



***Key Findings from a Survey of 500 Registered Voters
March 29- April 1, 2019***

Robert Blizzard, Partner



PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

On behalf of SCORE, Public Opinion Strategies completed a statewide survey of 500 registered voters.

Three hundred respondents were contacted via landline and 200 via cell phone.

The survey was conducted March 29- April 1, 2019 and has a margin of error of ±4.4%.

Robert Blizzard was the principal researcher on this project. Brian O'Bannon was the project director and Andrew Senesac provided analytical support.

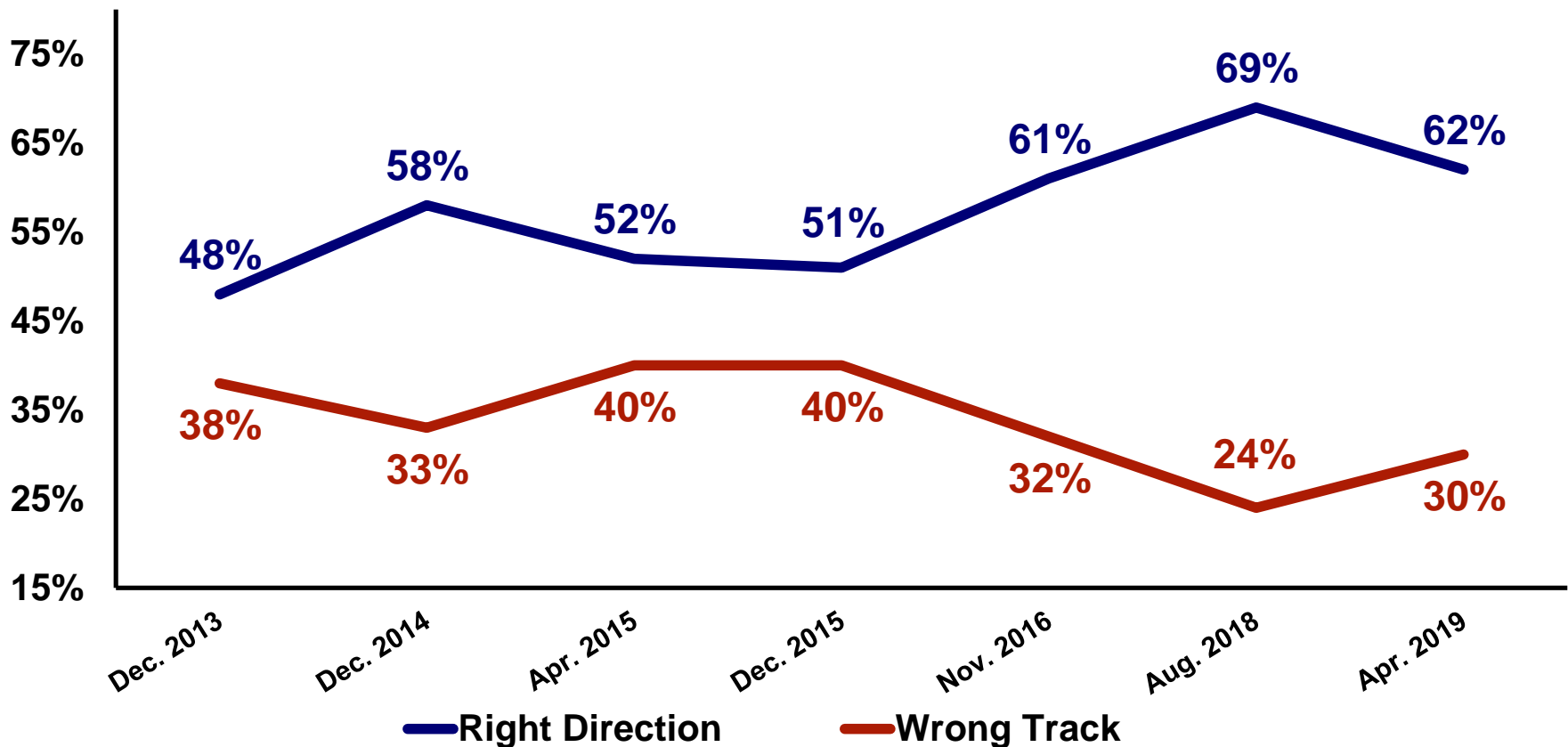


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The State's Political Landscape

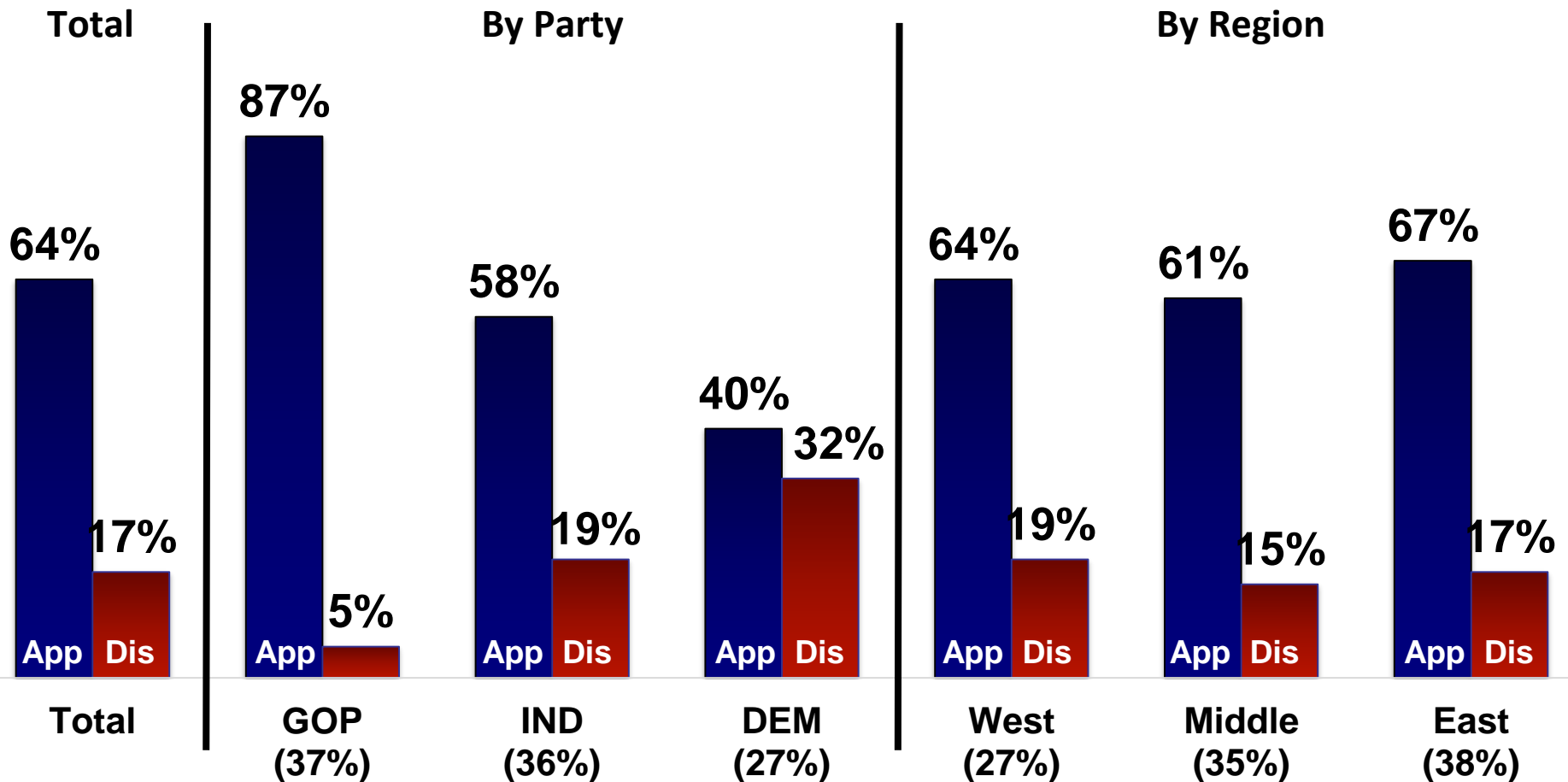
Tennesseans are very positive about the state's direction.

Now, generally speaking, do you think things in Tennessee are headed in the right direction or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?



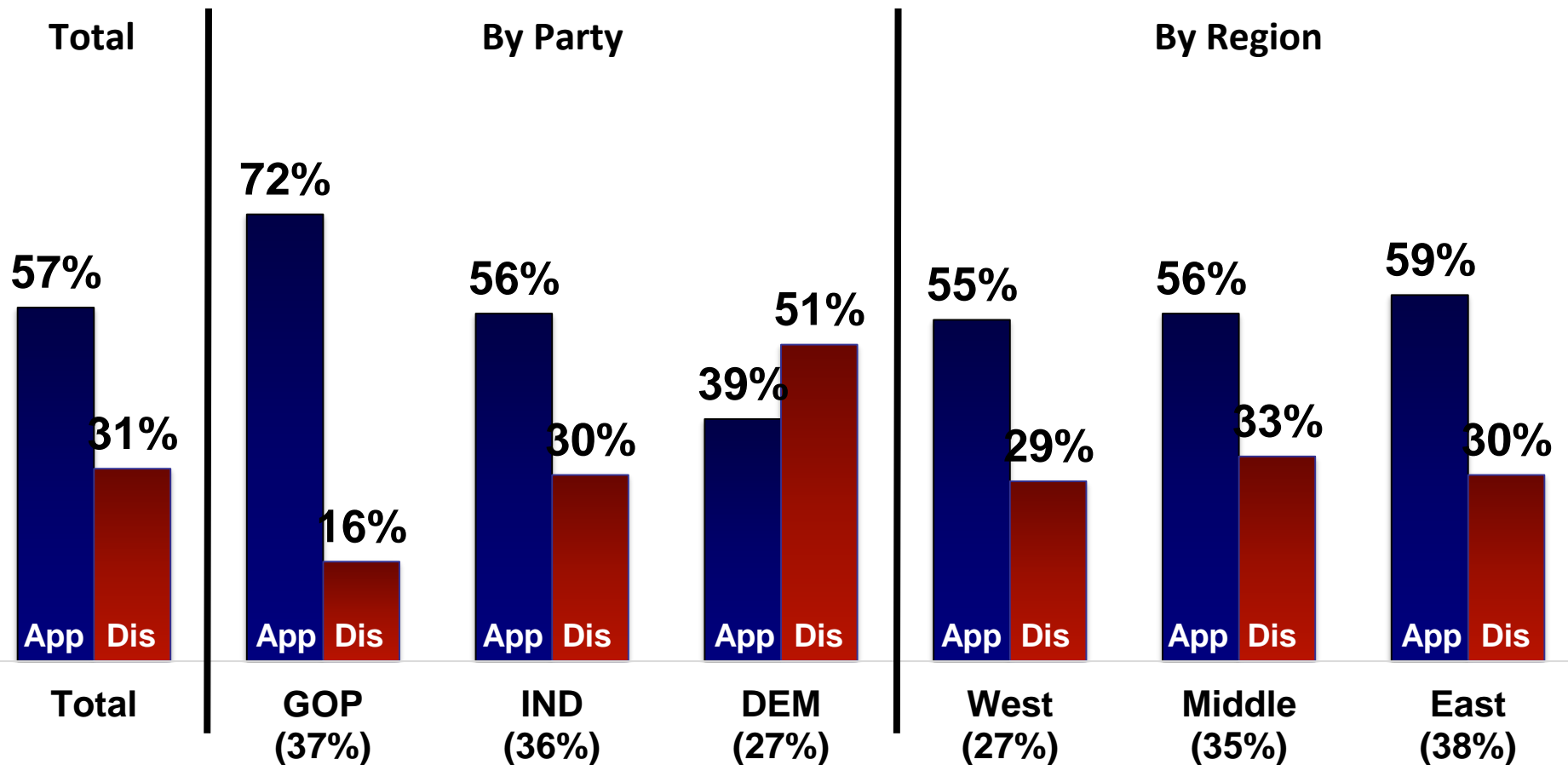
Governor Bill Lee begins his first term with a positive approval rating.

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Bill Lee is doing as Governor?



And, the State Legislature receives high marks for job performance.

And, do you approve or disapprove of the job the State Legislature is doing in Nashville?





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The State's Issue Agenda

Health care and education top the issue agenda.

<i>%Top Issue By Key Groups</i>	Total	GOP (37%)	IND (36%)	DEM (27%)	West (27%)	Middle (35%)	East (38%)
Health Care	19%	9%	20%	32%	20%	19%	18%
Education	17%	13%	21%	19%	18%	17%	18%
Jobs and the Economy	13%	14%	14%	11%	18%	11%	11%
Immigration	8%	15%	6%	2%	2%	9%	12%
Social Issues	8%	12%	6%	4%	9%	7%	7%
Roads and Infrastructure	6%	9%	6%	3%	9%	6%	5%
Gun Rights	6%	8%	6%	2%	3%	6%	7%
Crime & Drugs	5%	6%	3%	8%	11%	2%	5%
Opioid Crisis	5%	4%	6%	3%	2%	6%	5%
State Budget/Debt	3%	4%	4%	2%	2%	4%	4%
Environment	3%	-	2%	8%	4%	3%	3%
Gov't Spending	3%	3%	3%	1%	1%	4%	3%
Taxes	2%	3%	2%	3%	1%	4%	2%

Verbatim Responses

Q10. What are the most important reasons why you believe that education should be the top priority?

Tennessee voters prioritize education because of the reverberating consequences of educating the next generation. Voters see education as building Tennessee's future, helping the economy, and preventing the decay of the state. As one voter puts it, Tennessee needs "a fully informed citizenry to make the best decisions about how we move forward as a society."

Tennesseans think "education is very important" because they know that they are setting up their children to handle the problems of the future. One voter thinks Tennessee needs to ensure that "everybody has a good and fair education then that can trickle into other issues." Another emphasizes that the state needs "to do a better job raising the next generation that will run our country they need to be more educated." One respondent believes that "if we can educate then other things will follow."

Verbatim Responses

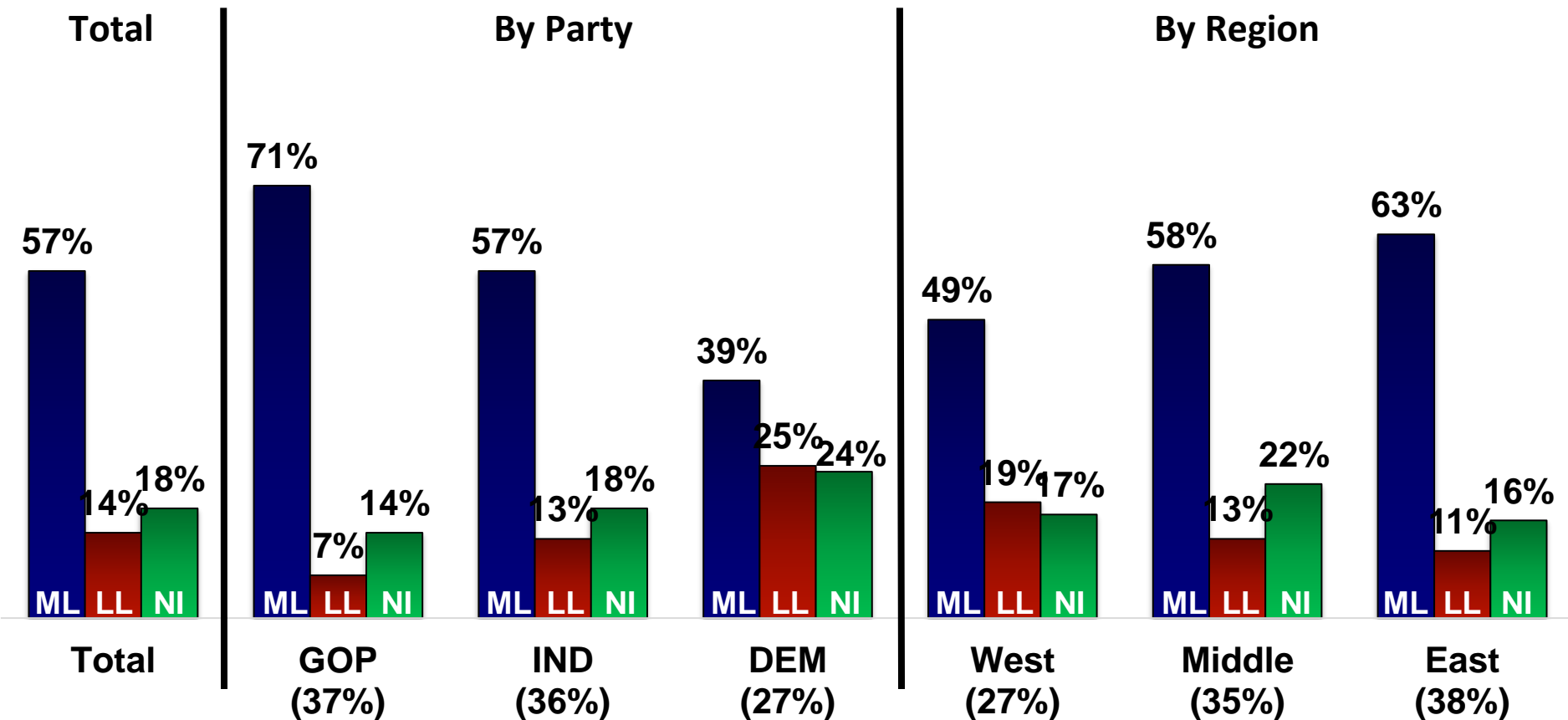
Q10. What are the most important reasons why you believe that education should be the top priority?

Tennessee's economy is a crucial incentive for voters' prioritizing education. Voters tie the future of the economy and the education of this generation together. Voters think "educated people can bring jobs and solve the problems that we face every day" and that "better jobs would happen."

Voters fear that current shortcomings in education will do serious harm to the population that could have been prevented. Voters believe that "if the kids don't have education they can go very easily in the wrong direction" and "if the educational needs are met, there'll be fewer problems with drugs and opioids." As one voter solemnly puts it "education is key for people to be out of poverty and clear the streets of homelessness."

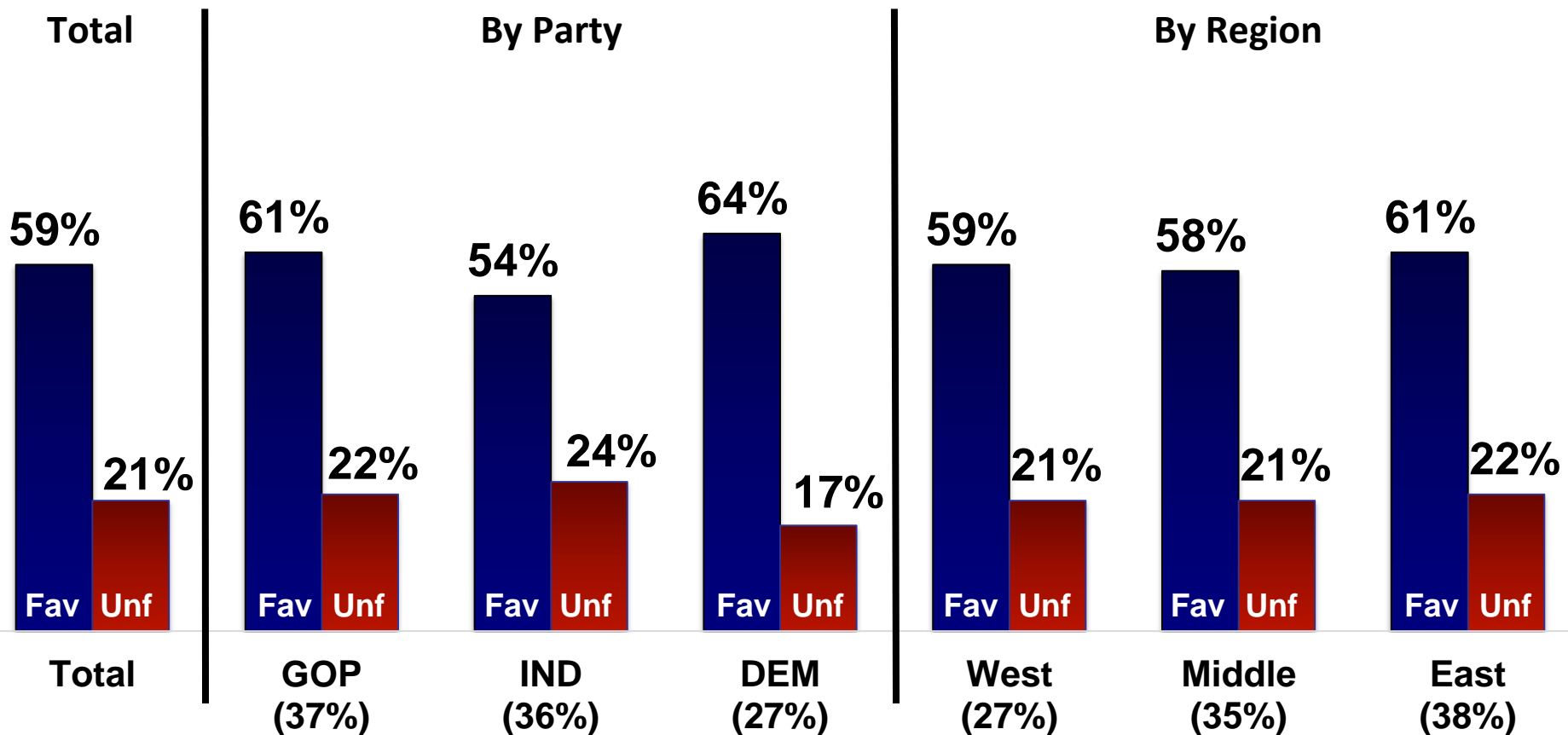
And, new Governor Lee has political capital – a majority say they'd be more likely to support their State Legislator if they “support Governor Bill Lee’s education policies.”

Supports Governor Bill Lee’s education policies.



Voters view former Governor Haslam's education changes favorably and continue to have a positive impression of Tennessee Promise.

As you may know, former Governor Bill Haslam made significant changes to education while he was Governor, including teacher evaluation and Tennessee Promise. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the education changes Governor Haslam made while Governor?



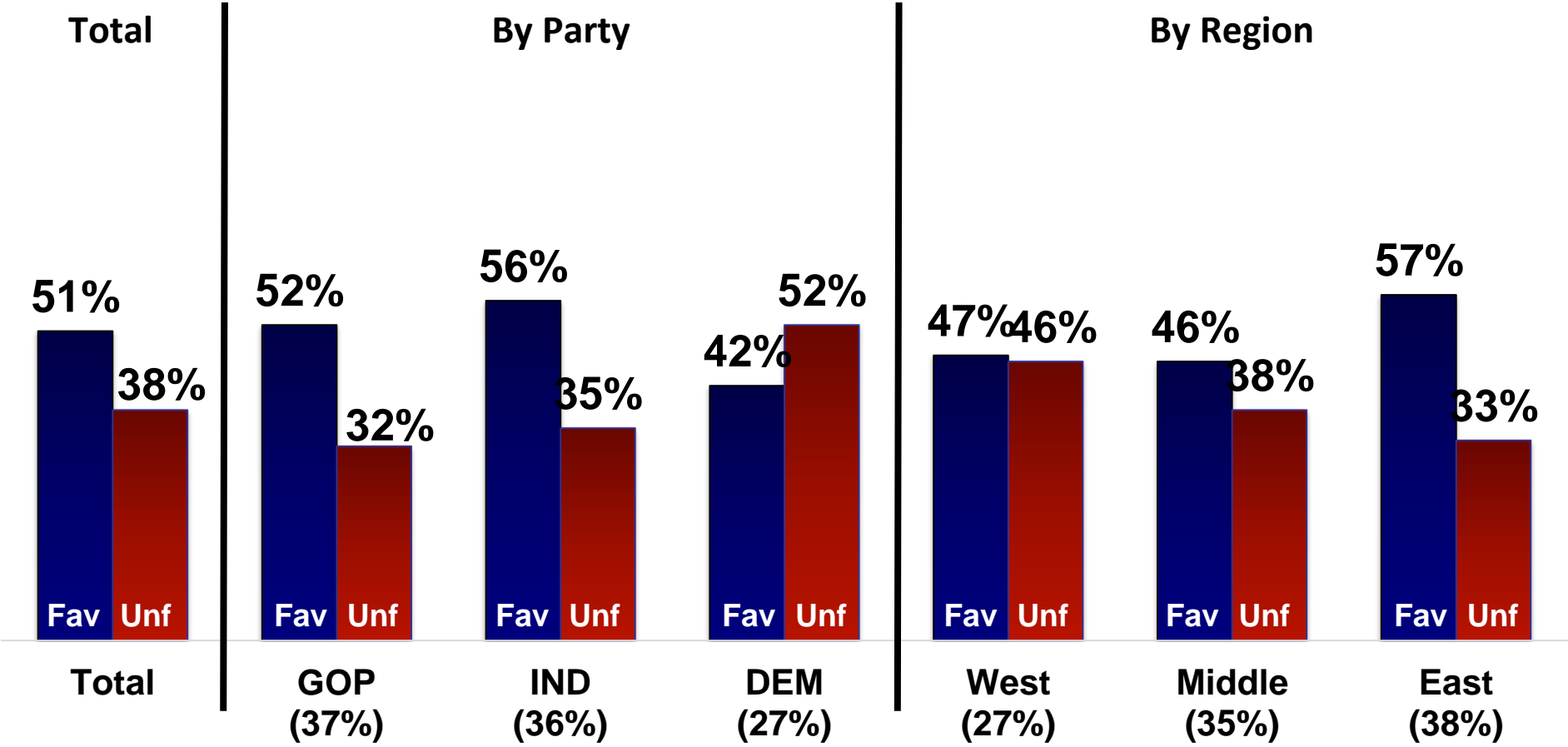


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Charter Schools

When given some more information, voters continue to view charter schools positively.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Tennessee charter schools which are ?



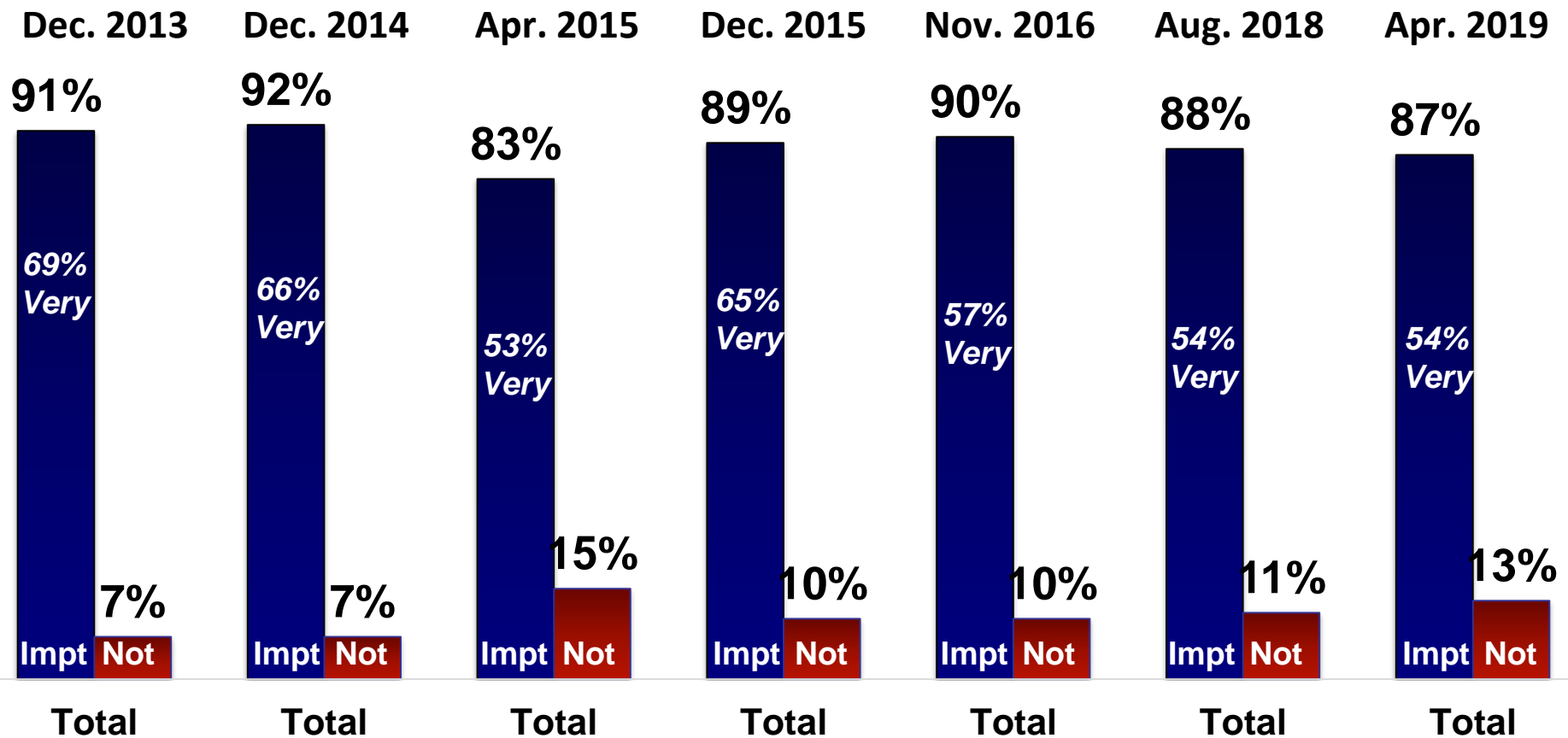


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Testing & Accountability

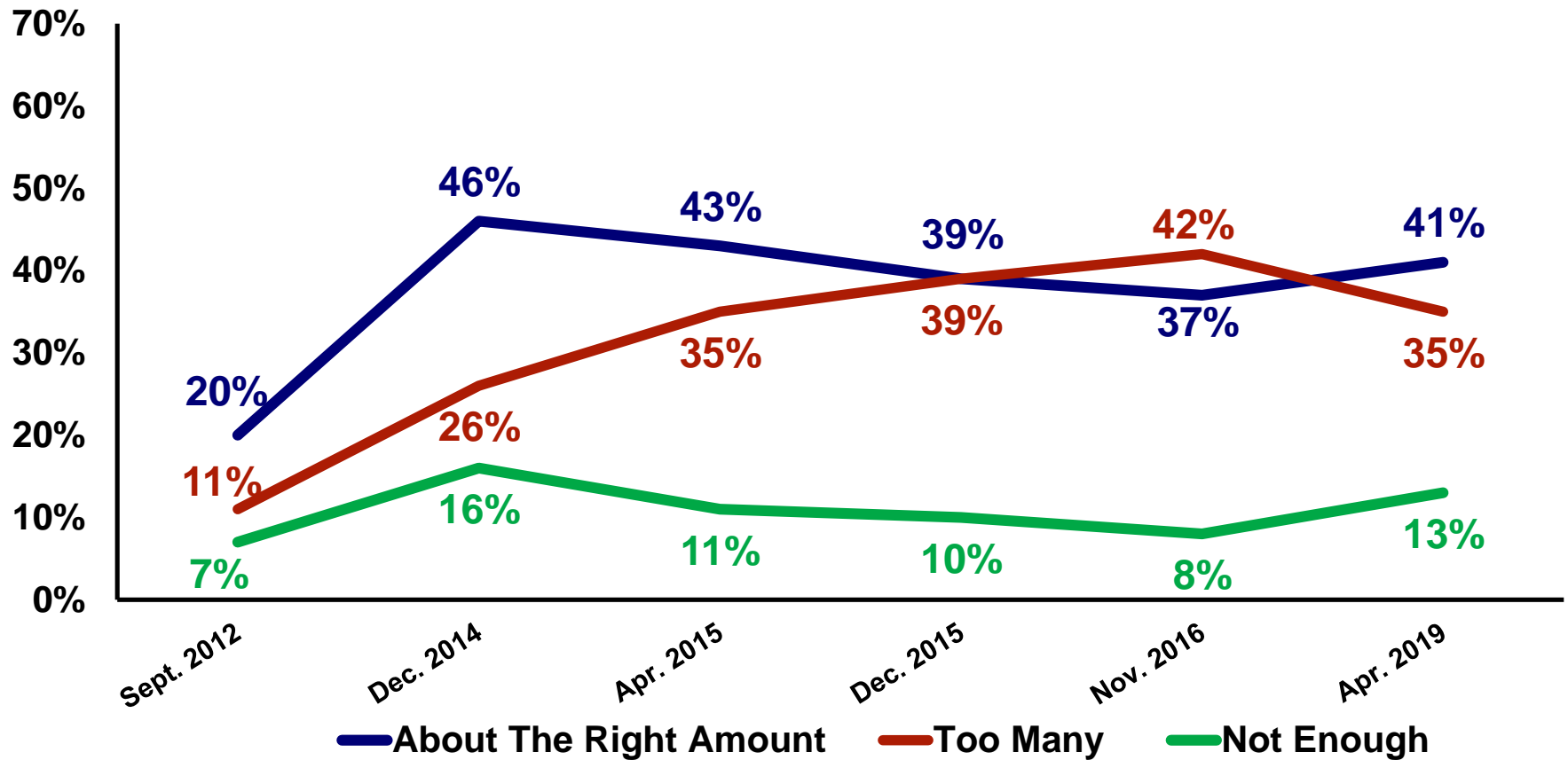
Voters continue to believe it is very important to test students.

How important is it to test students from grades three through eleven each year to know if they are meeting the state's education standards in reading, writing and math?



For the first time in years, a plurality of voters believe students are given about “the right amount of tests.”

And, in general, do you believe that students in Tennessee's public schools are given too many tests, about the right amount of tests, or not enough tests?

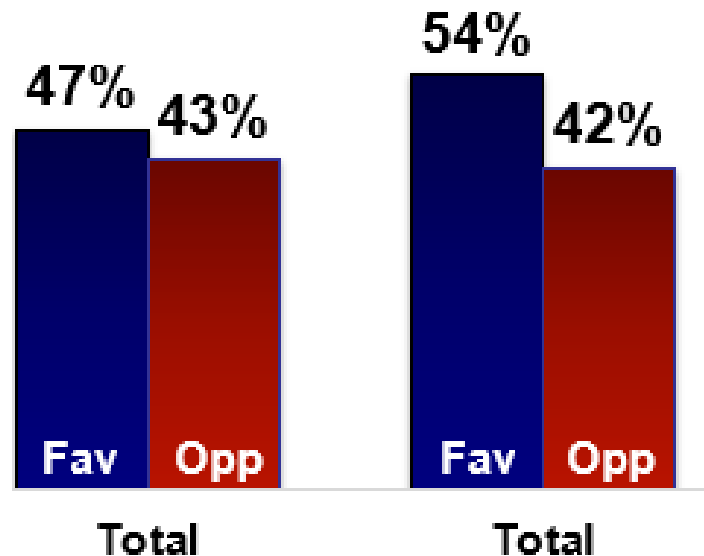


Attitudes have continued to shift on using student's academic growth as part of a teacher's evaluation.

As you may know, Tennessee has a policy that uses the year-to-year academic growth of students in part to measure a teacher's achievement and use it as part of the teacher's annual review. Do you favor or oppose this policy?

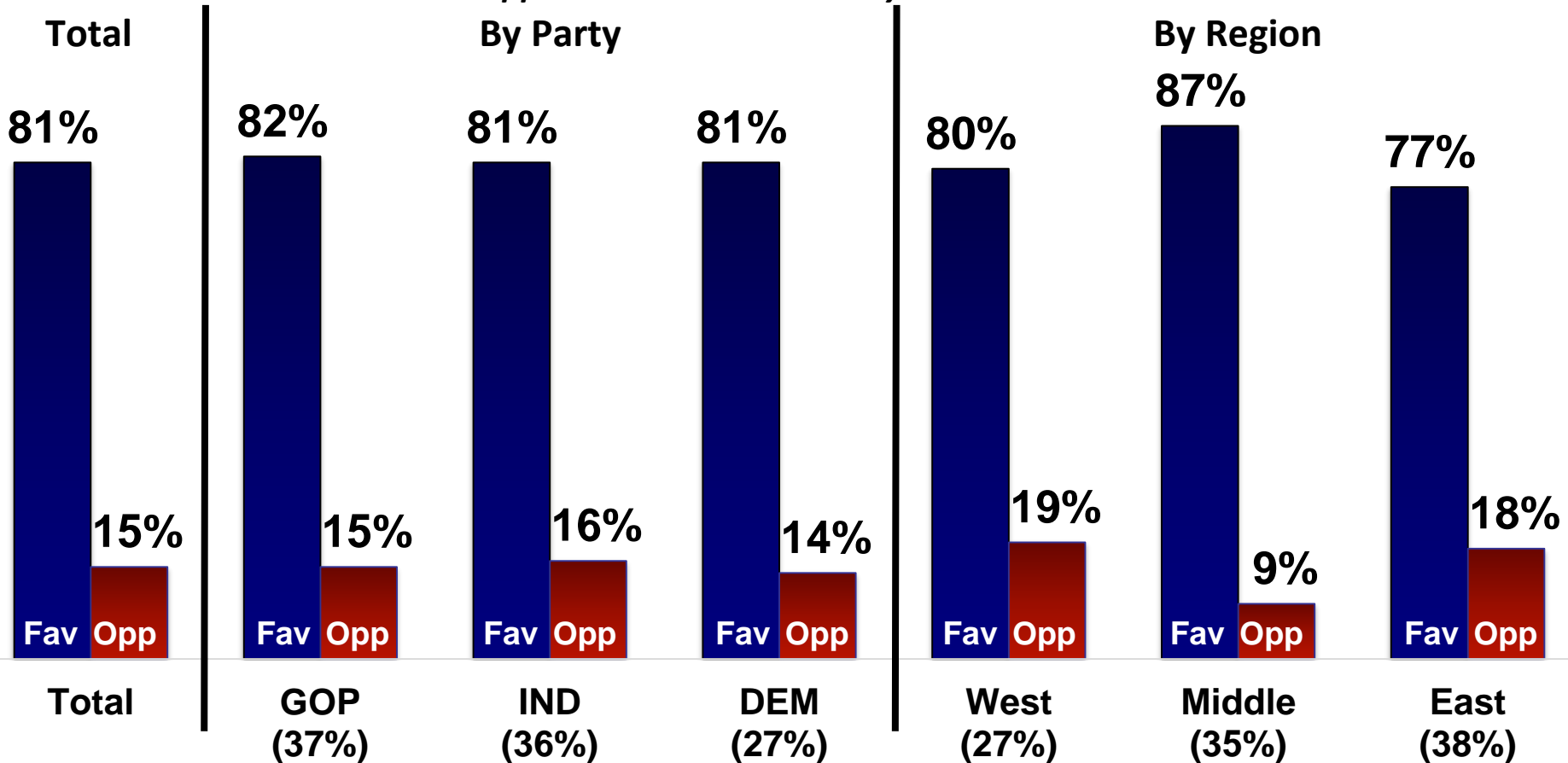
Aug. 2018

Apr. 2019



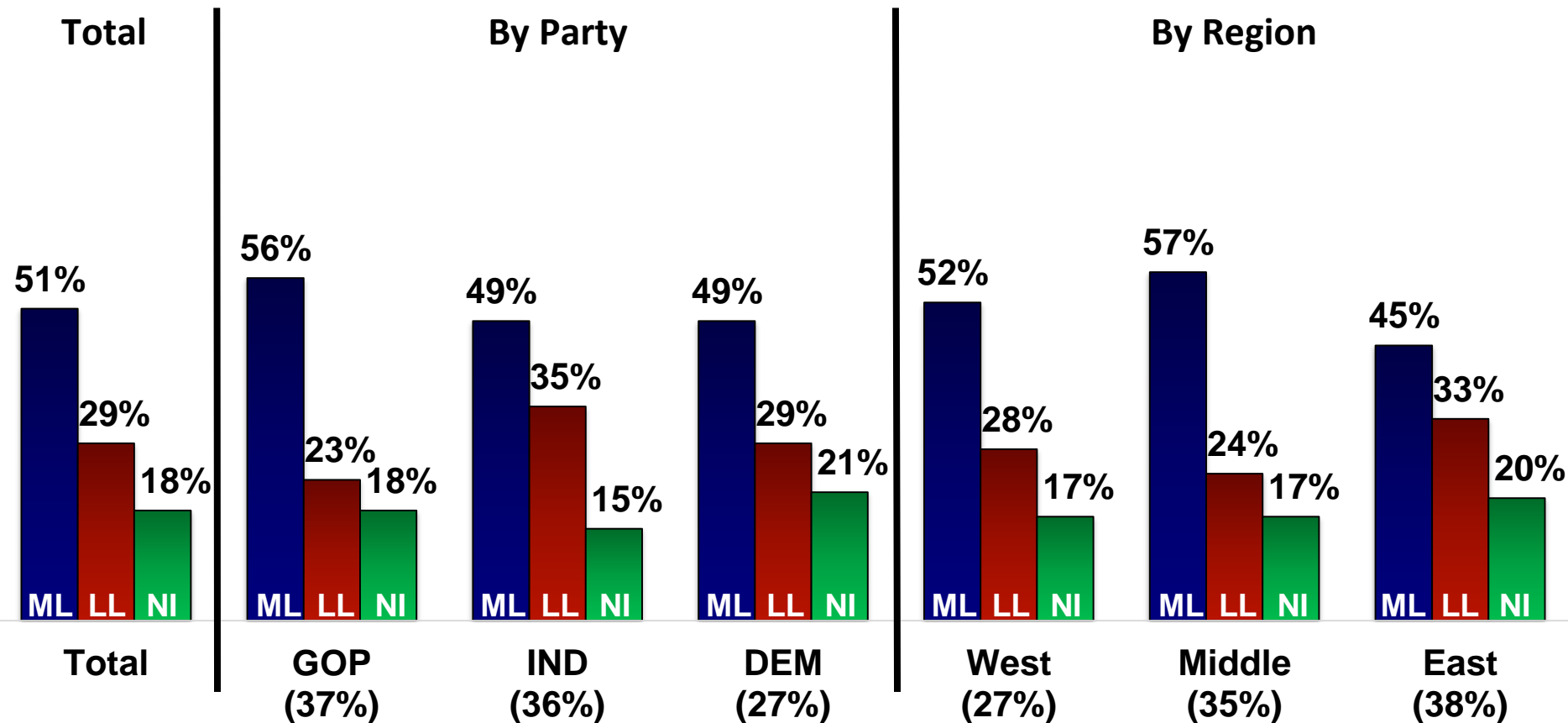
After hearing some more information, voters favor more accountability in schools by an 81%-15% margin.

Accountability in schools can refer to many different policies, including assigning letter grades to schools, state intervention, teacher evaluation, and transparency. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose more accountability in schools?



And, voters say they would be more likely to support their State Legislator if they knew they support measuring student progress through annual testing.

Supports measuring the academic progress of students through annual testing.





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A photograph of the Tennessee State Capitol building, a large, light-colored, classical-style structure with a prominent central dome and a portico with columns. A statue of George Washington on horseback stands in front of the portico. The building is surrounded by trees, including a large, leafless tree on the left and a large, white-flowered tree on the right. The sky is blue with some white clouds.

TN Ready

TN Ready is a end of year test to better assess what a child learns in a school year. It was designed to better match what is actually being taught in Tennessee classrooms. The T-N Ready test is designed to measure problem solving, critical thinking, and other skills needed for twenty-first century careers. It is the only test required by the state for all students in grades 3 through 12.

Knowing this, do you favor or oppose using T-N Ready in Tennessee schools?

Voters continue to favor using TN Ready...

Knowing this, do you favor or oppose using TN Ready in Tennessee schools?

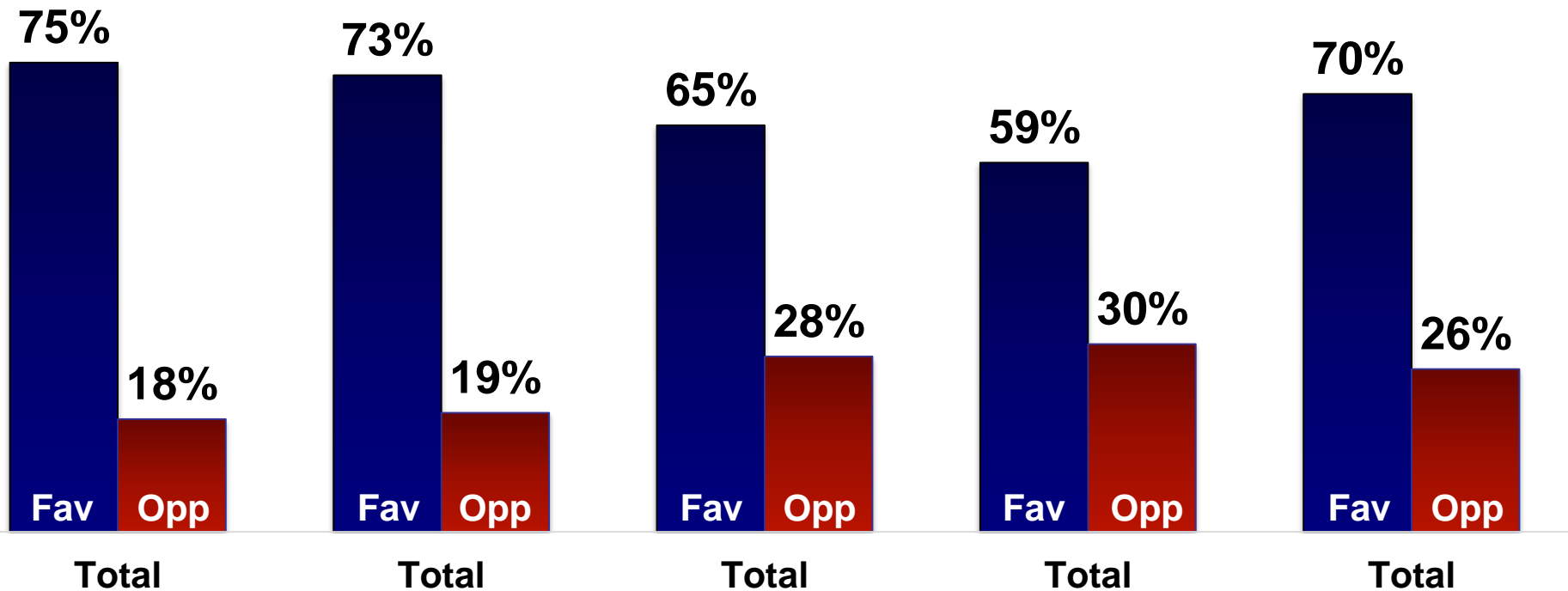
Apr. 2015

Dec. 2015

Nov. 2016

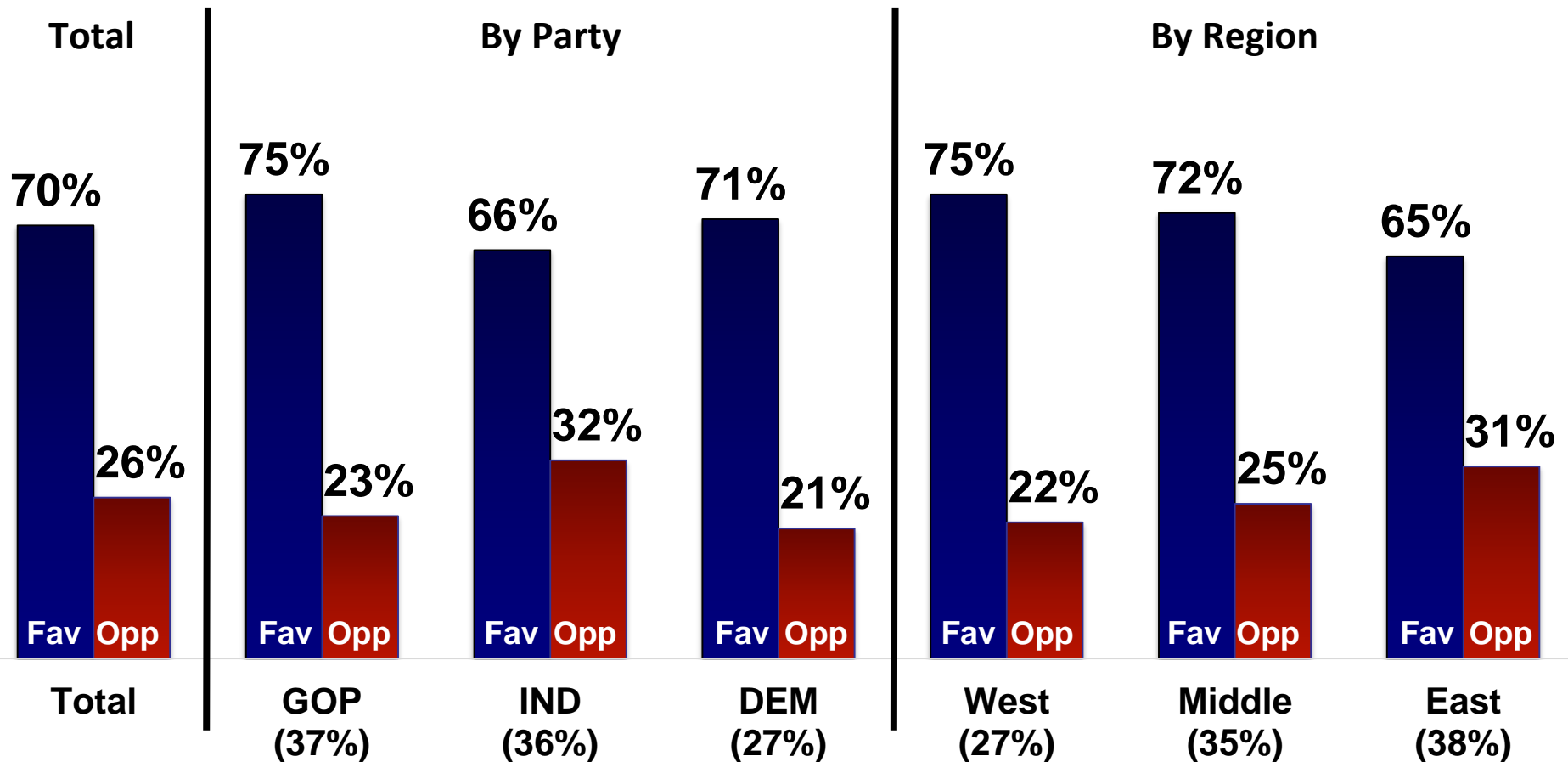
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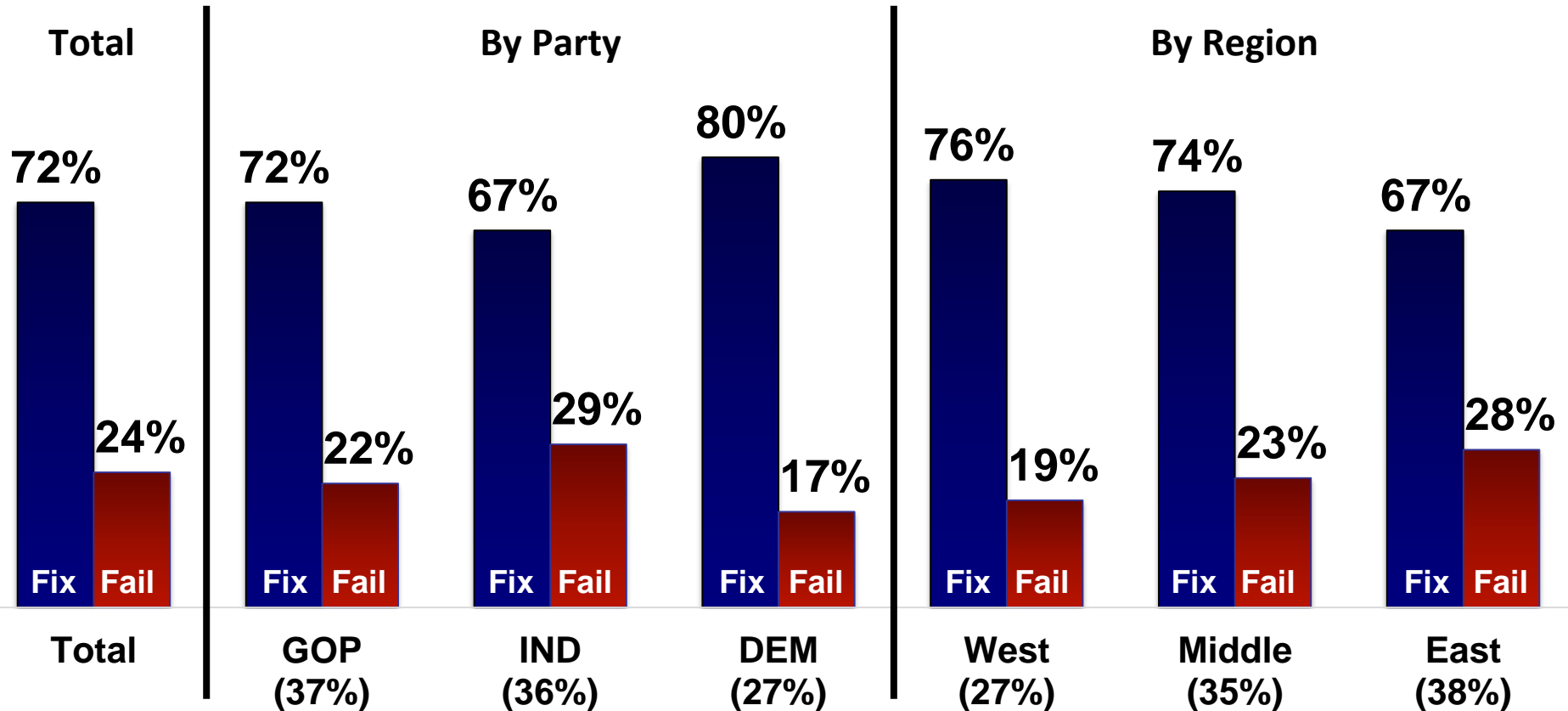
...Regardless of partisanship or region.

Knowing this, do you favor or oppose using TN Ready in Tennessee schools?



And, voters continue to believe that TN Ready should be fixed so that we have a good measure of student progress.

Last year, some of the students taking their TN Ready test experienced problems, like being unable to log into the test and having it scored incorrectly. Knowing this, which ONE of the following statements comes closer to your view? TN Ready should be fixed so that we have a good measure of student progress, or, TN Ready is already a failure and will never be a good measure of student progress.



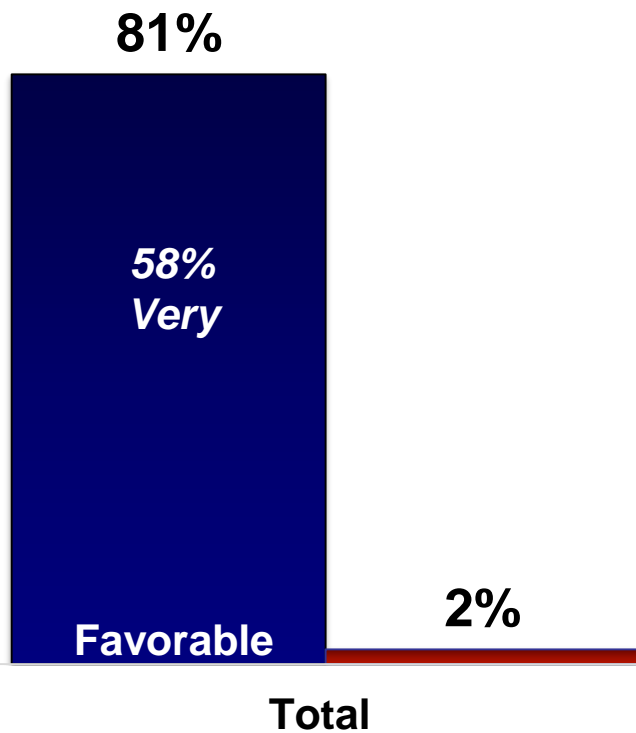


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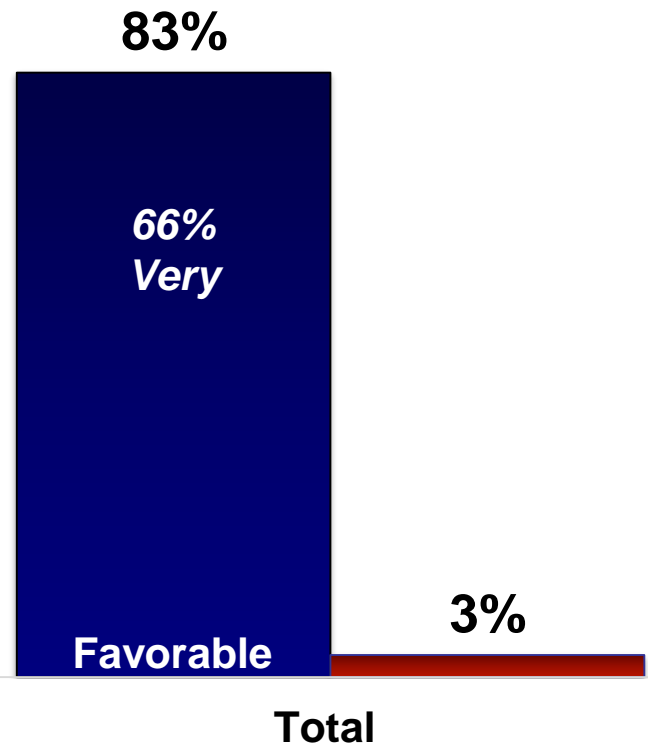
After High School

Voters view career/technical education and vocational education very favorably.

Career and Technical Education Image (A)

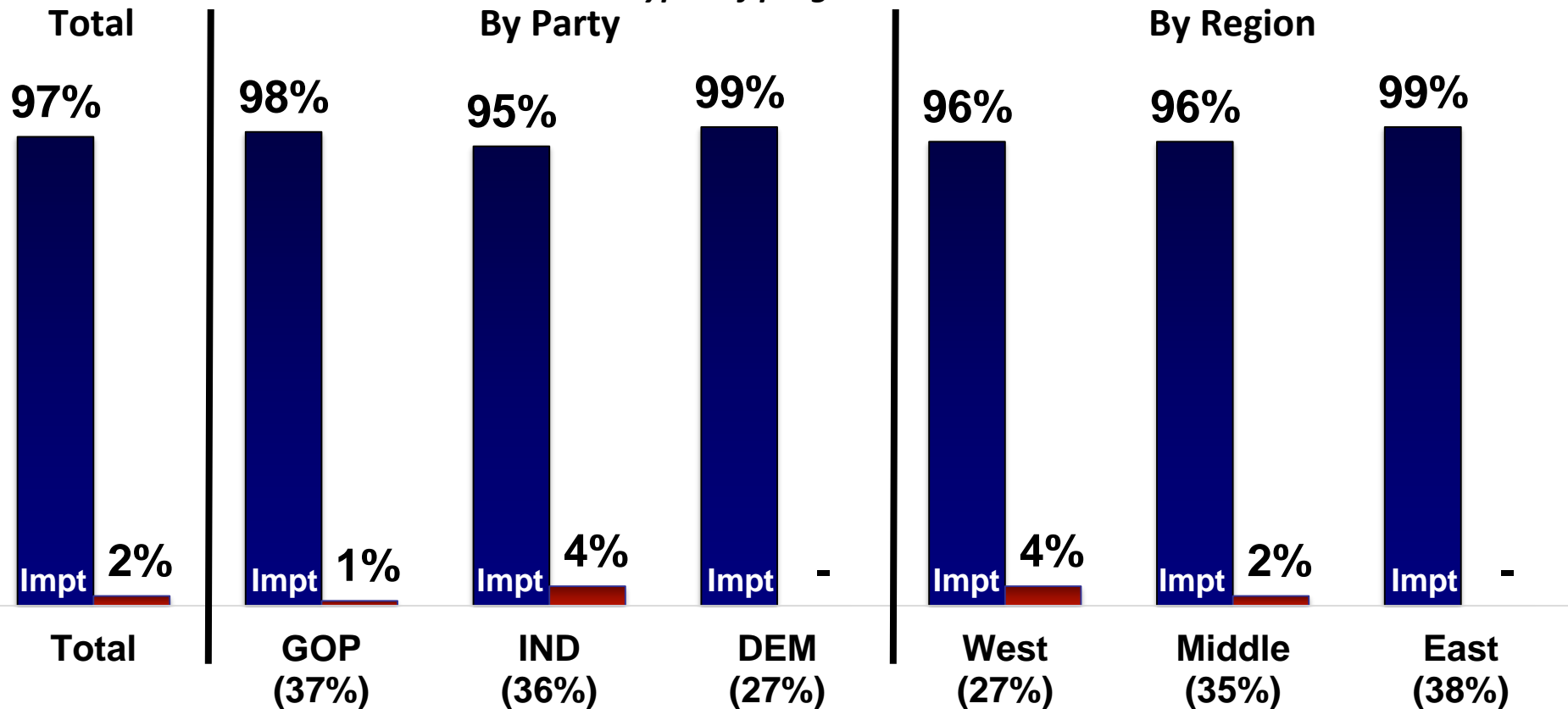


Vocational Education Image (B)



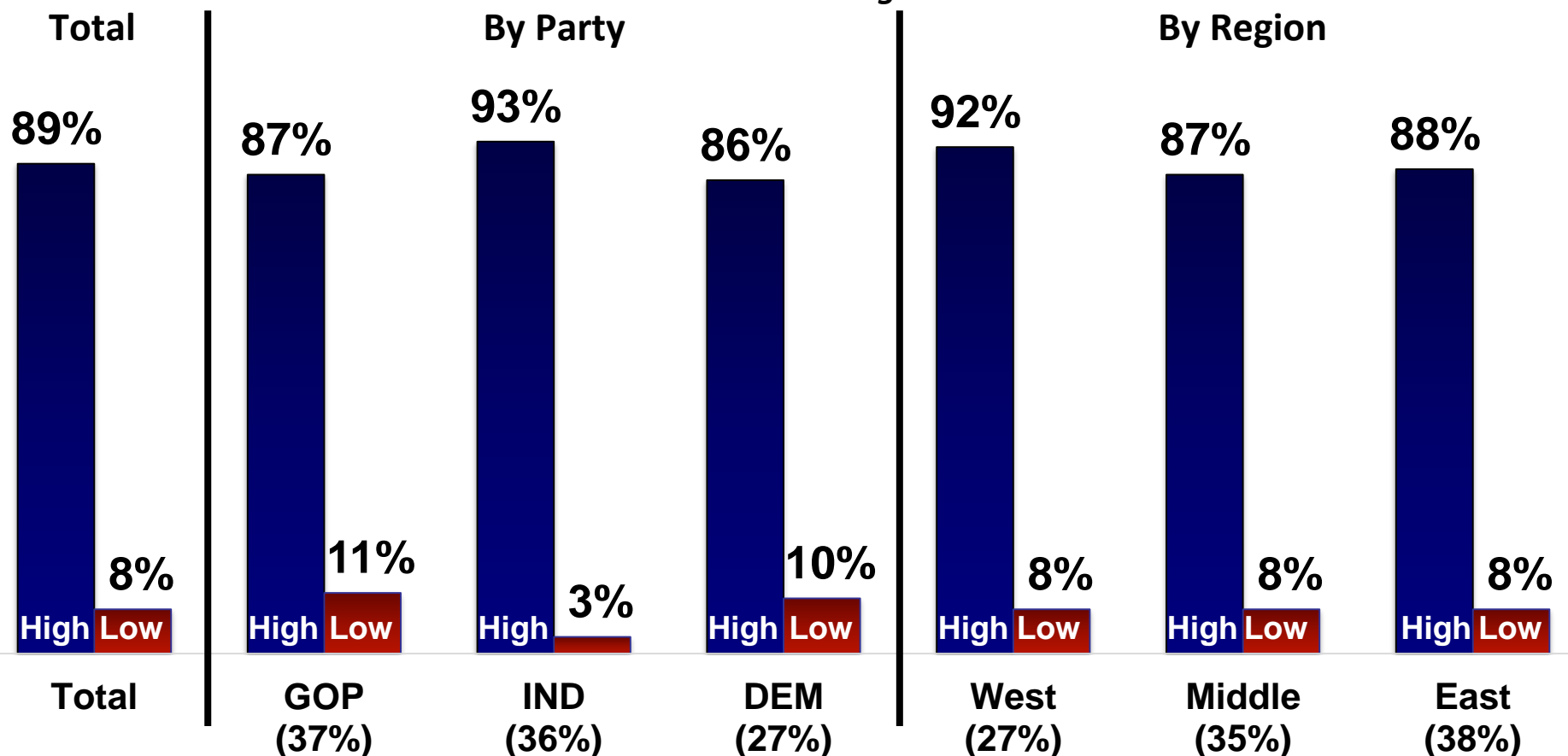
Almost every Tennessean believes it's important for the state to expand career and technical education to help prepare students.

Now as you may know, Career and Technical Education refers to programs in middle and high schools that helps prepares students for technical careers and skilled jobs, like advanced manufacturing. Knowing this, how important do you think it is for the state to expand these types of programs?



Nearly 90% of voters believe Governor Lee's new initiatives to improve college and job readiness for high school students should be a high priority.

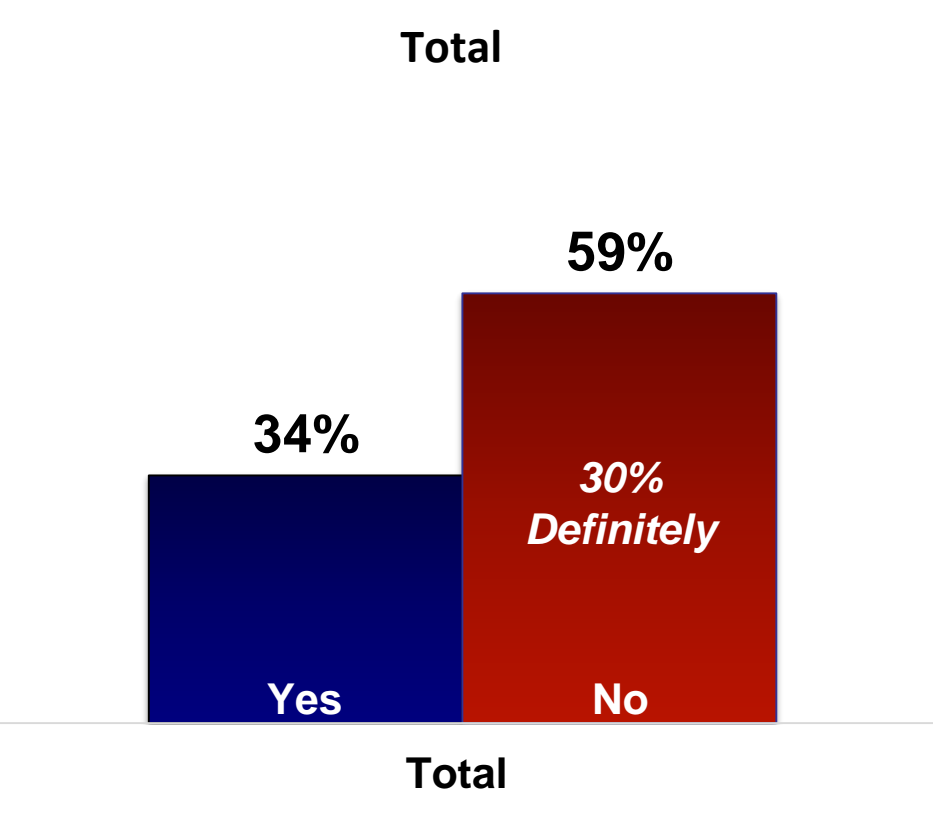
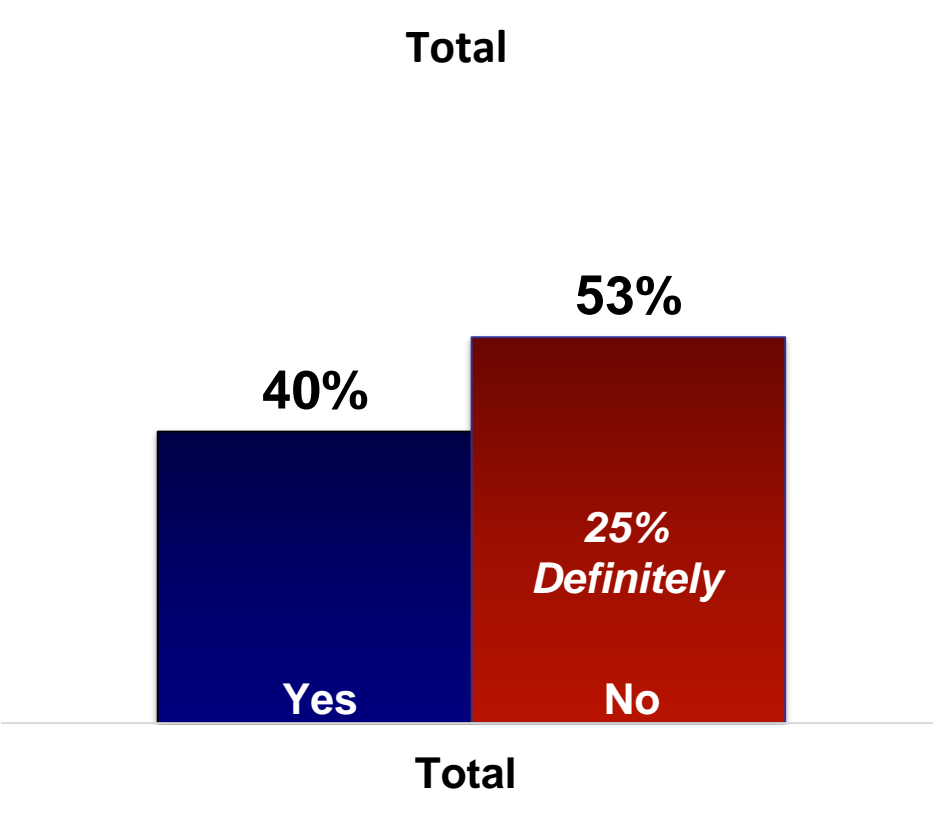
As you may know, Governor Bill Lee has proposed several new initiatives to improve college and job readiness for high school students. Do you believe this should be a high priority or a low priority for the Governor and State Legislature?



In fact, most voters do NOT believe Tennessee's high school graduates are prepared for college OR a job.

In your opinion, are Tennessee's high school graduates properly prepared for college?

In your opinion, are Tennessee's high school graduates properly prepared for a job?





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Other Issues

Most voters believe focusing on teachers will make the biggest impact in improving literacy rates.

As you may know, less than half of Tennessee's third graders can read on grade level. Which ONE of the following proposals do you think would make the biggest impact in improving literacy rates for Tennessee students?

