

Election Polling Survey Lebanese Youth Segment

Methodology

- This survey was conducted by Statistics Lebanon Ltd between 15.03.2018 and 02.04.2018.
- The sample size for this survey was $n=1,200$. Lebanese males and females (50/50) aged between 21 and 29 years old.
- The sample was drawn using the Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) sampling technique. It covered all Lebanese governorates and socio-economic groups.
- Interviews were conducted face-to-face.
- Statistical data analysis was accomplished using SPSS 22.
- The survey's margin of error is $\pm 2.83\%$.

Demographics

Gender	
Male	50%
Female	50%

Age	
21-23 years	33%
24-26 years	29%
27-29 years	38%

Marital Status	
Single	64%
Married	28%
Engaged	8%

Number of children Respondents with family (n=330)	
0-2 children	75%
3-6 children	25%

Level of education	
University degree	47%
High school education	20%
Supplementary Education	15%
Vocational training	11%
Primary education	4%
Graduate certificate	3%

Religion	
Christian	39%
Sunni	27%
Shiaa	26%
Druze	8%

Occupation	
Free lancer	37%
Student	24%
house wife	11%
Employee B	8%
Unemployed	8%
Employee C	7%
Employee A	5%

Monthly income of the family	
1001\$ – 2000\$	38%
2001\$ -3500\$	25%
501\$ - 1000\$	23%
Less than 500\$	9%
More than 3501\$	5%

Governorate	
MOUNT LEBANON	33%
NORTH	14%
SOUTH	11%
BEIRUT	10%
AKKAR	7%
BEKAA	7%
Kesrwan-Jbeil	7%
BAALBEK-EL HERMEL	6%
El Nabatieh	6%

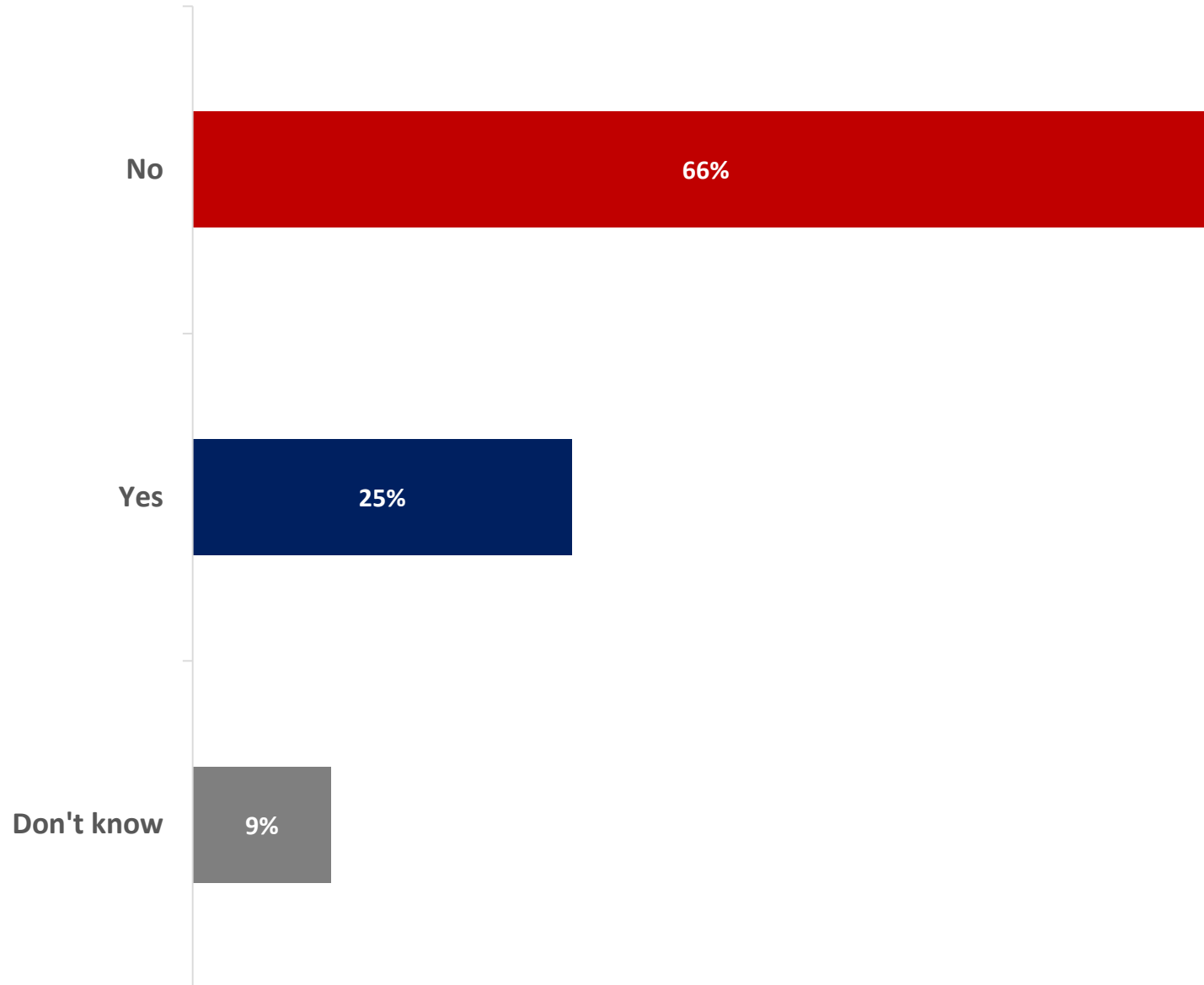
District	
Baabda	13%
El Meten	12%
BEIRUT	10%
AKKAR	7%
Tripoli	7%
Baalbek	5%
Chouf	5%
Sour	5%
Aley	4%
Kesrwane	4%
Saida Villages	3%
Zahle	3%
El Minieh-Dennie	3%
El Nabatieh	3%
Jbeil	3%
West Bekaa	3%
Bent Jbeil	2%
El Koura	2%
Saida	2%
Zgharta	2%

Section 1: Youth Participation in Elections

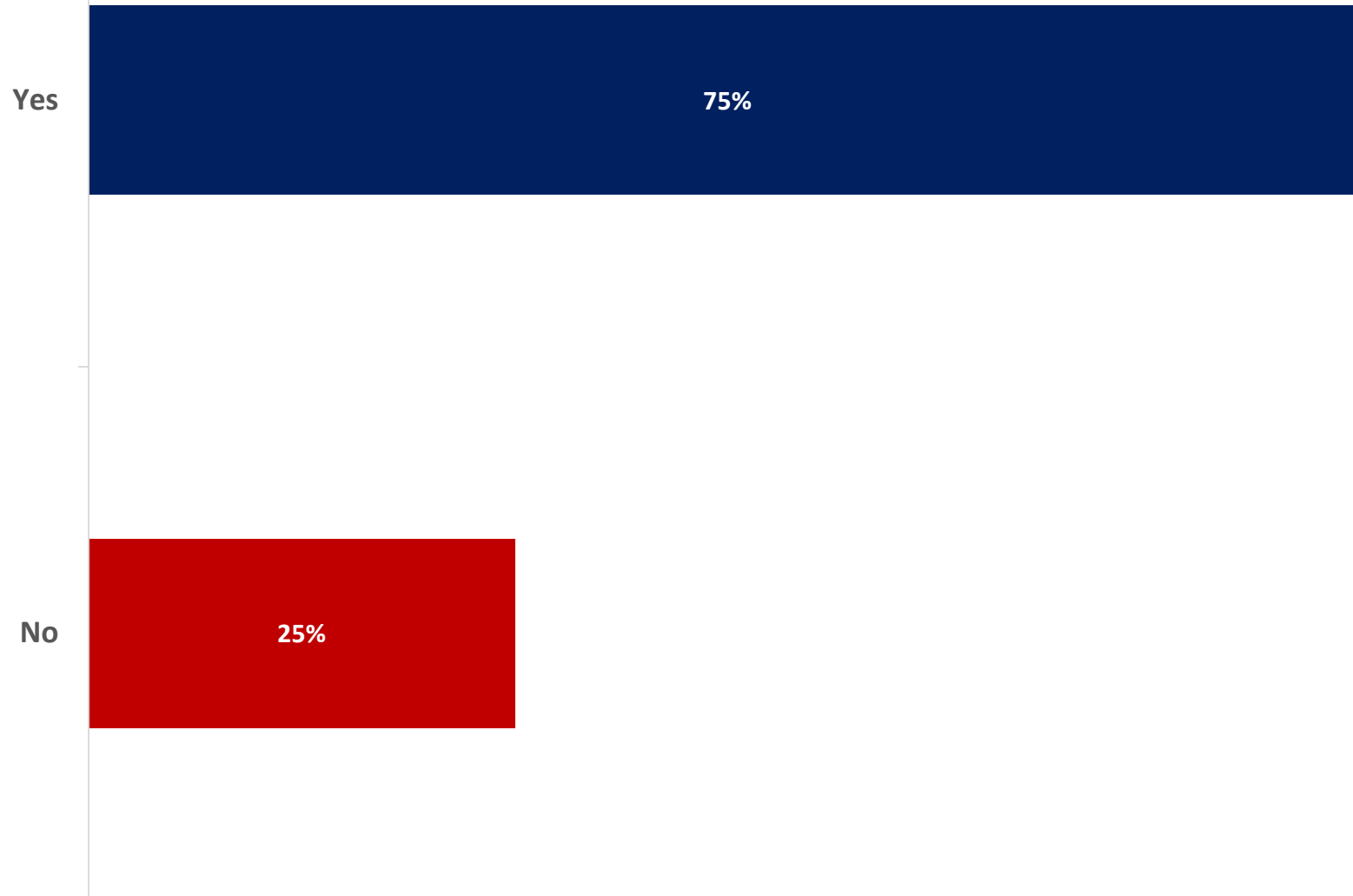
Did you vote in the 2016 municipal elections?



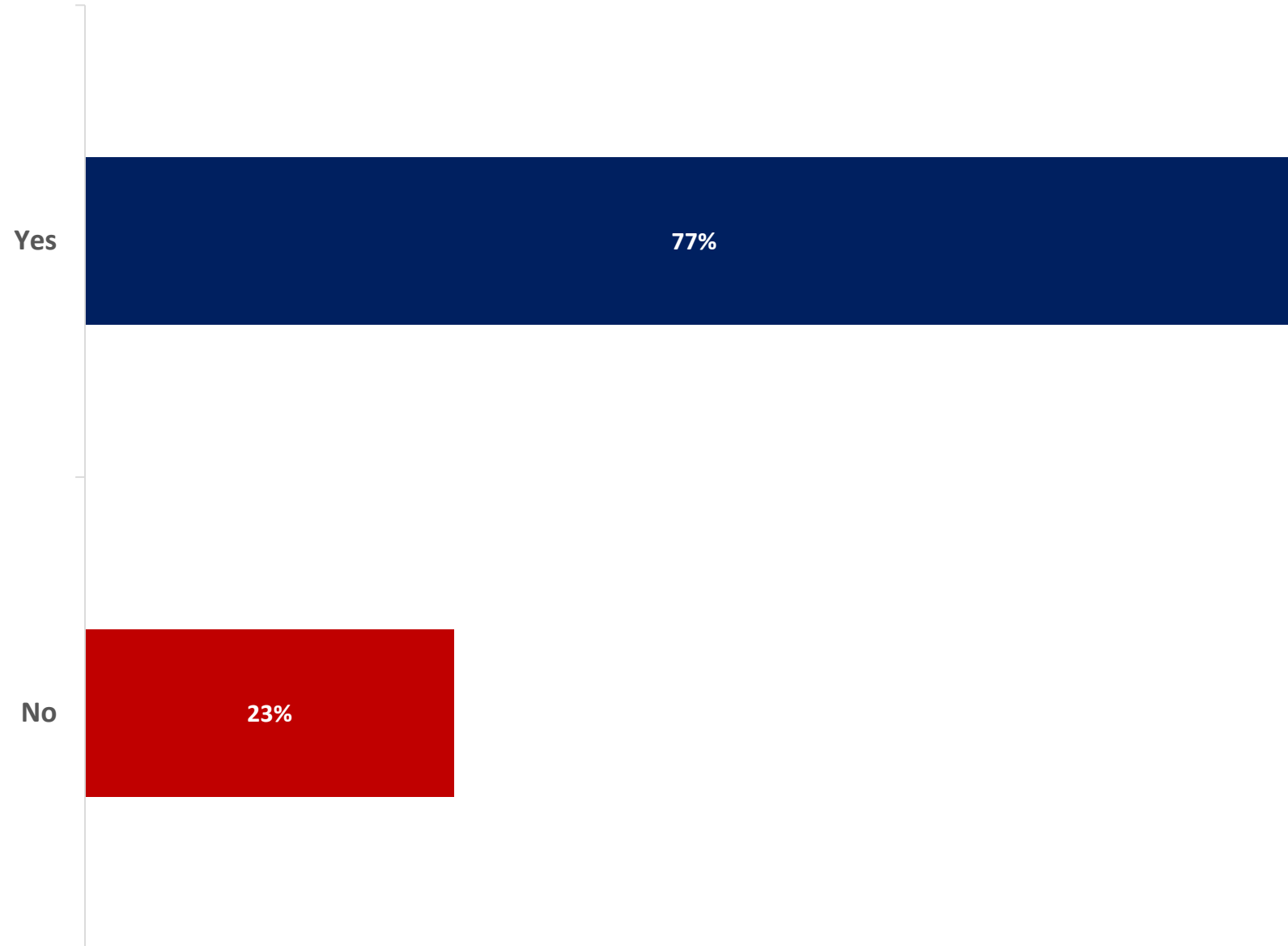
If you answered "No", was your name listed on the voter lists? (n= 590)



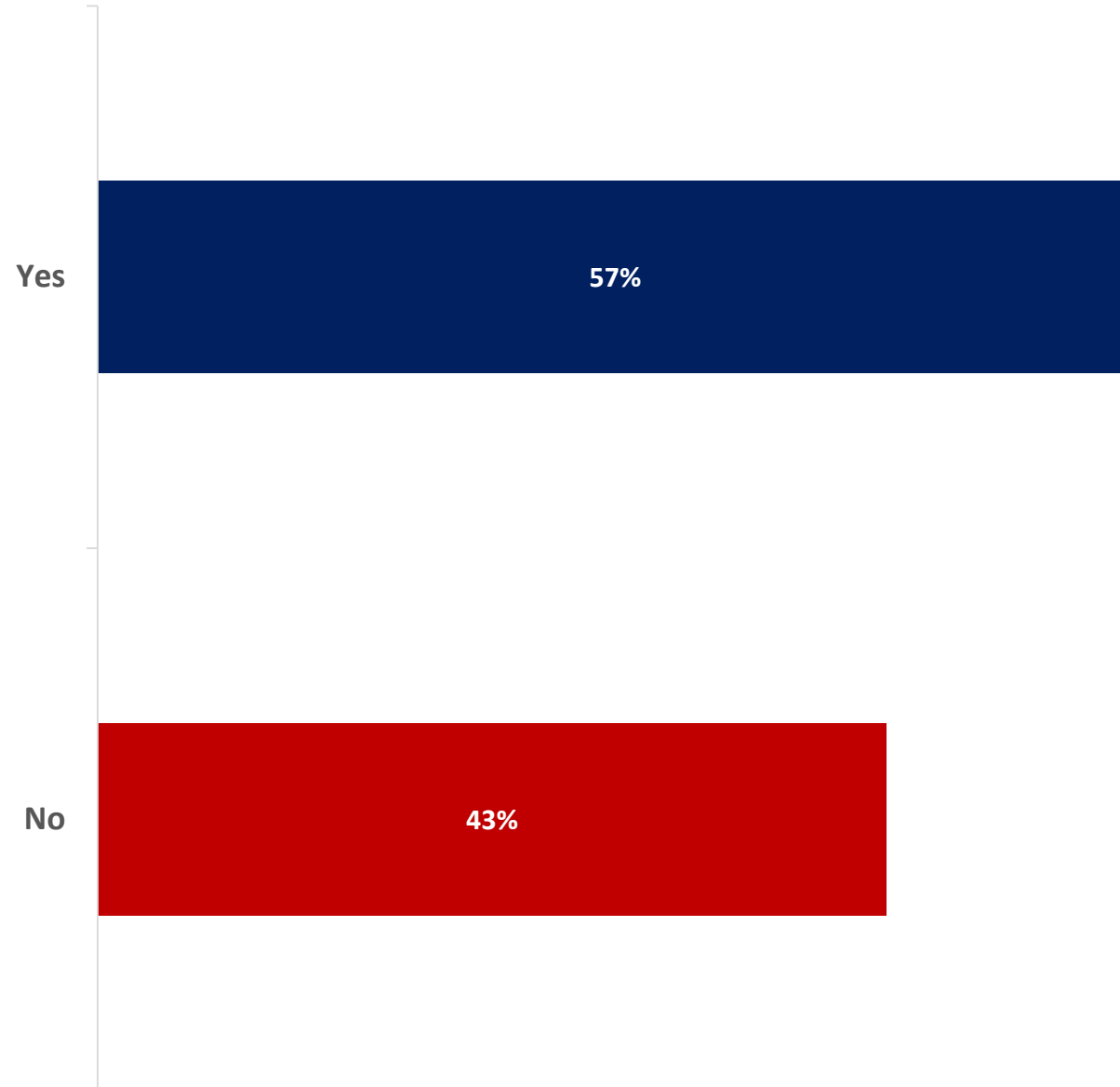
Have you confirmed that your name is on the voter lists of 2018?



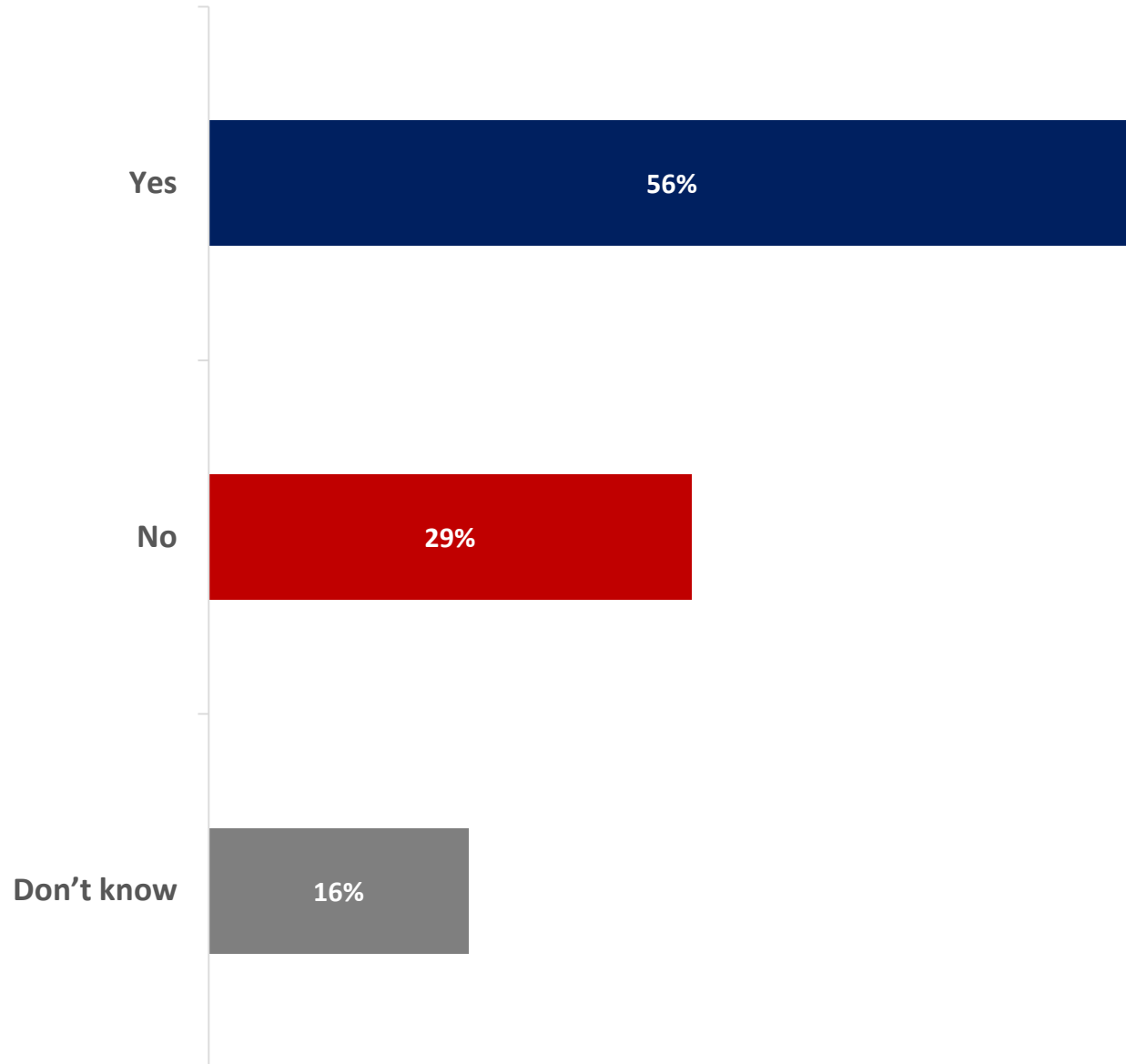
Has the new parliamentary electoral law become clear to you with respect to:/How to vote?



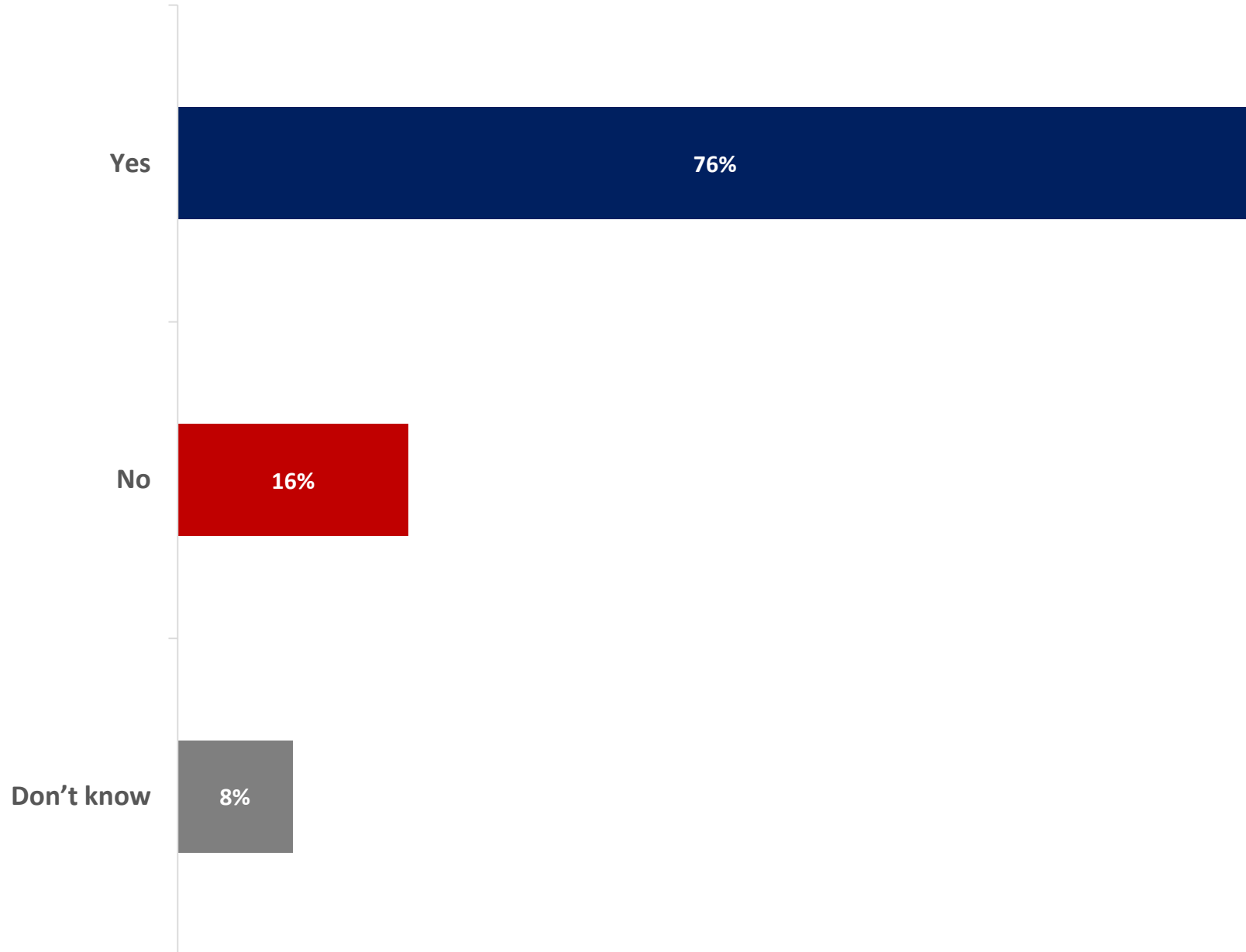
Has the new parliamentary electoral law become clear to you with respect to:/How votes are sorted/counted?



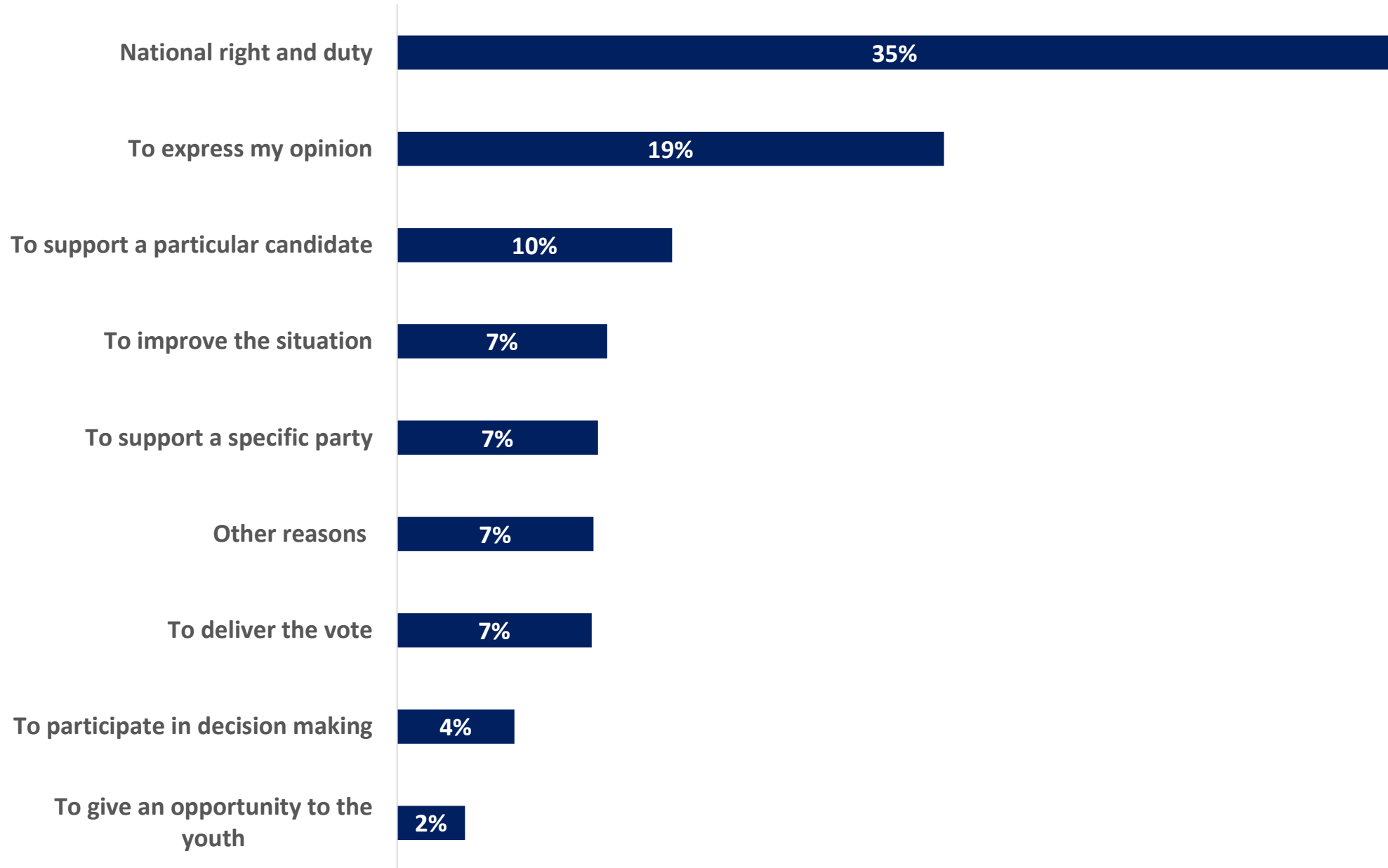
In your opinion, will the new parliamentary electoral law improve representation?



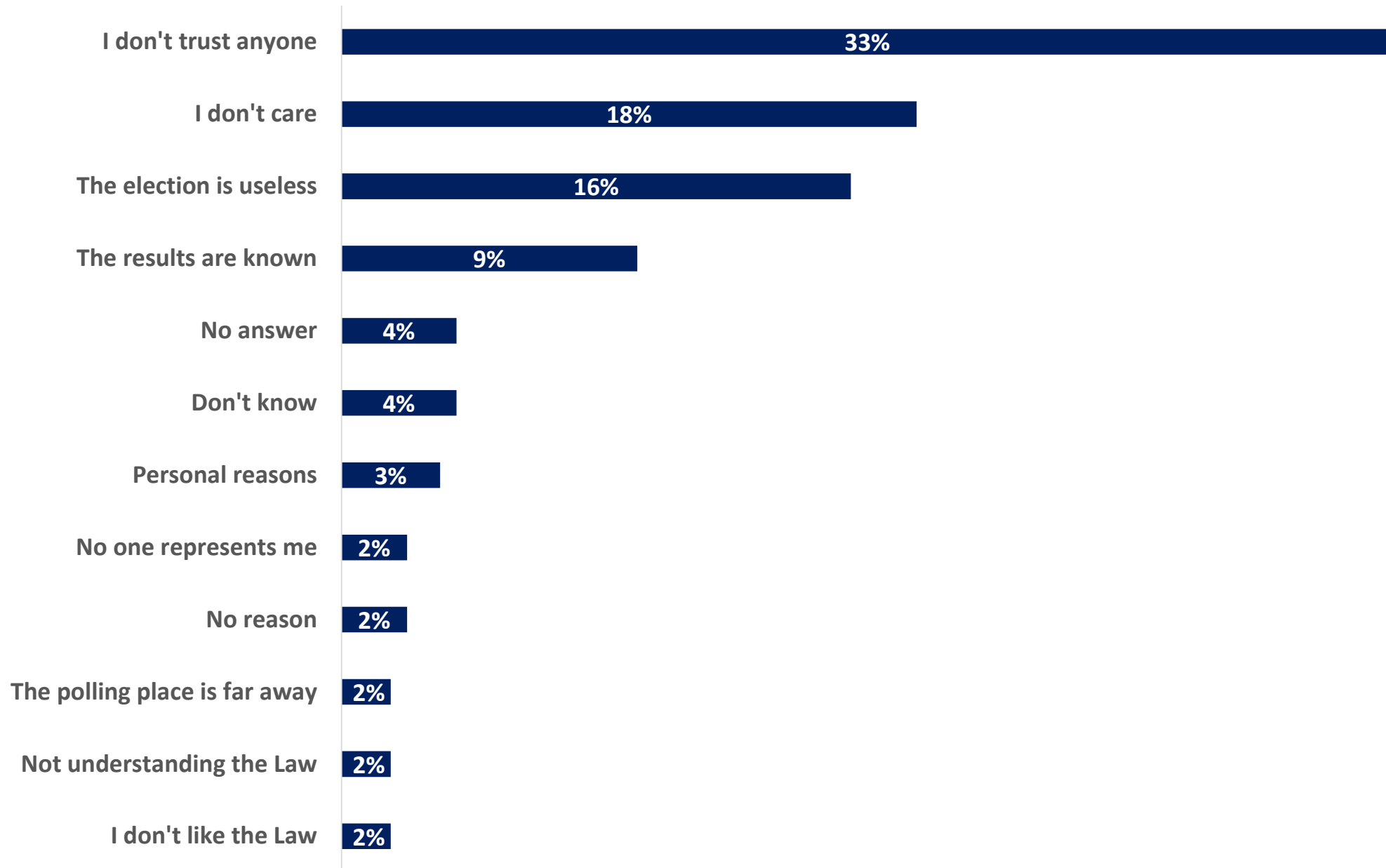
Will you participate in the parliamentary elections scheduled for May?



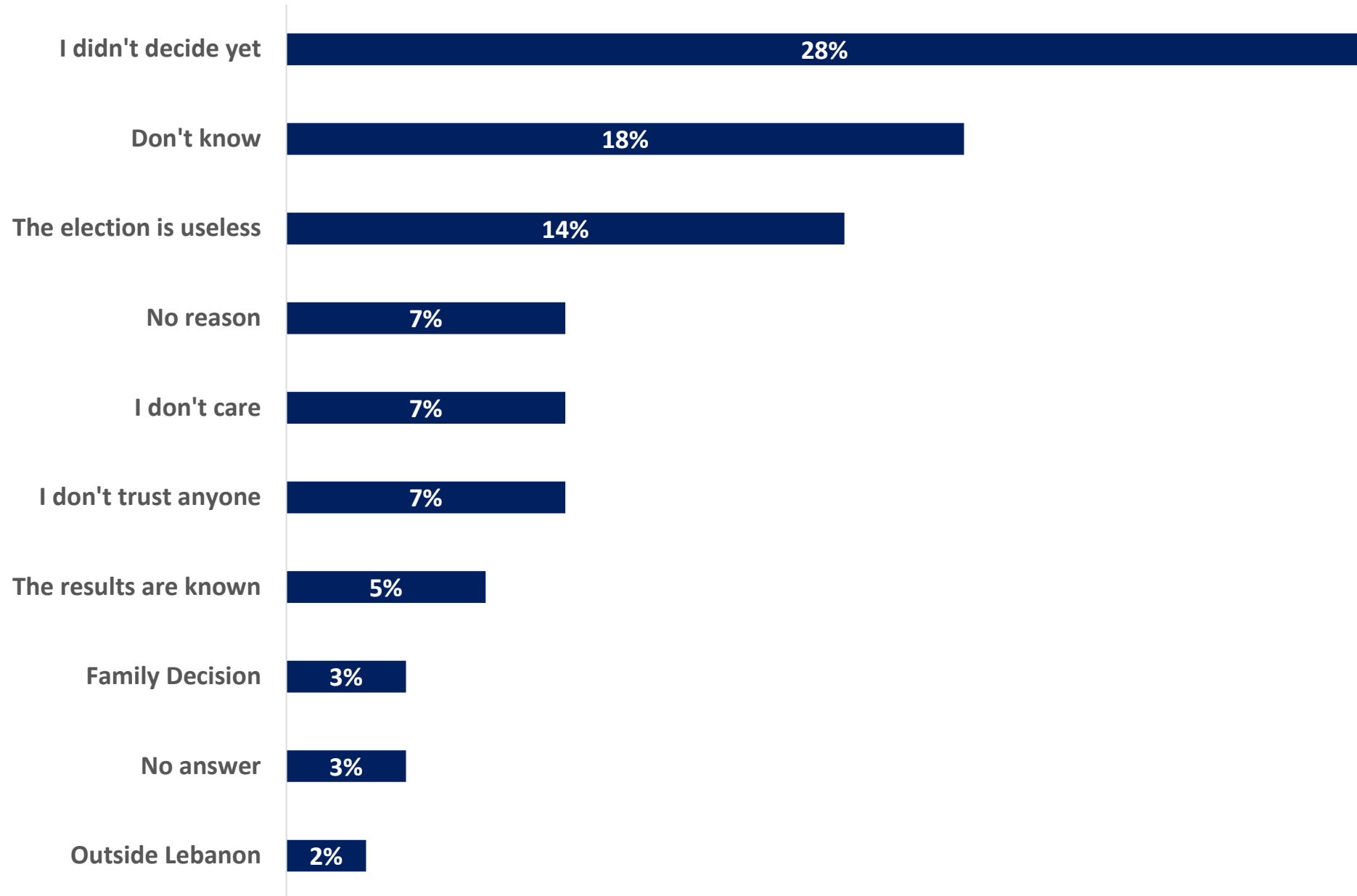
Why do you want to vote? n=908



Why won't you vote? n=195



Why don't you know? n=97



Analysis: Youth Participation in Elections

- Voting in Municipal elections 2016:
 - Up to 51% of the youth had already previously participated in the municipal elections
 - Only 25% chose not to vote although they were registered in the lists
- Intention to Vote in Parliamentary elections
 - A majority of 76% of youth intend to vote in the forthcoming elections
 - Just 8% said they did not know if they would vote and 16% indicated they would not
 - Up to 75% of those who intend to vote have checked that they are registered in the electoral rolls
- Comprehension of new law
 - 'How to Vote' is clear to 77% of this age group
 - 'How the votes are counted/sorted' is still unclear to 43% of the respondents
- Representation under new law
 - According to a majority (56%) representation has been improved by the new law
 - However nearly a near third (29%) do not agree

- Reasons for Voting

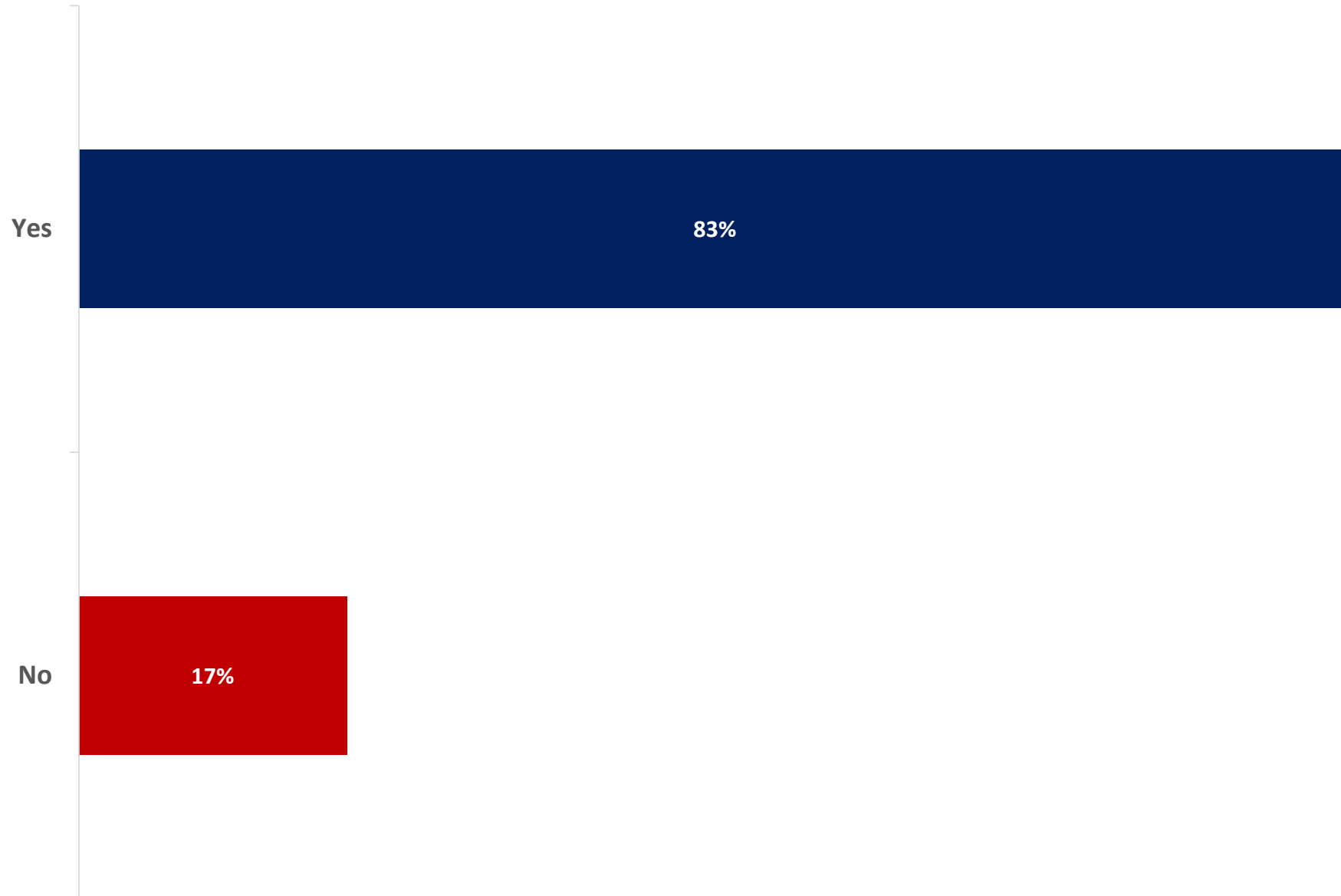
- Volunteered reasons for voting underline proactive attitude to youth to participation
 - 35% believe it is a 'National right & duty to vote'
 - 19% are driven by the 'Right to express an opinion'
 - 7% believe that they should make themselves heard and 'Deliver their vote'
 - As many (7%) believe they are voting to 'Improve the situation'
- The other reason that drives participation is loyalty to parties or candidates
 - 10% want to support a 'Particular candidate' and 7% vote' out of loyalty to 'Support a specific party'
 - Just 2% stated they are voting to support youthful candidates

- Reasons for not voting

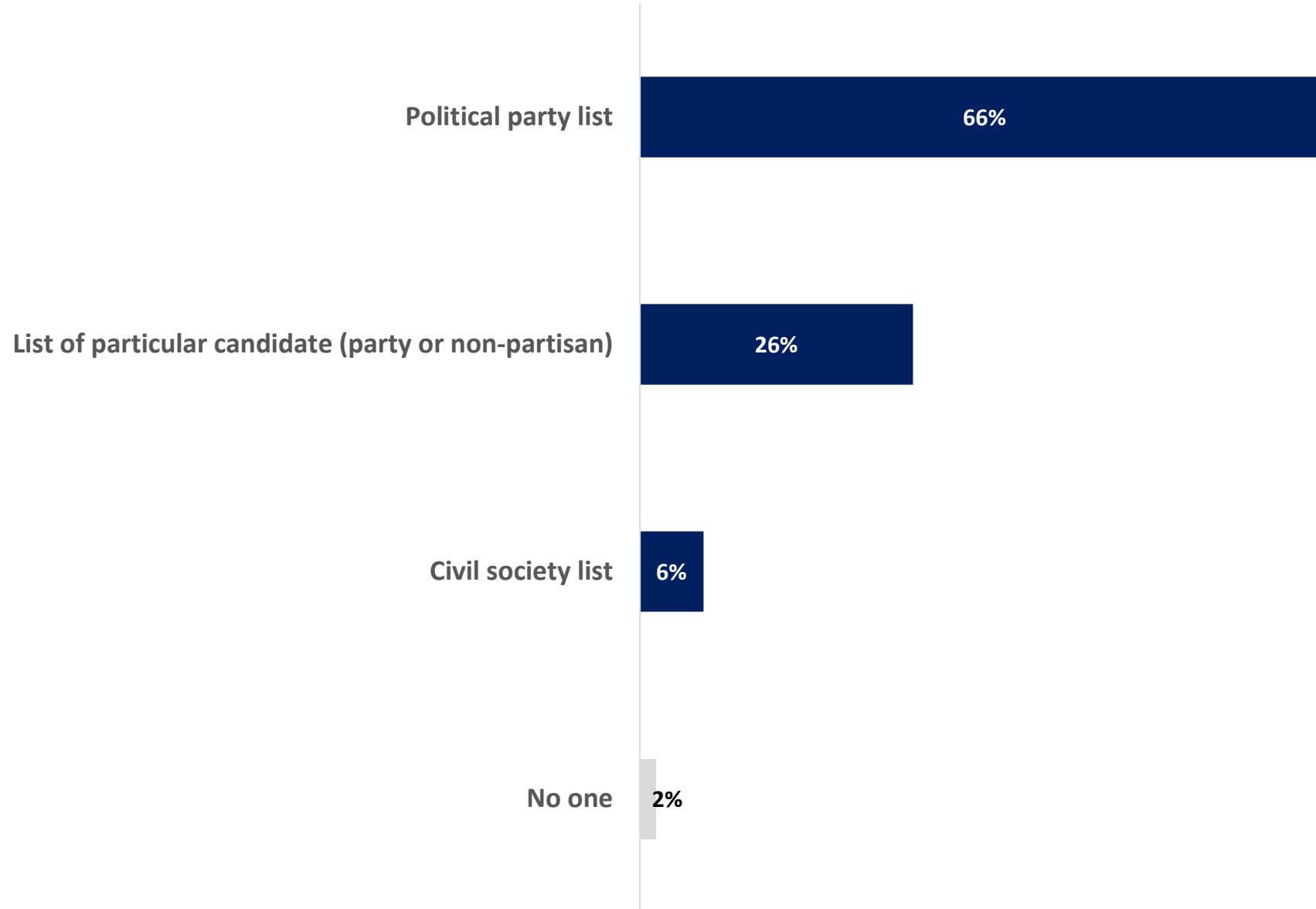
- The main reason is lack of trust for 33%
- Followed by a sense of futility
 - 16% believe the 'Election is useless'
 - 9% that the 'Results are predetermined'
 - It can be noted that only 2% are not voting because they do not understand the new law

- Don't know: 28% are still undecided

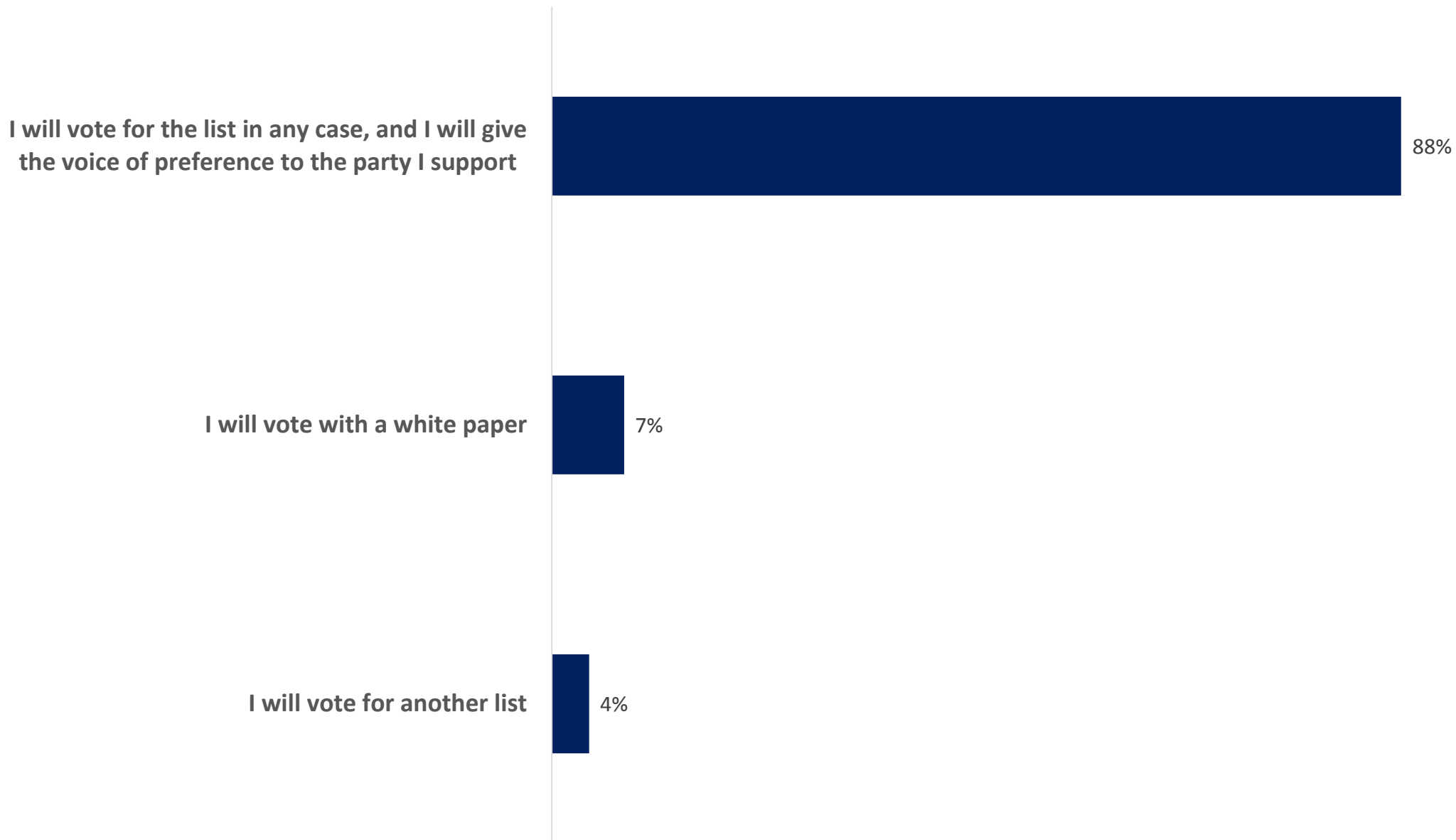
For those who have declared that they will participate in the parliamentary elections (n=908), have you chosen the list or candidate you will vote for?



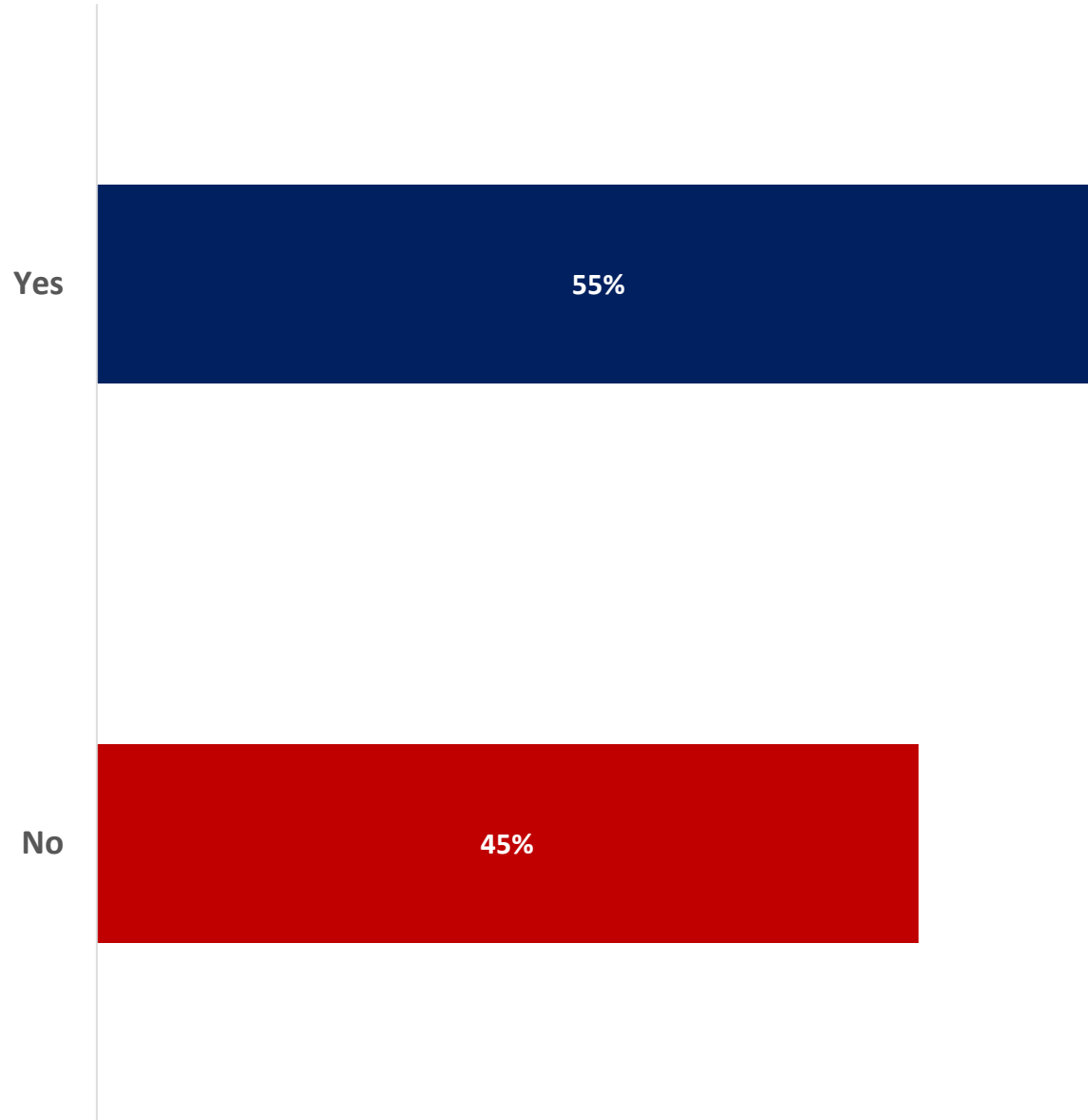
For those who have announced that they will participate in the parliamentary elections, which list will you choose?(n=908)



If the party that you choose to vote forms a coalition with one of the parties that you will not vote for, what will you do? (n=908)



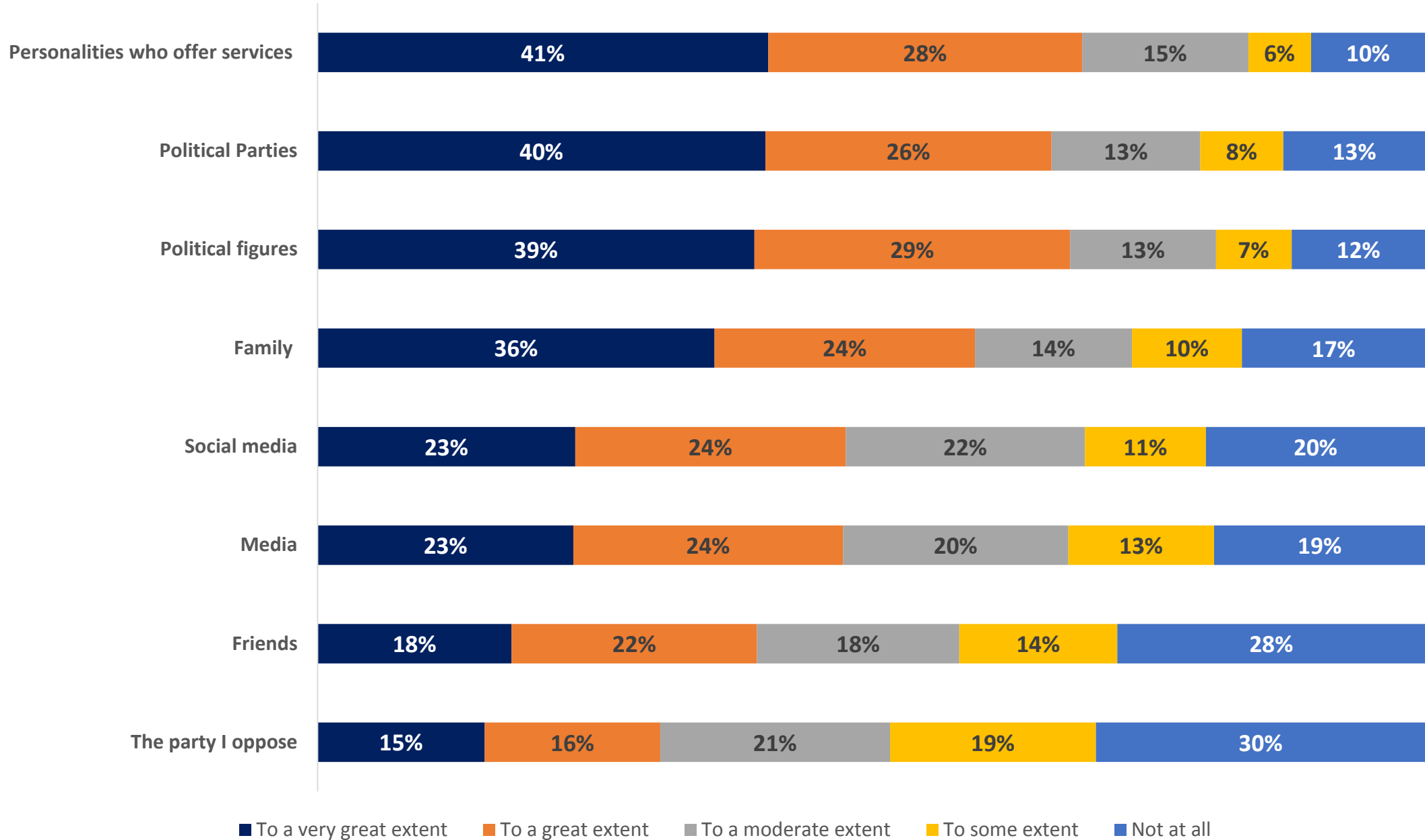
For all, is it possible to give your vote of preference to a candidate from another sect?



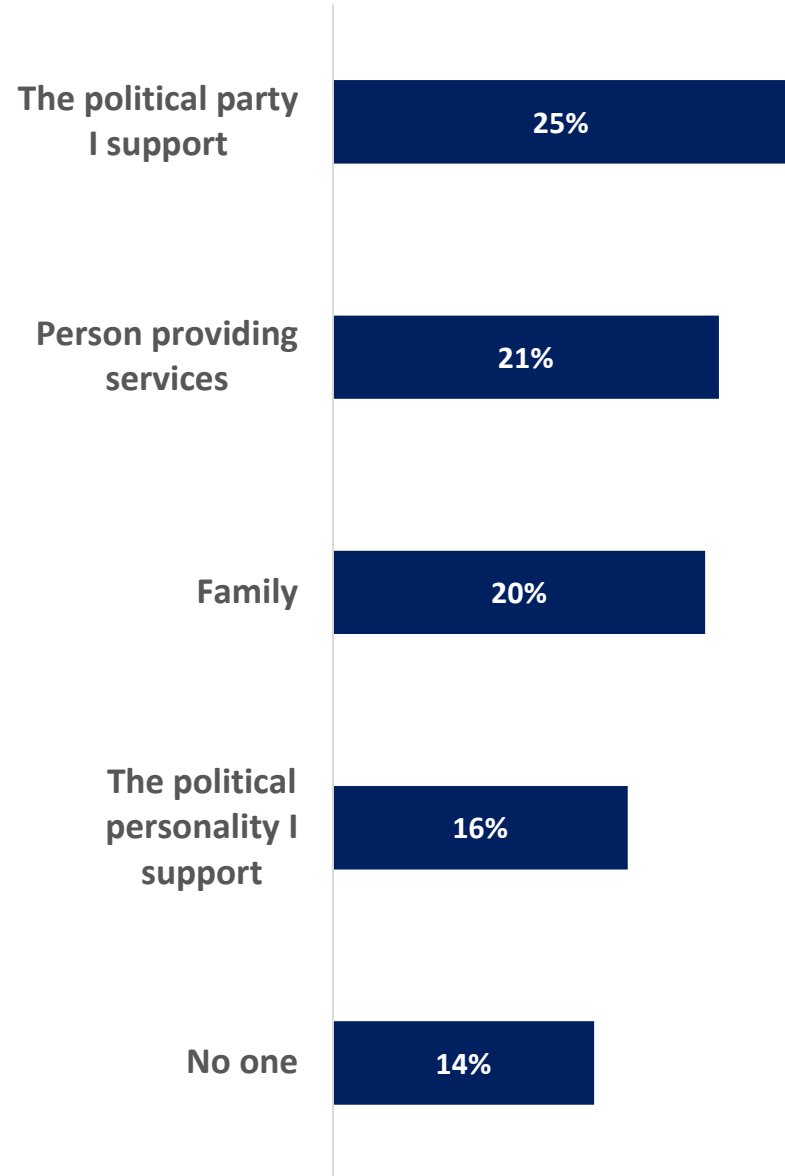
Analysis: Voting Choice

- Electoral choice
 - The vast majority have already chosen mainly based on loyalty to parties or candidates
 - 83% stated they have decided on their choice ahead of the election
 - Of those 66% stated they will vote for political parties
 - Followed by 26% for the list containing a specific candidate
 - Just 6% said they plan to vote for civil society lists
- Impact of list coalitions on voting
 - 88% will vote for their party even if the electoral list include other parties they object to/would not vote for
 - Just 4% would switch their vote in that eventuality
- Voting for candidate from another sect
 - 55% would give versus 45% would not give, the 'Preferential vote' to a candidate from another sect

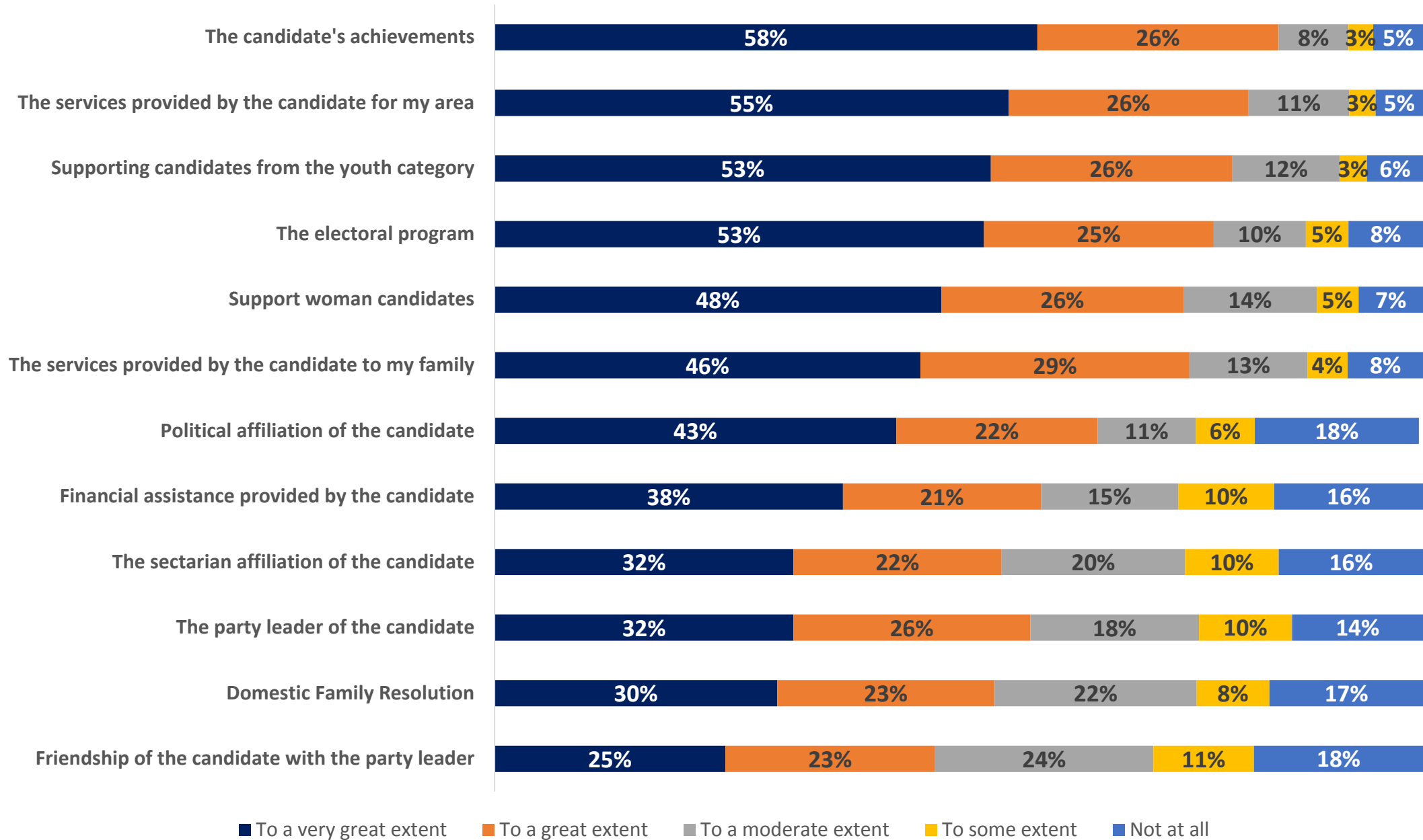
To what extent do the following have any influence on your electoral choices?



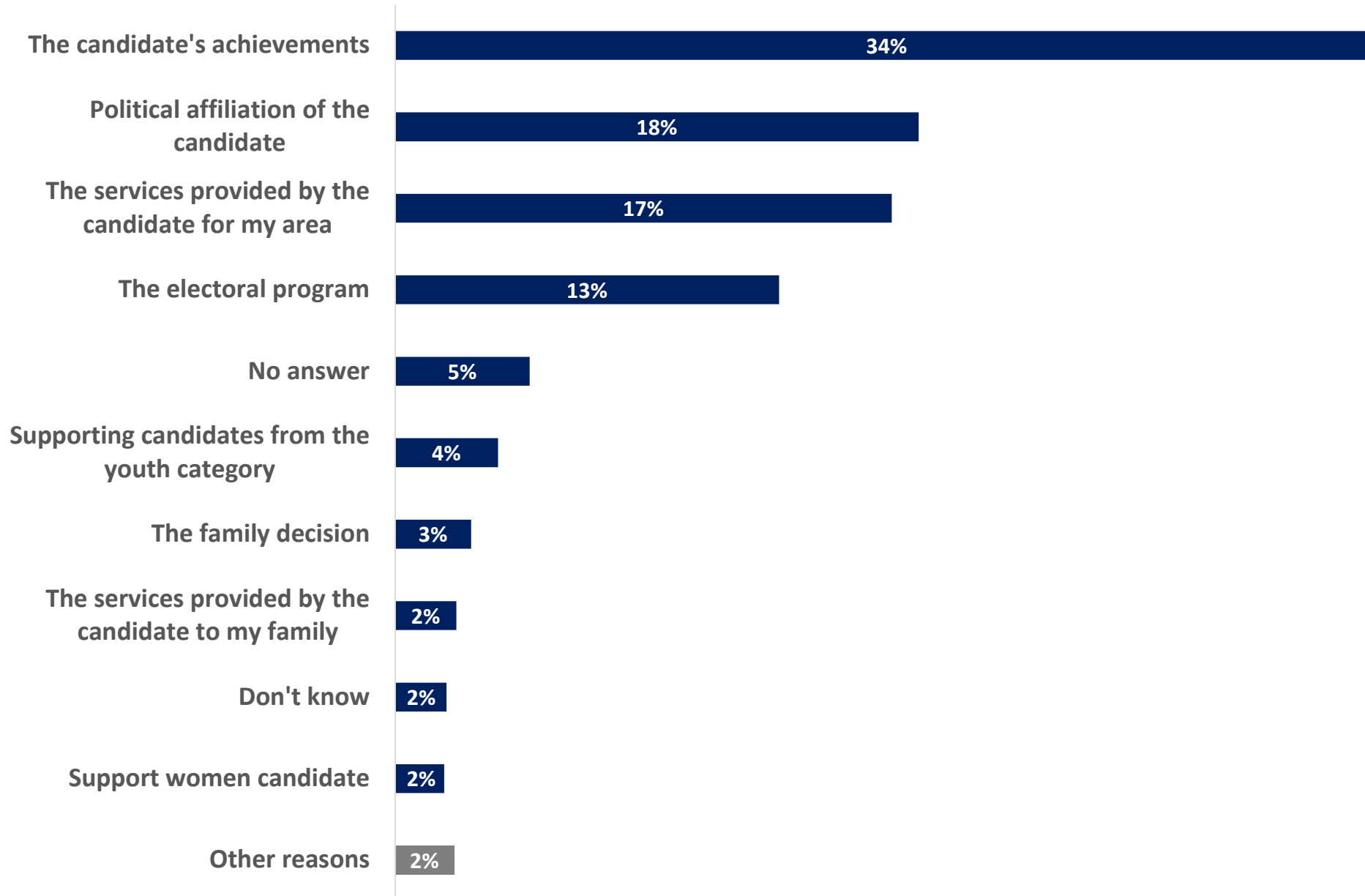
Who has the most influence on your electoral choices? (One answer only)



To what extent do the following affect your electoral choices?



What is the main reason that affects your electoral choices? (One answer only)



To what extent do you support women's participation in these elections?



■ To a very great extent

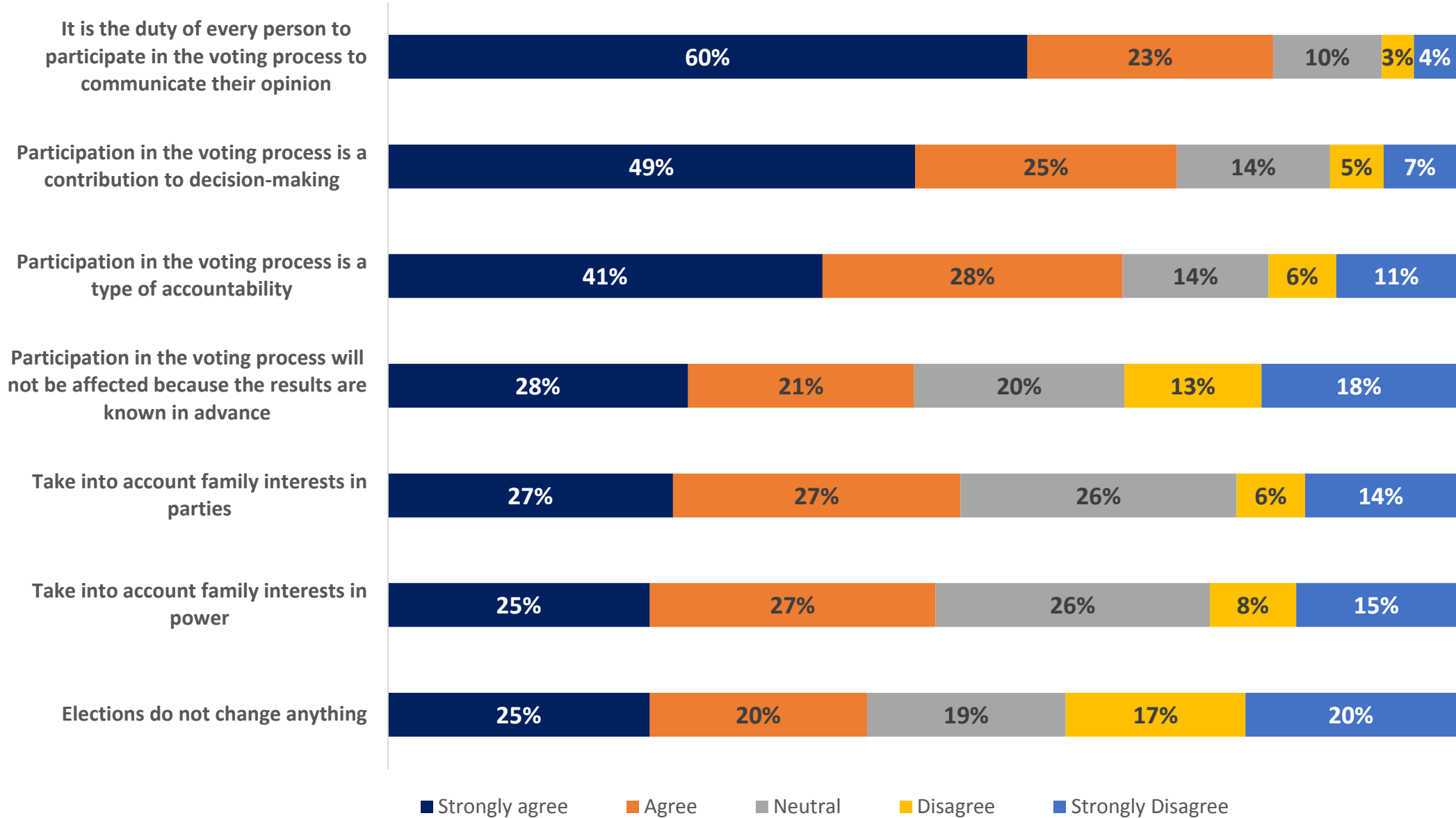
■ To a great extent

■ To a moderate extent

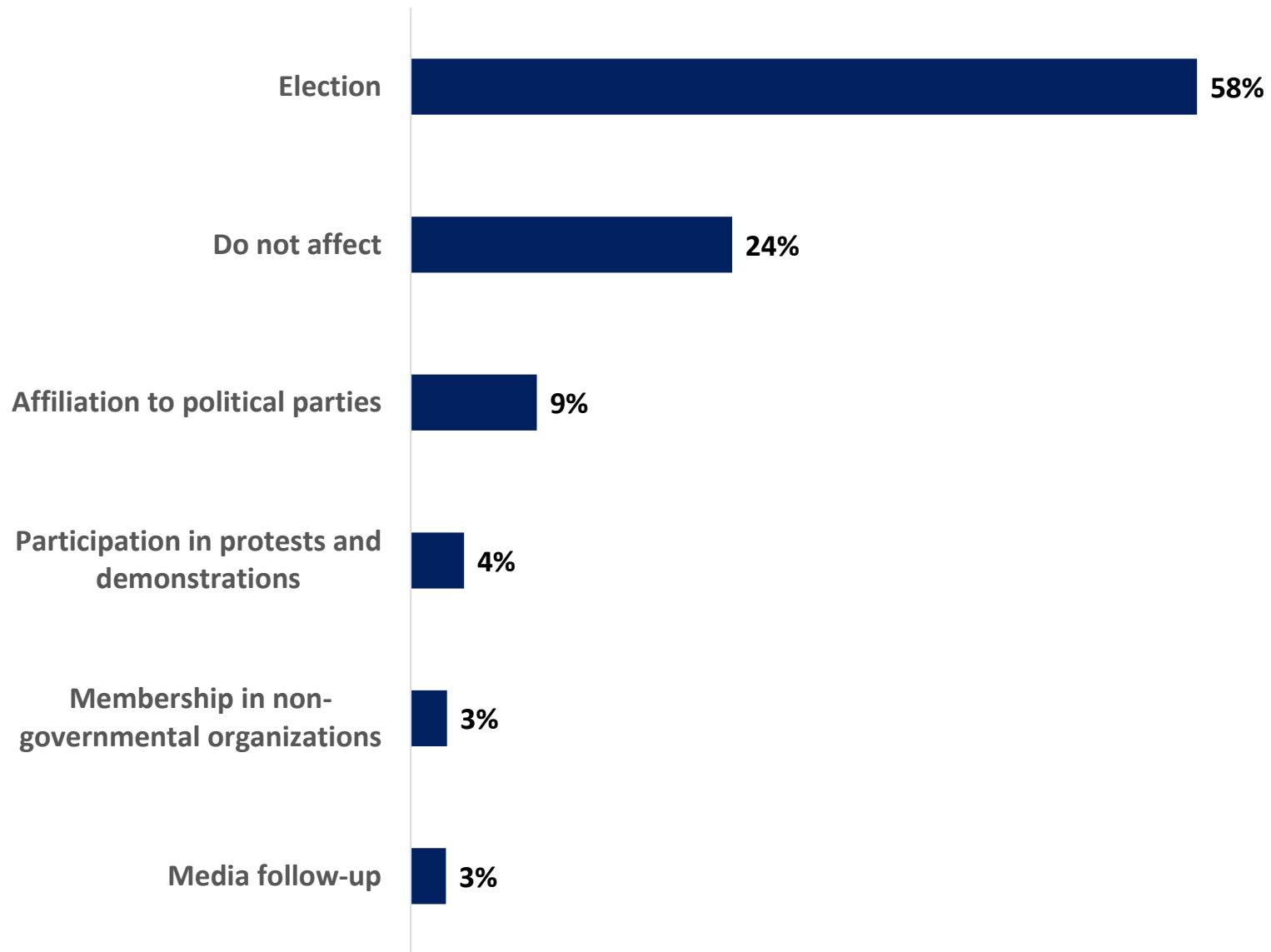
■ To some extent

■ Not at all

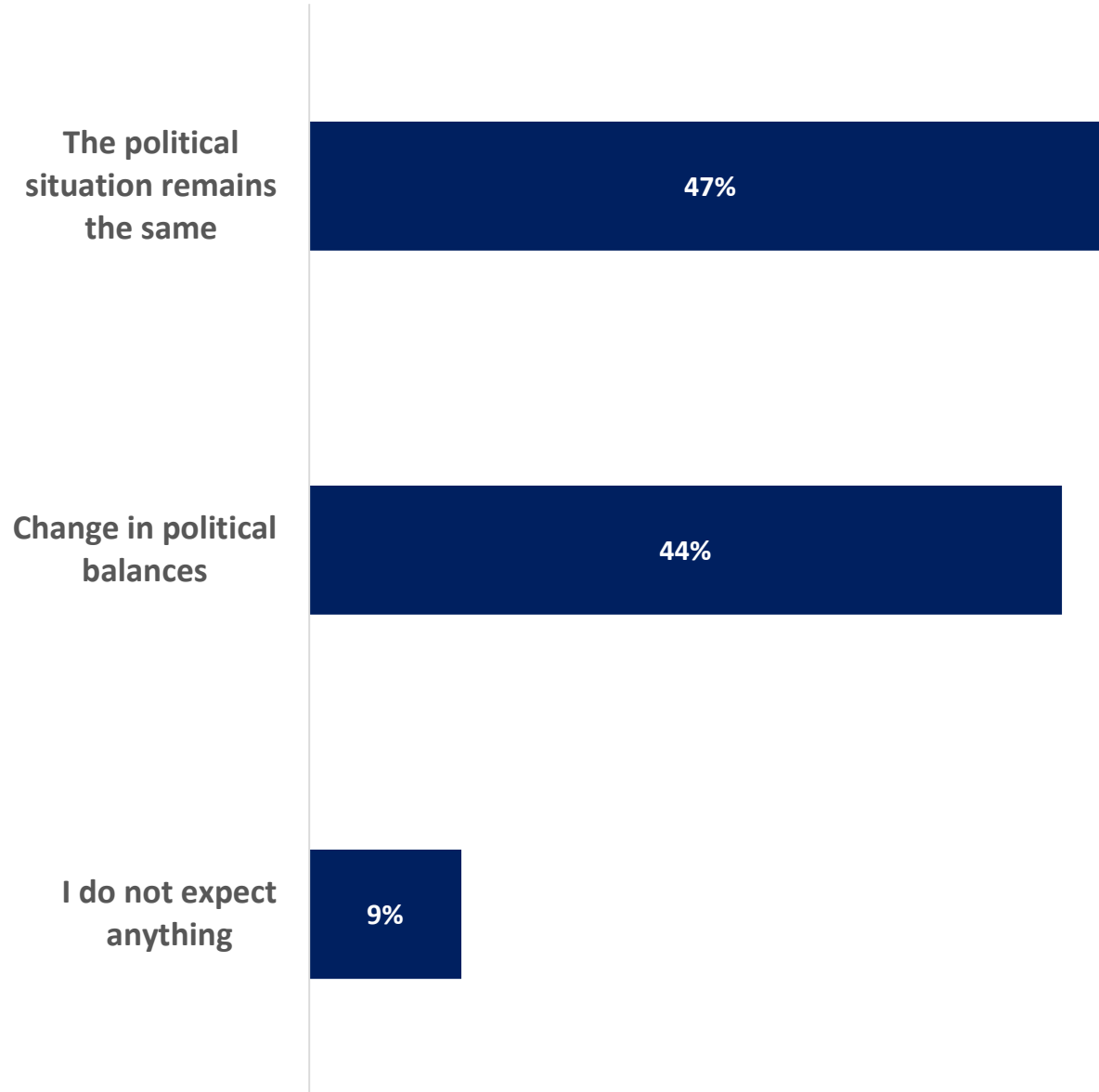
To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements:



How do you influence politics as a citizen?



What are your expectations regarding the results of the parliamentary elections?



Analysis: Influencers on Voting Choices

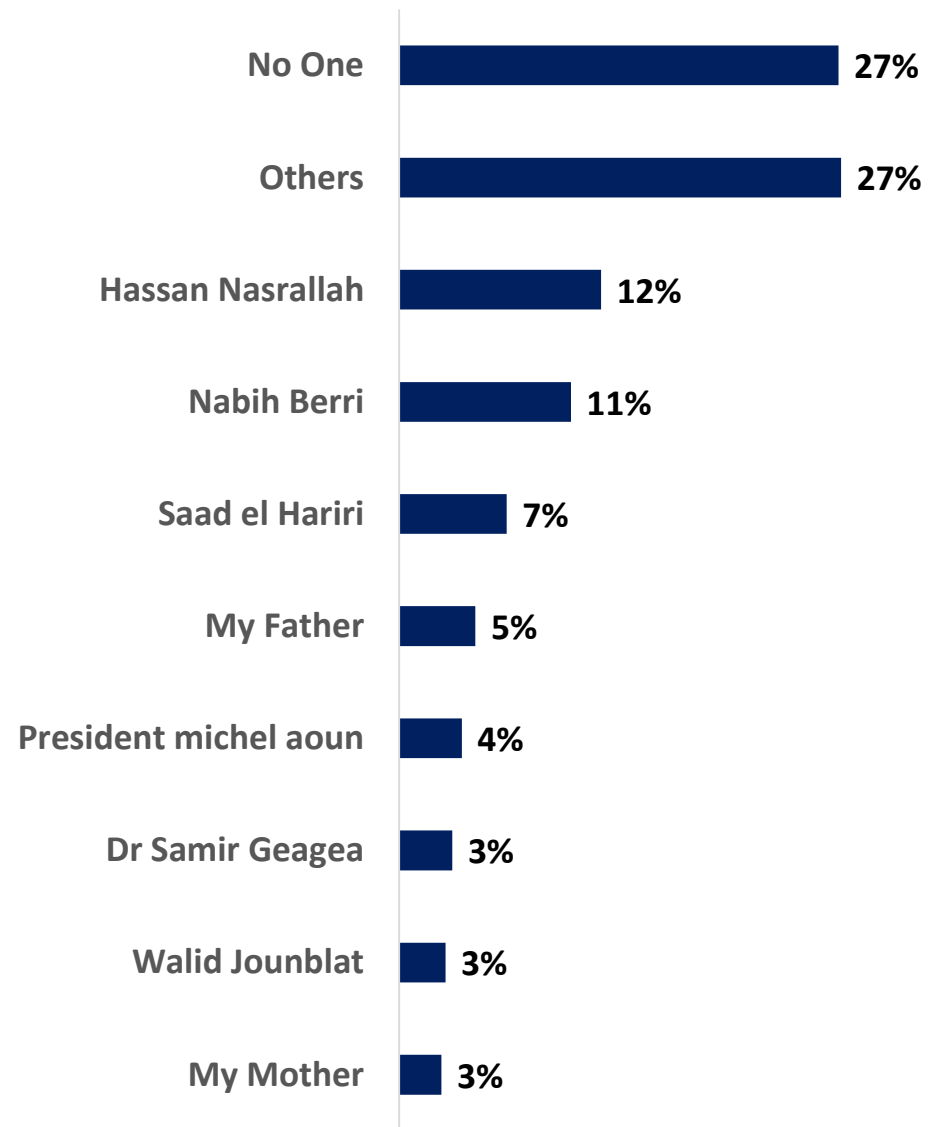
- The top influences on electoral choices
 - ‘Services offered’ which 69% (Influential/ Very influential)
 - ‘Political party’ (66%) or ‘Personality’ (68%)
 - ‘Family’ (60%)
 - Media/Social media play on important role according to 47%
- Single most compelling influence
 - ‘Political party’ is the most compelling influence for 25%
 - Just slightly ahead of ‘Person Providing services’ for 21%
- Extent factors influence choice mainly related to achievement & services
 - Achievements of candidate influential/very influential for 84%
 - Services to the community were influential/very influential for 81%
 - Services to family influential/very influential 75%
 - Financial assistance provided by candidates influential/very influential for 59%

Analysis: Influencers on Voting Choices

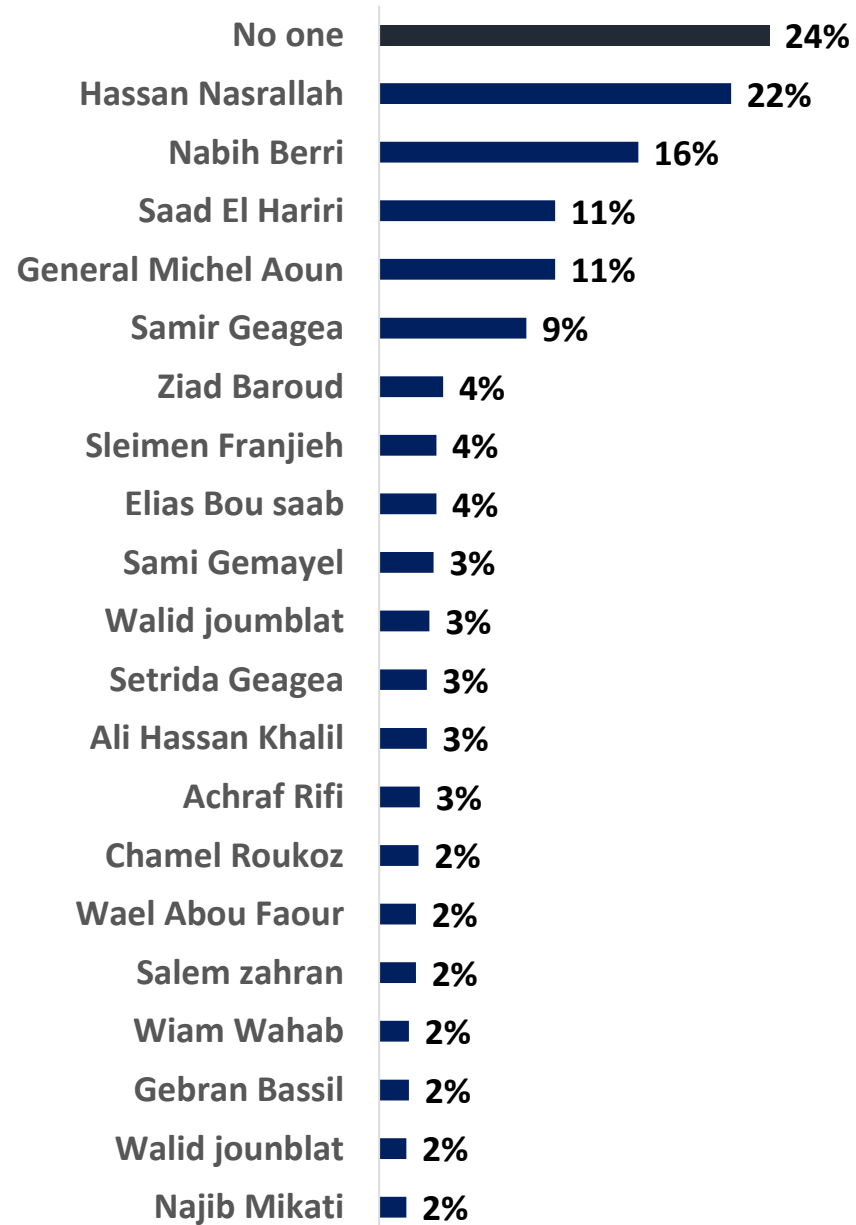
- Promoting youth and women relevant
 - 79% stated support young candidates
 - 74% support women candidates with 49% supporting to a very great extent
- Level of agreement with benefits of participation high
 - 83% believed it is 'The duty of every person to communicate their opinion'
 - 74% believed that It is a 'Contribution to decision-making'
 - 69% believed that it is a 'Type of accountability'
- Level of agreement with potential avenue for change
 - 58% believe the main way that citizens can influence politics is through elections
 - 44% who believe that elections will result in change in the current balance
 - But 45% strongly/agreed that it 'Do not change anything' versus 19% neutral and 37% disagreeing

Section 2: Political Orientation

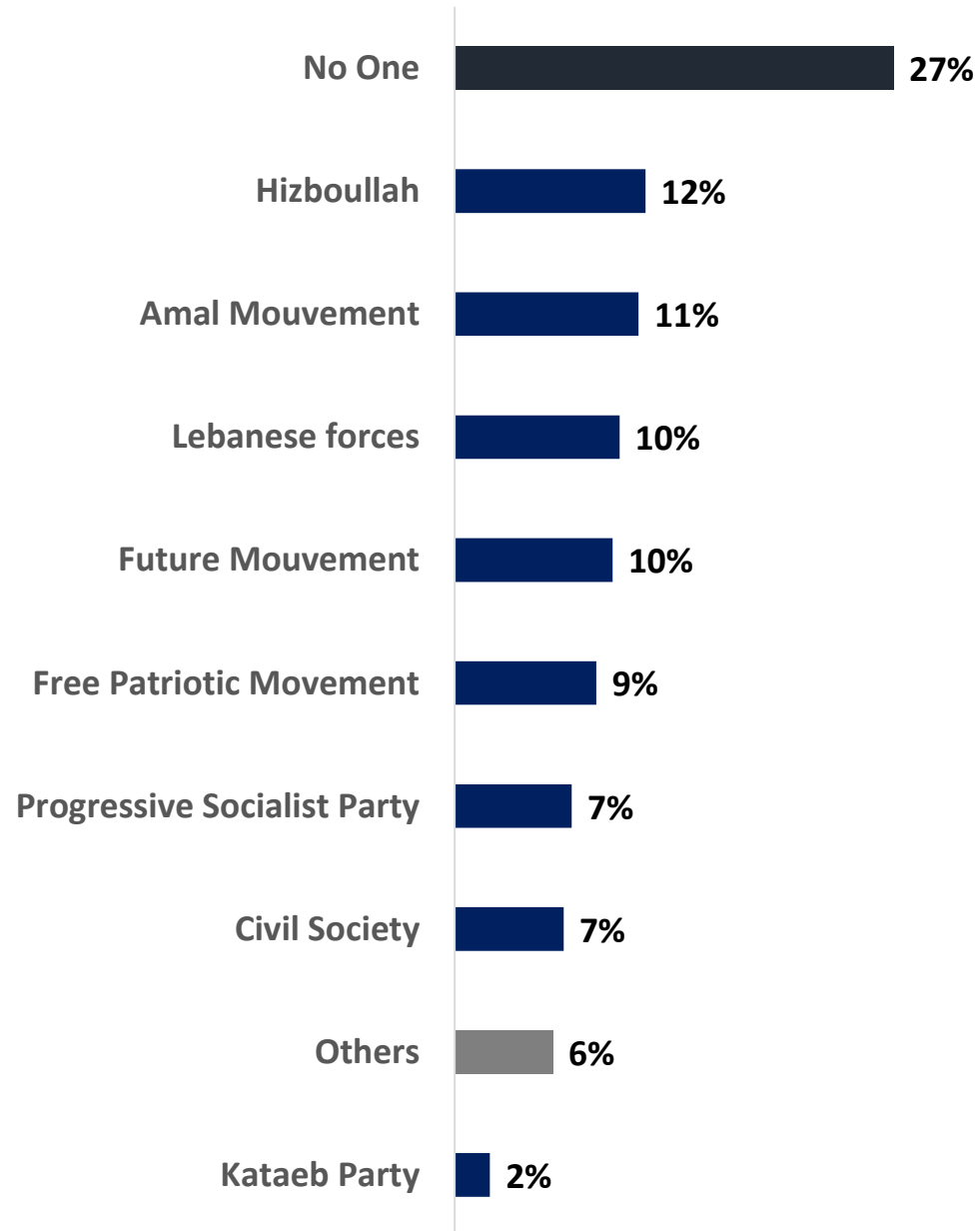
Who is your ideal public figure? (it is not necessary to be a political figure)



Who are the 3 Lebanese political figures who express your opinion



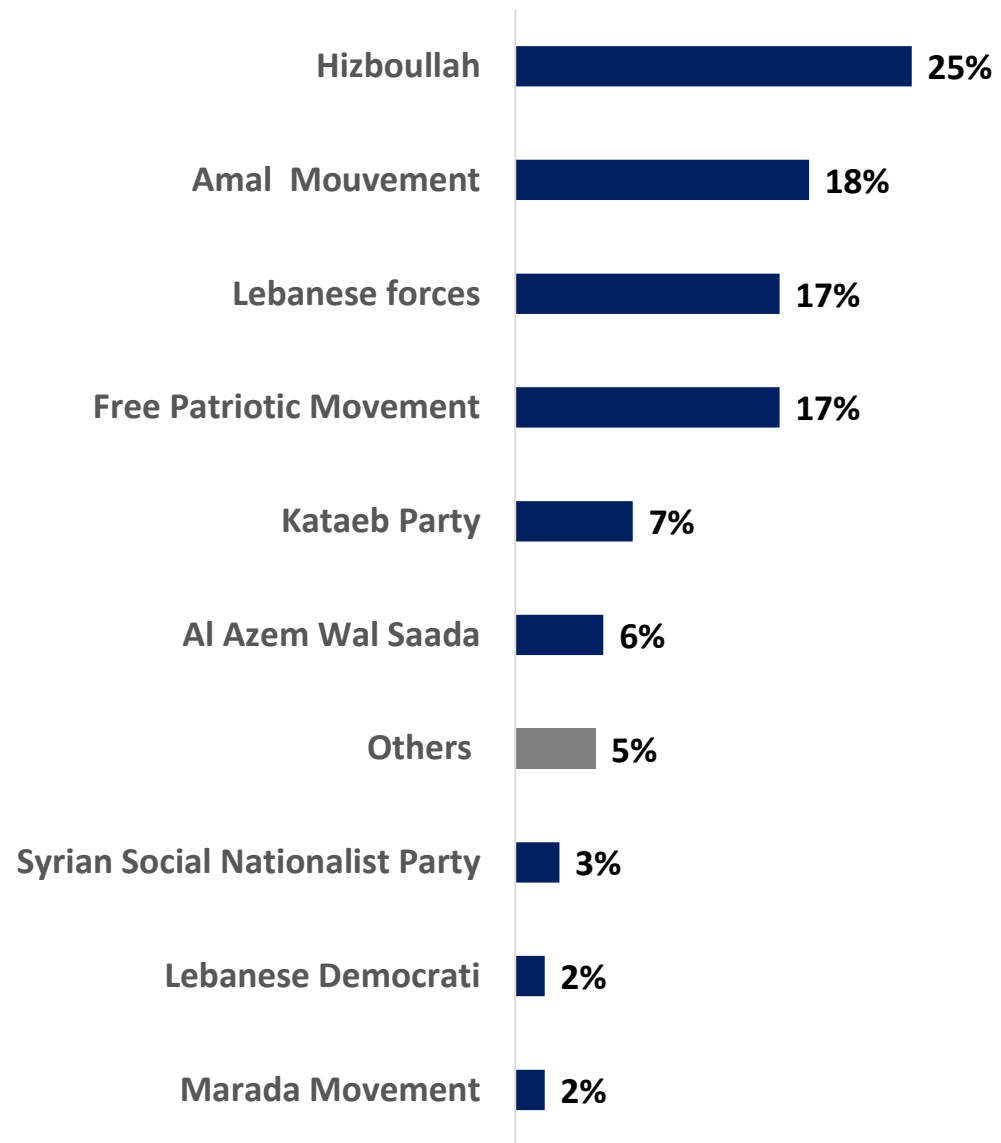
Which is the political party that expresses your opinion?



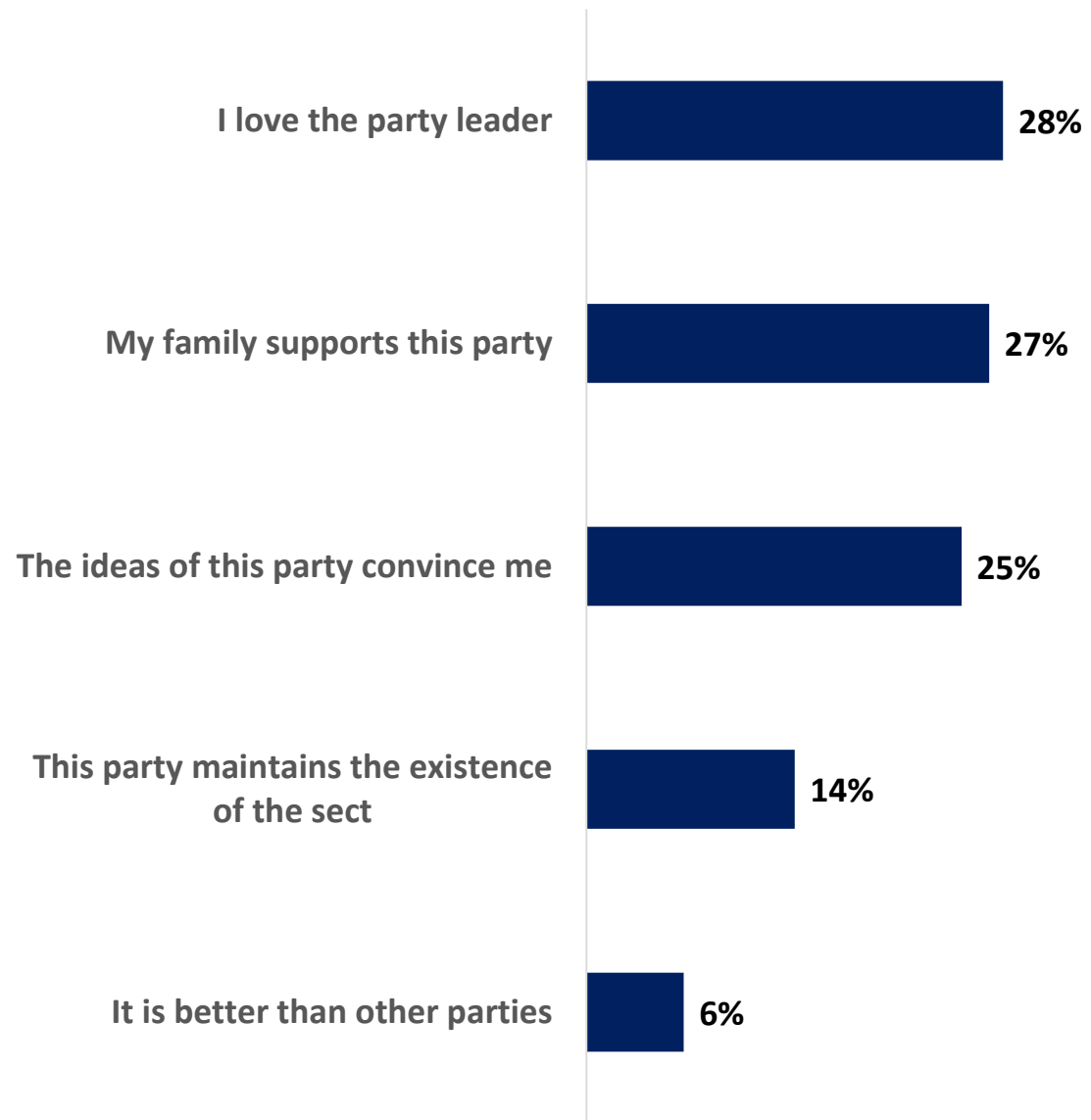
Are you a member of any political party?



If yes, what is this party? (n=109)



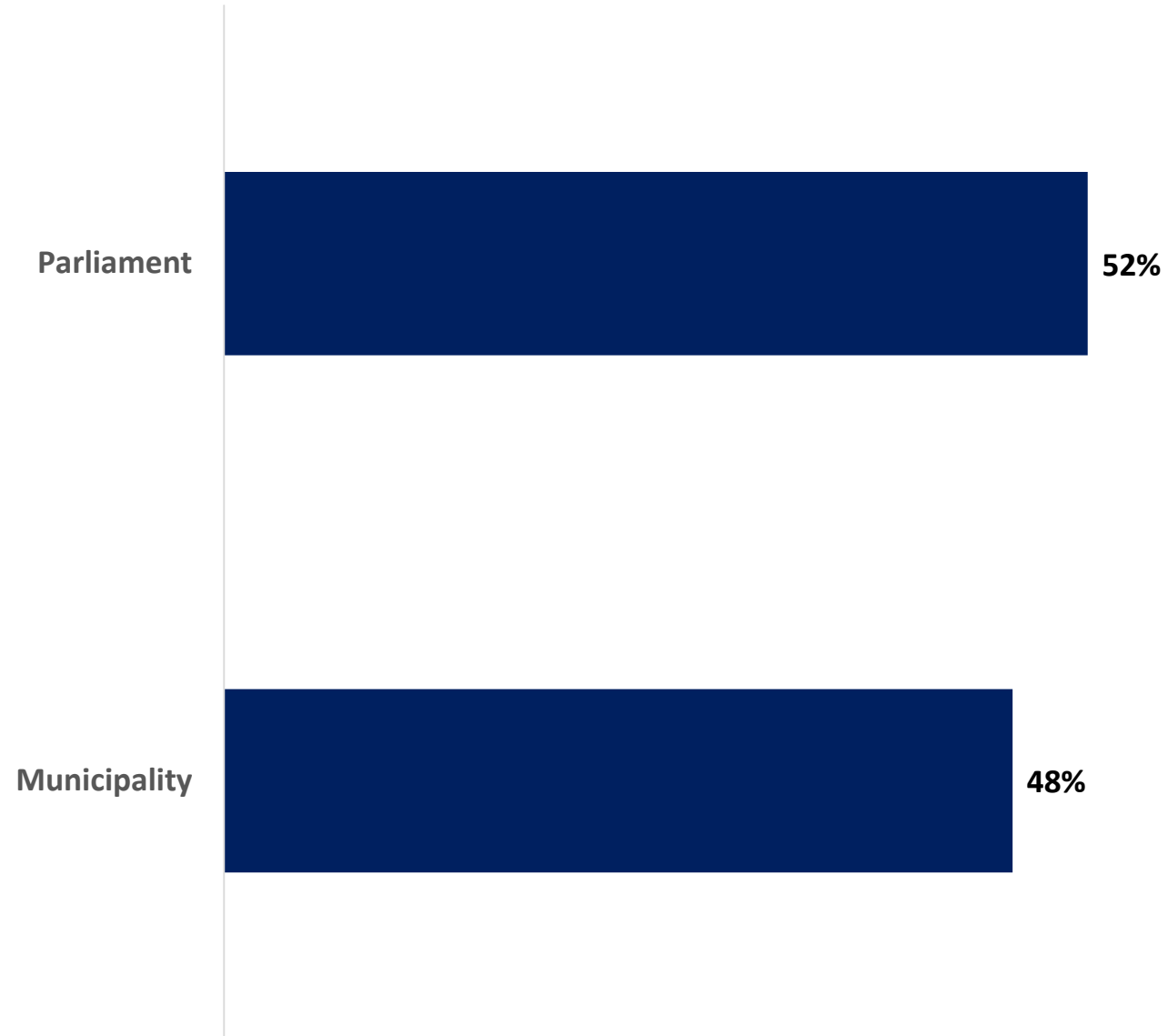
If yes, what makes you support to this party in the first place?(n=109)



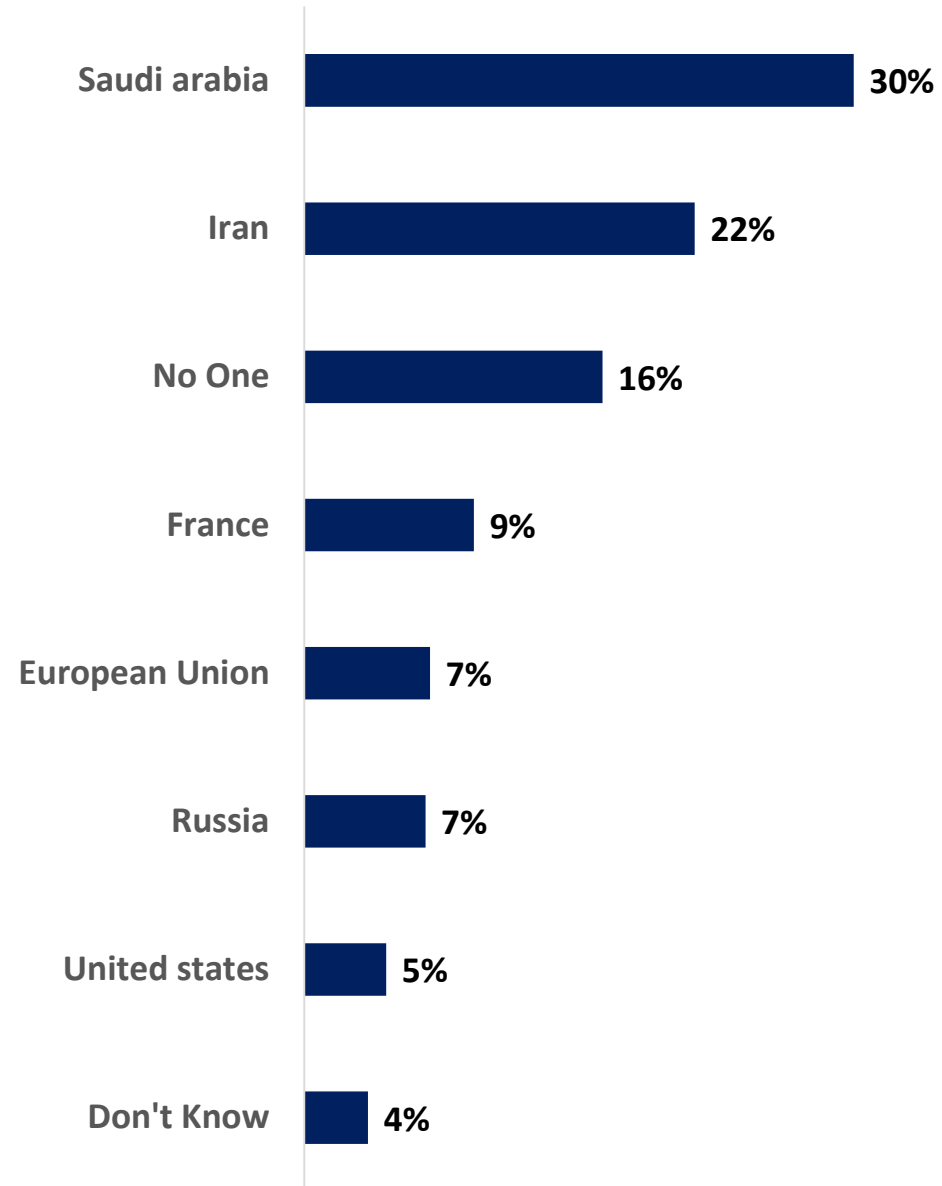
Do you aspire to participate in public affairs?



If yes, at what level? n=132



Which of these countries support Lebanon?



Analysis: Political Orientation

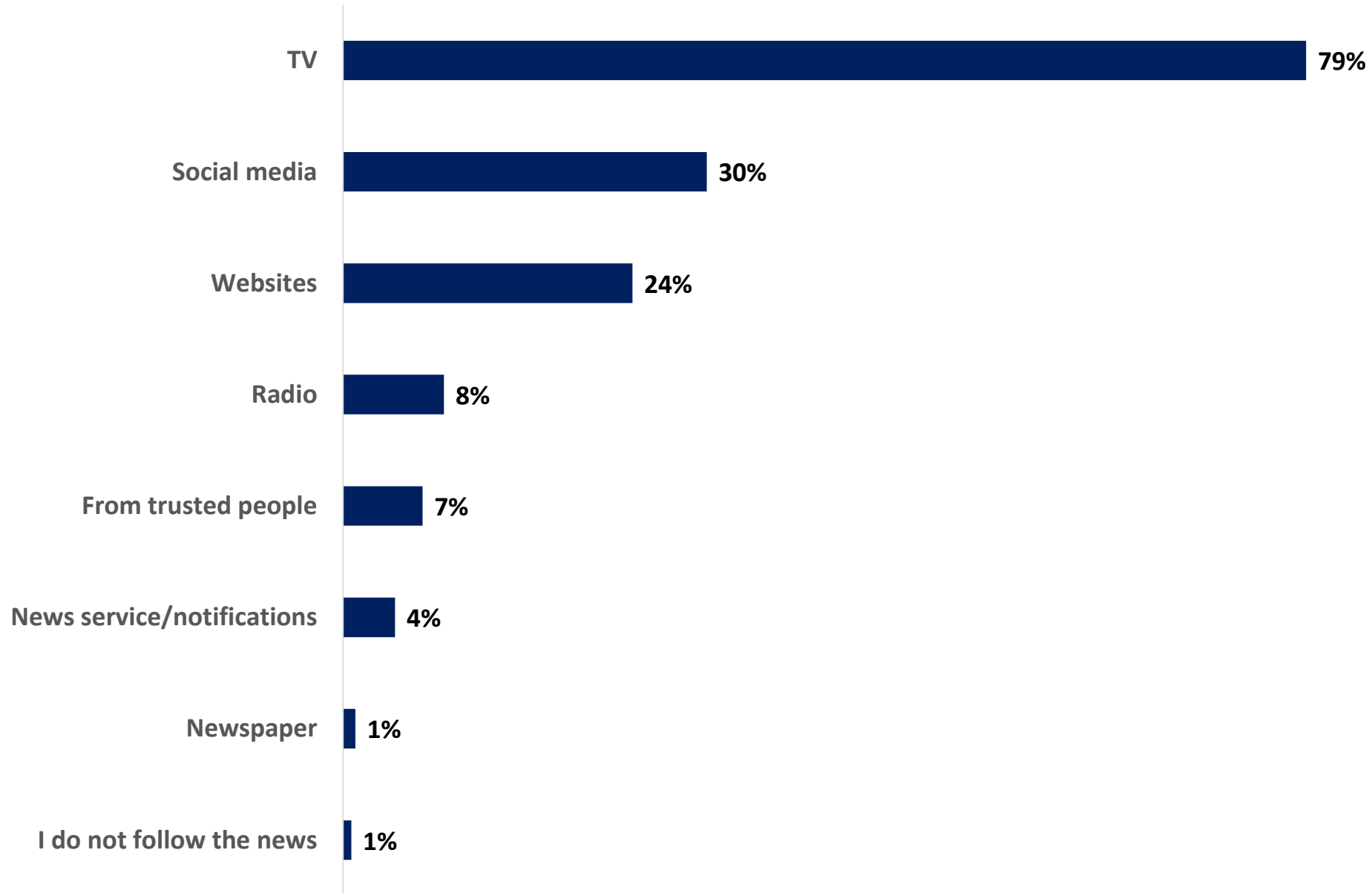
- Ideal public figure
 - Lebanese youth seemed to have diverse opinions regarding whom they consider as their ideal public figure. In addition to that 27% of the respondents do not have any ideal public figure.
- The top 3 political figures who express the Lebanese youth opinions are:
 - Hassan Nasrallah (22%)
 - Nabih Berri (16%)
 - Saad el Hariri (11%)
 - However a considerable number of respondents (24%) believed that none of the political figures express their opinions.
- The top 3 political parties which express the Lebanese youth opinions are:
 - Hizbouallah (12%)
 - Amal movement (11%)
 - Lebanese forces (10%)
 - However 27% stated that none of the political parties express their opinion

Analysis: Political Orientation

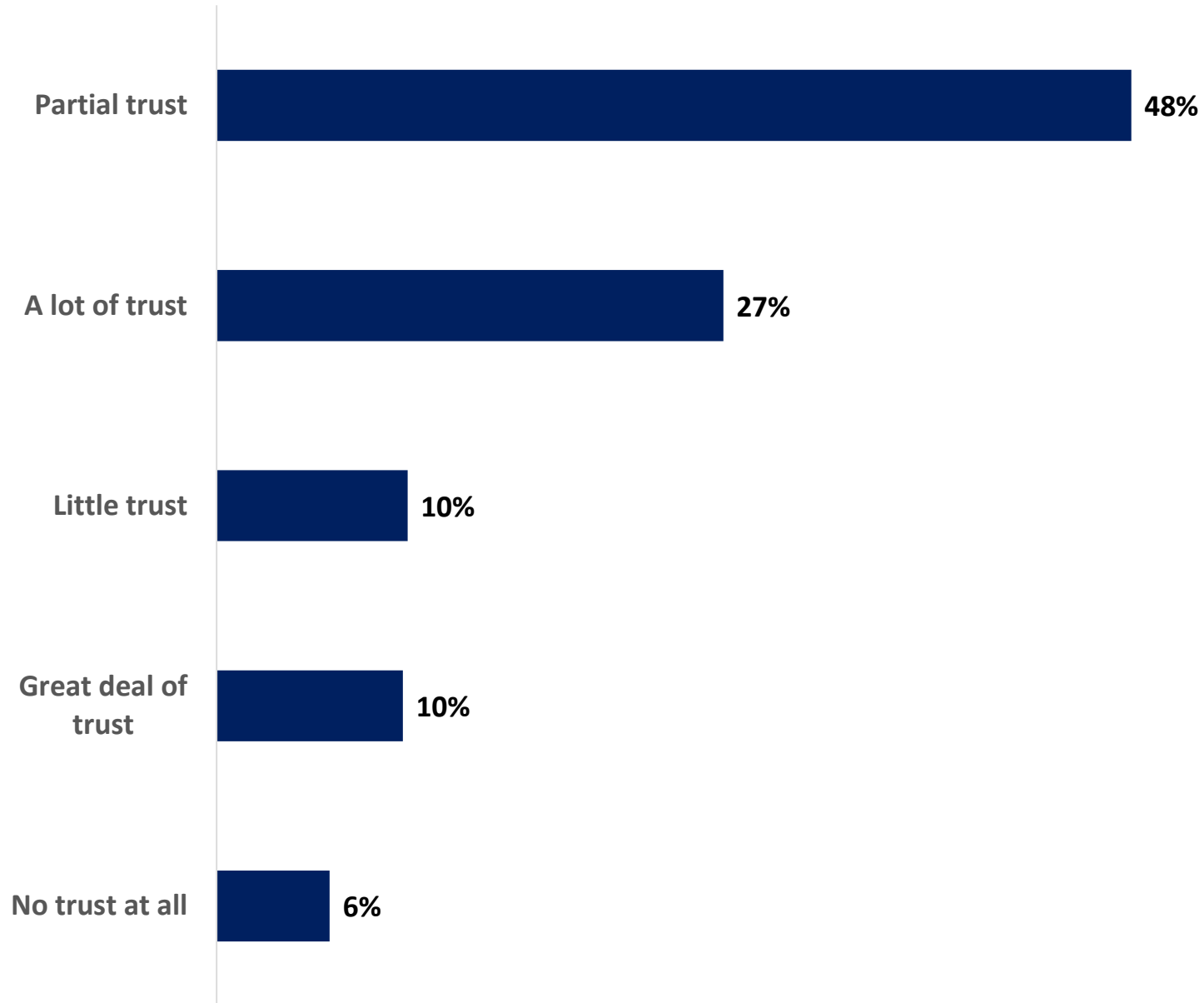
- **Political membership**
 - The vast majority of the respondents (91%) are not members of any political party.
 - The minority of the respondents (9%) are members either because they (28%) or their family (27%) support the party leader or because the idea of the party convince them (25%).
- **Participation in public affairs**
 - Majority of the Lebanese youth (89%) do not aspire to participate in public affairs
 - The minority (11%) who want to participate in the public affairs are equally interested in either parliament (52%) or municipality (48%).
- **Main countries that support Lebanon**
 - The First most supporting country according to the Lebanese youth is Saudi Arabia (30%) followed by Iran (22%).

Section 3: Sources of Information

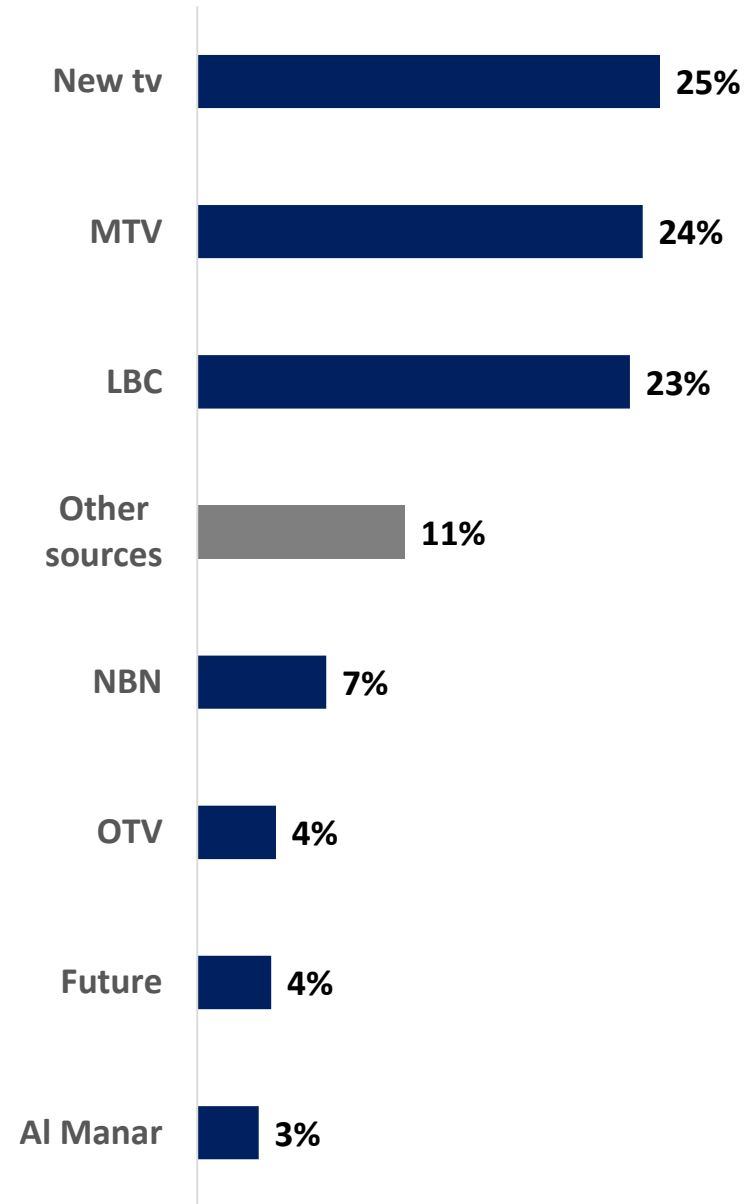
What sources do you use for information and political news?



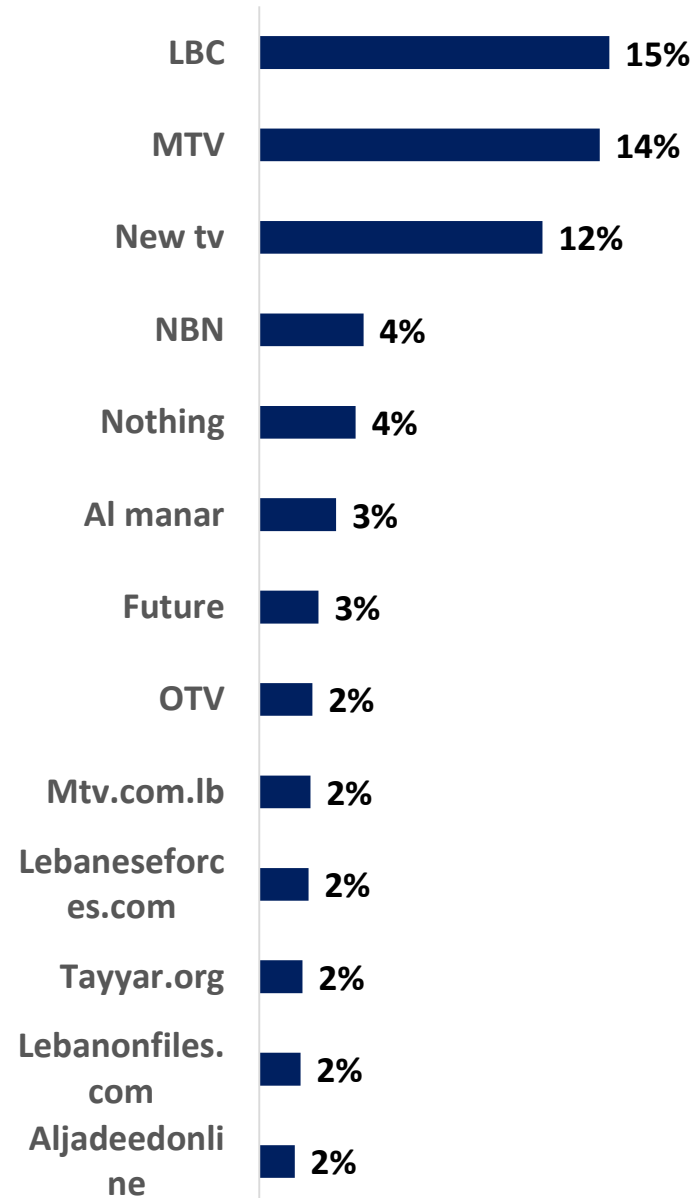
To what extent do you trust these sources?



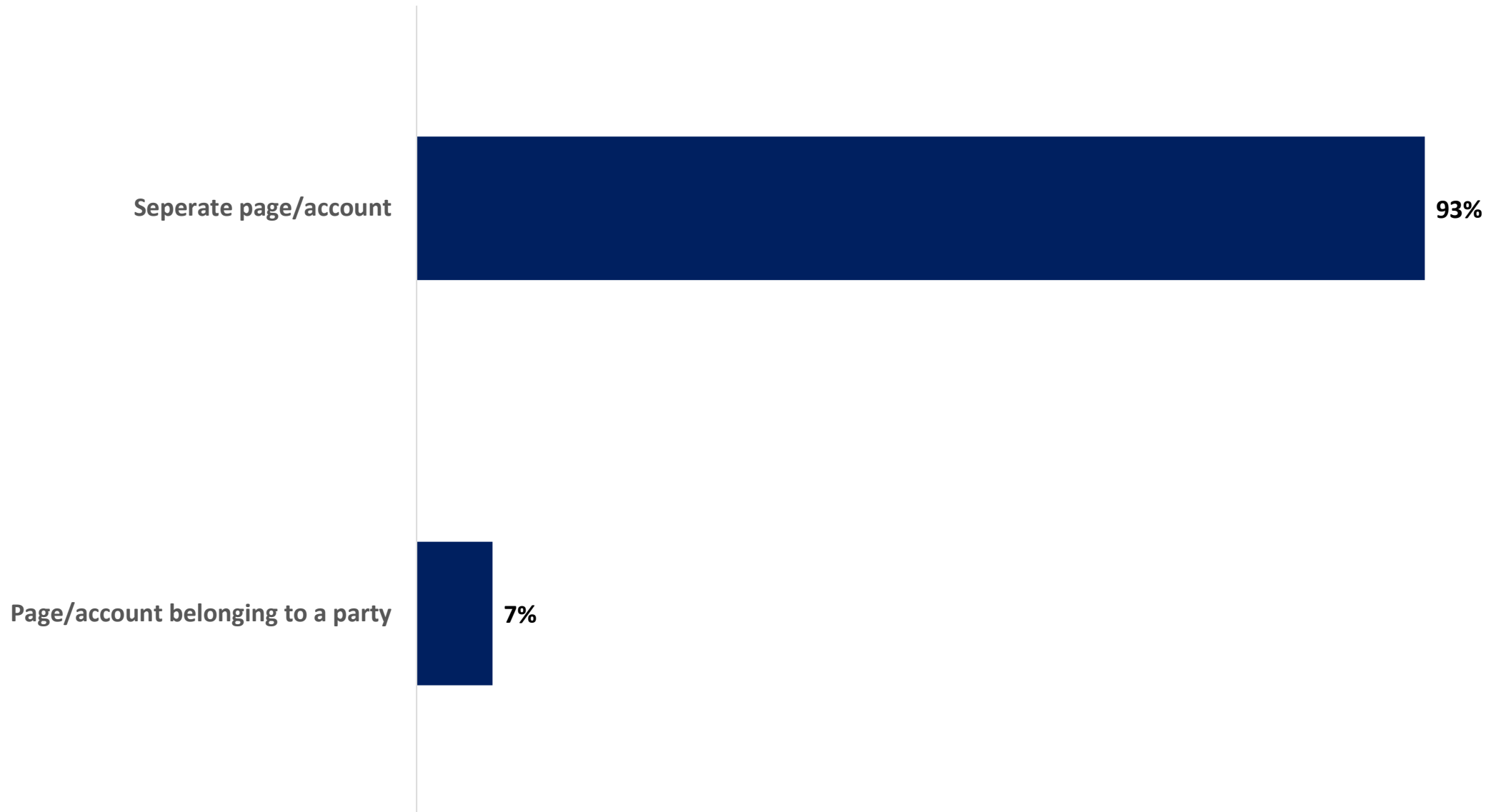
Name your primary source:



Name your secondary source:



For those who have declared that they are following the news via social media (n=357), do you use a party's social media pages or rely on a independent account

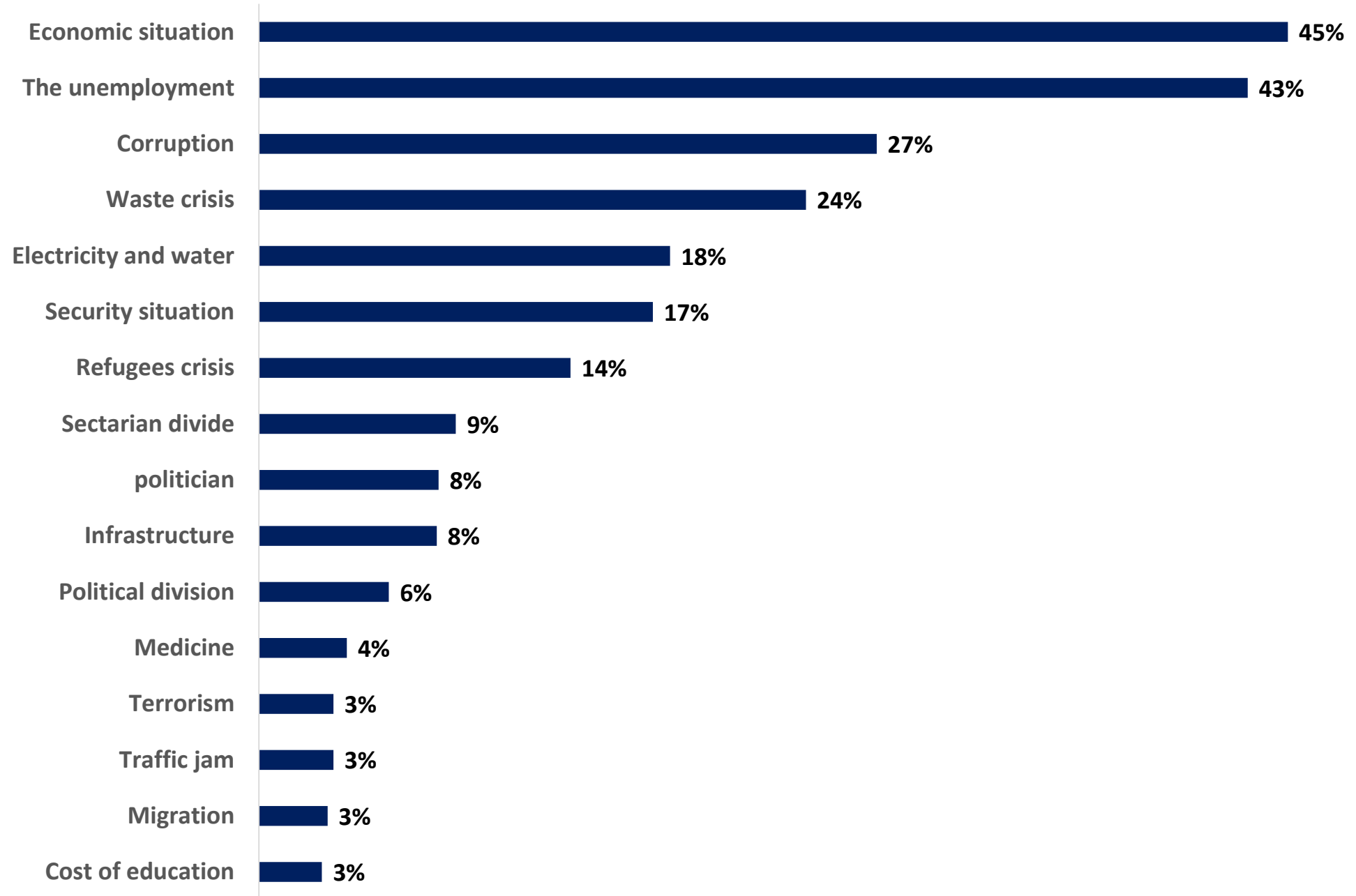


Analysis: Sources of Information

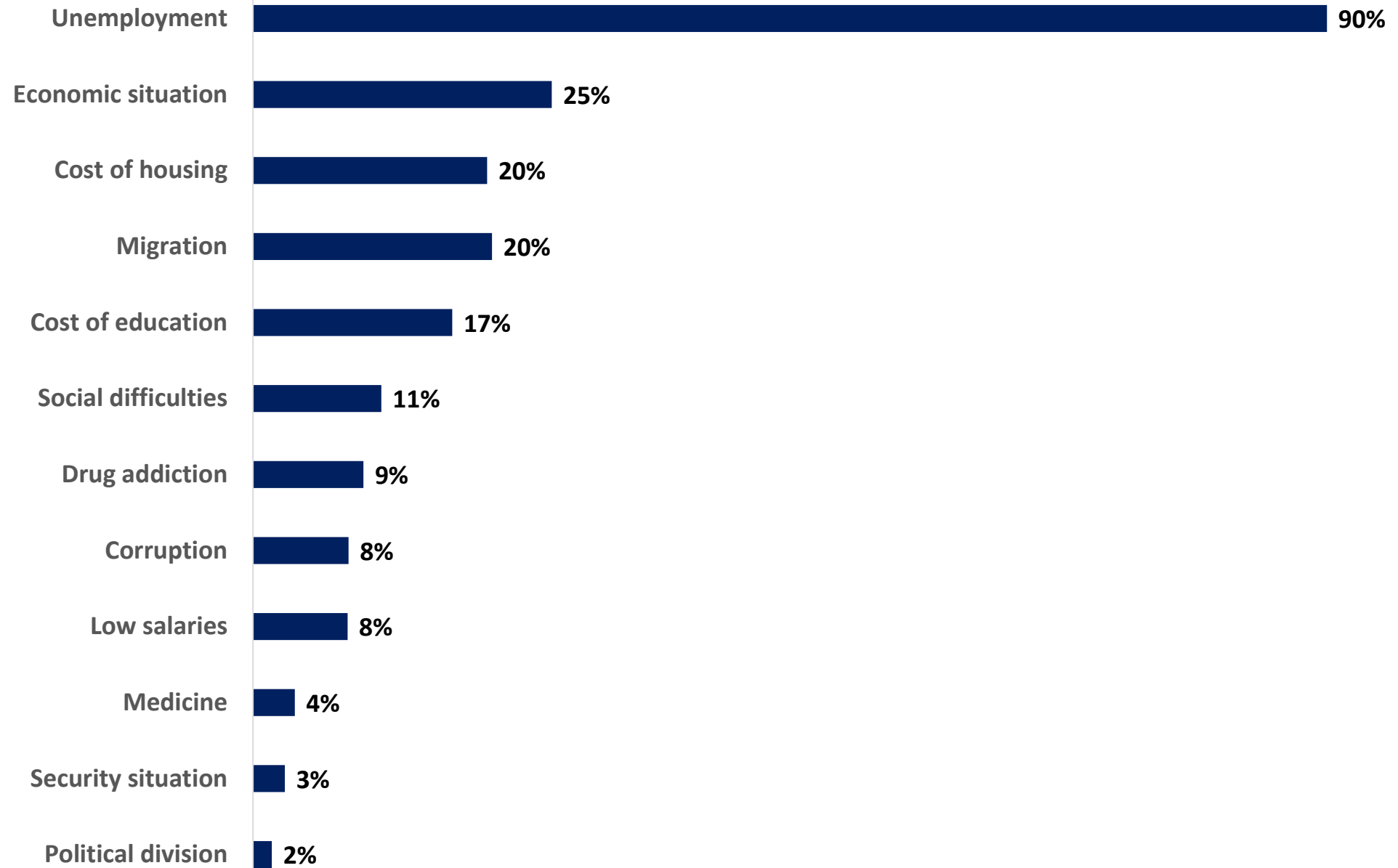
- Main source of information:
 - The majority considered TV as their main source of information (79%)
 - Followed by social media (30%) and websites (24%)
 - The vast majority (93%) use independent accounts and pages to get the news from the social media
 - Only 1% rely on the press
 - Almost half of the respondents (48%) stated that they partially trust these sources, 27% showed a lot of trust and 10% had little trust
- Primary channels:
 - New TV is the foremost channel for 25%
 - Closely Followed by MTV (24%) and LBC (23%)
- Secondary Channels:
 - LBC (15%)
 - MTV (14%)
 - New TV (12%)

Section 4: Concerns and needs of the Lebanese youth

What are the top 3 problems facing Lebanon today?



What are the 3 most important problems facing young people today?



In general, are you optimistic or pessimistic about your future?

Optimistic

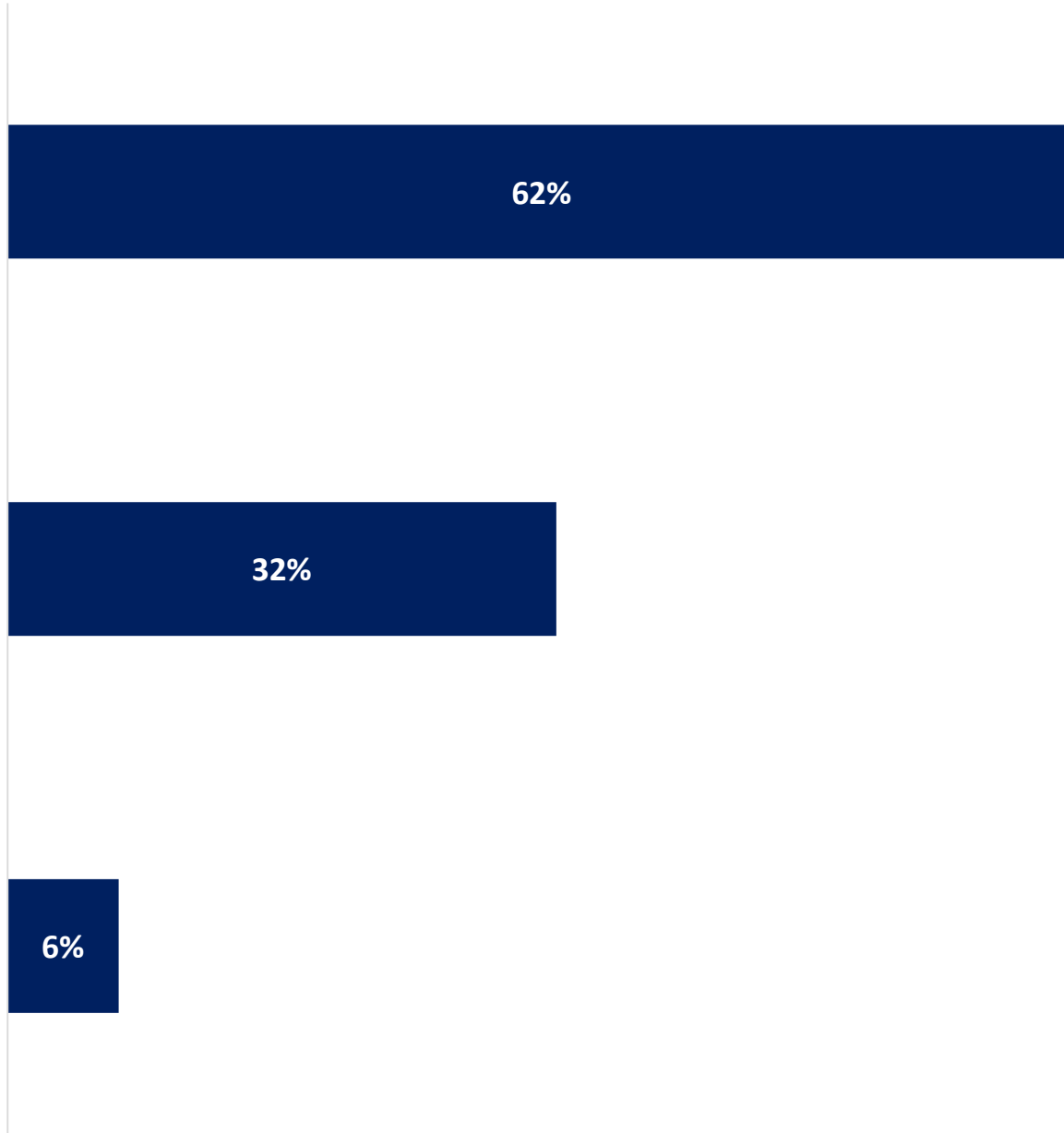
62%

Pessimist

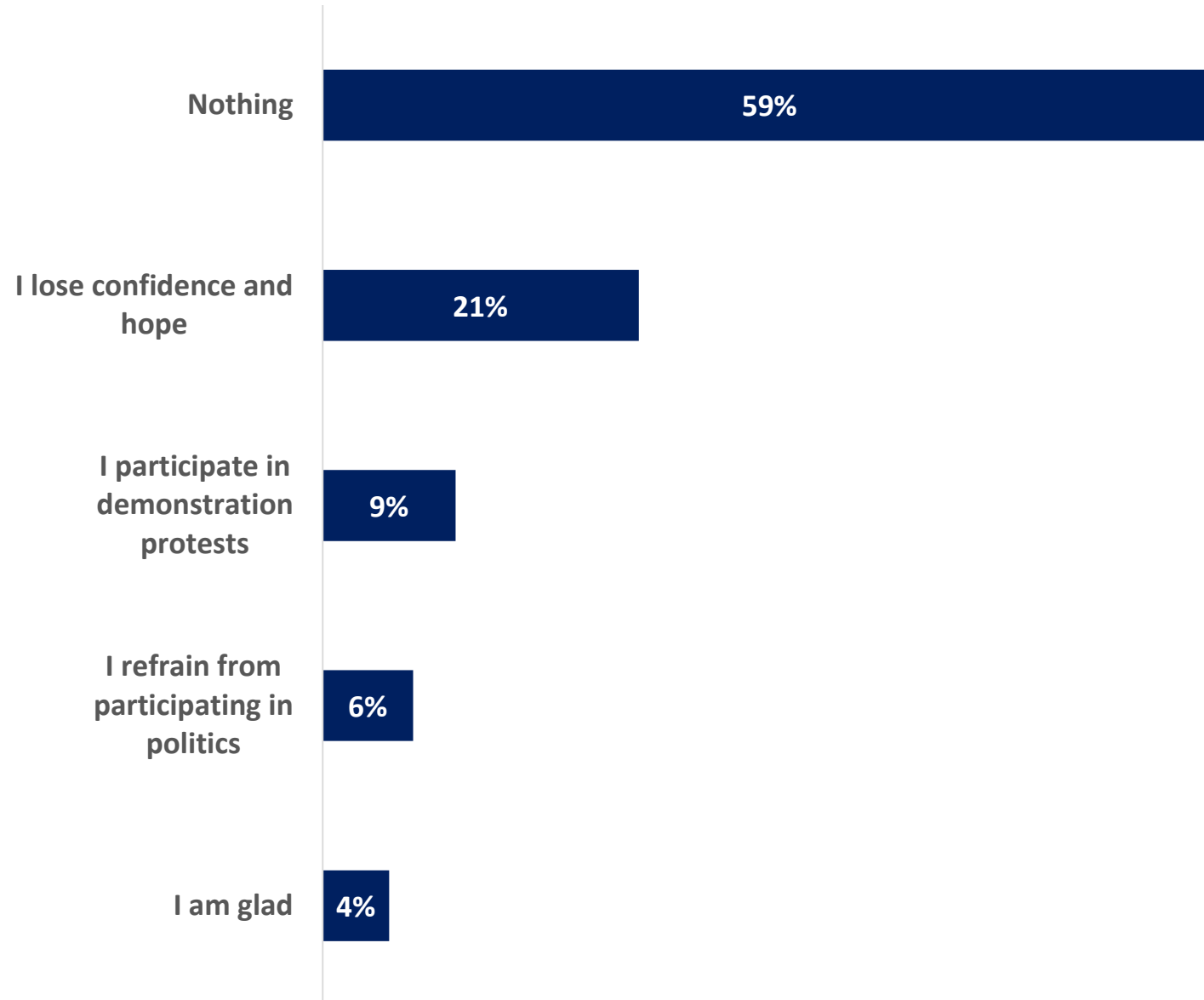
32%

No answer

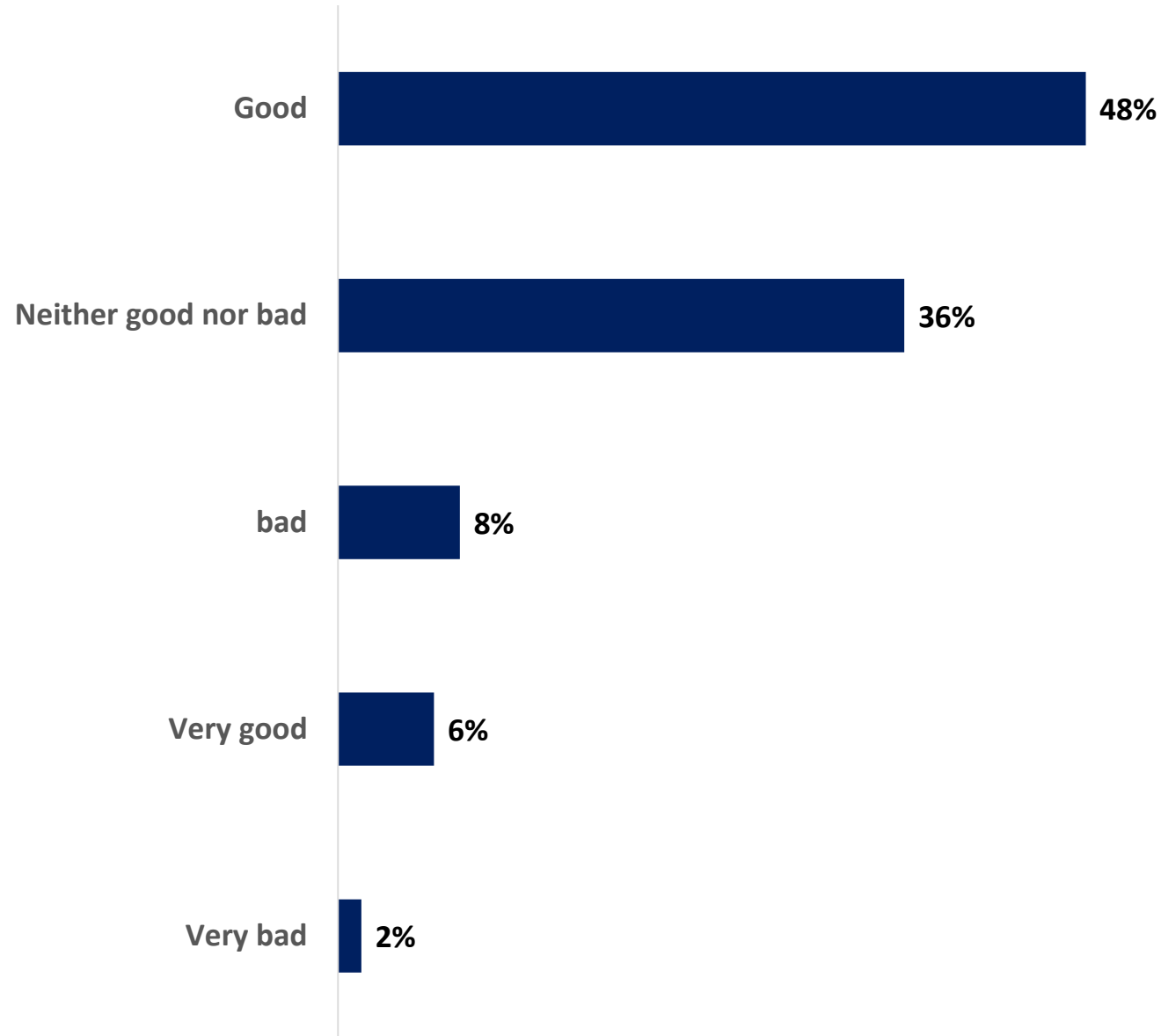
6%



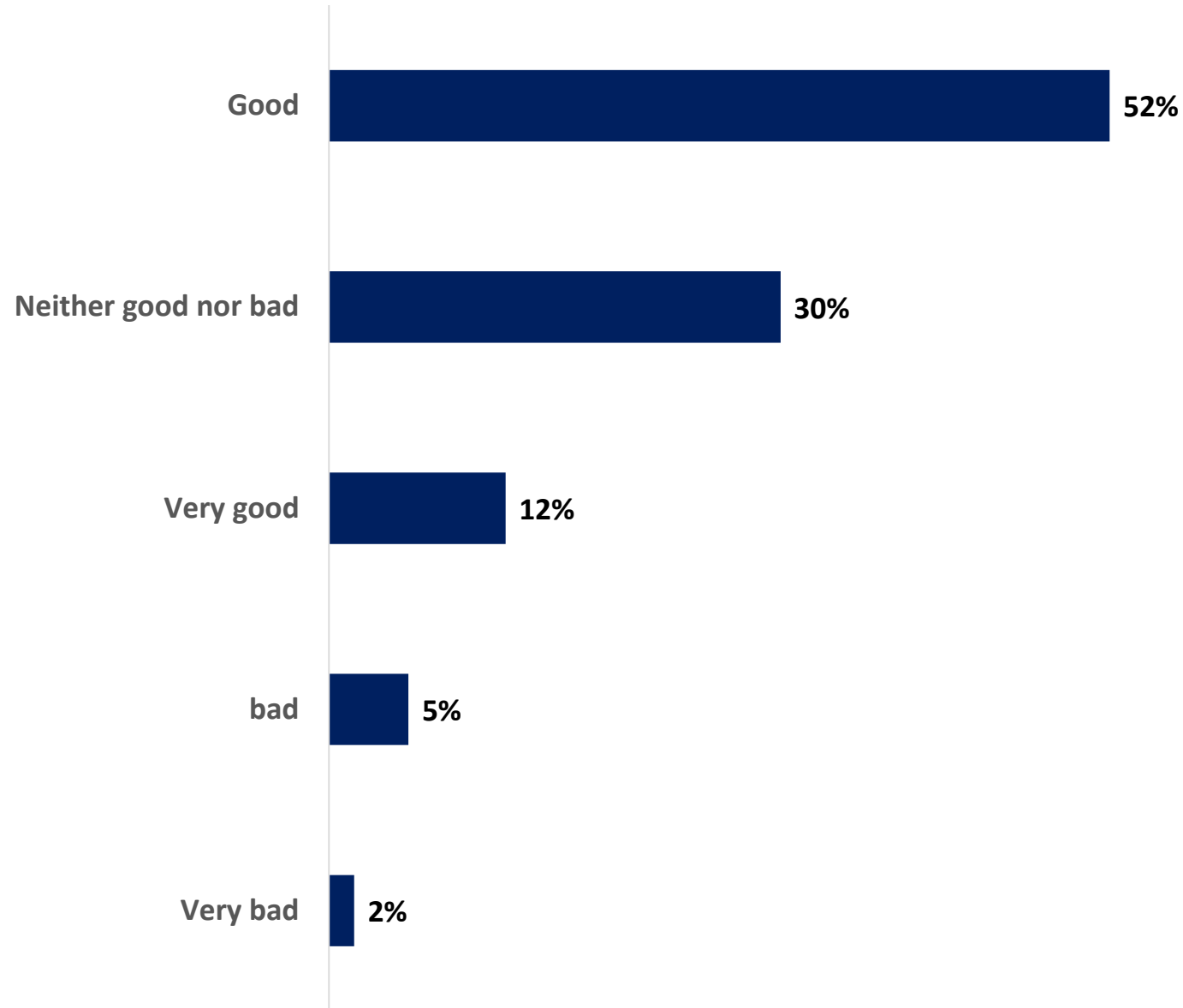
What is your position in case the May 6 elections are postponed?



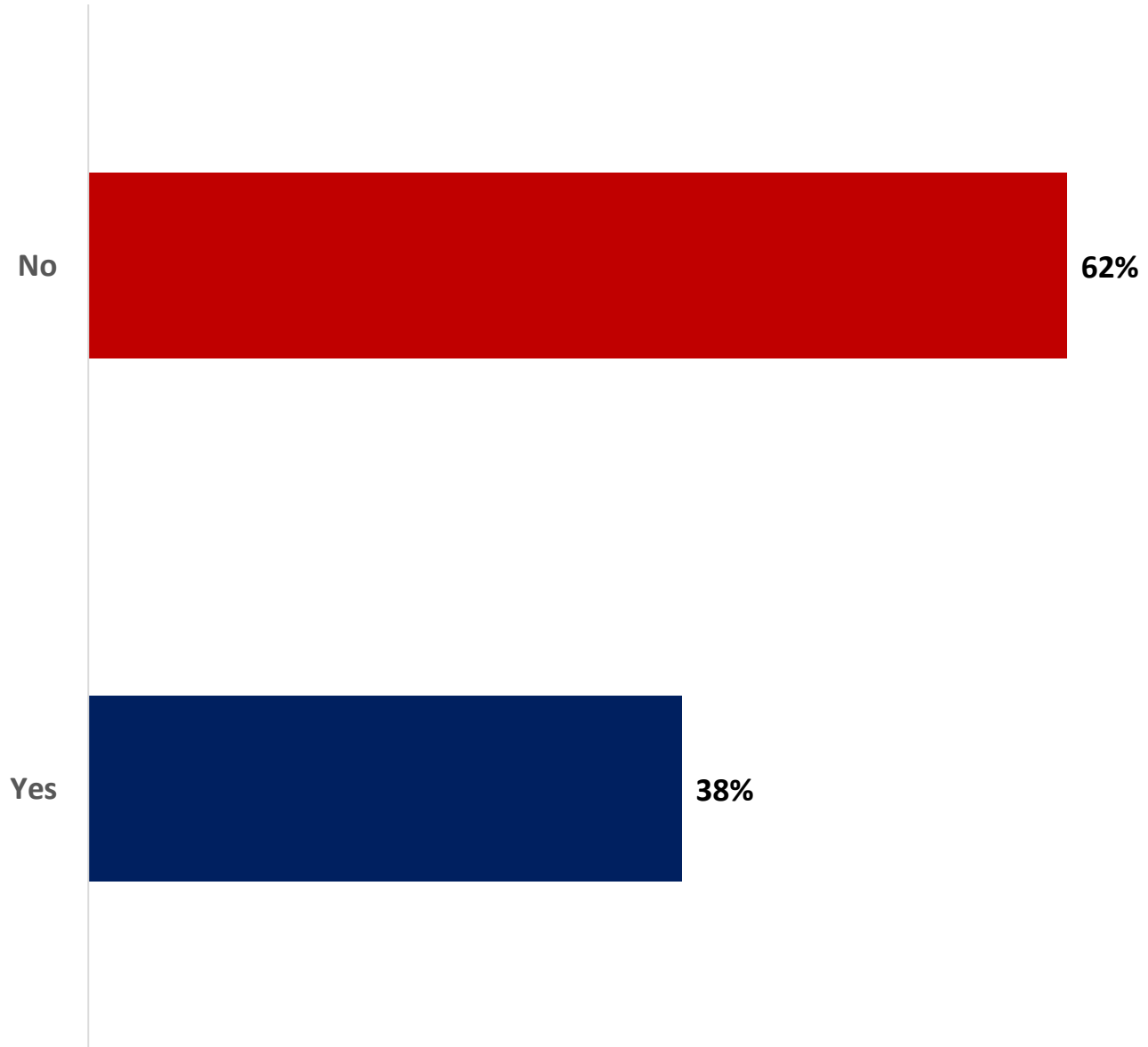
How do you describe your life in general today?



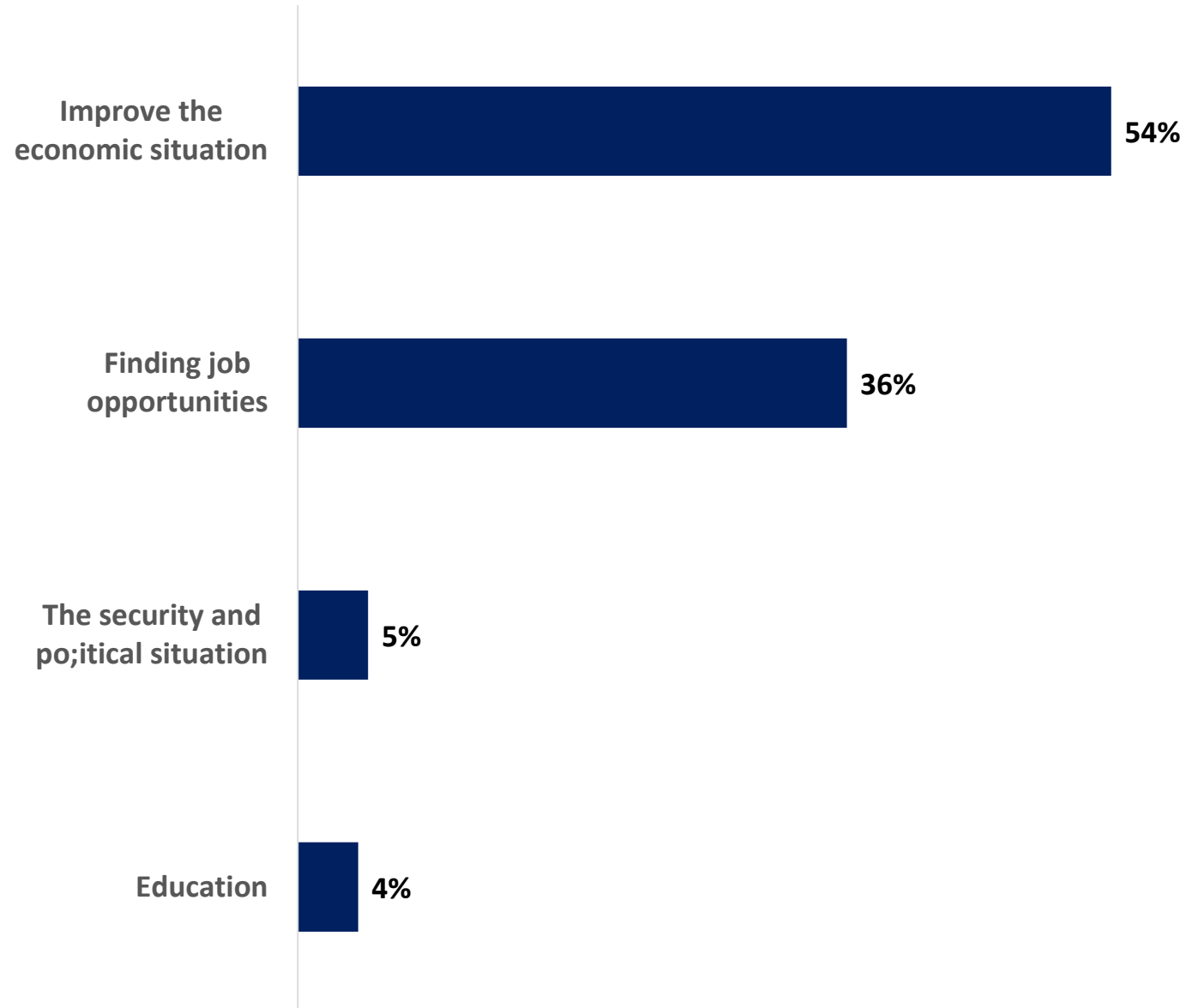
How do you think your life will be in the future?



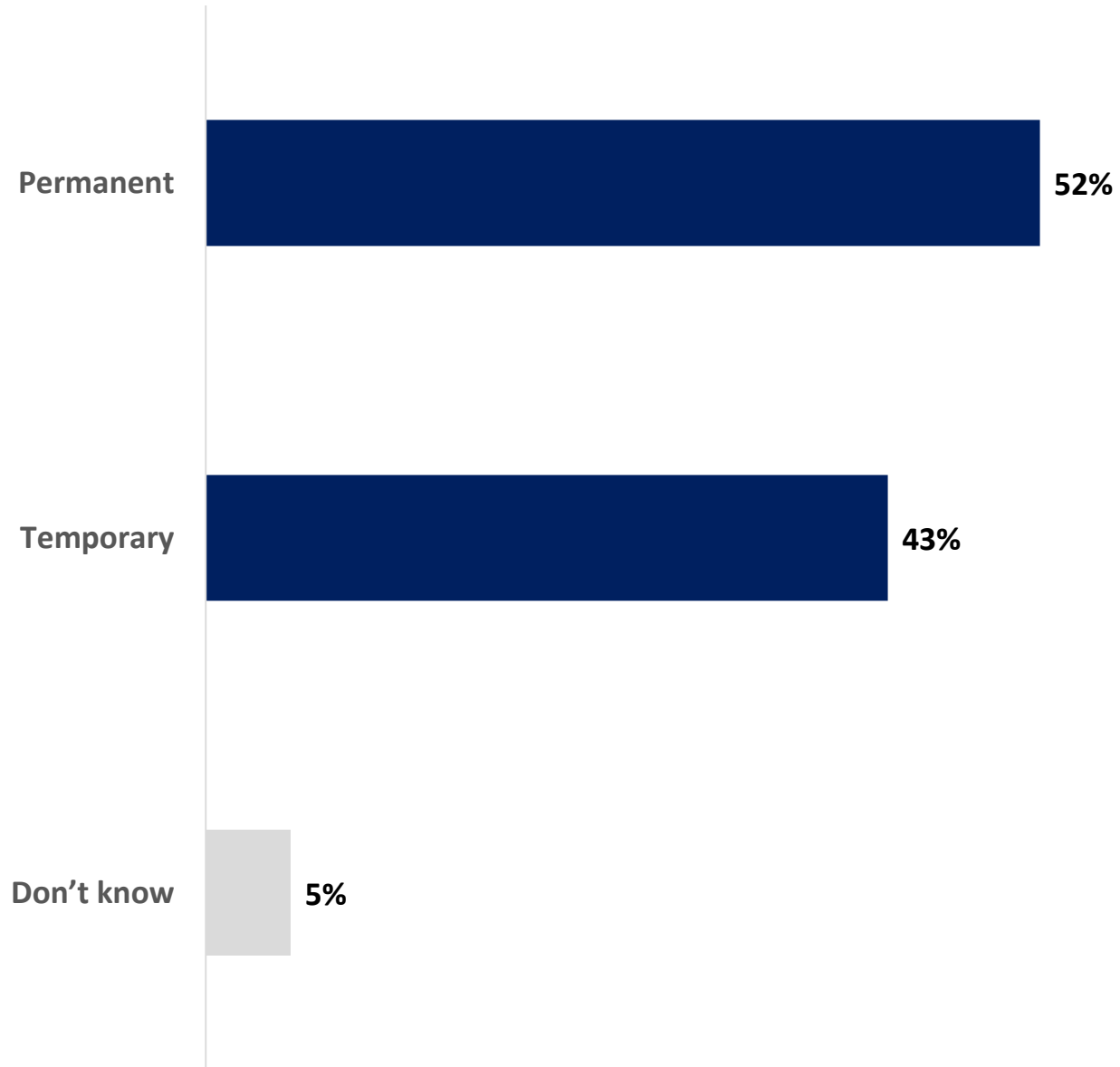
Do you think of emigration?



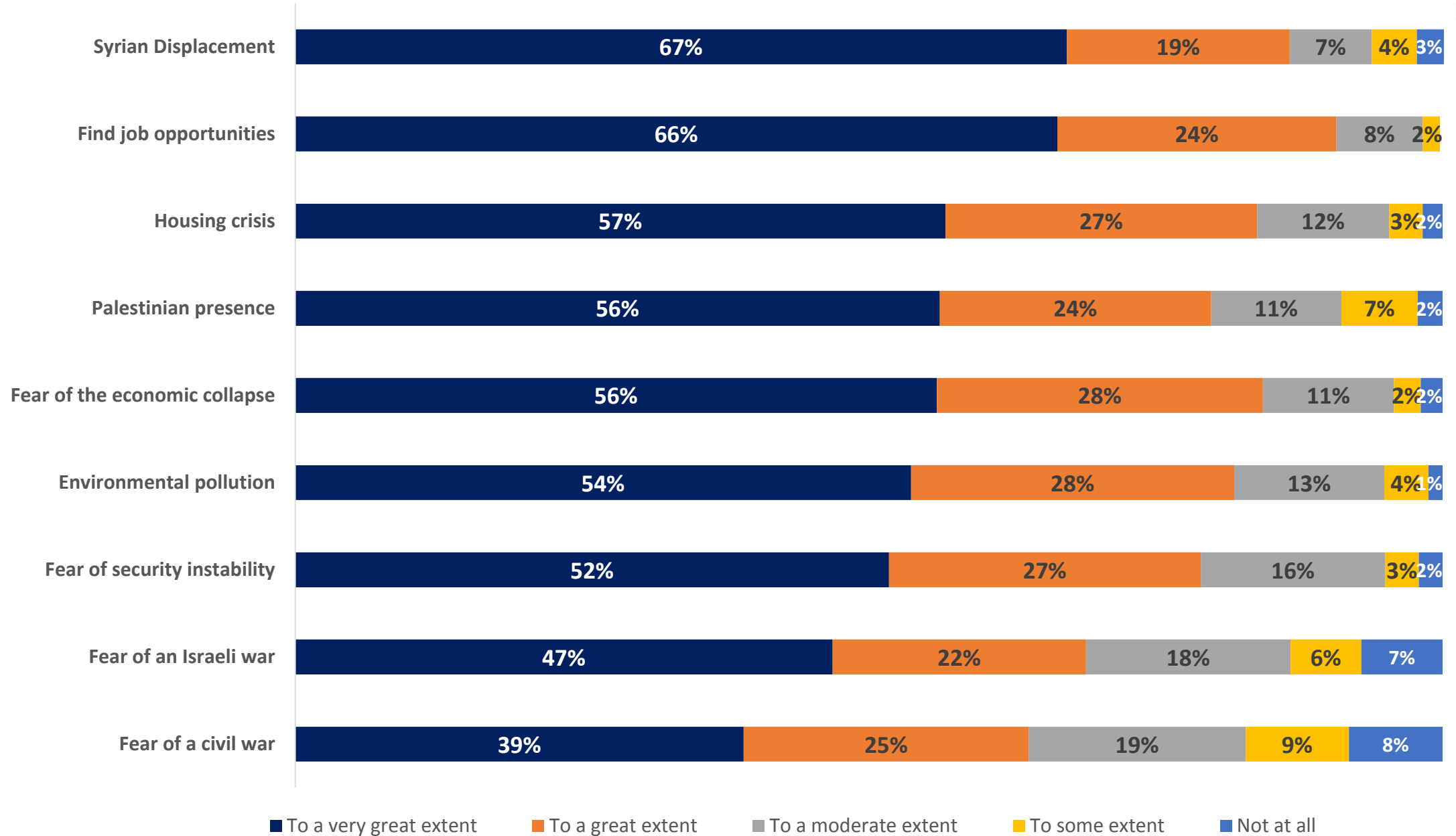
If the answer is "yes", what will motivate you to emigrate? (n=453)



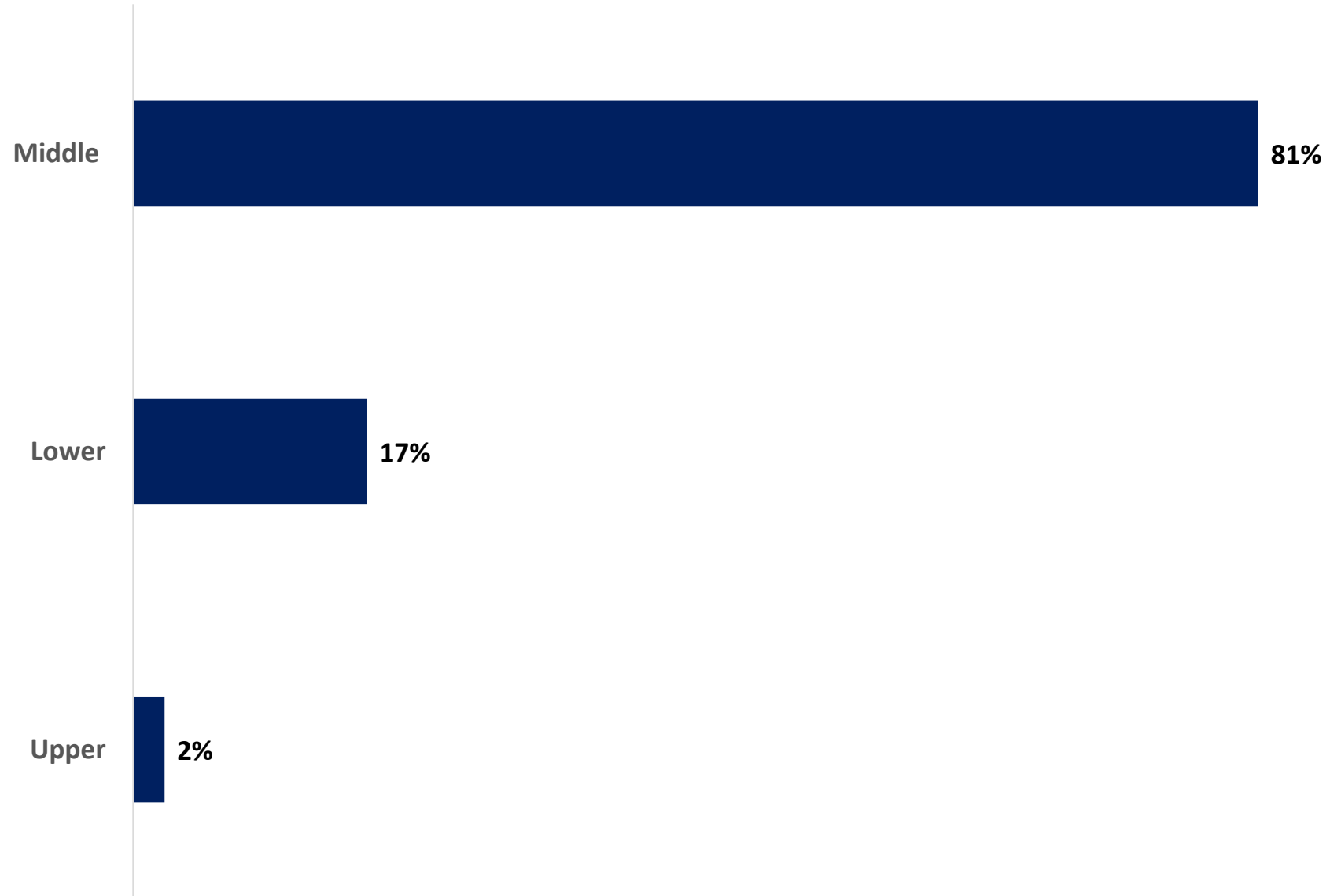
If the answer is "yes", do you think of emigration as? (n=453)



To what extent are the following issues of concern to you?



How do you classify your social status? Do you consider yourself to belong to the... class:



- The most important problems facing Lebanon today according to the youth are the
 - The 'Economic situation' for 45% followed very closely by 'Unemployment' for 43%
 - Corruption for 27%
 - Security was critical for 17%
- Delivery of essential services were also relevant to the Lebanese public according to youth
 - The water crisis is important for 25%
 - Electricity for 18%
 - Infrastructure 8%
- The most important problems faced by youth
 - 90% considered unemployment a problem
 - 81% of the respondents defined themselves as Middle Class



Analysis: Concerns and needs of the Lebanese youth

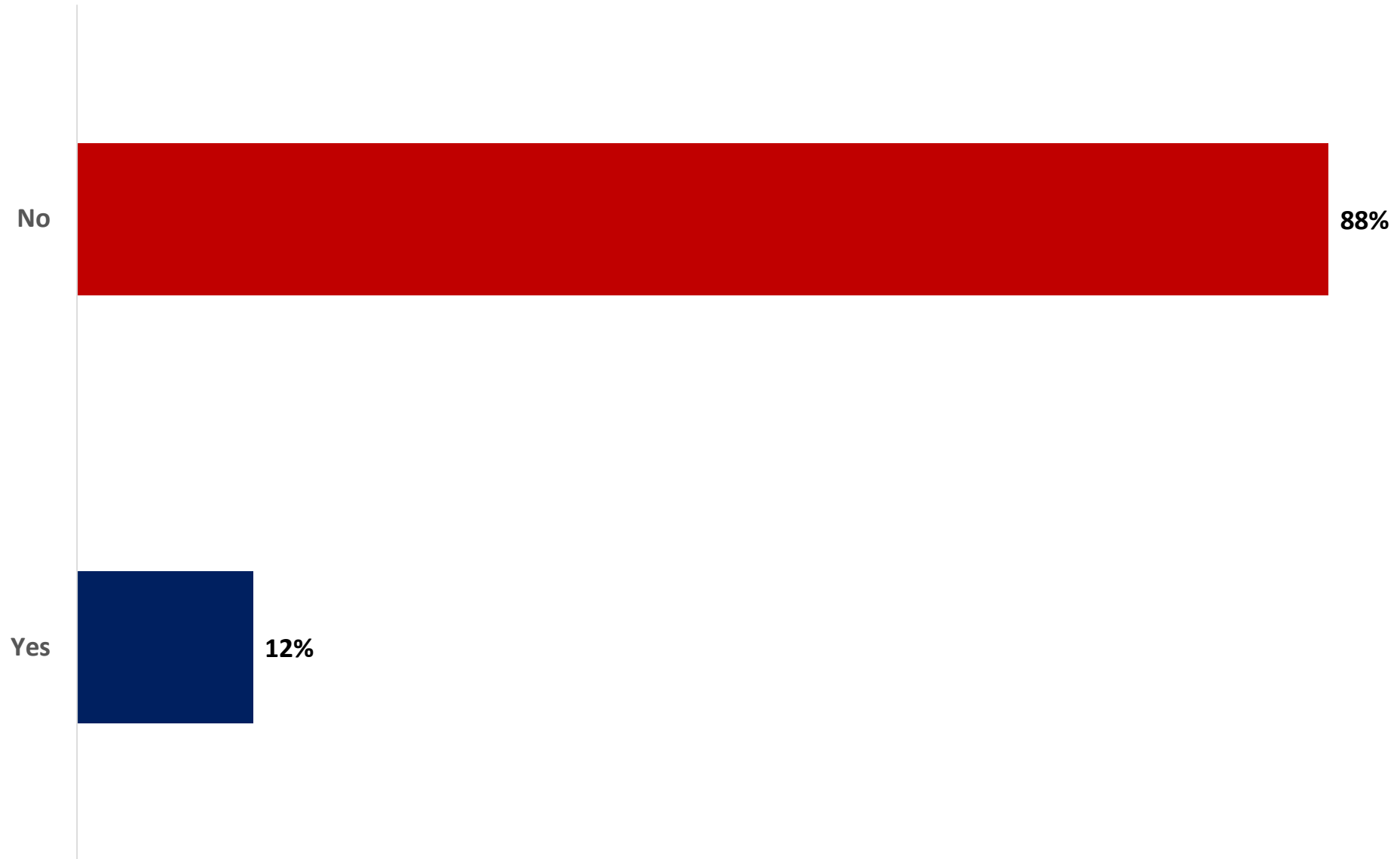
- Other problems for youth are mainly economic
 - 25% considered the overall economic situation important to them
 - 20% were worried about 'Cost of housing'
 - 20% Migration
 - 17% 'Cost of education'
 - Corruption dropped from 27% as a Lebanese problem to 8% for this age group
 - Security was important to 3% versus 17% who considered it a Lebanese problem
- Optimism and quality of life
 - The young remain fairly positive, 62% are optimistic and 48% see their life as good
 - Some half (52%) were positive about their future outlook
 - 36% were more neutral seeing their current life neither good nor bad denoting some uncertainty
- Emigration
 - Up to 38% are considering emigration mainly for economic reasons , 54% to improve their economic status and 36% to find a job
 - Slightly more than half (52%) would consider permanent migration versus 43% temporary

Analysis: Concerns and needs of the Lebanese youth

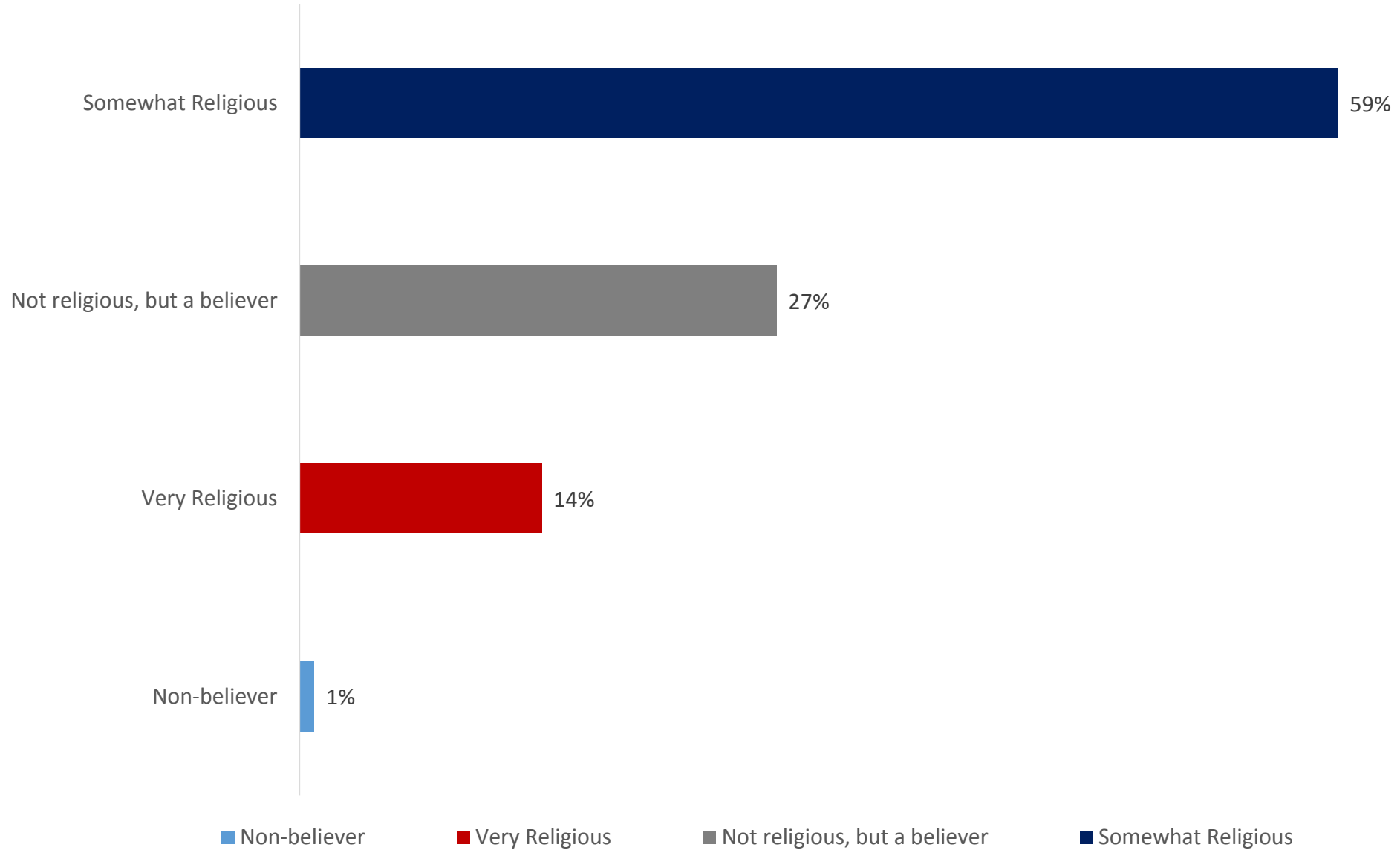
- Probed issues highlighted additional areas of concern to youth
 - Scarcity of job opportunities were yet again to a very/great extent an issue for more than 90%
 - The presence of a large displaced refugee community was the second most significant
 - Displaced Syrian refugees was considered a concern to a very great/ to a great extent by 86%
 - Palestinian presence was also a concern by 80%
 - Collapse of the national economy (84%)
 - The Housing crisis (84%)
 - Environmental pollution (82%)

Section 5: Personal opinions

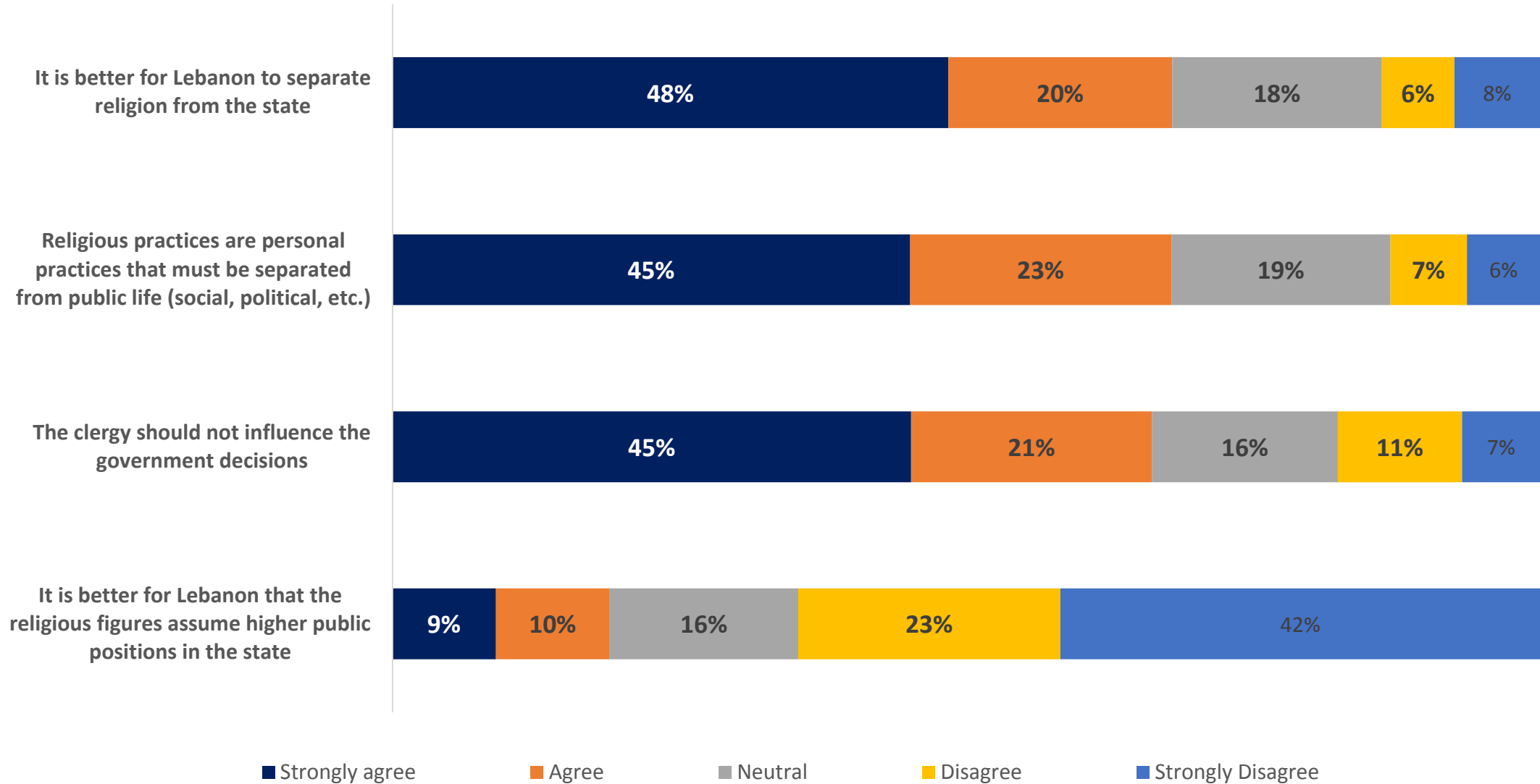
Do you have trouble dealing with someone who is not from your sect?



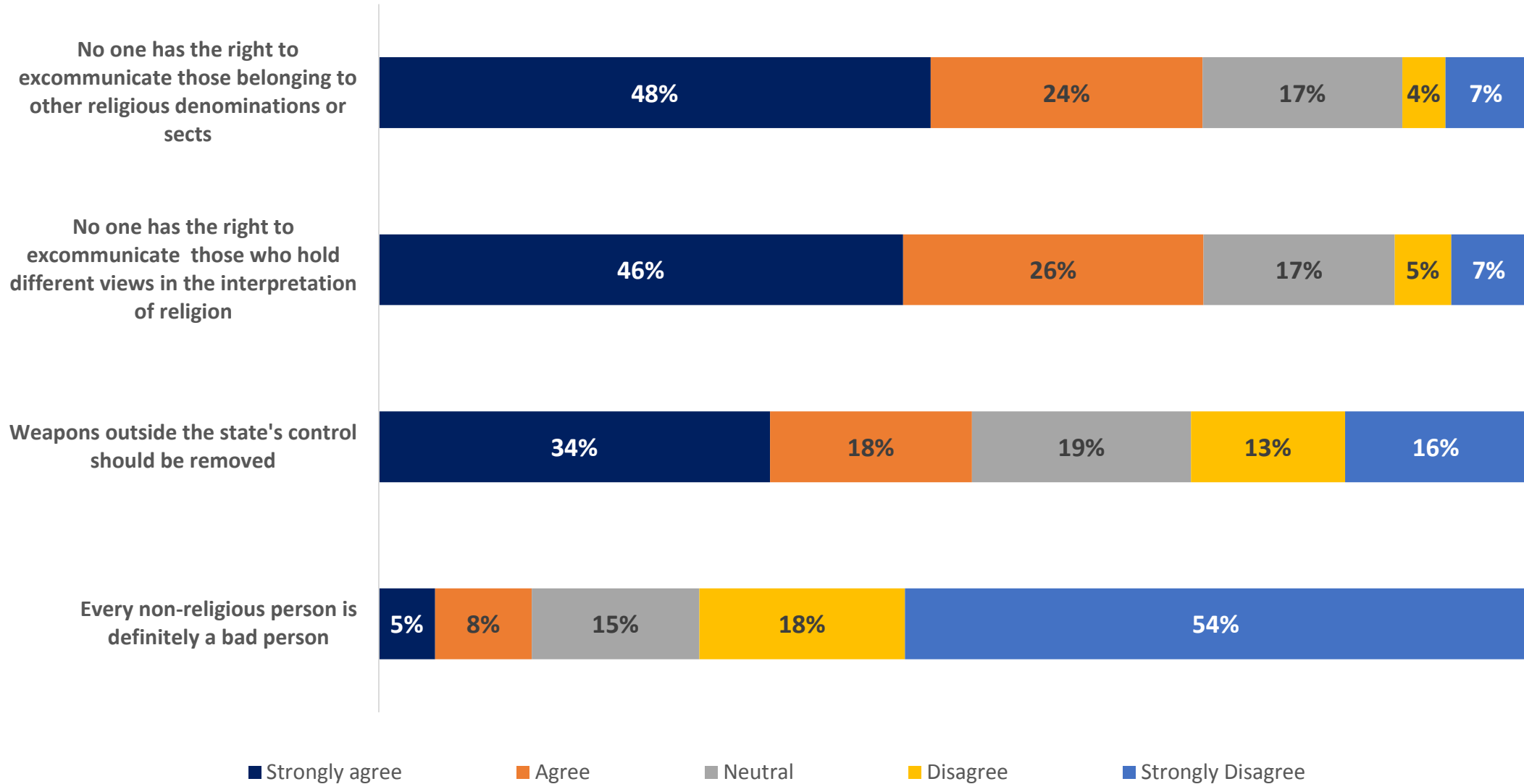
Regardless of whether you go to places of worship or not, do you consider yourself a person:



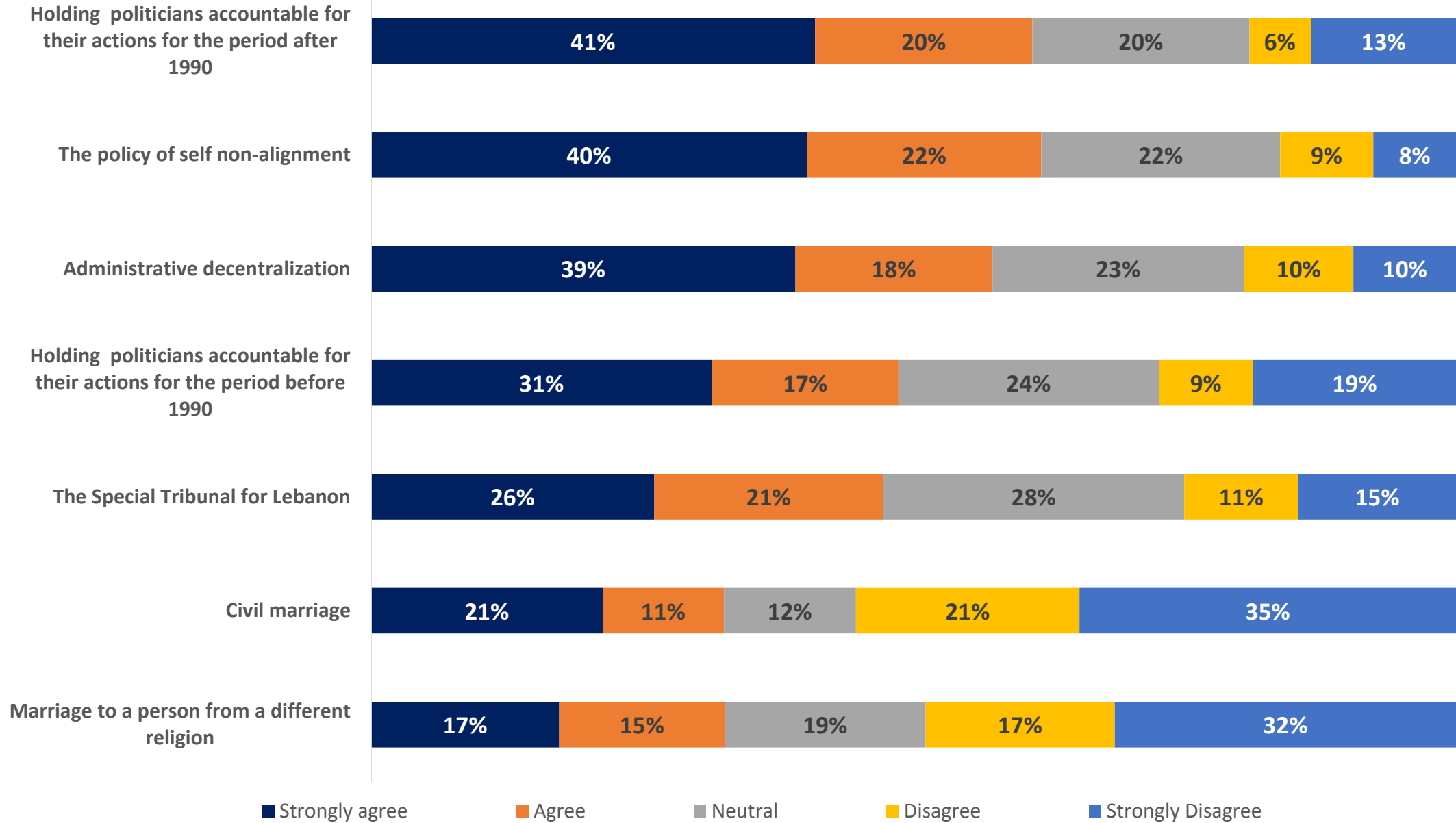
To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements:



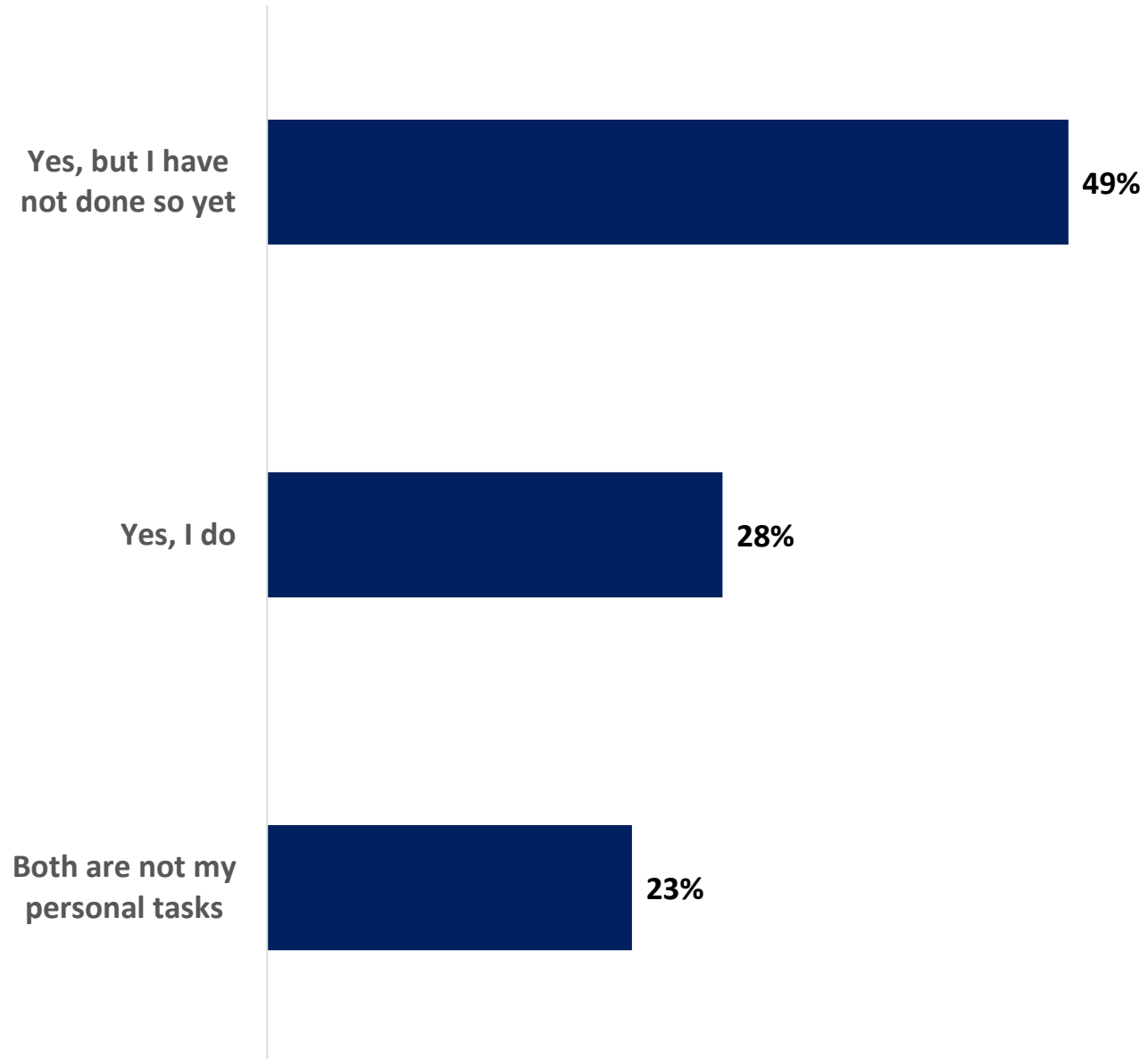
To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements:



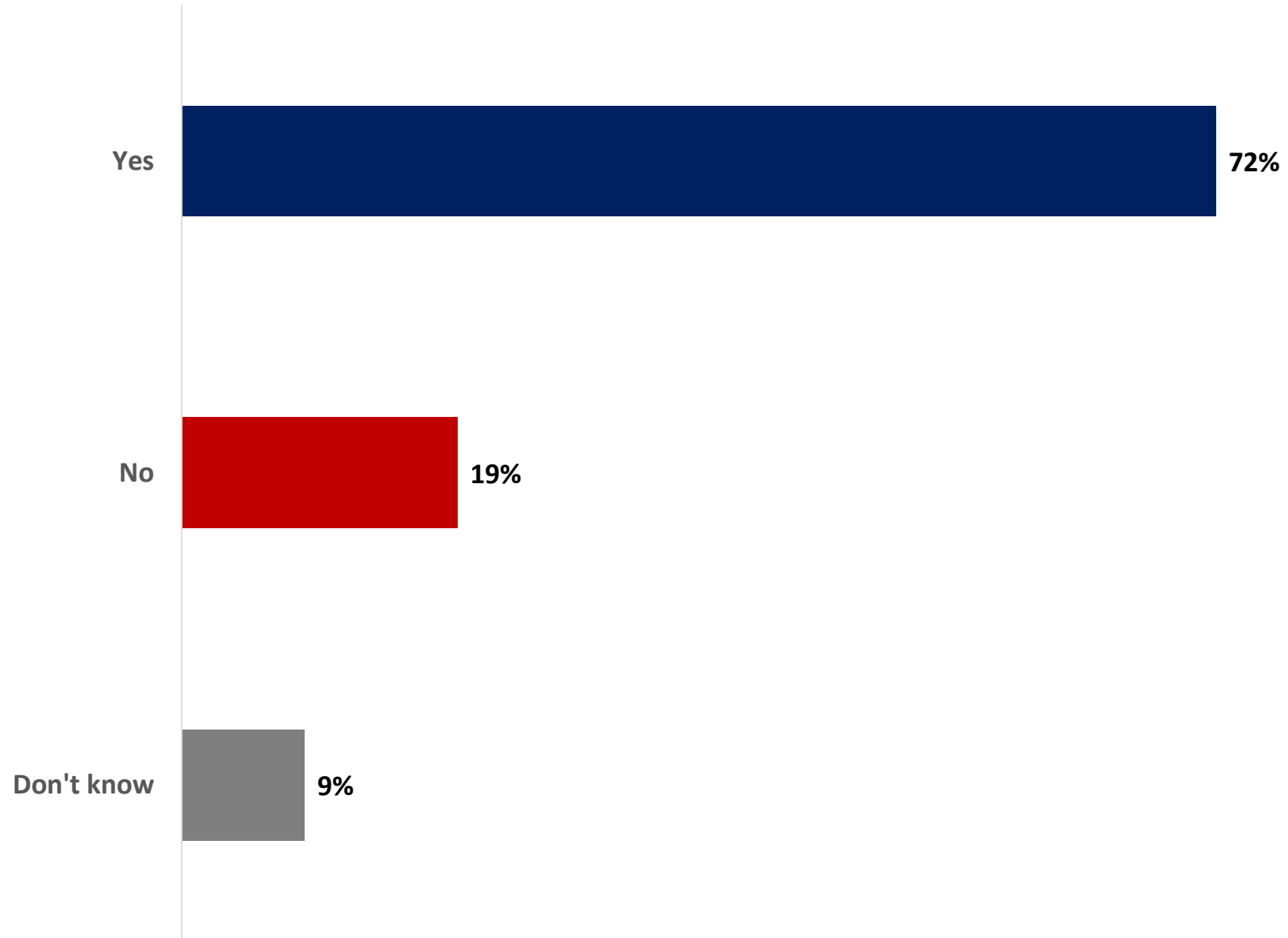
To what extent do you support:



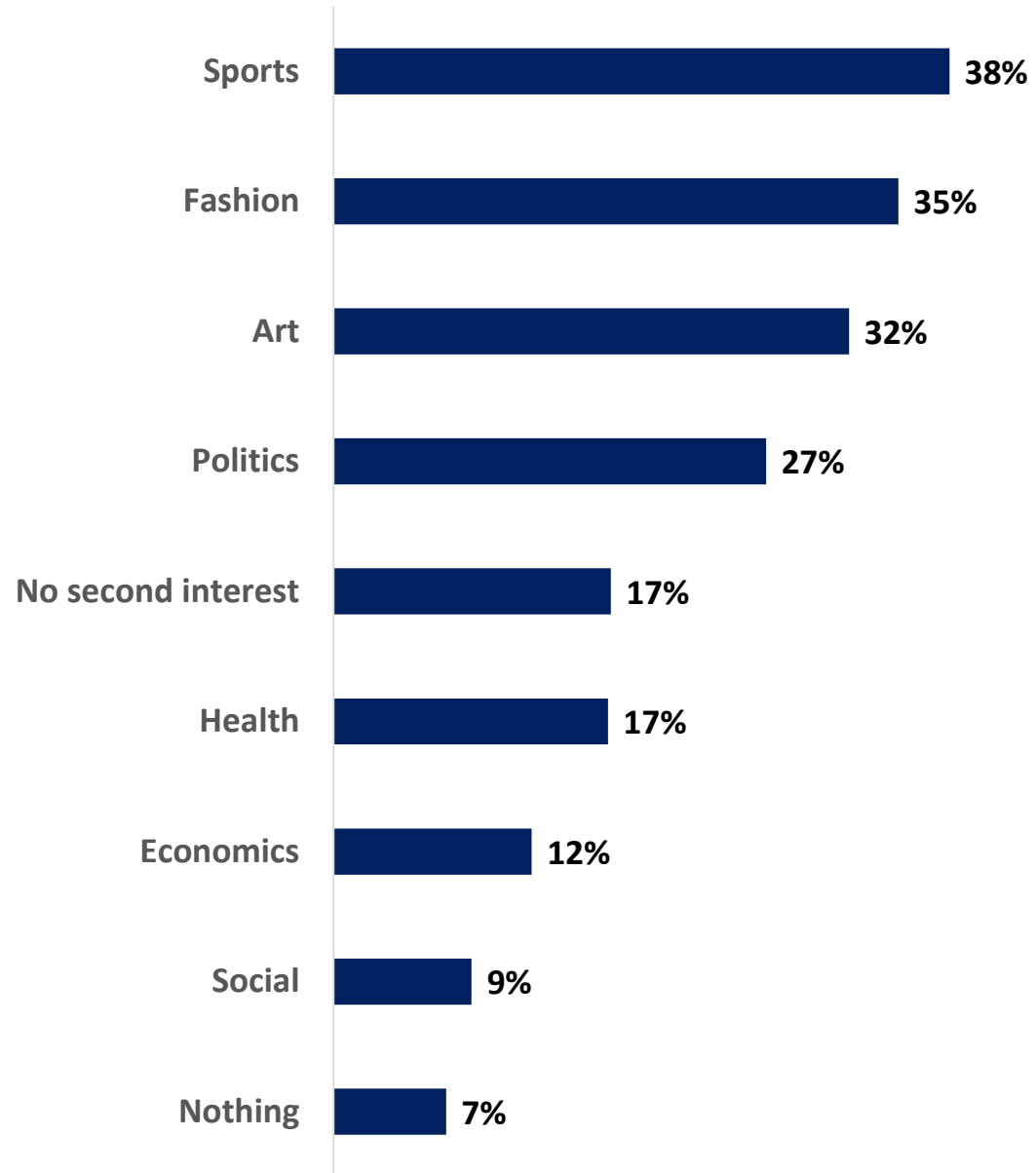
Are you ready to sort the waste at home?



Do you think that what you pay in taxes is enough?



What are your main areas of interest?



Analysis: Personal opinions

- **Religiosity**

- Majority of the respondents (59%) considered themselves somewhat religious and 27% are believers but not religious
- The Lebanese youth (88%) do not mind dealing with people from another sect. However when asked about marrying a person from a different religion almost half of the respondent (49%) did not support the idea

- **Personal opinions**

- There were equal levels of agreement among 68% of the respondents on the idea of separating religion from the state and religious practices from public life (social, political, etc.).
- Similarly the majority of the Lebanese youth strongly agreed (45%) and agreed (21%) that the clergy should not influence the government decisions
- There were equal levels of agreement among 72% of the respondents that no one has the right to excommunicate those belonging to other religious denominations or sects or those who hold different views in the interpretation of religion
- Results showed low levels of agreement (13%) that every non-religious person is definitely a bad person
- Majority of the Lebanese youth strongly disagreed (45%) and disagreed (21%) that it is better for Lebanon when religious figures assume higher public positions in the state
- Some half of the respondents (52%) agreed on the idea that weapons outside the state's control should be removed

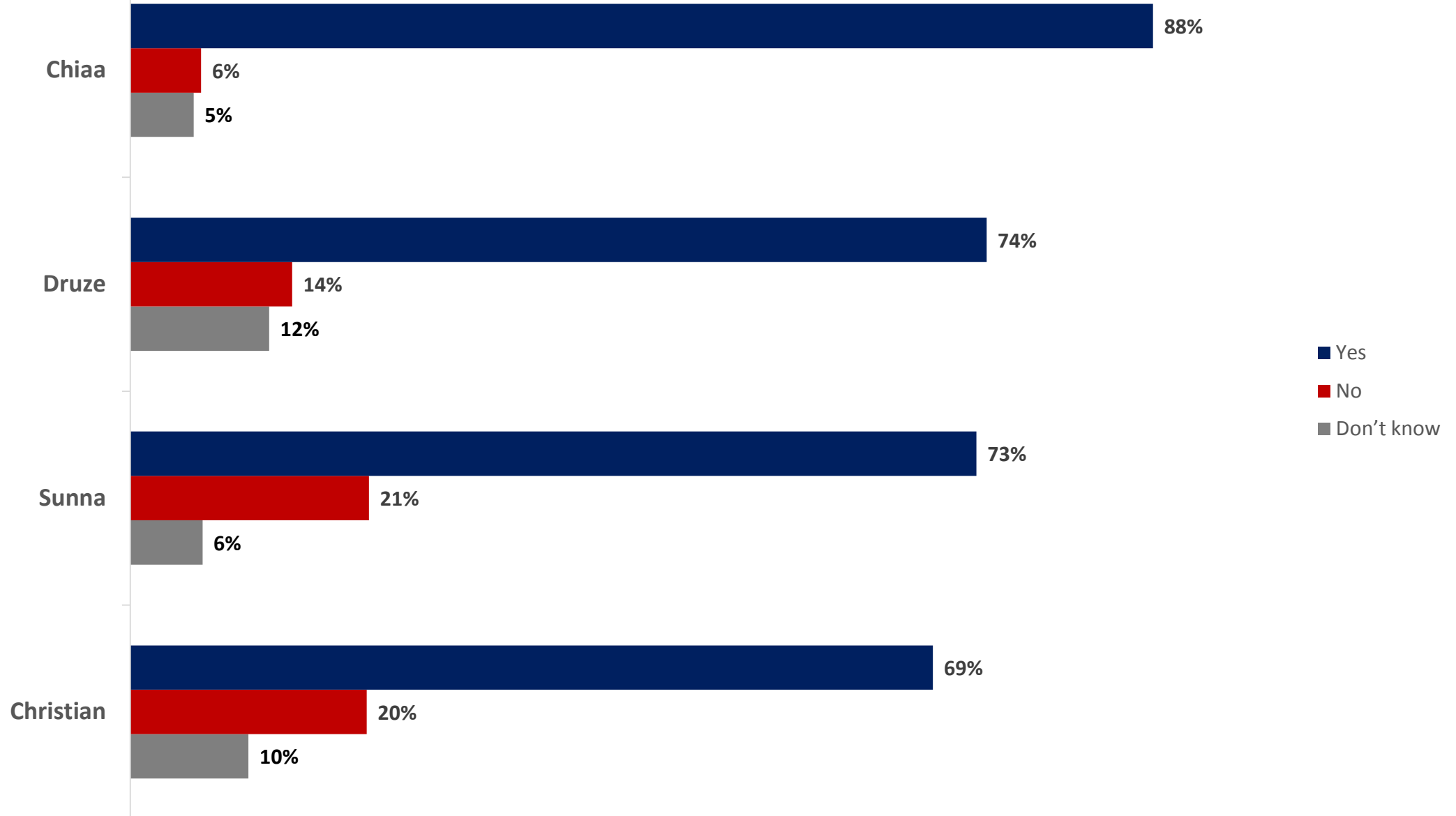
Analysis: Personal opinions

- 61% of the Lebanese youth supported the idea of holding politicians accountable for their actions for the period after 1990, however this percentage dropped to 48% for the period before 1990.
- There was a strong level of agreement with the following concepts:
 - Self non-alignment: 62% supported this policy
 - Administrative decentralization: 57% supported this concept
- However 56% of the respondents did not support the idea of civil marriage
- Almost half of the respondents (49%) are ready to sort waste at home but have not done so yet while 28% believed that it is not their personal chore
- The majority of the respondents (72%) believed that what they pay for taxes is enough
- The main areas of interests among the youth are:
 - Sports (38%)
 - Fashion (35%)
 - Art (32%)

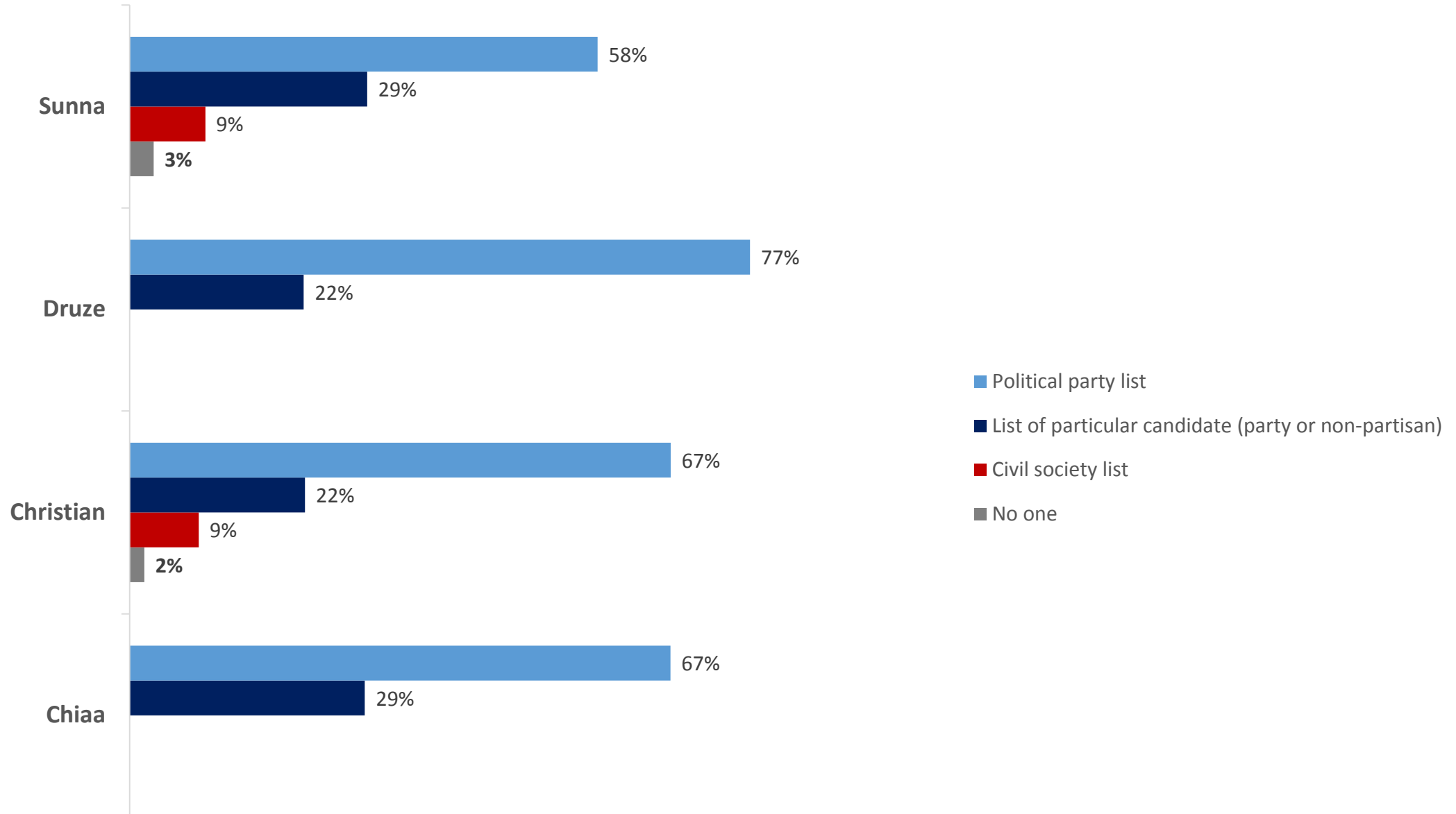
Youth Participation in Elections and their Electoral Choices

Cross tabs by Sect

Will you participate in the parliamentary elections scheduled for May?



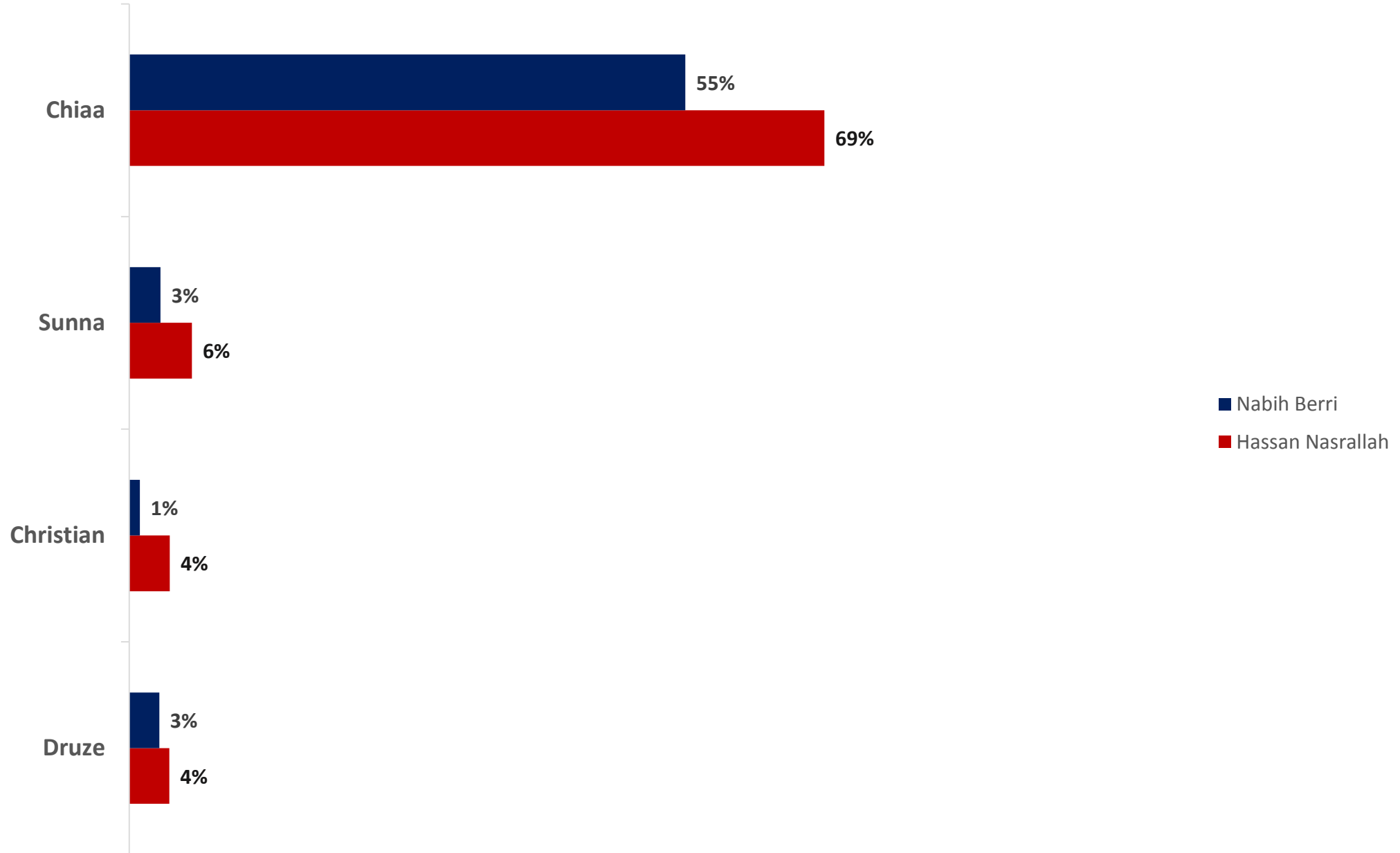
For those who have announced that they will participate in the parliamentary elections, which list will you choose?(n=908)



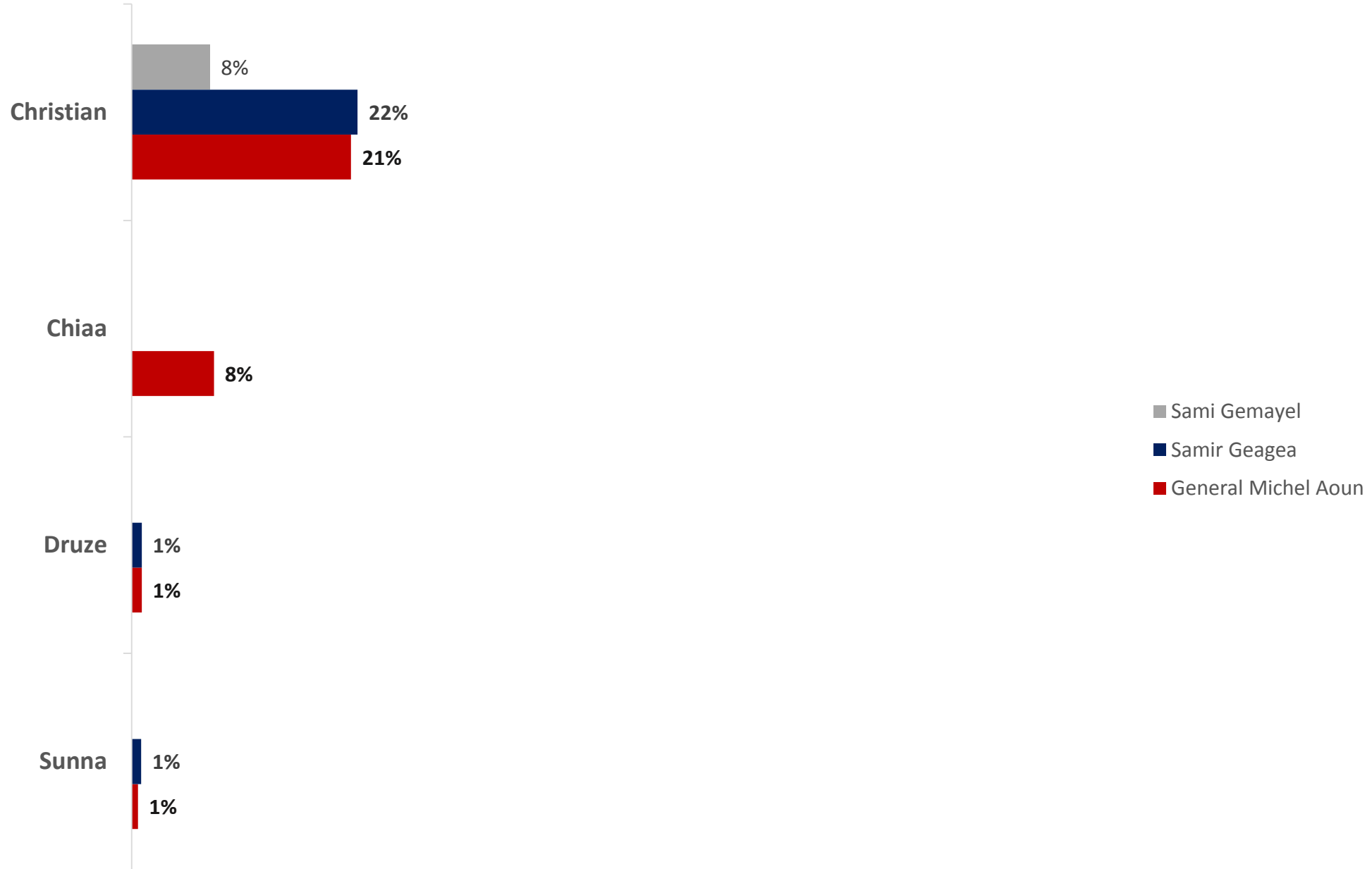
Lebanese political figures who express your opinion



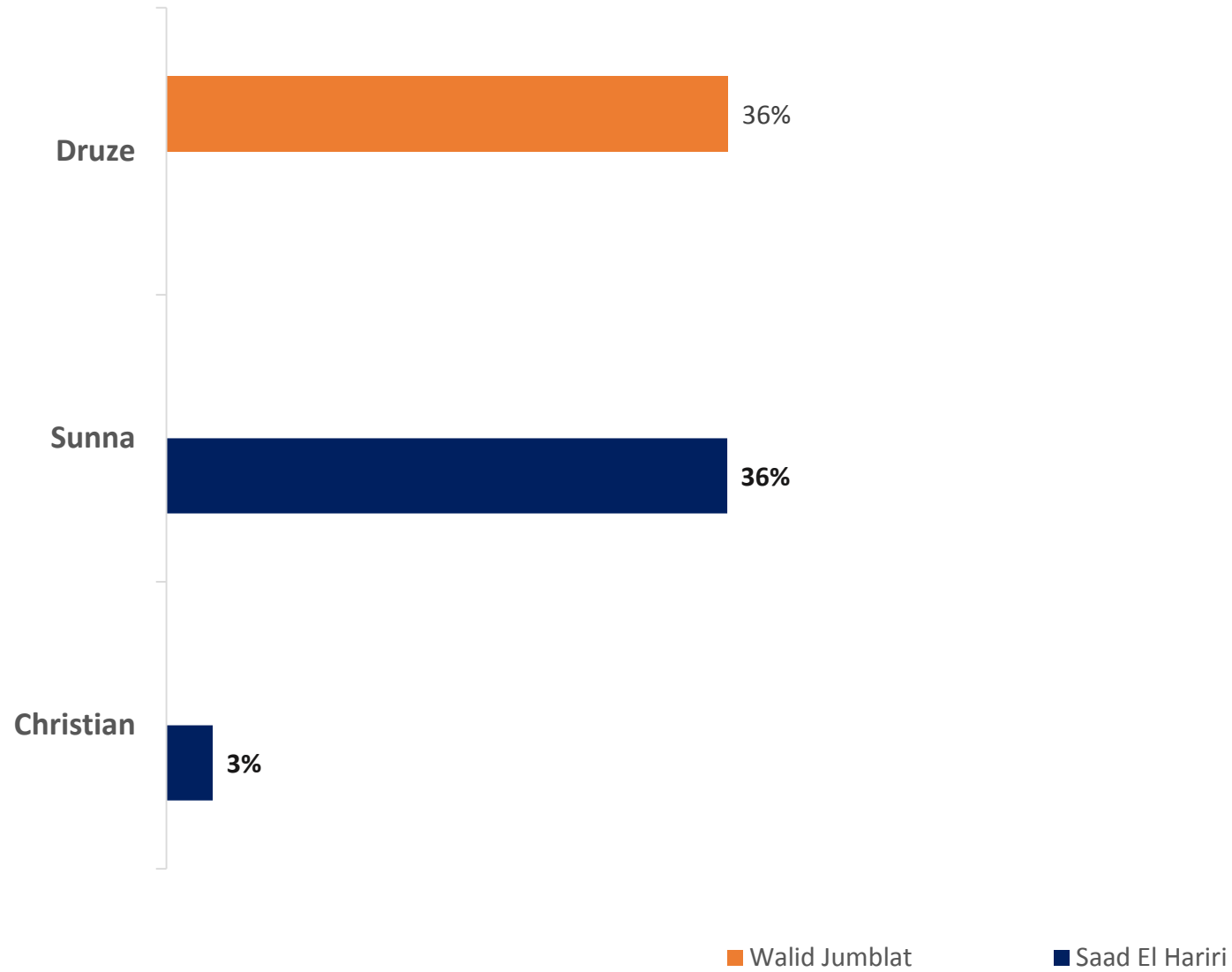
Lebanese political figures who express your opinion



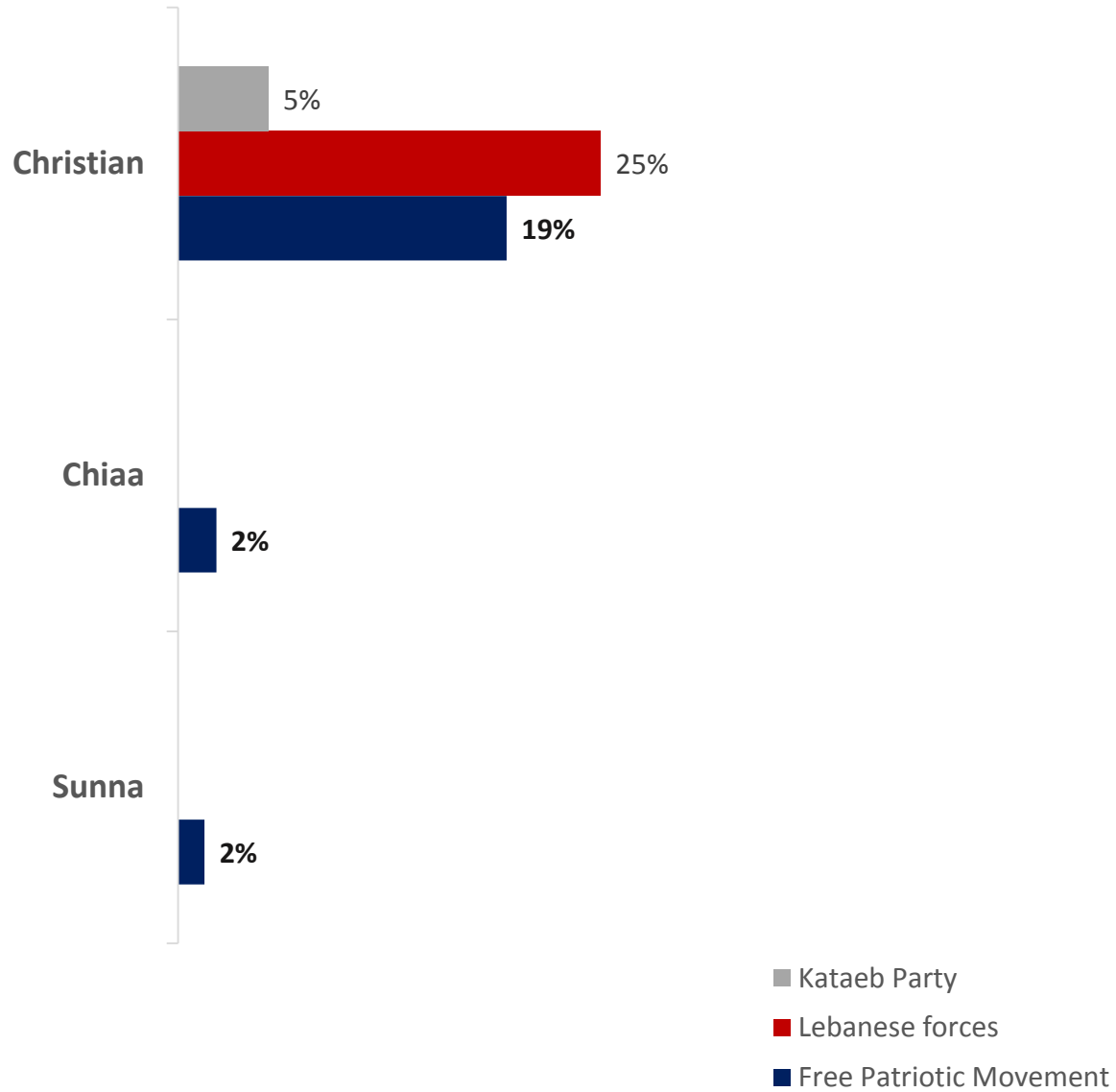
Lebanese political figures who express your opinion



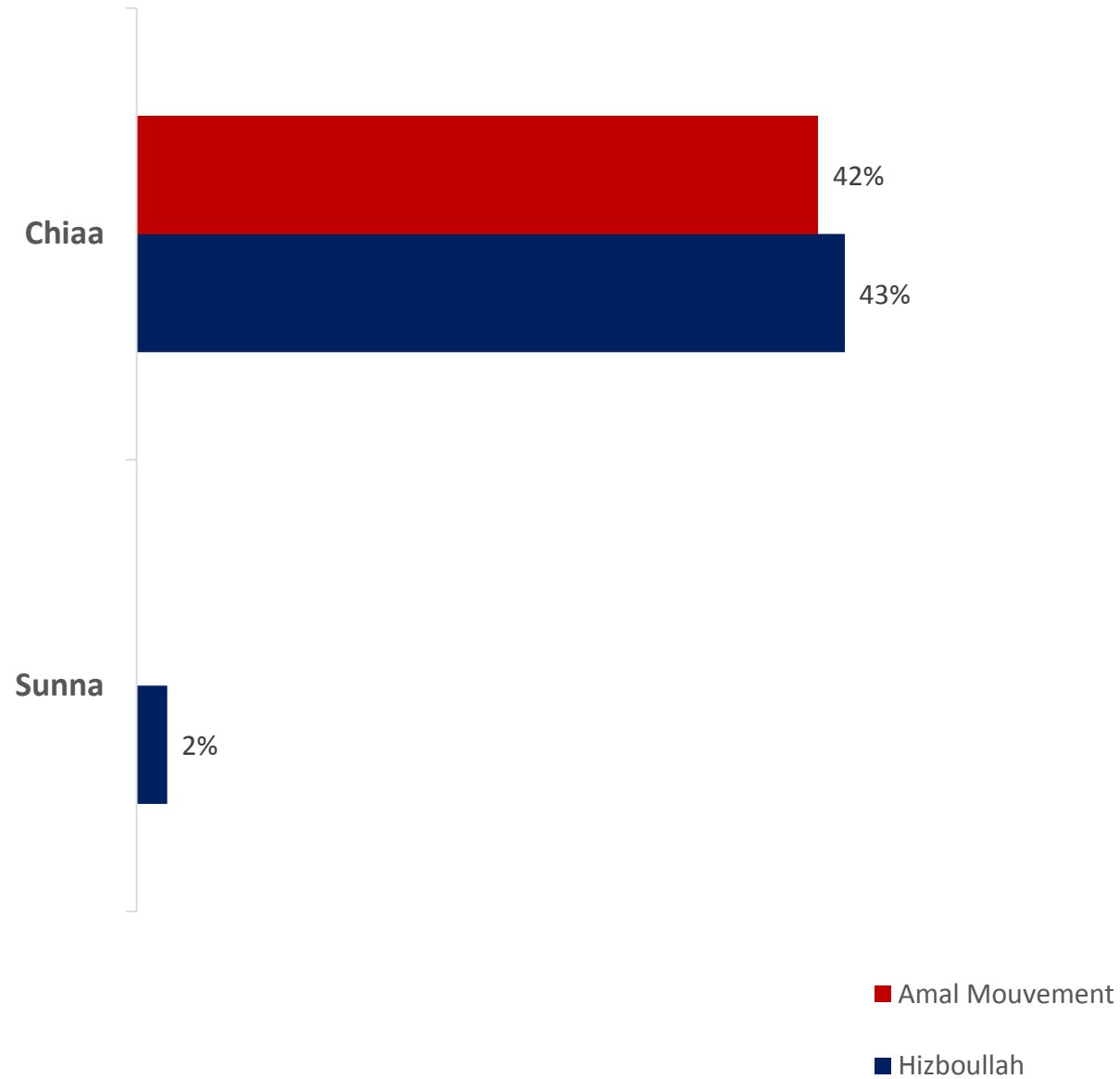
Lebanese political figures who express your opinion



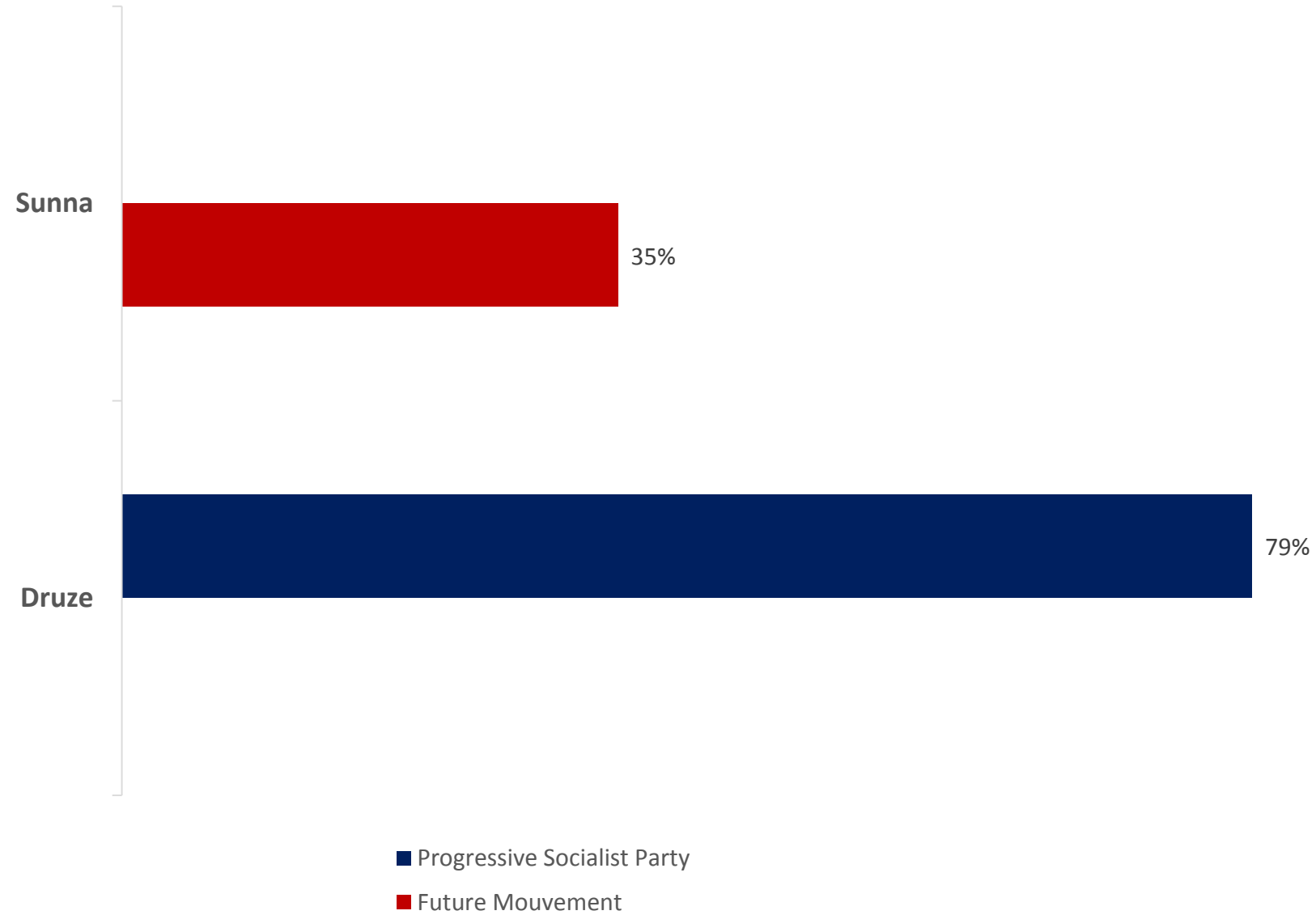
Which is the political party that expresses your opinion?



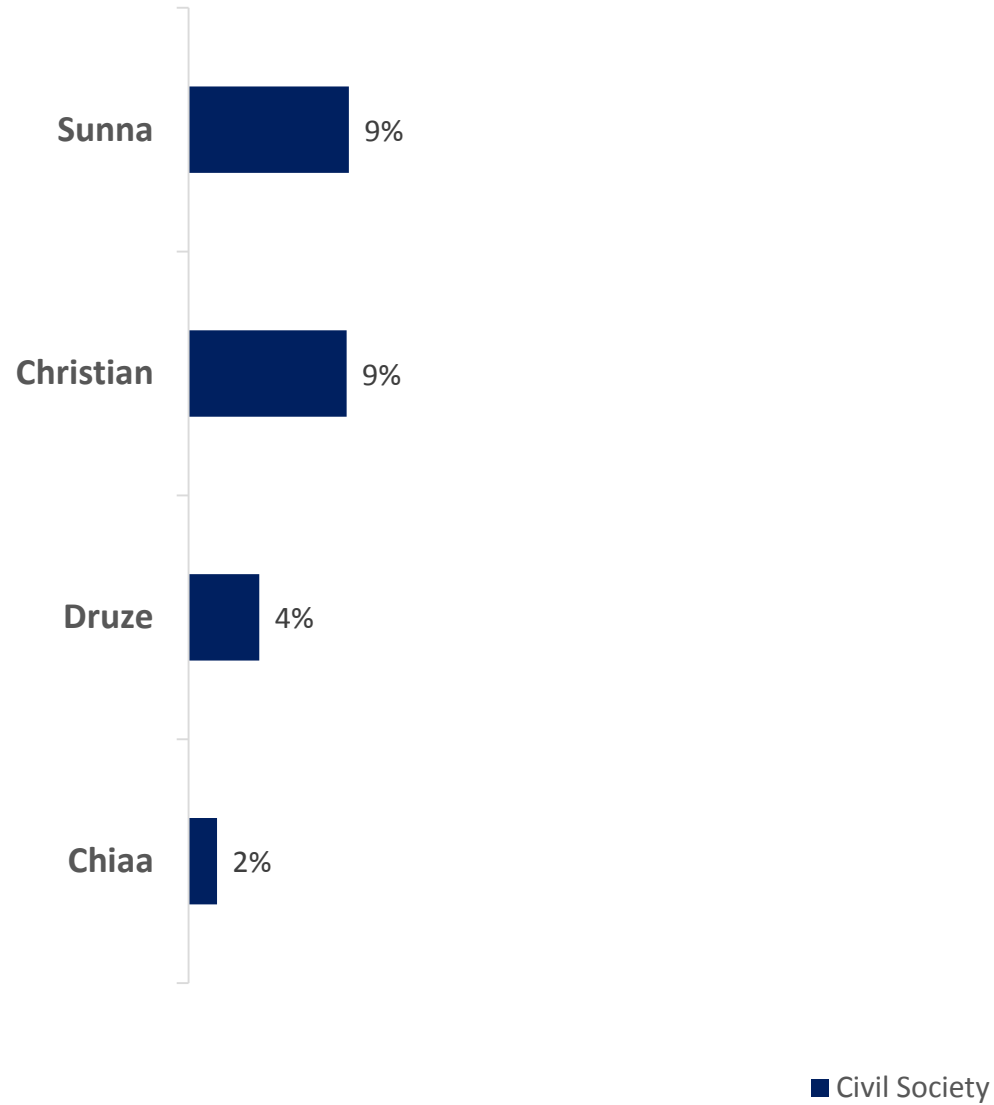
Which is the political party that expresses your opinion?



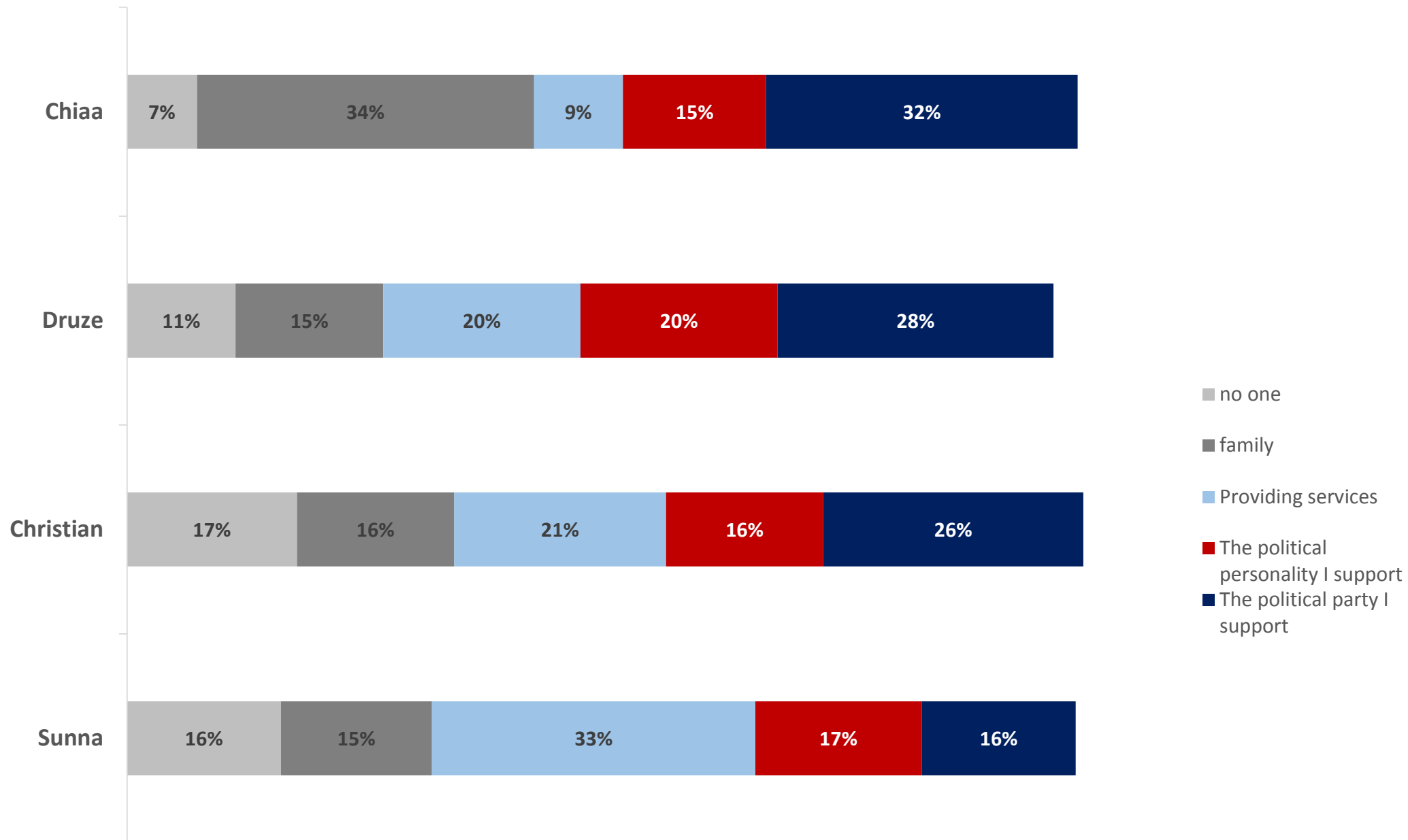
Which is the political party that expresses your opinion?



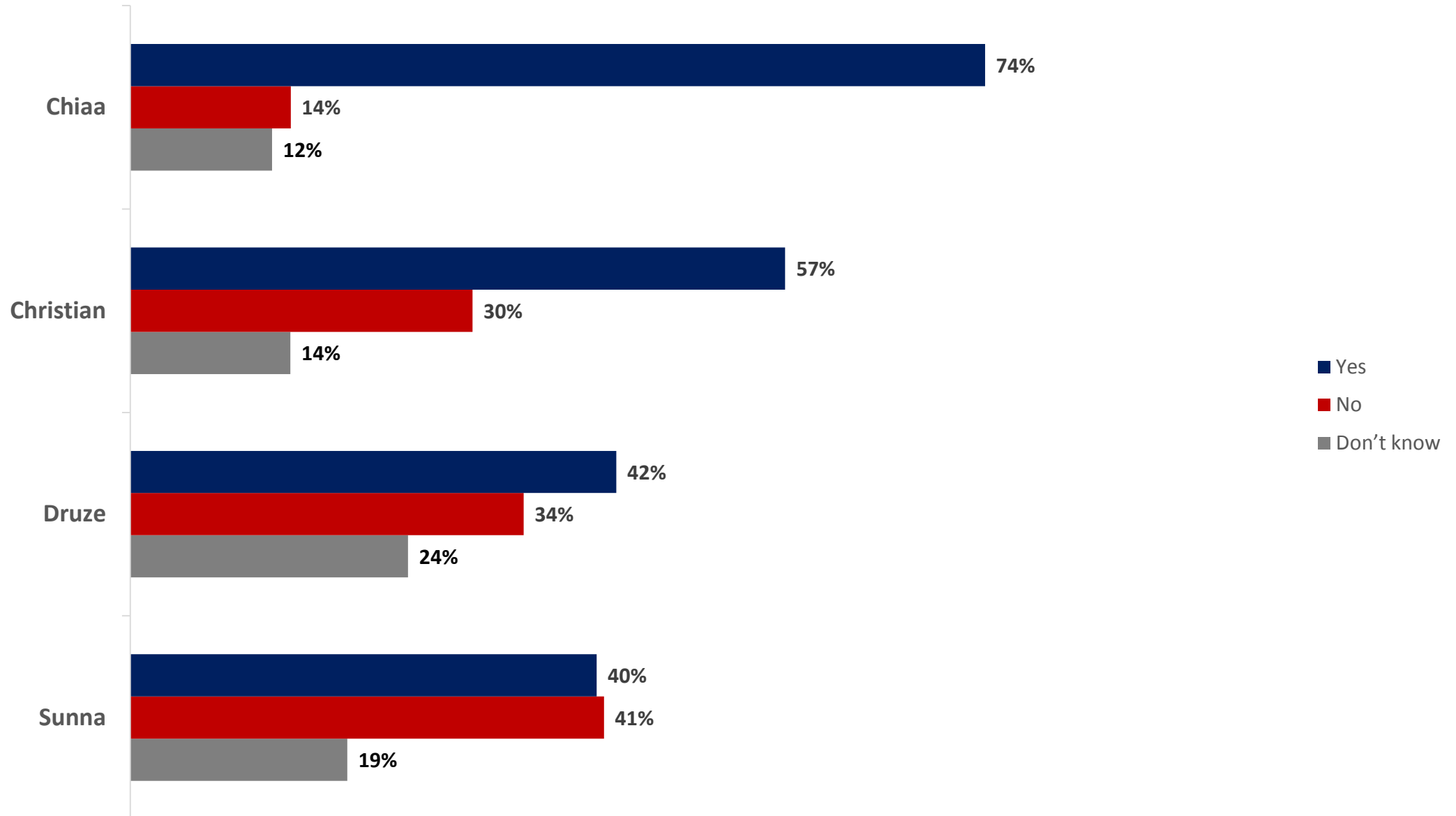
Which is the political party that expresses your opinion?



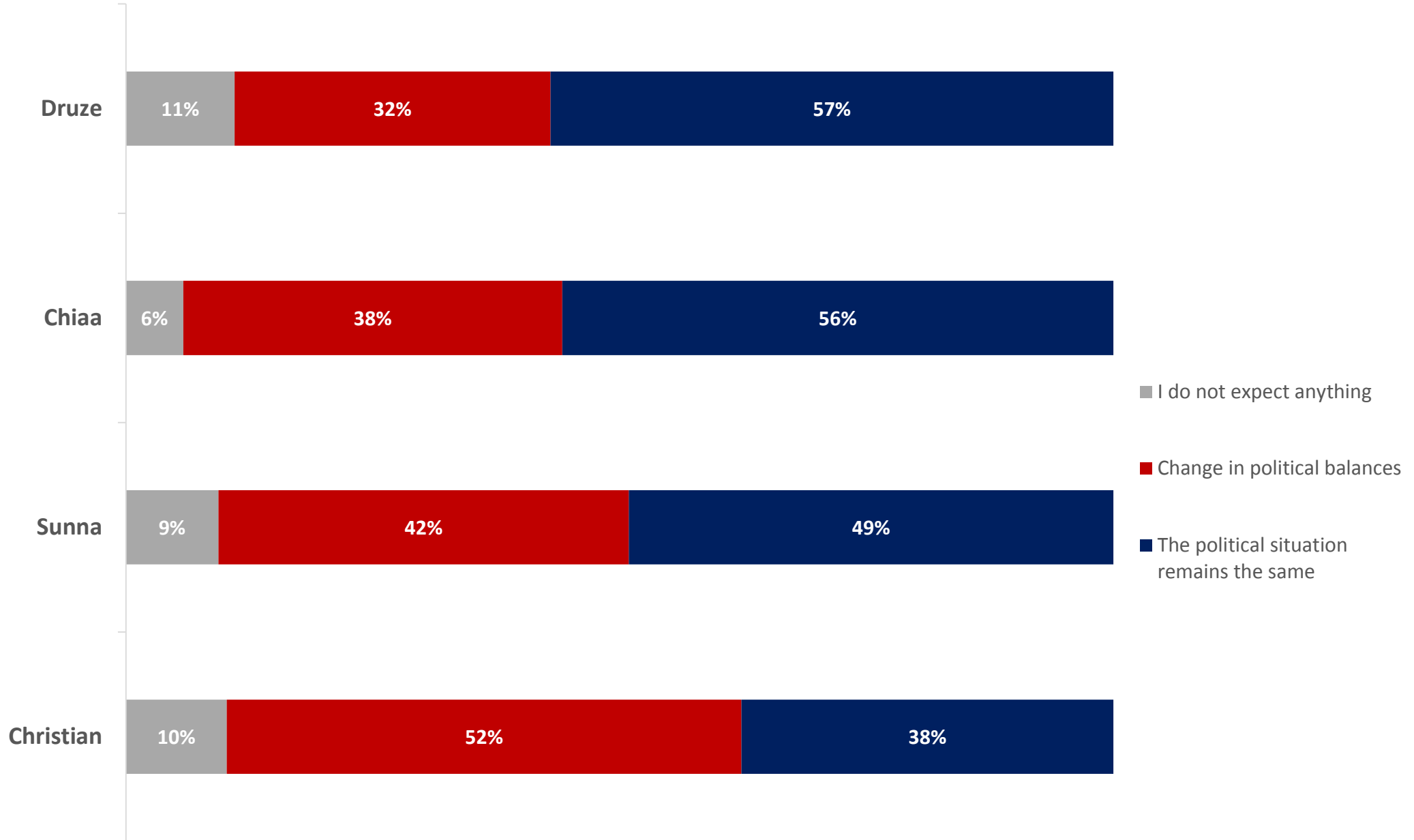
Who has the most influence on your electoral choices? (One answer only)



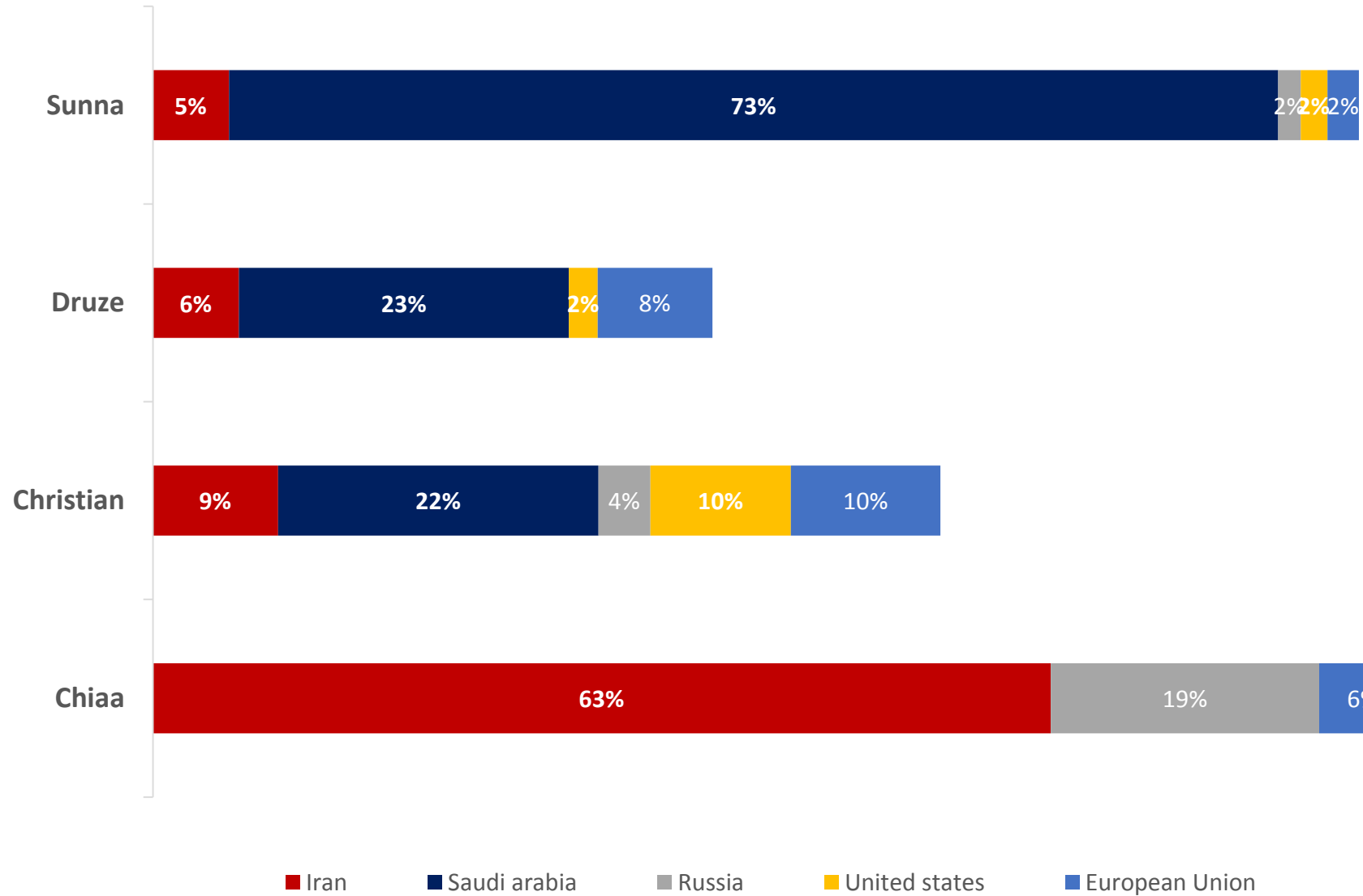
In your opinion, will the new parliamentary electoral law improve representation?



What are your expectations regarding the results of the parliamentary elections?



Which of these case countries support Lebanon?



Analysis by sect

- The highest anticipated participation in the upcoming parliamentary elections is among Shiaa (88%) and the least is among Christians (69%).
- The majority from all sects will be voting for a political party list.
 - Druze (77%)
 - Christian & Shiaa (67%)
 - Sunna (58%)
- Followed by the list for a particular candidate
 - Sunna & Shiaa (29%)
 - Druze & Christian (22%)
- Political figure
 - The majority of the Shiaa considered Hassan Nasrallah (69%) and Nabih Berri (55%) are the political figures that express their opinion.
 - The opinions of the Christians were almost equally divided between Samir Geagea (22%) and General Michel Aoun (21%) and a minority of Christians (8%) stated that Sami Gemayel expresses their opinion.

- 36% of the Sunna and minority of the Christians (2%) considered that Saad El Harriri expresses their opinion. However none of the Druze or Shiaa thought that.
- Only the Druze considered that Walid Jumblat (36%) is the one who expresses their opinion.
- Political party
 - An almost equal percentage of the Shiaa stated that Hizbuallah (43%) and Amal Movement (42%) are the political parties that express their opinion.
 - 25% of the Christians stated that the Lebanese Forces expresses their opinion compared to 19% Free Patriotic Movement and 5% Kataeb.
 - The Progressive Socialist Party and Future Movement only had supporters from their sect. The vast majority of the Druze (79%) considered that the Progressive Socialist Party expresses their opinion and 35% of the Sunna stated that for the Future Movement.
 - Minority of the Sunna and the Christians youth (9%) stated that the Civil Society expresses their opinion

- **Most influential factors on electoral choices by sects**
 - According to the Shiaa, family (34%) has the most influence on their electoral choices
 - According to the Druze and Christians the political party they support has the highest influence
 - While Sunna youth considered that providing services affects their choice for election
- **Expectations by sect**
 - Half of the Christians (52%) expected a change in the political balance as a result of the parliamentary elections.
 - On the other hand, many of the Sunna (49%), Shiaa (56%), and Druze (57%) expected the political situation to remain the same.
- **Electoral law**
 - The majority of the Shiaa (74%) considered that the electoral law will improve the representation followed by the Christians (57%).
 - Only 40% of the Sunna and 42% of the Druze thought so
- **Country that supports Lebanon**
 - The youth opinion regarding the country that supports Lebanon seemed to be politically affiliated.
 - 63% of the Shiaa stated that Iran is the country that supports Lebanon
 - Similarly 73% of the Sunna considered that Saudi Arabia supports Lebanon

Conclusion

Lebanon will be voting for a “new” parliament for the first time since June 2009. First time voters showed a high willingness to vote in the forthcoming parliamentary elections. They believe that voting is a national right and a duty.

As proof of their commitment to voting they have checked that their names are on the voter lists for 2018. In addition to that, they are aware of the new law’s voting mechanism.

Lebanese young voters have already determined their electoral choice based on loyalty mainly to parties and individual candidates. However the services provided by the candidates and their achievements impact these youthful voters’ electoral choices.

Choices of the youth as still relatively traditional being focused on

- Services influenced by high unemployment and economic worries
- Political affiliation to traditional parties/personalities. There is limited support from civil society parties not affiliated with sects.

Conclusion

- Family remains a significant factor with a proportion not making independent choices.
- In addition to which the voting choice is highly dependent on the sect of the candidate.

In conclusion the current study showed that the participation of the first-time voters might not yield a significant change in the political landscape since the new voting generation are still traditional and sectarian in their voting choices.