JOHN ZOGBY STRATEGIES

DATA > ANALYZE > REPORT > STRATEGIZE

NYS Poll of Likely Voters: Attitudes Towards Open Primary Reform

Methodology

- Online poll of 1,505 likely voters in the state of NY, commissioned by Unite NY, and conducted September 28, 2021.
- The poll has an overall margin-of-sampling error of +/-2.6 percentage points. Error margins are higher for subgroups.
- Slight weights were applied to region, party, gender, age, race, and education.
- Online surveys were password coded so that IP addresses from each device could only participate one.

Sample Characteristics

Demographics	Total N
Male	783
Female	722
Democrat	677
Republican	436
Independent	316
Cons./WF/None	76
18-29	256
30-49	495
50-64	468
65+	286

Sample Characteristics CONTD.

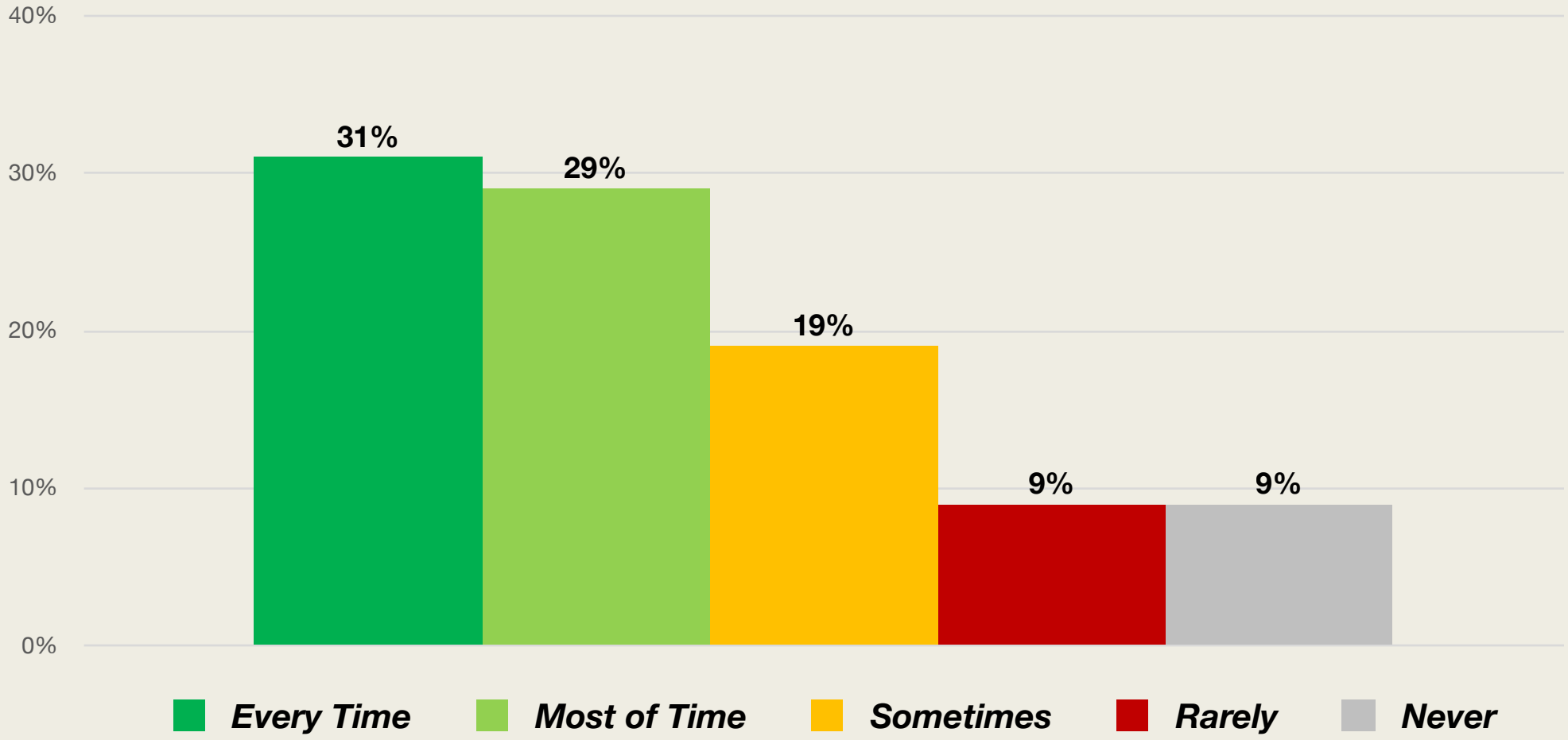
Demographics	Total N
Upstate	451
NYC Suburbs	512
NYC	542
White	896
Hispanic	239
Black	179
Asian	120
Other	60

Executive Summary

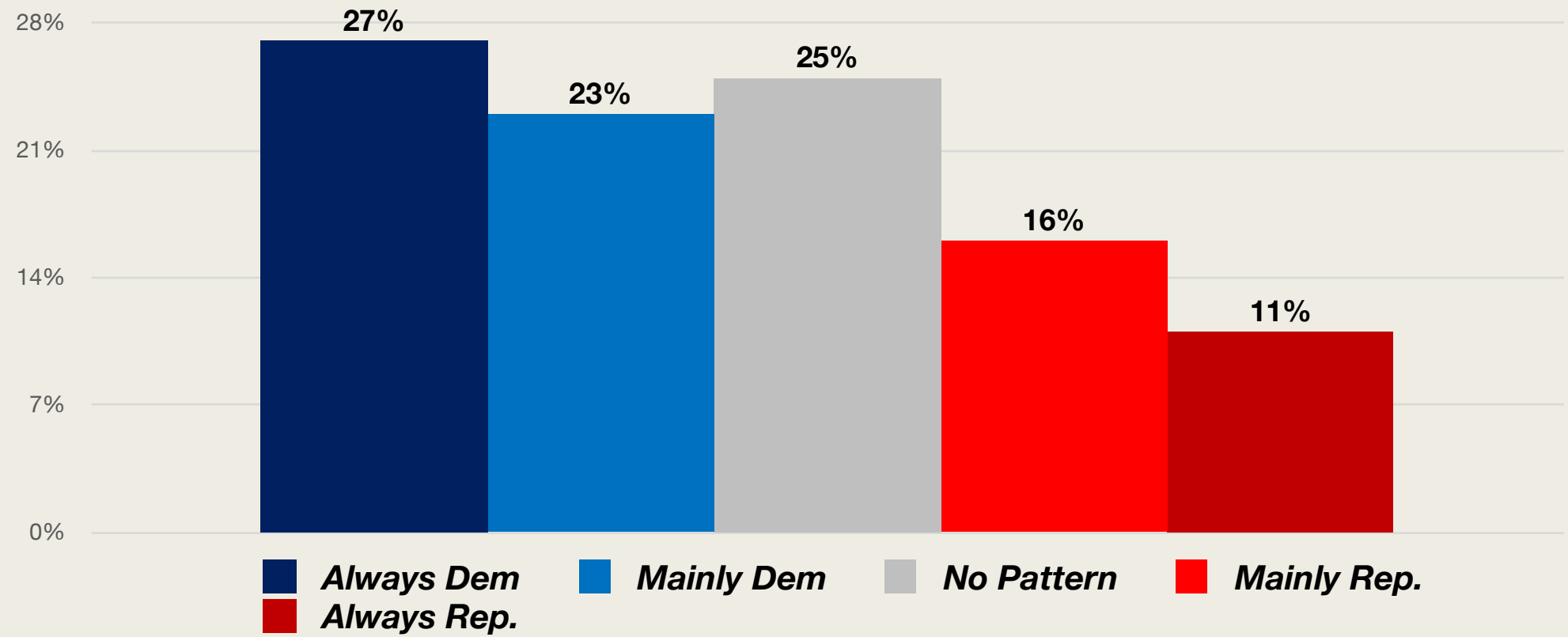
Poll reveals:

- **Only 38% of likely voters in New York feel "very" or "pretty" satisfied** with how the political system works.
- **A majority (56%) believe that the system does not work in its current form and needs serious changes**
  - Which includes 70% of Republicans and independent/nonaffiliated voters, 42% of Democrats, 61% of Upstate voters, 58% of those in New York City's suburbs, and 49% of folks in the City.
- When asked about **open primaries as a solution to the state's dysfunctional political system**:
  - 30% say that it could bring about "major changes", another 34% "minor changes", and just 20% "no change at all".
- **Three in four voters (76%) agree** that "open primaries should allow independent voters to have a say in which candidates advance to the general election"
- **More than two-thirds (68%) agree** that "open primaries bring freshness to a system that is currently corrupt, stale, and hyper-partisan".
- **If a candidate advocated for open primaries to empower voters,** 62% say they agree that they are more likely to support that candidate.

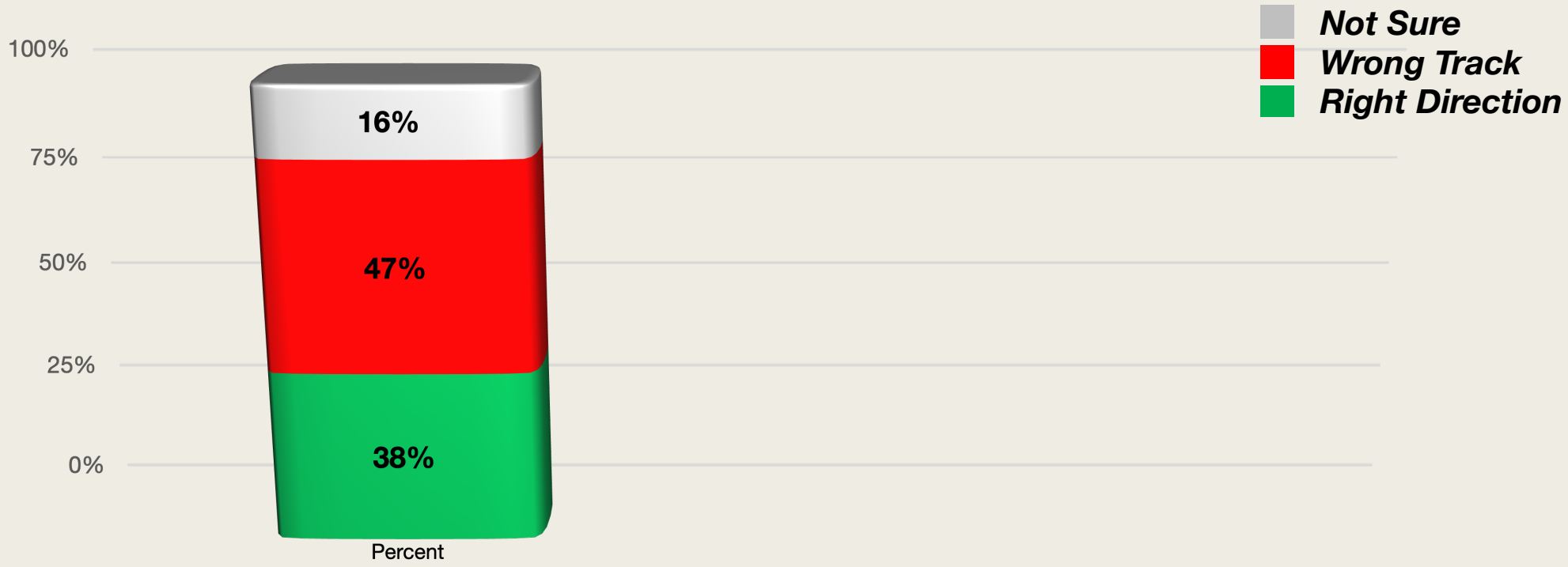
How Often Vote in Primaries?



Description of Voting History

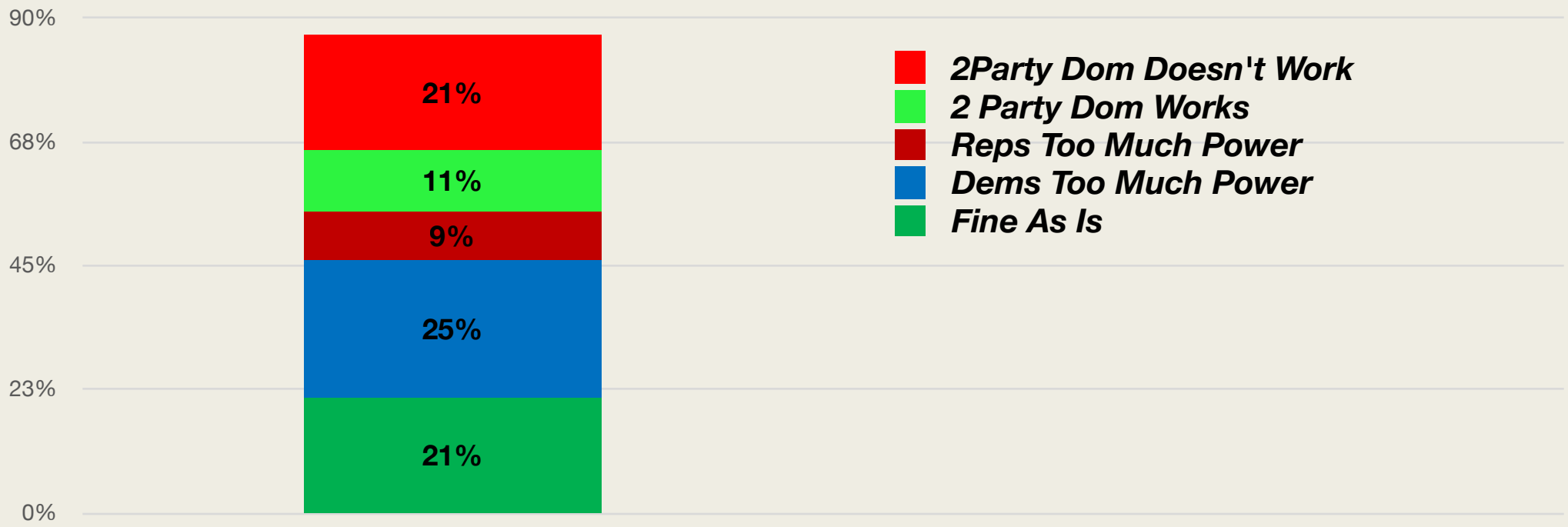


Right Direction or Wrong Track? OVERALL

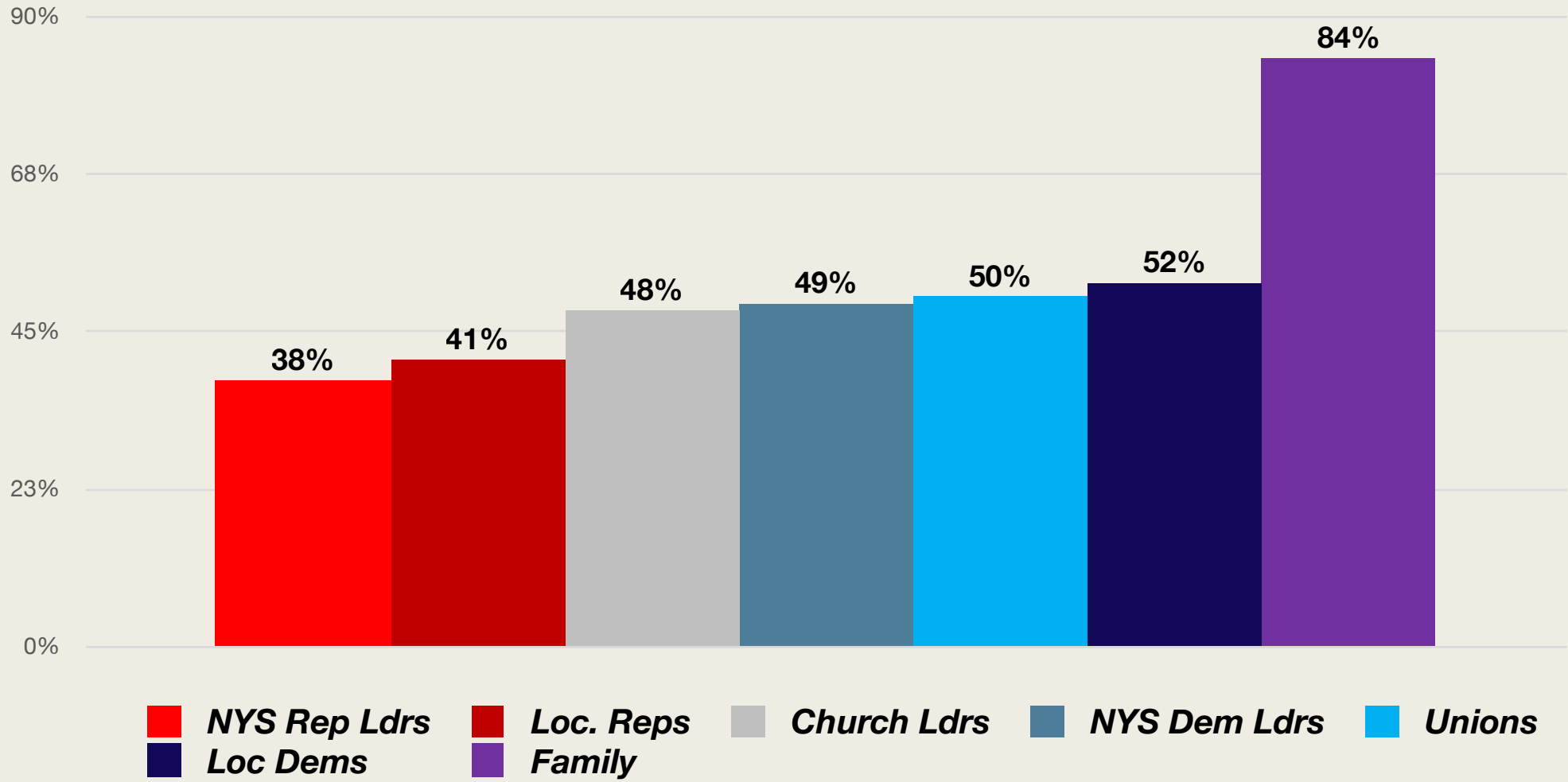


TOP 3 Answers to Why Wrong Track?
N= 702

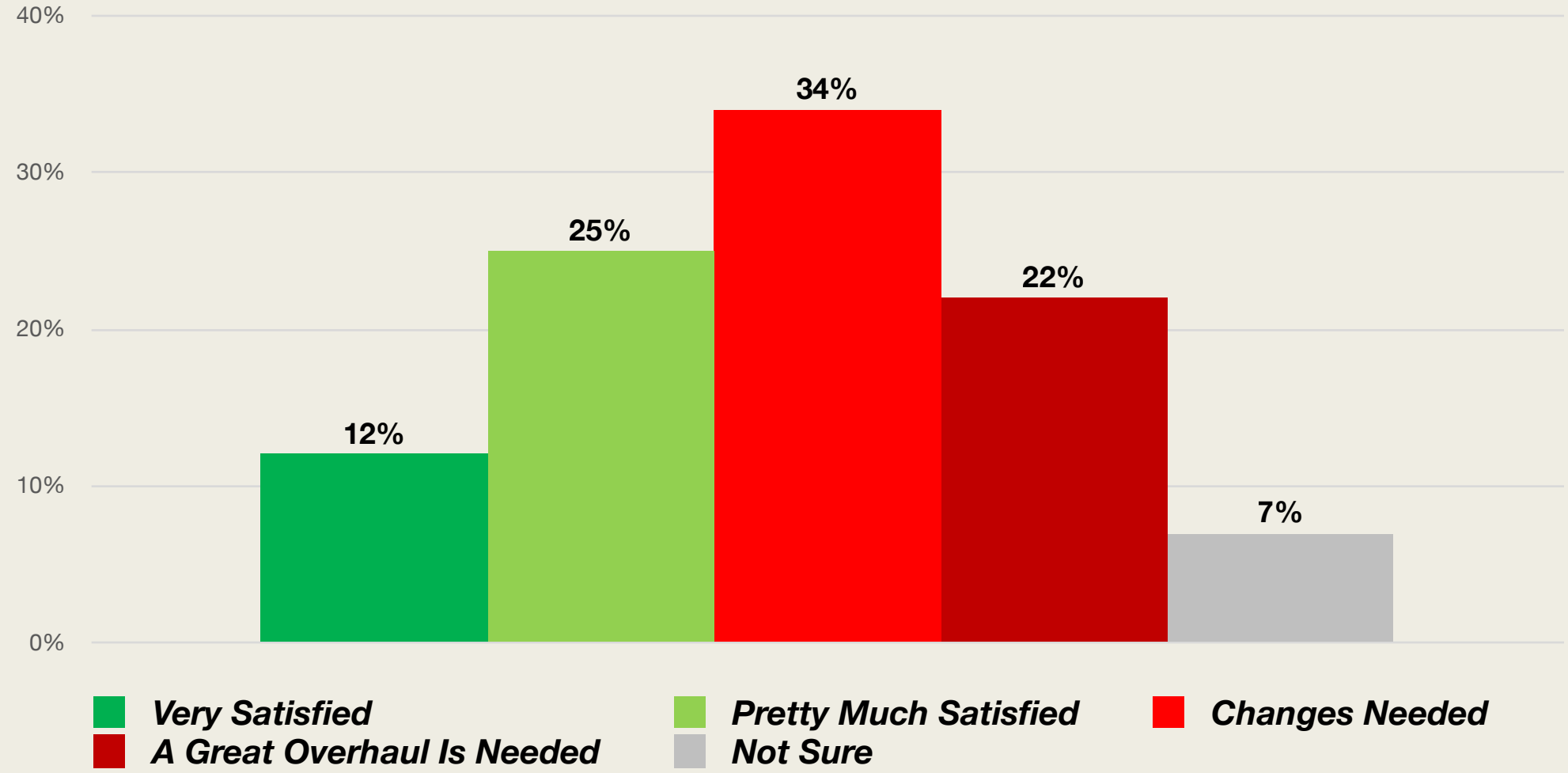
Viewpoint on NYS Parties & Elections -- OVERALL



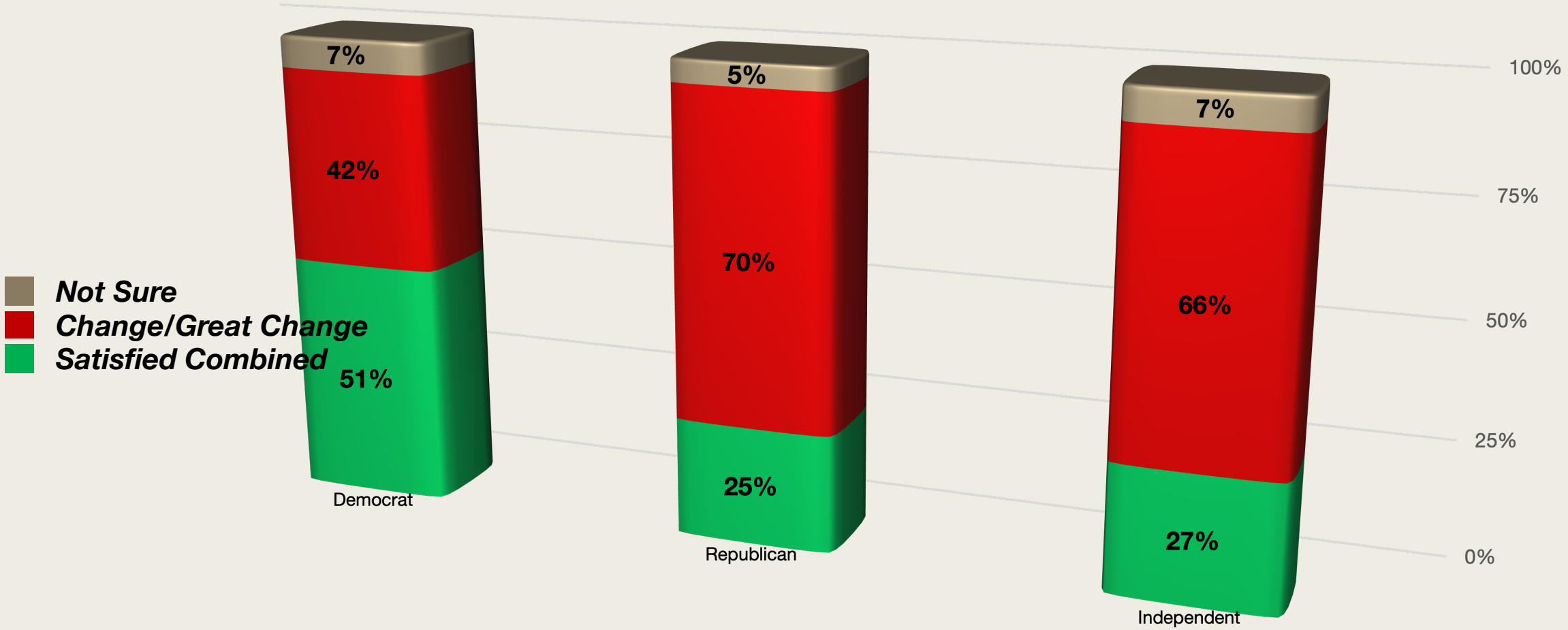
OVERALL Levels of Trust for Institutions (combined ‘a great deal’ & ‘some trust’)



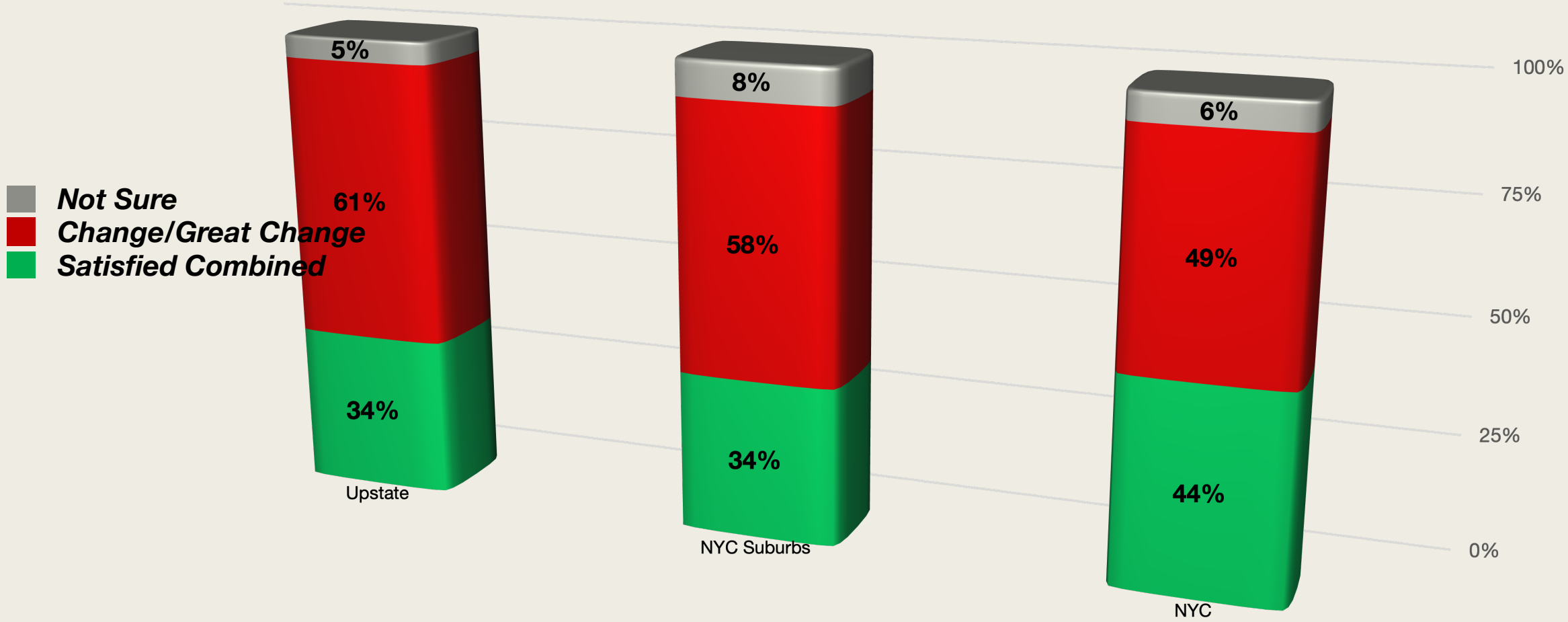
Level of Satisfaction – NYS Political System -- OVERALL



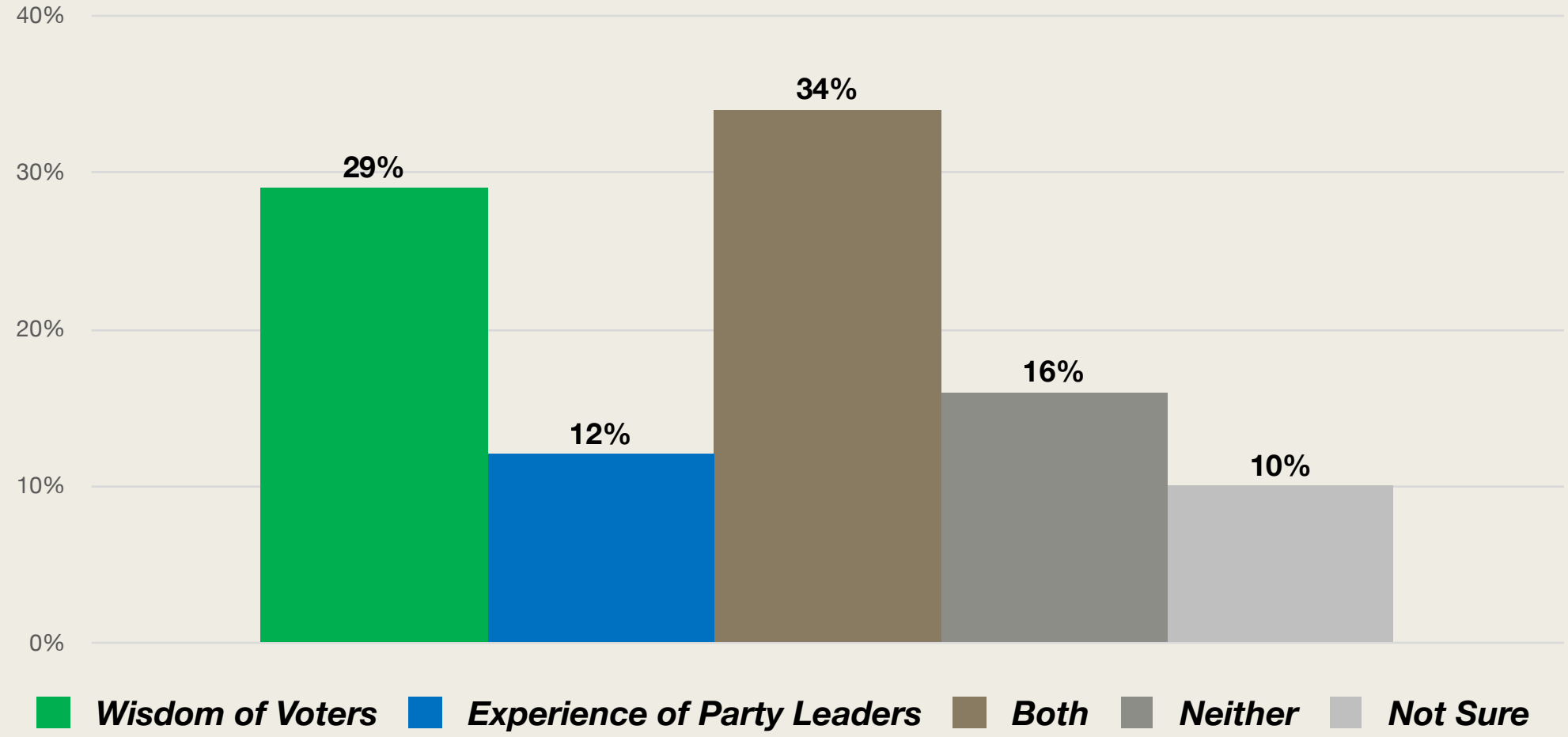
Level of Satisfaction – NYS Political System – by PARTY



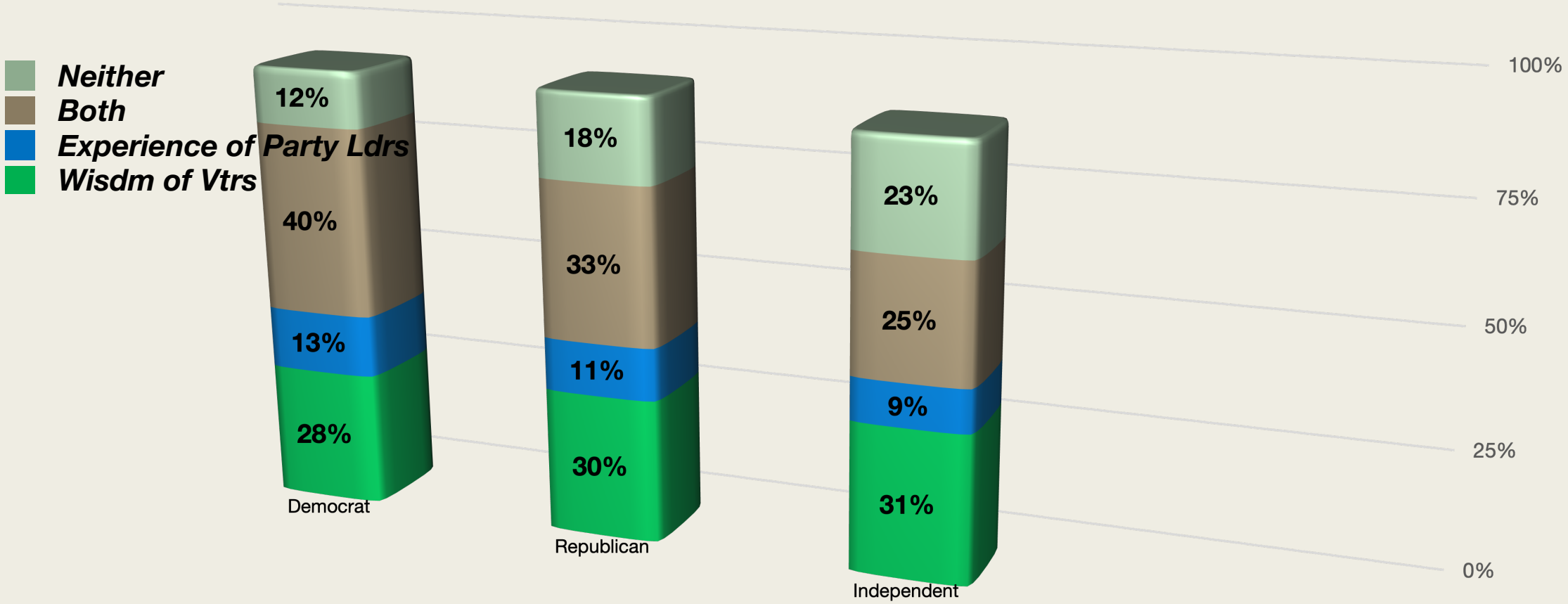
Level of Satisfaction – NYS Political System – by REGION



Who Do You Trust More to Pick Candidates? OVERALL



Who Do You Trust More to Pick Candidates?– by PARTY



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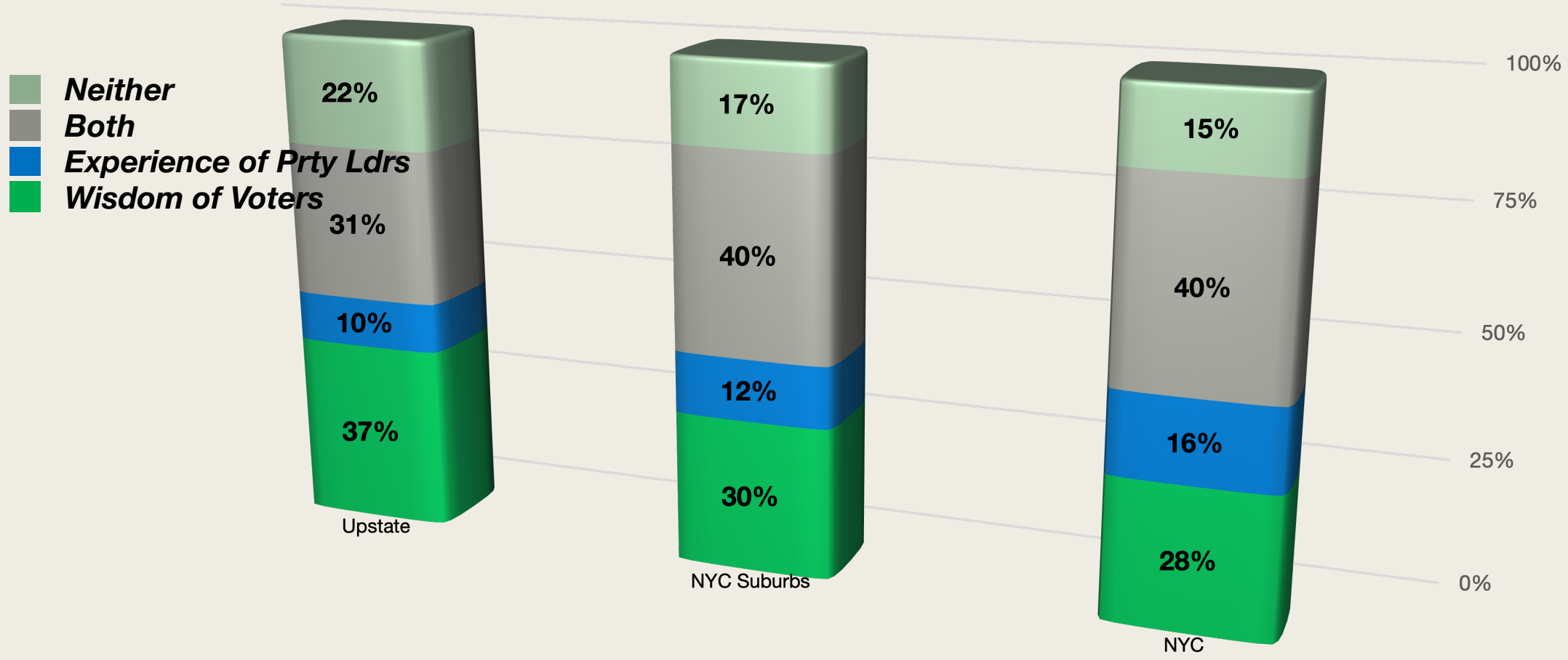
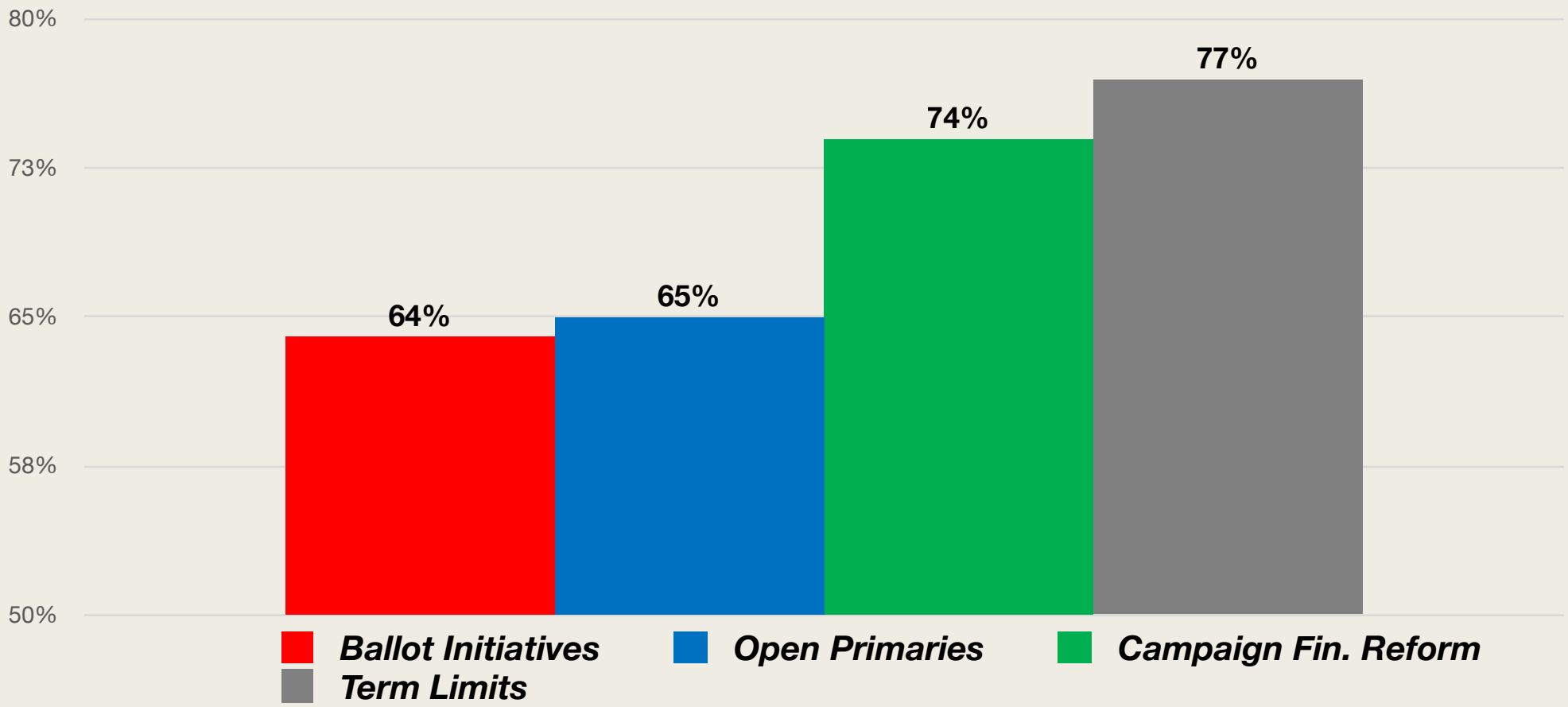
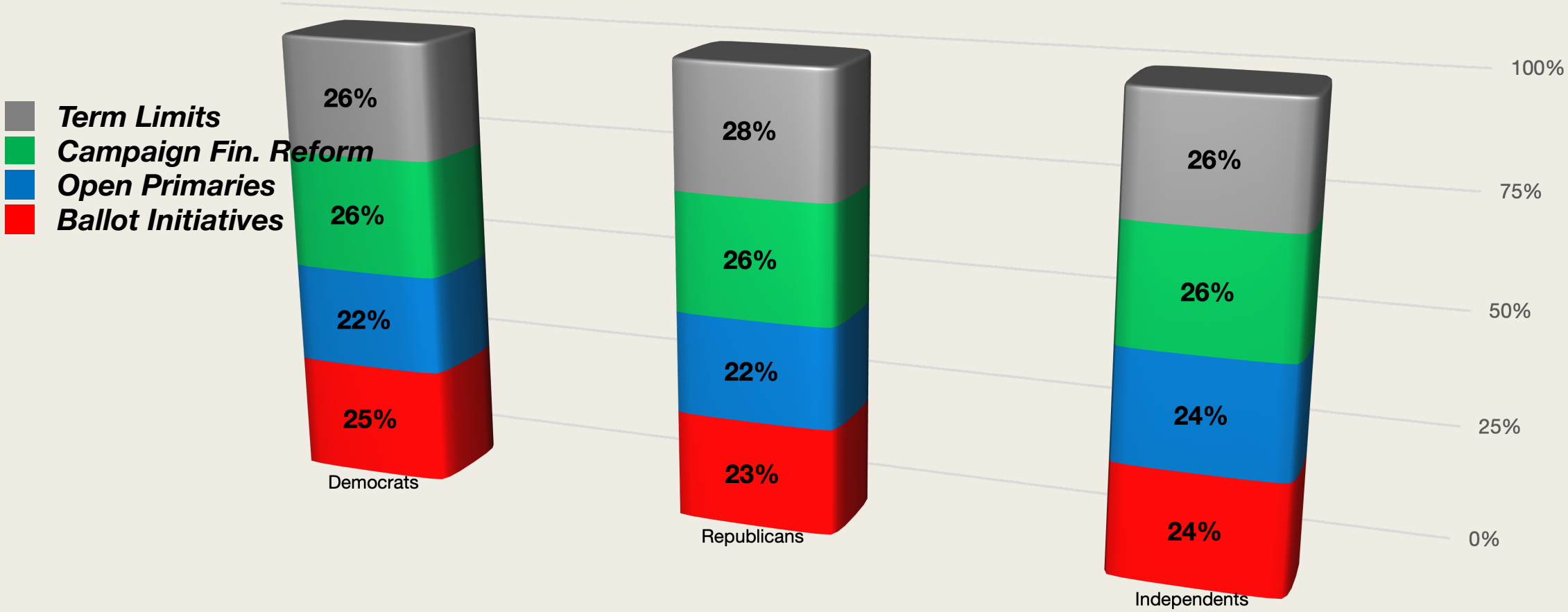


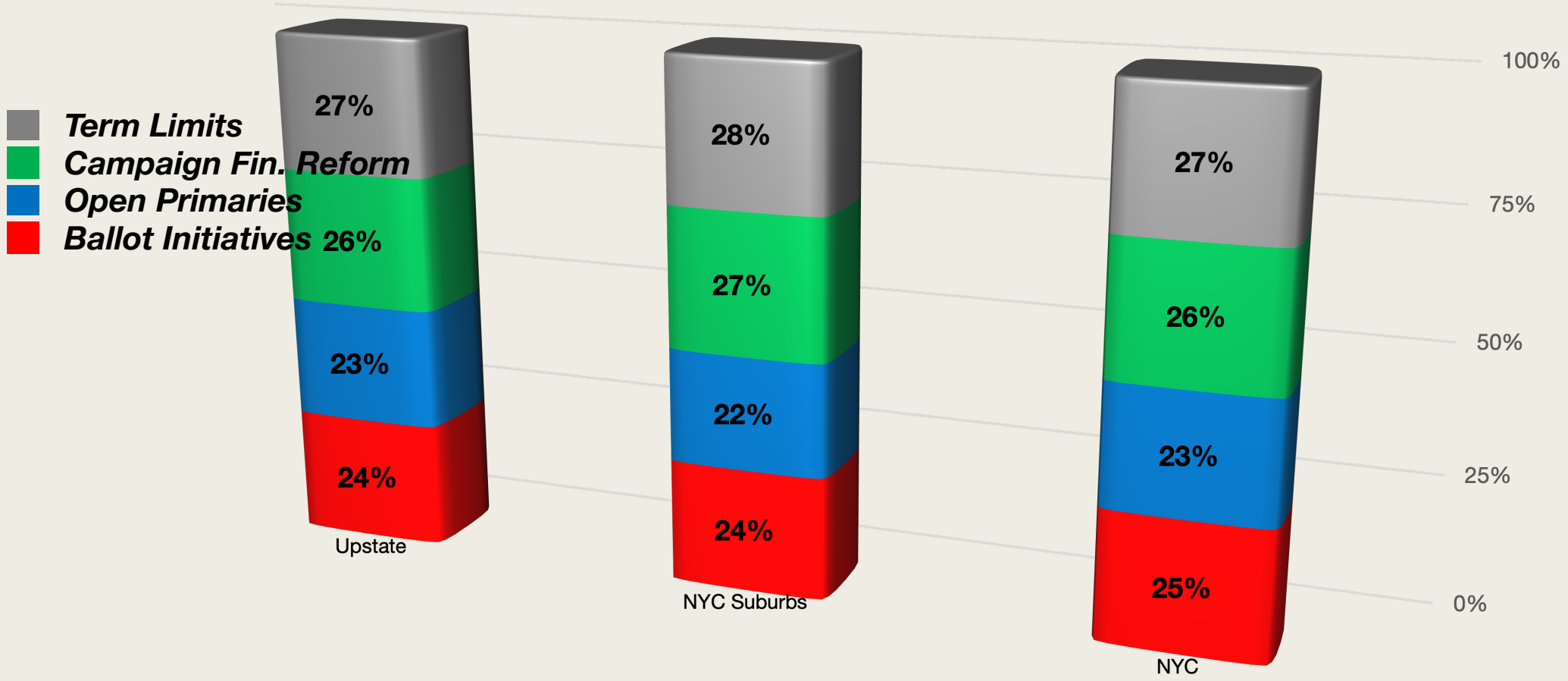
Reforms That Would Produce Major plus Minor Improvement -- OVERALL



Reforms That Would Produce Major plus Minor Improvement – by PARTY



Reforms That Would Produce Major plus Minor Improvement – by REGION



Level of Agreement – Open Primaries Would…

Message Tested	% Combined Strongly & Somewhat Agree
Allow Independent voters to have a say….	75%
Are too much of a change from current system	39%
Bring freshness to system currently corrupt…	68%
Could bring chaos by voters who know much less…	38%
Would lessen incumbent's power to dominate re-election	63%
Reduce power of party bosses….	67%
I'd support a candidate that endorses Open Primaries	61%

The job of a Pollster is not only to measure majorities but to examine levels of intensity.

- *If NYS had open primaries….***30% believe it will make a major improvement VS 20% say it will not really matter.**
- *Open primaries should allow independents to have a say in which candidates advance to the general election ballot…***40% strongly agree** VS. **4% strongly disagree.**
- *Open primaries bring freshness to a corrupt system…***29% strongly agree** VS **6% strongly disagree.**
- *Open primaries reduce power of party bosses…***27% strongly agree VS 5% strongly disagree.**