



# STATE POLL: VIRGINIA EPA CARBON EMISSIONS REGULATIONS POLLING



Partnership for a  
**Better Energy Future**

Data from a statewide survey of 921 likely voters, conducted  
October 3-9, 2014 by Paragon Insights.

# Methodology

**On behalf of the Partnership for a Better Energy Future, Paragon Insights is pleased to present the key findings of a Virginia survey of 921 likely voters, conducted October 3-9, 2014.**

**The interviews were conducted using a blended methodology of landline and online interviews and weighted to approximate a target sample of 2014 likely voters based on age, ethnicity, gender, and region.**

**Results from the full survey have a margin of error of  $\pm 3.0\%$ .**

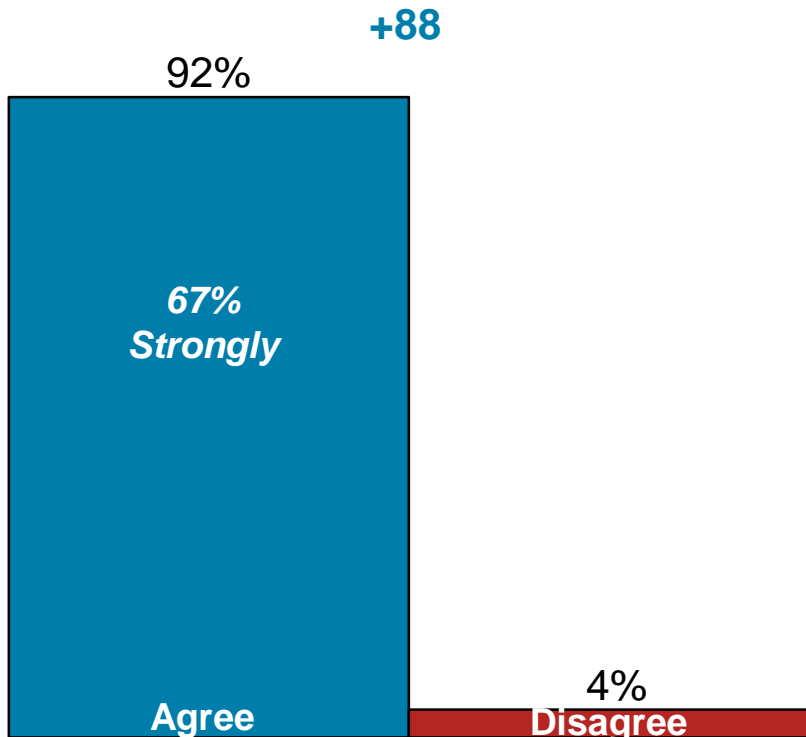


Data

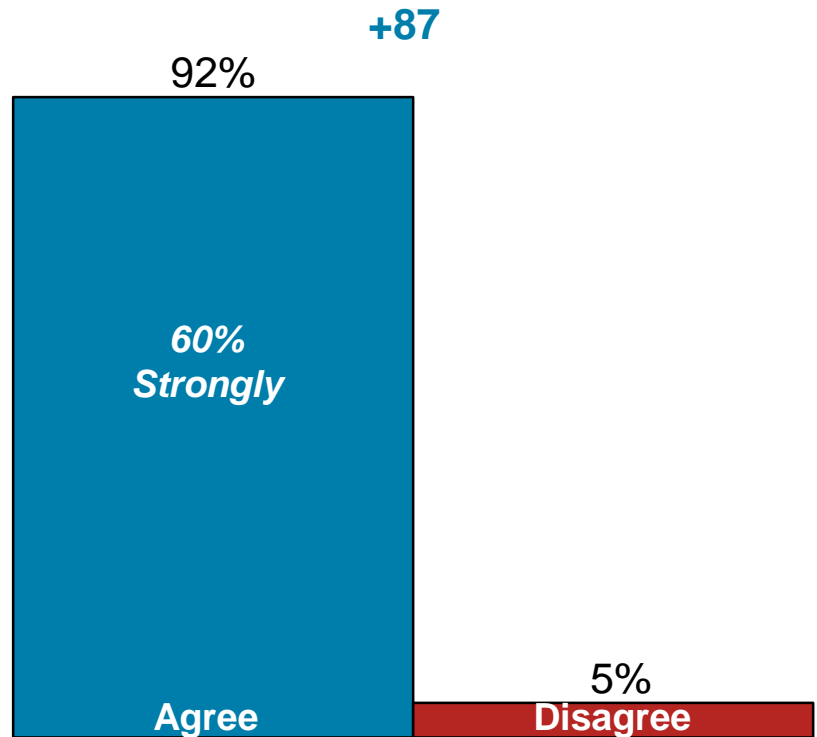
# VIRGINIA VOTERS STRONGLY BELIEVE AFFORDABLE ENERGY IS IMPORTANT TO THE U.S. ECONOMY AND TO THEIR DAILY LIVES AND PERSONAL FINANCES.

*Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Affordable energy is critical to the U.S. economy.*

*Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Affordable energy is critical to my daily life and personal finances.*



Sample A, N=467

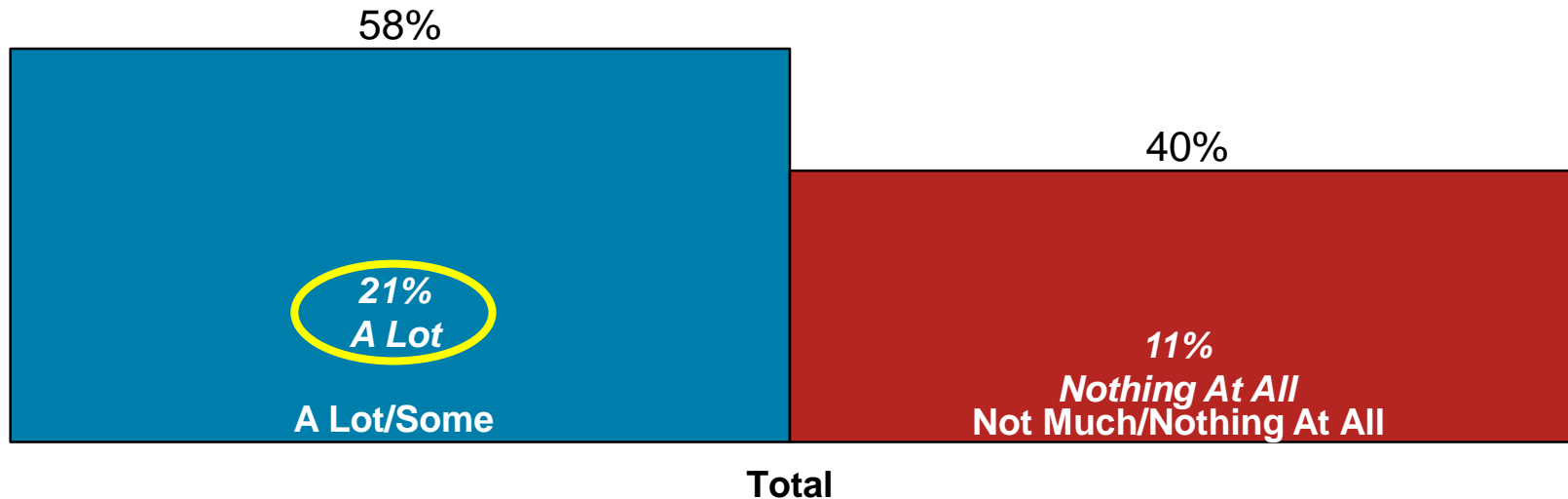


Sample B, N=454

**A MAJORITY OF VIRGINIA VOTERS HAVE SOME FAMILIARITY WITH THE EPA REGS - BUT JUST 21% SAY THEY HAVE HEARD A LOT ABOUT THEM.**

***How much have you heard about the new regulations issued by the Obama Administration to reduce carbon emissions from power plants?***

+18



# THE STRONGEST REASON FOR VIRGINIA VOTERS TO SUPPORT THE REGS IS THE POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF THE GREEN TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY.

*Please tell me whether each statement makes you more likely or less likely to support new regulations reducing carbon emissions from existing power plants, or whether it makes no difference.*

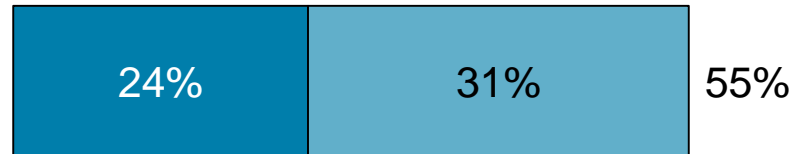
**Much More**

**Smwt More**

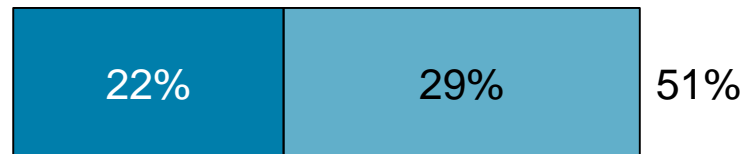
**The new regulations could allow for expansion of the green technology industry**



**The new regulations could persuade other countries to join the fight against global climate change**



**The new regulations could reduce global carbon emissions by as much as 1.5%**

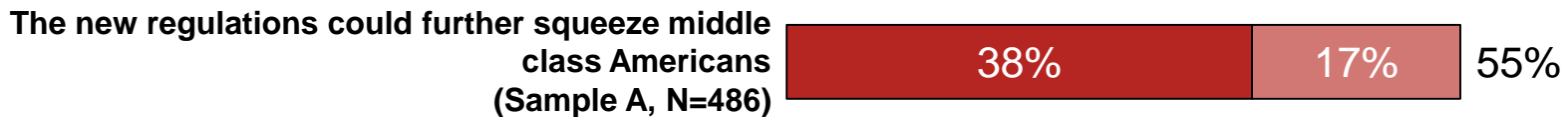


# POTENTIAL ENERGY RATIONING AND JOB LOSSES ARE THE TOP TWO REASONS VIRGINIA VOTERS ARE LESS LIKELY TO SUPPORT THE EPA REGS.

*Please tell me whether each statement makes you more likely or less likely to support new regulations reducing carbon emissions from existing power plants, or whether it makes no difference.*

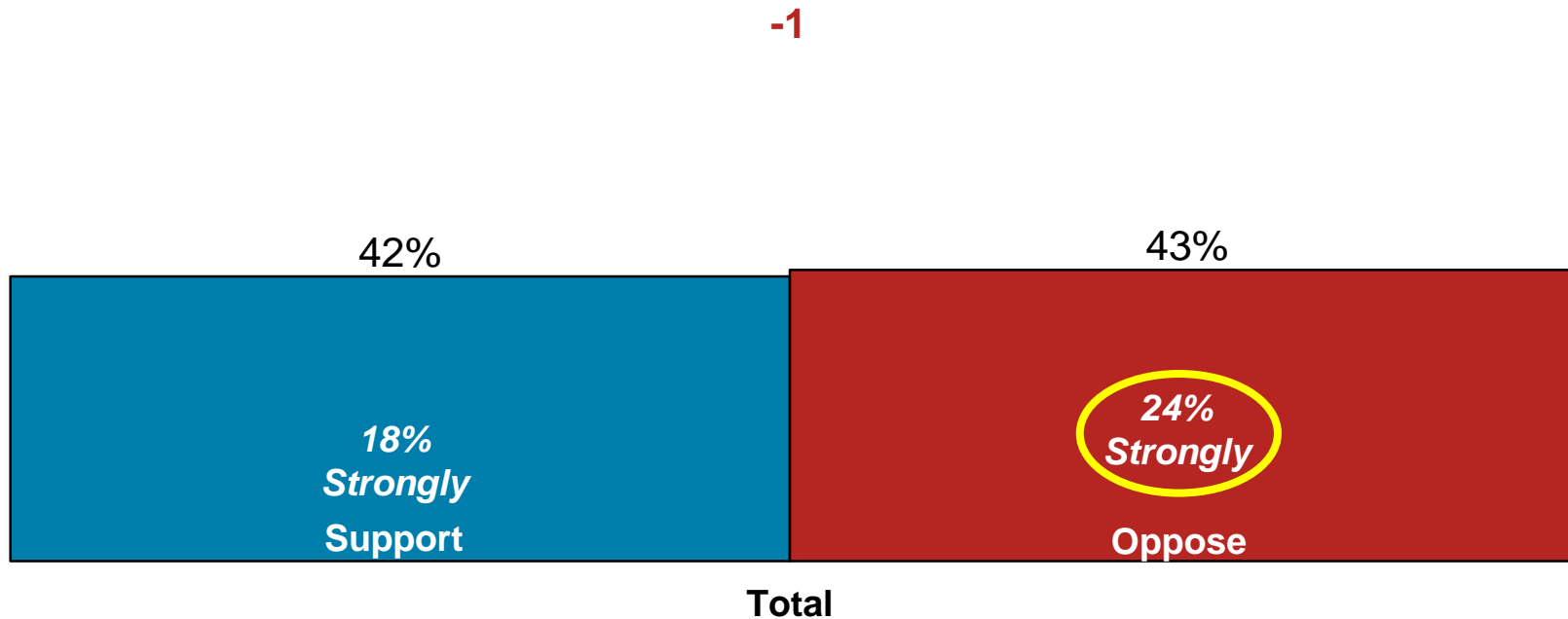
**Much Less**

**Smwt Less**



# VIRGINIA VOTERS ARE DIVIDED ABOUT THE EPA REGS – THERE IS MORE INTENSITY ON THE OPPOSITION SIDE HOWEVER.

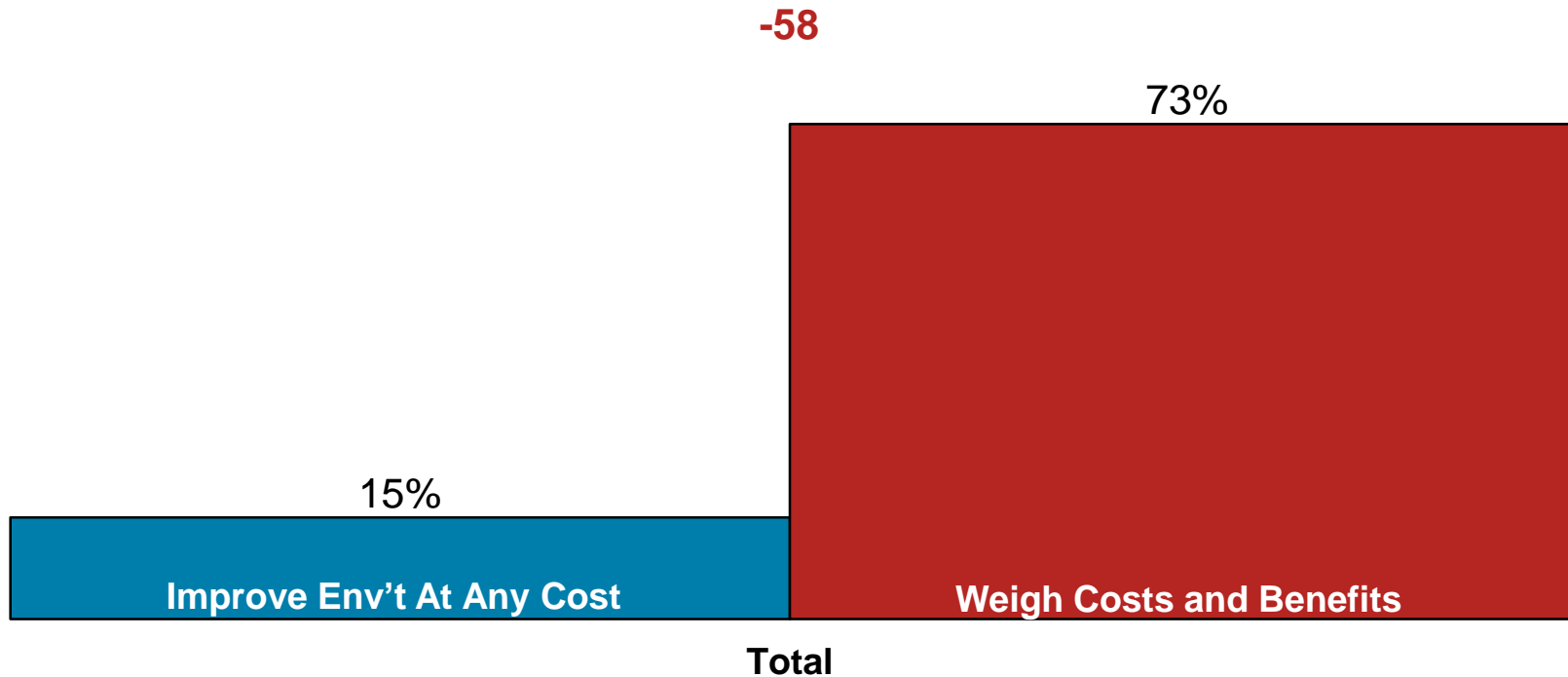
*Now that you have learned a little about these regulations, do you support or oppose the Obama administration's new regulations to reduce carbon emissions from power plants?*





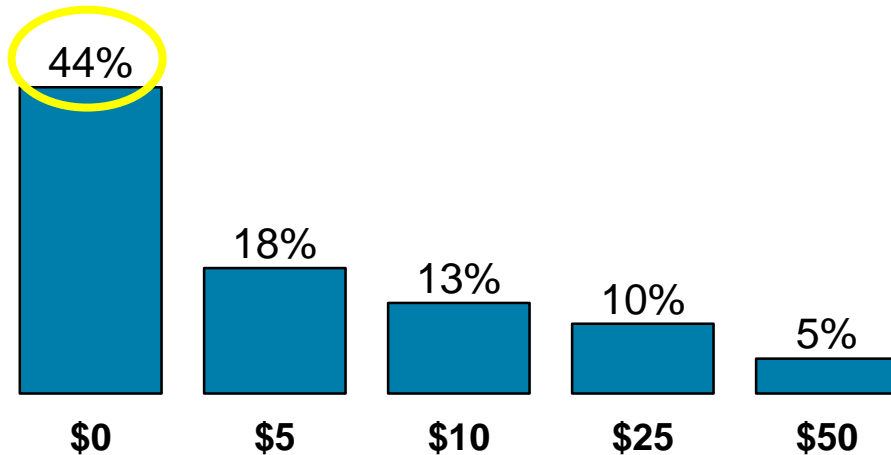
# MORE THAN 7 IN 10 VOTERS IN VIRGINIA BELIEVE THE GOV'T SHOULD WEIGH COSTS BEFORE IMPLEMENTING NEW REGULATIONS.

*Do you believe that the federal government should weigh costs and benefits when creating new environmental regulations, or should the goal be to improve the environment at any cost?*

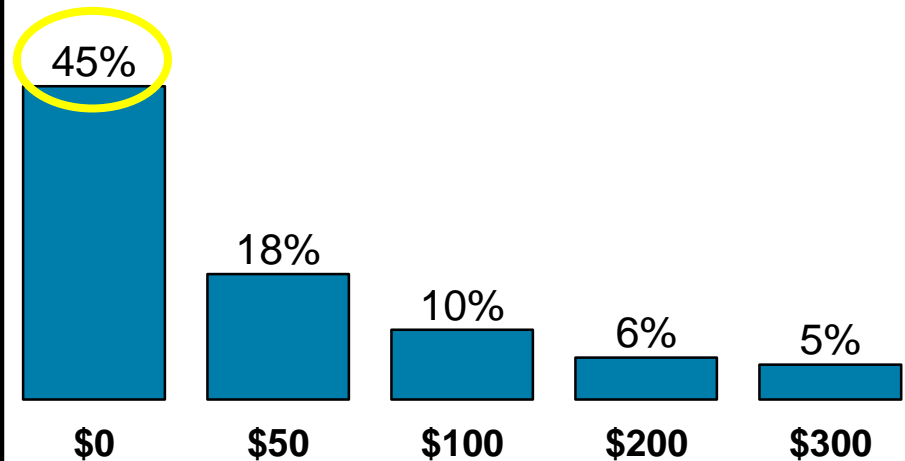


# MORE THAN 4 IN 10 VOTERS IN VIRGINIA SAY THEY ARE NOT WILLING TO PAY MORE IN THEIR ENERGY BILL FOR THE EPA REGULATIONS.

*How much extra would you be willing to pay for energy each month if the Obama administration's new regulations to reduce carbon emissions from power plants reduced global carbon emissions by 1.5%?  
(Sample A, N=458)*

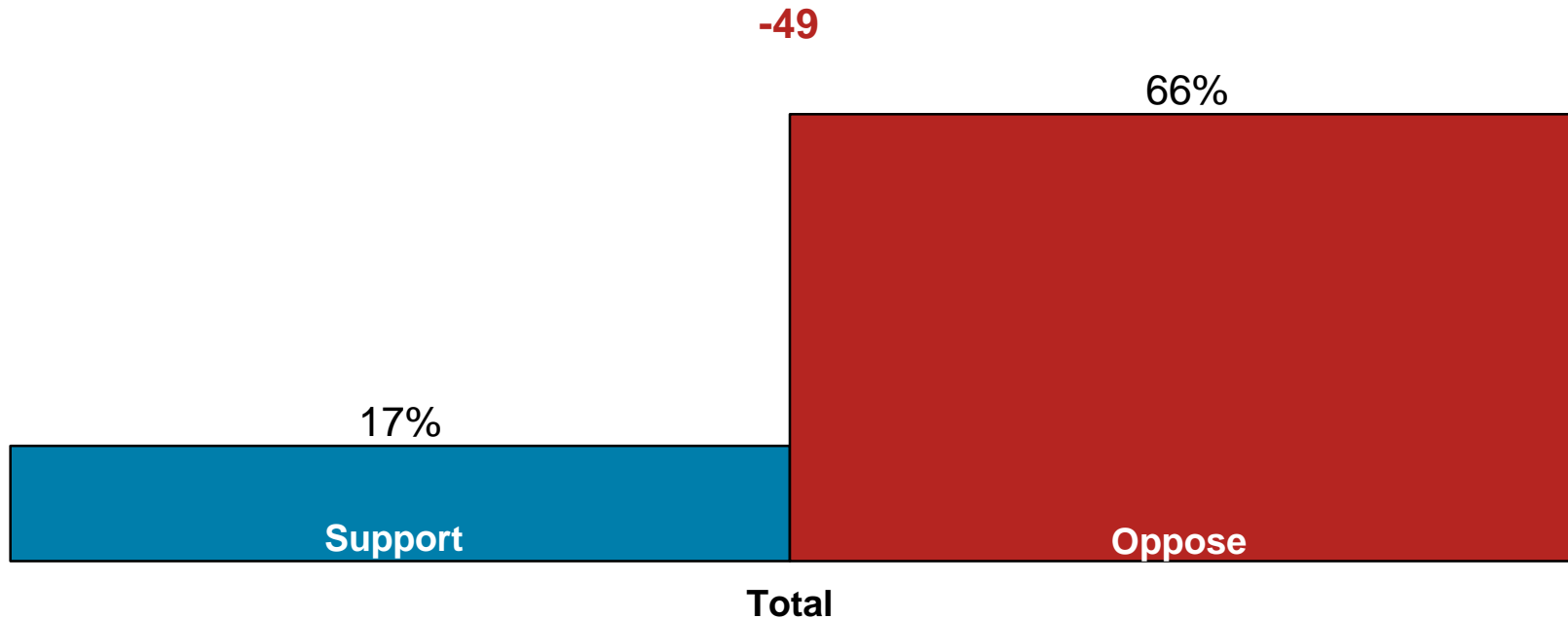


*How much extra would you be willing to pay for your household's energy if the Obama administration's new regulations to reduce carbon emissions from power plants reduced global carbon emissions by 1.5%?  
(Sample B, N=463)*



# VOTERS IN VIRGINIA ARE STRONGLY AGAINST THE EPA REGS WITHOUT ANY CLEAR IMPROVEMENTS ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE.

*If the Obama administration's new regulations to reduce carbon emissions from power plants provided no significant improvement on global climate change, but increased your household's average annual energy costs by \$130, would you support or oppose the regulations?*

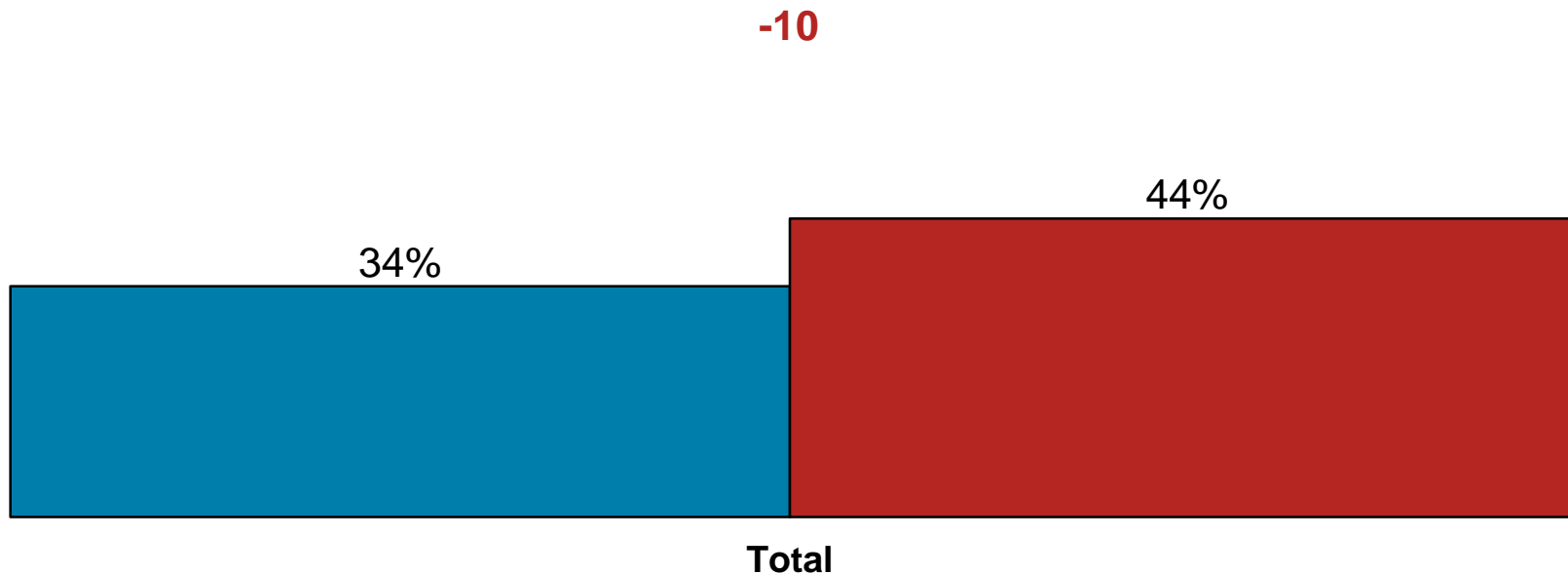


# THE INCREASE OF COSTS STANDS OUT TO VIRGINIA VOTERS MORE THAN THE POTENTIAL GROWTH OF THE GREEN TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY.

***Which statement about the Obama administration's new regulations to reduce carbon emissions from power plants do you agree with more?***

*The new regulations will allow for the expansion of the green technology industry*

*The new regulations will increase costs to families, schools, hospitals and businesses, and will harm low-income Americans and senior citizens the most*



# A MAJORITY OF VOTERS IN VIRGINIA BELIEVE THE U.S. CANNOT AFFORD NEW COSTS AND POTENTIAL JOB LOSSES RESULTING FROM THE EPA REGS.

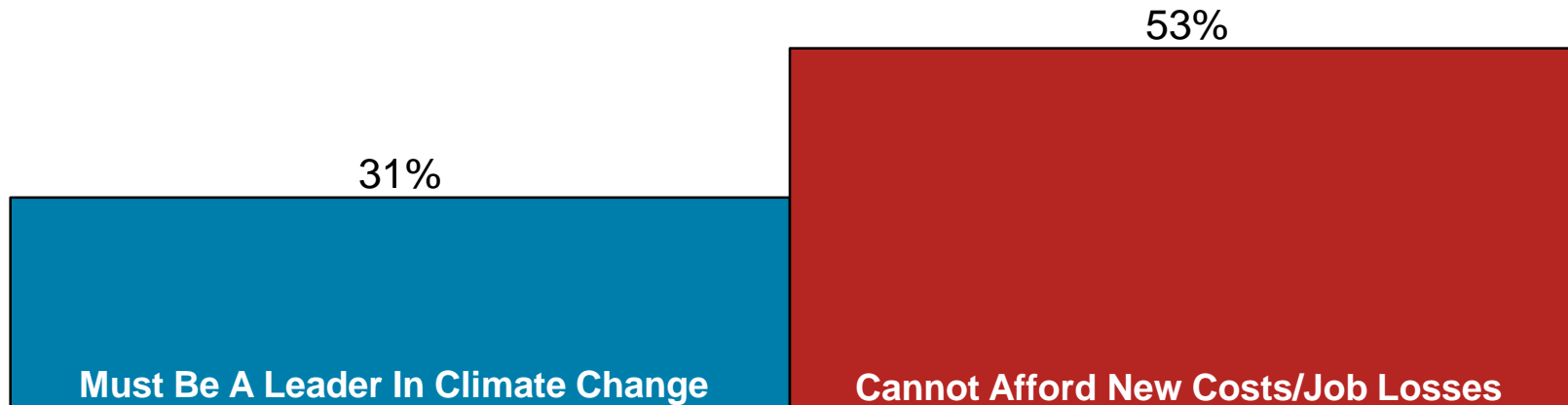
*Which statement about the Obama administration's new regulations to reduce carbon emissions from power plants do you agree with more?*

*The US must be a leader in addressing global climate change regardless of cost or impact to the economy*

*...OR...*

*The US economy cannot afford these new costs and potential middle-class job losses.*

**-22**



**Sample A, N=464**

**A PLURALITY OF VOTERS IN VIRGINIA BELIEVE THE U.S. SHOULD NOT ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE OR SHOULD ONLY DO SO IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER NATIONS.**

*Which statement about the Obama administration's new regulations to reduce carbon emissions from power plants do you agree with more?*

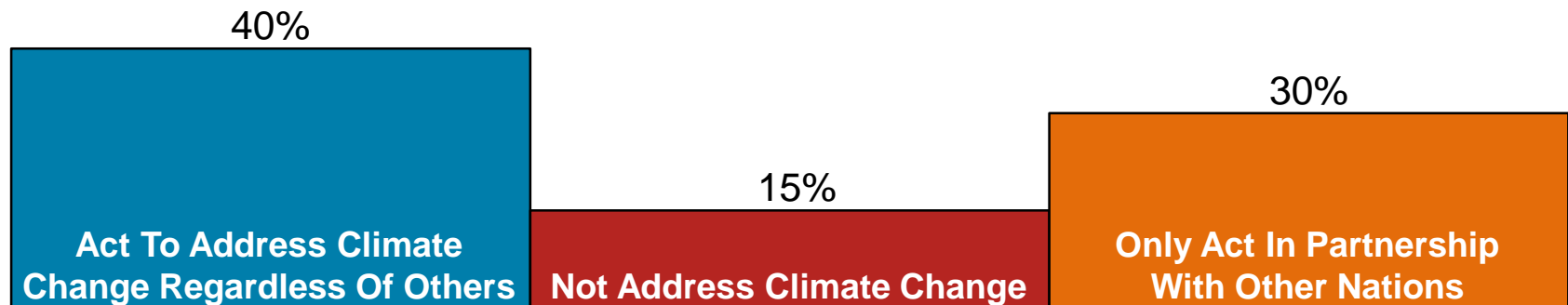
*The US should act to address climate change, regardless of what other nations are doing*

*...OR...*

*The US should only act to address climate change in partnership with other nations*

*...OR...*

*The US should not act to address climate change*



**Sample B, N=457**

# MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF VOTERS IN VIRGINIA ARE LESS LIKELY TO VOTE FOR A CANDIDATE WHO SUPPORTS THE EPA REGS.

*If a candidate for political office supported the Obama administration's new regulations to reduce carbon emissions from power plants, would that make you:*

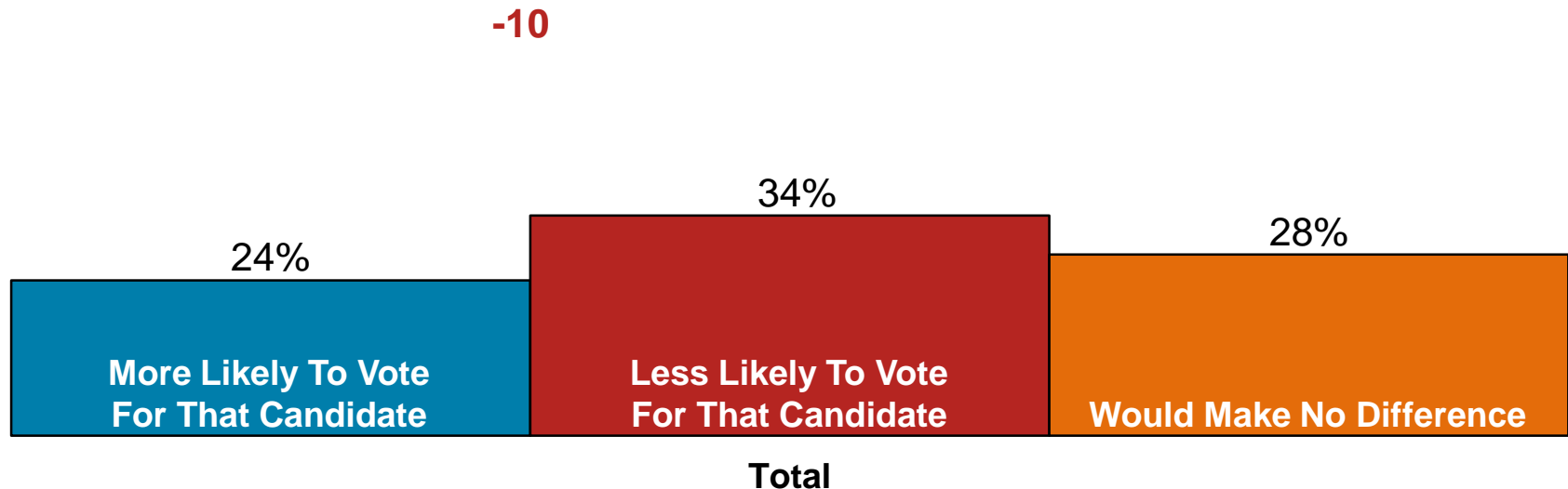
*More likely to vote for the candidate in the next election*

*...OR...*

*Less likely to vote for the candidate in the next election*

*...OR...*

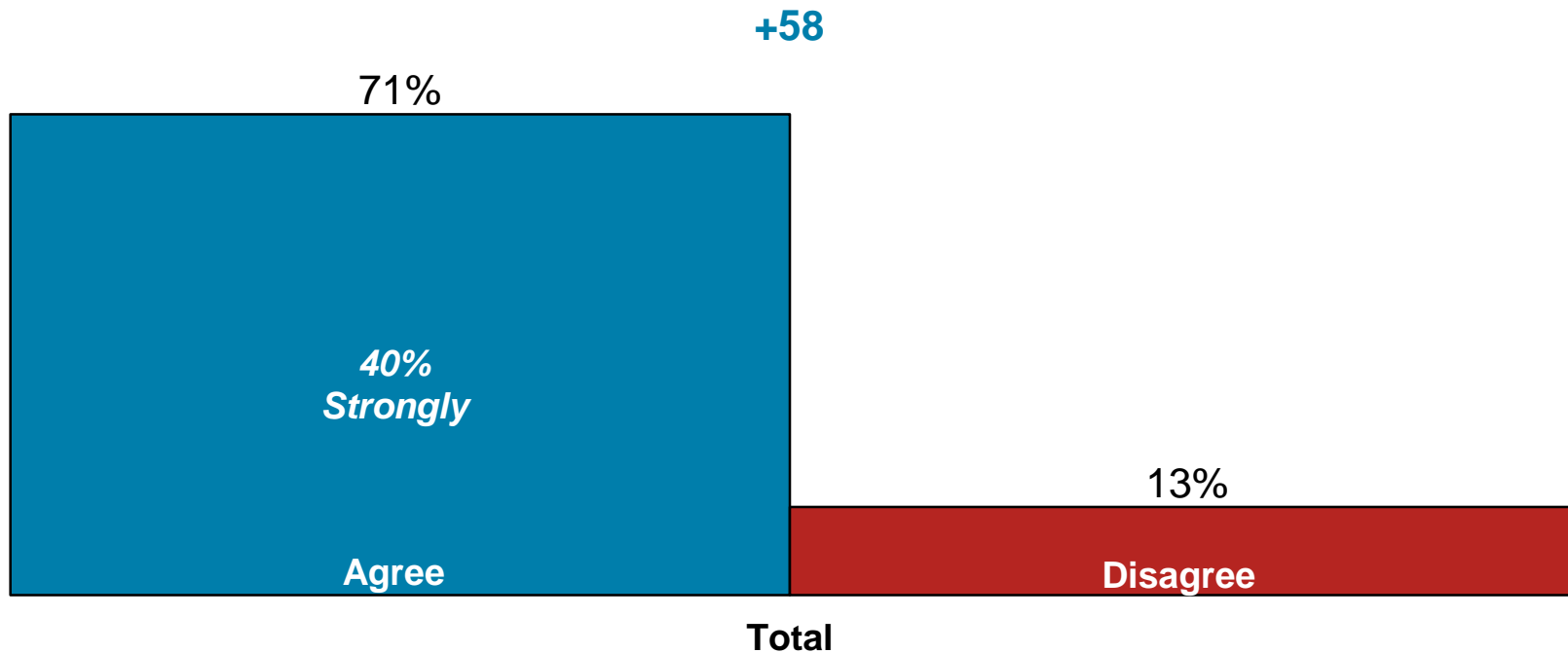
*It would make no difference in your voting decision*



**MORE THAN 70% OF VOTERS BELIEVE THE U.S. SHOULD HAVE AN ENERGY POLICY THAT ENCOMPASSES ALL ENERGY SOURCES.**

*Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement:*

*The United States should have an all-of-the-above energy policy, which includes coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear and renewable energy sources.*

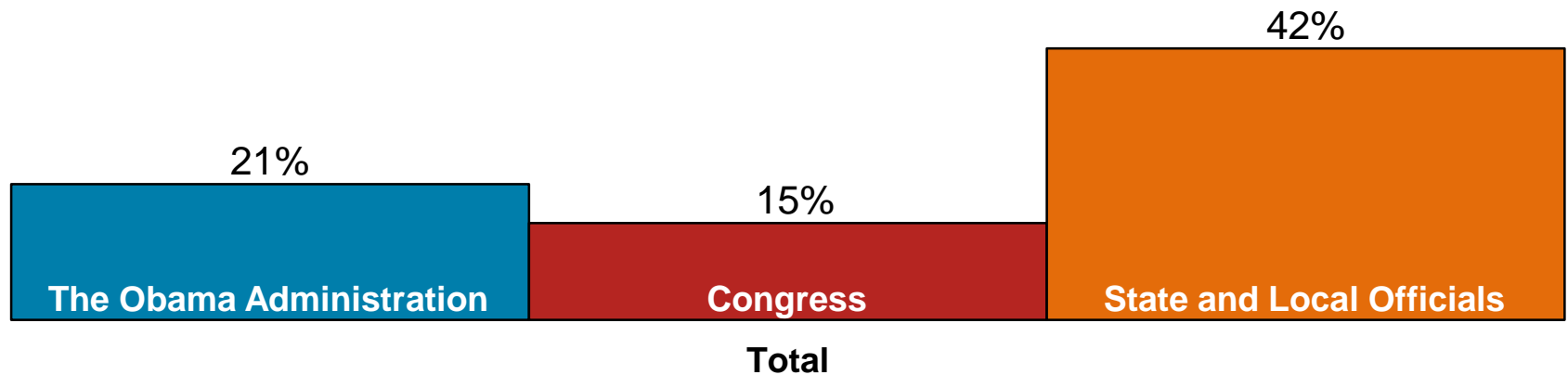




**A PLURALITY OF VOTERS IN VIRGINIA BELIEVE STATE/LOCAL OFFICIALS ARE BETTER EQUIPPED TO MAKE DECISIONS ON CARBON EMISSIONS INSTEAD OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**

***Please indicate who you think is best equipped to make decisions on regulations to reduce carbon emissions from existing power plants:***

***The Obama Administration  
...OR...  
Congress  
...OR...  
State and local officials***



**NEARLY 2/3 OF VOTERS IN VIRGINIA BELIEVE PRESIDENT OBAMA SHOULD WORK WITH CONGRESS TO CREATE A CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT INSTEAD OF TAKING EXECUTIVE ACTION.**

*Please indicate which of these statements you agree with more...*

*President Obama should take Executive Action to forge an international climate change agreement.*

*...OR...*

*President Obama should work with Congress to forge an international climate change agreement.*

