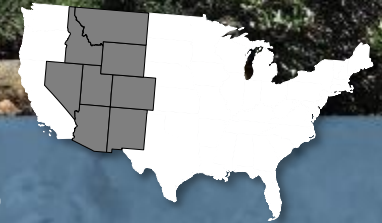




KEY FINDINGS

THE 2025 SURVEY OF THE ATTITUDES OF VOTERS IN EIGHT WESTERN STATES

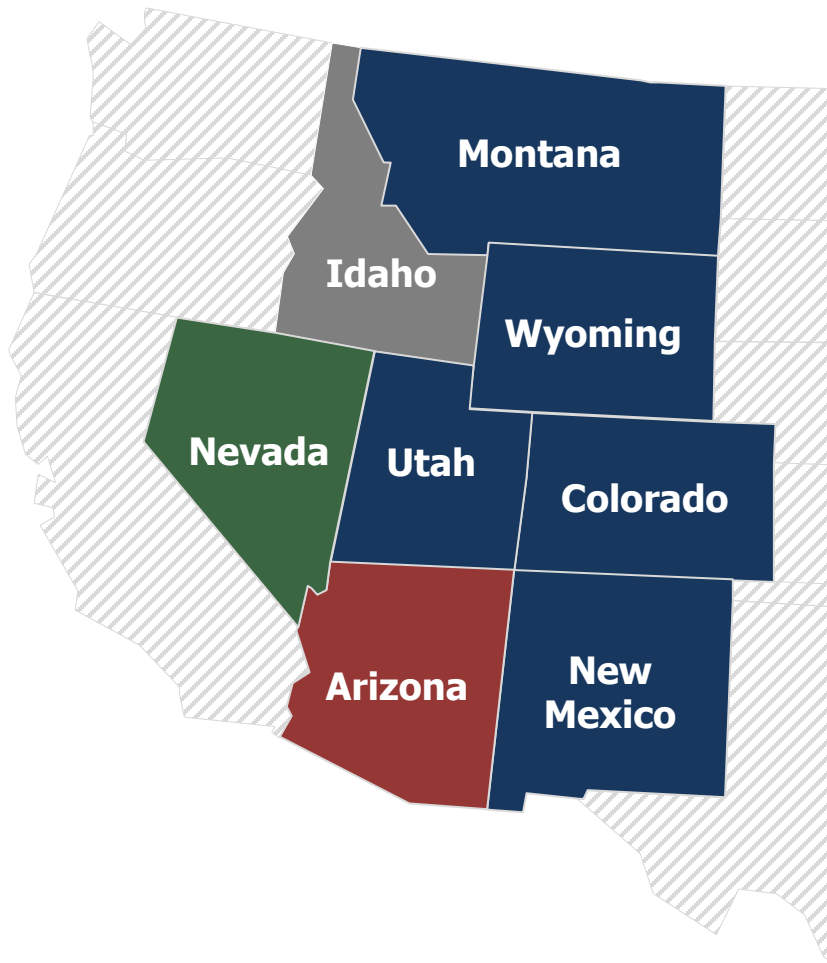


JANUARY 2025

**CONDUCTED BY: LORI WEIGEL & KATHRYN HAHNE / NEW BRIDGE STRATEGY
DAVE METZ / FAIRBANK, MASLIN, MAULLIN, METZ & ASSOCIATES**

Methodology

- ❖ 3,316 telephone and online interviews with registered voters in eight states: Arizona (N=461), Colorado (N=410), Idaho (N=410), Montana (N=404), Nevada (N=421), New Mexico (N=404), Utah (N=404), and Wyoming (N=402).
- ❖ Two oversamples were also conducted to have greater ability to report distinctions among racial/ethnic sub-groups. We conducted additional interviews to reach a total of N=232 Black voters and a total of N=219 Native American voters, which were then weighted back to reflect their true proportions within the electorate in this region.
- ❖ Interviews were conducted January 3-17, 2025, in Spanish and English.
- ❖ The effective margin of error is $\pm 2.46\%$ at the 95% confidence interval for the total sample; and at most $\pm 4.9\%$ for each state.
- ❖ The total numbers have been statistically weighted to reflect the true geographic distribution of voters throughout the region. Interviews within each state were distributed proportionally by region.
- ❖ Comparisons are made to similarly conducted surveys each year from 2011 to 2024.
- ❖ Bi-partisan research team of New Bridge Strategy (R) and Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (D).



Over the past decade, the number of states included in this survey has increased.

In order to provide accurate comparisons over time, we compare data based on only the states interviewed in that year as follows:

2011 5 States: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY

2012-2015 6 States: AZ, CO, MT, NM, UT & WY

2016-2017 7 States: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY

2018-2025 8 States: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY

Key subgroups included in this analysis:

How would you describe the area where you currently live?

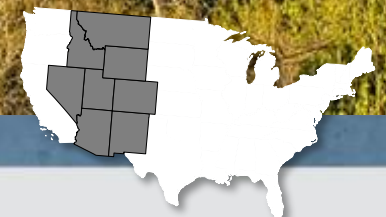
- 24%** Big city
- 41%** Suburban area
- 18%** Small town
- 17%** Rural area

Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the MAGA or Make America Great movement, or not?

- 37%** MAGA supporters
- 24%** MAGA Republicans

Do you consider yourself a hunter, and angler or both?

- 30%** Hunters
- 38%** Anglers
- 45%** Total sportsmen



Conservation & Public Lands



Western voters direct their Member of Congress to prioritize conservation over energy development on national public lands by widest margin to date.

2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025

Ensuring we protect sources of clean water, our air quality and wildlife habitat while providing opportunities to visit and recreate on our national public lands.

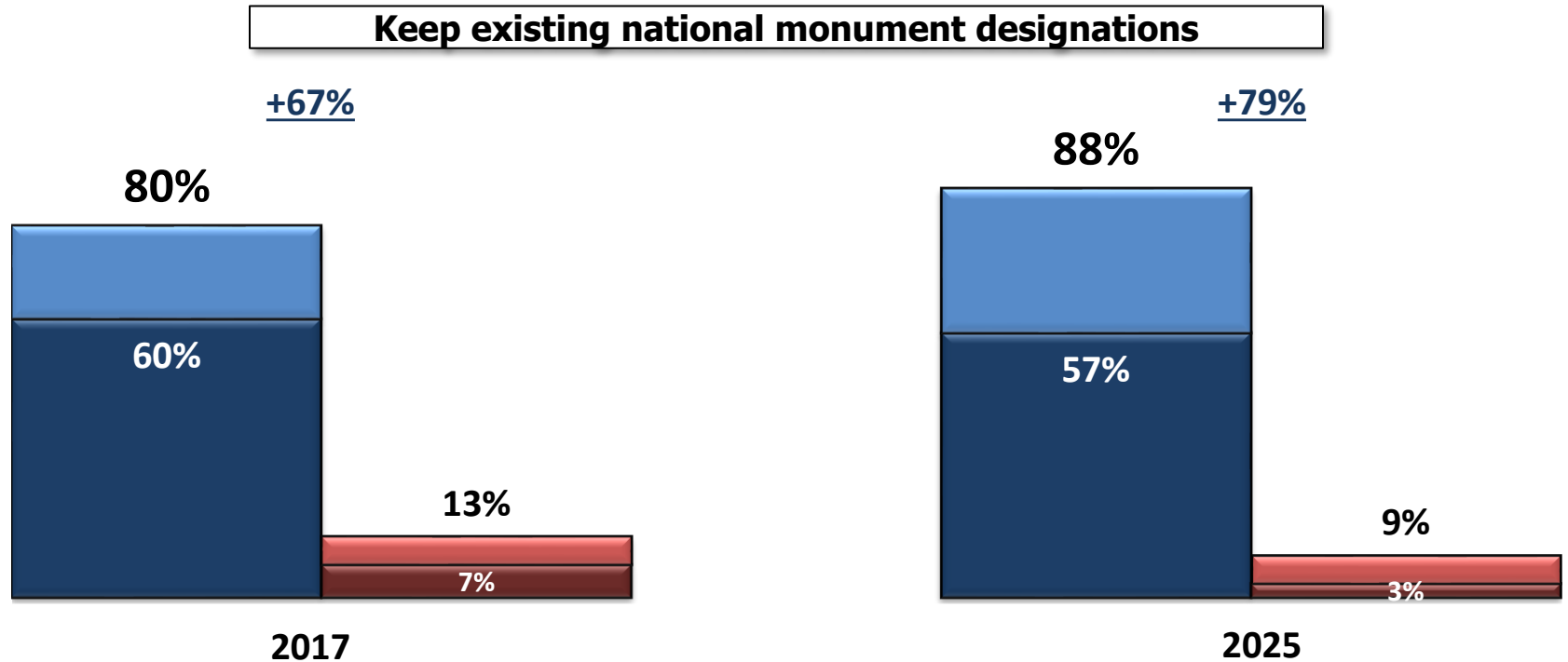
65% 67% 69% 67% 68% 70% 72%

Ensuring we produce more domestic energy by maximizing the amount of national public lands available for responsible oil and gas drilling and mining.

24% 25% 27% 28% 26% 26% 24%

Which one would you prefer your Member of Congress place more emphasis on in upcoming decisions regarding national public lands?

Support for keeping national monument designations in place has increased from 8 years ago.



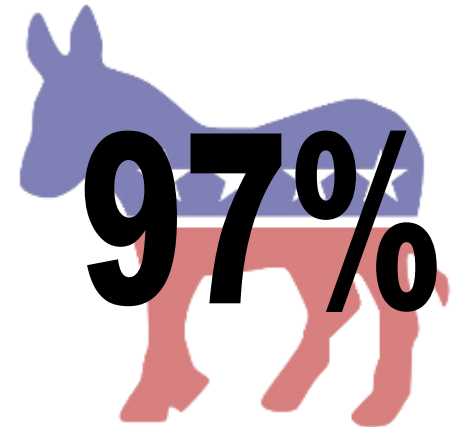
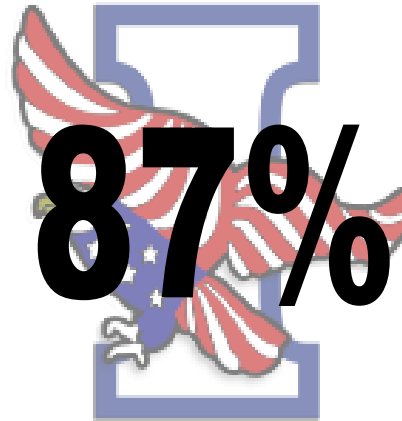
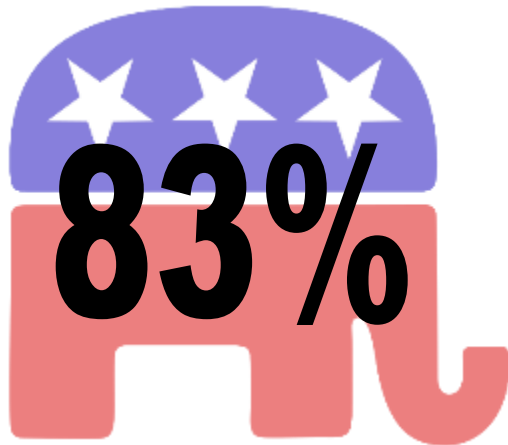
■ Definitely Keep In Place ■ Total Keep In Place ■ Definitely Remove ■ Total Remove

And, do you think that existing national monument designations for some public lands protected over the last decade should be kept in place OR should they be removed?

Showing 2025 data by just 2017 states: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY

The support for keeping national monument designations is evident across party lines.

Keep existing national monument designations

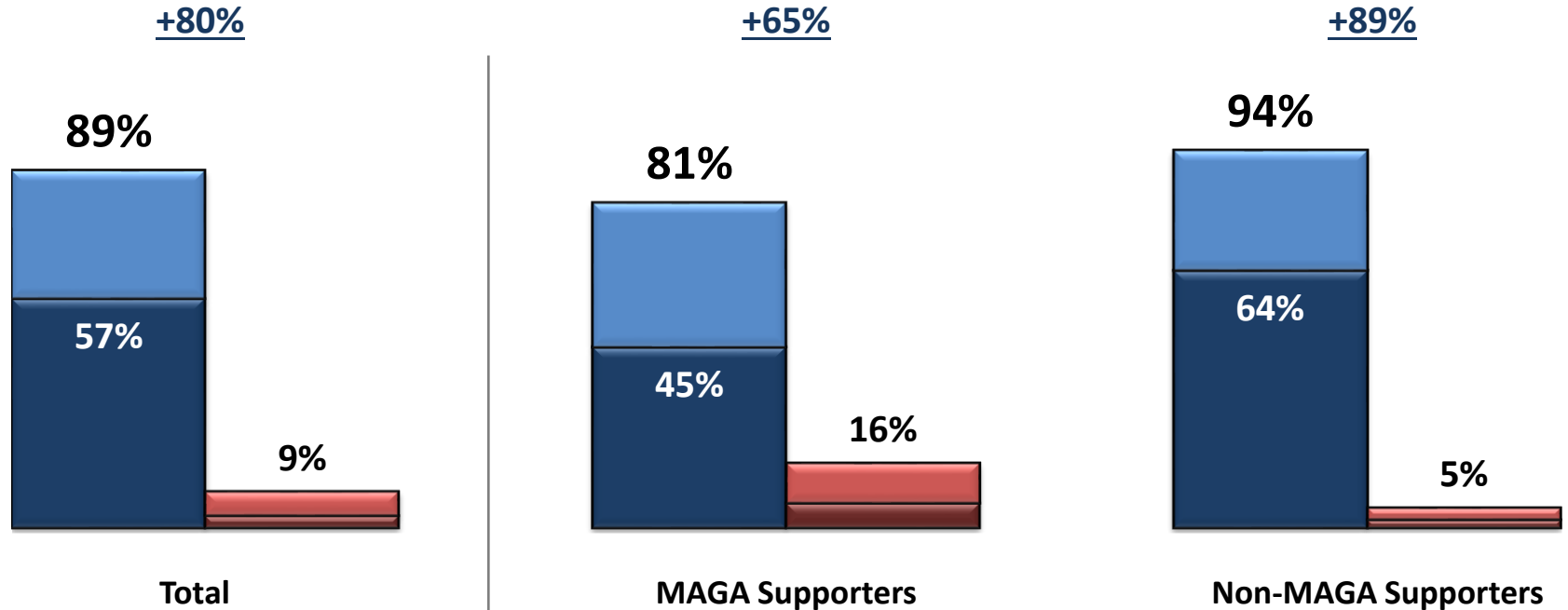


% Total Keep In Place

And, do you think that existing national monument designations for some public lands protected over the last decade should be kept in place OR should they be removed?

Four-in-five MAGA supporters say we should keep the designations in place.

Keep existing national monument designations



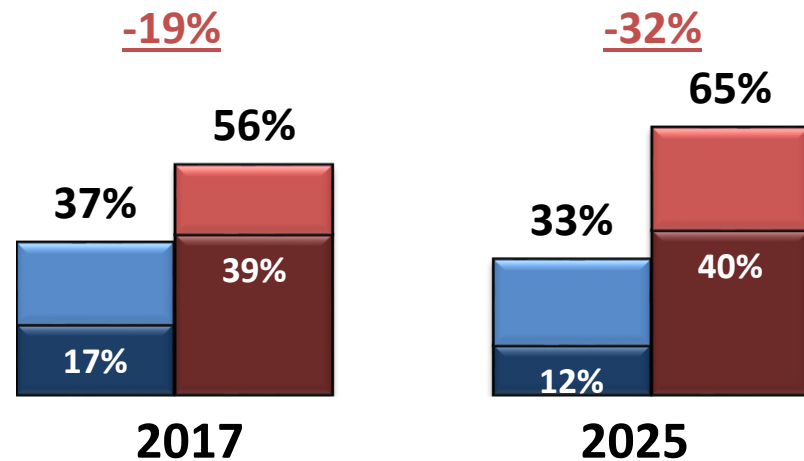
■ Definitely Keep In Place ■ Total Keep In Place ■ Definitely Remove ■ Total Remove

And, do you think that existing national monument designations for some public lands protected over the last decade should be kept in place or should they be removed?

Western voters are even less supportive now of giving states control of national public lands than they were in 2017, with nearly two-in-three opposed.

Some people have proposed giving state government control over national public lands, such as national forests, national monuments, and national wildlife refuges in its borders. The state government would decide the future management of the lands, but state taxpayers would pay all costs, including the cost of maintenance and preventing and fighting wildfires.

Support for giving state government control over national public lands - trend



■ Strongly Support ■ Total Support
■ Strongly Oppose ■ Total Oppose

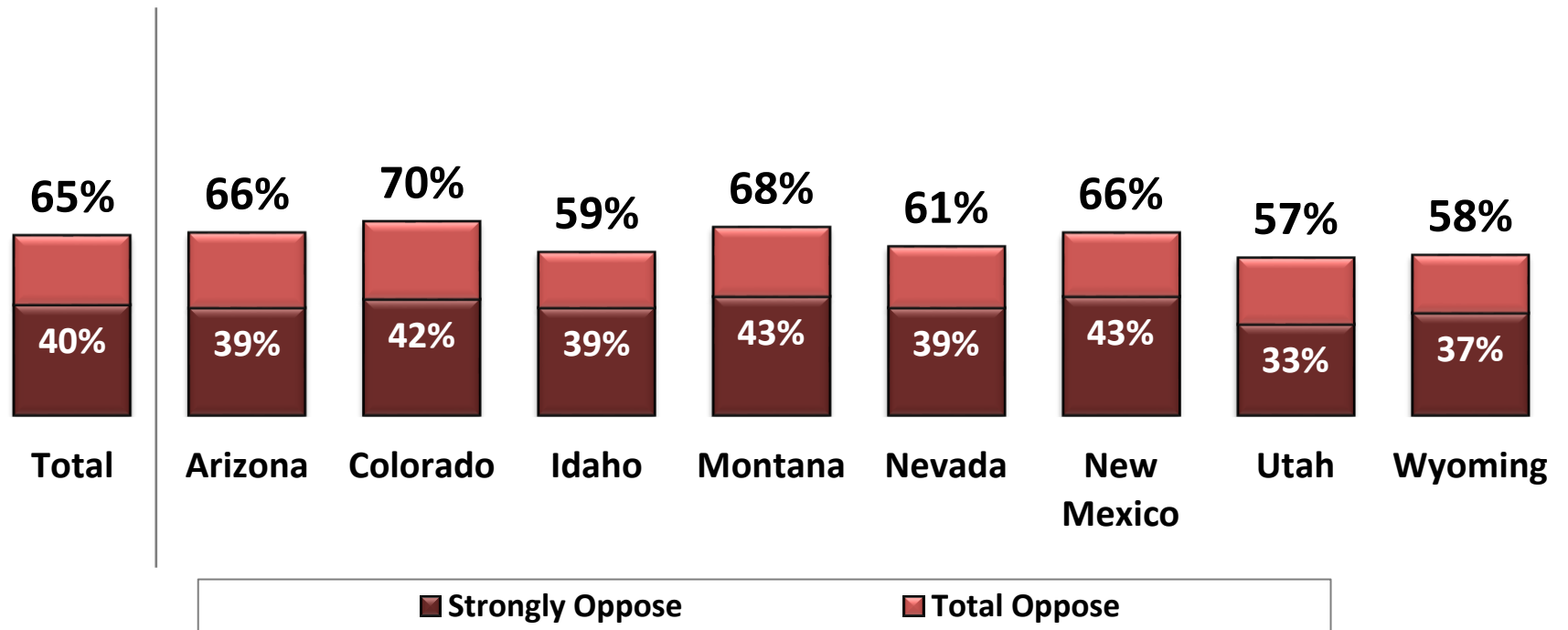
Do you support or oppose this proposal?

2017 question language: "Some members of Congress have proposed giving state government control over national public lands, such as national forests, national monuments, and national wildlife refuges in its borders. The state government would decide the future management of the lands, but state taxpayers would pay all costs, including the cost of maintenance and preventing and fighting wildfires."

Showing 2025 data by just 2017 states: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY

Majorities in all eight states are opposed to giving state government control over national public lands.

Opposed to giving state government control over national public lands



Some people have proposed giving state government control over national public lands, such as national forests, national monuments, and national wildlife refuges in its borders. The state government would decide the future management of the lands, but state taxpayers would pay all costs, including the cost of maintenance and preventing and fighting wildfires. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

Less than a quarter of voters in all eight states think selling national public lands for housing development is the best approach.

Total AZ CO ID MT NV NM UT WY

Building more housing within or close to existing communities near jobs, roads, and transit

82% 80% 87% 82% 90% 75% 86% 81% 86%

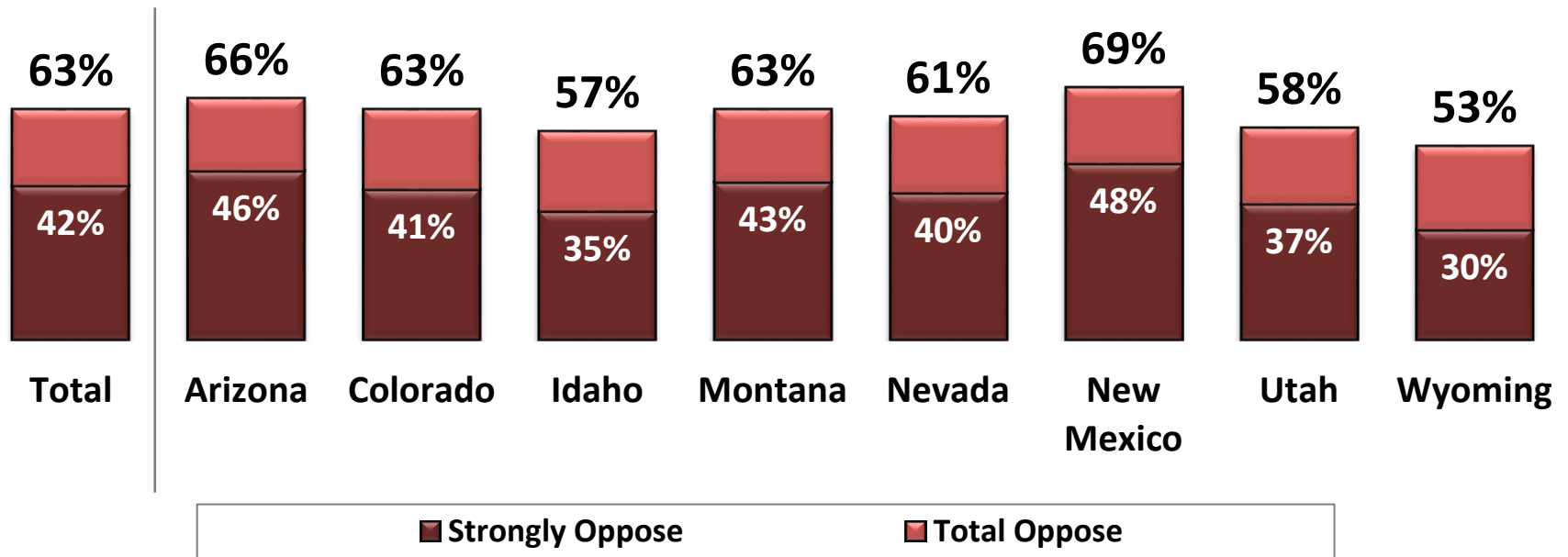
Selling some limited areas of national public lands to develop housing on natural areas

14% 15% 10% 15% 7% 22% 12% 16% 11%

Many communities in the West are experiencing rapid population growth and higher housing prices, increasing the need to build more housing. Which of the following do you think is the best approach?

Majorities of voters in all eight states oppose reducing protections for some of the species protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Reducing protections for some of the rare plants and animals protected under the Endangered Species Act



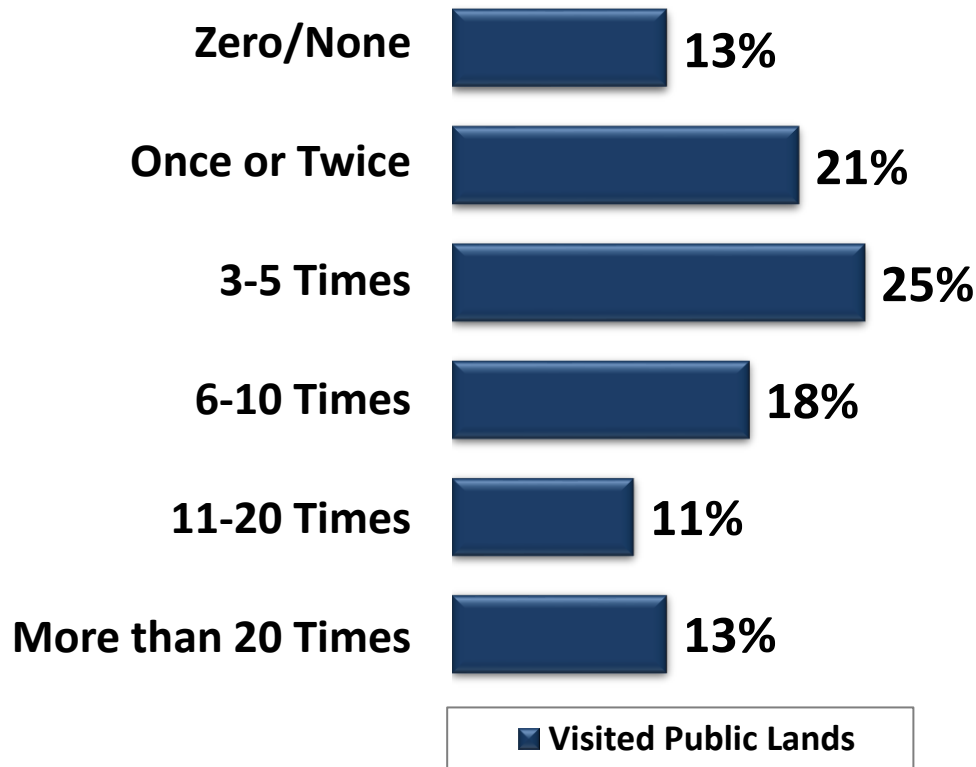
For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose each one. **Reducing protections for some of the rare plants and animals protected under the Endangered Species Act.** (Asked N=2,484 Respondents)



Management of Our Public Lands and Waters



Western voters take advantage of access to national public lands with nearly nine-in-ten visiting at least once in the last year.



Over the past year, how many times do you think you have visited national public lands such as national parks, national forests, national monuments, national wildlife refuges, or other national public lands?

There are many things that draw Westerners to visit national public lands, but enjoying nature and spending time with family top the list.

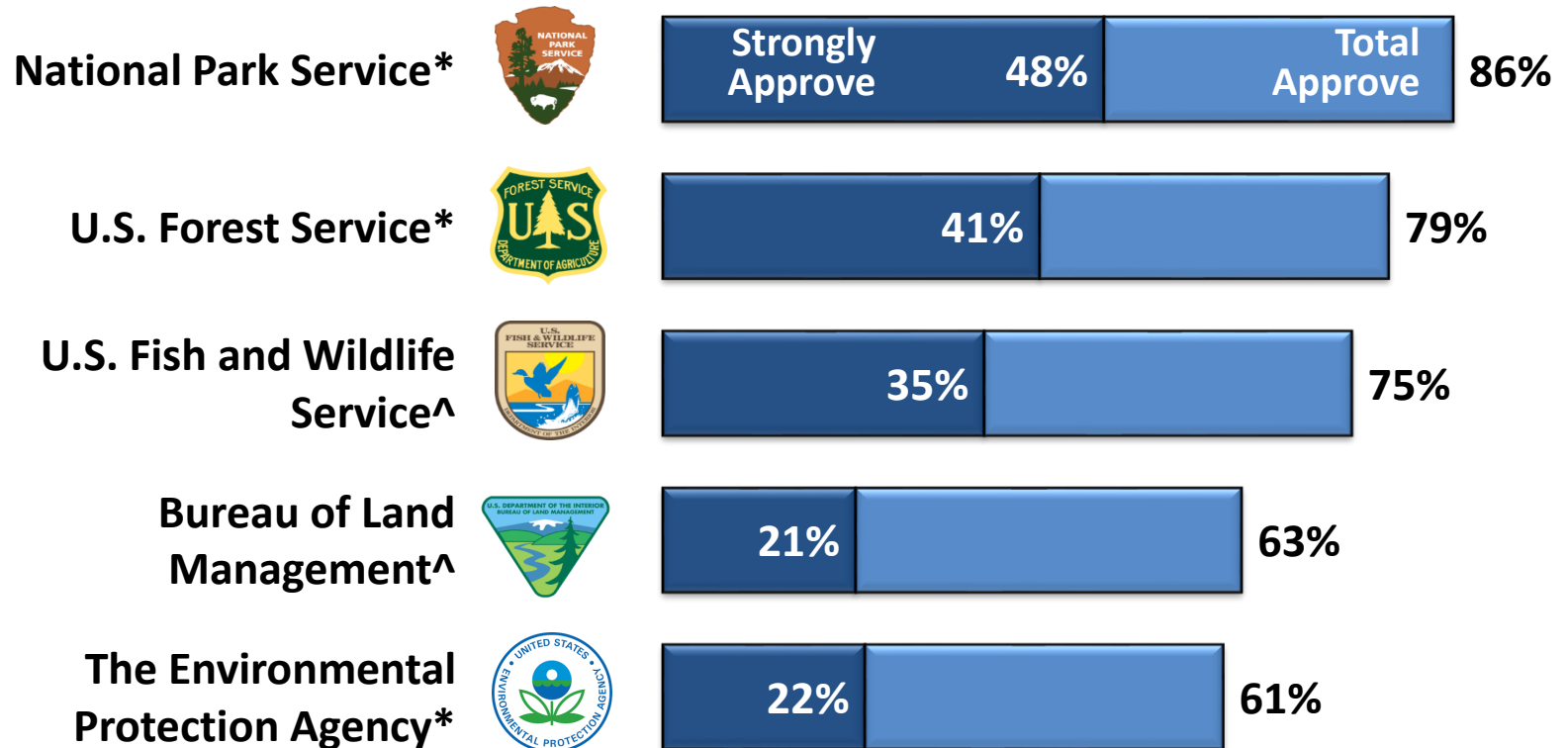


	Mentions
Nature appreciation/enjoying fresh air	17%
Family time/bonding/creating memories	14%
Hunting/fishing	12%
Hiking/trail activities	10%
Camping	8%
Relaxation/stress relief	8%
Peace and quiet/escape from city life	7%
Social activities	6%
Wildlife viewing	6%
General recreation	6%
Exercise/physical health	4%
Photography/art	2%

What are the two or three reasons you visited national public lands? Please be as specific as possible. (Asked of N=1,377 Respondents)

Majorities of Westerners approve of all these agencies, with the National Park Service receiving the highest approval ratings.





Approval of agencies



The following are some different agencies which deal with issues in your state. For each one, please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the job they are doing at this time. (*Asked of N=1,683 Respondents ^Asked of N=1,634 Respondents)

Agency approval ratings are consistent with, or better than, how voters felt in 2017.

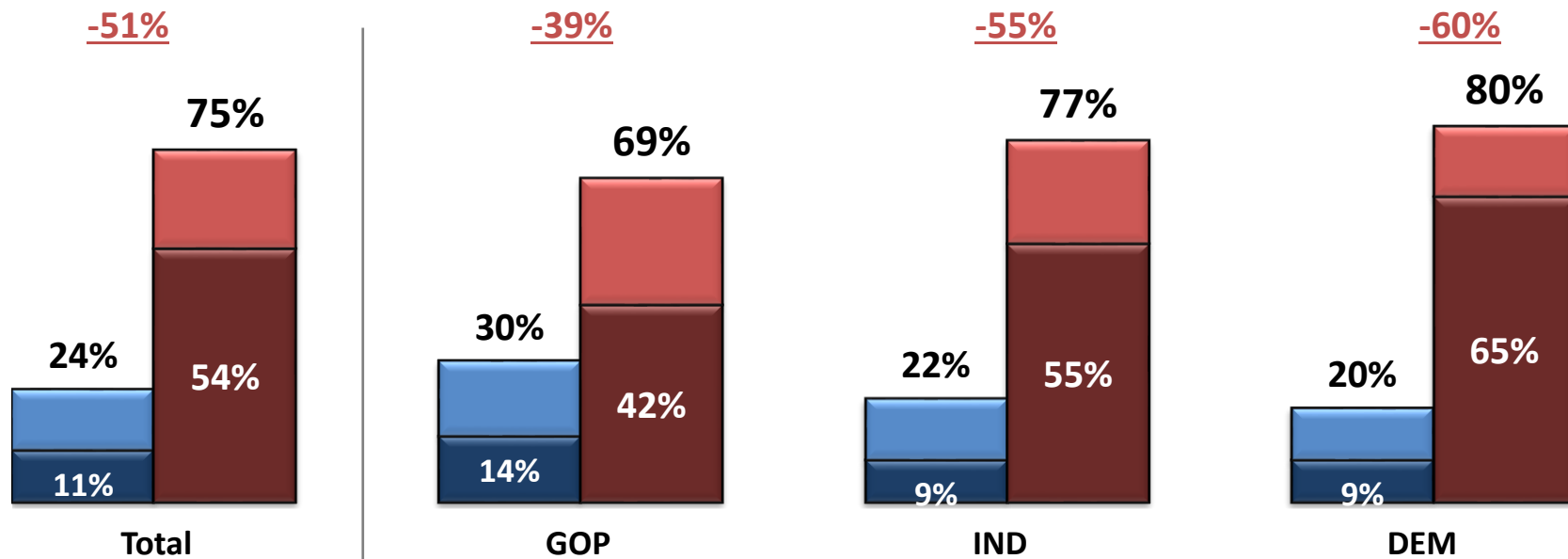
Approval of agencies

		2017	2025
	<i>% Total Approve</i>		
National Park Service*		82%	86%
U.S. Forest Service*		76%	79%
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service^		76%	75%
Bureau of Land Management^		56%	62%

*The following are some different agencies which deal with issues in your state. For each one, please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the job they are doing at this time. (*Asked of N=1,683 Respondents ^Asked of N=1,634 Respondents)*

Three-quarters of voters, including more than two-in-three Republicans, are opposed to cutting funding for these agencies.

Reducing funding to the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies for repairs, firefighting, visitor services, and oversight of those public lands.



■ Strongly Support
 ■ Total Support
 ■ Strongly Oppose
 ■ Total Oppose

For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose each one. **Reducing funding to the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies for repairs, firefighting, visitor services, and oversight of those public lands.** (Asked N=2,484 Respondents)

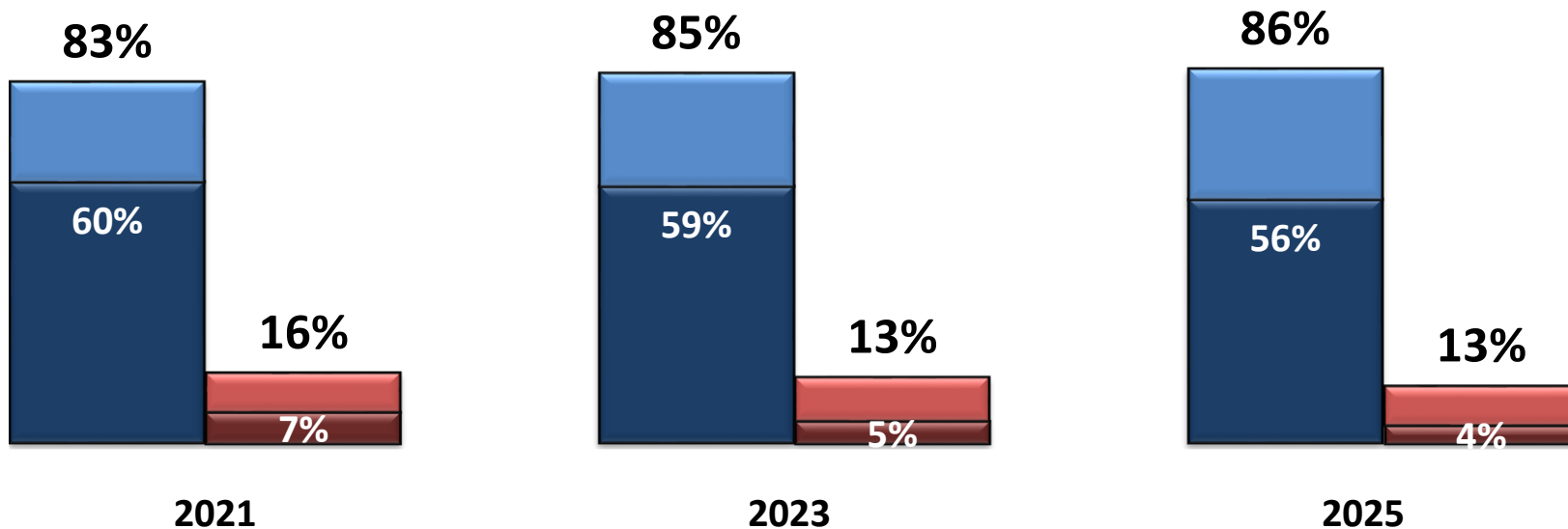
Nearly nine-in-ten Western voters say they prefer career professionals make decisions over new officials with different perspectives.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>DEM</u>
Career professionals such as rangers, scientists, fire fighters and other specialists who have worked in the field.	87%	83%	87%	92%
New officials, appointed by elected representatives, who come from other industries and may have different perspectives.	9%	12%	8%	7%

And which approach would you prefer be taken when it comes to who is making decisions about public lands, water, wildlife and other natural resources this coming year?

Western voters are consistent in saying Native American tribes should have greater input in how national public lands containing sacred sites are managed.

Ensuring that Native American tribes have greater input into decisions made about areas within national public lands that contain sites sacred to or culturally important to their tribe.

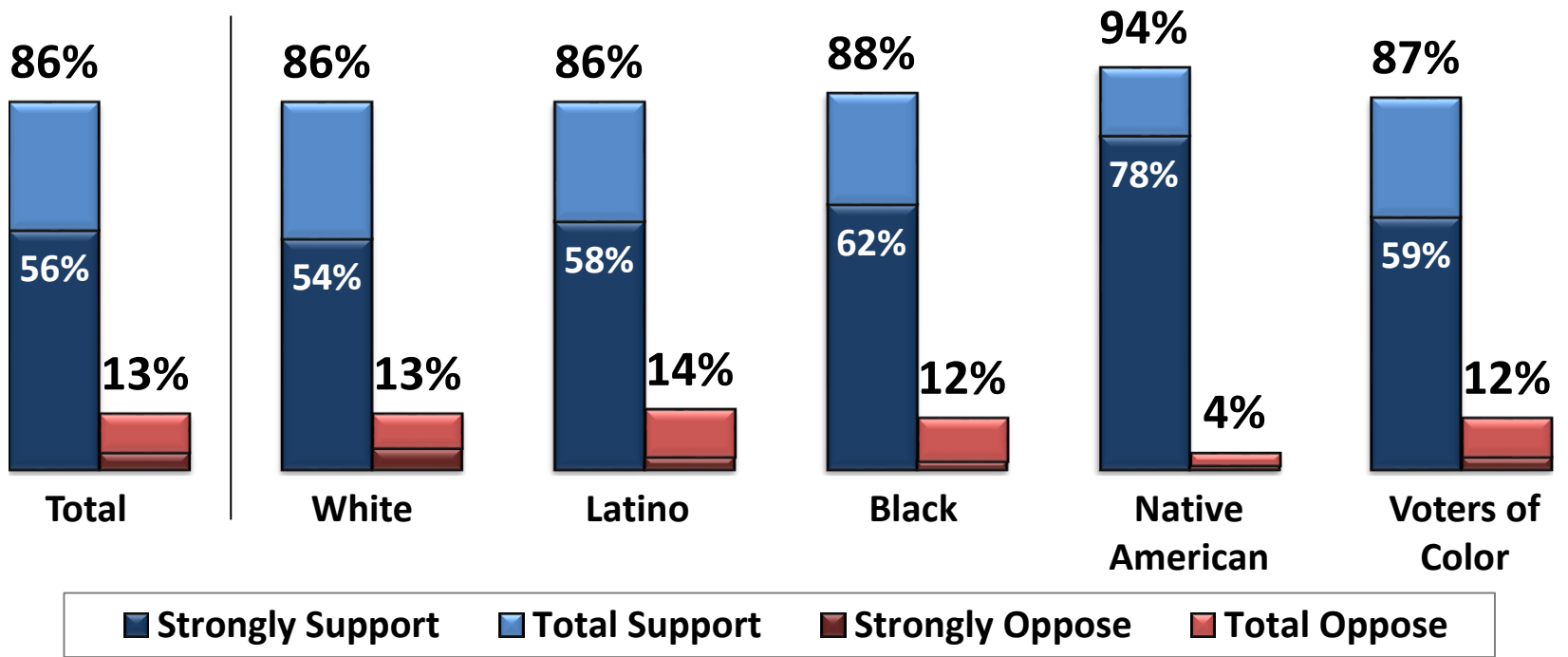


■ Strongly Support
 ■ Total Support
 ■ Strongly Oppose
 ■ Total Oppose

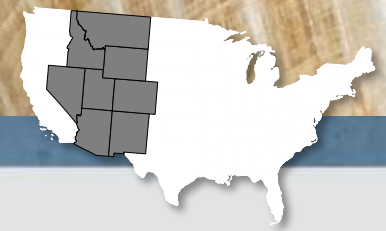
For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose each one. Ensuring that Native American tribes have greater input into decisions made about areas within national public lands that contain sites sacred to or culturally important to their tribe. (Asked N=2,484 Respondents)

Majorities of voters of all ethnicities are strongly supportive of ensuring Native American input on national public lands.

Ensuring that native American tribes have greater input into decisions made about areas within national public lands that contain sites sacred to or culturally important to their tribe.



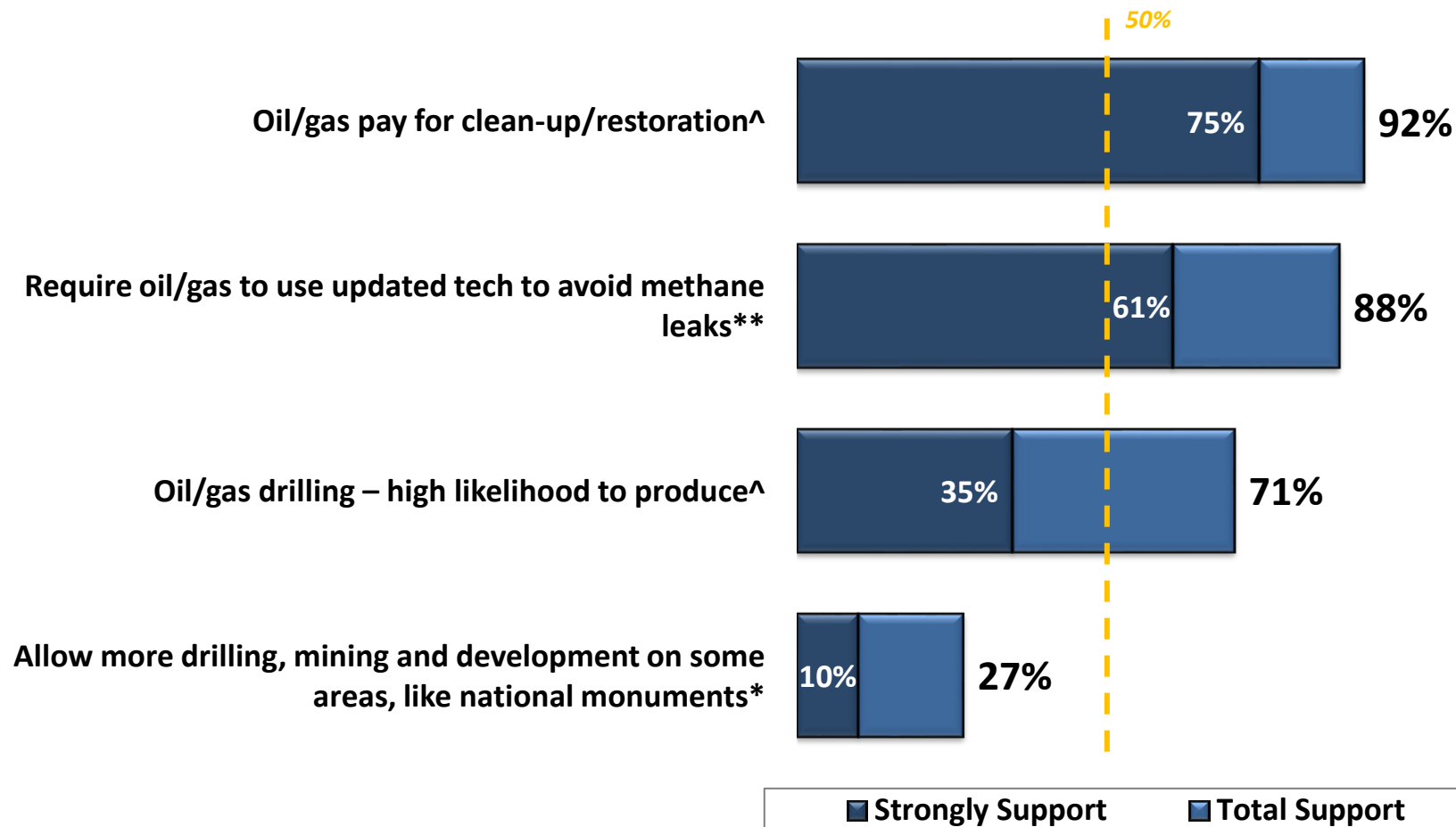
For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose each one. **Ensuring that Native American tribes have greater input into decisions made about areas within national public lands that contain sites sacred to or culturally important to their tribe.** (Asked N=2,484 Respondents)



Energy & Public Lands

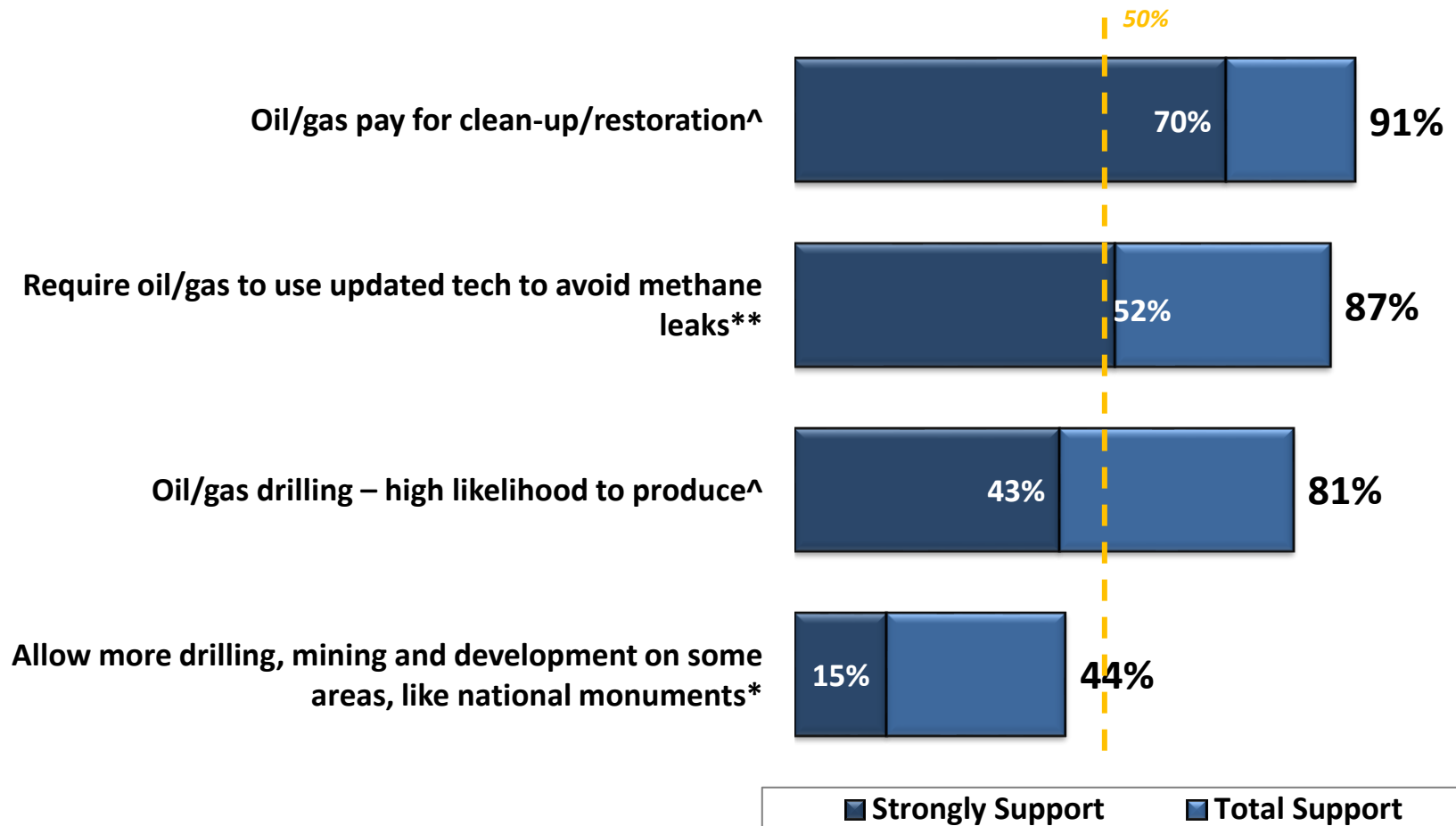


Three-in-five Westerners support a range of recent policies affecting oil and gas development on national public lands; oppose increased drilling.



For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose each one...(^Asked of N=1,634 Respondents **Asked of N=2,519 Respondents *Asked of N=1,683 Respondents)

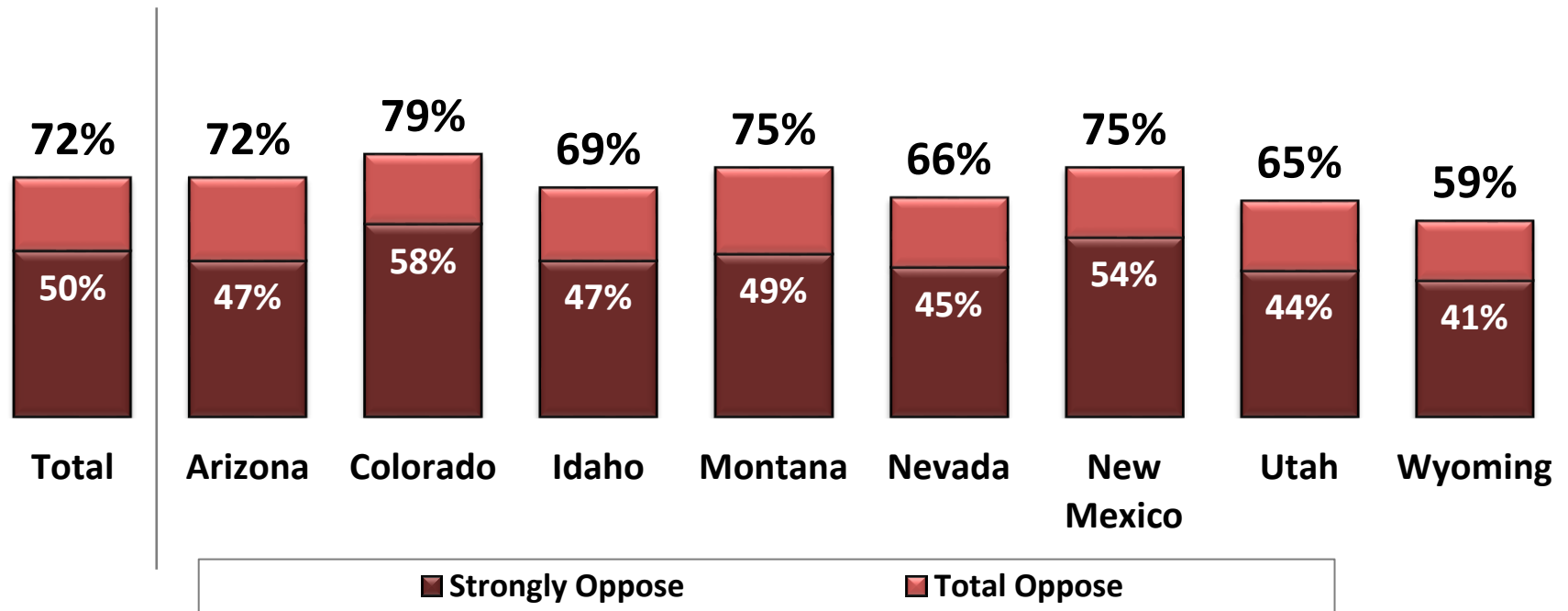
Strong majorities of MAGA supporters are in favor of these policies as well, and a majority are also opposed to more drilling.



For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose each one...(^Asked of N=1,634 Respondents **Asked of N=2,519 Respondents *Asked of N=1,683 Respondents)

Voters in all eight states are opposed to removing protections on public lands, such as national monuments, for development.

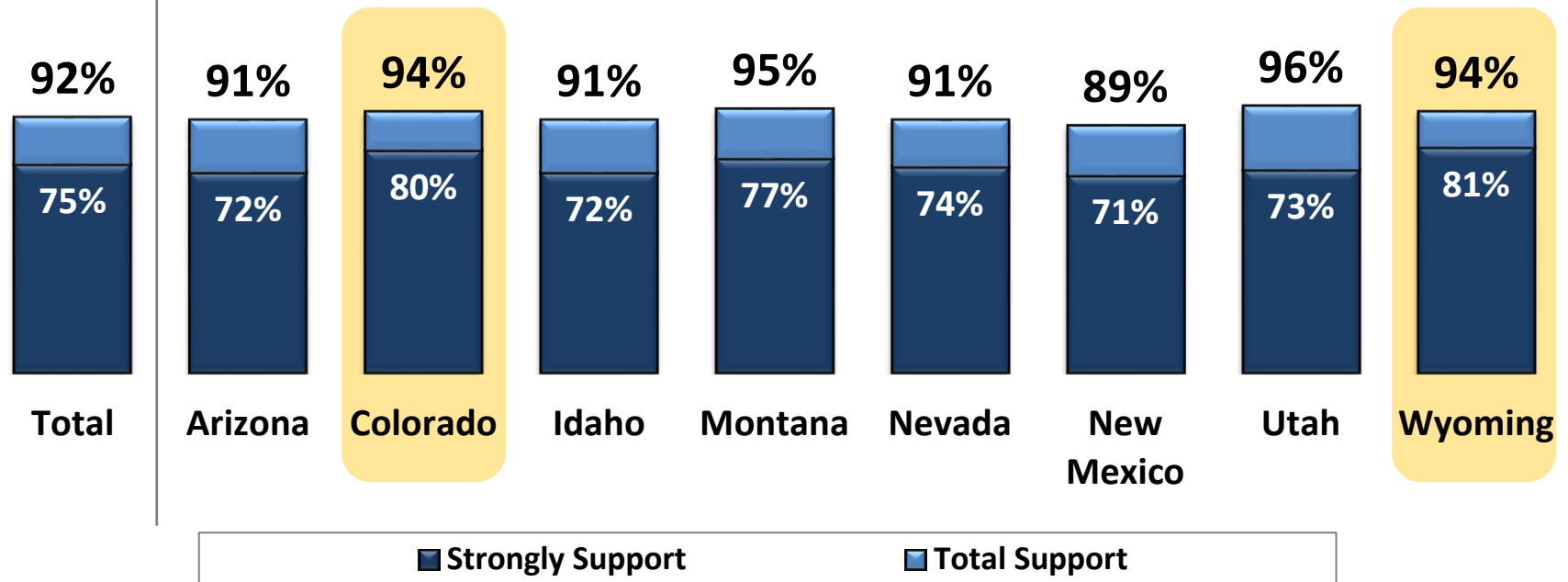
Removing protections on some areas of existing national public lands, particularly national monuments, to allow more drilling, mining and other development.



For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose each one. **Removing protections on some areas of existing national public lands, particularly national monuments, to allow more drilling, mining and other development.** (Asked N=1,683 Respondents)

Voters in all eight states are supportive of a requirement to ensure companies can adequately fund future restoration costs.

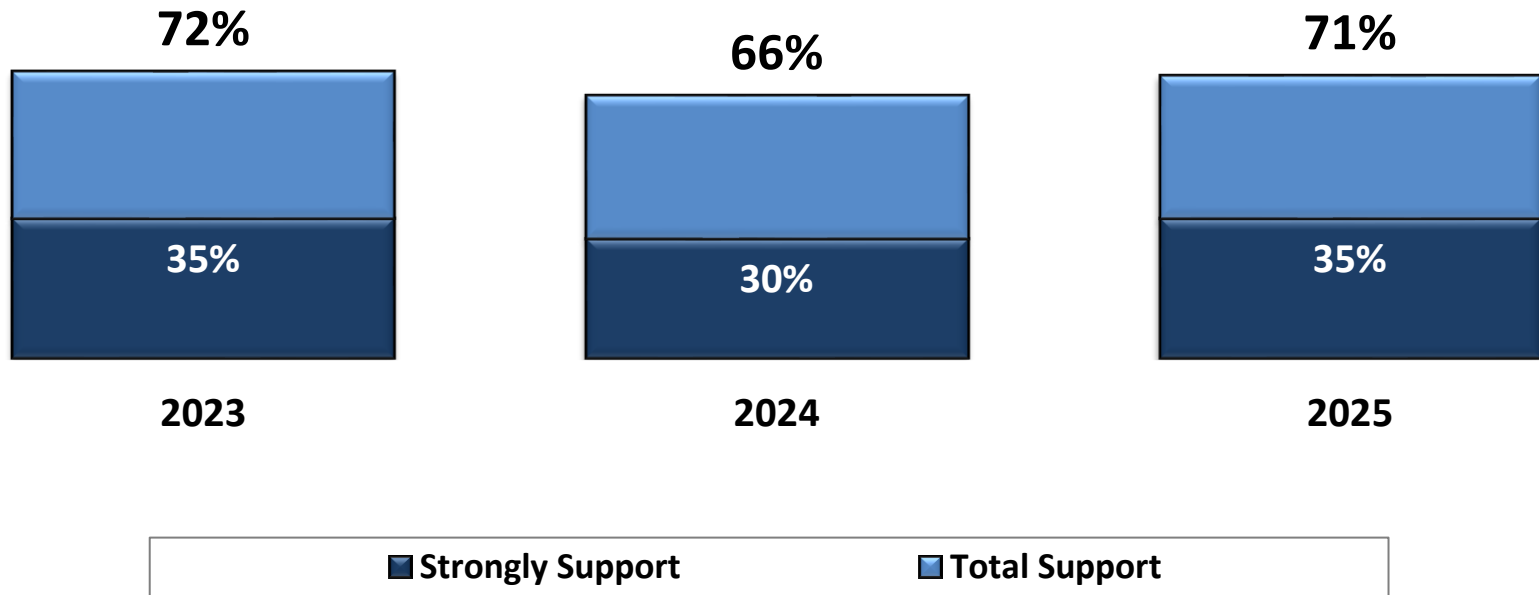
Keeping the requirement that oil & gas companies pay for clean-up/restoration



For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state. Keeping the requirement that oil and gas companies, rather than taxpayers, pay for all of the clean-up and land restoration costs after drilling is finished. (Asked N=1,634 Respondents)

Western voters consistently support restricting oil and gas drilling to areas where there is high likelihood to produce oil and gas.

Allowing oil & gas companies right to drill in areas of high likelihood to produce oil & gas



*For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose each one. **Only allowing oil and gas companies the right to drill in areas of public land where there is high likelihood to actually produce oil and gas.** (Asked N=1,634 Respondents)*

The vast majority of Western voters say oil companies should pay increased or current royalty rates for producing oil and gas on national public lands; very few want them decreased.

Increased

49%

Decreased

12%

Kept the same as today

35%

And when it comes to the royalty rates that oil companies pay for producing oil and gas on national public lands, do you think those fees should be -

Less than one-in-five Republicans and MAGA supporters say the royalty rates should be decreased.

	GOP	IND	DEM	MAGA	Non-MAGA
Increased	37%	48%	65%	33%	61%
Decreased	14%	11%	10%	17%	9%
Kept the same as today	43%	36%	23%	45%	28%

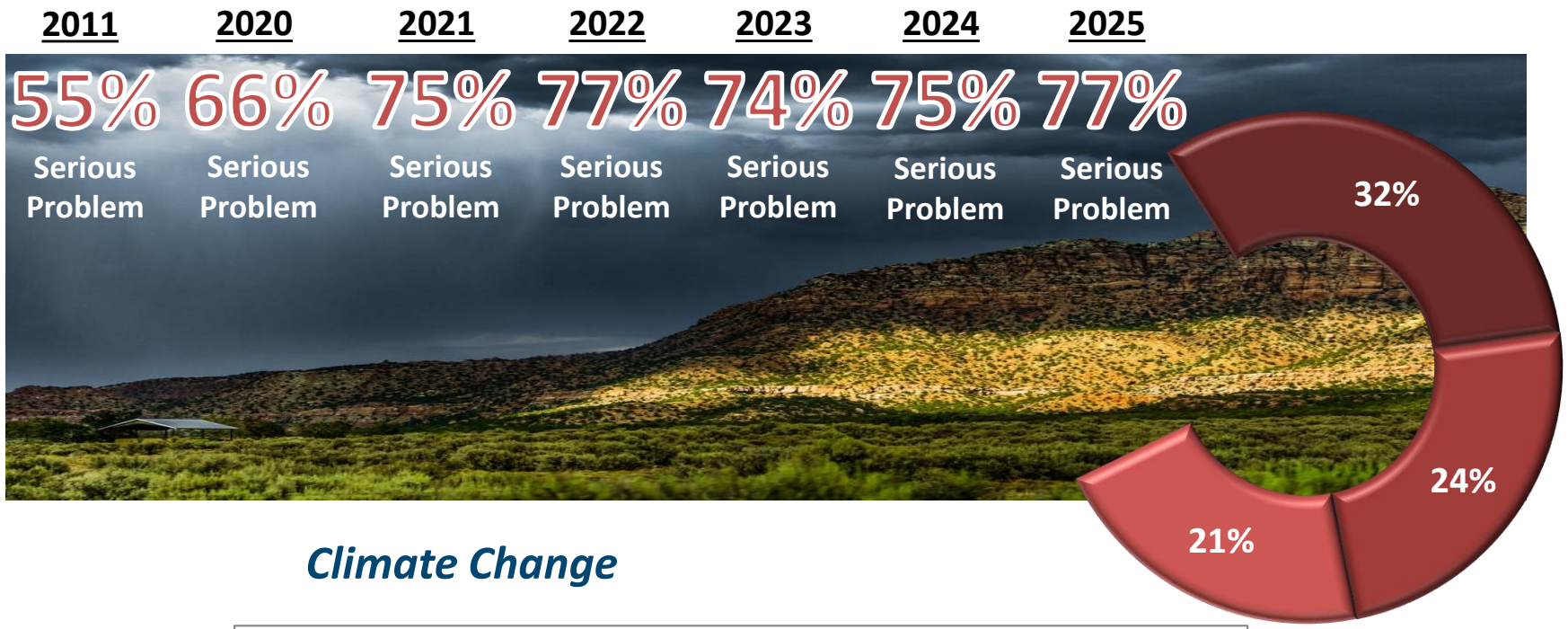
And when it comes to the royalty rates that oil companies pay for producing oil and gas on national public lands, do you think those fees should be -



Climate Change



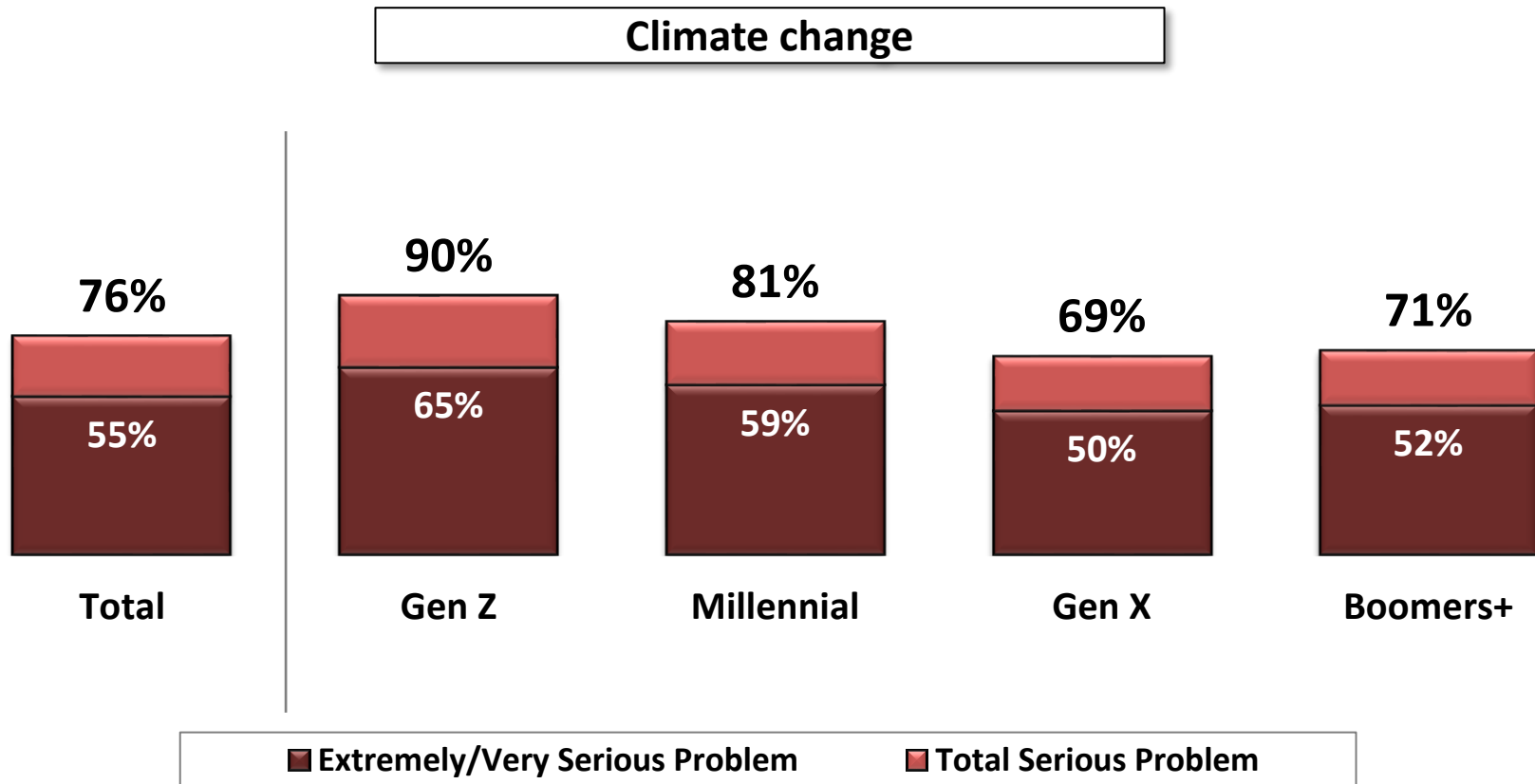
More than three-in-four voters say climate change is a serious problem, a significant increase from the 55% that said the same when the question was first asked in 2011.



■ Extremely Serious ■ Very Serious ■ Somewhat Serious

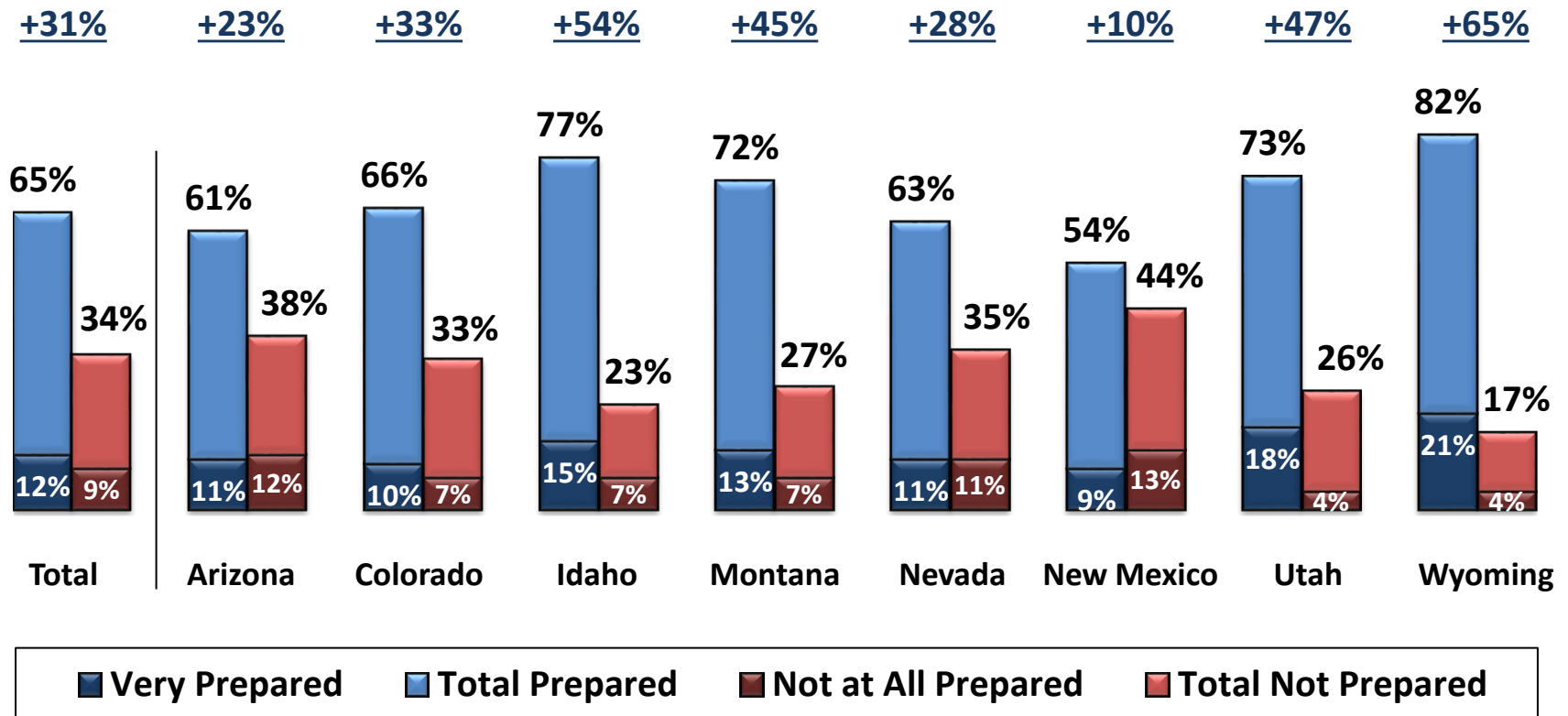
*For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Climate change** (Asked N=1,683 Respondents)
Showing 2020-2025 data by just 2011 states: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY*

Younger generations are significantly more likely to categorize climate change as a serious problem than older generations.



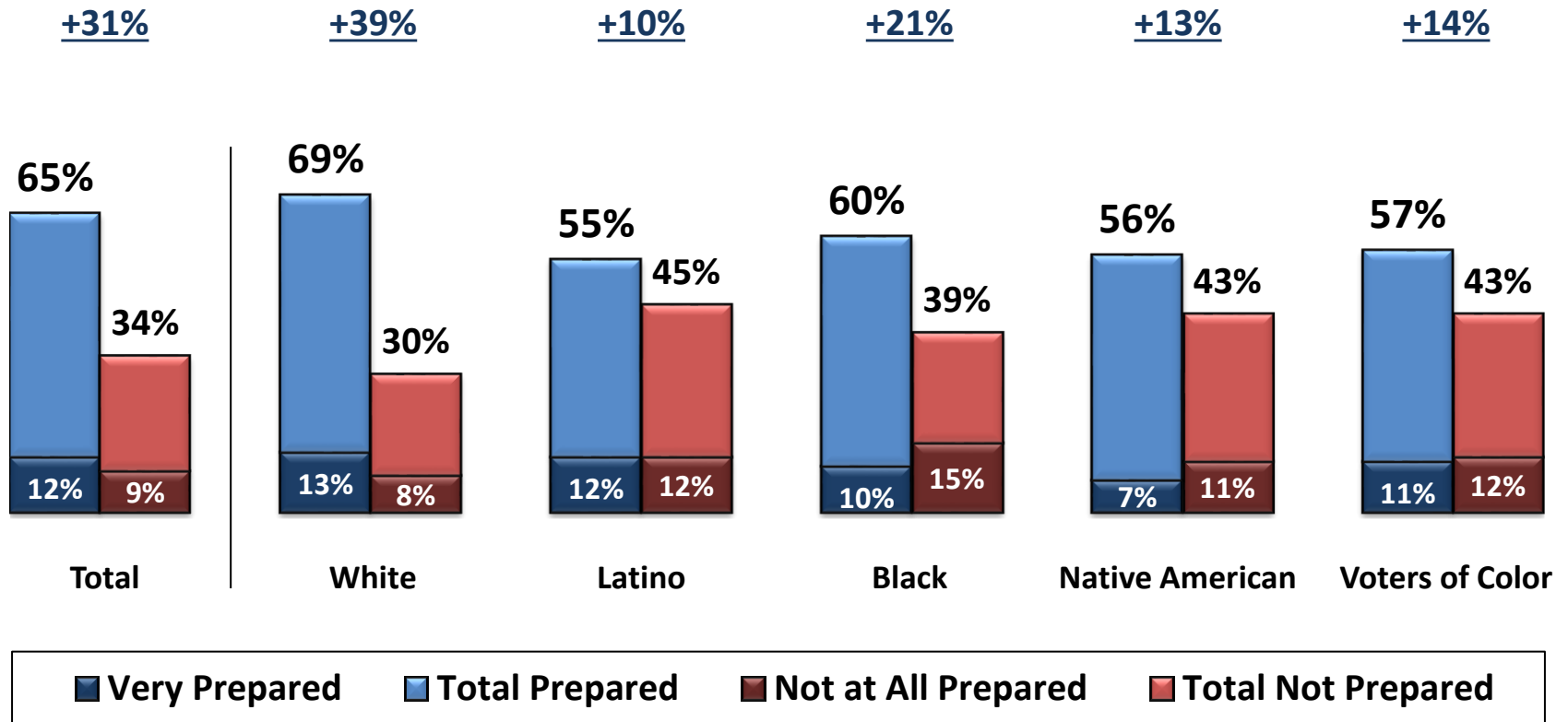
For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Climate change** (Asked N=1,683 Respondents)

Two-thirds of Western voters think their communities are prepared for weather events like floods or fires, but this view varies by state.



How prepared would you say your community is for the risk of a significant weather event, such as wildfire, flood, or severe drought? Is it...

There is also a correlation between ethnicity and how prepared voters say their community is.



How prepared would you say your community is for the risk of a significant weather event, such as wildfire, flood, or severe drought? Is it...



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