

# **Political Implications of Immigration in 2010: Latino Voters in Arizona**

Commissioned by



*May 14, 2010*



## Contact



Matt A. Barreto, Ph.D.  
matt.barreto@latinodecisions.com  
909-489-2955

Gary M. Segura, Ph.D.  
gary.segura@latinodecisions.com  
206-280-5069



## Survey Overview



- Statewide survey of Latino registered voters in state of Arizona
- Primary aim was to understand Latino views towards Arizona immigration law, 1070
- Also included questions national immigration reform and political parties
- n=402, margin of error +/- 4.9
- Field dates, April 30 – May 5, 2010
- Partnered with Latino politics faculty at Arizona State University (Dr. Rudy Espino), and Northern Arizona University (Dr. Stephen Nuño) for local expertise



## Survey Overview



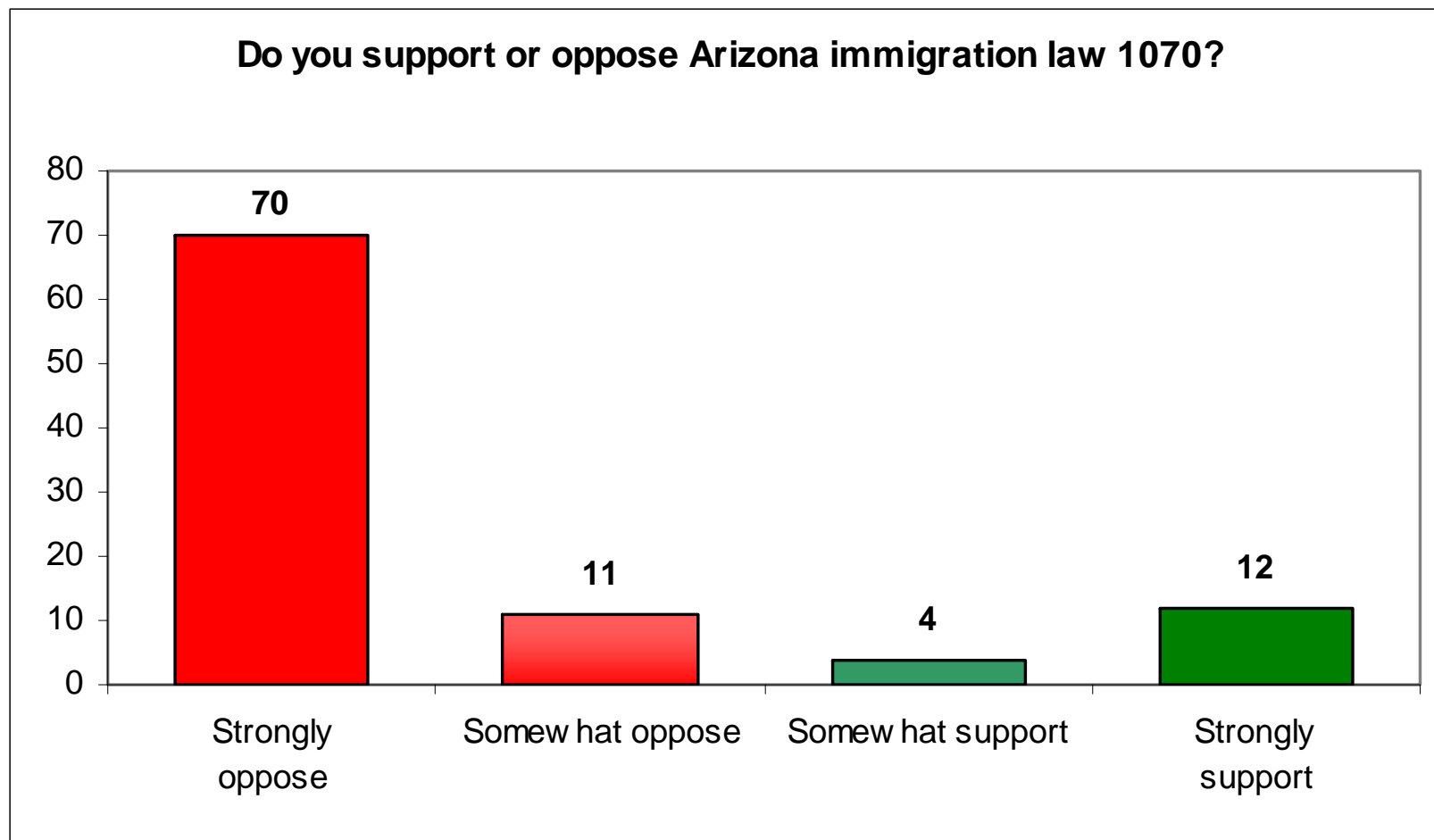
We examine 4 topic areas:

1. Reaction to Arizona law
2. National immigration policy
3. Partisan implications
4. Impact on 2010 turnout

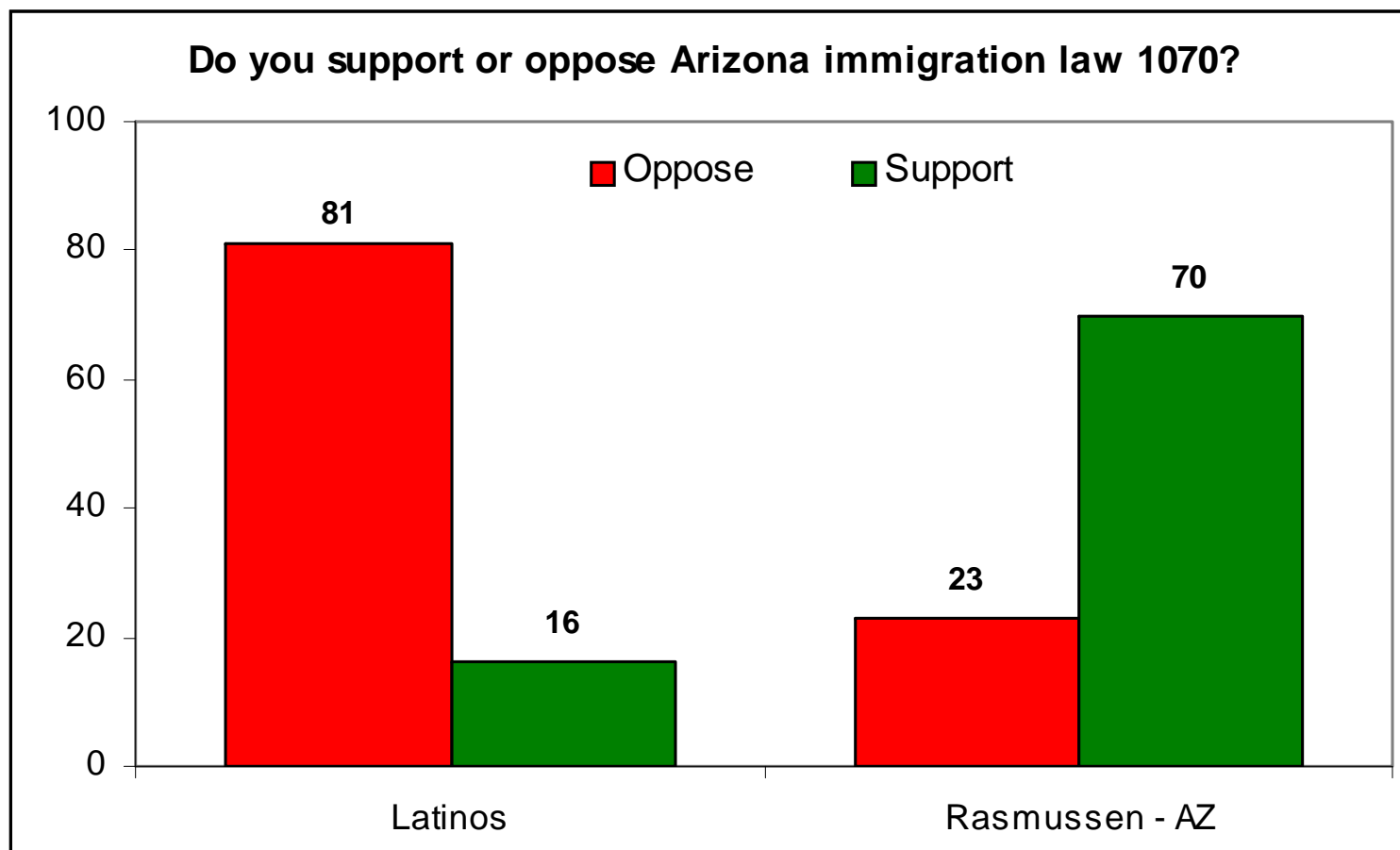


## 1. Reaction to the Arizona Law

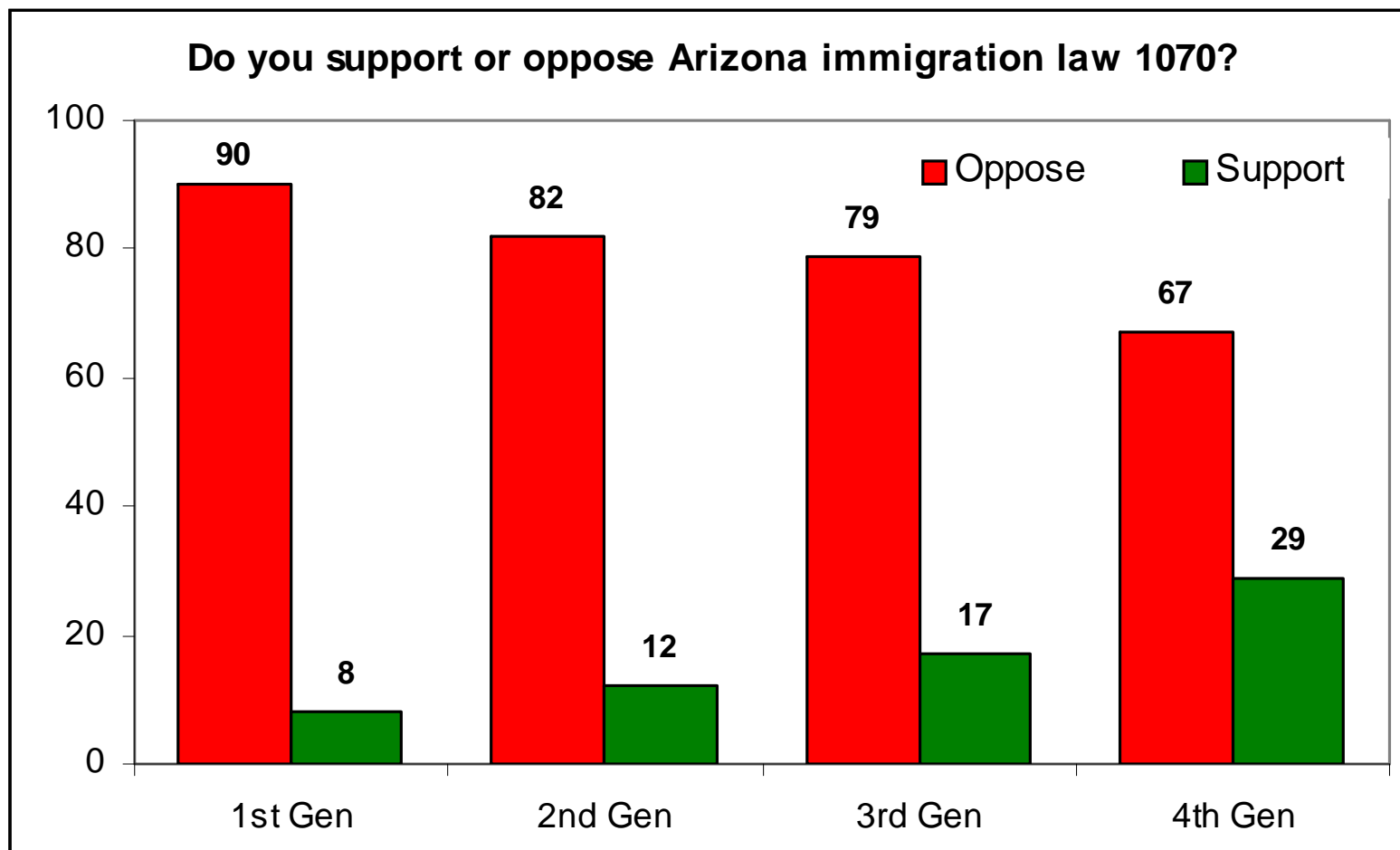
## Latino views on 1070



## Latinos in comparison

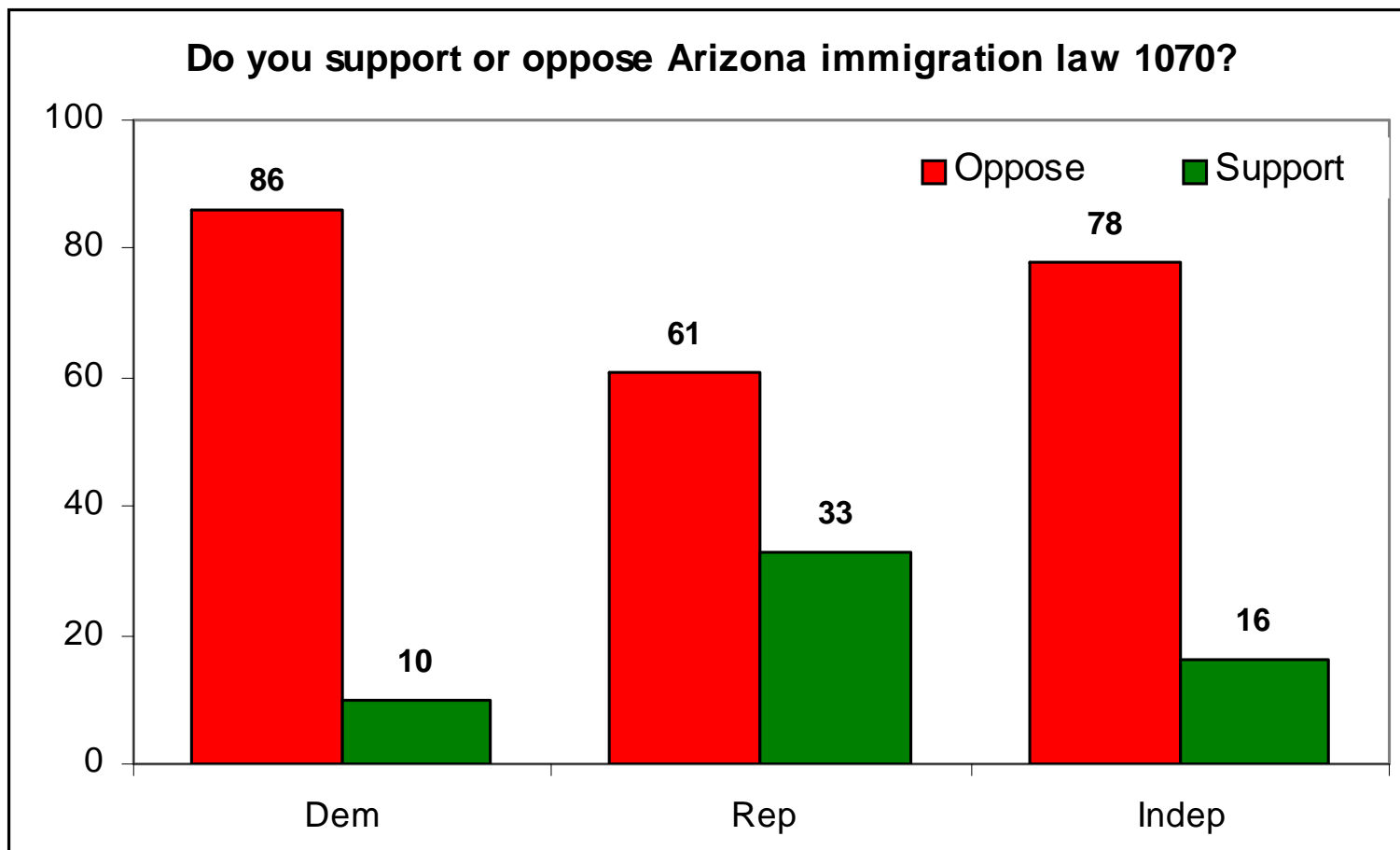


## Views by generation status

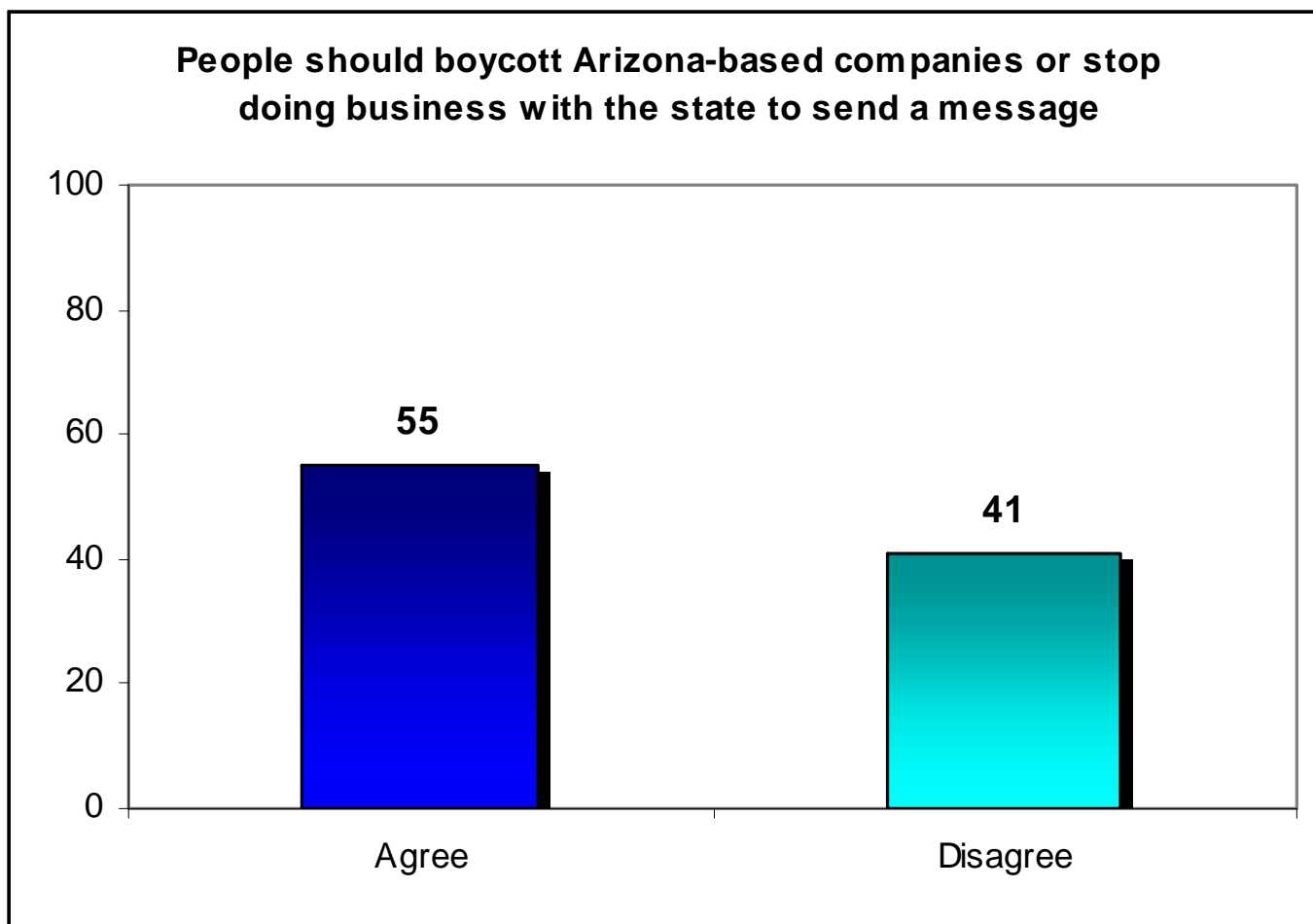




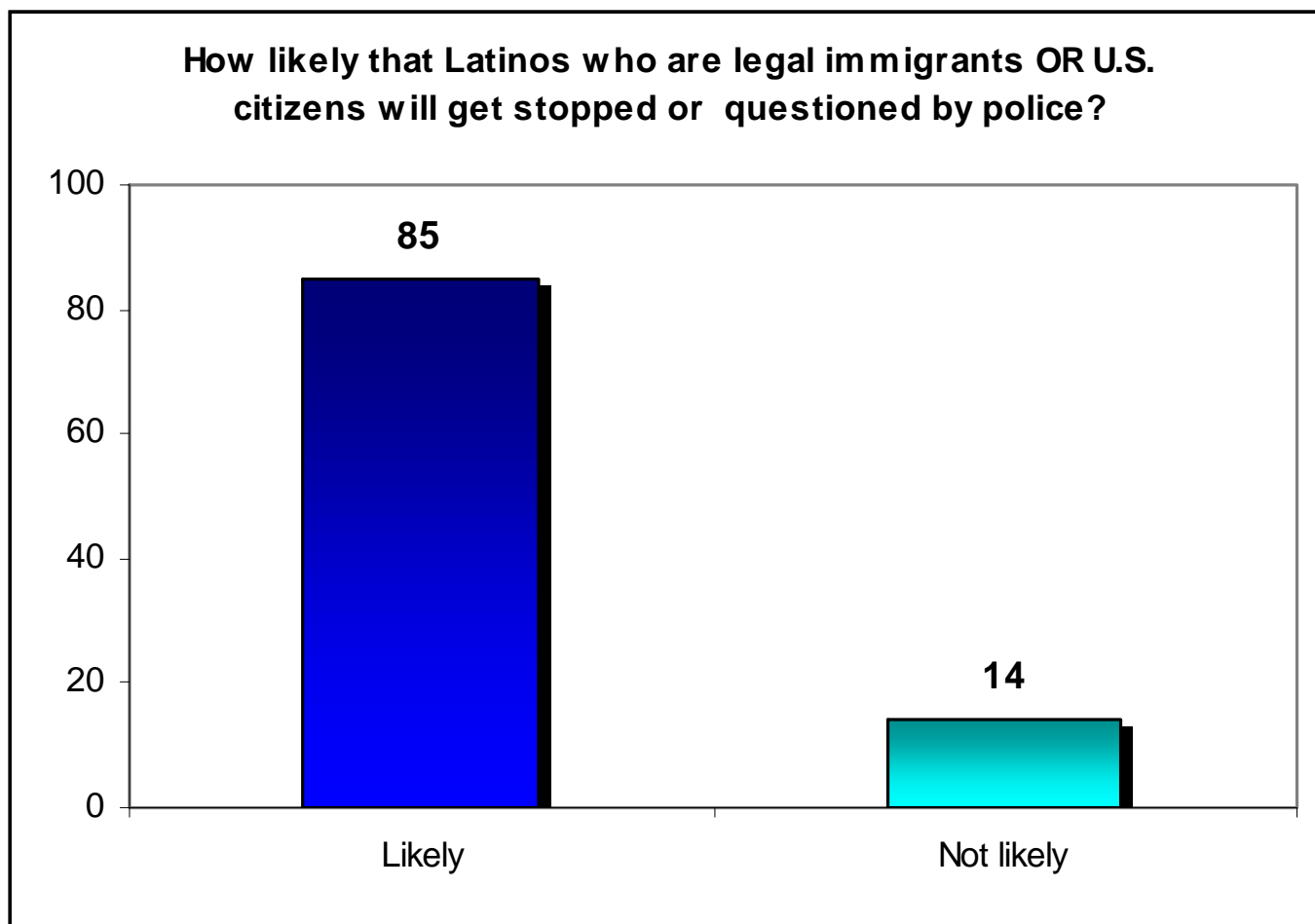
## Views by party identification



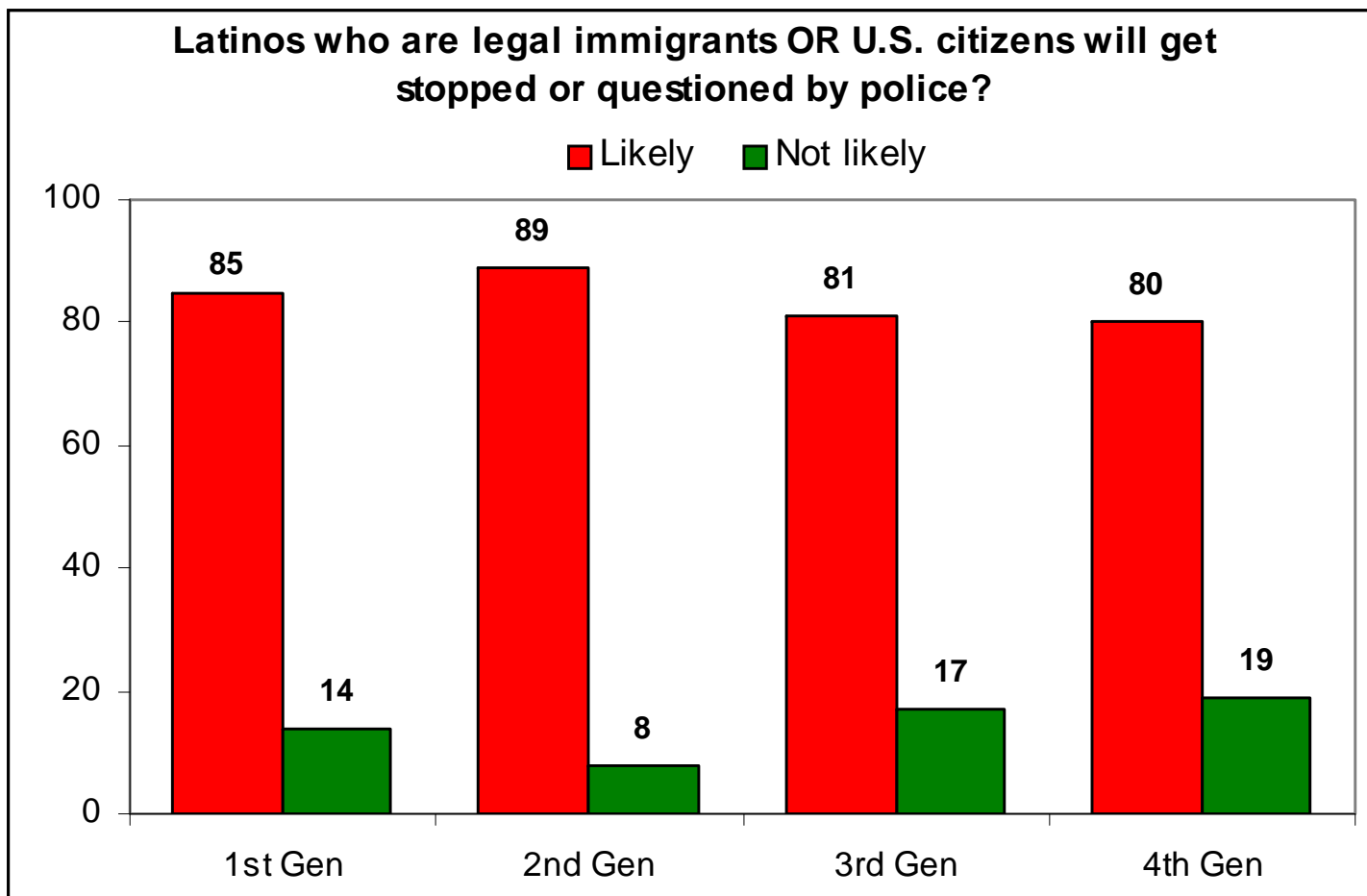
## Support for Arizona Boycott



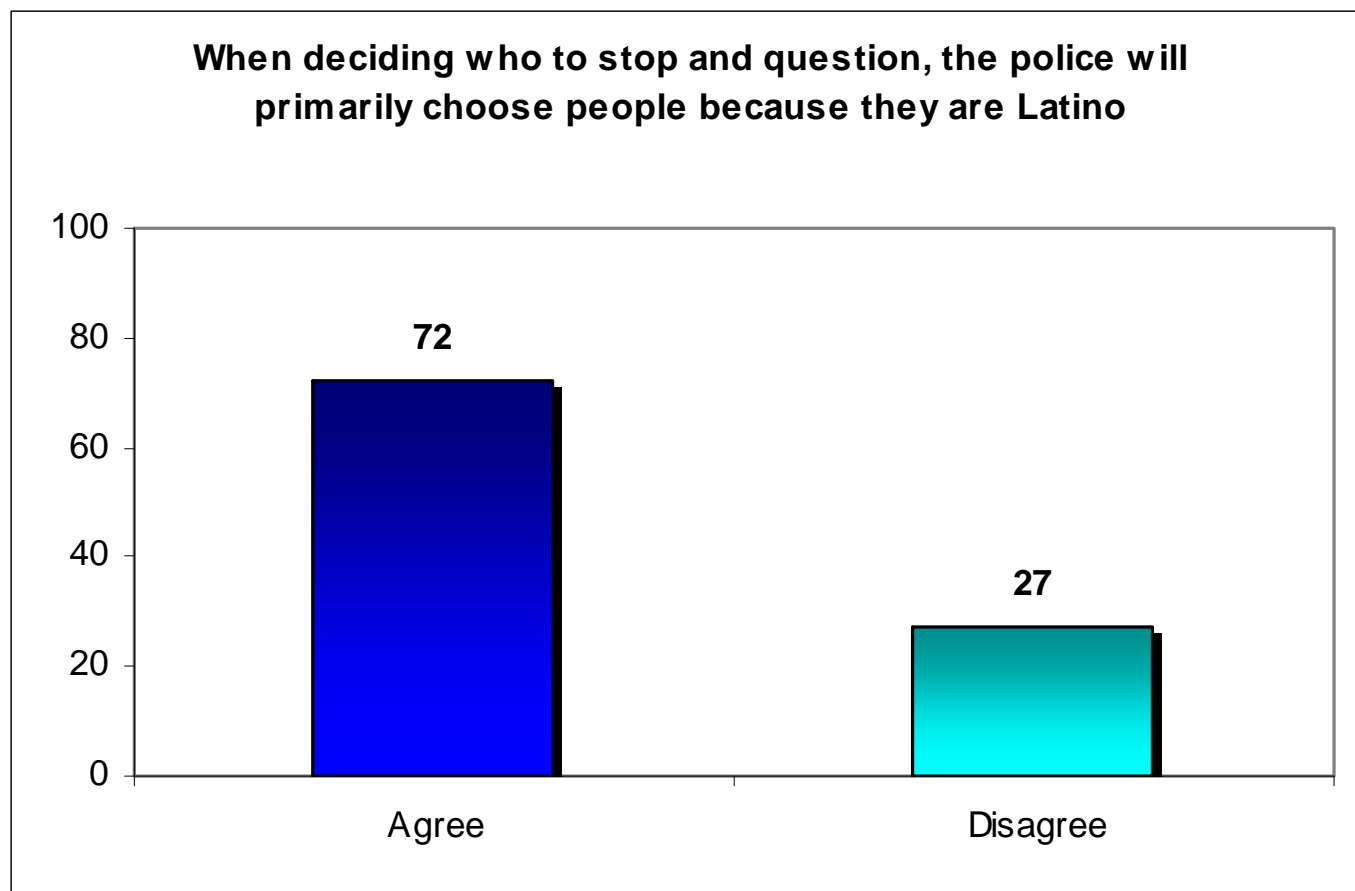
## Fears about racial profiling



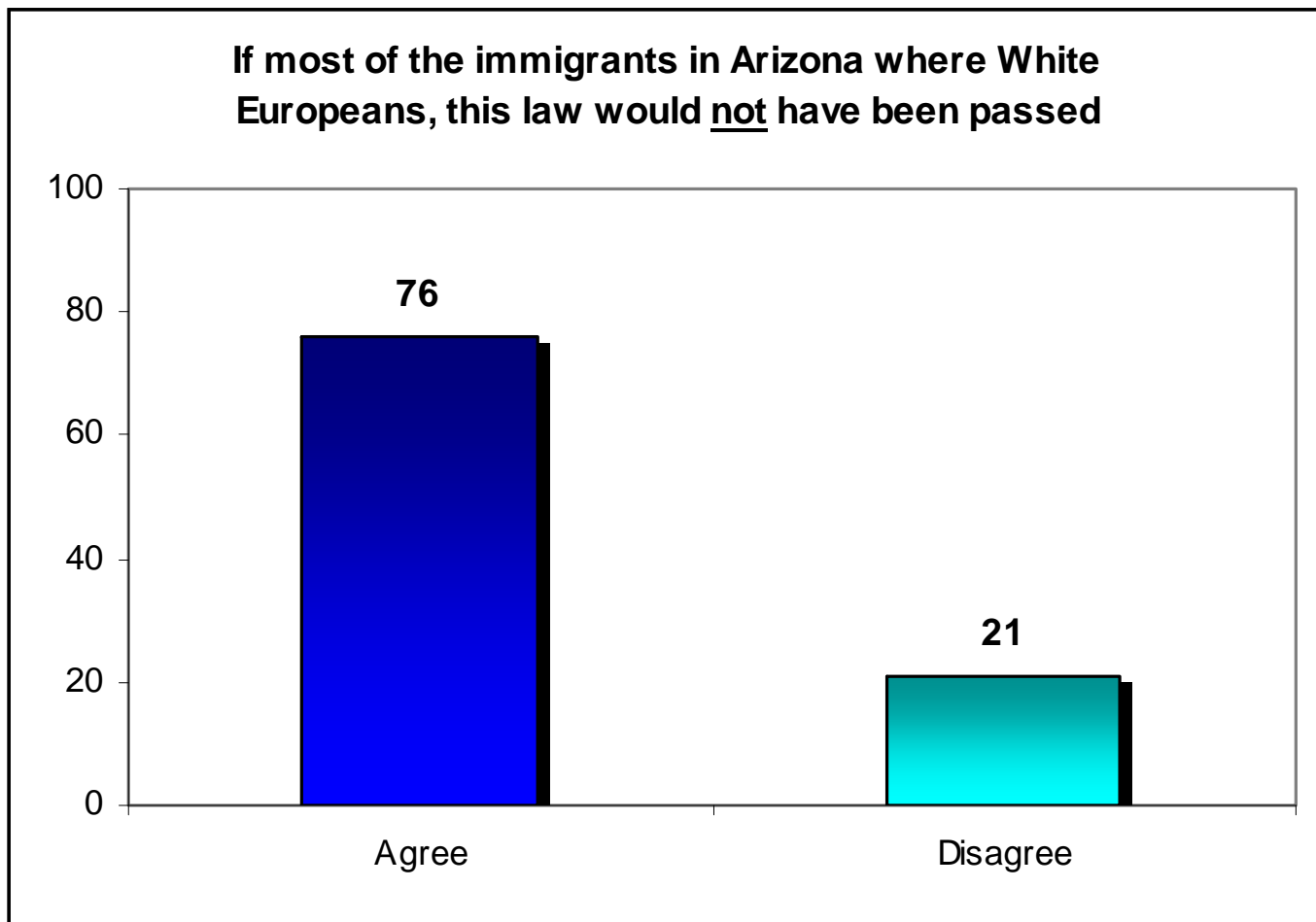
## Profiling views by generation



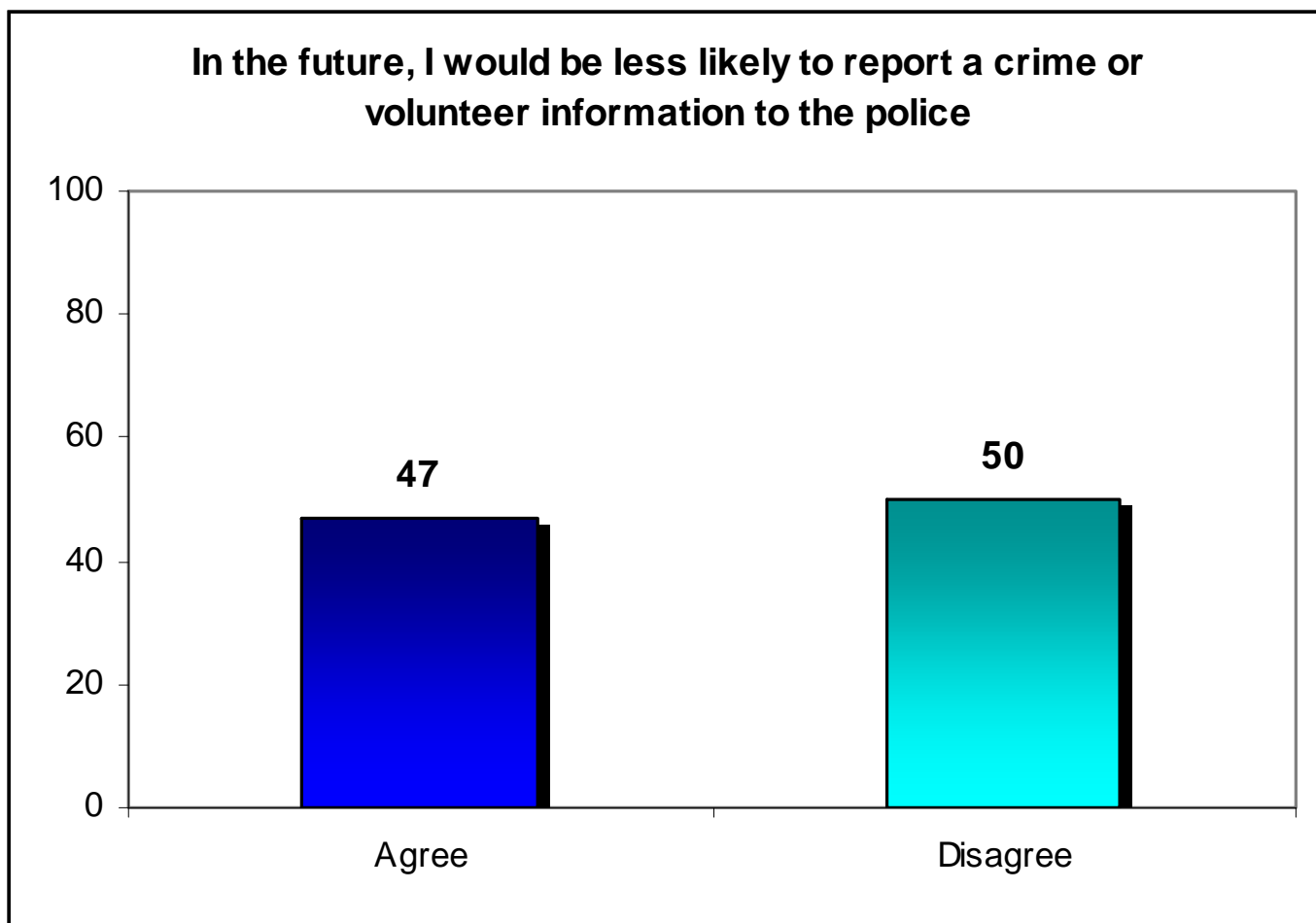
## Fears about racial profiling



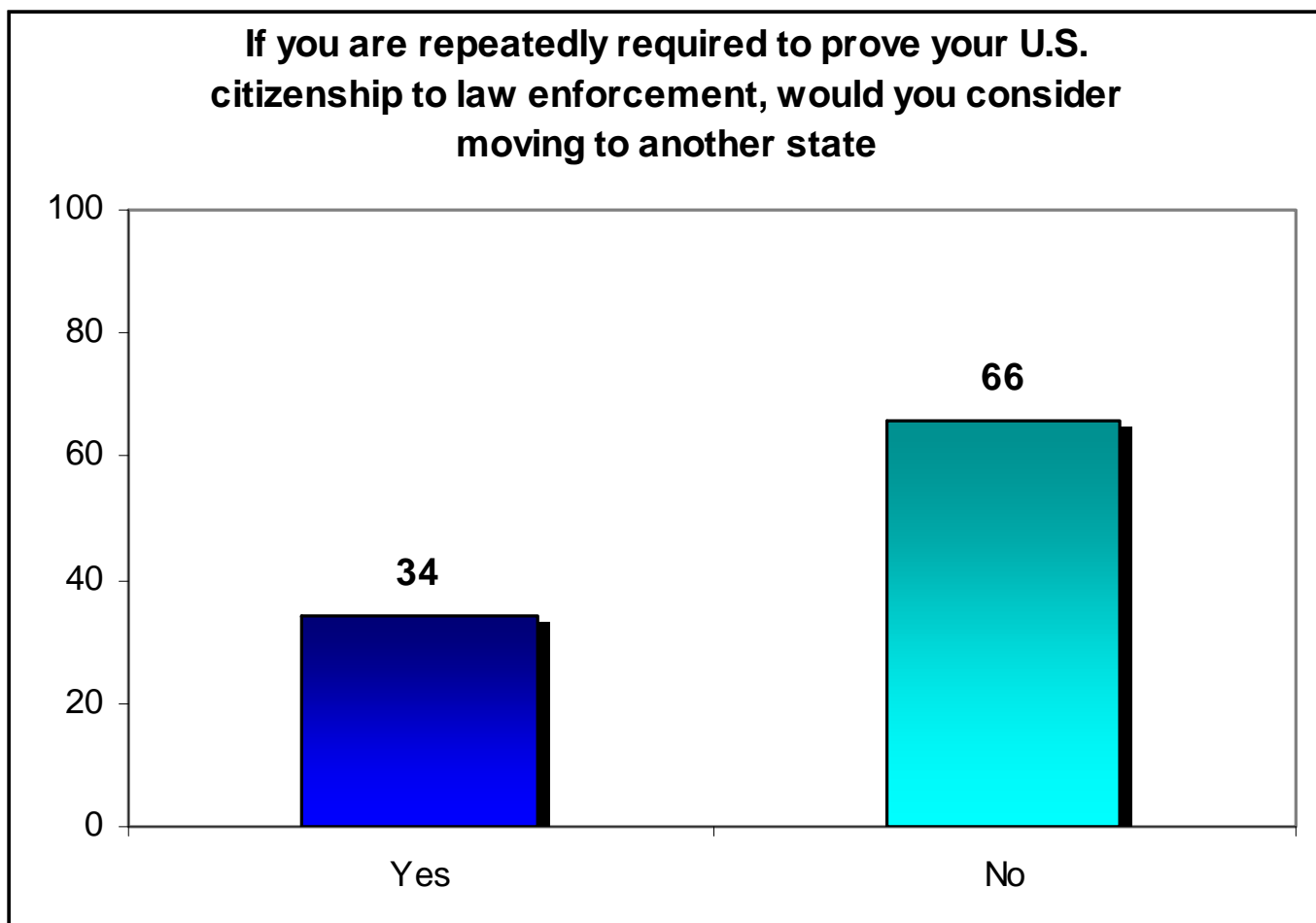
## Fears about racial profiling



## Hurting relations with police



## Driving Latinos away?







## Summary of Reaction to SB1070



- Latino opposition to the new law is overwhelming:
  - 98% were knowledgeable of the law, SB 1070
  - Transcends generation and transcends party
- Latino voters see the law as personally threatening:
  - US citizens and legal immigrants will be targeted;
  - Racial profiling will be the mechanism of enforcement;
  - If immigrants were white, there would be no law.
- Majority support for the boycott, though modest.



## 2. National Immigration Policy



## Most Important Issue

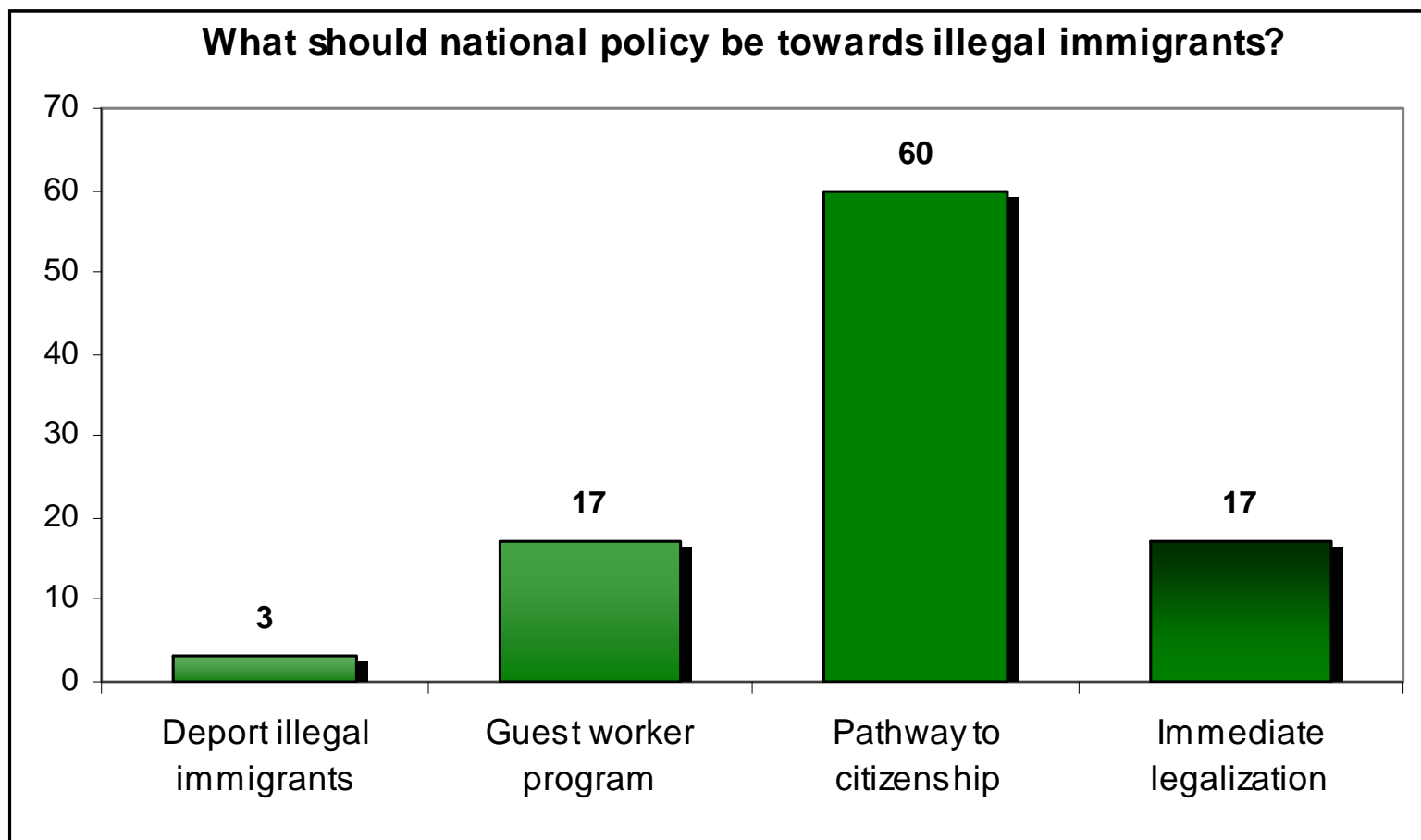


What do you think are the most important issues that President Obama and the Congress should address over the next year?

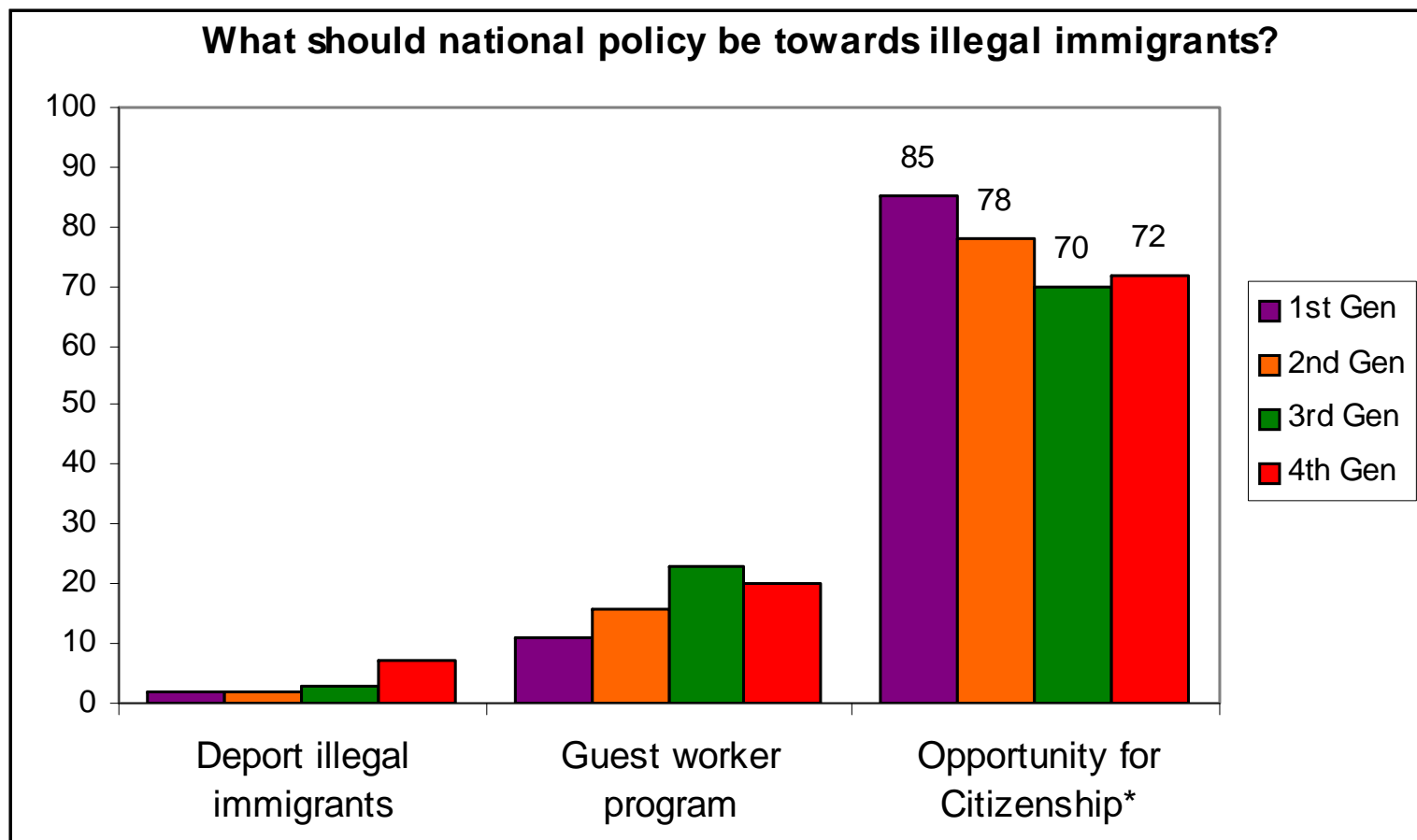
Immigration	59%
Fix the economy	22%
Health Care	17%
Create more jobs	13%
Education	5%
War on terror	4%
Banking reform	2%

*Respondents could  
select 2 issues*

## Support for Policy Reform

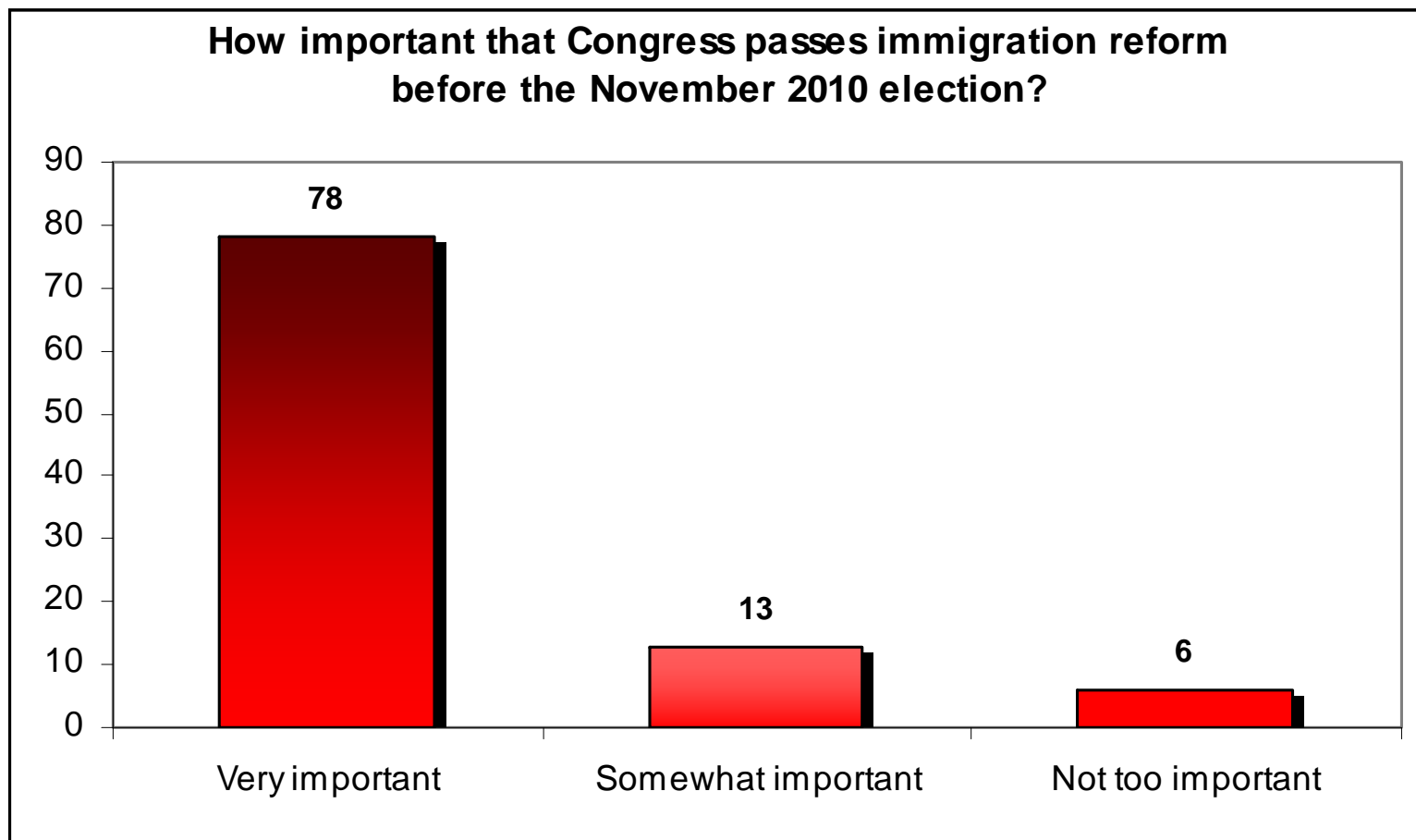


## Support for Policy Reform

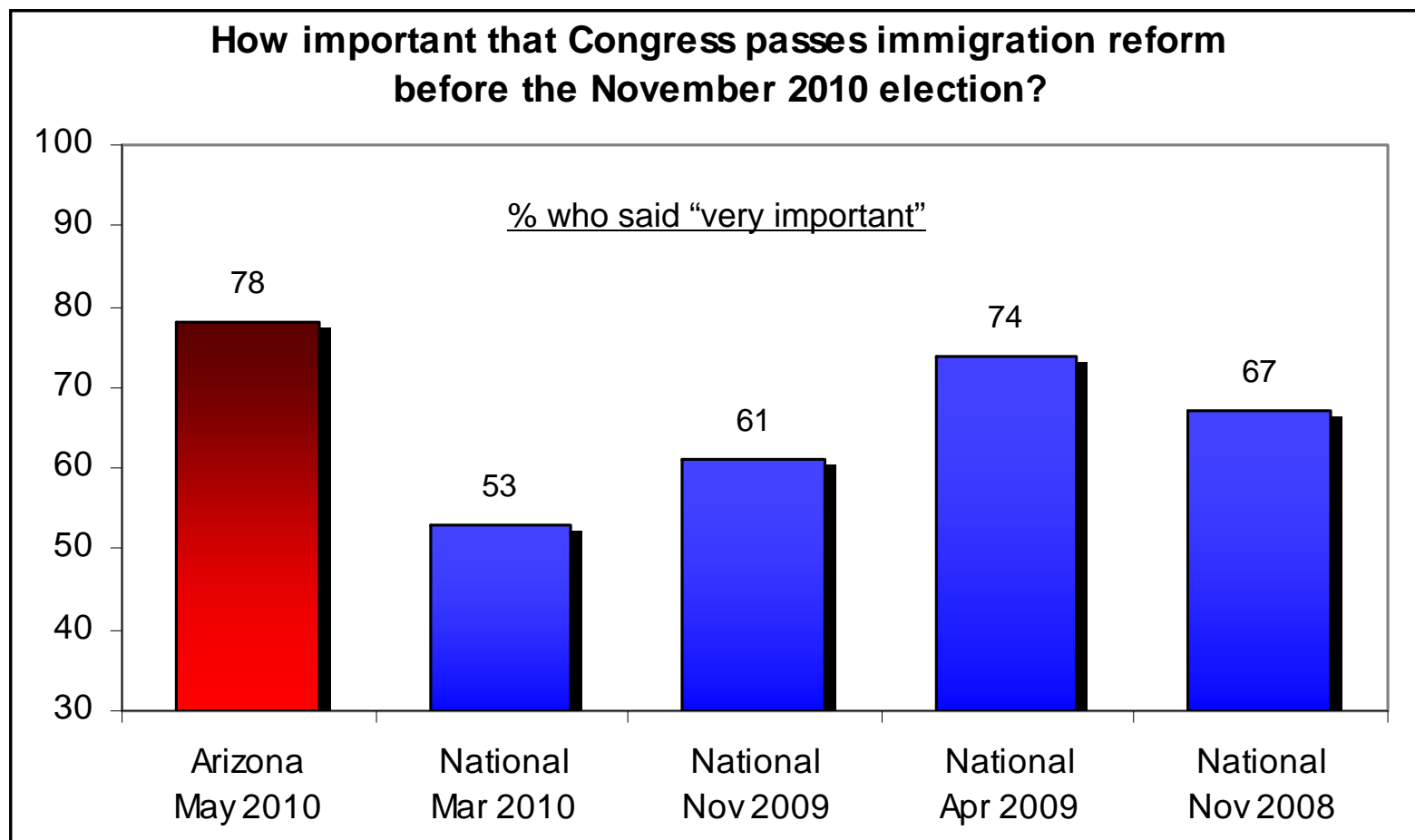


\* Combines path to citizenship and immediate legalization categories

## Support for Policy Reform



## Support for Policy Reform



## Summary on National Policy

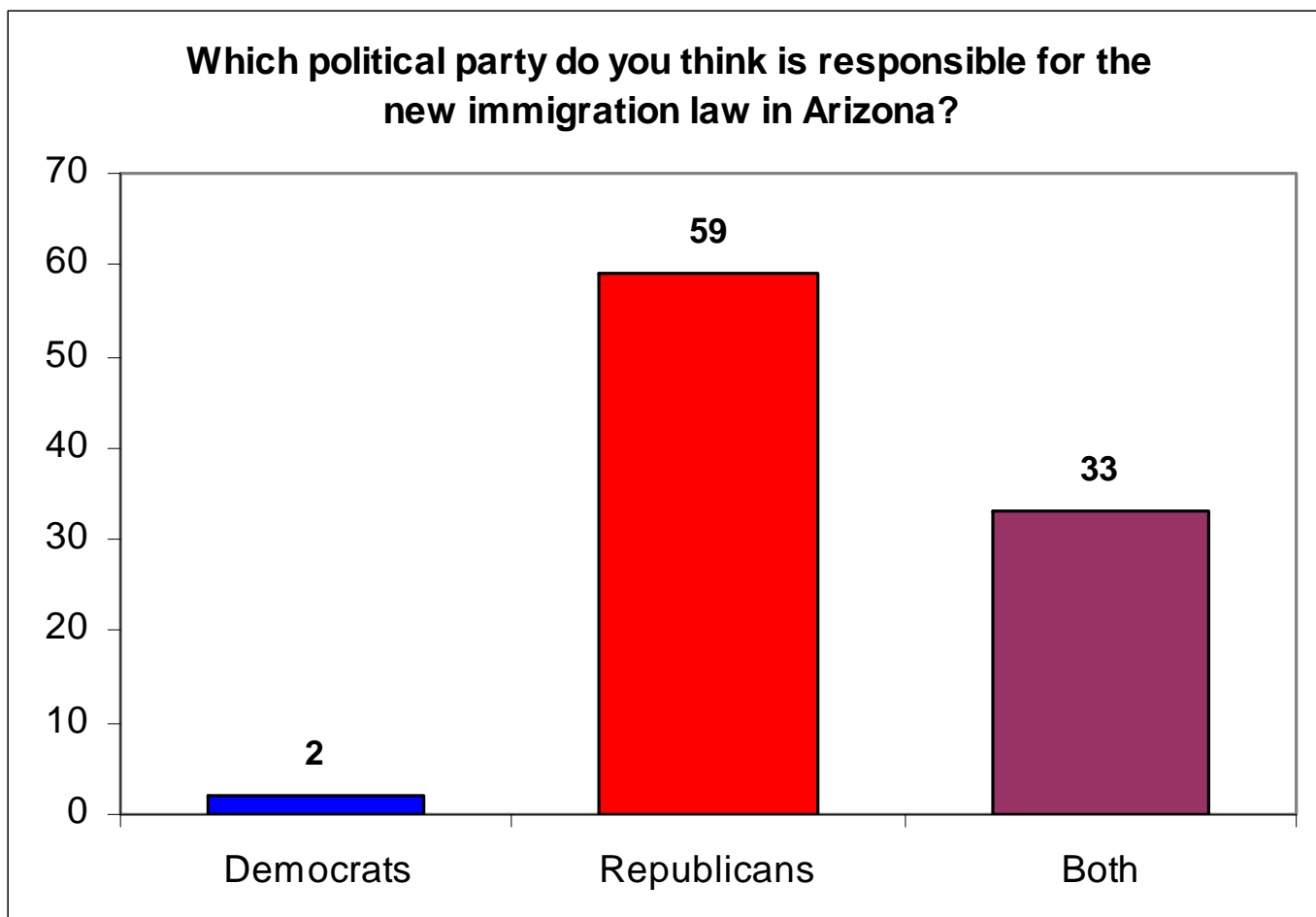
- The Arizona law has radically increased the salience of immigration as an issue;
  - Immigration is now the #1 issue to Latino voters
- Latino voters overwhelmingly prefer a policy option that includes a path to legalization;
- There is growing impatience with the administration:
  - Almost four in five voters think there needs to be a bill passed by the November election.
  - Support for a national bill is highest we have ever recorded



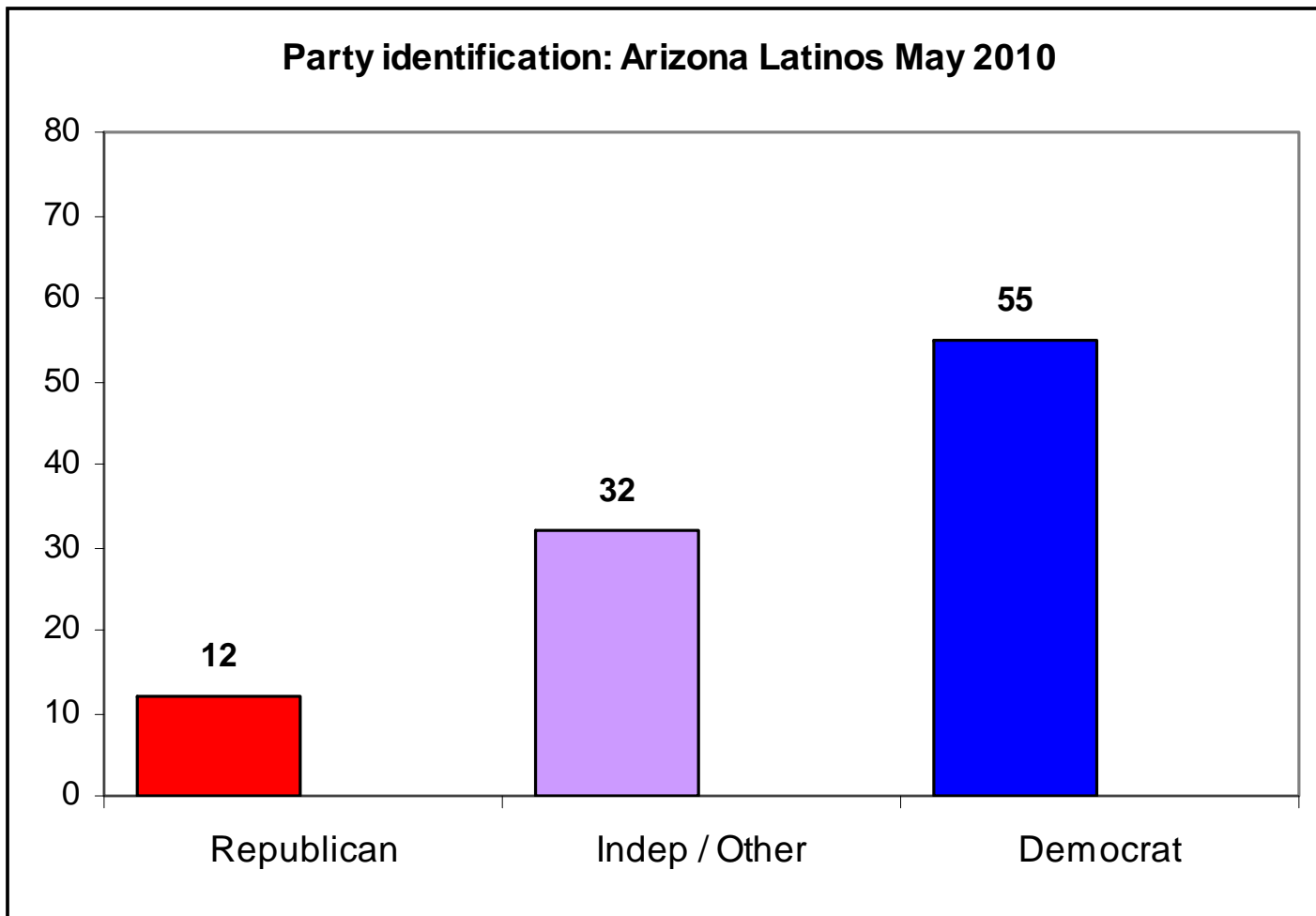


## 3. Partisan Implications and Consequences

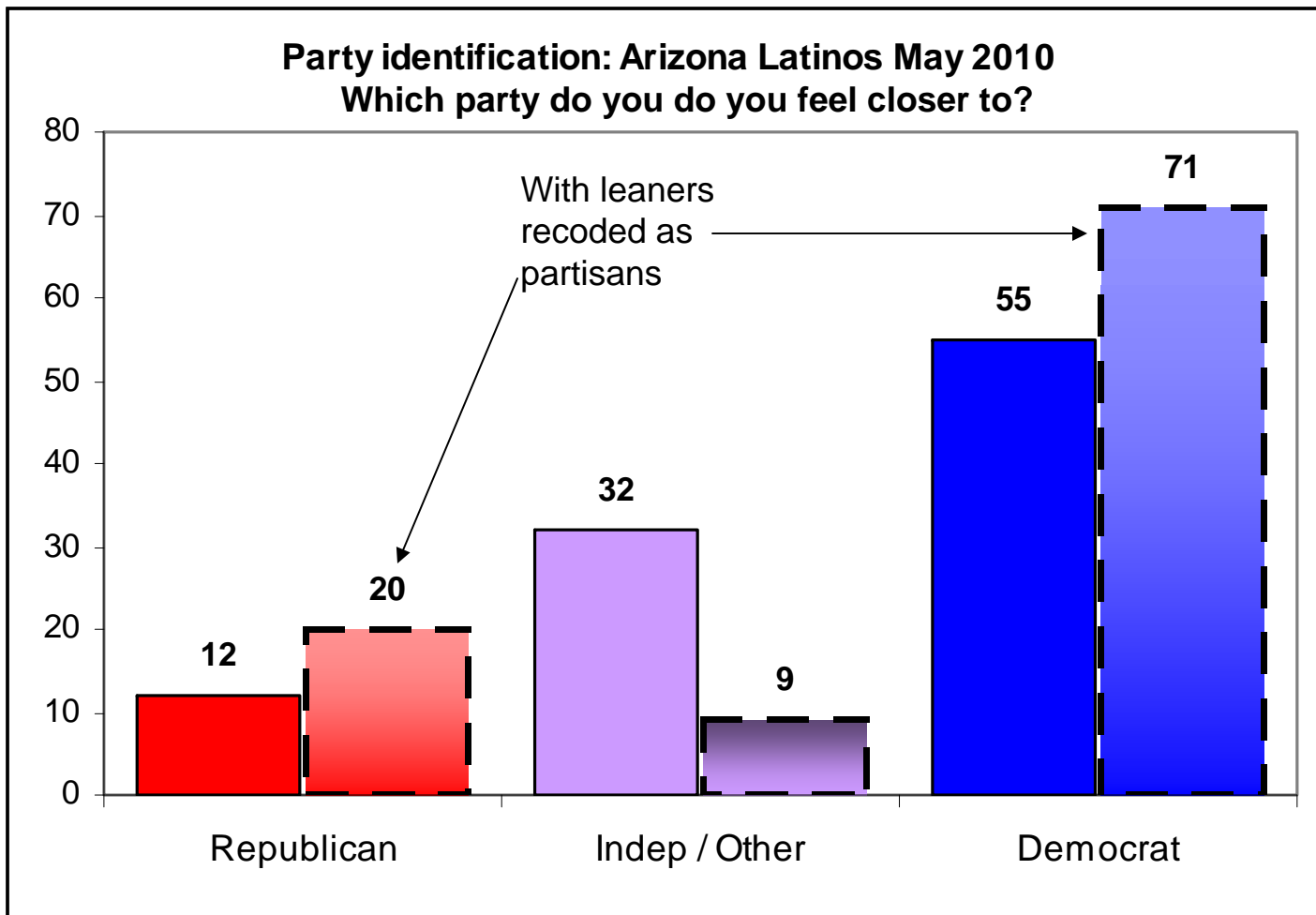
## Political Implications



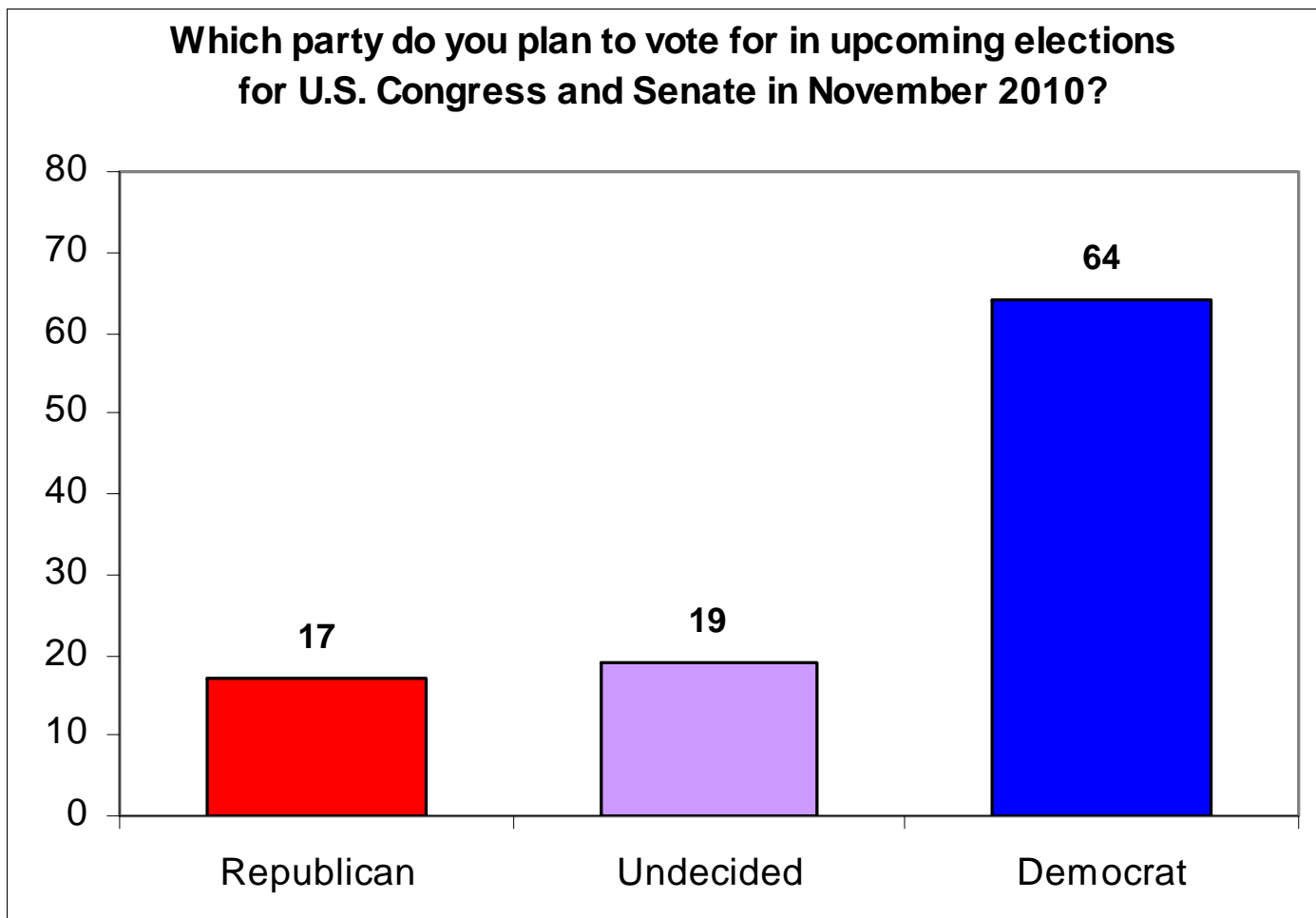
## Political Implications



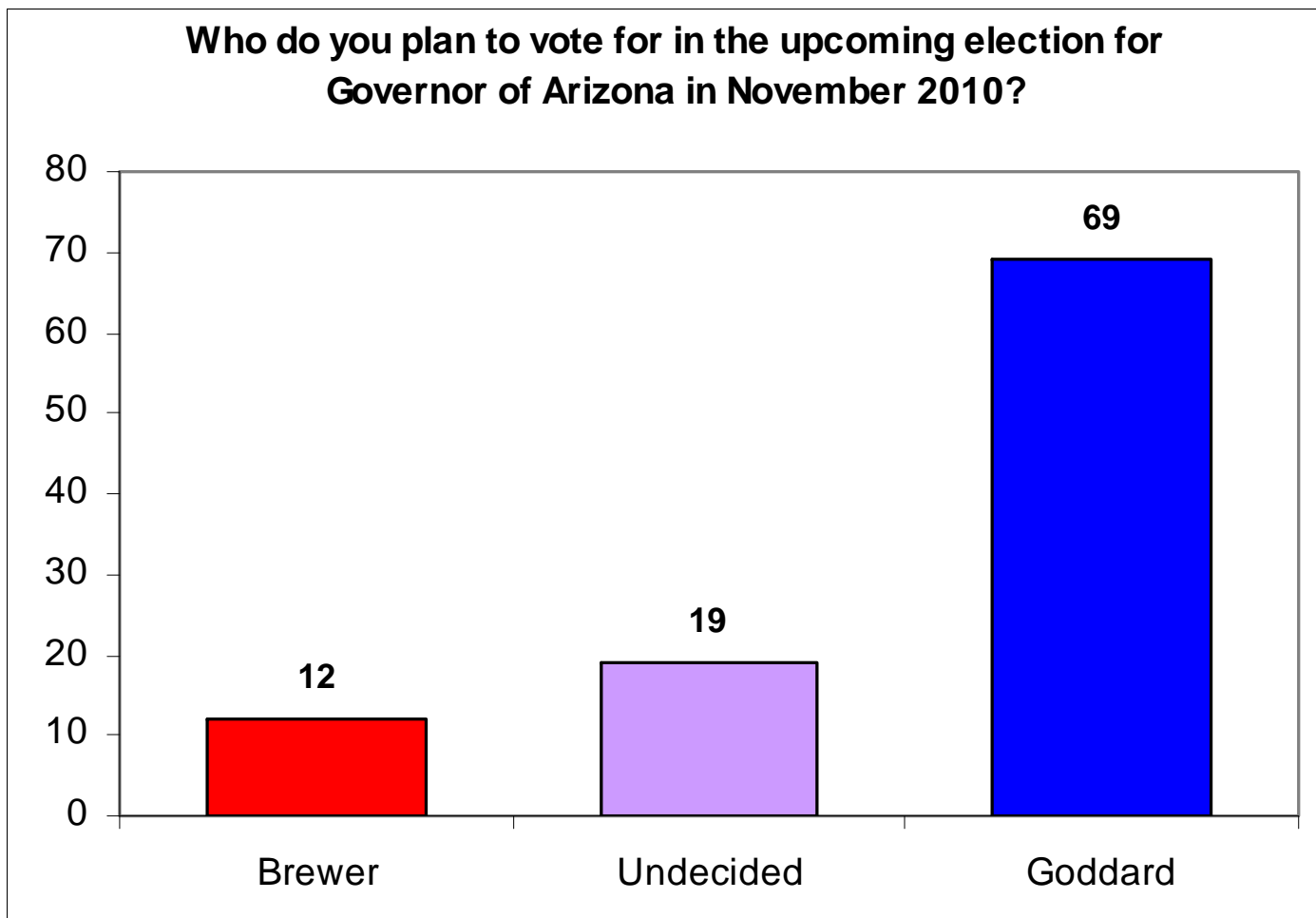
## Political Implications



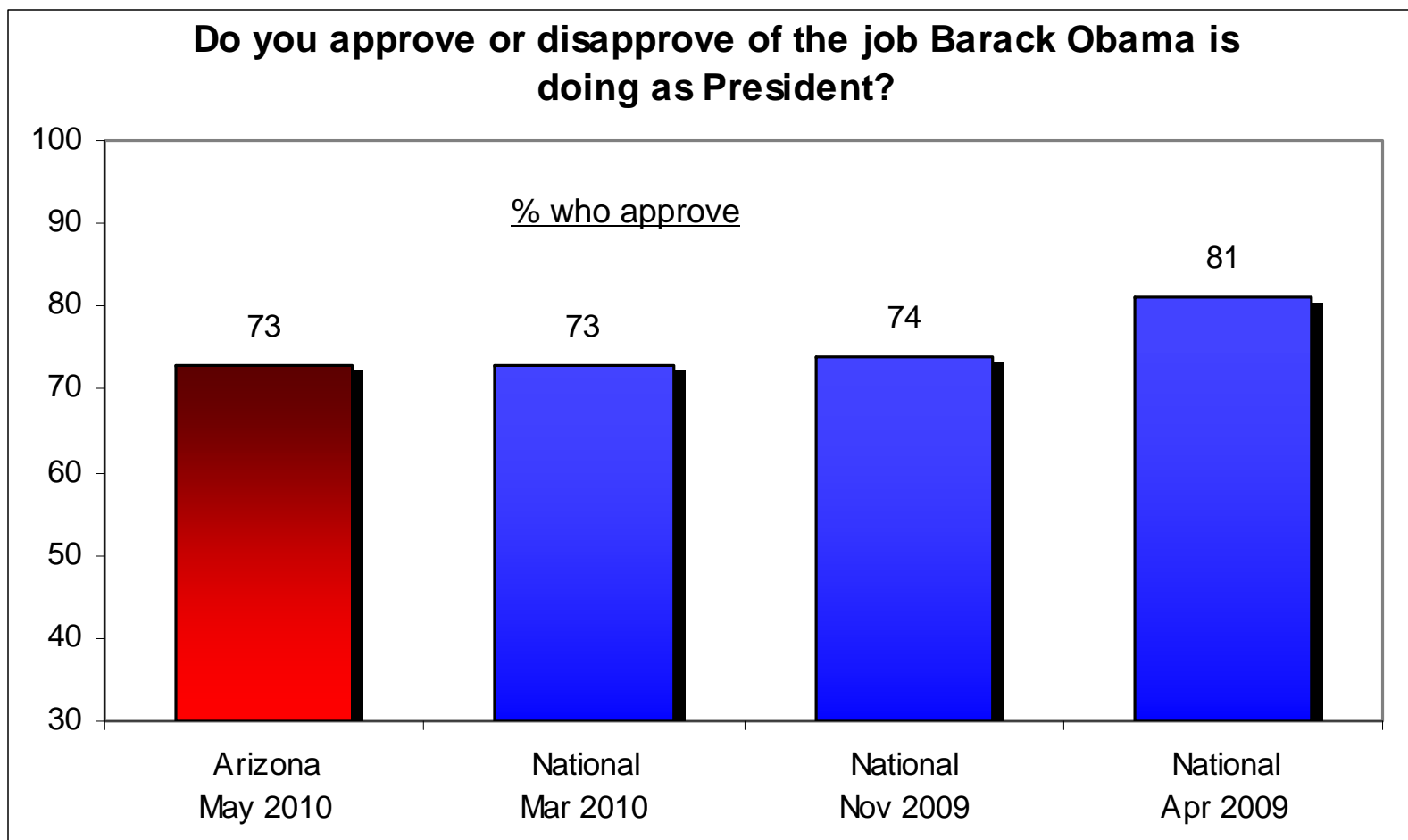
## Political Implications



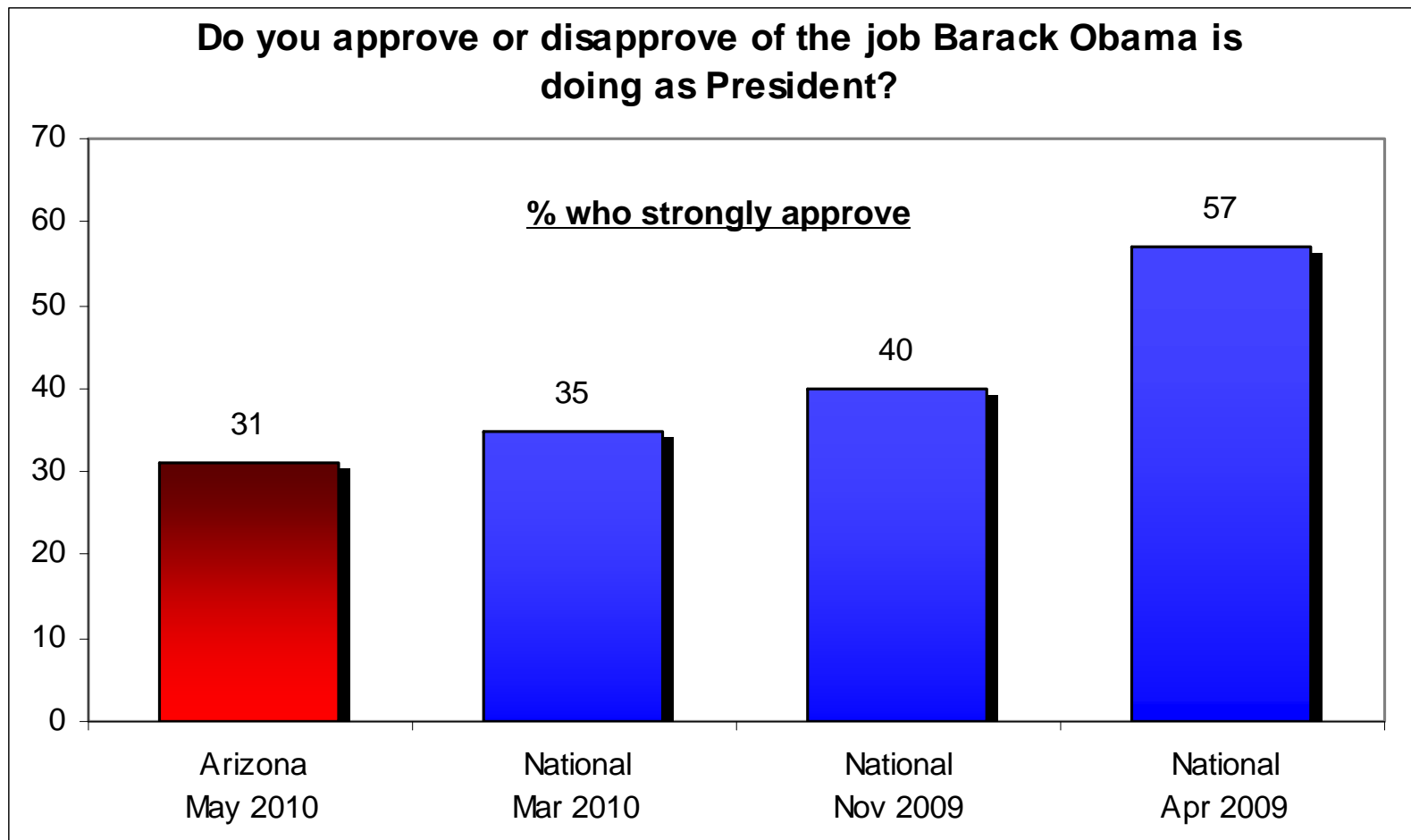
## Political Implications



## Political Implications

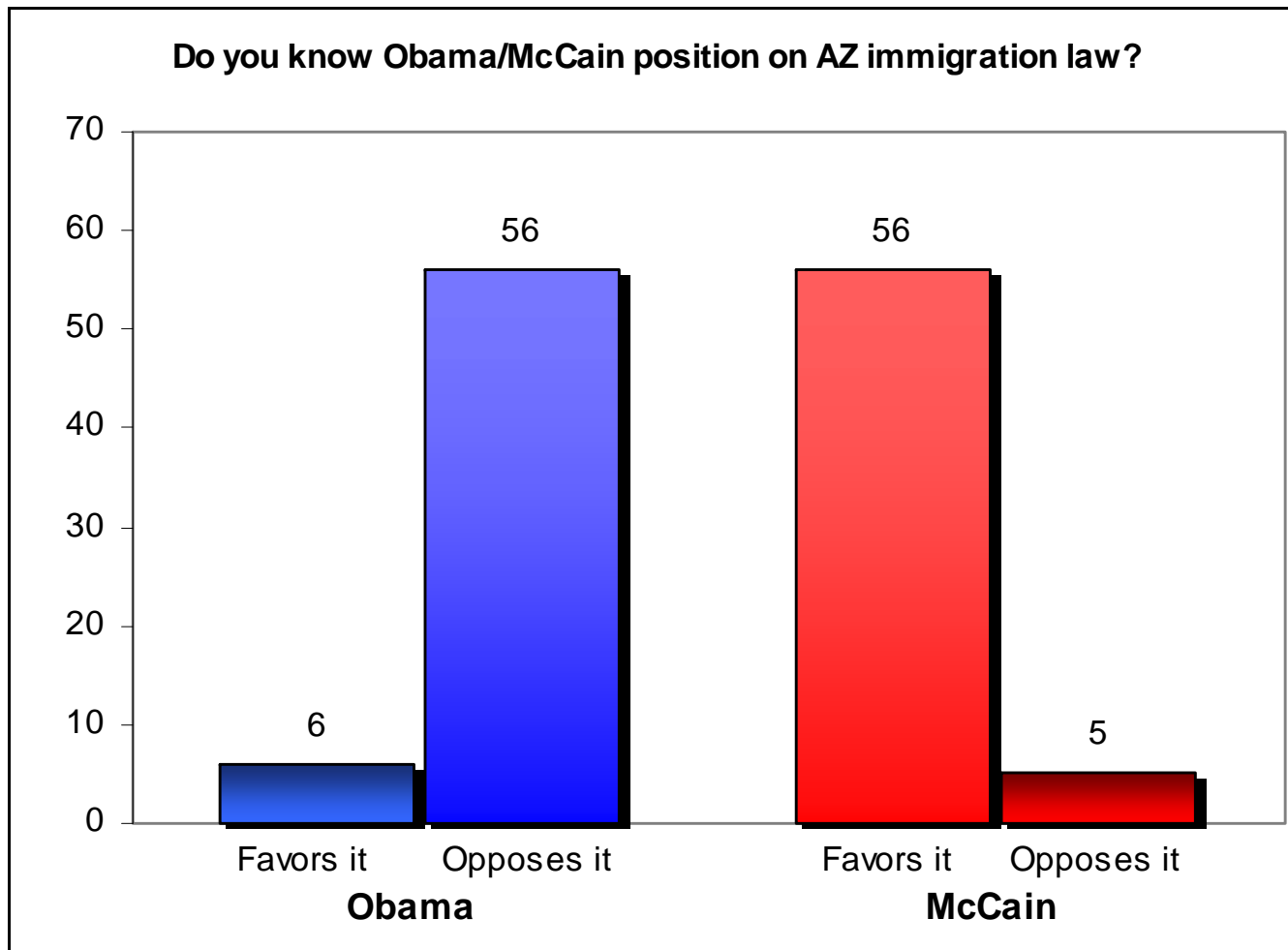


## Political Implications

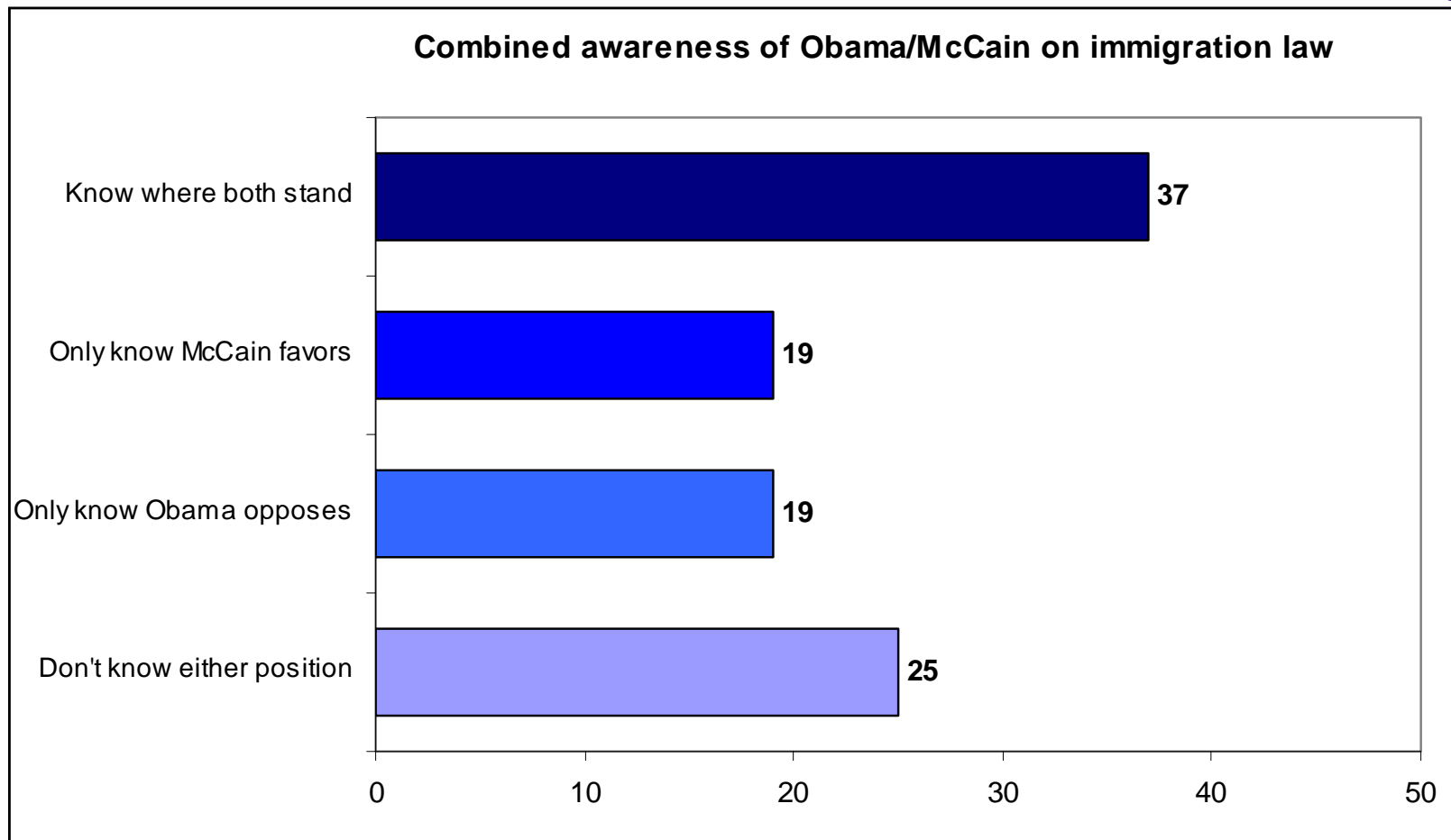




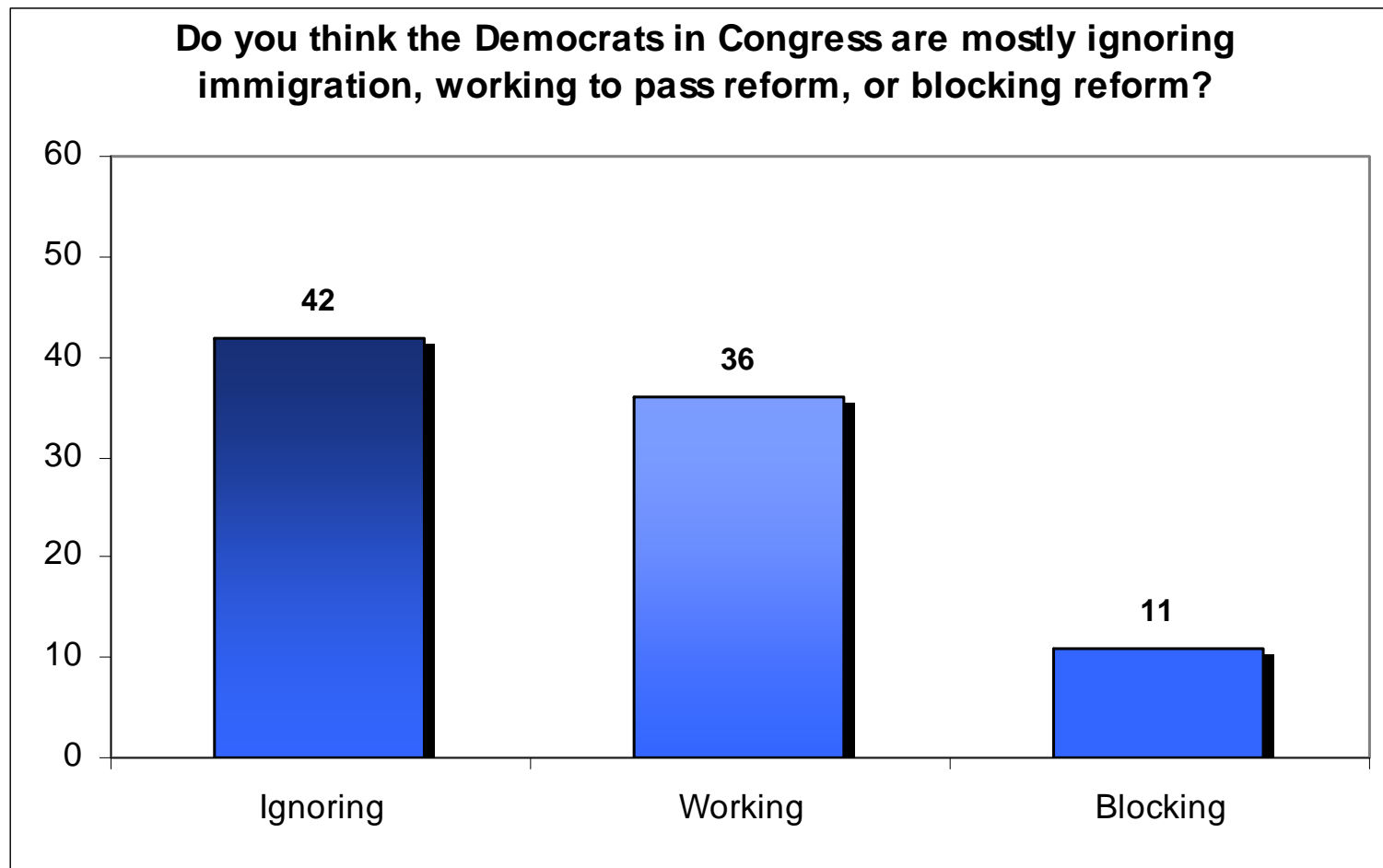
## Partisan Fallout



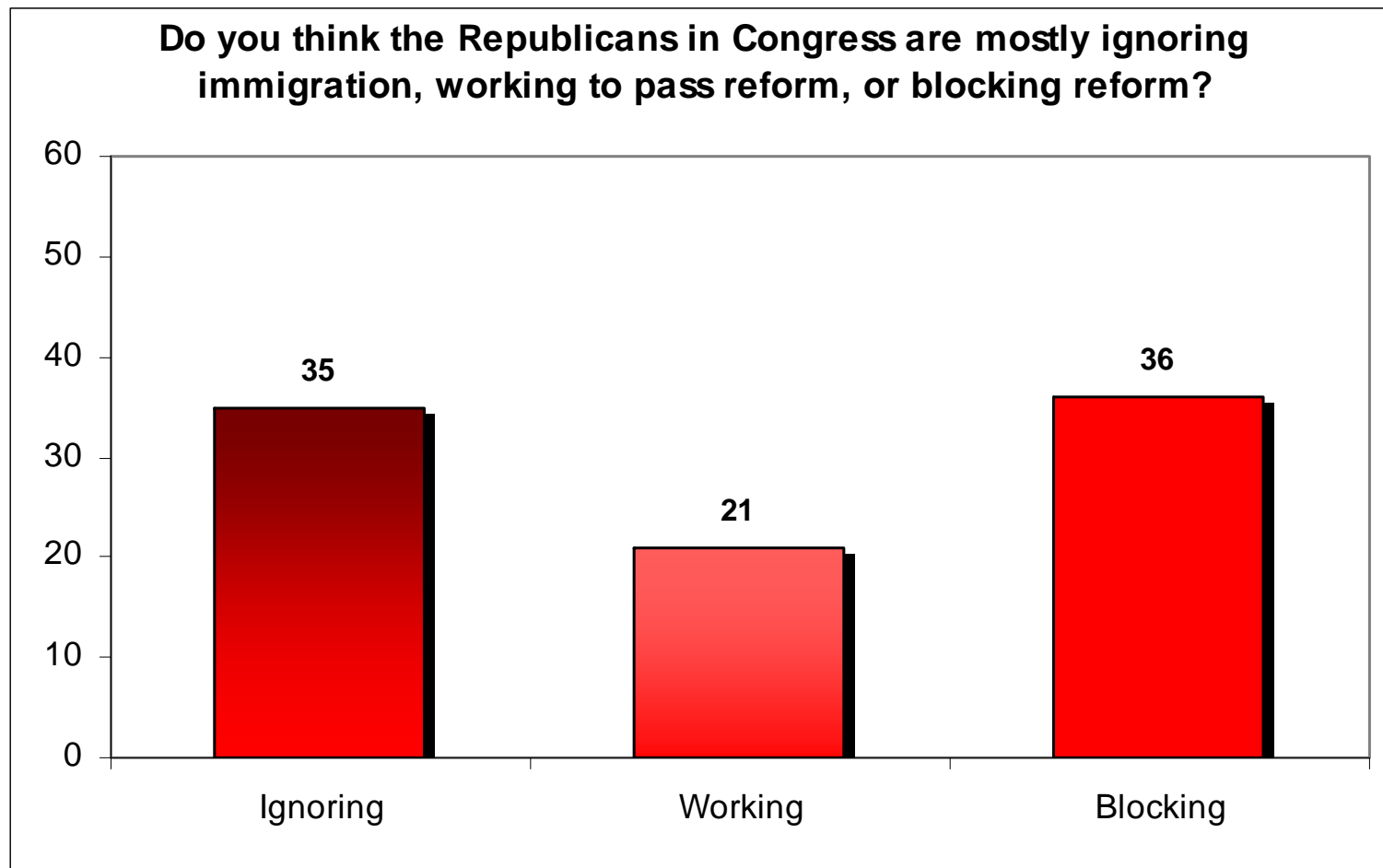
## Partisan Fallout



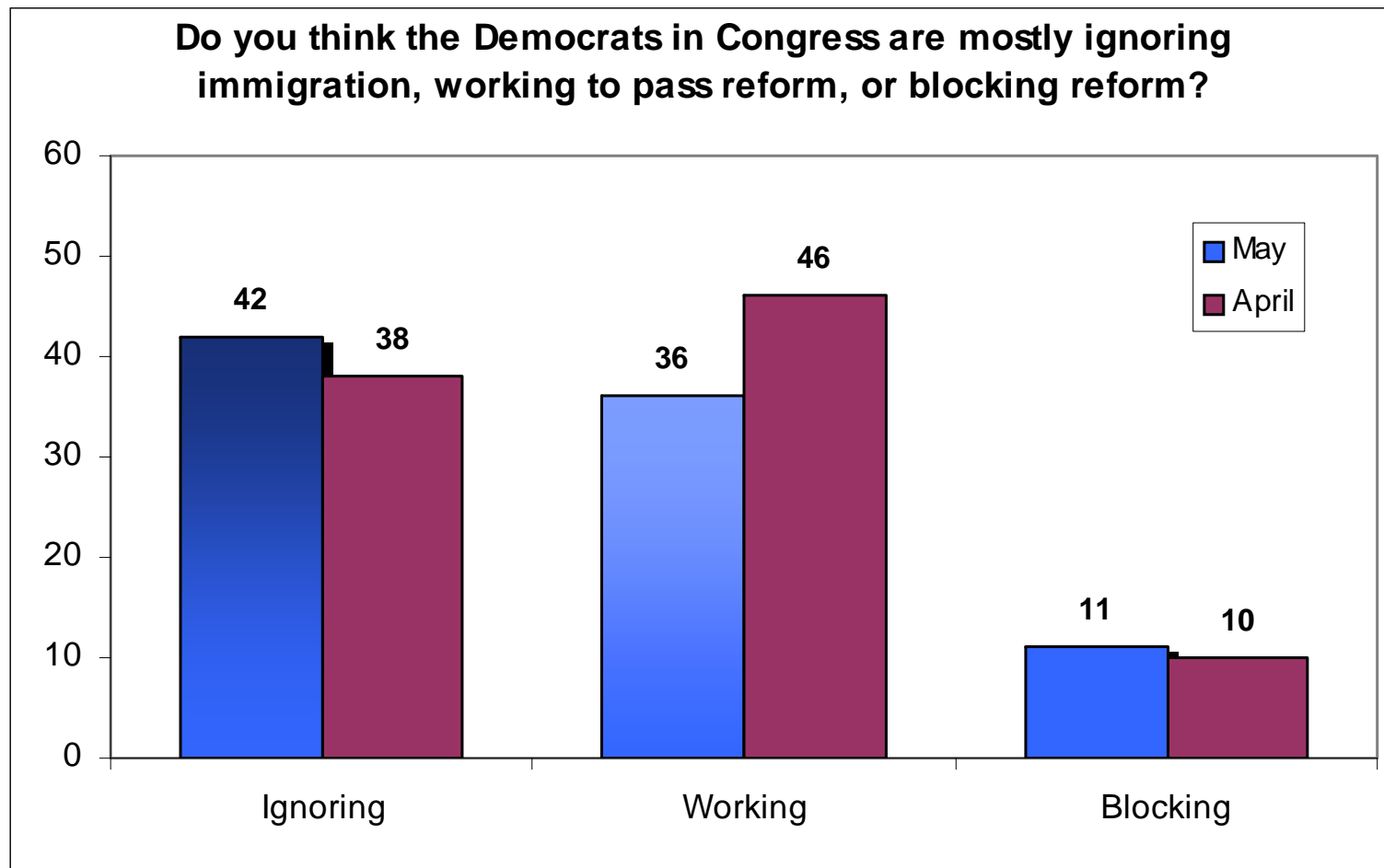
## Partisan implications



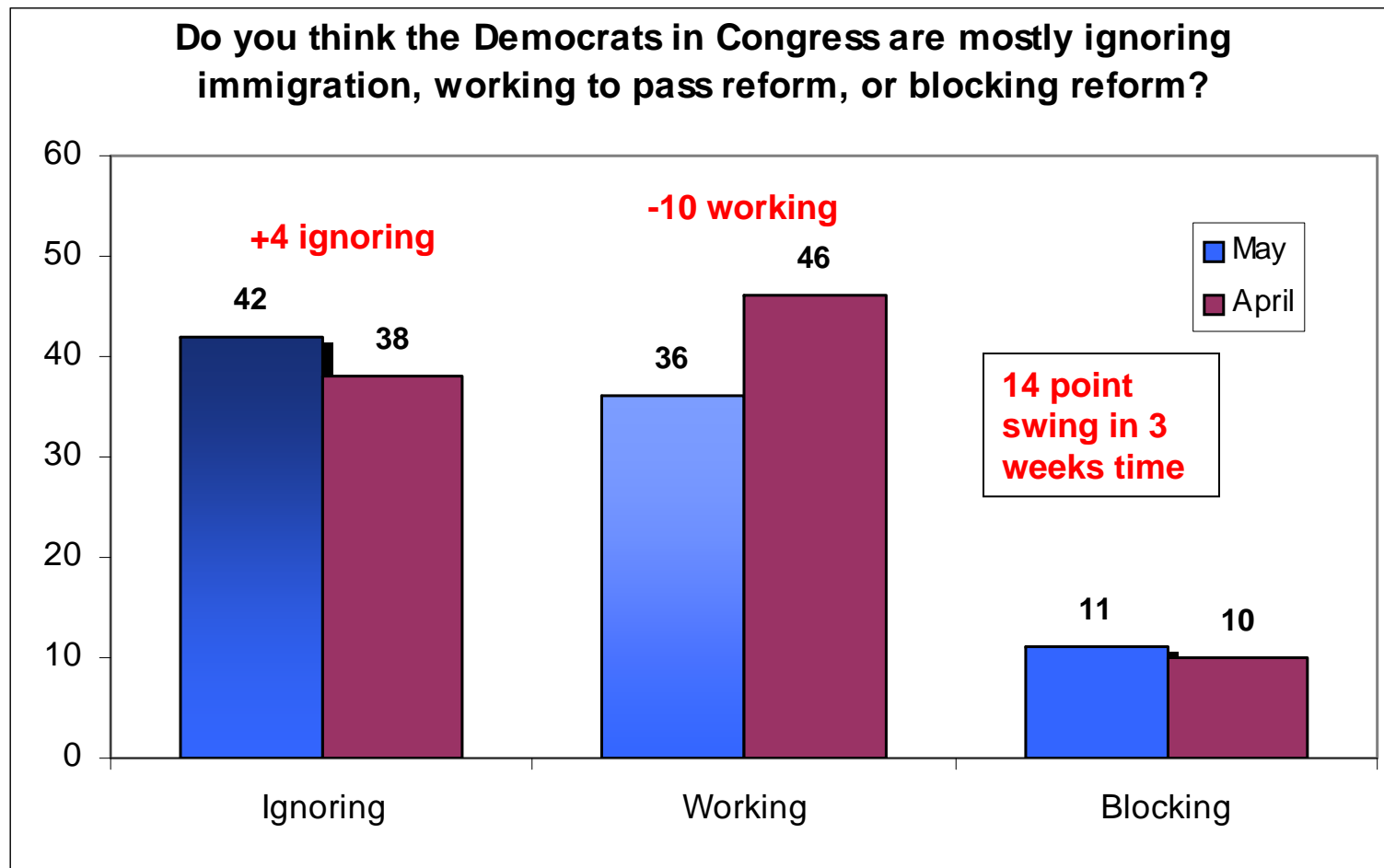
## Partisan implications



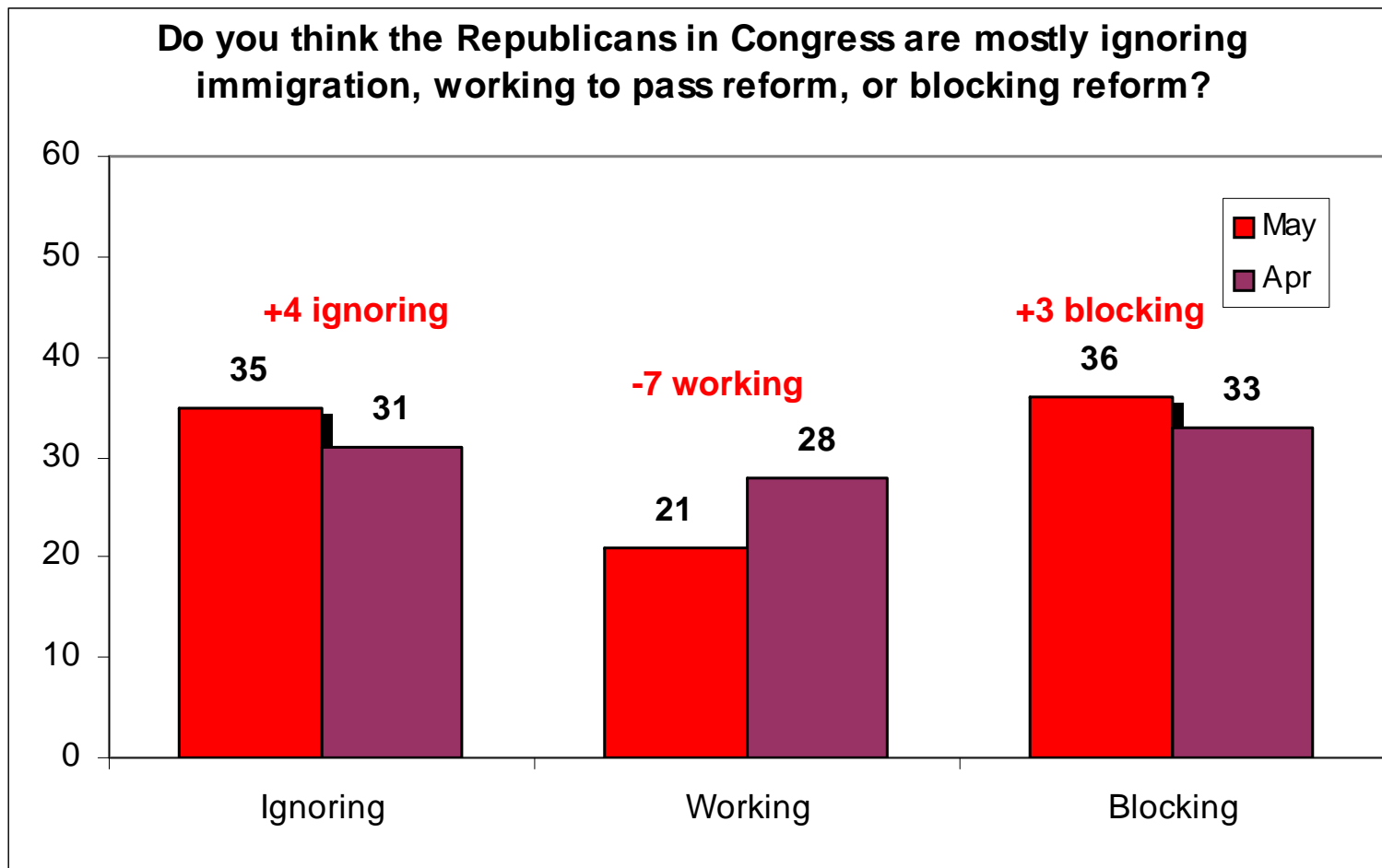
## Partisan implications



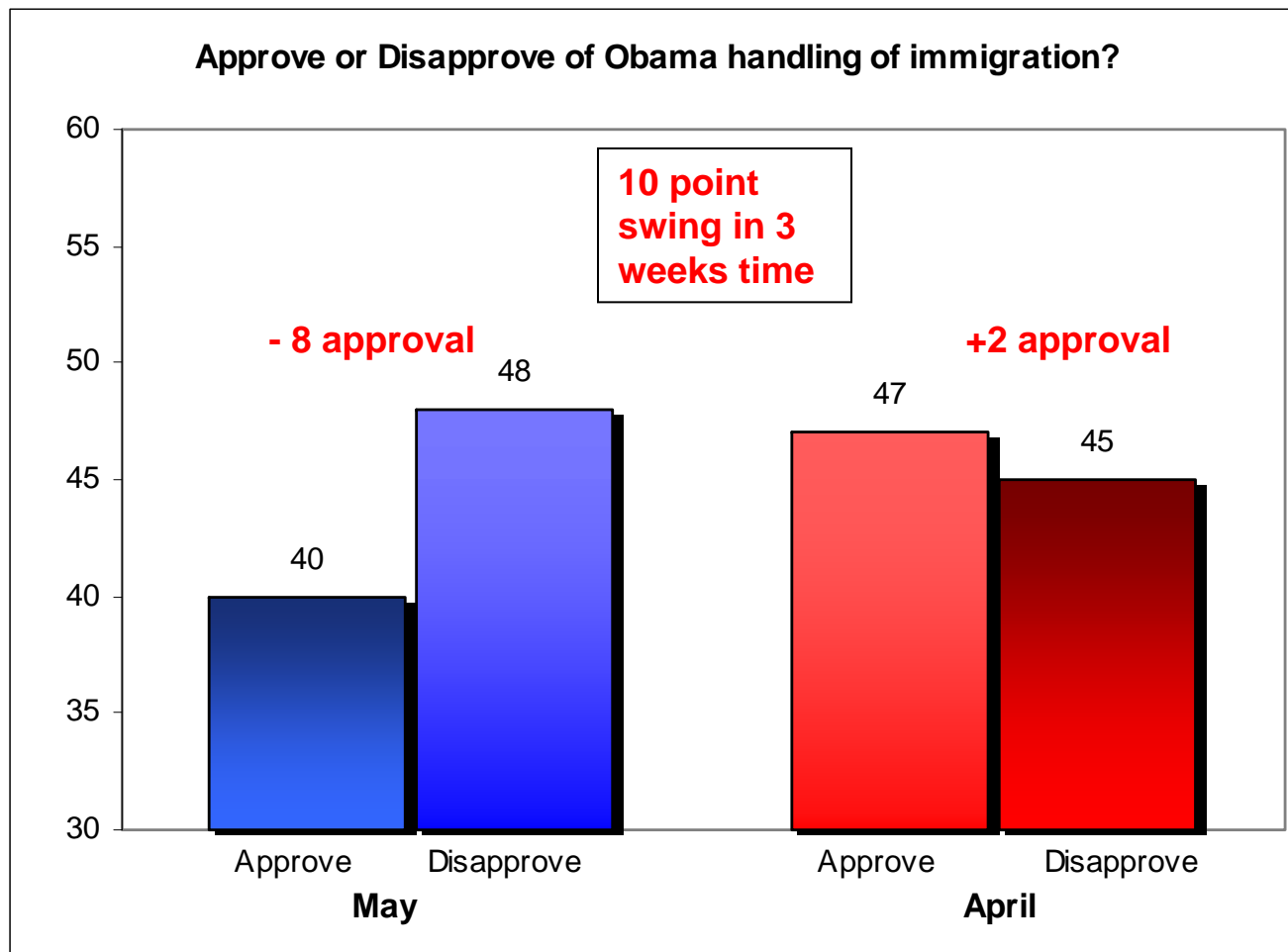
## Partisan implications



## Partisan implications

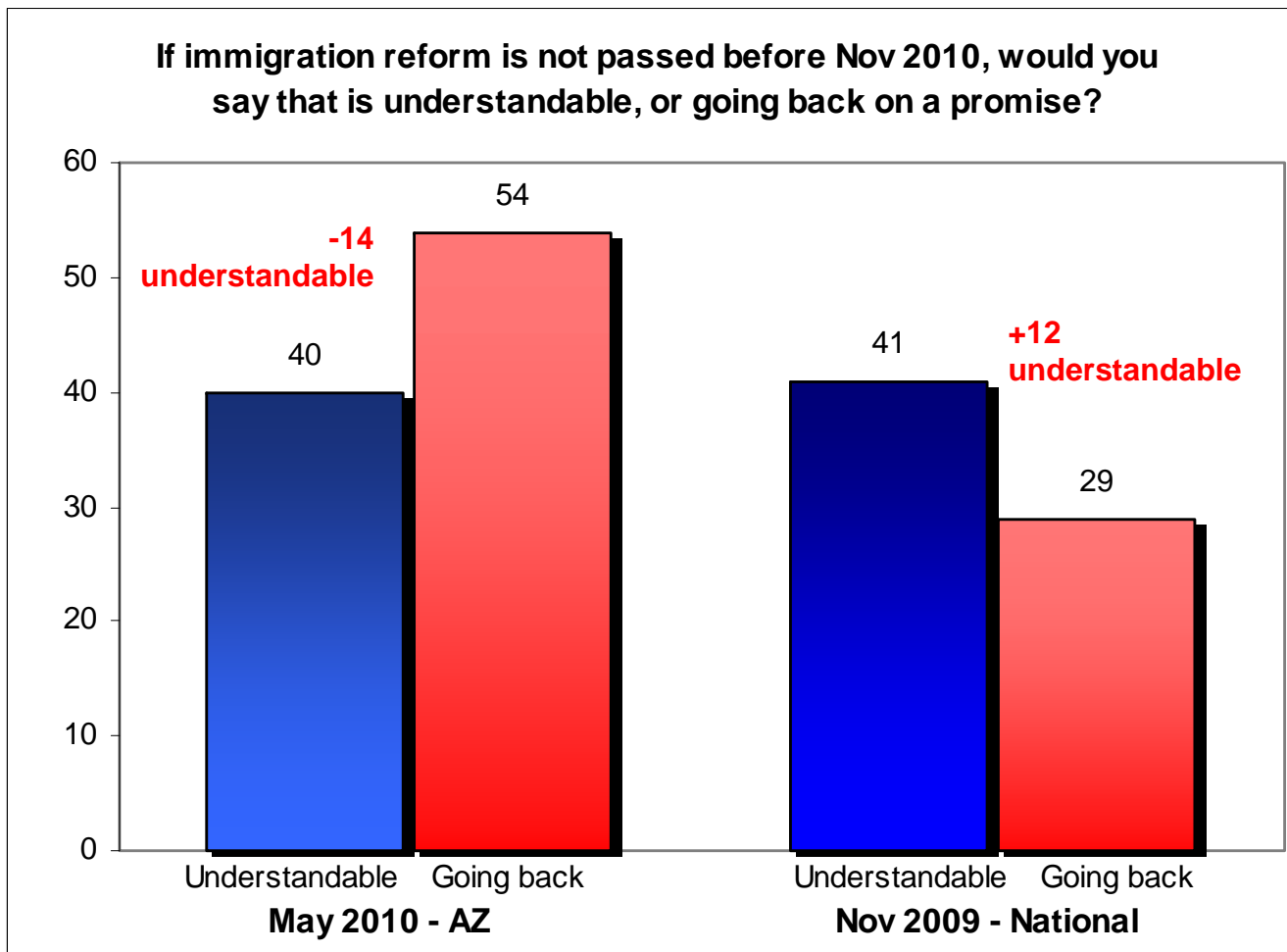


## Partisan implications

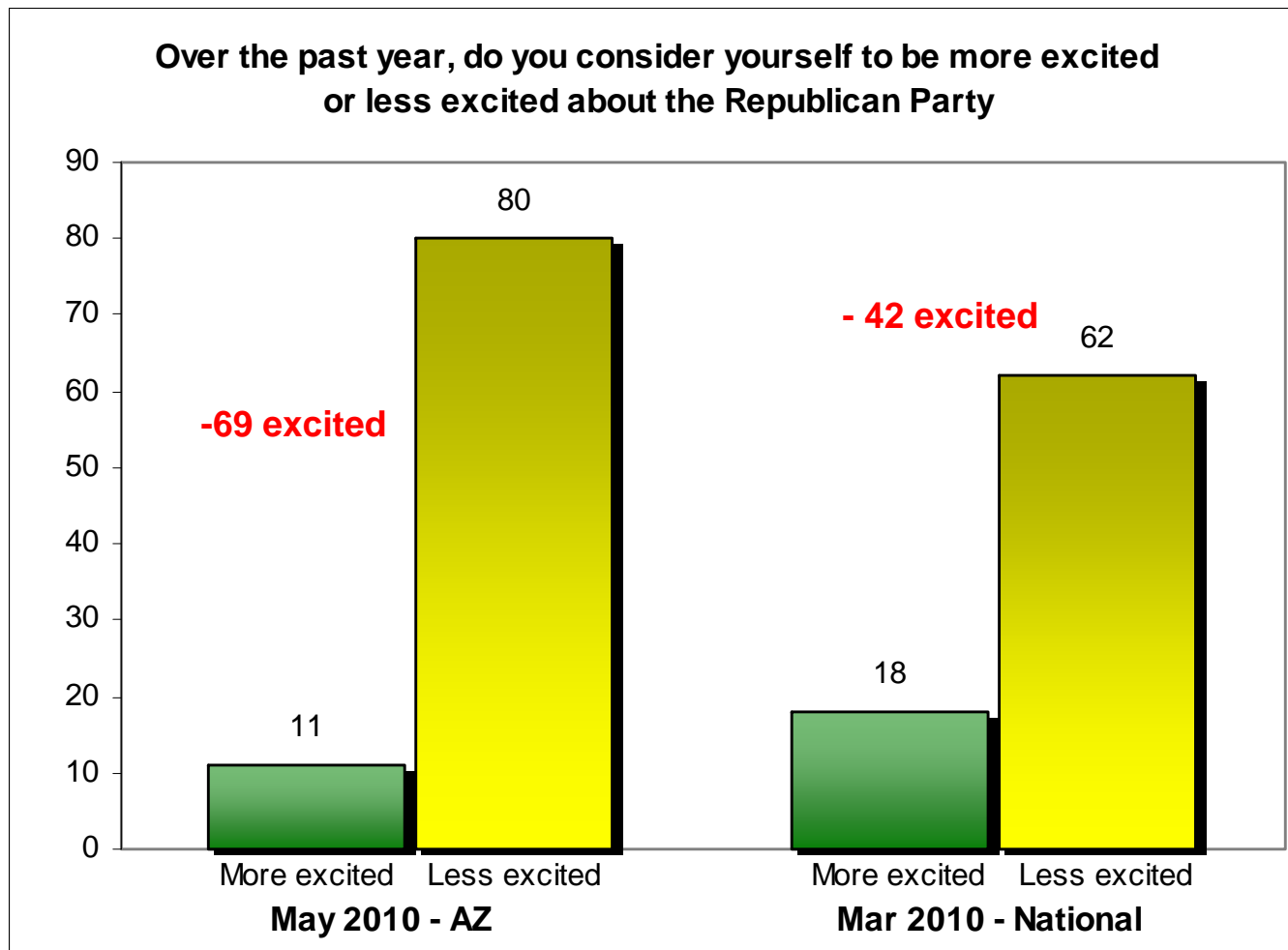




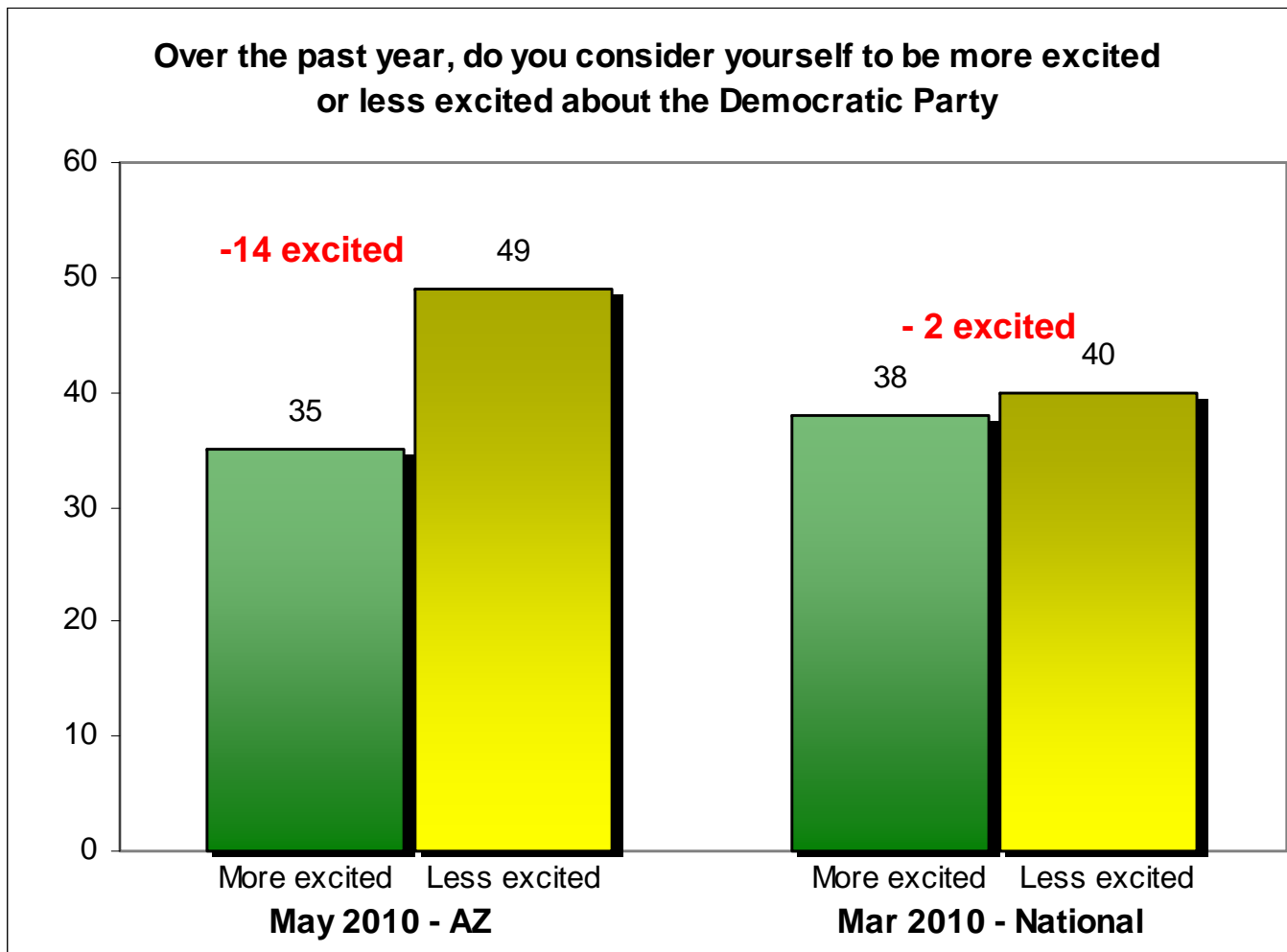
## Partisan implications



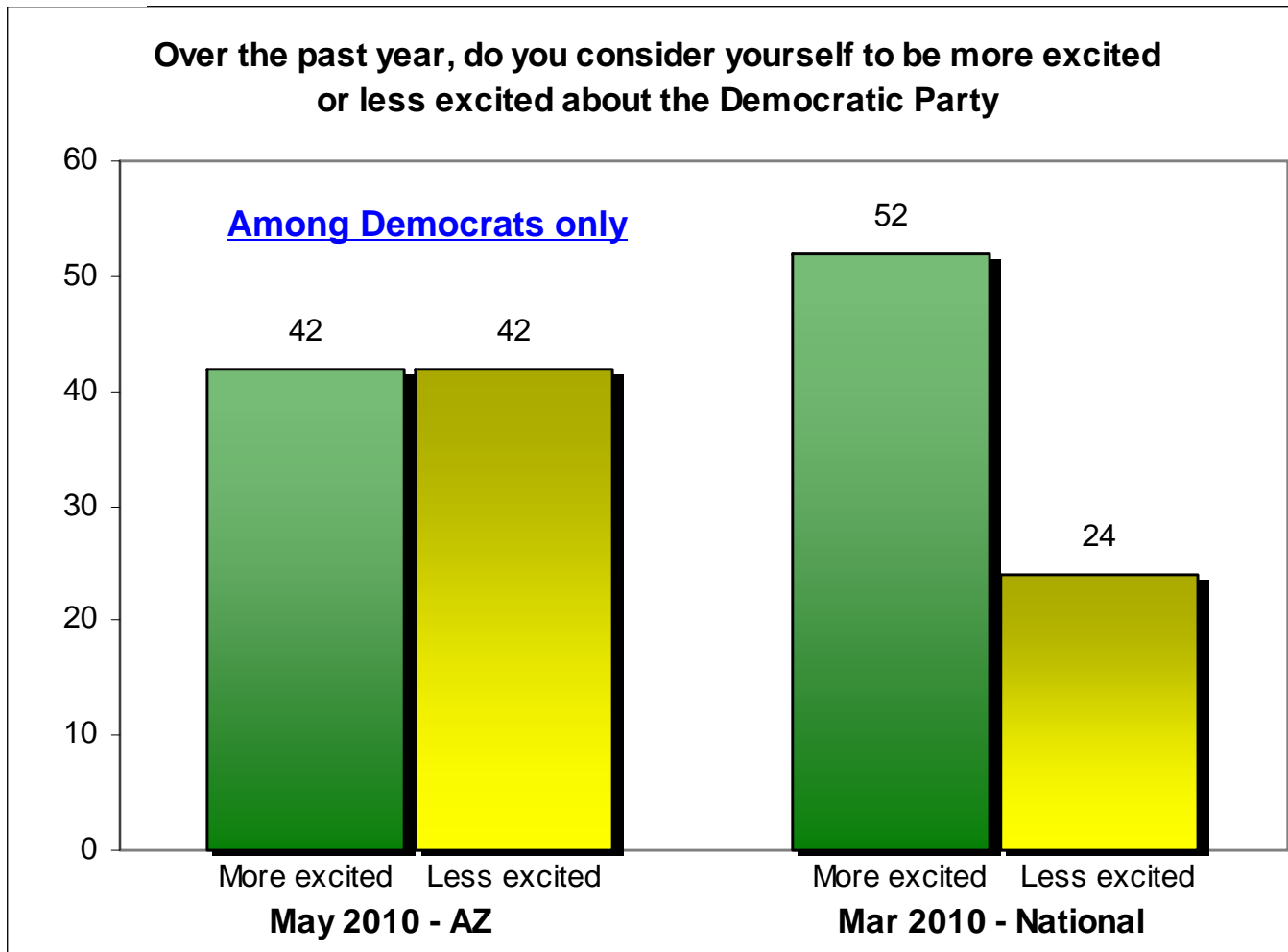
## Partisan implications



## Partisan implications



## Partisan implications





## Summary of Partisan Effects



- A majority of Latino voters blame Republicans for the passage of the new law:
  - But a third of Latino voters blame both parties;
- A growing number of respondents believe Democrats are ignoring the issue;
- Both parties are paying costs for the issue:
  - GOP costs more severe, but enthusiasm for Democrats is severely constrained by perceived inaction.
  - There is not a knee-jerk swell of support for Democrats, Latinos are proceeding very cautiously with respect to Democratic support



## Summary of Partisan Effects

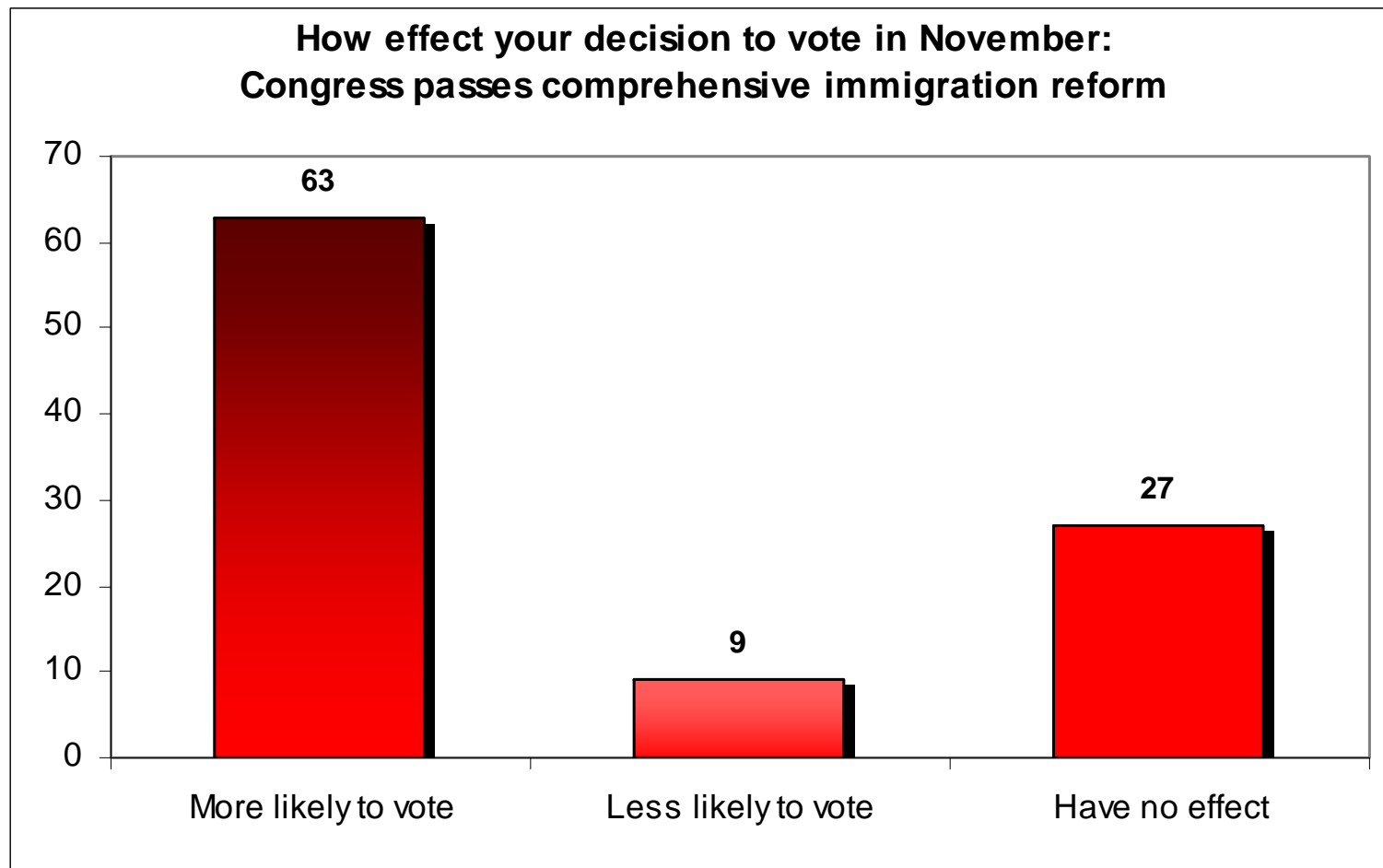


- Generic two-party vote is Democratic, but soft:
  - The undecided signals a weak vote share in November;
- Support for Governor Brewer among Latino voters is a scant 12%;
- Obama approval overall appears stable (73%)
  - However - the strength of support is weakening;
  - And, a significant decline in approval for his handling of immigration
- Majority now believe that inaction on immigration before Nov is going back on a campaign promise
- Only 42% of self-identified Democrats are “excited” about what the Democratic party is doing today



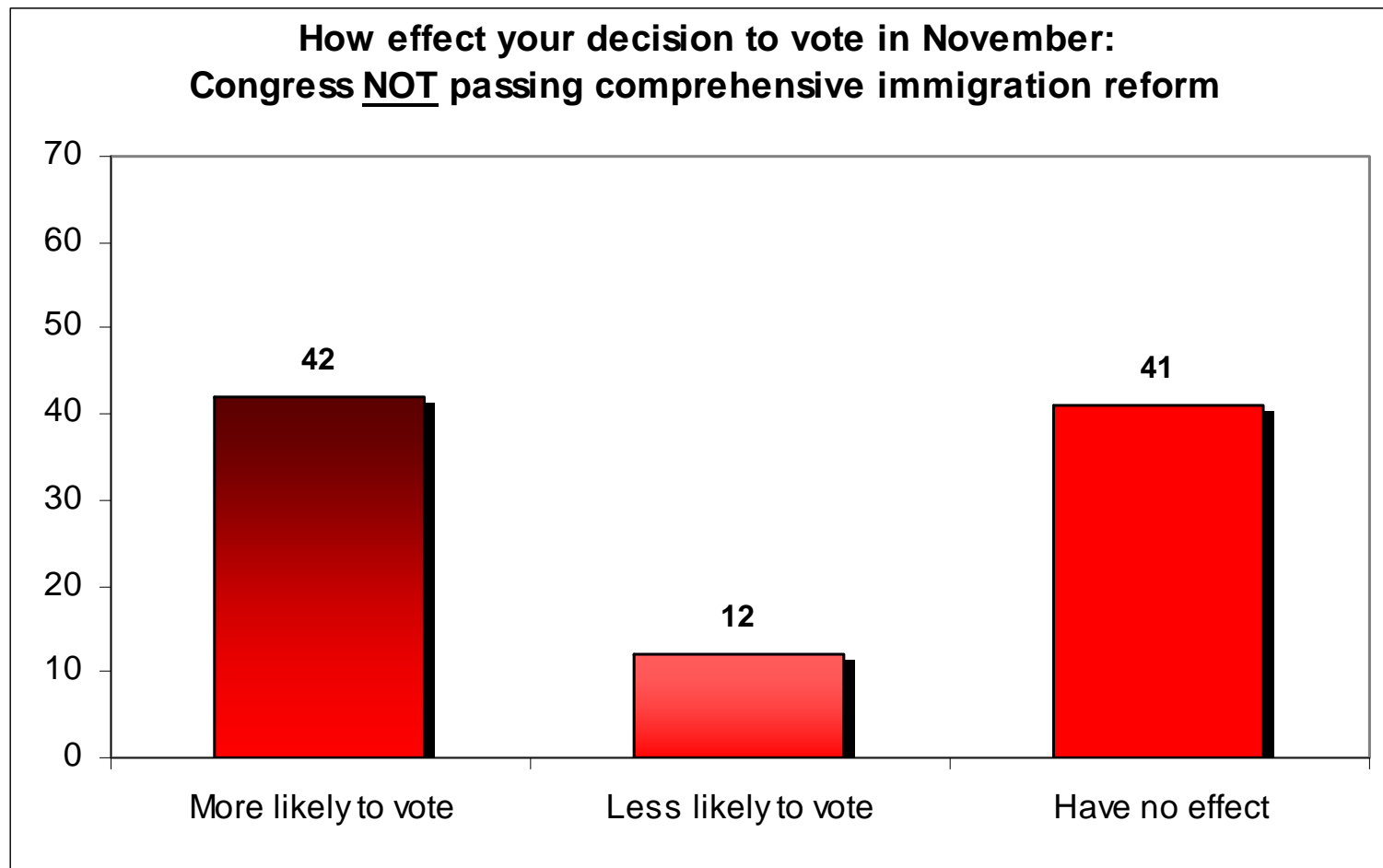
## 4. Impact on Voting in 2010

## Impact on voting in 2010



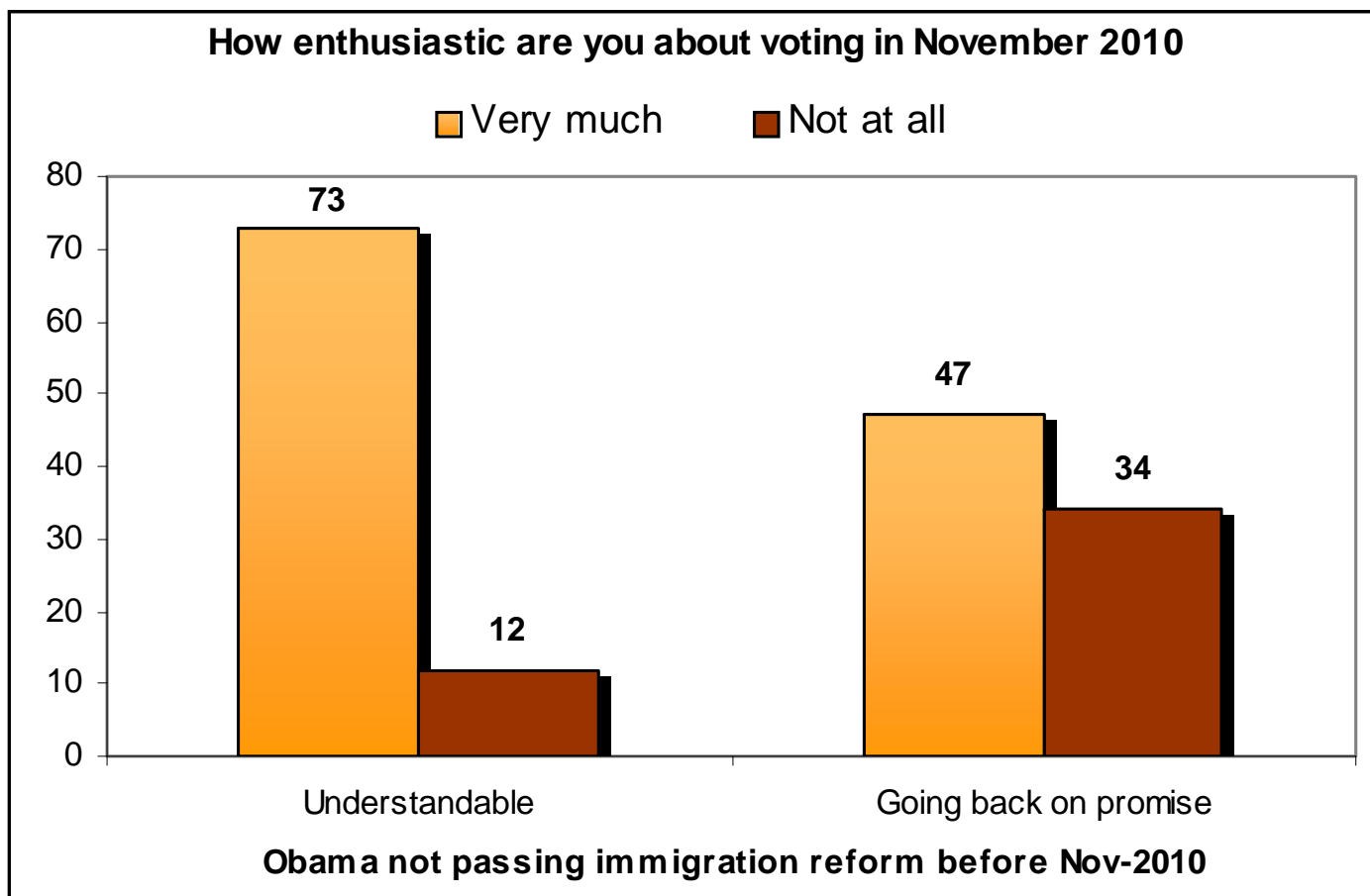


## Impact on voting in 2010



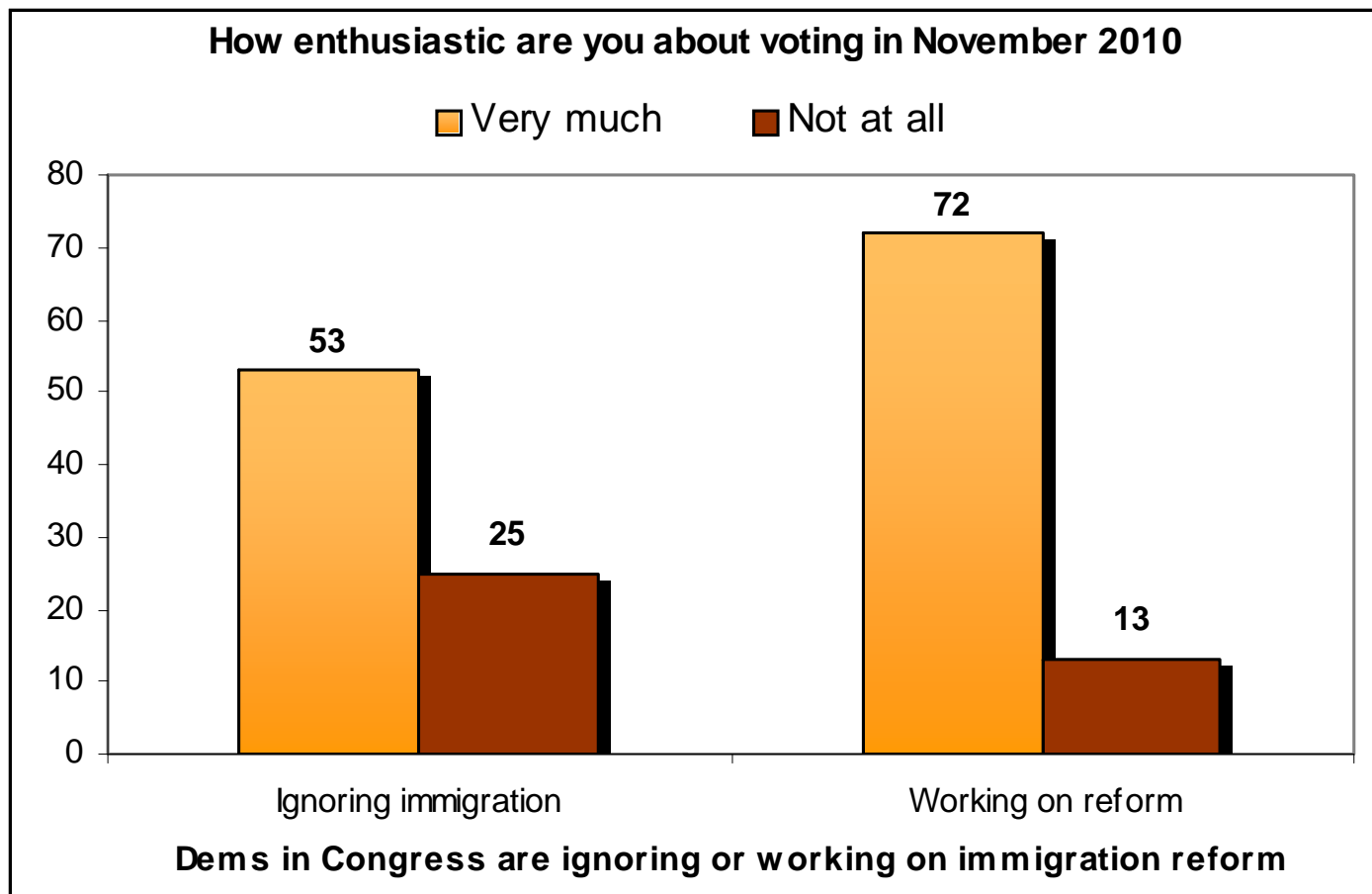
## Impact on Voting in 2010

Among those who follow political news very closely



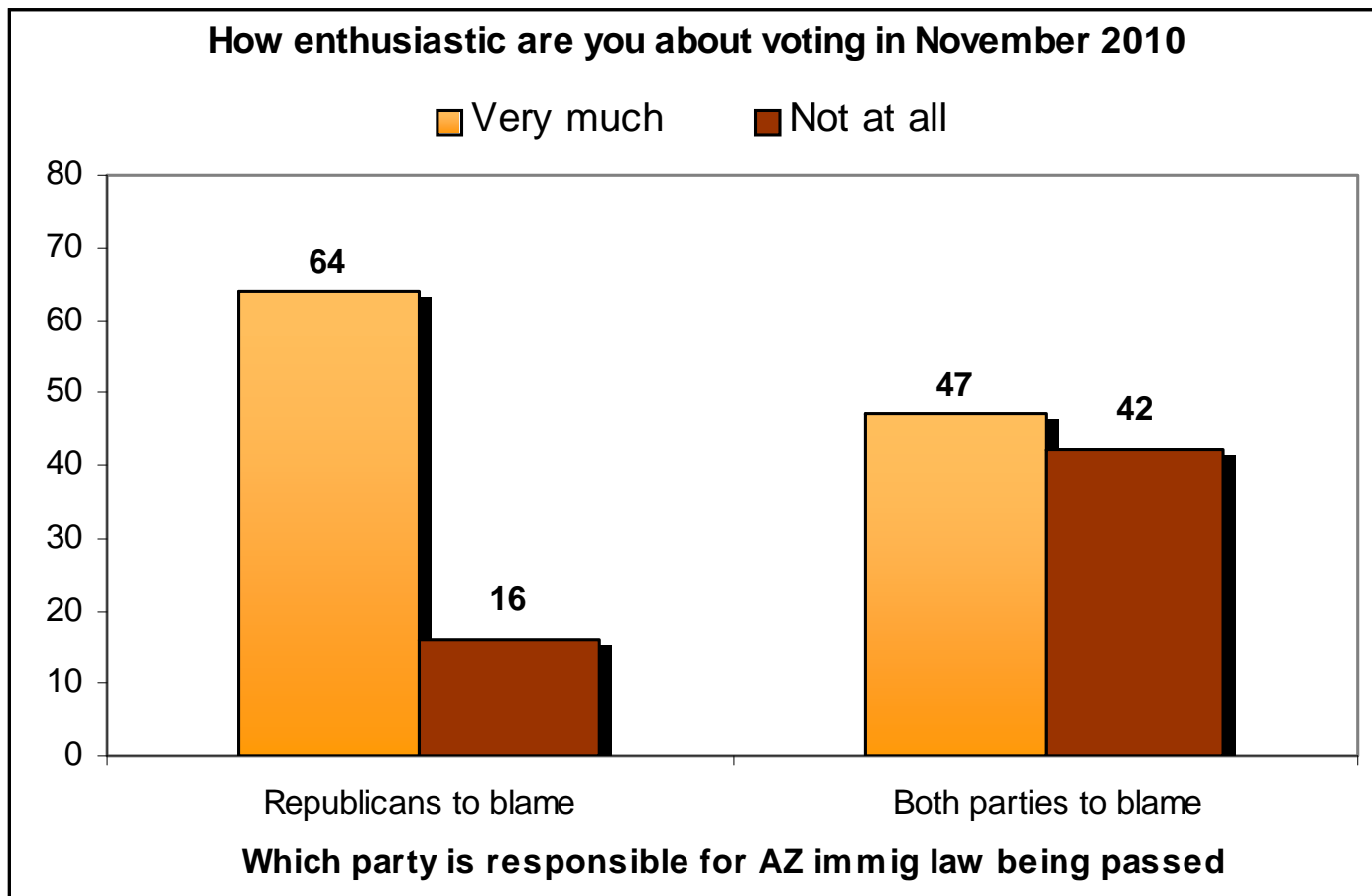
## Impact on Voting in 2010

Among those who follow political news very closely



## Impact on Voting in 2010

Among those who follow political news very closely





## Summary of Effects on 2010



- Immigration can significantly affect the 2010 Elections;
- Perceptions of Democratic inaction, or the view that the President has broken his promise on this issue, substantially reduce enthusiasm for voting in Nov
- Affirmative movement on the issue is key to mobilizing the Latino electorate.
- Throughout, Latinos who do not see Dems protecting their interests, are very unlikely to vote in Nov

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

- The Arizona statute has moved immigration front and center in the minds of Latino registered voters;
  - The issue carries high salience across all conceivable demographics of Latino voters
- The Latino electorate's response is more sophisticated than some might have expected:
  - They are suspicious of Democratic and administration commitment on the issue;
  - In the absence of action, GOP misbehavior will not be sufficient to mobilize a Latino voting block, which is currently very energized

## Questions...

Matt A. Barreto, Ph.D.

[matt.barreto@latinodecisions.com](mailto:matt.barreto@latinodecisions.com)

909-489-2955

Gary M. Segura, Ph.D.

[gary.segura@latinodecisions.com](mailto:gary.segura@latinodecisions.com)

206-280-5069