

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Georgia Voters:
Support For Probation & Parole Reform

REFORM

BACKGROUND + METHODOLOGY

BACKGROUND

The research conducted by Morning Consult on behalf of the Reform Alliance among Georgia registered voters seeks to understand:

1. *Broad measures towards criminal justice reform such as confidence in the system and support for changes*
2. *Support for probation and parole policy proposals*

METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted from August 3-9, 2020 among a sample of 800 Georgia RVs. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Georgia RVs based on gender, age, race, and educational attainment. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of +/- 3%.

KEY POINTS- GEORGIA VOTERS

Overall Findings

- 1** Confidence in the criminal justice system in Georgia is driven by age, ethnicity, and political party.

 - White voters are twice as likely as Black voters to have confidence in the system (64% white voters, 30% Black voters).
 - Republican GA voters are twice as likely than Democrat GA voters to have confidence in the criminal justice system in Georgia (Rep. 75%, Dem. 62%).
 - About half of GA voters are confident in the tested sectors of the criminal justice system in Georgia, with confidence being highest in law enforcement agencies.
 - Similar to overall confidence, white GA voters are more likely than Black voters to have confidence in the tested criminal justice system sectors, specifically law enforcement agencies (68% white voters, 39% Black voters).

- 2** The approach to reforming the probation and parole system in Georgia is driven by political party.

 - Democrat GA voters are twice as likely than Republican GA voters to think the criminal justice system in Georgia needs a complete overhaul or major changes (Dem. 71%, Rep. 31%).
 - GA voters think prevention (41%) and rehabilitation (25%) should be the top priority for reforming the criminal justice system rather than punishment (10%) or enforcement (14%).

- 3** Reforming the probation and parole system positively impacts support of over half of GA voters.

 - Nearly half of GA Republican voters (47%) would be more likely to support a public official who wants to reform the probation and parole system.

- 4** A majority of GA voters support the tested probation and parole system proposals.

 - Support is highest for the proposals that invest in re-entry programs (82%), reward good behavior (83%), and provide mentorship programs (80%).
 - A bipartisan majority of GA voters support the following proposals:
 - Allowing remote probation reporting
 - Decreasing caseloads for probation officers
 - Providing mentorship
 - Investing in re-entry programs
 - Rewarding good behavior

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1 Support For Changes In
Criminal Justice System

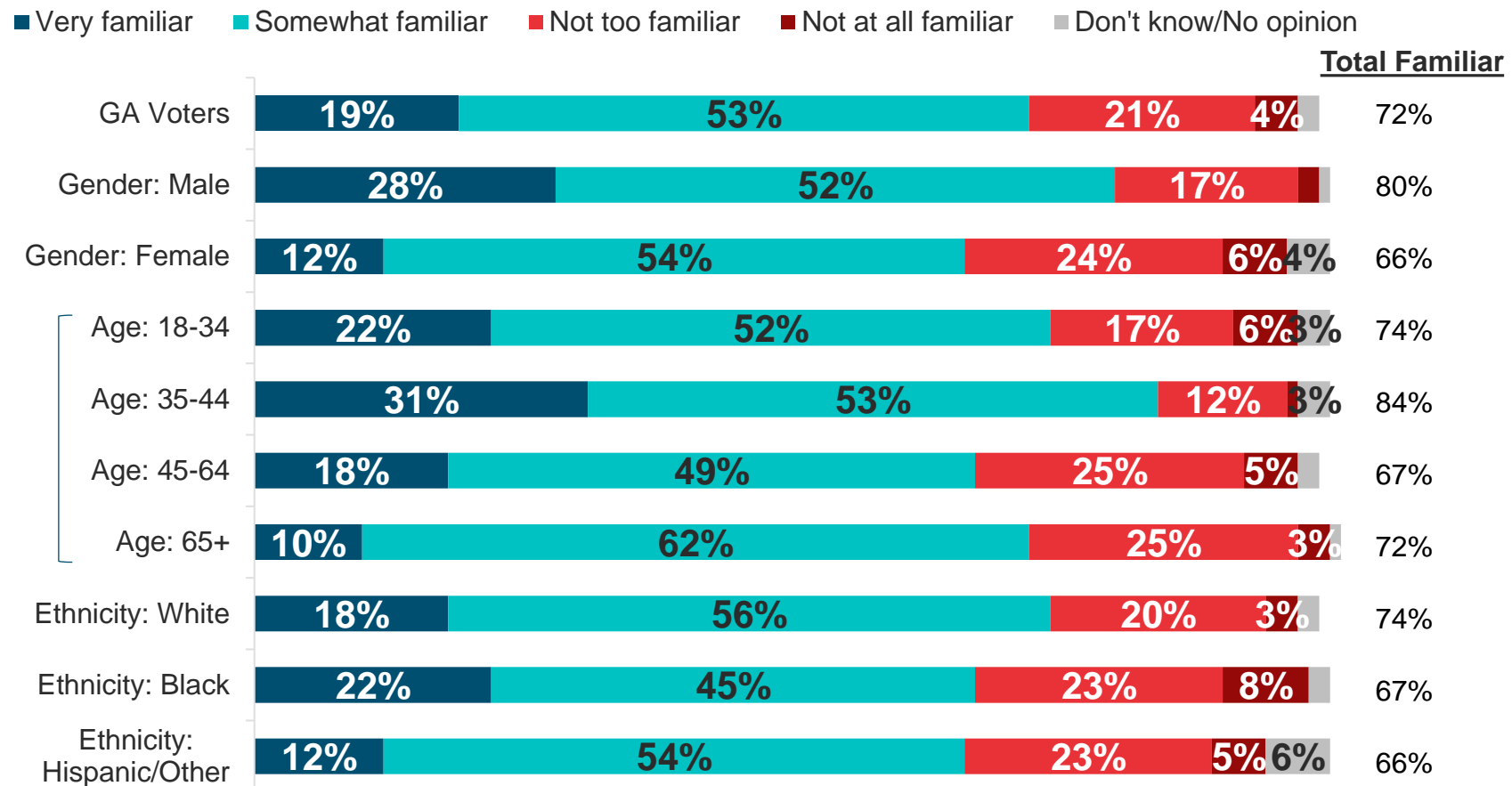
2 Probation & Parole Policy

3 Respondent Profile

GA VOTERS: SUPPORT FOR CHANGES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

GA voters 18-44 years old are more likely than voters 45+ to be familiar with how the criminal justice system works in their state.

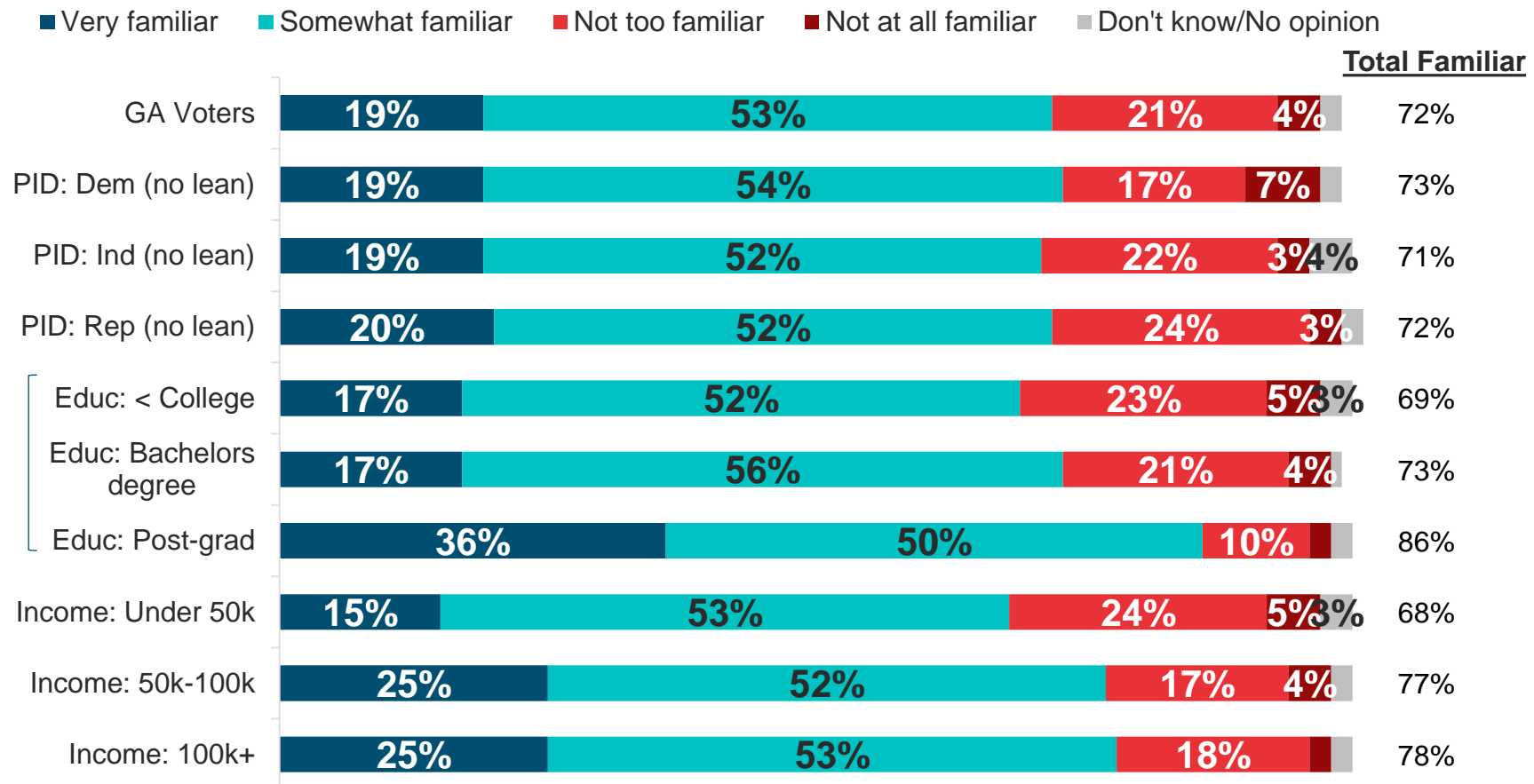
How familiar are you, if at all, with how the criminal justice system works in your state?



GA VOTERS: SUPPORT FOR CHANGES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

And, GA voters with a higher level of education are more likely to be familiar with how the criminal justice system works in their state.

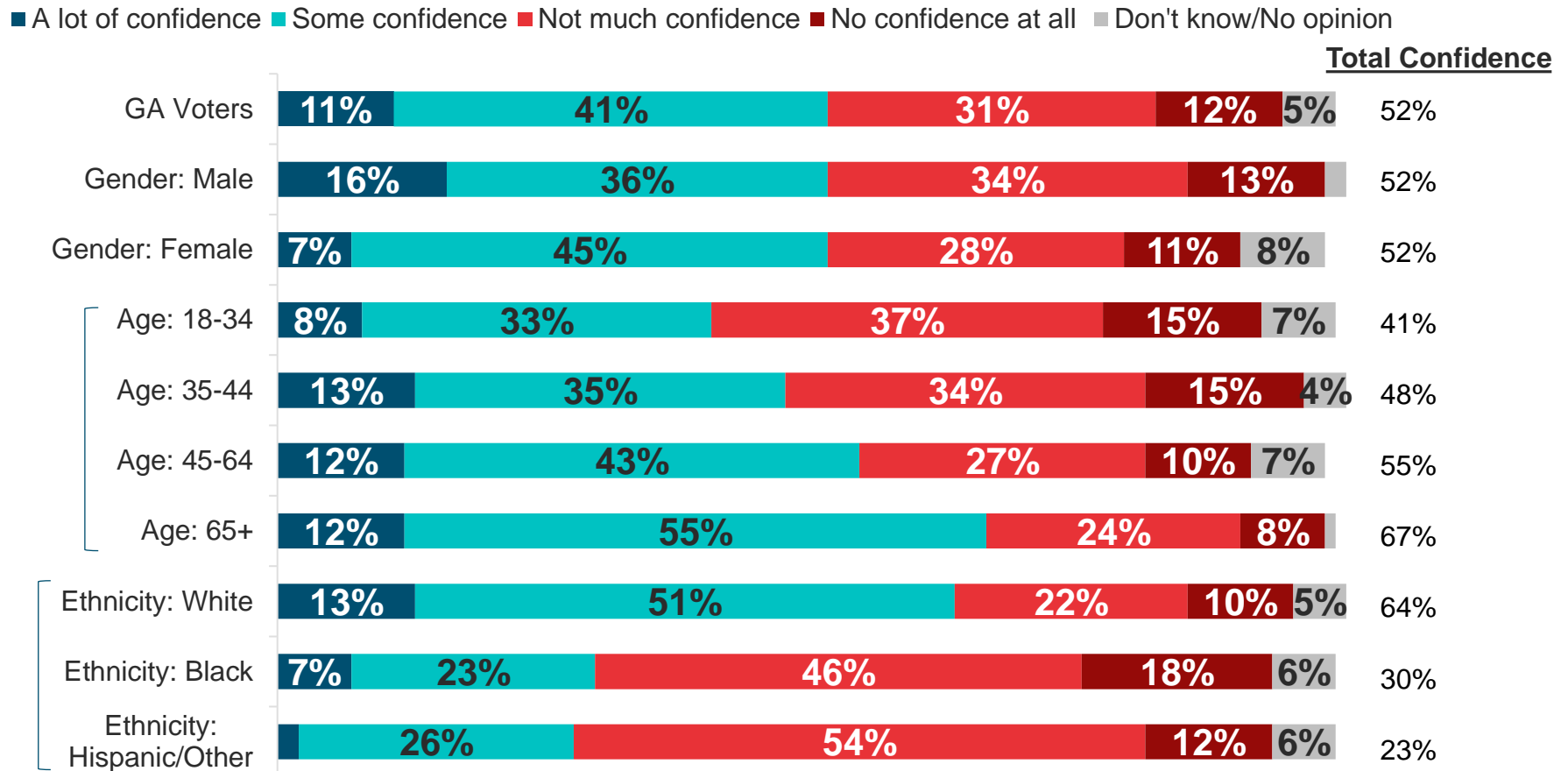
How familiar are you, if at all, with how the criminal justice system works in your state?



GA VOTERS: SUPPORT FOR CHANGES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Older GA voters are more likely to be confident in the criminal justice system in Georgia. And, white voters are twice as likely as Black voters to have confidence in the system (64% white voters, 30% Black voters)

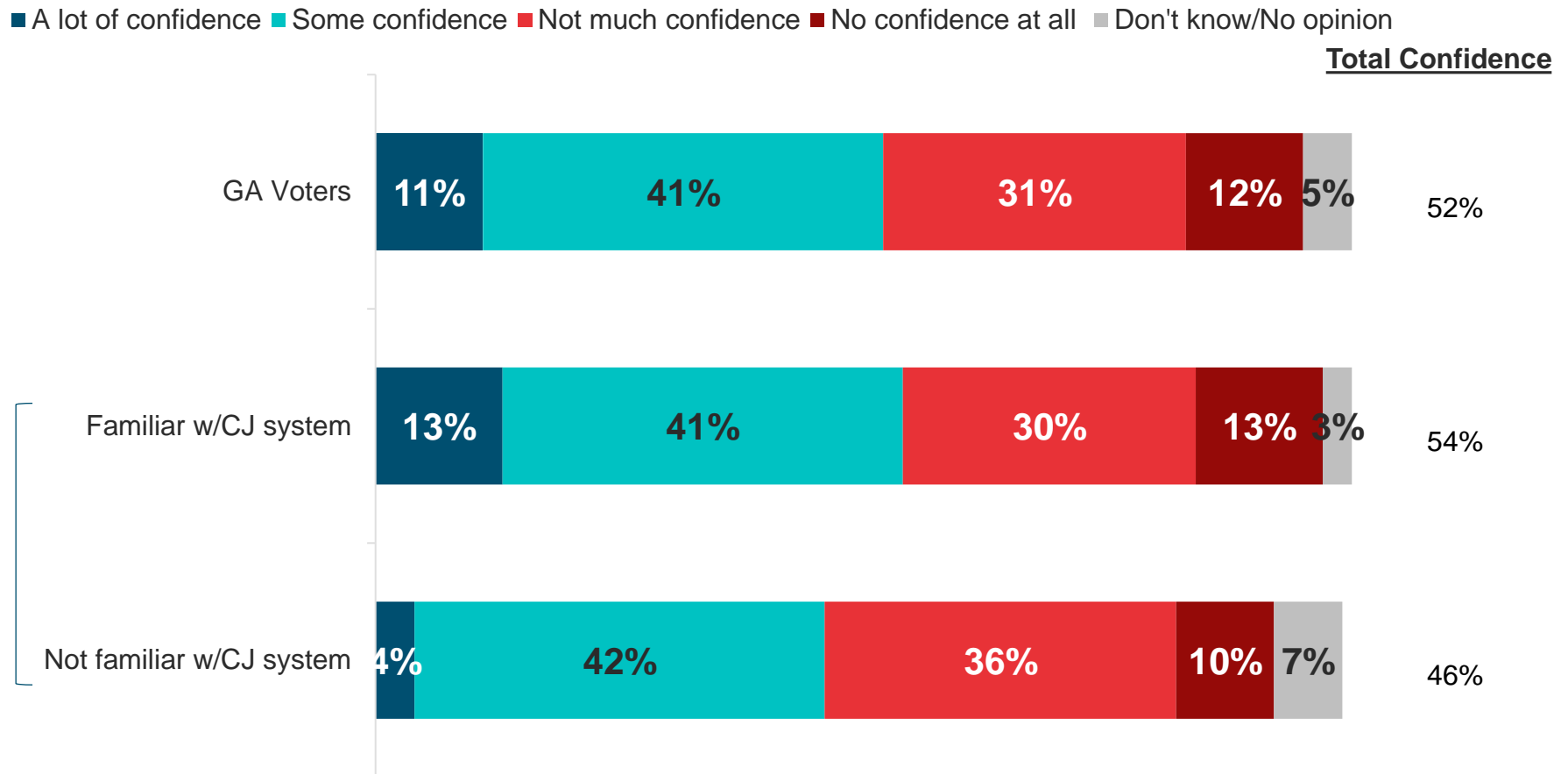
How much confidence, if any, do you have in the criminal justice system in Georgia?



GA VOTERS: SUPPORT FOR CHANGES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

GA voters who are familiar with the criminal justice system are more likely than those not familiar to be confident in the criminal justice system in Georgia (54% vs. 46%).

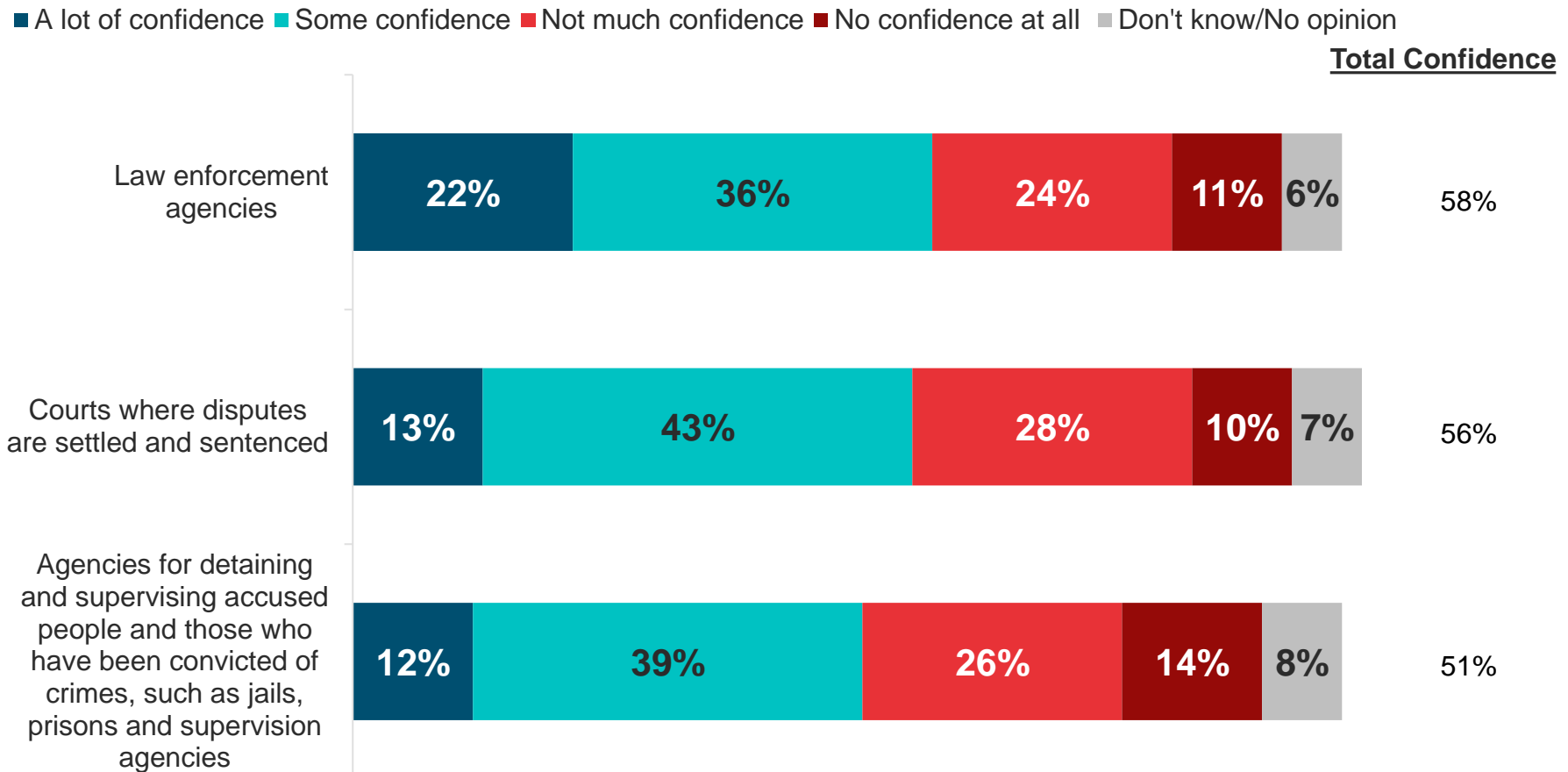
How much confidence, if any, do you have in the criminal justice system in Georgia?



GA VOTERS: SUPPORT FOR CHANGES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

About half of GA voters are confident in the tested sectors of the criminal justice system in Georgia, with confidence being highest in law enforcement agencies.

How much confidence, if any, do you have in the following sectors of the criminal justice system in Georgia?



GA VOTERS: SUPPORT FOR CHANGES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

White GA voters are more likely than Black voters to have confidence in the tested criminal justice system sectors, specifically law enforcement agencies (68% white voters, 39% Black voters).

How much confidence, if any, do you have in the following sectors of the criminal justice system in Georgia?

Total Confidence* Of Criminal Justice Sectors By Demographics			
	Law Enforcement Agencies	Courts where disputes are settled and sentenced	Agencies for detaining and supervising accused people and those who have been convicted of crimes
GA Voters	58%	56%	51%
Gender: Male	63%	56%	56%
Gender: Female	53%	54%	46%
Age: 18-34	45%	42%	39%
Age: 35-44	54%	60%	53%
Age: 45-64	63%	60%	59%
Age: 65+	75%	68%	60%
Ethnicity: White	68%	64%	60%
Ethnicity: Black	39%	40%	37%
Ethnicity: Hispanic/Other	35%	38%	24%

*Total confidence= a lot of confidence + some confidence

GA VOTERS: SUPPORT FOR CHANGES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Republican GA voters are much more likely than Democrat GA voters to have confidence in the tested criminal justice system sectors, specifically law enforcement agencies (Rep. 80%, Dem. 40%).

How much confidence, if any, do you have in the following sectors of the criminal justice system in Georgia?

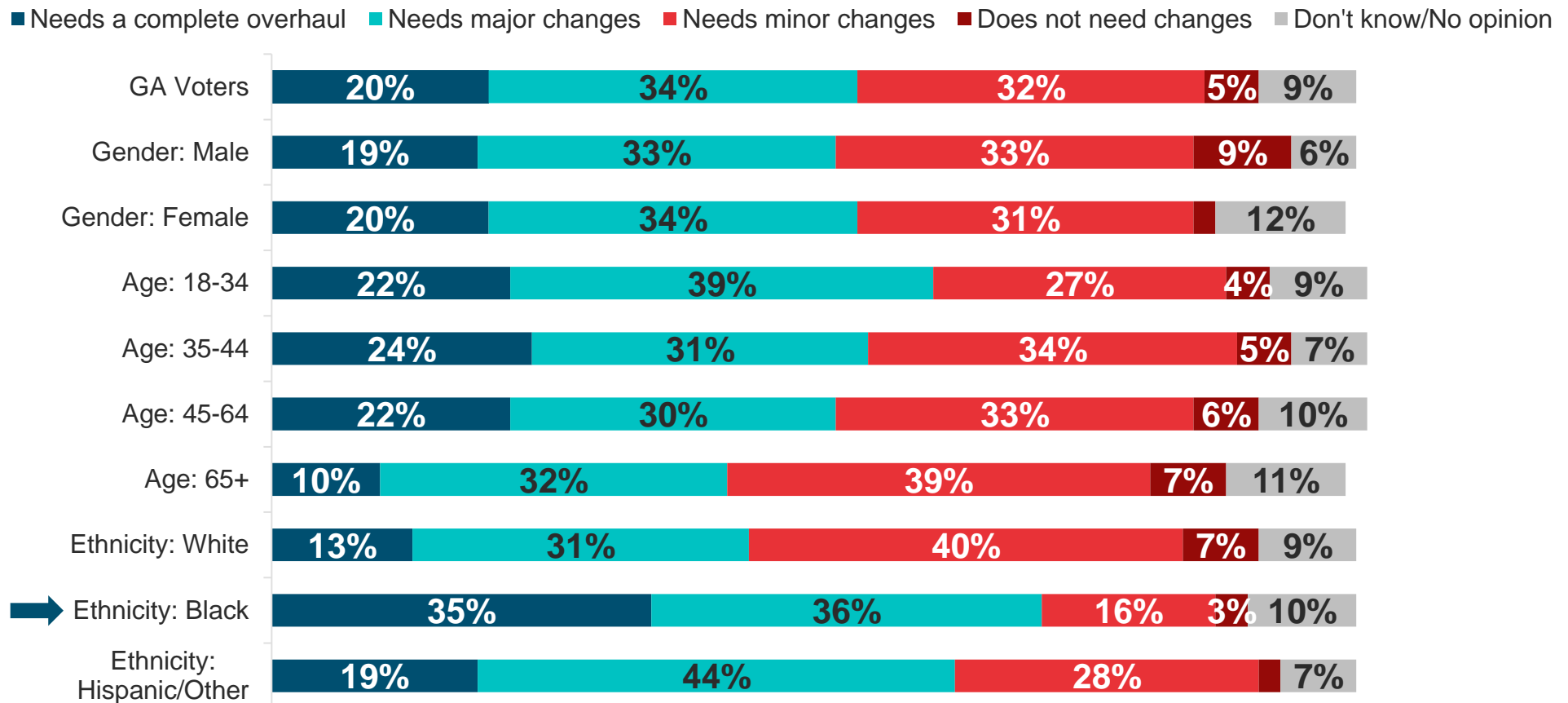
Total Confidence* Of Criminal Justice Sectors By Demographics			
	Law Enforcement Agencies	Courts where disputes are settled and sentenced	Agencies for detaining and supervising accused people and those who have been convicted of crimes
GA Voters	58%	56%	51%
PID: Dem (no lean)	40%	43%	36%
PID: Ind (no lean)	57%	53%	44%
PID: Rep (no lean)	80%	70%	73%
Educ: < College	54%	52%	49%
Educ: Bachelors degree	63%	59%	52%
Educ: Post-grad	68%	67%	60%
Income: Under 50k	51%	49%	44%
Income: 50k-100k	64%	62%	59%
Income: 100k+	70%	65%	61%

*Total confidence= a lot of confidence + some confidence

GA VOTERS: SUPPORT FOR CHANGES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

A third of Black GA voters (35%) think the criminal justice system in Georgia needs a complete overhaul, 15 points higher than white GA voters.

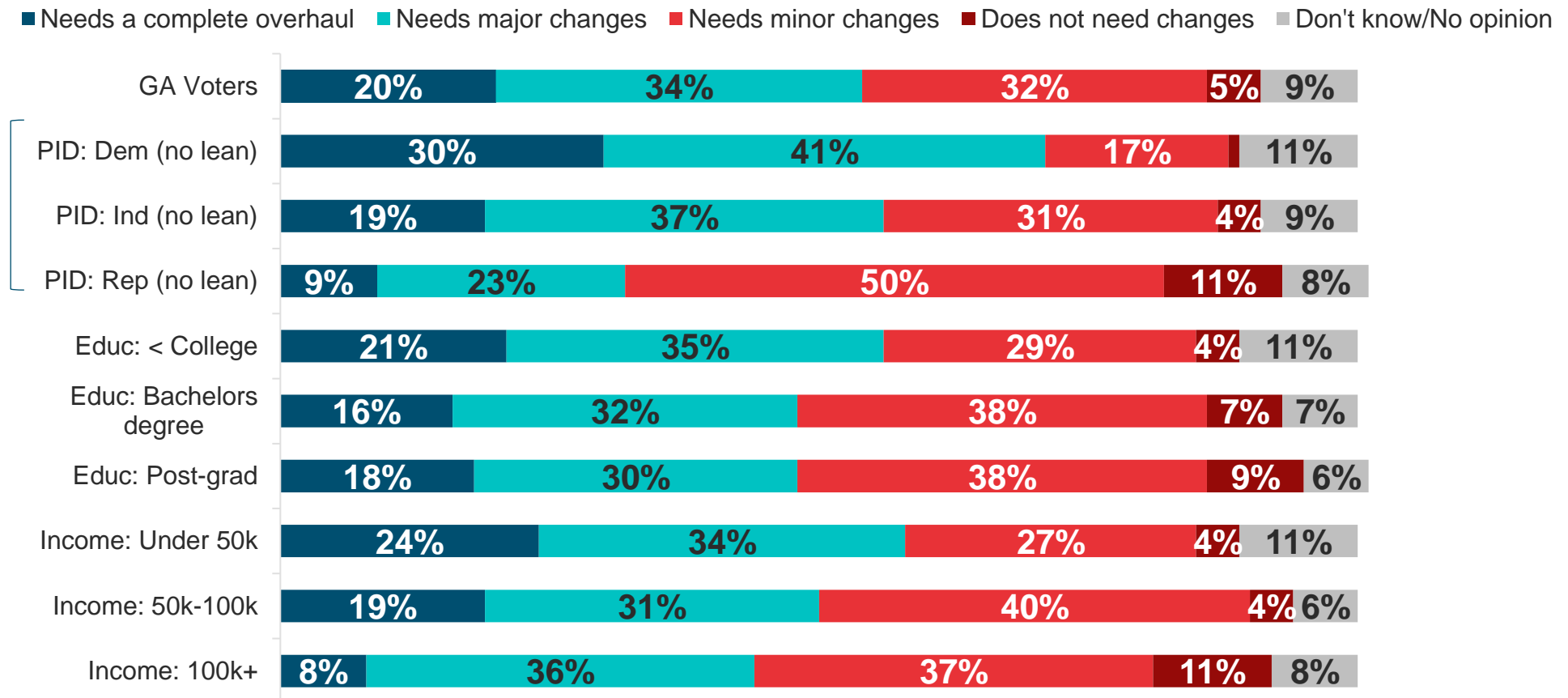
Thinking about the criminal justice system in your state, which of the following comes closest to your view? The criminal justice system in Georgia...



GA VOTERS: SUPPORT FOR CHANGES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Democrat GA voters are twice as likely than Republican GA voters to think the criminal justice system in Georgia needs a complete overhaul or major changes (Dem. 71%, Rep. 31%).

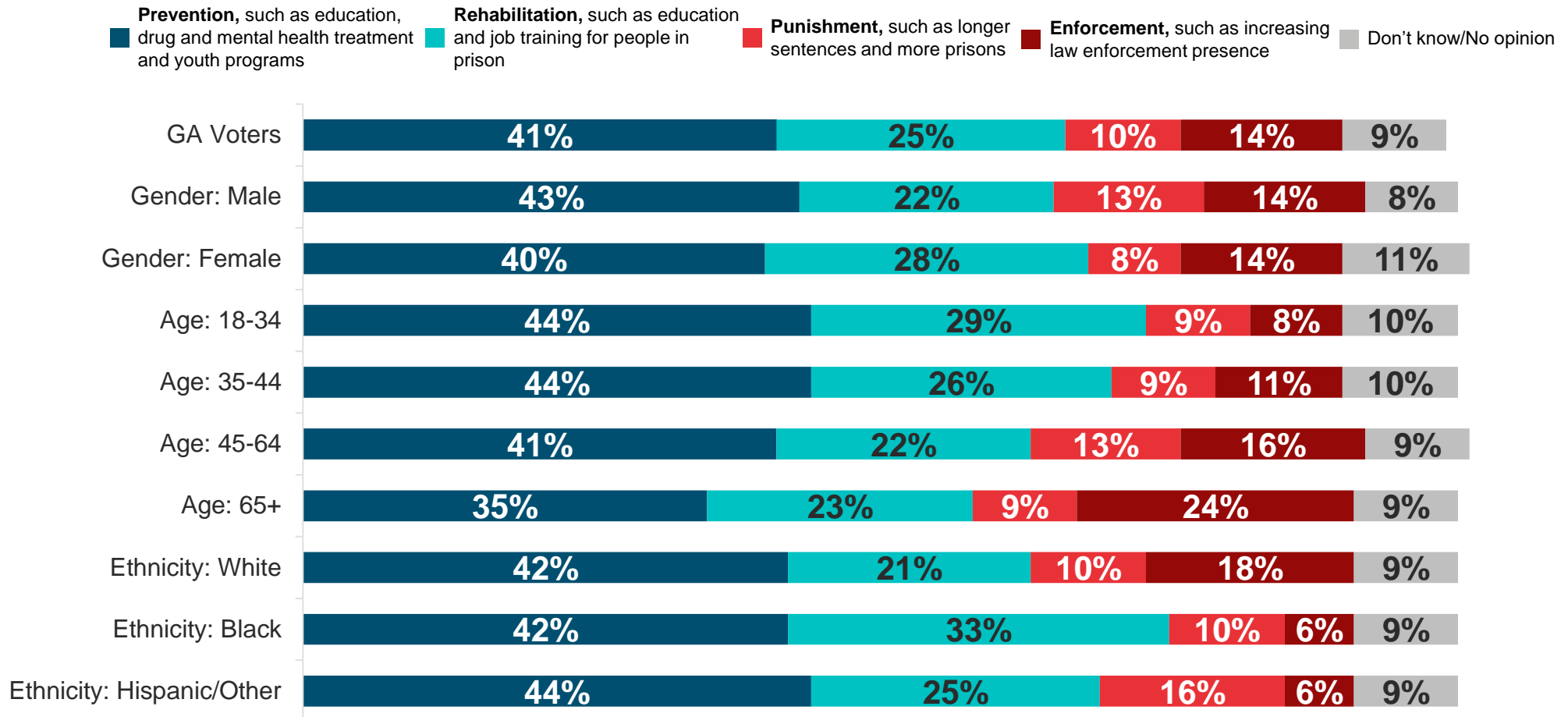
Thinking about the criminal justice system in your state, which of the following comes closest to your view? The criminal justice system in Georgia...



GA VOTERS: SUPPORT FOR CHANGES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

GA voters think prevention (41%) and rehabilitation (25%) should be the top priority for reforming the criminal justice system rather than punishment (10%) or enforcement (14%).

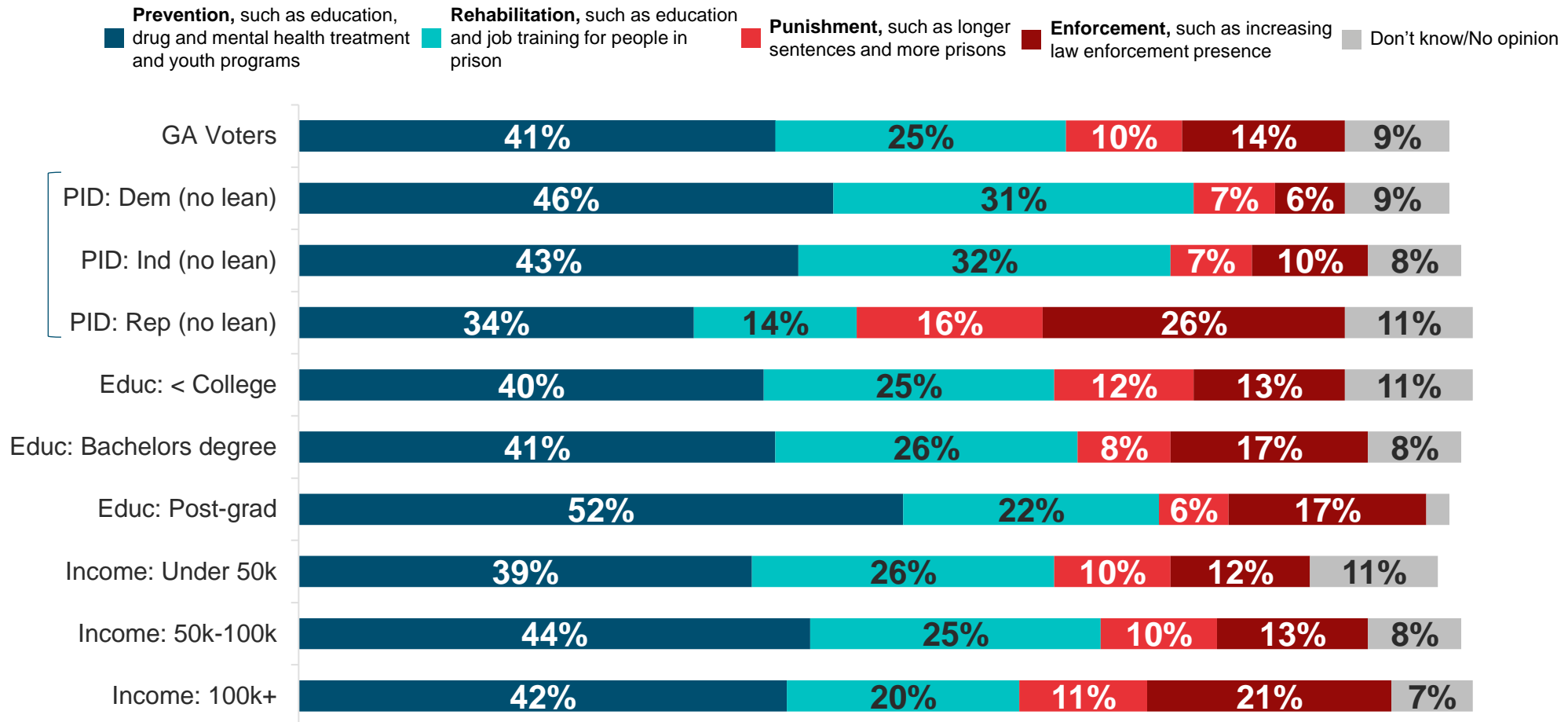
Which of the following should be the top priority for reforming the criminal justice system in Georgia?



GA VOTERS: SUPPORT FOR CHANGES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

A third (34%) of Republican GA voters think prevention should be the top priority for reforming the criminal justice system in Georgia, followed by enforcement (26%).

Which of the following should be the top priority for reforming the criminal justice system in Georgia?

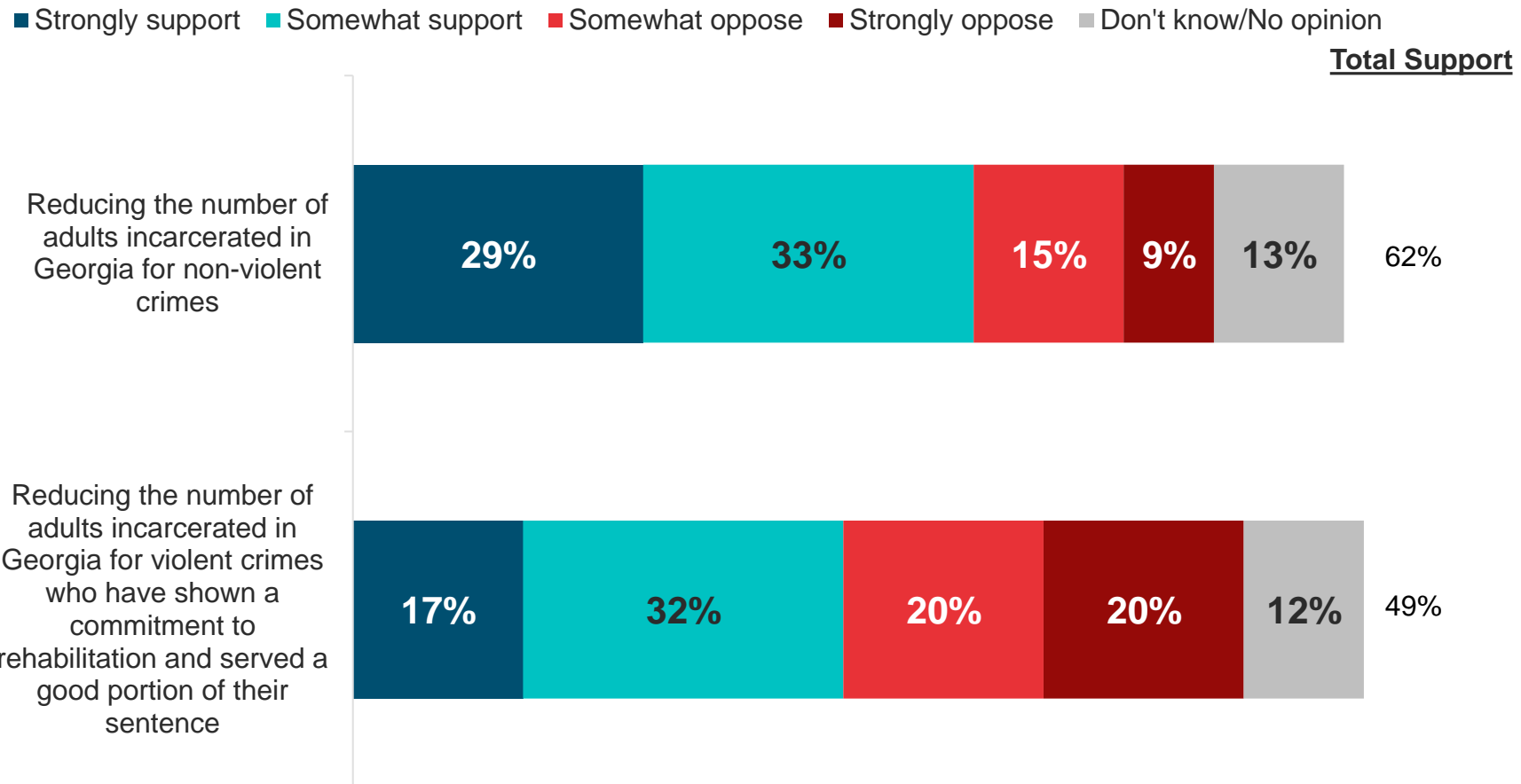


GA VOTERS: SUPPORT FOR CHANGES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

GA voters are more likely to support reducing the number of adults incarcerated for non-violent crimes (62%) than they are to support reducing the number of adults incarcerated for violent crimes who have committed to rehabilitation and served a good portion of their sentence (49%).

Based on what you know, do you support or oppose reducing the number of adults incarcerated in Georgia for non-violent crimes?

Based on what you know, do you support or oppose reducing the number of adults incarcerated in Georgia for violent crimes who have shown a commitment to rehabilitation and served a good portion of their sentence?



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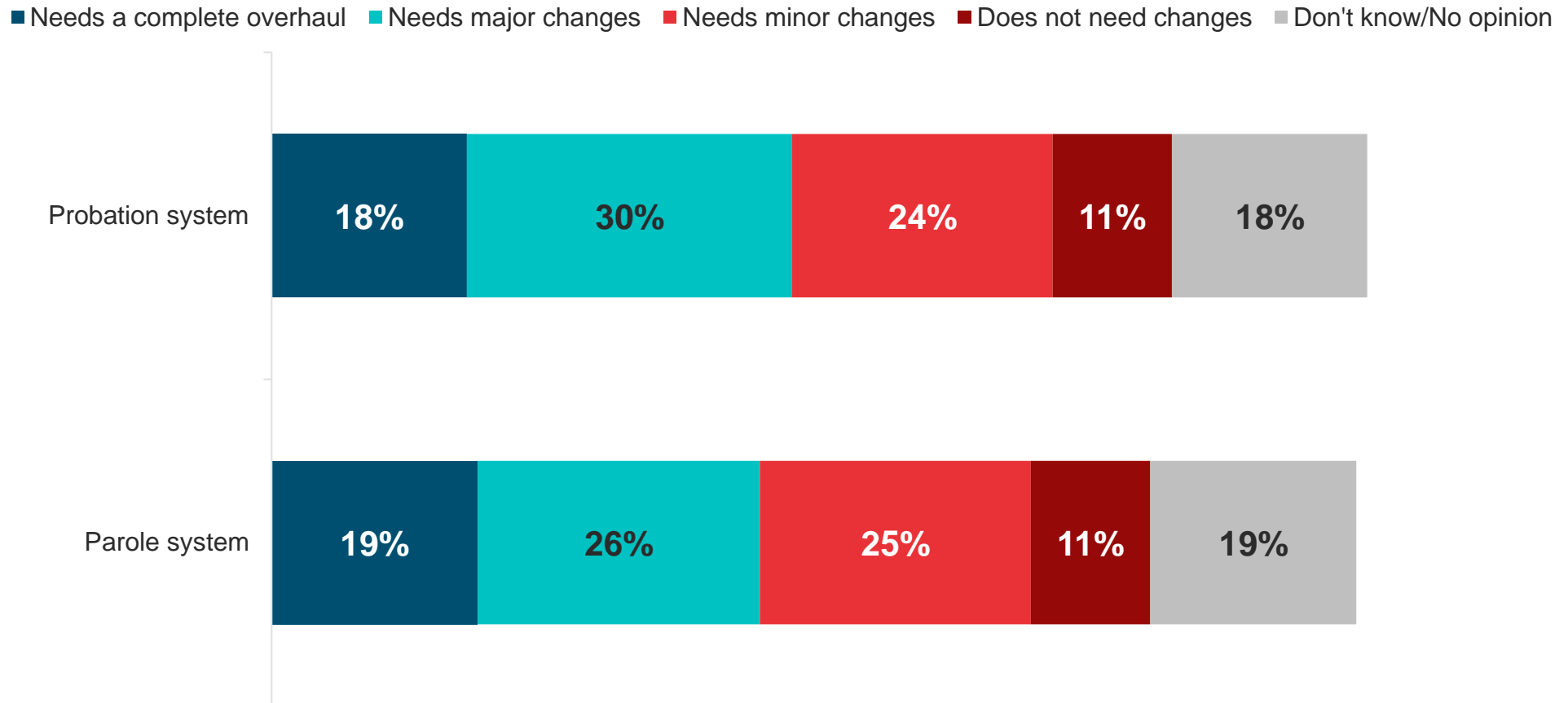
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GA VOTERS: PROBATION & PAROLE POLICY

Nearly half of GA voters think complete or major changes are needed to the probation and parole system in Georgia.

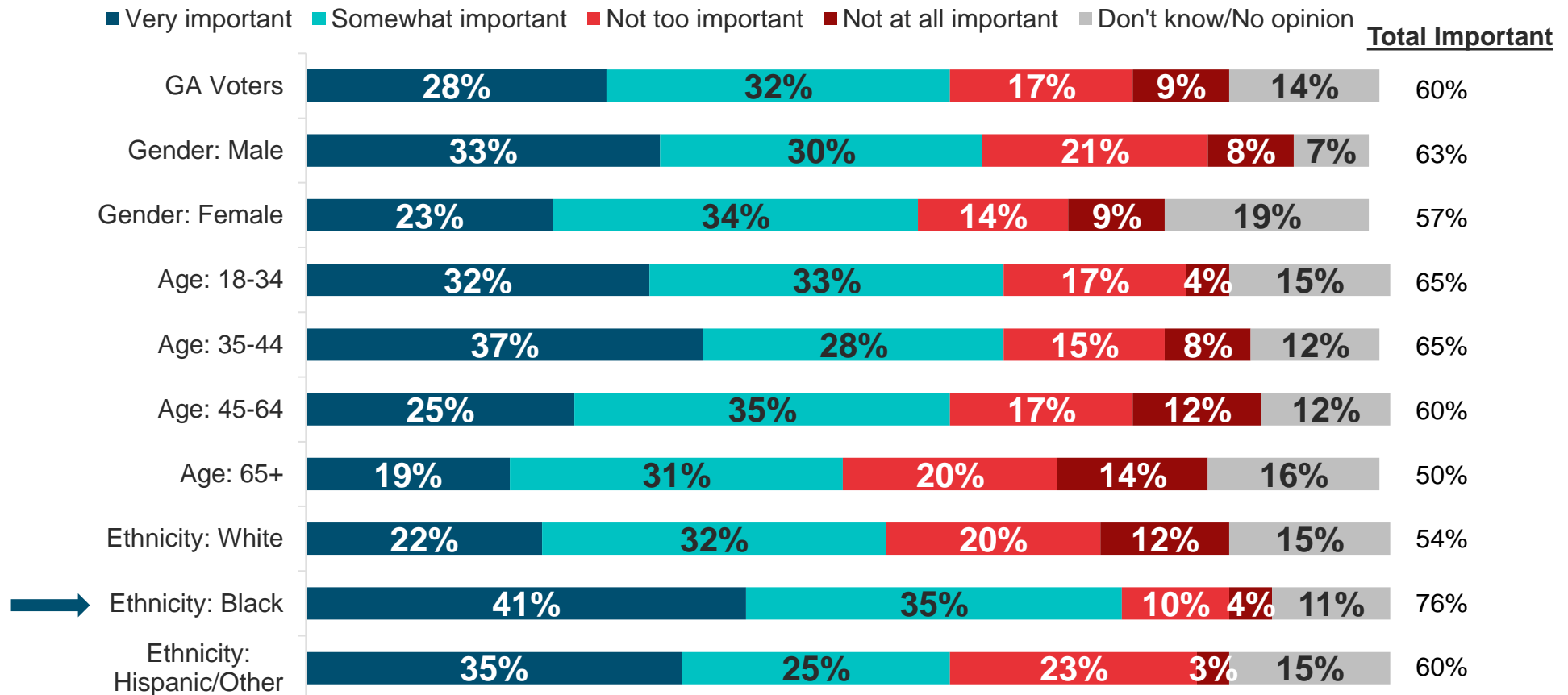
Based on what you know, how much change, if any, is needed to the probation and parole system in Georgia?



GA VOTERS: PROBATION & PAROLE POLICY

After learning that there are currently 4.5 million people under probation or parole supervision in the U.S., 76% of Black GA voters think it is important to reduce the number of people under probation or parole supervision.

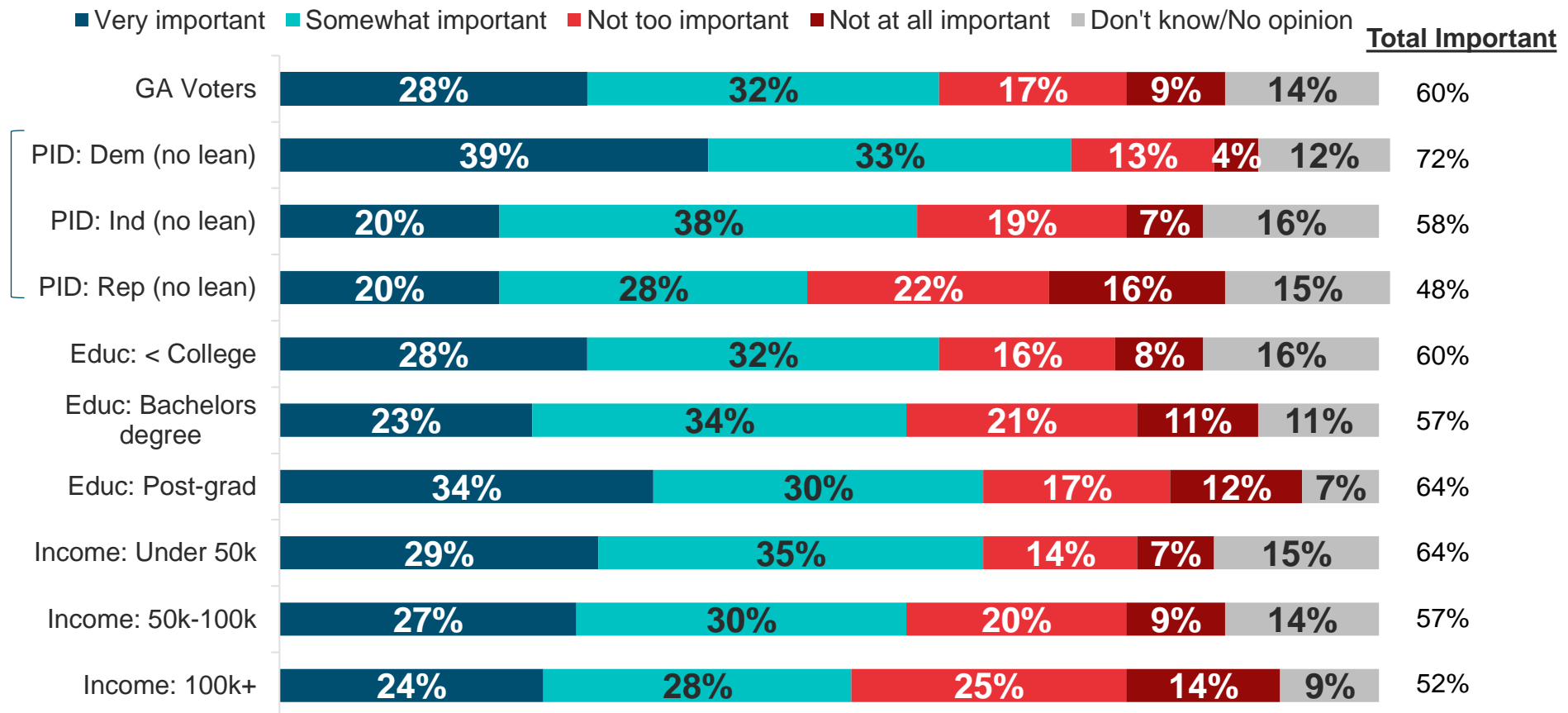
As you may know, there are currently 4.5 million people under probation or parole supervision in the U.S. In your opinion, how important, if at all, is it to reduce the number of people under probation or parole supervision in the U.S.?



GA VOTERS: PROBATION & PAROLE POLICY

Democrat GA voters are more likely than Republican GA voters to think it is important to reduce the number of people under supervision (Dem. 72%, Rep. 48%).

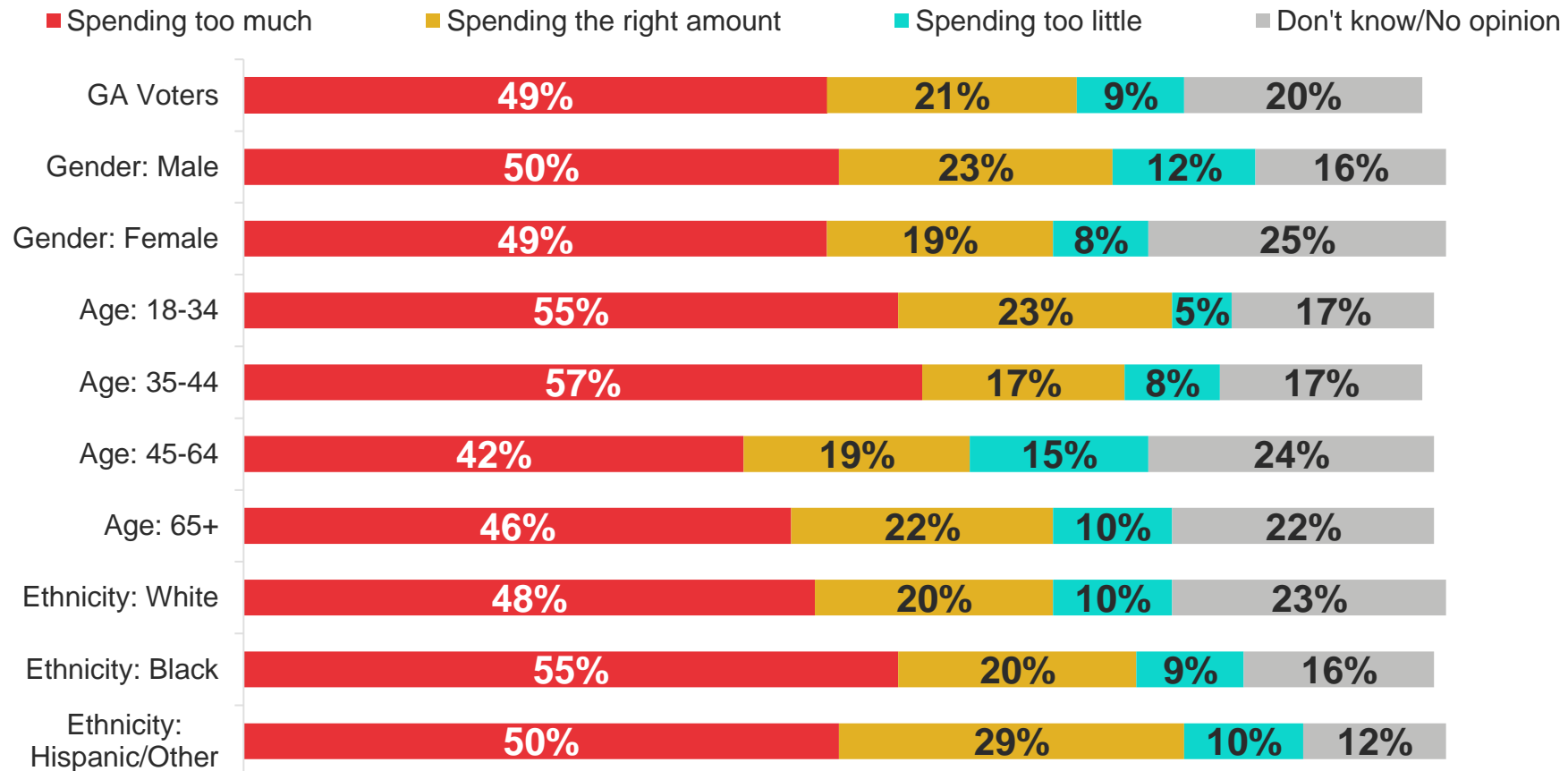
As you may know, there are currently 4.5 million people under probation or parole supervision in the U.S. In your opinion, how important, if at all, is it to reduce the number of people under probation or parole supervision in the U.S.?



GA VOTERS: PROBATION & PAROLE POLICY

After learning the amount the U.S. spends on incarcerating people for violating the conditions of their probation or parole, half of GA voters (49%) think the U.S. is spending too much on this. Younger GA voters specifically think this is too much spending.

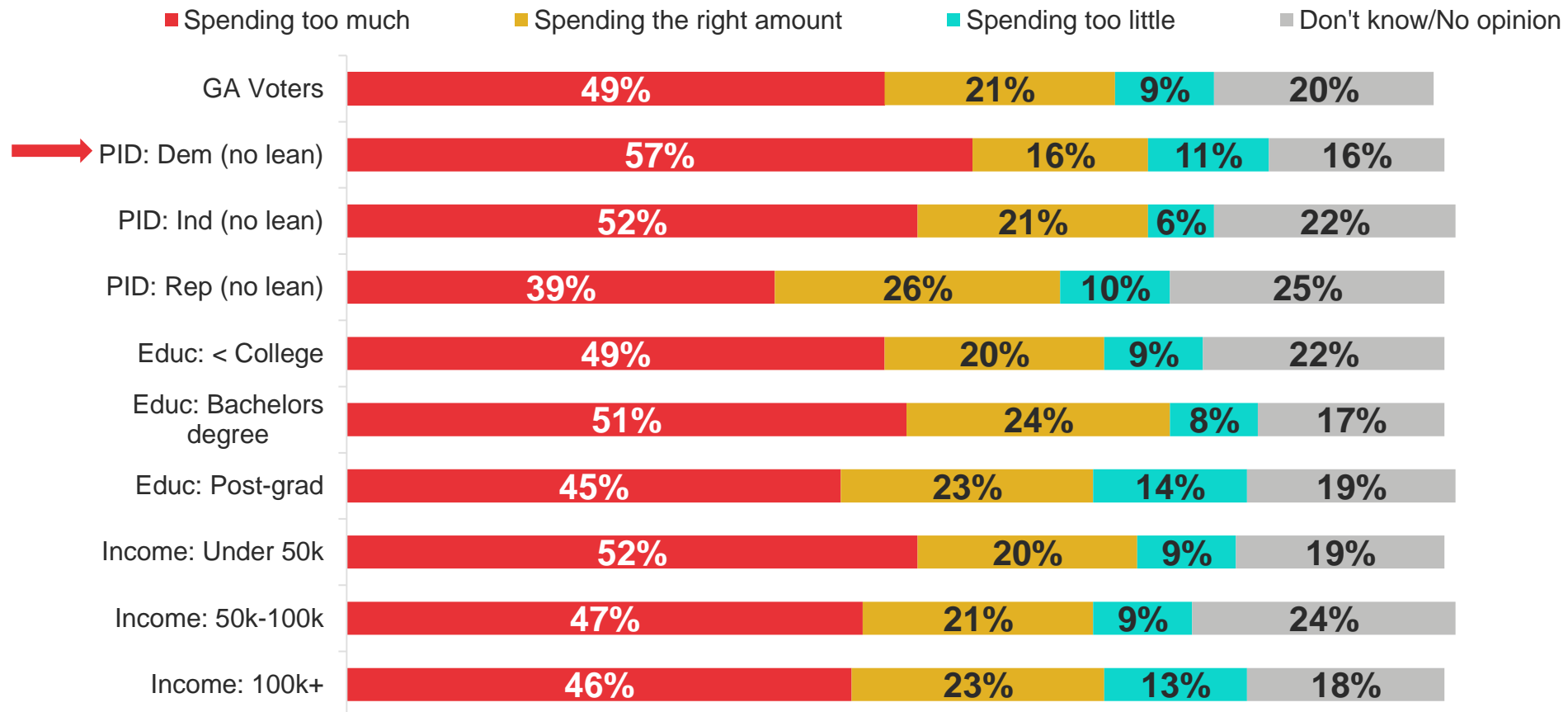
As you may know, currently the U.S. spends roughly \$9.3 billion each year incarcerating people for violating the conditions of their probation or parole. Based on what you know, is the U.S. spending too much, too little, or the right amount on incarcerating people for violating the conditions of their probation or parole?



GA VOTERS: PROBATION & PAROLE POLICY

And a majority of Democrat GA voters (57%) think this is too much spending on incarcerating people for violating the conditions of their probation or parole.

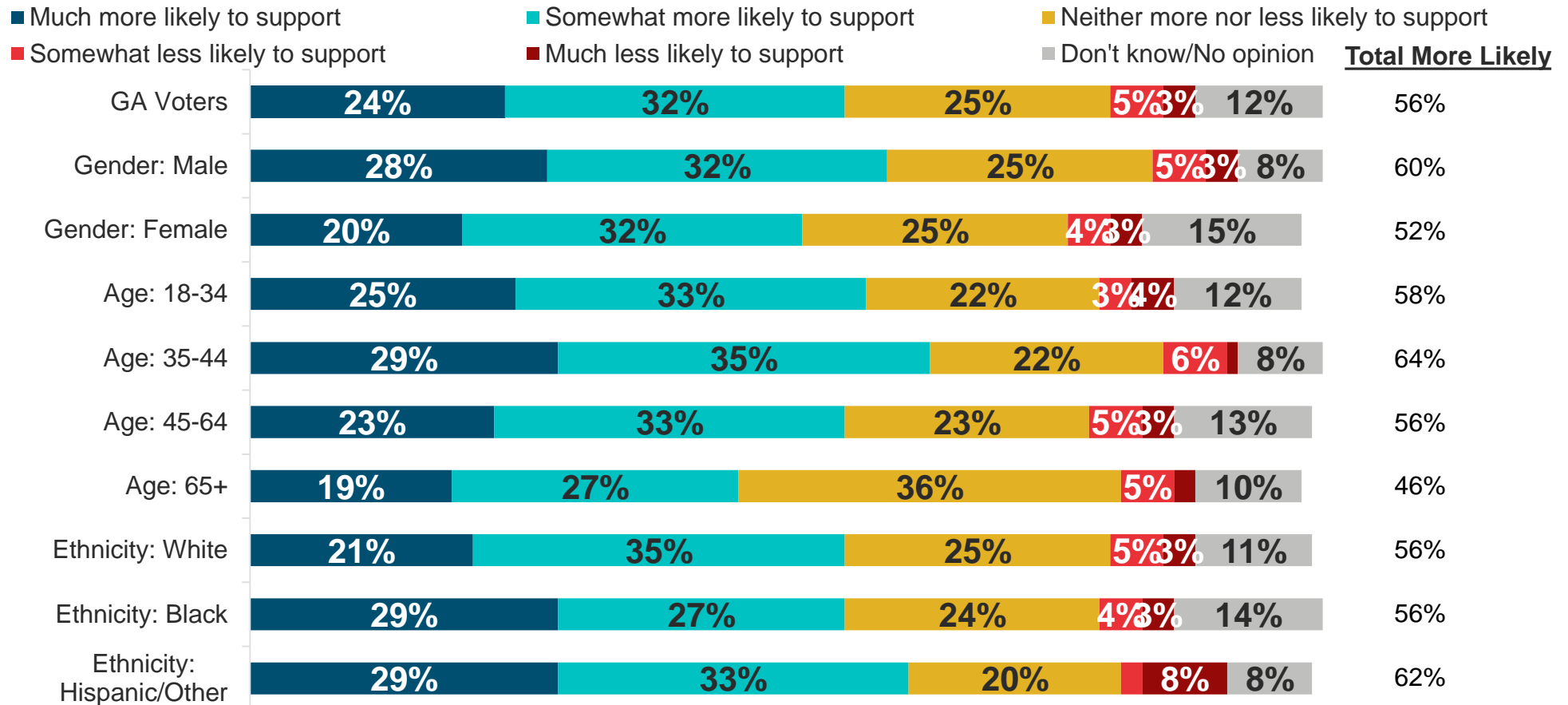
As you may know, currently the U.S. spends roughly \$9.3 billion each year incarcerating people for violating the conditions of their probation or parole. Based on what you know, is the U.S. spending too much, too little, or the right amount on incarcerating people for violating the conditions of their probation or parole?



GA VOTERS: PROBATION & PAROLE POLICY

Over half of GA voters (56%) would be more likely to support a public official who wants to reform the probation and parole system, with support being highest among 34-44 year olds.

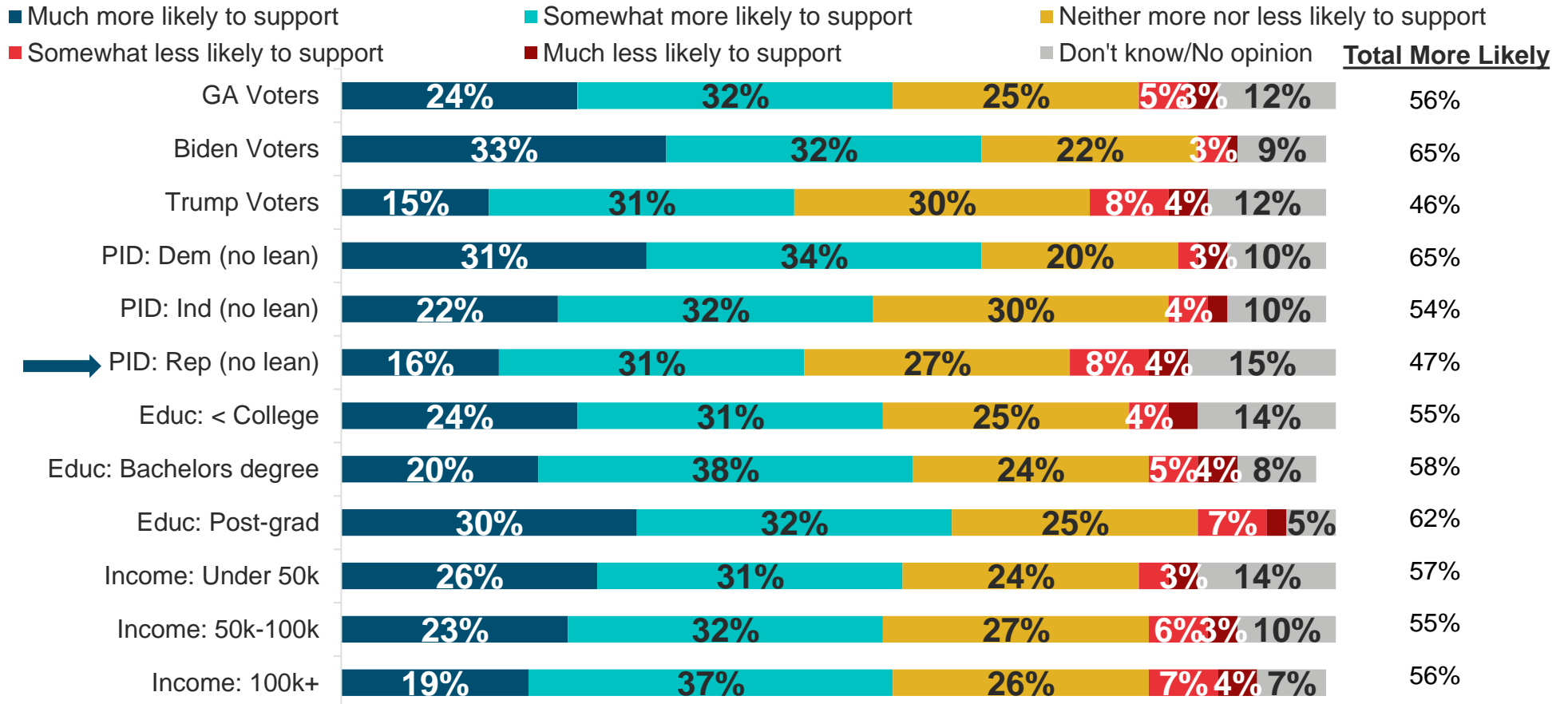
Thinking about your vote, would you be more or less likely to support a state or federal public official who wants to reform the probation and parole system, or would it have no impact either way?



GA VOTERS: PROBATION & PAROLE POLICY

Nearly half of GA Republican voters (47%) would be more likely to support a public official who wants to reform the probation and parole system.

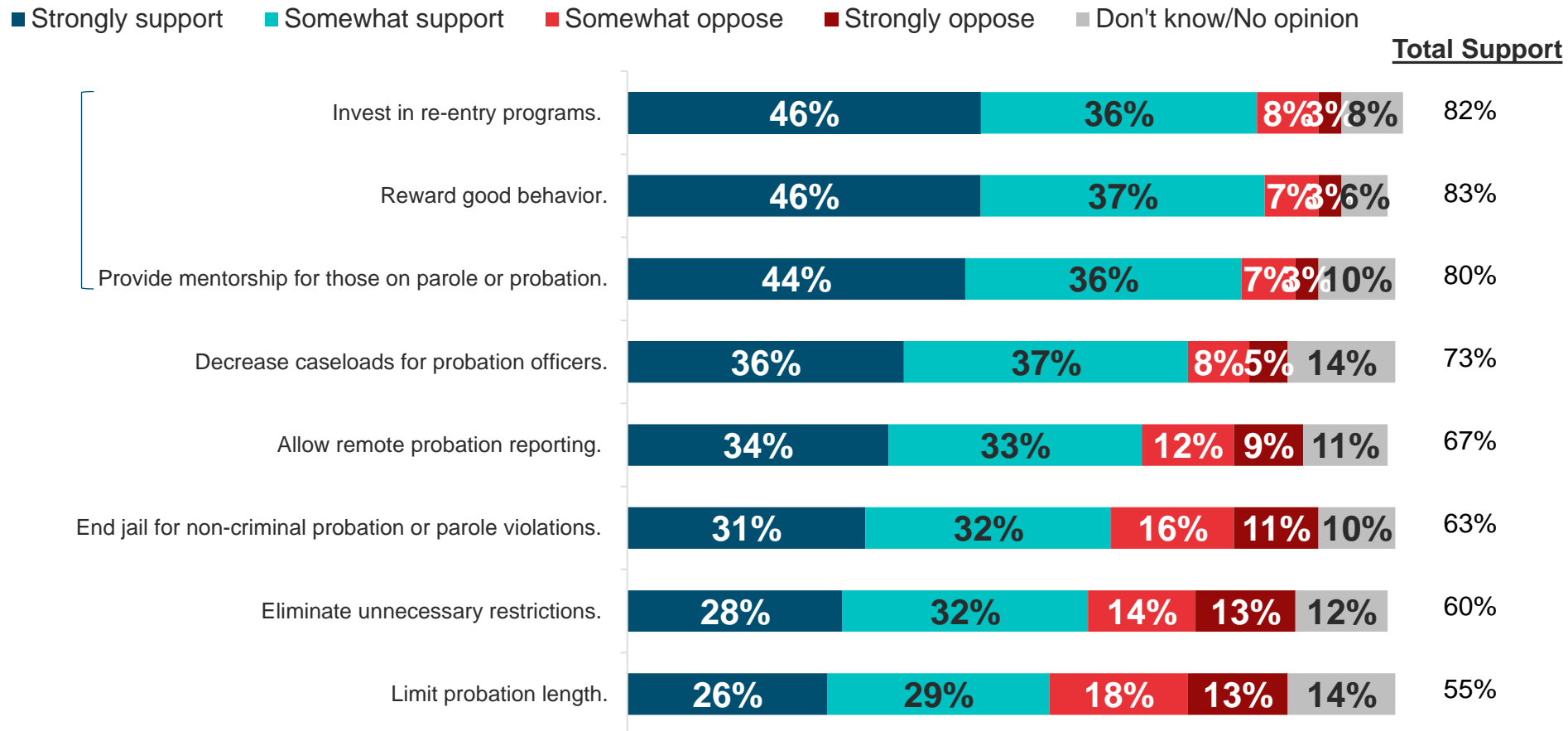
Thinking about your vote, would you be more or less likely to support a state or federal public official who wants to reform the probation and parole system, or would it have no impact either way?



GA VOTERS: PROBATION & PAROLE POLICY

A majority of GA voters support the tested probation and parole system proposals, with support being highest for investing in re-entry programs (82%), rewarding good behavior (83%), and providing mentorship programs (80%).

Below are proposals that have been made to reform the probation and parole system. Based on what you know, do you support or oppose each of the following proposals?



GA VOTERS: PROBATION & PAROLE POLICY

A bipartisan majority of GA voters support allowing remote probation reporting (Dem. 75%, Rep. 59%) and decreasing caseloads for probation officers (Dem. 79%, Rep. 66%).

Below are proposals that have been made to reform the probation and parole system. Based on what you know, do you support or oppose each of the following proposals?

Total Support* Of Probation & Parole Proposals				
	Limit probation length. Limit the length of time people can be sentenced to one year for misdemeanors and two years for felonies.	End jail for non-criminal probation or parole violations. Stop incarcerating individuals who have committed a non-criminal violation of their parole or probation, such as failing to notify their probation officer of an address change.	Allow remote probation reporting. Use technology for remote check-ins with probation officers so that people on probation do not have to disrupt their work, childcare, or other responsibilities to meet the terms of their probation.	Decrease caseloads for probation officers. Decrease caseloads in order for probation officers to spend more time focusing on tailored supervision plans that better meet the needs of the people on their caseload.
GA Voters	55%	63%	67%	73%
PID: Dem (no lean)	67%	74%	75%	76%
PID: Ind (no lean)	55%	66%	68%	76%
PID: Rep (no lean)	41%	49%	59%	69%

*Total support= strongly support + somewhat support

GA VOTERS: PROBATION & PAROLE POLICY

And, a bipartisan majority of GA voters support providing mentorship (Dem. 81%, Rep. 76%), investing in re-entry programs (Dem. 85%, Rep. 76%), and rewarding good behavior (Dem. 87%, Rep. 77%).

Below are proposals that have been made to reform the probation and parole system. Based on what you know, do you support or oppose each of the following proposals?

Total Support* Of Probation & Parole Proposals				
	Provide mentorship program for those on parole or probation. Provide those who are on probation or parole a point of contact who has also been through the process in order to guide them towards successfully completing their sentence.	Invest in re-entry programs. Provide resources to those on probation or parole that help them reenter society more successfully, such as job training and job opportunities, education, mental health services, substance abuse counselors, housing, transportation assistance, parenting classes, financial literacy courses, and trauma workshops.	Eliminate unnecessary restrictions. Eliminate conditions of probation or parole such as restricting travel for those who aren't flight risks or prohibiting people from associating with relatives who may also be on probation or parole.	Reward good behavior. Decrease the length of probation or parole sentences for those who take positive steps such as working toward a degree, finishing a job skills program, performing community service, or completing a drug or alcohol abuse treatment program.
GA Voters	80%	82%	60%	83%
PID: Dem (no lean)	81%	85%	68%	87%
PID: Ind (no lean)	84%	84%	64%	86%
PID: Rep (no lean)	76%	76%	48%	77%

*Total support= strongly support + somewhat support

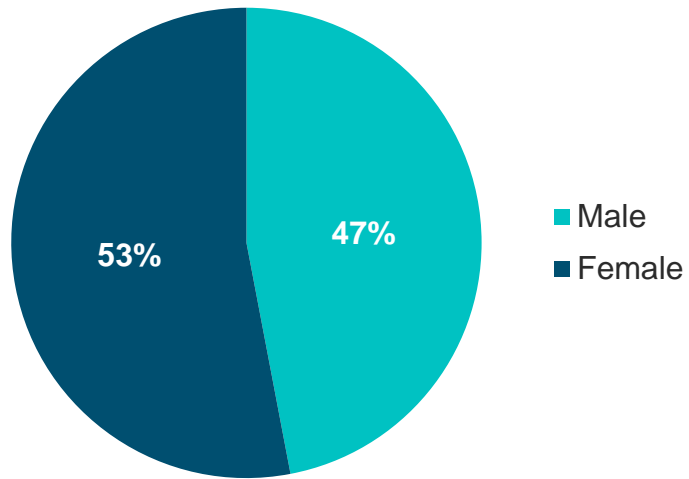
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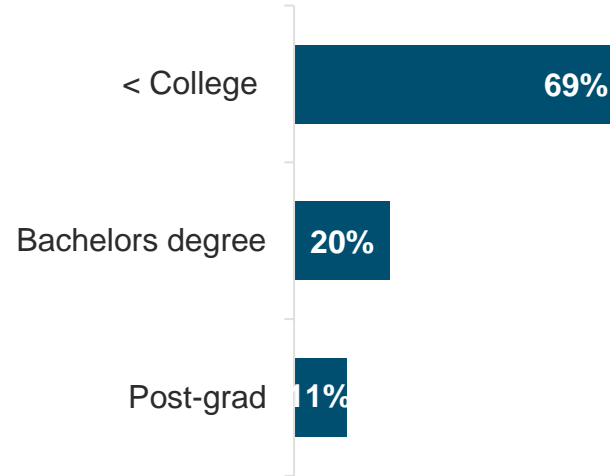
GA VOTERS: RESPONDENT PROFILE

Demographic Information

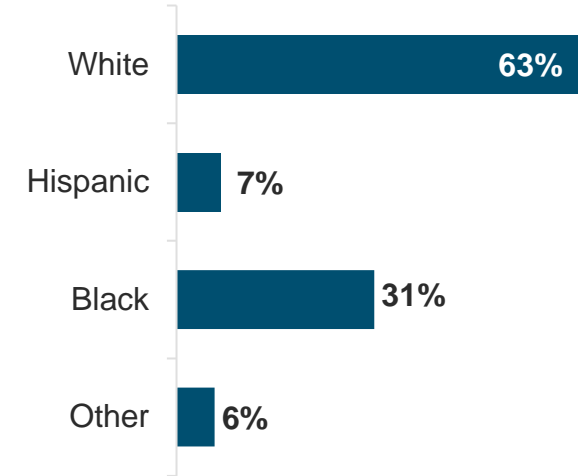
Gender



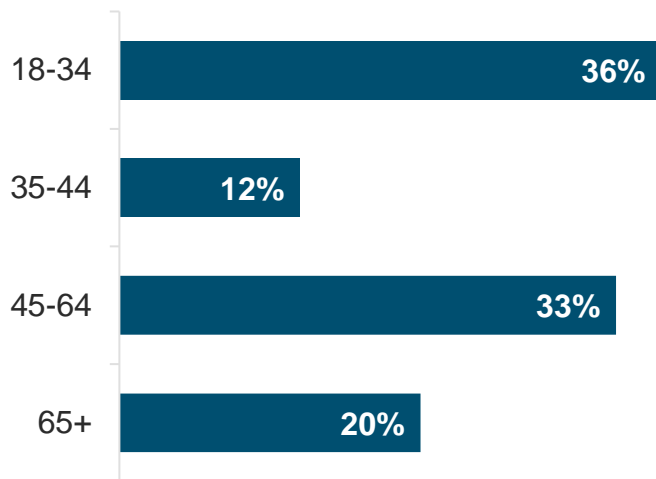
Education



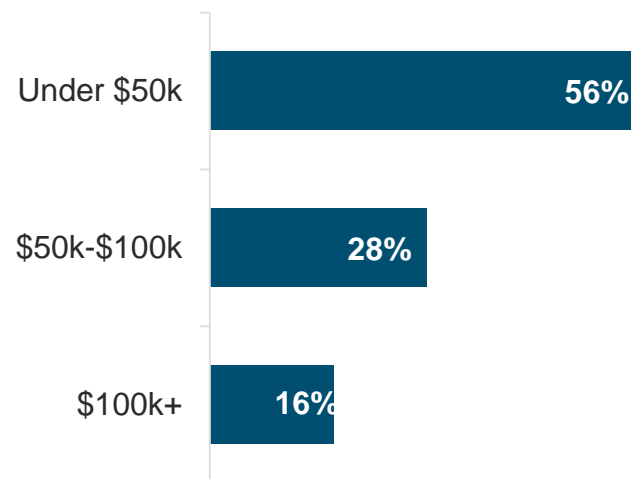
Ethnicity



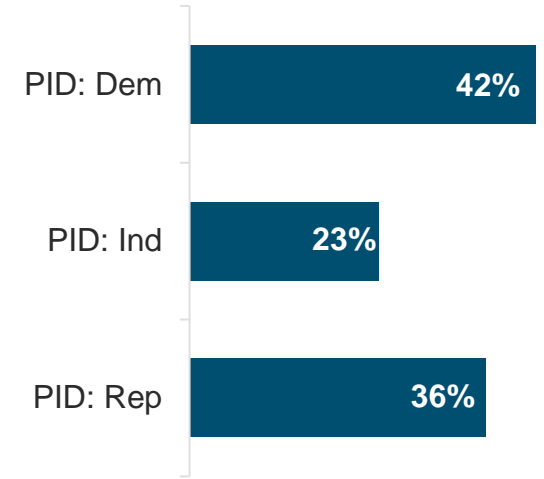
Age



Income



Party ID

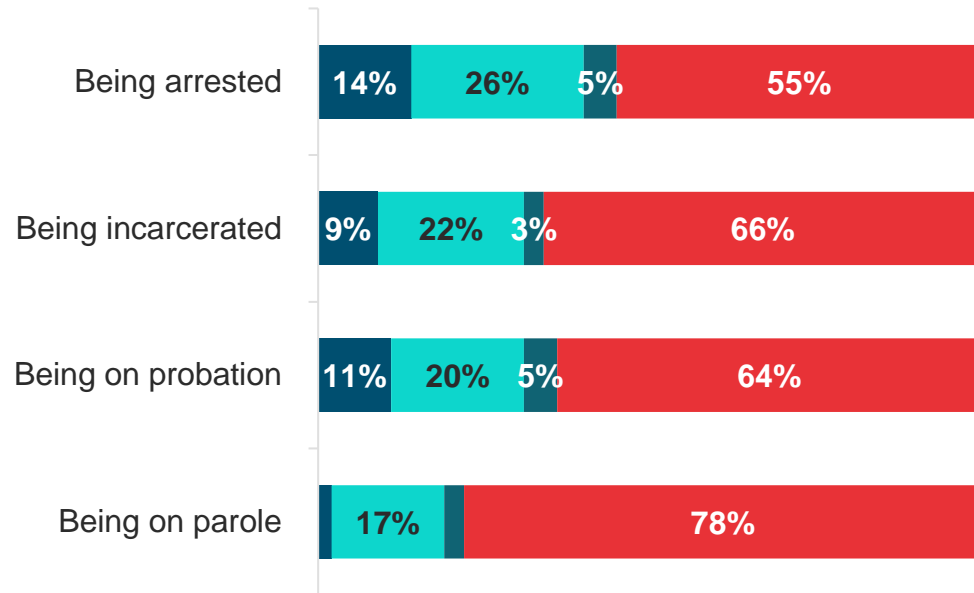


GA VOTERS: RESPONDENT PROFILE

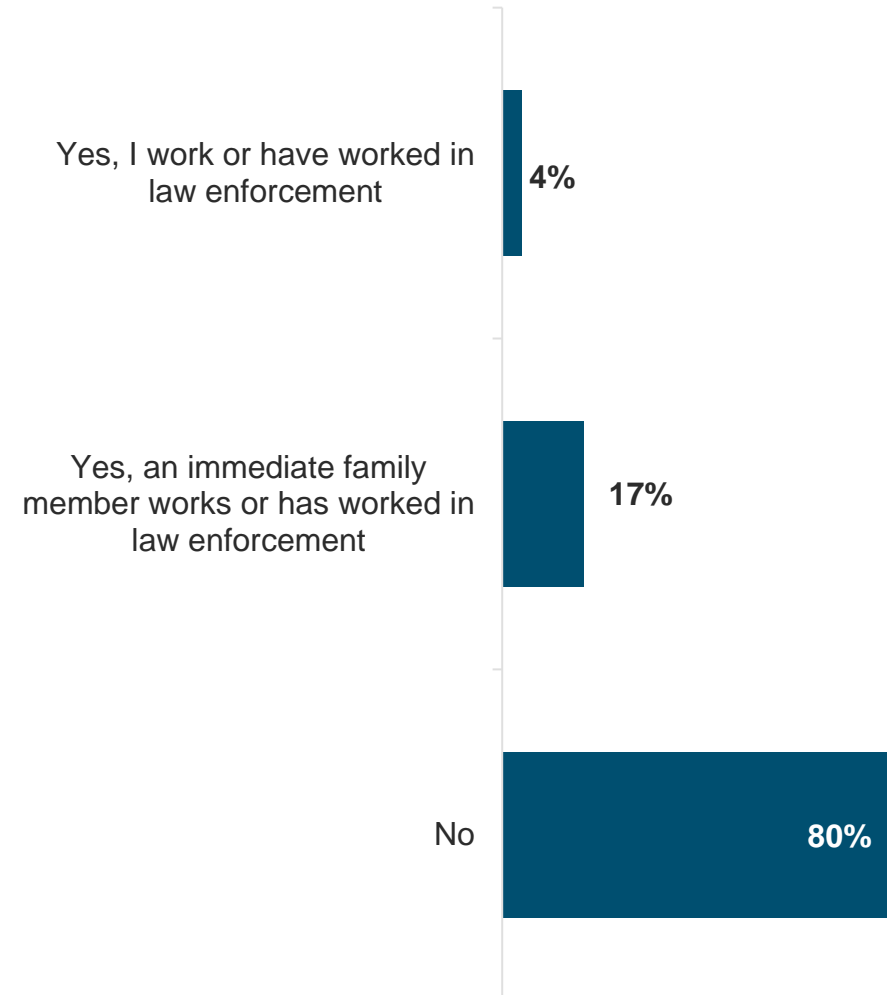
Experience With Criminal Justice System

Have you or a family member experienced any of the following?

- Yes, I have
- Yes, a family member has
- Yes, both myself and a family member have
- No



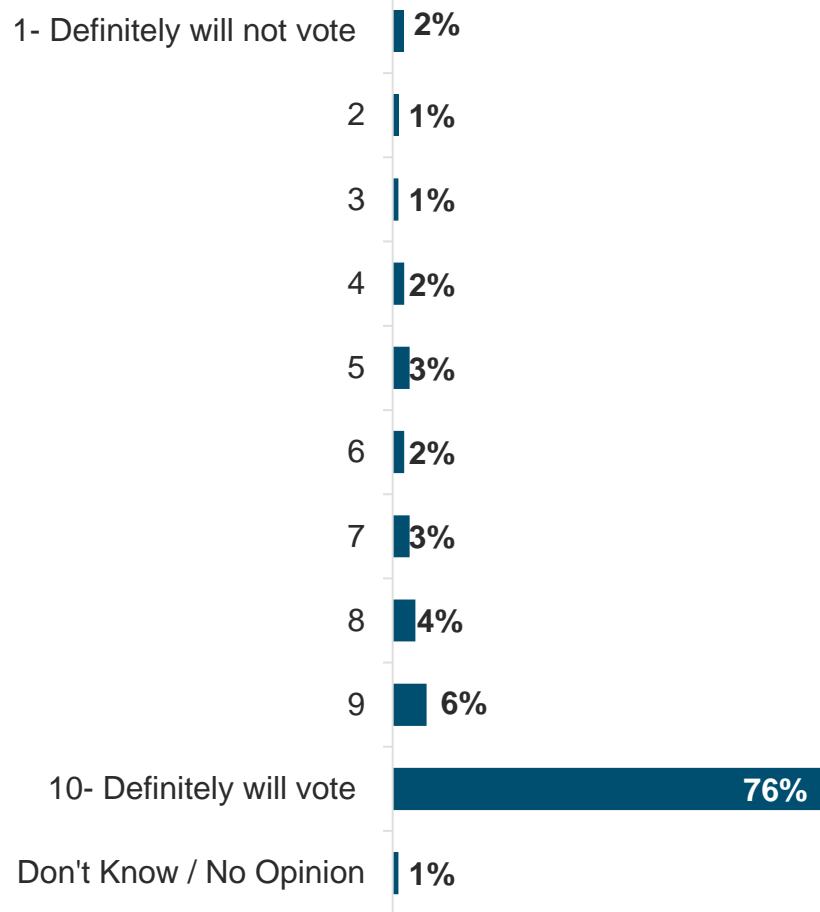
Have you or a family member worked in law enforcement? Please select all that apply.



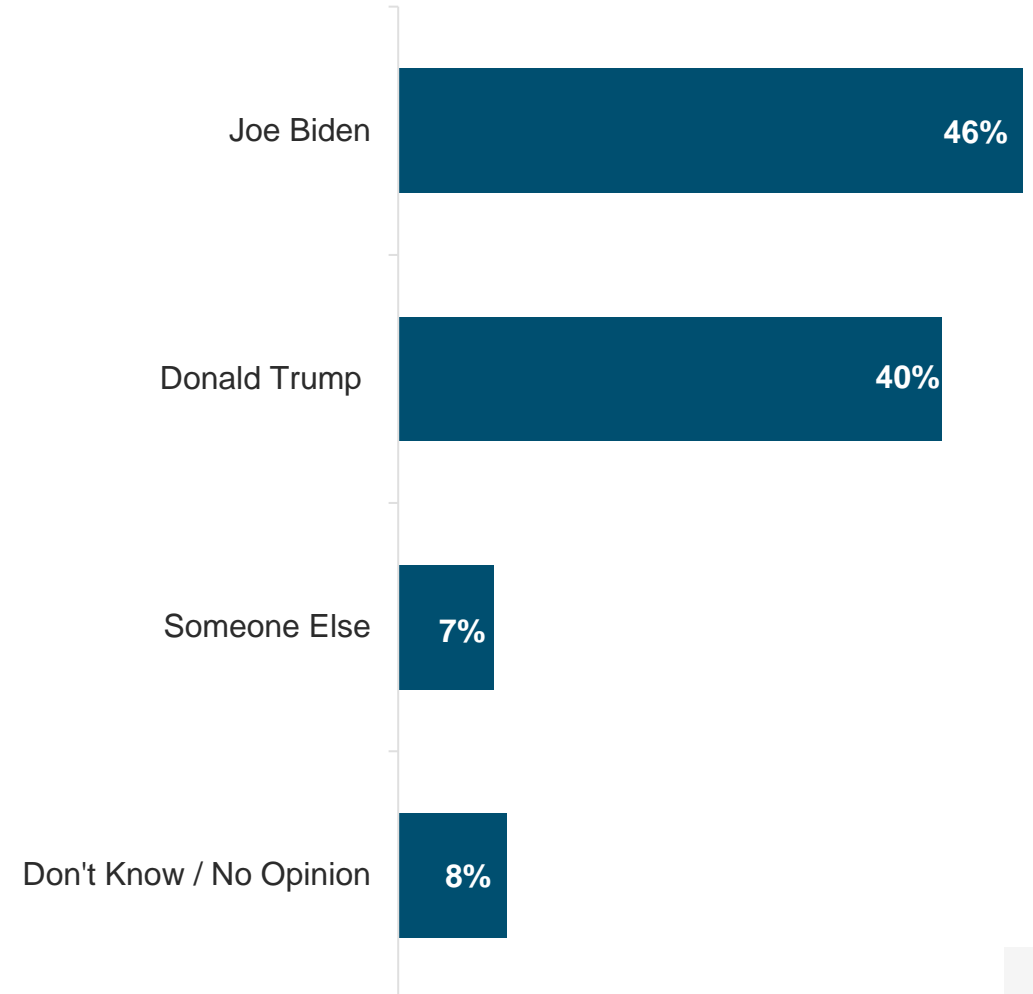
GA VOTERS: RESPONDENT PROFILE

2020 Vote

I'd like you to rate your chances of voting in the November 2020 election for President on a scale of 1 to 10. If 1 represents someone who definitely will not vote and 10 represents someone who definitely will vote, where on this scale of 1 to 10 would you place yourself?



If the November 2020 presidential election were being held today, for whom would you vote?



 **MORNING CONSULT**