

National Public Opinion Survey of Timor-Leste

October 23-30 & November 5-12, 2018



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Detailed Methodology

- The survey was conducted by INSIGHT Lda. under the supervision of the [Center for Insights in Survey Research](#) with the support of Burton Research and Strategies between October 23-30 & November 5-13, 2018. Fieldwork was temporarily delayed due to weather.
- This survey was funded by the [U.S. Agency for International Development](#) (USAID).
- Data was collected through in-person, in-home interviews. The sample was stratified by the 13 districts of Timor-Leste. Interviews were conducted in both urban and rural locations.
- The sample consisted of 1,500 respondents age 17 and older and was representative of the voting age of adults nationally.
- In an effort to more closely align the achieved sample with the population statistics as per the 2015 census, data in this presentation has been weighted for age and education. The same weighting scheme will also be employed for future polls, therefore ensuring better comparability of data over time. Due to the fact that previous polling data had not been weighted, comparability of the 2018 poll against prior polls is limited.
- The survey was conducted according to a random multistage stratified section process. The first stage of the survey was stratified by Timor-Leste's 13 districts. In the second stage, the survey was further stratified by *suco* (village). Next, *aldeias* (neighborhood administrative units) were chosen by random sampling, using the 2010 census information. Within each *aldeia*, households were selected from a random starting point and then every fifth house was chosen. Following random household selection, respondents in each household were chosen based on the Kish Grid method to select respondents 17 years and older.
- Interview teams were comprised of both men and women.
- The margin of error does not exceed plus or minus 2.53 percent at the mid-range with a confidence level of 95 percent.
- The information in this report has been compiled in accordance with international standards for market and social research methodologies. Figures in charts and tables may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.



National Mood

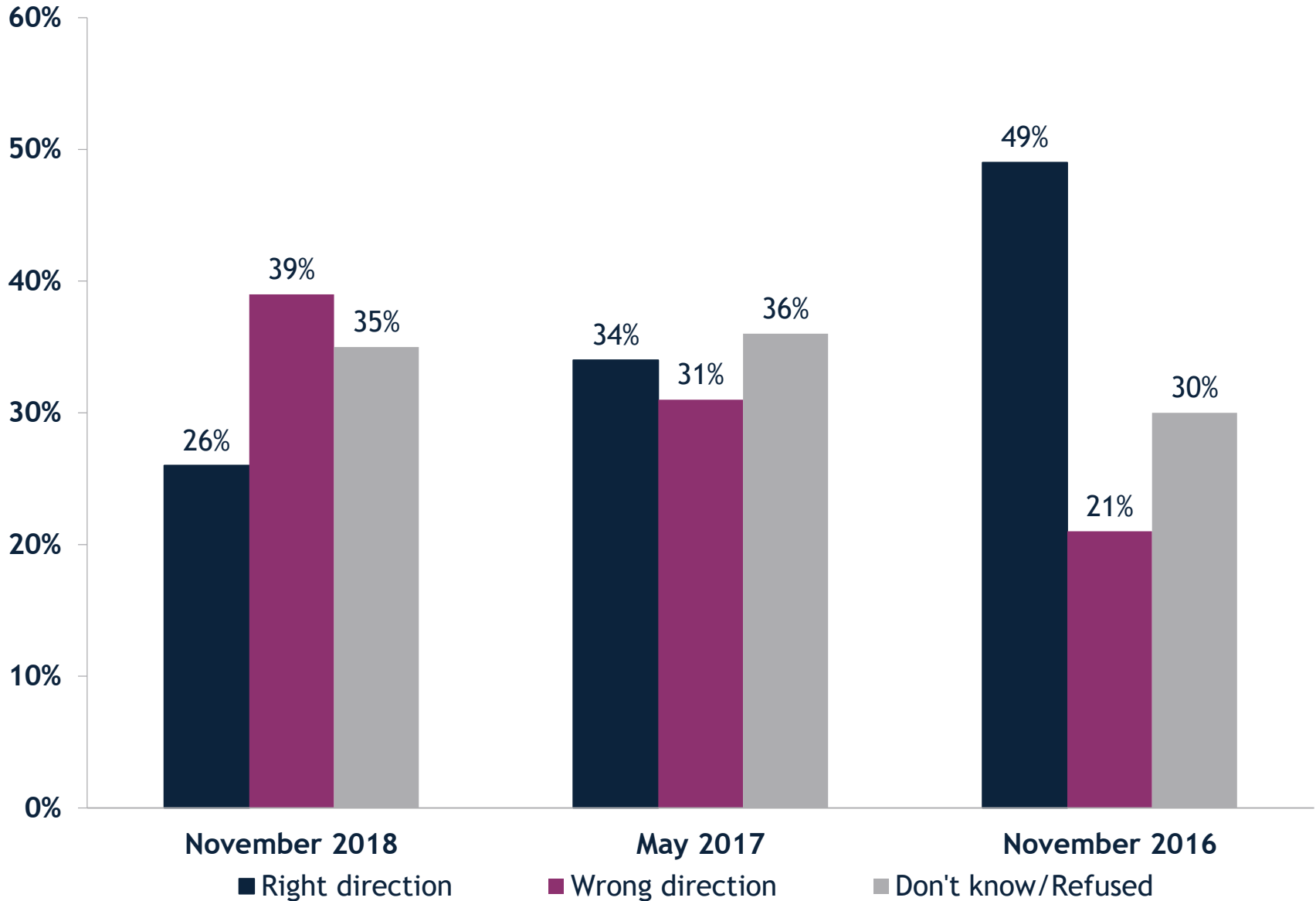


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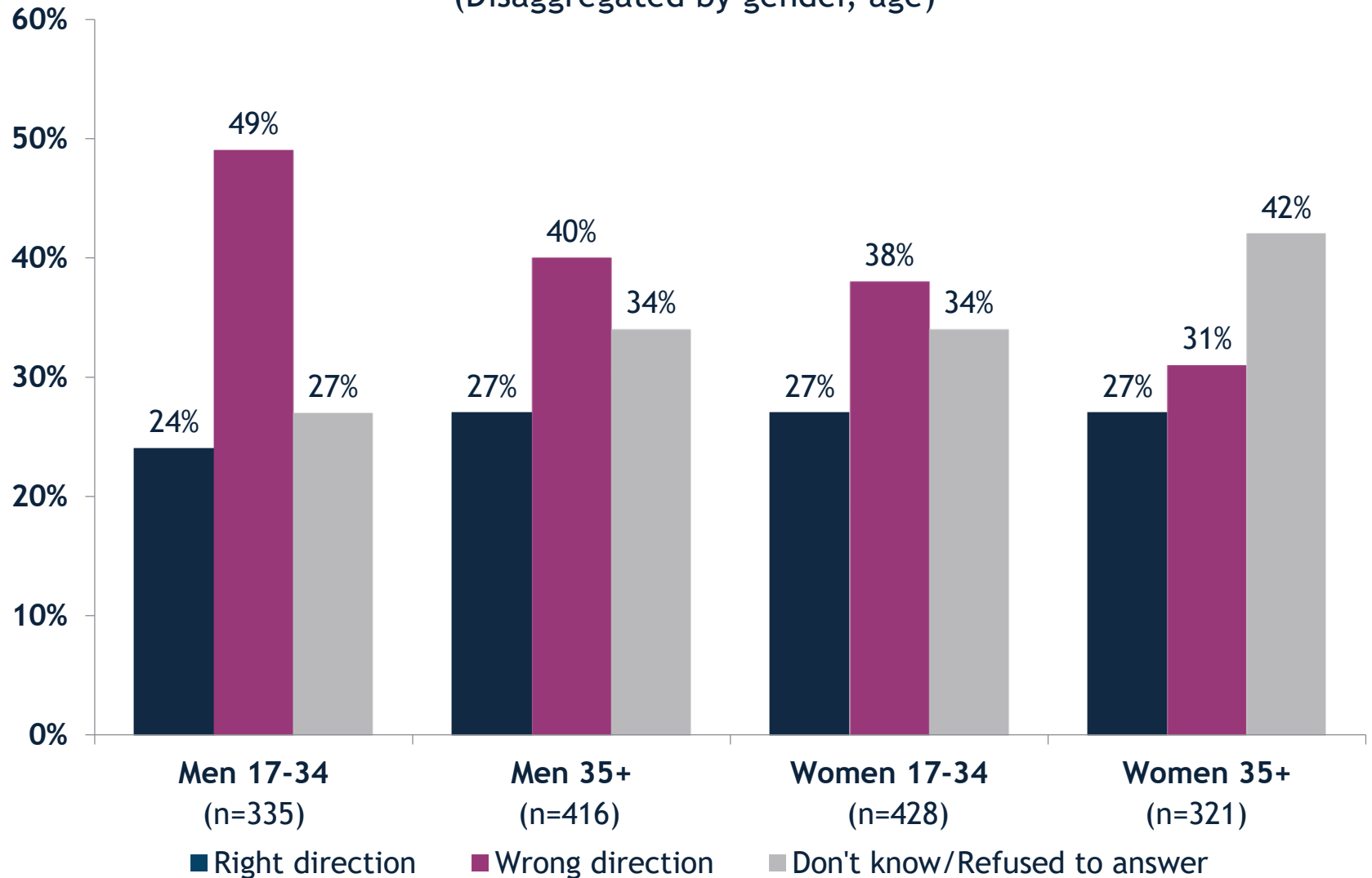
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How would you say things are going in our country overall these days? Are they going in the *right direction* or the *wrong direction*?



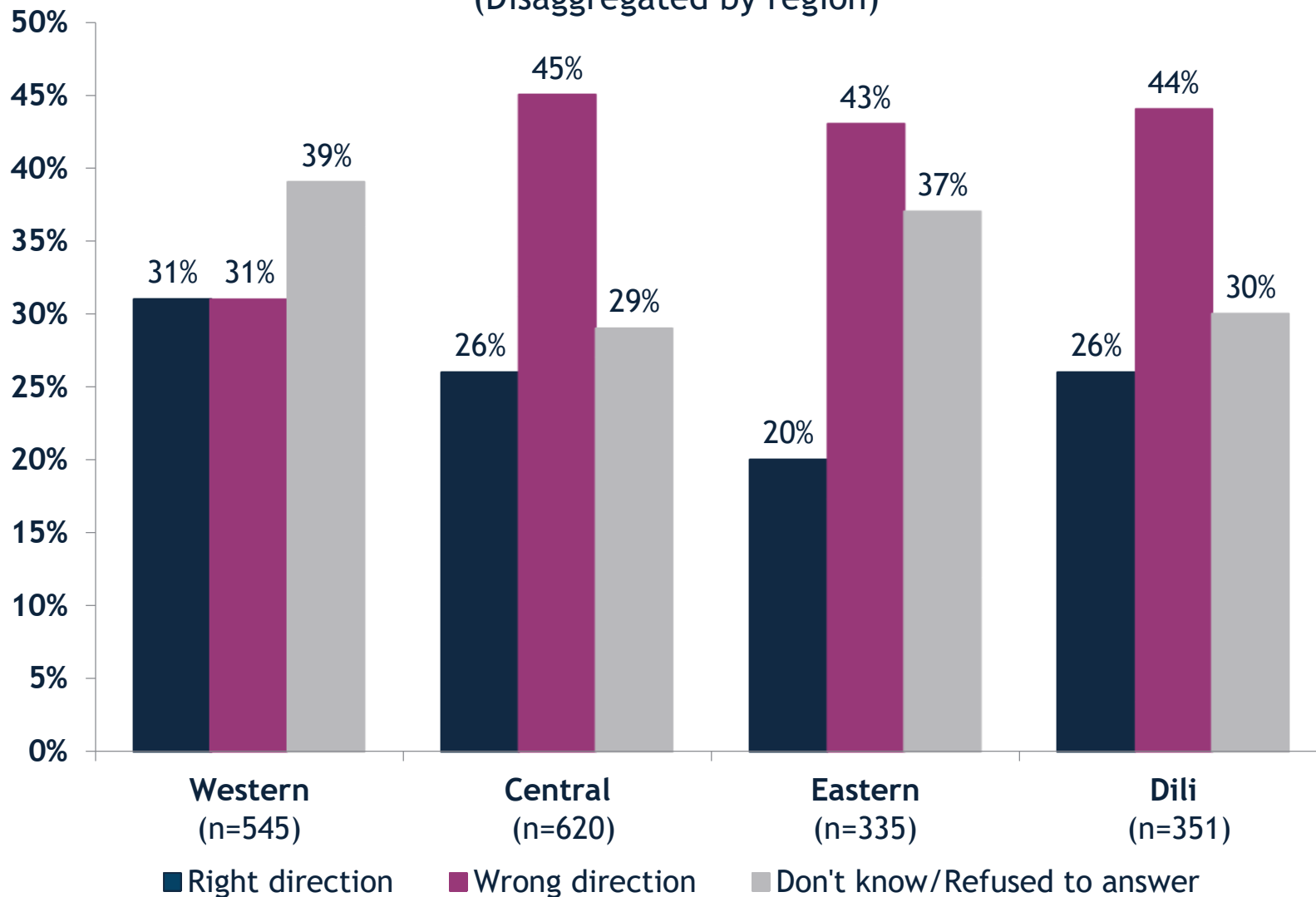
Thinking about how things are going for Timor-Leste as a whole, how would you say things are going in our country overall these days? Are they going in the *right direction* or the *wrong direction*?

(Disaggregated by gender, age)



Thinking about how things are going for Timor-Leste as a whole, how would you say things are going in our country overall these days? Are they going in the *right direction* or the *wrong direction*?

(Disaggregated by region)



Why do you think the country is moving in the *right direction*?

(Open-ended; respondents who provided a reason for right direction: n=218)

Reason	%
Development is going forward	38%
Our country is stable now	32%
The government is working properly	8%
Infrastructure development is going forward	4%
Everything is back to normal again	3%
Our country has changed for the better	2%
Our political situation is getting better	2%
There is good progress on politics	2%
Development on education is going forward	2%

*Responses below 2% are excluded from the table.

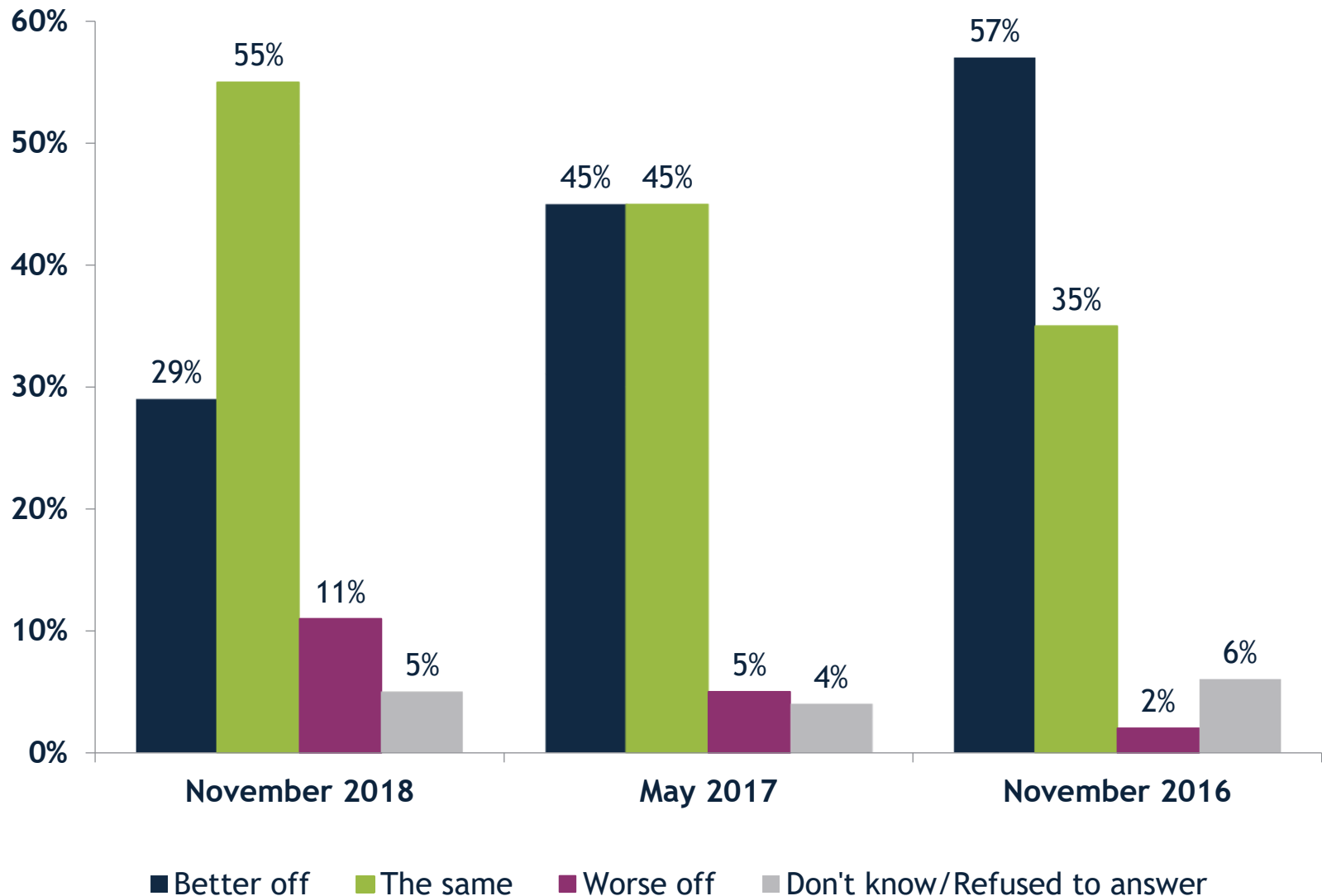
Why do you think the country is moving in the *wrong direction*?

(Open-ended; respondents who provided a reason for wrong direction: n=446)

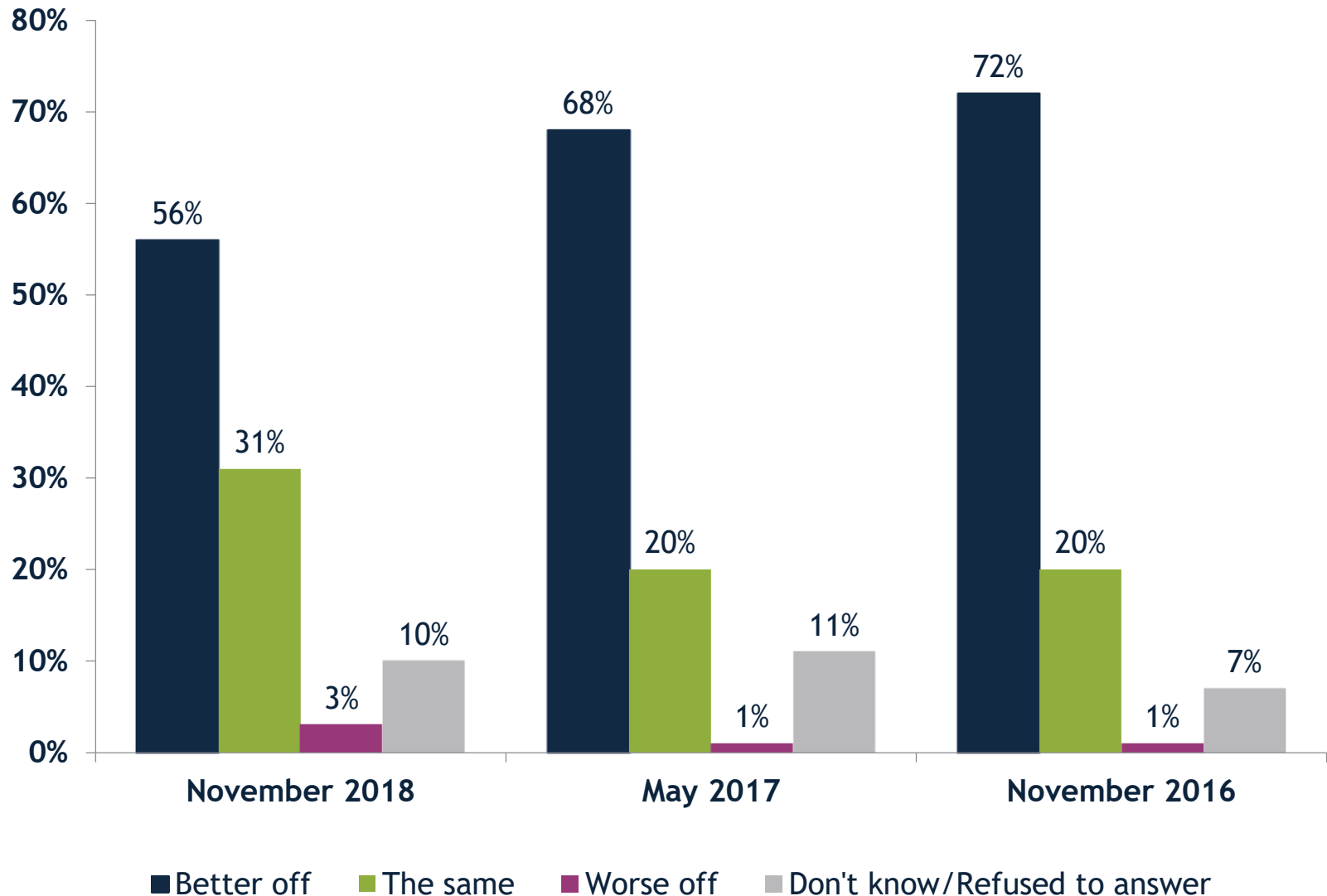
Reason	%
Development has not been well executed	19%
Ministerial nominations are still outstanding	13%
Infrastructure development has not been well executed	11%
The government is not working properly	10%
The government has not been established yet	8%
The country is not stable	4%
The government budget has not been ratified	4%
Leaders do not care about people	4%
People don't have access to clean water	3%
The political condition isn't getting better	3%
The leaders are not working together	3%
There are many problems with martial arts groups	2%
Lack of jobs for youth	2%
They are late in approving the government budget	2%

*Responses below 2% are excluded from the table.

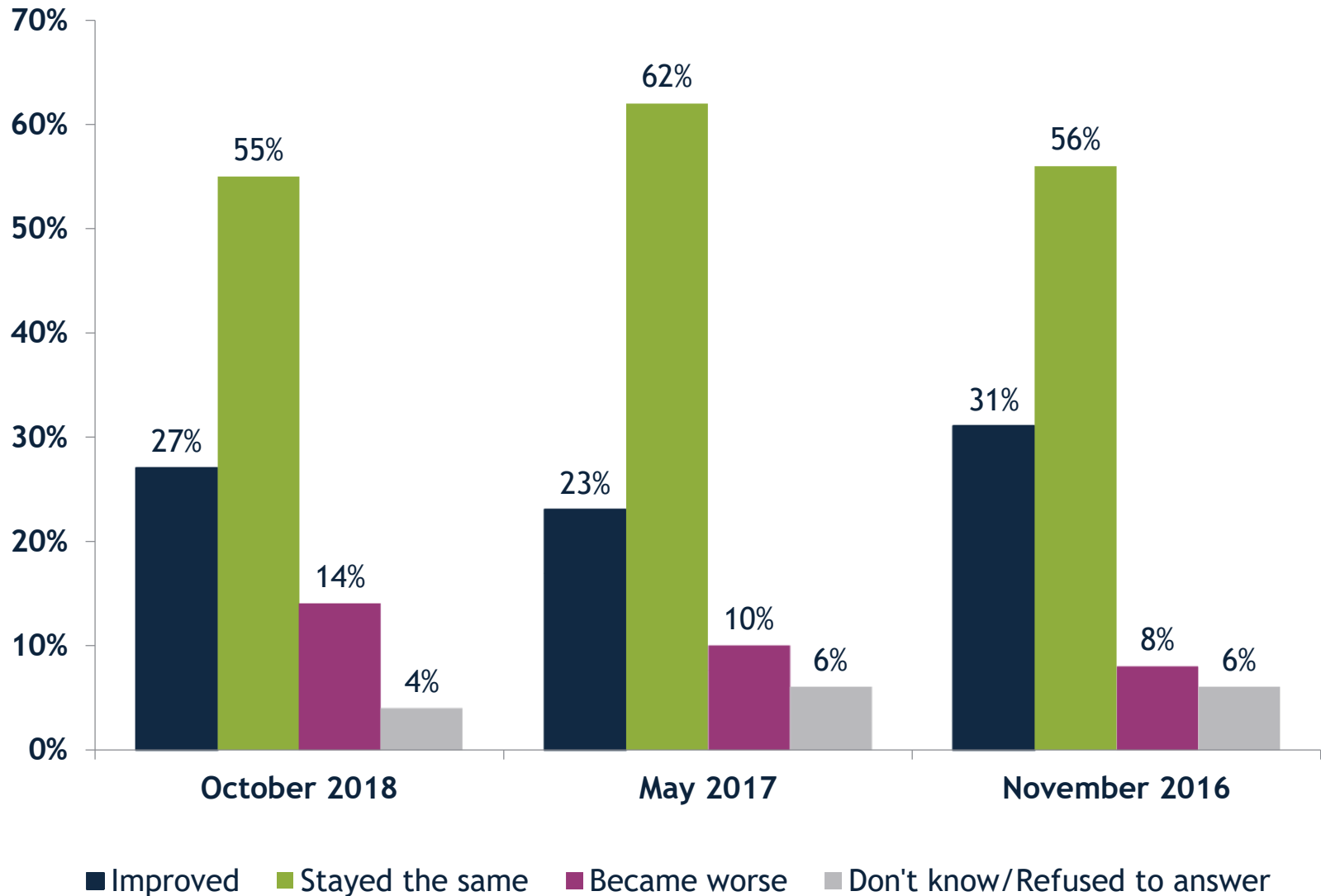
In your opinion, overall, do you think Timor-Leste is *better off*, *the same* or *worse off* than it was a year ago?



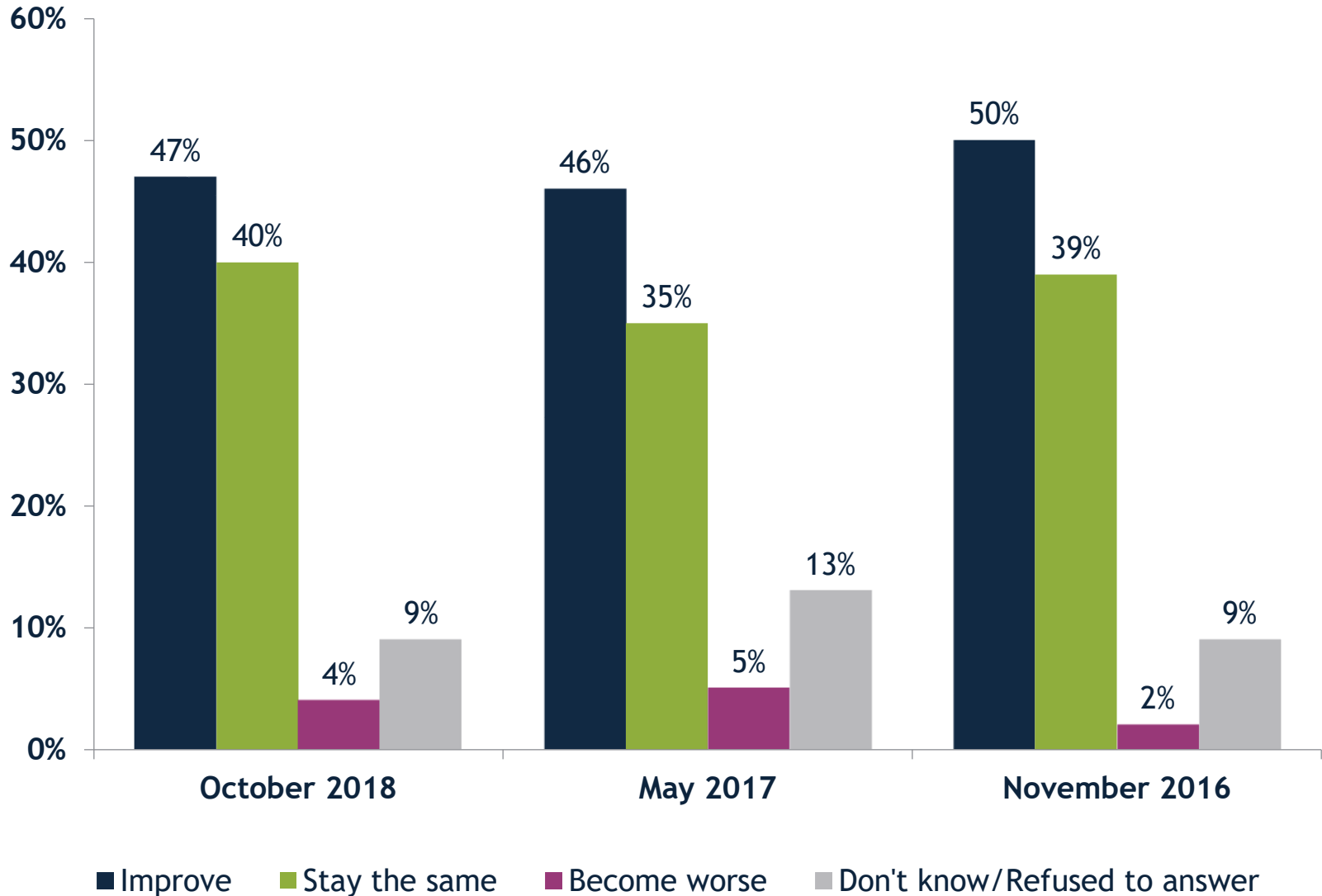
Thinking ahead, overall, do you think Timor-Leste will be *better off, the same or worse* in the coming year?



In the last year, did you and your family's financial situation *improve, stay the same or become worse?*



Do you think you and your family's financial situation will *improve*, *stay the same* or *become worse* in the coming year?





Perceptions of Government

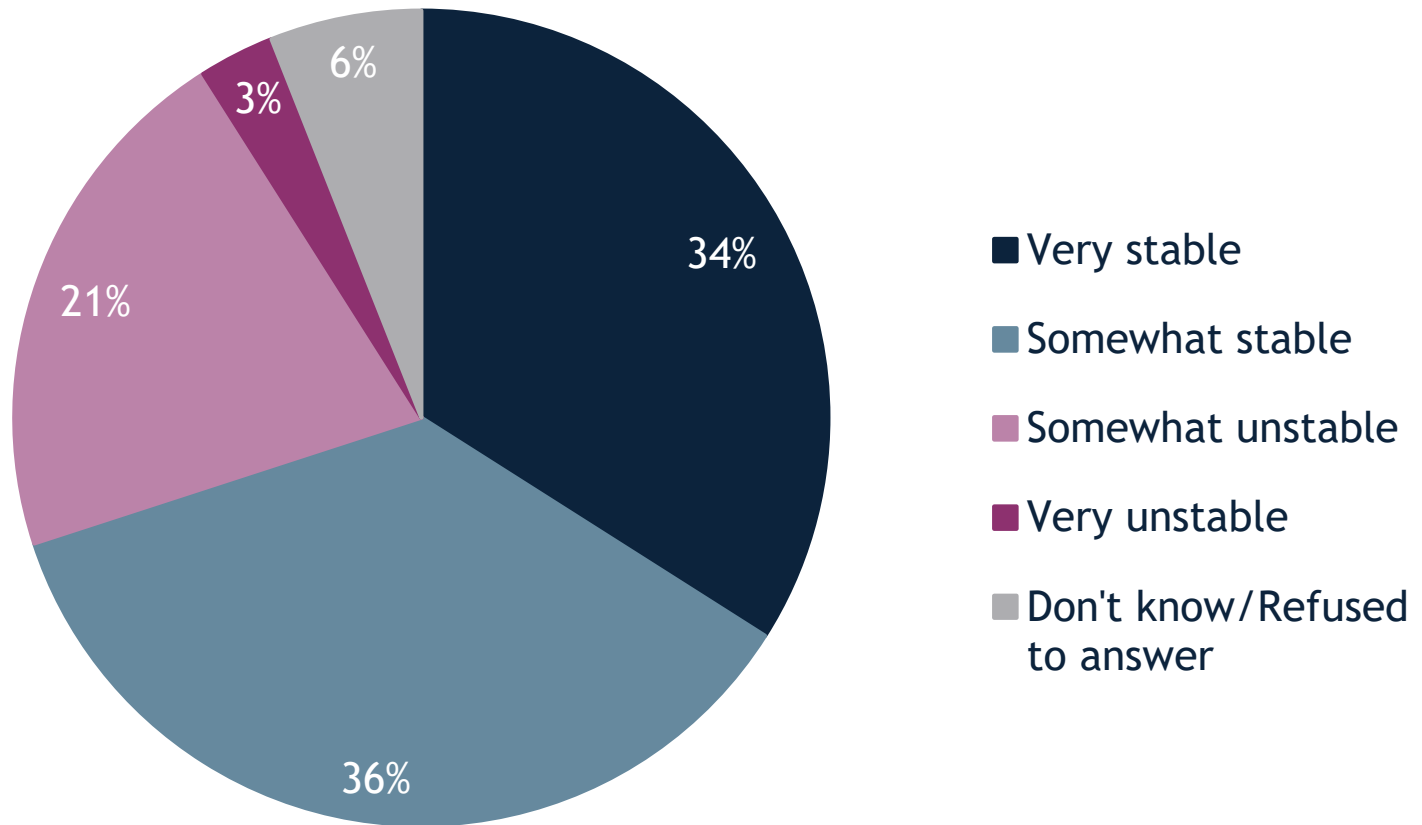


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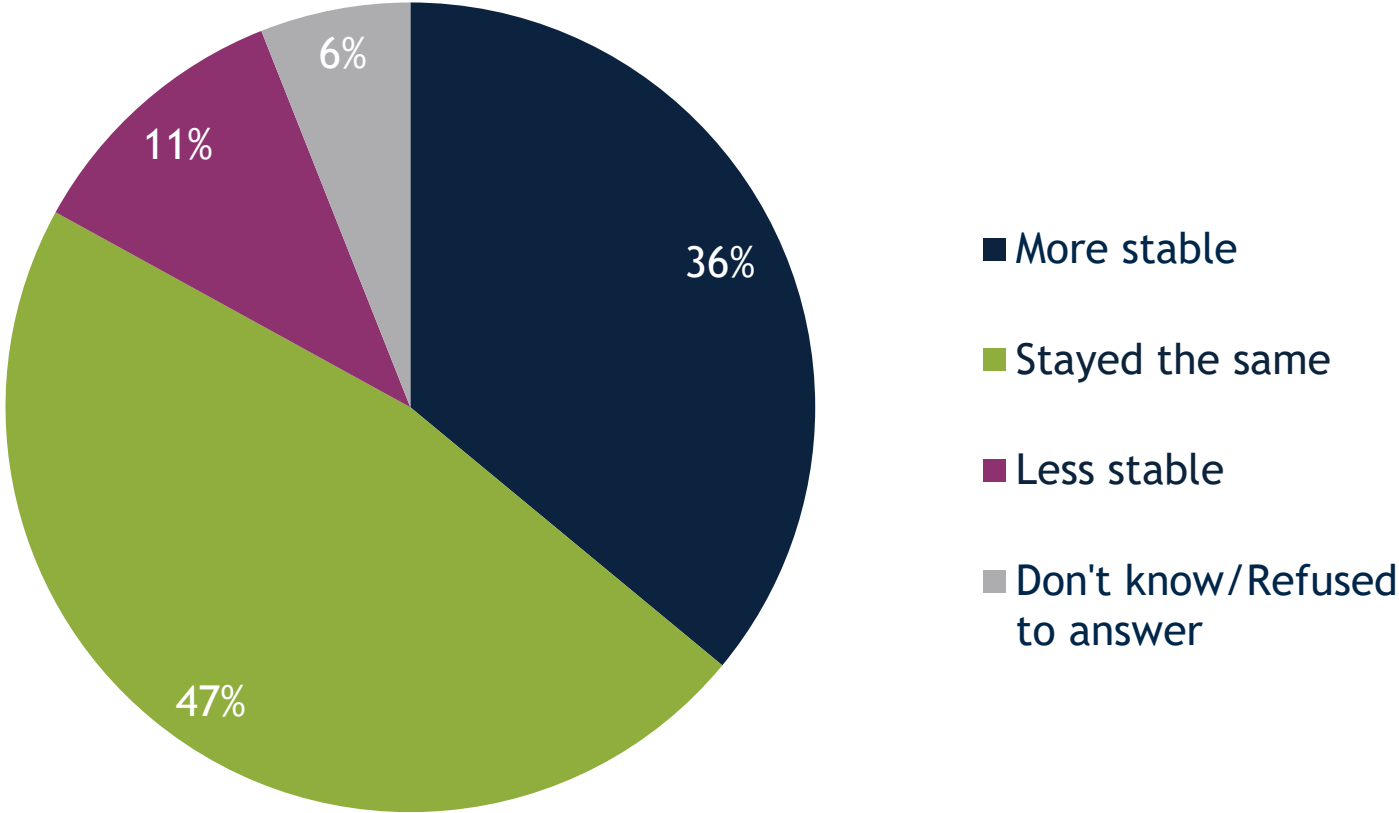


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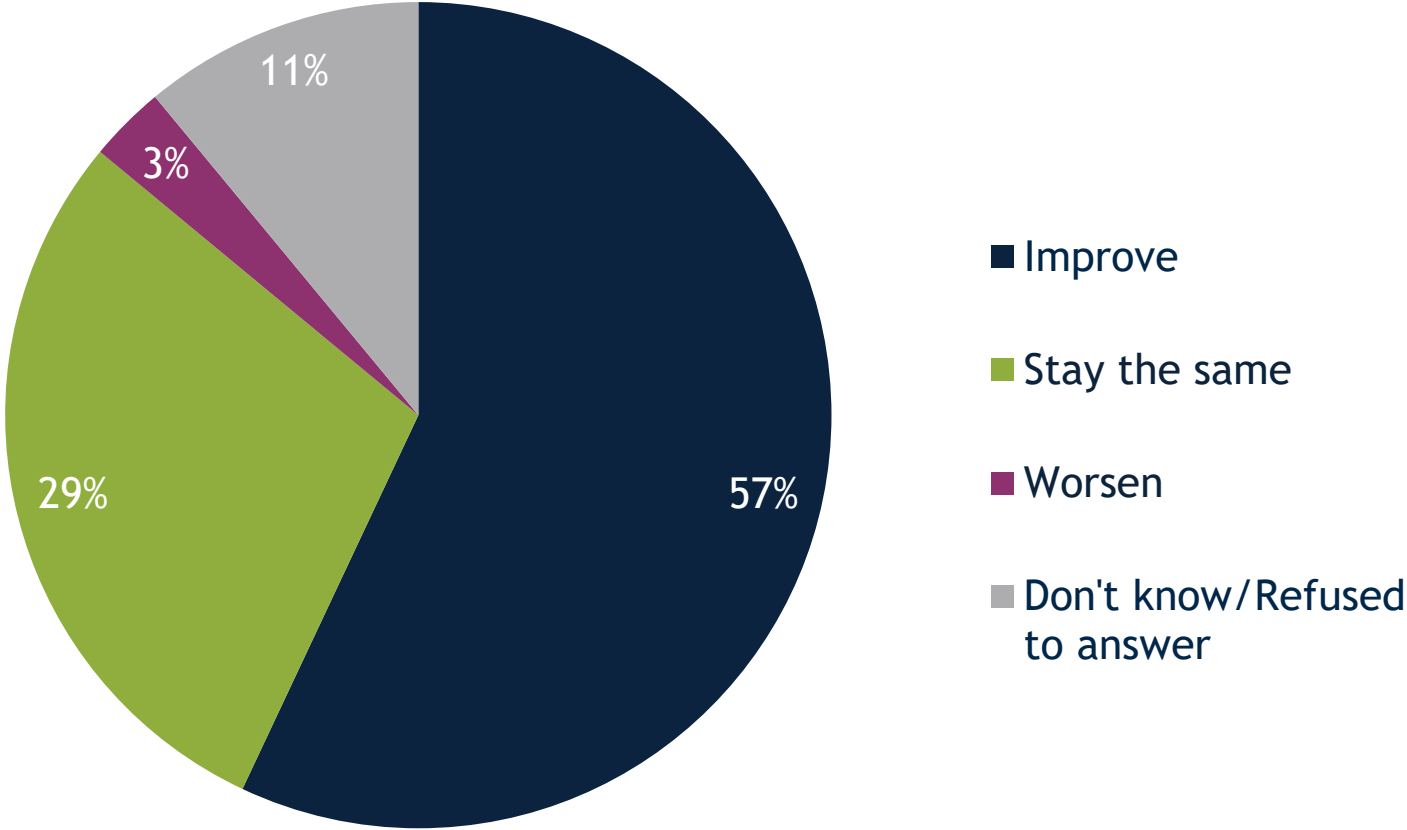
Overall, how would you rate the current level of political stability in Timor-Leste?



Compared to a year ago, has the political situation in Timor-Leste become *more stable*, *stayed the same* or become *less stable*?

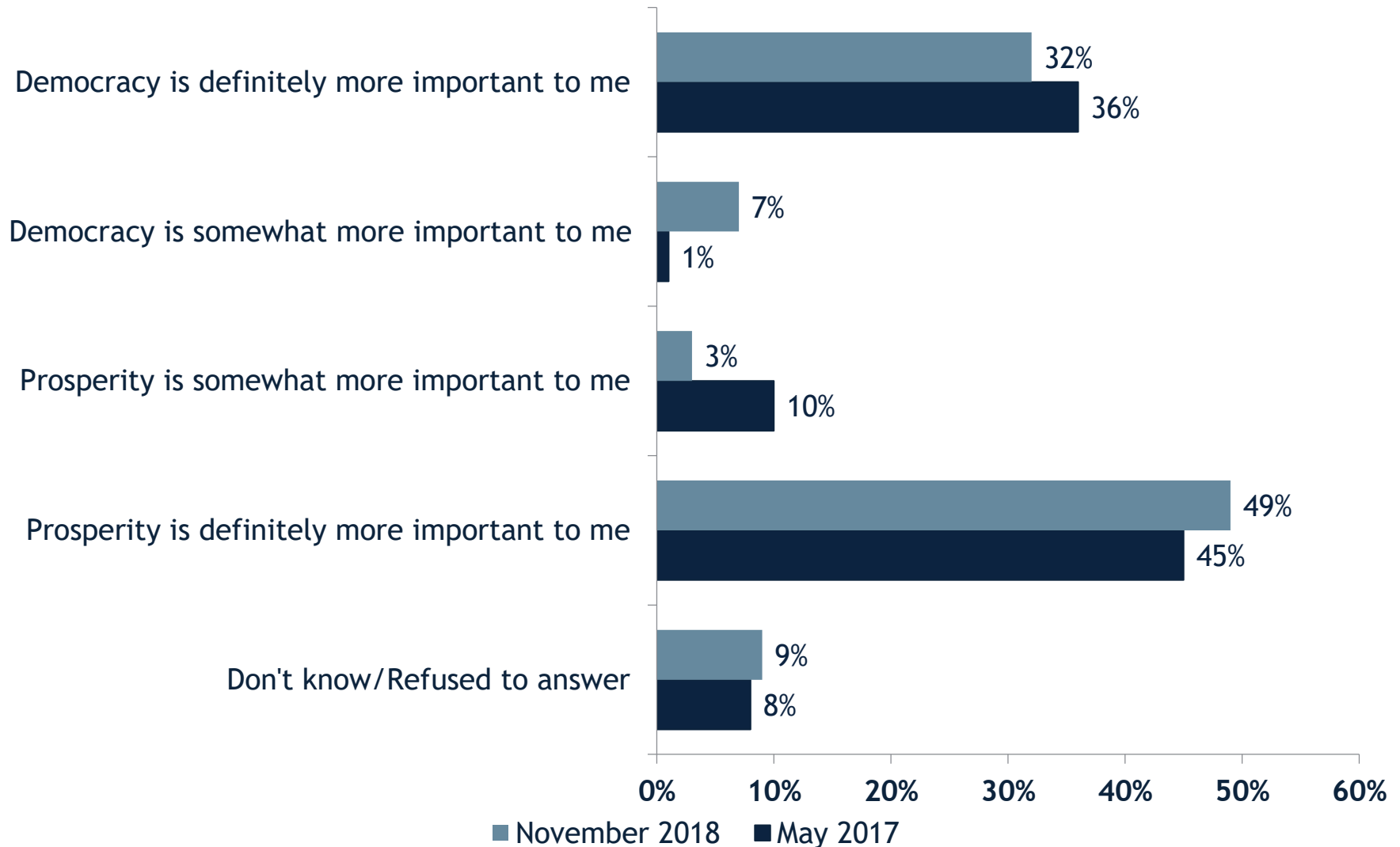


In the year ahead, do you think the level of political stability in Timor-Leste will *improve*, *stay the same* or *worsen*?



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

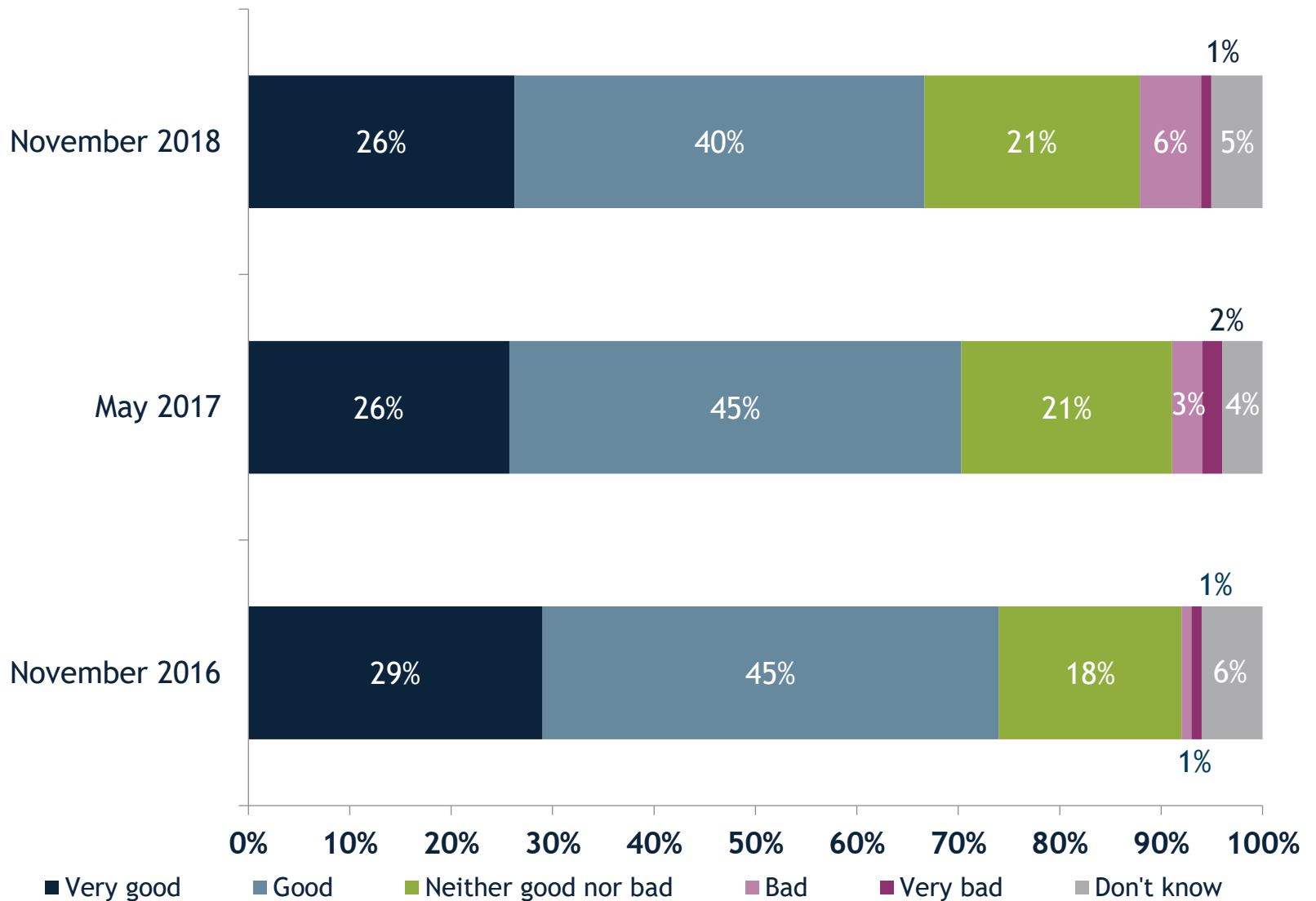
(November 2018 vs. May 2017)



How would you rate the job ... of Timor-Leste is doing? Is it doing a *very good job*, a *good job*, *neither good nor bad job*, a *bad job* or a *very bad job*?

	The government	The National Parliament	The President
A very good job	26%	23%	35%
A good job	40%	43%	44%
Neither good nor bad job	21%	20%	13%
A bad job	6%	7%	3%
A very bad job	1%	1%	1%
Don't know/Refused to answer	5%	5%	4%
Total good job	66%	66%	79%

How would you rate the job the government of Timor-Leste is doing?



2018 Snap Parliamentary Election



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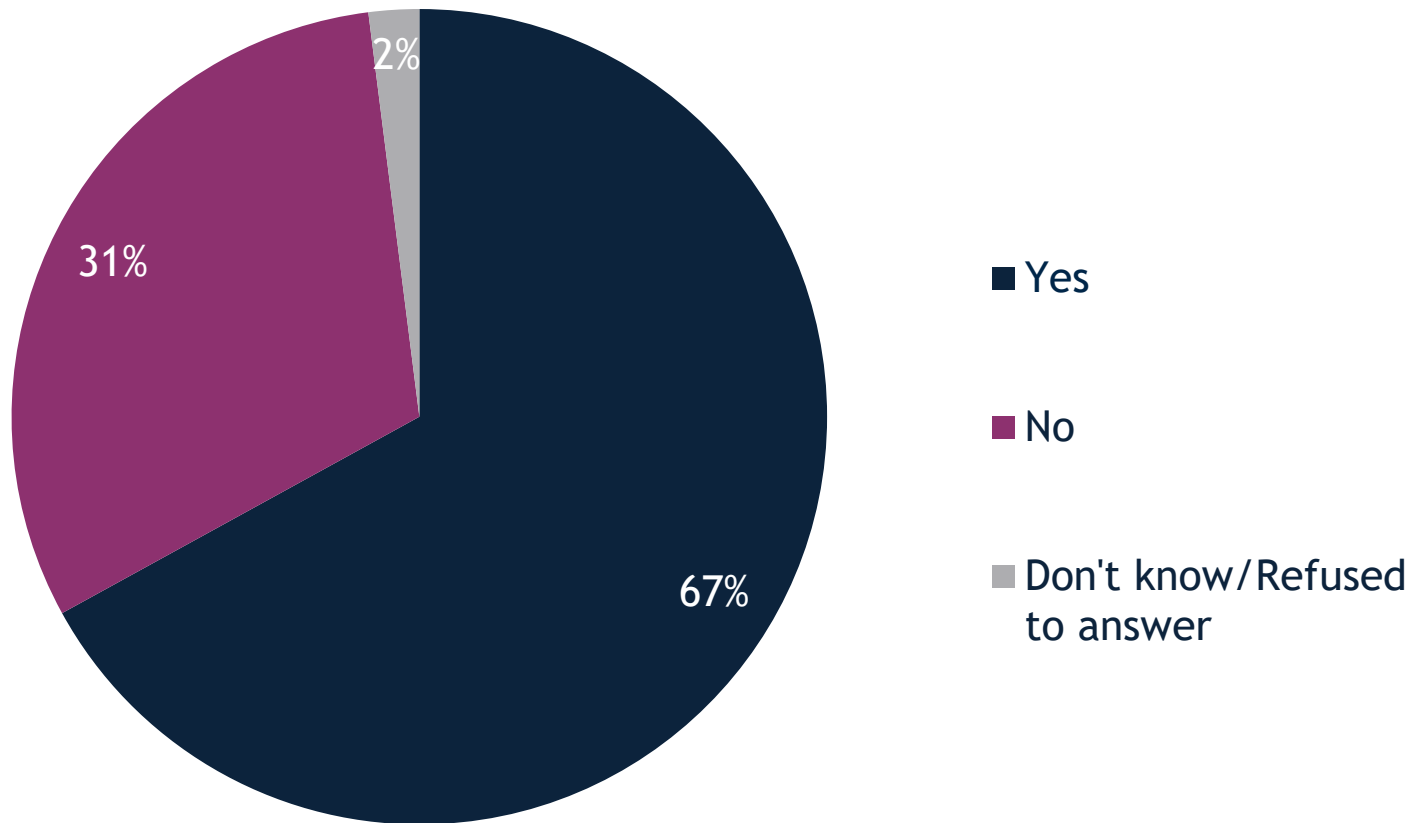
Which political party did you vote for?

(Among the 95% of respondents who said they voted in the May 2018 parliamentary election. Results below are based on the sample of n=1,043 who provided a party response.)

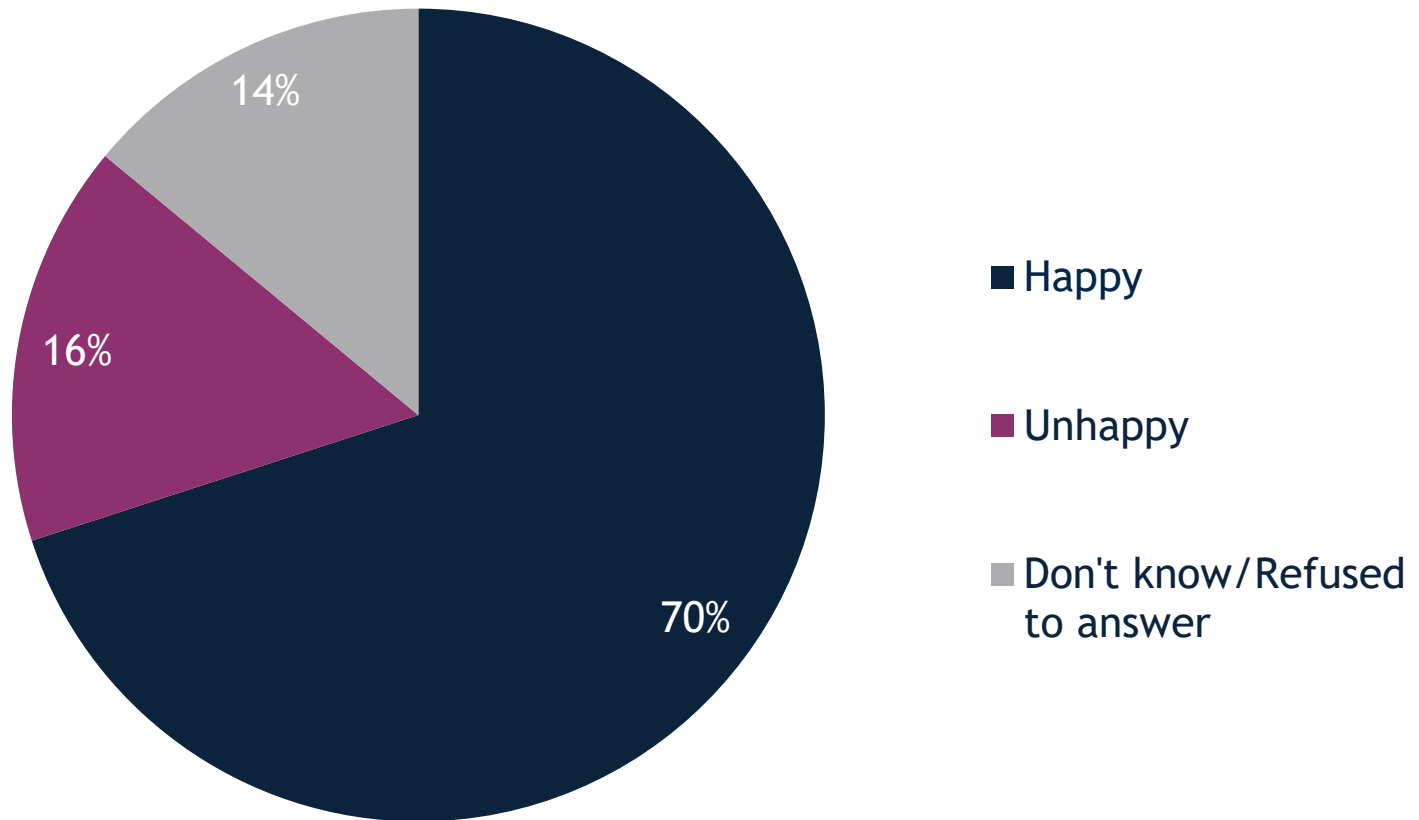
Party	%	
FRETILIN	36%	
AMP	29%	58%
CNRT	24%	
KHUNTO	2%	
PLP	3%	
PD	6%	
PUDD	*	<1%
FDD	*	
FRENTE-MUDANÇA	*	
MDN	*	
PEP	*	
PR	*	
MSD	*	

Did you need to travel or miss days of work to be able to vote?

(Among respondents who voted: n=1,424)



The Majority Alliance for Progress (AMP) won the parliamentary election and a majority of seats in the National Parliament. Are you *happy* or *unhappy* with this result?



Why are you happy with the result of the May 2018 parliamentary election?

(Open-ended; respondents who provided an actual response: n=510)

Reason	Percentage
They are capable of improving people's living standard	29%
They are capable of developing the country	17%
They care the most about people	8%
They have great development programs	7%
With this result we can have a new government now	7%
I voted for this party	6%
They are capable of creating peace and stability in Timor-Leste	4%
They develop our country	2%
They'll continue to provide assistance for the people	2%
I associate with this party	2%
It's the people's choice	2%
They have great leaders	2%

*Responses below 2% are excluded from the table.

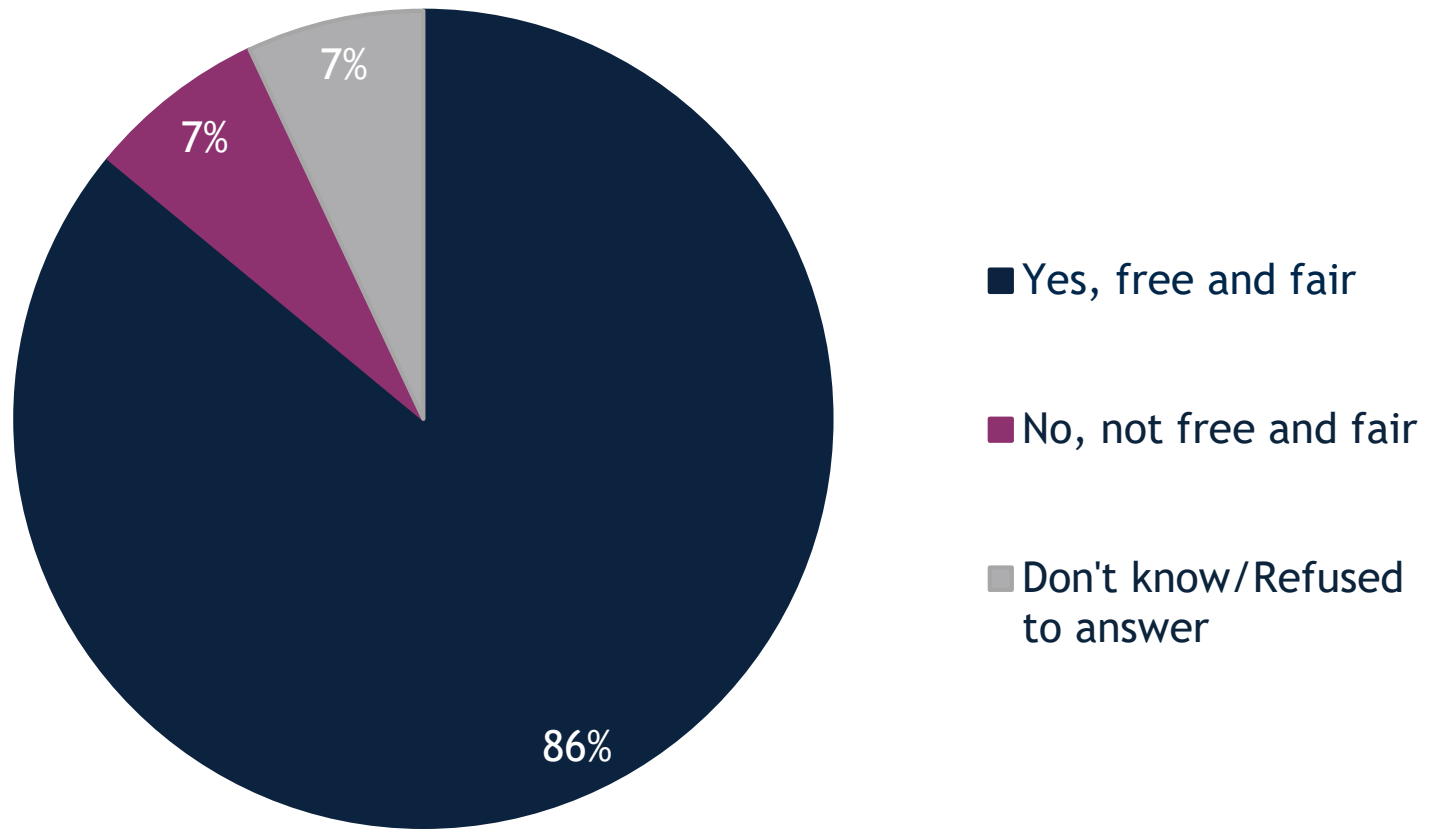
Why are you unhappy with the result of the May 2018 parliamentary election?

(Open-ended; respondents who provided an actual response: n=109)

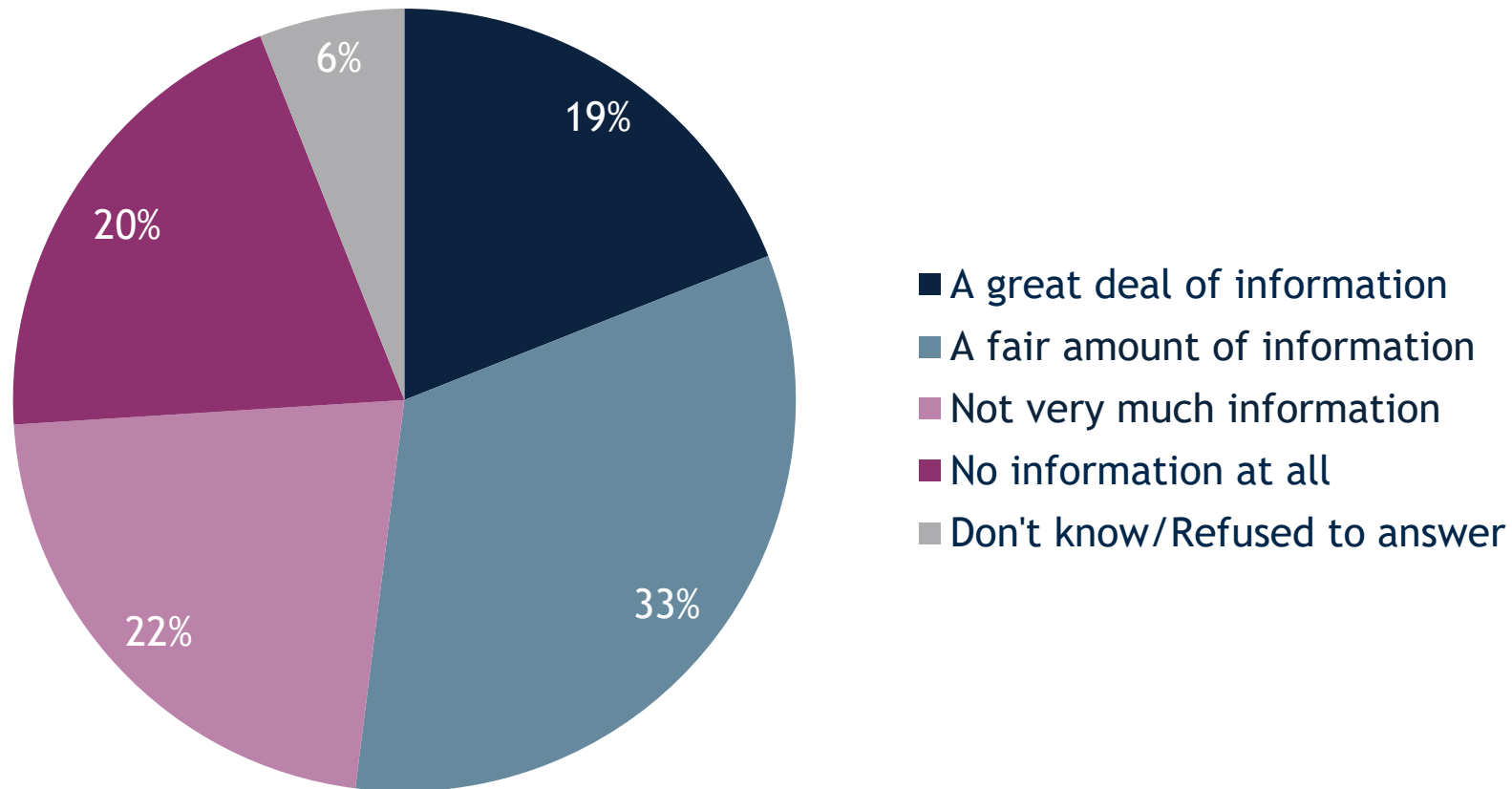
Reason	Percentage
The party I voted for didn't win	22%
They didn't keep the promises they made during the political campaign	10%
They do not care about people	8%
People continue to suffer	7%
The government is not working properly	7%
I don't like their programs	6%
They don't have an appropriate development program	5%
Ministerial nominations are still outstanding	5%
They didn't do their job in the government	4%
The election was not fair	4%
They haven't realized their development plans	3%
They do nothing for this country	3%

*Responses below 2% are excluded from the table.

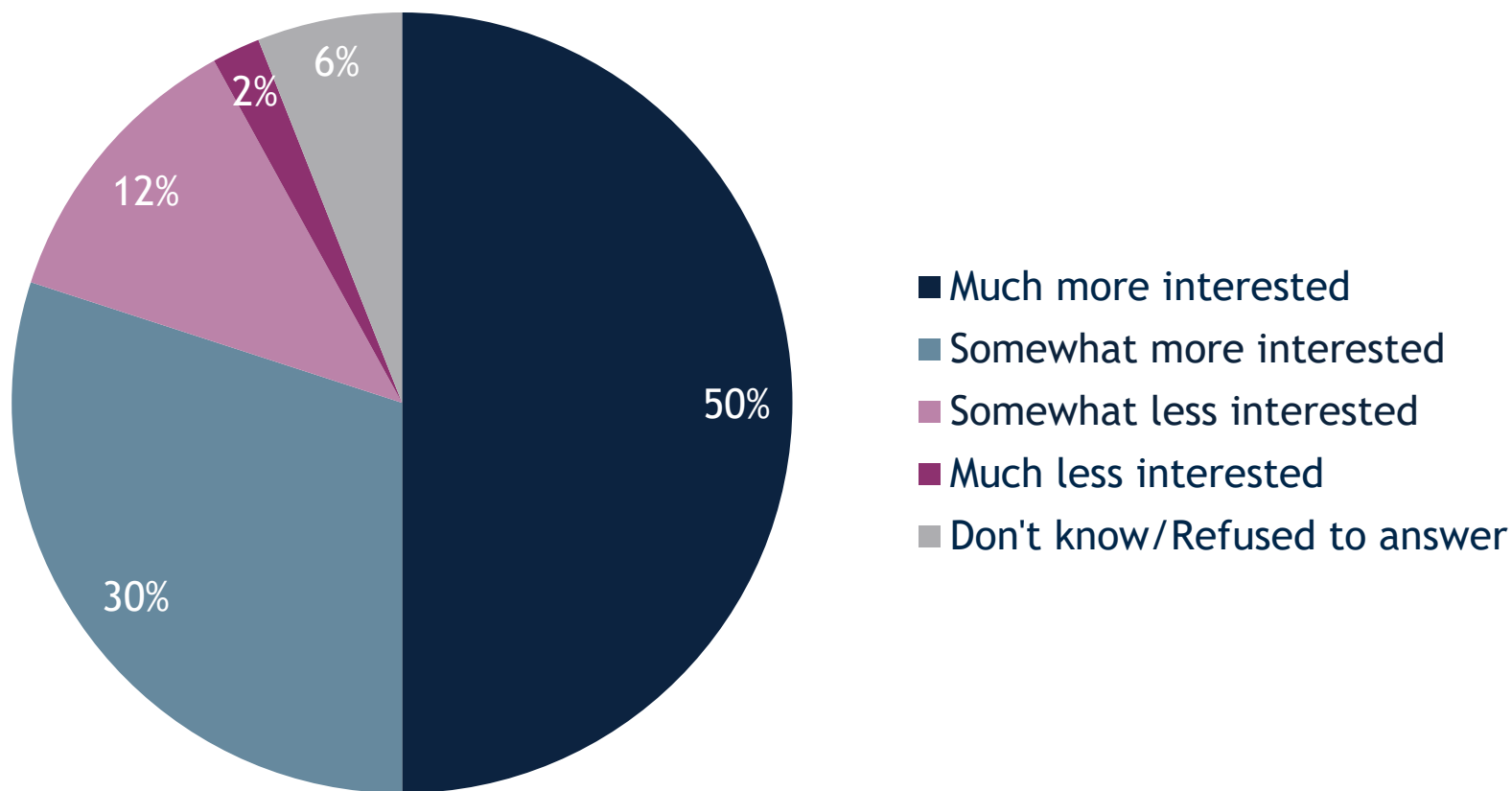
Do you believe the parliamentary election was free and fair or not?



How much information do you feel you had about the political parties contesting the parliamentary election? Did you have a *great deal of information, a fair amount of information, not very much information or no information at all?*

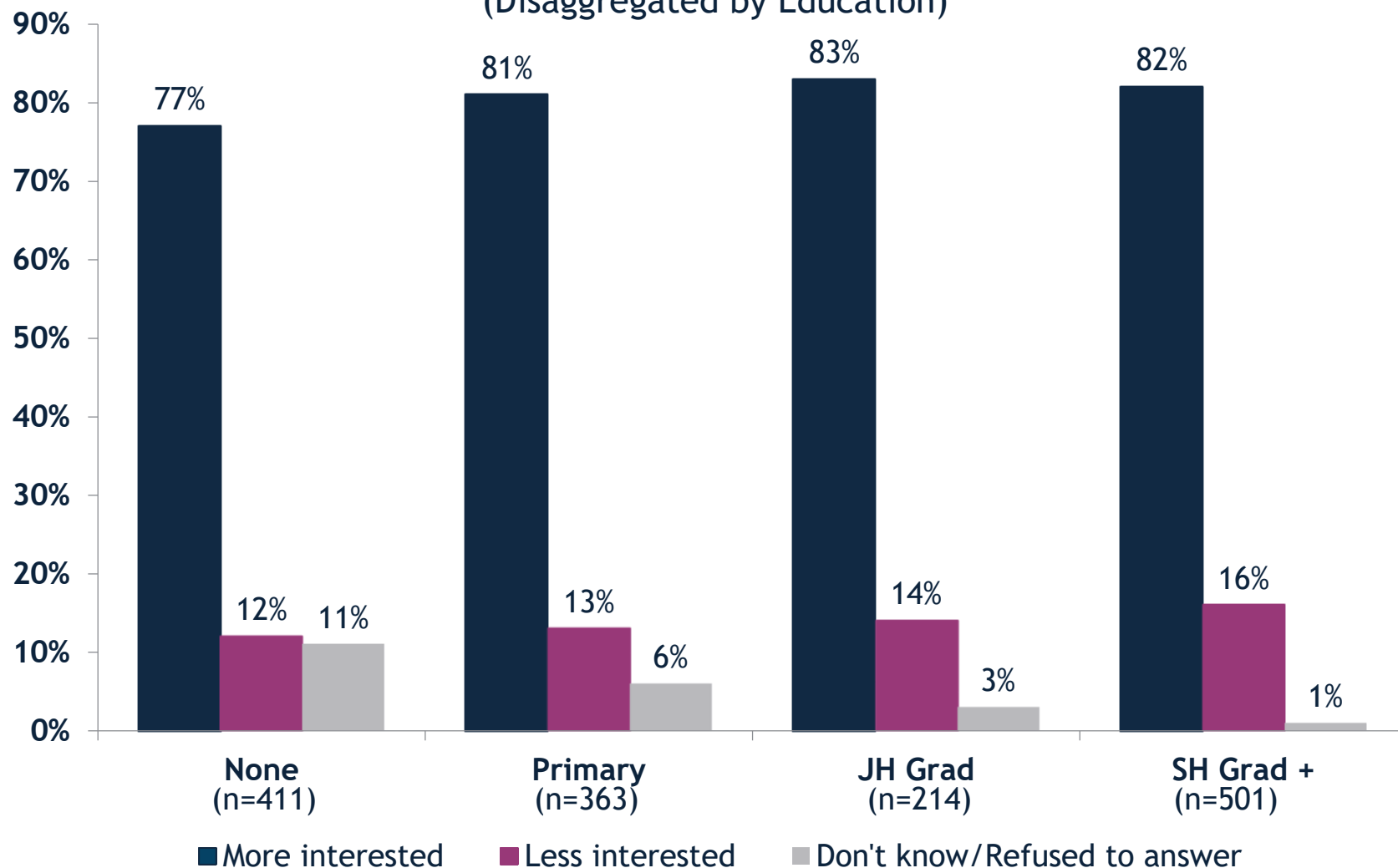


Have the political events of 2017 and 2018, including the two elections, left you *more or less interested* in political processes in our country?



Have the political events of 2017 and 2018, including the two elections, left you *more or less or less interested* in political processes in our country?

(Disaggregated by Education)





Issues

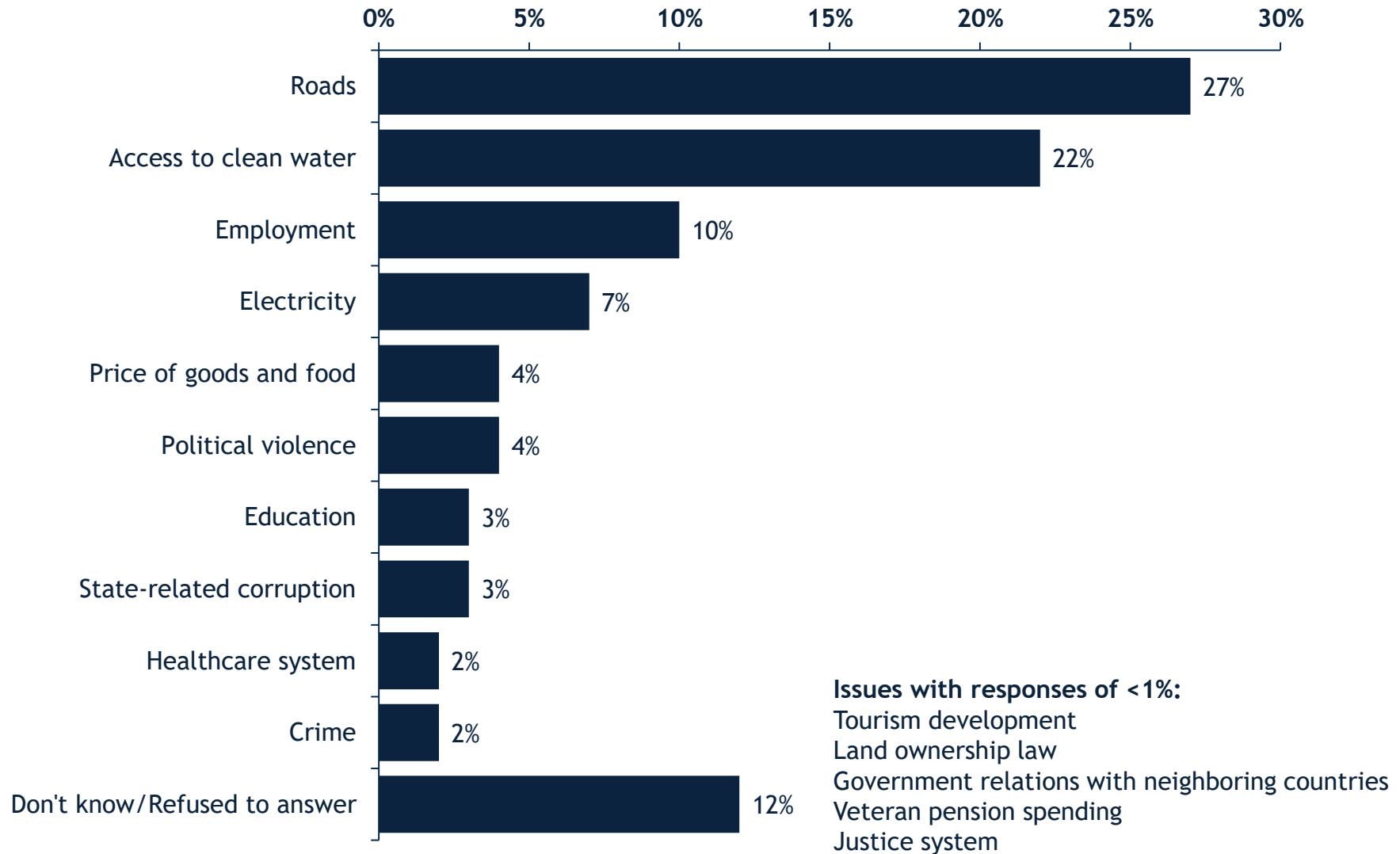


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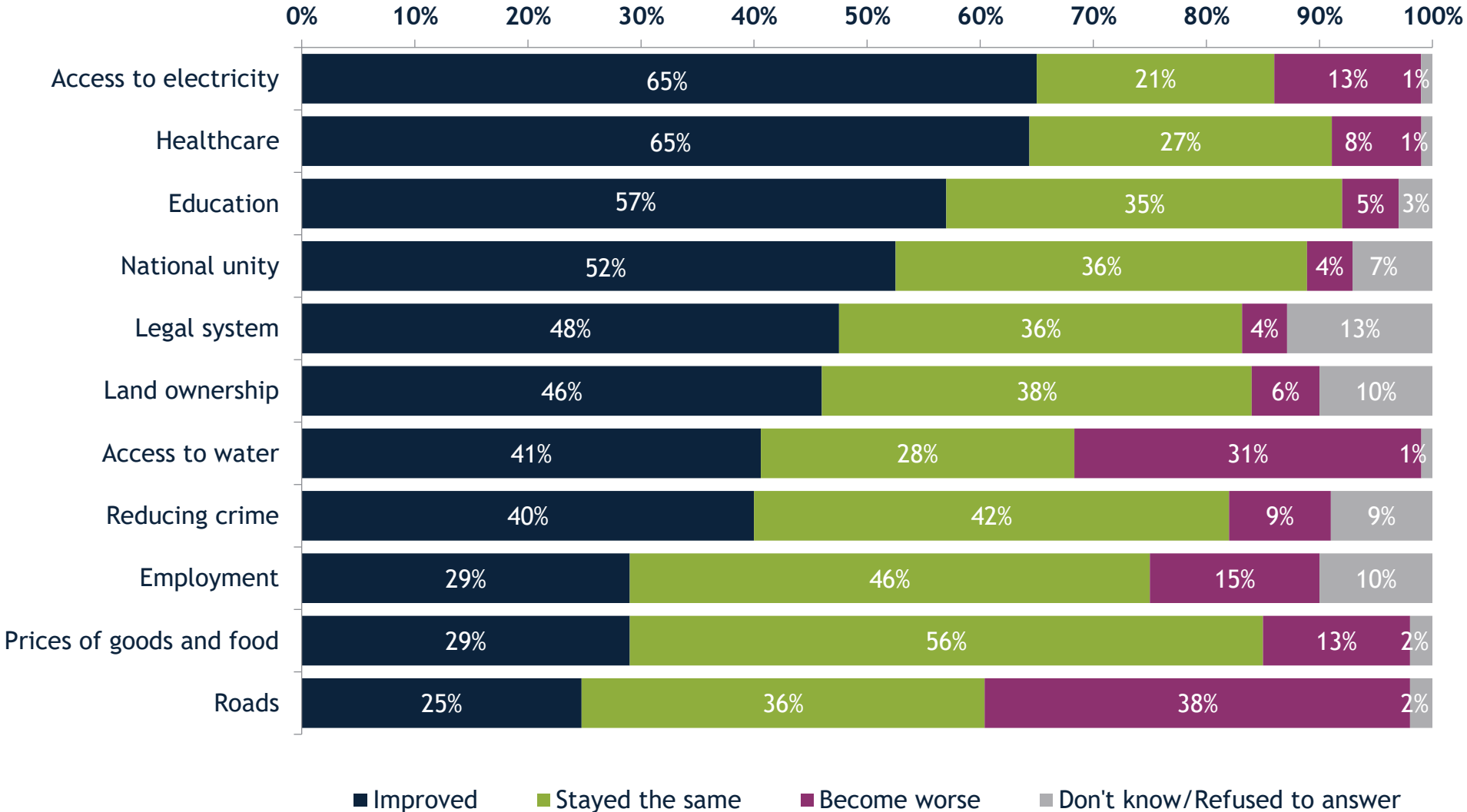


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In your opinion, what is the most important issue/problem facing Timor-Leste?

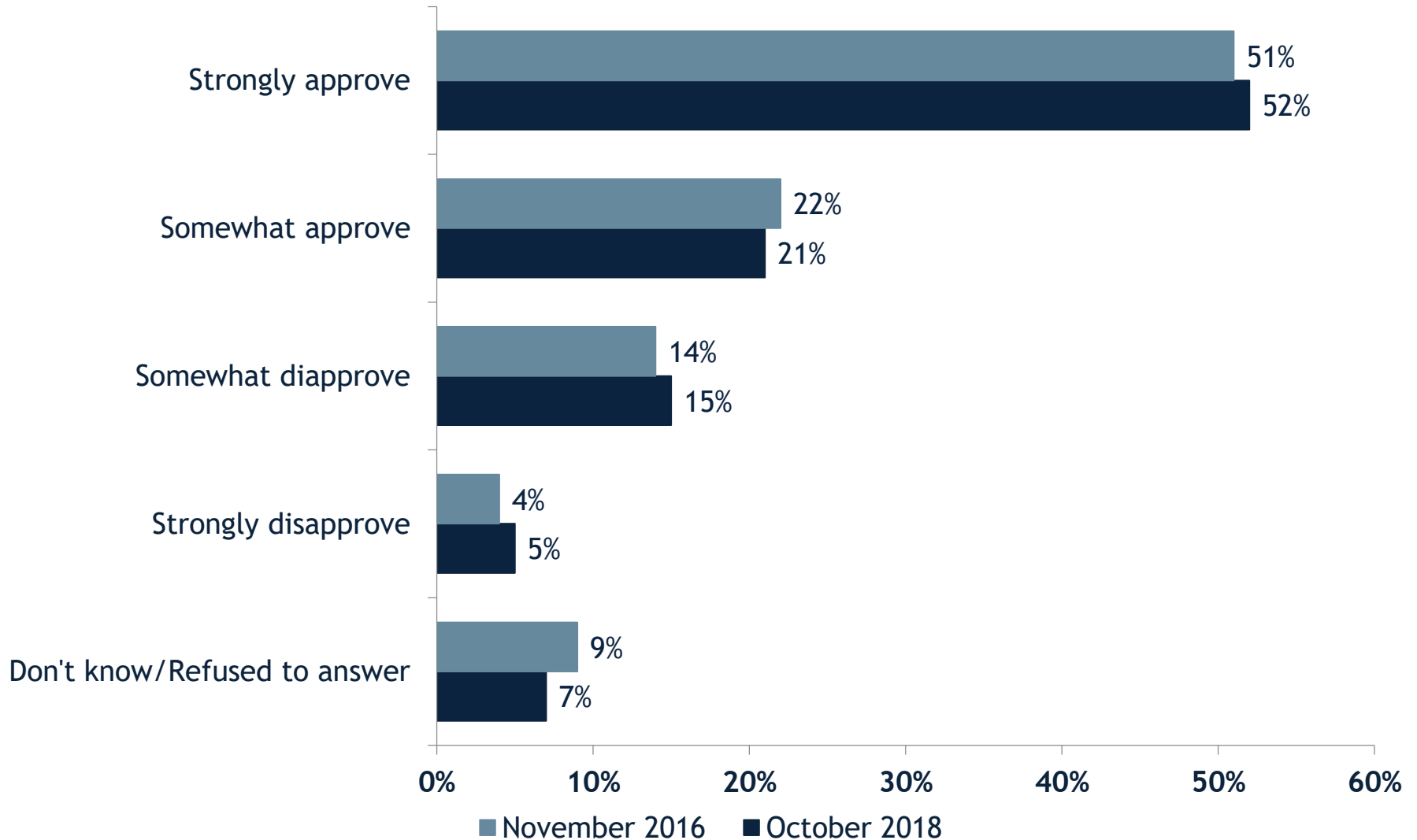


Now I'm going to read you a list of issues, and for each one, please tell me whether you feel that the situation has *improved*, *stayed the same* or *become worse* in the last year.

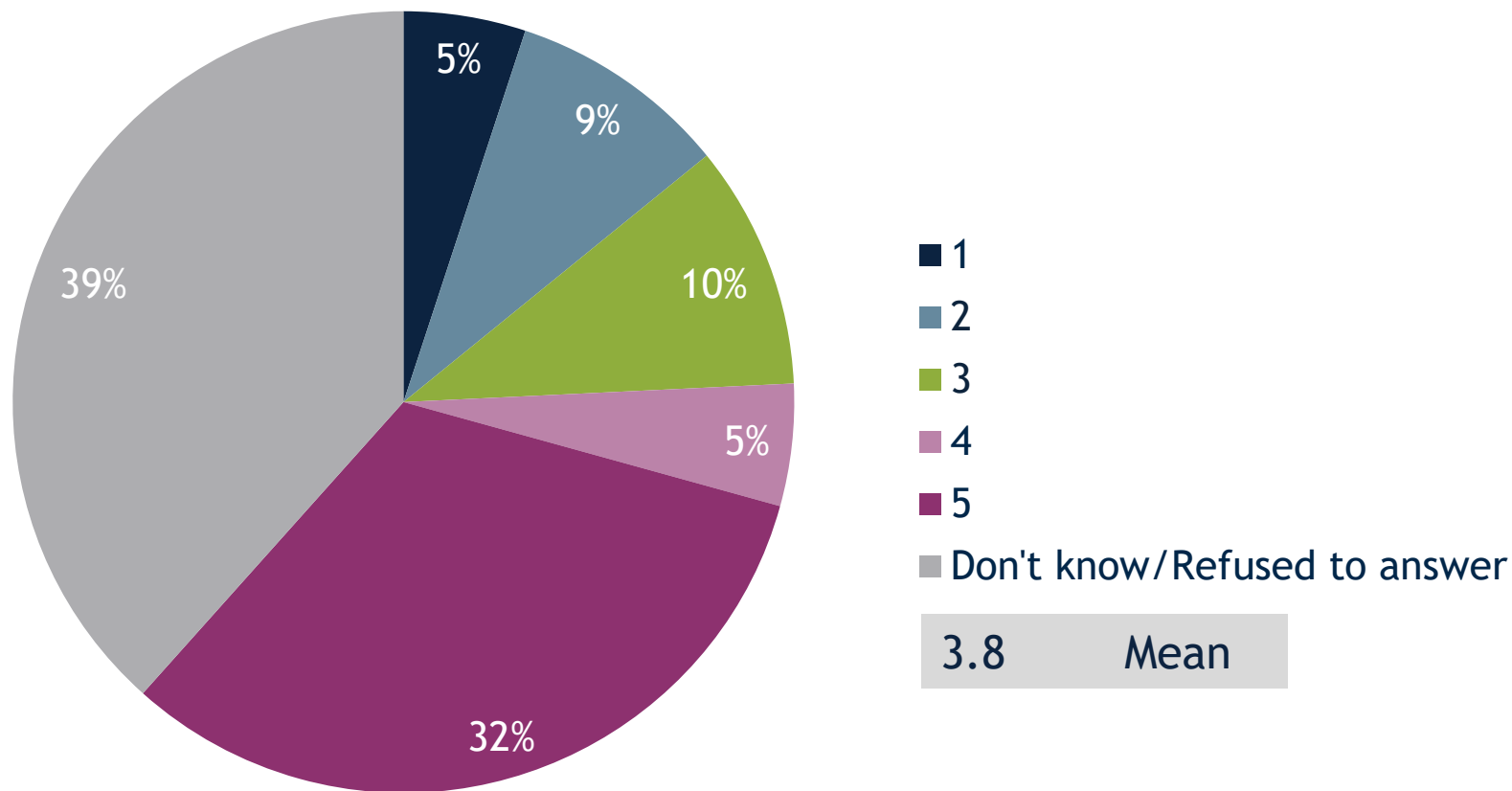


Based on your prior knowledge; do you *strongly approve*, *somewhat approve*, *somewhat disapprove* or *strongly disapprove* of how the government is spending the petroleum fund money?

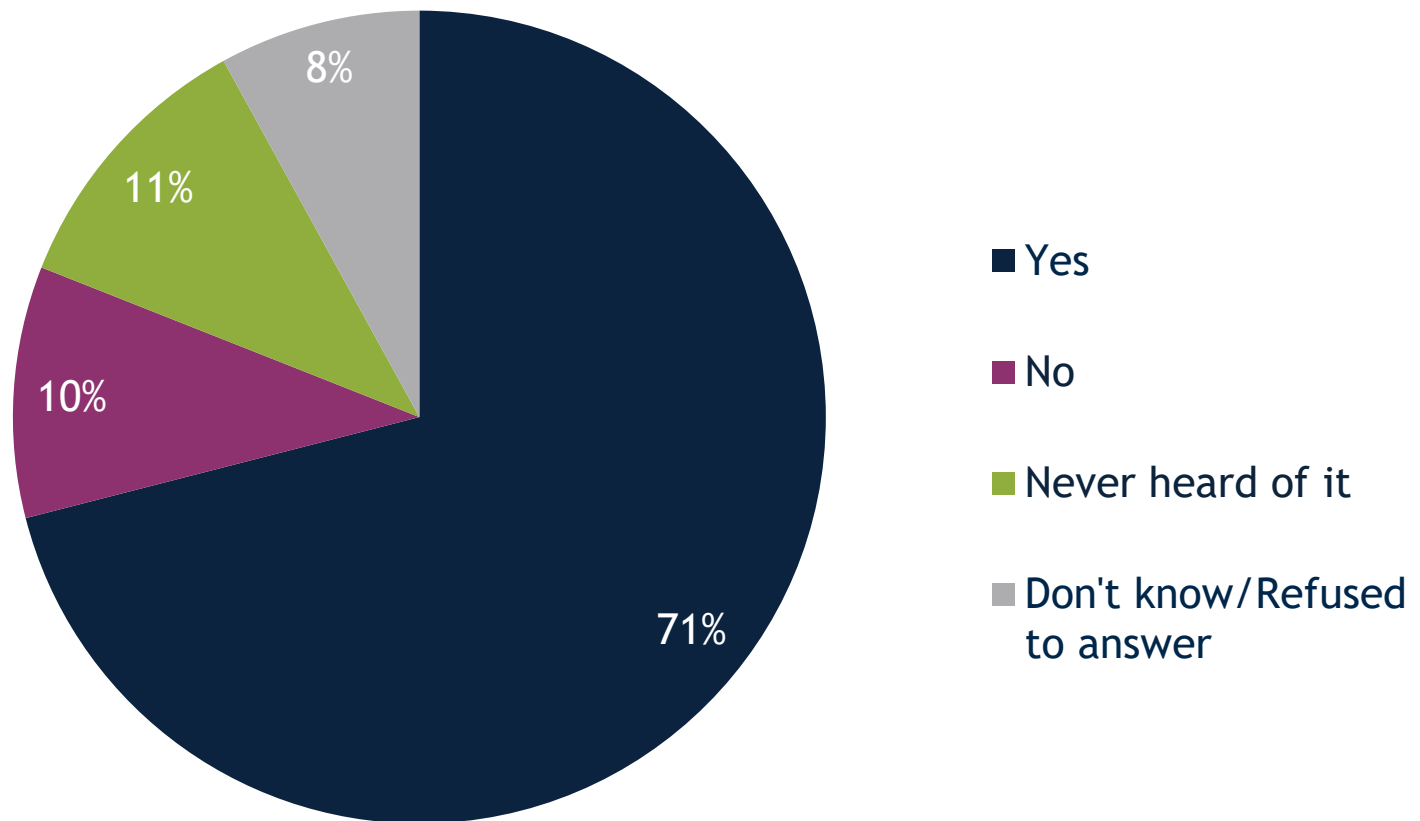
(November 2018 vs. May 2017)



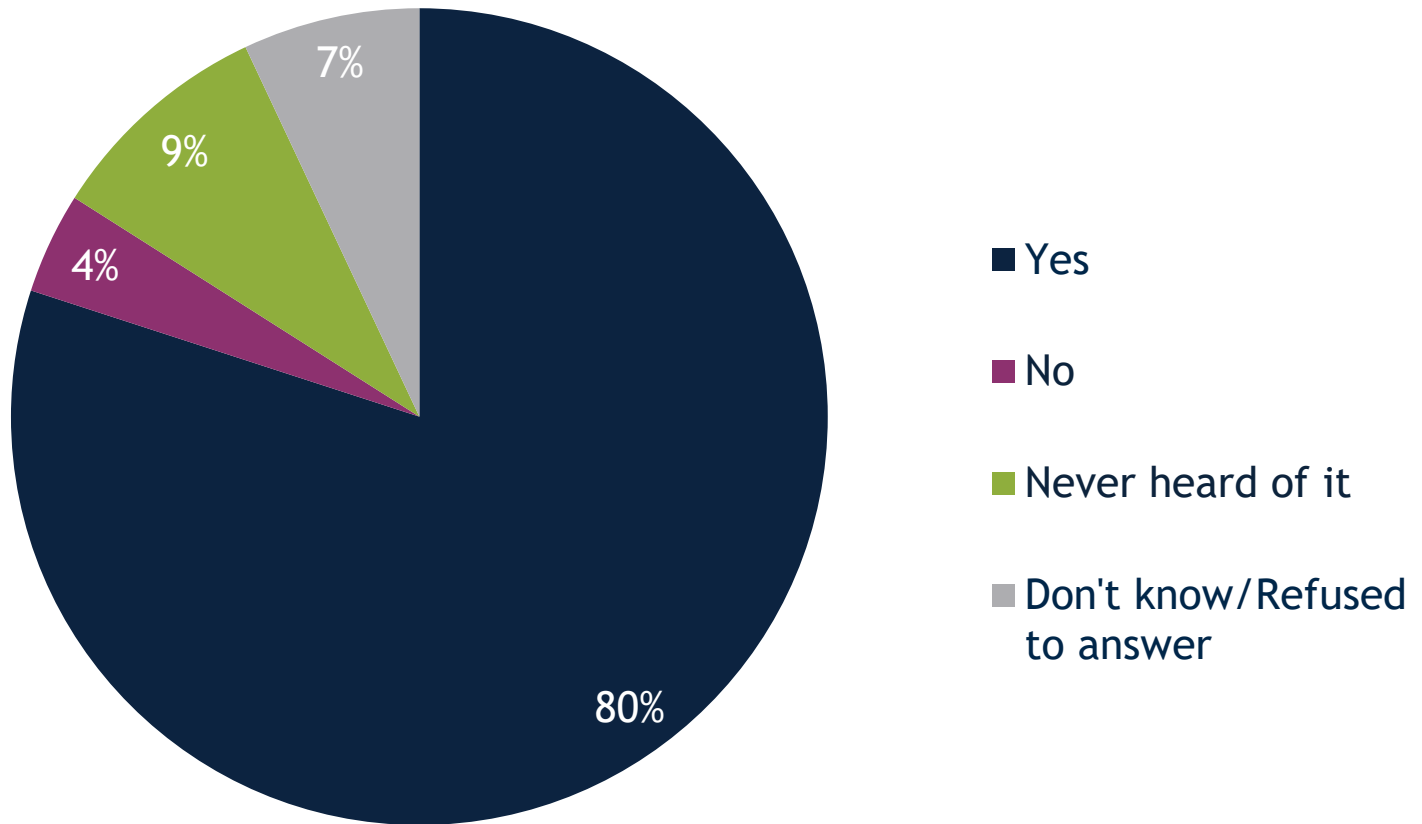
On a scale of one to five, with one being not a problem at all and five being the most serious problem, to what extent do you think corruption is a problem in Timor-Leste?



Do you support the Zona Especiais de Economia Social de Mercado (ZEESM) project in Oecusse?

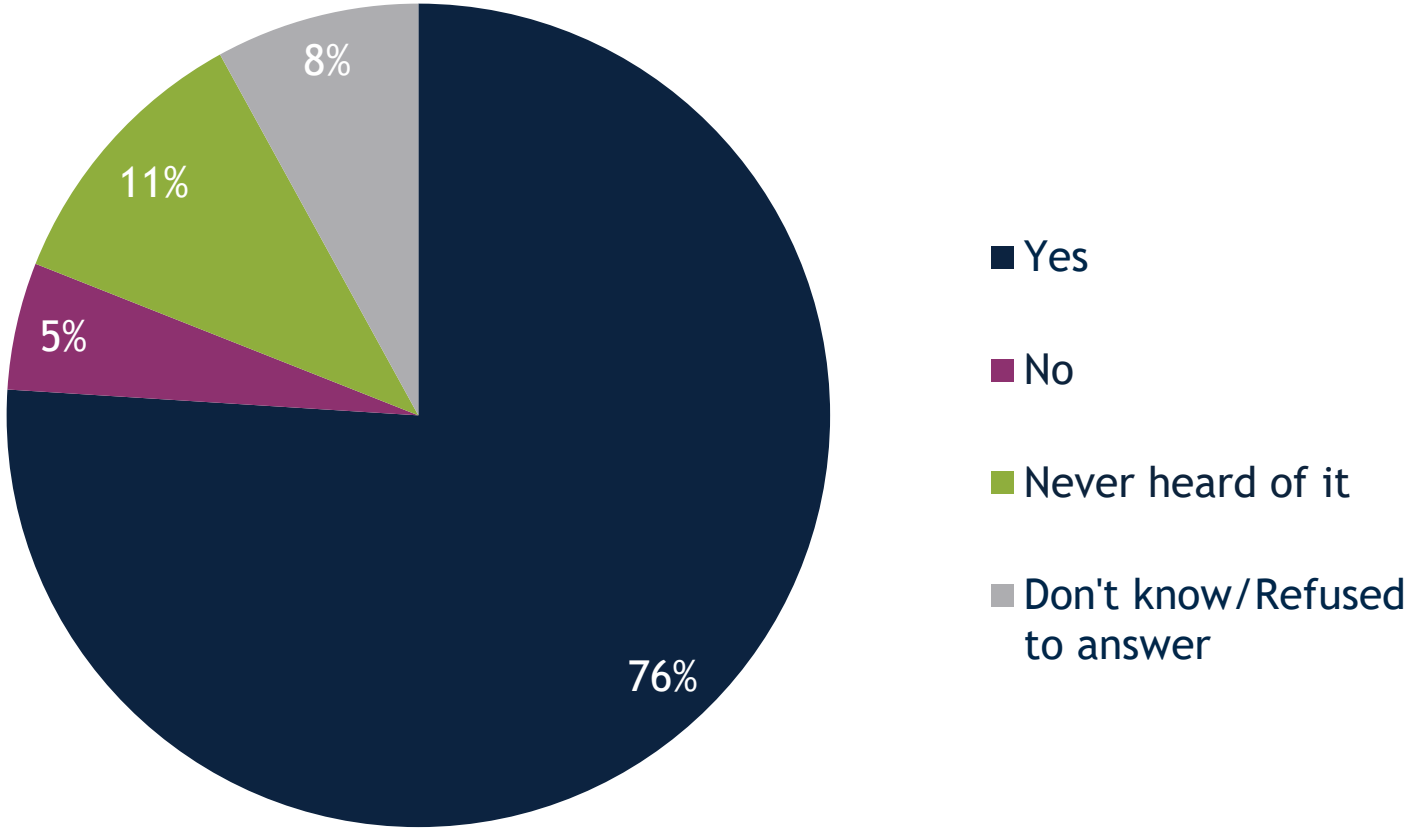


Do you support the Tasi Mane project?*

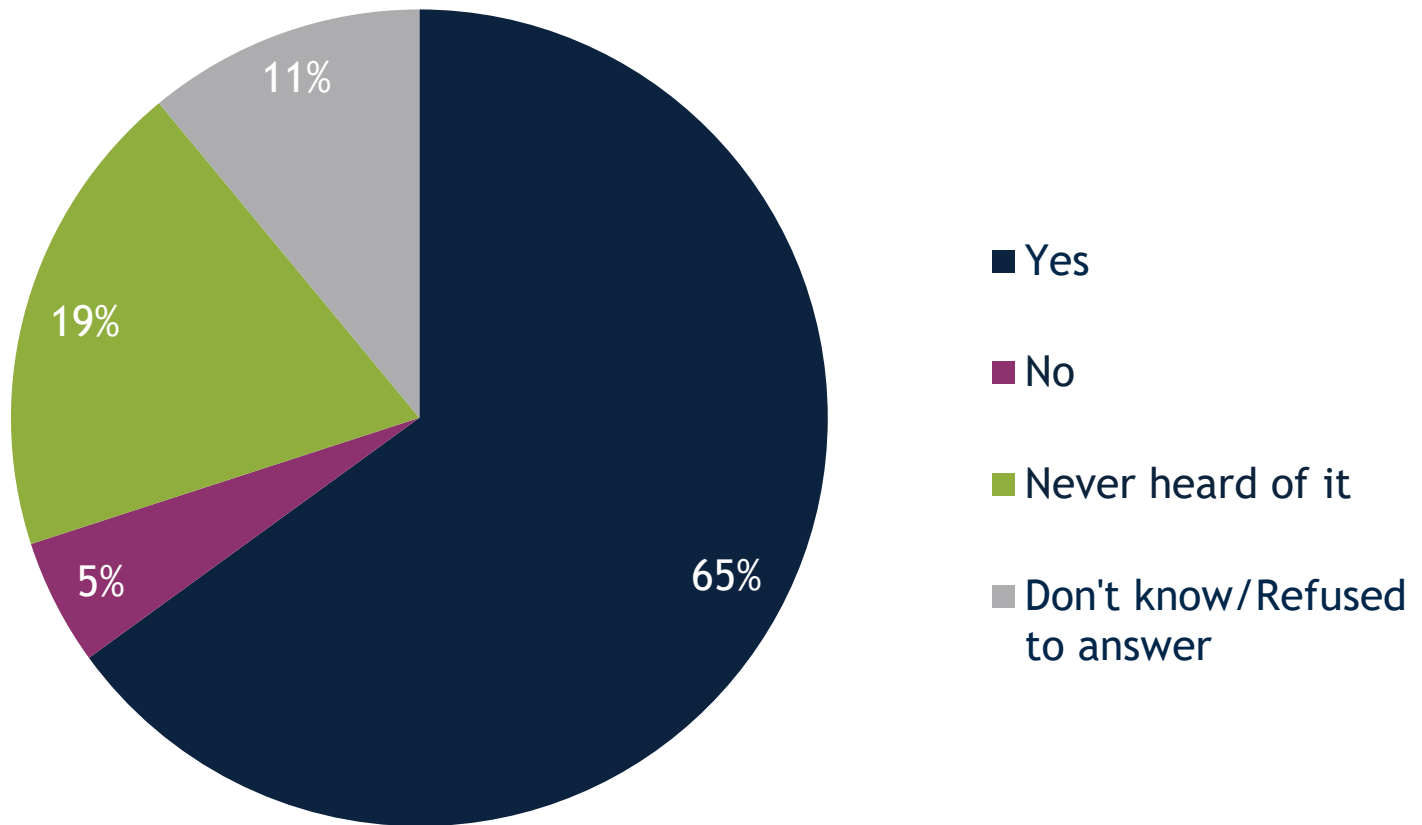


*The Tasi Mane project is a multi-year petroleum infrastructure project along the southwest coast of Timor-Leste.

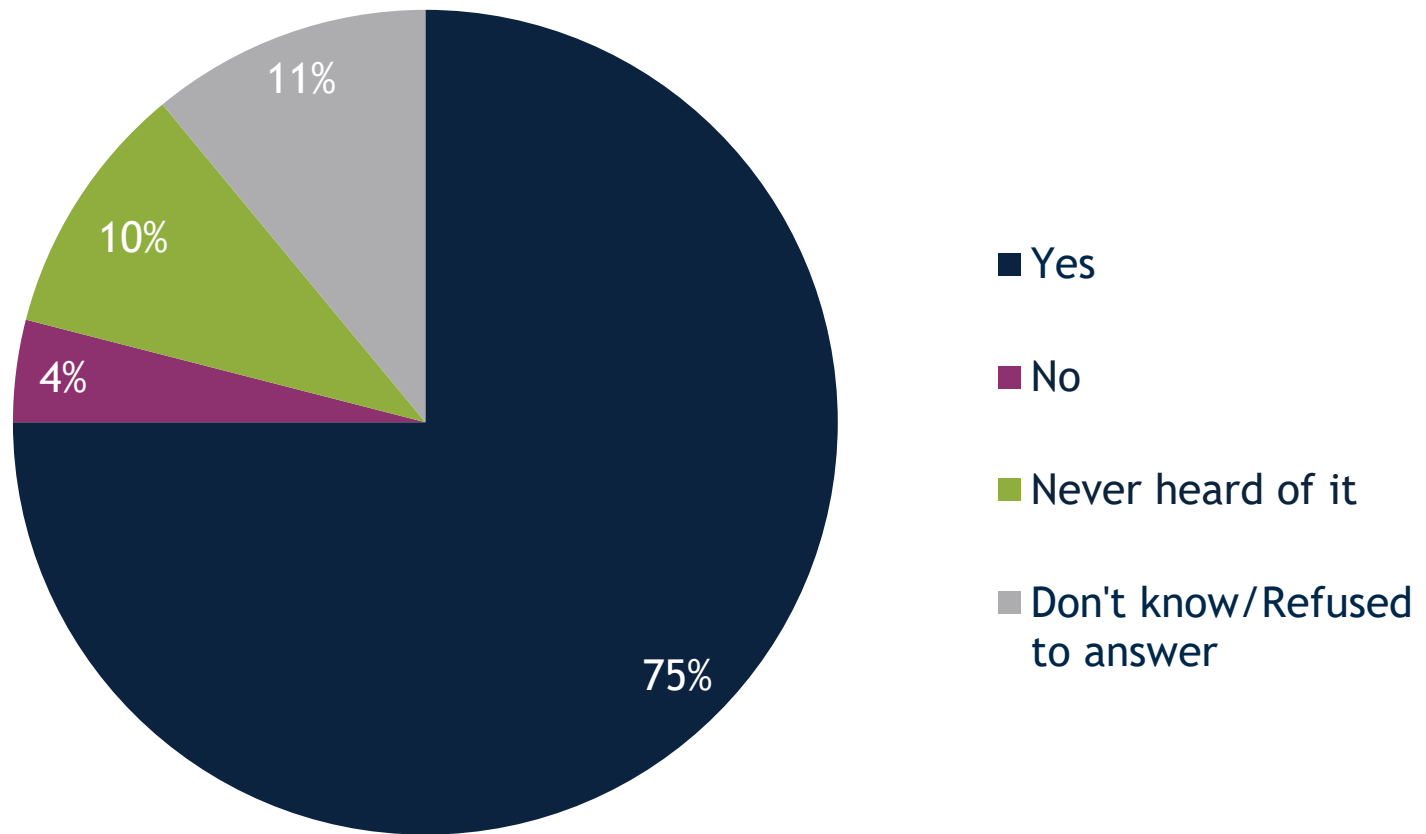
Do you support Timor-Leste becoming a full member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)?



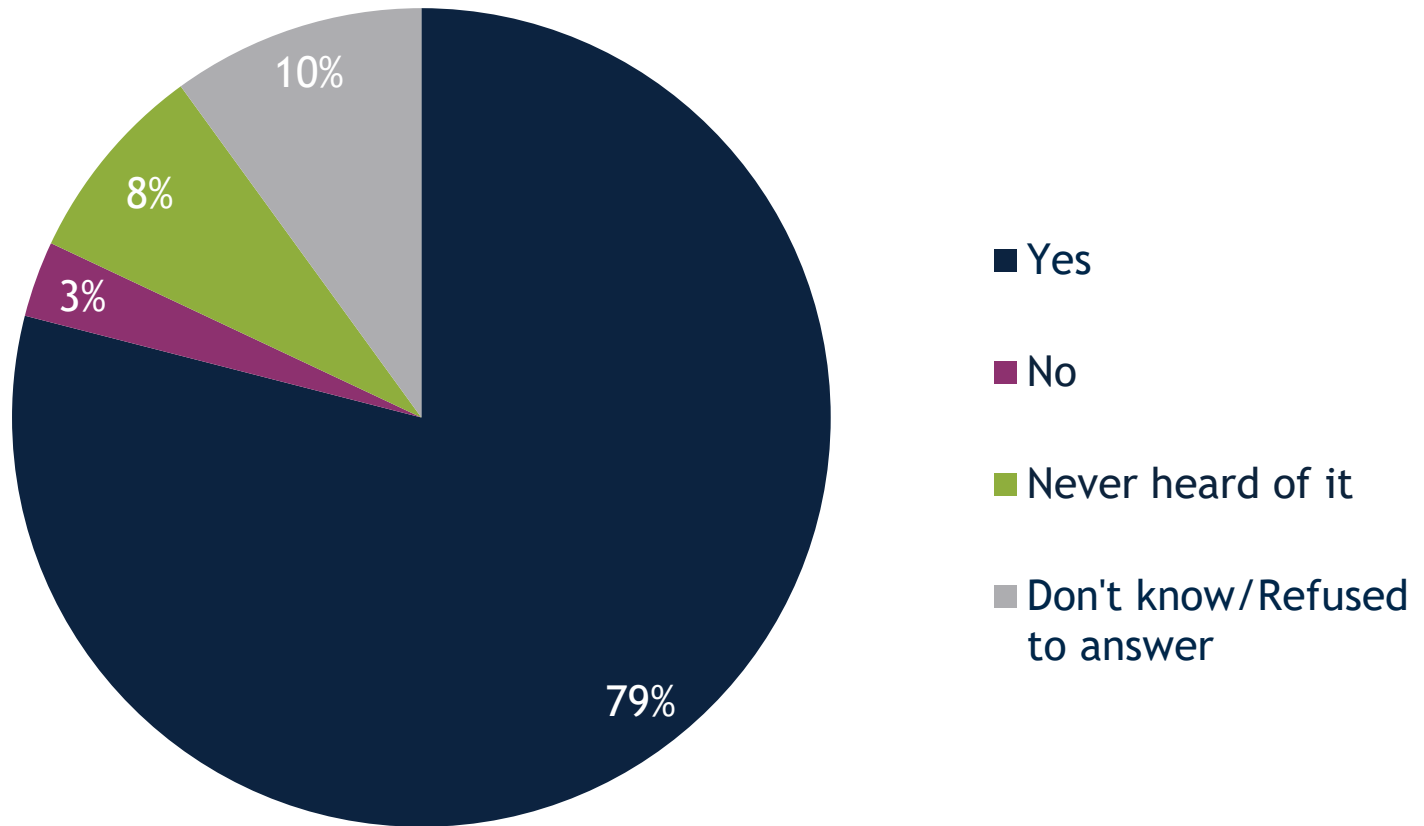
Do you support Timor-Leste becoming a full member of the World Trade Organization (WTO)?



Do you support the Government of Timor-Leste's proposed purchase of Conoco Phillips' stake in the Greater Sunrise gas field?



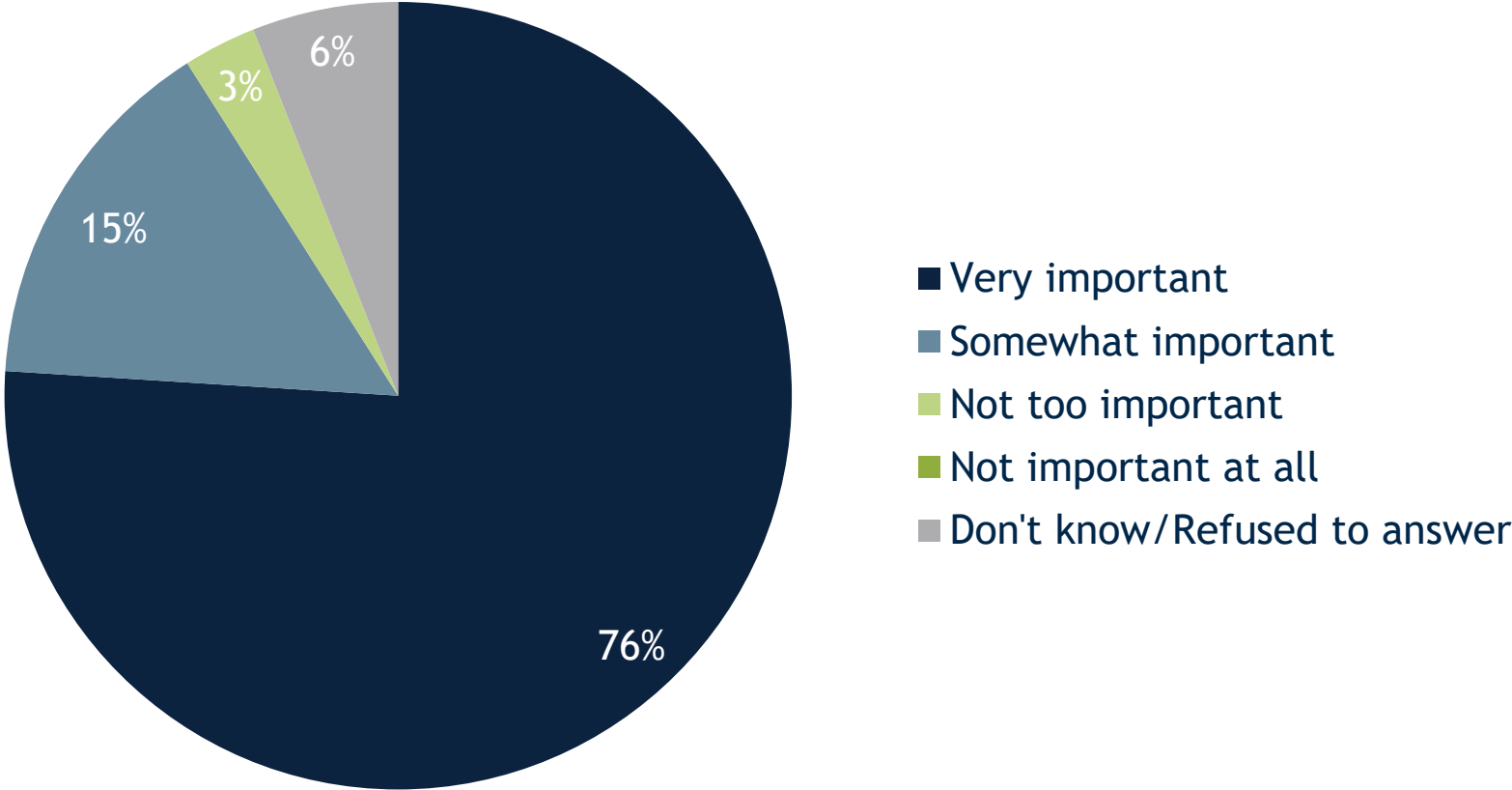
Do you support the Government of Timor-Leste's plan to create directly-elected municipal assemblies?



In your opinion, how important is it to have the following?

	A stable government	A strong majority in the National Parliament	A strong opposition in the National Parliament
Very important	76%	75%	74%
Somewhat important	17%	16%	16%
Not too important	3%	3%	4%
Not important at all	0%	1%	0%
Don't know/Refused to answer	4%	5%	6%
Total Important	93%	91%	90%

In your opinion, is it important that the government and the majority in the National Parliament seek input from opposition parties and include them in the decision-making process?





Institutions



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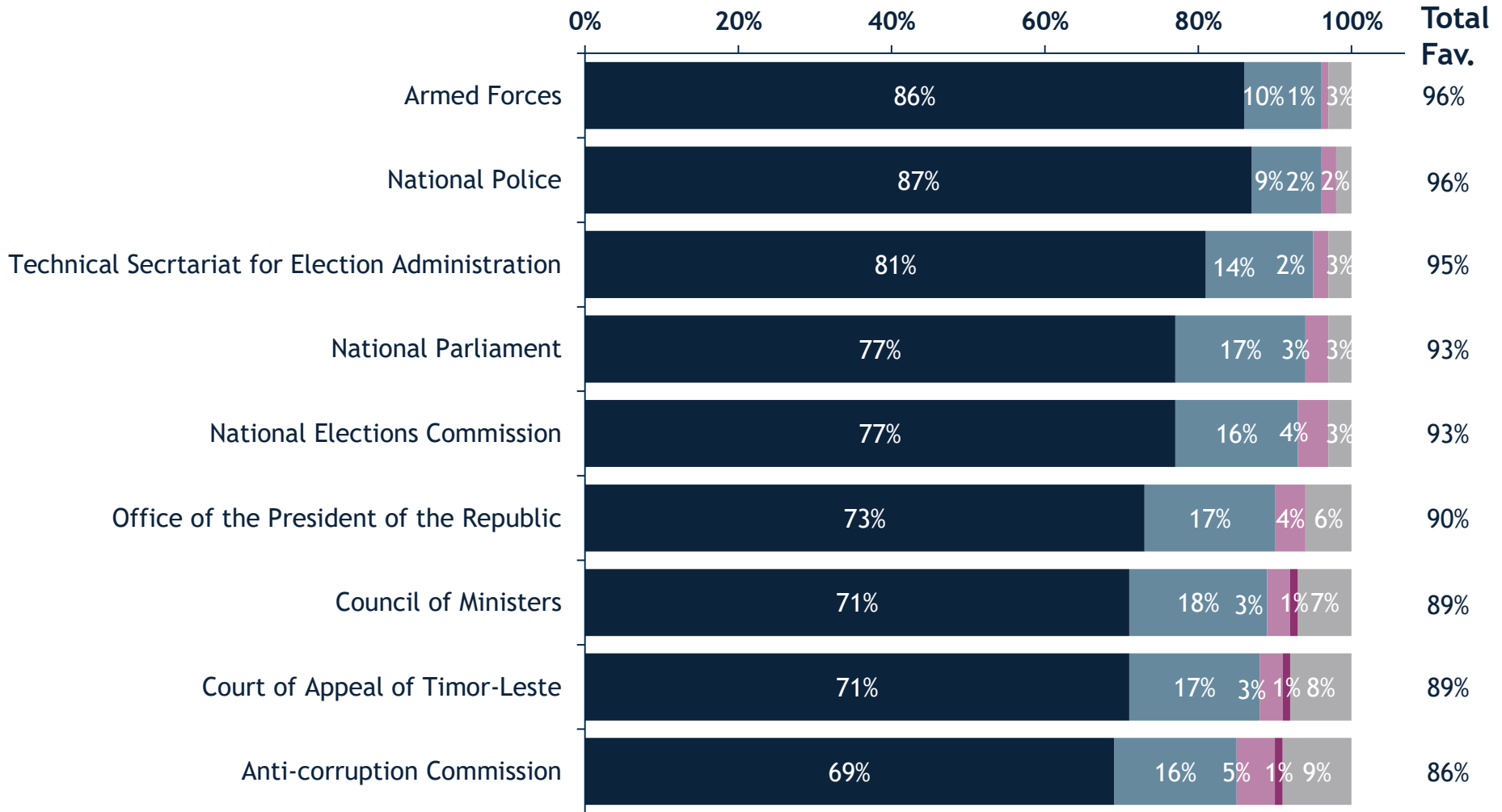
Which government institution in Timor-Leste do you view most favorably?

(Open-ended; among respondents who provided an actual response: n=645)

Institution	November 2018	May 2017
Ministry of Health	29%	15%
Ministry of Education	23%	18%
National Police (PNTL)	9%	n/a
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	8%	6%
Ministry of Social Solidarity	8%	3%
Armed Forces (F-FDTL)	7%	n/a
Ministry of Finance	3%	n/a
Secretary of State for Political Affairs in Professional Education & Labor	3%	n/a
Ministry of Defense	2%	n/a
Ministry of Public Works, Transportation, and Communication	2%	8%
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	1%	n/a
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture	1%	n/a
Ministry of Justice	1%	n/a
National Parliament	1%	n/a

*Responses below 1% are excluded from the table.

Would you say that you have a *very favorable*, *somewhat favorable*, *somewhat unfavorable* or *very unfavorable* opinion of the following institutions?



Very favorable
 Somewhat favorable
 Somewhat unfavorable
 Very unfavorable
 Don't know/Refused to answer



Political Parties

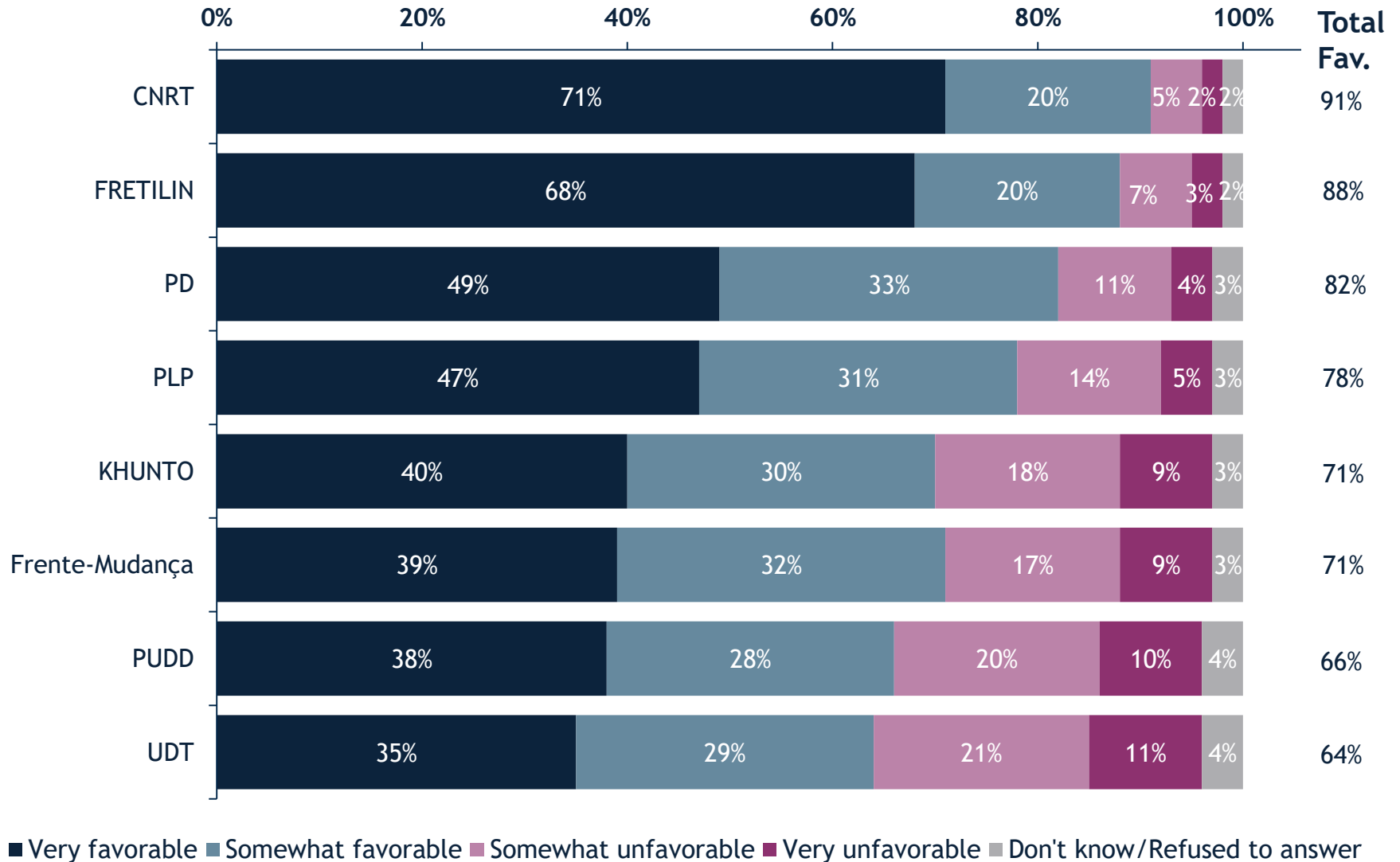


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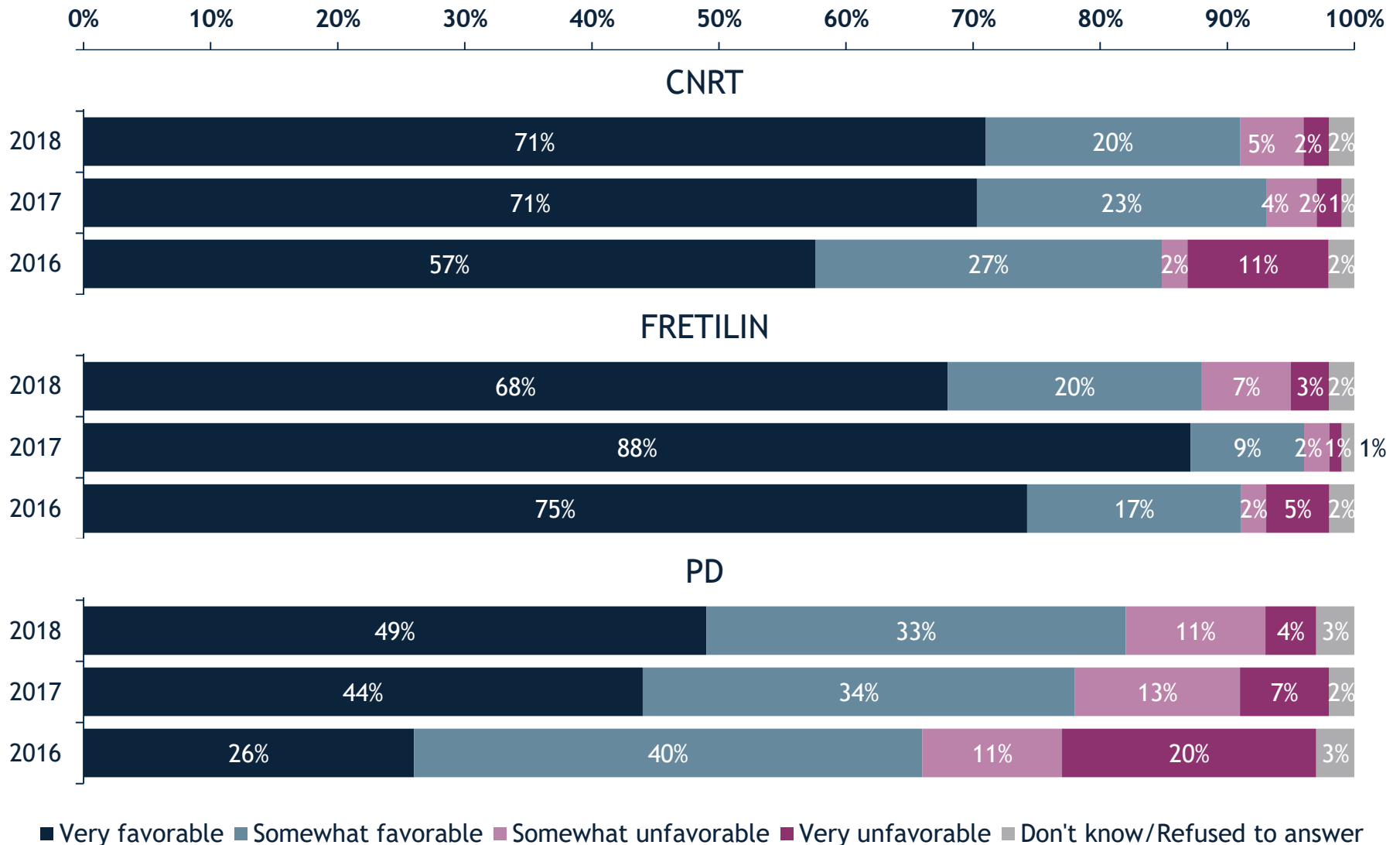


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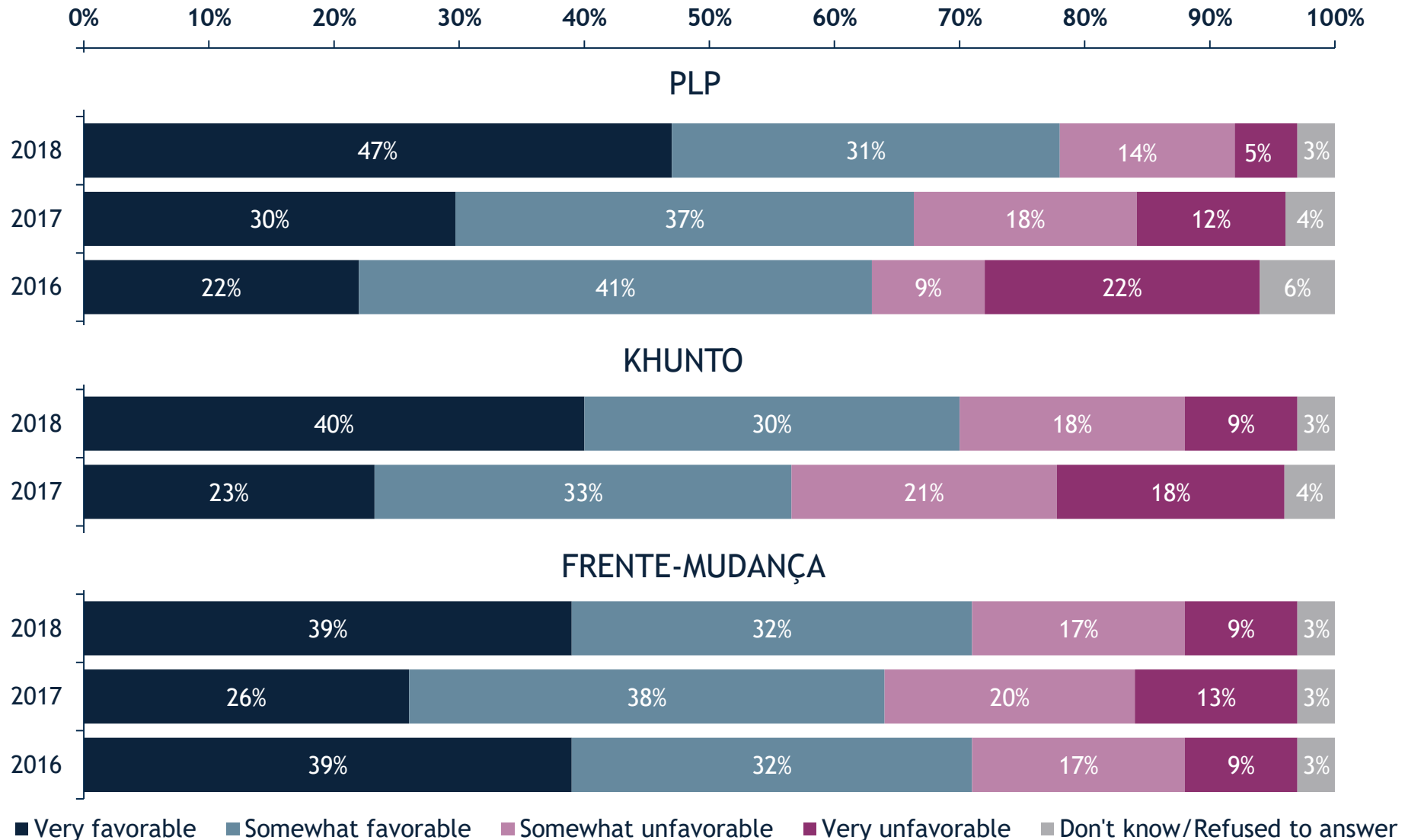
Would you say that you have a *very favorable*, *somewhat favorable*, *somewhat unfavorable* or *very unfavorable* opinion of the following political parties?



Would you say that you have a *very favorable*, *somewhat favorable*, *somewhat unfavorable* or *very unfavorable* opinion of the following political parties?



Would you say that you have a *very favorable*, *somewhat favorable*, *somewhat unfavorable*, or *very unfavorable* opinion of the following political parties?



Would you say that you have a *very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable* opinion of the following political parties?
 (Favorable; disaggregated by region)

Political Party	Western	Central	Eastern	Dili
CNRT	82%	71%	51%	70%
FRETILIN	67%	66%	74%	68%
PD	61%	47%	34%	45%
PLP	58%	44%	35%	42%
KHUNTO	50%	40%	25%	35%
Frente-Mudança	48%	39%	23%	36%
PUDD	47%	39%	23%	36%
UDT	45%	35%	22%	33%

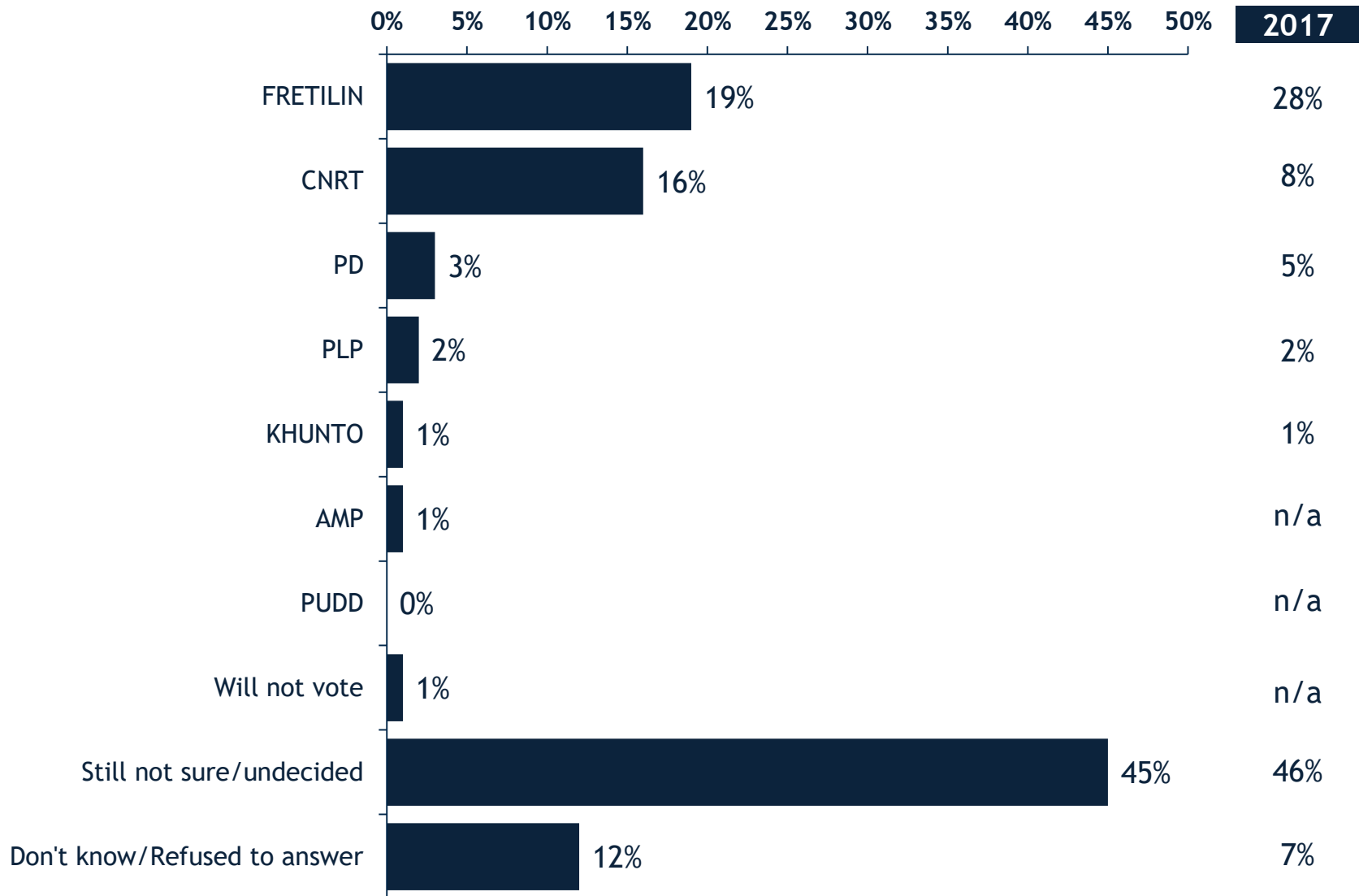
Which political party is most active in your neighborhood? *Please choose only ONE.*

Political Party	November 2018	May 2017
FRETILIN	35%	65%
CNRT	34%	12%
UDT	9%	n/a
PD	5%	7%
PLP	4%	2%
KHUNTO	2%	2%
PUDD	0%	n/a
Frente-Mudança	0%	n/a
No party is active	9%	6%
Don't know/Refused to answer	11%	6%

In what ways, if any, did political parties reach out to you during the parliamentary election?

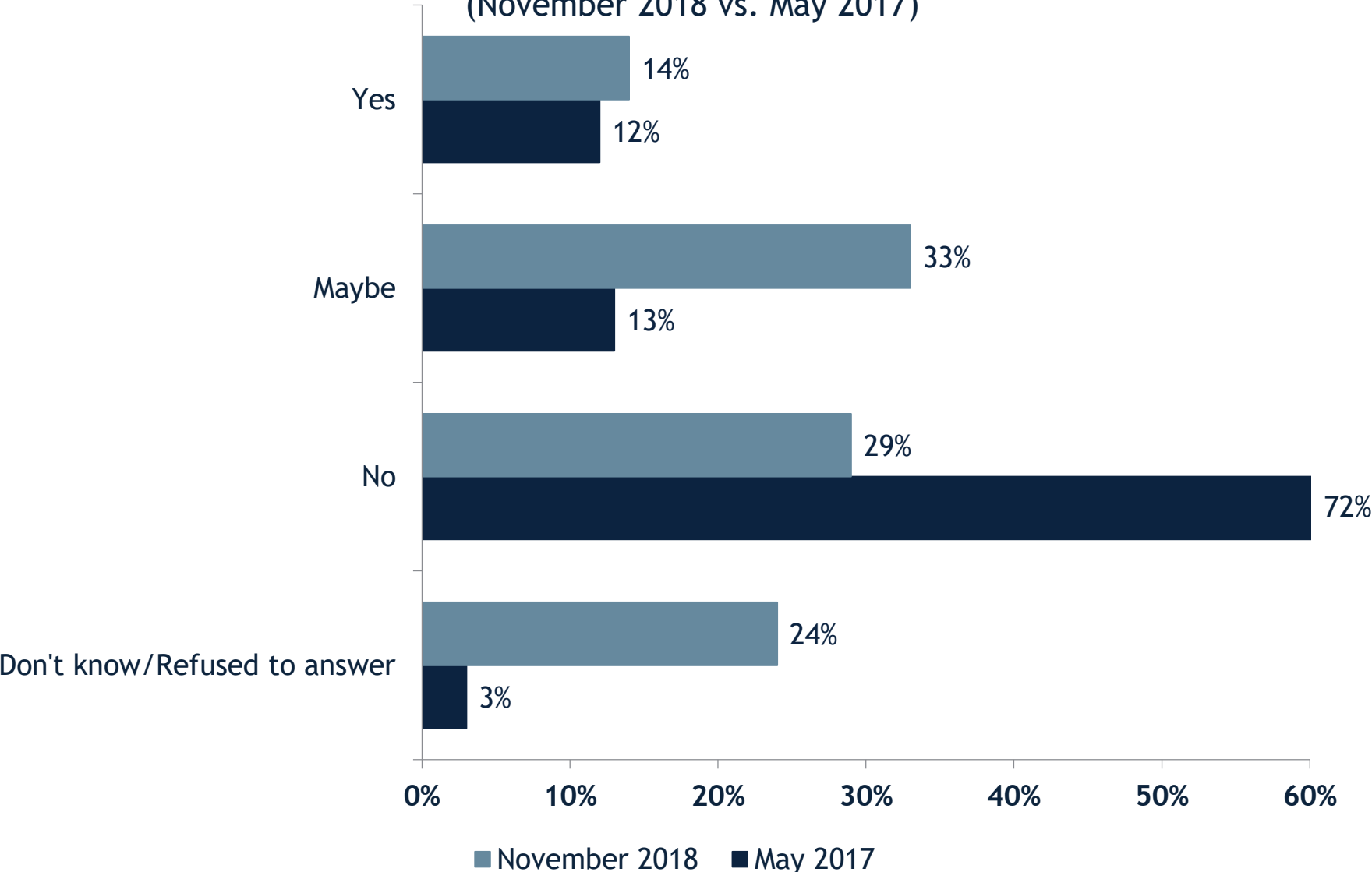
Outreach	November 2018	May 2017
Meeting with politicians	23%	27%
Visits of candidate or political party representative to your house	20%	4%
Television advertisements	17%	31%
Meeting with respected community leaders	6%	10%
Radio advertisements	4%	4%
Large rallies	3%	8%
Billboards	1%	1%
Paid ads in newspapers for the candidate or political party	1%	0%
Brochures/pamphlets	1%	0%
Personal letters to you from the candidate	1%	0%
Facebook	0%	0%
Text messaging	0%	0%
Newspaper articles	0%	0%
Don't know/Refused to answer	21%	13%

If a parliamentary election were held tomorrow, which political party would you vote for?

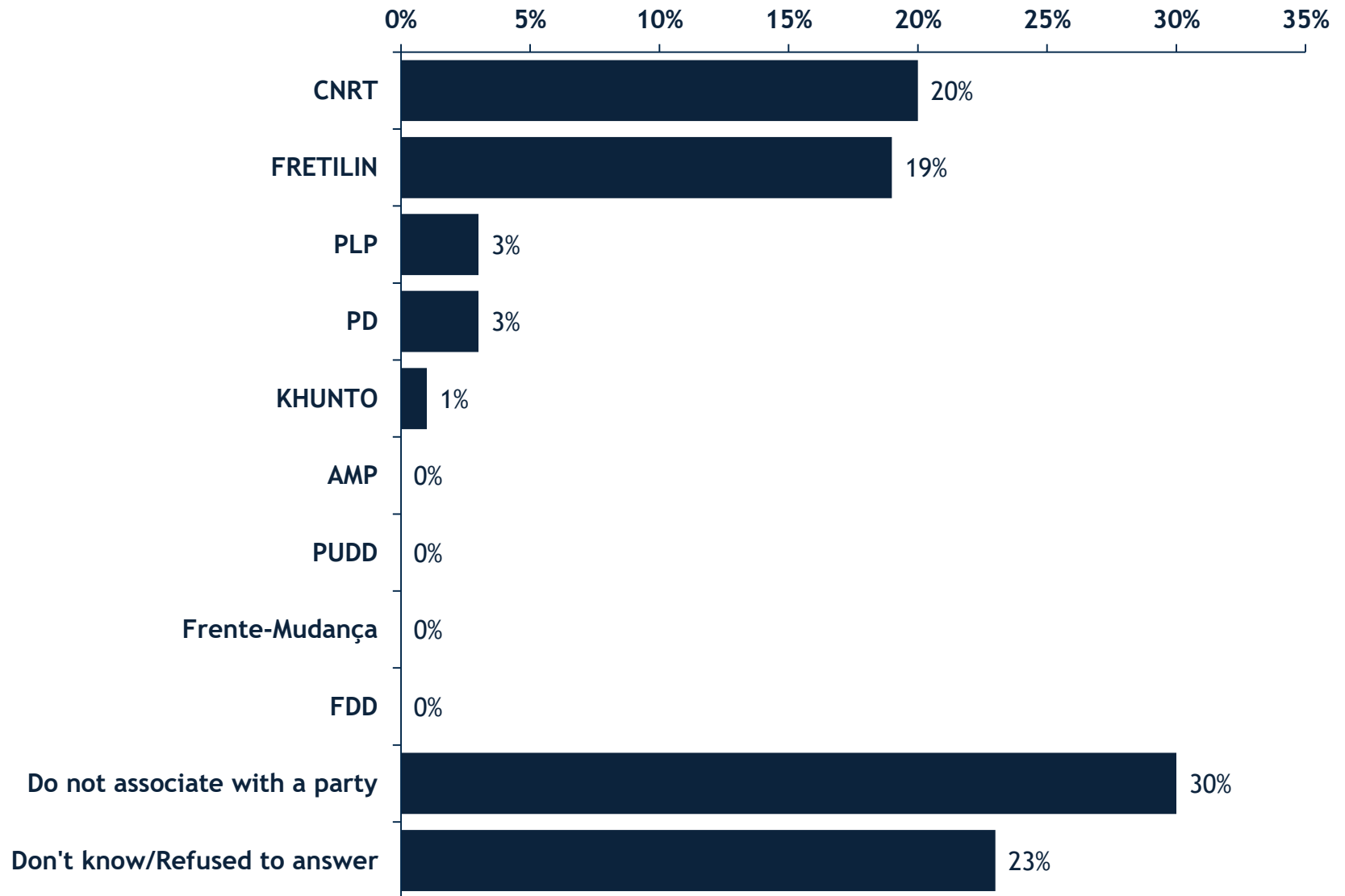


Would you consider voting for other political parties in future elections?

(November 2018 vs. May 2017)



With which political party do you associate or belong to, if any? (Open-ended; among respondents who provided an actual response: n=709)



With which political party do you associate or belong to, if any?

Political Party	November 2018	May 2017	November 2016
CNRT	20%	7%	19%
FRETILIN	19%	30%	44%
PLP	3%	2%	2%
PD	3%	5%	3%
KHUNTO	1%	1%	2%
AMP	0%	n/a	n/a
PUDD	0%	n/a	n/a
Frente-Mudança	0%	n/a	n/a
FDD	0%	n/a	n/a
Do not associate with a party	30%	43%	15%
Don't know/Refused to answer	23%	10%	13%



Key Figures



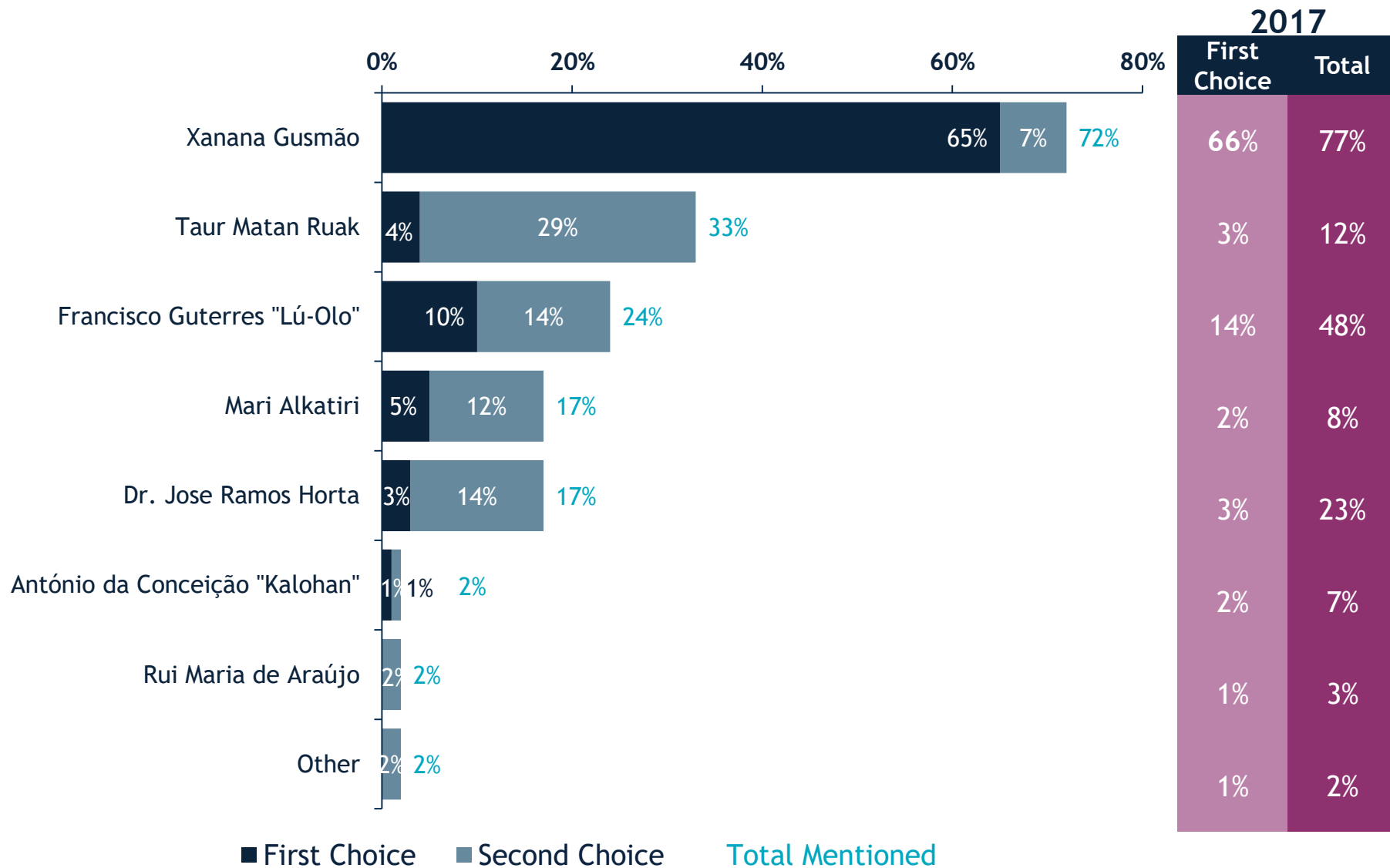
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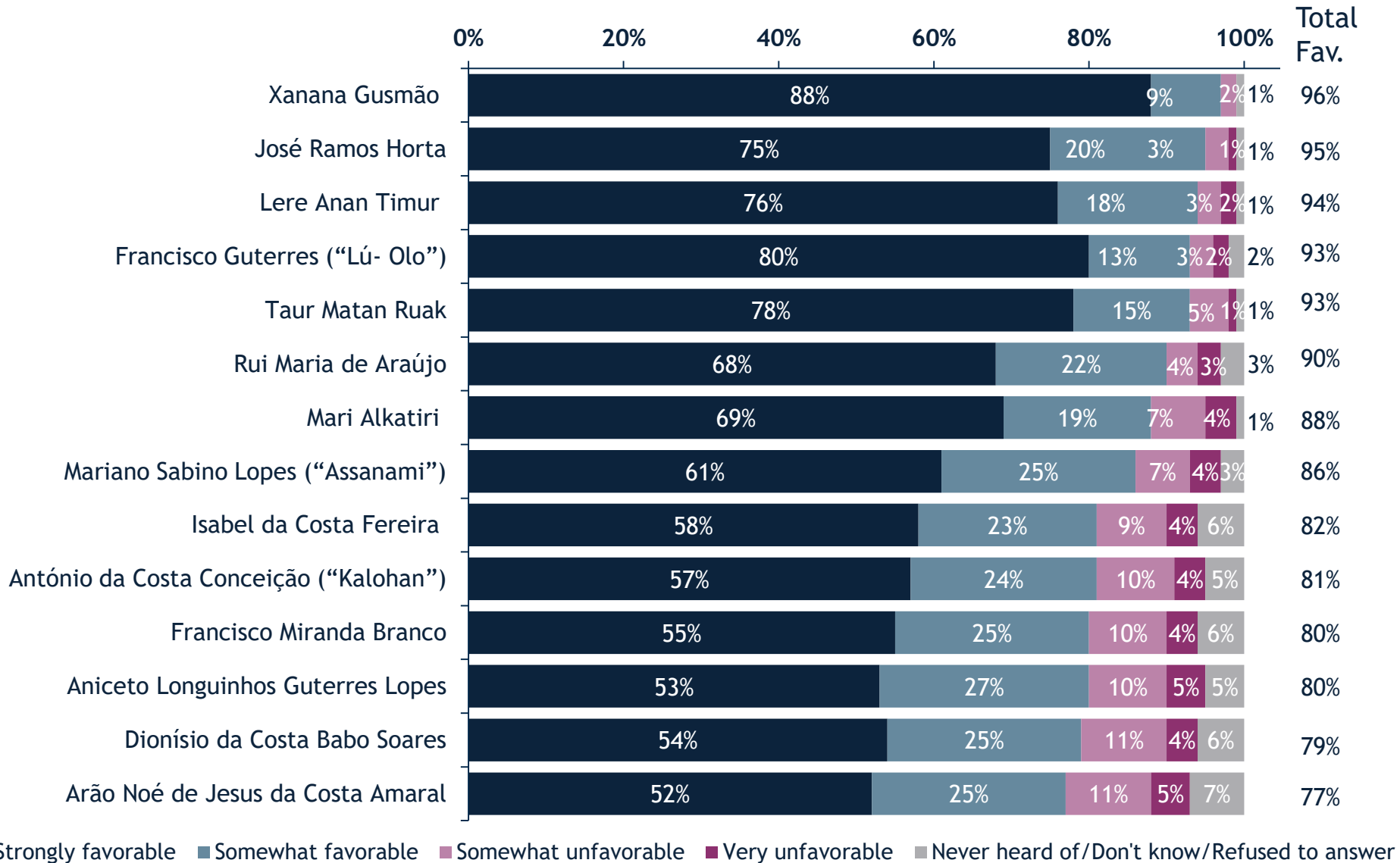
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In your opinion, who are the top two best political or government leaders in Timor-Leste?

(Open-ended)



Do you have a *strongly favorable*, *somewhat favorable*, *somewhat unfavorable* or *very unfavorable* view of the following politicians?

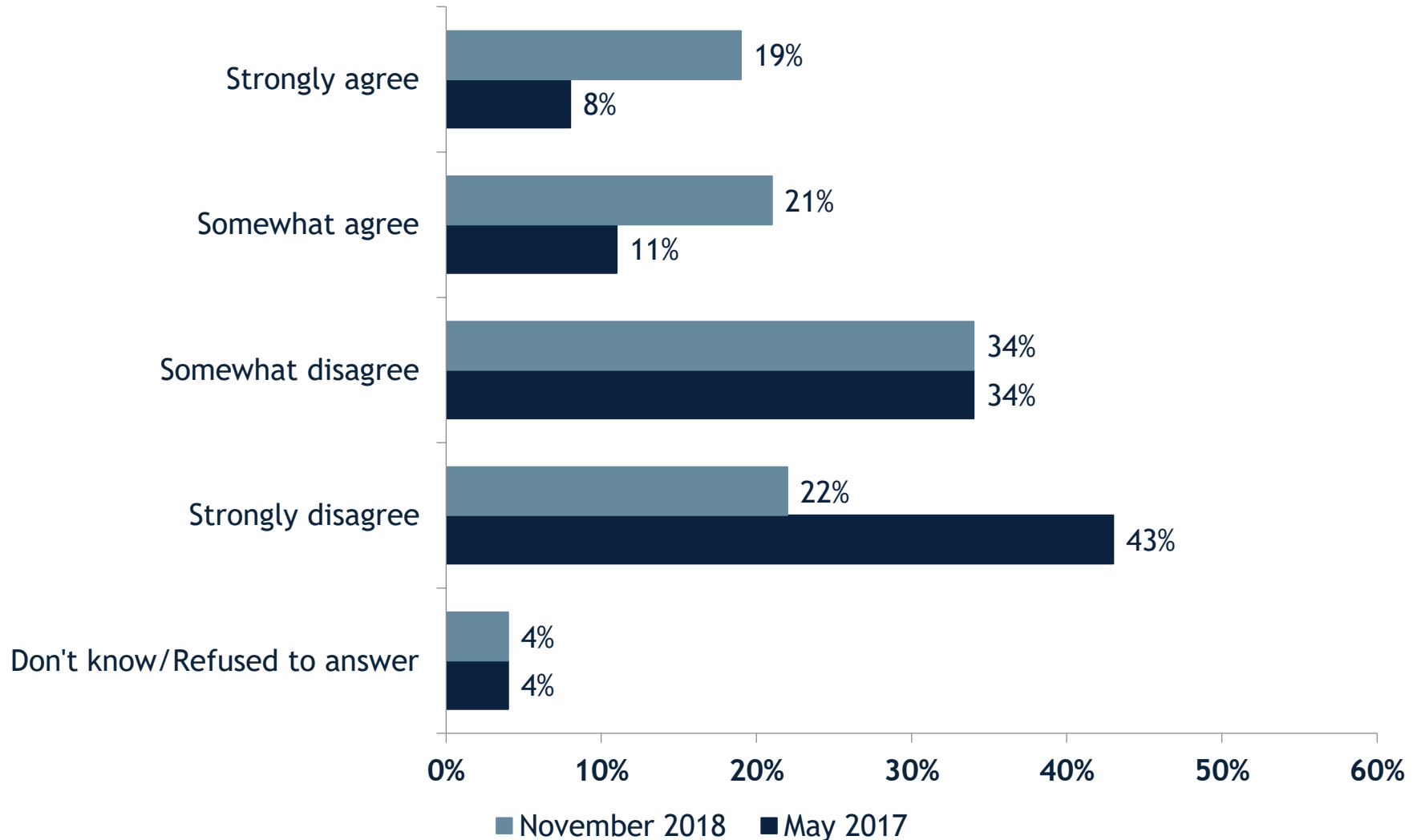


Do you have a *strongly favorable*, *somewhat favorable*, *somewhat unfavorable* or *very unfavorable* view of the following politicians?
 (“Strongly favorable”; disaggregated by year)

Political or government leaders	November 2018	May 2017	November 2016
Xanana Gusmão	88%	95%	87%
Francisco Guterres (“Lú-Olo”)	80%	94%	83%
Taur Matan Ruak	78%	89%	75%
Lere Anan Timur	76%	89%	73%
José Ramos Horta	75%	91%	75%
Mari Alkatiri	69%	83%	74%
Rui Maria de Araújo	68%	84%	n/a
Mariano Sabino Lopes (“Assanami”)	61%	n/a	n/a
Isabel da Costa Ferreira	58%	71%	61%
António da Costa Conceição (“Kalohan”)	57%	70%	n/a
Francisco Miranda Branco	55%	n/a	n/a
Dionísio da Costa Babo Soares	54%	n/a	n/a
Aniceto Longuinhos Guterres Lopes	53%	n/a	n/a
Arão Noé de Jesus da Costa Amaral	52%	n/a	n/a

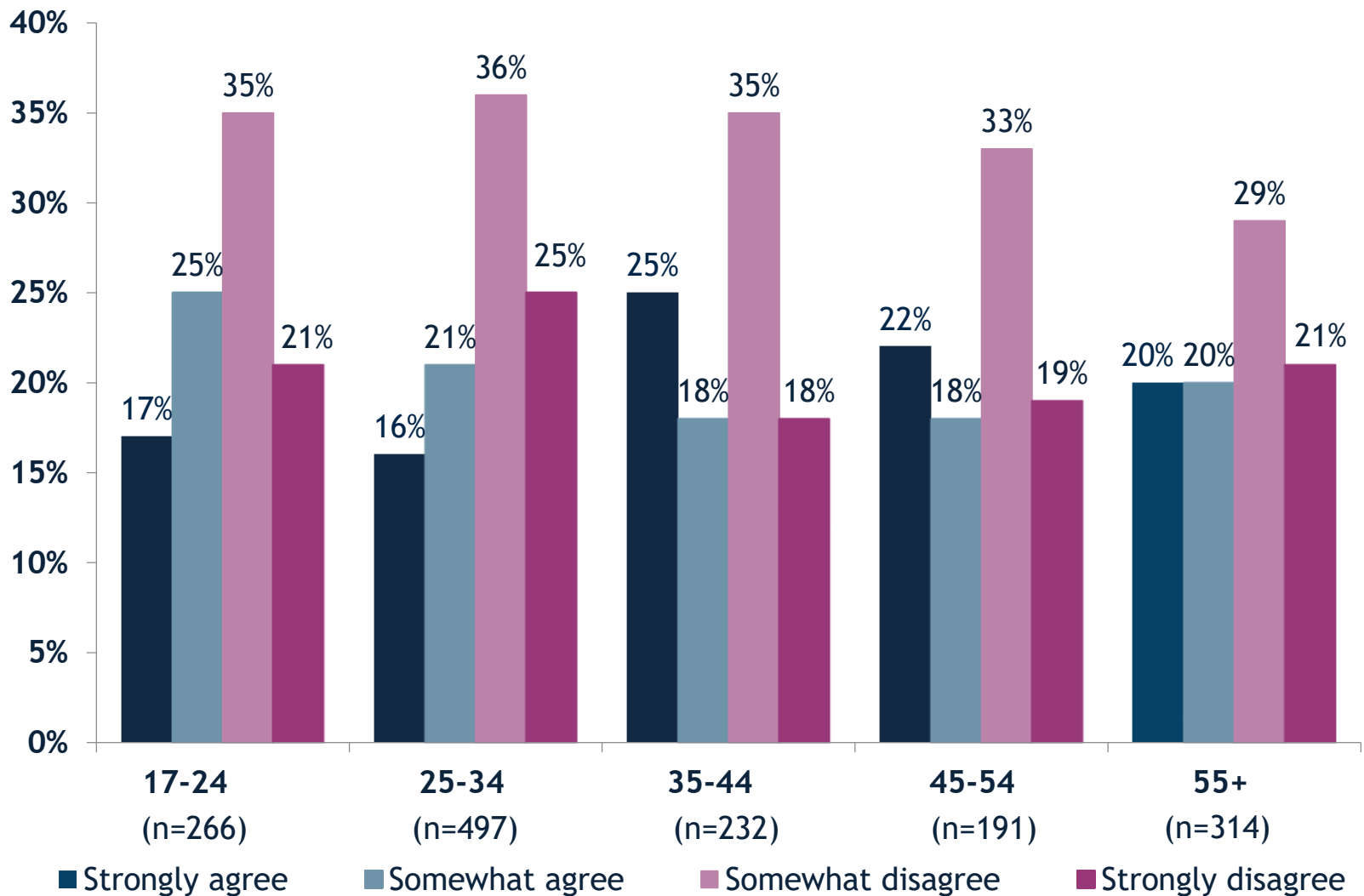
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *Politicians do not listen to the needs and ideas of citizens.*

(November 2018 vs. May 2017)



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

(Disaggregated by age)



Women and Youth in Politics

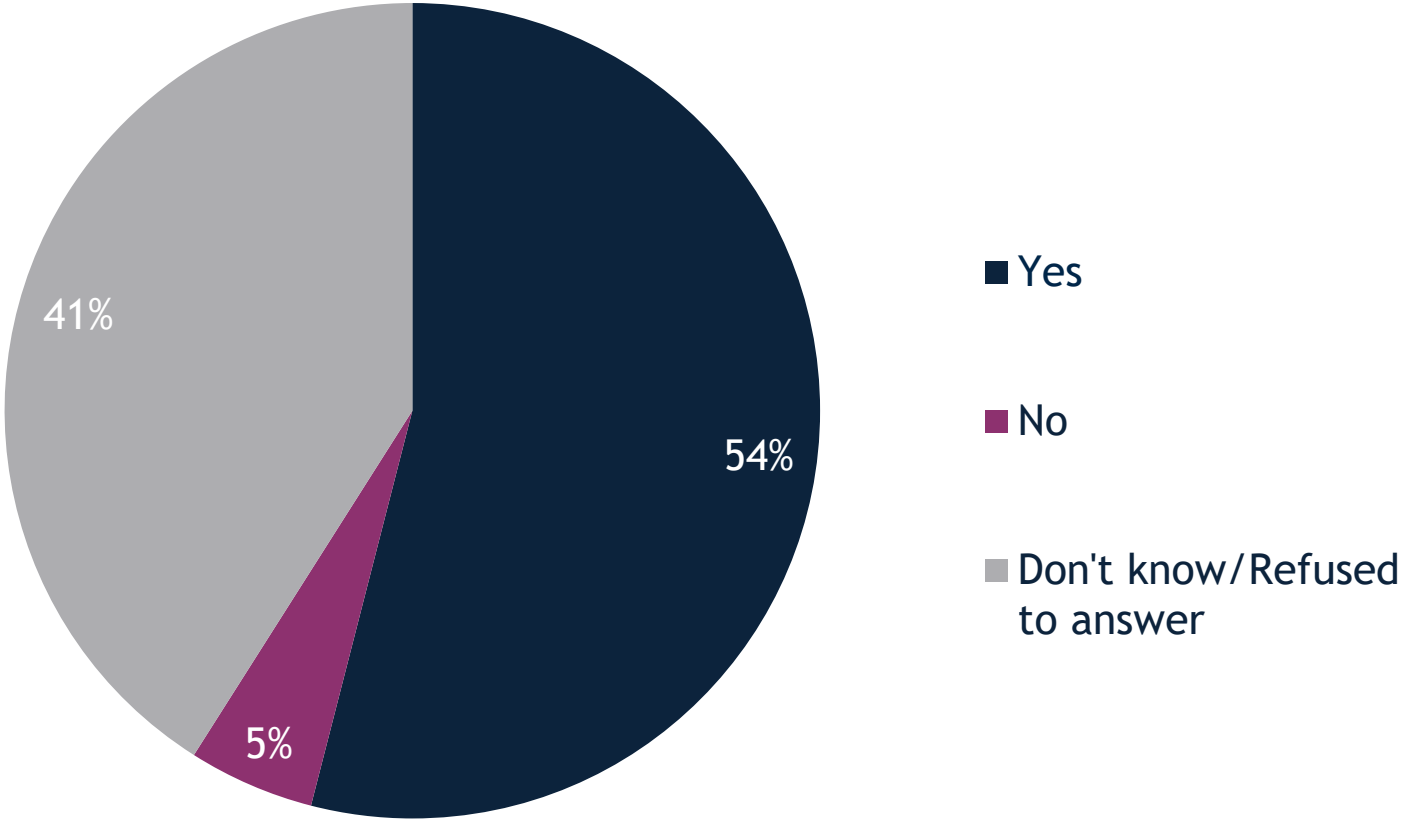


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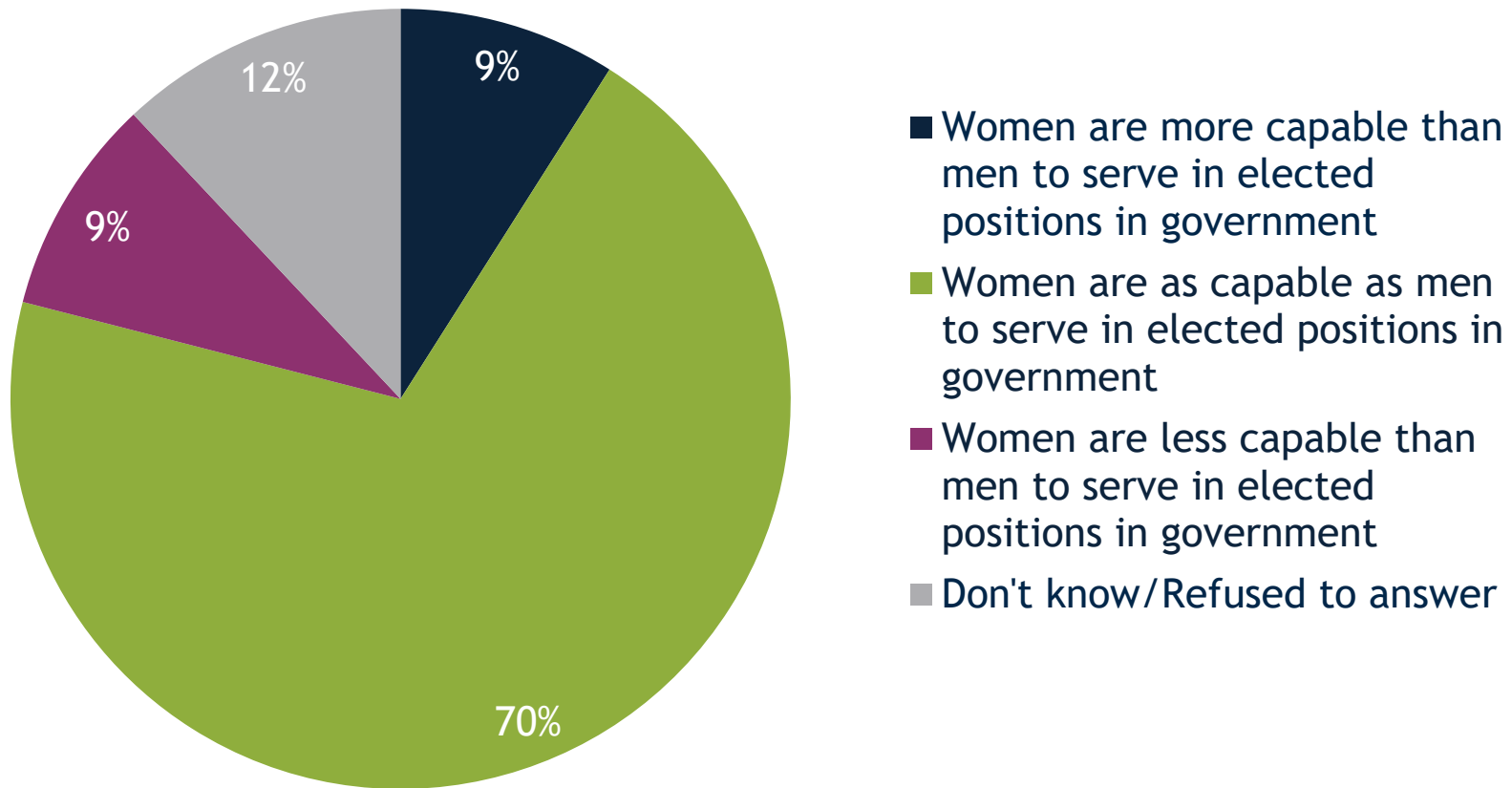


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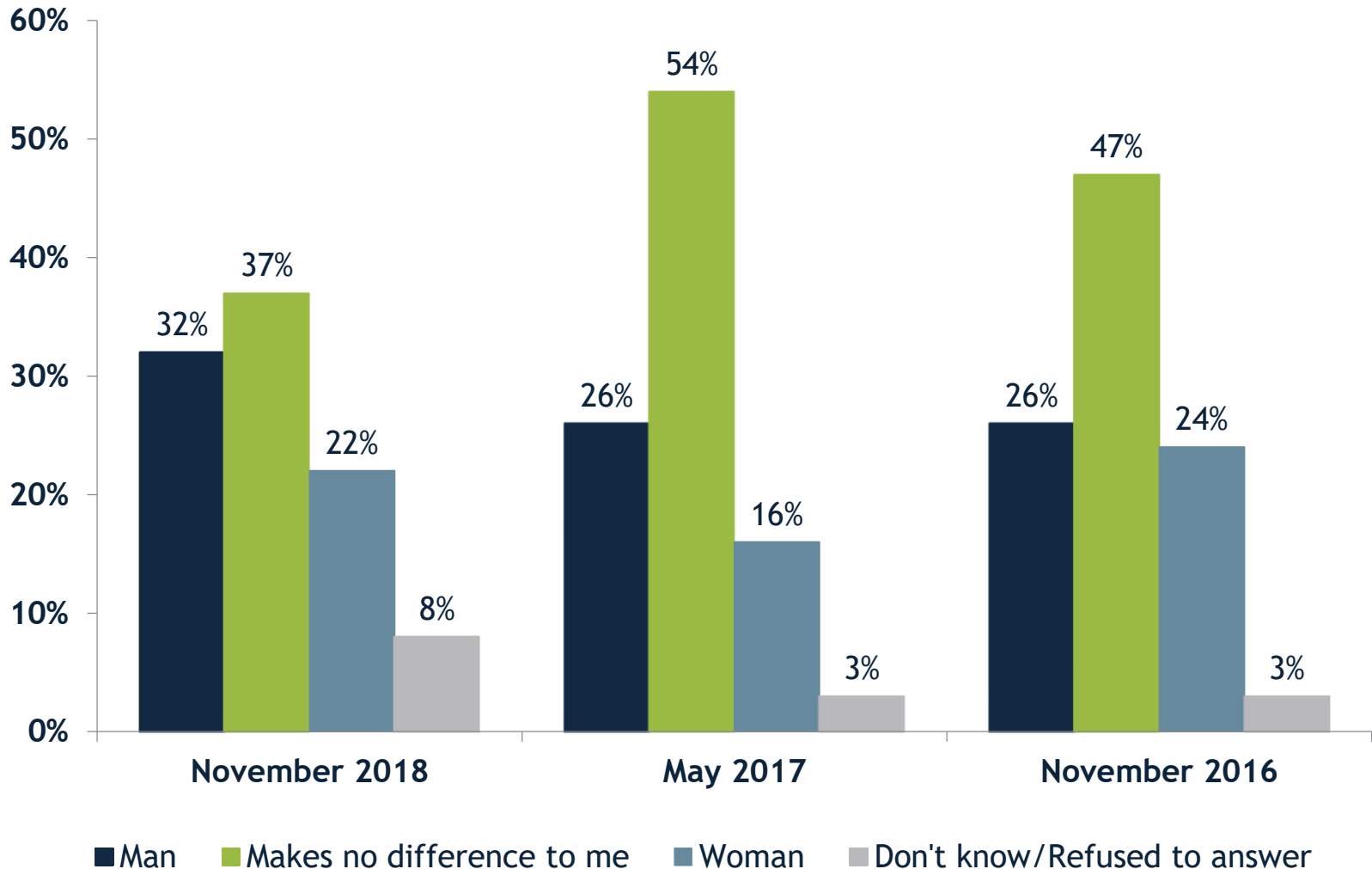
Do you believe that women are capable of becoming political leaders?



I am going to read you three statements. After I read them, please tell me which statement comes closest to your own opinion.

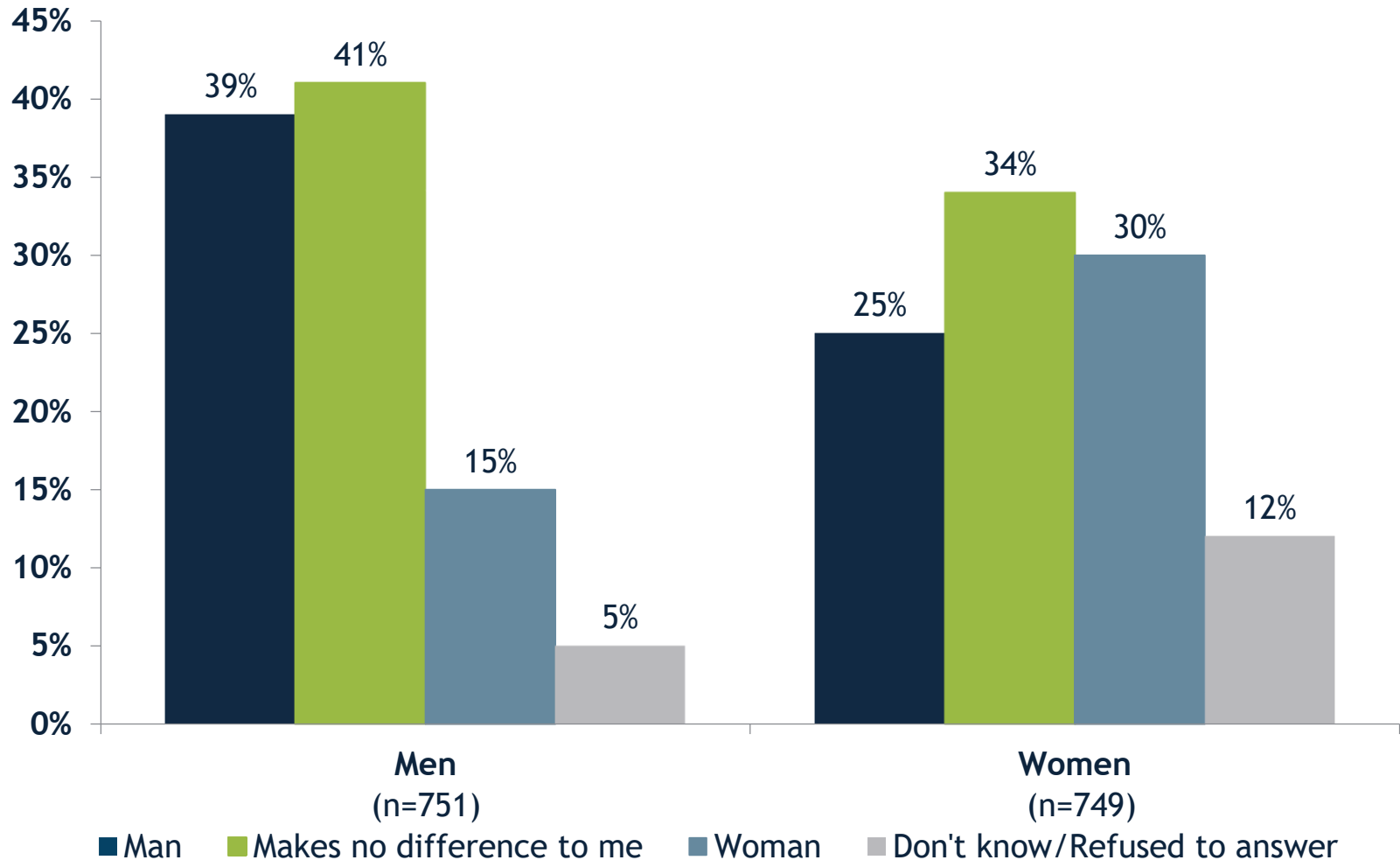


If there are two candidates running for office and they have the same qualifications aside from the fact that one is a man and one is a woman, which candidate are you more likely to support?



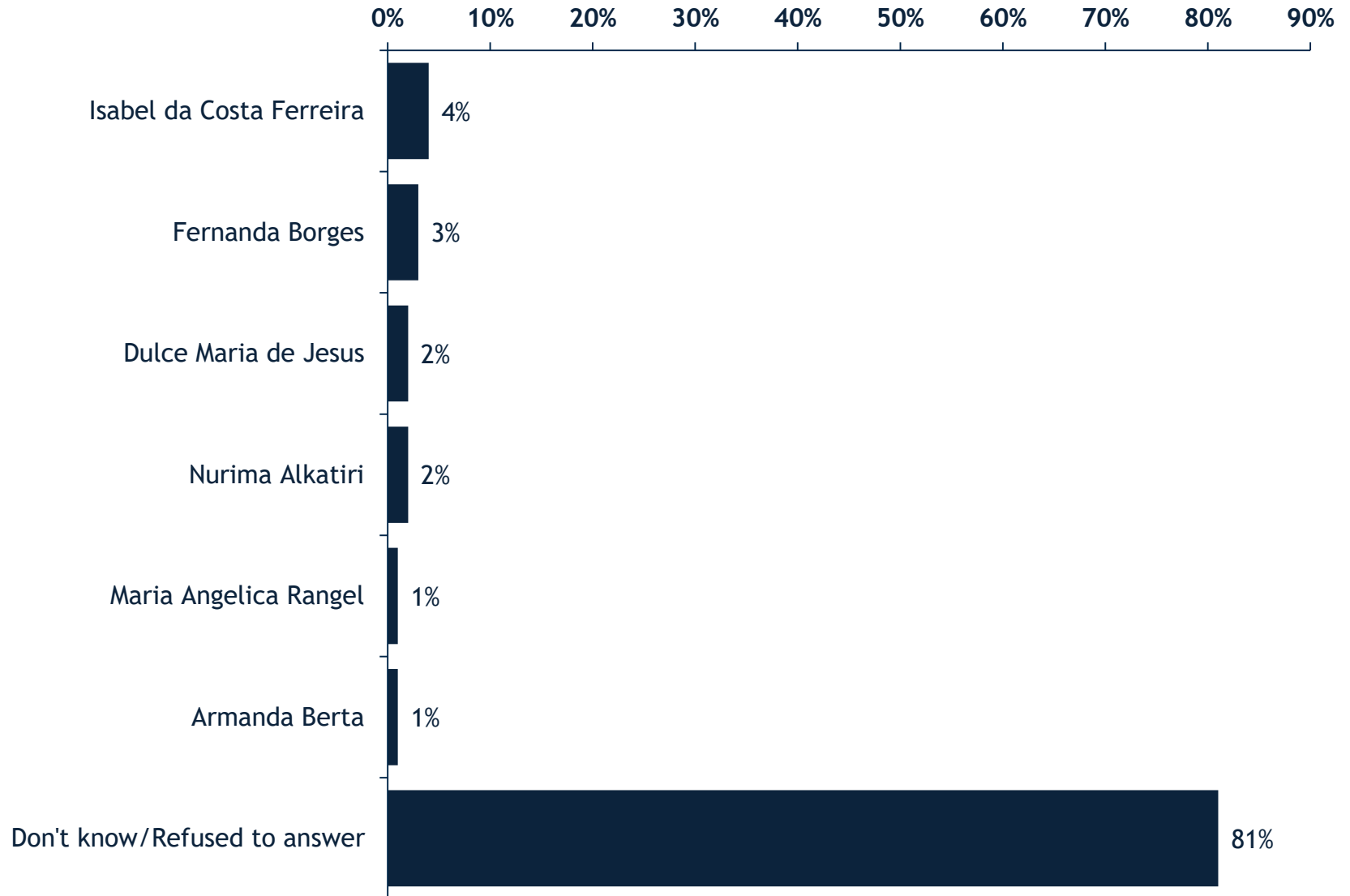
If there are two candidates running for office and they have the same qualifications aside from the fact that one is a man and one is a woman, which candidate are you more likely to support?

(Disaggregated by gender)



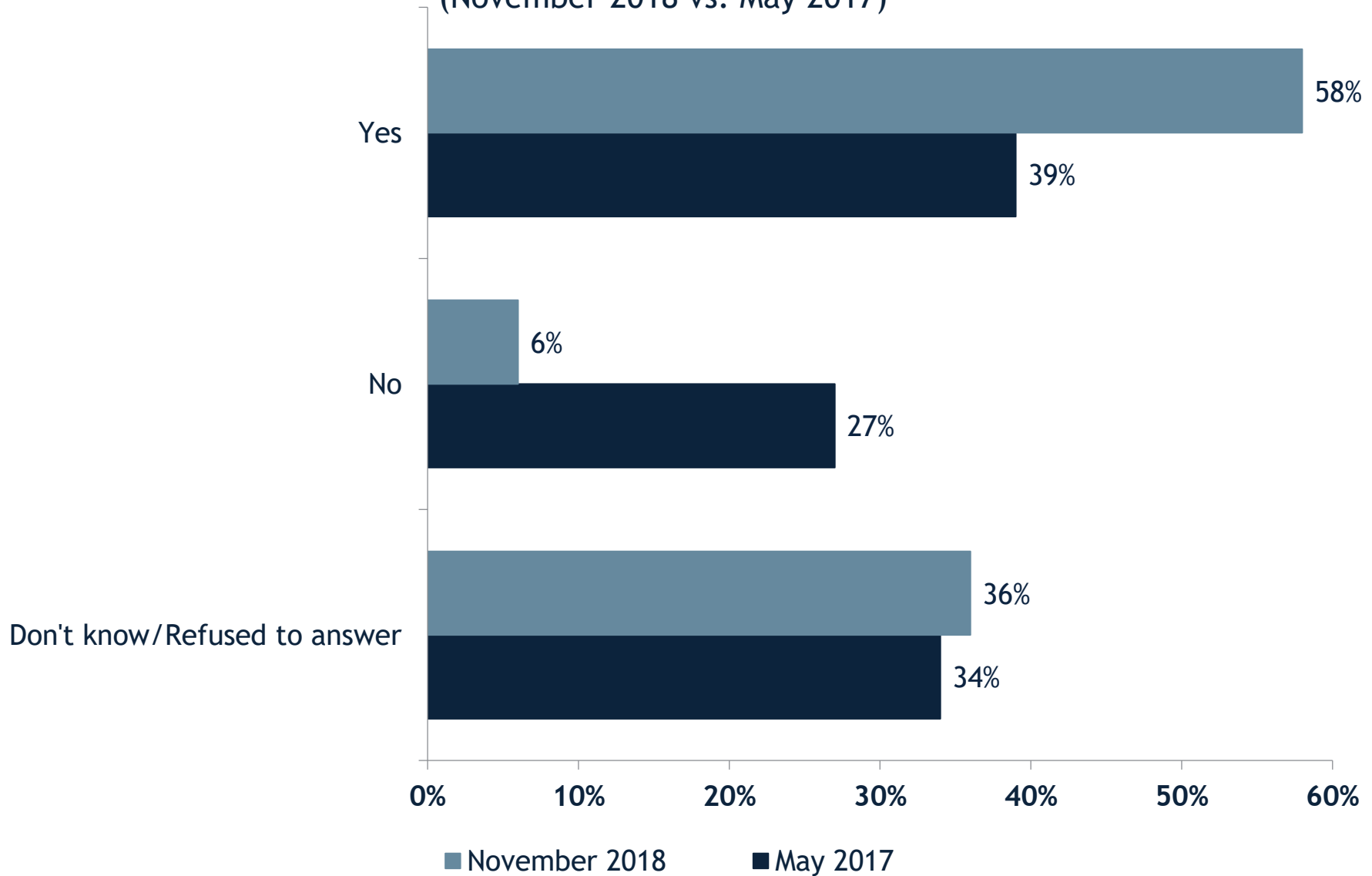
Which woman political leader, if any, do you view most favorably?

(Open-ended; among respondents who provided an actual response: n=286)



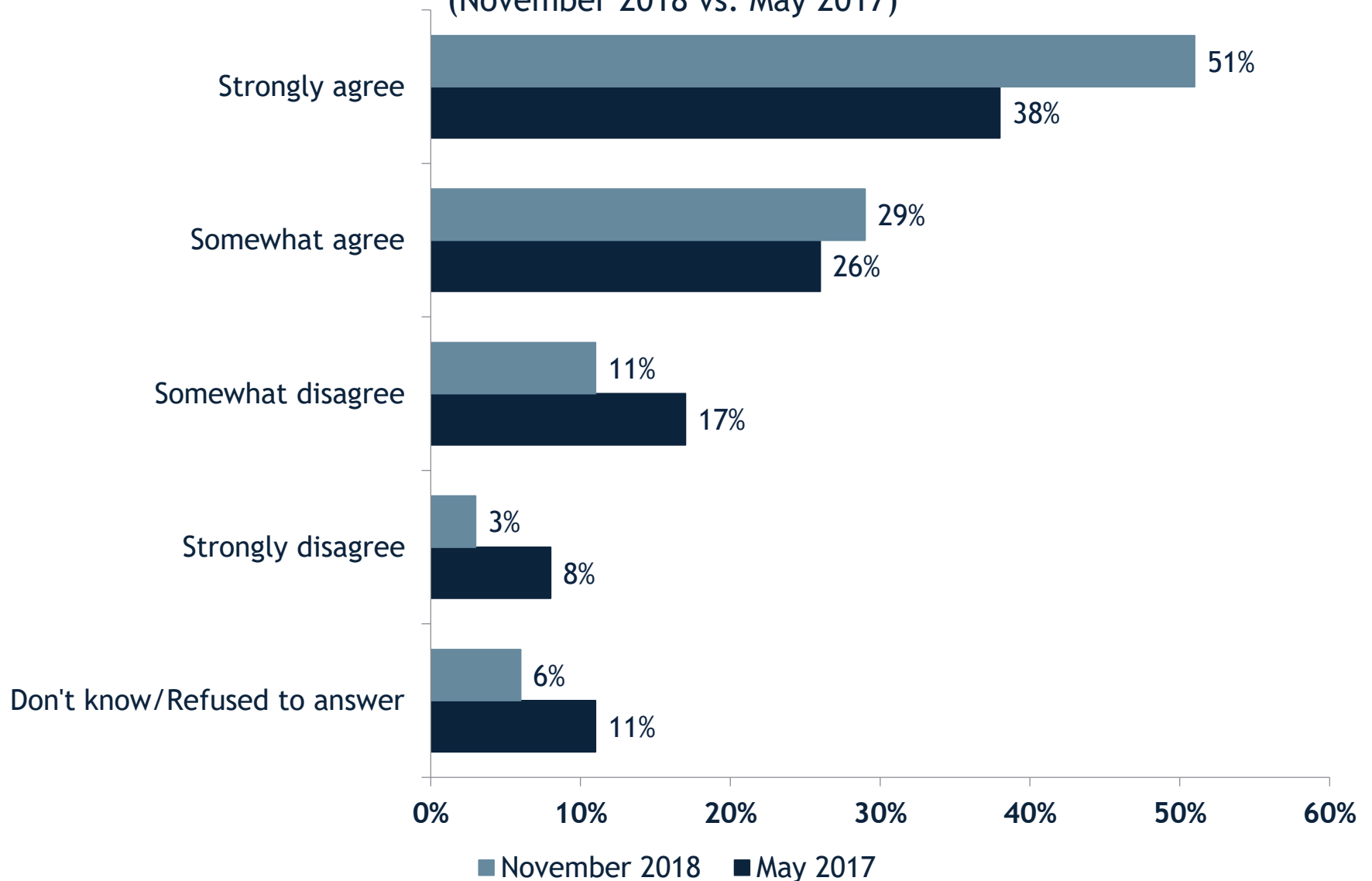
Do you believe that young people are capable of becoming political leaders?

(November 2018 vs. May 2017)



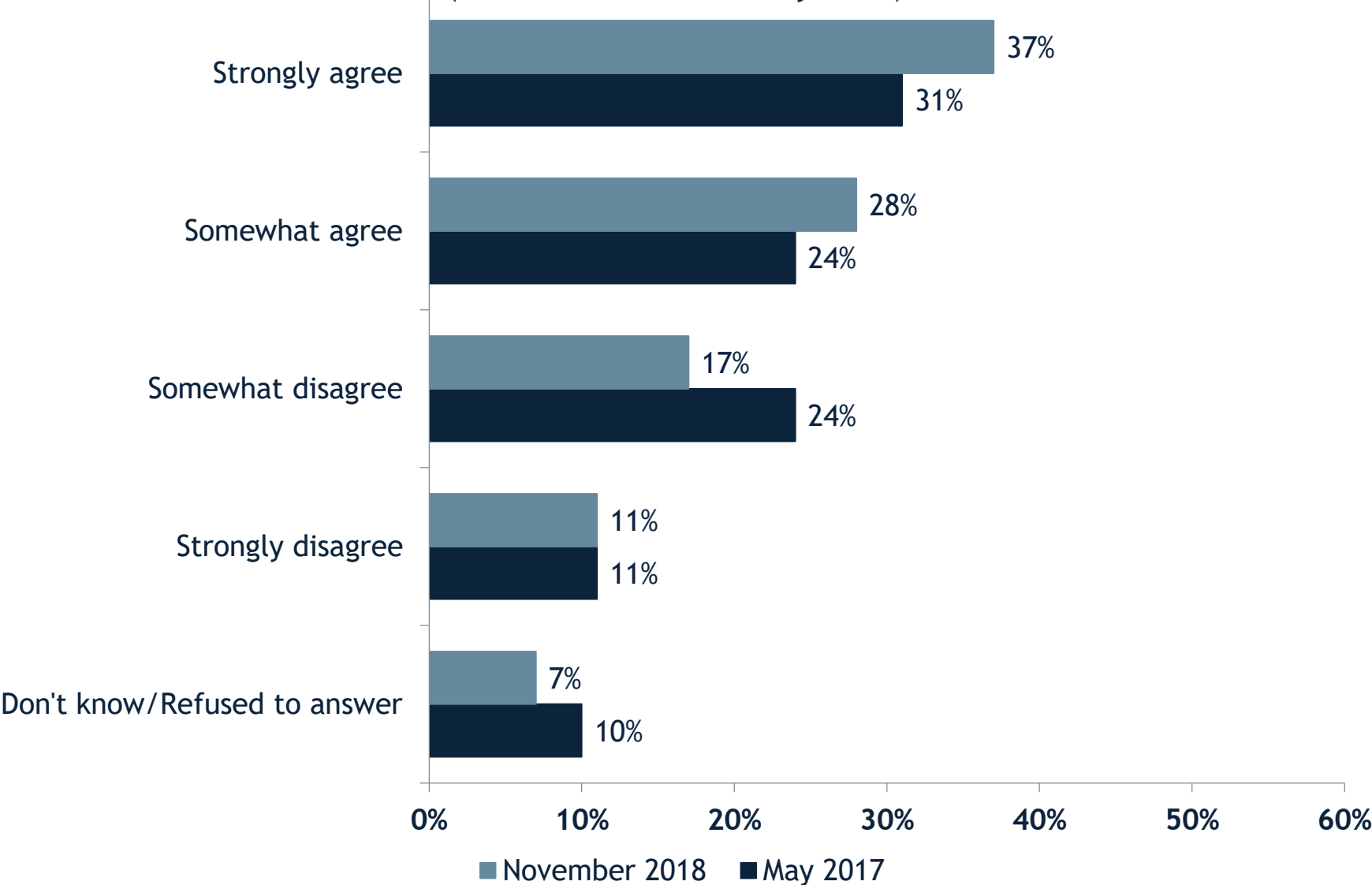
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *It is time for Timor-Leste to transition to a younger generation of leaders.*

(November 2018 vs. May 2017)



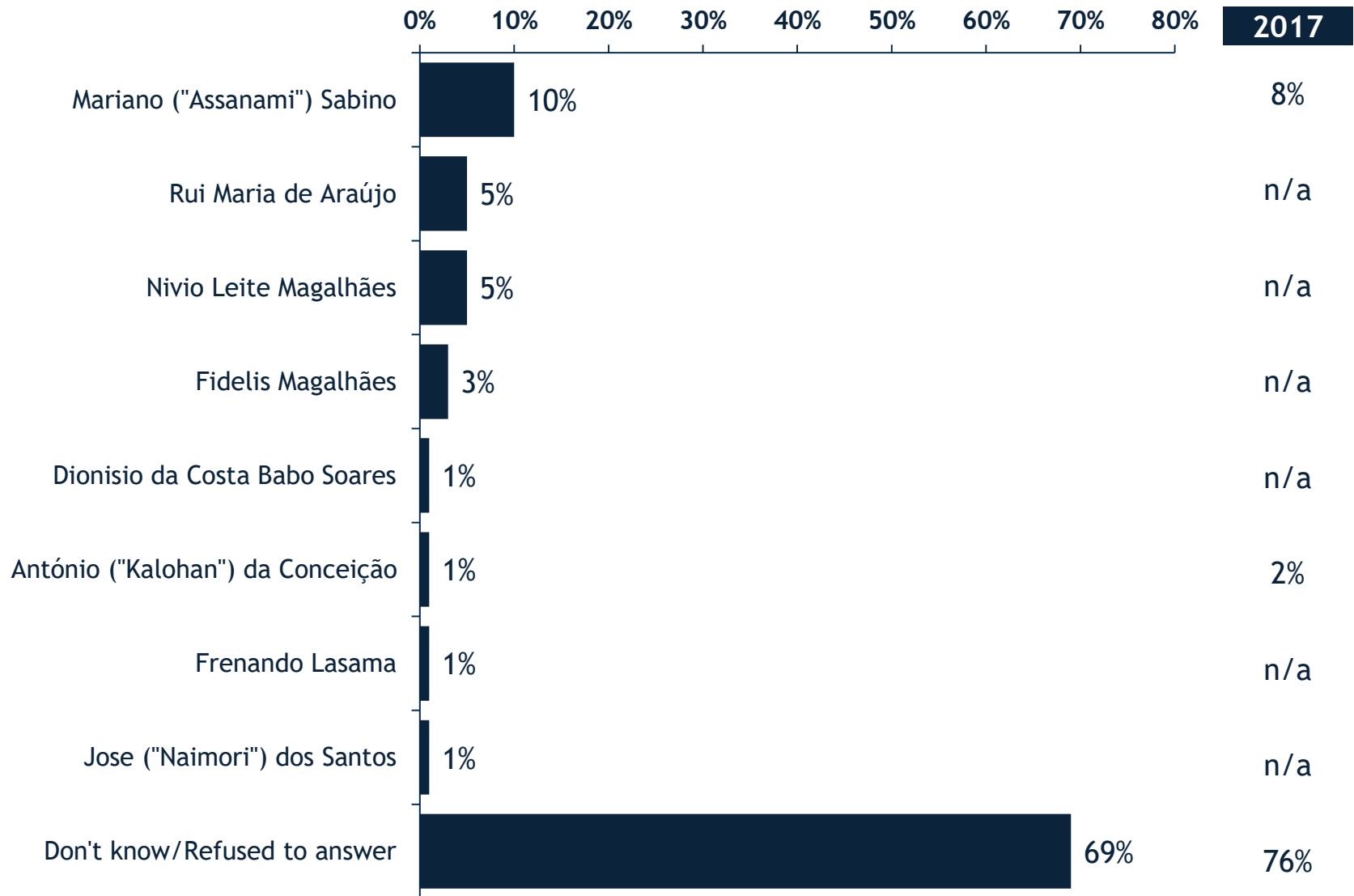
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *It is time for the older generation to step back from leading the country.*

(November 2018 vs. May 2017)



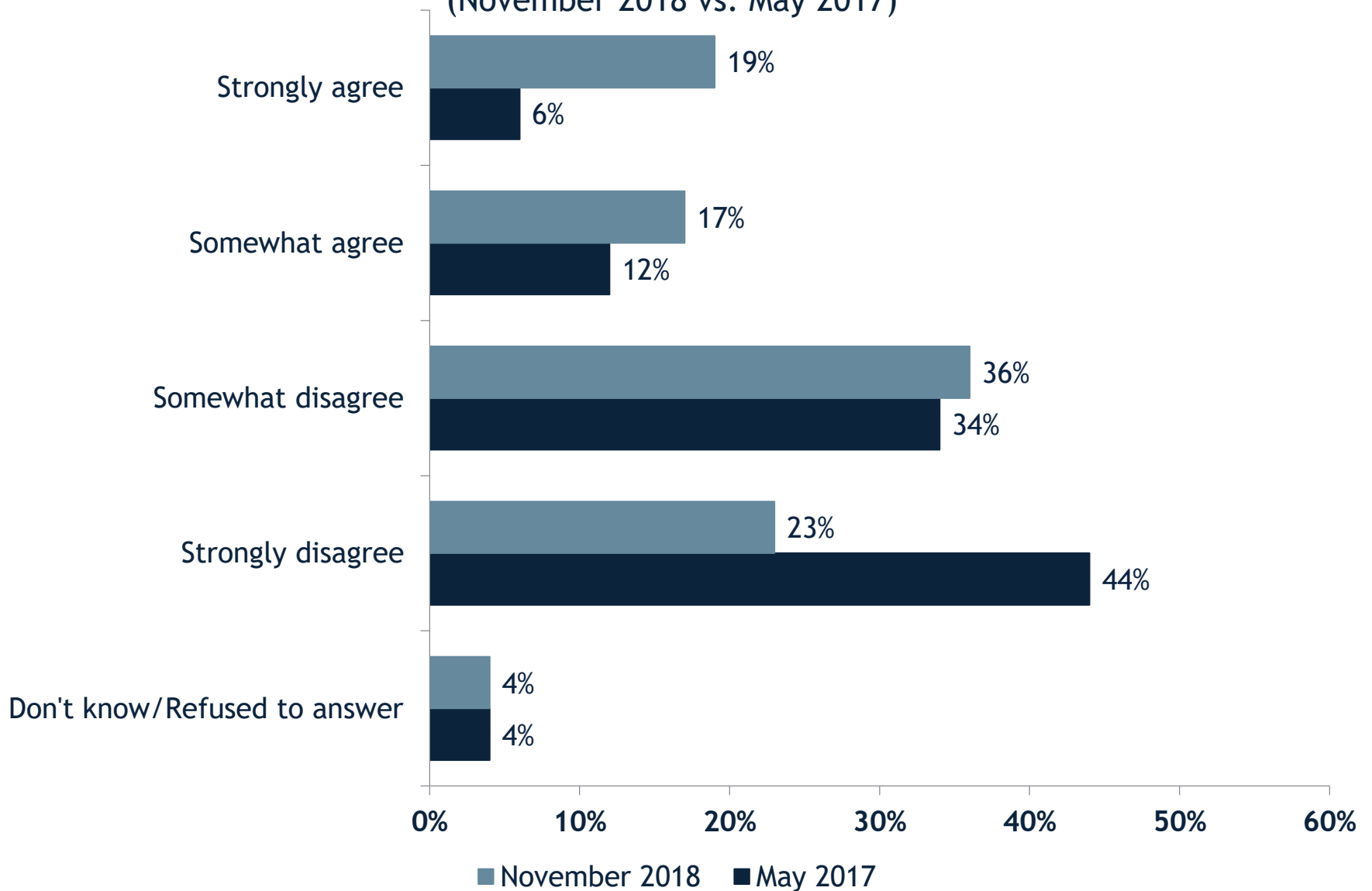
Which *young* political leader, if any, do you view most favorably?

(Open-ended, Among respondents who provided an actual response: n=454)



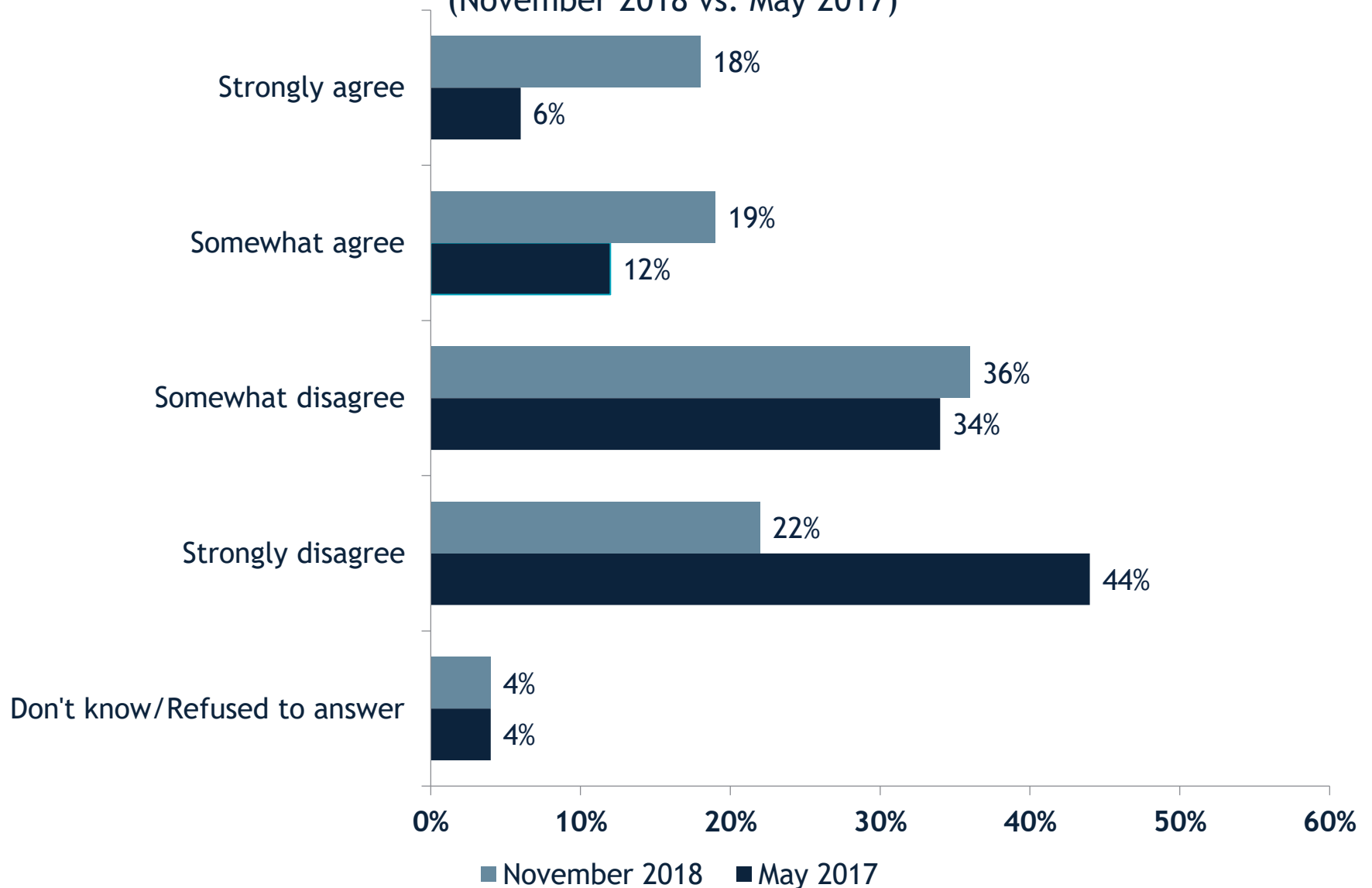
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *Politicians do not listen to the needs and ideas of women.*

(November 2018 vs. May 2017)



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

(November 2018 vs. May 2017)





Foreign Affairs

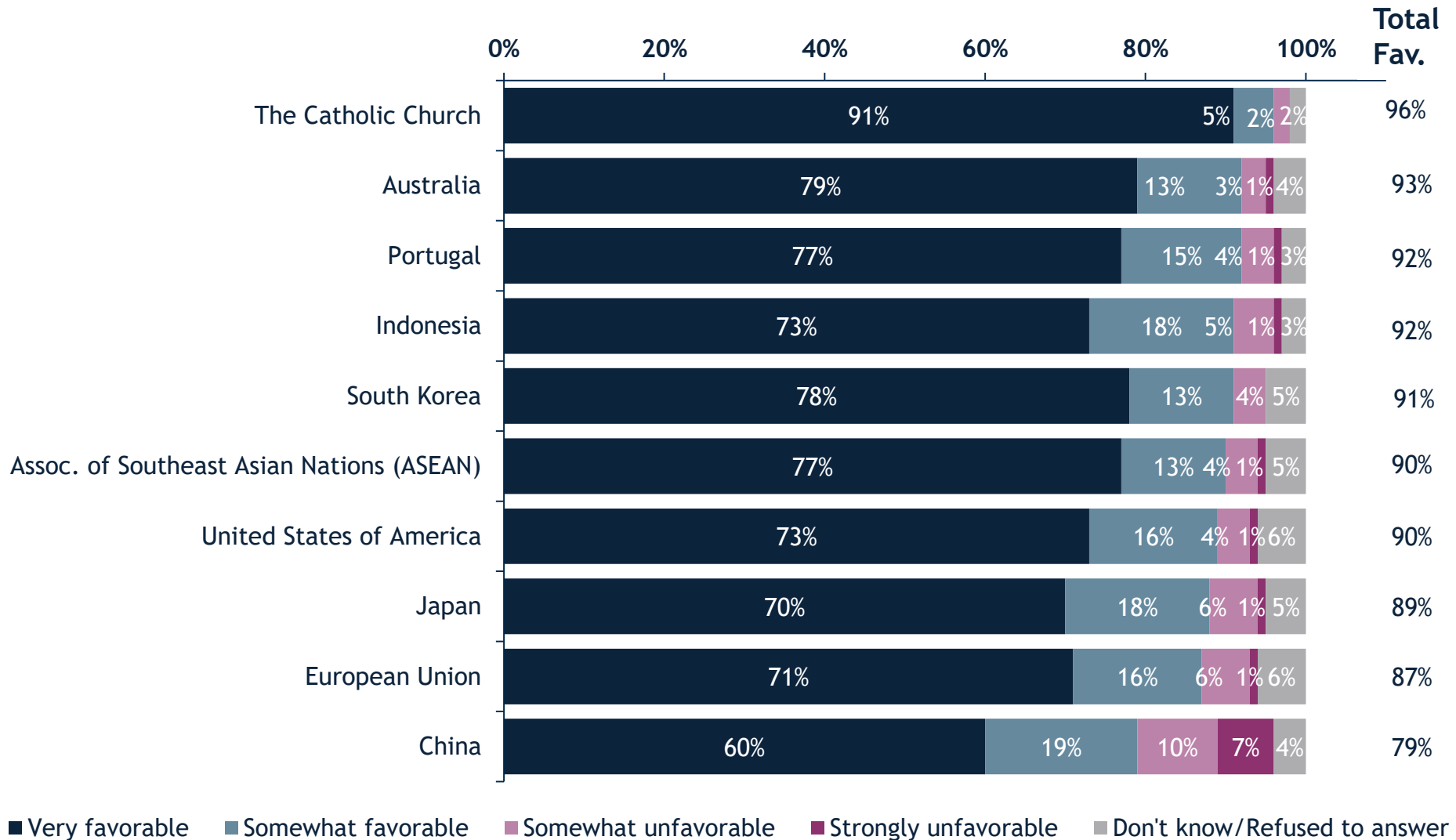


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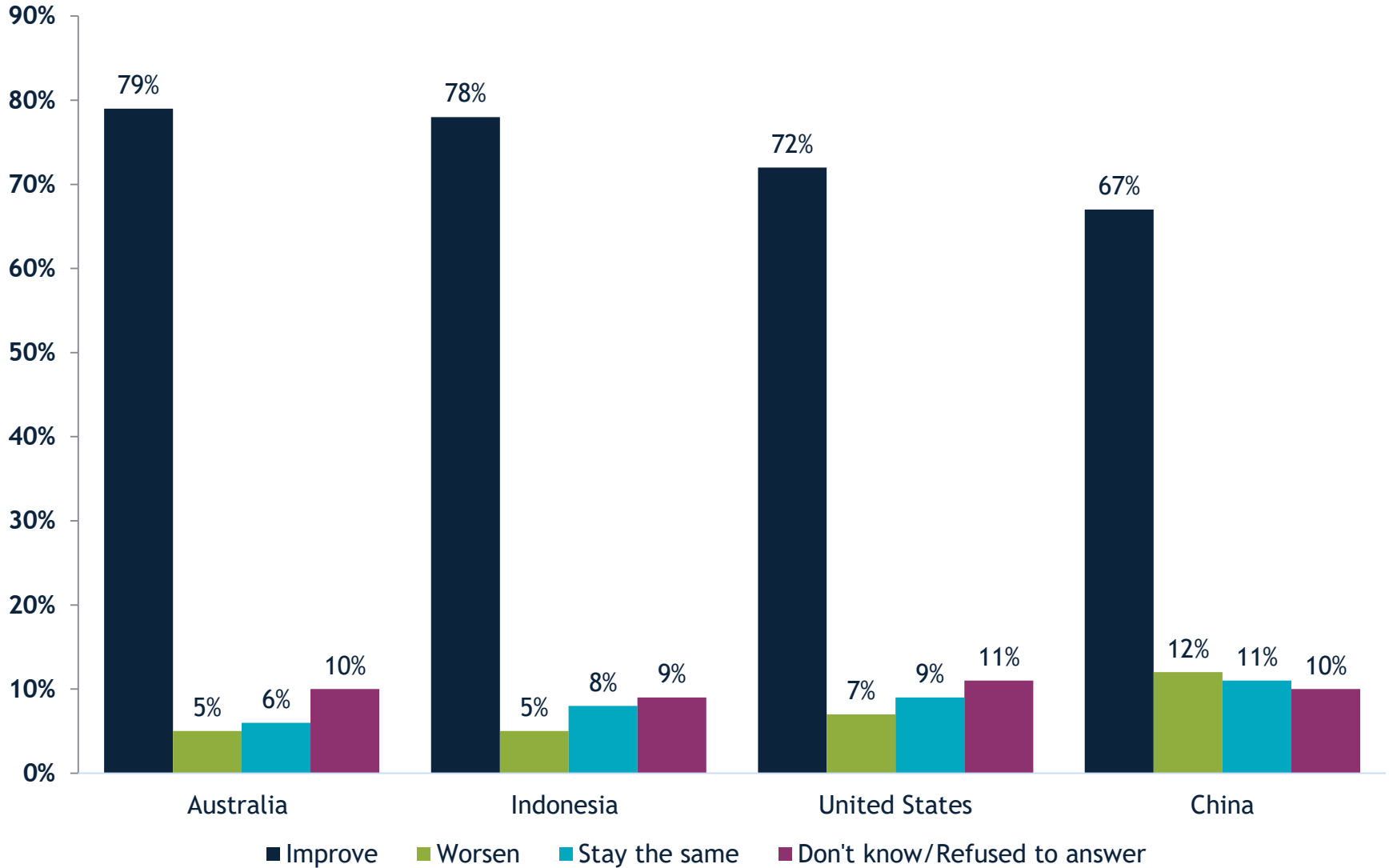


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Would you say that you had a *very favorable*, *somewhat favorable*, *somewhat unfavorable* or *strongly unfavorable* opinion of the following countries and entities?



Do you expect relations between Timor-Leste and the following country to *improve*, *worsen* or *stay the same* over the next five years?





Media

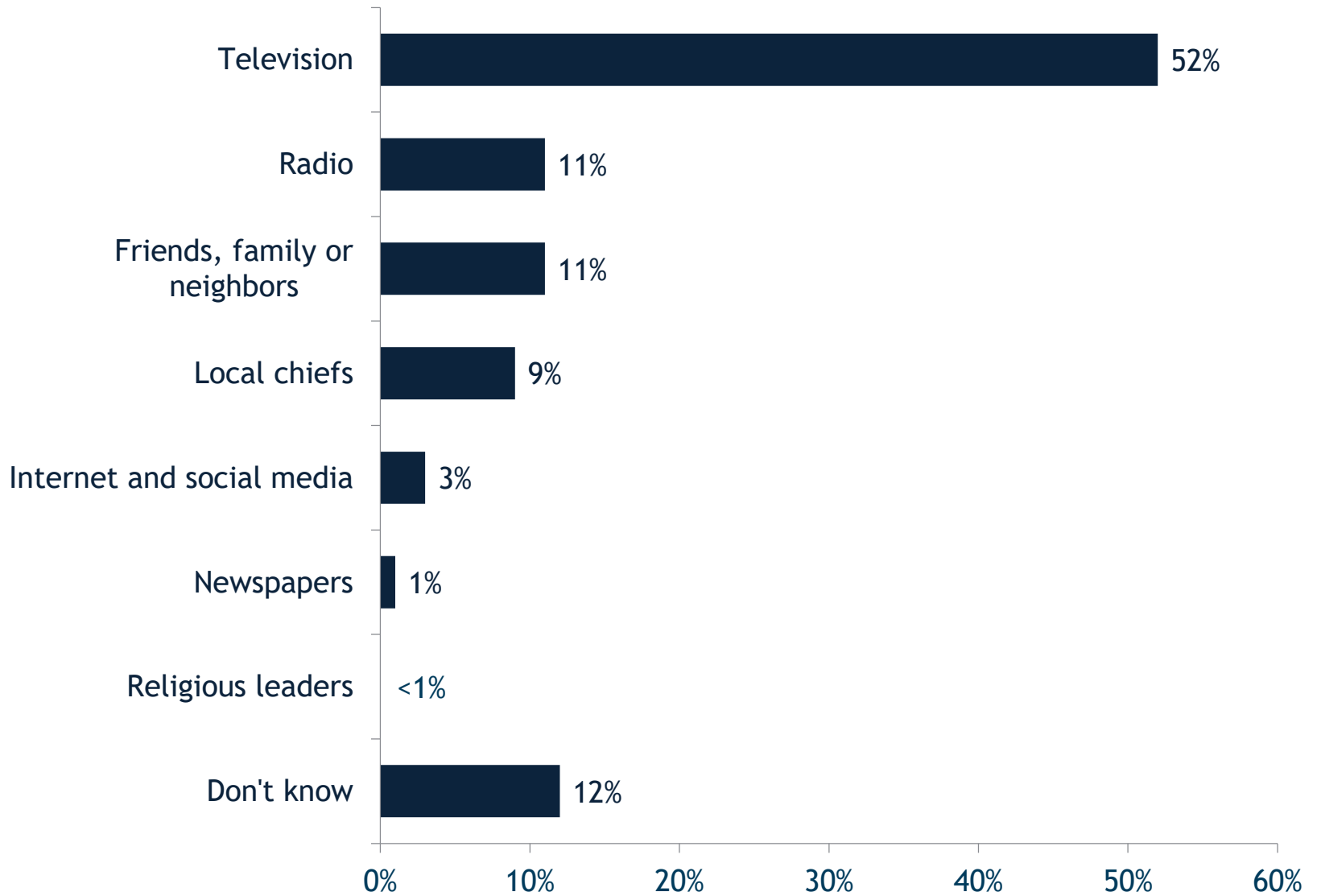


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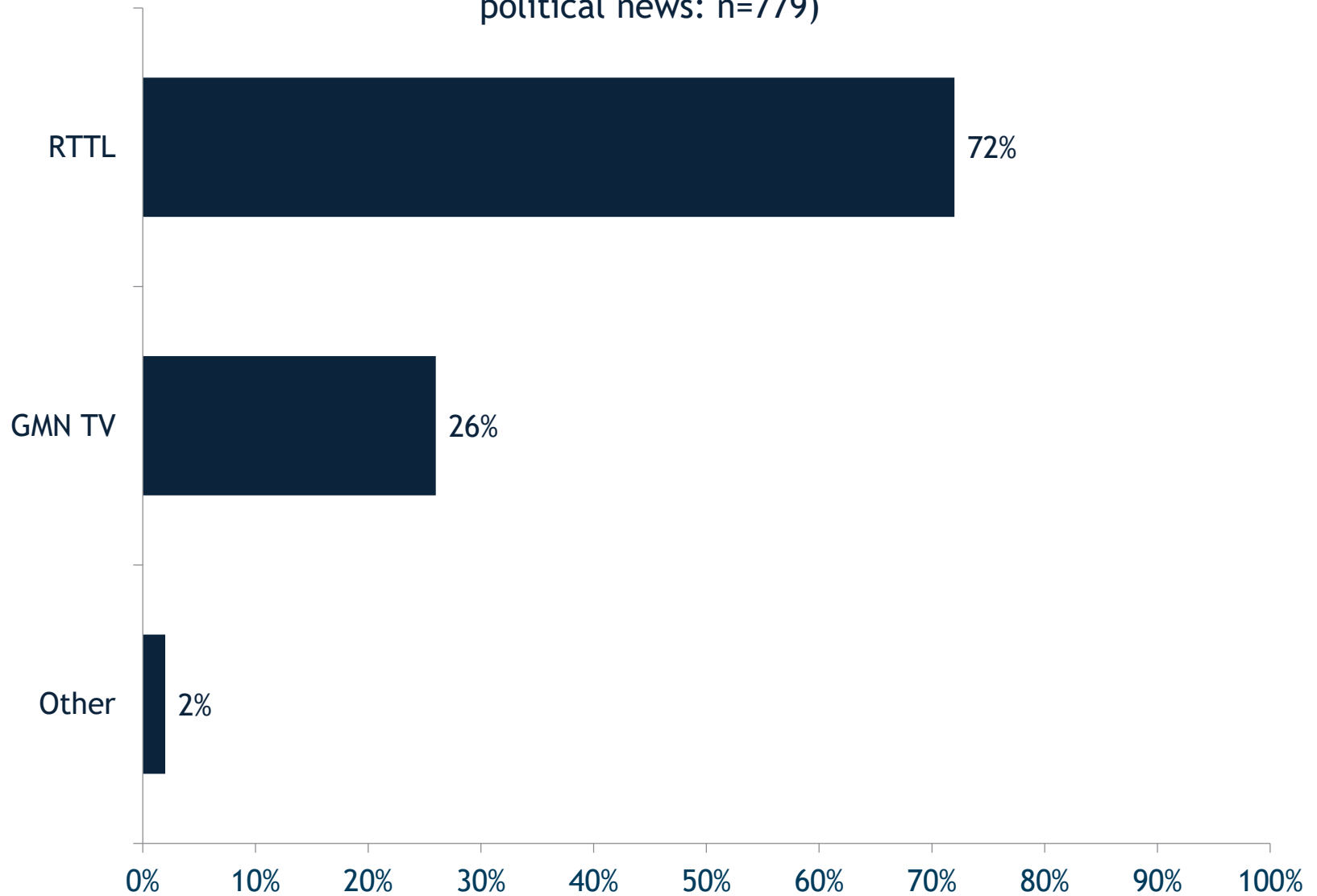
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What is your main source for political news? (Open-ended)



Which TV channel/station is your main source for political news?

(Open-ended; among respondents who cited TV as their main source for political news: n=779)

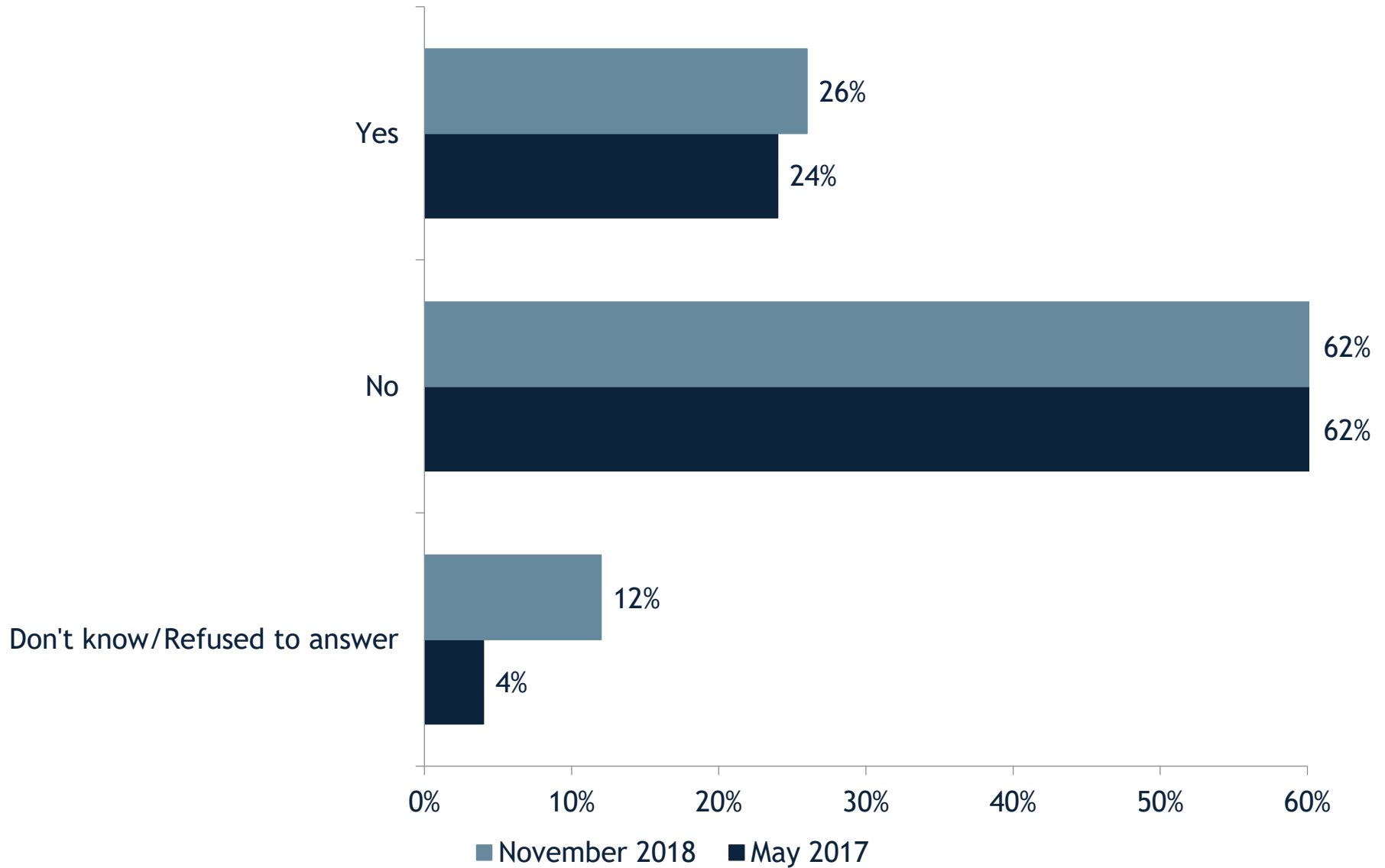


Which of the following media sources do you think is most helpful for people like you to learn about political issues and procedures?

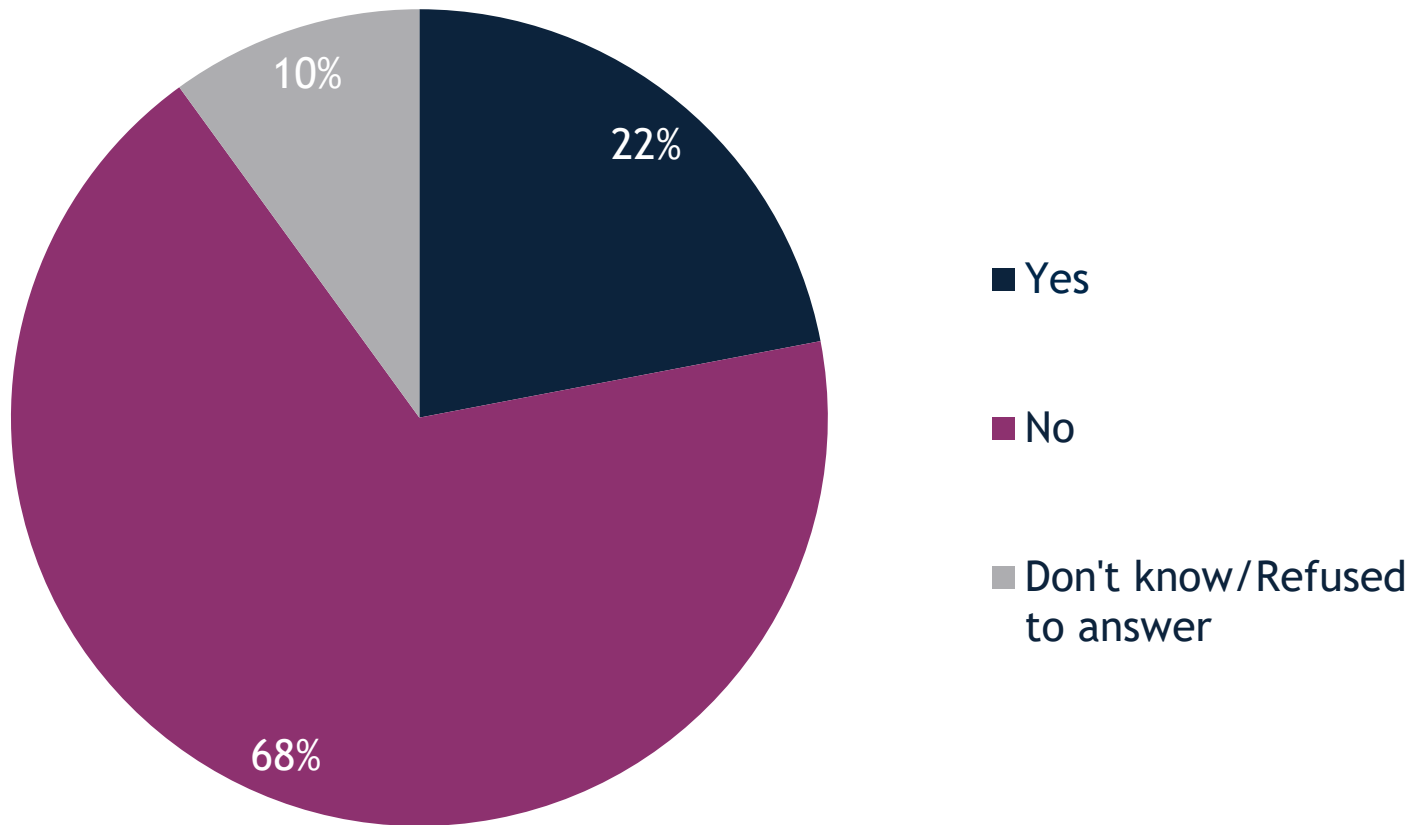
Source	First Mention	Second Mention	Third Mention	Total Mentions
Talk show or news programs on TV	48%	7%	6%	61%
Talk shows or news programs on the radio	13%	28%	5%	46%
Information from one person to another	13%	14%	15%	42%
Information on Facebook	2%	4%	6%	12%
Town hall meetings/Workshops/Discussion groups	2%	2%	1%	5%
Information in newspapers and magazines	1%	4%	8%	13%
Brochures/Flyers/Posters/Banners	1%	2%	2%	6%
Religious meetings	*	2%	4%	6%
Information on the internet in general	*	2%	4%	6%
Text messaging (SMS)	*	1%	1%	2%
Don't know	19%	12%	10%	41%

Do you use Facebook?

(November 2018 vs. May 2017)



Do you use a smartphone, which is a phone that can access the internet and applications like Facebook and WhatsApp?



Demographics

Gender

Female	50%
Male	50%

Age

17-24	18%
25-34	33%
35-44	15%
45-54	13%
55-64	10%
65+	11%

Education

Never attended school	27%
Primary school (incomplete)	14%
Primary school graduate	10%
Junior high school	14%
Senior high school	25%
University (incomplete)	2%
University graduate	5%

Religious Attendance

Daily	2%
Weekly	24%
Monthly	4%
Occasionally	49%
Never	20%

Employment Status

Seeking work	6%
Housekeeping	19%
Businessman	13%
Retired	*
Studying or in training	9%
Farmer	41%
Fisherman	2%
Other	3%
Unemployed	7%

Monthly Income (per family)

Under 100 dollars	62%
101 to 300 dollars	15%
301 to 500 dollars	3%
501 to 700 dollars	*
701 to 900 dollars	*
901 to 999 dollars	*
More than 1,000 dollars	*
Don't know	16%

Center for Insights in Survey Research
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