



GQOR

National Survey on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future

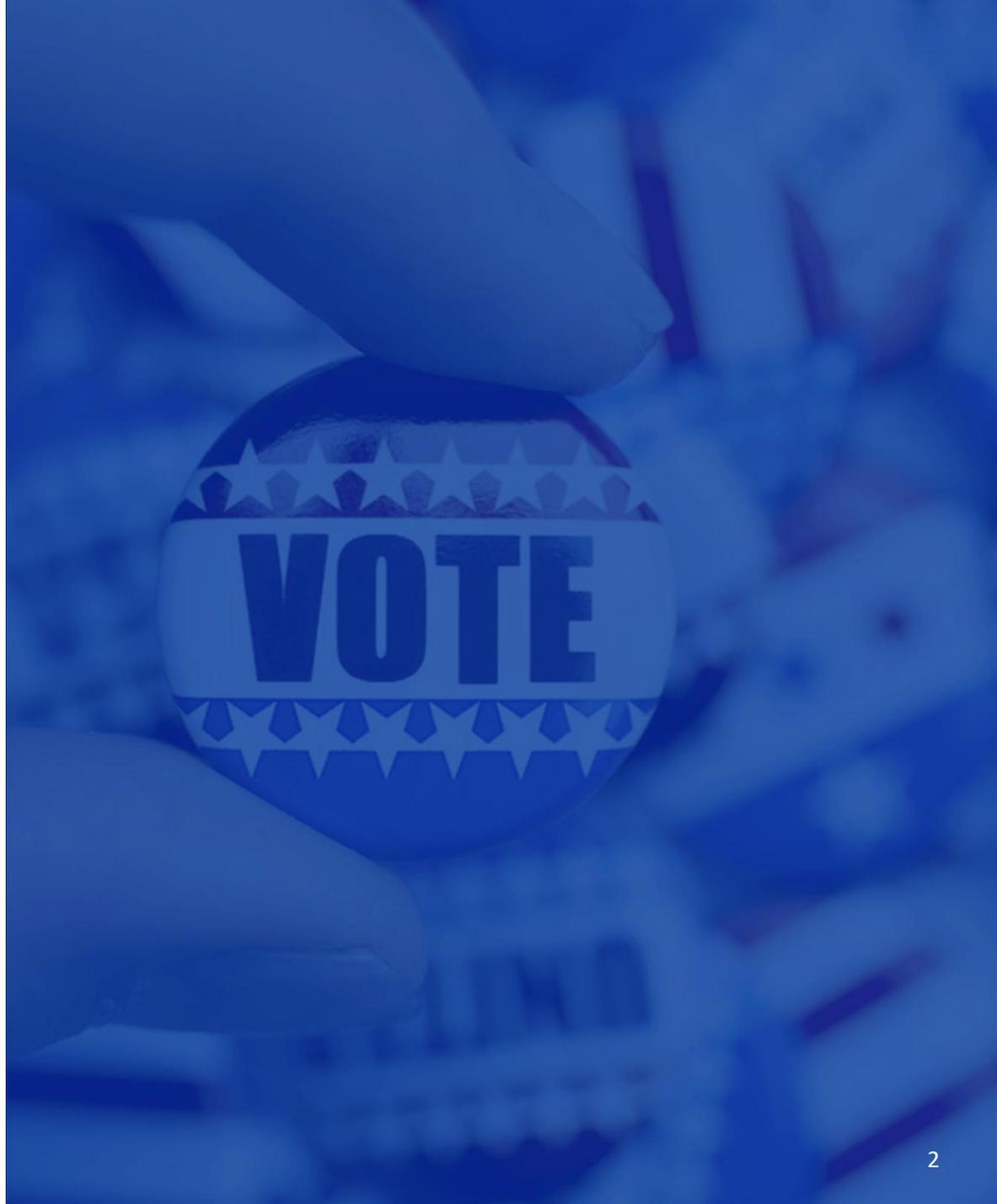
December 10, 2019

On behalf of the Johns Hopkins Center For a Livable Future, an academic center based at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, GQR conducted a nationwide survey among 1,000 registered voters. The survey was conducted by live telephone interviewers among both landline and cell phone respondents between October 6 and 13, 2019.

The data are subject to a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence interval; margin of error is higher among subgroups.



ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN AGRICULTURAL POLICY





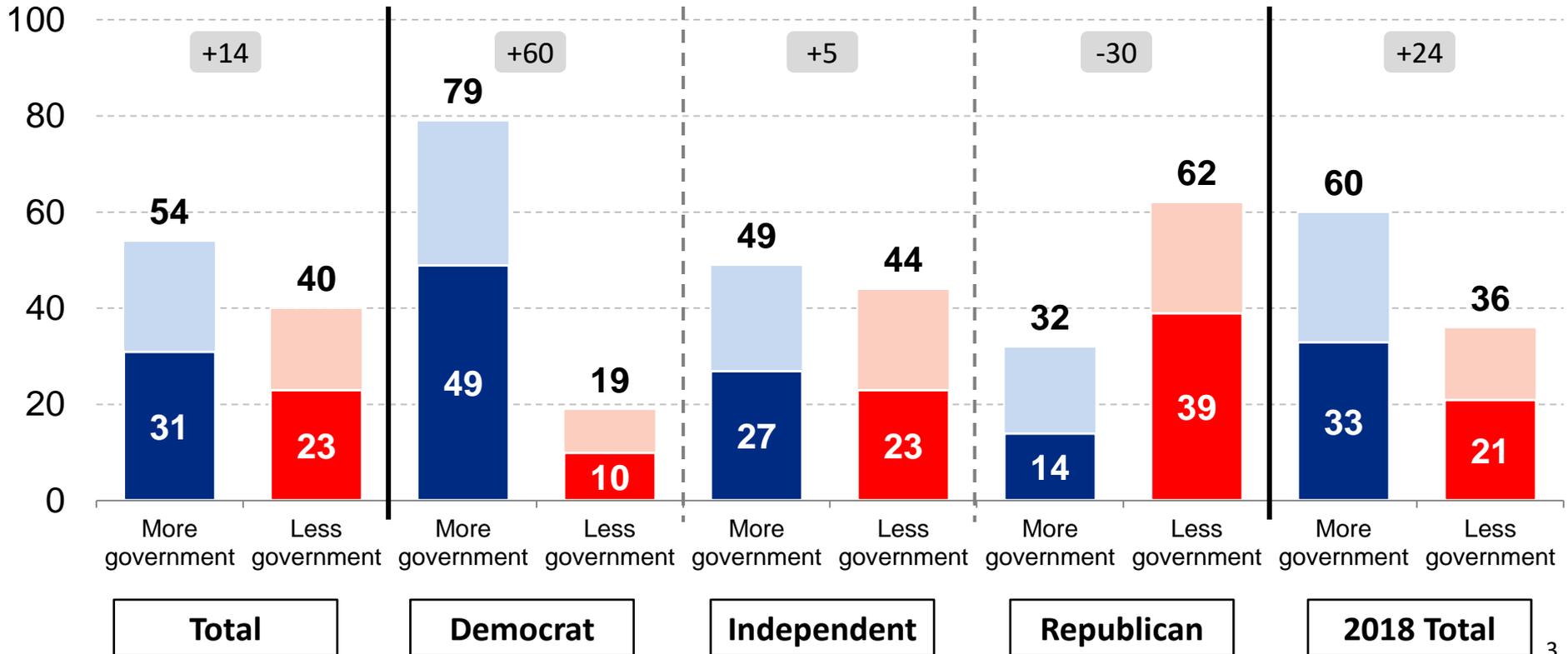
A majority of voters say government should help solve problems

Please tell me which statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

Government should do more to solve problems and help meet the needs of people.

Government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals.

- More government, much closer
- More government, somewhat closer
- Less government, much closer
- Less government, somewhat closer

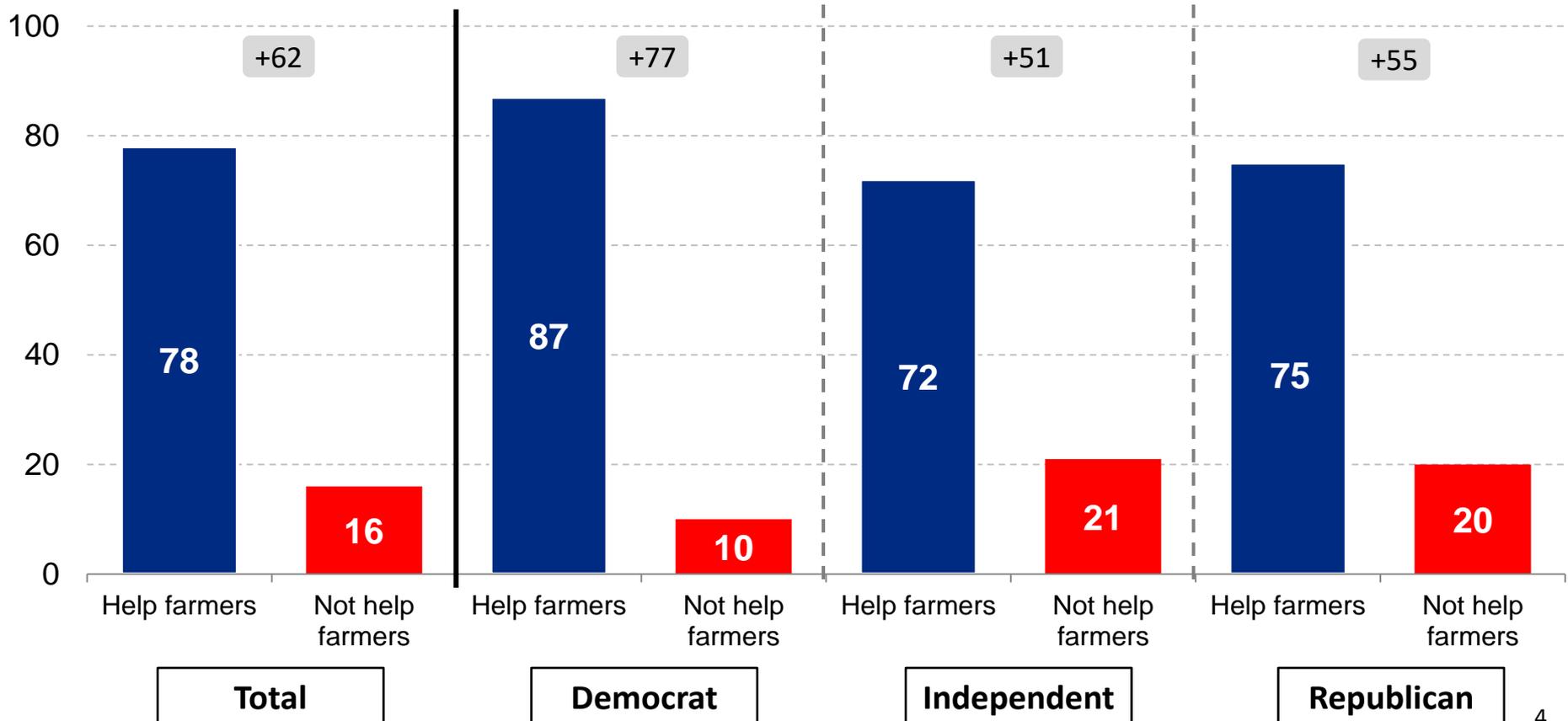




Voters also think the government should provide help to farmers

Currently, the federal government works with farmers to make sure they earn an income from their products by helping them with things like marketing, insurance, and providing farming data and statistics.

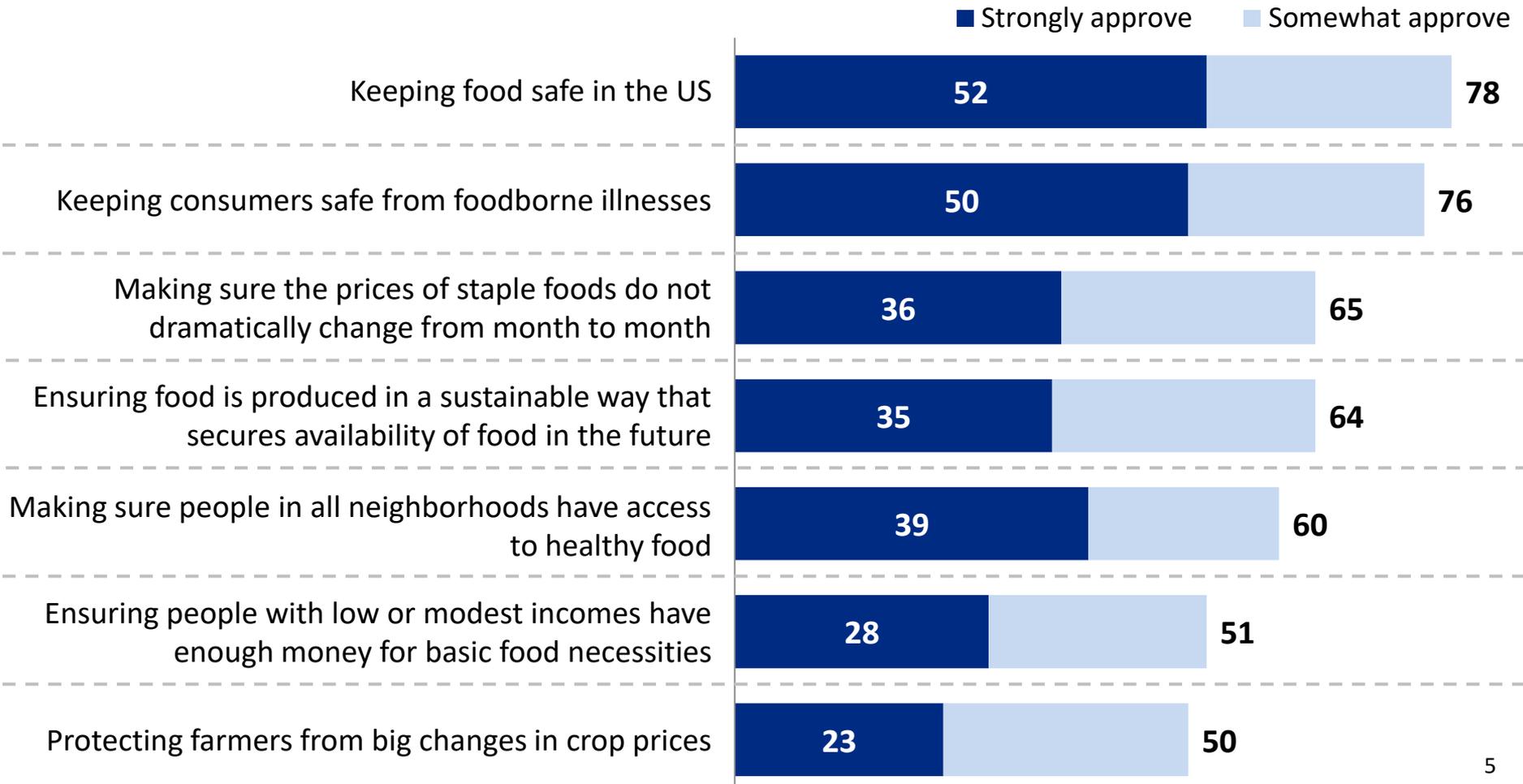
In your view, is helping farmers in this way something the government should be doing or should not be doing?





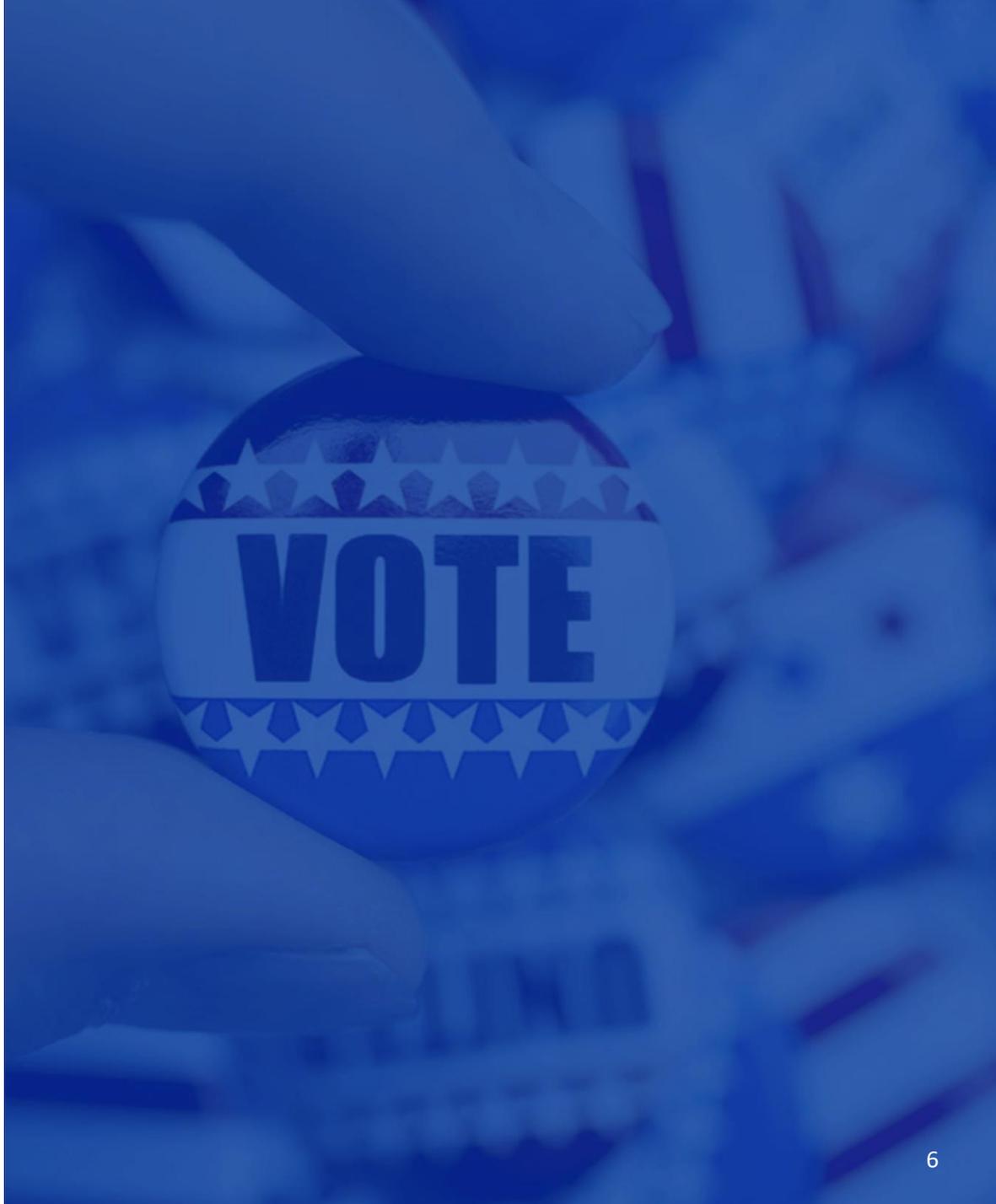
Government gets good marks on handling of Ag/Food policies

Next, I will read you some information about areas of food policy in which the federal government may be involved in. Based on what you know, please tell me whether you approve or disapprove of the government's job in that area.





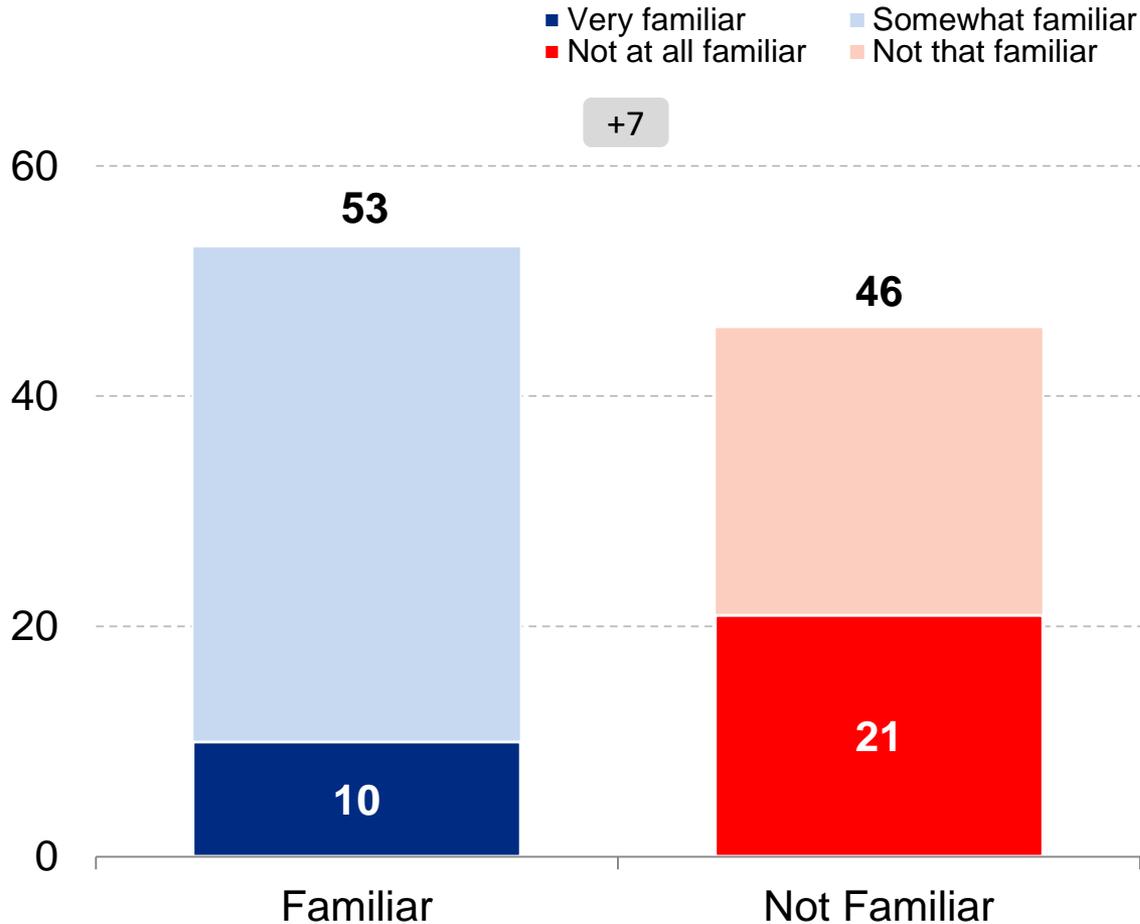
VIEWS OF THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY





Most voters claim familiarity with the farming industry

How familiar are you with industrial animal farming, or farming that produces large quantities of meat for commercial sale?

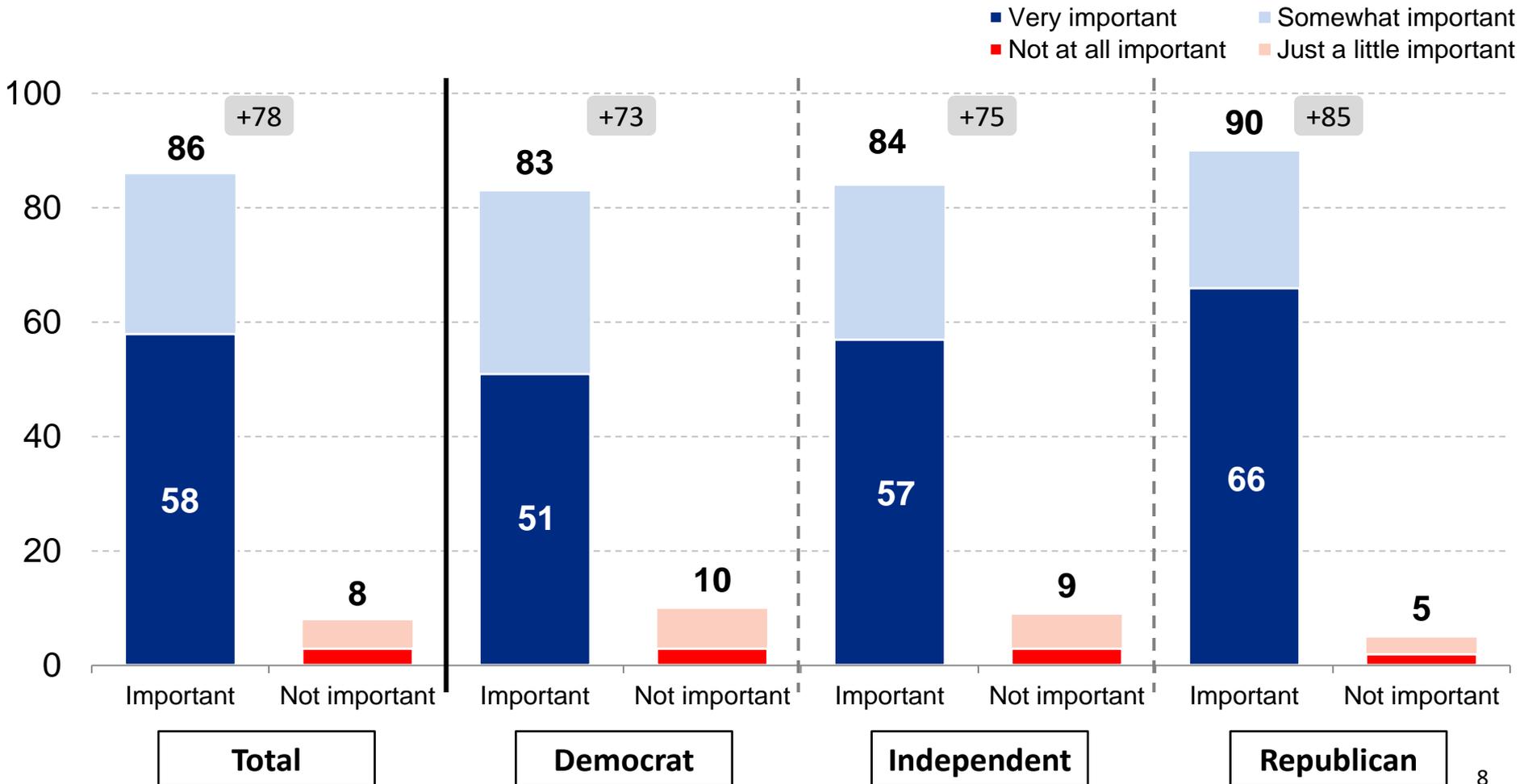


	% Familiar
Liberals	59
Under 50	59
Urbanity: Rural	55
Millennial women	50



Industrial farming recognized as very important to the nation's economy

From what you know or have heard, how important is industrial animal farming and the meat industry to the national economy?

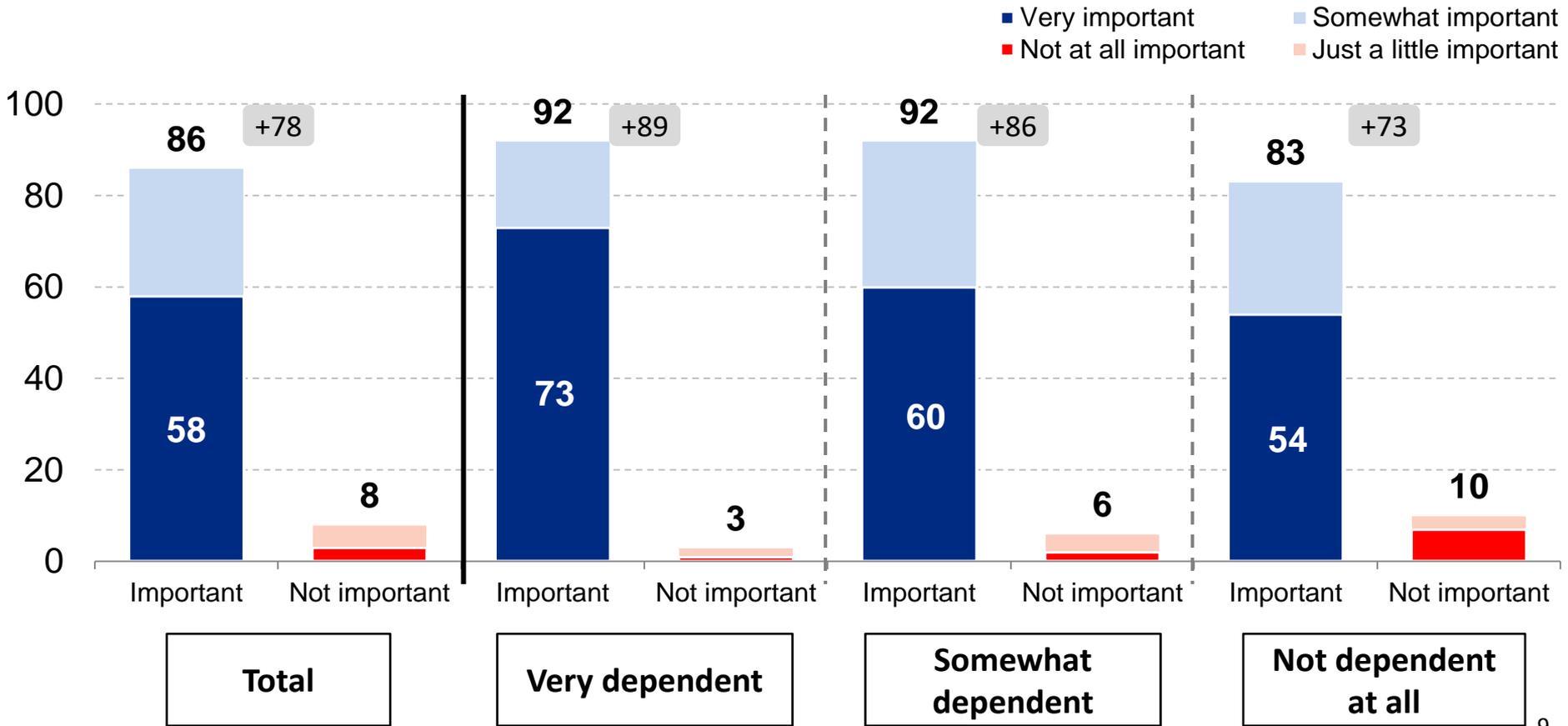




Even those not directly tied to the industry

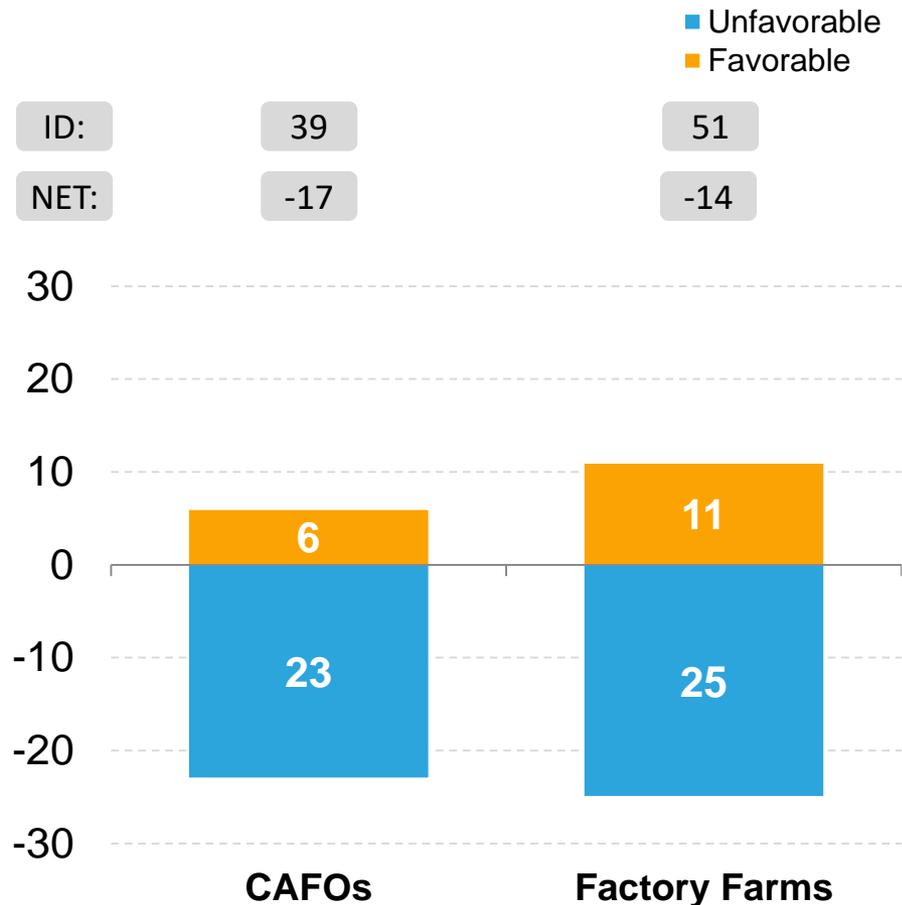
From what you know or have heard, how important is industrial animal farming and the meat industry to the national economy?

Household income dependent on farming





Despite perceived importance to the economy, CAFOs and factory farms receive negative ratings



	CAFOs	Factory Farms
	Fav-Unfav (Net)	Fav-Unfav (Net)
Total	6-23 (-17)	11-25 (-14)
Democrat	3-26 (-23)	9-27 (-18)
Independent	6-22 (-16)	11-29 (-18)
Republican	8-18 (-10)	14-20 (-6)



But specific industrial farming-related companies viewed favorably

■ Unfavorable
■ Favorable

ID: 91

76

58

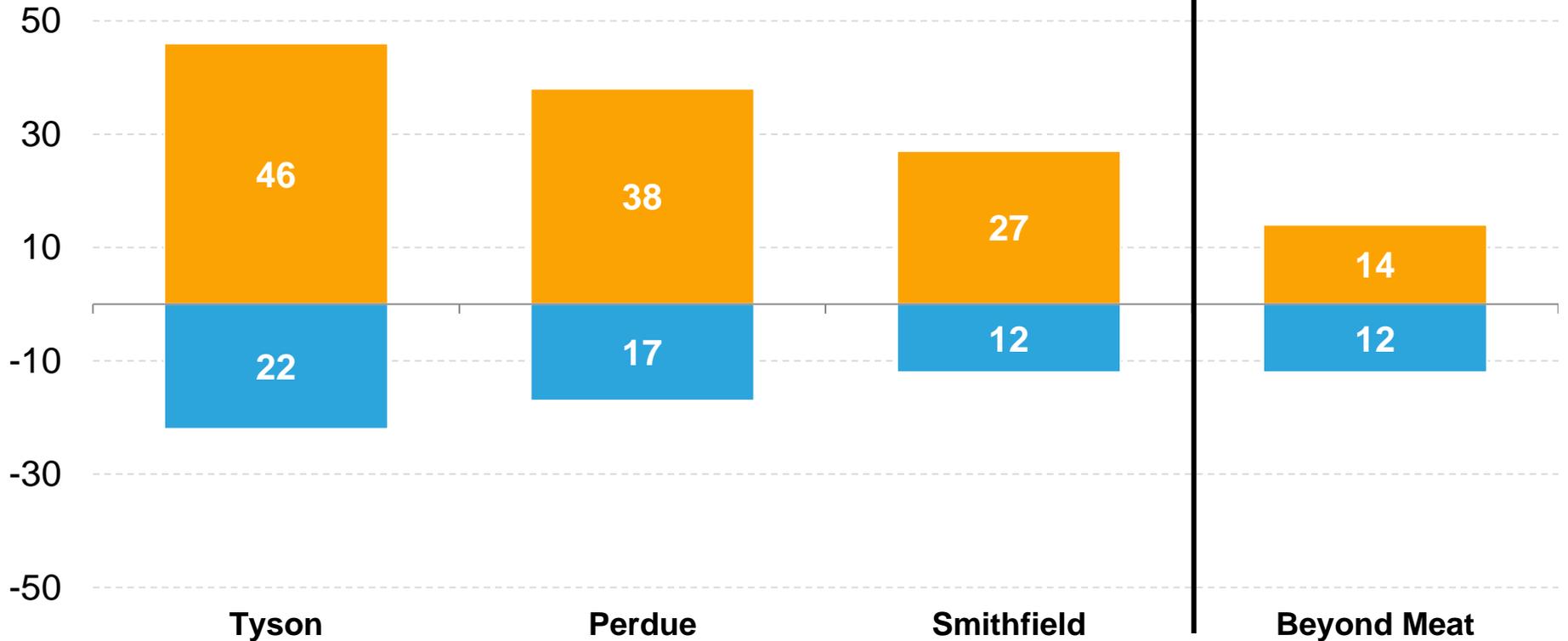
41

NET: +24

+21

+15

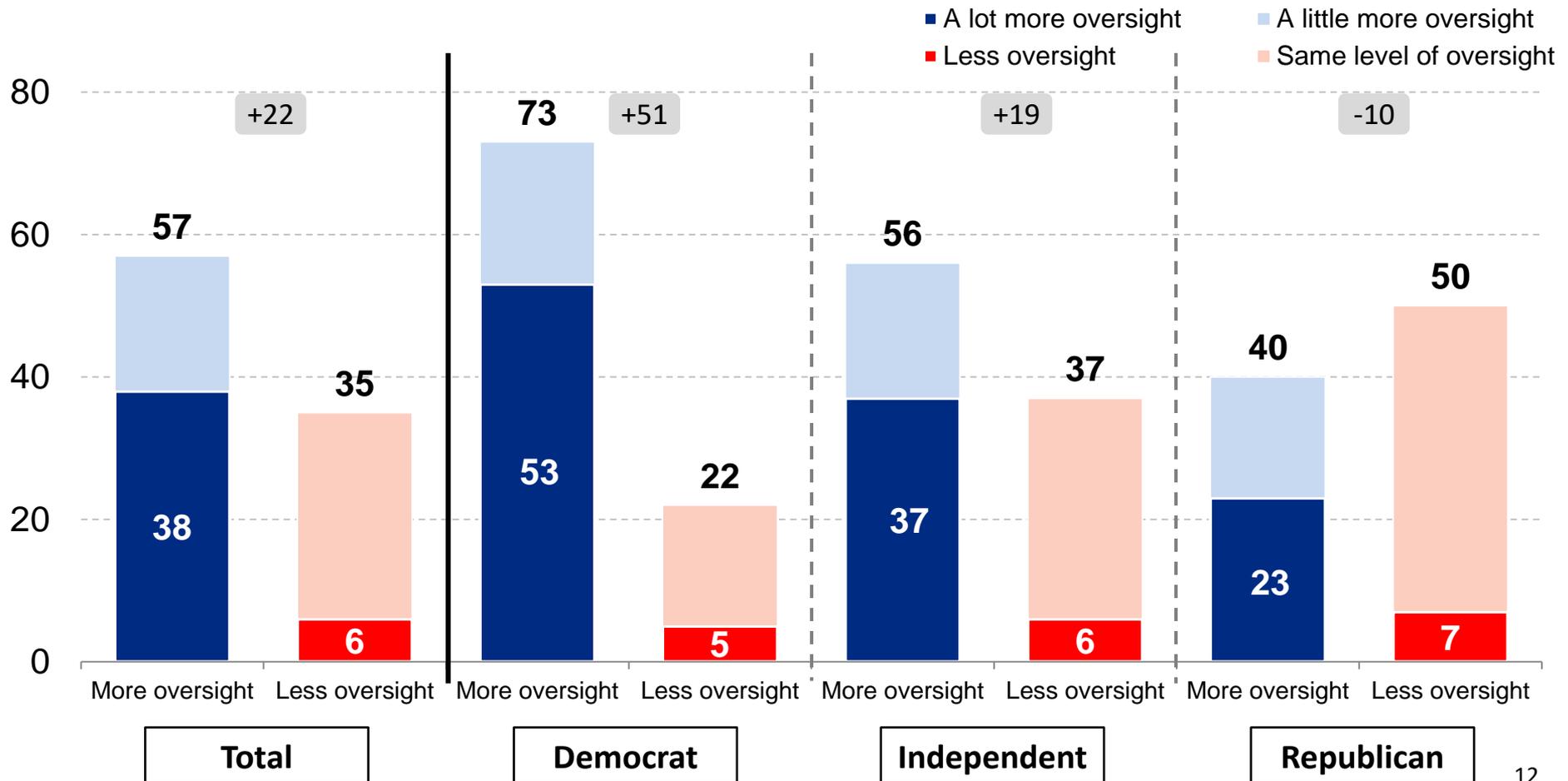
+2





Voters want more oversight for industrial animal farms: more than one third express desire for a lot more oversight

From what you know, do you think that there should be more oversight of industrial animal farms, less oversight, or should the level of oversight stay the same as it is now?



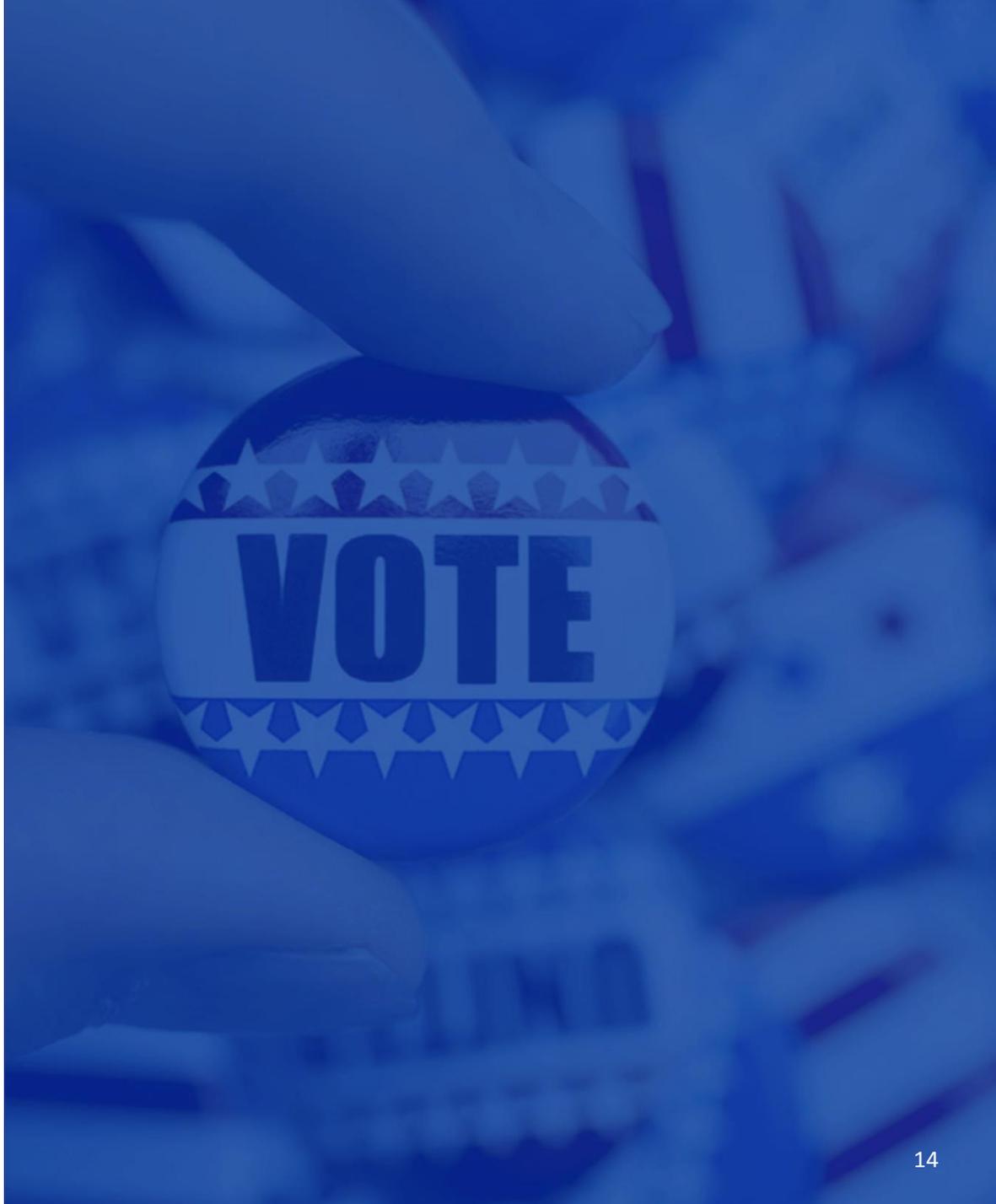


Support strongest among Democrats, women, and younger voters

	% A lot more oversight
Total	38
Democrat	53
Independent	37
Republican	23
Men	34
Women	43
Under 50	43
50 and Over	34
Non-college men	33
College men	35
Non-college women	41
College women	47



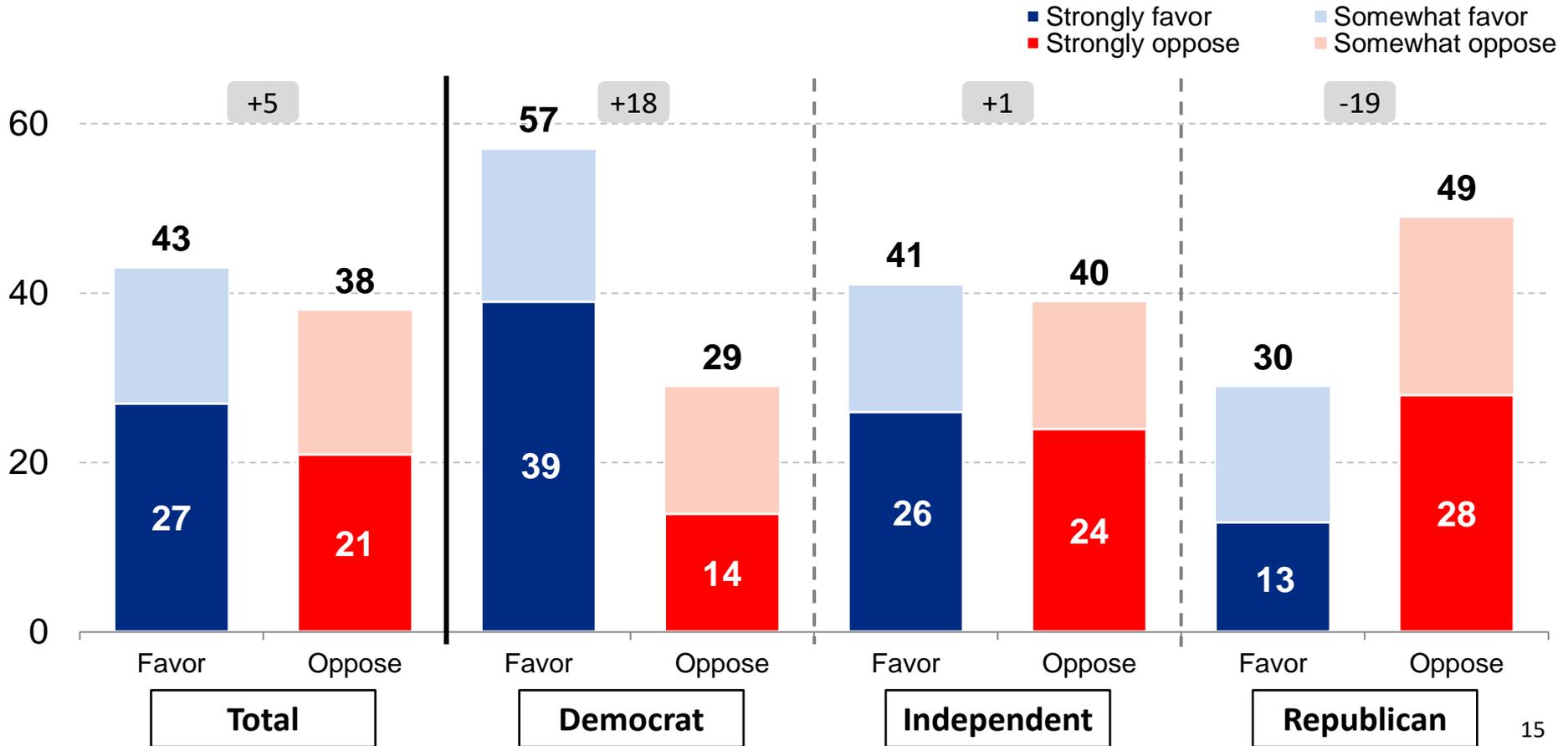
NATIONAL CAFO MORATORIUM





At the outset, a plurality of voters favor a national moratorium on CAFOs; nearly one fifth are uncertain

Some large industrial cattle, swine or poultry operations that have thousands of animals in one confined location are also called Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, or CAFOs. From what you may know, do you favor or oppose a national moratorium or ban on the creation of new CAFOs?





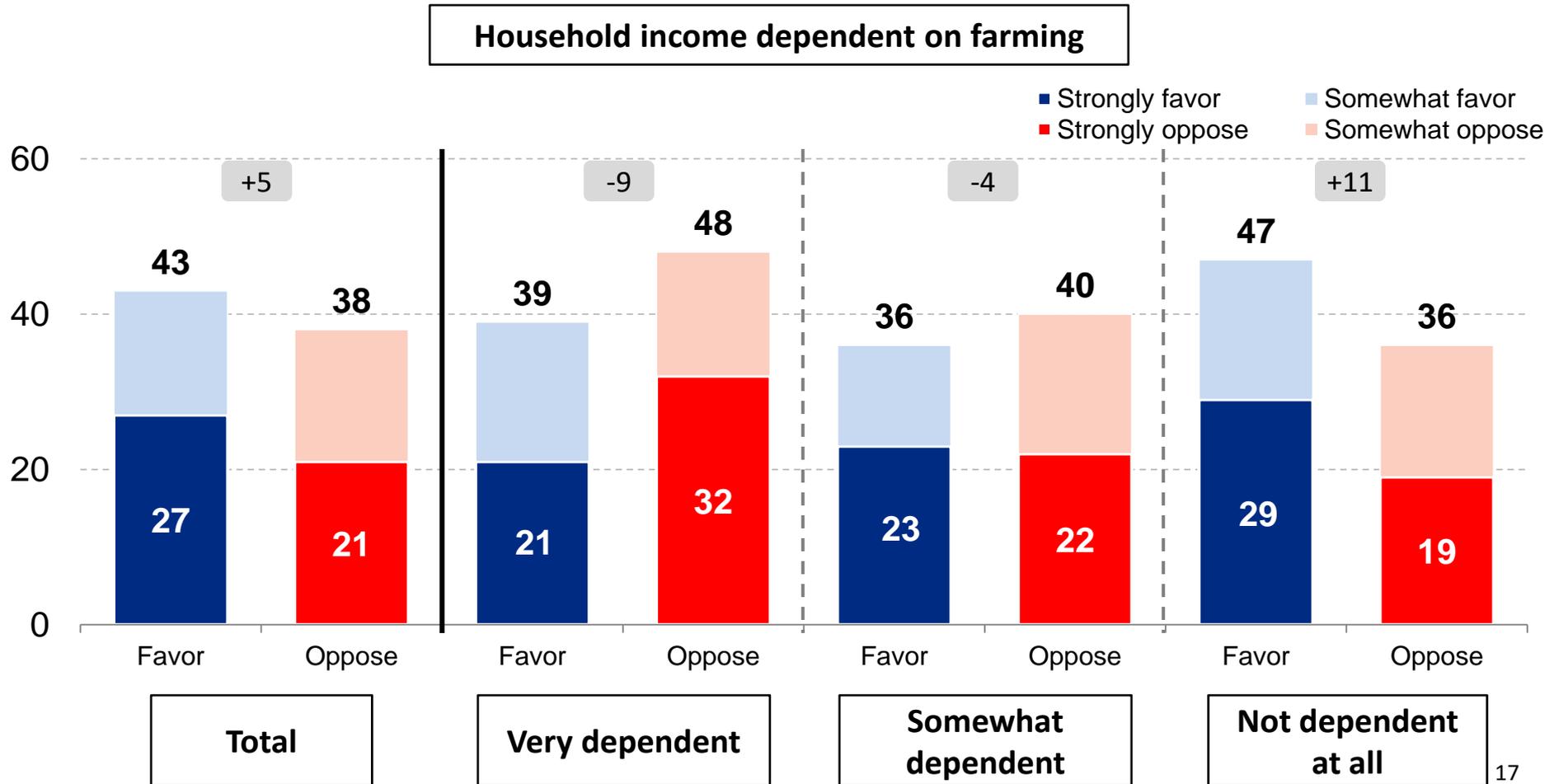
Women, African-Americans, younger voters, and college-educated voters are more supportive of a ban initially

	Total Favor	Total Oppose	Net
Total	43	38	+5
Men	39	42	-3
Women	47	35	+12
Northeast	44	38	+6
Central	44	39	+5
South	39	39	-
West	50	37	+13
Under 50	47	36	+11
50 and Over	40	40	-
Non-college grad	41	38	+3
College grad	47	41	+6
White	43	39	+4
African-American	46	29	+17
Hispanic/Latino	43	41	+2



Less support for a moratorium among those with some farming-related income

Some large industrial cattle, swine or poultry operations that have thousands of animals in one confined location are also called Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, or CAFOs. From what you may know, do you favor or oppose a national moratorium or ban on the creation of new CAFOs?





Text of moratorium arguments

Moratorium support arguments

(SPLIT) (SUPPORT ENVIRO HEALTH) Some/Other people say CAFOs pose severe threats to public health. CAFOs produce hazardous animal waste that contaminates our drinking water and air with chemicals proven to cause long term disease, birth defects, respiratory problems, and cancer. One in four workers in CAFOs have bronchitis, while some have died from falling into ponds of animal waste, being overcome by toxic gases, and drowning. They also use 80 percent of all antibiotics in the US on animals, many of which are not sick. This causes an increase in antibiotic resistant microbes, which are already linked to causing 23,000 deaths a year. We need a national moratorium or ban that stops the creation of new CAFOs to protect the public health of our families and communities.

(SPLIT) (SUPPORT OVERSIGHT) Some/Other people say CAFOs are mismanaged agricultural facilities where large companies do not have to abide by basic safety rules for workers, animals, or consumers. CAFOs release hundreds of millions of tons of untreated animal waste that ends up in streams and rivers. Large agricultural companies spend millions to lobby for lower environmental, occupational and health standards. We need a national moratorium or ban on new CAFOs to protect workers, animals and consumers from unsafe business practices.

Moratorium oppose argument

(OPPOSE) Some/Other people say CAFOs are an important part of America's food production system. CAFOs produce over 90 percent of all meat consumed in the US, employ thousands of people, and contribute 7 billion dollars from beef exports alone to the US economy. They are an efficient use of resources and keep food costs low. Plus, CAFOs have dramatically cut their land and water usage, and now use less energy with a smaller carbon footprint than in the past. Rural environments, where CAFOs are located, are cleaner than urban environments. CAFOs also reuse animal waste as fertilizer for US crops. We do not need a national CAFO moratorium or ban, which would prevent these businesses from growing, impact the US food supply and jeopardize hundreds of thousands of jobs.



Environmental health arguments produce a greater shift toward support for national CAFO moratorium

Initial

Re-ask

Overall

“Environmental Health”

“Oversight”

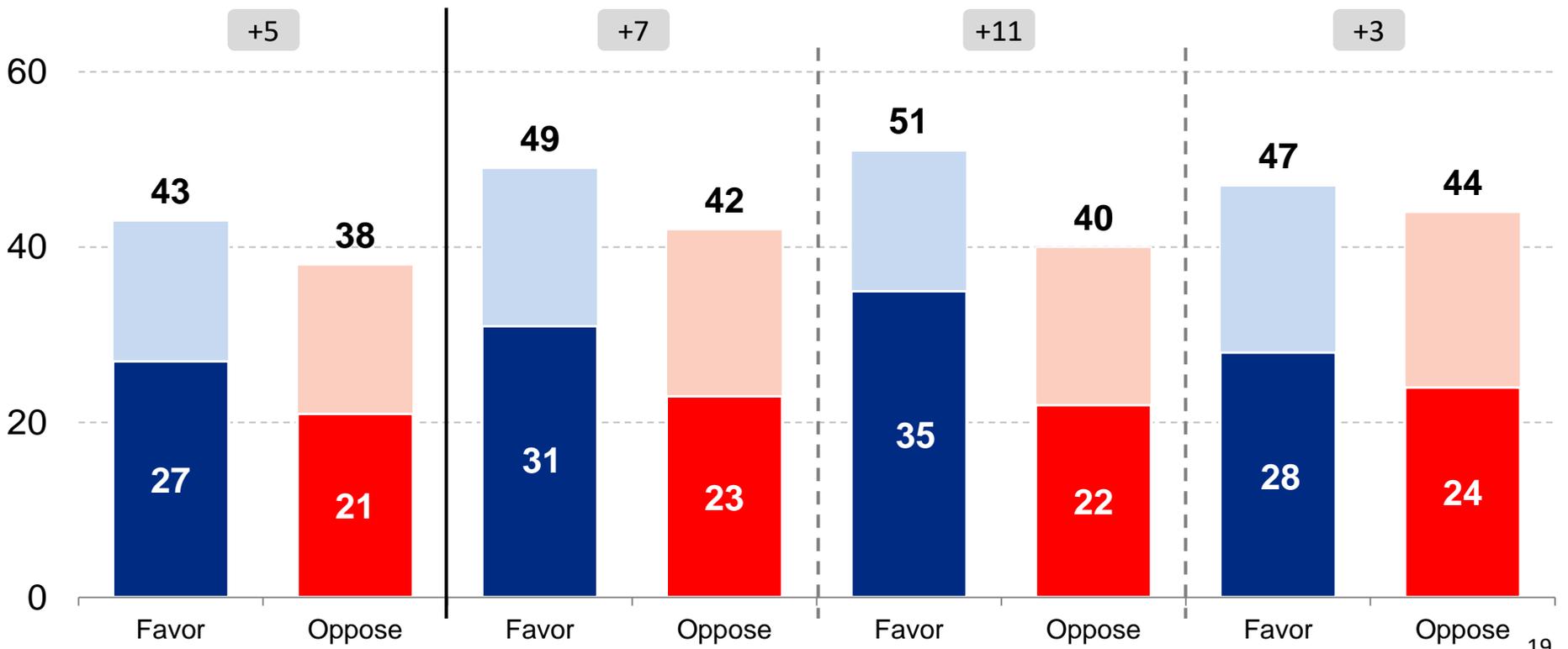
■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor
■ Strongly oppose ■ Somewhat oppose

+5

+7

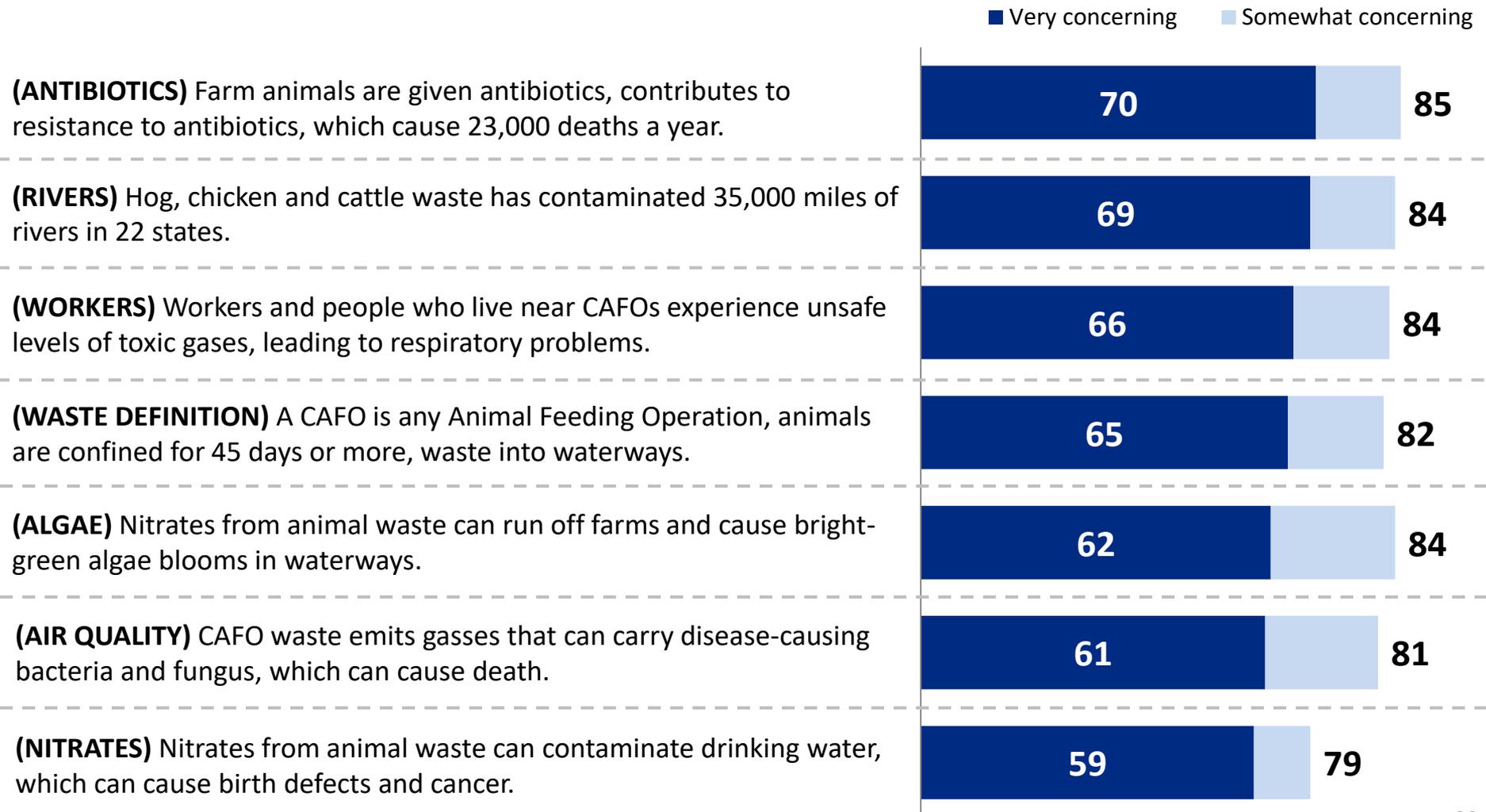
+11

+3



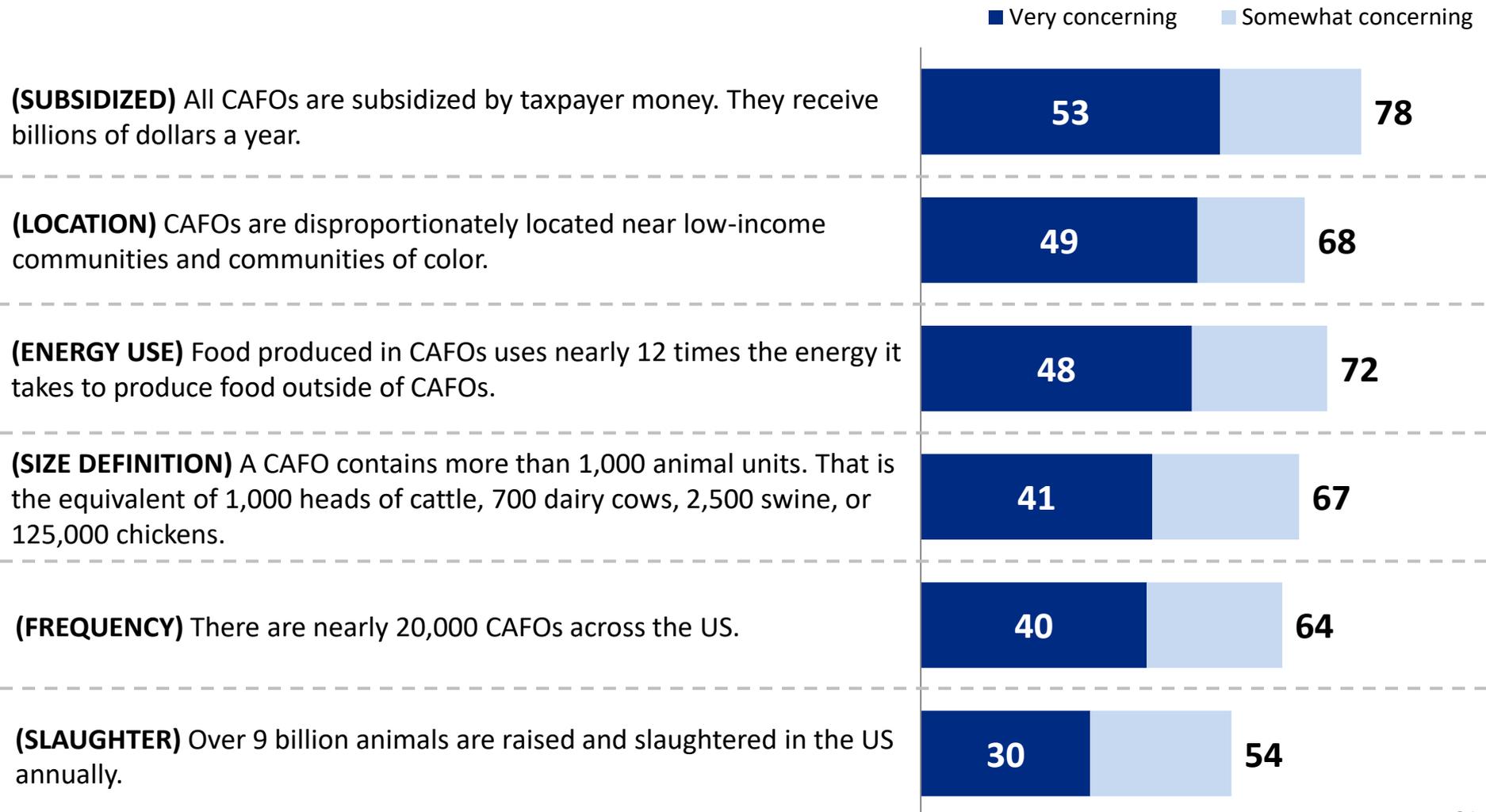


Health arguments also resonate strongly on their own



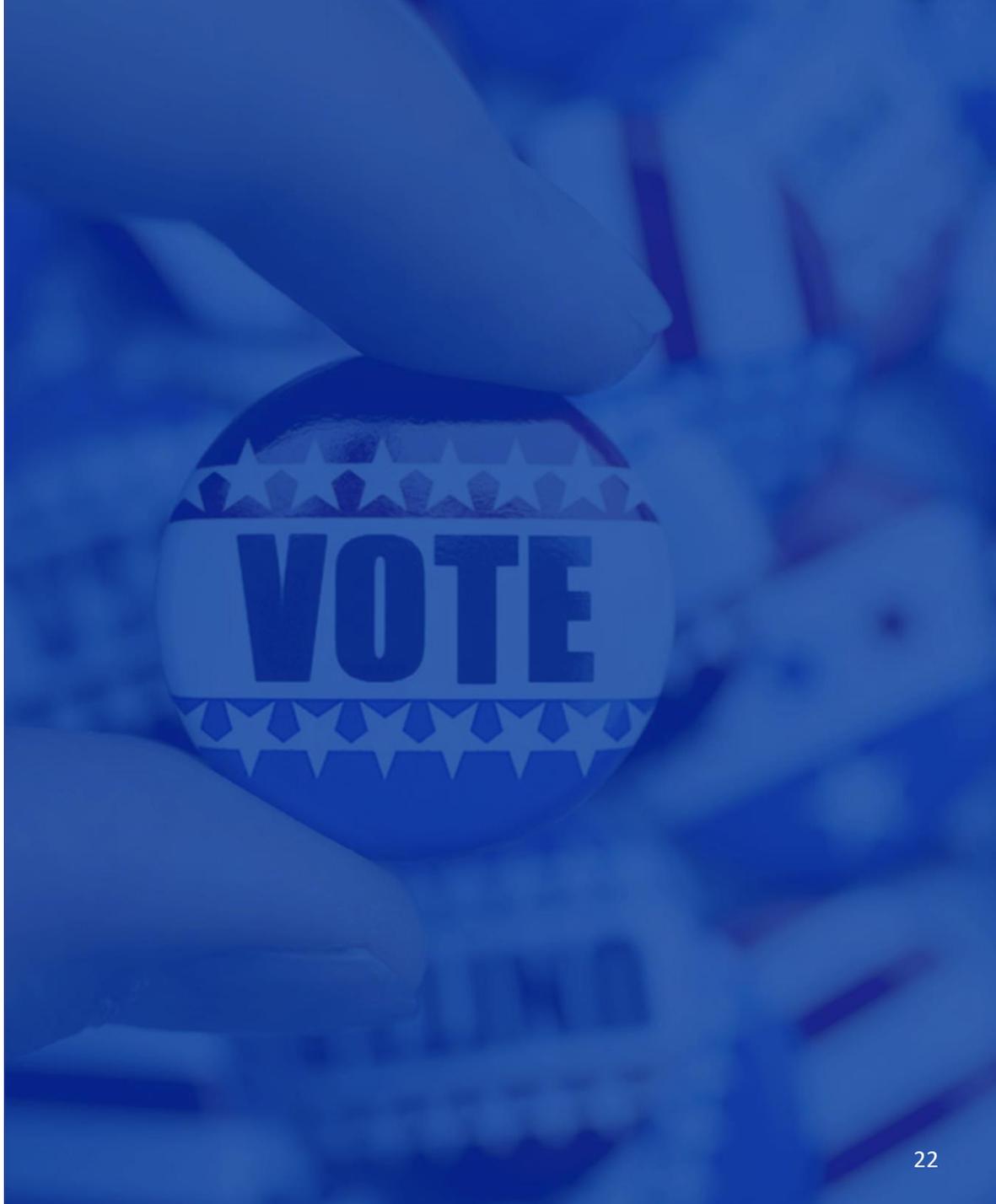


Statements focused on size of CAFOs are less impactful





MERGERS

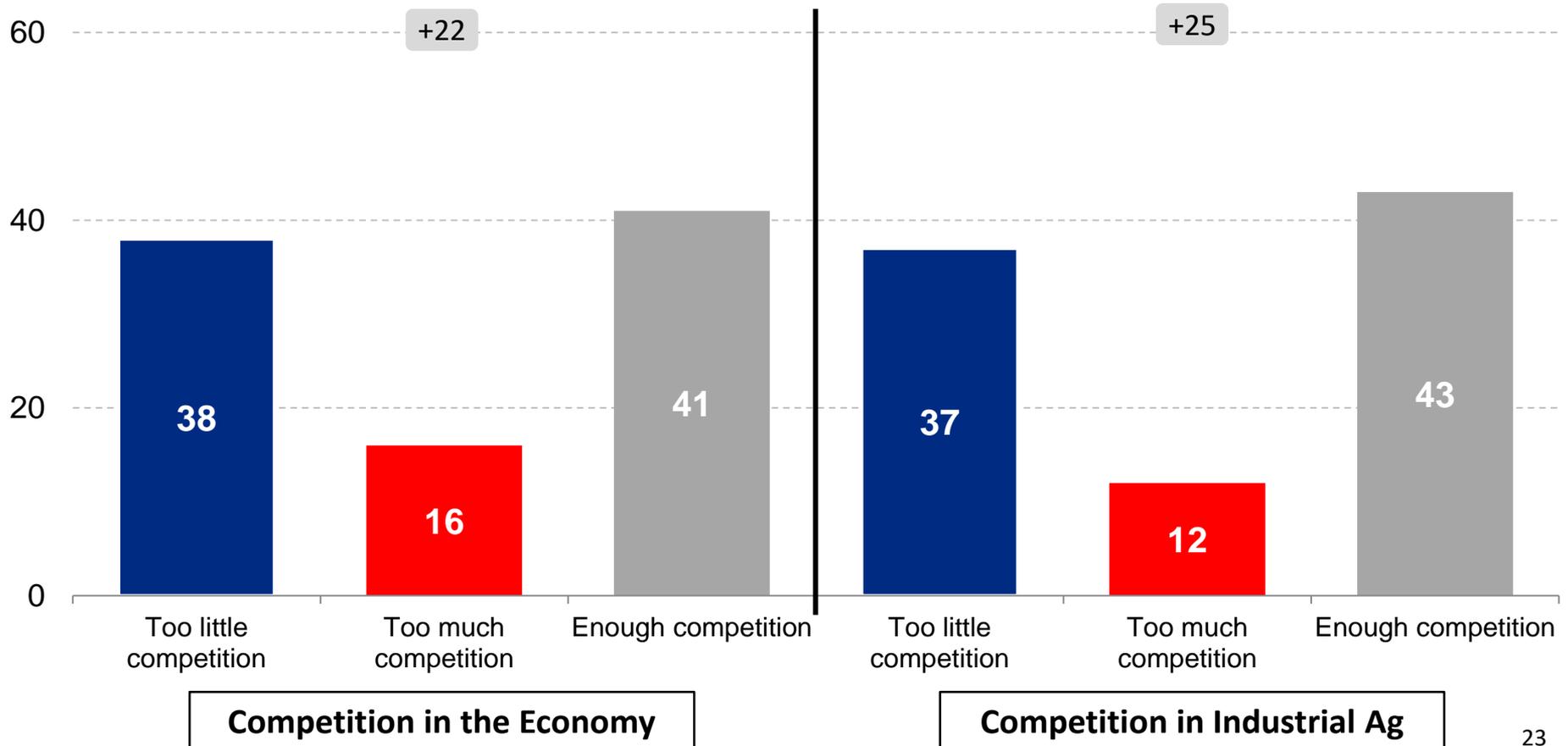




Voters are not hugely concerned about a lack of competition in the American marketplace

Generally, in the American economy, do you think there is enough competition between companies, too much competition, or too little competition?

When it comes to the companies that sell meats like chicken, beef, and pork, do you think there is enough competition between companies, too much competition, or too little competition?

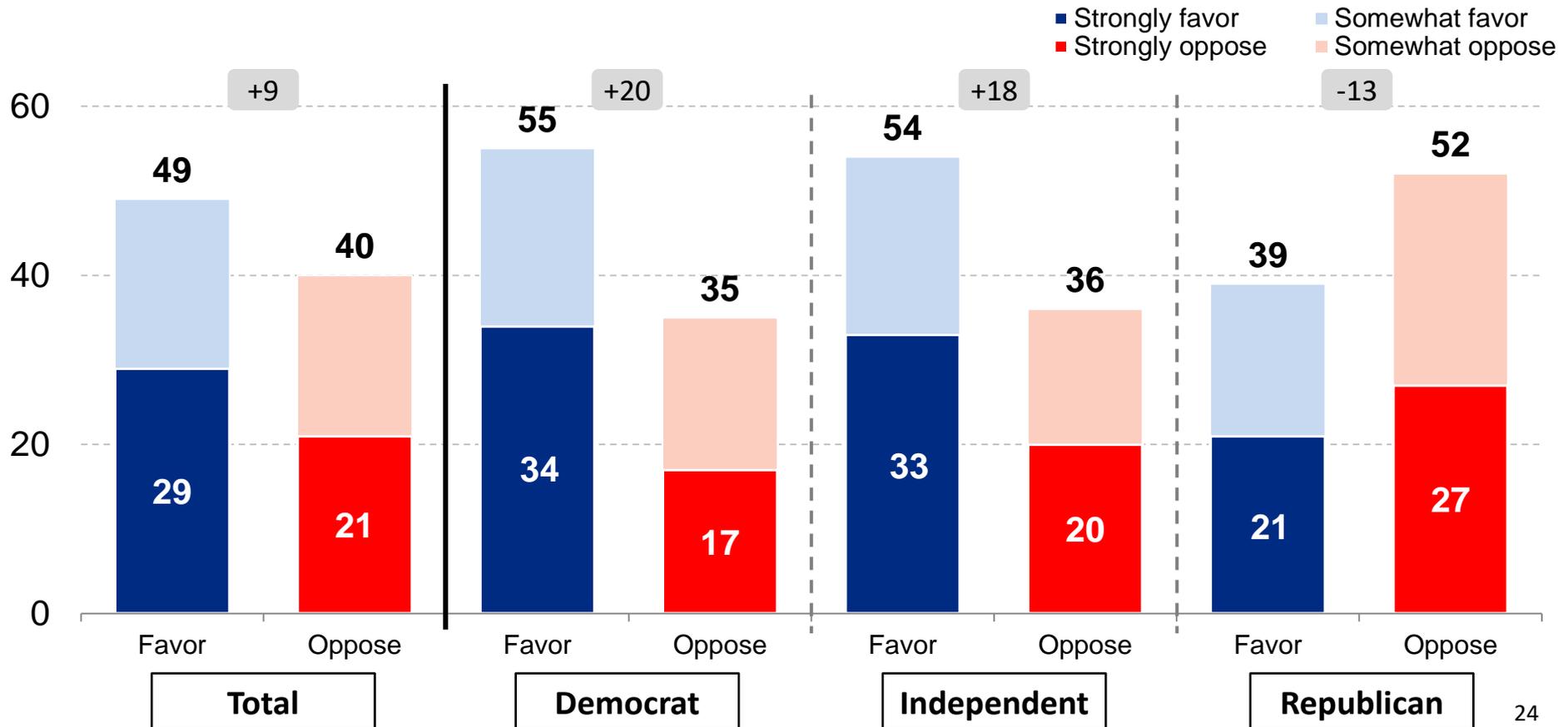




However, a plurality of voters favors banning mergers among large agricultural companies

From time to time two companies will merge together to become one company. The amount of power the companies have in the industry increases when they merge. Some have proposed banning large agricultural companies from merging together.

In general, do you favor or oppose a moratorium or ban on large agricultural companies merging together?





Women, college graduates, and younger voters all support banning mergers

	Total Favor	Total Oppose	Net
Total	49	40	+9
Men	49	41	+8
Women	49	39	+10
Northeast	46	40	+6
Central	57	32	+15
South	45	46	-1
West	53	40	+13
Under 50	51	38	+13
50 and Over	48	43	+5
Non-college grad	49	40	+9
College grad	51	40	+11
White	50	41	+9
African-American	45	41	+4
Hispanic/Latino	55	34	+21



Text of merger arguments

Merger oppose argument

(OPPOSE MERGE) Some/other people say large agricultural companies merging together has led to just a handful of corporations controlling most of the agricultural markets: for example, four beef companies control 85 percent of the beef market. These corporations are able to increase their profits at the expense of everyone else. Farmers now take home just 15 percent of the profit on their goods. Consumers face fewer options and higher prices. Current laws are not strong enough. We need a moratorium or ban on large agricultural companies merging together so our markets can become more competitive, which will help small farmers make a living and help consumers pay less at the grocery store.

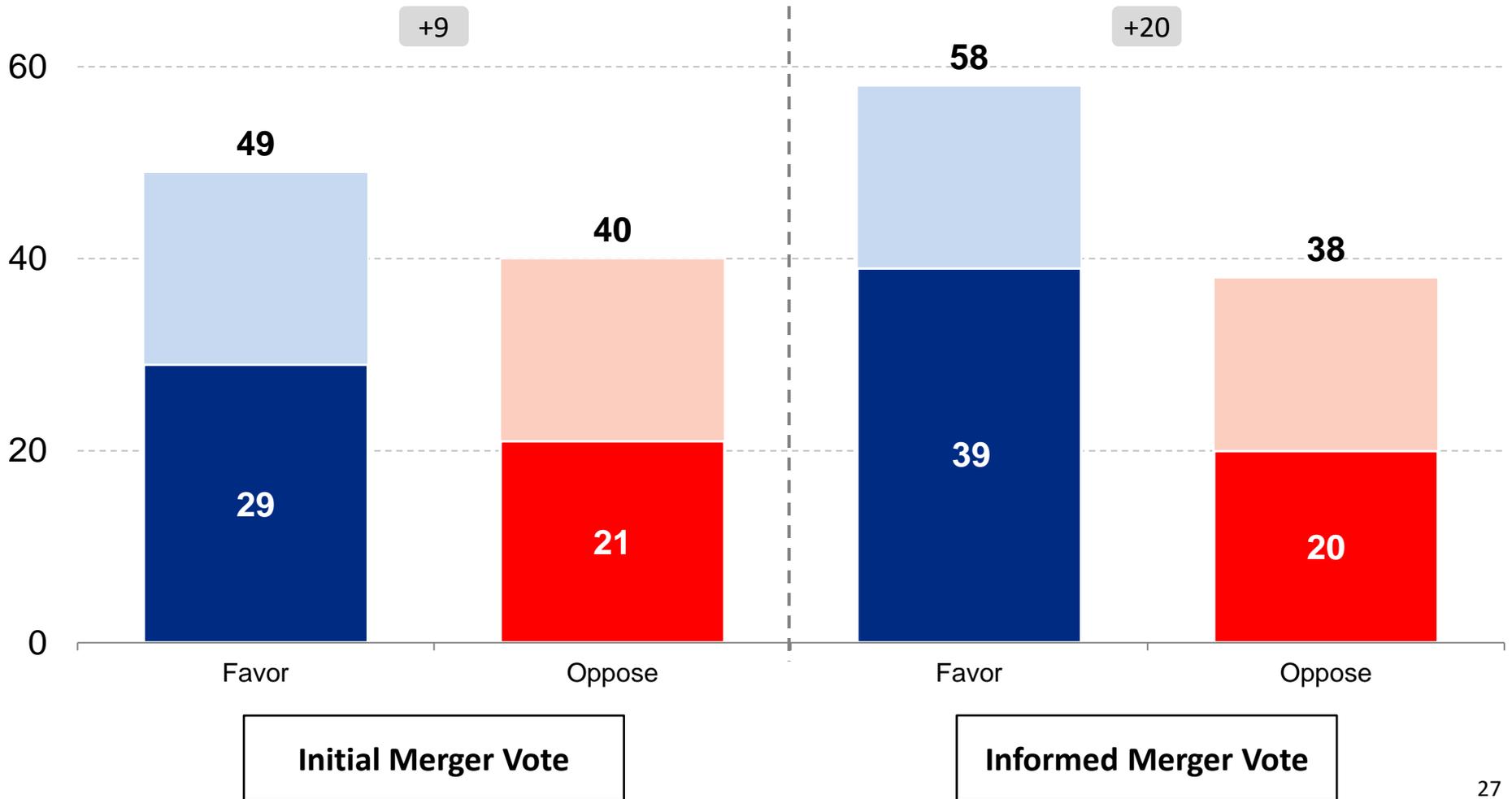
Merger support argument

(SUPPORT MERGE) Some/other people say we already have laws on the books that deal with too few companies having too much power. A moratorium or ban on large agricultural companies merging would decrease the ability of the US agricultural industry to be competitive worldwide. It would cost the US economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year, and would stifle innovation. Plus, hundreds of thousands of jobs would be at risk. We do not need a moratorium or ban on large agricultural companies merging when we already have rules that apply and when it would threaten our food supply.



A debate on mergers produces movement toward banning agricultural mergers

- Strongly favor
- Strongly oppose
- Somewhat favor
- Somewhat oppose





Fear of consolidating power among a handful of companies drives concerns about mergers

Regardless of your view on agricultural companies merging together, which of the following reasons is the best reason to OPPOSE agricultural companies merging together?

A handful of corporations have too much power in agricultural markets.

40

Farmers will take home less profit on their goods.

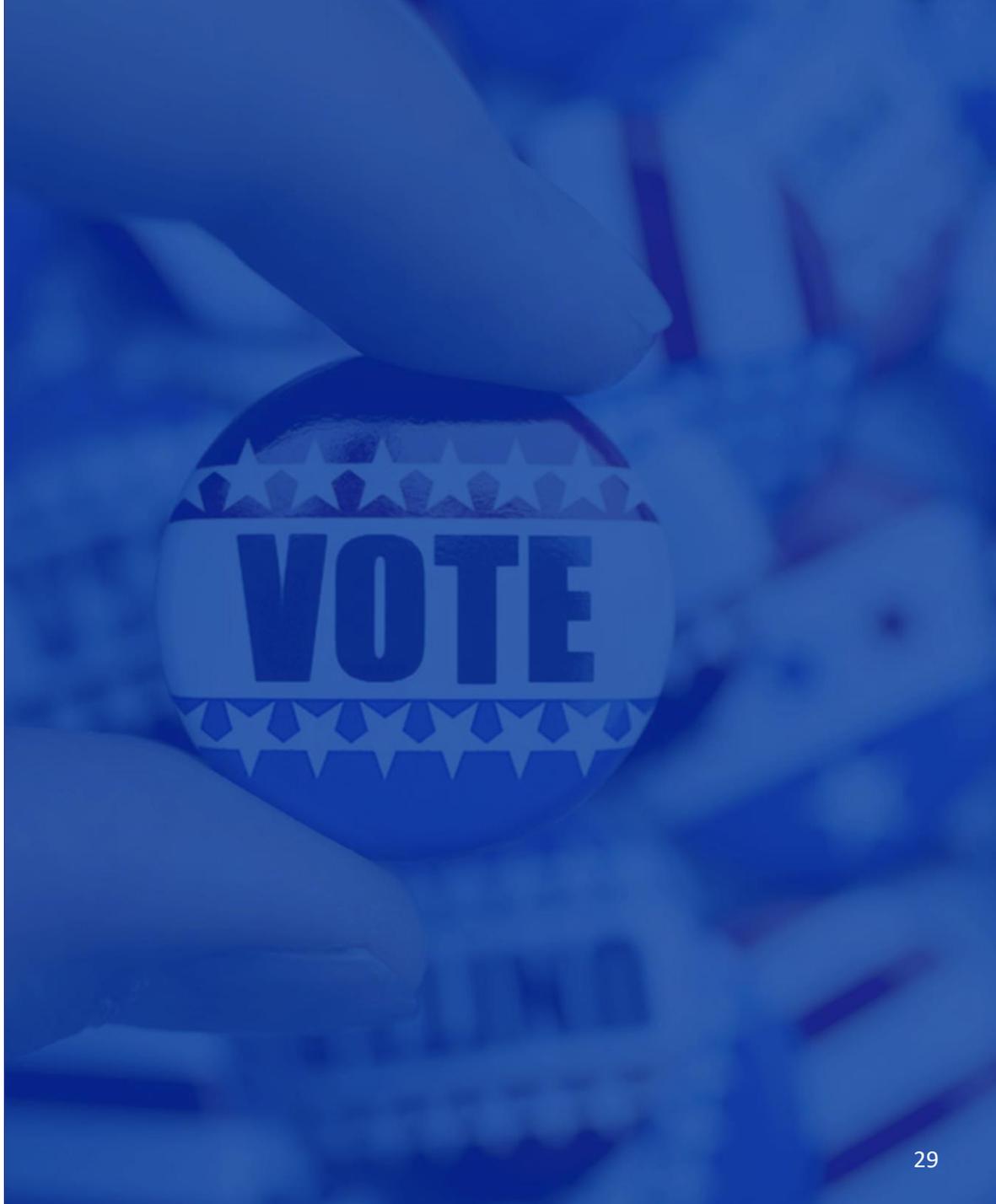
28

Consumers will pay more at the grocery store.

18



IOWA

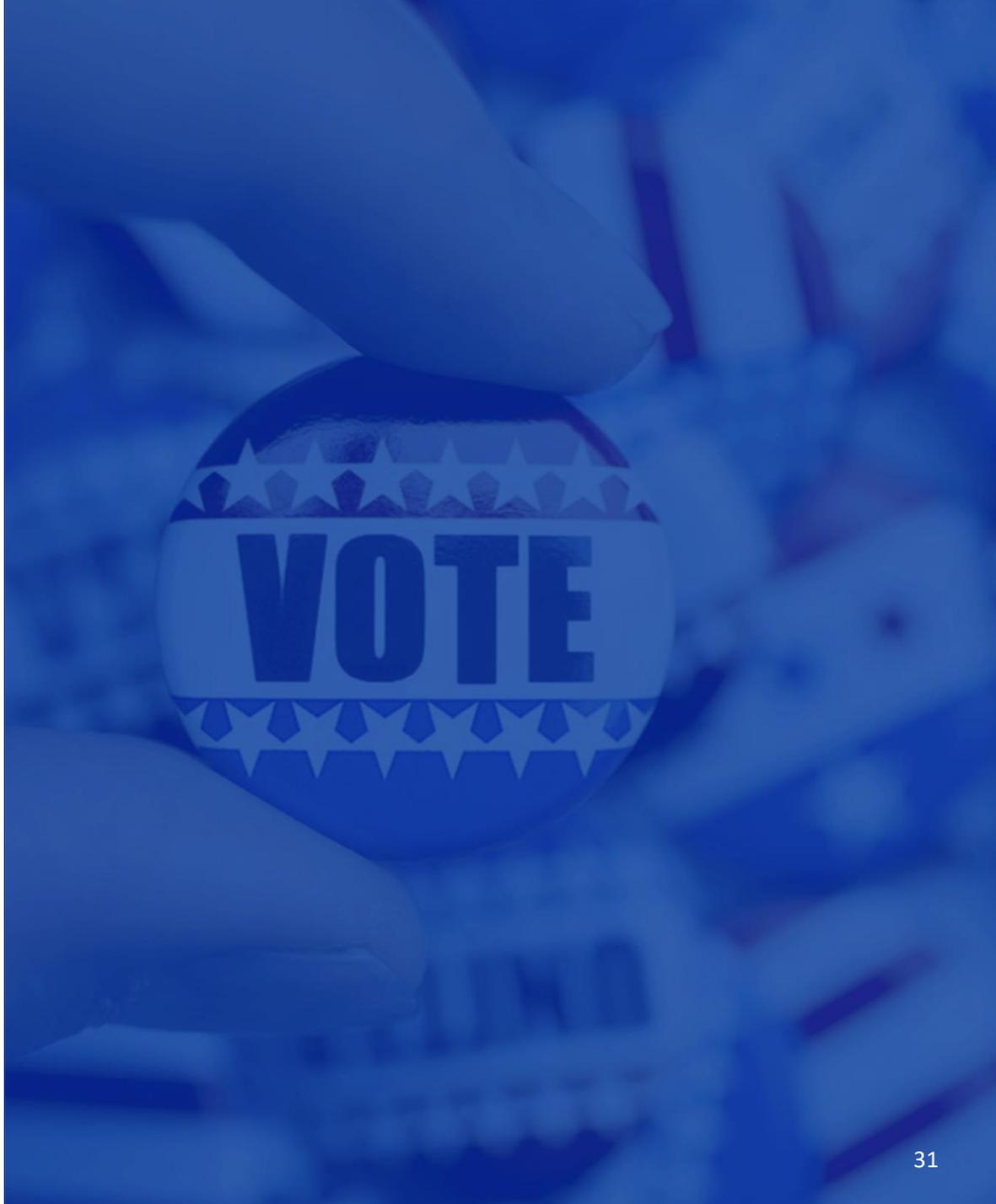


On behalf of the Center For a Livable Future, an academic center based at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, GQR conducted a statewide survey among 417 registered voters in Iowa. The survey was conducted by live telephone interviewers among both landline and cell phone respondents between October 6 and 13, 2019.

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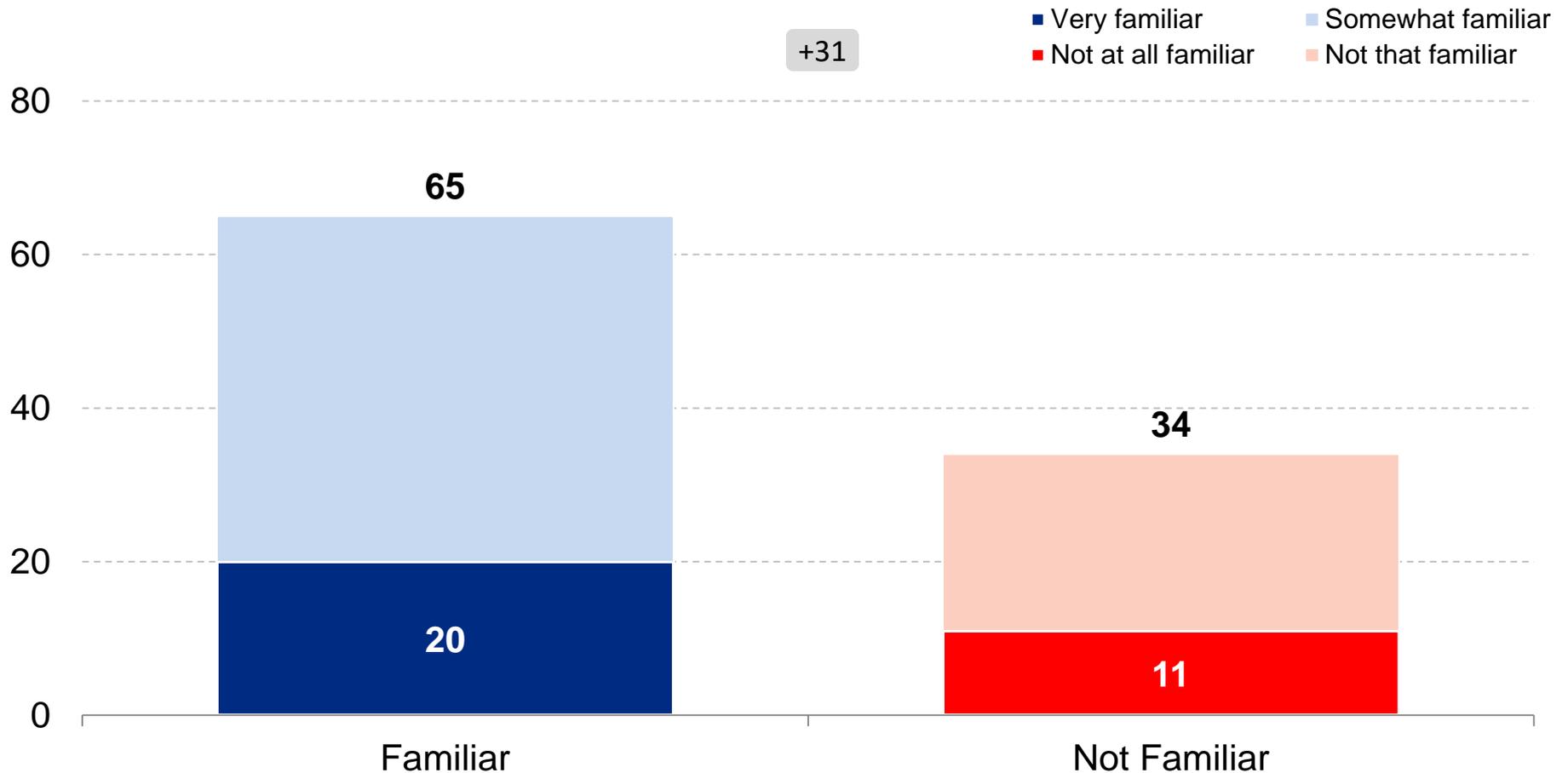
INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE IN IOWA





Two thirds of Iowa voters claim familiarity with the farming industry

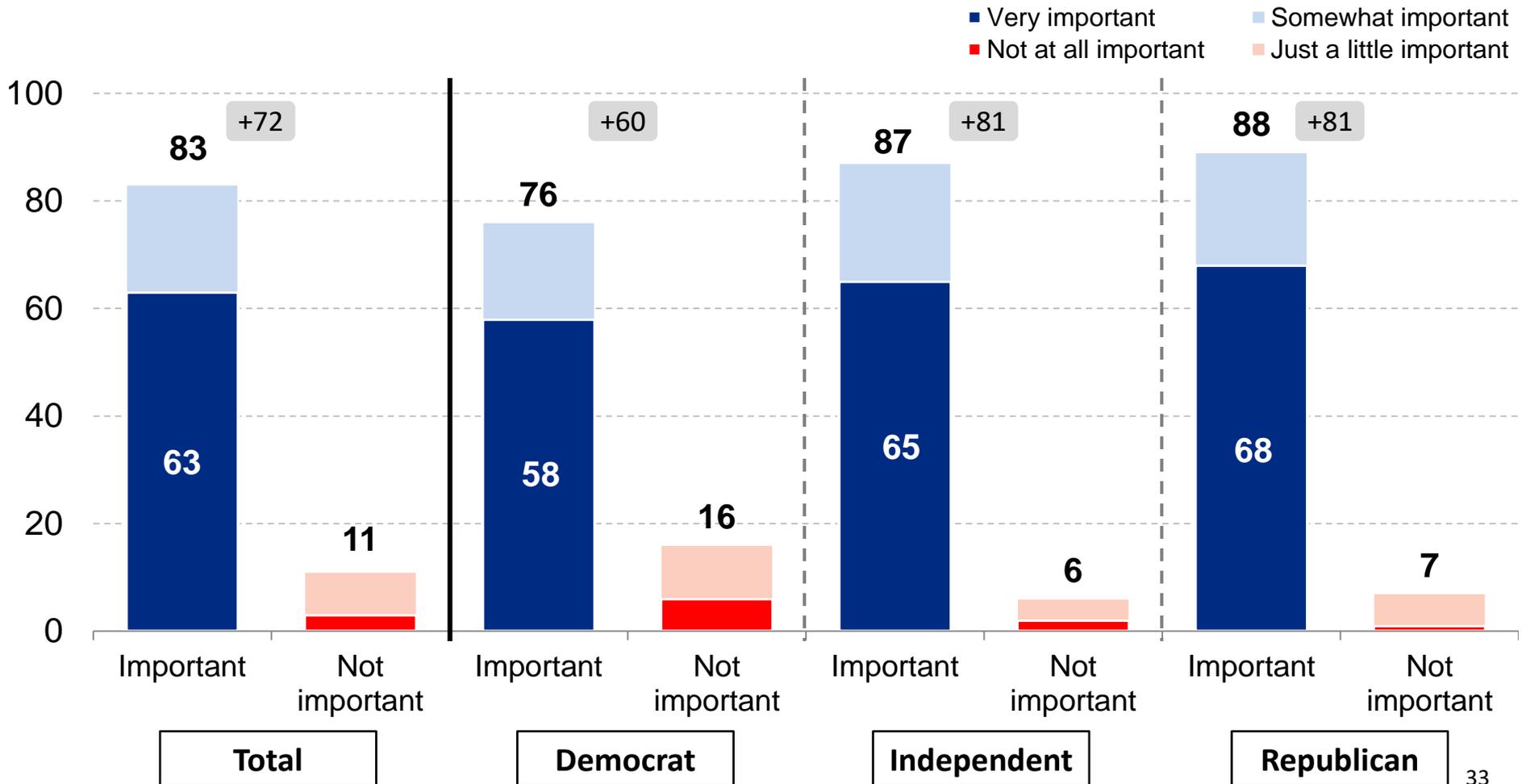
How familiar are you with industrial animal farming, or farming that produces large quantities of meat for commercial sale?





Vast majority recognize industrial ag as very important to Iowa's economy

From what you know or have heard, how important is industrial animal farming and the meat industry to the Iowa economy?





Most see econ benefits of industrial ag, while half also see pollution effects

Now I am going to read you a list of phrases that people might use to describe industrial hog and swine farms in Iowa. For each phrase, please tell me whether it describes industrial hog and swine farms in Iowa very well, well, not too well, or not well at all.

Positive

Create jobs and are an important part of the local economy.



Produce mass quantities of food and keep the cost of food down.



Negative

Care more about profits than regular people.



Contribute a significant amount to water pollution in the area.



Contribute a significant amount to air pollution in nearby communities.

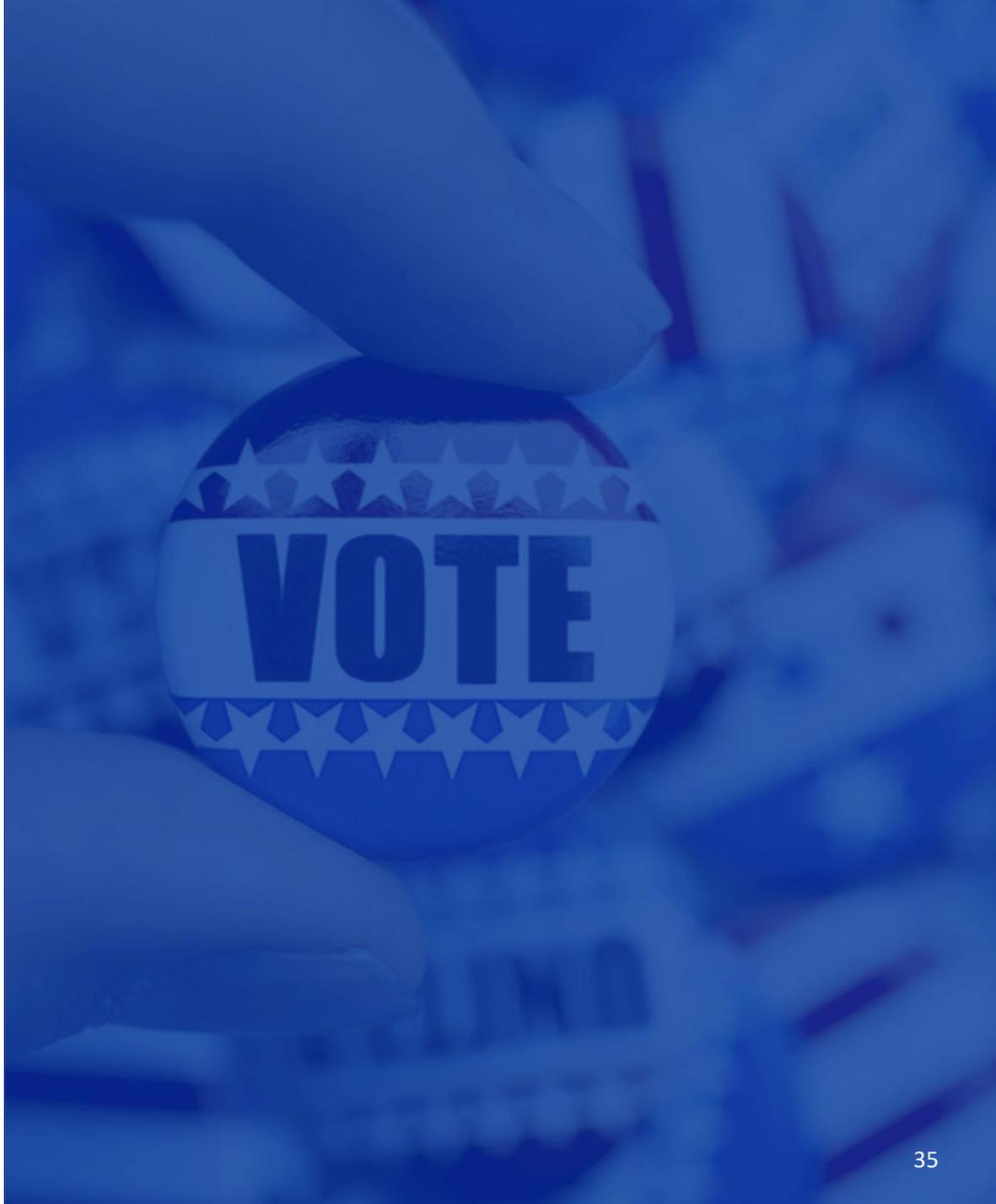


Have a negative impact on the health of people in Iowa.





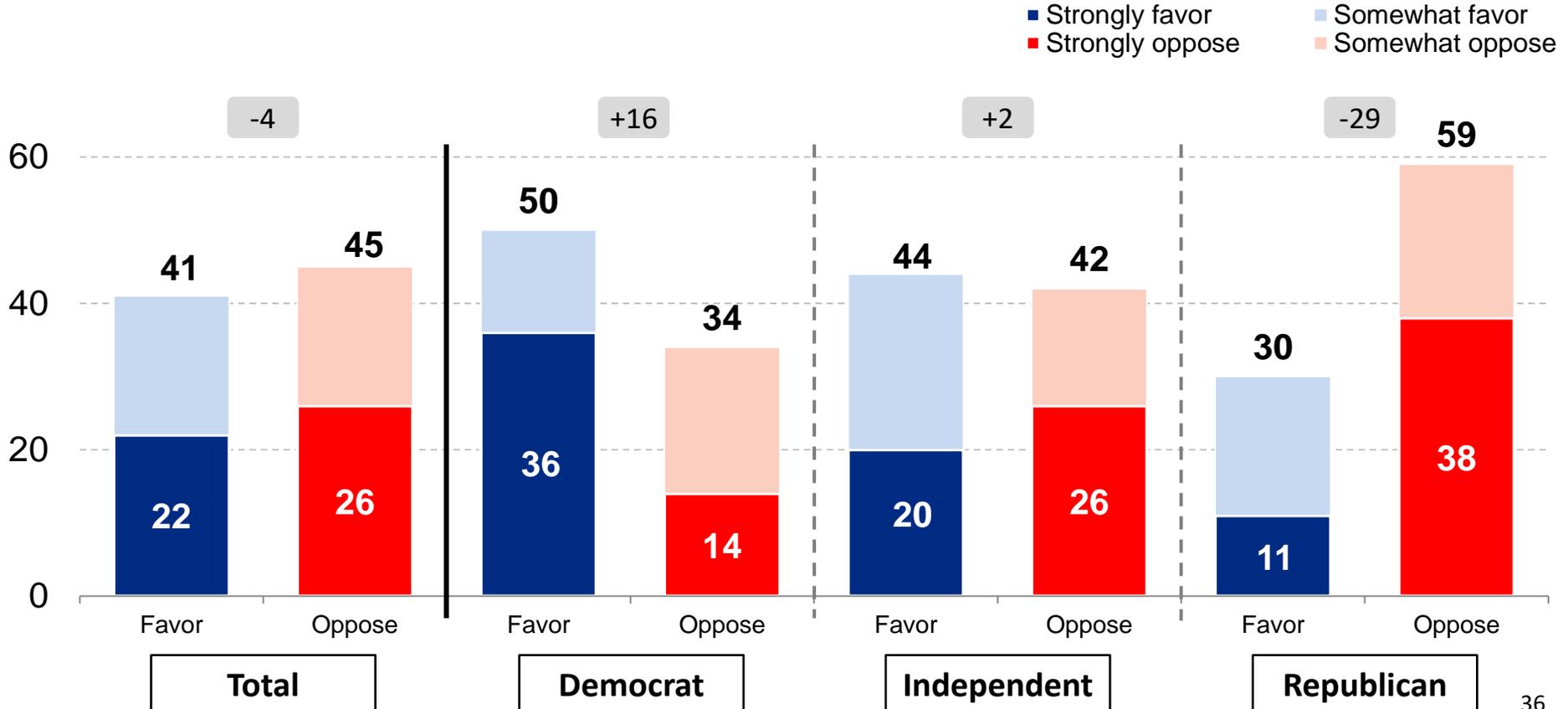
IOWA CAFO MORATORIUM





Support in Iowa for a national ban on CAFOs is mixed, split along party lines

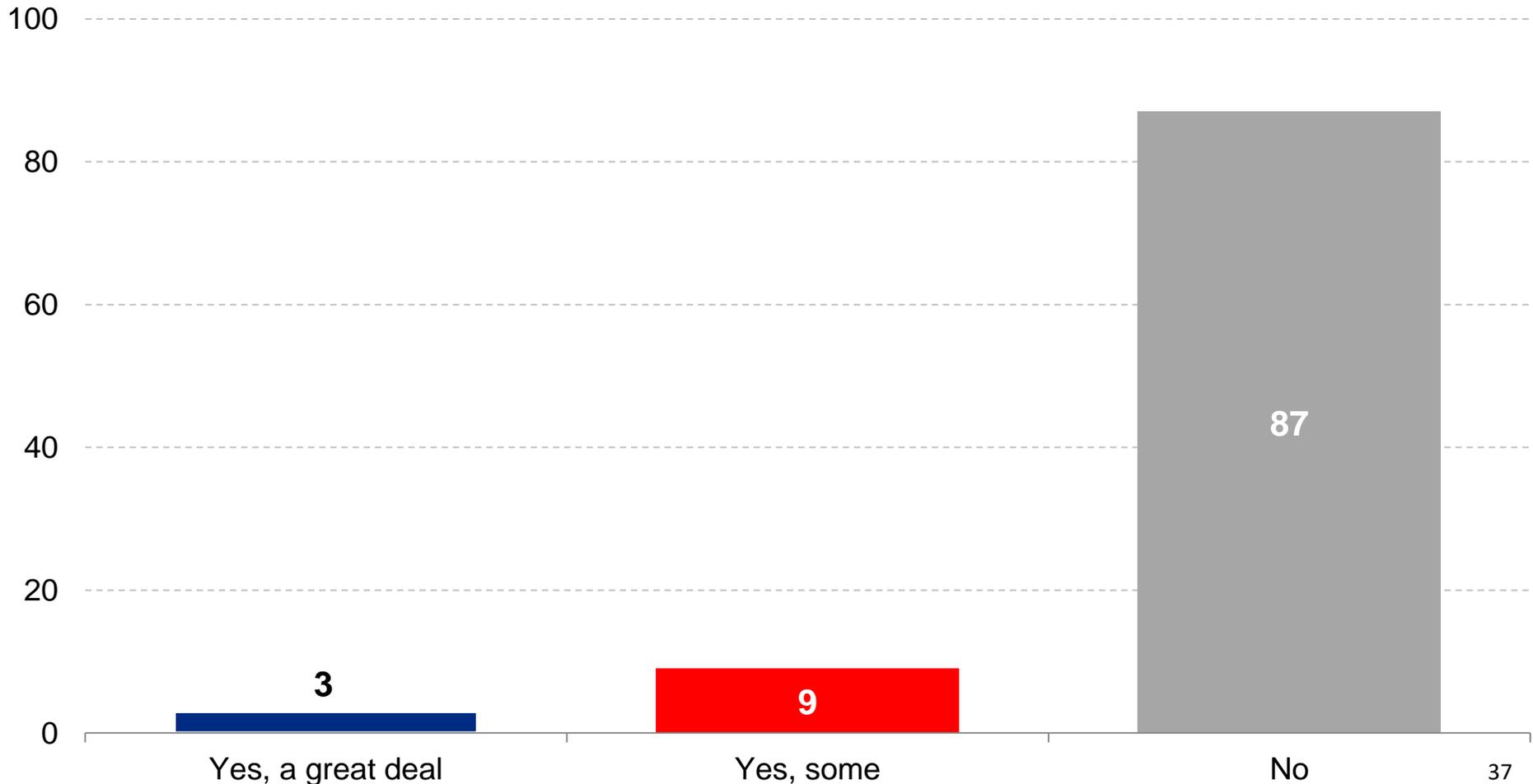
Some large industrial cattle, swine or poultry operations that have thousands of animals in one confined location are also called Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, or CAFOs. From what you may know, do you favor or oppose a national moratorium or ban on the creation of new CAFOs?





The vast majority of Iowans have not heard any information on a CAFO ban

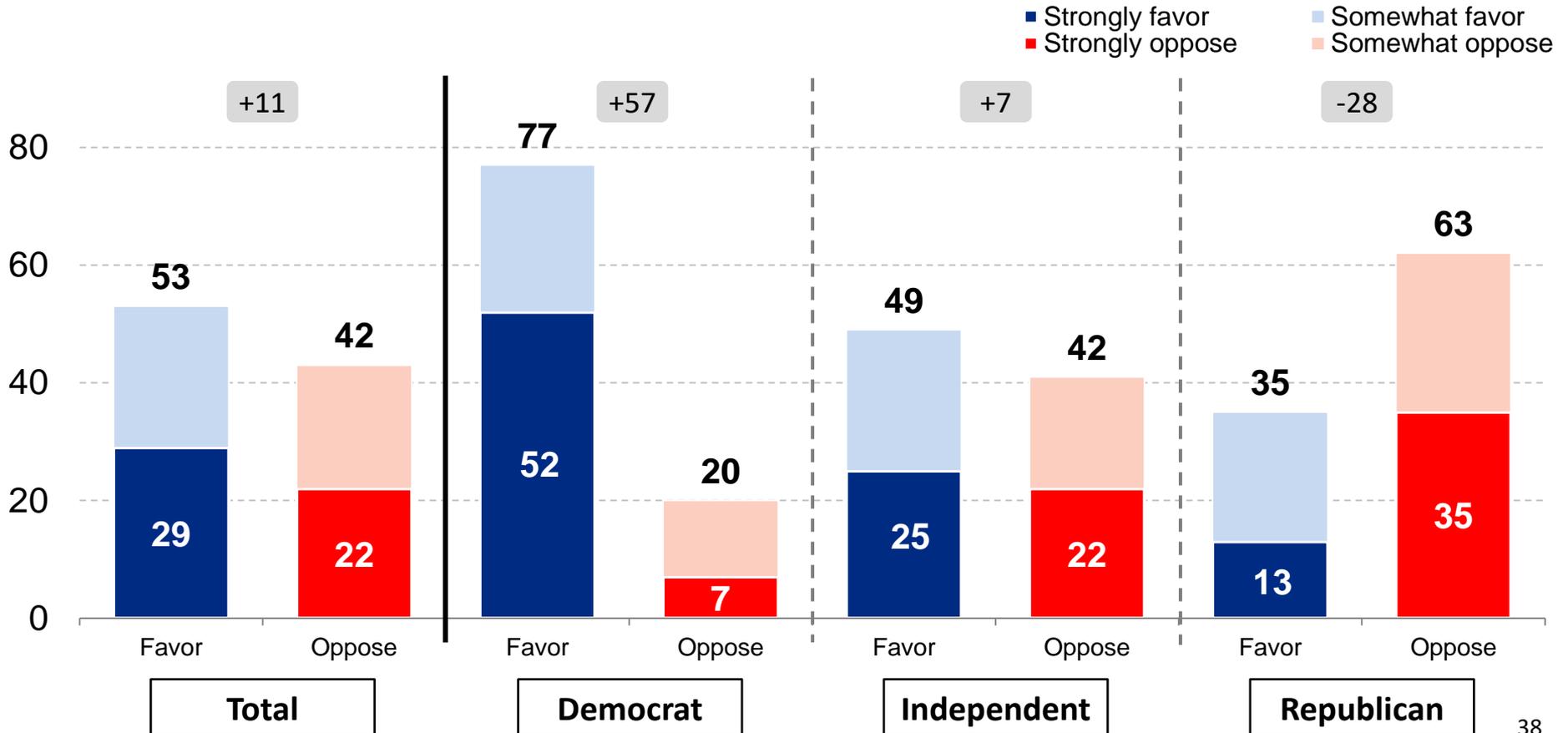
Have you seen, read or heard anything recently about a proposed moratorium or ban on the construction of new or expanding existing CAFOs in Iowa?





More voters favor a statewide moratorium on CAFOs

As you may know, Iowa has many large, industrial hog or swine operations, often called Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, or CAFOs. The state is also home to 23 million hogs. Last year, a proposal was put forward in the Iowa legislature to increase oversight of these CAFOs and to place a moratorium or ban on the construction of new CAFOs and the expansion of existing CAFOs.





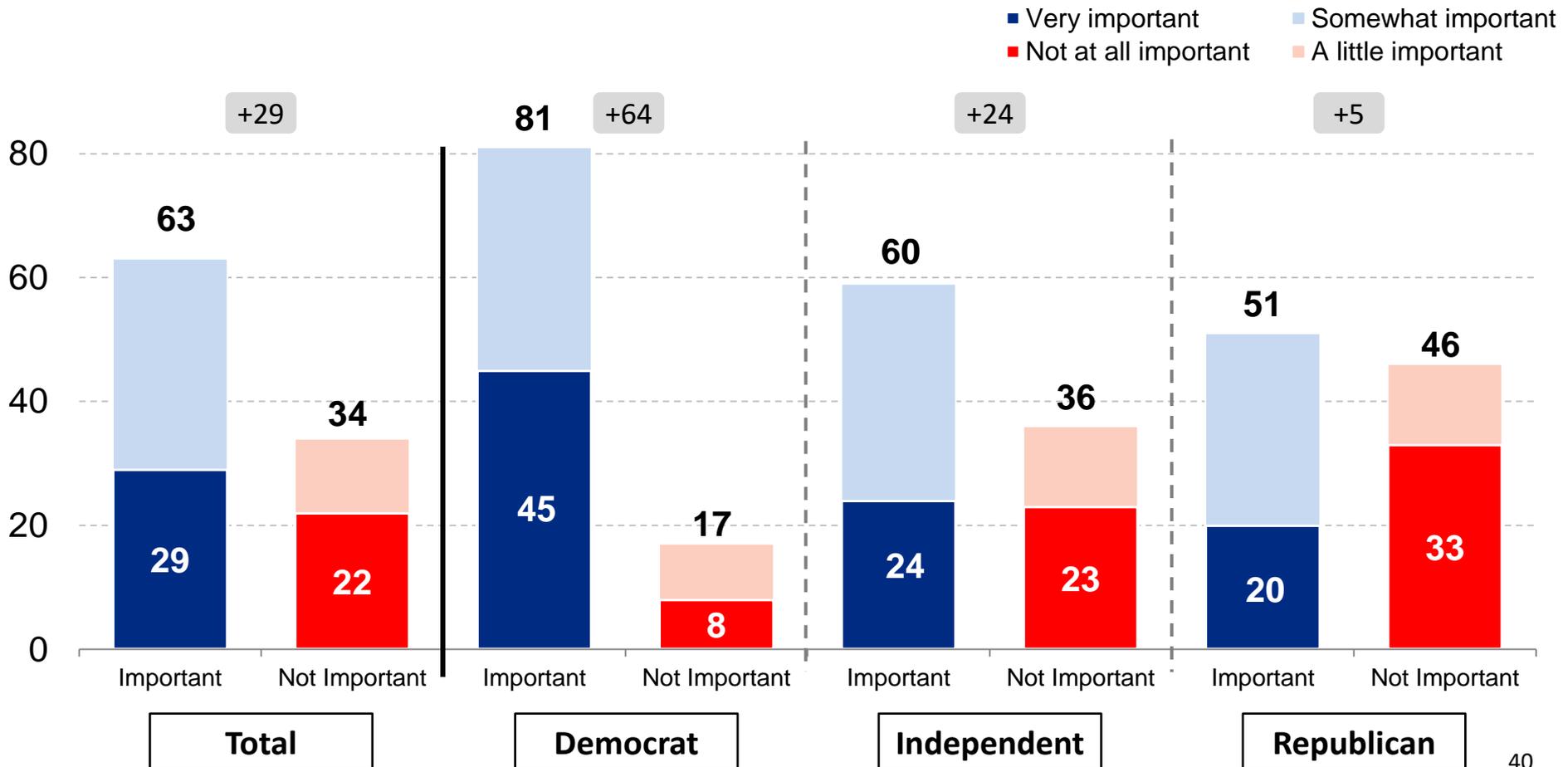
Women, older voters, and urban residents are more supportive of a ban initially

	Total Favor	Total Oppose	Net
Total	53	42	+11
Men	44	51	-7
Women	61	34	+27
DBQ IC Water	58	36	+22
CDR OTT	56	42	+14
DSM	42	47	-5
Ames Ex DSM	62	36	+26
SC CB	45	51	-6
Under 50	47	46	+1
50 and Over	58	39	+19



Voters agree on the importance of a statewide ban on CAFOs

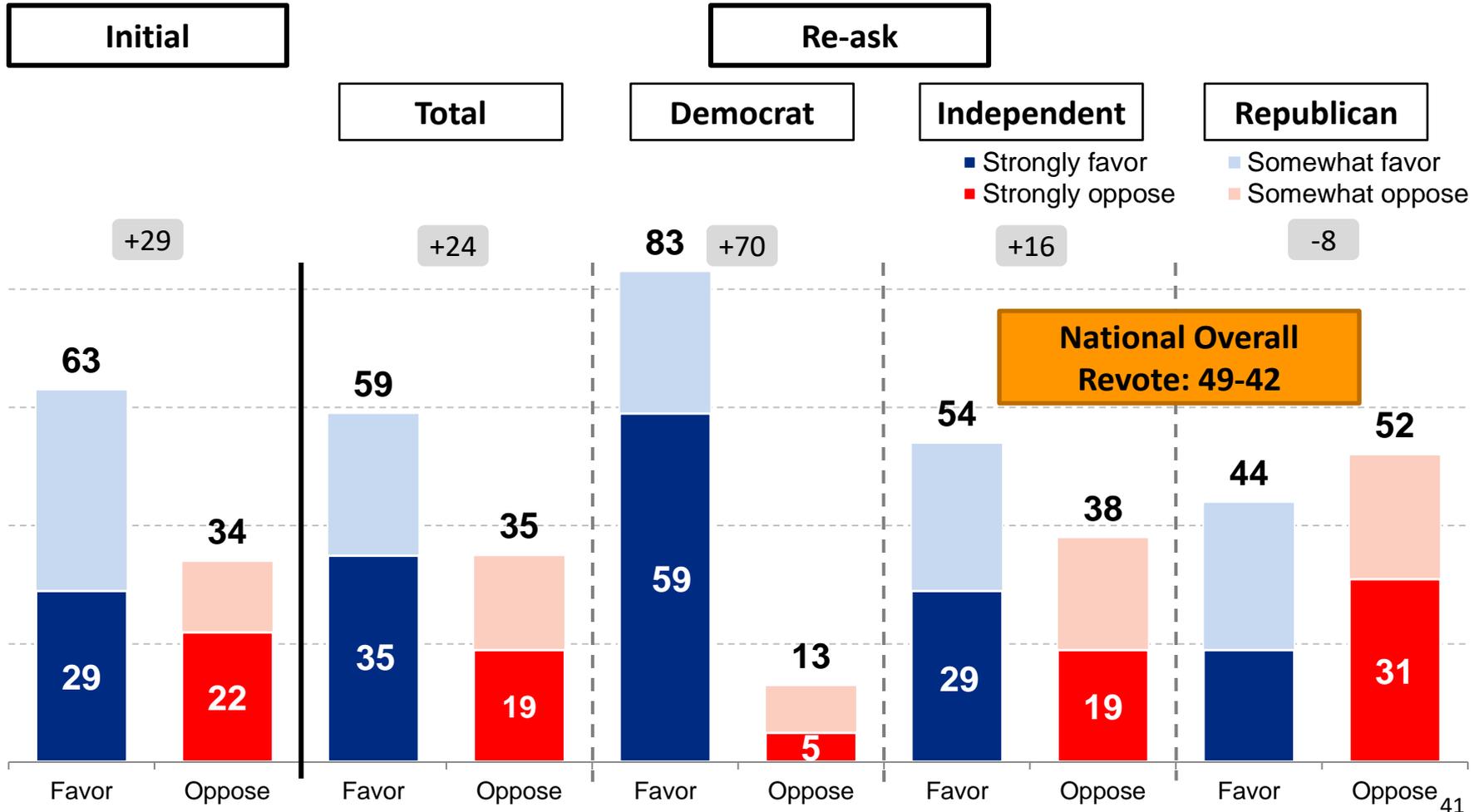
How important is it that this moratorium or ban on the construction of new CAFOs and the expansion of existing CAFOs is passed in the Iowa legislature: very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not at all important?





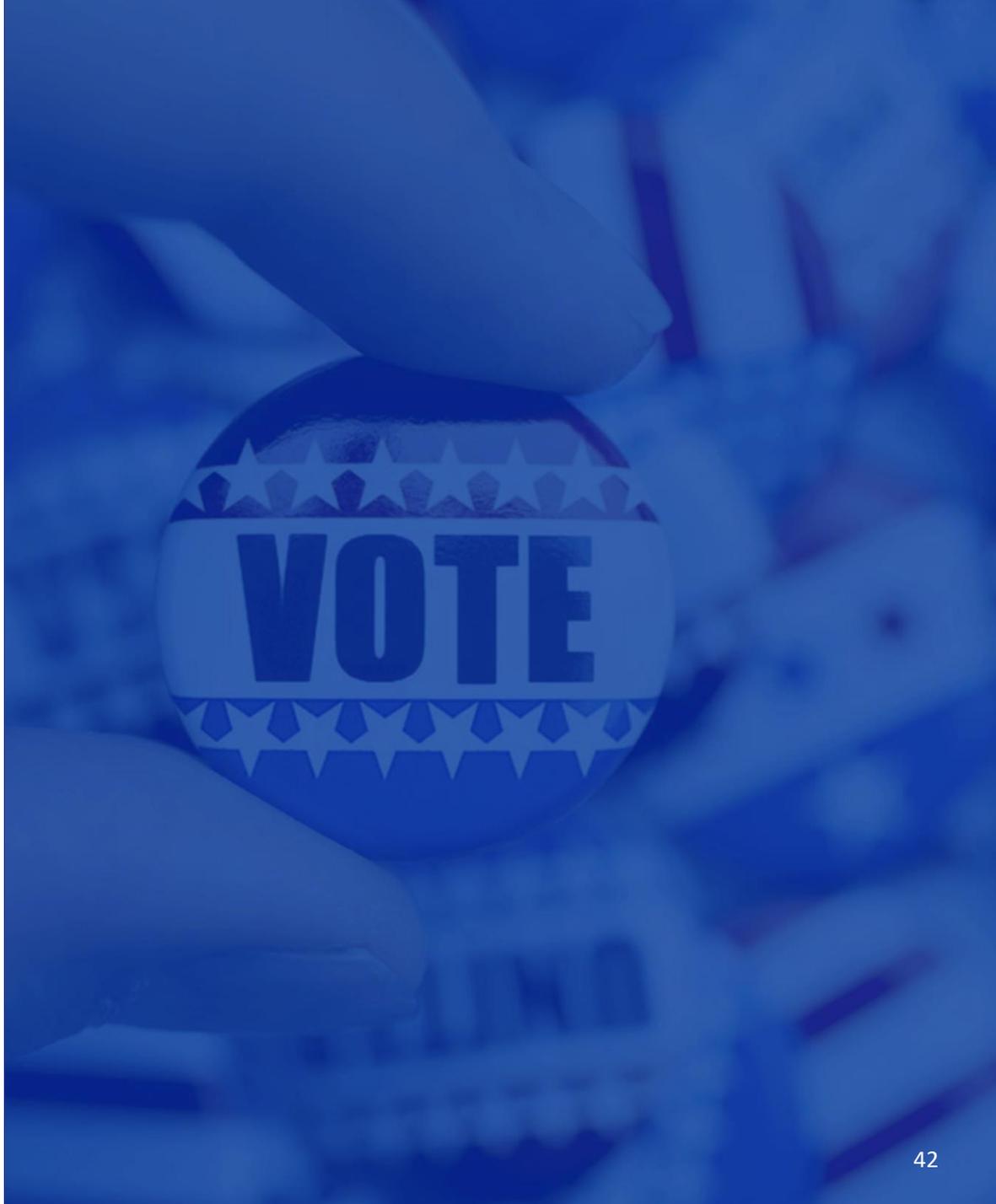
Support for a moratorium grows with more information

Now that you have heard more information, would you favor or oppose a proposal in the Iowa legislature to increase oversight of these CAFOs and to place a moratorium or ban on the construction of new or expansion of existing CAFOs?





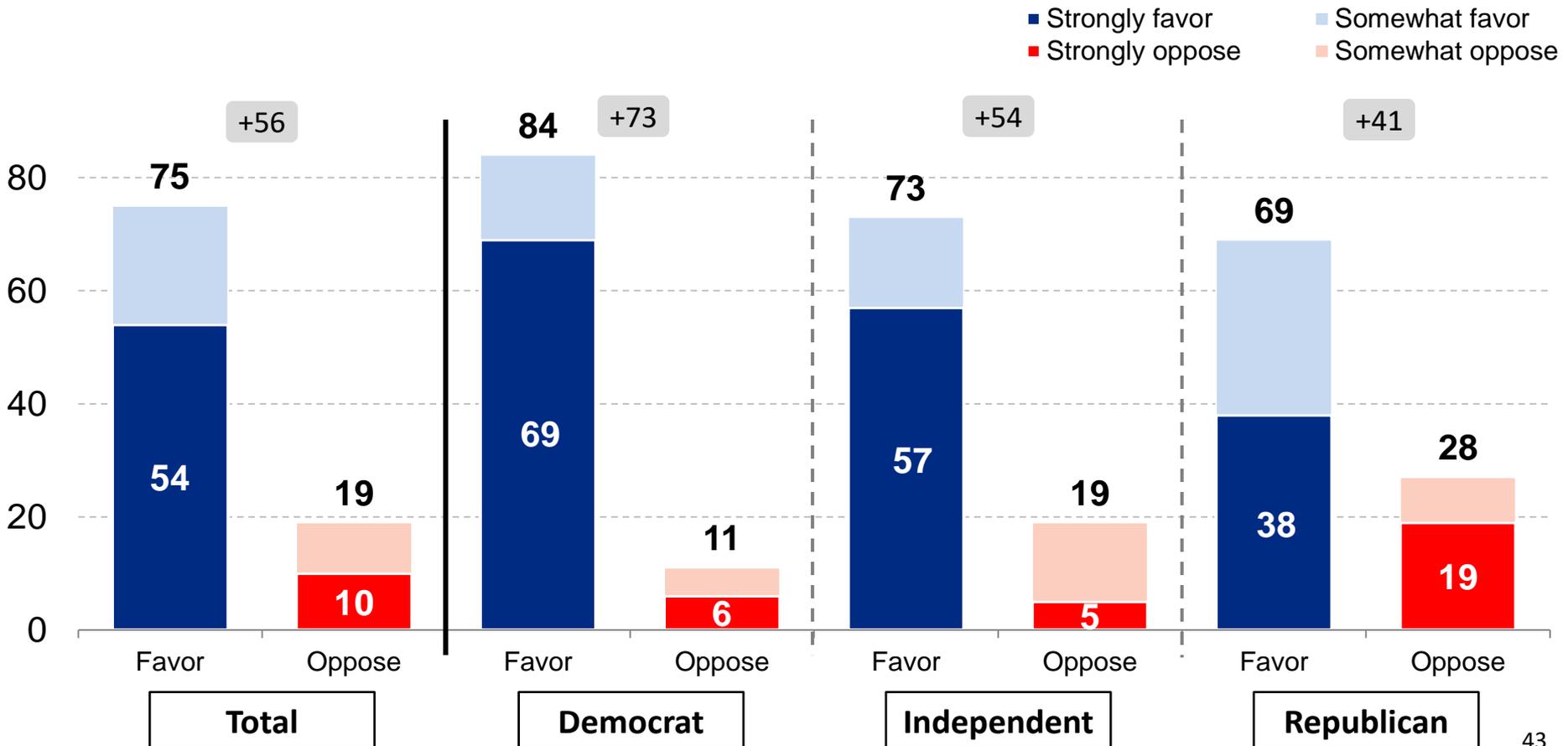
WATER MATRIX





Increasing the passing score for new CAFOs is popular

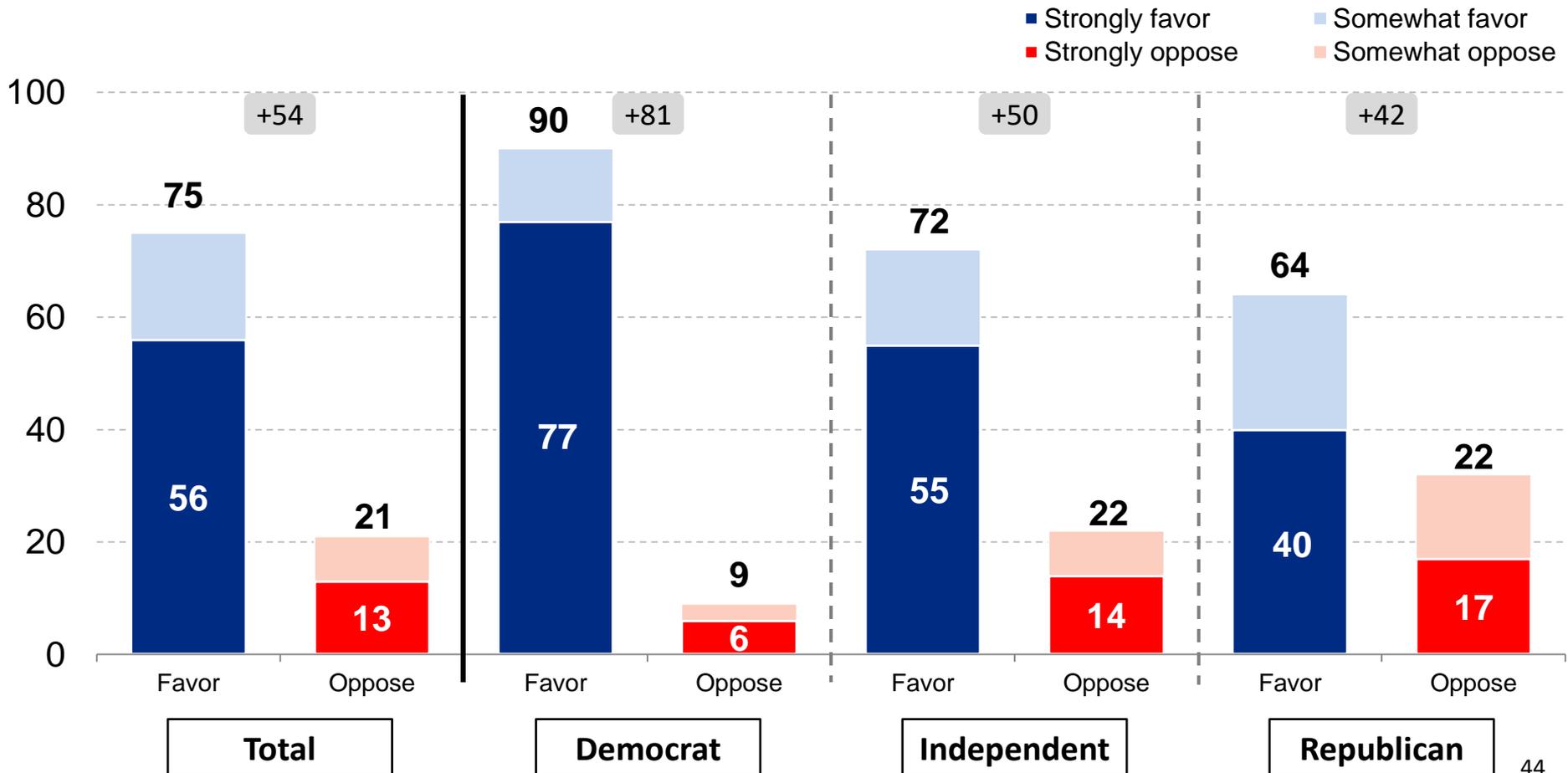
Industrial agricultural companies in Iowa must pass a 44-question environmental impact test in order to build new CAFOs. The test measures the impact of a CAFO on water quality, air quality, and the surrounding community. Currently, a passing score is 50 percent. Do you favor or oppose requiring a passing score of 66 percent?





Support for eliminating exemptions for pre-2002 CAFOs

CAFOs built before 2002 do not need to pass this test in order to expand. Do you favor or oppose implementing tougher environmental impact standards that apply to all CAFOs, including ones built before 2002?



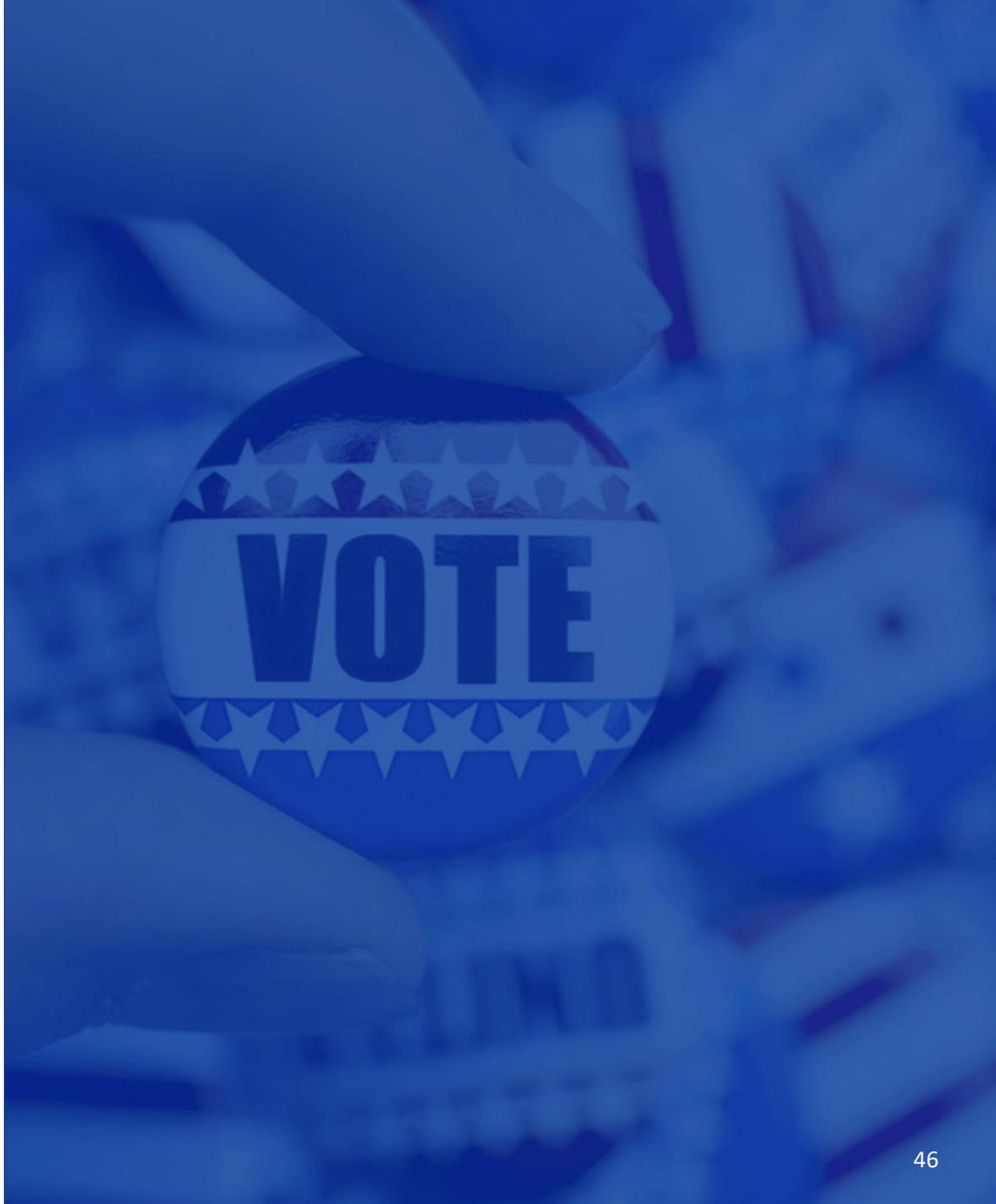


Widespread support for tougher standards shrinks only slightly among demographics when extended to pre-existing CAFOs

	Tougher standards for CAFOs support			Tougher standards for CAFOs prior to 2002 support		
	Favor	Oppose	Net	Favor	Oppose	Net
Total	75	19	+56	75	21	+54
Men	67	26	+41	68	27	+41
Women	82	13	+69	81	16	+65
Dubuque/Iowa City/Water	74	17	+57	81	13	+68
Cedar Rapids/Ottumwa	71	25	+46	69	28	+41
Des Moines	76	21	+55	73	24	+49
Ames excluding Des Moines	77	18	+59	78	18	+60
Sioux City/Council Bluffs	76	17	+59	70	26	+44
Under 50	71	20	+51	72	23	+49
50 and Over	78	19	+59	76	21	+55



NORTH CAROLINA

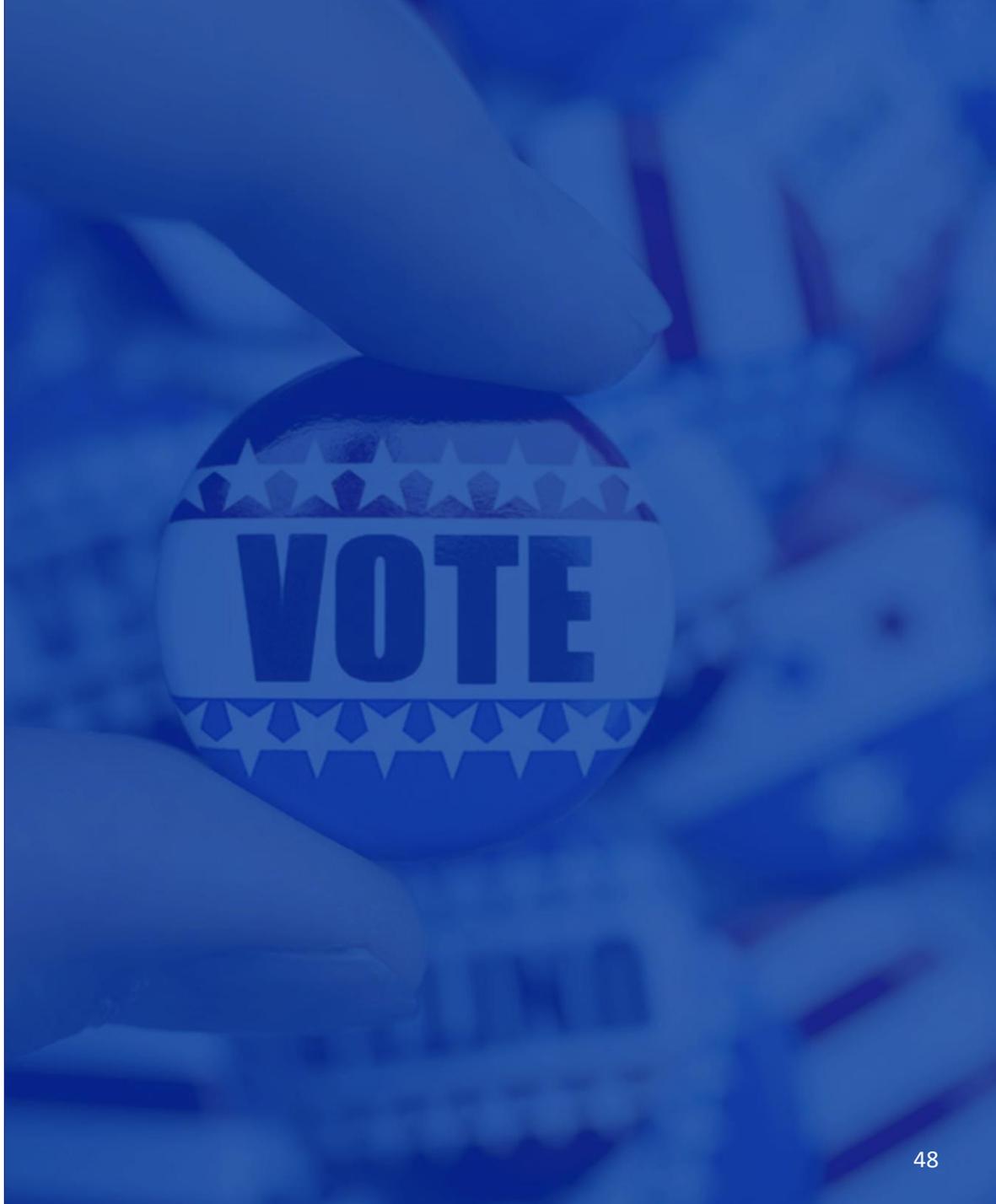


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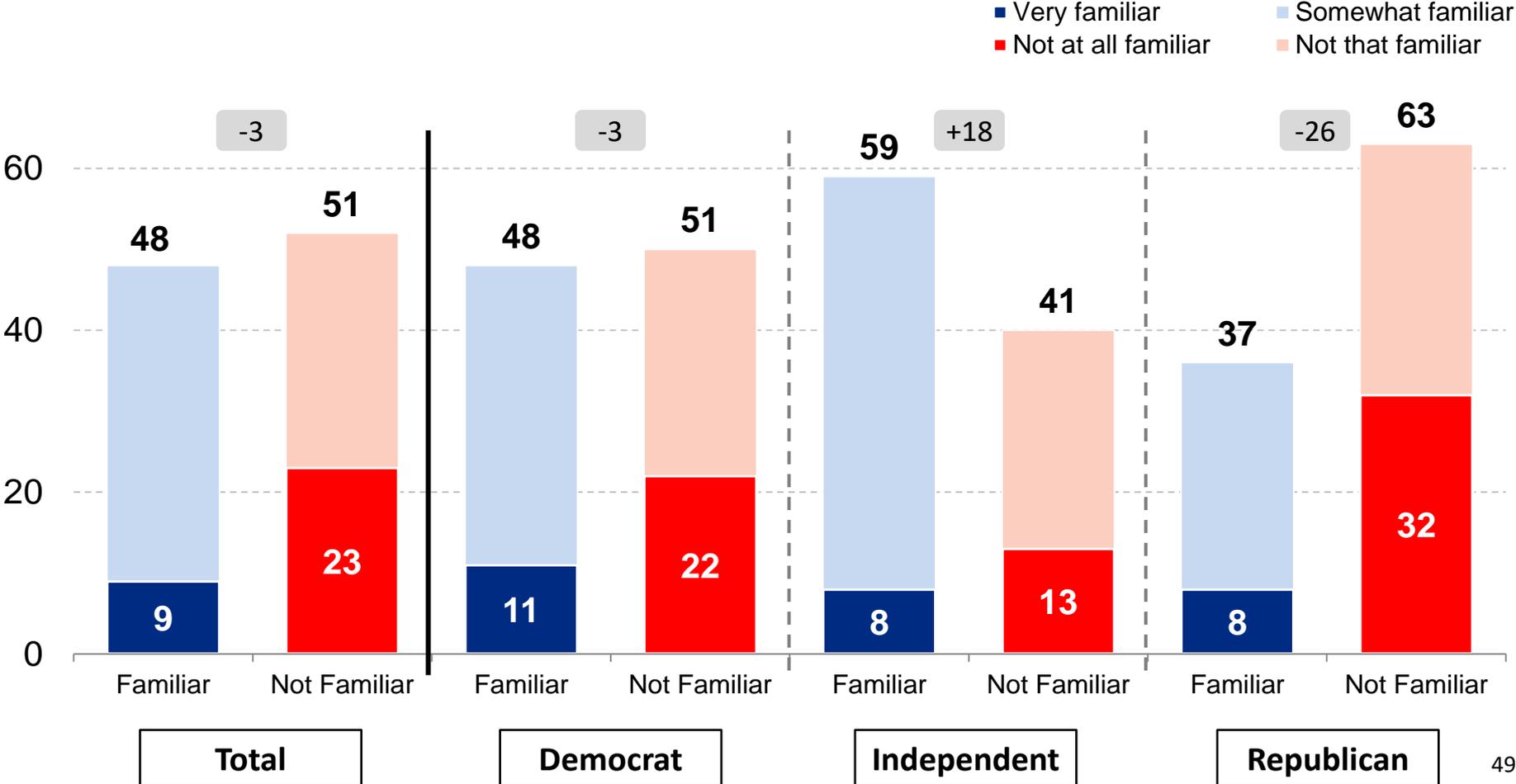
INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE IN NORTH CAROLINA





North Carolina voters are not very familiar with the farming industry

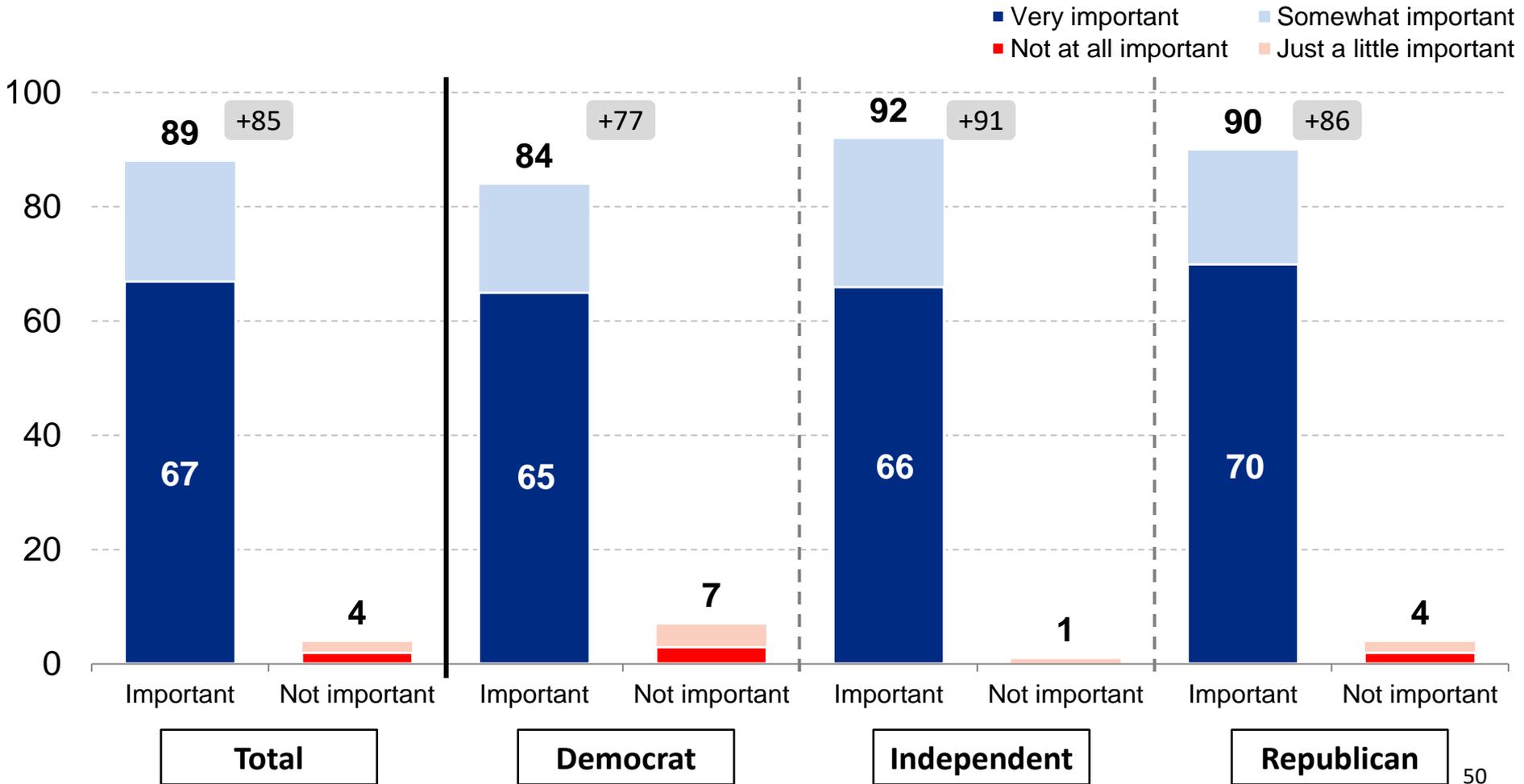
How familiar are you with industrial animal farming, or farming that produces large quantities of meat for commercial sale?





But industrial ag recognized as very important to North Carolina's economy

From what you know or have heard, how important is industrial animal farming and the meat industry to the Iowa economy?





Economic benefits are clear, more see water pollution than air pollution

Now I am going to read you a list of phrases that people might use to describe industrial hog and swine farms in Iowa. For each phrase, please tell me whether it describes industrial hog and swine farms in Iowa very well, well, not too well, or not well at all.

Positive

Create jobs and are an important part of the local economy.

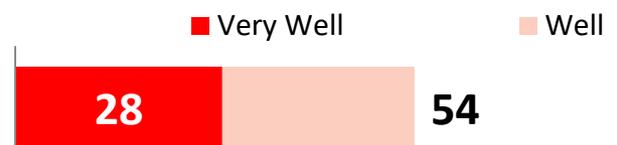


Produce mass quantities of food and keep the cost of food down.



Negative

Care more about profits than regular people.



Contribute a significant amount to water pollution in the area.



Contribute a significant amount to air pollution in nearby communities.

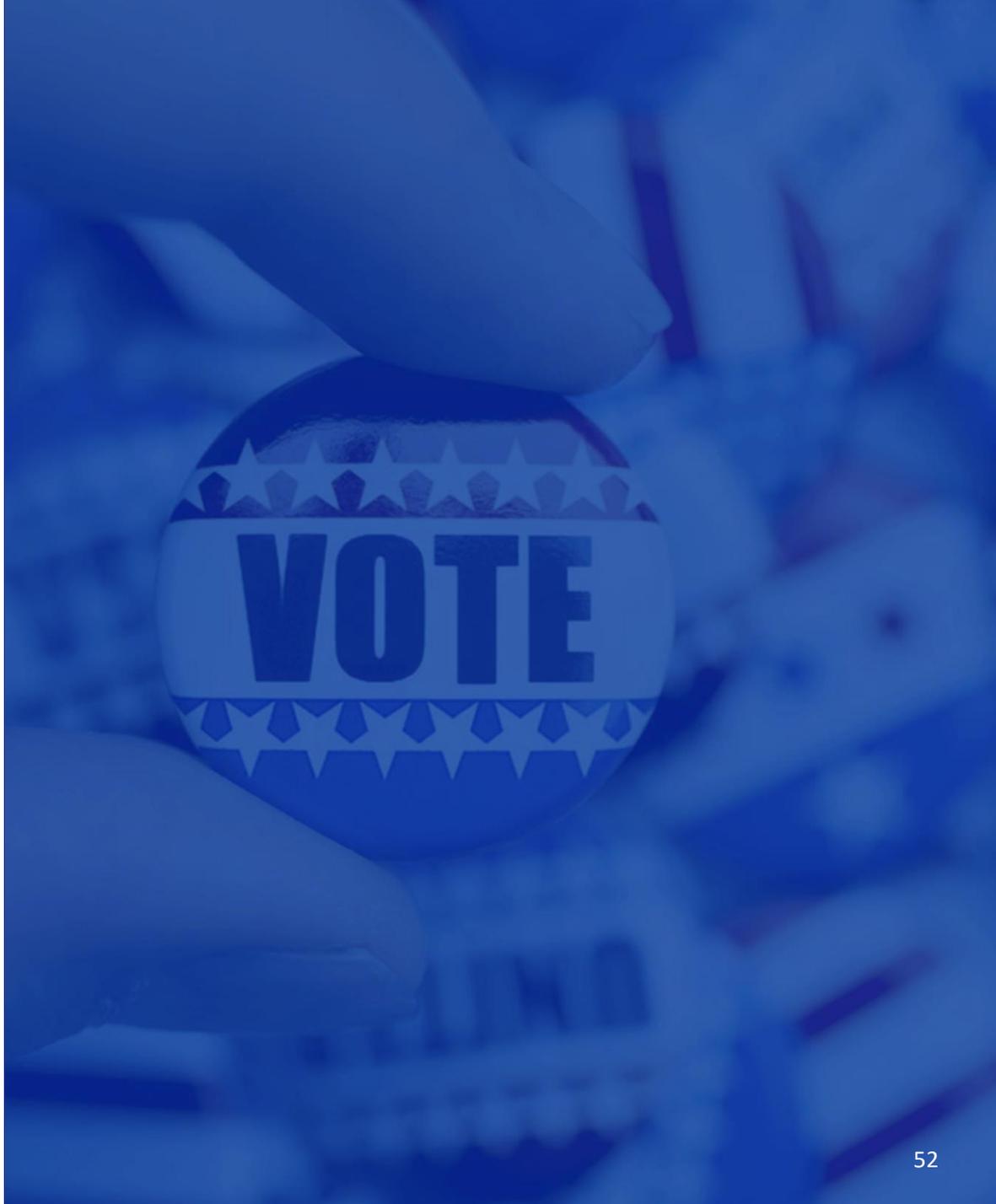


Have a negative impact on the health of people in North Carolina.





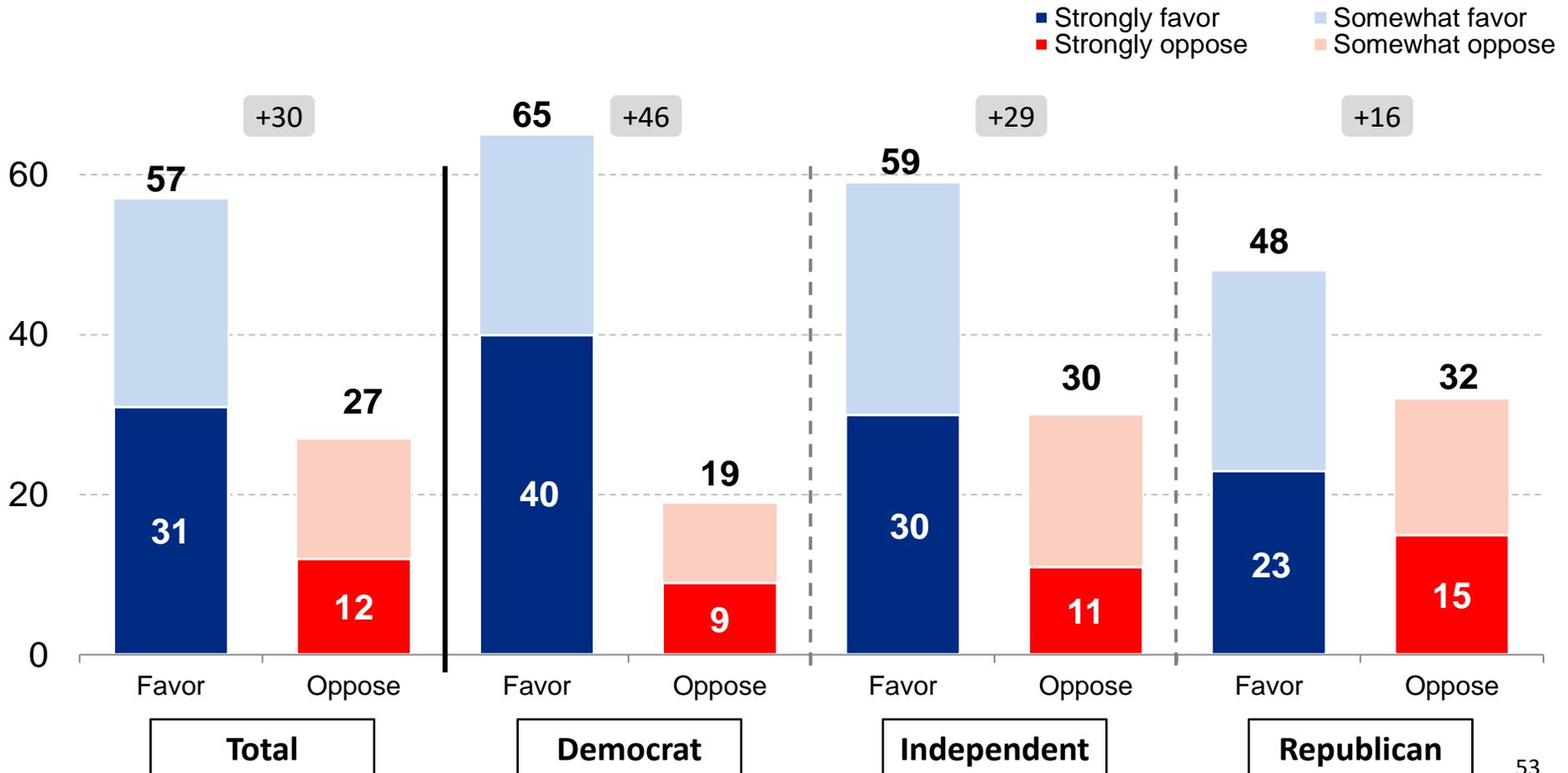
CAFO MORATORIUM





2007 moratorium is overwhelmingly supported across party lines

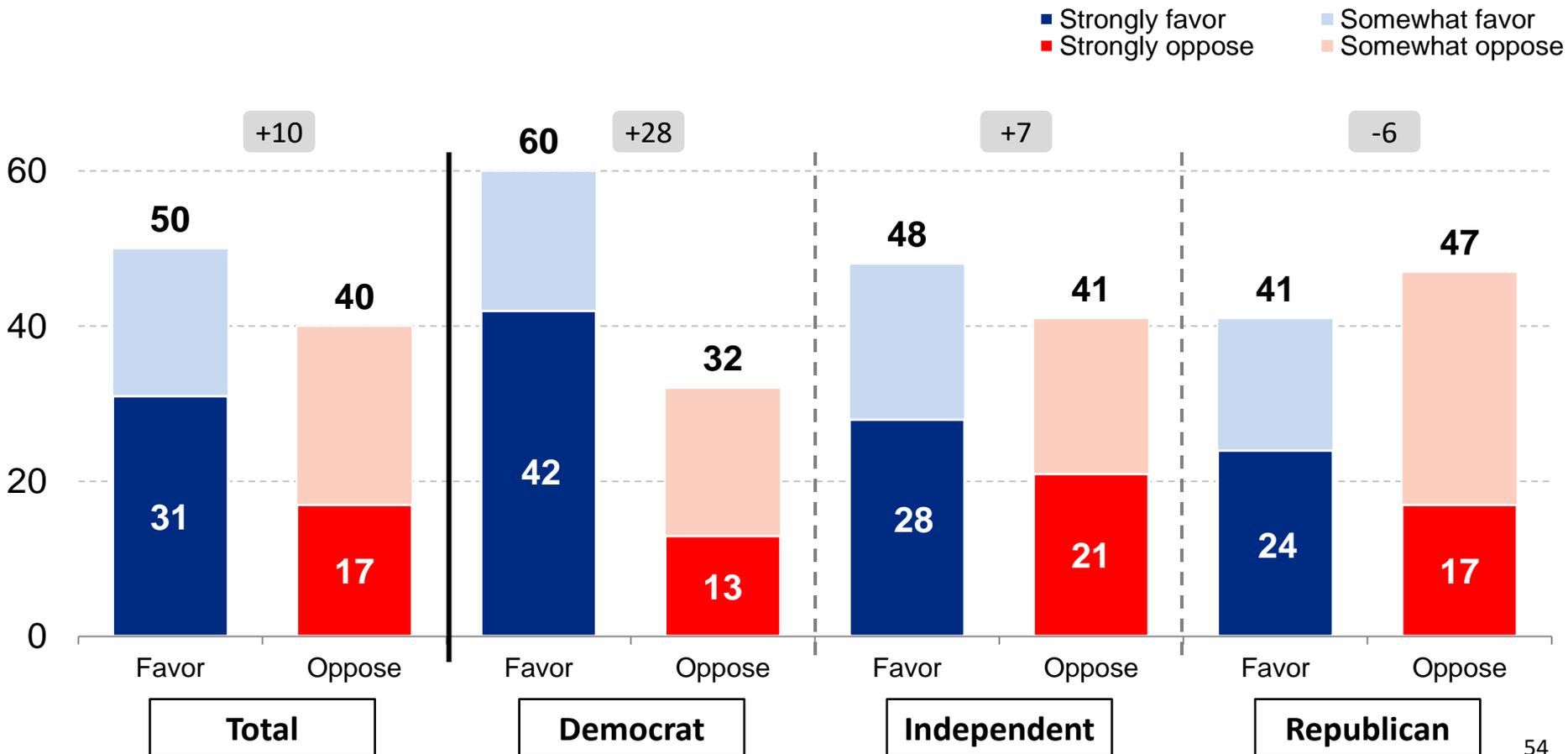
As you may know, North Carolina implemented a moratorium or ban on new Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, or CAFOs in 2007. From what you may know, do you favor or oppose this moratorium or ban?





Less support for applying 2007 ban to existing CAFOs

The 2007 North Carolina moratorium or ban on CAFOs only affected new CAFOs and did not impact existing CAFOs. Would you support or oppose limiting the expansion of existing CAFOs in North Carolina, meaning existing CAFOs in the state would not be allowed to grow?





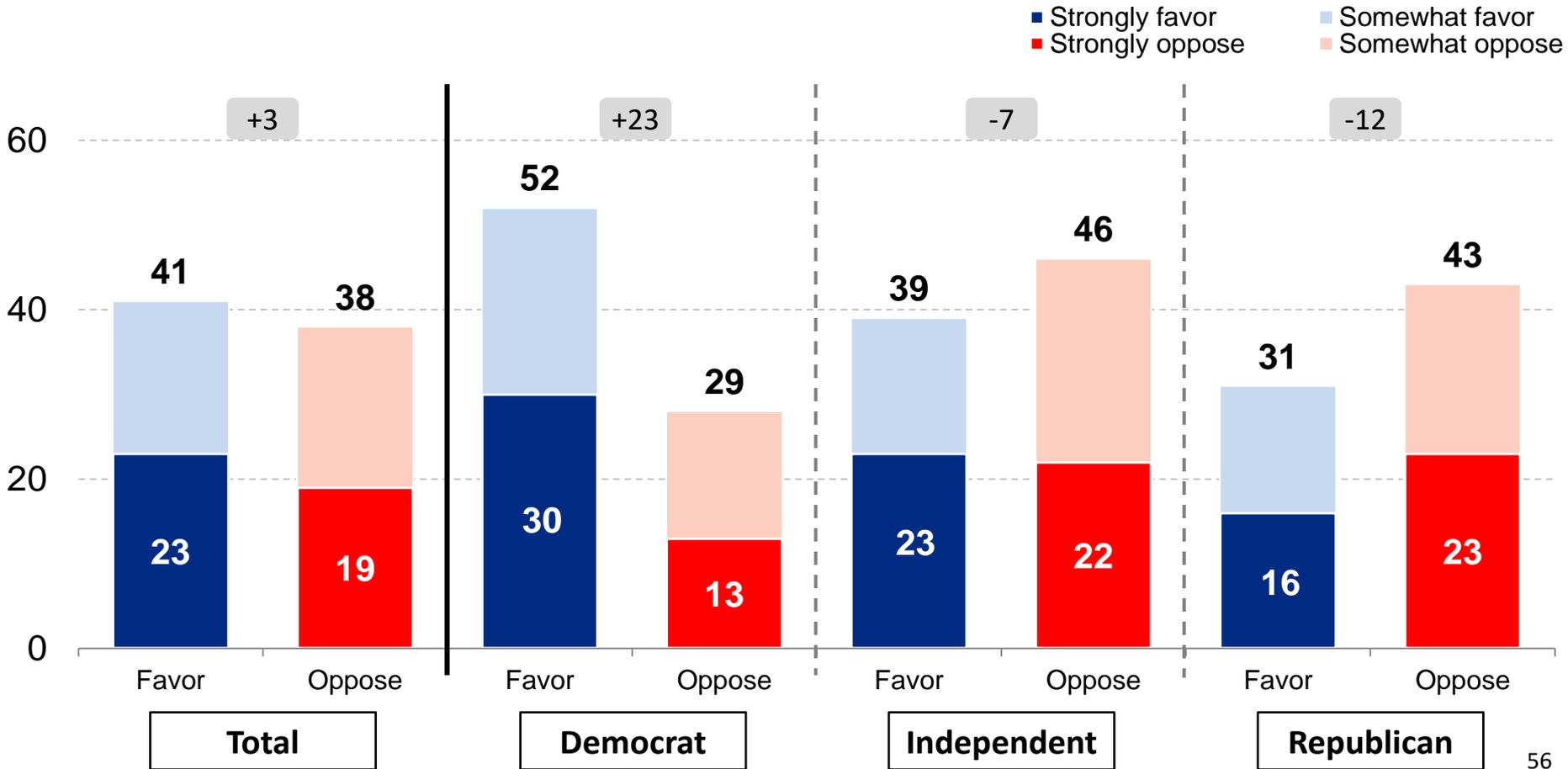
All demographics have some drop off when asked about limiting expansion

	2007 Moratorium Support			Limit Expansion Support		
	Favor	Oppose	Net	Favor	Oppose	Net
Total	57	27	+30	50	40	+10
Men	53	31	+22	47	43	+4
Women	60	23	+37	52	37	+15
East	56	26	+30	48	42	+6
Research Triangle	55	38	+17	48	43	+5
Greensville/Winston-Salem	52	18	+34	52	30	+22
Charlotte/Mecklenburg	54	30	+24	39	49	-10
Mountain	73	15	+58	70	25	+45
Under 50	60	25	+35	58	34	+24
50 and Over	54	29	+25	43	43	-
White	59	26	+34	51	38	+13
African-American	51	29	+22	47	41	+6



Low support in North Carolina for a national ban, voters uncertain

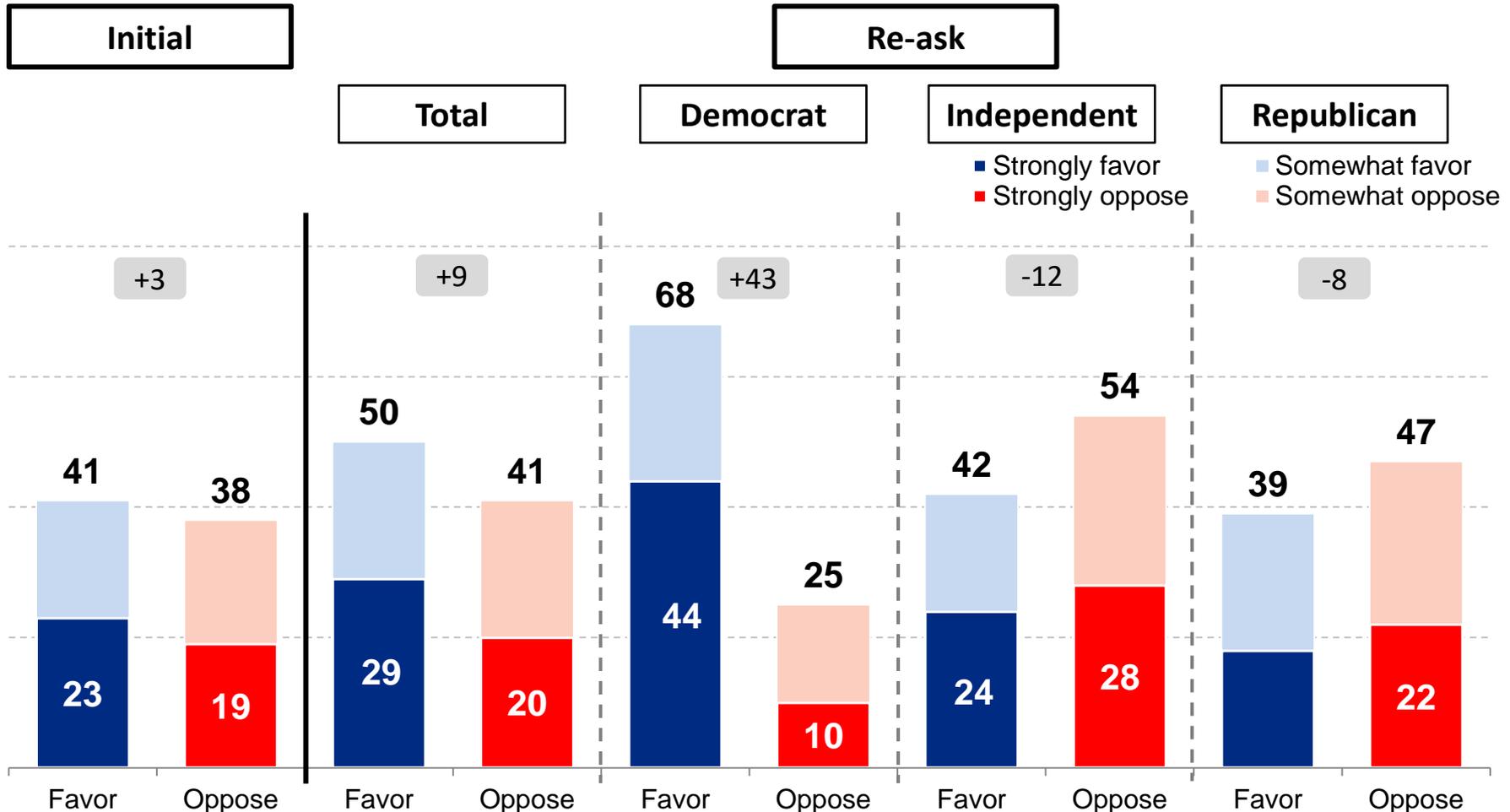
Some large industrial cattle, swine or poultry operations that have thousands of animals in one confined location are also called Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, or CAFOs. From what you may know, do you favor or oppose a national moratorium or ban on the creation of new CAFOs?





Support for a national moratorium grows with more information

After hearing more information, let me ask again, do you favor or oppose a national moratorium or ban on the creation of new CAFOs?

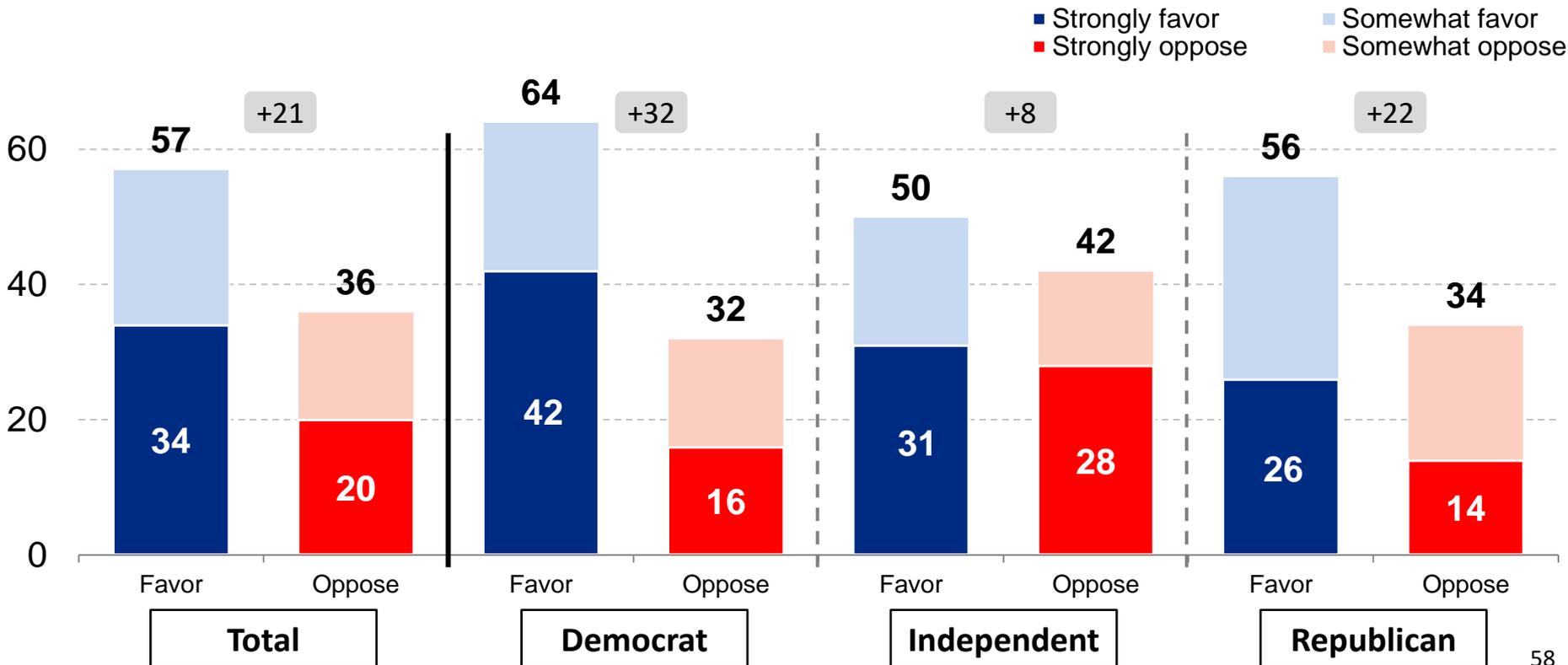




With more info, support for ban on CAFO expansion increases

The 2007 North Carolina moratorium or ban on CAFOs only affected new CAFOs and did not impact existing CAFOs. Instead of opening new CAFOs, industrial agriculture companies have expanded in size. In 2007, North Carolina had 93 million animals. That number has grown to more than 102 million animals on just 2,500 CAFOs.

Knowing that, would you support or oppose limiting the expansion of existing CAFOs in North Carolina?





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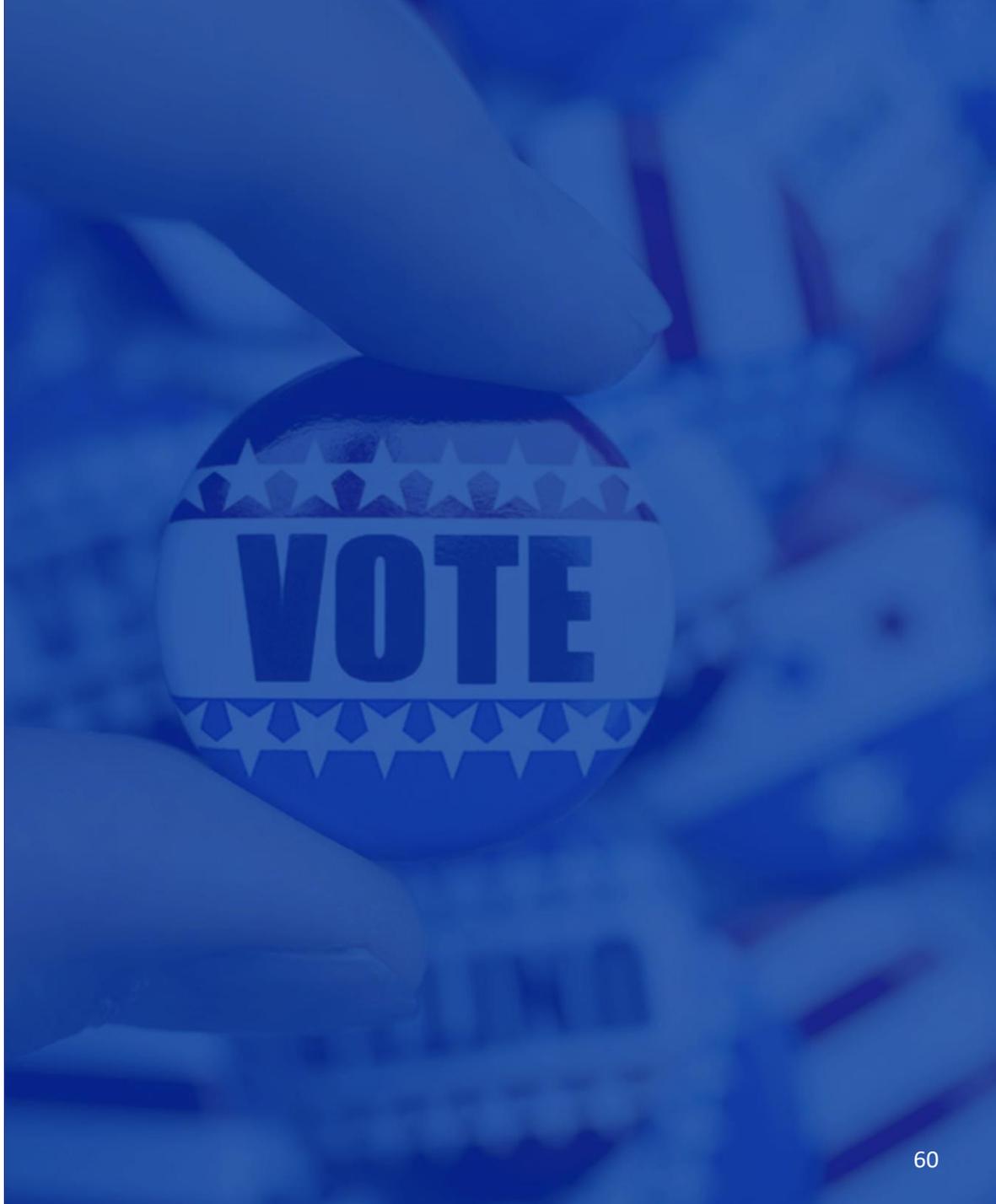
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APPENDIX





Appendix: text of CAFO descriptions

CAFO Description Text

(ANTIBIOTICS) Nearly all farm animals are given antibiotics, even if they are not sick; 80 percent of all antibiotics used in the US are used in agriculture. This contributes to the rising number of diseases that are resistant to antibiotics, which cause 23,000 deaths each year.

(RIVERS) Hog, chicken and cattle waste has contaminated 35,000 miles of rivers in 22 states.

(SPLIT) (WORKERS) Workers and people who live near CAFOs experience unsafe levels of toxic gases and dusts containing pathogens, and face recurring respiratory problems. One in four livestock workers suffer from bronchitis.

(SPLIT) (WASTE DEFINITION) A CAFO is any Animal Feeding Operation where animals are confined for 45 days or more and their manure and wastewater is often discharged into nearby ditches, streams or other waterways.

(SPLIT) (ALGAE) Animal waste contains nitrates and can be used to fertilize crops. Nitrates from animal waste can run off farms during rain and cause bright-green algae blooms in ditches, streams, and lakes, which is dangerous for swimming, drinking, and fish and wild animals that rely on the water.

(SPLIT) (AIR QUALITY) CAFO waste emits more than 168 different kinds of gasses, including ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and methane. These gasses, as well as airborne particulate matter, can carry disease-causing bacteria and fungus to nearby communities, and if breathed in by workers they can cause death.



Appendix: text of CAFO descriptions

CAFO Description Text

(SPLIT) (NITRATES) Animal waste contains nitrates and can be used to fertilize crops. Nitrates from animal waste can run off farms when it rains and contaminate drinking water, which can cause birth defects and certain types of cancer. CAFOs produce half of all animal waste.

(SUBSIDIZED) All CAFOs are subsidized by taxpayer money. In total CAFOs receive billions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies each year.

(LOCATION) CAFOs are disproportionately located near low-income communities and communities of color.

(ENERGY USE) Food produced in CAFOs uses nearly 12 times the energy it takes to produce food outside of CAFOs.

(SPLIT) (SIZE DEFINITION) A CAFO is a Large Animal Feeding Operation that contains more than one thousand animal units, which is the equivalent of 1,000 heads of cattle, 700 dairy cows, 2,500 swine, or 125,000 chickens.

(FREQUENCY) There are nearly 20,000 CAFOs across the US.

(SLAUGHTER) Over 9 billion animals are raised and slaughtered in the U.S. annually.