National Clean Energy Post-Election Survey

Key findings from a national survey of 800 actual voters, including 320 cell phone respondents, conducted November 8-12, 2018.

About Us

CRES Forum is a 501(c)(3) non-partisan, non-profit organization committed to educating the public and influencing the national conversation about commonsense clean energy. www.cresforum.org.

Formed in 2016, the Conservative Energy Network (CEN) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit coalition of more than 20 state-based conservative clean energy organizations. CEN works closely with its state teams and allies to depoliticize energy issues by offering conservative, free market-oriented policy solutions that create jobs, spark innovation, conserve our natural resources, protect ratepayers, secure market access for new technologies, and increase our grid and national security. CEN supports and promotes the work performed by its state teams to educate policymakers and the public on the benefits of a clean energy transition. www.conservativeenergynetwork.org

CF CRESFORUM

CONSERVATIVE ENERGY NETWORK

Pollsters

Glen Bolger

Partner

PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

Ashlee Rich Stephenson

Chief Strategy Officer

WPA intelligence

Methodology

Public Opinion Strategies is pleased to present the key findings from a survey of 800 actual voters across the nation, including 320 cell phone respondents, conducted November 8-12, 2018. The margin of error for this survey is ±3.46%.

Glen Bolger of Public Opinion Strategies and Ashlee Rich Stephenson of WPA Intelligence were the principal researchers. Kyle Clark was the project director, and Jared Beard provided analytical support.

POS PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

WPA intelligence

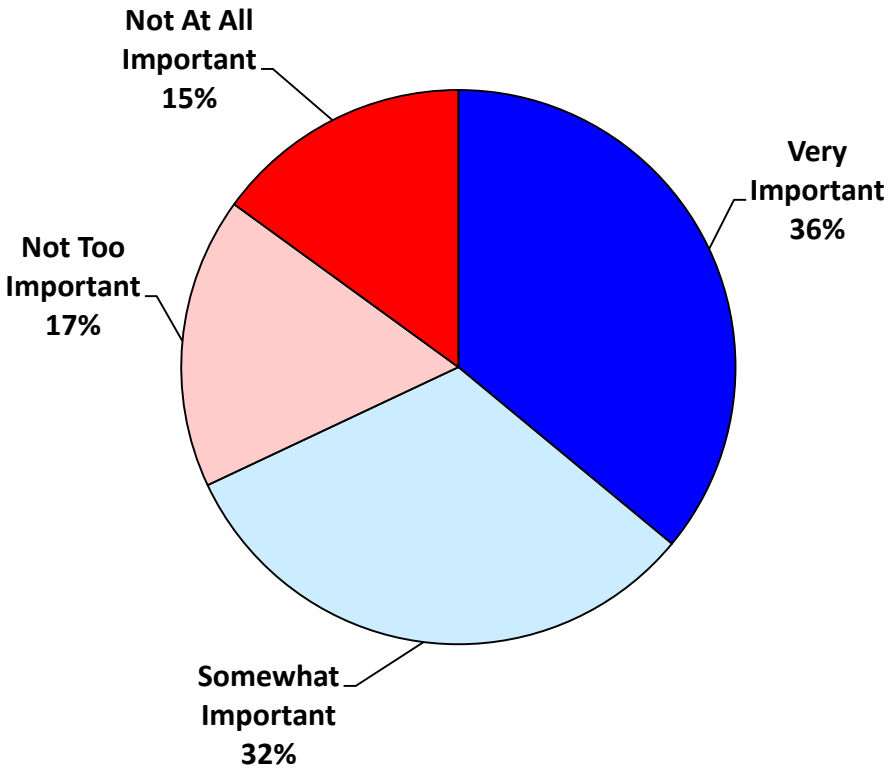
Political Environment

Two-thirds of voters say clean energy was important to their vote in the recent election.

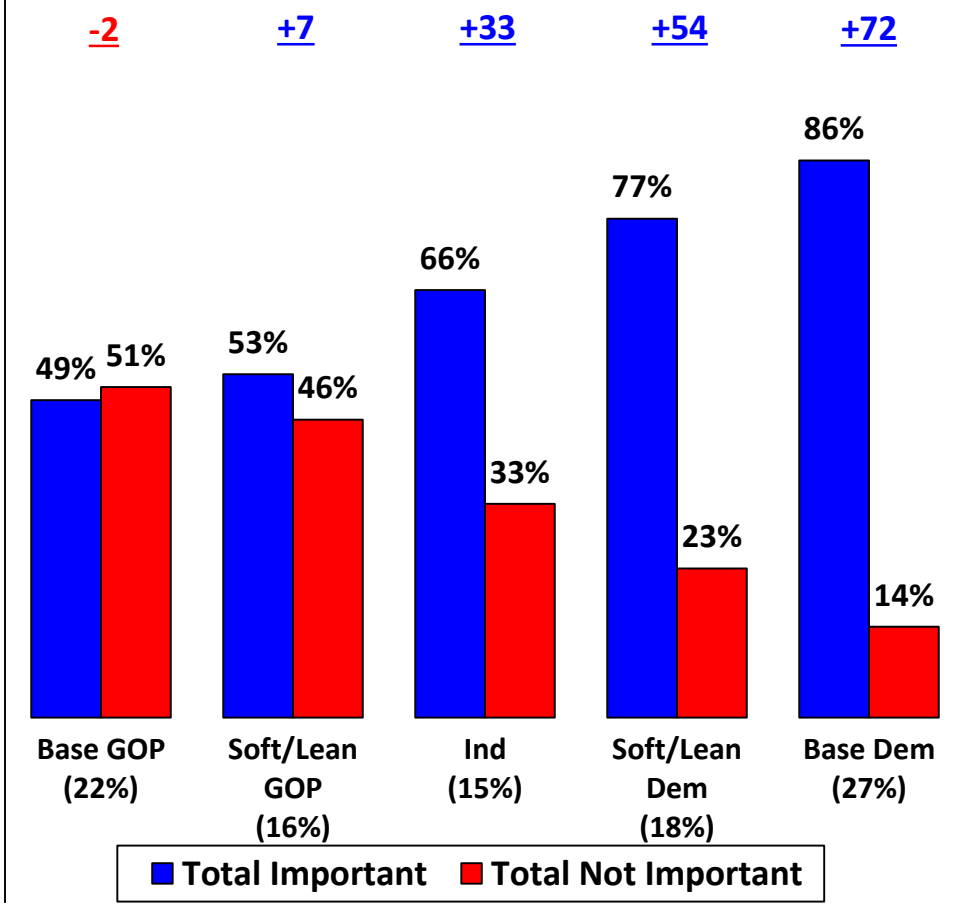
"When thinking about the recent election, how important was the issue of clean energy to your vote?"

Overall

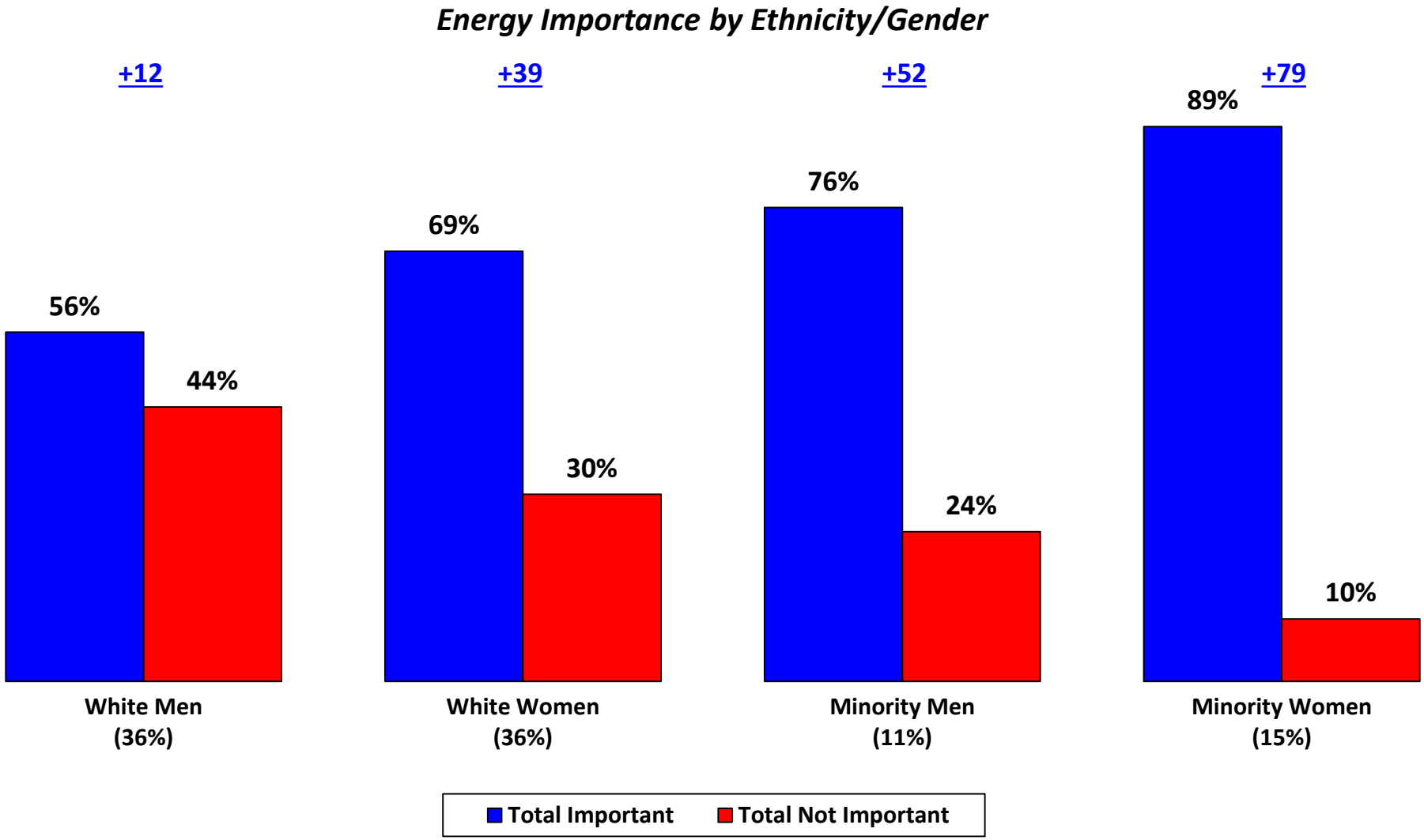
Total Important	68%
Total Not Important	32%



By Party



Voters across ethnicity/gender subgroups say clean energy was important to their vote, with minority women leading the way.

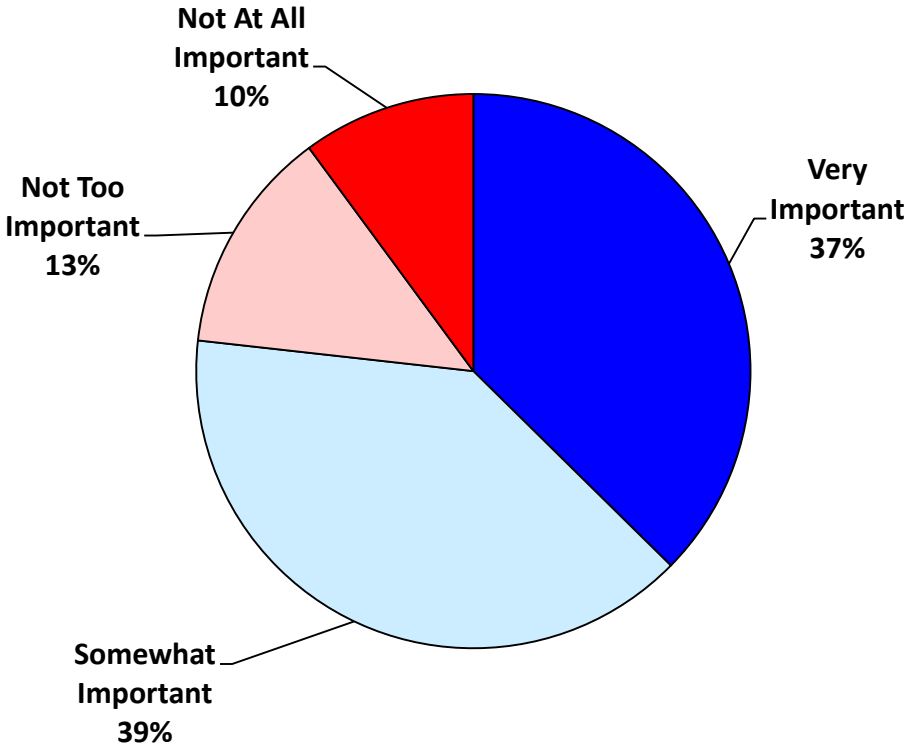


Three-quarters of voters say it is important that a candidate for political office share their opinion on clean energy issues.

"And, how important is it to you that a candidate for political office share your opinion on clean energy issues?"

Overall

Total Important	76%
Total Not Important	23%



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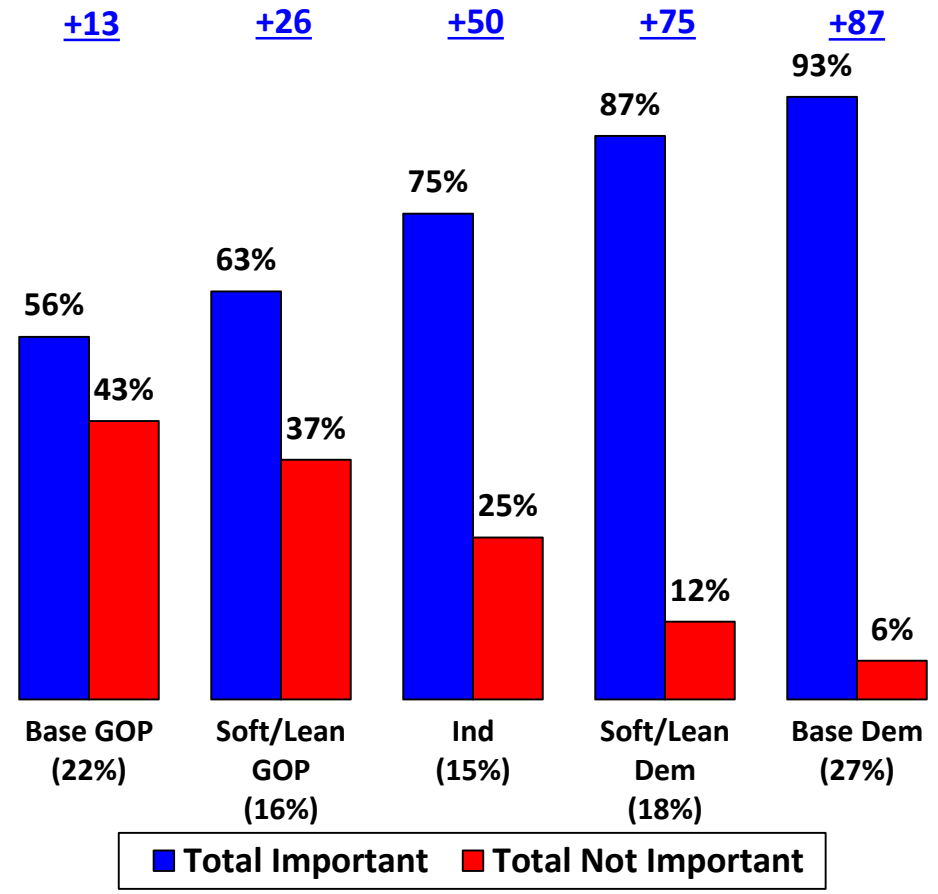
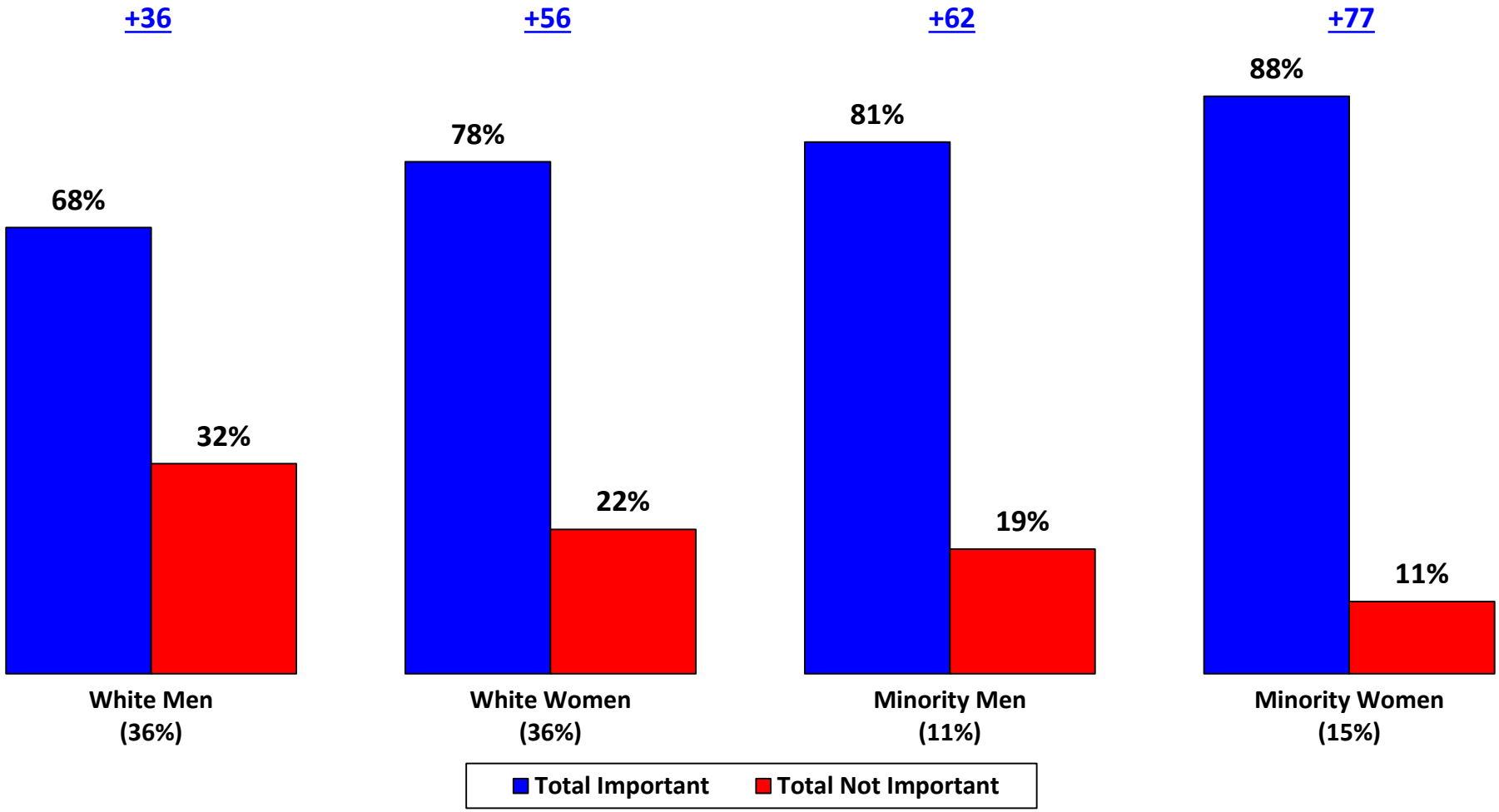
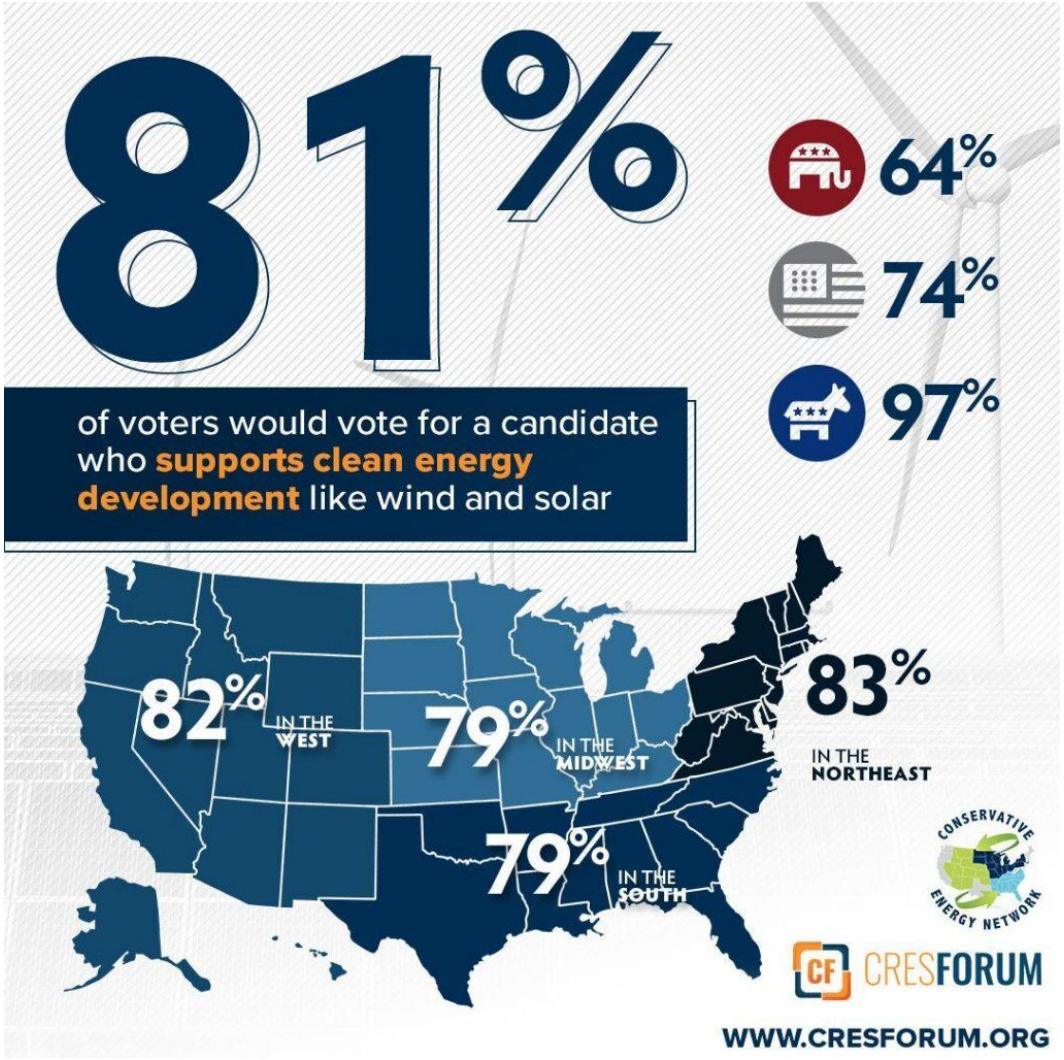


Voters across ethnicity/gender subgroups say it is important that a candidate share their views on clean energy issues, with minority women leading the way.

Energy & Political Candidate by Ethnicity/Gender



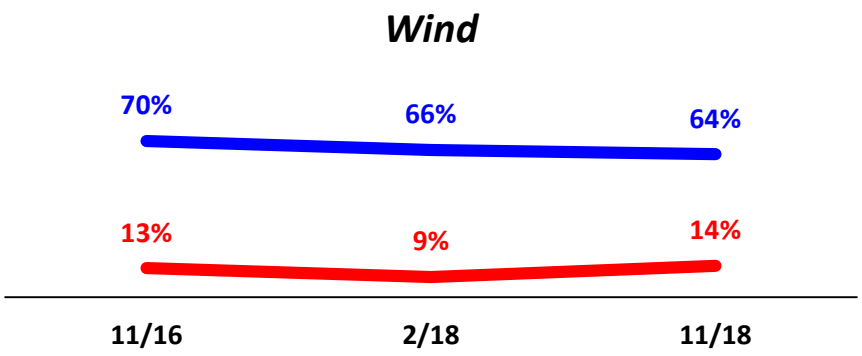
Political Environment and Clean Energy Development

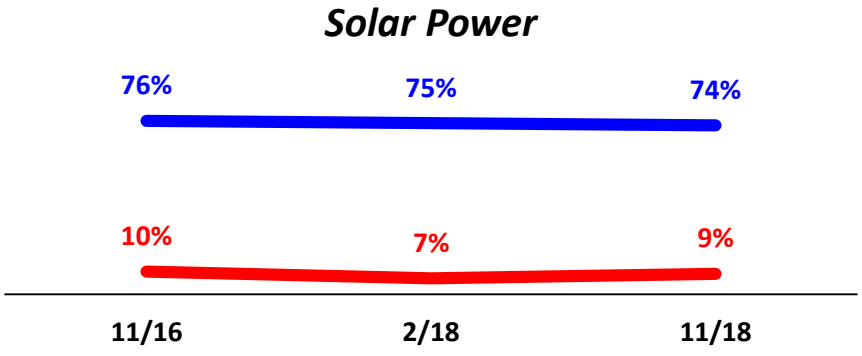


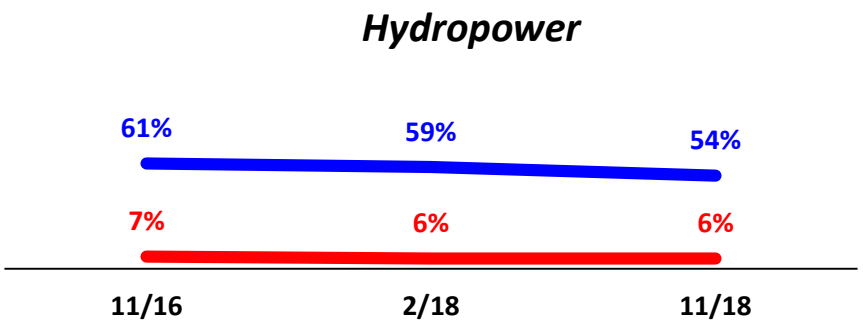
Clean Energy

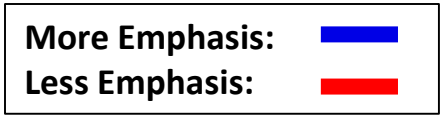
Support for wind and hydropower has slightly decreased since the last survey, but remains positive overall.

"Do you think that, as a country, the United States should put more emphasis, less emphasis, or about the same emphasis as it does now on producing domestic energy from each of the following sources…"



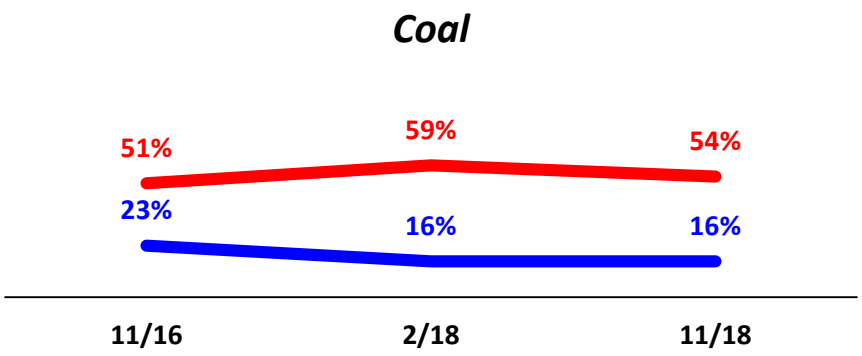


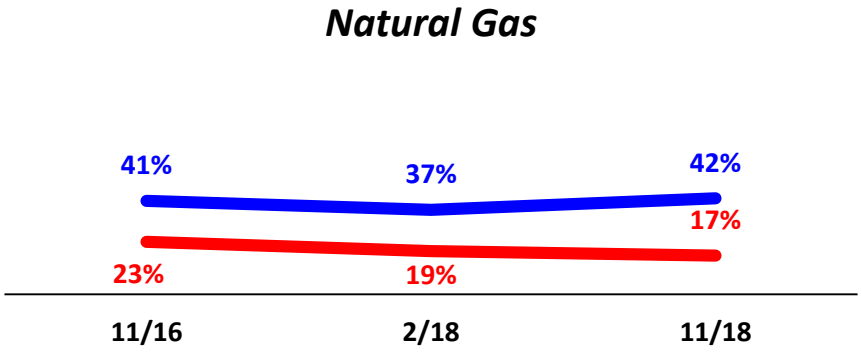


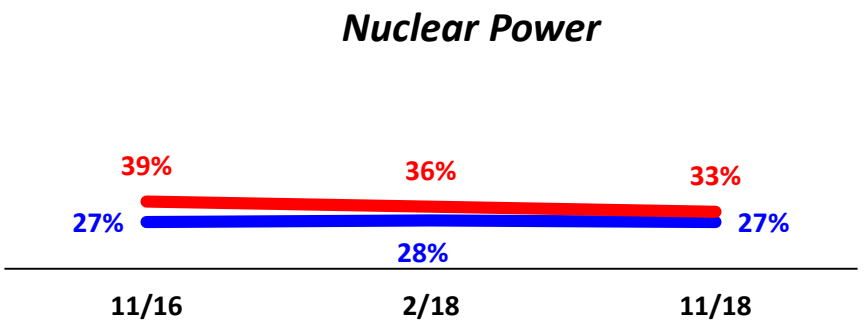


A plurality of voters say the United States should put more emphasis on natural gas, while a majority want to see less emphasis on coal.

"Do you think that, as a country, the United States should put more emphasis, less emphasis, or about the same emphasis as it does now on producing domestic energy from each of the following sources…"

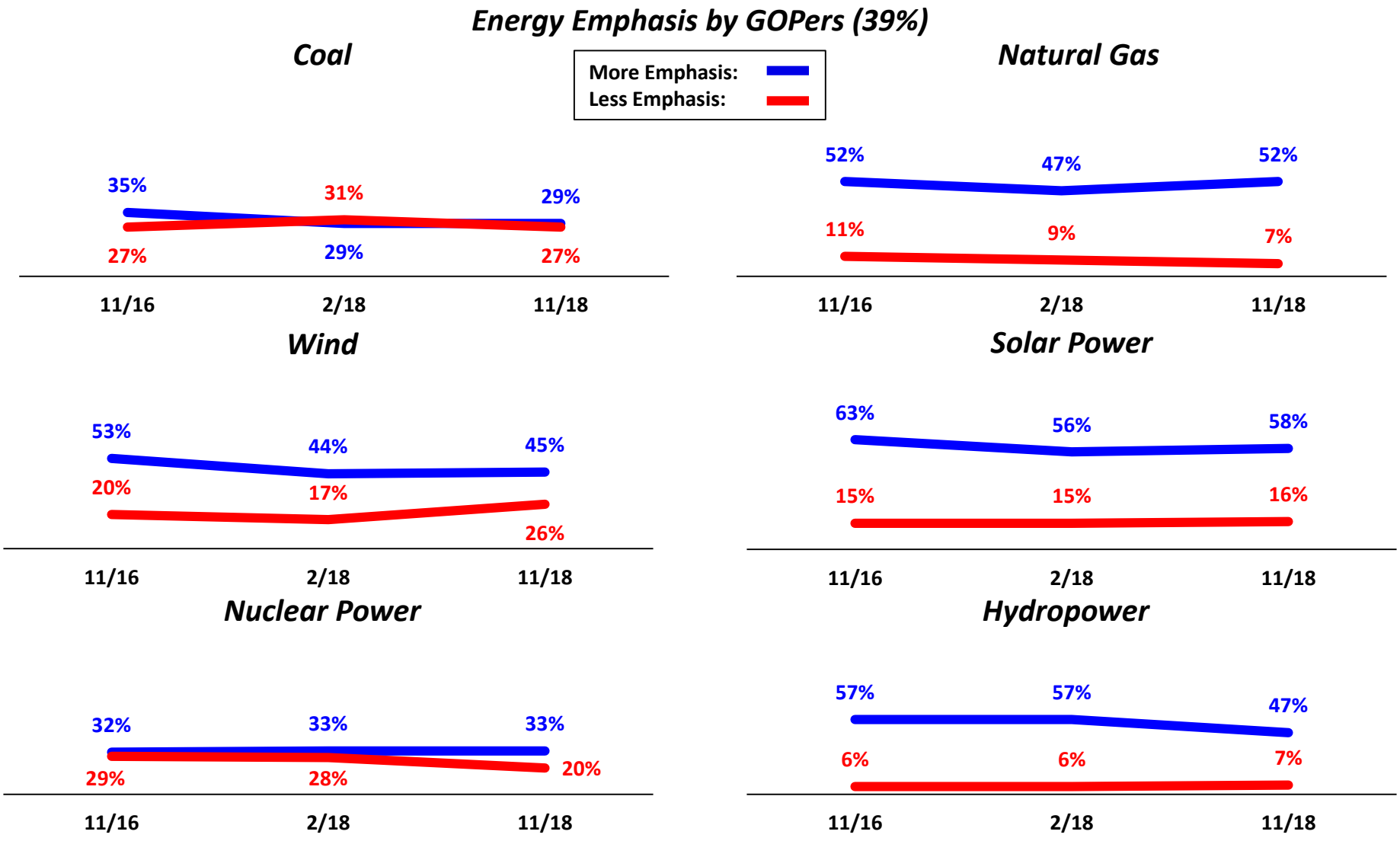






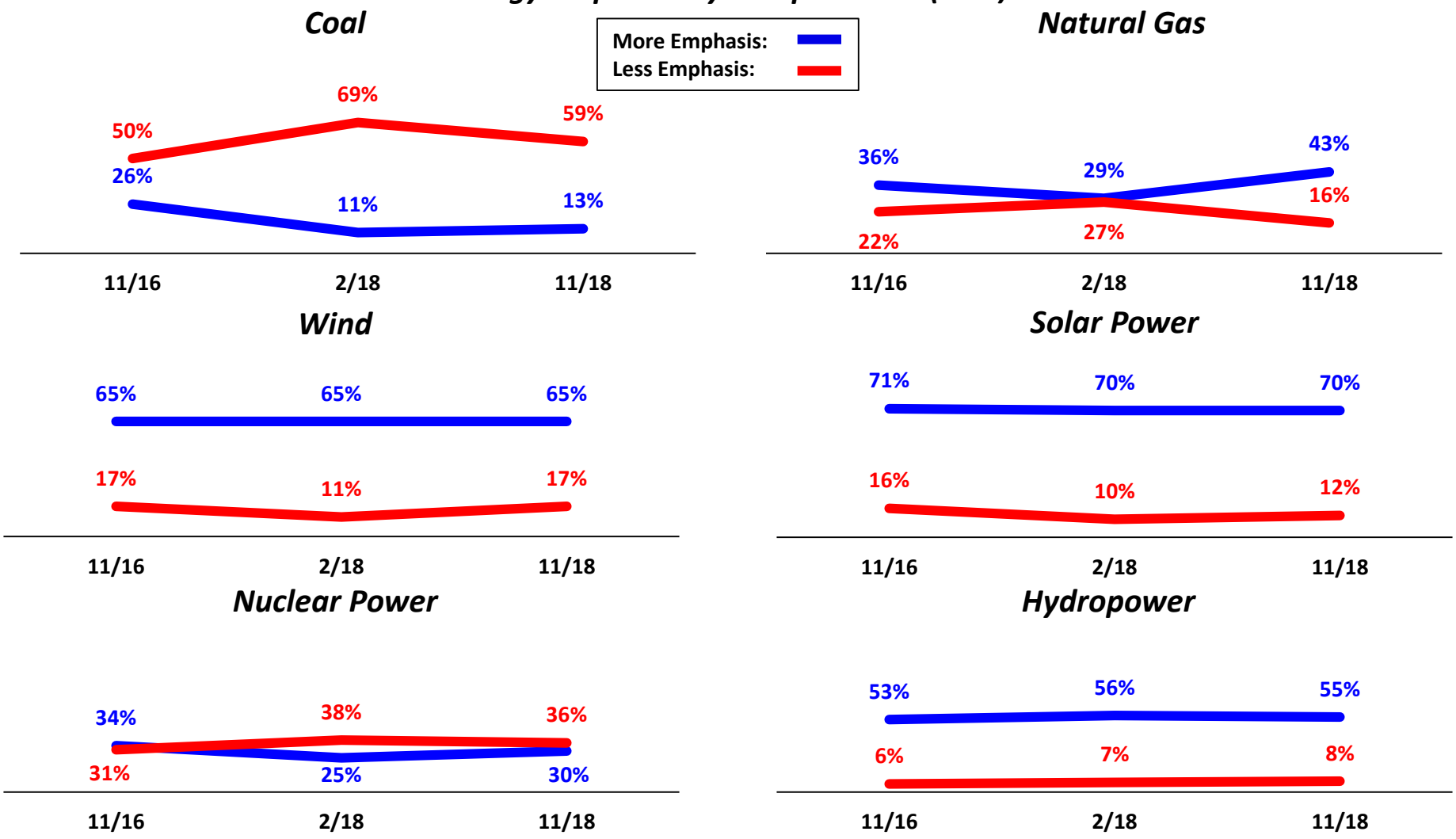
More Emphasis:
Less Emphasis:

GOPers are supportive of natural gas, but are split on coal.



Independents continue to say the United States should put more emphasis on wind, solar, and hydropower.

Energy Emphasis by Independents (15%)

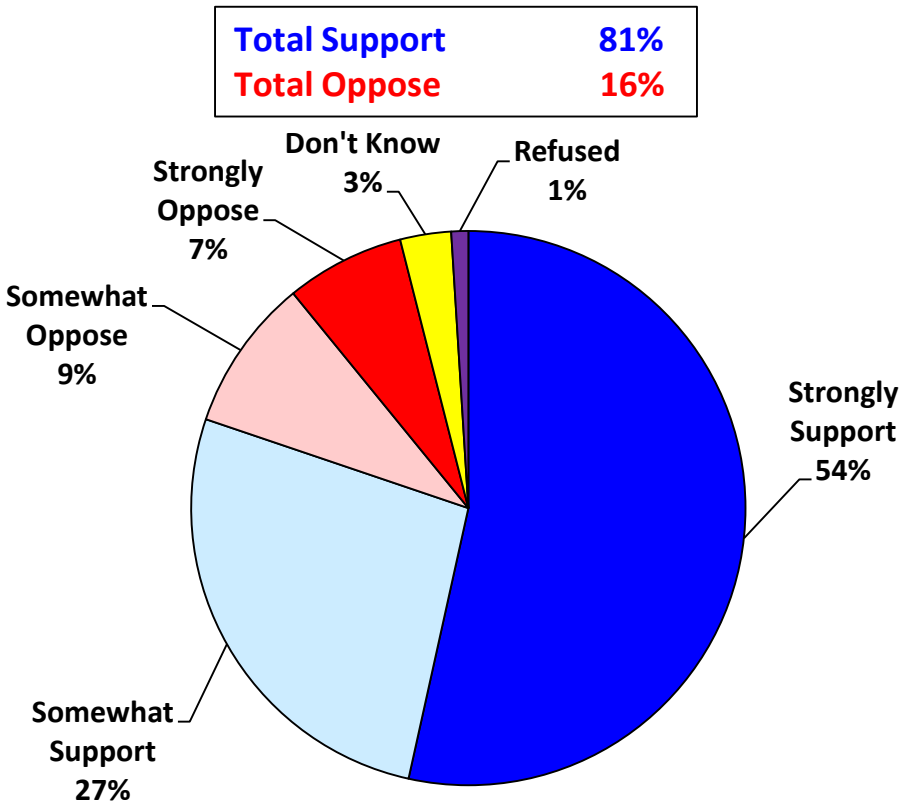


Role of Government and the Market

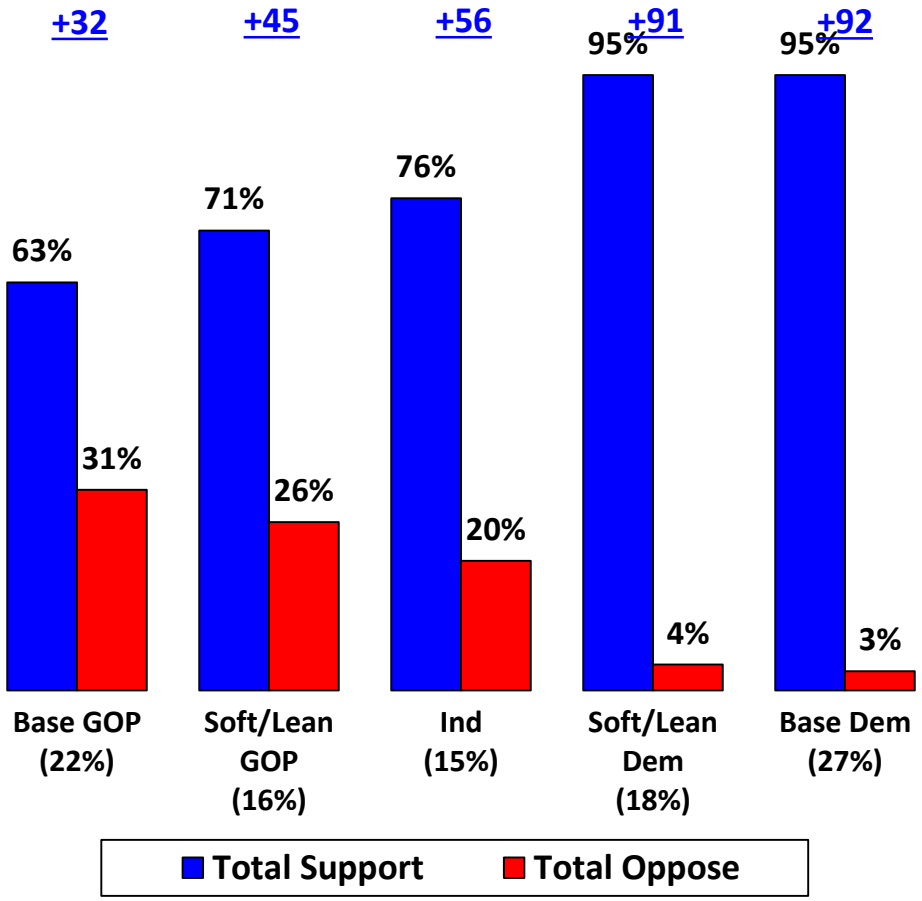
Over 80% of voters support the government taking action to accelerate the development and use of clean energy in the United States.

"And, would you say you support or oppose the government taking action to accelerate the development and use of clean energy in the United States?"

Overall



By Party



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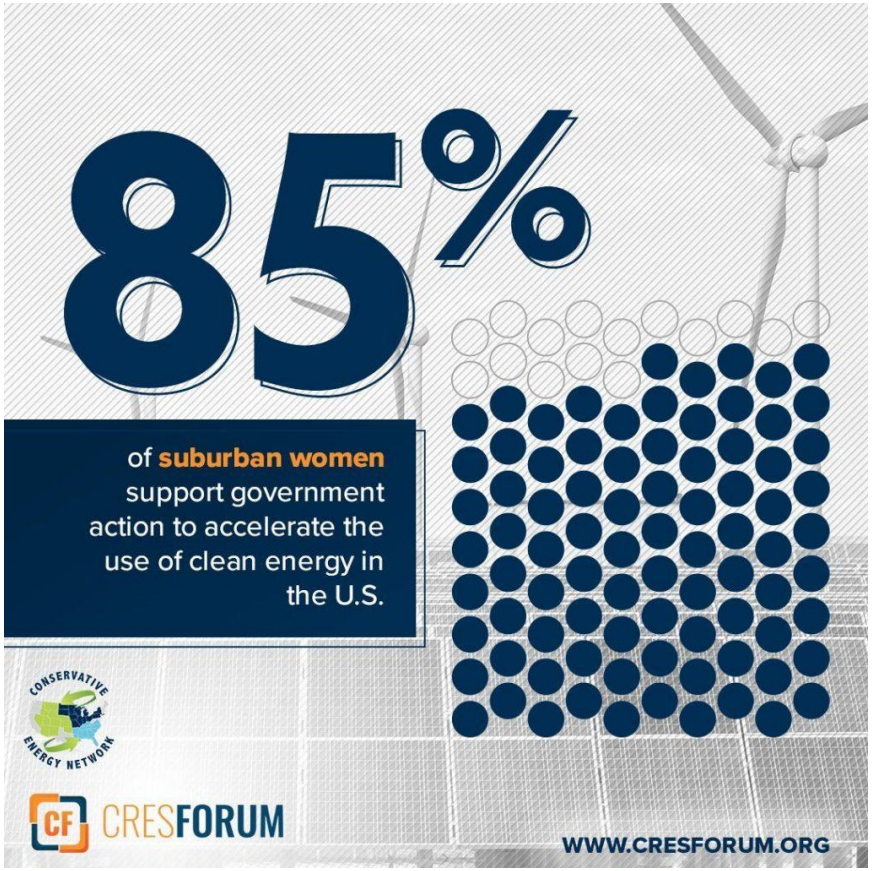


Two-thirds of voters say they would prefer approaches that allow markets and businesses to provide more clean energy and production.

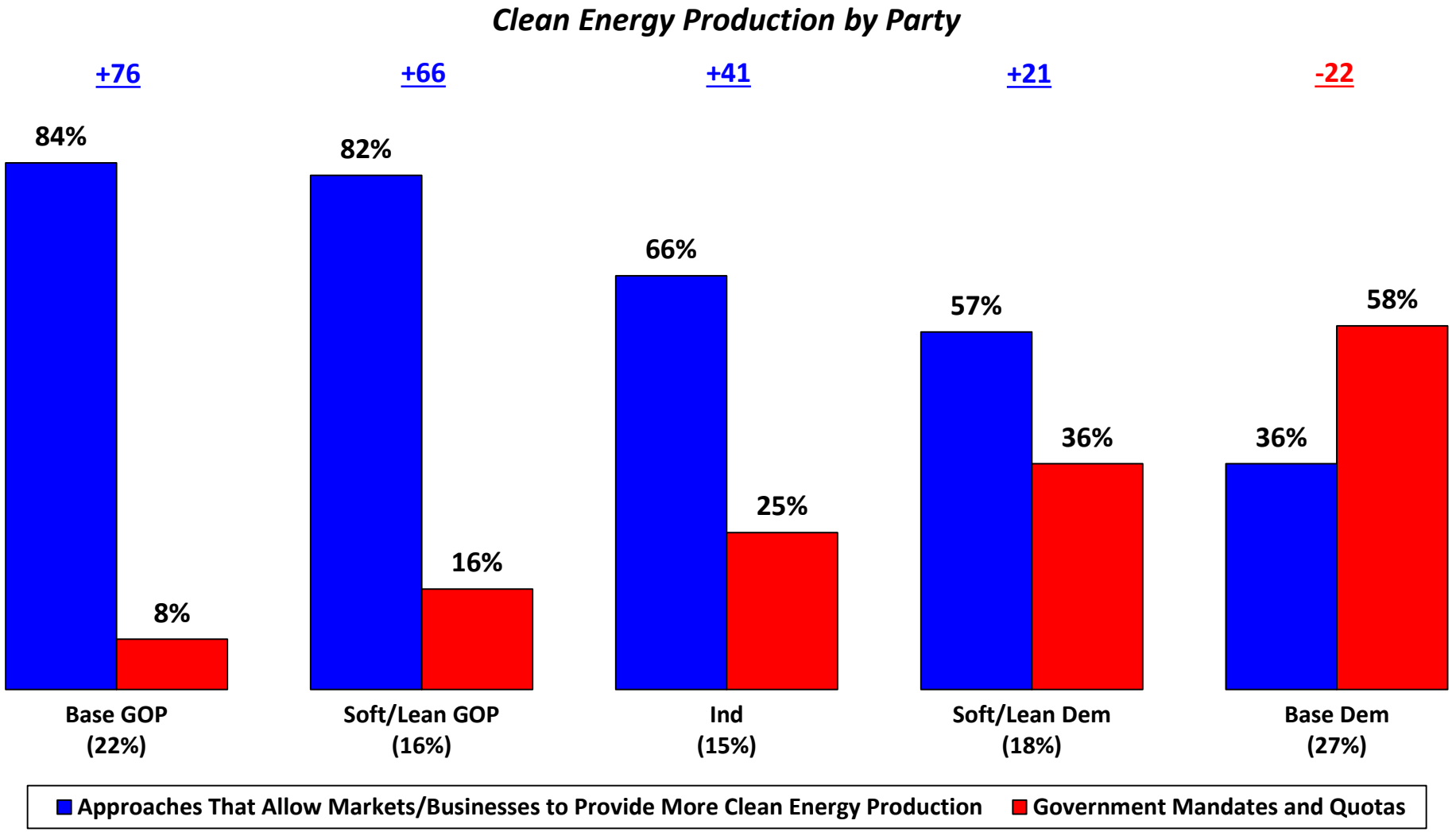
"To increase clean energy production, would you prefer…"

63% ***Approaches that allow markets and businesses to provide more clean energy and production***

…or…

31% ***Government mandates and quotas***

Base Dems are the only party subgroup who prefer government mandates and quotas in order to increase clean energy production.

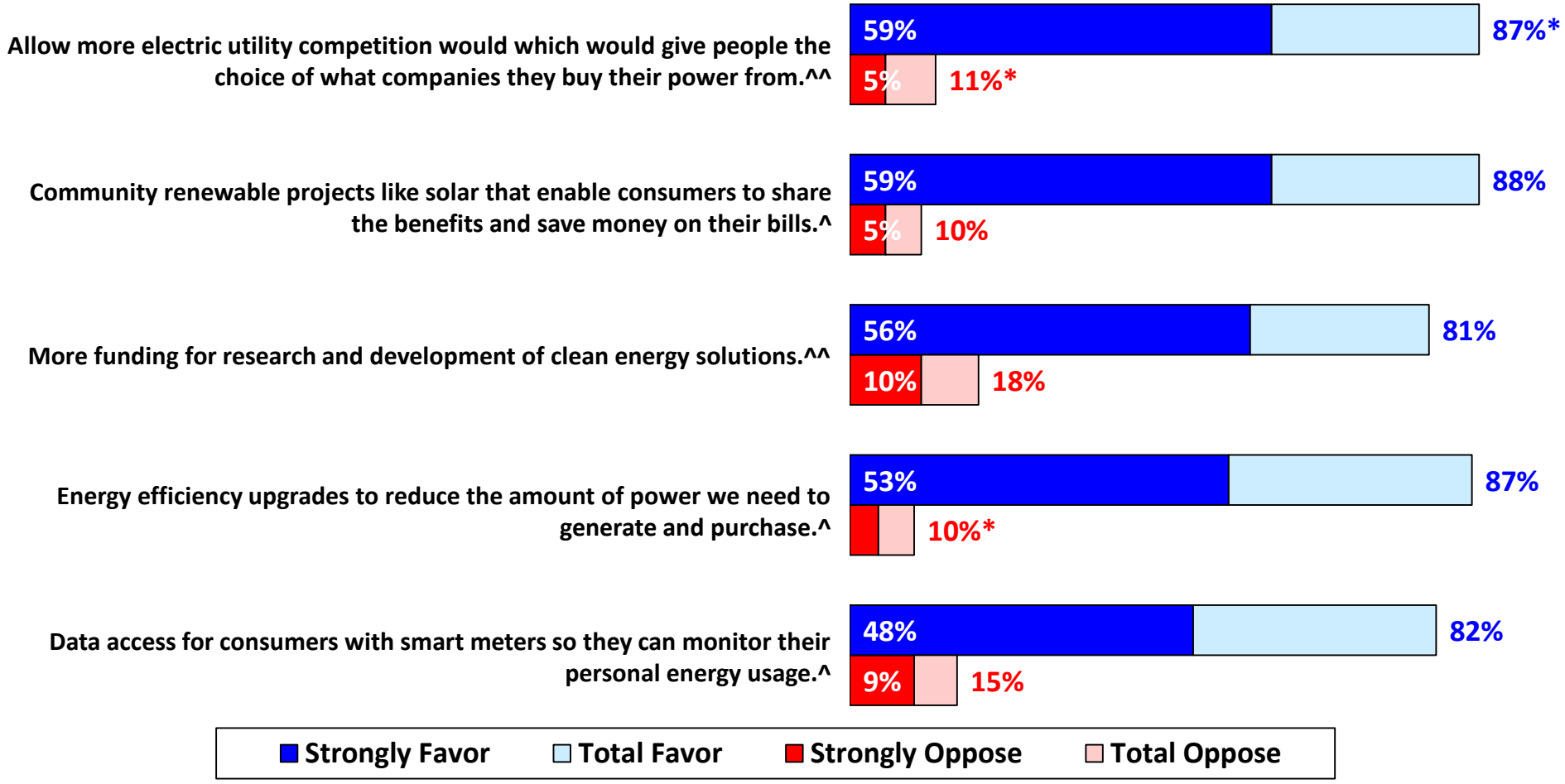


Attitudes Toward Policy Ideas

Voters are most in favor of policies that would allow electric utility competition and create community renewable projects.

"Now I am going to read you a list of policies that advocates have prioritized to help expand your state's commitment to clean energy. After I read each one, please tell me whether you favor or oppose that policy."

Ranked by % Strongly Favor

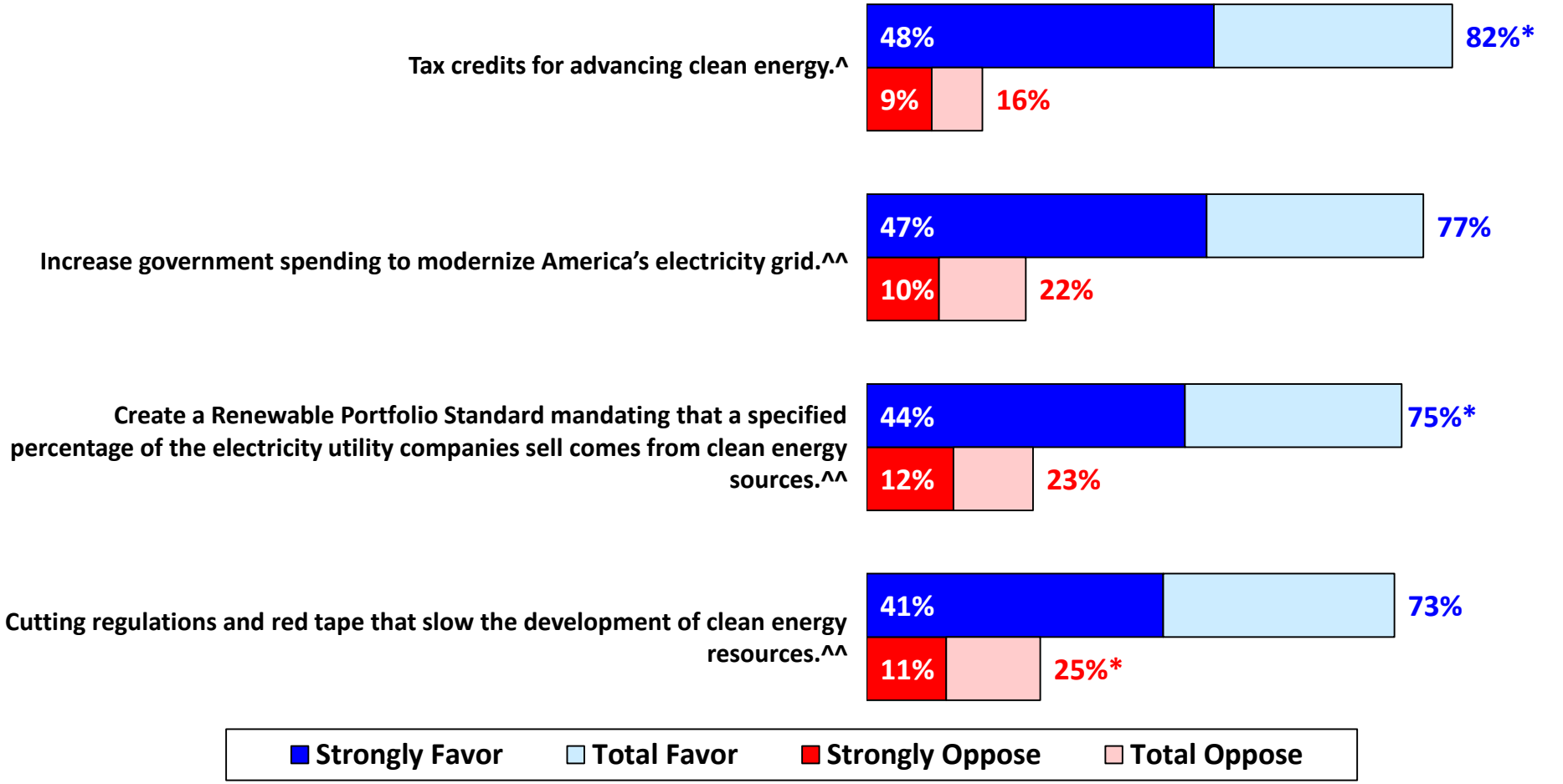


**Denotes Rounding; ^Split Sample A, N=401; ^^Split Sample B, N=399*

“Lower-tier” clean energy policies still receive significant support.

“Now I am going to read you a list of policies that advocates have prioritized to help expand your state’s commitment to clean energy. After I read each one, please tell me whether you favor or oppose that policy.”

Ranked by % Strongly Favor



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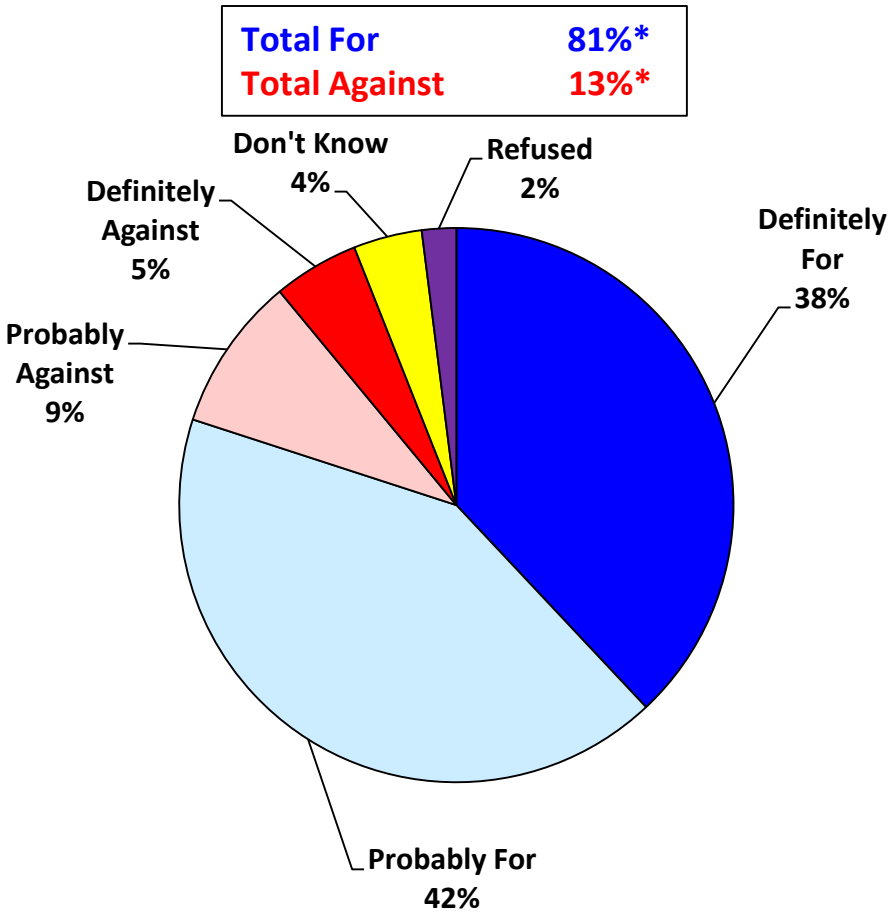
Vote Impact

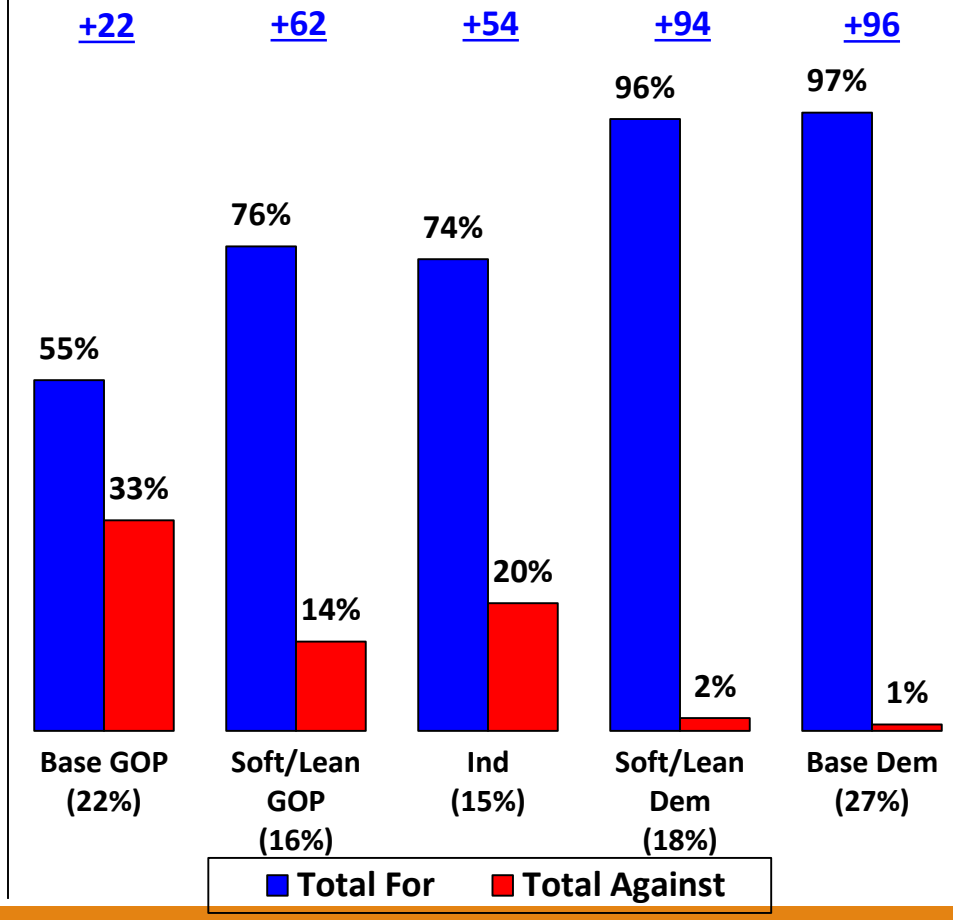
Over three-quarters of voters say they would vote for elected officials or candidates who support clean energy development.

"Thinking ahead to future elections… would you vote for or against elected officials or candidates who support clean energy development like solar and wind?"

Overall



By Party



**Denotes Rounding*

Attitudes Toward Specific Policies

Nearly two-thirds of voters believe net metering is fair.

"Changing topics slightly… As you may know, thirty-eight states have a policy called net metering that allows homeowners, businesses, local school districts, and other organizations to get full retail credit for the extra energy their rooftop solar panels produce. This extra solar energy goes onto the electricity grid for the utility company to sell at the full retail rate to other customers. I am going to read you two statements about this, and please tell me which one comes closer to your own point of view."

62%

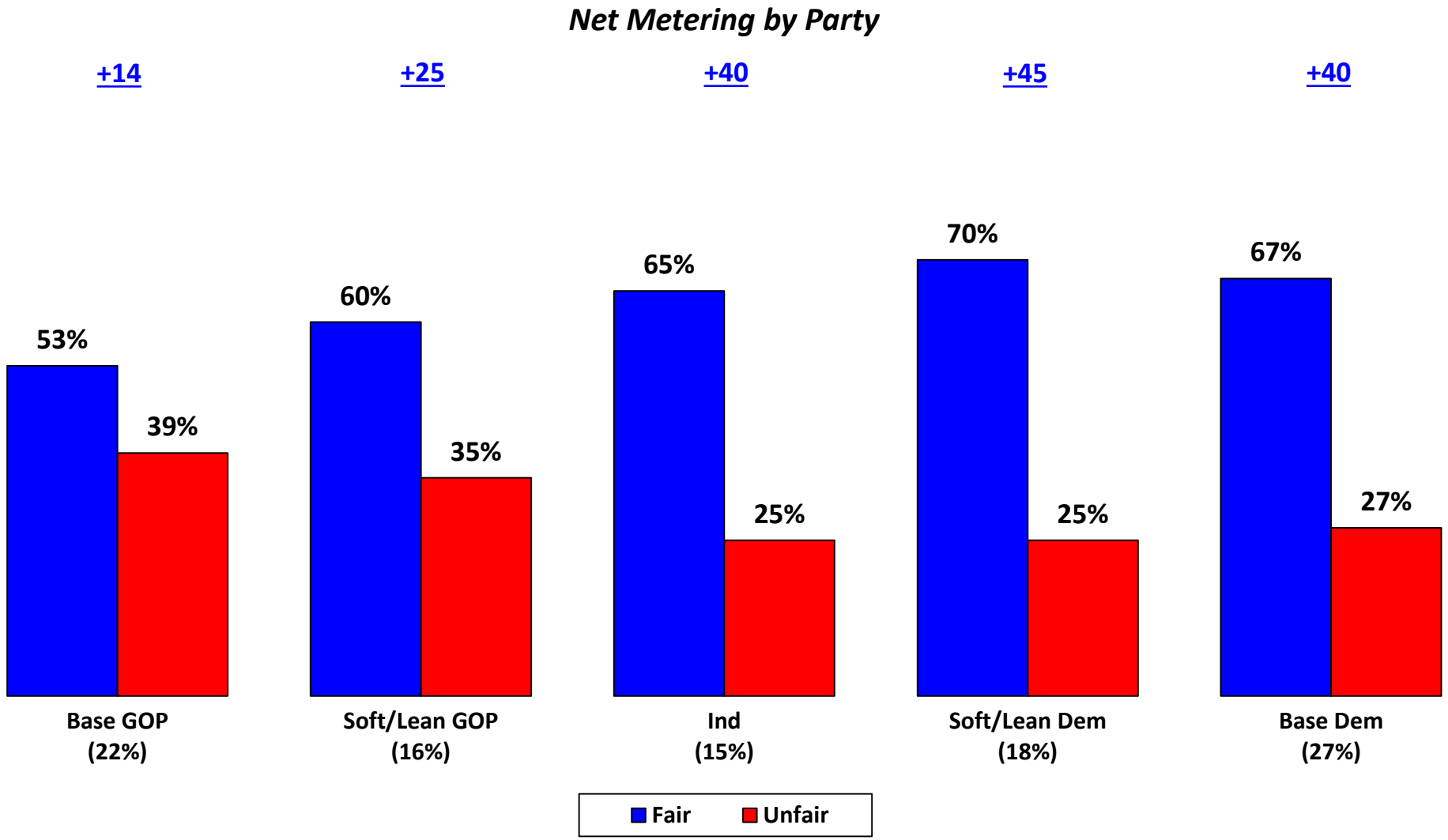
Some people say net metering is fair because it encourages the development of solar resources, and other customers benefit from the extra solar energy that goes onto the electricity grid.

…or…

31%

Other people say net metering is unfair because solar customers use the electricity grid, too, and need to pay a fair rate for their use. They say that otherwise, solar customers' use of electricity grid becomes subsidized by non-solar customers.

A majority of voters across party lines say that net metering is fair.



Fully 83% of voters say they would prefer a new system for purchasing electricity that allows people to have a choice of where and what kind of electricity they purchase.

"Now, I would like to read you two options about purchasing electricity, and please tell me which one you prefer."

83%

A new system that allows people to have a choice of where they purchase electricity and what kind of electricity, such as clean energy.

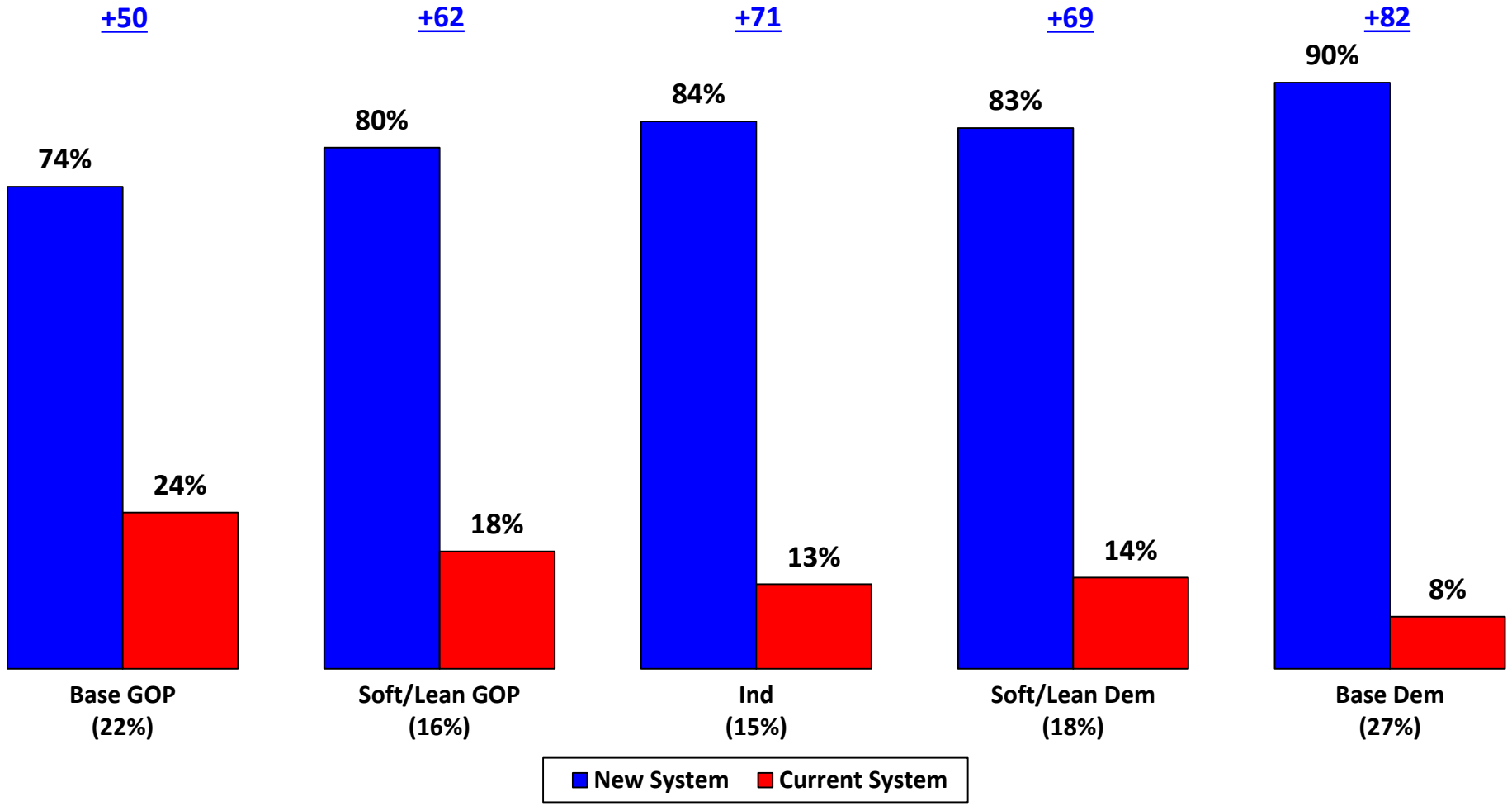
…or…

15%

The current system, in which nearly everyone purchases their electricity from one monopoly utility.

Voters across party lines support a new system for purchasing electricity, with base Dems leading the way.

Electricity Options Contrast 1 by Party



Over three-quarters of voters say America can create a new electricity system that benefits the environment, accelerates the availability of new technology, and creates more choices.

"Now, I would like to read you two options about purchasing electricity, and please tell me which one comes closest to your own opinion."

78%

America can create a new electricity system that benefits the environment, accelerates the availability of new technology, and creates more choices by opening up markets to competition, giving consumers more choices instead of just their monopoly utility.

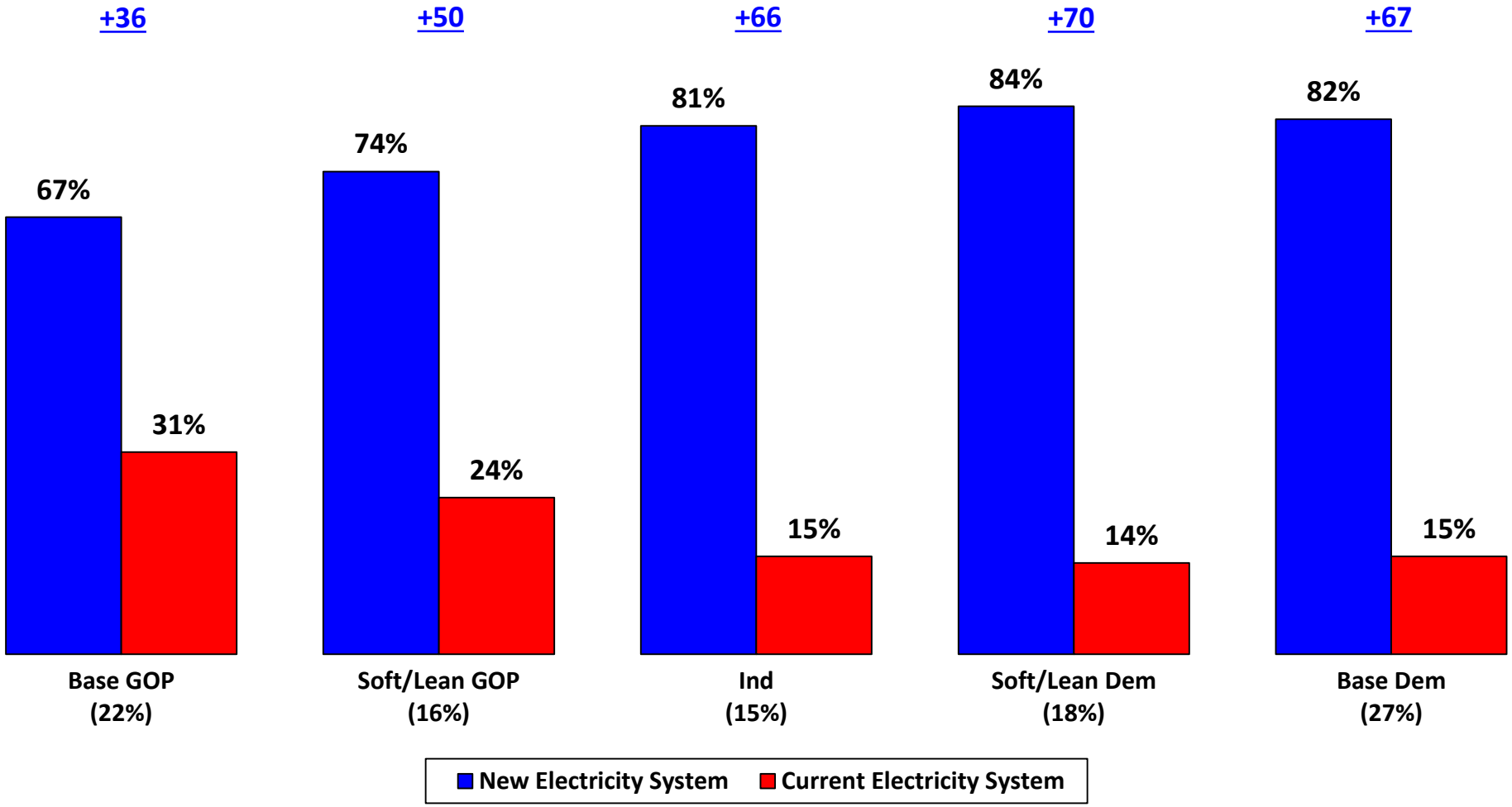
…or…

20%

The current electricity monopoly system works fine as it is, and change will only end up creating confusion, reducing reliability, and resulting in higher costs for consumers.

Voters across party lines say America can create a new electricity system that is cleaner and has more options.

Electricity Options Contrast 2 by Party

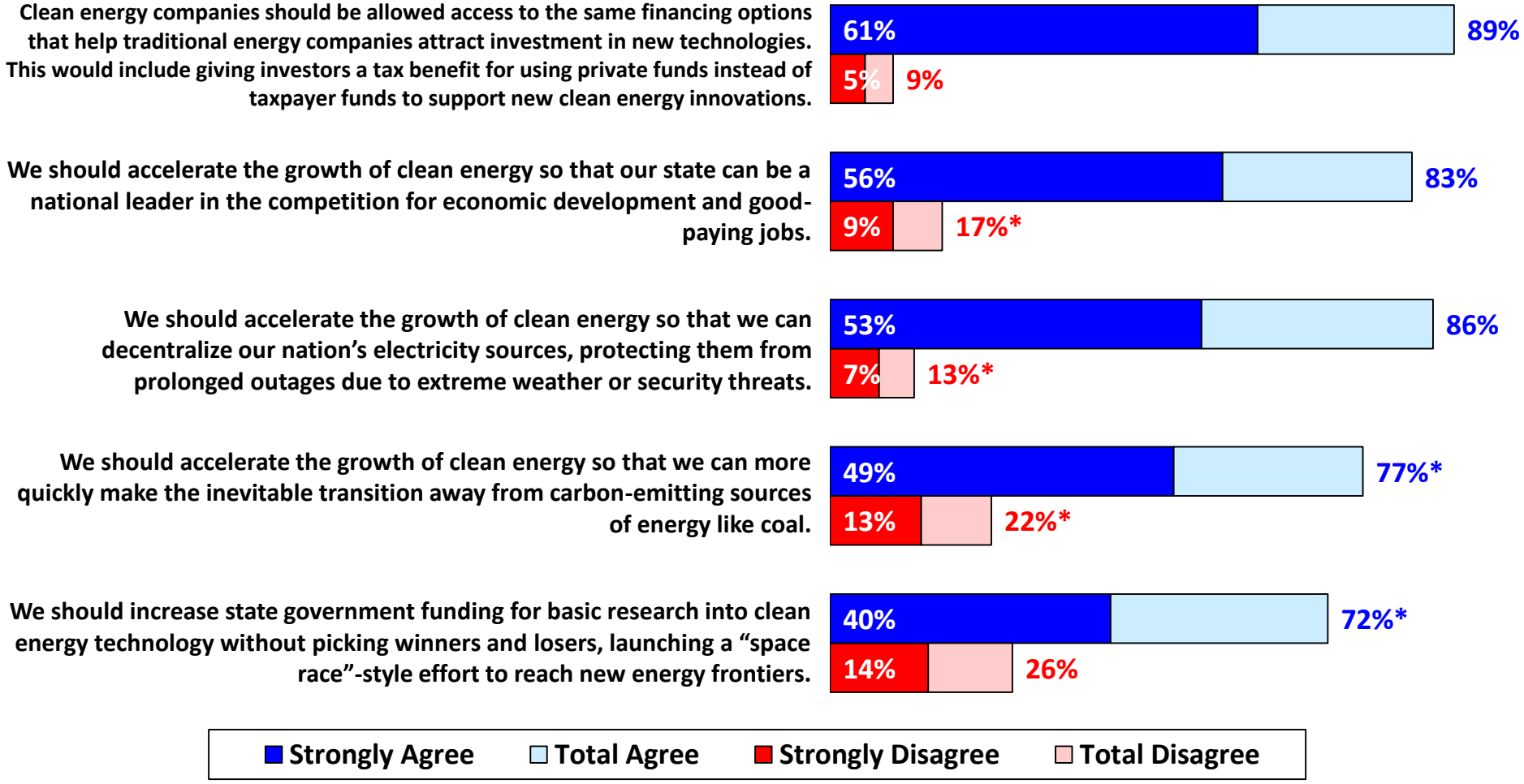


Message Testing

The message that discusses clean energy companies being allowed access to the same financing options as traditional energy companies resonates the most with voters.

"I am going to read you a few statements about why some people want to accelerate the growth of clean energy, by speeding up the development of sources of renewable energy like wind and solar power. After I read each statement, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement."

Ranked by % Strongly Agree



**Denotes Rounding*

Over three-quarters of voters say we need climate policy that rewards those who cut their pollution and use more clean energy.

"Now, I would like to read you two statements, and please tell me which one comes closest to your own opinion."

77%

Some people say we need climate policy that rewards those who cut their pollution and use more clean energy.

...or...

17%

Other people say we need climate policy that increases prices for using forms of energy that pollute, including gasoline.

More Information

www.cresforum.org/polling

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PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

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