

FRANK CHURCH INSTITUTE

The State of Democracy in Key States

NOVEMBER 2021

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MORNING CONSULT IS A GLOBAL
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POWER LEADERS' INTELLIGENT DECISIONS.



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BACKGROUND

The Research conducted by Morning Consult on behalf of the Frank Church Institute seeks to understand:

In key states ...

1. The perceived state of democracy, including health and concerns
2. Actionable solutions to help strengthen democracy

METHODOLOGY

This poll was conducted between September 24 - October 26 2021 among a sample of 1899 Adults in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Adults in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming by gender, age, educational attainment, race and ethnicity and 2020 presidential vote choice (including not voting).

Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points

KEY FINDINGS

1

Adults in key states are concerned about the **health of democracy** in the United States.

2

Identified concerns focus on **representation** in government, **misinformation**, **legitimacy of elections** and ability to find **common ground**.

3

Solutions both emphasize the need for **broad reform**, such as accountability and money in politics, and **grassroots strategies**, such as civics education and encouraging conversation.



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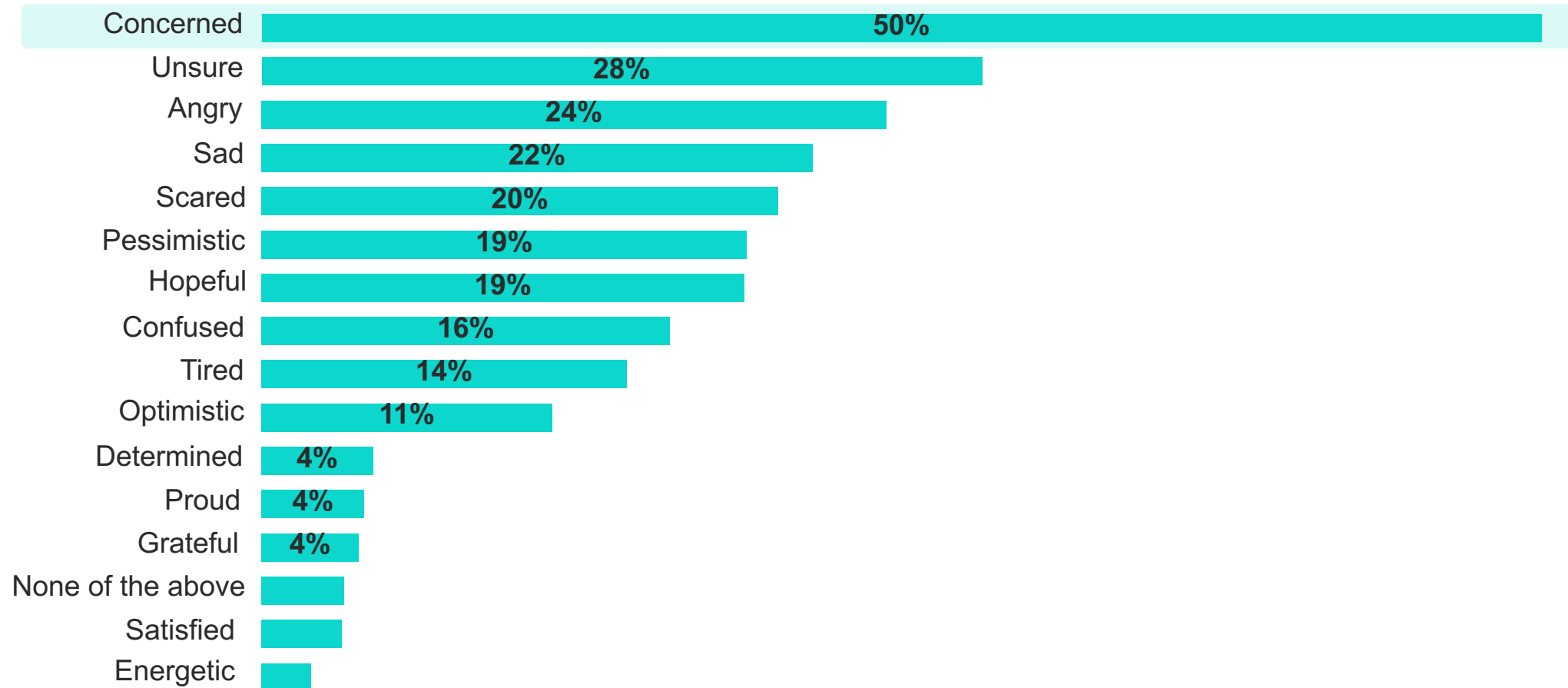
MEDIA & MISINFORMATION

LEGITIMACY OF ELECTIONS

FINDING COMMON GROUND

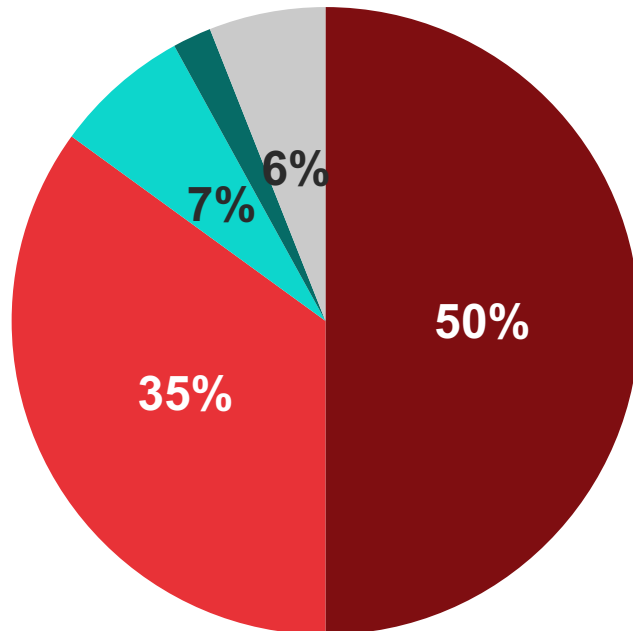


Thinking about the health of democracy in the U.S., which of the following best describes how you feel? Please select up to three options.

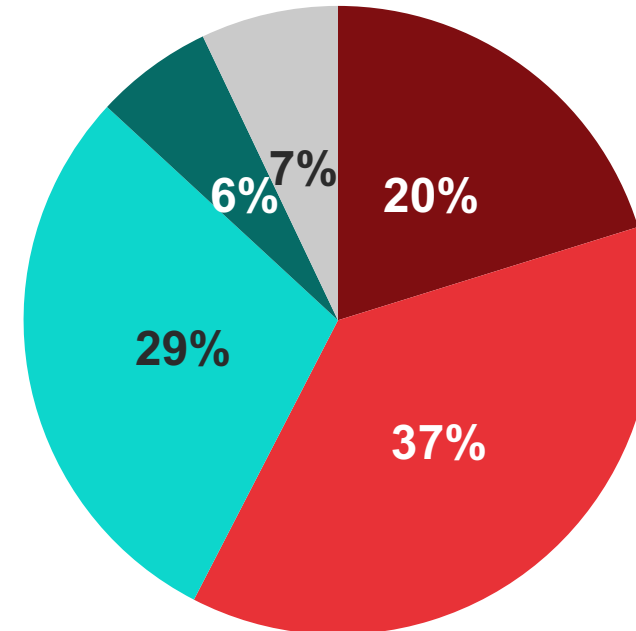


How concerned are you, if at all, about the health of democracy in each of the following:

The United States



Your State



- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not too concerned
- Not at all concerned
- Don't know/unsure

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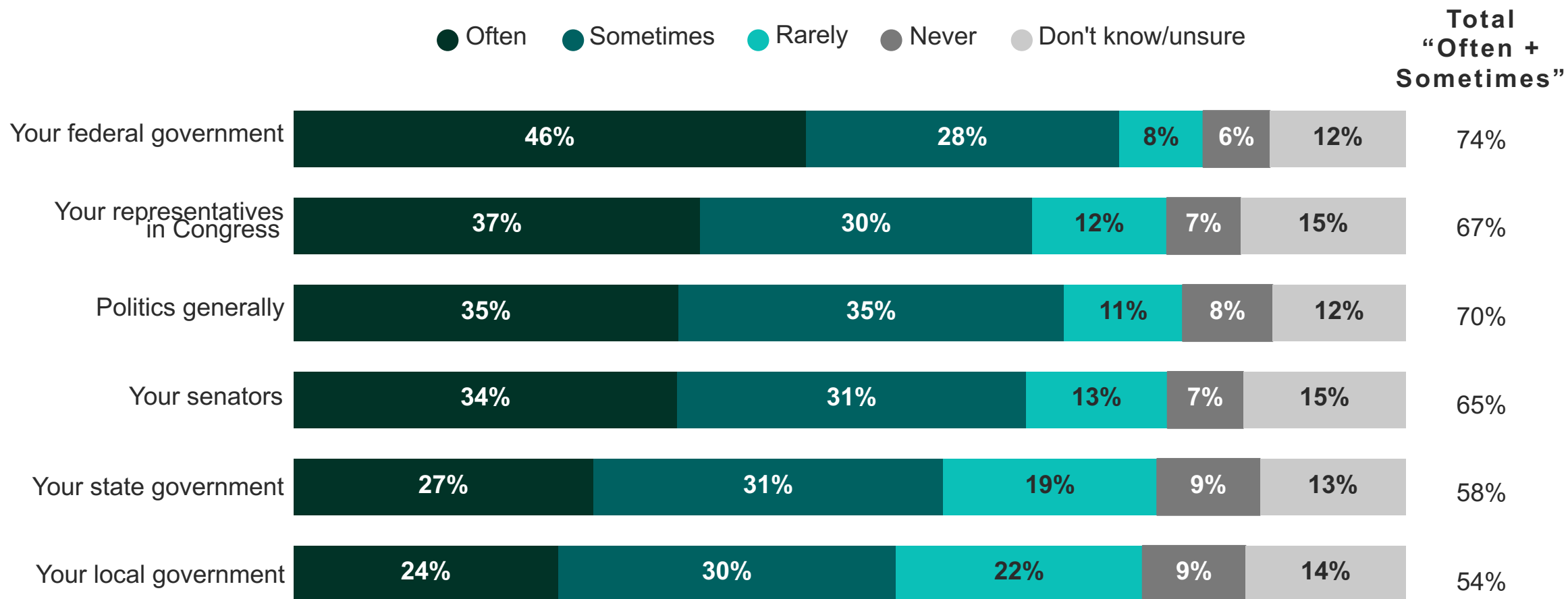
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REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT

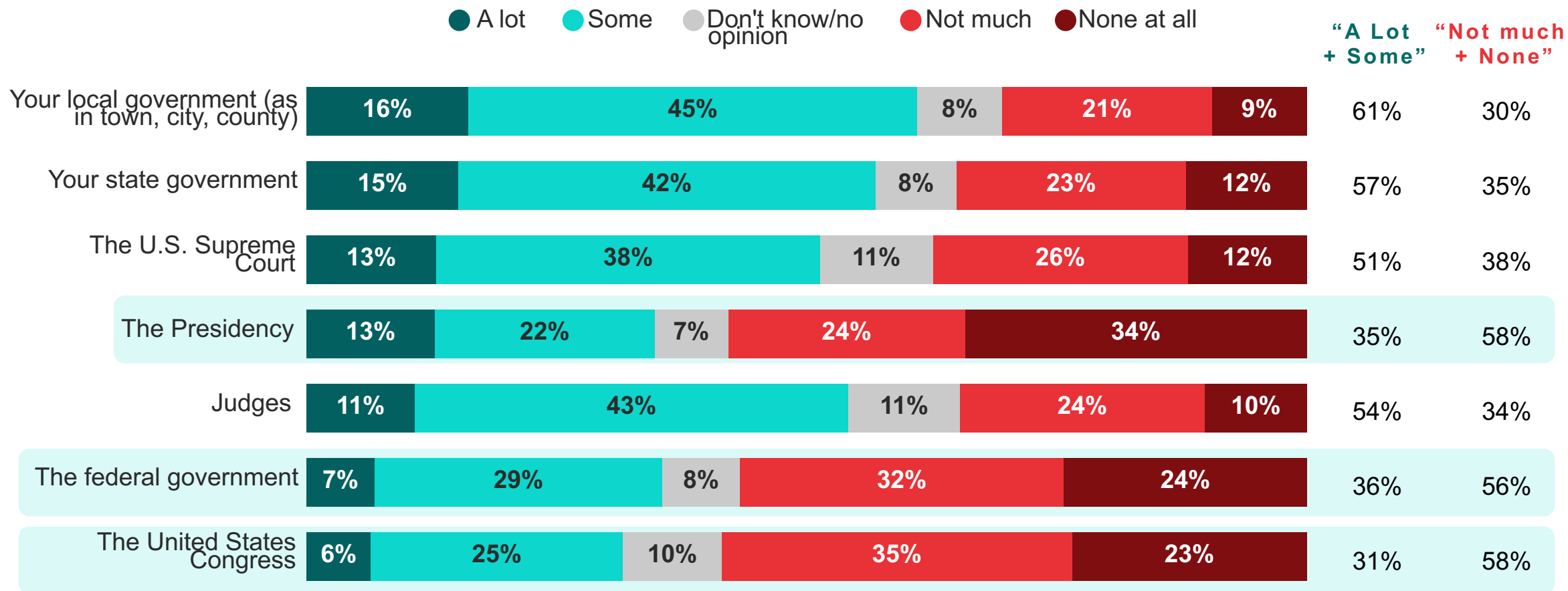
How often, if ever, do you feel alienated from:



- Higher levels of alienation at the federal level among Republicans (80%) than Democrats (68%)
- Consistent levels of alienation seen at the community level, and across individual states

REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT

How much confidence do you have in each of the following, if any, to act in the best interests of the public?

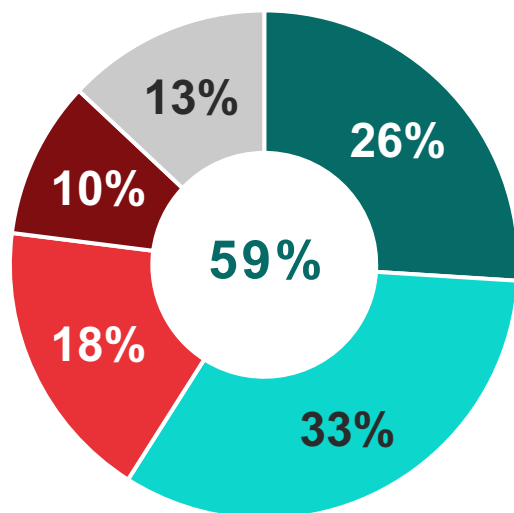


REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT

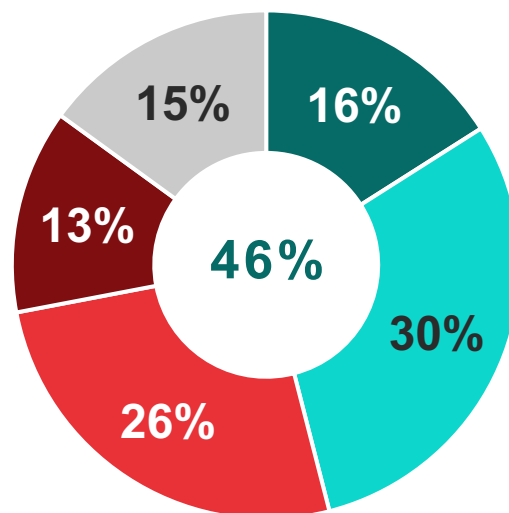
Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

● Strongly agree
 ● Somewhat agree
 ● Don't know/no opinion
 ● Somewhat disagree
 ● Strongly disagree

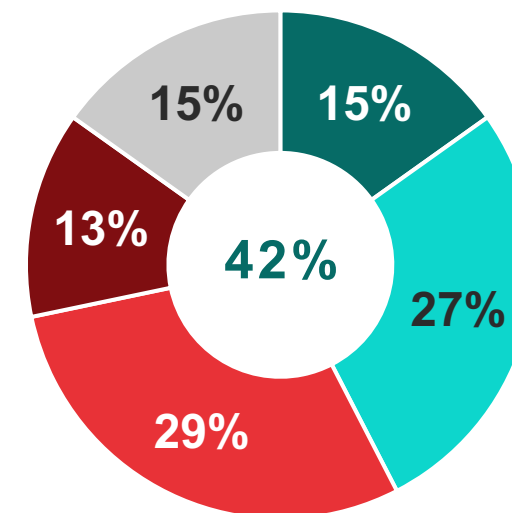
The **federal government** works to benefit other groups of people, but not people like me.



My **state government** works to benefit other groups of people, but not people like me.



My **local government** (town, city or county) works to benefit other groups of people, but not people like me.



Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

% Total Agree	Five states	Democrats	Independents	Republicans	Community: Urban	Community: Suburban	Community: Rural
The federal government works to benefit other groups of people, but not people like me	59%	48%	60%	65%	56%	60%	59%
My state government works to benefit other groups of people, but not people like me	46%	47%	49%	43%	50%	45%	43%
My local government works to benefit other groups of people, but not people like me	42%	44%	44%	39%	49%	41%	38%

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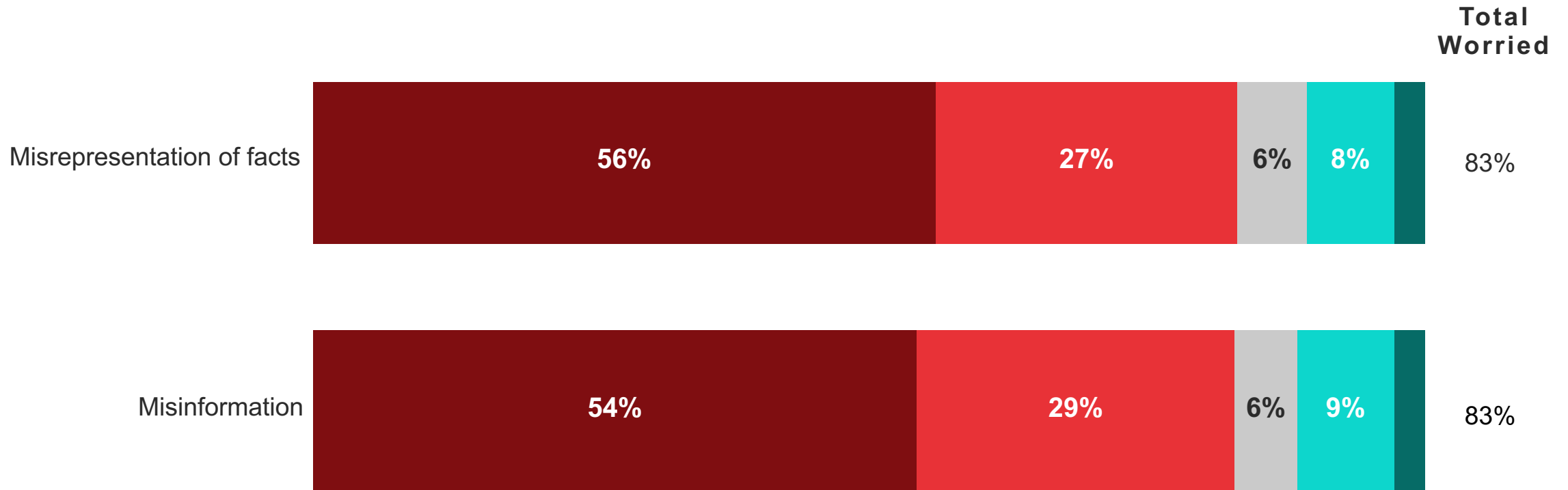
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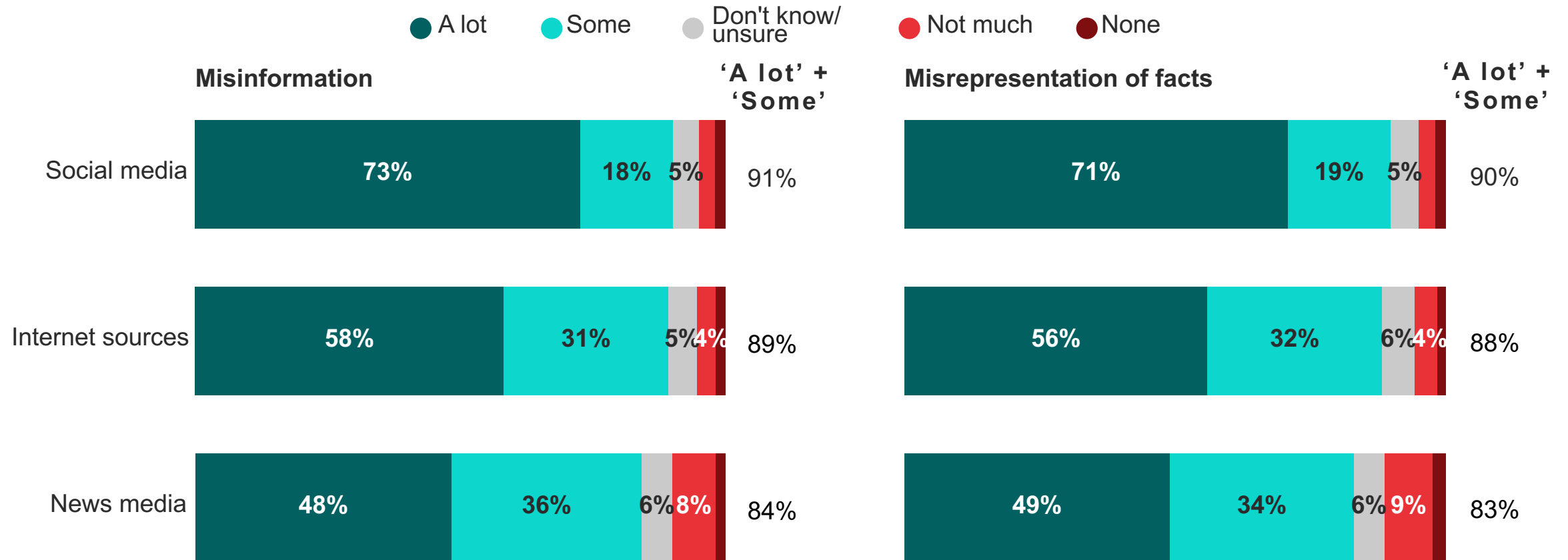
How worried are you, if at all, about each of the following?

● Very worried ● Somewhat worried ● Don't know/ no opinion ● Not too worried ● Not at all worried



There is a relationship between misinformation and the health of democracy: when asked how concerning the spread of misinformation is to the health of democracy in the U.S., 87% said it was very or somewhat concerning.

How much misinformation / misrepresentation of facts do you believe are spread on each of the following platforms?



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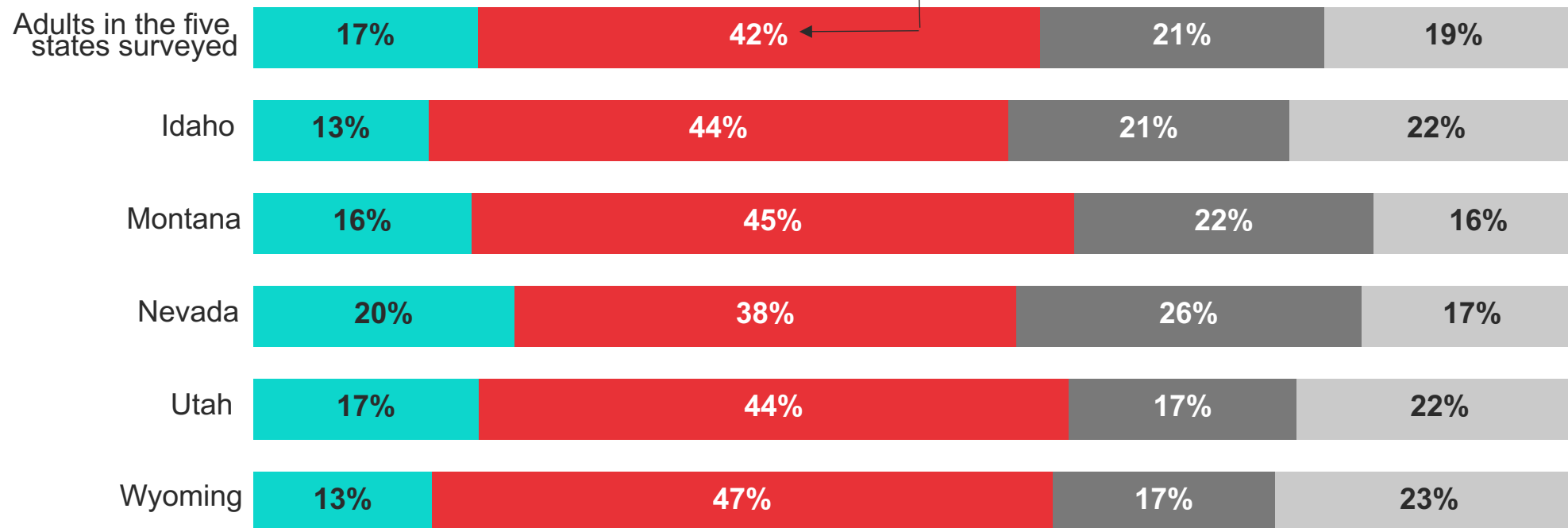


LEGITIMACY OF ELECTIONS

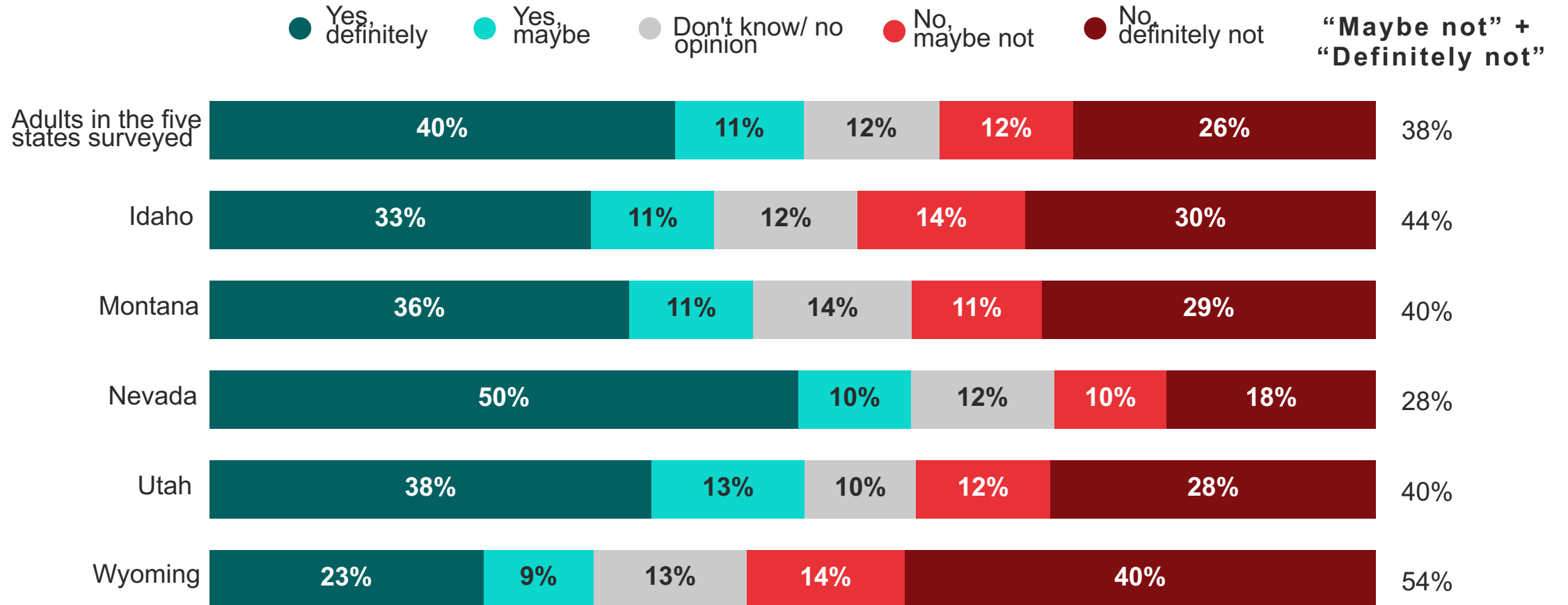
Thinking about the last several presidential elections in the U.S., do you think the last several presidential elections have been generally more secure or less secure than those held in the past?

- The last several U.S. presidential elections have been generally **more secure** than presidential elections held before then.
- The last several U.S. presidential elections have been generally **less secure** than presidential elections held before then.
- The last several U.S. presidential elections have been generally **just as secure** as presidential elections held before then.
- Don't know/unsure

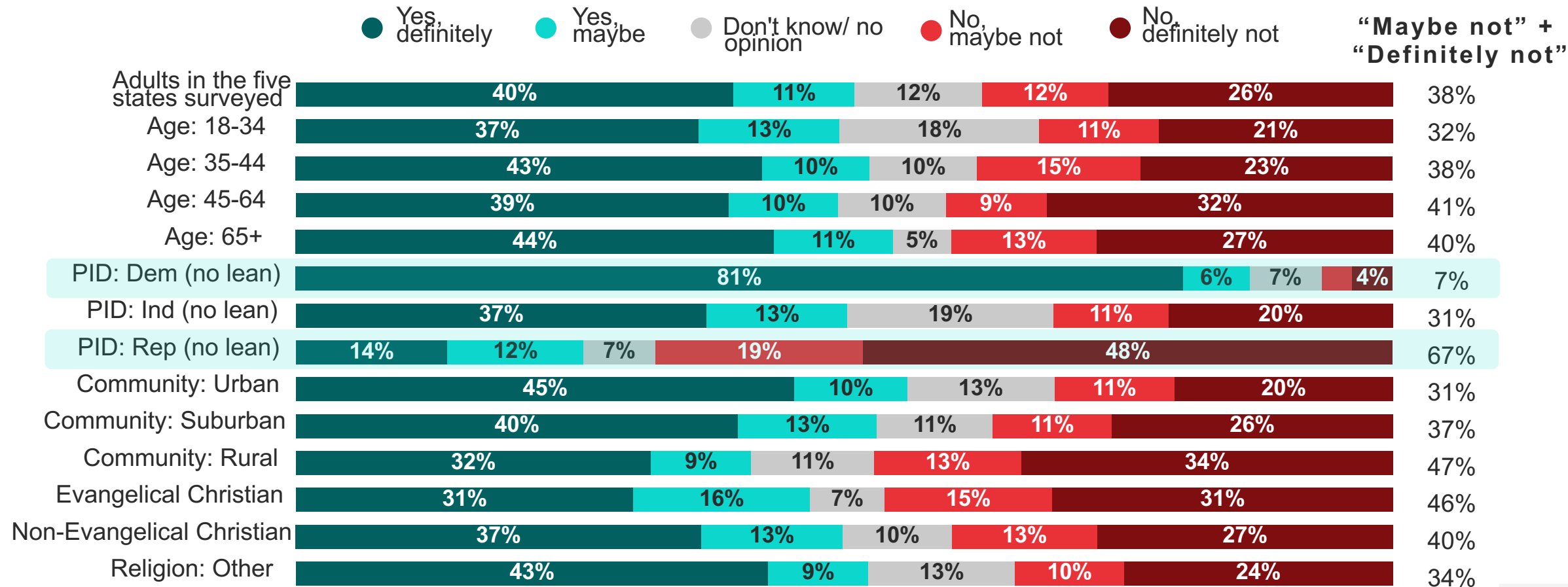
Dems: 17% / Reps: 63%



Do you believe that former Vice President Joe Biden legitimately defeated incumbent President Donald Trump in the November 2020 Presidential election?

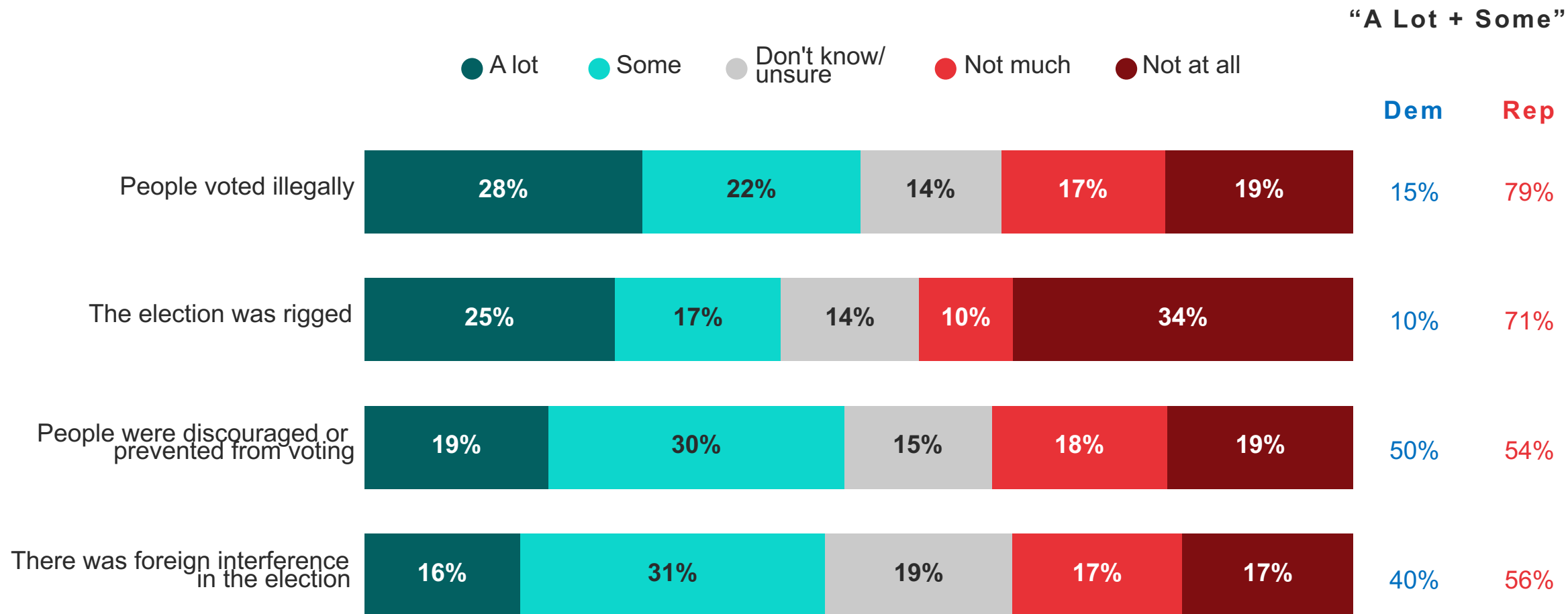


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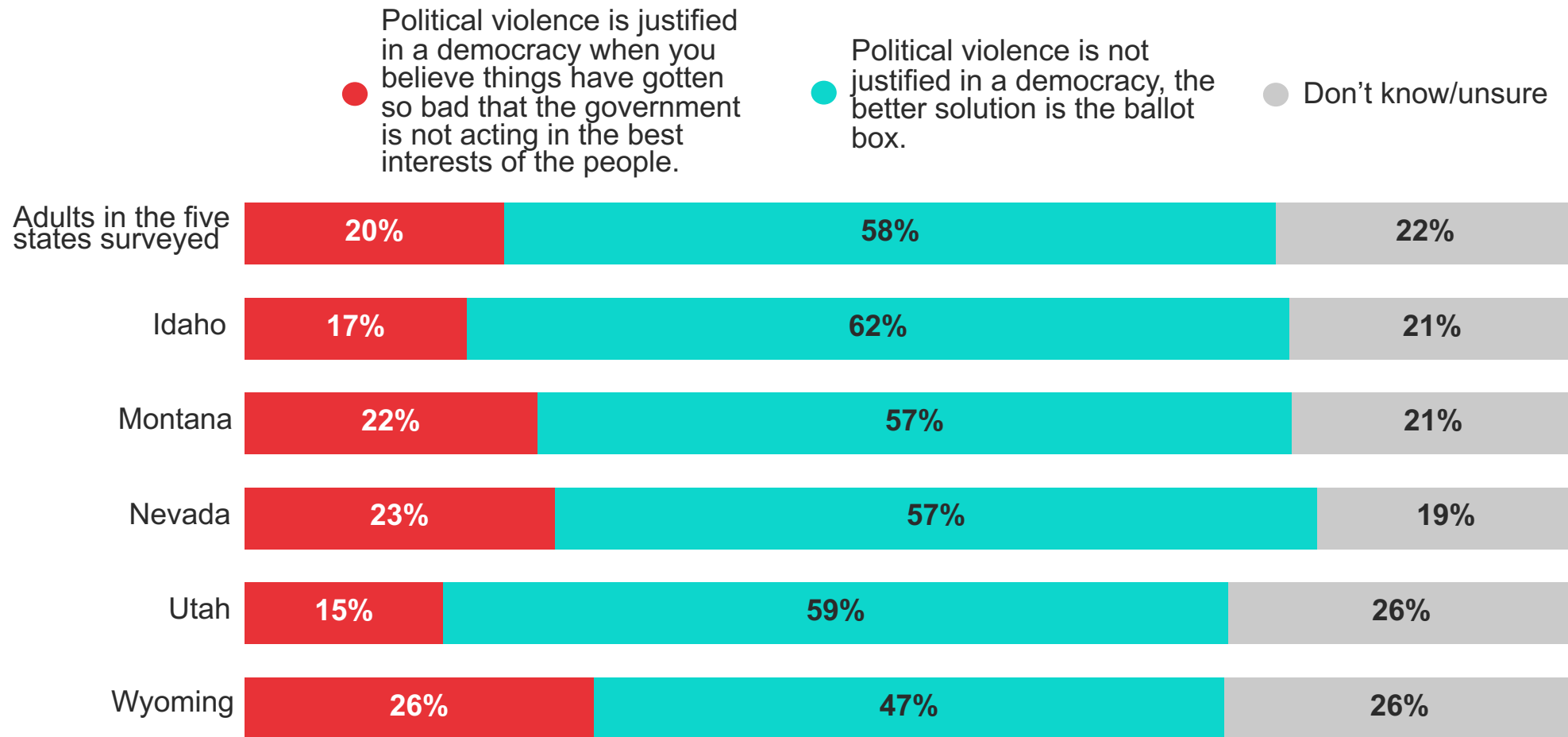


LEGITIMACY OF ELECTIONS

To what extent do you believe each of the following happened in the November 2020 U.S. presidential election?

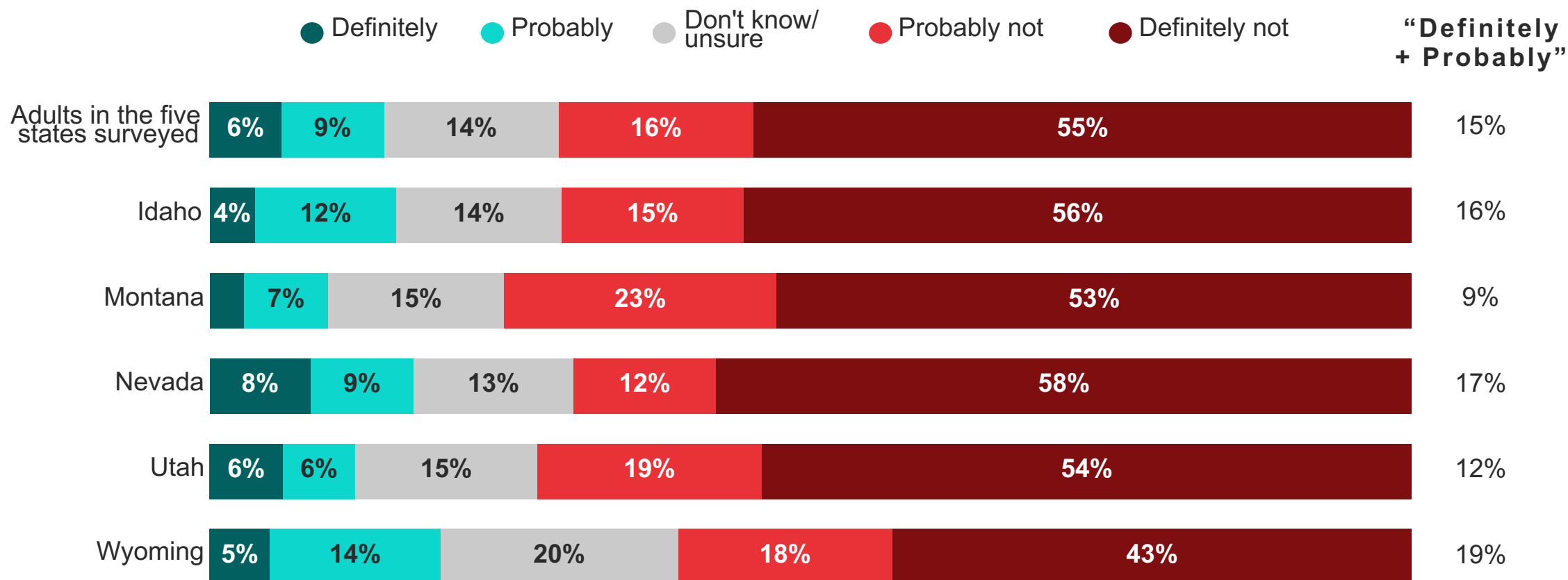


Which of the following statements is closer to your opinion, even if neither is exactly right?



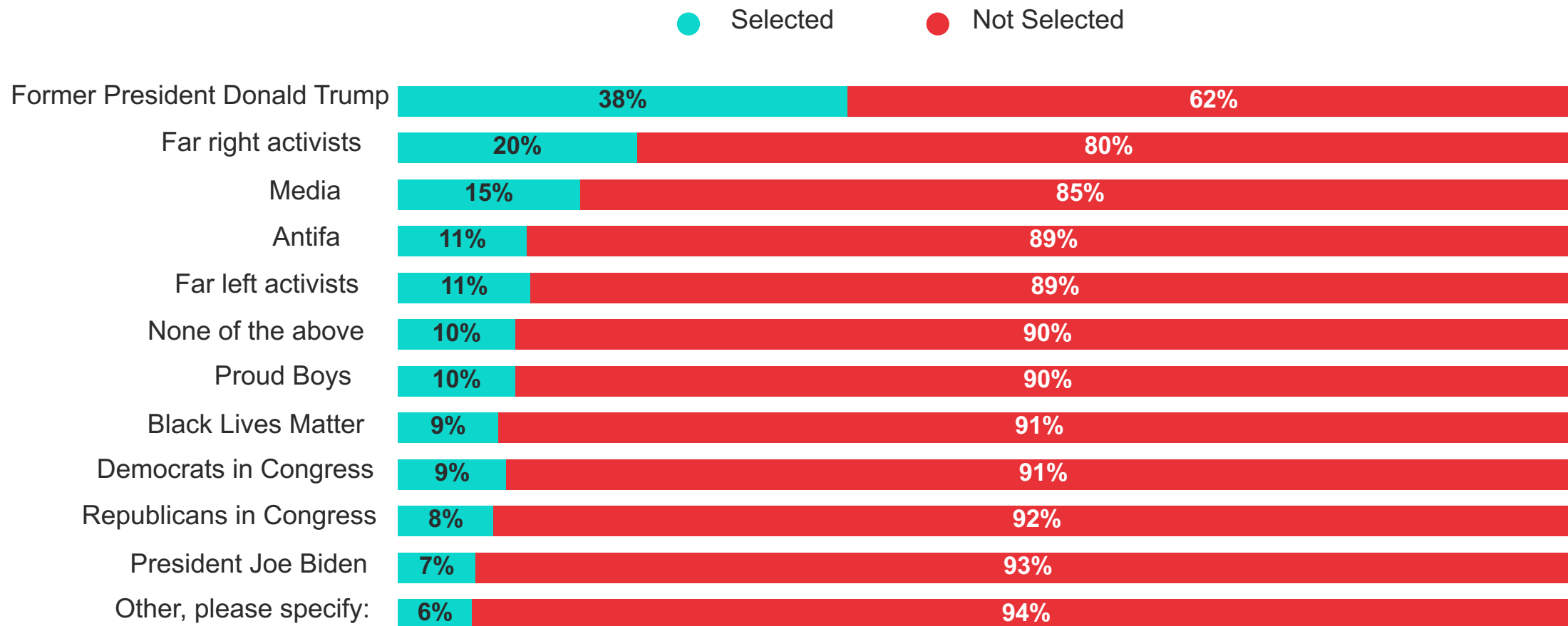
LEGITIMACY OF ELECTIONS

Violence occurred at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th, 2021. The violence disrupted a joint session of Congress convened to certify the results of the November 2020 presidential election and threatened those in the Capitol. Thinking about the violence at the U.S. Capitol, generally do you believe the actions of those involved were justified?



LEGITIMACY OF ELECTIONS

Who was most responsible for the violence at the U.S. Capitol?
Please select up to two options.



Democrats (79%) in the five states surveyed are much more likely than Republicans (13%) in those states to say Former President Donald Trump was most responsible for violence at the U.S. Capitol.

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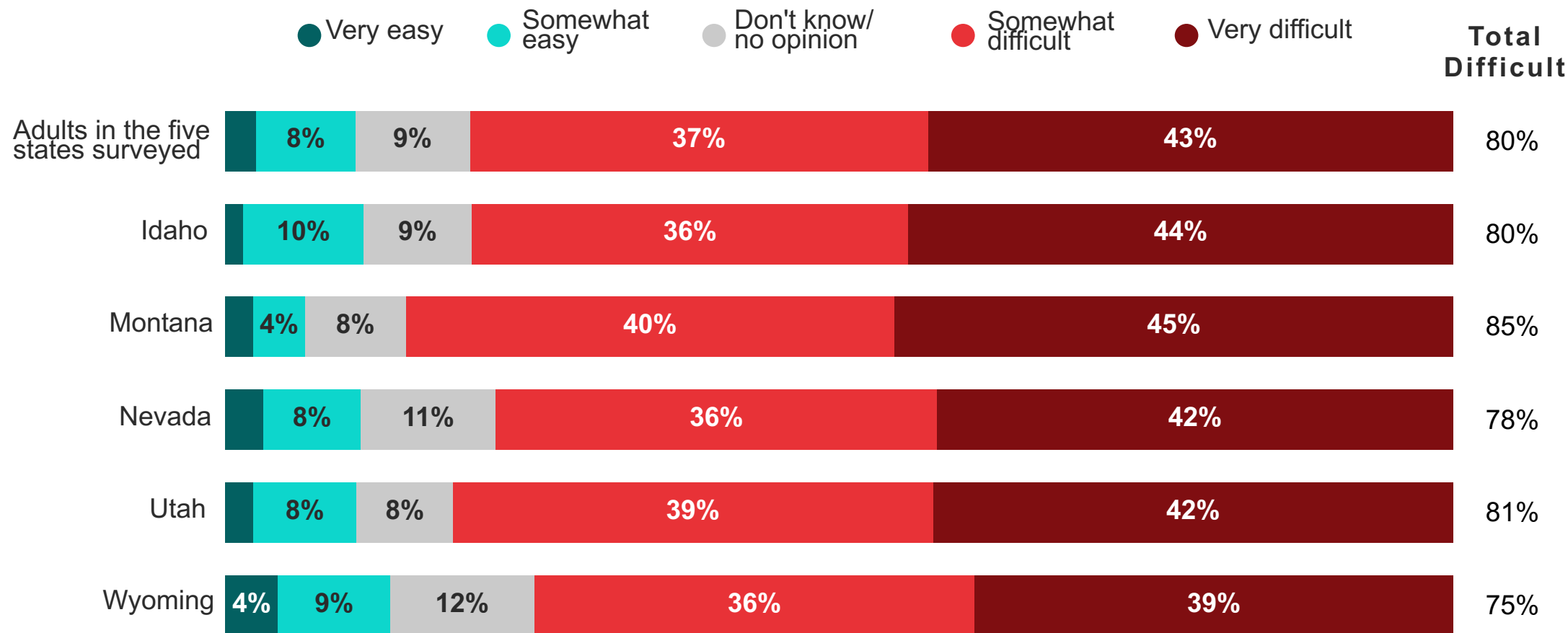
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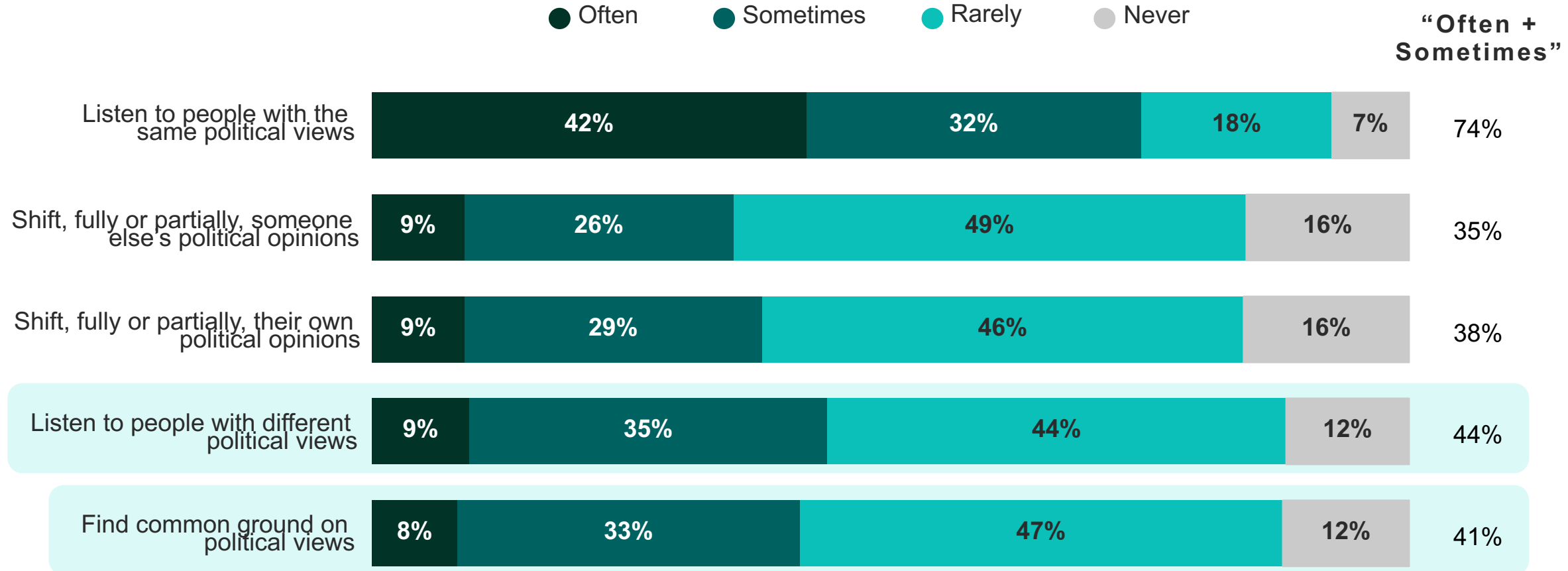
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Generally, do you believe that Americans of different political viewpoints have an [easy] time or [difficult] time talking to one another about politics?

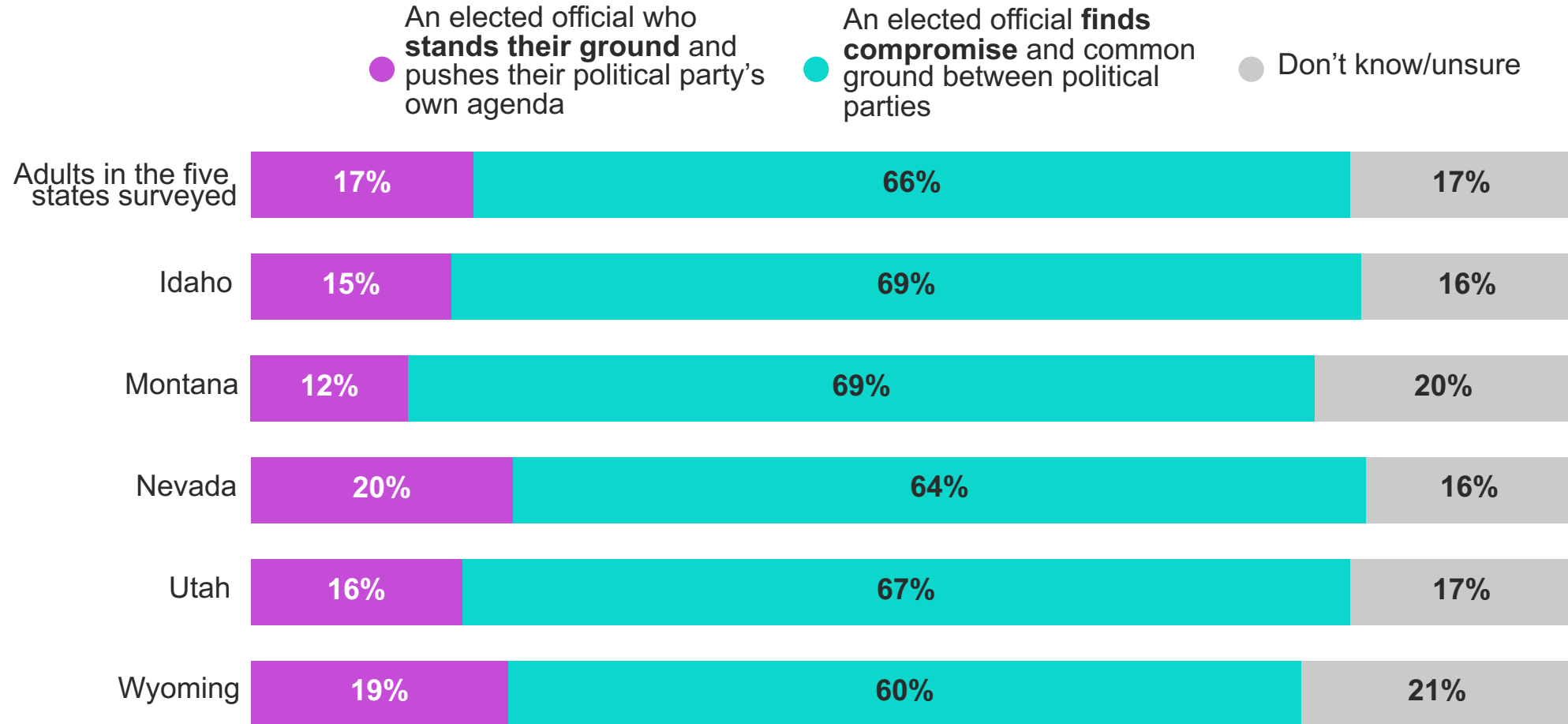


FINDING COMMON GROUND

And, how often, if at all, would you say American adults do each of the following?



Thinking about what you want out of an elected official, which of these attributes is more important to you?

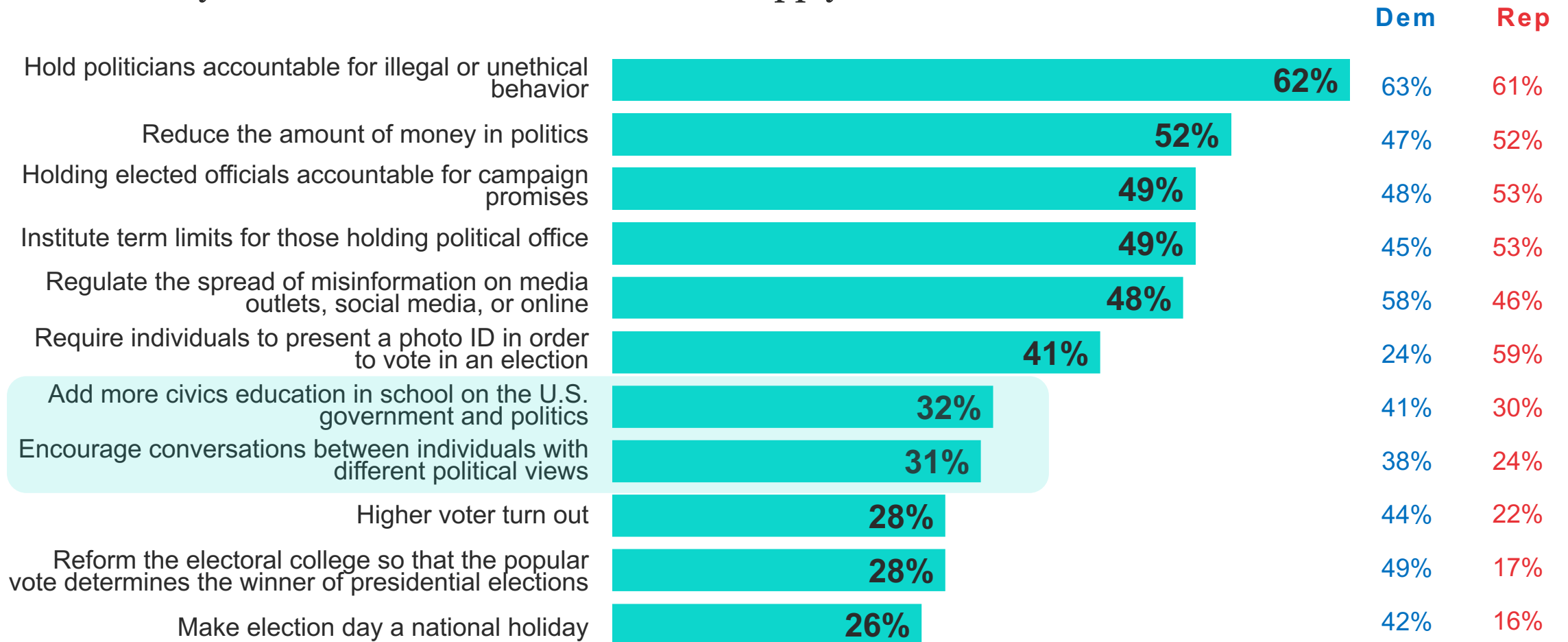


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STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY



From the following list of options, what do you believe, if anything, would help strengthen democracy in the U.S.? Please select all that apply.*



* Responses below 25% not shown here



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