



Larimer County Services Survey



December 2025



Methodology



Larimer County invites you to participate in an important survey regarding county services, projects, programs, and a potential ballot measure in November 2026. Please make your voice heard by sharing your thoughts and opinions on these critical issues. Your answers will be anonymous and confidential, and the survey will take just 12 minutes to complete.

Magellan Strategies is pleased to present the results of a community survey of 971 residents in Larimer County, Colorado.

The interviews were conducted from December 9th– December 19th, 2025. This survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.14% at the 95 percent confidence interval.

The survey results are weighted to be representative of midterm election year turnout in Larimer County.

Key Takeaways & Opportunities

Strong Overall Approval of County Performance: 65% of respondents approve of the job Larimer County is doing providing public services, while only 16% disapprove. However, awareness is moderate—just 9% say they are “very familiar” with county services, and 51% are “somewhat familiar”.

Top Resident Priorities – Housing, Roads, and Human Services: When asked an open-ended question, residents most often cited housing affordability and cost of living, homelessness and mental health, and roads/infrastructure as top concerns. When given a list, 41% chose affordable housing, 29% roads/maintenance, and 26% human services as top priorities.

Fiscal Responsibility Perception is Divided: Just over half (52%) agree that Larimer County spends taxpayer money wisely, while 29% disagree and 19% have no opinion—showing modest but not overwhelming confidence in fiscal management.

Key Takeaways & Opportunities

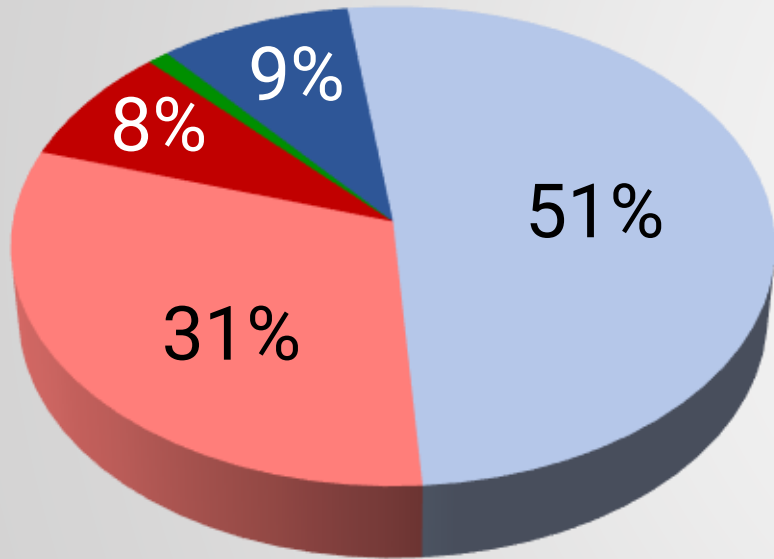
Strong Support for a Modest Sales Tax to Maintain Services: When presented with a 0.15% sales tax to close a \$17 million annual budget gap, support was highest for: Funding natural disaster response (80%), Veteran, senior, and family services (76%), Forest/watershed health and snow removal (both 75%), Road improvements and public safety (both 69%), and affordable housing programs (65%).

Property Tax Increase Splits Opinion: A proposed 1.9 mill property tax increase (\approx \$66/year on a \$557,000 home) shows 46% more likely to support compared to 37% less likely. Nearly one in five (17%) say it makes no difference.

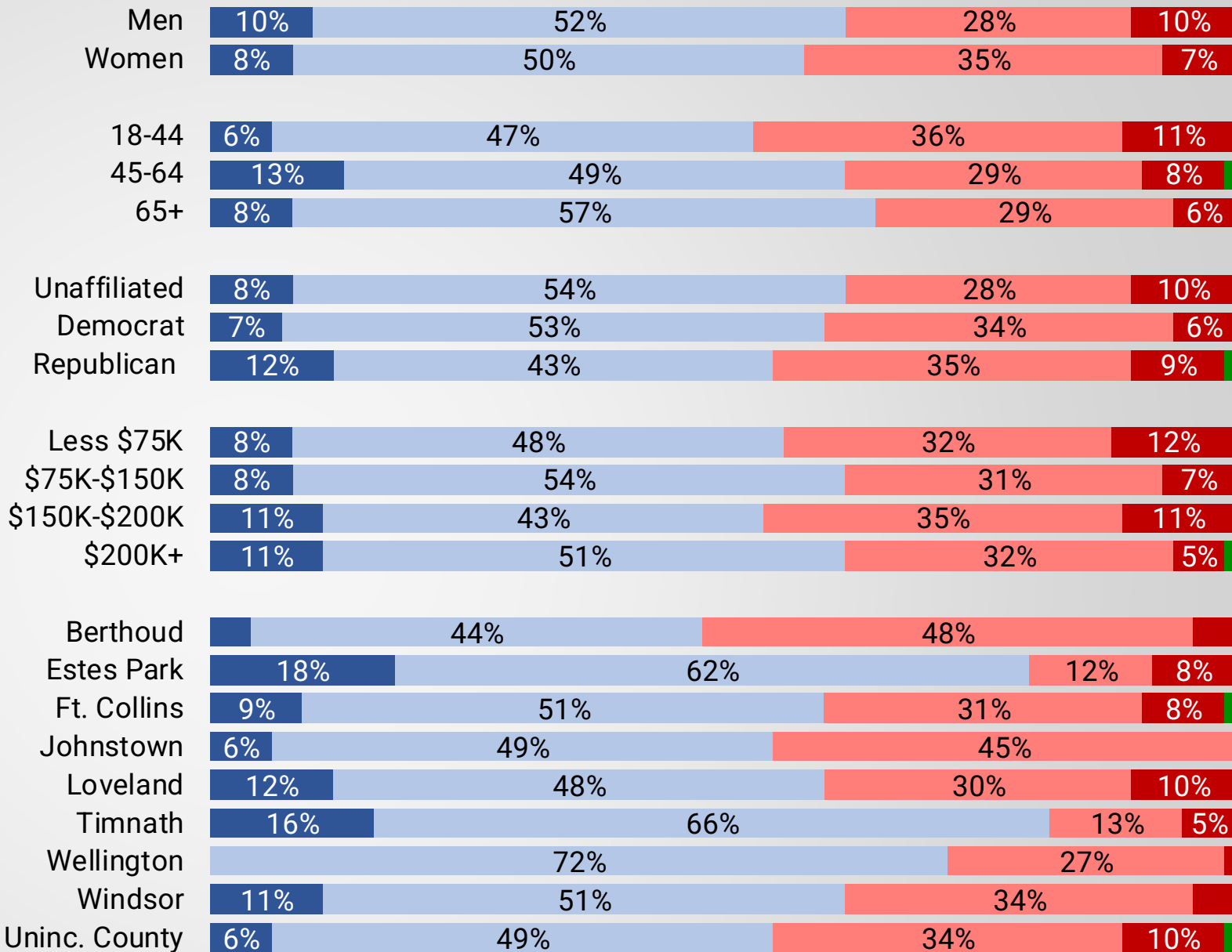
Divergent Views on Taxes and Government Efficiency: Open-ended responses show tension between fiscal conservatism and preserving services. Many call for no new taxes, citing high property taxes and inefficiency. At the same time, others support progressive or targeted taxation to protect essential services. In general, a strong theme of distrust in federal/state government coexists with recognition that core local services must be maintained, even if through small or temporary tax increases.

How familiar are you with the public services, projects, and programs provided by Larimer County? Are you:

Very & Somewhat 60%

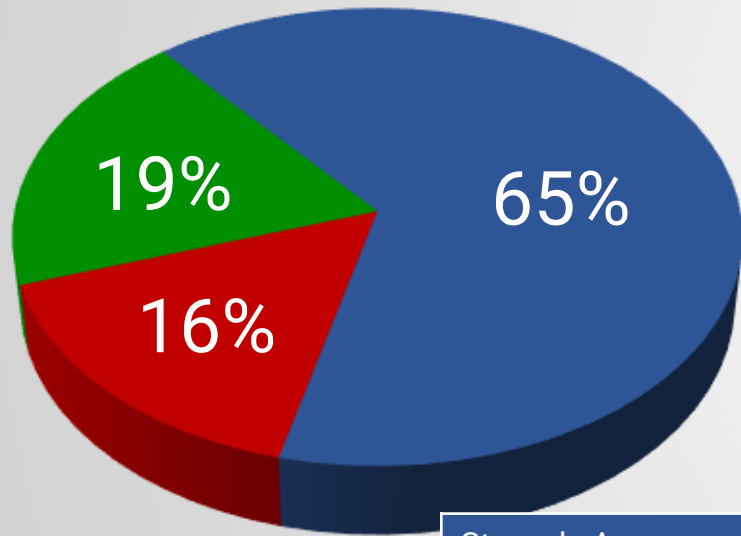


- Very Familiar
- Somewhat Familiar
- Not Too Familiar
- Not Familiar at All
- No Opinion



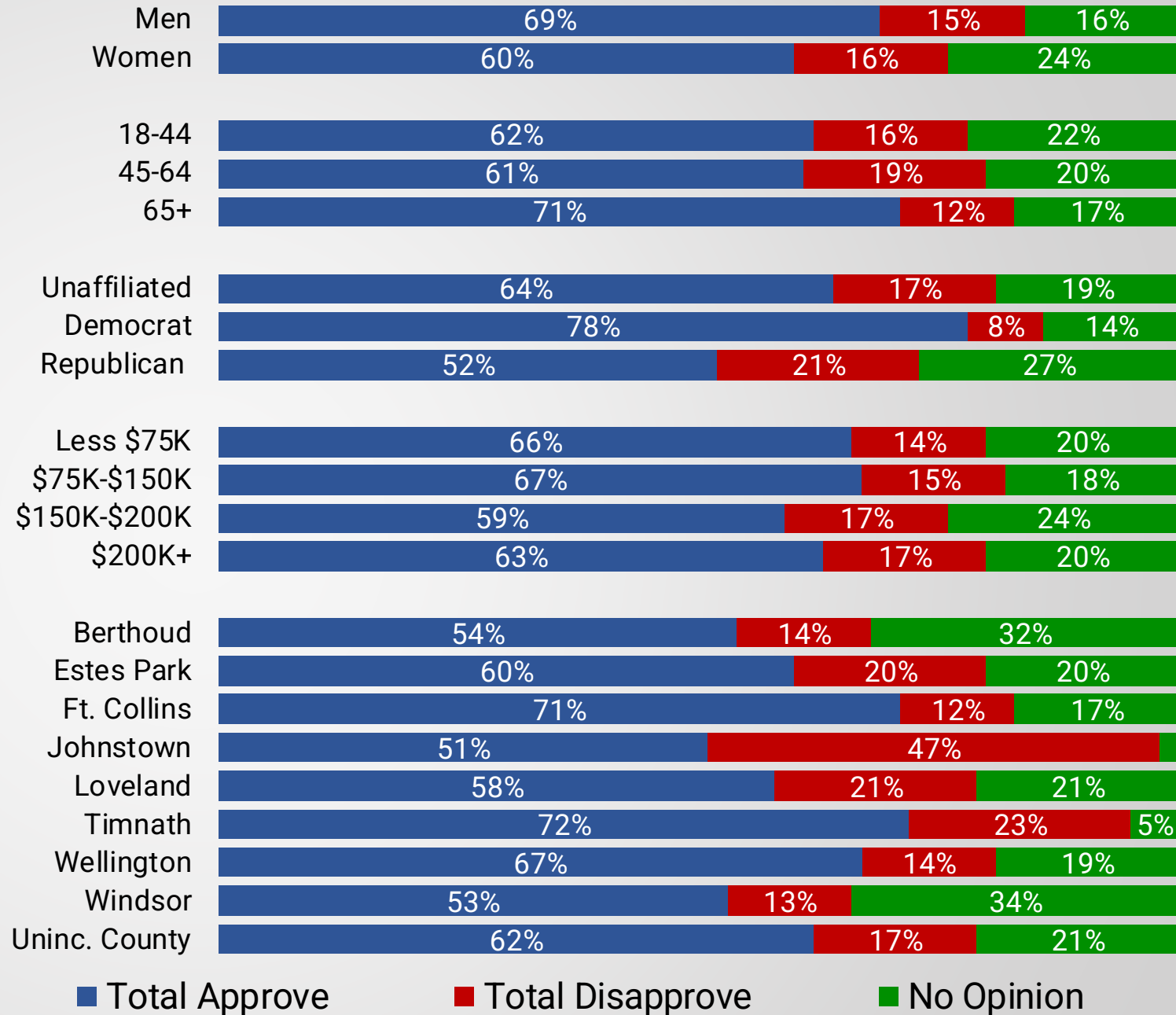
- Very Familiar
- Somewhat Familiar
- Not Too Familiar
- Not Familiar at All
- No Opinion

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Larimer County is doing to provide essential public services, projects and programs for county residents?



- Total Approve
- Total Disapprove
- No Opinion

Strongly Approve	17%
Somewhat Approve	48%
Strongly Disapprove	6%
Somewhat Disapprove	10%



- Total Approve
- Total Disapprove
- No Opinion



In your own words, please describe the top two or three issues or problems that you think Larimer County should be addressing the most.

Housing Affordability and Cost of Living: Respondents repeatedly mention terms like affordable housing, rising rents and home prices, cost of living, and property taxes. Many express concern that working families, seniors, and single parents may not be able to afford to stay in Larimer County.

Homelessness and Mental Health/Services: Also frequently mentioned are issues involving homelessness and often related needs such as mental health care, addiction treatment, and food insecurity. Responses include diverse perspectives, from a general need to “help the unhoused” to a more frustration-oriented “too much money goes to homeless programs”. Mental health access and services for vulnerable populations are strongly linked to this theme.

Roads, Traffic and Infrastructure: Infrastructure and transportation are prominent themes. Many respondents mention things like poor road conditions, potholes, congestion, unsafe intersections, road neglect, and endless construction. This theme also includes responses focused on traffic enforcement, mass transit, bike/pedestrian safety and bridge maintenance.

Taxes/Government Spending: Tax burdens are a concern for many respondents, especially property taxes. Respondents' express frustration over increasing tax rates without visible service improvements. Several note concerns about administrative costs, overspending, or mismanagement of budgets.

Growth, Development, and Open Space: Many respondents worry about rapid development outpacing infrastructure, harming natural areas, and reducing open space. Linked themes include water conservation, fire mitigation, environmental protection, and growth management.

And from the following list of issues impacting your community, choose two that you think Larimer County should be addressing the most.

Creating affordable rental and homeownership opportunities

41%

Managing street and road improvements, maintenance, and repairs

29%

Providing Human Services, like childcare, medical, heat and energy assistance, senior, child and adult protection services

26%

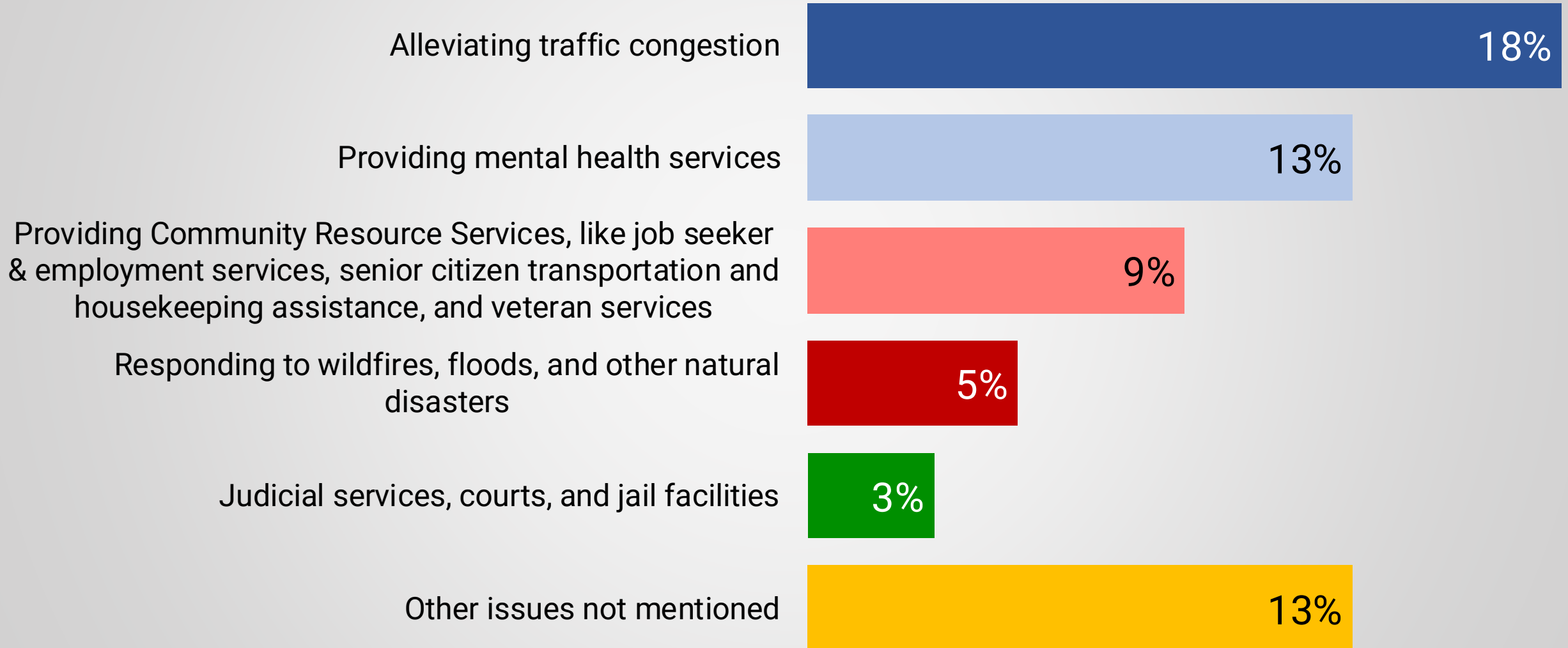
Reducing crime and improving public safety

21%

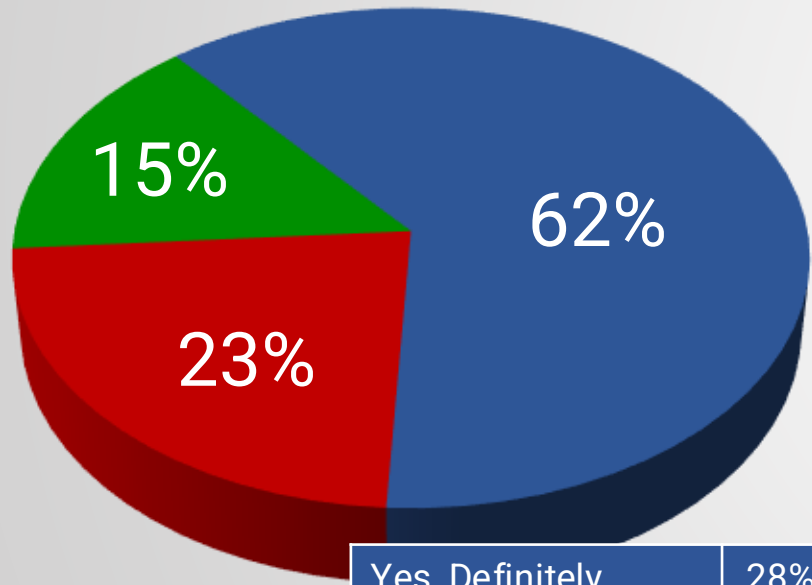
Improving forest and watershed health and mitigation for natural disasters such as wildfires and floods

18%

And from the following list of issues impacting your community, choose two that you think Larimer County should be addressing the most.

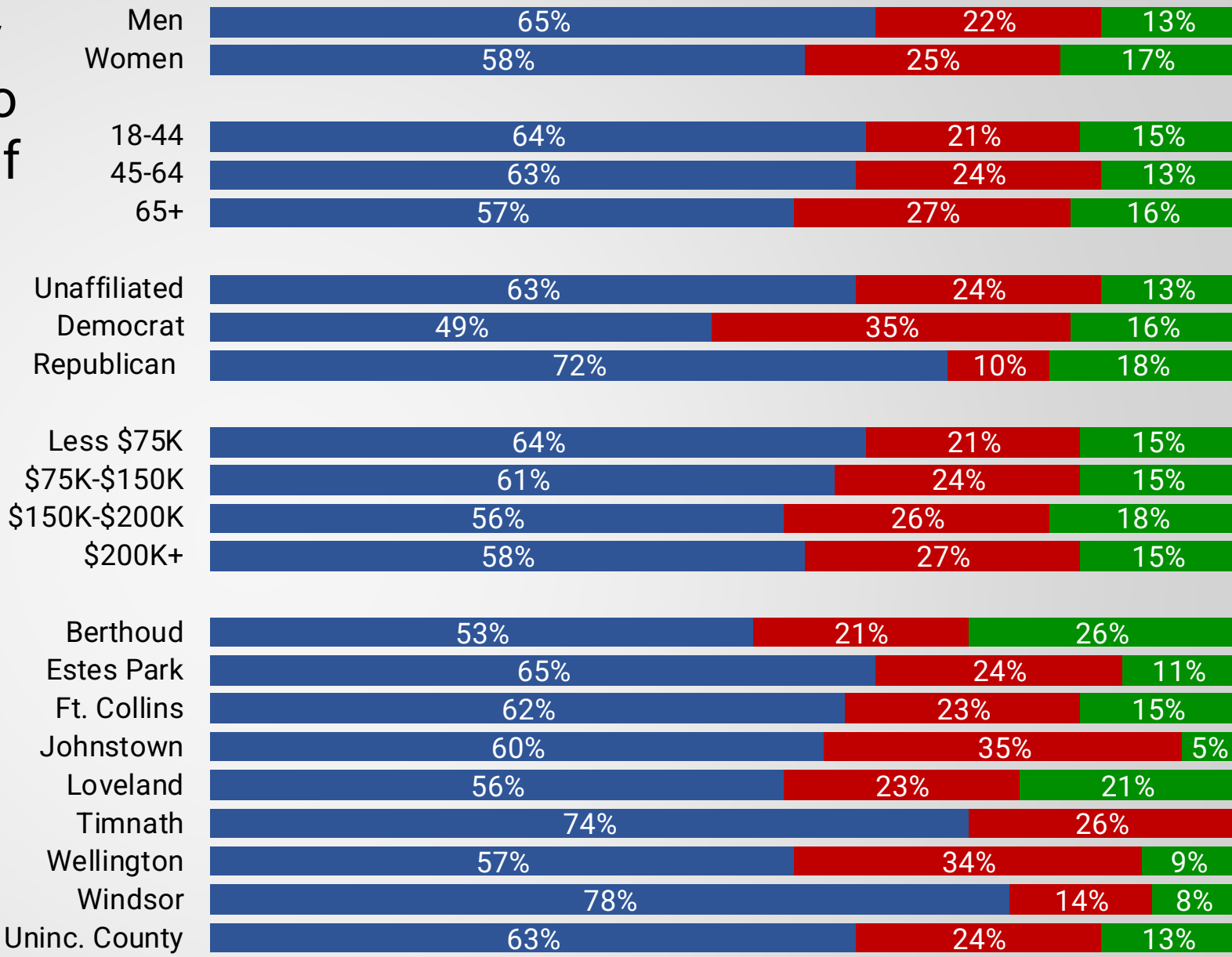


Do you think Larimer County has the financial resources to provide an acceptable level of county essential services, projects, and programs to county residents?



Yes, Definitely	28%
Yes, Probably	34%
No, Definitely Not	3%
No, Probably Not	20%

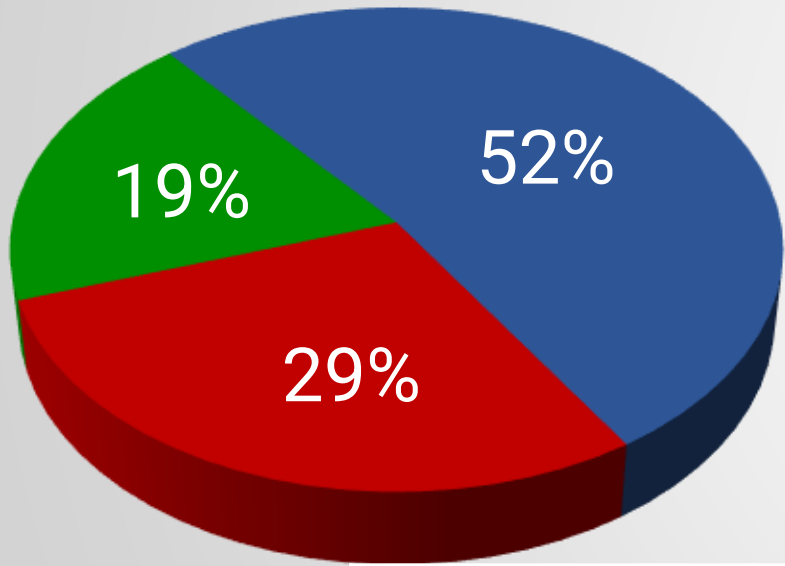
■ Total Yes
 ■ Total No
 ■ No Opinion



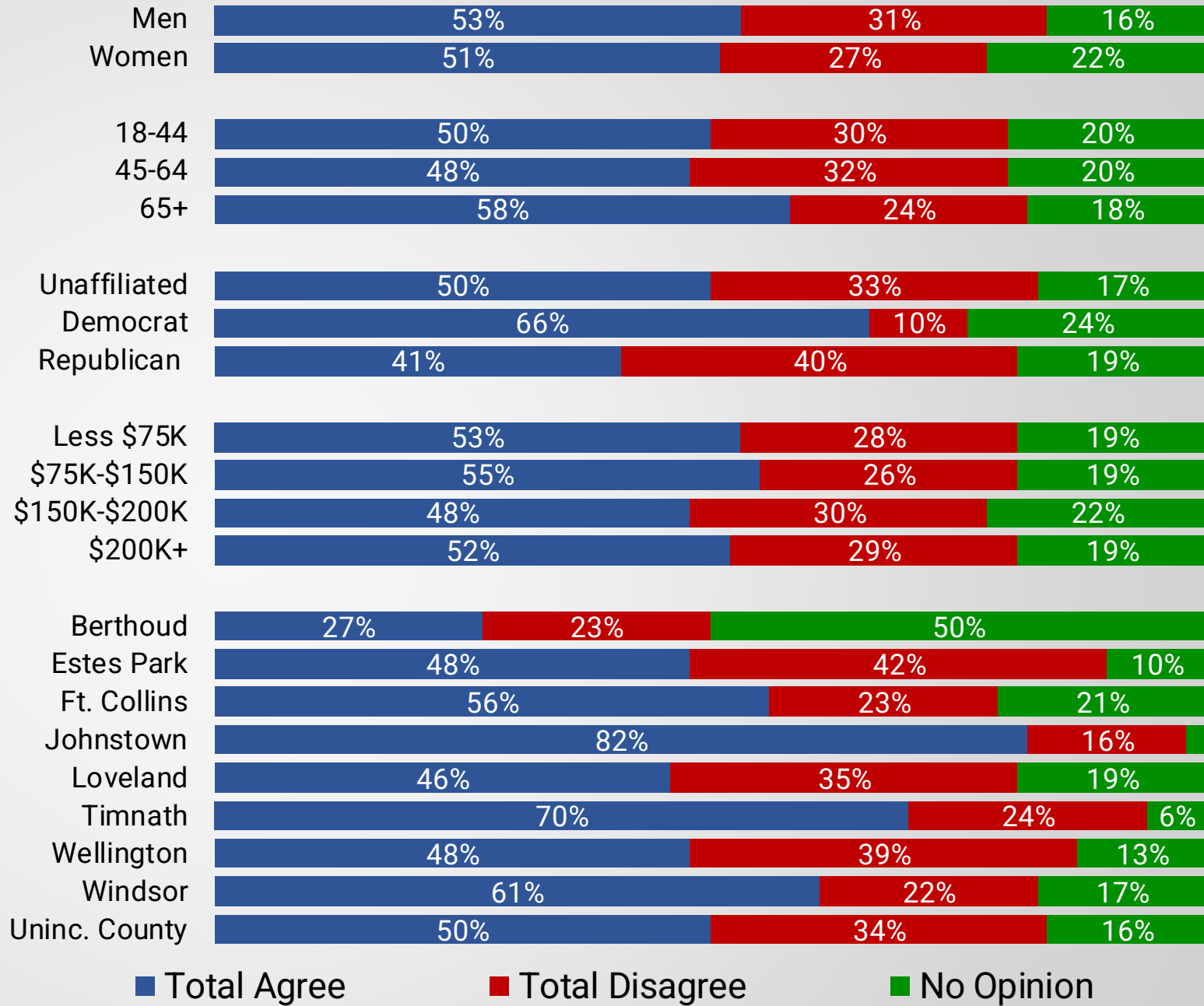
■ Total Yes ■ Total No ■ No Opinion



Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
 “Larimer County is fiscally responsible and spends taxpayer money wisely.”



■ Total Agree	Strongly Agree	14%
■ Total Disagree	Somewhat Agree	38%
■ No Opinion	Strongly Disagree	13%
	Somewhat Disagree	16%



Respondent Information

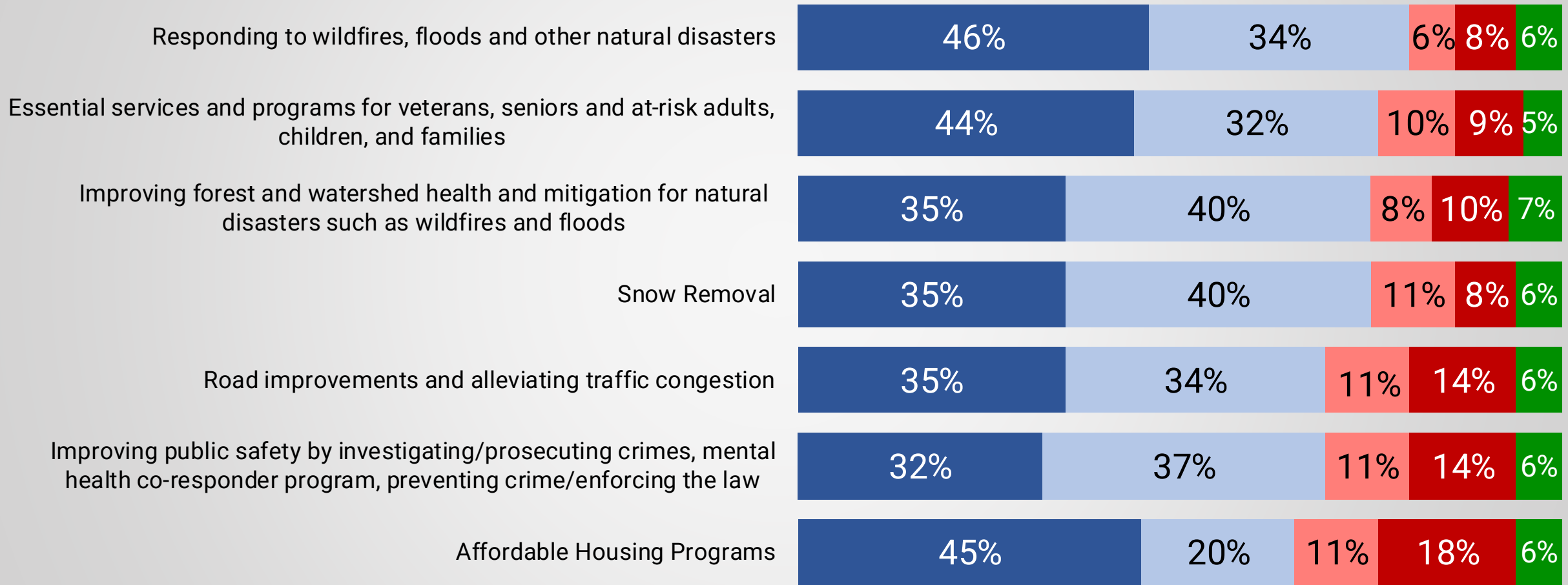


Before we continue, it is important to understand that Larimer County has not decided whether to put a ballot measure before voters in November 2026 to create additional funding sources for county services, projects, and programs.

In fact, your participation in this survey and sharing your honest opinions will help the county make that decision. Let's continue the survey now.

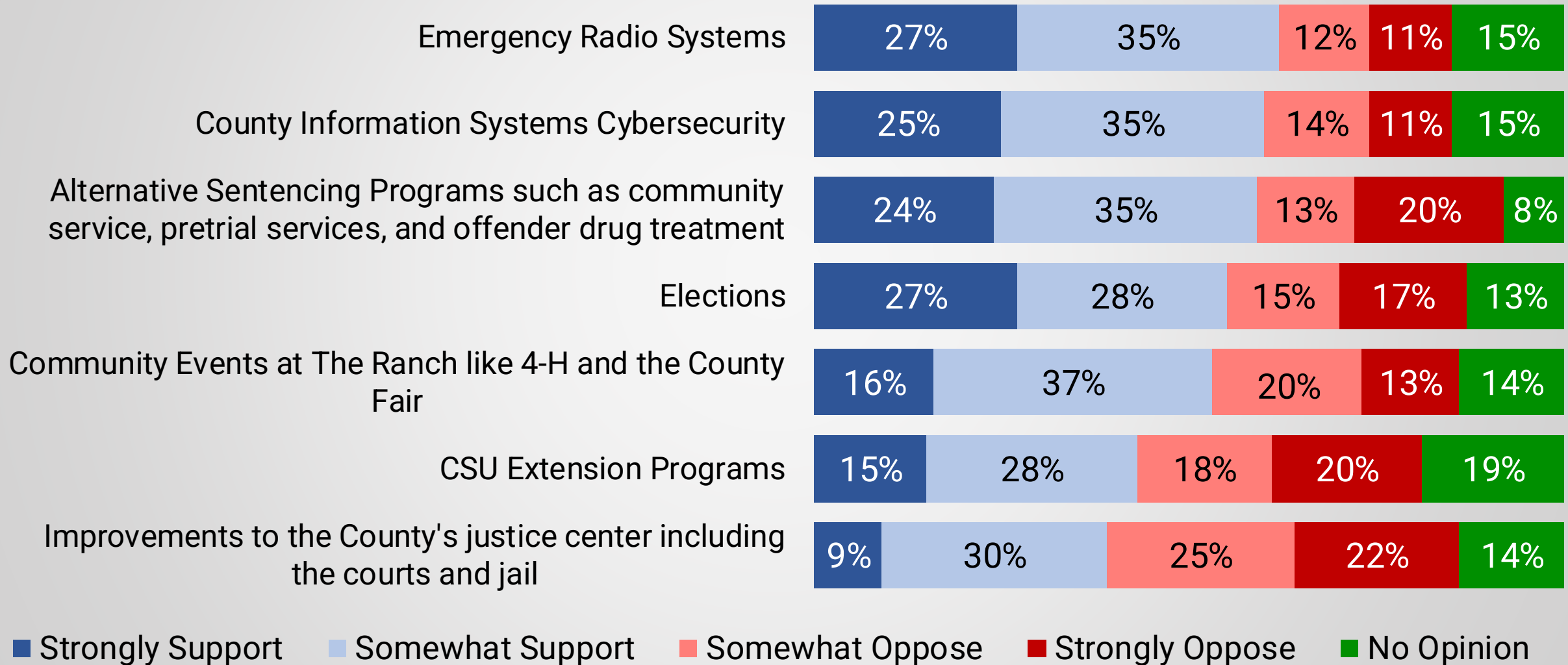
Unfortunately, without additional revenue in the future, Larimer County will be facing budget reductions, including an \$85 million budget gap over the next 5 years (2027 - 2031).

Below is a list of services provided by Larimer County. For each one, please indicate your support for a 0.15% sales tax (15 cents per \$100 spent) to fill the \$17 million annual budget gap to fund that service.



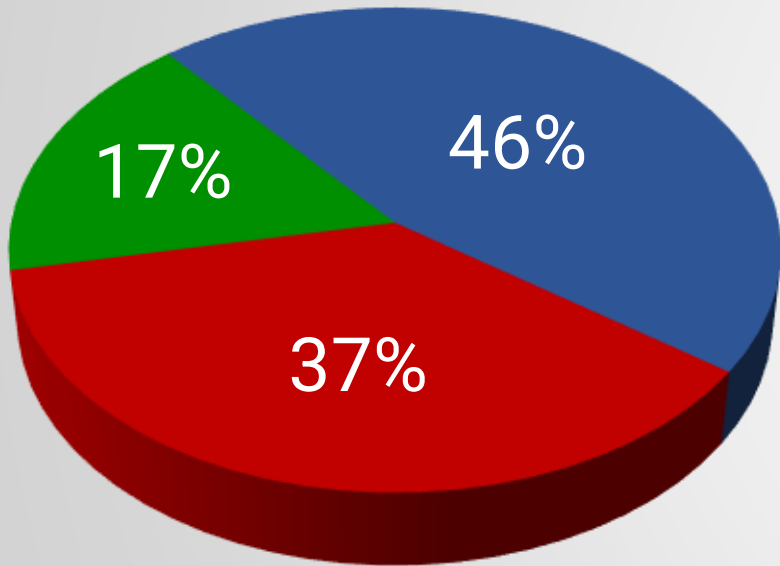
■ Strongly Support ■ Somewhat Support ■ Somewhat Oppose ■ Strongly Oppose ■ No Opinion

Below is a list of services provided by Larimer County. For each one, please indicate your support for a 0.15% sales tax (15 cents per \$100 spent) to fill the \$17 million annual budget gap to fund that service.



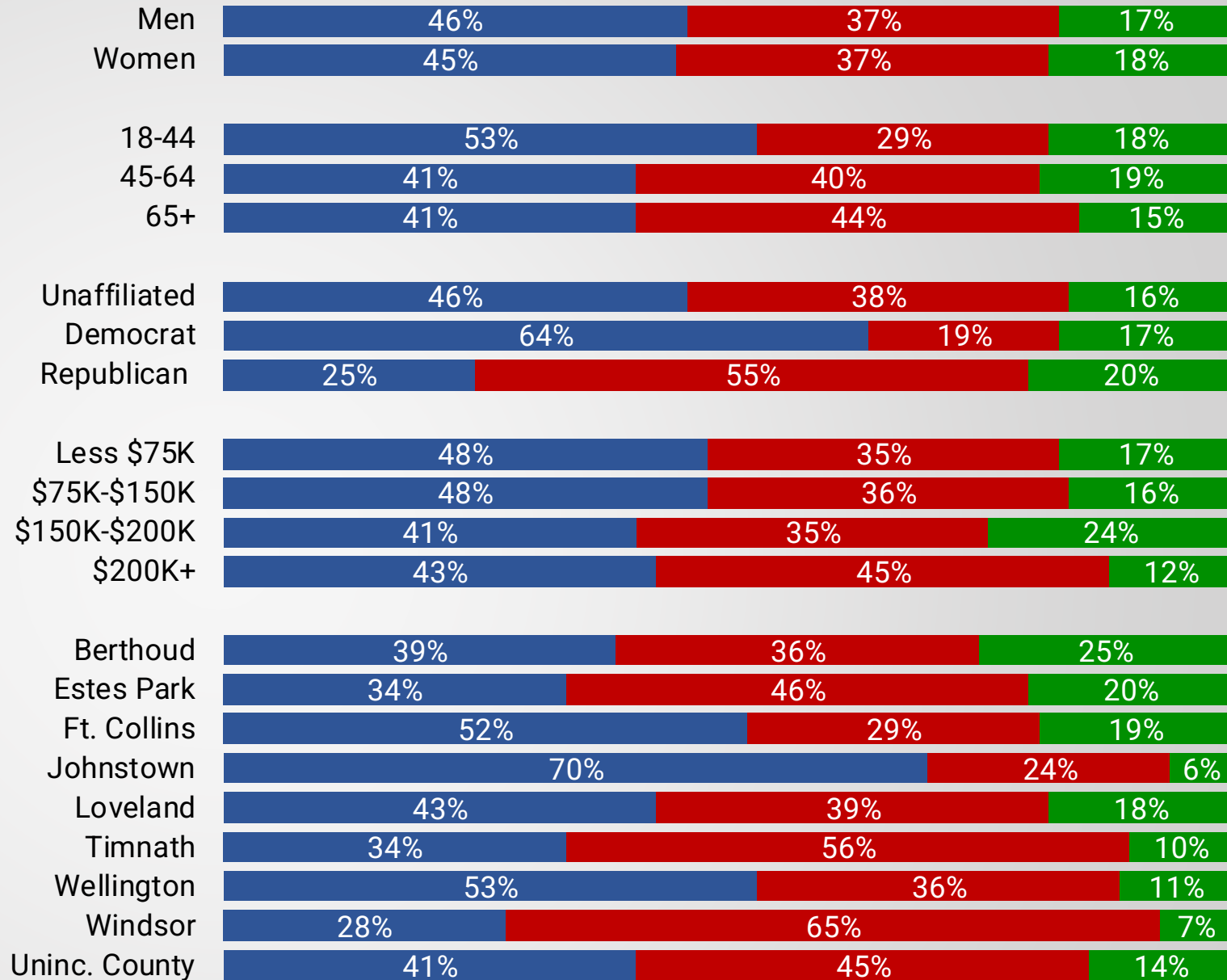
A 1.9 mill property tax increase would also fill the \$17 million annual budget gap. This increase would be \$66 annually for a \$557,000 home.

If a 1.9 mill property tax increase were put before voters, instead of a sales **tax increase**, would that make you:



■ Total More Likely
 ■ Total Less Likely
 ■ No Difference

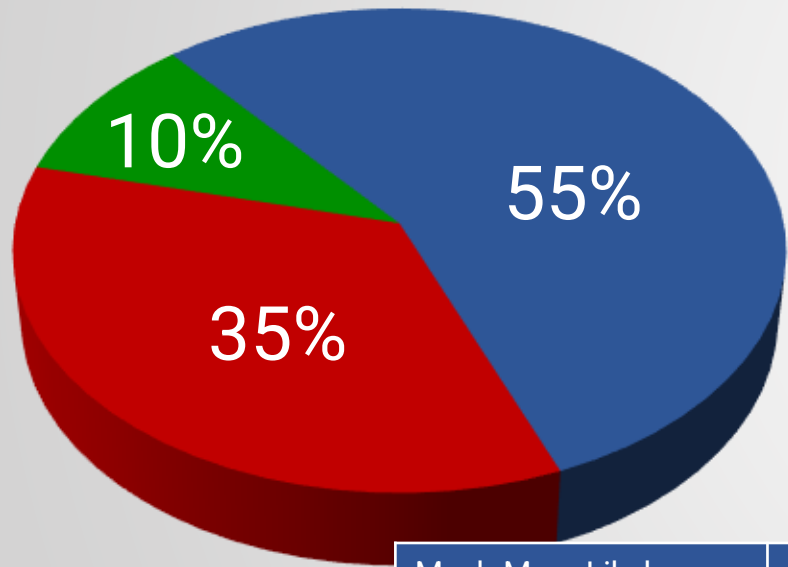
Much More Likely	25%
Somewhat More Likely	21%
Much Less Likely	24%
Somewhat Less Likely	13%



■ Total More Likely ■ Total Less Likely ■ No Difference

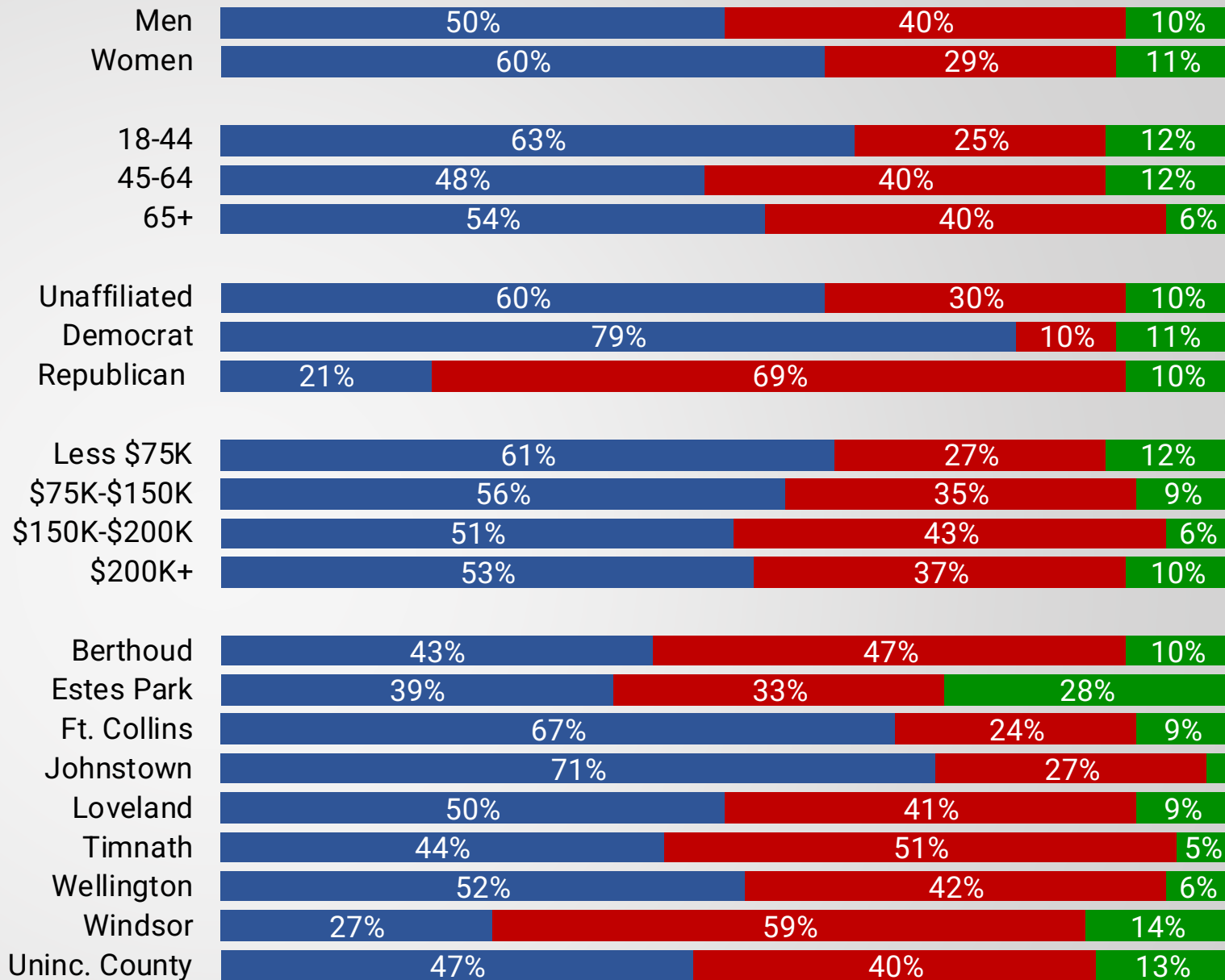


The County's budget gap is primarily due to recent federal legislation that will increase the County's costs to determine eligibility for federal programs like SNAP and Medicaid, unfunded mandates passed by the State that have increased costs for public safety services, and State-mandated revenue caps. Knowing this, are you:



■ Total More Likely
 ■ Total Less Likely
 ■ No Opinion

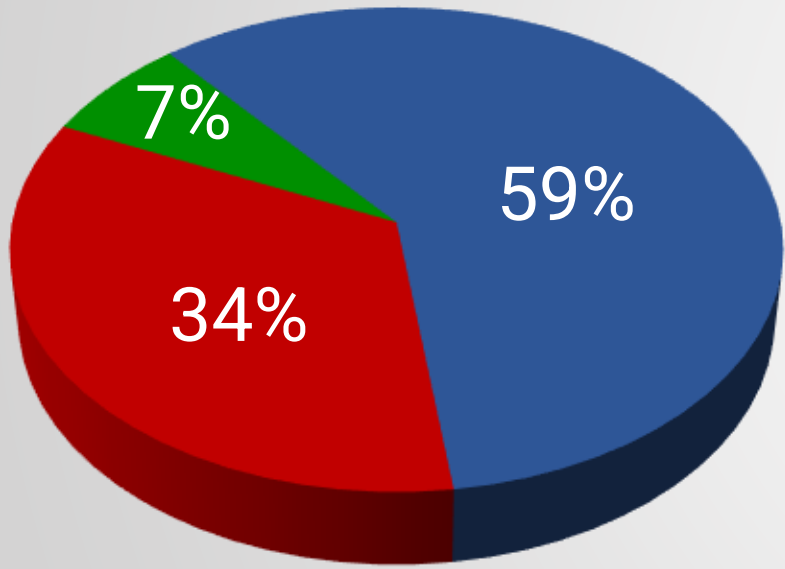
Much More Likely	30%
Somewhat More Likely	25%
Much Less Likely	25%
Somewhat Less Likely	10%



■ Total More Likely ■ Total Less Likely ■ No Opinion

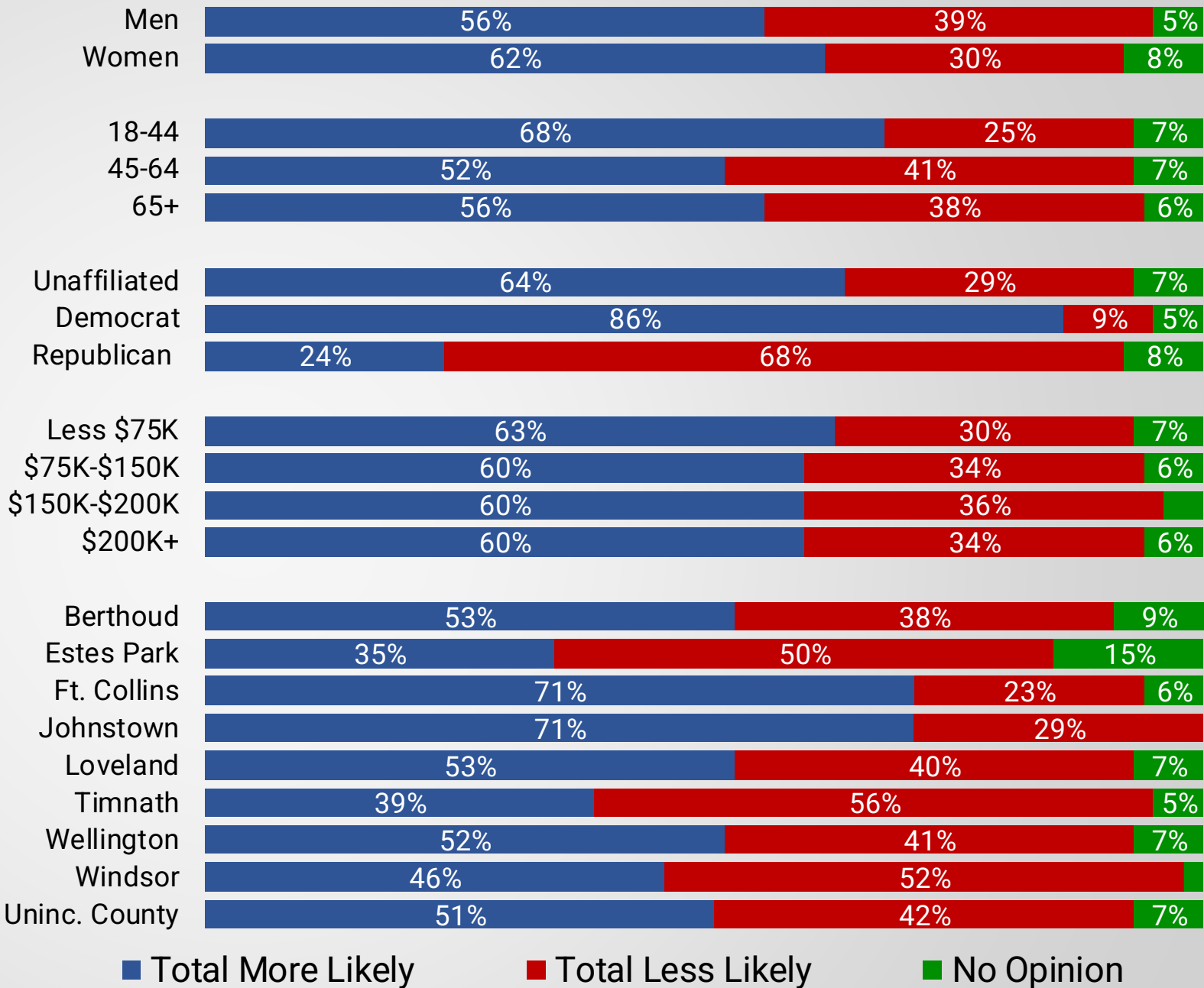


The federal government has historically provided funding to support county services for children, families, and older adults, including food and housing assistance. If this federal funding is reduced, would you be:



■ Total More Likely
 ■ Total Less Likely
 ■ No Opinion

Much More Likely	35%
Somewhat More Likely	24%
Much Less Likely	23%
Somewhat Less Likely	11%



■ Total More Likely ■ Total Less Likely ■ No Opinion



As you may know, a set of wide-ranging executive orders from the White House will have an impact in Larimer County. Please rate your level of concern if funding is cut in the following areas:

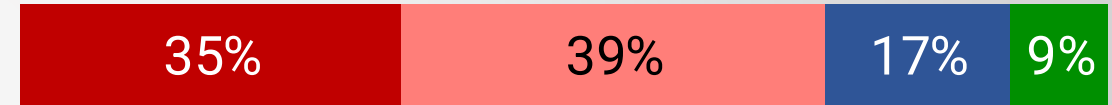
Emergency Preparedness and recovery from natural disasters through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



Health First Colorado (Medicaid), the program that provides health insurance for adults and children with limited income and resources



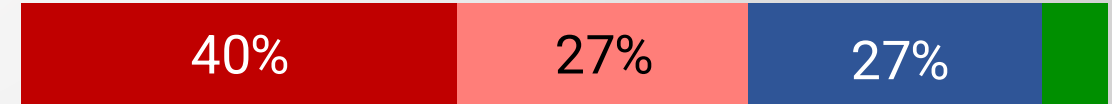
Support for Victims of Crimes (VOCA)



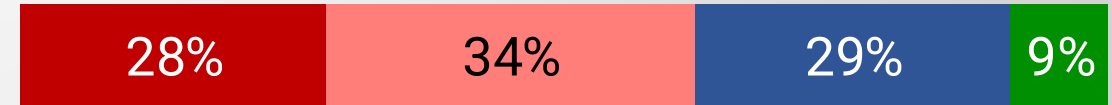
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides food benefits to low-income families



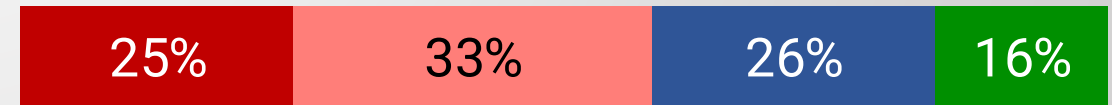
Continuum of Care (through HUD) the main source of federal funding for homelessness programs and services



Unemployment and Workforce Improvement Grants (WIOA)

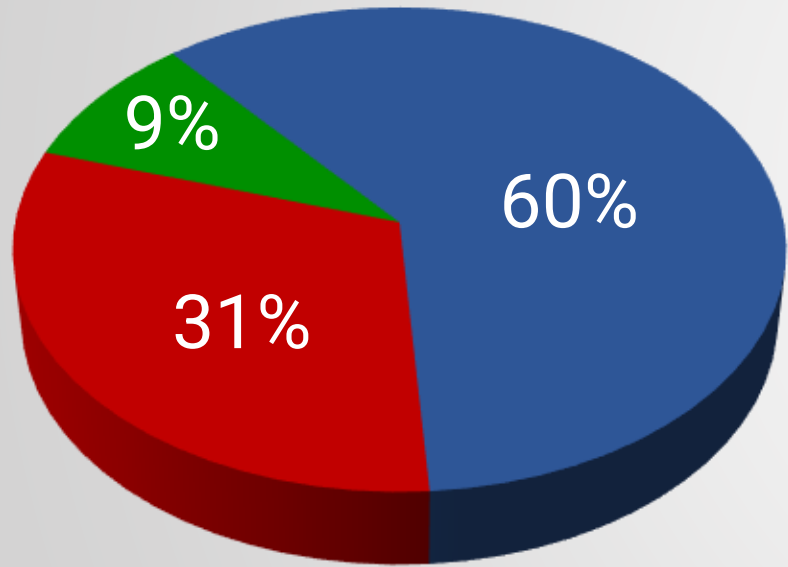


Conservation Corps



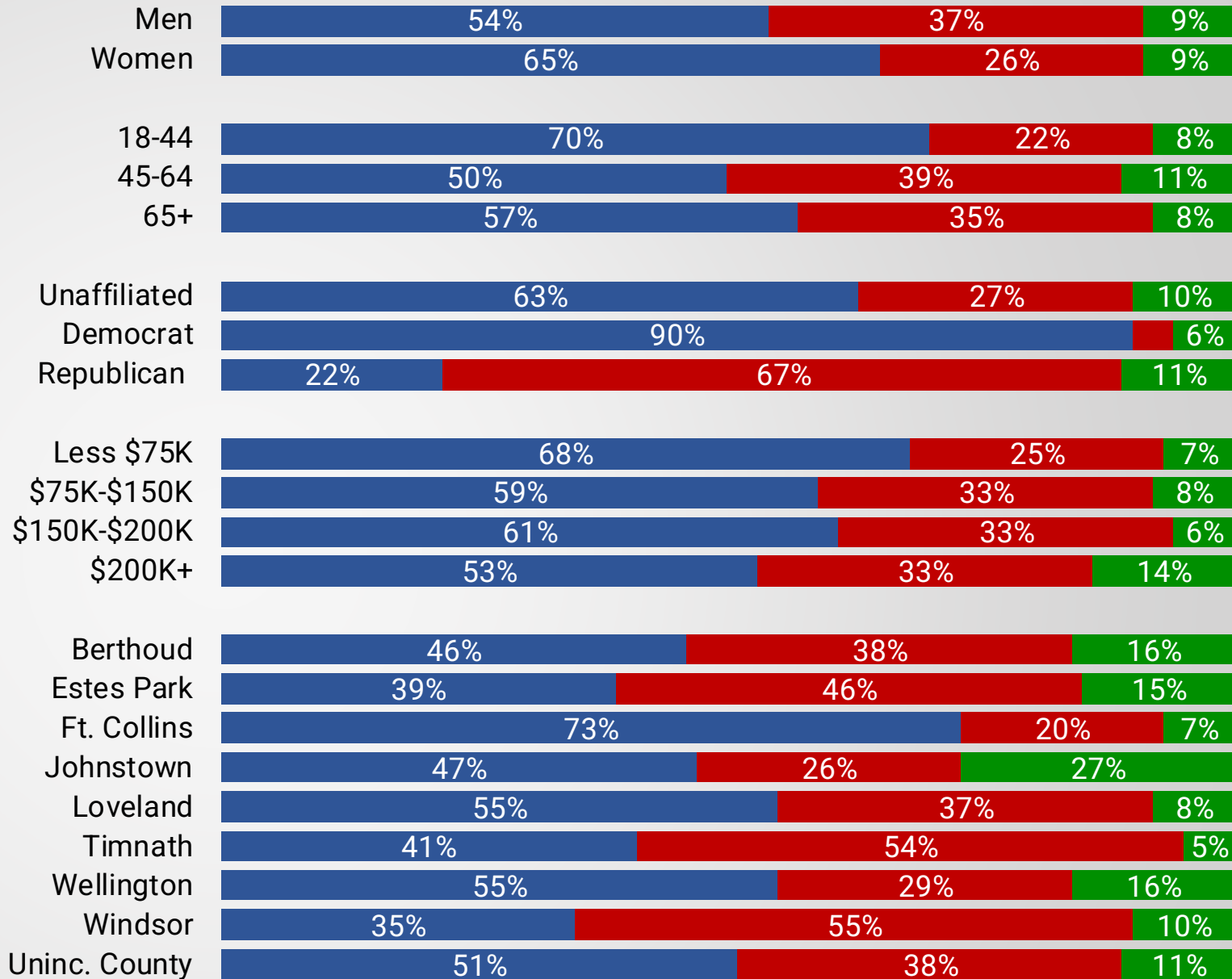
■ Very Concerned
 ■ Somewhat Concerned
 ■ Not Concerned at All
 ■ No Opinion

The State of Colorado is already reducing funding for county services such as Child Care Assistance, Child Protection, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and programs for aging adults. Knowing this, are you:



■ Total More Likely
 ■ Total Less Likely
 ■ No Opinion

Much More Likely	35%
Somewhat More Likely	25%
Much Less Likely	21%
Somewhat Less Likely	10%

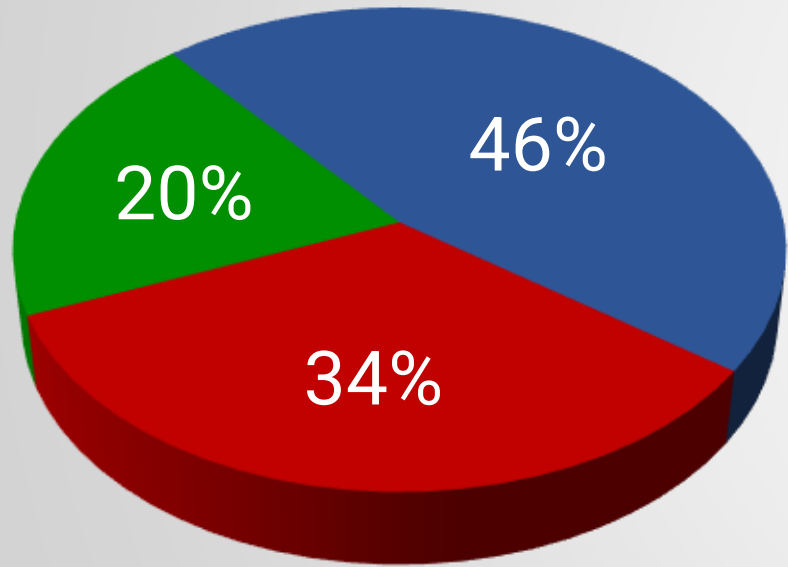


■ Total More Likely ■ Total Less Likely ■ No Opinion



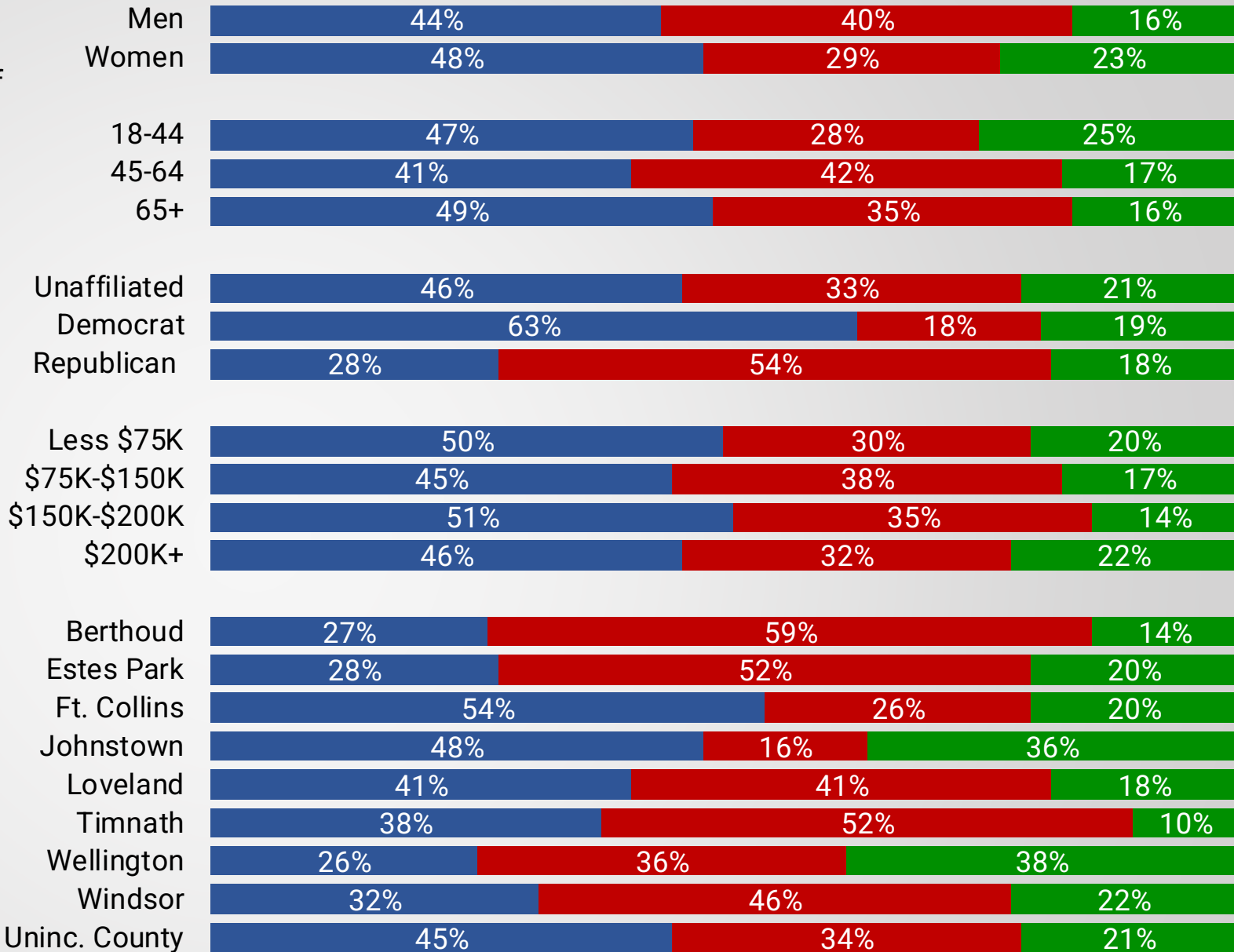
The State of Colorado is also reducing or impacting funding for county judicial services such as shifting offenders from Department of Corrections Facilities to county jails to alleviate overcrowding, and the longstanding requirement for counties to provide facilities for state judicial districts and storage of digital evidence (terabytes) including body worn camera footage and other digital evidence.

Knowing this, are you:



■ Total More Likely
 ■ Total Less Likely
 ■ No Opinion

Much More Likely	17%
Somewhat More Likely	29%
Much Less Likely	20%
Somewhat Less Likely	14%



■ Total More Likely ■ Total Less Likely ■ No Opinion

Do you have any additional thoughts or opinions about the County's budget gap and a potential future tax increase?

Strong Opposition to Any Tax Increase: Respondents consistently argue that taxes are already too high and that local, state, and federal governments need to live within their means. Many mention property taxes having doubled, along with the rising cost of living.

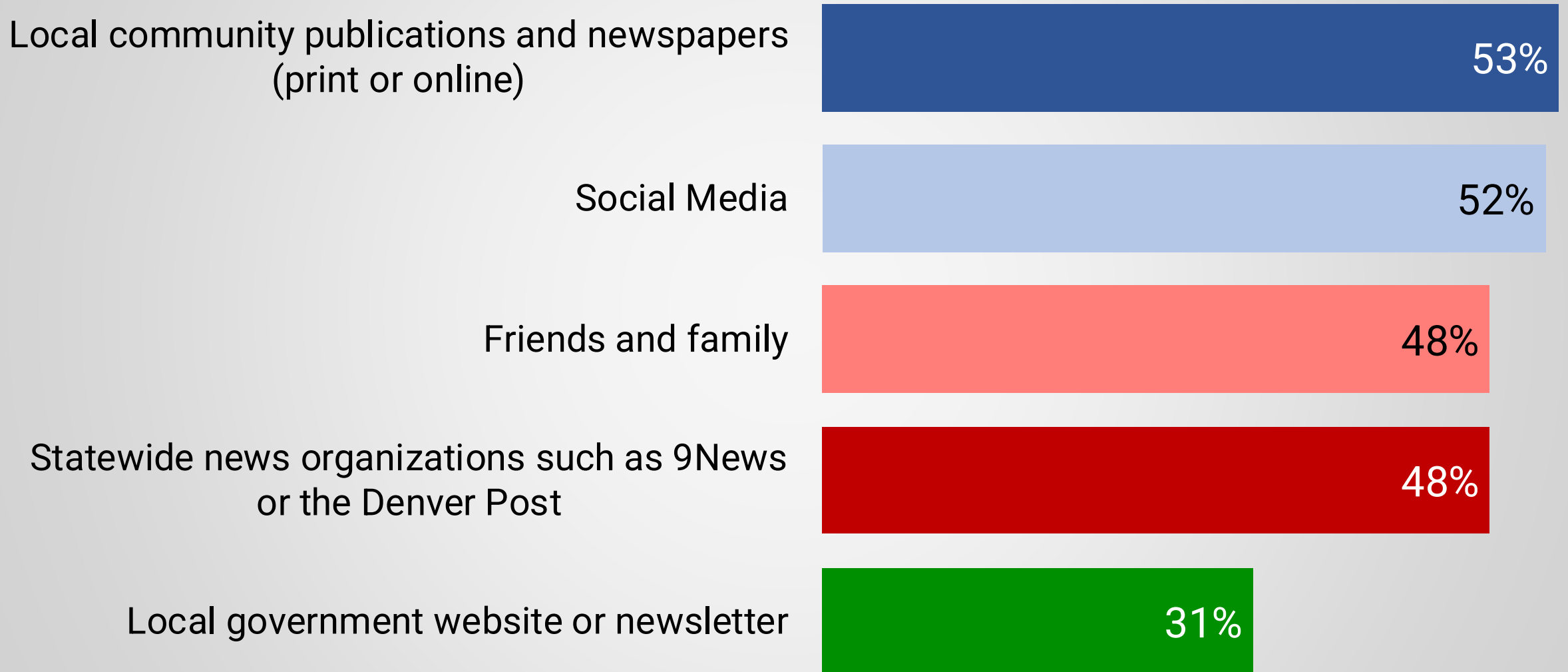
Government Waste, Mismanagement, and Calls for Efficiency: Many request audits, accountability, and efficiency reforms before any new funding is considered. Common suggestions include cutting “nonessential” programs, reducing staff, lowering salaries for county officials, and auditing budgets for fraud or redundancy.

Progressive Funding Proposals: A smaller but consistent counter-theme argues for progressive taxation — targeting high-income households, luxury properties, and corporations rather than across-the-board increases. Respondents link this to equity and fairness, arguing that the wealthy should shoulder more of the burden. Some also suggest taxing vacation homes, second properties, or university profits.

Distrust and Frustration with Federal and State Government: Many respondents blame federal policy and political leadership for funding cuts and inflation. Some see local tax proposals as symptoms of federal failure and demand that Washington “fix its mess” rather than asking local taxpayers for more.

Concern for Essential Services and Equity: Despite the overwhelming fiscal frustration, many residents still emphasize protecting critical services like food assistance (SNAP), Medicaid, housing, and mental health support. Some explicitly say they would accept a small or temporary tax increase to protect the most vulnerable or maintain core services.

How do you currently receive news and information about what's happening locally in your community? Select all that apply.



Other: Public and local radio, online/digital news sources, and a group of respondents who generally express distrust in mainstream media or don't follow the news

Thinking now about the people in your community who you trust for information on important local issues. Who among the following do you trust? Select all that apply.

Local Government Staff

44%

Nonprofit Leaders

44%

Business Leaders

30%

Elected Officials

27%

Other at 31%: Personal networks and personal experience, as well as a sizable group that answers “none of the above”



Survey Demographics

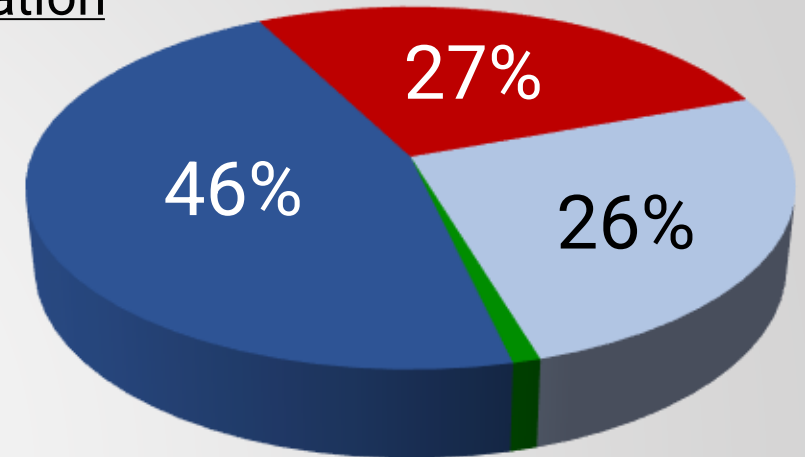
Survey Demographics

Gender



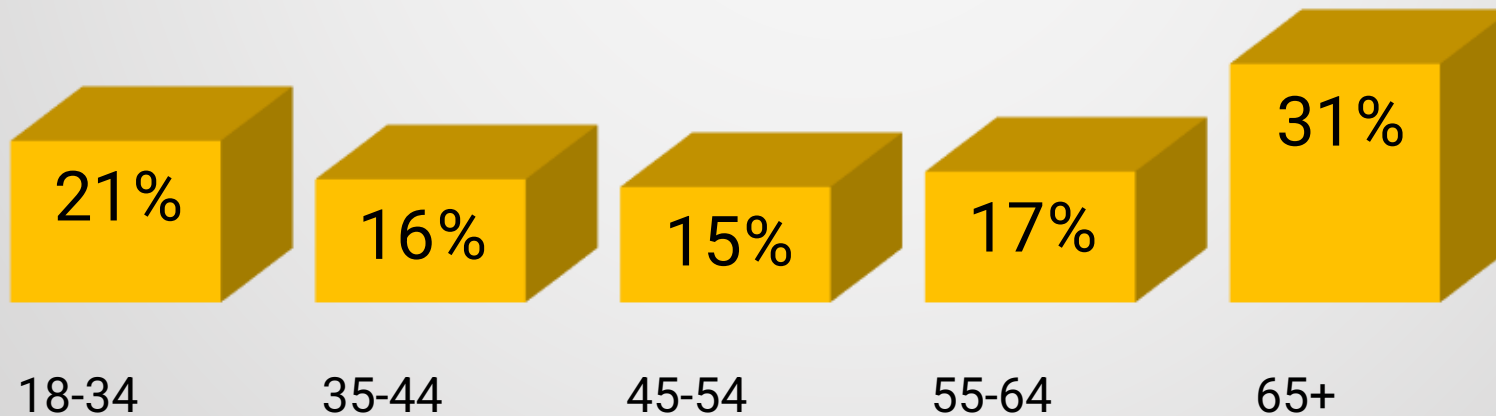
■ Female ■ Male ■ Other

Party Affiliation



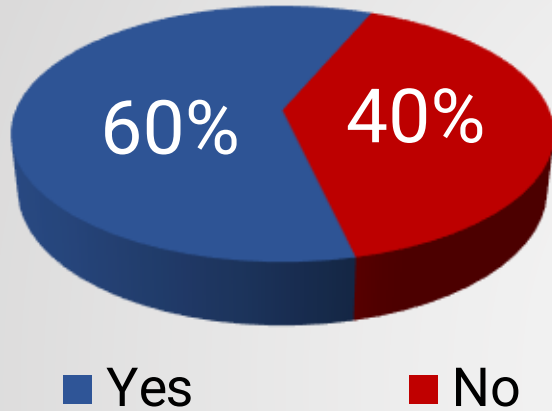
■ Unaffiliated ■ Democrat
■ Republican ■ Other Party
■ Not Registered to Vote

Age Range

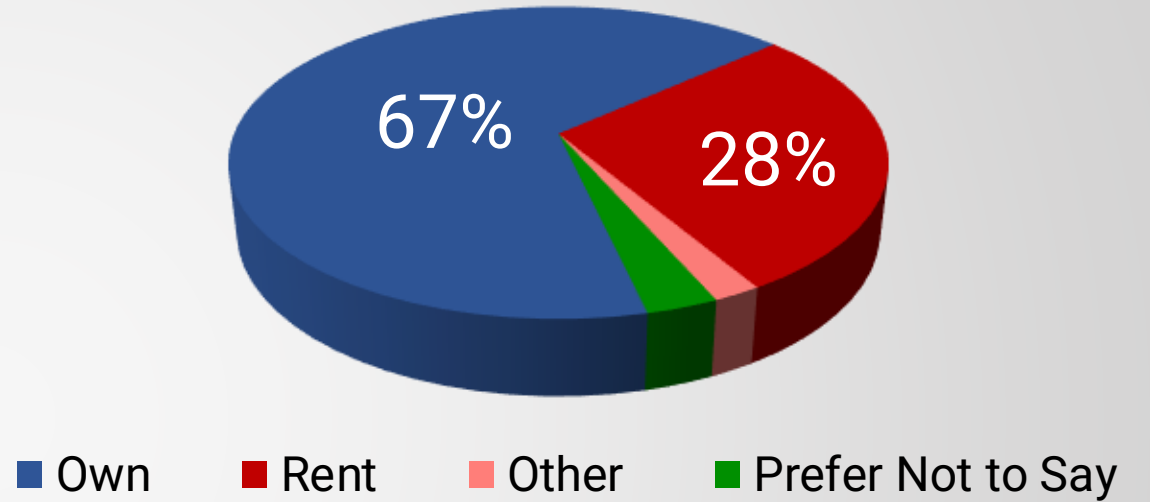


Survey Demographics

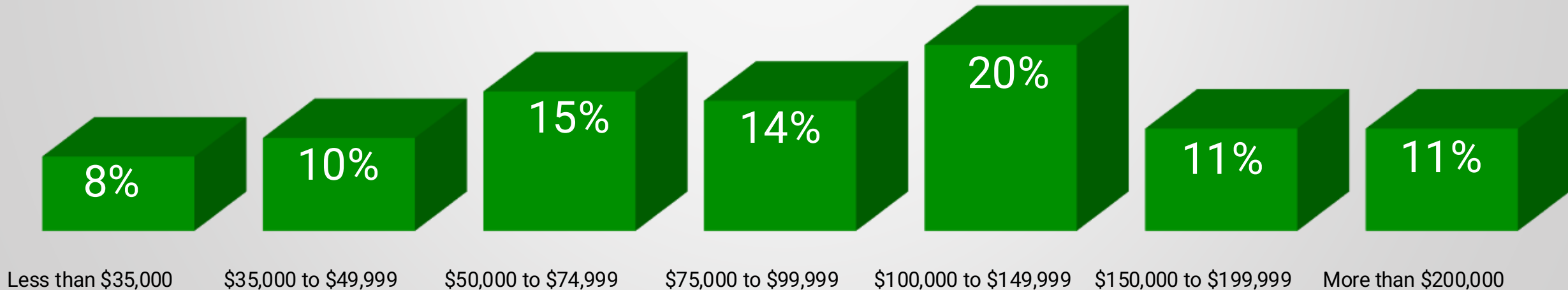
4-Year College Degree



Rent or Own?

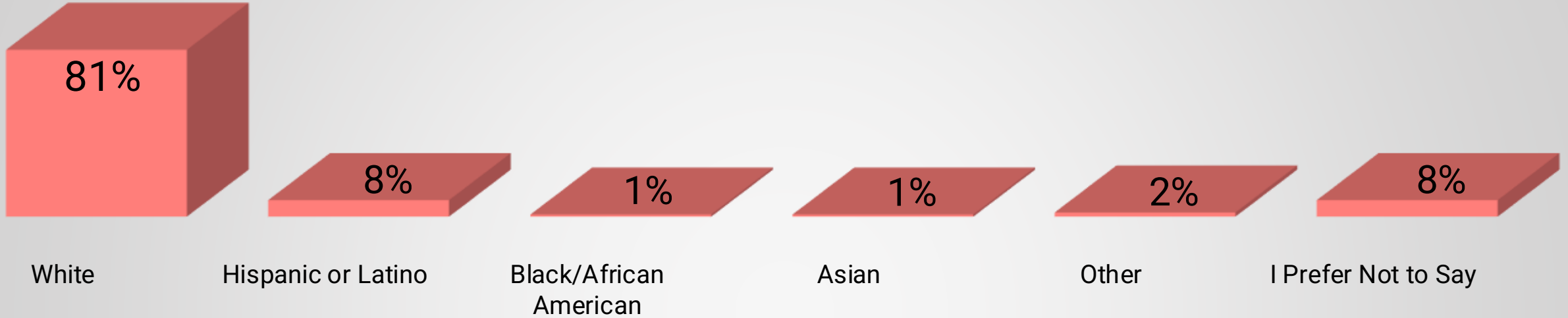


Income

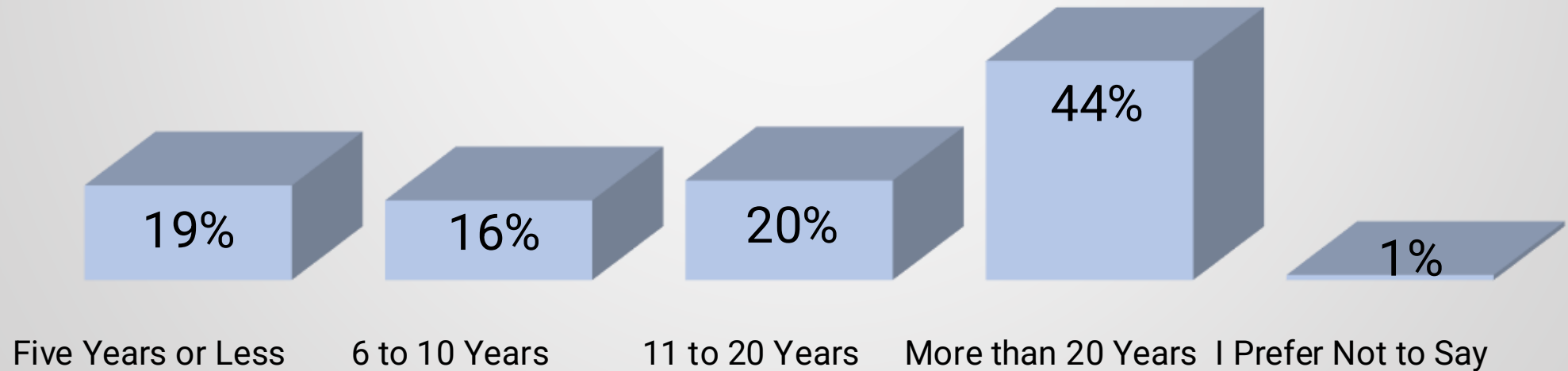


Survey Demographics

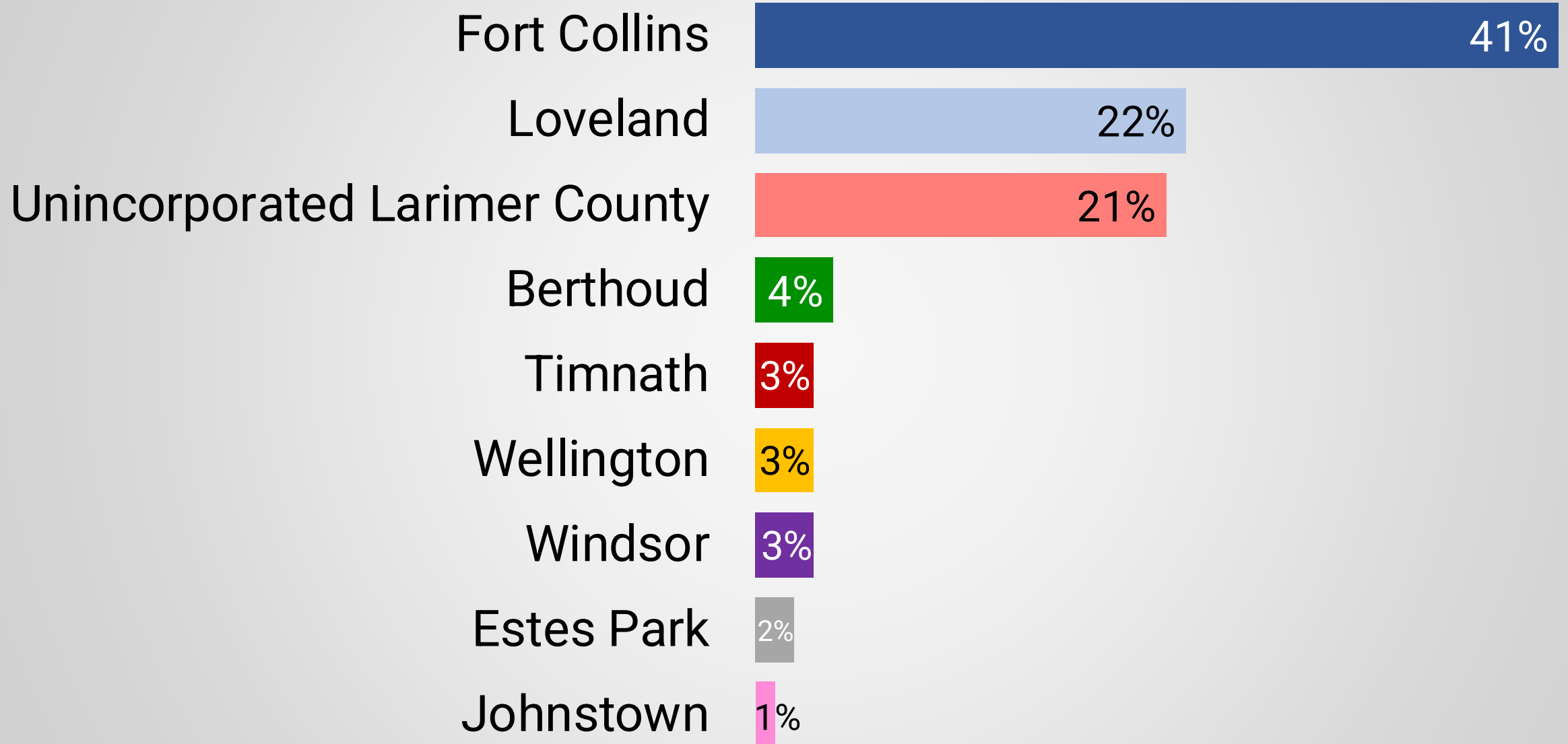
Race



Lived in Larimer County



Survey Demographics



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