



Macedonia National Public Opinion Poll

March 4 - 12, 2017



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Detailed Methodology

- The survey was conducted on behalf of the [Center for Insights in Survey Research](#) by the [Brima](#) market research firm in cooperation with Chariot LLC.
- Data was collected from March 4 to 12, 2017, through face-to-face interviews by trained professionals.
- A total of 1,108 interviews were completed, with an overall margin of error of plus or minus three percent at the midrange of the 95 percent confidence level. A nationally representative sample was based on a multistage stratification proportionate to the population sample distribution, with a random selection of households and respondents. The response rate was 71 percent.
- The sample was prepared using the State Statistical Office data (2002 census results) for the population aged 18 and older. It also considered the structure of the population according to age, gender, education, housing type, national affiliation and region, and was updated accordingly with estimates and primary information collected by Brima.
- Stratification was based on three stages. First, the number of respondents for each of the regions was specified in proportion to the size of its population (aged 18 and older). Second, the sampling plan consisted of 163 sampling points located according to urban/rural split, municipality size and nationality diffusion. Third, the selection of households was based on a random route method. In urban areas, every third household on the left-hand side of the street was selected. In rural areas, the “wave-wise” approach was applied, in which the interviewer selects every fourth inhabited house/dwelling on both sides of the interviewer’s route/track, counting from the first house on the left.
- Some questions were asked using the “sealed envelope method,” in which the respondent provides the answer anonymously to the interviewer in a sealed envelope.
- The “next birthday method” was used to select respondents 18 years and older.
- Figures in charts and tables may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.
- This poll was conducted with support from the [United States Agency for International Development](#).

Political Party Glossary

- VMRO-DPMNE: Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization - Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity
- SDSM: Social Democratic Union of Macedonia
- DUI: Democratic Union for Integration
- Movement BESA
- MR-DPA (Alliance for Albanians): Movement for Reform - Democratic Party of Albanians
- DPA: Democratic Party of Albanians
- GROM: Citizens Option for Macedonia
- DOM: Democratic Renewal of Macedonia
- NDR: National Democratic Revival

Local Government and Local Governance

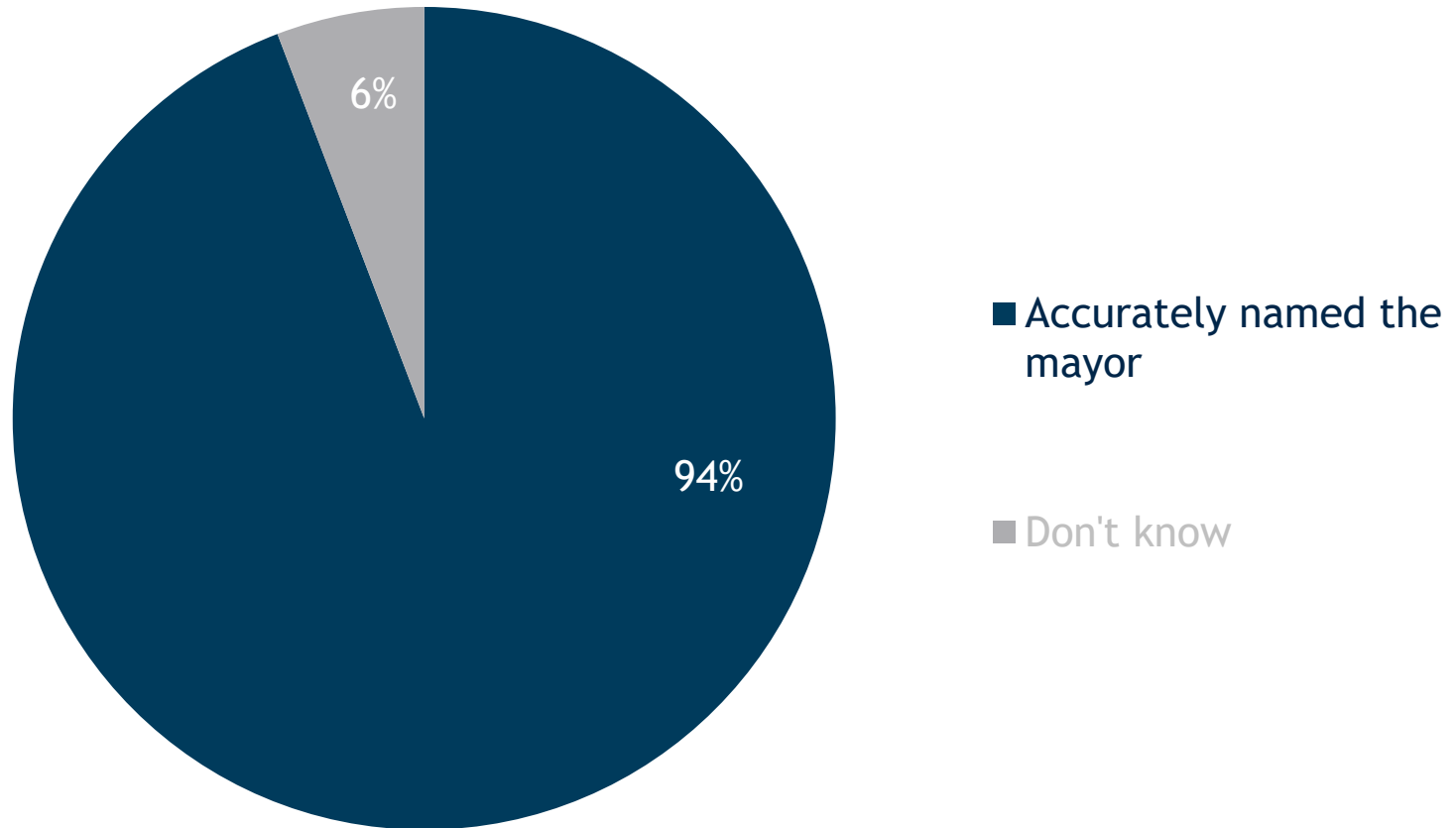


A PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE



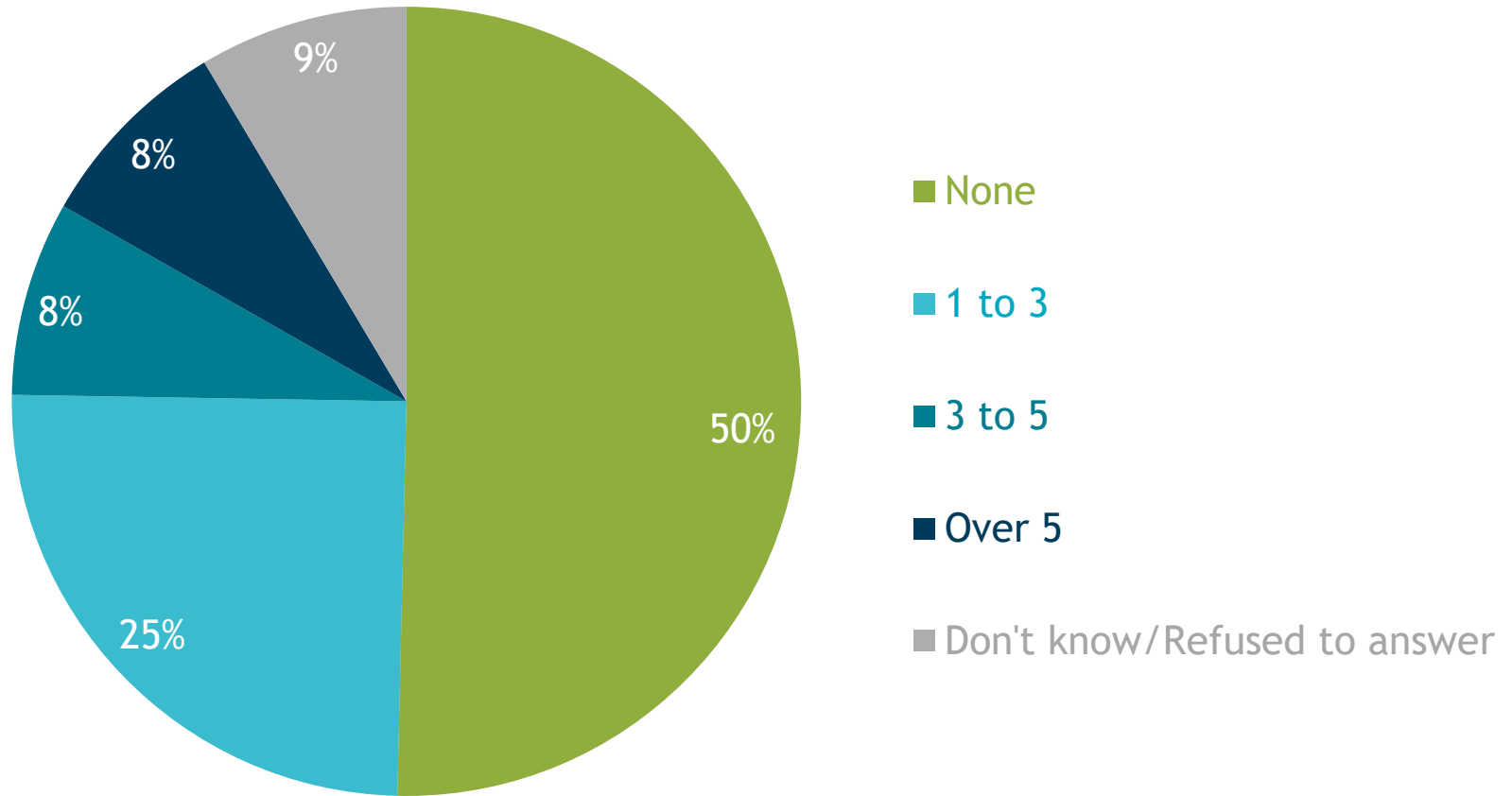
USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Can you please tell me the name of your mayor?*



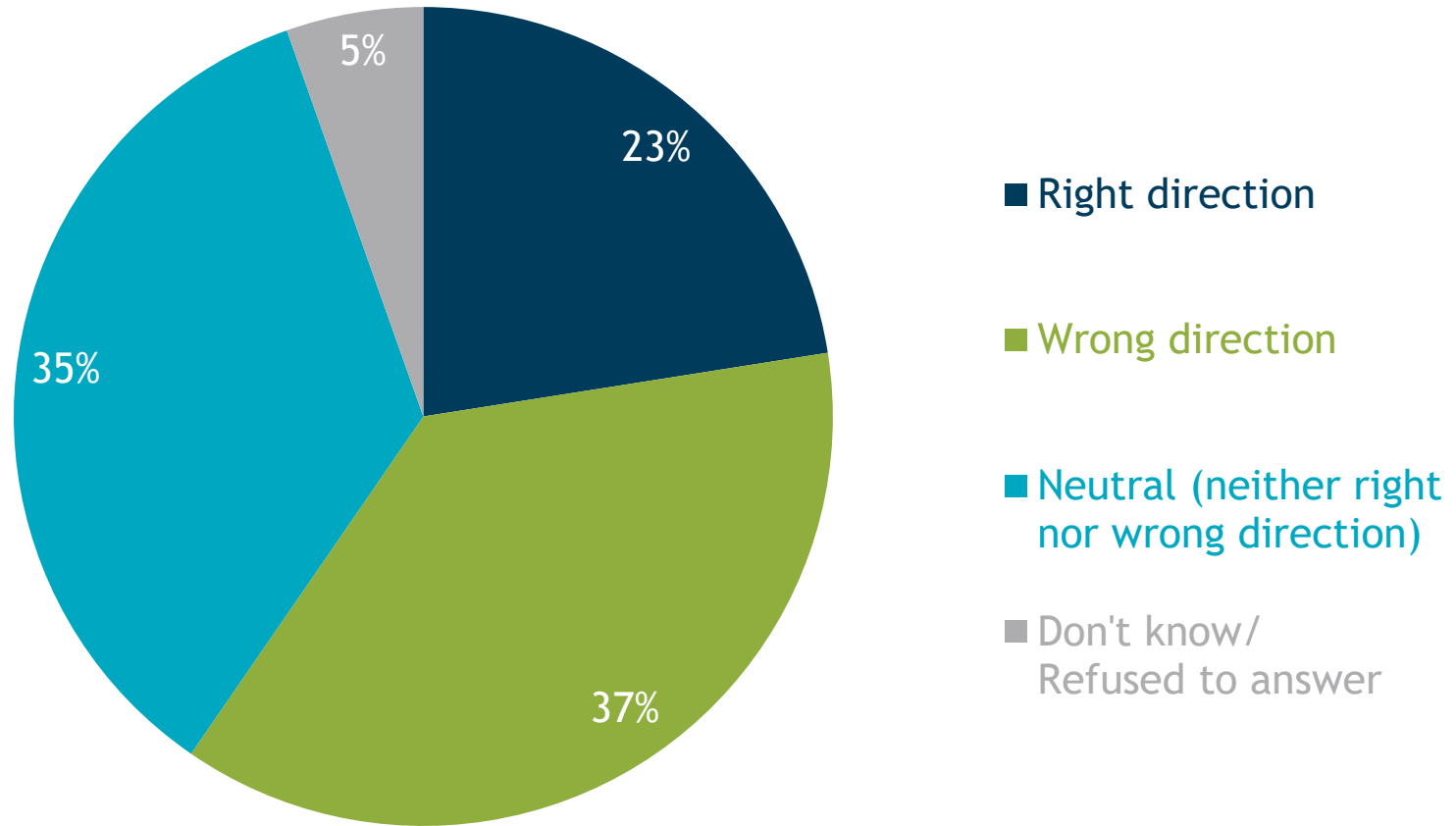
**Municipalities in Macedonia are run by directly-elected mayors. There are 80 municipalities in Macedonia; the city of Skopje is a separate local government unit.*

How many of your municipal councilors can you name?*

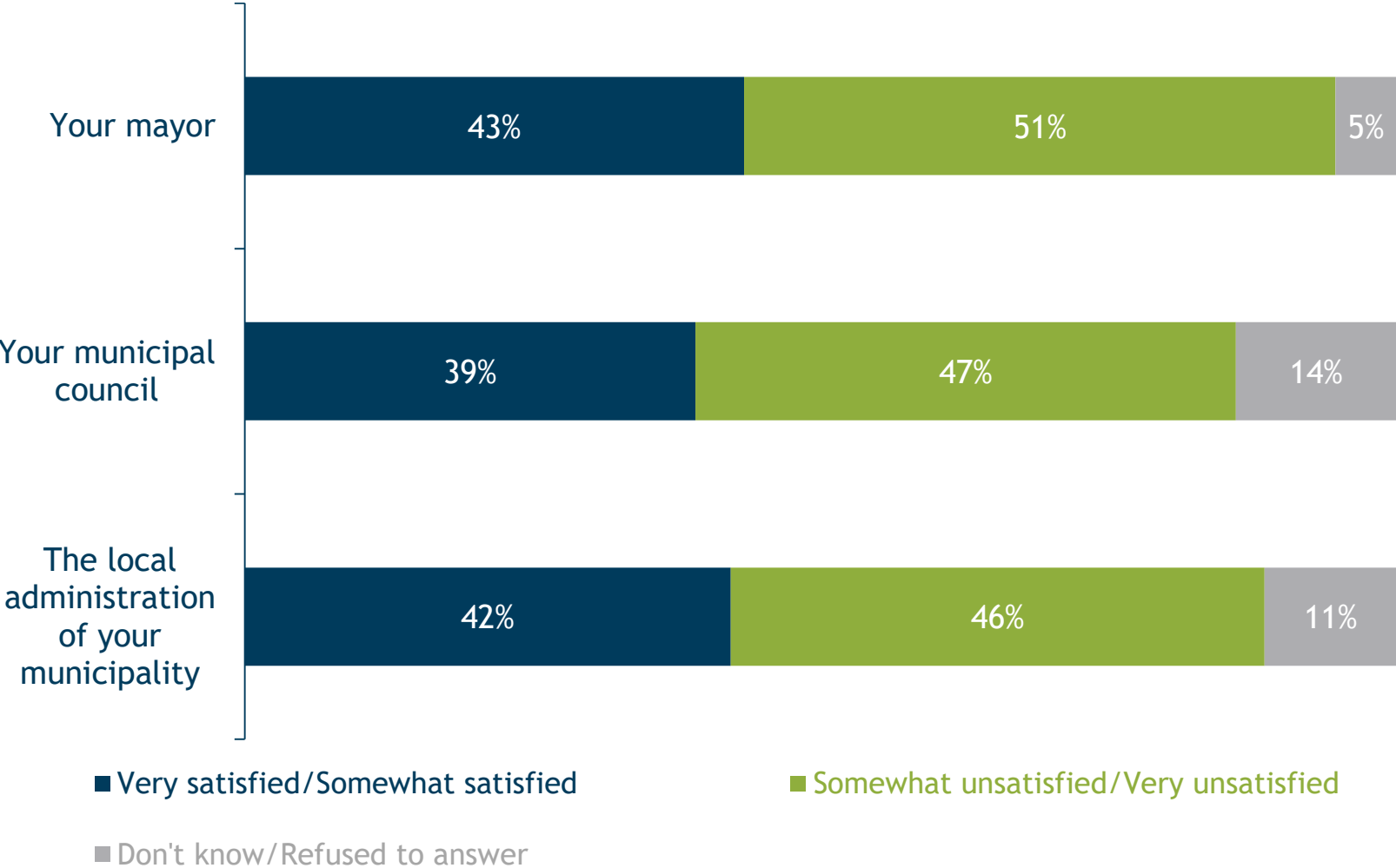


**A municipal council in Macedonia can be composed of between 9 to 33 councilors, elected from closed proportional party lists.*

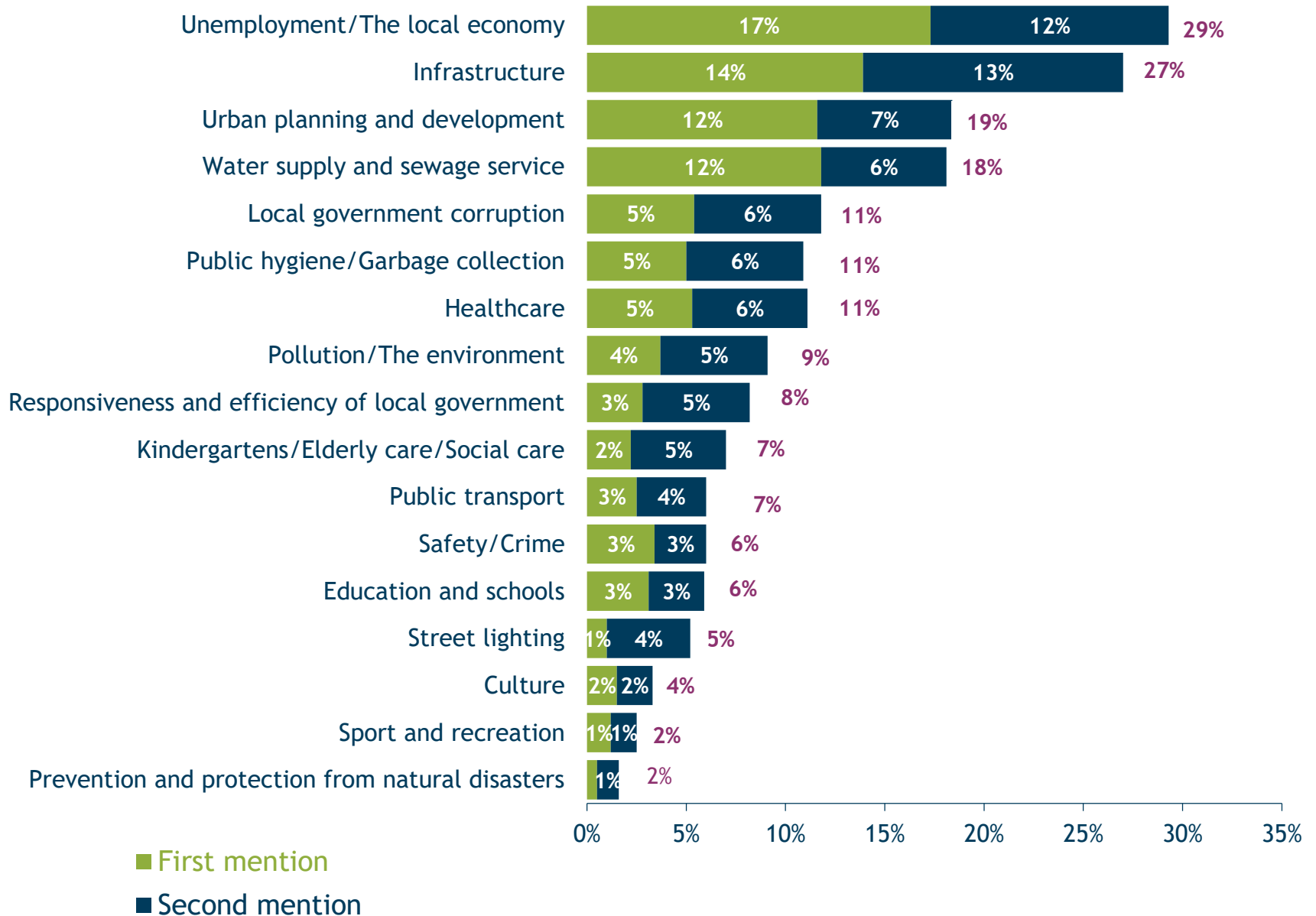
Overall, are things in your municipality moving in the right or wrong direction?



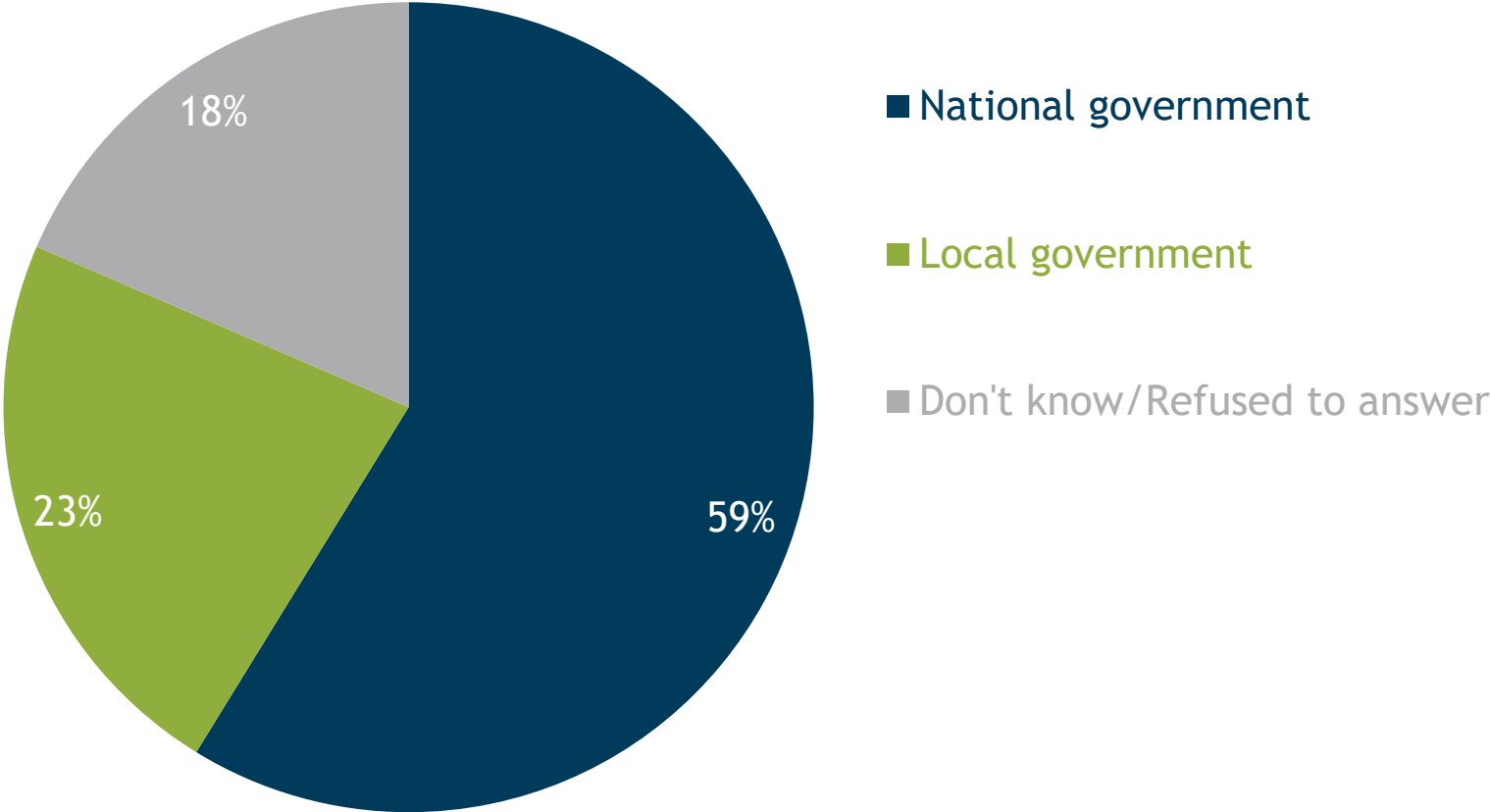
How satisfied or unsatisfied are you with the past performance of each of the following:



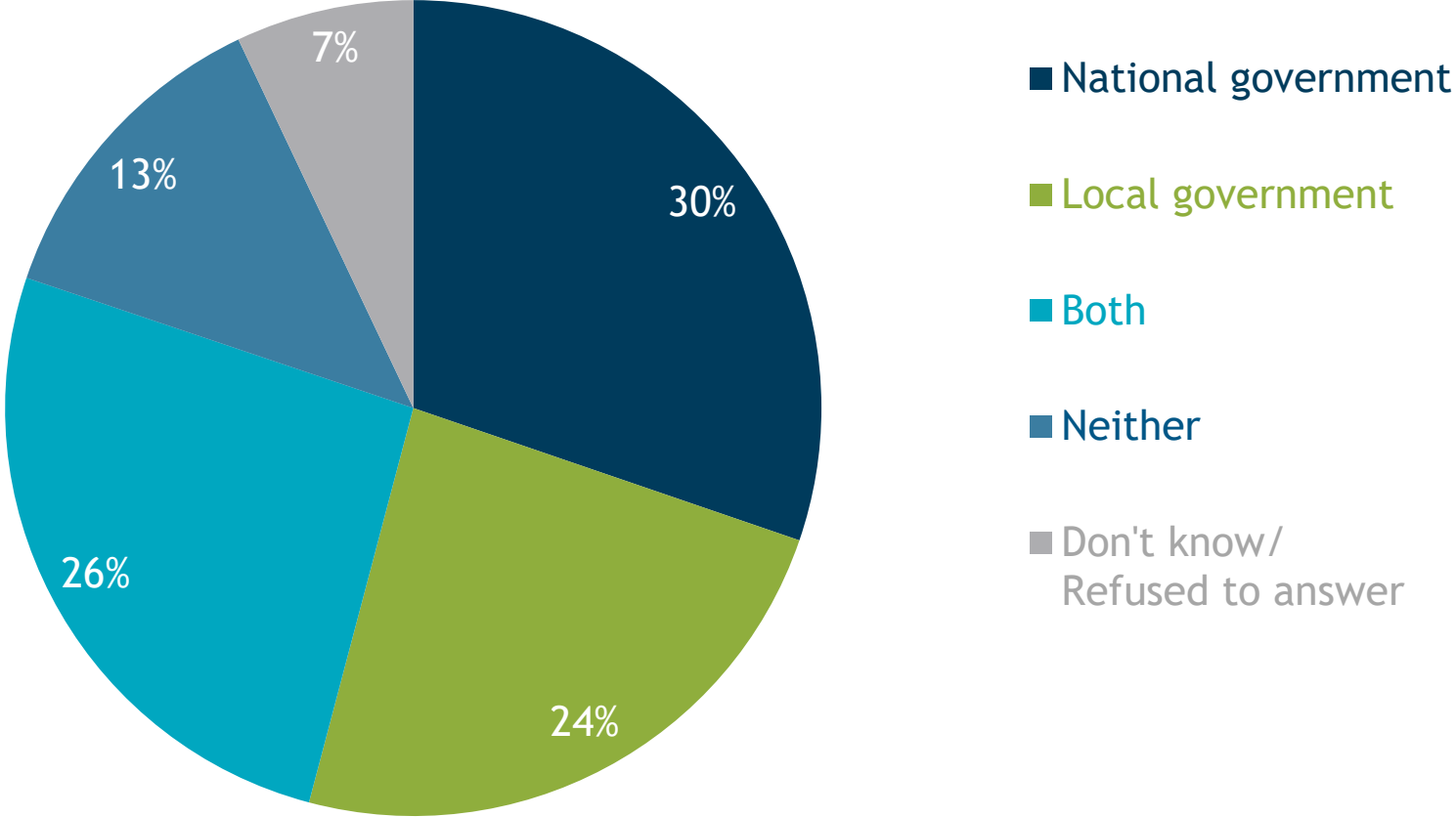
What are the most serious problems facing your municipality today?



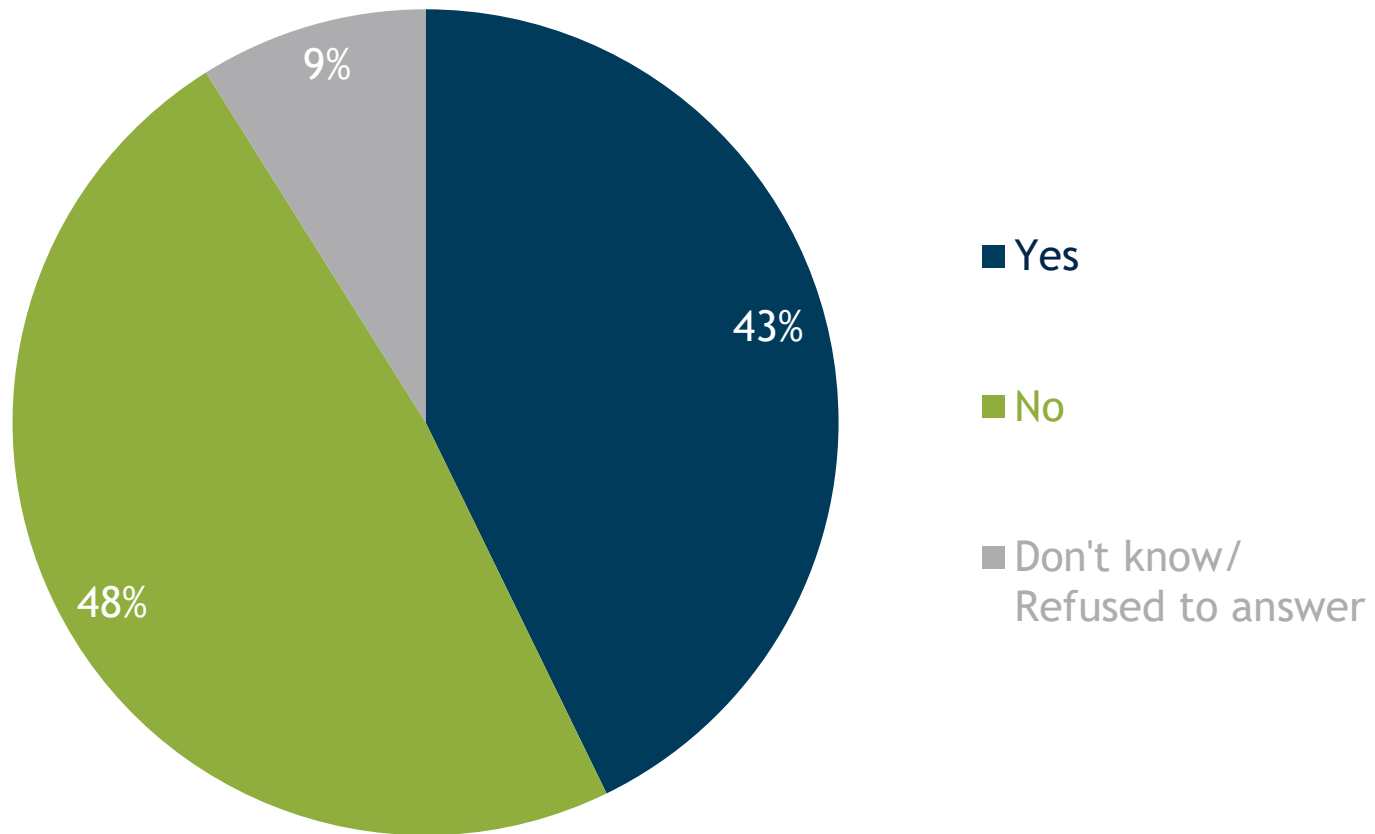
Which has more of an impact on your quality of life?



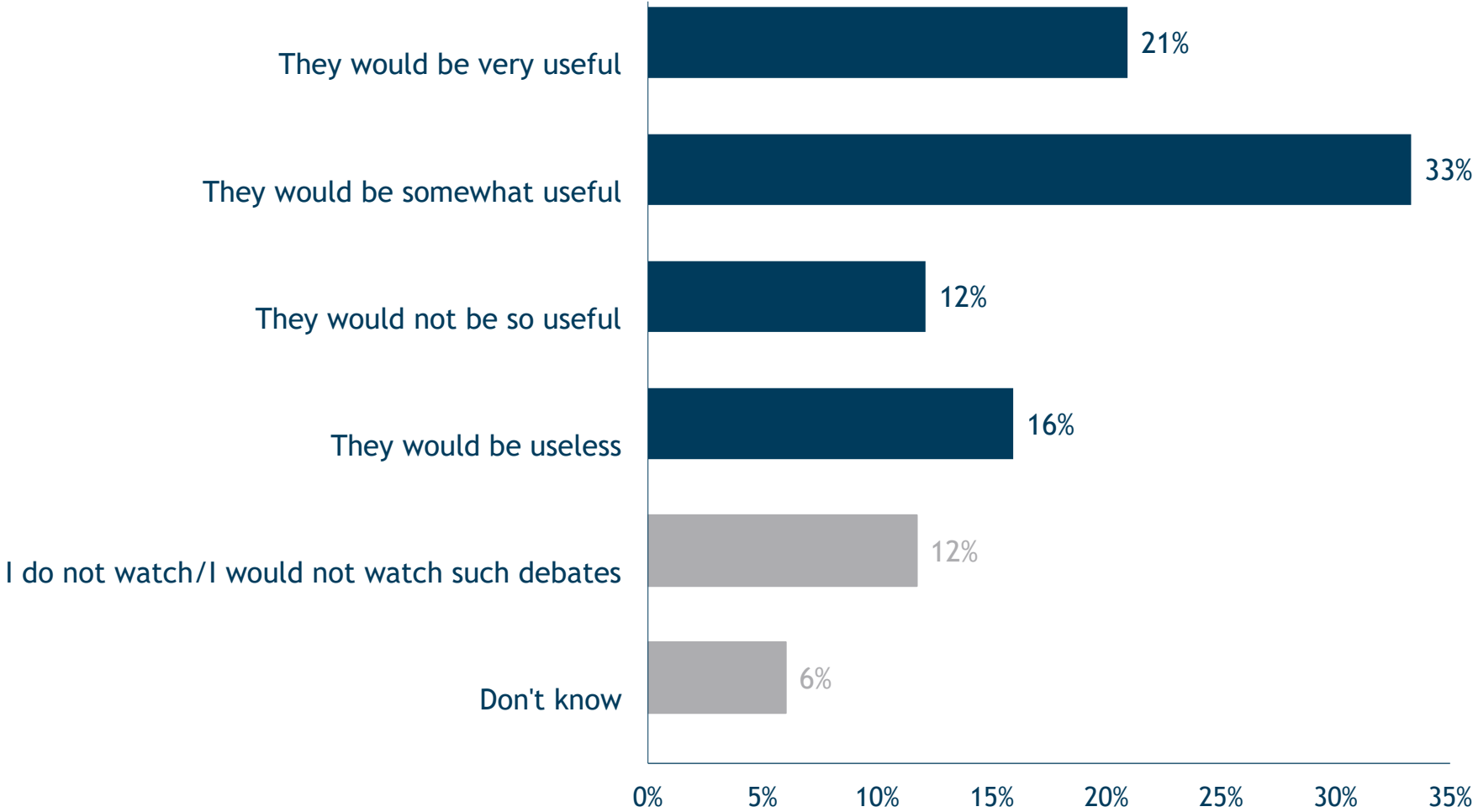
Which level of government is more responsive to citizen concerns?



Would you vote for a candidate from another ethnic community for mayor (e.g. Albanian, Macedonian, Serb, Roma, Turk, Vlach) if you thought s/he would better represent you?



To what extent would local policy-focused televised candidate debates be useful in informing your decision for whom to vote in the upcoming local elections?





Elections and Electoral Conditions

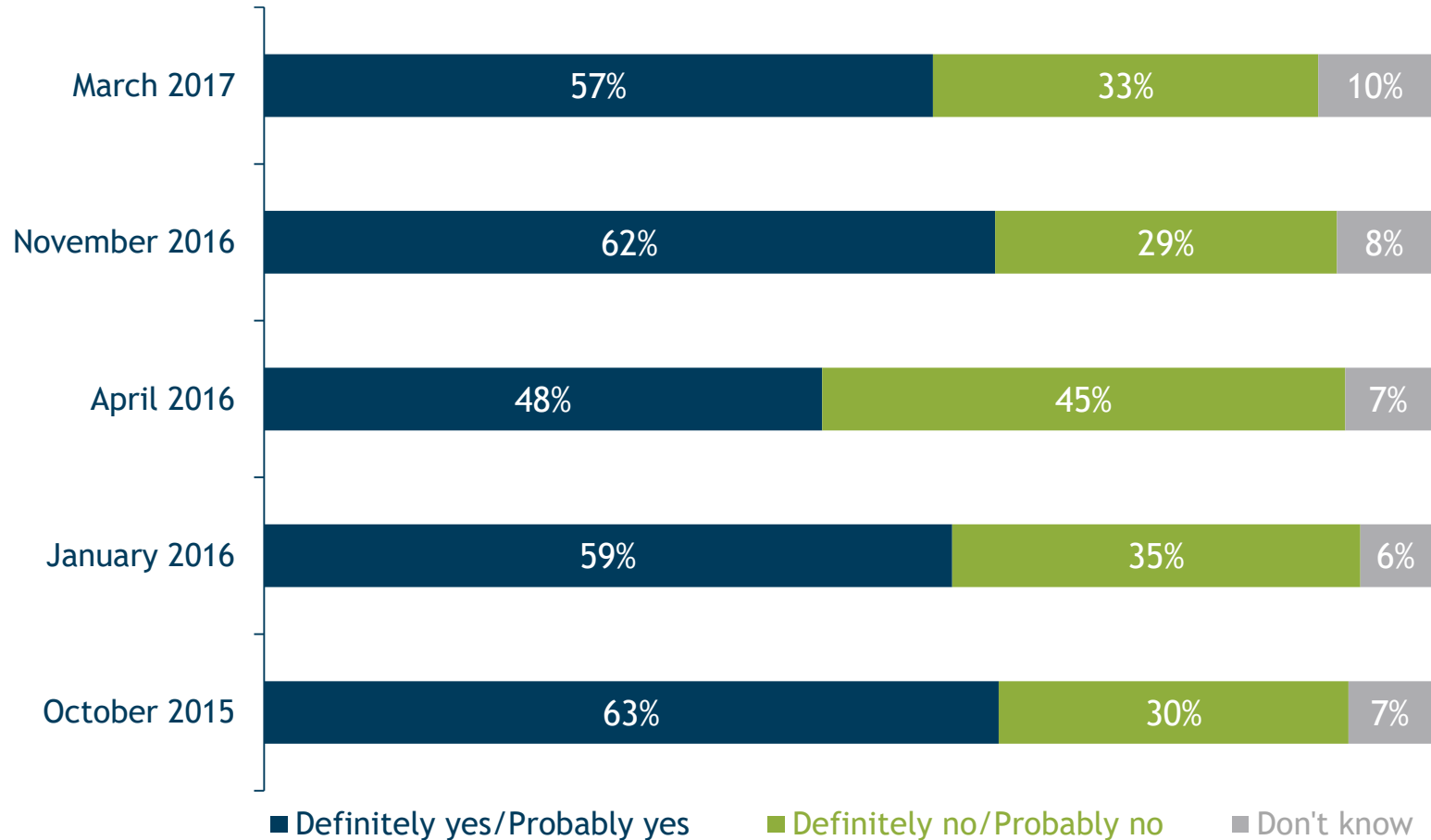


A PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE

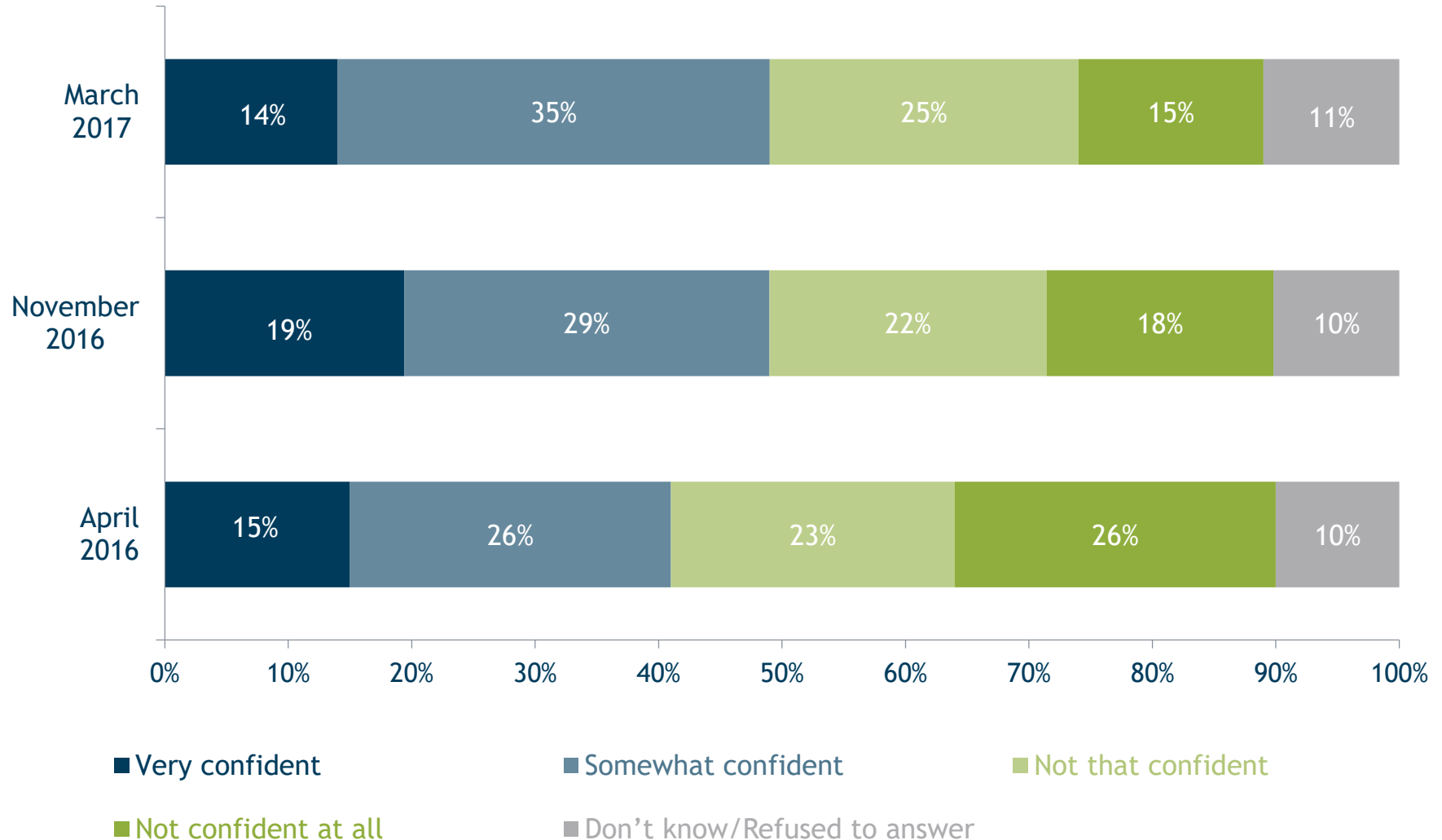


USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

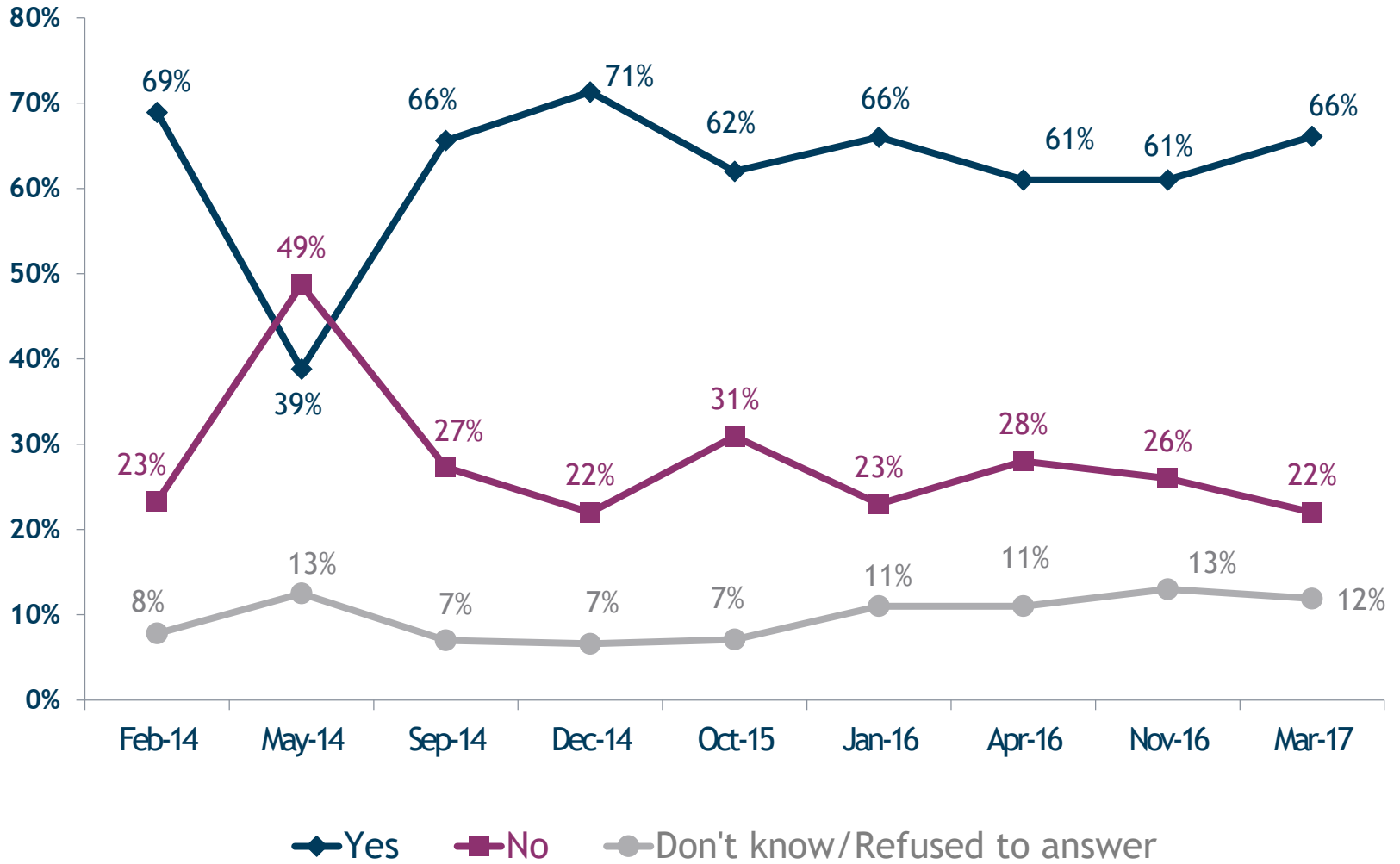
Do you think the conditions are in place in the country to hold free and fair elections?



As you may know, a credible voter list should contain all eligible voters in the country and should not contain any ineligible or duplicate voters. How confident are you in the accuracy of the voter list in Macedonia?



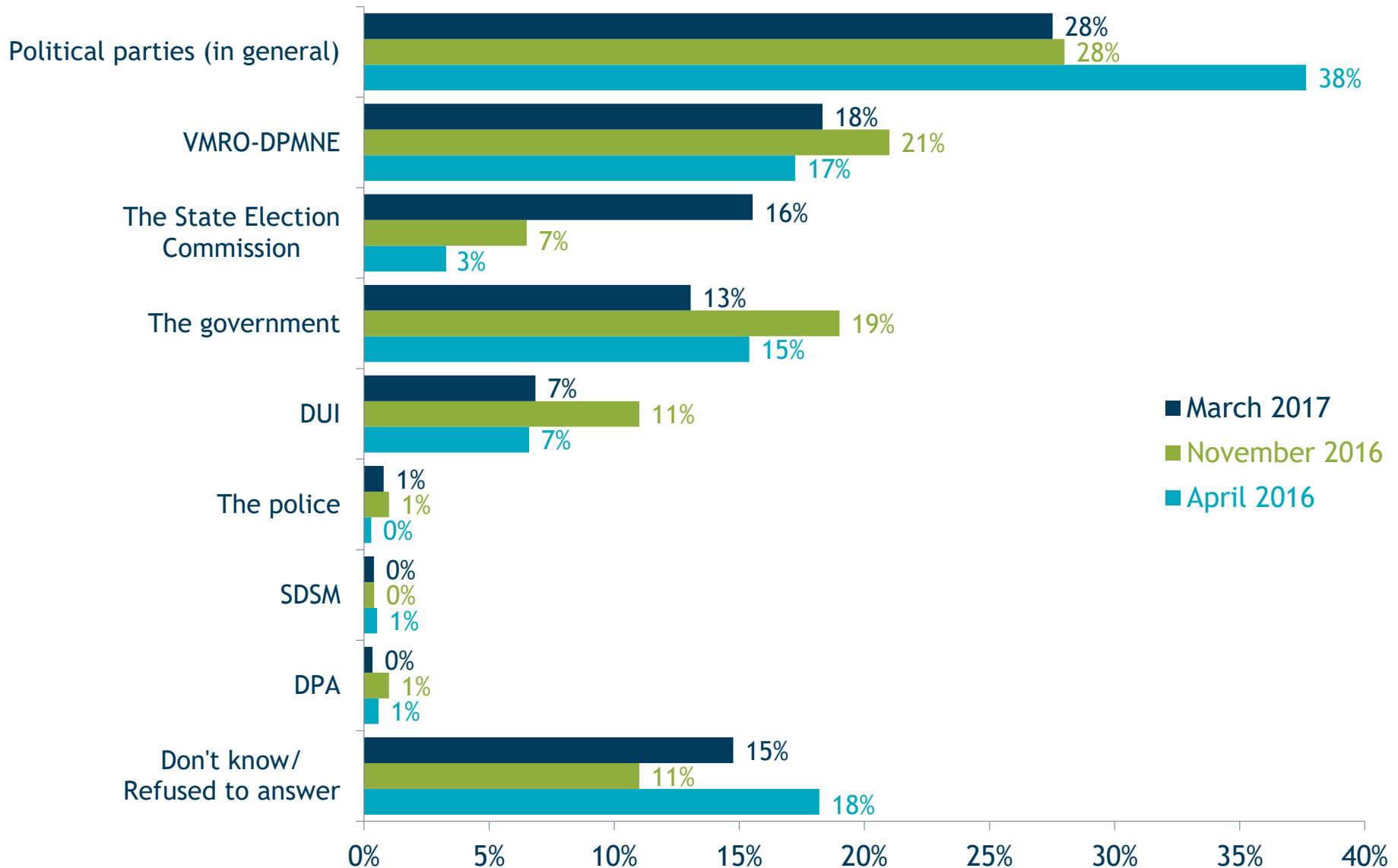
Do you believe that your vote on Election Day is secret?*



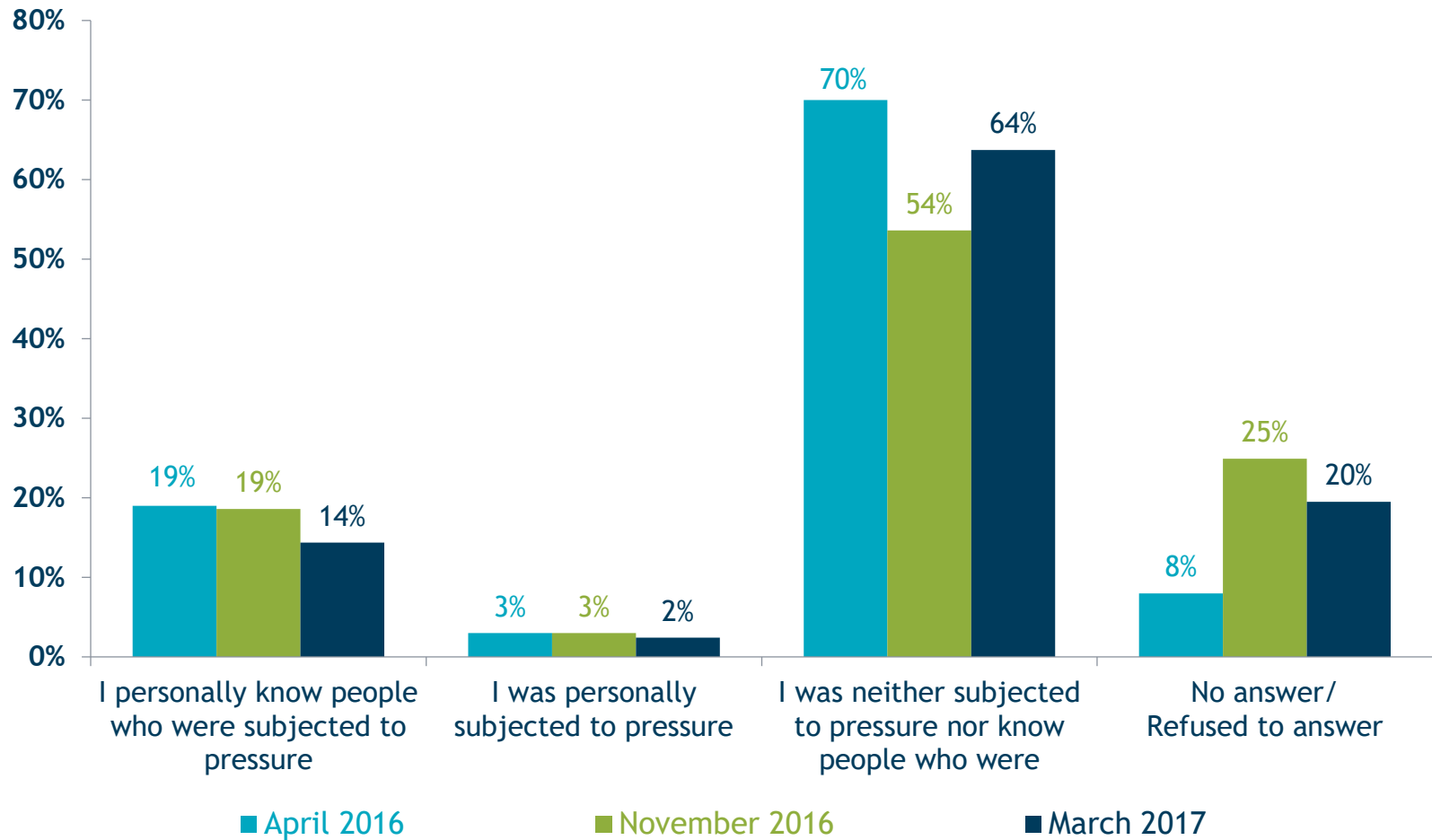
* In May 2014 the question was phrased as follows: "Do you believe that even though casting your vote on Election Day was secret, some political party knows for whom you voted?"

Who do you think violates the secrecy of your vote?

(Those who think that their vote on election day is not secret, n=244)

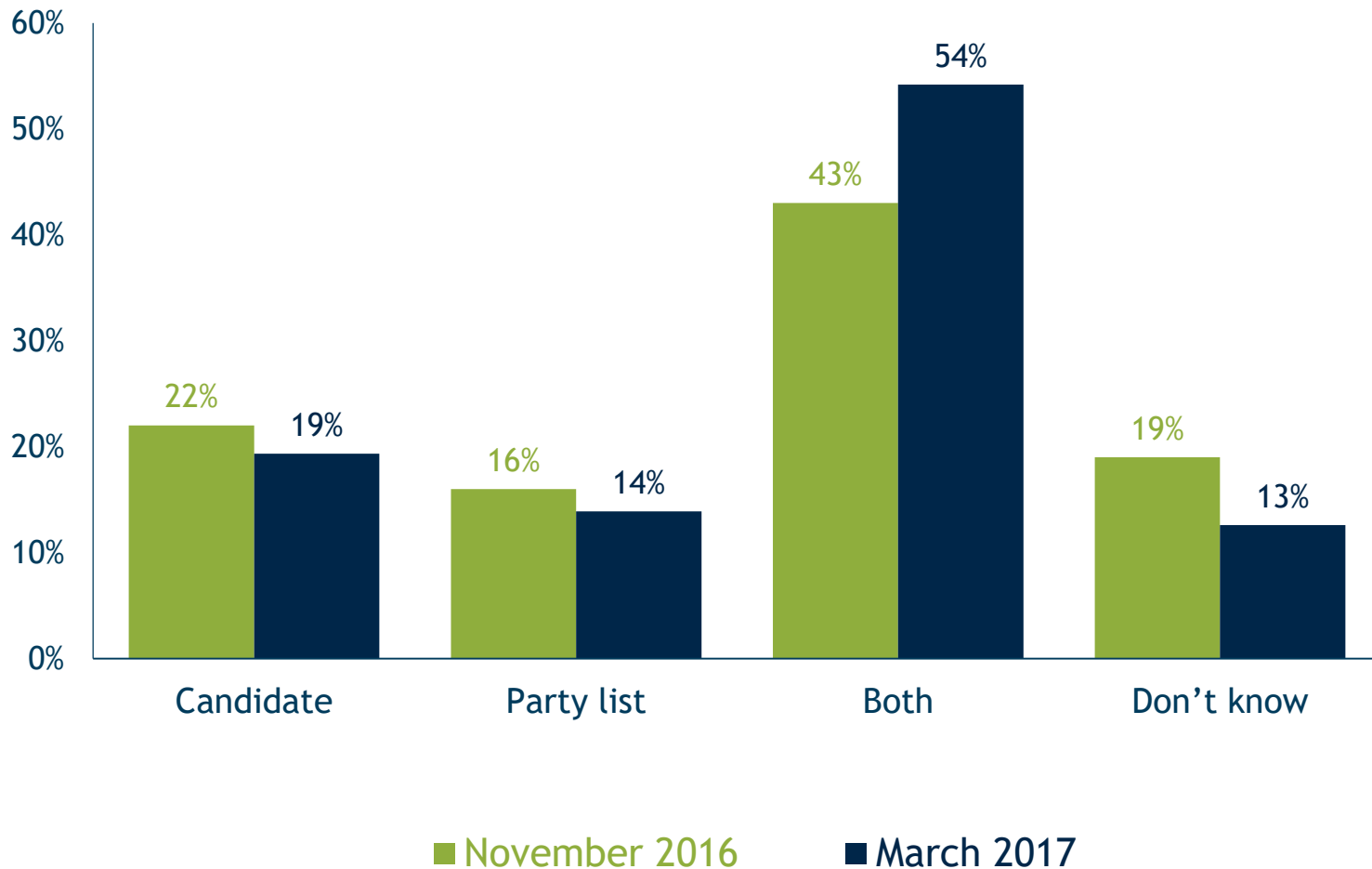


Have you, a relative or someone you know personally ever been subjected to pressure (such as force, threats, vote-buying or other illegal actions) to vote in a particular way?*

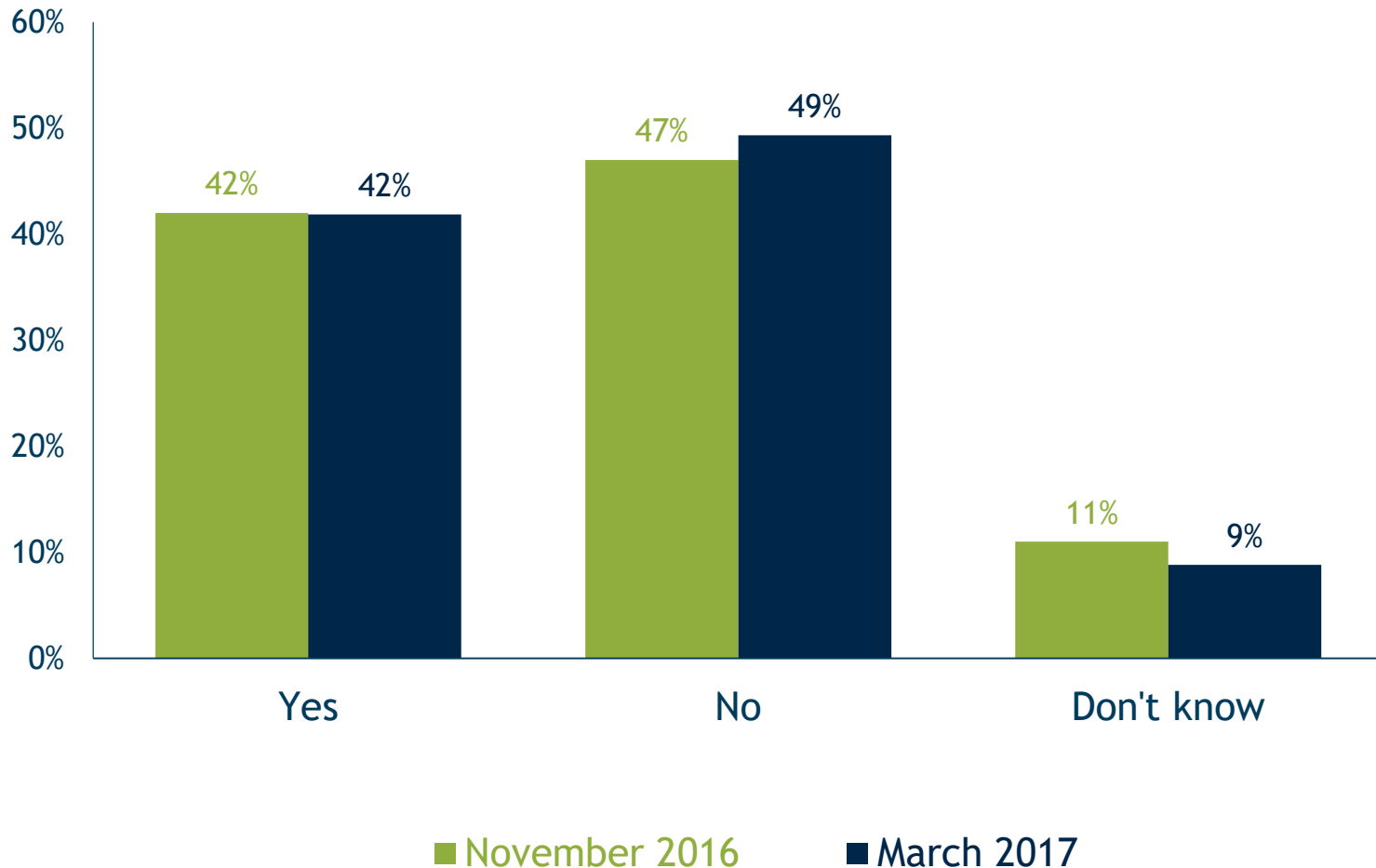


* In April 2016, this question referred to previous election cycles. In November 2016 and March 2017 the question was asked using the “sealed envelope method.” See “Methodology” for details.

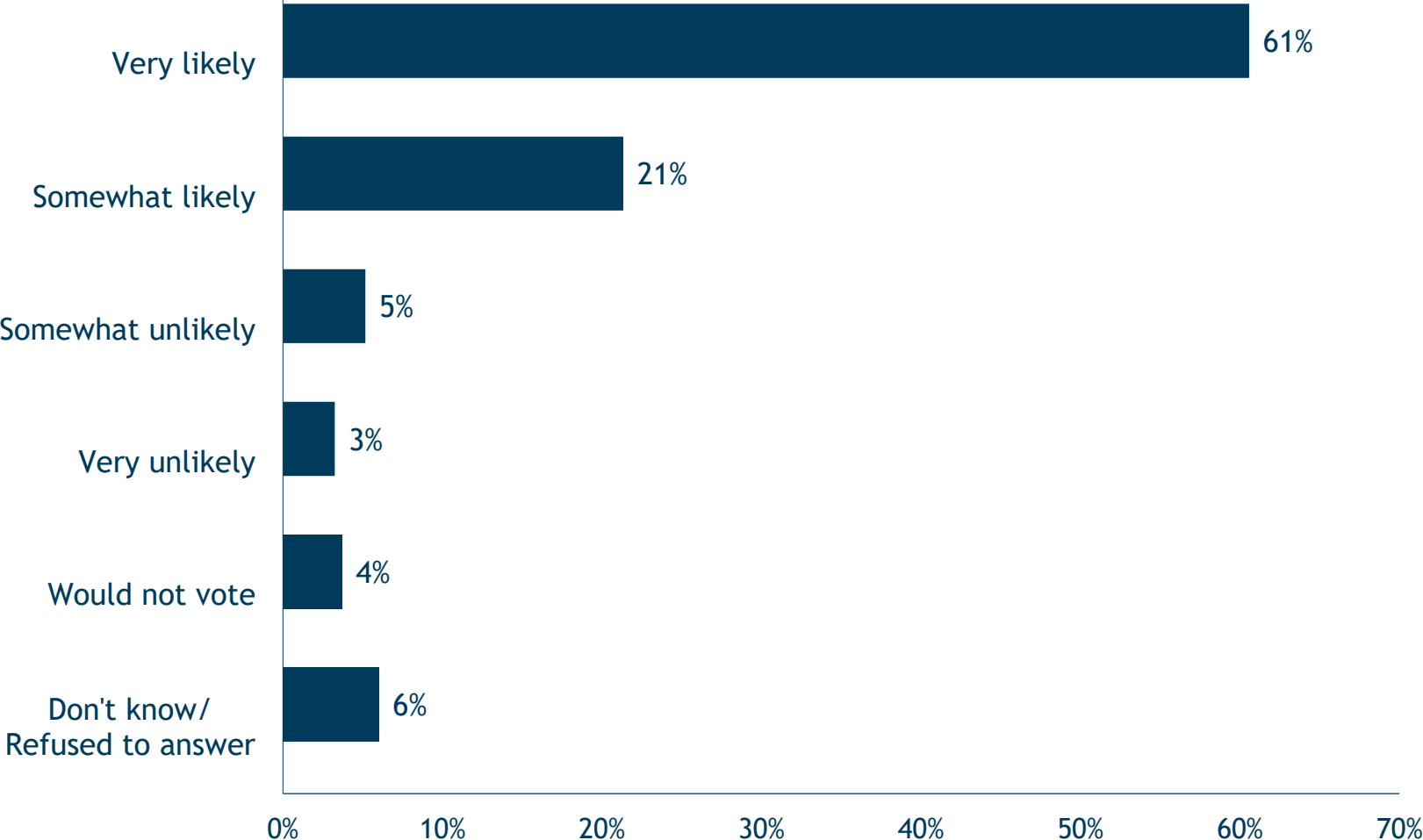
Would you prefer to vote for an individual candidate, a party list, or both?



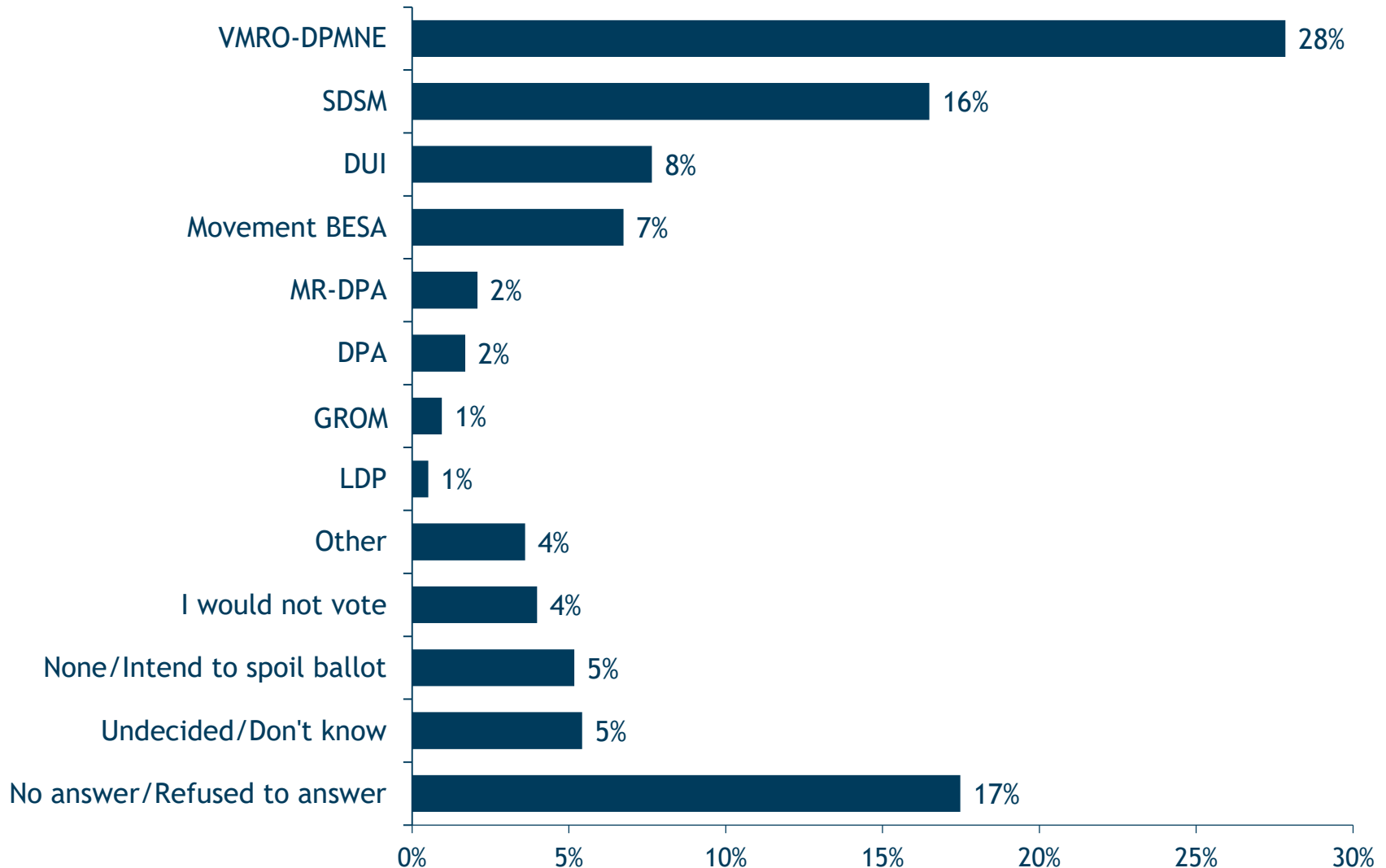
Would you vote for a candidate from a different ethnic group/community (e.g. Albanian, Macedonian, Serb, Roma, Turk, Vlach) if you think s/he will better represent you in Parliament?



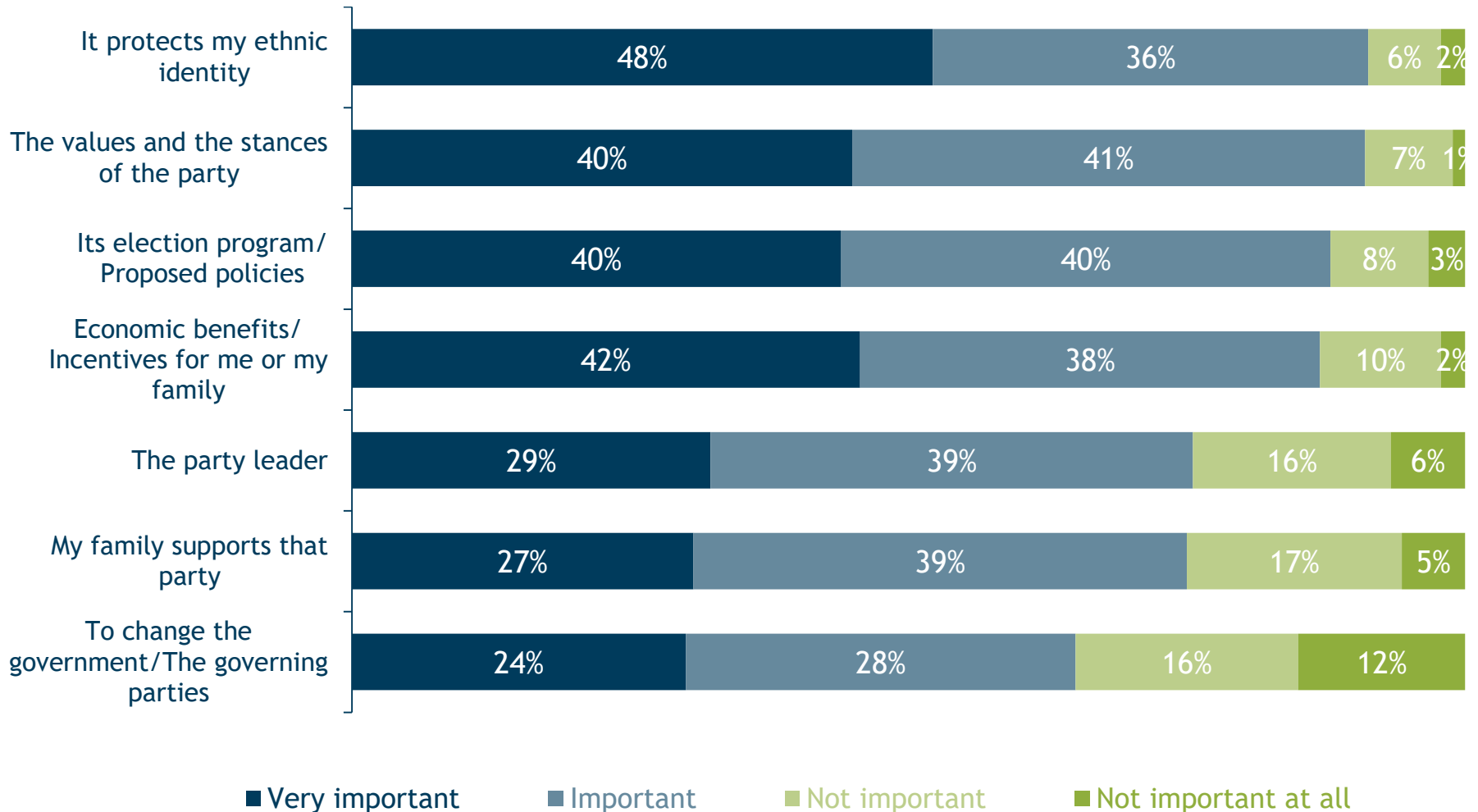
How likely are you to vote in the upcoming local elections?



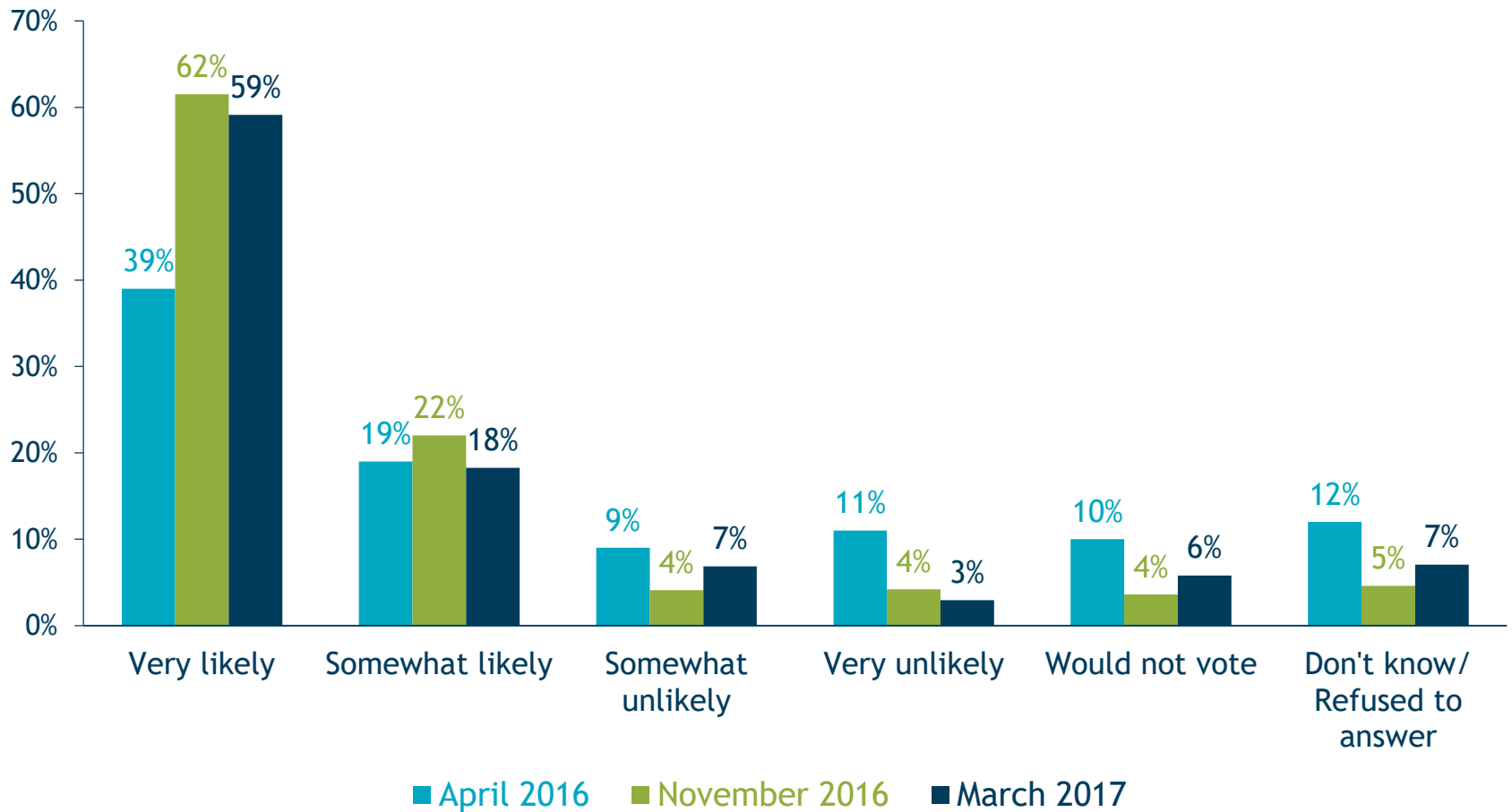
Which party would you vote for if municipal elections were held today?



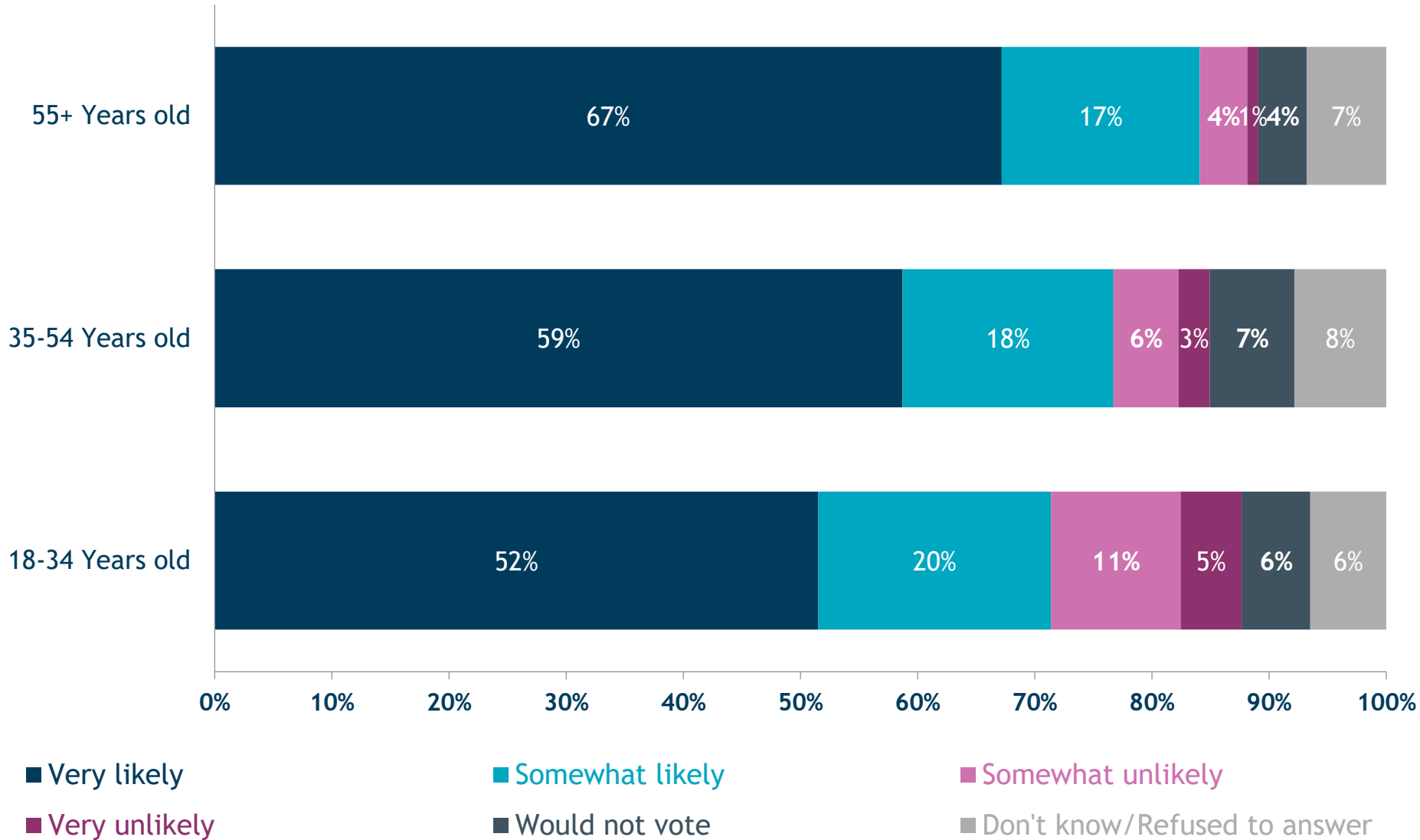
How important were each of the following in determining the party/coalition for which you voted in the December 2016 parliamentary elections?



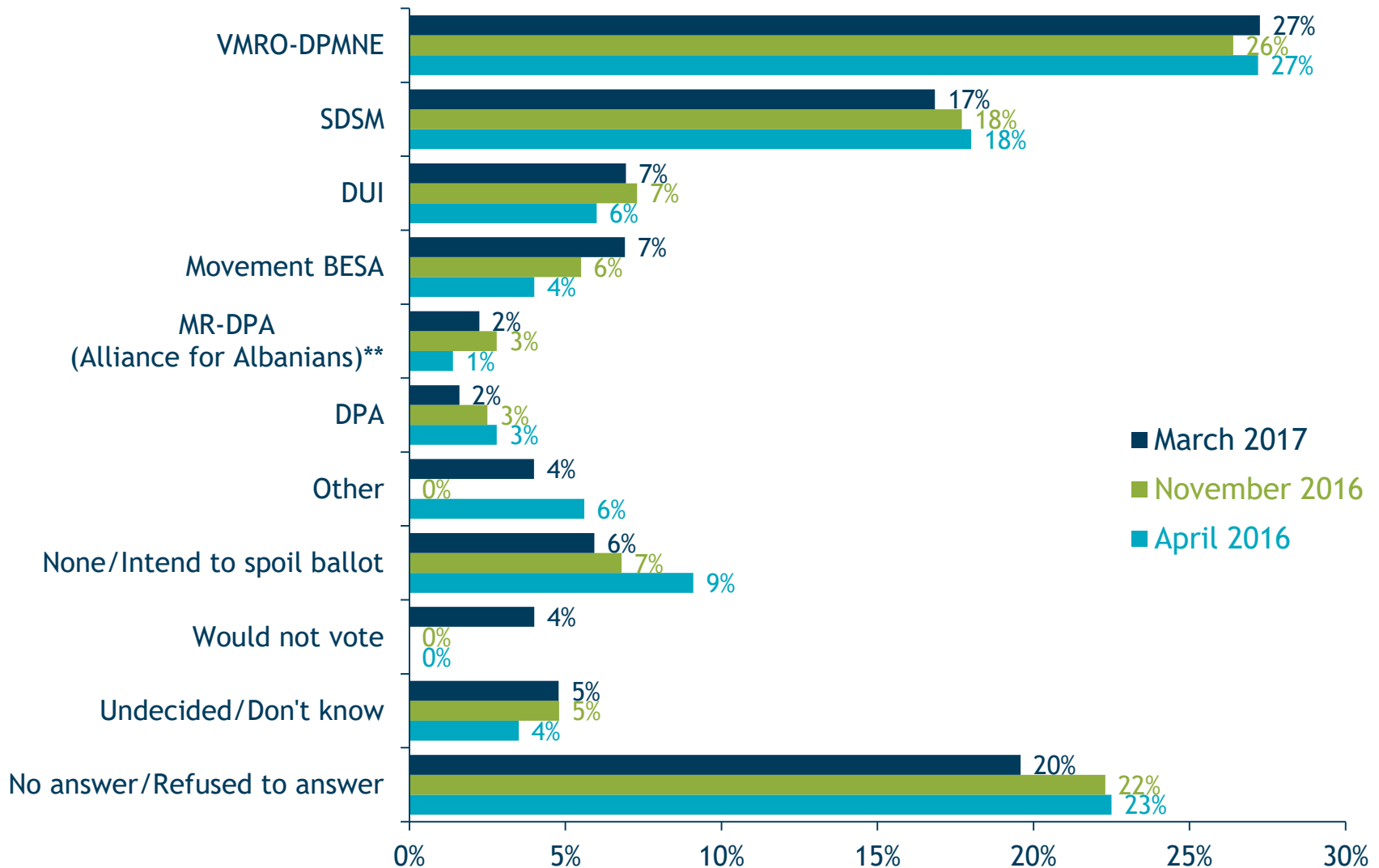
If parliamentary elections were held today, how likely would you be to vote?



If parliamentary elections were held today, how likely would you be to vote? *(Disaggregated by age)*



For which party would you vote if parliamentary elections were held today?*



*Question asked using the “sealed envelope method.” See “Methodology” for more detail.

** In the November 2016 poll, MR-DPA was listed as Alliance for Albanians, as the party led a coalition under this name for the December 2016 elections.

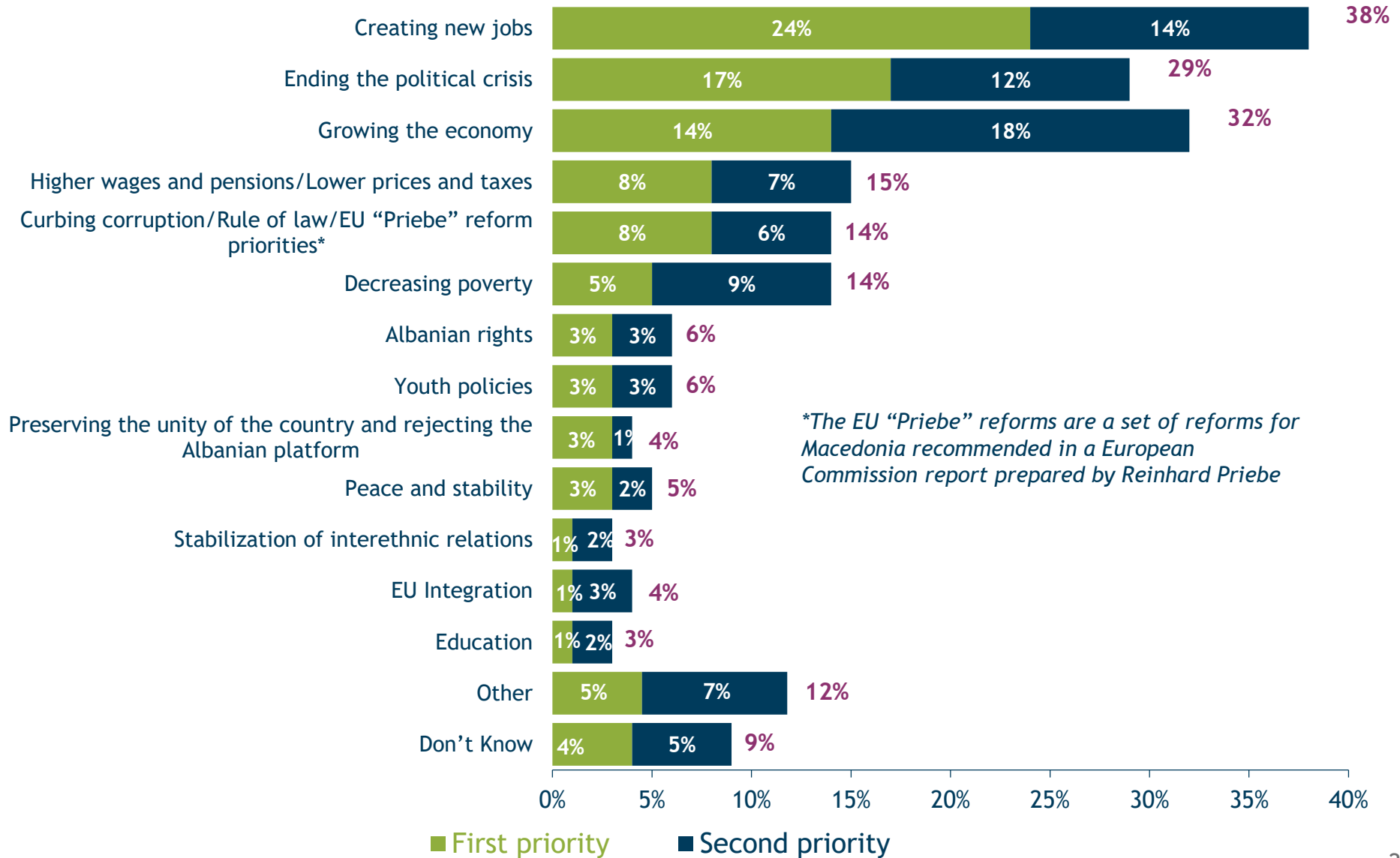


Top Priorities for the New Government

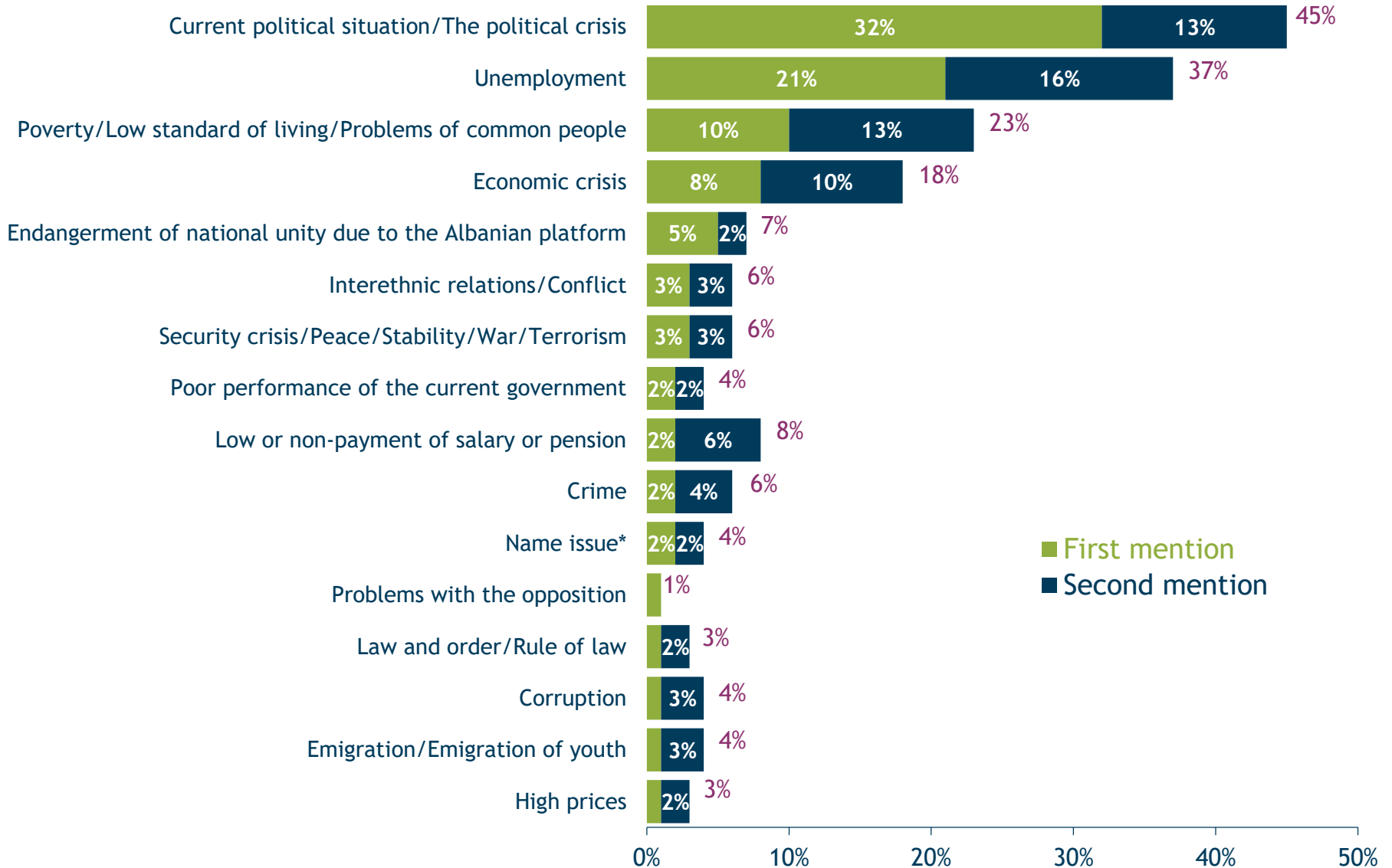


USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

What should the new government's top two priorities be for the first two months? (Open-ended)

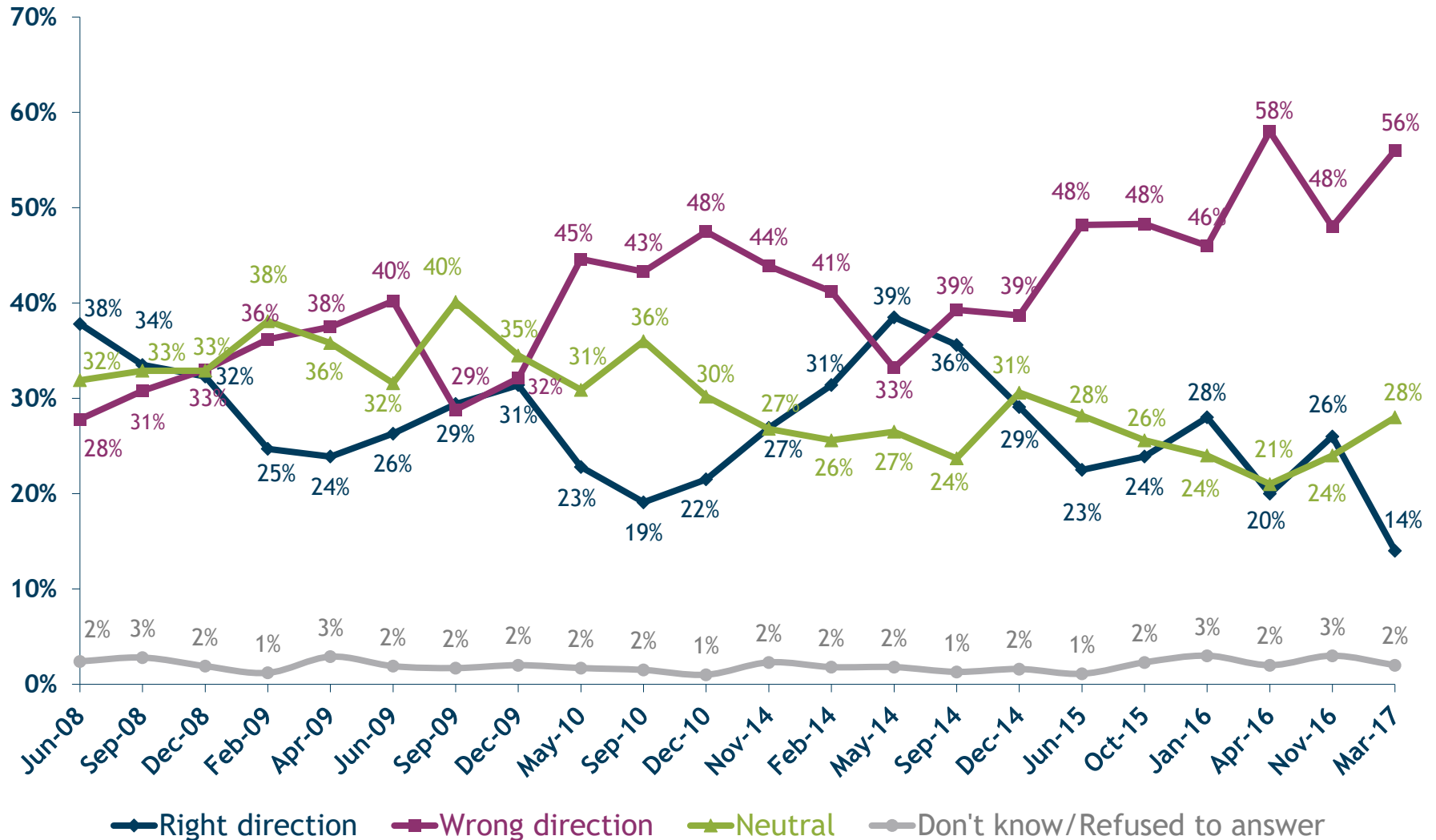


In your opinion, what are the two most serious problems facing Macedonia today? (Open-ended)

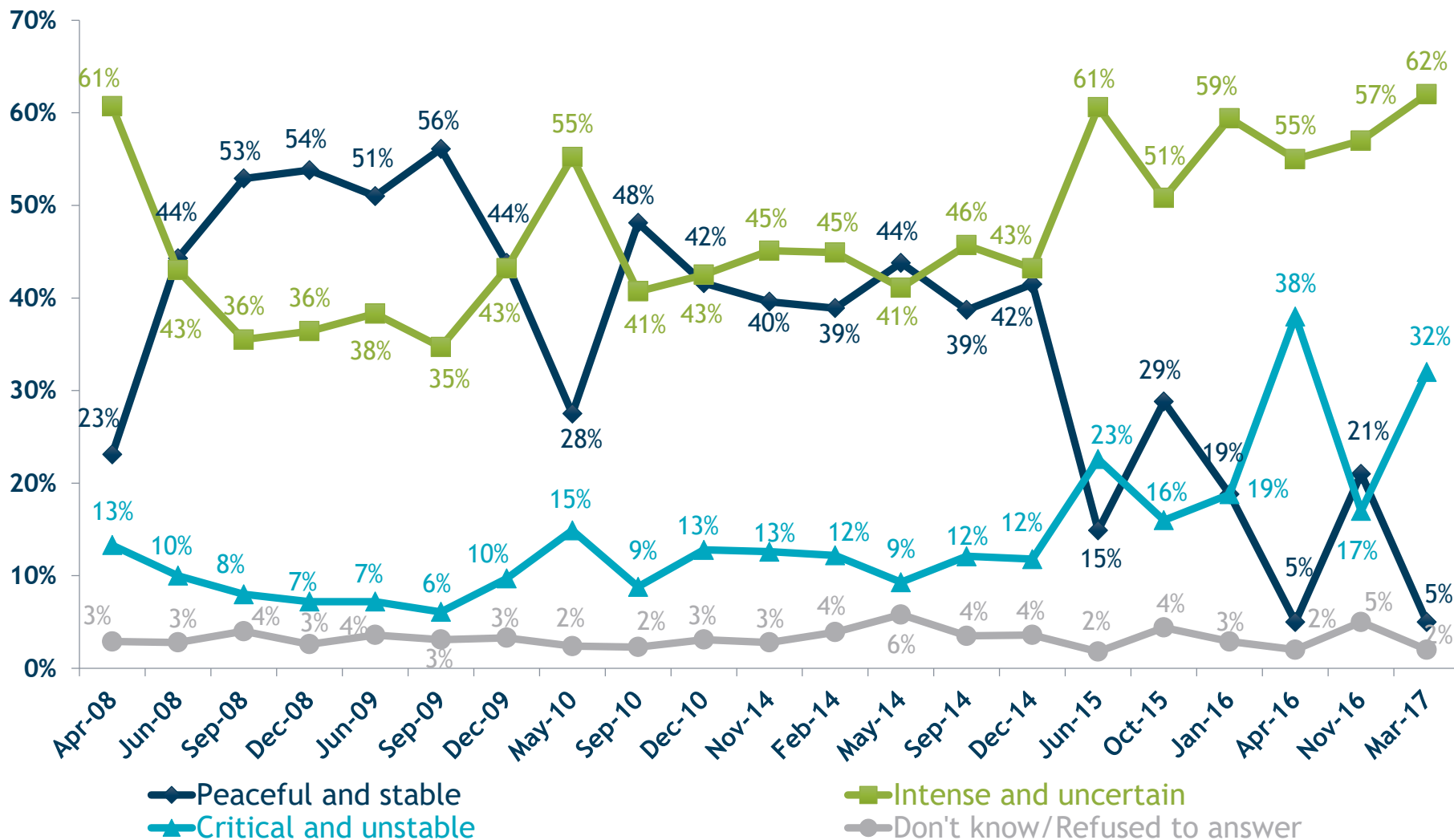


*There is an ongoing diplomatic dispute over the official name of Macedonia.

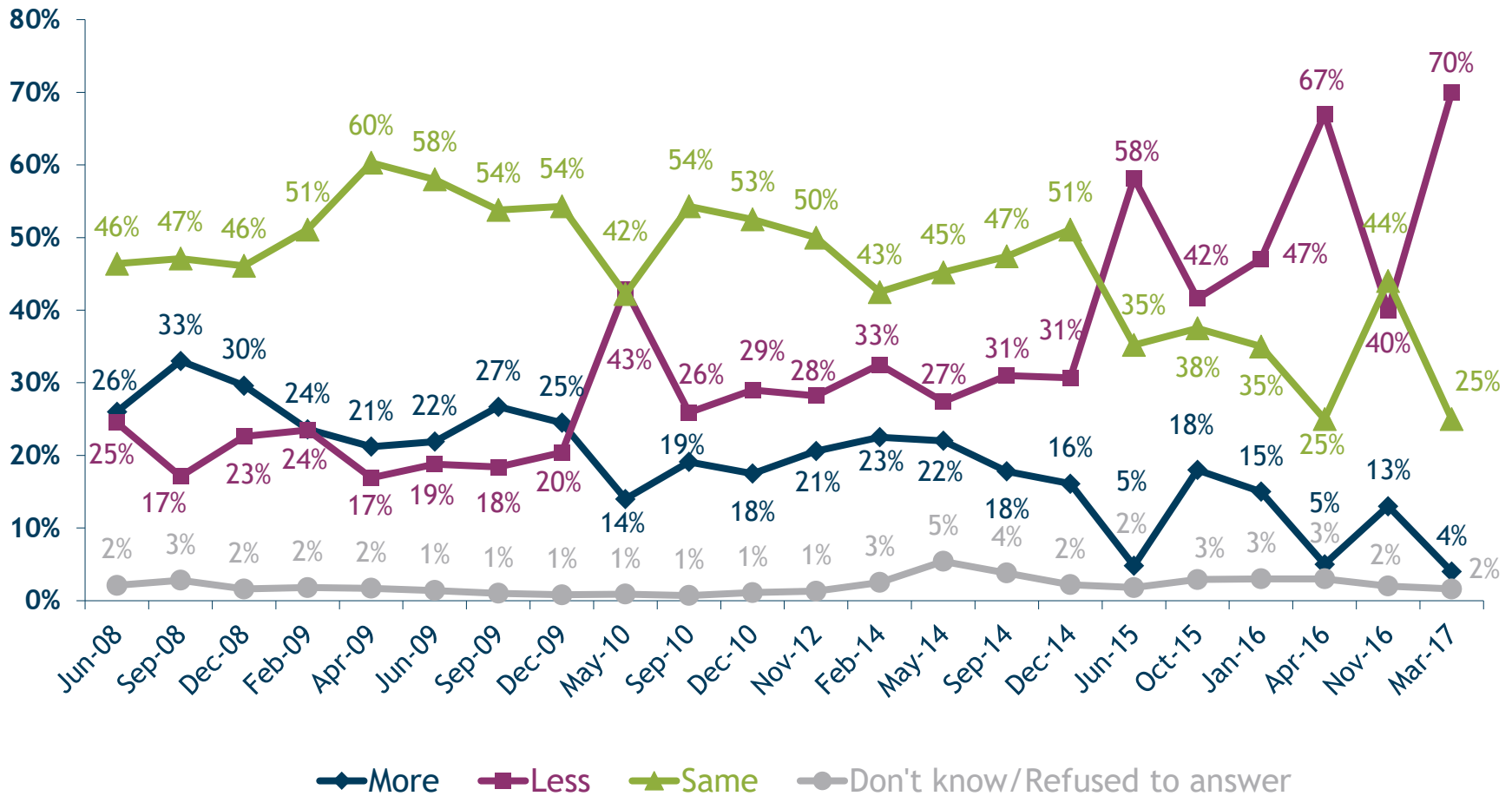
Overall, is Macedonia moving in the right or wrong direction?



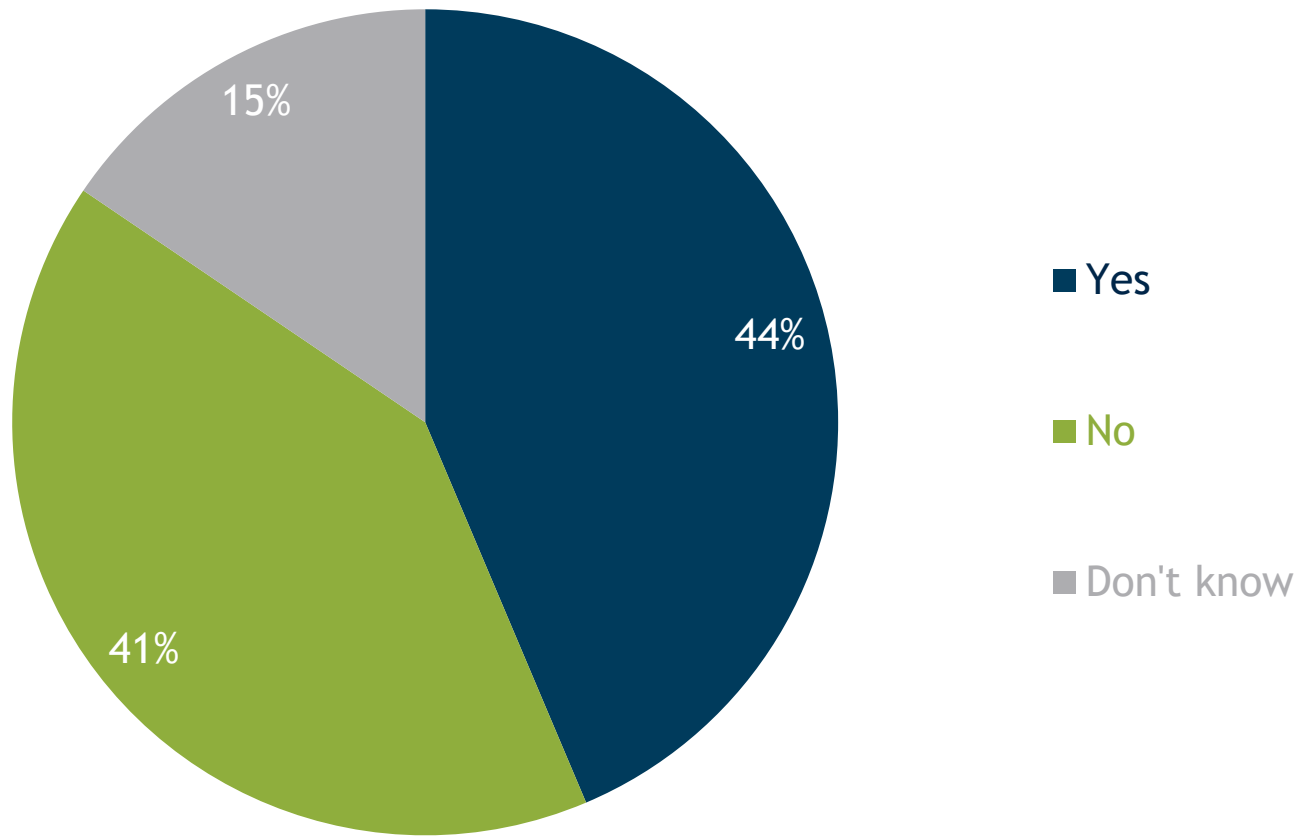
How would you describe the current internal political situation in Macedonia?



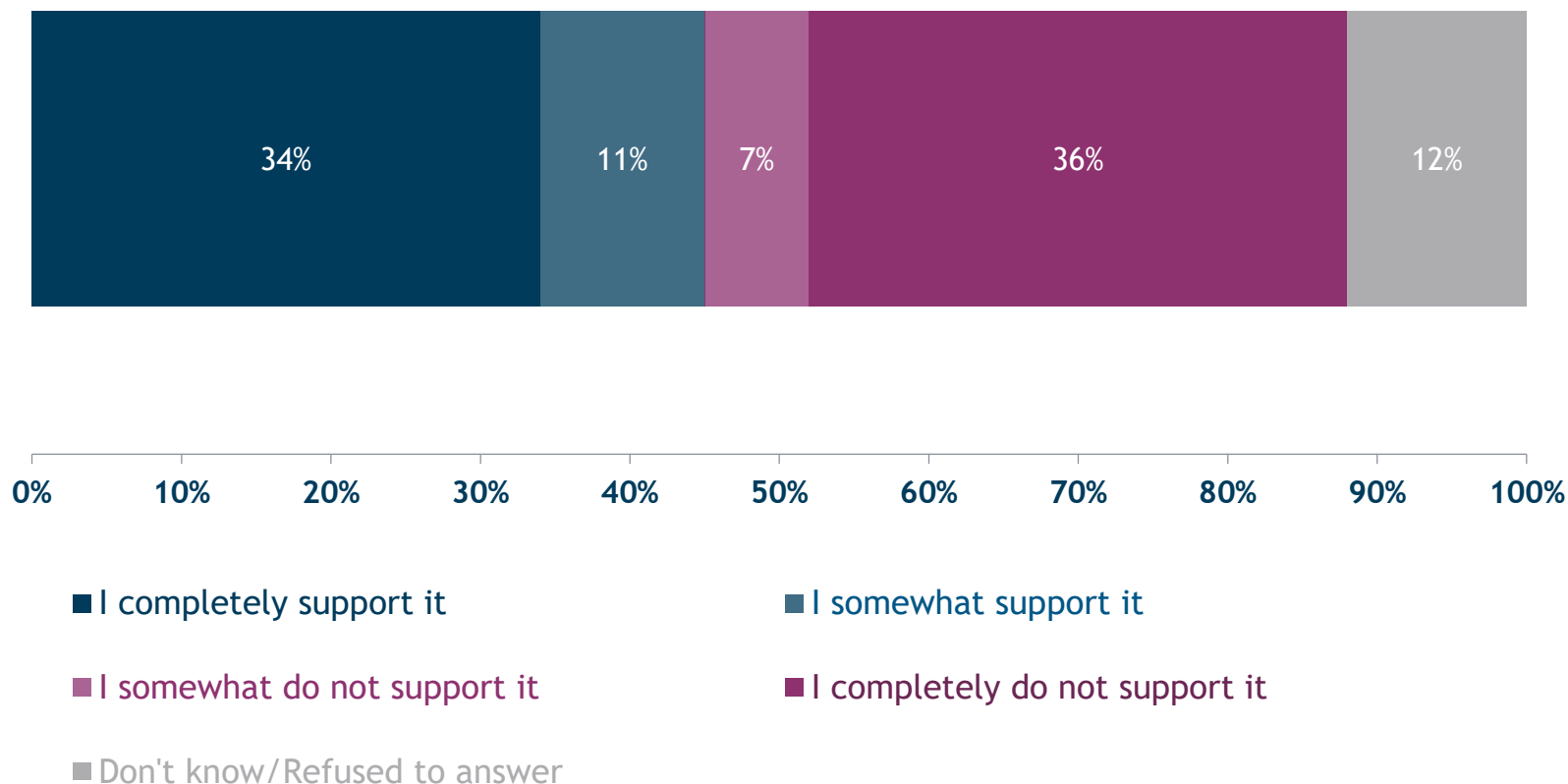
Is the Republic of Macedonia more or less stable today than it was one year ago?



Should there be early parliamentary elections?

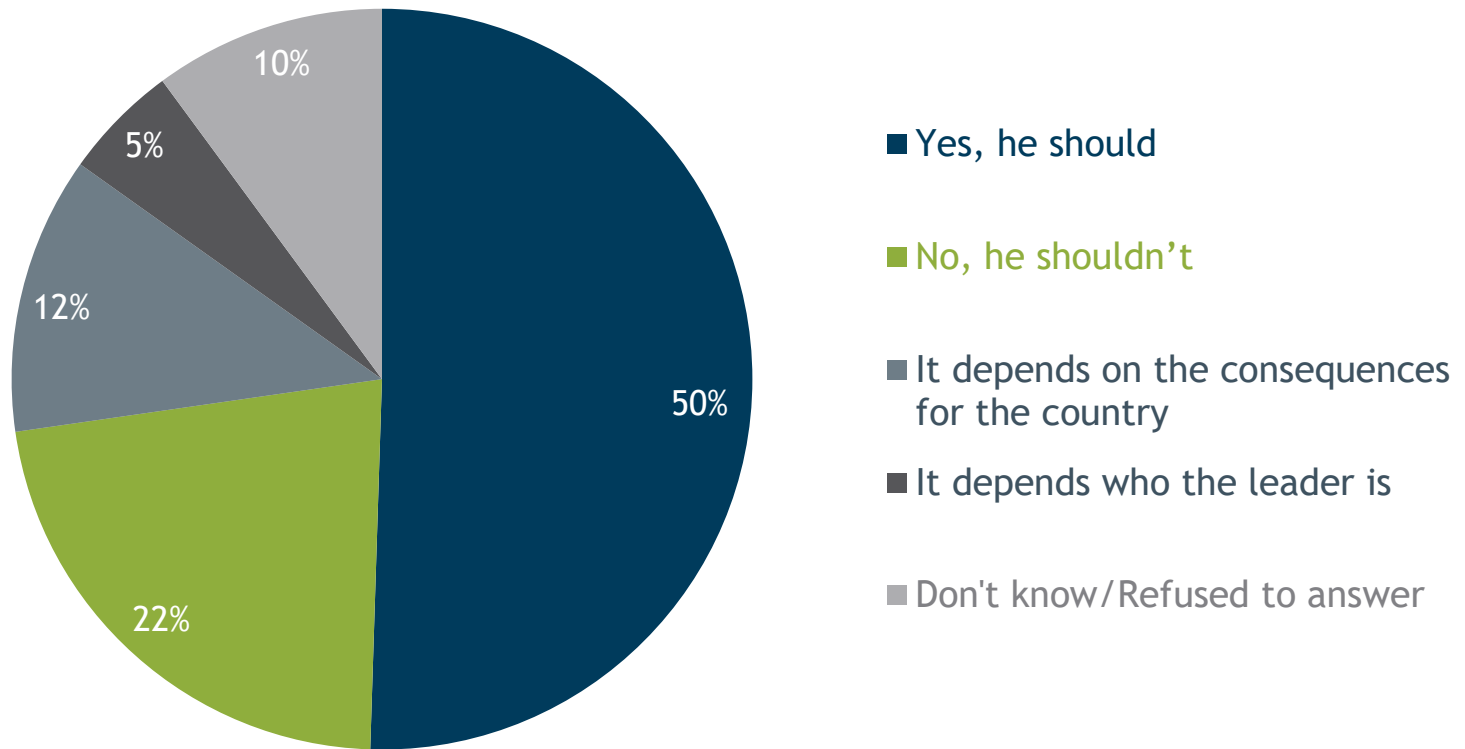


To what extent do you support or not support President Ivanov's decision to withhold the mandate to form a government from SDSM president Zoran Zaev?*

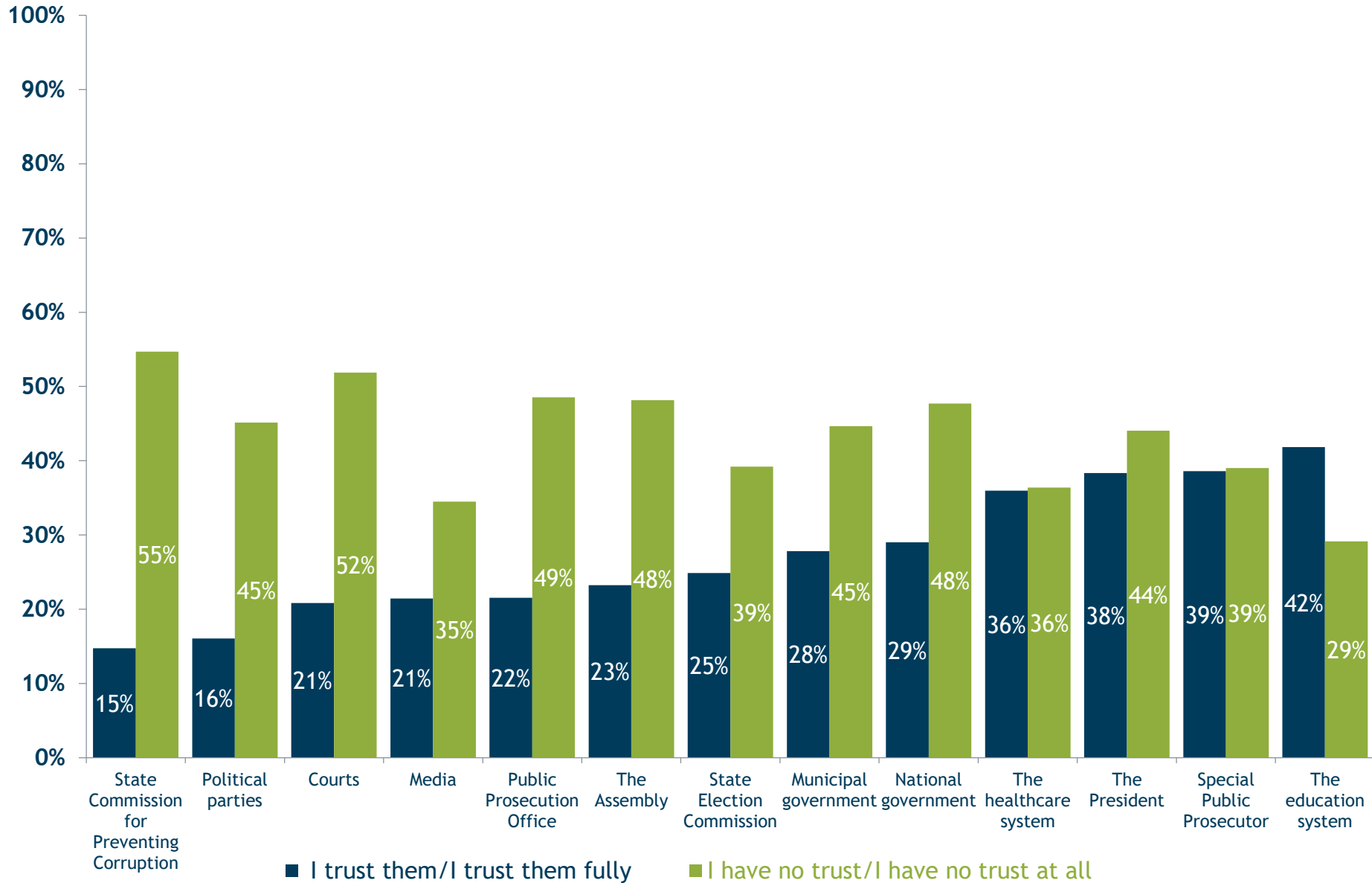


**President Ivanov has refused to grant a mandate to form a government to the SDSM-led coalition despite the fact that SDSM has a parliamentary majority.*

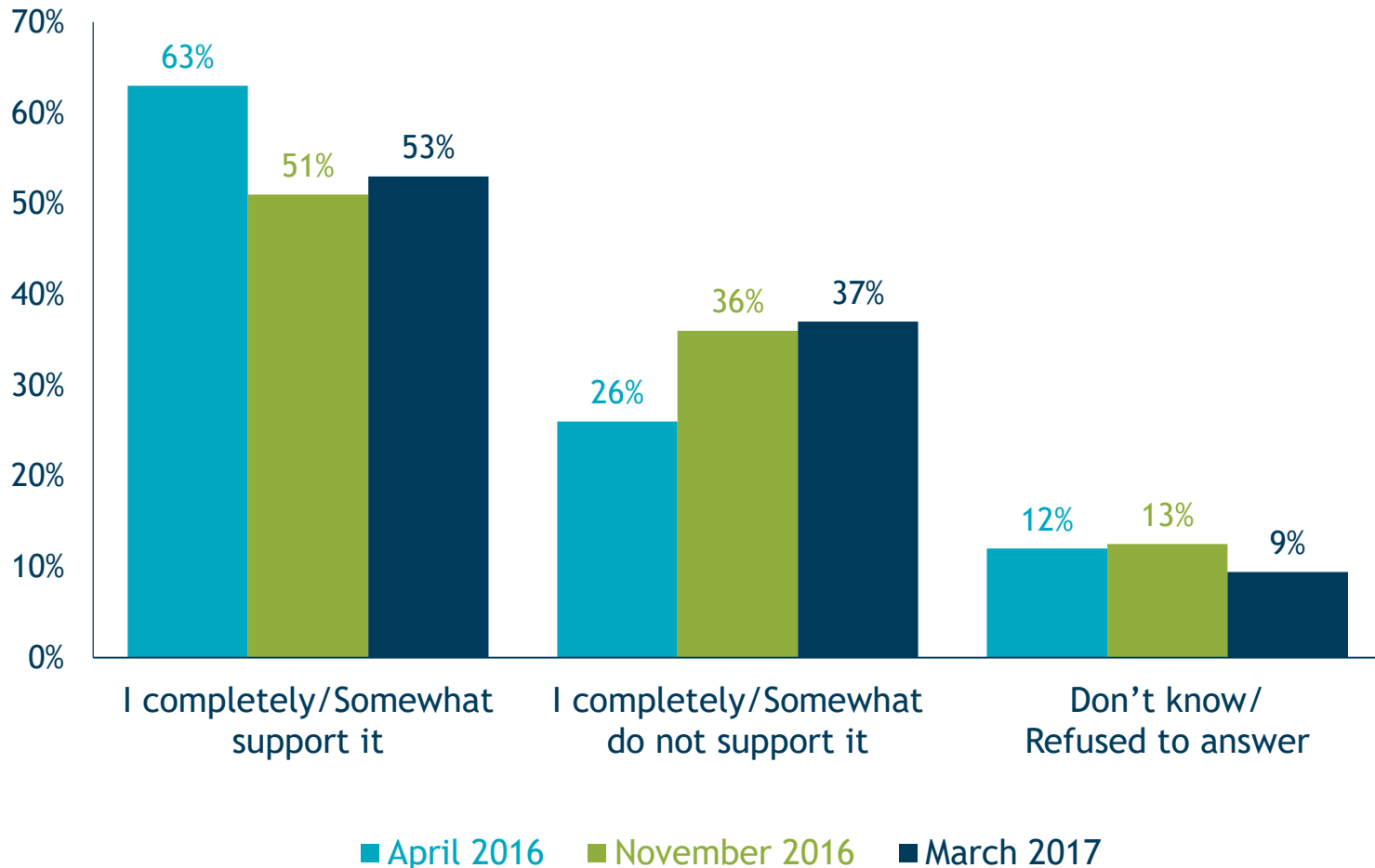
Should the president give the mandate to form a government to the leader of the party that has the support of a majority of parliamentarians?



To what degree do you trust the following based on their actions during the last 12 months?



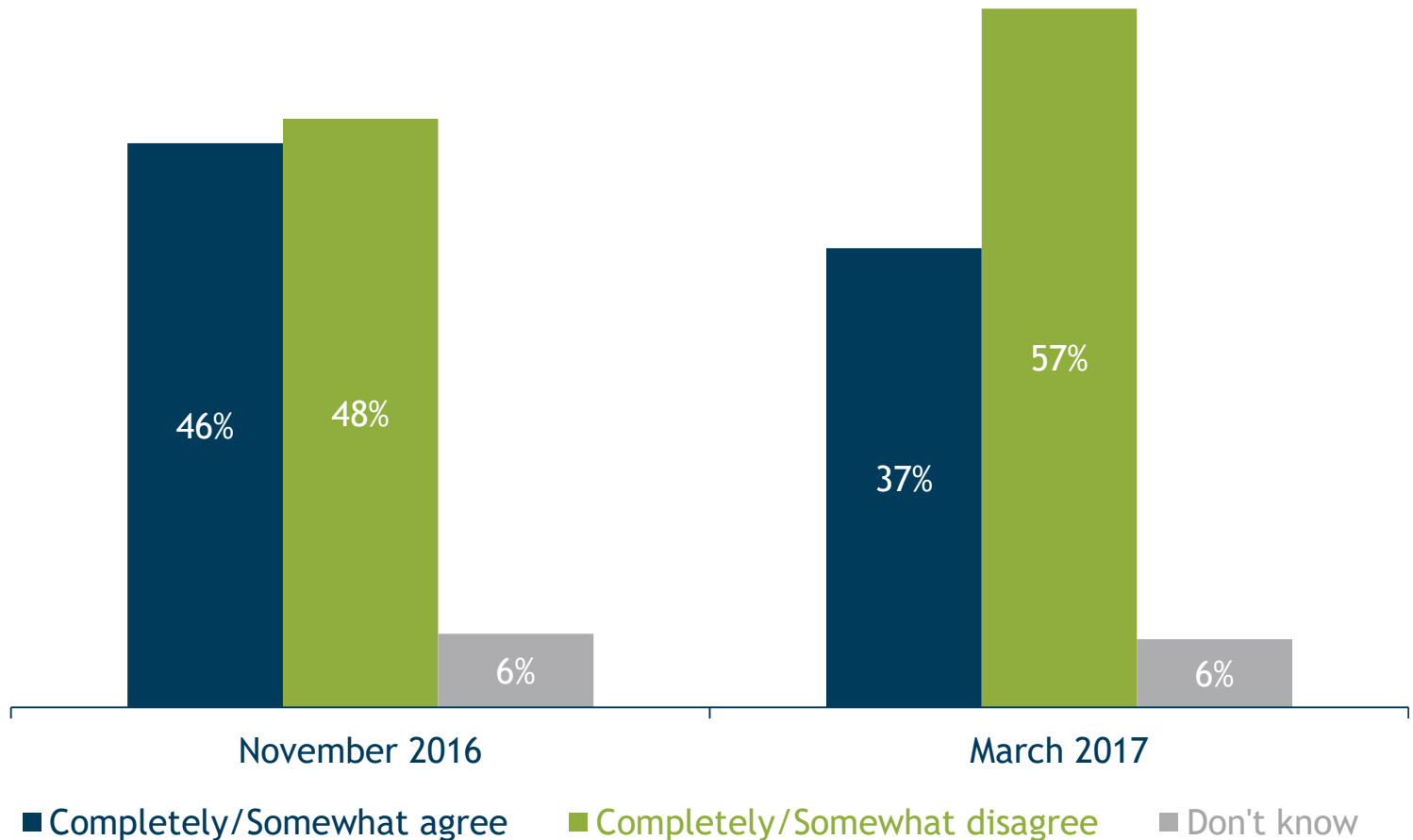
Do you support the work of the Special Public Prosecutor for the resolution of the wiretapping scandal?



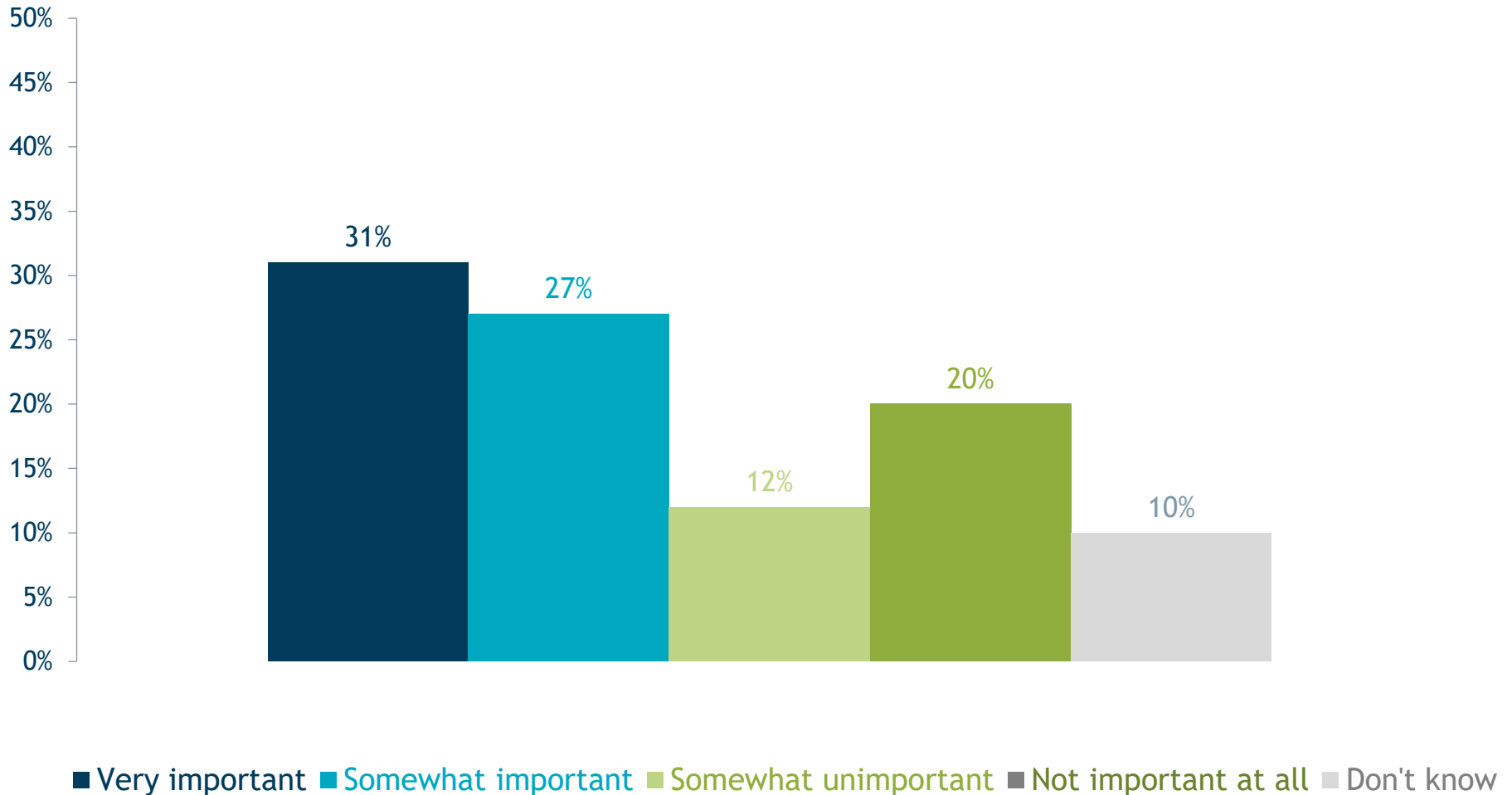
The rule of law in a democracy can be understood as “a state where all people and institutions are accountable to the law and the Constitution, and the Constitution and the law are equally applied to all.”

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

“The rule of law exists in Macedonia.”



In your opinion, how important is the work of the Special Public Prosecutor in ensuring the rule of law in Macedonia?





Ethnic Albanian Issues and Albanian Language



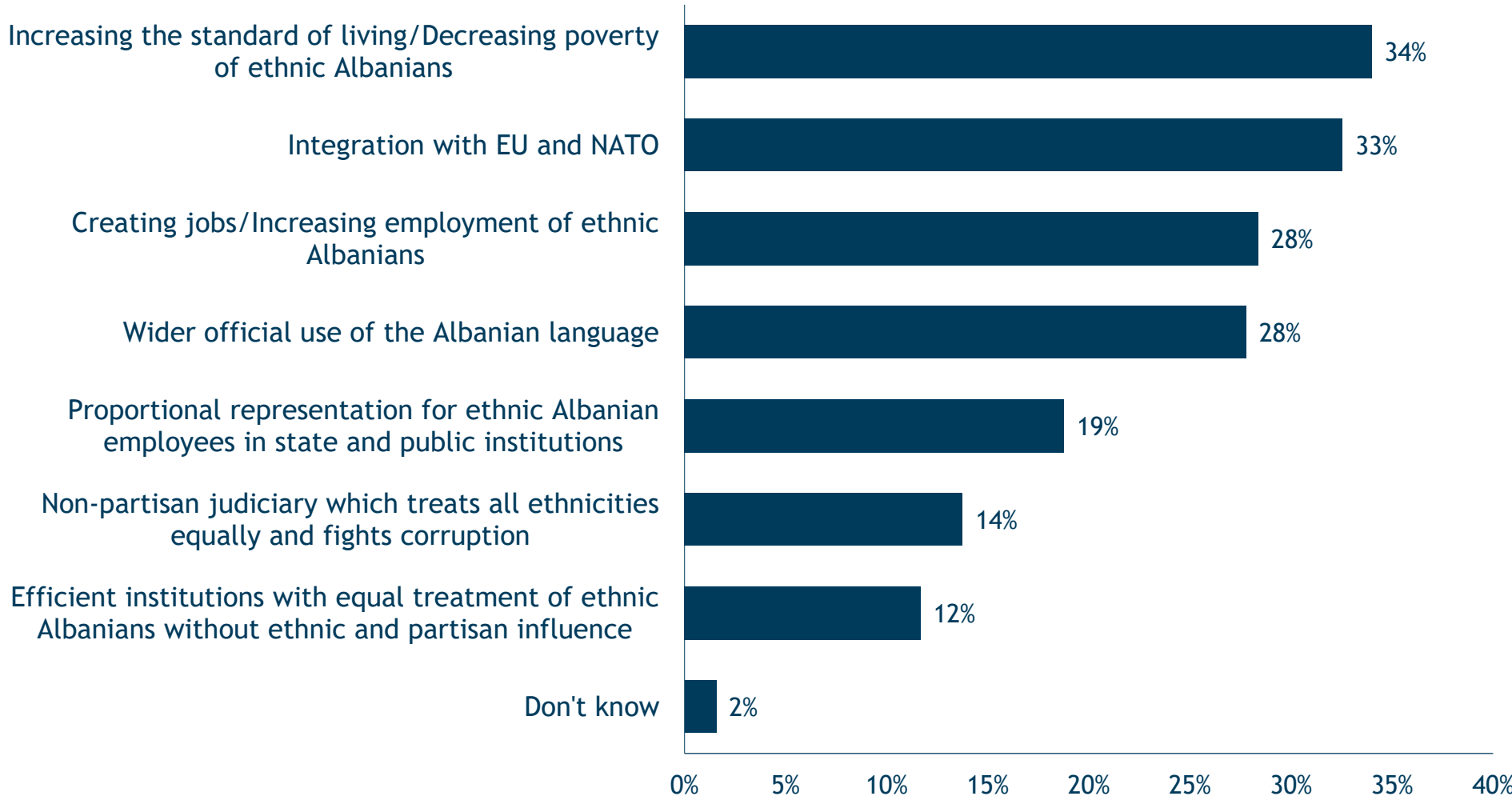
A PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Which of the following are the two most important priorities for improving the status of ethnic Albanians in Macedonia?*

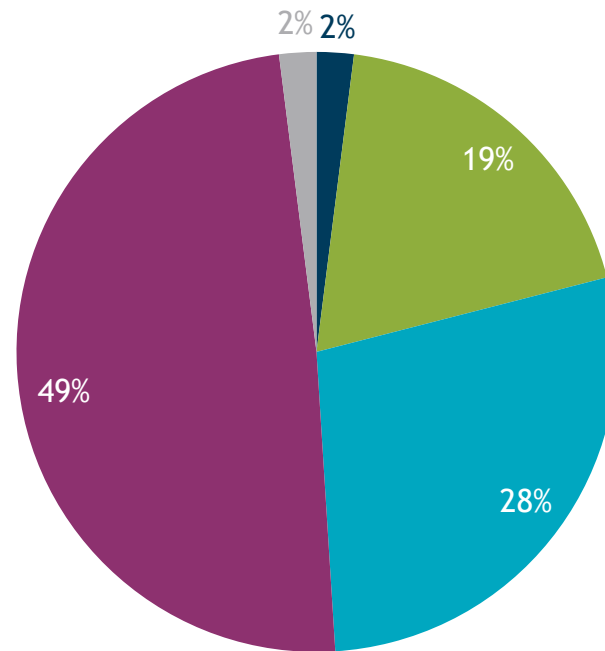
(ethnic Albanians only, n=280)



*Aggregated two responses.

How satisfied are you with the current level of utilization of the Albanian language in communication with institutions at the national and local level?
(ethnic Albanians only, n=280)

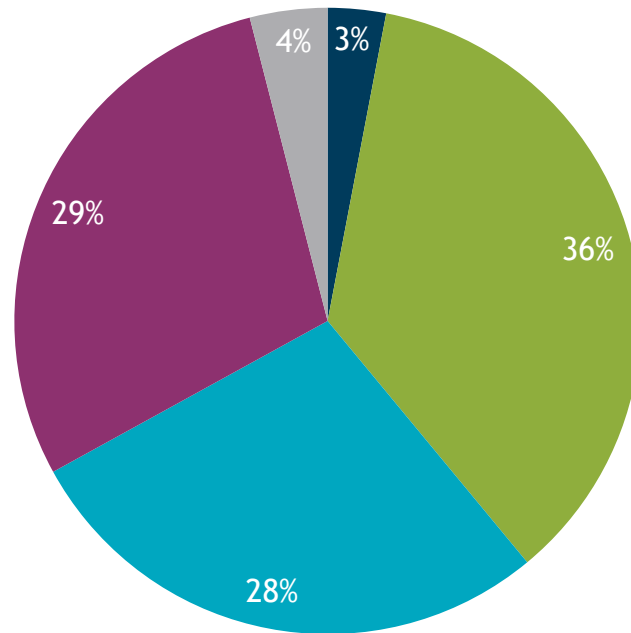
National level



- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Somewhat unsatisfied
- Very unsatisfied
- Don't know

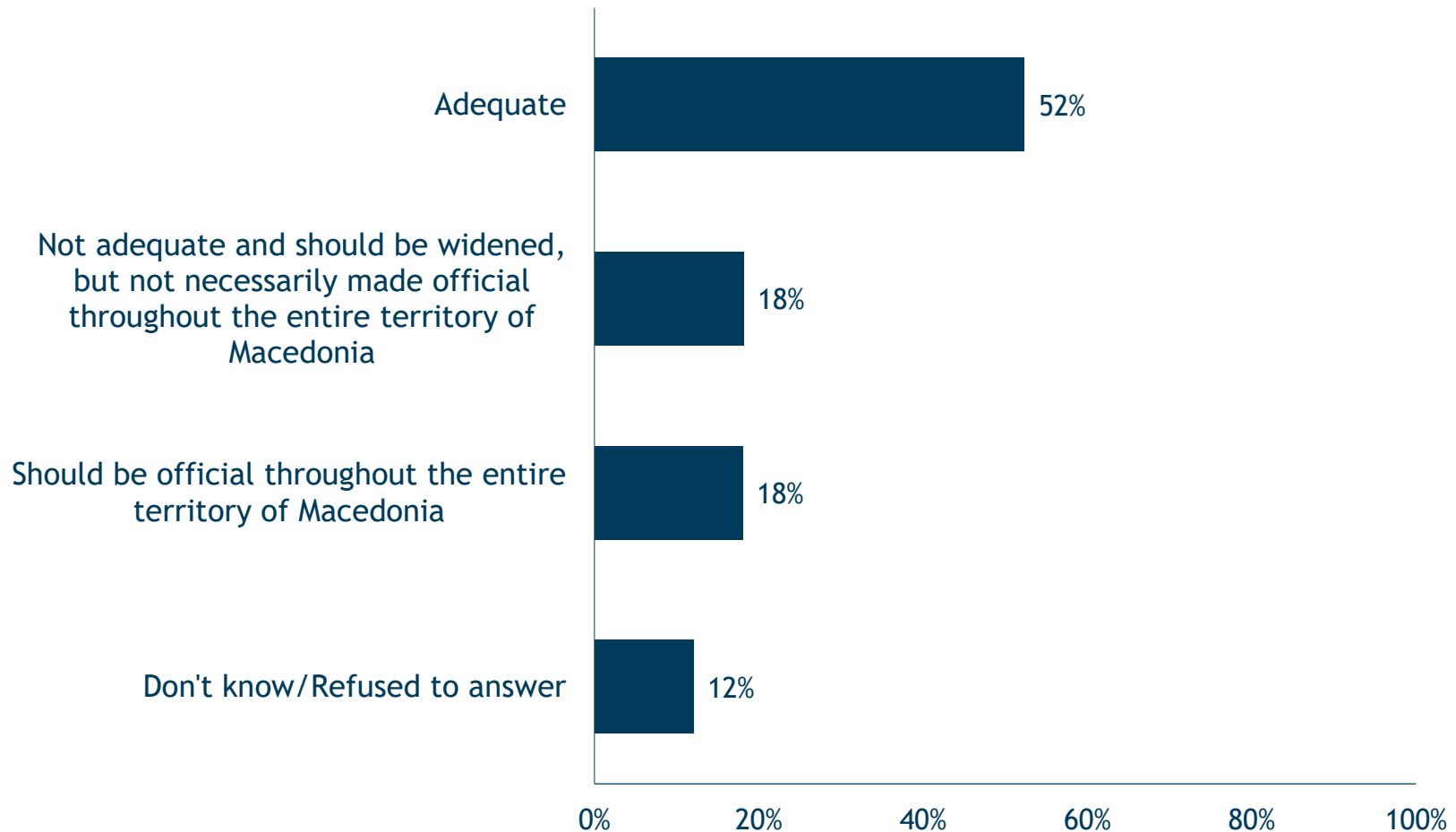
How satisfied are you with the current level of utilization of the Albanian language in communication with institutions at the national and local level?
(ethnic Albanians only, n=280)

Local level



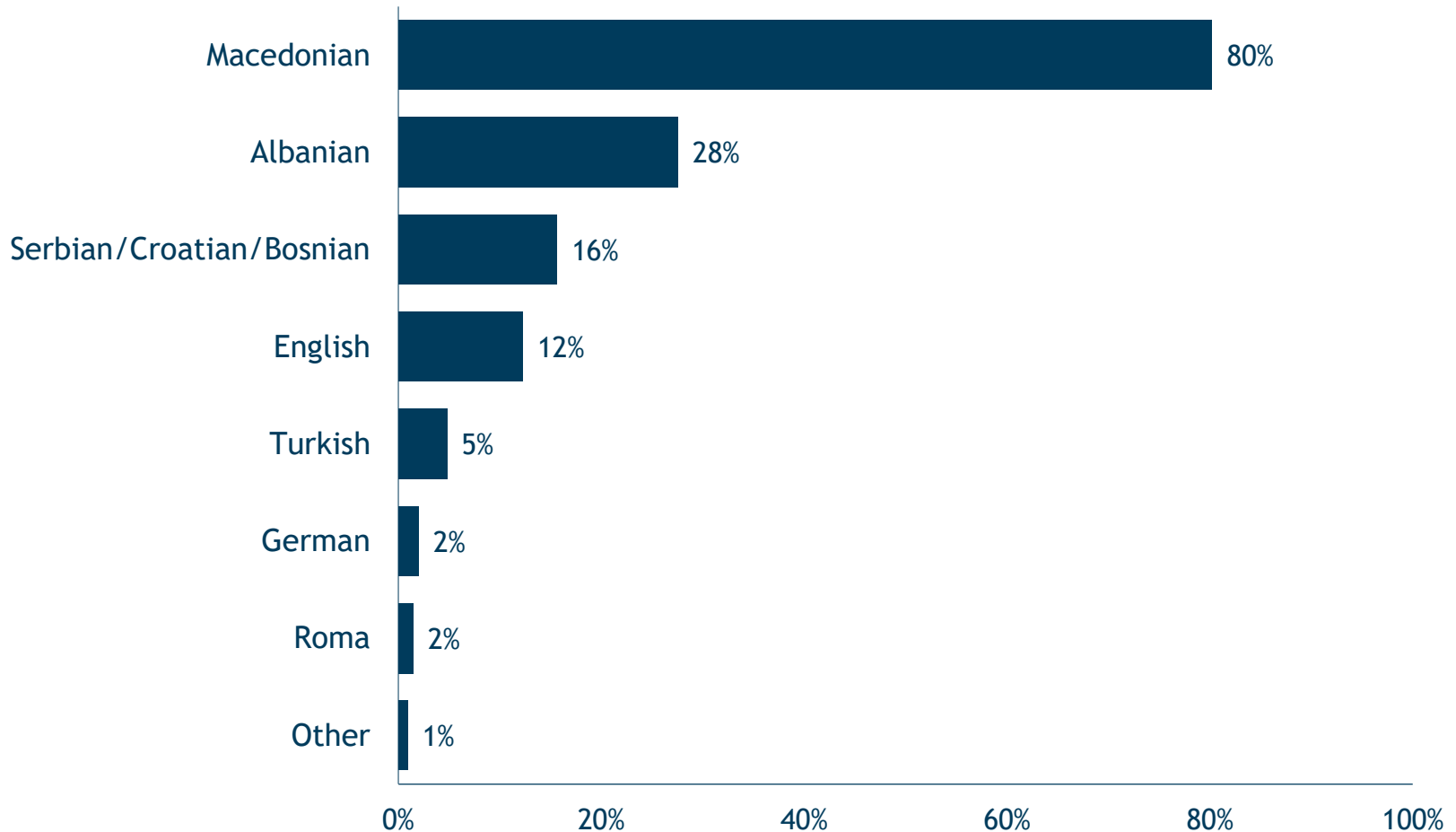
- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Somewhat unsatisfied
- Very unsatisfied
- Don't know

When it comes to the utilization of the Albanian language in Macedonia, would you say “The utilization of the Albanian language by state and local institutions is...”:



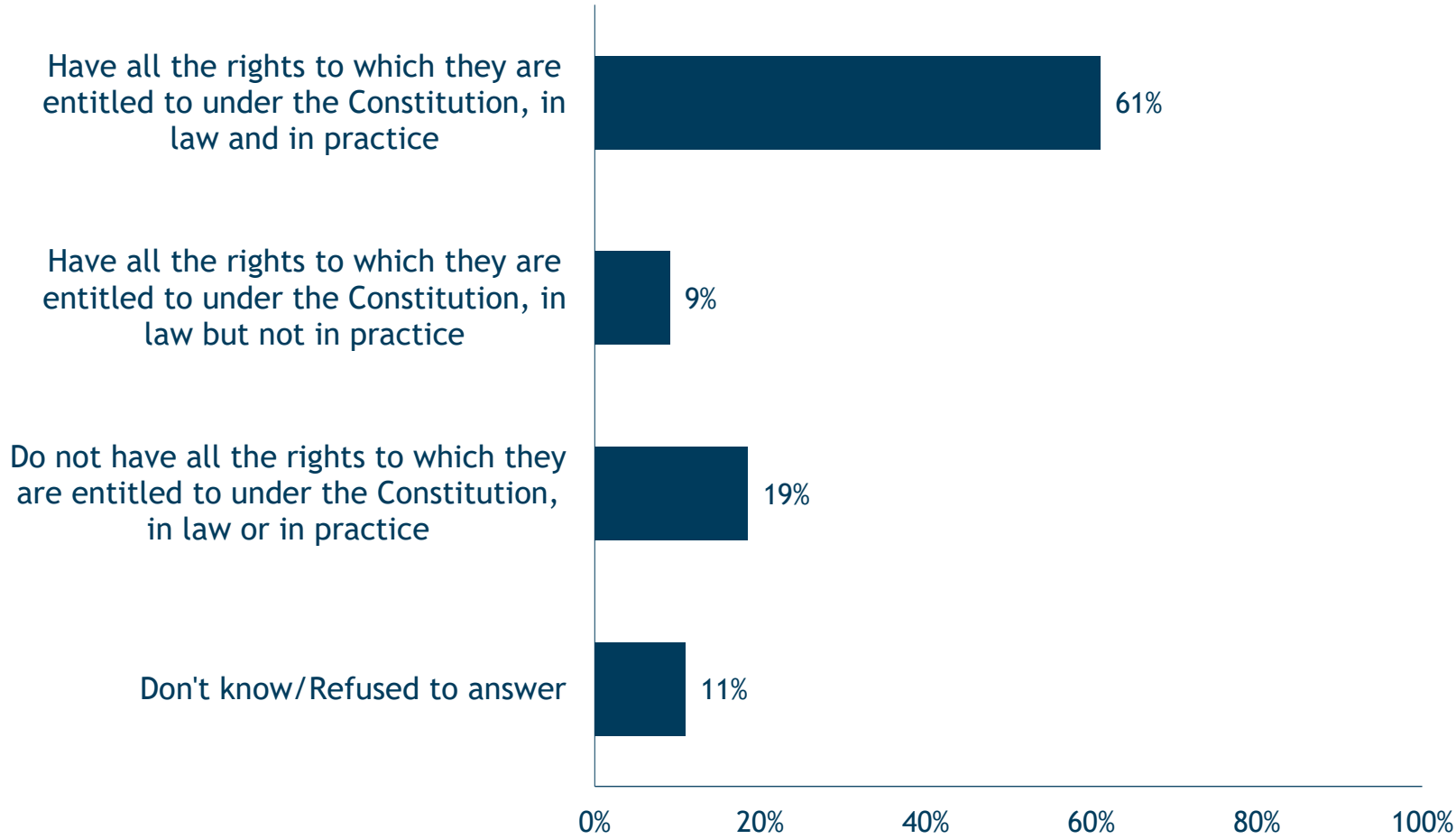
What languages do you speak at a level to be able to study and work in that language?

(Multiple responses possible)

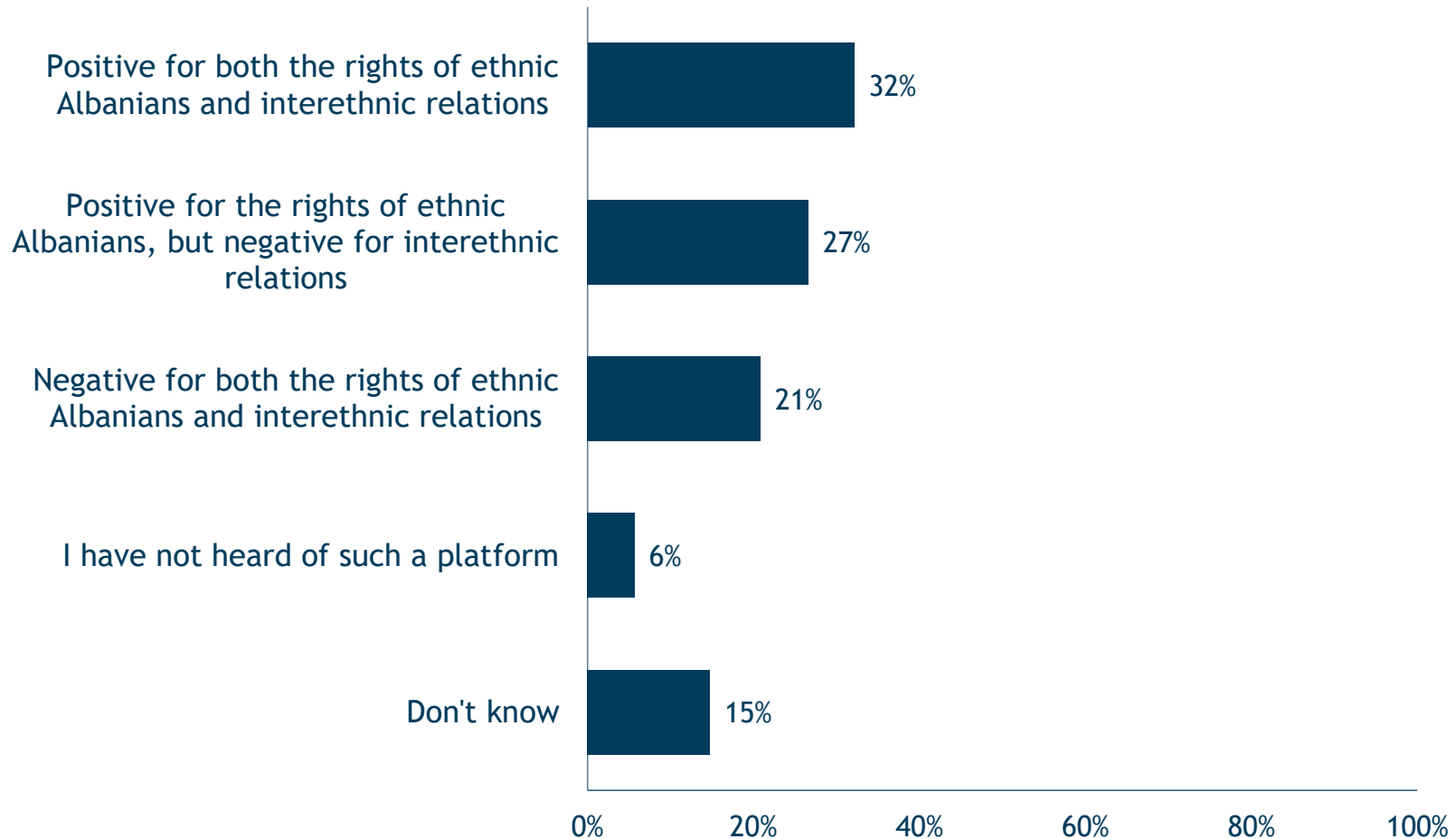


Thinking about the status of Albanians as the second largest ethnic community in Macedonia, which of the following is closest to your opinion?

“As the second largest ethnic community in Macedonia, ethnic Albanians...”



In your opinion, is the joint platform of Albanian political parties in Macedonia...?





Jobs and the Economy

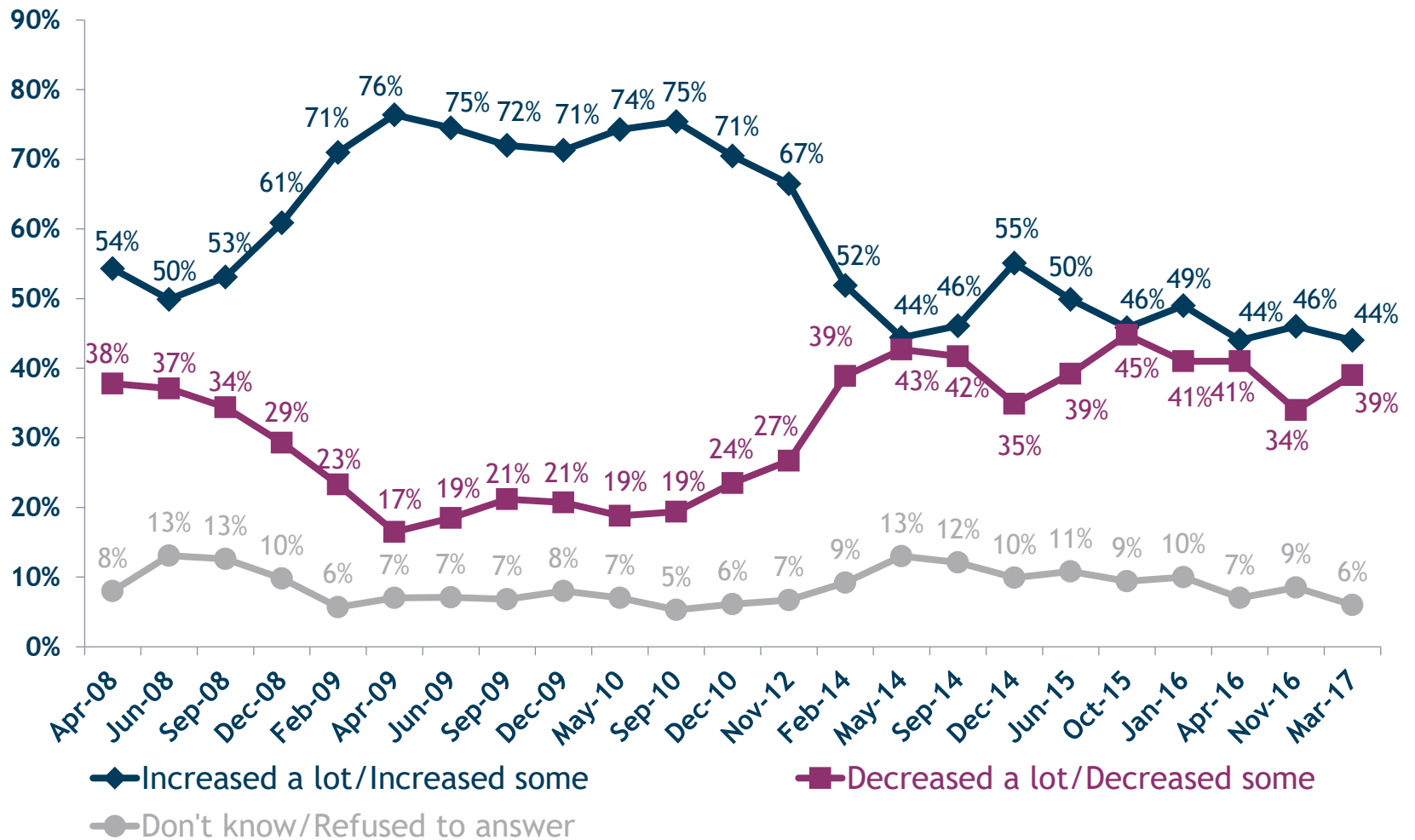


A PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE

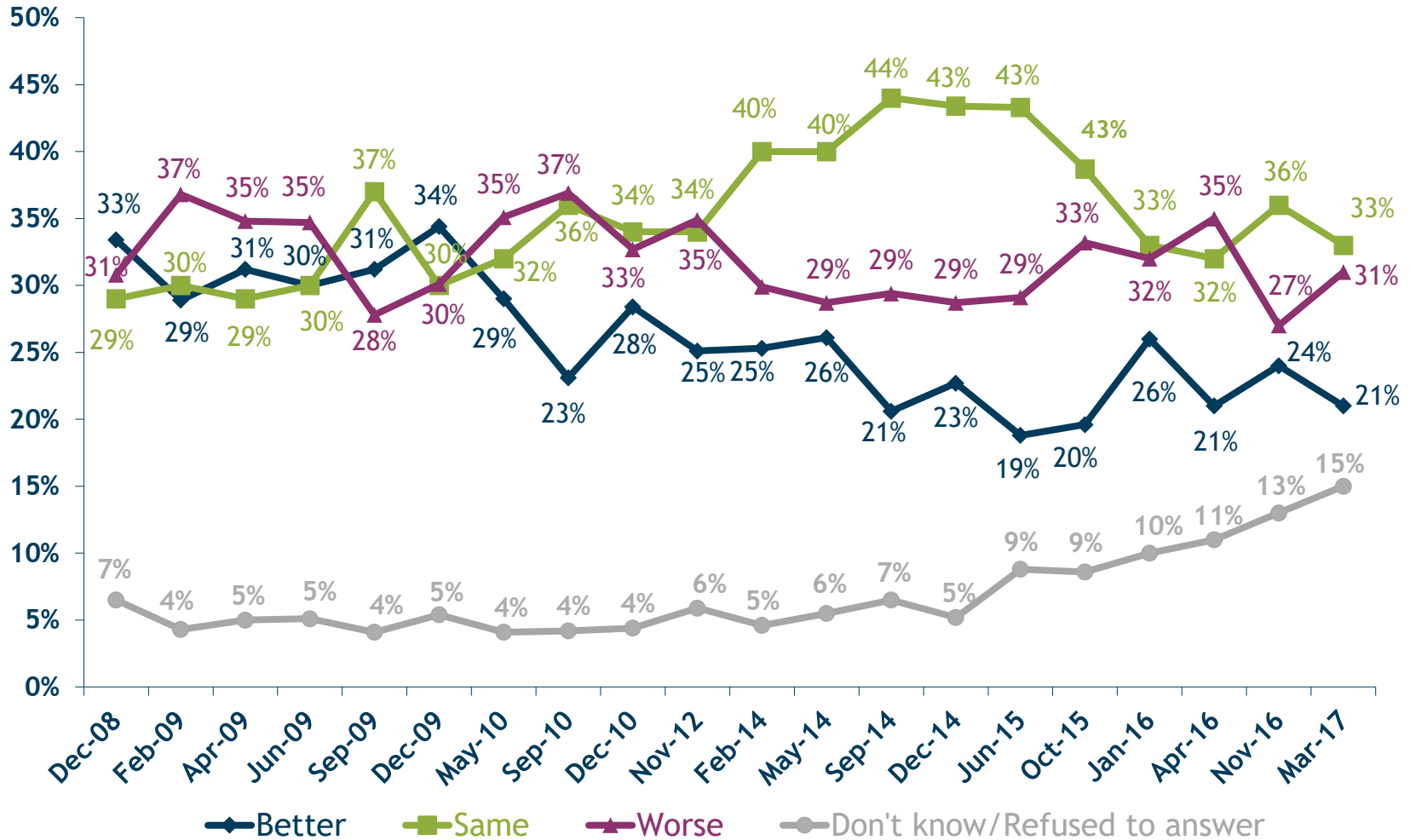


USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

In your opinion, has unemployment increased or decreased over the last year?

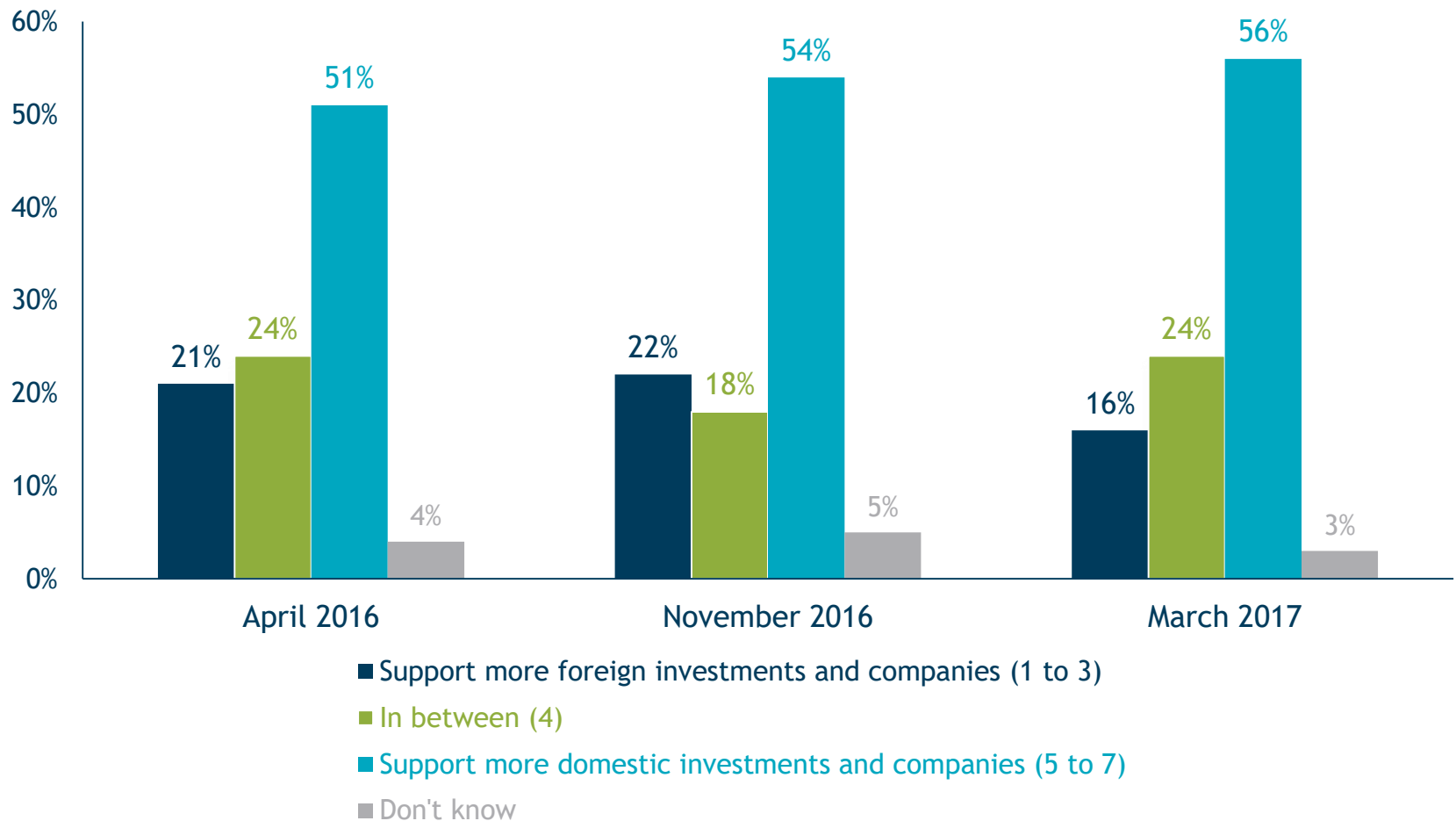


In the next two years, will the economy in Macedonia get better, get worse, or stay the same?

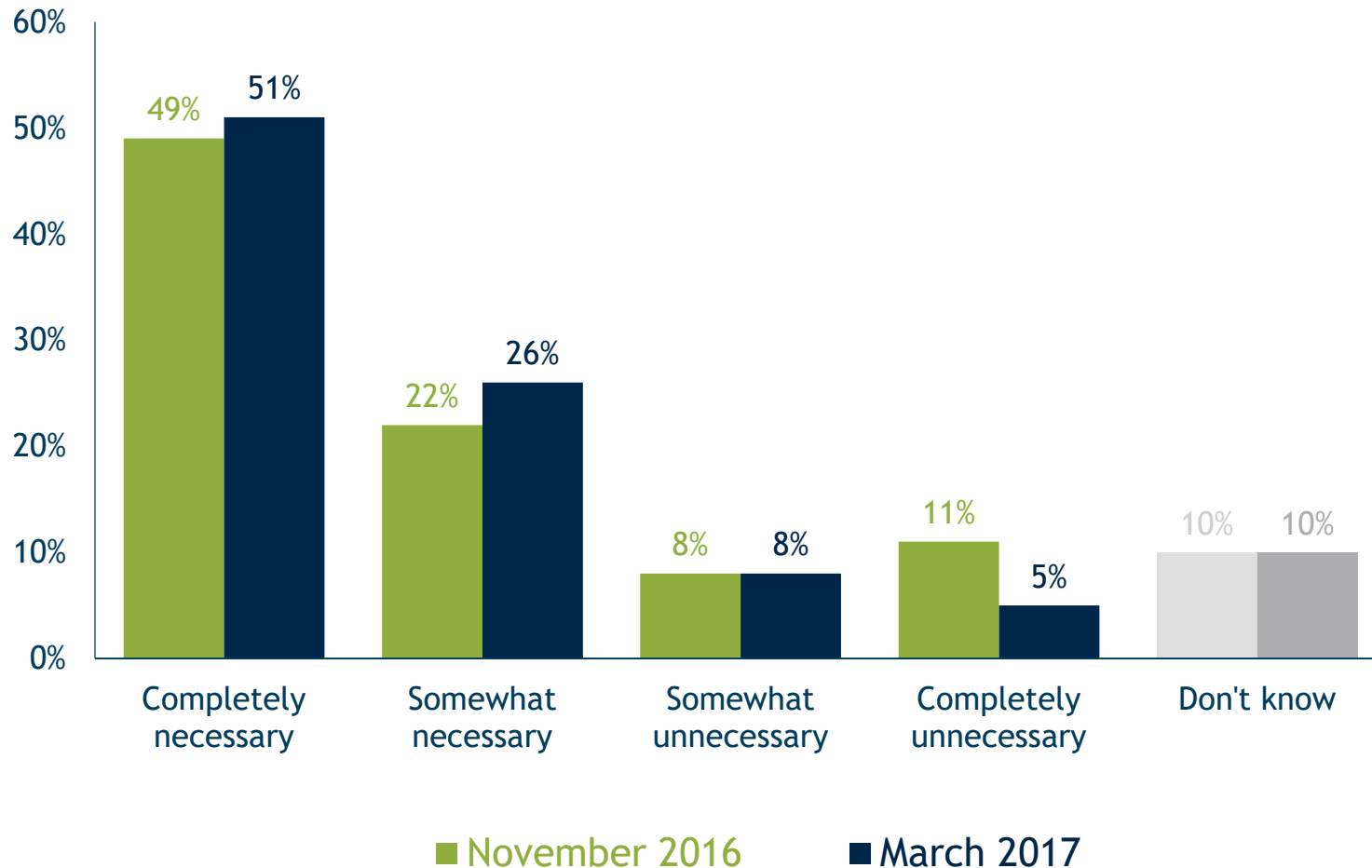


How would you place your views on this scale (where “1” = complete support for more foreign investment and “7” = complete support for more domestic investment; 2 - 6 = views that lie in between).

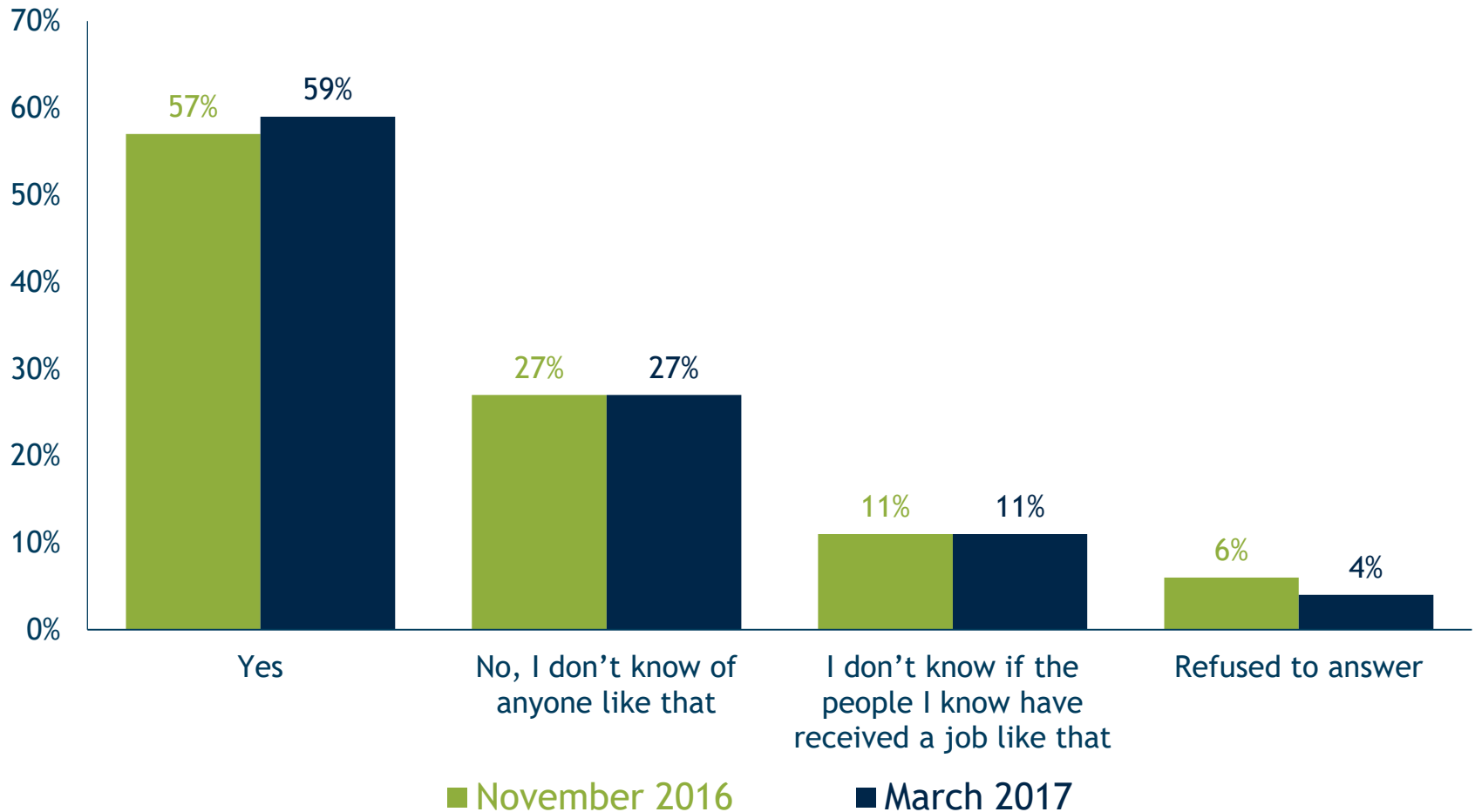
“In order to grow the economy, the Government of Macedonia should...”



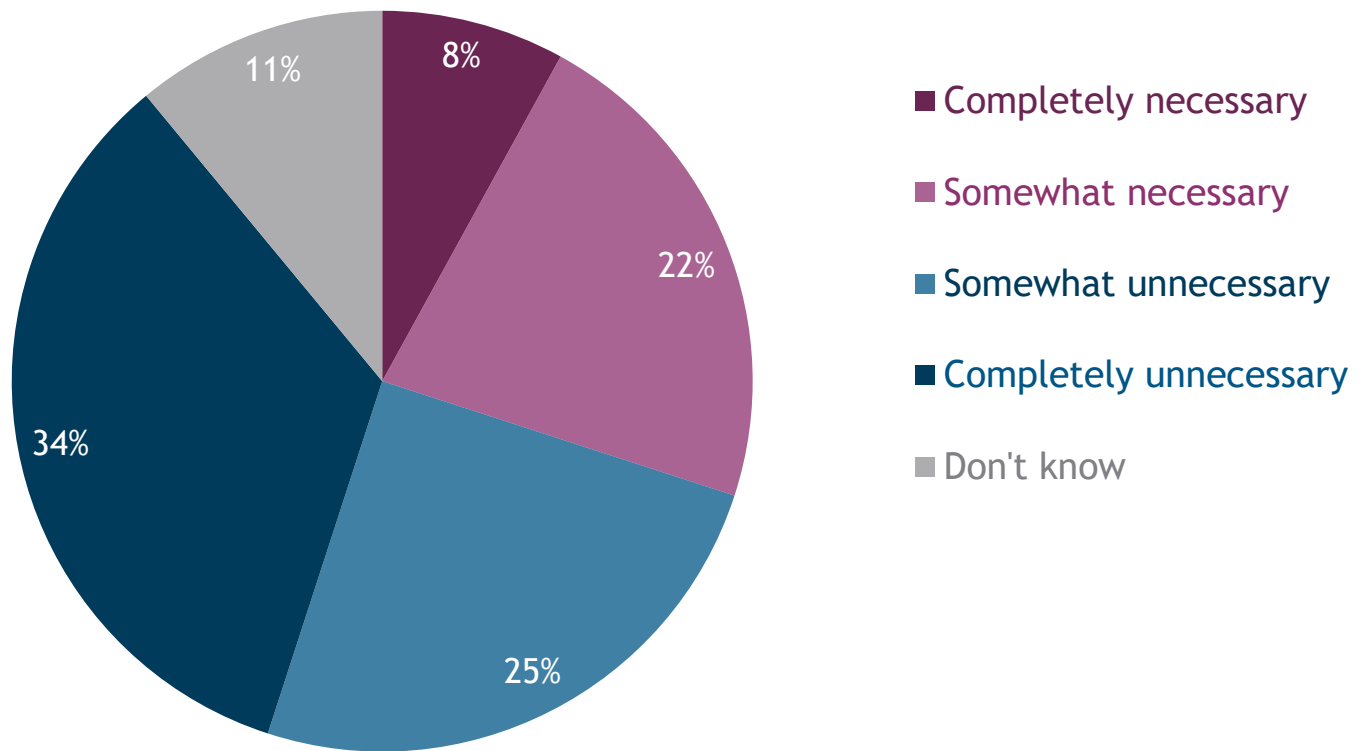
To what extent is membership in a political party necessary for getting a job in the state administration/sector or government institutions in Macedonia today?



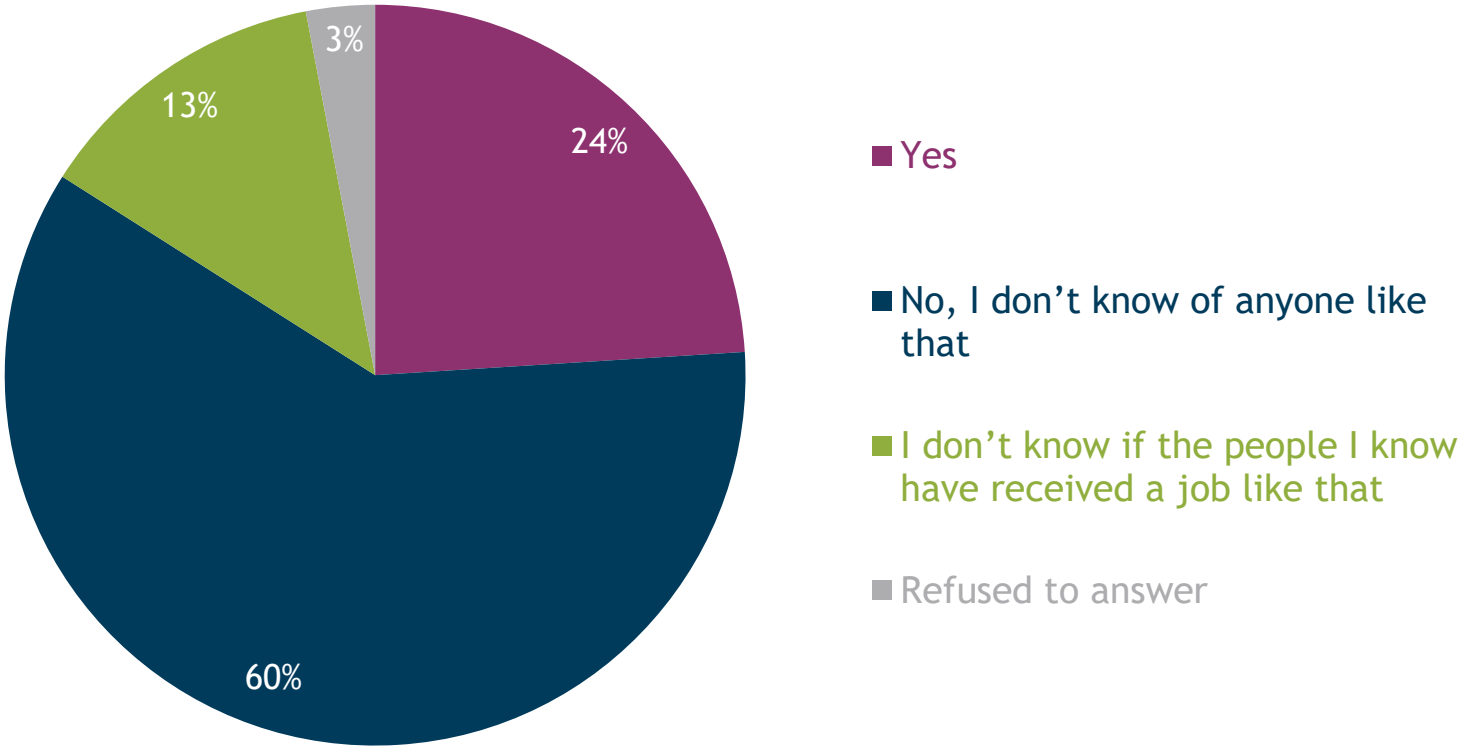
Do you know someone personally who has received a state job because they are members of, or are close to, a political party?



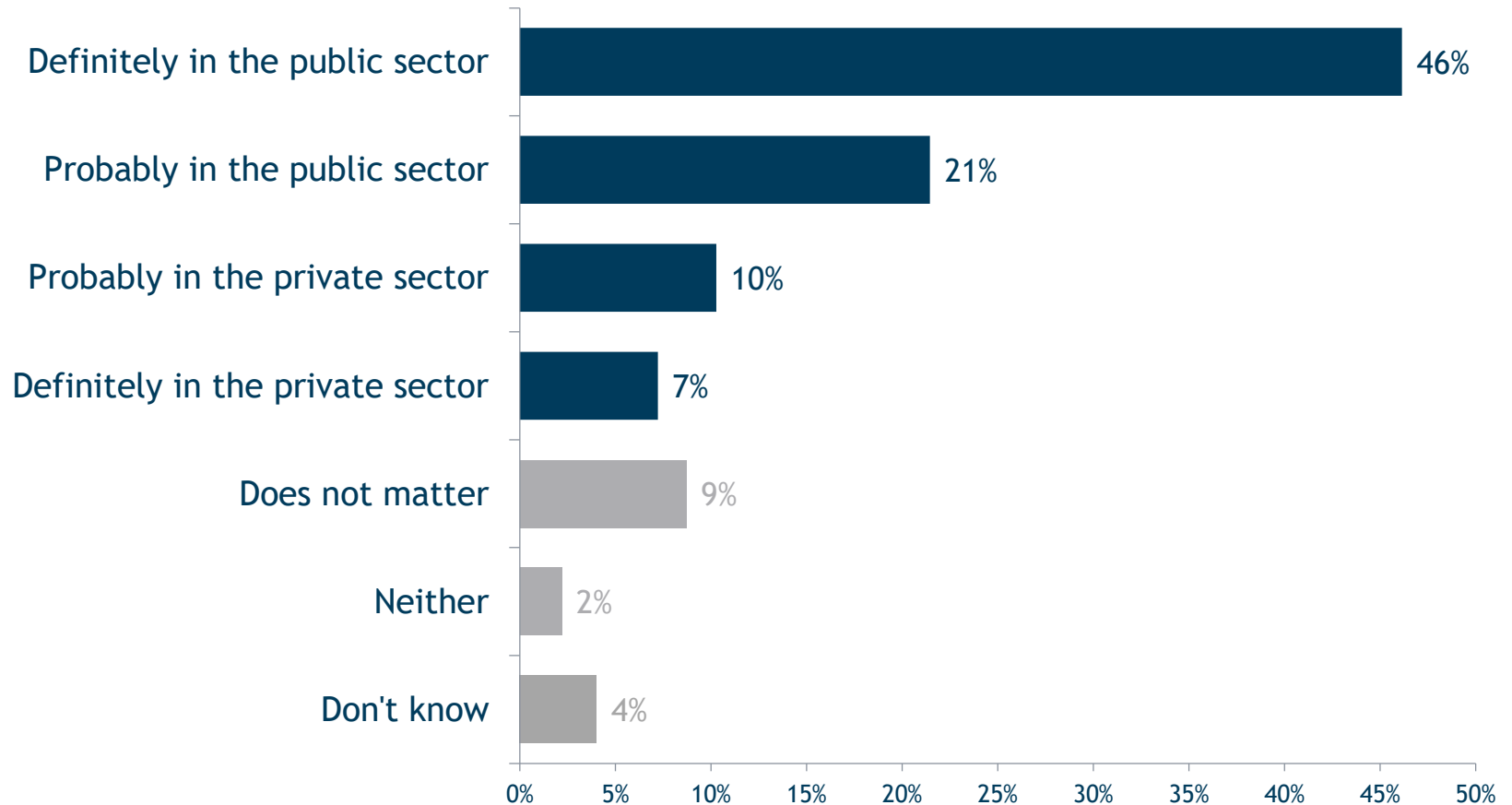
To what extent is membership in a political party necessary for getting a job in the private sector in Macedonia today?



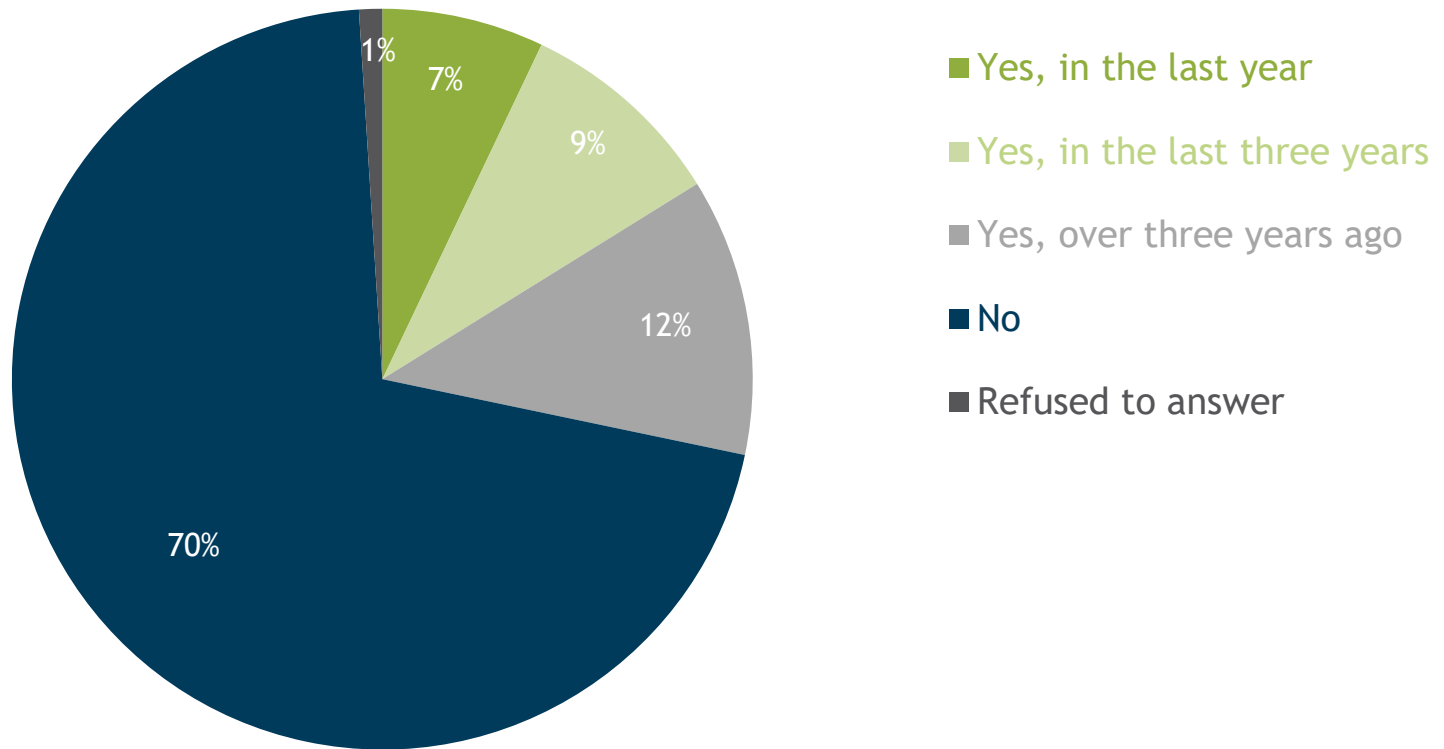
Do you personally know someone who has received a job in the private sector because they are members of, or are close to, a political party?



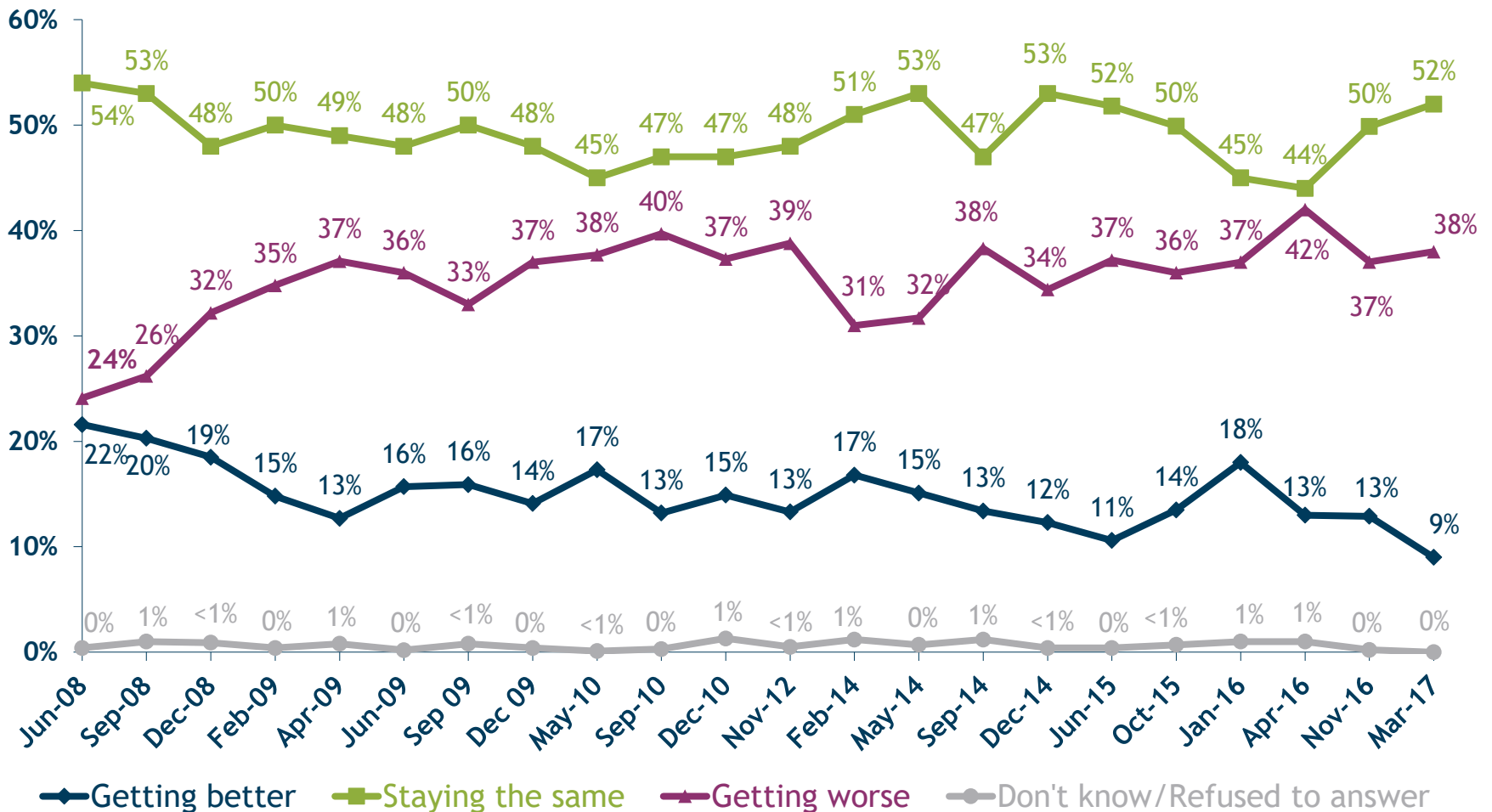
Do you think it is better to work in the private sector or in the public sector/state administration?



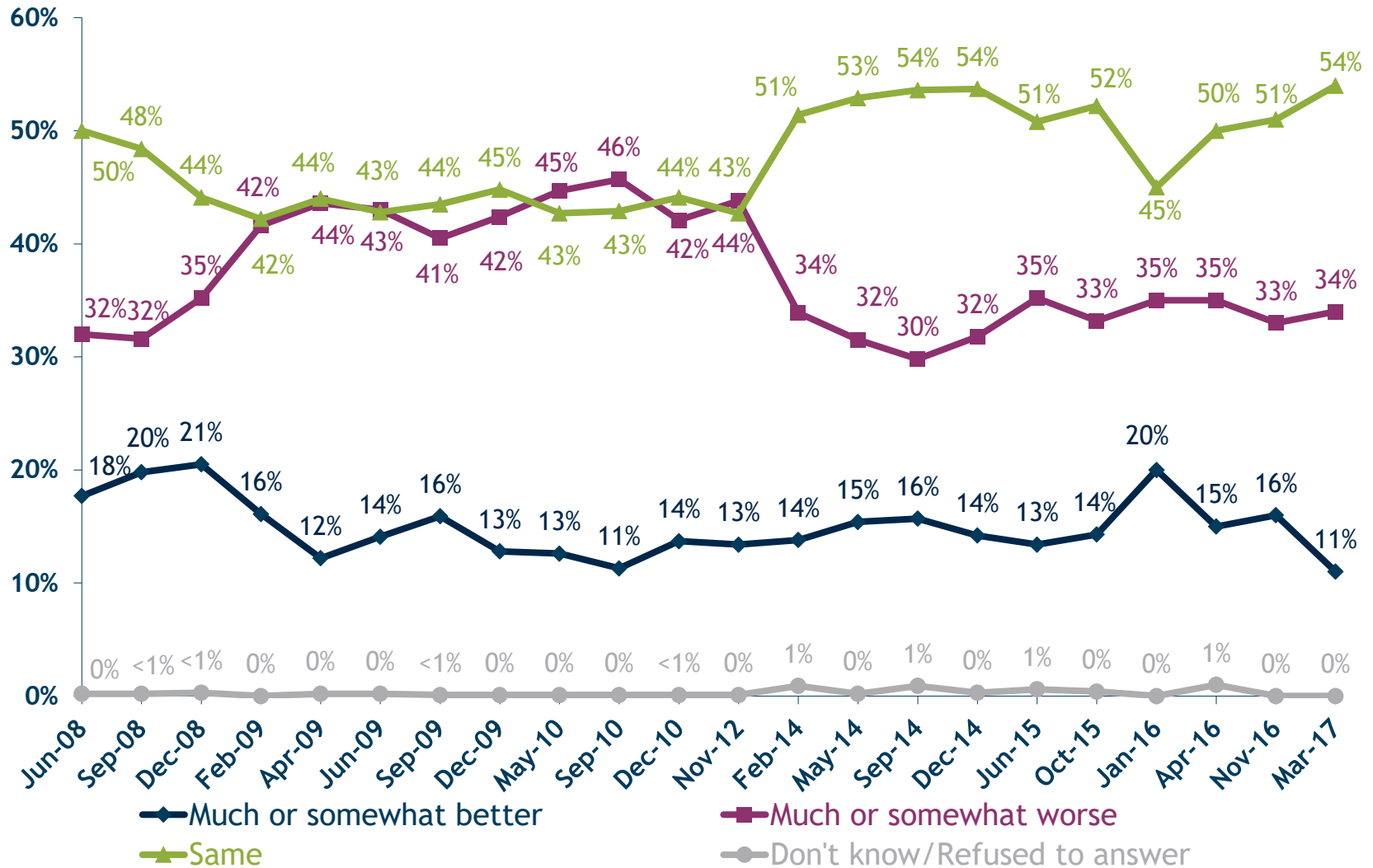
Is there any member of your household who has emigrated to live and/or work abroad?



Speaking personally, is your overall quality of life...?



How is your family's economic situation compared with one year ago?





Political Parties

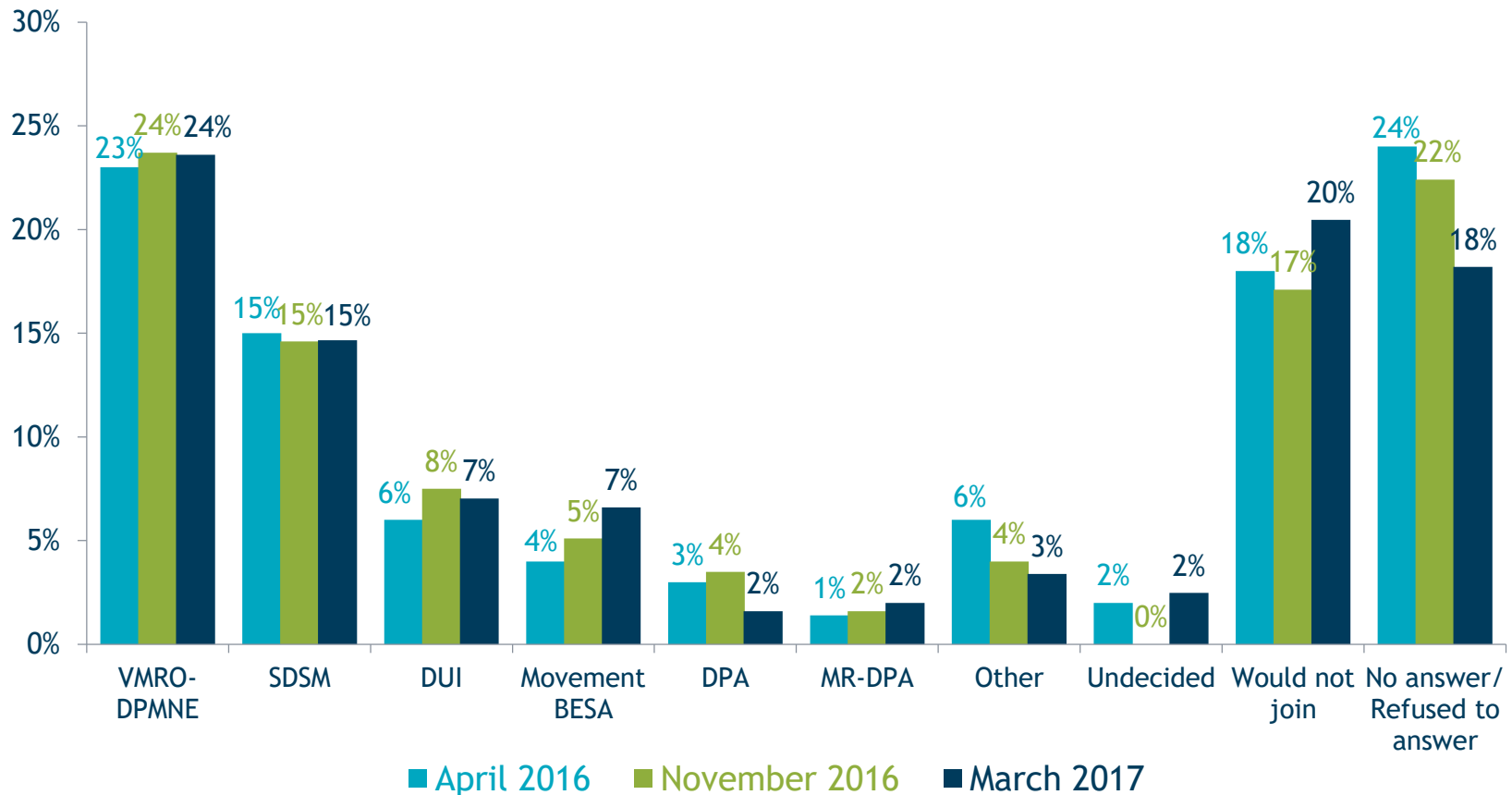


A PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE



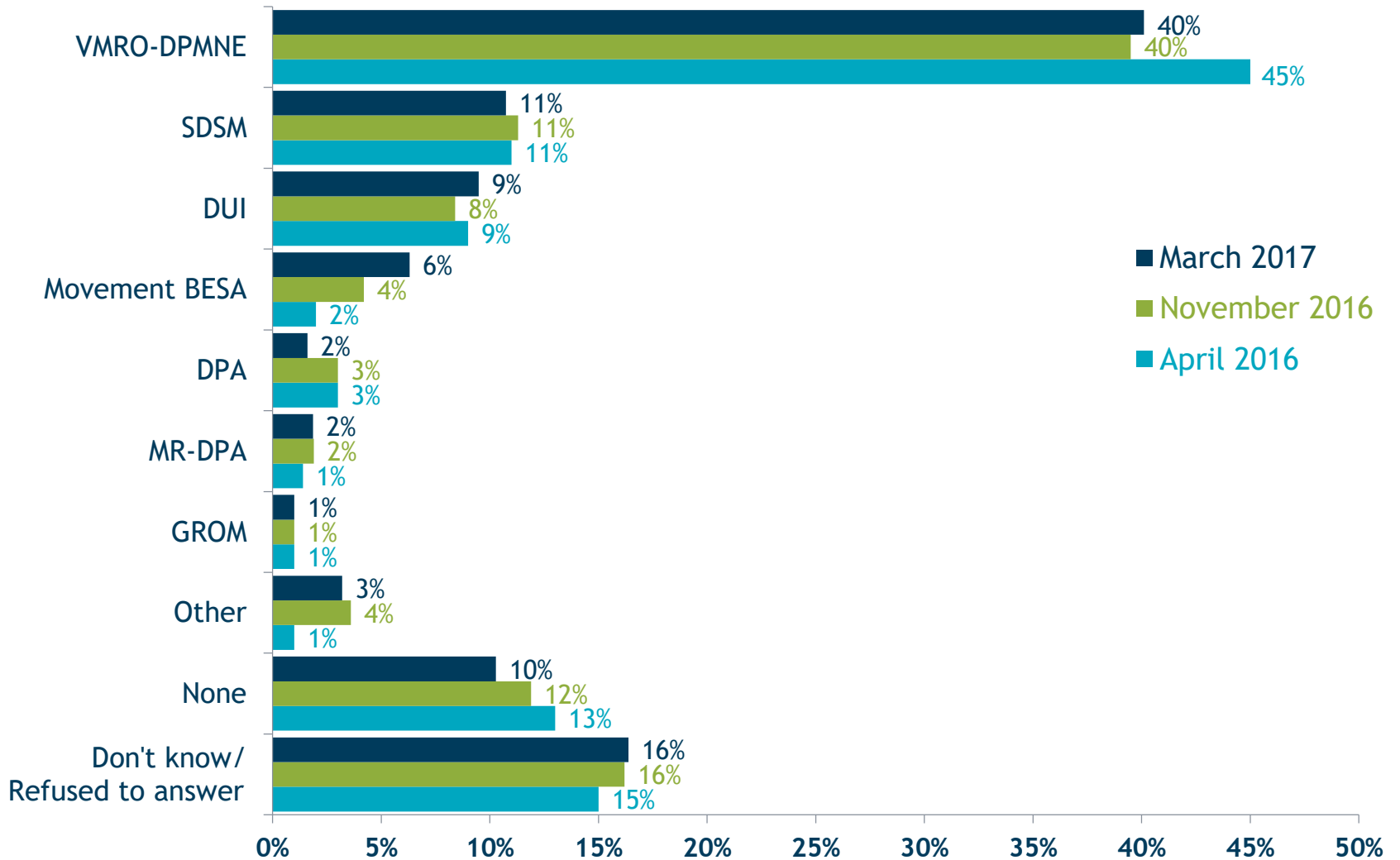
USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

To which political party do you belong or would consider joining?*

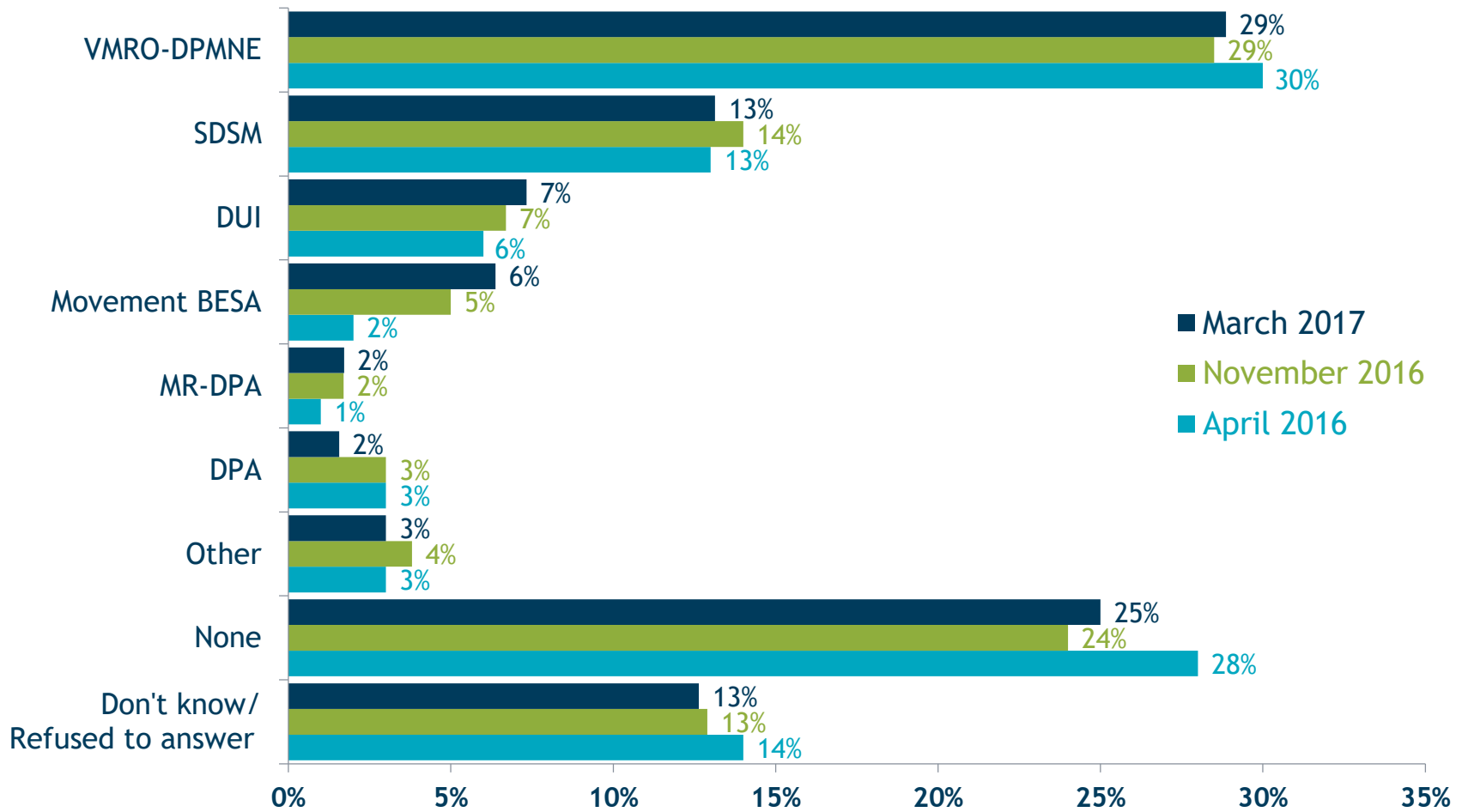


*Question asked using the “sealed envelope method.” See “Methodology” for more details.

Which party, in your opinion, is most active in your village/town/city?



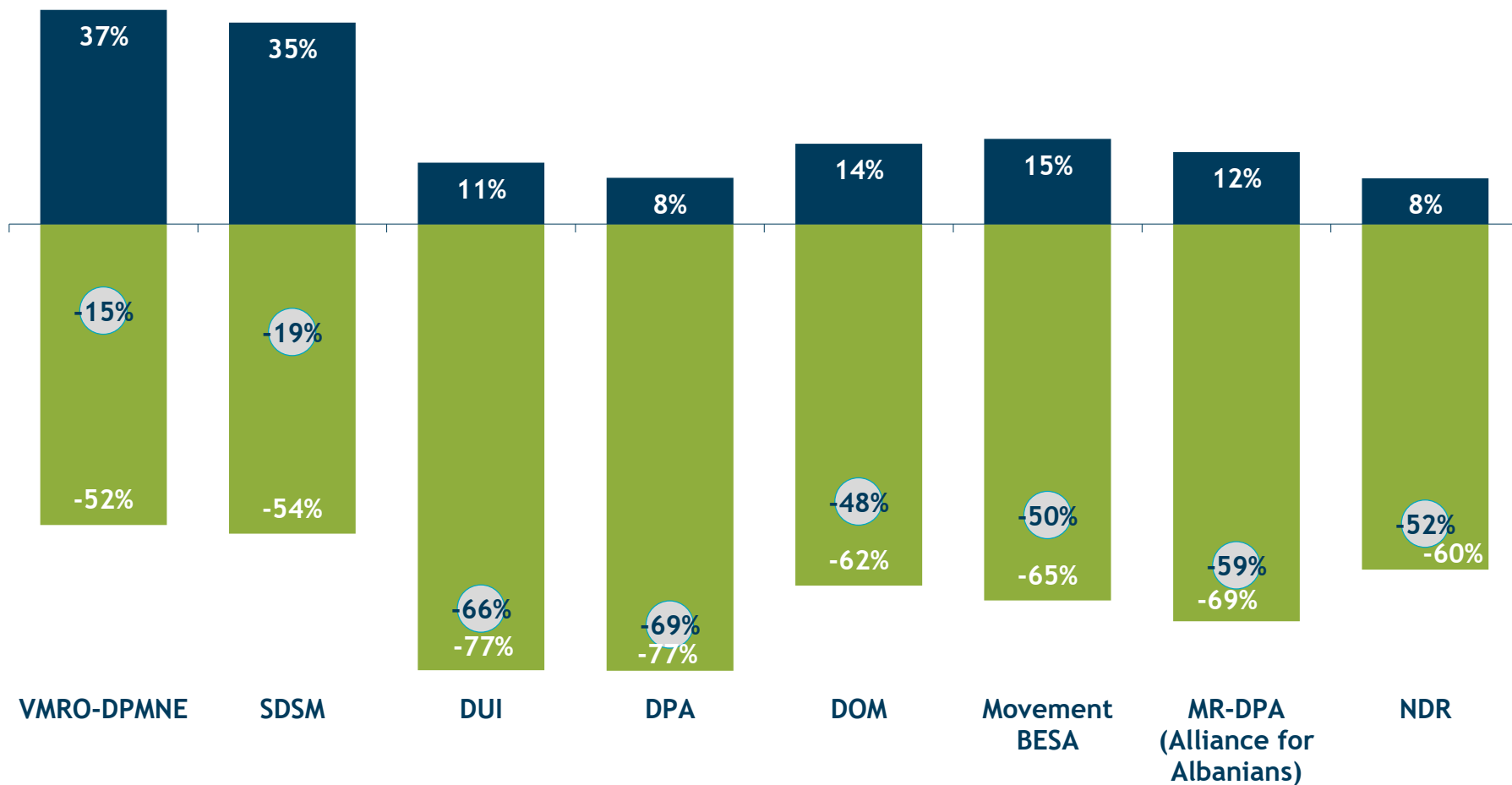
In your opinion, which party works hardest for your support?



I will read you a list of political parties in Macedonia. Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of that party.

■ Very/Somewhat favorable

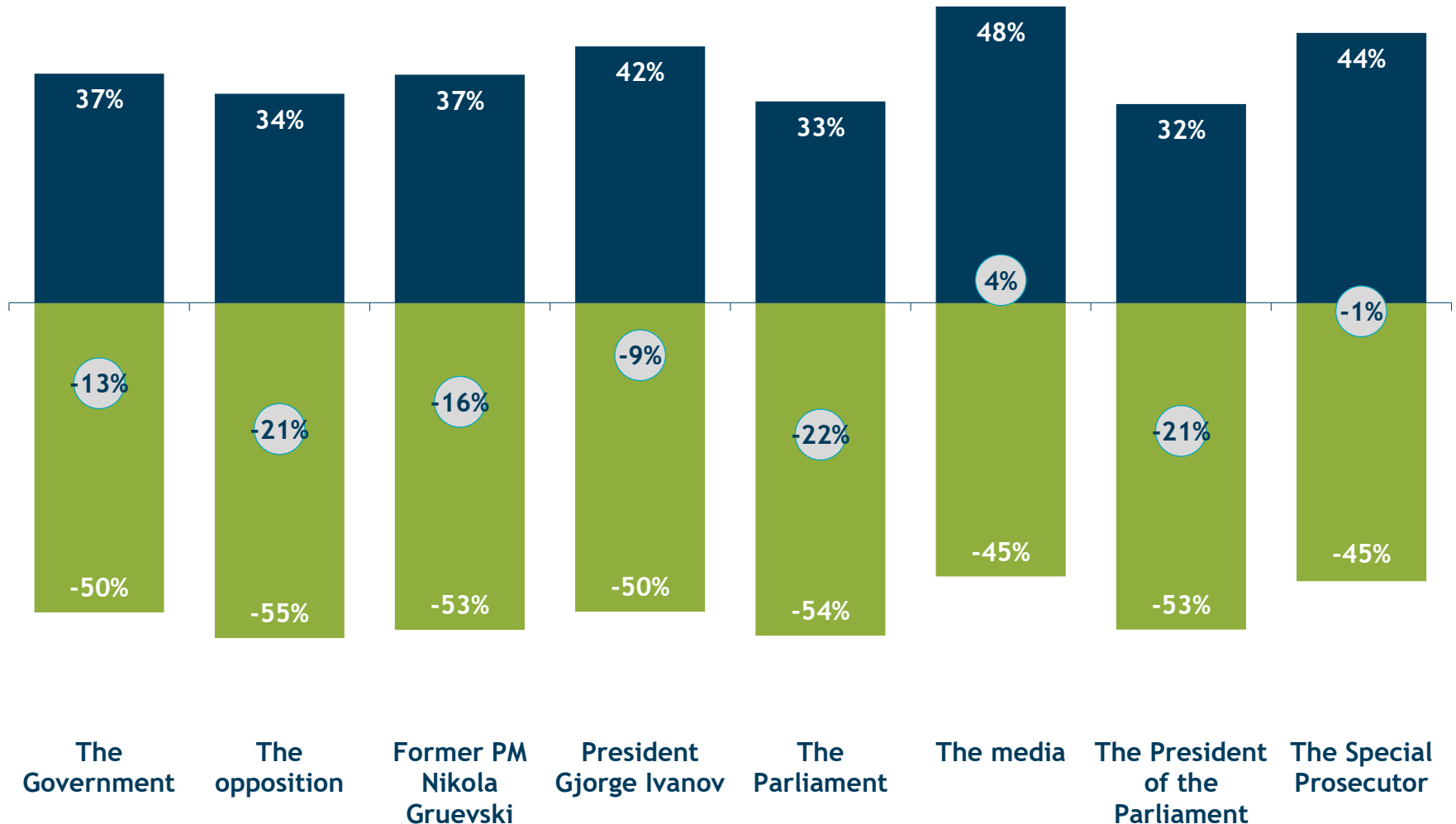
■ Very/Somewhat unfavorable



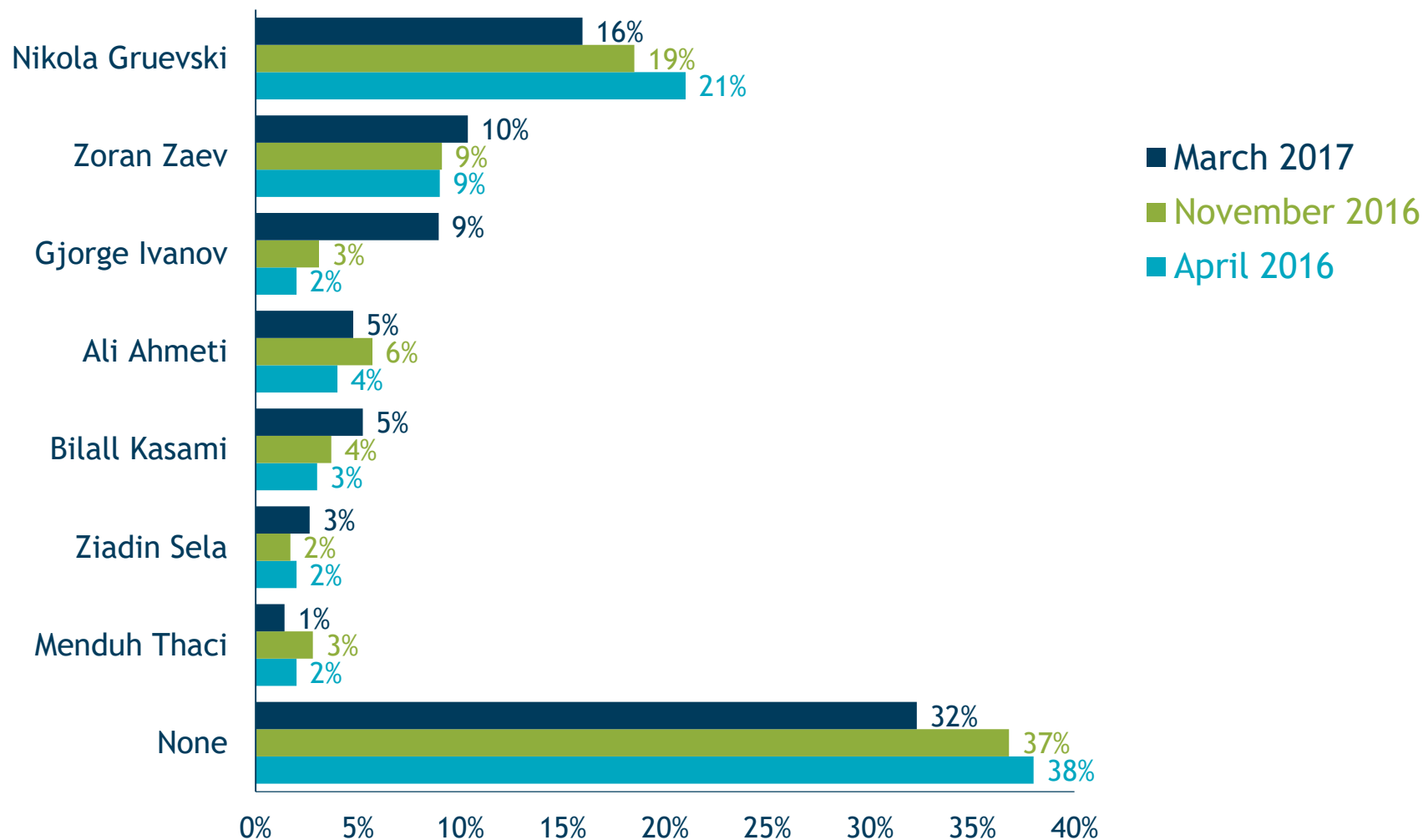
I will read you a list of institutions in Macedonia. Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of that institution.

■ Very/Somewhat favorable

■ Very/Somewhat unfavorable



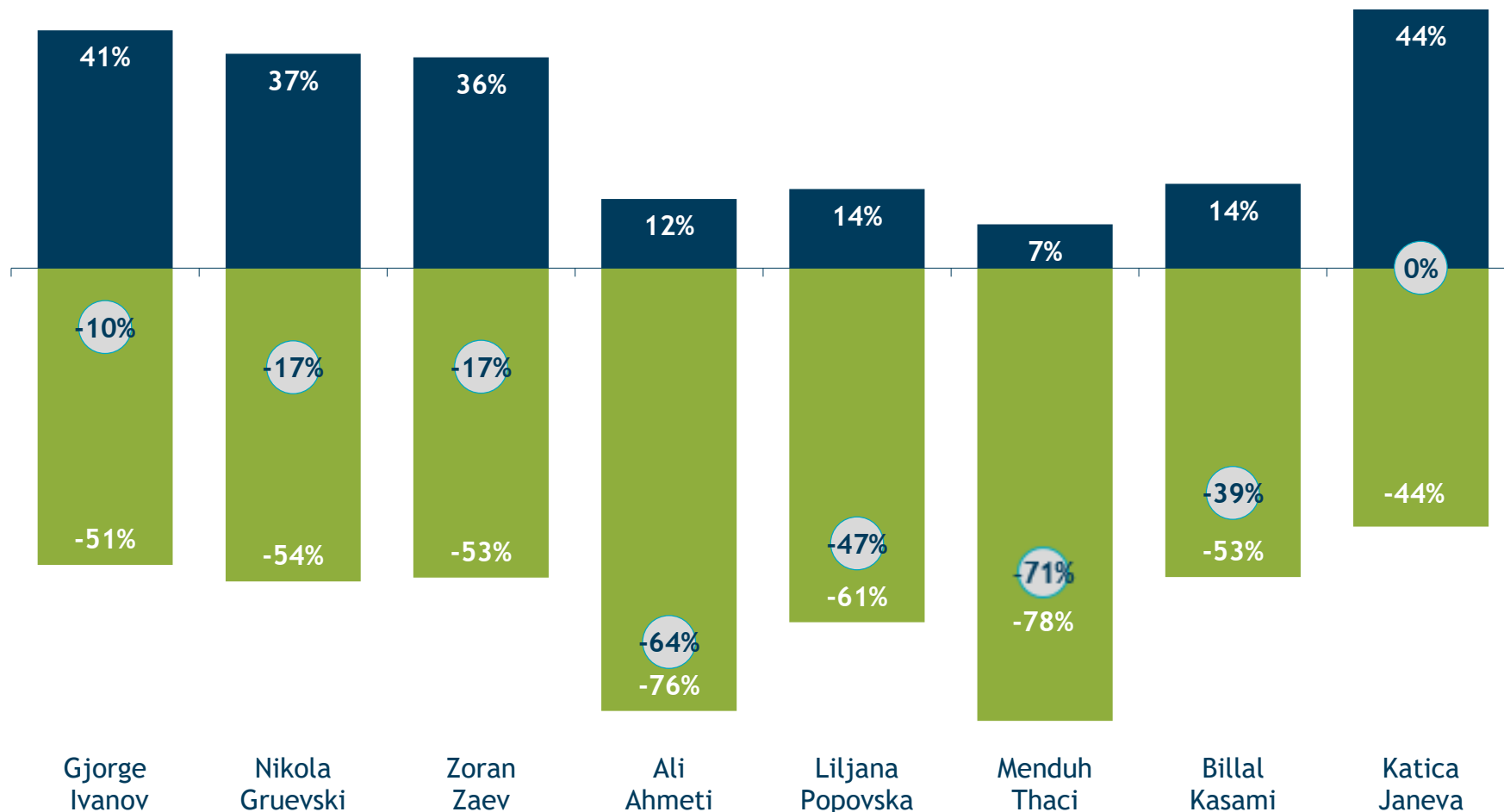
When you think about people in political life, who is the one person in Macedonia that you view most favorably? (Open-ended)



I will read you a list of public figures in Macedonia. Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of that person. If you have never heard of that person please say so.

■ Very/Somewhat favorable

■ Very/Somewhat unfavorable





Support for Euro-Atlantic Integration

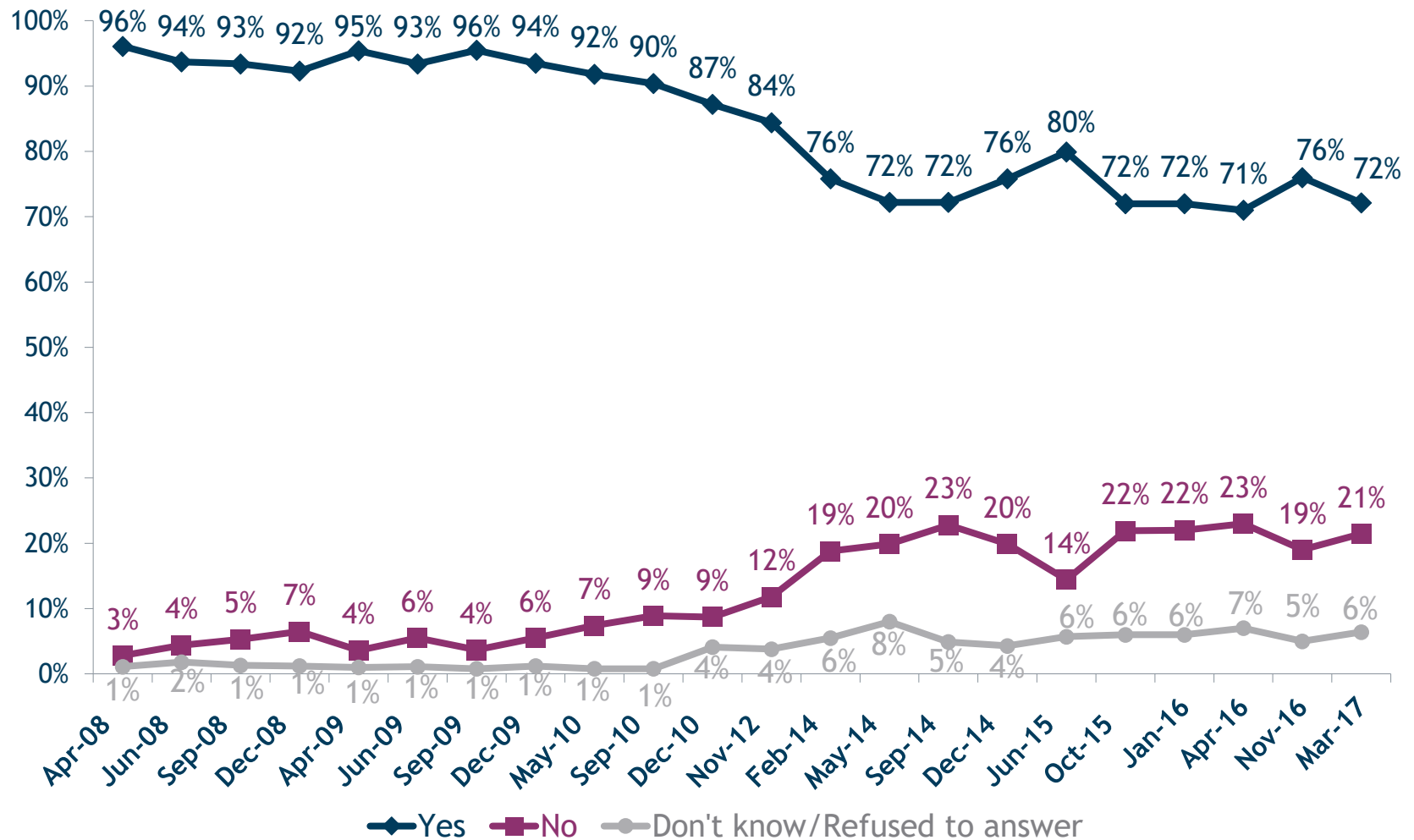


A PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE

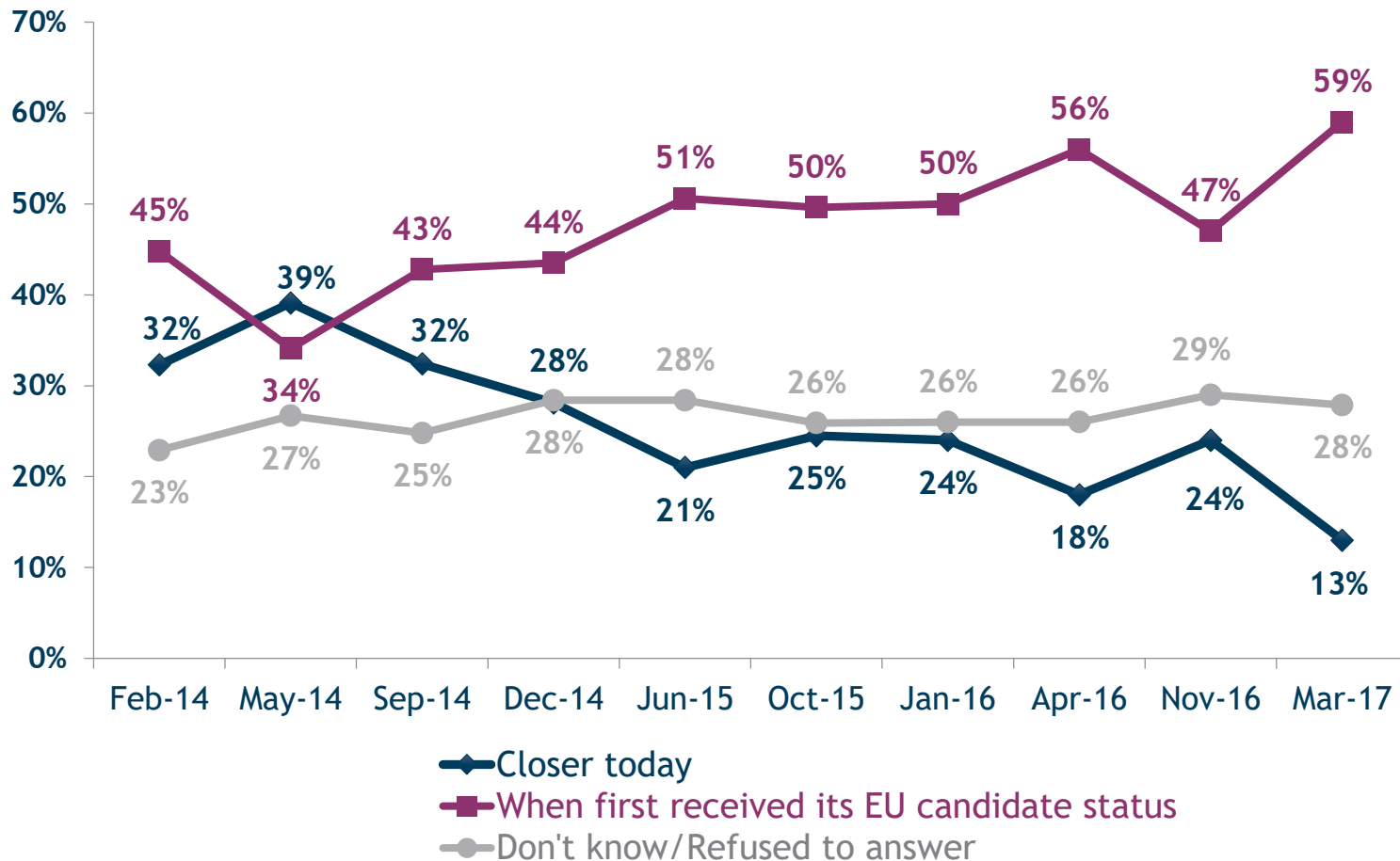


USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

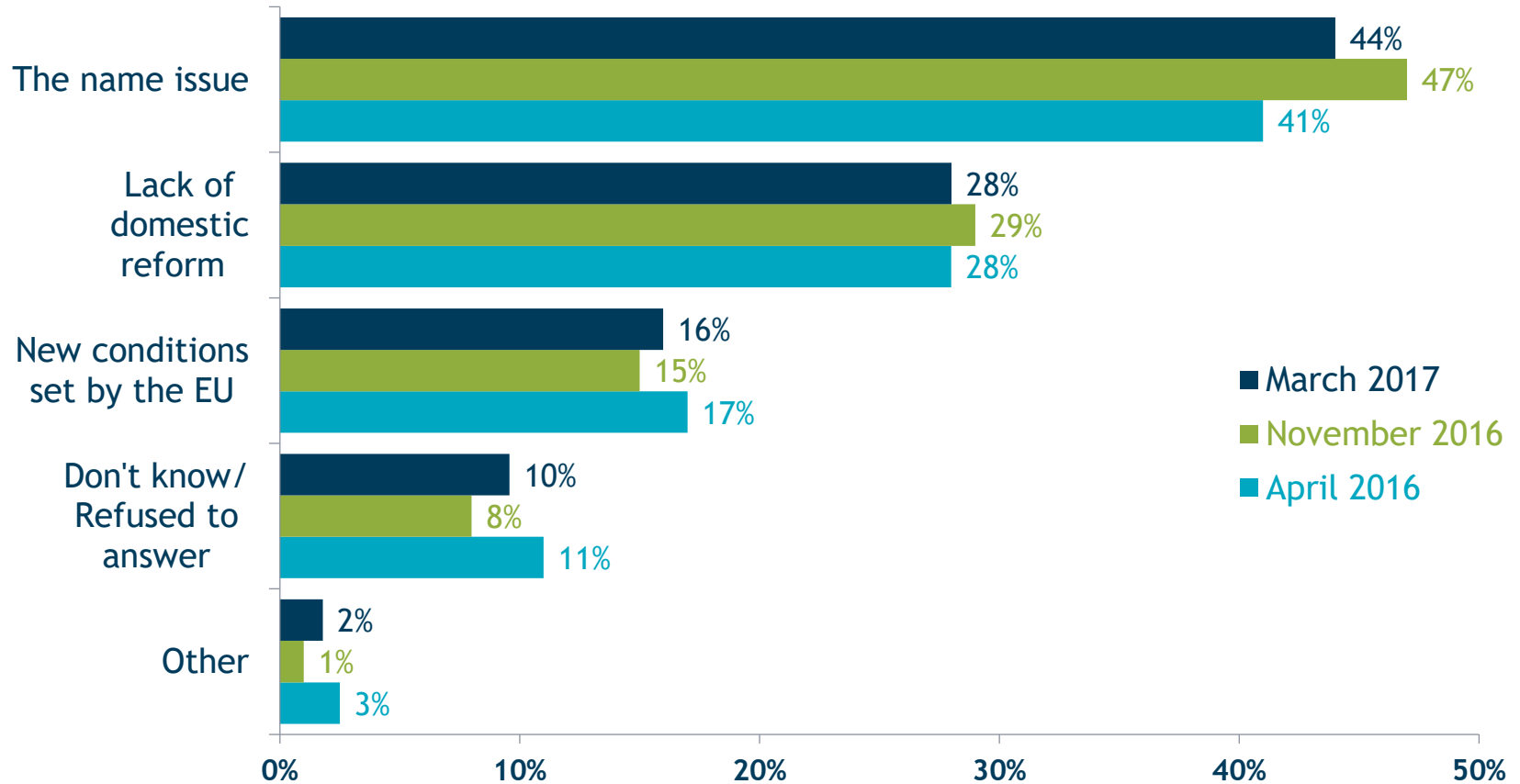
Do you support Macedonia becoming a member of the EU?



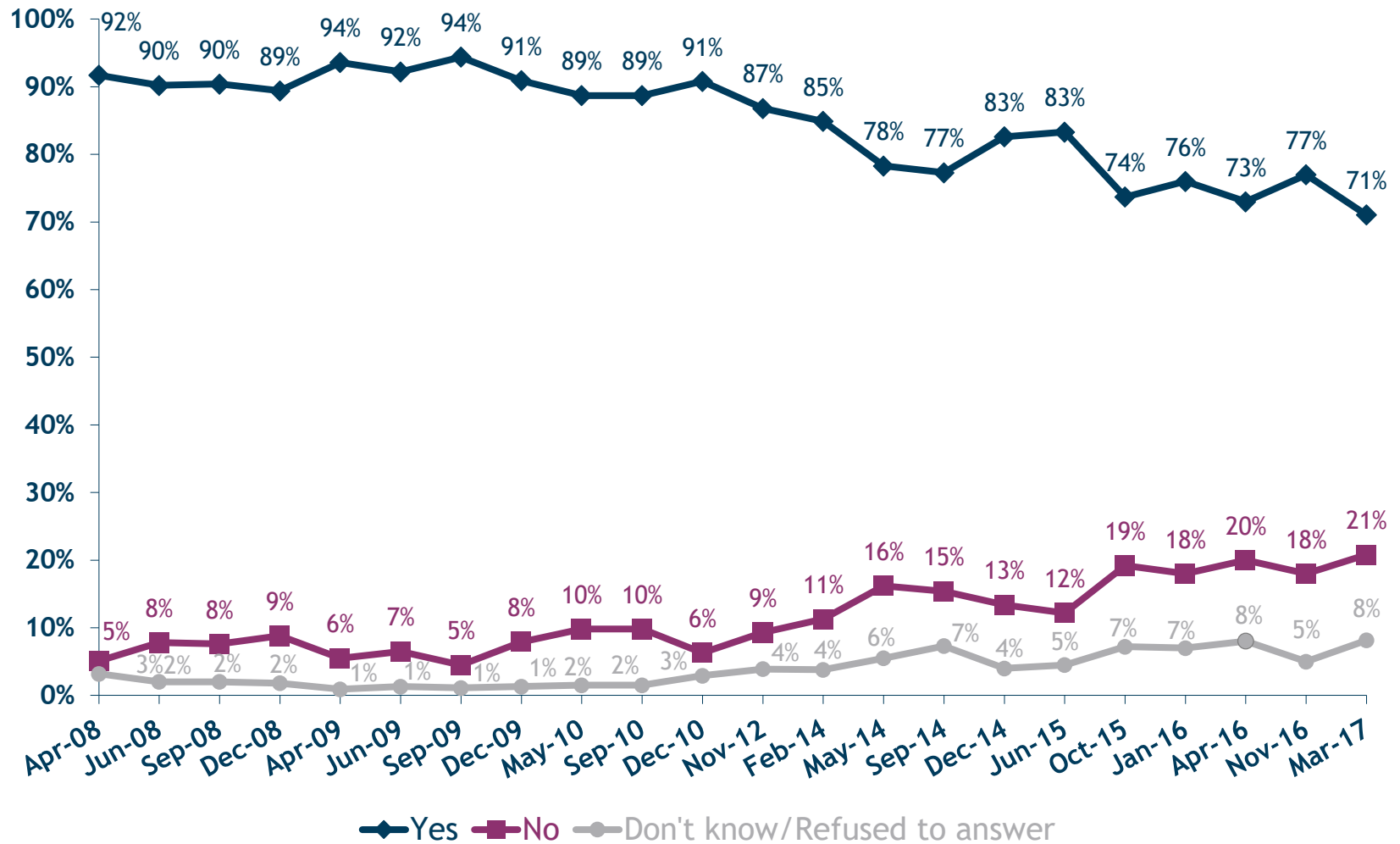
Do you think Macedonia is closer to EU entry today, or was it closer when it first received its EU candidate member status?



What is the reason for the slowdown in Macedonia's EU integration?

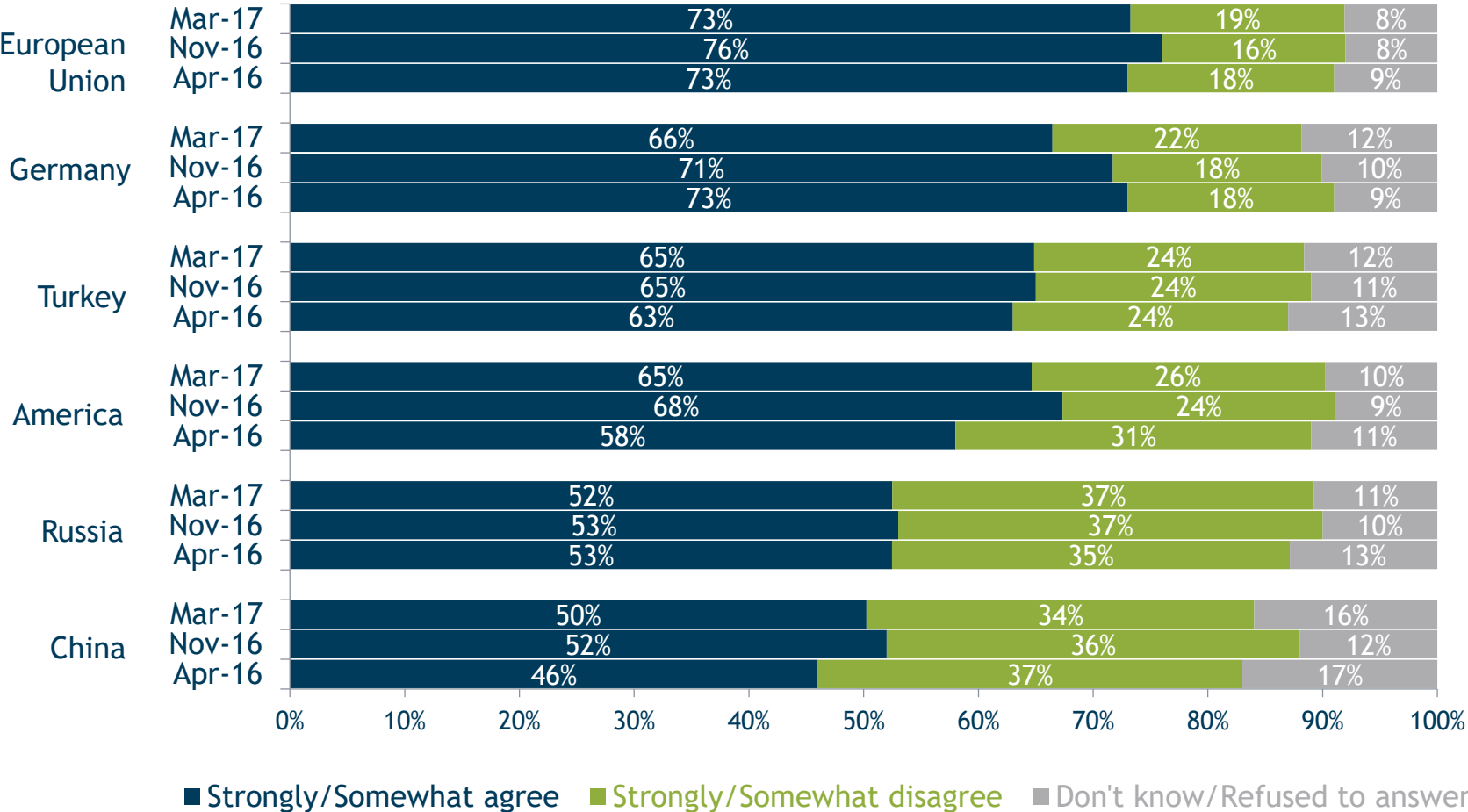


Do you support Macedonia becoming a member of NATO?

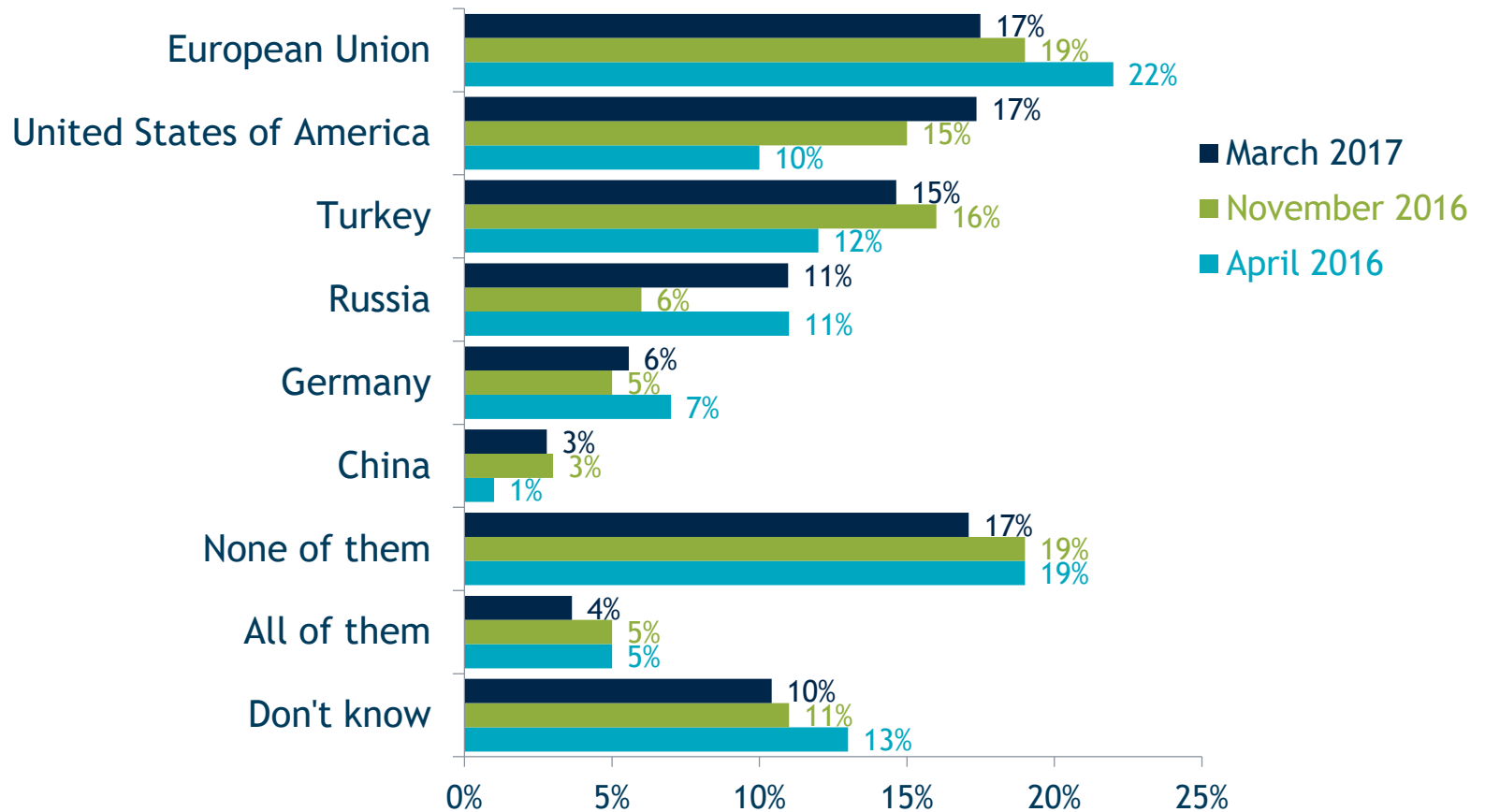


How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

“Macedonia’s interests are best served by maintaining strong relations with...”



Which one of these countries helps Macedonia's national interests the most?





Sources of Political News

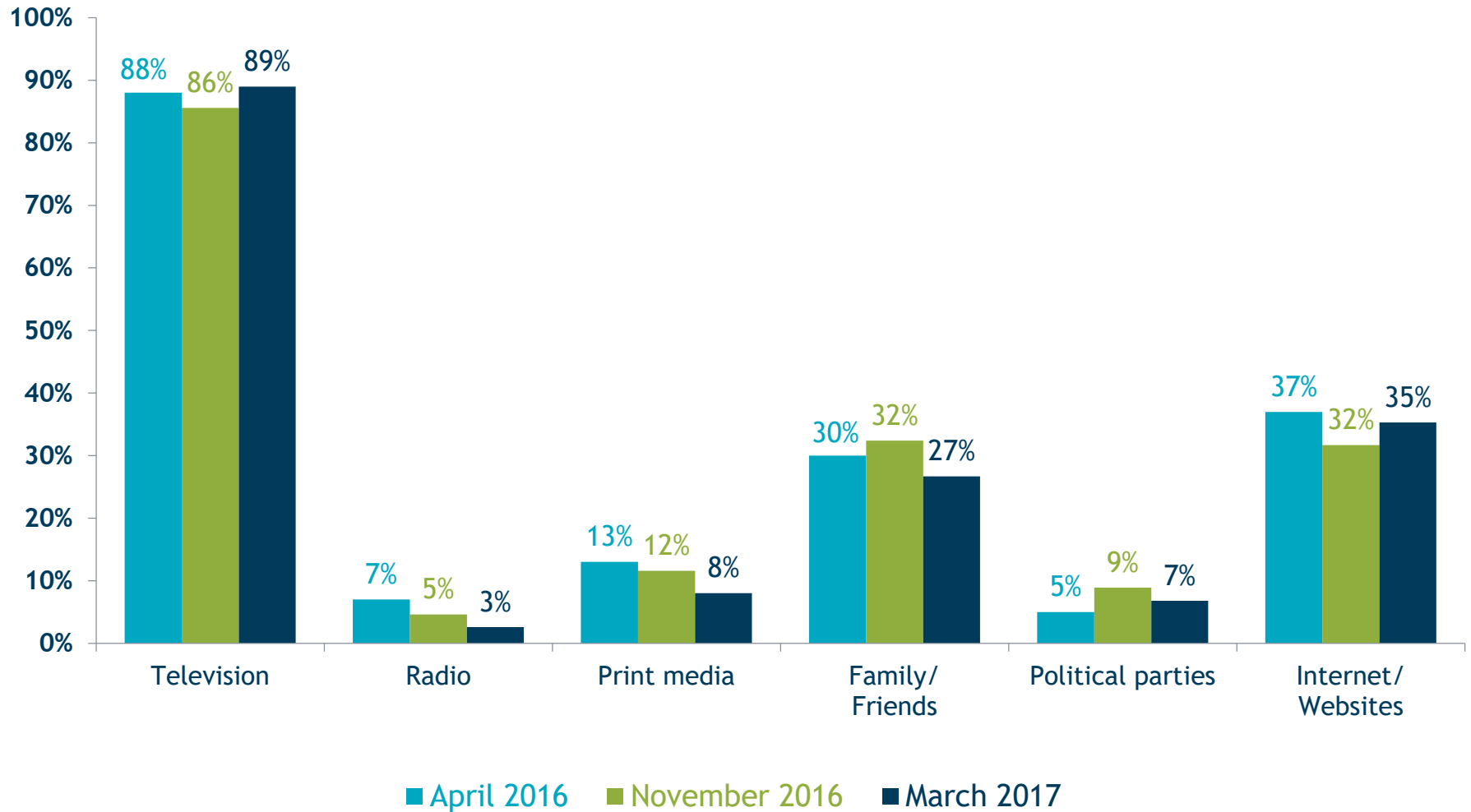


A PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE

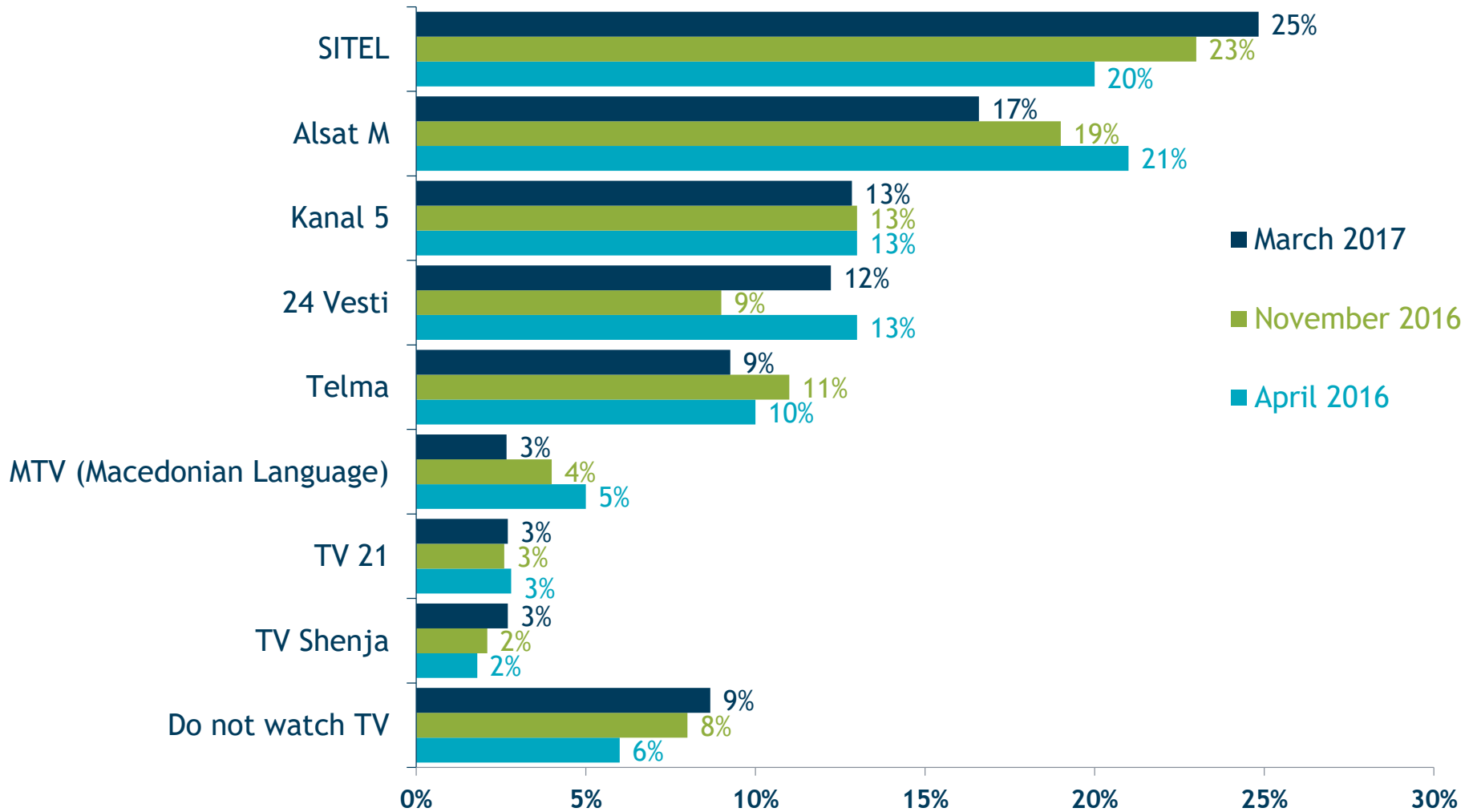


USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

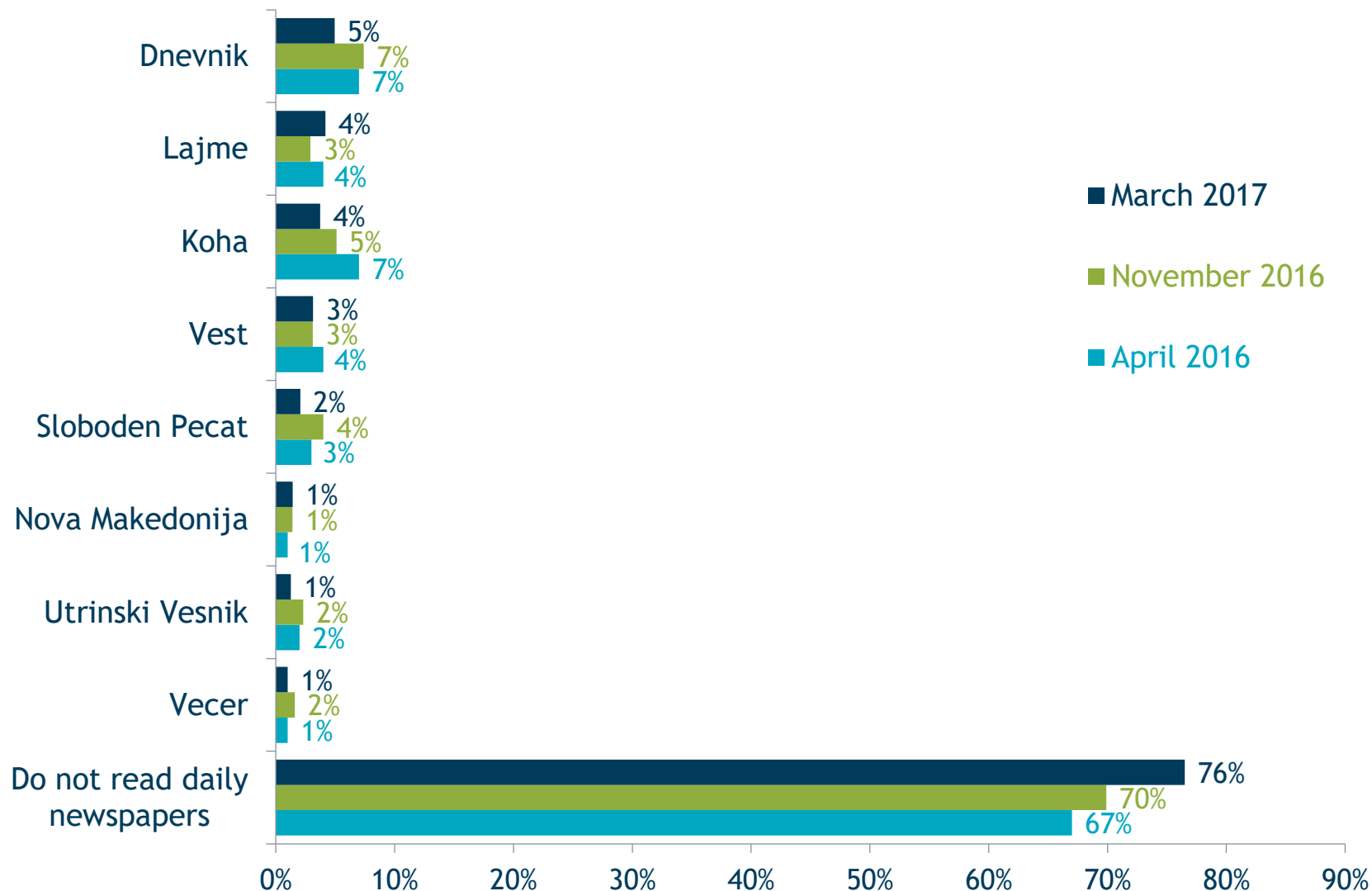
What is your primary source of political news? (Multiple answers)



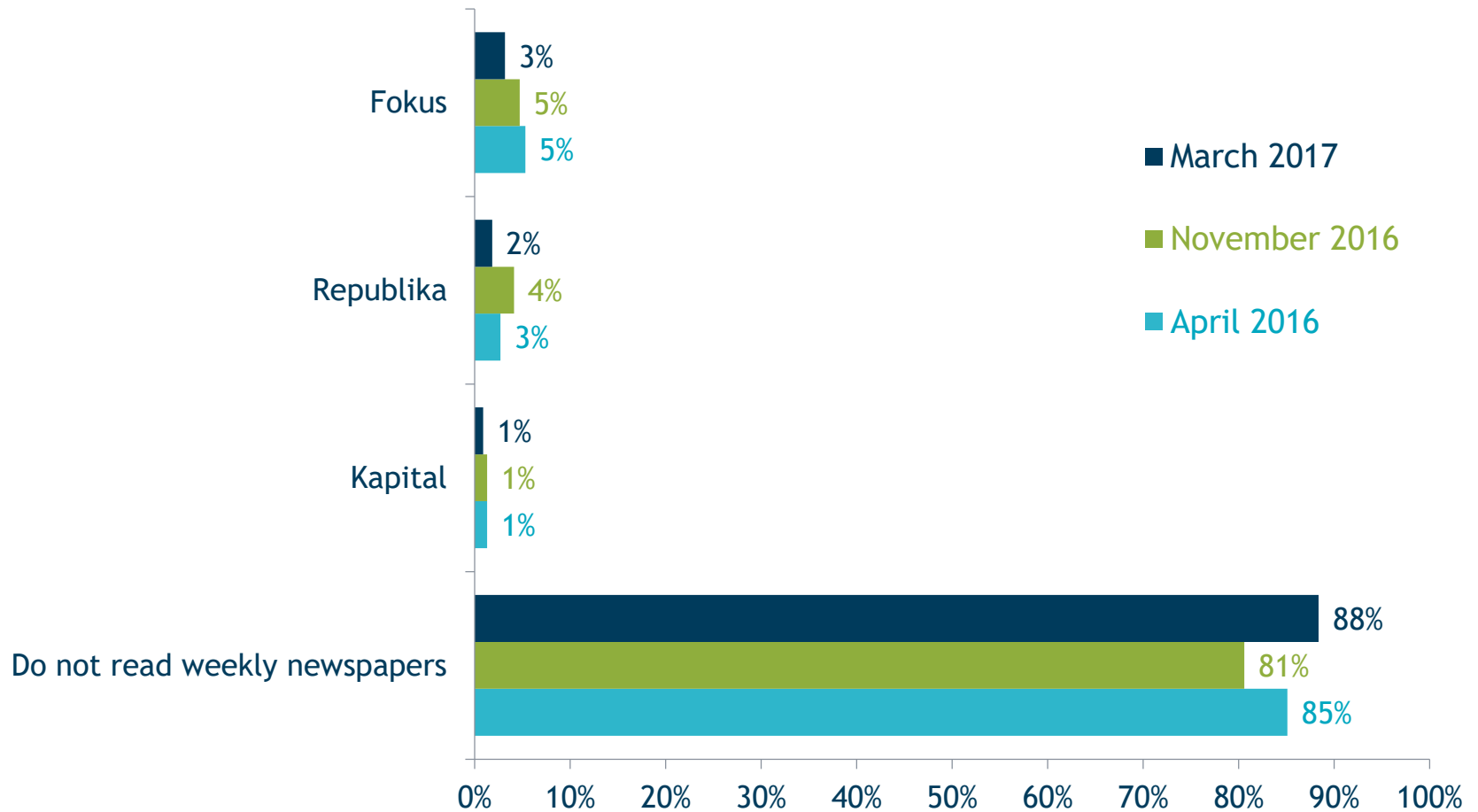
Which television station do you watch most often for political news?



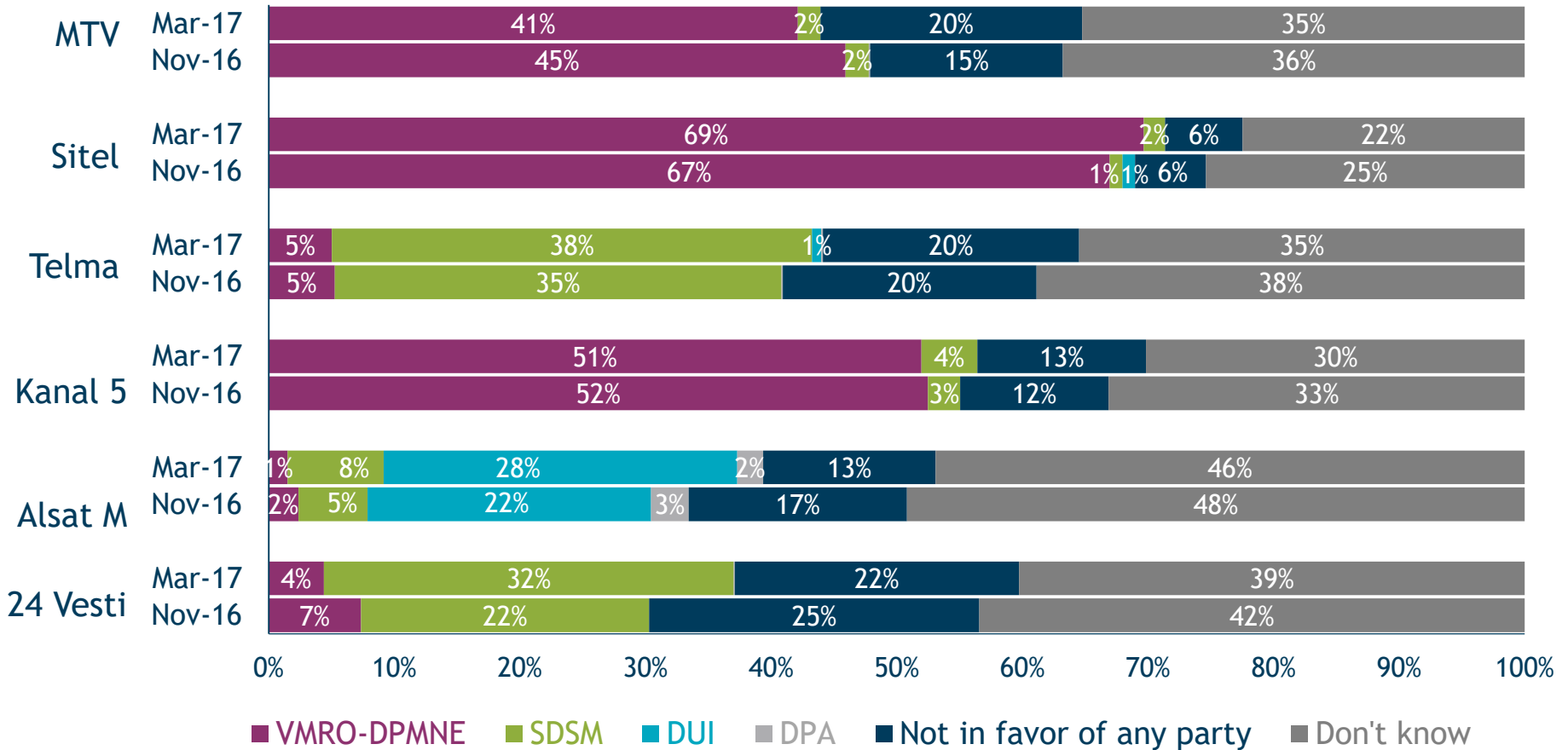
Which daily newspaper do you read most often for political news?



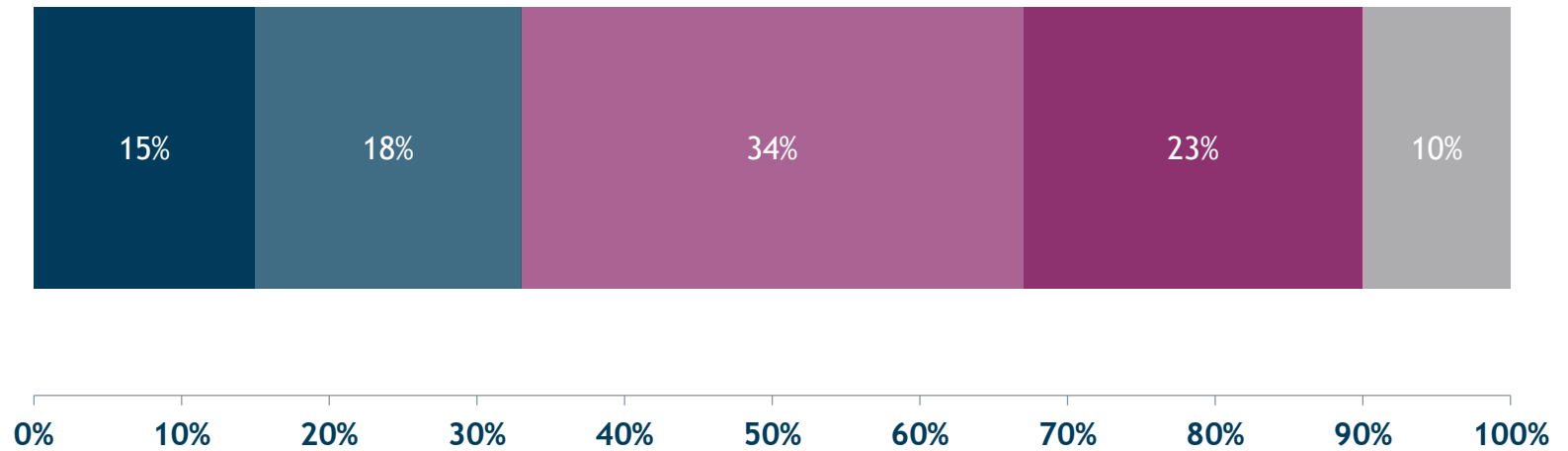
Which weekly newspaper do you read most often for political news?



Do the following TV stations favor a particular political party?

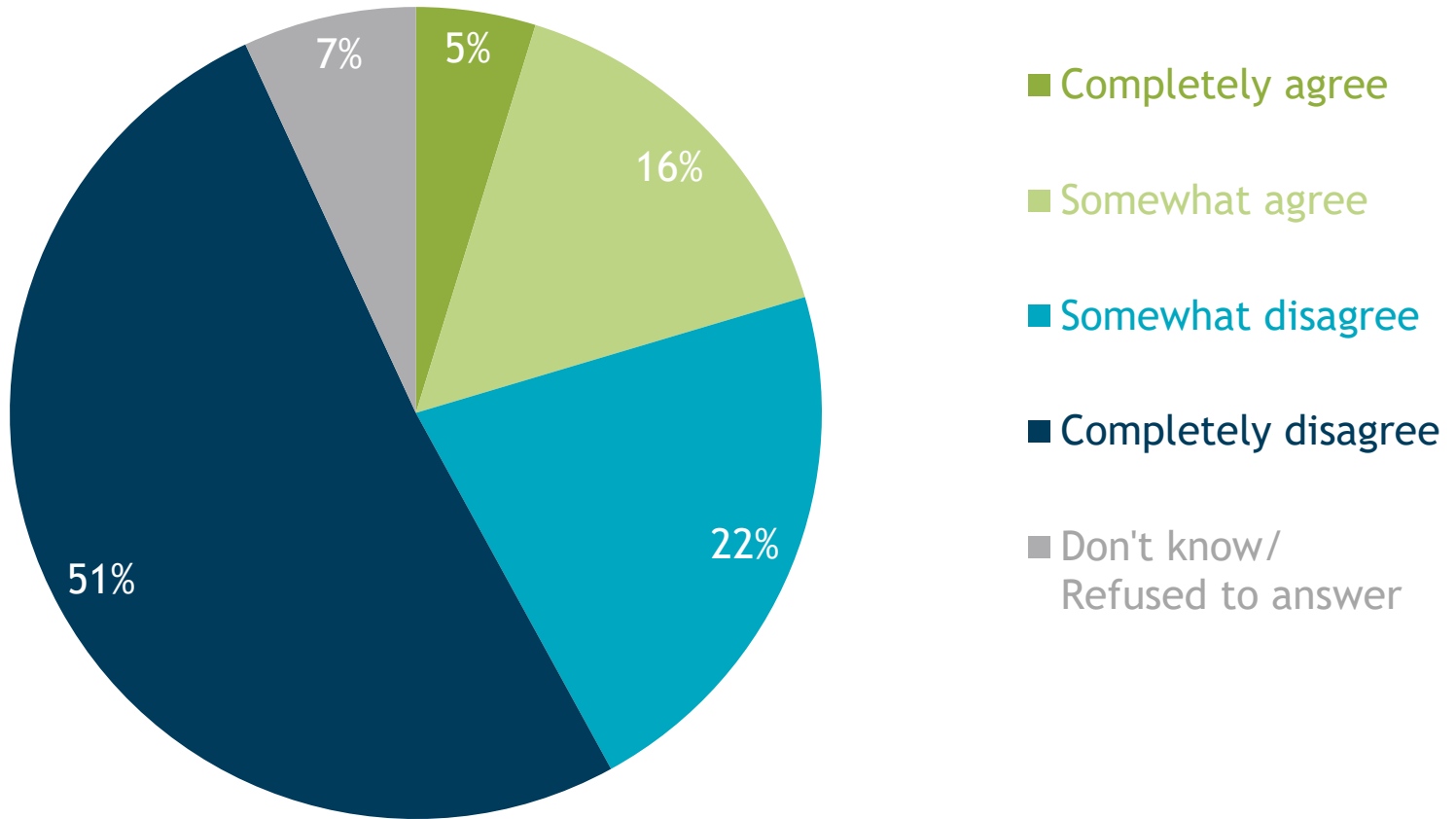


To what extent do you agree or disagree that the media in Macedonia are free and independent?



- The media are free and independent
- Most of the media are free and independent, but some are not
- Some of the media are free and independent, but most are not
- No media in Macedonia are free and independent
- Don't know/Refused to answer

To what degree do you agree or disagree with this statement:
“I find it more difficult to be friends with someone who disagrees with me on political issues.”



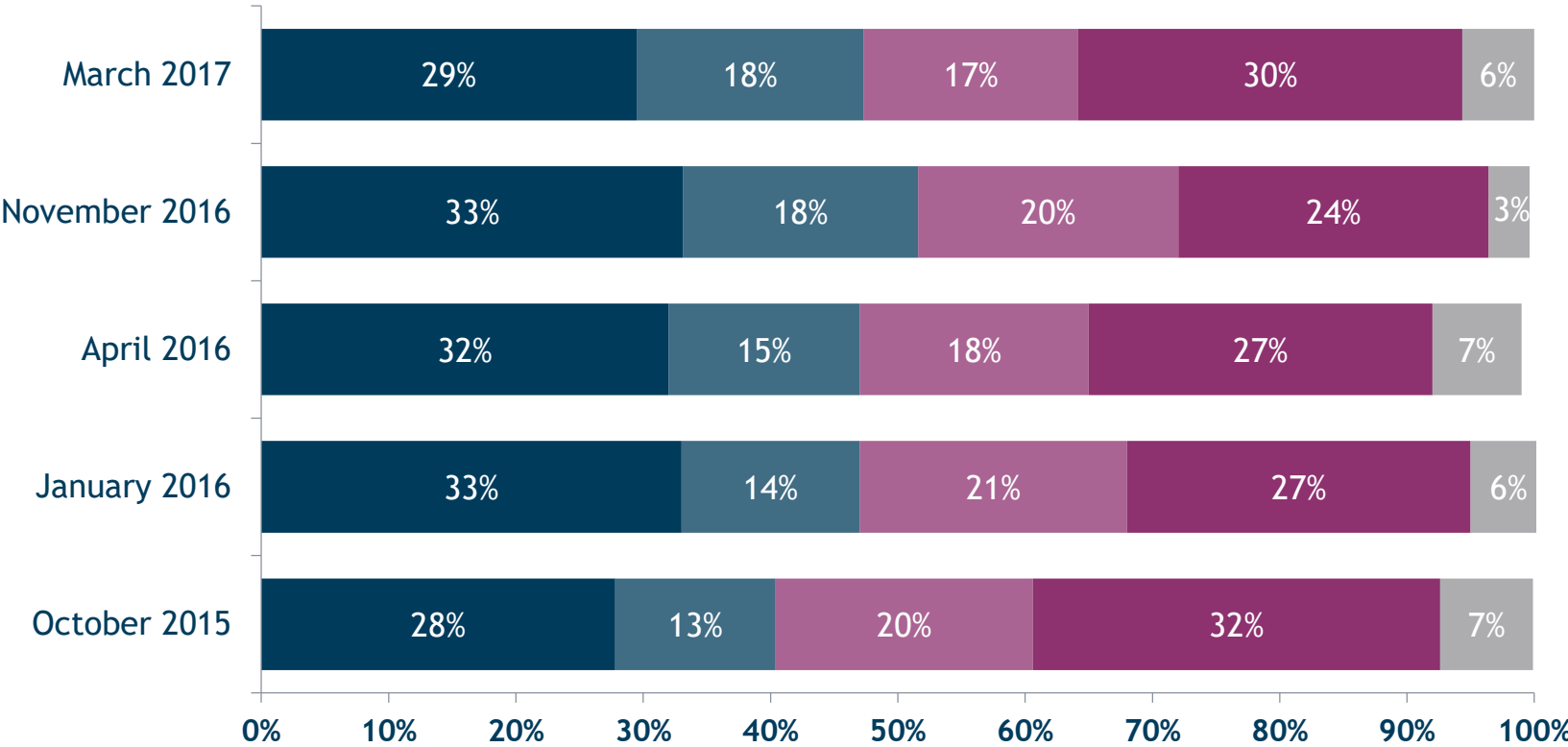


Attitudes towards Democracy, Women and Youth



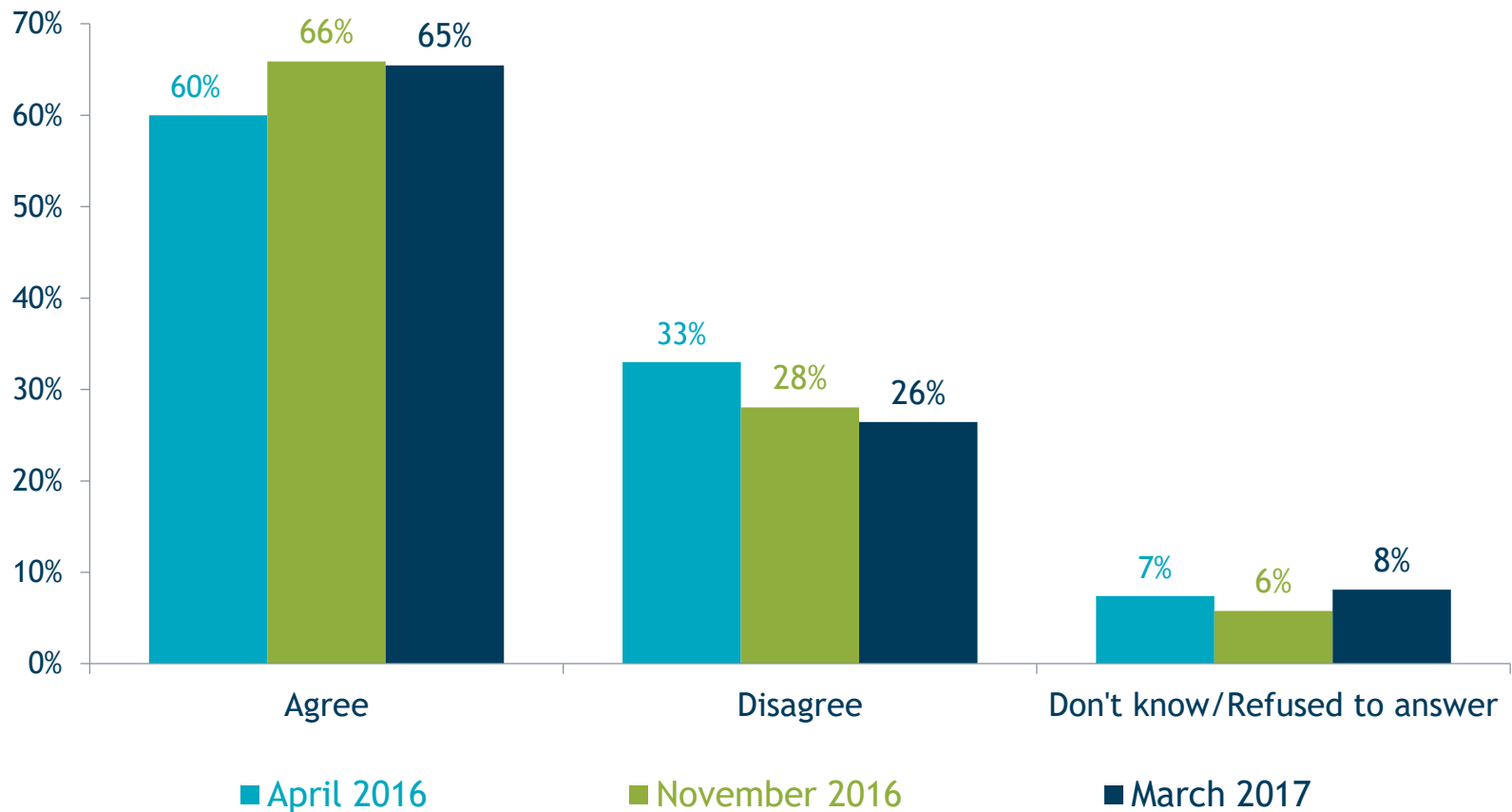
USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

If you could have only one or the other, which is more important to you: a democratic system of government or a prosperous economy?

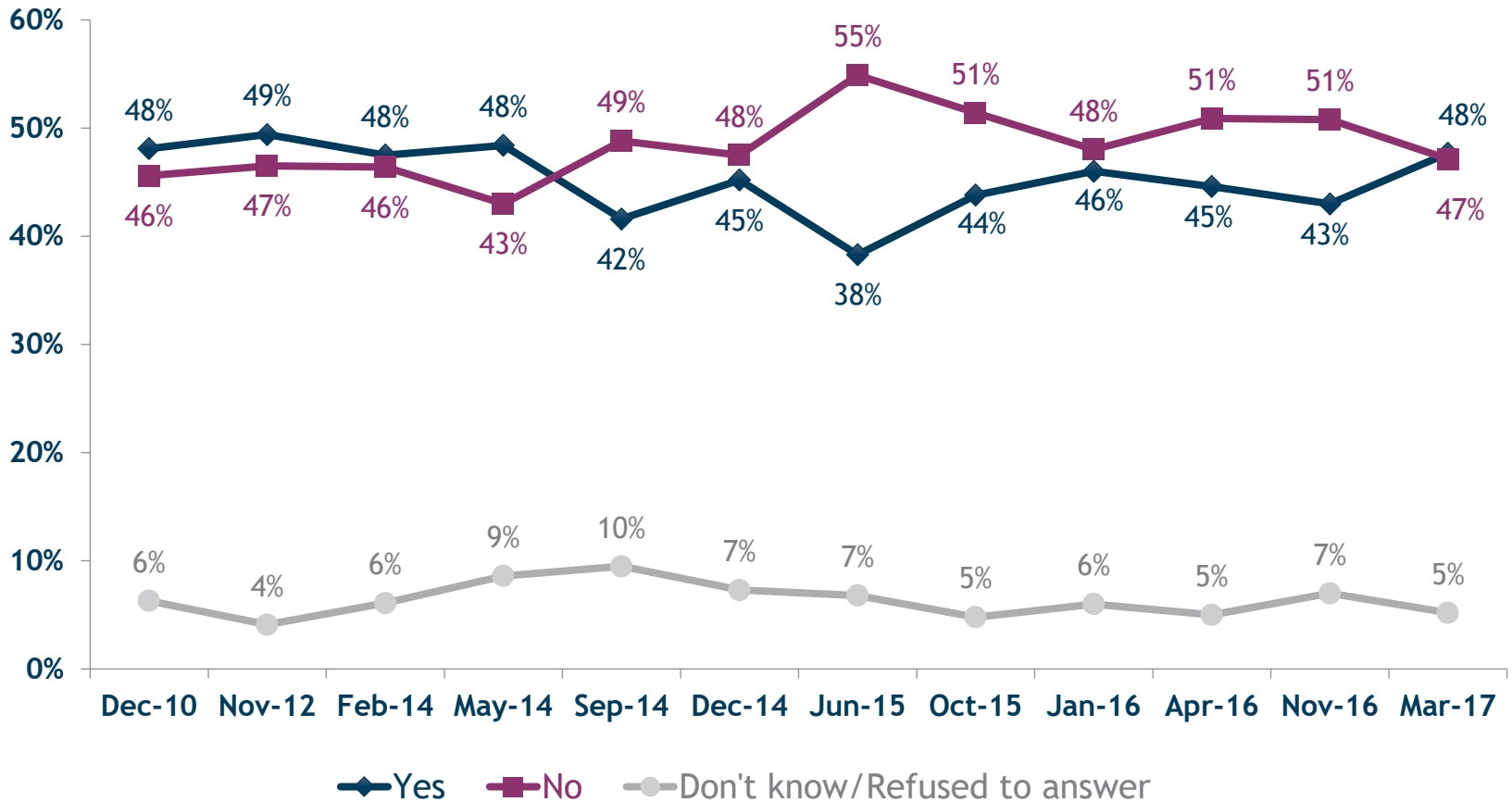


- Democracy is definitely more important to me
- Democracy is somewhat more important to me
- Prosperity is somewhat more important to me
- Prosperity is definitely more important to me
- Don't know/Refused to answer

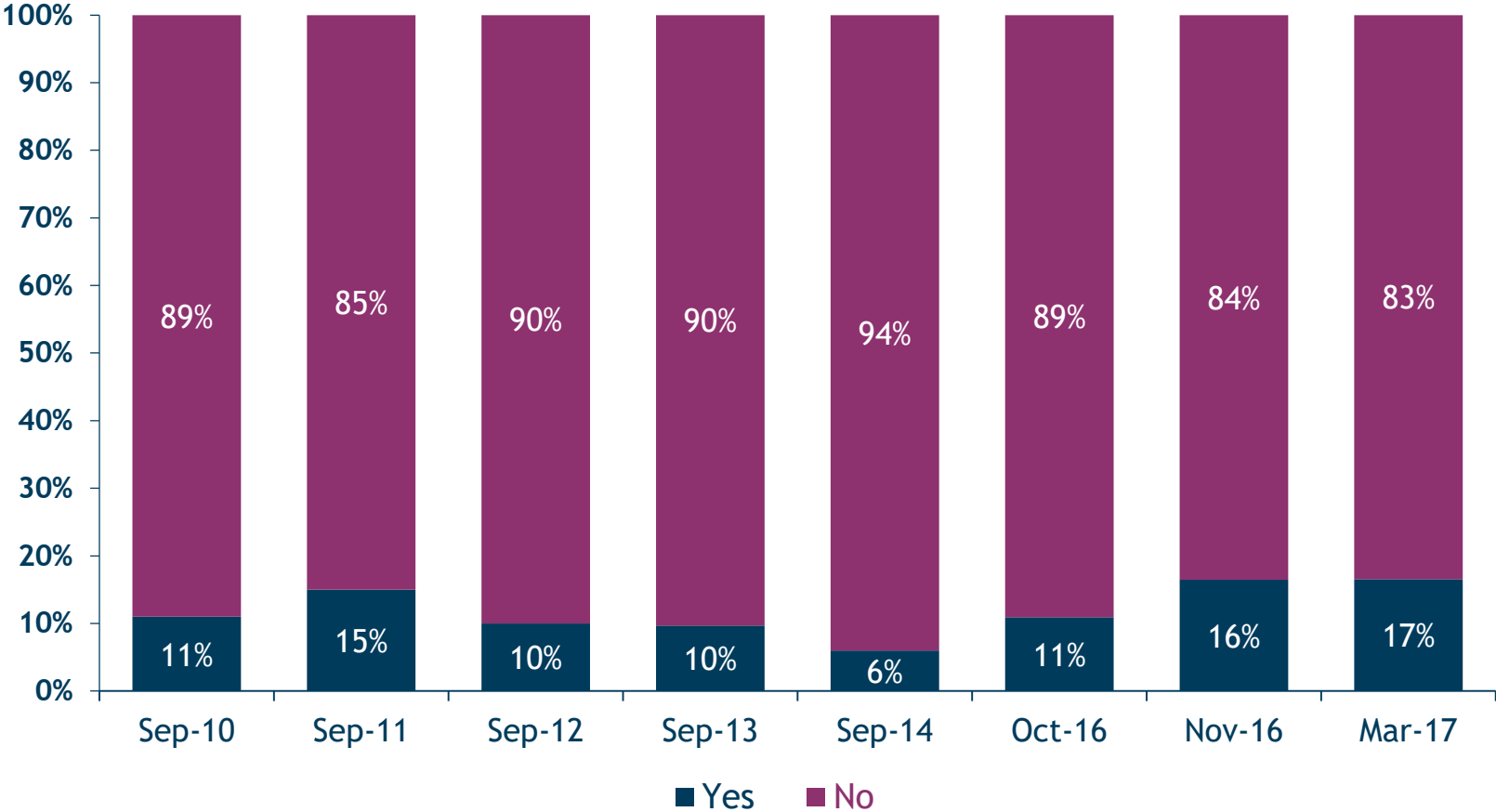
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “Politicians do not listen to the needs and ideas of young people.”



Do you think that free speech and free expression exists in Macedonia today?

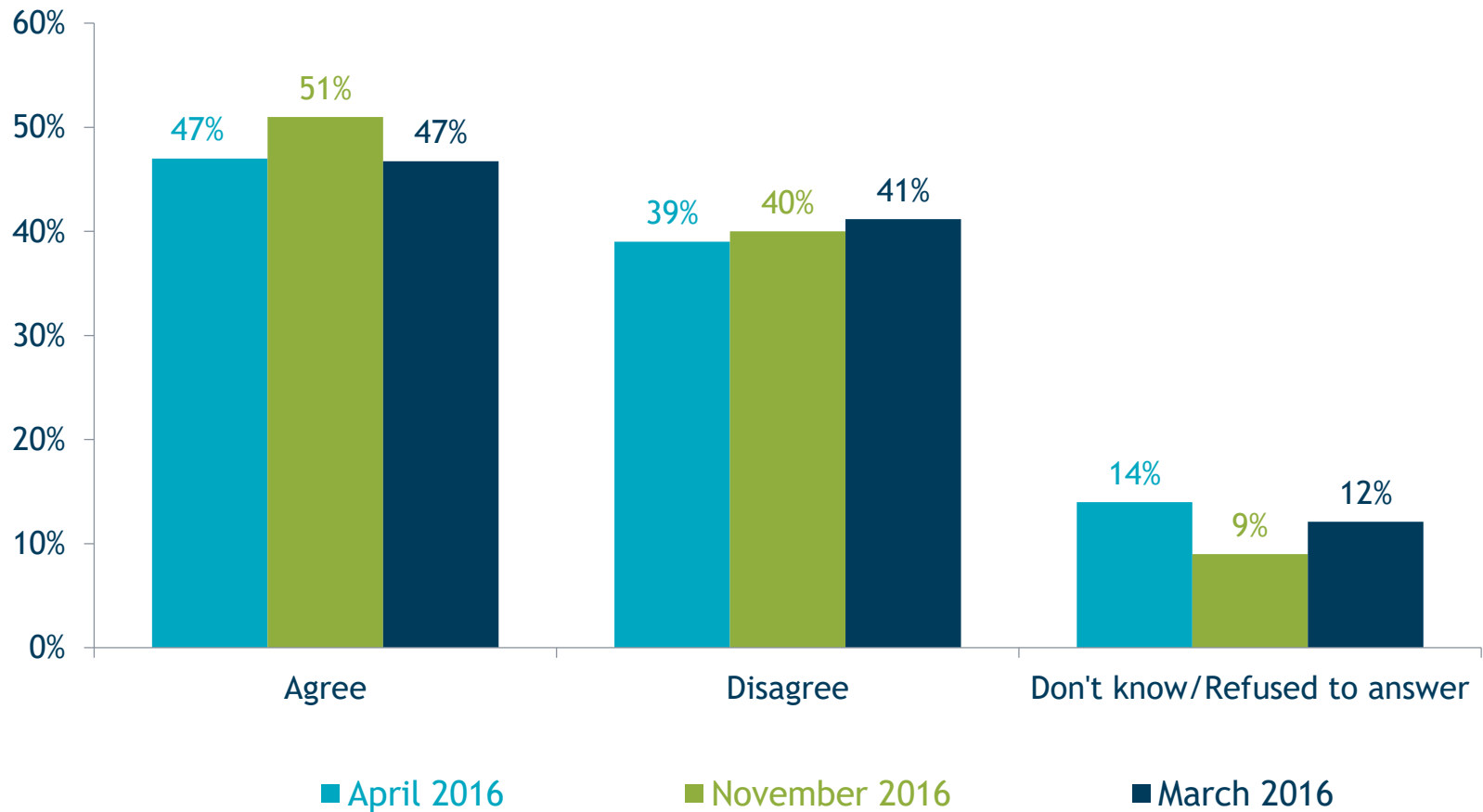


Have you engaged in activities to address a social or community problem in the last 12 months (e.g. participated in a protest, filed a complaint, initiated or supported an online petition)?

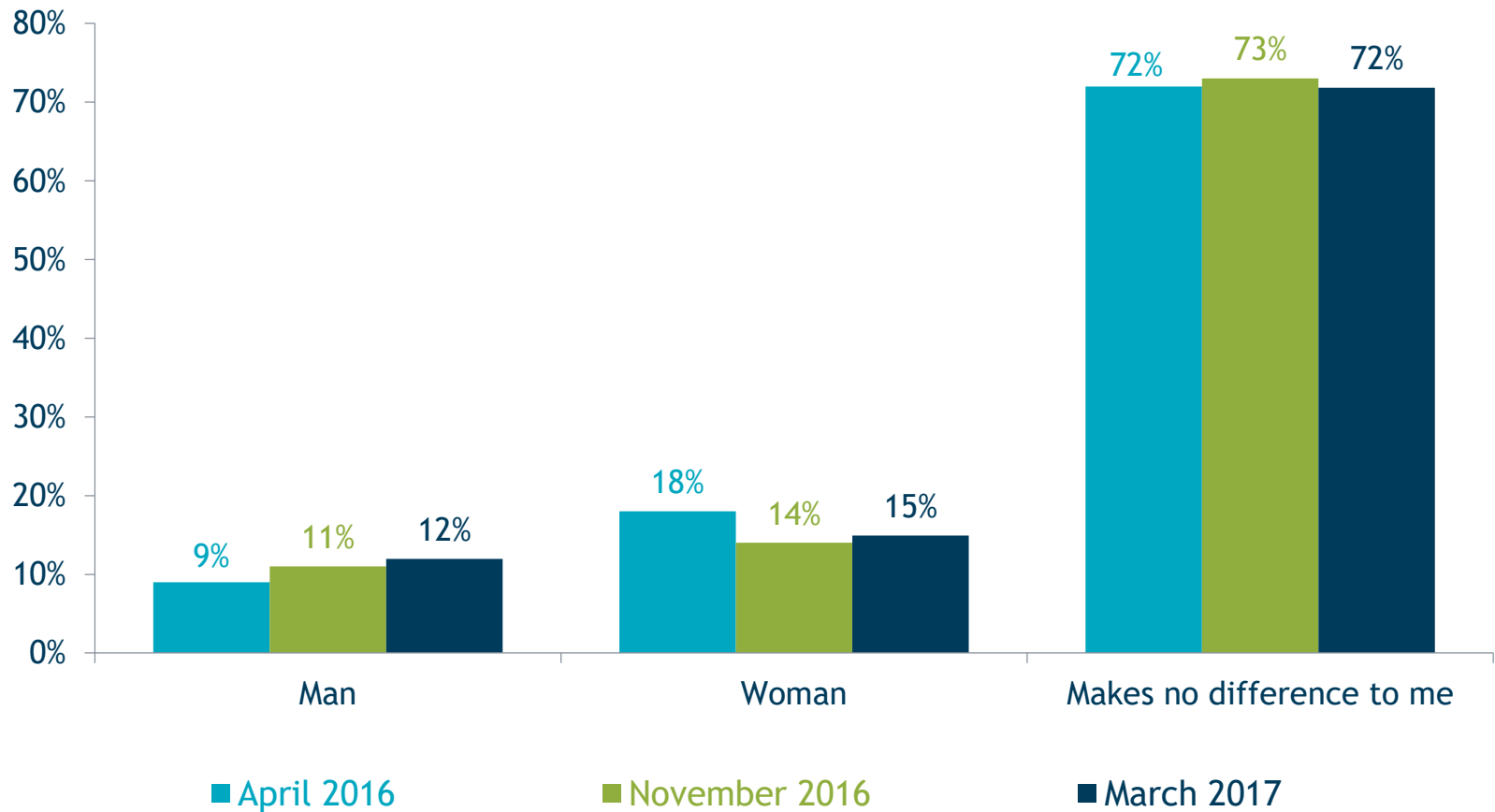


*Responses before 2014 are taken from previous surveys not conducted by IRI.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “Politicians do not listen to the needs and ideas of women.”



If there are two candidates running for office and they have the same qualifications aside from the fact that one is a man and one is a woman, which candidate are you more likely to support?





Demographics



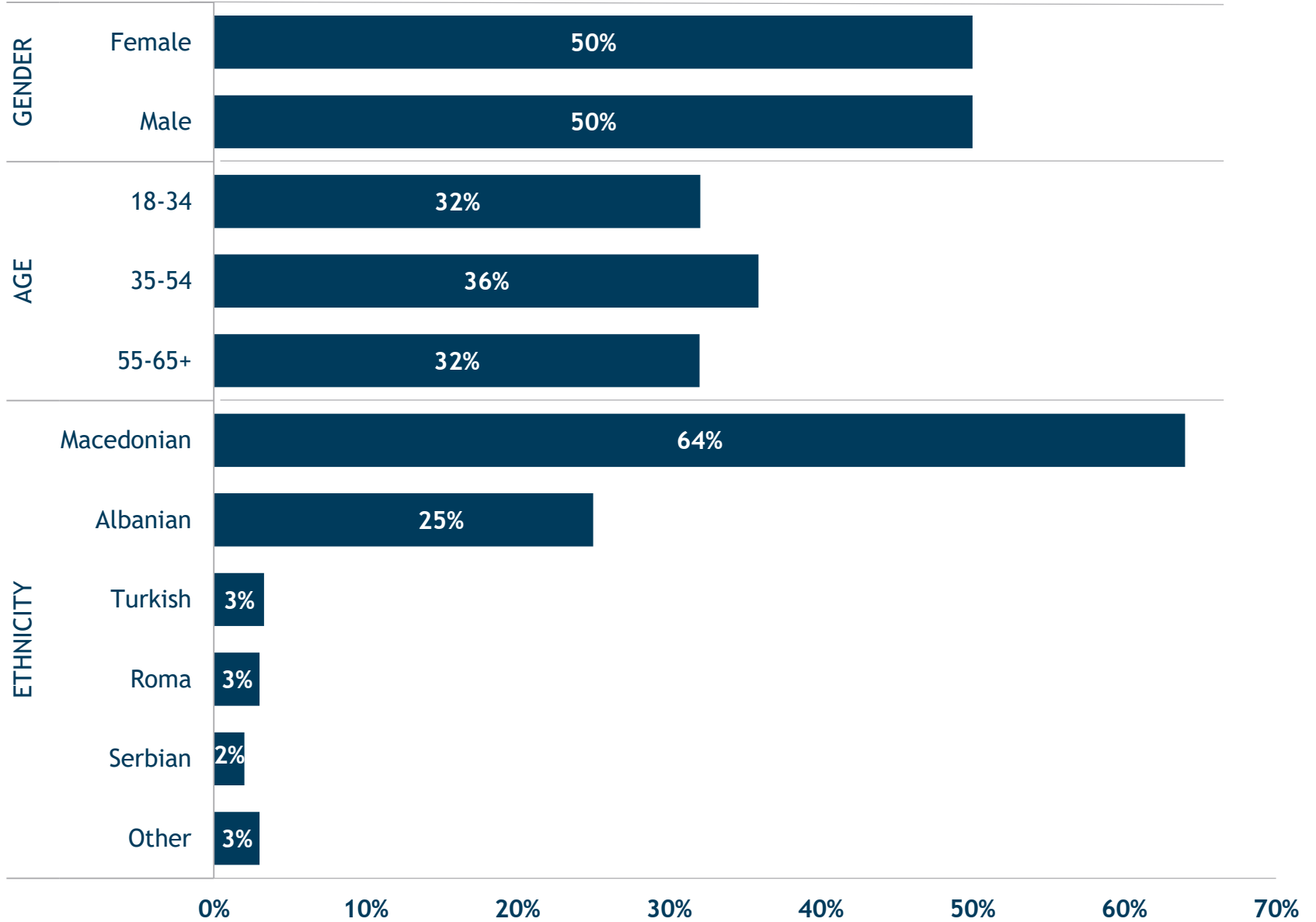
CENTER FOR
INSIGHTS IN
SURVEY
RESEARCH

A PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE

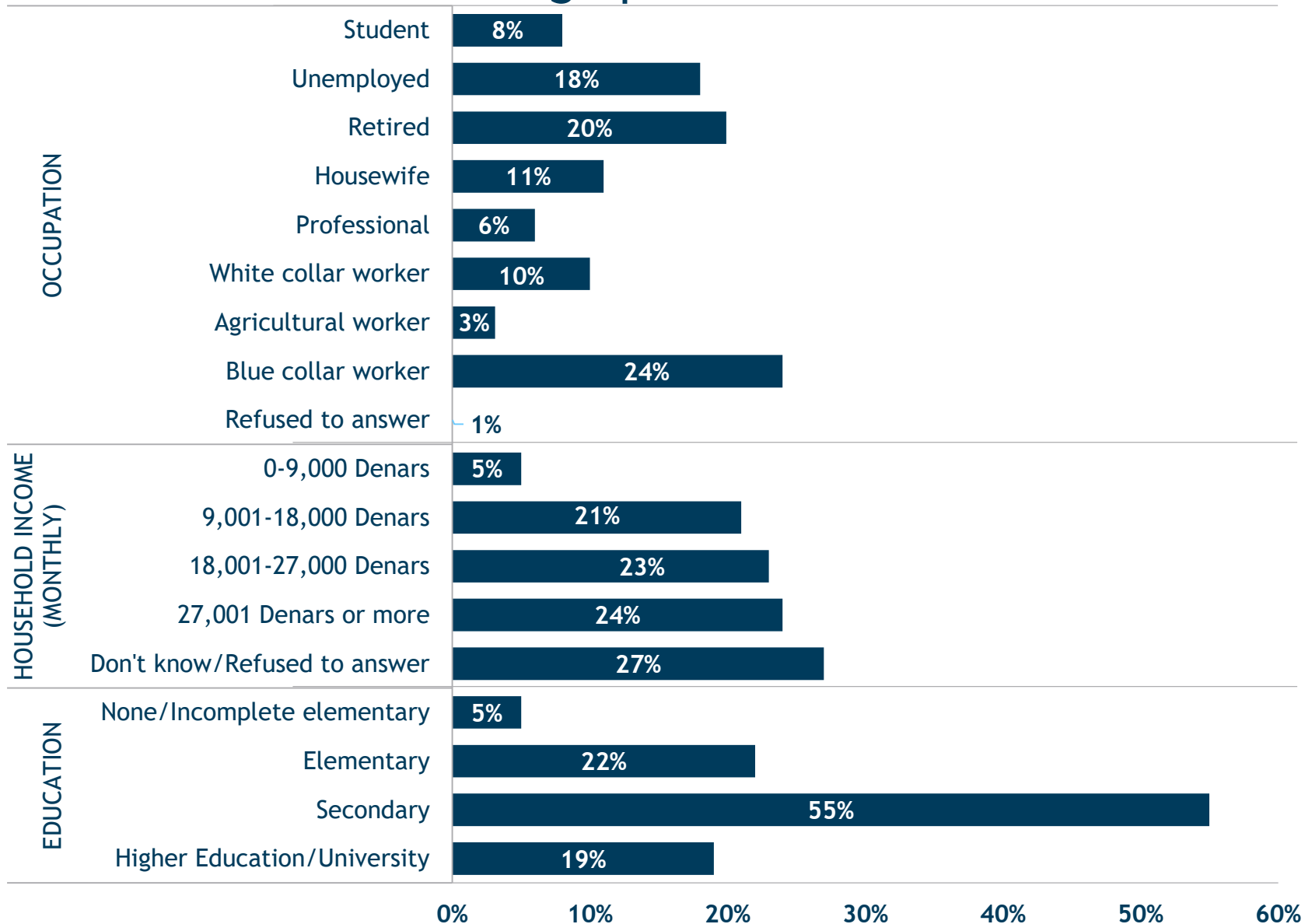


USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Demographics



Demographics



Center for Insights in Survey Research
202.408.9450 | info@iri.org
www.IRI.org | @IRI_Polls



A PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE

