

Survey of 400 Registered Voters in Illinois

Conducted August 29 – September 5, 2011

By Douglas E. Schoen, LLC for the Manhattan Institute for
Policy Research and the Illinois Policy Institute

*The following slides represent select survey results. Complete survey
results can be found on www.illinoispolicy.org*

Mood of the Country

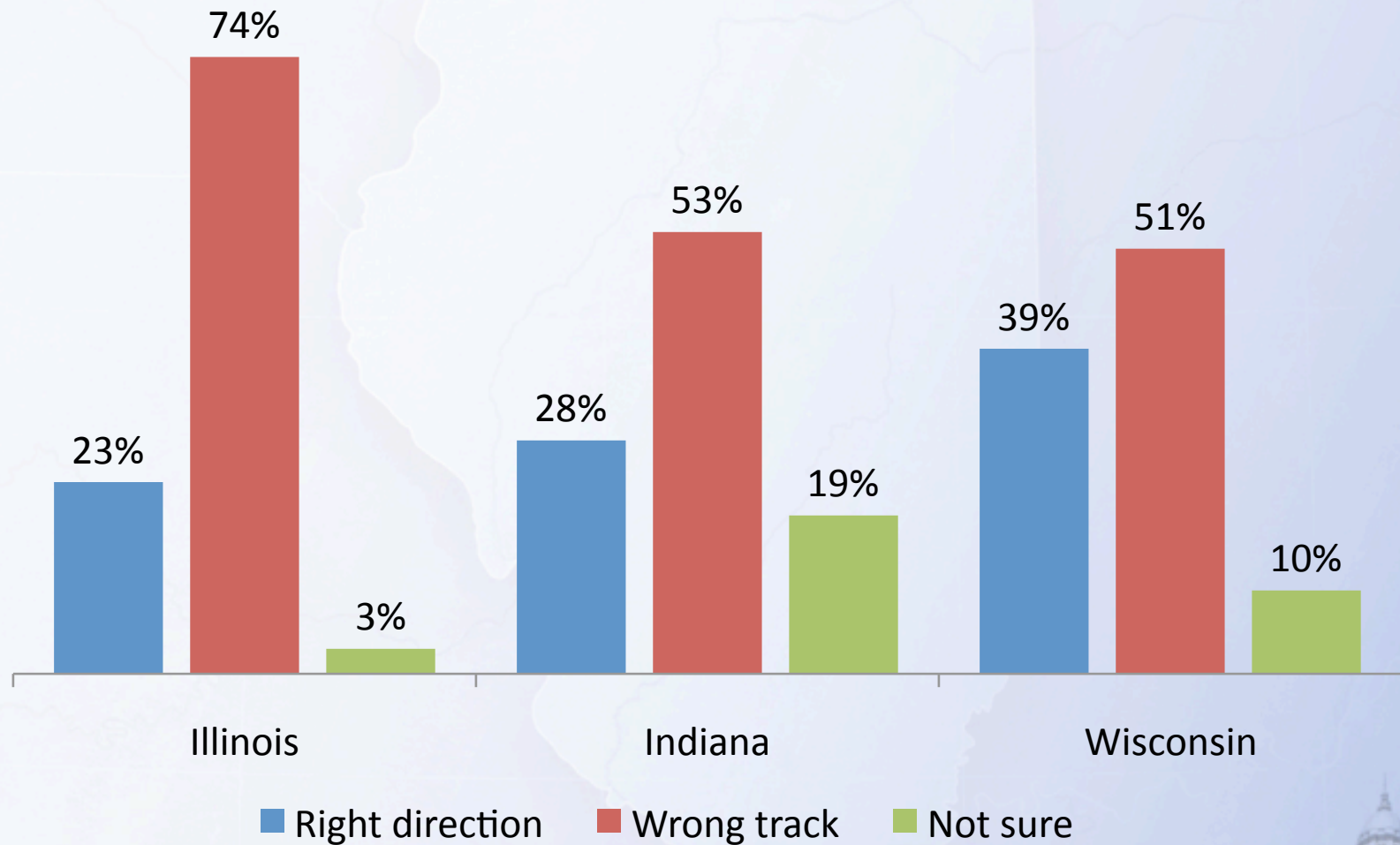
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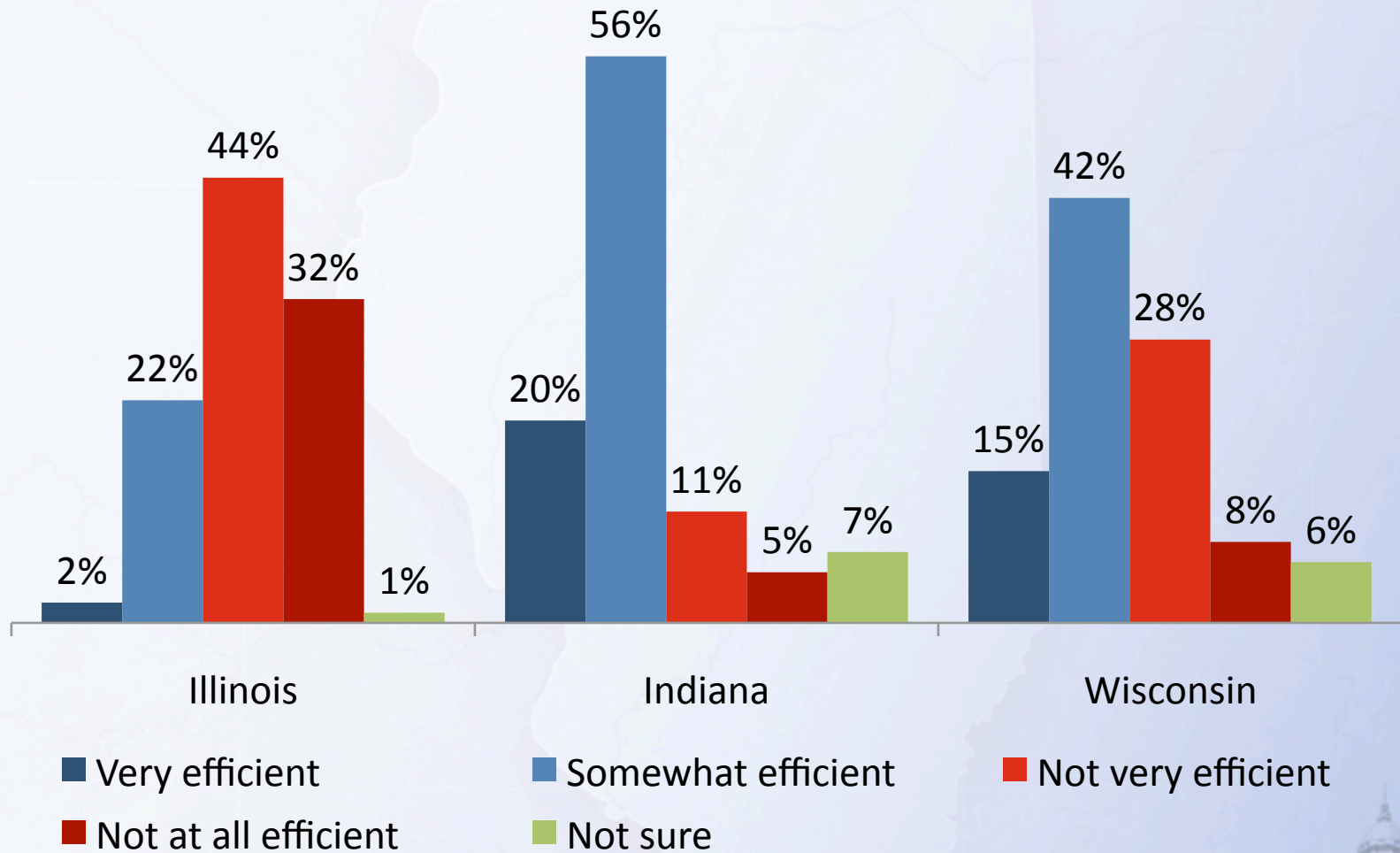
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1) Generally speaking, do you think the economy in your state is headed in the right direction or on the wrong track?



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2) How efficient would you say your state government is?

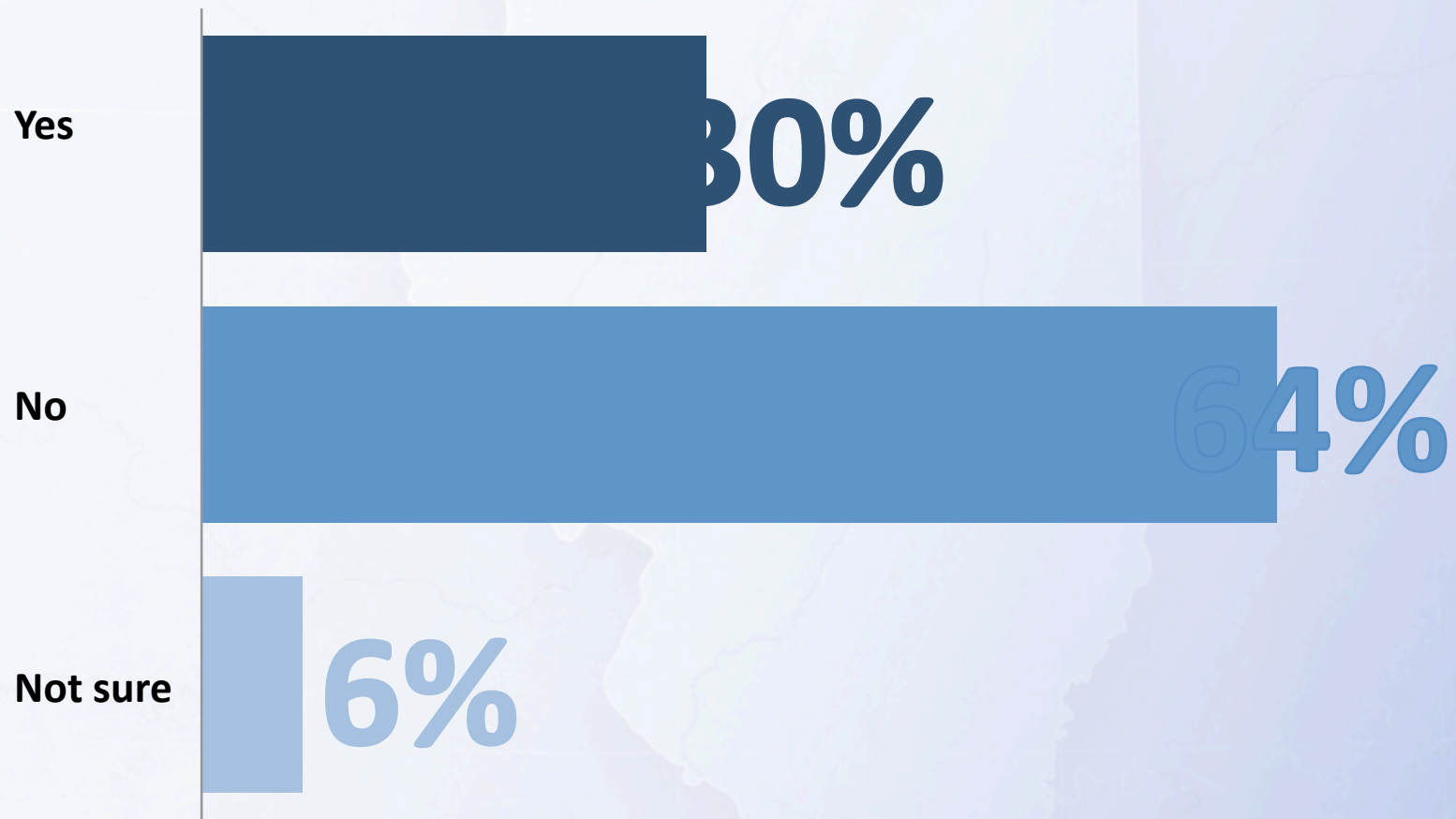


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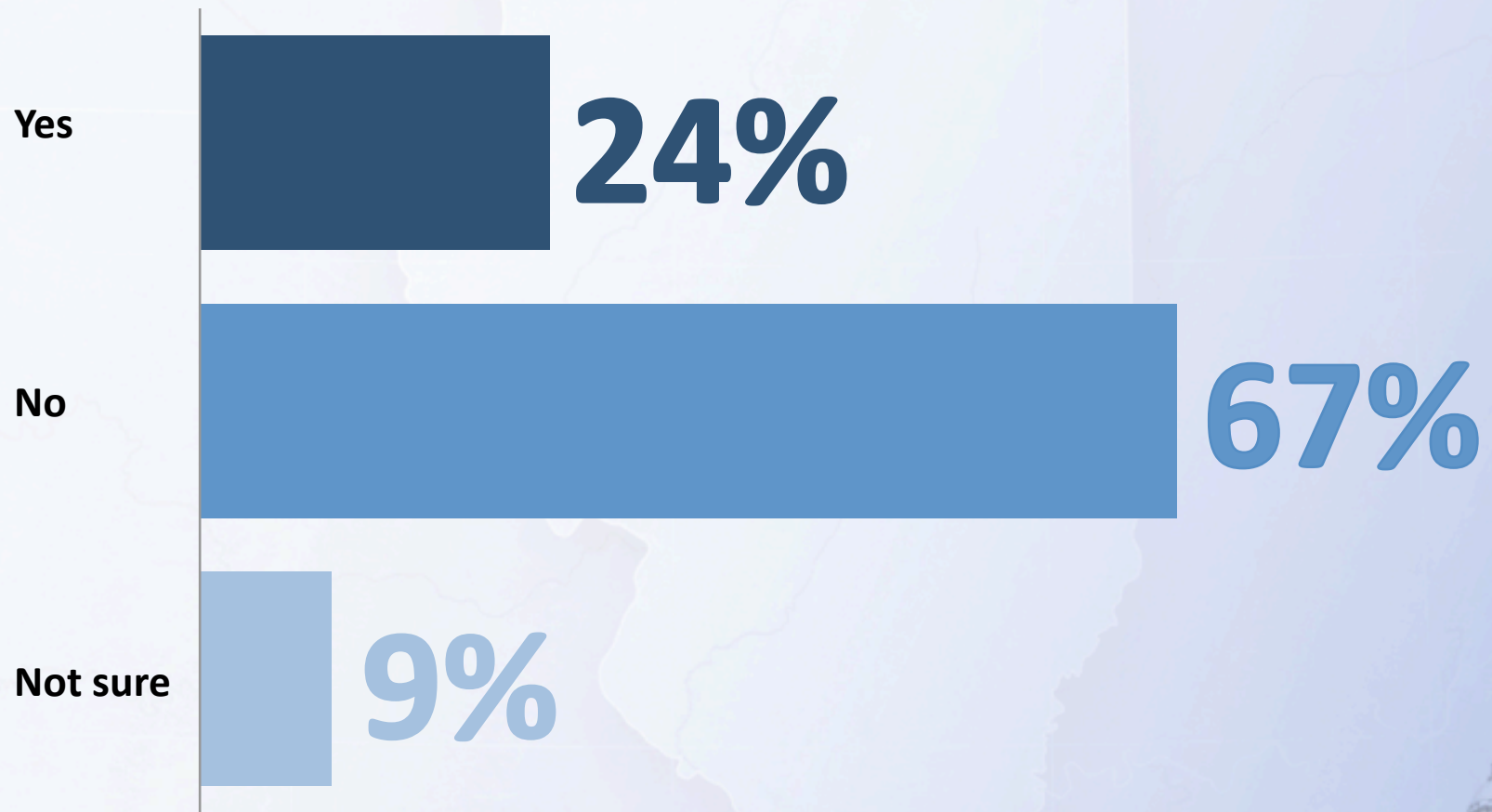
Public Sector Employees



5) If your state and local governments did not have enough money to pay the salaries and benefits of current public employees, would you be willing to have taxes raised so that the salaries and benefits could be paid at current levels?



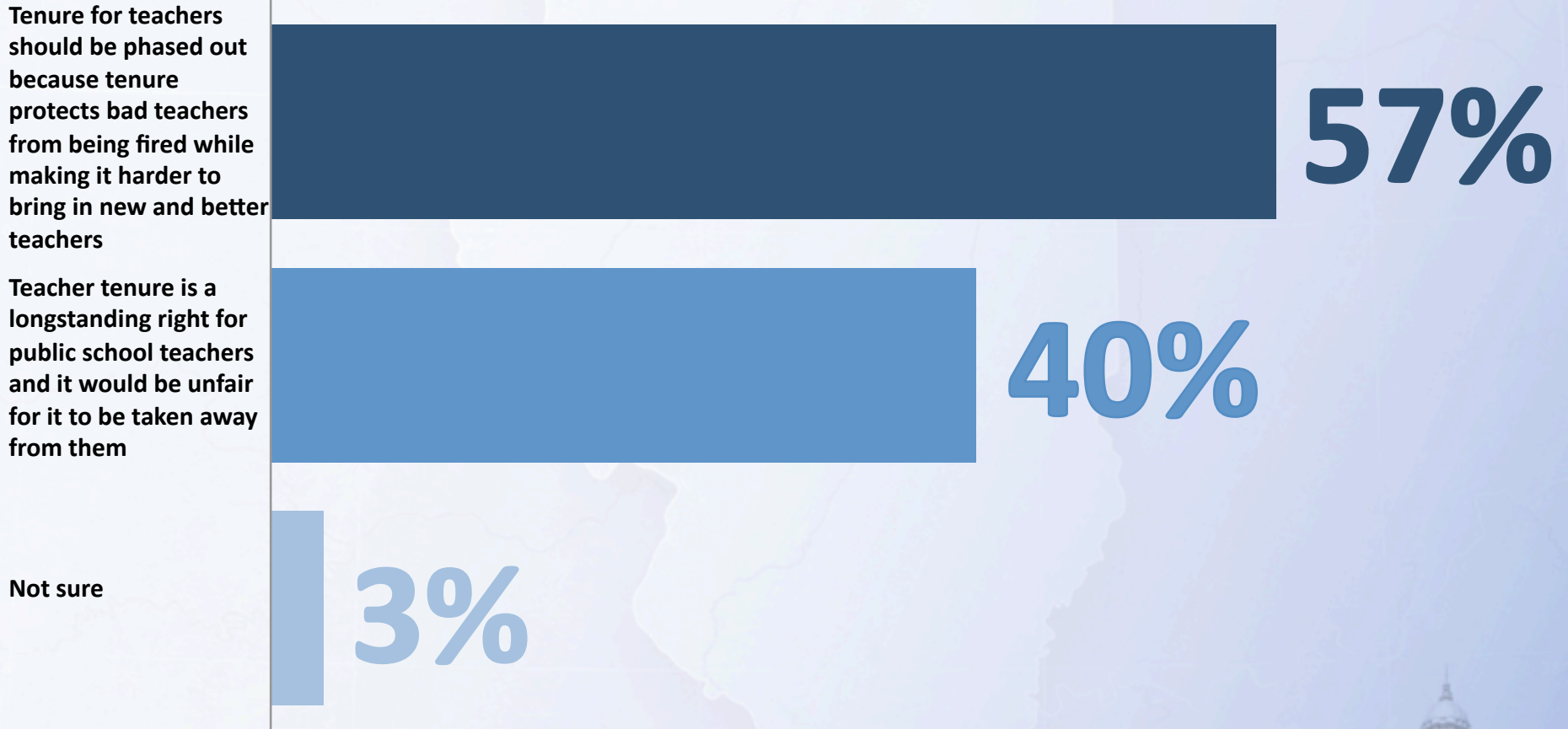
6) If they did not have enough money to pay the salaries and benefits of current public employees, would you be willing to have social-services programs provided by your state cut so that the salaries and benefits could be paid at current levels?



Collective Bargaining



19) Some people say that tenure for teachers should be phased out because tenure protects bad teachers from being fired while making it harder to bring in new and better teachers. Other say that teacher tenure is a longstanding right for public school teachers and it would be unfair for it to be taken away from them. Which opinion is closer to your view?



Pension Plans

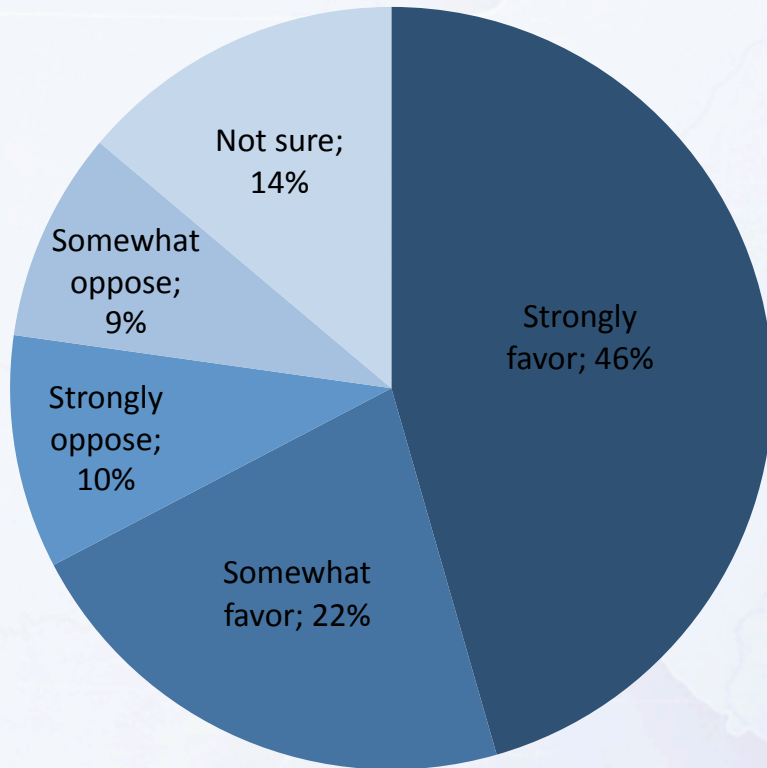
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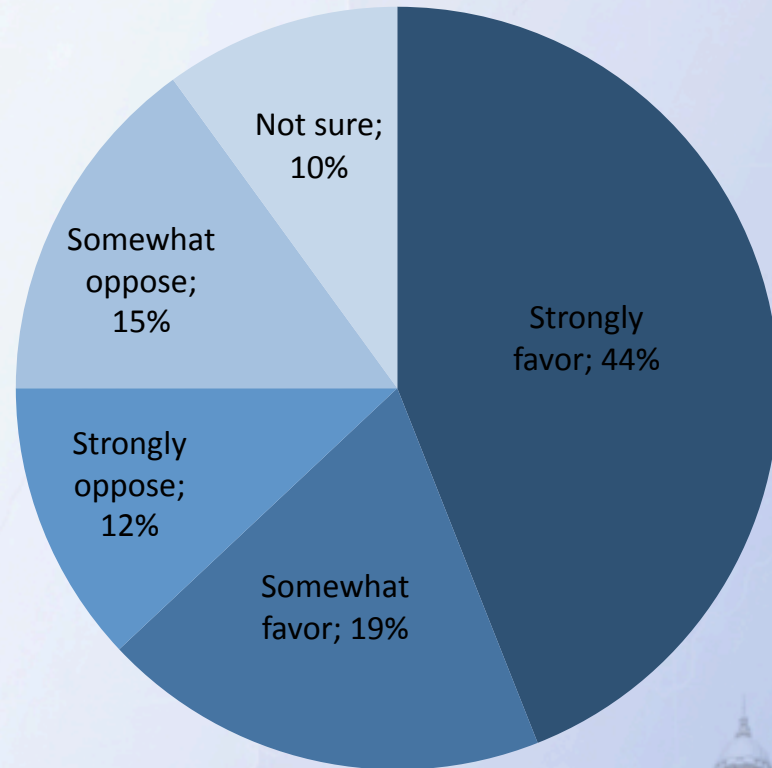
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21) Some people say that giving public employees the opportunity to participate in a defined contribution plan, which gives the employee the power to make decisions and the ability to take the plan with them as they move around from job-to-job because defined contribution plans offer investor choice and portability. Do you favor or oppose giving public employees a choice between participating in a defined benefit plan or a defined contribution plan to increase investor choice and portability?

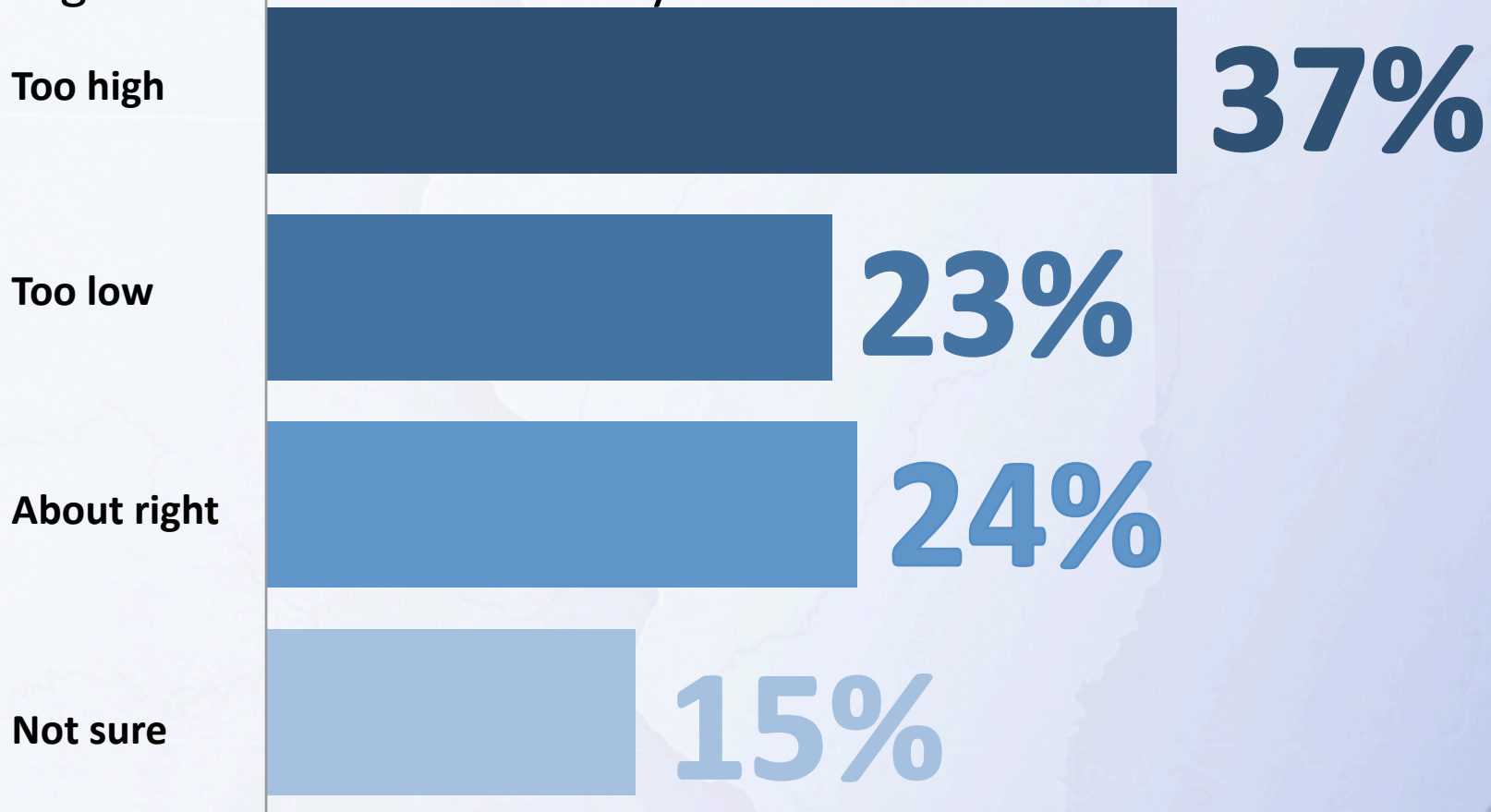


22) Do you favor or oppose moving all new public employees from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan?



Labor Unions

23) In general, do you think the salaries and benefits of most public employees are too high for the work that they do, too low for the work that they do or are their salaries and benefits about right for the work that they do?



Poll conducted by Douglas E. Schoen LLC



24) Do you think police officers and firefighters should be able to retire after 25 years of service and begin collecting pension checks, even if they are in their forties or fifties, or should they have to be older than that to retire and collect pension checks regardless of the number of years they have served?

They should be able to retire after 25 years and begin collecting pension checks, even if they are in their forties or fifties.



43%

They should have to be older than that to retire and collect pension checks



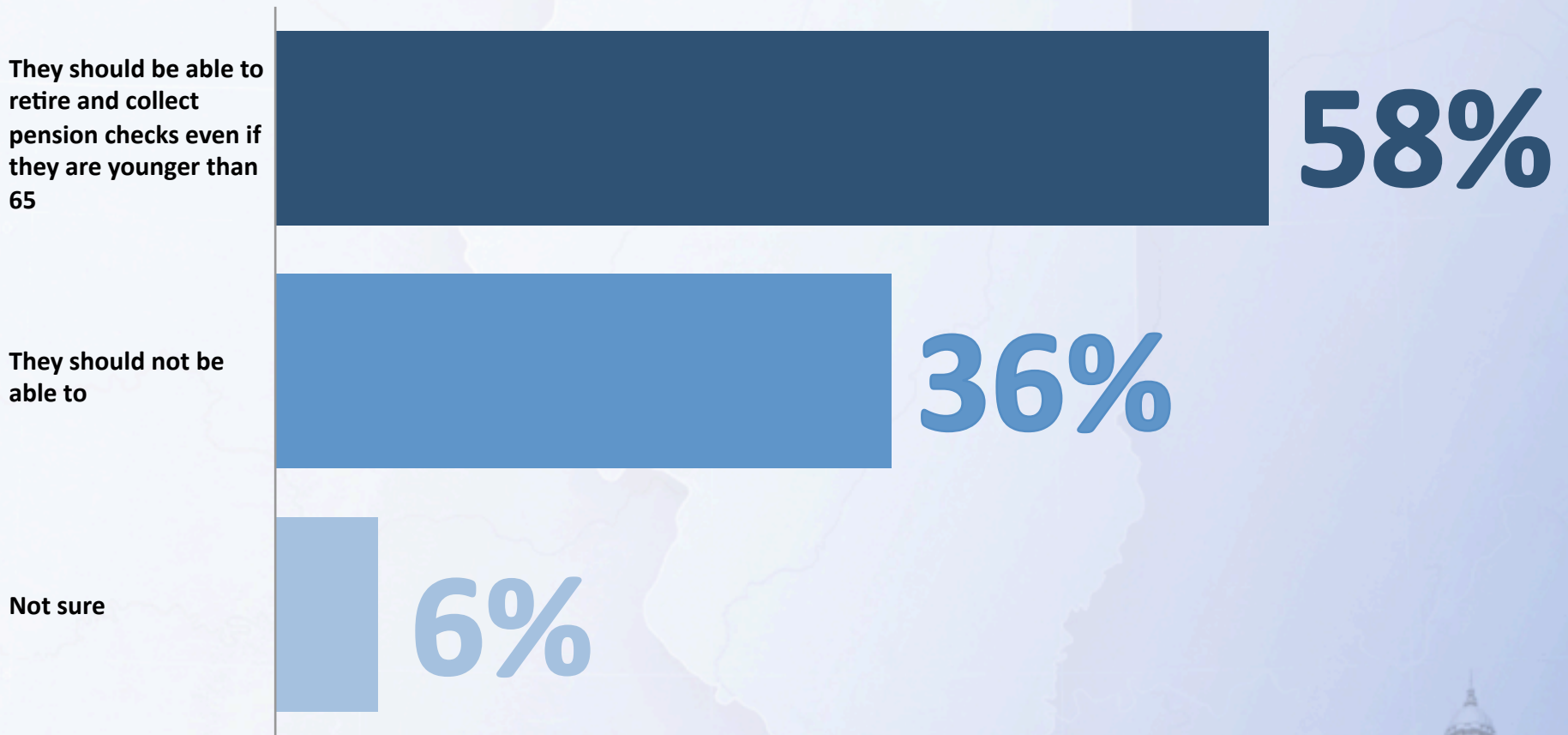
53%

Not sure

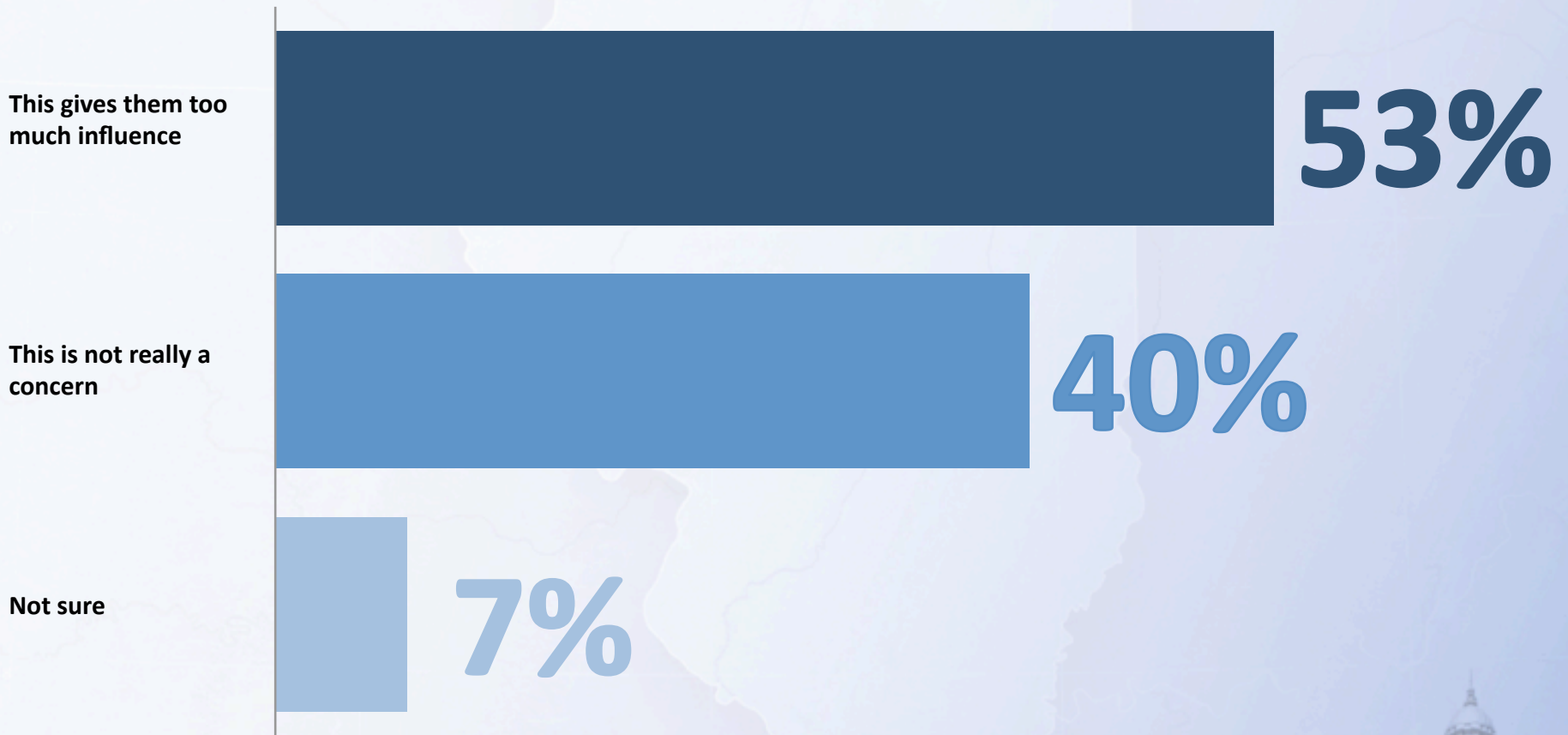


4%

25) Do you think teachers should be able to retire after a set period of service and begin collecting pension checks even if they are younger than 65, or should they not be able to do this?

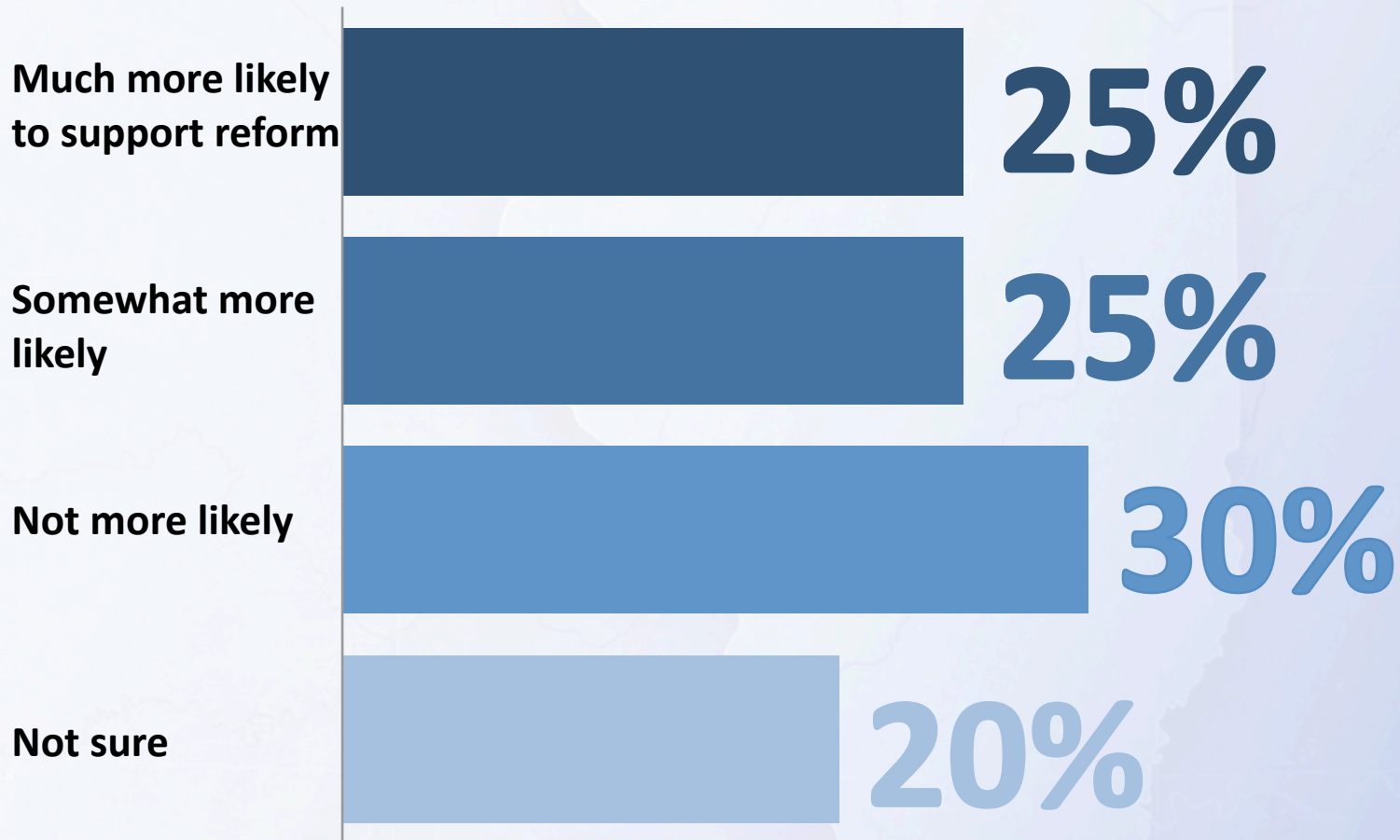


26) Public employee unions lobby and elect public officials with whom they later negotiate in the collective bargaining process. Do you think this gives them too much influence, or it this not really a concern?



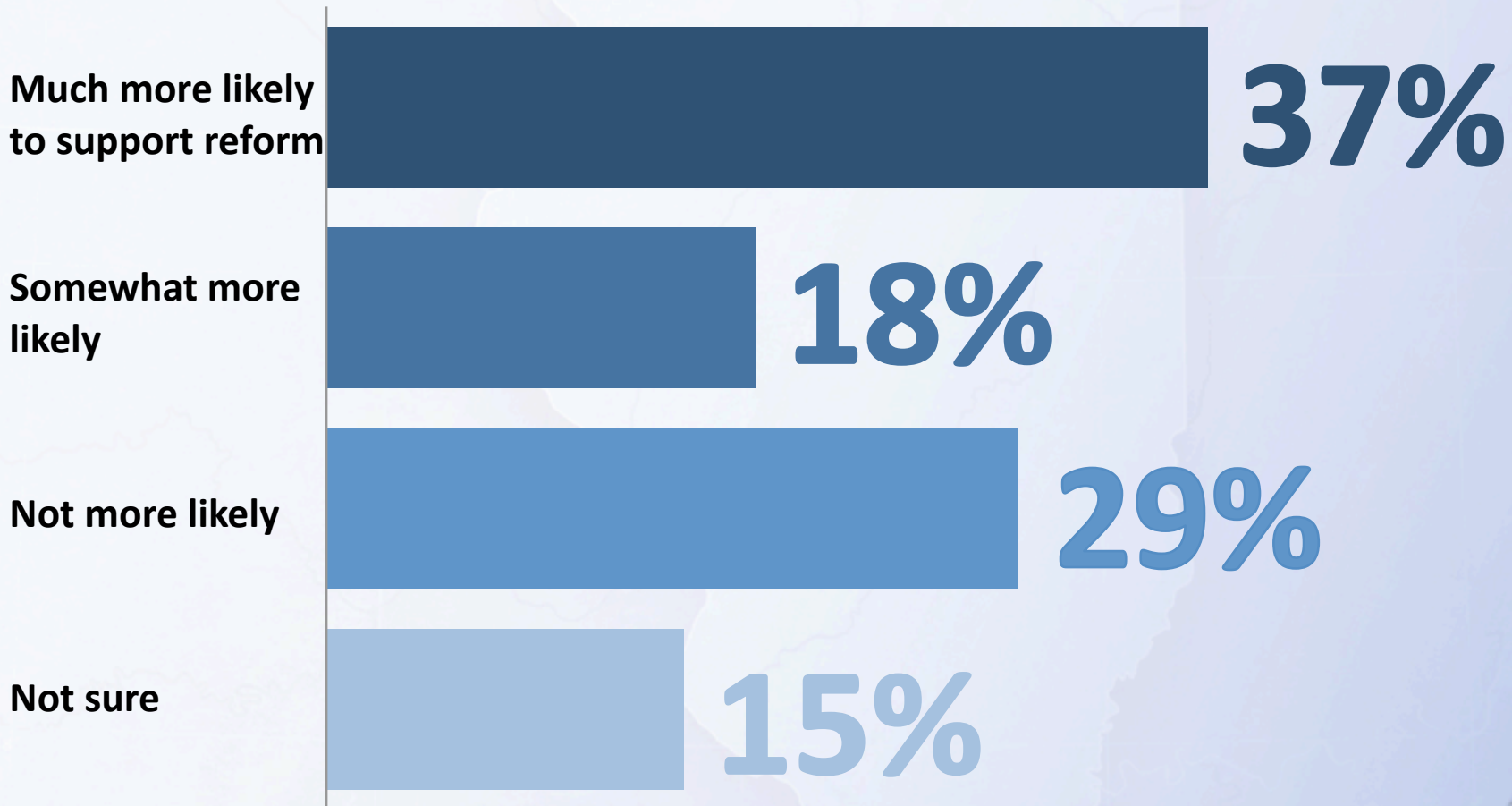
Outcomes of Reform

27) Reforming public employees' salaries and benefits will equalize private and public sector salaries.



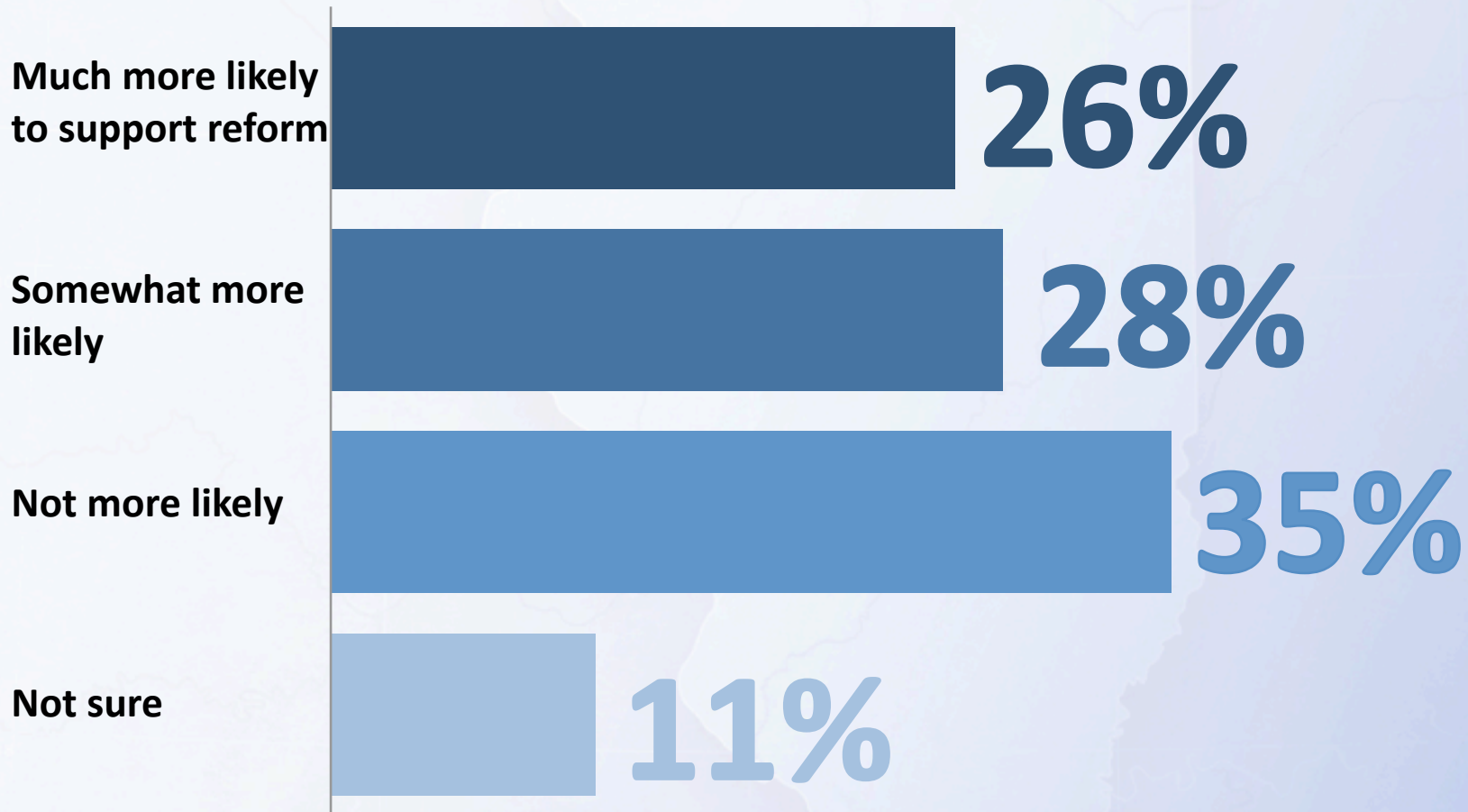
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28) Reforming public employees' salaries and benefits will make government more efficient and effective.

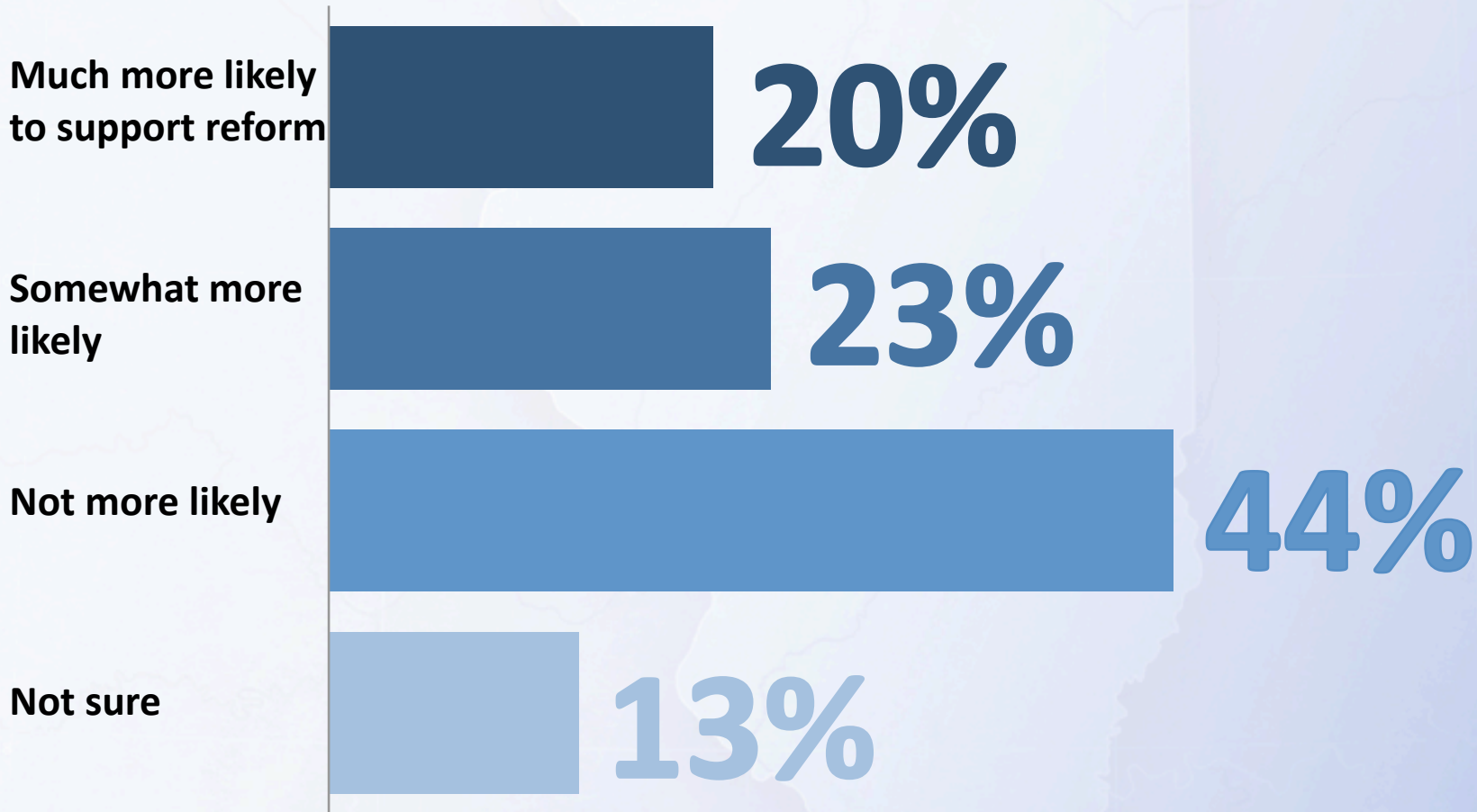


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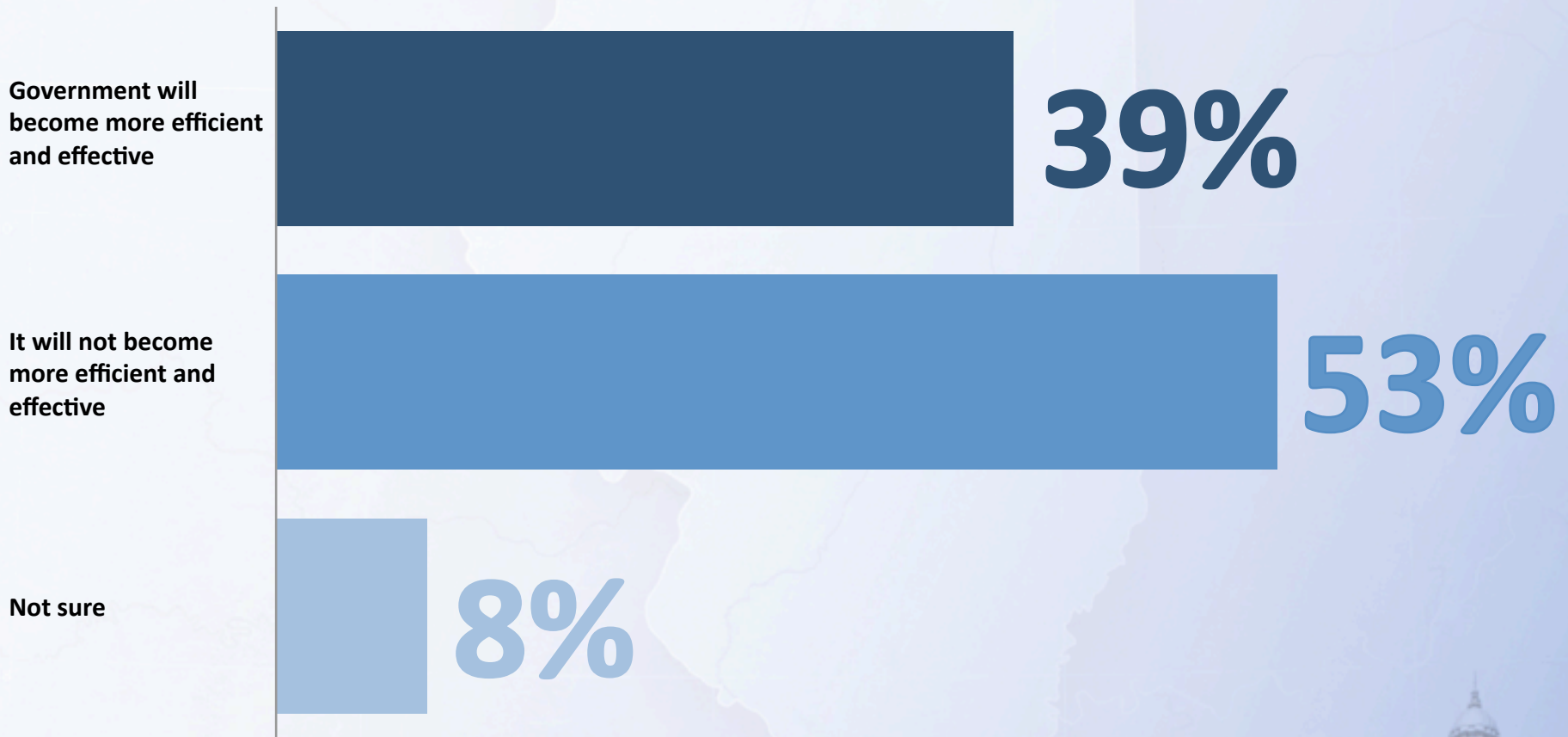
29) Reforming public employees' salaries and benefits will help preserve key social programs by making government more efficient.



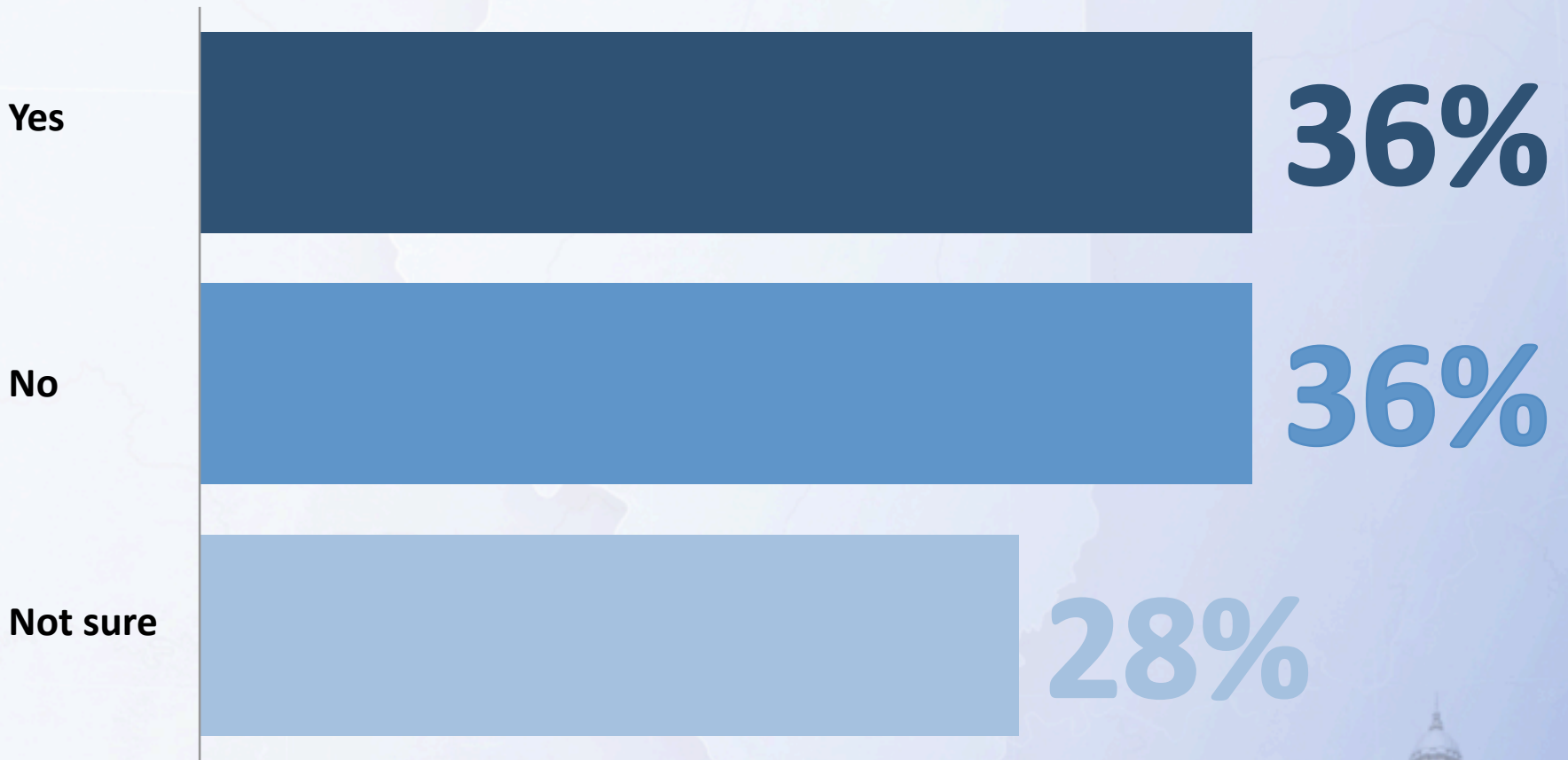
30) Reforming public employees' salaries and benefits will hold the line on taxes.



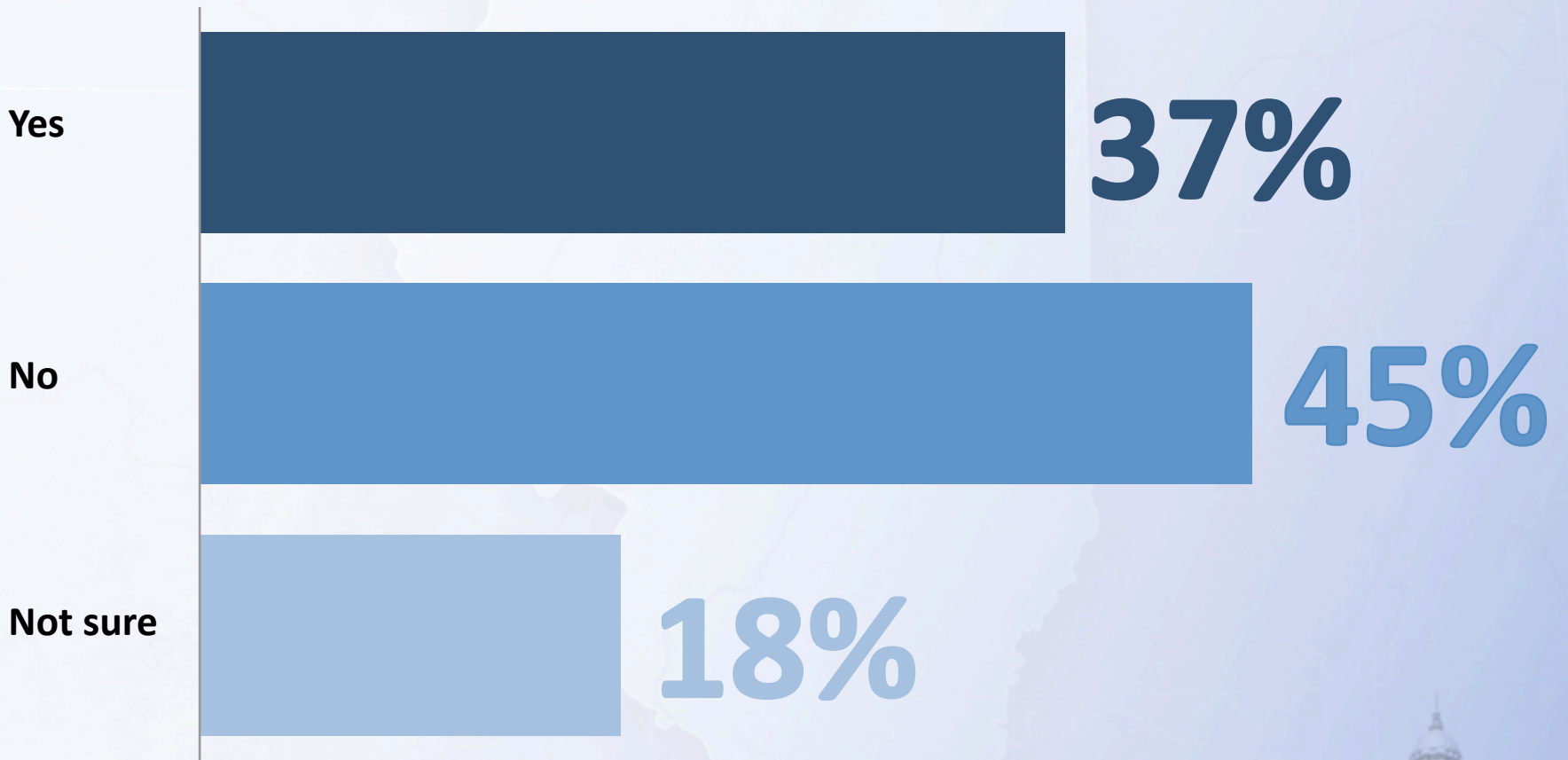
31) We have just asked about outcomes from reforming wages and salaries. Collective bargaining is the process of how these wages and salaries are negotiated. If there is collective bargaining reform, do you think it will make government more efficient and effective, or will it not make it more efficient and effective?



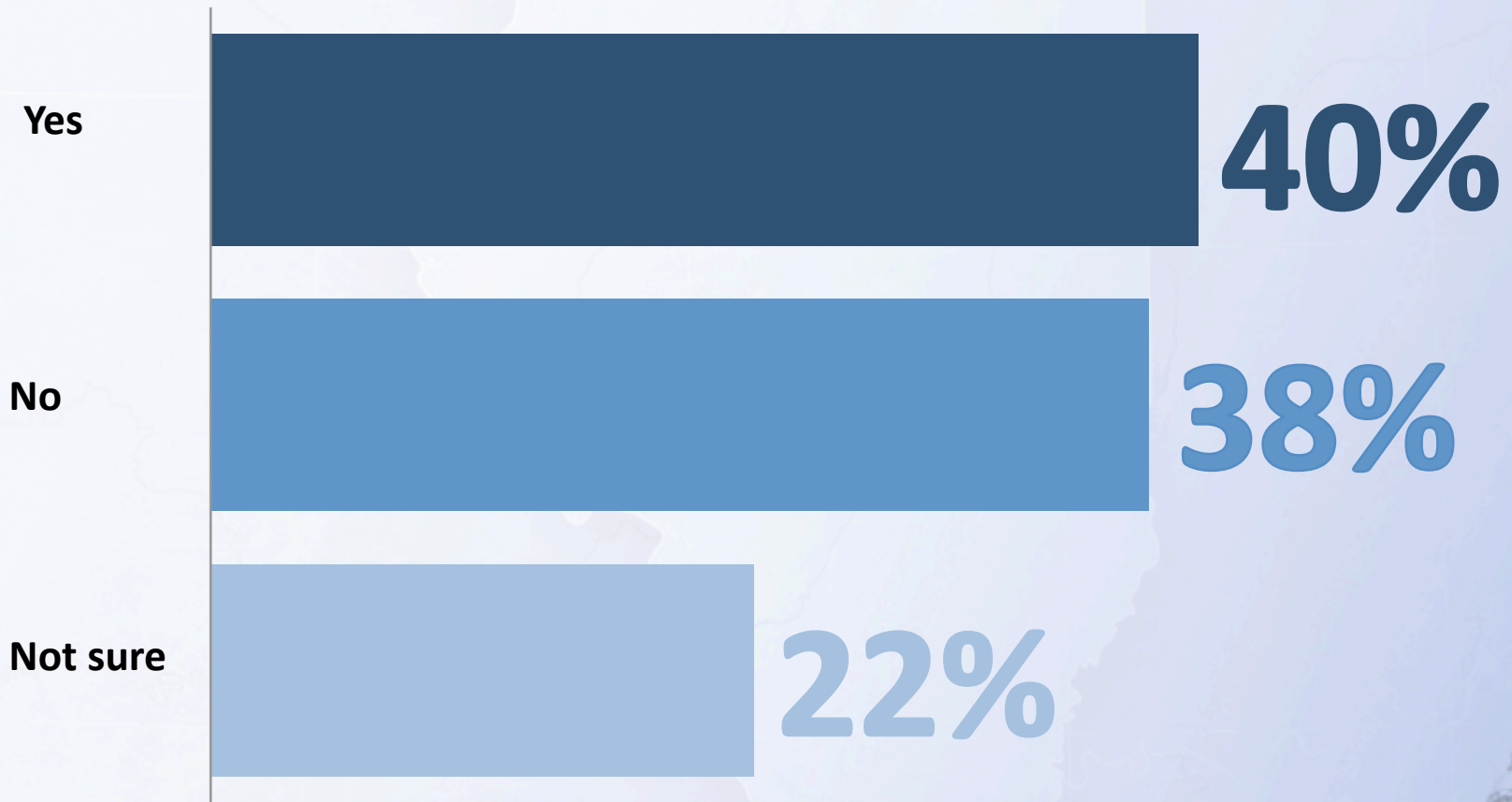
32) We have just asked about outcomes from reforming wages and salaries. Collective bargaining is the process by which these wages and salaries are negotiated. If there is collective bargaining reform, do you think it will equalize private and public sector salaries?



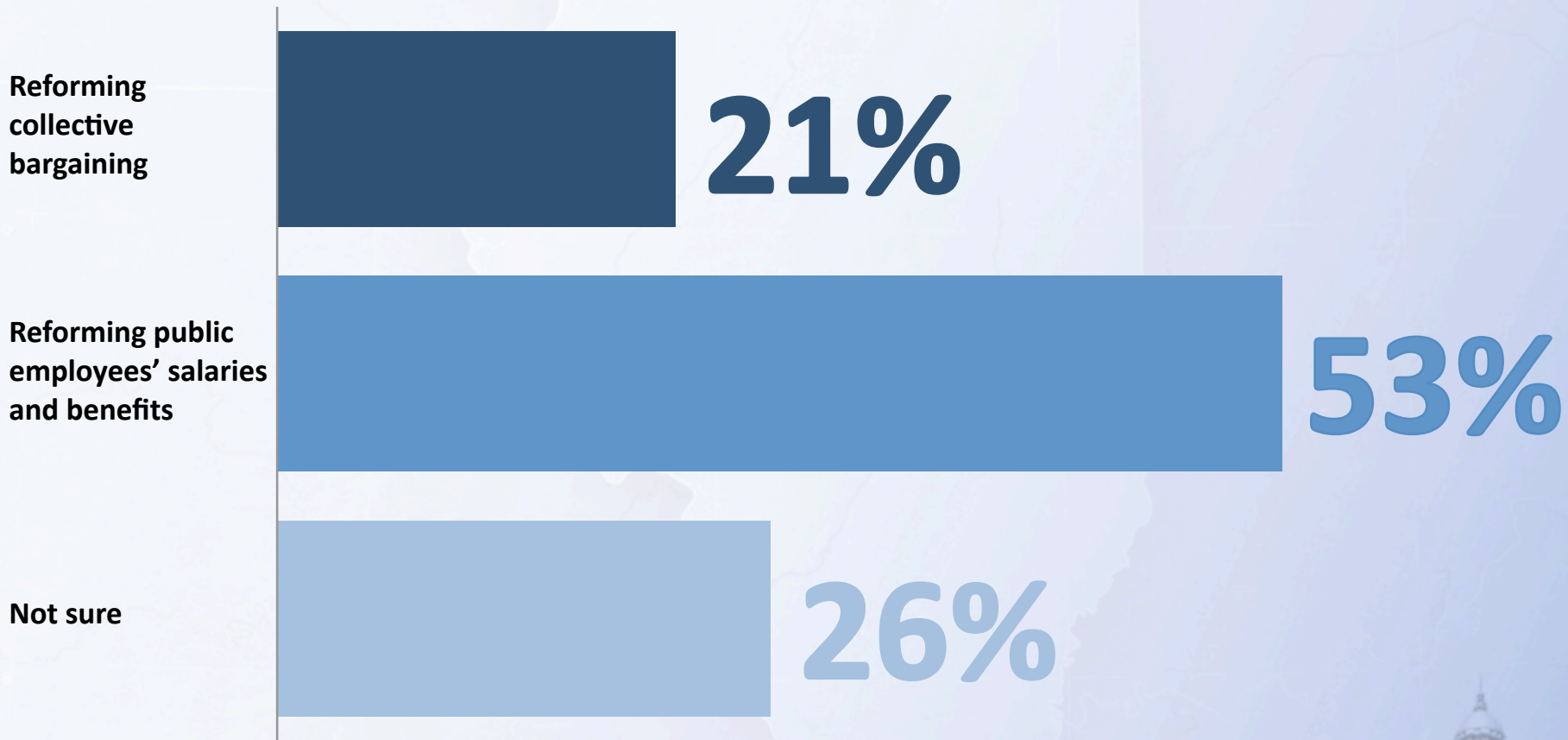
33) We have just asked about outcomes from reforming wages and salaries. Collective bargaining is the process by which these wages and salaries are negotiated. If there is collective bargaining reform, do you think it will help preserve key social programs by making government more efficient?



34) Do you think collective bargaining reform will make state budgets more resilient?



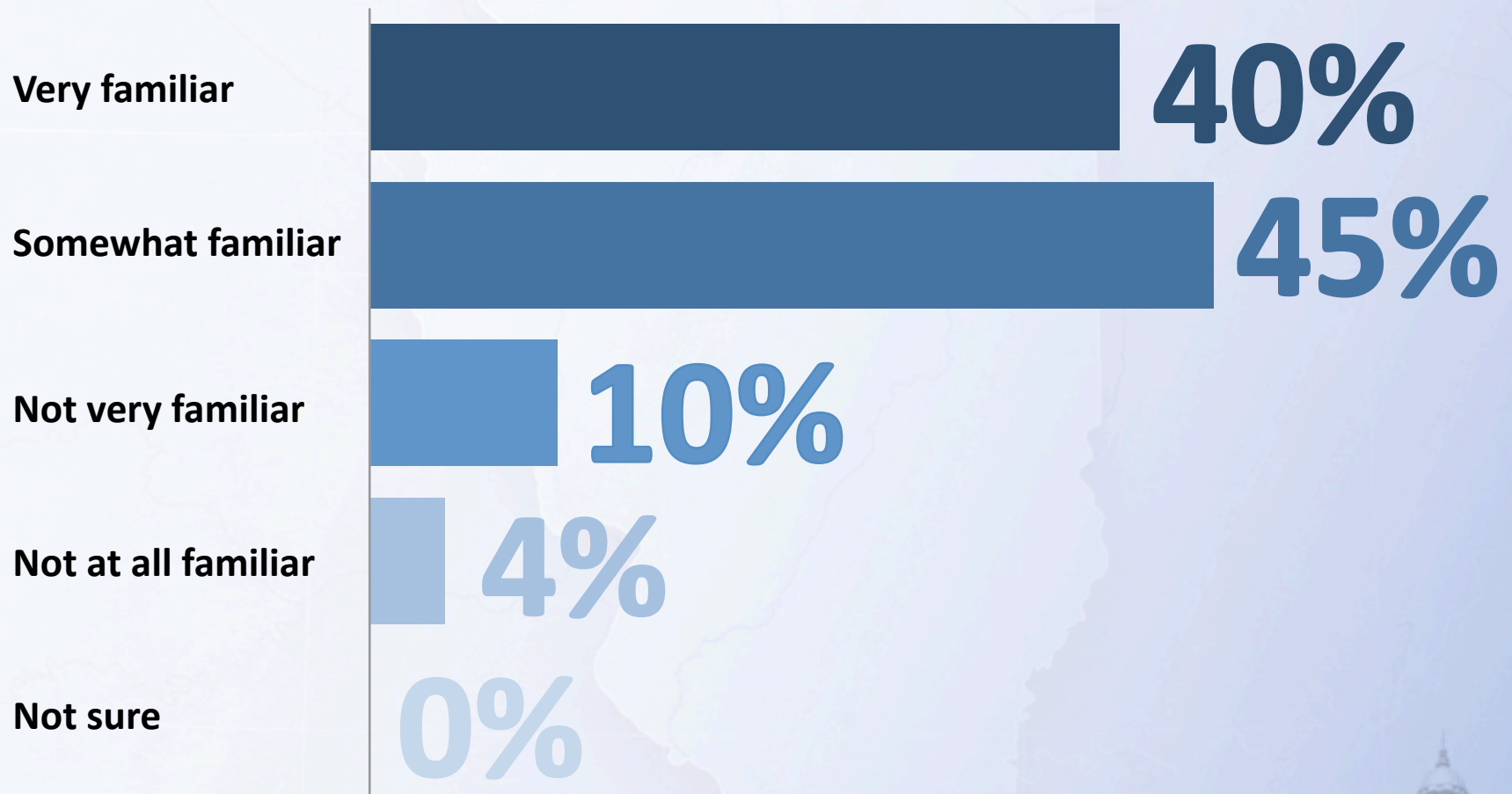
35) Which is more important to improving the state's finances: reforming the collective bargaining process or reforming the way public employees are compensated and the benefits they receive?



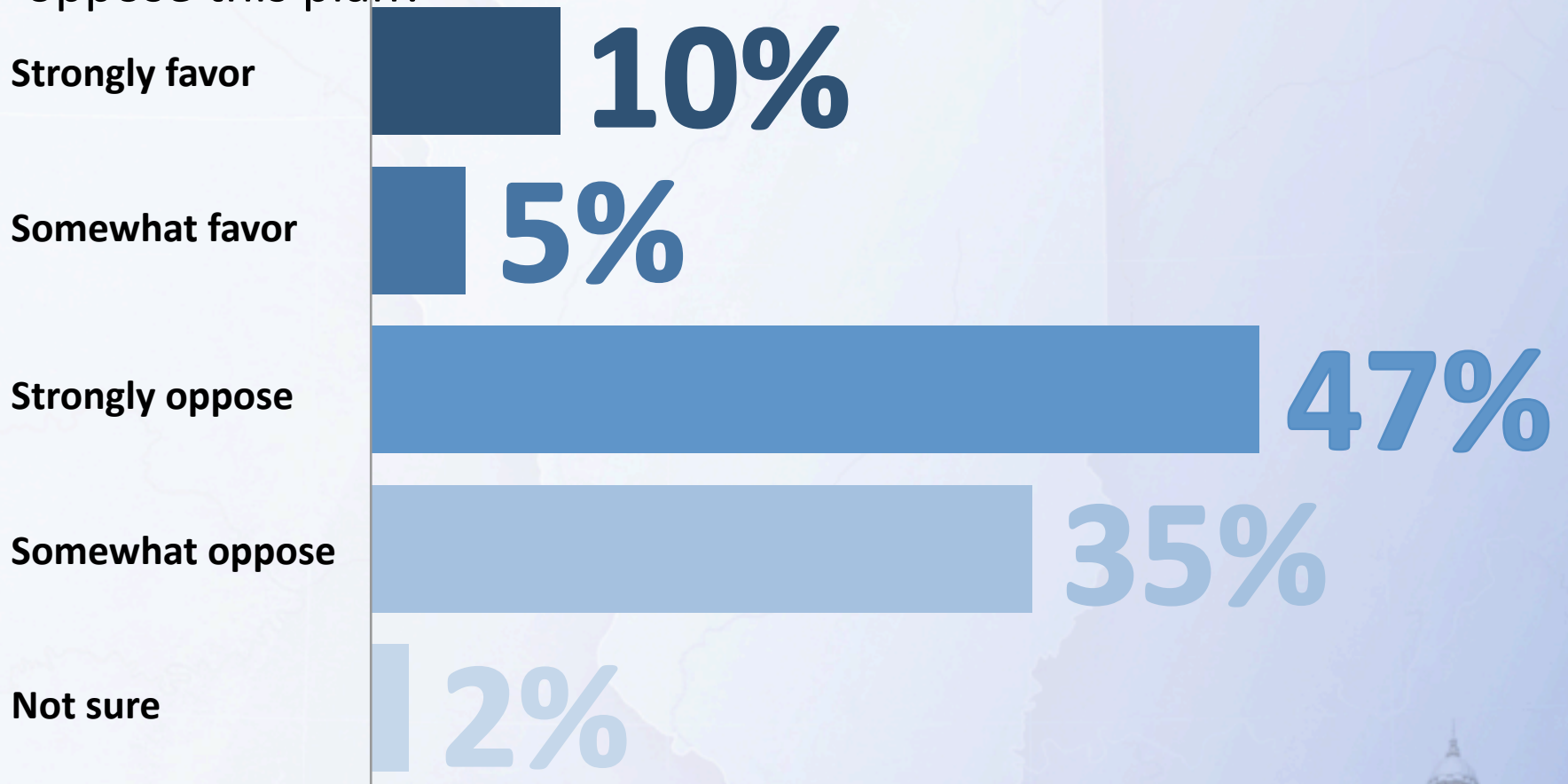
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Questions about Illinois

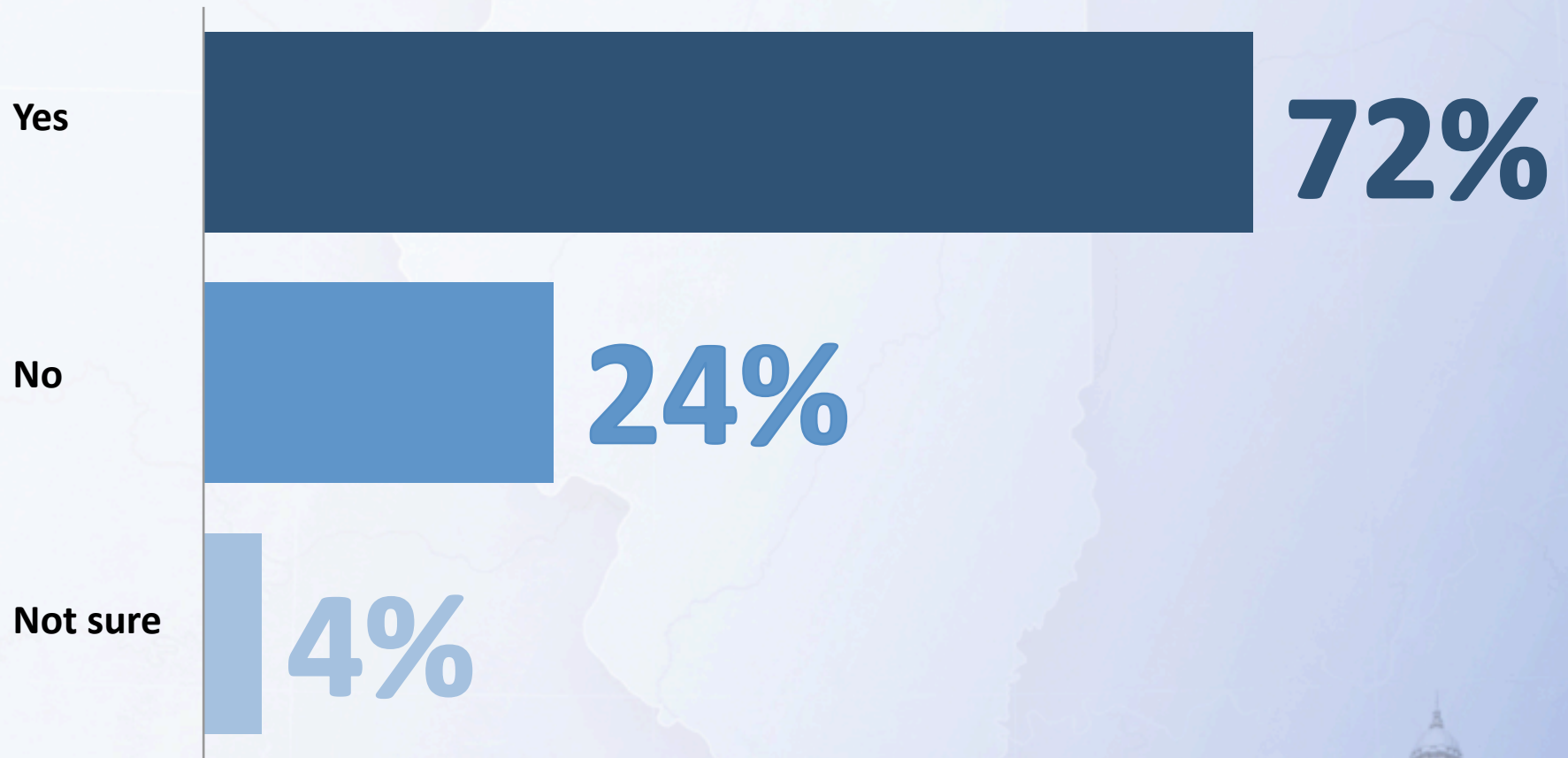
36) How familiar are you with the budget crisis Illinois faced this year?



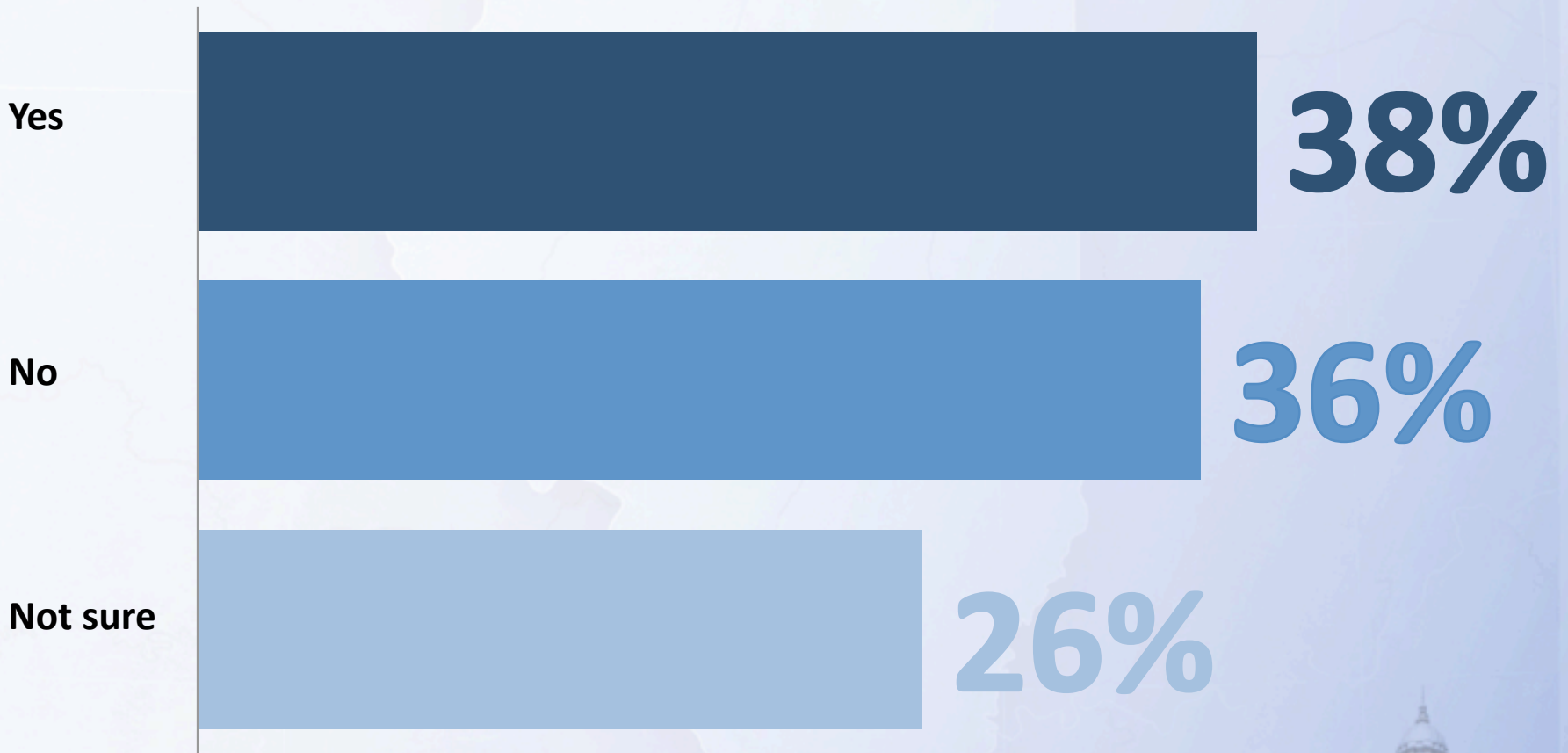
37) Illinois addressed its budget crisis not by decreasing spending, but by delaying the payment of billions of dollars in unpaid bills and by raising state income taxes. Do you favor or oppose this plan?



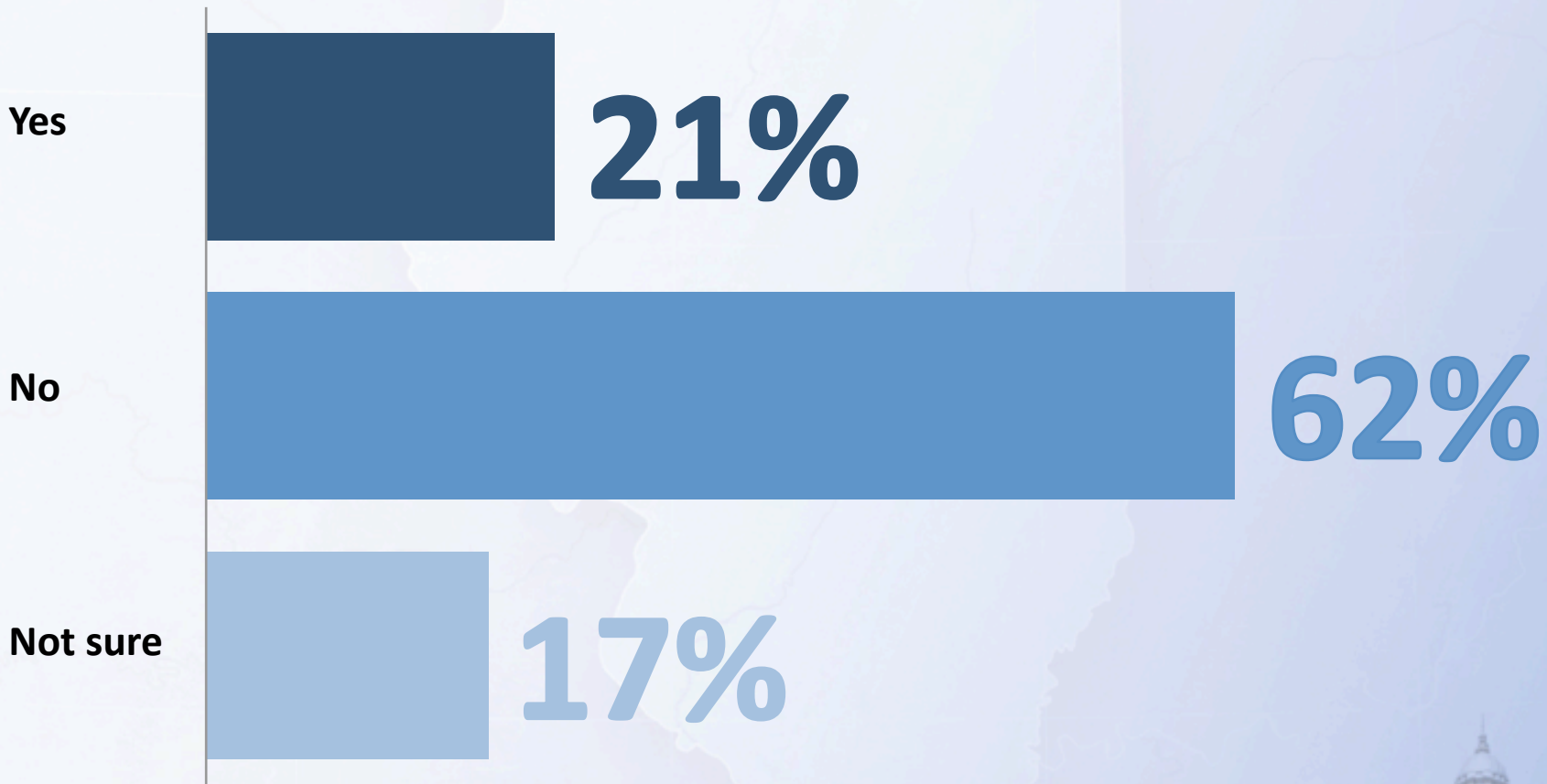
38) Do you think that government employees should have the option of not joining a union when they work for the State of Illinois?



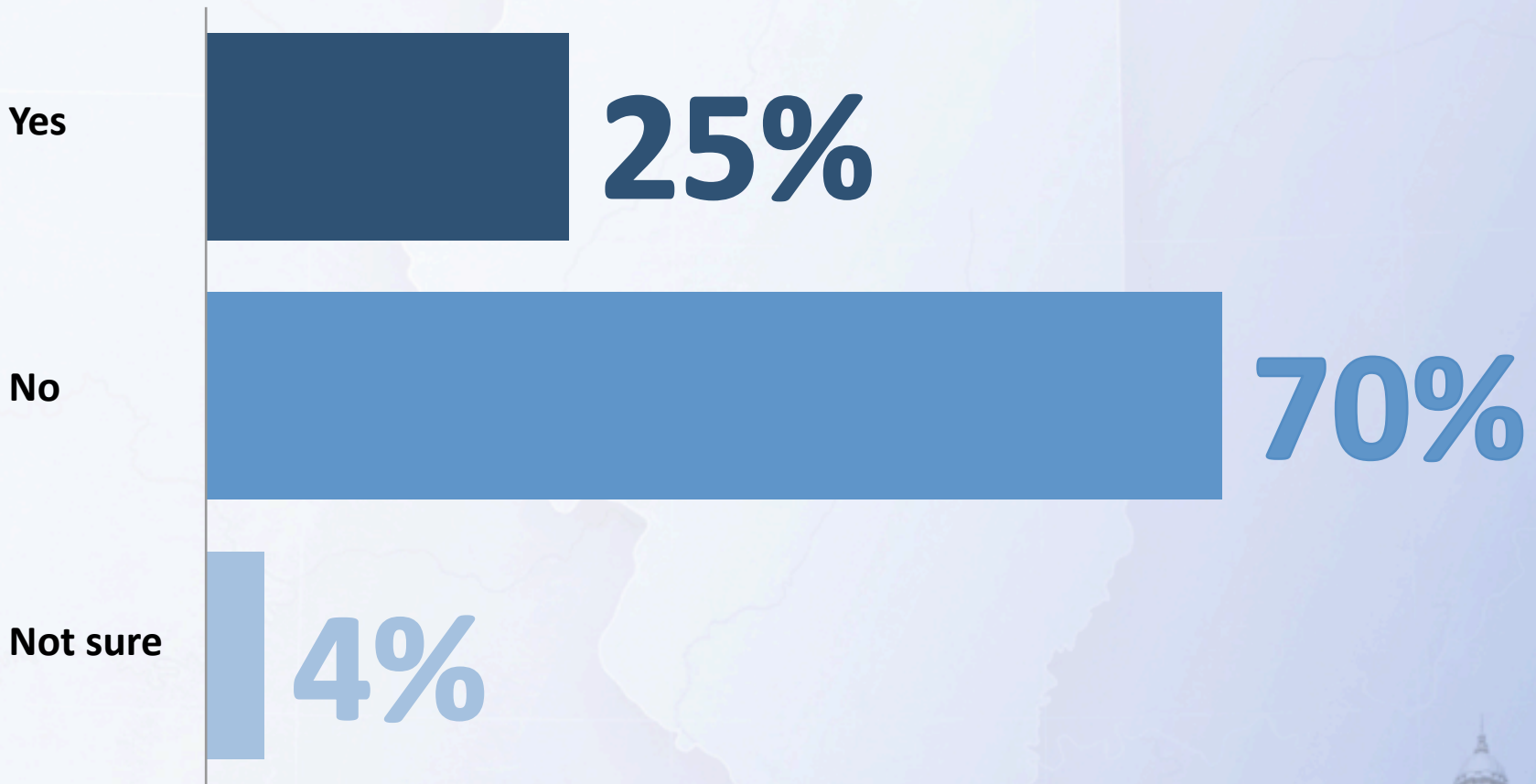
39) Do you feel that public employees in Illinois are paying their fair share towards retirement costs, including health care?



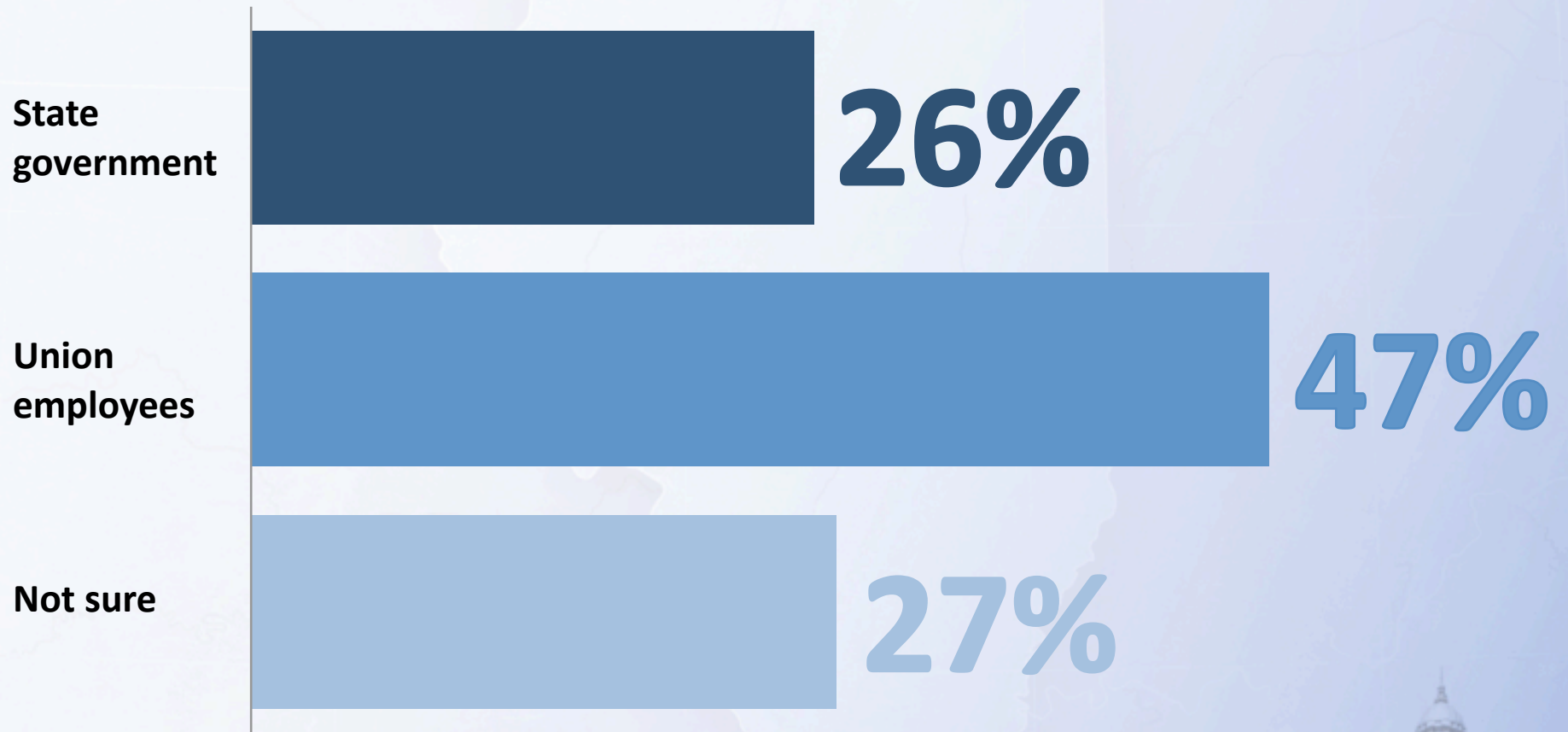
40) Do you feel that public employee unions have done their fair share to solve the budget crisis in Illinois?



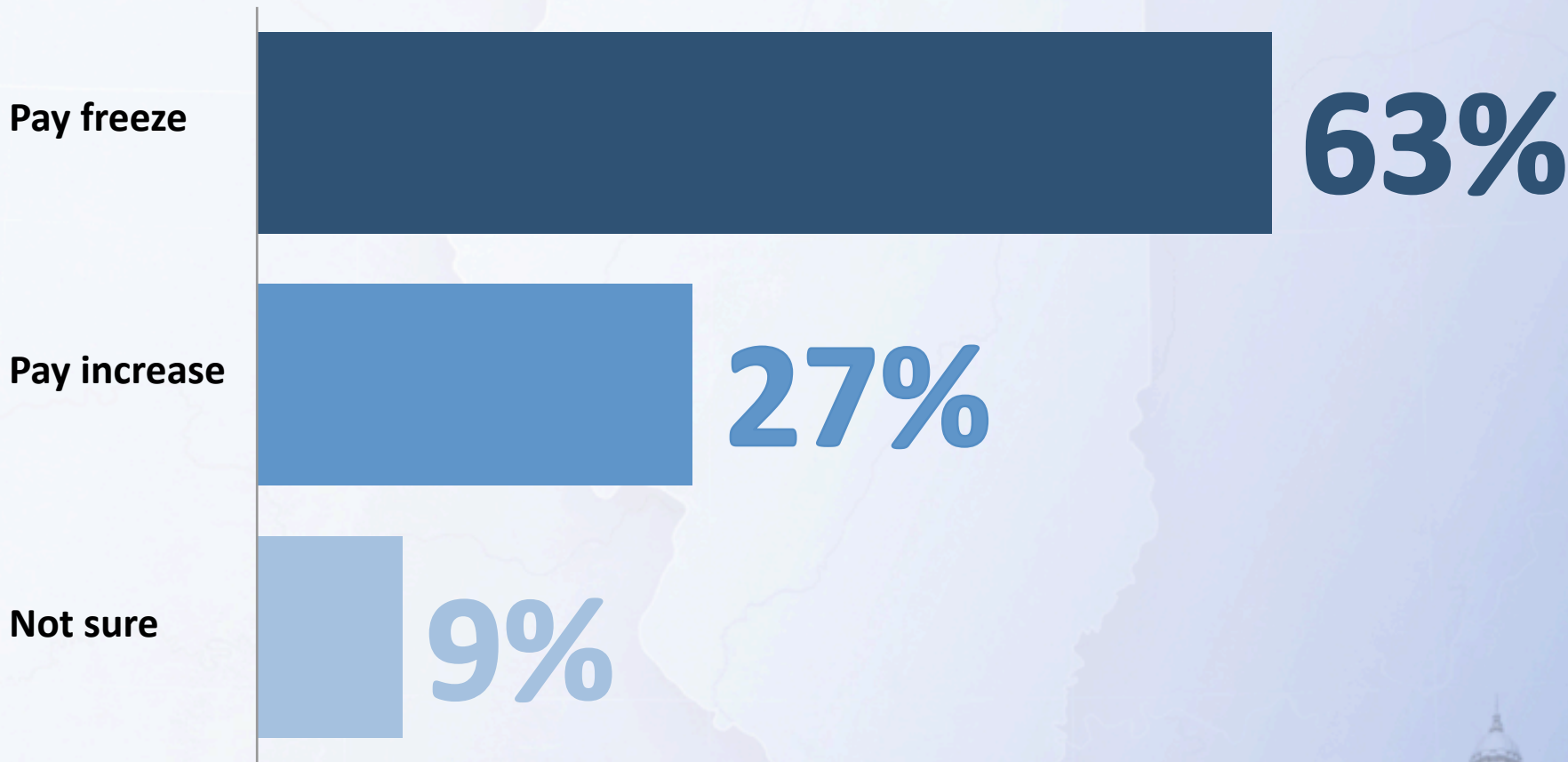
41) Have you heard about the lawsuit between the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and the State of Illinois?



42) [If yes] Who do you side with, the state government or the union employees?

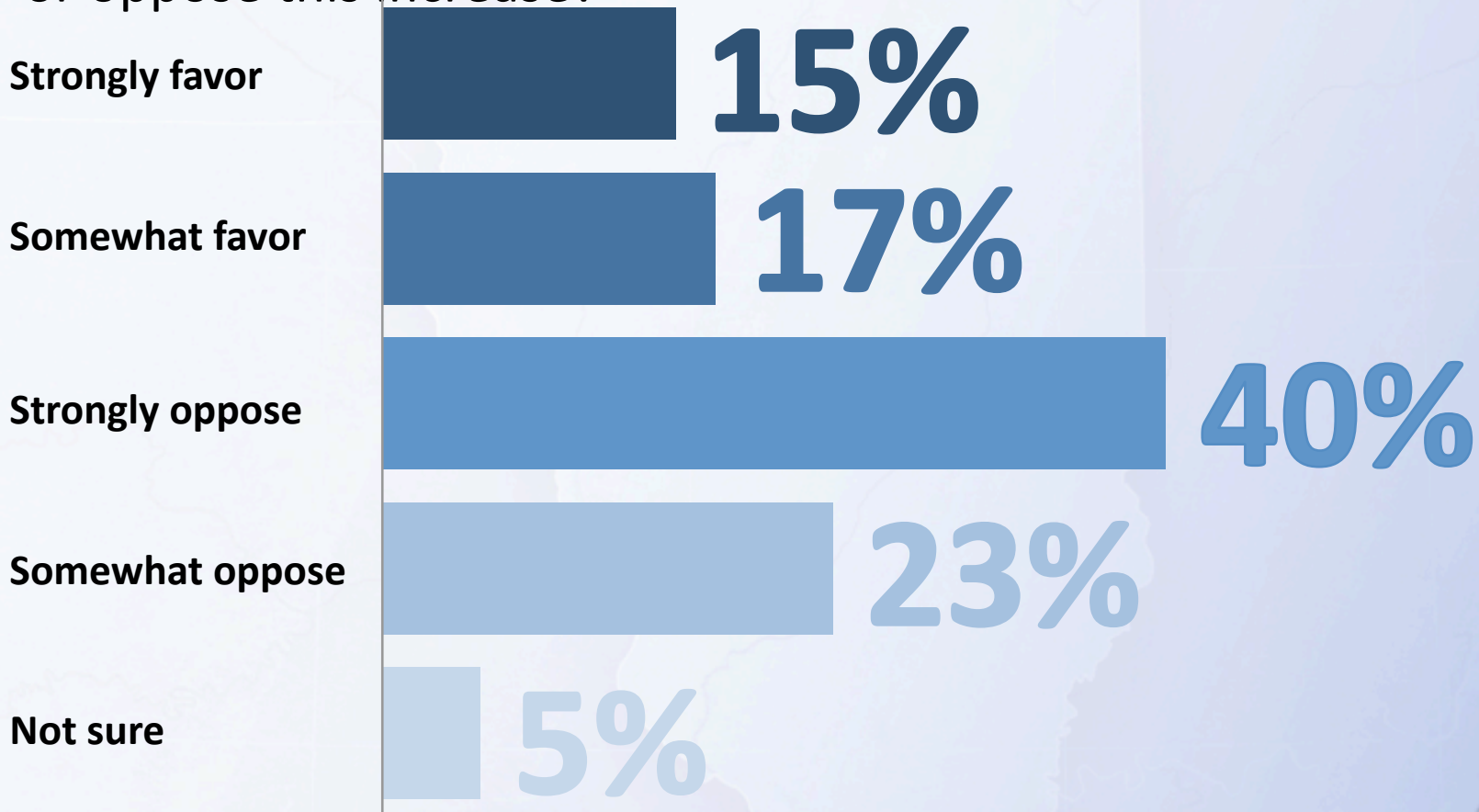


43) In the lawsuit, the union claims that its contract guarantees a pay increase, but the state has proposed a pay freeze at some agencies because of the current budget crisis. Do you favor a pay freeze instead or a pay increase?

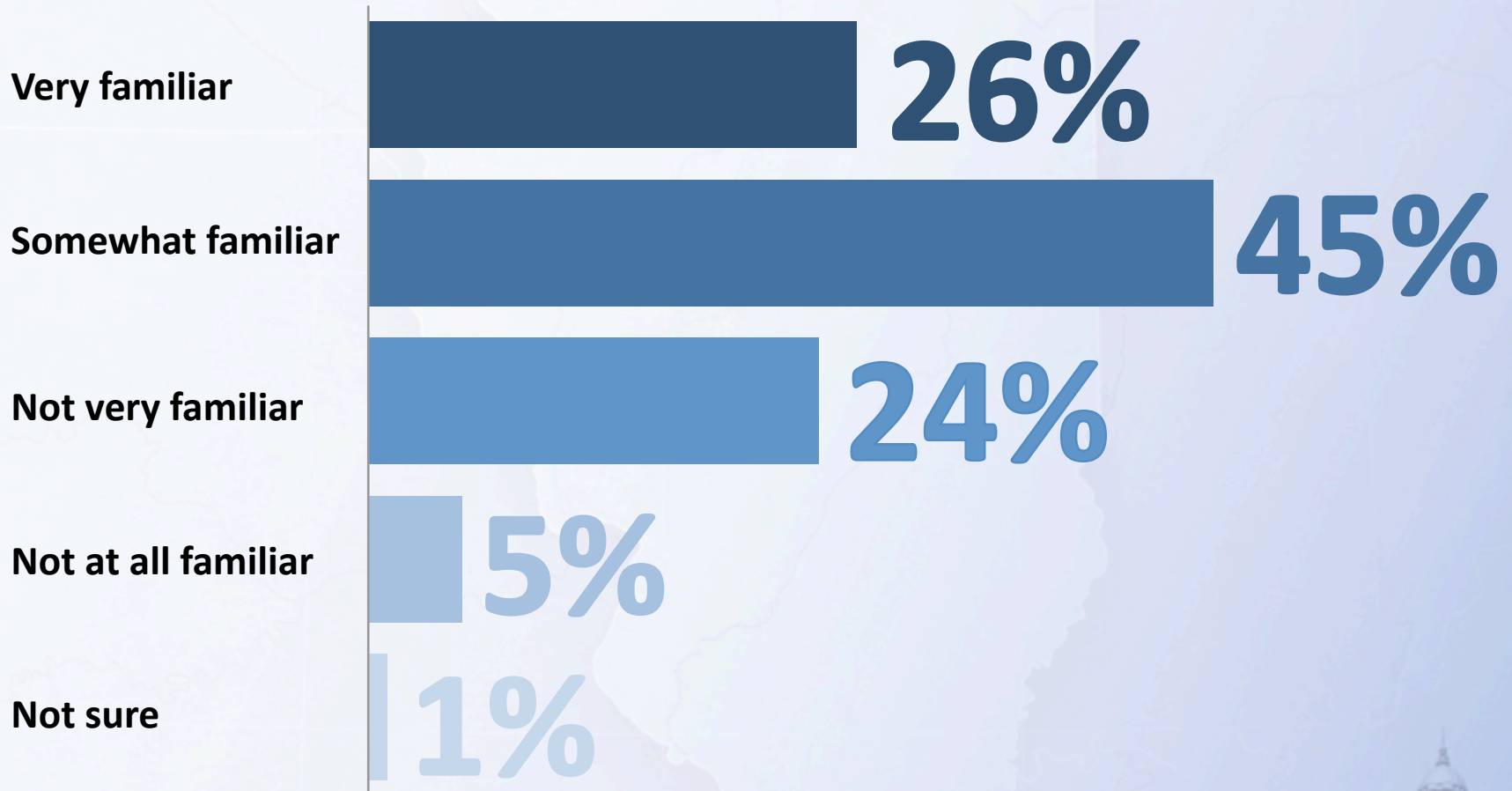


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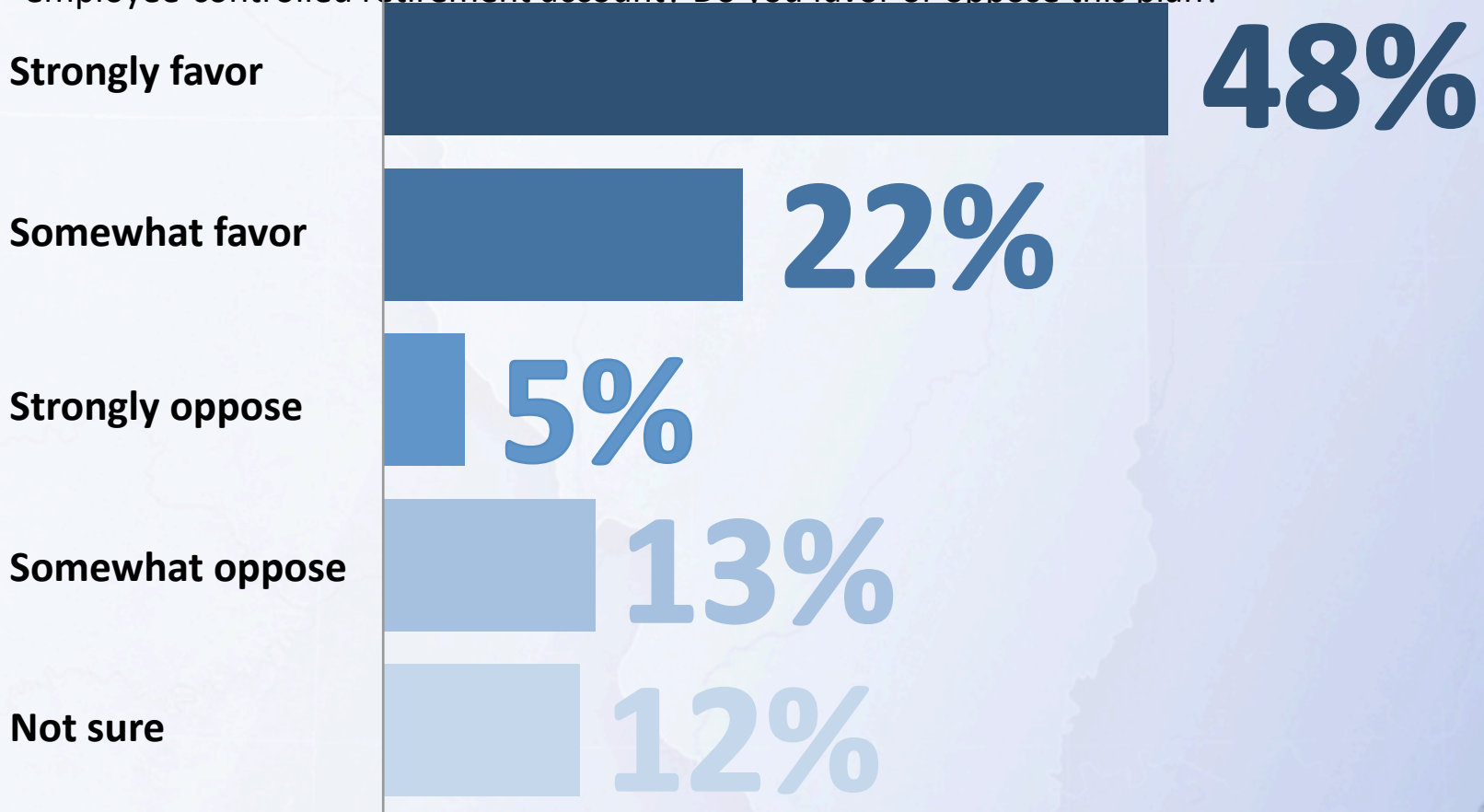
44) Lawmakers in Springfield recently increased income taxes by more than \$7 billion, moving the individual tax rate from 3% to 5%, as a means of addressing Illinois' budget crisis. Do you favor or oppose this increase?



45) How familiar are you with the funding crisis facing state and local pension funds in Illinois?

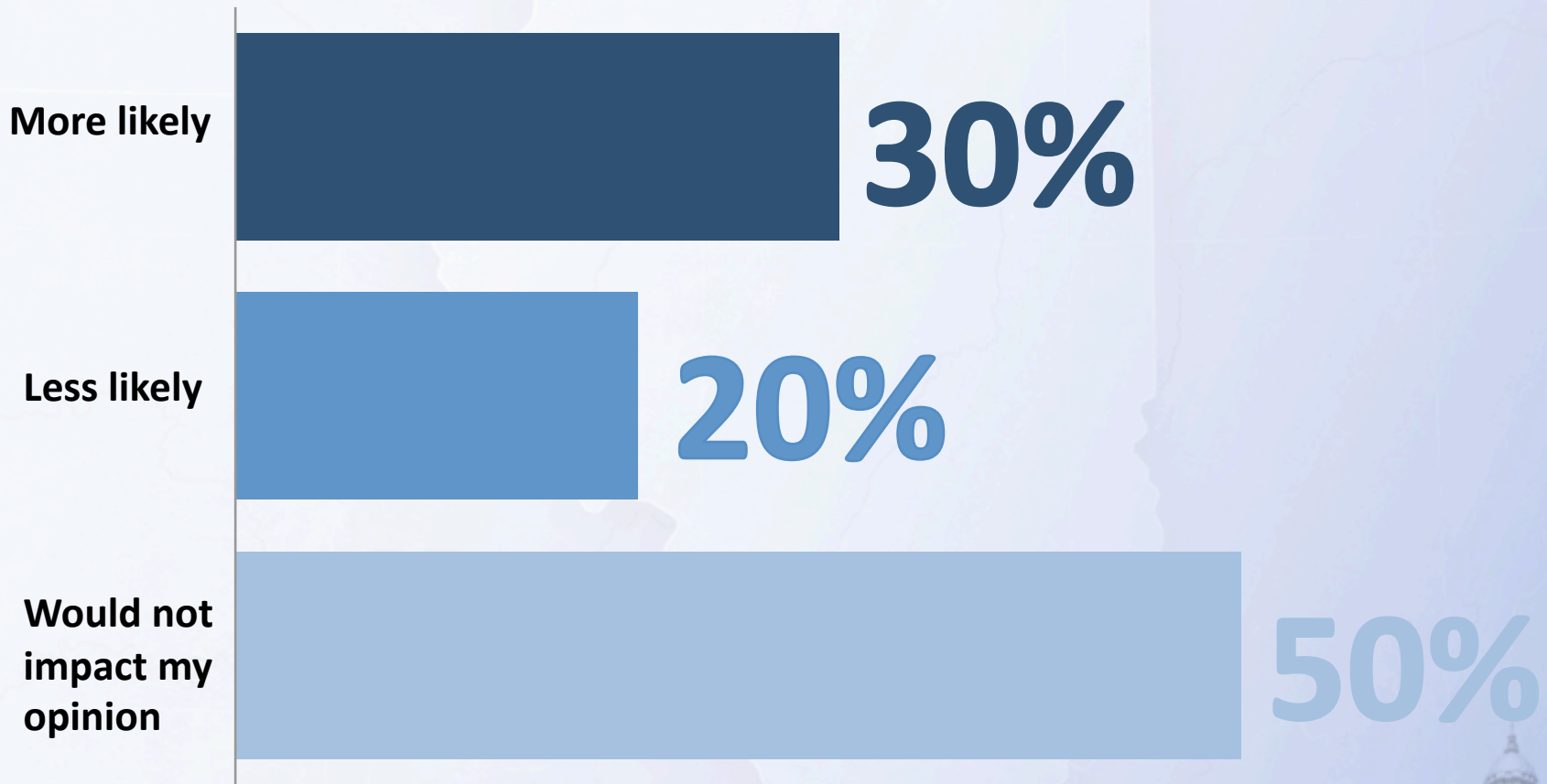


46) To address the pension crisis, a plan has been introduced that would freeze in place benefits earned to date, but would change the structure of additional pension benefits earned going forward. Employees could choose to contribute more from their salary to keep earning the same benefits, contribute the same amount they are currently contributing but earn more modest benefits or continue contributing the same amount they are currently contributing and open an employee-controlled retirement account? Do you favor or oppose this plan?

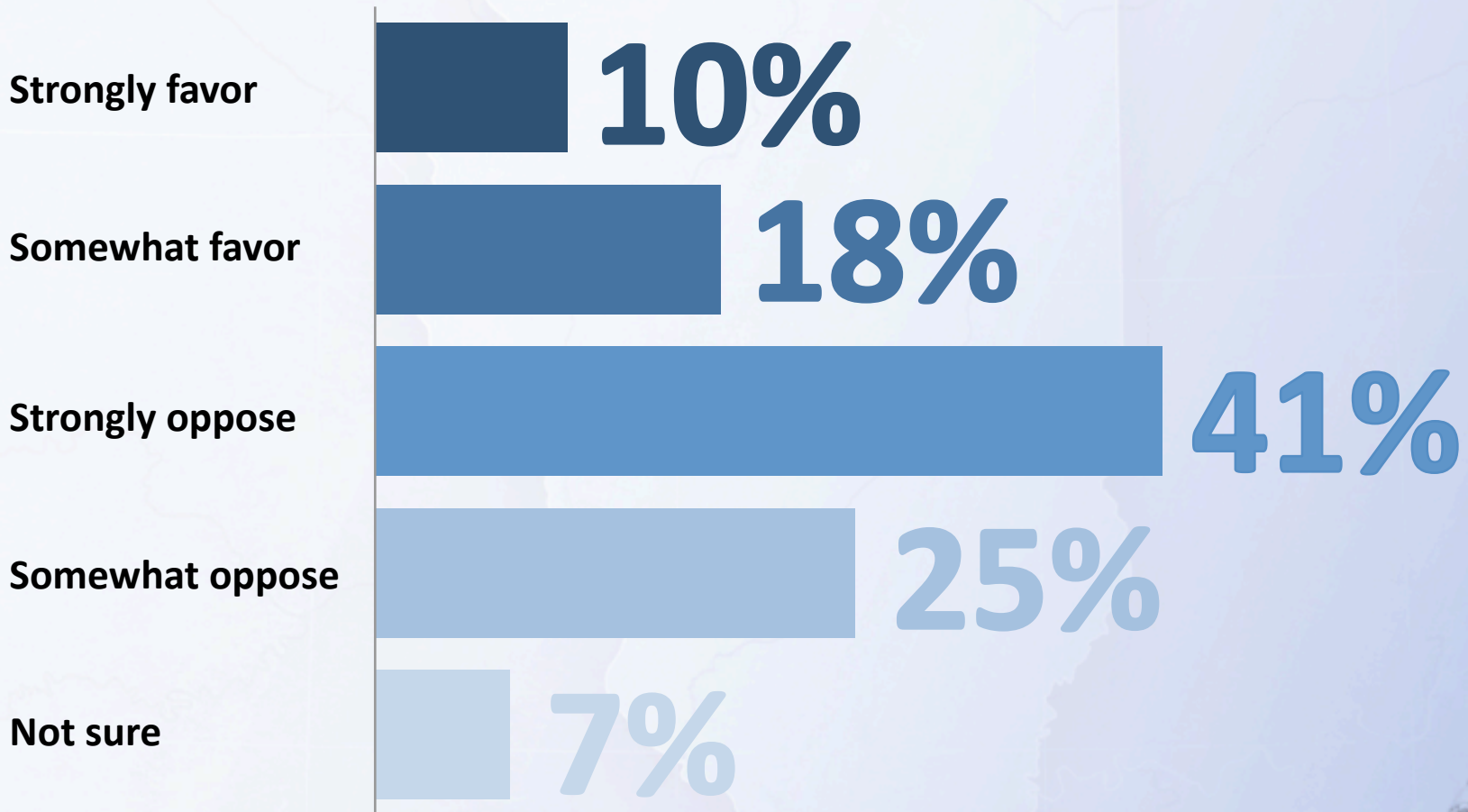


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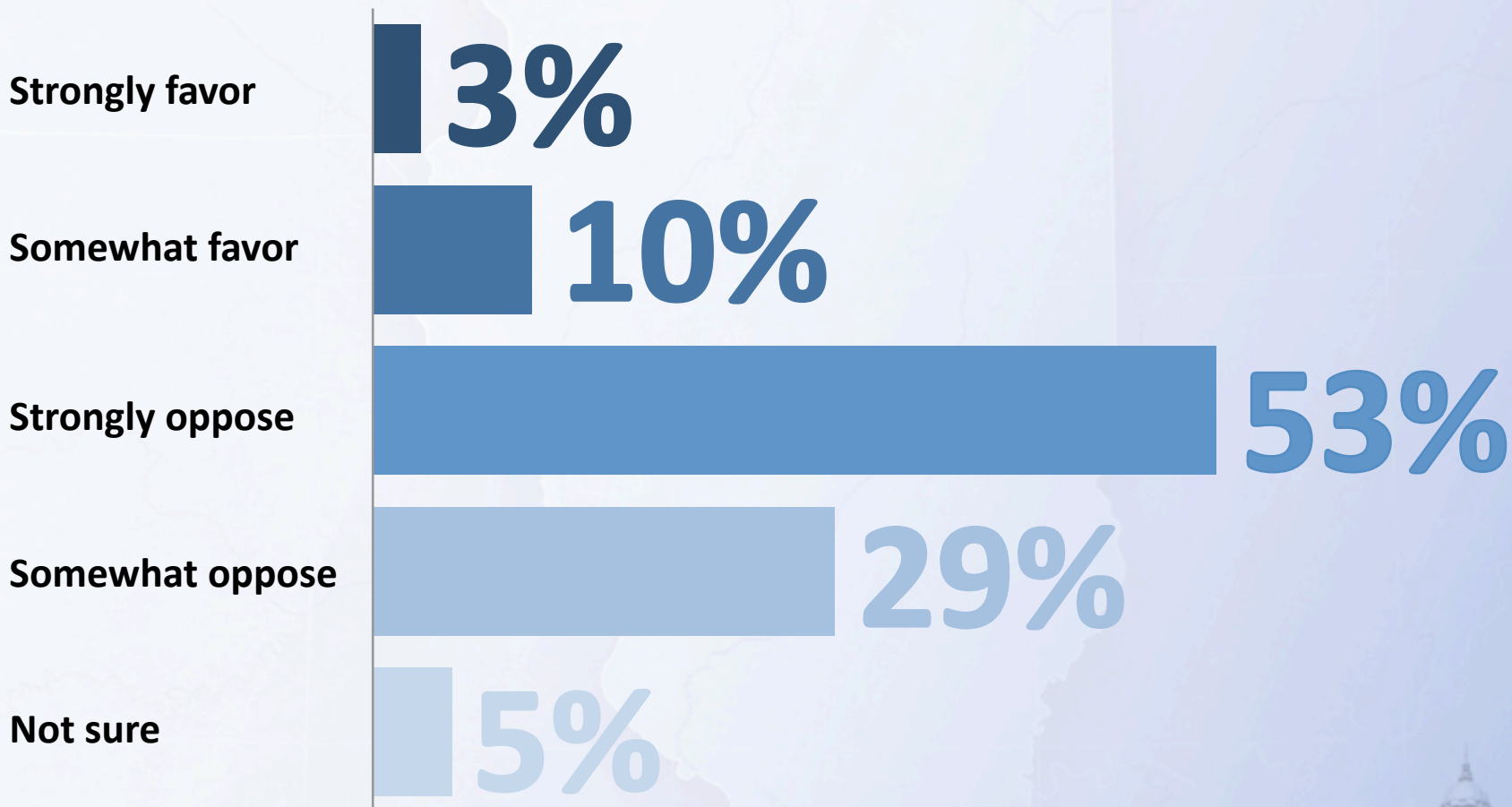
47) If your state representative voted in favor of this reform, would you be more or less likely to vote for him or her, or would this not affect your opinion?



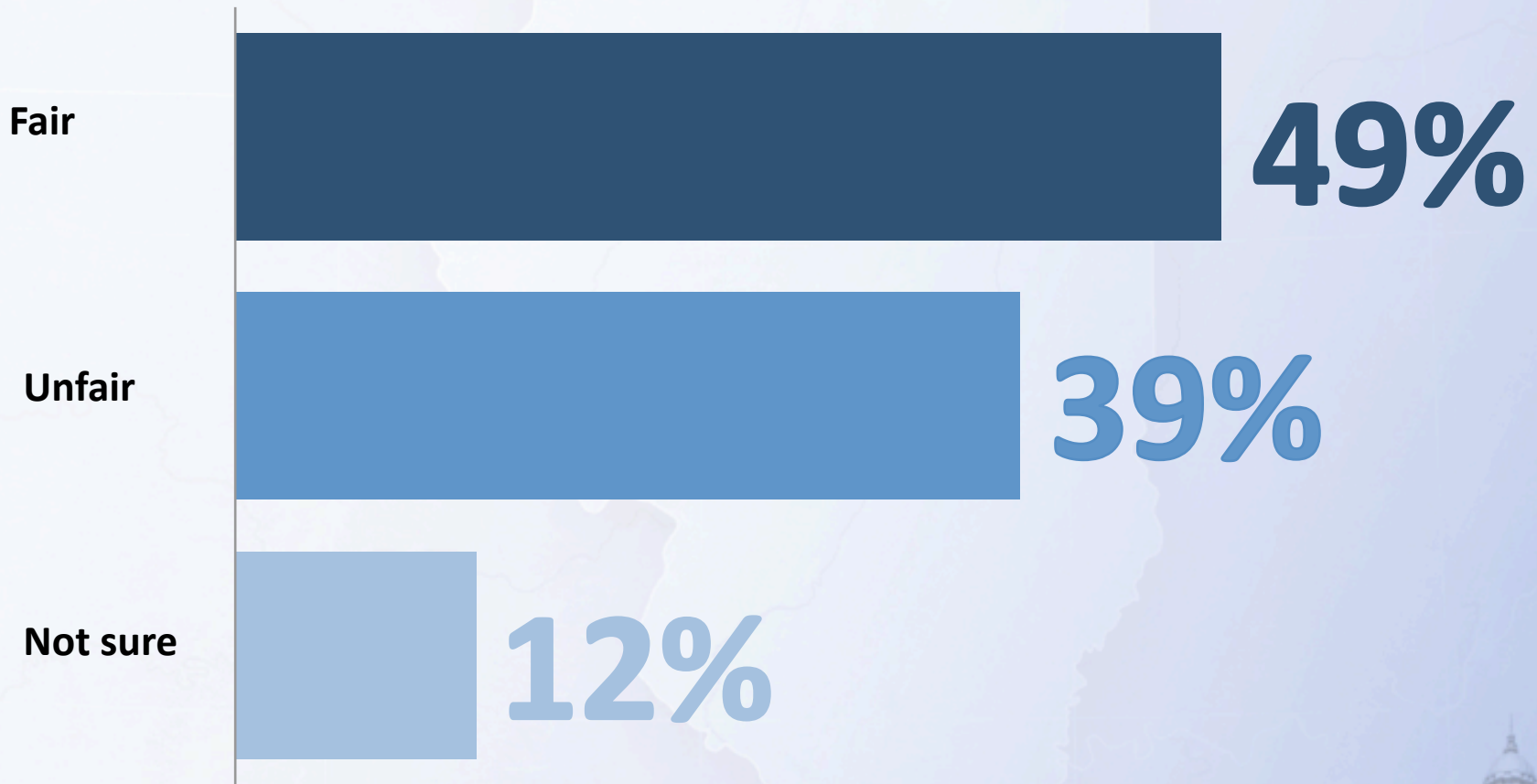
48) Do you favor or oppose a nationwide federal bailout of states and their pension funds?



49) Would you favor or oppose paying higher federal taxes to bail out another state's unfunded pension system?



50) Given the pension crisis facing Illinois, do you think it is fair or unfair to ask current public employees to earn a less generous set of benefits in the future if their benefits for work already completed are secure?



51) Chicago Public Schools have a shorter school day than schools in most major cities across the country and in Illinois. The mayor is asking for employees to work a longer day. This and other issues have led the head of the Chicago Teachers Union to threaten a strike. Do you think the union is within its right to say they will strike to protect a shorter work day, or do you think they are acting beyond what is fair and reasonable under the circumstances?

