

Illinois Statewide Survey Public Education & Charter Public Schools

Key Findings from a Survey of 600 Registered Voters
April 20-22, 2015

Methodology

Public Opinion Strategies conducted a survey of 600 registered voters in Illinois. Four-hundred and twenty respondents were contacted via landline and 180 via cell phone.

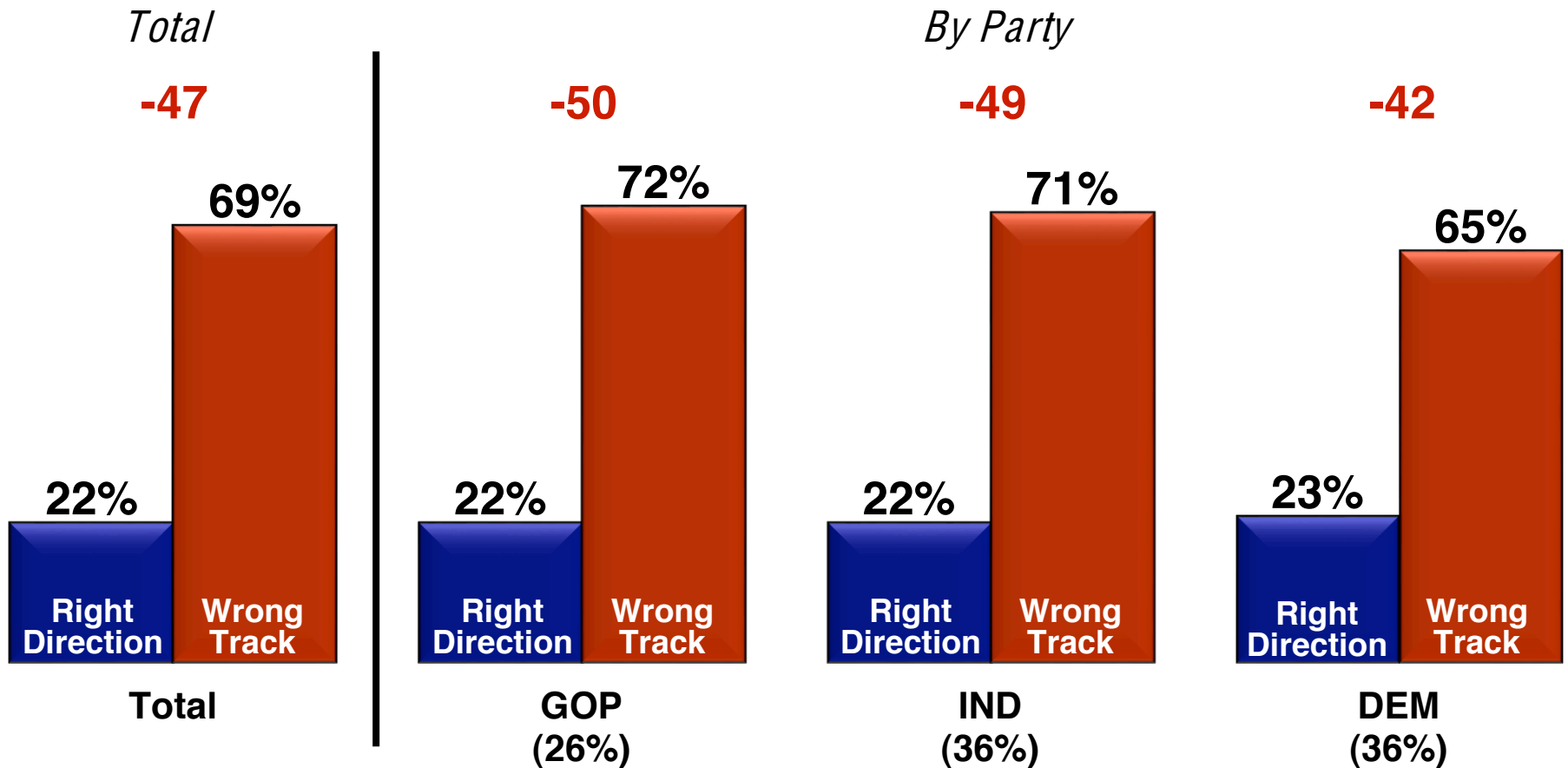
The survey was conducted April 20-22, 2015 and has a margin of error of $\pm 4.0\%$.



The State's Political Environment

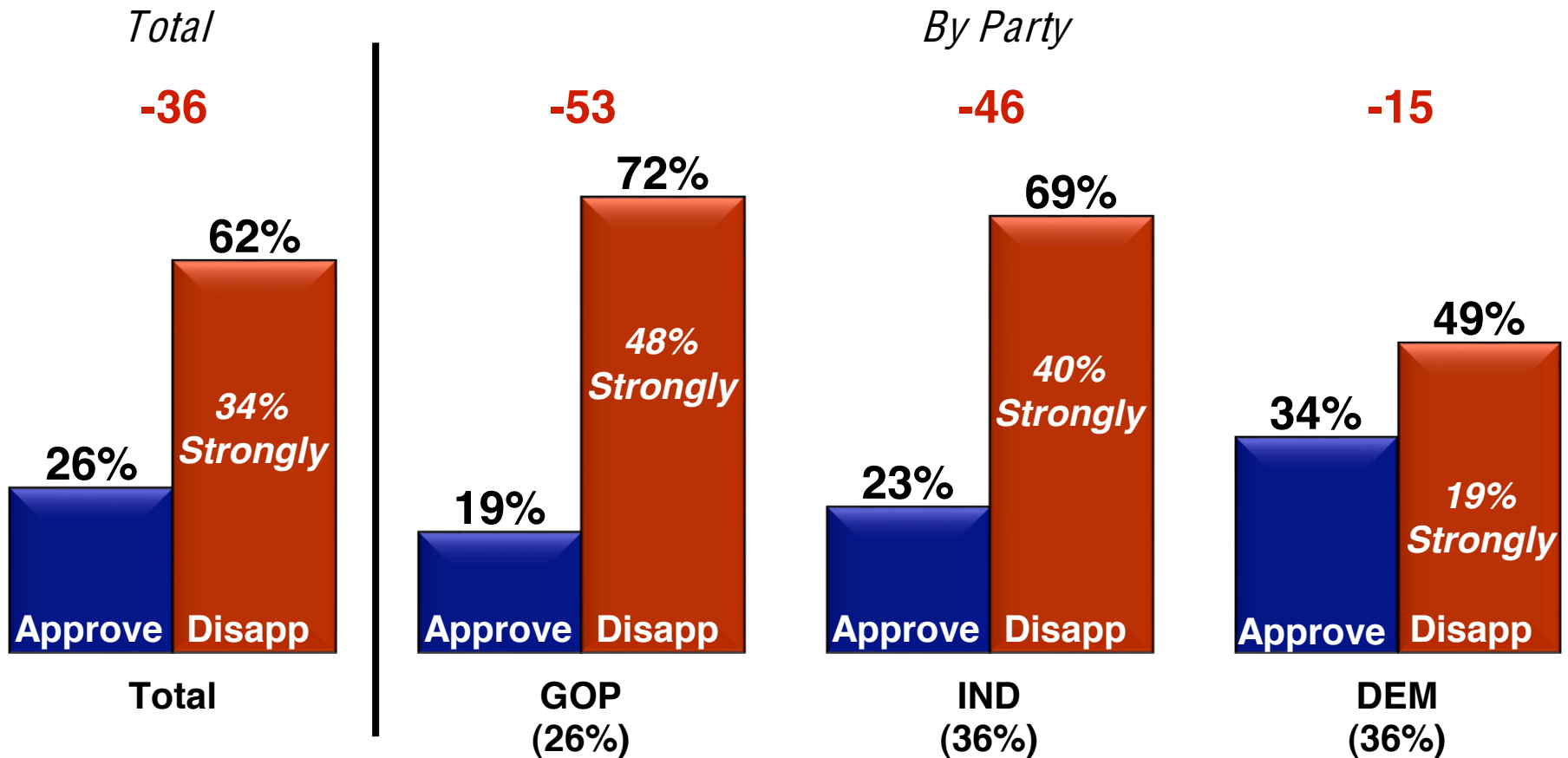
Voters across party lines are VERY negative about the direction of the state.

Generally speaking, would you say that things in Illinois are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off the wrong track?



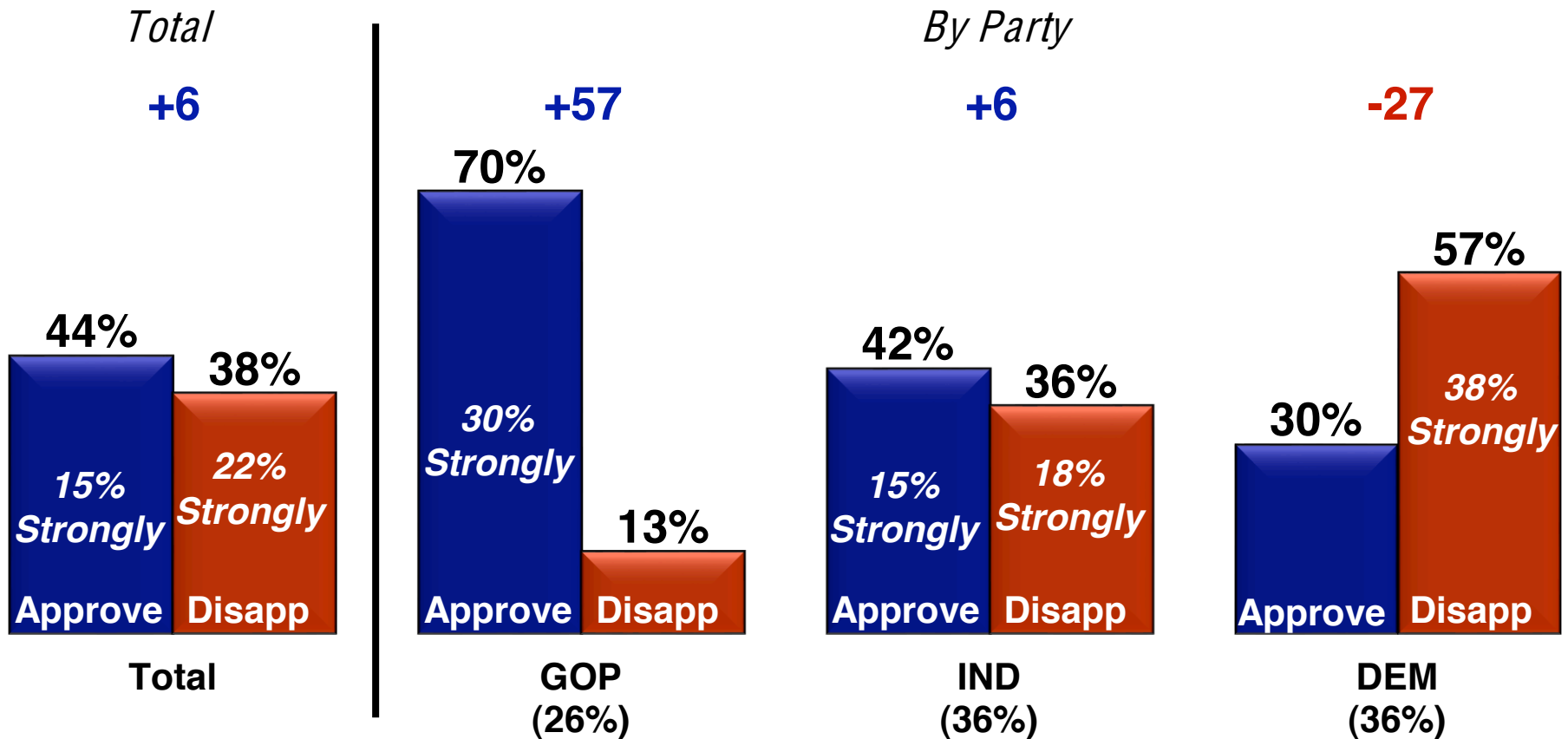
Mirroring downbeat attitudes toward the direction of the state, the legislature's approval rating is strongly inverted.

And, do you approve or disapprove of the job the state legislature is doing?



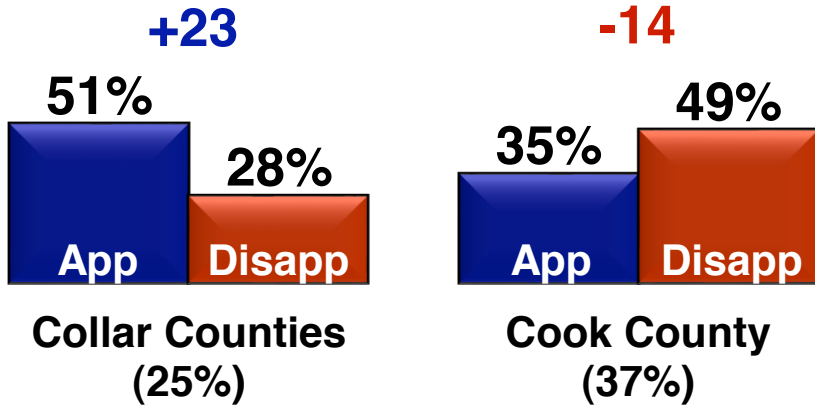
Just a few months in office, the Governor's approval rating is slightly more positive than negative.

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Bruce Rauner is doing as Governor?

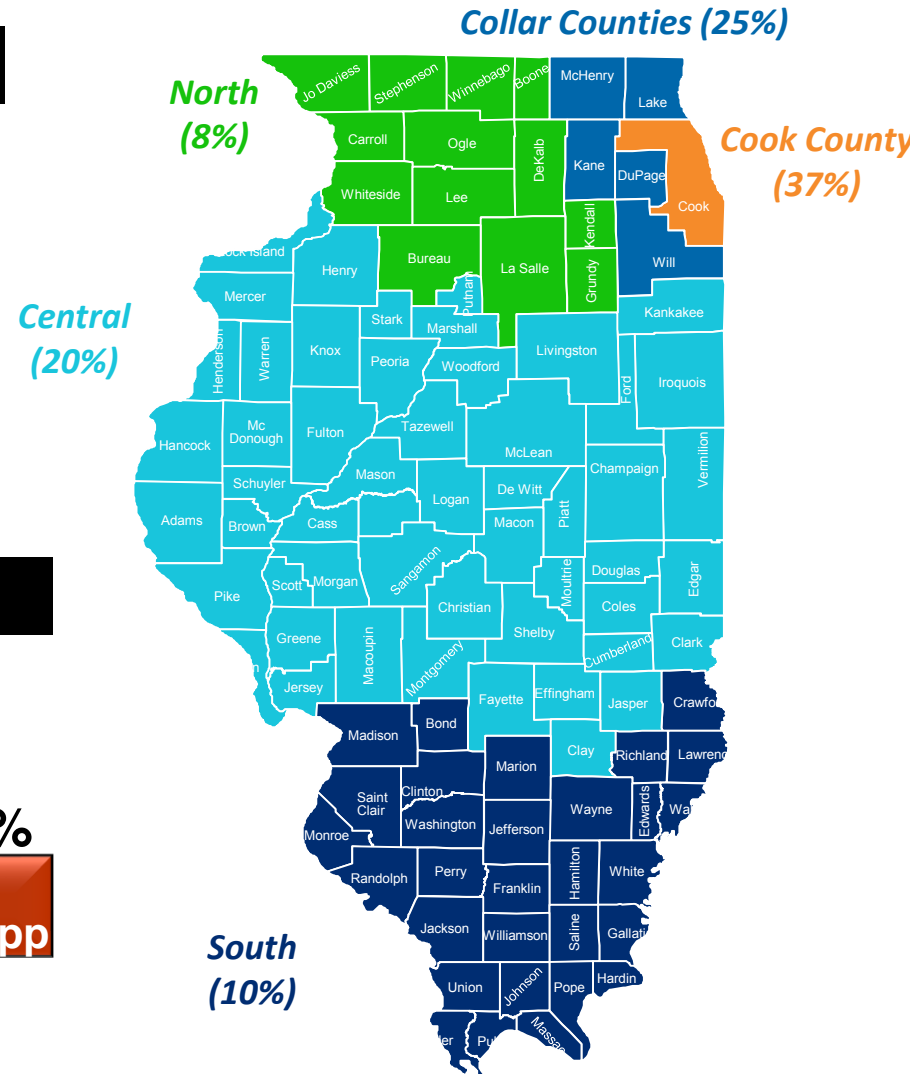
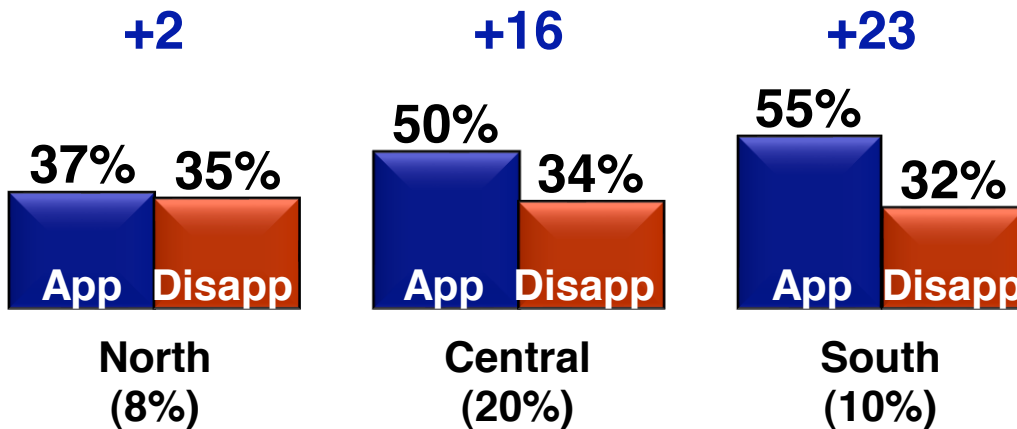


He's getting the benefit of the doubt from voters in the collar counties and downstate.

Governor Rauner Approval: By Region



Governor Rauner Approval: By Region

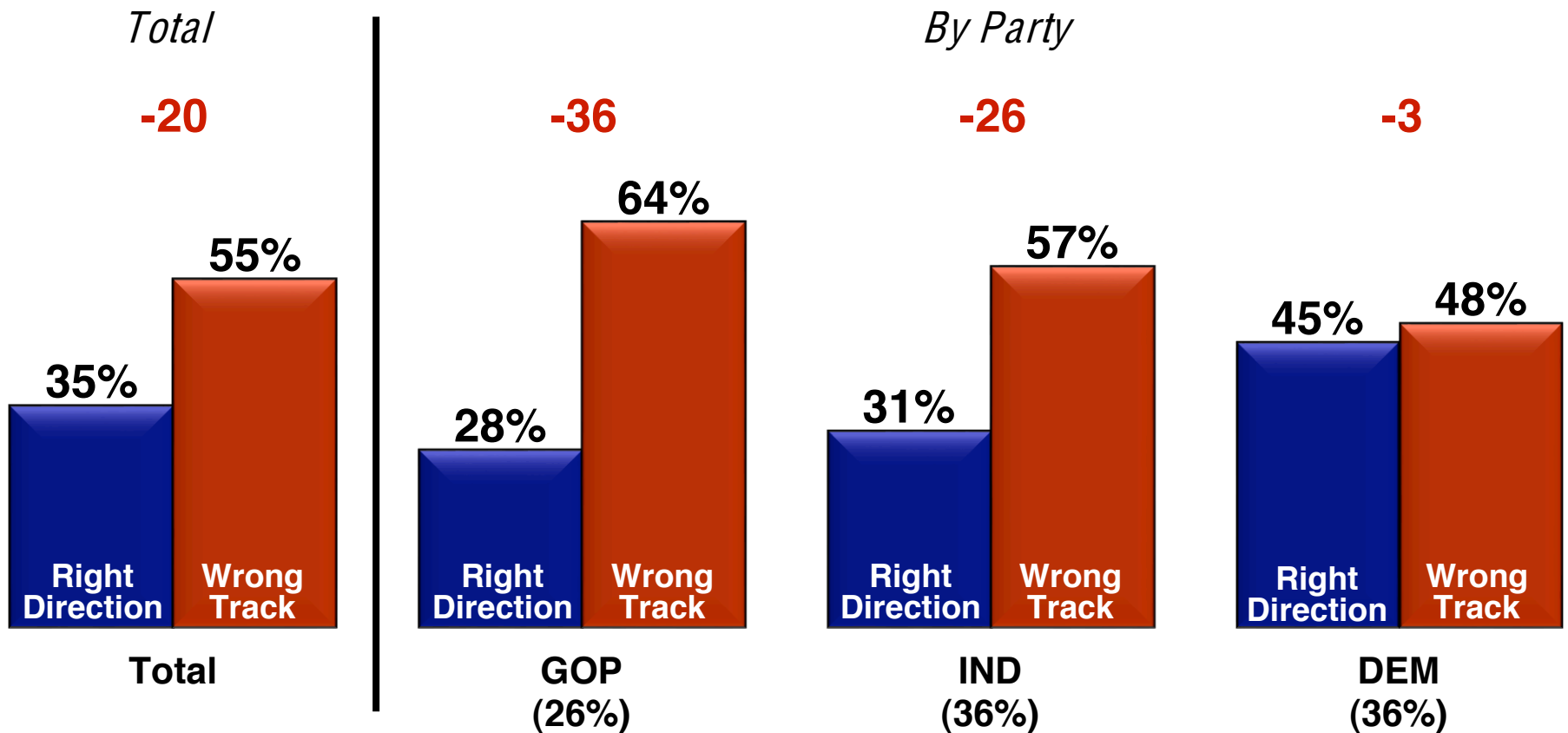




Perceptions of Illinois Public Schools

A strong majority of Illinois voters believe public schools in the state are off on the wrong track.

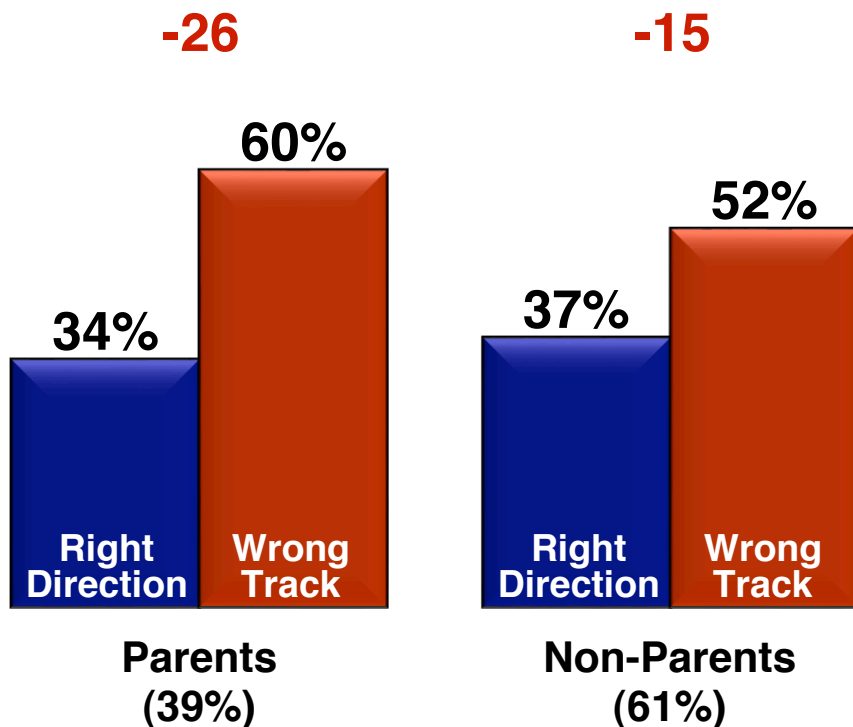
Do you think public schools in the state are generally headed in the right direction or are they pretty seriously off on the wrong track?



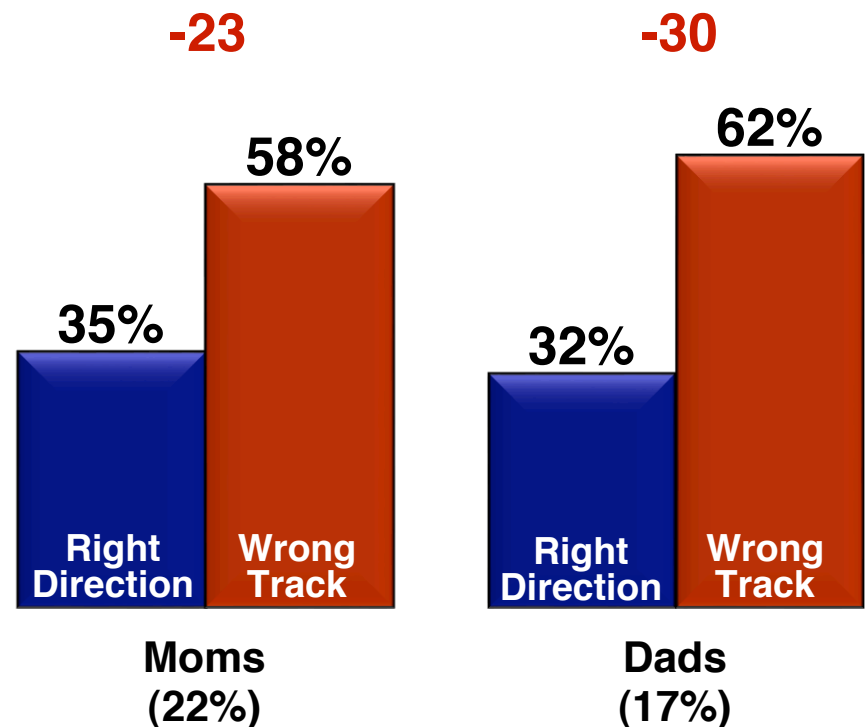
Parents, including both moms and dads, are just as **negative about the direction of the state's public schools.**

Do you think public schools in the state are generally headed in the right direction or are they pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

By Parents & Non-Parents

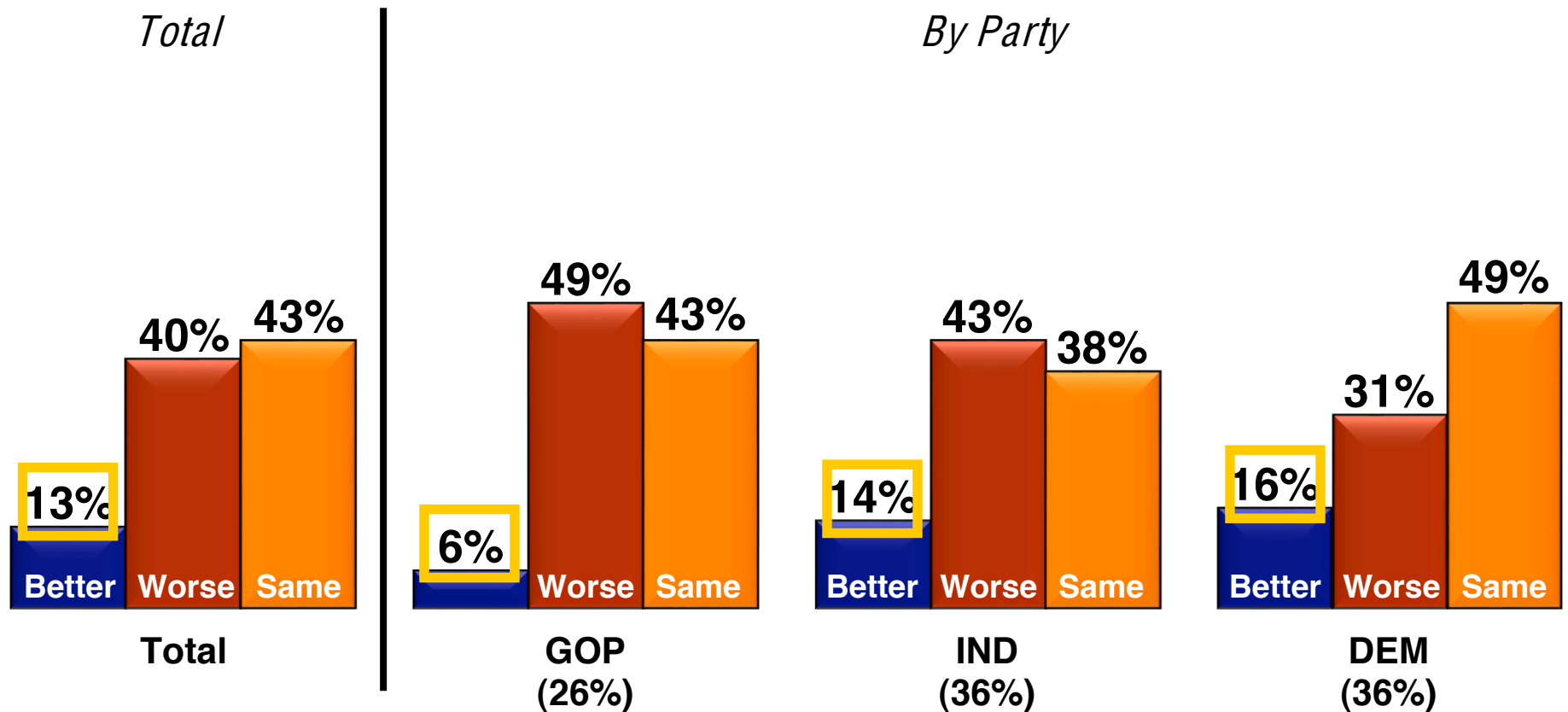


By Moms & Dads



And, few Illinois voters believe the quality of education in the state's public schools has gotten better over the last couple of years.

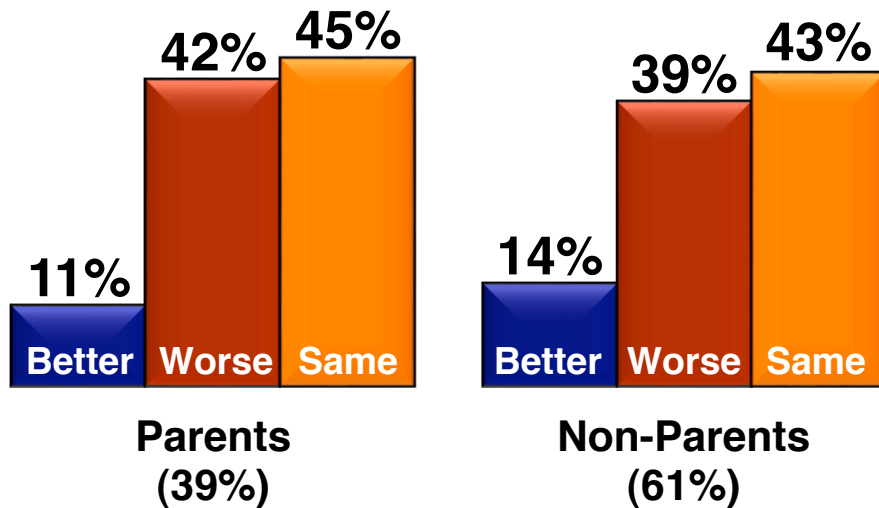
Do you believe the quality of education in the state's public schools has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same over the last few years?



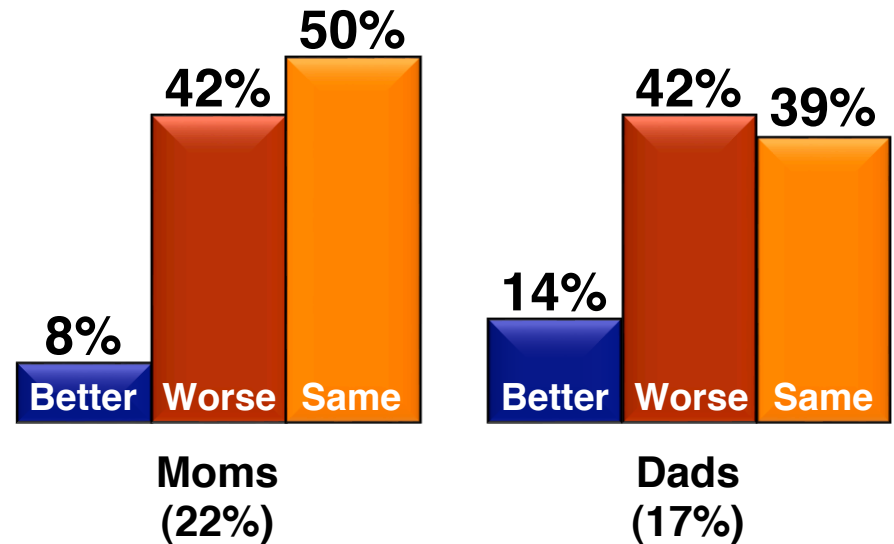
Moms and dads agree.

Do you believe the quality of education in the state's public schools has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same over the last few years?

By Parents & Non-Parents



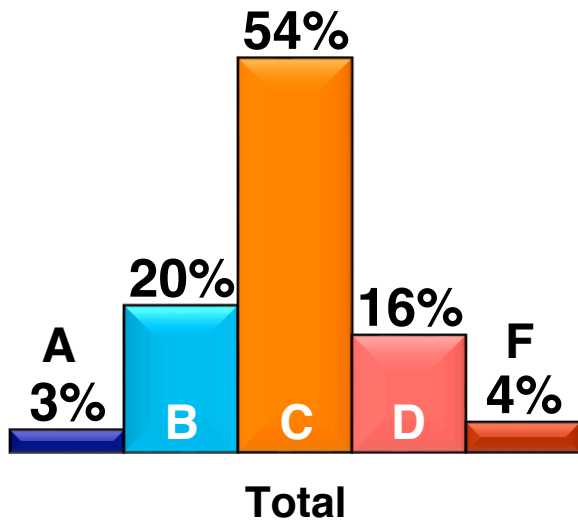
By Moms & Dads



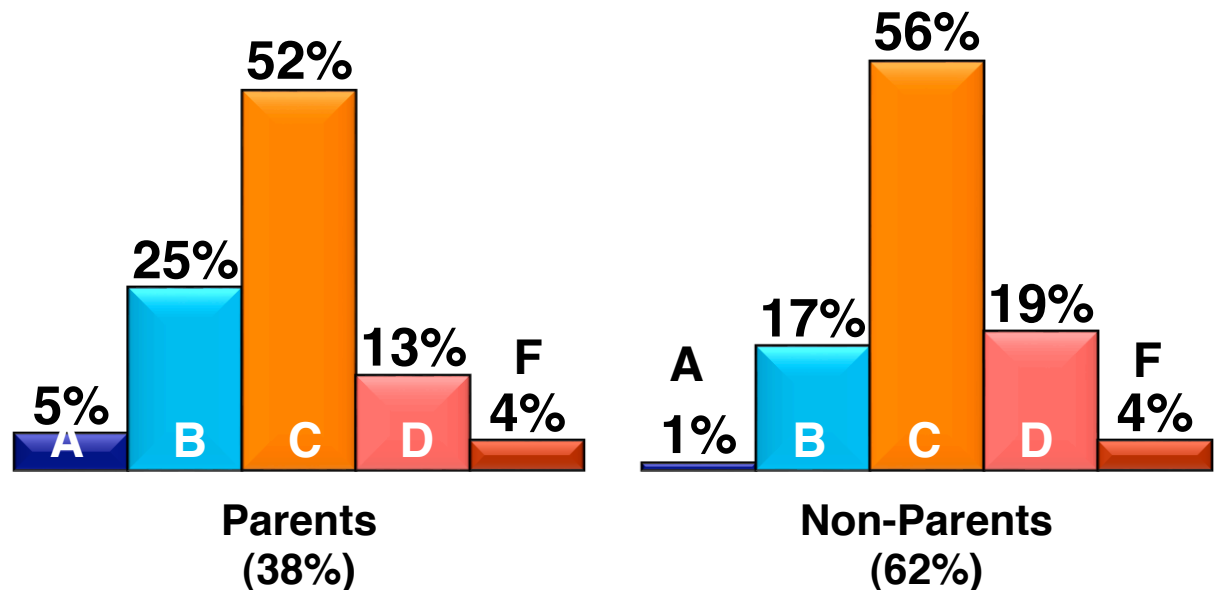
In fact, most Illinois voters give the state's public schools a "C."

*And, if you could give a grade to public schools in Illinois, that is schools from Kindergarten to 12th grade, what grade would you give them – A, B, C, D or F?**

Total



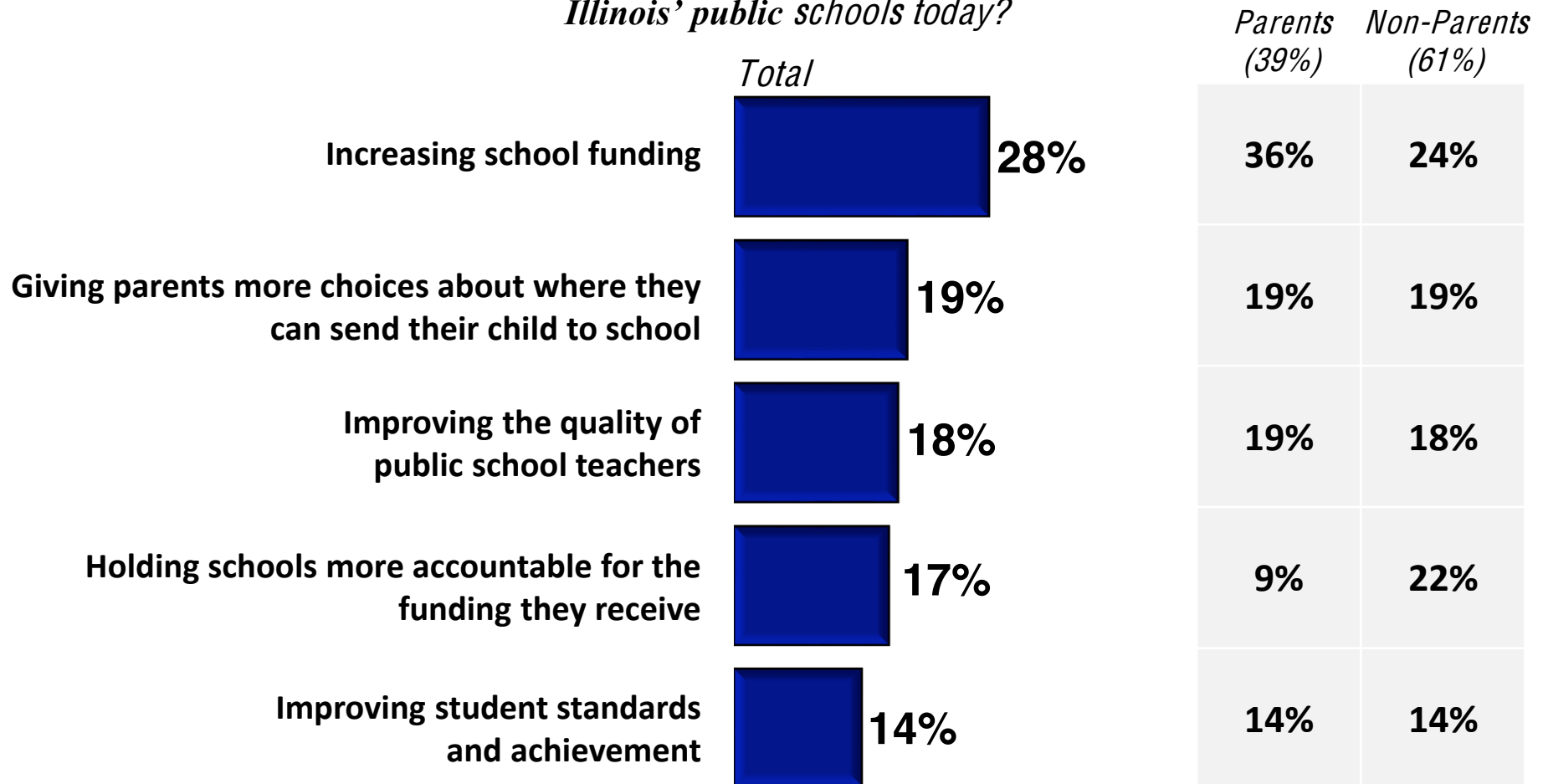
By Parents & Non-Parents



*Asked Among Sample A Only, N=300

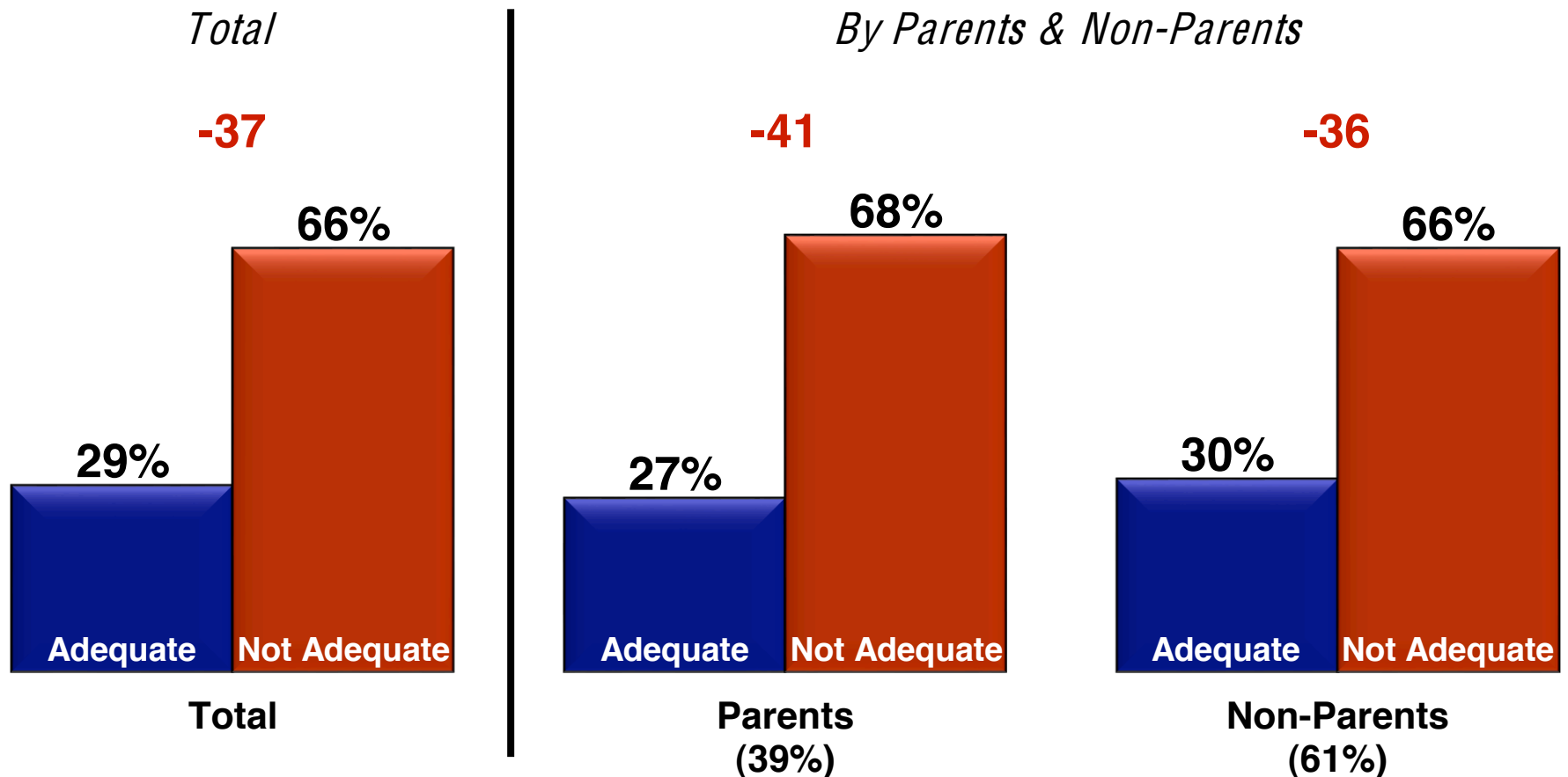
Voters' top priority for improving public schools is increased school funding, followed by giving parents more choices about where they can send their kids to school.

And, which ONE of the following would you say should be the top priority to improve Illinois' public schools today?



There's clearly a sentiment that the state's public schools are not adequately funded.

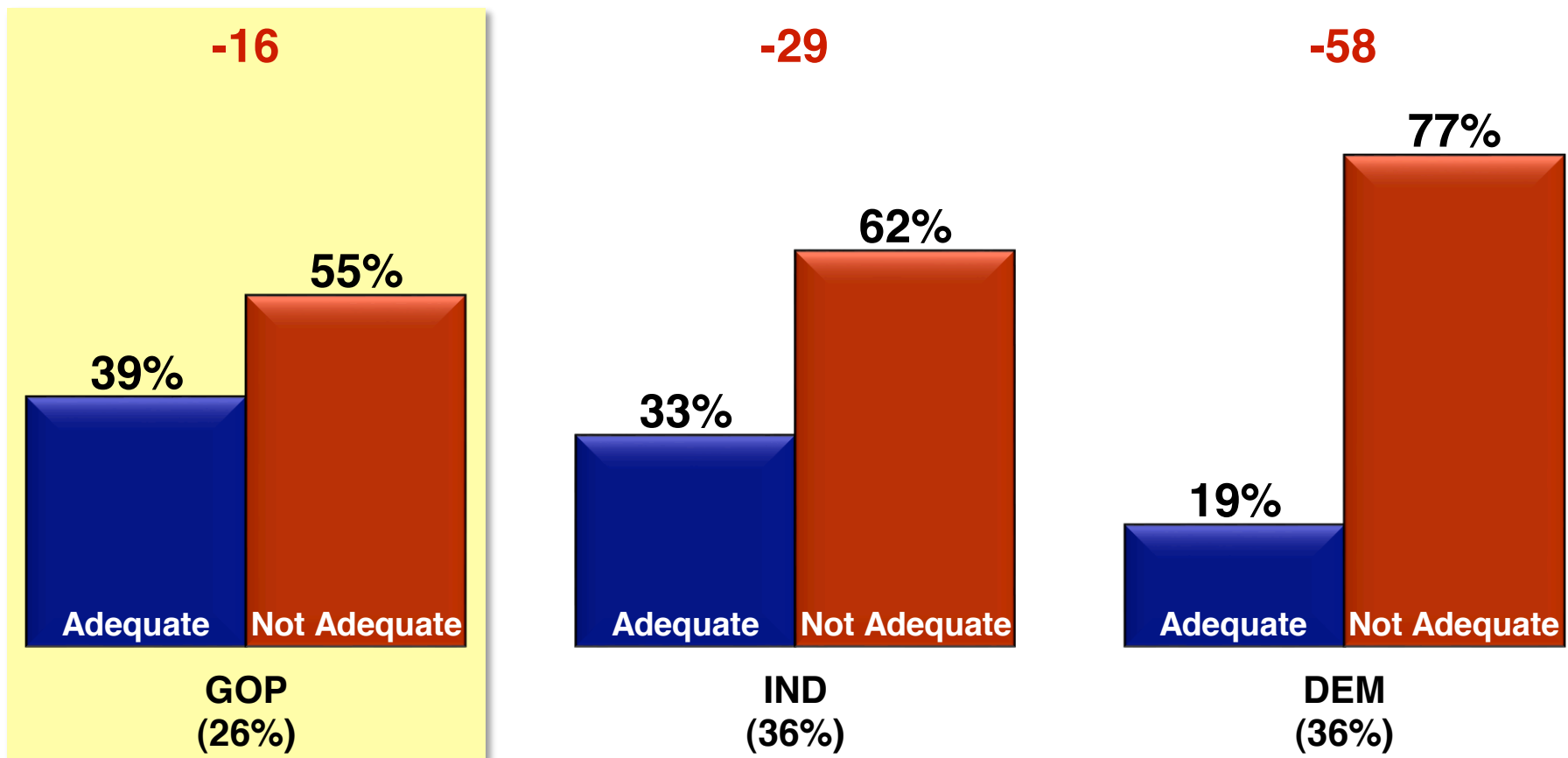
And, do you believe that public schools in the state are adequately funded or not?



Even Republican voters believe schools are not adequately funded.

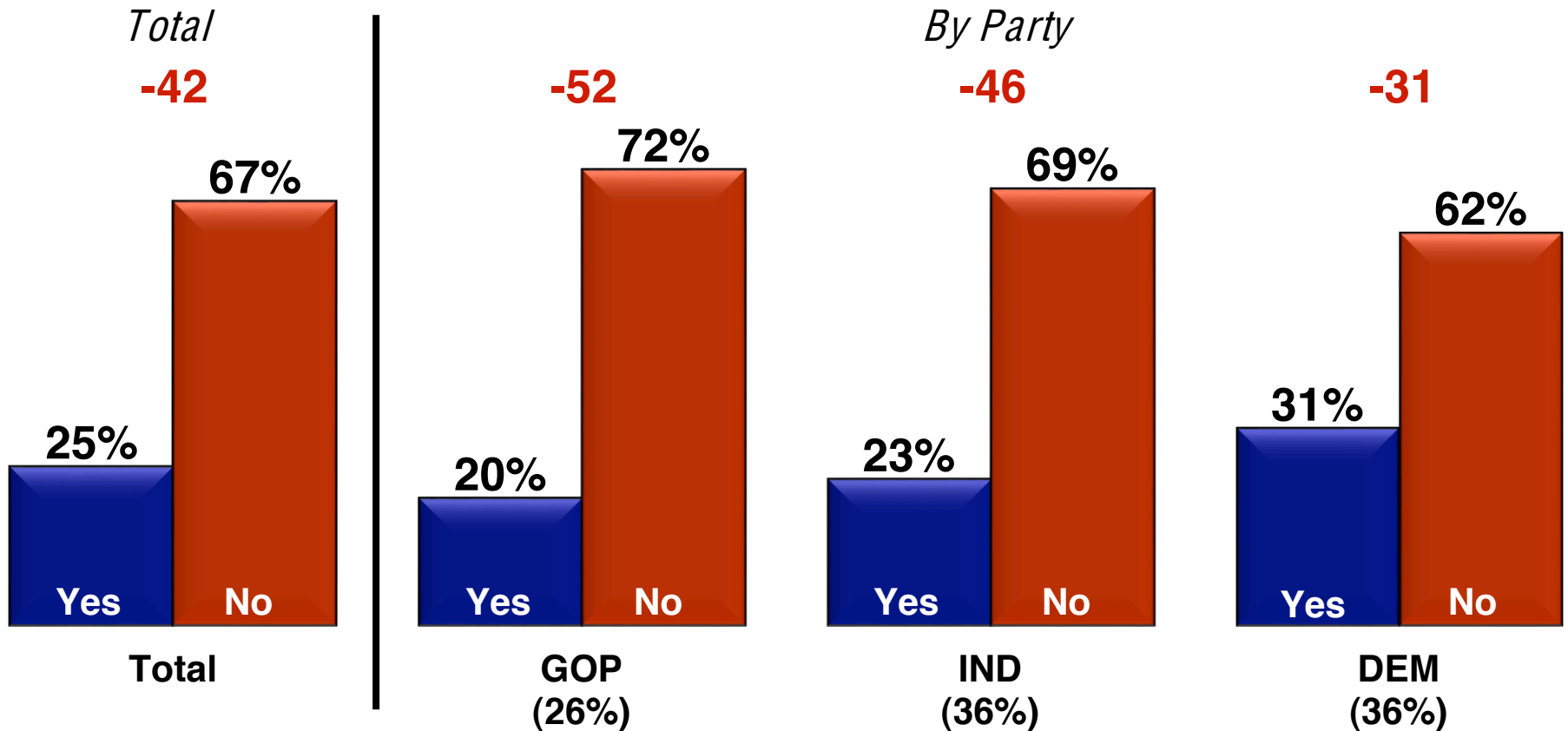
And, do you believe that public schools in the state are adequately funded or not?

By Party



And, there's a strong sense the state's NOT getting its money's worth out of the education dollars currently being spent.

And, do you believe the state of Illinois is getting its money's worth out of education dollars that are spent in the state's public schools?

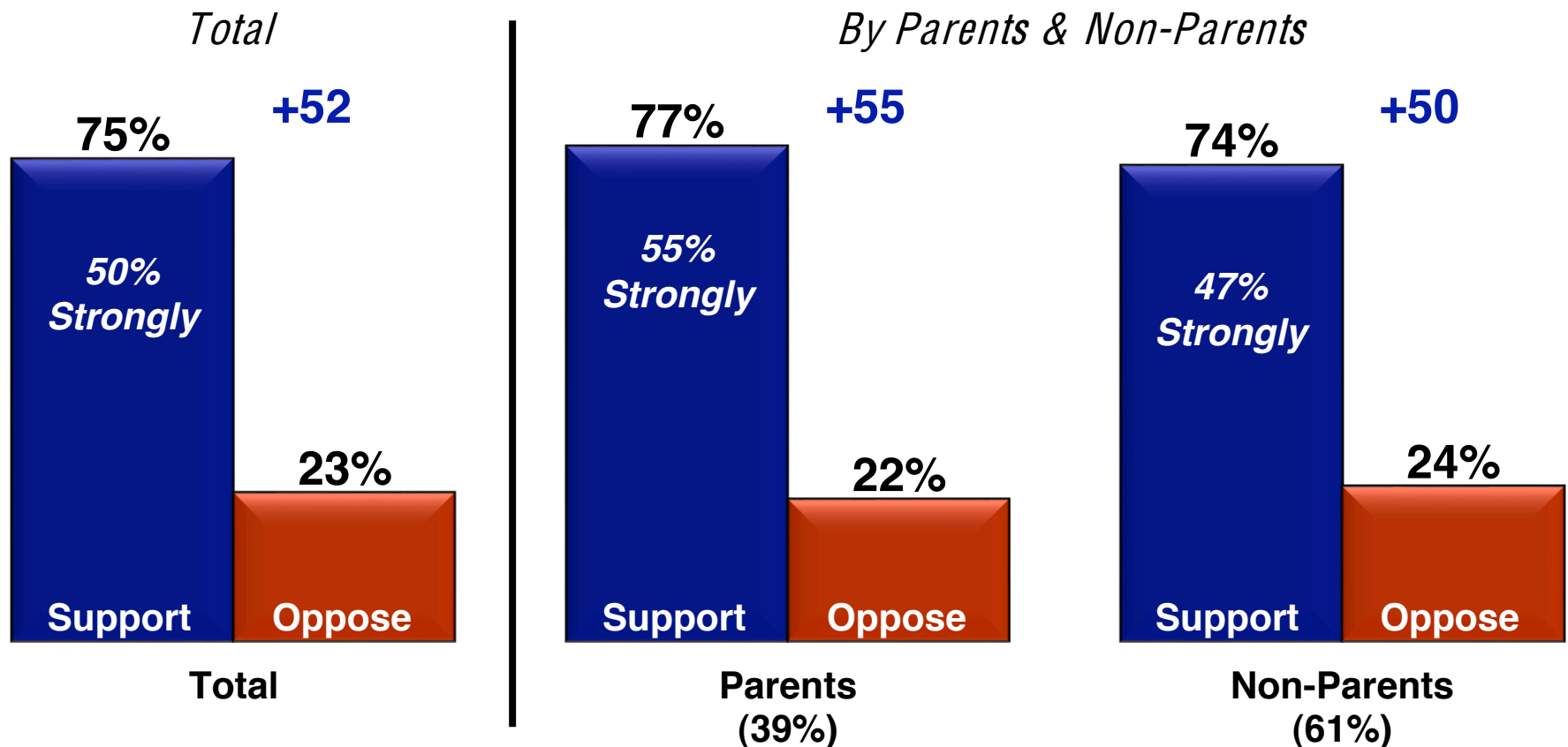




School Choice

Fully three-fourths of Illinois voters support providing parents with more choices in where they can send their kids to school.

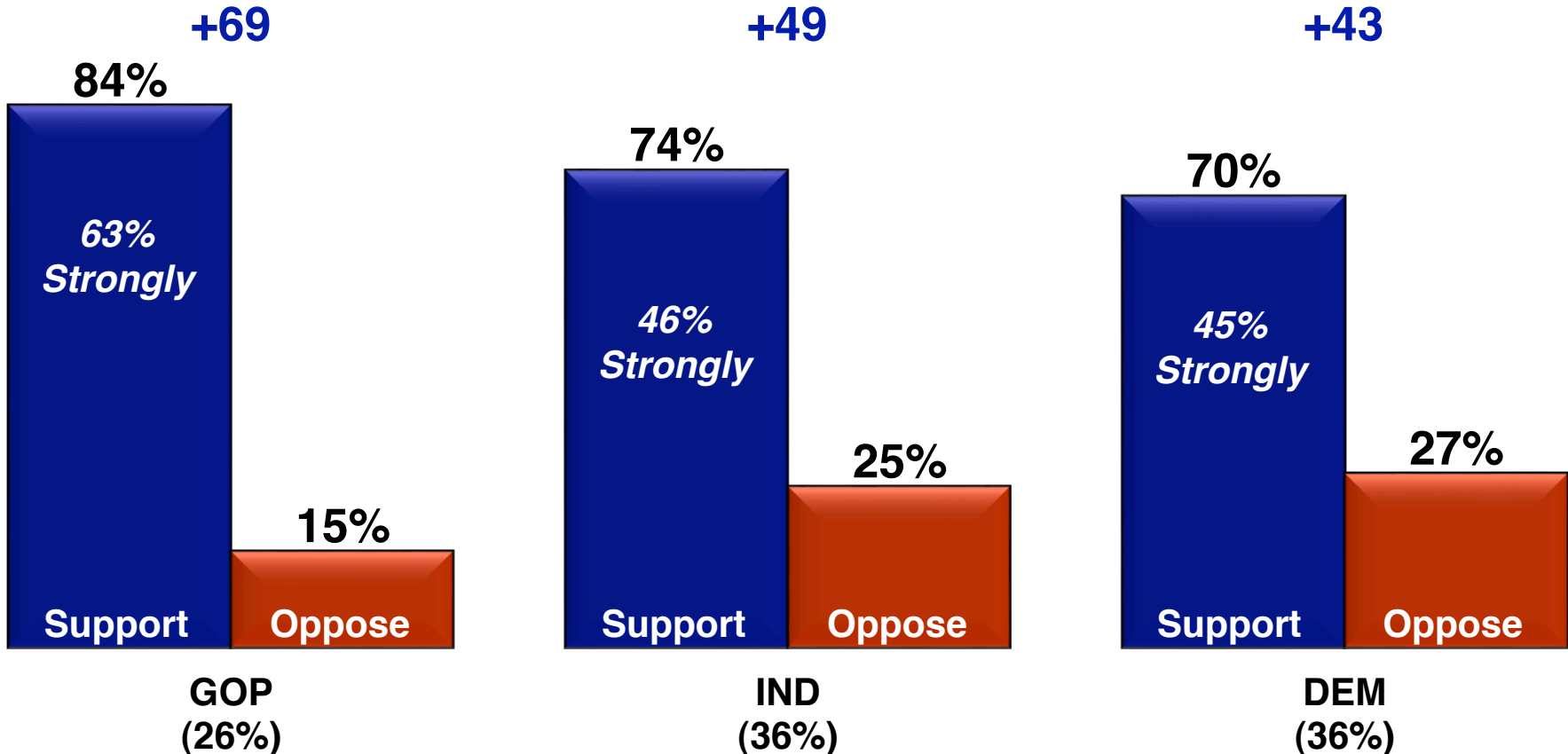
Generally speaking, do you support or oppose providing parents with more choices in where they can send their kids to school?



Support for more choice extends across party lines.

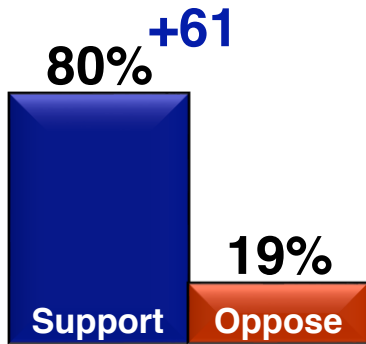
Generally speaking, do you support or oppose providing parents with more choices in where they can send their kids to school?

By Party

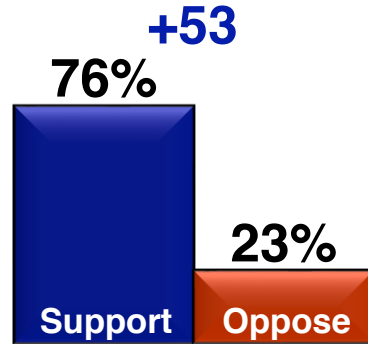


And, throughout every region of the state.

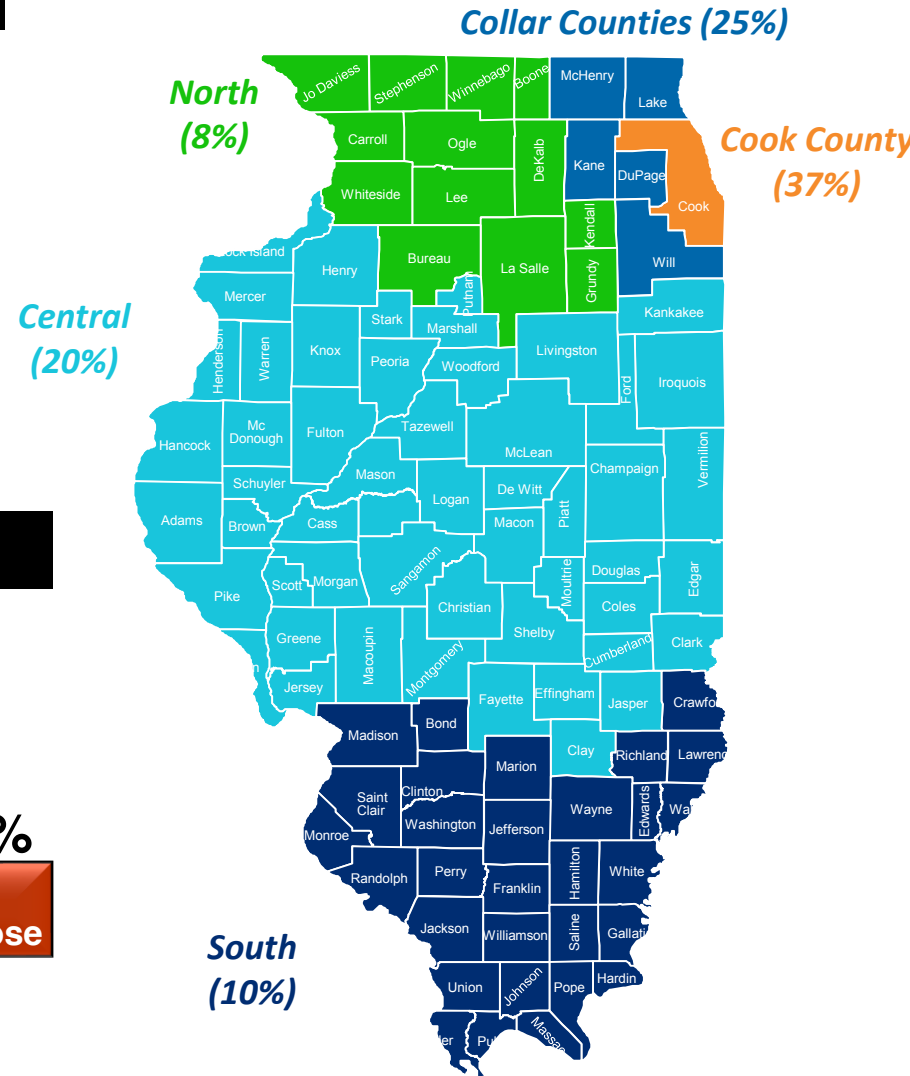
School Choice Support: By Region



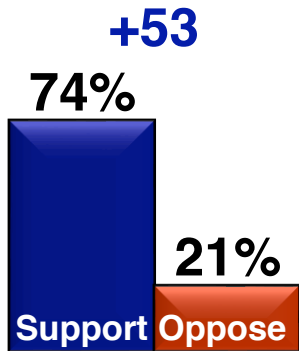
Collar Counties
(25%)



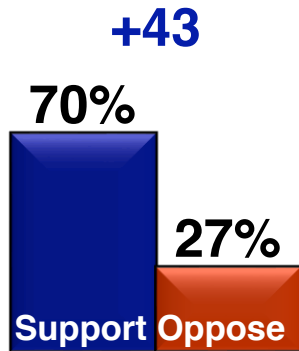
Cook County
(37%)



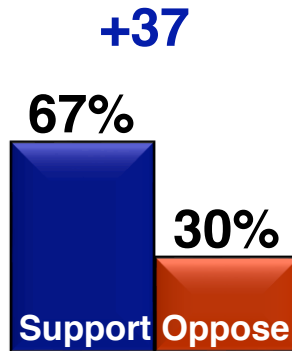
School Choice Support: By Region



North
(8%)



Central
(20%)



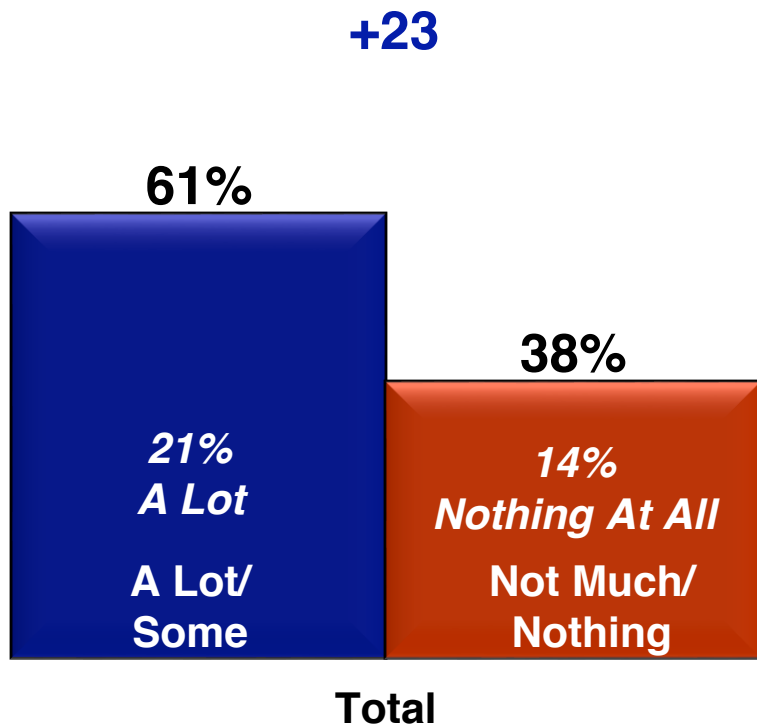
South
(10%)



Charter Public Schools

A majority of Illinois voters have seen, read or heard “a lot” or “some” about charter public schools in the state.

And, on another topic, how much have you seen, read or heard about charter public schools here in Illinois?

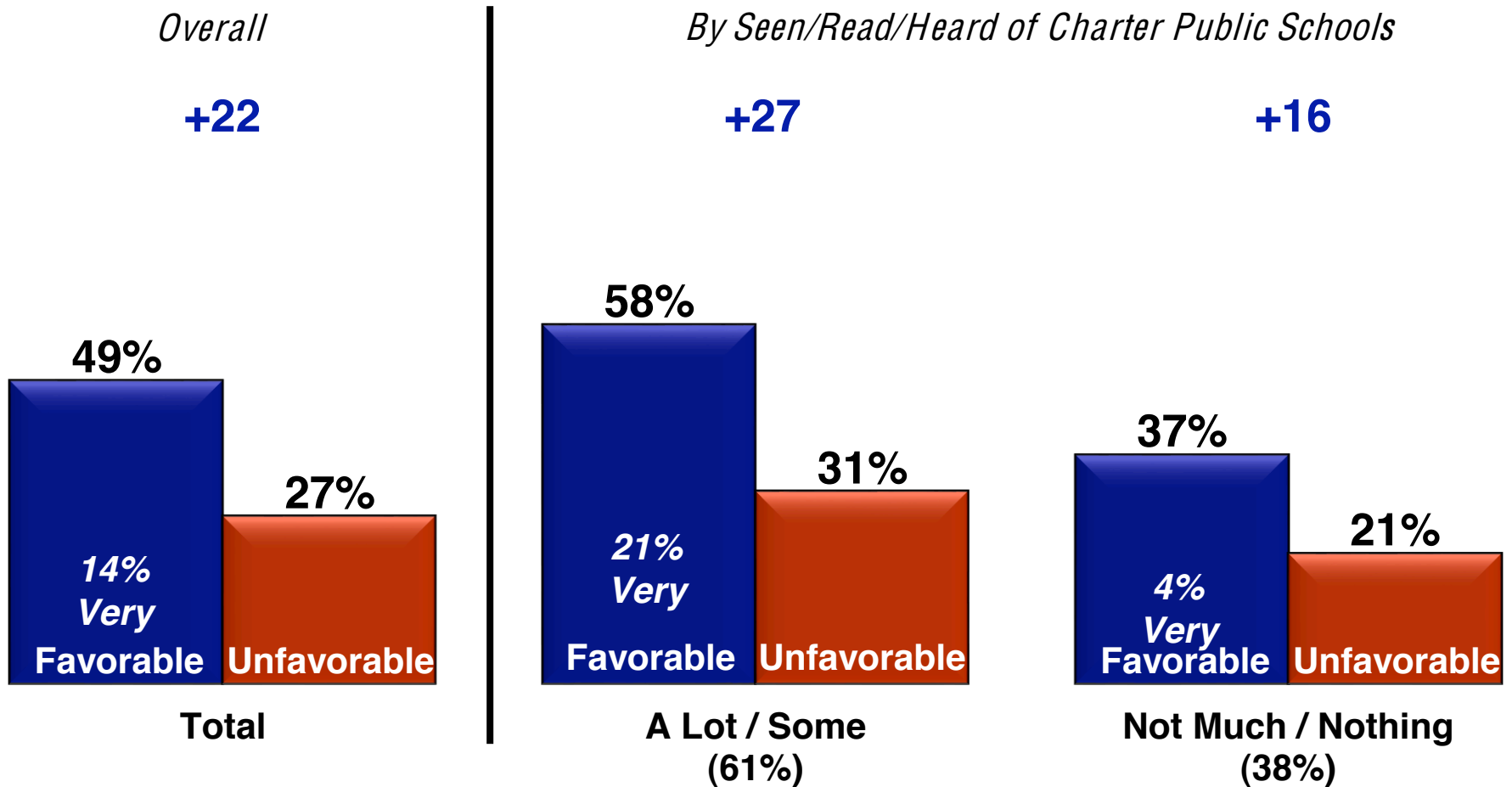


Top Groups Saying "A Lot"

African-American	42%
Teachers Union Member	39%
Cook County	35%
DEM/College+	32%
Dads	30%
DEM Men	28%
College+	28%
IND/College+	28%
Union Members	28%
Men Age 18-44	27%
Strong DEM	27%

By nearly a two-to-one margin, Illinois voters view charter public schools favorably.

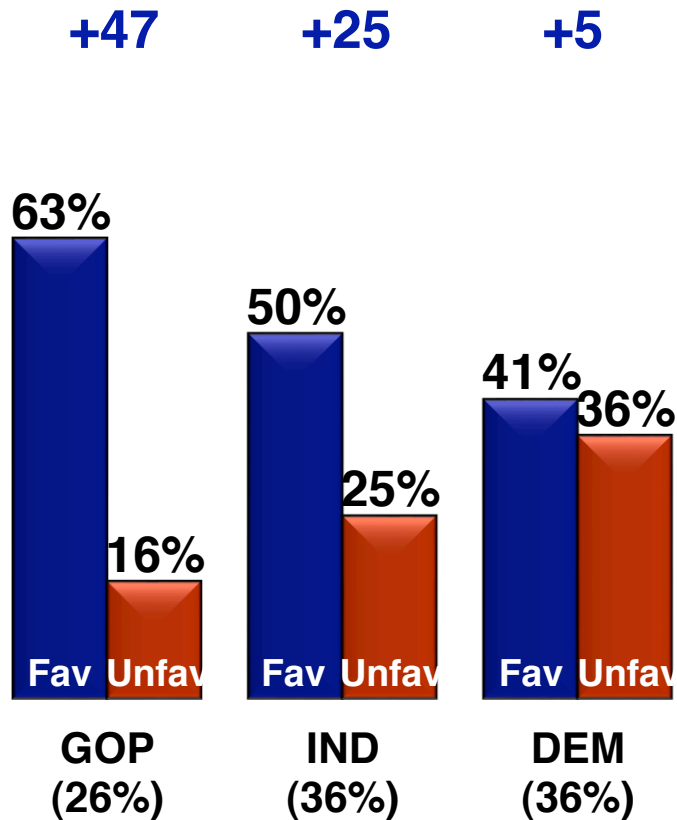
And, generally speaking, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of charter public schools?



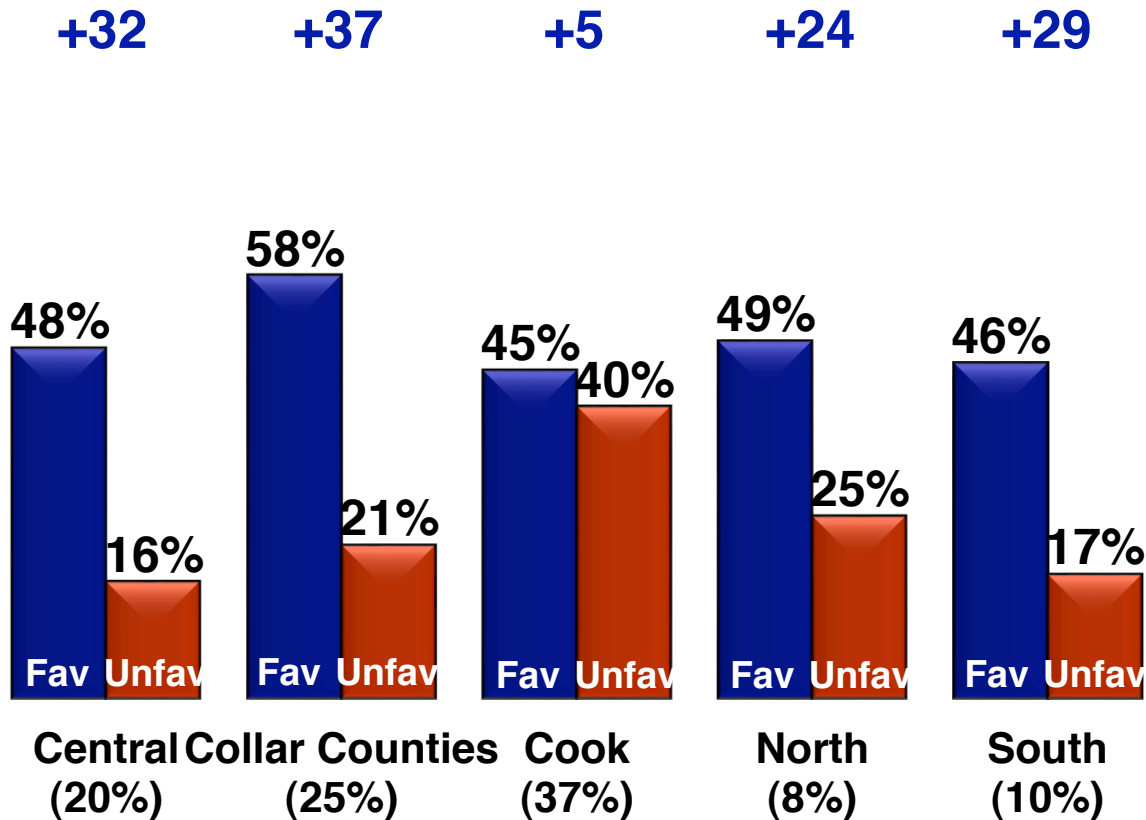
Charter public schools have a positive image across party lines and throughout the state.

And, generally speaking, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of charter public schools?

By Party



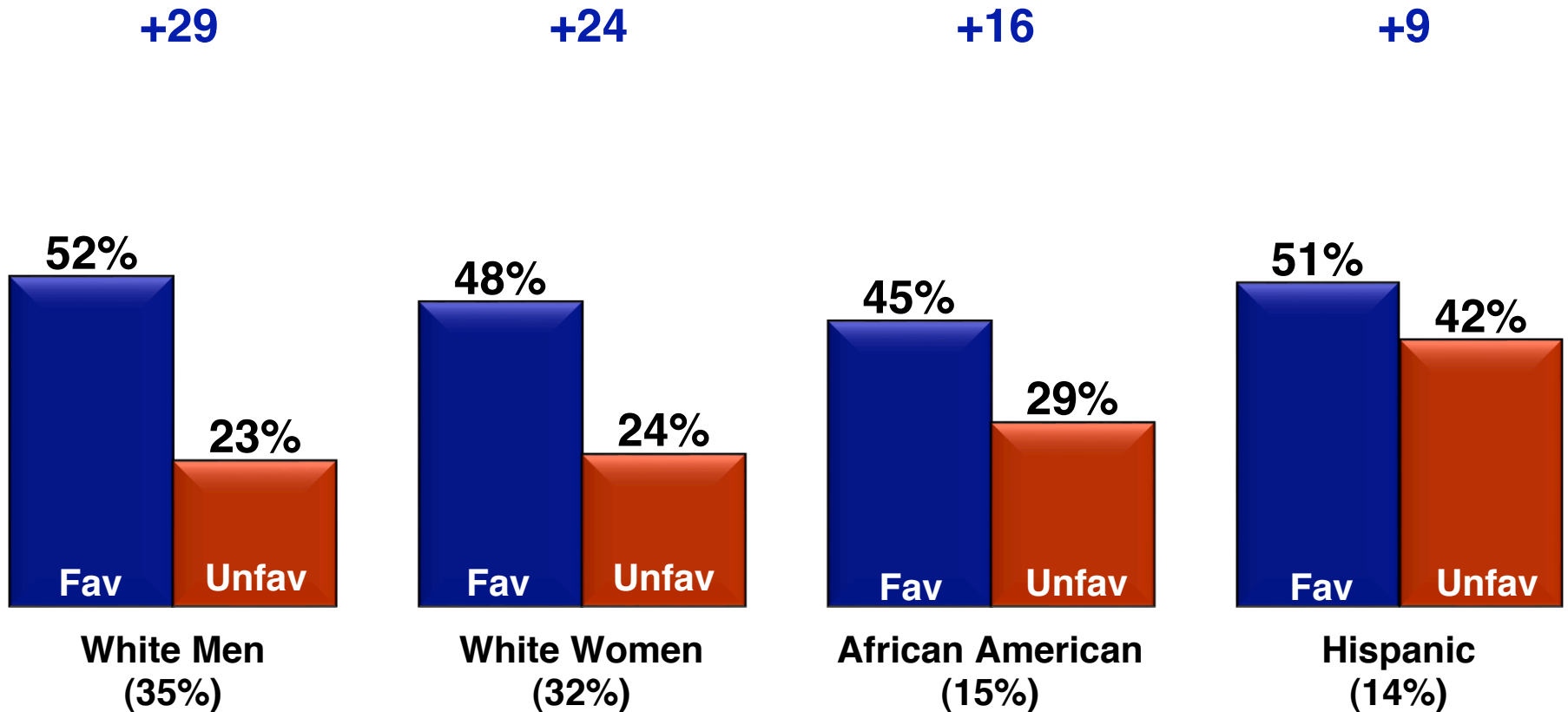
By Region



And, charter public schools are viewed favorably across ethnicity.

And, generally speaking, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of charter public schools?

By Ethnicity



And, among both parents and non-parents.

And, generally speaking, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of charter public schools?

By Parents & Non-Parents

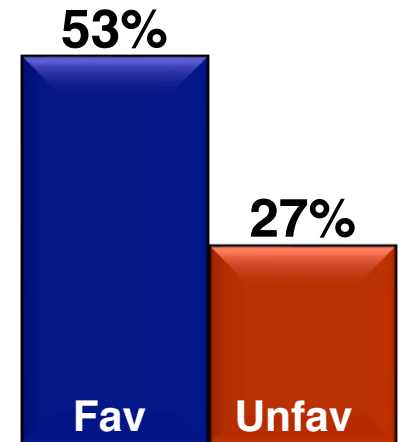
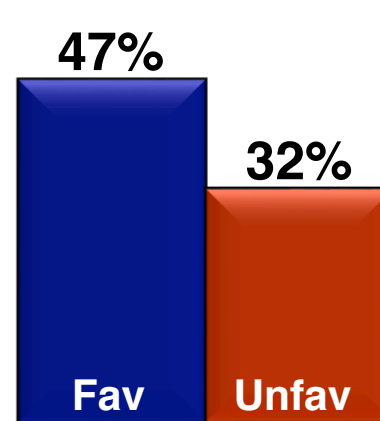
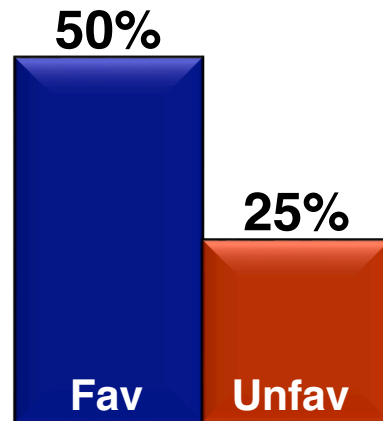
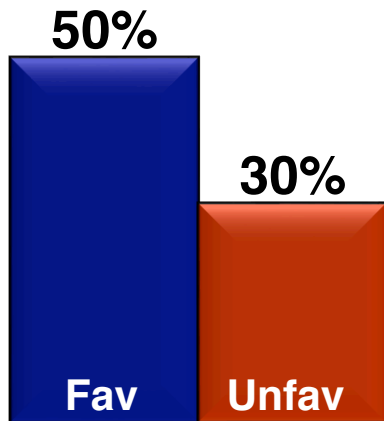
By Moms & Dads

+20

+25

+15

+26



Parents
(39%)

Non-Parents
(61%)

Moms
(22%)

Dads
(17%)

After voters hear a little more information about charter public schools...

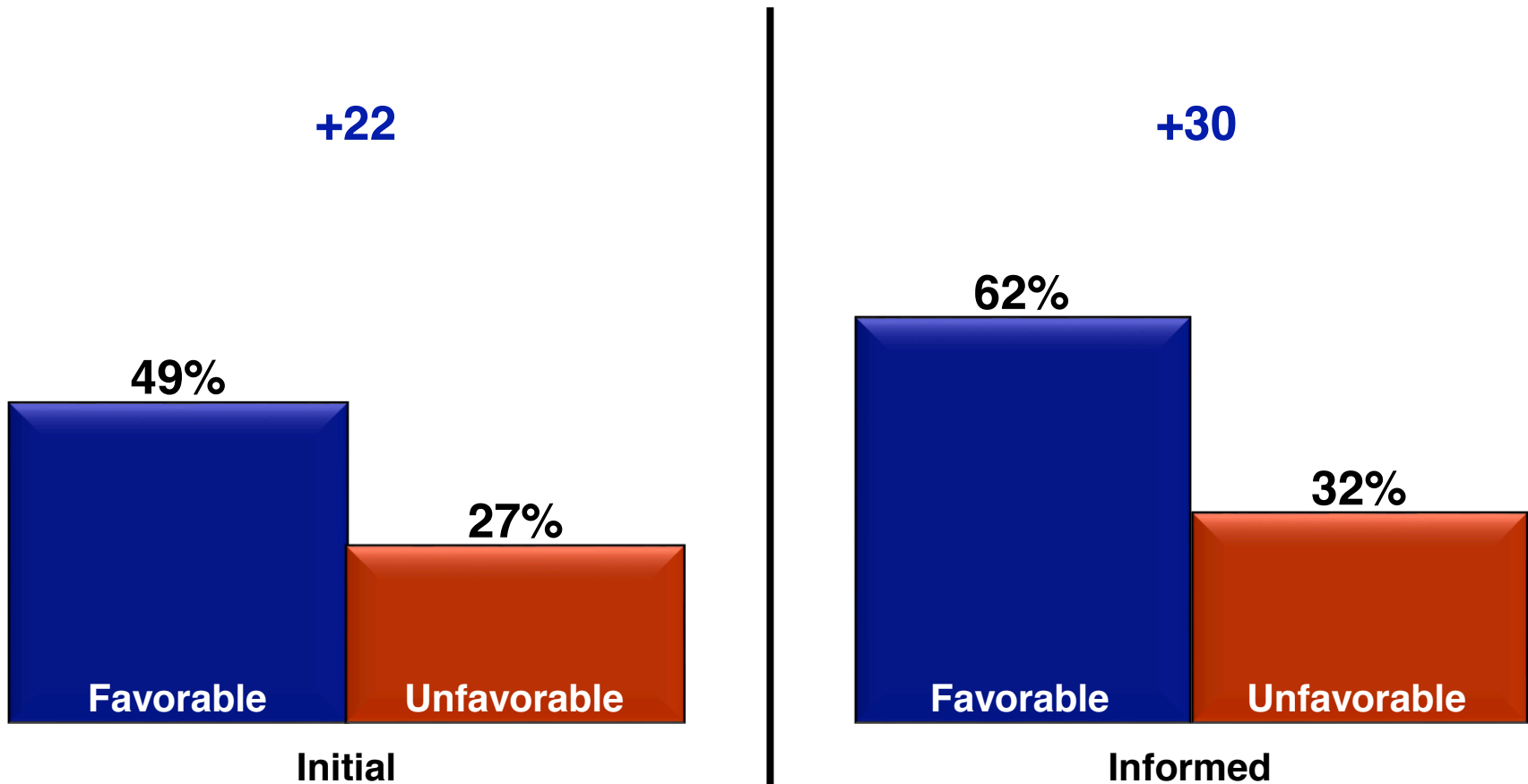
Now, as you may know, charter public schools in Illinois are public schools that are independently-run by a nonprofit organization. As public schools, they receive taxpayer dollars to educate the students they serve in the community.

Each charter public school gives the same state tests, meets the same core academic requirements, and abides by the same strict standards for civil rights, safety and health as other schools. But, they are not usually bound by union contracts.

Now that you have heard some more information, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of charter public schools?

Even more voters have a positive impression.

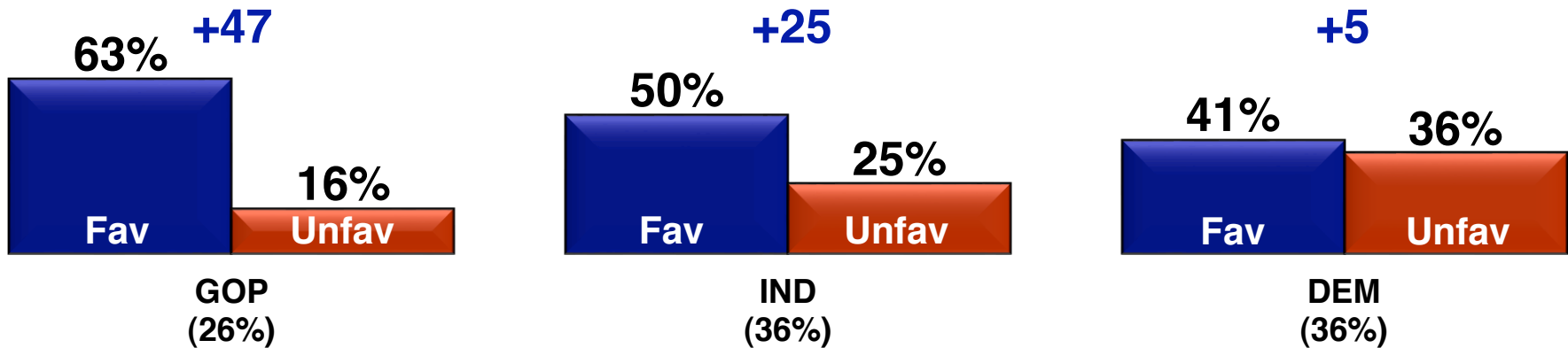
Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of charter public schools?



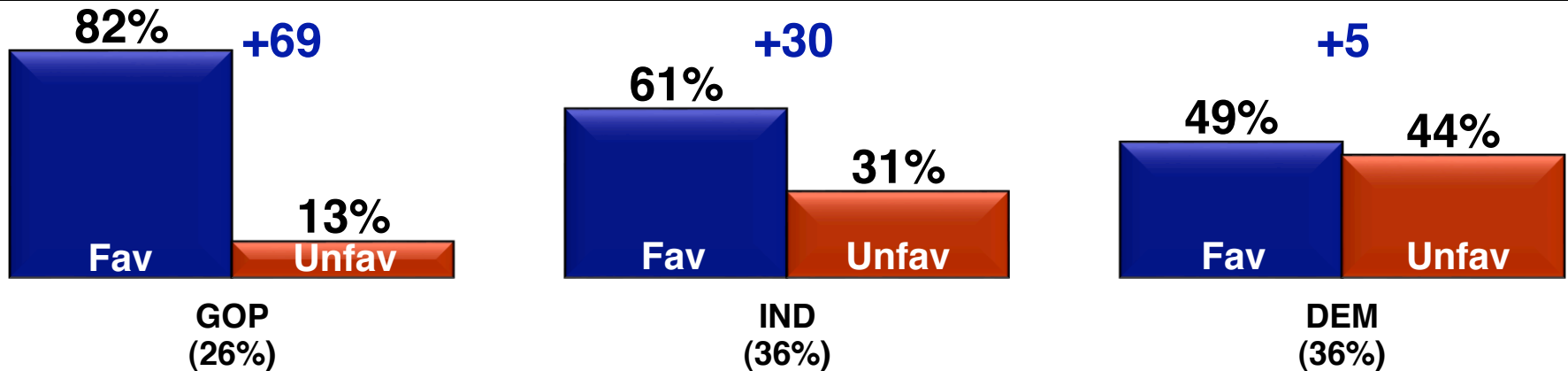
Republicans and Independents become bigger fans, while Democrats remain mixed.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of charter public schools?

Initial: By Party



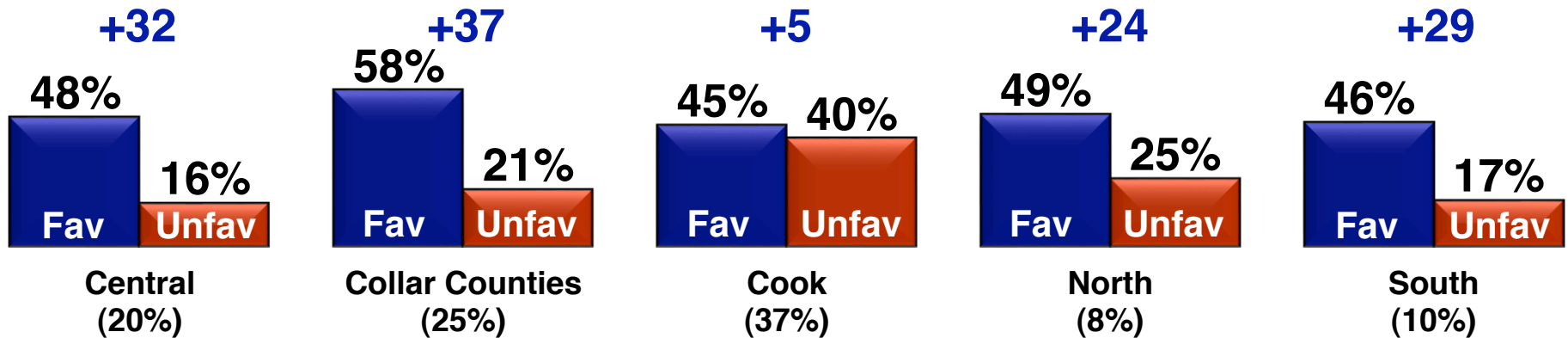
Informed: By Party



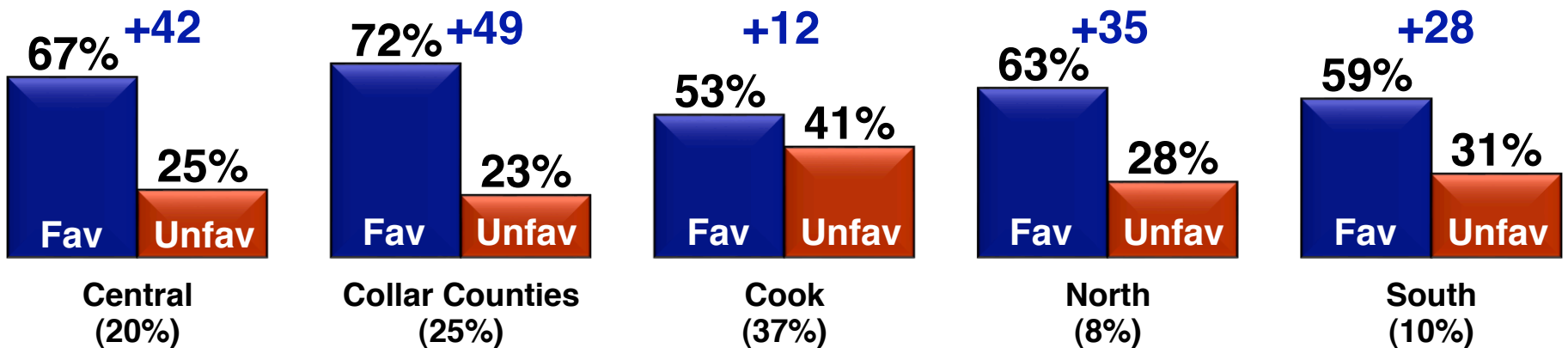
The image of charter public schools improves across the state.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of charter public schools?

Initial: By Region



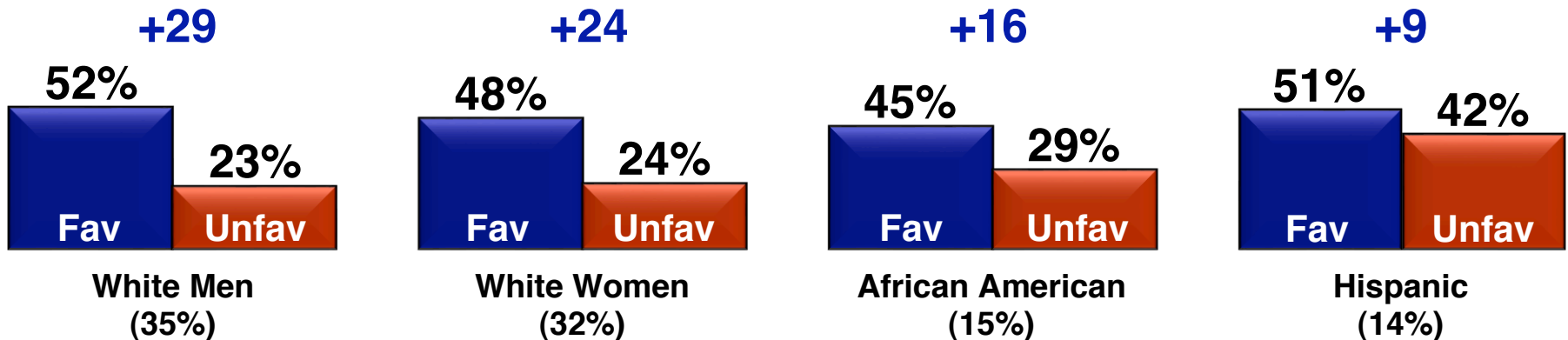
Informed: By Region



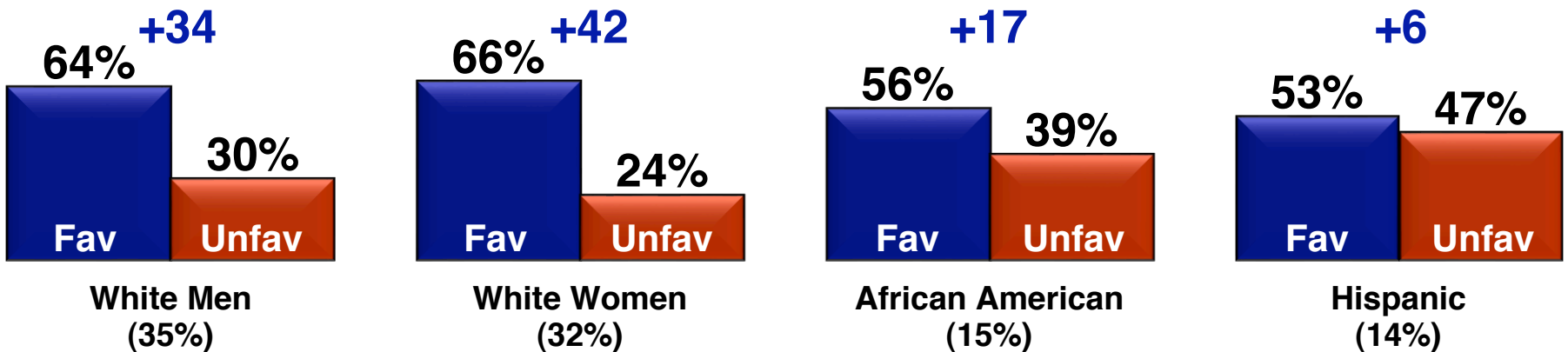
And across all voters by ethnicity.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of charter public schools?

Initial: By Ethnicity



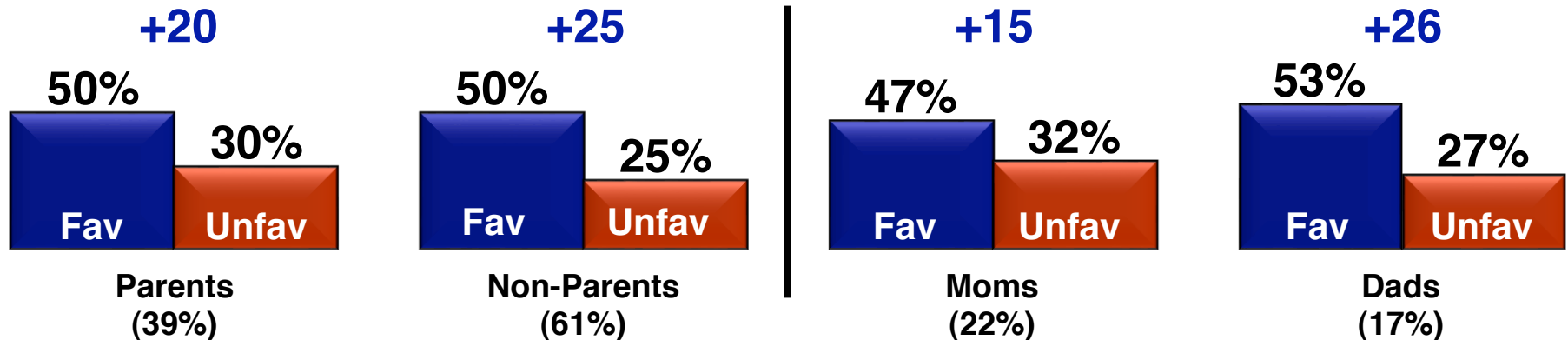
Informed: By Ethnicity



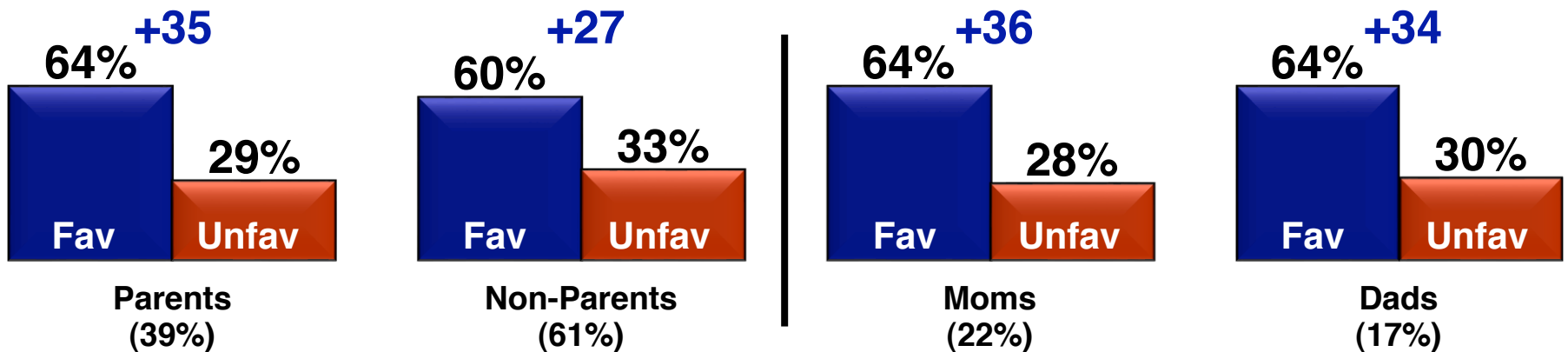
Both moms and dads are on-board.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of charter public schools?

Initial: By Parents & Non-Parents / Moms & Dads

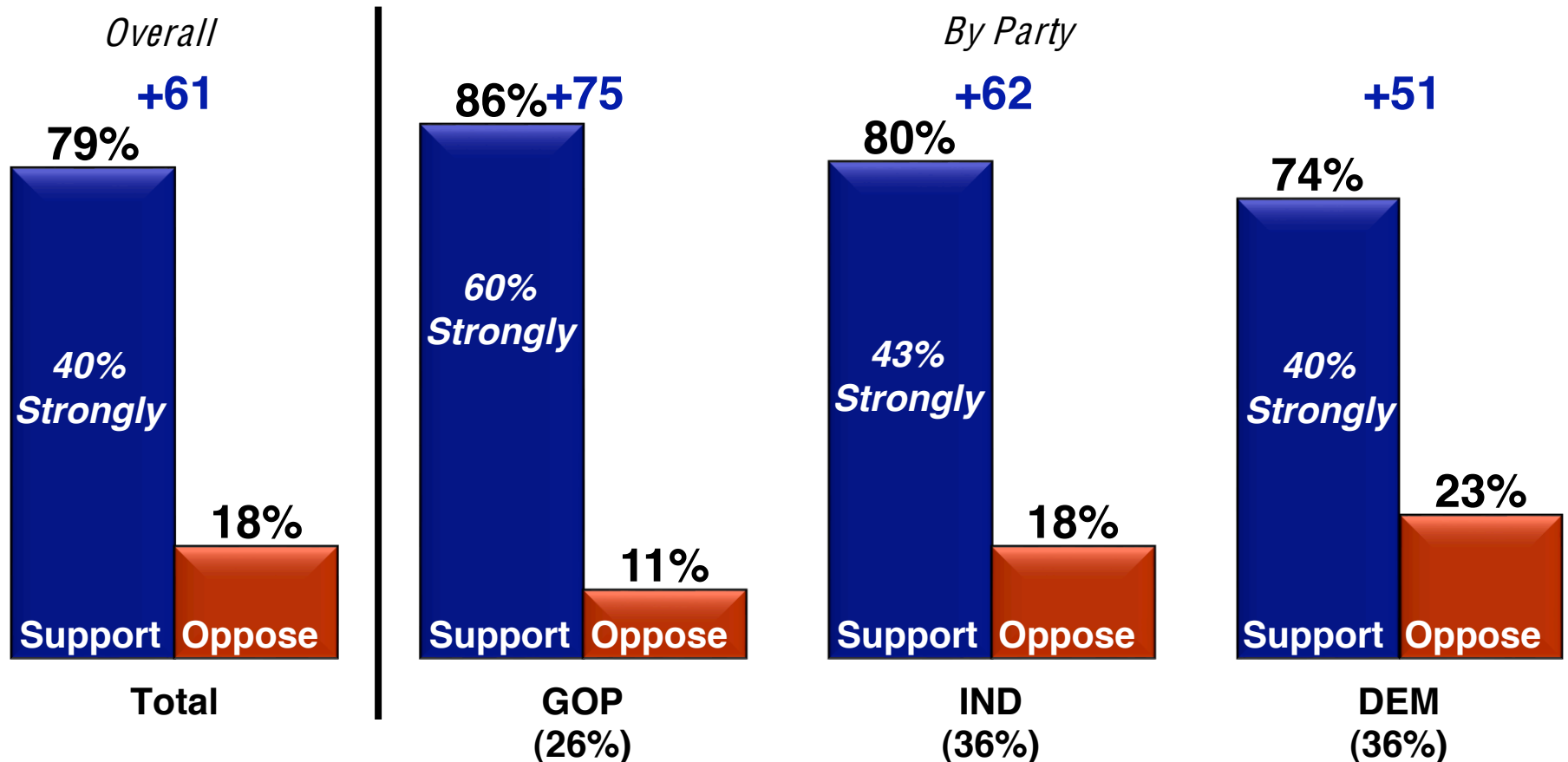


Informed: By Parents & Non-Parents / Moms & Dads



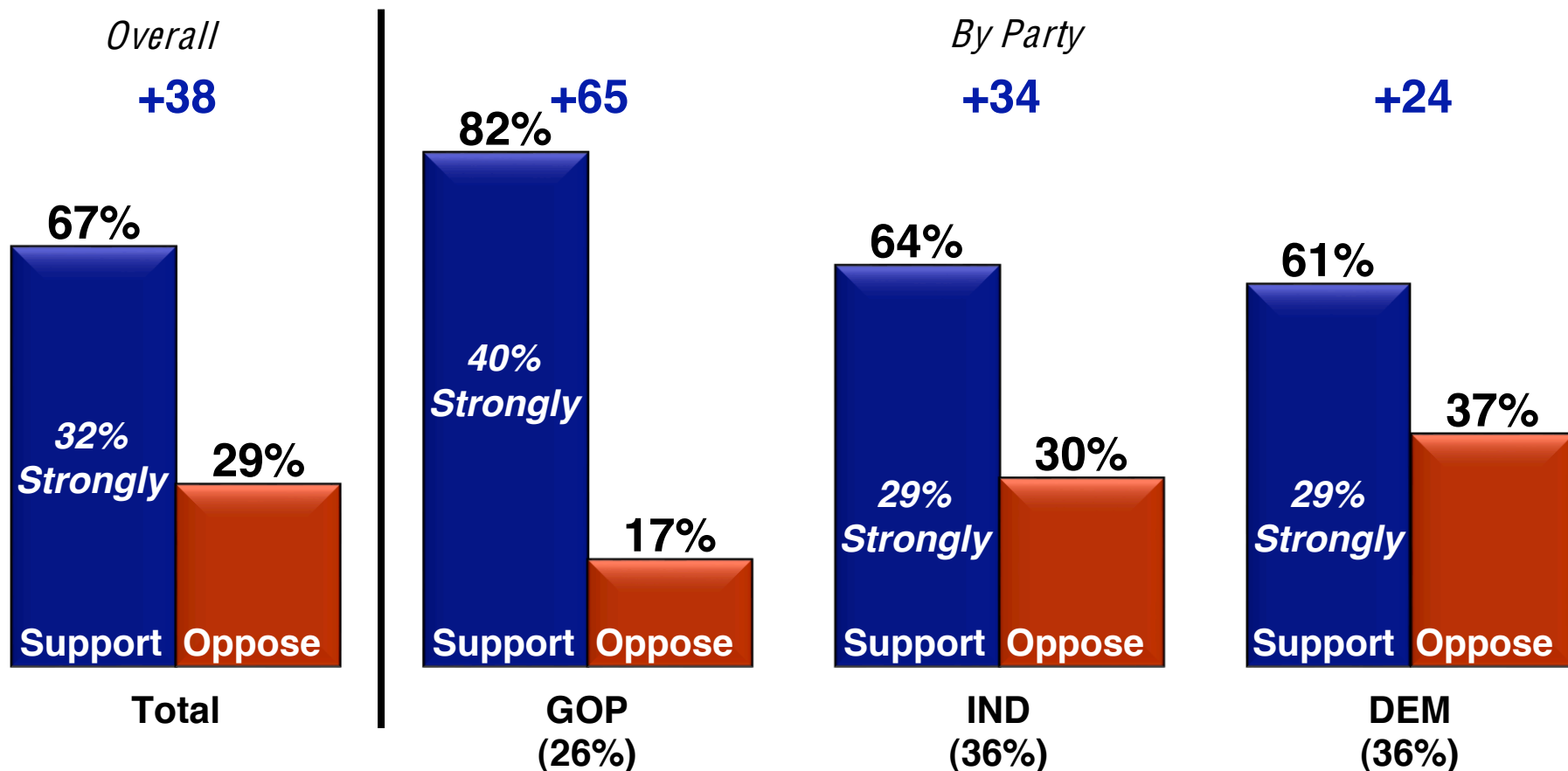
Illinois voters strongly support giving parents of students in low-performing schools an option of attending a charter school.

And, would you support or oppose giving parents of students in low-performing schools an option of attending a charter public school?



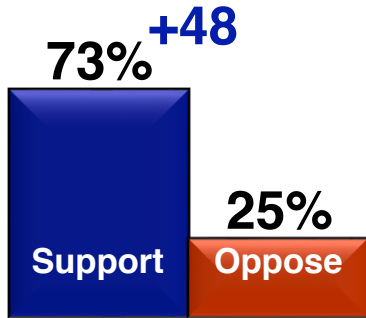
Illinois voters also strongly support making it easier for charter public schools to expand in their area of the state.

And, would you support or oppose making it easier for charter public schools to expand in your area of the state?

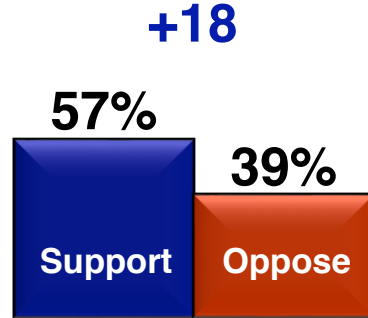


Voters throughout the state support making it easier for charter public schools to expand.

Charter School Expansion: By Region

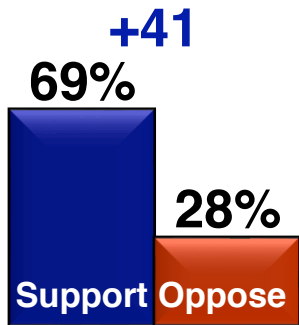


Collar Counties (25%)

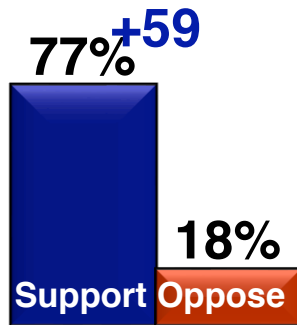


Cook County (37%)

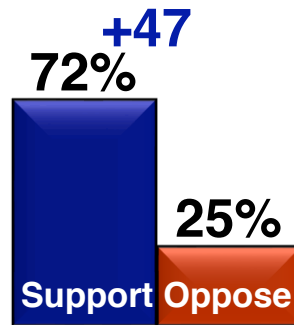
Charter School Expansion: By Region



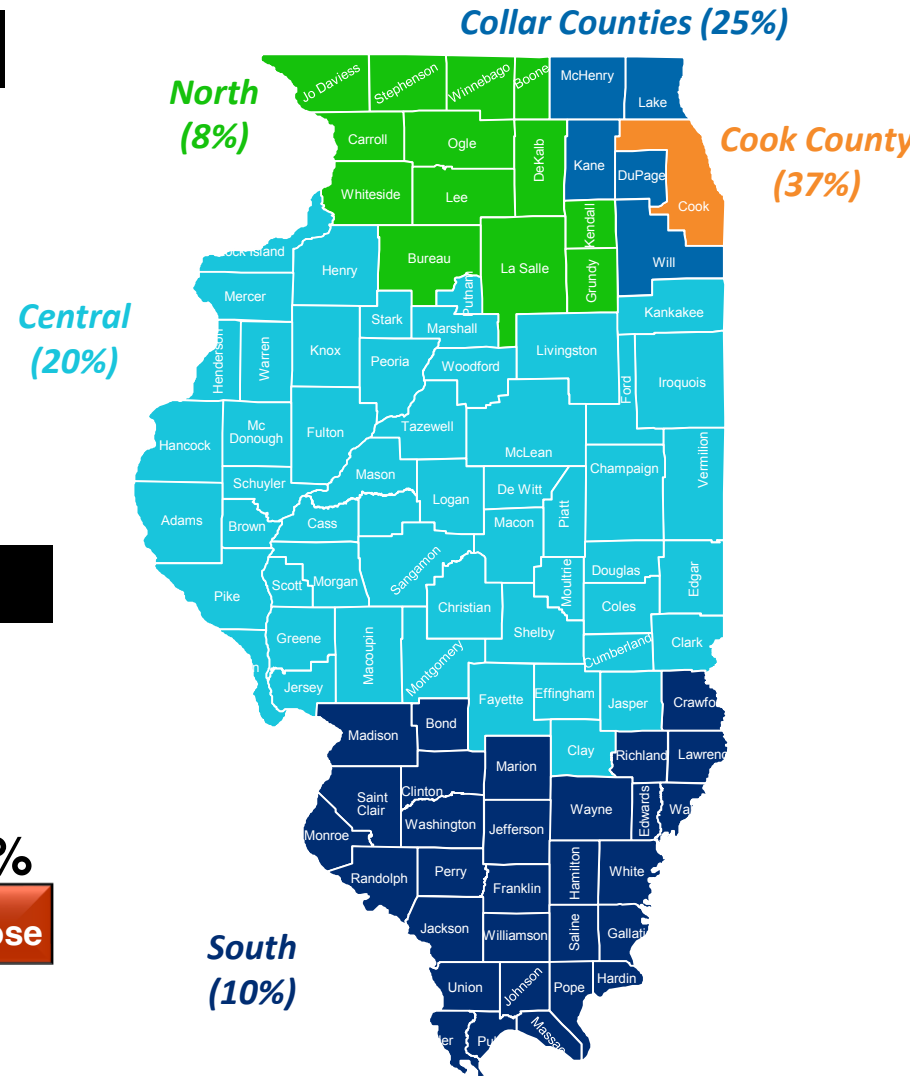
North (8%)



Central (20%)



South (10%)



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