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Reimagining Political Leadership: The Outlook of Young Americans

Approach and Methodology

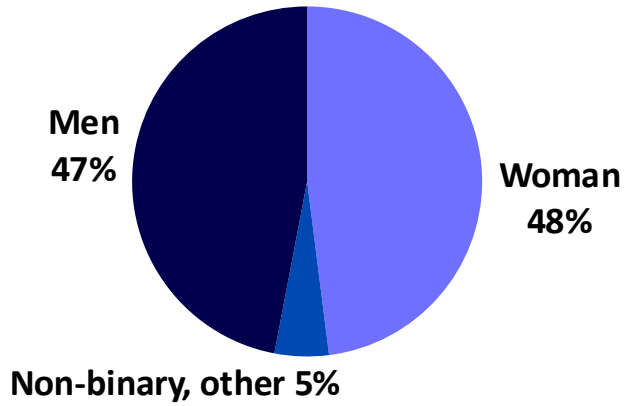
- This is the third annual Sine Institute survey focused on understanding young Americans' unique perspectives on political leadership and engagement.
- The Sine Institute partnered with Future Caucus, Close Up Foundation and a team of American University student advisors on the research. Generation Lab conducted the online interviews using its robust, proprietary panel.
- 1,214 interviews of Americans ages 18 to 34 (regardless of voter registration status), including oversamples with Black, Hispanic, and LGBTQ+ respondents; interviews conducted July 29 – August 9, 2024.

Context for the *Reimagining Political Leadership* Project:

BACKGROUND	GOALS
<p>Young Americans, like other Americans, consistently express dissatisfaction with our country’s political leadership; this is evident in multiple metrics, including plummeting levels of confidence in institutions from Congress to the Supreme Court and consistent disappointment in their choices of candidates for major offices.</p>	<p>Our aim with this project is to go beyond simply confirming young Americans’ frustration and, instead, to help establish a model that helps to align American political leadership with the needs and priorities of young Americans.</p>
METHODOLOGY	THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
<p>To do this, we employed several innovative and interactive methodologies, including testing eight (8) short audio clips of hypothetical candidates making appeals or “pitches” that reference different values and leadership styles. We also tested visual “taglines” to identify messages that motivate voting and other forms of political participation among young Americans.</p>	<p>The 2024 election is obviously an important pending event and while the survey gauges core campaign dynamics among younger Americans, we are also very focused on detecting and illuminating more long-lasting political leadership trends.</p>

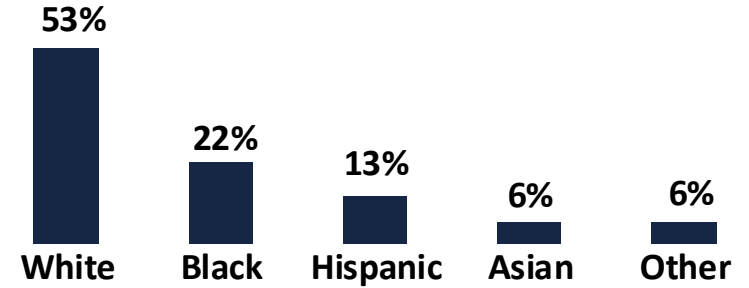
Demographic Profile

GENDER

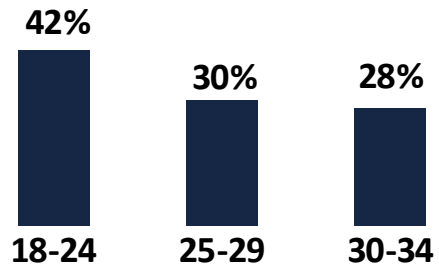


22% identify as LGBTQ+

RACE

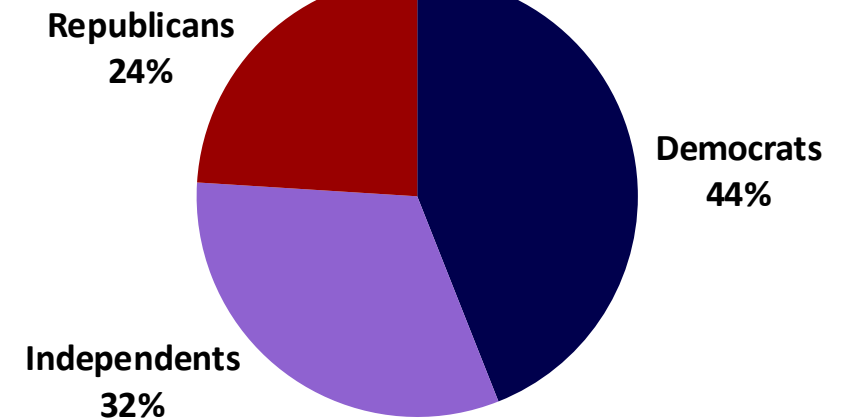


AGE



85% registered to vote
15% not registered

PARTY ID





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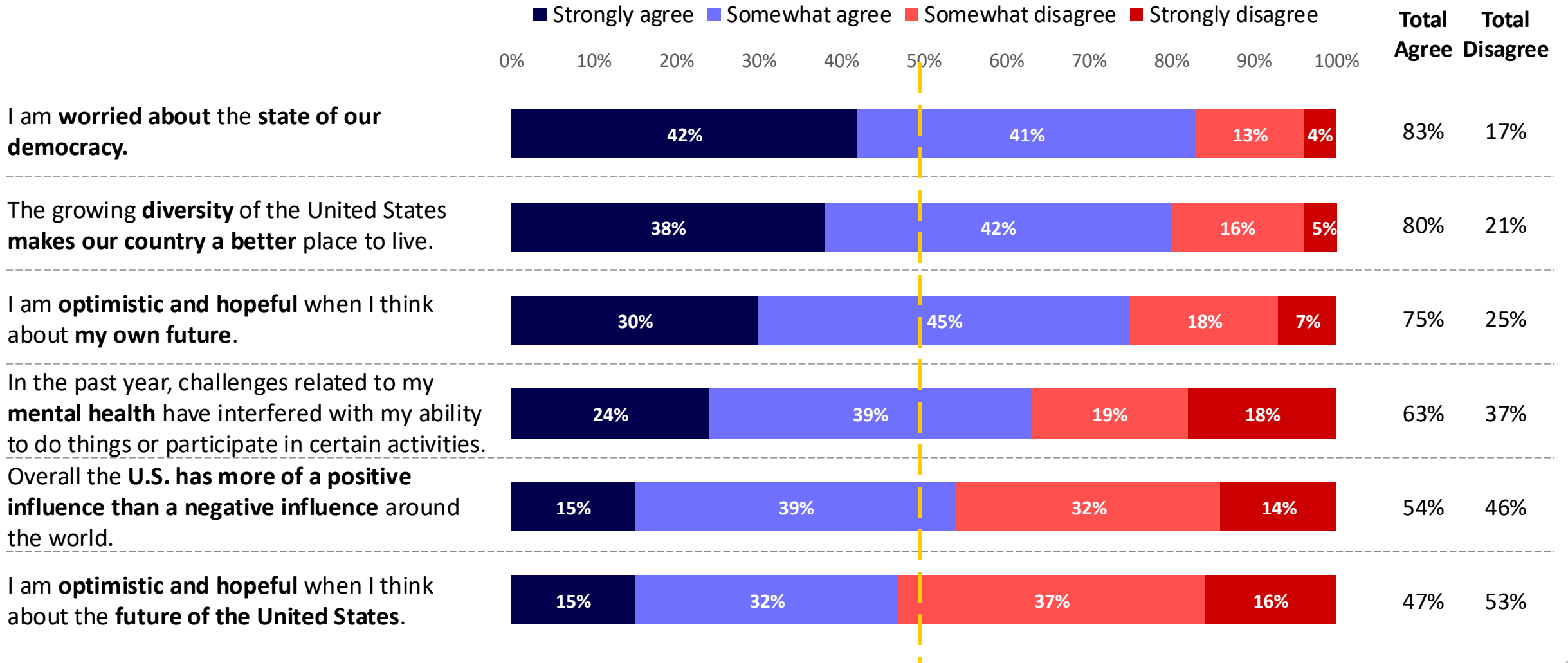
Reimagining Political Leadership: *The Outlook of Young Americans*

The Outlook of Young Americans

Young Americans report a mix of feelings and experiences that pull them in different directions.

- They are remarkably positive when they think about their own futures (75% optimistic), but significantly less so when they consider the future of the country (just 47% optimistic). Despite feeling hopeful about their own prospects, they also report obstacles: 63% say mental health challenges have interfered with their daily activities in the last year.
- Almost universally, they are worried about the state of American democracy (83% worried), but they generally agree there are positive trends (80% say the growing diversity of the country makes it a better place to live). And they are torn whether the U.S. has a more of a positive or negative impact around the world (54% positive influence, 46% negative influence).
- The report card young Americans deliver on the country is relatively bleak: the areas where they are most likely to give the U.S. failing grades center on having an effective government and competent political leadership.
- Despite their frustration with the political system, young Americans are remarkably engaged in issues and causes that matter to them: direct community service activities and helping children (through tutoring and mentoring) lead the list of their commitments.

Young Americans display lots of contradictions: optimism for themselves (but not for the country) balanced by worries & struggles with wellness.

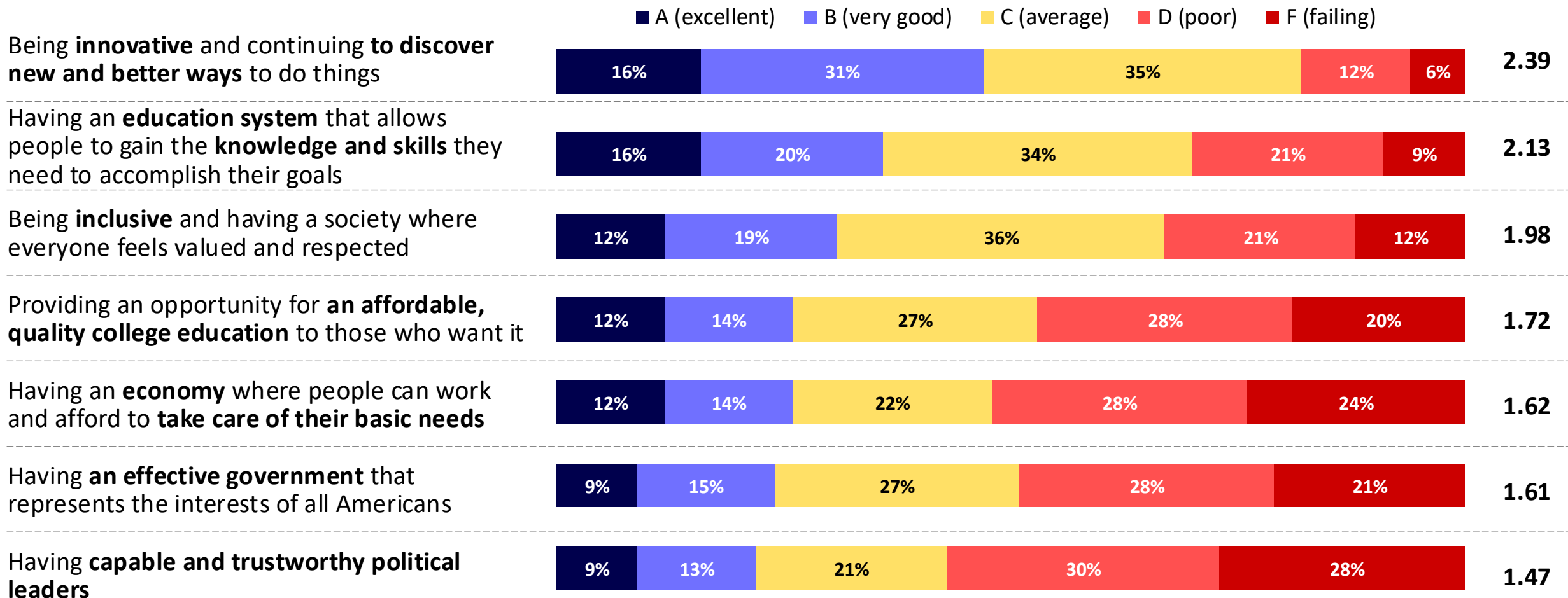


But the mood varies by demographic and partisan identification.

<i>% who agree with each statement</i>	Mental health challenges	Optimistic about my future	Optimistic about U.S. future	Worried about our democracy	Diversity making U.S. better	U.S. positive influence around world
All young adults	63%	75%	47%	83%	80%	54%
White adults	64%	74%	45%	85%	79%	55%
Black adults	60%	80%	53%	84%	83%	51%
Hispanic adults	58%	74%	→ 42%	84%	85%	58%
Men	57%	70%	54%	82%	83%	61%
Women	69%	73%	40%	88%	81%	44%
Democrats	68%	77%	48%	88%	92%	52%
Independents	62%	73%	→ 38%	83%	77%	→ 43%
Republicans	50%	77%	53%	80%	66%	63%
Cis/Hetero adults	56%	80%	51%	83%	79%	57%
LGBTQI+ adults	76%	→ 63%	→ 33%	92%	89%	→ 37%

Young Americans issue a poor report card on the country overall: economic needs are not being met and government leaders are vastly underperforming.

Report Card for the United States in Selected Areas



Young Americans' evaluations vary across demographic lines.



On each of the seven “report card” metrics:

- Men give the country slightly higher grades than women.
 - Republicans give the country slightly higher grades than Democrats.
 - Cisgender/hetero young adults give the country higher grades than their LBGQTQ+ counterparts
- ➔ Notably, **the two lowest scoring categories revolve around political leadership** (having an effective government and having capable & trustworthy leaders), no more than 13% of young Americans in any demographic audience give the country an “A” on either measure.



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Reimagining Political Leadership: *Young Americans' Engagement*

Young Americans' Engagement

- We asked respondents about 10 different causes and activities (and also allowed them to volunteer additional civic interests).
- For each cause/activity, we asked:
 - Do you identify/align with it?
 - Do you participate/take action around that cause? (or have you done so recently?)
- 91% of all young Americans name at least one cause/activity that they identify with; 81% say they identify with three or more causes/activities
- 75% report participating in at least one cause/activity; 48% participate in three or more causes/activities

Taking an inventory of young Americans' engagement reveals a generation actively connected to purpose and principle.

	I identify and feel aligned with this goal	I have participated in some activity related to this goal
Efforts to help people who lack resources and need assistance with things like food, clothing and shelter	64%	43%
Efforts to help children through tutoring, mentoring or other programs that benefit kids	62%	36%
Efforts to support and advocate for people who face discrimination	62%	32%
Efforts to address climate change and protect the environment	57%	31%
Efforts to express your faith or religious beliefs	41%	28%
Efforts to protect free speech	66%	25%
Efforts related to reproductive health issues including abortion	57%	25%
Efforts to stand up for traditional values	39%	21%
Efforts to reduce gun violence	56%	20%
Efforts related to the situation between Israel & Gaza	35%	18%

Partisanship is a main driver of young Americans' civic participation; women and LGBTQ+ individuals are leaders in community engagement.

Participated in some activity related to this goal:

Efforts to address climate change and protect the environment	39%	23%
Efforts to reduce gun violence	25%	16%
Efforts to help people who lack resources and need assistance with things like food, clothing and shelter	43%	46%
Efforts to protect free speech	23%	25%
Efforts related to reproductive health issues including abortion	29%	20%
Efforts to stand up for traditional values	17%	28%
Efforts to support and advocate for people who face discrimination	37%	28%
Efforts related to the situation between Israel & Gaza	25%	13%
Efforts to express your faith or religious beliefs	25%	34%
Efforts to help children through tutoring, mentoring or other programs that benefit kids	37%	41%



Democrats



Republicans



Women are more likely than men to report getting involved in every cause & activity (especially reproductive rights: 29% women, 19% men).

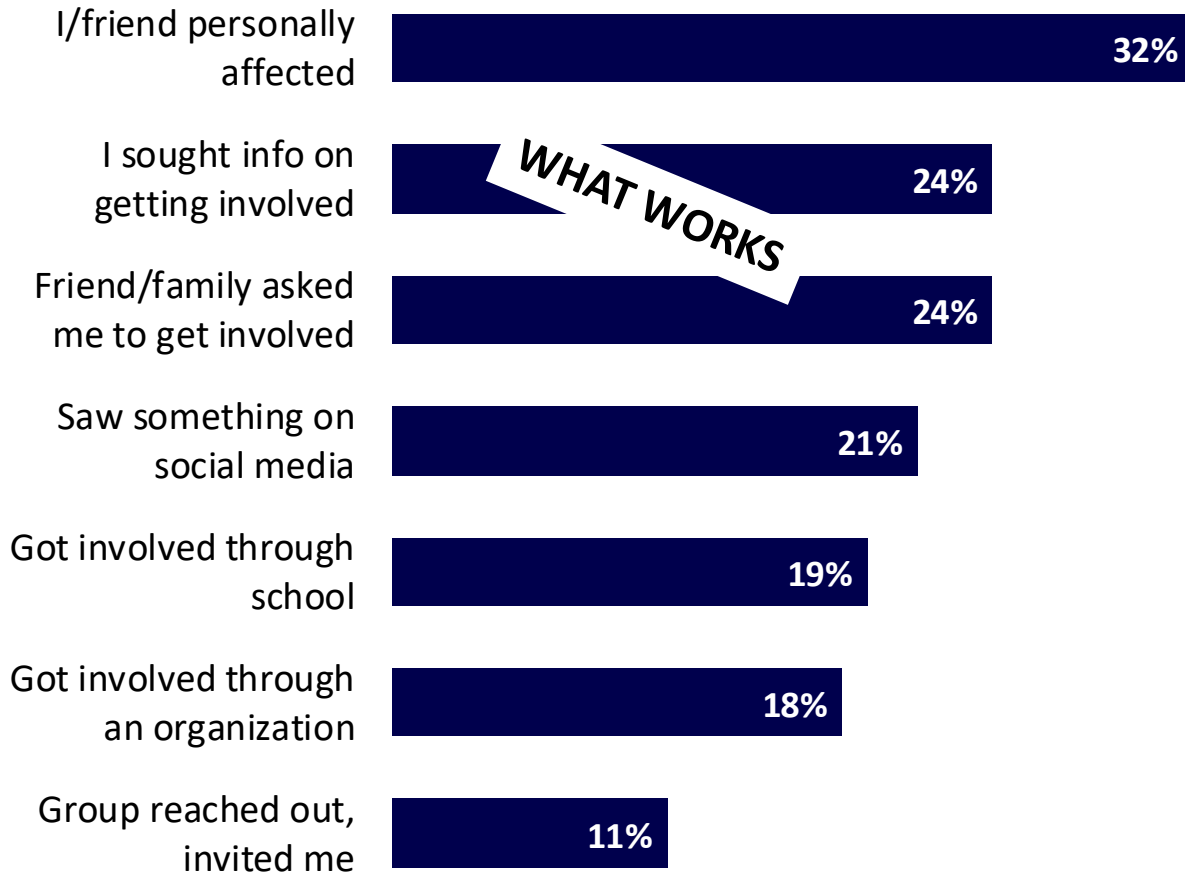


LGBTQ+ adults are more likely than Cis/Hetero adults to be engaged in most activities; this includes efforts to help those facing discrimination, but extends to other issues including the environment and the situation in Gaza.



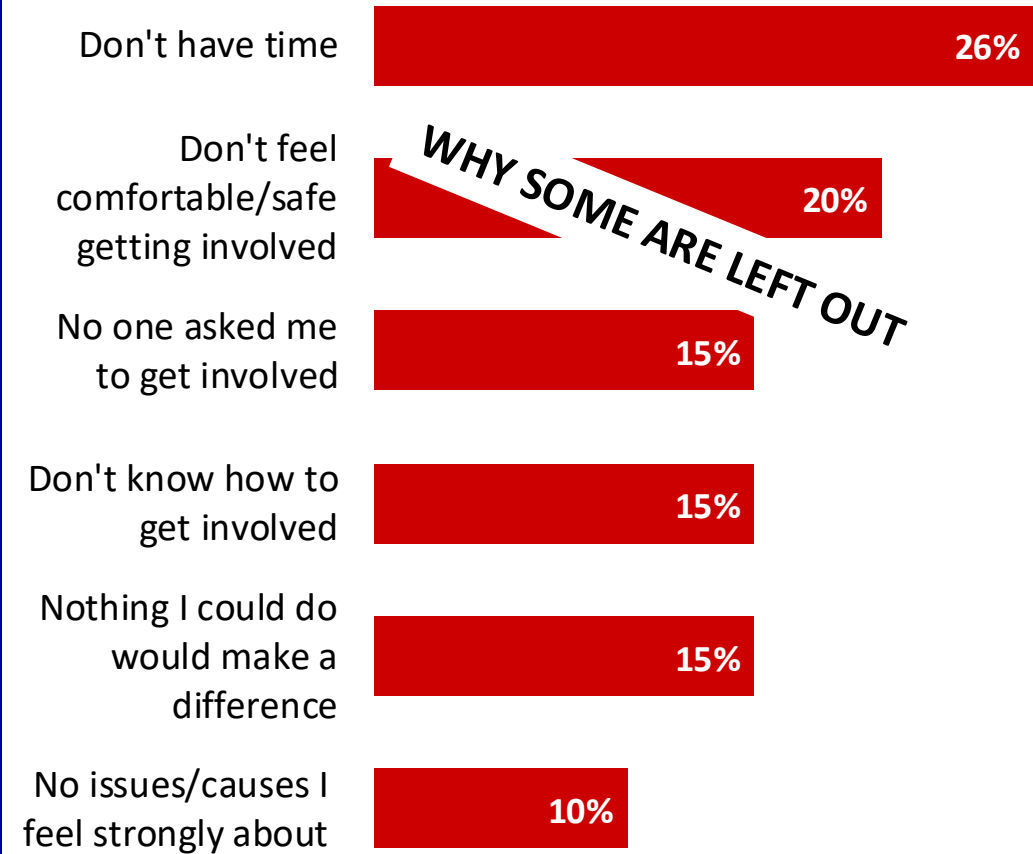
There are lots of ways to successfully engage young Americans.

Top two reasons I have gotten involved



Top reasons I have not gotten involved

➤ 25% have not gotten involved in a cause/issue they care about.





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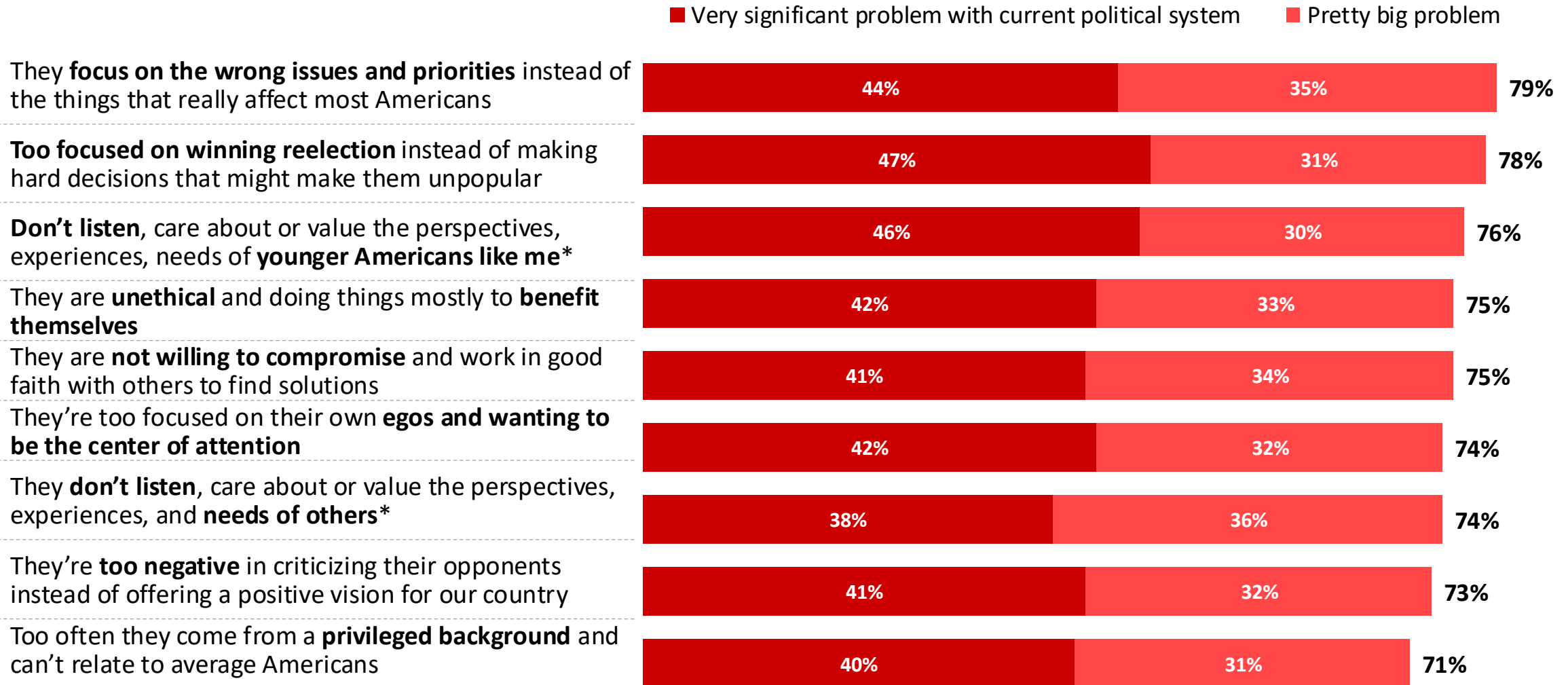
Reimagining Political Leadership: *Step 1.* *Diagnosing the Problem*

Step 1: Diagnosing the Problem

Like all Americans, young Americans identify a wide range of problems with our current political landscape.

- Leading the list of criticisms is that our core political dialogue is simply off base: young Americans' most common criticism is that political leaders are focused on the wrong issues and priorities instead of things that really affect people.
- Young Americans are also disappointed with leaders' being unethical and focused too much on themselves, being too concerned about winning reelection and therefore ducking hard decisions, not being willing to compromise, and being too negative instead of offering a positive vision.
- In identifying what is most absent from today's political leadership, young Americans are nearly unanimous in calling for a willingness to compromise and a commitment to truly serve others and not oneself.

Young Americans see lots of problems with the current state of our political leadership—including being focused on the wrong priorities, not listening and being distracted by reelection.



*Split-formed: each asked of half the respondents.

In a ranked choice, young Americans' say that political leaders are focused on the wrong agenda for the country.

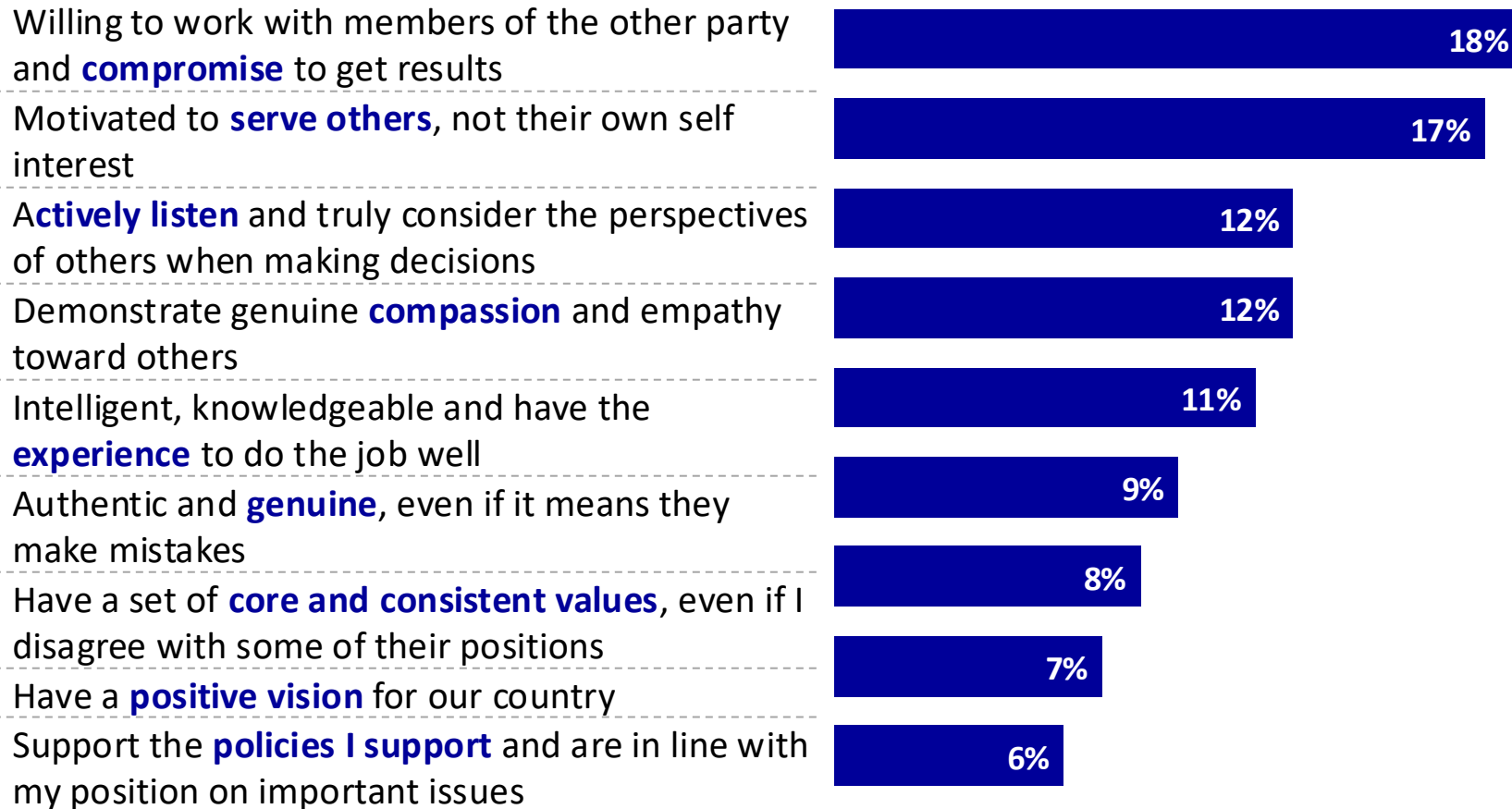
% Top two problems in current political system

- 36%** They **focus on the wrong issues and priorities** instead of the things that really affect most Americans
- 31%** They are **unethical** and doing things mostly to **benefit themselves**
- 28%** They are too **focused on winning reelection** instead of making hard decisions that might make them unpopular
- 24%** They are **not willing to compromise** and work in good faith with others to find solutions
- 22%** They're **too negative** in criticizing their opponents instead of offering a positive vision for our country
- 19%** Too often they come from a **privileged background** and can't relate to average Americans
- 18%** They're too focused on their own **egos and wanting to be the center of attention**
- 10%** They **don't listen**, care about, value the perspectives, experiences, **needs of others**
- 9%** They **don't listen**, care about or value the perspectives, experiences, needs of **younger Americans like me**

Across demographic and partisan lines, young Americans are remarkably consistent in their rank ordering of these criticisms.

Young Americans see lots of qualities missing in today's political leaders—willingness to compromise & moving beyond self interest are top concerns.

% single quality that is most missing in today's political leaders/candidates



These are the top two concerns among men & women; among white, Black & Hispanic adults, among adults regardless of educational attainment, and in every region of the country.



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Reimagining Political Leadership: *Step 2.* *Building a New Foundation*

Step 2: Building a New Foundation

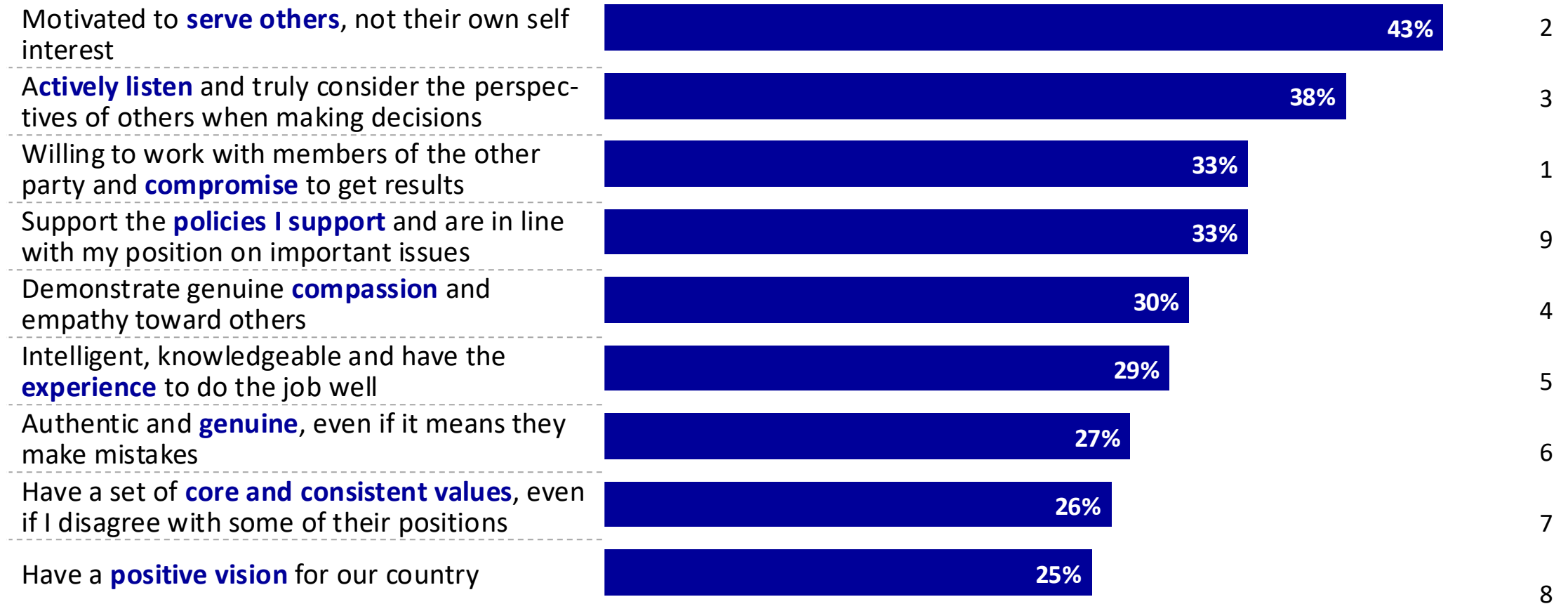
A core aim of this project is to move beyond simply diagnosing and reinforcing the frustration that young Americans feel about our current political leadership. The groundwork for a new model begins with some fundamentals.

- The three qualities that young Americans most want to see in their leaders are those that they believe are most missing: motivation to truly serve others, active listening and considering other perspectives, and willingness to compromise.
- Barack Obama receives the most mentions when young Americans are asked to volunteer a political leader they admire. Donald Trump and Kamala Harris also get mentions as do historical figures including Abraham Lincoln, John Kennedy and George Washington.
- Regardless of who they name as their political hero, young Americans emphasize the attributes of caring, being genuine, and honest.

Ironically, what young Americans prioritize in political leadership are many of the attributes they see as most missing.

Three most important qualities in a political leader/candidate

Rank as “most missing” in today’s political leadership (previous question)



Young Americans' have a model for their political heroes.

Think of a political leader you admire . . . the person could be living or dead and could have held elected office or been a leader in some other way.



Barack Obama	19%
Donald Trump	9%
Kamala Harris	7%
Abraham Lincoln	6%
Bernie Sanders	5%
John Kennedy	5%
Joe Biden	3%
George Washington	3%
Martin Luther King Jr.	2%



And they are clear about why these heroes are admirable.

Barack Obama



Donald Trump



Kamala Harris



Abraham Lincoln





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Reimagining Political Leadership: *Step 3.* *Recasting the “Pitch” to Young Americans*

Step 3: Recasting the Appeal to Young Americans

One of the innovative methodological techniques we employed in this project involved testing eight (8) short audio clips of hypothetical candidates making appeals based on different values and leadership styles.

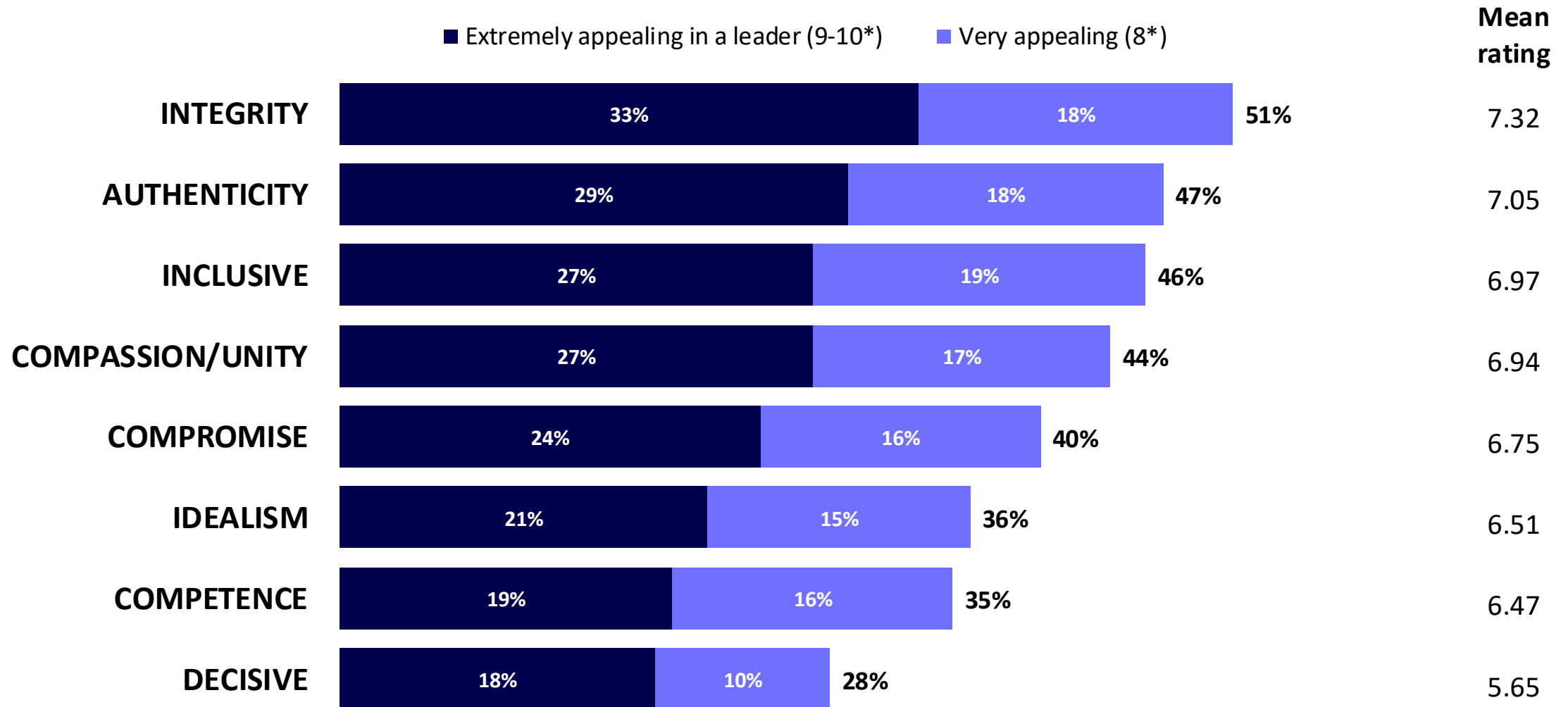
- The most successful “pitches” emphasize integrity and putting the needs of others over self-interest, being candid and authentic even if it means making mistakes, being inclusive and valuing all voices, and demonstrating genuine compassion.
- More traditional appeals that focus exclusively on being decisive, firm and having political experience are lower rated.
- After listening to these various appeals, young Americans say the qualities they most prioritize are leaders who focus on people and country, are good listeners, caring and honest.

A summary of the eight short audio appeals we tested, each emphasizing different values and leadership styles.

- Each audio clip used an androgynous, neutral voice (AI generated), accompanied by verbatim closed-captioning.
- Respondents did not see the labels (all caps in table), they just heard/read the statements.

<p>COMPETENCE</p>	<p>COMPASSION</p>	<p>INTEGRITY</p>	<p>AUTHENTICITY</p>
<p>“I’m running to work hard and get the job done for the American people. I have real-world experience and a track record of delivering results. If we stay focused and determined, we can solve even our most complex challenges.”</p>	<p>“I’m running because I care about people. Good leaders are compassionate, active listeners. I want to make people’s lives better by truly understanding your concerns and focusing on what we have in common as human beings.”</p>	<p>“I’m running because we need honest leaders with integrity who will serve others, not themselves. I’ll always do what’s right for the people I’m elected to represent, whether you voted for me or not.”</p>	<p>“I’m running because we need leaders who are willing to tell hard truths and be real with people. I won’t just say what you want to hear. I’ll give you my honest opinion, even if it’s unpopular and if I make a mistake, I’ll own up to it.”</p>
<p>IDEALISM</p>	<p>INCLUSIVE</p>	<p>DECISIVE</p>	<p>COMPROMISE/UNITY</p>
<p>“I’m running because I want to be part of building a brighter future. We can accomplish anything if we put our minds to it. We’re facing a lot of tough problems, but I believe we can find solutions and achieve our potential.”</p>	<p>“I’m running to make sure our government serves everyone equally. Every voice matters. America works best when it works for all, with no one left out or left behind.</p>	<p>“My vision for America is clear and it won’t waiver. I am running because America deserves a strong leader who will protect our country and enforce our basic rules and values.”</p>	<p>“I’m running to end the disunity and division tearing us apart. Bringing people together will require compromise. But there is more that unites us than divides us. We’re all in this together, and we will rise or fall together.”</p>

Consistent with their criticism that political leaders are unethical and focused on their own self interest, young Americans are looking for integrity, but also emphasize authenticity, inclusivity and compassion.



***In their own words:* Young Americans prioritize leaders who focus on people and country, are good listeners, caring and honest.**

I want to support a political leader or candidate for elected office who:





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Reimagining Political Leadership: *Step 4.* *Identifying New and* *Authentic Tactics &* *Strategies*

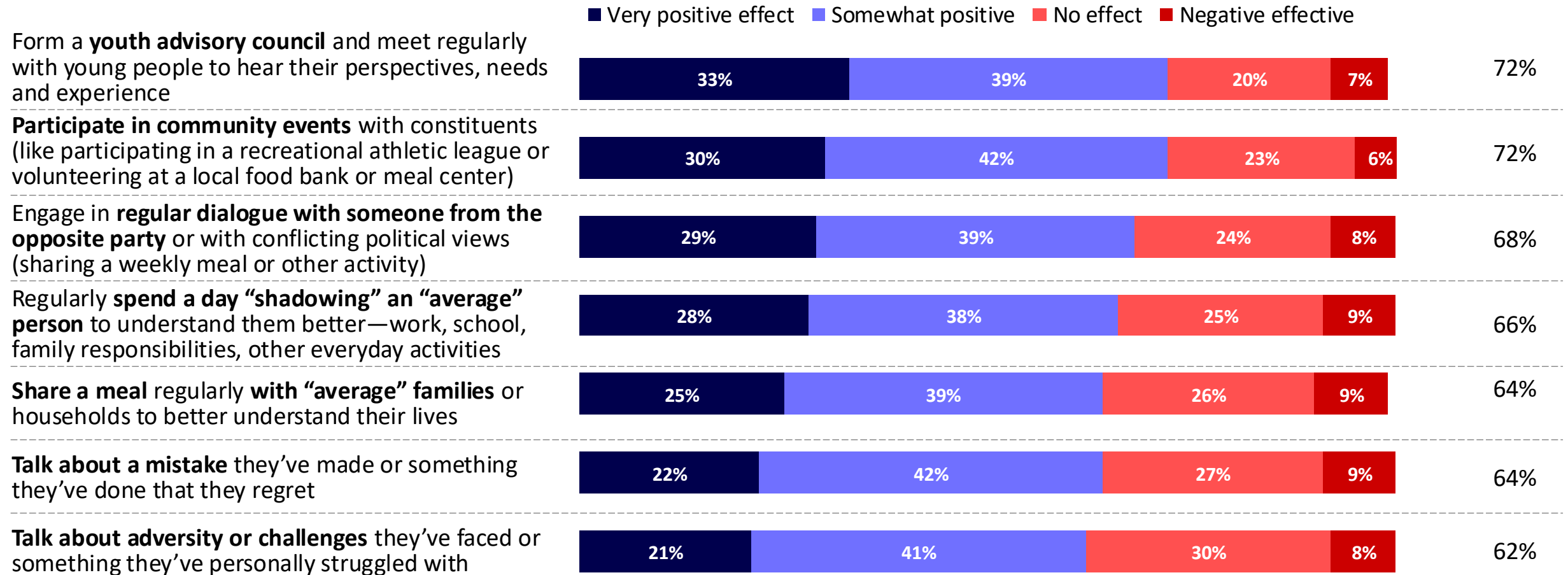
Step 4: New & Authentic Strategies

Building on the goal of the project to provide both guidelines and a roadmap for moving forward with a model of political leadership that better aligns with the priorities of young Americans, we explored different ways that candidates and political leaders can establish connections with this generation and demonstrate their commitments.

- Simply forming a “youth advisory panel” is a tangible example of something that candidates and political leaders could do that would impress young Americans.
- In addition, participating in community events—side by side with their constituents—is another way for leaders to demonstrate their values and priorities.
- Significantly, activities that involve listening and experiencing the different perspectives of others also rate highly.

Consistent with their call for new leadership priorities, young Americans look for fresh and more authentic “proof” from candidates.

Impact of ways a candidate could demonstrate the type of leader they would be



In their own words: Sine student advisors identify ways for candidates and political leaders to “walk the talk.”

“There is a common misconception that young Americans are visionaries without tangible solutions to back up their ideas. This poll demonstrates the opposite. Young voters are plugged in, focused on issues affecting their daily lives, and offering robust, effective actions policymakers can take to demonstrate their leadership.” Sine student advisor

“I think a lot of candidates exist in a bubble, even if they don’t mean to. They’ve got to be proactive and have unscripted time with all different kinds of people to really understand what’s important to us and what our lives are like.” Sine student advisor

“Young people are rarely given an opportunity to have a seat at the table; those opportunities should not only be accessible to an exclusive demographic. Creating advisory teams meant to give direct feedback to candidates strengthens our democracy while simultaneously building youth interest in public service.” Sine student advisor



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Reimagining Political Leadership: *The 2024 Election*

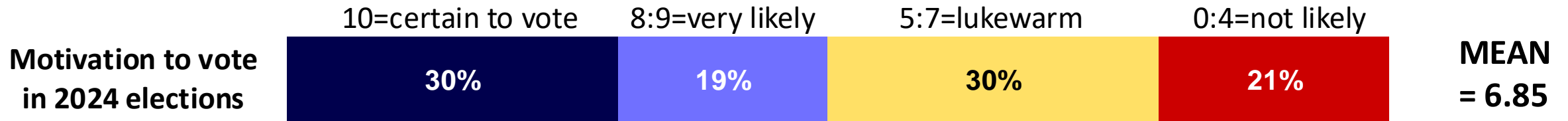
The 2024 Election

With this rich context and backdrop for considering the unique perspective of young Americans, there are important dynamics surrounding the 2024 presidential race:

- Only about half (49%) of young Americans describe themselves as very likely or certain to vote (8 or higher on 10-point scale).
- The most common descriptors of their mood heading into November are “nervous and scared,” followed by “hopeful and optimistic.”
- Kamala Harris has a large, double-digit lead over Donald Trump in both the multi-candidate and head-to-head trial heat. Harris’ advantage with young Americans is rooted in substantive evaluations; she is viewed as better than Trump on all eight qualities that we tested.
- Young Americans have a broad and substantive voting agenda, but it tracks all Americans in centering primarily around the economy and the cost of living.
- While voting is only one of many behaviors that young Americans see as critical to a maintaining a functioning democracy, emphasizing the importance of making their voices count and having a say in their future are most persuasive.

There is more work to do to harness young Americans' engagement in the upcoming election.

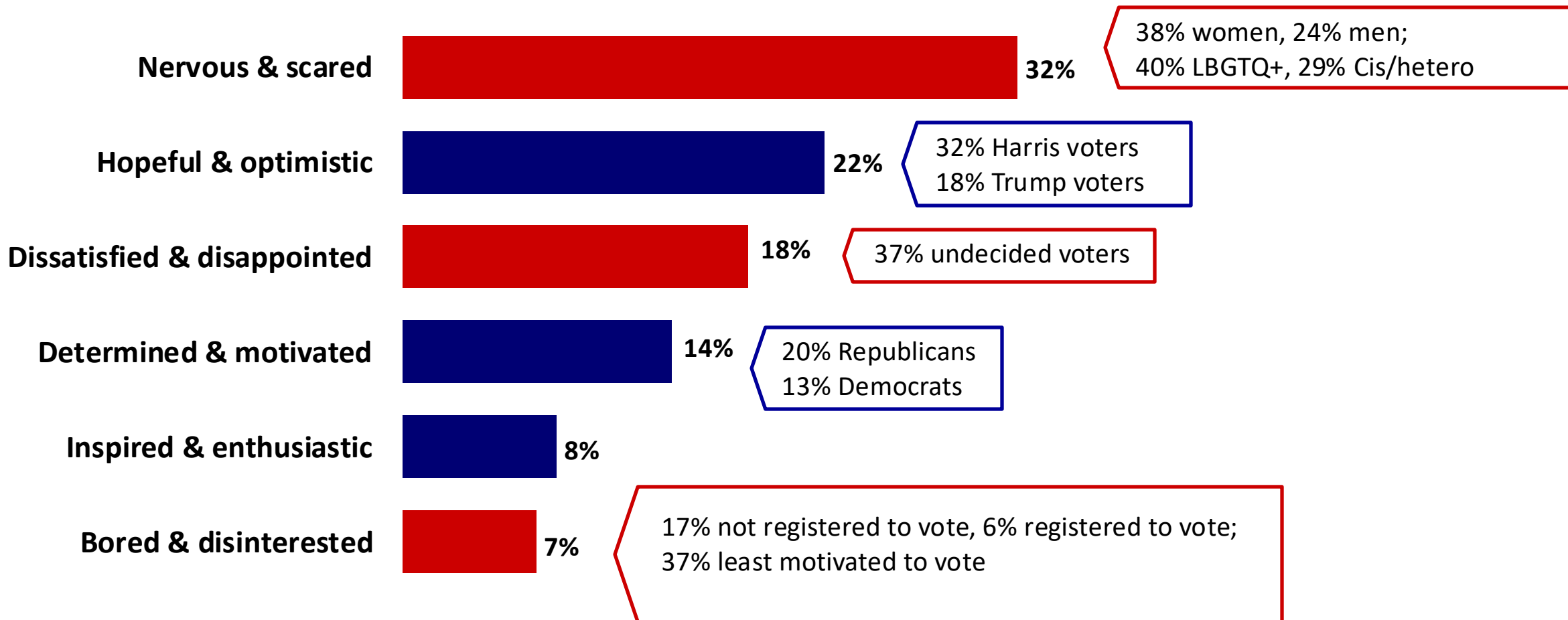
Likelihood of voting on 10-point scale



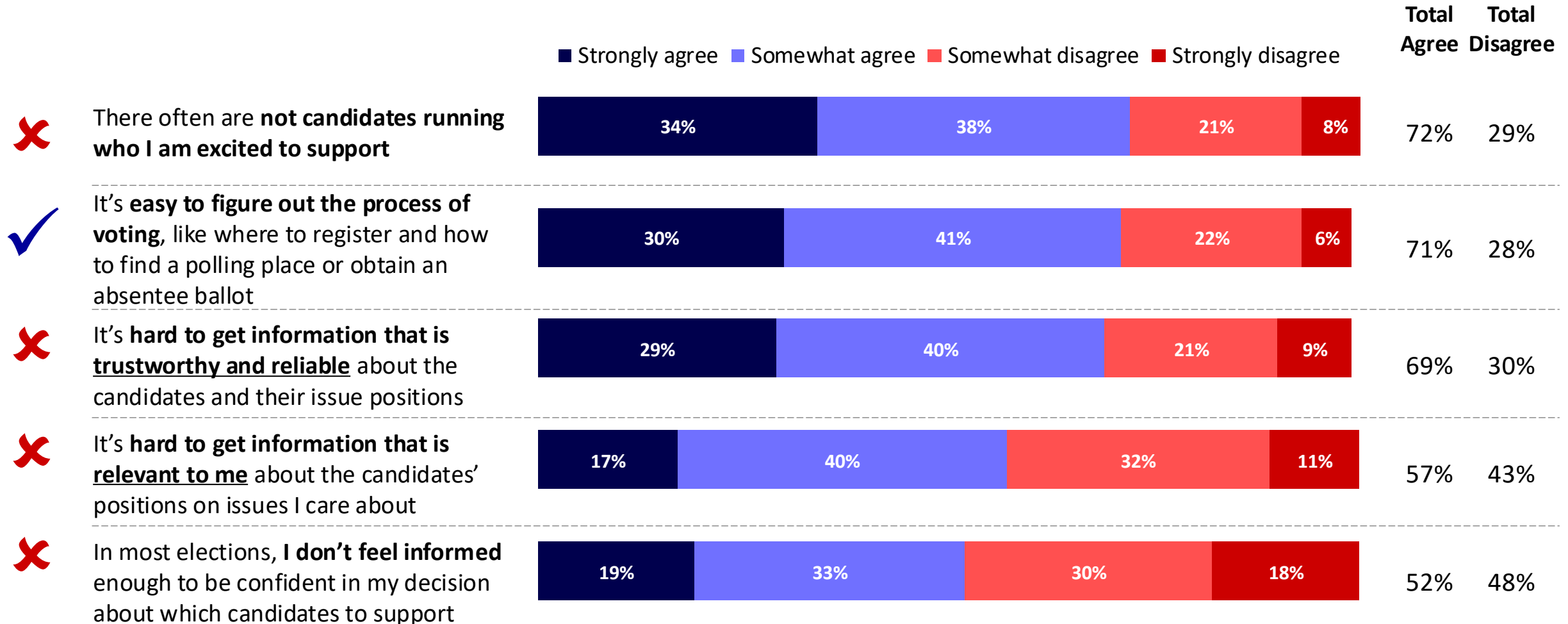
Certain/very likely to vote					
All young Americans	49%	Men	52%	White adults	57%
Harris voters	59%	Women	51%	Black adults	43%
Trump voters	46%	Age 18 to 24	49%	Hispanic adults	51%
Democrats	63%	Age 25 to 29	53%		
Independents	33%	Age 30 to 34	55%		
Republicans	50%	Cis/hetero adults	49%		
Did not vote in 2020	44%	LGBTQI+ adults	54%		

Amid a rapidly changing presidential campaign, young Americans report feeling both nervous and hopeful about the upcoming election.

Which set of words best describes how you're feeling now about the upcoming election in November?

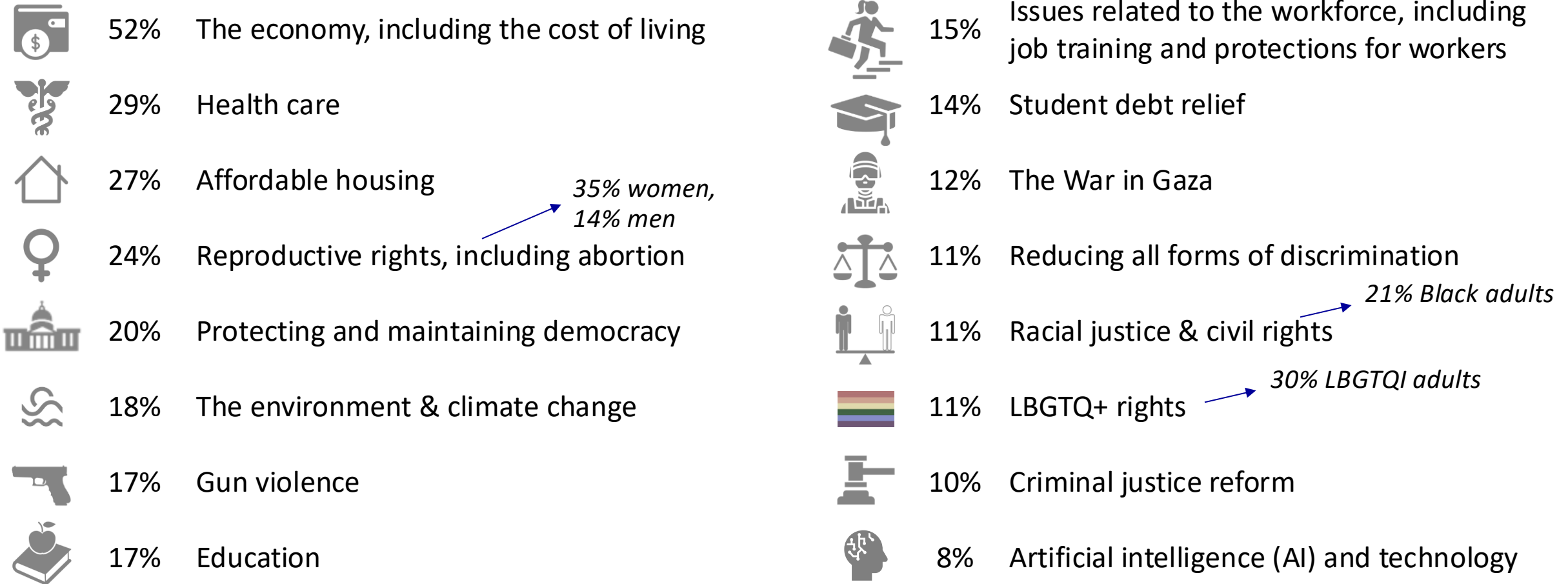


Still, young Americans identify both barriers and opportunities when it comes to their own political engagement: candidate quality and trustworthy information are top obstacles.



Young Americans have a substantive issue agenda heading into November.

Three most important ISSUES when I think about my votes in the 2024 elections

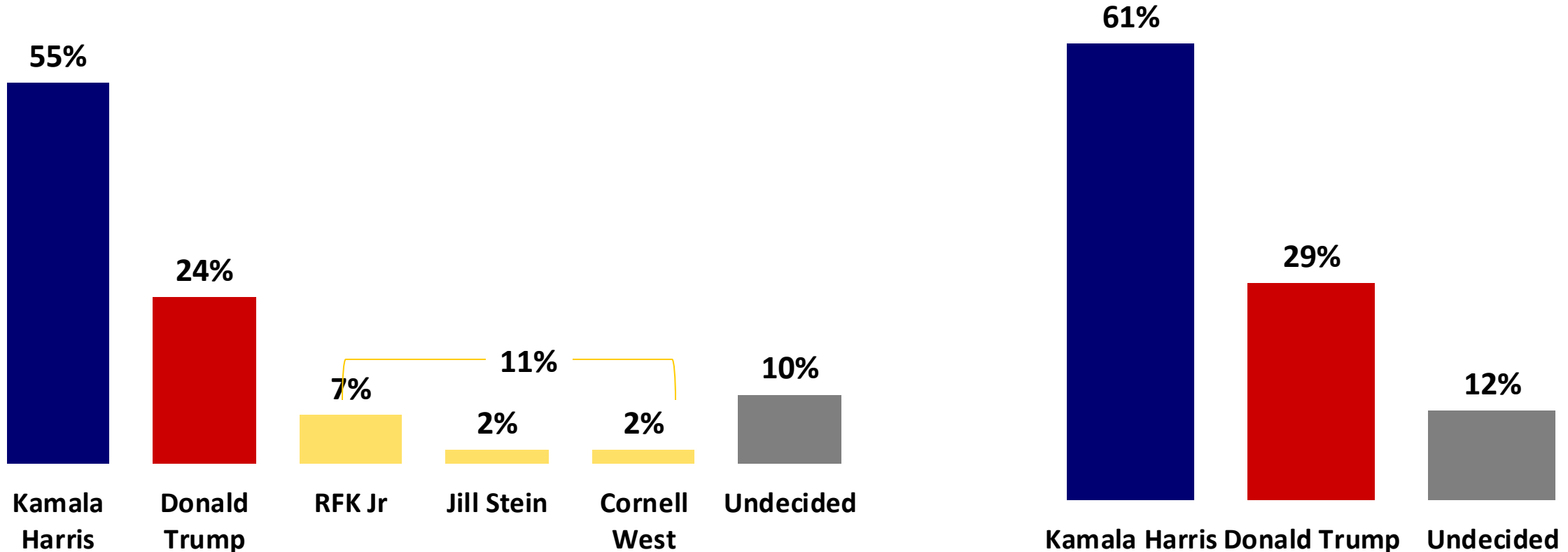


Young American registered voters prefer Harris over Trump by significant margins in both a two-way and a multicandidate trial heat.

Trial Heats for President among Young Registered Voters

Multi-Candidate Trial Heat

Two-Way Trial Heat

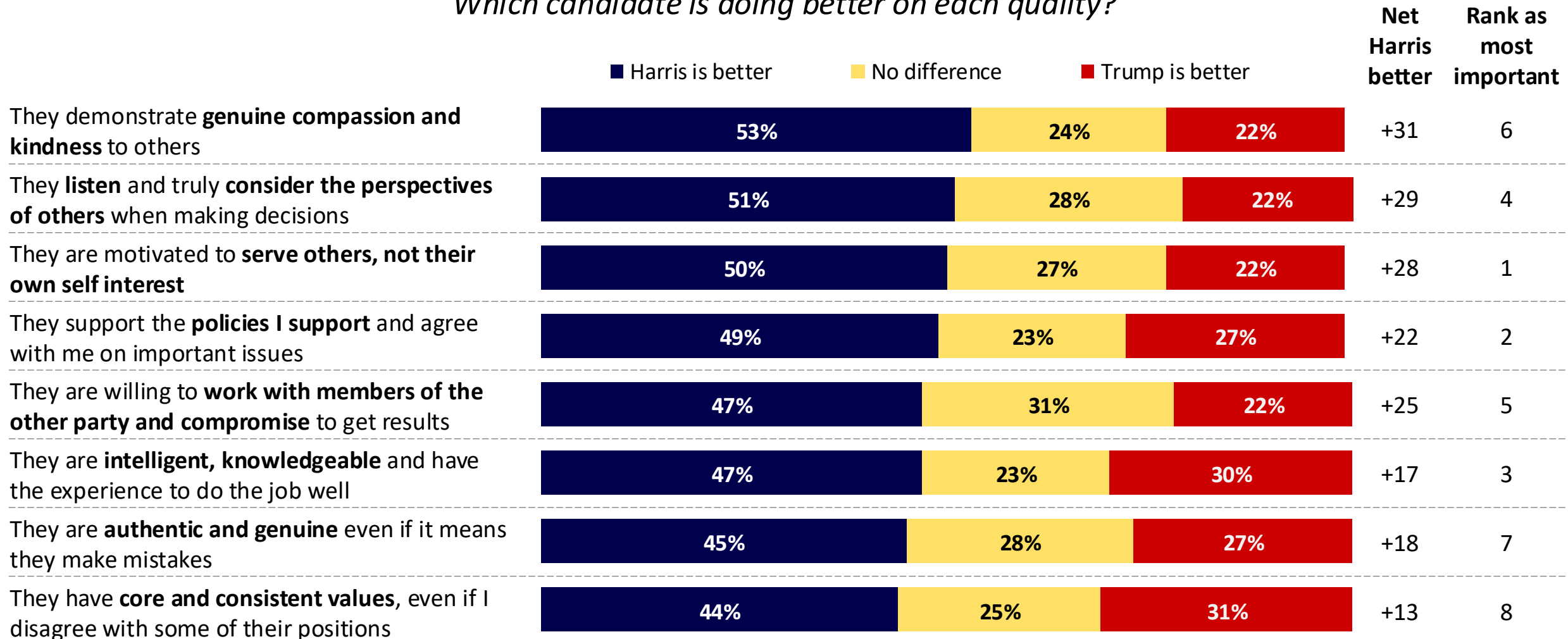


This how the presidential race looks among key blocs of young Americans.

	Harris voters	Trump voters	Third-party voters	Undecided
Registered voters (RVs)	55%	24%	11%	10%
Not registered voters	45%	29%	16%	10%
Highly motivated RVs	64%	29%	5%	2%
Less motivated RVs	35%	24%	25%	16%
White RVs	53%	30%	10%	7%
Black RVs	56%	18%	10%	16%
Hispanic RVs	55%	19%	12%	14%
LGBTQ+ RVs	69%	11%	11%	9%
Men RVs	46%	31%	12%	11%
Women RVs	53%	25%	10%	12%
Democratic RVs	83%	5%	7%	5%
Independent RVs	36%	18%	22%	24%
Republican RVs	6%	76%	6%	12%

Harris' overall lead with young Americans is rooted in her advantage on a full range of important leadership qualities.

Which candidate is doing better on each quality?

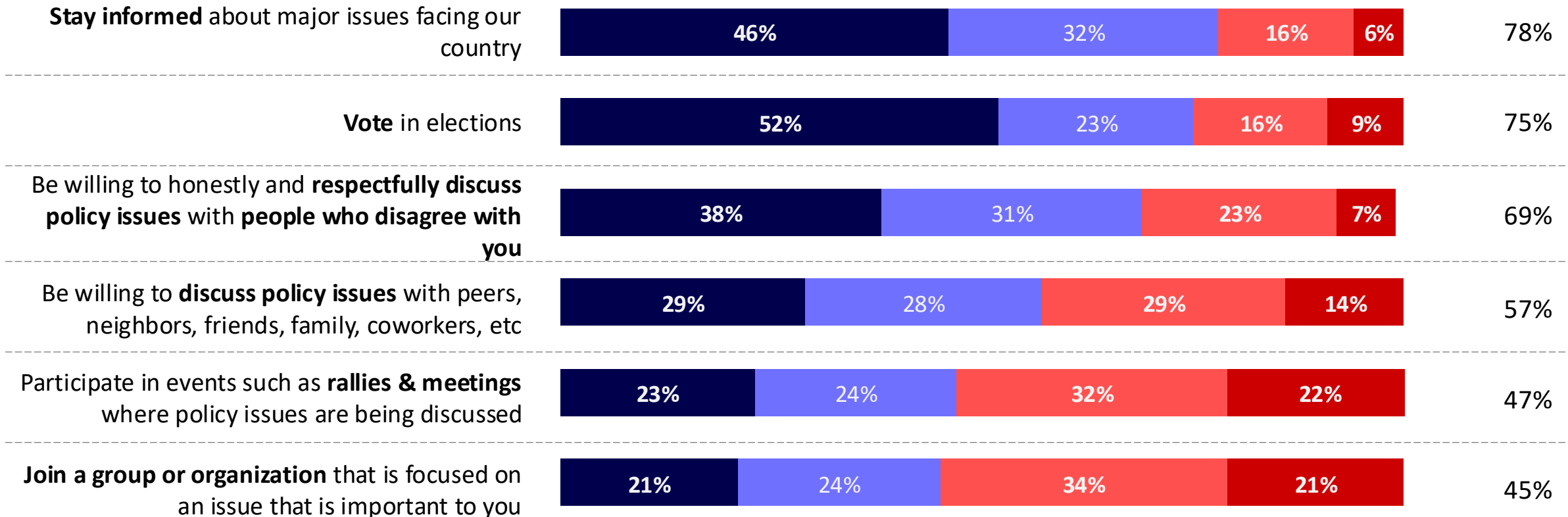


Young Americans validate fundamental behaviors that are necessary for a functioning democracy: being an informed citizen and voting are top priorities.

Thinking about different ways that people can get involved in government and our political system, how important is this to having a healthy, working democracy?

■ Absolutely essential ■ Very important ■ Fairly important ■ Not important

**Total essential/
very important**



In making the appeal to vote, young Americans are most motivated by having a voice and a say in their future.

*Reactions to images/slogans about why voting is important **

Vote.

Your vote is your voice. Make it count.

Mean = 5.80/Motivating = 37%
1st/2nd among almost all groups

Vote.

Have a say in your future.

Mean = 5.79/Motivating = 32%
Hispanic adults, Ind, non-registered

Vote.

You can make a difference.

Mean = 5.62/Motivating = 32%
Women, LGBTQI+, Democrats

Vote.

Democracy depends on it.

Mean = 5.55/Motivating = 31%
White voters, age 30 to 34

Vote.

You matter.

Mean = 5.18/Motivating = 27%
Men age 30 to 34

Vote.

Your country is counting on you.

Mean = 5.10/Motivating = 25%
Men, Republicans

Vote.

Otherwise, don't complain.

Mean = 4.28/Motivating = 23%
Men age 30 to 34

Vote.

It's your civic responsibility.

Mean = 4.27/Motivating = 18%
Men age 30 to 34

* Using 0-to-10 scale: 0 = does not motivate me to vote or think voting is important; 10 = does motivate me to vote or think voting is important; Motivating = 8, 9, 10



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Background on the Project

The Sine Institute Research Team

Amy K. Dacey is the Executive Director of the Sine Institute of Policy & Politics at American University. For more than two decades, she managed prominent national organizations, advised leading elected officials and candidates, including President Barack Obama and Senator John Kerry, and counseled a variety of nonprofits and companies. Before joining AU, Amy was President of AKD Strategies, a strategic firm working with non-profits and foundations in the progressive policy space. During the 2016 presidential election, she served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Democratic National Committee. During the 2004 elections, she worked for then-Senator John Kerry on his presidential campaign and, following his narrow loss, helped to lead Kerry's political operation. She also managed Rep. Louise Slaughter's congressional campaign in 1998. From 2010 to 2013, Amy served as Executive Director of EMILY's List, the organization dedicated to electing Democratic women to national, state, and local offices, and led the organization's revitalization, restructuring and rebranding efforts.

Molly O'Rourke is an Executive in Residence in the School of Communication at American University and also serves as the Director of the MA program in Political Communication. She teaches undergraduate and graduate level courses in Research Methods, including both quantitative and qualitative approaches. She has more than 20 years' experience in the field of public opinion research, most recently as a partner at Hart Research in Washington, D.C. where she led multiphase research project for dozens of advocacy and nonprofit organizations, political candidates, and media outlets, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Human Right Campaign (HRC) and NBC News.

Doug Hattaway founded Hattaway Communications to help visionary leaders and organizations use the power of strategy, science, and storytelling to achieve ambitious goals for people and the planet. A storyteller by training—in journalism and creative writing—he is passionate about adapting insights from the social sciences to enhance the power of strategic communications. Doug has three decades of experience working with leaders at the highest levels of U.S. politics and government, international organizations and NGOs, cutting-edge businesses, and the world's largest foundations. He was an advisor and spokesperson for Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, and Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, and provided strategic counsel to the Obama White House and the Democratic leadership of the U.S. House and Senate. He has traveled to dozens of countries to work with government leaders, political parties, and NGOs in the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and Europe.

Benjamin Bryant joined the Sine Institute as its Director of Strategic Communications in June 2022. Prior to his current role, he worked for six years on Capitol Hill, serving as the deputy press secretary for Senator Jack Reed and communications director for Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard. Ben is originally from Rhode Island. Prior to his time on Capitol Hill, he graduated from the University of Connecticut and worked for several years in local Rhode Island radio news before coming to Washington DC in 2014 to work on the policy communications team at Facebook (Meta's) Washington, DC office.

Generation Lab is a data intelligence company that translate youth views and behavior for media, academia, businesses, government, and the American public. Generation Lab uses proprietary methods that streamline the polling process for respondents, maintain exceptional data integrity, and enhance data collection. Generation Lab specializes in studying young people and the trends that shape the future and works to “pursue youth truth” for clients and the American public. Generation Lab’s work has been featured in such media outlets as Axios, PBS, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and others.



Founded in 1971, **Close Up Foundation** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, civic education organization that believes a strong democracy requires active, informed participation by all citizens. Close Up seeks to serve young people from all communities and all backgrounds, regardless of race, religion, gender, socioeconomic level, or academic standing. For over 50 years, it has partnered with schools nationwide to serve more than one million students and educators through experiential programs in the nation’s capital and in local communities, virtual programs, professional development, and curriculum and resource design. Close Up Washington DC’s issue-centric, nonpartisan curriculum gives participants a deeper understanding of history, government institutions, current issues, and the role of citizens.



Future Caucus (formerly Millennial Action Project) is an organization dedicated to renewing American democracy. In collaboration with dozens of Millennial leaders across the country, and with the generous support of visionary philanthropists, the Millennial Action Project was formed and officially launched in 2013. The Millennial Action Project works directly with our nation’s leading young policymakers on both a national and state level to bridge the partisan divide and lead a new era of collaborative governance. As a national, nonpartisan nonprofit dedicated to activating millennial and Gen Z policymakers, MAP gives our nation’s young leaders the resources and support to develop and pass innovative policy solutions — and forge productive partnerships on the issues affecting the youngest generations of Americans.



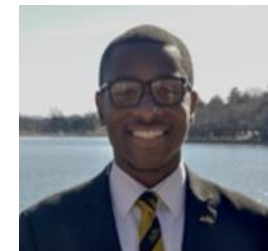
The Sine Student Advisory Panel

An **advisory group** of 10 graduate and undergraduate students from across American University helped to:

- Design the Reimagining Political Leadership poll
- Formulate poll questions
- Provide feedback on the survey methodology and results



Tyler Brown-Dewese is from Middletown, New York and is studying Political Science with a Minor in Public Administration & Policy at American University in Washington, DC. Tyler is the President of AU College Democrats and is the AU NAACP Political Action Committee Chair, an AU Ambassador, and the Vice President of the Nu Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.



Nika Gogishvili-Matthews is a junior majoring in Business, Language (French) studies, and Culture at American University in Washington, DC. His research interests include African affairs, financial institutions, and trade. He most recently served at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service as a Student Trainee for the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program. He served as a subject-matter expert on I-824 visa petitions, working hand-in-hand with Consular Officers at the U.S. Department of State to combat immigration-related fraud and national security efforts. With two years of French-language studies, he hopes to use his language and business skills (public and private-sector) to promote economic development on the African continent. In addition, he considers himself a food connoisseur, although Chili's is his favorite restaurant.



Sydney Gough is a junior at American University in Washington, DC, studying Political Science with a Concentration in Comparative Politics and Biology, on the premedical track. She has gained non-profit work experience in both the public health and civic engagement sectors during her first two years of undergraduate education and hopes to attend a joint JD/MD program following her graduation.



Pablo Landsmanas Gary is a junior SIS student at American University in Washington, DC. Pablo is from Mexico and plans to use his degree to contribute to his beloved country. An interesting fact about him is that his family immigrated to Mexico from the USSR in the 1950s, so he grew up with a mixture of Russian and Mexican culture. Pablo's hobbies include travelling, fishing, reading historical novels, cooking, and learning new languages.



Rohan Singh is a third-year undergraduate student at American University's School of International Service in Washington, DC focusing on the Middle East and North Africa. Rohan is an Undergraduate Research Assistant to the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at American University, a Peer Mentor, and intern at the US Mission to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. He is also a member of the Student Advisory Board at the Sine Institute of Policy and Politics. Rohan has recently been selected to present a research paper at the International Association of Political Science Students (IAPSS) 2023 World Congress in Montreal, Canada. He has been published in The Friday Times.



Julia Lewis (she/her) is a sophomore from Houston, Texas studying political science in the School of Public Affairs with a minor in sustainability at American University in Washington DC. Julia is an intern for Climate Cabinet, where she conducts electoral research on local and state-wide candidates across the country. In high school she ran the largest youth climate organization in Houston, and she is passionate about elevating the voice of marginalized communities in climate action. She also serves on the Sine Institute Student Advisory Board and as the External Outreach Director for Voters of AU.



Lexie Osbourne is a senior CLEG (Communications, Legal Institutions, Economics, and Government) major at American University in Washington DC. She was born and raised in St. Albans, Queens, NY, but also spent some years living in Newtown-Langhorne, PA. Lexie aspires to become a lawyer focusing on criminal and/or immigration law or working in research. She is also interested in DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility) work and is a peer facilitator (TA) for AUx courses that teach anti-racist pedagogy and practices. As the DEIA Chair of the philanthropy club Eaglethon, Lexie has hosted an introductory bias training and working to create a long term plan to further DEIA efforts. In her free time, Lexie enjoys reading and watching various media.



Katarina “Katie” Nowicki is a sophomore majoring in Political Science, minoring in Women and Gender Studies, and getting a Certificate in Advanced Leadership Studies here at American University in Washington DC. She is also a member of the combined BA/ MA Program where she is working towards a Master's in Public Policy. On campus, Katie is involved with the Sine Institute as well as the SPA Leadership Program. She is a First-Year TA for the Leadership program as well as helping the program leadership overall in a more unofficial capacity. Outside of school, Katie loves reading, particularly fantasy books. Some of her favorite books include *The Immortalists* by Chloe Benjamin, *The Sun Bearer* by Aiden Thomas, *Legend Born* by Tracy Deon, and anything by Rick Riordan. Katie also plays D&D, is an avid Mario Kart competitor, and enjoys trying new foods.



Edozie Umunna is a recent graduate from American University in Washington DC, where he majored in Political Science and minored in Communication Studies. A lifelong Bostonian, Edozie has witnessed firsthand the many rewards of cohesion between cultures and looks to further explore international relations as it pertains to American legislation. Currently, Edozie serves as the acting Human Rights and Migration Officer in the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus. Outside of work, Edozie can either be found watching soccer, basketball, football, boxing or Formula 1!



Matthew Wiggins is a second-year Student Associate for the Sine Institute at American University in Washington, DC. Matthew is originally from Dallas, TX and is studying to be a CLEG major and minor in Public Health. In addition to working for The Sine Institute, he is on the Club Swim team and is one of the co-founders of the Pickleball group, the Bipartisan Backhanders. He is currently employed as a Legal Assistant for Jackson Spencer Law in Dallas and hopes to go into a career of health and national security.

