

2008 Business Barometer



Member Poll & Business Barometer

- **Purpose of two polls**
 - *Understand and compare views*
 - *Determine if our message is getting through to our key audiences*
 - *Frame strategic decisions*



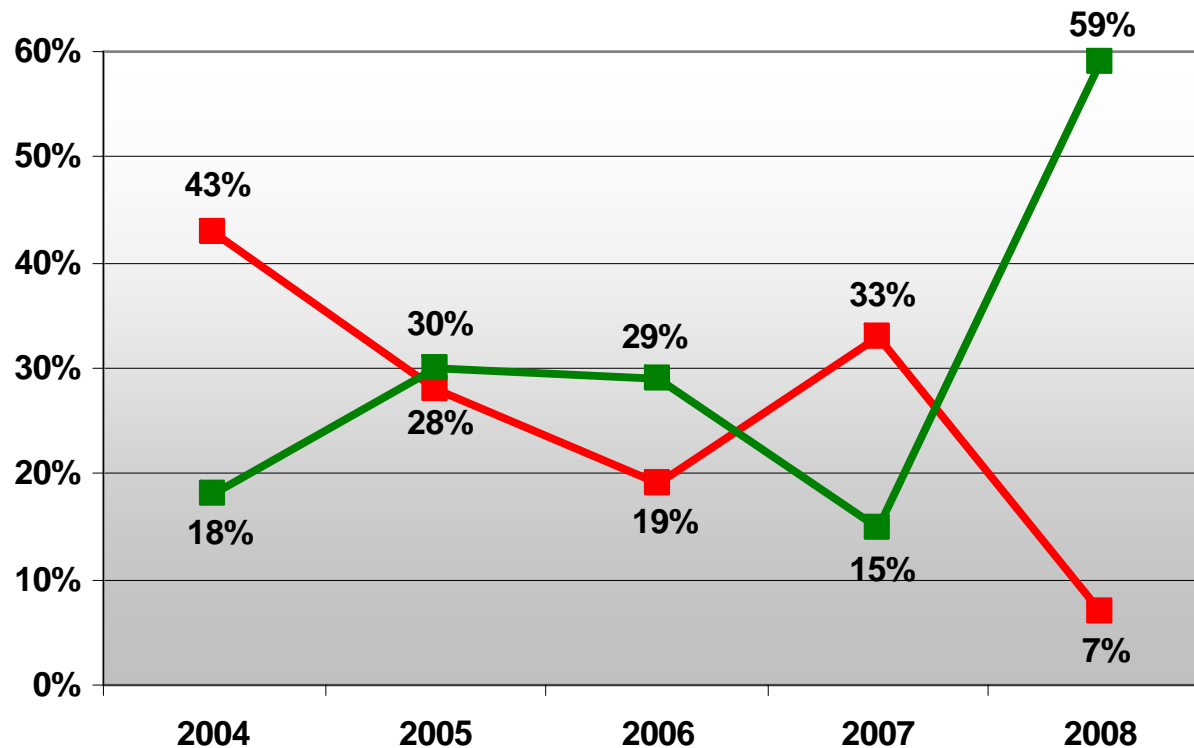
Member Poll & Business Barometer: Methodology

- **Chamber**
 - *Mail/Internet survey*
 - *All members*
- **Business Barometer**
 - *Phone survey*
 - *Random sample of 350, reflects MN demographics*
 - *Oversample of businesses > 50 employees*



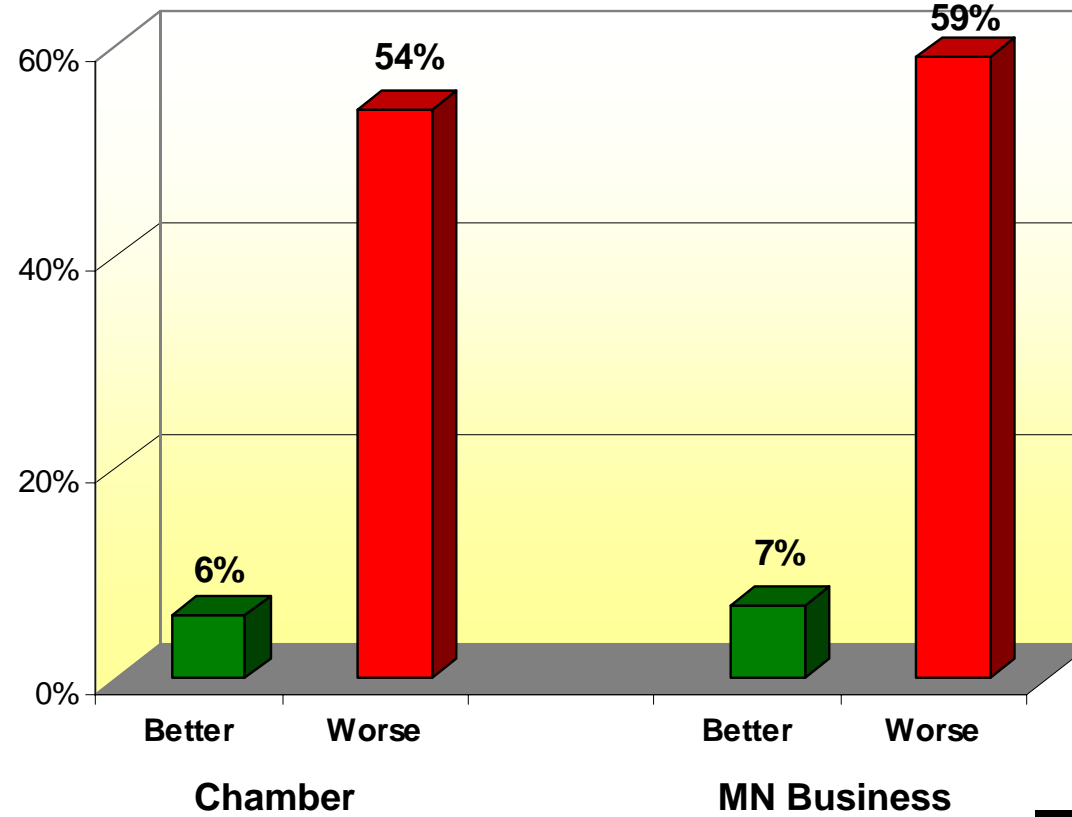
— Business Barometer —

Five Years Later: Business Has Become Pessimistic



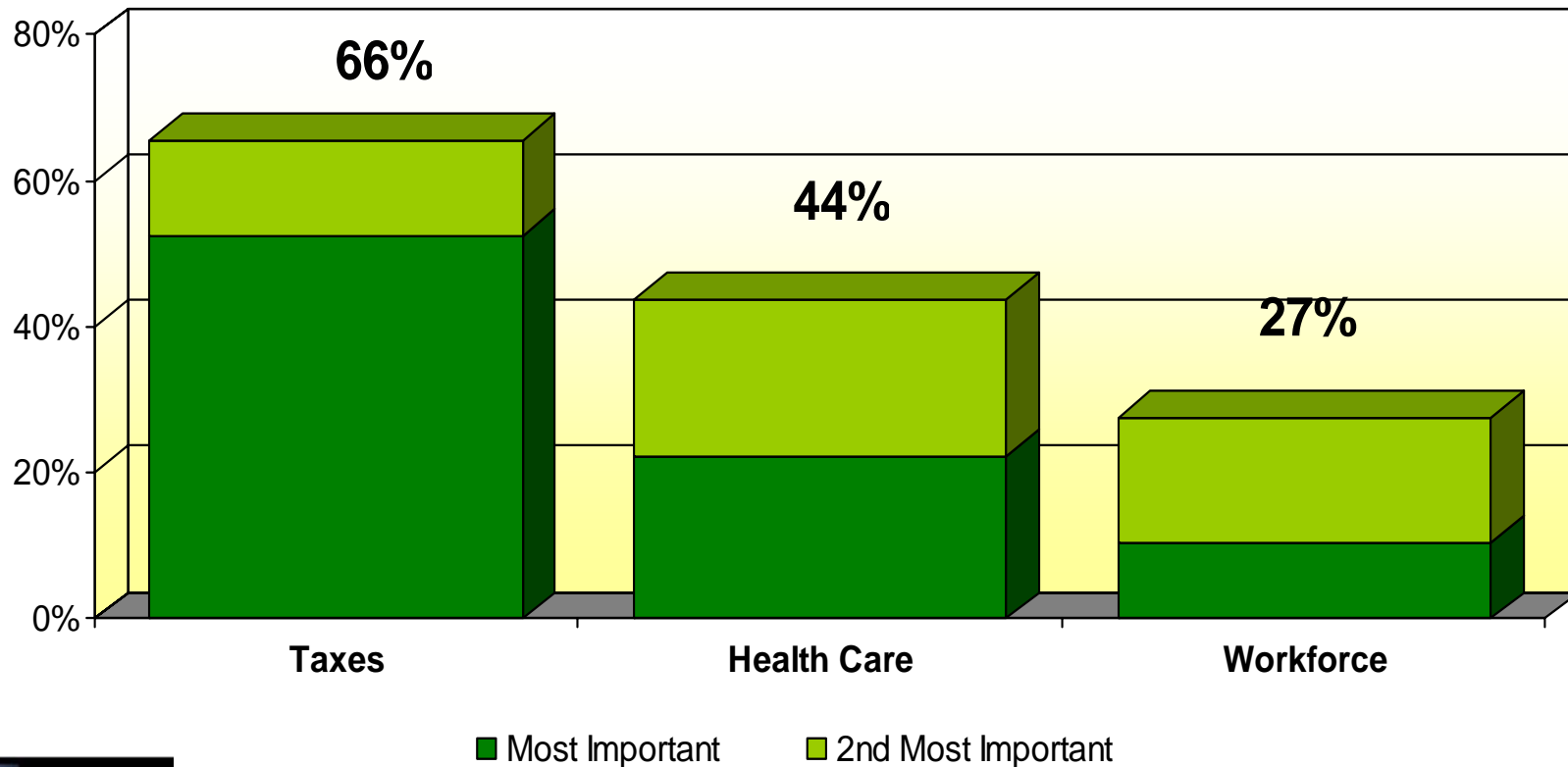
— Better — — Worse —

Chamber Members Also Pessimistic



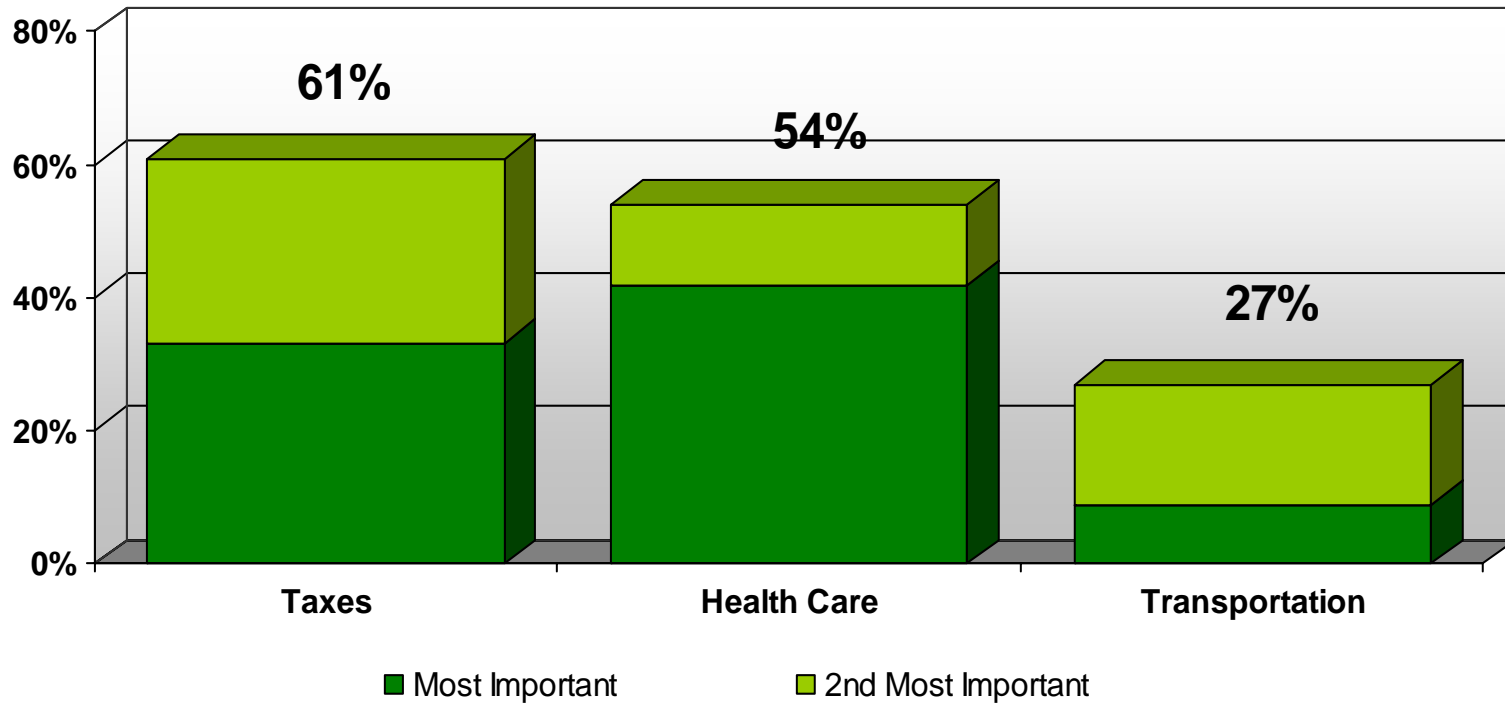
— Chamber Members —

Most Important Issues



— *Business Barometer* —

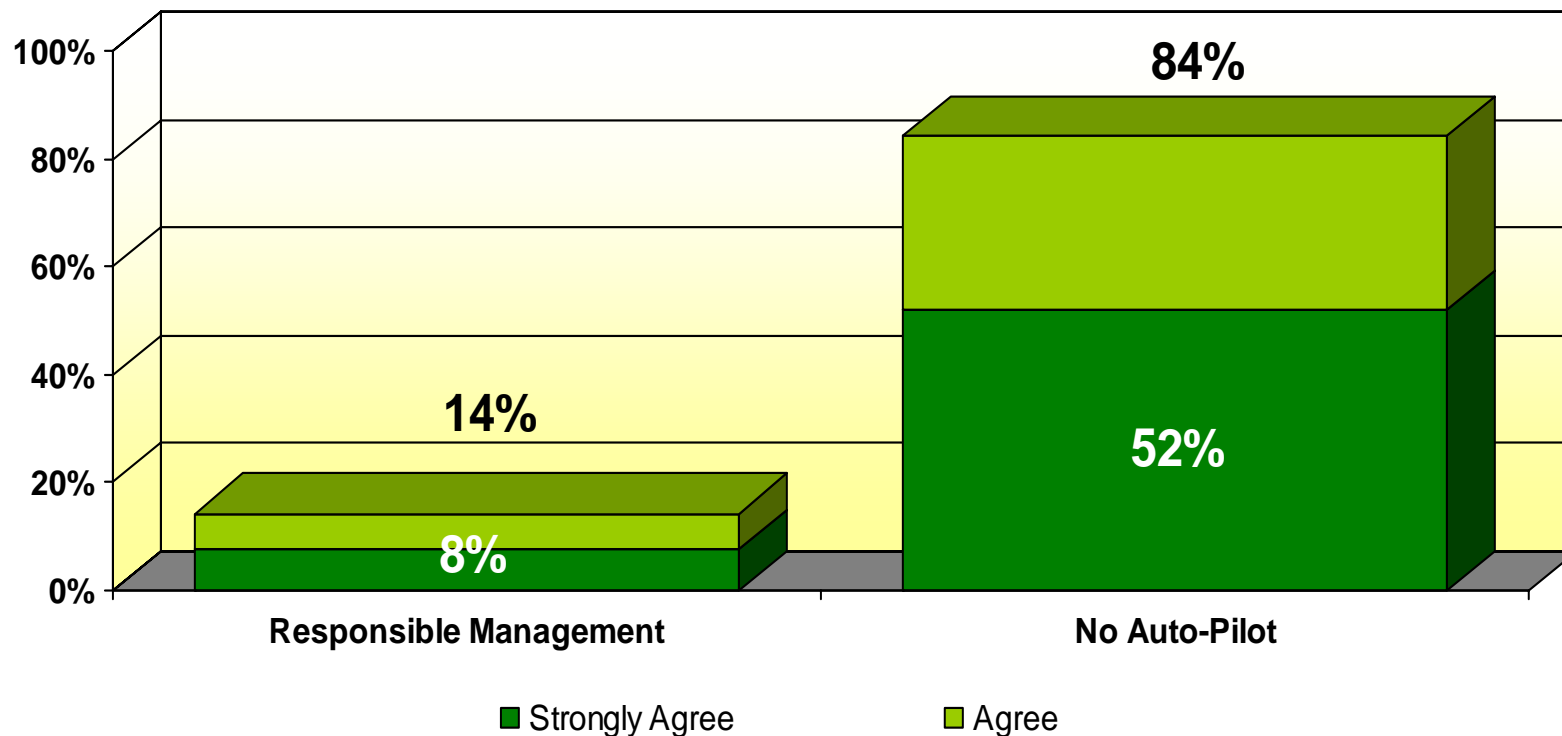
Most Important Issues



State Budget

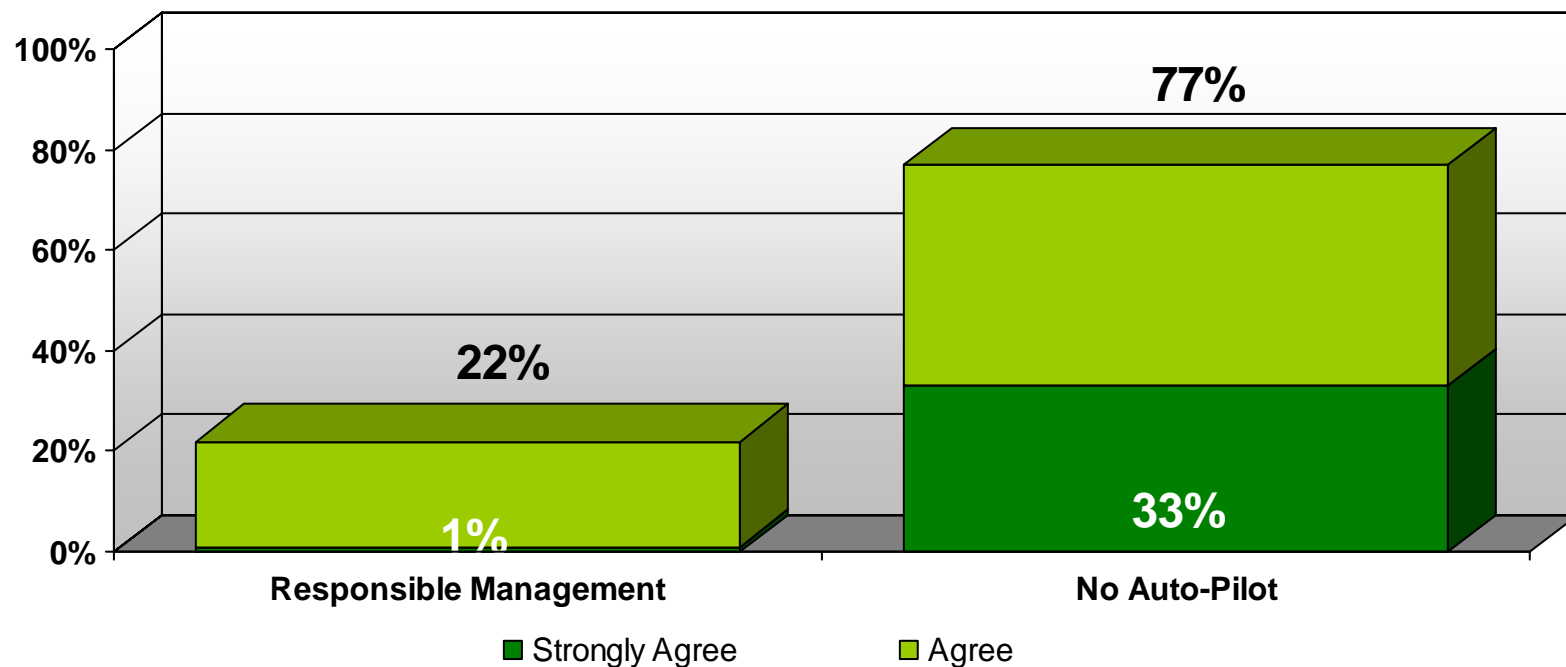
— Chamber Members —

Should Inflation Be Included in Budget Forecasts?



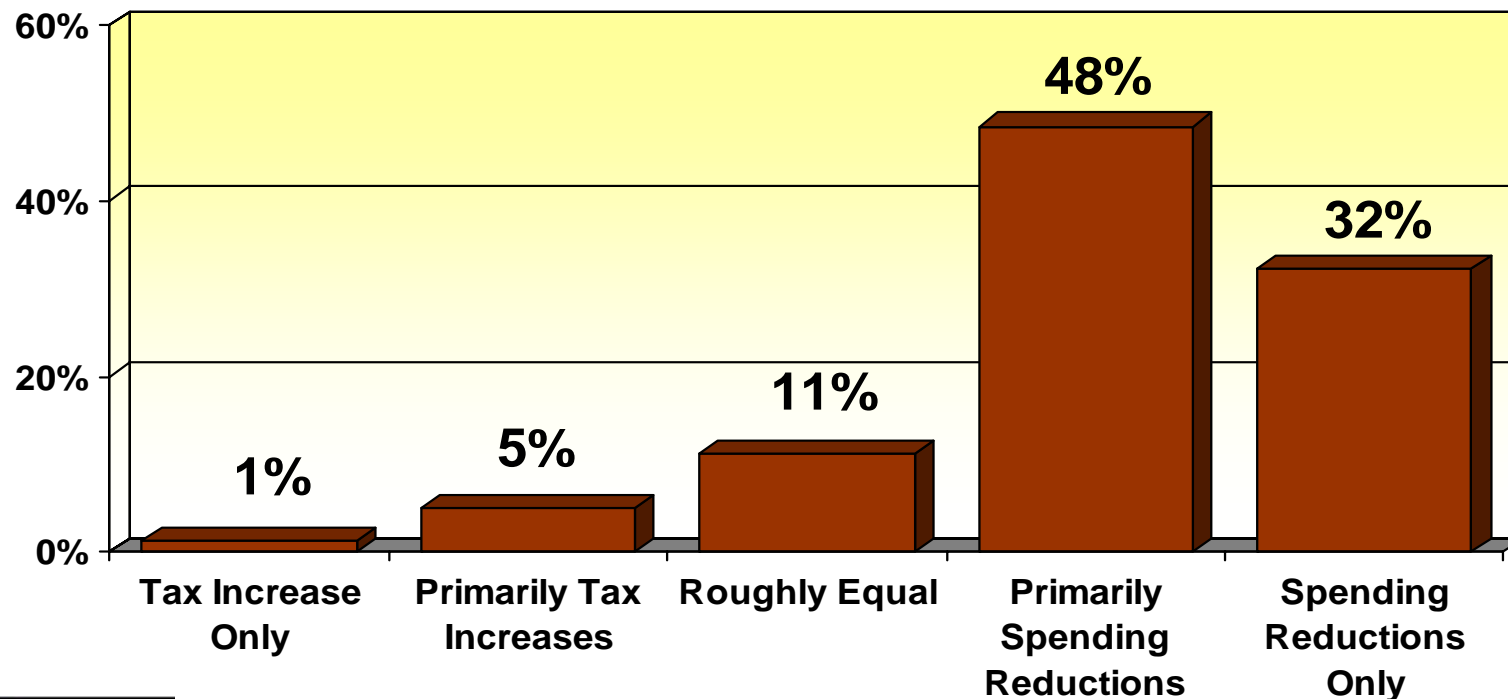
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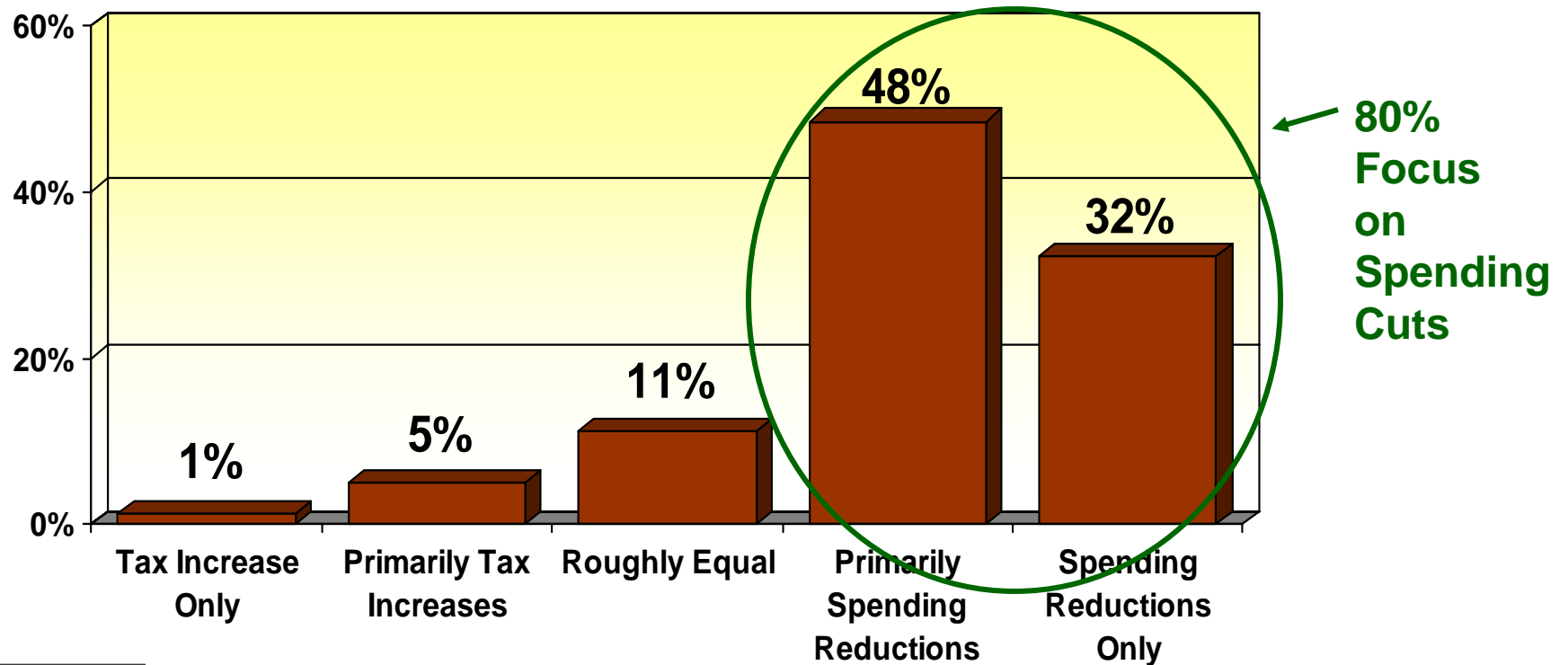
— Chamber Members —

How Should the Legislature and Governor Balance the Next Budget



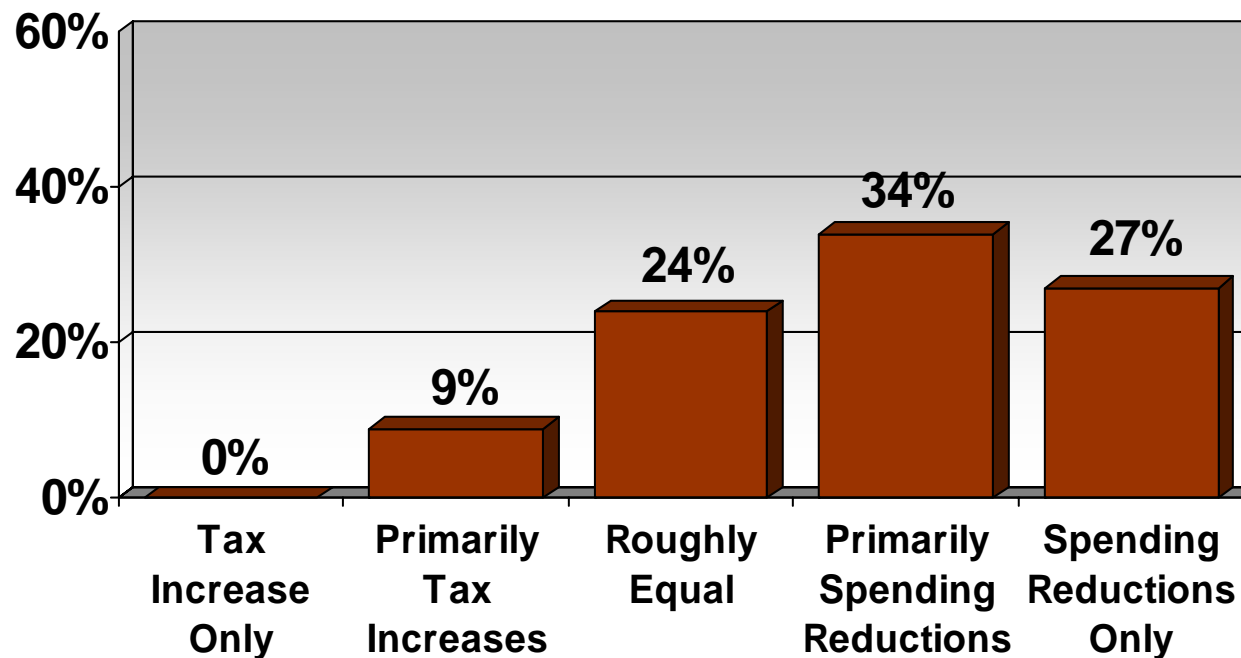
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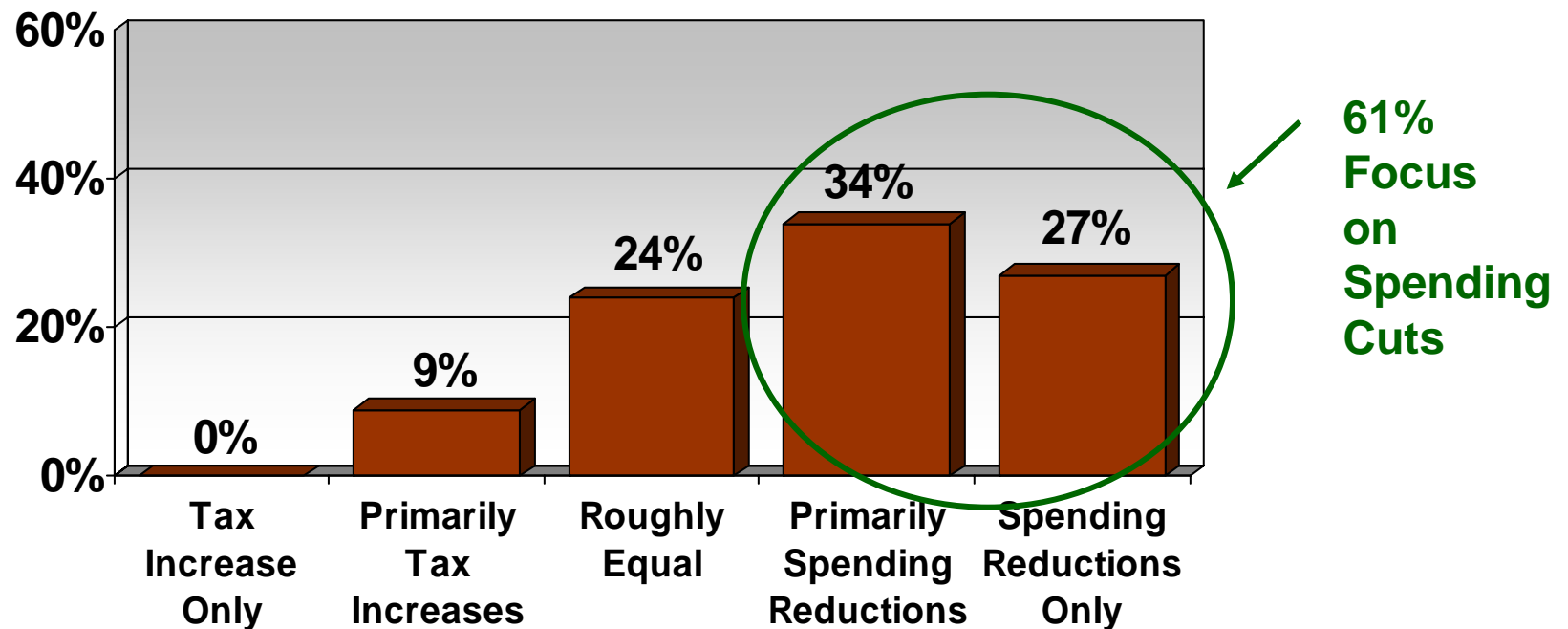
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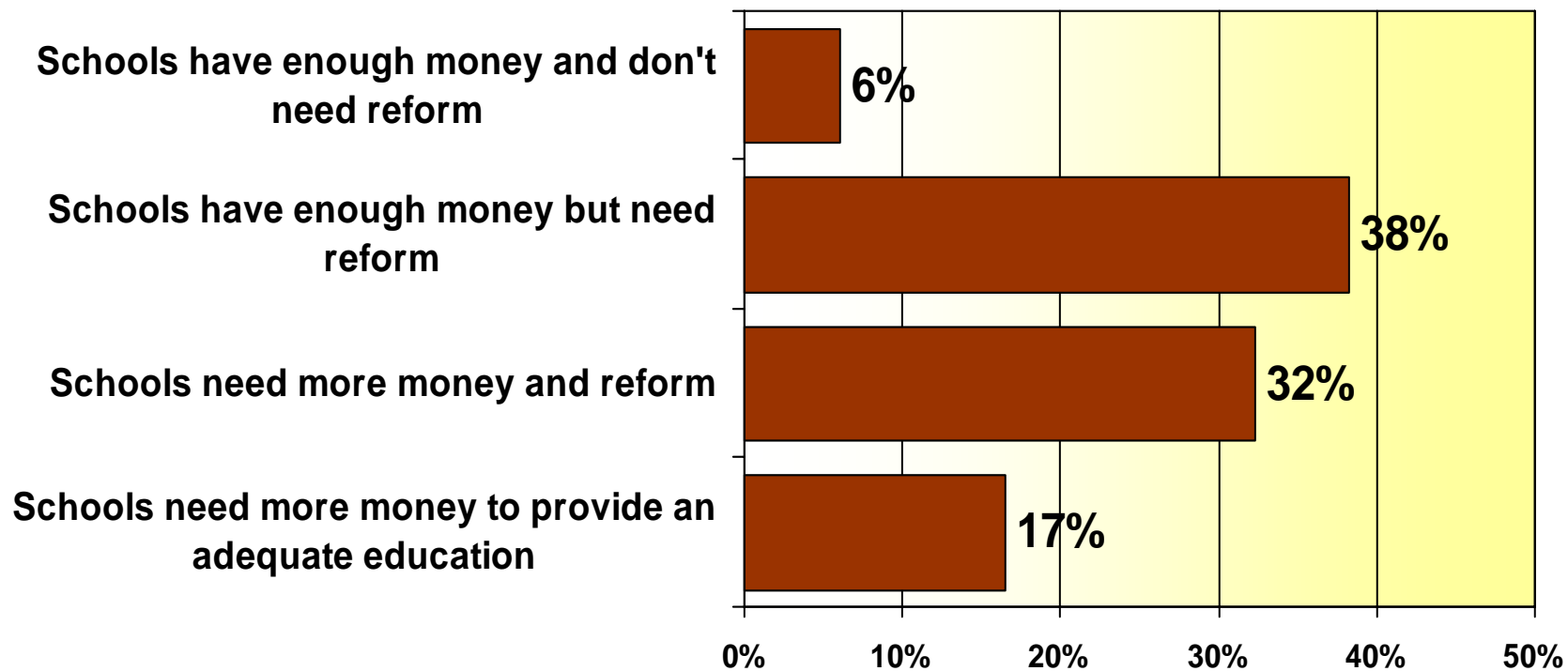
State Budget Summary

- **Agreement on inflation in the budget**
 - *No auto-pilot*
- **Prefer spending cuts for balancing budget**
 - *Haven't closed door on taxes*

Education

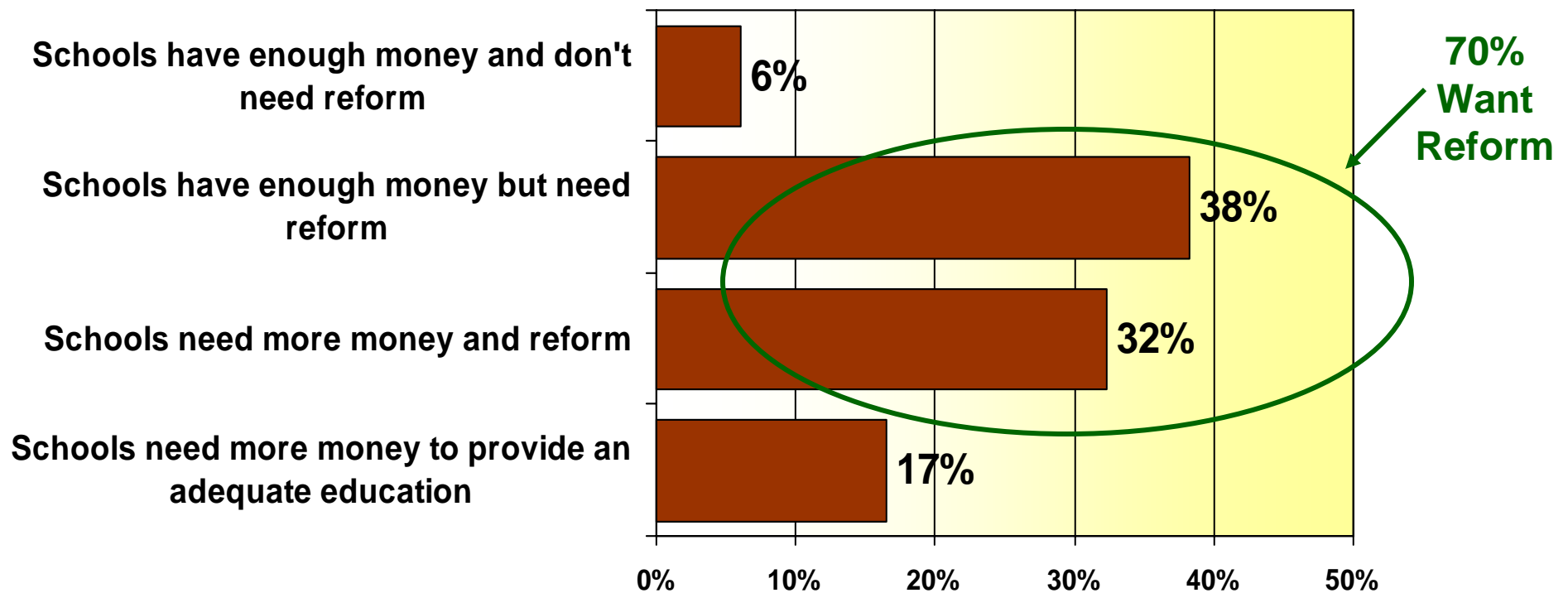
— Chamber Members —

Is More Revenue Needed for K-12 Education in Minnesota?



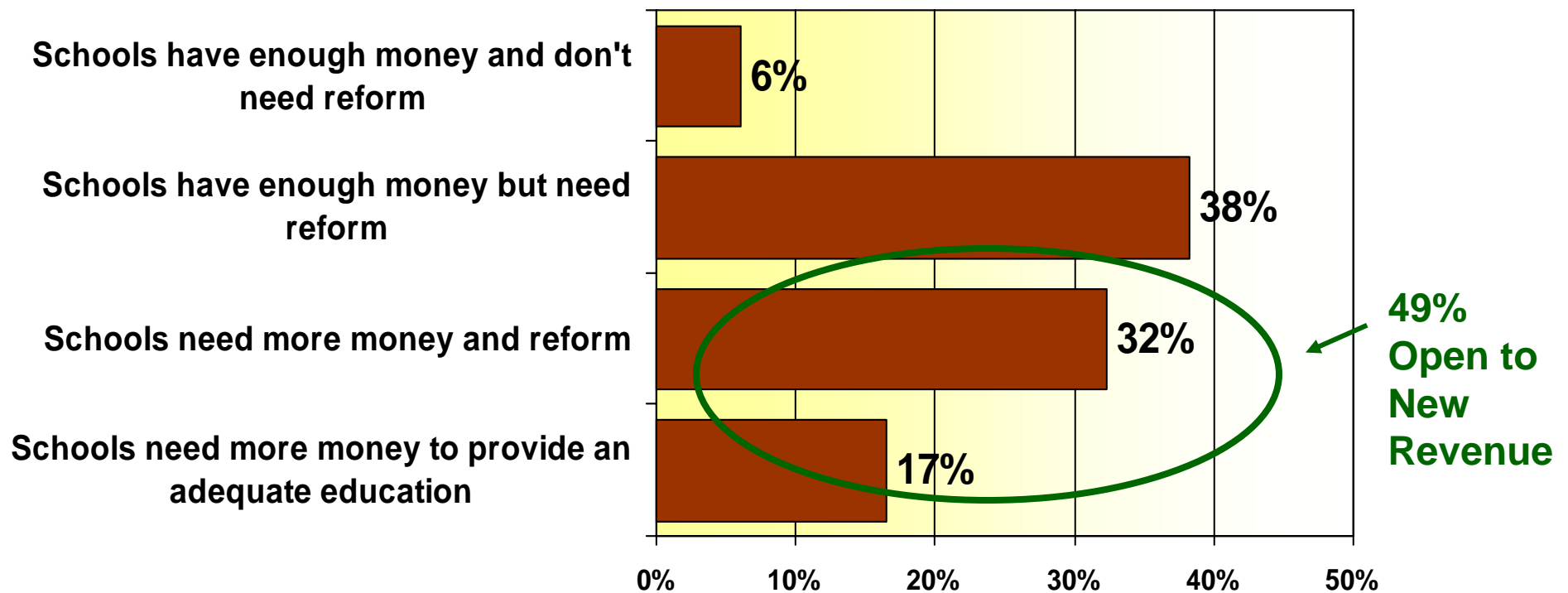
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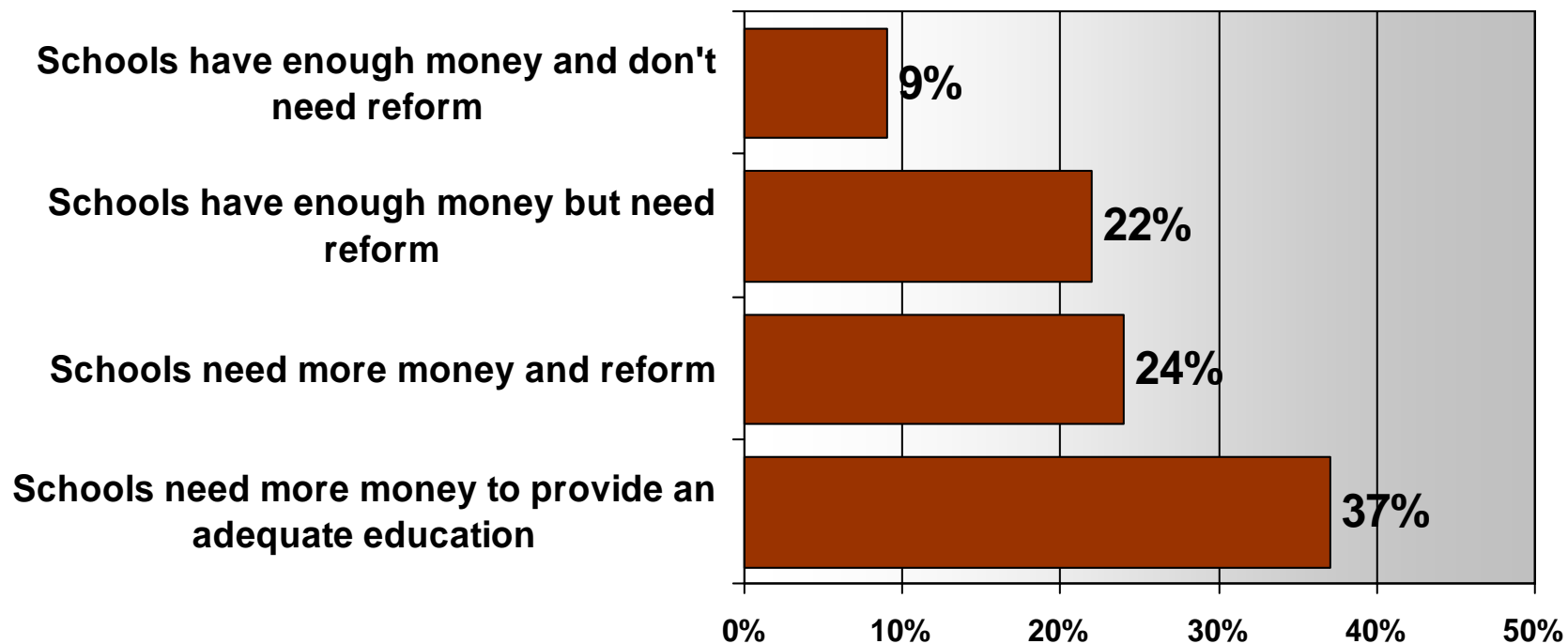
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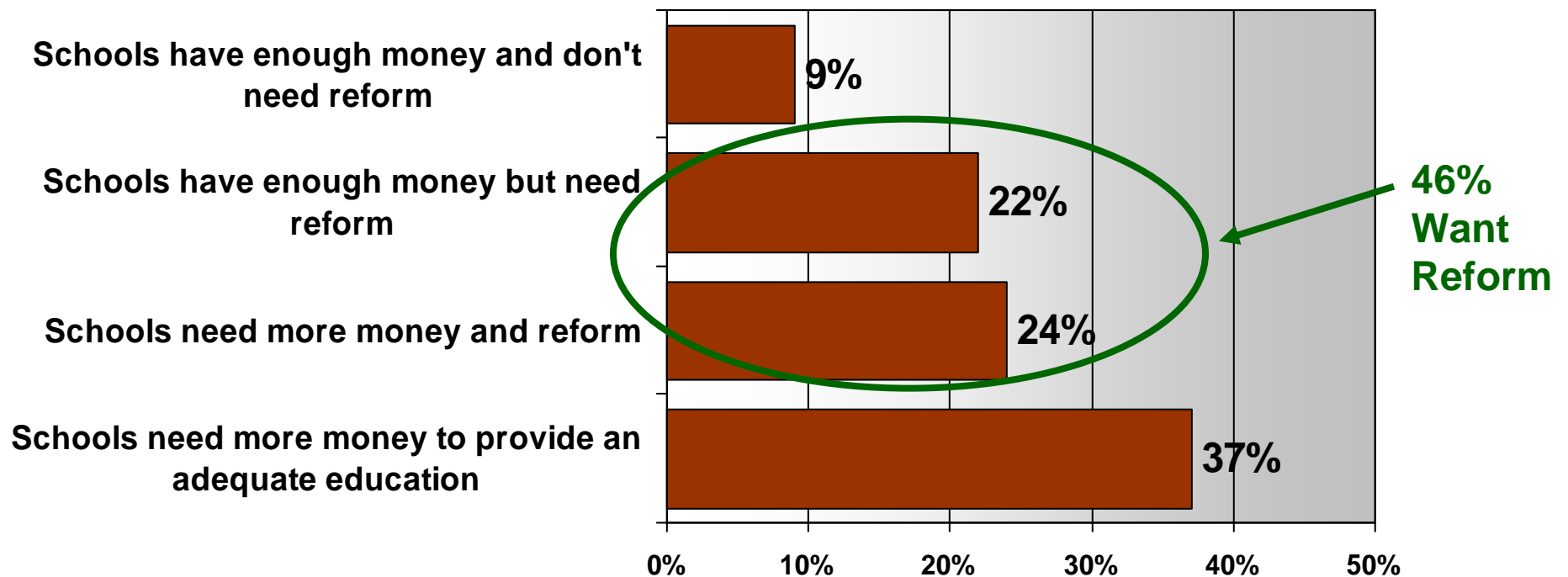
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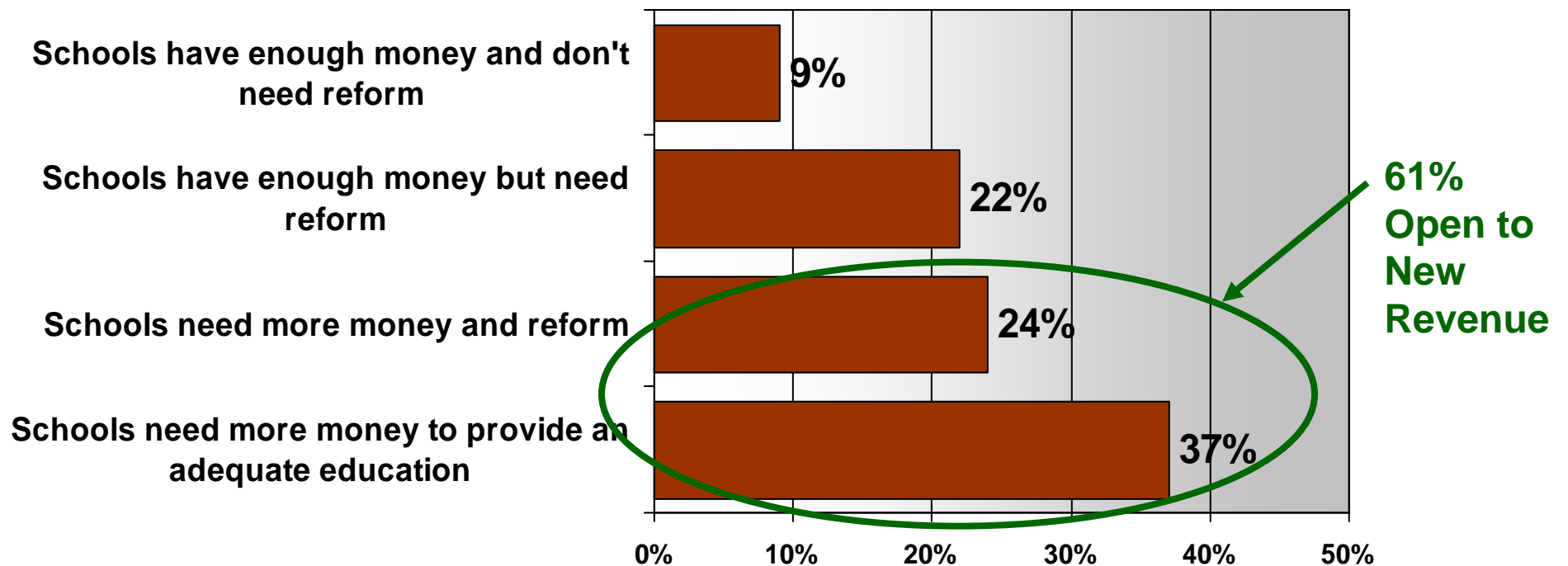
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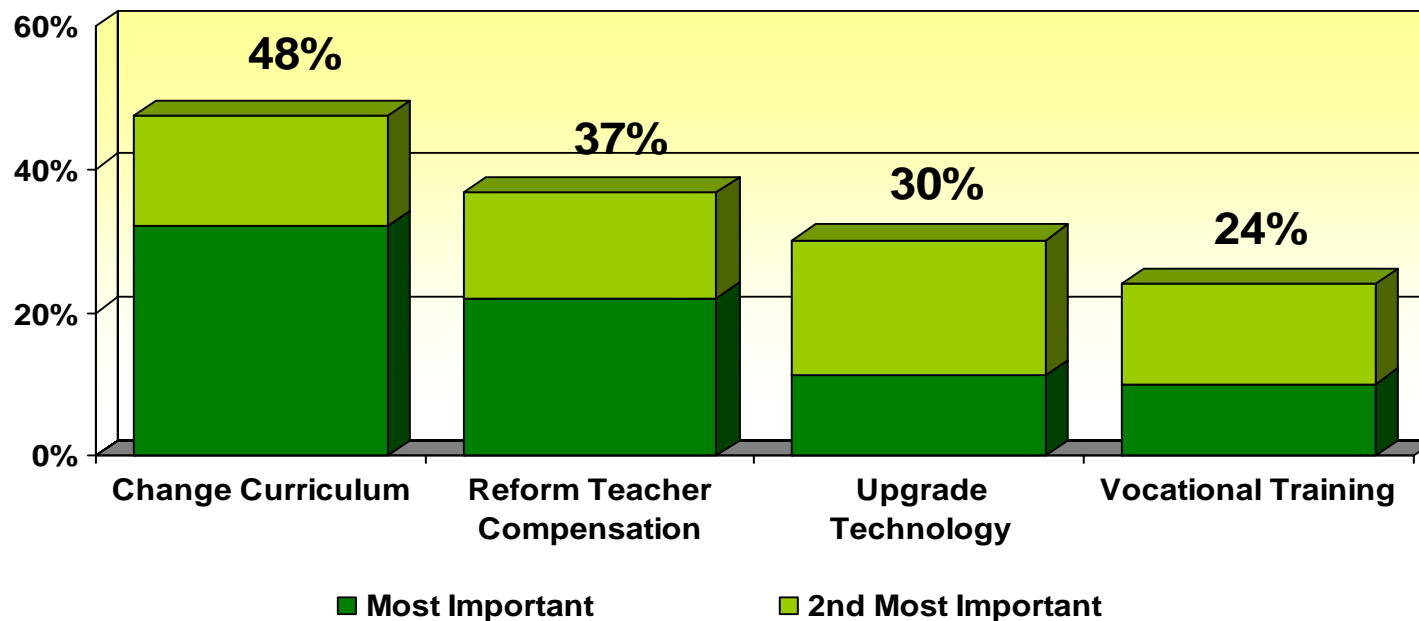
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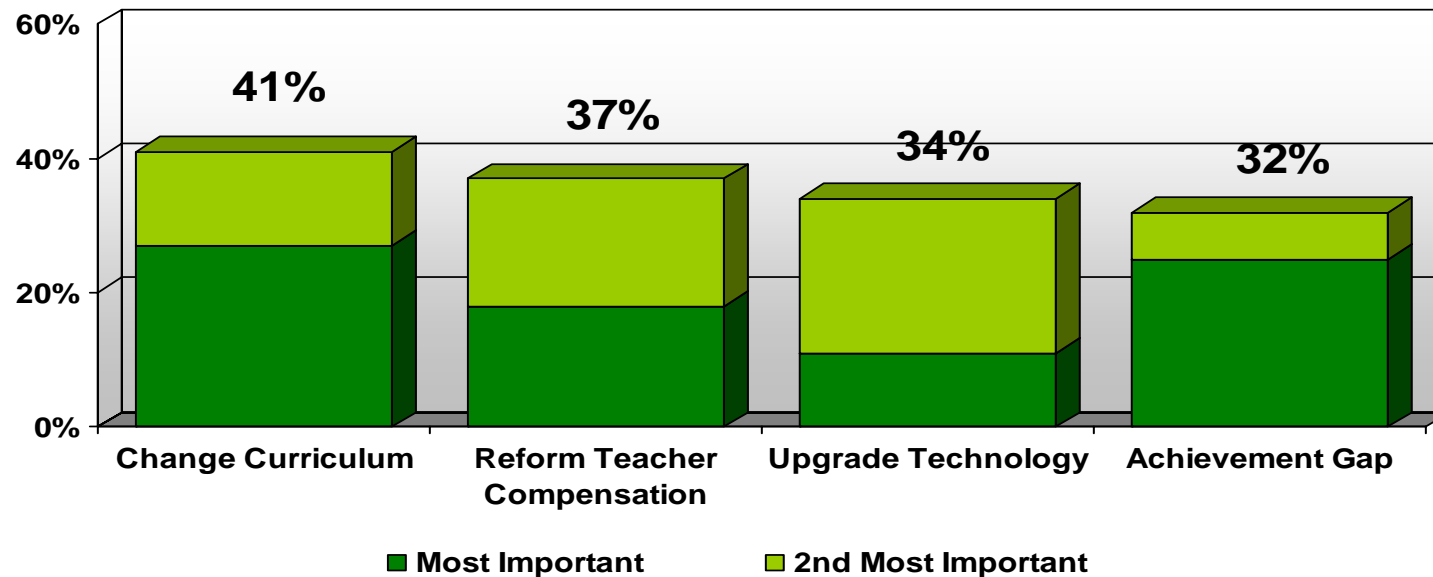
— Chamber Members —

If the State Were to Provide Additional Funding for K-12 Education, What Should Be the Primary Ways That Money is Used?



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Note: Early childhood funding, reduce class sizes ranked poorly

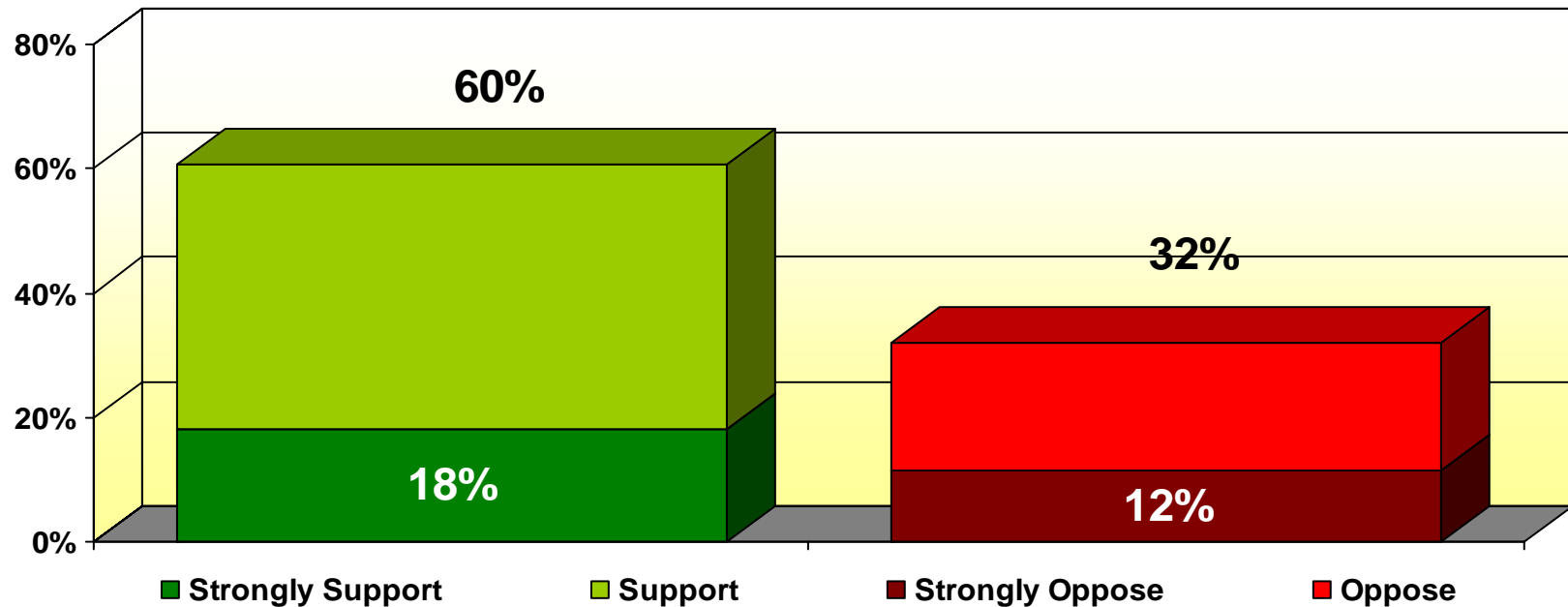
Education Summary

- **Agreement on outcomes expected from education reform**
- **Agreement on use of new revenue**
 - *Reject more popular “political” issues such as class-size and ECFE*

Energy

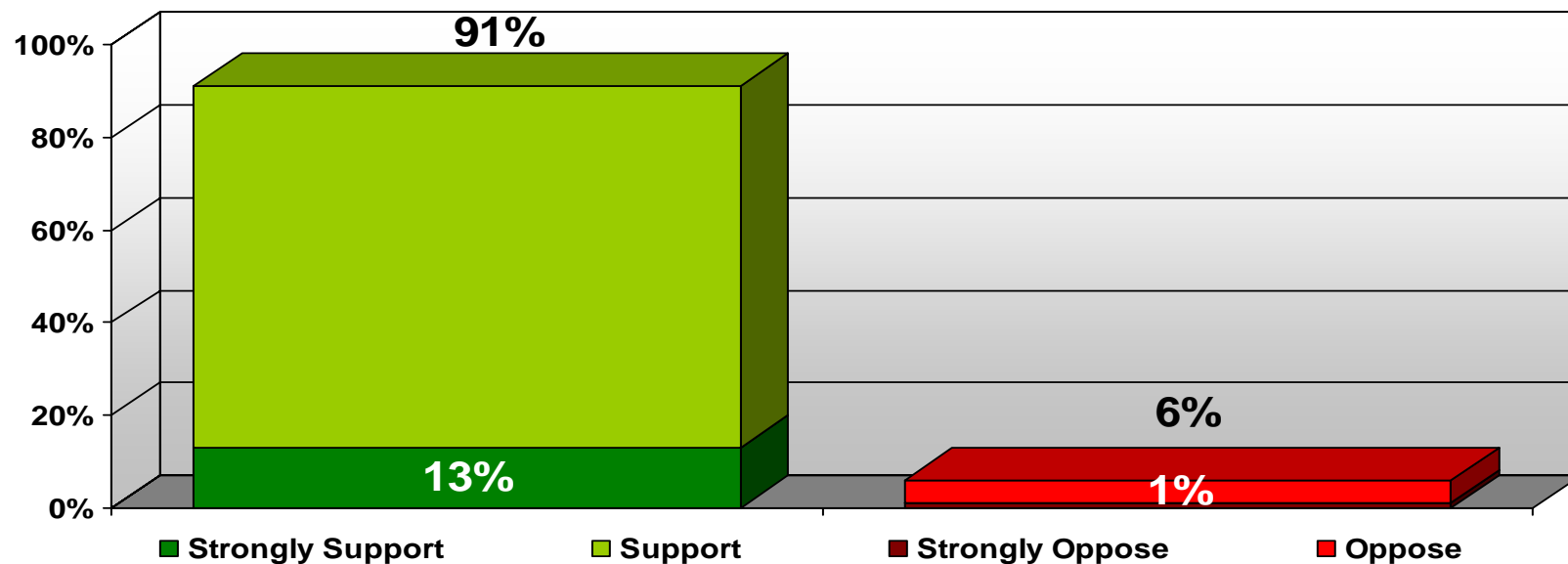
— Chamber Members —

Do You Support or Oppose the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals of 15 Percent by 2015, 25 Percent by 2030, and 80 Percent by 2050?



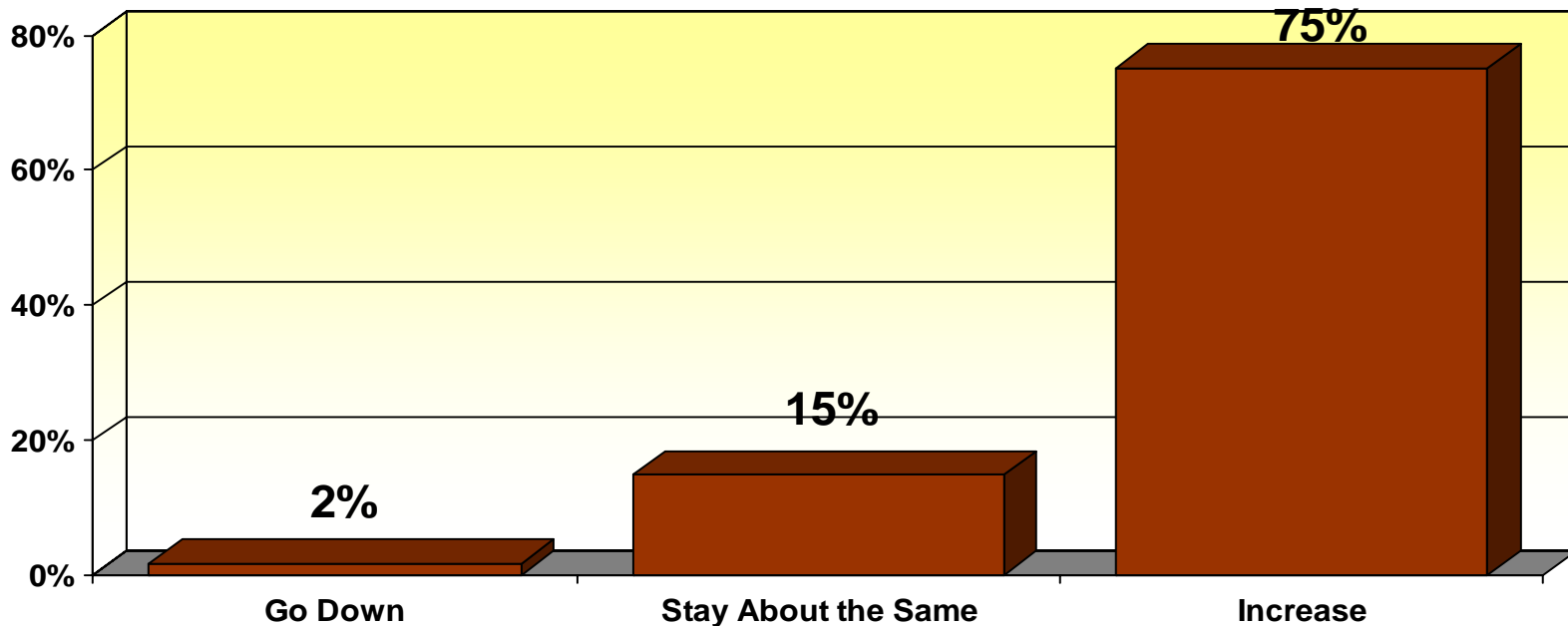
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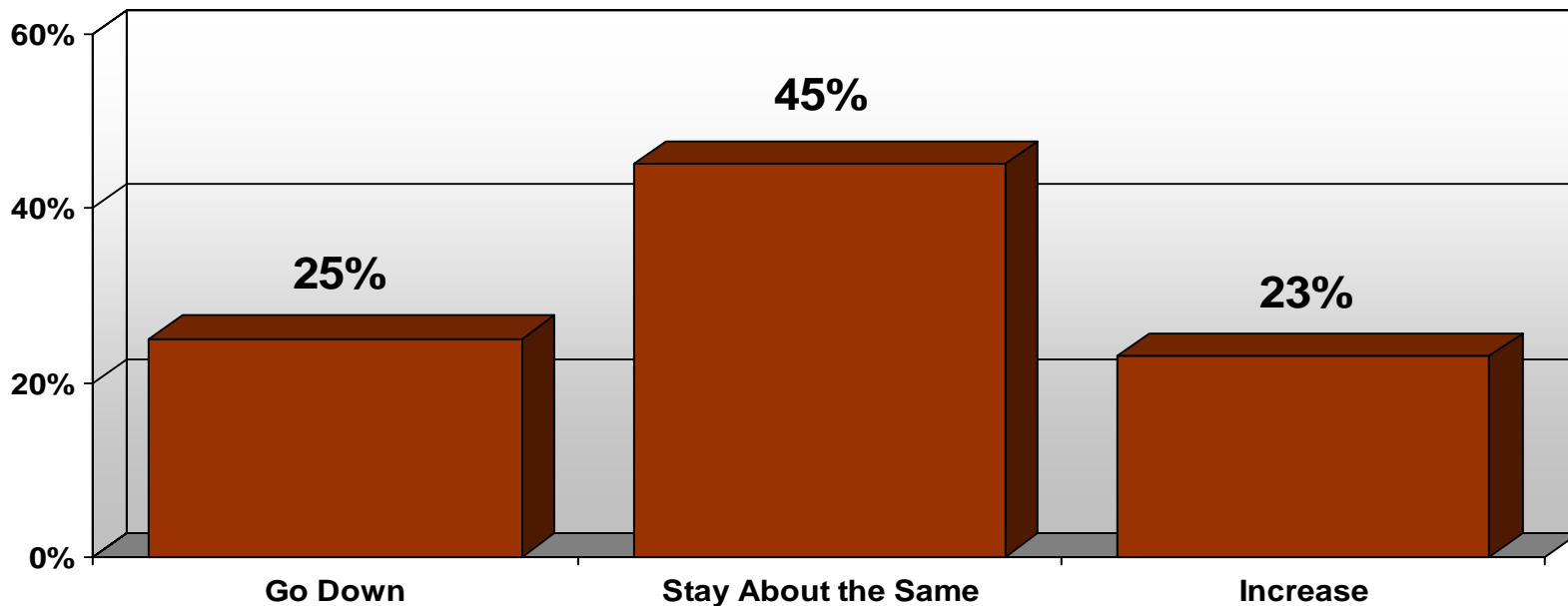
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How Do You Expect the Price of Electricity to Change in the Future as the Greenhouse Gas Goals are Implemented?



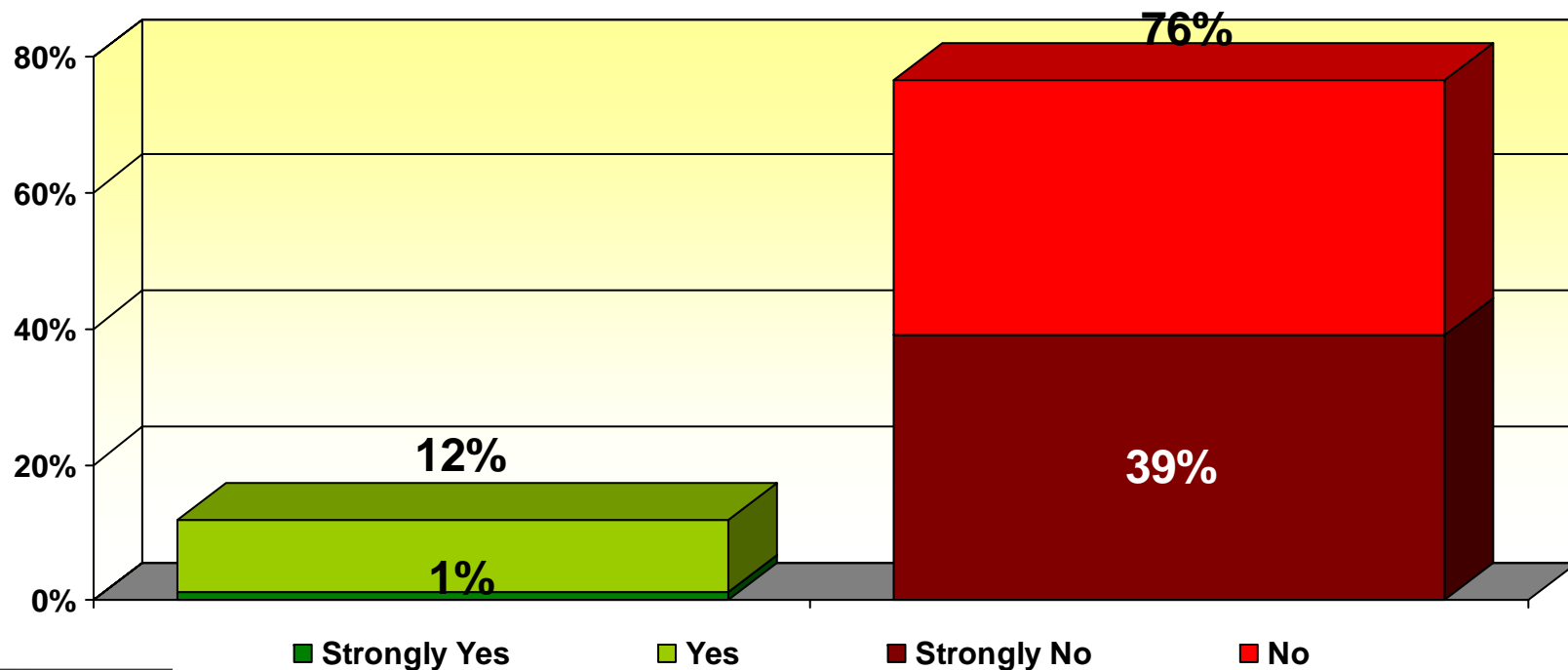
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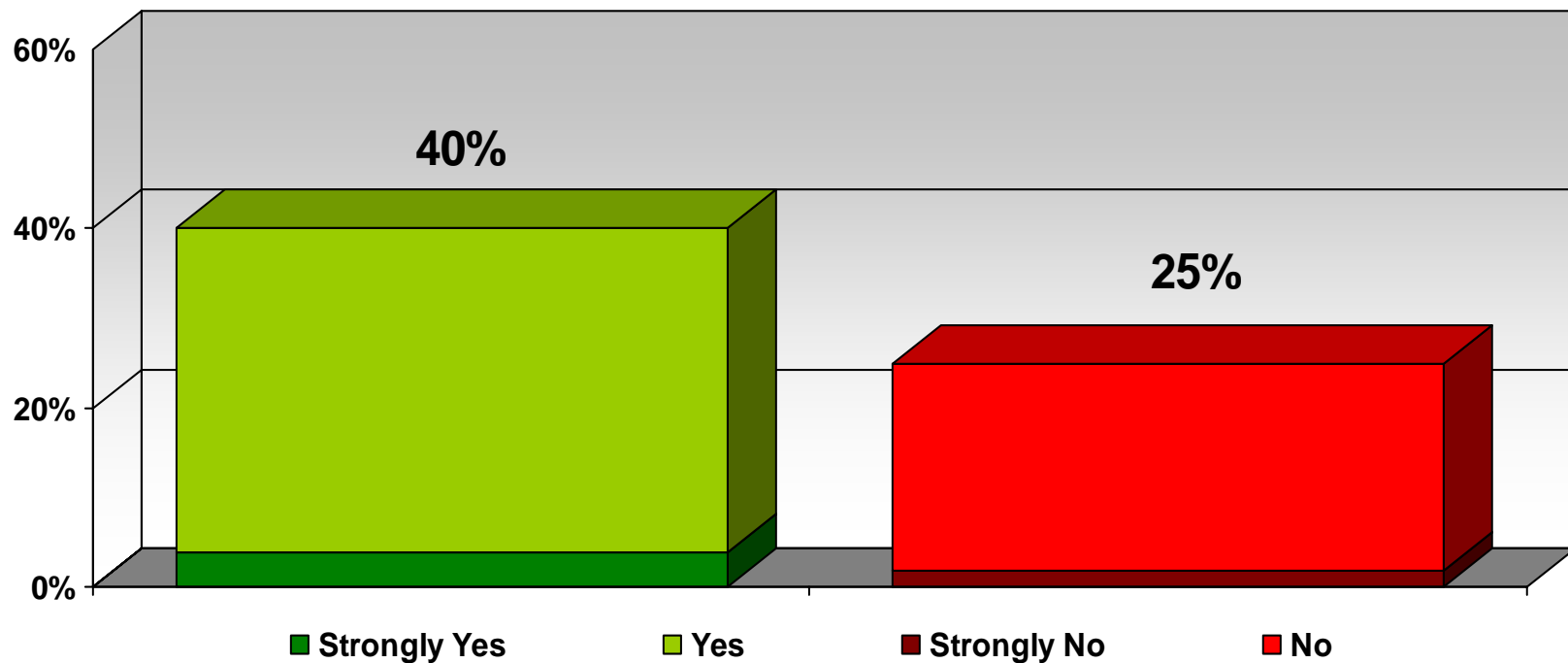
— Chamber Members —

Should a Cap and Trade System Be Used to Raise New Revenue for Government Programs?



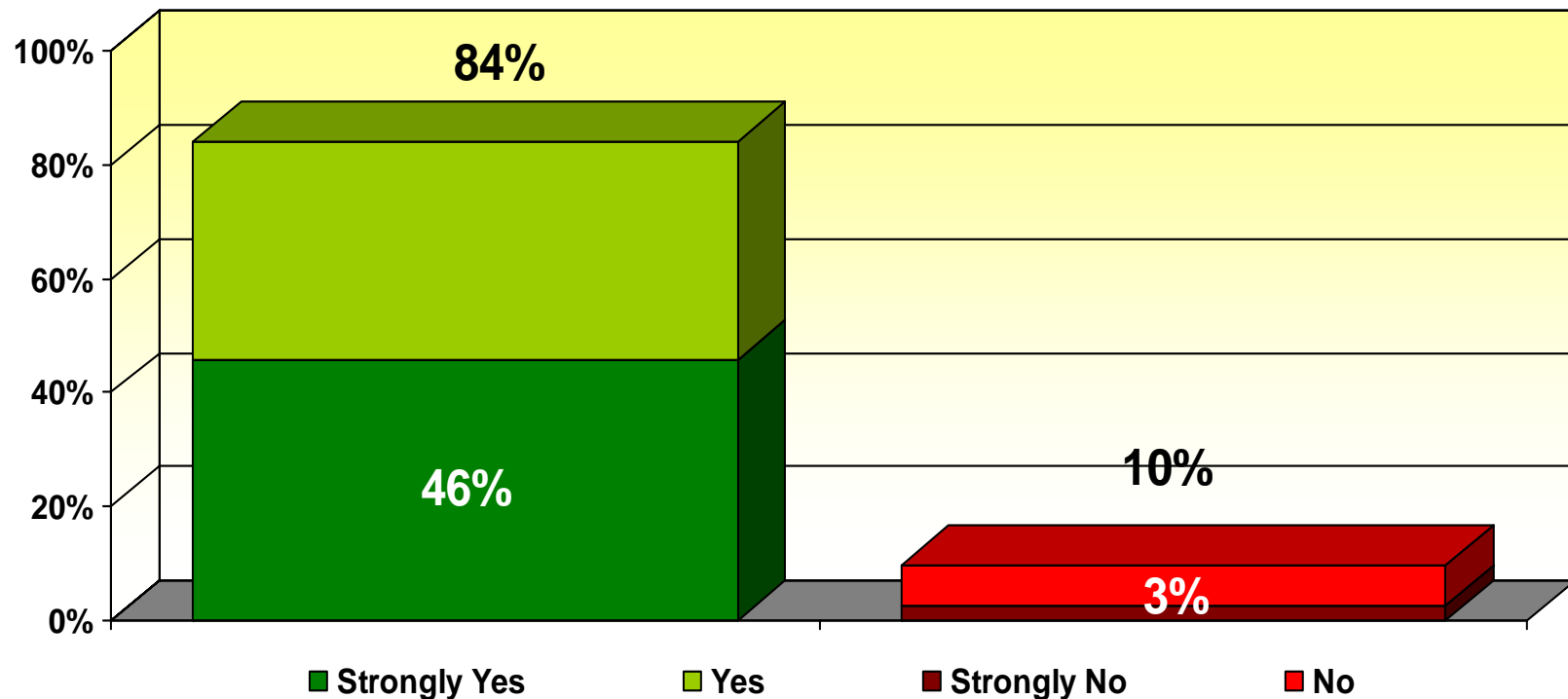
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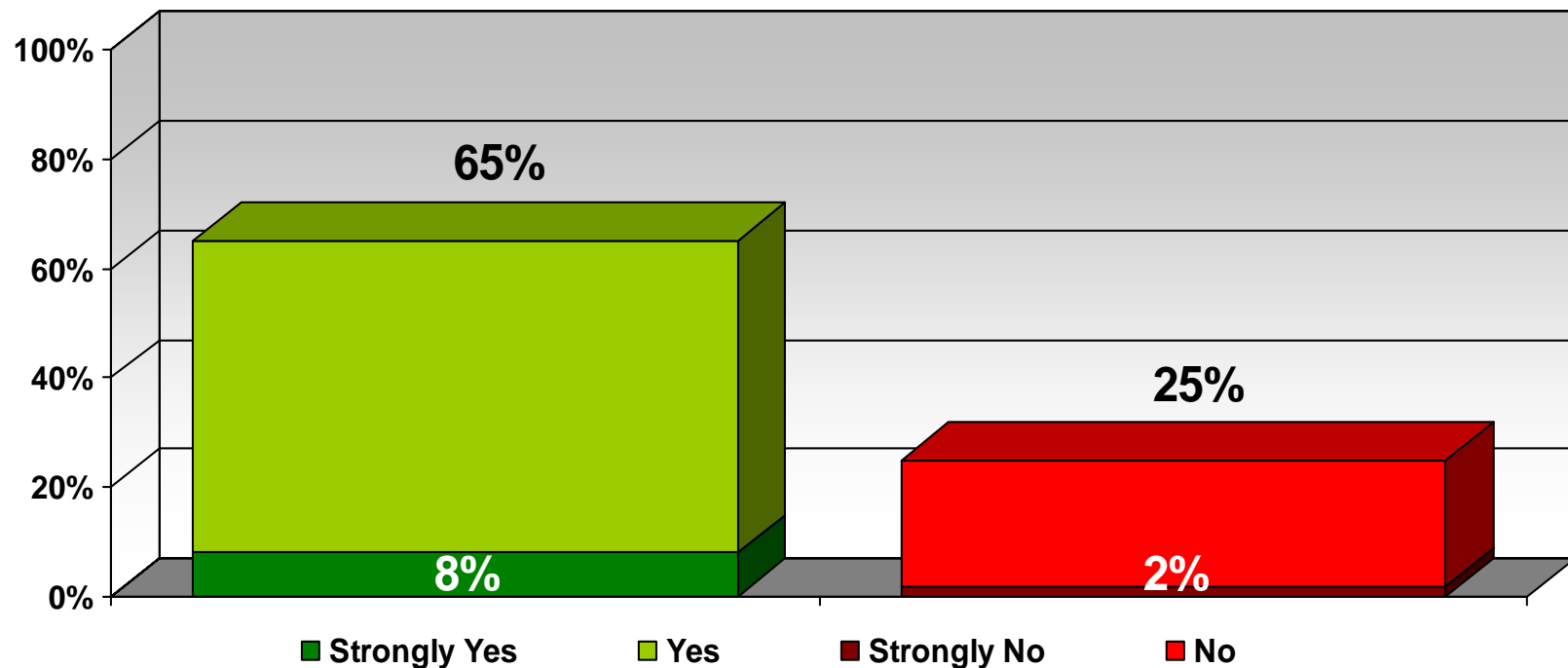
— Chamber Members —

Would You Support Government Policies That Begin to Promote More Nuclear Power?



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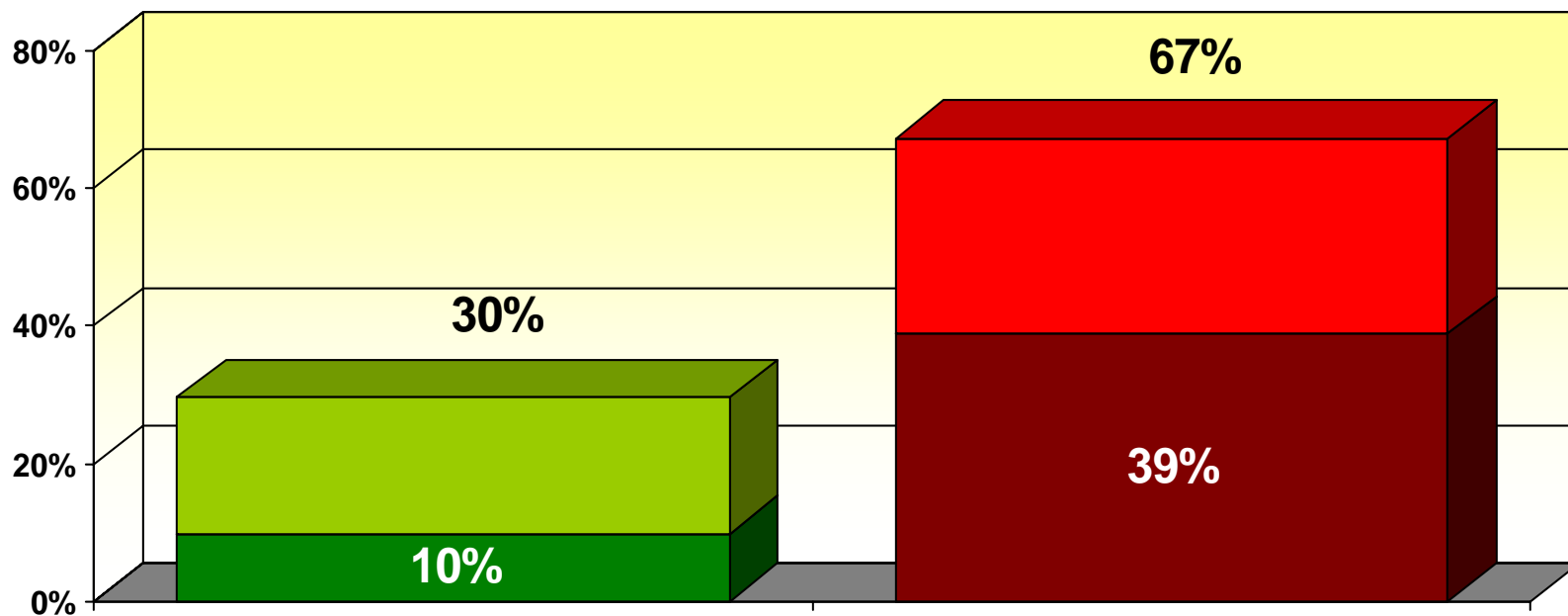
Energy Summary

- **Consensus on goals**
 - *Overall support for environmental benefits*
 - *More intense support for environmental goals among broad business audiences*
- **No consensus on potential consequences of increasing regulations**

Sales Tax Constitutional Amendment

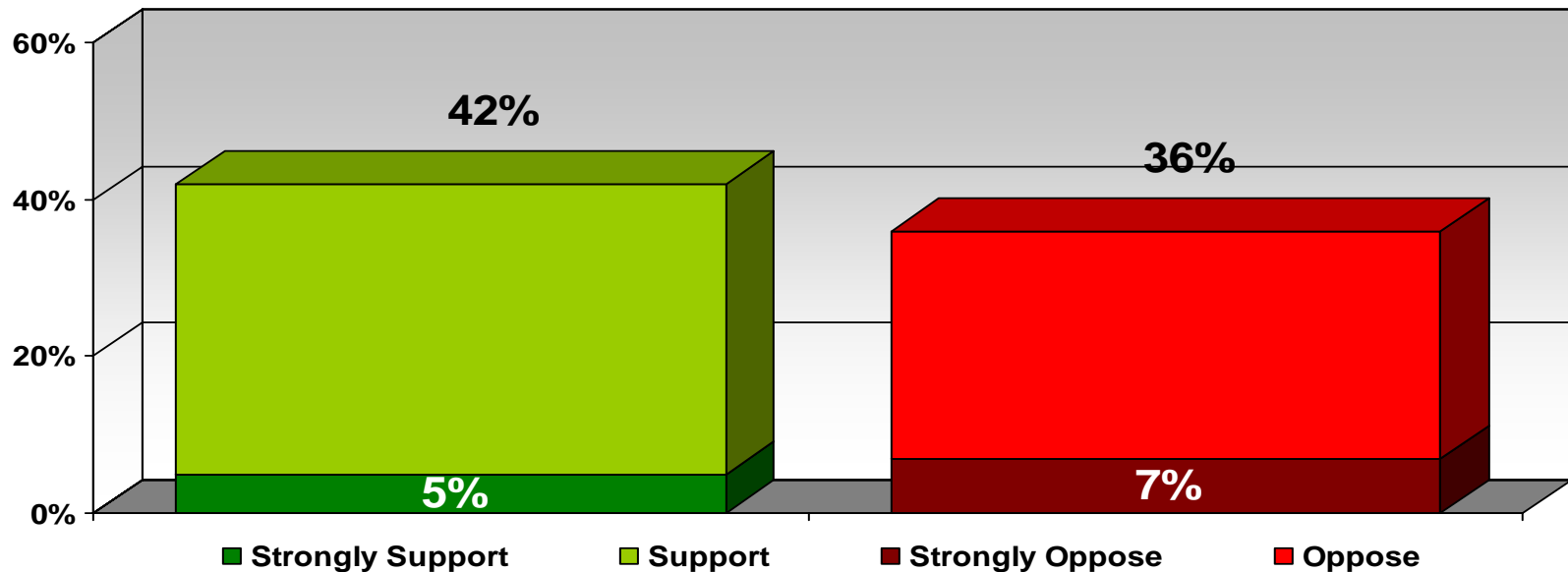
— Chamber Members —

If the Election Were Held Today, Would You Support or Oppose the Constitutional Amendment to Increase the Sales Tax by 3/8 of a Cent for Natural and Cultural Resources?



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Conclusions

- **Agreement on priorities**
- **Chamber members:**
 - *Understand implication of policies*
 - *More skeptical of new revenues as the solution*
- **General business community:**
 - *Align with Chamber on fiscal goals*
 - *Less certain on policy direction*