



Nevada Voter Views of Wildlife Migration Policies

Key Findings from a Survey of Voters Conducted
January 29 – February 6, 2020



OPINION
RESEARCH
& STRATEGY

Methodology

- 608 interviews with Nevada voters
 - Includes an additional oversample of 100 self-identified hunters and anglers
 - Data weighted to reflect the true prevalence of sportsmen in the electorate
- Conducted January 29 – February 6, 2020, via landline and cell phones
- Margin of sampling error of +/-4.0% at the 95% confidence level for the main sample
- Due to rounding, some percentages do not add up to 100%

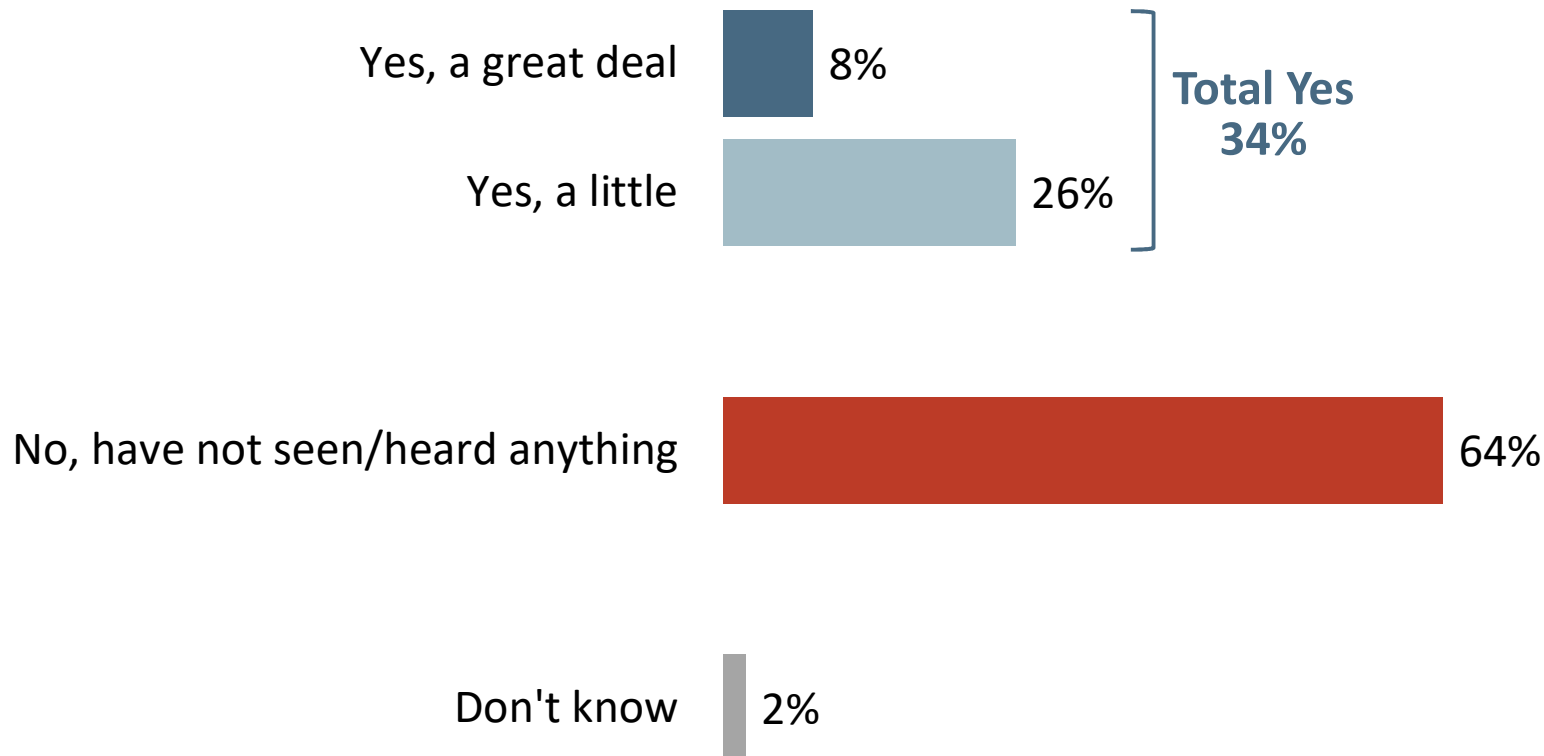




Issue Context

One-third are at least a little familiar with wildlife migration; this is not an outlier when it comes to specific policy issues.

Have you seen, heard, or read anything about wildlife corridors or wildlife migration in Nevada, such as by animals like bighorn sheep, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and elk?

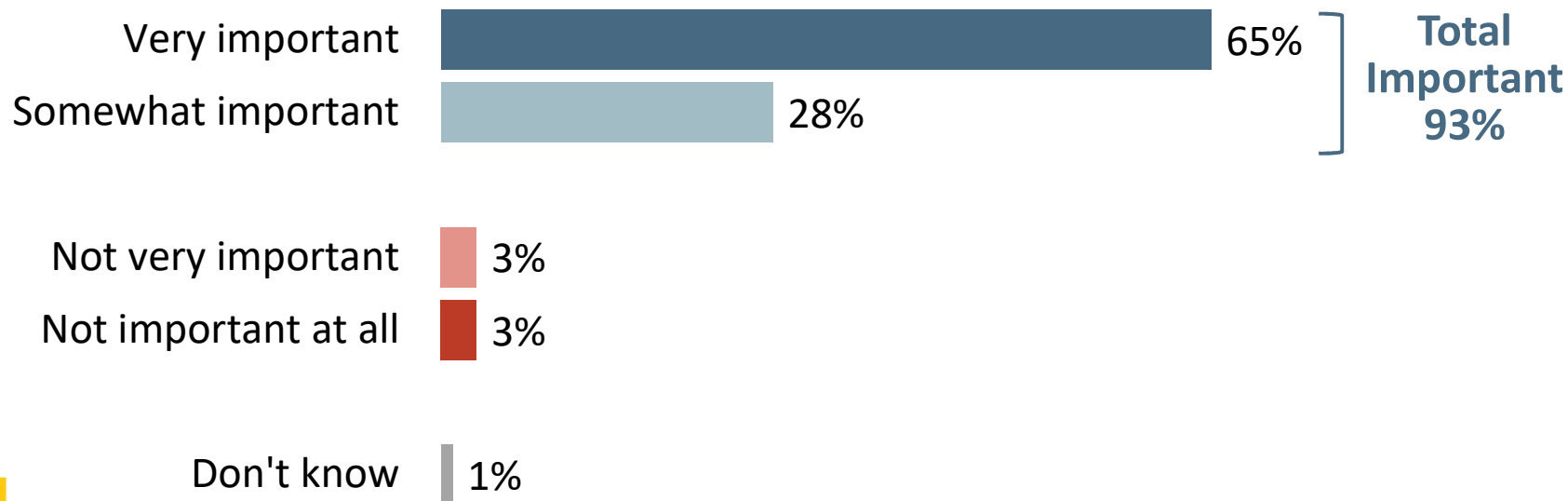




Views of Policies on Wildlife Migration

Nearly all believe that wildlife migration policies are “very” or “somewhat” important.

Every year, wildlife including bighorn sheep, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and elk migrate between summer and winter habitat and feeding grounds in Nevada. These species depend on this movement for better food, water, weather, and even survival. However, their migrations are often cut off by highways, fences, and development. Given this information, how important do you think it is for the state of Nevada to adopt policies that protect wildlife migration routes in Nevada: very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all?



By an overwhelming margin, Nevadans believe we can protect migration routes without jeopardizing industry.

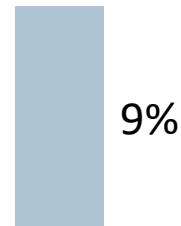
I am going to read you a pair of statements about this issue and I'd like you to tell me which statement comes closer to your view.

With careful planning, we can protect wildlife migration routes without negatively impacting Nevada's farming, ranching, and mining businesses

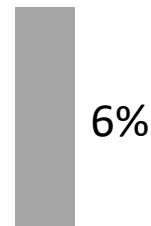


OR

If the state or federal government protects wildlife migration routes in Nevada it will negatively impact farming, ranching, and mining businesses

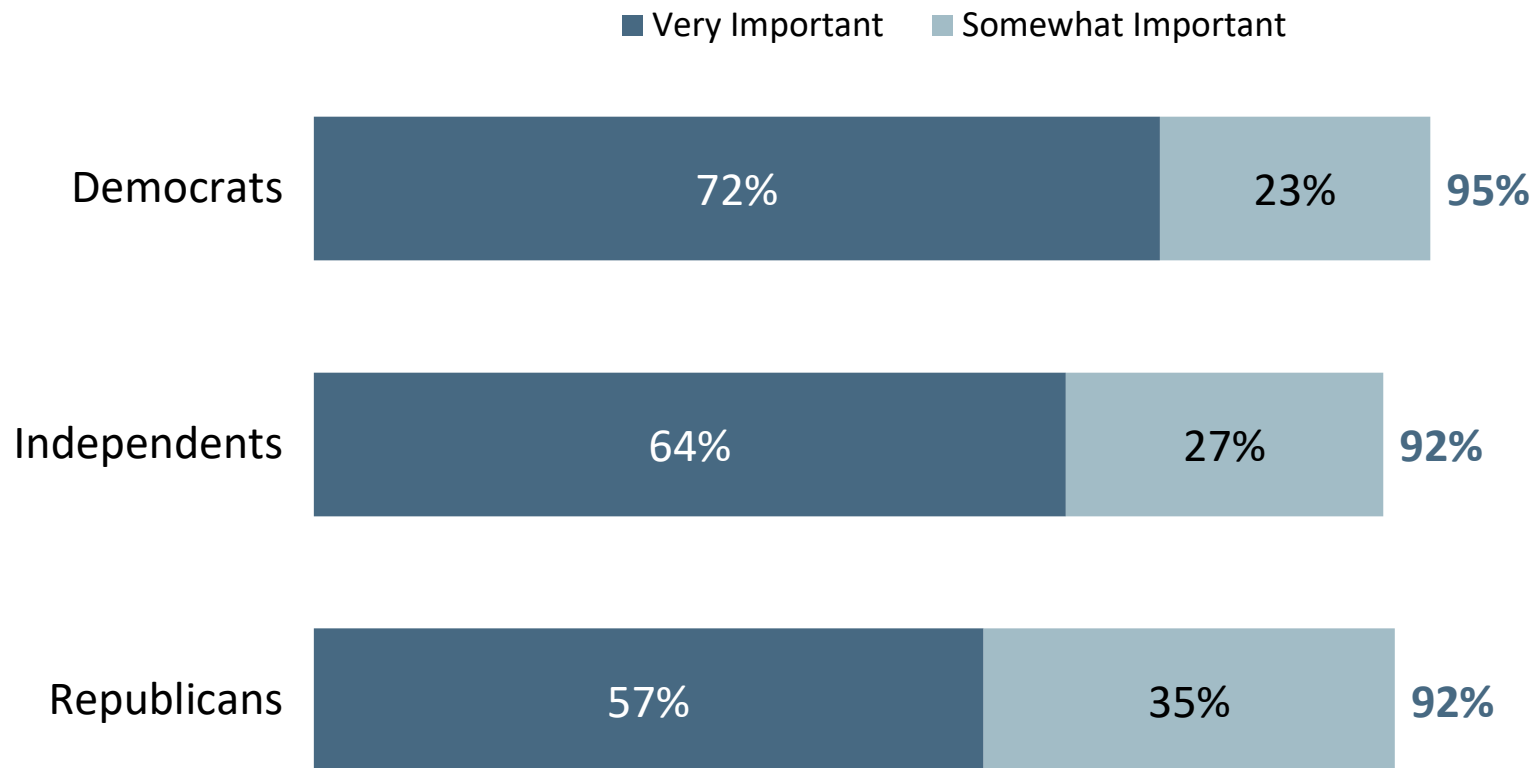


Both/Neither/Don't know



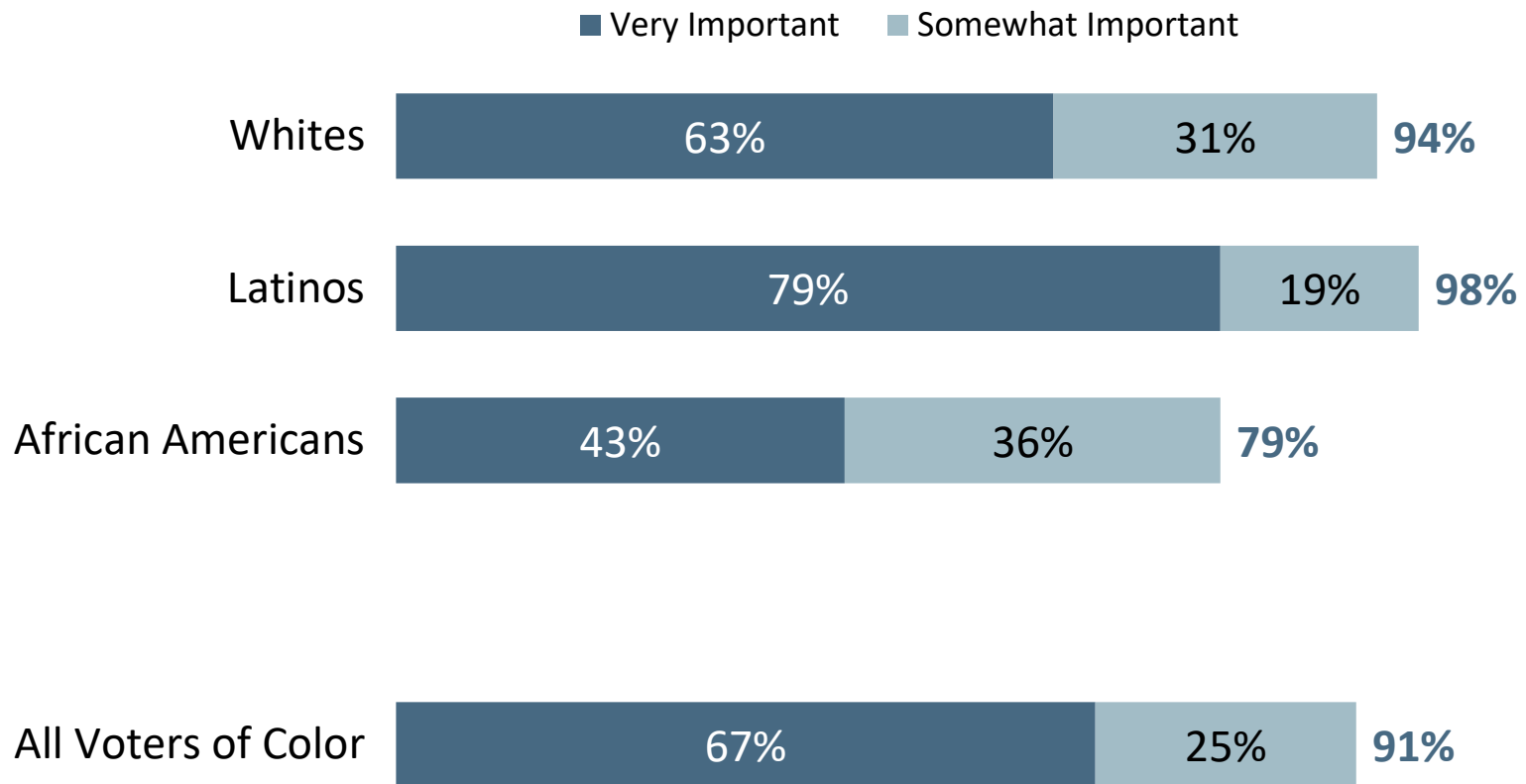
While these policies are seen as important across party lines, intensity is higher among Democrats.

Importance of Policies to Protect Migration Routes by Party Registration



Latinos especially value policies to protect wildlife migration routes.

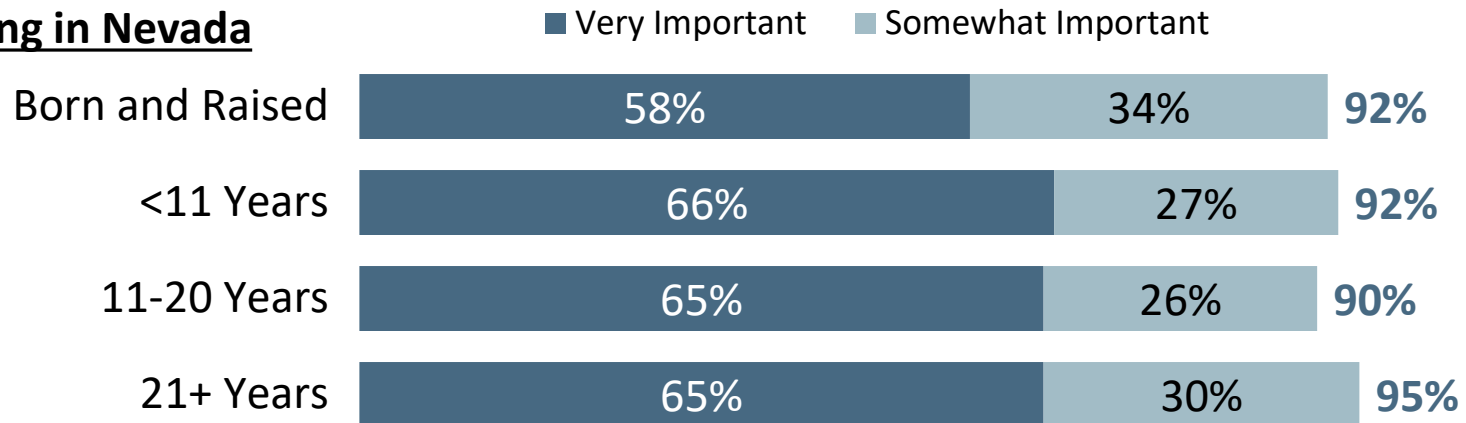
Importance of Policies to Protect Migration Routes by Race/Ethnicity



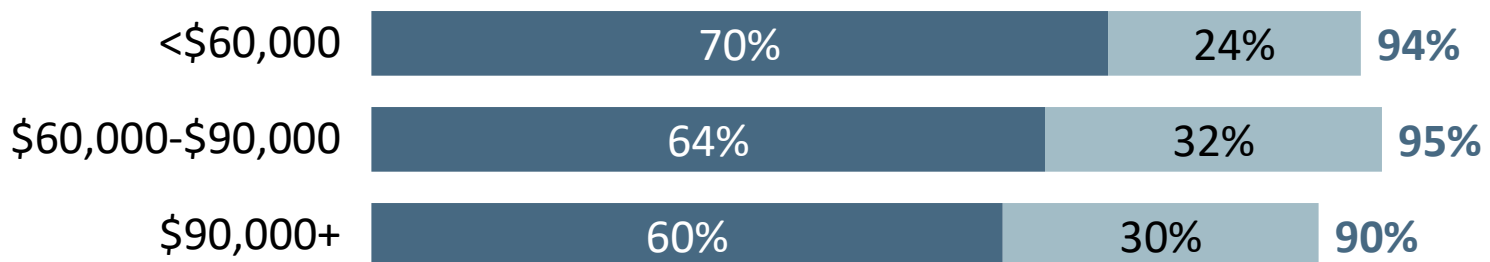
Lower-income Nevadans are slightly more likely to say these policies are “very important.”

Importance of Policies to Protect Migration Routes by Time Living in Nevada and Household Income

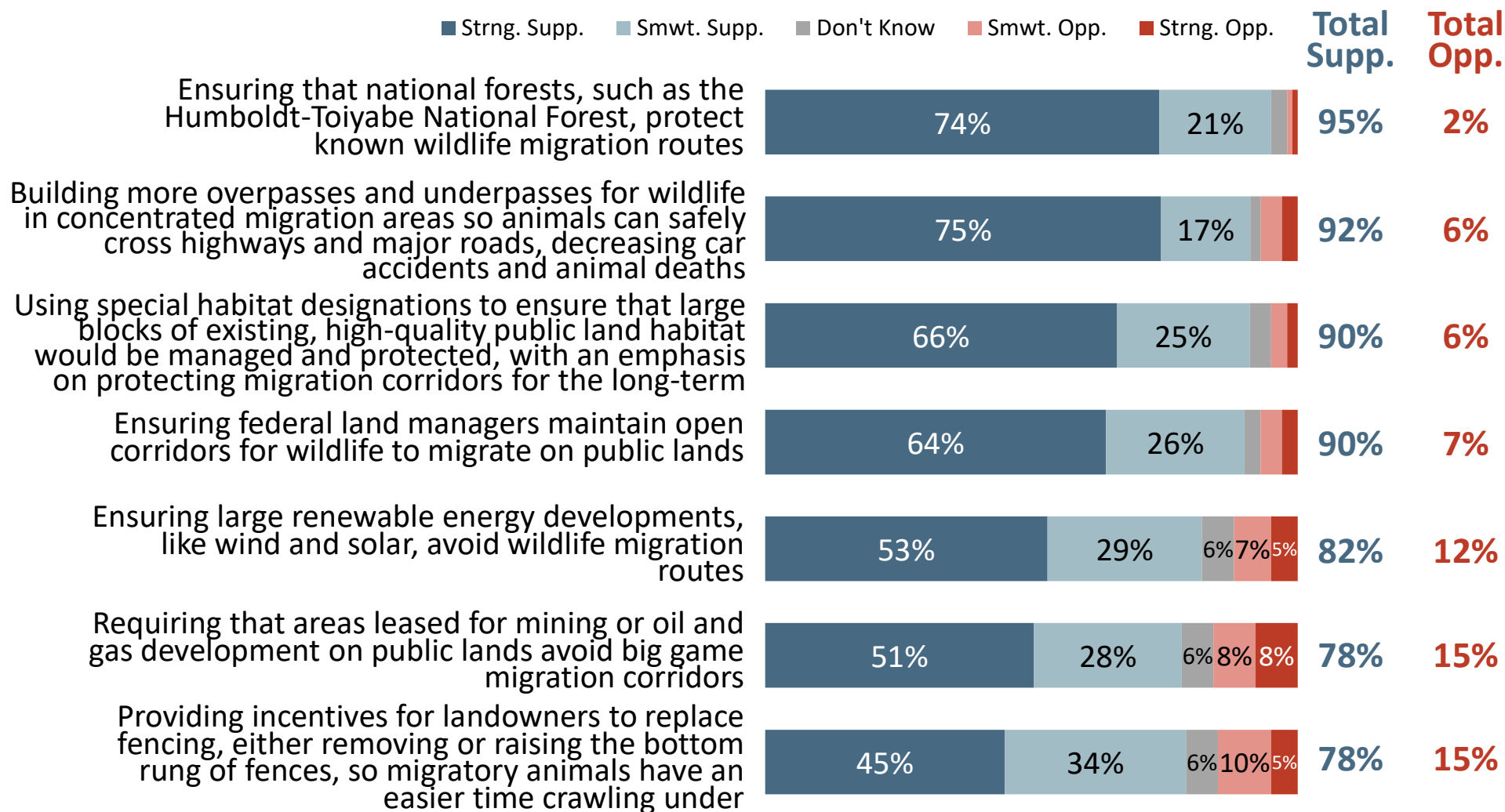
Time Living in Nevada



Household Income

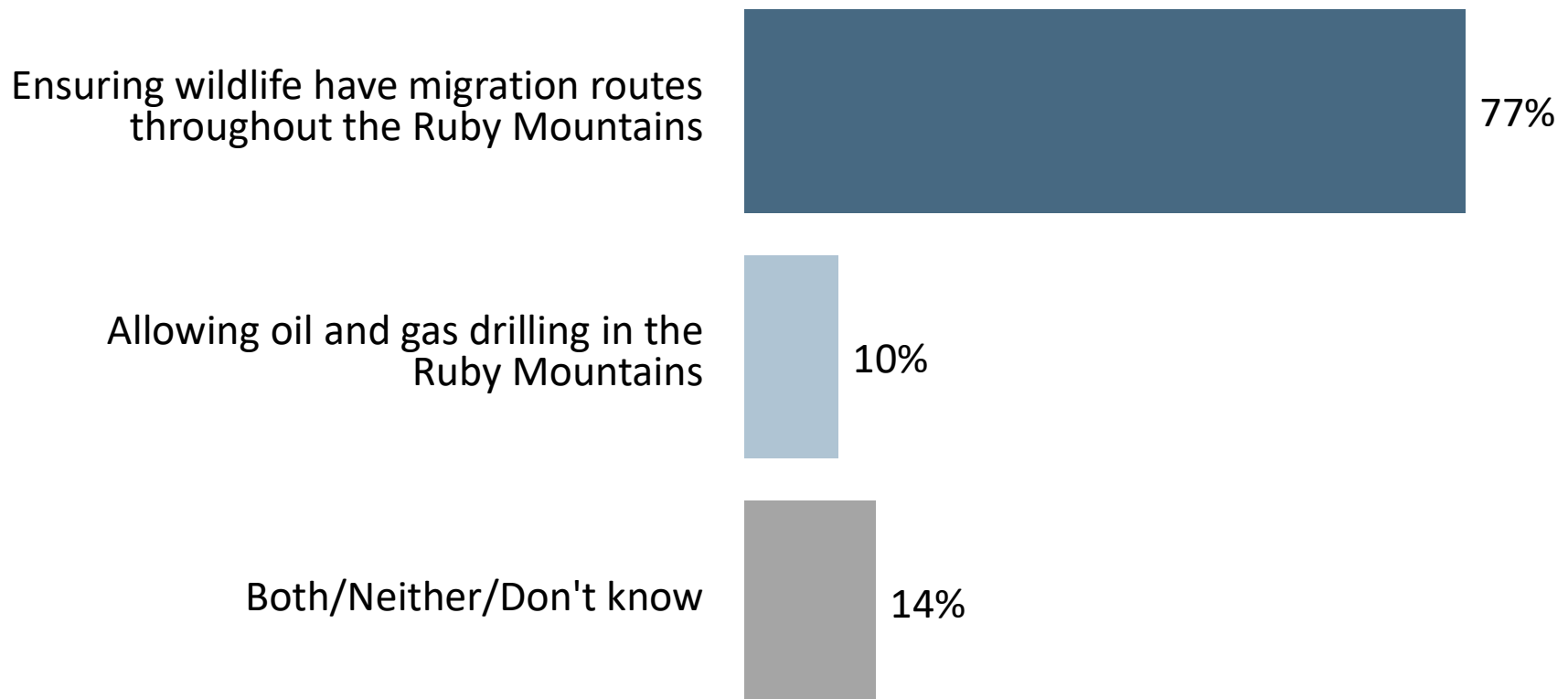


Support for a wide range of policies to protect migration routes is broad and intense.



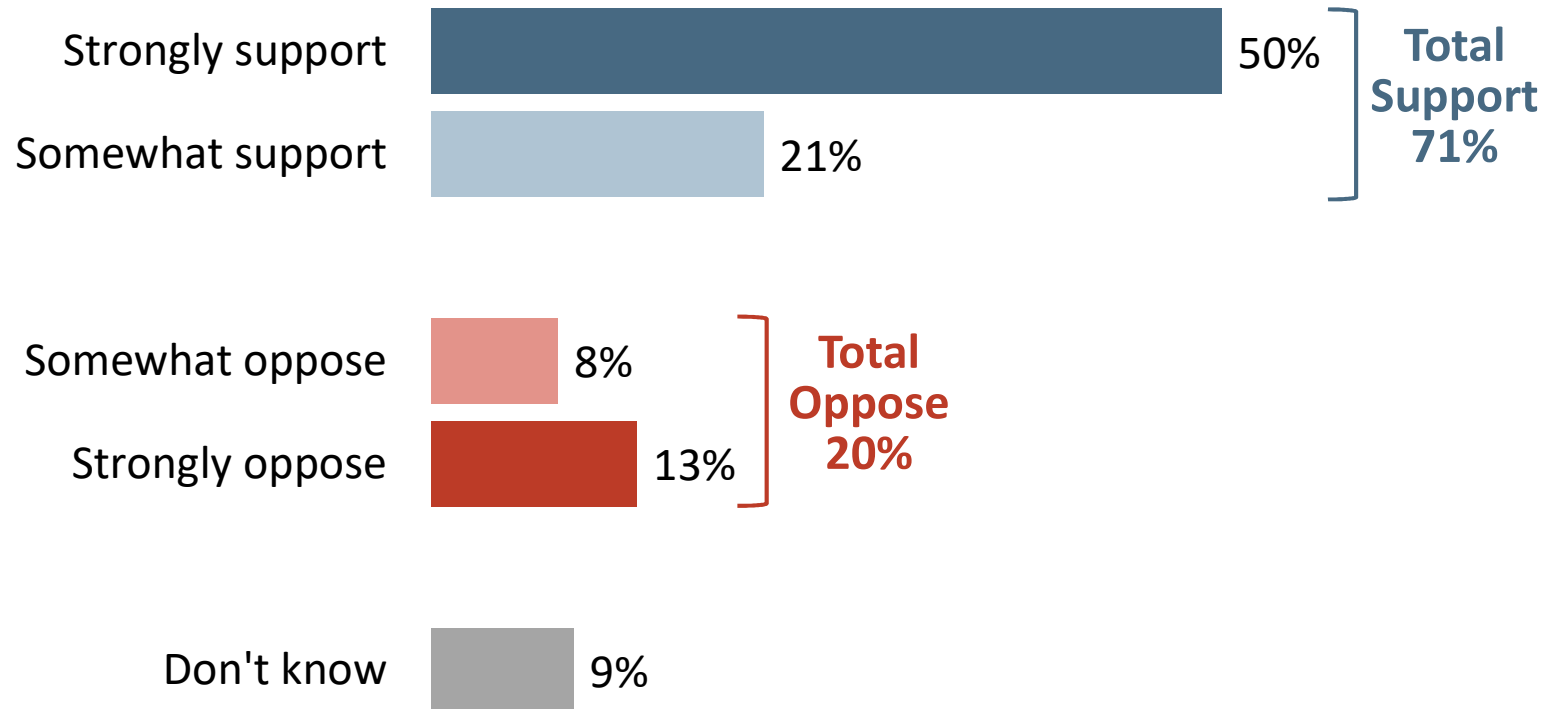
By a 67-point margin, Nevadans value migration routes over oil and gas drilling in the Ruby Mountains.

And in general, which of these two priorities is more important to you personally:



Seven in ten support a proposal to prohibit oil and gas drilling in parts of the Ruby Mountains.

Let me ask you about a current proposal before the US Congress. This would prohibit oil and gas drilling in certain parts of the Ruby Mountains to protect a large migrating mule deer herd. Does this sound like something you would support or oppose?



Broad majorities support this policy across gender, party, age and type of area.

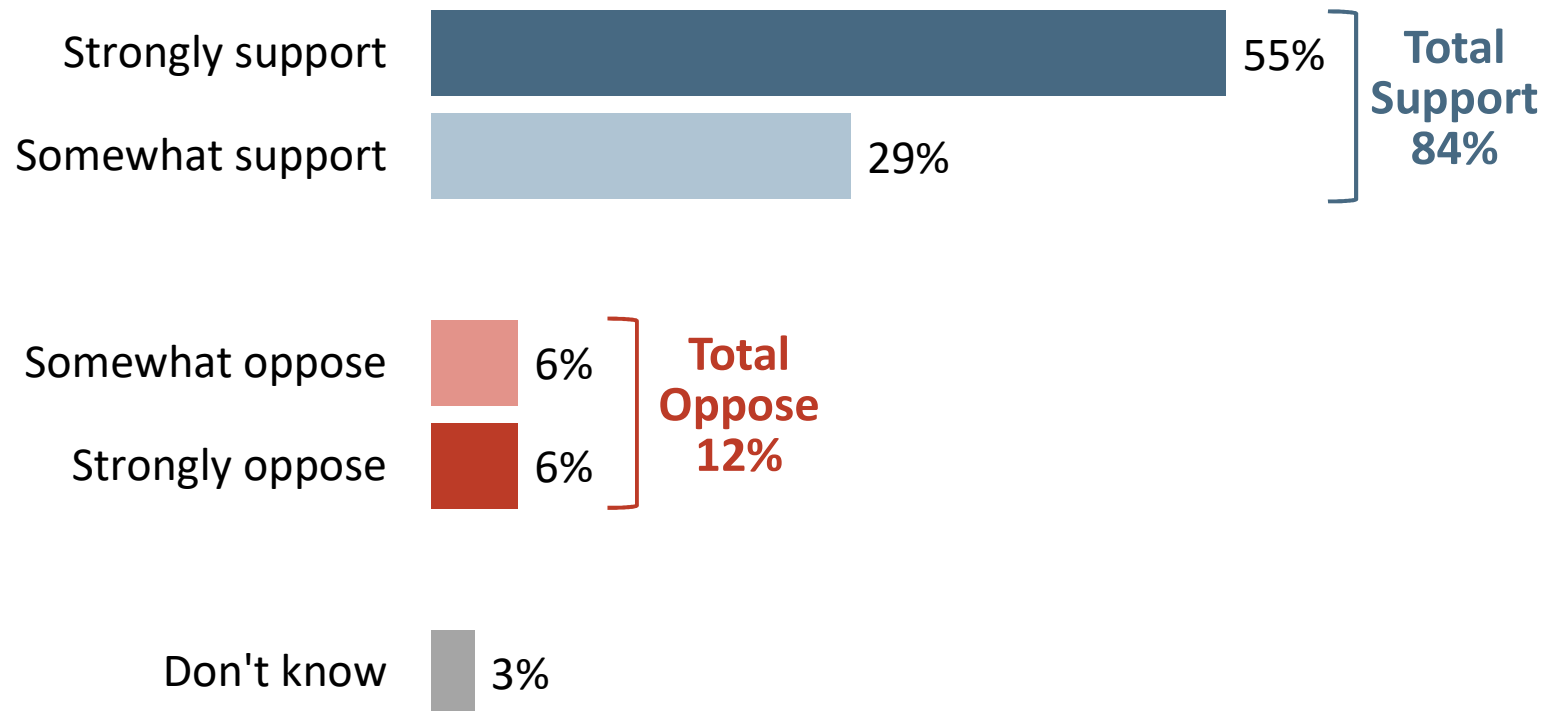
Demographic Group	Total Support	Total Oppose	Don't Know
All Voters	71%	20%	9%
Gender by Age			
Men Ages 18-49	72%	15%	14%
Men Ages 50+	61%	31%	8%
Women Ages 18-49	80%	13%	6%
Women Ages 50+	70%	24%	6%
Party			
Democrats	82%	14%	4%
Independents	69%	18%	12%
Republicans	59%	30%	11%
Type of City			
Big City	76%	16%	8%
Suburban Area	71%	19%	11%
Small Town	76%	22%	2%
Rural Area	63%	29%	9%



Public Funding to Protect Wildlife Migration Corridors

More than four in five support increased public funding for wildlife crossings; a majority “strongly” supports such investments.

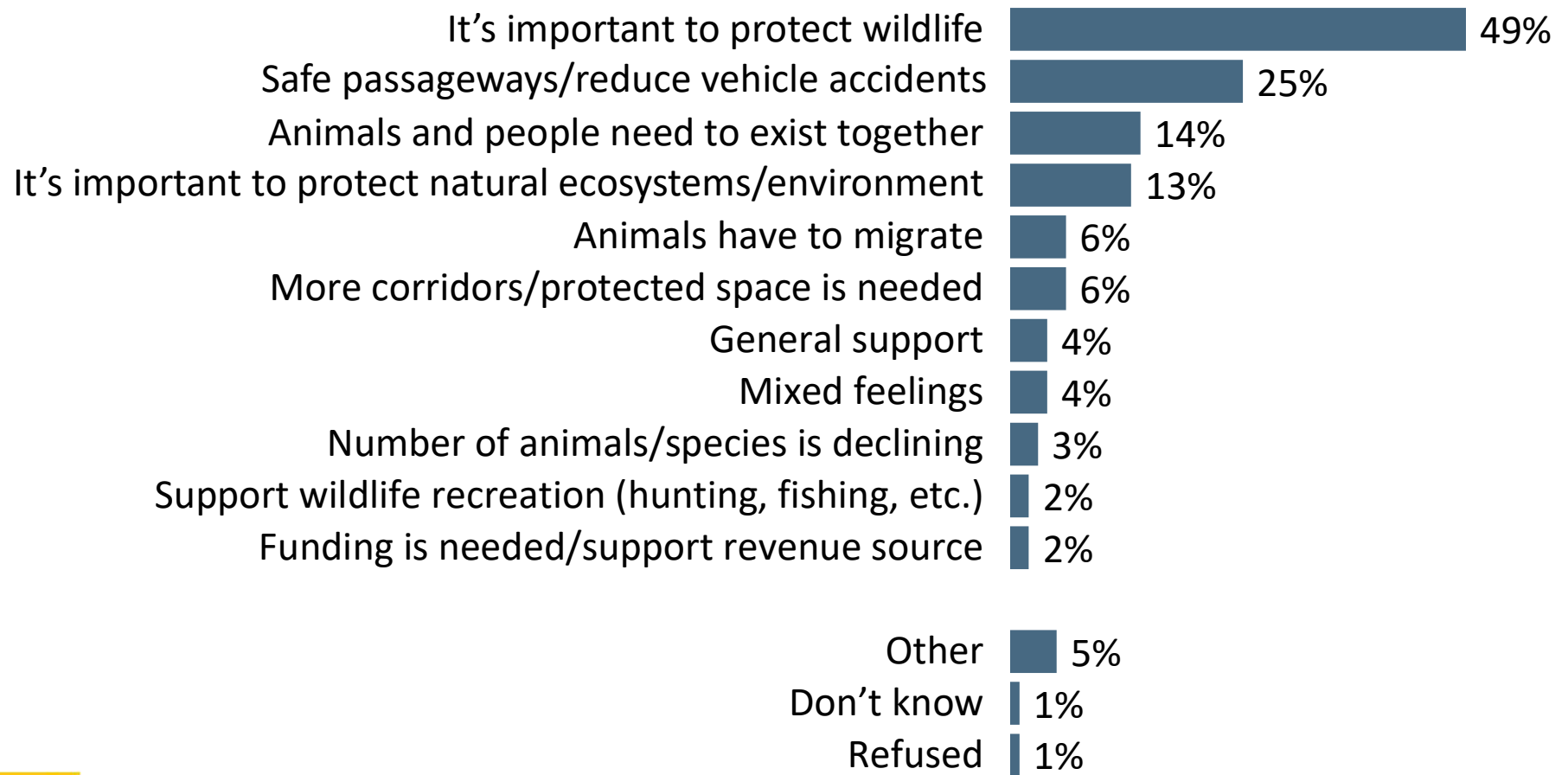
Would you support or oppose increasing public funding for the construction of wildlife crossing structures, such as overpasses and underpasses across major highways that intersect with known, concentrated wildlife migration routes?



Supporters largely say they want to protect wildlife; they also want to prevent accidents.

*In a few words of your own, why would you **SUPPORT** this idea?*

(Open-ended; Grouped 2% and Above Responses Shown; Asked of Supporters Only, N=597)



Verbatim Responses from Supporters

The less dead animals on the road the less people die.

We all inhabit the same rock in the universe.

Wildlife is an important part of Nevada and its character.

I think that wildlife is a treasure and we need to protect them.

Well if it makes it safer, why wouldn't I support it? If it makes it better to protect the environment too.

We have to have public funding because God put animals here for us to take care of them.

I have seen what happens driving in areas where animals have been hit by cars and there's nothing worse than seeing animals hit by the side of the road.

Wildlife have more right to be here than developers.

I am a conservationist and want wildlife to be here for my grandkids.

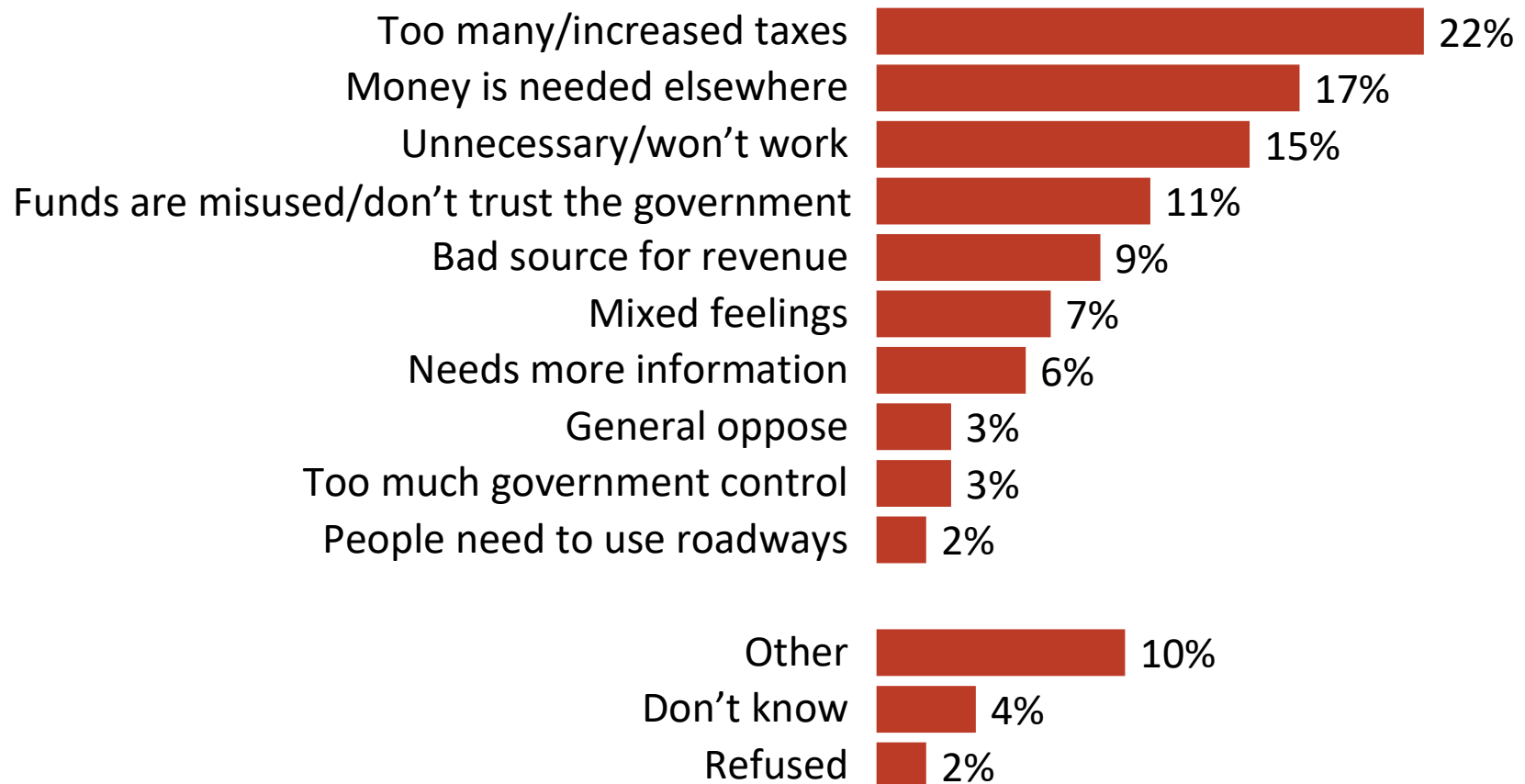
A lot of the animals were here before we built all of this construction.

I like the animals. They're beautiful, and they were here first.

It eliminates crashes on the highway and lets the animals migrate where they need to.

Opponents are concerned about how such a proposal would be funded.

*In a few words of your own, why would you **OPPOSE** this idea?
(Open-ended; Grouped 2% and Above Responses Shown; Asked of Opponents Only, N=88)*



Verbatim Responses from Opponents

If the mechanism for increasing or having any funding at all is through property taxes I oppose it.

Do we really know if the money is going to be used how they say or is it just going into their pocket?

I have the impression Nevada has a lot of wild land. It is an empty state so there aren't that many highways that go over the state. I don't think it is a major problem to wildlife.

We shouldn't do anything to highways, we use them to travel and people should just drive right.

We need to focus more on mental health, then when that's on track, helping veterans and homeless people.

Animals don't use them. I worked on projects years ago -- animals would go down and around the structures. It is a waste of taxpayers' dollars.

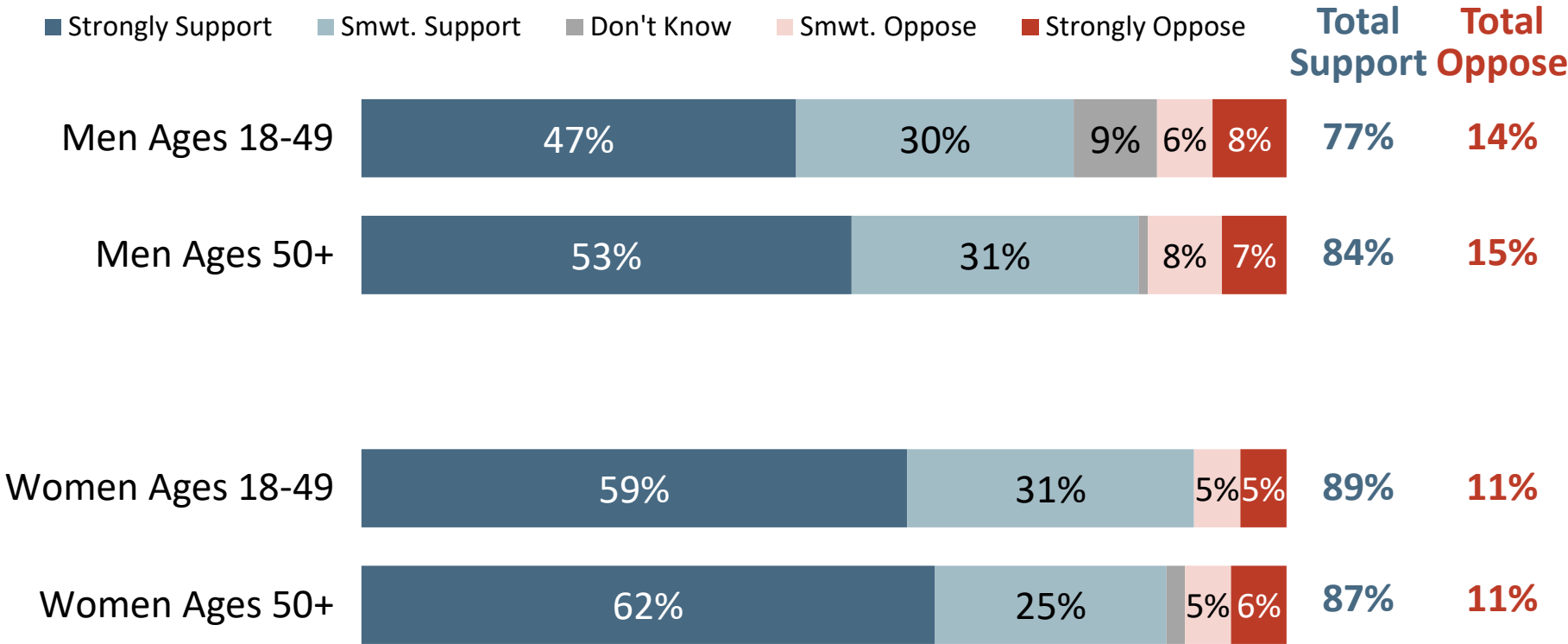
I don't like the government involved in everything.

Fish and game should be able to manage it without new taxes.

It's a waste of money and takes away our beautiful landscape.

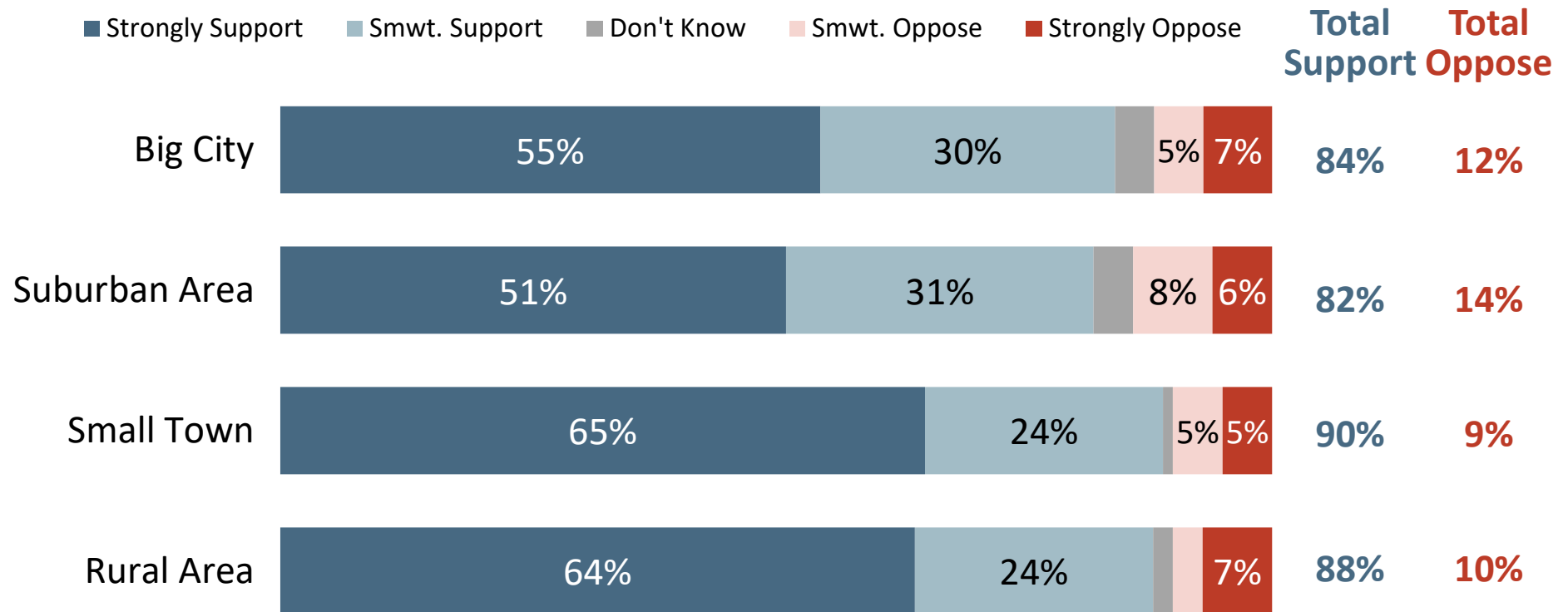
Support for increasing public funding for wildlife crossing structures is substantial across gender and age.

Support for Increasing Public Funding by Gender by Age



Small-town and rural voters are more likely to say they “strongly support” increased funding for wildlife migration crossings.

Support for Increasing Public Funding by Type of City

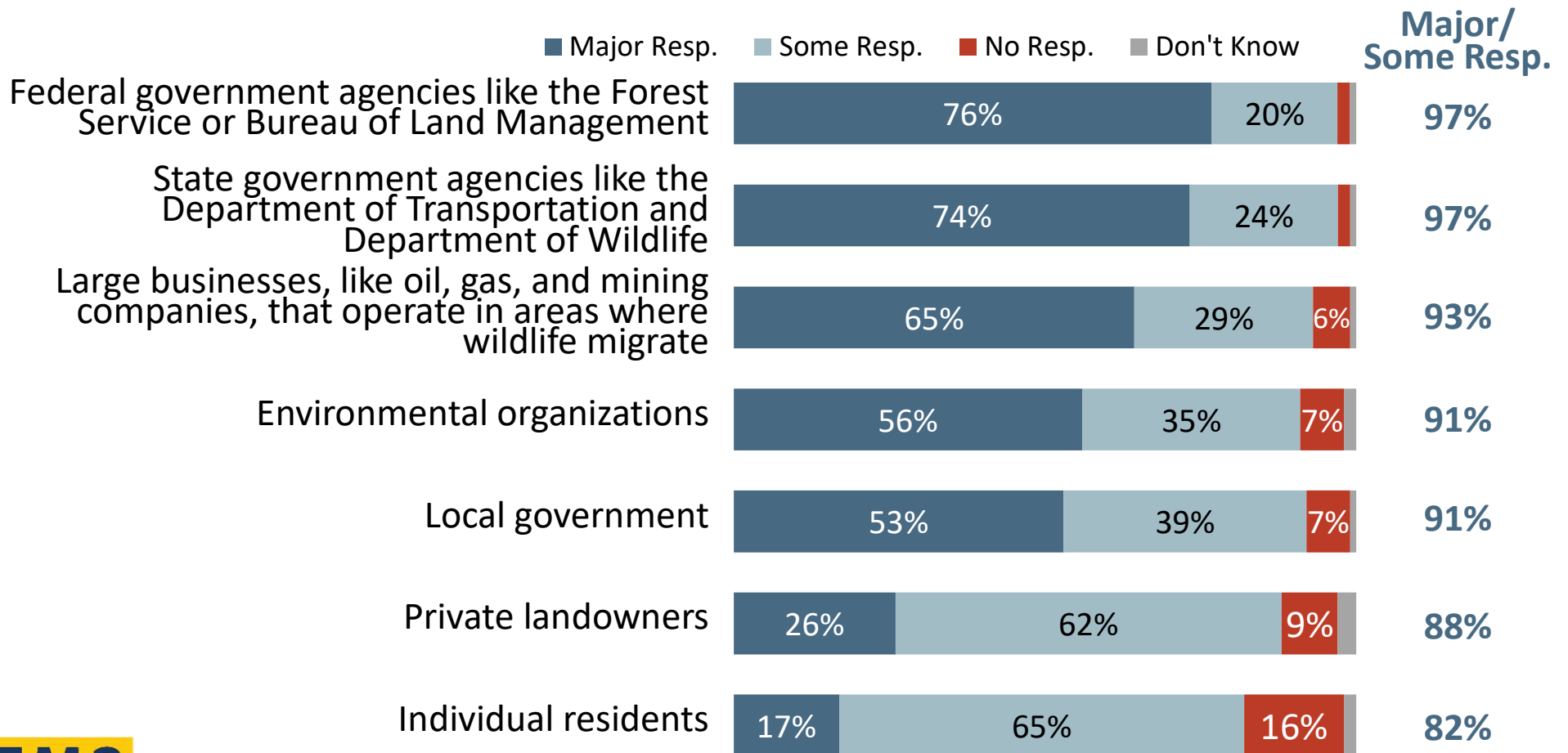




Assigning Responsibility for Action

Voters broadly see federal and state agencies as bearing “major responsibility” on this issue.

Taking a step back, a number of different people and organizations may have some part to play in addressing wildlife migration in Nevada. Please tell me whether you believe each of the following should have a major responsibility for addressing the issue, some responsibility, or no responsibility.



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