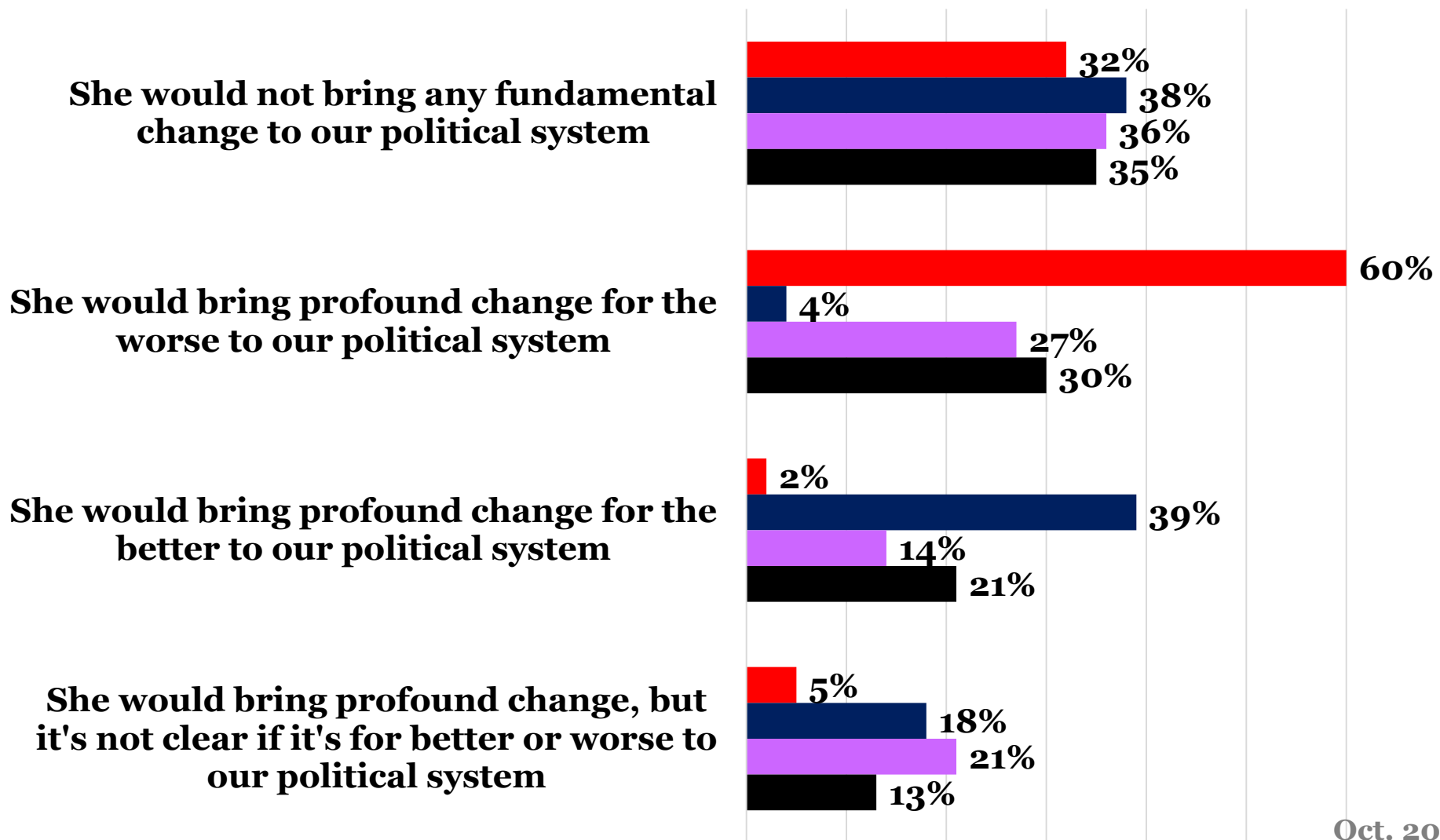
■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total



**Which of the following is  
closest to your view of  
the impact on our  
political system, were  
Hillary Clinton to  
become president?**

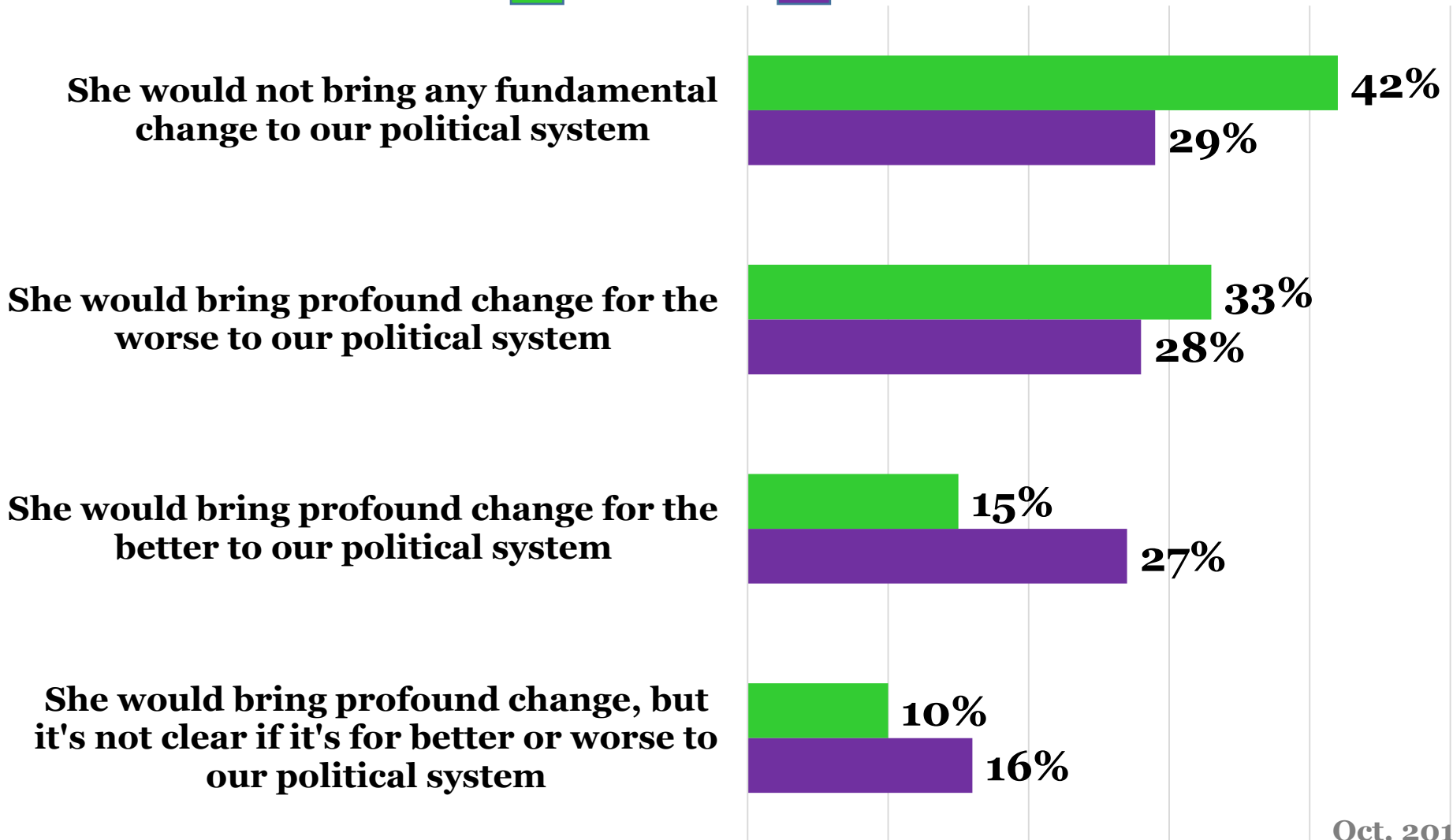
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■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total



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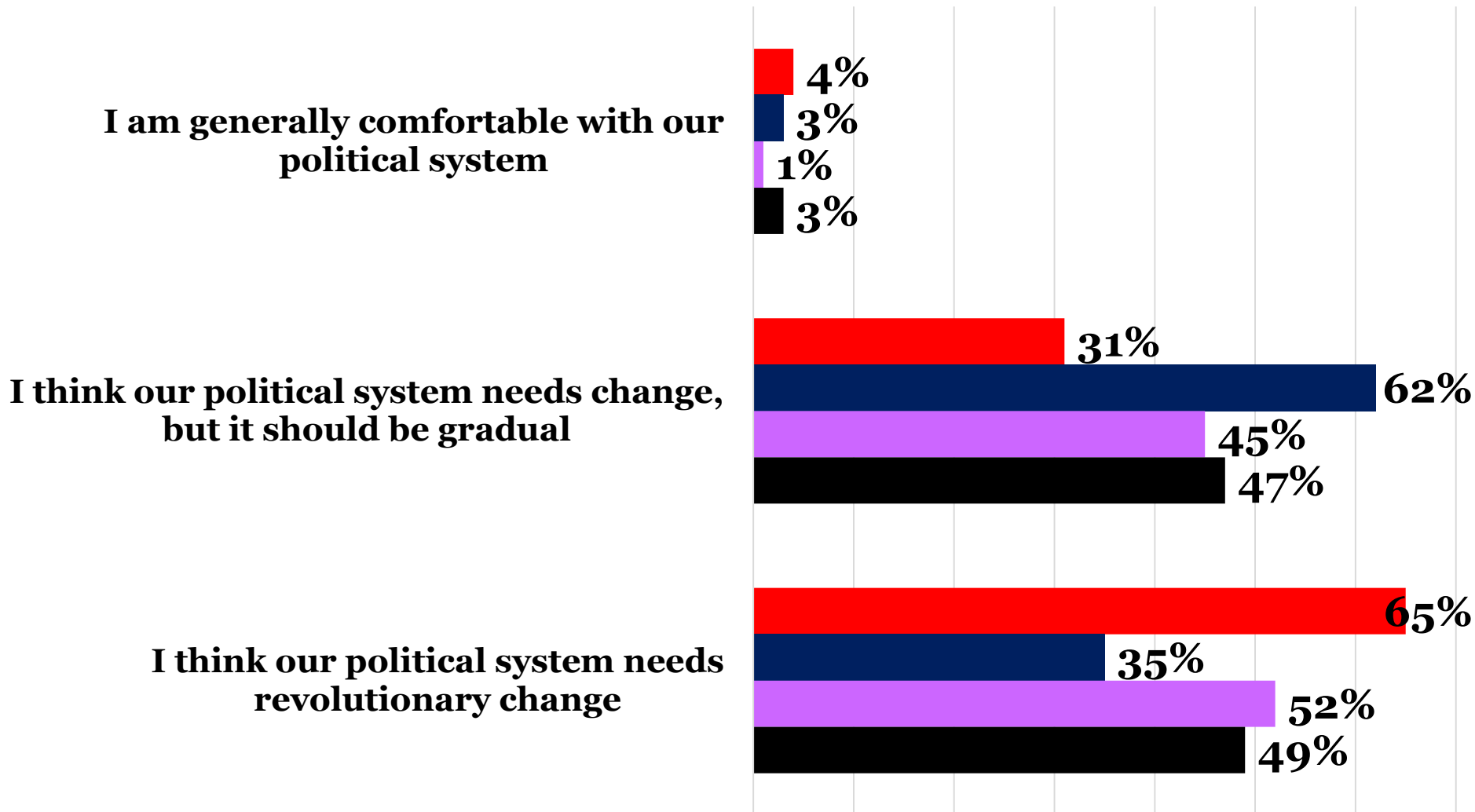
Men Women



**Which of the  
following is closest  
to your view:**

# Which of the following is closest to your view:

■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total





# Which of the following is closest to your view:

 Men

 Women

I am generally comfortable with our political system

3%

3%

I think our political system needs change, but it should be gradual

42%

53%

I think our political system needs revolutionary change

55%

44%

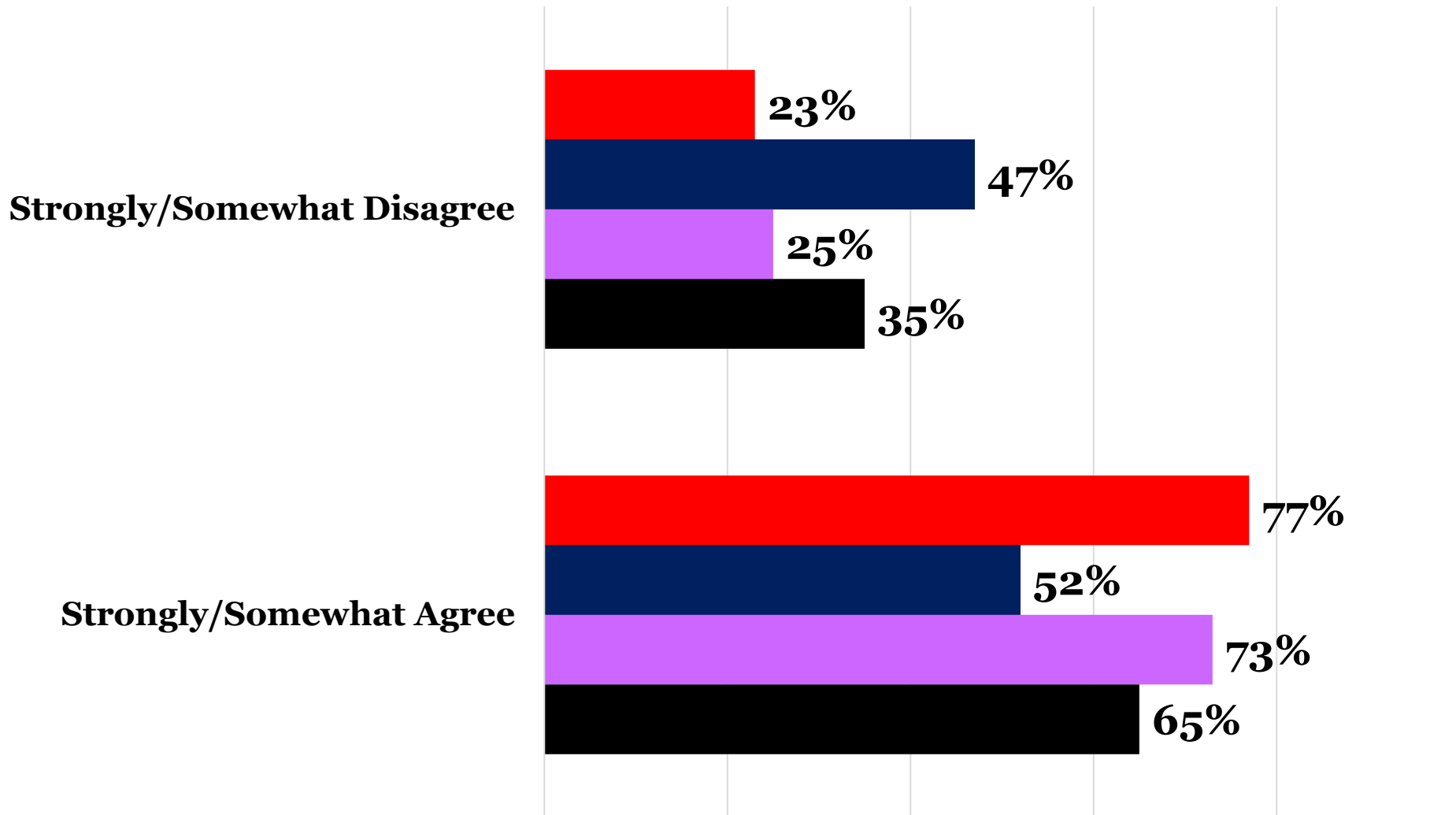
Oct. 2016

**How much do you agree with this statement:**

**“Our system is rigged against people like me”?**

# How much do you agree with this statement: “Our system is rigged against people like me”?

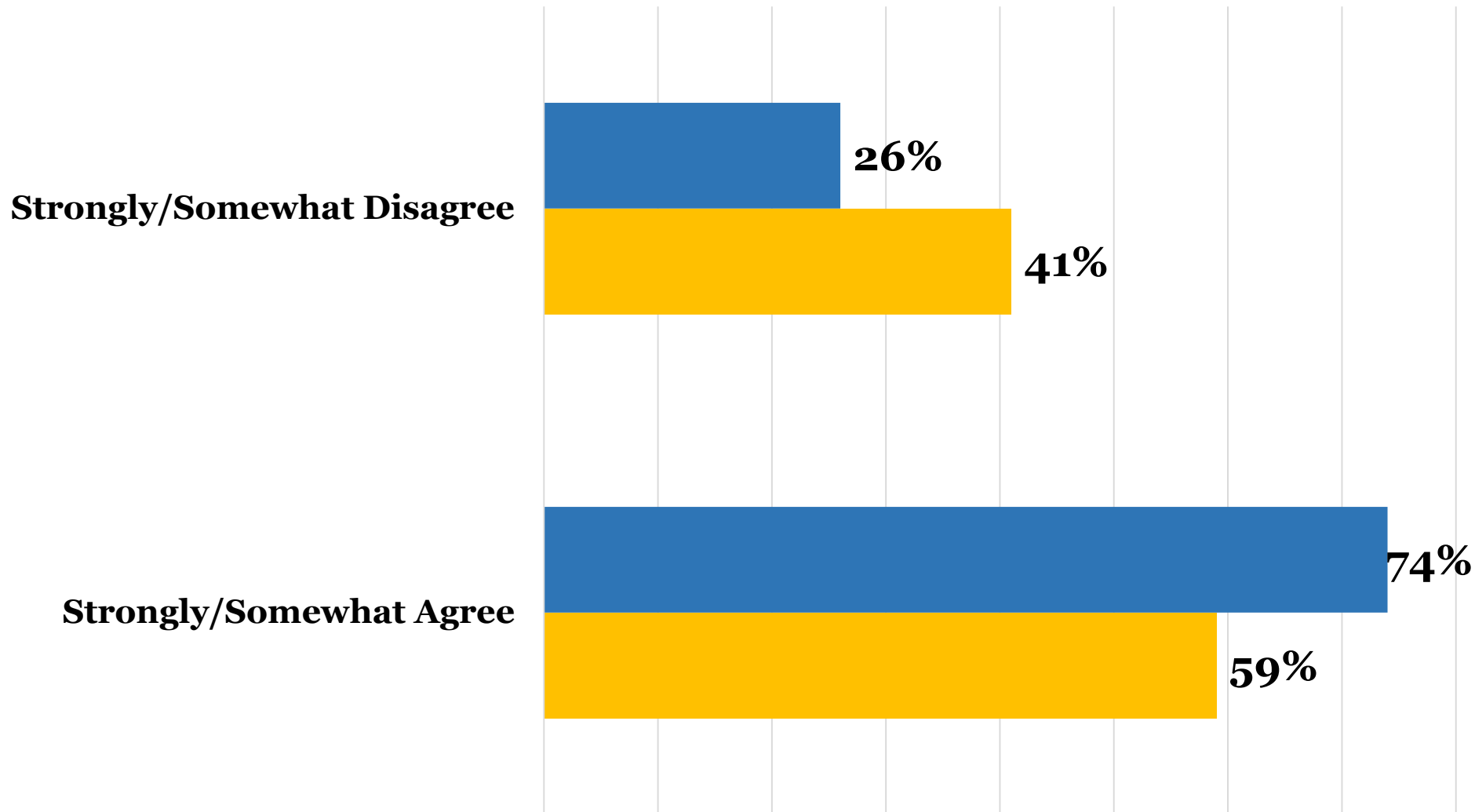
■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total



# How much do you agree with this statement: “Our system is rigged against people like me”?

**■ Non-College Educated**

**■ At least some college education**

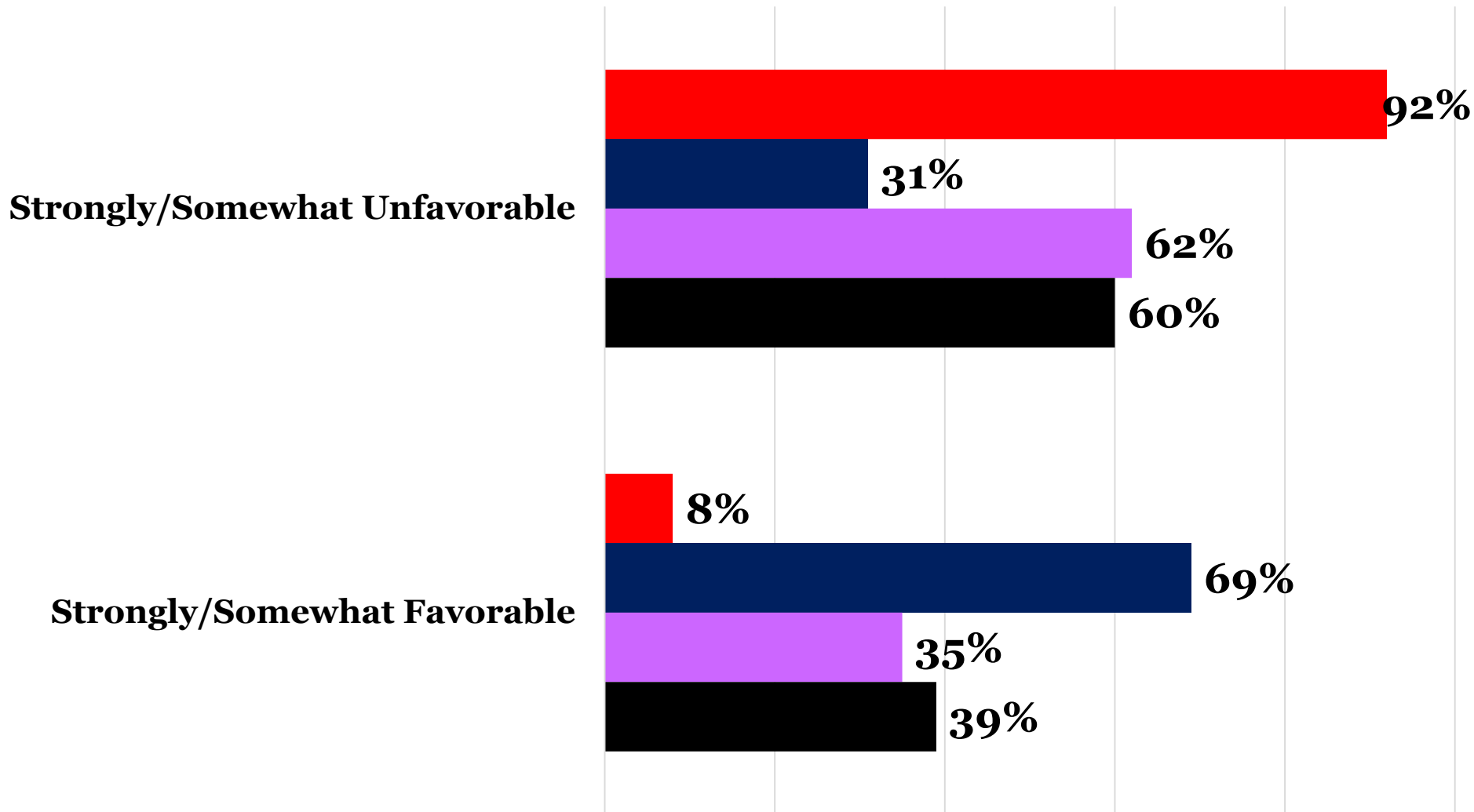


Oct. 2016

**Overall, how favorable or unfavorable is your impression of the social movement known as Black Lives Matter?**

# Overall, how favorable or unfavorable is your impression of the social movement known as Black Lives Matter?

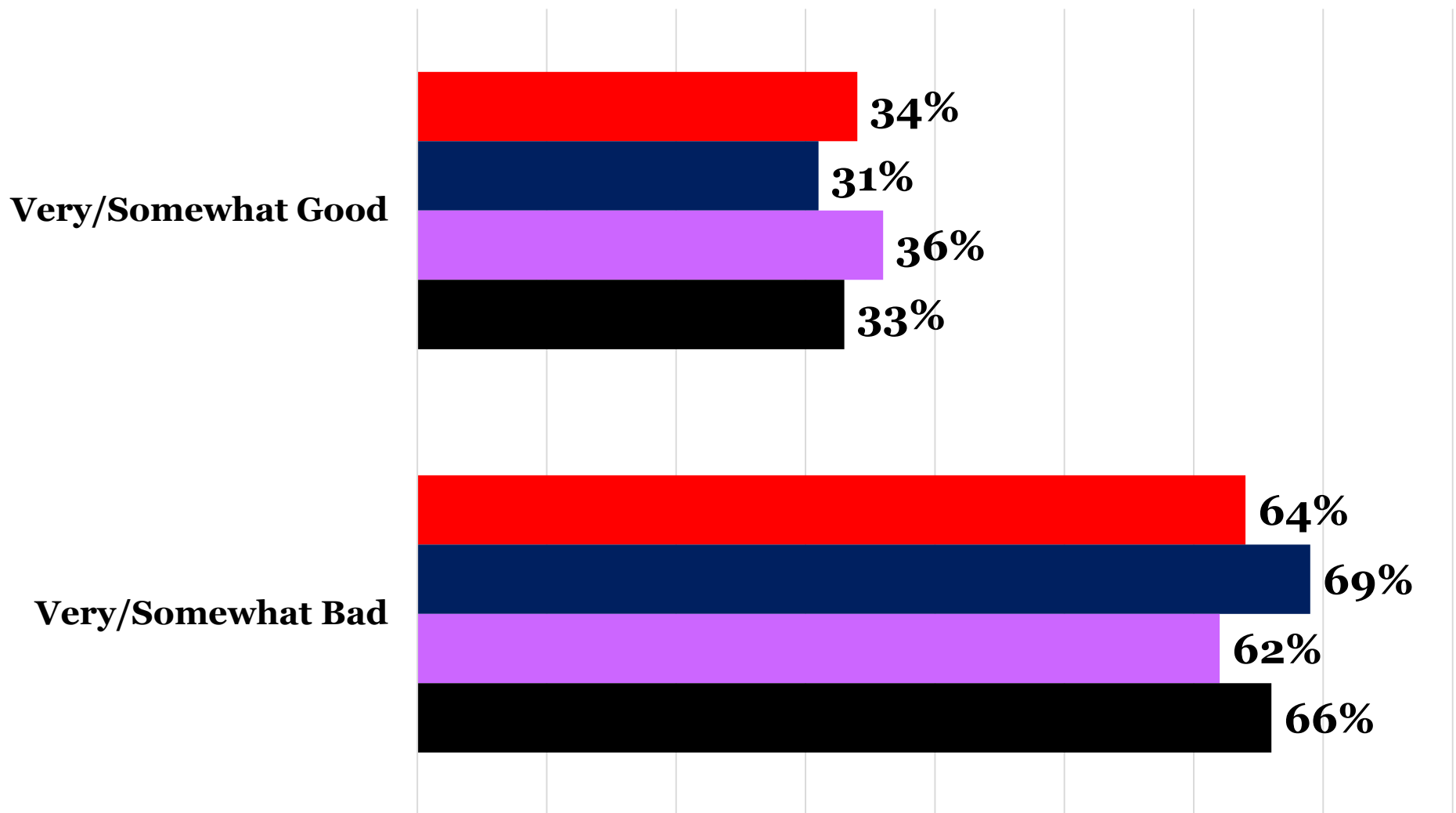
■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total



**How would you rate race relations between blacks and whites in the U.S.?**

# How would you rate race relations between blacks and whites in the U.S.?

■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total



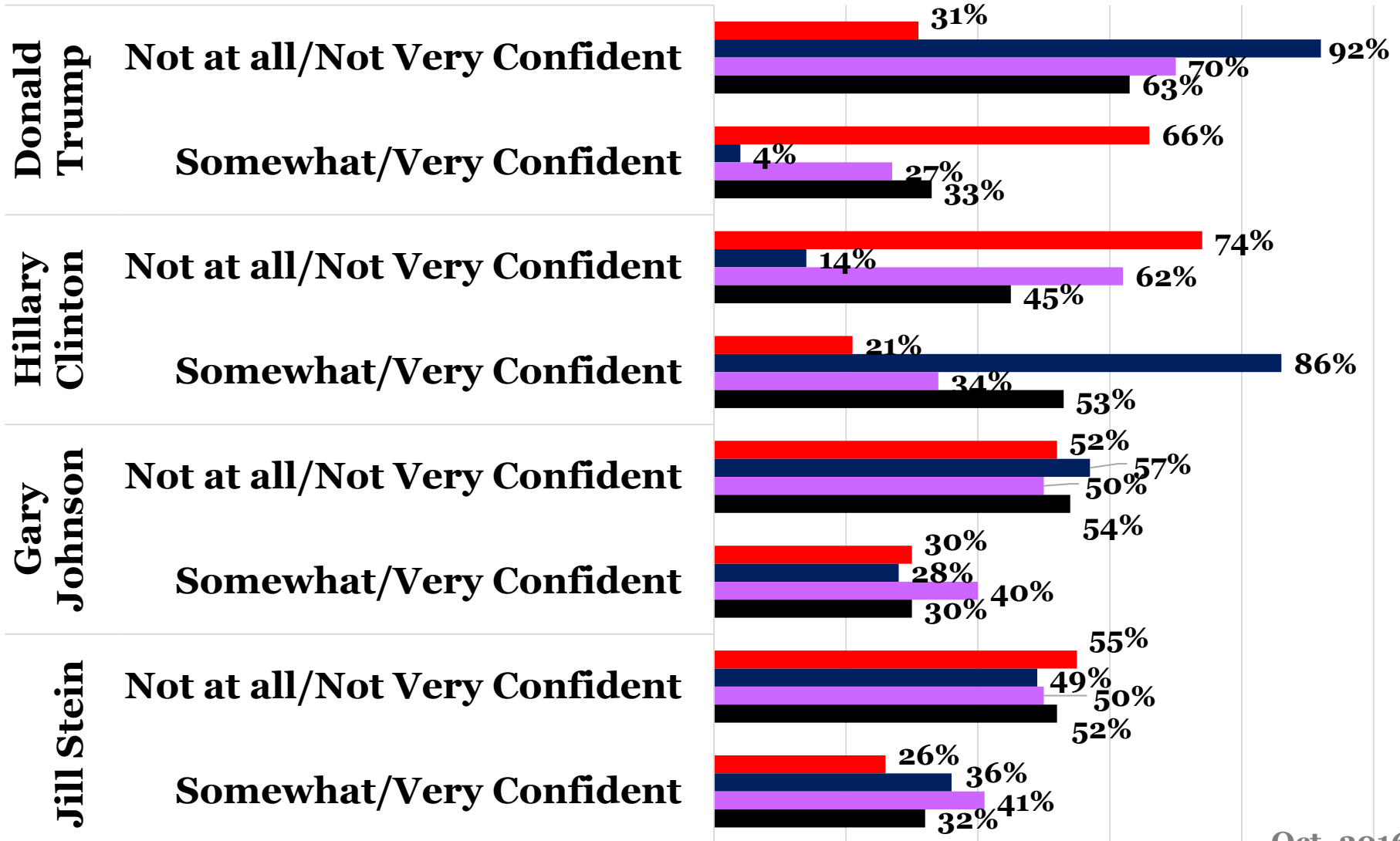
Oct. 2016



**Regardless of your vote for president, please rate the candidates on the scale below on how confident you are that they would advance the interests of African Americans if elected**

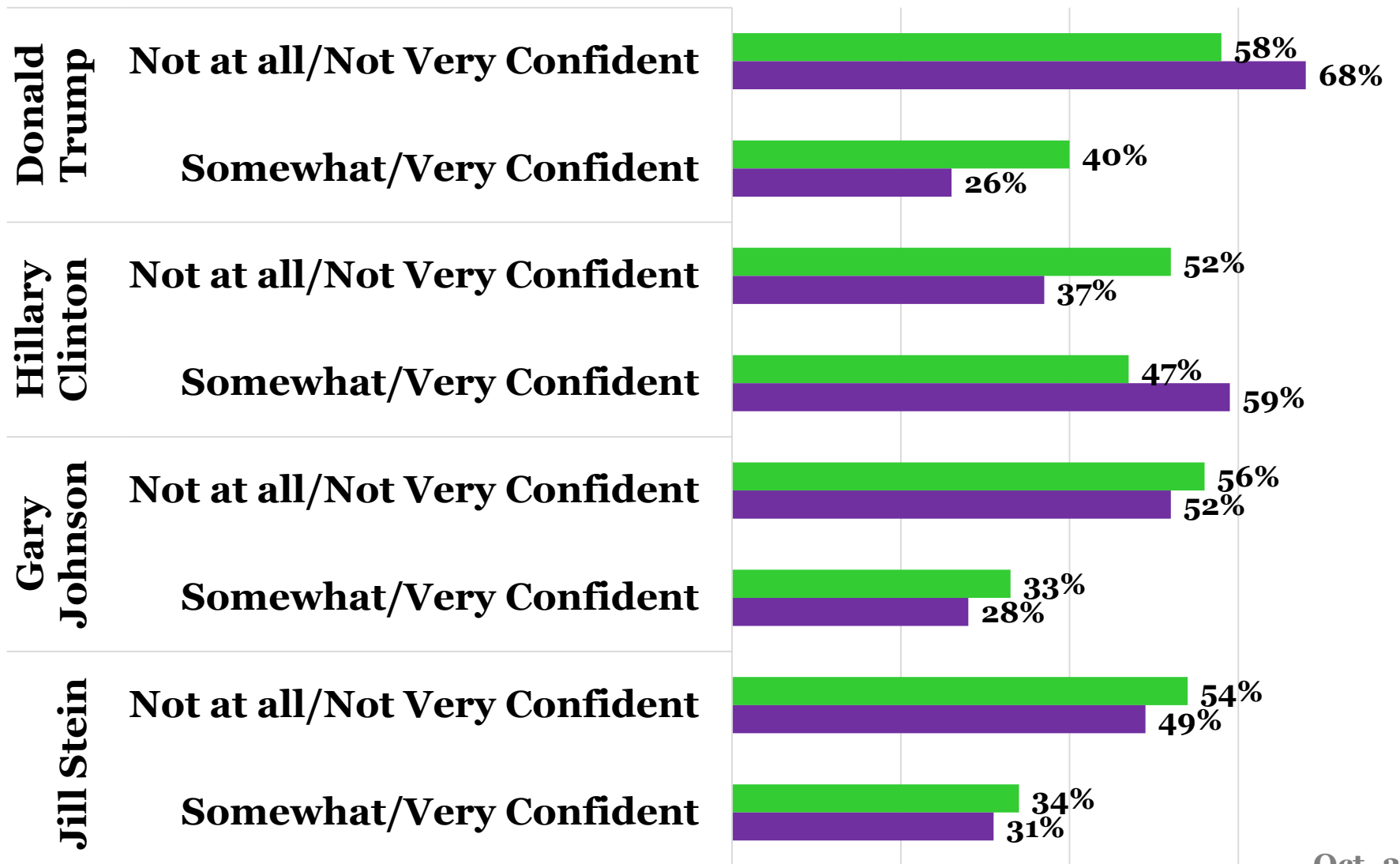
**Regardless of your vote for president, please rate the candidates on the scale below on how confident you are that they would advance the interests of African Americans if elected**

**■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total**

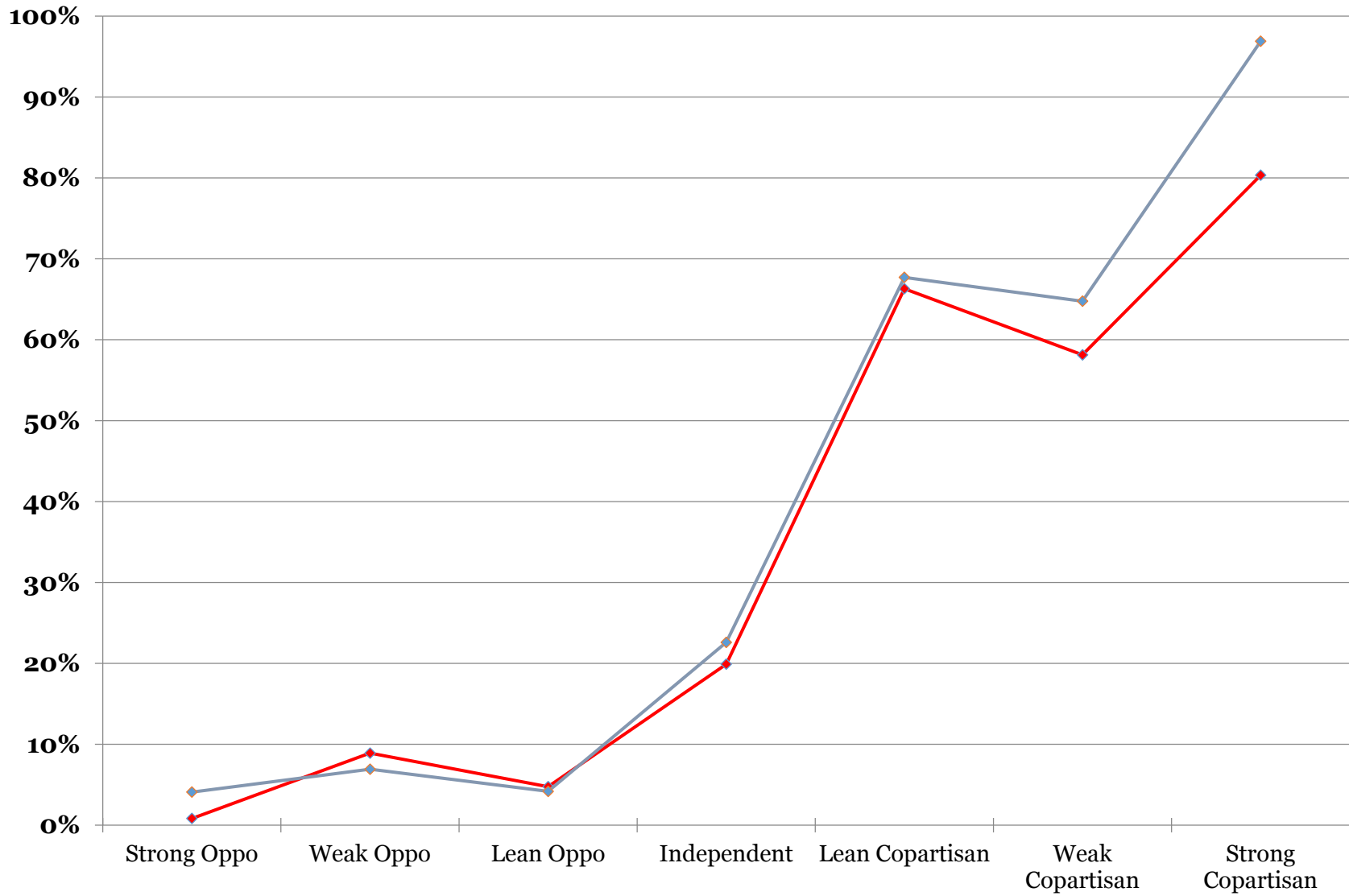


**Regardless of your vote for president, please rate the candidates on the scale below on how confident you are that they would advance the interests of African Americans if elected**

**Men**      **Women**

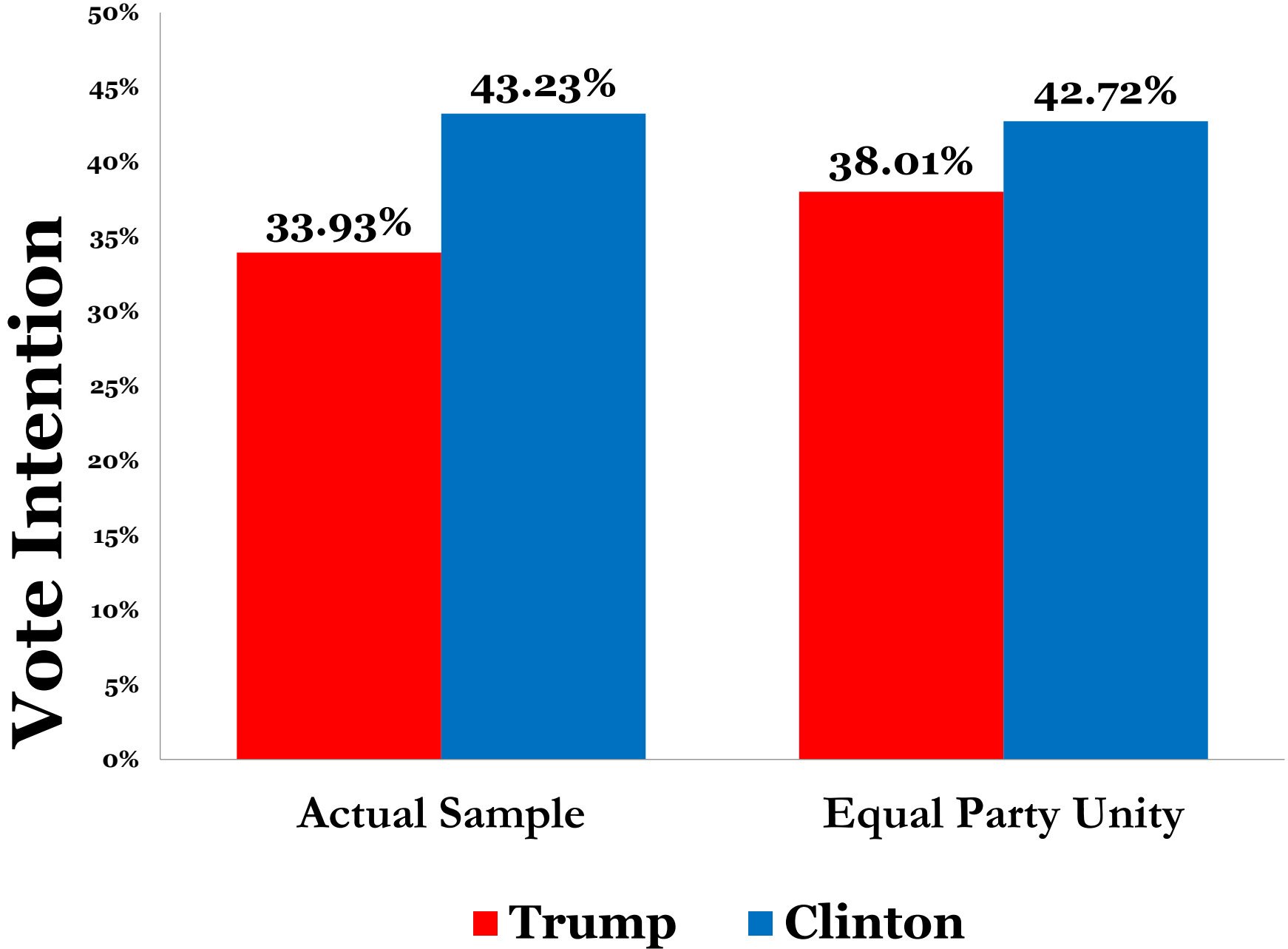


# Vote Support by Partisanship



—●— **Trump**

—●— **Clinton**



**How has the release of the  
tape of Donald Trump  
talking about women in  
2005 influenced your  
choice for president?**

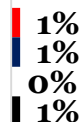
# How has the release of the tape of Donald Trump talking about women in 2005 influenced your choice for president?

■ Republicans
 ■ Democrats
 ■ Independents
 ■ Total

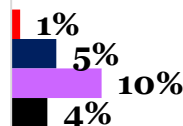
It has not changed my mind about whom I was planning to vote for



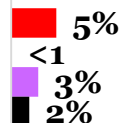
I was undecided, but now plan to vote for Trump



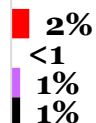
I was undecided, but now plan to vote for someone else who isn't Trump



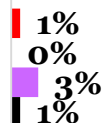
I was planning to vote for Trump, but I am now undecided



I was planning to vote for Trump, but now plan to vote for another candidate

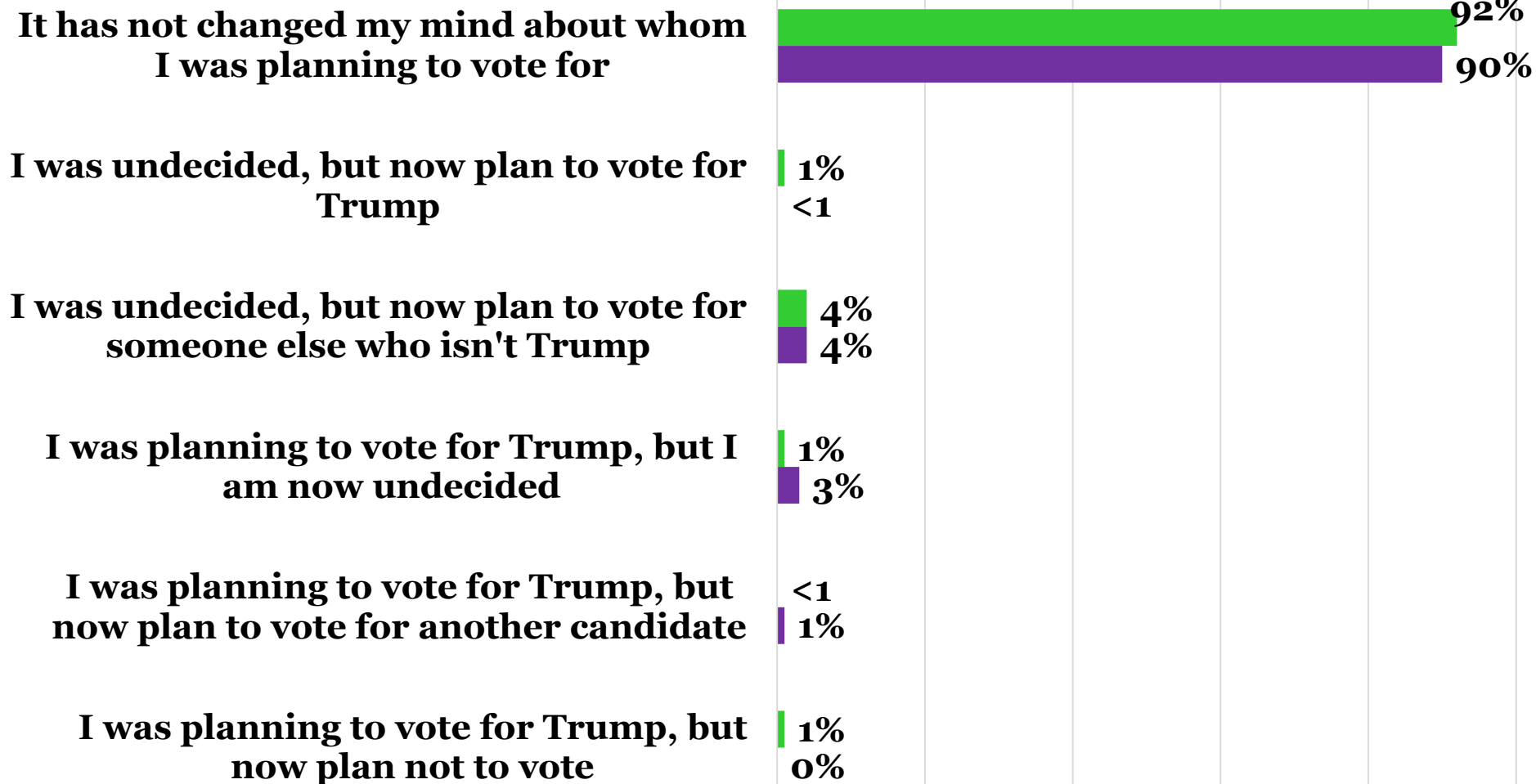


I was planning to vote for Trump, but now plan not to vote



# How has the release of the tape of Donald Trump talking about women in 2015 influenced your choice for president?

Men Women





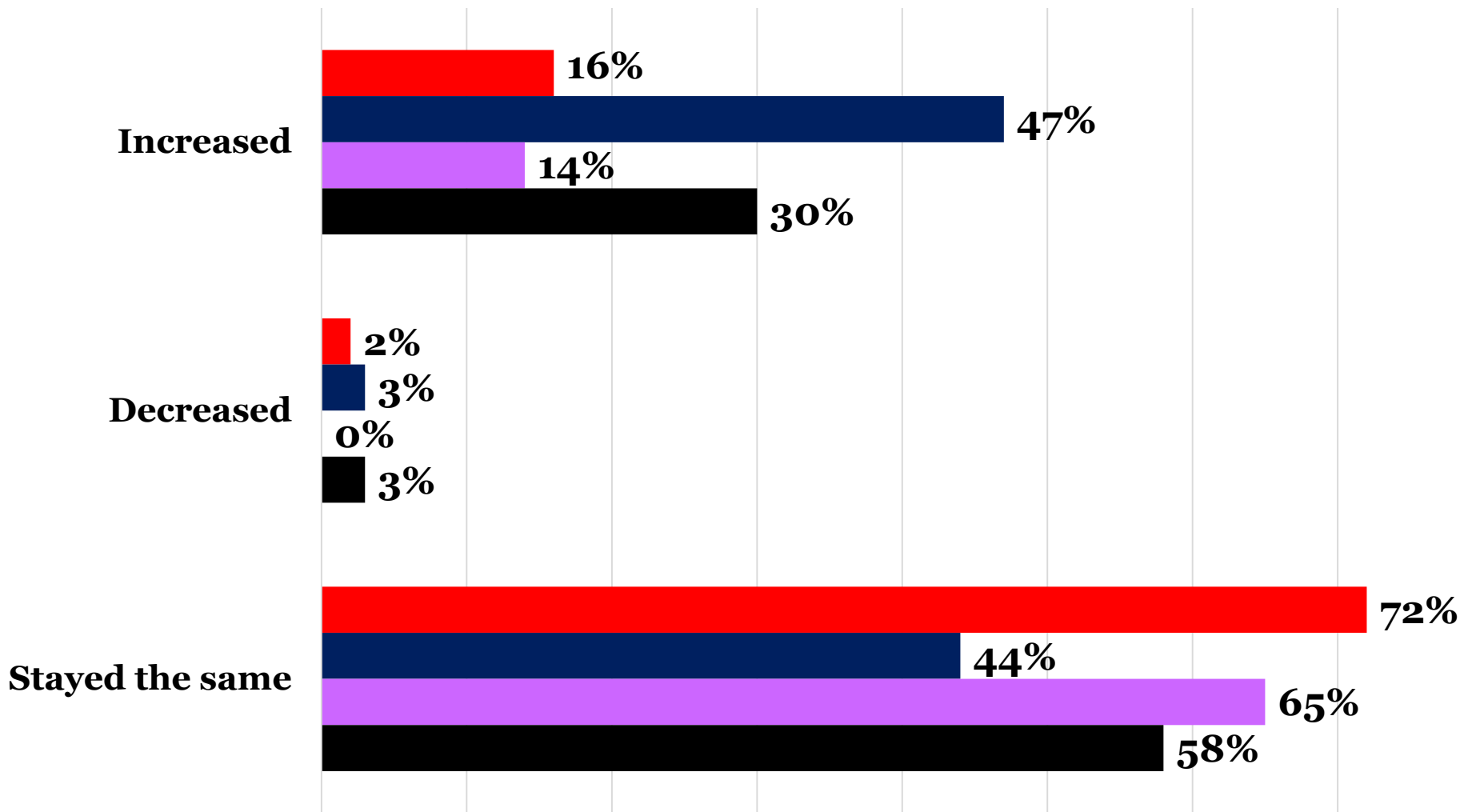
**[Asked among those who said that the release of the tape did not change their mind about whom they were planning to vote for]**

**As a result of the tape,  
would you say that the  
strength of your support for  
your preferred candidate?**

[Asked among those who said that the release of the tape did not change their mind about whom they were planning to vote for]

## As a result of the tape, would you say that the strength of your support for your preferred candidate?

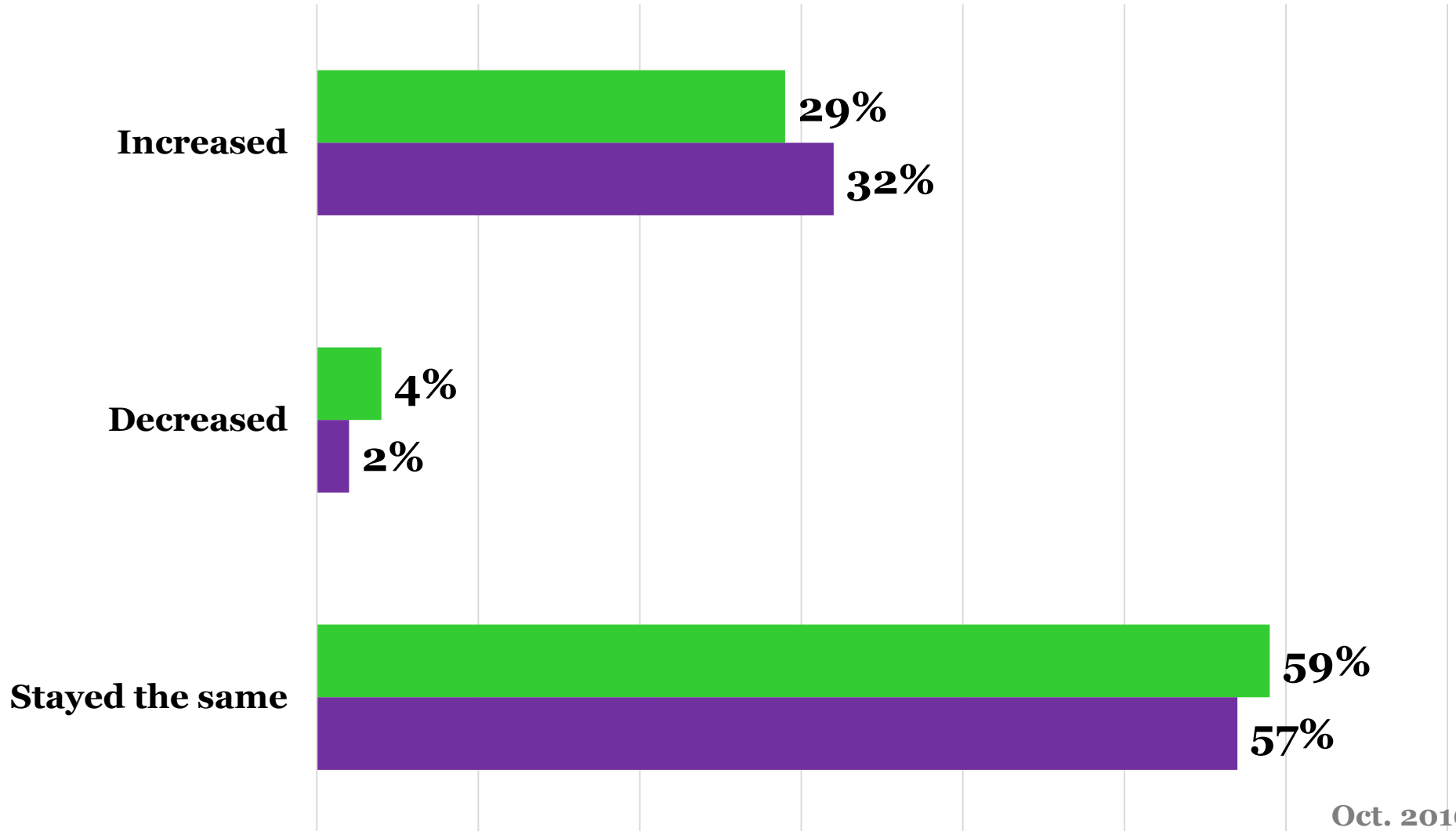
■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Total



[Asked among those who said that the release of the tape did not change their mind about whom they were planning to vote for]

## As a result of the tape, would you say that the strength of your support for your preferred candidate?

Men Women



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