

PAN ATLANTIC  

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RESEARCH

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68th OMNIBUS  
POLL™

“The Benchmark of Maine Public Opinion”

March, 2026

# Table of Contents

PAN ATLANTIC RESEARCH

I. Background	<b>3</b>
II. Methodology	<b>4</b>
III. Poll Results	
<i>National and State Political Climate</i>	<b>7</b>
<i>2026 U.S. Senate Election</i>	<b>13</b>
<i>2026 Gubernatorial and CD-2 Primaries</i>	<b>18</b>
<i>Political and Economic Issues</i>	<b>23</b>
IV. Demographics of the Sample	<b>33</b>

# I. Background

PAN ATLANTIC RESEARCH

- Pan Atlantic Research is a Portland, Maine based, **independent** marketing research and consulting firm which is currently in its 40<sup>th</sup> year of successful operation.
- This Omnibus Poll is the **68th** poll in a series of statewide polls conducted by Pan Atlantic Research on public policy, business, economic, and technology issues.
- Information contained in the Omnibus Poll is developed and intended for clients of Pan Atlantic Research, the media, and the general public.
- **The research conducted for this Omnibus Poll Report was not commissioned or paid for by any clients or other parties.** Proprietary research collected on other matters for clients is not included in this report and is the sole property of those clients who commissioned it.
- For further information about the poll or usage thereof, please contact Jason Edes, President, at (207) 221-8877 or by email at [jedes@panatlanticresearch.com](mailto:jedes@panatlanticresearch.com).

## II. Methodology

- The 68th Pan Atlantic Research Omnibus Poll™ was conducted between February 13<sup>th</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.
- A randomly selected sample of 1120 Mainers age 18 or older was recruited online using a panel provided by our vendor partner Dynata, a highly respected national research panel provider. Respondents who indicated that they were "likely," "very likely", or "certain" to vote in November 2026 were asked all questions on the survey, while others were asked only for demographic information for weighting purposes.
- Data were weighted using US Census Bureau data to match the composition of Maine's voting-age population based on Congressional District, age, education, and gender.
- **The result is a sample of 810 likely voters, with a margin of sampling error of 3.7% at the 95% confidence level.**

## II. Methodology

- The full survey was administered only to those who fulfilled the following criteria:
  - Are “certain,” “very likely,” or “likely” to vote in the 2026 November election
  - Are registered to vote in Maine
  - Are ages 18 and older
  - Do not, nor does anyone in their household, work for a market research, advertising or media firm.
- It should be noted that figures may not always equal 100.0 percent due to the rounding of decimals.

## II. Methodology

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- The results are broken out by various demographic subsamples, including Congressional District, political party affiliation, age, education, income, and gender. The margins of error for specific sub-samples are higher than the  $\pm 3.7\%$  margin of sampling error for the entire sample.
- Finally, we note that as with all surveys, these results are indicative of public opinion at a singular point in time and do not seek to project final election results.

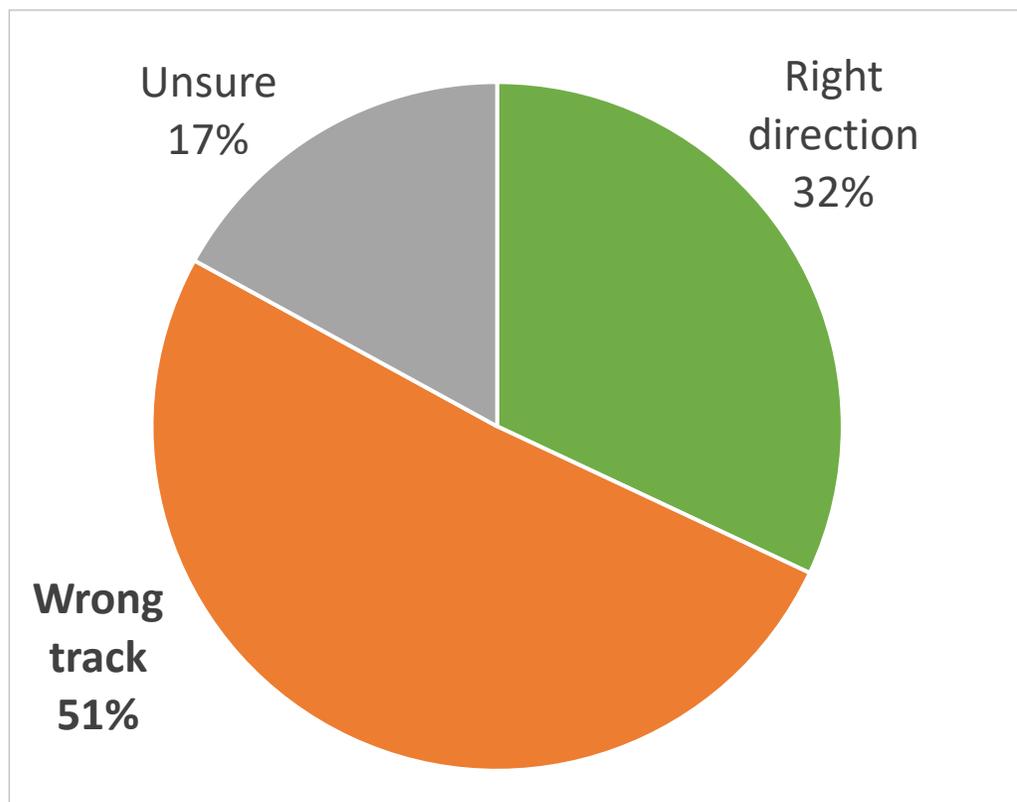
# III. Pan Atlantic 68th Omnibus Poll Results:

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## National and State Political Climate

# Direction of the State

More than half of respondents (51%) indicated that they feel that things in the State of Maine are off on the “wrong track,” while 32% feel that things are generally headed in the “right direction.”

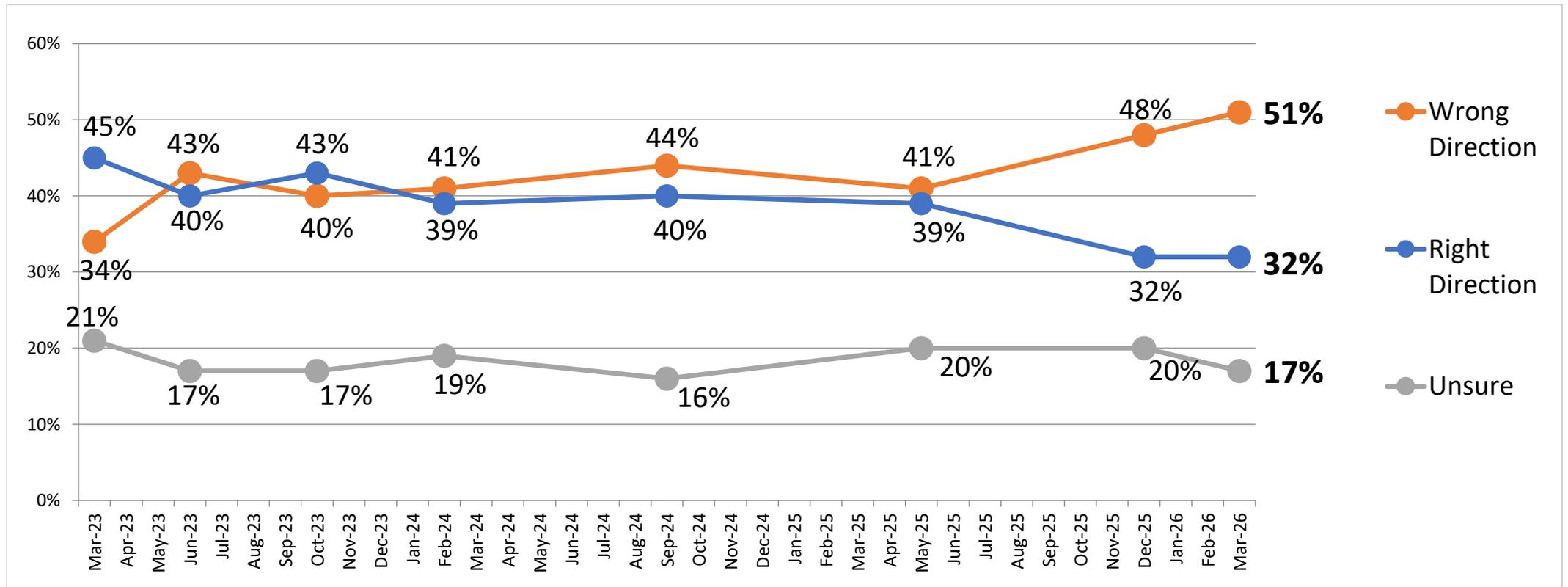


- This is the first time in more than three years that more than 50% of respondents have selected “wrong track.”
- 17% of respondents are “unsure” on this question.
- 52% of Democrats said that the state is headed in the right direction compared to 25% of Independents and only 19% of Republicans.

- *All in all, do you think things in the State of Maine are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel things are off on the wrong track? [All likely voters; n=810]*

# Direction of the State - *Trend*

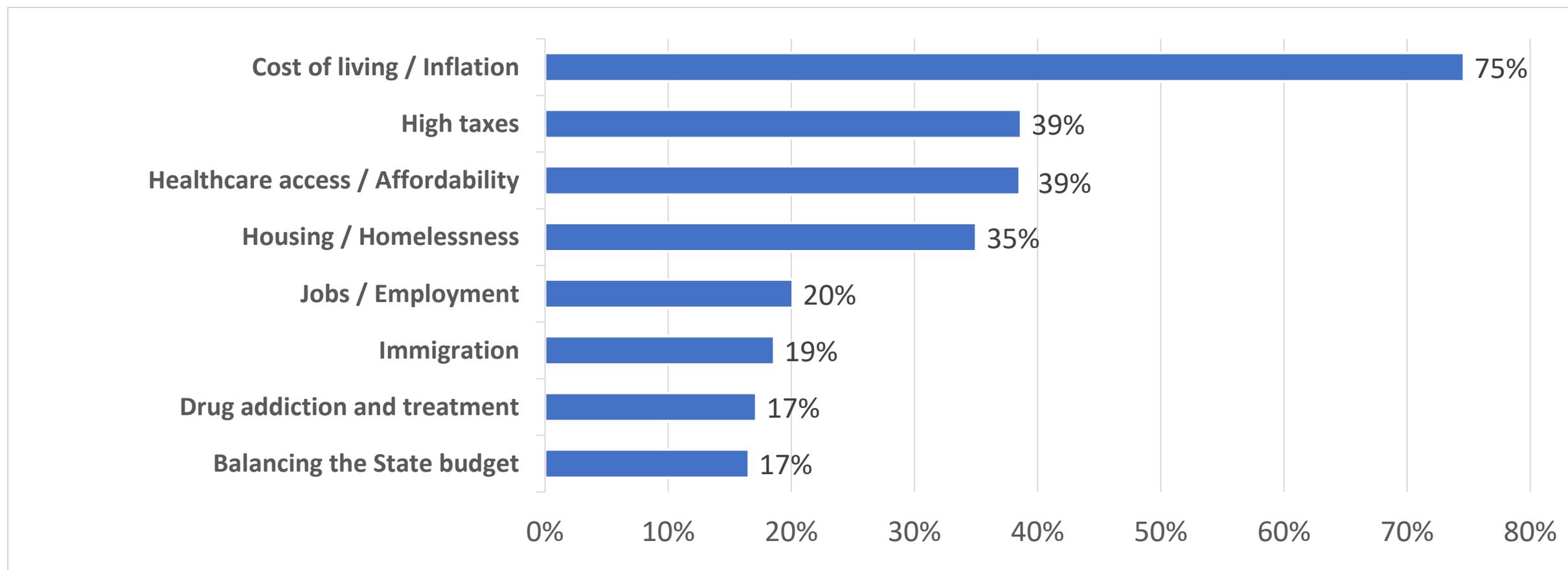
Since March of 2023, the proportion of respondents perceiving that the State is headed in the right direction has declined from 45% to 32%.



- *All in all, do you think things in the State of Maine are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel things are off on the wrong track? [All likely voters; n=810]*

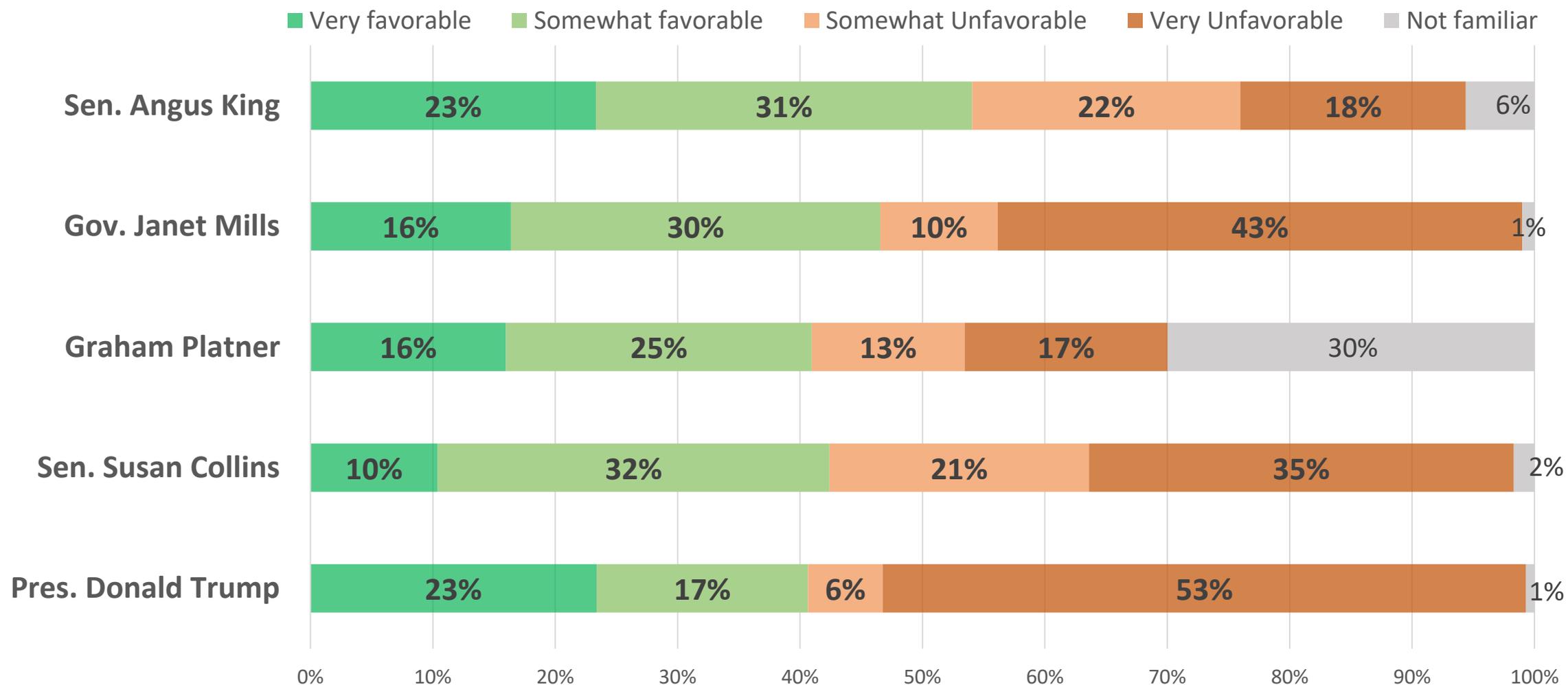
# Key Issues Facing the State of Maine – Top 3 Issues Combined

Respondents most frequently named (1) Cost of living / Inflation, (2) High taxes, and (3) Healthcare access / Affordability as the most important issues facing the State of Maine today. Data below represents the sum of respondents' top three issues.



- *What do you think are the **three** most important issues facing the State of Maine today? [All likely voters; n=810]*

# Favorability Ratings – National and State Political Figures



- *The following are the names of some people holding public office in Maine and nationally. For each person, please indicate whether you have a “very favorable”, “somewhat favorable”, “somewhat unfavorable”, or “very unfavorable” opinion of them. If you aren’t familiar with that person, check the box saying “not familiar.” [All likely voters; n=810]*

## Net Favorability, Maine Political Figures

(% Favorable - % Unfavorable)

Sen. Angus King	<b>+14</b>
Graham Platner	<b>+12</b>
Governor Janet Mills	<b>-6</b>
Sen. Susan Collins	<b>-14</b>
Pres. Donald Trump	<b>-18</b>

- Among the political figures tested, **Senator Angus King (+14)** and **Graham Platner (+12)** hold positive net favorability ratings, while **Governor Janet Mills (-6)**, **Senator Susan Collins (-14)**, and **President Donald Trump (-18)** have net unfavorable ratings among likely voters.

- *The following are the names of some people holding public office in Maine and nationally. For each person, please indicate whether you have a “very favorable”, “somewhat favorable”, “somewhat unfavorable”, or “very unfavorable” opinion of them. If you aren’t familiar with that person, check the box saying “not familiar.” [All likely voters; n=810]*

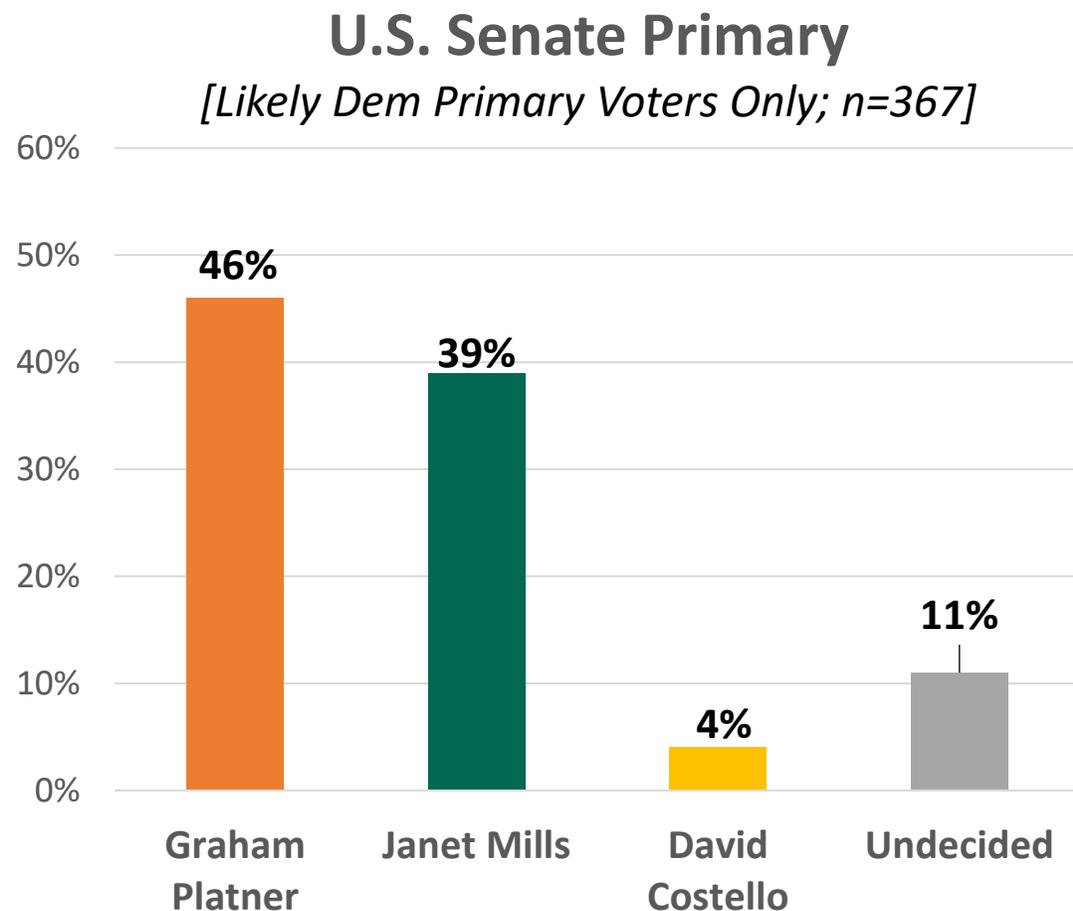
# III. Pan Atlantic 68th Omnibus Poll Results:

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## 2026 U.S. Senate Election

## U.S. Senate Primary

In the Democratic Senate primary, Graham Platner leads Janet Mills by a margin of 7 percentage points among likely primary voters.



- 4% of respondents named David Costello as their preferred candidate, while 11% of respondents indicated that they are currently undecided.
- Mills leads Platner 54%-23% among likely primary voters in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District, while Platner leads Mills 45%-43% in CD-1.
- Support varied notably by age, gender, income, and party registration, as shown on the following pages.

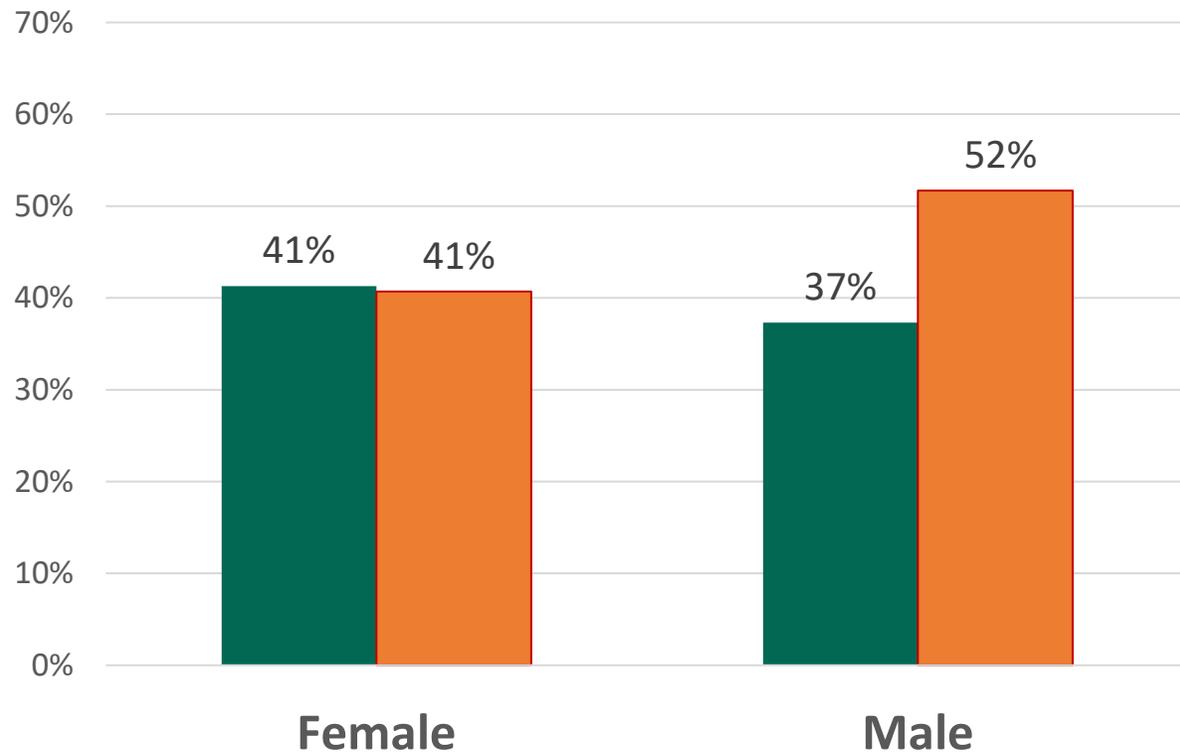
• *If the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate were held today, which of the following candidates would you support? [Likely Democratic primary voters only; n=367]*

# U.S. Senate Primary – Key Demographics

Likely Democratic Primary Voters Only; n=367

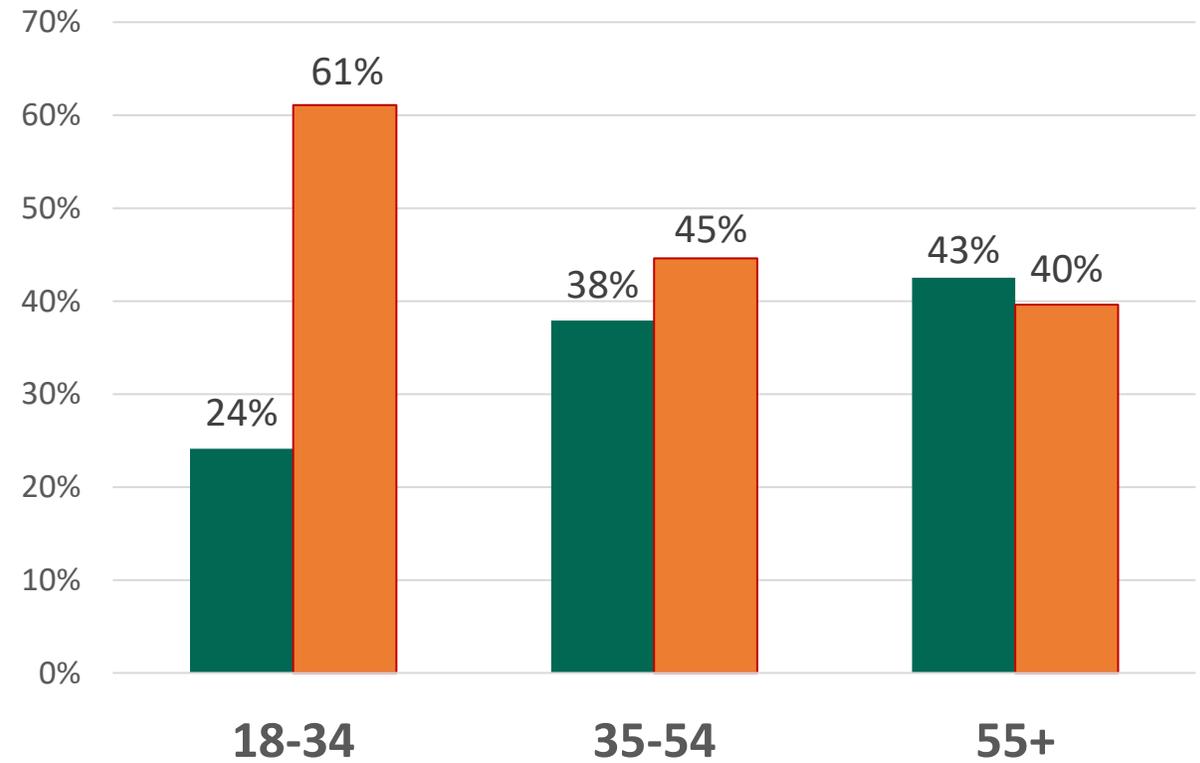
## Primary Support by Gender

■ Mills ■ Platner



## Primary Support by Age

■ Mills ■ Platner



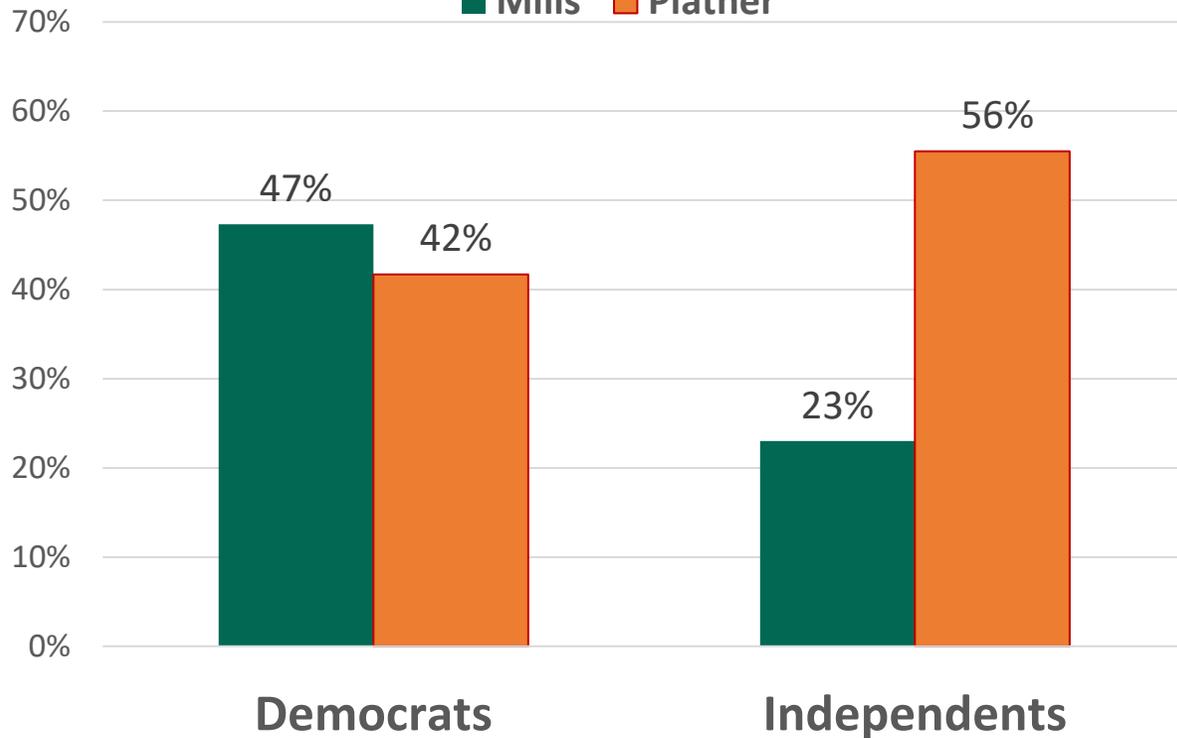
- *If the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate were held today, which of the following candidates would you support? [Likely Democratic primary voters only; n=367]*

# U.S. Senate Primary – Key Demographics

Likely Democratic Primary Voters Only; n=367

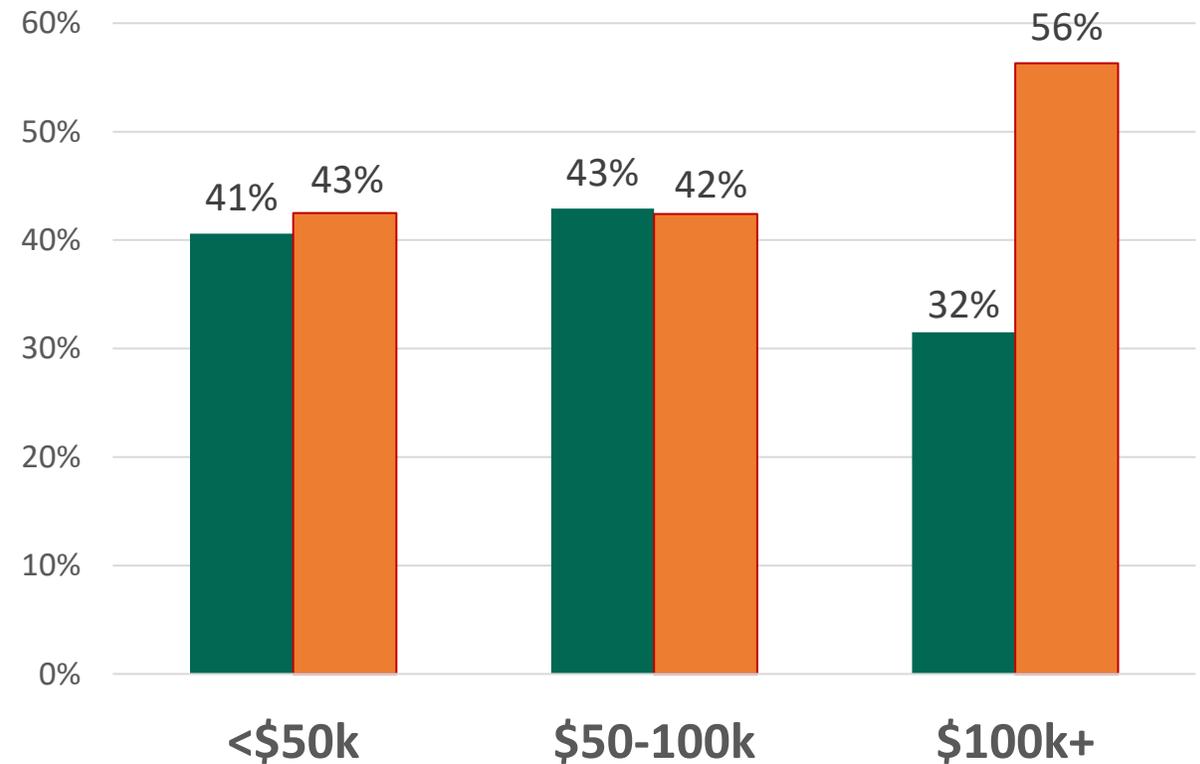
## Primary Support by Party Registration

■ Mills ■ Platner



## Primary Support by Income

■ Mills ■ Platner

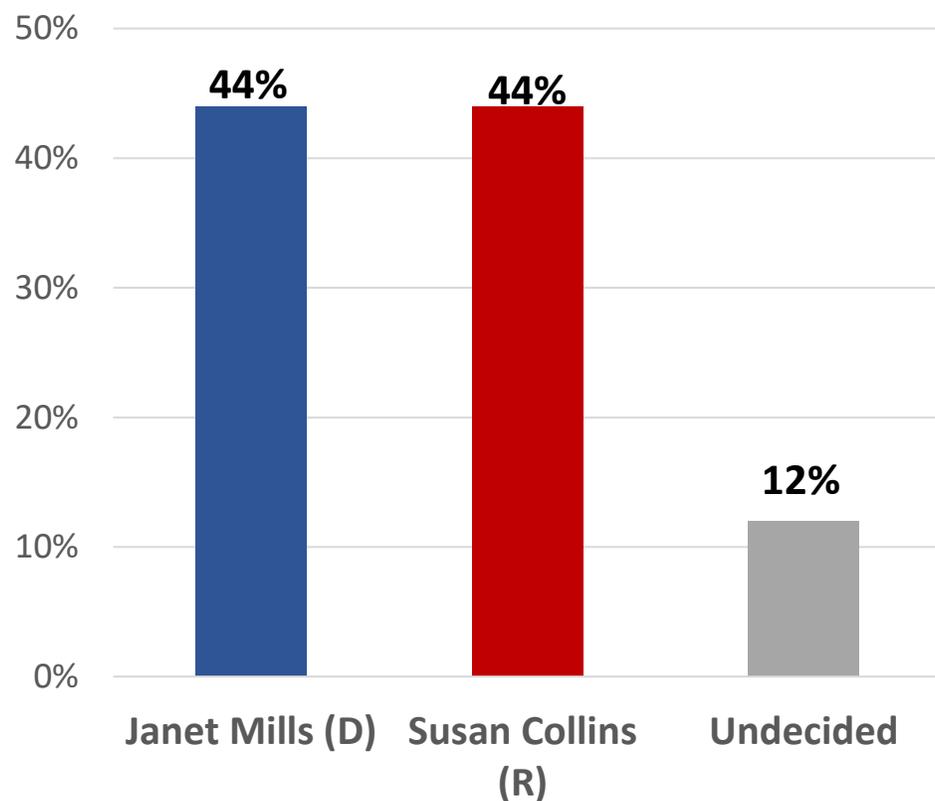


- *If the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate were held today, which of the following candidates would you support? [Likely Democratic primary voters only; n=367]*

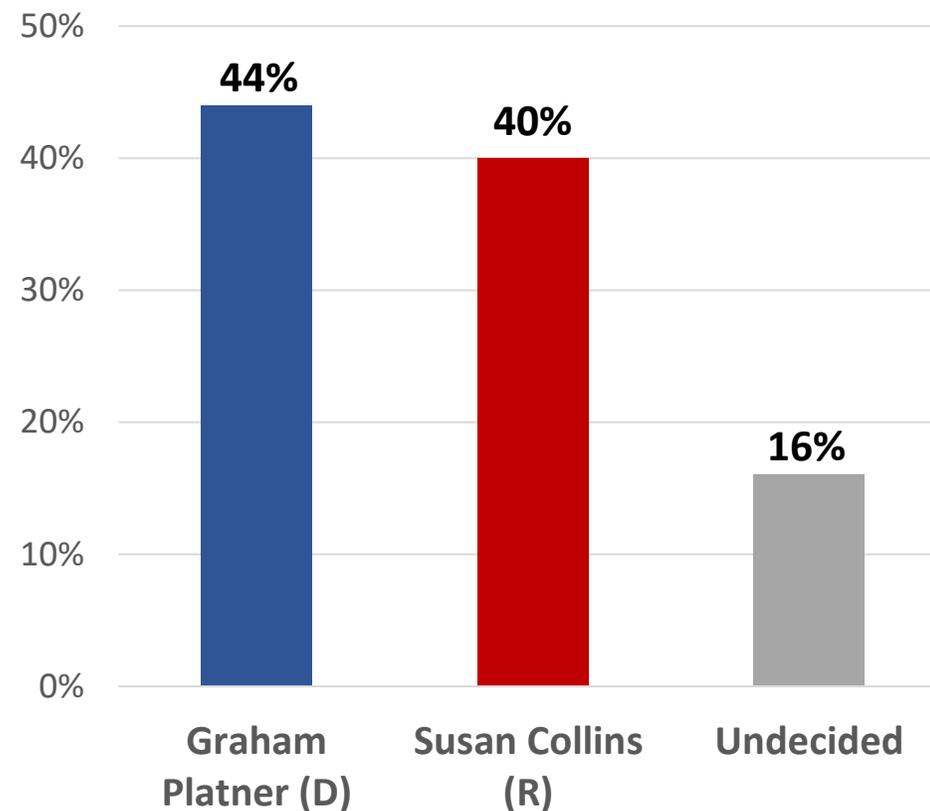
## U.S. Senate General Election

Polling shows a tight general election race: a hypothetical Mills–Collins matchup is tied, while Platner leads Collins by 4 points.

U.S. Senate Election: **Mills-Collins**



U.S. Senate Election: **Platner-Collins**



- *If the 2026 election for U.S. Senate were held today, and the candidates were [Janet Mills / Graham Platner] (Democrat) and Susan Collins (Republican), for whom would you vote? [All likely voters; n=810]*

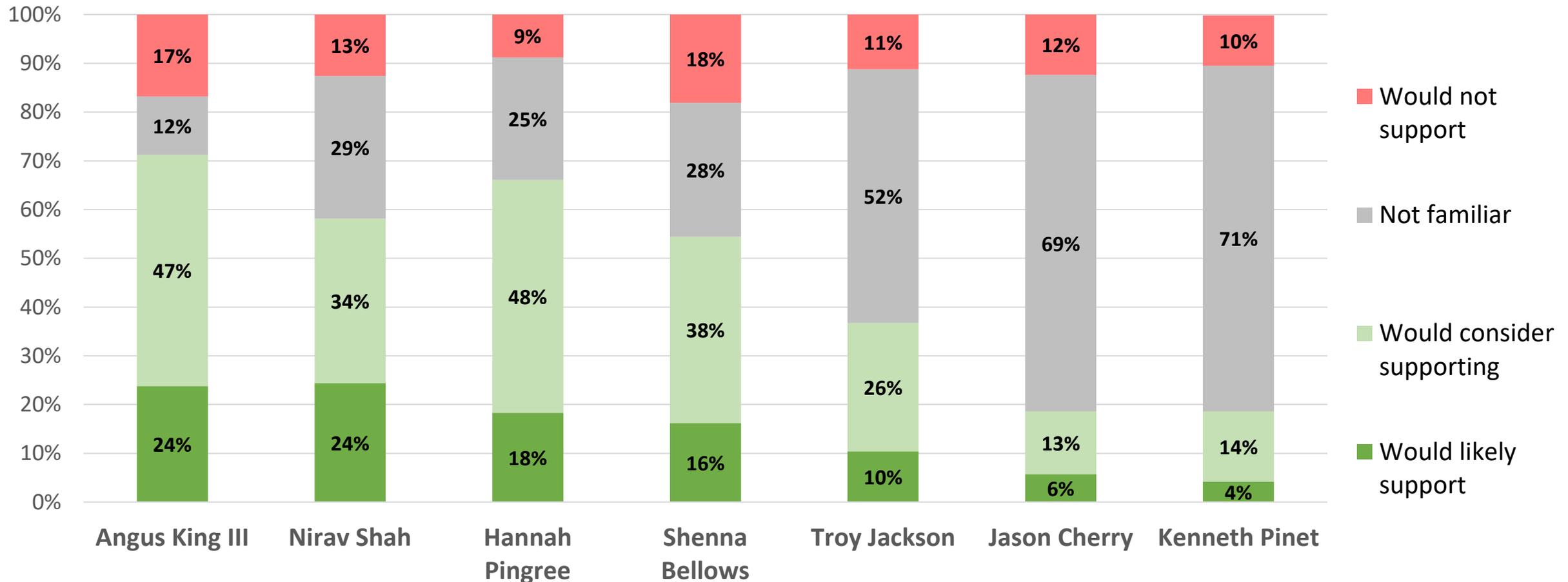
# III. Pan Atlantic 68th Omnibus Poll Results:

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## **2026 Maine Gubernatorial and 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District Primaries**

# Voting Intentions – Democratic Gubernatorial Primary

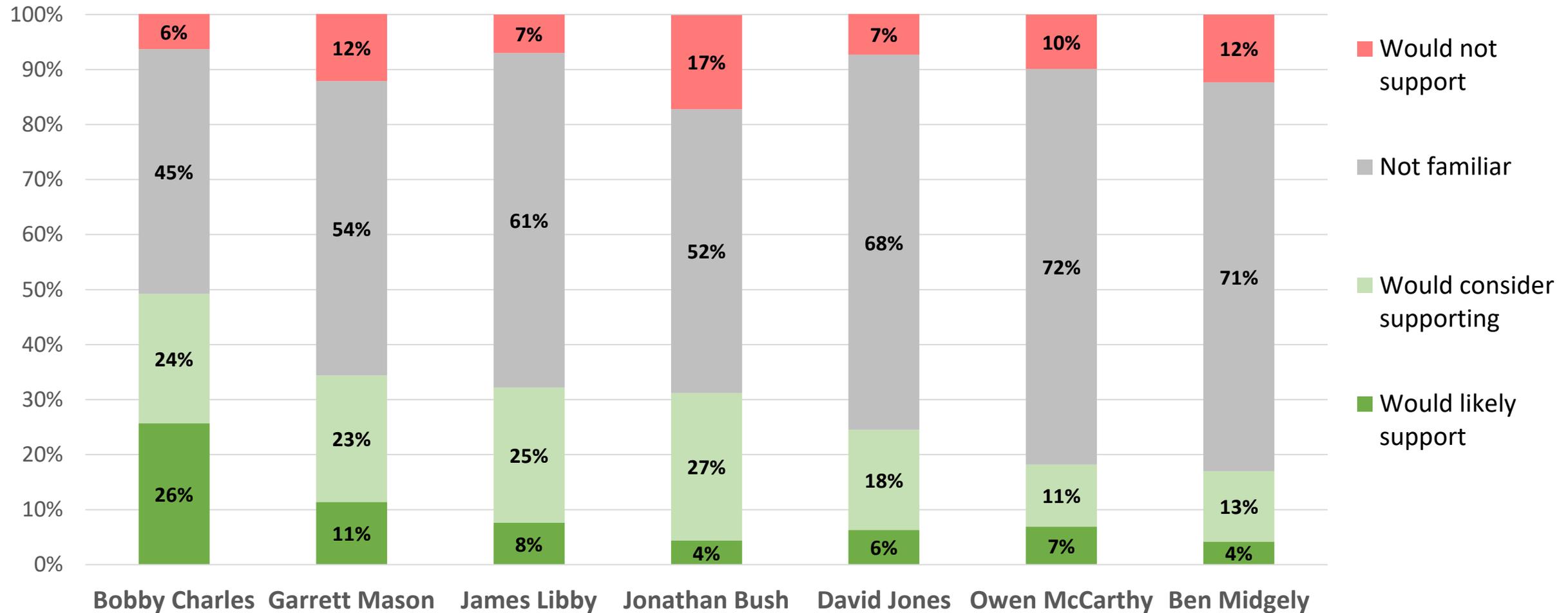
Likely Democratic Primary Voters Only; n=367



- Below are some people who have been discussed as potential Democratic candidates for Governor in 2026. For each candidate, please indicate your likelihood of supporting them in the Democratic primary for the 2026 Gubernatorial Election: [Likely Democratic primary voters only; n=367]

# Voting Intentions – Republican Gubernatorial Primary

Likely Republican Gubernatorial Primary Voters Only; n=298



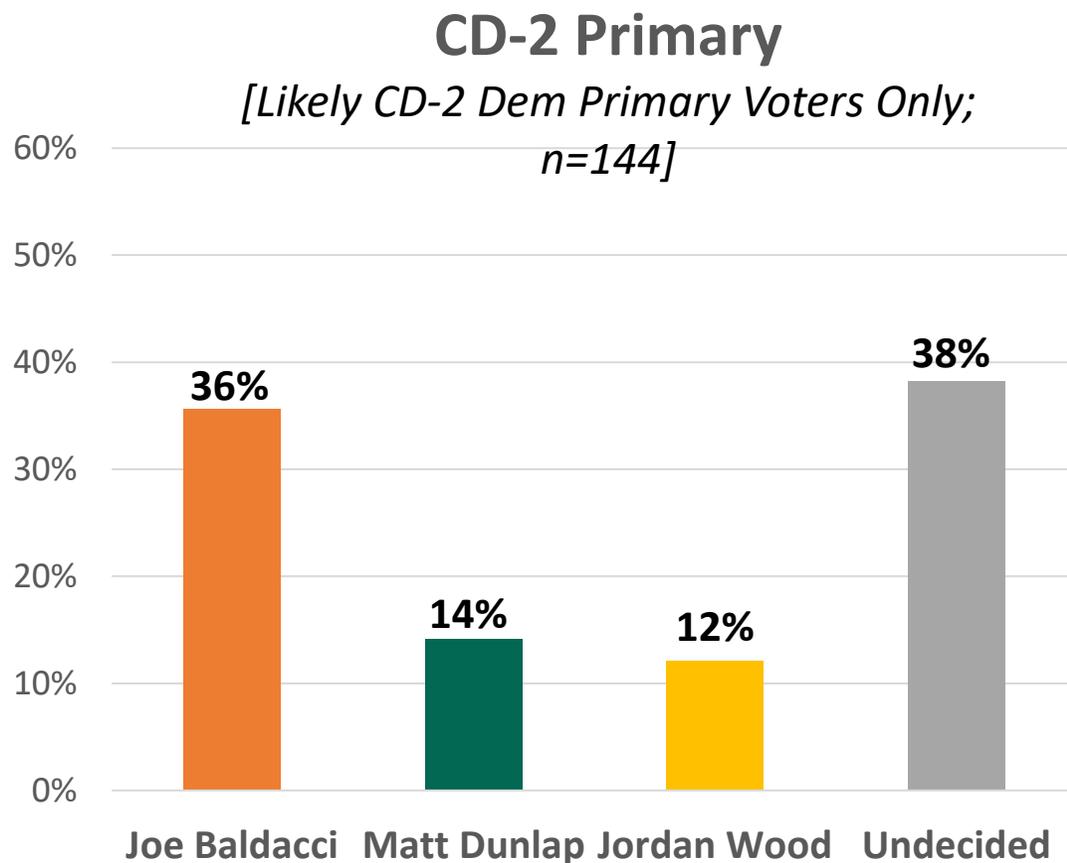
- Below are some people who have been discussed as potential Republican candidates for Governor in 2026. For each candidate, please indicate your likelihood of supporting them in the Republican primary for the 2026 Gubernatorial Election: [Likely Republican primary voters only; n=298]

## Voting Intentions – Gubernatorial Primaries

- Among likely Democratic gubernatorial primary voters, 24% said that they 'would likely support' former Nirav Shah and 24% said that they 'would likely support' Angus King III — the two tied for the lead — while 18% said they 'would likely support' Hannah Pingree.
- Among potential Republican candidates, Robert (Bobby) Charles leads with 26% 'likely' support. However, name recognition remains a significant hurdle for the GOP field, as at least 44% of primary voters indicated they are not familiar with each of the candidates tested.
- *Below are some people who have been discussed as potential [Republican/Democratic] candidates for Governor in 2026. For each candidate, please indicate your likelihood of supporting them in the [Republican/Democratic] primary for the 2026 Gubernatorial Election:*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District Primary

In the CD-2 Congressional primary, Joe Baldacci leads Matt Dunlap and Jordan Wood by 22 points among likely primary voters.



- A plurality of respondents (38%) indicated that they are currently undecided.
- Joe Baldacci leads by only 5 percentage points among respondents with at least a 4-year degree (26% Baldacci, 21% Dunlap, 18% Wood), while he leads by 36 percentage points among respondents with less than a 4-year degree (44% Baldacci, 8% Dunlap, 7% Wood).

- *If the Democratic primary for U.S. Congress were held today, which of the following candidates would you support? [Likely CD-2 Democratic primary voters only; n=144]*

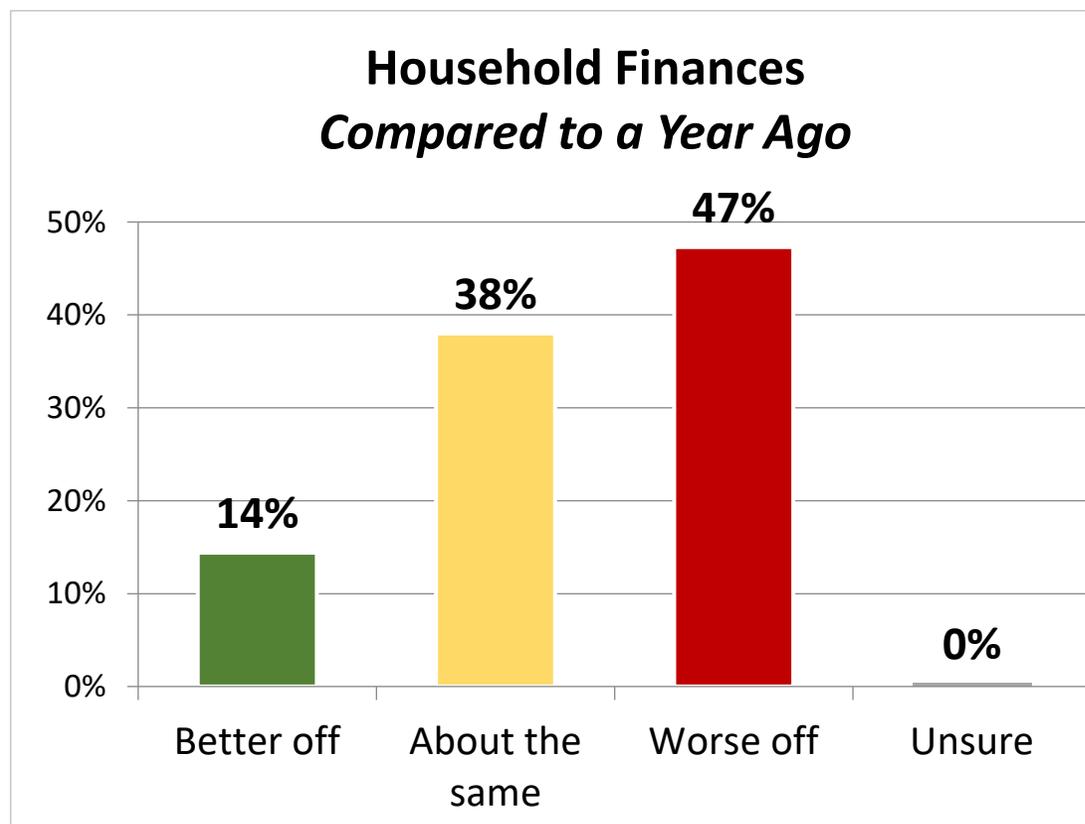
# III. Pan Atlantic 68th Omnibus Poll Results:

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## Political and Economic Issues

# Mainers' Household Financial Situation

Nearly half of Mainers (47%) say their household is financially worse off than a year ago, compared to just 14% who say they are better off.

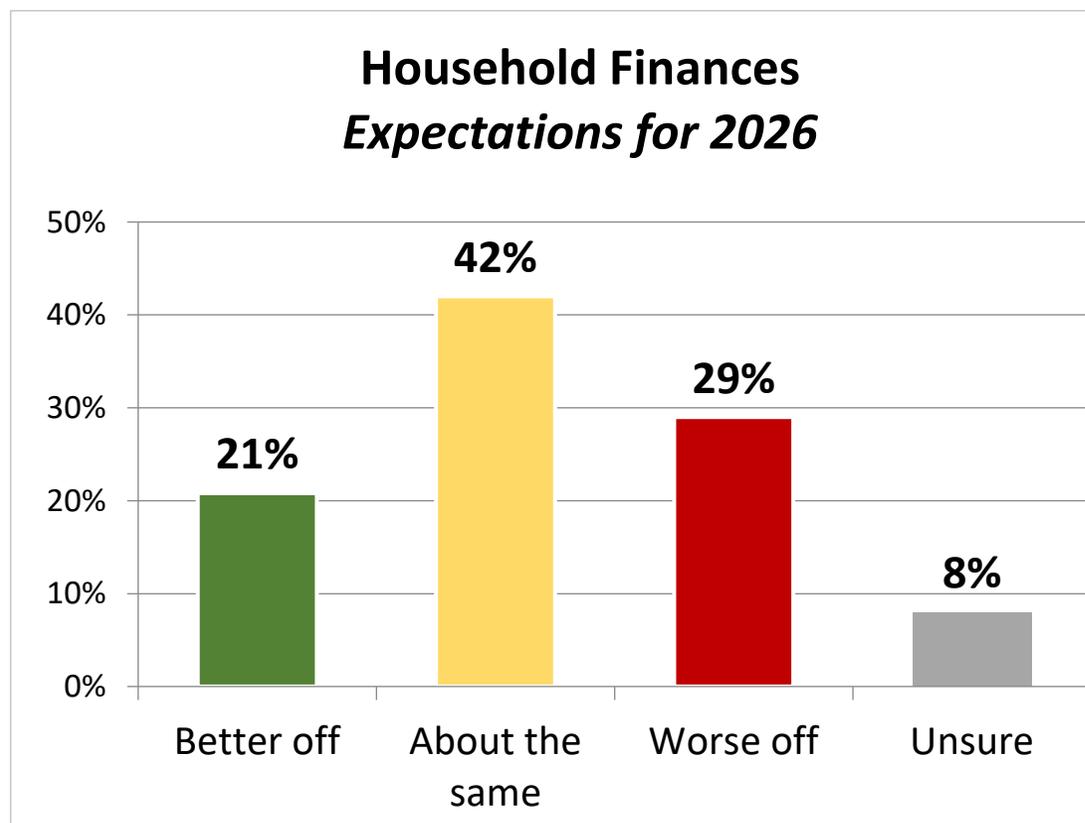


- Respondents across all parties were more likely to say that their household financial situation is worse than a year ago:
  - **Democrats:** 55% “worse,” 14% “better”
  - **Independents:** 41% “worse,” 14% “better”
  - **Republicans:** 43% “worse,” 17% “better”

- *Would you say that you (and your family living with you) are better off or worse off financially than you were a year ago?*  
*[All likely voters; n=810]*

# Mainers' Household Financial Situation

Looking ahead to next year, 21% expect that their financial situation will be “better off” compared to 29% who expect to be “worse off.”

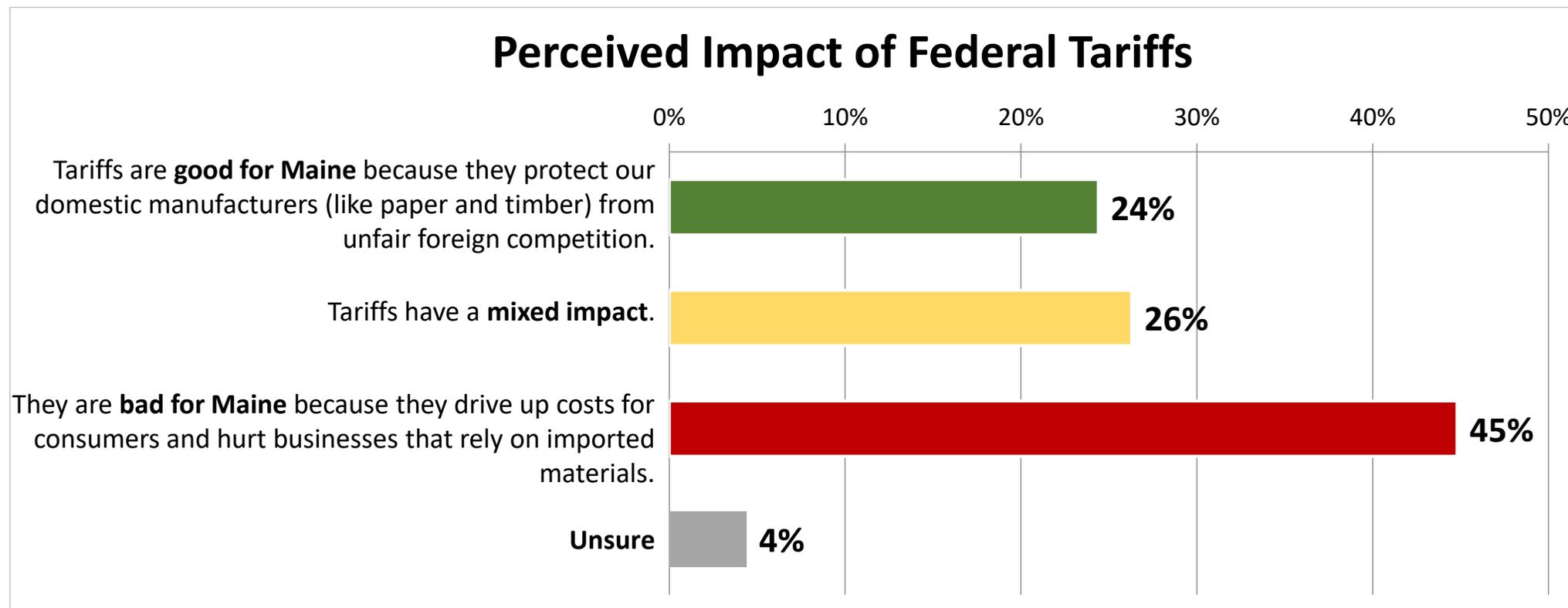


- Democrats and Independents were more likely to say that they expect their household to be “worse off” next year; however, Republicans expect to be “better off”:
  - **Democrats:** 40% “worse,” 16% “better”
  - **Independents:** 26% “worse,” 17% “better”
  - **Republicans:** 18% “worse,” 32% “better”

- *Looking ahead, do you think that a year from now you (and your family living with you) will be better off financially, or worse off, or just about the same as now? [All likely voters; n=810]*

# Impact of Federal Tariffs on Maine

45% of respondents agreed that tariffs are bad for Maine because they drive up costs and hurt businesses. 24% agreed that tariffs are good for Maine because they protect domestic manufacturers.

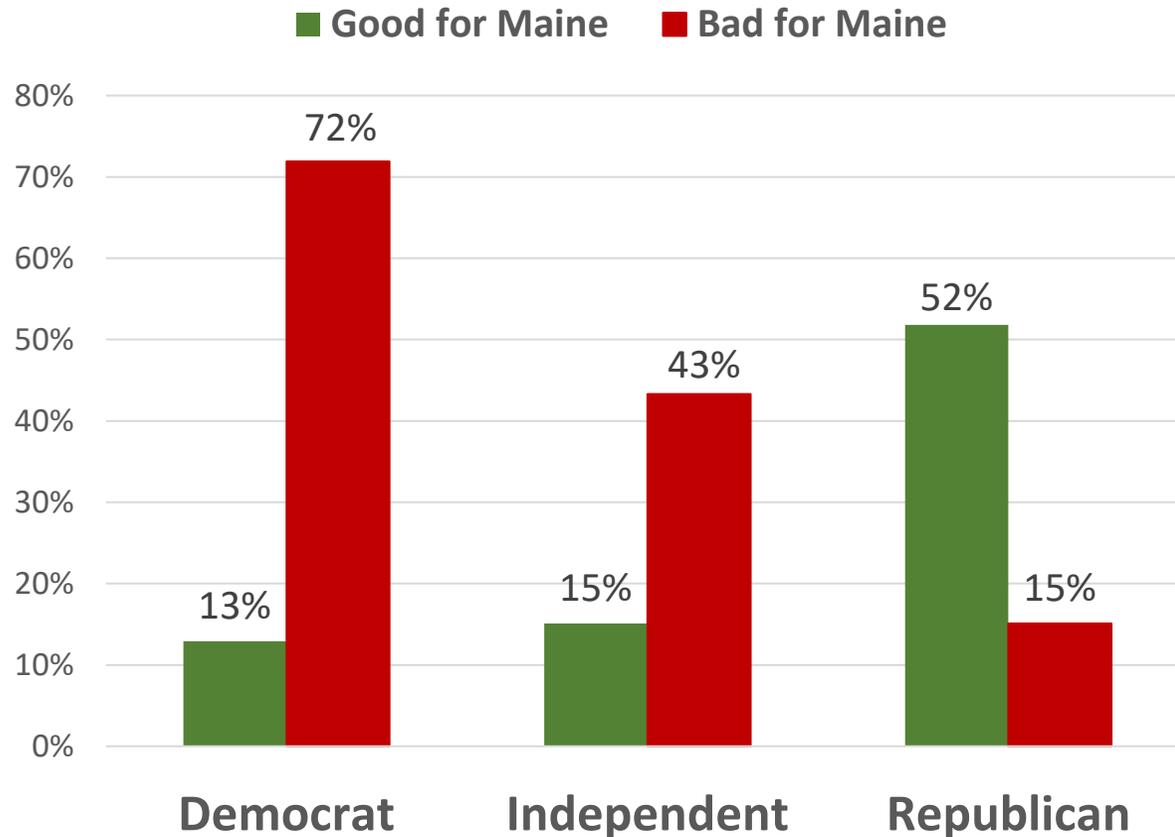


- *Recently, there has been significant debate about increasing federal tariffs on imported goods. Which of the following comes closer to your view on how these tariffs affect Maine? [All likely voters; n=810]*

# Perceived Impact of Federal Tariffs

## Key Demographics

### Support for Tariffs by Party

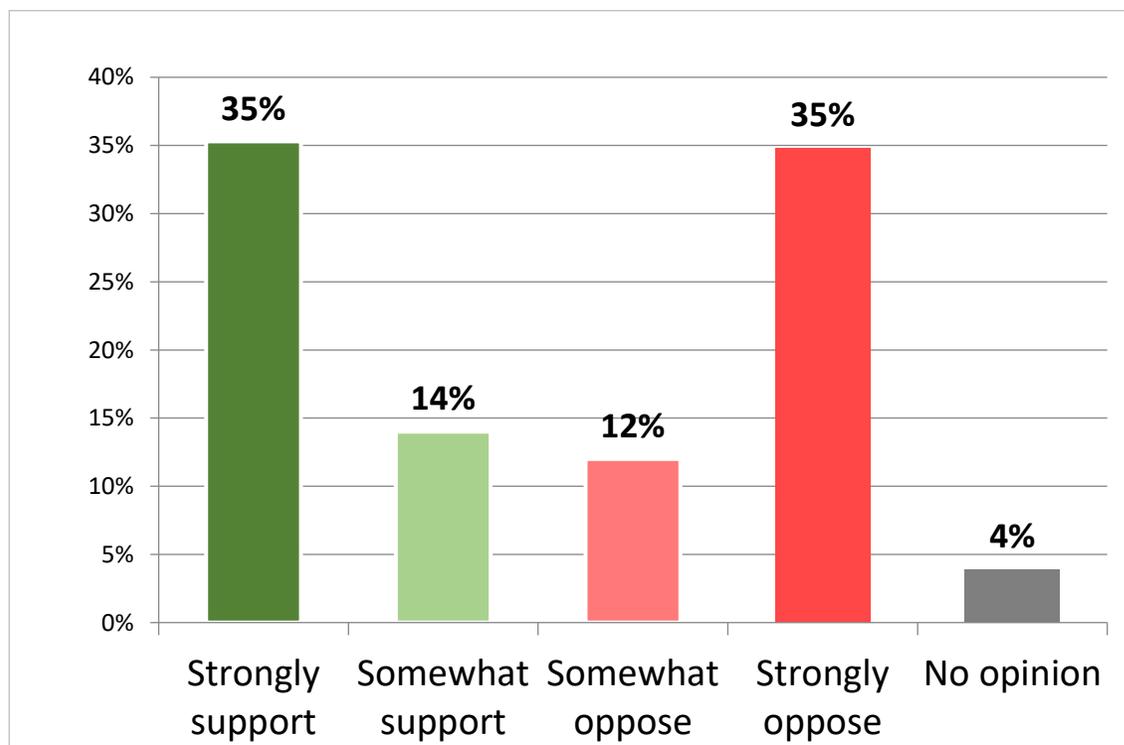


- 72% of Democrats say that tariffs are “bad for Maine” versus 43% of Independents and 15% of Republicans.
- In the previous Omnibus poll in November 2025, 78% of Democrats, 41% of Independents, and 15% of Republicans agreed that tariffs were “bad for Maine.”

- *Recently, there has been significant debate about increasing federal tariffs on imported goods. Which of the following comes closer to your view on how these tariffs affect Maine? [All likely voters; n=810]*

# Increased Federal Immigration Enforcement in Maine

Voters are sharply divided on the recent immigration enforcement operations conducted by the federal government in Maine with 35% of respondents “strongly supporting” this activity and 35% “strongly opposing.”



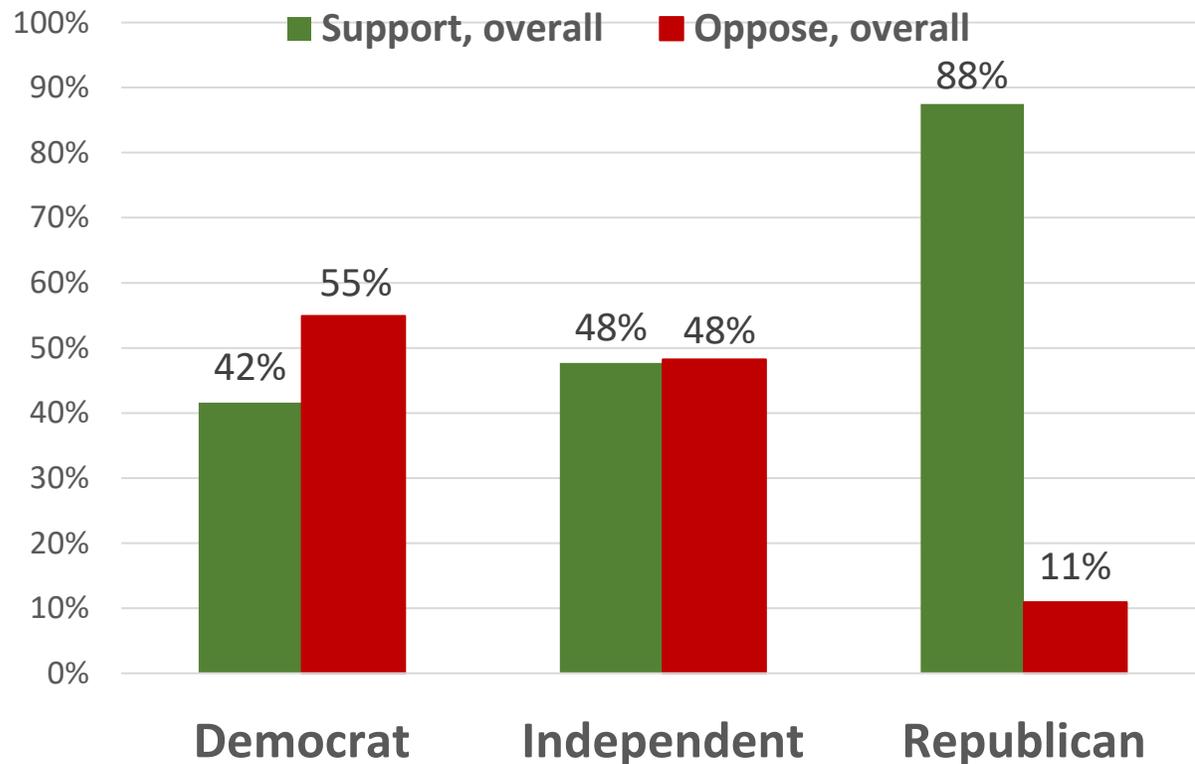
- 14 % of respondents said that they “somewhat support” the efforts, while 12% said that they “somewhat oppose” them.
- 4% of respondents had “no opinion.”
- Support varied strongly by party affiliation and Congressional District, as shown on the following pages.

- *The federal government recently conducted increased immigration enforcement operations in Maine, including in Lewiston and Portland. Some say this is necessary to enforce immigration laws; others say it unfairly targeted communities and legal residents. Do you support or oppose the federal government's increased immigration enforcement activity in Maine? [All likely voters; n=810]*

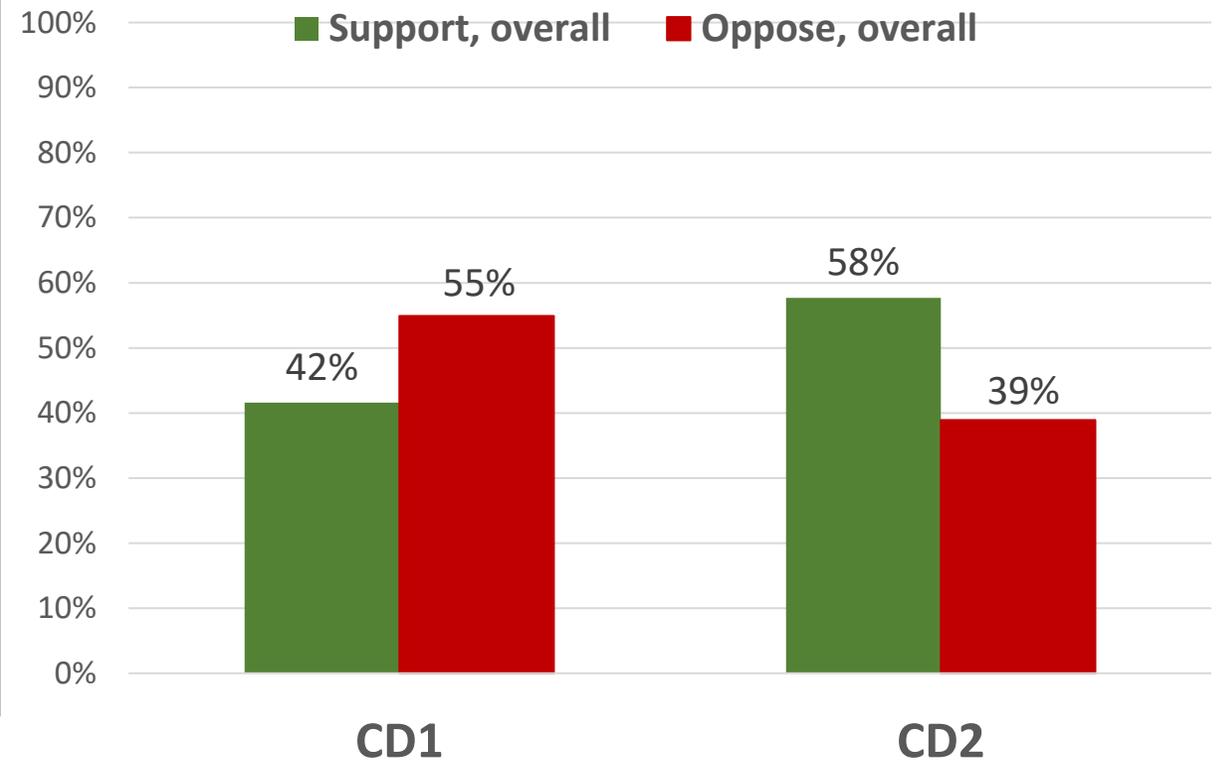
# Increased Federal Immigration Enforcement in Maine

## Key Demographics

Support for Increased Federal Immigration by **Party**



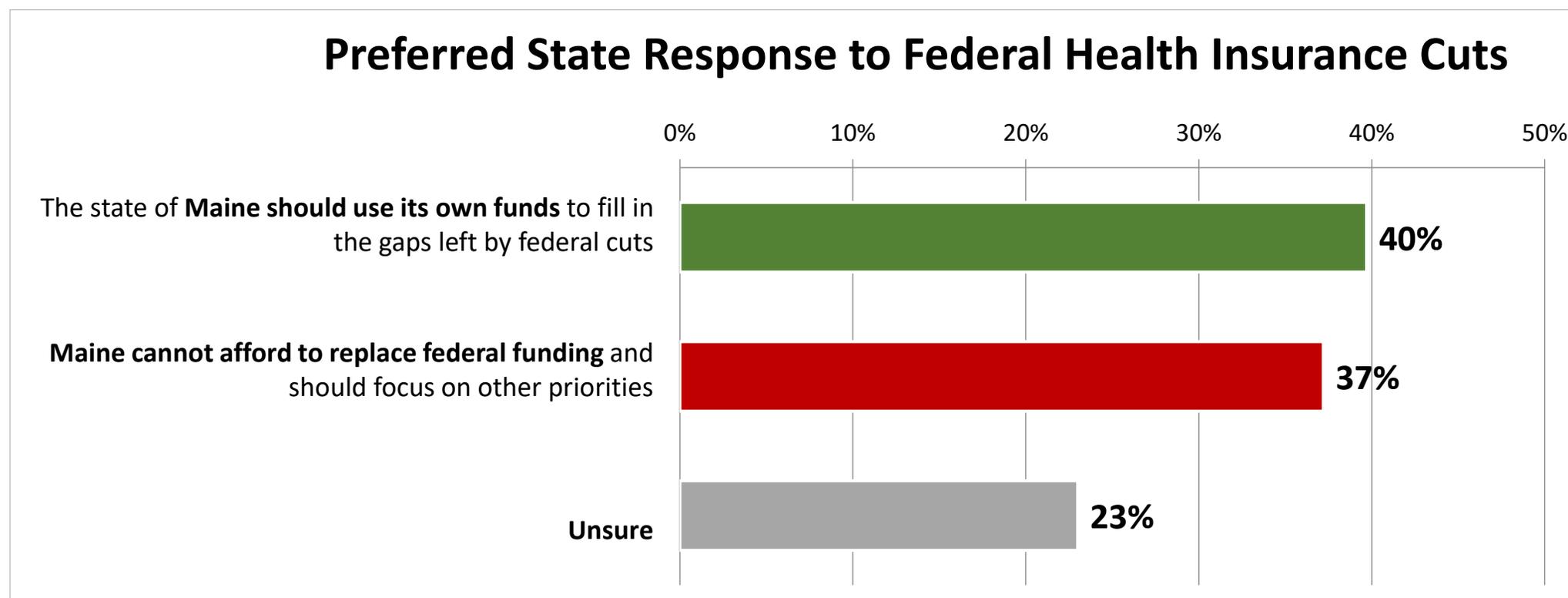
Support for Increased Federal Immigration by **District**



- *The federal government recently conducted increased immigration enforcement operations in Maine, including in Lewiston and Portland. Some say this is necessary to enforce immigration laws; others say it unfairly targeted communities and legal residents. Do you support or oppose the federal government's increased immigration enforcement activity in Maine? [All likely voters; n=810]*

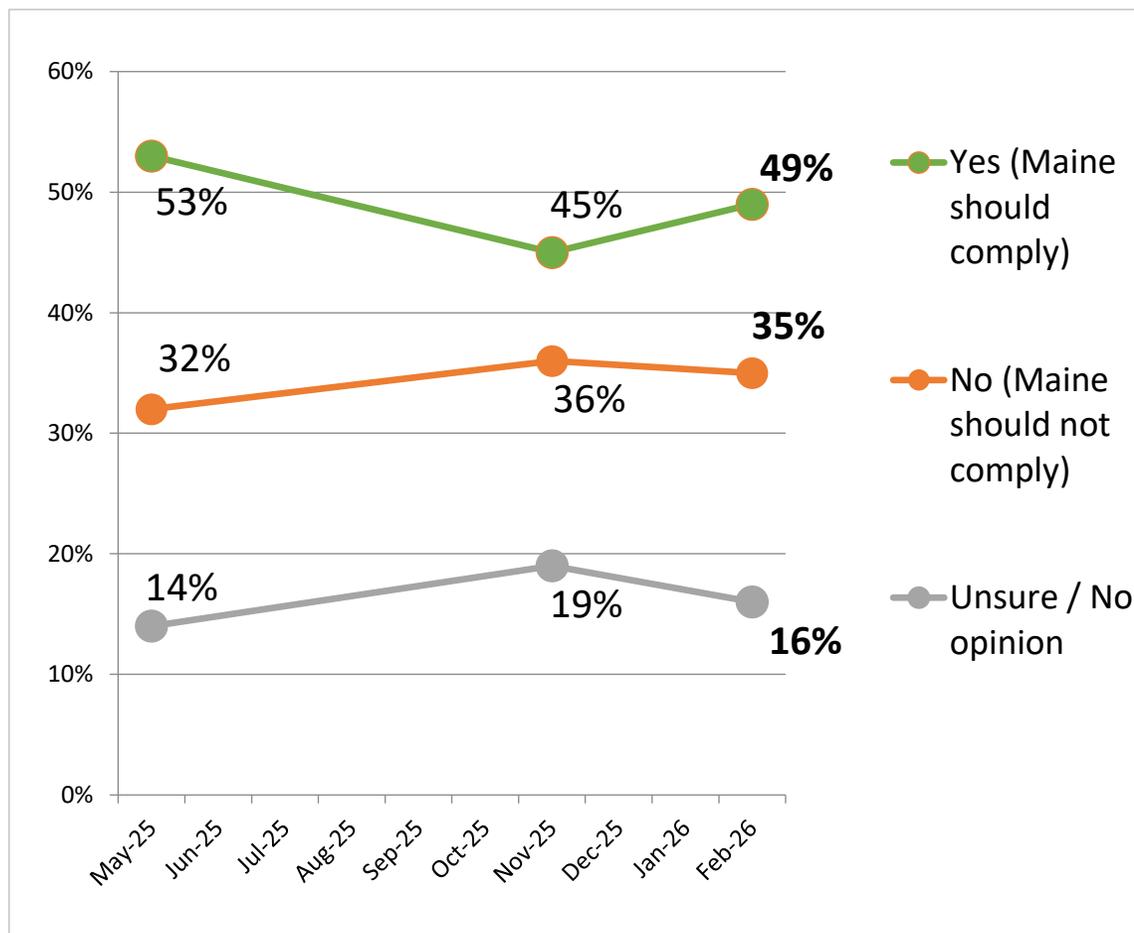
# Medicaid Funding

Voters are divided on whether the Maine should use its own funds to fill gaps from federal Medicaid/subsidy cuts. 40% of respondents agreed the state should fill the gaps, while 37% agreed that the state cannot afford to replace federal funding.



- Federal changes to Medicaid and health insurance subsidies are expected to increase costs or reduce coverage for thousands of Mainers. Which comes closer to your view? [All likely voters; n=810]*

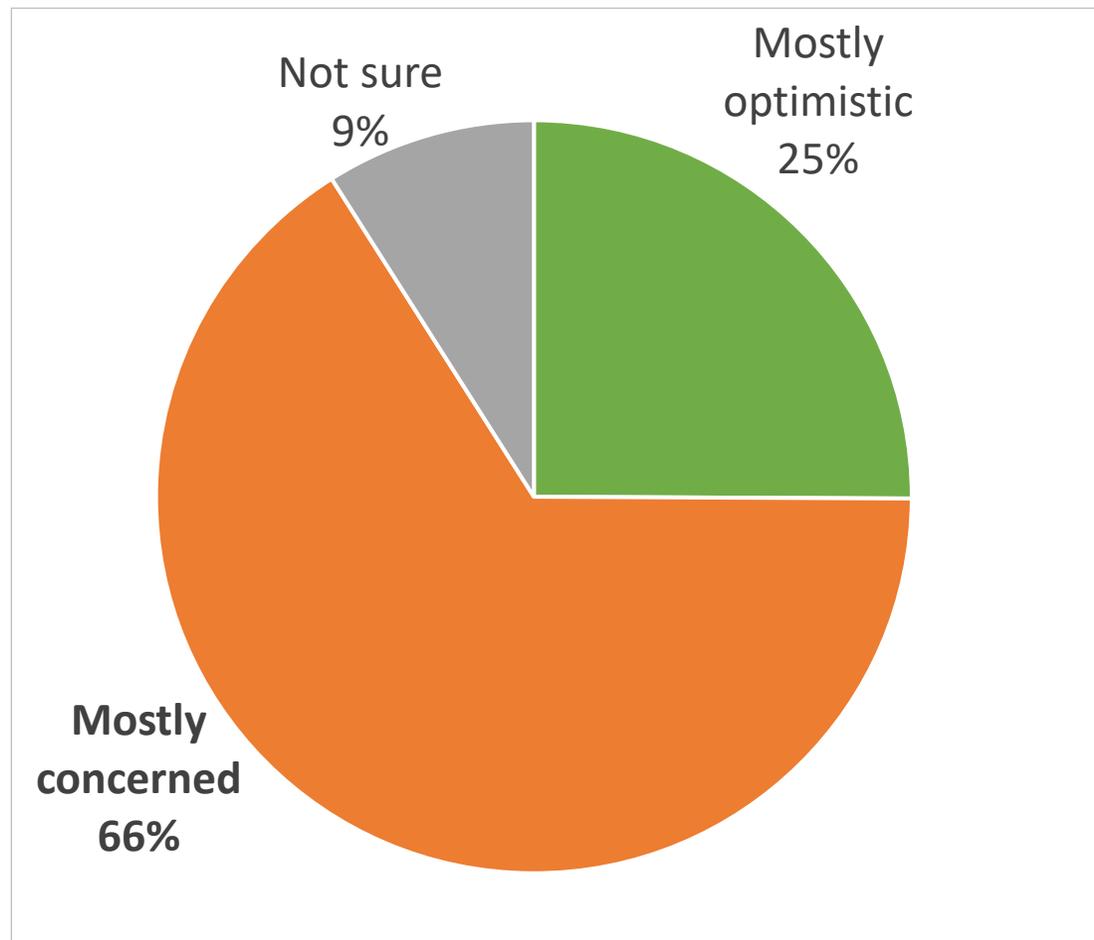
# Transgender Athlete Policies



- Half of respondents (49%) said that they believe that Maine should comply with federal demands to change transgender athlete policies to avoid losing federal education funding. This represents an increase of 4 percentage points from the level recorded in November of 2025.
- 35% of respondents said that Maine should not comply with federal demands, while 16% were undecided on this question.
- 83% of Republicans, 52% of Independents and 21% of Democrats agreed that Maine should comply with federal demands.

• *Should Maine comply with federal demands to change transgender athlete policies to avoid losing federal education funding, or should Maine retain its current policy despite potential financial penalties? [All likely voters; n=810]*

# Perceived Impacts of Artificial Intelligence



- Two-thirds of respondents (66%) said that they are “mostly concerned about the potential problems AI could cause.”
- 25% of respondents said they are “mostly optimistic about the opportunities AI provides,” while 9% said that they were “not sure.”
- 31% of those with household incomes of at least \$50,000 say that they are “mostly optimistic” compared to 14% of those with household incomes below \$50,000.

- *Thinking about the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on society, which of the following best describes your feelings?*  
[All likely voters; n=810]

## IV. Demographics of the Sample

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# Demographics of the Sample

Political Party	
Democrat	<b>33%</b>
Republican	<b>28%</b>
Independent	<b>33%</b>
Other party	<b>3%</b>
Don't know / Prefer not to answer	<b>4%</b>

Level of Education	
Less than 4-year degree	<b>57%</b>
Four-year college degree or more	<b>43%</b>
Prefer not to answer	<b>&lt;1%</b>

# Demographics of the Sample

Age	
18-34	<b>23%</b>
35-54	<b>25%</b>
55+	<b>51%</b>
Prefer not to answer	<b>&lt;1%</b>

Household Income Level	
Less than \$50,000	<b>40%</b>
\$50,000 to under \$100,000	<b>36%</b>
\$100,000 or more	<b>20%</b>
Don't know / Prefer not to answer	<b>3%</b>

# Demographics of the Sample

Gender	
Female	48%
Male	51%
Non-binary	<1%
Prefer not to answer	<1%

Congressional District	
CD-1	50%
CD-2	50%