



Florida RV Survey

800 Registered Voters Statewide + Oversample of 600
Registered Republican Voters

October 23-29, 2017



Right on Crime funded this poll to show voters and legislators that Floridians across all geographies and demographics support genuine criminal justice reforms.

Right on Crime is a national campaign to promote successful, conservative solutions on American criminal justice policy—reforming the system to ensure public safety, shrink government, and save taxpayers money. By sharing research and policy ideas and mobilizing strong conservative voices, we work to raise awareness of the growing support for effective reforms within the conservative movement. We are transforming the debate on criminal justice in America.

Table of Contents

- Methodology Statement
- Likely Voter Groups
- Key Take-Aways
- Criminal Justice System
- Criminal Justice Legislative Proposals
- Increase Minimum Threshold for Felony Theft
- Ending Practice of Suspending Driver Licenses
- Allow Judges to Cut Mandatory Minimums for First-Time Drug Offenders
- Civil Citation Programs
- Appendix

Methodology

- 800 Registered Voters were surveyed over the phone from October 23-26 and an additional 300 Republicans (for 600 total) were surveyed October 27-29, 2017.
- Interviews were stratified into proportionate units based on state registered voter data.
- Survey was conducted over the phone using a list of registered voters provided by the state of Florida.
- Margin of sampling error for 800 registered voters is $\pm 3.46\%$. Margin of sampling error for 600 registered Republican voters is $\pm 4.00\%$.

Likely Voter Group Definitions

- **GOP PV's** = Registered Republican voters who had voted in at least one of the last four statewide GOP primaries (Presidential or Gubernatorial). They comprise 64% of the total Republican sample. (N=381 with margin of error of +/-5.02%)
- **GOV LV's** = Registered voters of all parties who had voted in at least one of the last two Gubernatorial elections. They comprise 62% of the total Registered voter sample. (N=499 with a margin of error of +/-4.38%)

Key Take-Aways: (1)

- Registered voters overwhelmingly believe that the primary purpose of the criminal justice system is to rehabilitate and not punish criminals.
- As importantly, a plurality of GOP voters agree. Even the most conservative GOP voters and GOP PV's are split on the issue.
- And when it comes to dealing with youth offenders, both group of voters side squarely in protecting minors from the system.

Key Take-Aways: (2)

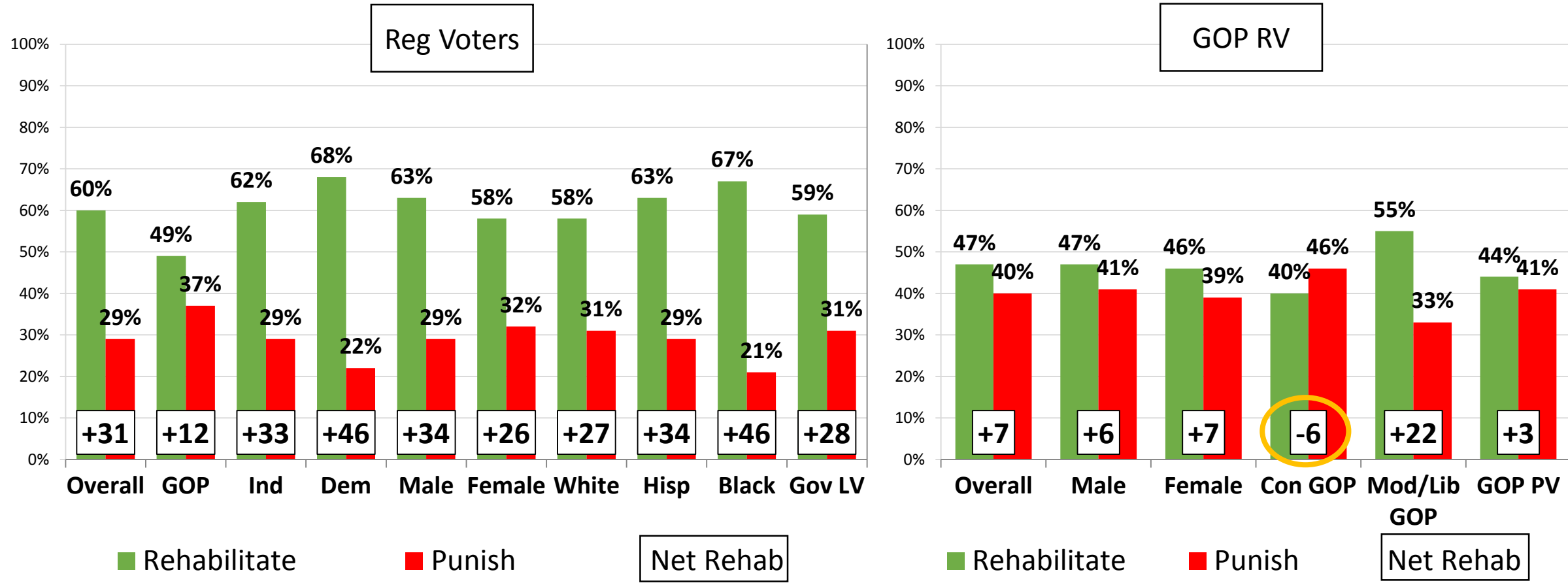
- Despite the range of opinions these voters have on the criminal justice system, BOTH voter groups readily embrace the four proposed reforms tested:
 - Roughly 3 in 4 registered voters and GOP voters support ending the practice of suspending drivers' licenses for failure to pay court fees or fines when the person can prove an inability to pay and agrees to do community service.
 - Nearly three-quarters or more of both voter universes support encouraging counties to create civil citation programs that would allow police officers to give citations that include fines and/or community service instead of making arrests for various misdemeanors.
 - Two-thirds or more of both voter groups support allowing Florida state judges to cut three and five year mandatory minimum sentences by up to two-thirds for first time drug offenders when they believe the mandatory sentence is inappropriate based on the crime committed.
 - A solid majority of both voter universes support raising the minimum monetary threshold that qualifies as a felony from \$300 to \$1,500.
 - As important as the overall support among both voter universes is that there is virtually no difference in the level of support between all registered voters and known Gubernatorial voters, or all GOP voters and known GOP primary voters.



Criminal Justice System

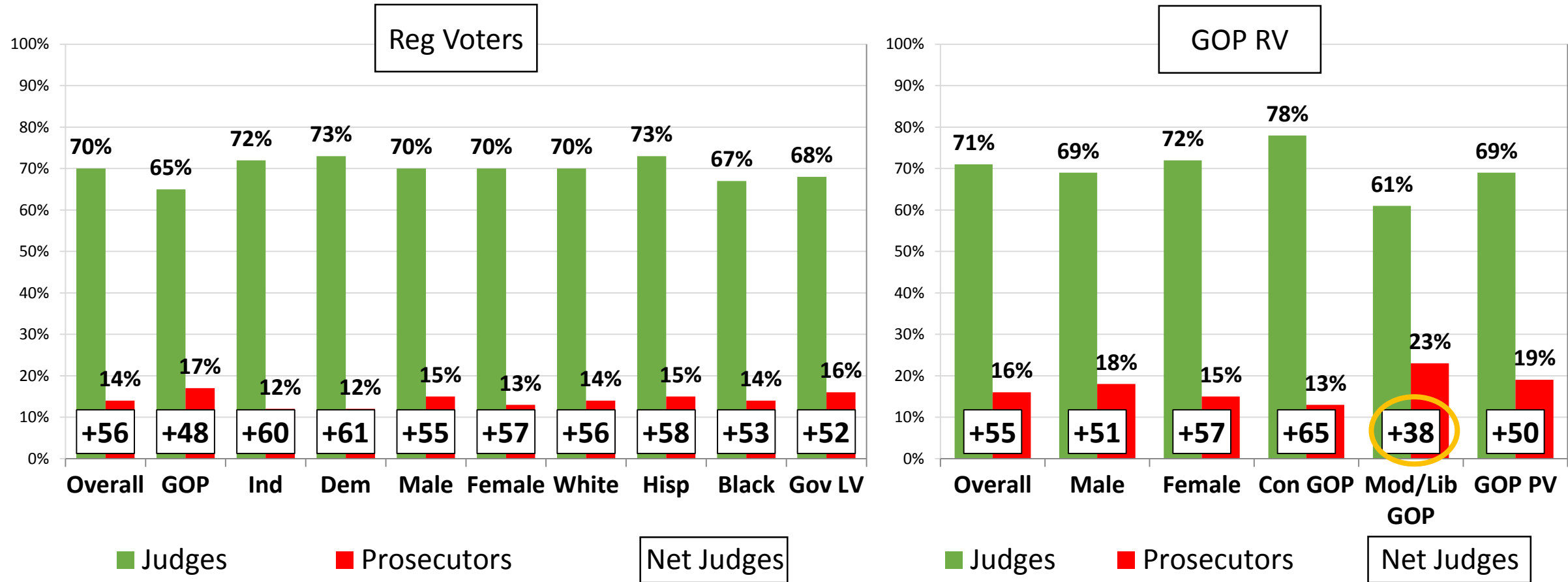
Primary Purpose of Criminal Justice System

- By a 2-to-1 margin, Floridians believe the primary purpose of the criminal justice system should be to rehabilitate, rather than punish.
- Across the demographic board, voters feel this way, but Republicans are more likely than others to favor punishment.
- Conservative Republicans, in particular, lean towards punishment as the primary purpose by a 6-point margin.



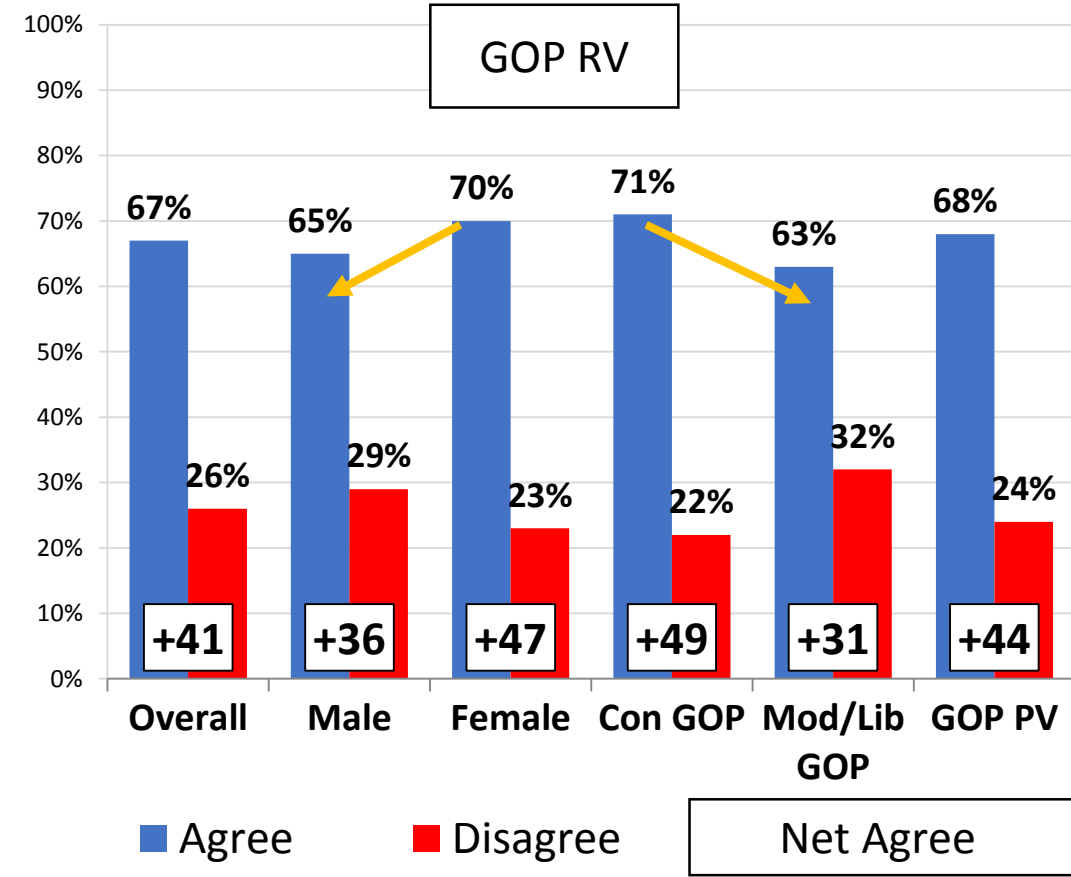
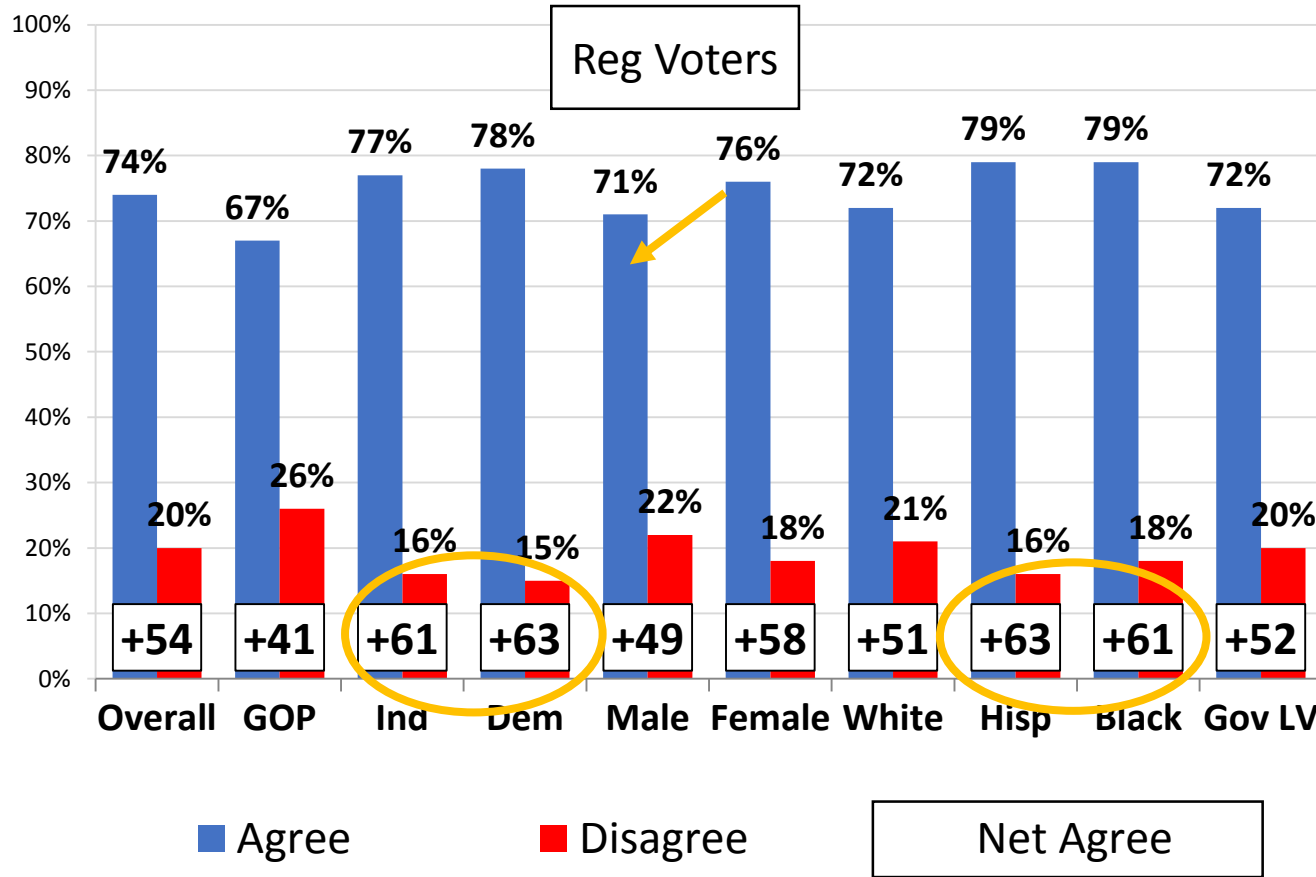
Decision on Prosecuting Child as an Adult

- By wide margins, Florida voters and Republicans trust judges more to decide if a child should be tried as an adult.
- Mod/Lib Republicans are less likely than most to trust judges, but still do so by a more than 2-to-1 margin.



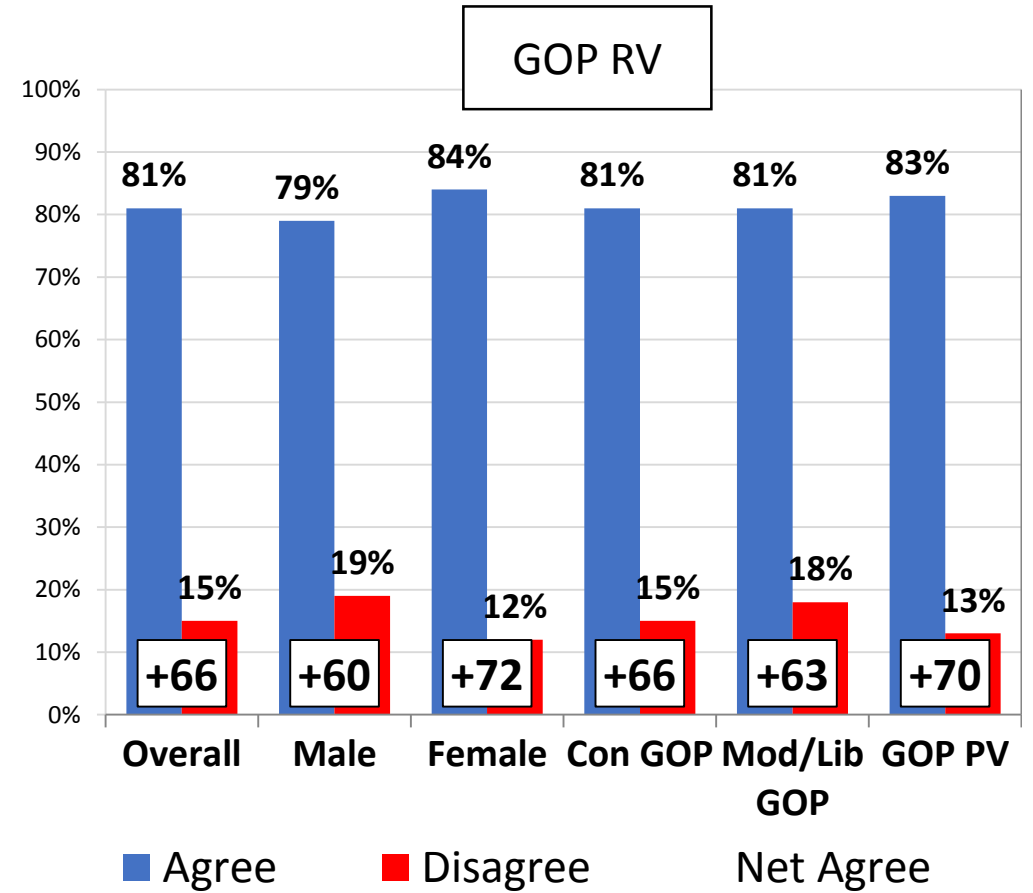
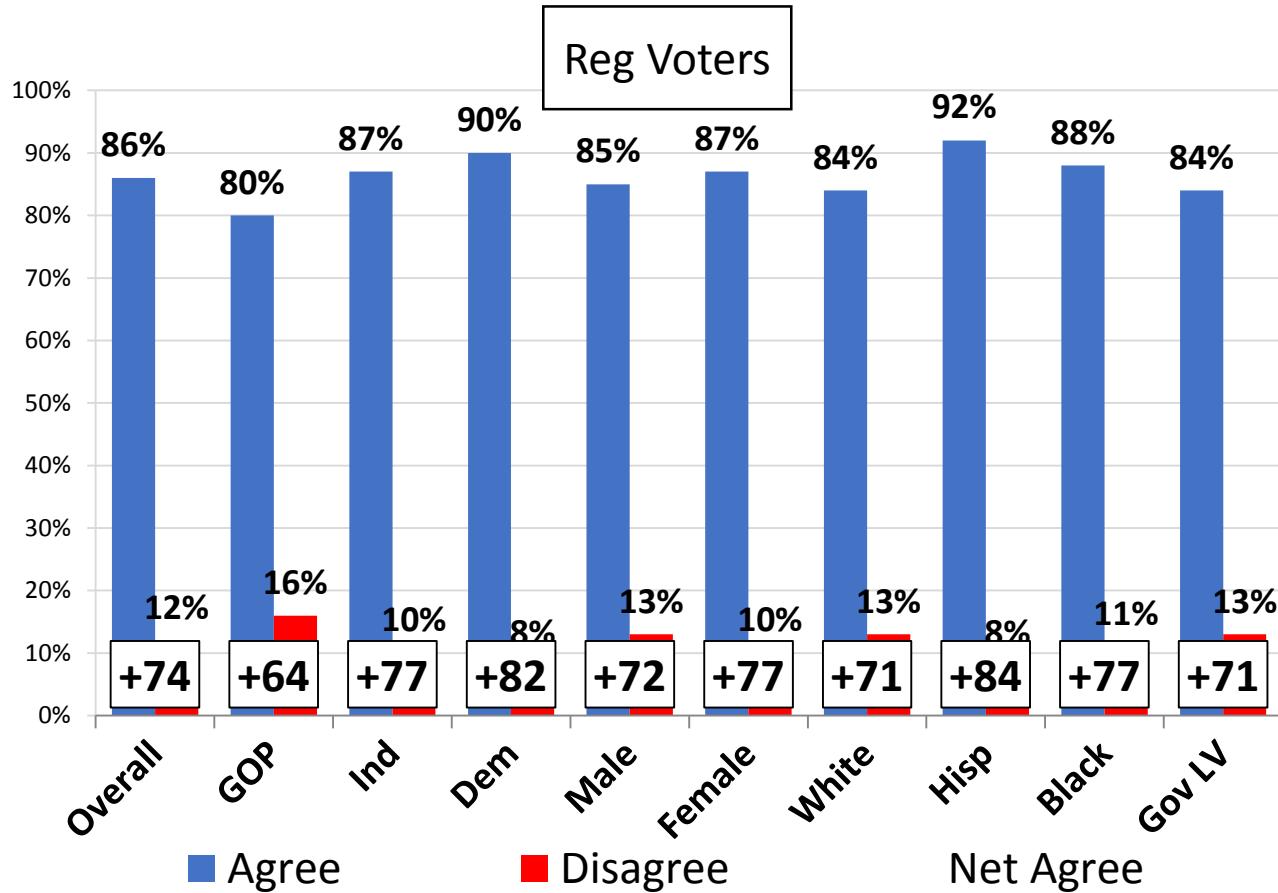
Minors Charged should stay in Juvenile System

- Three quarters of FL voters, and two-thirds of Republicans agree minors charged with adult crimes should stay in the Juvenile system.
- Overall, and among Republicans, women are more likely than men to agree with this sentiment.
- Both Democrats and Independents, as well as minorities, agree by margins of more than 60%.
- Interestingly, Mod/Lib Republicans are LESS likely to agree with this statement than conservatives.



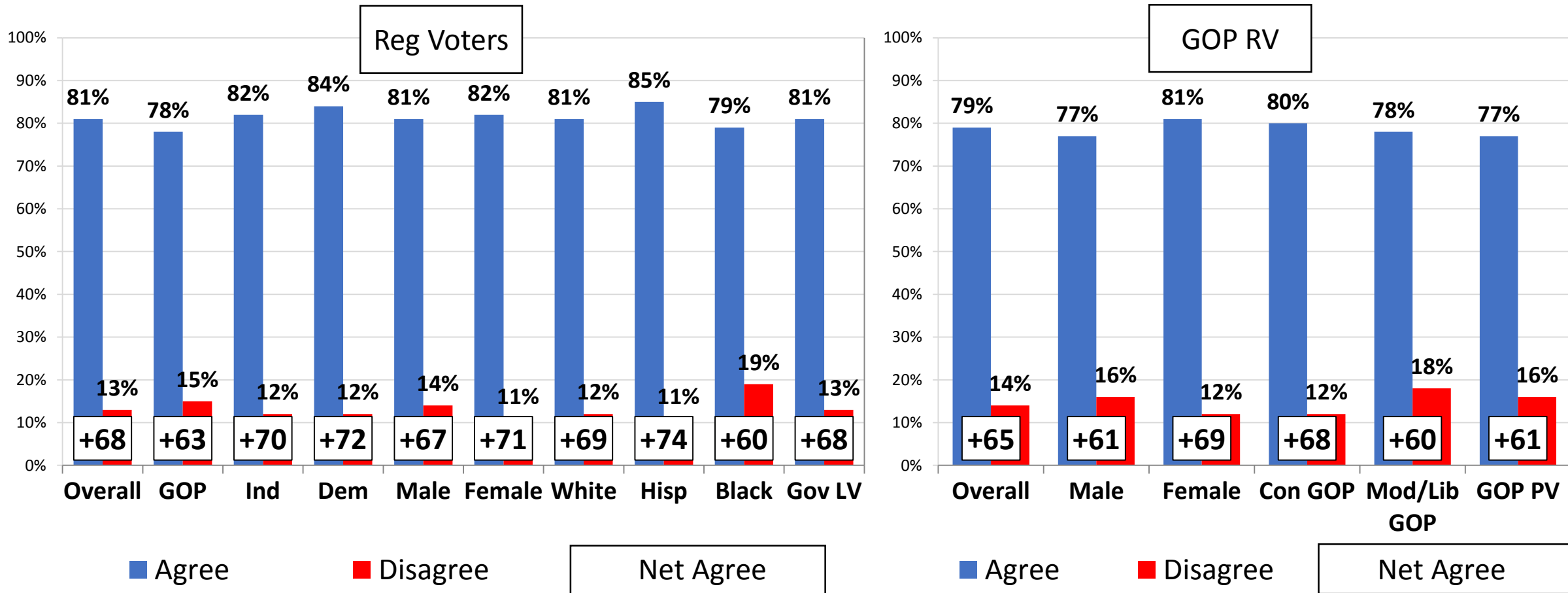
Minors Awaiting Trial as Adults stay in Juv. Facility

- There is widespread agreement that minors awaiting trial as an adult should still be housed in a juvenile facility.



Prosecutors Disclose Plea Negotiations w/ Minors

- Likewise, Floridians of every political and demographic persuasion feel prosecutors need to disclose their plea deals with minors by wide margins.

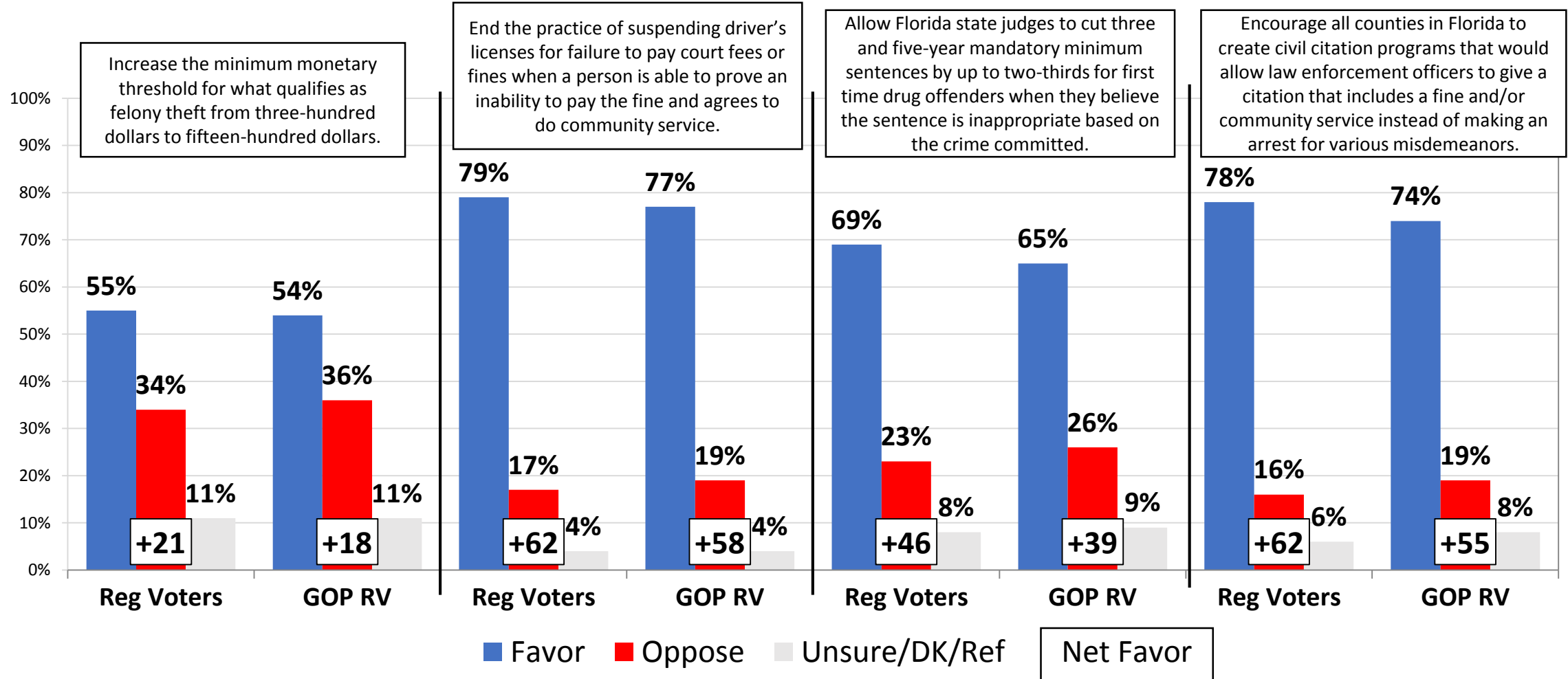




Criminal Justice Legislative Proposals

Criminal Justice Reform Proposals

- All four proposals are favored by a majority of voters and Republicans by double-digit margins.
- Increasing the monetary threshold for felony theft runs up against the most resistance, but is still favored 55% - 34%.

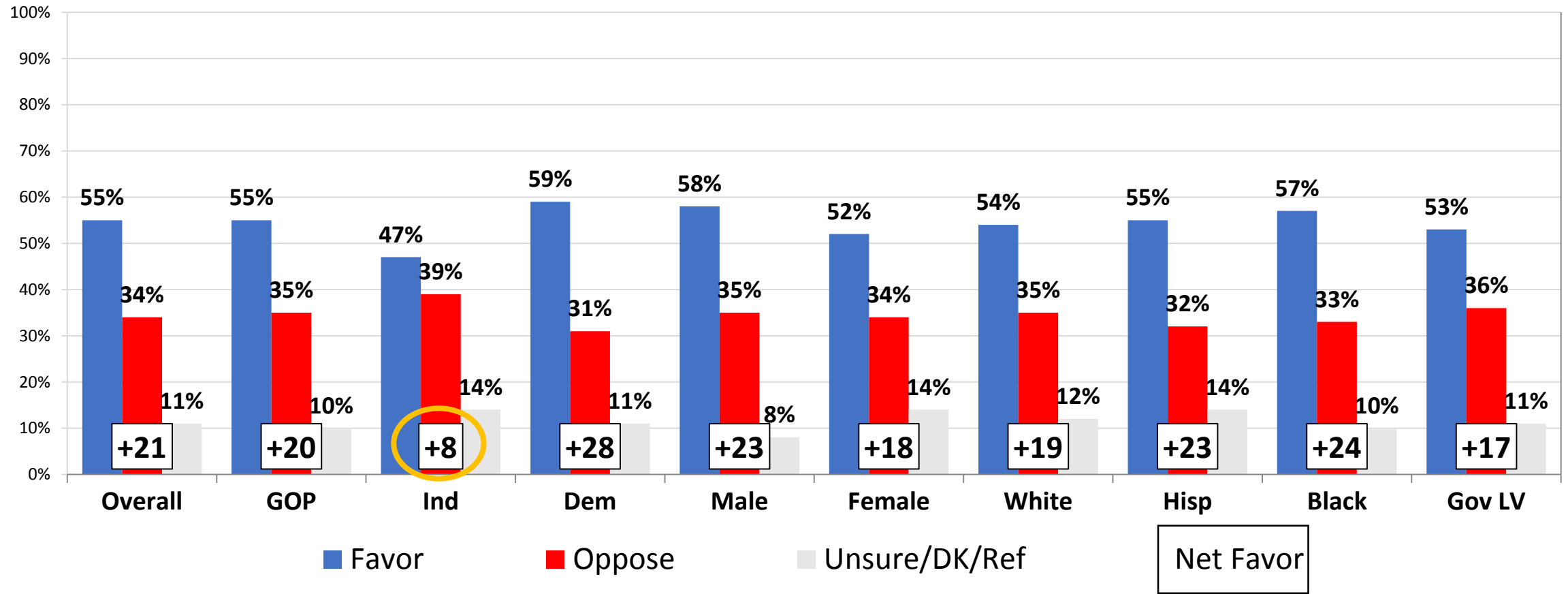




Increase Minimum Threshold for Felony Theft

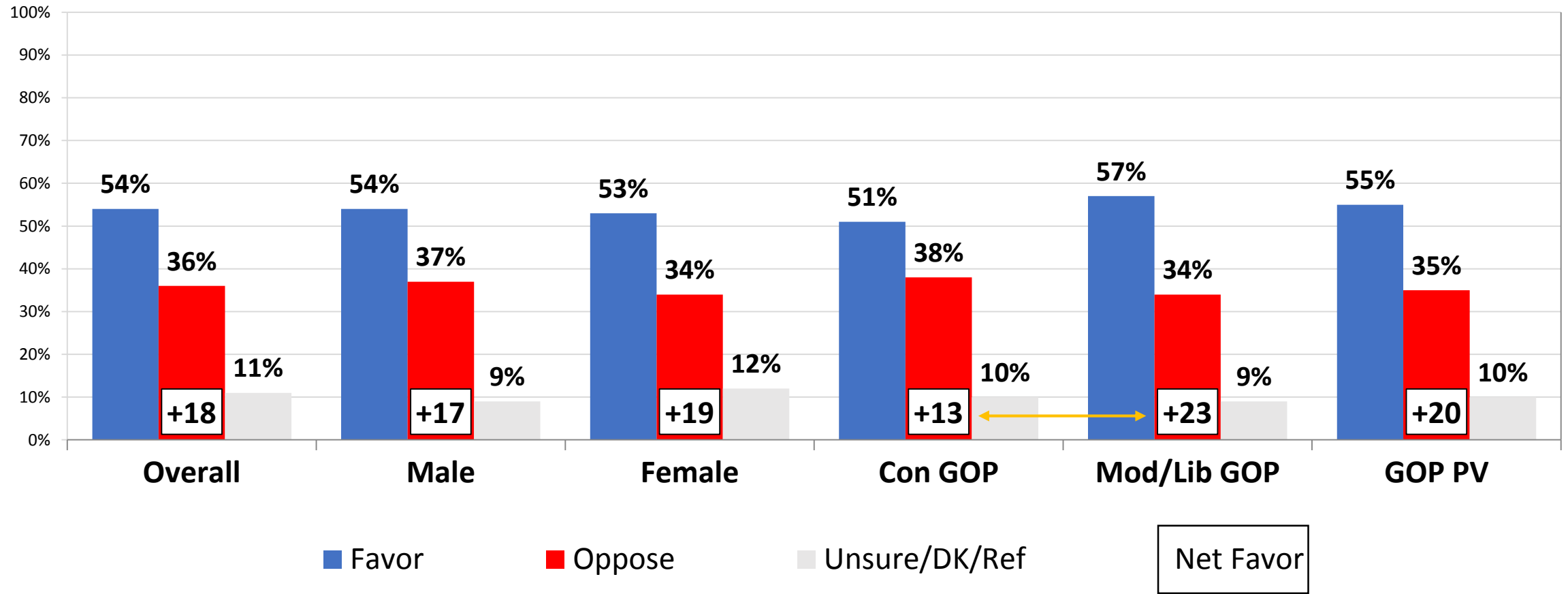
Increase Minimum Threshold for Felony Theft: Reg Voters

- Increasing the minimum threshold for felony theft from \$300 to \$1,500 is favored by a majority, 55% - 34%.
- Though a plurality favor the proposal, Independents (+8) are noticeably less favorably than Democrats or Republicans.



Increase Minimum Threshold for Felony Theft: GOP RV

- Republicans are almost as equally supportive, with 54% favoring this proposal, and 36% opposing.
- Mod/Libs favor increasing the minimum threshold by 10 more net points than conservatives, though majorities of both favor the idea.

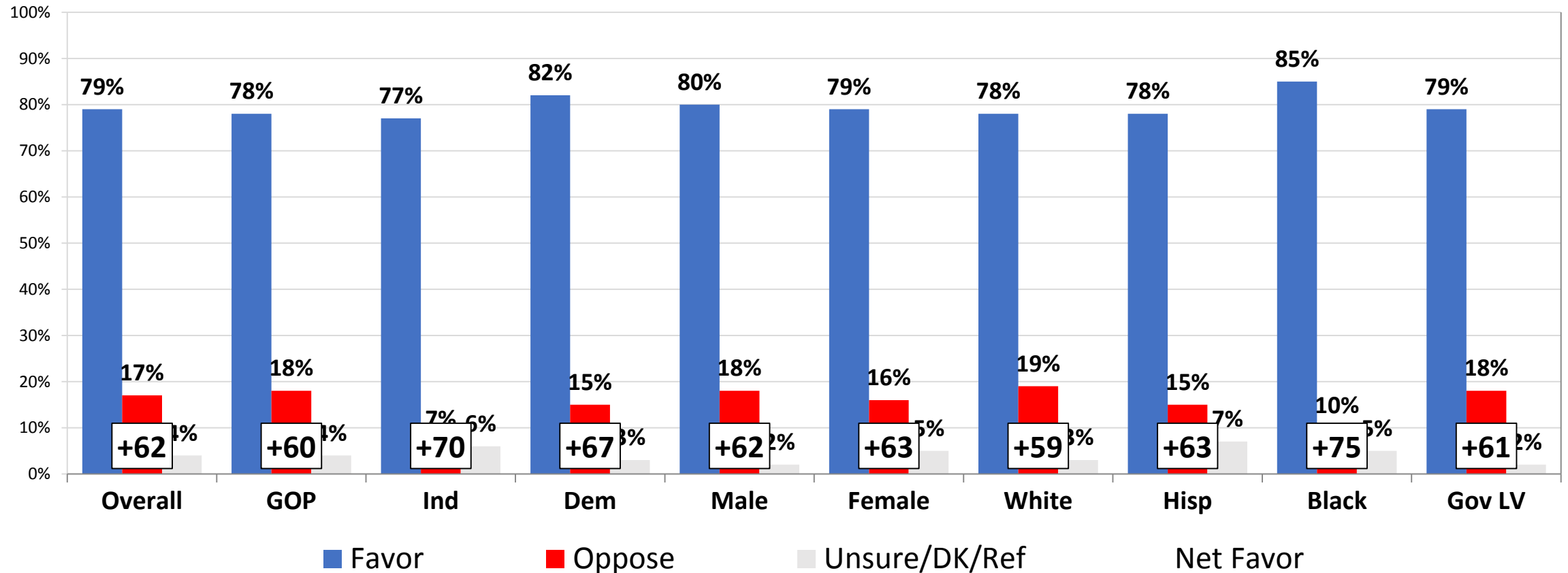




Ending Practice of Suspending Driver Licenses

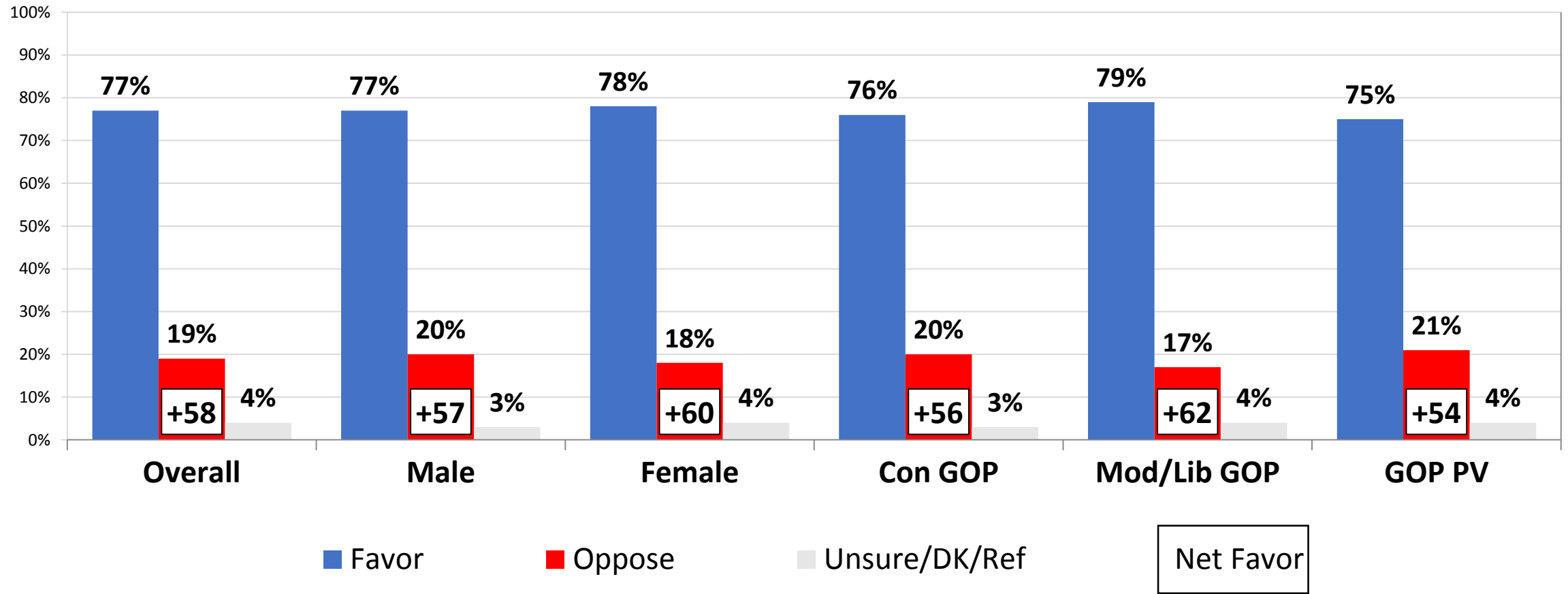
Ending Practice of Suspending Driver Licenses: Reg Voters

- This proposal receives broad support, favored 79% to 17%, and among the many demographic groups, is favored by more than three quarters of every one.



Ending Practice of Suspending Driver Licenses: GOP RV

- Republicans also broadly support ending the practice of suspending licenses for failing to pay court fines and fees.

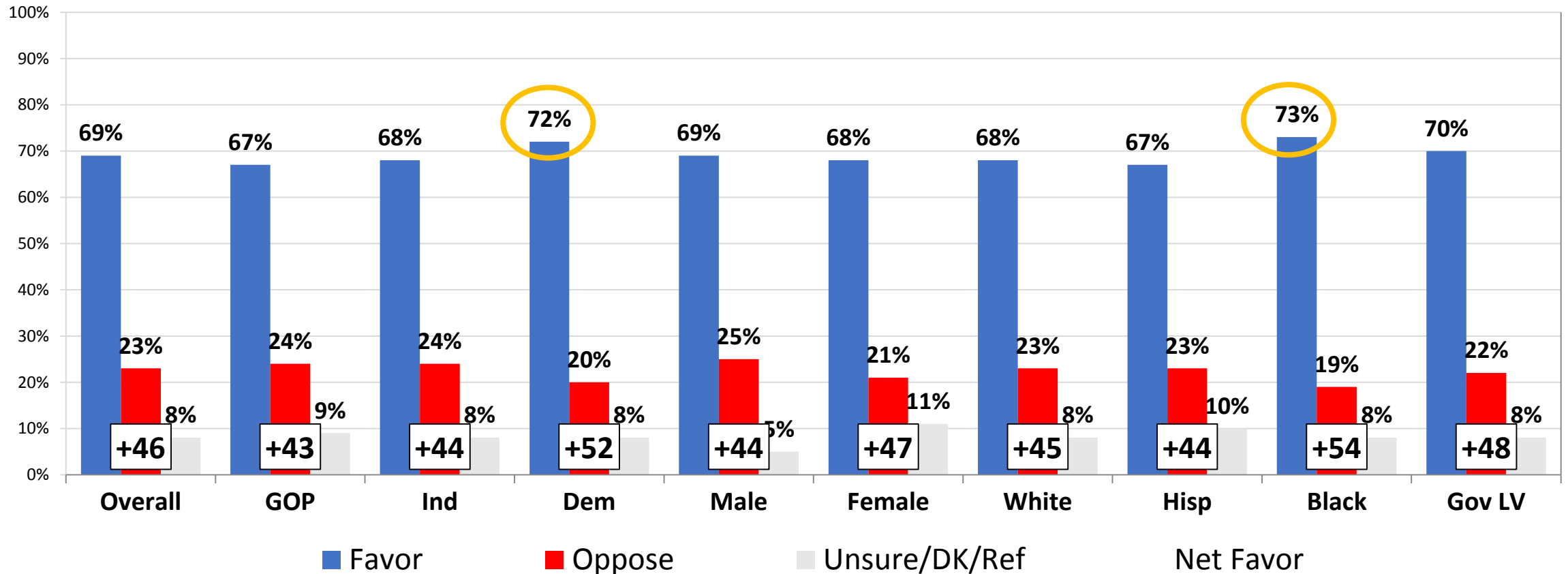




Allow Judges to Cut Mandatory Minimums for First-Time Drug Offenders

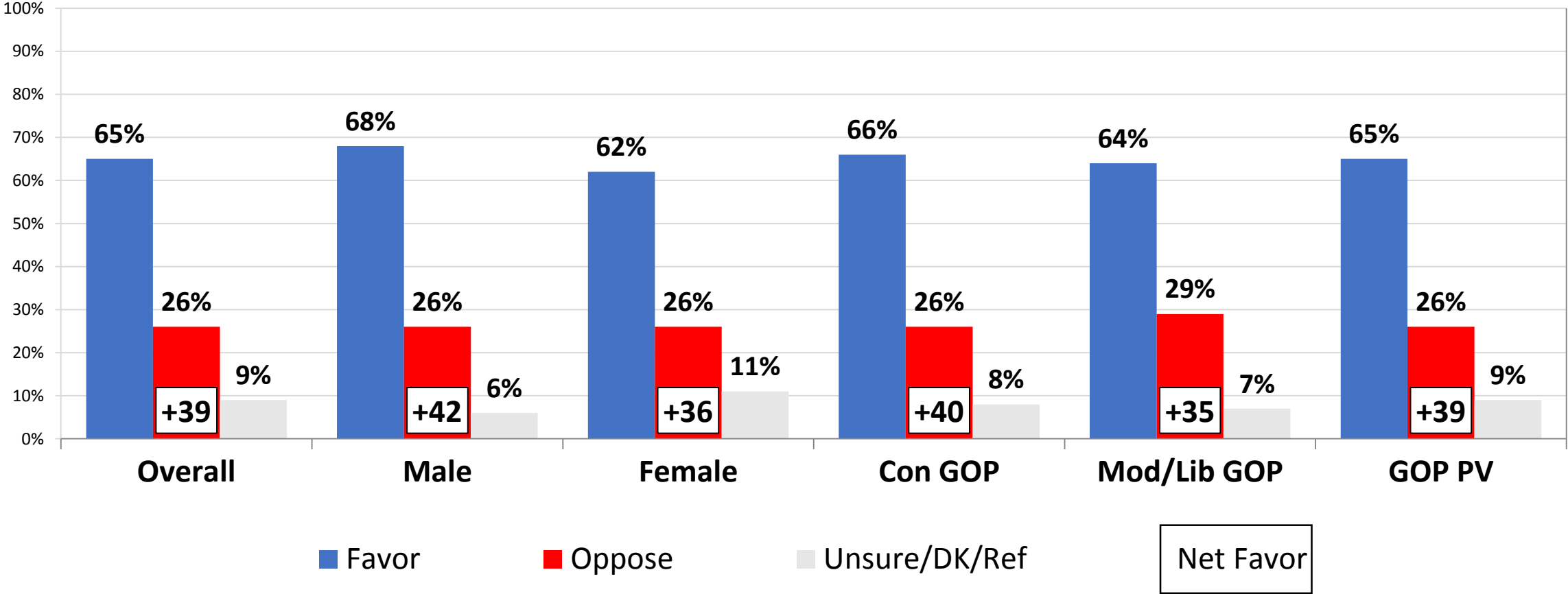
Cut Mand. Minimums for 1st Time Drug Offenders: Reg Voters

- Allowing judges to reduce the mandatory minimum sentences for first time drug offenders is favored by more than two-thirds of FL voters (69%) and opposed by less than a quarter (23%).
- Dems and African-Americans show the greatest support for this proposals, but more than 2/3rds of all groups favor it.



Cut Mand. Minimums for 1st Time Drug Offenders: GOP RV

- Republicans favor allowing judges to cut the mandatory minimum of first time drug offenders, 65% - 29%.
- Men and conservatives are marginally more in favor than women and mod/libers, respectively.

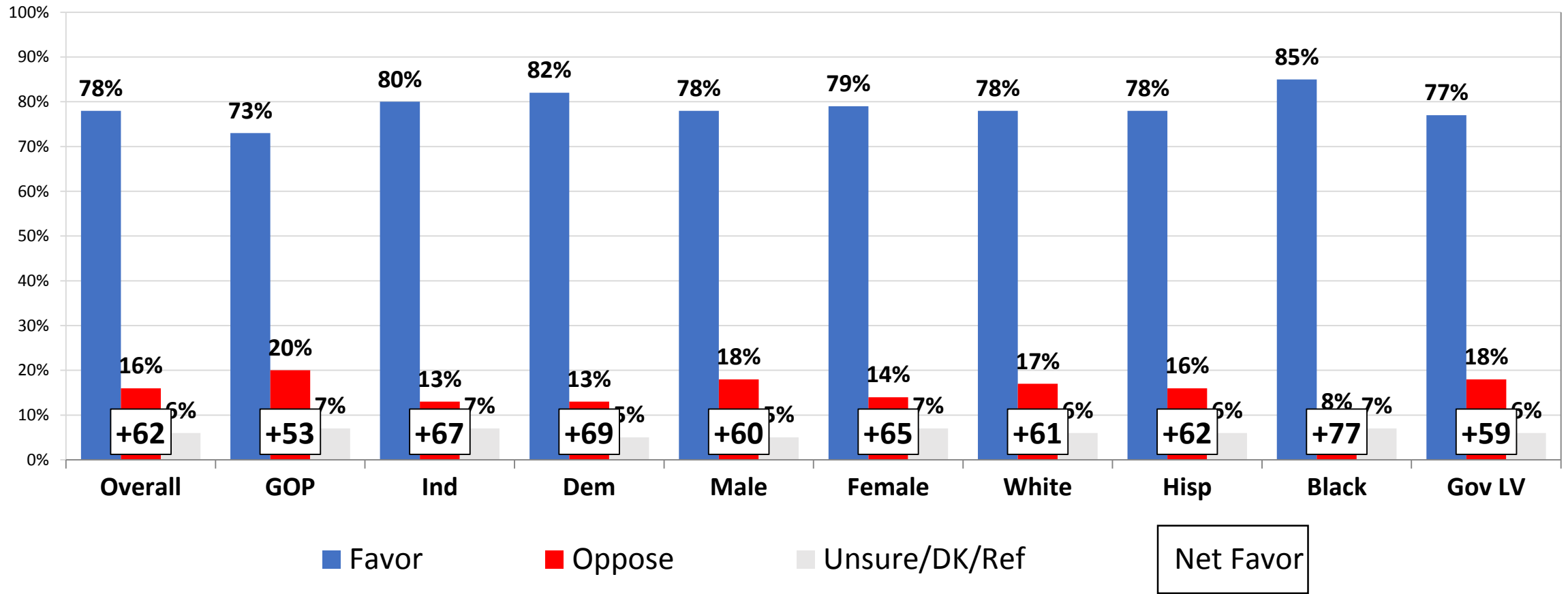




Civil Citation Programs

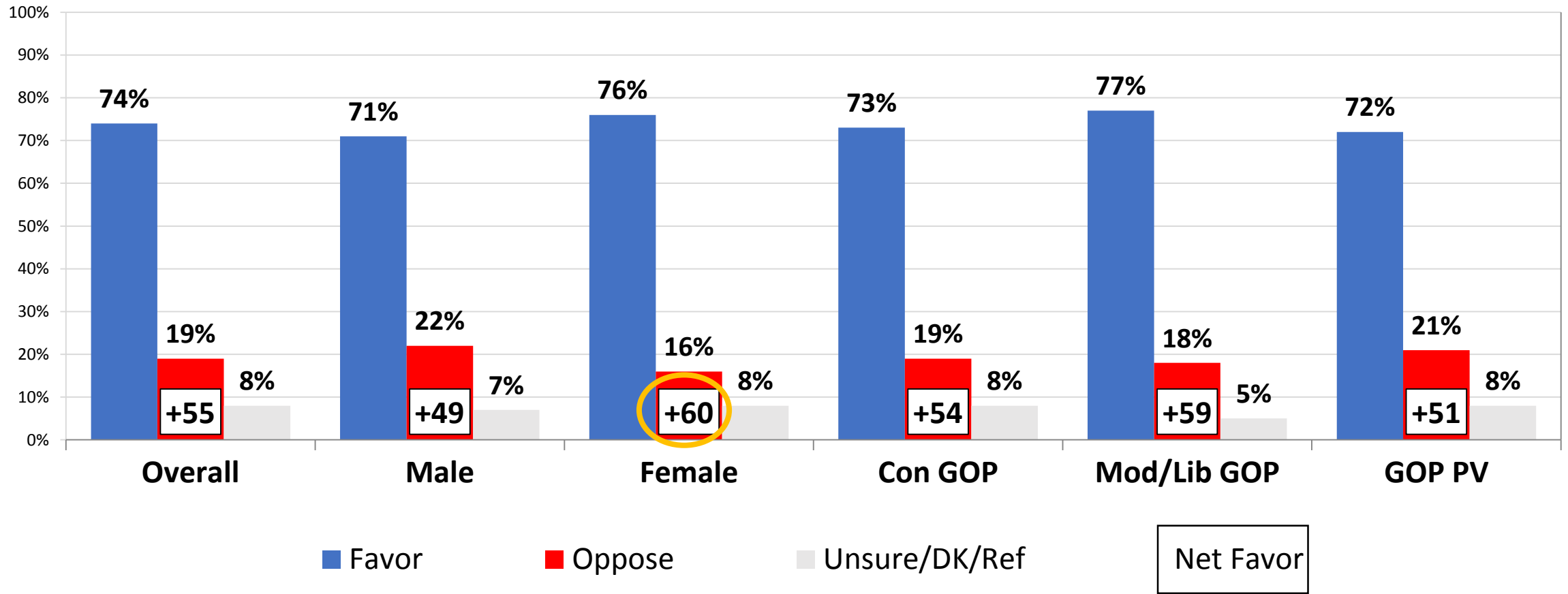
Civil Citation Programs: Reg Voters

- Floridians favor encouraging counties to enact Civil Citation programs by a wide 62-point margin.
- Democrats (+69), Independents (+67), and African-Americans (+77) are the most likely to favor this proposal, though all groups do by 50+-points.



Civil Citation Programs: GOP RV

- Republicans also support this idea by a wide margin, 74% favor – 19% oppose.
- Women are more likely to favor this proposal (+60) than their male counterparts (+49).

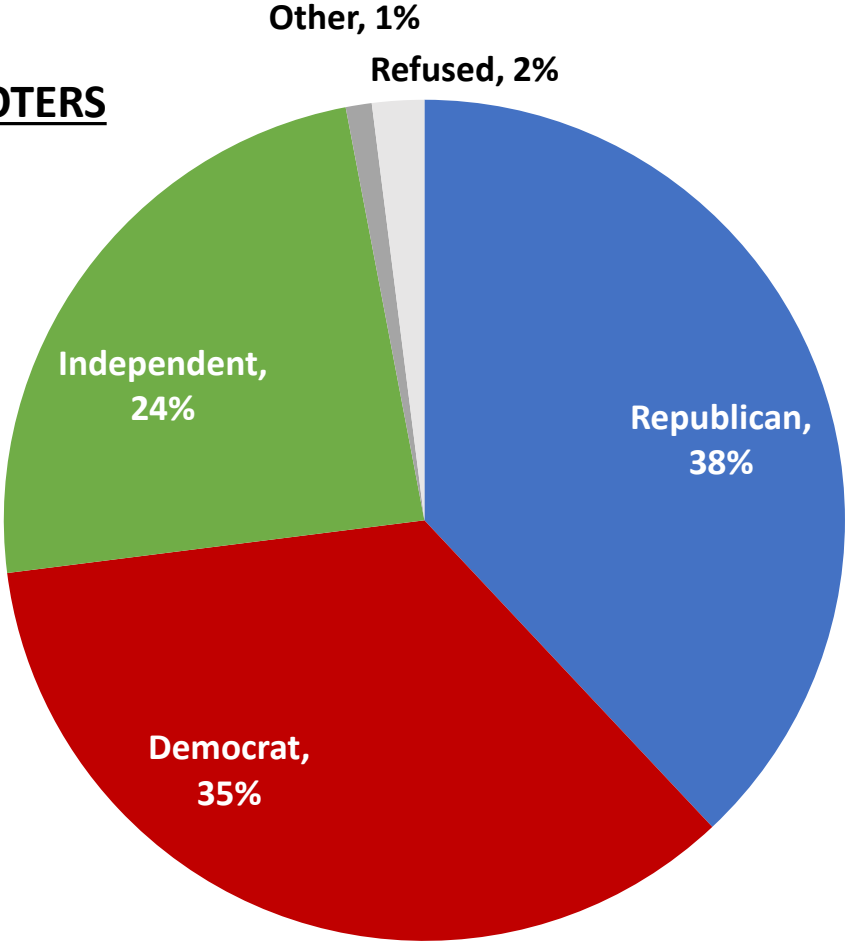




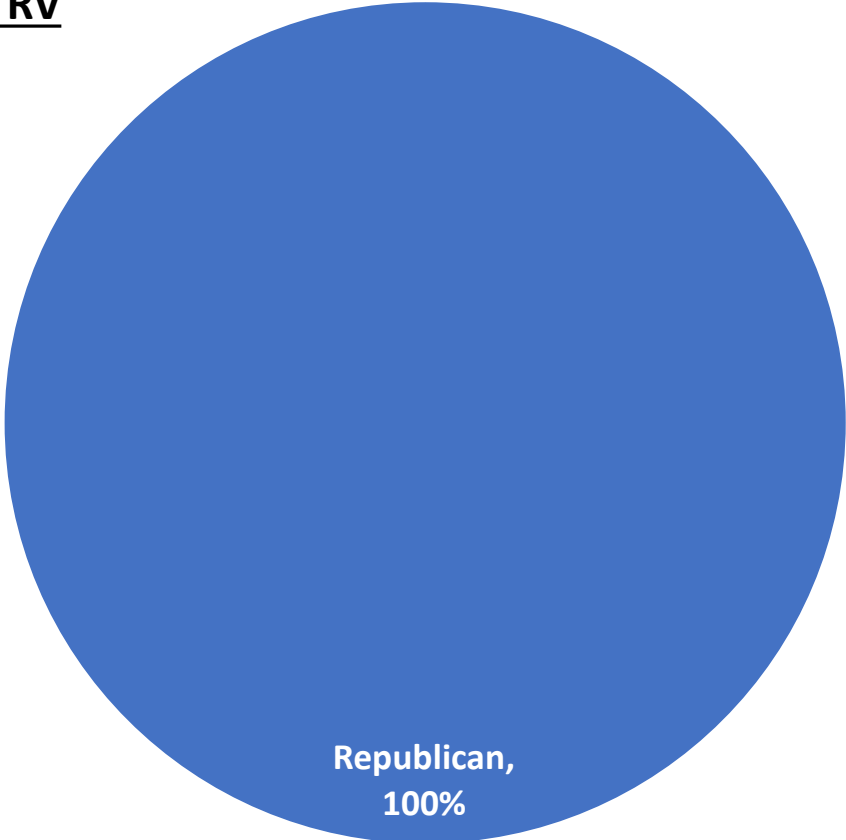
Appendix

Party

REG VOTERS

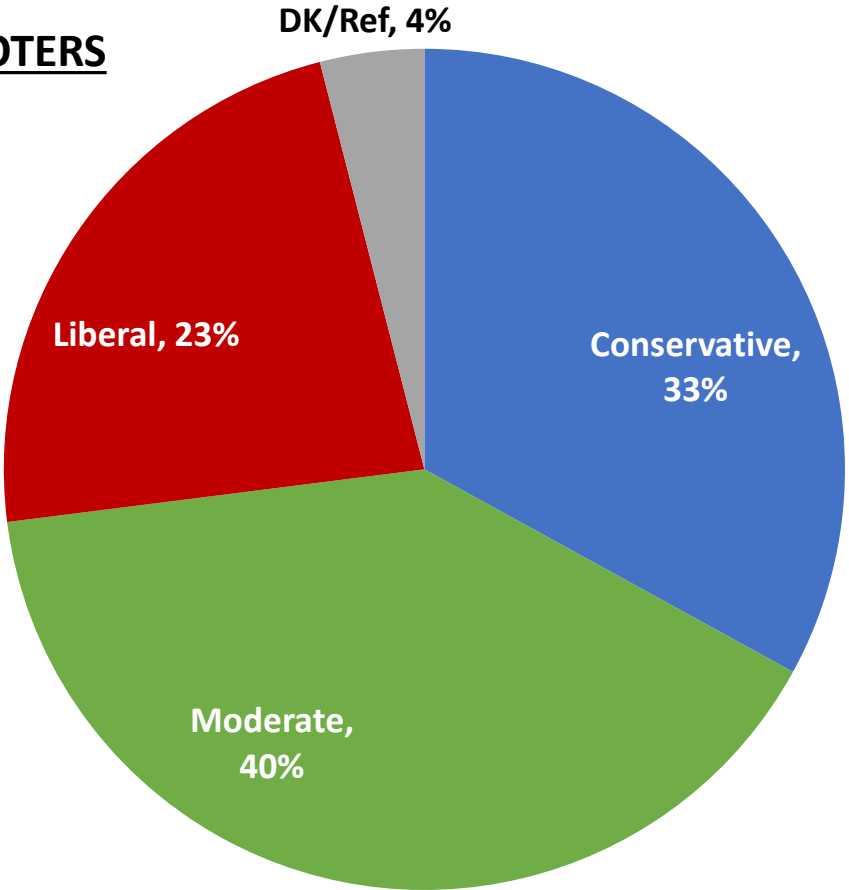


GOP RV

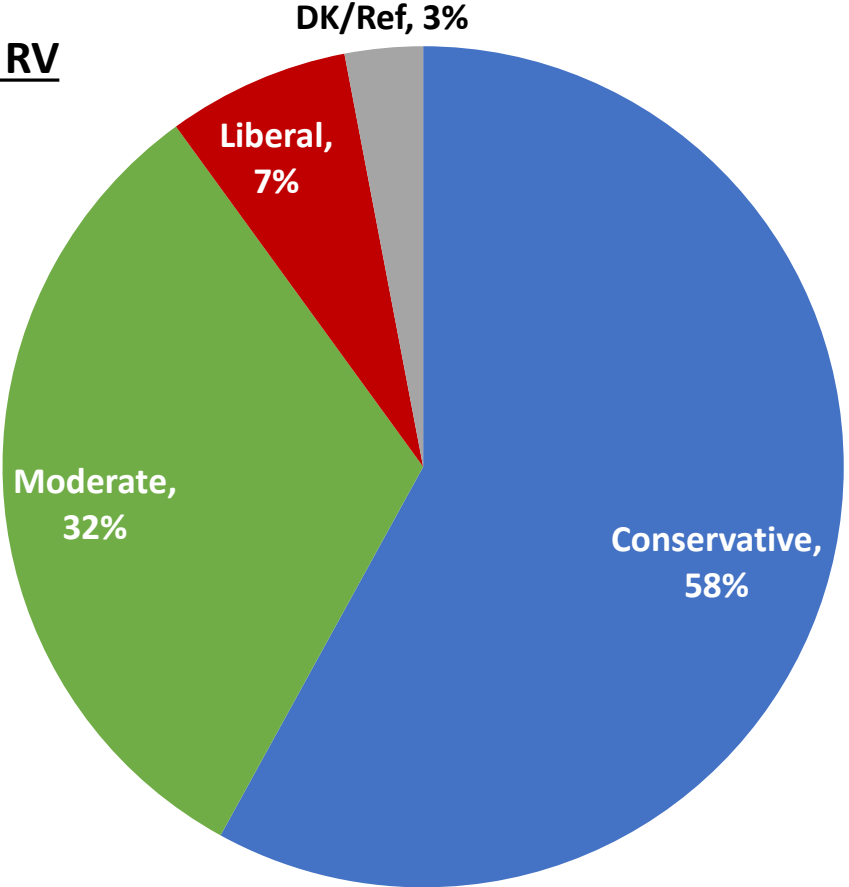


Ideology

REG VOTERS

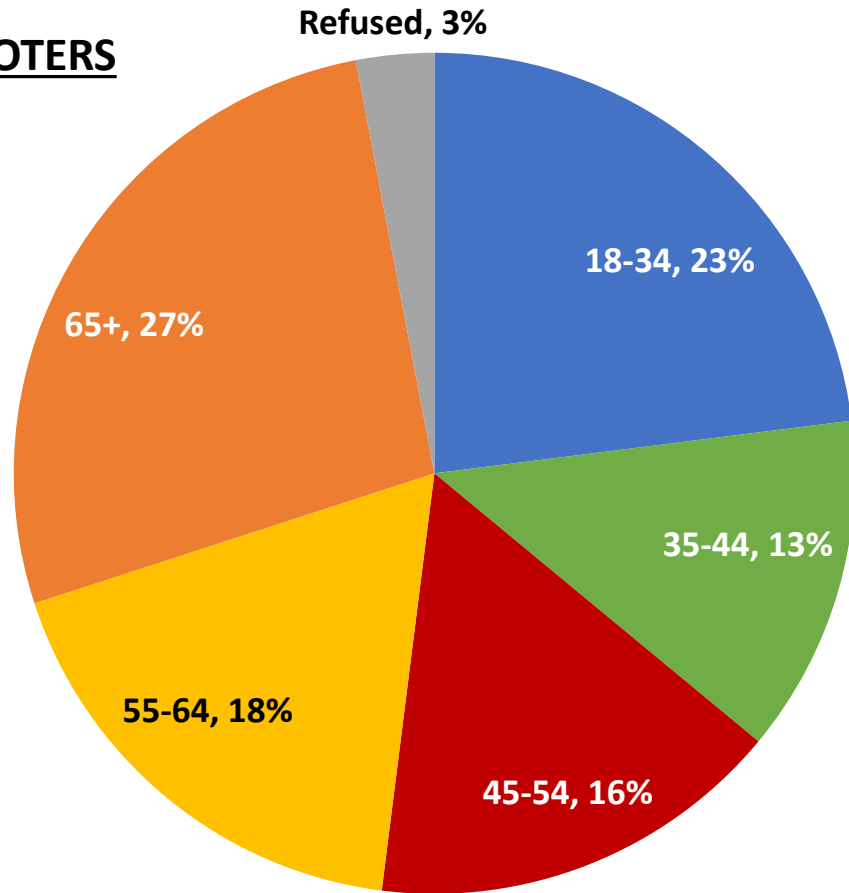


GOP RV

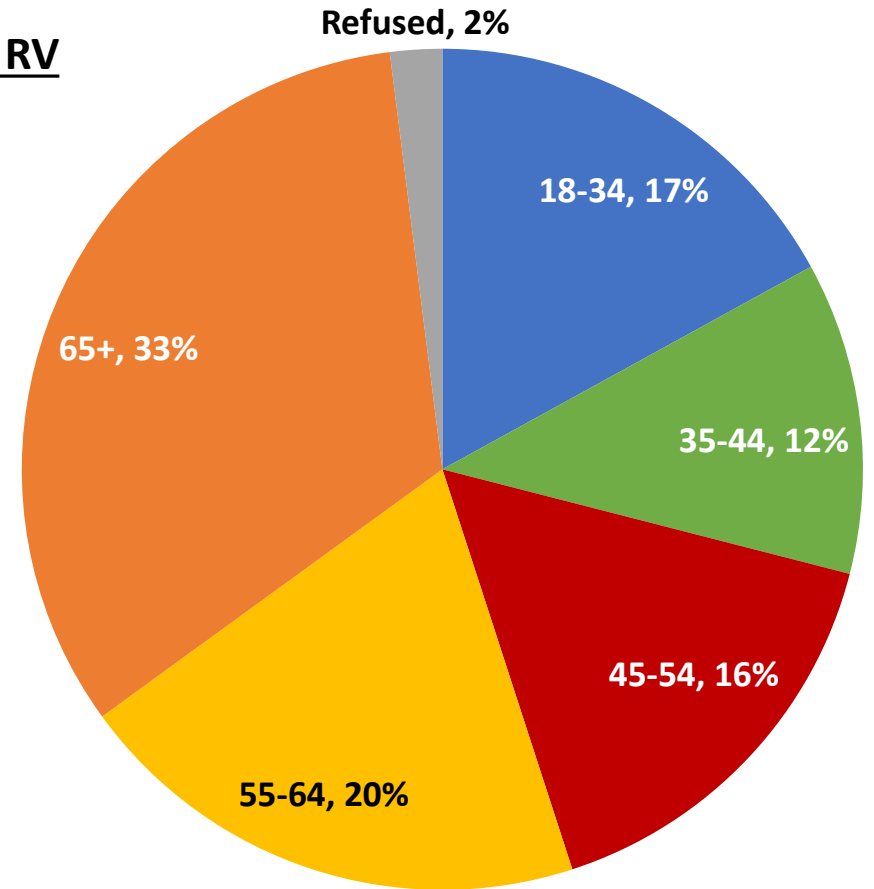


Age

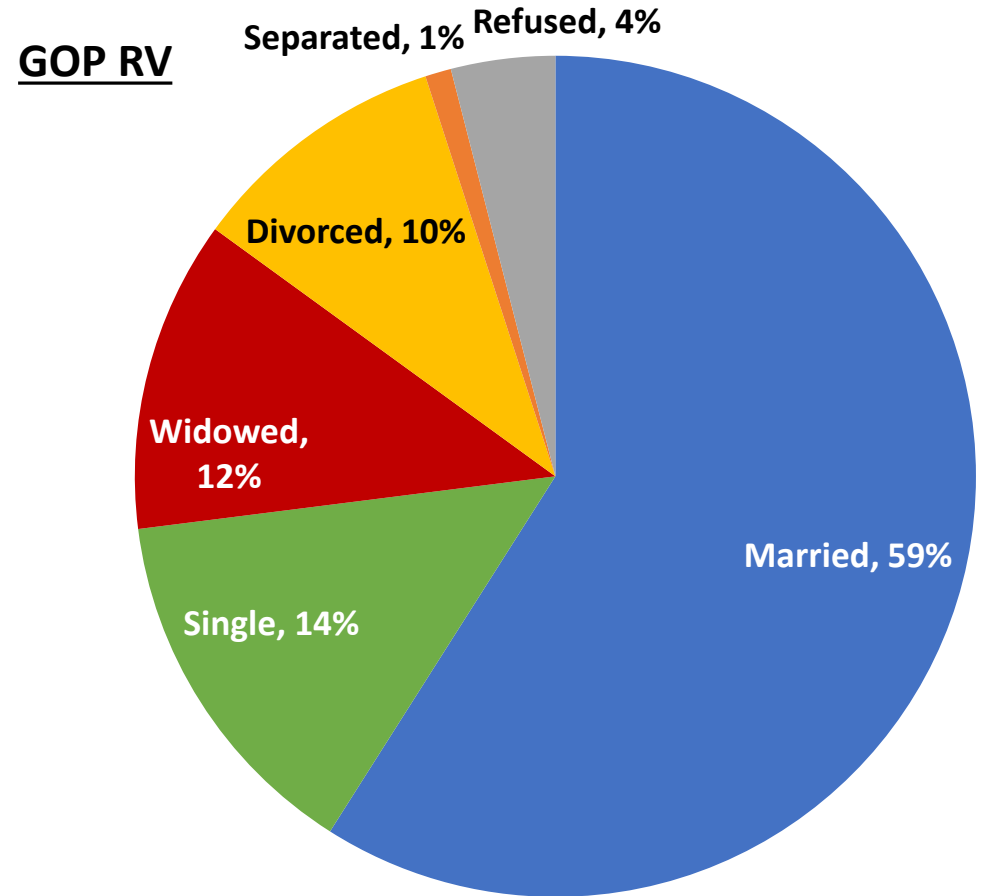
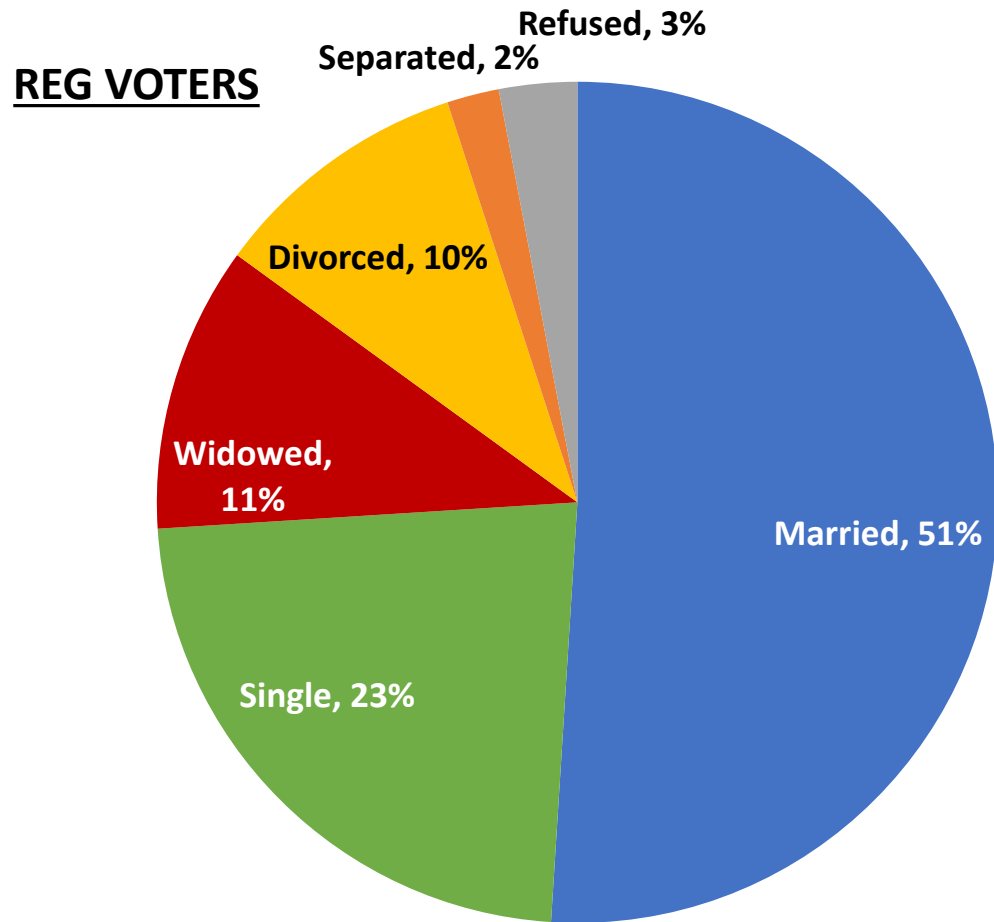
REG VOTERS



GOP RV

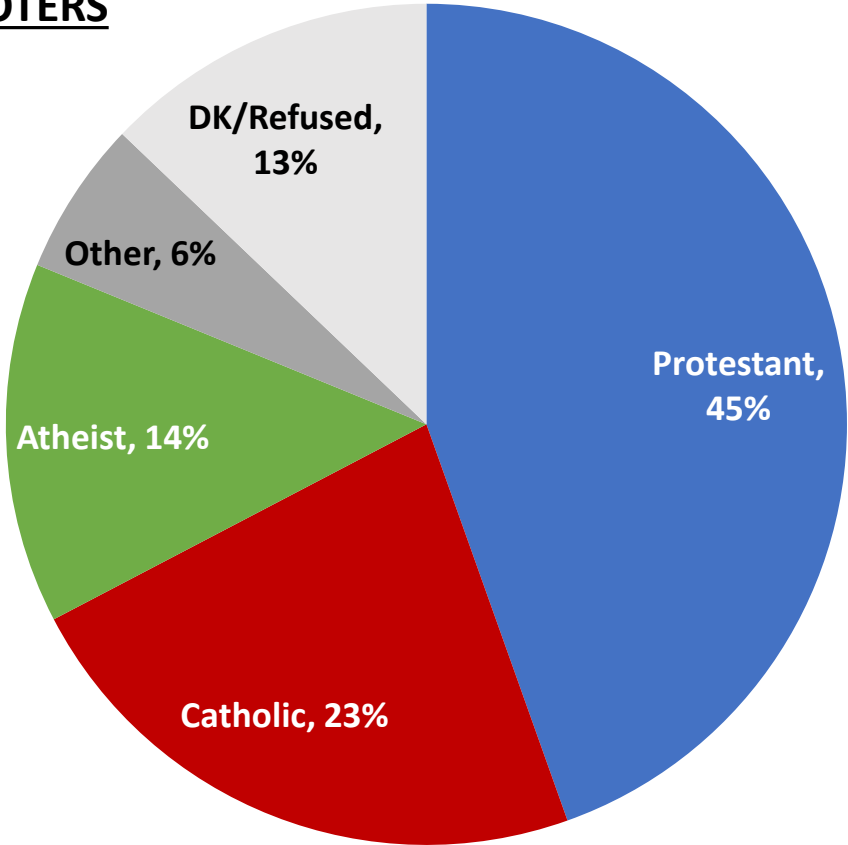


Marital Status

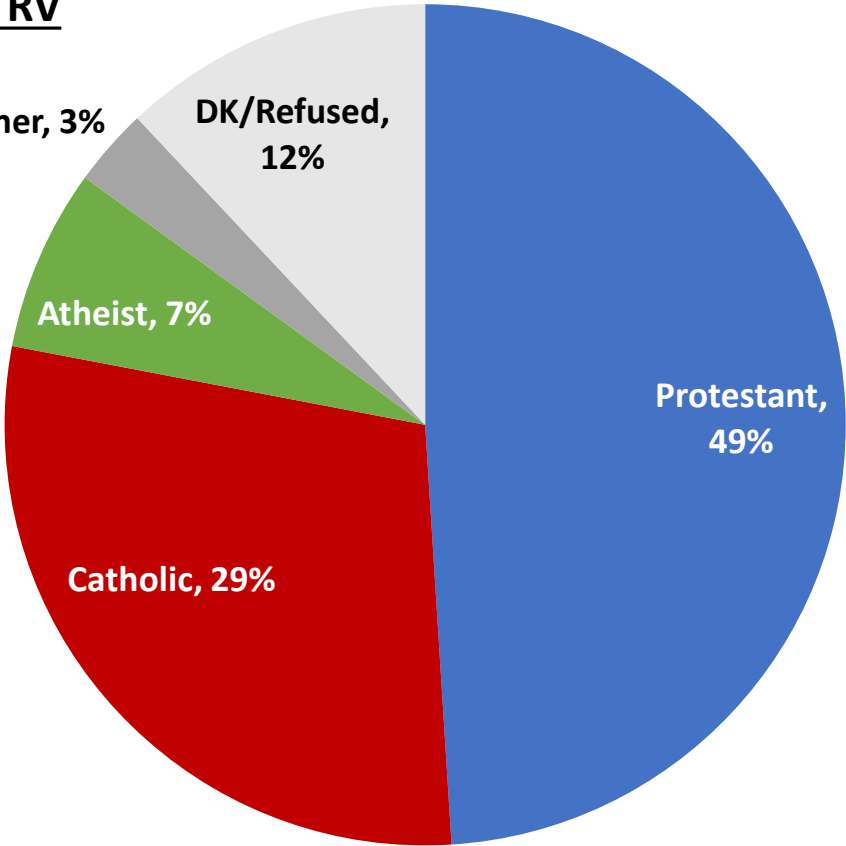


Religion

REG VOTERS

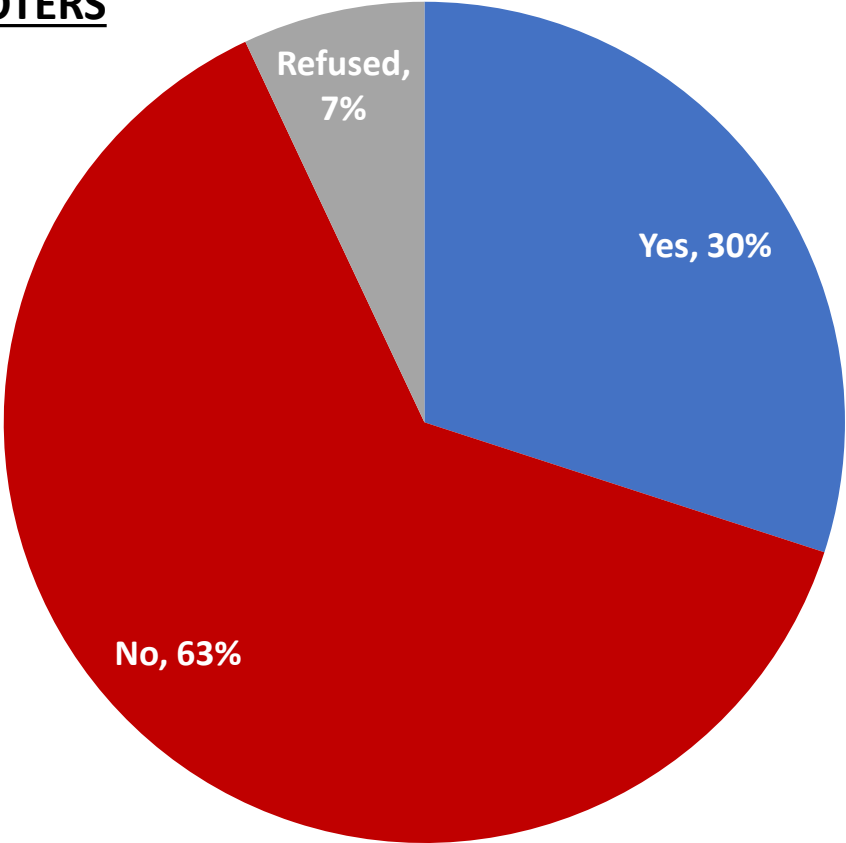


GOP RV

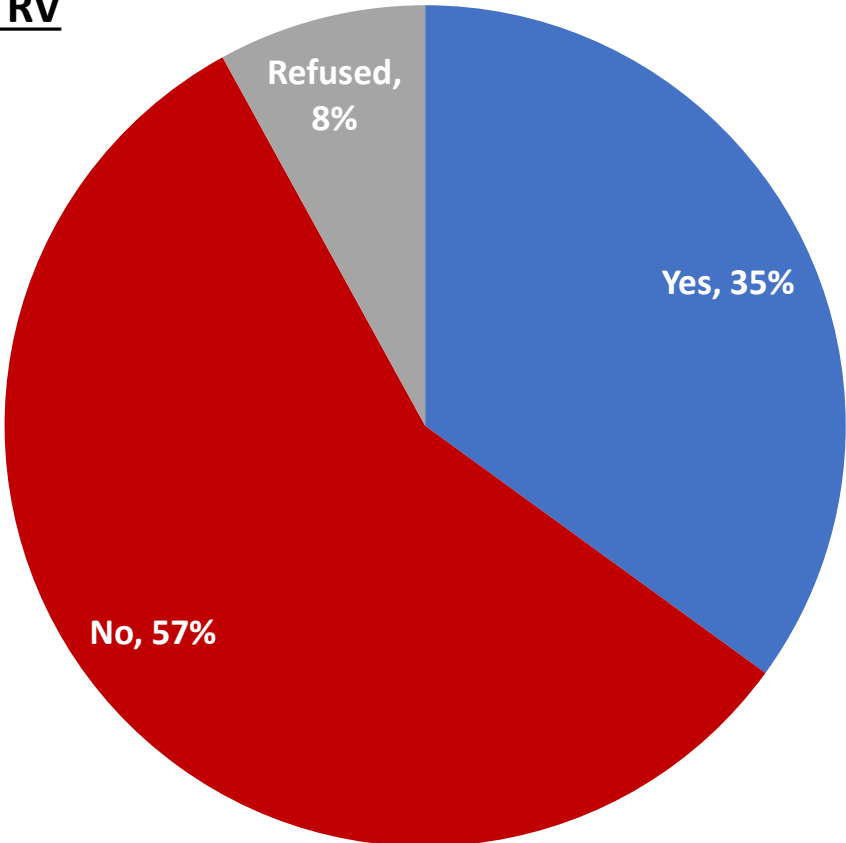


Evangelical Christian

REG VOTERS

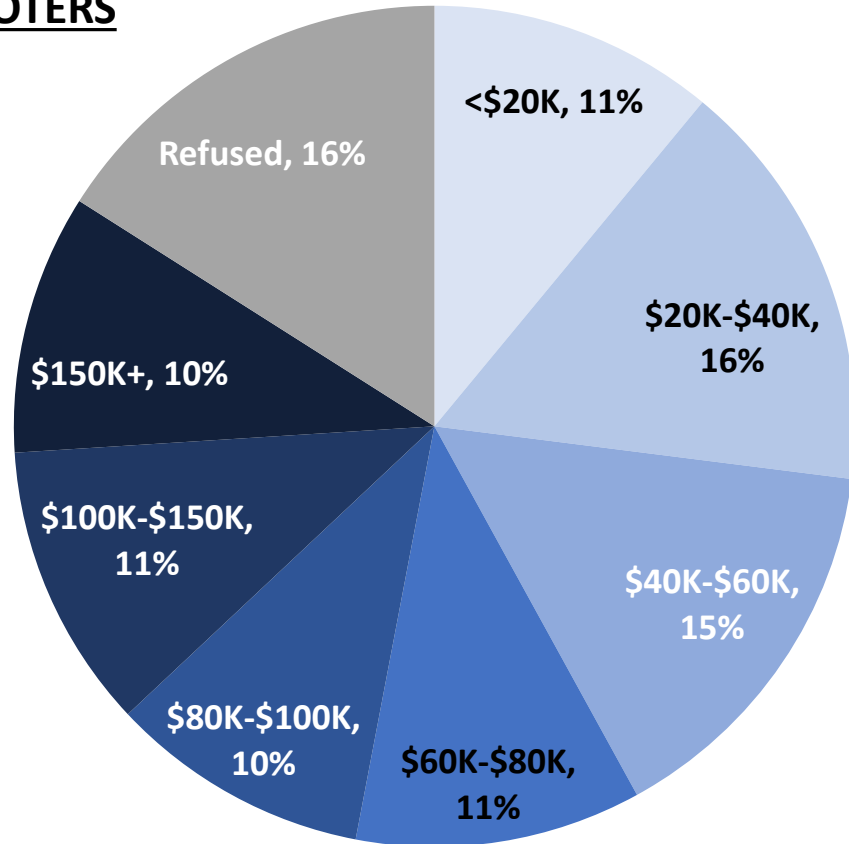


GOP RV

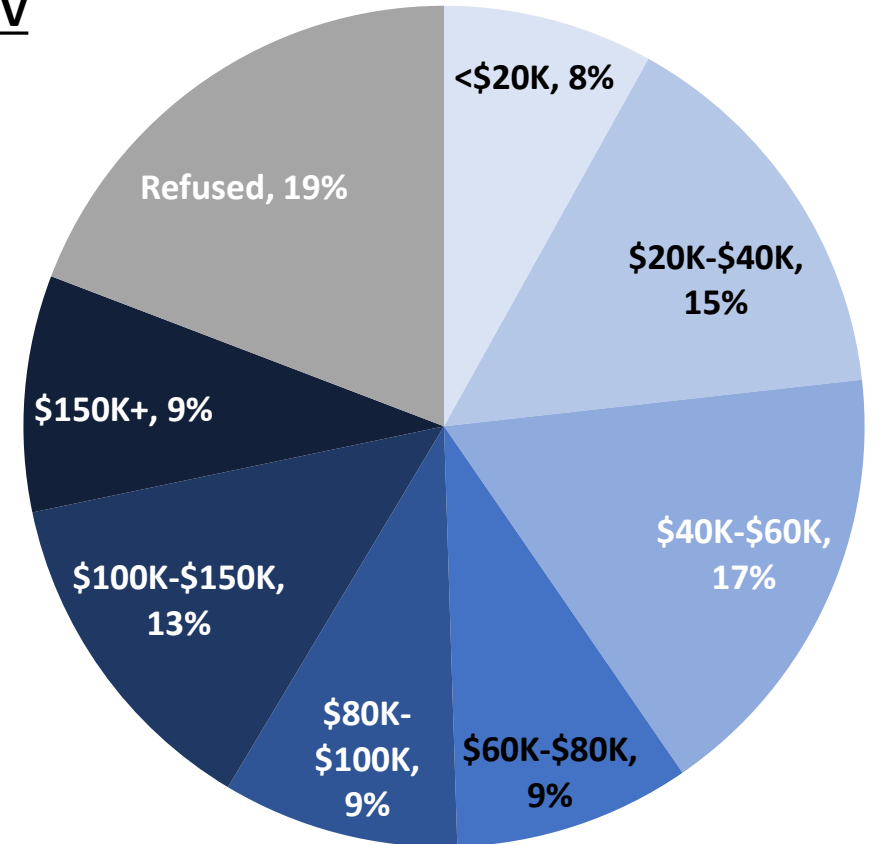


Household Income

REG VOTERS

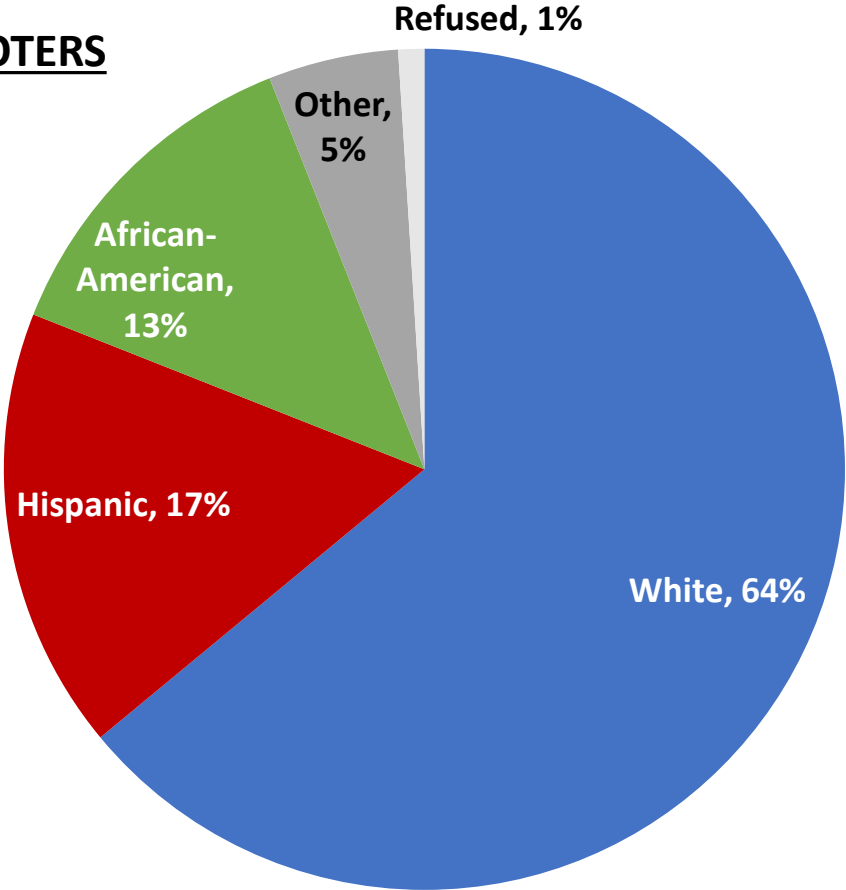


GOP RV

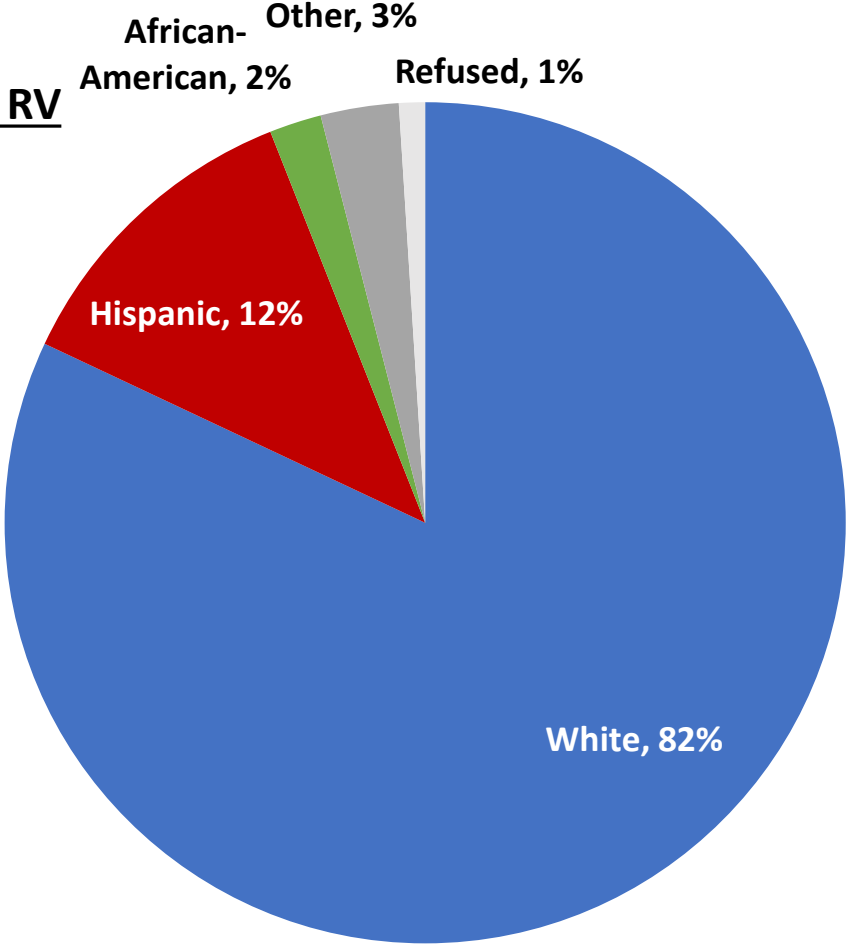


Race/Ethnicity

REG VOTERS

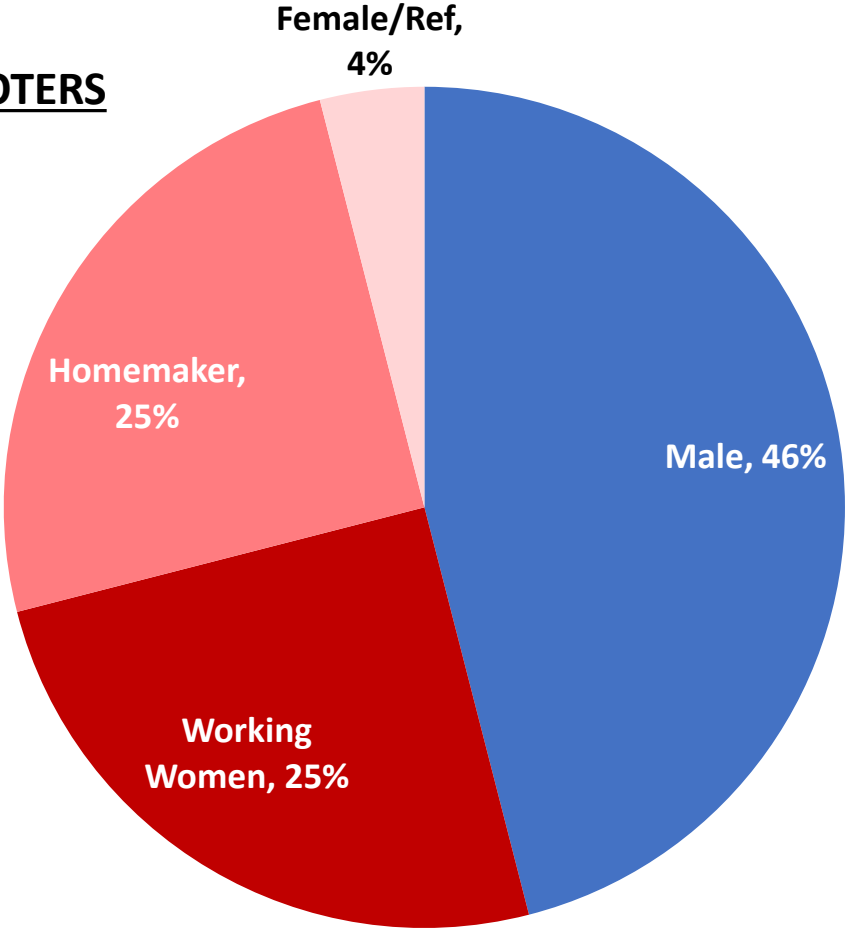


GOP RV

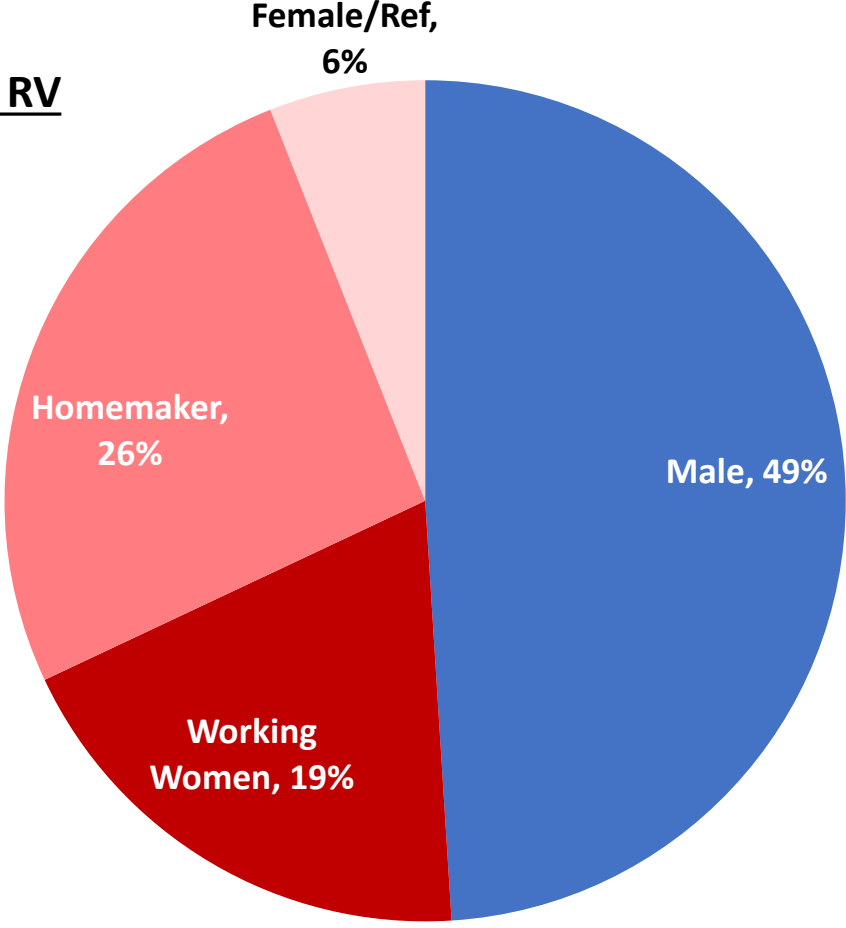


Gender

REG VOTERS

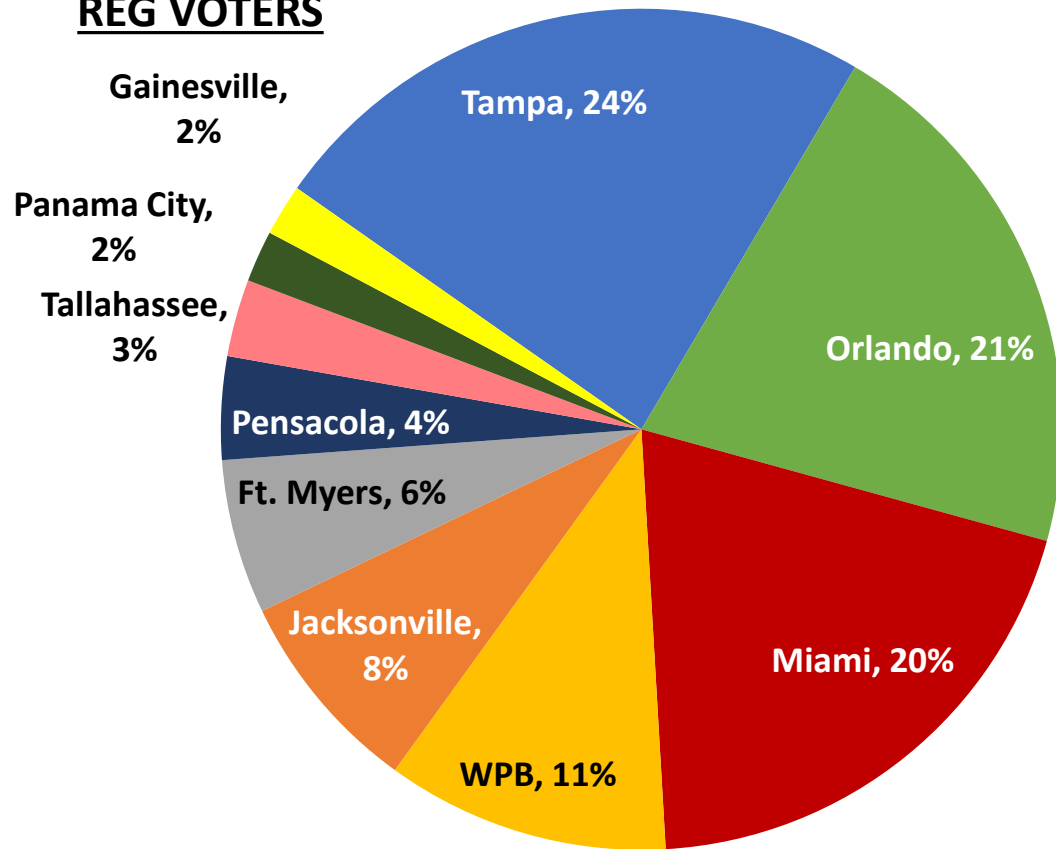


GOP RV

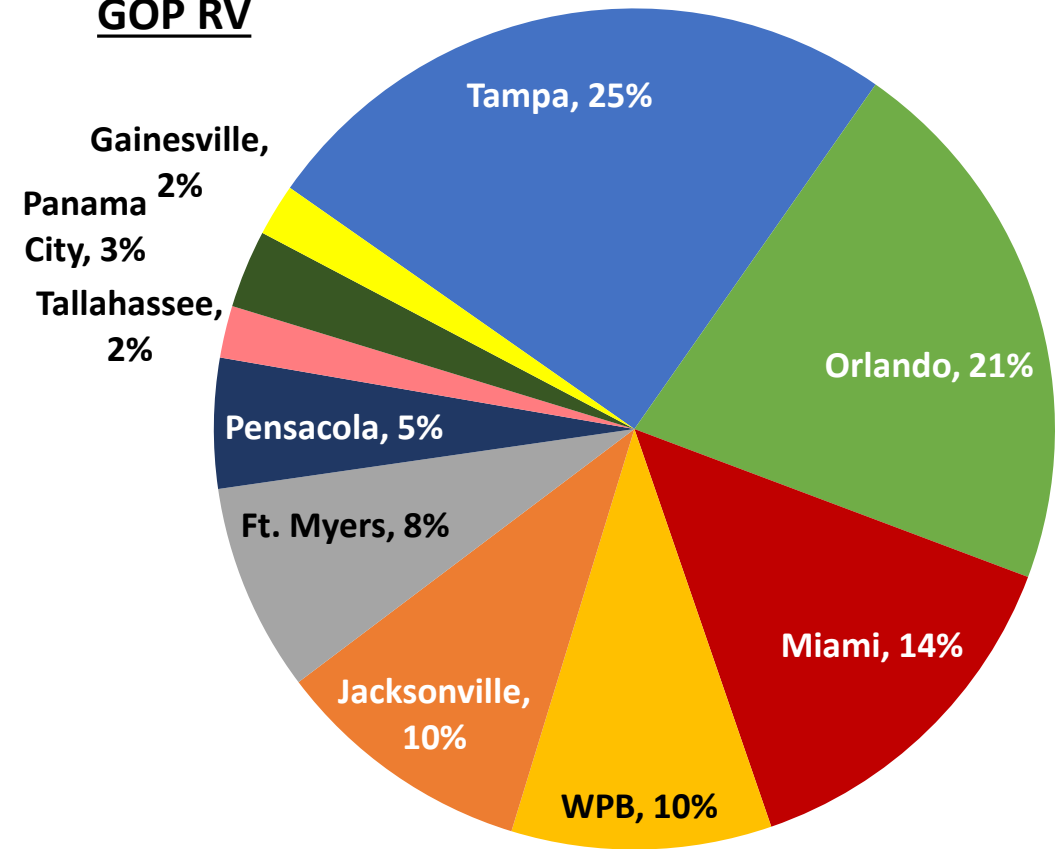


DMA

REG VOTERS

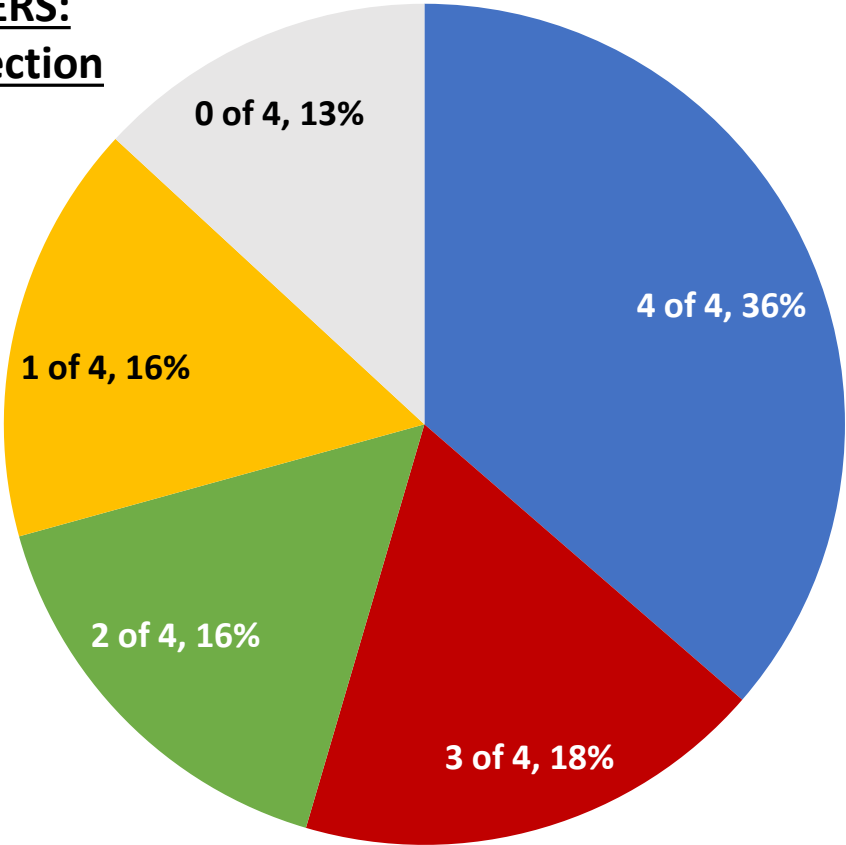


GOP RV



Vote History

REG VOTERS:
General Election



GOP RV:
Primary

