



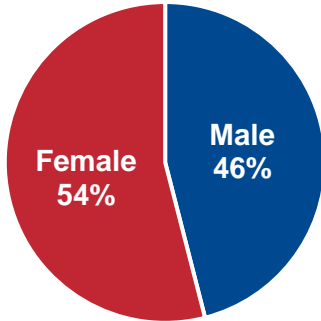
# 2021 Los Angeles Business Council Institute Homelessness Survey

Key findings from a survey among 906 voters conducted October 27 to November 3, 2021

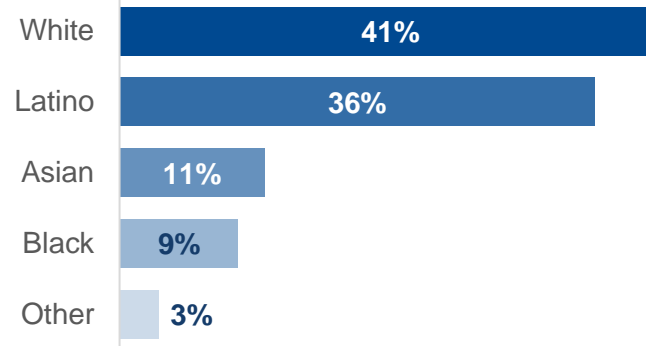


# Sample overview

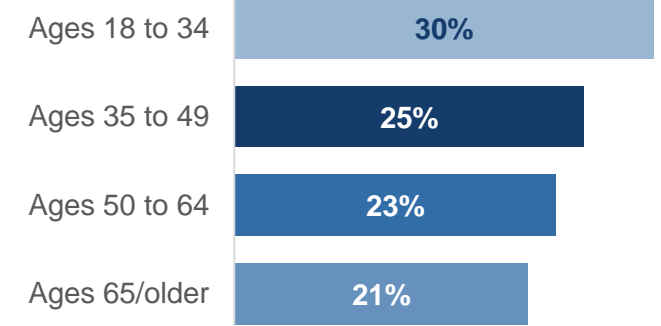
*Gender*



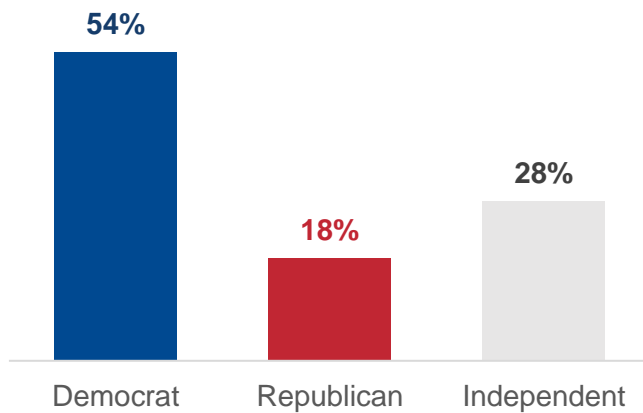
*Race*



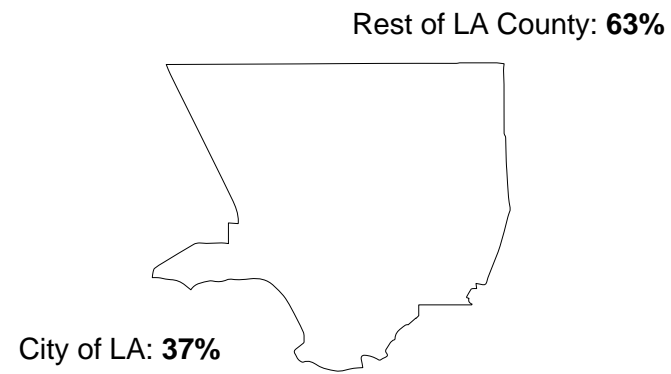
*Age*



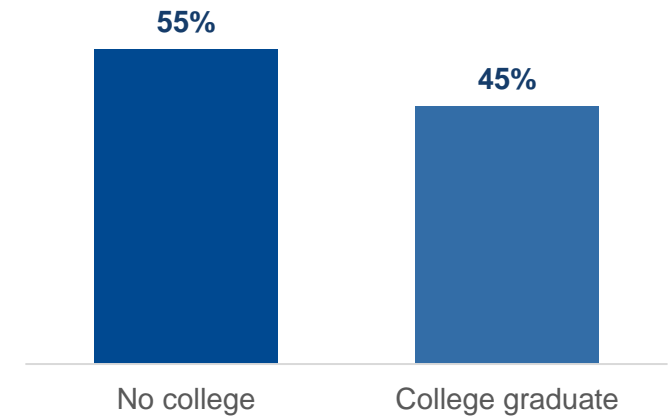
*Party Registration*



*Area*



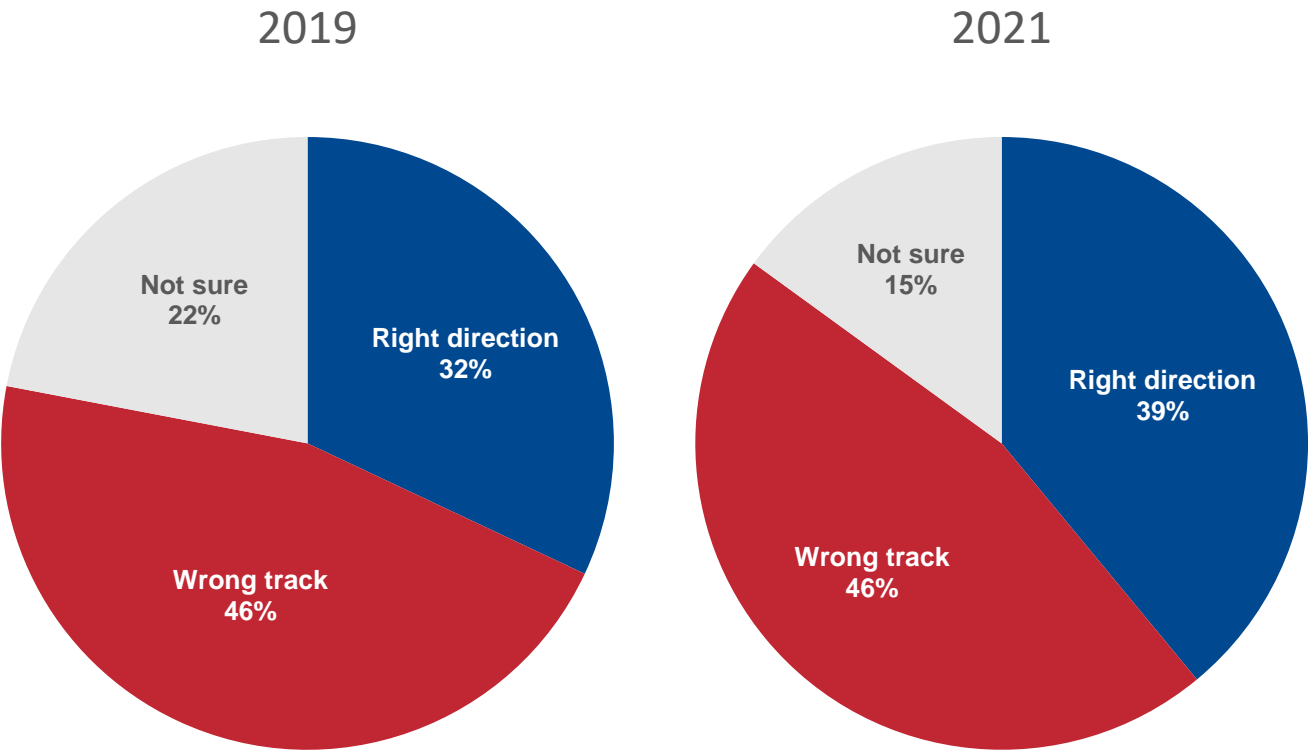
*Education*





# Overall, more voters feel that LA County is off on the wrong track than feel it is heading in the right direction.

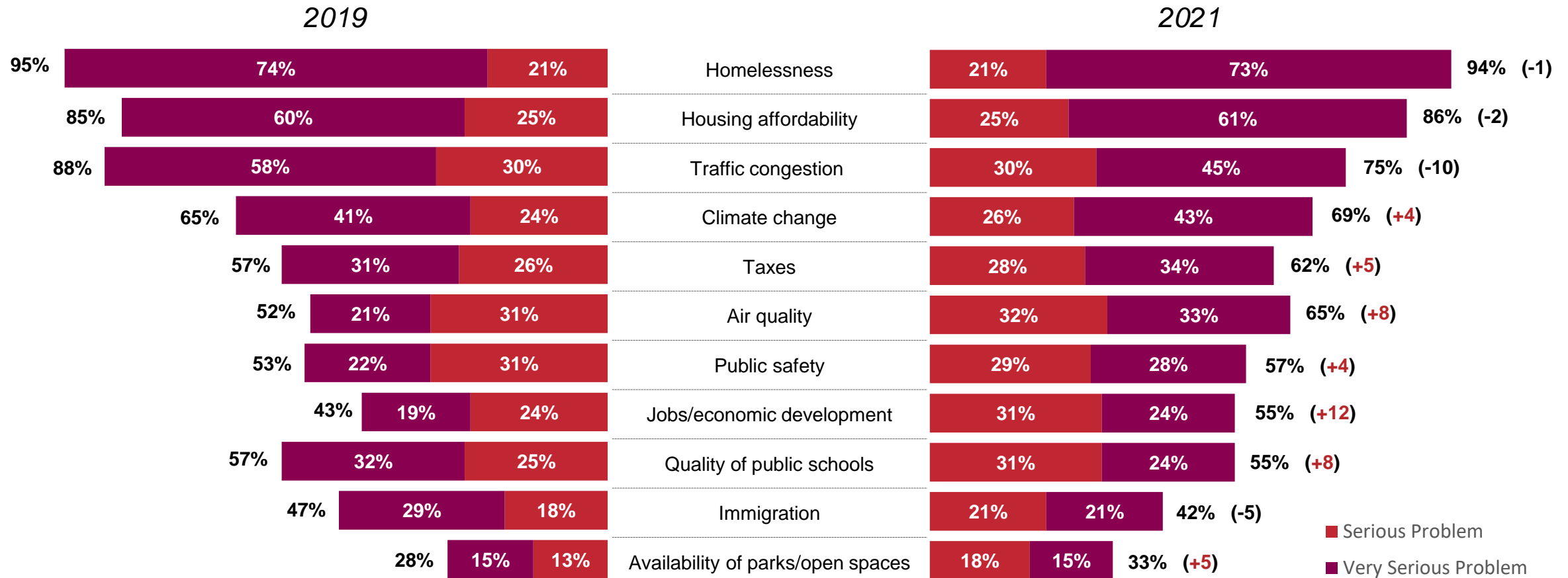
*Do you feel that things in Los Angeles County are generally going in the right direction today, or do you feel that the county is on the wrong track?*



	Right direction	Wrong track
City	40%	43%
Rest of county	38%	47%
White	37%	53%
Latino	43%	39%
Black	43%	33%
Asian	35%	45%
LA residents 20 years or fewer	43%	45%
LA residents 21 to 30 years	44%	39%
LA resident 31 years or more	35%	49%

# **The Problem**

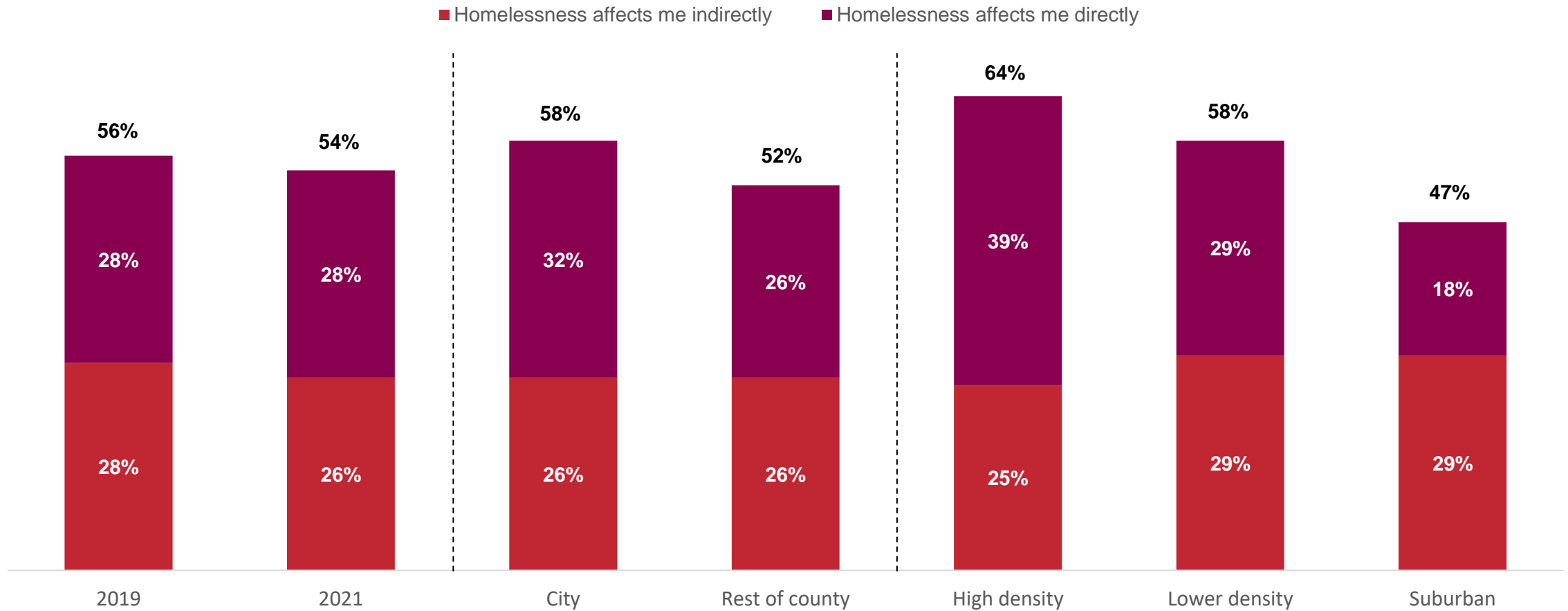
# Homelessness is the most serious problem facing Los Angeles, with 94% of voters saying it is a very serious problem.



# Concern about homelessness spans demographics.

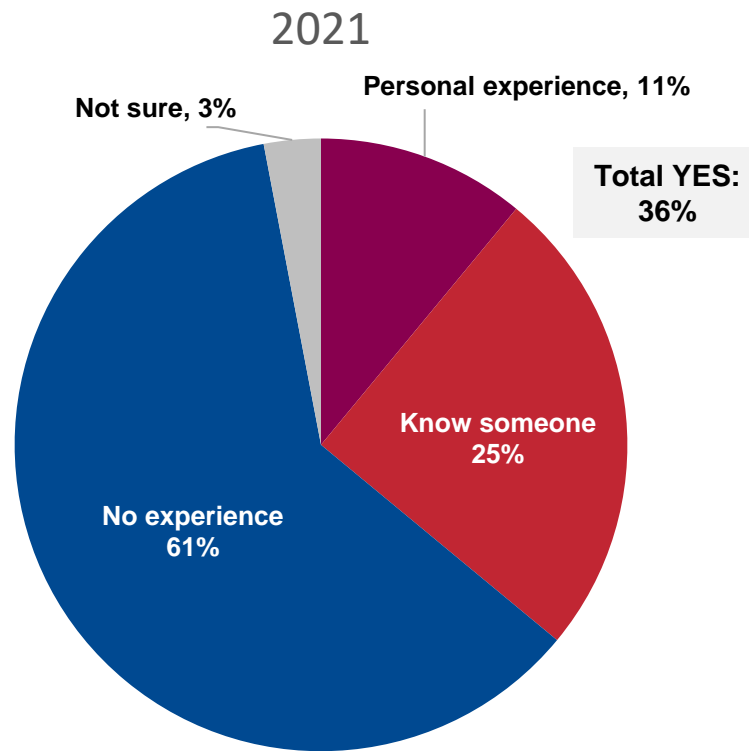
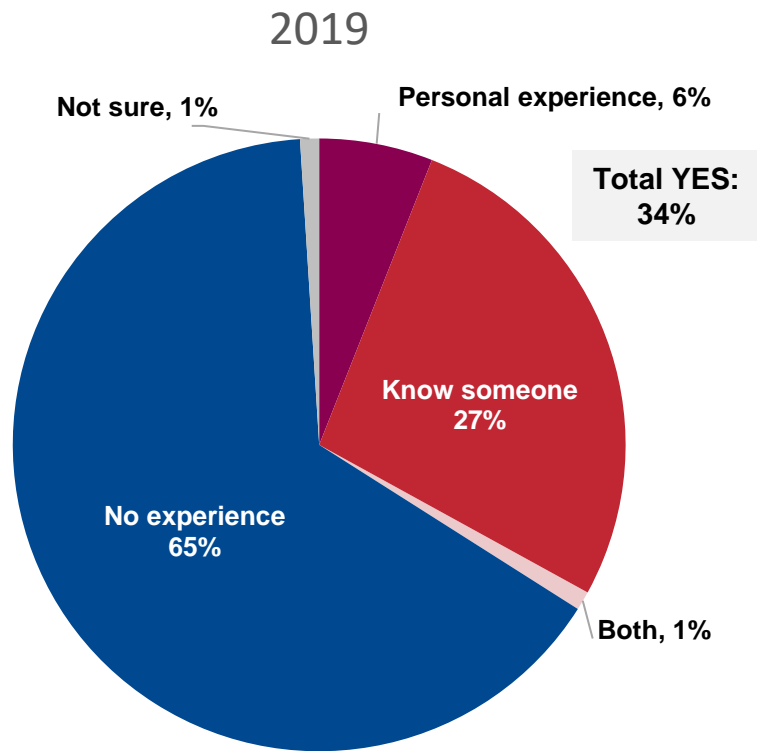


**A majority, especially those in high density areas of the county, say that homelessness affects them, either directly or indirectly.**



# One in three voters, including close to 50% of Black voters, say that they have either experienced homelessness/housing insecurity OR know someone who has in the past year.

*Have you or has someone you know experienced homelessness or housing insecurity in the past year?*

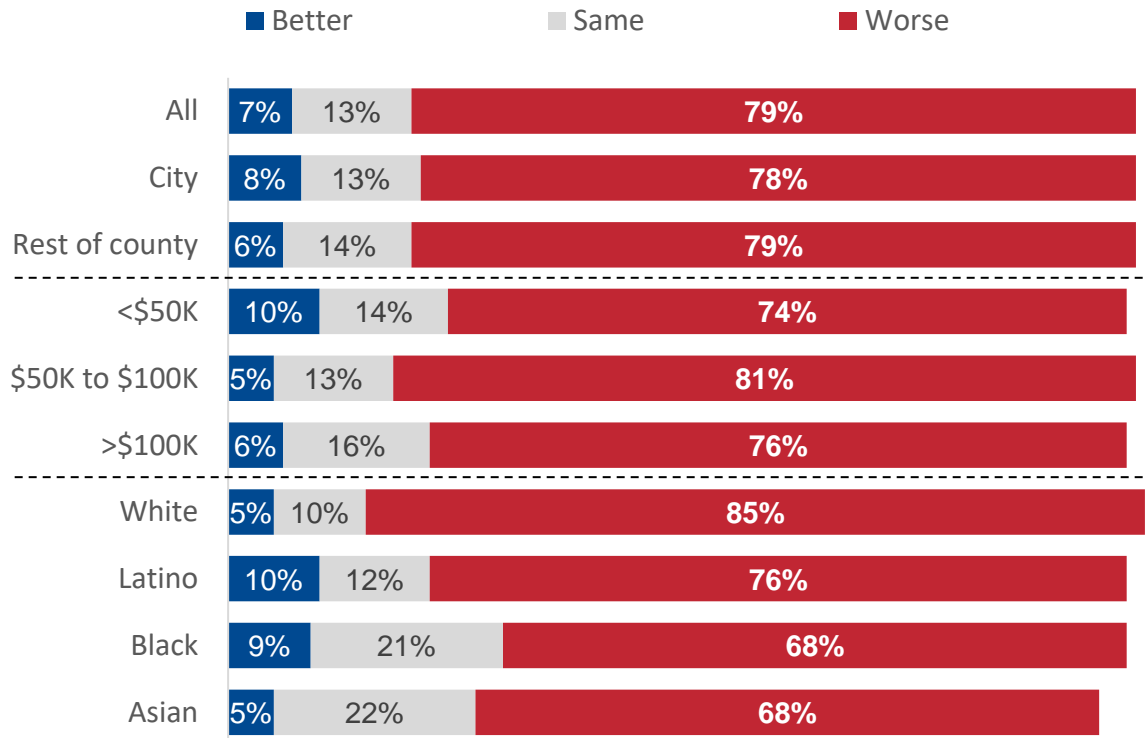


	Total YES
White	29%
Latino	42%
Black	49%
Asian	25%
Income less than \$50k	45%
Income \$50k to \$100k	35%
Income more than \$100k	29%

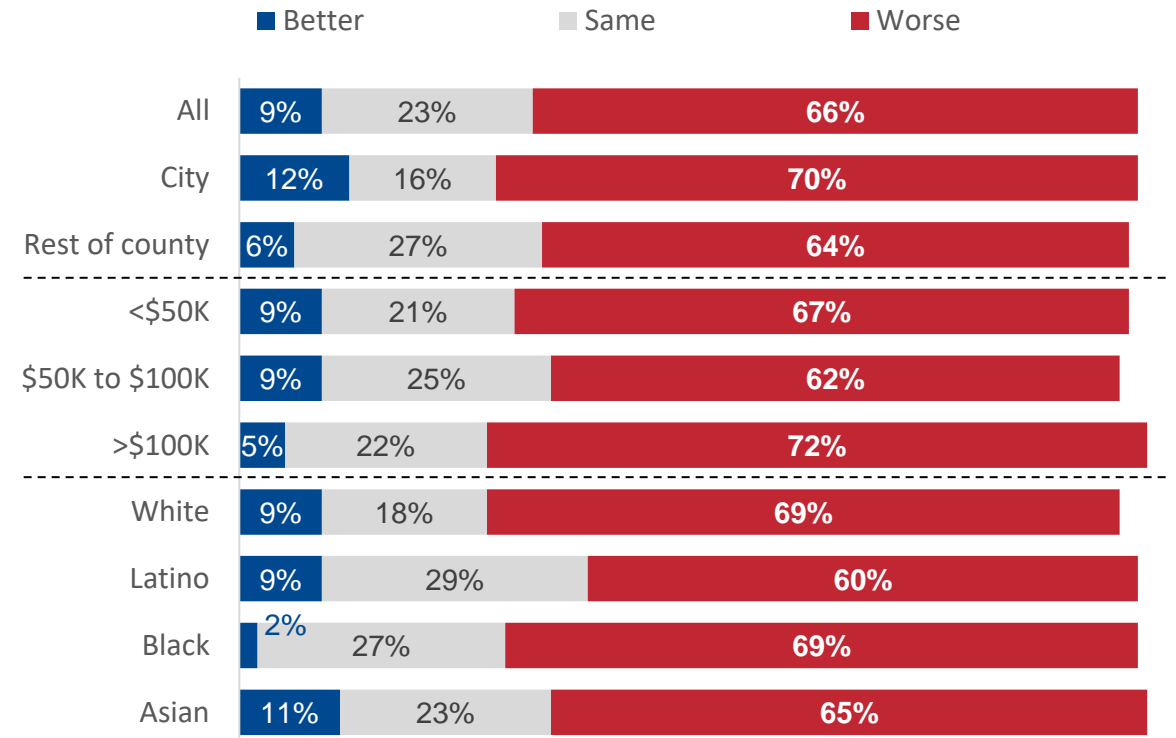


# Voters are convinced that homelessness has gotten worse over the past couple years in the county, and alarmingly, in their own neighborhoods.

*Do you think the issue of homelessness in **L.A. County** has gotten better, stayed the same, or gotten worse?*



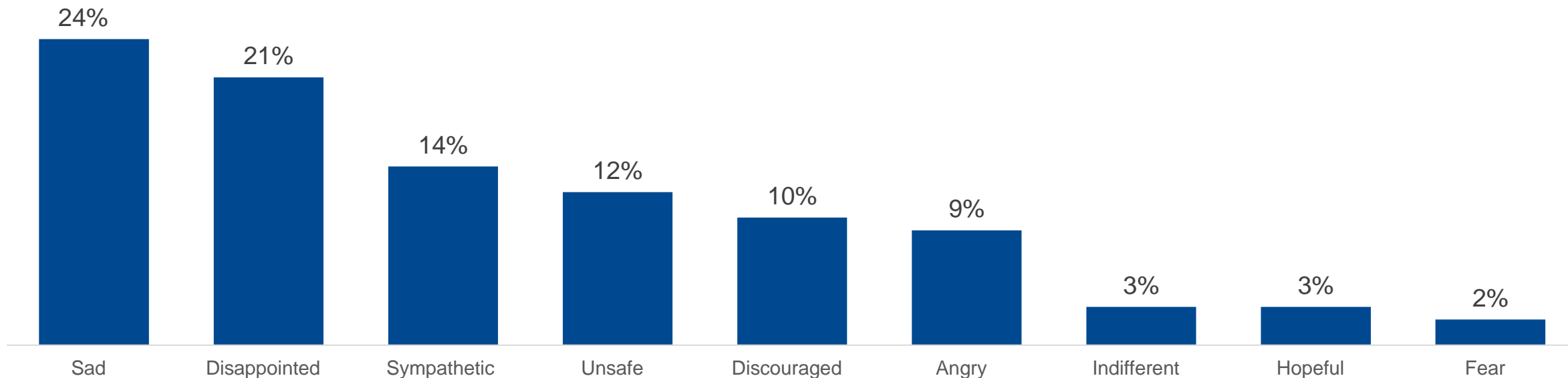
*Do you think the issue of homelessness in your **local neighborhood** has gotten better, stayed the same, or gotten worse?*



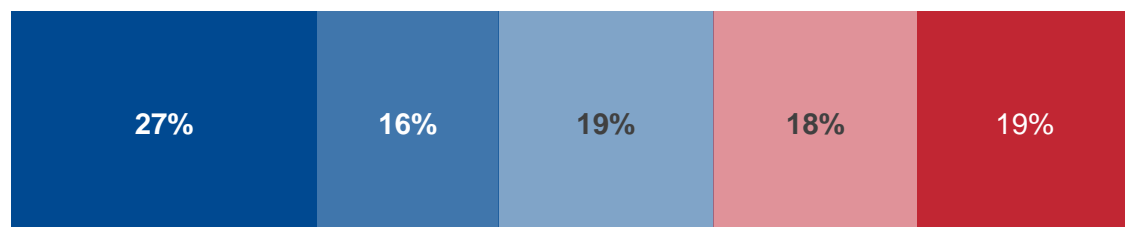
# When asked what word would best describe how they feel about homelessness, voters say they feel sad and disappointed; Black and Latino voters are particularly likely to report feeling disappointed.

*Which ONE of the following words best describes how the problem of homelessness in L.A. County makes you feel?*

White	24%	White	25%	White	13%	White	14%
Black	26%	Black	31%	Black	18%	Black	6%
Latino	26%	Latino	27%	Latino	14%	Latino	11%
AAPI	21%	AAPI	16%	AAPI	12%	AAPI	19%



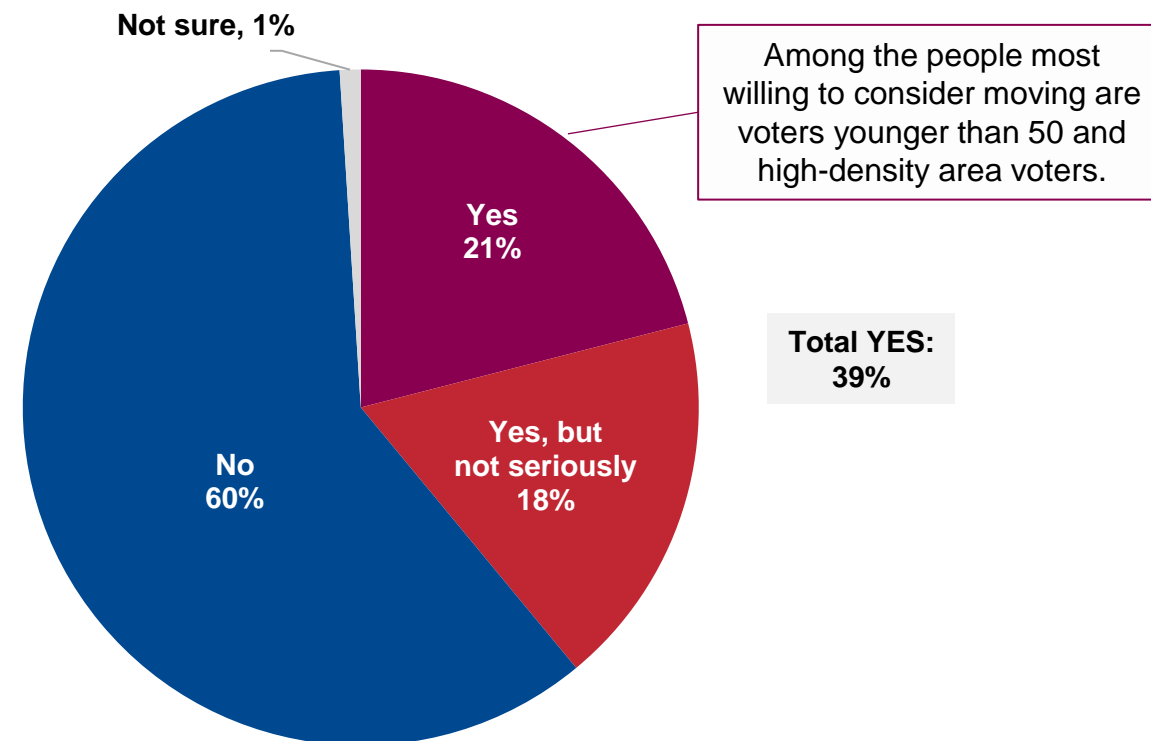
**Not unsafe\***



**37%** or respondents reported feeling moderately to very unsafe.

*\*Ranked on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being not unsafe at all and 10 being feel very unsafe*

*Have you ever considered moving to a different city or neighborhood because of the problem of homelessness?*



# Voters who say they feel unsafe and have considered moving, by key subgroups. <sup>12</sup>

	% who say they feel unsafe (8-10 rating)
Male	34%
Female	<b>40%</b>
LA City	39%
Rest of County	36%
Owners	39%
Renters	34%
Ages 18-34	34%
Ages 35-49	35%
Ages 50-64	<b>41%</b>
Ages 65+	<b>40%</b>
Democrats	35%
Republicans	<b>42%</b>
Unaffiliated/Other	38%

	% who say they have considered moving
Male	<b>44%</b>
Female	34%
LA City	40%
Rest of County	37%
Owners	36%
Renters	40%
Ages 18-34	42%
Ages 35-49	47%
Ages 50-64	41%
Ages 65+	21%
Democrats	32%
Republicans	<b>50%</b>
Unaffiliated/Other	45%

# Why voters have considered moving to a different neighborhood because of homelessness, in their own words

*“I live in the Mission Hills area. Homelessness is a problem here. I have two kids who walk home one day a week and have to walk past where a homeless man hangs out who exposes himself to public. Other homeless have been seen urinating and defecating on the sidewalk. Luckily, they have not seen that while walking, but they have when we drive by after I pick them up from school. So I have thought about moving but the problem would not end.”*

*“There isn't any progress, and camps are popping up more and more. There are two within blocks of us, with some violence at both.”*

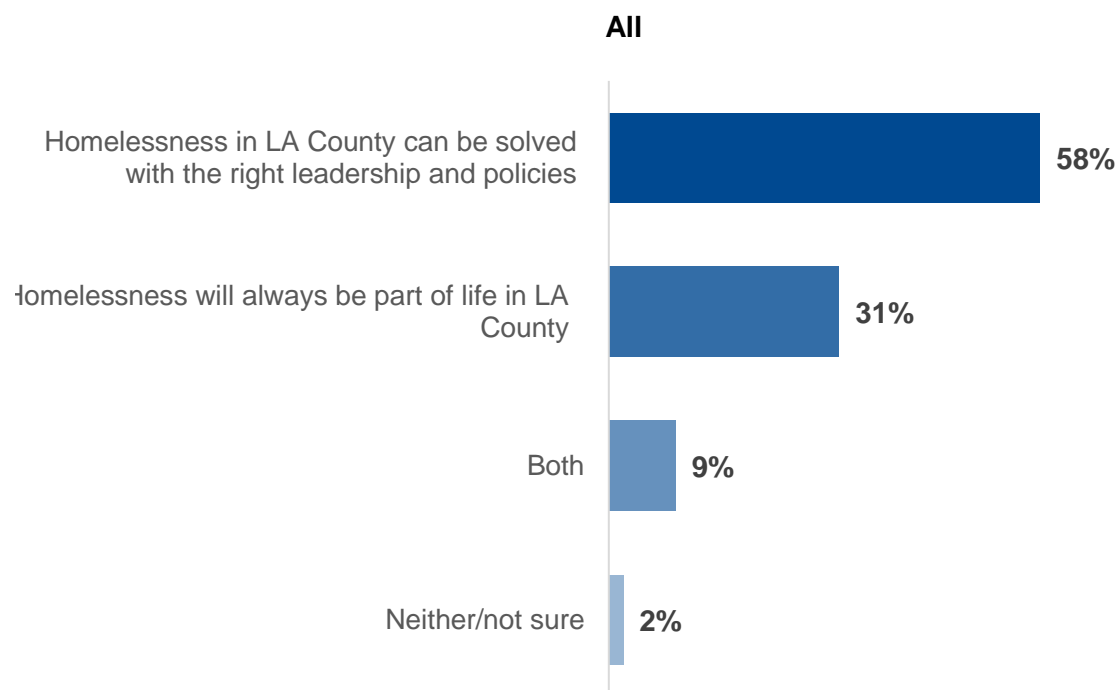
*“I feel very uncomfortable when approached by homeless people, not afraid but uncomfortable. I have next to nothing to spare to help someone and that makes me feel mean.”*

*“[Homelessness] and more crime both make me more afraid as I advance in age, plus I live in an apartment and am at the mercy of the management. I live at the beach and practically trip over people in the sand in the morning where I run (it is dark, admittedly). They deserve a home; it never should have gotten this bad to begin with.”*



# Despite the gravity of the issue, a majority of voters still believe that homelessness can be solved with the right leadership and policies.

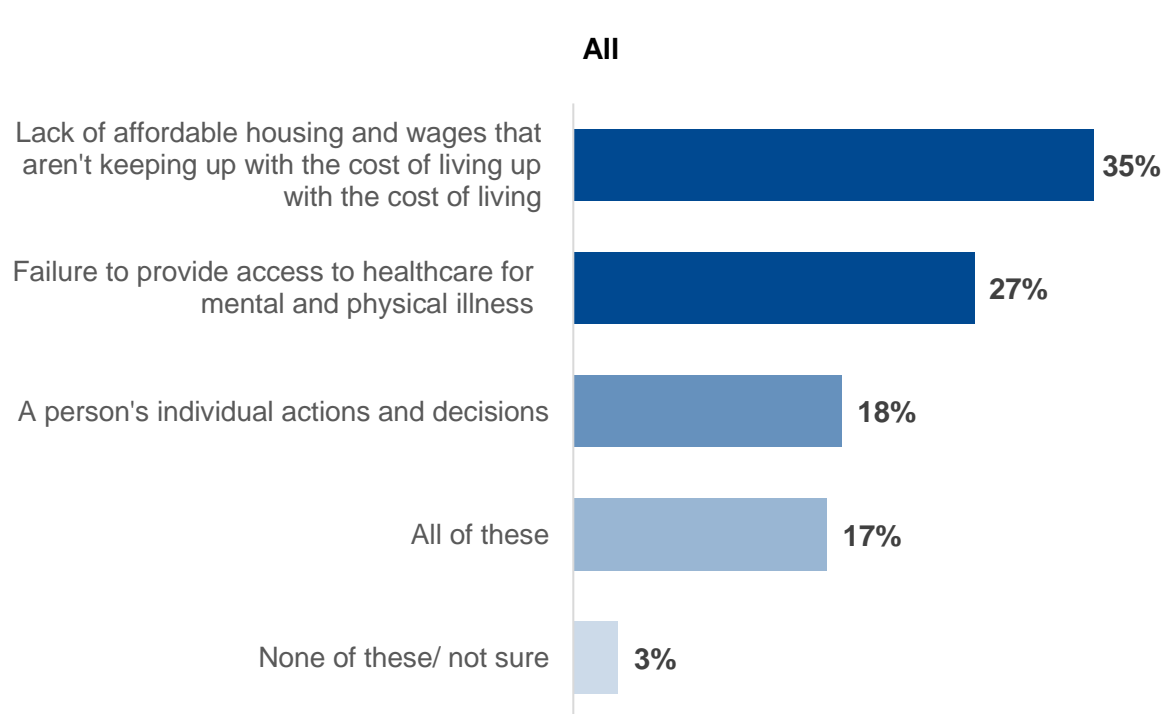
*Which of the following statements comes closer to your perspective?*



	Solved with right leadership/policies	Will always be part of life in L.A. County
White	58%	31%
Latino	57%	33%
Black	60%	29%
Asian	58%	31%
Directly affected by homelessness	64%	27%
Indirectly affected by homelessness	57%	32%
Not affected by homelessness	55%	34%

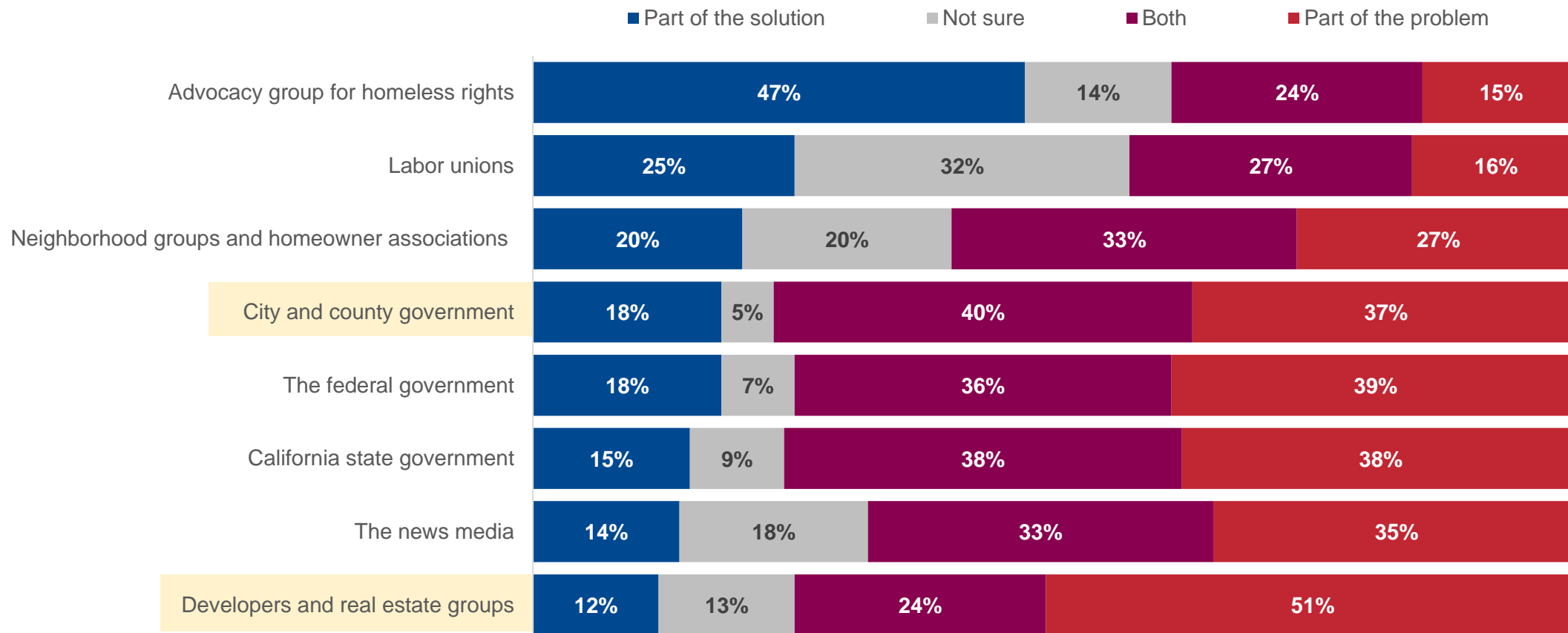
# Nearly two in three voters feel that homelessness is caused by societal factors instead of individual actions and decisions; more than 40% of Black and Latinx voters place the most blame on lack of affordable housing and wages.

*Which of the following do you think is the primary cause of homelessness?*



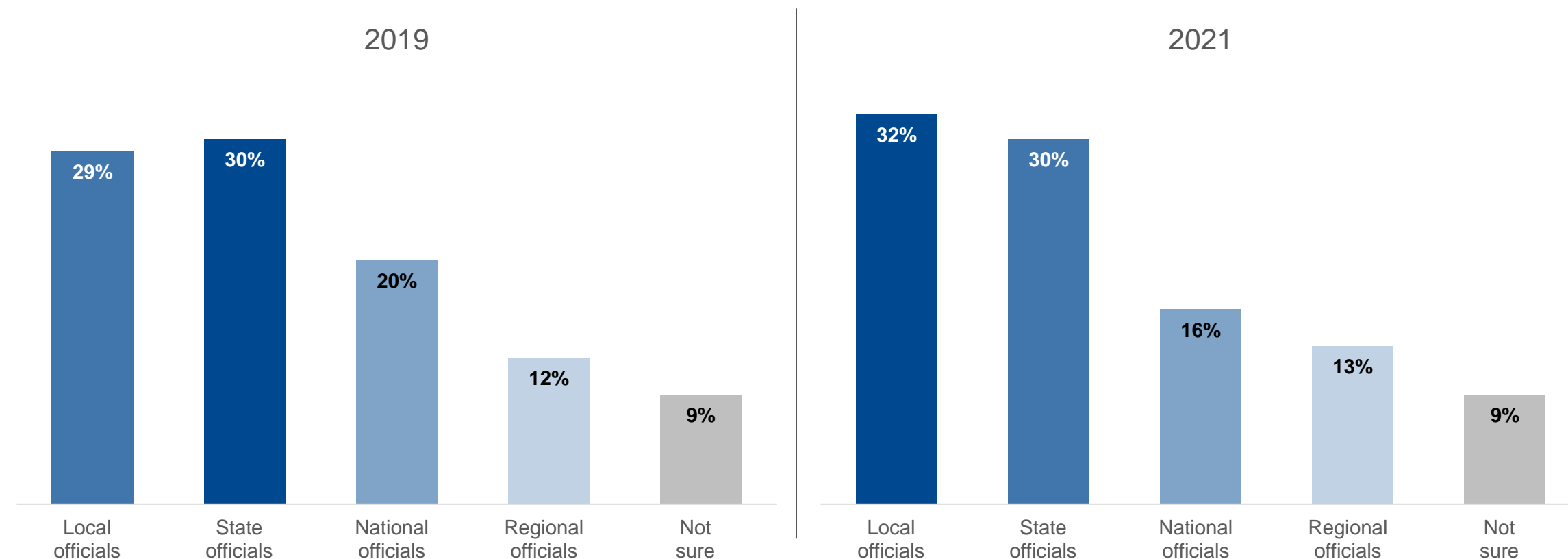
	Lack of affordable housing/wages	Failure to provide healthcare	Individual actions/decisions
White	28%	30%	19%
Latino	41%	25%	16%
Black	46%	23%	9%
Asian	31%	25%	23%
Directly affected by homelessness	35%	29%	17%
Indirectly affected by homelessness	32%	28%	18%
Not affected by homelessness	36%	26%	18%
Democrats	40%	29%	11%
Republicans	22%	27%	30%
Unaffiliated/Other	33%	23%	24%

# LA County voters are missing a hero to solve the issue of homelessness, with no group receiving majority consensus that they are mainly part of the solution.



# Voters are most eager to see leaders in California (either at the local or state level) solve the problem of homelessness.

*If you had to choose, do you think solving the problem of homelessness in Los Angeles is primarily a responsibility of local officials, regional officials, state officials, or national officials?*



# Voters are more pessimistic than they are optimistic that political and civic leaders in LA can adequately address the problem of homelessness.

*How do you feel when it comes to the ability of political and civic leaders in Los Angeles to adequately address the problem of street homelessness?*



*\*Ranked on a scale of -5 (most pessimistic) to +5 (most optimistic)*



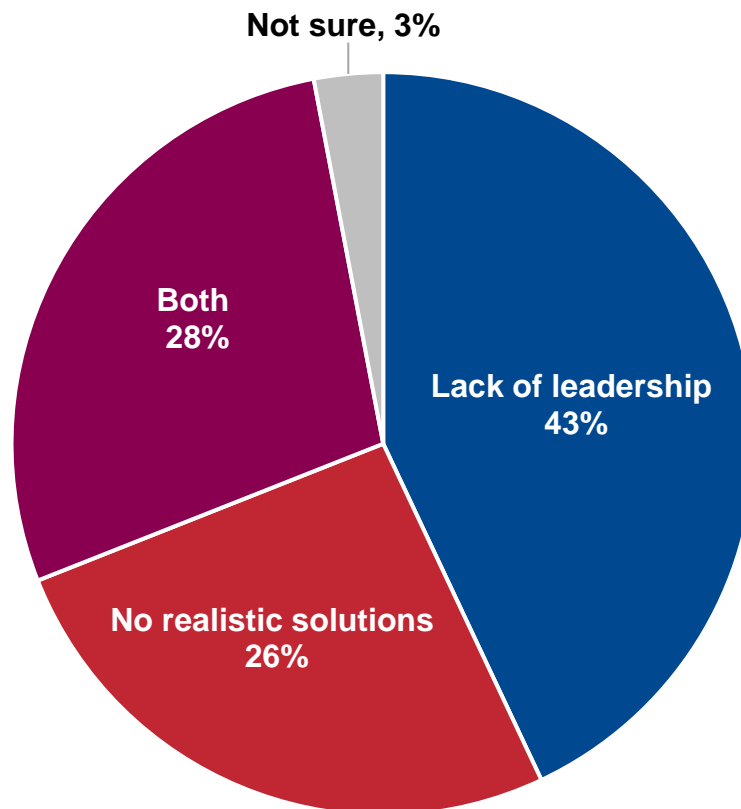
# Most key subgroups are more pessimistic than optimistic except for Black and Latino voters who are MORE optimistic.

	Optimists	Mixed	Pessimists
All voters	35%	20%	44%
White	31%	19%	50%
Latino	42%	22%	35%
Black	43%	21%	36%
Asian	30%	18%	50%
Directly affected by homelessness	35%	13%	51%
Indirectly affected by homelessness	32%	18%	48%
Not affected by homelessness	38%	25%	37%
Owners	31%	21%	47%
Renters	40%	18%	42%
LA resident 20 years or fewer	40%	18%	41%
LA resident 21 to 30 years	39%	18%	42%
LA resident 31 years or more	31%	22%	46%

*\*Ranked on a scale of -5 (most pessimistic) to +5 (most optimistic)*

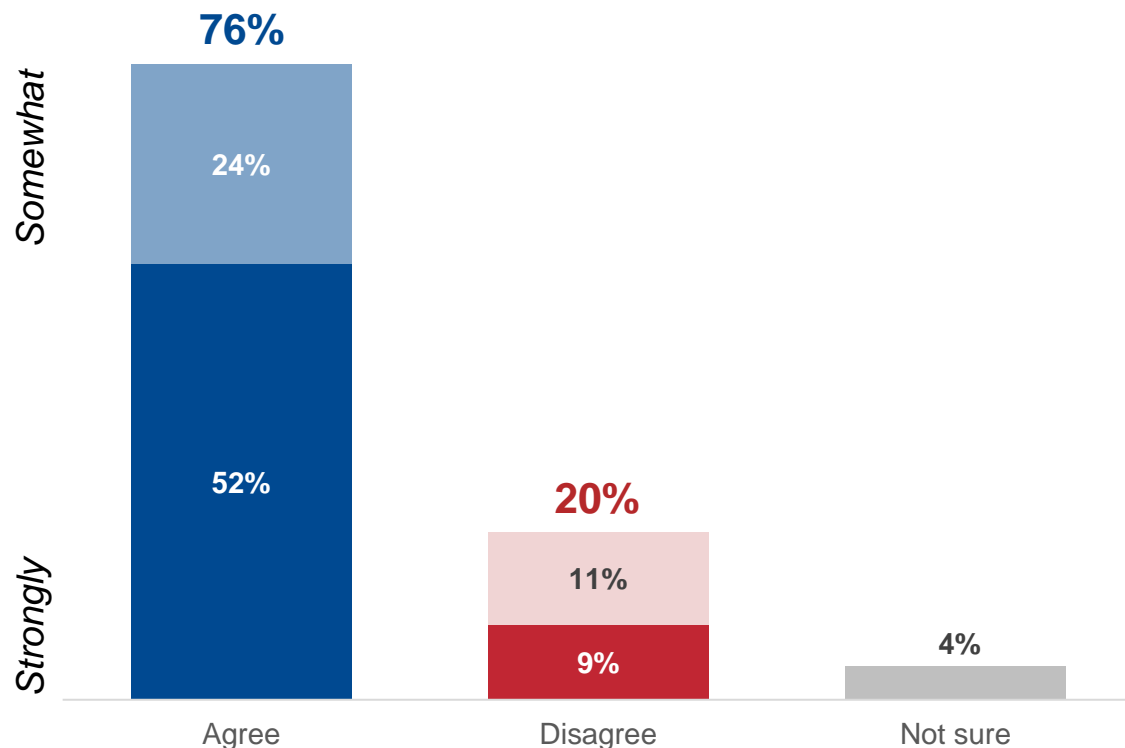
# Those who are pessimistic blame a lack of leaders, not a lack of solutions.

*Are you pessimistic about the ability of political and civic leaders in Los Angeles to adequately address the problem of homelessness because you believe there is a lack of leadership in L.A. or because there are no realistic solutions?*

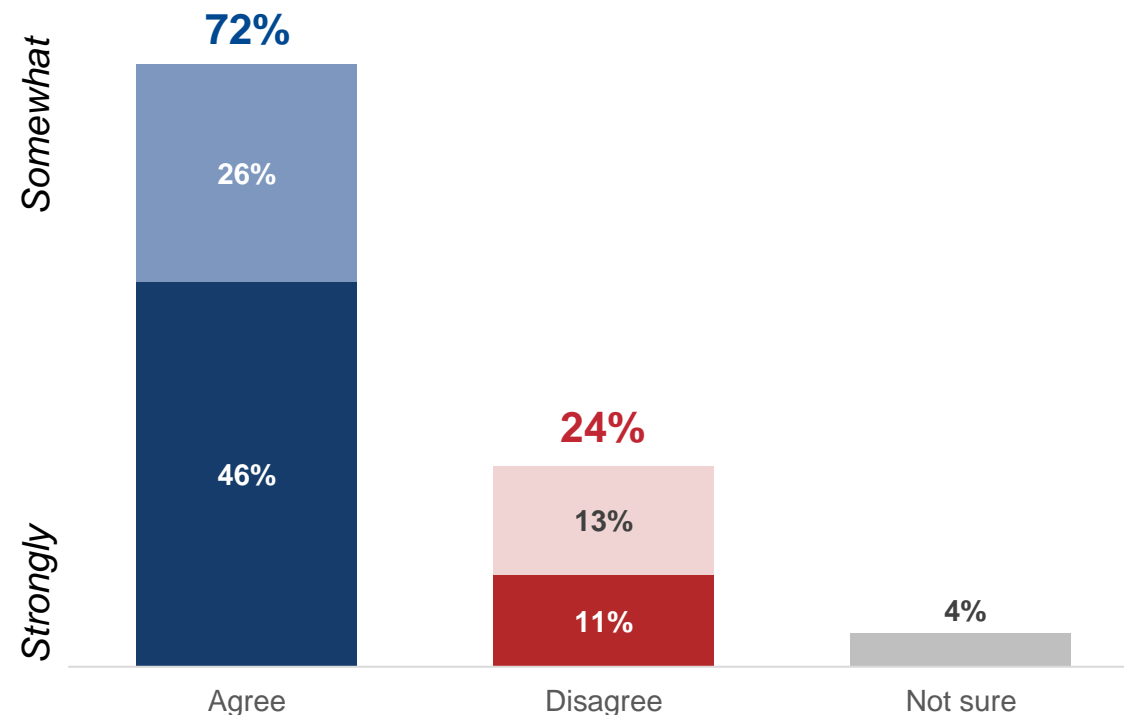


# A strong majority of three in four voters believe that housing/shelter should be a guaranteed basic human right in California.

California should guarantee access to **shelter** as a basic human right for all residents.



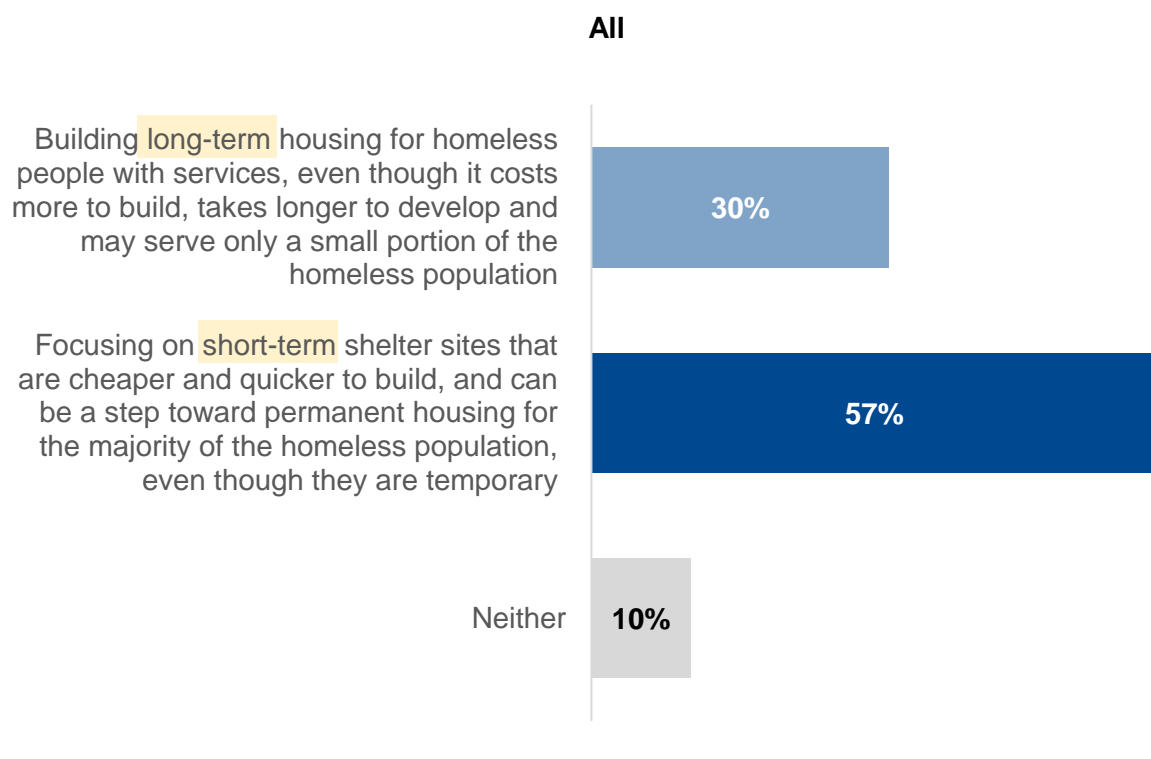
California should guarantee access to **housing** as a basic human right for all residents.



# **The Solutions**

# Voters want solutions to homelessness and diverse segments of voters favor short-term solutions over long-term solutions.

*As officials choose how to use existing funds to deal with homelessness, which of the following do you think should be the top priority?*



	Short-term	Long-term
Directly affected by homelessness	54%	33%
Indirectly affected by homelessness	51%	32%
Not affected by homelessness	64%	27%
Optimists	54%	38%
Pessimists	59%	27%
LA City	53%	35%
Rest of County	61%	27%
White	62%	24%
Latino	54%	37%
Black	49%	41%
Asian	62%	21%

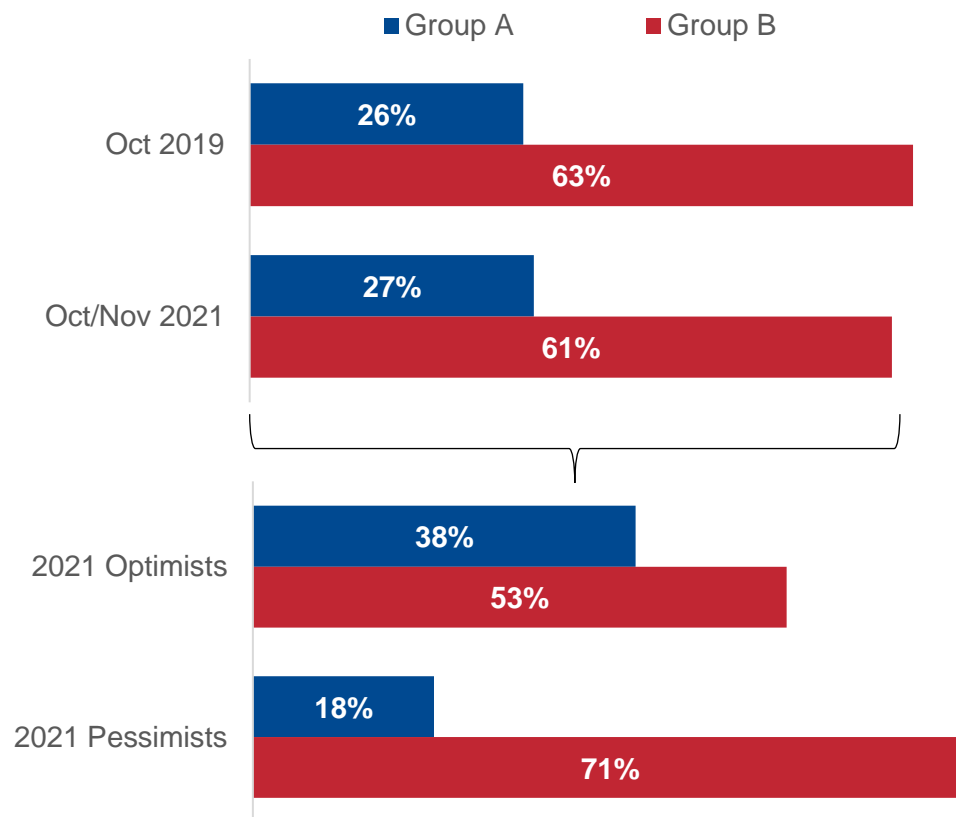


# Wide majorities agree that homelessness is an emergency situation requiring new approaches over the current policies.

*When it comes to addressing the issue of homelessness, which approach comes closest to your point of view?*

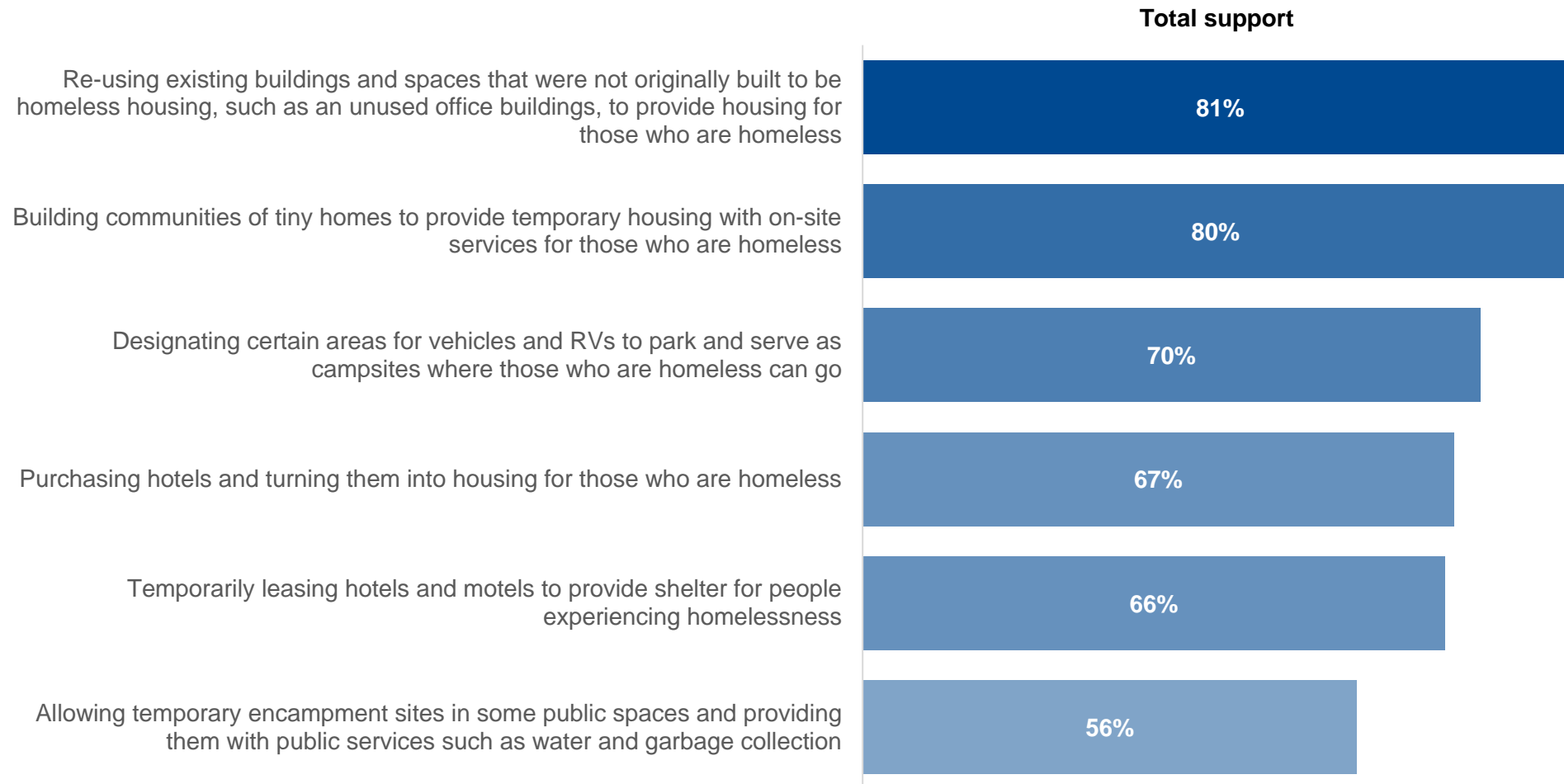
**GROUP A** feels that Southern California basically has the right set of policies in place to deal with the homelessness problem. We need to execute them more effectively and also recognize that solving the problem will take time.

**GROUP B** feels that Southern California faces an emergency situation with homelessness, for which current policies and funding are inadequate. We need to break with long-standing practices, even if doing so might require major changes to some neighborhoods.

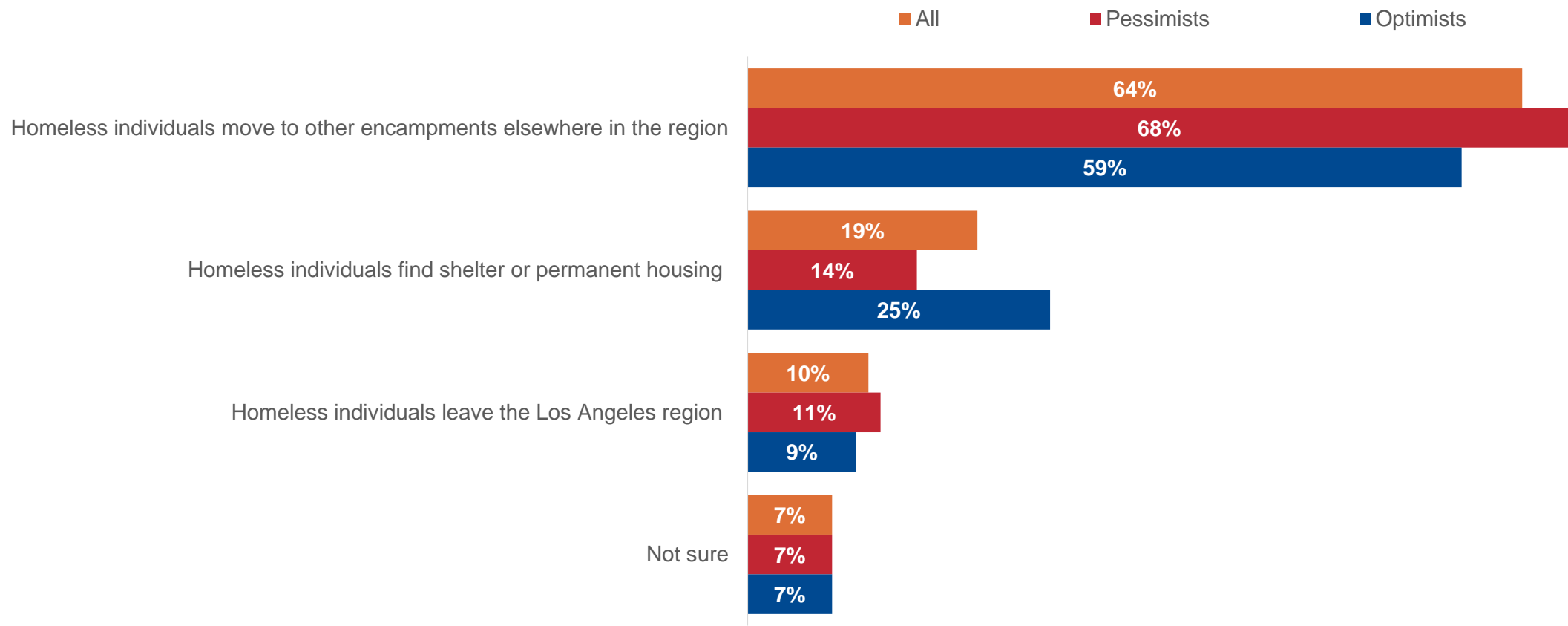


	% Emergency situation
LA City	65%
Rest of County	58%
Owners	55%
Renters	66%
LA resident 20 years/fewer	62%
LA resident 21 to 30 years	64%
LA resident 31 years/more	58%
White	61%
Latino	61%
Black	63%
Asian	54%

# Voters are most interested in solutions to homelessness that will be quick and easy to implement for fast results.

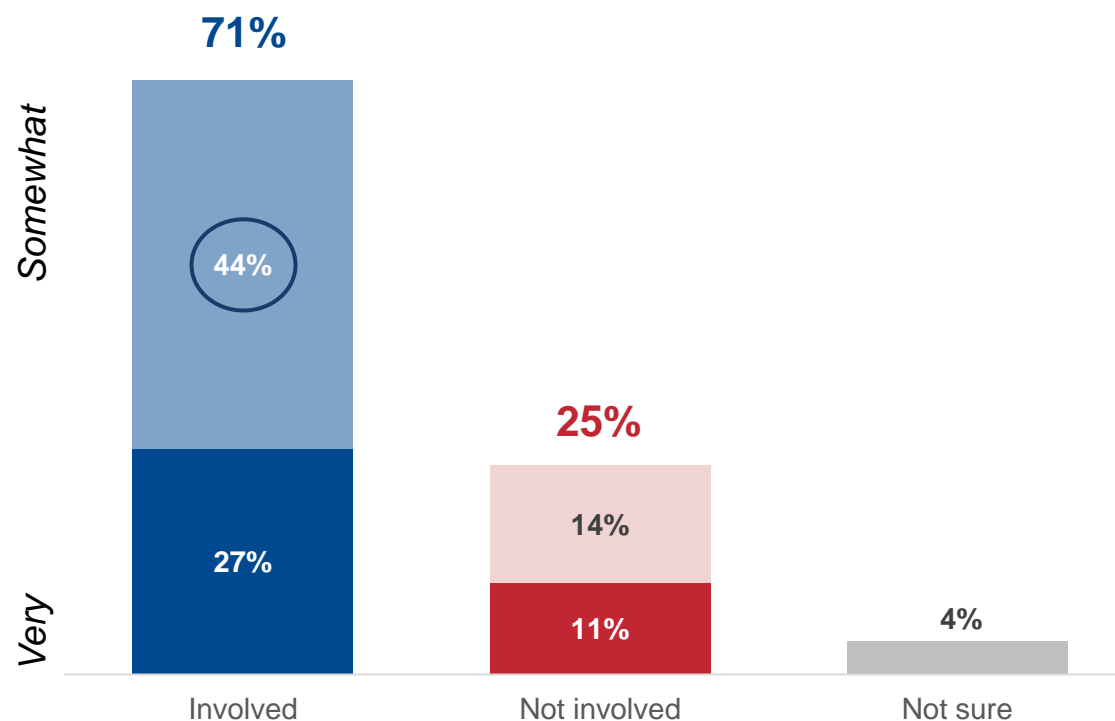


# Despite a desire to see homelessness fixed in the county, many think that clearing encampments will only lead to individuals moving to other encampments in the region.



# Voters do see a role for law enforcement in clearing homeless encampments, but the intensity of the support is weak.

*How much, if at all, should the police or sheriff's deputies be involved when homeless encampments are cleared?*

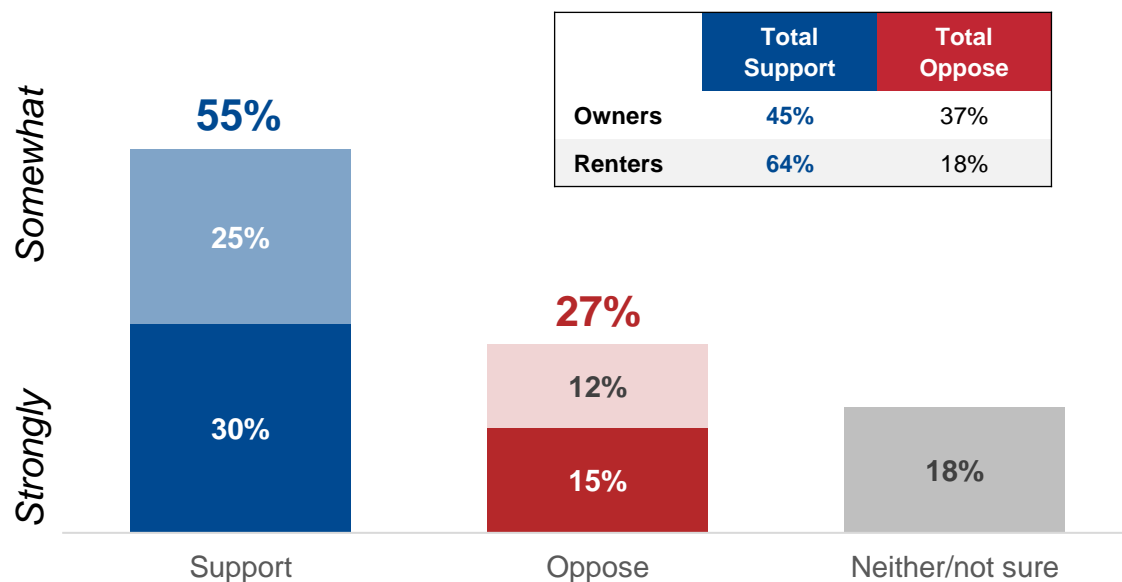


# Voters support recent zoning changes under SB9 and SB10.

*The state legislature recently passed two new laws, **SB 9** and **SB 10**, that modifies local government zoning laws to make it easier to build multi-family dwelling units in urban areas across the state.*

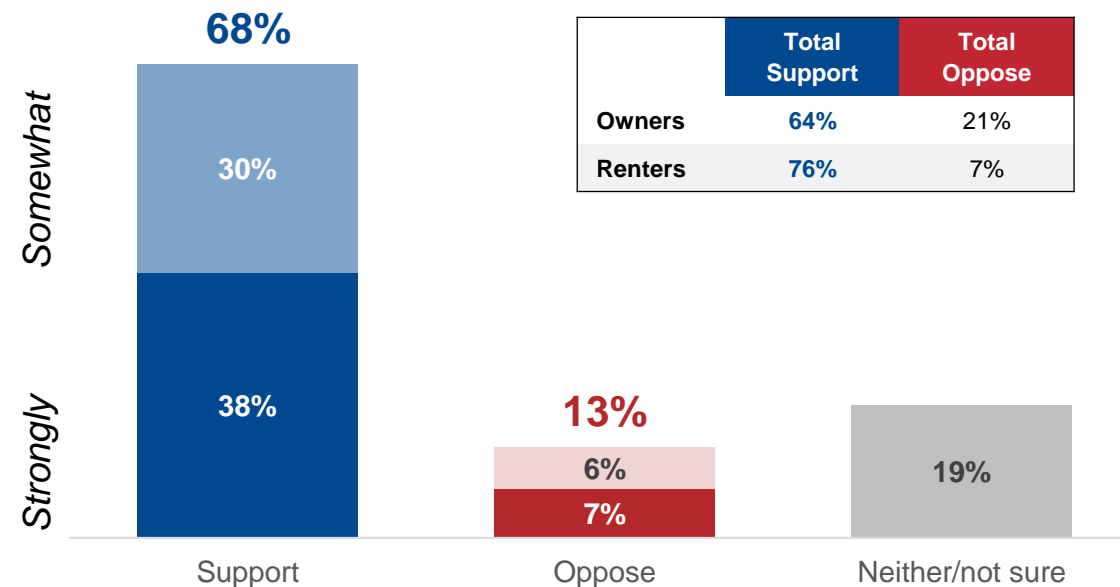
**SB 9** offers homeowners new options to build up to four additional units on their lots by adding granny units, or by converting their home to a duplex, triplex, or fourplex, regardless of whether the property is currently zoned as single-family only.

*Do you support or oppose **SB 9**?*



**SB 10** allows a city to expedite the approval of new housing developments of as many as ten units on land located near transit hubs or urban infill areas.

*Do you support or oppose **SB 10**?*





# Support for recent SB 9 and SB 10, among key subgroups.

*Do you support or oppose **SB 9**?*

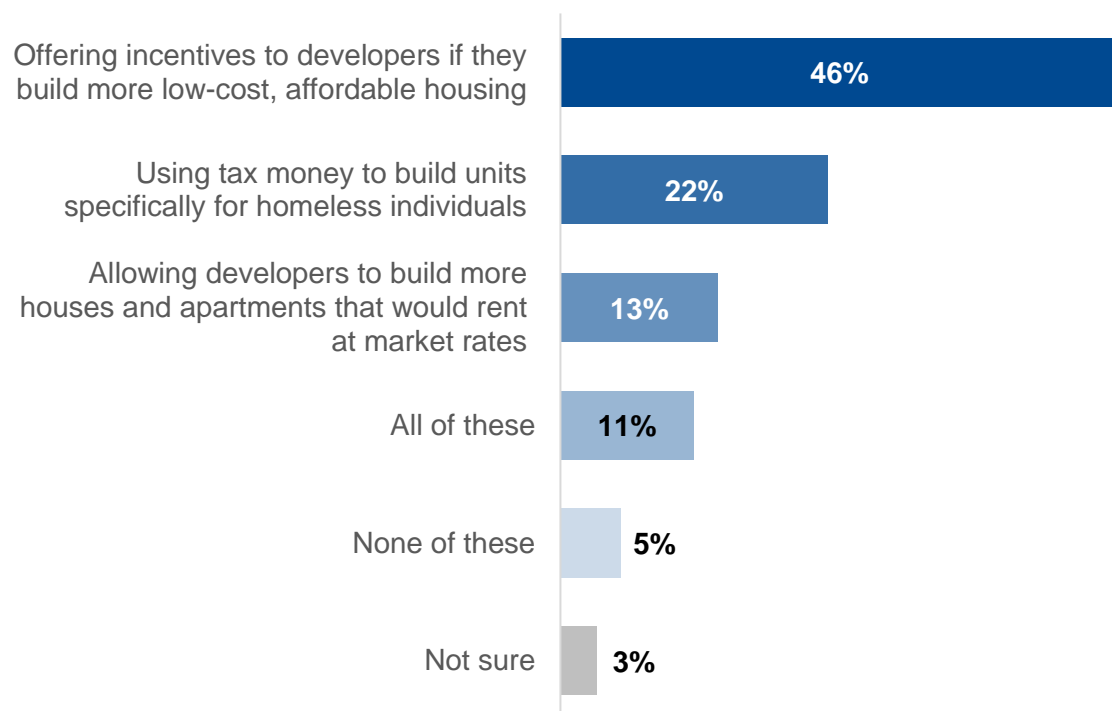
	Support	Oppose
City	60%	23%
Rest of county	51%	31%
White	45%	35%
Latino	66%	21%
LA residents 20 years or fewer	55%	27%
LA residents 21 to 30 years	56%	23%
LA resident 31 years or more	54%	30%
Owners	45%	37%
Renters	64%	18%
Optimists	69%	20%
Pessimists	49%	30%

*Do you support or oppose **SB 10**?*

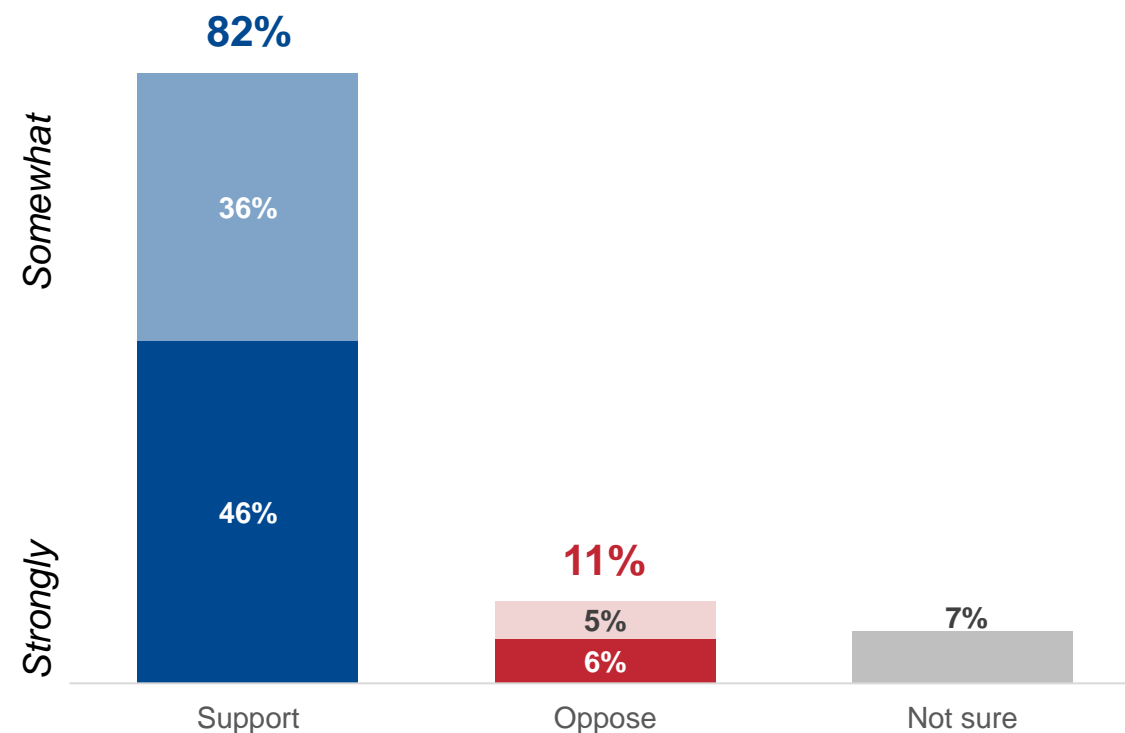
	Support	Oppose
City	68%	10%
Rest of county	68%	15%
White	66%	15%
Latino	71%	8%
LA residents 20 years or fewer	74%	8%
LA residents 21 to 30 years	66%	10%
LA resident 31 years or more	66%	18%
Owners	64%	21%
Renters	76%	7%
Optimists	80%	4%
Pessimists	62%	20%

# There is a role for the private sector to build more low-cost, affordable housing.

*Which of the following do you think would be the most effective in reducing homelessness?*

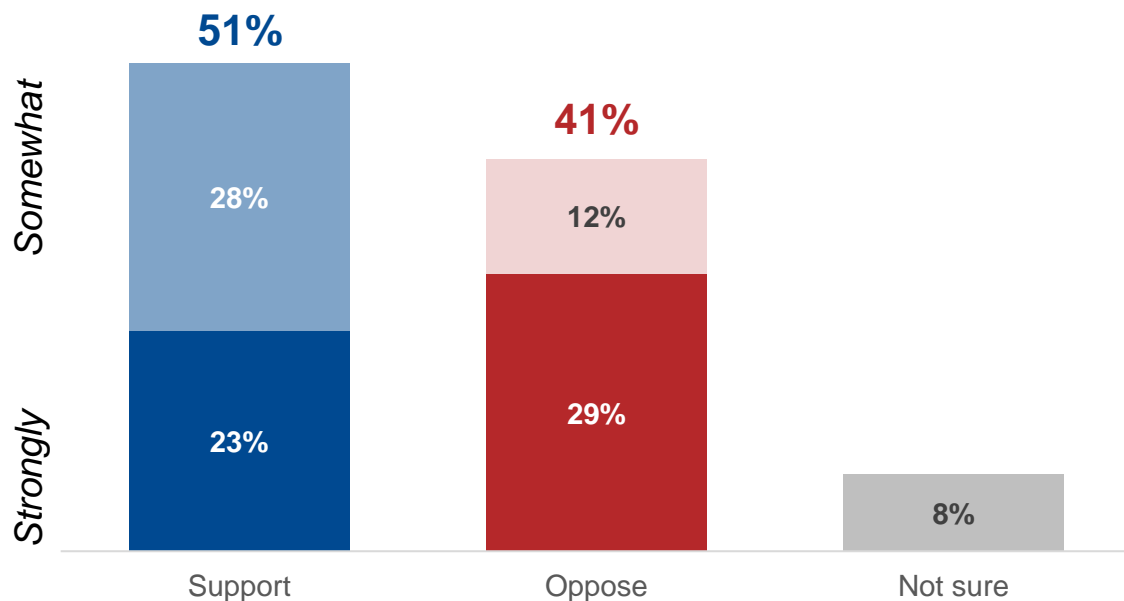


*Do you support the government using funding to work with the private sector on solutions to homelessness that are innovative, low-cost, and can be quickly developed?*

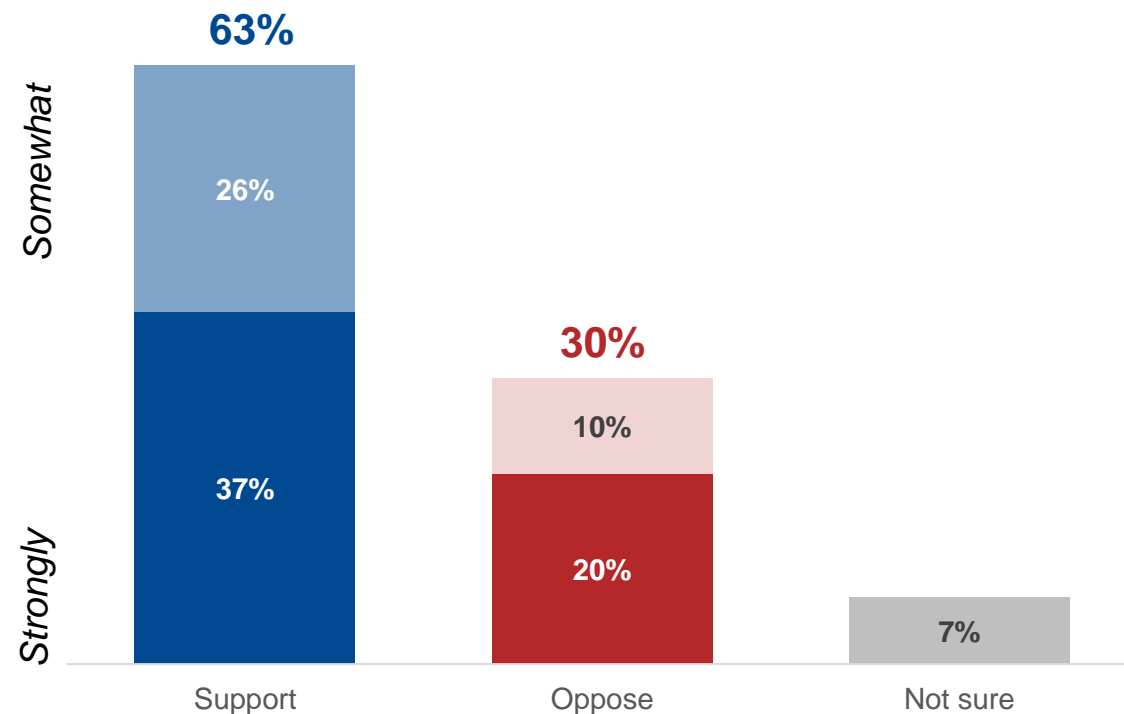


# A bare majority of voters support a tax increase to create initiatives to reduce homelessness, but support intensifies with the promise of a plan to ensure accountability and transparency.

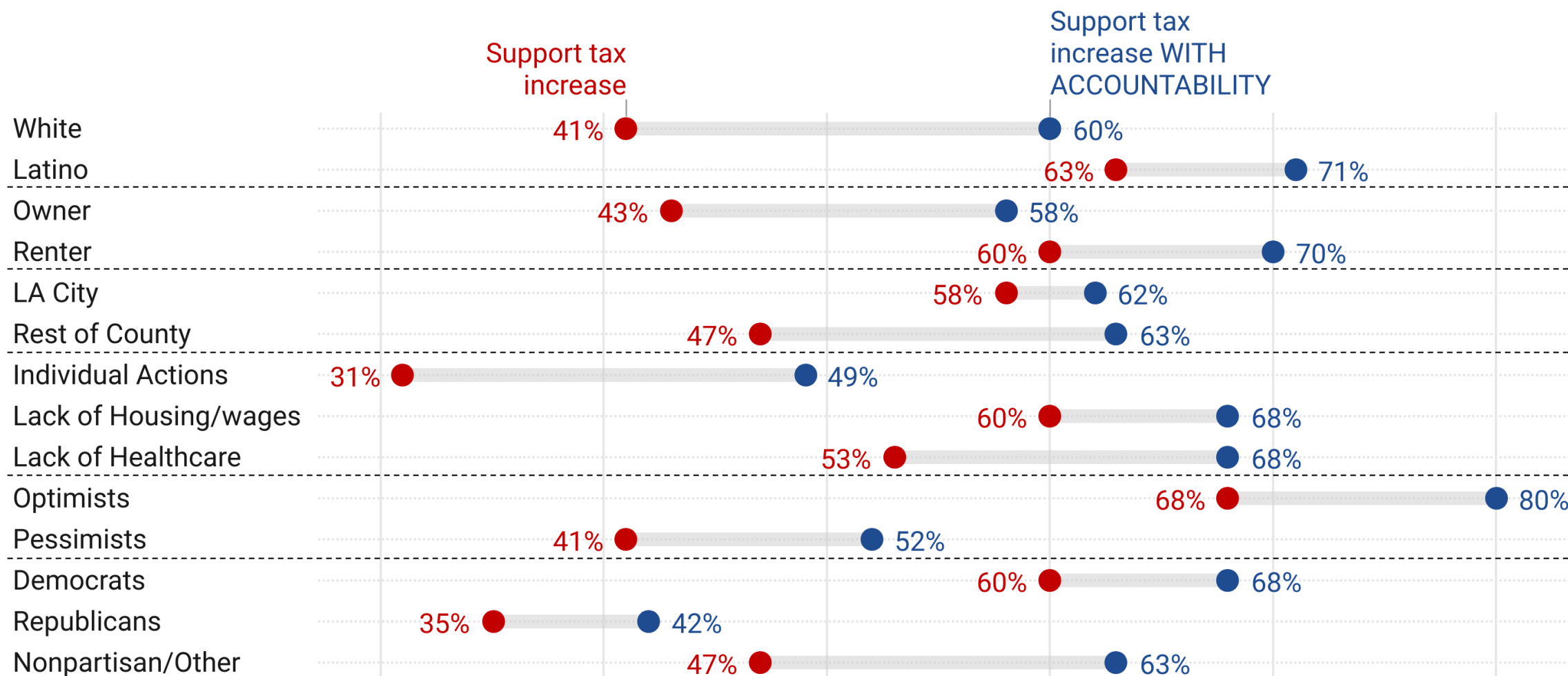
*Do you support a tax increase to create permanent initiatives to help homeless individuals and reduce the homeless population?*



*Would you support the tax increase **if there was a clear plan to ensure accountability and transparency?***

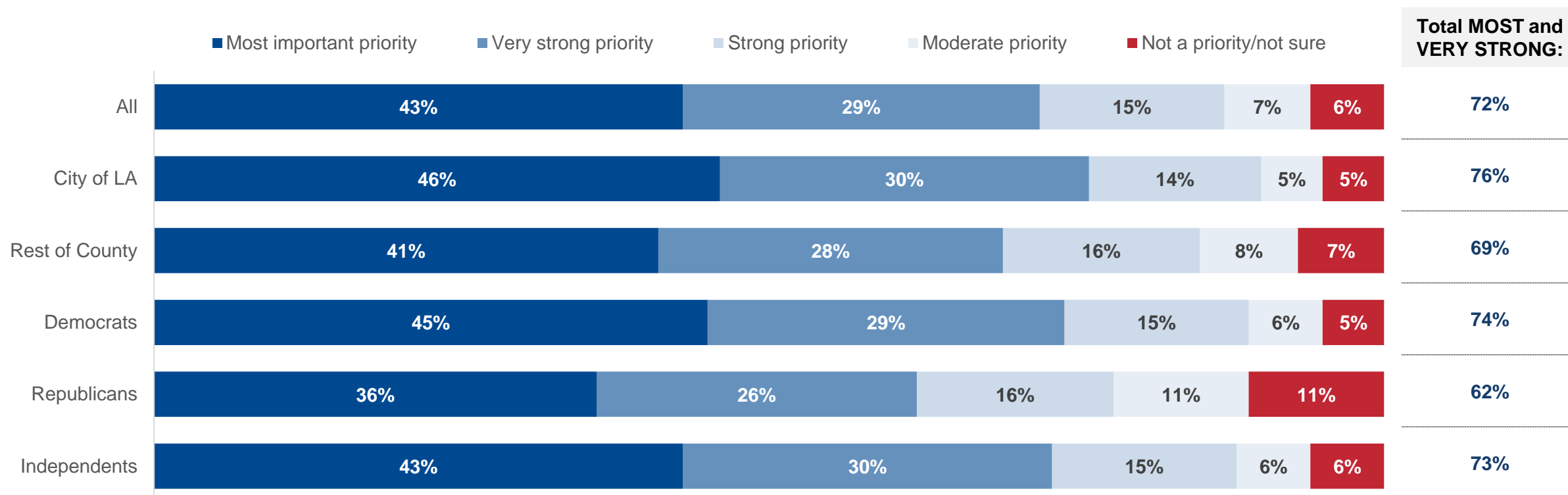


# Support for a tax increase among key subgroups.



# As voters search for a leader to reduce homelessness, there is strong support for candidates making this a top priority in their platforms.

*Next year, the City of Los Angeles will elect a new mayor and hold elections for city councilmembers, and the county will hold elections for supervisors. How much of a priority should the issue of homelessness be for the new mayor, city councilmembers, and the county supervisors?*



# Summary

- Homelessness is a front-and-center issue for LA County voters. Make no mistake about it—voters have little optimism or faith that the issue can be easily or quickly resolved.
- Homelessness is a salient issue that has both a physical and psychological impact on people's lives on a personal level. Even more impactful is that a quarter say they have seriously considered moving because of considerations about safety and cleanliness as a result of the pervasiveness of homelessness in LA County. Additionally, a strong majority of voters feel that homelessness has gotten worse in both their county and neighborhoods over the last couple years.
- Residents are moving away from compassion to frustration and worry (mostly directed at their government and what they perceive as a vacuum of leadership on the issue of homelessness.) Voters are open to variety of solutions, but they are missing a leader to get them out of a problem that is already creating a cohort of despondent citizens.
- When given information about the costs, time, and impact of short-term and long-term policy alternatives, the urgency of the issue is illustrated by the electorate's desire to implement short-term solutions. Re-using existing buildings and spaces to build homeless housing and creating communities of tiny homes top the list of solutions voters wish to see carried out by their local government.