



# Survey of US Voters Issues and Attitudes June 2014

# Methodology

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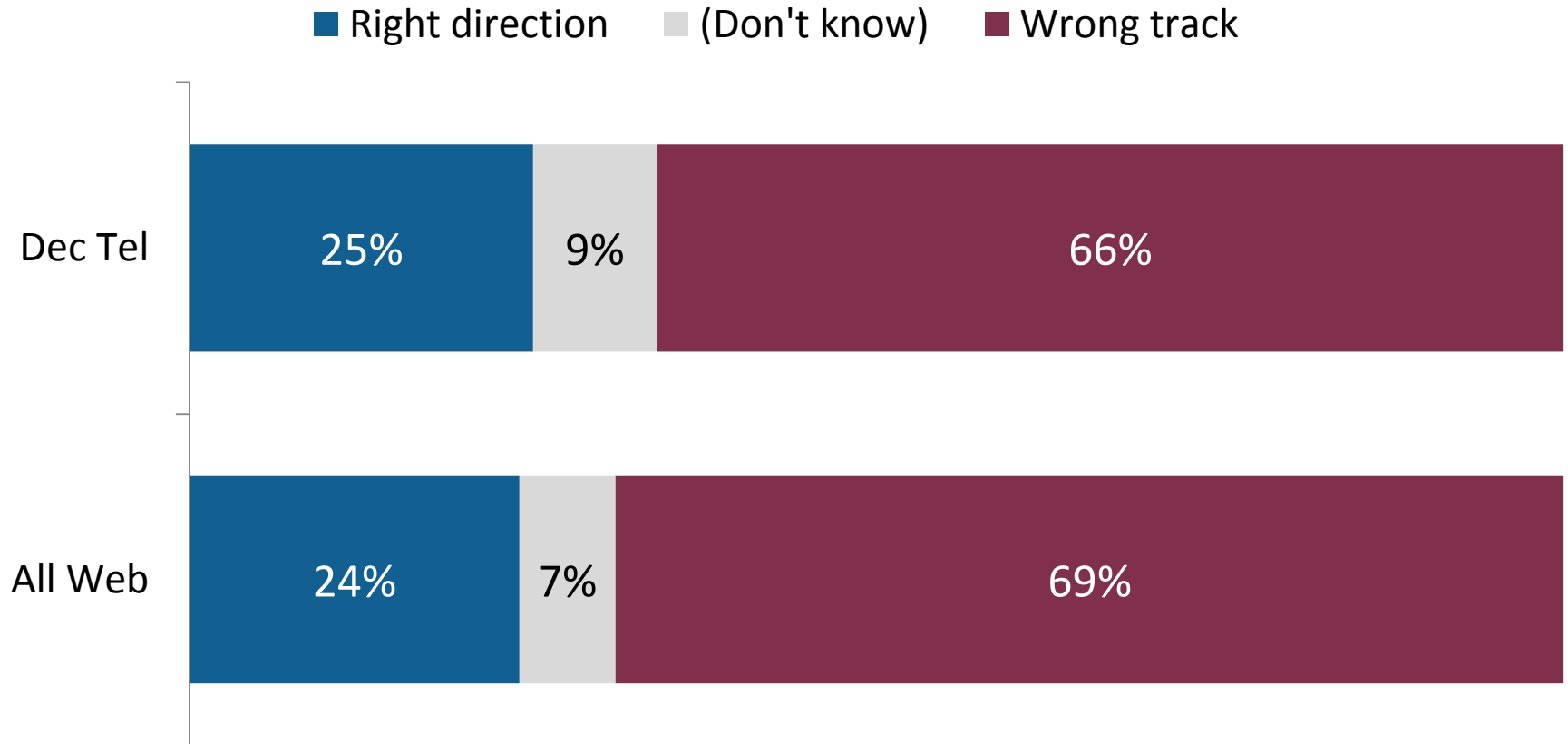
- ▶ Three surveys of U.S. voters conducted in late 2013
- ▶ Two online surveys of voters, respondents reached using recruit-only online panel of adults nationwide, screened for self-identified registered voters. Data shown for web survey combines these two samples with a few exceptions.
  - December 9-19, 2013 N=1,200
  - September 18-30, 2013 N=1,200
- ▶ One telephone survey of 800 U.S. voters, December 13-19, 2013; using random sample drawn from voter lists
- ▶ Please note that due to rounding, percentages may not add up to exactly 100%



# Voter Mood/Issues

# Direction of the Country

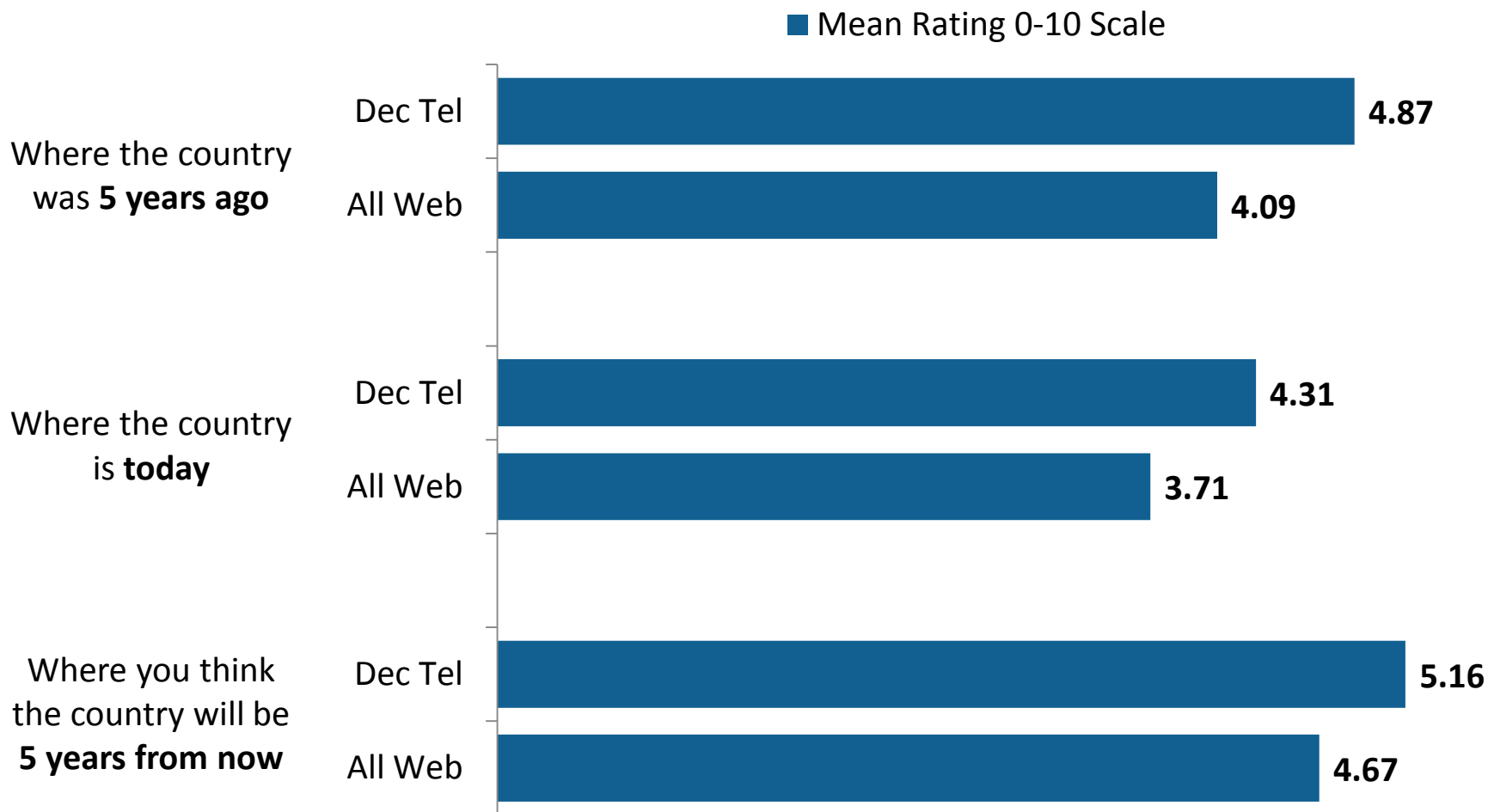
*Voters remain very negative about the direction of the country.*



*Do you feel that things in this country are generally going in the right direction, or have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?*

# Optimism Rating

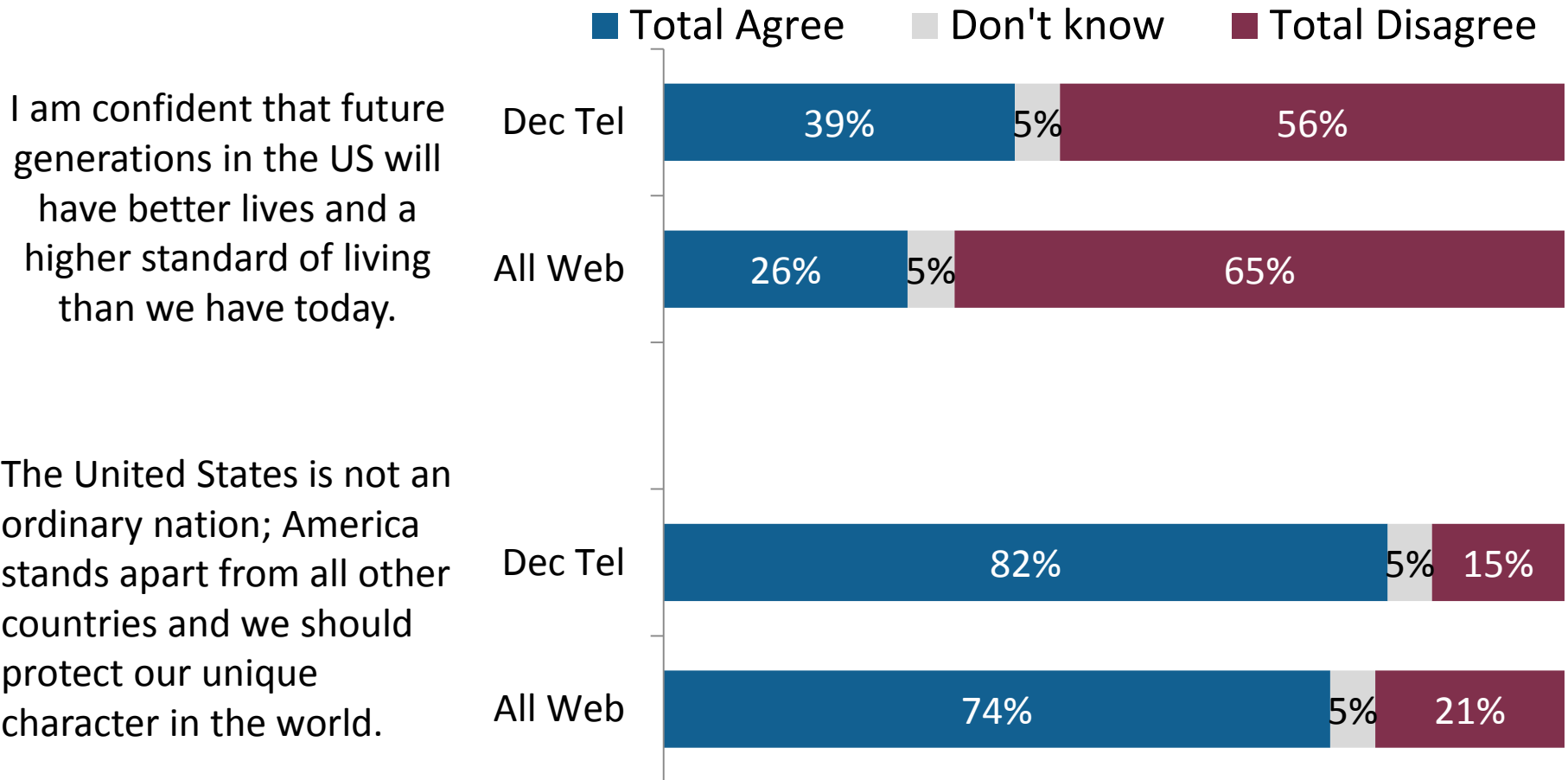
*Voters are not optimistic about the future.*



*On a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is the worst possible state of affairs and 10 is the best possible state of affairs, how would you rate...*

# American Dream & American Exceptionalism

*Few voters believe the next generation will be better off, and most agree the US is unique.*



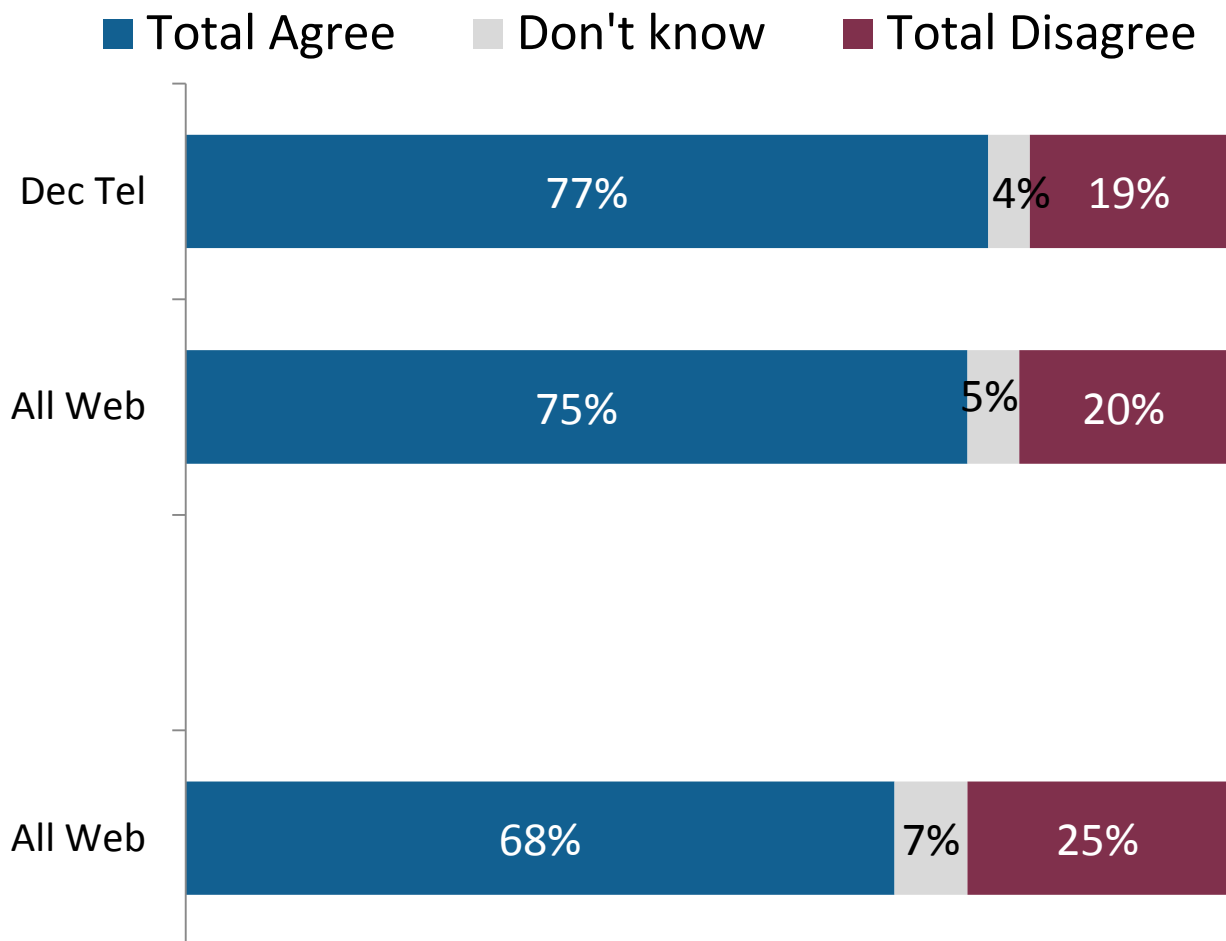
Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

# Economic Outlook

*More than 3 in 4 agree the US has a two track economy; and most agree their personal financial situation has not improved.*

The US has a two-track economy, where most Americans struggle every day, where good jobs are hard to find, and where the huge corps get all the rewards. We need fundmtl. changes to fix the inequality in our economic system.

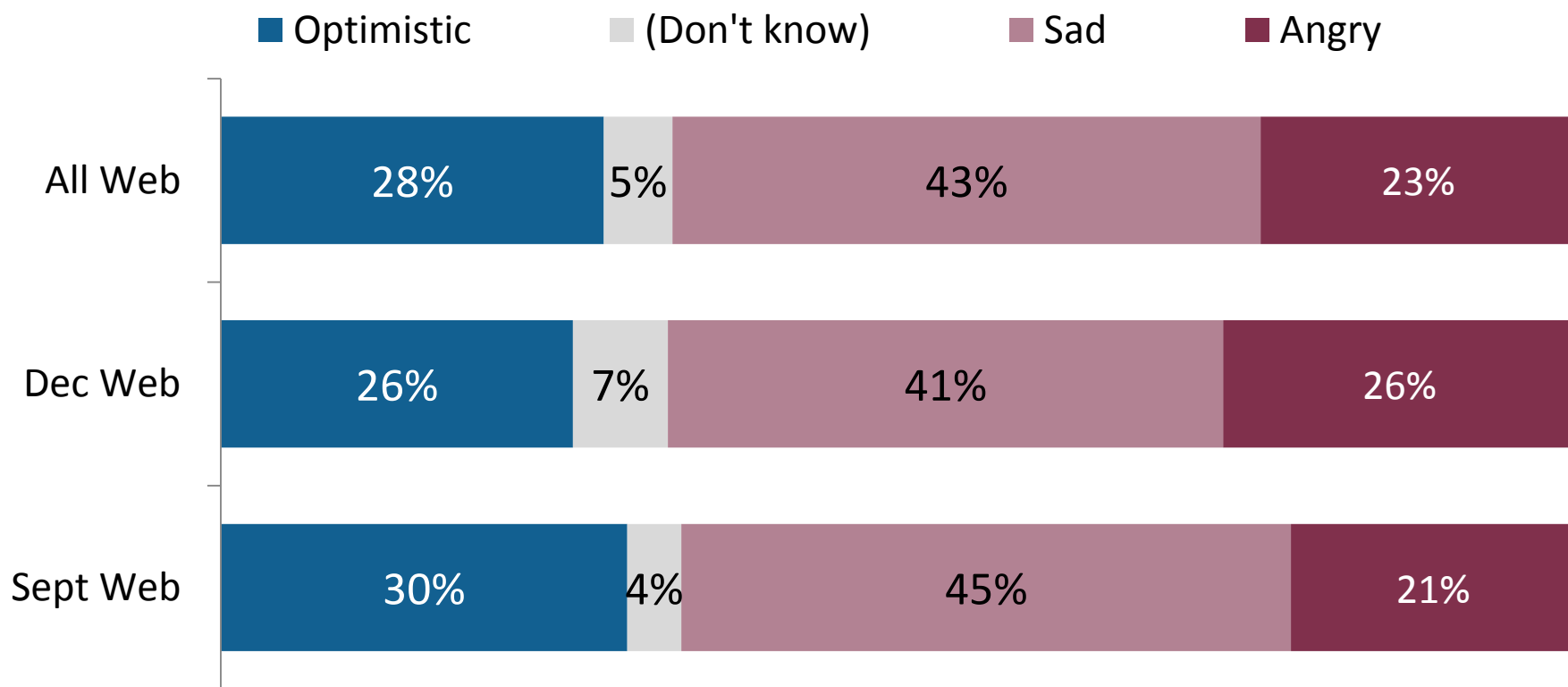
I hear news about the economy improving, but my personal financial situation has not improved significantly.



Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

# Forced Choice: Optimism, Apathy, or Anger

*Overall, “sad” voters outnumber “angry” voters. Compared to September, more voters describe themselves as angry and “mad enough to take action” in December.*



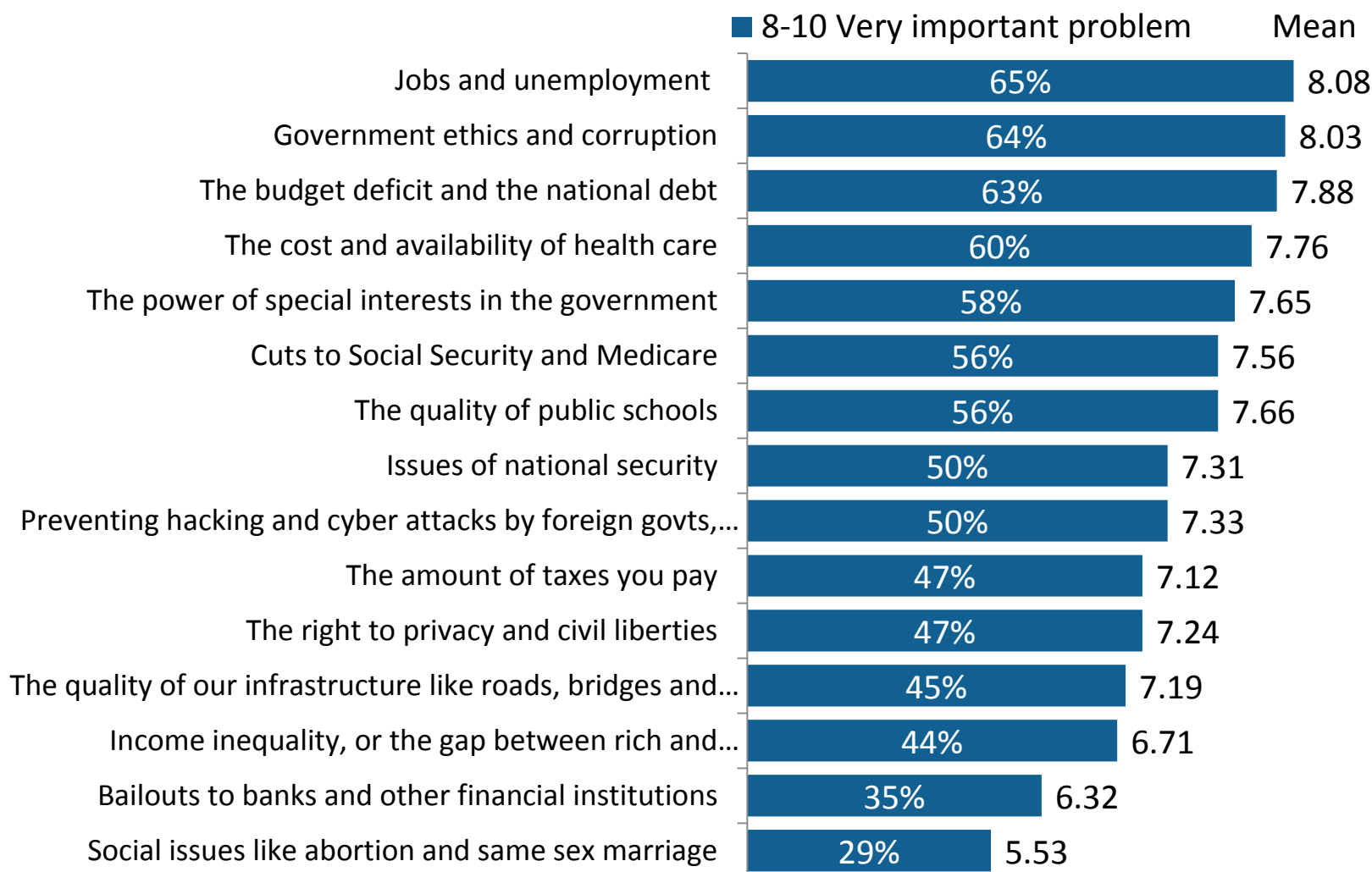
*Which statement comes closer to your opinion?*

- We are facing challenges in the US today, but I'm optimistic we can keep making progress.*
- I'm sad about how our political system and our economy are failing us, and I don't think things are going to change very much.*
- I'm very angry about our broken political system, our failed leadership, and our declining quality of life; and I'm mad enough to take action to really help change things.*



# Issue Importance – Combined Web Survey

*Government corruption continues to rank as a top concern for voters.*



*Indicate whether each one is an important problem facing the country today. On this scale, 0 is not at all an important problem and 10 is an extremely important problem.*

# Federal Government Spending

*Voters are divided evenly on spending cuts vs. protecting programs and taxing the rich, but only a quarter think a shutdown is justified.*

Federal government spending is out of control. Reducing government spending is so important that we need drastic steps to force changes – even if means risking a government shutdown.

25%

Spending is a big problem but extreme steps like a government shutdown are too risky – they harm the economy and the people who depend on the federal government.

22%

Don't know

7%

We should protect essential programs like Social Security and Medicare and balance the federal budget by finding more revenue through taxes on the wealthy and large corporations who aren't paying...

46%



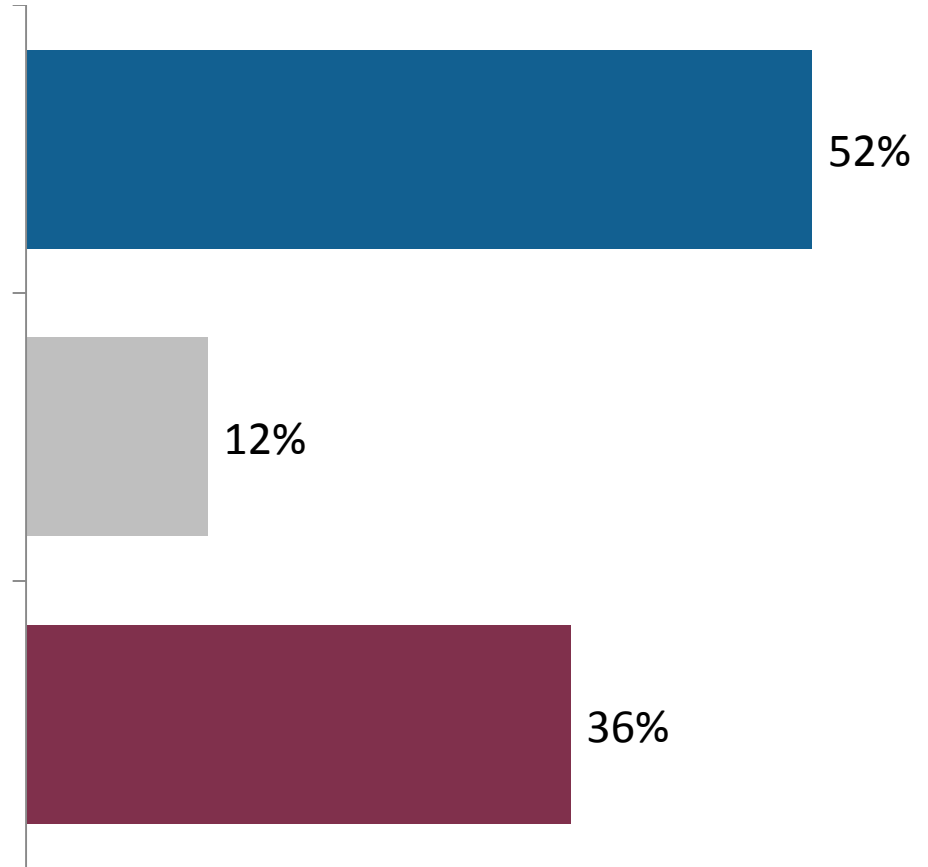
# Minimum Wage

*A majority support significantly increasing the minimum wage.*

The minimum wage is far too low and we should significantly increase it. Min. wage workers should make enough money to meet a min. standard of living and help support their families, and an increase is a key step to rebuilding our middle class.

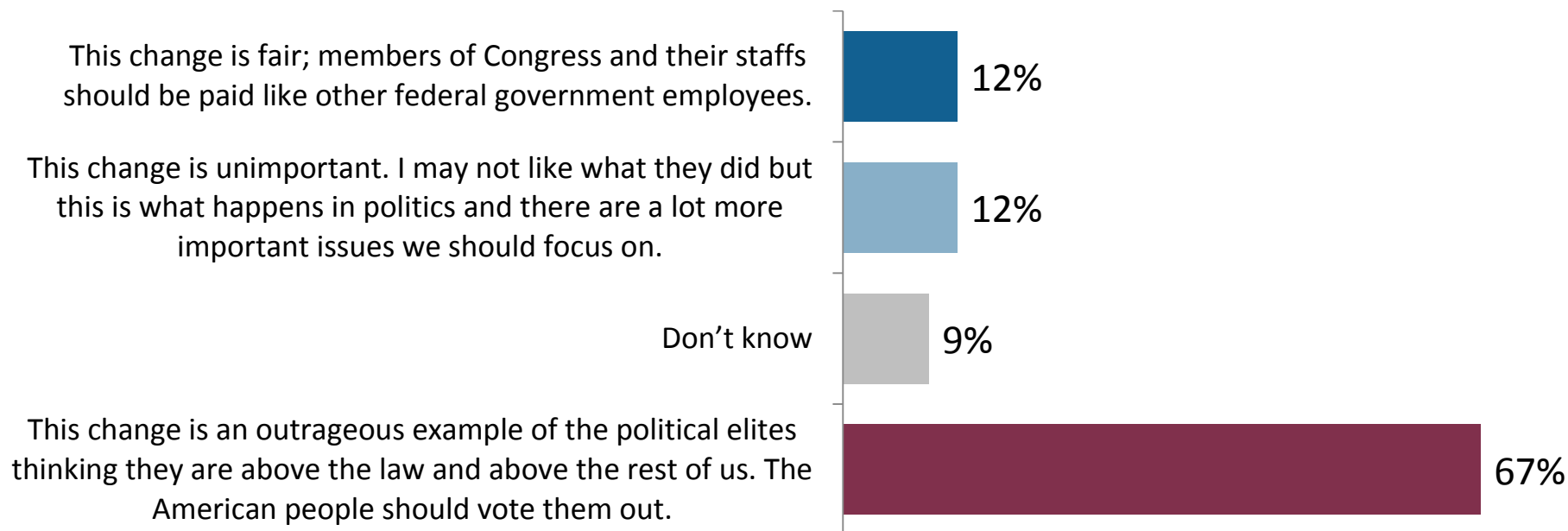
Don't know

Raising the minimum wage is a misguided idea that will simply kill jobs, drive small companies out of business, harm the economy, and in the end it will hurt low wage workers and their families.



# Obamacare Exemption for Congress

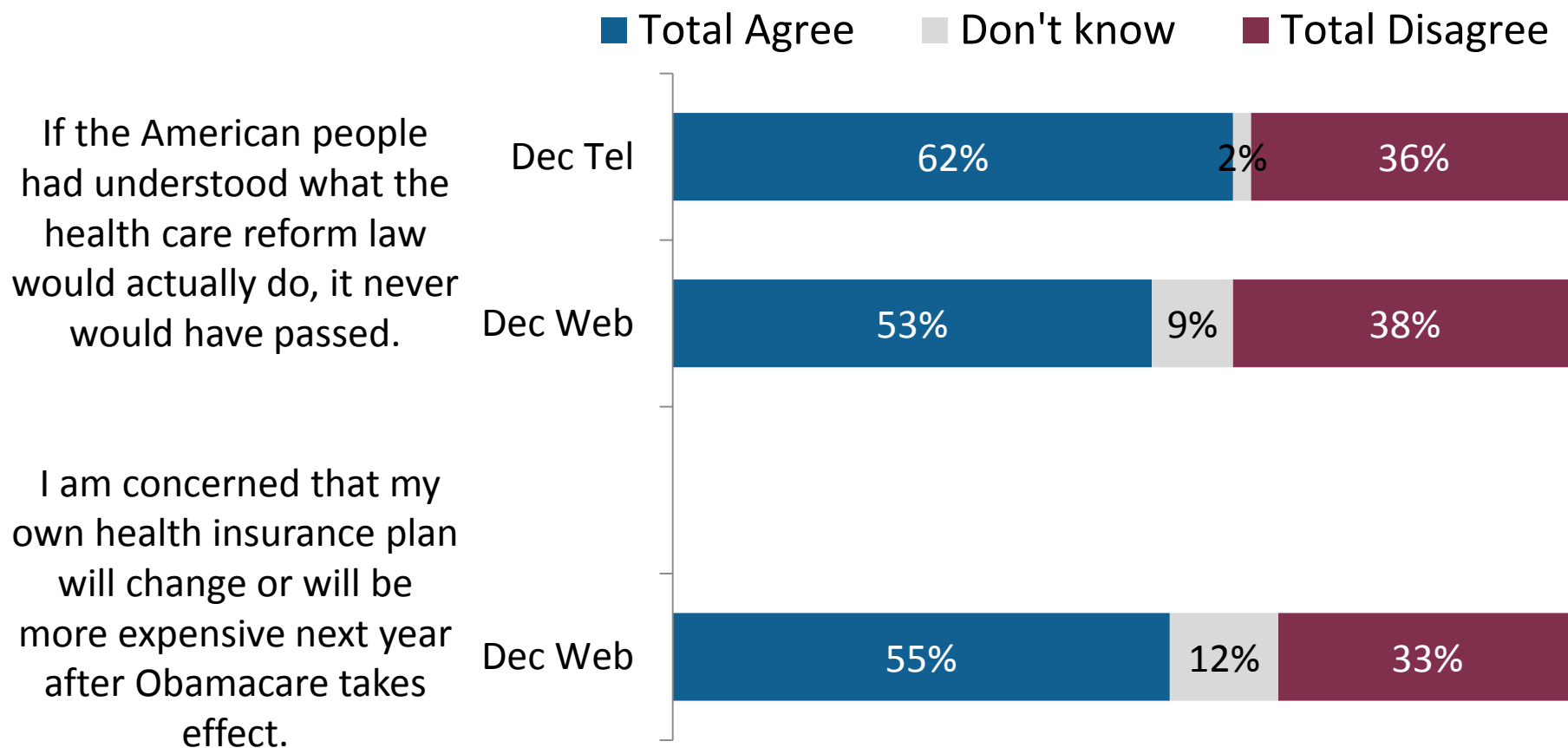
*Voters are outraged at the different treatment for Congress.*



*As you may know, the new health care law required members of Congress and their staffs to get their health care from the newly created health care exchanges like millions of other Americans, and no longer receive their current government-provided health care benefits. Responding to criticism from members of Congress, President Obama and the leaders of the Democratic party (SPLIT SAMPLE B ONLY) with the quiet but direct support of Republican party leaders (RESUME ASKING ALL) agreed to a new regulation, without a Congressional vote, that exempted members of Congress and their staffs from this requirement, so that their health care premiums will still be paid for by taxpayers. Which of the following statements comes closest to your opinion?*

# Obamacare Attitudes

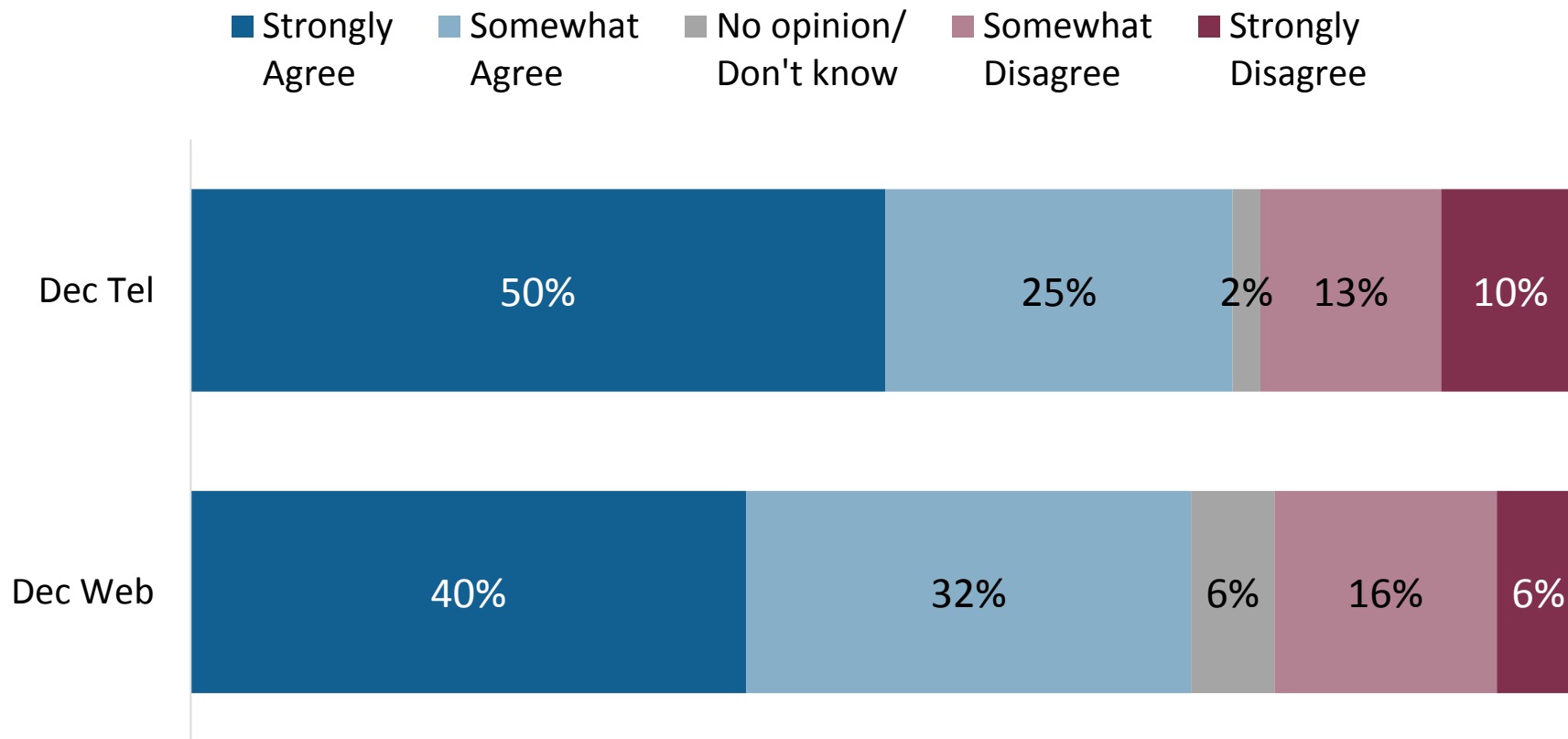
*Most agree the law would not have passed if voters understood what it would do; a majority are concerned their own insurance will be affected.*



Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

# Government Intrusion

*Over 70% of voters believe recent government intrusions could be only the beginning if action isn't taken.*



*Q53. Politicians and the government think they can do anything they want, and intrude on more and more of our lives. Right now it's the IRS targeting certain groups, and the NSA spying on our emails and phone records, and so many government regulations intruding on our lives, but this could be just the beginning of a dangerous slippery slope. If we don't stand up and stop them now we will lose all control.*

# Presidential Power

*A majority believe a president can make a difference.*

I believe a president who is a determined leader who is willing to involve the American people and work together with other leaders could make a difference.

53%

I don't think that one president can truly change the political system in Washington.

42%

Don't know

6%

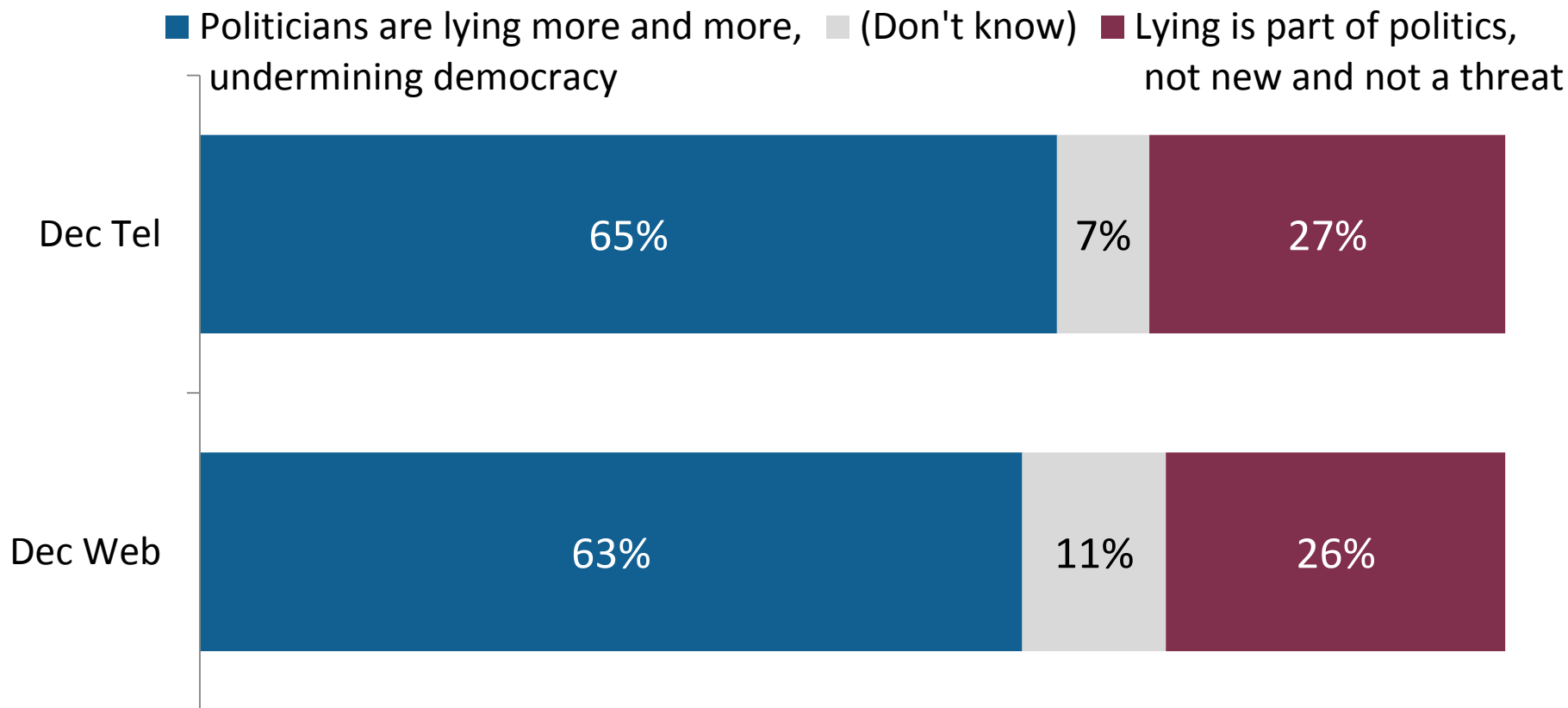


# Alienation



# Lies in Politics

*Nearly 2 out of 3 voters believe leaders are lying more, and lying about almost everything, and this is a threat to the foundations of democracy.*



*Which of the following statements comes closer to your opinion?*

- *More and more in recent years, political leaders have gone beyond just bending the truth and are consistently lying to the American people about almost everything. In doing so, they are undermining the foundations of our democracy.*
- *Politicians have always bent the truth to try to win support, and it's just part of politics. It's nothing new and it's not a major threat to democracy.*

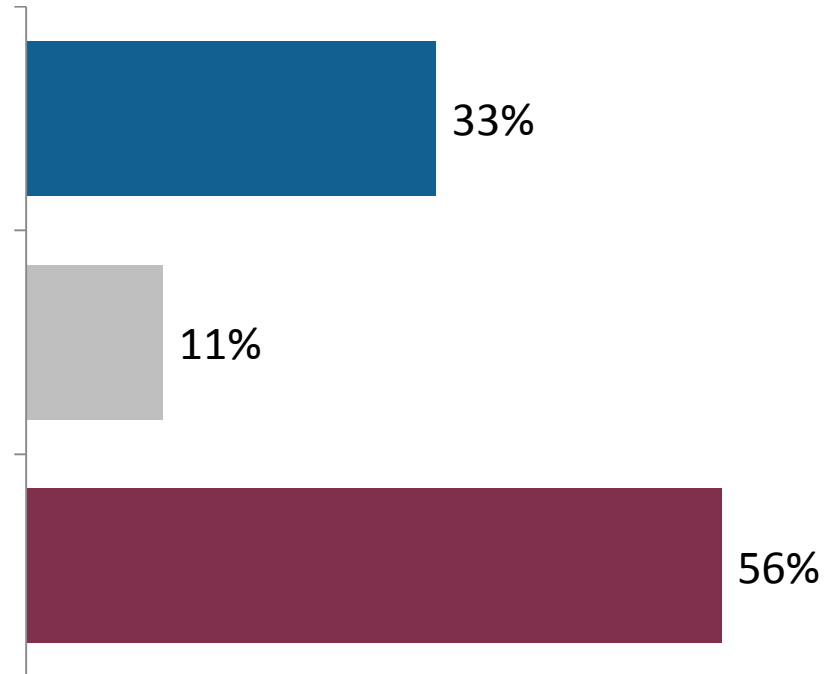
# Rule of Law

*A majority of voters believe politics “has reached a new low point” and the rule of law is routinely ignored.*

This is politics as usual, and not really any different from how things were done in the past. Our political system is messy, but we don't have military takeovers or civil wars like other countries, and if we don't like it we can vote for new leaders.

Don't know

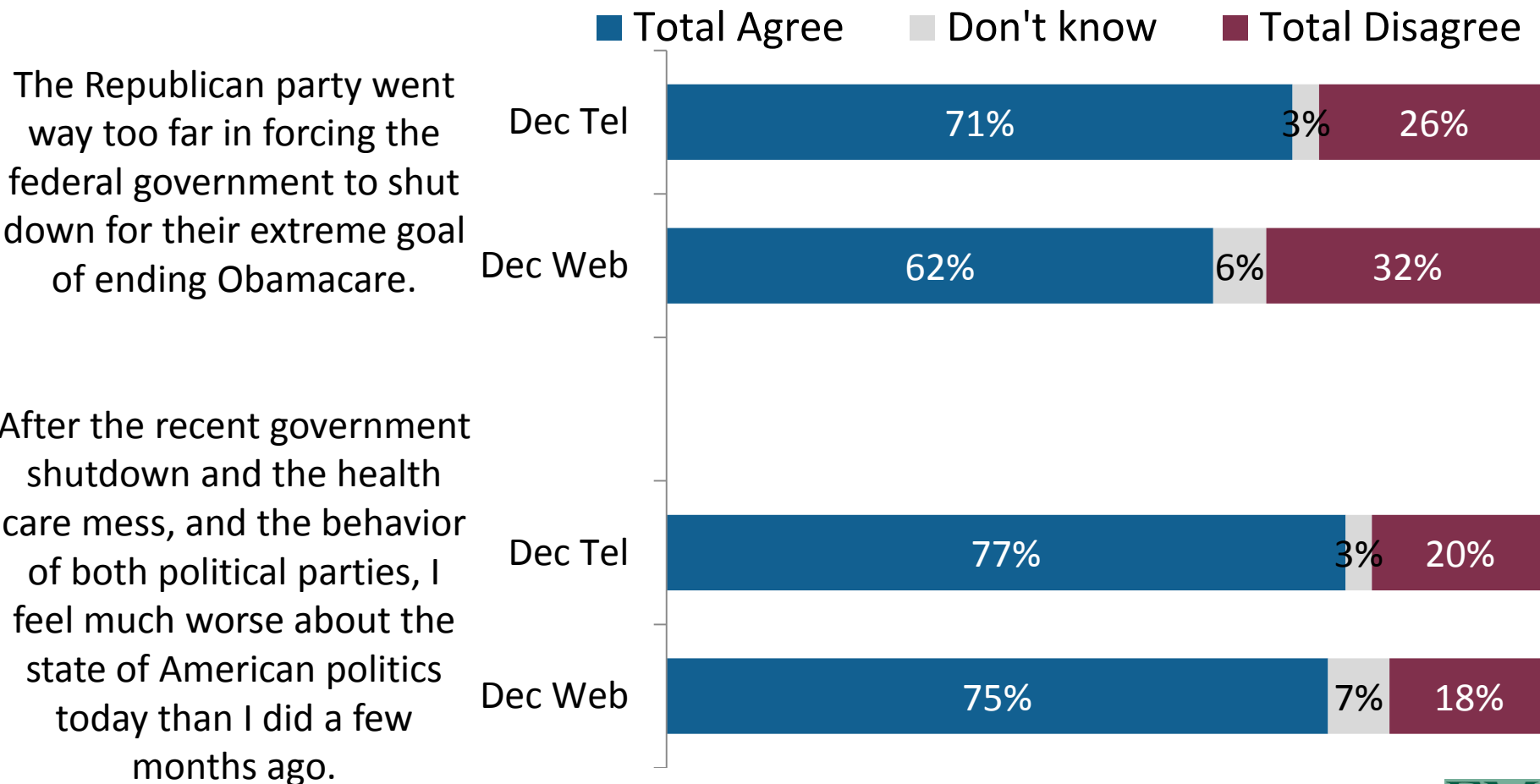
Something big has changed, and the state of politics in the U.S. has reached a new low point, where the rule of law is ignored by whoever has the most votes. Our democracy is nothing like it used to be, and ordinary people no longer have a voice.



*DEC WEB SURVEY ONLY – Some people say we are in a dangerous period in America, where politicians will truly do whatever it takes to achieve their partisan goals, even ignoring the laws and the constitution. Over the past several years, we have seen forced shutdowns of the government, new laws pushed through with lies and back room deals, IRS investigating political groups, spying on US citizens by the NSA, two presidents claiming they have unlimited powers to attack civilians in foreign countries, the Senate leadership overturning two hundred year old filibuster rules meant to protect the voice of the minority party, presidents saying they have the power to pick and choose which parts of a law they want to follow, and more. Thinking of these issues, which of the following statements comes closer to your opinion?*

# Government Shutdown

*The large majority of voters are very dissatisfied about the shutdown and Obamacare rollout.*

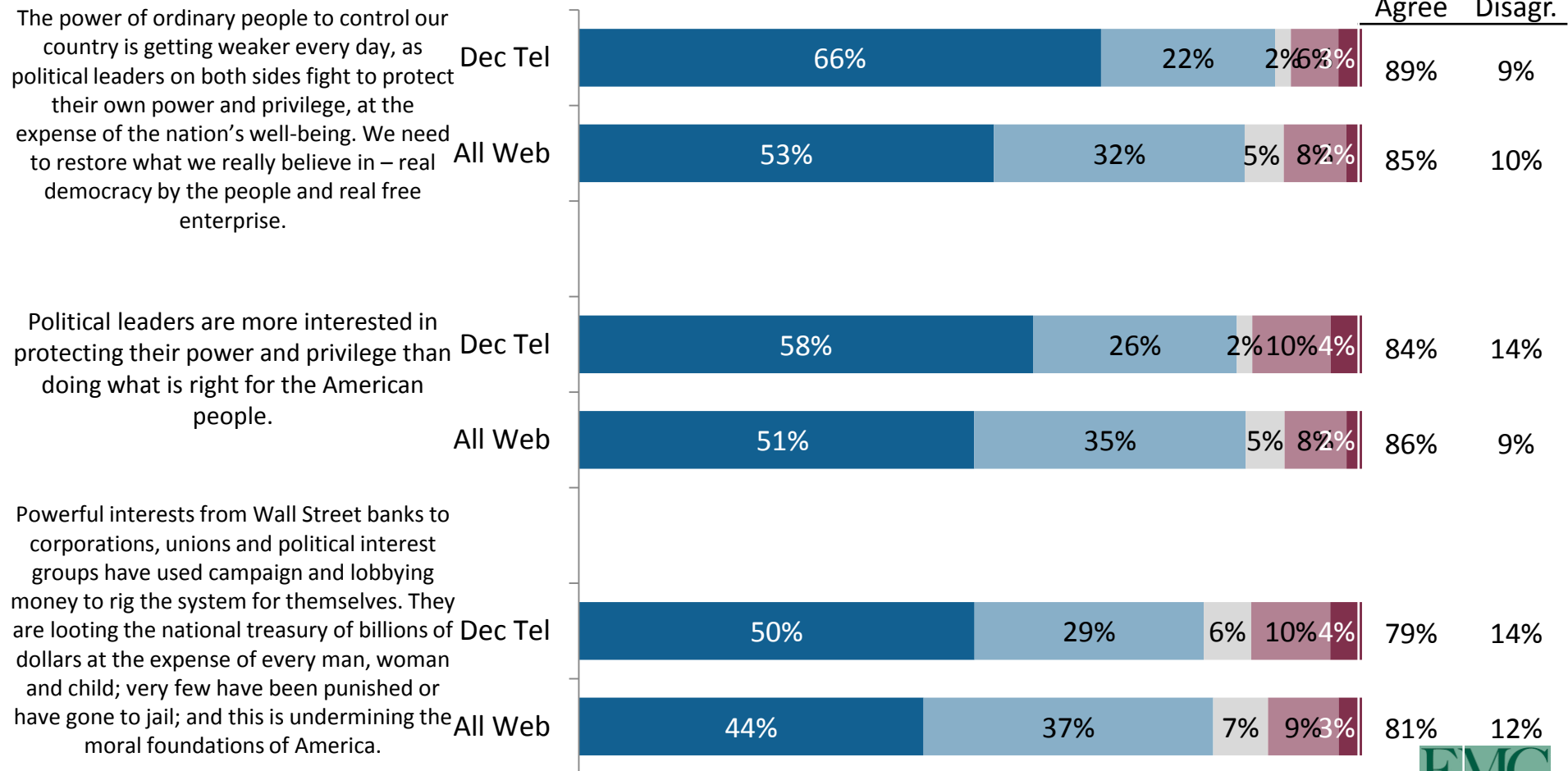


Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

# Alienation Scale Questions

*Voters remain highly dissatisfied; intensity of response greater in the telephone survey.*

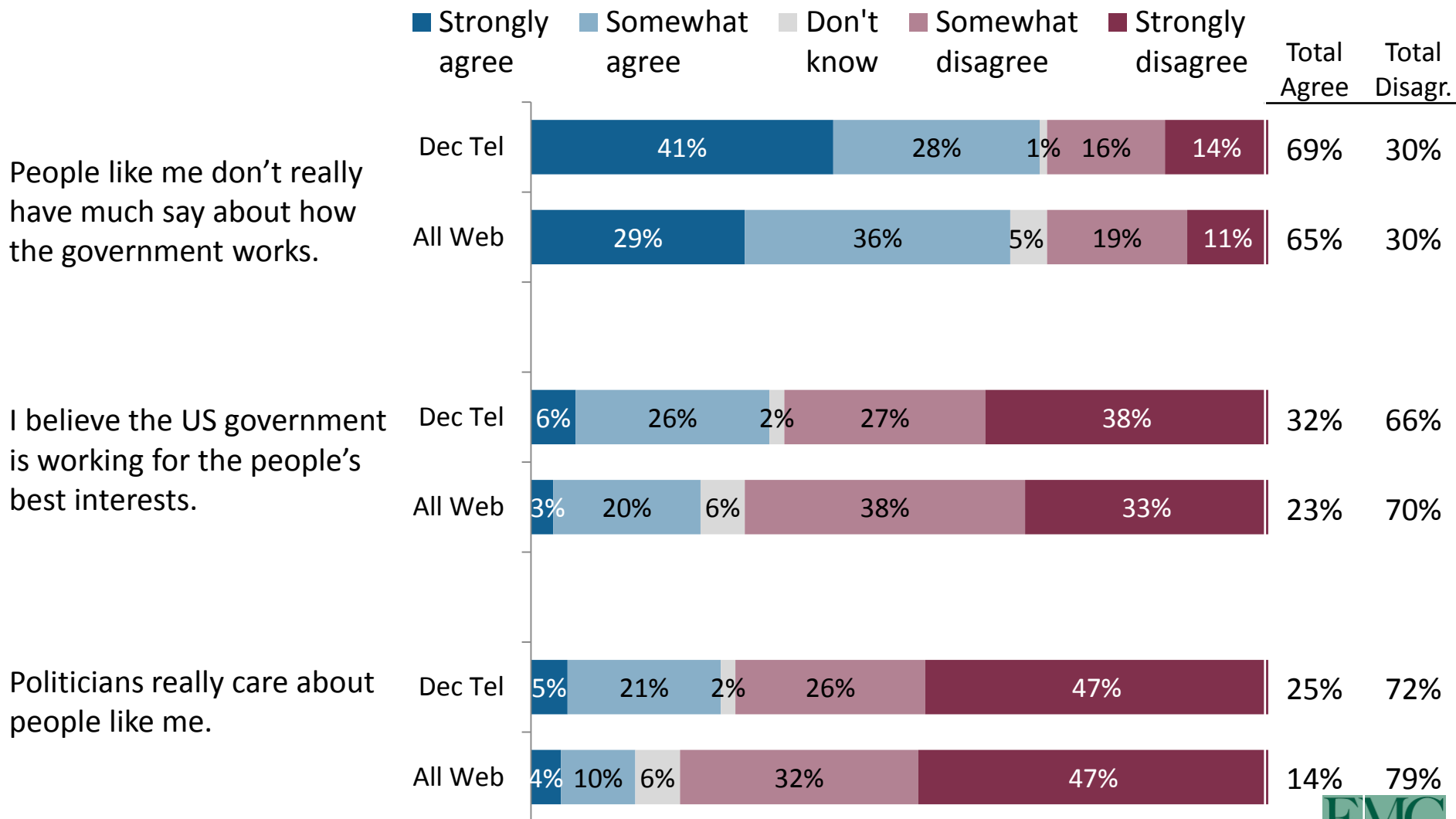
Strongly agree
Somewhat agree
Don't know
Somewhat disagree
Strongly disagree
Total Agree
Total Disagr.



*Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?*

# Alienation Scale Questions

*Voters remain highly dissatisfied; intensity of response greater in the telephone survey.*



*Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?*

# Alienation Scale

*More than 60% are extremely or very alienated.*

DEC  
TEL

Extremely Alienated

33%

Very Alienated

26%

Somewhat Alienated

25%

Not Alienated

15%

COMBINED  
WEB

Extremely Alienated

29%

Very Alienated

32%

Somewhat Alienated

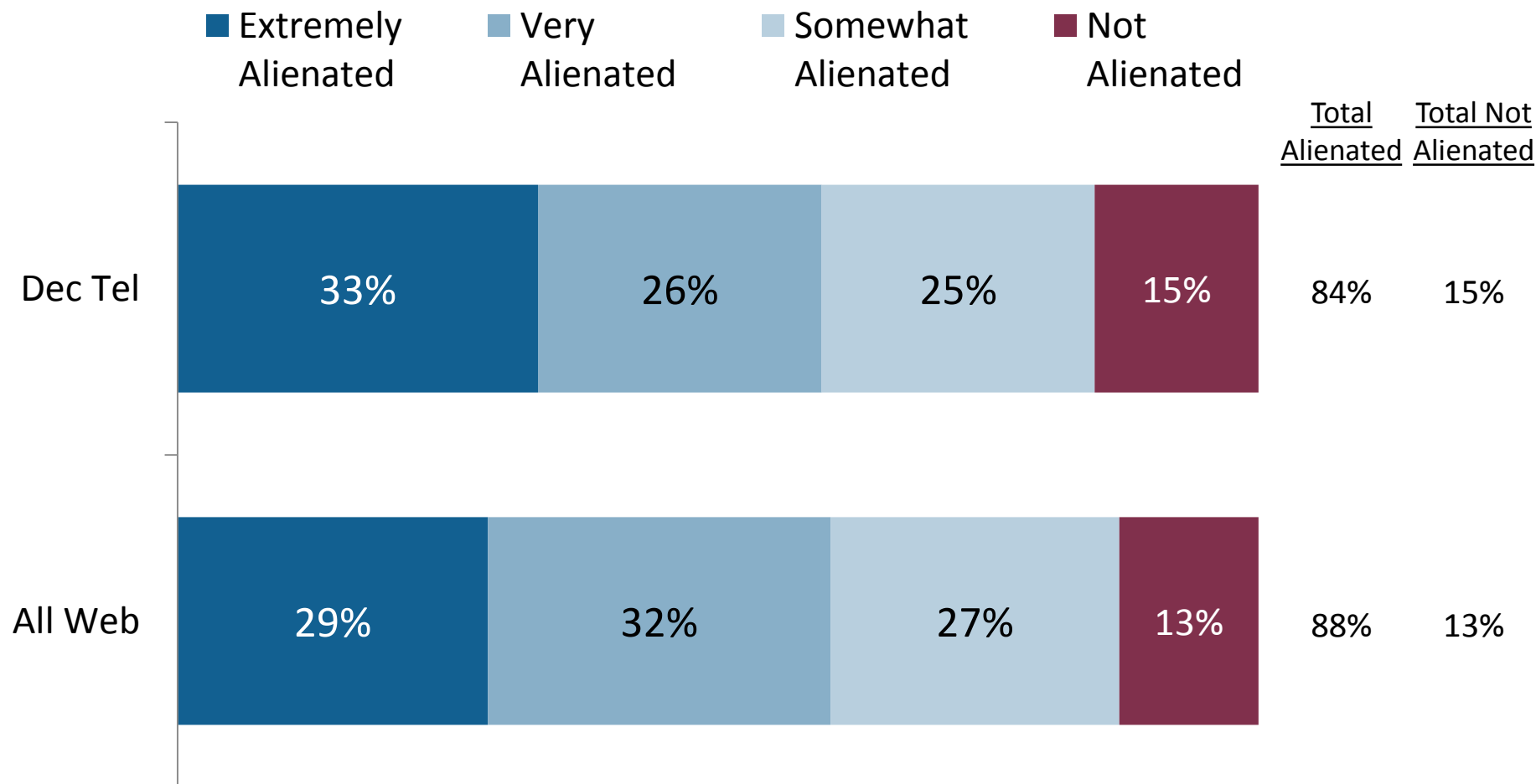
27%

Not Alienated

13%

# Alienation Scale, Collapsed

*A majority of US voters are very alienated from the political system.*



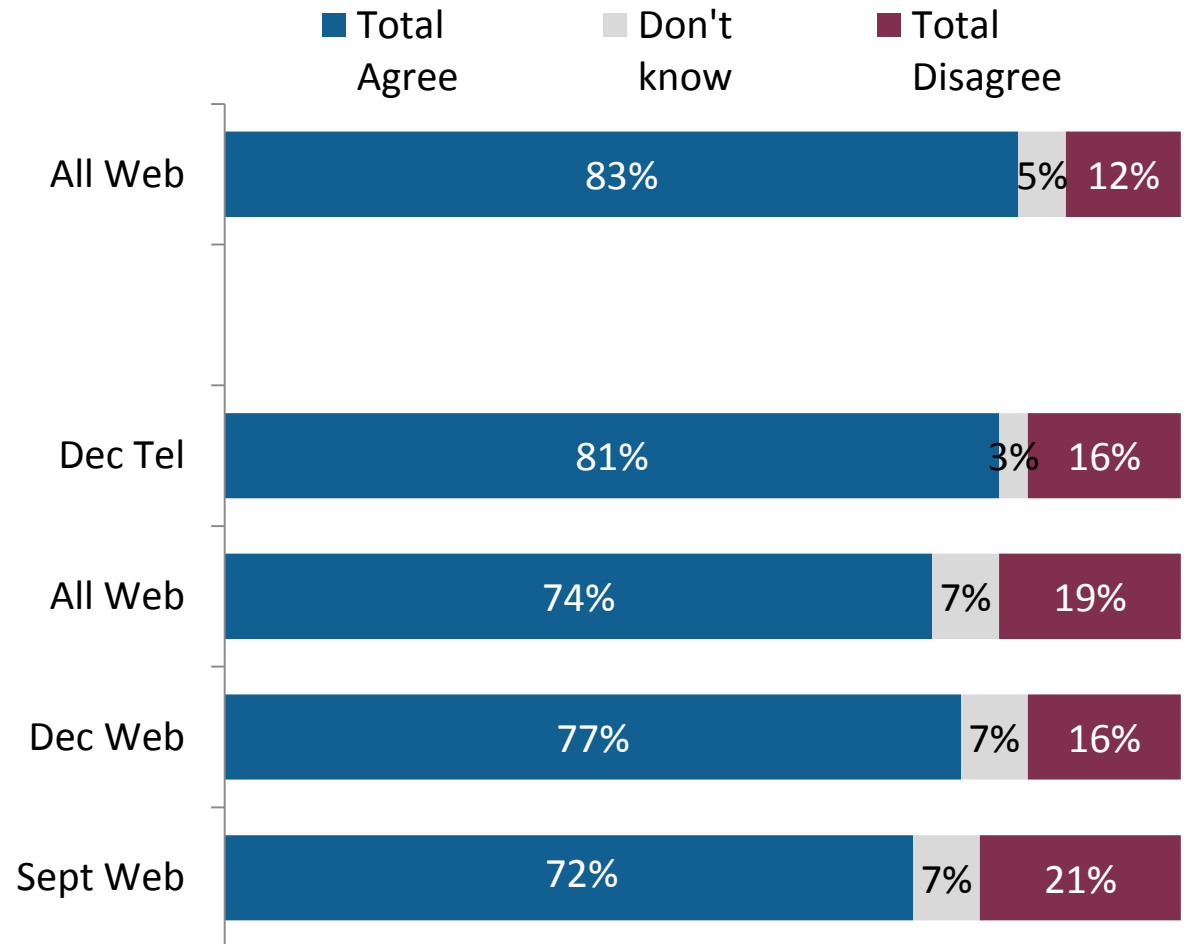
Alienation scale created from 6 agree/disagree questions shown on prior slides.

# Attitudes Toward Media and Political Elites

*Most voters agree that political elites and media are controlling the system to the detriment of the people.*

The country is run by an alliance of incumbent politicians, media pundits, lobbyists and other powerful money interest groups for their own gain at the expense of the American people.

The biased and slanted coverage of the media and press are a fundamental part of the problem with our political system.

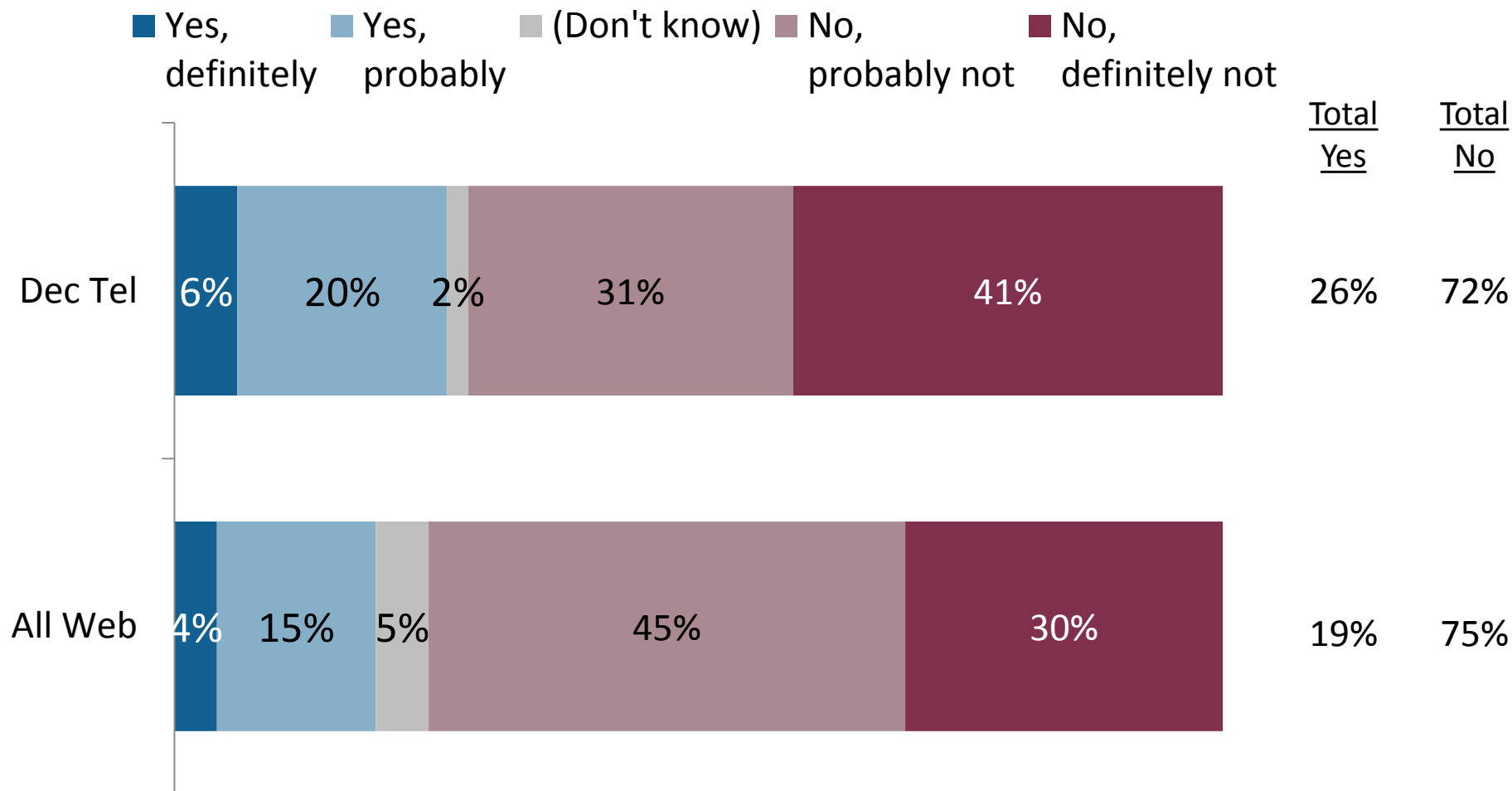


Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



# Government with Consent of the People

*Few voters believe the US government has the consent of the people.*



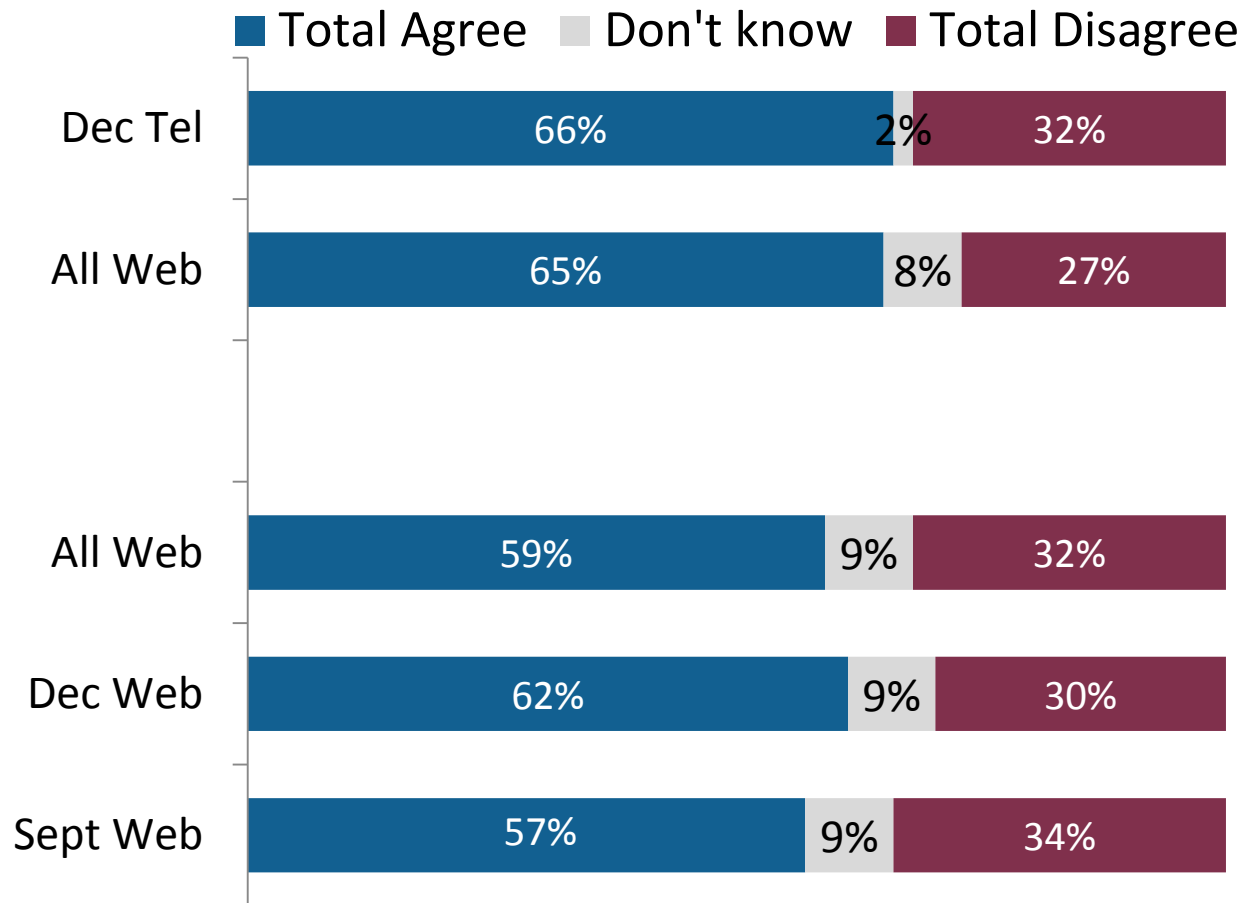
*The Declaration of Independence says that governments receive their authority from the consent of the people. Does the federal government today have the consent of the people?*

# Dissatisfaction with Current Leaders

*2 in 3 voters would vote to remove every member of Congress if they could.*

If there was a place on my ballot where I could vote to defeat and replace every single member of Congress, including my own representative, I would do so.

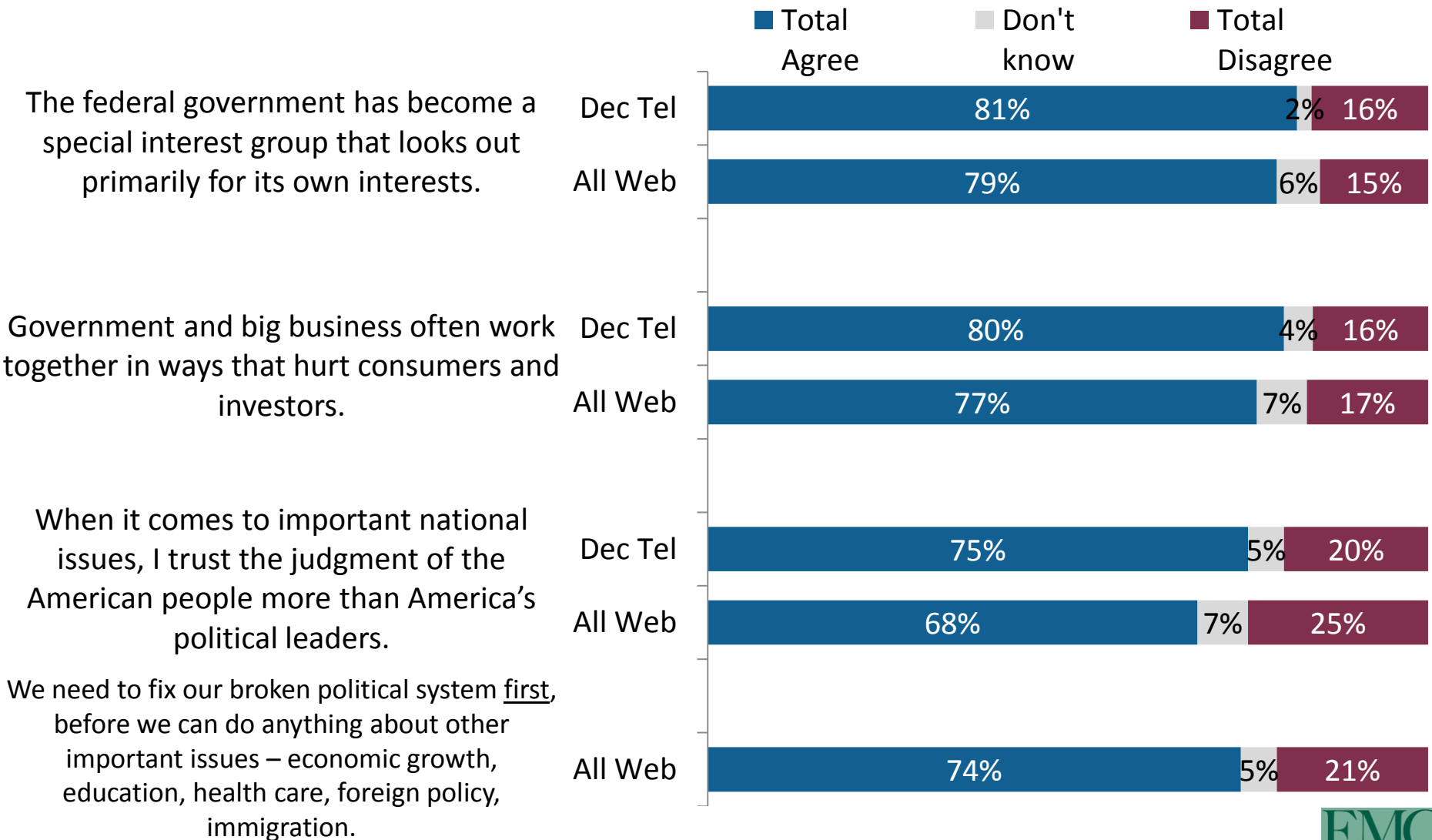
If we removed every elected official in Washington and started over by electing ordinary citizens, we would be better off.



Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

# Dissatisfaction with Federal Government

*8 in 10 think the federal government is a special interest group that looks out for itself.*



Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



# Attitudes Toward Party System

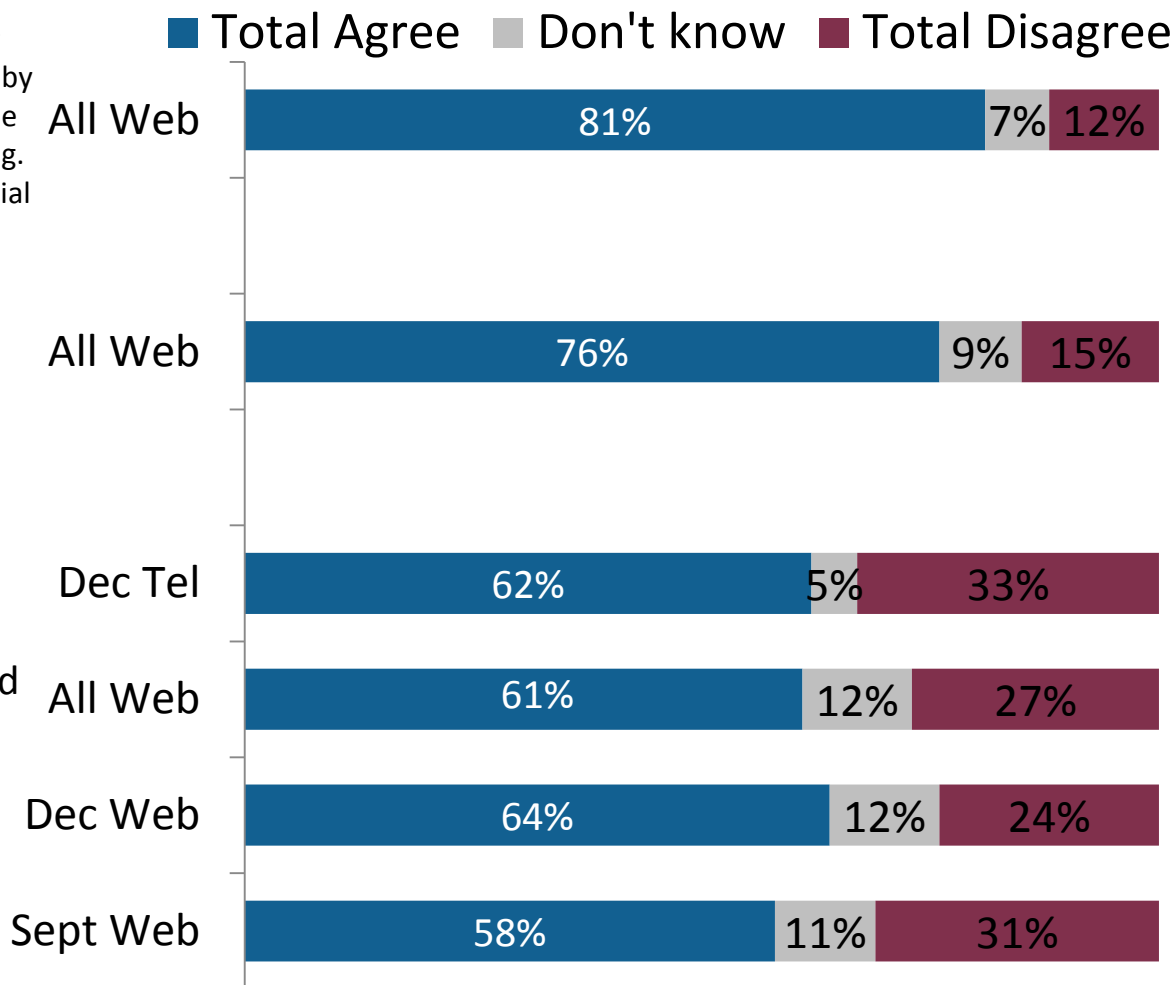
# Dissatisfaction with Both Political Parties

*More than ¾ agree government would be better if we elected more people independent of political parties; more than 60% say they would join a third party if it could win.*

Political parties do things based on what's in it for them rather than what really will fix problems faced by our country. Republicans help big corporations while the Democrats help big labor unions. Both are wrong. We need political leaders who will stop helping special interest groups.

Government would be better if we elected more people who were independent of the political parties.

I am so dissatisfied with Democrats and Republicans that I would join a third party if it had a chance of success.



Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

# Attitudes Toward Parties and Candidates

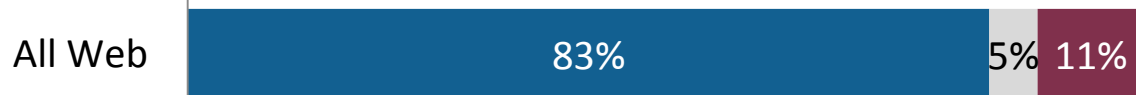
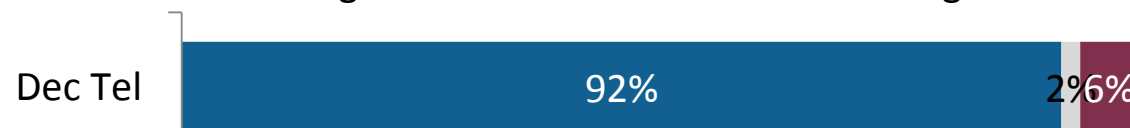
*Voters want ordinary citizens, not handpicked elites, running for office.*

■ Total  
Agree

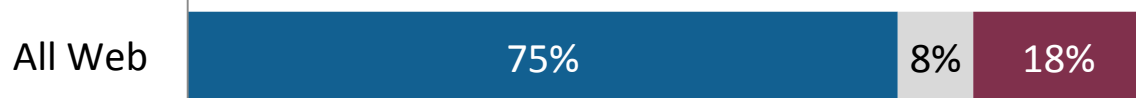
■ Don't  
know

■ Total  
Disagree

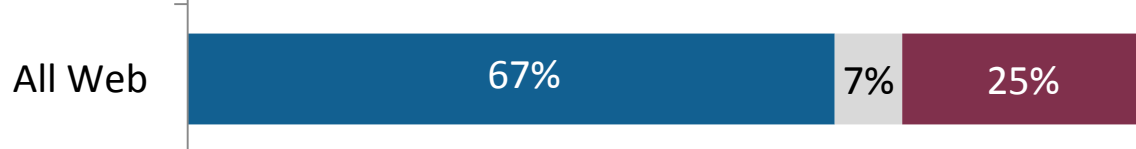
We need to recruit and support more candidates for office, at all levels of government, who are ordinary citizens rather than professional politicians and lawyers.



The political parties, political class, and media basically limit the candidates we can choose from to people who share their view of the world, rather than reflect the views of people like me.



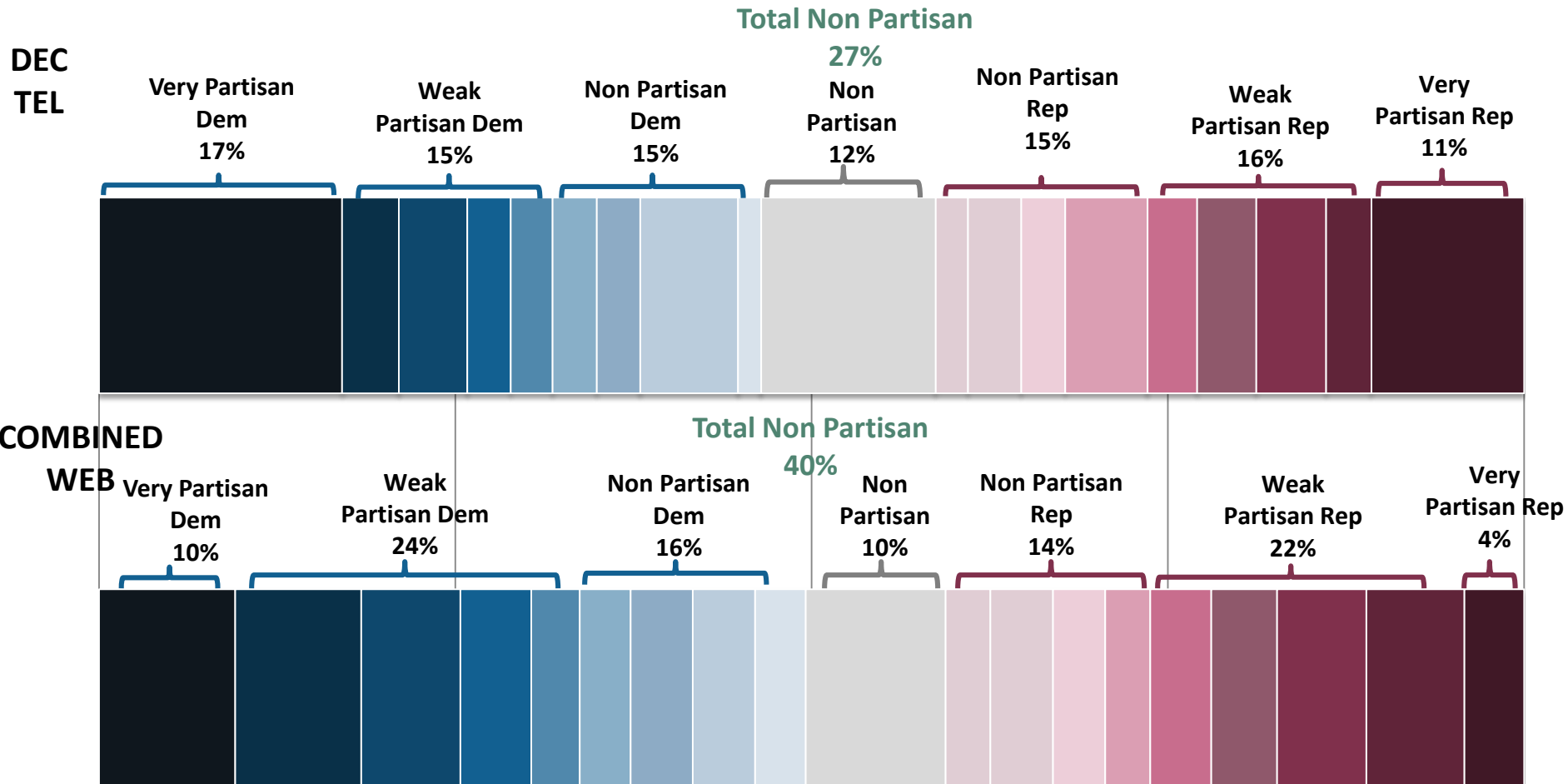
The real struggle for America is not between Democrats and Republicans but between mainstream America and the ruling political elites.



*Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.*

# Partisanship Scale

*More than 60% are not strong partisans.*



Partisan scale created from questions of previous page: party identification, generic 2014 Congressional vote, generic 2016 presidential vote.

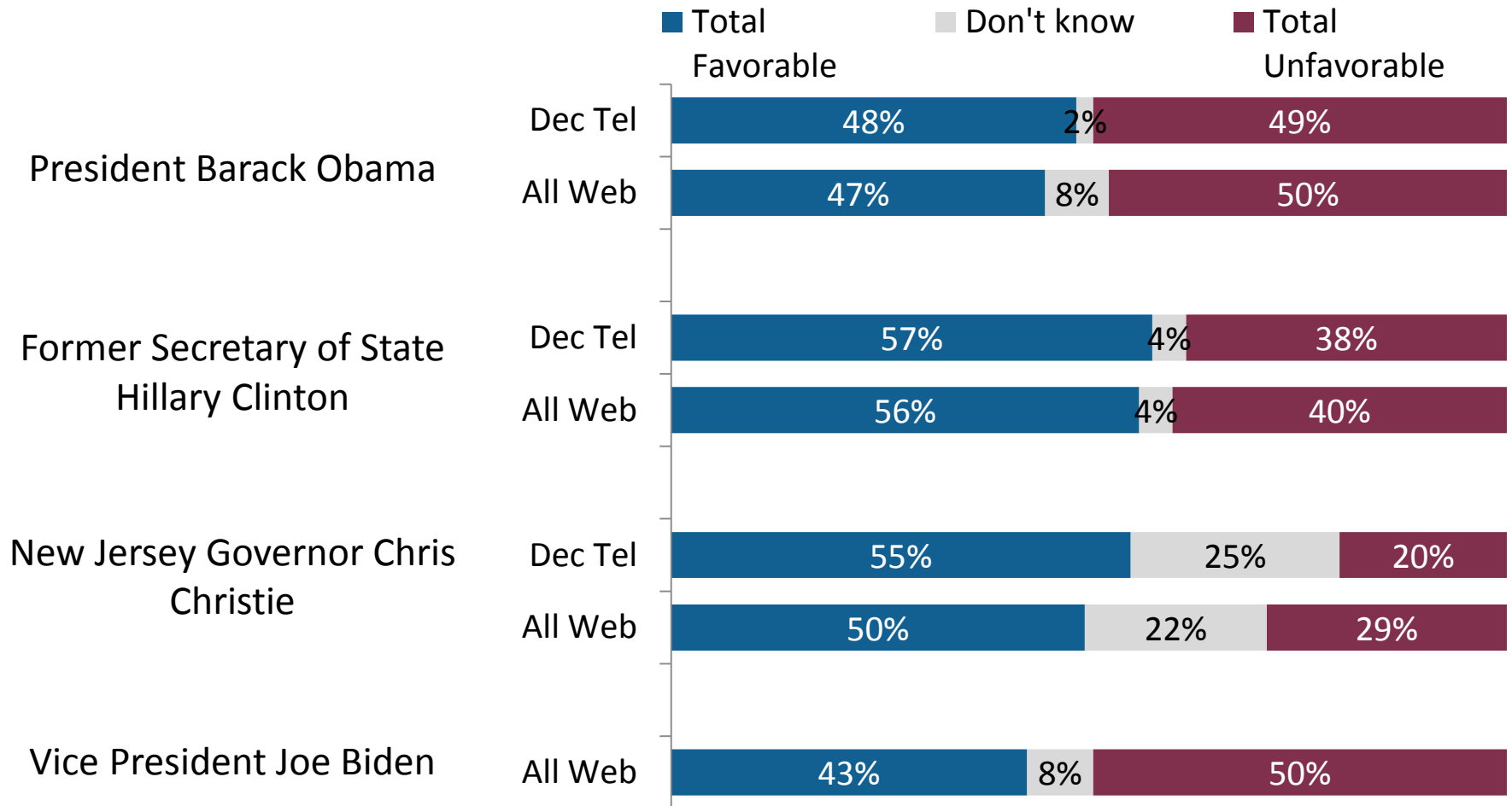


# Current Political Attitudes



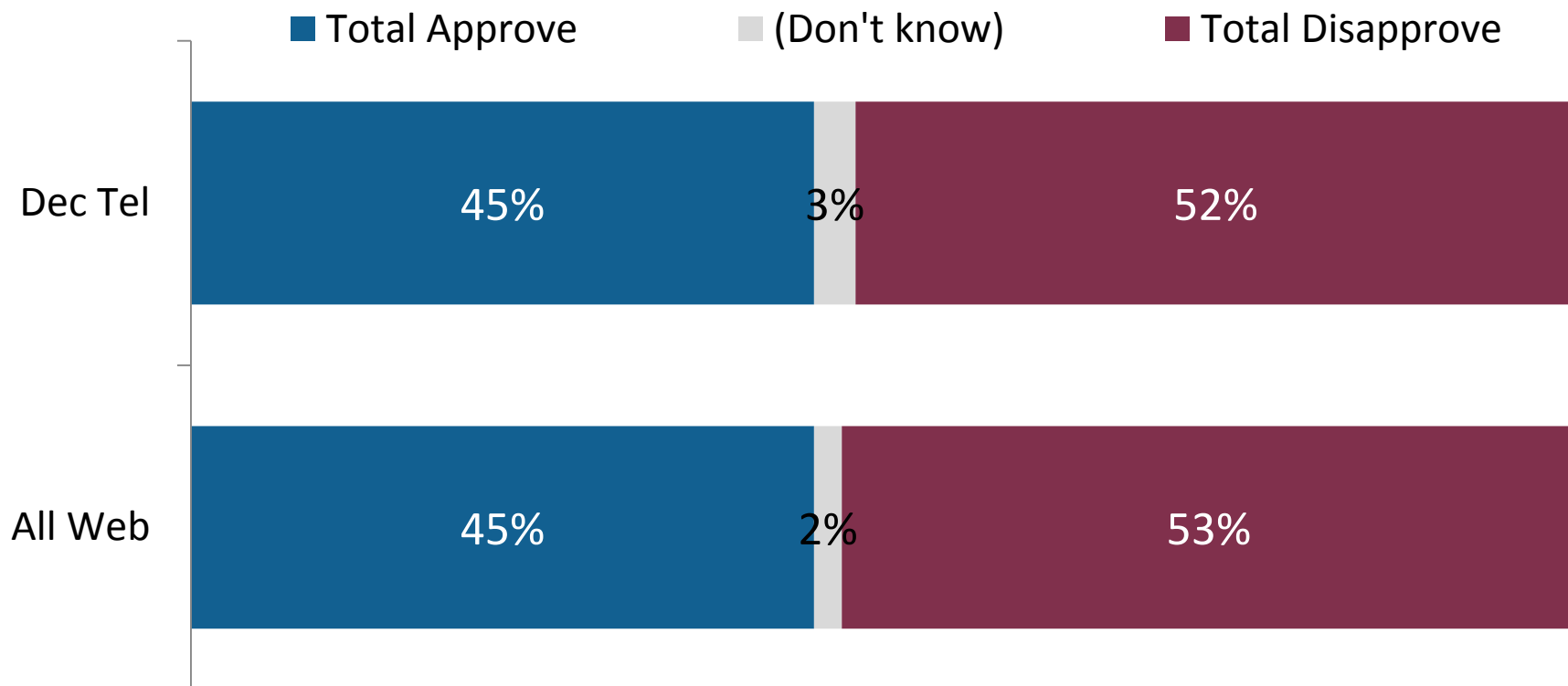
# Rating of National Figures

*Voters are divided on Obama; prior to the recent publicity Christie had strong name ID and favorable rating.*



# Obama Approval Rating

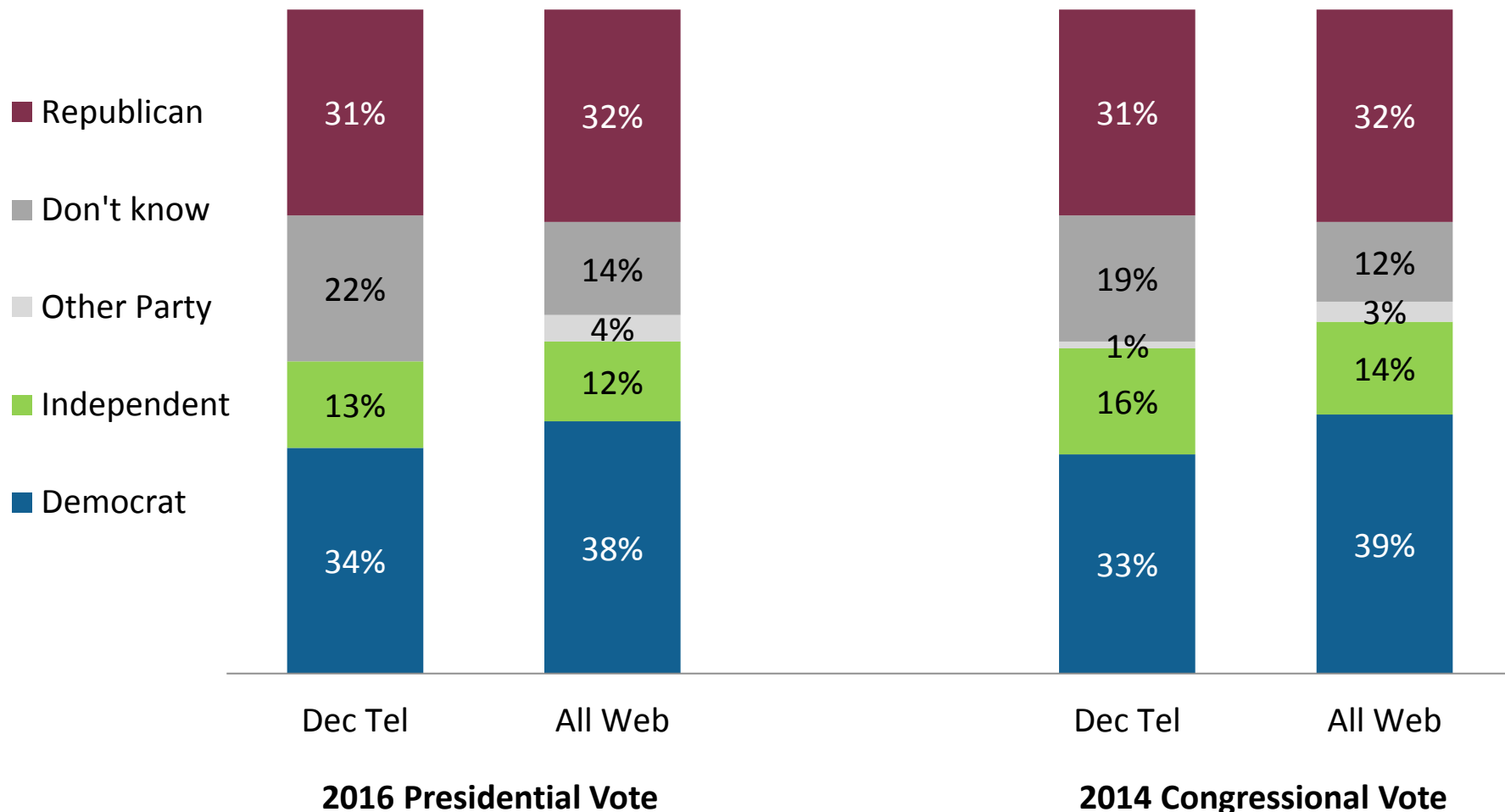
*A majority disapprove of the job Obama is doing.*



Would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job President Obama is doing?

# Generic Votes for President and Congress

*Democrats hold a narrow lead in the generic ballot; 12-15% prefer an independent even in a generic vote without named candidates.*

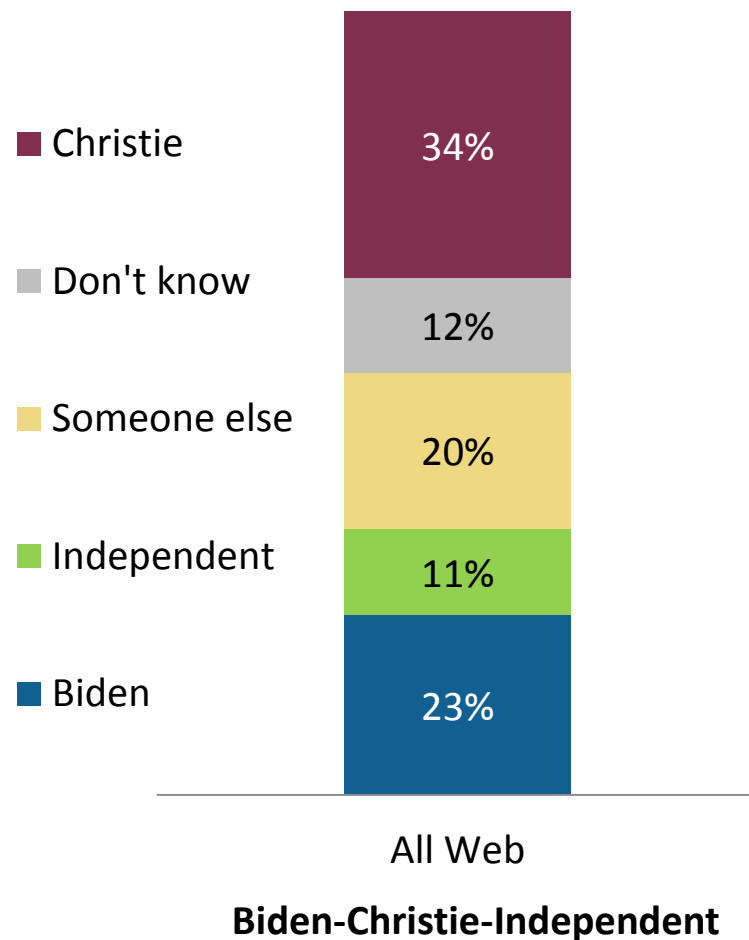
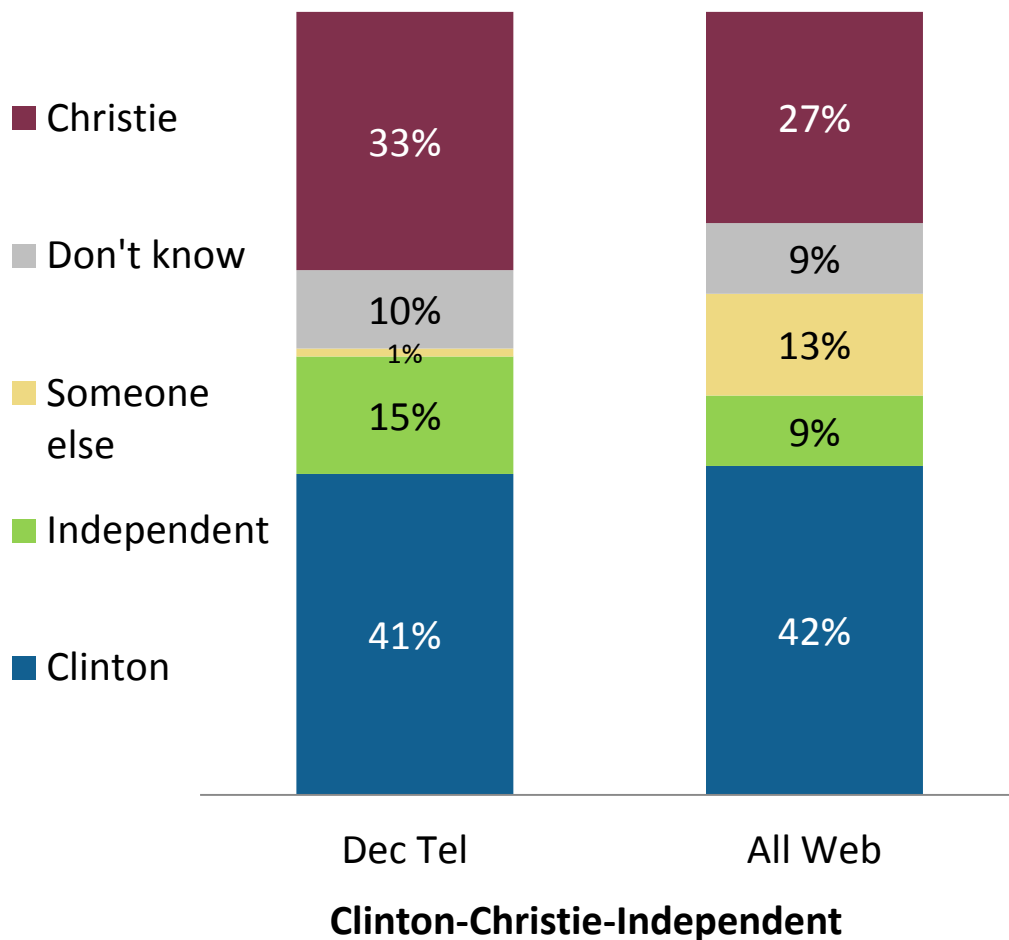


*If the 2016 presidential election was today...*

*If the 2014 election for House of Representatives in your district was today...*

# 2016 Presidential Matchups

*Clinton led Christie before his recent publicity; a small but significant group prefer an independent or another candidate.*



*If the 2016 presidential election was held today and the candidates were (Joe Biden/Hillary Clinton), Democrat; Chris Christie, Republican; and an independent candidate...*

Discussion