

ATTITUDES OF SERBIAN CITIZENS

Public opinion poll
June 2026

*The research on attitudes towards democracy, civic engagement, and social mobilization in Serbia was conducted by CRTA and the Democracy Action Lab (DAL) at Stanford University's Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (CDDRL).
The technical execution of the research was carried out by the agency Pulse Research (PulsR).*

Target population	Adult citizens of the Republic of Serbia (excluding Kosovo)
Sample size	2,324 respondents
Data collection method	Face-to-face (F2F). Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI)
Sample type	Three-stage stratified random sample, representative of the Republic of Serbia (excluding Kosovo)
Strata	Stratification by region (Belgrade, Vojvodina, Šumadija, Western Serbia, Southern Serbia, and Eastern Serbia) and settlement type (urban, rural), with random selection of the sampling unit, household (random route), and respondent (last birthday method).
Post-stratification	By region, settlement type, gender, age, and education
Questionnaire length	30 minutes
Response rate	24%
Margin of error	2.08%
Data collection period	June 10 – 24, 2026

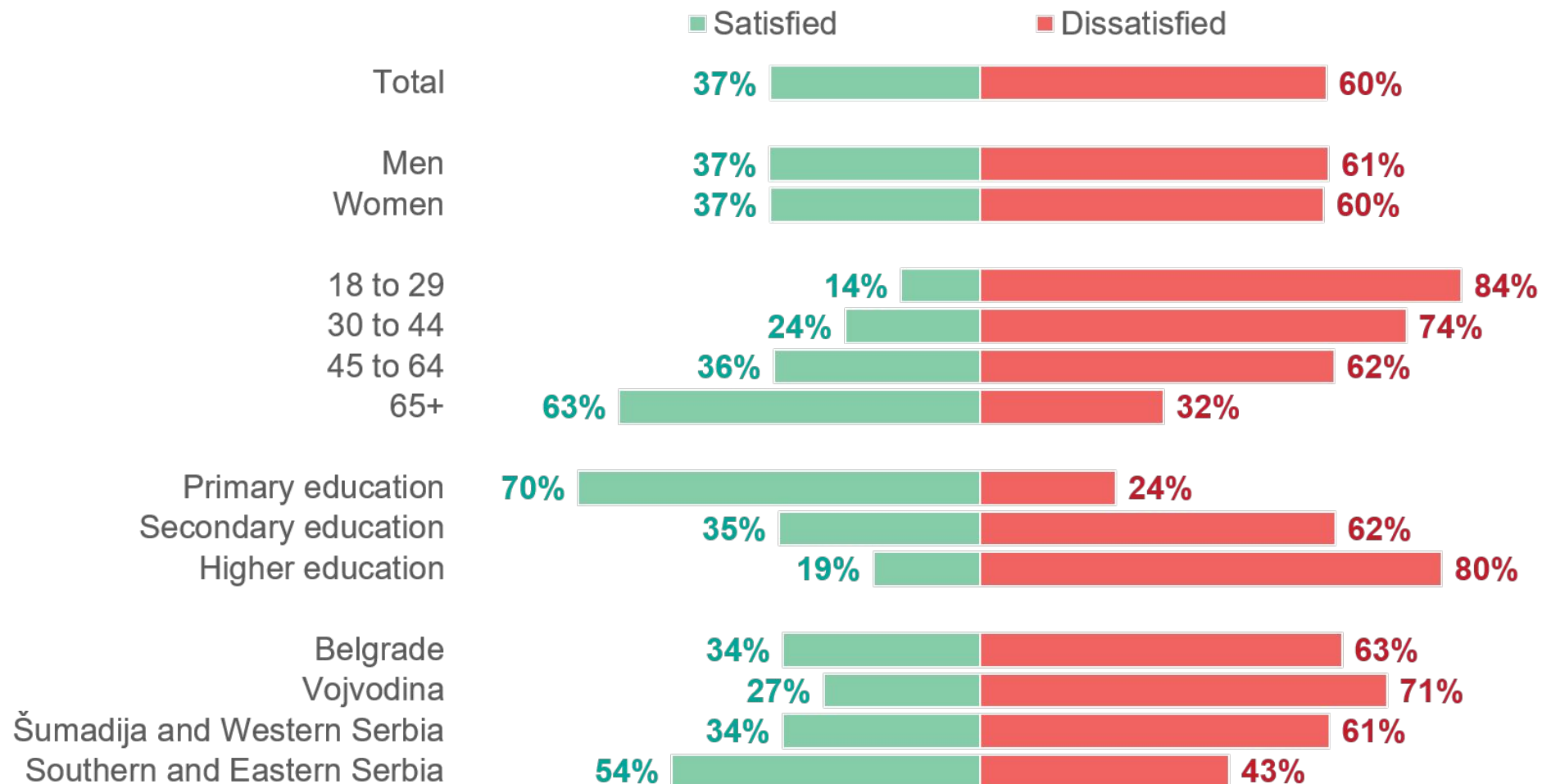
ATTITUDES TOWARD DEMOCRACY

Six in ten citizens are dissatisfied with the functioning of democracy in Serbia



Data from a survey conducted in February 2024 indicate that dissatisfaction with the functioning of democracy is growing. At that time, 39% of citizens stated that they were satisfied, while 55% said they were not satisfied with the functioning of democracy in Serbia.

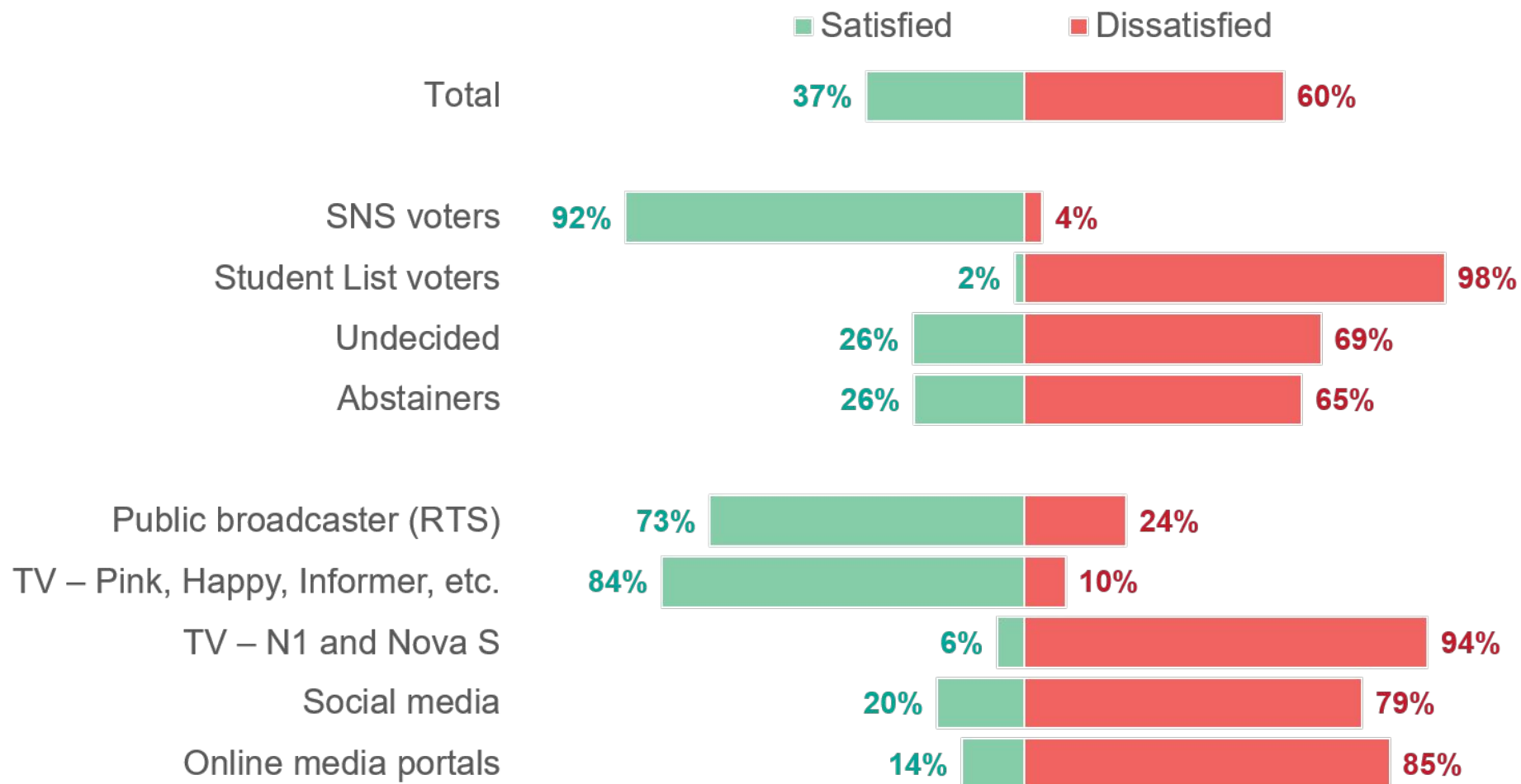
Younger generations and those with higher education are disappointed with the way democracy functions in Serbia



Base: Total population

Question: In general, how satisfied are you with the functioning of democracy in your country?

Assessment of the functioning of democracy in Serbia is perceived as a political issue



Base: Total population

Question: In general, how satisfied are you with the functioning of democracy in your country?

- Democracy is preferable to any other form of government
- For people like me, it makes no difference whether the system is democratic or not
- ▨ Don't know
- In some cases, authoritarian rule may be preferable to democratic rule

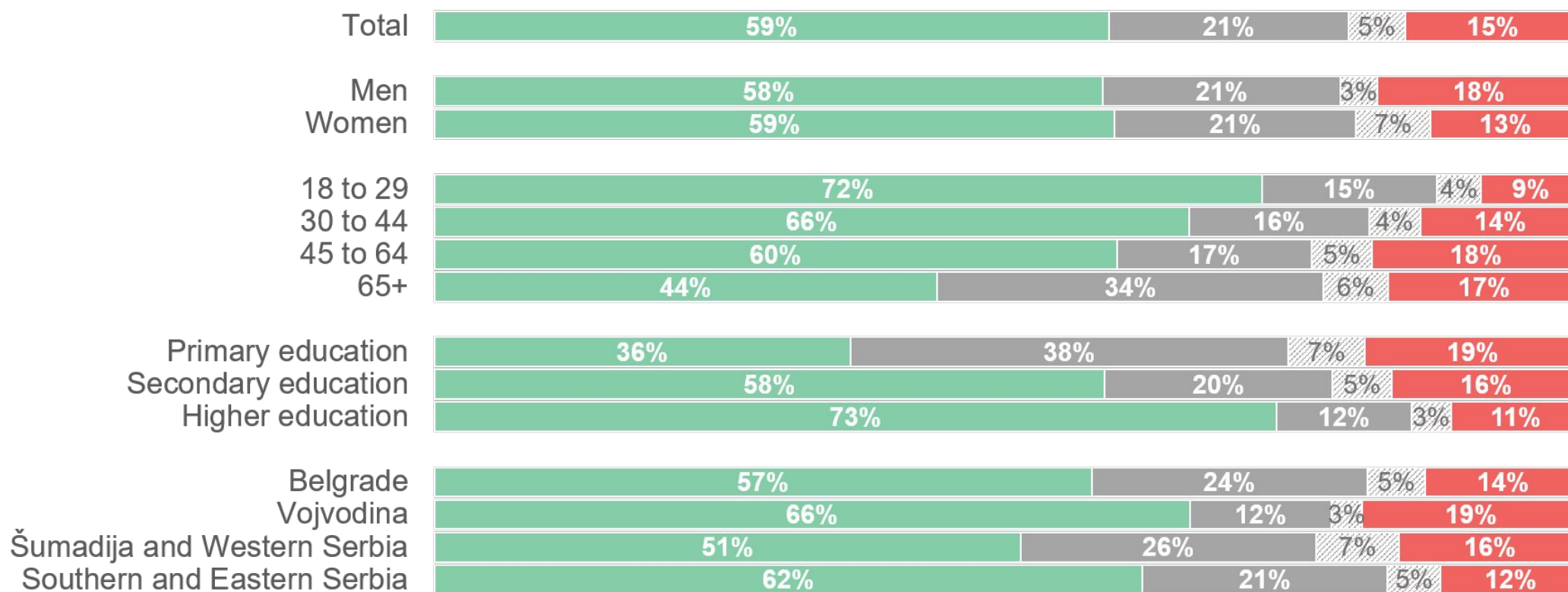


Base: Total population

Question: Which of the following statements do you agree with most?

Commitment to democracy decreases with age and increases with education

- Democracy is preferable to any other form of government
- For people like me, it makes no difference whether the system is democratic or not
- Don't know
- In some cases, authoritarian rule may be preferable to democratic rule

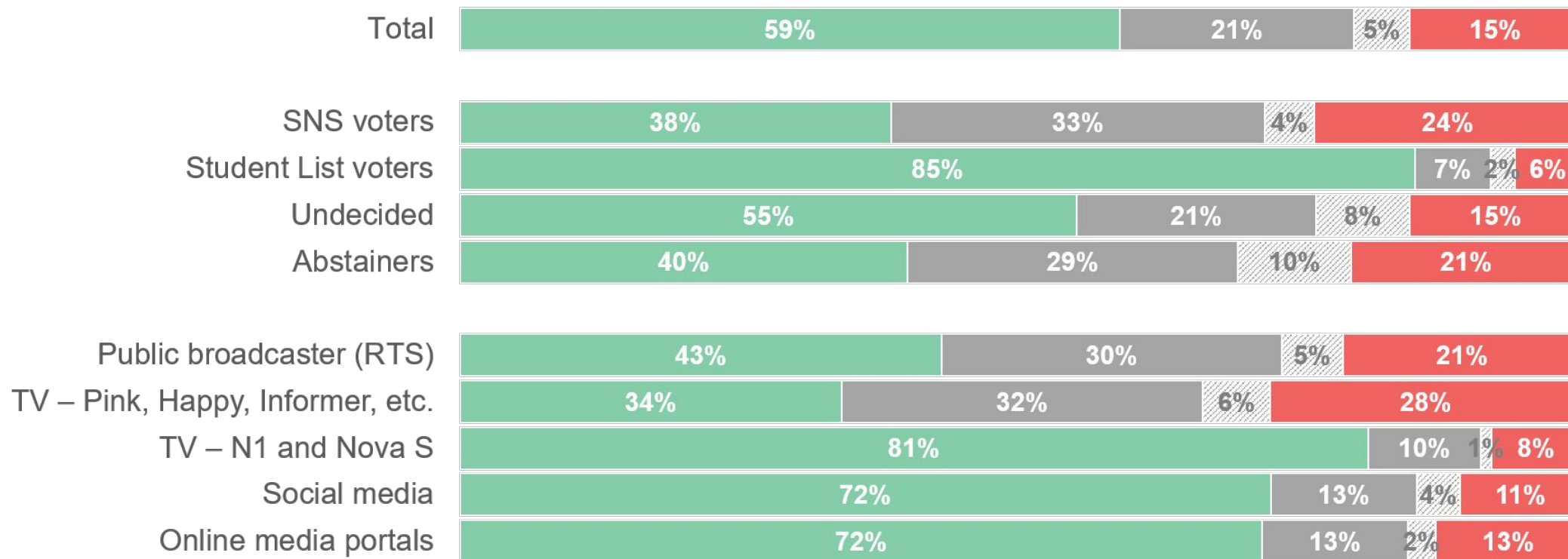


Base: Total population

Question: Which of the following statements do you agree with most?

Widespread lack of interest in democracy among supporters of the ruling parties

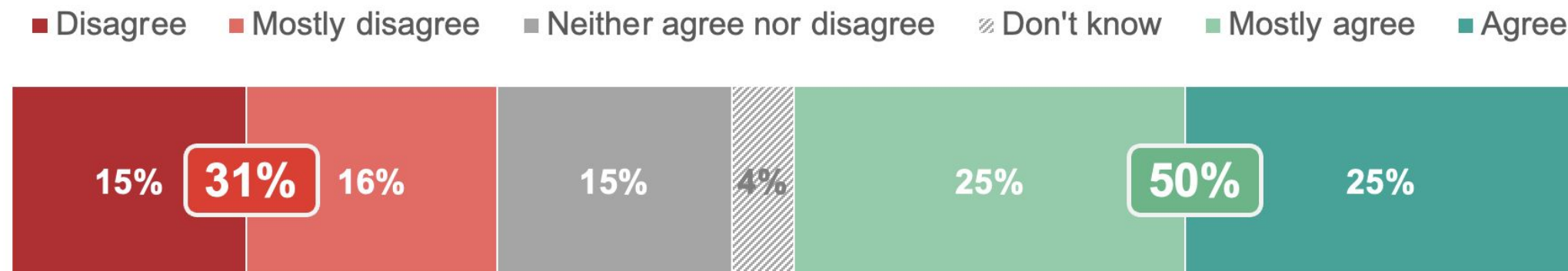
- Democracy is preferable to any other form of government
- For people like me, it makes no difference whether the system is democratic or not
- Don't know
- In some cases, authoritarian rule may be preferable to democratic rule



Base: Total population

Question: Which of the following statements do you agree with most?

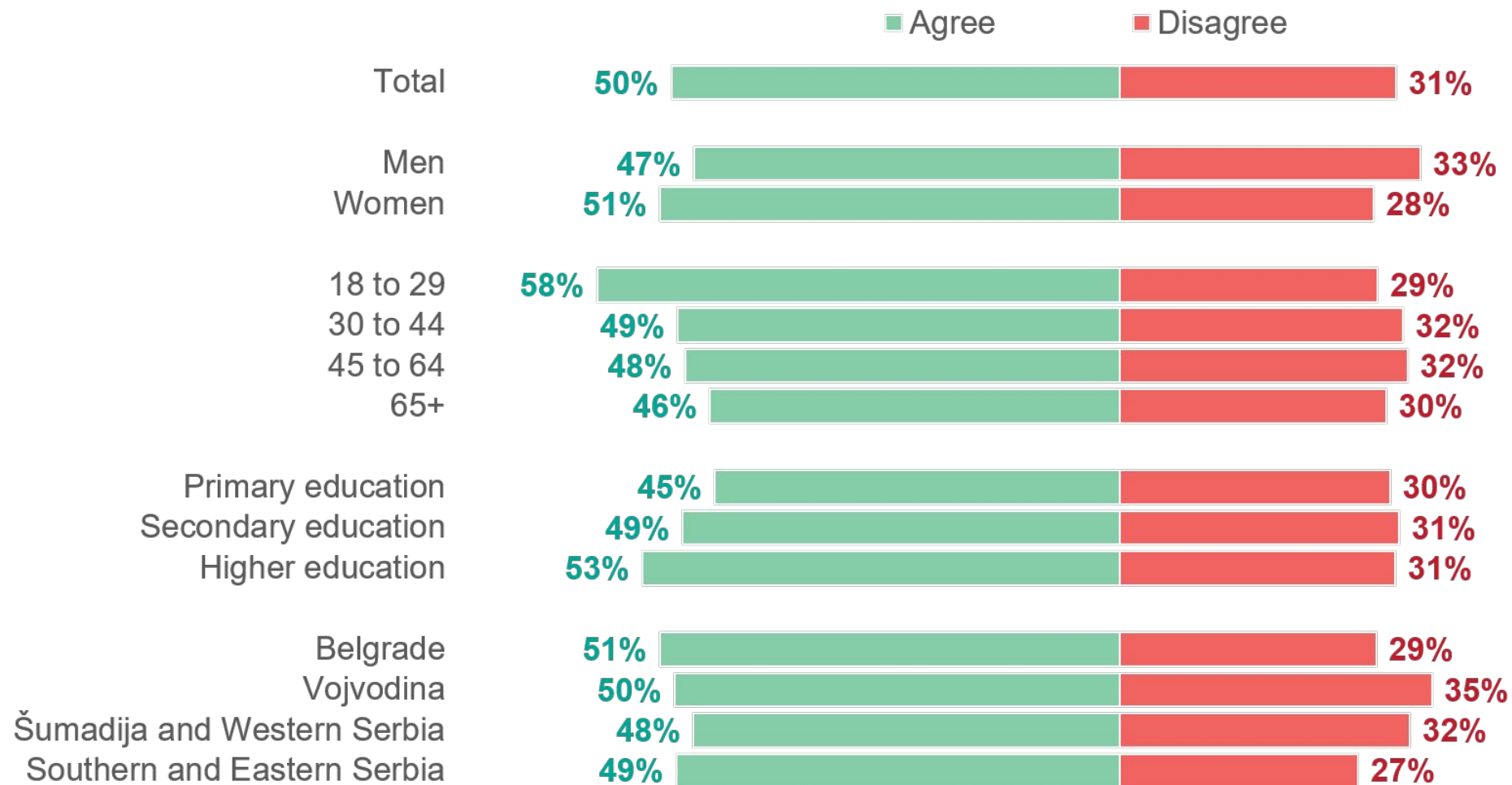
Half of the citizens of Serbia see the importance of democracy in protecting minority rights, even at the cost of limiting the will of the majority



Base: Total population

Question: How much do you agree with the following statements – A real democracy must protect the rights of minorities, even if that limits the will of the majority (originally a seven-point scale)

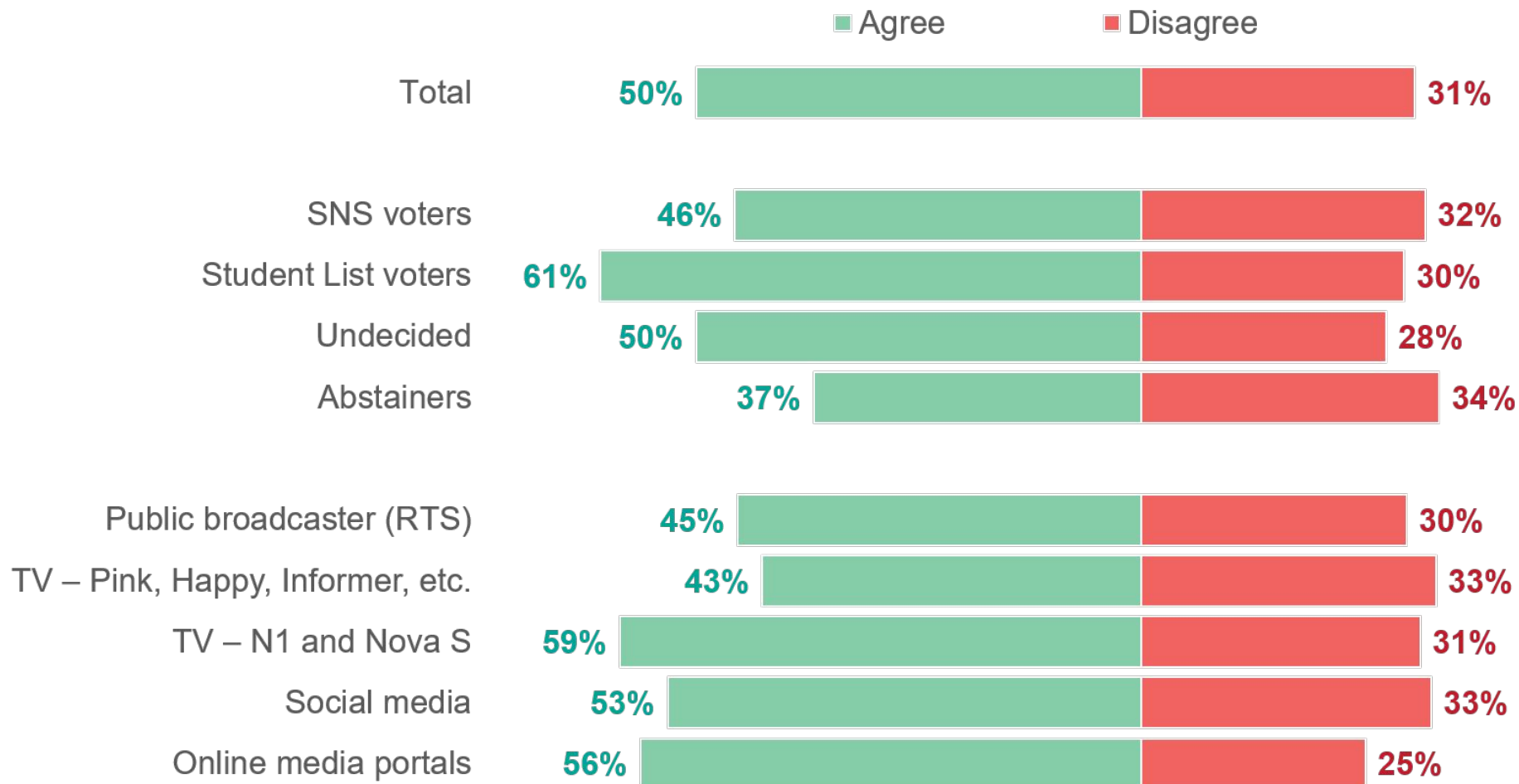
Commitment to democratic values declines again with age and increases with education



Base: Total population

Question: How much do you agree with the following statements – A real democracy must protect the rights of minorities, even if that limits the will of the majority (originally a seven-point scale)

The idea that democracy must protect minority rights is more prevalent among those who vote for the Student List and follow critically oriented media

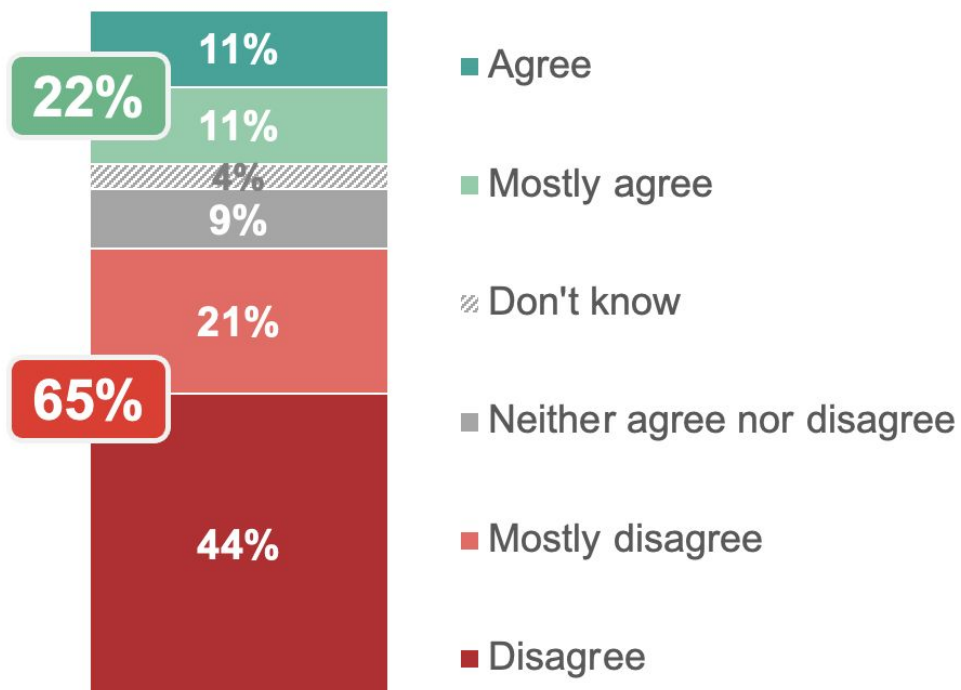


Base: Total population

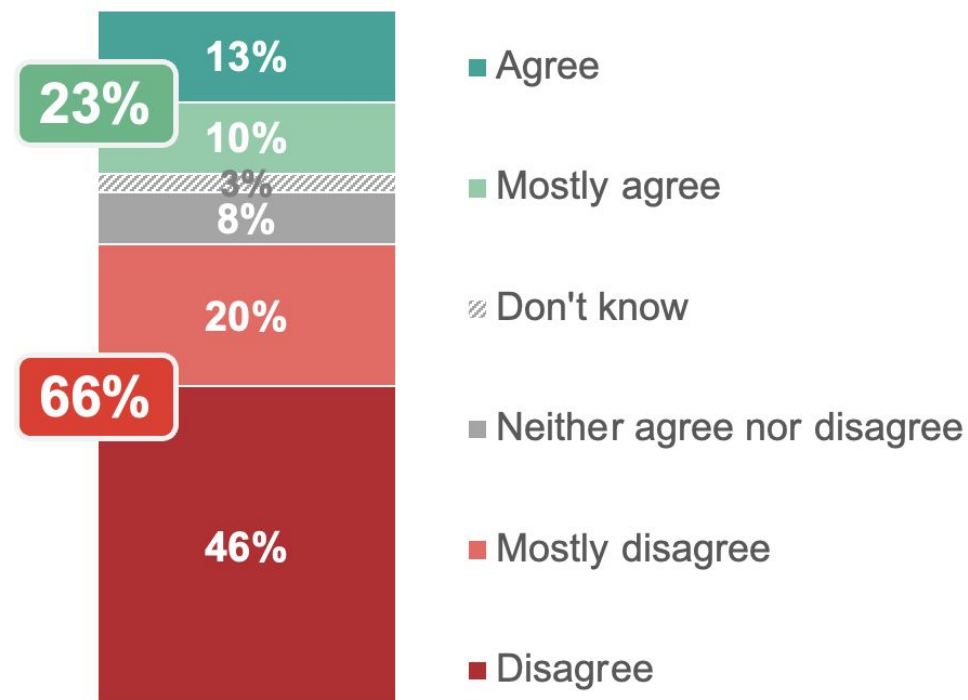
Question: How much do you agree with the following statements – A real democracy must protect the rights of minorities, even if that limits the will of the majority (originally a seven-point scale)

Two-thirds of Serbian citizens believe that the institutions of the government and the President must respect constitutional limits, regardless of the support they enjoy

If a government is very popular and most people want it, it should be able to change any law, including the Constitution.



If a President is very popular and the majority of people want it, there should be no limits to their re-election.



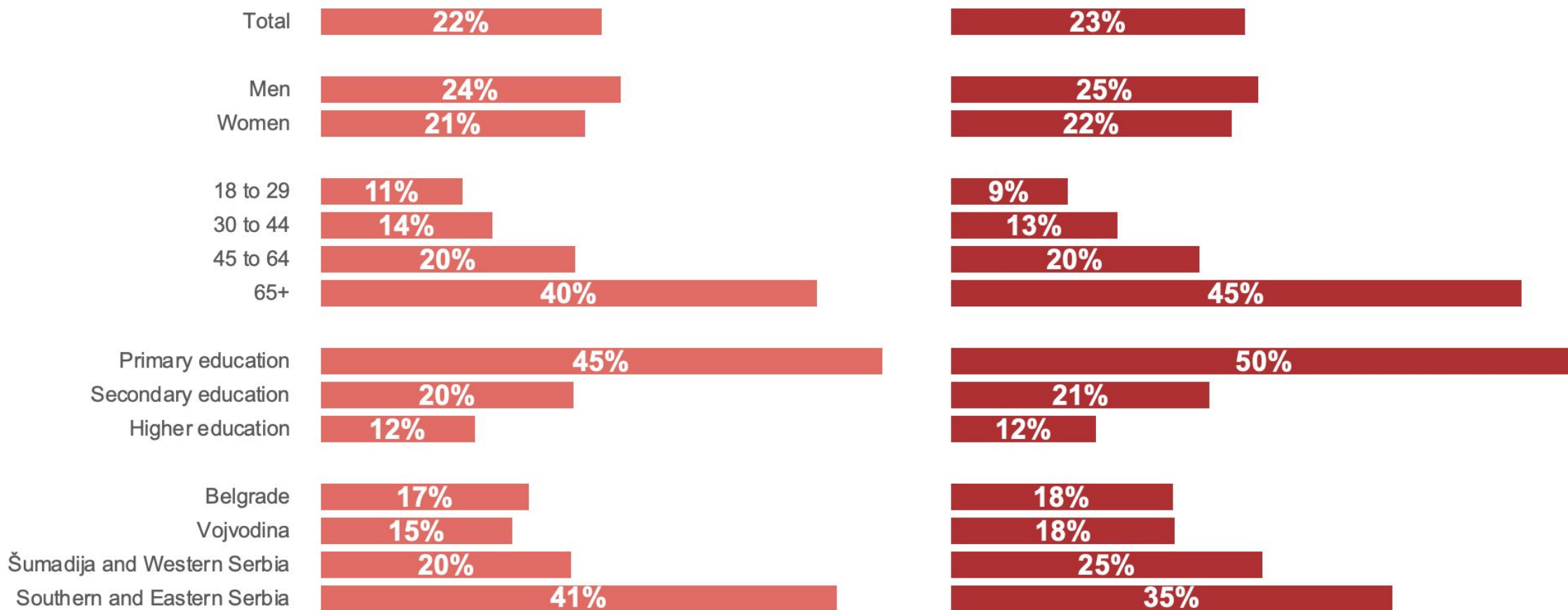
Base: Total population

Question: How much do you agree with the following statement(s) (originally a seven-point scale)

The idea of violating the constitutional limits placed on state institutions is largely acceptable to the oldest citizens and those with only a primary education

Agreement with the idea of changing any law, including the Constitution

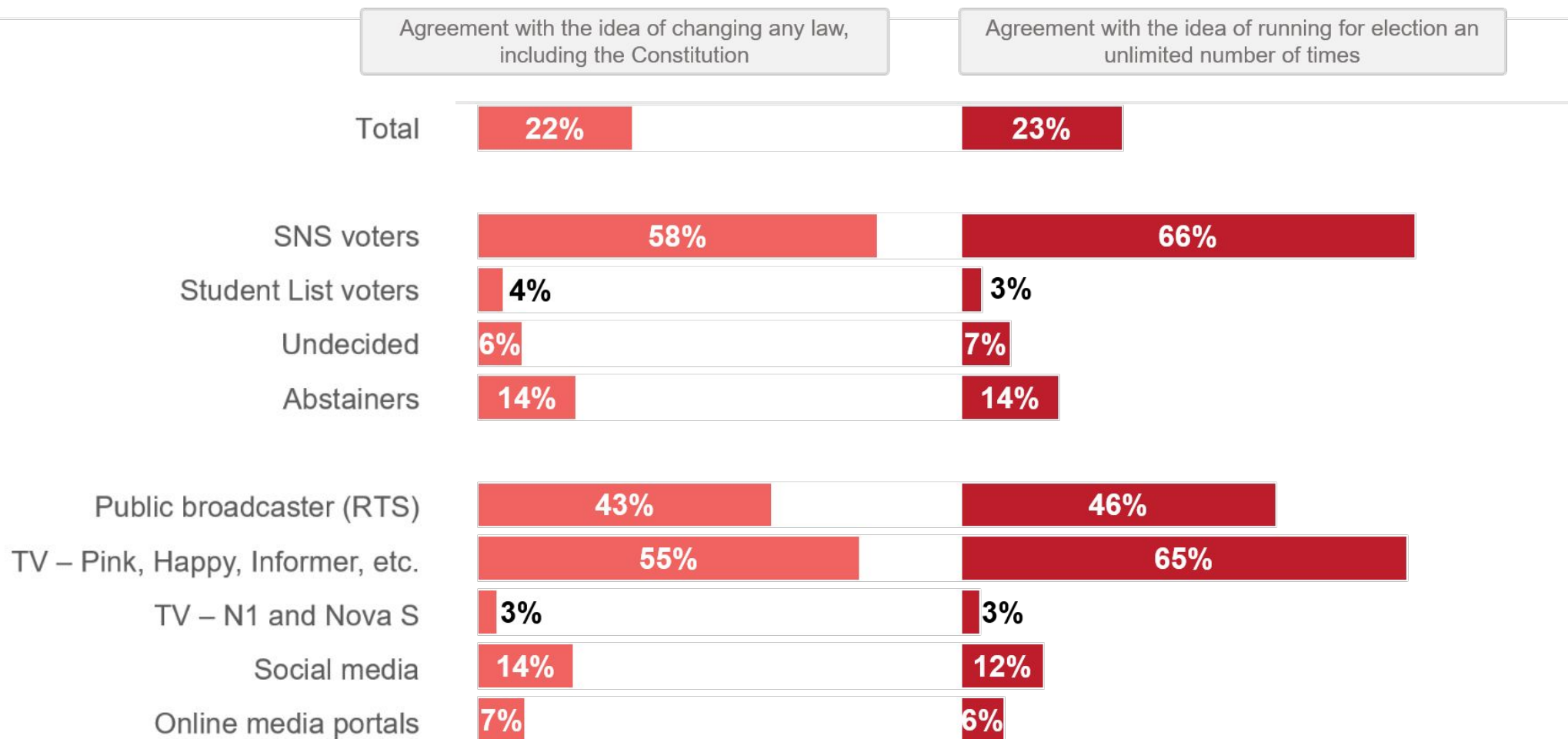
Agreement with the idea of running for election an unlimited number of times



Base: Total population

Question: How much do you agree with the following statement(s) (originally a seven-point scale)

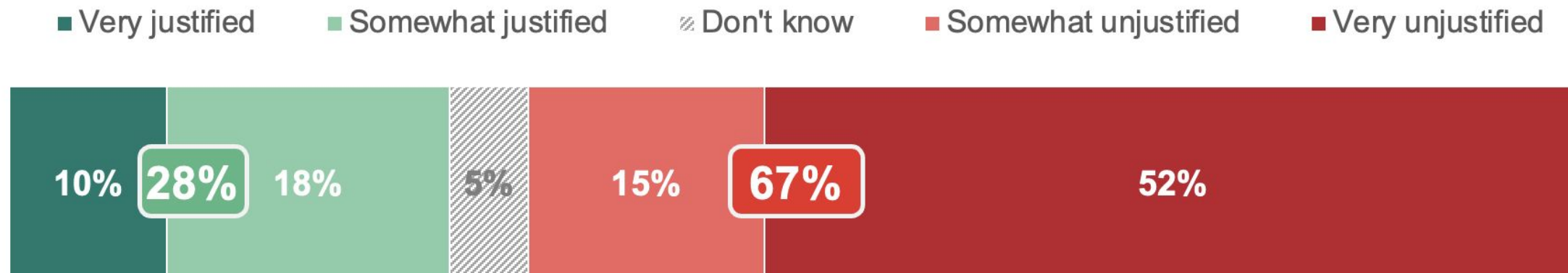
Violating the constitutional limits placed on state institutions does not pose a problem for an overwhelmingly large share of supporters of the ruling parties and those who follow pro-government media



Base: Total population

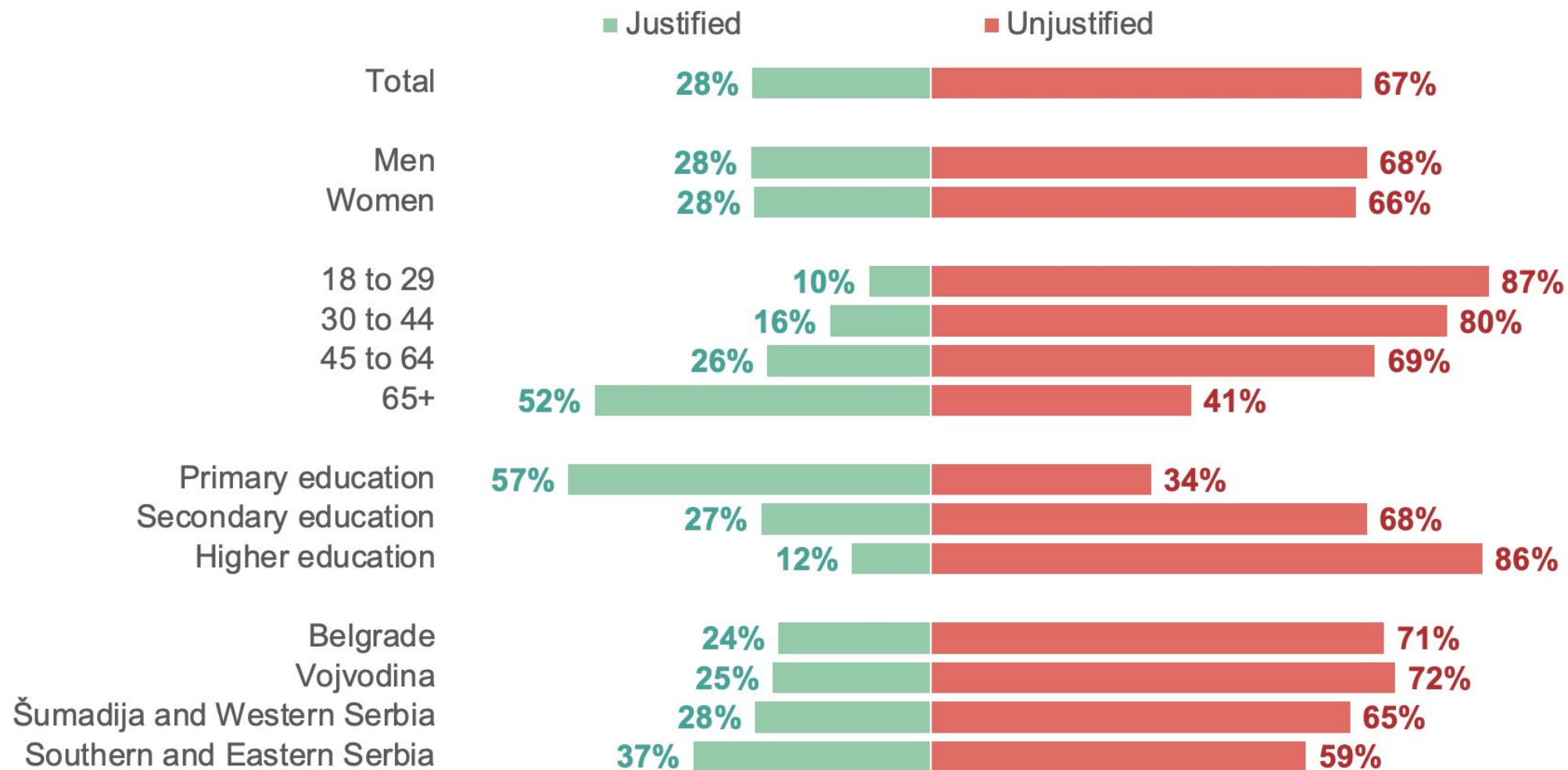
Question: How much do you agree with the following statement(s) (originally a seven-point scale)

Two-thirds of Serbian citizens consider the idea of autocratic presidential rule, free from the oversight of other state institutions, to be unacceptable



Data from previous surveys indicate that an autocratic type of government is becoming increasingly less acceptable among the citizens of Serbia. In April 2025, a 'strong leader above the law' was acceptable to 31% of citizens, while in November 2022, as many as 44% stated that such a system would be acceptable to them.

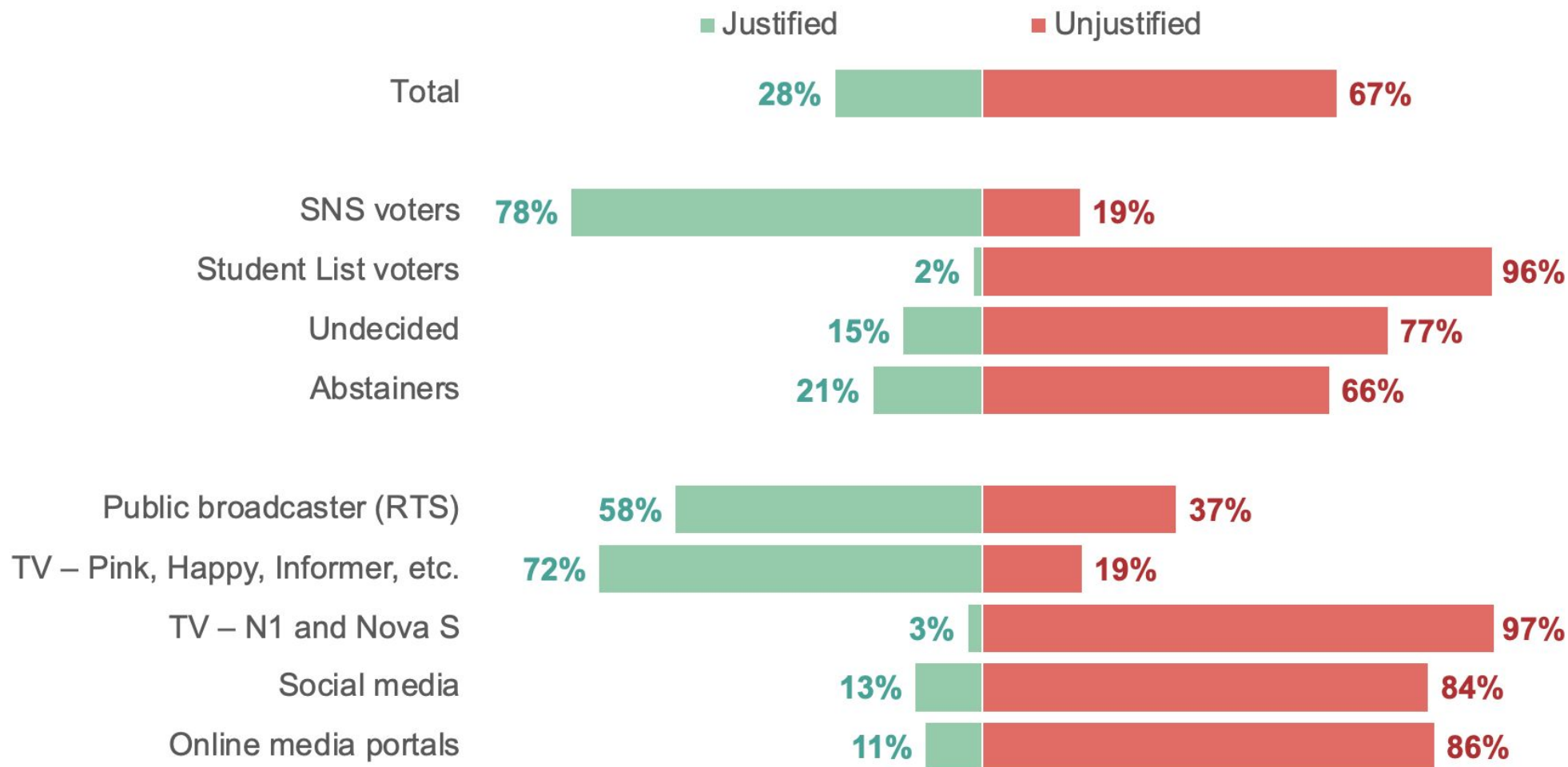
Acceptance of an autocratic system increases with age and decreases with education



Base: Total population

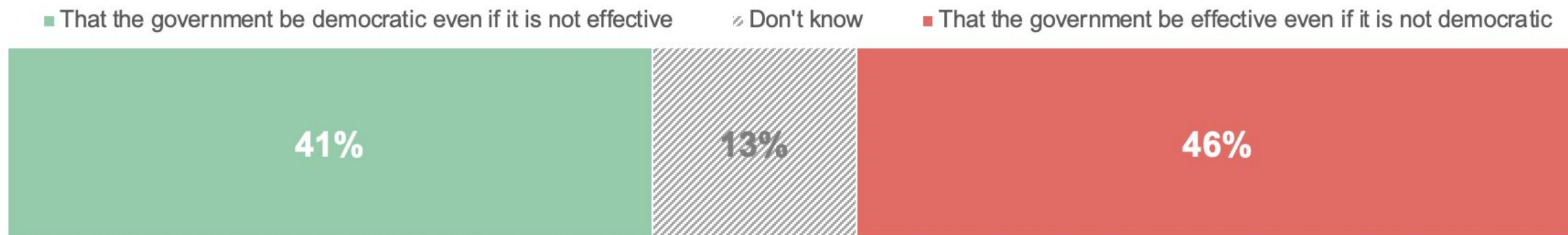
Question: Do you believe in some situations that the President should be able to govern without oversight from the National Assembly?

Four out of five supporters of the ruling parties see no problem with the President holding unlimited power, beyond constitutional limits



Base: Total population

Question: Do you believe in some situations that the President should be able to govern without oversight from the National Assembly?

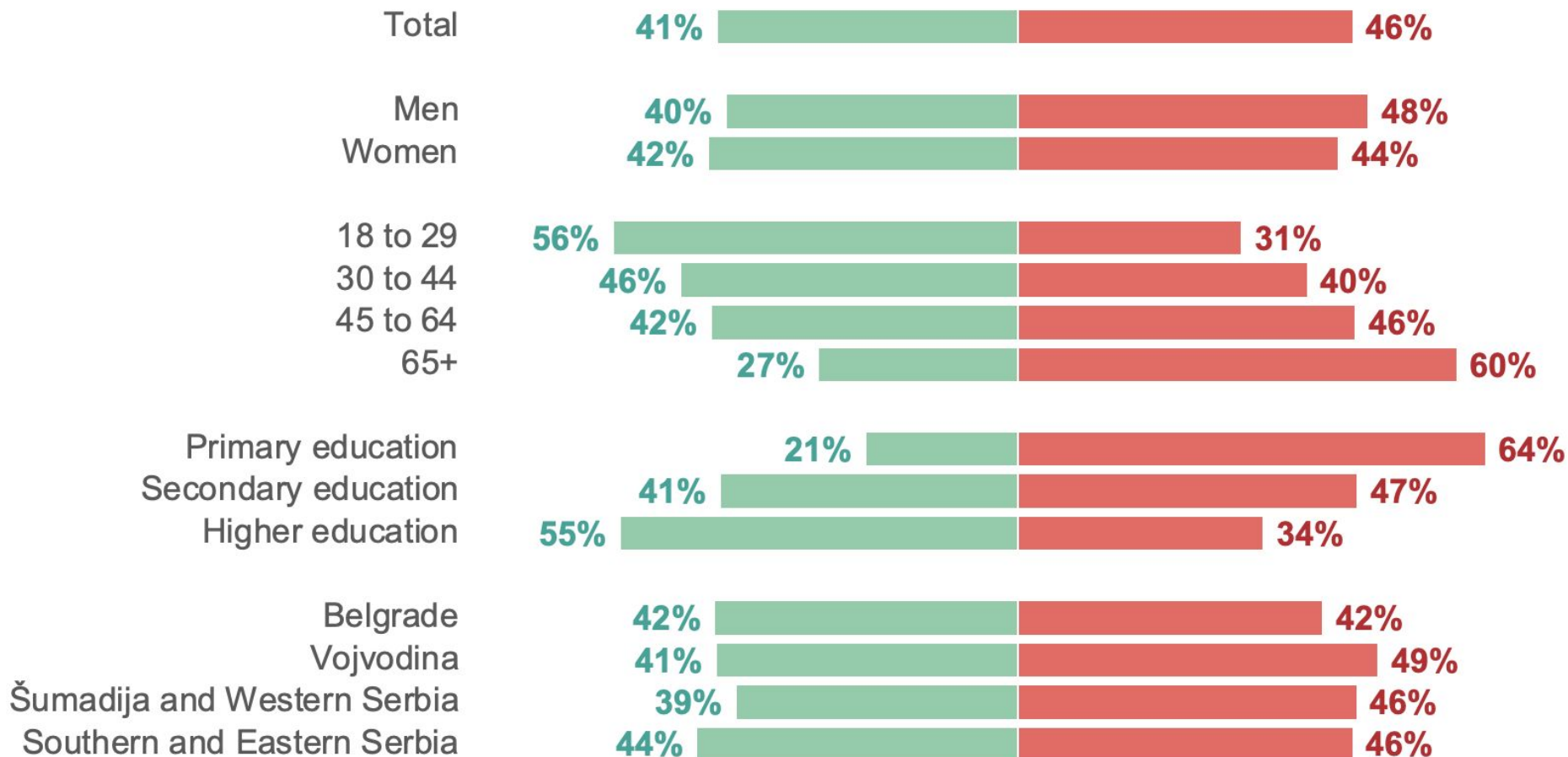


Base: Total population

Question: What is more important to you, that the government be democratic, even if it is not effective, or that the government be effective, even if it is not democratic?

On this issue, too, democratic attitudes decline with age and increase with education

■ That the government be democratic even if it is not effective ■ That the government be effective even if it is not democratic

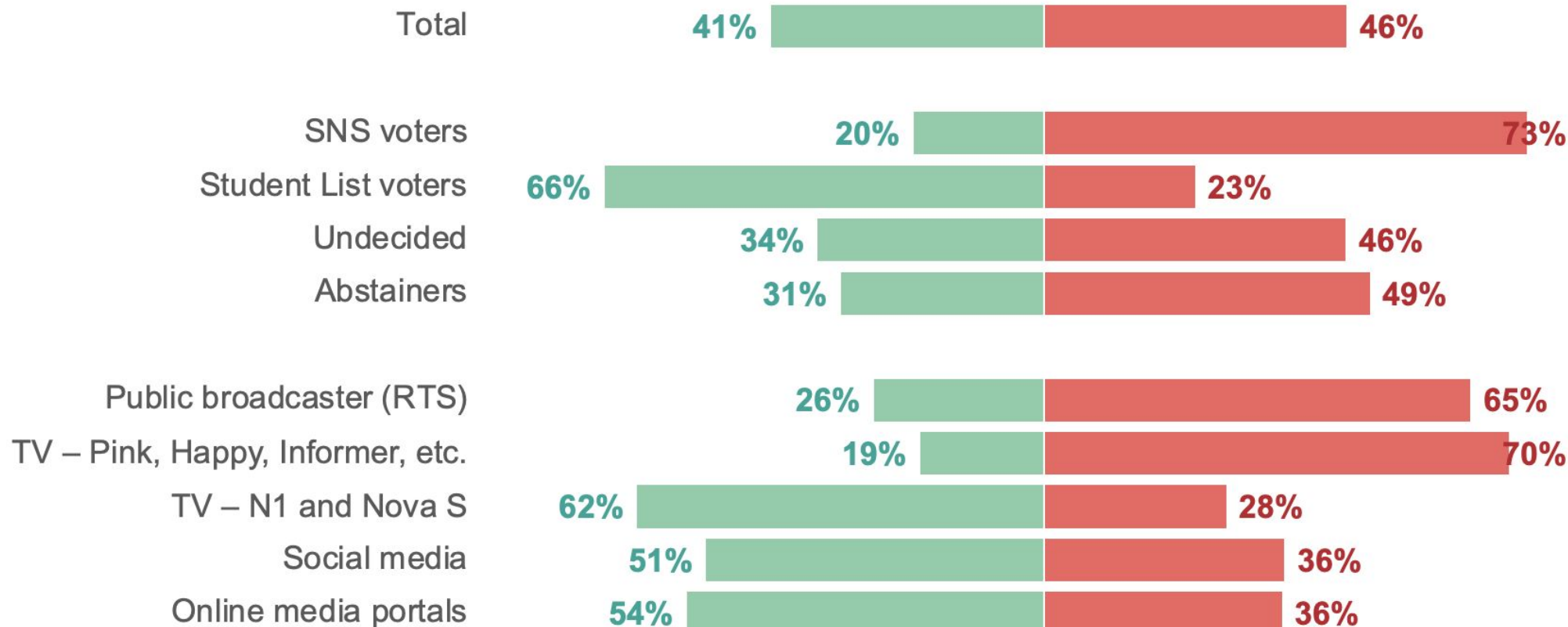


Base: Total population

Question: What is more important to you, that the government be democratic, even if it is not effective, or that the government be effective, even if it is not democratic?

Voters of the ruling parties prioritize efficiency at the expense of democracy, while supporters of the Student List emphasize the importance of democracy over efficiency

■ That the government be democratic even if it is not effective ■ That the government be effective even if it is not democratic

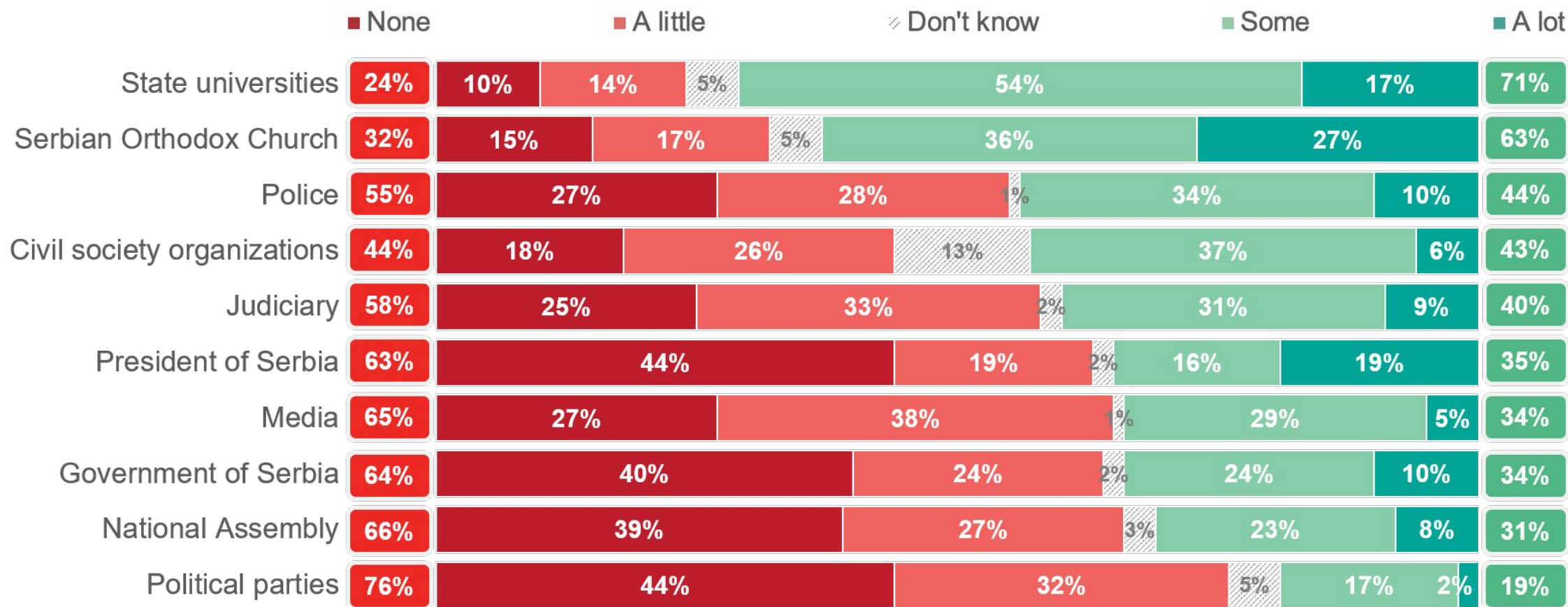


Base: Total population

Question: What is more important to you, that the government be democratic, even if it is not effective, or that the government be effective, even if it is not democratic?

TRUST

State universities and the church are the two institutions enjoying the highest level of trust among the citizens of Serbia



Base: Total population

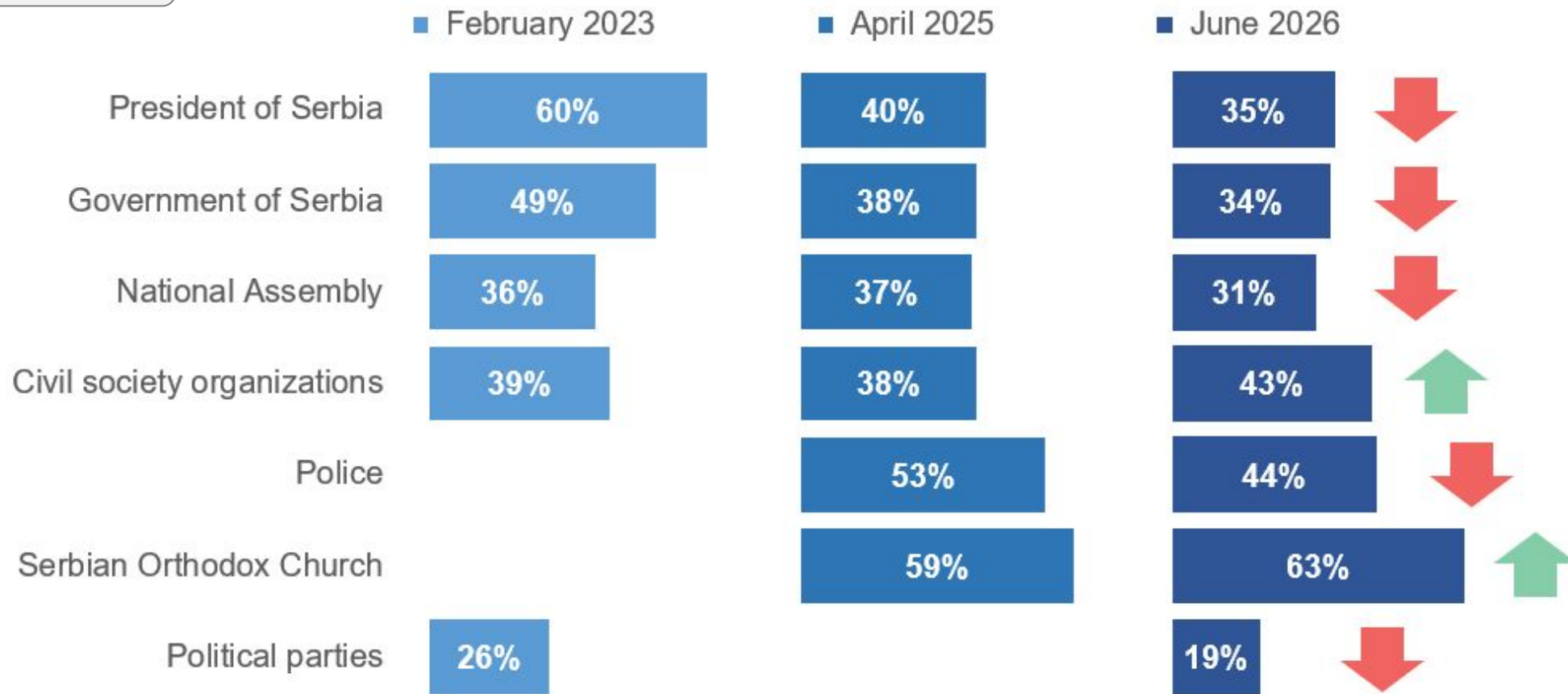
Question: How much trust do you have in ...

CRTA: The Presidency witnessed the most significant decline in trust over the past few years

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A lot of trust + some trust

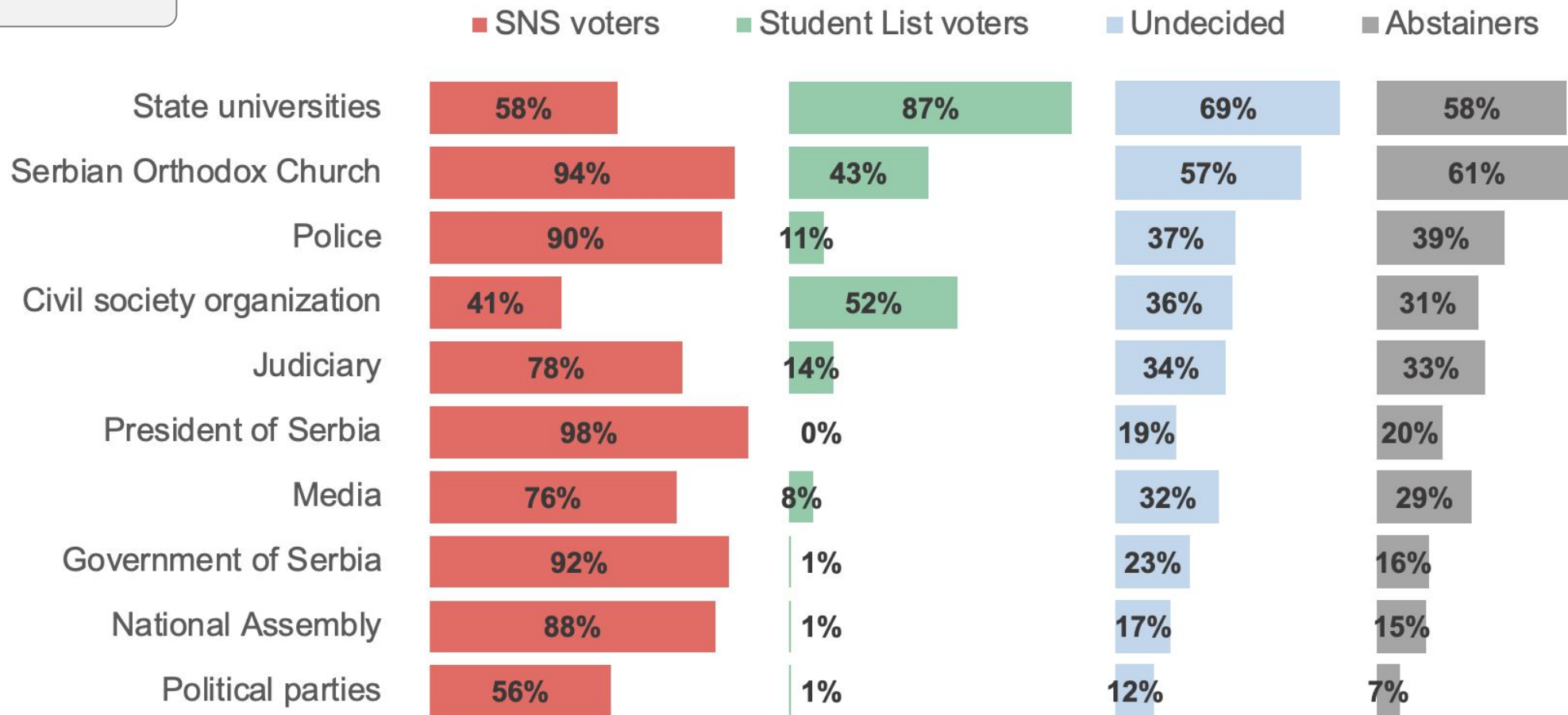


Base: Total population

Question: How much trust do you have in ...

Political preferences reveal significant differences in levels of trust.
Citizens who do not support the ruling parties express no trust in any political institution

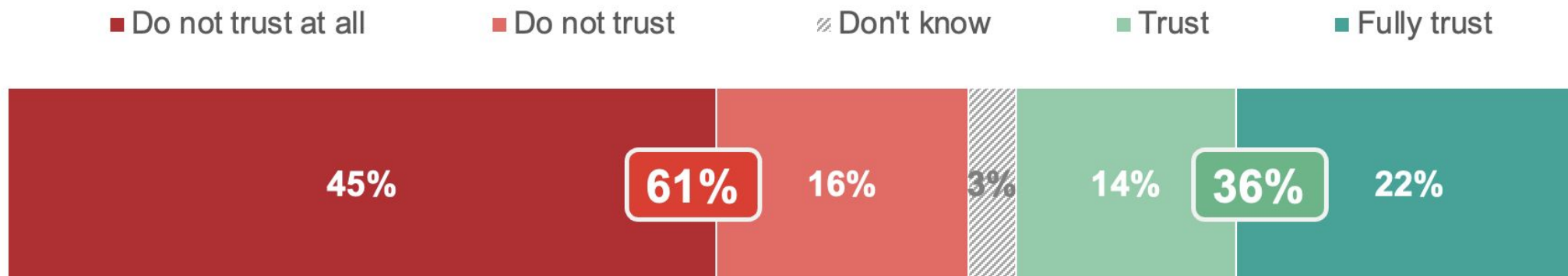
A lot of trust + some trust



Base: Total population

Question: How much trust do you have in ...

Only a third of Serbian citizens have confidence in President Aleksandar Vučić



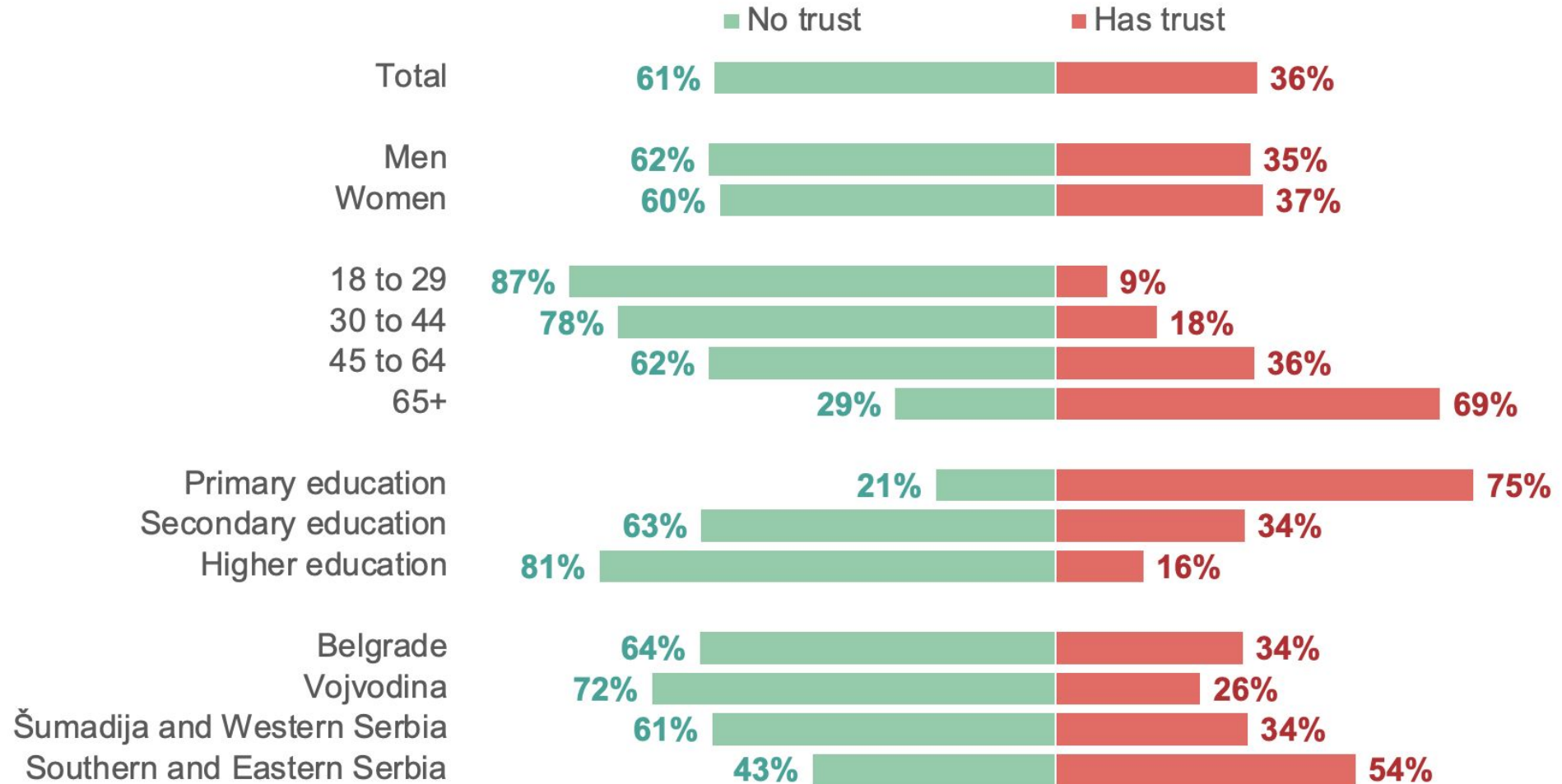
Base: Total population

Question: How much do you trust President Aleksandar Vučić?

CRTA: A near-total distrust in the President among the young and those with higher education

Stanford

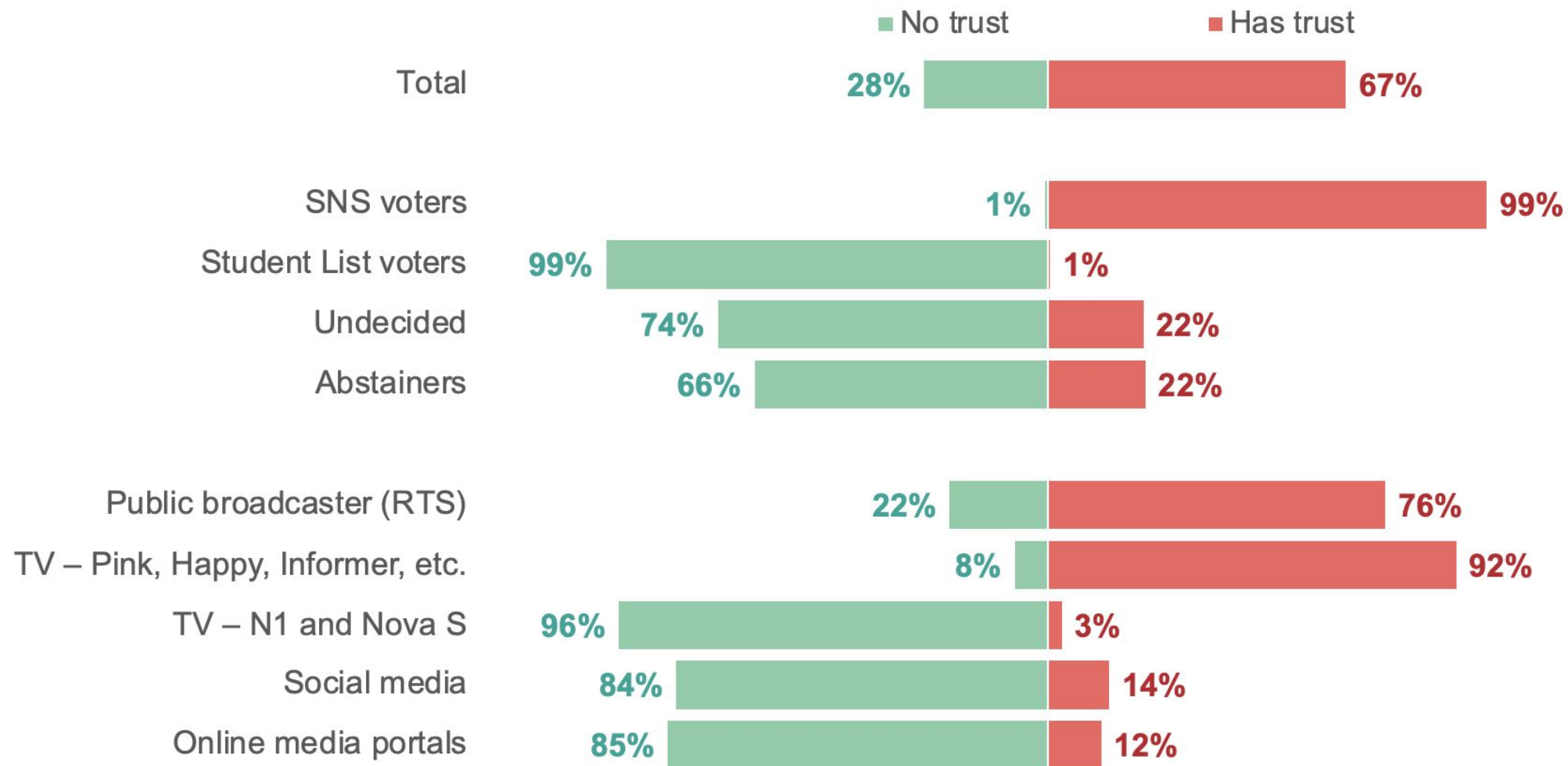
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and the Rule of Law



Base: Total population

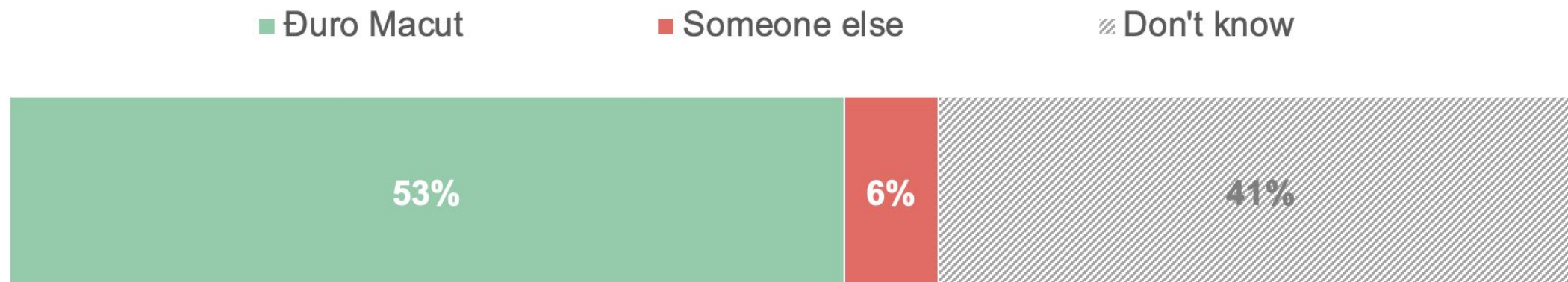
Question: How much do you trust President Aleksandar Vučić?

Significant distrust of President Vučić even among those without a clear political affiliation

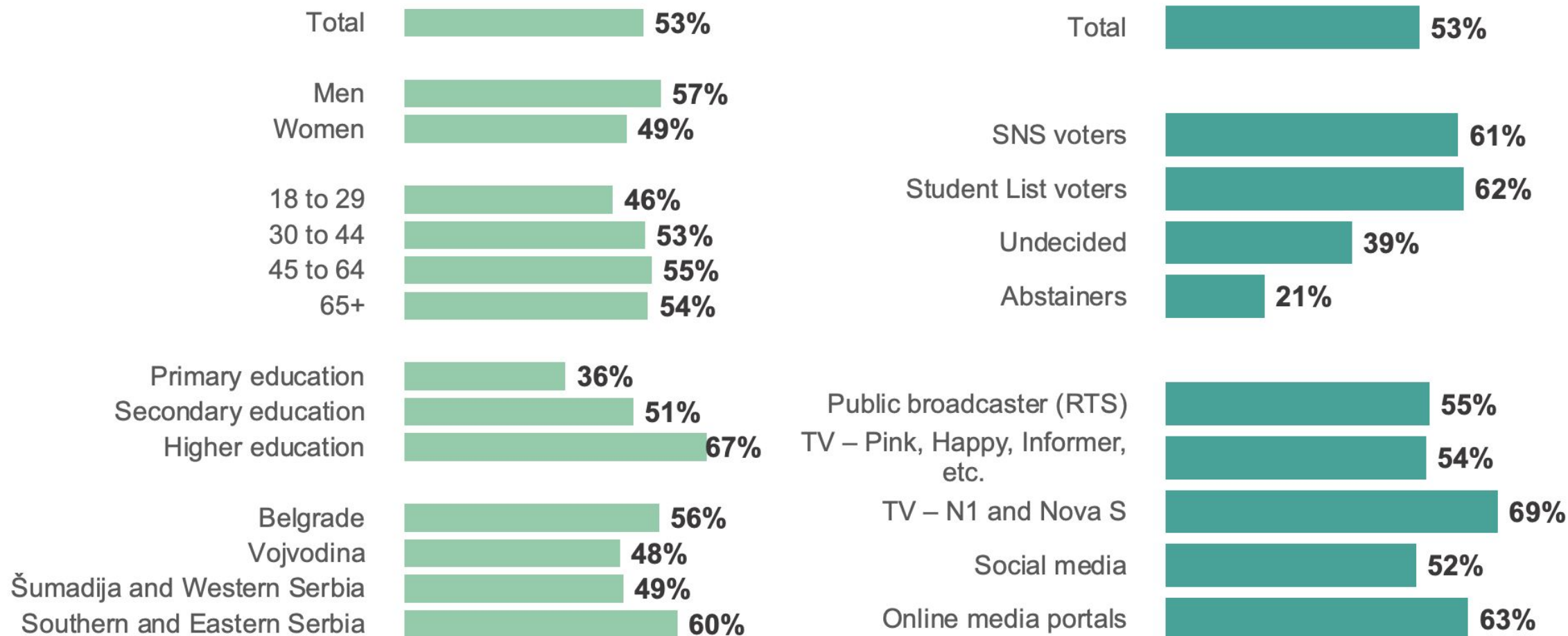


Base: Total population

Question: How much do you trust President Aleksandar Vučić?



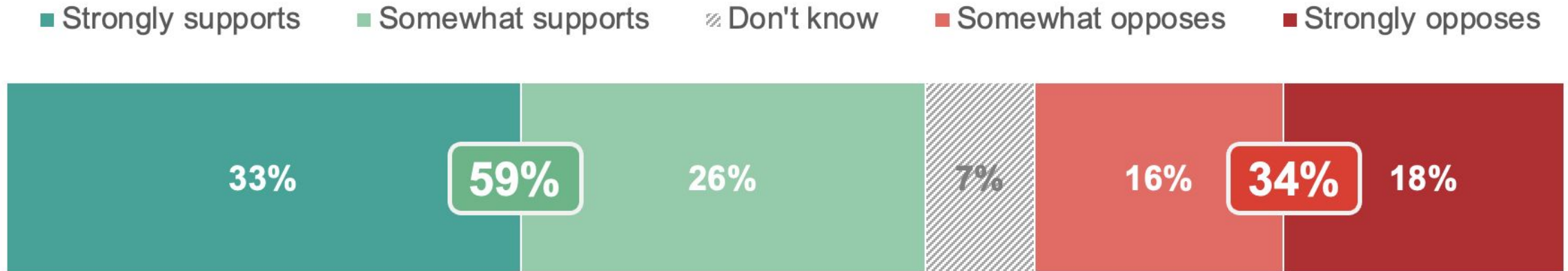
Political preferences do not affect the popularity of the Prime Minister, but media preferences do



Base: Total population

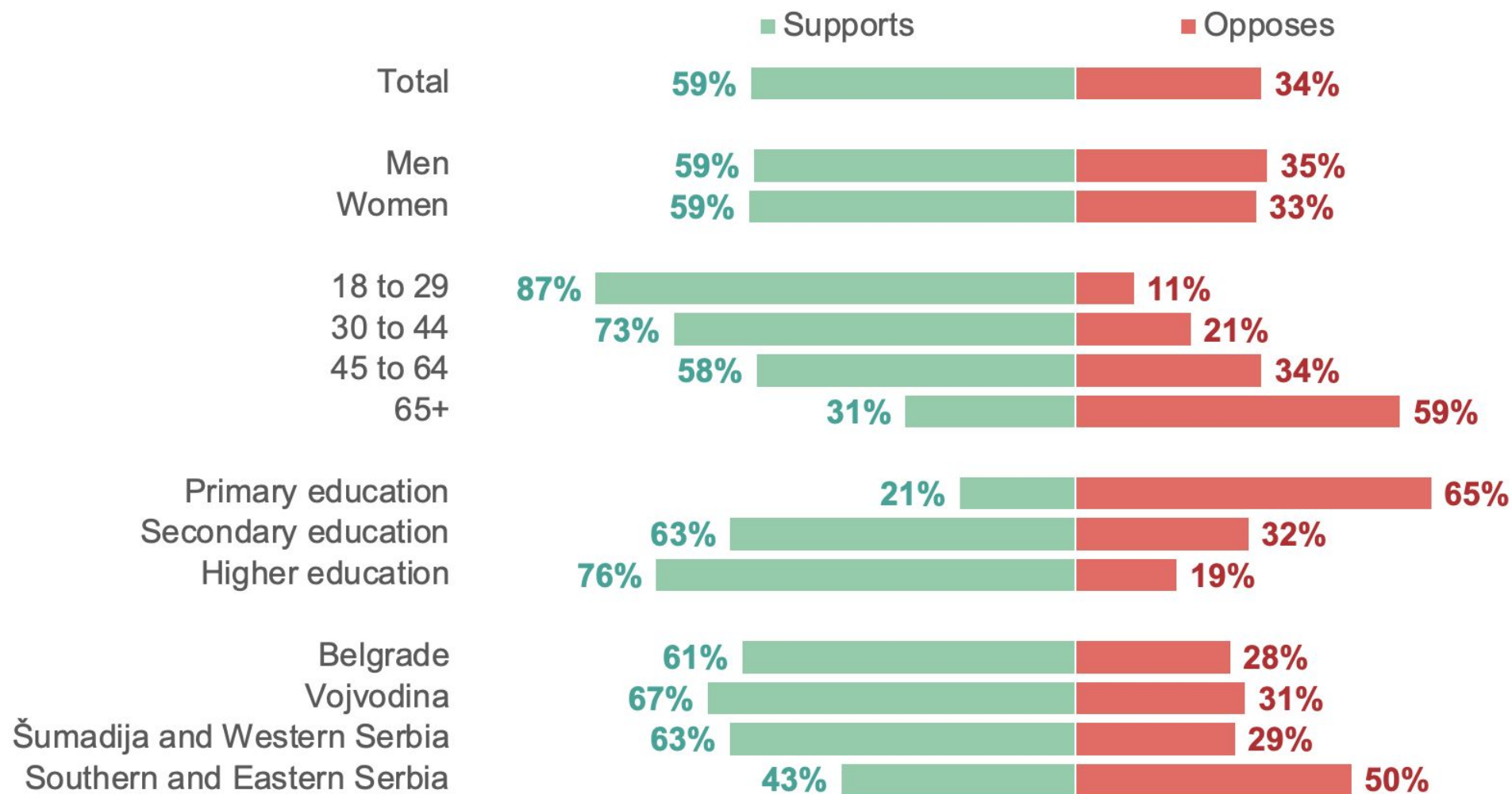
Question: Who is the current Prime Minister of Serbia?

PROTESTS



Data from previous surveys indicate that support for the student protests is very stable, even though the protests are now held significantly less often. In April 2025, 59% of citizens supported the student protests, and in September, 58%.

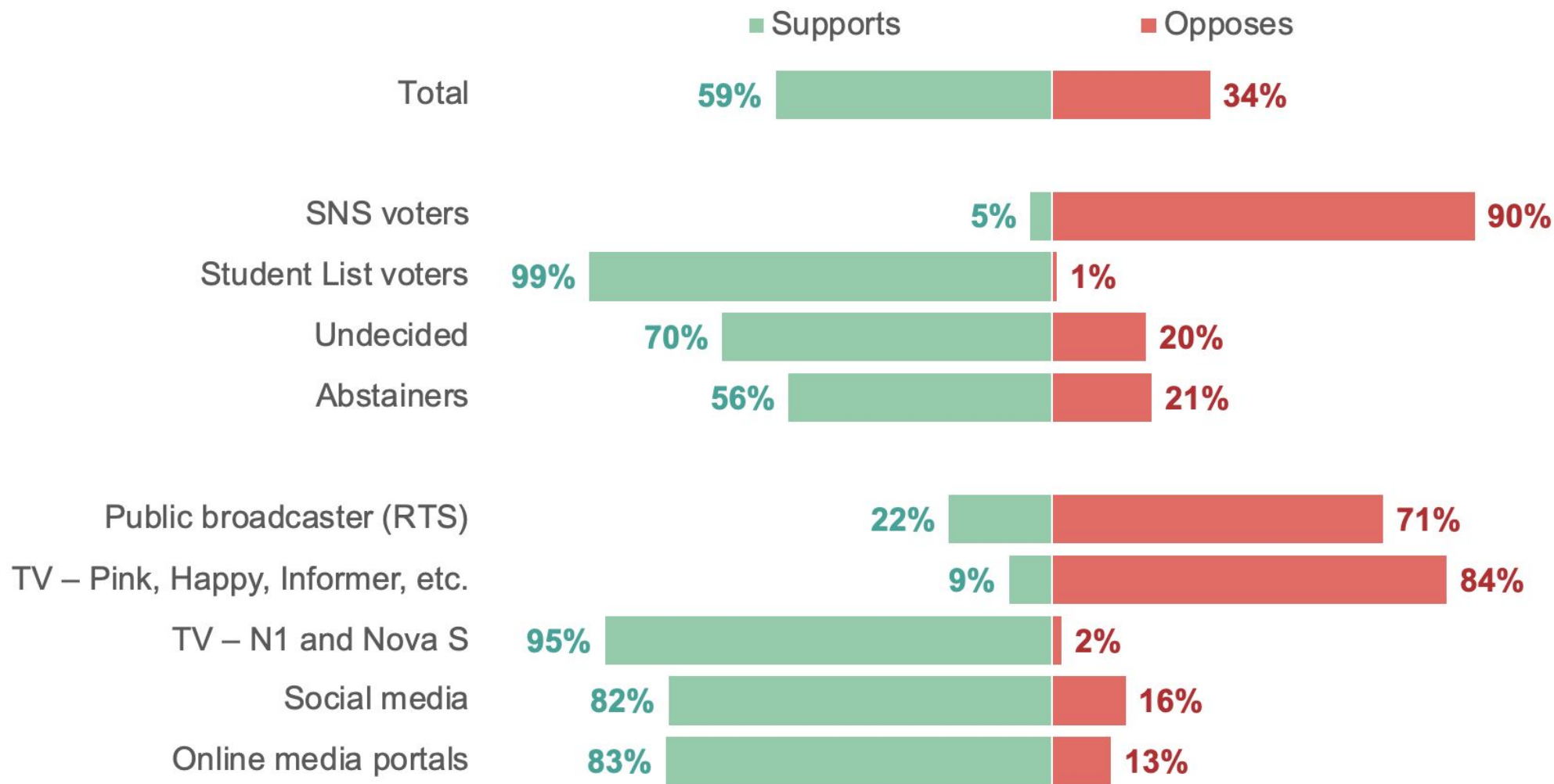
Only the oldest citizens and those with a primary education are more likely to state that they oppose the student protests



Base: Total population

Question: In general, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can never be too careful when dealing with others? (originally a 1–10 scale)

Support for the protests is significantly broader than political support for the Student List

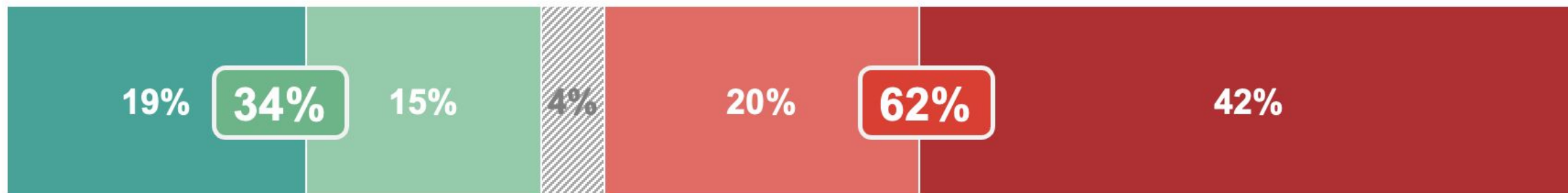


Base: Total population

Question: In general, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can never be too careful when dealing with others? (originally a 1–10 scale)

Six out of ten citizens of Serbia state that they are concerned about the use of force by the police against protest participants

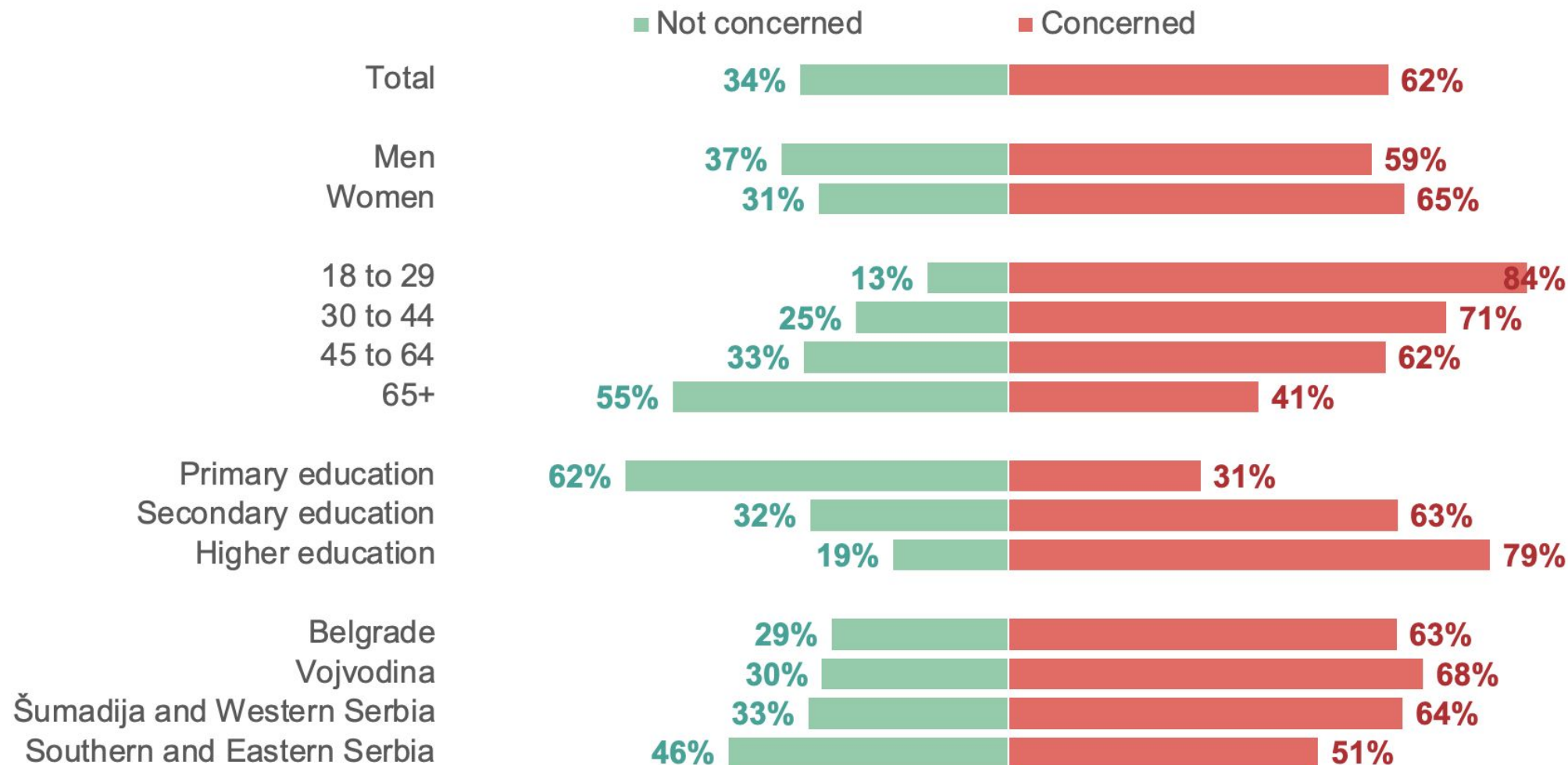
■ Not concerned at all ■ Somewhat concerned ▨ Don't know ■ Very concerned ■ Extremely concerned



Base: Total population

Question: How concerned are you about the use of force by police against protesters in Serbia?

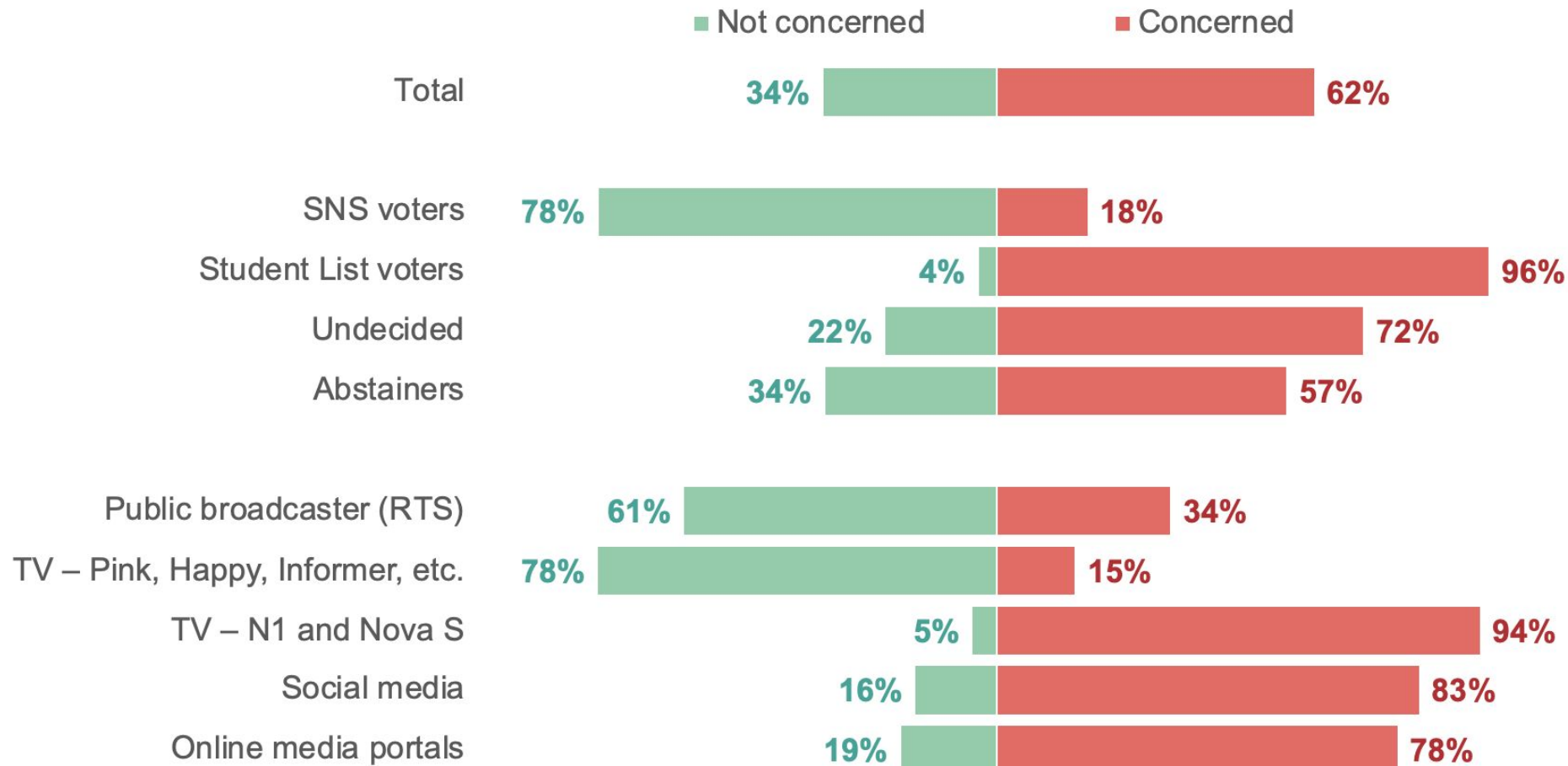
Four out of five citizens under the age of 30 state that they are concerned



Base: Total population

Question: How concerned are you about the use of force by police against protesters in Serbia?

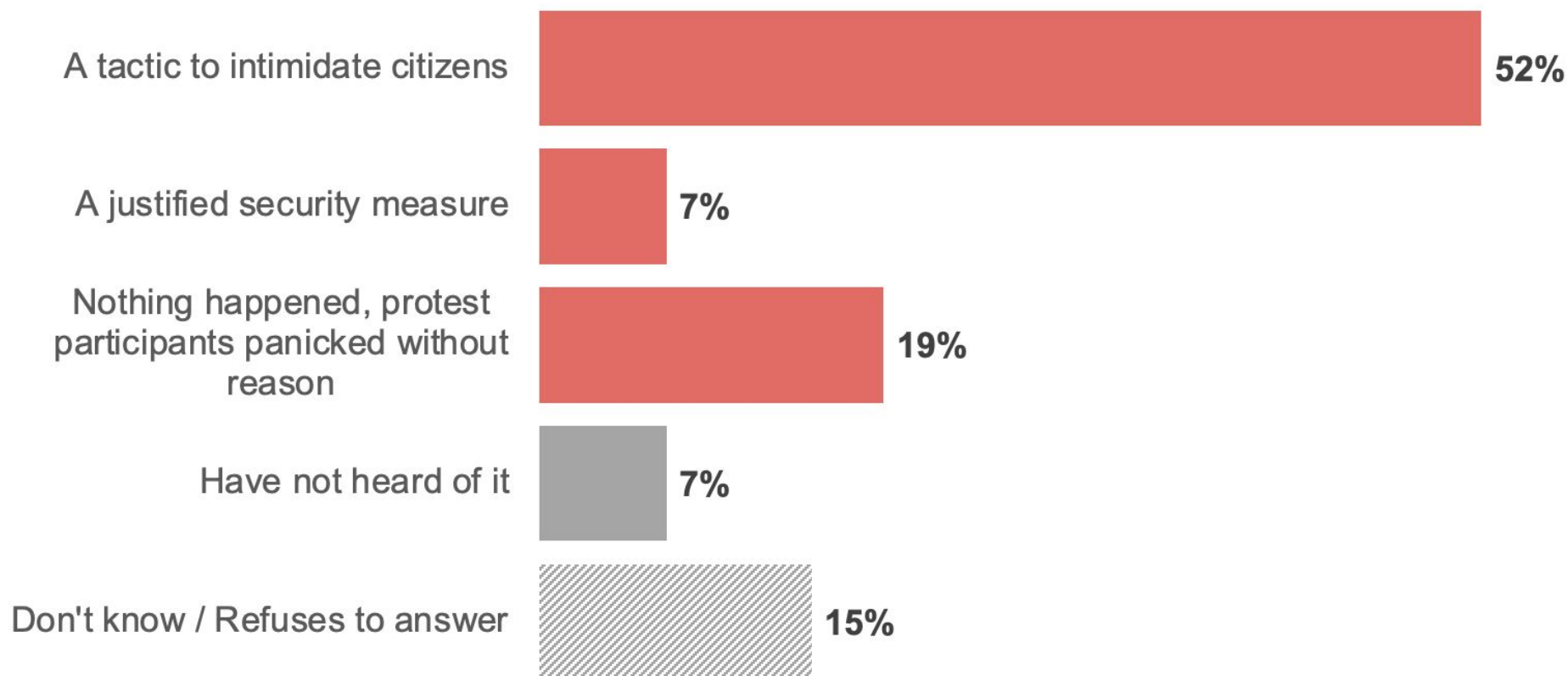
Only supporters of the ruling parties state that they are not concerned about the use of force by the police



Base: Total population

Question: How concerned are you about the use of force by police against protesters in Serbia?

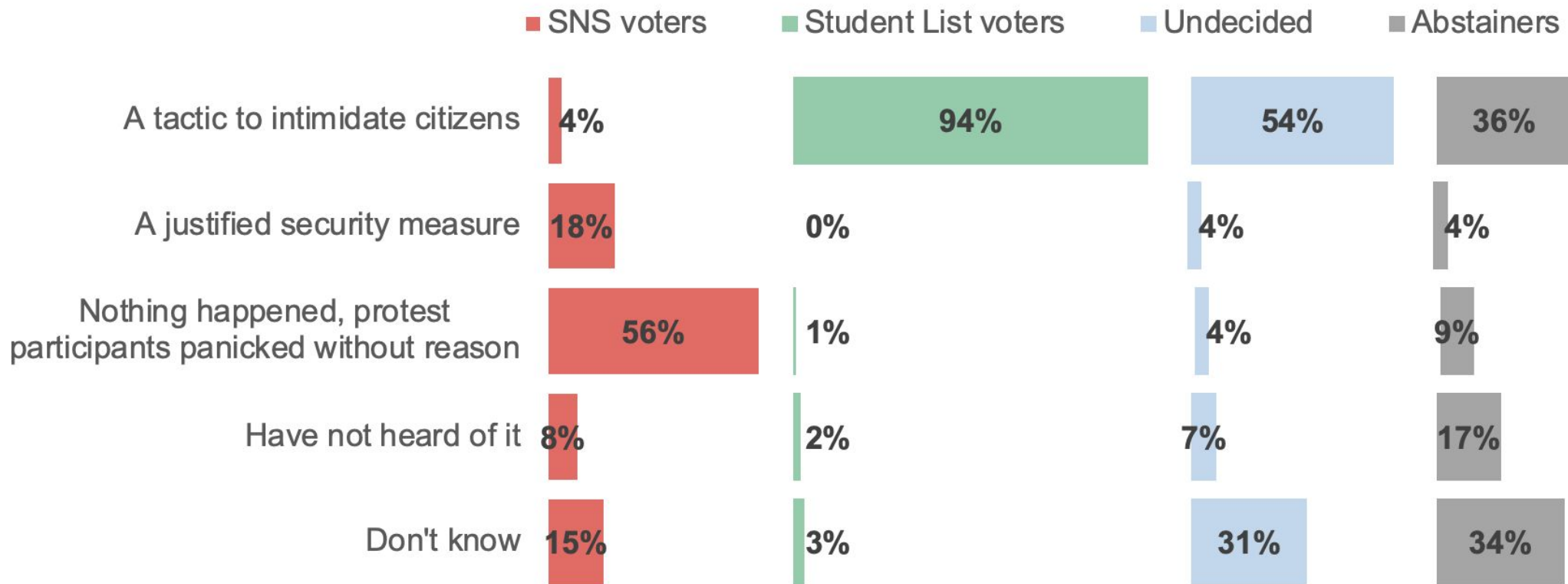
Half of Serbia's citizens view the events of March 15, 2025, as a state tactic to intimidate its own citizens



Base: Total population

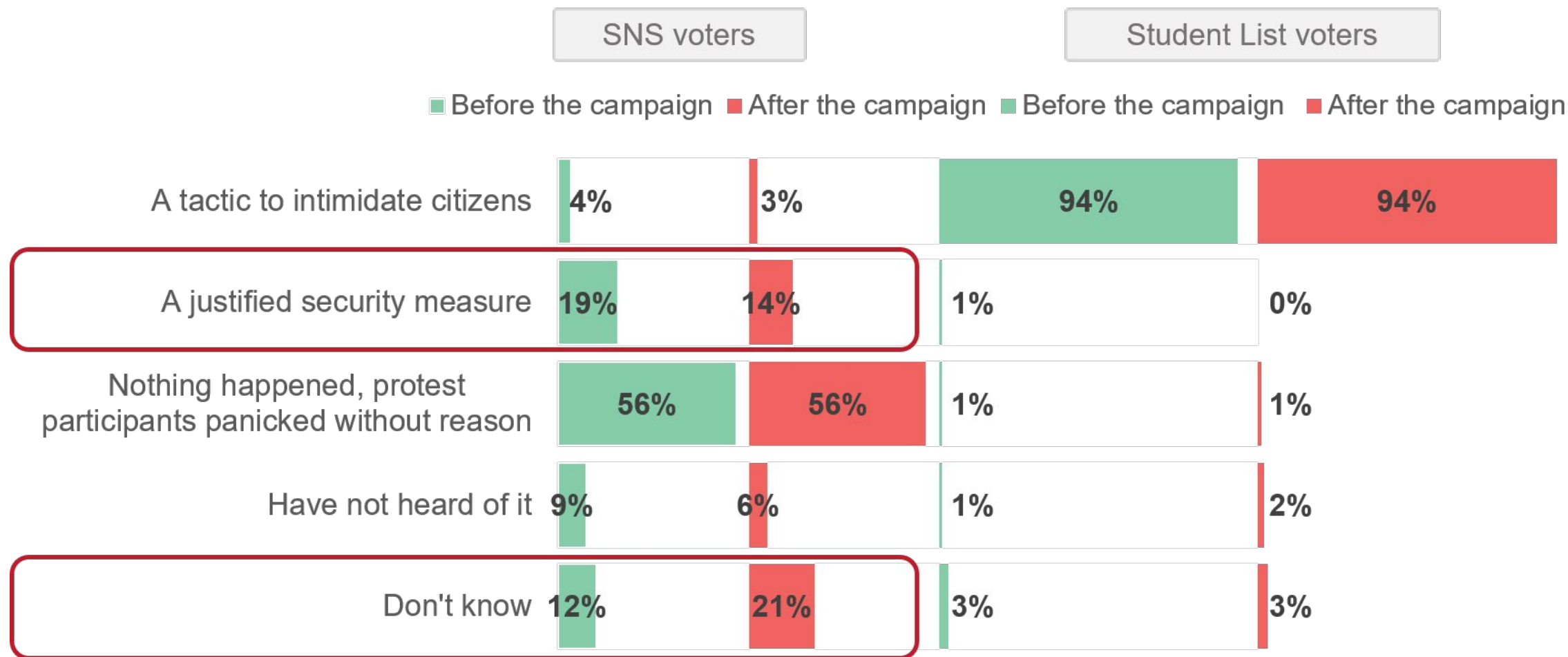
Question: On March 15, 2025, during the protests in Belgrade, a large commotion broke out among the gathered citizens. Many people at the time reported that some kind of "sound weapon" had been used. How do you view this event?

Only voters of the ruling parties view the events of March 15 as something else



Base: Total population

Question: On March 15, 2025, during the protests in Belgrade, a large commotion broke out among the gathered citizens. Many people at the time reported that some kind of "sound weapon" had been used. How do you view this event?

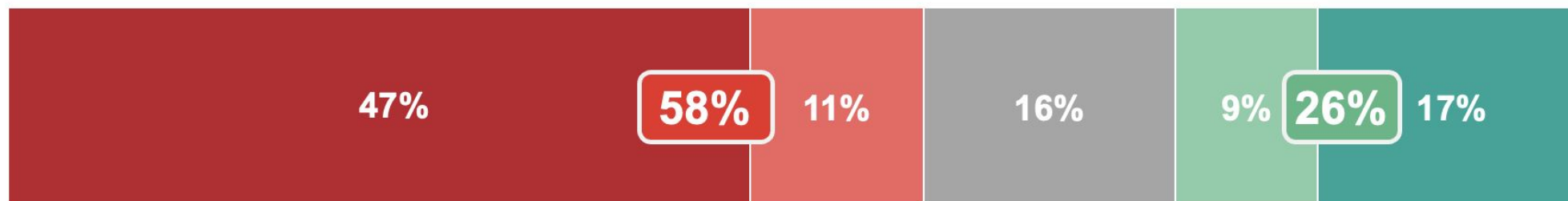


Base: Total population

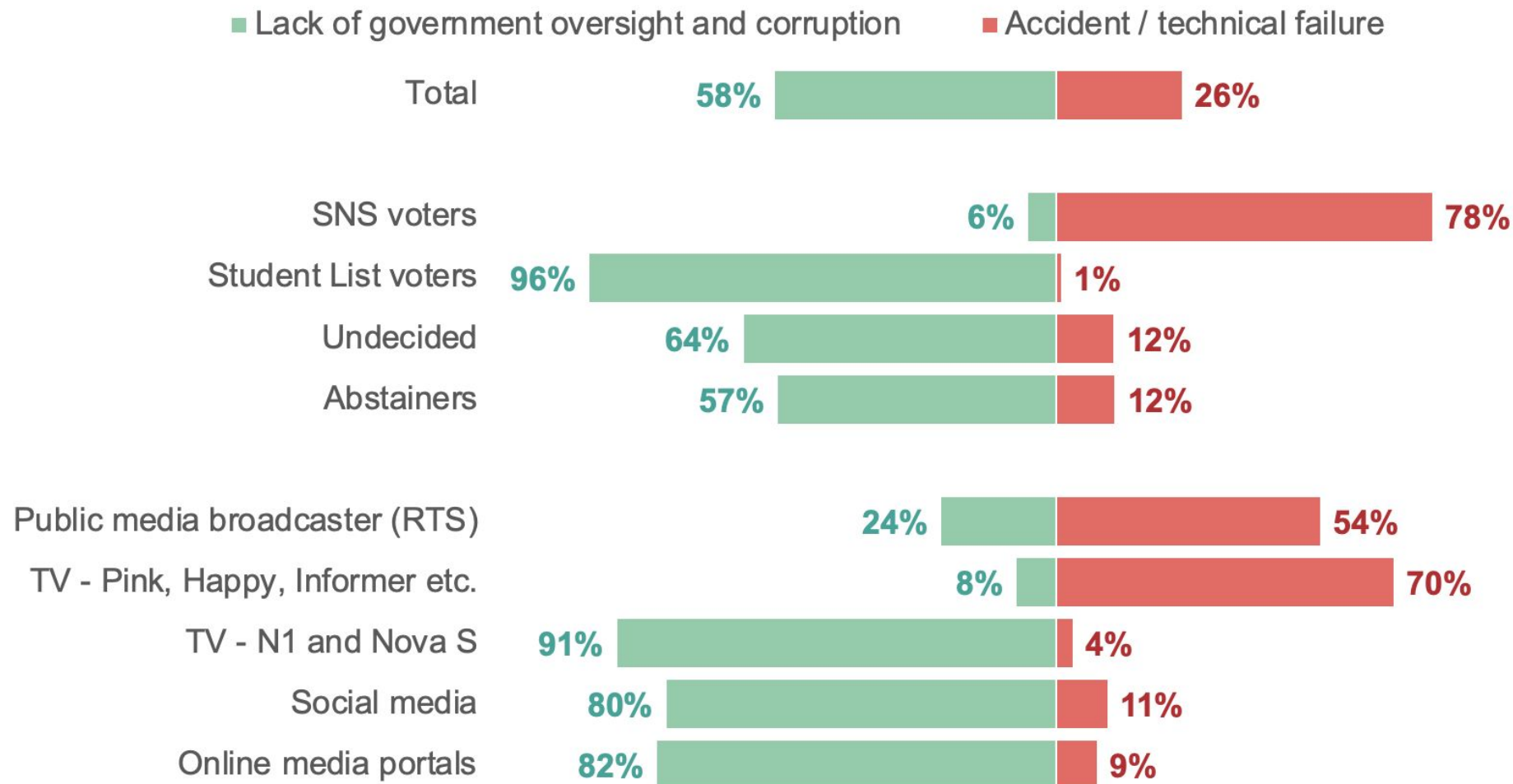
Question: On March 15, 2025, during the protests in Belgrade, a large commotion broke out among the gathered citizens. Many people at the time reported that some kind of "sound weapon" had been used. How do you view this event?

Half of Serbia's citizens are adamant that the cause of the tragedy in Novi Sad is a lack of government oversight and corruption

- Lack of government oversight and corruption
- More a case of a lack of oversight and corruption than a technical failure
- Undecided
- More of a technical failure than a lack of oversight or corruption
- Accident / technical failure



Only supporters of the ruling parties attribute the accident to a technical failure

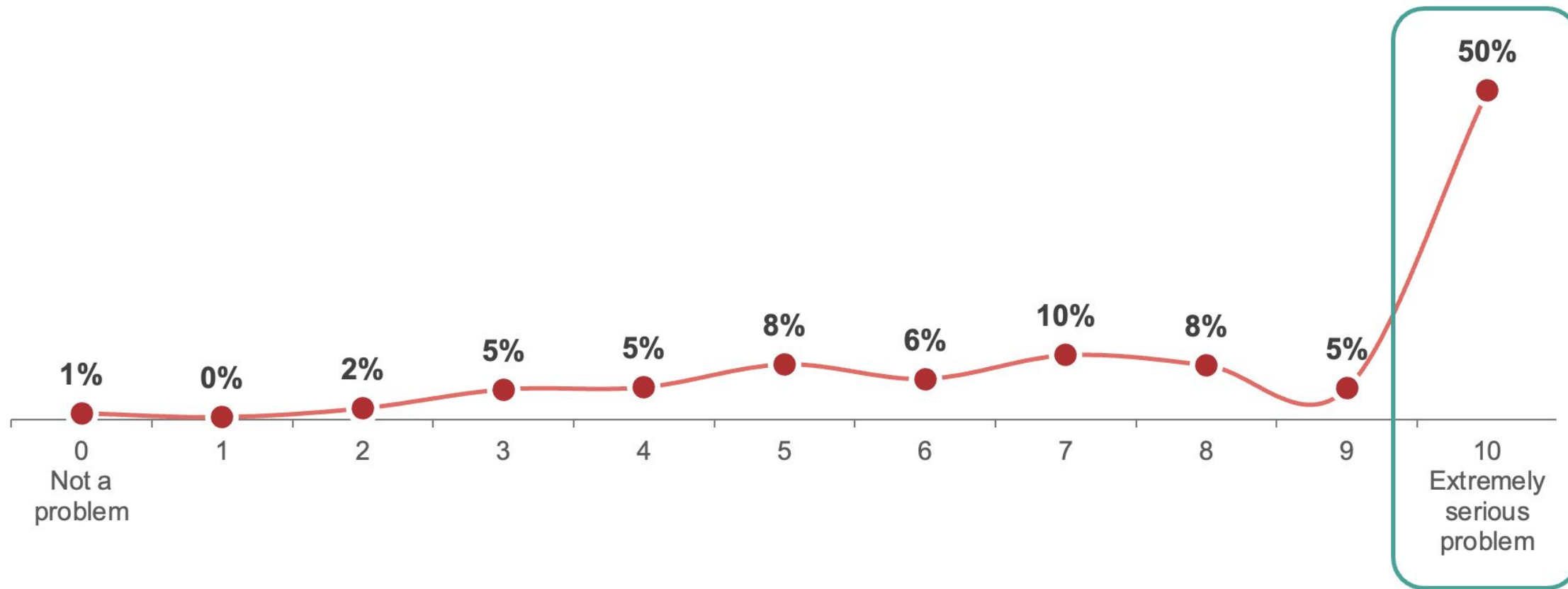


Base: Total population

Question: What is the root cause of the tragedy at the Novi Sad railway station?

CORRUPTION AND GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

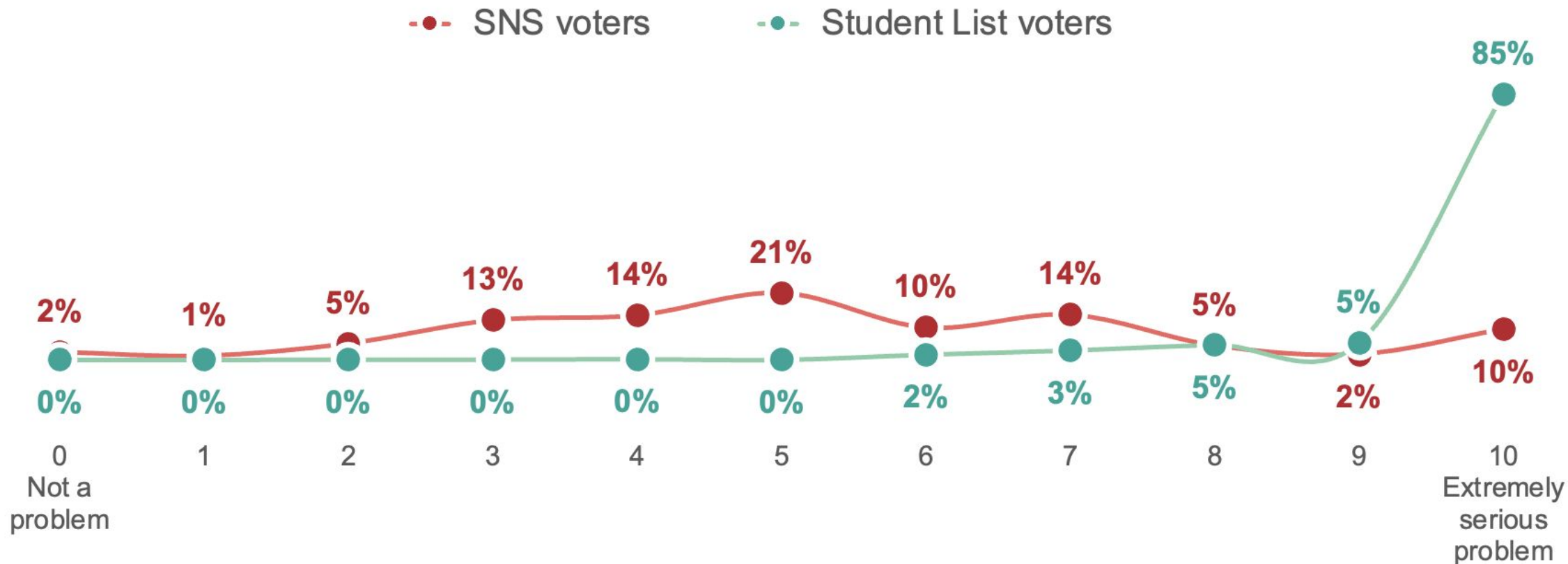
Half of Serbia's citizens rate the severity of the corruption problem in the country with the highest score - a 10 on a scale of 0 to 10



Base: Total population

Question: On a scale from 0 to 10, how prevalent is corruption in Serbia today?

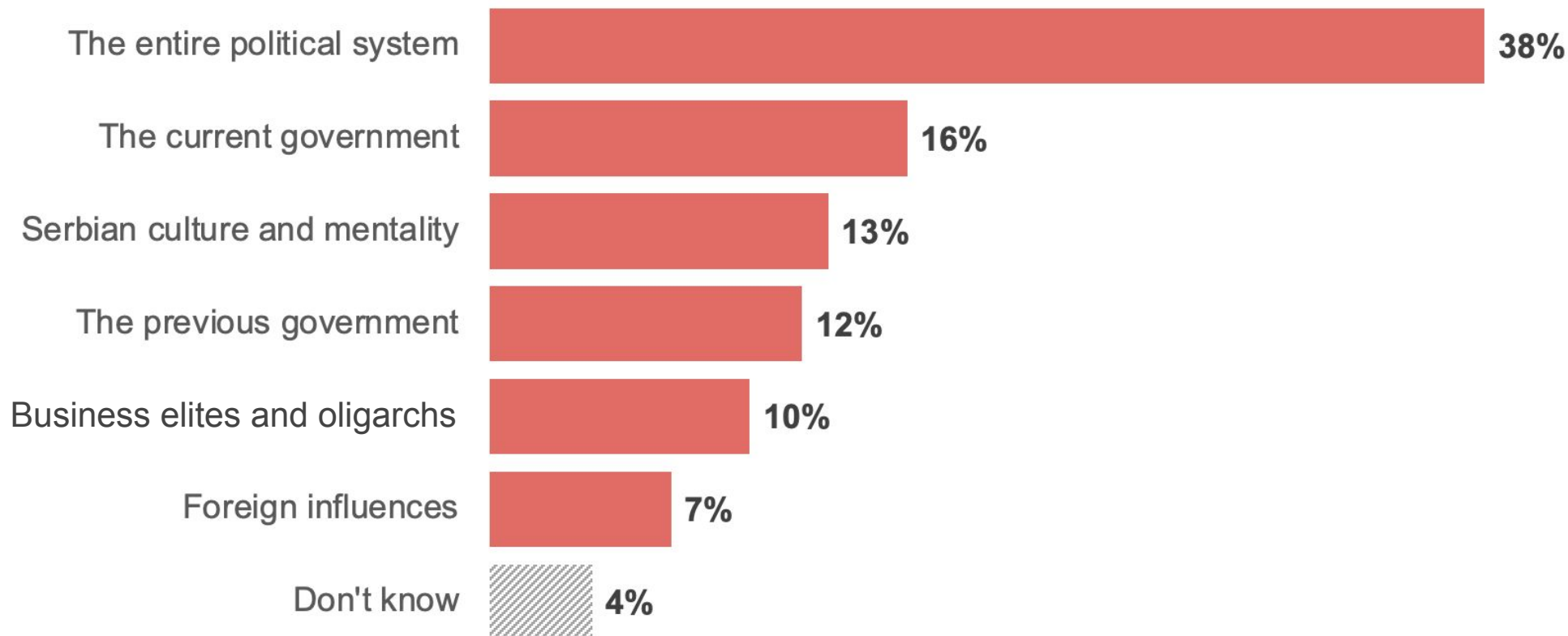
Even SNS supporters do not entirely deny the existence of corruption, while as many as 85% of voters for the Student List rate the severity of the corruption problem at 10 out of 10



Base: Total population

Question: On a scale from 0 to 10, how prevalent is corruption in Serbia today?

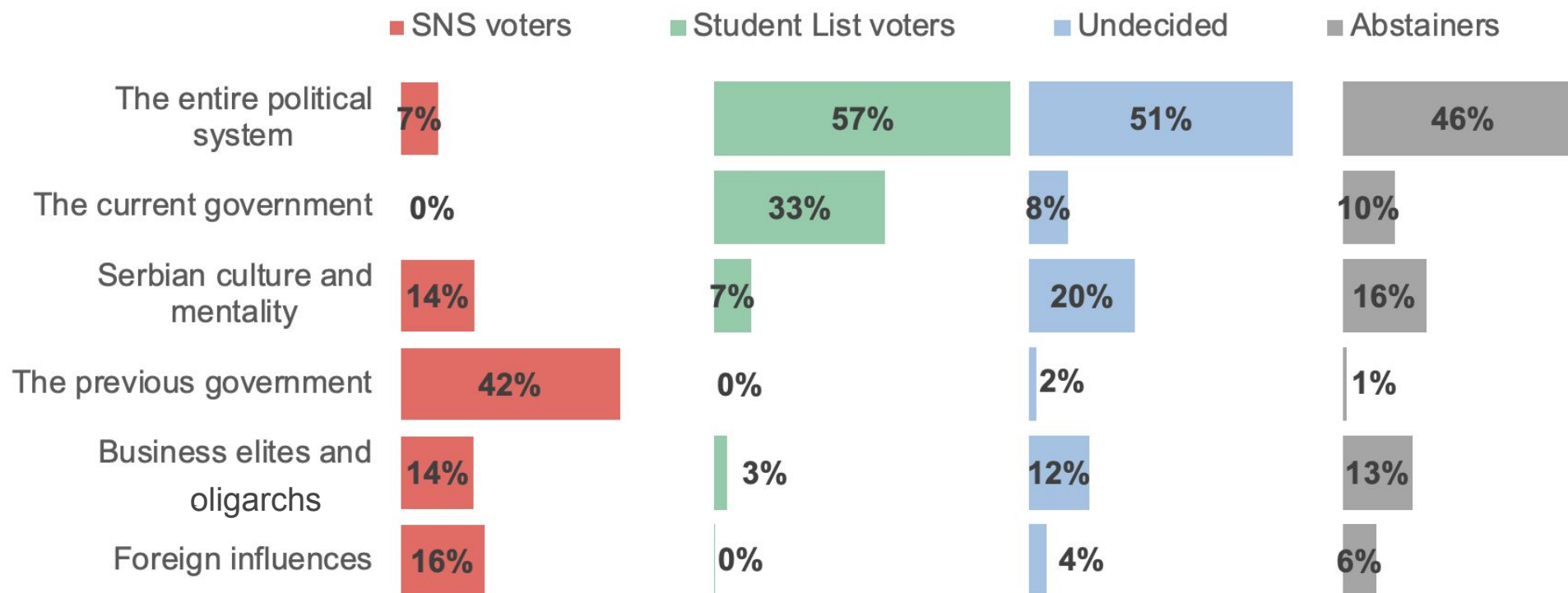
The seriousness of the problem is also reflected in the assessment that the entire political system is responsible for corruption in Serbia



Base: Total population

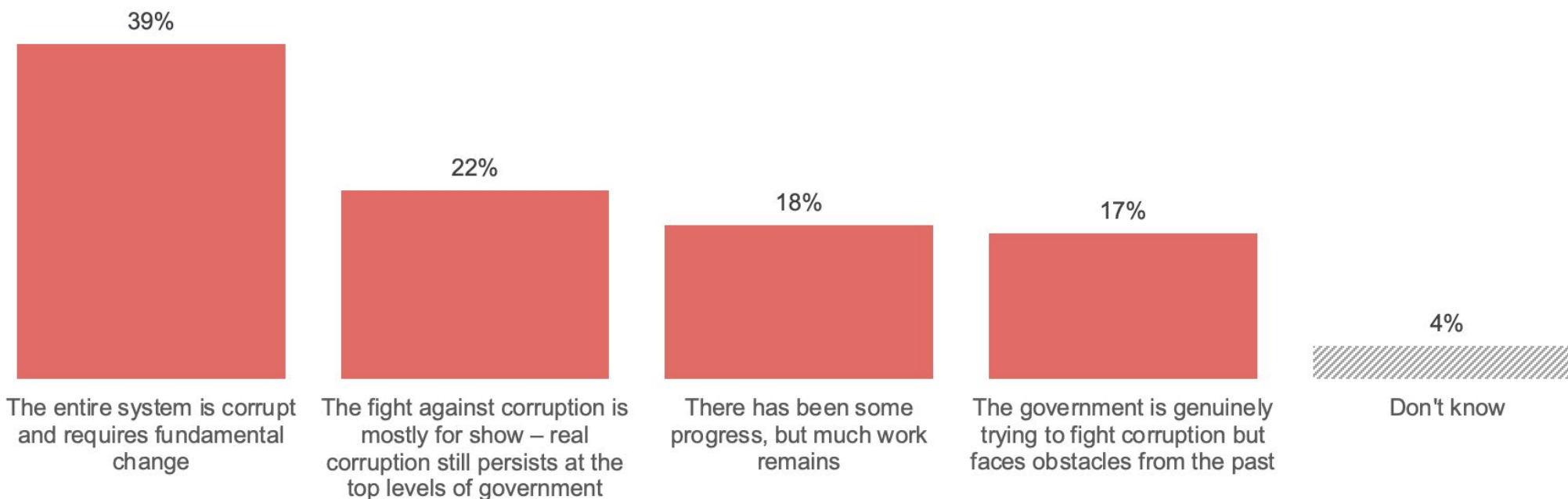
Question: Who do you think is most responsible for corruption in Serbia?

Supporters of the government attribute responsibility for corruption to external factors and the previous administration, while others are united in pointing to the entire political system



Base: Total population

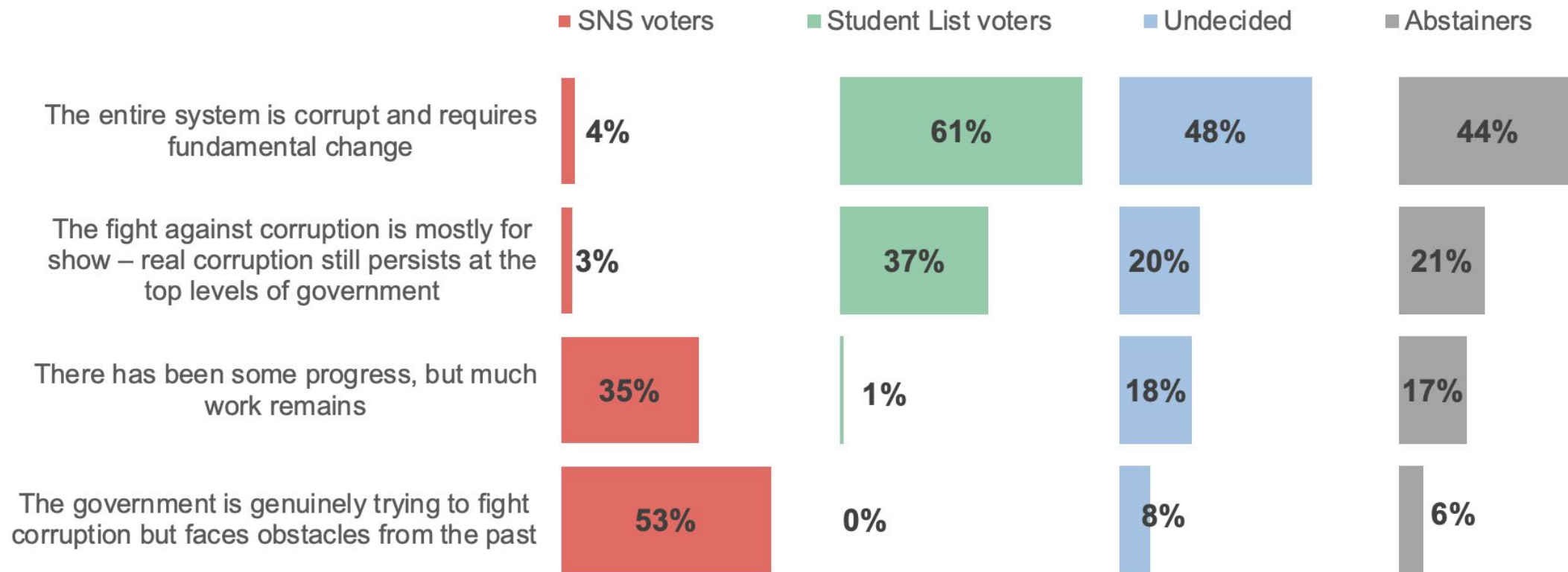
Question: Who do you think is most responsible for corruption in Serbia?



Base: Total population

Question: Who do you think is most responsible for corruption in Serbia?

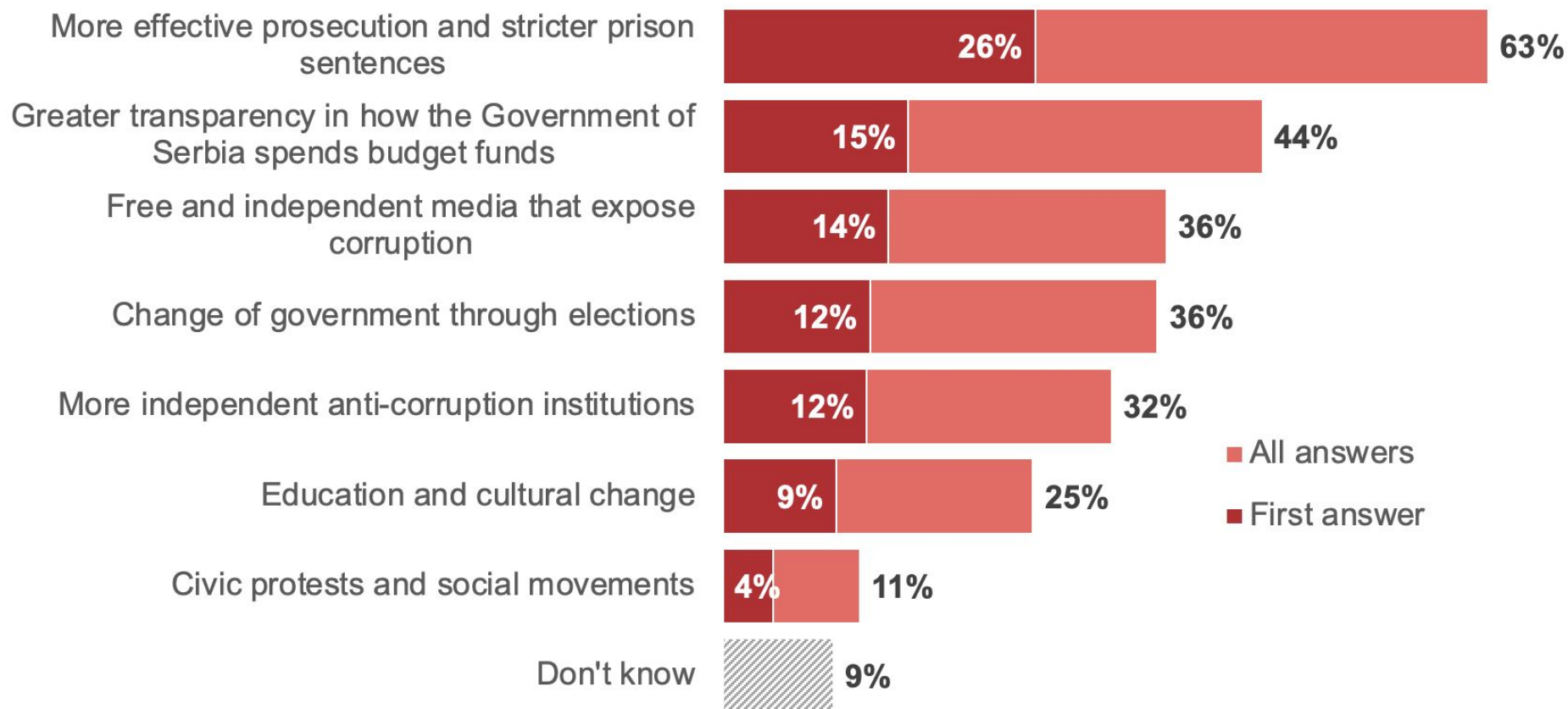
Everyone except government supporters agrees on the necessity of fundamental changes, as the entire system is corrupt and corruption reaches the highest levels of government



Base: Total population

Question: Which statement is closest to your view on efforts to fight corruption in Serbia?

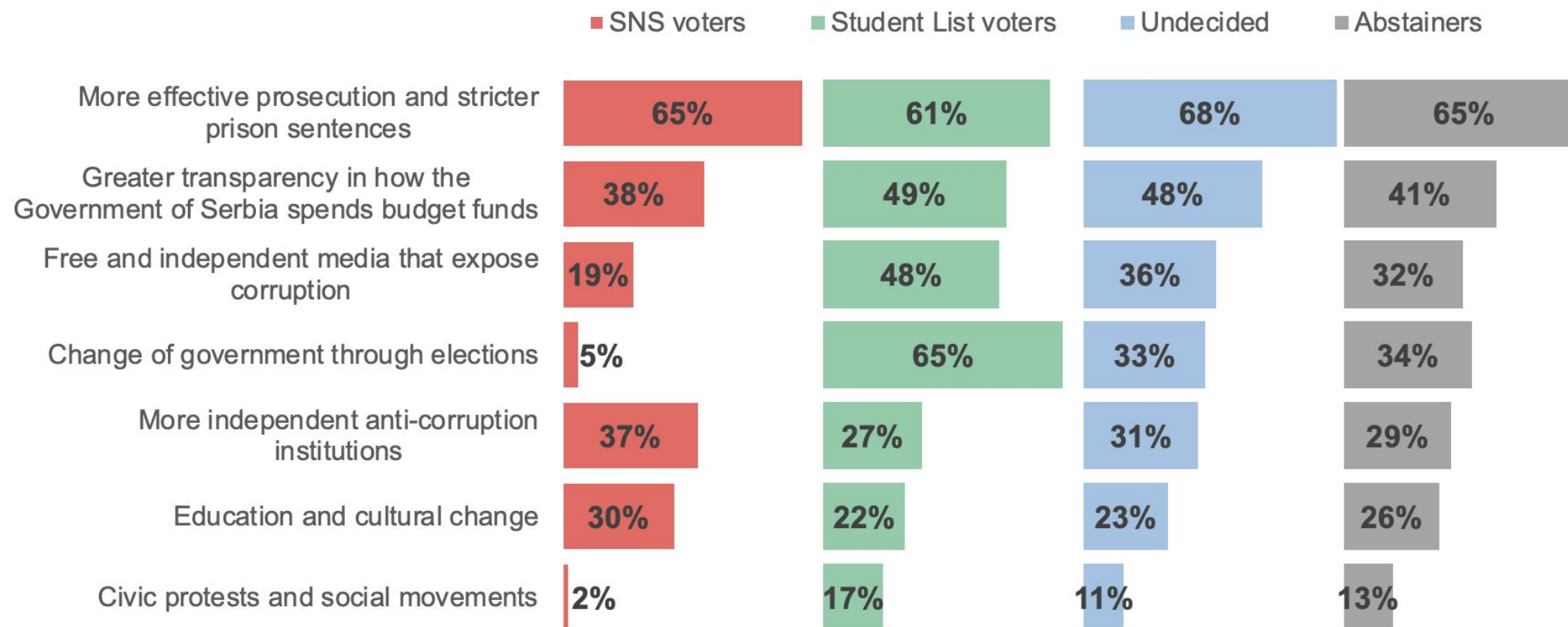
The prosecution stands out as the most important actor essential for the effective reduction of corruption



Base: Total population

Question: In your opinion, which item from the following list is most important for effectively reducing corruption in Serbia?

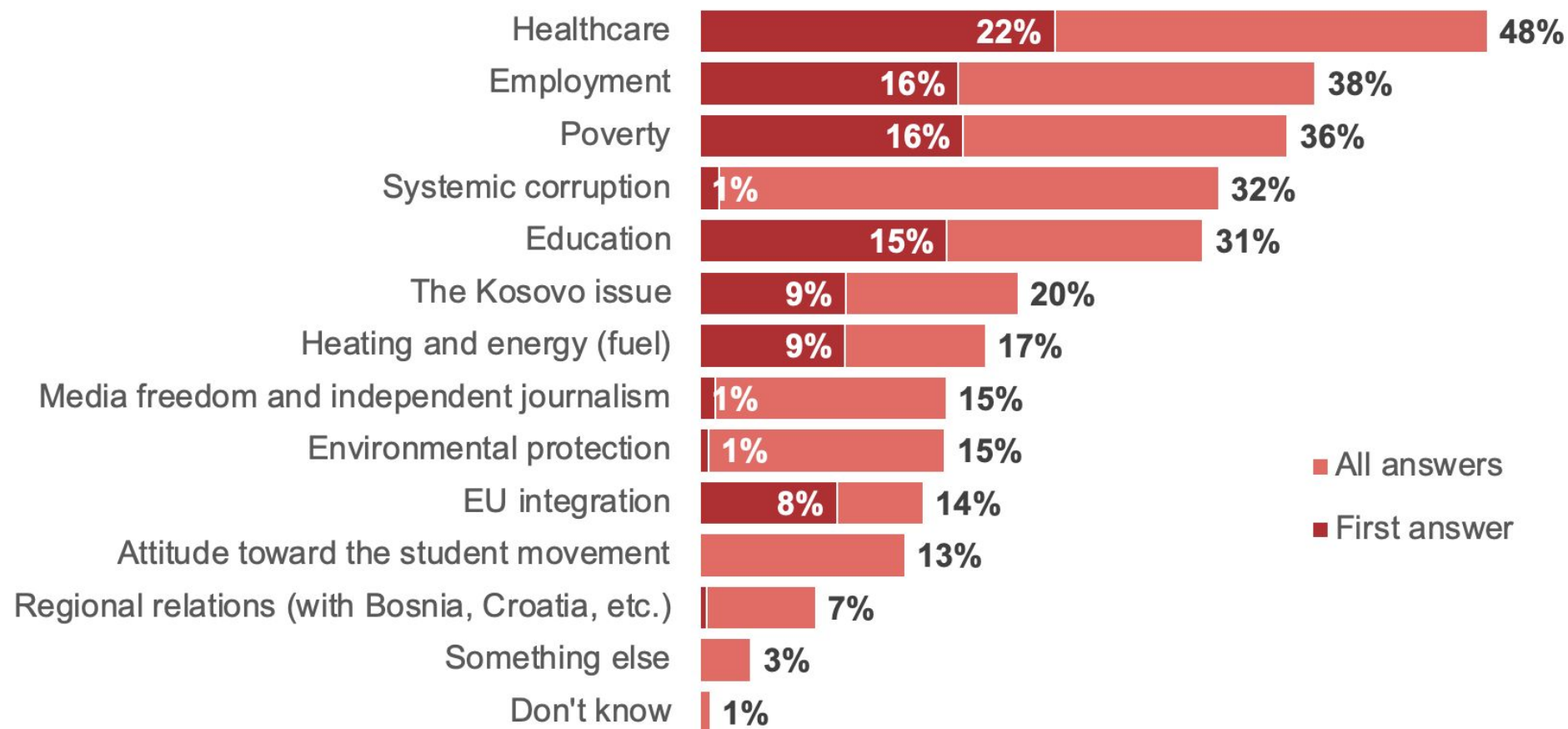
More efficient prosecutorial work is the only point on which all groups agree, while opinions diverge regarding transparency, the media, changes of government, and protests



Base: Total population

Question: In your opinion, which item from the following list is most important for effectively reducing corruption in Serbia?

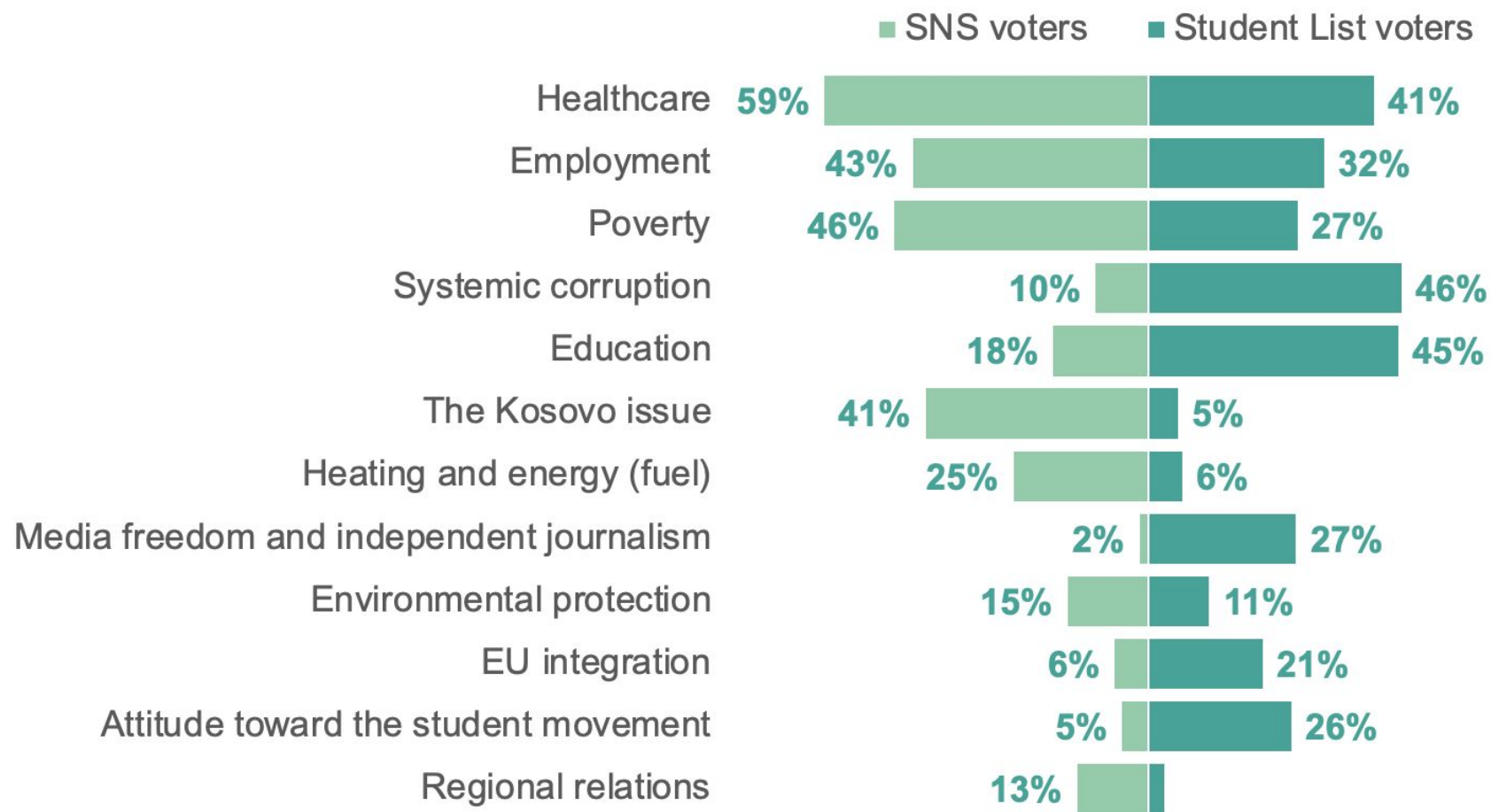
Citizens expect the government to solve their biggest personal problems: healthcare and personal economic issues



Base: Total population

Question: In your opinion, what would be the three most important problems the national government of Serbia should prioritize?

Political preferences indicate significant differences regarding government priorities



Women cite healthcare as a priority **significantly more often** than men.

Younger people **more often** cite employment and education, while older people **emphasize** healthcare and poverty.

Media preferences align with political preferences.

Base: Total population

Question: In your opinion, what would be the three most important problems the national government of Serbia should prioritize?

POLITICAL PREFERENCES

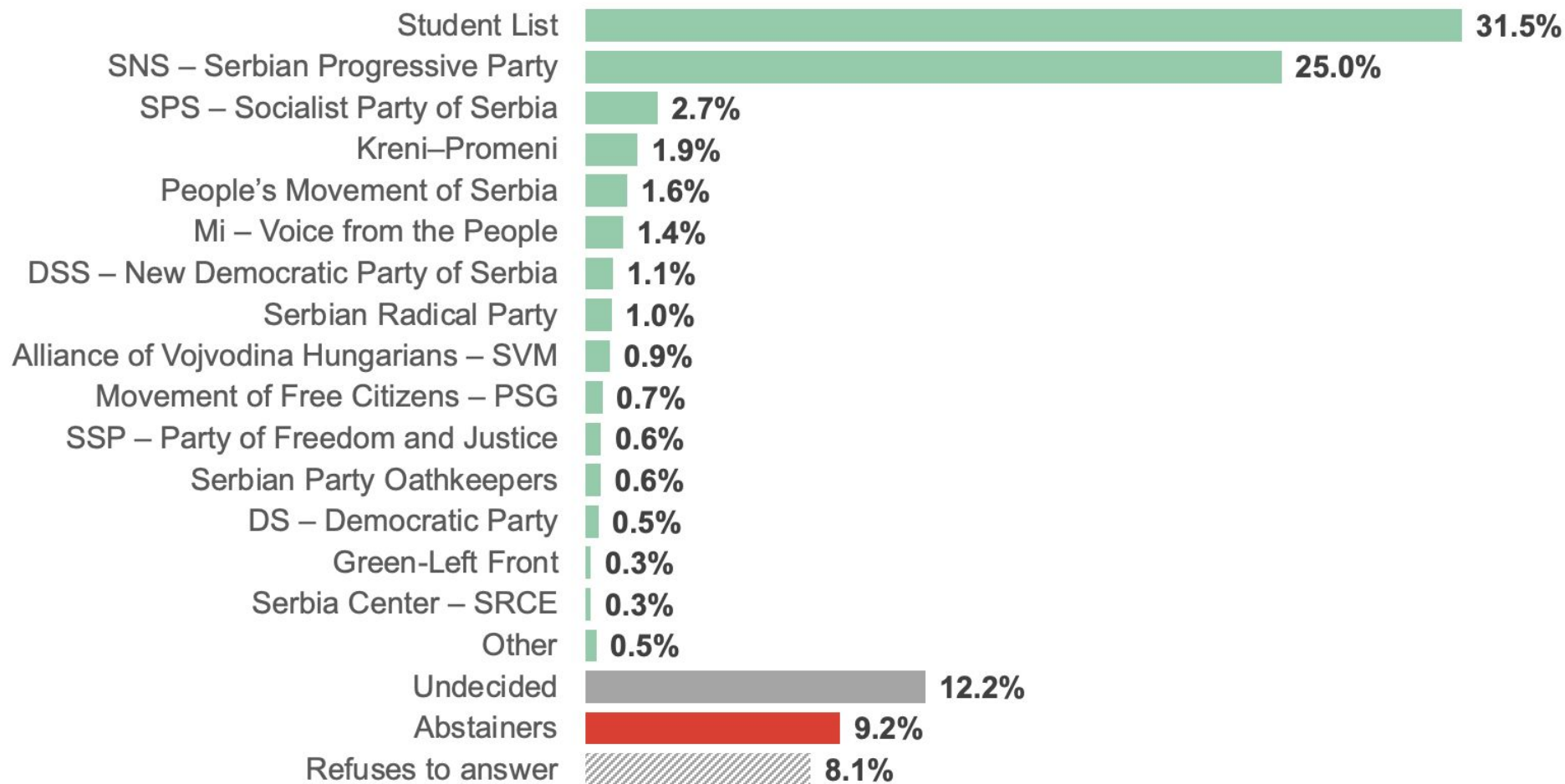
More than half of Serbia's citizens consider the local elections held earlier this year to have been neither fair nor free

■ Not at all free and fair ■ Mostly not free and fair ▨ Don't know ■ Mostly free and fair ■ Completely free and fair



In April of last year, half of Serbia's citizens (50%) characterized the last parliamentary elections, held in December 2023, as neither free nor fair.

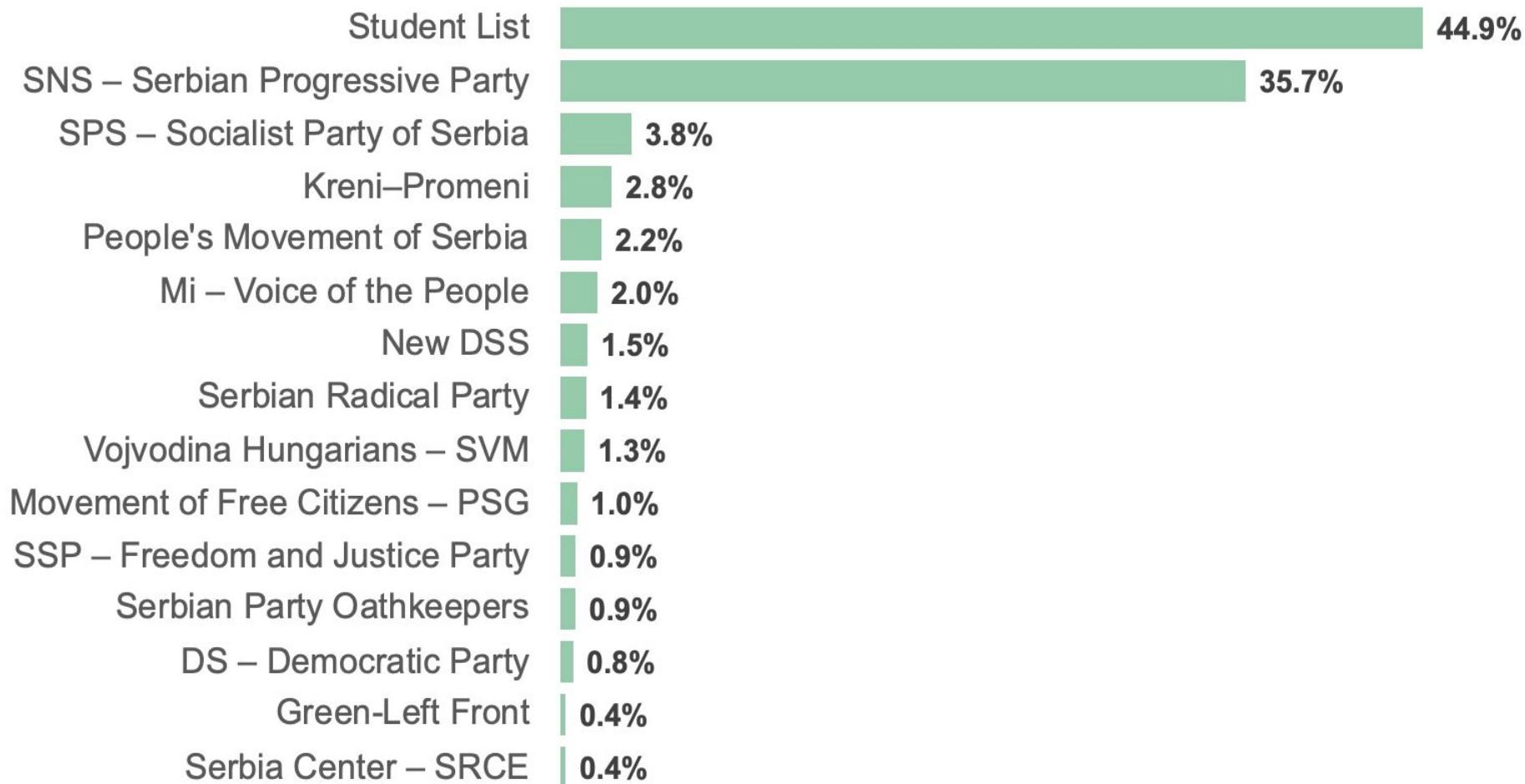
There are currently three large groups present - supporters of the parties in power, supporters of the Student List and a group of undecideds and abstainers



Base: Total population

Question: If the general elections were called today, who would you vote for?

Decided voters



Base: Decided population (70% of population)

Question: If the general elections were called today, who would you vote for?

FOREIGN POLICY

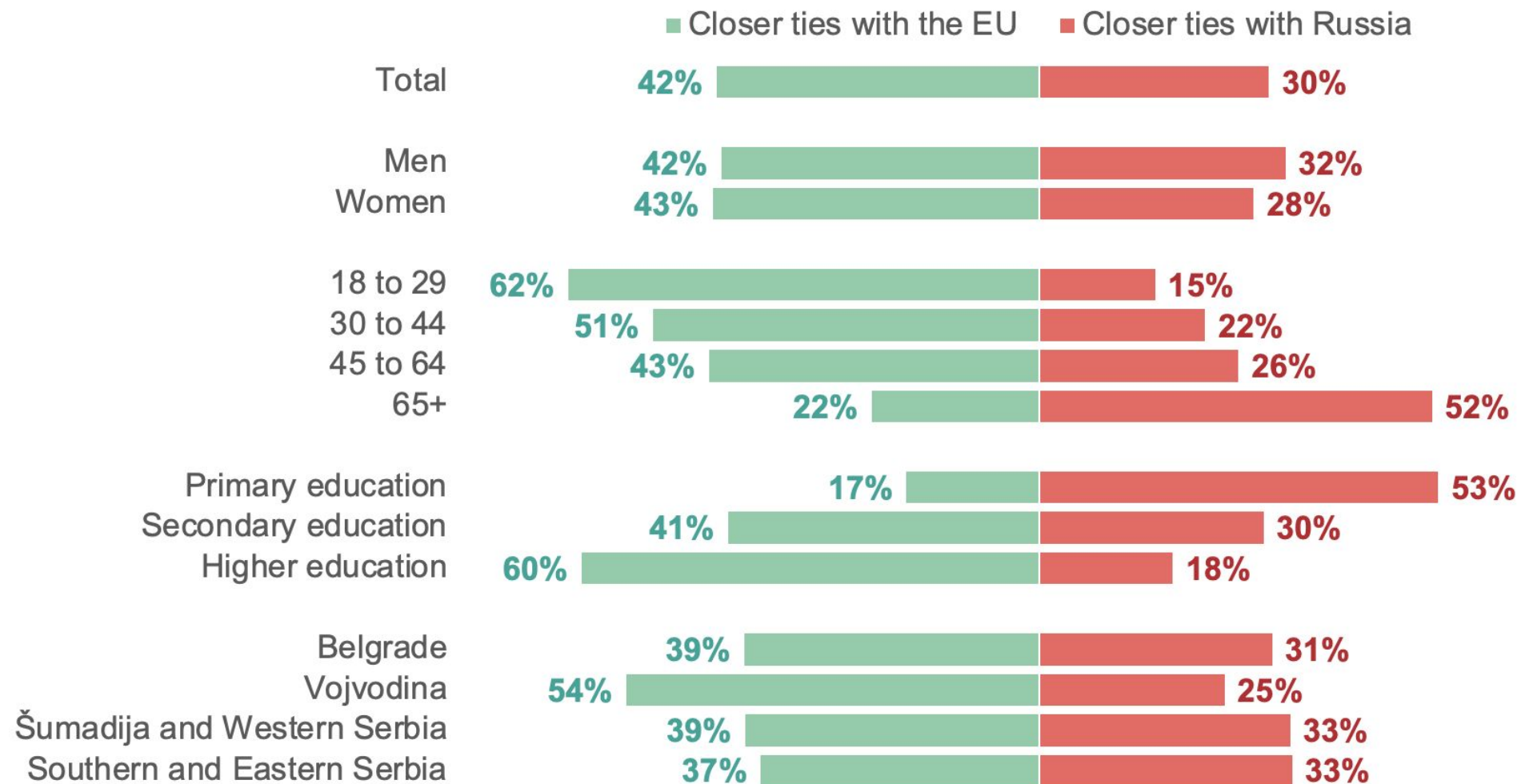
Currently, a slightly larger share of citizens leans towards closer cooperation with the European Union compared to cooperation with Russia, while a quarter of citizens do not take a side



Base: Total population

Question: Should Serbia have closer ties to Russia $\longleftrightarrow$ should Serbia have closer ties to the EU?

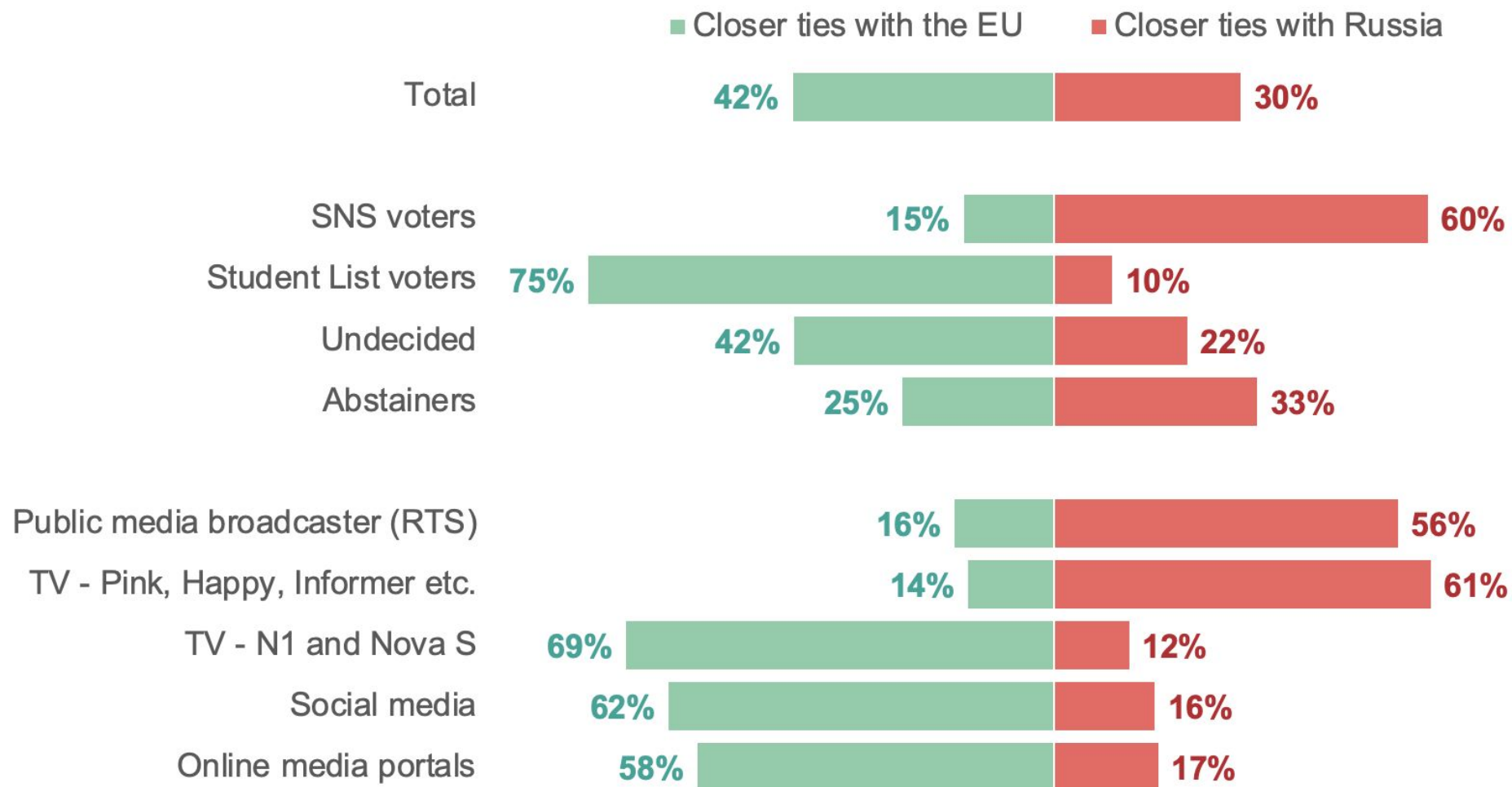
The oldest citizens and those with only a primary education are predominantly pro-Russian



Base: Total population

Question: Should Serbia have closer ties to Russia ←→ should Serbia have closer ties to the EU?

Political preferences strongly shape attitudes towards the preferred direction of foreign policy



Base: Total population

Question: Should Serbia have closer ties to Russia ←→ should Serbia have closer ties to the EU?