



Colorado Fire Protection Policy Opinion Survey

October 6th – 12th, 2022



Methodology



Hello Colorado residents. We invite you to participate in an important survey regarding state and local fire protection programs and policies. We want to know your opinion, and your answers could influence your community's decisions about fire protection planning and preparedness. The survey will take just ten minutes to complete, and your answers will remain anonymous and confidential. So, let's get started.

Delivered

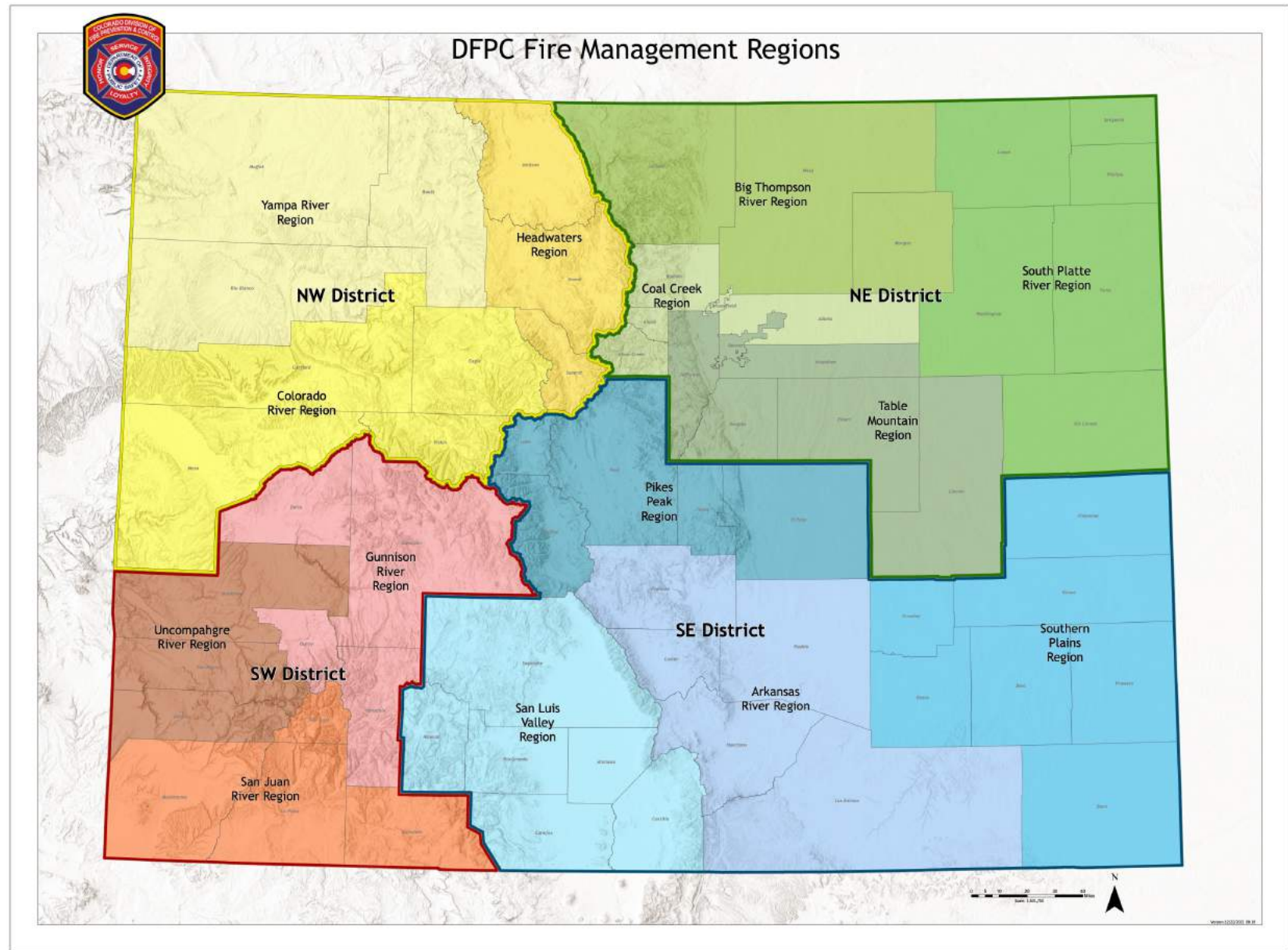
Magellan Strategies are pleased to present the results of an online survey of 441 registered voters in the state of Colorado. The interviews were conducted from October 6th – 12th, 2022.

The overall survey responses have a margin of error of +/- 4.67% at the 95% confidence interval. Population subgroups will have a higher margin of error than the overall sample.

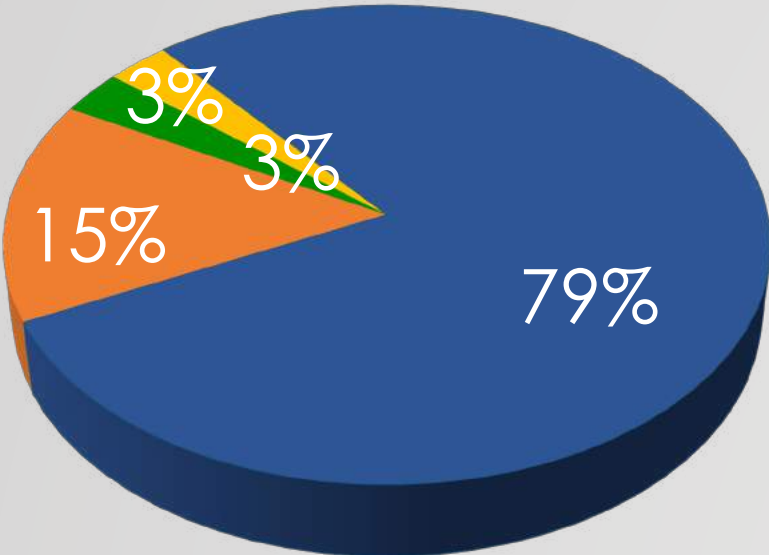
The survey results were weighted to be representative of the voter registration demographics for the state of Colorado.

Division of Fire Prevention and Control

Fire Management Regions

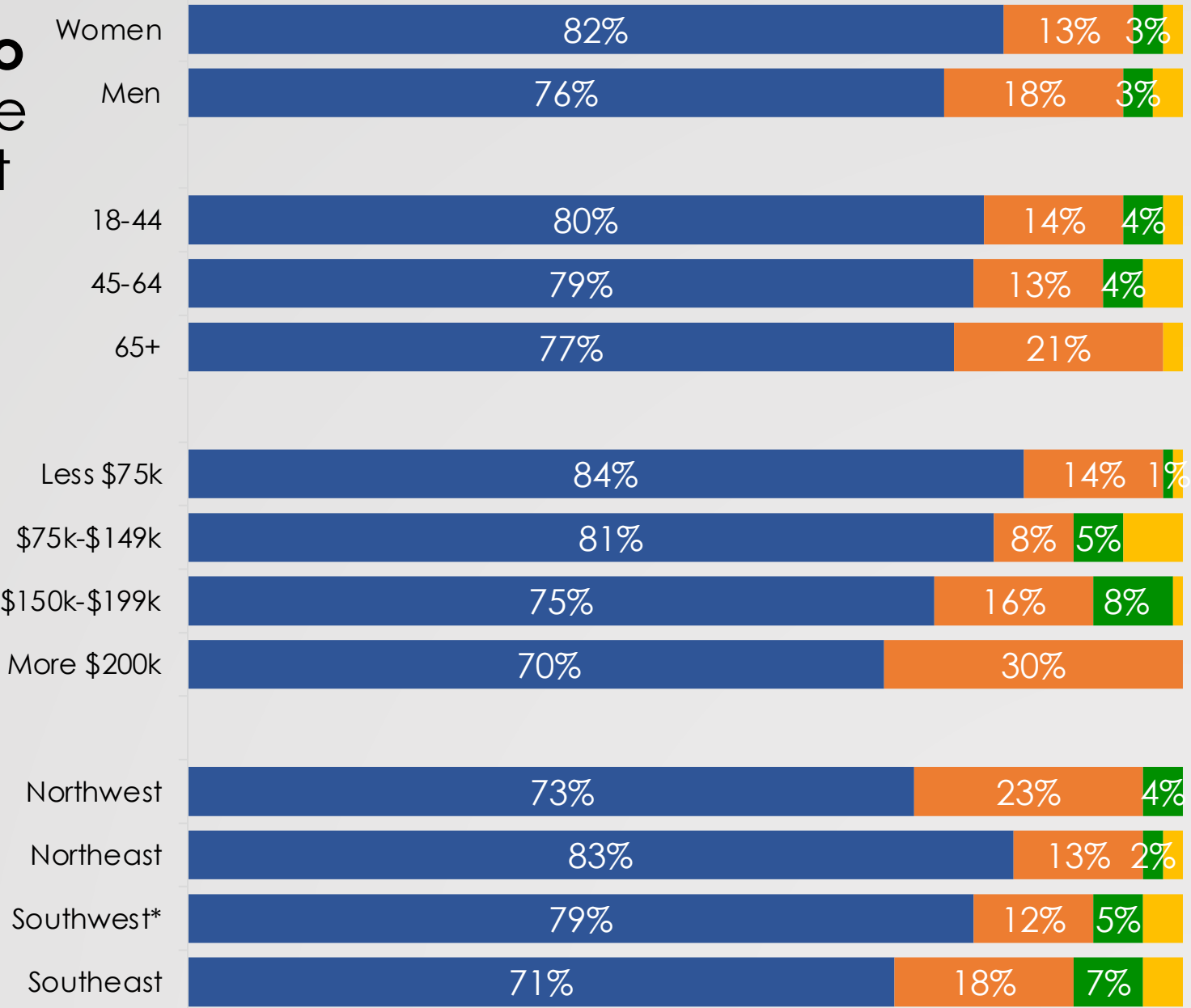


Do you think **fire risk in Colorado** has increased, stayed about the same, or decreased in the past few years?



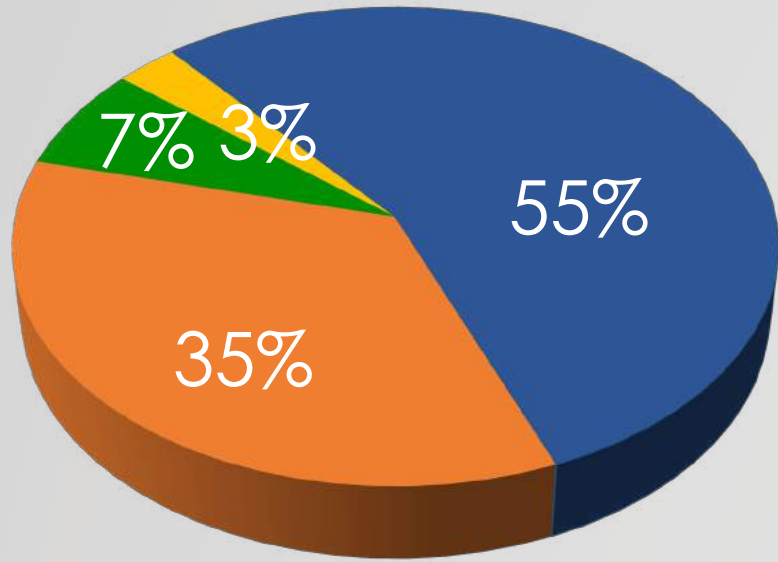
- Total Increased
- About the Same
- Total Decreased
- Unsure

Definitely Increased	55%
Probably Increased	24%
Definitely Decreased	0%
Probably Decreased	3%



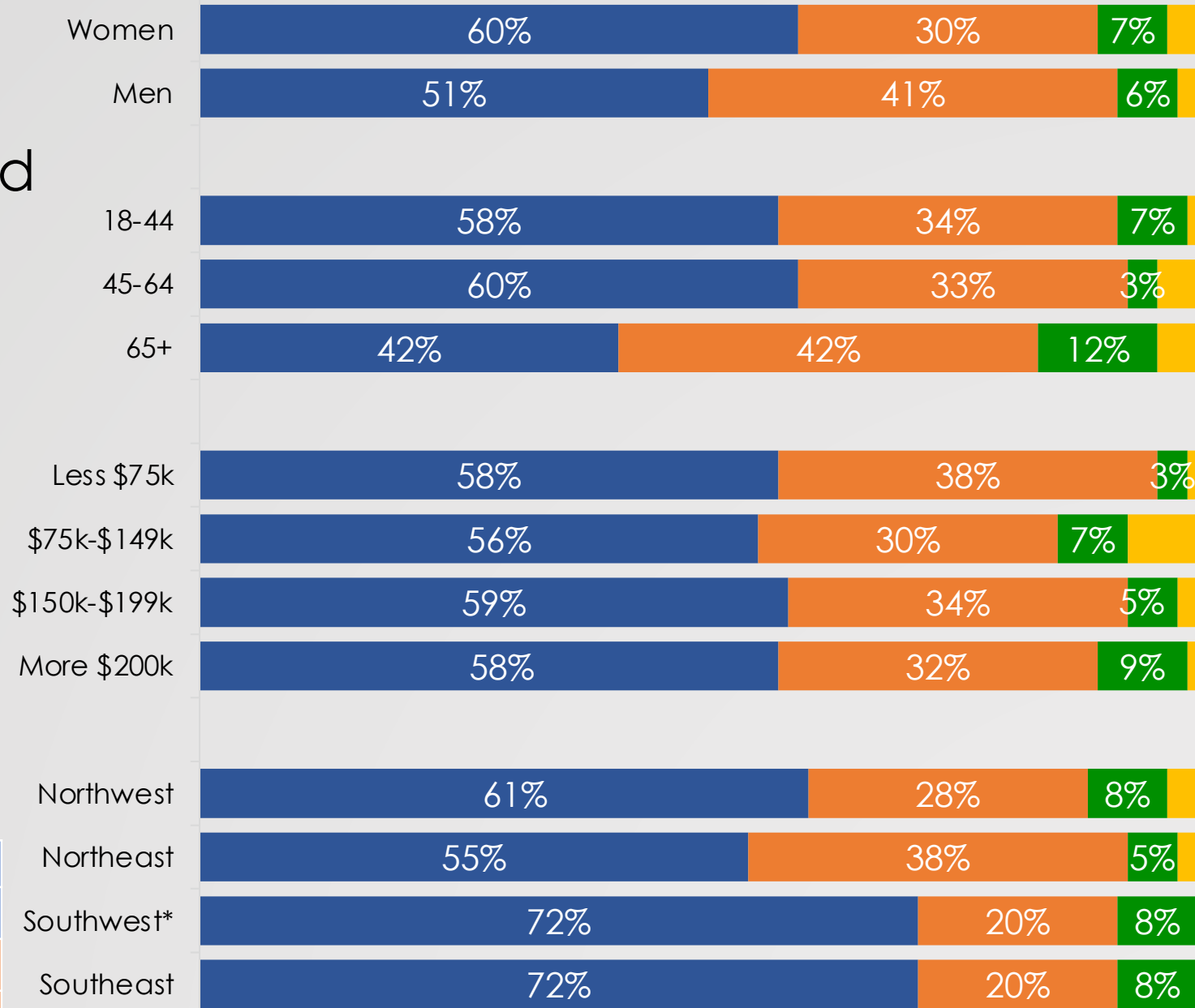
- Total Increased
- About the Same
- Total Decreased
- Unsure

Do you think **fire risk in your community** has increased, stayed the same, or decreased in the past few years?



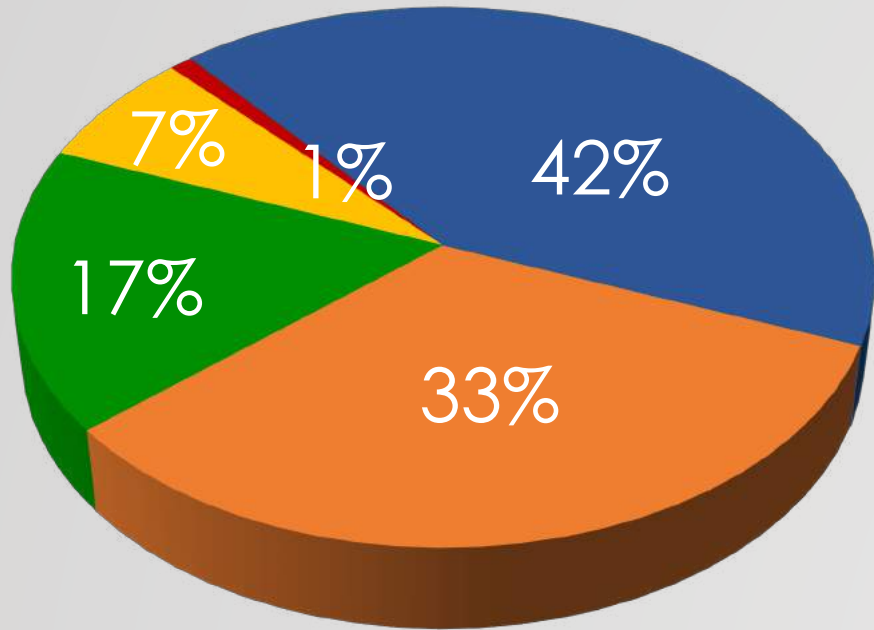
- Total Increased
- About the Same
- Total Decreased
- Unsure

Definitely Increased	31%
Probably Increased	24%
Definitely Decreased	3%
Probably Decreased	4%

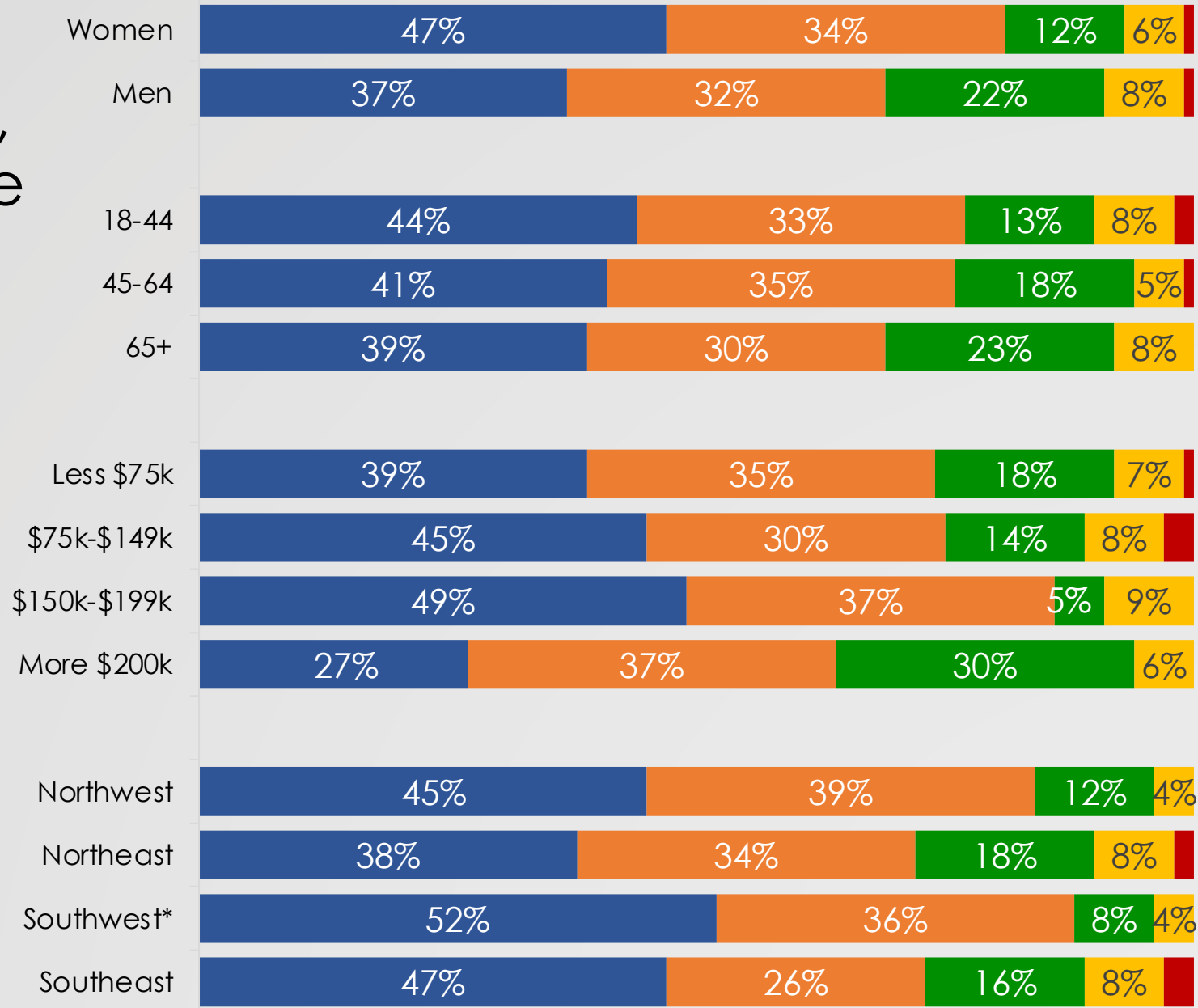


- Total Increased
- About the Same
- Total Decreased
- Unsure

How much of a concern is the risk of a wildland, forest, or open space grassland fire in your community?

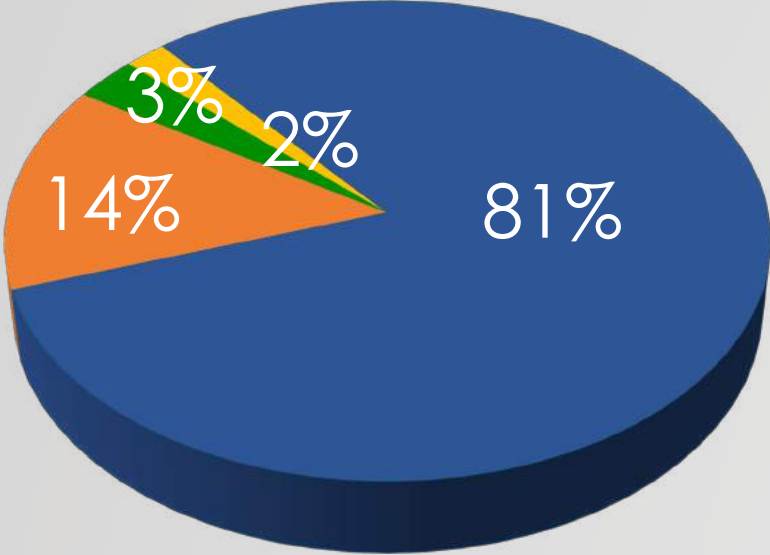


- Big Concern
- Somewhat of a Concern
- Not Too Much of a Concern
- No Concern at All
- Unsure



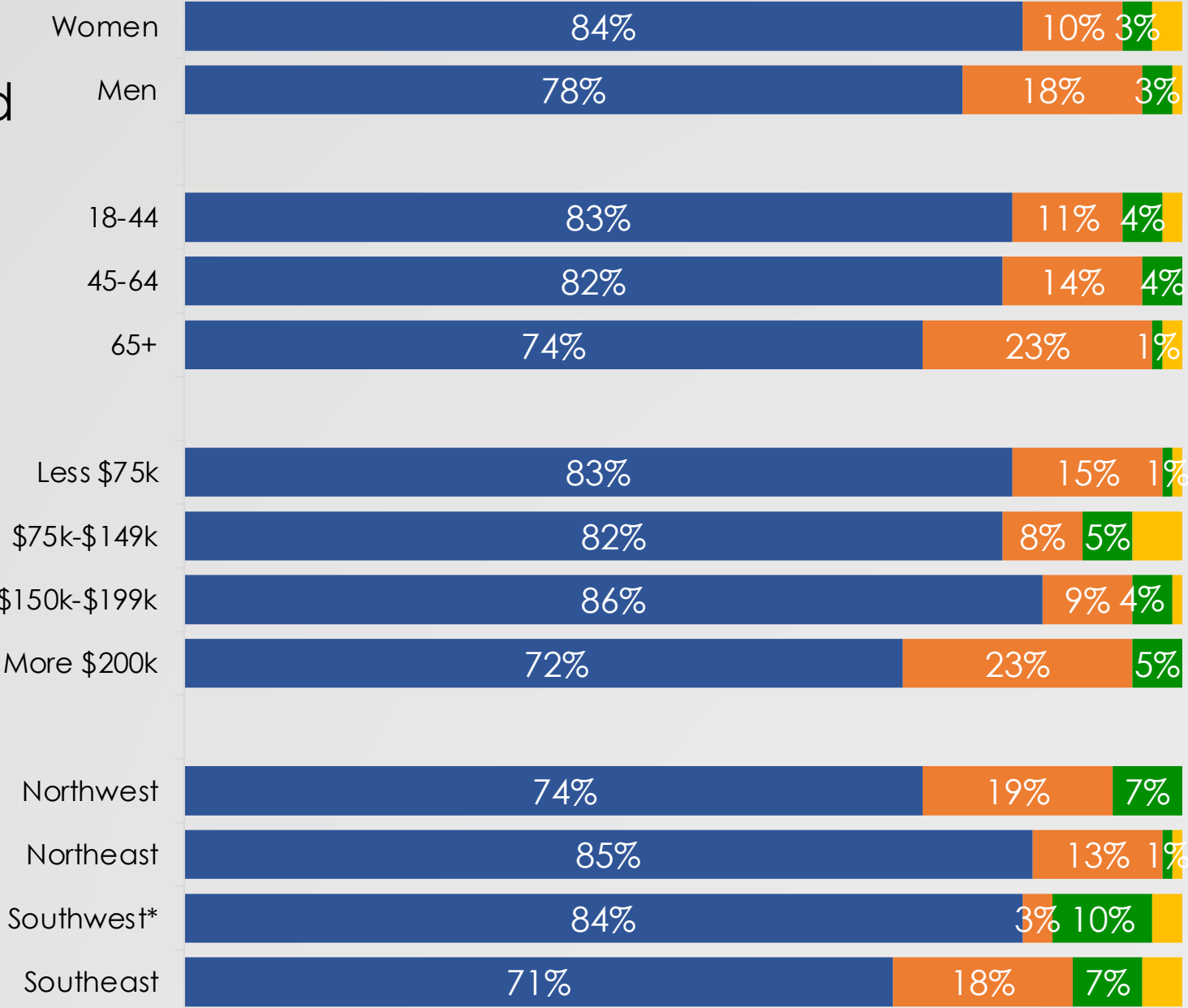
- Big Concern
- Somewhat of a Concern
- Not Too Much of a Concern
- No Concern at All
- Unsure

Do you think the risk of wildland, forest, and open space grassland fires is likely to increase, stay about the same, or decrease in the next five years?



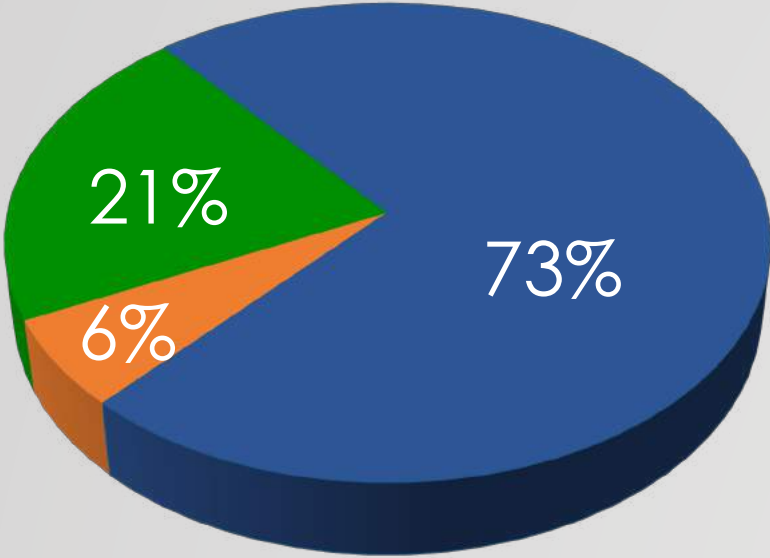
- Total Increase
- About the Same
- Total Decrease
- Unsure

Definitely Increase	44%
Probably Increase	37%
Definitely Decrease	1%
Probably Decrease	2%



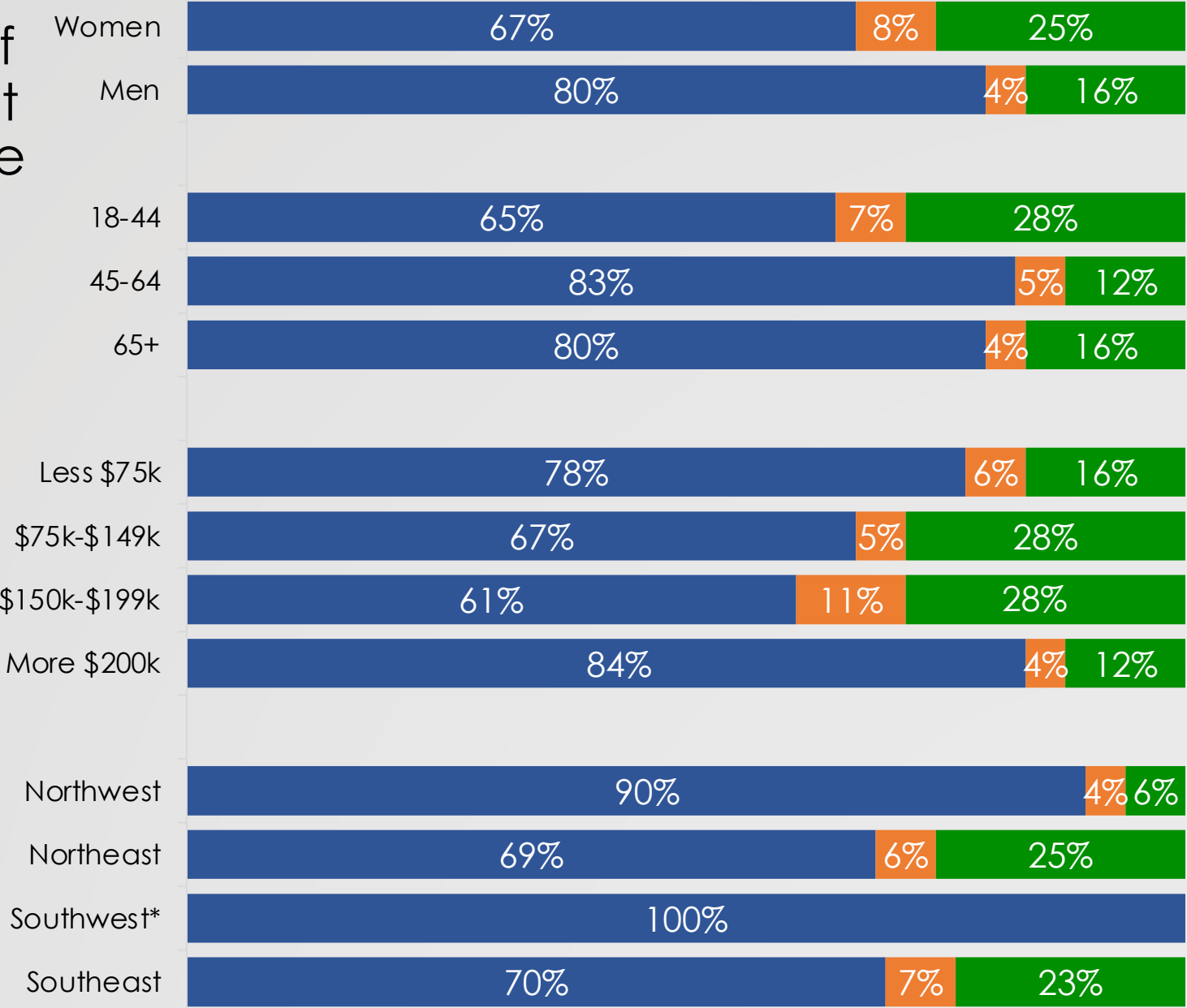
- Total Increase
- About the Same
- Total Decrease
- Unsure

Do you approve or disapprove of the job your local fire department or fire district is doing providing fire protection services to your community?



- Total Approve
- Total Disapprove
- Unsure

Strongly Approve	47%
Somewhat Approve	26%
Strongly Disapprove	3%
Somewhat Disapprove	3%



- Total Approve
- Total Disapprove
- Unsure

Why 73% of Voters Approve the Job Their Local Fire Department or Fire District is Doing

Please describe the reasons why you approve of the job your local fire department or fire district is doing.

Themes

Vital to the community. Necessary.

Working on fire mitigation. Proactive.

Quick response times.

“Our local fire department is responsive and readily available.”

-Female, 65+, Northeast District, Coal Creek Region

“Community is well protected and fire mitigation seems adequate.”

-Female, 55-64, Northeast District, Big Thompson River Region

“We live in the mountains, and they do a great job of wildfire awareness building, making sure residents are aware of mitigation resources, and they do a good job w/ fire bans, and education/enforcement around fire bans.”

-Female, 45-54, Northwest District, Yampa River Region

“They have come to our properties to give advice on fire mitigation measures. They provide chipping events to collect fry brush.”

-Male, 55-64, Southeast District, Pikes Peak Region

“Seems when there’s a fire they respond immediately and get the fire under control.”

-Male, 65+, Southwest District, Uncompahgre River

Why 6% of Voters Disapprove of the Job Their Local Fire Department or Fire District is Doing

Please describe the reasons why you disapprove of the job your local fire department or fire district is doing.

Themes

No local fire mitigation program.

Negative personal experience.

Understaffed, Underfunded.

Need to hire full-time staff, not volunteers, too important of job.

"It's not clear what preventative measures are being taken to prevent and or control these devastating fires and if see as though we have no way to control it once it's started."

-Female, 18-34, Northeast District, Table Mountain Region

"Oak Creek no longer has a fire department instead it was moved 15 minutes away or more at Stagecoach Reservoir- That is too far away for the actual town of Oak Creek Residence. There is a fire department/garage/staff - why was it moved."

-Female, 55-64, Northwest District, Yampa River Region

"They are simply not doing enough. They are understaffed and underfunded."

-Male, 35-44, Southeast District, Pikes Peak Region

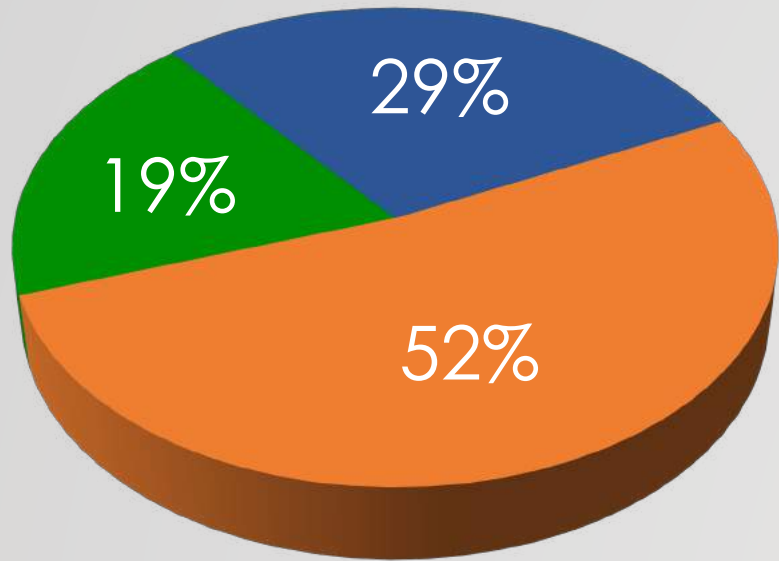
"Because instead of discussing the problem, why not put that resources to solving the problem. Like clearing out the forest of dead debris."

-Male, 35-44, Northeast, Table Mountain Region

"I think we need to hire professional firefighters. This is an extremely important and dangerous job and I feel it requires quite a lot more commitment than volunteers may be able to offer."

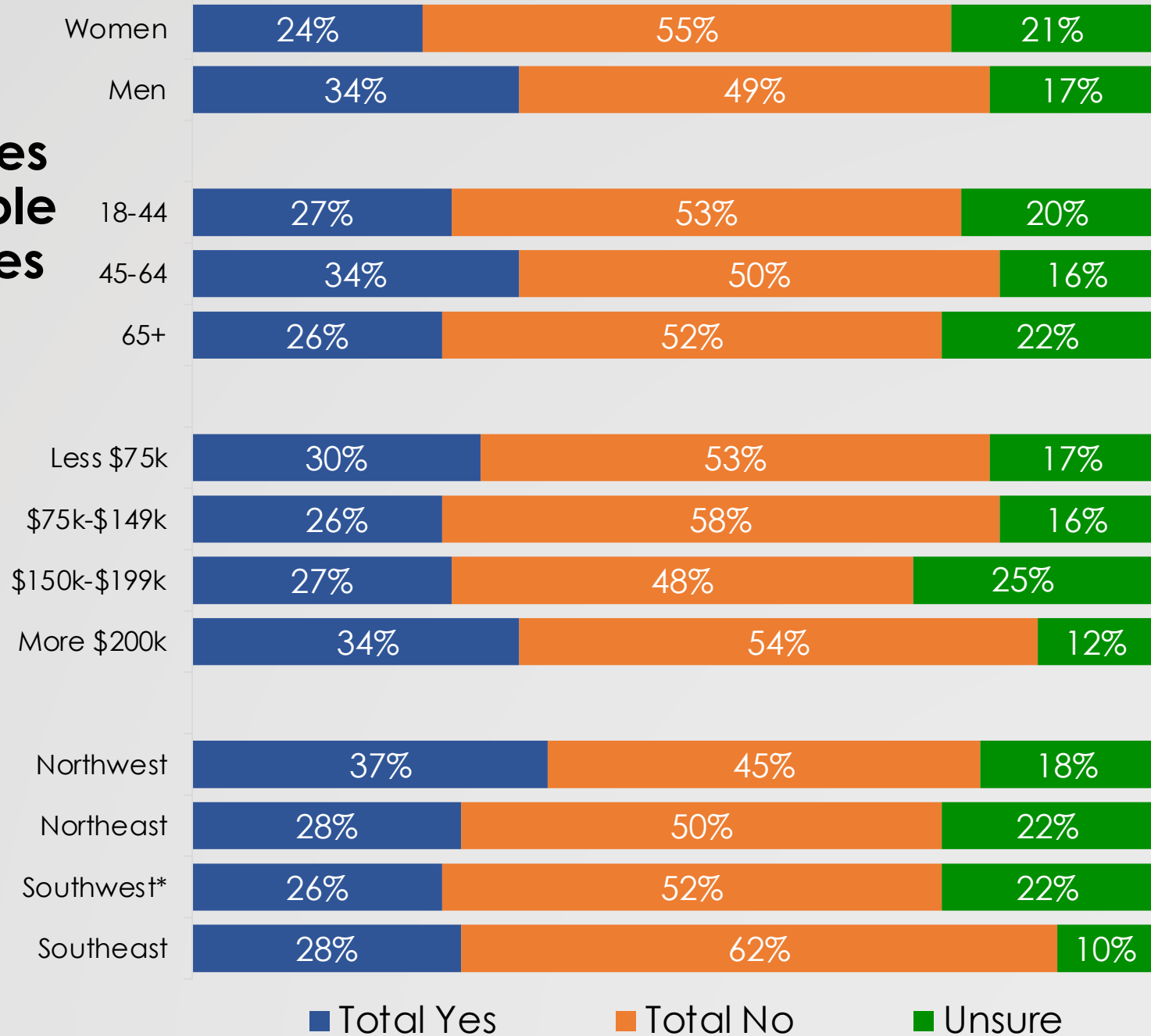
-Female, 45-54, Southeast District, Pikes Peak Region

Do you think your local fire department or fire protection district **has the financial resources needed to provide an acceptable amount of fire protection services** in your community?



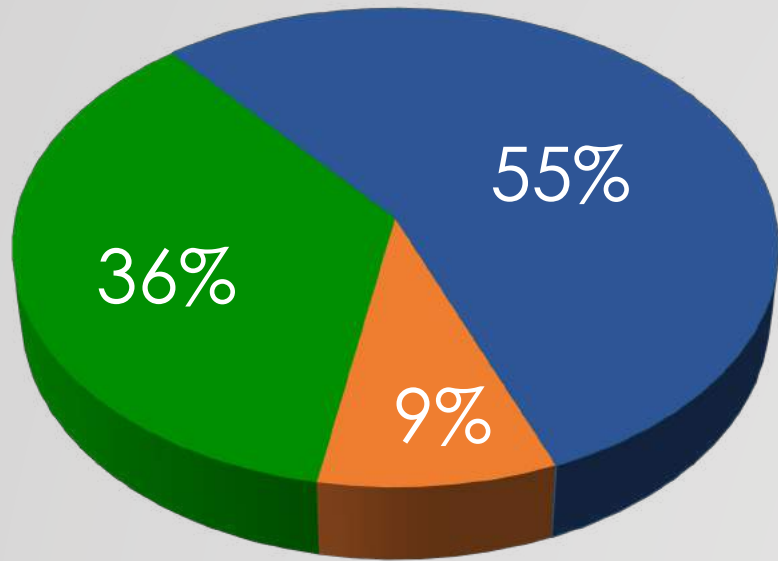
■ Total Yes
 ■ Total No
 ■ Unsure

Yes, Definitely	8%
Yes, Probably	21%
No, Definitely Not	13%
No, Probably Not	39%



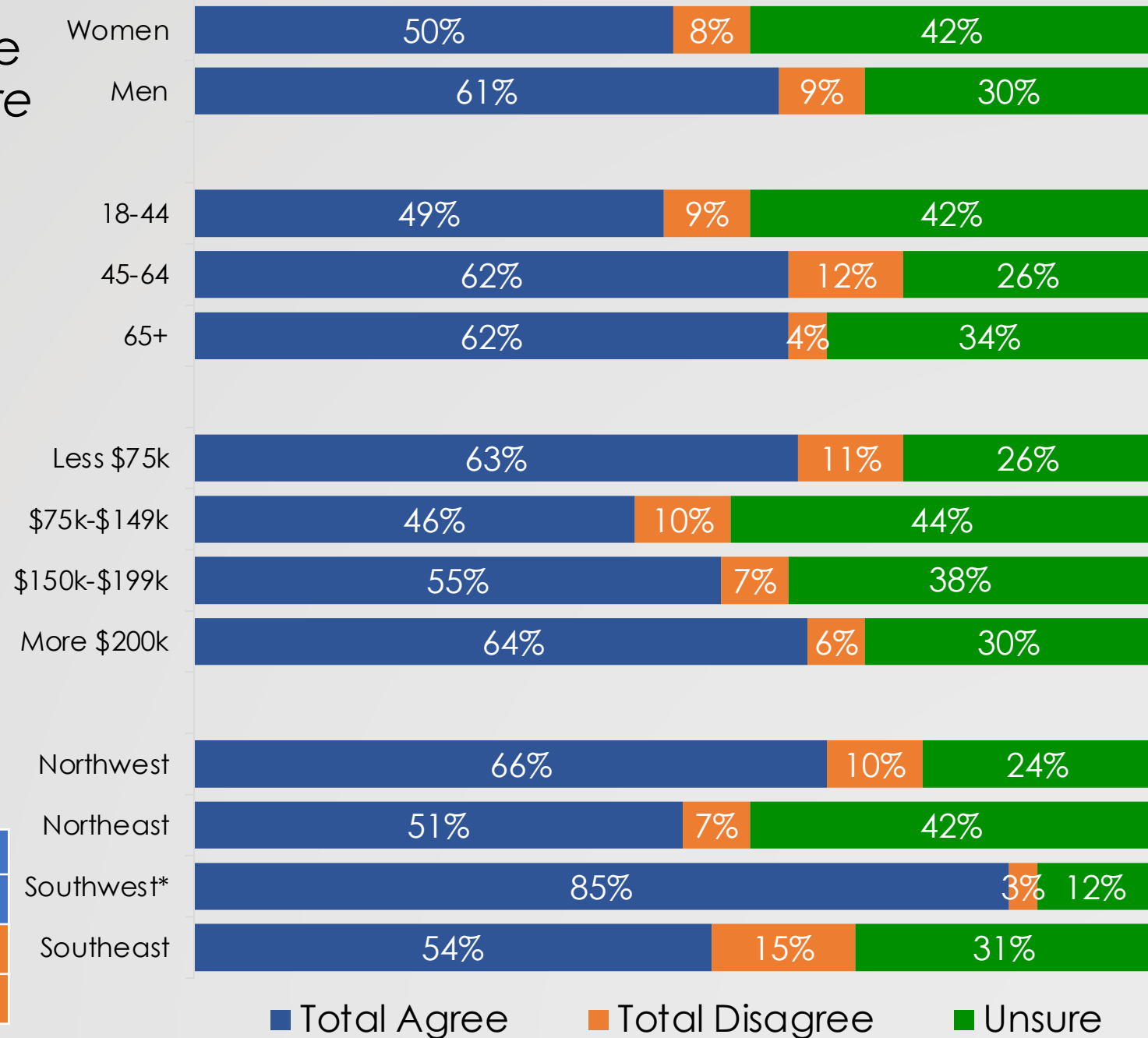
■ Total Yes ■ Total No ■ Unsure

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *“Our local fire department or fire protection district is fiscally responsible and spends taxpayer money wisely.”*

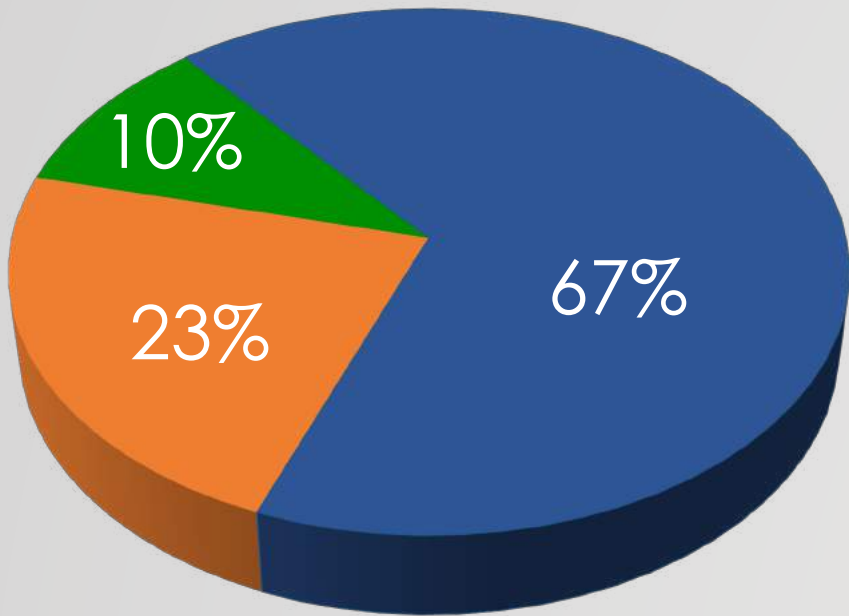


■ Total Agree
 ■ Total Disagree
 ■ Unsure

Strongly Agree	26%
Somewhat Agree	29%
Strongly Disagree	4%
Somewhat Disagree	5%

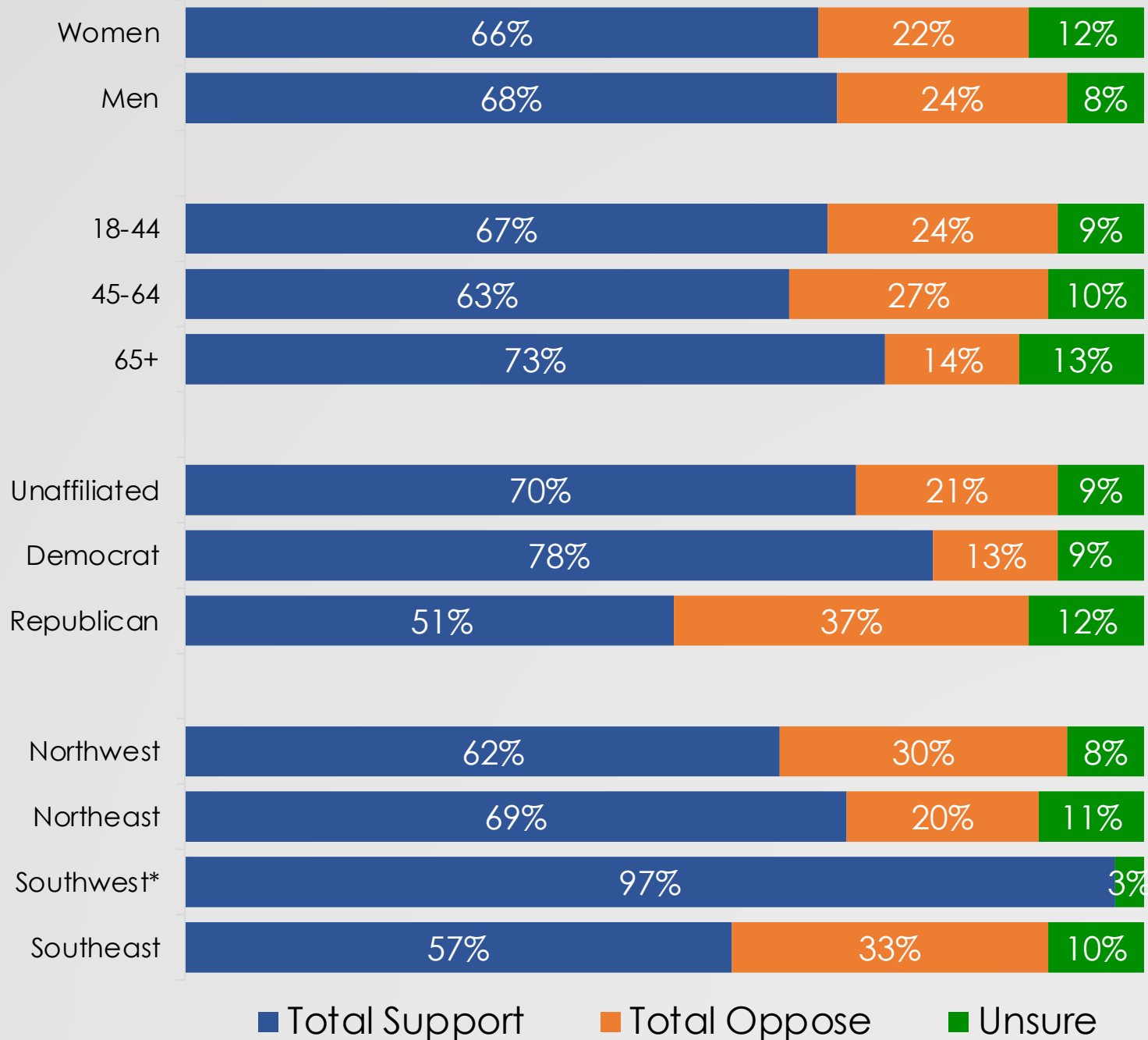


Would you support or oppose a tax increase to generate additional funding for your local fire department or fire protection district?

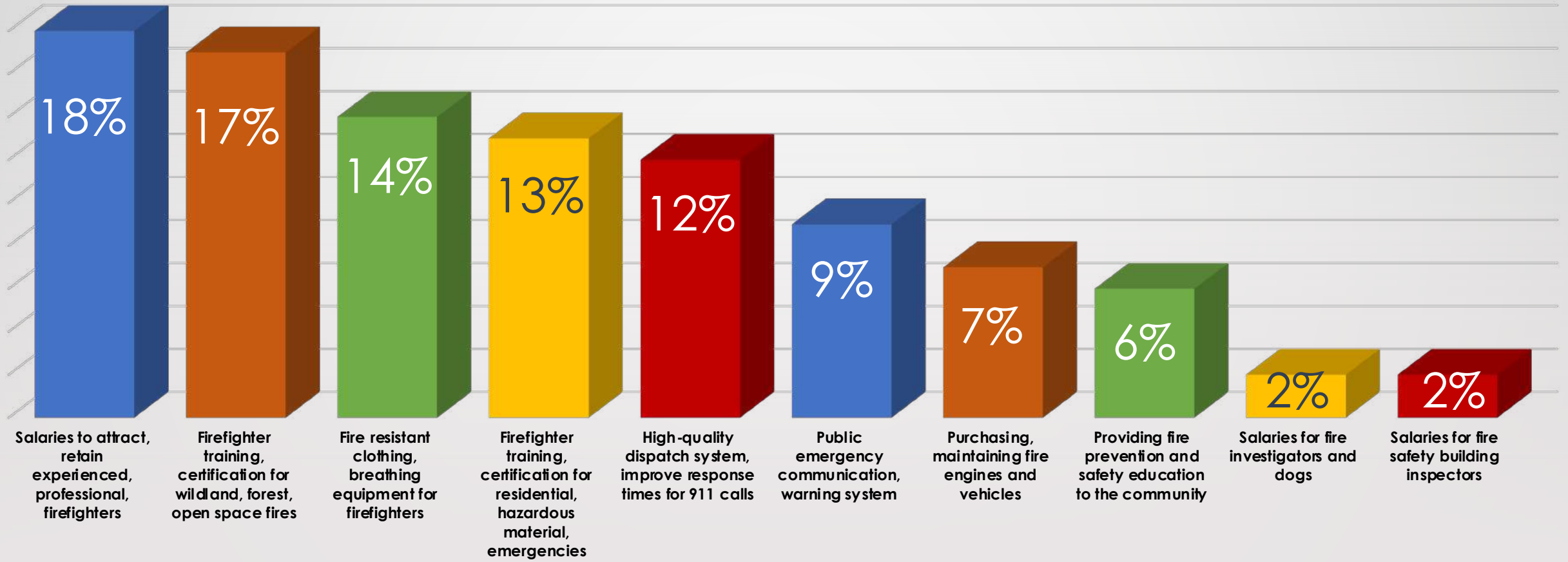


■ Total Support
 ■ Total Oppose
 ■ Unsure

Strongly Support	31%
Somewhat Support	36%
Strongly Oppose	14%
Somewhat Oppose	9%



Your local fire department or fire district has an annual budget to fund fire protection services and programs. Please rank the following fire department expenditures in the order you think should be the top priority and funded the most. Ranking an option #1 indicates it is the most important funding priority. Ranking an option #10 indicates it is the least important funding priority. (Percentage of respondents who chose #1 funding priority)



Colorado Fire Commission Policy Recommendations



Voter Opinion of the Colorado Fire Commission

The Colorado Fire Commission was established in 2019 by the General Assembly. They recognized the state needed a dedicated group of fire protection professionals and public officials to address the complex and growing fire risk challenges. Some duties and responsibilities of the Commission are:

- Evaluate fire programs across the state and identify areas where the state can better support its partners and develop long-term strategies and recommendations on complex fire issues.
- Help the state to be proactive on wildfire issues and develop a comprehensive approach that embraces statewide fire mitigation, prevention, and preparedness.
- Enhance public safety through an integrated statewide process focused on the capacity to conduct fire management, preparedness, prevention, and fire response activities while increasing the resiliency of local and regional communities.

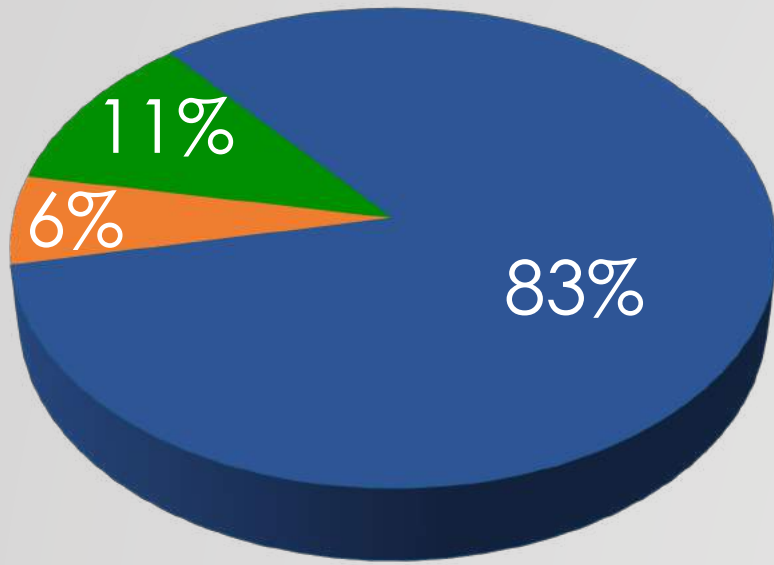
Voter Opinion of the Colorado Fire Commission

- Develop an accurate understanding of Colorado's fire problems, including the number of injuries, fatalities, fire losses, and the causes of structural and wildland fires.
- Evaluate funding sources for effective response to large fires, with consideration of cost-sharing agreements, financial contributions, mitigation and preparedness costs, mutual aid participation, and local action plans.
- Forecast short and long-term funding challenges and trends that affect fire services and the ability of state and local fire protection organizations to respond to fire and mitigation hazards.

Knowing this information, do you approve or disapprove of the mission, duties, and responsibilities of the Colorado Fire Commission?

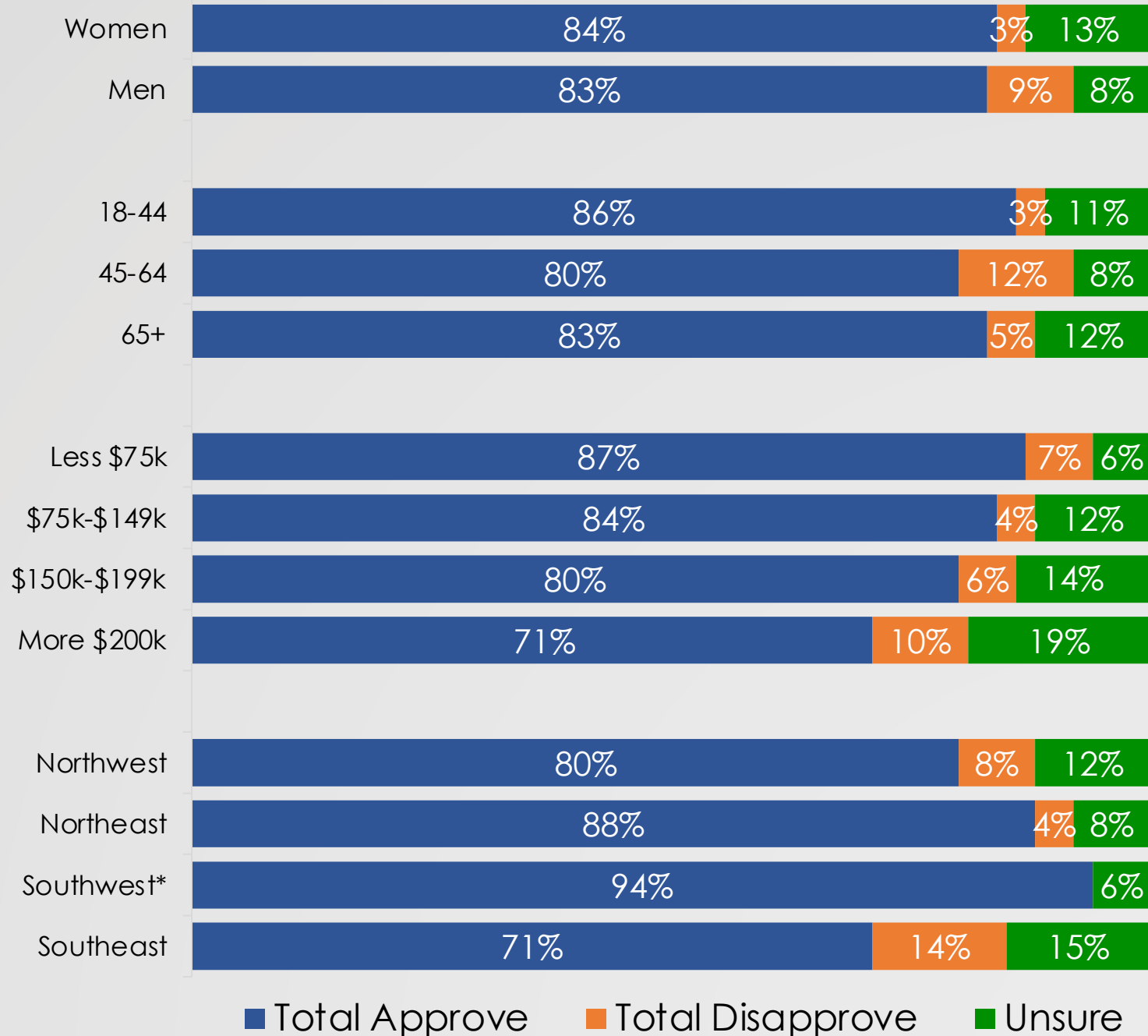
Voter Opinion of the Colorado Fire Commission

Knowing this information, do you approve or disapprove of the mission, duties, and responsibilities of the Colorado Fire Commission?



- Total Approve
- Total Disapprove
- Unsure

Strongly Approve	50%
Somewhat Approve	33%
Strongly Disapprove	2%
Somewhat Disapprove	4%



- Total Approve
- Total Disapprove
- Unsure

Voter Opinion of the Colorado State Fire Coordination Center

One recommendation by the Colorado Fire Commission was to create a Colorado State Fire Coordination Center with a 24-hour/7 days week capability to dispatch and coordinate state, local, and federal resources for fires across the state.

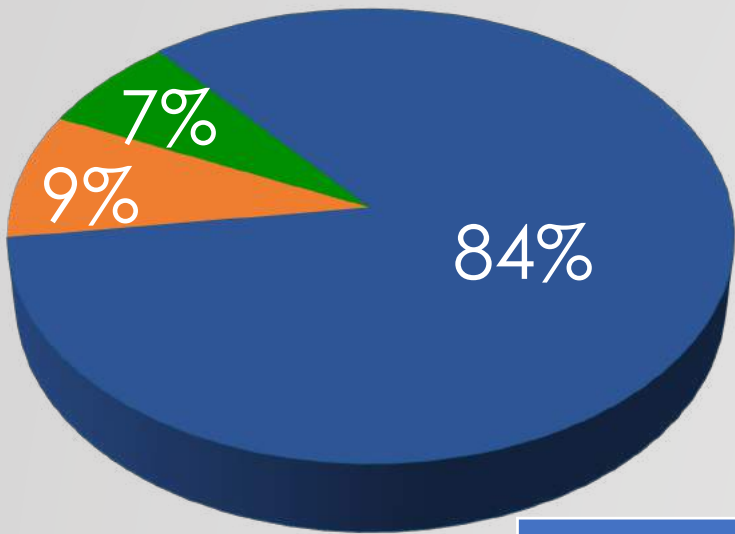
In Colorado, the fiscal responsibility and resources allocated to a fire begin at the local fire department level. When a fire grows beyond the capabilities of the local department, the county assumes fiscal responsibility. If the fire exceeds the county's financial resources, state and federal fire protection and financial resources assume responsibility.

In the last decade, the number of “interagency” wildfires that grow beyond the local level has increased significantly. Often the coordination of fire resources between different fire agencies has been difficult. The Colorado State Fire Coordination Center will reduce these coordination problems and provide a more efficient approach to fighting large fires.

The state approved this committee recommendation in May and authorized the \$2.2 million in annual funding to get the Coordination Center up and running. Knowing this information, do you approve or disapprove of the state creating and funding the Colorado State Fire Coordination Center?

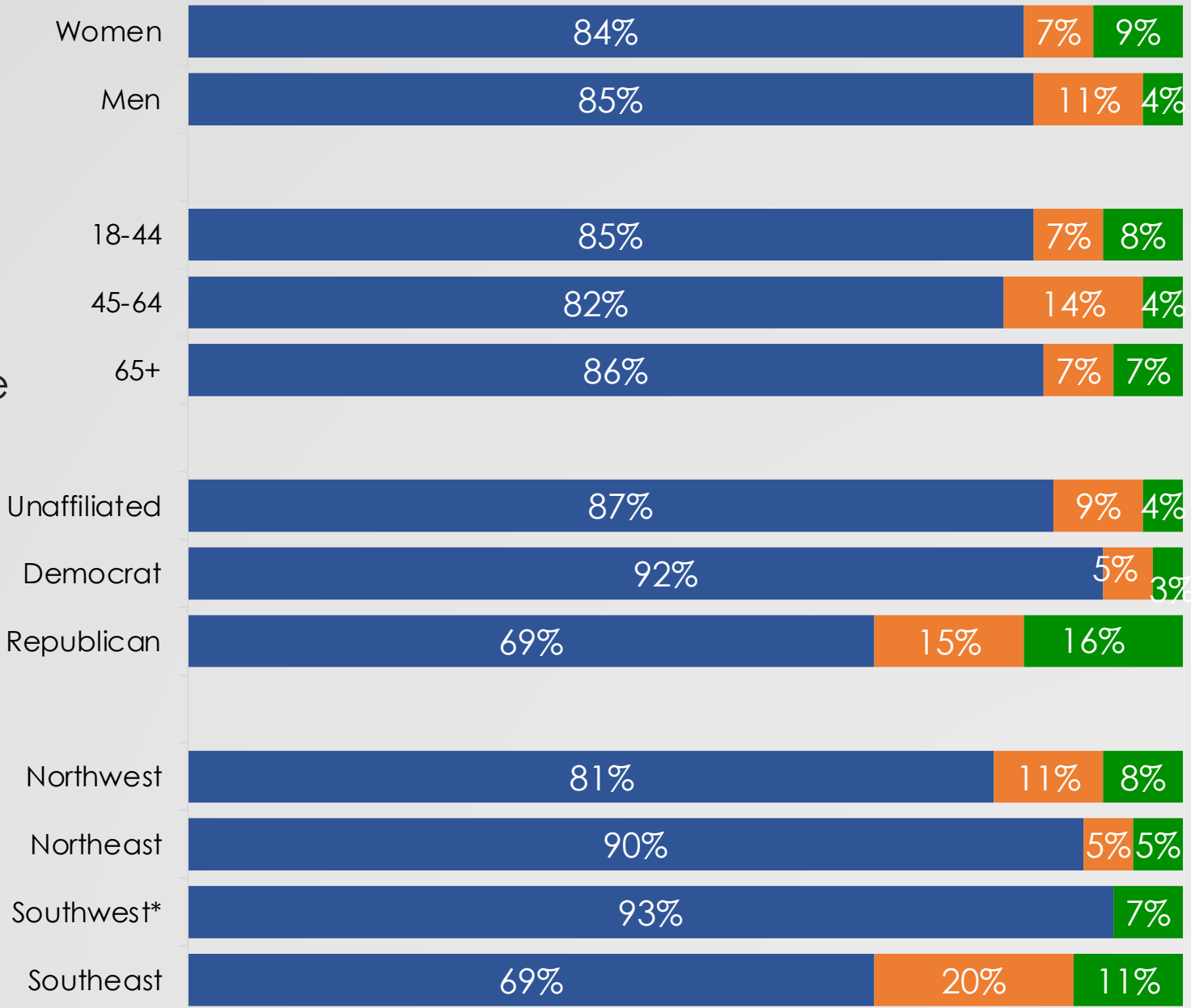
Voter Opinion of the Colorado State Fire Coordination Center

Knowing this information, do you approve or disapprove of the state creating and funding the Colorado State Fire Coordination Center?



- Total Approve
- Total Disapprove
- Unsure

Strongly Approve	51%
Somewhat Approve	33%
Strongly Disapprove	5%
Somewhat Disapprove	4%



- Total Approve
- Total Disapprove
- Unsure

Voter Opinion of State Funding for Firefighter Training & Certification Programs

Colorado has about 16,000 firefighters working across 375 fire departments and districts. Some departments have a full-time firefighting staff while others are all volunteers. In fact, half of all fire departments in Colorado are staffed with volunteer firefighters.

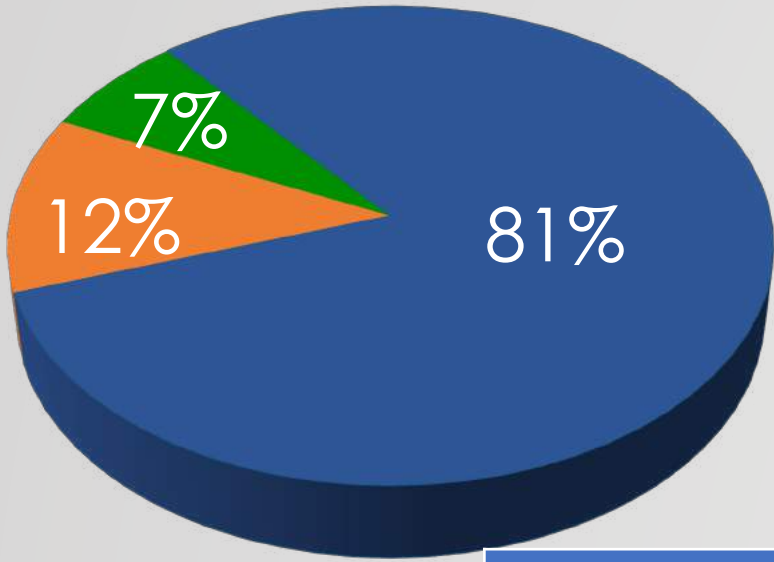
The Colorado Fire Commission believes all firefighters deserve high-quality training and equipment to protect themselves from the hazards of the job. However, firefighter certification in Colorado is voluntary, and the costs associated with certification are the primary reason many departments do not work toward certifying their firefighters.

Therefore, the Commission recommended that the state fund additional firefighter training programs, the hiring of additional training officers, multiple mobile training units, and subsidize the cost of firefighter certification for some fire departments.

This recommendation has an estimated \$2.7 million in start-up costs and an annual budget of \$2.2 million. Knowing this information, do you approve or disapprove of the state funding this Commission recommendation?

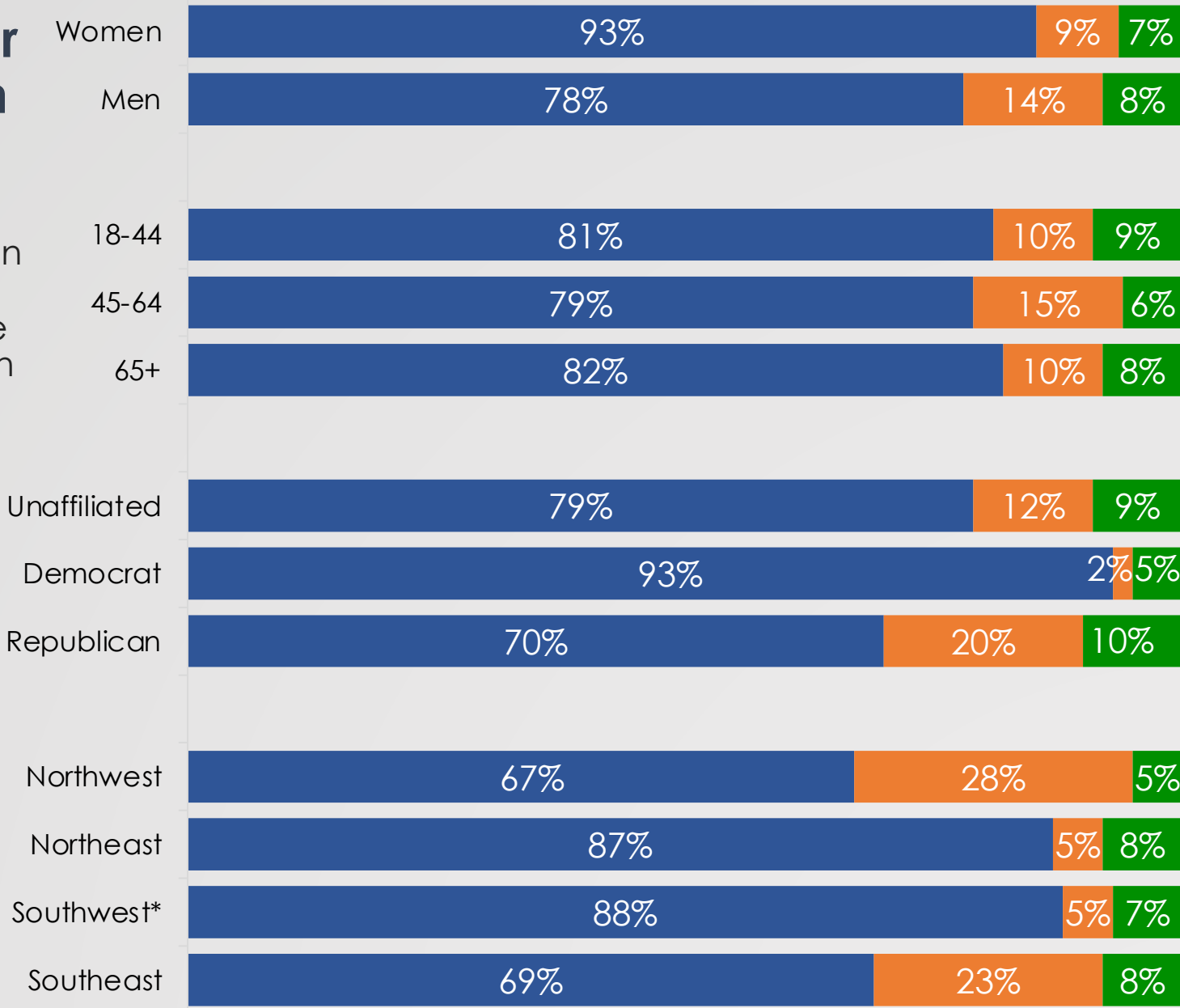
Voter Opinion of State Funding for Firefighter Training & Certification Programs

This recommendation has an estimated \$2.7 million in start-up costs and an annual budget of \$2.2 million. Knowing this information, do you approve or disapprove of the state funding this commission recommendation?



- Total Approve
- Total Disapprove
- Unsure

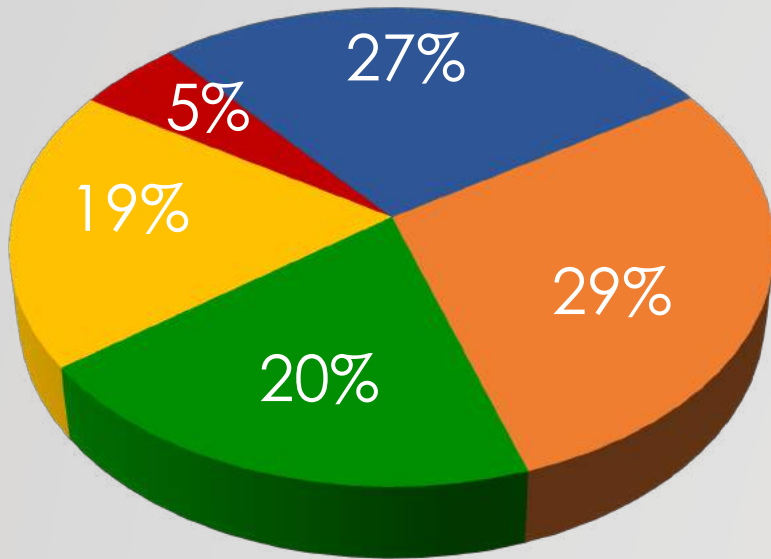
Strongly Approve	52%
Somewhat Approve	29%
Strongly Disapprove	5%
Somewhat Disapprove	7%



- Total Approve
- Total Disapprove
- Unsure

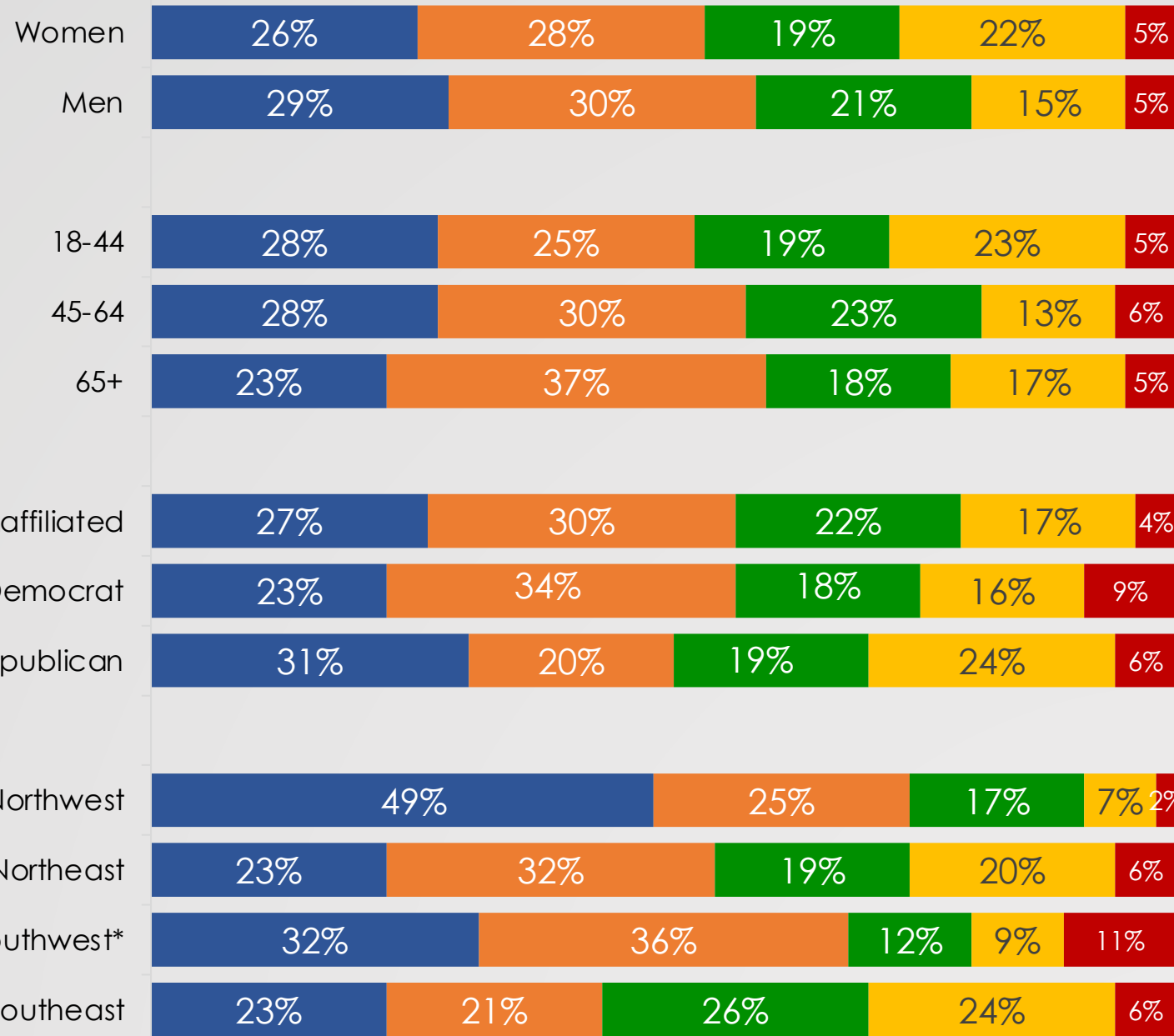
Voter Familiarity with a Wildland Urban Interface

Another issue being studied by the Colorado Fire Commission is the fire risk to Colorado's population that lives within the "wildland urban interface." How familiar are you with this term and what it is?



■ Very Familiar ■ Somewhat Familiar
■ Not Too Familiar ■ Not Familiar at All
■ Unsure

Very and Somewhat Familiar | 56%



■ Very Familiar ■ Somewhat Familiar
■ Not Too Familiar ■ Not Familiar at All
■ Unsure

Voter Opinion of a Wildland Urban Interface Code Board

A Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is an area where man-made structures border or are within wildland vegetation. This includes forests and grassland areas. Colorado's Wildland Urban Interface is more than 50% of the state population and has grown significantly in the past few years.

Last year, the Commission was asked to develop a statewide policy for land use planning, development, and building resiliency to wildland fires in WUI areas. After extensive research, the Commission recommended the creation of a "Wildland Urban Interface Code Board." This Board would have building code authority over residential and commercial construction, remodels, and land development in WUI areas.

Voter Opinion of a Wildland Urban Interface Code Board

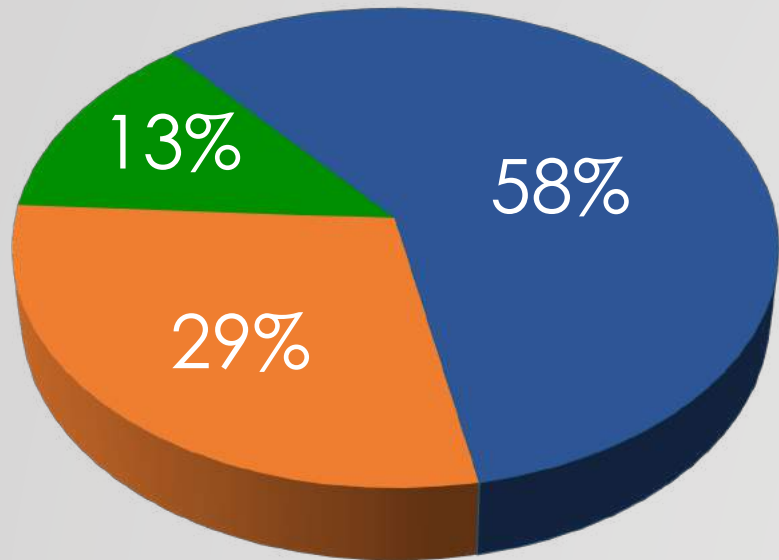
Supporters of the Wildland Urban Interface Code Board say wildfire building regulations are an urgent fix to a danger magnified by climate change, population growth, and inconsistent local policies. The National Fire Protection Association says voluntary actions by communities are not enough to counter increasing wildfire danger.

Opponents of the WUI Code Board say a statewide building code, regardless of its good intentions, will be costly, cumbersome, and an unreasonable burden on local governments. They say building codes are best determined by communities and local governments, and a state-mandated one-size-fits-all approach will not work.

Knowing this information, do you support or oppose the creation of a Wildland Urban Interface Code Board and its authority to determine building codes in WUI communities across Colorado?

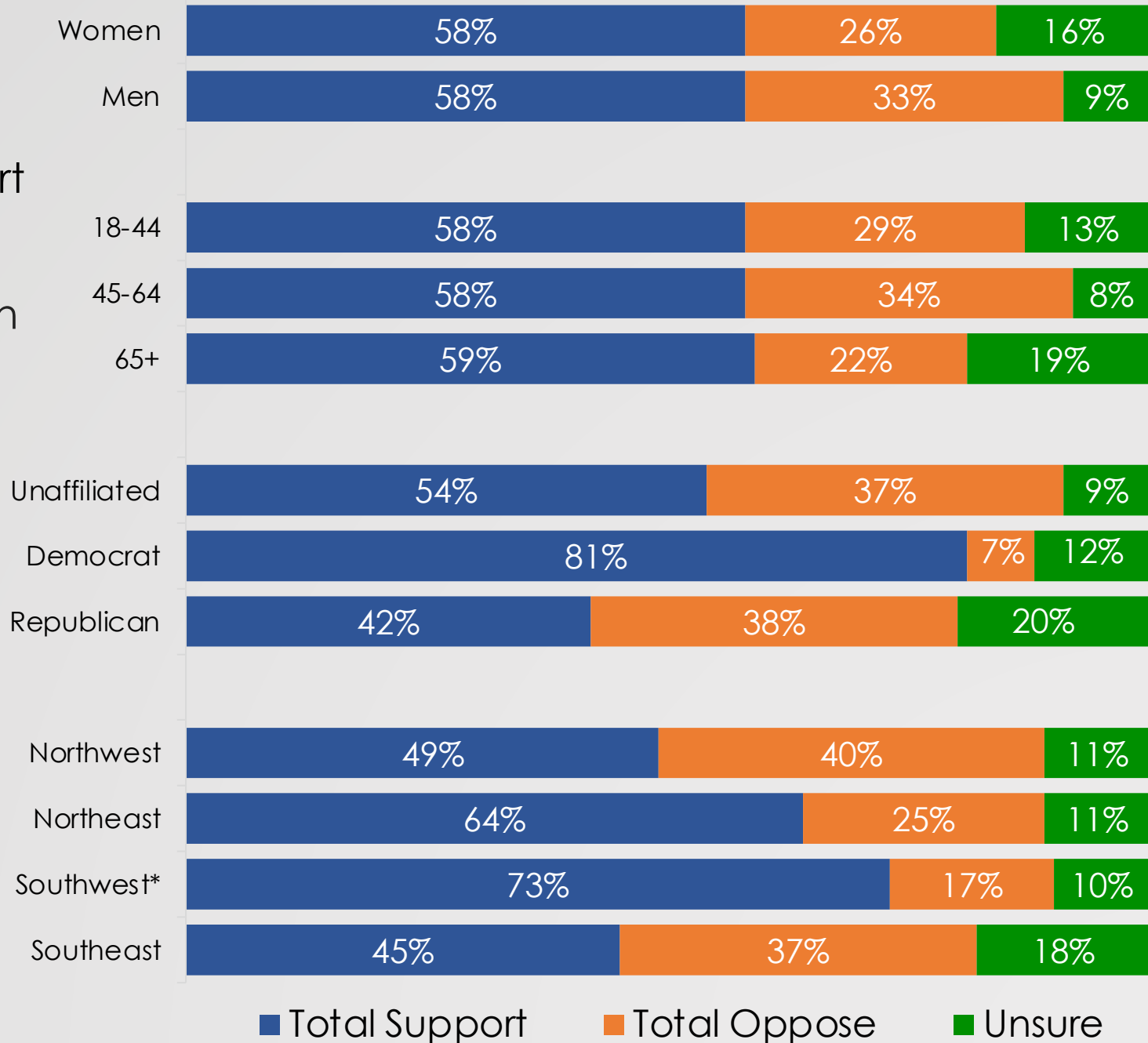
Voter Opinion of a Wildland Urban Interface Code Board

Knowing this information, do you support or oppose the creation of a wildland urban interface code board and its authority to determine building codes in WUI communities across Colorado?



- Total Support
- Total Oppose
- Unsure

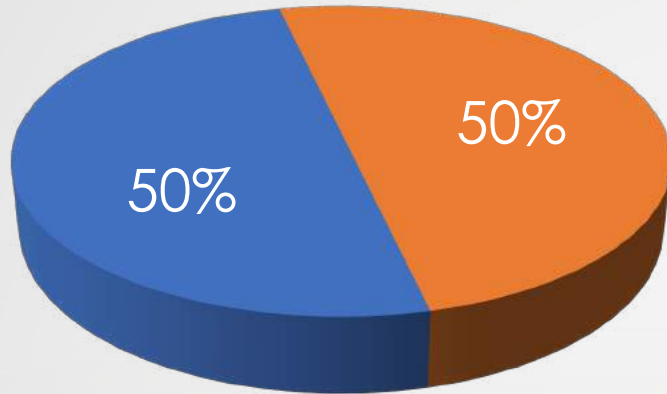
Strongly Support	32%
Somewhat Support	26%
Strongly Oppose	16%
Somewhat Oppose	13%



- Total Support
- Total Oppose
- Unsure

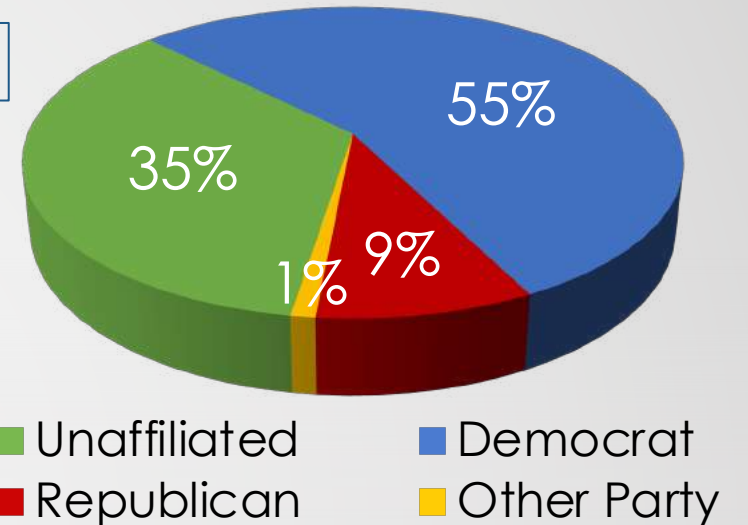
SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender



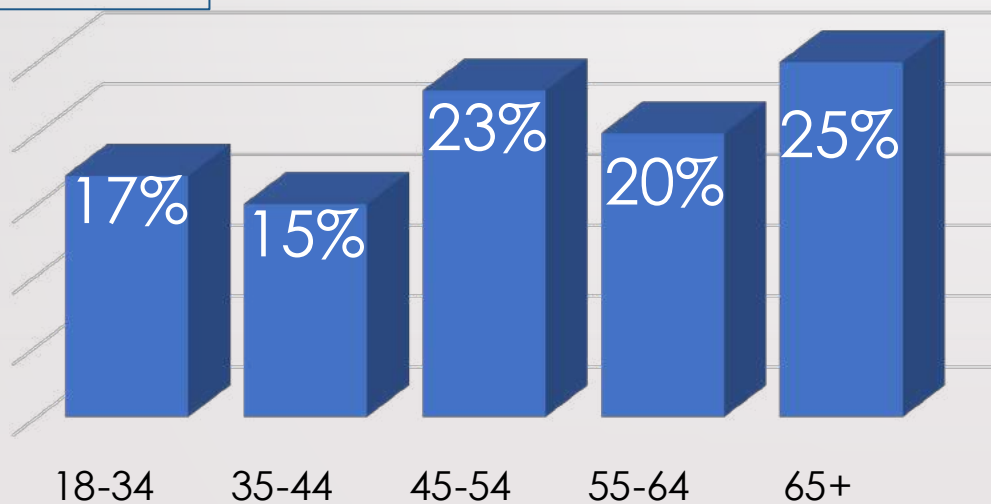
■ Female ■ Male ■ Identify Differently

Party Affiliation

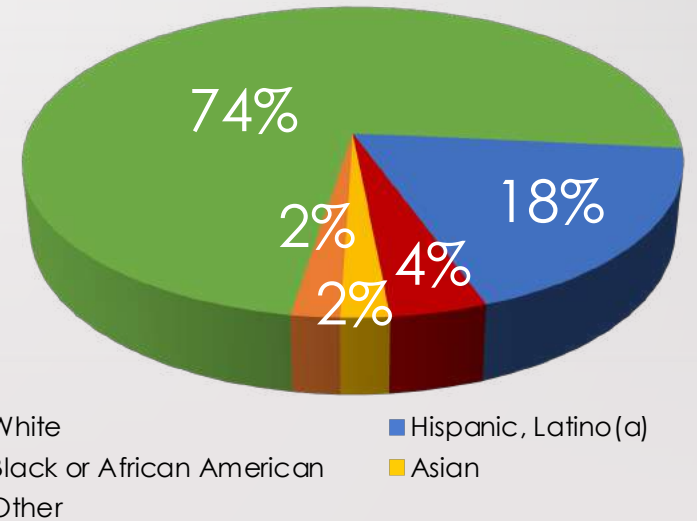


■ Unaffiliated ■ Democrat
 ■ Republican ■ Other Party

Age Range



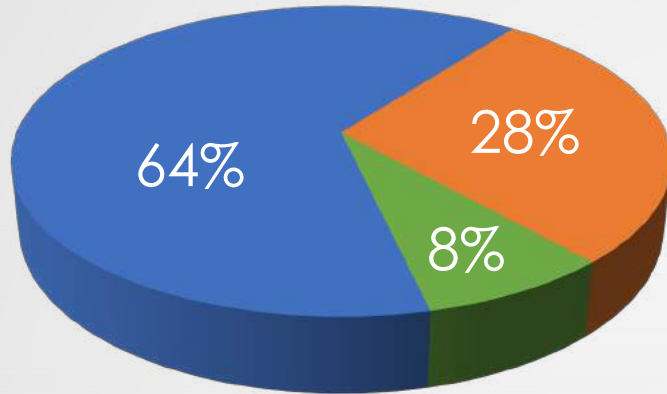
Race~Ethnicity



■ White ■ Hispanic, Latino (a)
 ■ Black or African American ■ Asian
 ■ Other

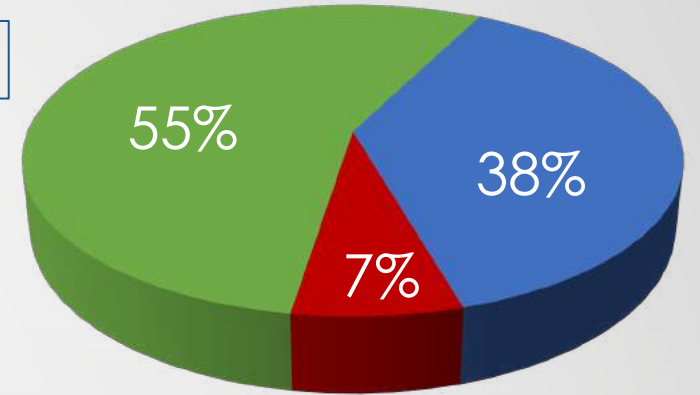
SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Own vs. Rent



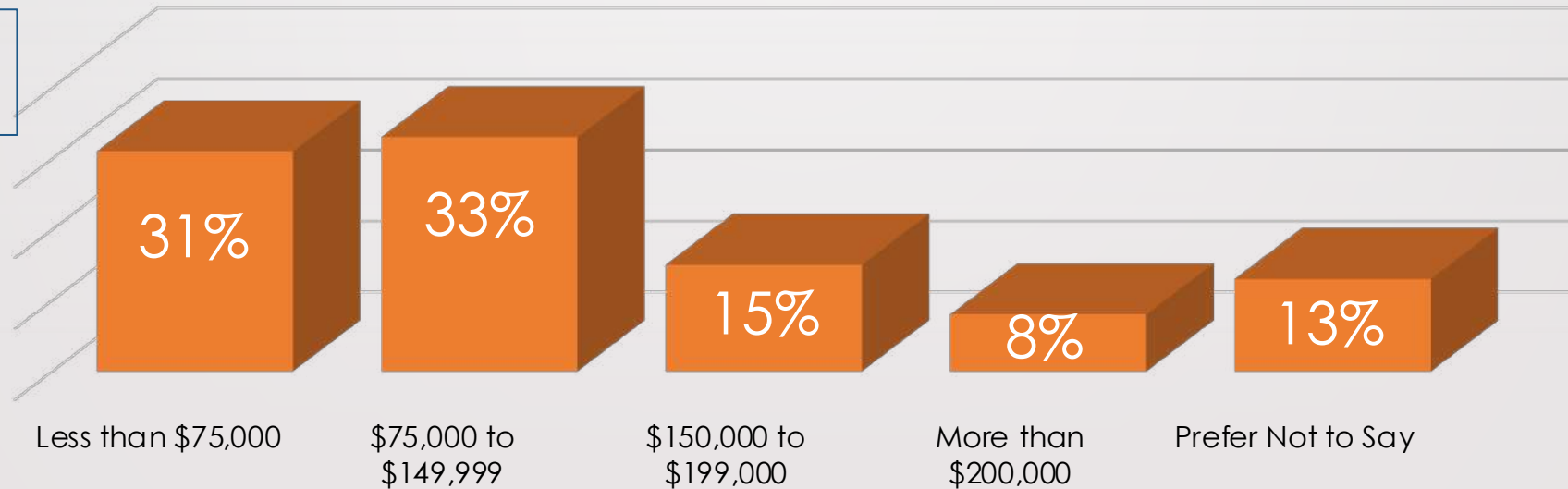
■ Own ■ Rent ■ Prefer Not to Say

Marital Status



■ Married ■ Single ■ Prefer Not to Say

Household Income



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