

# California Voter Opinion: Constitutional Convention

*Summary of Statewide Poll conducted for Repair California*



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# Methodology

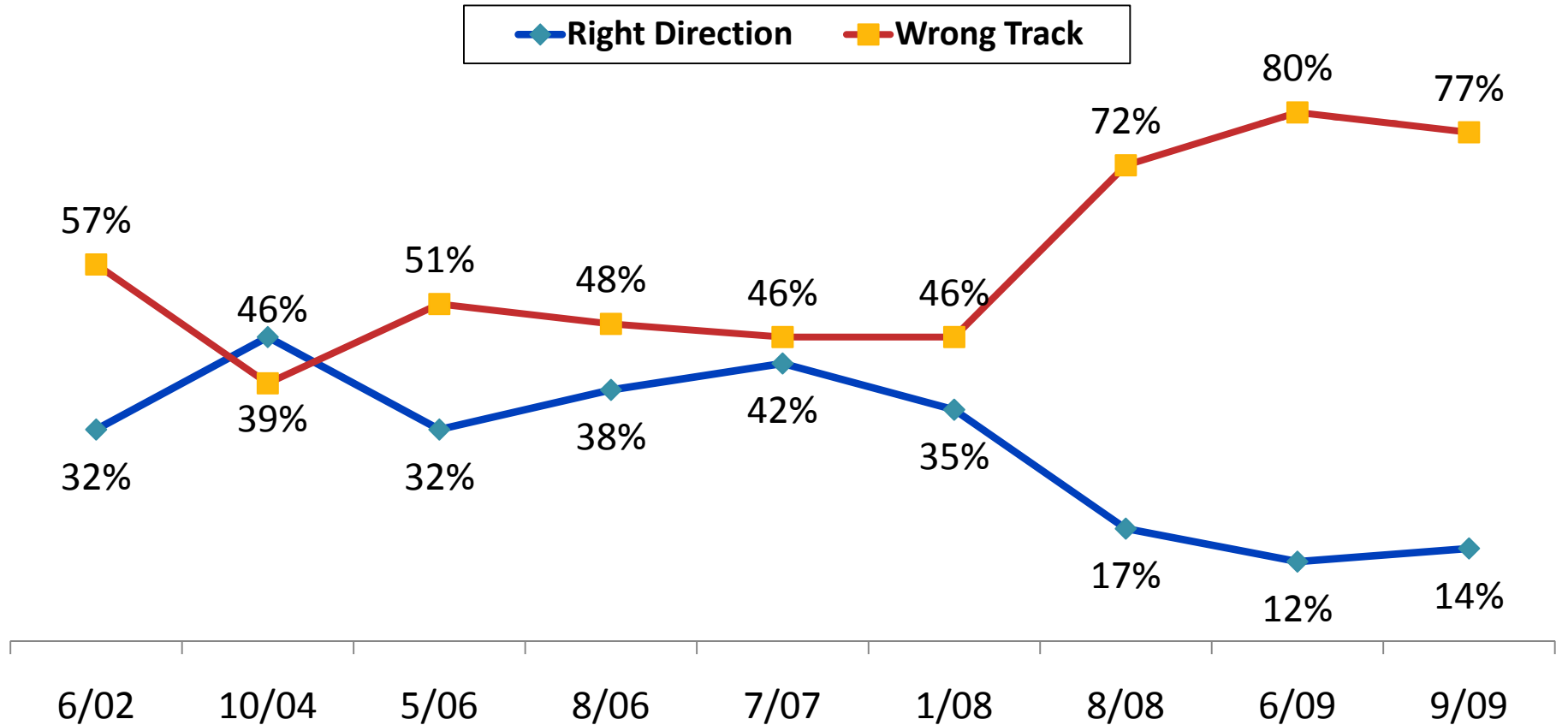
- Telephone survey
- September 8-13, 2009
- Random sample of 1,000 voters statewide
- Overall margin of error  $\pm 3.1\%$

*As with any opinion research, the release of selected figures from this report without the analysis that explains their meaning would be damaging to EMC. Therefore, EMC reserves the right to correct any misleading release of this data in any medium through the release of correct data or analysis.*

*Please note that due to rounding, percentages may not add up to exactly 100%*

# California voters continue to be extremely pessimistic.

*Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel that things are pretty seriously off on the wrong track?*



# A majority of voters believe state government is broken and fundamental reforms are needed.

6. Which of the following statements most closely matches your opinion

We already have the power needed to change state government with term limits and the ability to vote out current politicians. We don't need to change government, they just need to do their jobs better.

40%

**Our state government is broken. We need fundamental reforms and structural change that would put the people back in charge of their government.**

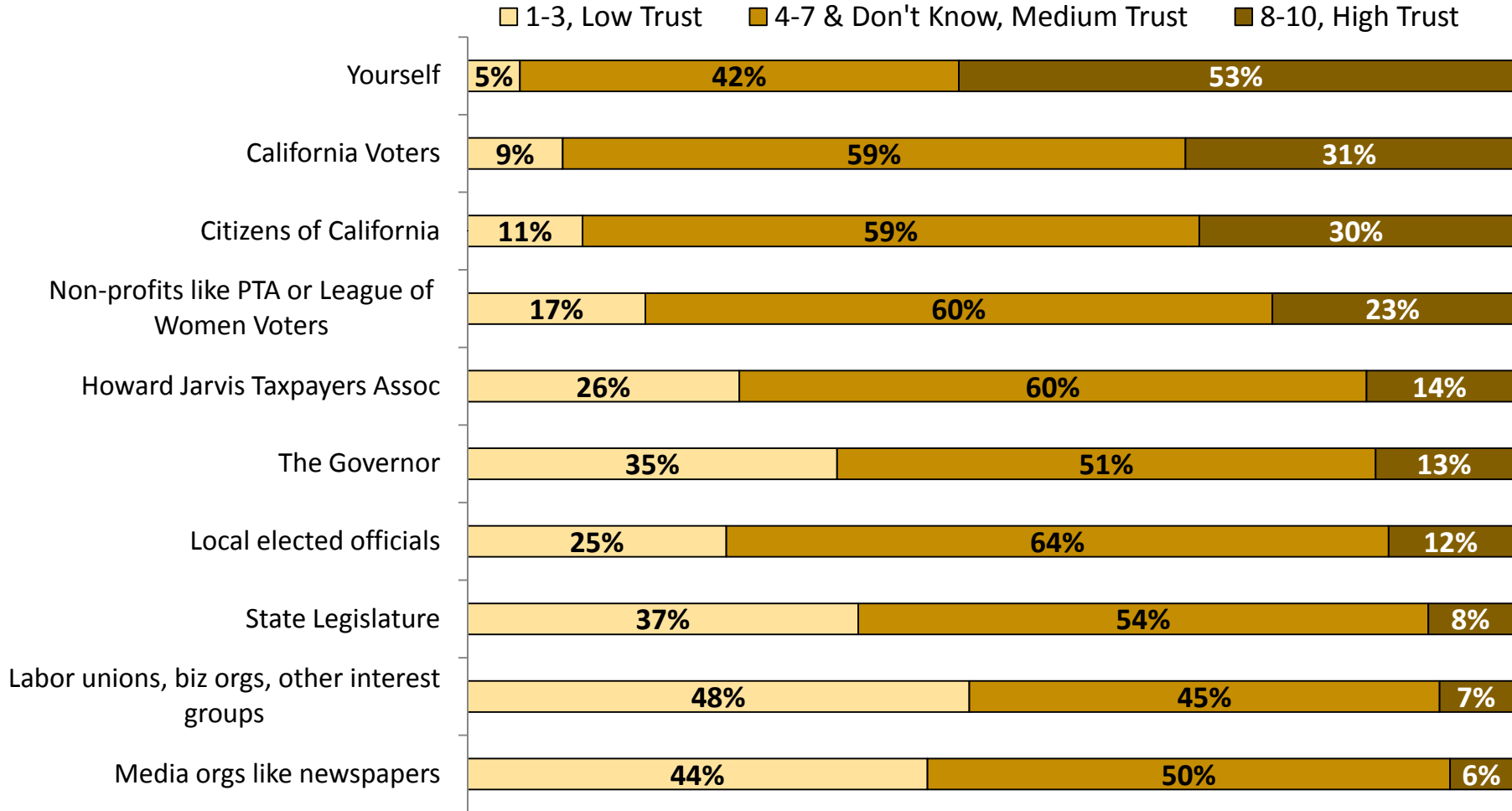
53%

Neither/Both/Don't Know

8%

# Voters have little trust in anyone but themselves.

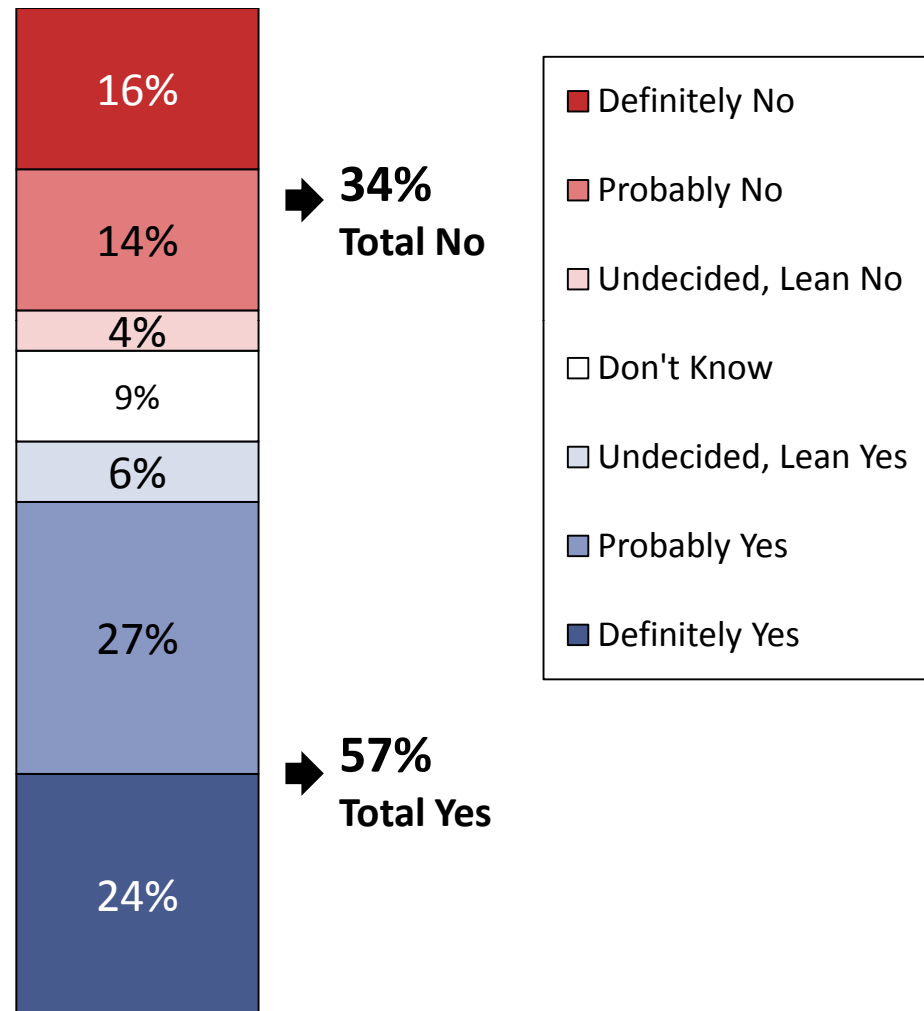
For each of the following please tell me how much you trust their ability to make the right decisions for the future of California?



# A majority of California voters indicate at least soft support for the Citizens' Constitutional Convention Act (Prop 1).

If the election were held today, would you vote yes to approve or no to reject a measure that reads:

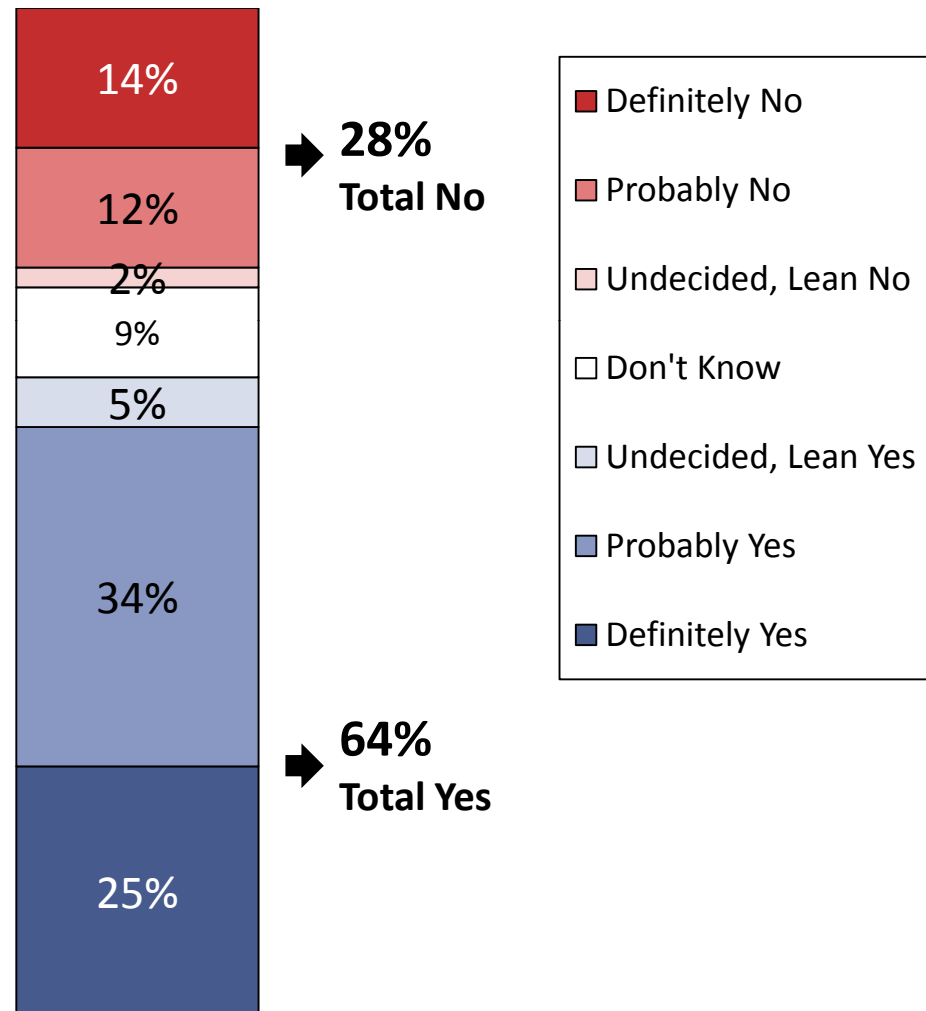
**The Citizens' Constitutional Convention Act.** Shall the California Constitution be amended to give the citizens of California the right, with a majority vote of the people, to call for a constitutional convention for the purpose of revising the Constitution of the State?



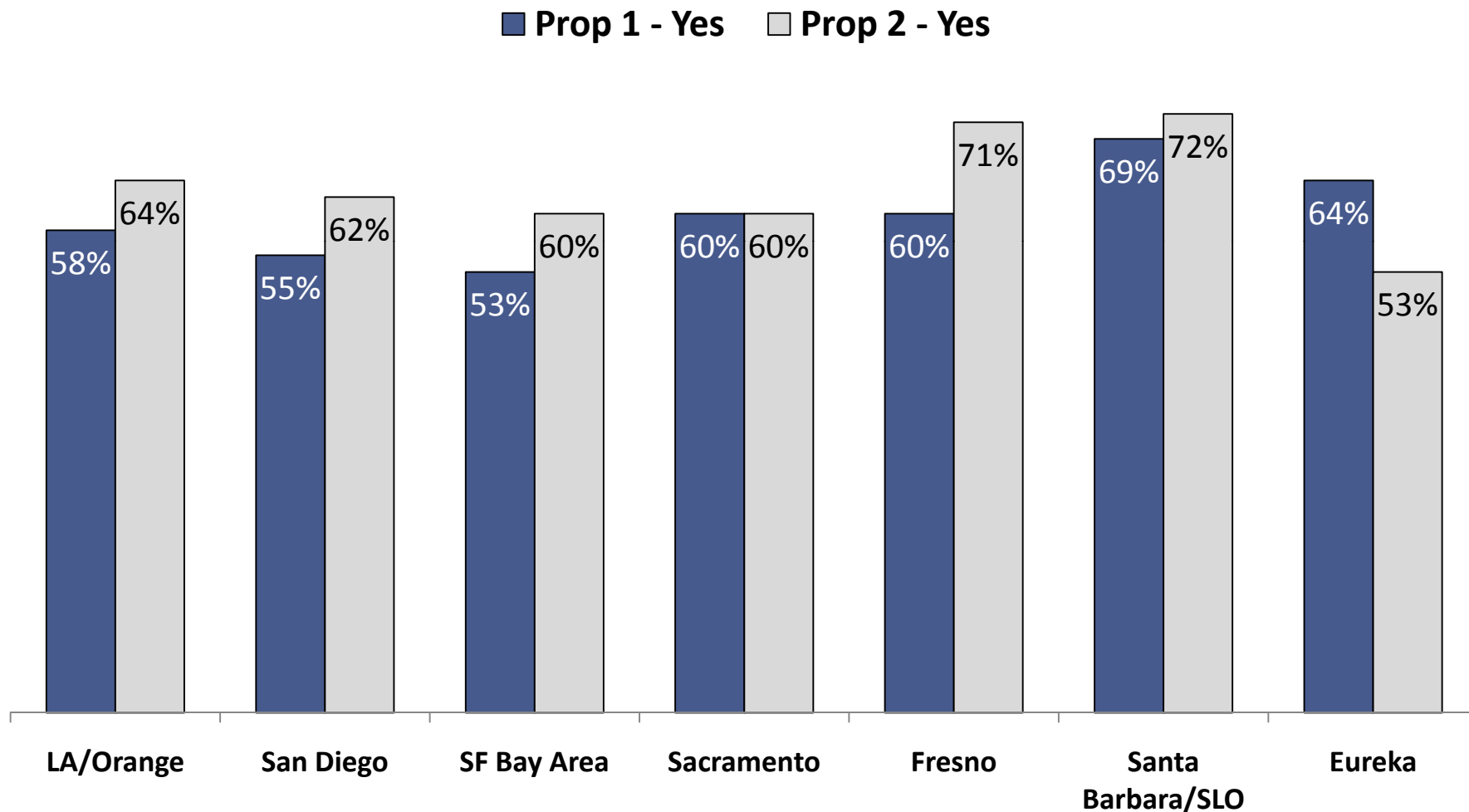
# Nearly two-thirds of California voters support the Call for a Constitutional Convention (Prop 2).

If the election were held today, would you vote yes to approve or no to reject a measure that reads:

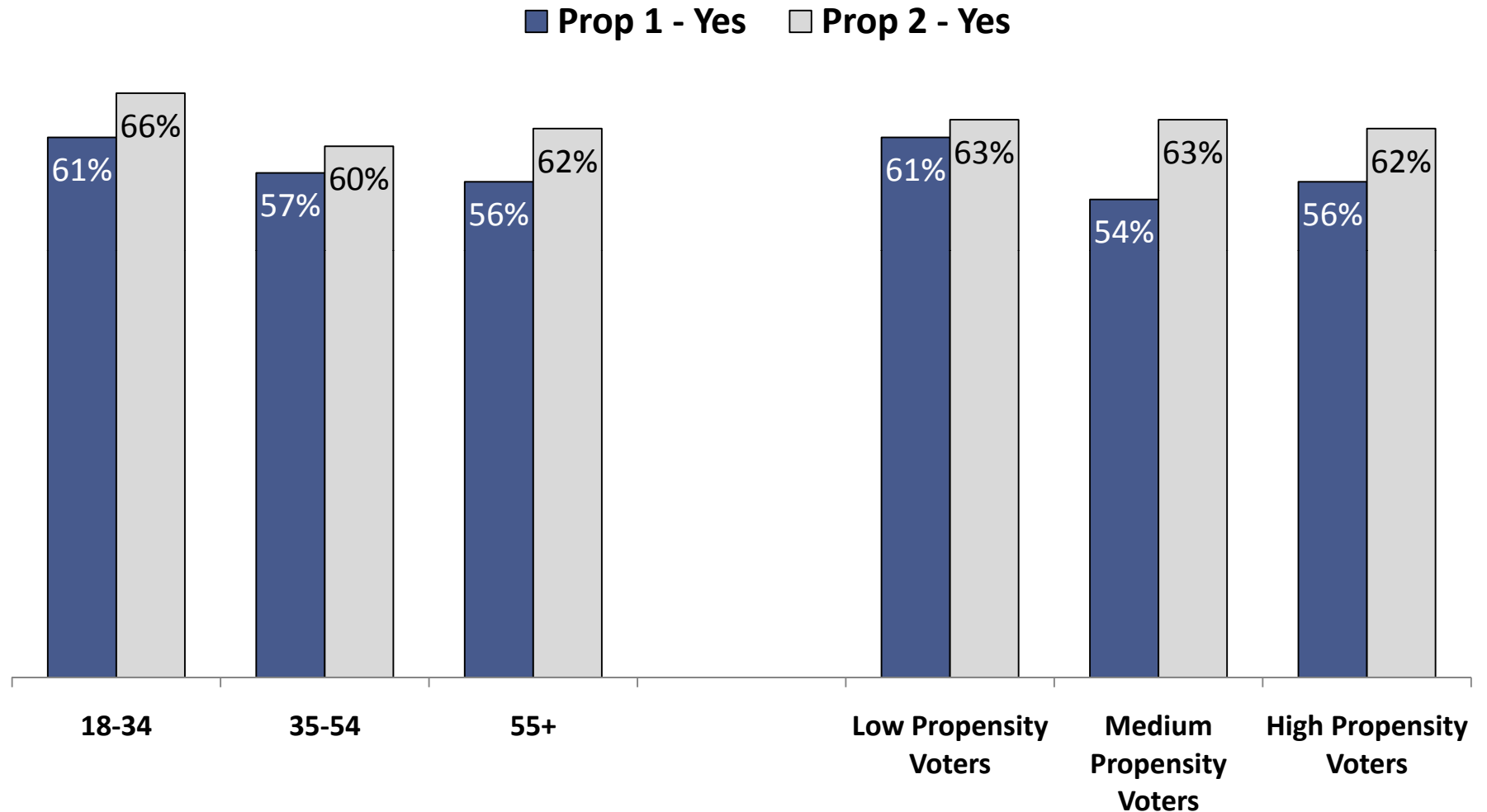
**The Call for a Citizens' Constitutional Convention.** Shall the State of California hold a limited Constitutional Convention for the purpose of revising the Constitution of the State? Delegates to a convention shall reflect a representative cross section of the people of the state. Reforms recommended by the convention must be approved by majority of California voters.



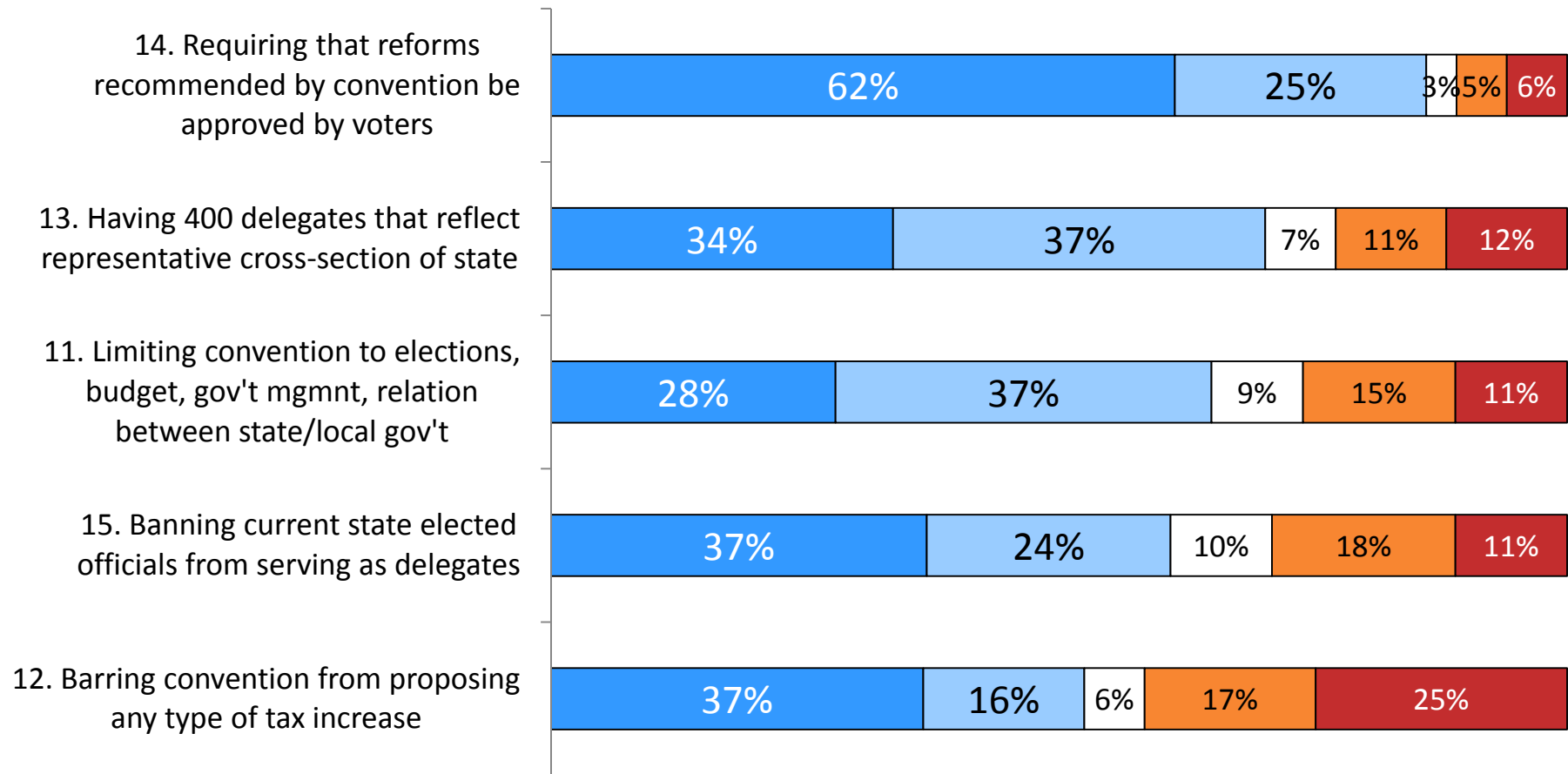
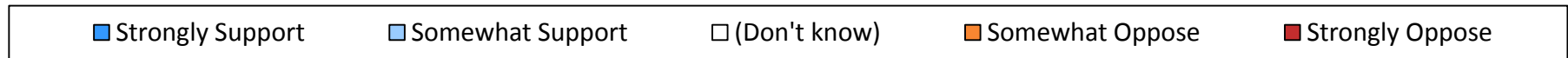
## Support for a convention exists throughout the state.



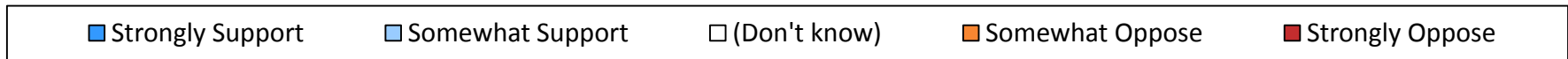
# Support is high among each age group, and with high propensity voters.



# Voters strongly support requiring final voter approval of constitutional reforms.

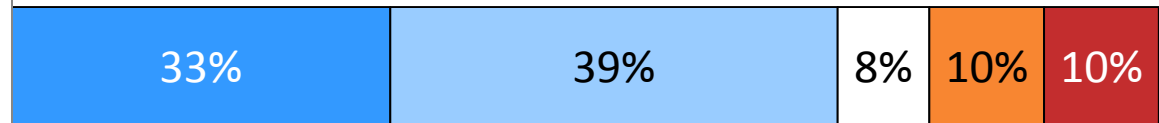


# A majority of voters support election and scientific sampling methods for delegate selection.



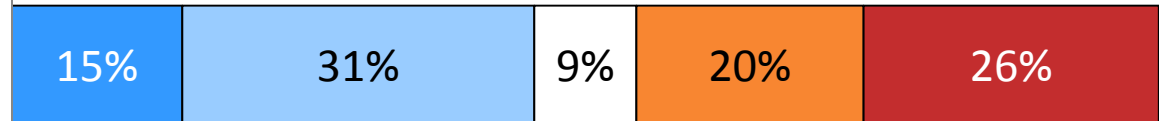
16. Having delegates elected by voters on a regional basis

*SAMPLE A ONLY (n=334)*



17. Having delegates chosen from a group of leading experts and appointed by governing body

*SAMPLE B ONLY (n=333)*

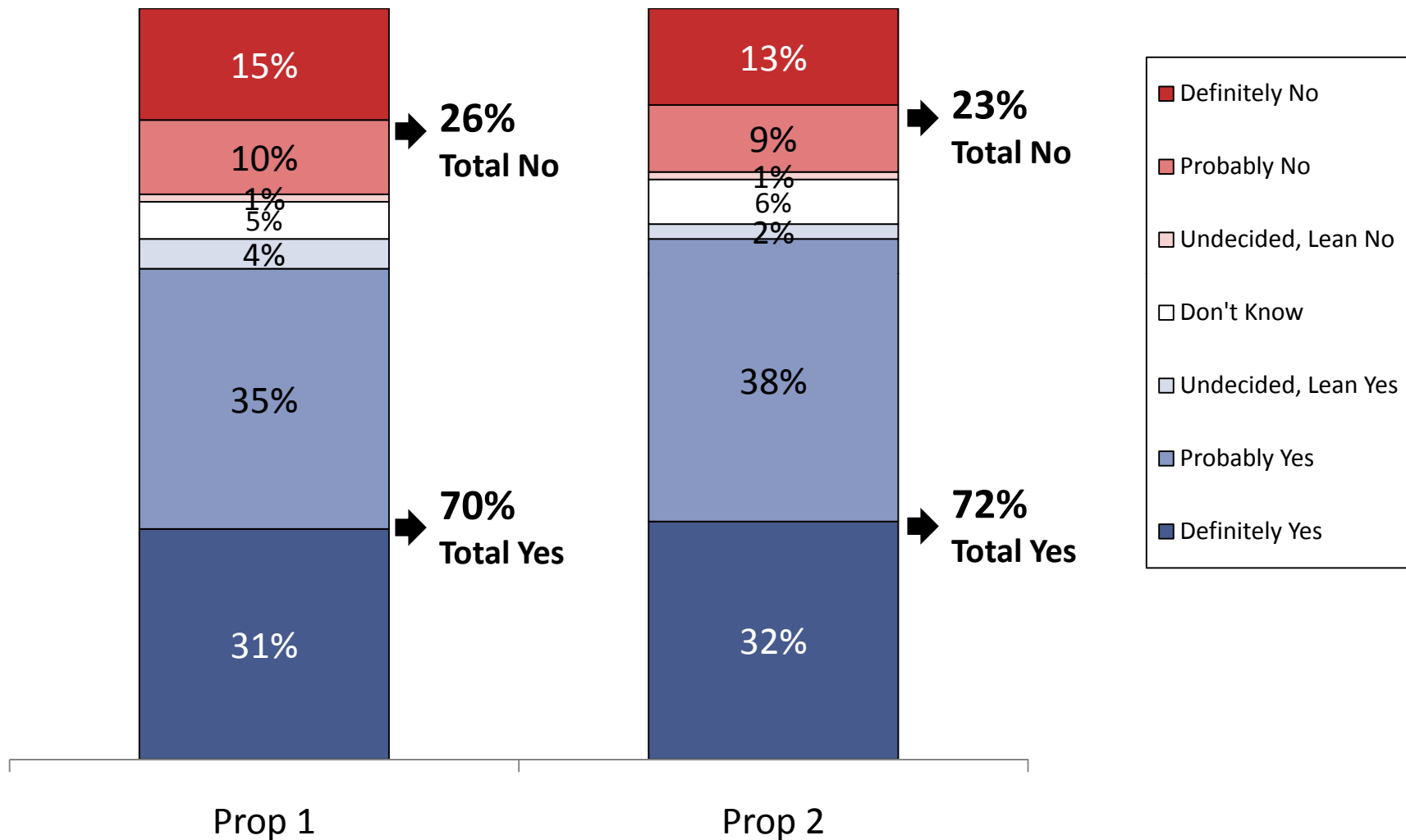


18. Having delegates chosen using scientific sampling

*SAMPLE C ONLY (n=333)*



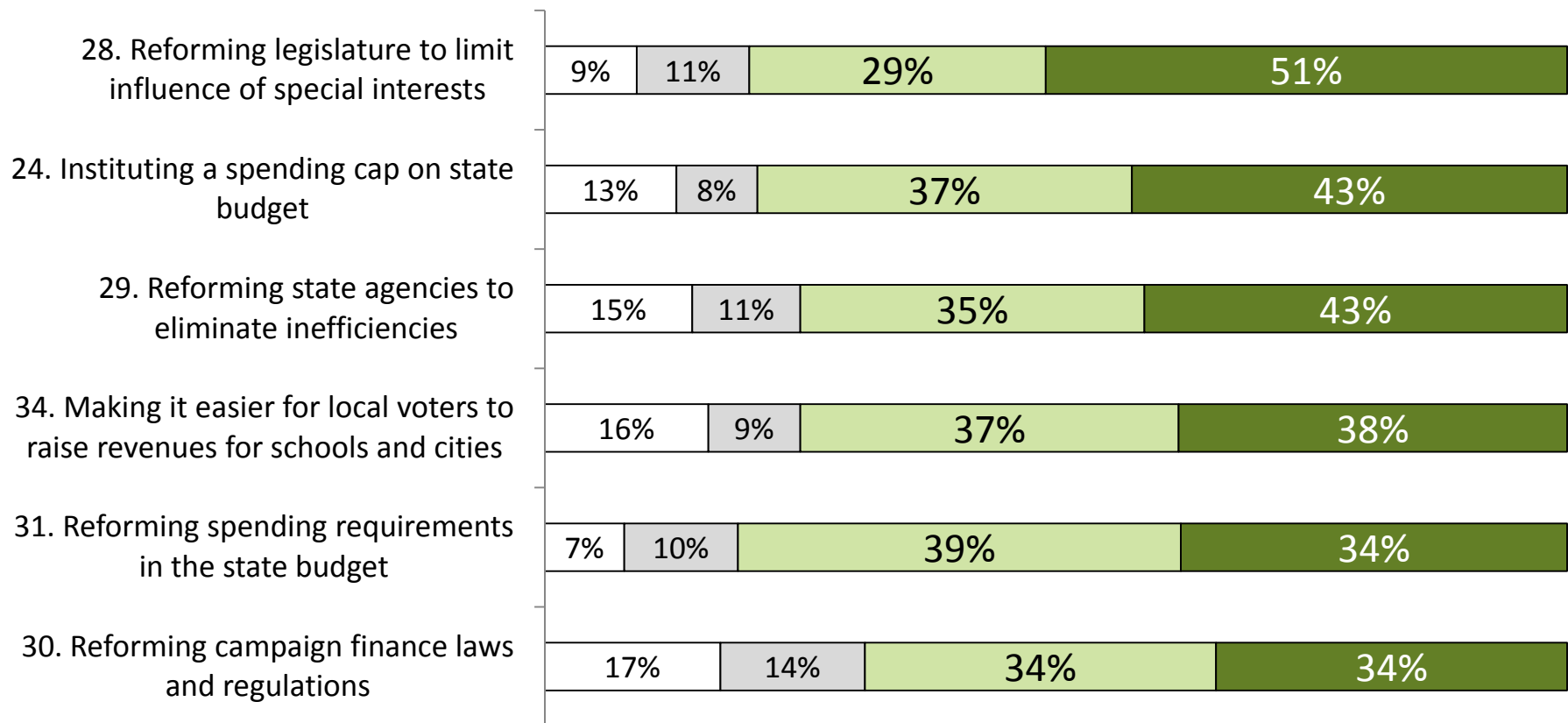
# Support for both measures increases after voters learn about potential components of a convention.



# Limiting the influence of special interests is a high priority of government reform for many voters.

*If you were a delegate to the constitutional convention, how high a priority would each of these items be to you?*

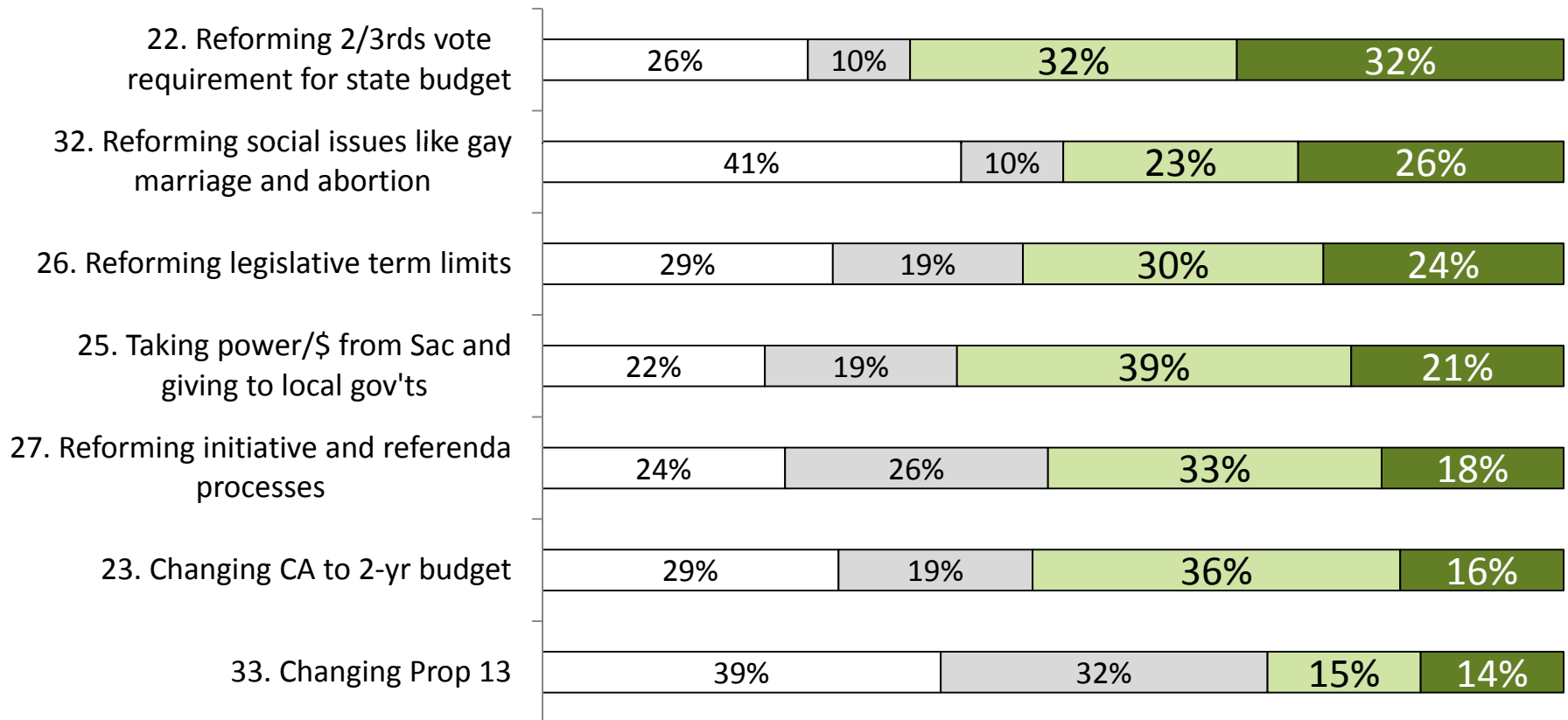
□ 1-3, Low Priority   □ 4, Don't Know   □ 5-6   □ 7 - Highest Priority



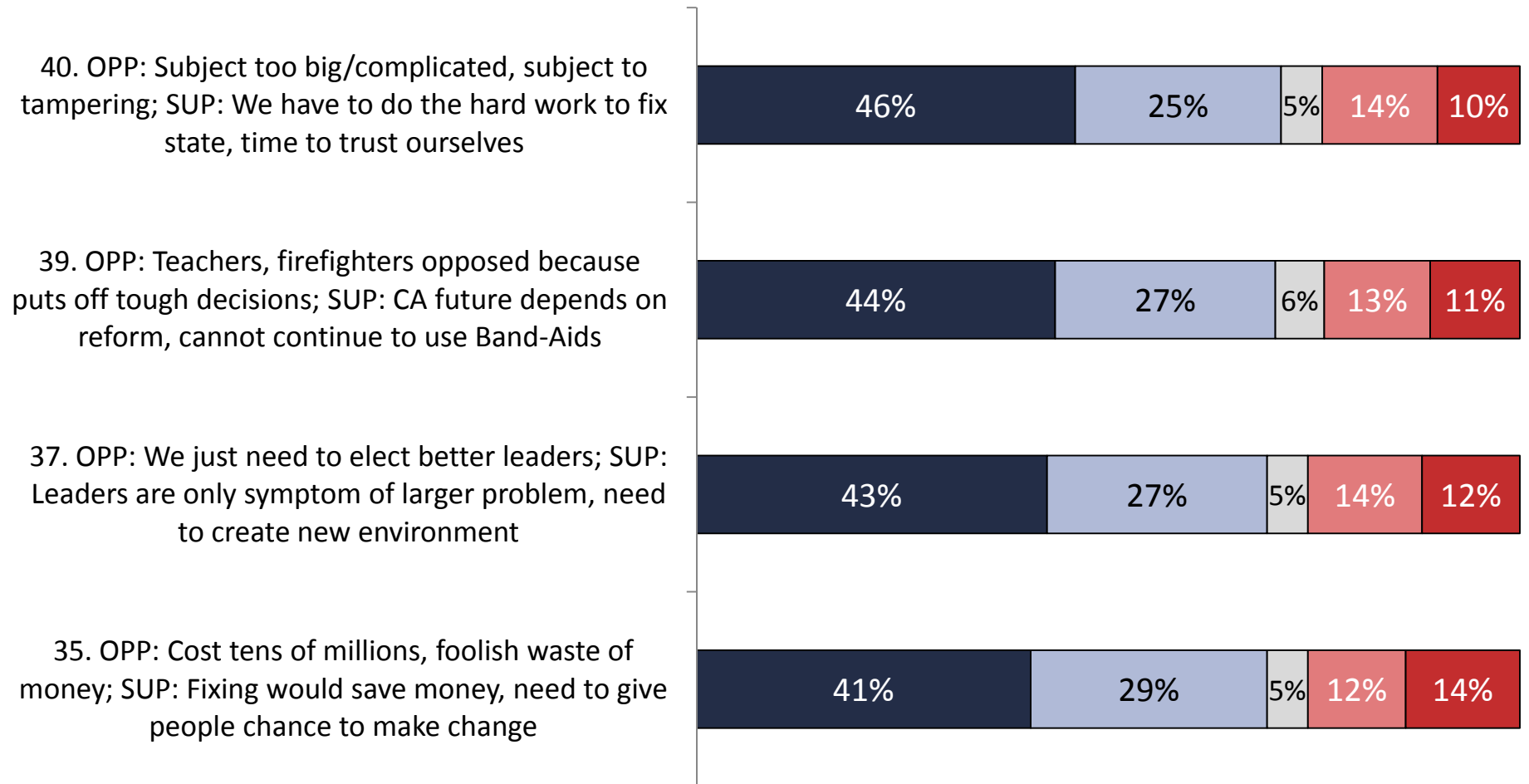
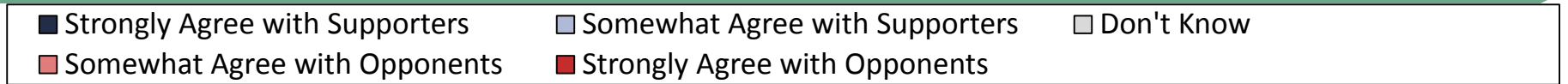
# Addressing social issues and changing Prop 13 are low priorities for many voters.

If you were a delegate to the constitutional convention, how high a priority would each of these items be to you? Please use a scale from 1 to 7 where one is not at all a priority and 7 is a very high priority.

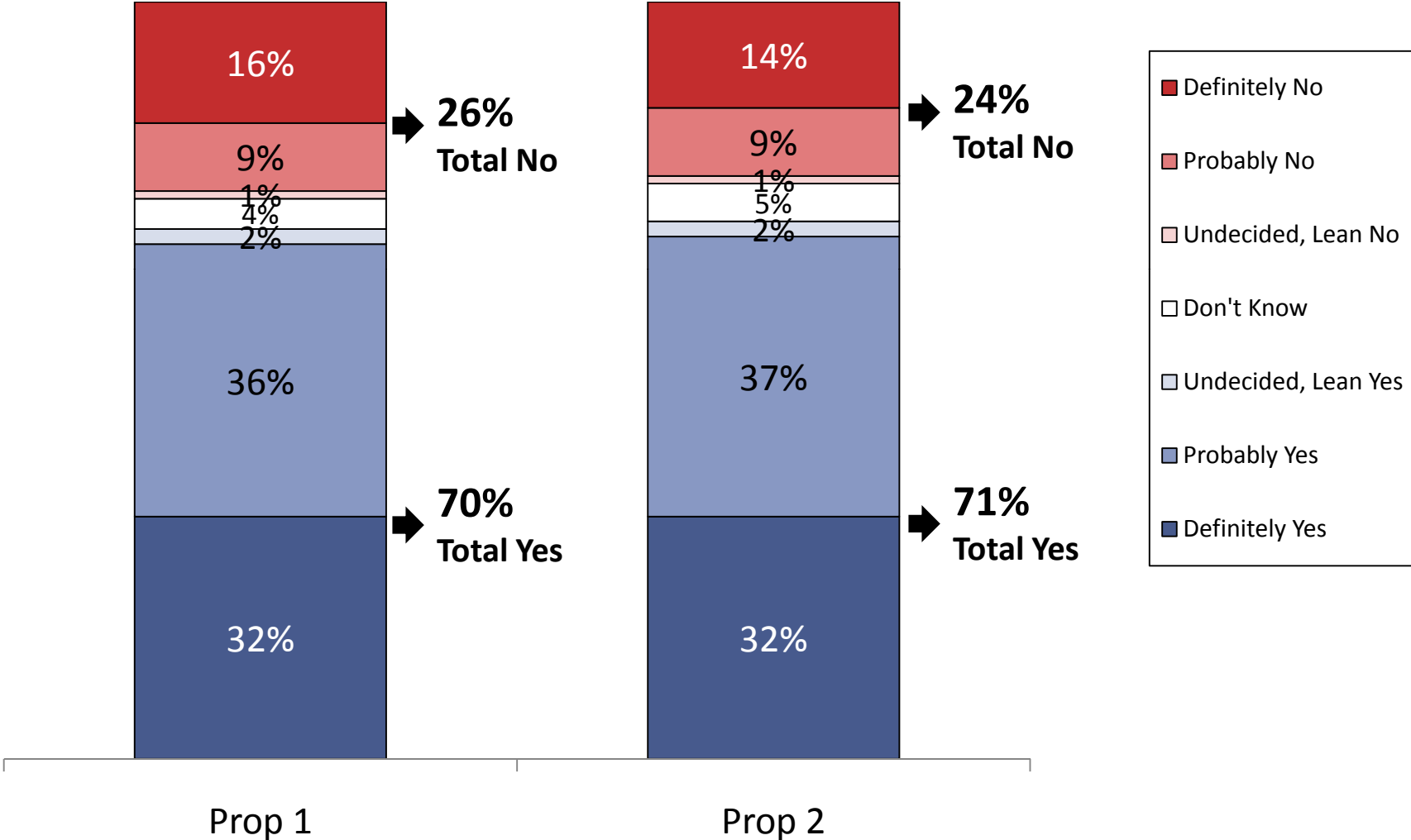
1-3, Low Priority    
  4, Don't Know    
  5-6    
  7 - Highest Priority



## Supportive arguments that declare the system is broken and we must trust ourselves to fix it resonate with many voters.



# After opposing and supporting arguments, support for a convention remains high.



# Conclusions

- Voters are extremely pessimistic and distrustful of almost everyone. The state budget crisis is still at the forefront of many voters' minds.
- Right now, voters trust themselves and not others to make decisions for the future of the state.
- A majority of California voters support both the Convention Act and the Call for a Convention. Support for each measure increases as voters learn more about the details.
- A majority of voters believes state government is broken and fundamental reforms are needed. Fixing the budget and limiting the influence of special interests are key priorities.