

# Iran: Public Opinion on Foreign, Nuclear and Domestic Issues



International Peace Institute  
With Charney Research  
8 December 2010

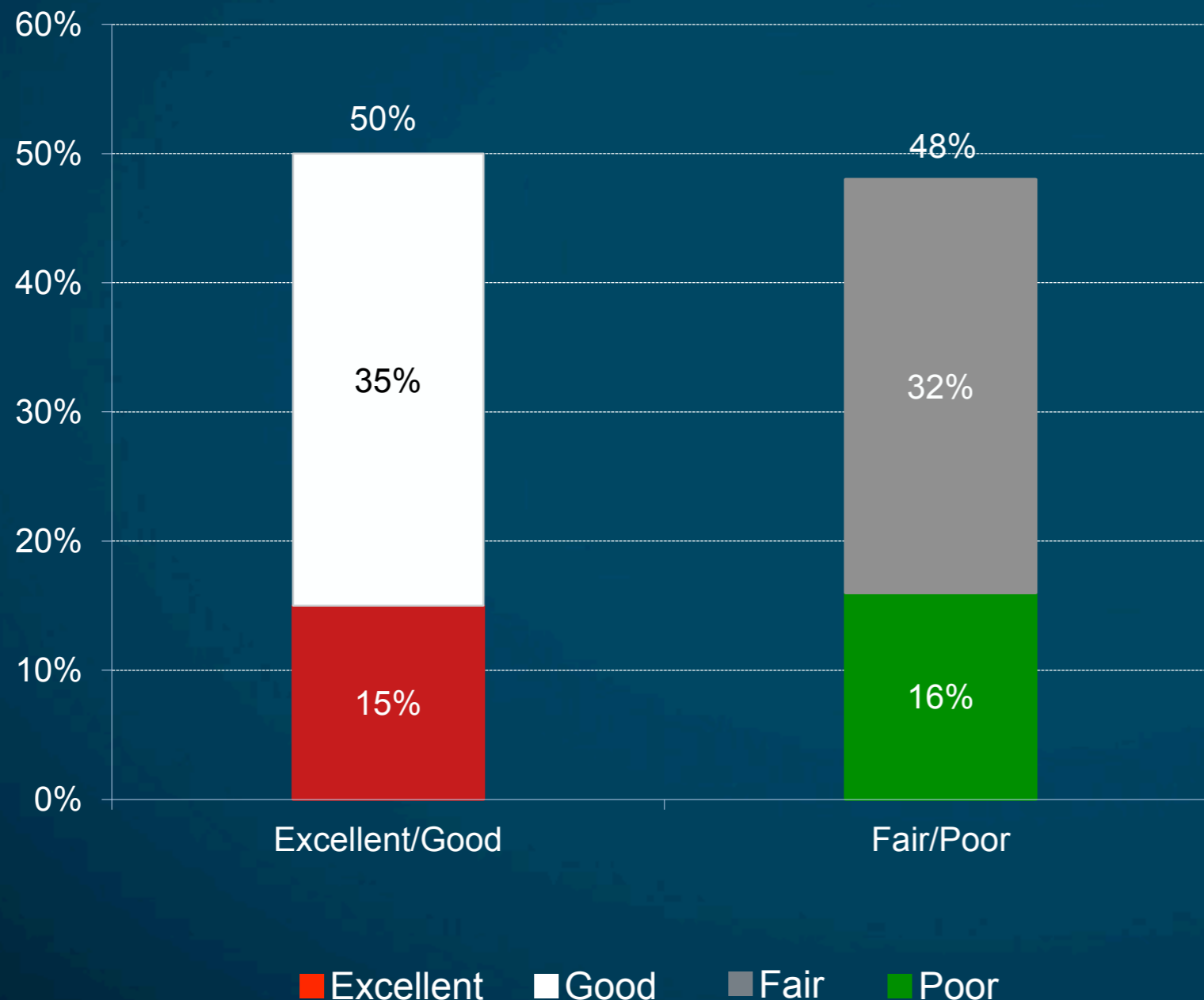
# Summary

Key findings from national telephone survey of 702 Iranians between August 30 and Sept 7, 2010 include:

- Iranians divided on government's performance.
- Dissatisfied with economy.
- Worry over sanctions and isolation.
- Want to focus on domestic affairs.
- Favor closer ties to the West.
- Rising tensions sparked hostility toward the US, Europe and UN.
- Favor nuclear arms and do not want to back deals to halt enrichment.
- Independent polls do not contradict official turnout of 2009 election, which gave around 60% of vote to Ahmadinejad.
- Support to religious institutions remains substantial but majority expect democratization.

# Iran's public is sharply split on government's performance.

How would you rate the work of the national government excellent, good, fair, or poor?



Demographic Differences (Excellent / Good rating)

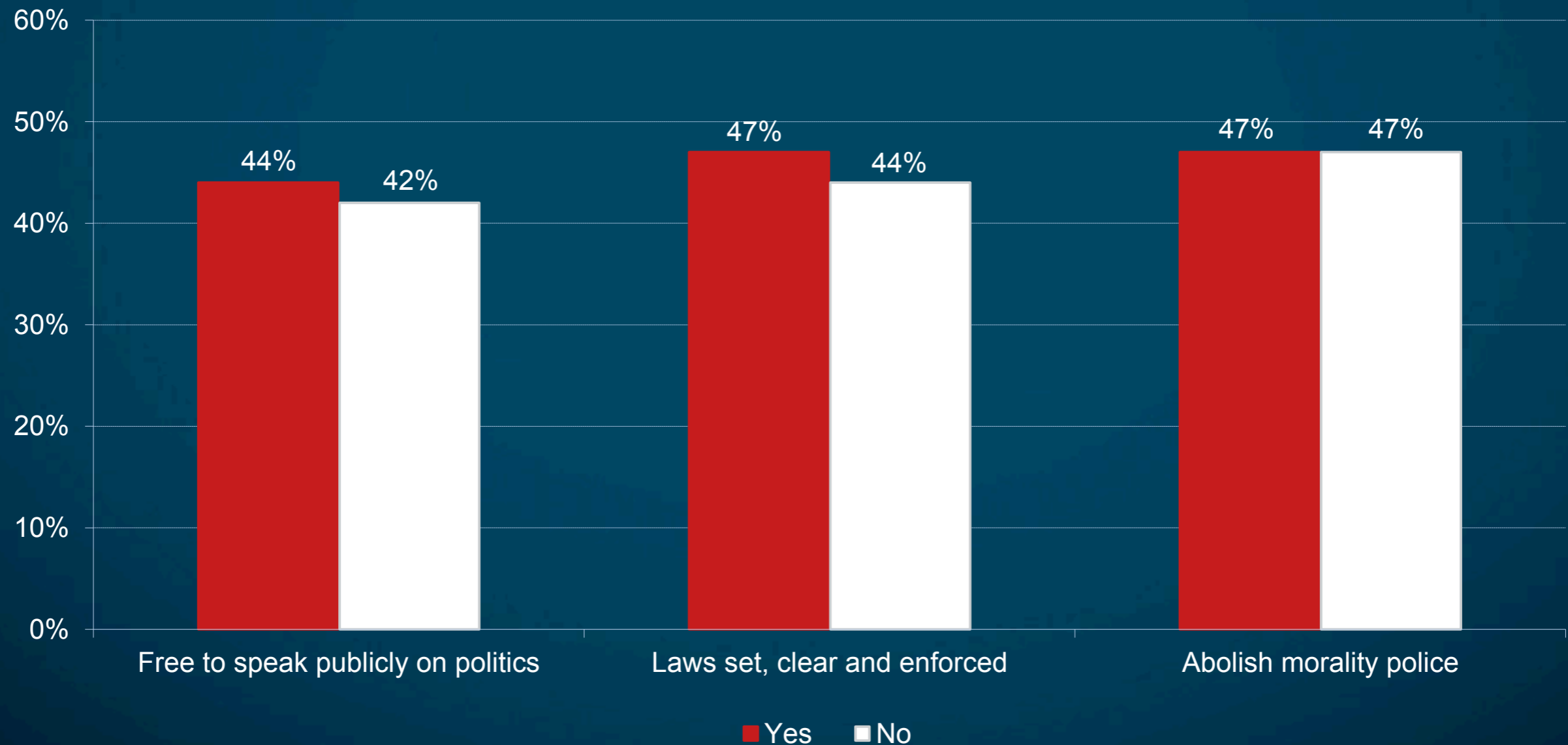
	Highest Support	Lowest Support
Gender	Men < High School: 68% Men 35+: 61%	Urban women: 32% Women > High School: 41%
Area Type	Rural: 65%	Urban areas 1 million+: 39%
Region	Southwest 60%	Tehran: 45% Northwest: 46%

# Iranians divided on presence of free speech, rule of law and desirability of morality police.

Do most people that live in the area where you live feel free to express their political opinions?

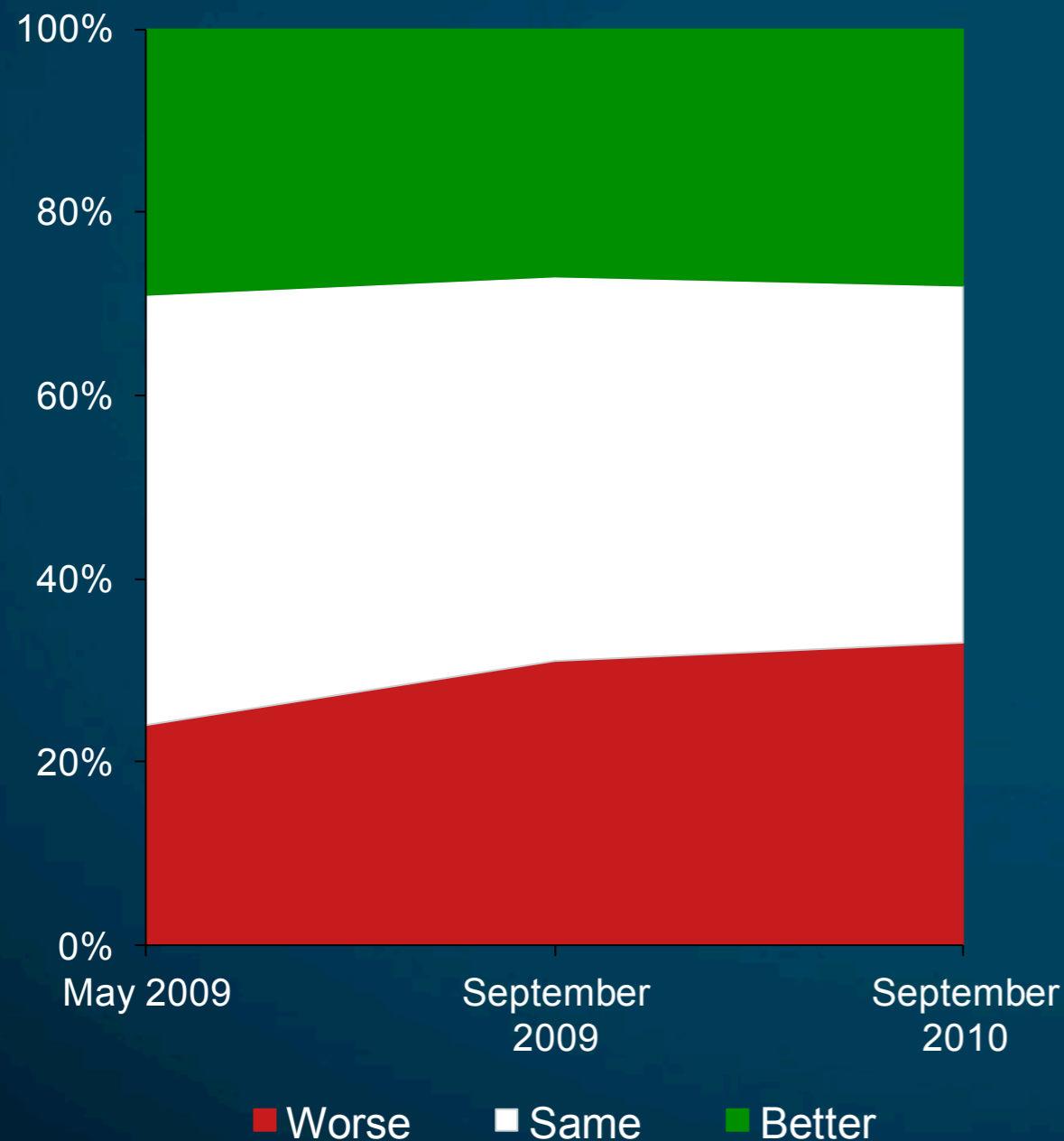
Do most people that live in the area where you live feel the laws and rules are set, clear, and fairly enforced?

Some people think we should abolish the morality police. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose this?

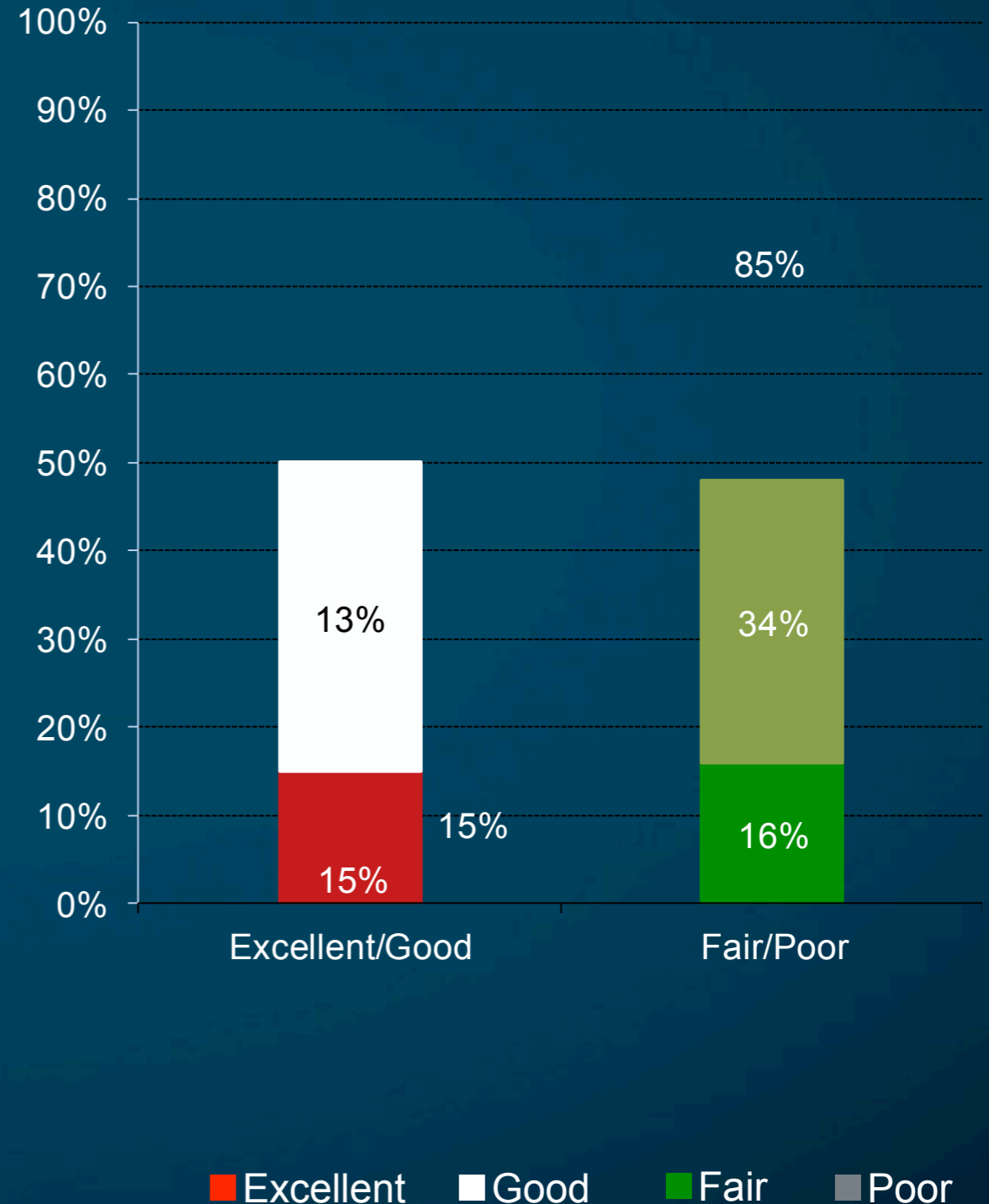


# Most Iranians face stagnant or shrunken income and are economically discontented.

Would you say your and your family's economic situation have in general gotten better, gotten worse, or are about the same as compared to four years ago?

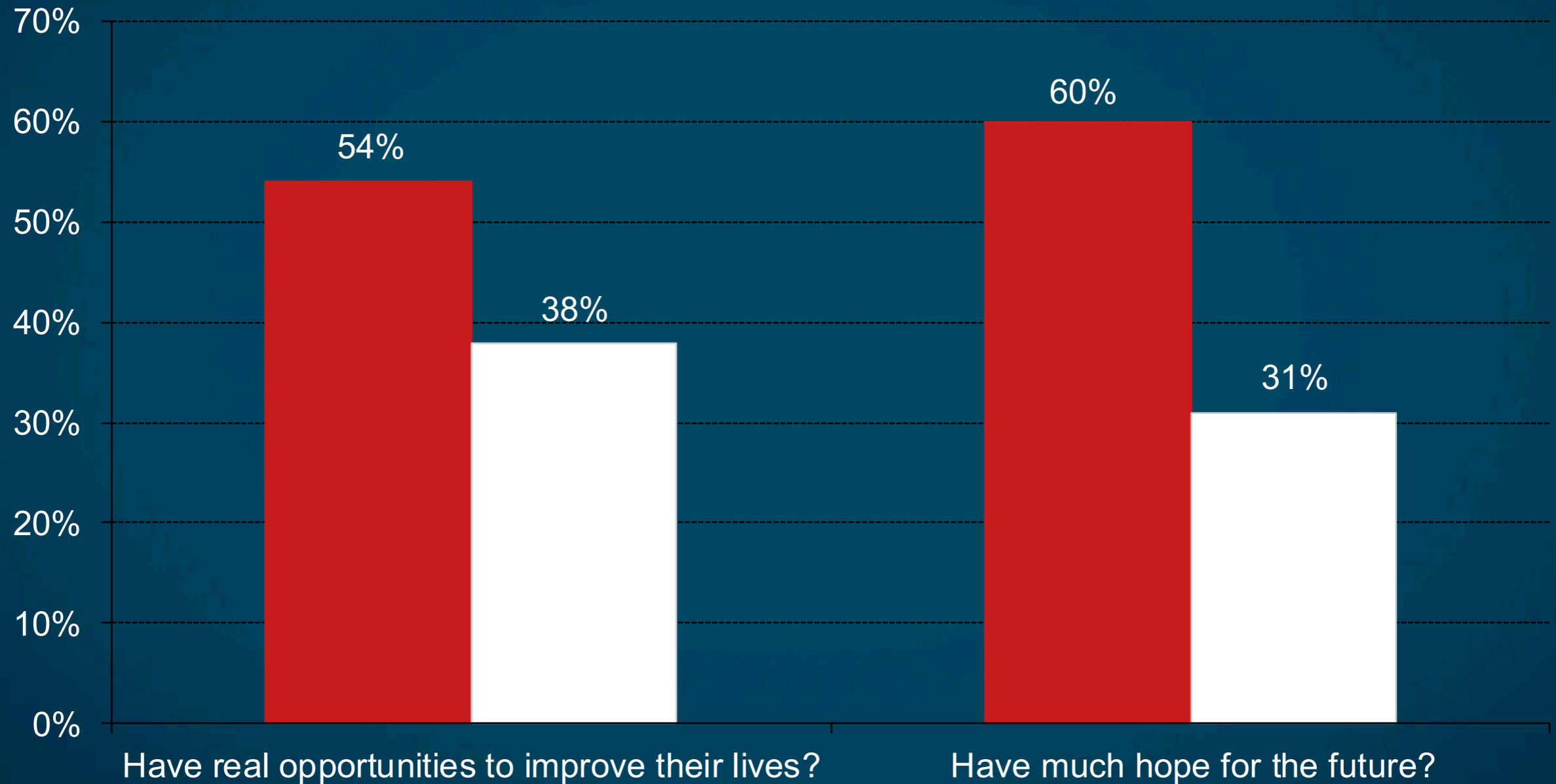


How would you describe your household's financial situation?



# Iranians feel they have opportunities to improve their lives.

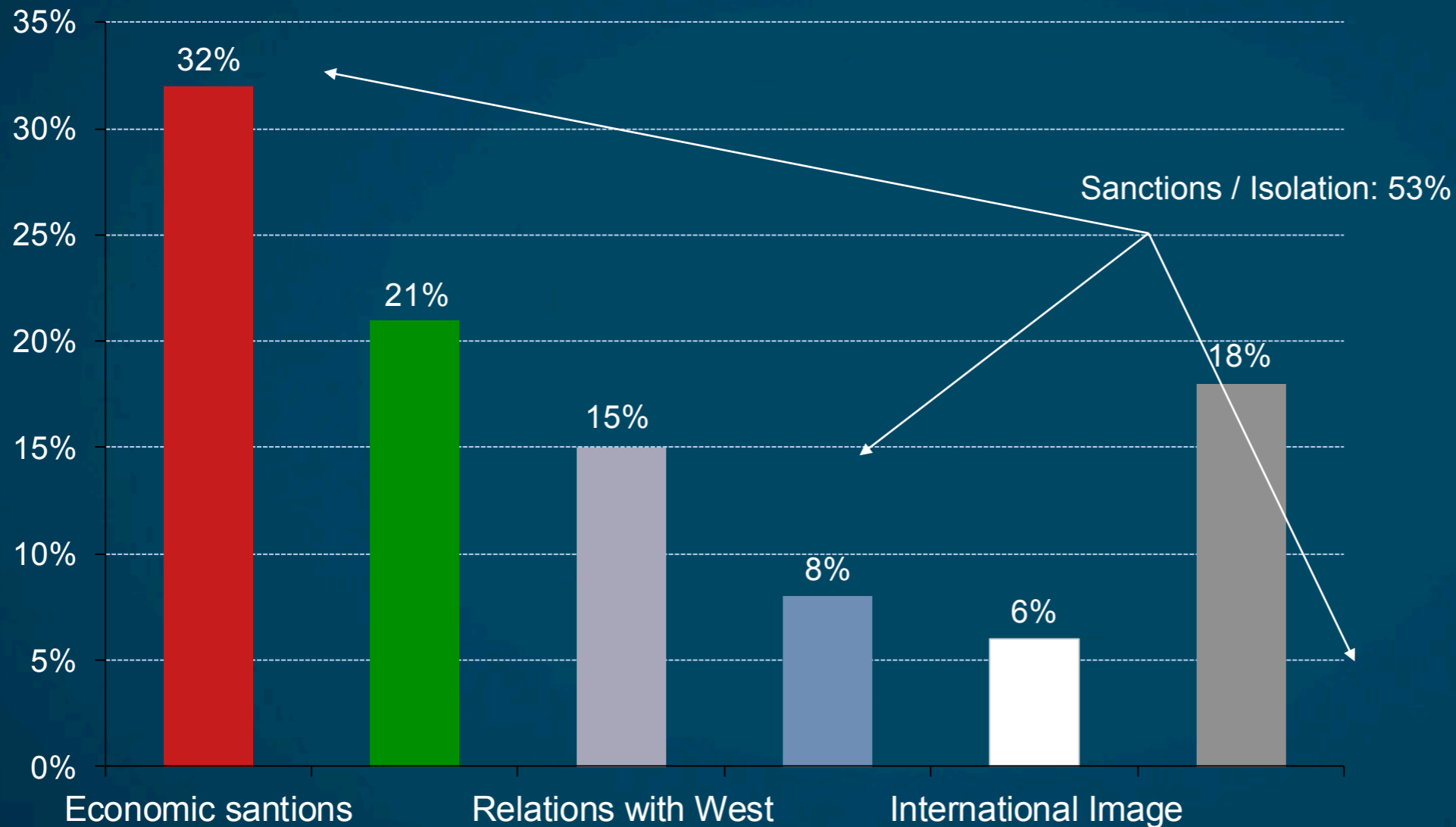
Do most people where you live...



■ Yes ■ No

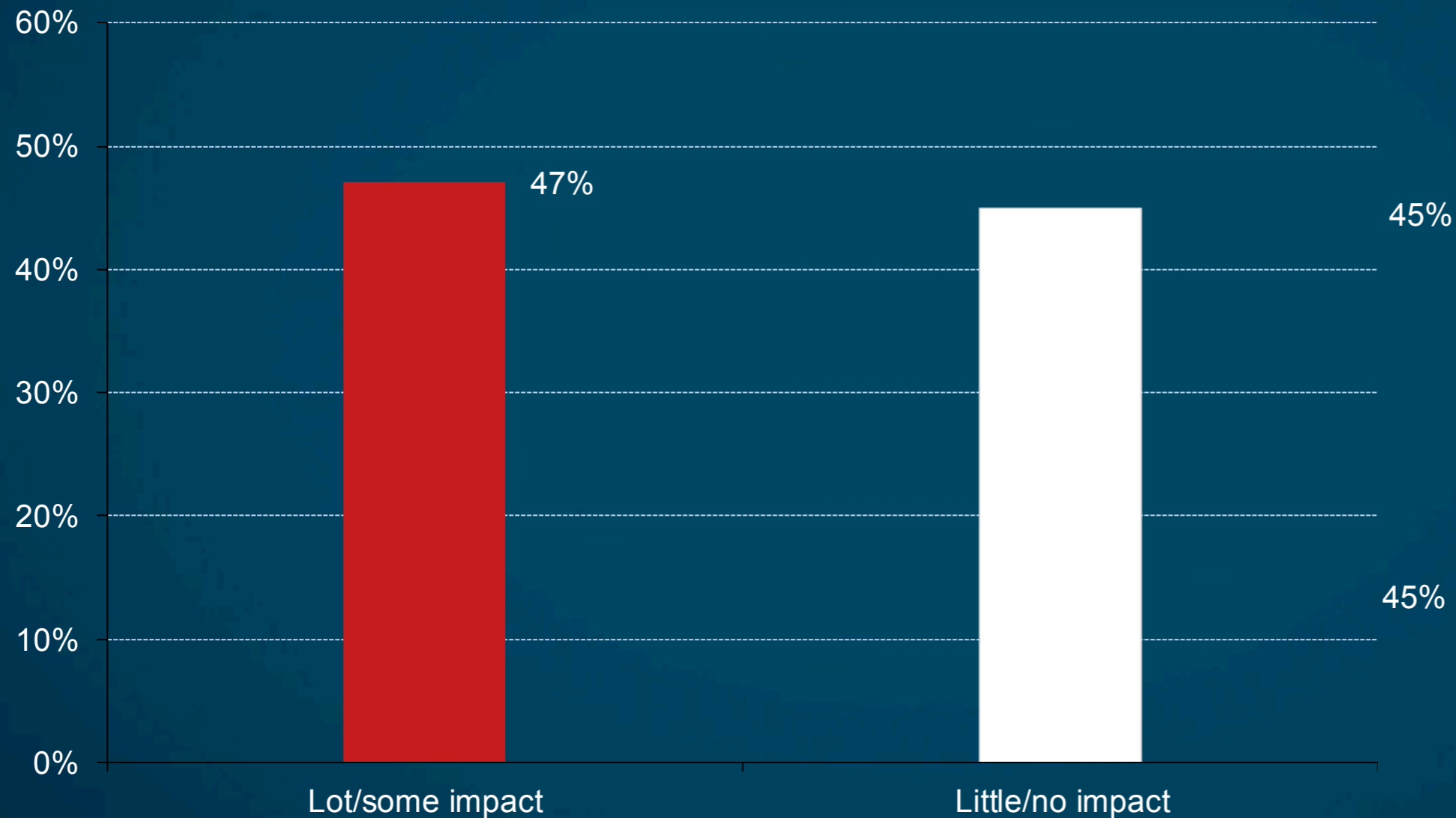
# Iranians concerned about economic sanctions and international isolation.

What would you say is the biggest problem that Iran faces outside our borders?



# Iranians split on impact of sanctions on economy.

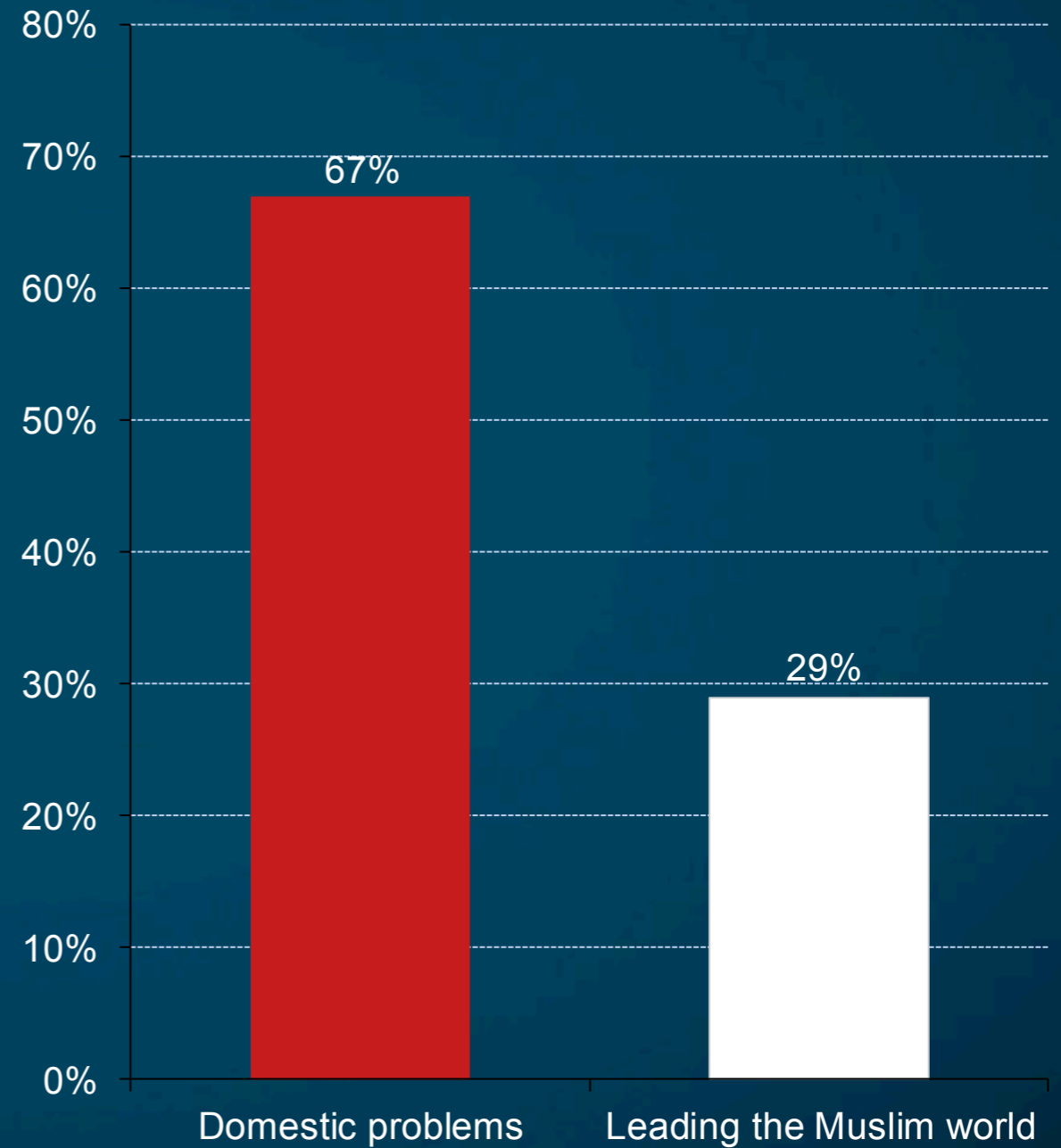
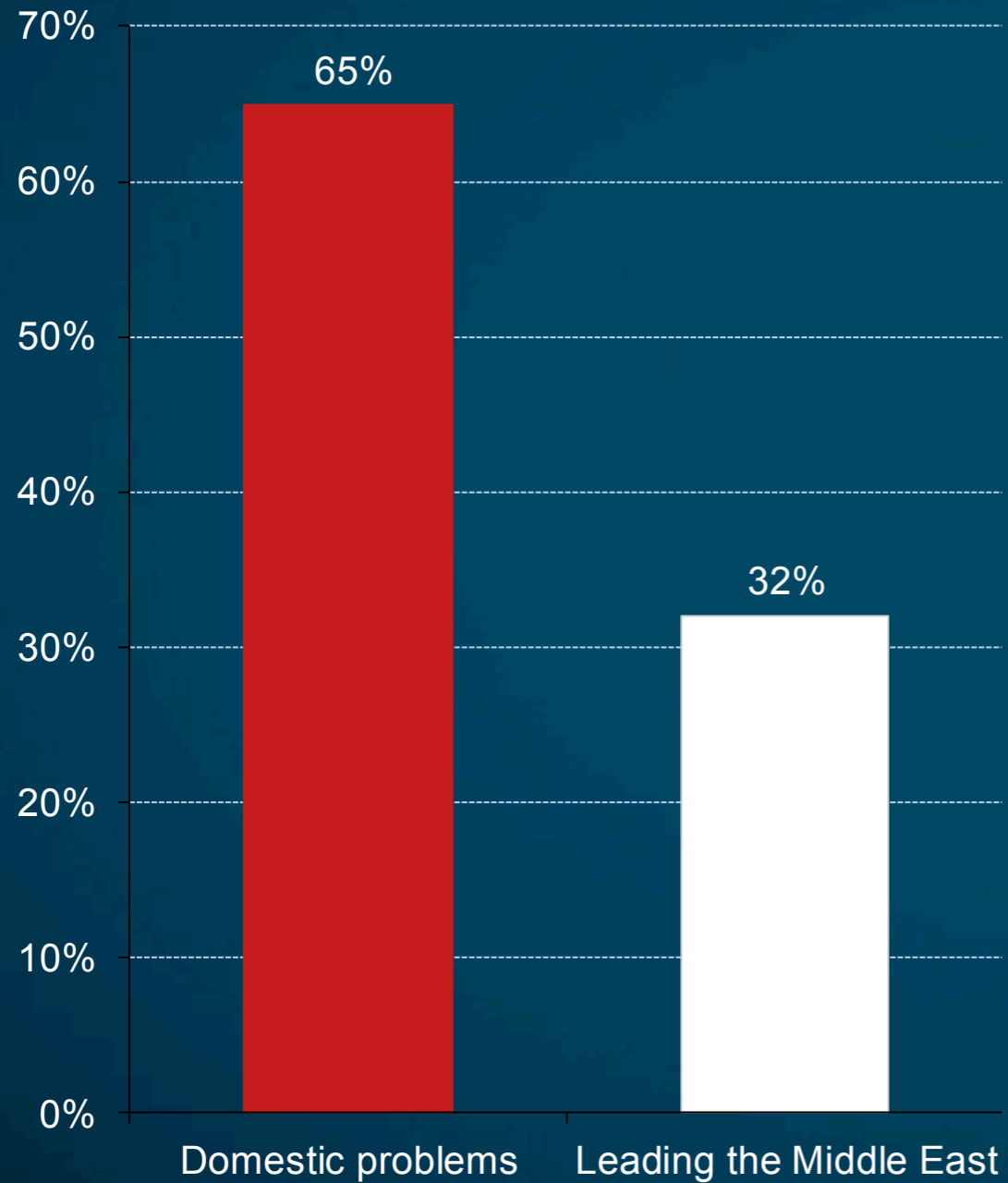
As you may know, Iran is currently under sanctions for enriching uranium. Would you say these sanctions are having a lot of negative impact, some negative impact, little negative impact, or no negative impact on our country's situation?





# Iranians weary of seeking leadership in Middle East and Muslim world.

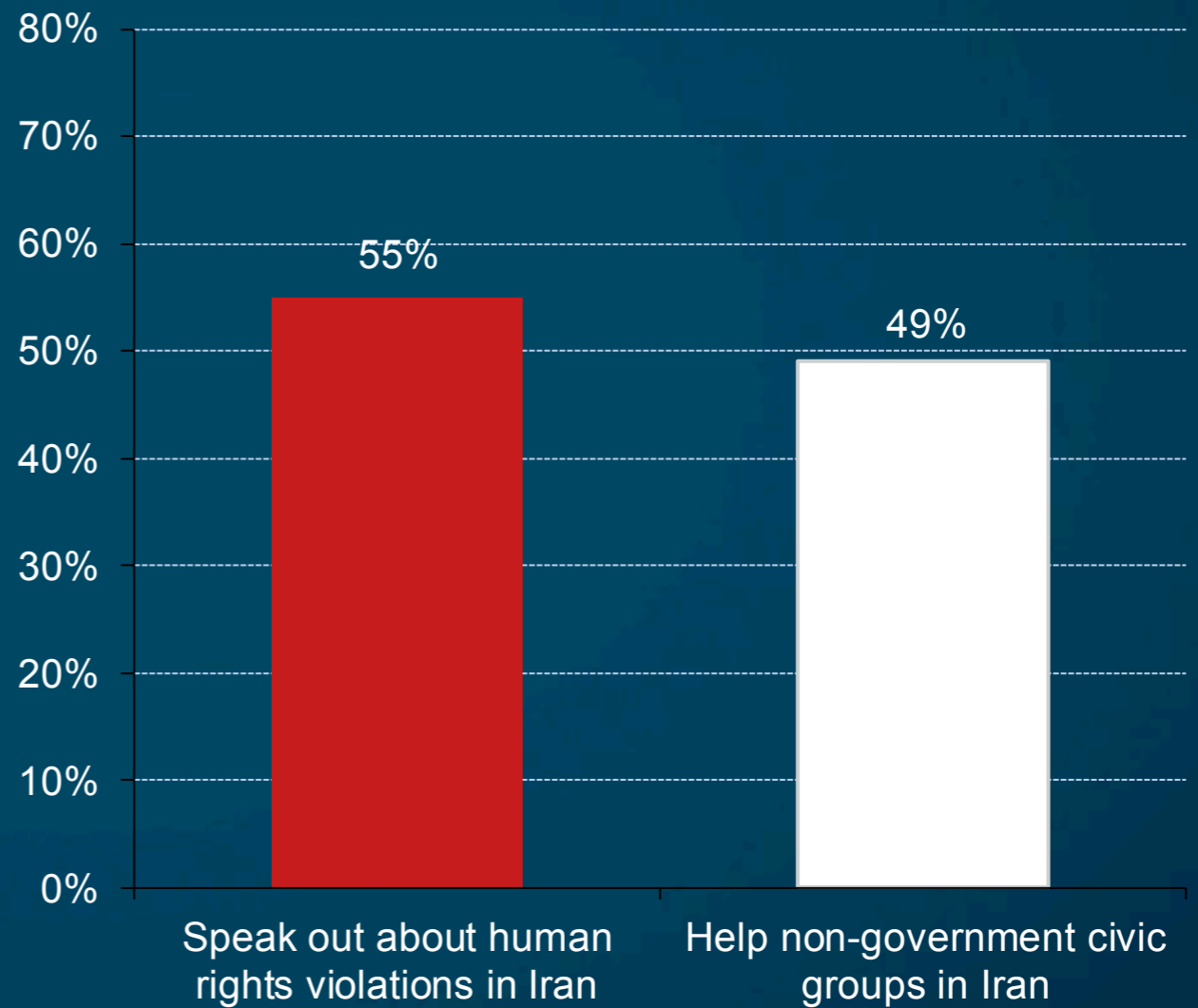
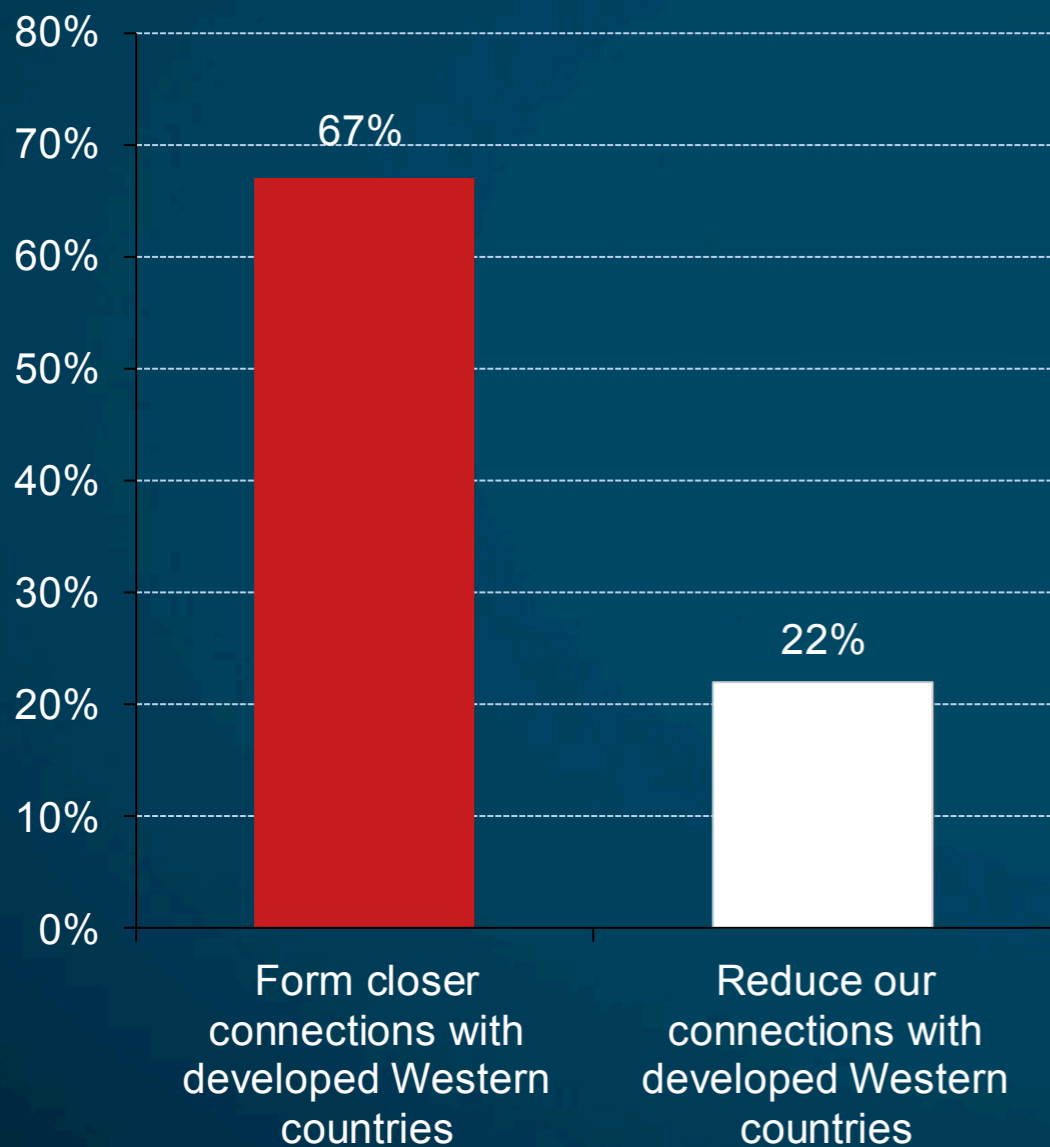
Do you think that Iran should focus more on...



# Most Iranians aspire to closer ties with West and want Western help on human rights and civil society.

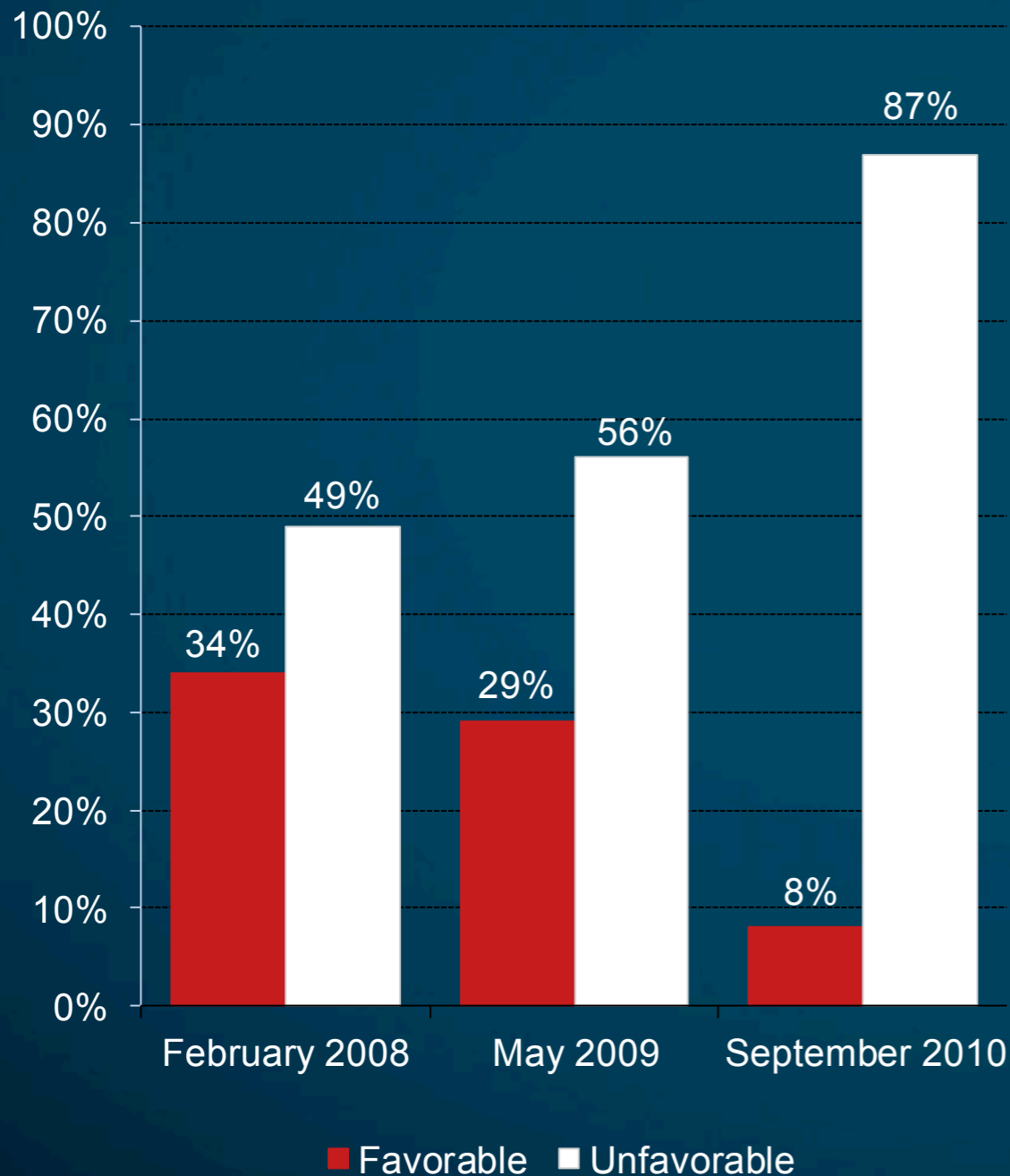
Here are two views. Which is closer to your view? The best way to solve our country's problems is to...

Here are some things it's been suggested the West should do. Let me know how you feel about each. The West should...

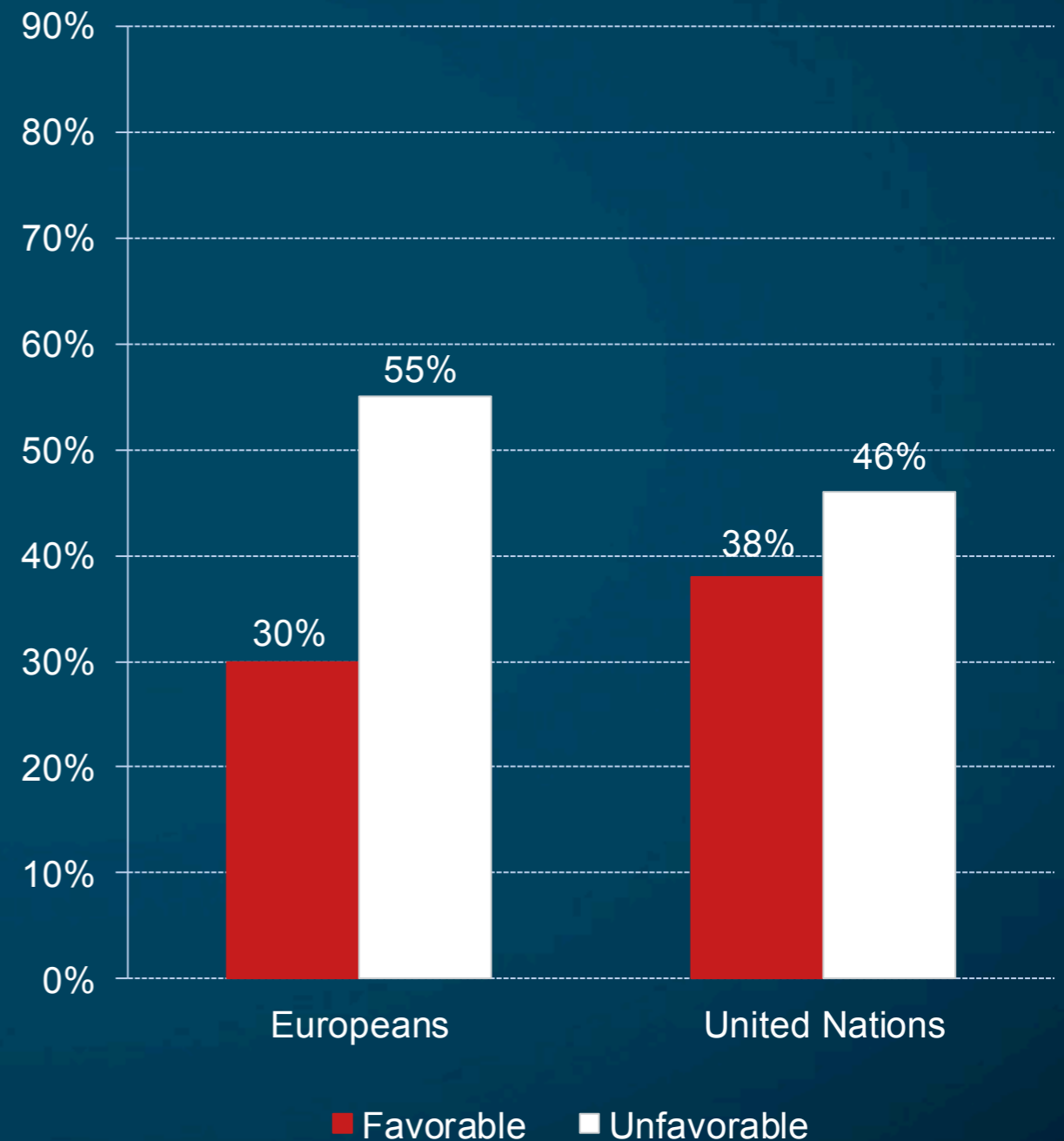


# Growing anti-American sentiment and widespread criticism of Europe and the United Nations among Iranians.

United States

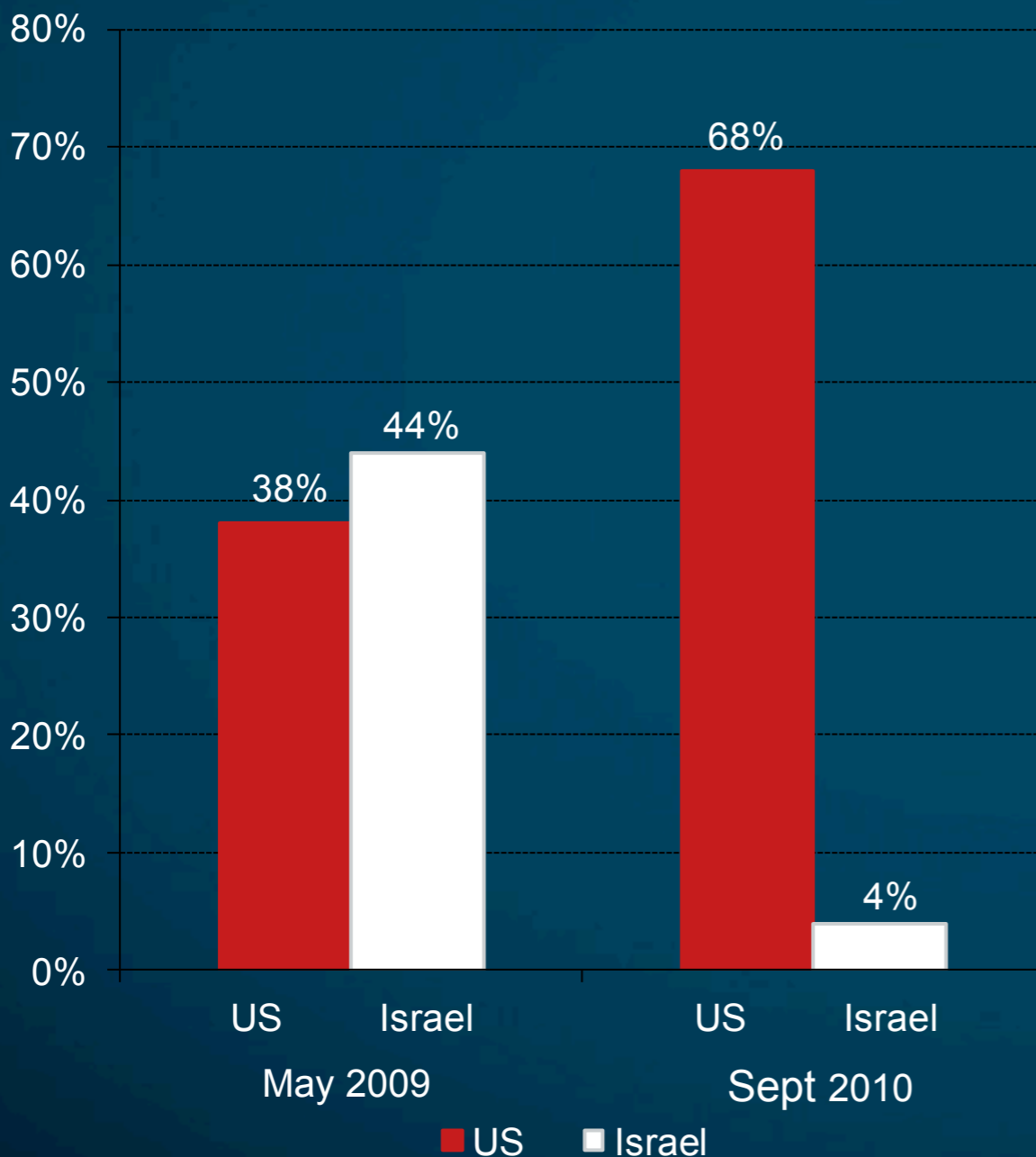


Europeans and the UN

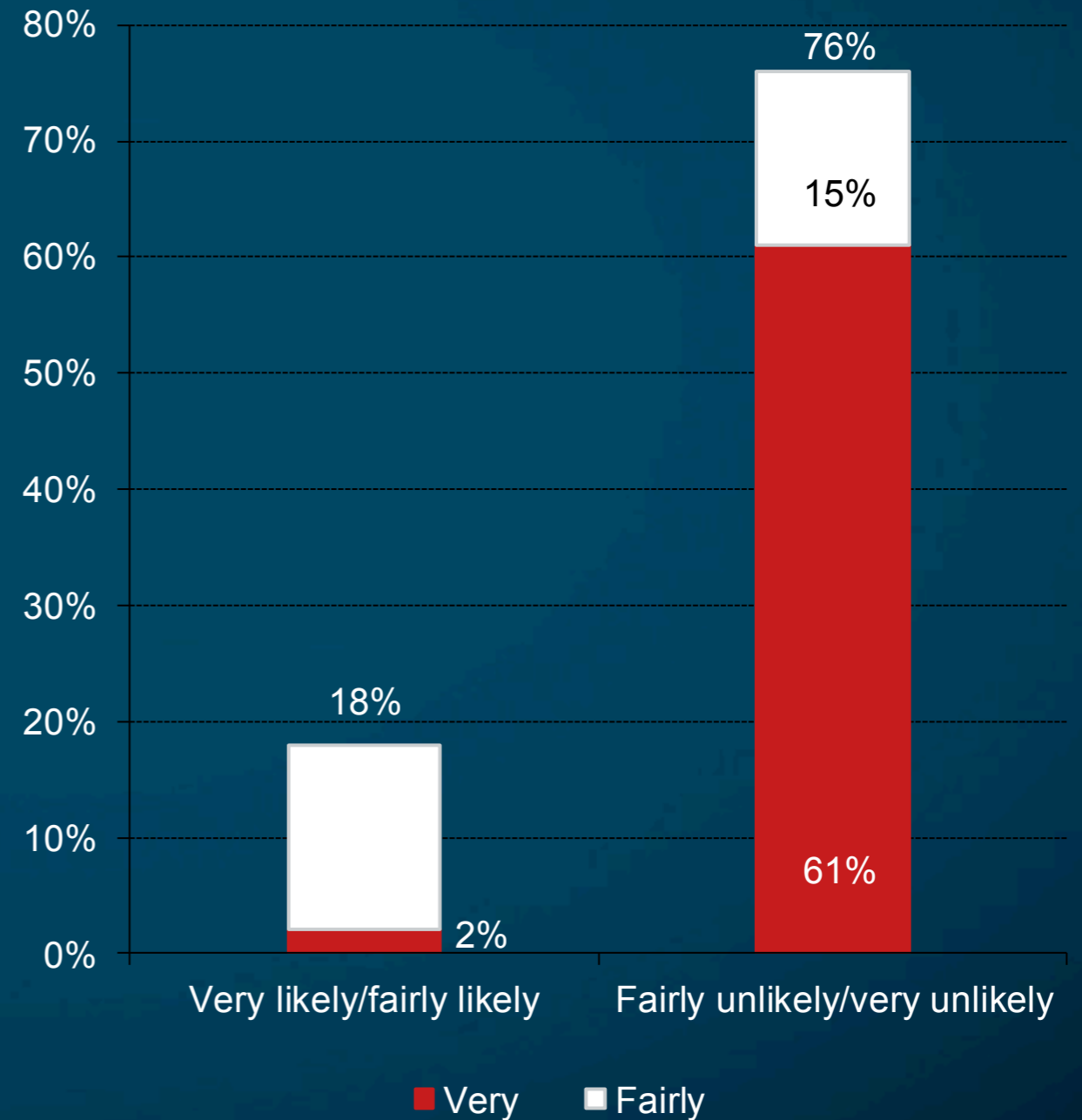


# US perceived as more of a threat than Israel, but Iranians do not believe either will strike nuclear facilities.

Iran's greatest threat in the region

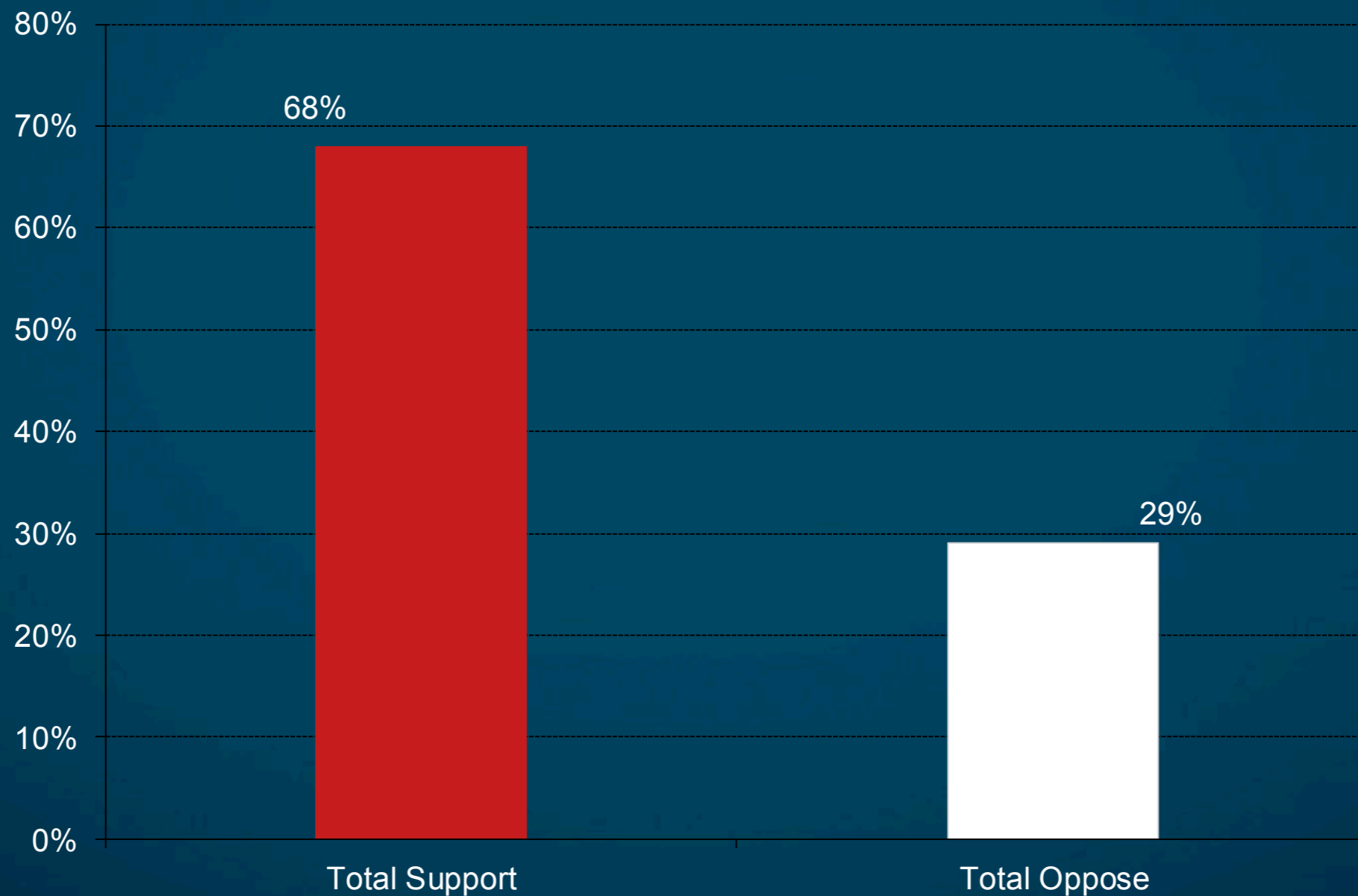


Likelihood of an Israeli or US attack if Iran continues with its nuclear program



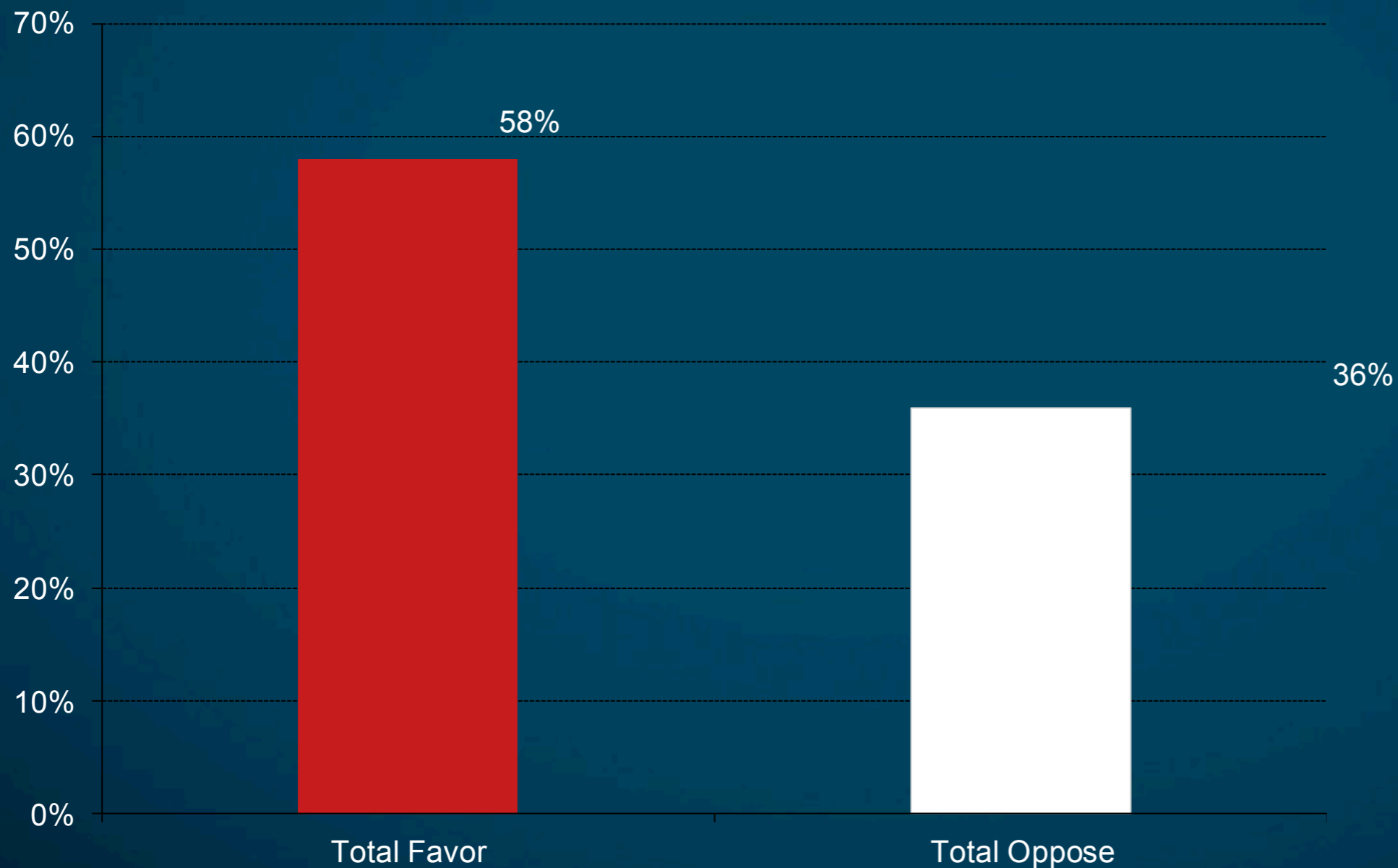
# Iranians support aid to Hamas and Hezbollah.

Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose Iran's financial and military aid to Hamas in the Palestinian Territories and Hezbollah in Lebanon?



# Iranians would accept a two state accord between Palestinians and Israelis.

If the Palestinians make a two-state agreement to live in peace with Israel, would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose Iran accepting the agreement?



# Majority of Iranians support the development of nuclear weapons.

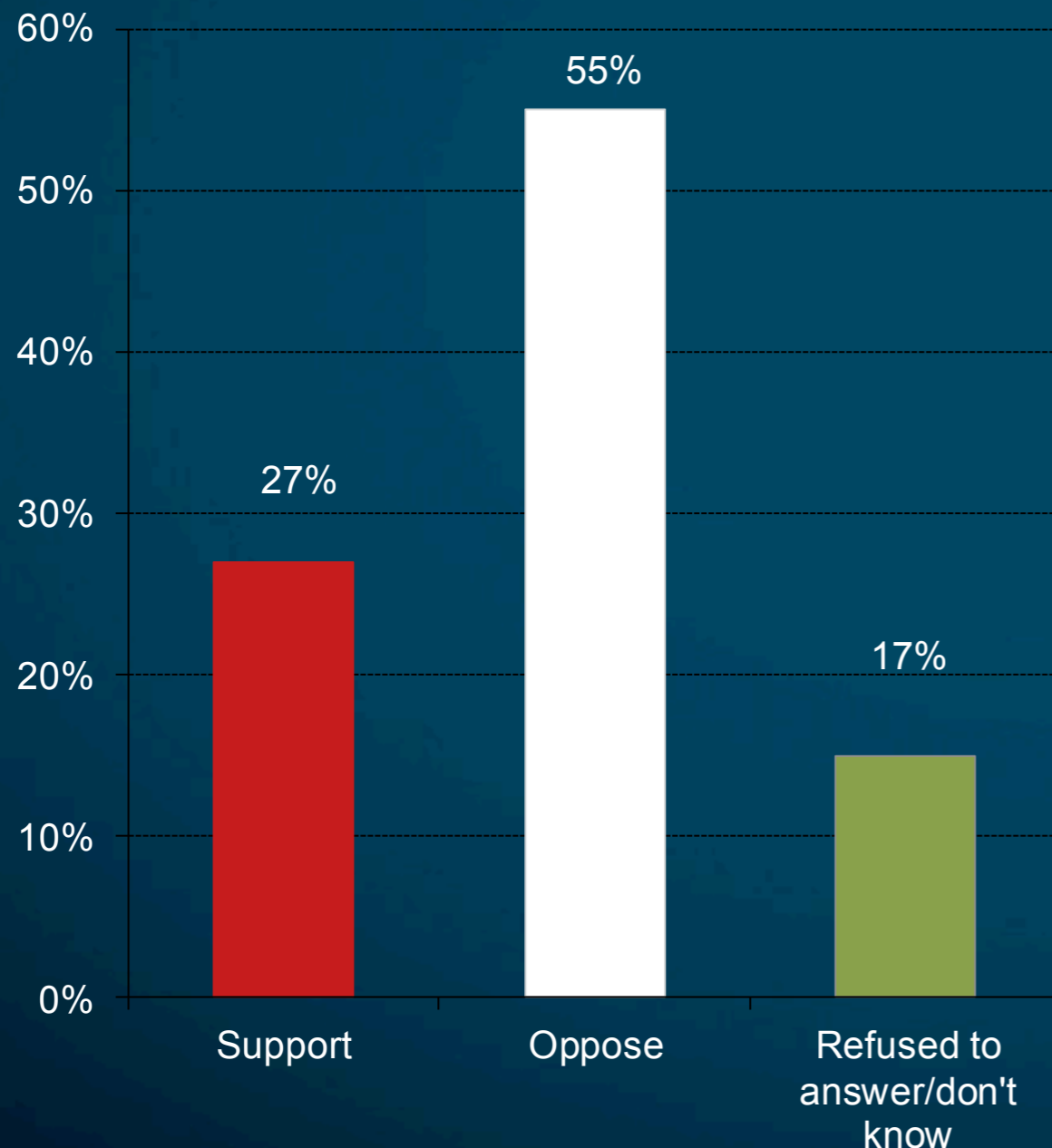
Do you support or oppose Iran developing and possessing nuclear weapons?



# Most Iranians not much interested in making deals over nuclear program.

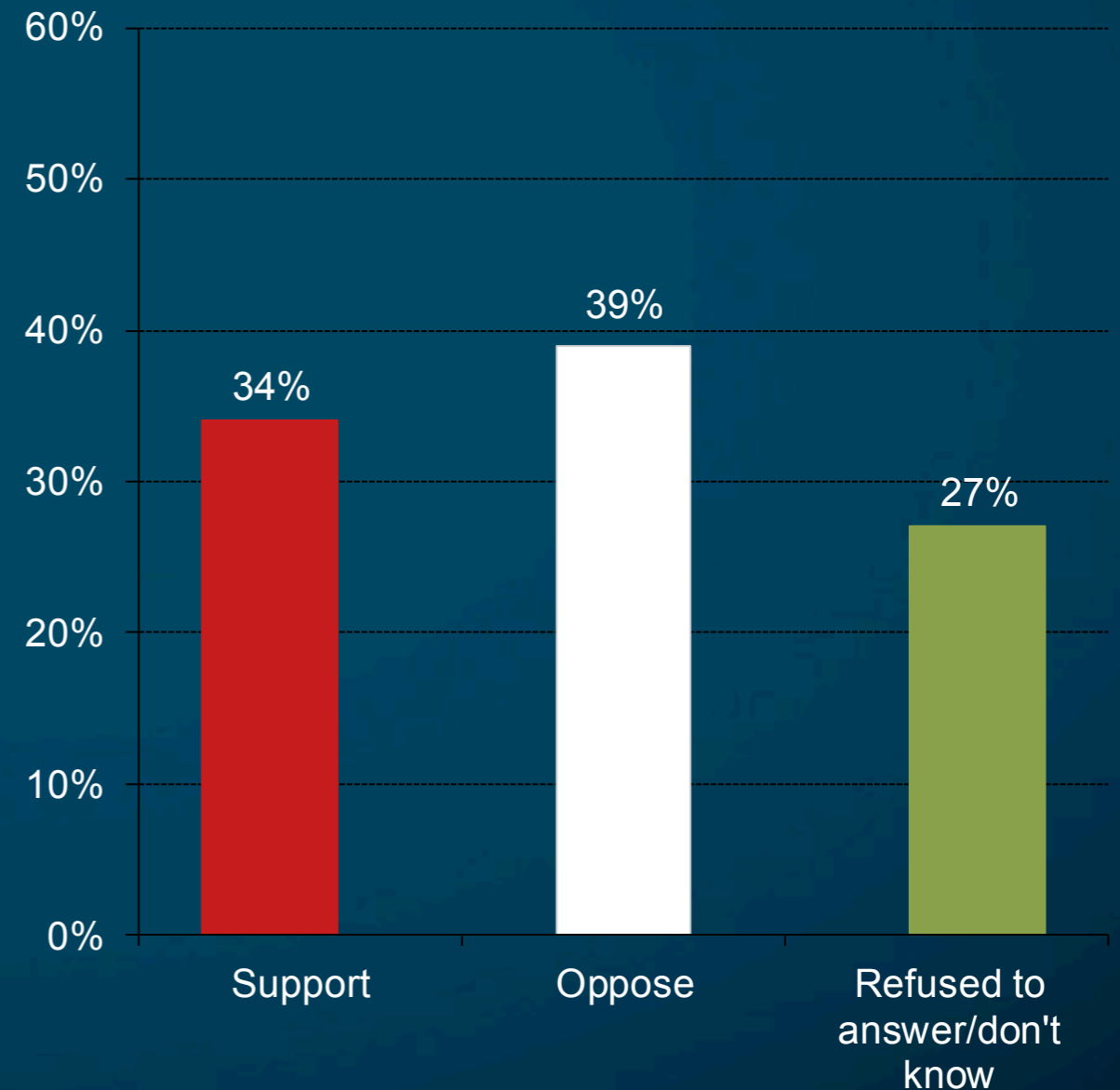
## The “Grand Bargain”:

Suspension of enrichment and concessions on Hezbollah, Hamas, Iraq, and Afghanistan by Iran in return for guarantees of non-aggression, and end to sanctions, WTO membership and the restoration for normal relations with the West.



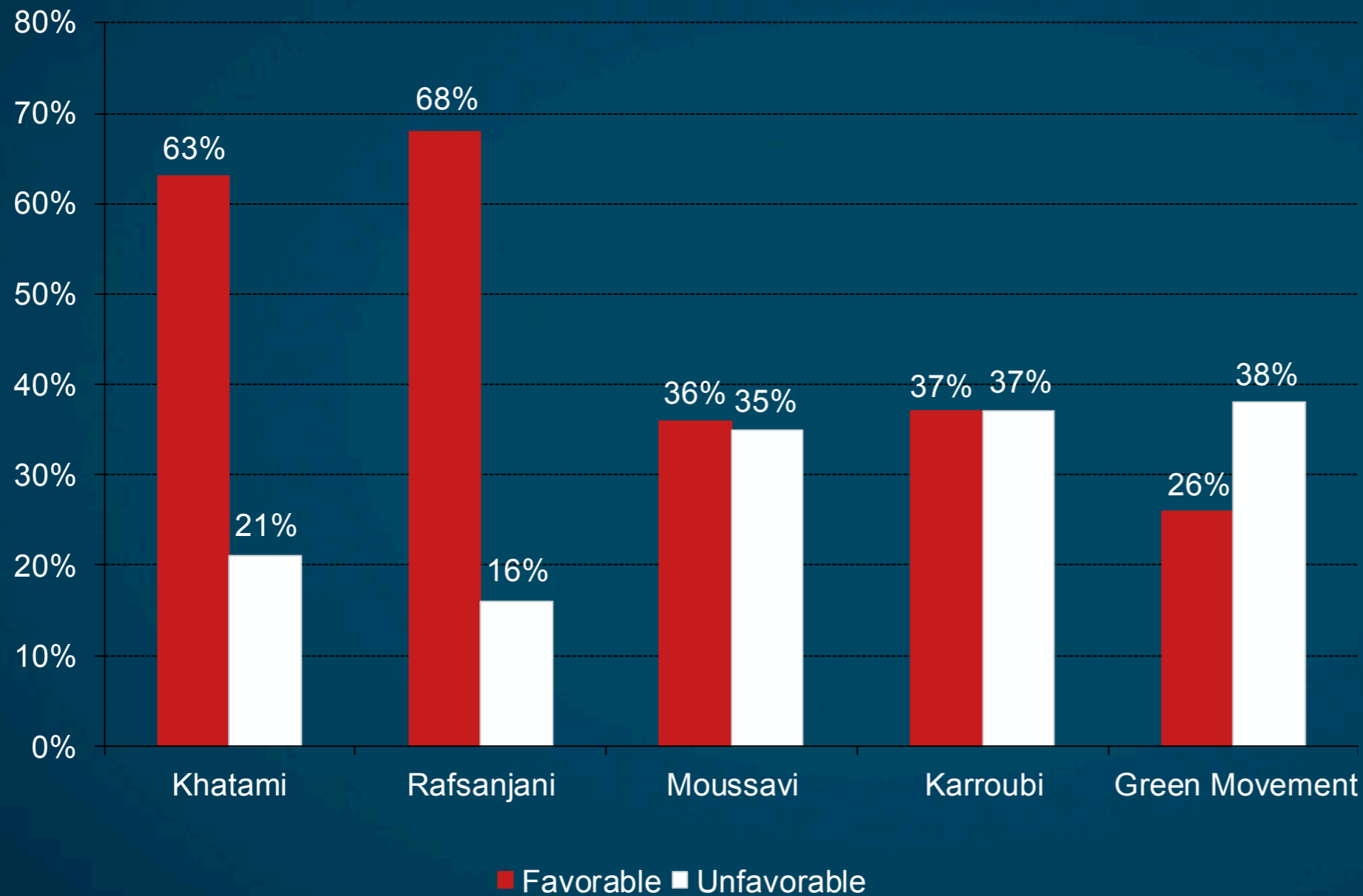
## The Turkish/Brazilian deal:

Iranian enriched uranium sent to Turkey in exchange for nuclear fuel for a research reactor, which would slow but not halt the nuclear program and allow further talks.



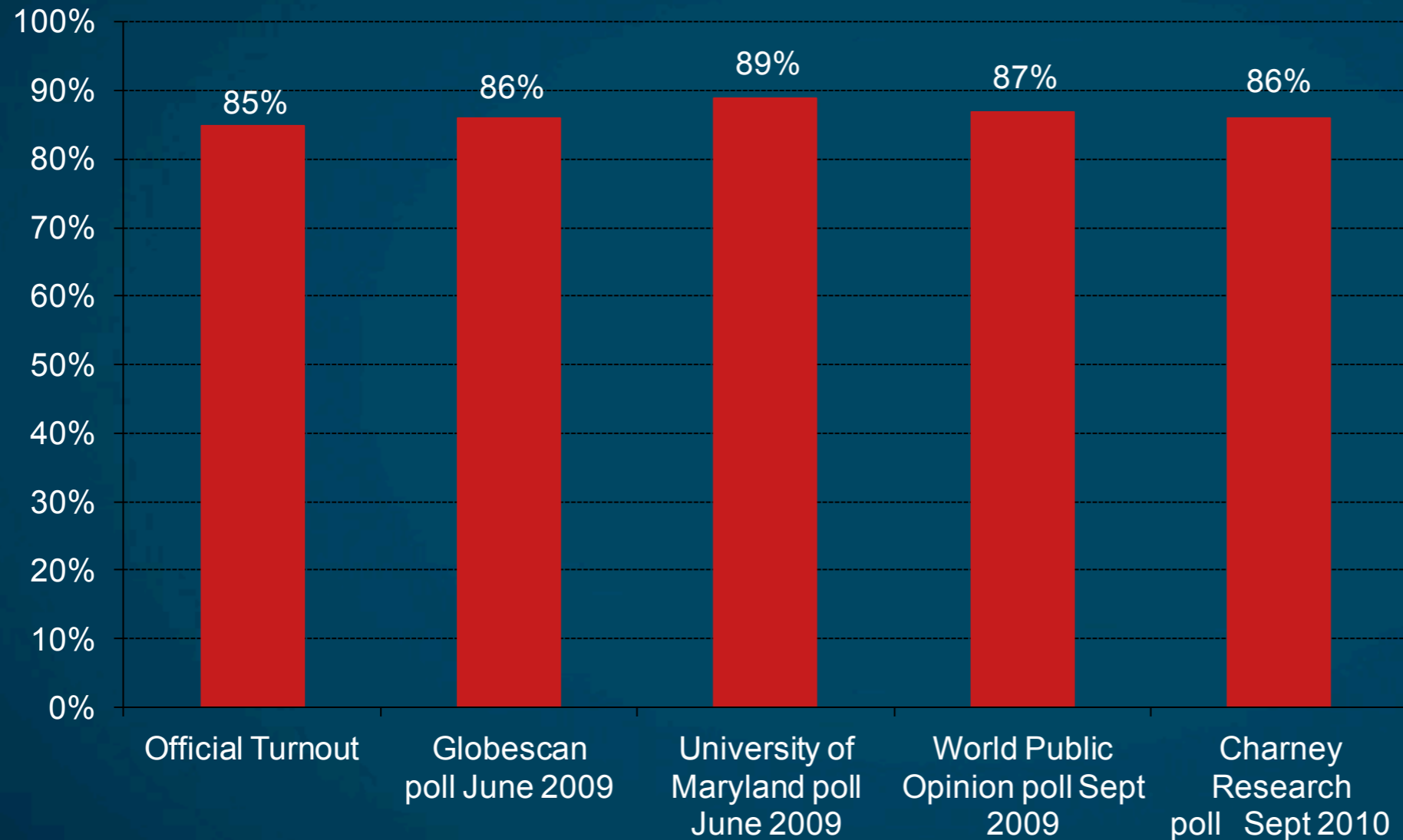


# Former presidents Khatami and Rafsanjani enjoy broad popularity. Green Movement, Moussavi, and Karroubi are favored by 25-35%.



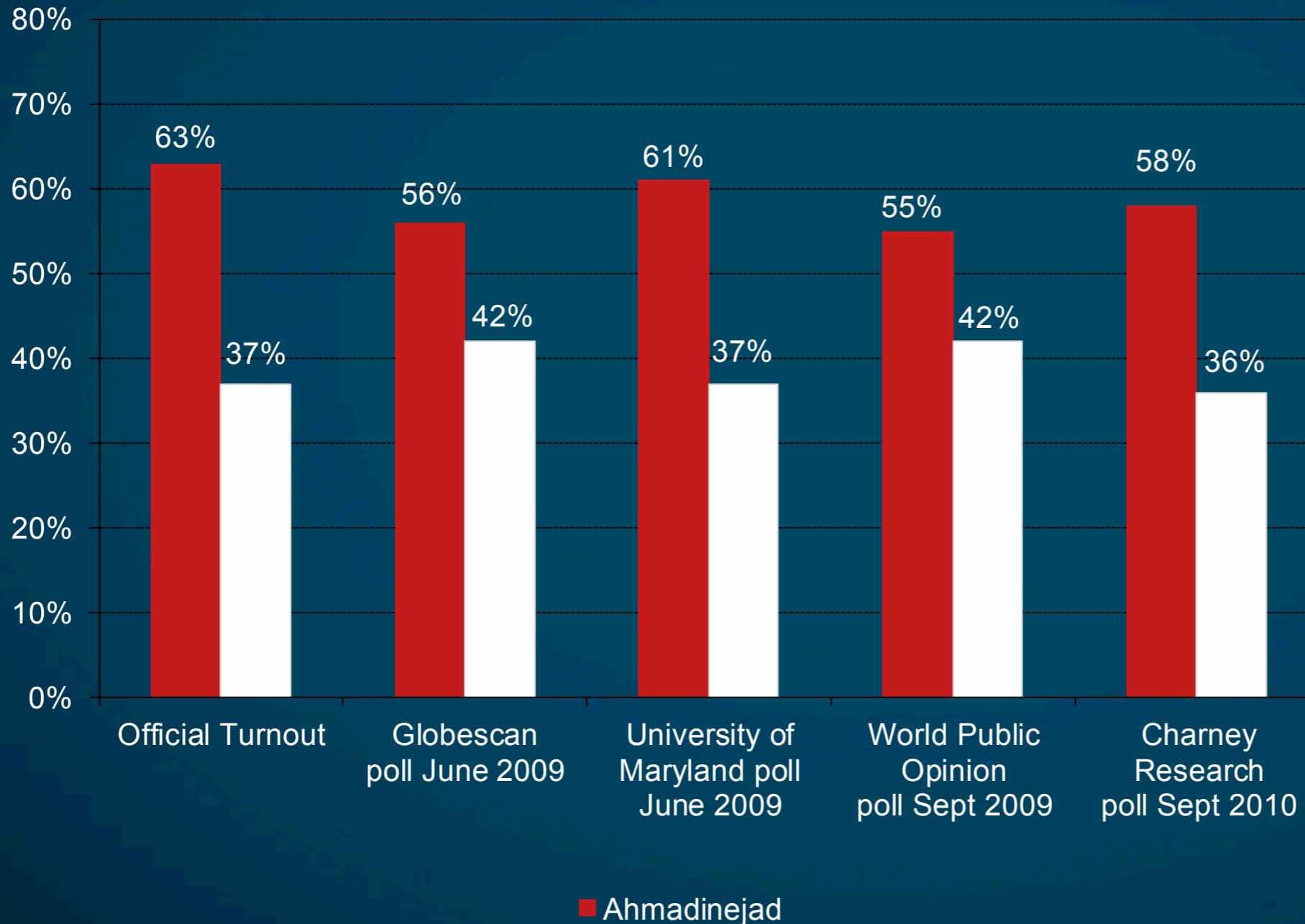
# Independent polls show large turnout similar to official election returns.

Did you vote in the June 2009 presidential election?



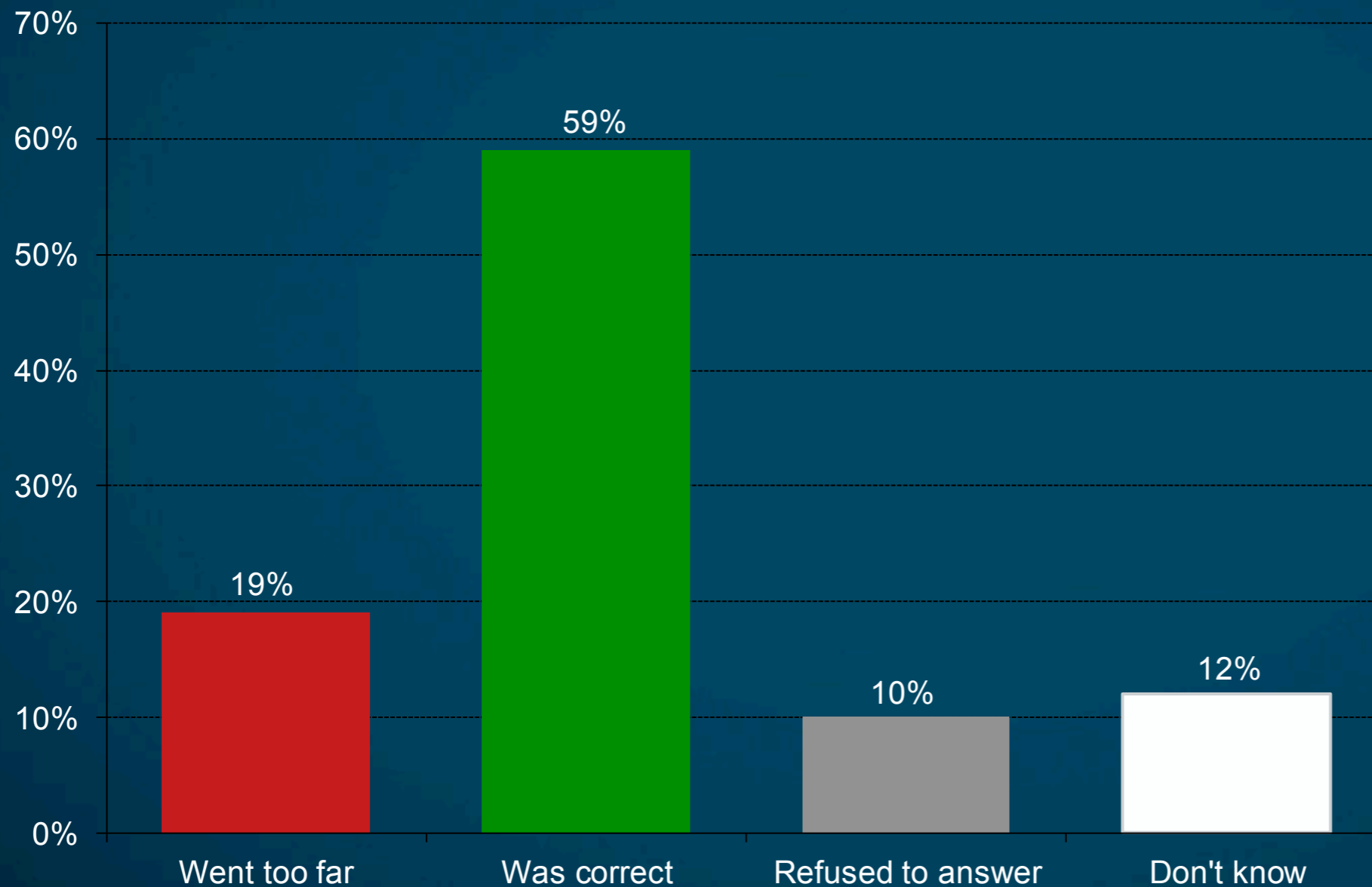
# Around 60% say they voted for Ahmadinejad in 2009 election.

Who did you vote for in that election?



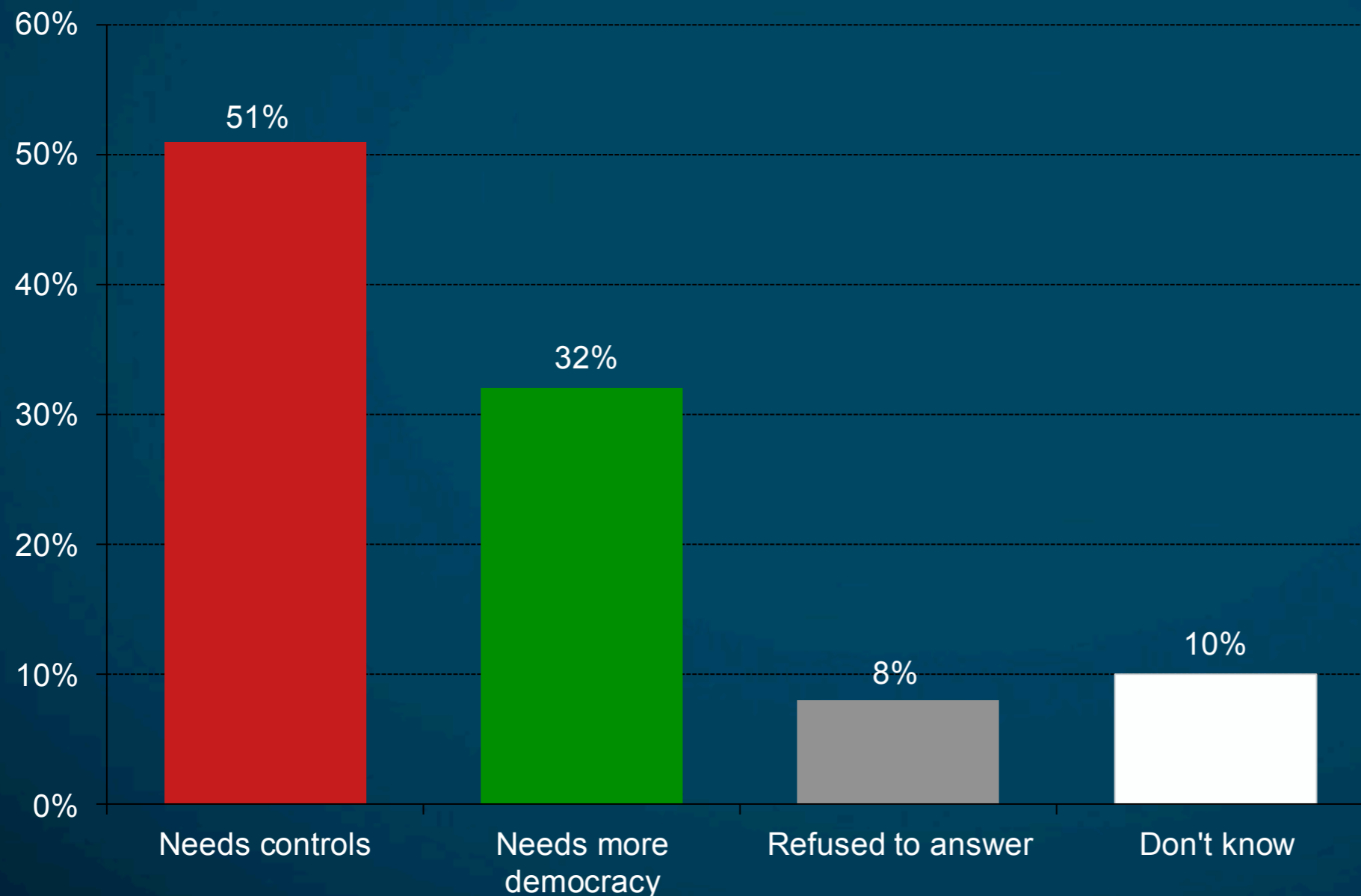
# Most Iranians support government's crackdown on opposition.

Do you feel that the government crackdown on the opposition after the election...



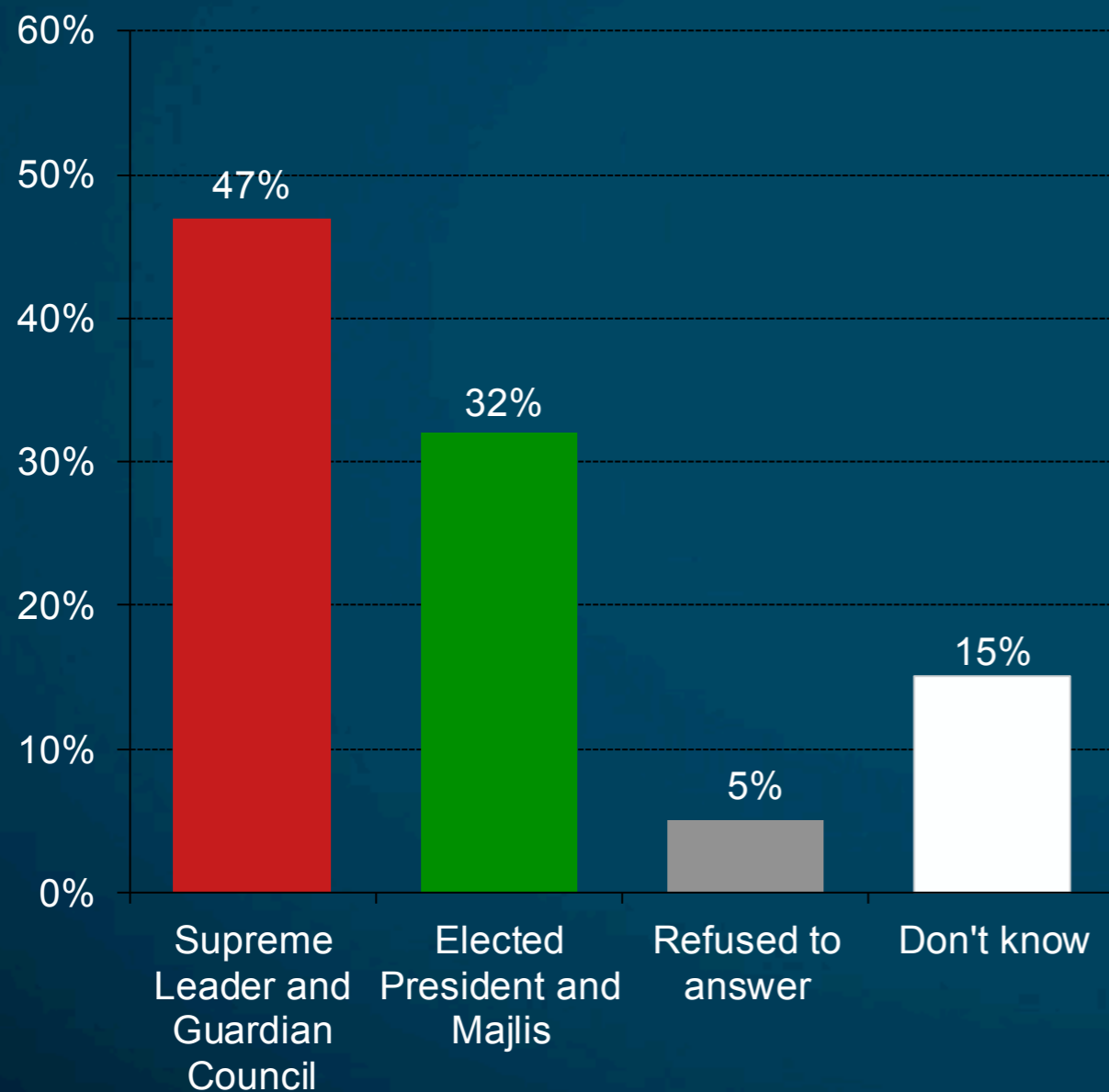
# Iranians feel that restrictions needed to protect Islam and Iran.

Which of these is closer to your view – we need controls to protect Islam and Iran from its enemies; or we need more democracy, freedom and the rule of law?

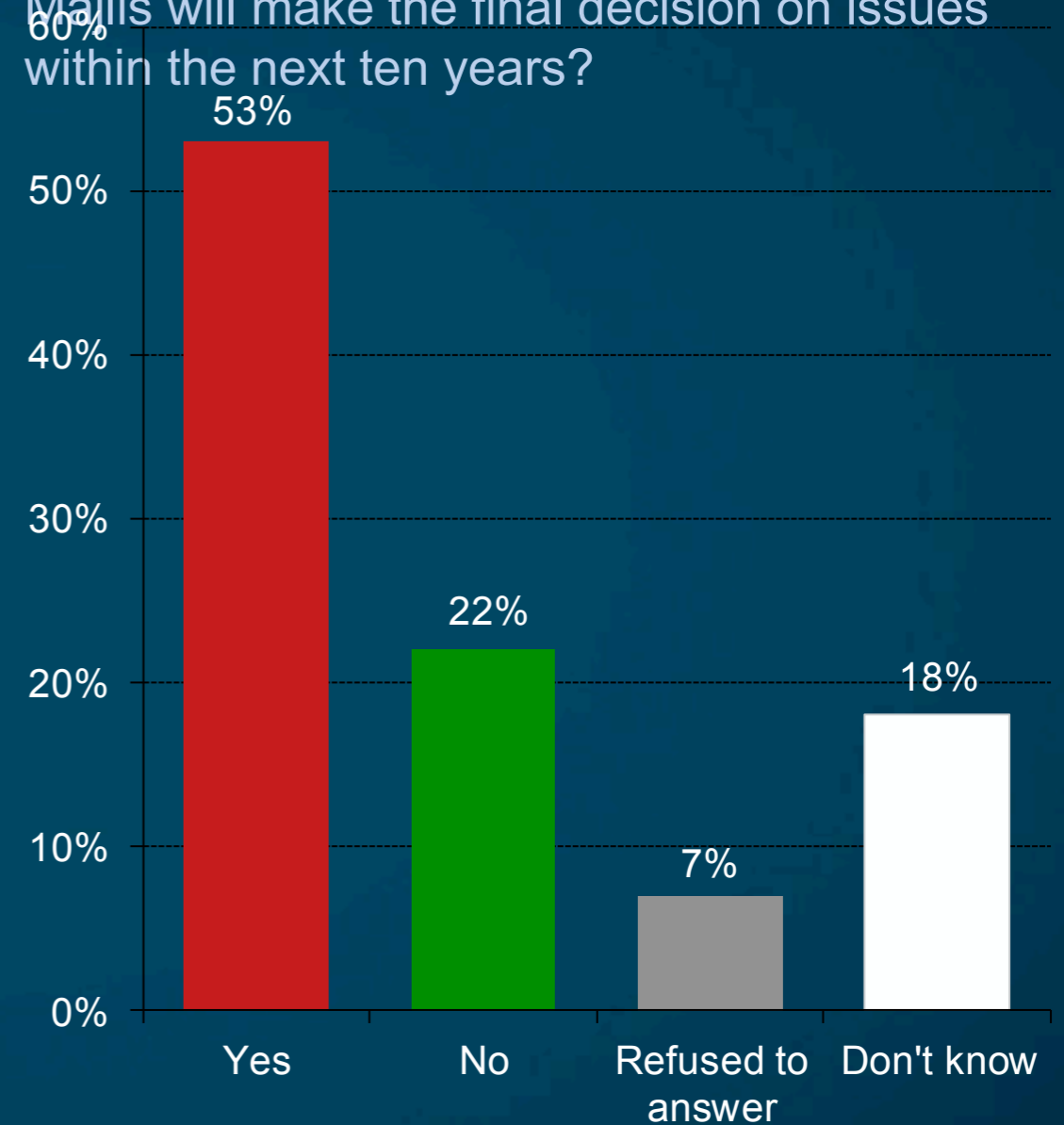


# Iranians support theocratic foundation of government but expect change and further democratization.

Who should make final decision on issues?



Do you expect that the elected President and Majlis will make the final decision on issues within the next ten years?



# Summary

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- Want to focus on domestic affairs.
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- Independent polls do not contradict official turnout of 2009 election, which gave around 60% of vote to Ahmadinejad.
- Support to religious institutions remains substantial but majority expect democratization.

# Methodology

- We conducted 702 telephone interviews in Iran between August 30 and September 7, 2010. Some questions were asked to only half the sample.
- The margin of error is 3.5% for the whole sample and 5% for half samples.
- Respondents were a representative sample of the Iranian adult population. The results are weighted to match Iran's demographics.
- 85% of Iranians have telephones.
- Tracking data from earlier national telephone polls:
  - WorldPublicOpinion.org polls taken in December 2006 and September 2009.
  - Globescan and University of Maryland polls taken in June 2009.
  - Terror Free Tomorrow polls taken in June 2007, February 2008 and May 2009.