



# Live Telephone Survey City of Seattle

Likely November 2017 Voters

**DRAFT REPORT**

# Methodology

- ▶ Live telephone survey of Likely November 2017 voters in the City of Seattle, including landlines and cell phones
- ▶ Conducted September 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- ▶ 600 Total Interviews; Weighted Margin of Error  $\pm 4.8$  percentage points
  - 500 interviews stratified equally across City Council Districts, with 25 n oversamples each in CCDs 1, 2, 4, & 5

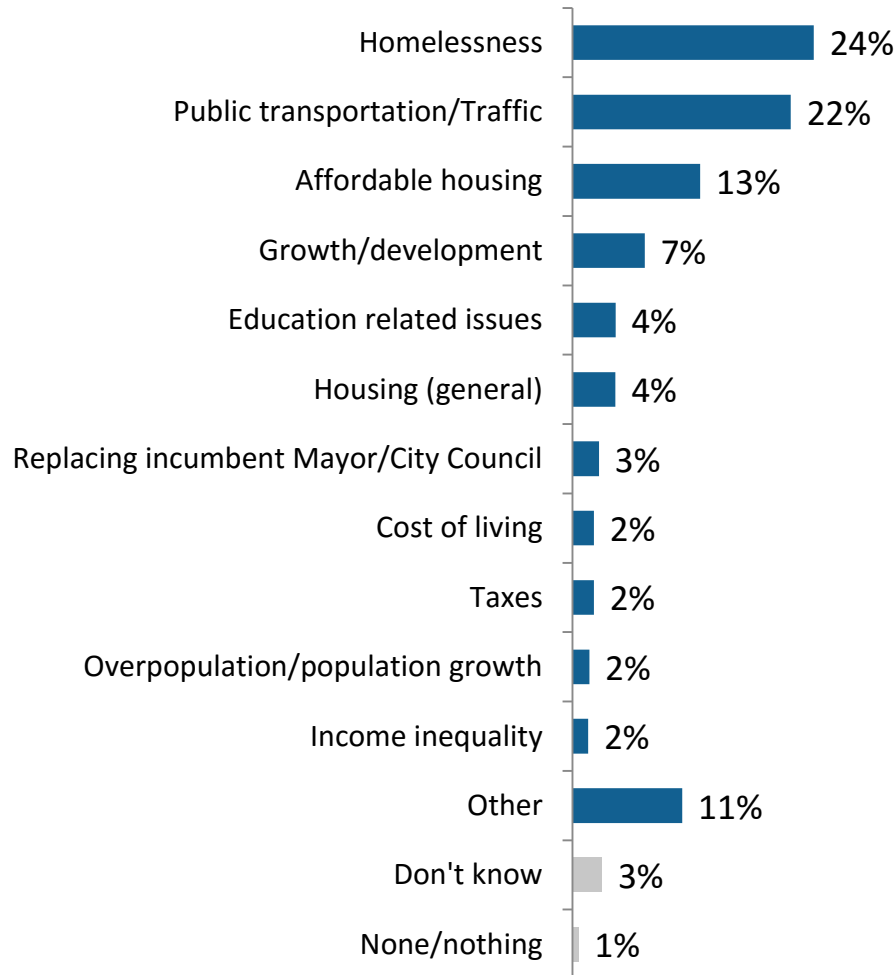
District	Interviews	Margin of Error
CCD 1	95	$\pm 10.1$ points
CCD 2	95	$\pm 10.1$ points
CCD 3	74	$\pm 11.4$ points
CCD 4	97	$\pm 10.0$ points
CCD 5	93	$\pm 10.2$ points
CCD 6	76	$\pm 11.2$ points
CCD 7	70	$\pm 11.7$ points

- Weighted to reflect overall city-wide registered voter population using key demographics
- ▶ Interviews were conducted by trained, professional interviewers

*Please note that due to rounding, some percentages may not add up to exactly 100%.*

# Most Important Problem Facing Seattle

*A quarter of voters cite Homelessness as the top problem facing Seattle. Additionally, more than one-in-ten mentioned affordable housing.*



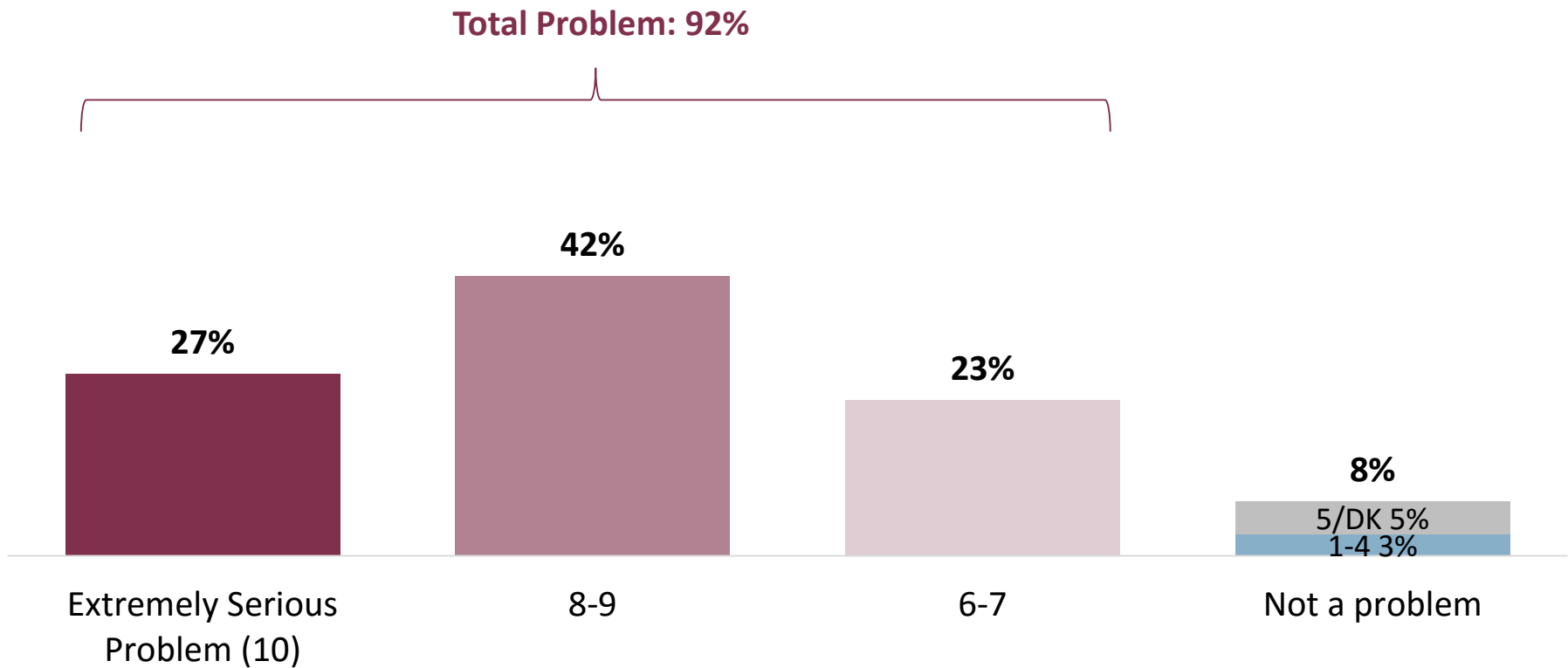
# Homelessness in Seattle – Top Associations

	%
Serious issue/a lot of homeless/needs to be fixed	33%
Lack of affordable housing/housing for the homeless	15%
Not enough is being done to fix it	14%
Lack of public assistance programs/services	9%
Mental health issues/lack of mental health services	9%
Tent cities/encampments/the Jungle	8%
Problem is worsening/becoming more prevalent	7%
Tragic/shocking/horrible/hopelessness	7%
Drugs/alcohol abuse	5%
Issues with sanitation/health (garbage, lack of bathrooms, etc.)	4%
Homeless shelters/shelters needed	4%
More funding is needed/funds are spent inappropriately	4%

Q5. What one or two things first come to your mind when thinking about homelessness in Seattle?  
(Up to two responses accepted) **(Preliminary coding)**

# Seriousness of Homelessness

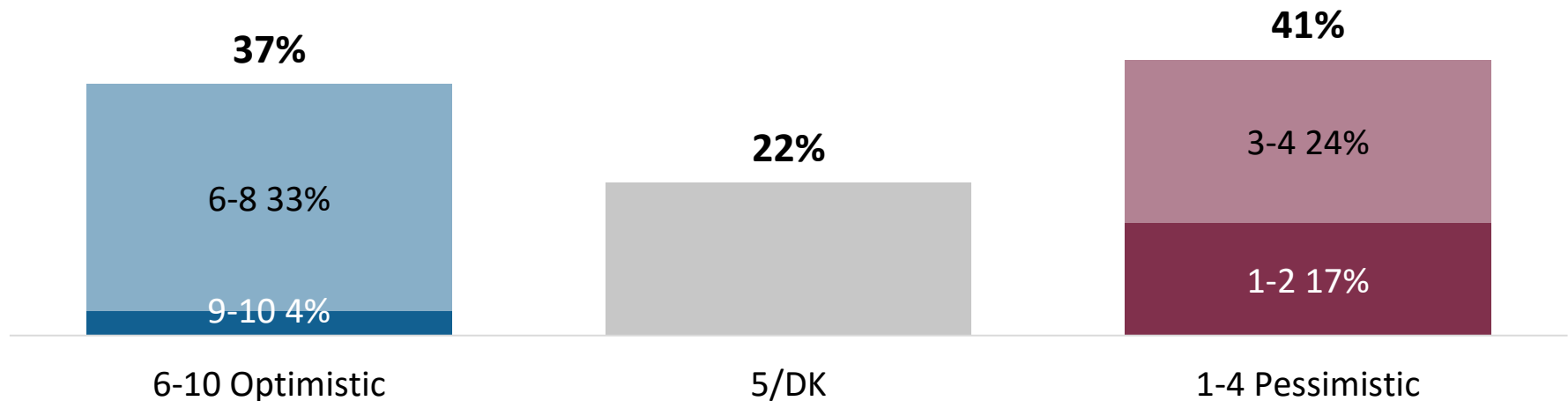
*Nine-in ten Seattle voters consider homelessness at least a somewhat serious problem, including a quarter rating it as “extremely serious” (10/10 rating).*



Q6. In your opinion, how serious a problem is homelessness in Seattle right now? Use a scale from one to ten where one is not a problem at all and ten is an extremely serious problem.

# Views on Progress for Reducing Homelessness

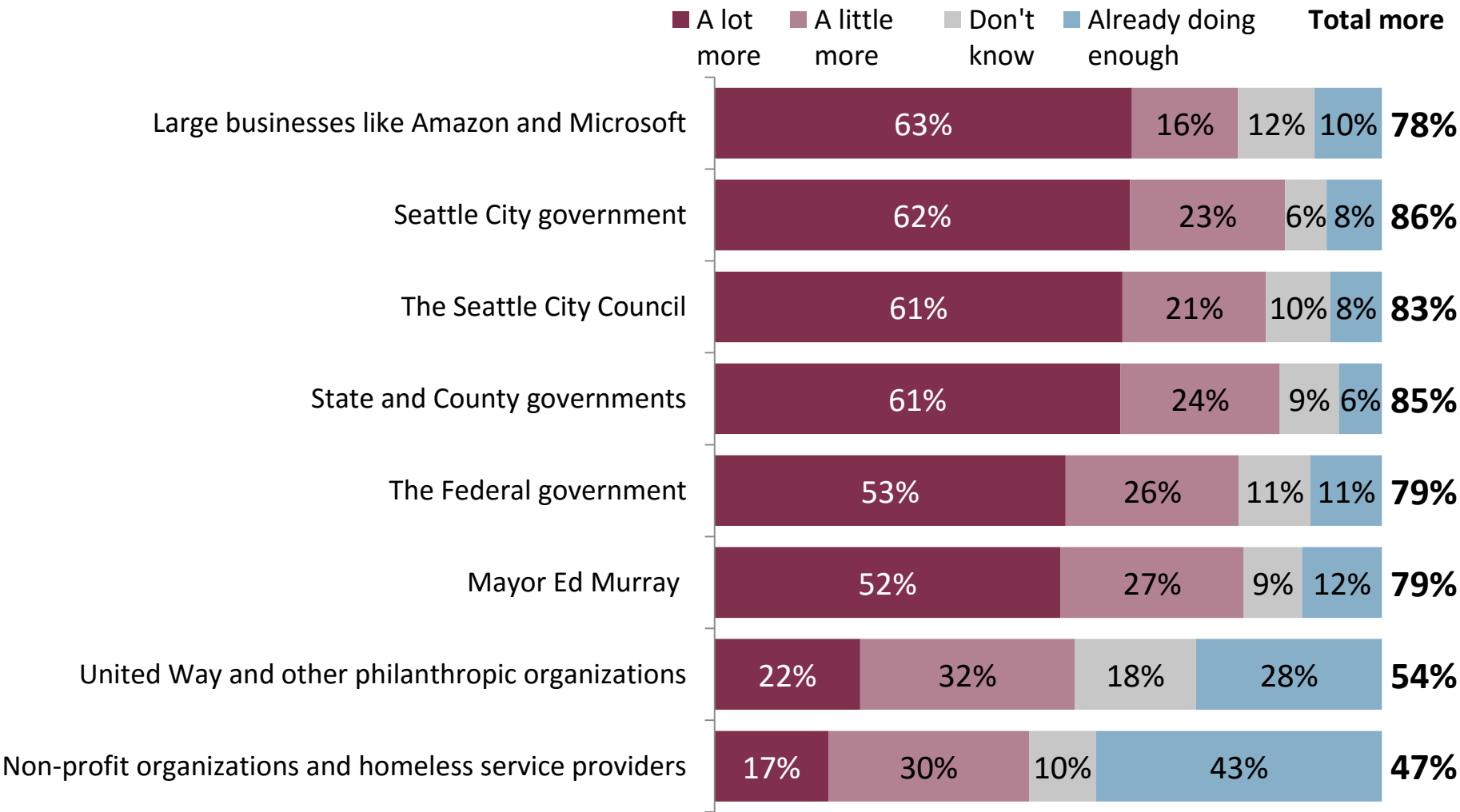
*There is a divided view on how optimistic or pessimistic voters are on whether Seattle can make meaningful progress on reducing homelessness. There is more intensity on the pessimistic side.*



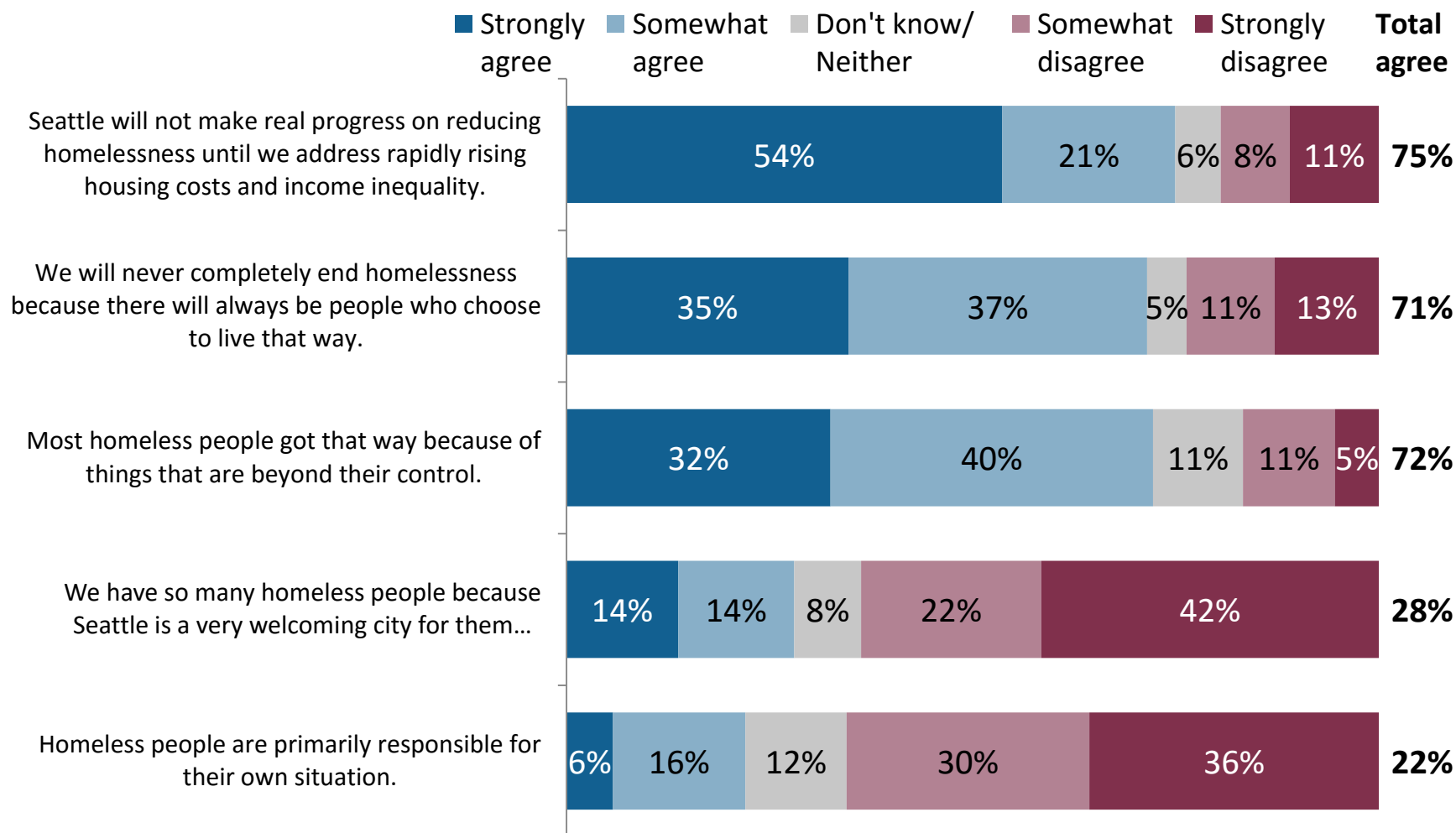
Q7. How optimistic or pessimistic are you that Seattle can make meaningful progress on reducing homelessness? Use a scale from one to ten where one is extremely **pessimistic** and ten is extremely **optimistic**.

# How Much More They Could be Doing to Reduce Homelessness

*A majority of voters think all governmental levels should be doing more to reduce homelessness, but they also think large businesses like Amazon and Microsoft should be as well.*



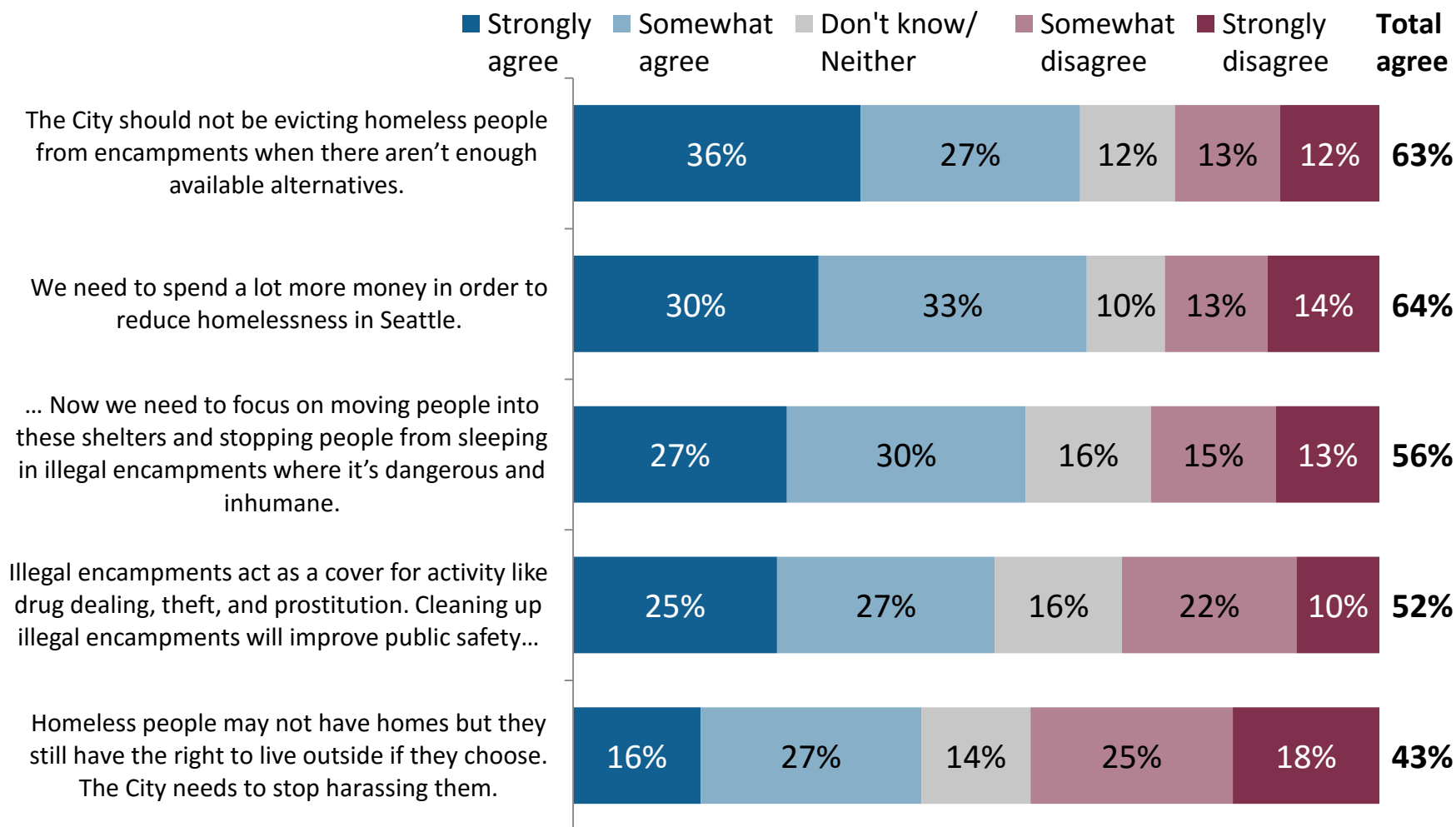
# Public Perception of Homelessness Causes



Q16-25. I'm going to read you a series of statements about homelessness. For each one, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with that statement



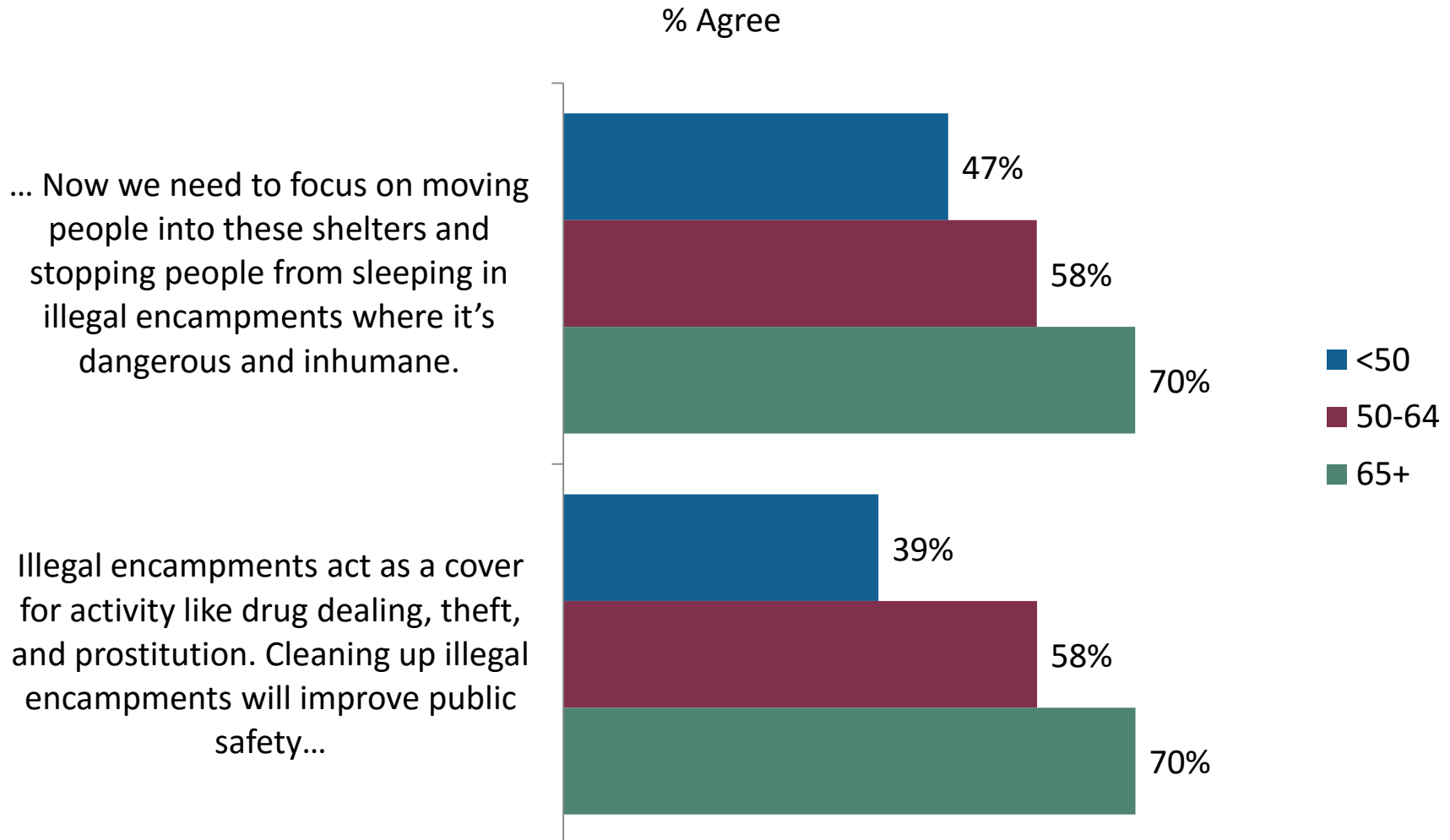
# Public Perception of Homelessness (Cont'd)



Q16-25. I'm going to read you a series of statements about homelessness. For each one, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with that statement

# Public Perception of Homelessness by Age

*Older voters are more likely to be on the side of cleaning up encampments.*



Q16-25. I'm going to read you a series of statements about homelessness. For each one, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with that statement

# Potential Approaches to Homelessness

*None of these proposals had actual tax levels associated with them. The one that has the least support is also the only one that pits taking money from another priority to fund something to help the homeless.*

■ Strongly support    ■ Somewhat support    **Total support**

Creating safe drug injection sites so people who use drugs can do so safely and we can reduce overdoses, cut the number of needles in the streets, and make treatment options available to them.



Increasing the availability of mental health treatment and case worker assistance for homeless people funded by raising sales or property taxes.



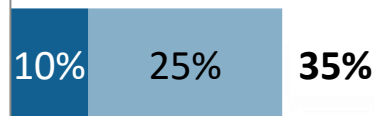
Using community centers during the hours they would usually be closed as temporary night shelters for homeless people.



Increasing the availability of drug and alcohol treatment programs for homeless people funded by raising sales or property taxes



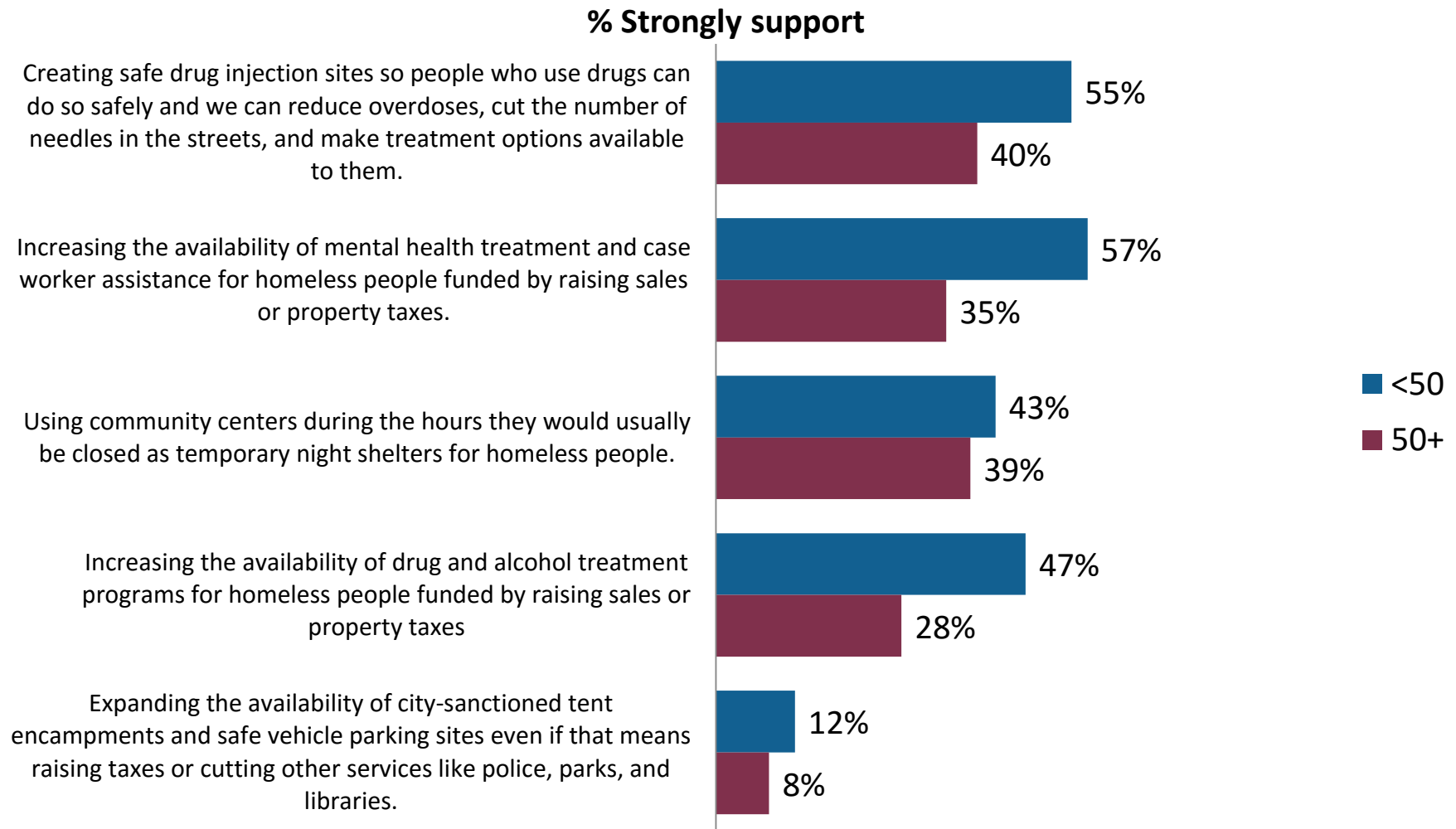
Expanding the availability of city-sanctioned tent encampments and safe vehicle parking sites even if that means raising taxes or cutting other services like police, parks, and libraries.



Q26-31. For each of the following approaches to reduce homelessness in Seattle, please tell me if you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose spending more tax dollars on that approach.

# Potential Approaches to Homelessness by Age

*Younger voters are more enthusiastic supporters of safe injection sites and increasing the availability of mental health, drug, and alcohol treatment.*



Q26-31. For each of the following approaches to reduce homelessness in Seattle, please tell me if you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose spending more tax dollars on that approach.

# Forced Choice: Dealing with Homeless Encampments

*The majority preference for B suggests that voters are onboard with directing the homeless to alternative shelters rather than letting them live wherever they choose, or the “no tolerance” approach.*

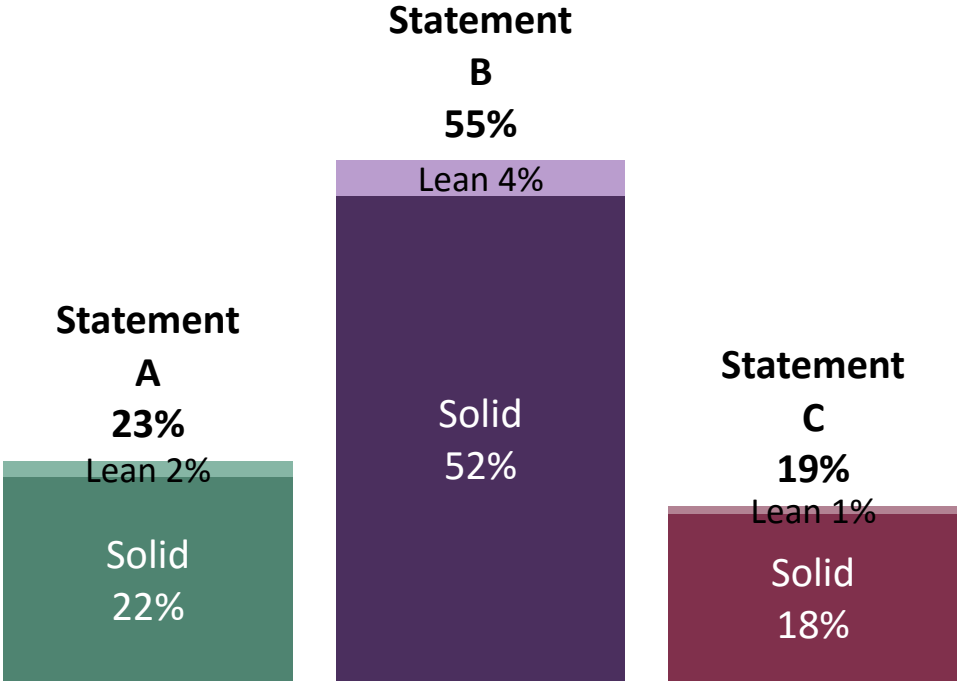
**STATEMENT A:** *We need to accept that homeless people are going to live in places like parks, greenbelts, and under bridges or freeways because there are no alternatives right now. It is not right to displace them and force them to live in shelters and accept services against their will. Instead we should let them stay and provide garbage and bathroom services.*

**OR**

**STATEMENT B:** *We need to discourage homeless people from living in areas that pose public health and safety risks, and encourage them to use other alternatives, like long-term housing, temporary shelters, and officially-authorized homeless encampments and safe lots for RVs.*

**OR**

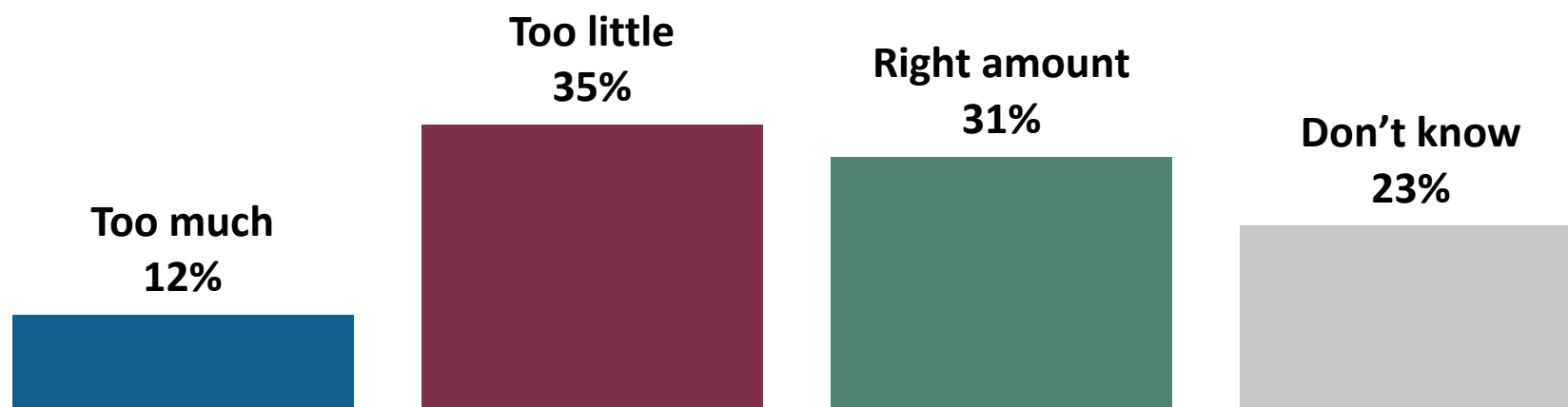
**STATEMENT C:** *We should not be tolerating unauthorized encampments. We need to close and clean up current encampments and step up enforcement to ensure no new ones are formed, and send the message that we will not tolerate people sleeping wherever they choose because it impacts all of us.*



# City Spending on Homelessness

*A third of voters believe the City is spending too little on homelessness while nearly as many think they're spending the right amount. Few voters feel the City is spending too much on the issue, but there is also a sizeable contingent (23%) who don't know.*

*In 2016, the City will spend \$50 million on programs to reduce homelessness. These investments fund services, programs, shelter and outreach for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Is the City investing too much, too little, or about the right amount of money to address homelessness?*



Q33. In 2016, the City will spend \$50 million on programs to reduce homelessness. These investments fund services, programs, shelter and outreach for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Is the City investing too much, too little, or about the right amount of money to address homelessness?

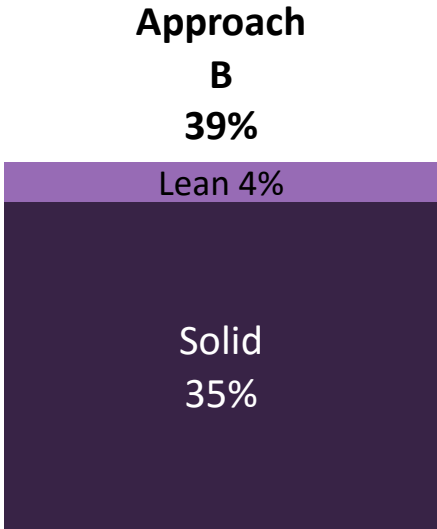
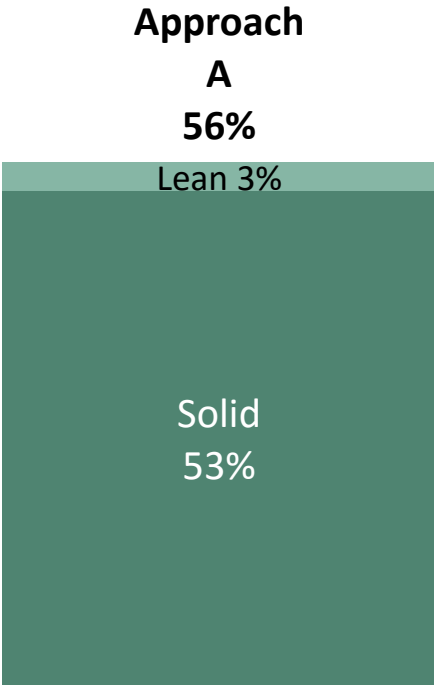
# Forced Choice: Approach to Cleaning Up Encampments

*A majority favor removing encampments combined with housing alternatives.  
Just over a third solidly support the “ACLU plan”.*

**APPROACH A:** The City would offer encampment residents alternative shelter and services. If they refuse, the encampment is cleaned up and removed. Supporters call this the middle way that balances compassion with a need to ensure unauthorized encampments do not get out of control or develop into threats to public safety and health.

**OR**

**APPROACH B:** Some people and organizations, including the ACLU, say homeless encampment sweeps are just shuffling people around and are inhumane. They want an approach that significantly restricts the City’s ability to evict people from encampments. In this approach, the City could remove people only after 30 days of outreach and after encampment residents have been offered immediate housing or an alternate location for their camp. If the City violates these new rules, it would be liable to pay every affected person \$250 each.

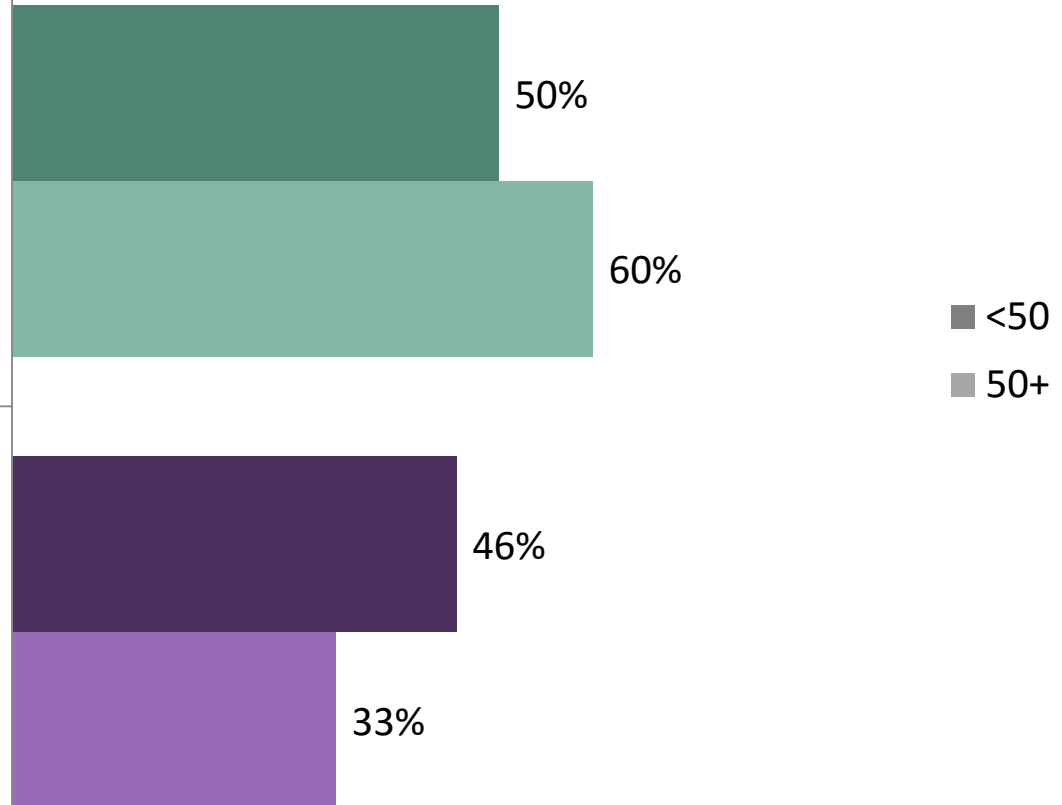


# Approach to Cleaning Up Encampments by Age

**APPROACH A:** The City would offer encampment residents alternative shelter and services. If they refuse, the encampment is cleaned up and removed. Supporters call this the middle way that balances compassion with a need to ensure unauthorized encampments do not get out of control or develop into threats to public safety and health.

**OR**

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Q34. Regarding Seattle's homeless encampment policy, please tell me which of the following two approaches you prefer.



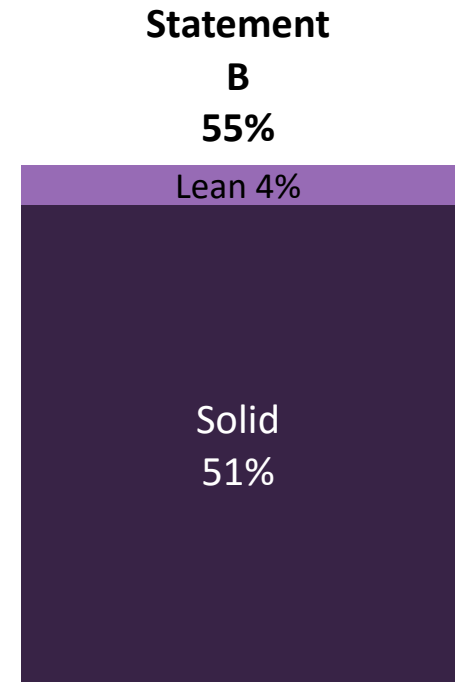
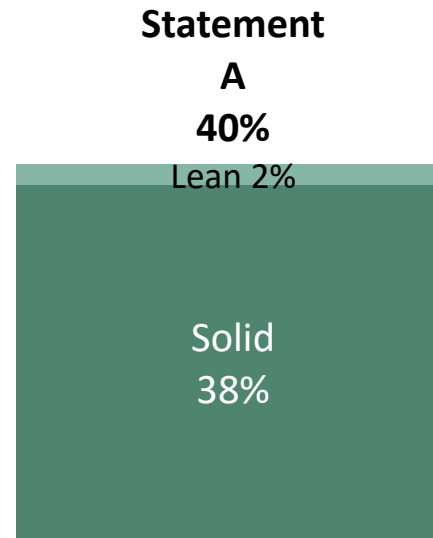
# Forced Choice: Tying Non-Profit Funding to Results

*A majority of voters oppose an outcomes-based funding system for organizations that serve the homeless.*

**STATEMENT A:** *Part of the reason homelessness has gotten so bad is because Seattle does not use its limited funding for homelessness as effectively as it should. Seattle should adopt a system that ties funding to measurable results; organizations that show they're improving outcomes for homeless people would receive more funding. Those that can't would have their funding cut.*

**OR**

**STATEMENT B:** *Organizations that serve the homeless are doing good work under difficult circumstances and with limited resources. While tying funding to results might be well-meaning, the work of many non-profits cannot be measured because they are working on problems that vary by individual. This might make our system worse by defunding organizations that are doing a lot of good.*

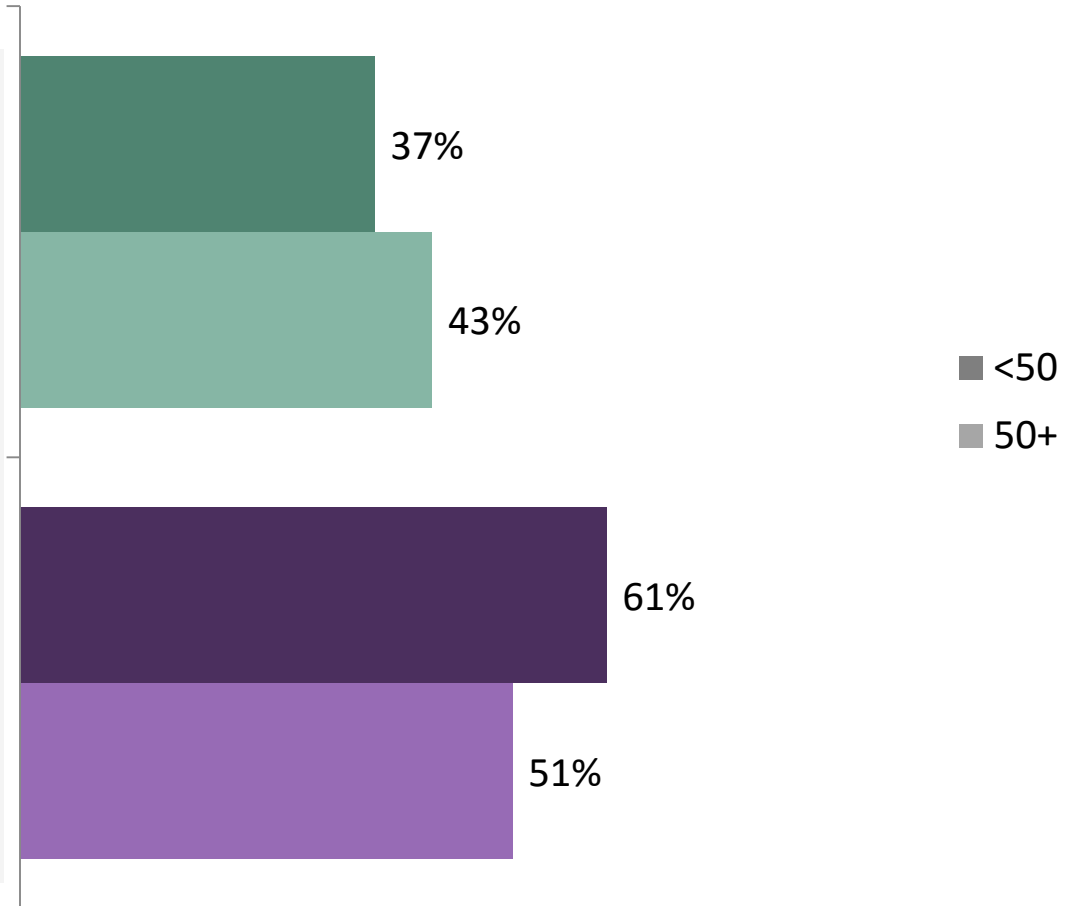


# Approach to Cleaning Up Encampments by Age

**STATEMENT A:** Part of the reason homelessness has gotten so bad is because Seattle does not use its limited funding for homelessness as effectively as it should. Seattle should adopt a system that ties funding to measurable results; organizations that show they're improving outcomes for homeless people would receive more funding. Those that can't would have their funding cut.

**OR**

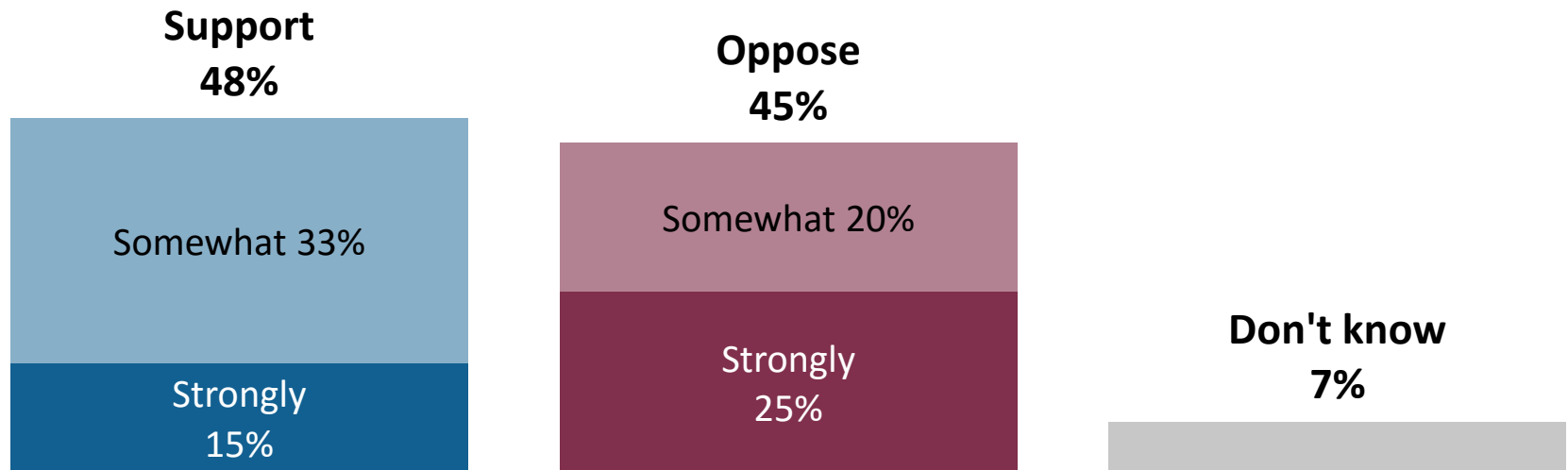
**STATEMENT B:** Organizations that serve the homeless are doing good work under difficult circumstances and with limited resources. While tying funding to results might be well-meaning, the work of many non-profits cannot be measured because they are working on problems that vary by individual. This might make our system worse by defunding organizations that are doing a lot of good.



# Further Investment for the Homeless

*Voters are divided on whether or not to double spending for sheltering the homeless when pitted against taking those funds from other services. Enthusiasm is stronger on the “no” side, with a quarter strongly opposed.*

*The City spends about \$50 million per year on services, programs, shelter and outreach for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The City would need to double its spending with another 50 million per year to make shelter available for every homeless person in Seattle. This money would be taken from the general fund, which means less funding for police, community centers and other public services. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the City investing an additional \$50 million to shelter the homeless?*



Q36. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the City investing an additional fifty million dollars to shelter the homeless?

# Contacts

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