





Northwestern Voter Support for a Regional High-Speed Rail Line

*Key Findings from a Survey of Oregon and Washington Voters
Conducted July 22-August 3, 2021*



OPINION
RESEARCH
& STRATEGY

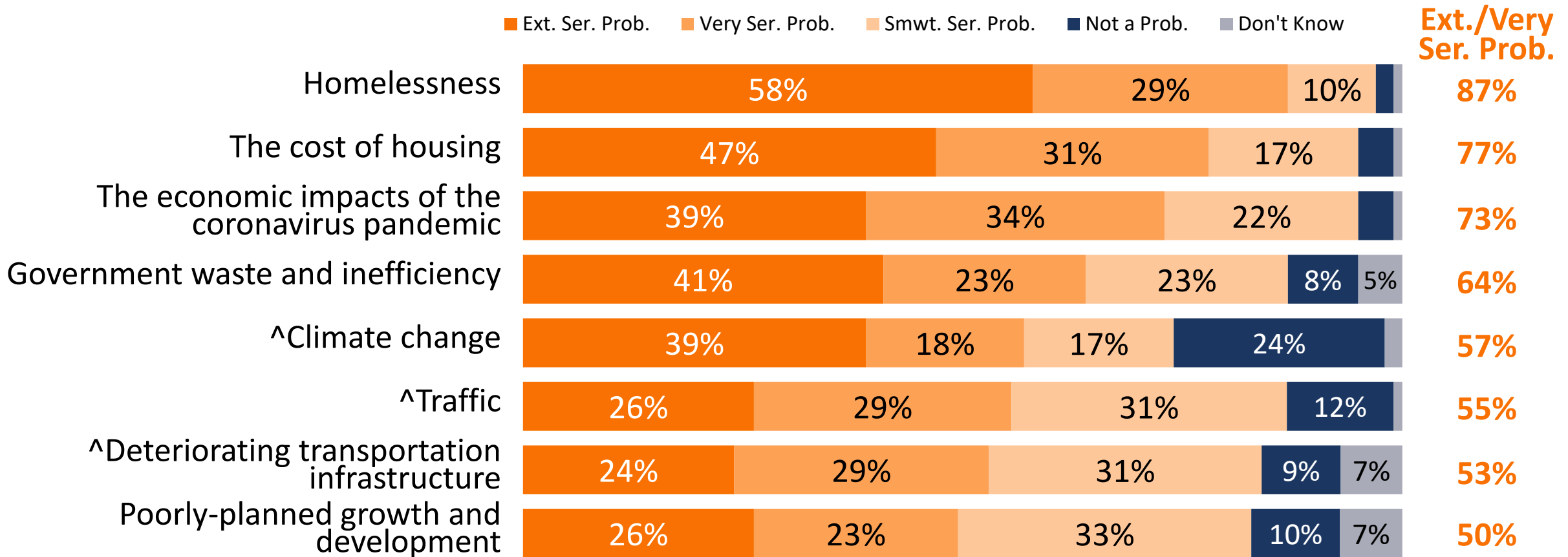
Survey Methodology

Dates	July 22-August 3, 2021
Survey Type	Dual-mode Voter Survey
Research Population	Likely November 2022 Voters in Oregon and Washington
Total Interviews	1,616 total; at least 100 per Congressional District
Margin of Sampling Error	(Full Sample) $\pm 2.5\%$ at the 95% Confidence Level (Each CD Sample) $\pm 10.0\%$ at the 95% Confidence Level
Contact Methods	 Telephone Calls  Email Invitations
Data Collection Modes	 Telephone Interviews  Online Interviews

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

Homelessness, the cost of housing, and economic impacts of COVID are key concerns.

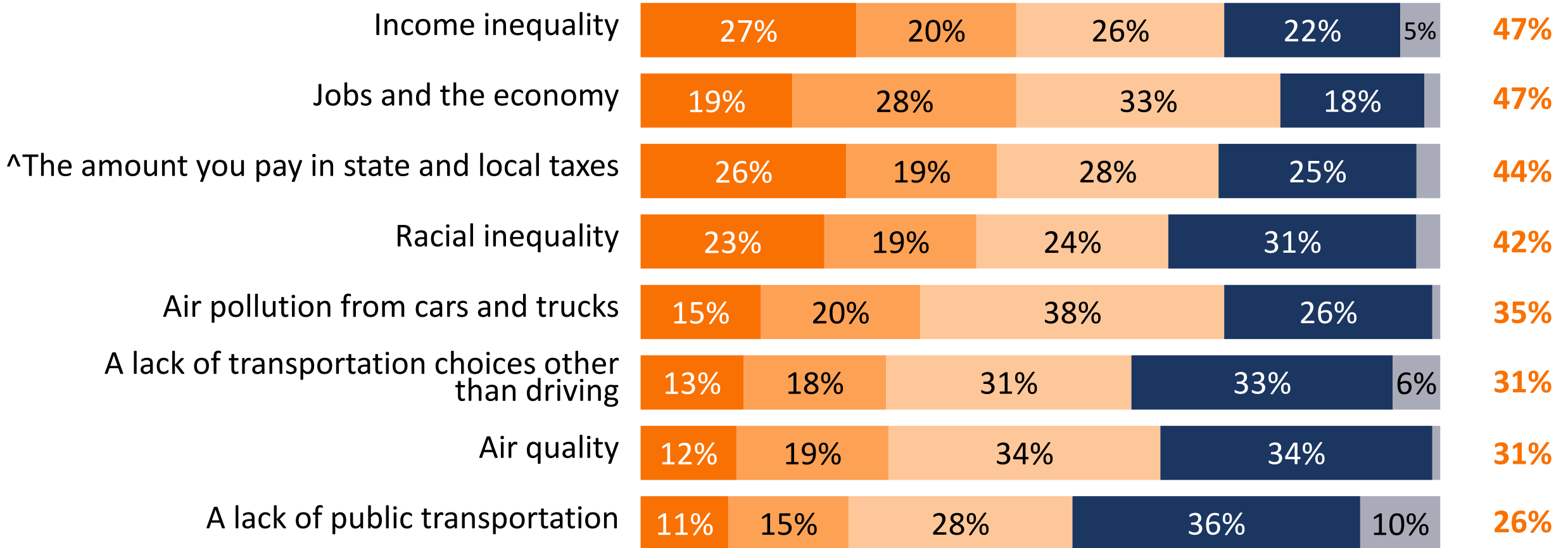
Here is a list of things some people say may be problems facing **OREGON/WASHINGTON**. Please tell me whether you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem for residents of your state.



Relatively few are concerned with air quality, racial inequality or transportation issues.

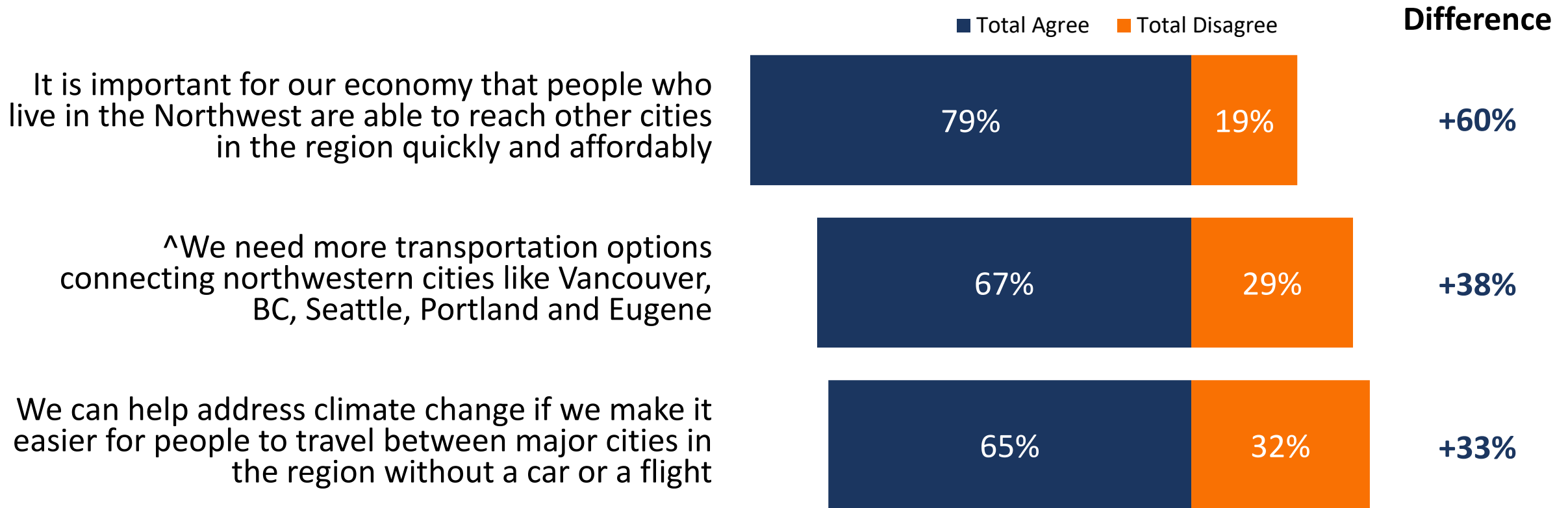
Ext. Ser. Prob. Very Ser. Prob. Smwt. Ser. Prob. Not a Prob. Don't Know

Ext./Very Ser. Prob.



Voters broadly agree that quick and affordable transportation between cities is important to the regional economy.

*Here are some statements about traffic and transportation in the Pacific Northwest.
Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each one.*

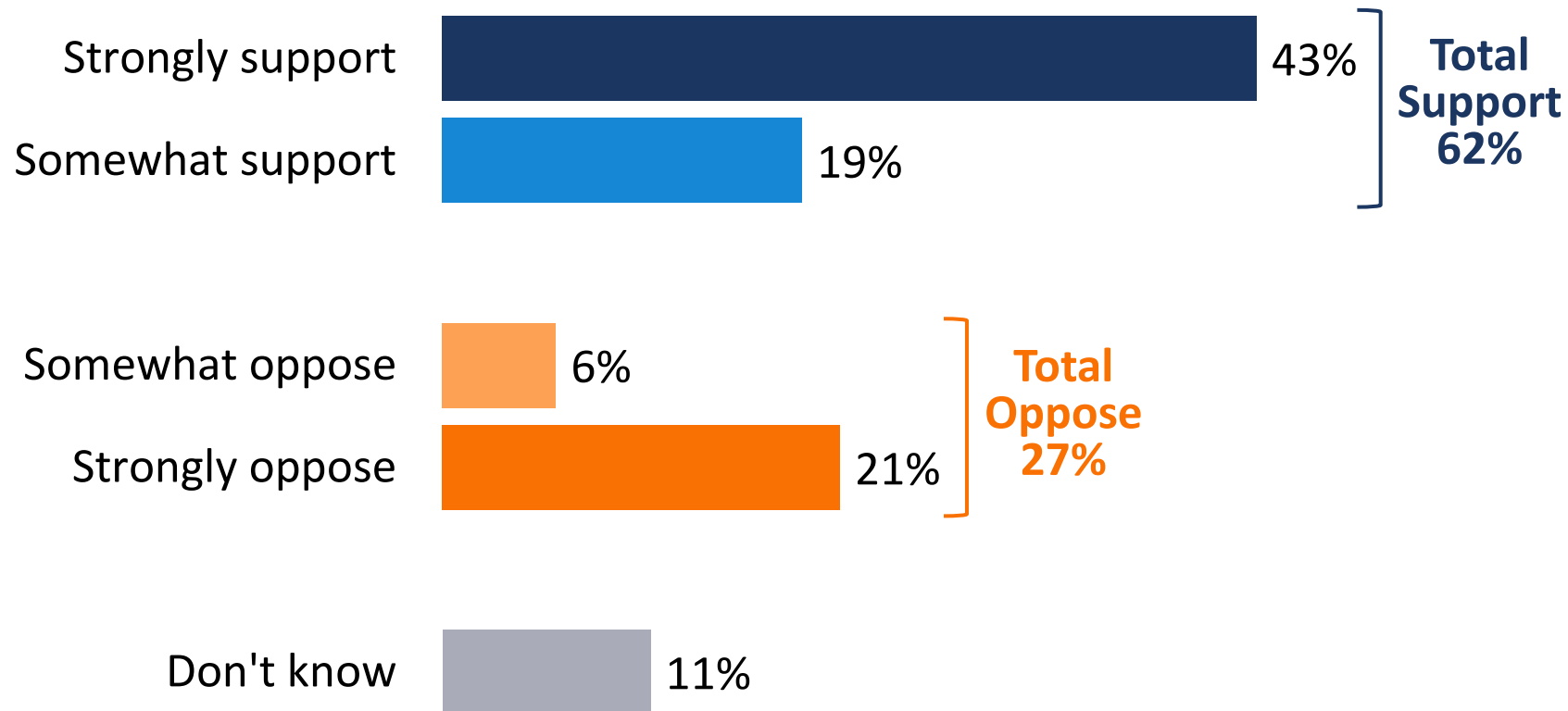


Voters heard or read a basic description of the project.

Here is some information about a project in the Pacific Northwest that would create a Cascadia high-speed rail system with trains that travel at 250 miles per hour on average. This would make 1-hour, direct trips between each major city between Vancouver, British Columbia, and Eugene, Oregon -- with stops in Seattle, Tacoma, Portland and potentially other cities in between. Stations in each city would be located with easy access to other transit modes and airports. This proposal would transform our passenger rail network into a faster, more integrated system that provides a safe, efficient, equitable, and affordable means of travel. Funding would come from federal infrastructure investment, as well as state and local transportation funding sources.

More than three in five support high-speed rail— and two in five “strongly support” it.

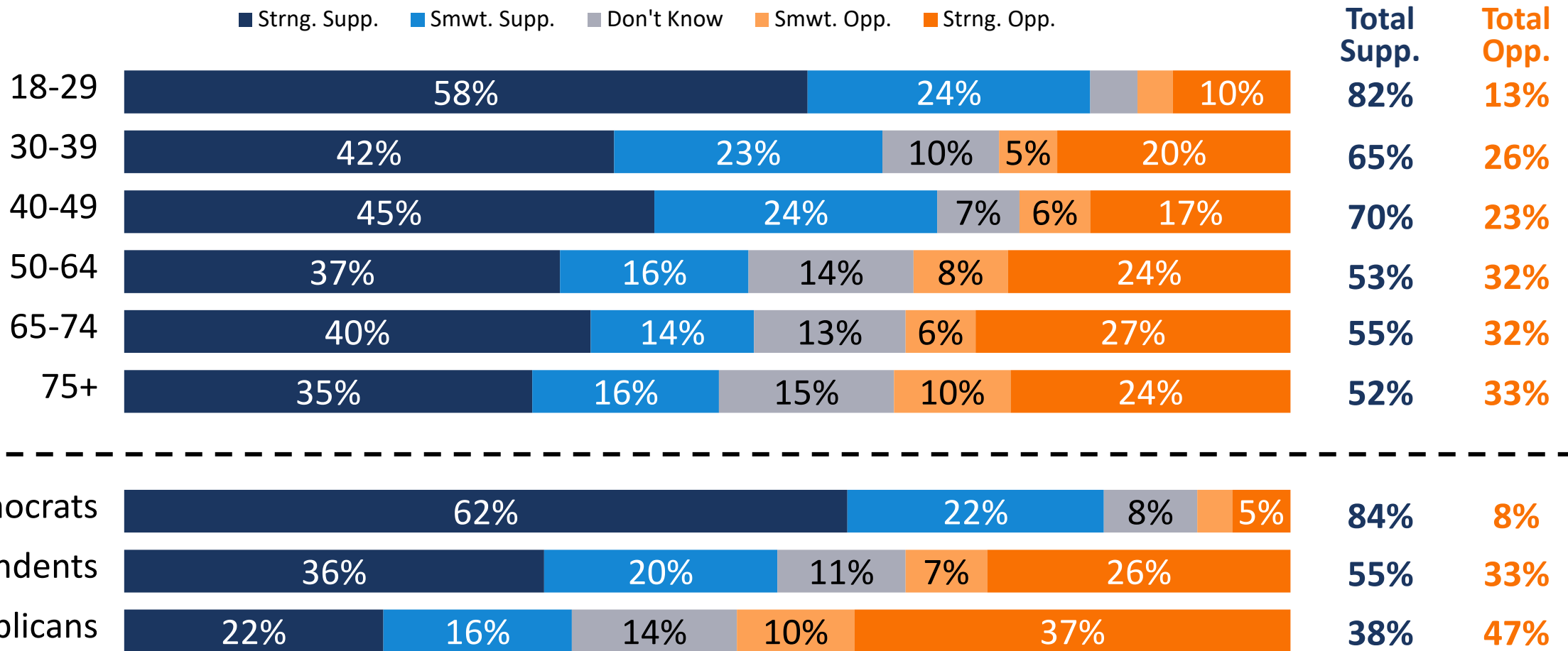
Would you support or oppose this high-speed rail project connecting cities in the Northwest?



Support for the proposal is especially broad among Democrats and voters under 50.

Support for High-Speed Rail Project by Age & Party

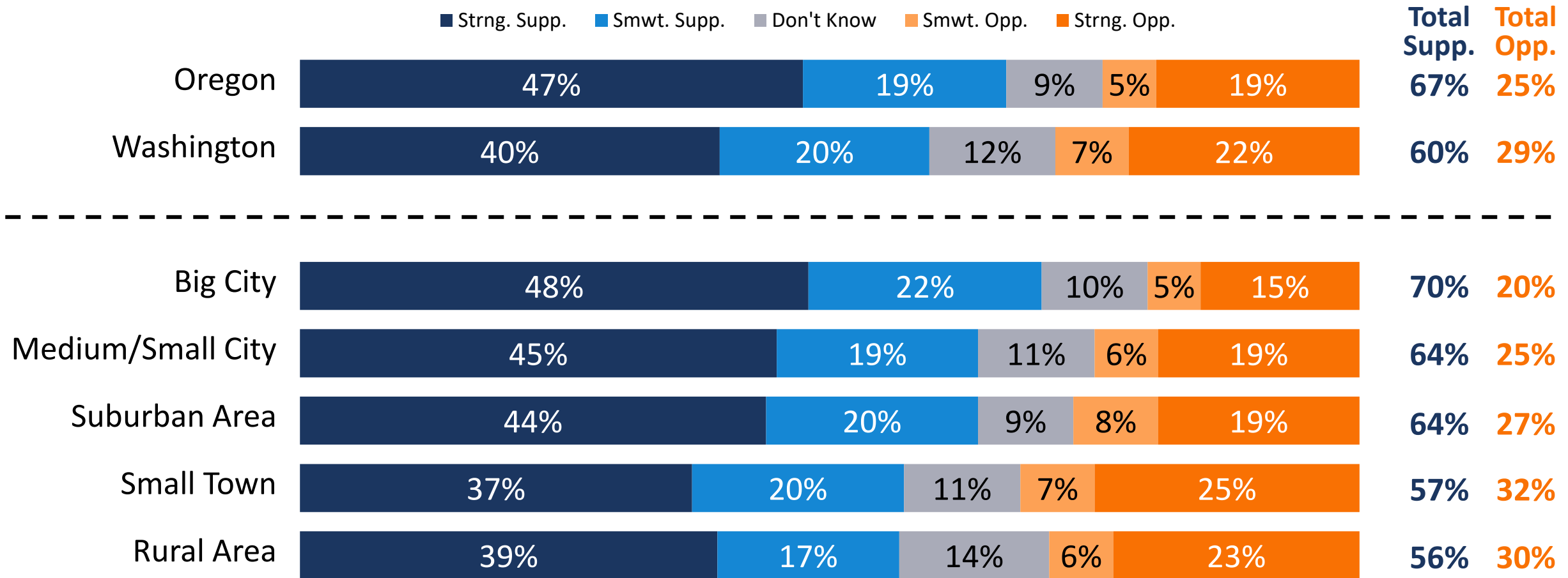
■ Strng. Supp. ■ Smwt. Supp. ■ Don't Know ■ Smwt. Opp. ■ Strng. Opp.



Majorities support the proposal even in small-town and rural areas.

Support for High-Speed Rail Project by State & Type of Area

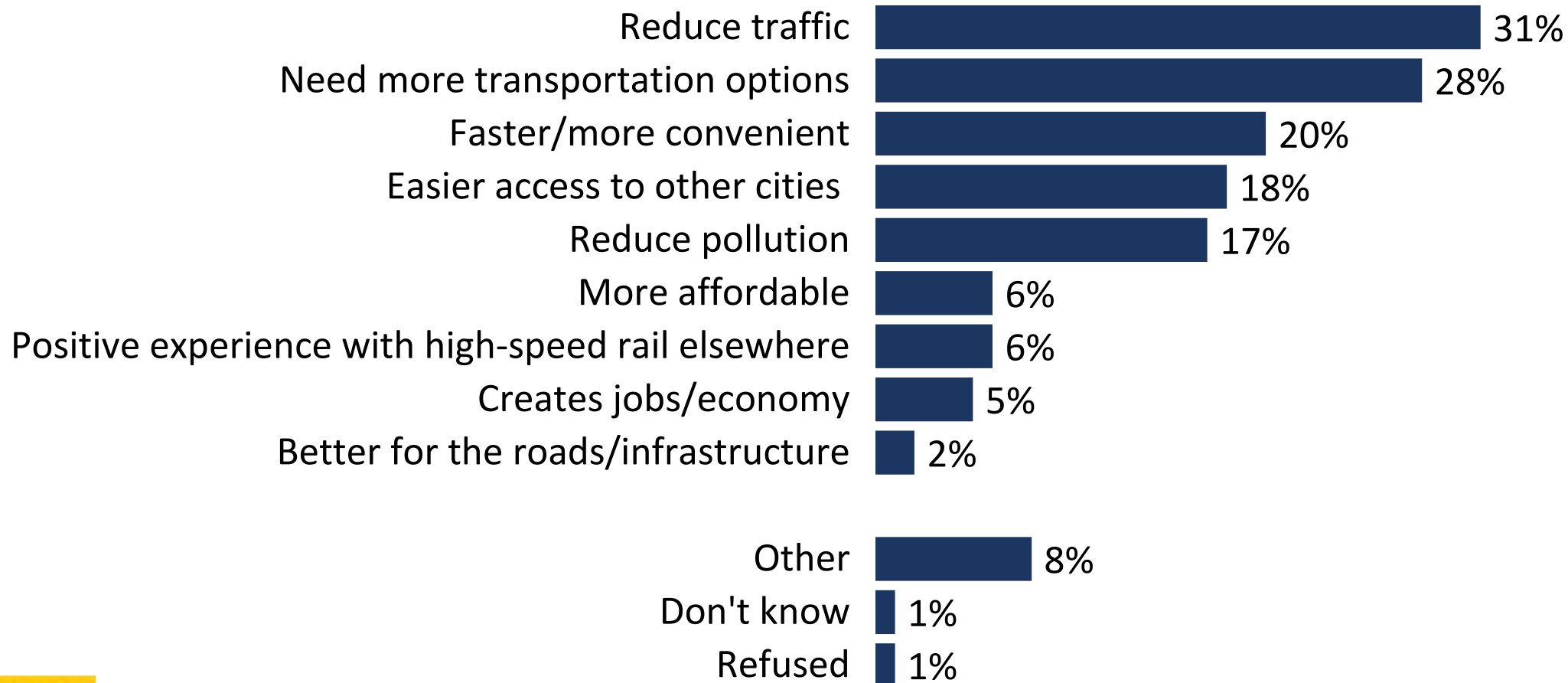
■ Strng. Supp. ■ Smwt. Supp. ■ Don't Know ■ Smwt. Opp. ■ Strng. Opp.



Supporters are motivated by the project's potential to reduce traffic and provide more transportation options.

*In a few words of your own, why would you **SUPPORT** the project?*

(Open-ended; Asked of Supporters Only, n=1,003)



Verbatim Responses from Supporters

I have traveled on high-speed rail in China, and it's fast, efficient, and [has] less environmental impact.

Because I-5 is a mess.

It will address the overpopulation of the cities, diminish air pollution, increase access for those who don't have cars, and make part of the US as modern as other Third World countries.

Less traffic and less cost!

It would help climate change. For short distances, it is more efficient and less polluting than airplanes and cars.

It's important to have equitable access for people to travel between cities safely.

I ride a motorcycle and there are too many vehicles/cars in my way.

250 miles per hour? Seriously? That would be amazing. The US is so far behind many European and Asian countries with high-speed rail. We need better, faster, and more convenient public transportation options.

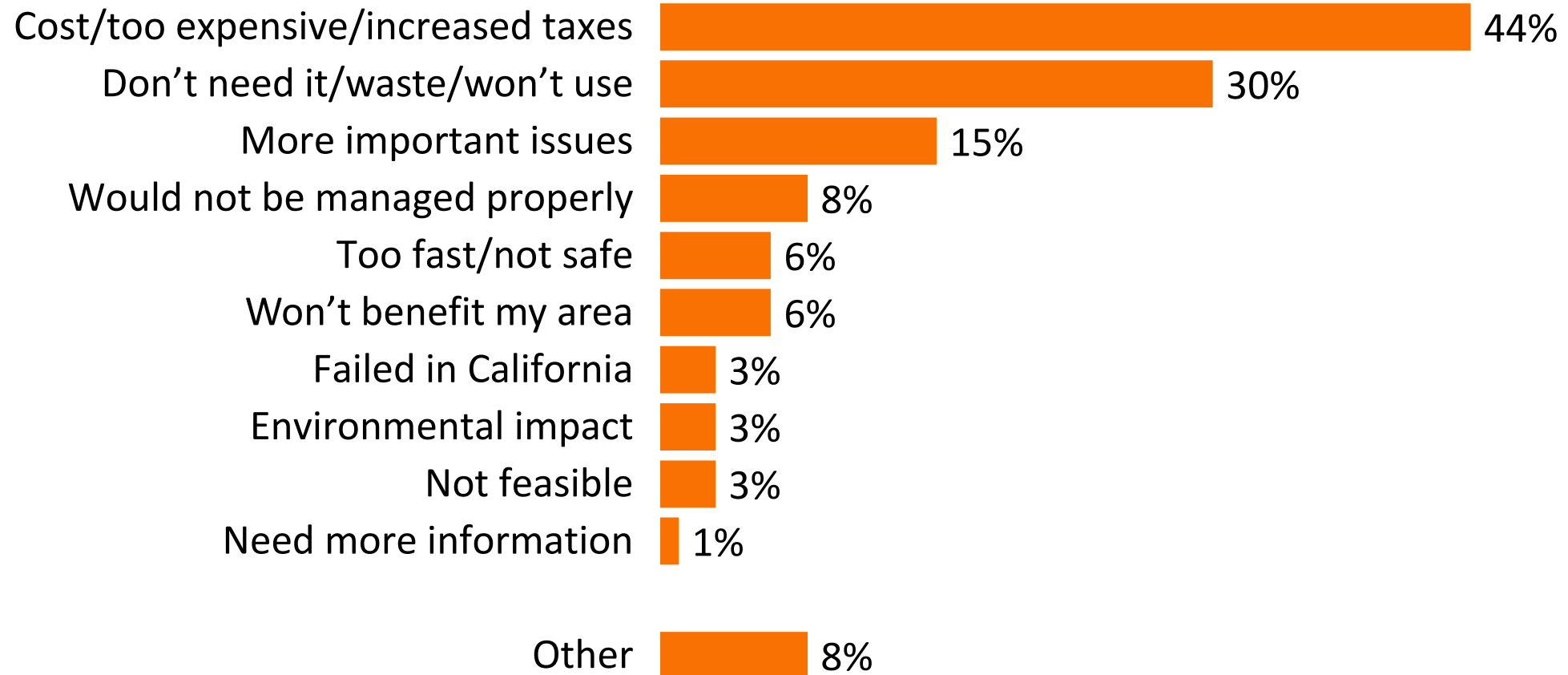
Mostly because it would allow people to not have to live super close to the bigger/higher cost of living cities so you could save money.

I support any type of public transportation for the environment.

More jobs for the economy, more jobs for people.

Opponents are concerned about a potential increase in taxes, or say they wouldn't use high-speed rail.

*In a few words of your own, why would you **OPPOSE** the project?
(Open-ended; Asked of No Voters Only, n=439)*



Verbatim Responses from Opponents

50 miles an hour is fast enough. I am very old-fashioned. You are out there to help the other people, not to satisfy yourself.

I don't think it is reasonable or necessary use of infrastructure funding. I don't believe there is enough demand to support the cost.

They couldn't prove it was safe at those speeds.

Not big on project being federally-funded.

Out state refuses to address our freeways' overcrowding and keeps putting tolls on roads. Make existing freeways better.

Everybody has a car and it's just cheap to fly. With so many other alternatives, there's no point in trading [for] a train system.

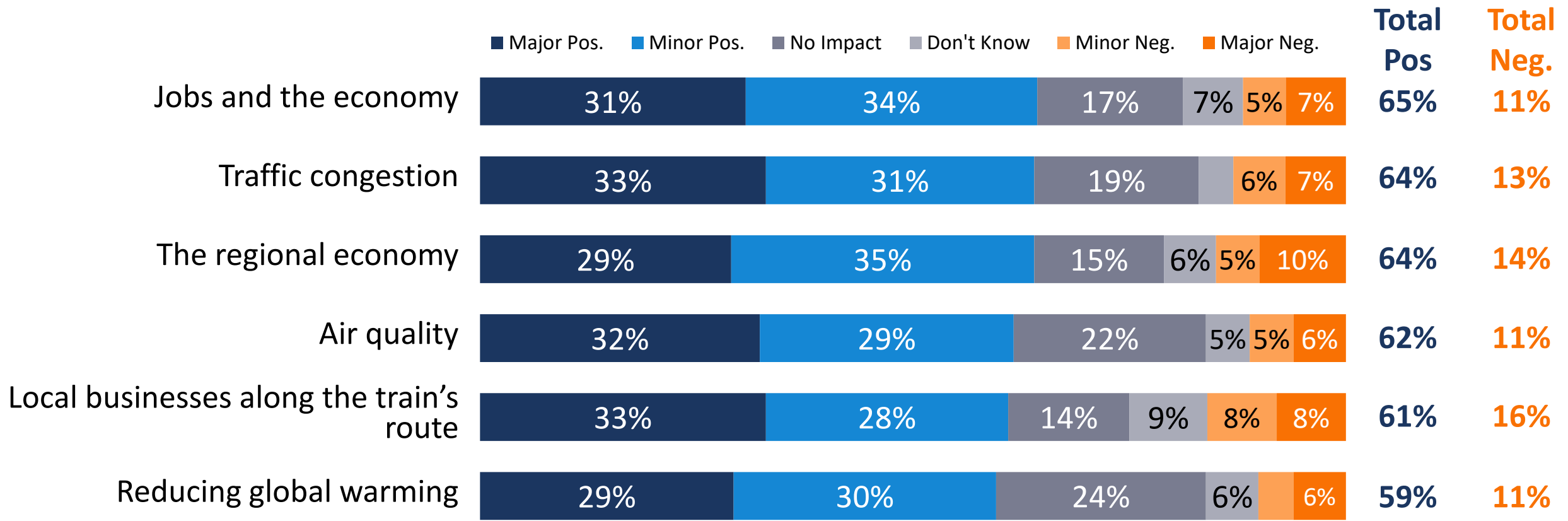
Because the high-speed trains are a boondoggle. They are a waste of money, and they never produce what they promised.

The homeless crisis and the deterioration of Portland takes priority over everything. I am so unhappy with our local government and how they have allowed this city to be destroyed.

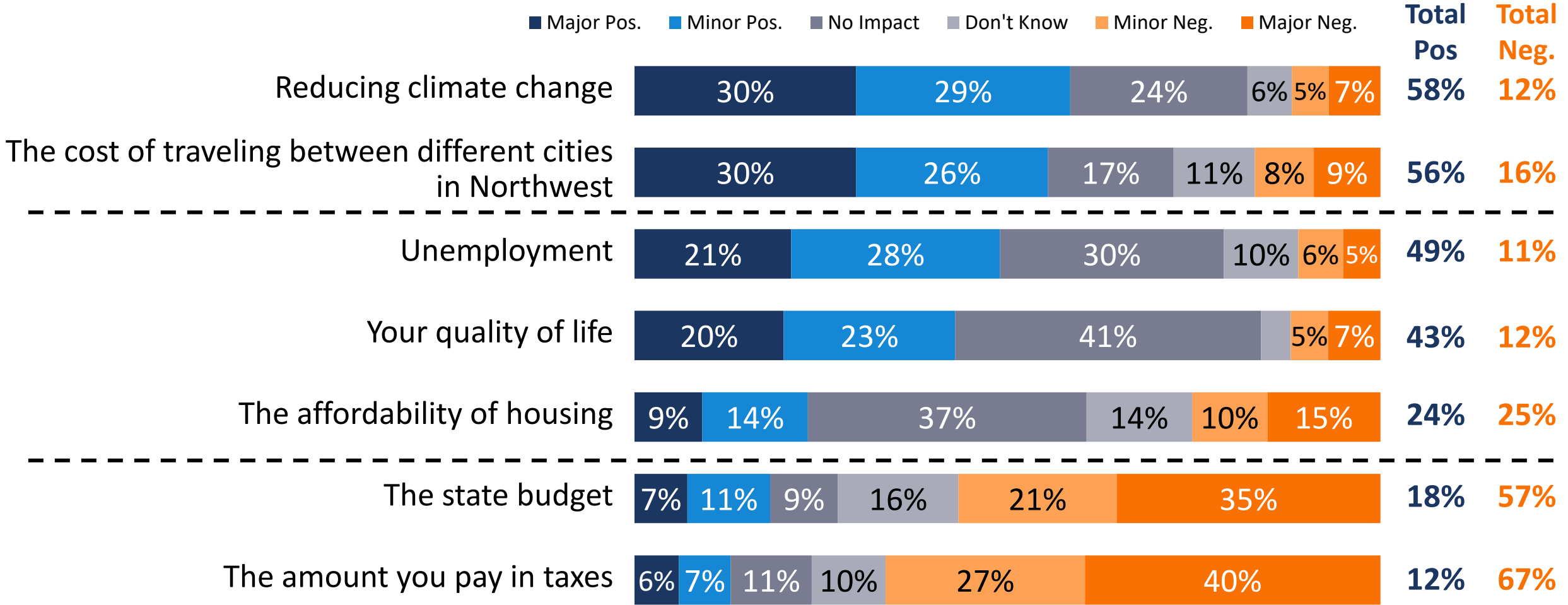
I think it is a great idea. But government is terrible with timing, would take years to complete and would be a waste of taxpayers' money. Better done by private company and not by government. Would be done more efficiently.

Majorities feel the project would positively impact the economy, traffic, air quality and global warming.

I am going to read you a list of some different ways the high-speed rail project might impact the Pacific Northwest. Please tell me whether you think the high-speed rail line will have a positive impact, no impact, or a negative impact on that aspect of life in the Pacific Northwest.

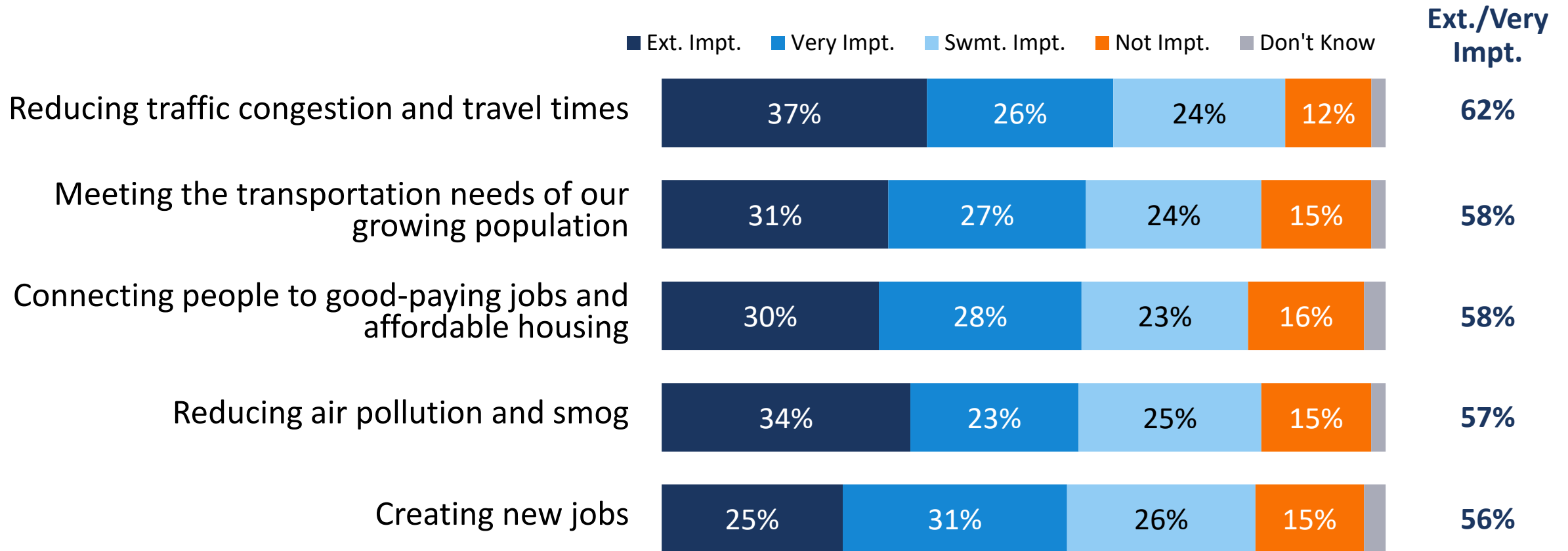


Most voters don't see an impact on housing affordability; they broadly see negatives on the state budget and taxes.

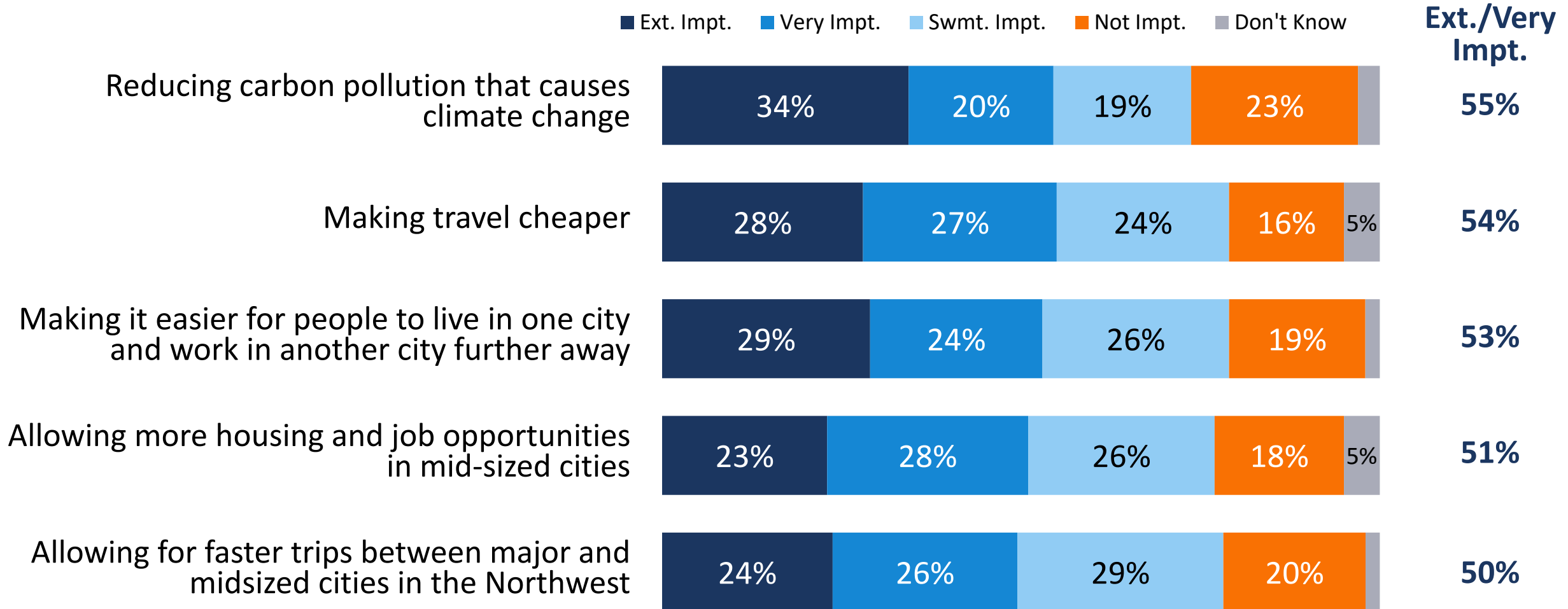


Voters rank benefits for traffic, the economy and air quality as most important to them.

I'm going to read you a list of some of the benefits some people have said the high-speed rail line will have for the region. Please tell me how important you think that potential benefit of the project is: extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not important?



They are less broadly enthusiastic about the impacts on commutes and mid-sized cities.



Most believe the region would be better-served by high-speed rail than by freeways and airports – with the exception of Republicans.

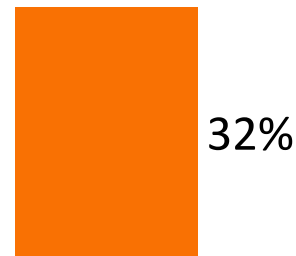
I am going to read you several pairs of statements about this project. Please tell me which statement comes closer to your opinion.

The best way to meet the Pacific Northwest's future transportation needs is to build a high-speed rail network connected to local transit that reduces our dependence on fossil fuels and our reliance on freeways and cars



OR

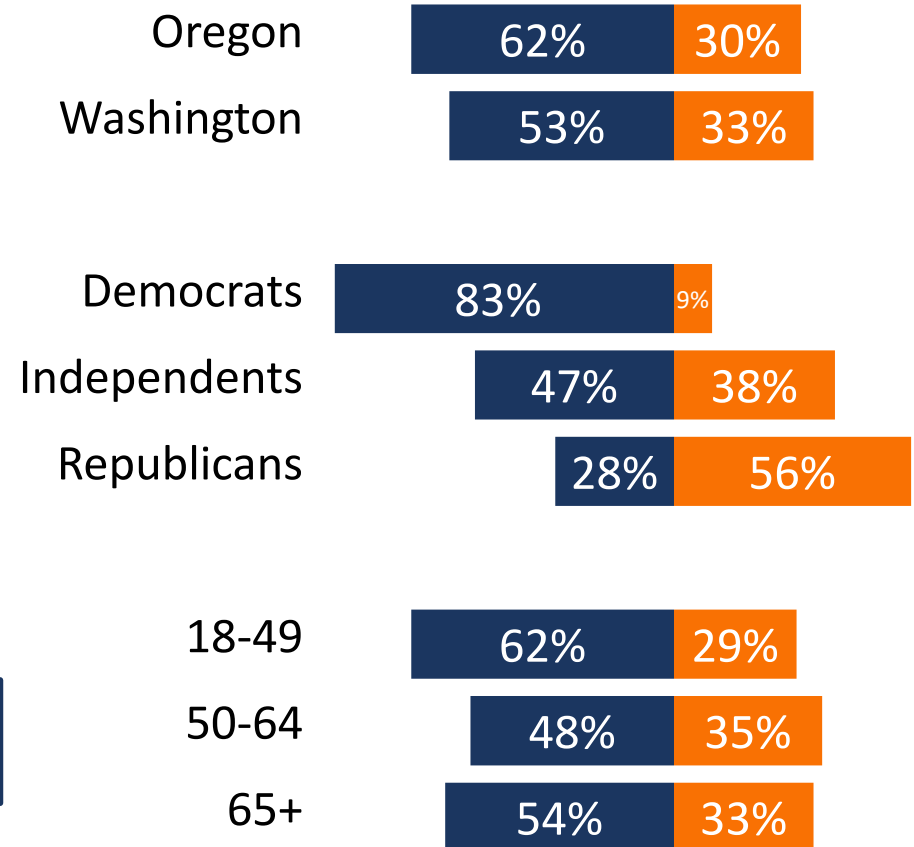
The best way to meet the Pacific Northwest's future transportation needs is to build more airport runways and more freeways that are convenient and serve the means of transportation we already use



Both/Neither/Don't know 12%

+24%

■ High-Speed Rail Network ■ More Runways & Freeways



By a 23-point margin, voters believe the rail line will make the region more equitable.

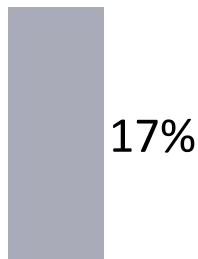
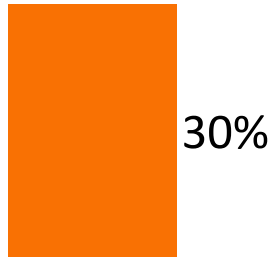
I am going to read you several pairs of statements about this project. Please tell me which statement comes closer to your opinion.

Building a high-speed rail line will make our region more equitable, by providing a cheaper, faster, more convenient way for all residents of the region to commute to jobs

OR

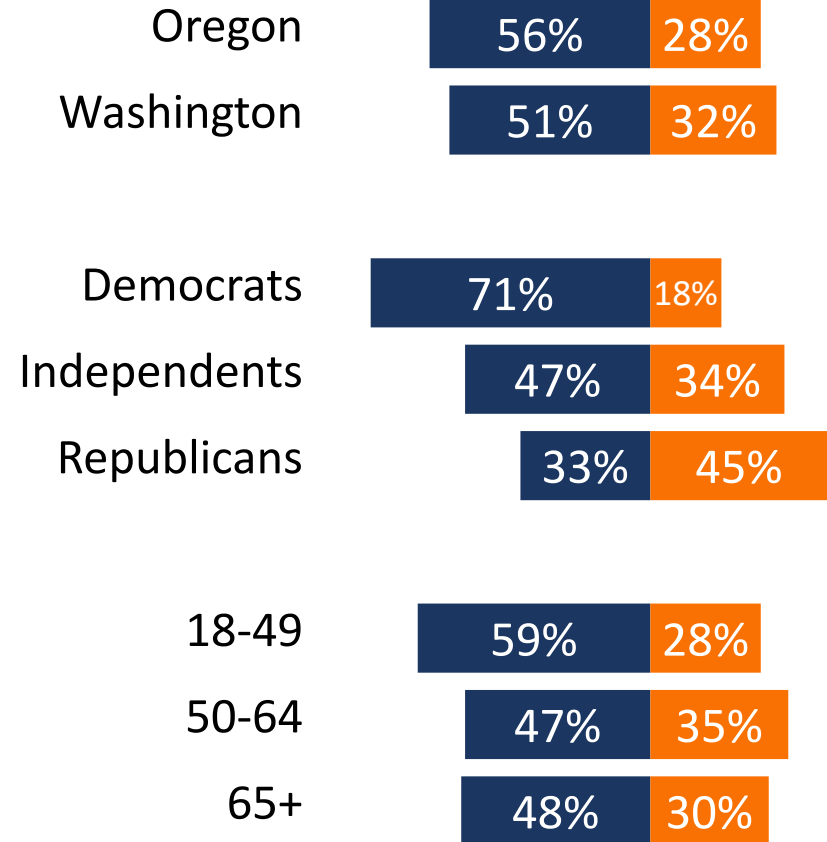
Building a high-speed rail line will make our region less equitable, by investing in a new form of transportation that will mainly benefit wealthy professionals who travel between the region's cities

Both/Neither/Don't know



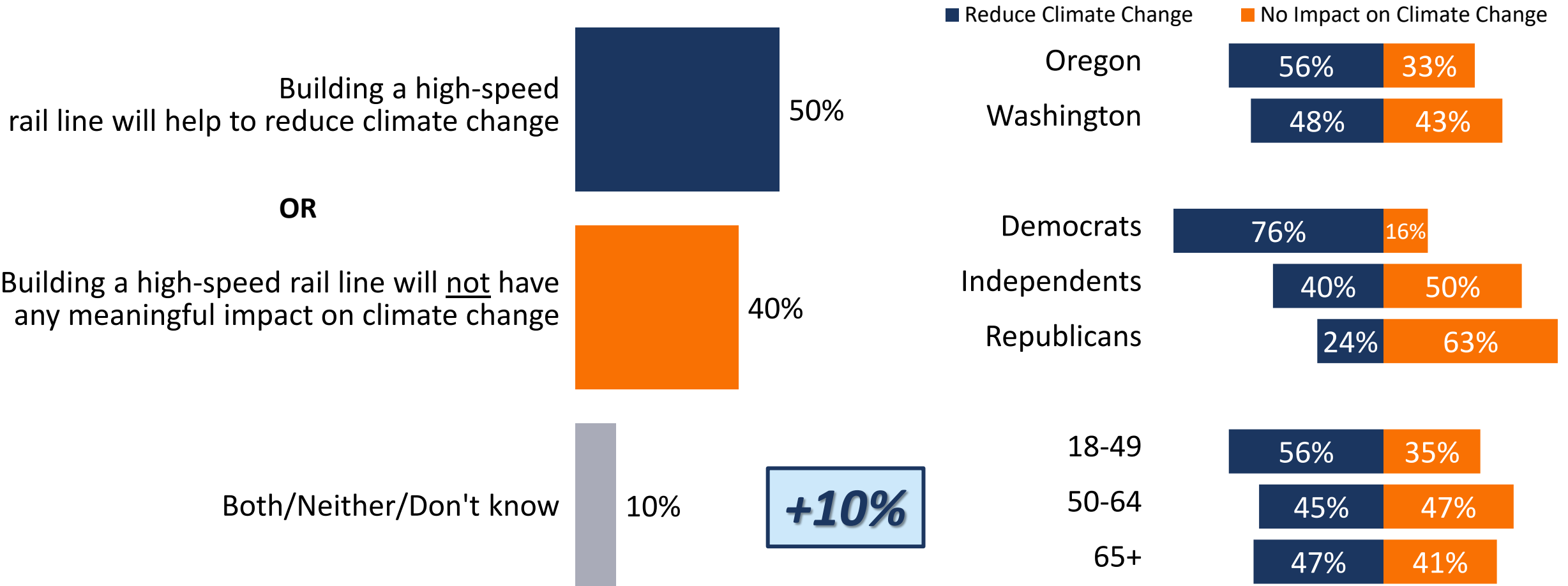
+23%

■ More Equitable ■ Less Equitable



Half of voters believe that rail will help reduce climate change, particularly Democrats.

I am going to read you several pairs of statements about this project. Please tell me which statement comes closer to your opinion.



A plurality believes high-speed rail is preferable to upgrading existing rail – and nearly three in five Oregon voters believe this.

I am going to read you several pairs of statements about this project. Please tell me which statement comes closer to your opinion.

The best way to meet the Pacific Northwest's future transportation needs is to build a high-speed rail network that reduces our dependence on fossil fuels and our reliance on freeways and cars, even if it takes longer to plan and build

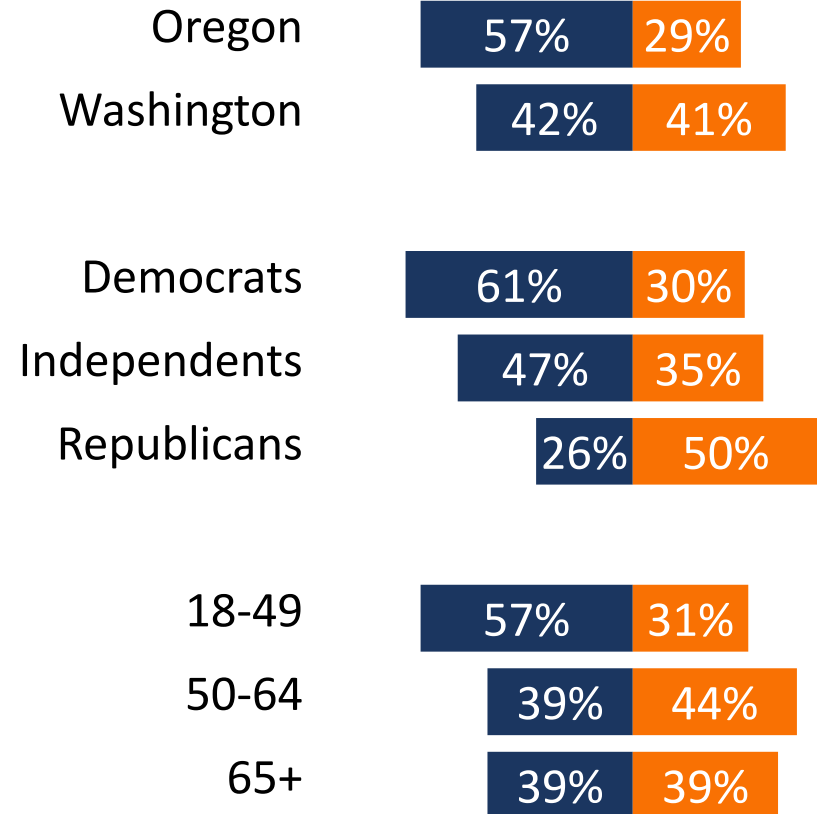
OR

The best way to meet the Pacific Northwest's future transportation needs is to work quickly to upgrade existing Amtrak rail service to serve more cities more frequently

Both/Neither/Don't know 16%

+10%

■ Build High-Speed Rail Network ■ Upgrade Existing Amtrak Service



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