



CA15th SAC

Student Advisory Council

Congressman Mike Honda

May 14, 2005

Welcome!



Student Advisory Council

The SAC consists of high school leaders representing various public and private schools throughout the 15th congressional district. The Council was originally designed to aid the Congressmen by providing him with a youth's perspective on a specific issue in his district, and in turn, the Council has benefited us students as well. The Council not only provided an opportunity to be politically active but also the chance to meet and work with fellow students from all over the South Bay Area.



High School Membership

Archbishop Mitty

Bellarmino

Cupertino

Gilroy

Harker School

Leigh

Leland

Los Gatos

Milpitas

Monta Vista

Santa Clara

Westmont

Kelsey Tyburski

Julian Bruce

Minesh Patel

Jenny Lee

Daniel Bischoff

Ruchi Jhaveri

Jasdeep Bains

Michelle Mitchell

*Cory Hammon

Hannah Ahmed

Edward Gardina

Anya Erokhina

Candace Nisby

Amy Harmer

Jonathan Padilla

*Jonathan Weed

Amy Kishimura

Salman Kothari

Arundathi Gururajan

Michelle Man

Nathanial Henry

Amber Manglona

Eugene Li

* Denotes SAC Co-Chair



Problem Statement



How can we encourage informed civic decision-making among the youth of the 15th Congressional district, thereby empowering them to debunk the political apathy myth by voicing their concerns?

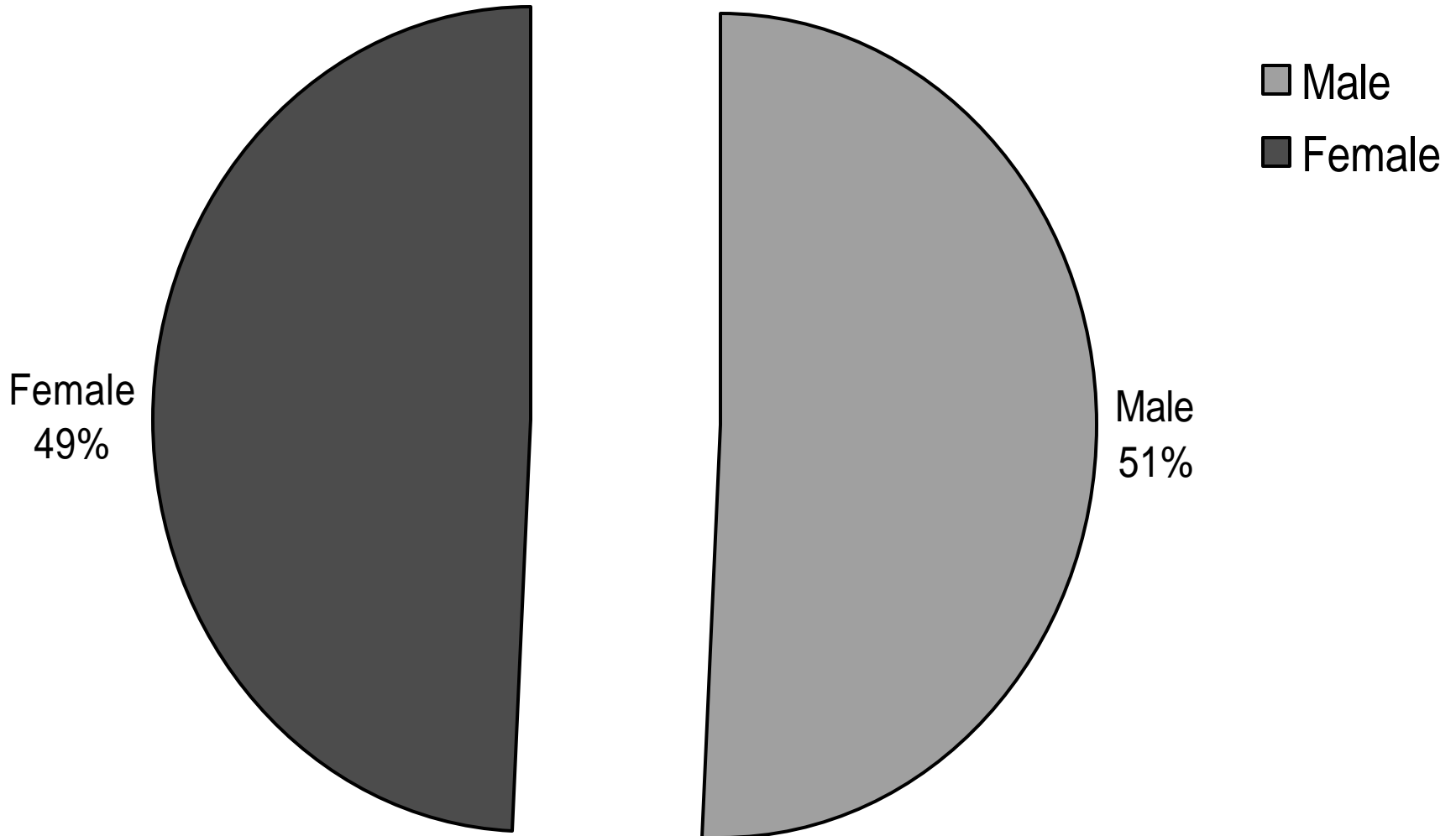


Methodology

- Students distributed ~ 1200 surveys to 12 schools in the 15th district
- ~750 surveys were returned
- Students administered and recorded surveys to Junior and Senior peers in their school
- Students processed the data on a computerized analysis system and examined the data for biases and potential correlation

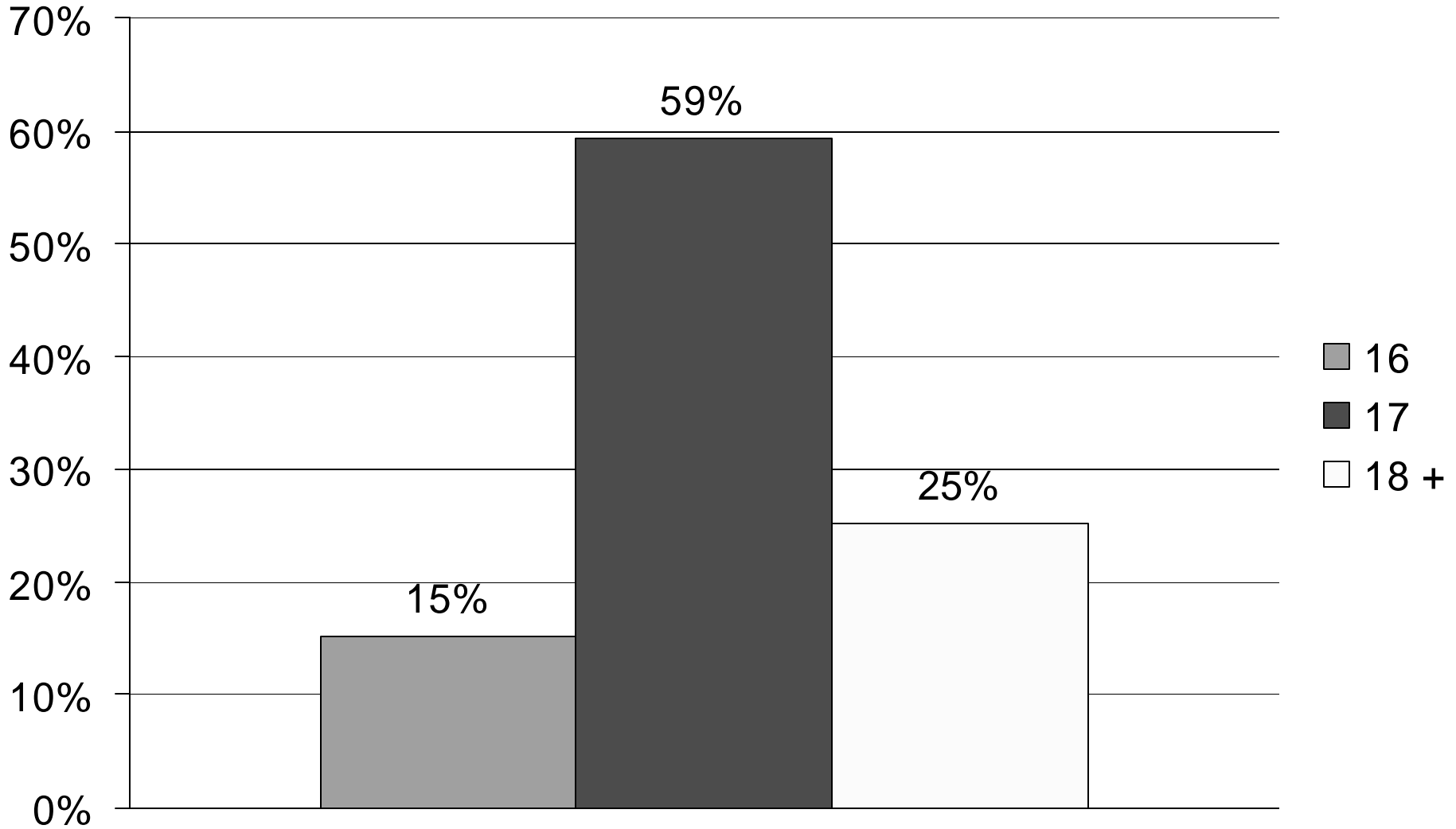


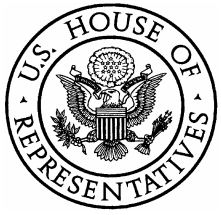
Gender



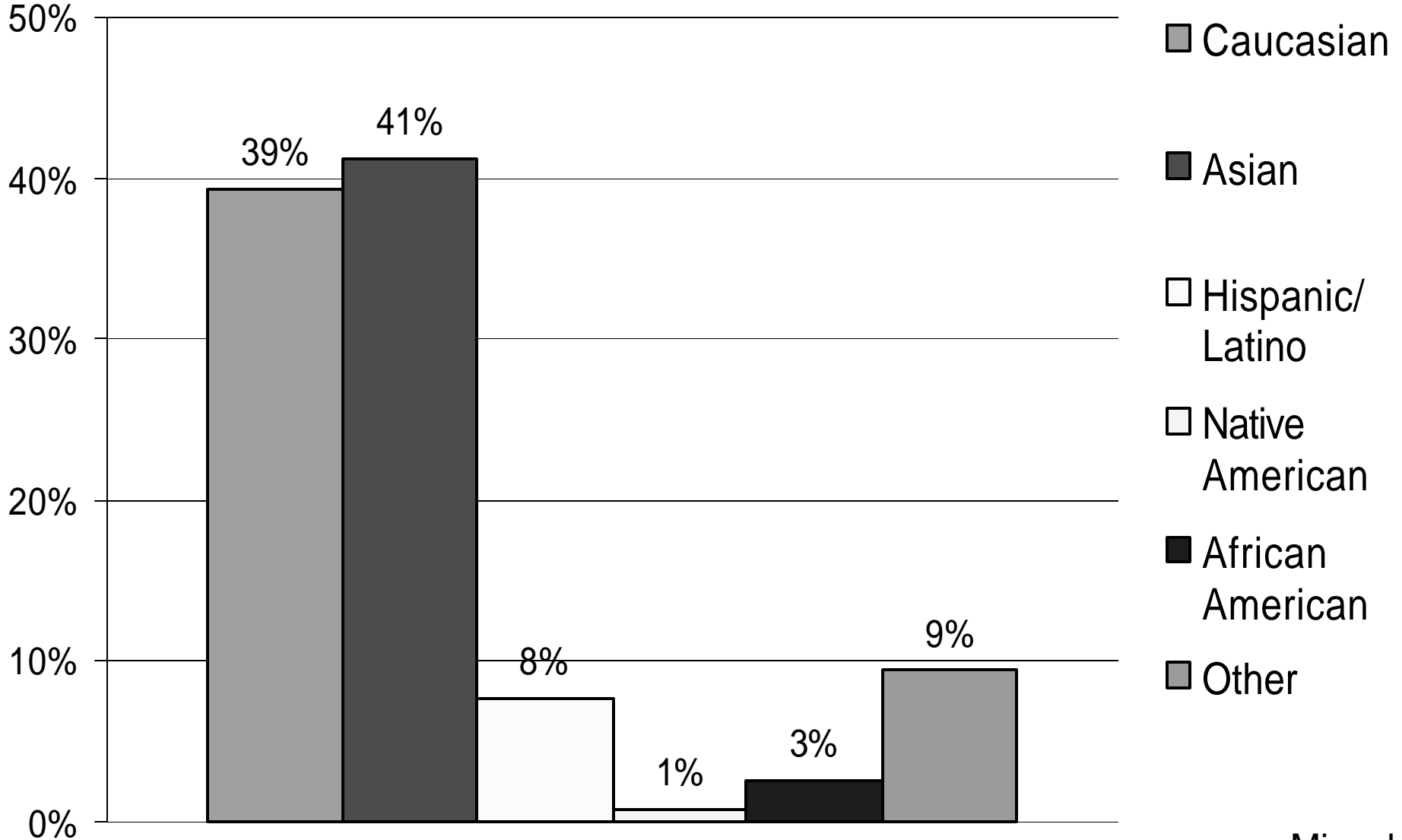


Age



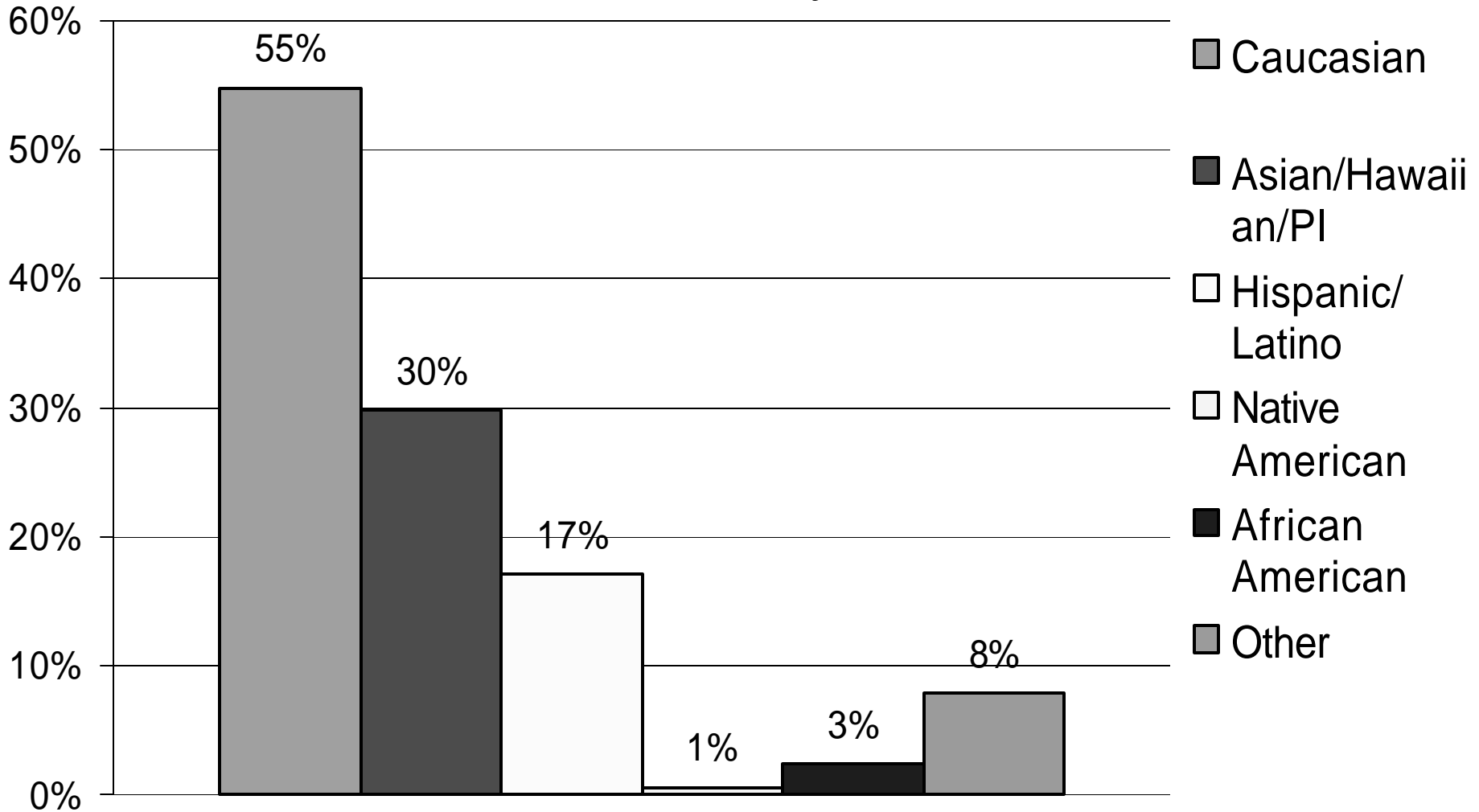


Ethnicity



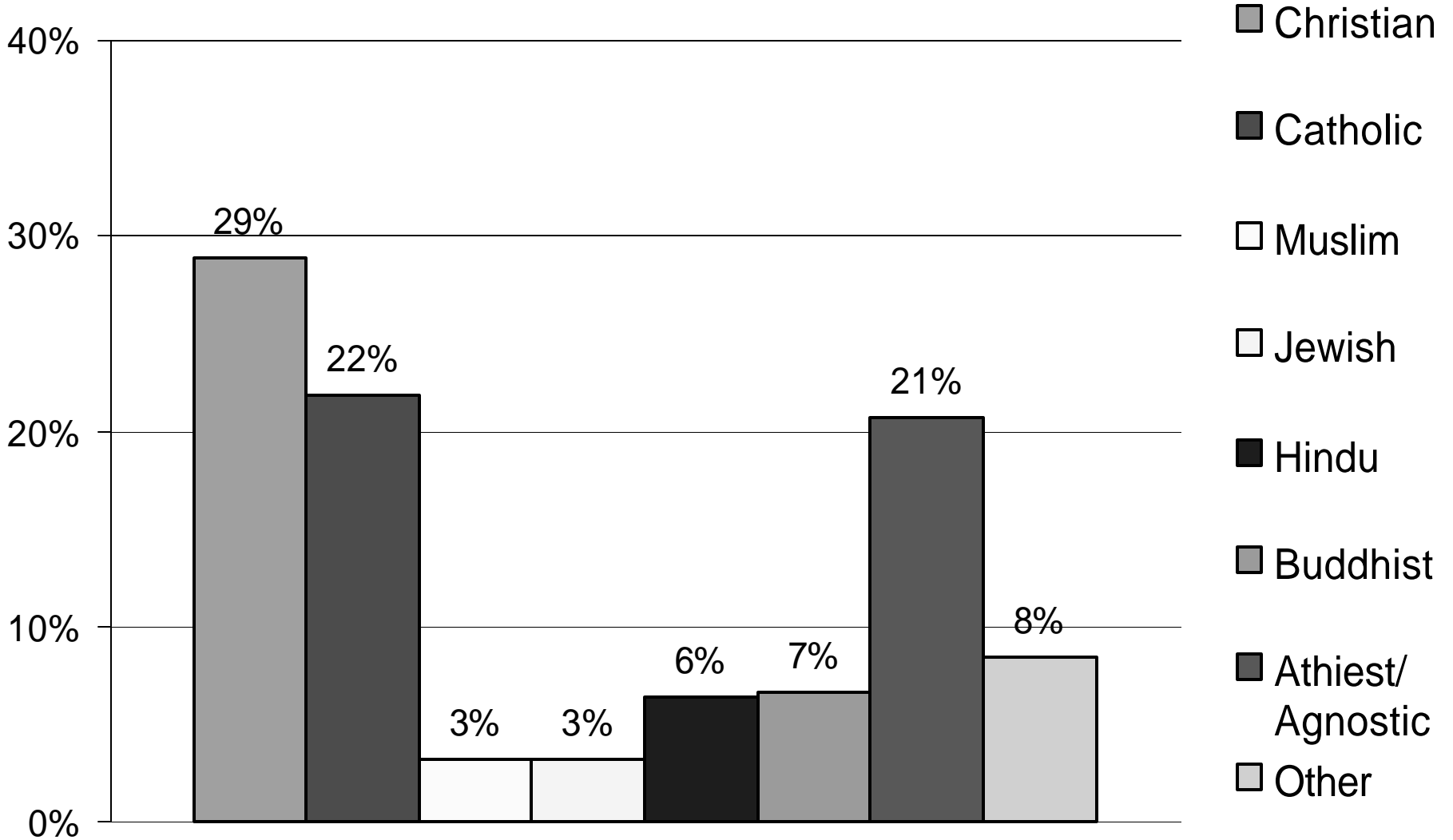


CA 15th Congressional District Demographics (2000) Ethnicity



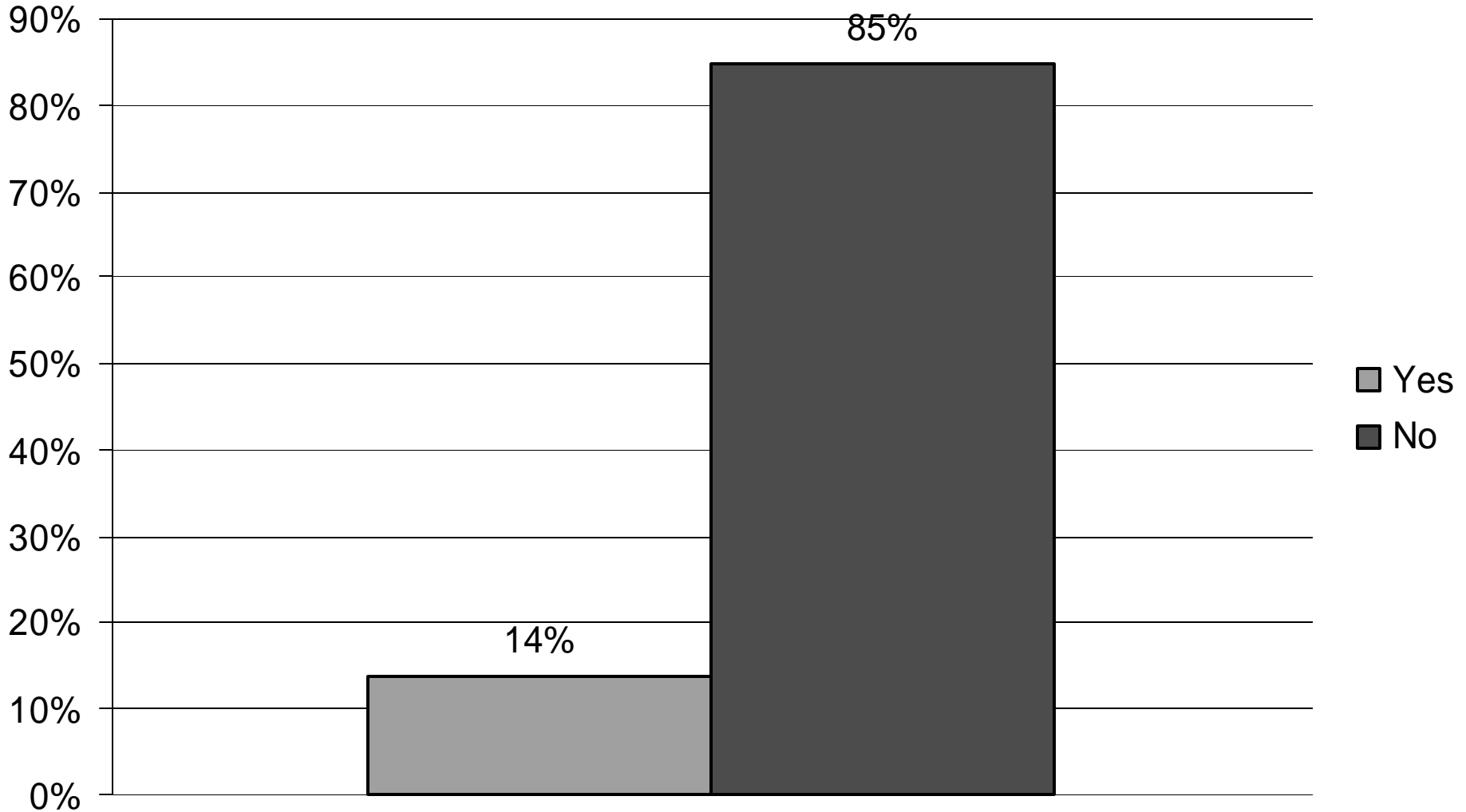


Religion



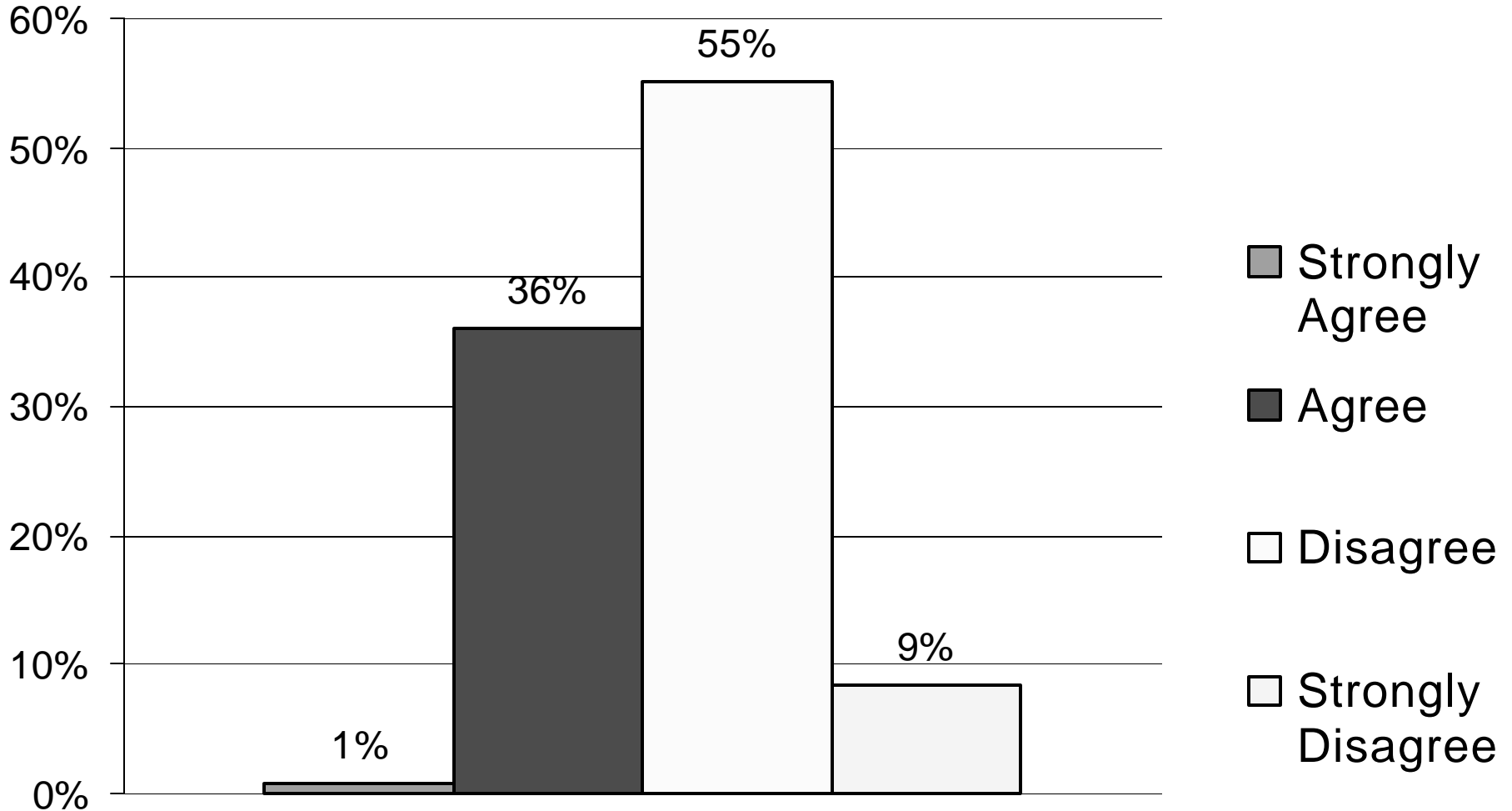


Voting in student government elections is mandatory at my school.



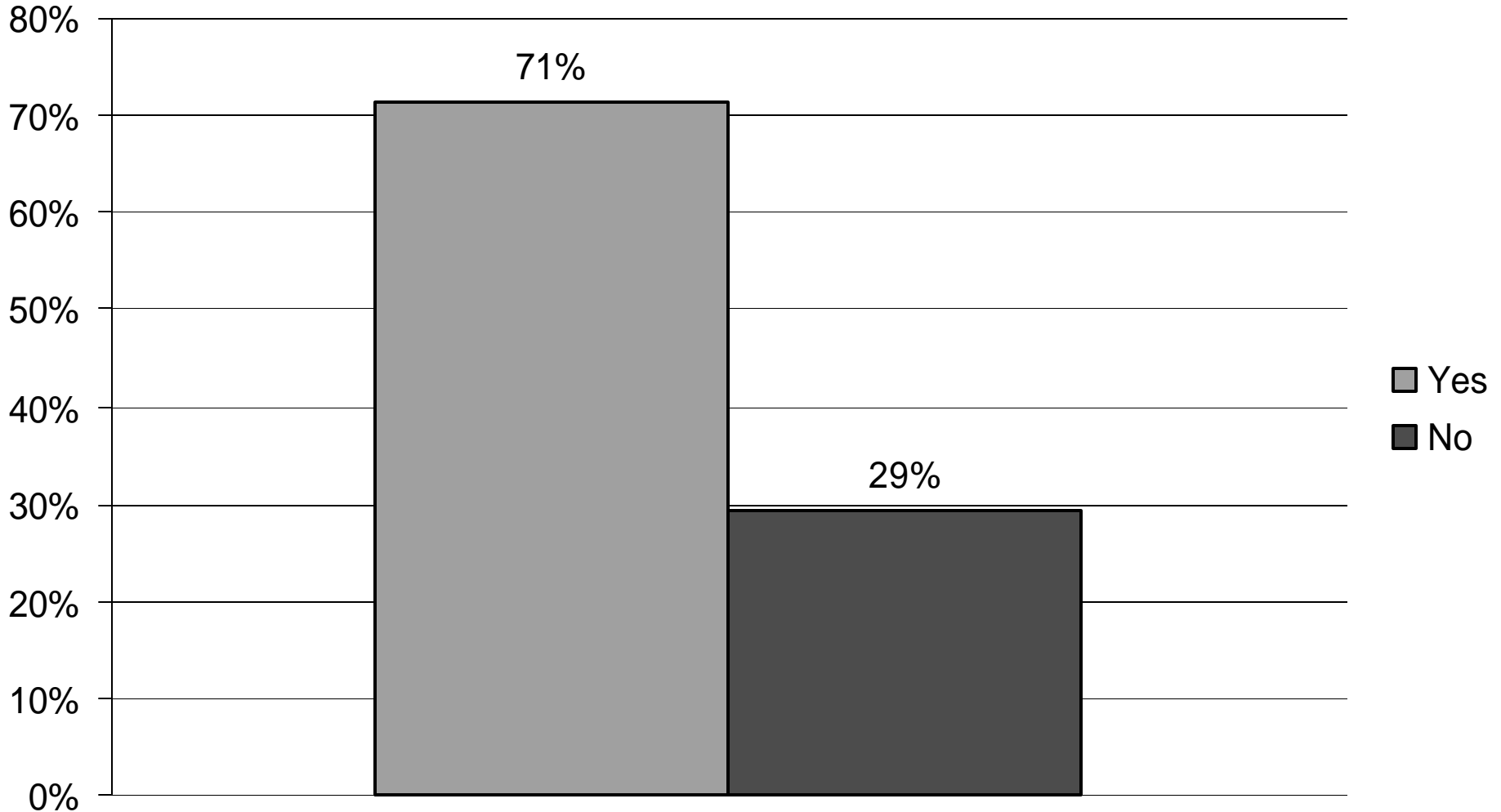


Most students at my school take student government elections seriously.



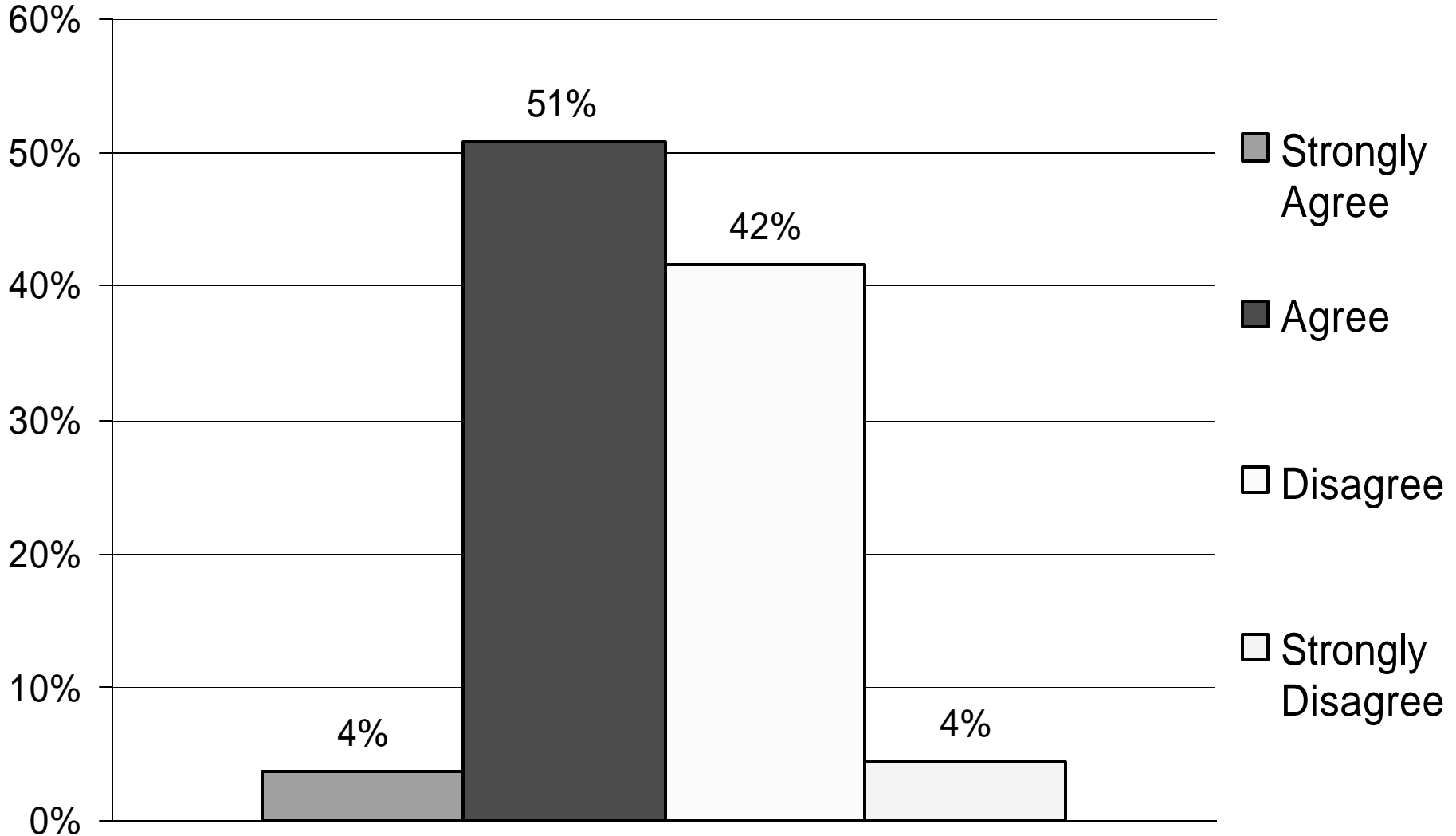


I voted in my last high school election.



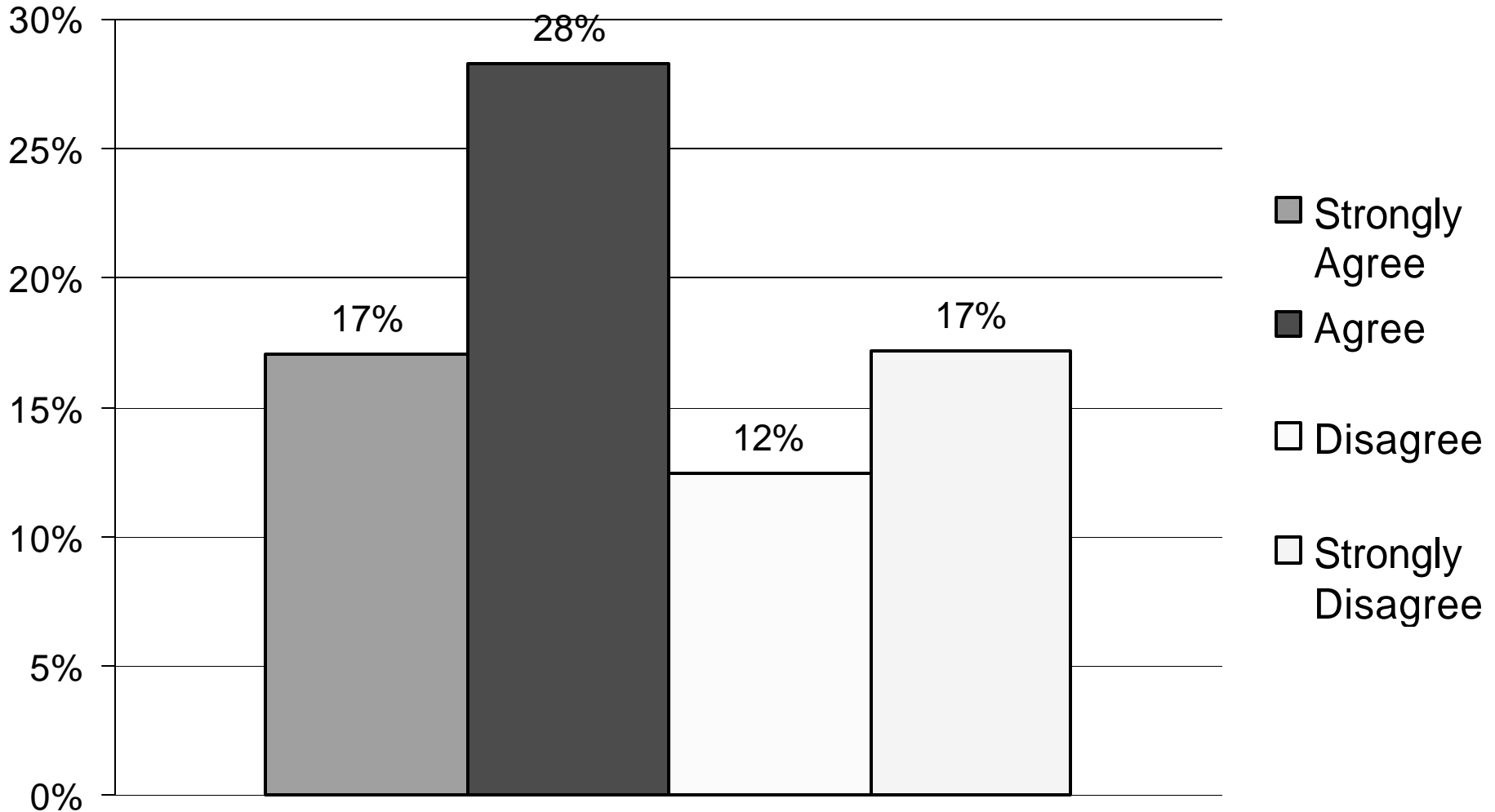


I feel that student government adequately addresses students' needs.



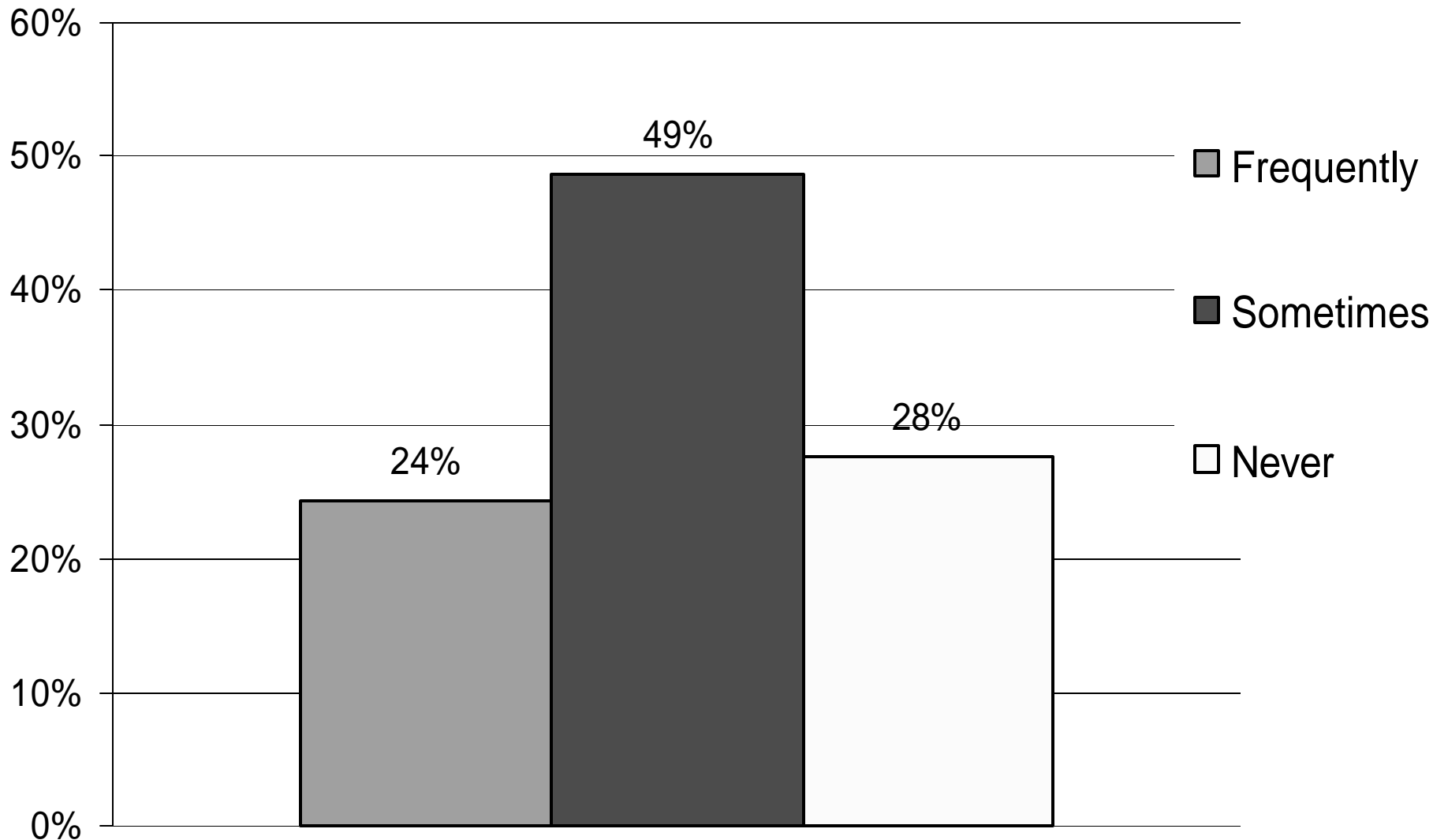


The administration at my school has too much control over student government.



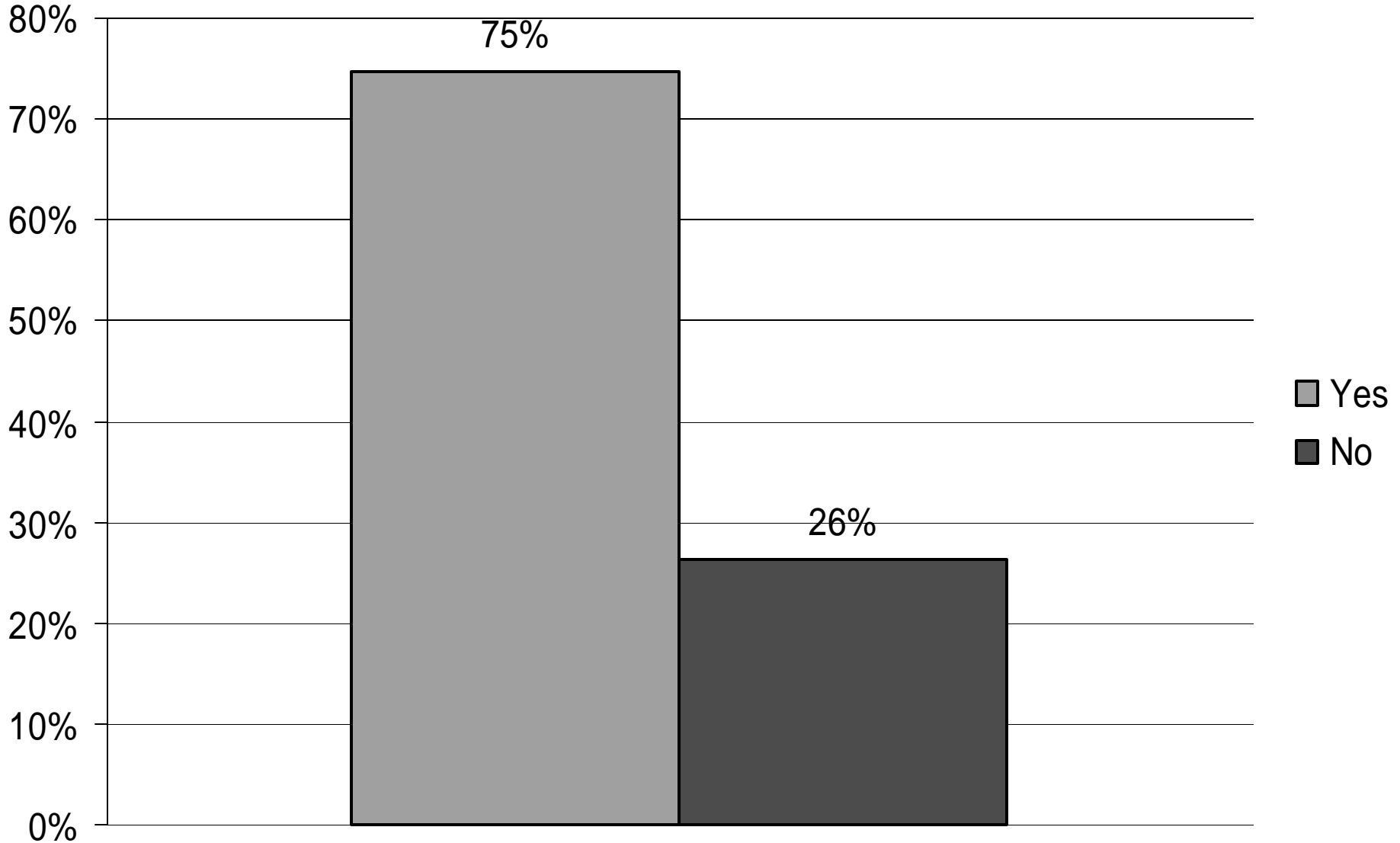


I participate in activities that my student government plans.



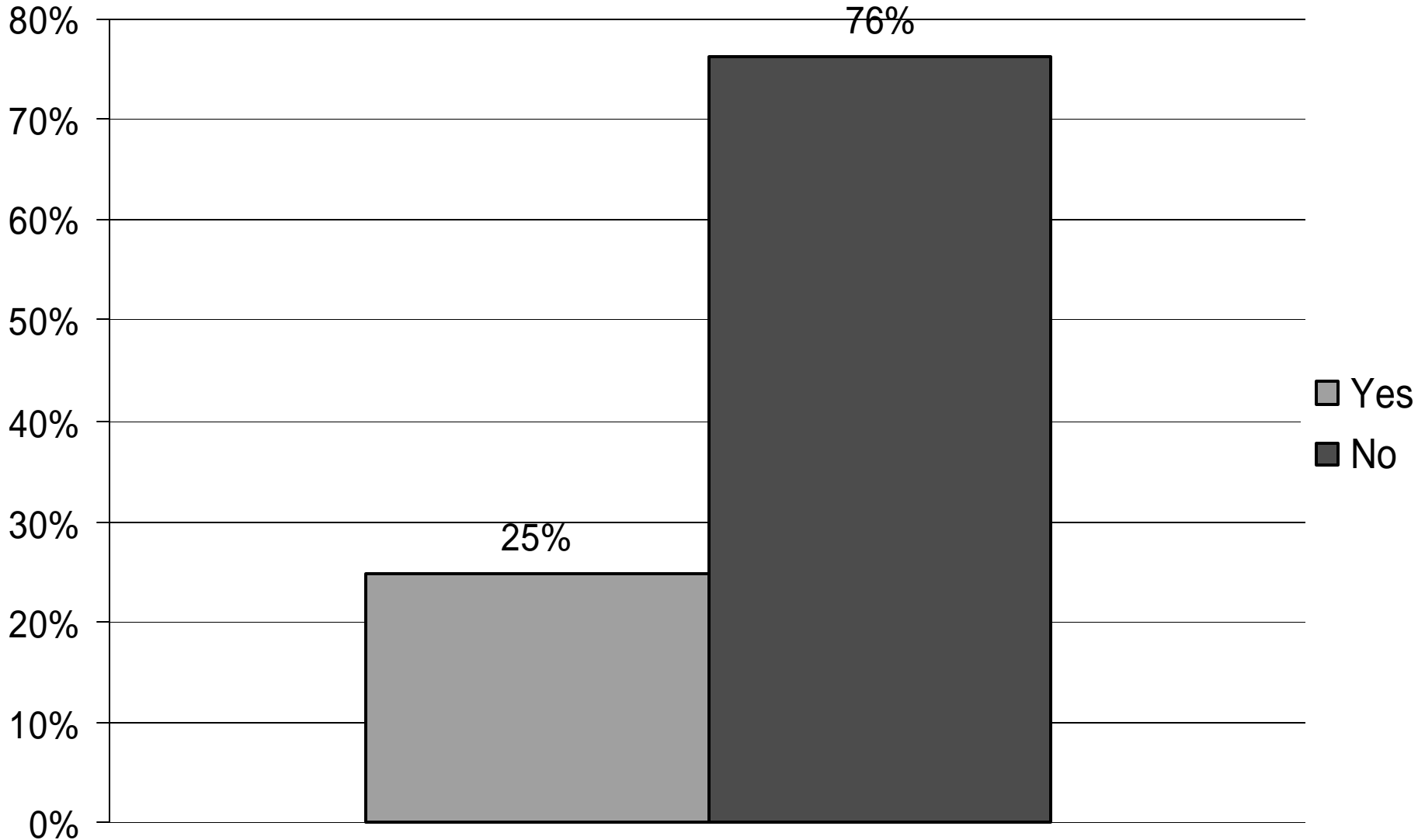


I belong to a club on campus.





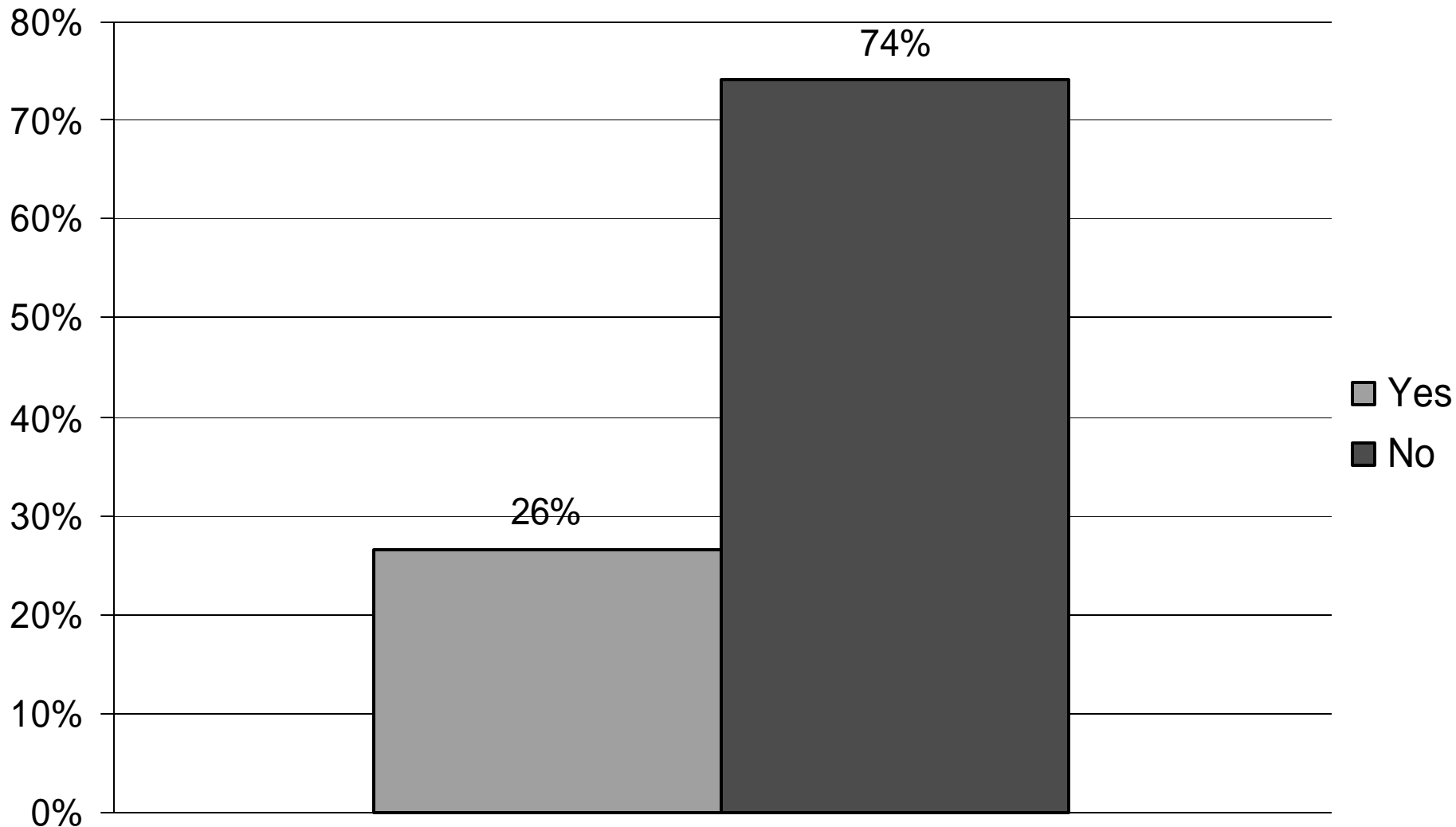
I have been active in a form of student government during high school.





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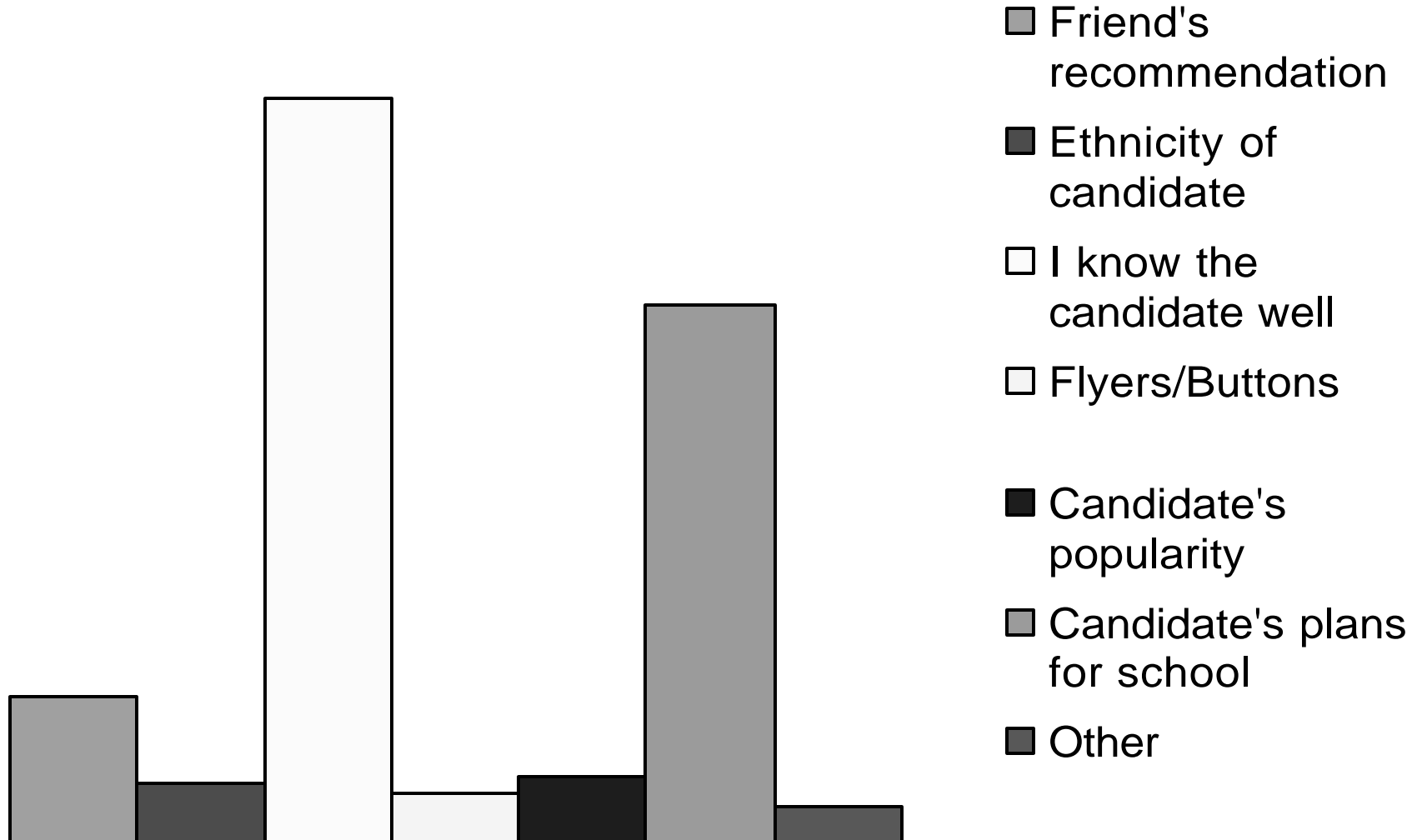
I ran for a position or applied for a non-elected position in student government during high school.





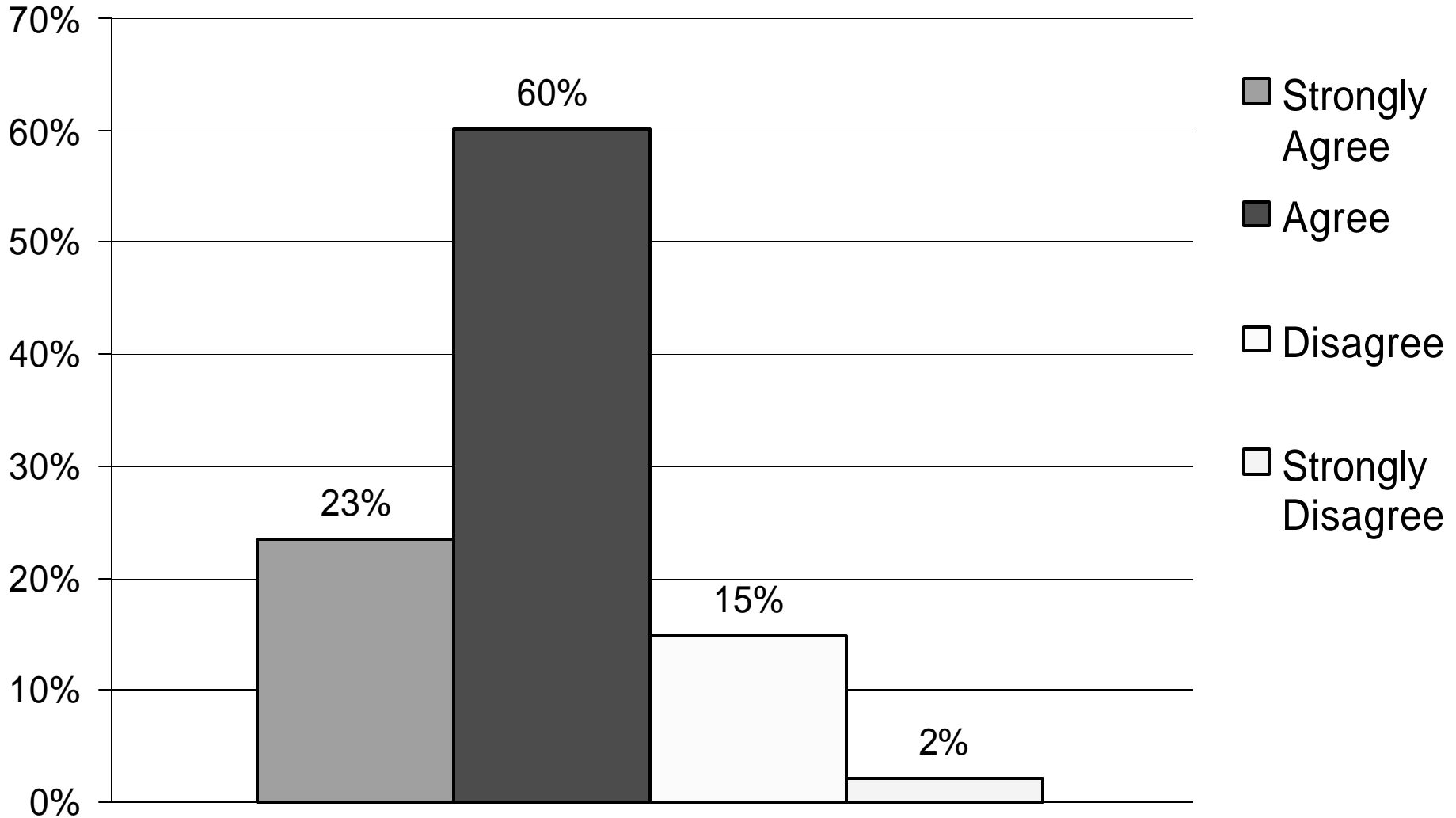
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I usually make my choice in high school elections based on: *(Please rank the following choices, with 1 being the most influential and 6 being the least influential).*





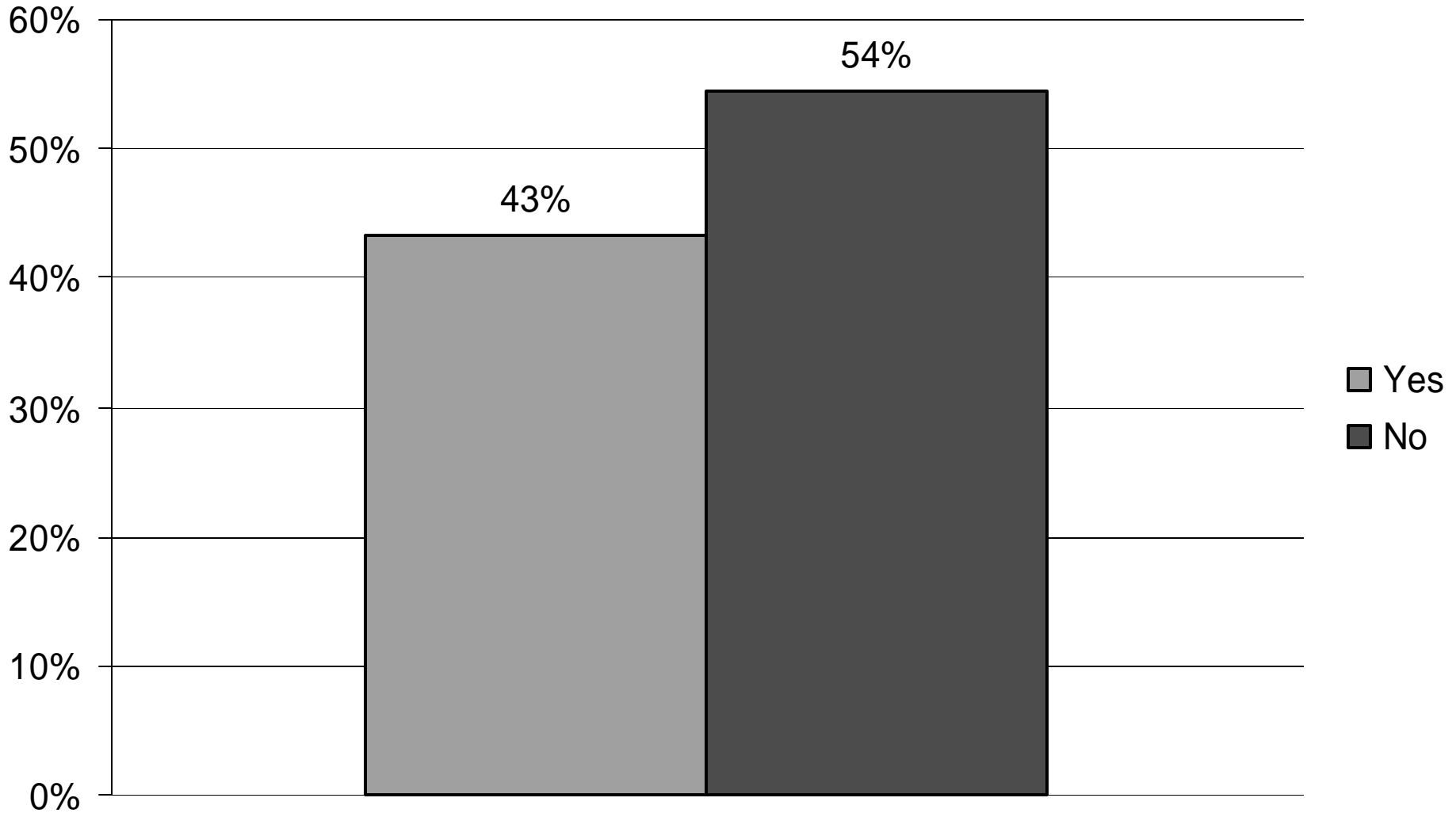
I feel like I can talk openly about my political views in the classroom.





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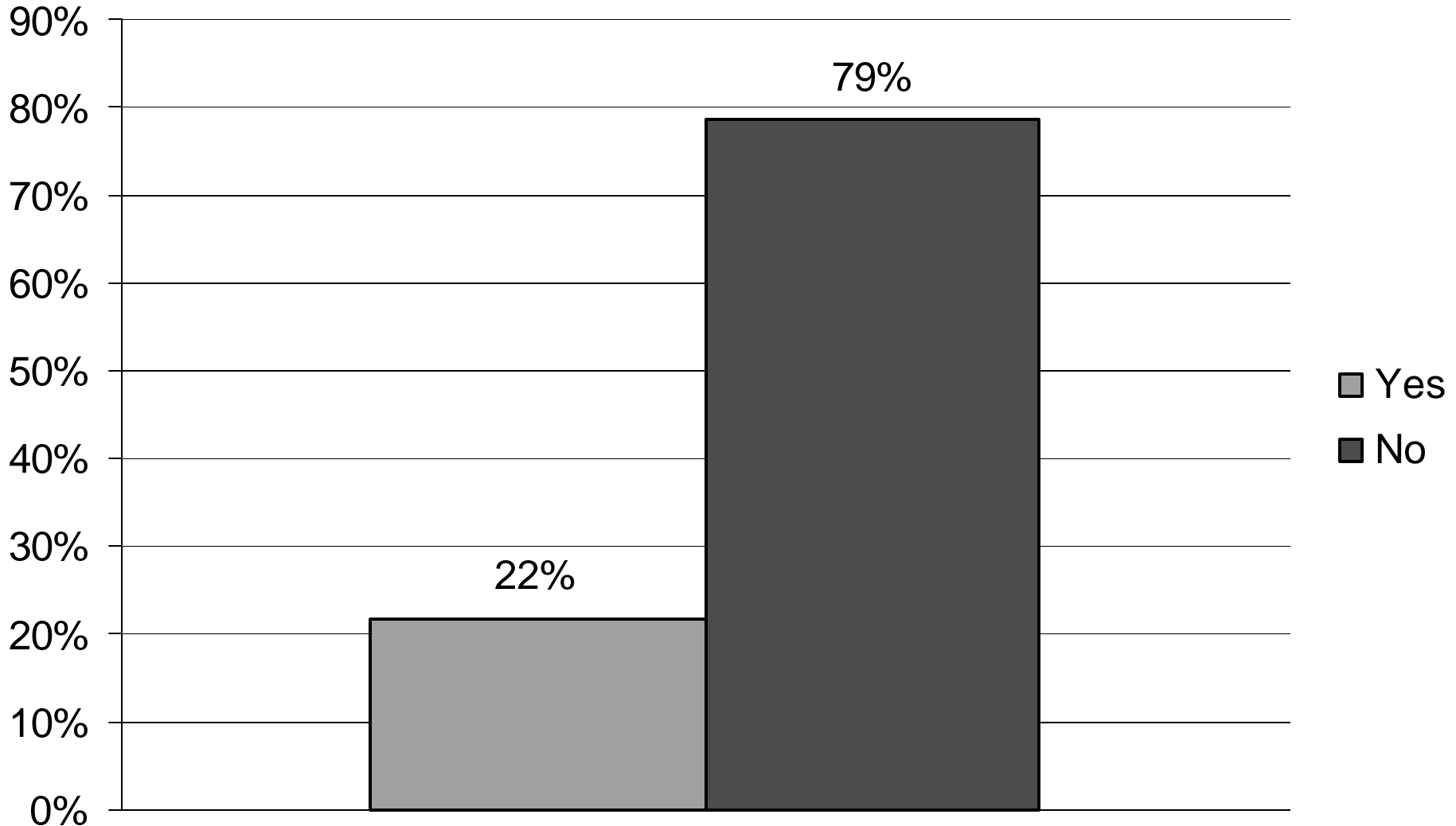
My school hosted a mock election, invited a political speaker or held a voter registration drive in the last year.

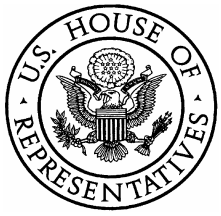




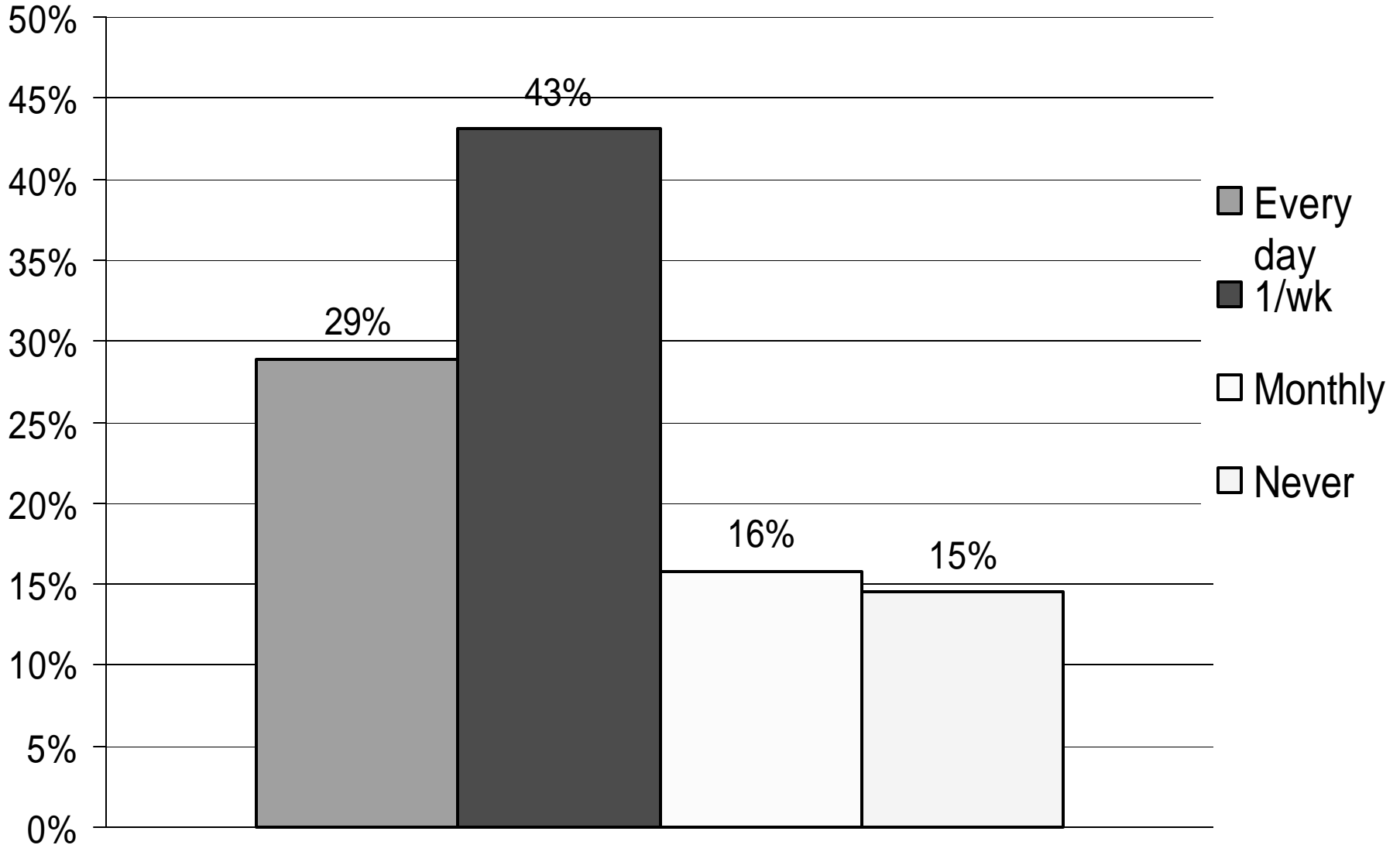
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I have attended a council, school board, or other governmental meeting about an issue important to me.



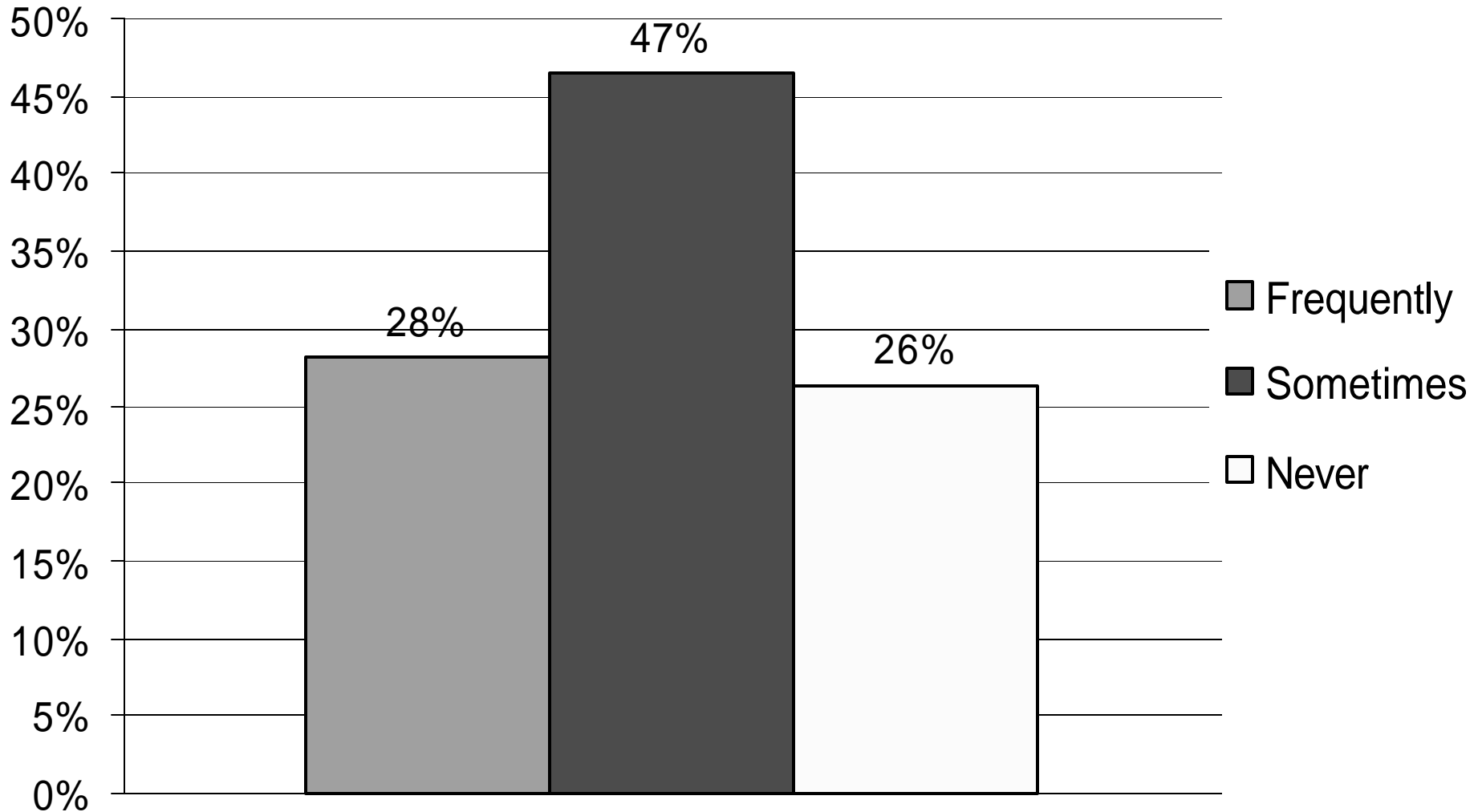


I actively read or watch news about politics.





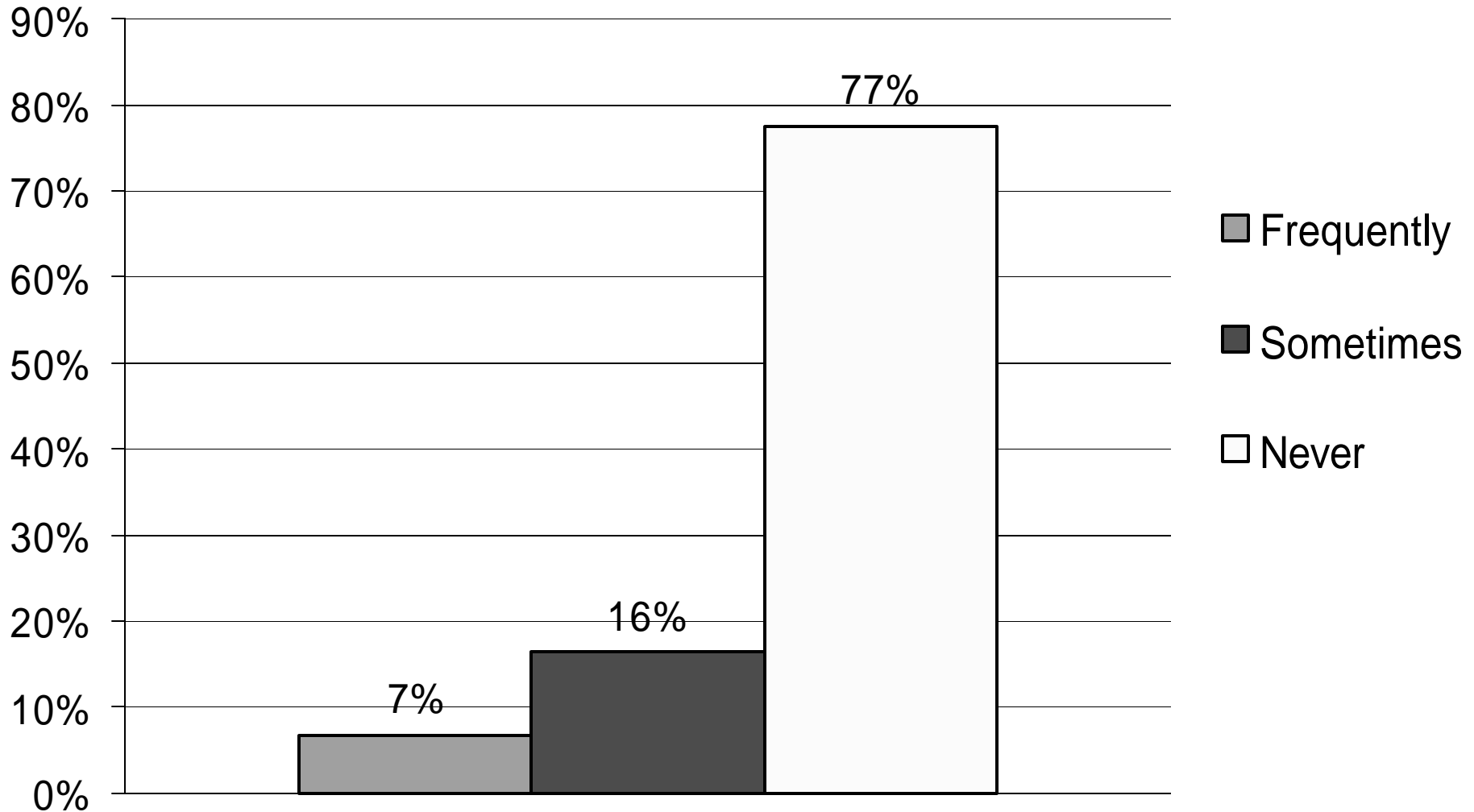
My parent/s speak to me about political issues on a regular basis.

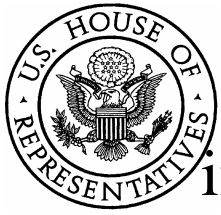




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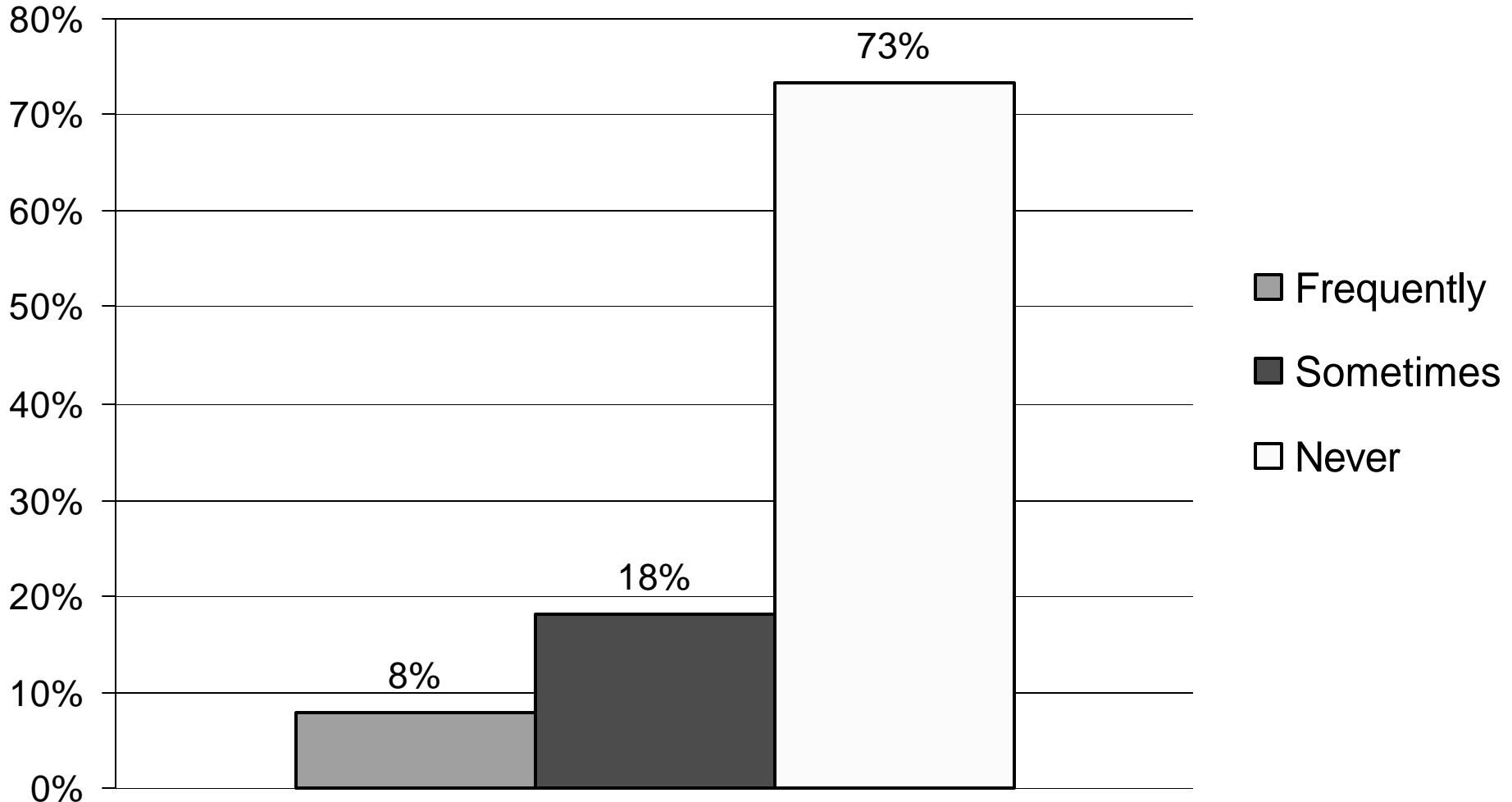
My parent/s have actively campaigned for a candidate for public office at the local, state or federal level (for instance, by putting a sign on our lawn, making phone calls or donating money).





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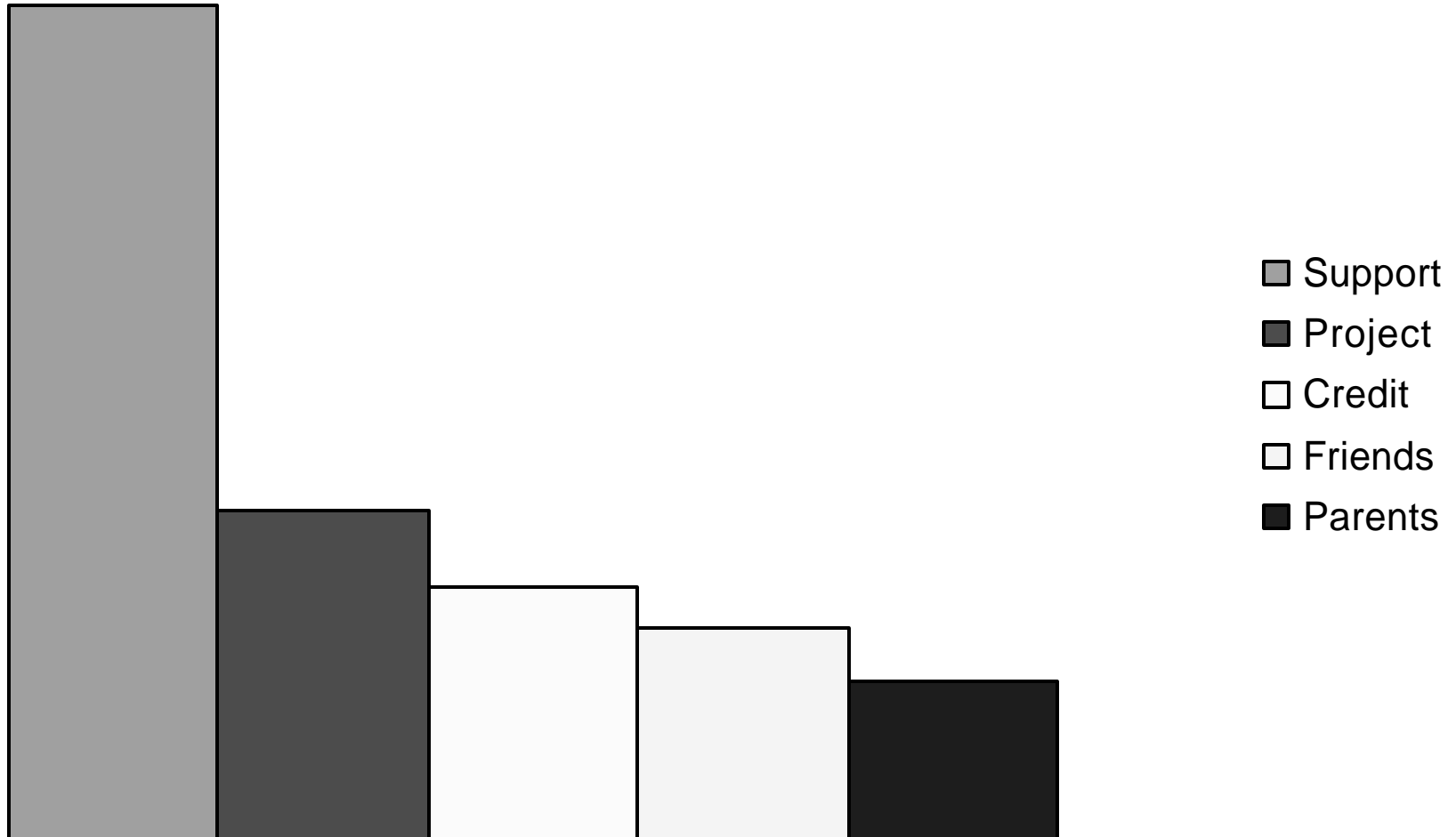
I have campaigned for a candidate/issue before (for instance, by making phone calls, walking in neighborhood or wearing buttons/pins expressing my support).





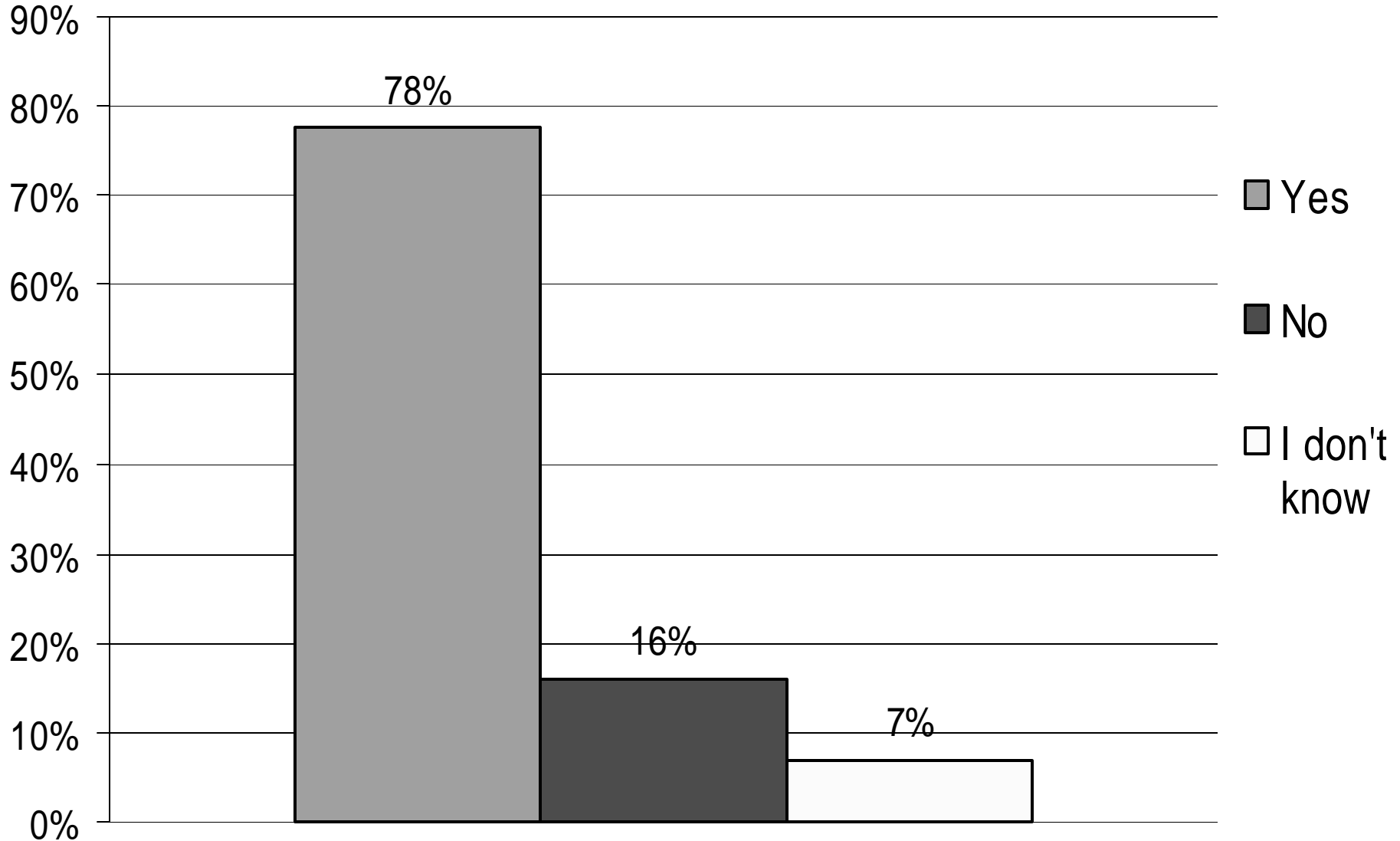
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If you answered “Sometime” or “Frequently”, why did you decide to campaign? (*Circle all that apply*)



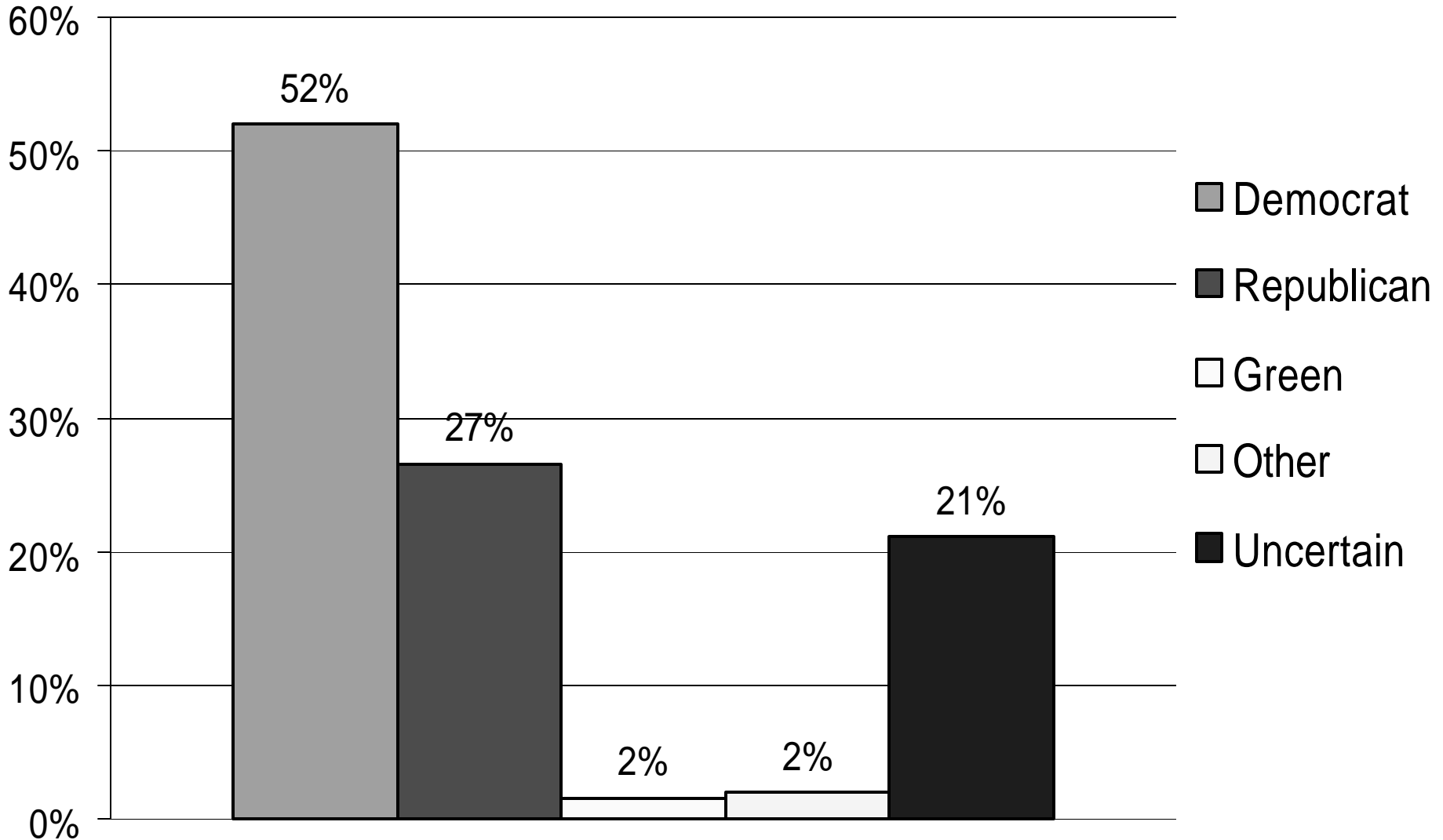


My parents voted in the last Presidential election.





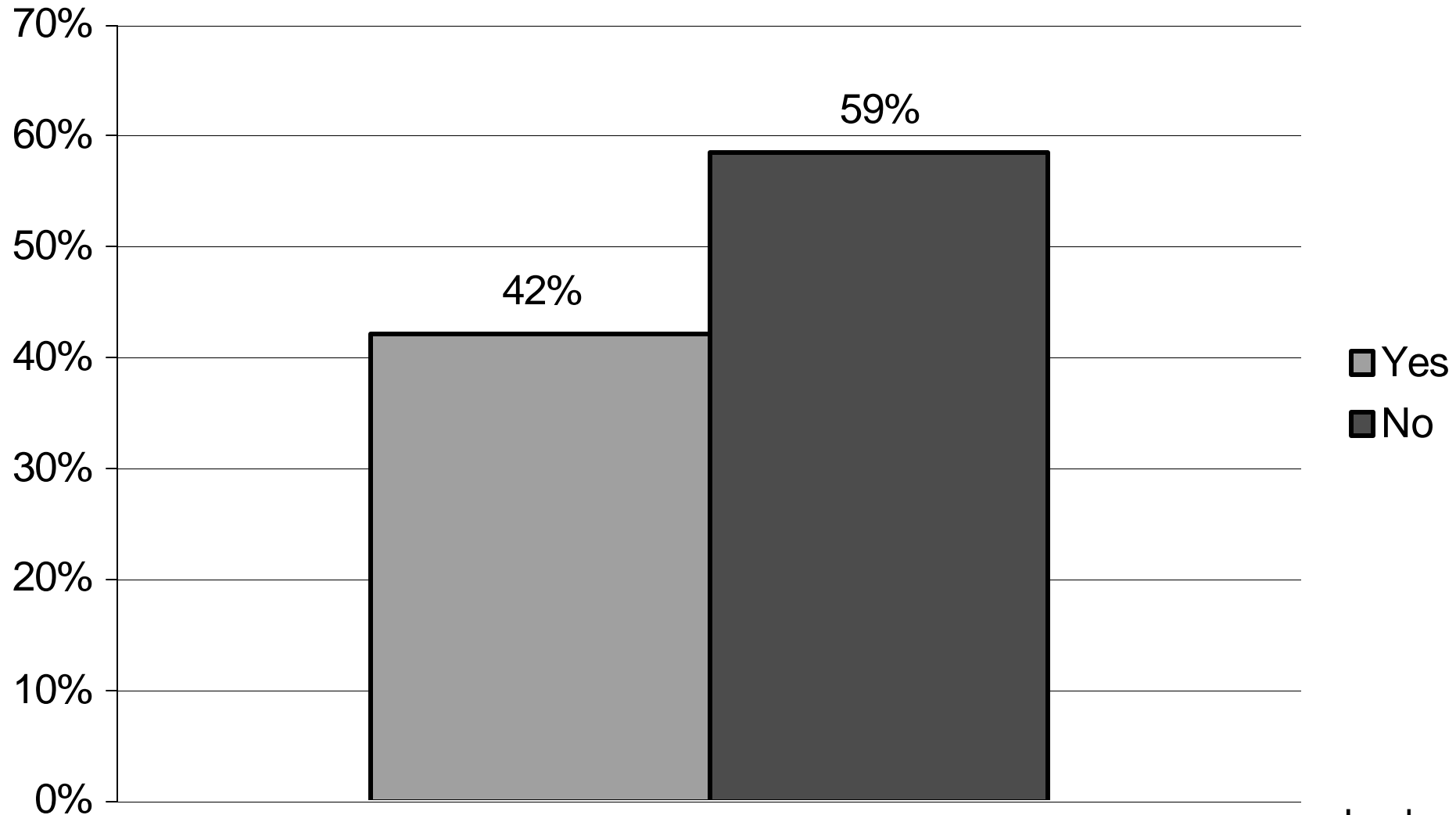
My parent/s usually vote:

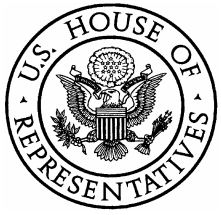




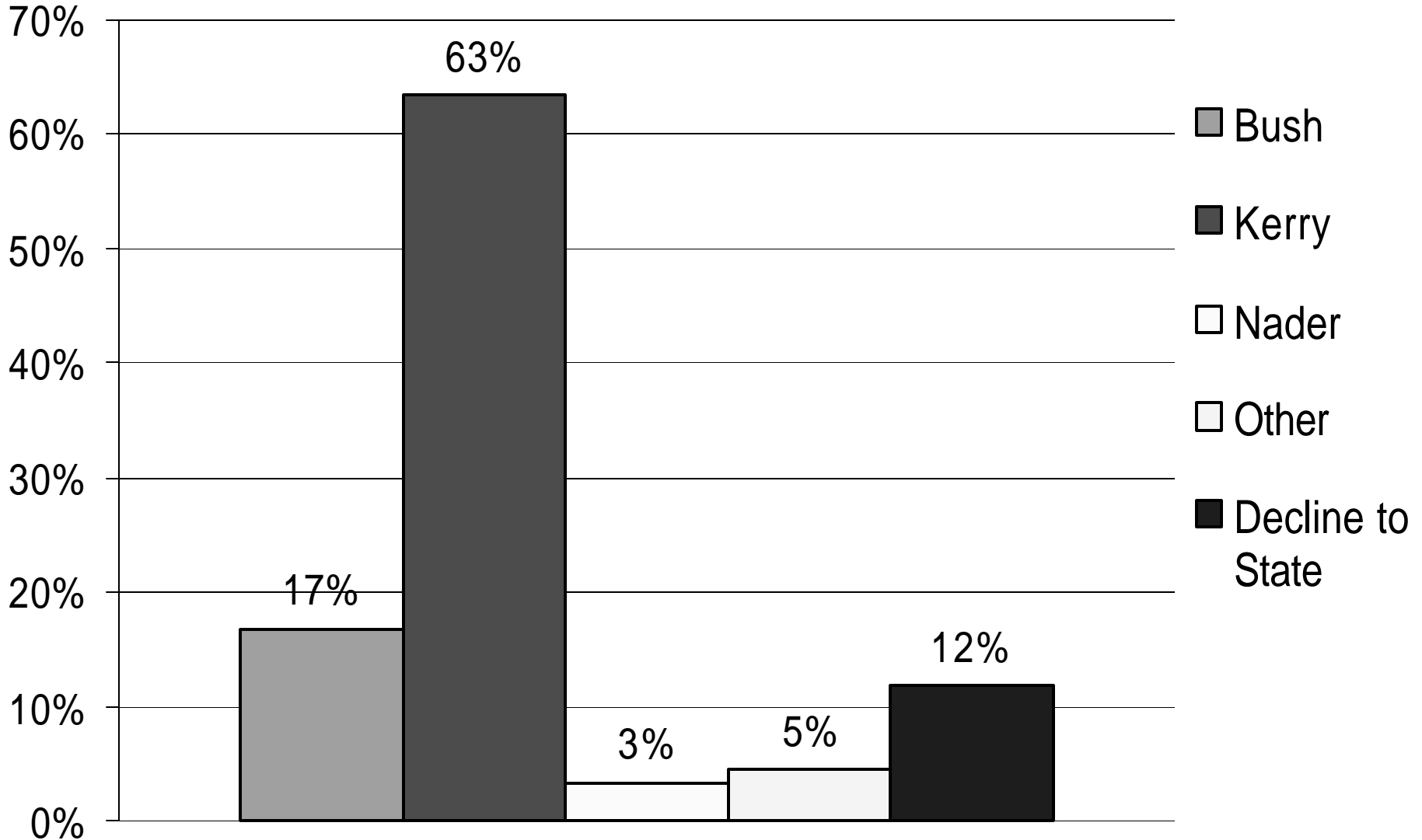
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A member of my immediate family has moved to the United States from another country in the last 20 years.





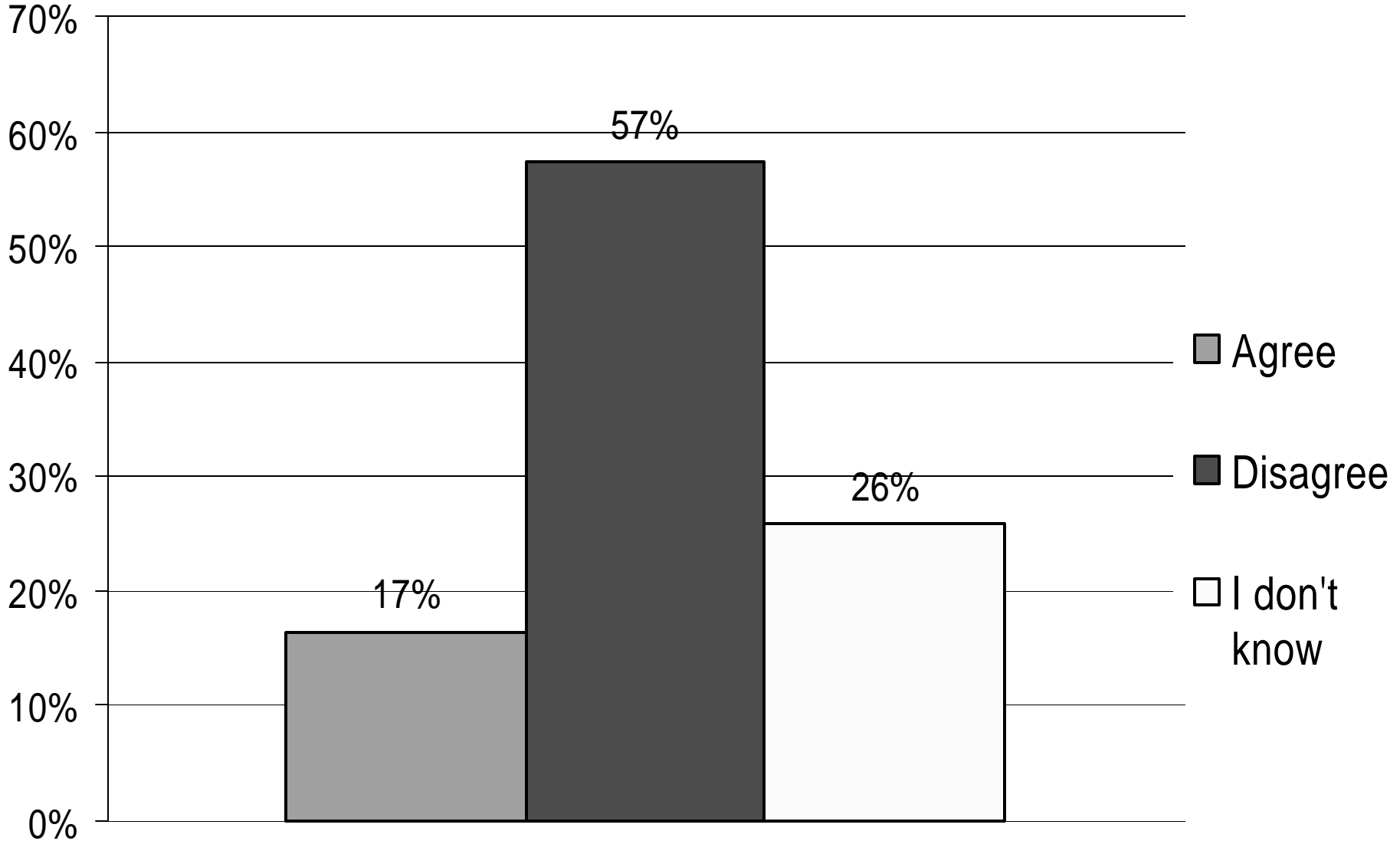
My choice for President was:





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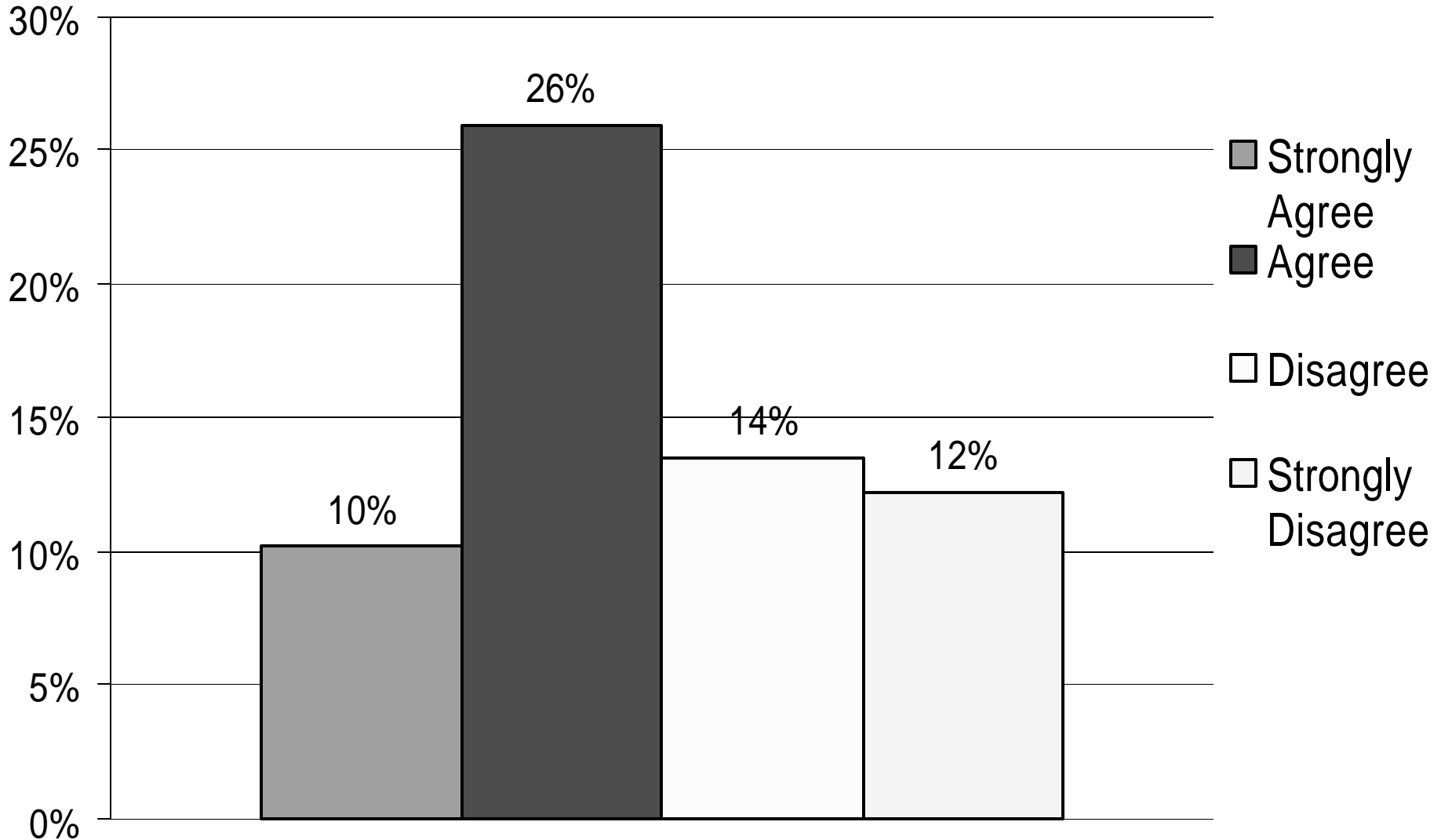
I support a different political party than my parents.





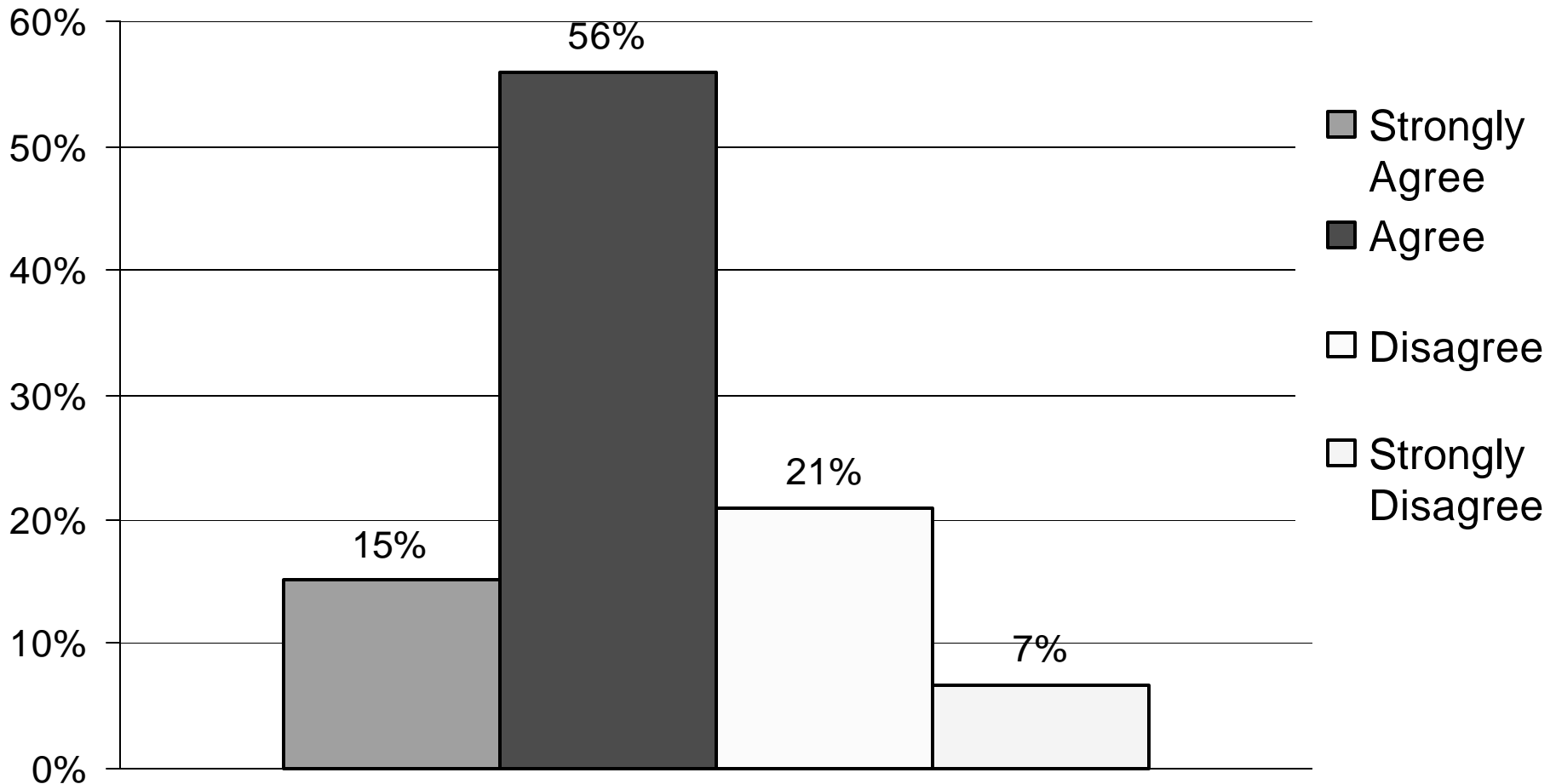
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A celebrity I liked actively supported a presidential candidate.



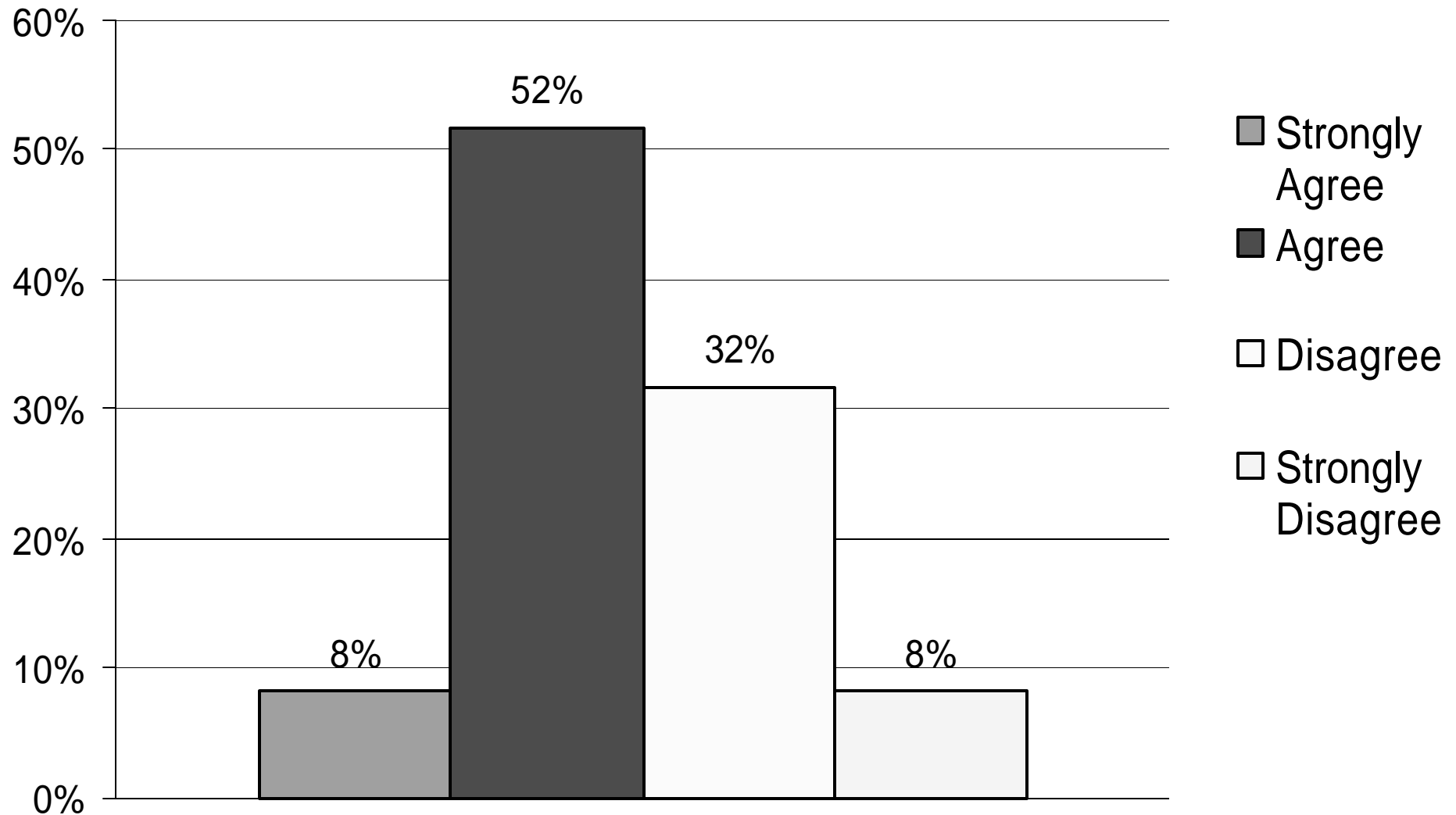


Outreach efforts by the media, like MTV's "Rock the Vote" are effective in encouraging young adults to vote or become politically active.



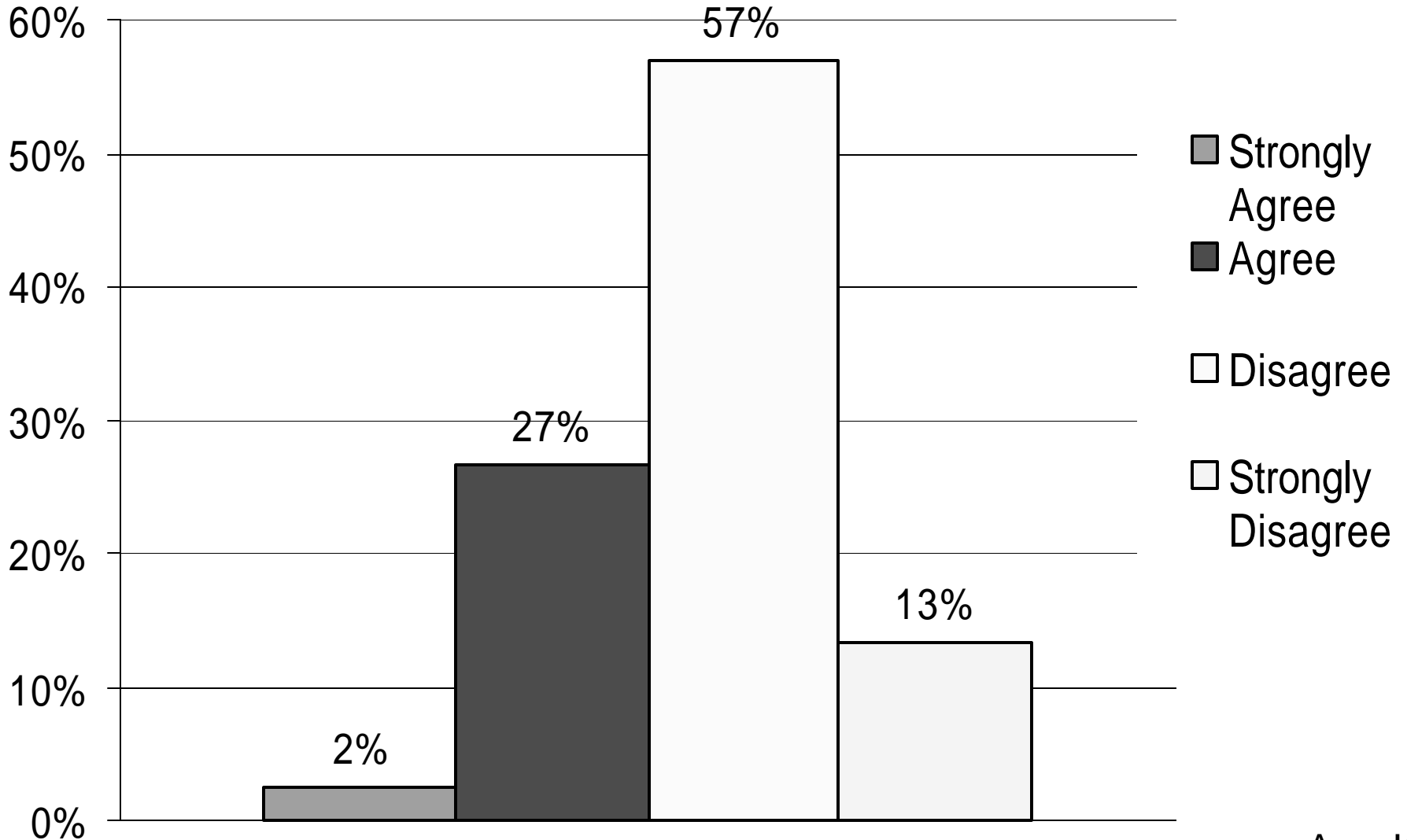


I pay attention when I see TV commercials for political candidates.





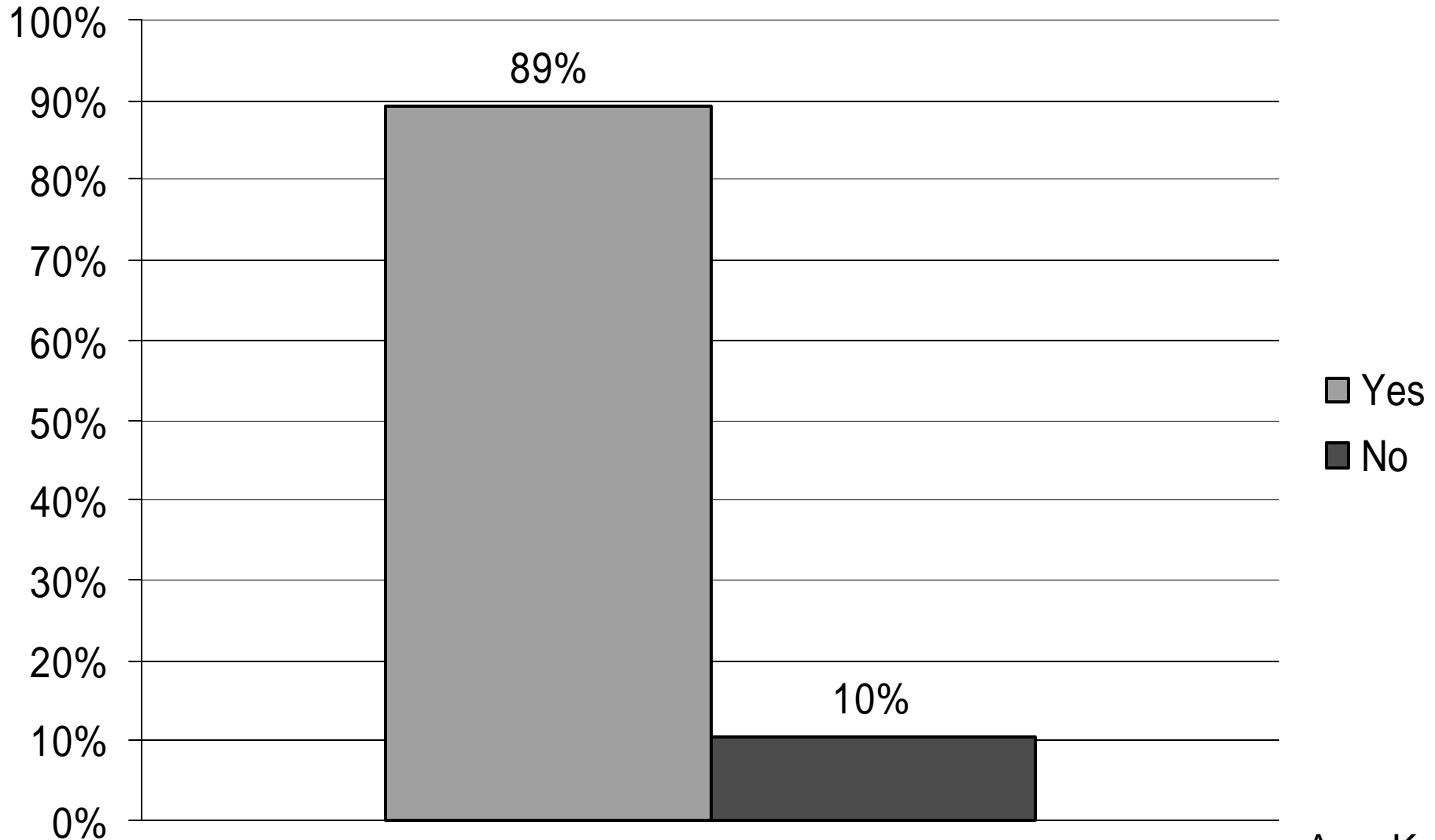
I feel that the current turnout of youth voters is acceptable.





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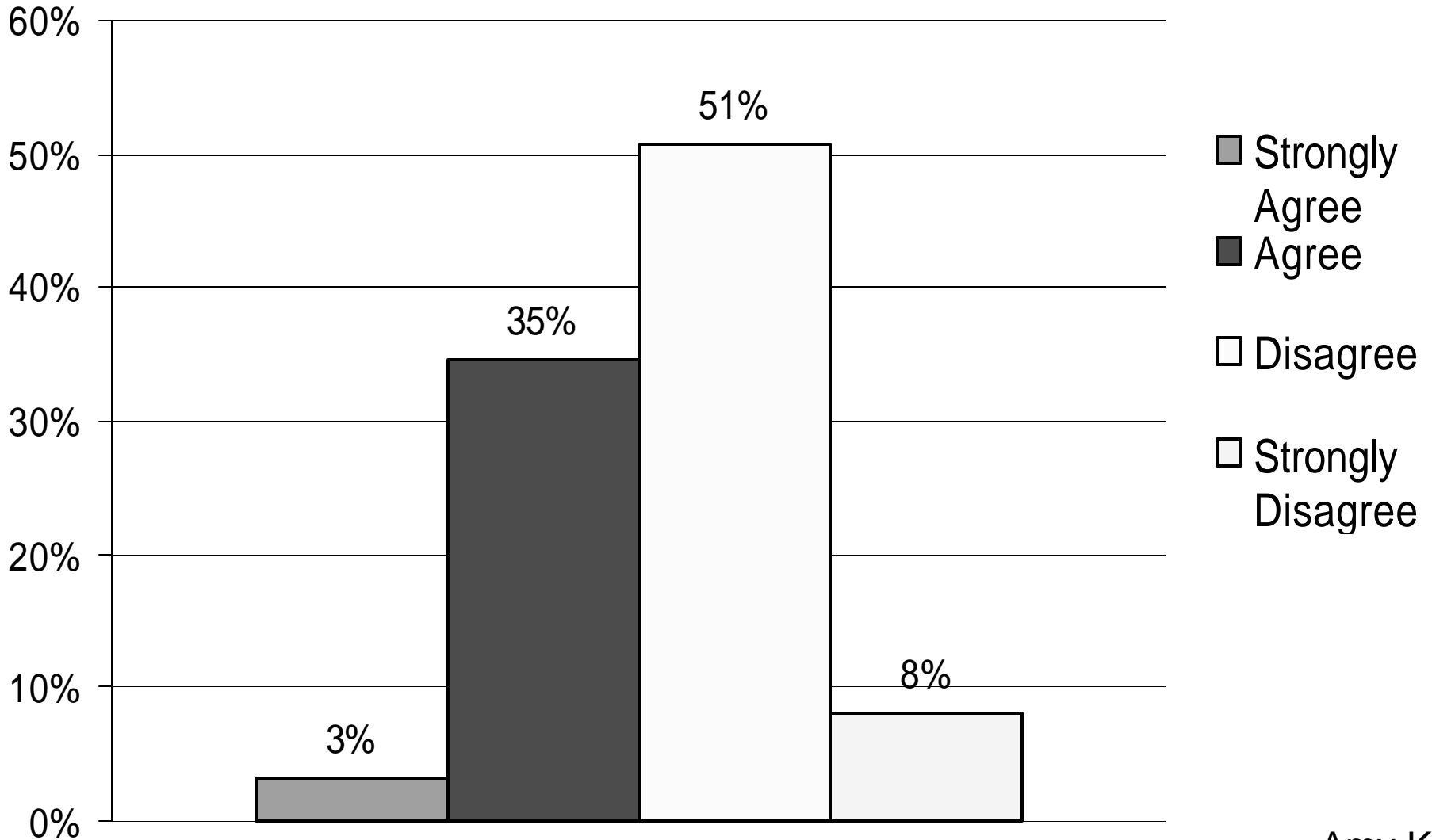
I have registered to vote or intend to do so when I become eligible.

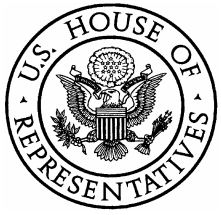


Amy K.

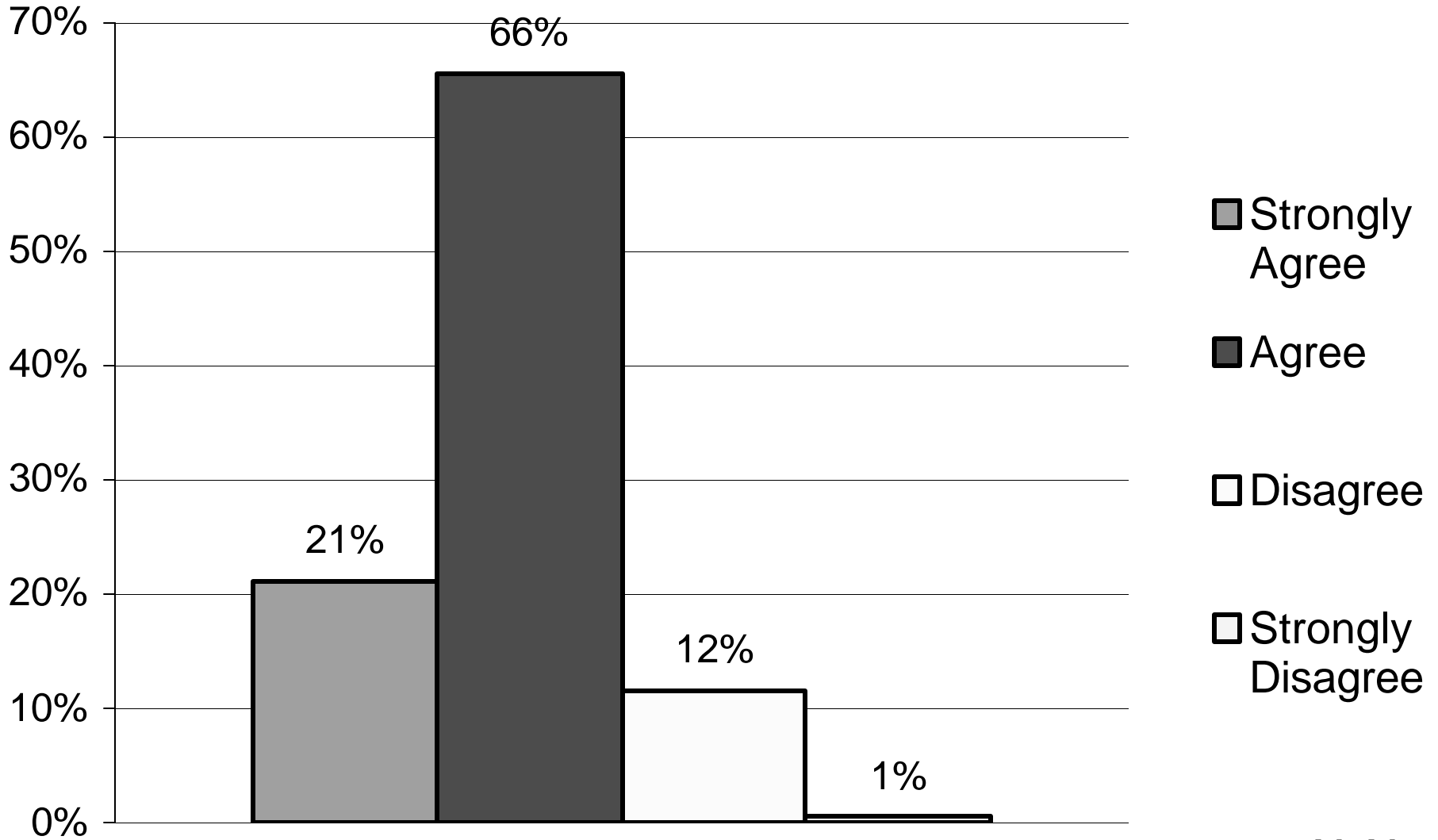


The candidates for President this year adequately encouraged youth to vote.



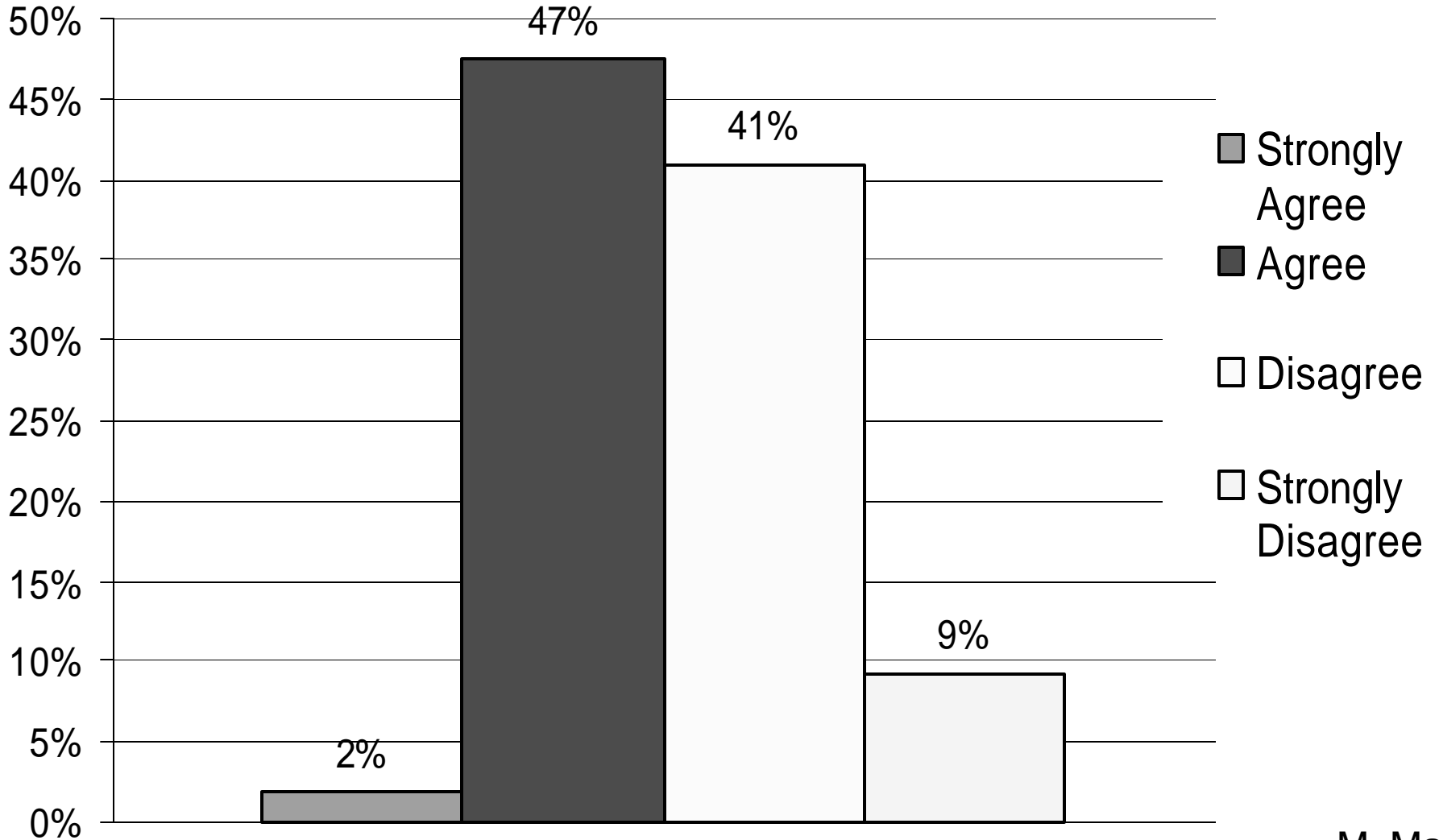


Politics is controlled mostly by money and special interests.





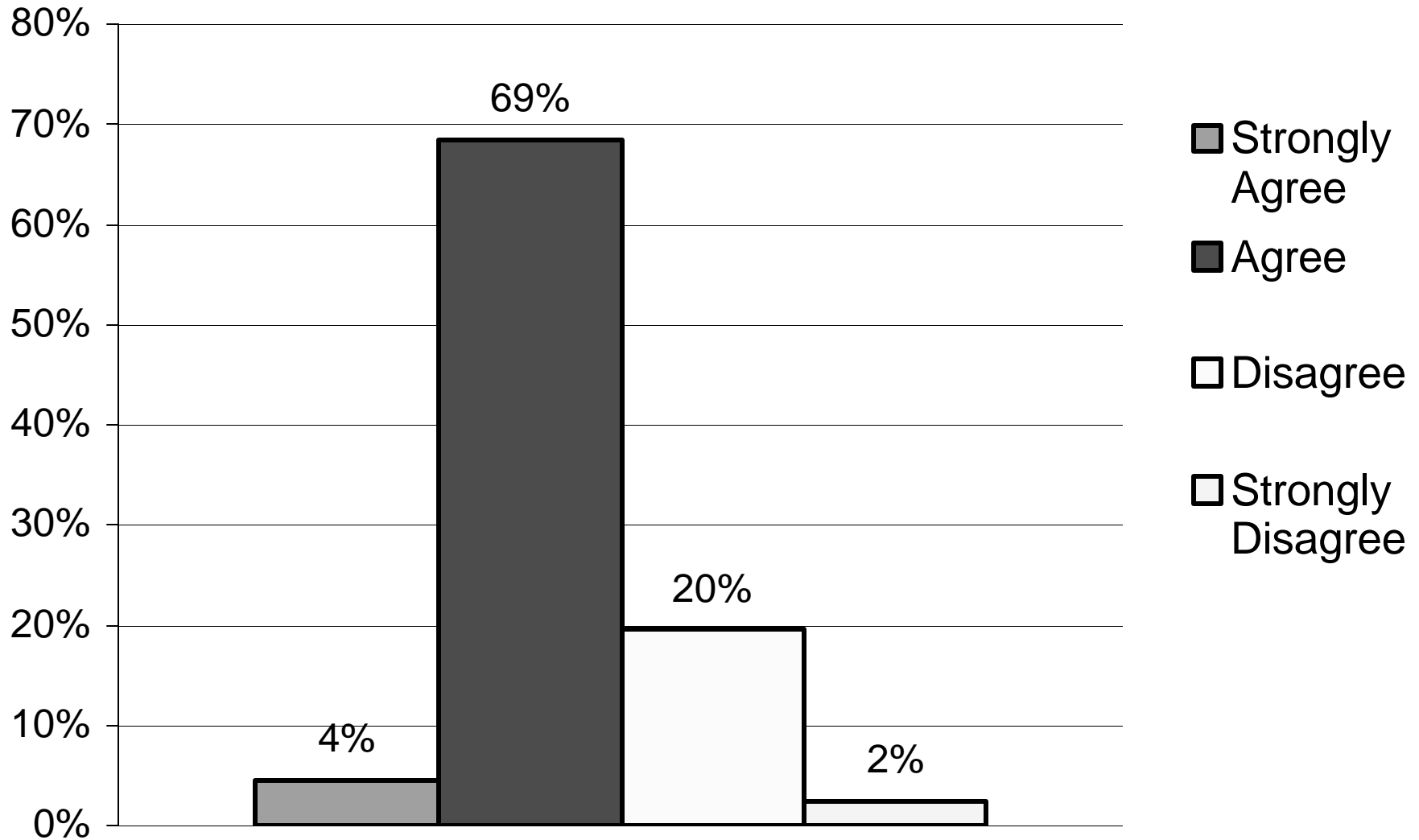
Elected officials are, for the most part, trustworthy and hardworking.





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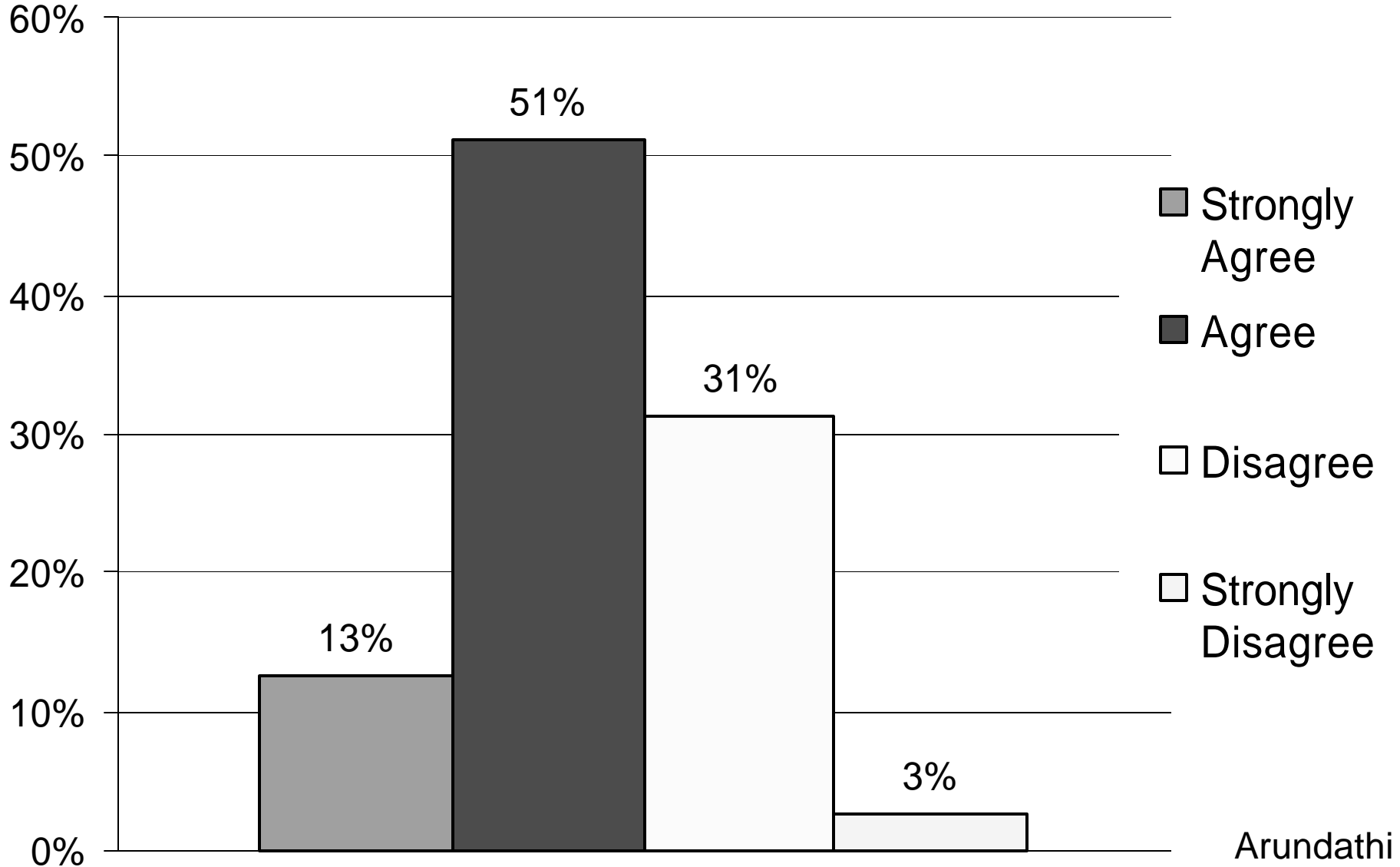
Elected officials in Santa Clara County are, for the most part, trustworthy and hard working.





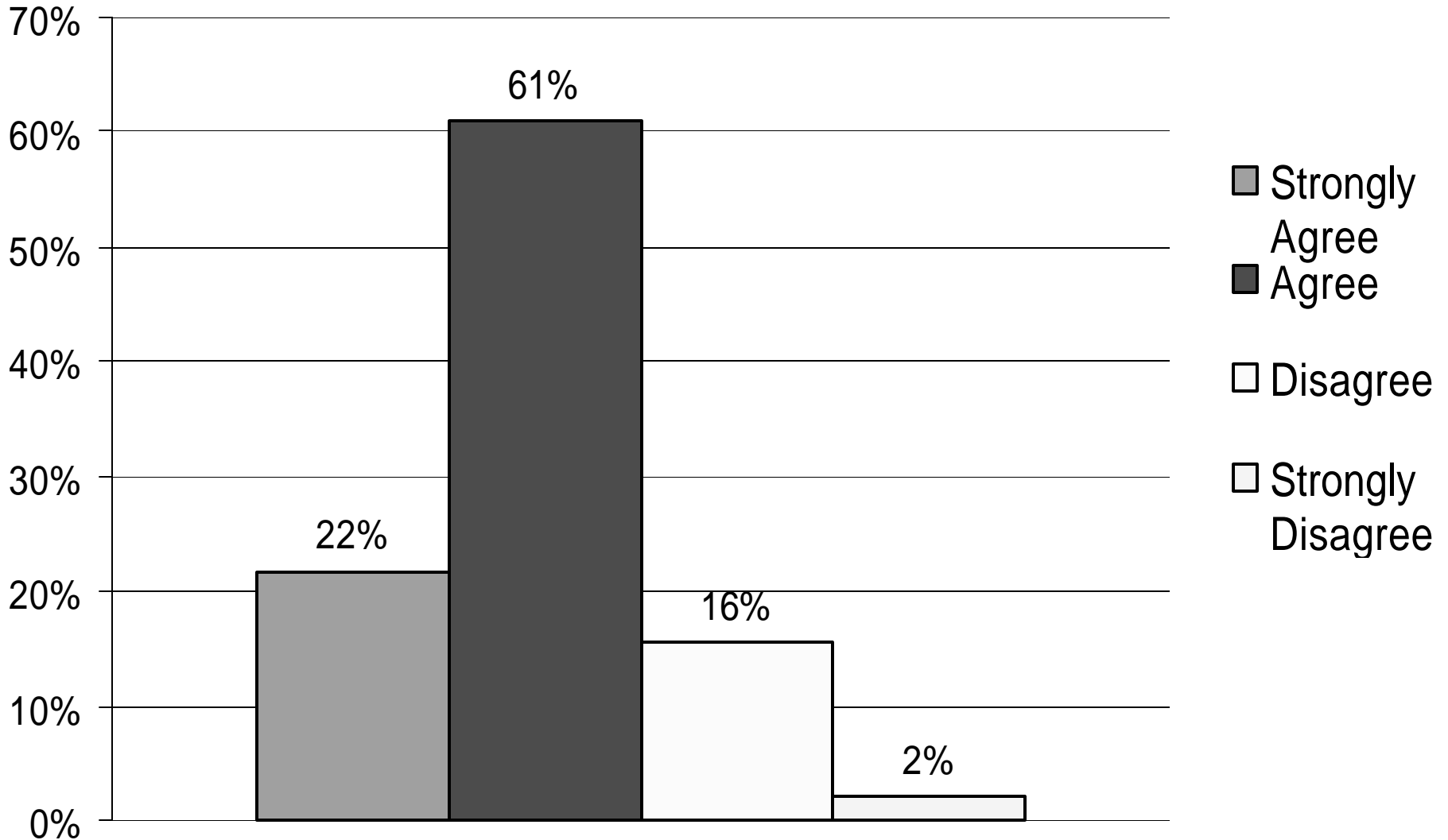
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Decisions made by elected officials affect my family or me in a significant way.





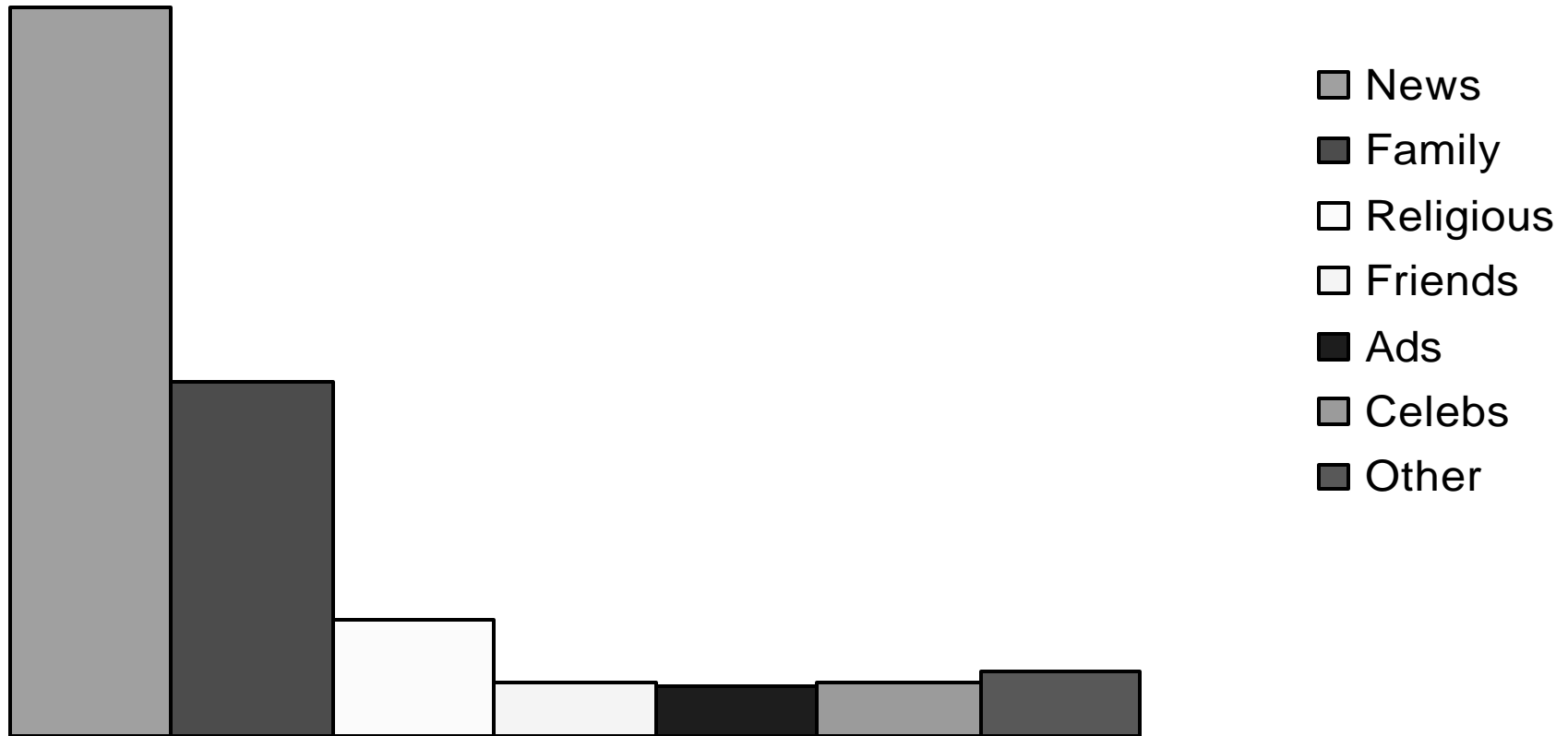
If politicians paid closer attention to issues that affect youth, more youth would vote.



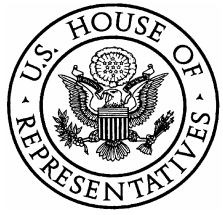


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My political opinions are most influenced by (*Please rank the following choices, with 1 being the most influential, and 6 being the least influential*):

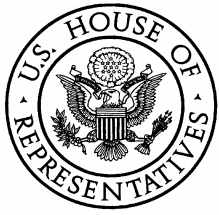


Candace



CA15th SAC

Conclusion



Call to Action

Parents

- Talk about current events with your kids
- Watch or listen to TV and radio news shows with your children
- Encourage your children to become active citizens by learning about issues they think are important

Media

- Focus on issues that affect youth like war or the economy
- Media is effective at reaching youth voters, youth pay attention to specials like “Rock the Vote”

Politicians

- Focus on issues that effect youth
- Make appearances at events where youth will be present, i.e. college campuses and high schools, or on media channels that cater to youth.
- Create a Student Advisory Council or a scholarship fund for youth

Community/Schools

- Make civic education more important and more interesting to youth