



Voters' Views on Arizona's Public Lands

The Wilderness Society
2026 Survey Research

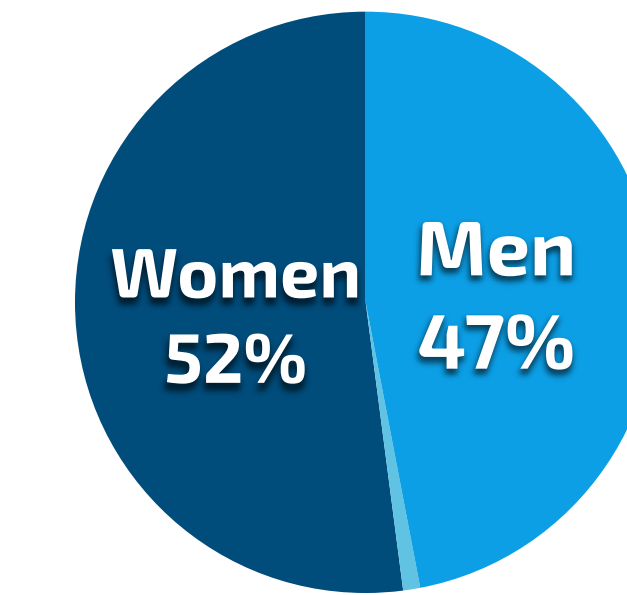


About the Survey

- Survey of N=918 likely voters in Arizona, with a base sample of 500 likely voters statewide and oversamples achieving 520 Republican/Republican-leaning voters statewide and 208 likely voters in AZ-06
- 70% text-to-web, 30% phone/CATI (landline and cell), sample from L2 voter file
- Field Dates: August 18-22, 2026
- Weighted to reflect characteristics of likely voters statewide

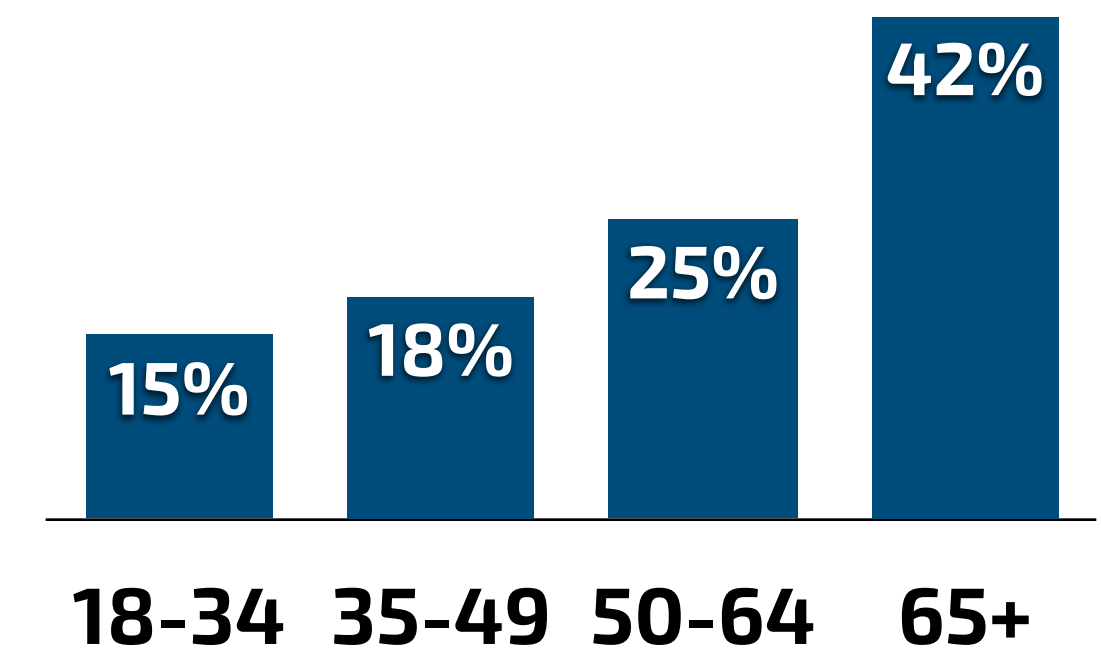
More information about the methodology is included at the end of this report.

Gender

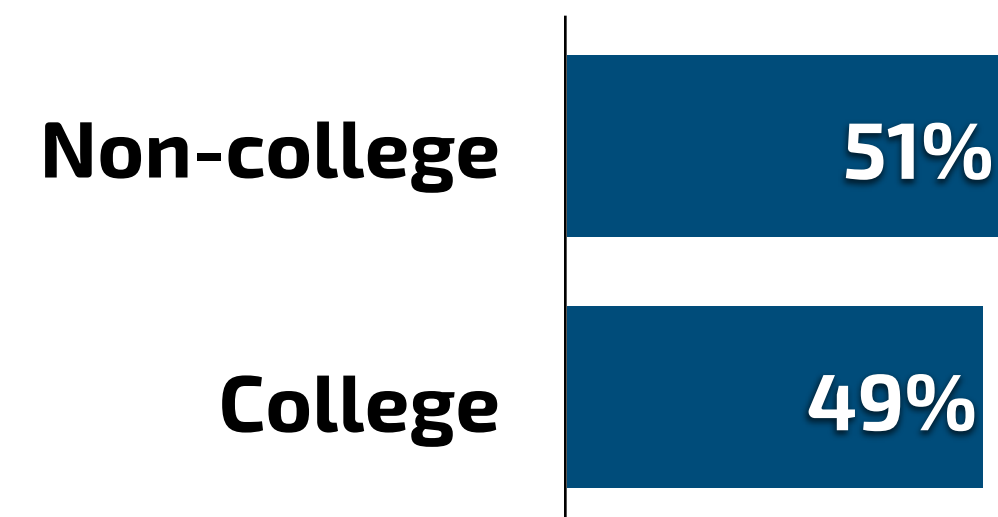


Some other way: 1%

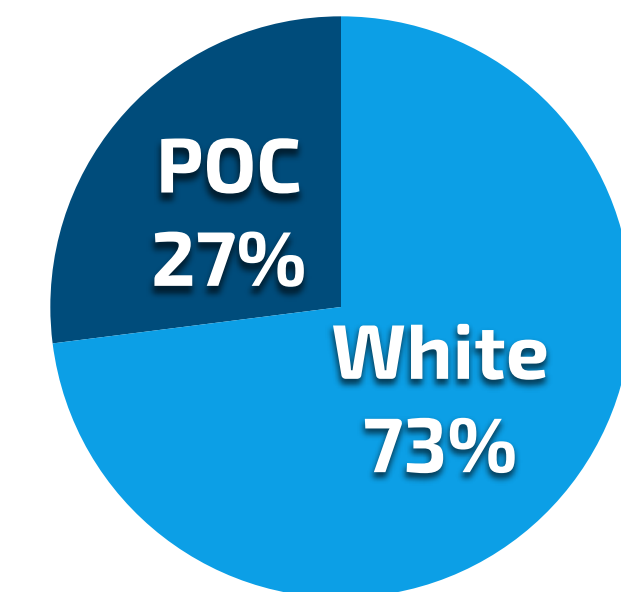
Age



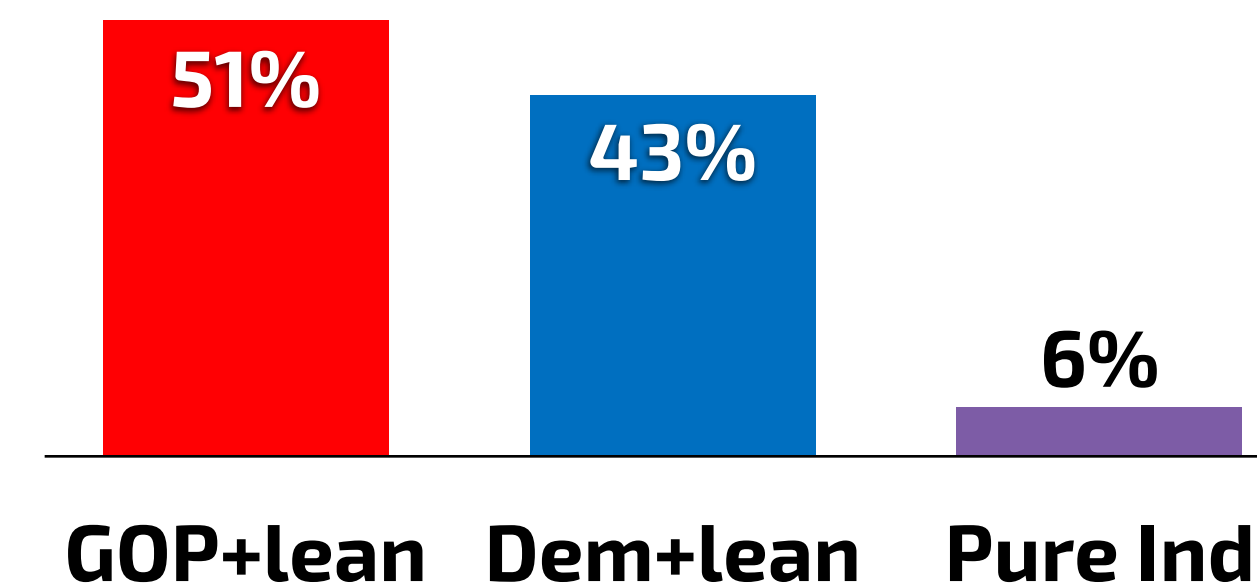
Education



Race/Ethnicity



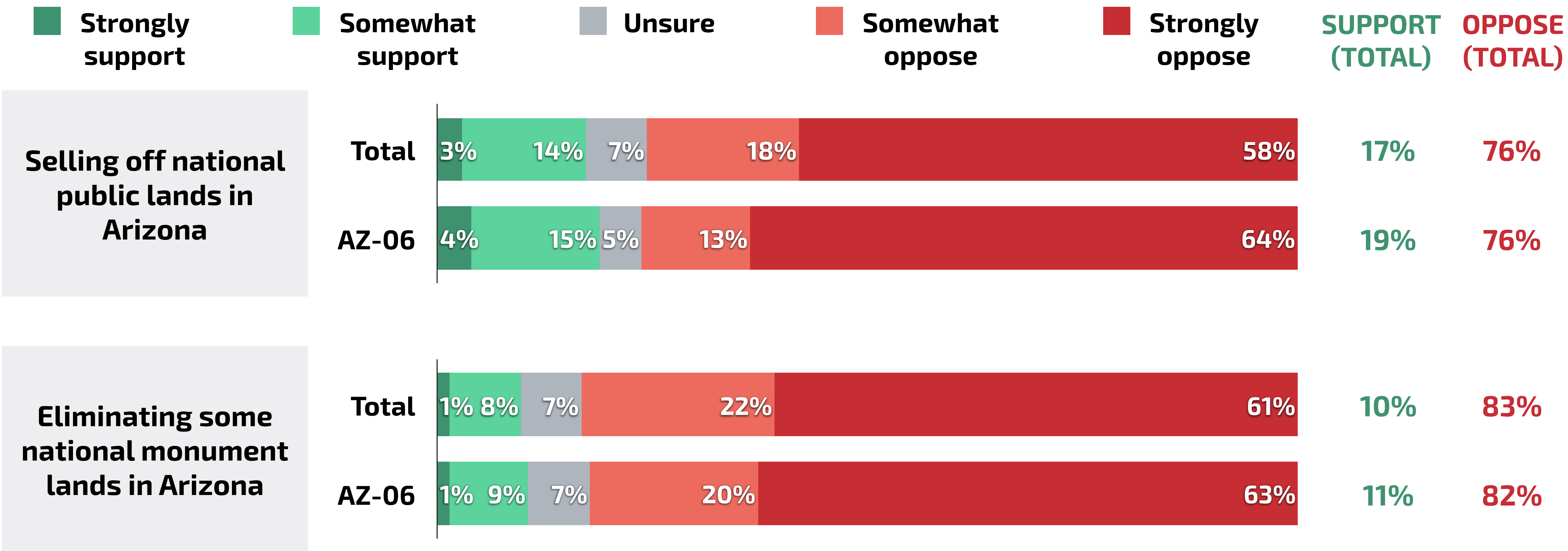
Party+lean



Voters in both parties want to protect public lands in Arizona, and they feel leaders on both sides of the aisle should want to do the same.

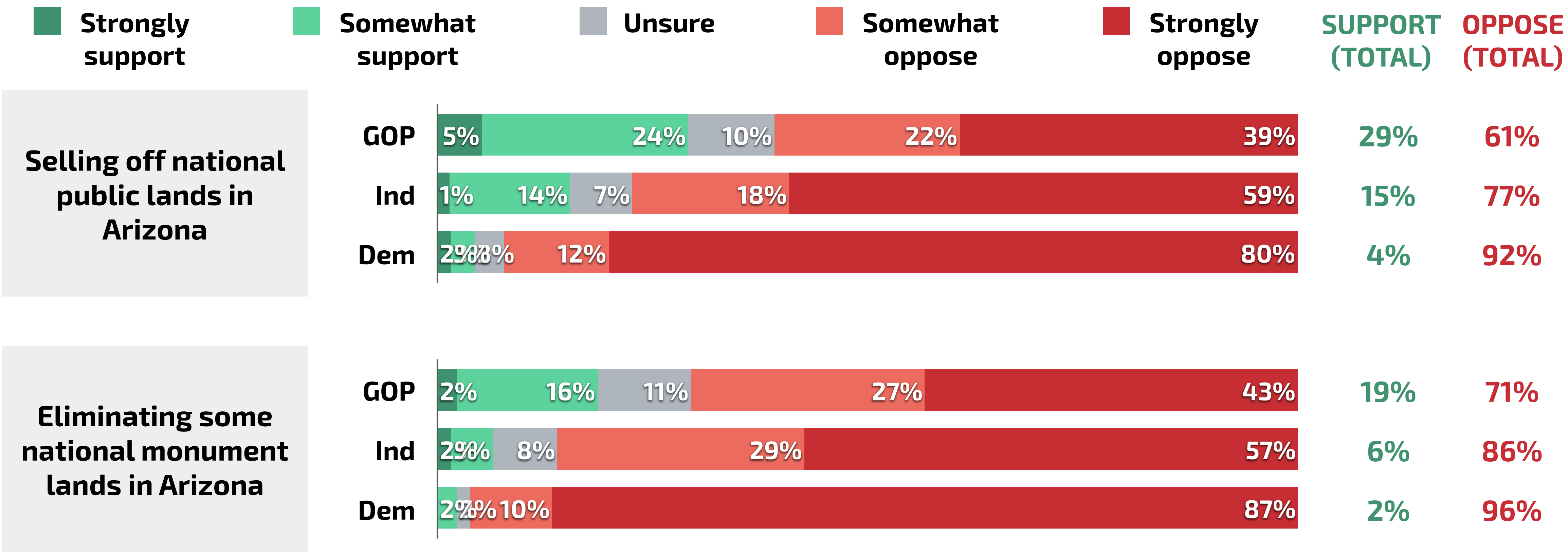


Arizona voters statewide and in AZ-06 strongly oppose selling off public lands and eliminating some national monument lands



Q. Would you support or oppose each of the following actions?
Note: Throughout the deck, "Total" refers to voters statewide.

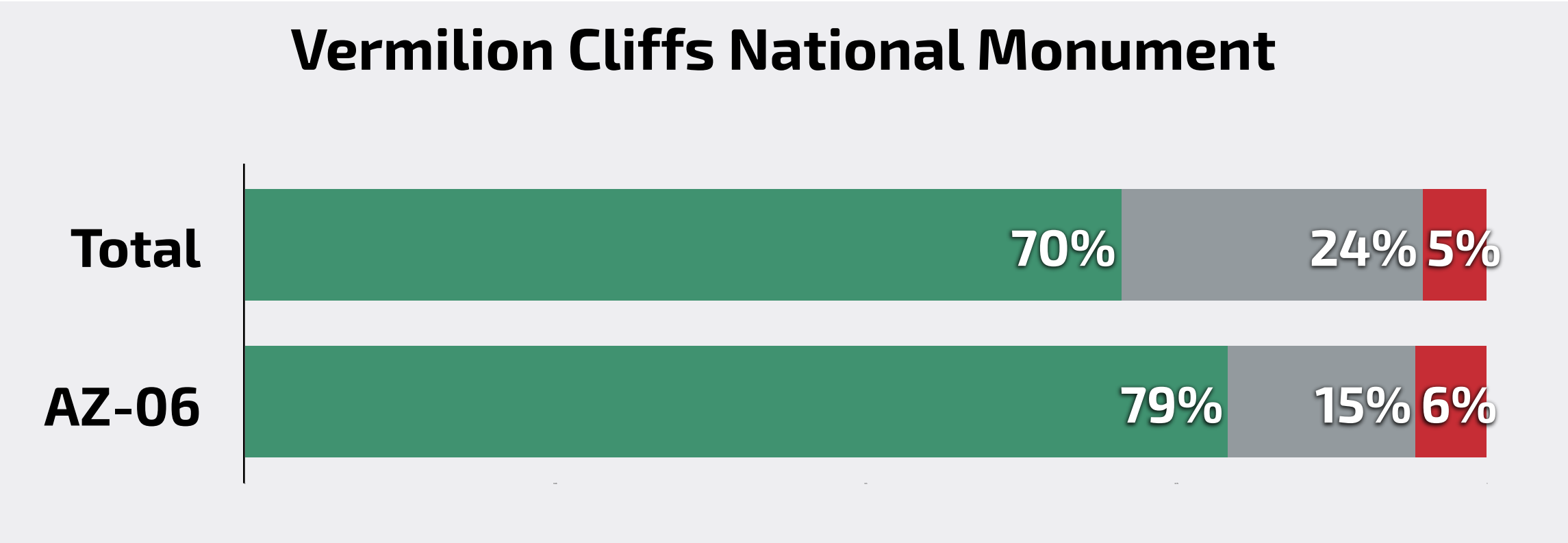
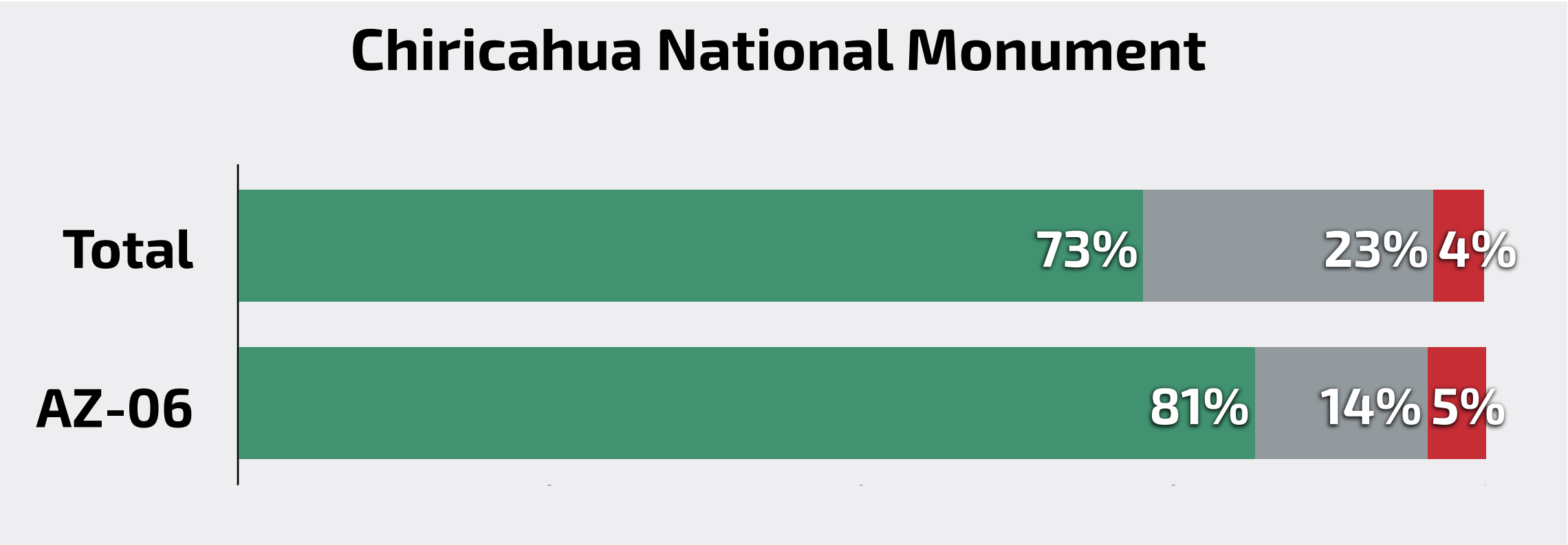
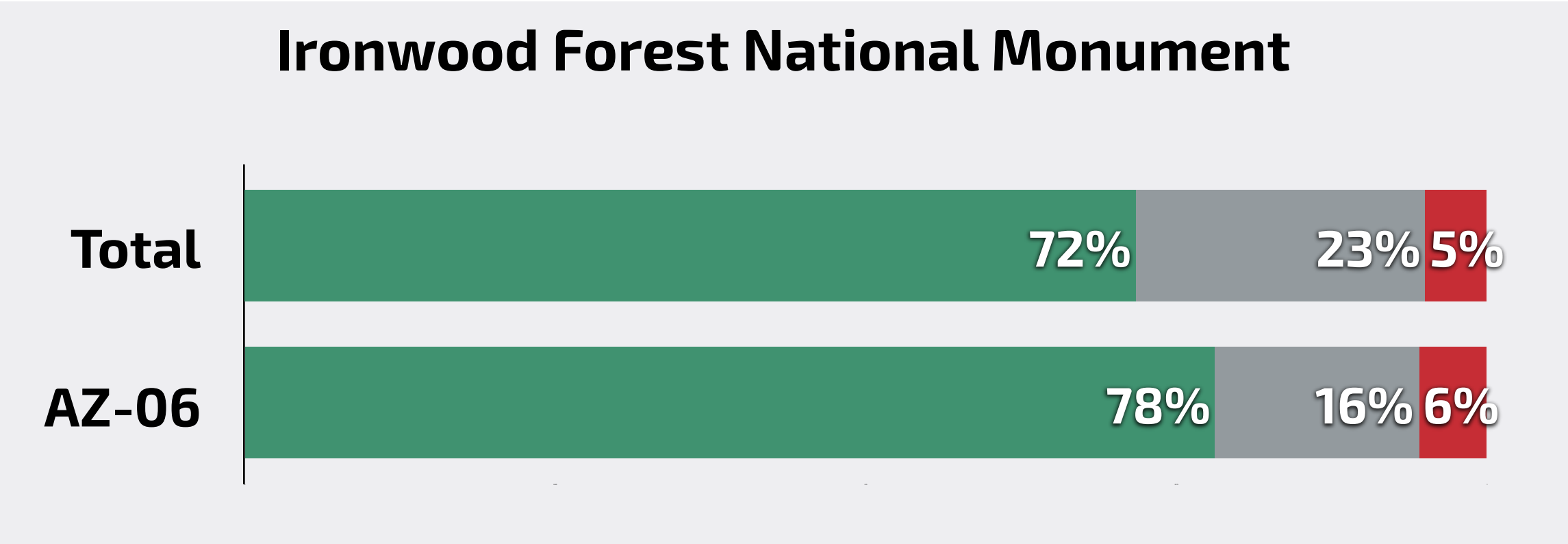
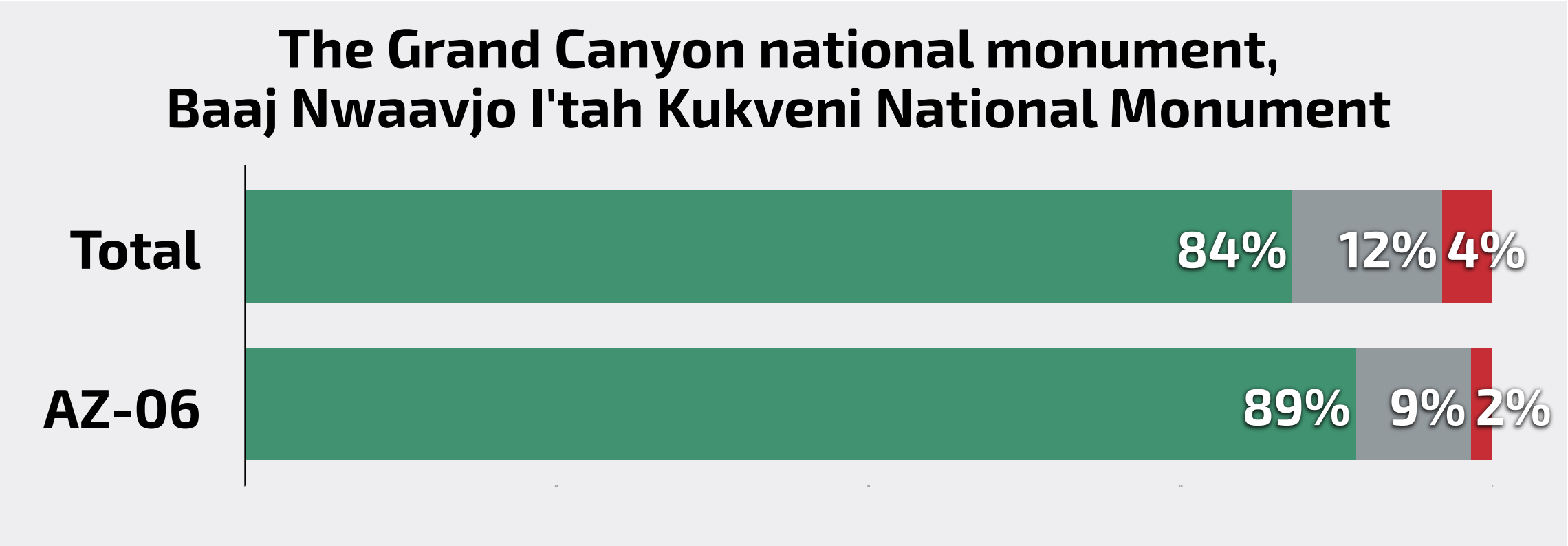
Selling off public lands draws widespread opposition from Arizona voters across party lines



Q. Would you support or oppose each of the following actions?
Base: Arizona likely voters statewide.

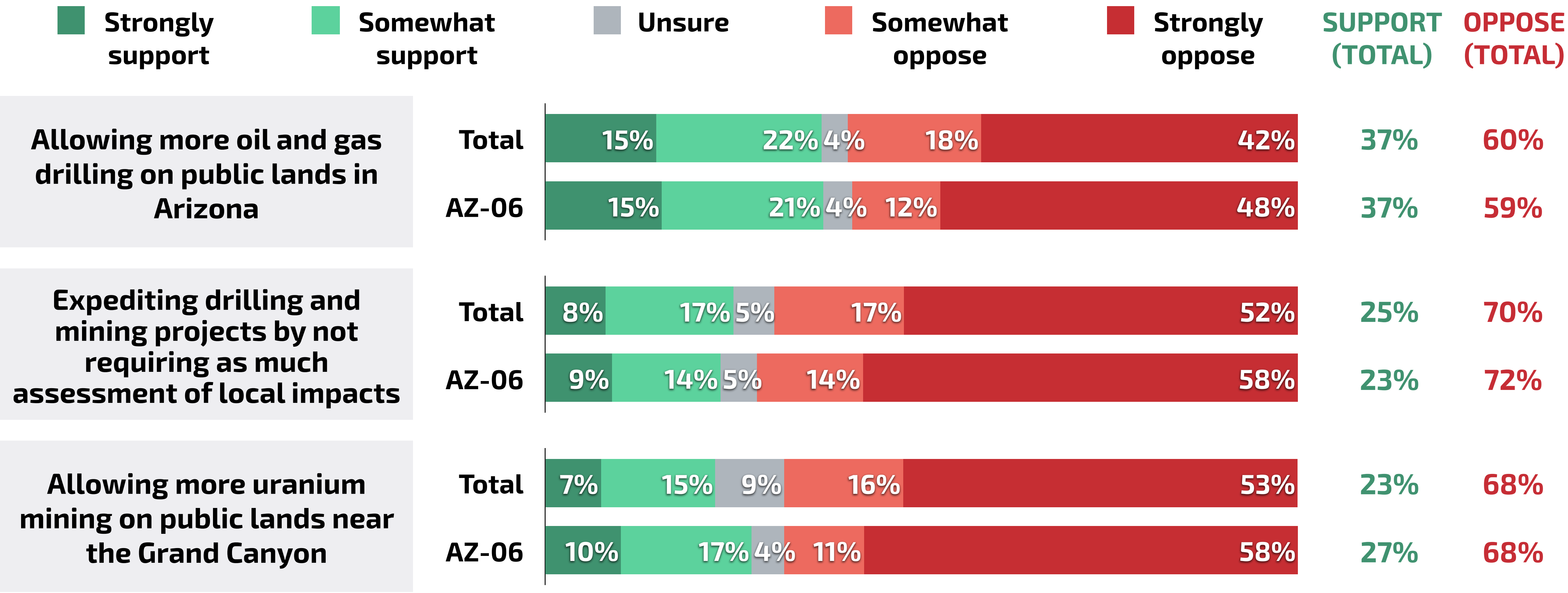
Most say Arizona's national monuments deserve protection

Q. Do you think each of the following national monuments in Arizona deserves to be protected as it currently is, or not?



- Yes, deserves to be protected as it currently is
- Unsure
- No, does not deserve to be protected as it currently is

Majority oppose allowing more drilling and mining on public lands and expediting projects by reducing local impact assessment

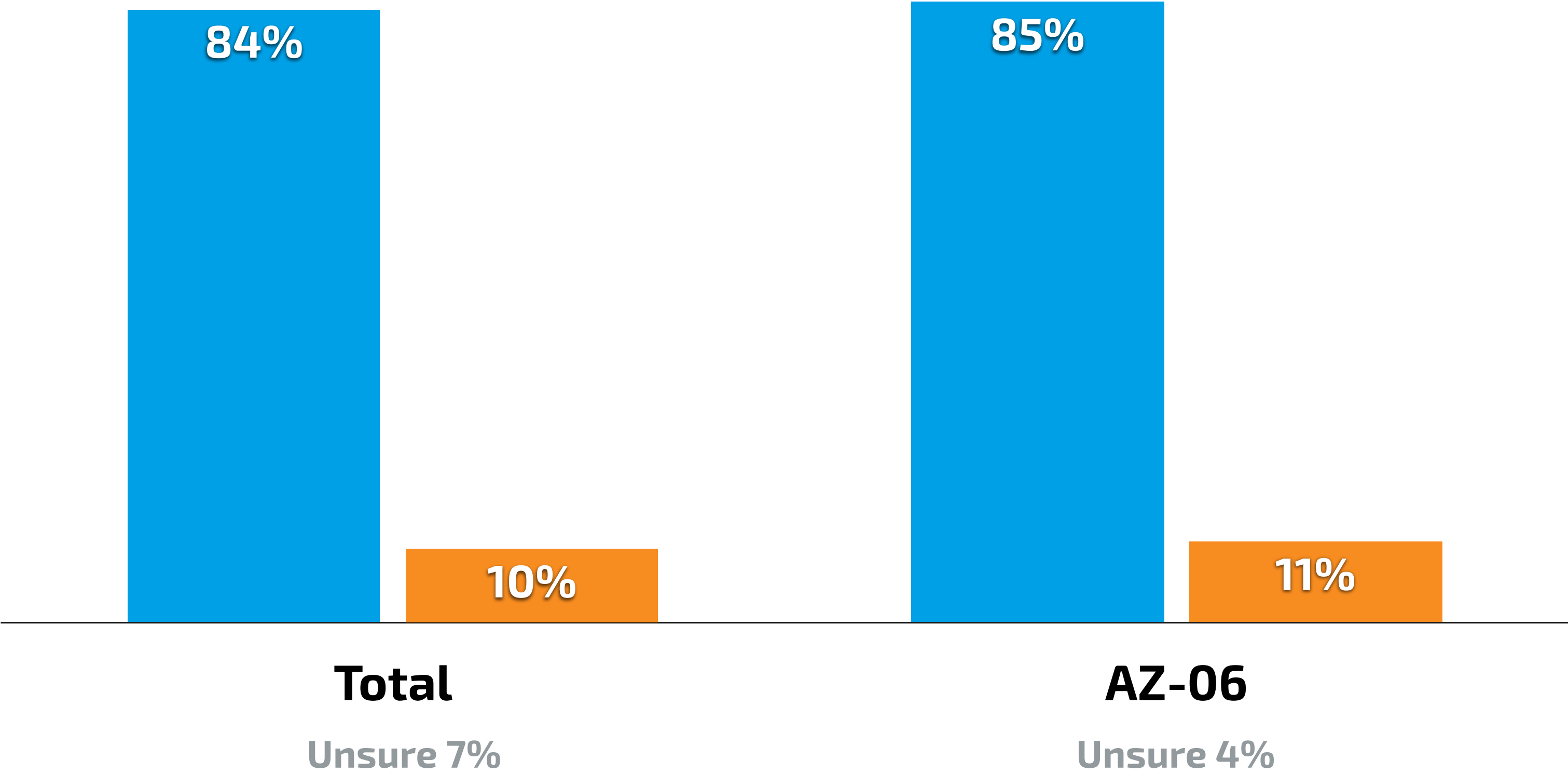


Q. Would you support or oppose each of the following actions?

Voters overwhelmingly prefer keeping public lands as they are

We should keep national public lands public and protected as they are now, balancing conservation with managed recreational and economic uses.

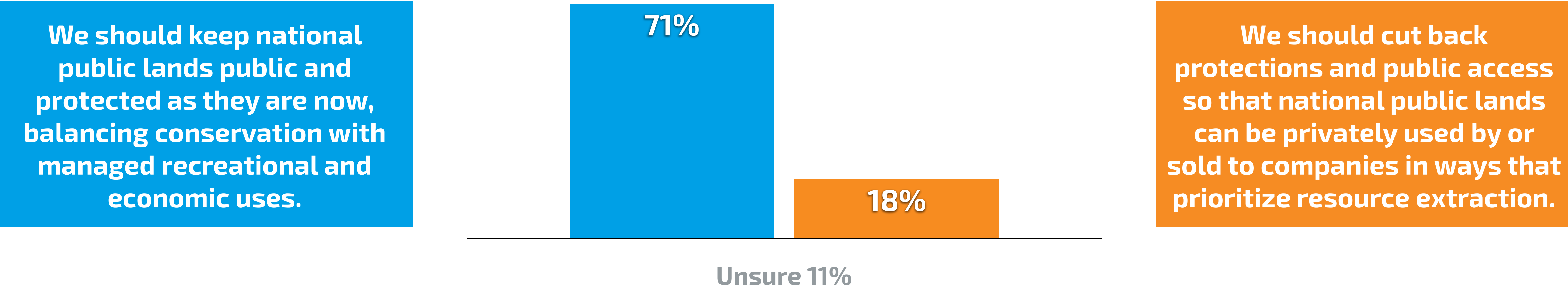
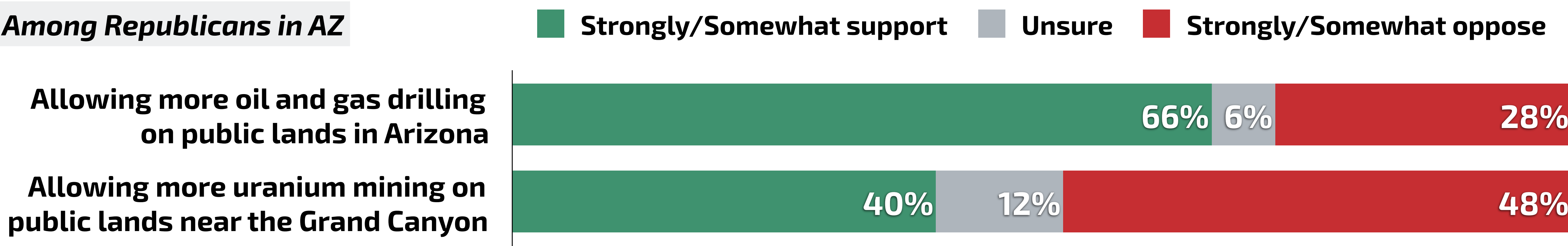
We should cut back protections and public access so that national public lands can be privately used by or sold to companies in ways that prioritize resource extraction.



Q. Which of the following perspectives do you agree with more, even if neither of them is exactly right?



While most Republican voters support oil and gas drilling on public lands, they want to maintain protections and balance conservation with other uses

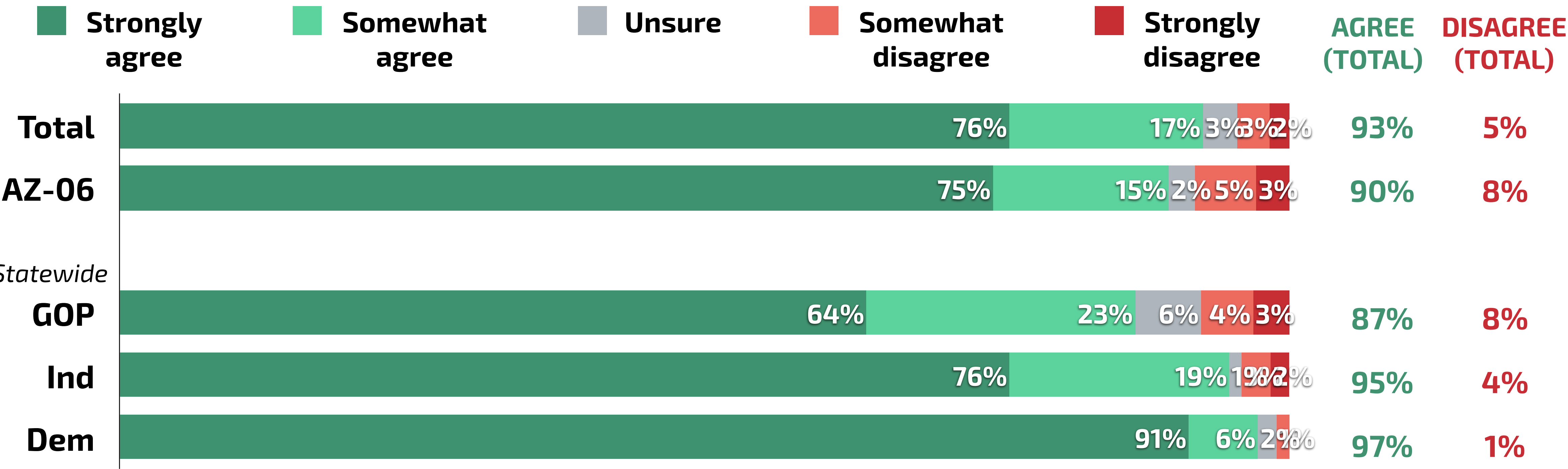


 Q. Would you support or oppose each of the following actions?
Q. Which of the following perspectives do you agree with more, even if neither of them is exactly right?
Base: Republican likely voters statewide.

Arizona voters widely agree that protecting public lands should not be a partisan issue

Q. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with this statement.

“Leaders in both political parties should want to protect Arizona’s public lands. This should not be a partisan issue.”



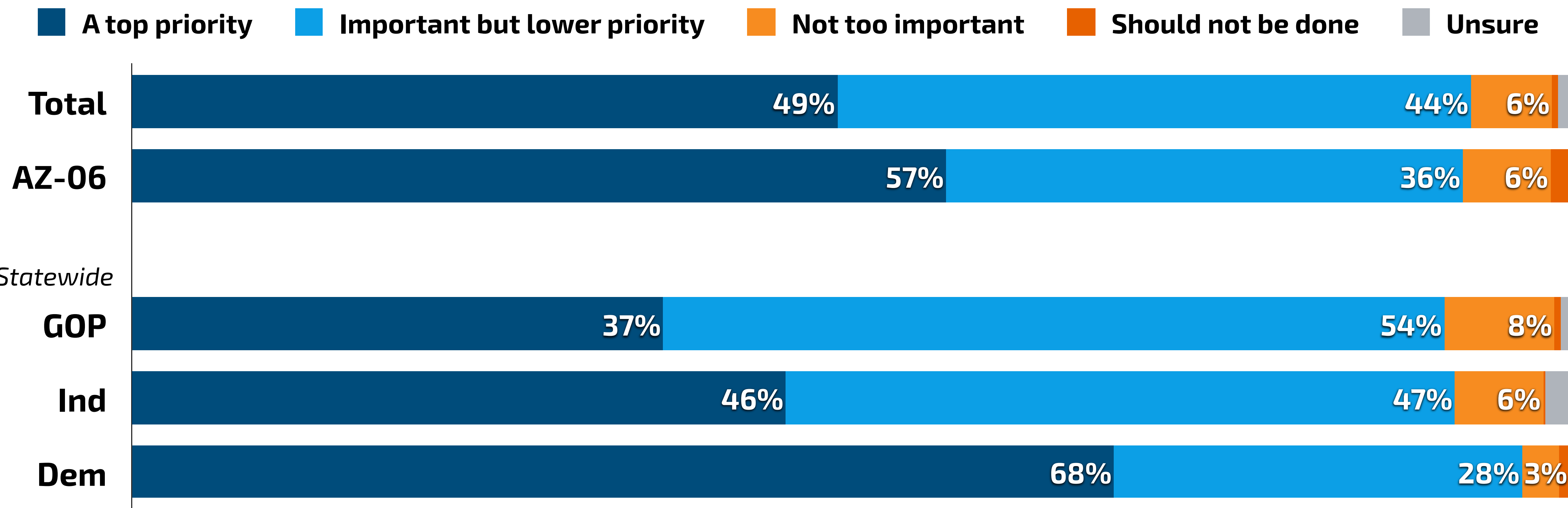
Protecting Arizona's water supply is a top priority for voters, outranking economic issues and immigration.

While protecting public lands is a somewhat lower priority, more than 9 in 10 voters feel it is important — and they do *not* think reducing protections is the best way to address economic challenges.



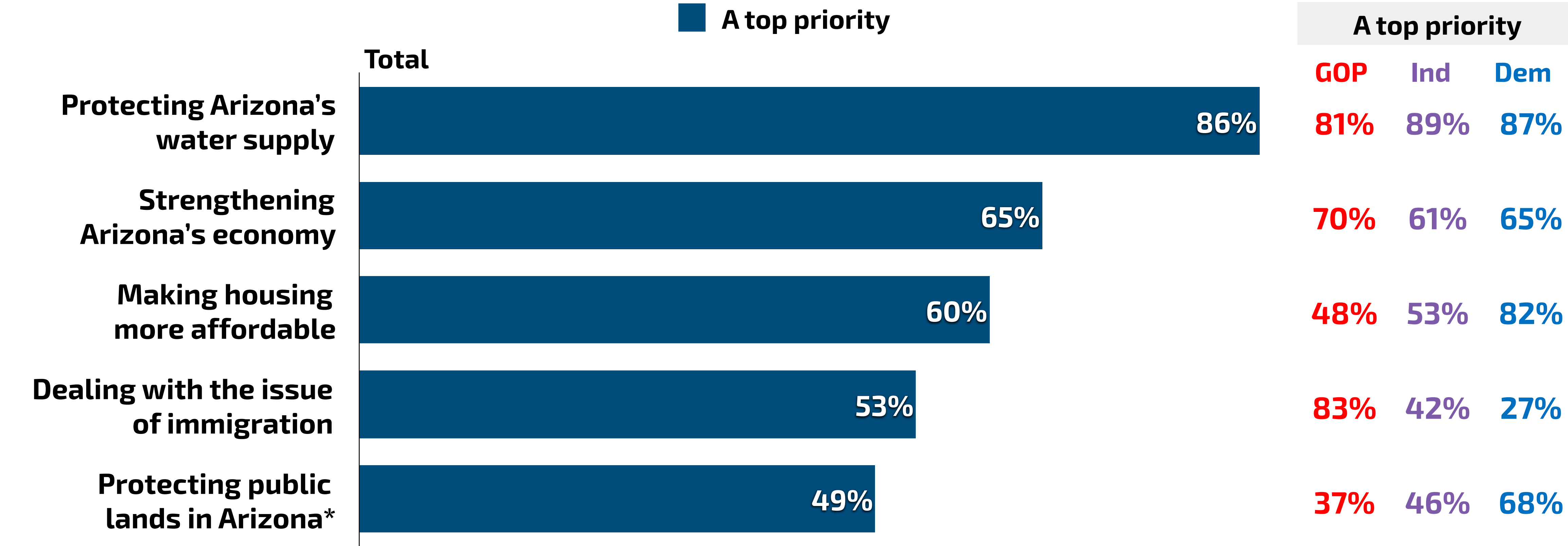
More than 9 in 10 say protecting public lands should be an important goal for elected leaders who represent Arizona

Q. How important do you think each of the following goals should be for elected leaders who represent Arizona?
- Protecting public lands in Arizona, which include national parks, monuments, forests, and wildlife refuges



Protecting Arizona's water supply is a top priority for voters, outranking economic issues and immigration

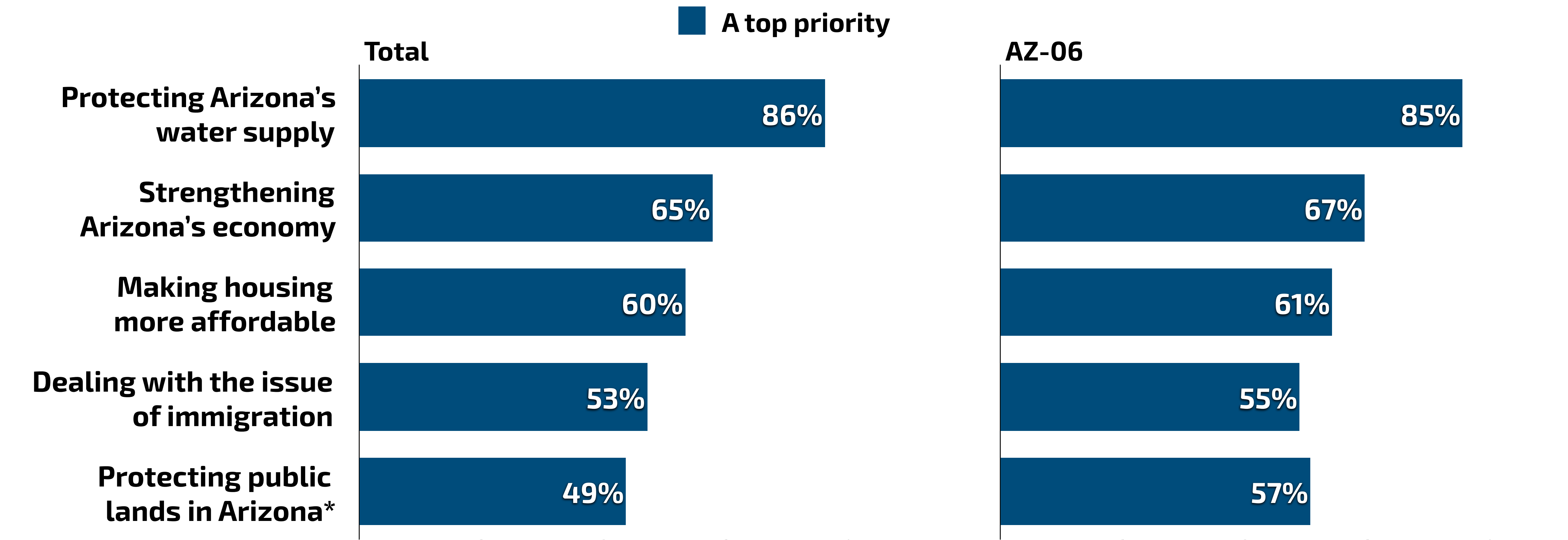
Q. How important do you think each of the following goals should be for elected leaders who represent Arizona?



*Note: Full item wording was "Protecting public lands in Arizona, which include national parks, monuments, forests, and wildlife refuges"

AZ-06 voters see protecting the water supply as most important, but more than half say protecting public lands should be a top priority as well

Q. How important do you think each of the following goals should be for elected leaders who represent Arizona?



*Note: Full item wording was "Protecting public lands in Arizona, which include national parks, monuments, forests, and wildlife refuges"

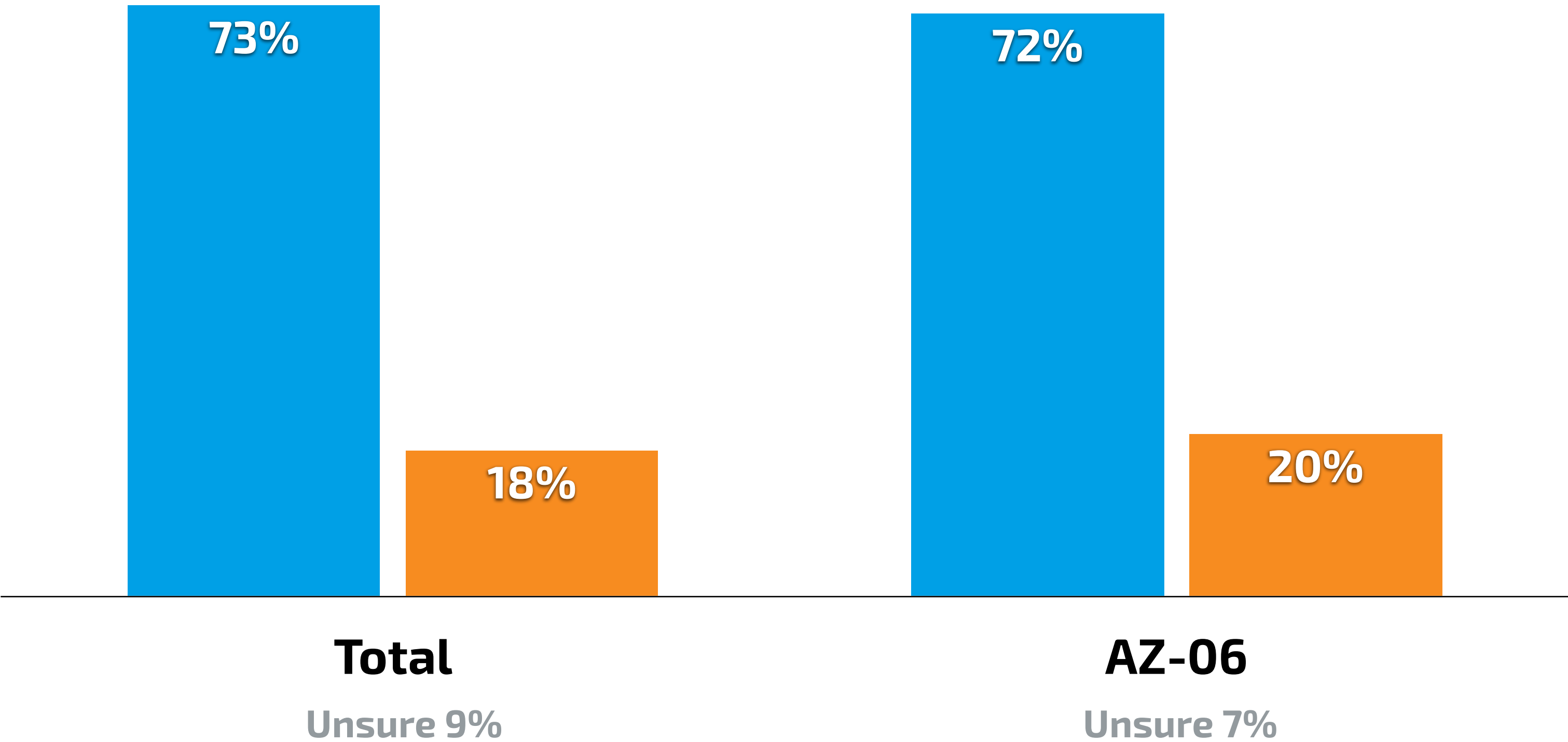


More than 7 in 10 say protecting public lands would be better for Arizona's economy than reducing protections to allow more drilling

Q. Which of the following do you think would be better for Arizona's economy?

Protecting public lands with outdoor access that attract visitors to Arizona

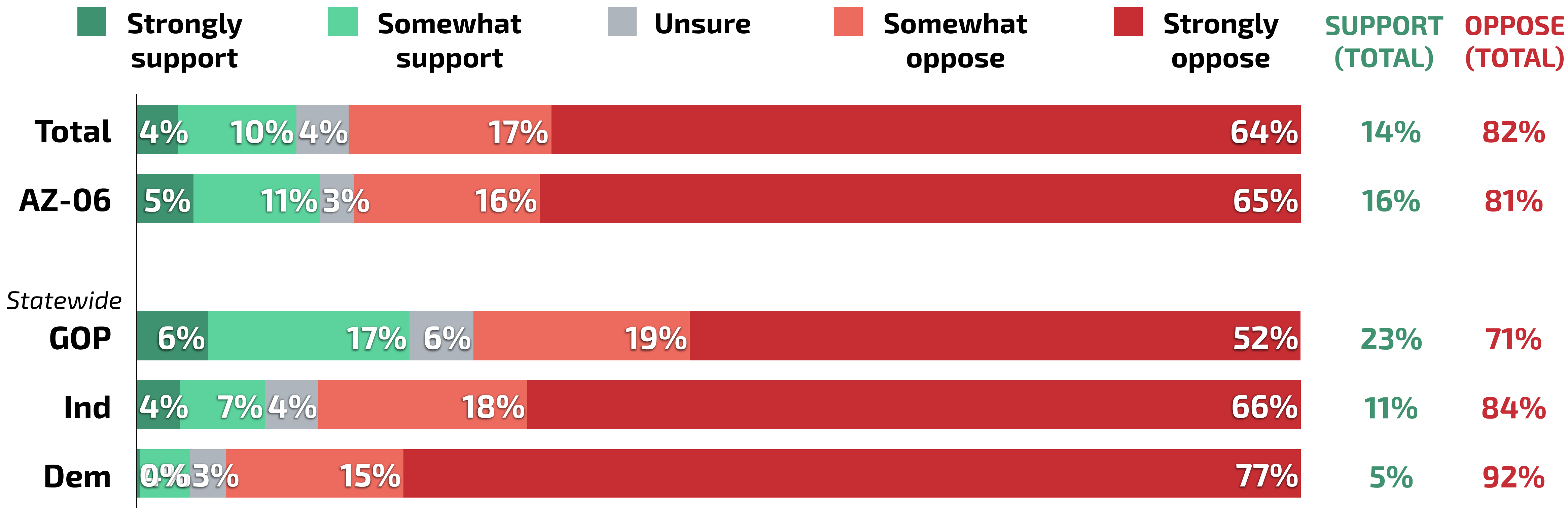
Reducing protections for public lands to allow more drilling and resource extraction



Note: This question was asked after a messaging statement about the economic impact of protecting public lands was shown: "They boost local economies in Arizona by attracting visitors from around the world. For example, in 2023, visitors spent an estimated \$1.2 billion in local gateway regions while visiting National Park Service lands in Arizona, which supported over 17,000 jobs."

Building housing by selling off public lands to private developers is widely opposed

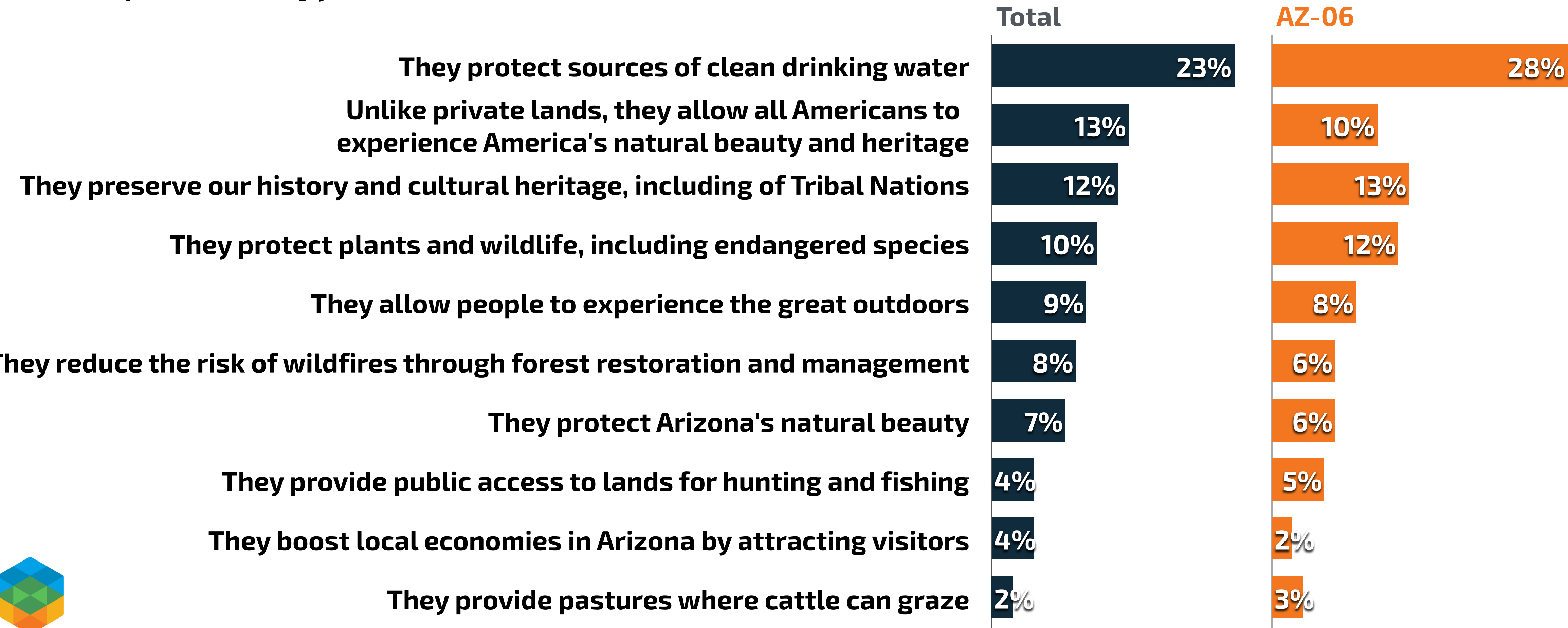
Selling off national public lands to private developers to build housing



Q. Would you support or oppose each of the following actions?

Protection of clean drinking water is seen as the most important reason to protect Arizona's public lands

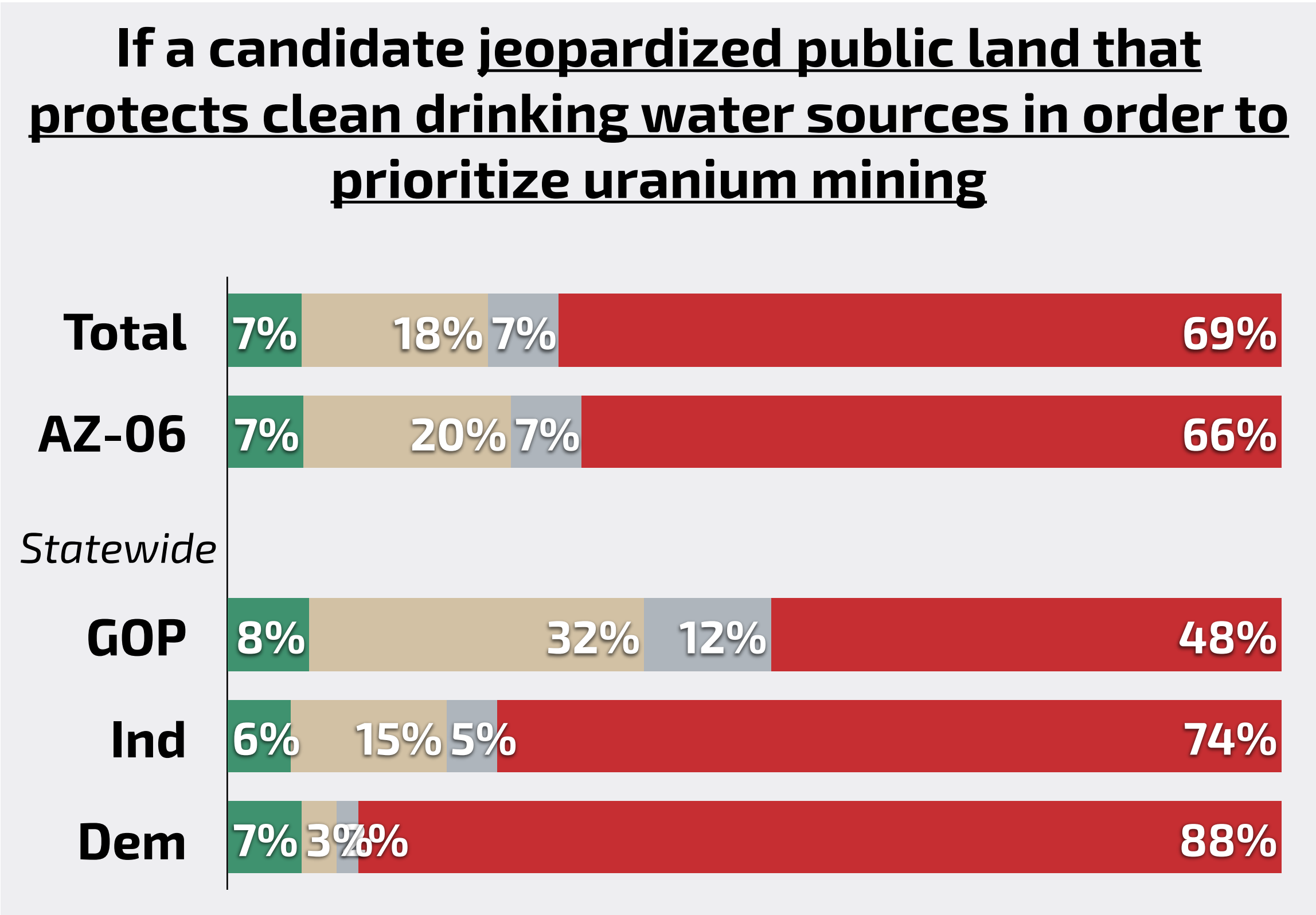
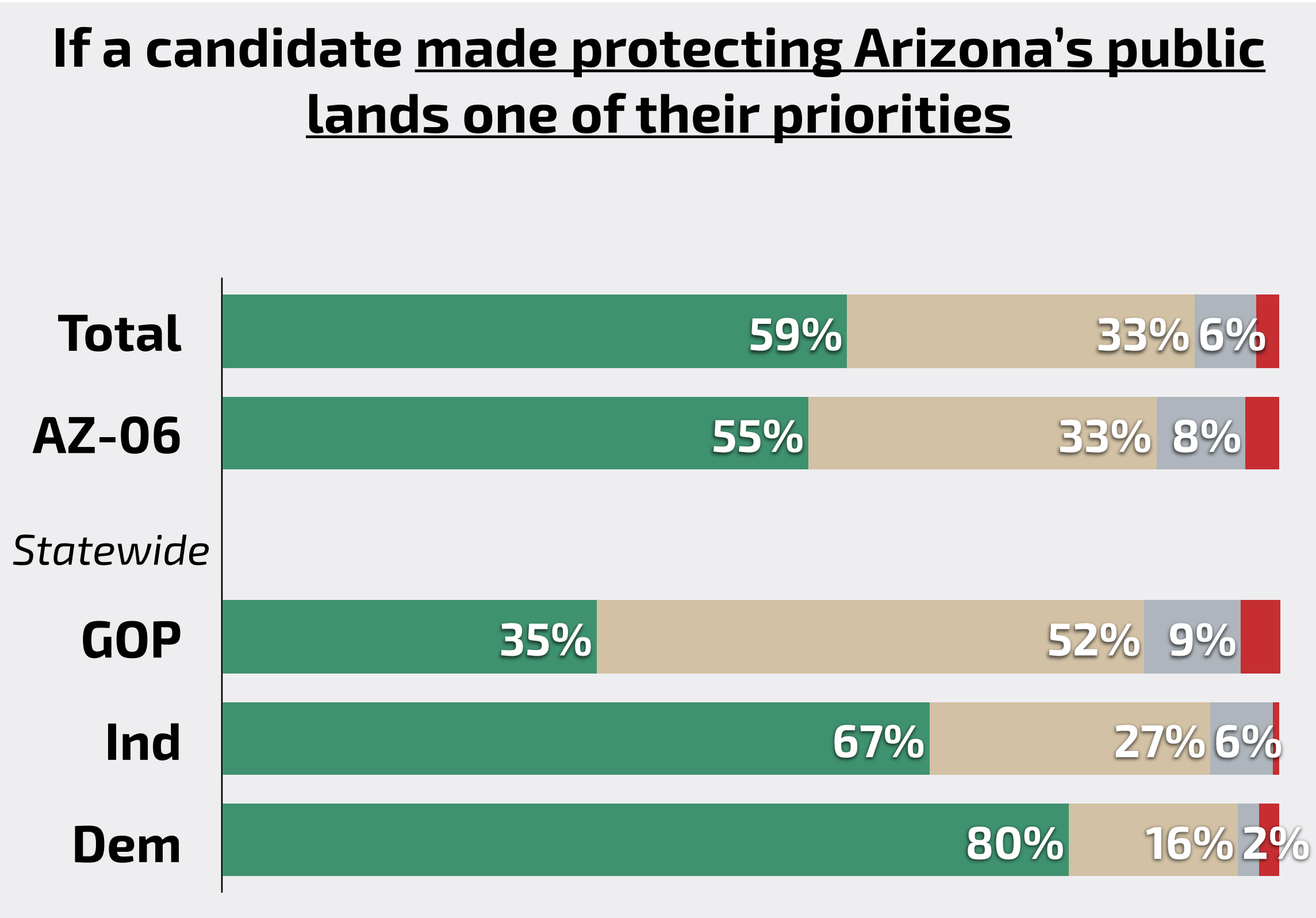
Q. Of all the reasons you [saw/heard], which would you say is the STRONGEST or most important reason to protect Arizona's public lands, if you had to choose?



Note: "Other reason not shown" and "Unsure" not shown in the chart.

More than 6 in 10 voters say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who jeopardizes public land that protects drinking water sources

More likely to vote for them Would not affect my vote Unsure Less likely to vote for them



Q. If you heard that a candidate running for Congress had made protecting Arizona's public lands one of their priorities, would you be more likely to vote for them, less likely to vote for them, or would that not affect your vote?

Q. If you heard that a candidate running for Congress had jeopardized public land that protects clean drinking water sources in order to prioritize uranium mining, would you be more likely to vote for them, less likely to vote for them, or would that not affect your vote?

Methodology

The survey was fielded from August 18–22, 2026 in English among a sample of 918 likely voters in Arizona, with a base sample of 500 voters statewide and oversamples achieving a total of 520 Republican/Republican-leaning voters and 208 voters in AZ-06, using a mixed mode approach. Of the respondents in the final sample, 277 were interviewed by live callers over the phone (233 cell, 44 landline) using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) and 641 completed the survey online after receiving a text message invitation. The sample was drawn from the L2 voter file.

The sample was weighted to reflect modeled turnout and demographic characteristics of the population of voters in the 2026 likely electorate in Arizona based on a probabilistic model that incorporates data from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey and Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement, as well as L2 voter file data. Weighting dimensions included gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, designated market area (DMA), turnout probability, vote history, party registration, and 2024 presidential vote choice (based on 2024 election results adjusted for modeled 2026 turnout).

The oversample of voters in AZ-06 was weighted down to the proportion in the statewide population of voters, and the oversample of Republican/Republican-leaning voters was weighted down to the proportion of Republican/Republican-leaning voters in the base sample of voters in the likely electorate in Arizona.

Calculated the way it would be for a random sample and adjusted to incorporate the effect of weighting, the margin of sampling error is ± 4.3 percentage points for the full sample, ± 5.5 percentage points for Republican/Republican-leaning voters, and ± 9.0 percentage points for voters in AZ-06.





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