






Portland Voter Views of a Participatory Budgeting Proposal

Key Findings of a Survey Conducted August 10-14, 2023



OPINION
RESEARCH
& STRATEGY

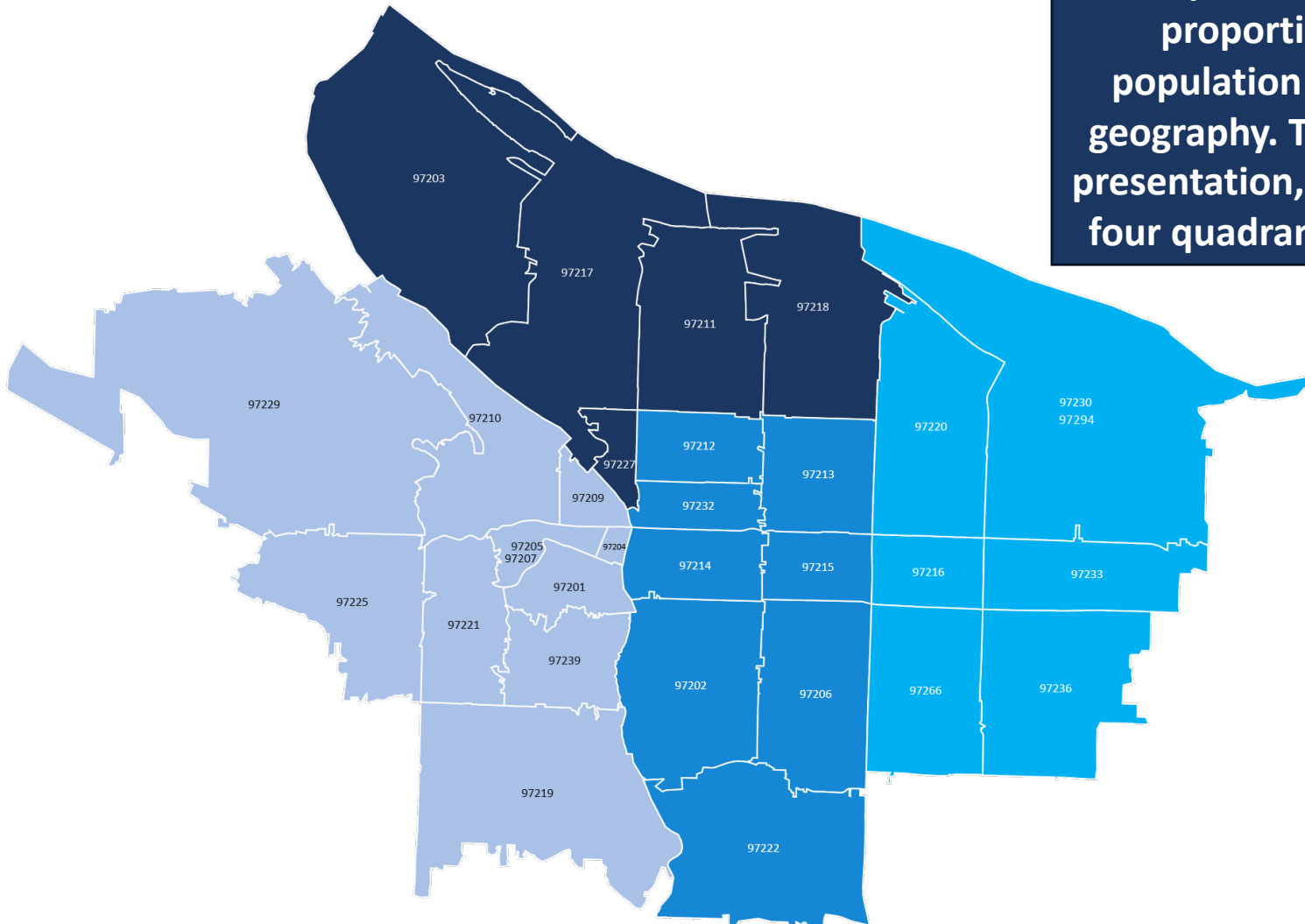
Survey Methodology

Dates	August 10-14, 2023
Survey Type	Dual-mode Voter Survey
Research Population	Likely November 2024 Voters in Portland
Total Interviews	601
Margin of Sampling Error	(Full Sample) $\pm 4.0\%$ at the 95% Confidence Level (Half Sample) $\pm 5.8\%$ at the 95% Confidence Level
Contact Methods	 Telephone Calls  Email Invitations  Text Invitations
Data Collection Modes	 Telephone Interviews  Online Interviews

(Note: Not All Results Will Sum to 100% Due to Rounding)

Regional Definitions

■ North (1) ■ Inner East (2) ■ Outer East (3) ■ West (4)



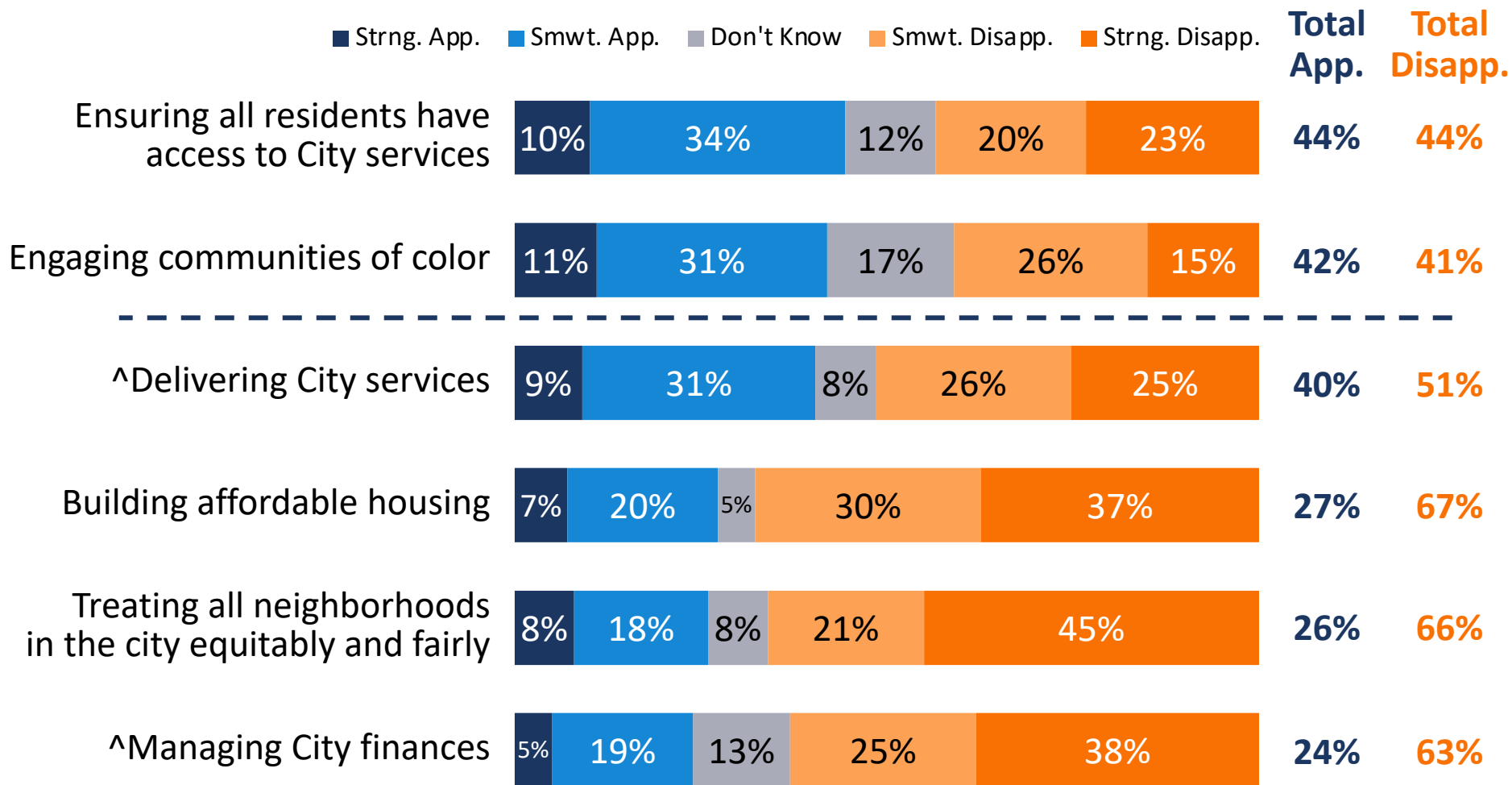
Responses were drawn proportional to the population of the City by geography. Throughout this presentation, here is how the four quadrants are defined.

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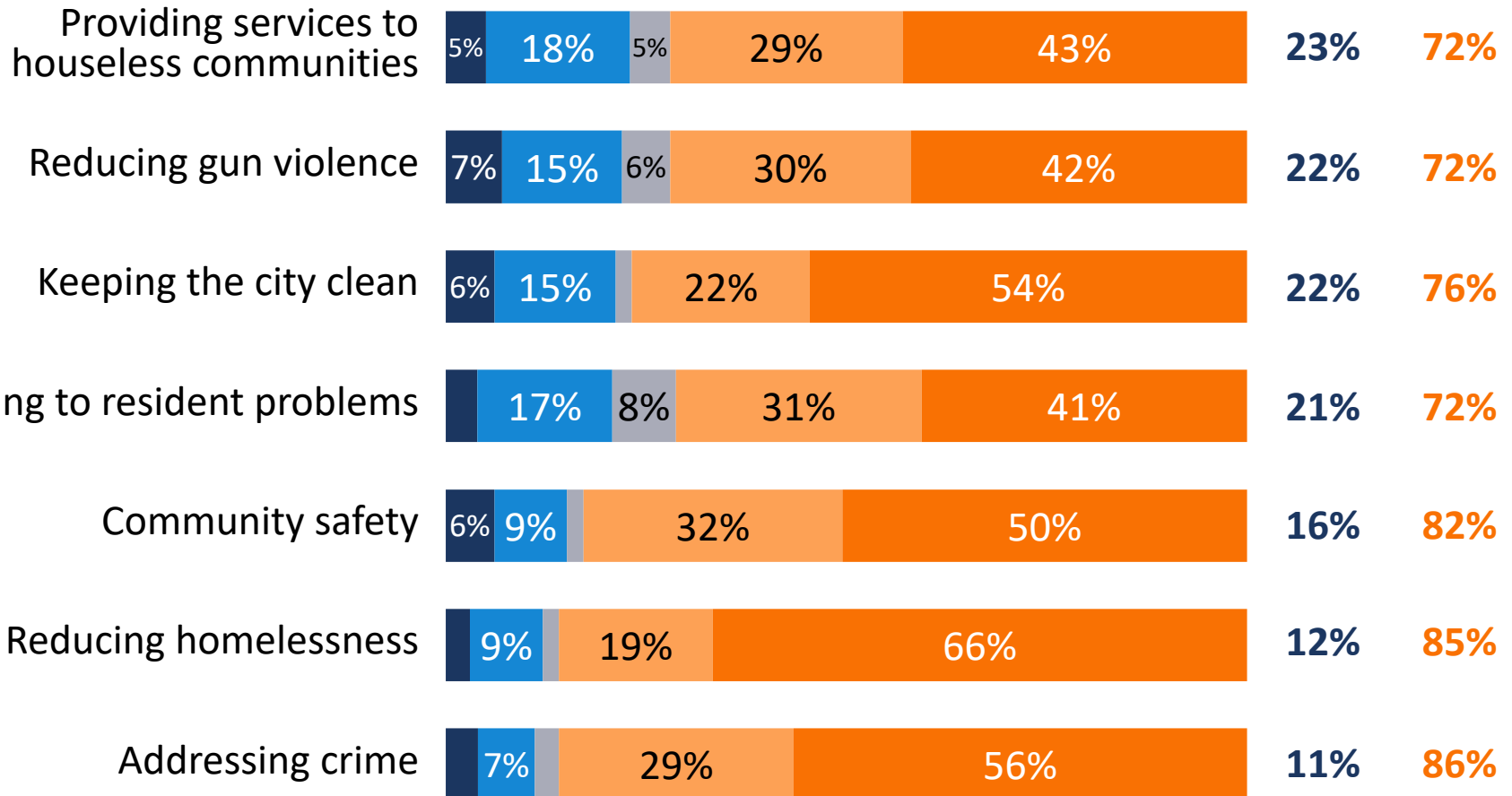
Political Context

A broad majority disapproves of the City's work treating all neighborhoods fairly.



They most broadly disapprove of the City's work addressing crime and homelessness.

■ Strng. App.
■ Smwt. App.
■ Don't Know
■ Smwt. Disapp.
■ Strng. Disapp.
Total App.
Total Disapp.



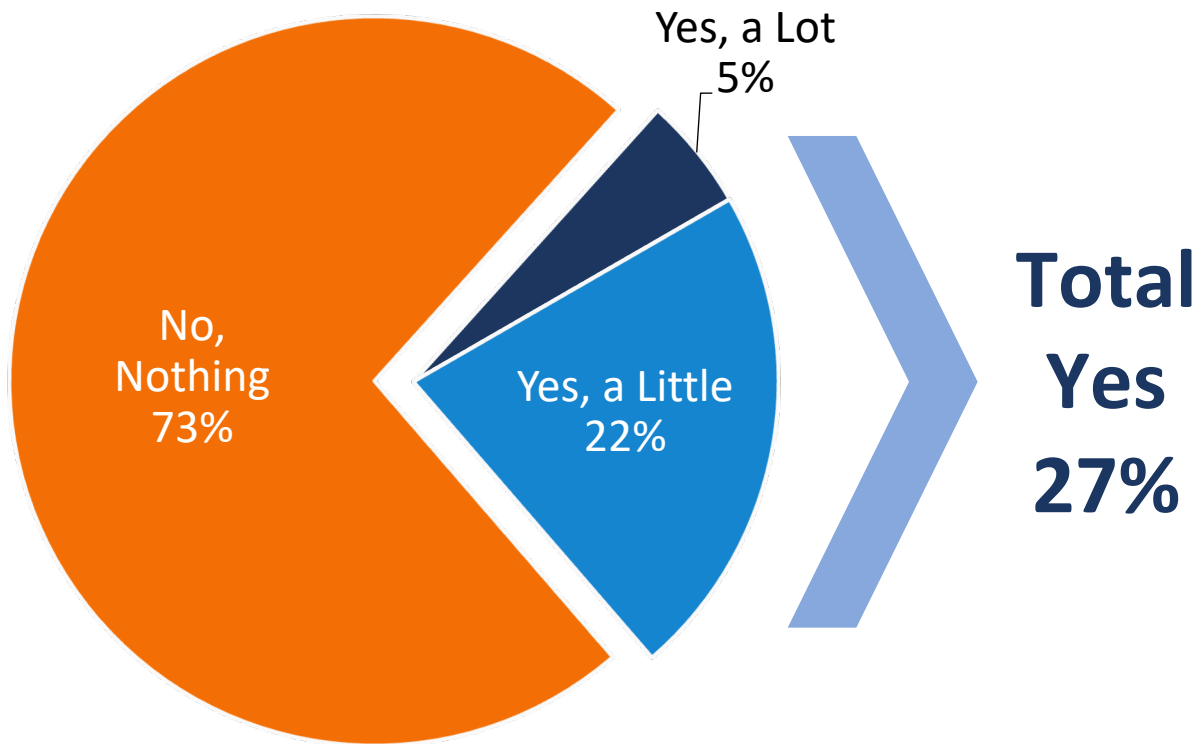
Q1. I am going to give you a list of aspects of Portland city government's job. Please tell me whether you approve or disapprove of the job that Portland City government is doing in that area. Split Sample



Introducing Participatory Budgeting

About one-quarter have heard at least a little about participatory budgeting.

Have you ever seen, heard or read about participatory budgeting, a method by which residents are directly involved in deciding how to spend a portion of a public budget?



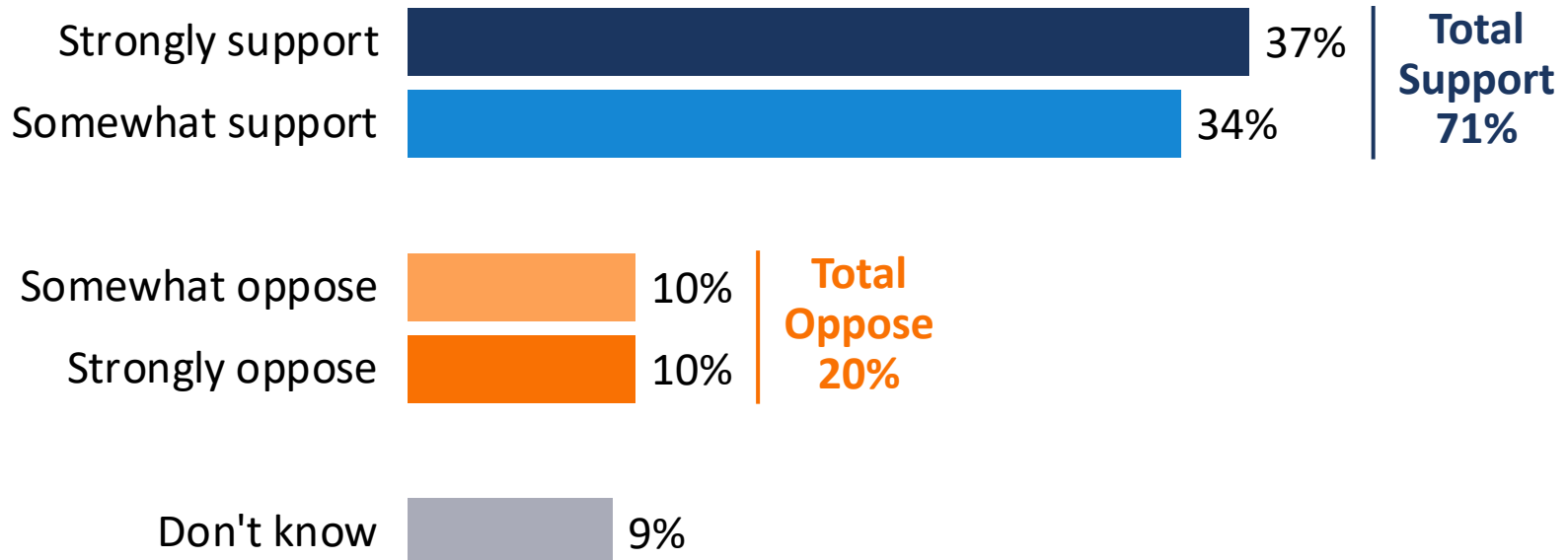
Most Likely to Have Heard of PB:

- Progressives
- Ages 18-29
- West Portland
- Democratic men

Seven in ten support a participatory budgeting proposal given a brief description.

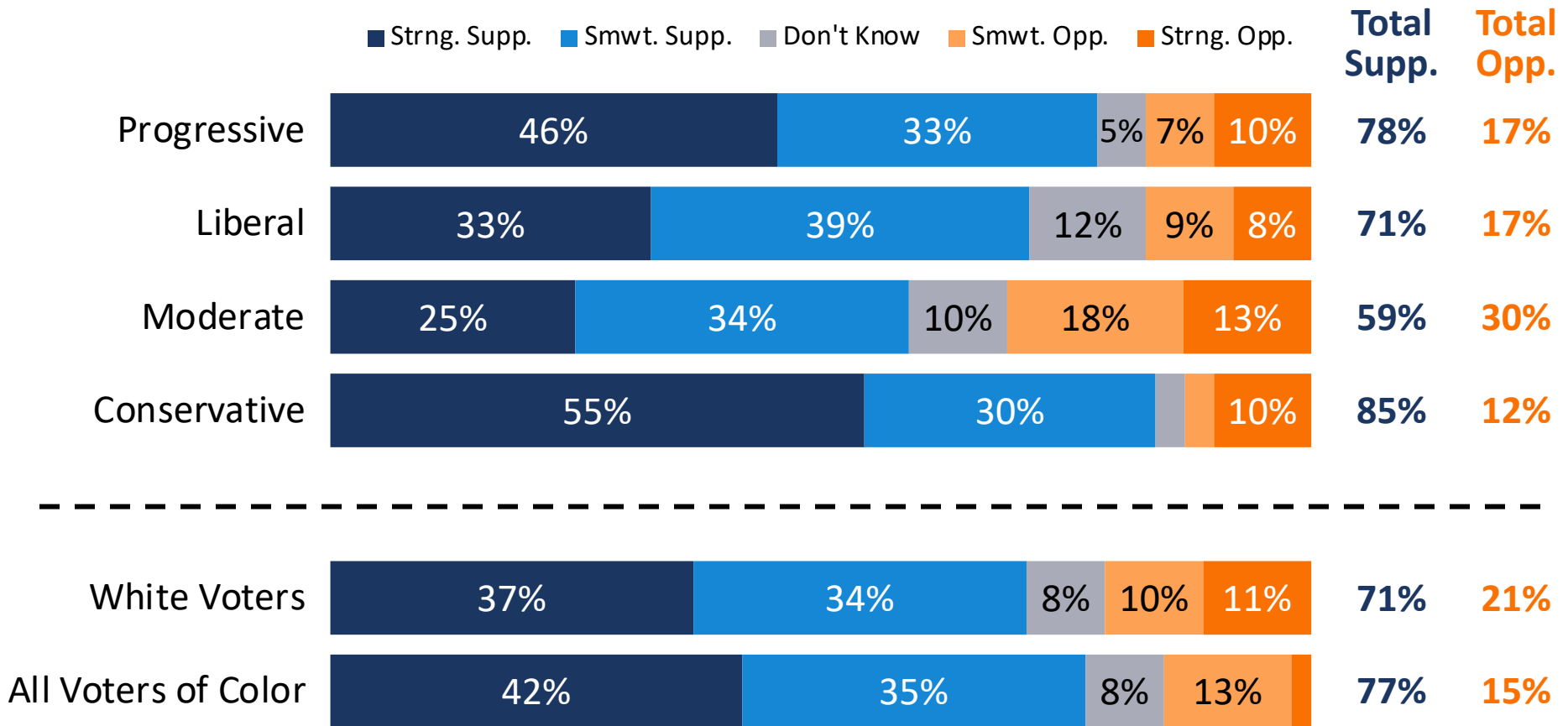
Currently, every other year each City bureau submits a requested budget for the years ahead. The Mayor then proposes a budget, which the City Council reviews. The budget is divided into key service areas, including public safety; parks, recreation and culture; public utilities; transportation; and community development. Revenue comes in through bonds, service charges, taxes, grants, and permits.

Participatory budgeting gives the public more power over how some funds are allocated. A certain percentage of the budget is set aside for residents to spend. Residents then suggest projects, debate them, and vote.



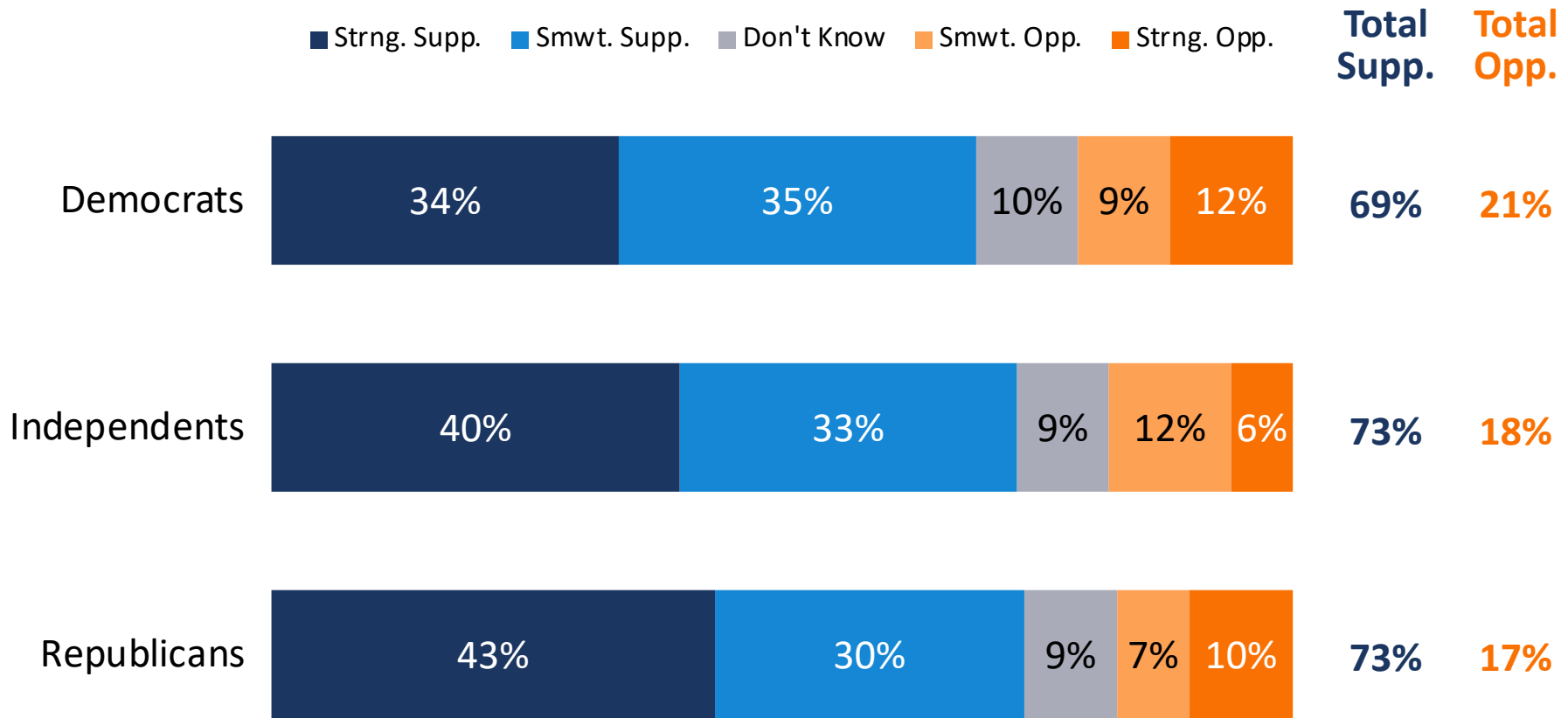
Support is broad across ideology, with nearly four in five progressives in favor of the proposal.

Initial Opinion by Ideology & Race/Ethnicity



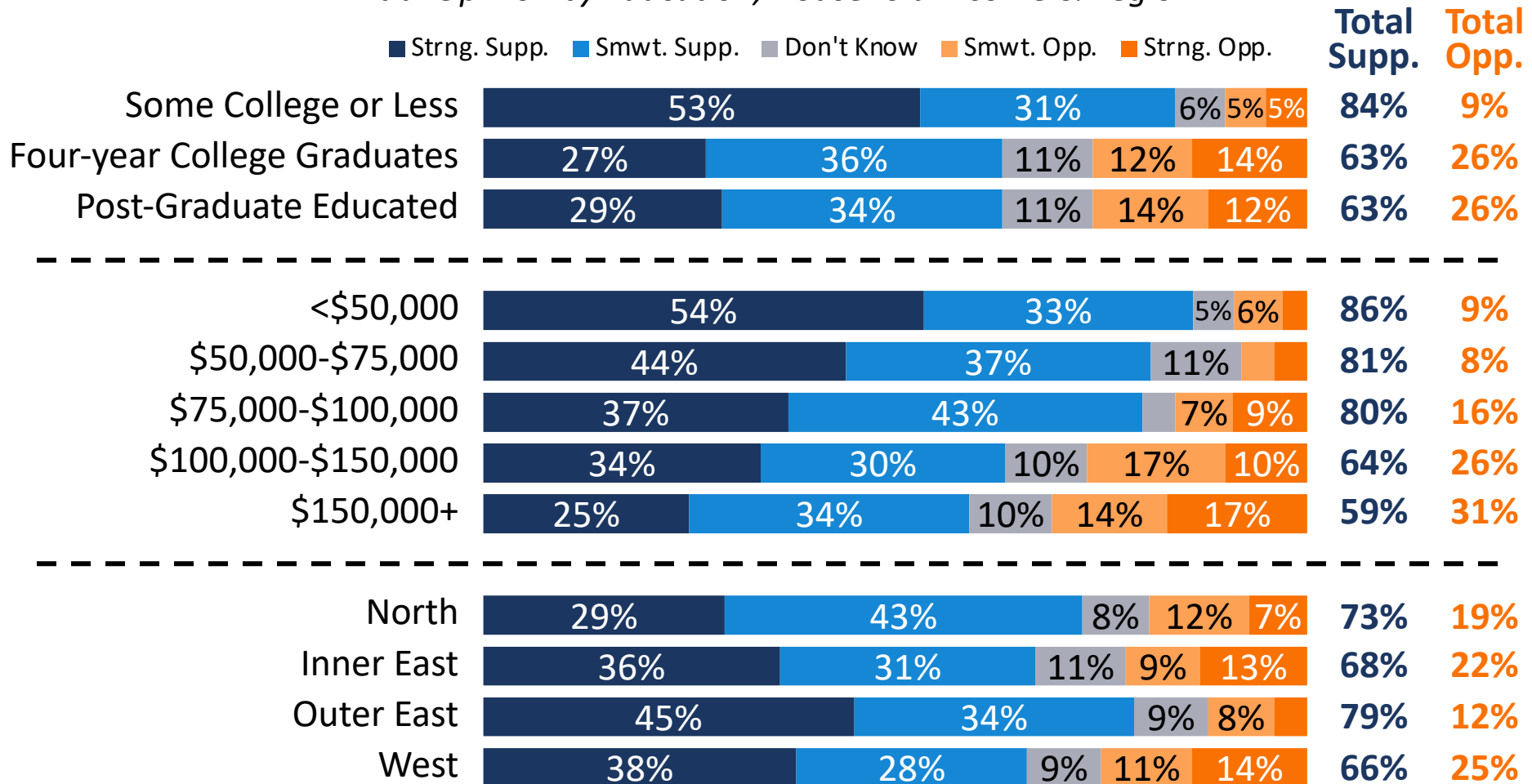
Support is similar across party lines.

Initial Opinion by Party Registration



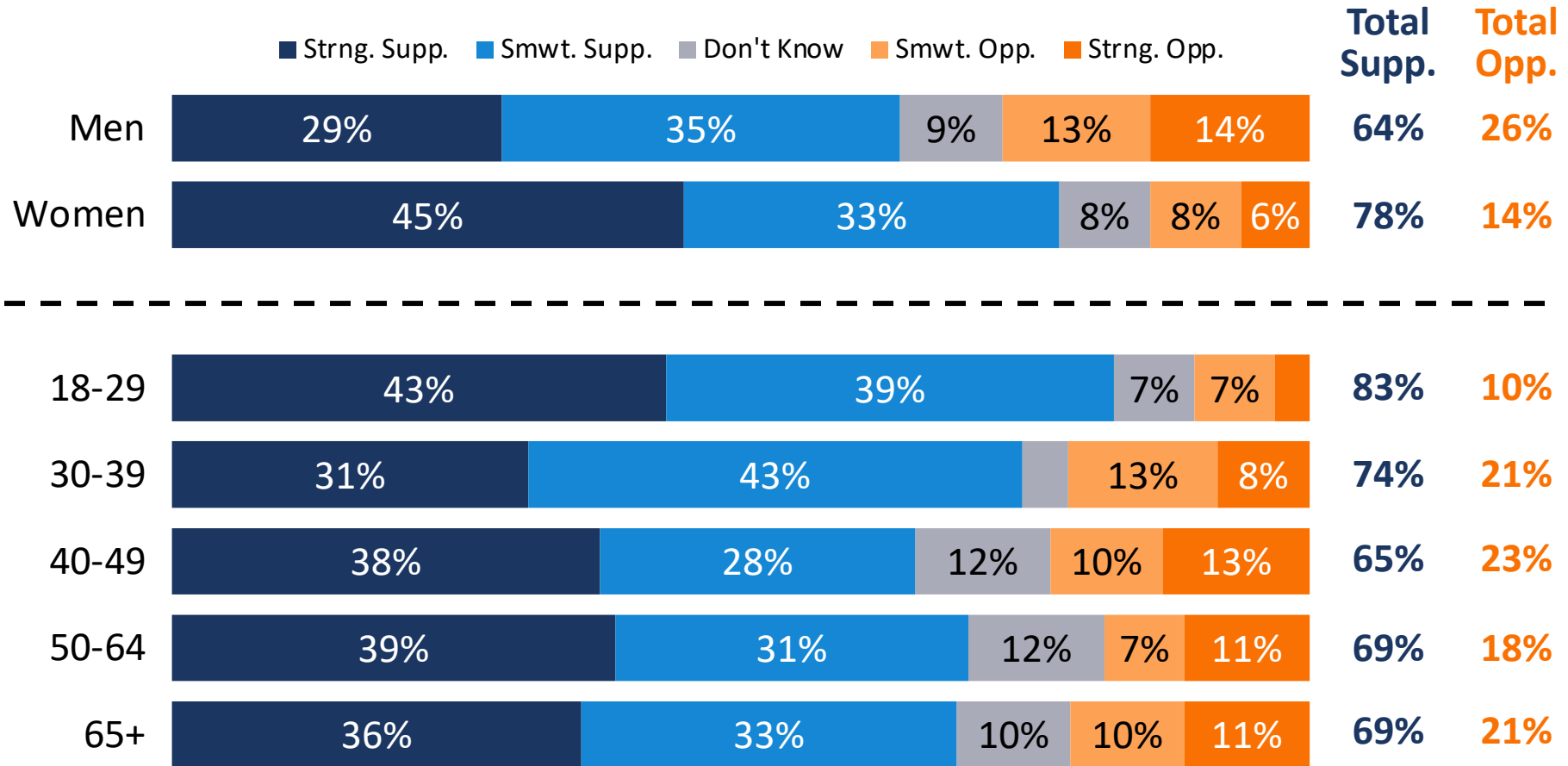
Voters in the outer East and North Portland are particularly supportive, as are lower-income voters.

Initial Opinion by Education, Household Income & Region



The proposal has support across gender and age, with women and younger voters a strong base of support.

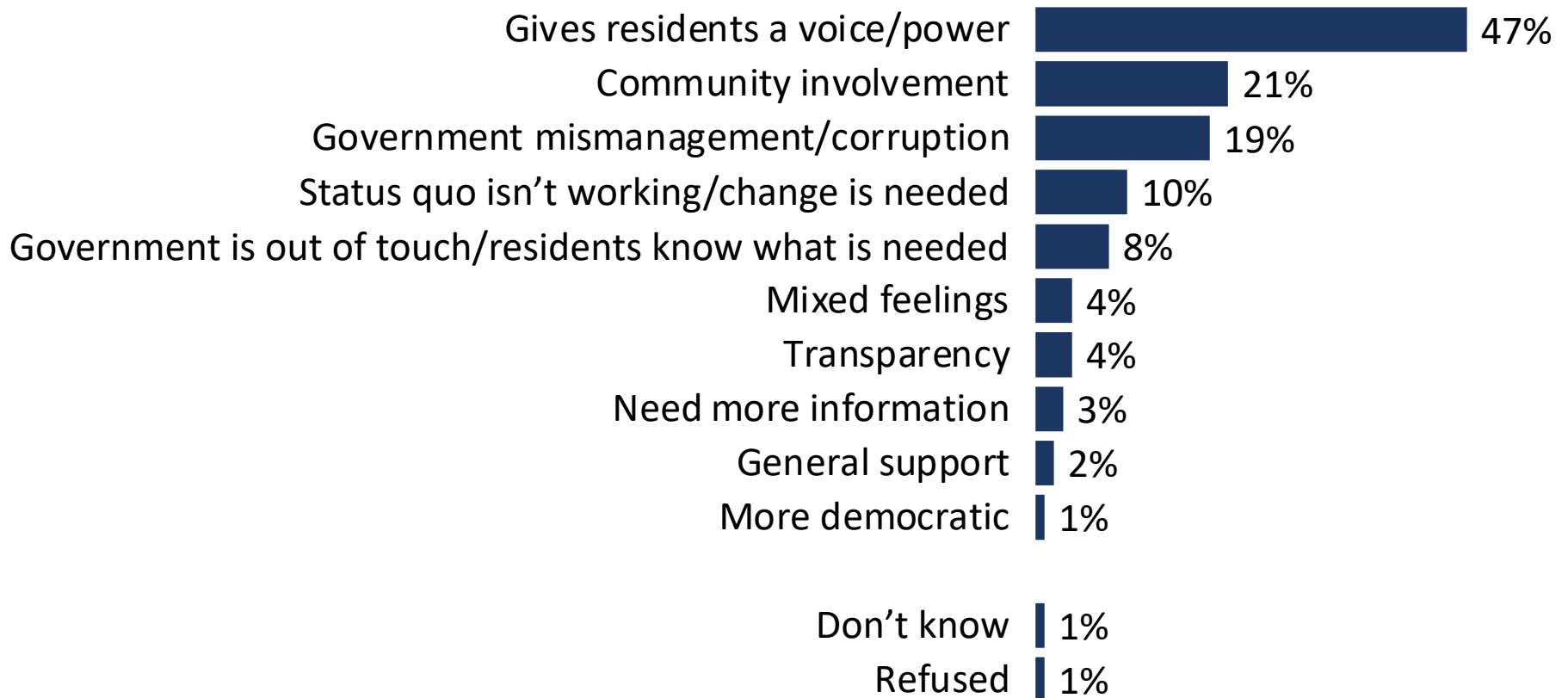
Initial Opinion by Gender & Age



Supporters like that participatory budgeting gives voters a “voice” and “power.”

*In a few words of your own, why do you **SUPPORT** this idea?*

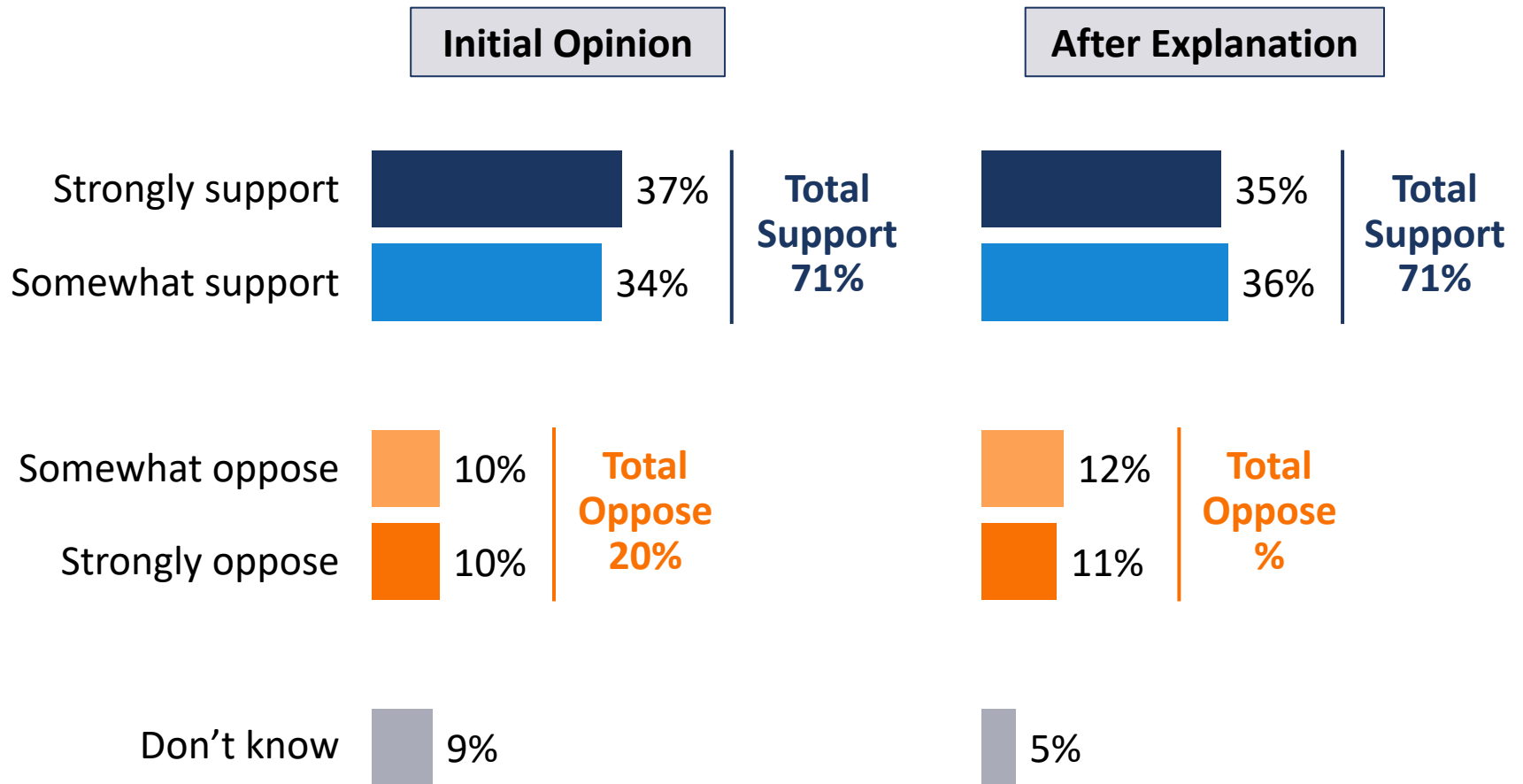
(Open-ended; Asked of Supporters Only, n=426)



Voters next heard more details about how participatory budgeting might work in Portland.

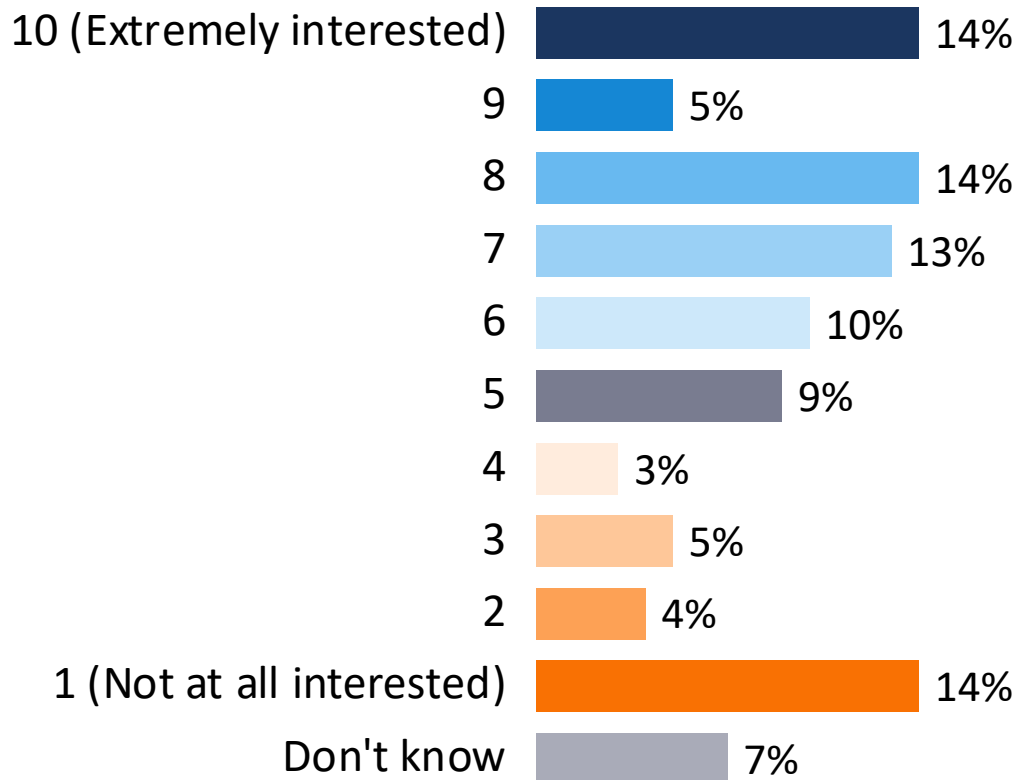
- 1% of the City's general fund would be set aside for participatory budgeting.
- A representative group of residents would work with City staff to help co-design the community-led process and set transparent rules.
- This committee would establish a public process by which all residents are invited to submit ideas for public projects, such as improvements to parks, streets, public art, education, or one-time projects or services related to education, community building, social services, or other City functions.
- Residents would then work with City staff to develop the ideas into specific projects with detailed approach and costs that can be feasibly implemented.
- There would then be a binding voting process open to all City residents to select which projects to be implemented with available funds from the 1% set aside.
- Selected projects would then be implemented with community oversight, and evaluated for success.

This explanation does not shift already-high levels of overall support.



A majority is interested in the PB process, with lower-income voters and voters of color more interested.

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 meaning not at all interested and 10 meaning extremely interested, how interested would you be in participating in this kind of participatory budgeting process personally?



**6+
Rating
51%**

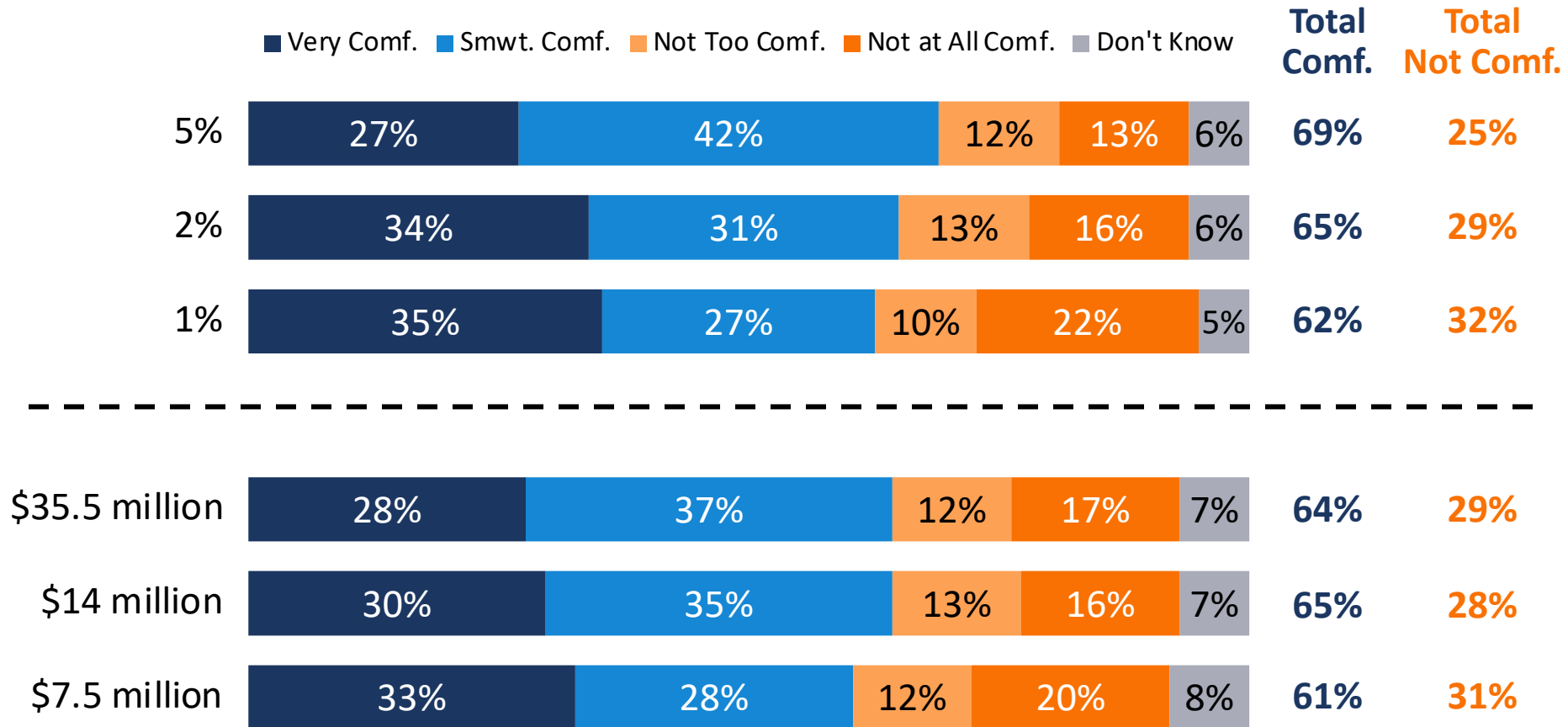
**Mean
Score
6.0**

More Likely To Rate Their Interest a "10"

- Voters of color
- HH income <\$50,000
- Parents
- Non-college educated women
- Republicans

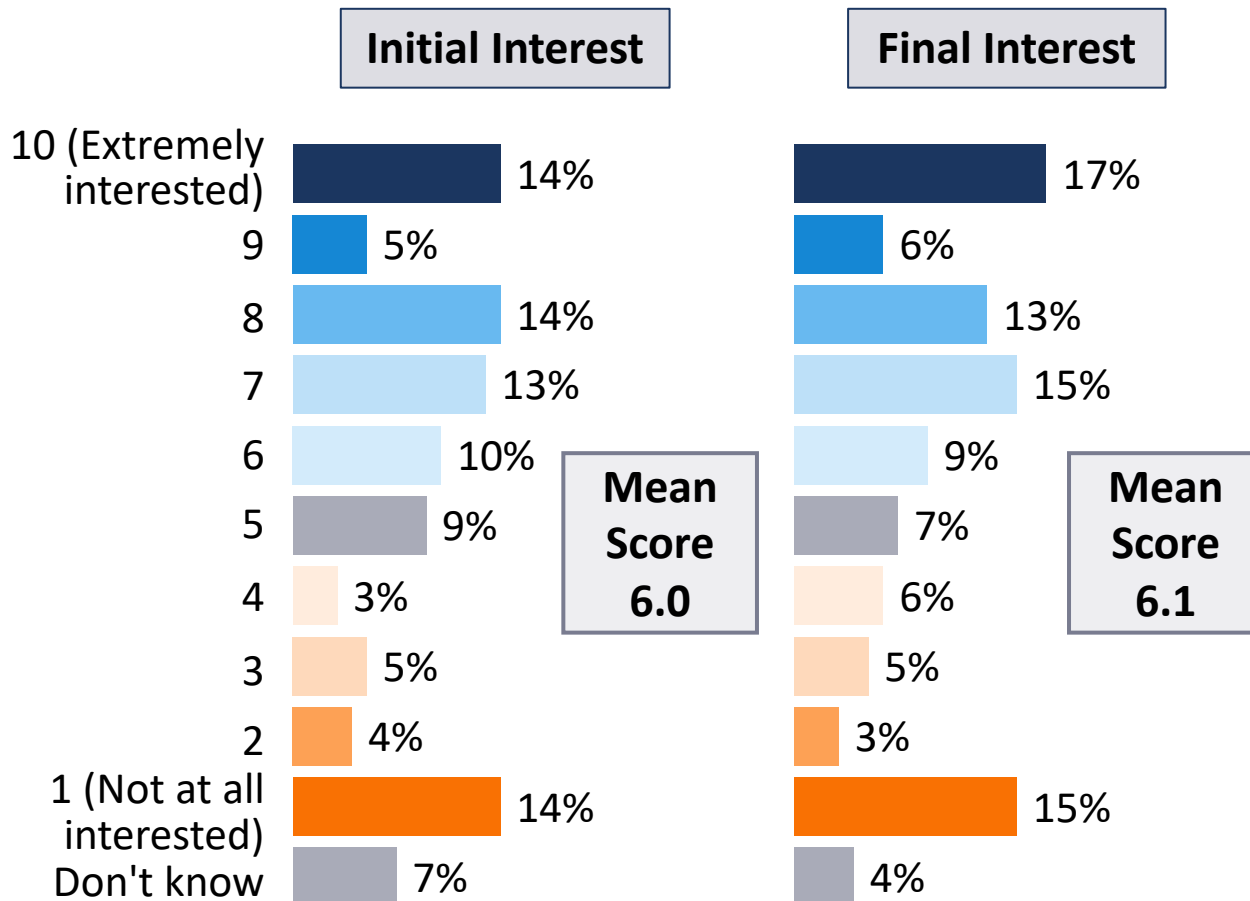
Voters are broadly comfortable with as much as 5% of the City's general fund being subject to PB.

The final structure of this proposal has not been decided. How comfortable would you be with the City allocating ____ of its approximately \$800 million general fund budget using participatory budgeting? Would you be very comfortable, somewhat comfortable, not too comfortable, or not at all comfortable?



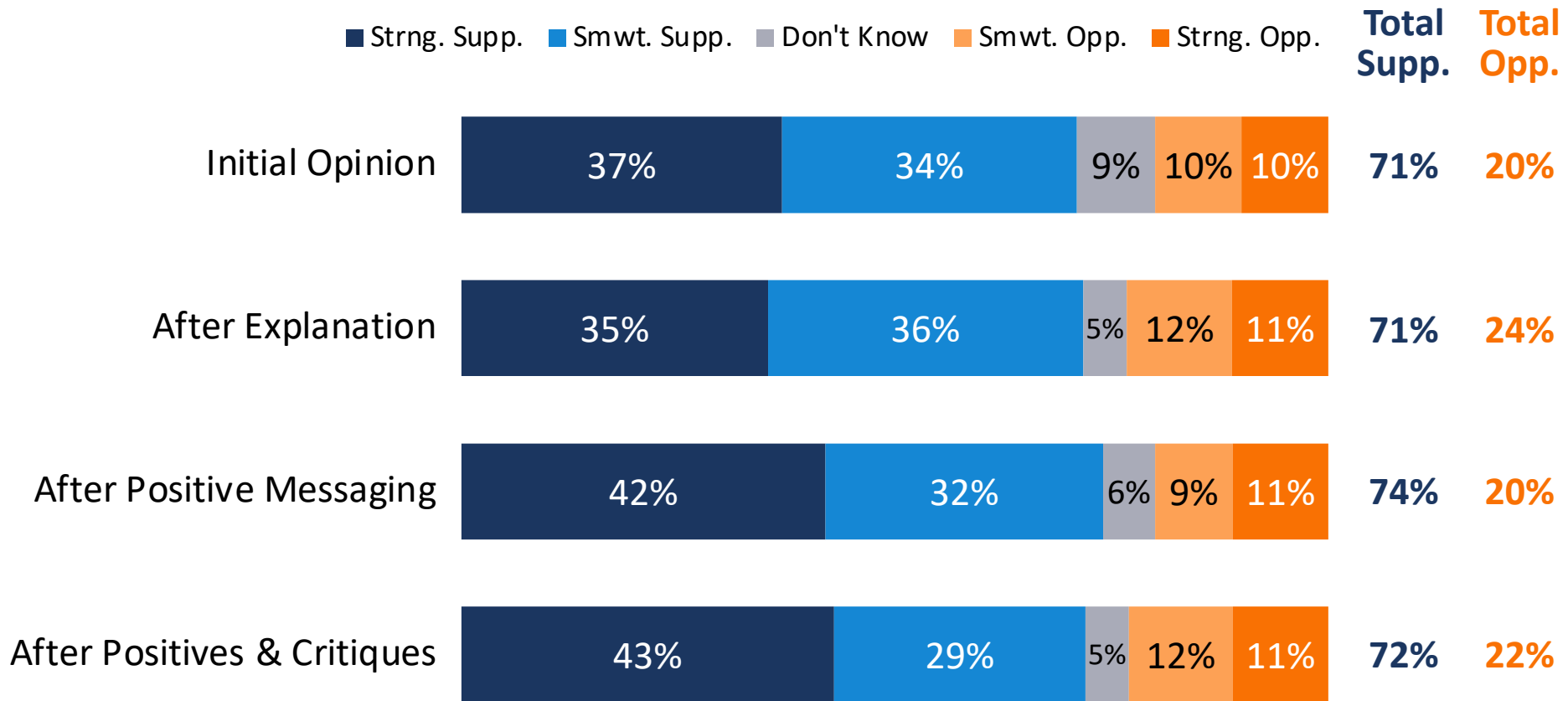
Interest in participating personally does not shift much after messaging.

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 meaning not at all interested and 10 meaning extremely interested, how interested would you be in participating in this kind of participatory budgeting process personally?



25% of voters become more interested, however – these are disproportionately voters under 30, progressive/liberal independents, independents under 50 and independent men.

Overall support for the proposal is consistent and broad, with gains in intensity after positive messaging and durability after critiques.



Q4. Do you support or oppose the City of Portland adopting such a participatory budgeting process for a portion of the City's budget?

Q6. Do you support or oppose the proposal?

Q13 & Q14. Would you support or oppose it?

For more information,
contact:



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