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Ohio statewide voter opinion poll

Medicaid and other selected issues



March 3-4, 2013

Background

● Methodology

- Statewide sample of 803 active voters (i.e., with any post -2007 vote history)
- Interviews conducted by telephone March 3-4, 2013
 - Landline and cell phones were included in the sample
- Margin of error of $\pm 4\%$ for 803 cases
- Typical interview was about 15 minutes

● HRC Contributors

- Dr. David B. Hill, Director, Hill Research Consultants
- Dr. Stephen N. White, Assistant Director
- Randy Ellison, Senior Research Consultant
- Jason Nemeck, Project Manager
- David Benzion, Senior Research Analyst

● Sponsorship

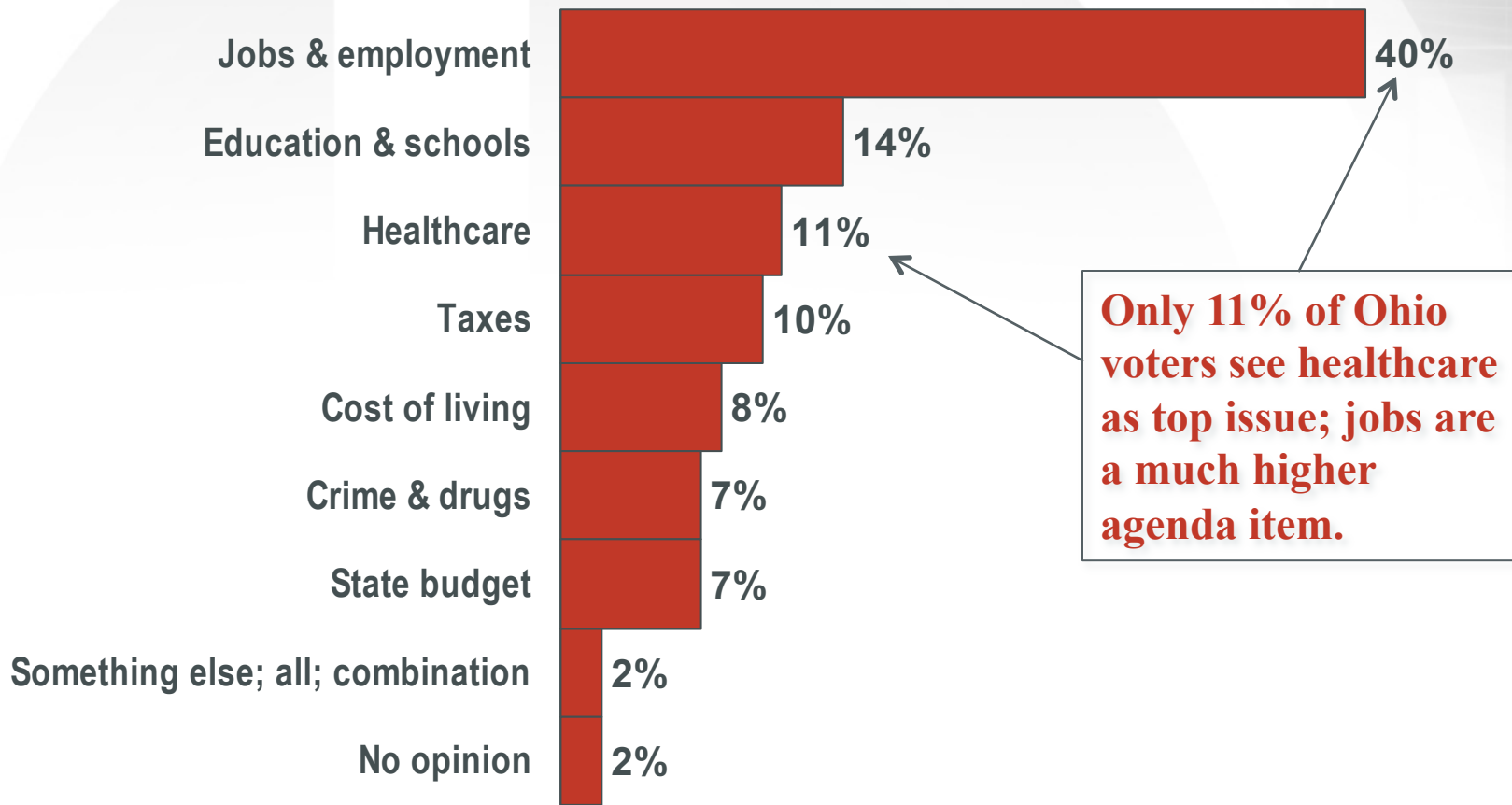
- Commissioned by Opportunity Ohio and The Liberty Foundation

Key findings and conclusions

A poll of 800 active voters in Ohio

- Ohio voters do not think there is a healthcare crisis in Ohio, so presumably they don't endorse sweeping changes in healthcare programs and coverages. Most are very satisfied with their own healthcare plans.
- Only 4% are Medicaid recipients themselves, but 31% see Medicaid as “very important” to themselves or their families. A robust 80% of Ohio voters would enroll in Medicaid if they needed coverage and they qualified, so the notion of adding more recipients like themselves to the Medicaid rolls is conceivable to the electorate.
- But 43% oppose expansion generally; and 46-49% oppose when given specific details of proposed expansion, including eligibility levels and numbers of new recipients; opinions about expansion split sharply along party lines, with about two-in-three Republican-primary voters (65%-66%) opposed when told of proposed expansion details.
- Opposition to expansion is justified firstly by concerns about rushing to approve expansion when estimates for costs vary so widely, and by concerns about waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicaid system.

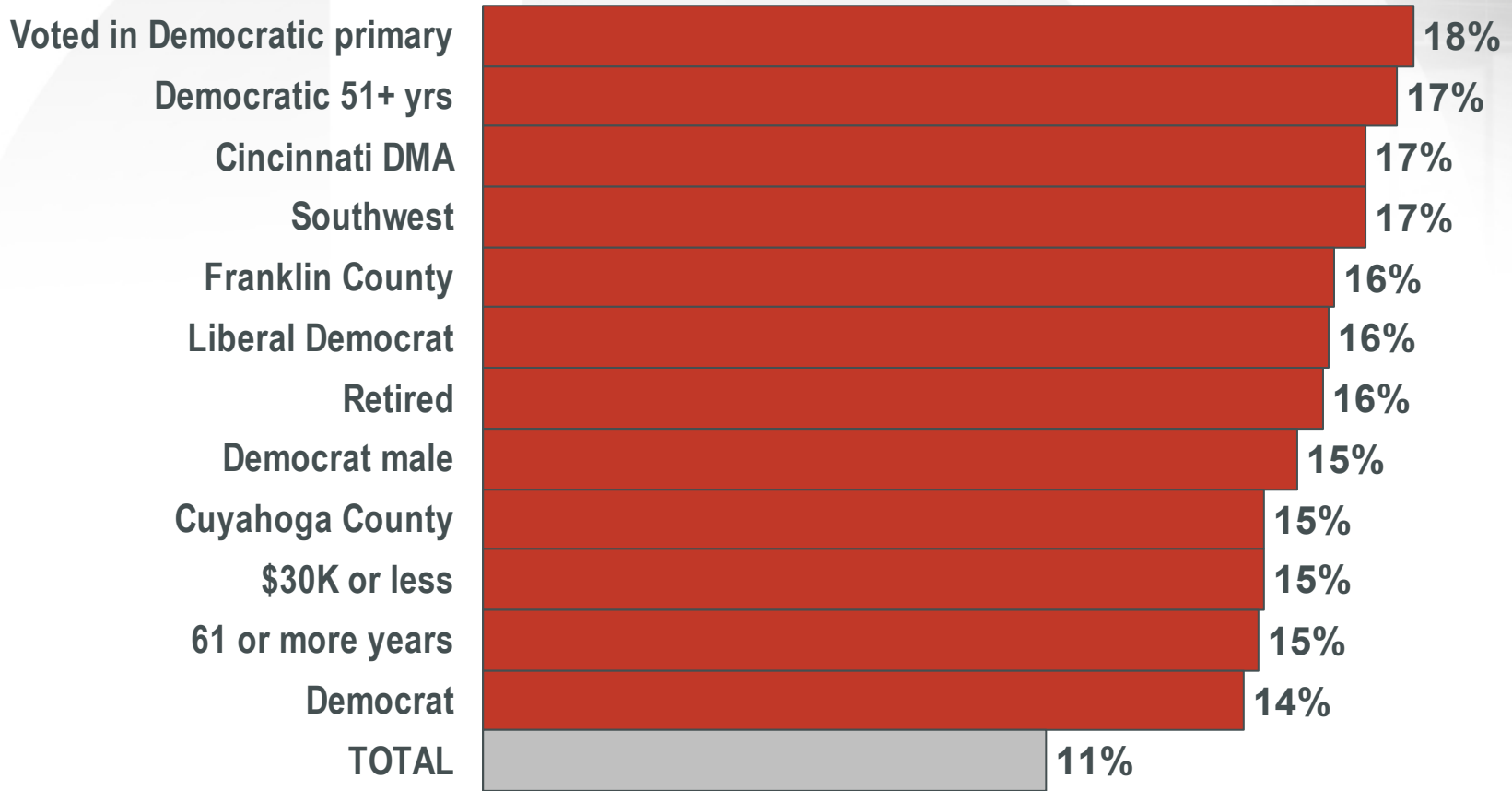
Most important issue facing people in your own part of Ohio today is . . . ?



Most important issue facing people in own part of Ohio today

profile of selected categories with the highest percentages of “healthcare”

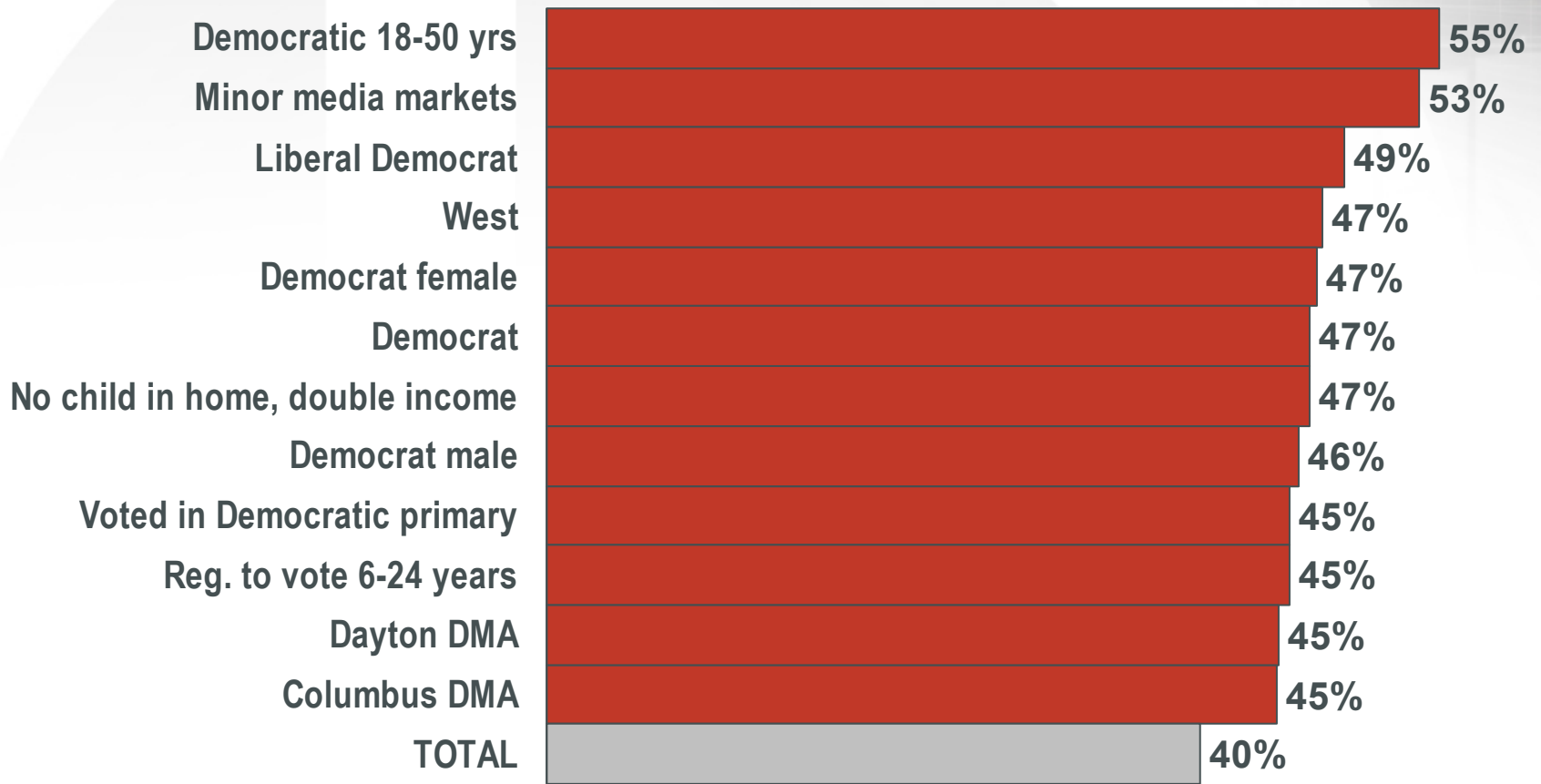
Democrats are most inclined to see “healthcare” as the top issue in Ohio, yet even among Democrats, fewer than 1-in-5 place the issue at the top of their agenda; jobs still ranks #1



Most important issue facing people in own part of Ohio today

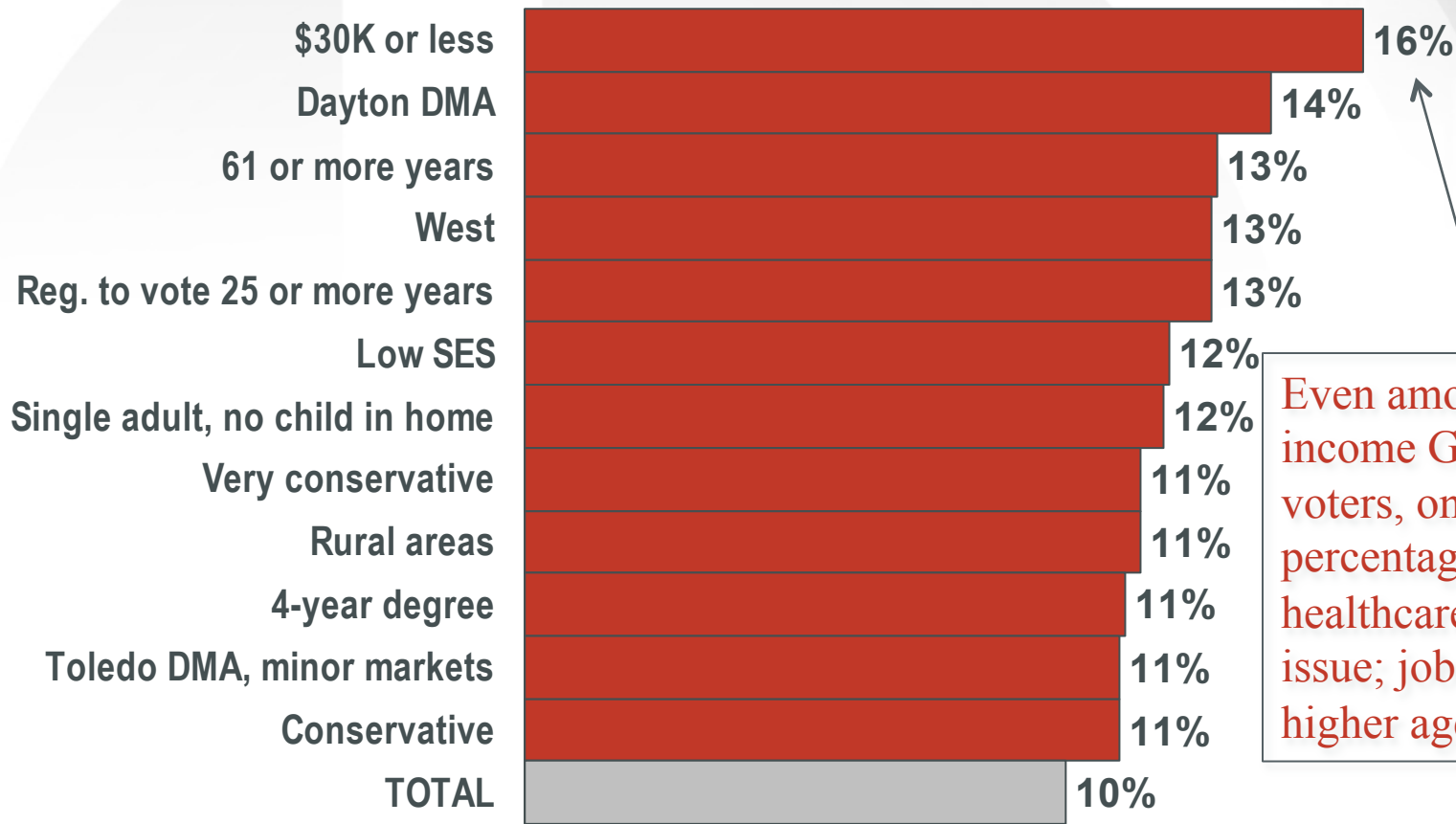
profile of selected categories with the highest percentages of “jobs & employment”

Roughly one-half of all Democrats rank see “jobs and employment” as their top issue



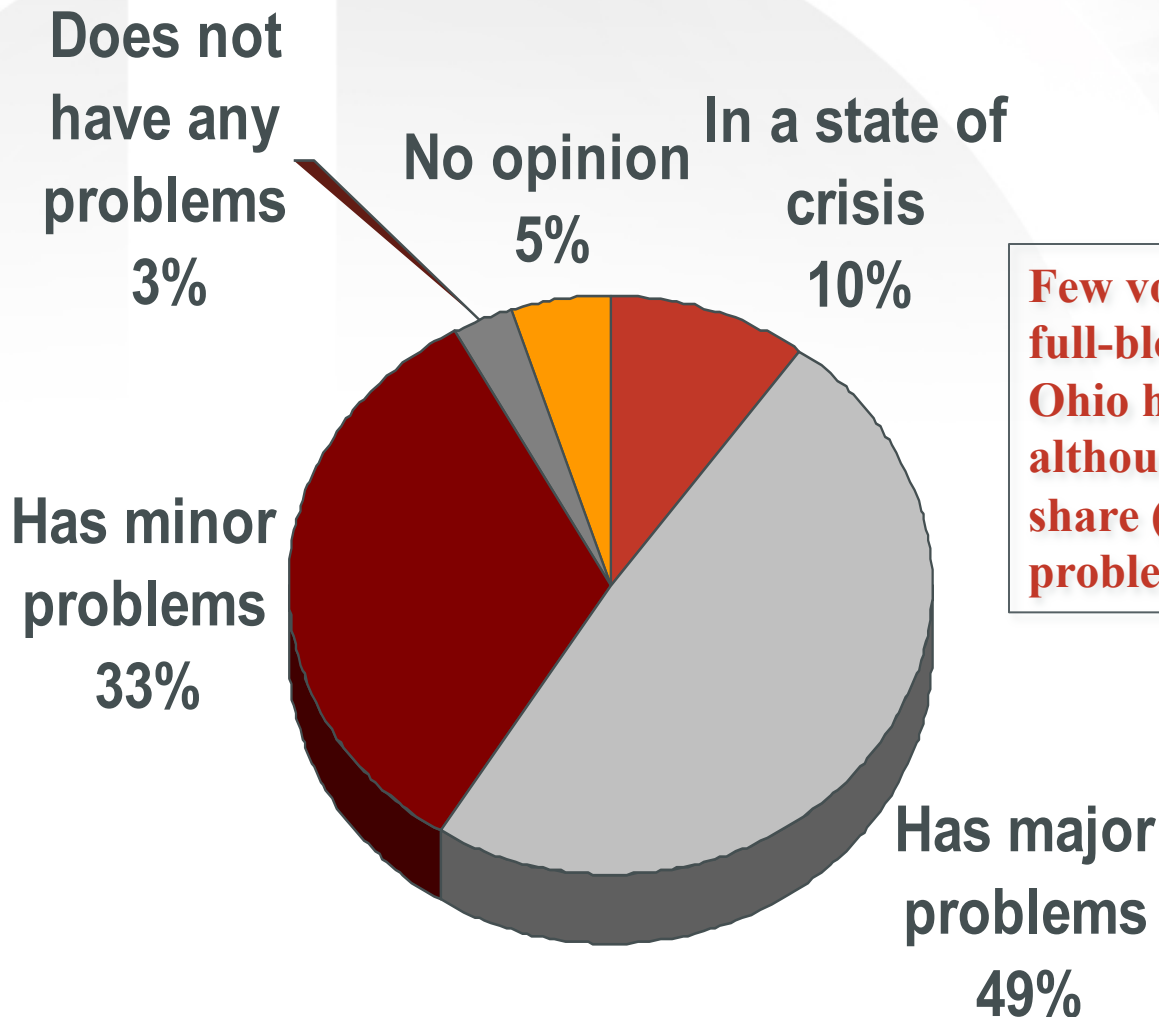
Most important issue facing people in own part of Ohio today?

profile of **REPUBLICANS ONLY** with the highest percentages of “healthcare”



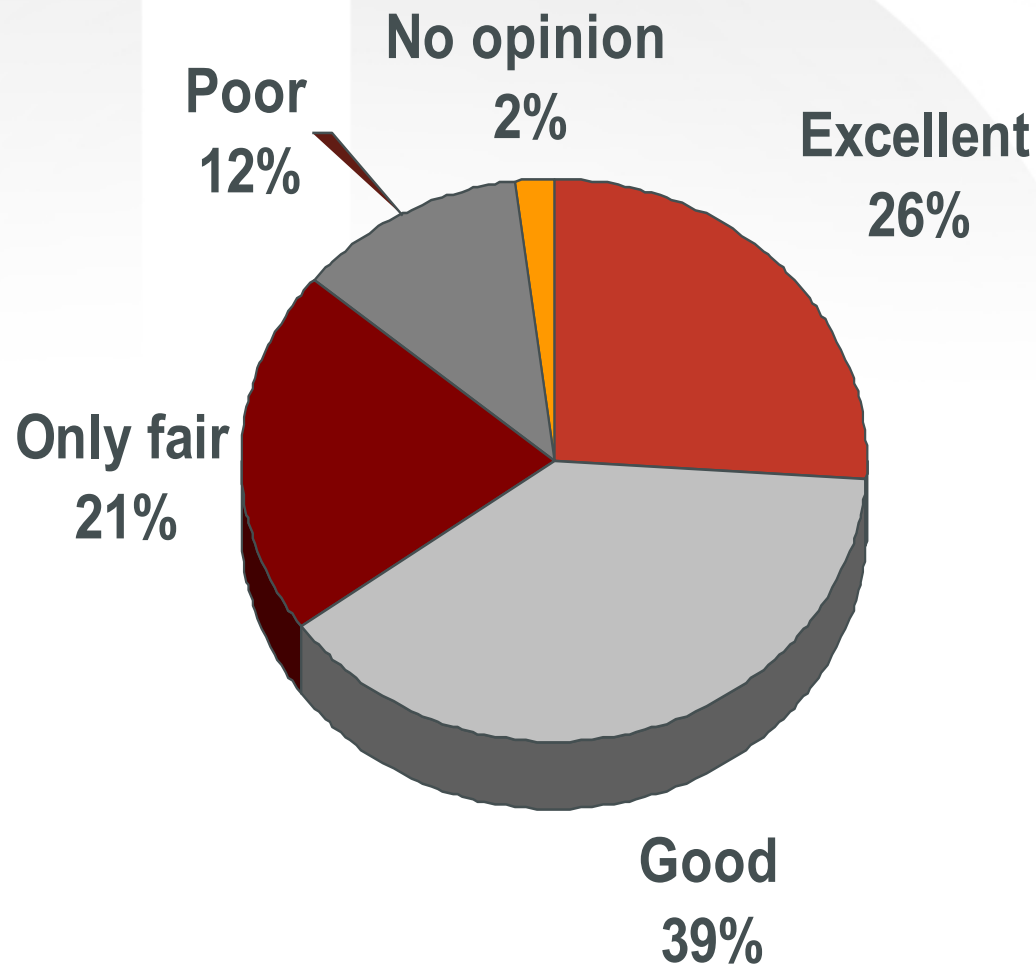
Even among lowest income GOP-primary voters, only a modest percentage (16%) see healthcare as top issue; jobs are a much higher agenda item.

Best describes Ohio's healthcare system today?



Few voters (10%) see a full-blown crisis in Ohio healthcare, although a significant share (49%) see major problems.

Rating of own personal healthcare coverage

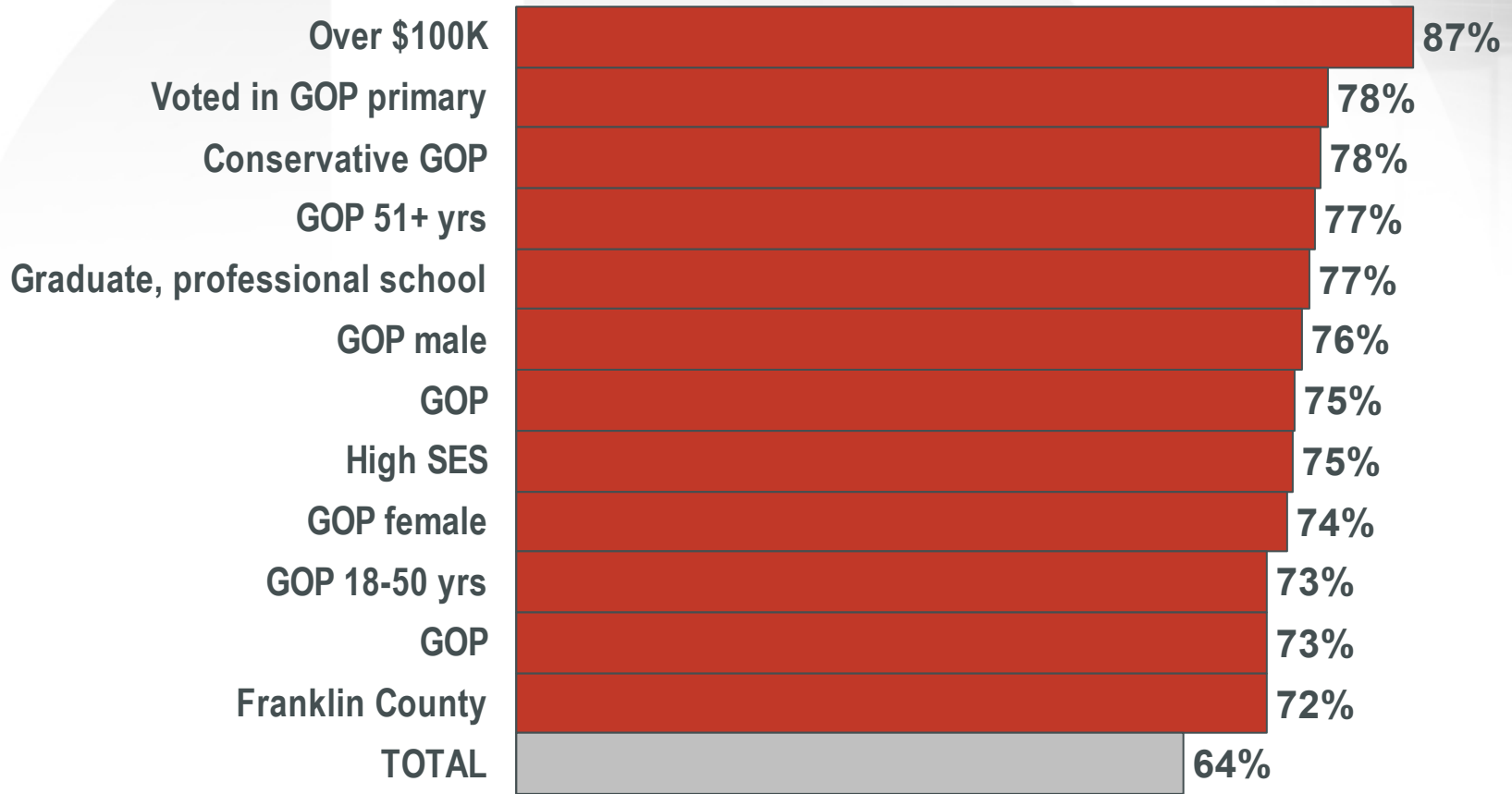


Most voters are happy with their own healthcare coverage.

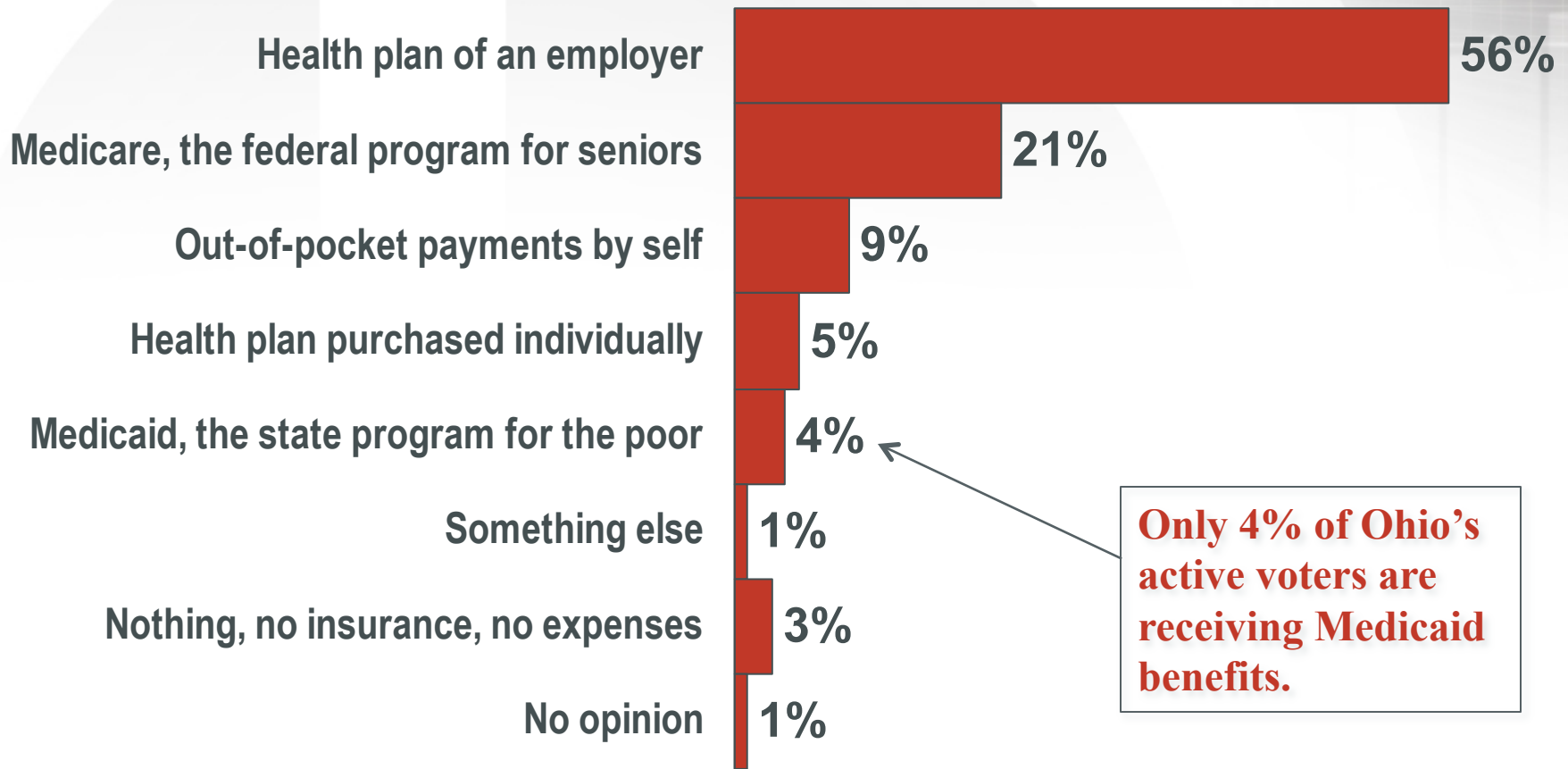
Rating of own personal healthcare coverage

profile of selected categories with the highest percentages of “excellent + good”

Republicans, high-income householders, and voters with post-graduate degrees are the most satisfied with their personal healthcare coverage



Pays for more of own personal healthcare expenses

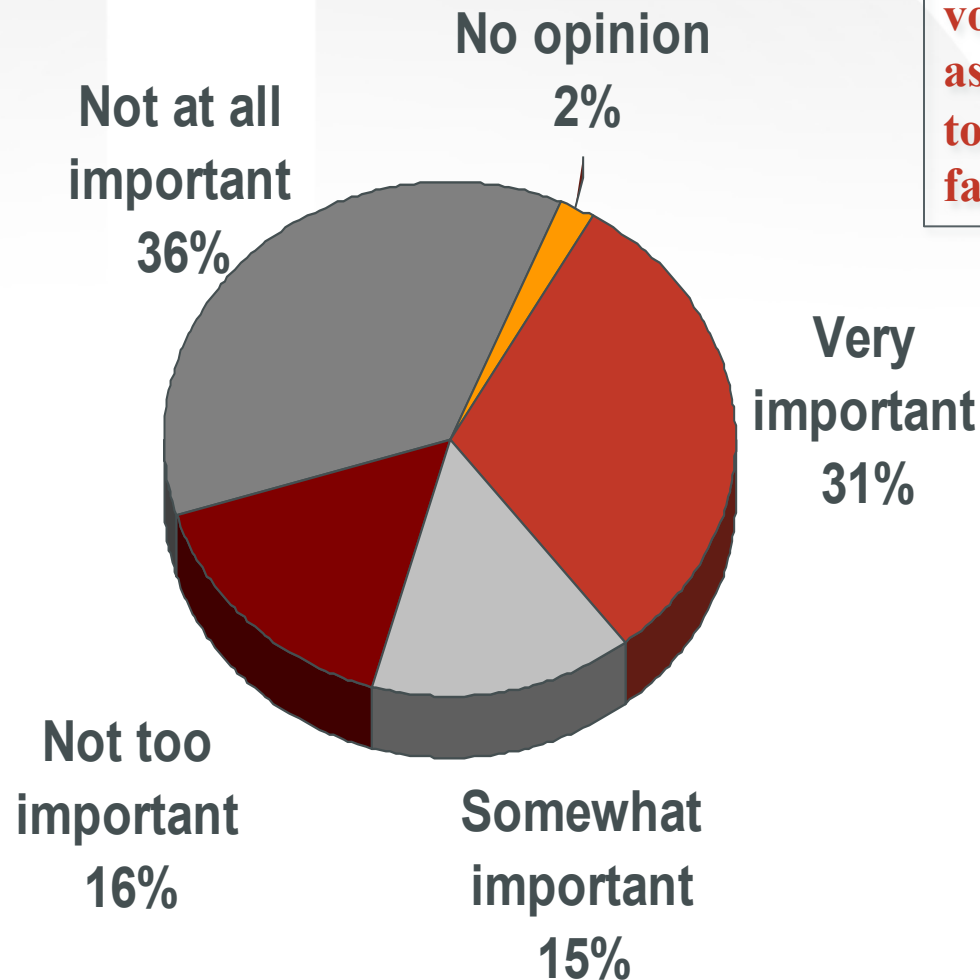


Party ties of Medicaid recipients in Ohio

Medicaid enrollment skews heavily toward Democrat identifiers and Democratic primary voters

	Percent of Medicaid recipients
Partisan identification	
<i>Democrat</i>	75%
<i>Republican</i>	13%
<i>Independent/other</i>	8%
<i>Refused</i>	4%
Ever voted in a Republican primary	
<i>Yes</i>	9%
<i>No</i>	88%
<i>Refused</i>	4%

Importance of Medicaid program for you & your family

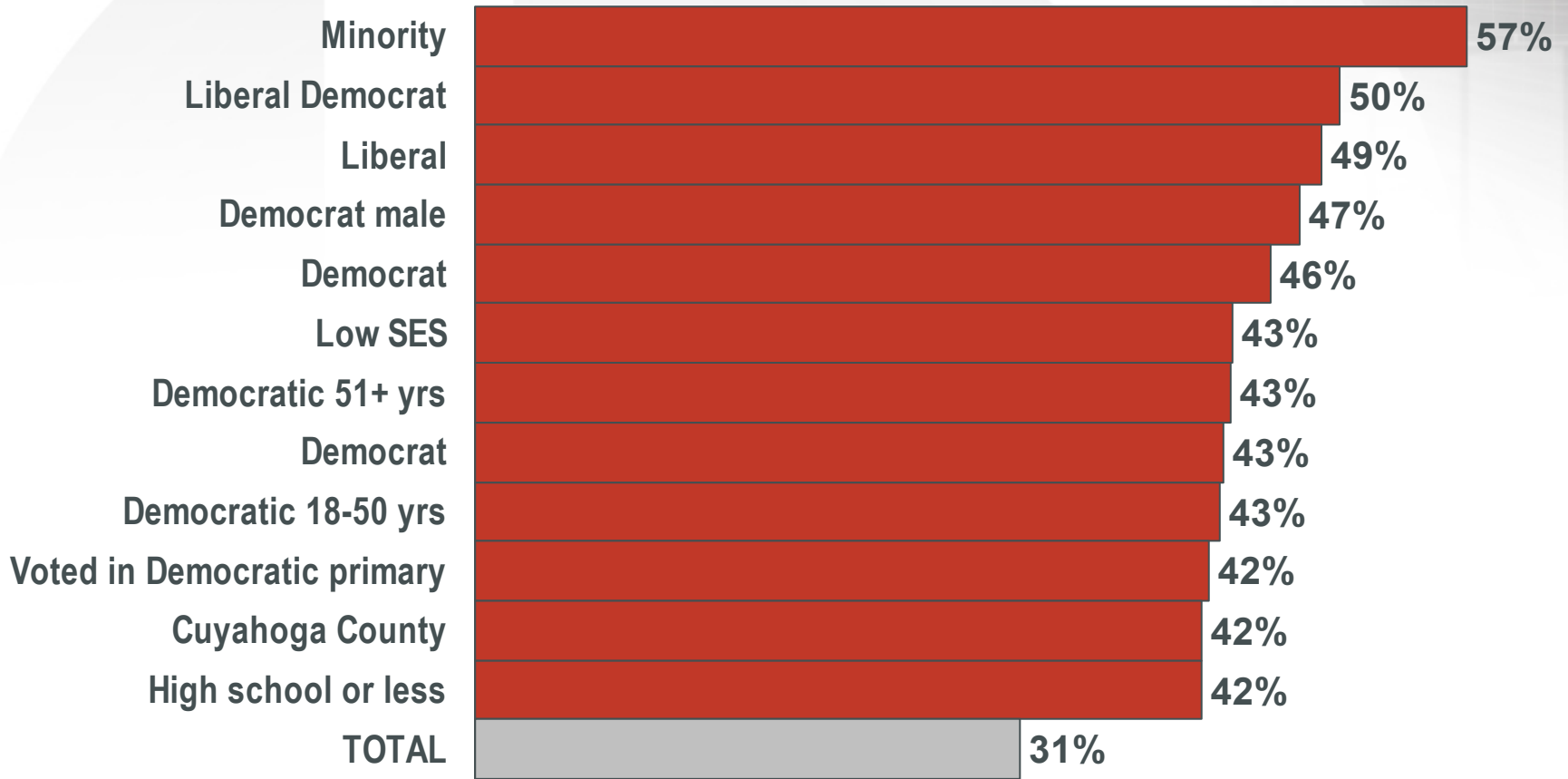


About one-third (31%) of Ohio voters see Medicaid as very important to their own families.

Importance of Medicaid program for you & your family

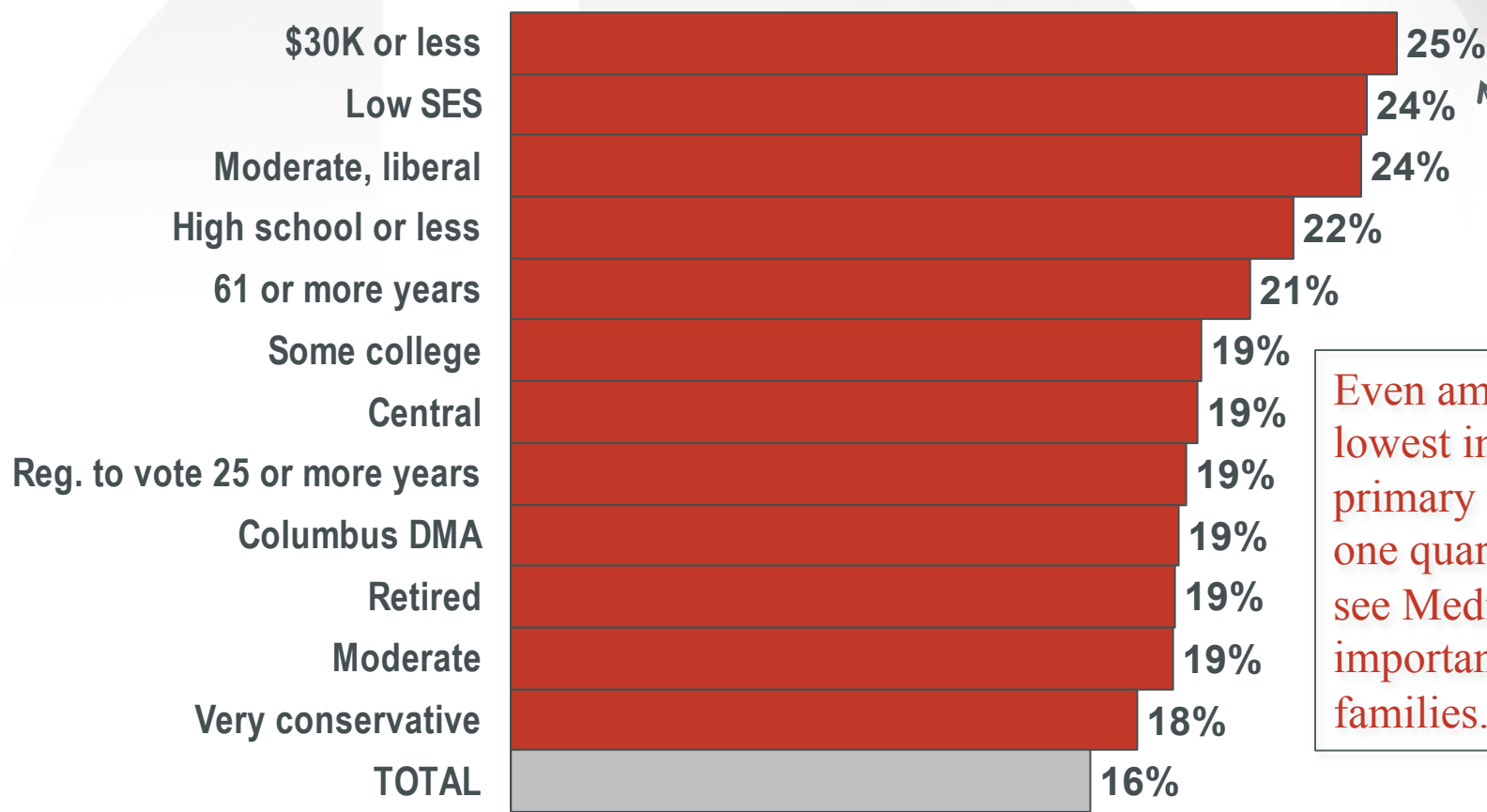
profile of selected categories with the highest percentages of “very important”

Minorities, Democrats, and low socio-economic status voters are most likely to see Medicaid as very important to their own families



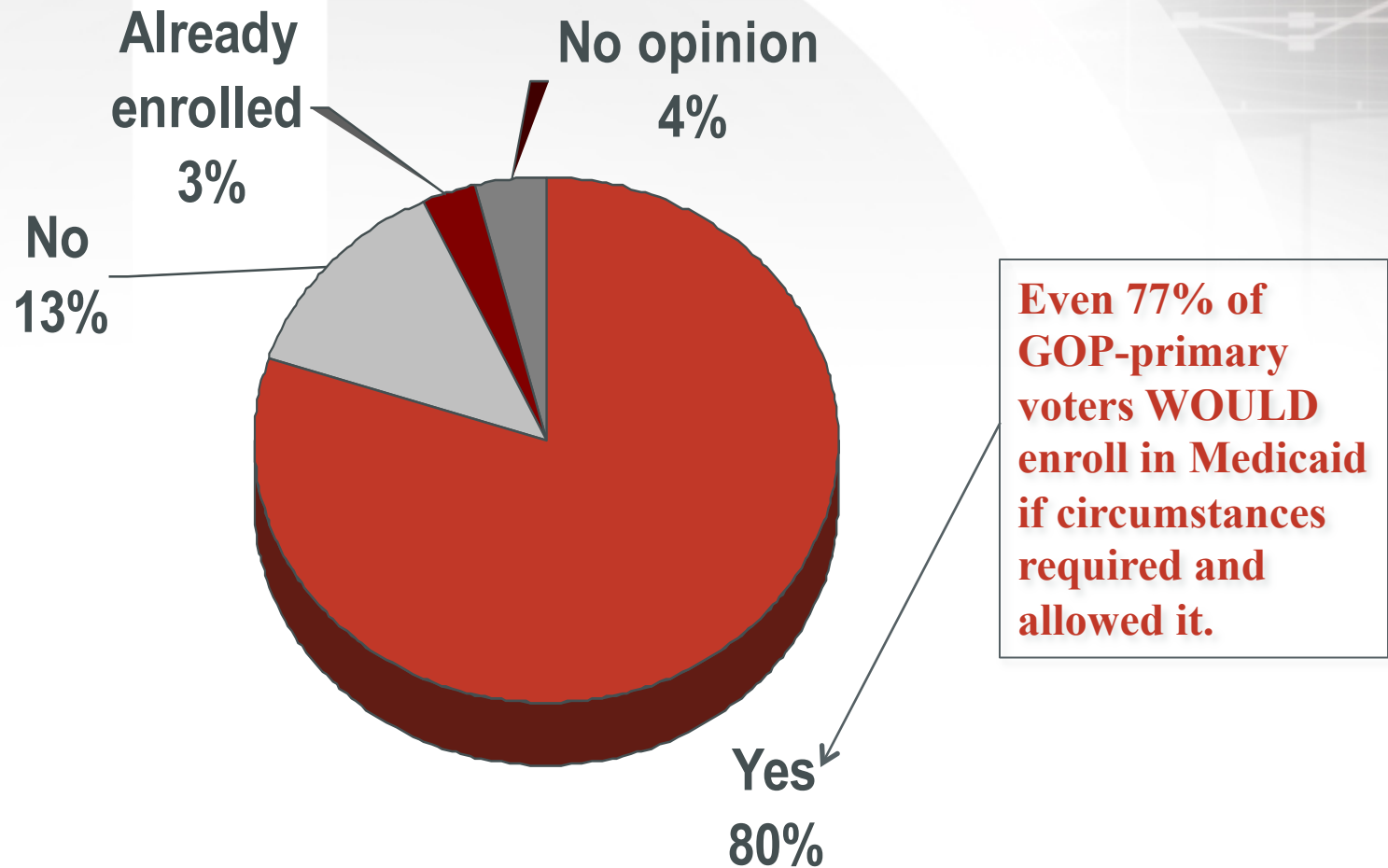
Importance of Medicaid program for you & your family

profile of **REPUBLICANS ONLY** with highest percentages of “*very important*”

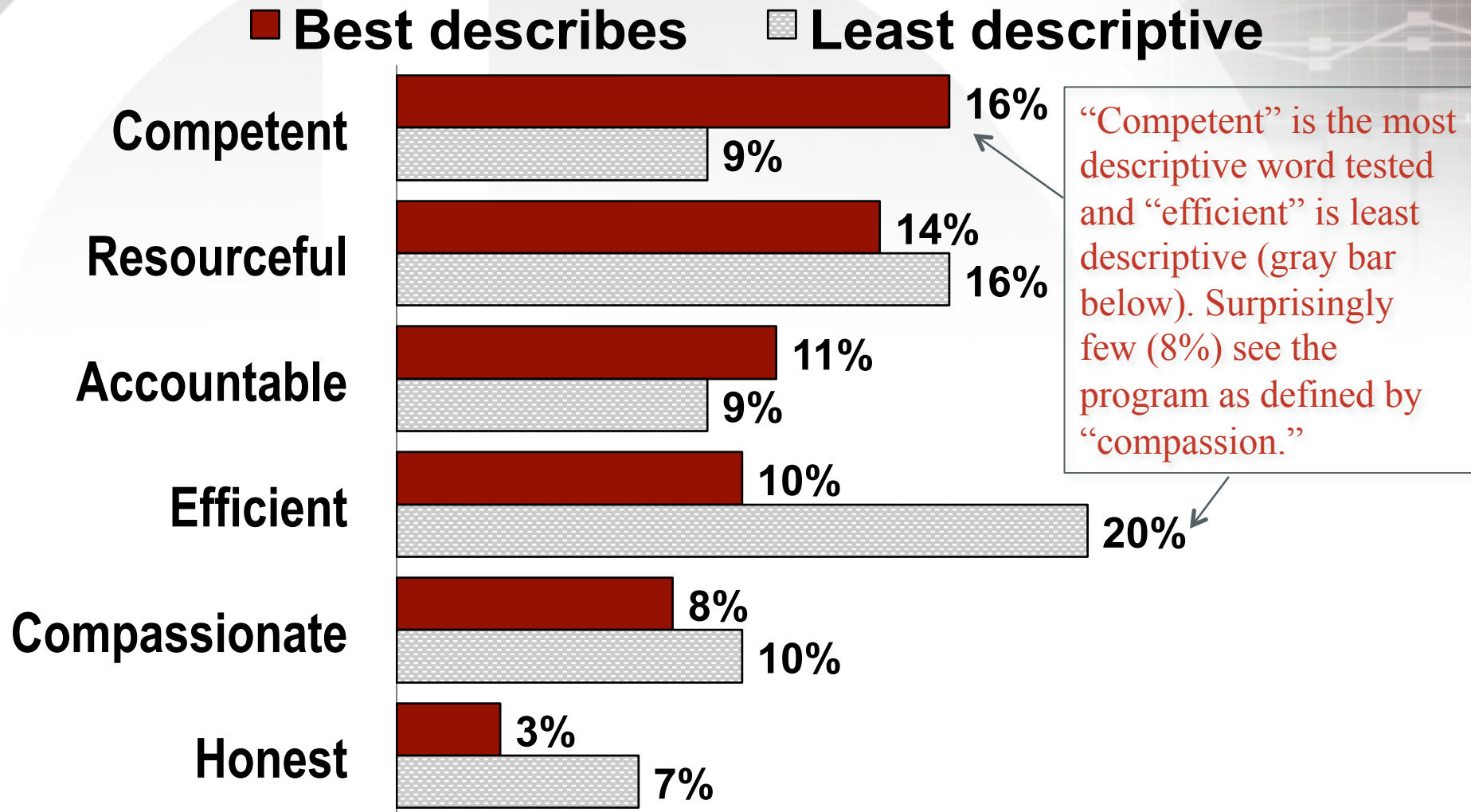


Even among the lowest income GOP-primary voters, only one quarter (25%) see Medicaid as very important to their families.

Would enroll in Medicaid program if uninsured, needed healthcare & qualified



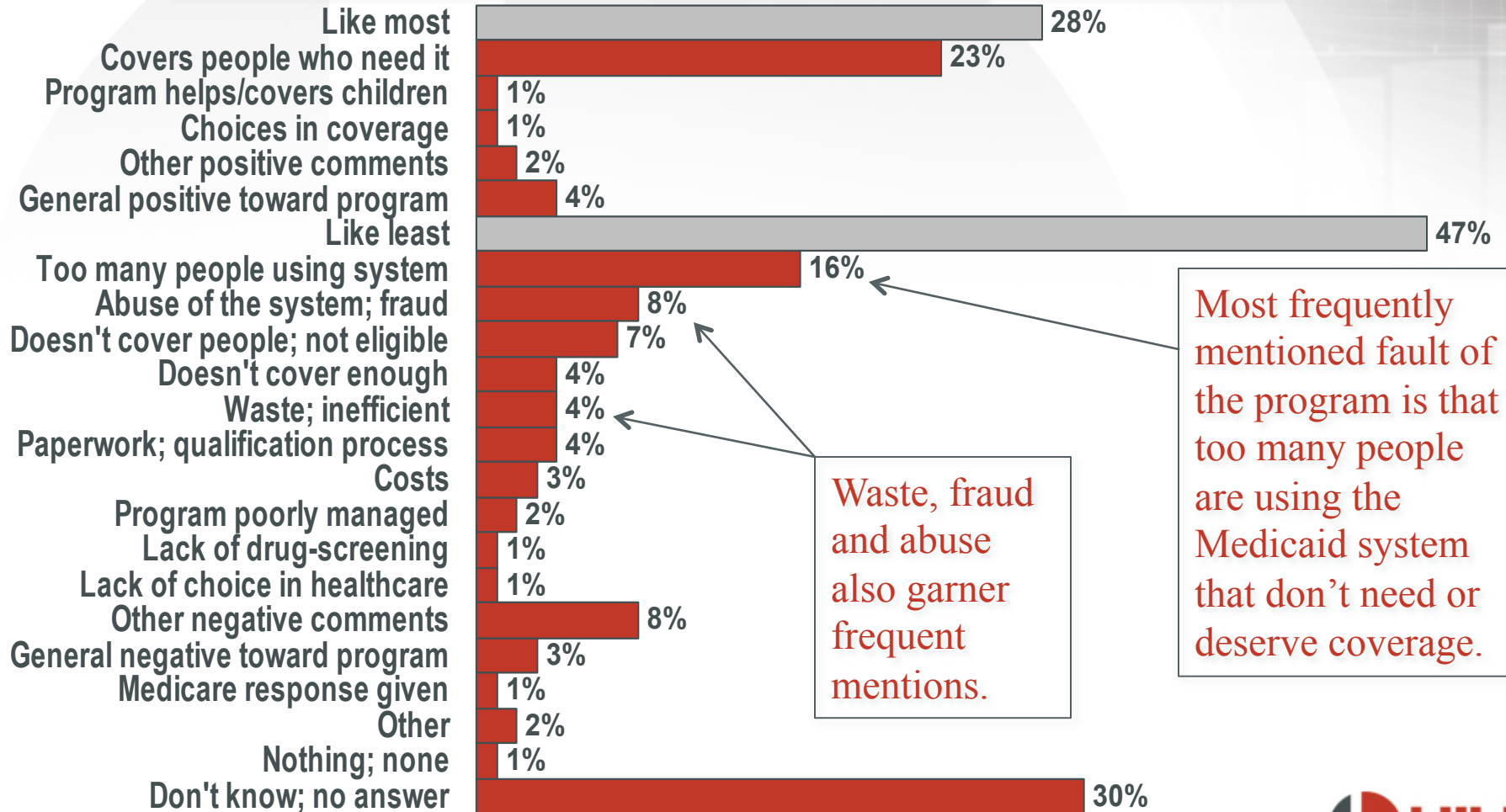
Words that might describe Ohio's Medicaid program — most and least descriptive



Like most or like least about Ohio's Medicaid program?

Open-ended, verbatim comments on the program

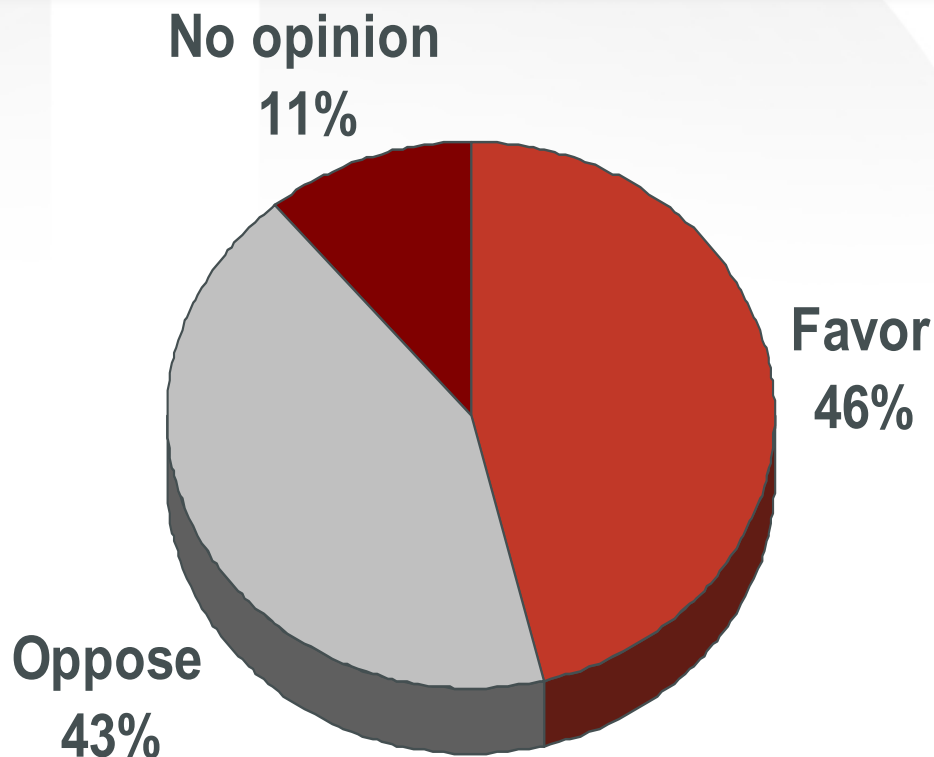
Negative comments far outnumber positive ones when poll respondents were given the chance to say anything they chose to say



Favor or Oppose?

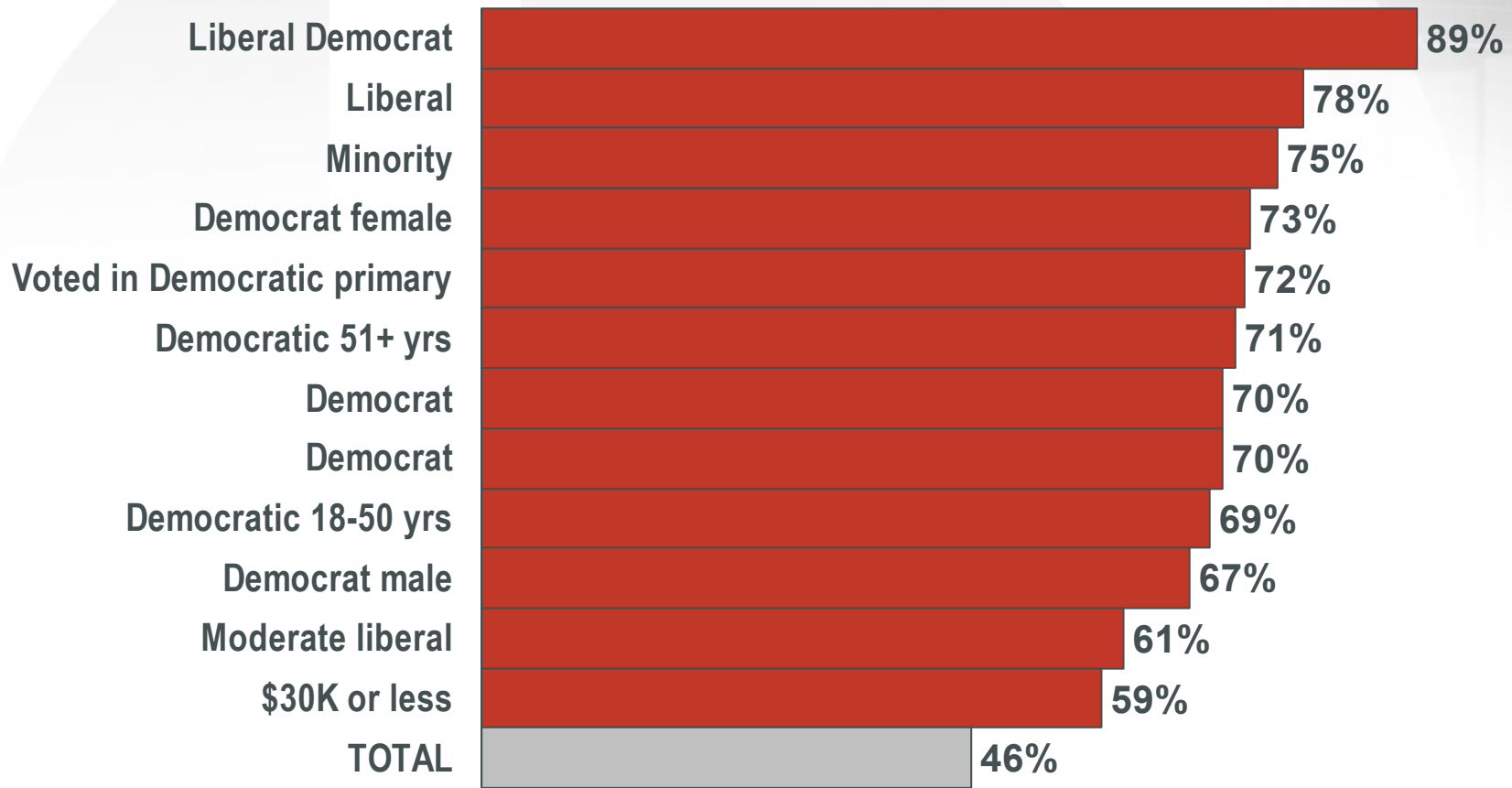
Changing the rules for Ohio Medicaid to allow more people to qualify for coverage under Medicaid

Opinions on expansion are polarized along party lines, with majorities of Democrats favoring and majorities of Republicans opposing
(see two charts that follow on pages 20-21)



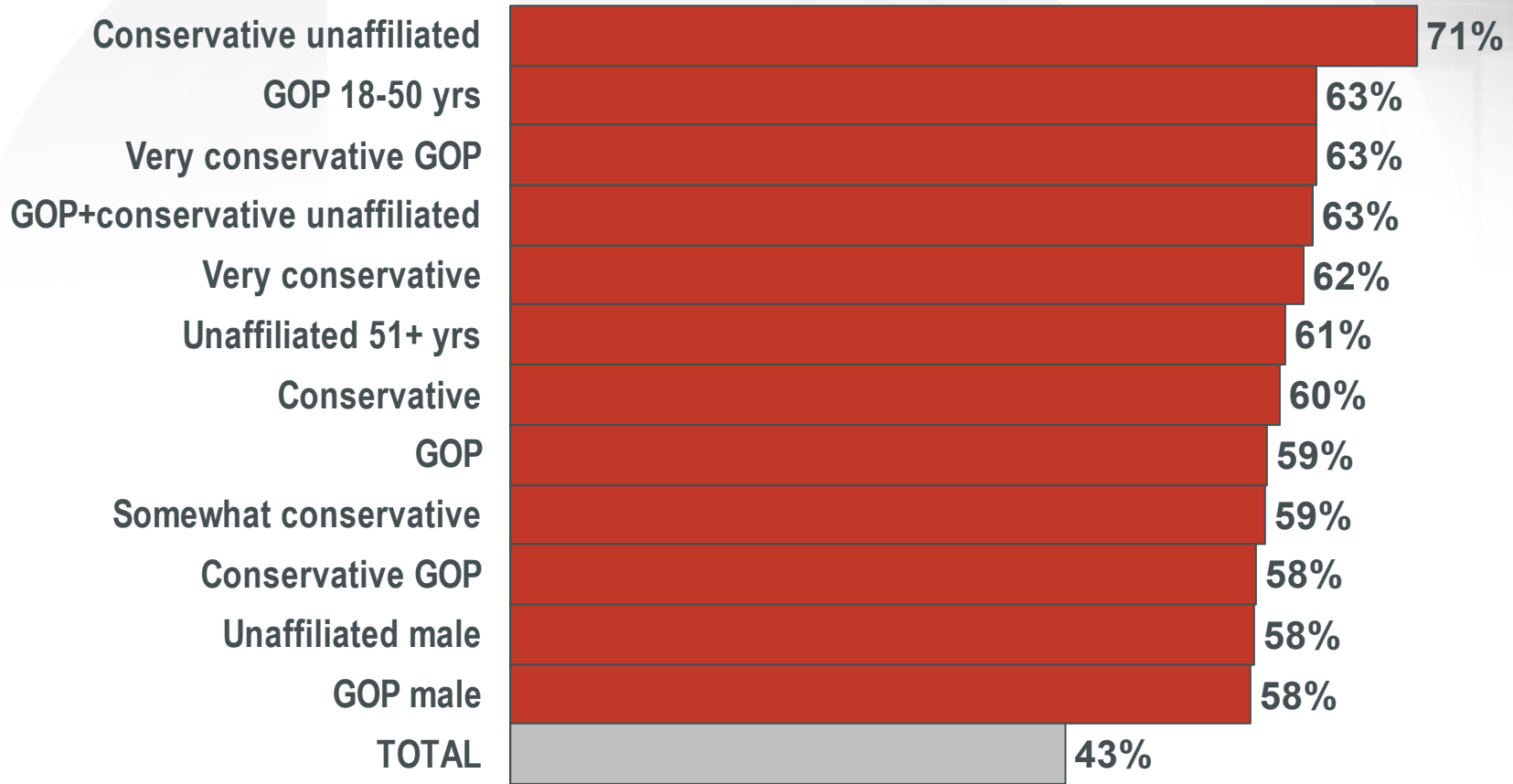
Changing the rules for Ohio Medicaid to allow more people to qualify for coverage under Medicaid

profile of selected categories with the highest percentages of “favor”



Changing the rules for Ohio Medicaid to allow more people to qualify for coverage under Medicaid

profile of selected categories with the highest percentages of “oppose”



Point of view closest to your own about Medicaid in Ohio?

*A good program that provides essential healthcare benefits to the deserving poor
OR
a flawed program that wastes a lot of money, has problems
of fraud & abuse & is in severe need of reform*

Near-majority
sees Medicaid
program as
flawed.

No opinion
9%

Flawed
program/
strongly
35%

Good
program/
strongly
28%

Good
program
42%

Good
program
15%

Flawed
program
14%

Flawed
program
49%

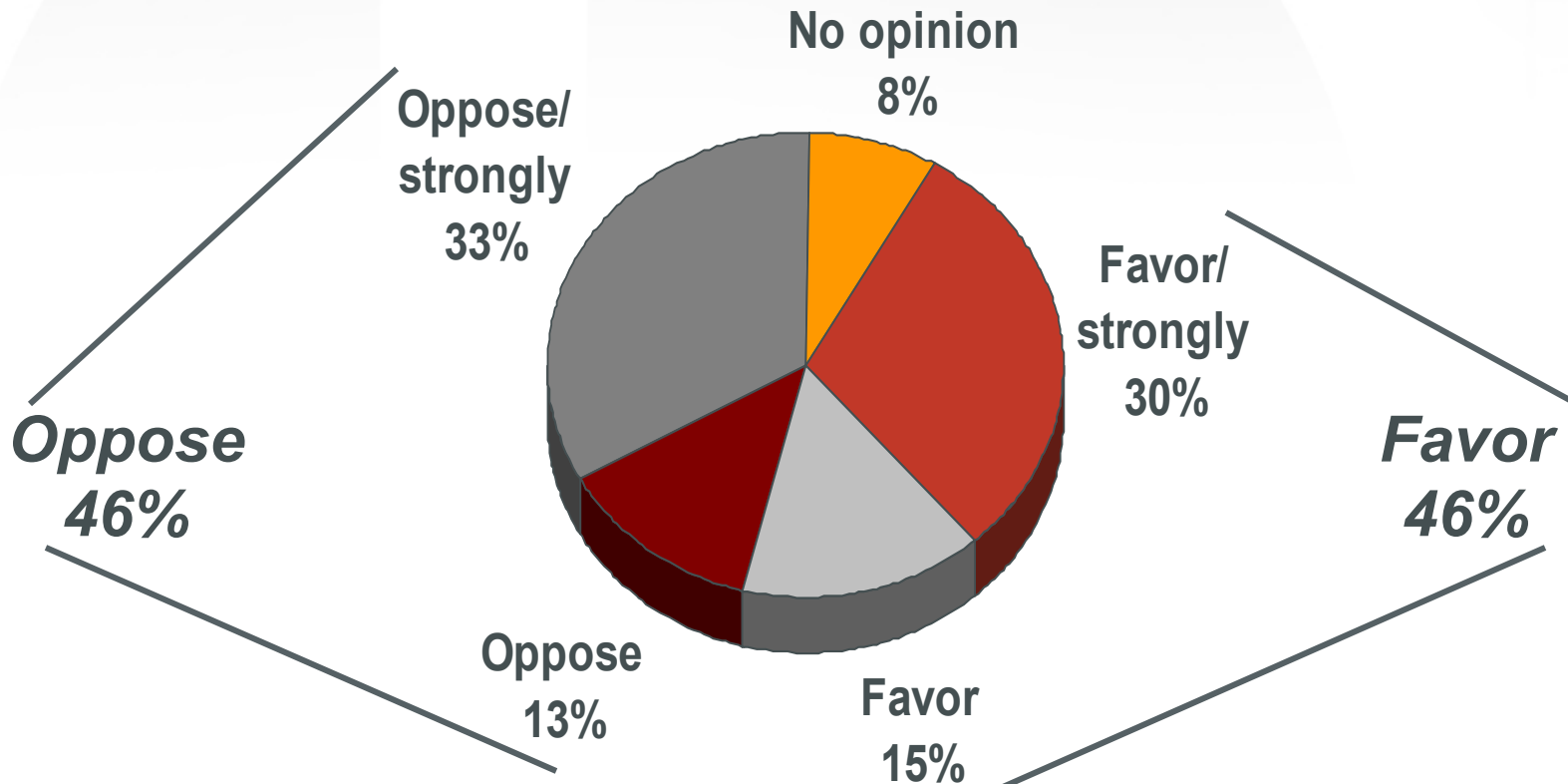
60% of
GOP says
"flawed."

Note: percentages do not add
up to 100% due to rounding.

Favor or oppose?

Expanding Medicaid coverage to all uninsured state residents with household income levels up to 138% of the current federal poverty level

Again, opinions are sharply divided along partisan lines: 71% of Democratic primary voters favor such expansion while 65% of Republican primary voters oppose it



In view of varying estimates of additional residents qualified, do you favor or oppose expansion?

Opposition grows to plurality when told of varying estimates of new recipients, from 275k to 901k.

QUESTION: The Governor estimates that expanding Medicaid would add 275 thousand new recipients to the program statewide. The non-partisan Kaiser Foundation says that expansion would add 901 thousand new participants statewide. In view of these varying estimates, would you favor or oppose the state of Ohio expanding Medicaid coverage to all uninsured state residents with household income levels up to 138 percent of the current federal poverty level?

**Oppose/
strongly**
35%

No opinion
8%

**Favor/
strongly**
29%

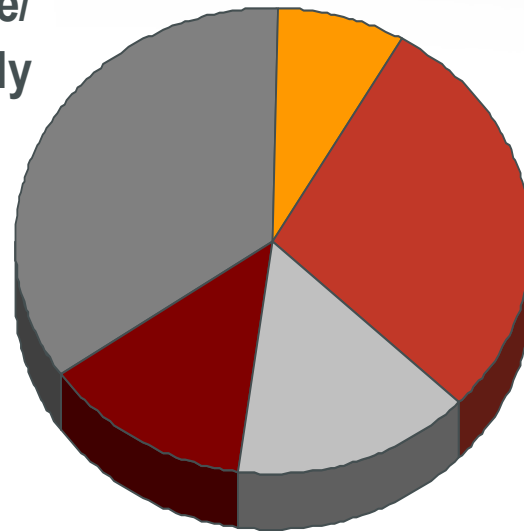
Favor
44%

Favor
15%

Oppose
13%

Oppose
48%

GOP primary voter opposition rises to 66%.



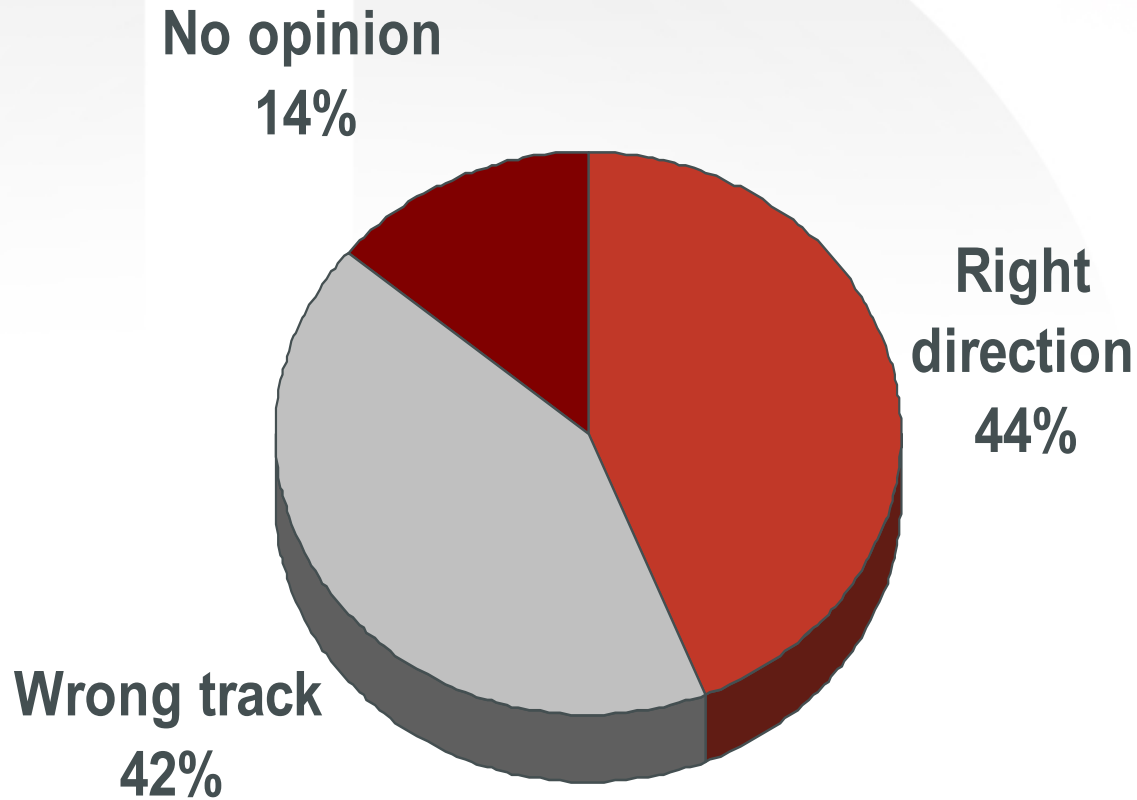
How convincing?

Arguments made by people who oppose expansion of Medicaid

QUESTION: <i>Any expansion of Medicaid will have supporters and opponents. I'm going to read a list of the arguments being made by those opposing expansion of Medicaid. For each argument, tell me whether the argument is very convincing, somewhat convincing, or not very convincing as a reason to NOT expand Medicaid.</i>	% VERY convincing		
	ALL voters	DEM-primary	GOP-primary
Because there is so much disagreement among experts on the costs of expanding Medicaid, we shouldn't rush into any expansion until we have a better handle on the financial consequences	50%	40%	61%
Medicaid should not be expanded until the waste, fraud, & abuse in the program is cleaned up	49%	34%	59%
We can't count on the debt-ridden federal government's contribution to Ohio Medicaid to last forever, so in the future Ohio taxpayers will be left to foot the bill for all the new Medicaid recipients added	38%	25%	56%
Expanding Medicaid would allow too many able-bodied young people to get insurance, even if they just choose not to work to provide for their own healthcare needs	38%	30%	49%
If expanded, Medicaid would become an unreasonably large program, covering as many as one in four residents of the state	33%	23%	45%
Expanding Medicaid would just give the federal government more power & control over our lives	33%	15%	56%
Cost of expanding Medicaid would leave less money for other needed state services & programs, like education, public safety & environmental protection	30%	24%	37%

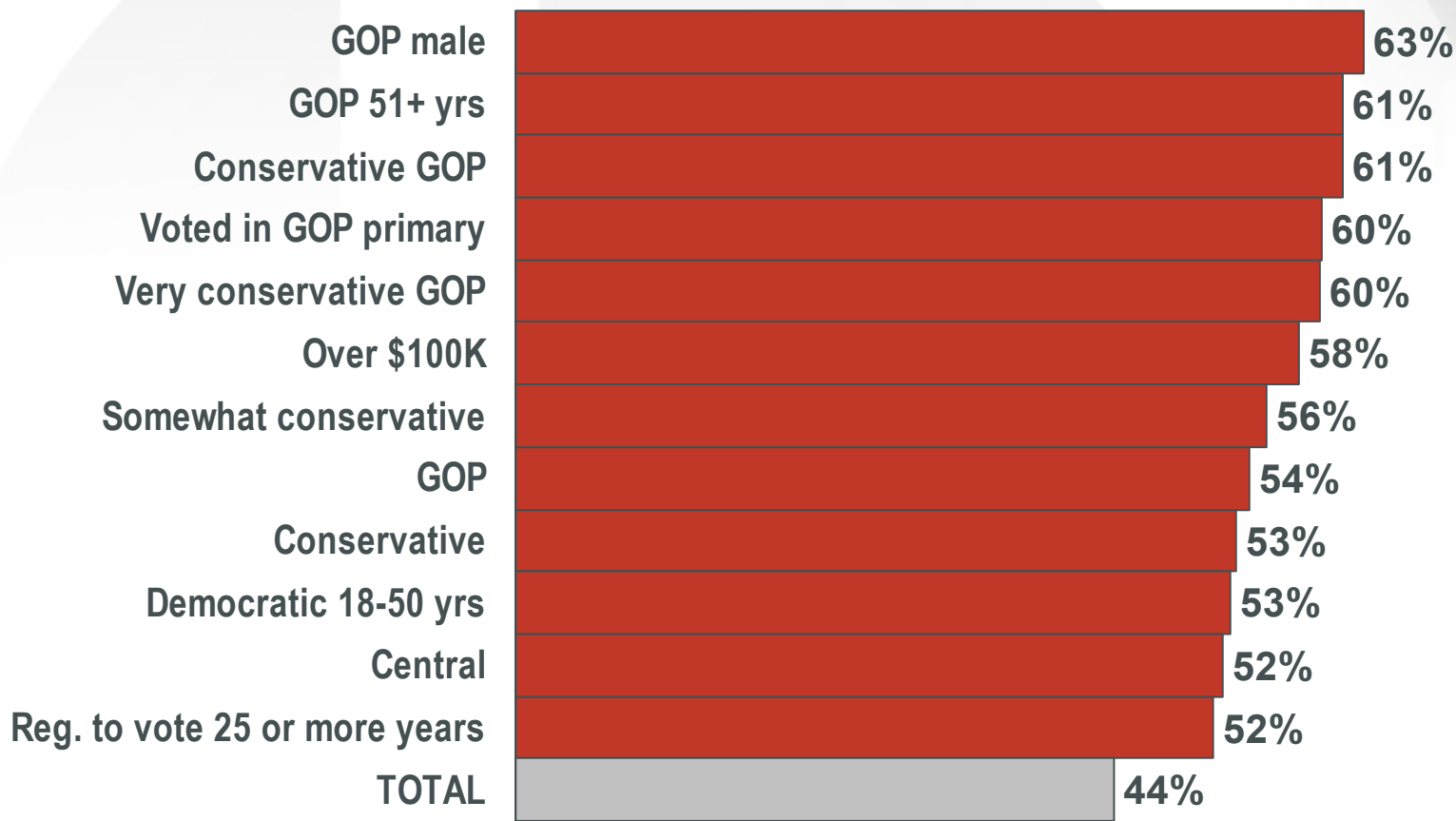
Other selected topics

Direction of things in Ohio today

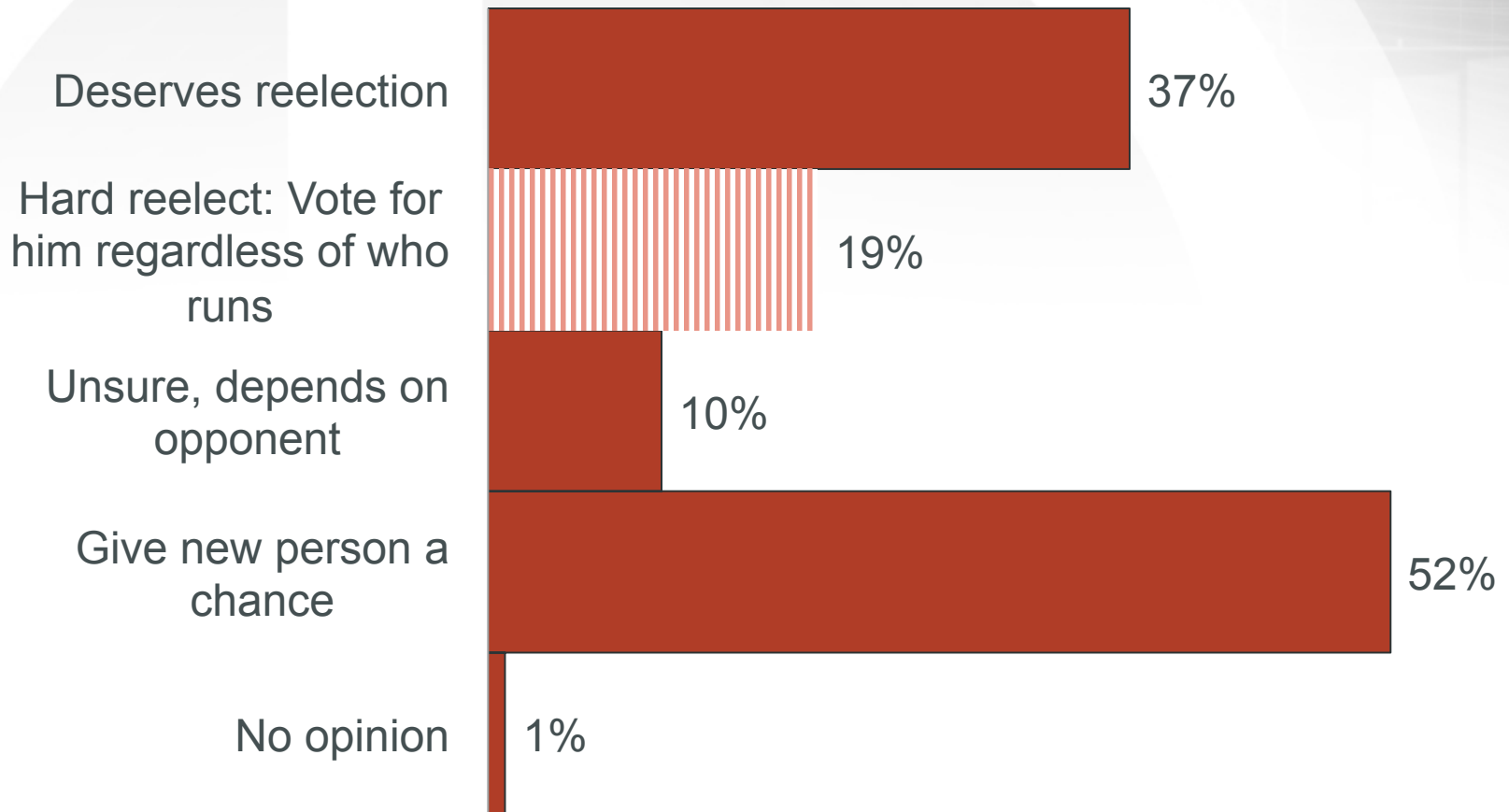


Direction of things in Ohio today

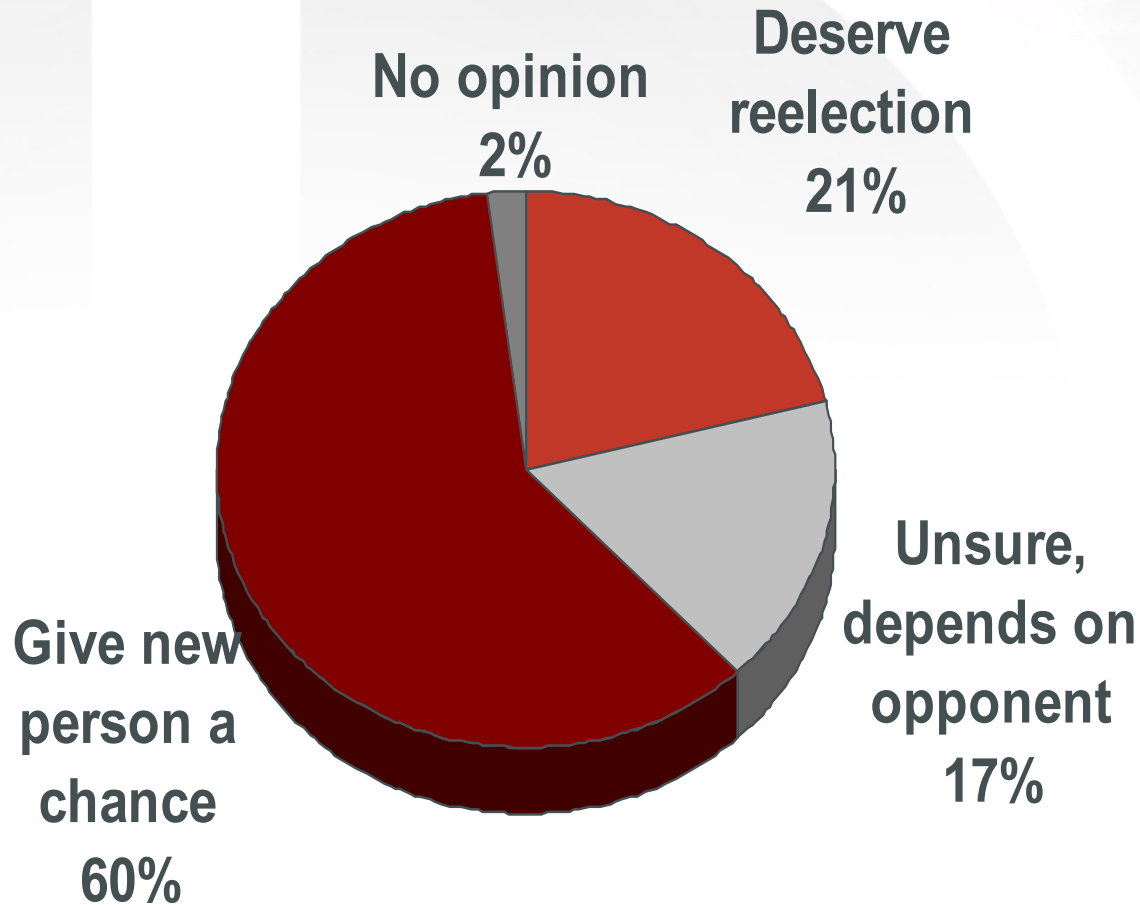
profile of selected categories with the highest percentages of “right direction”



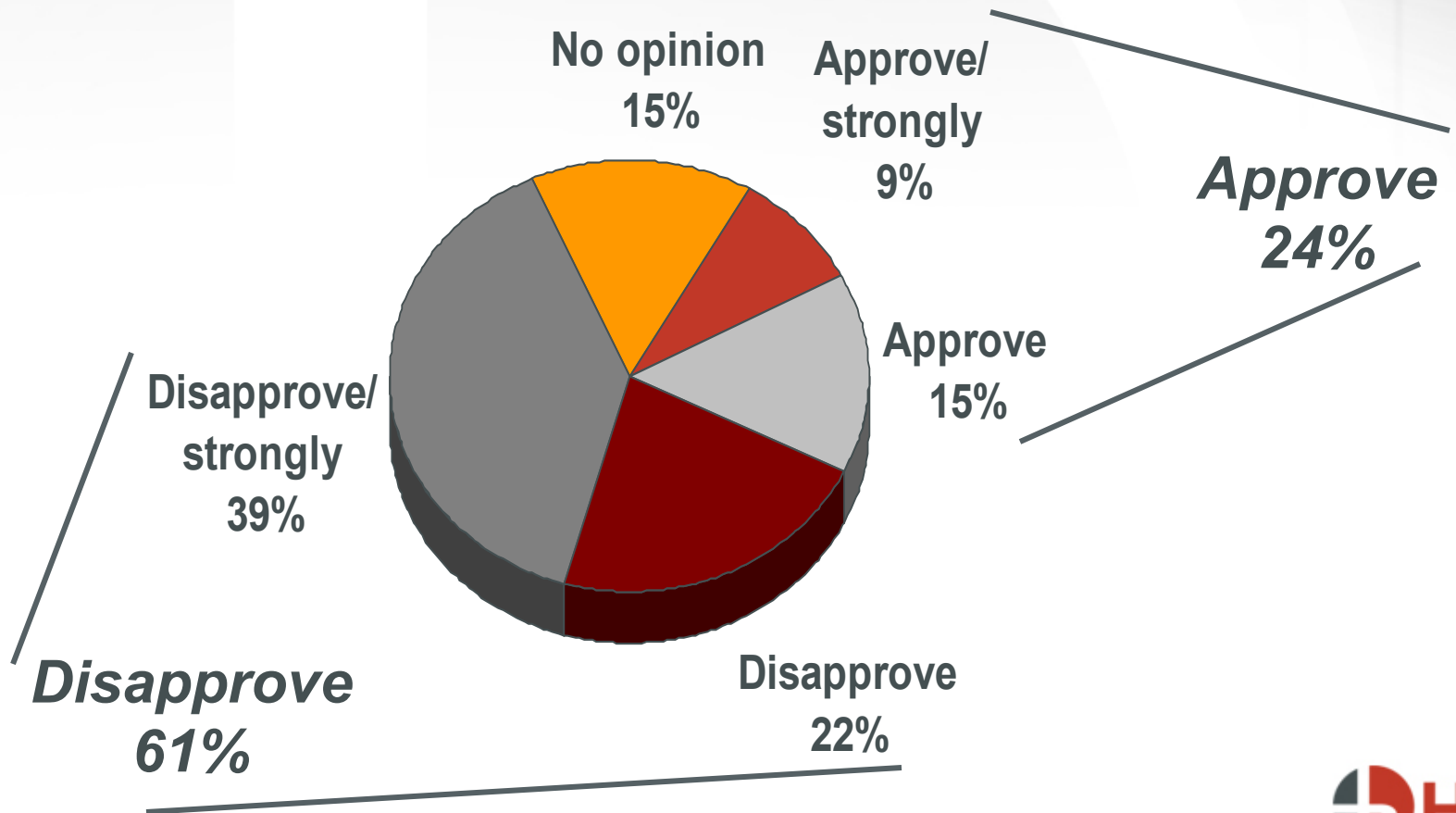
John Kasich reelect & strength of opinion



Your own state legislators' reelection?



Under Governor Kasich's proposed budget, state government spending will go up 10.5% in 2014 & another 6.8% in 2015



Under Governor Kasich's proposed budget, he reduces the state income tax by 20% by increasing other taxes, including taxes on energy companies, farmers & landowners that extract oil & gas in Ohio & also by broadening the state sales tax to some services that are currently exempt from sales taxes

