

Fall 2021 - Vanderbilt University Poll

CSDI

Center for the Study of
Democratic Institutions



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

November 16- December 6, 2020

John G. Geer & Joshua D. Clinton, Co-Directors

1,002 registered voters in Tennessee

MoE: +/- 3.7 percentage points

Charter Member
AAPOR
Transparency Initiative
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH

Poll Information

- AAPOR Transparency Initiative Charter Member.
- 1002 respondents selected from TN Voter Registration Lists
- Results weighted to match voter demographics according to Current Population Survey of the US Census: sex, age, race, education, region.
- Contacted up to 5 times via landline (325) and cellphone (677).
- Interviewed in English by professionally trained interviewers.
- Field Period: 11/16 – 12/6.
- Margin of Error: +/- 3.7 percentage points

Selected Sample Characteristics

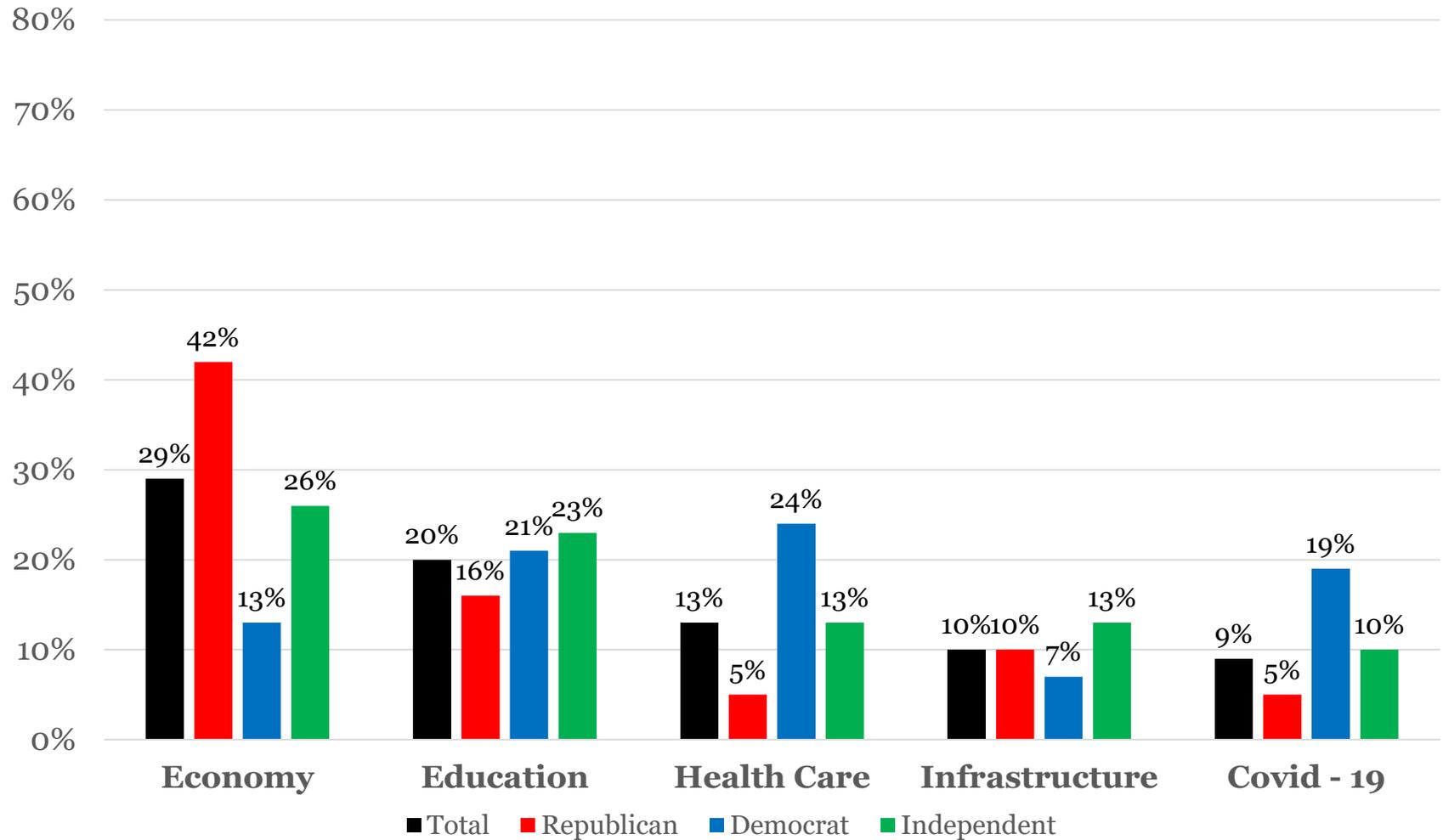
		Sample
Zipcode based	East	369/ 1002 = 37%
	Nashville	235/1002 = 24%
	Central (excl. Nashville)	209/1002 = 20%
	West/Memphis	189/1002 = 19%

		Sample
Zipcode based	Urban	432/1002 = 43%
	Rural	300/1002 = 30%
	Suburban	270/1002 = 27%

		Sample
Self-Reported	Public K-12 Parent	229/1002 = 23%
	Other	772/1002 = 77%

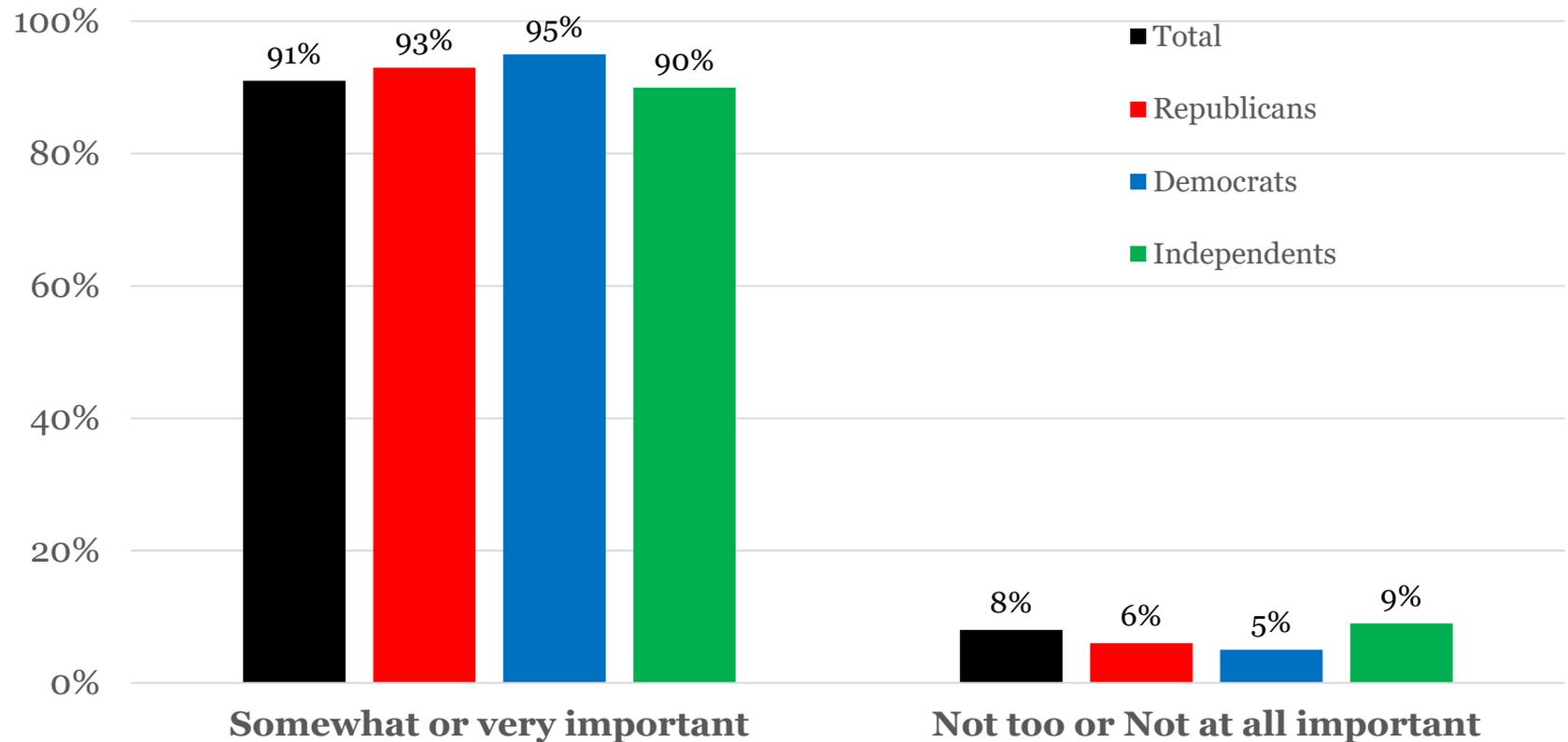
		Sample
Self-Reported	Republican	359/1002 = 36%
	Independent	412/1002 = 41%
	Democrat	218/1002 = 22%

Top Priorities For Tennessee State Government by Party ID



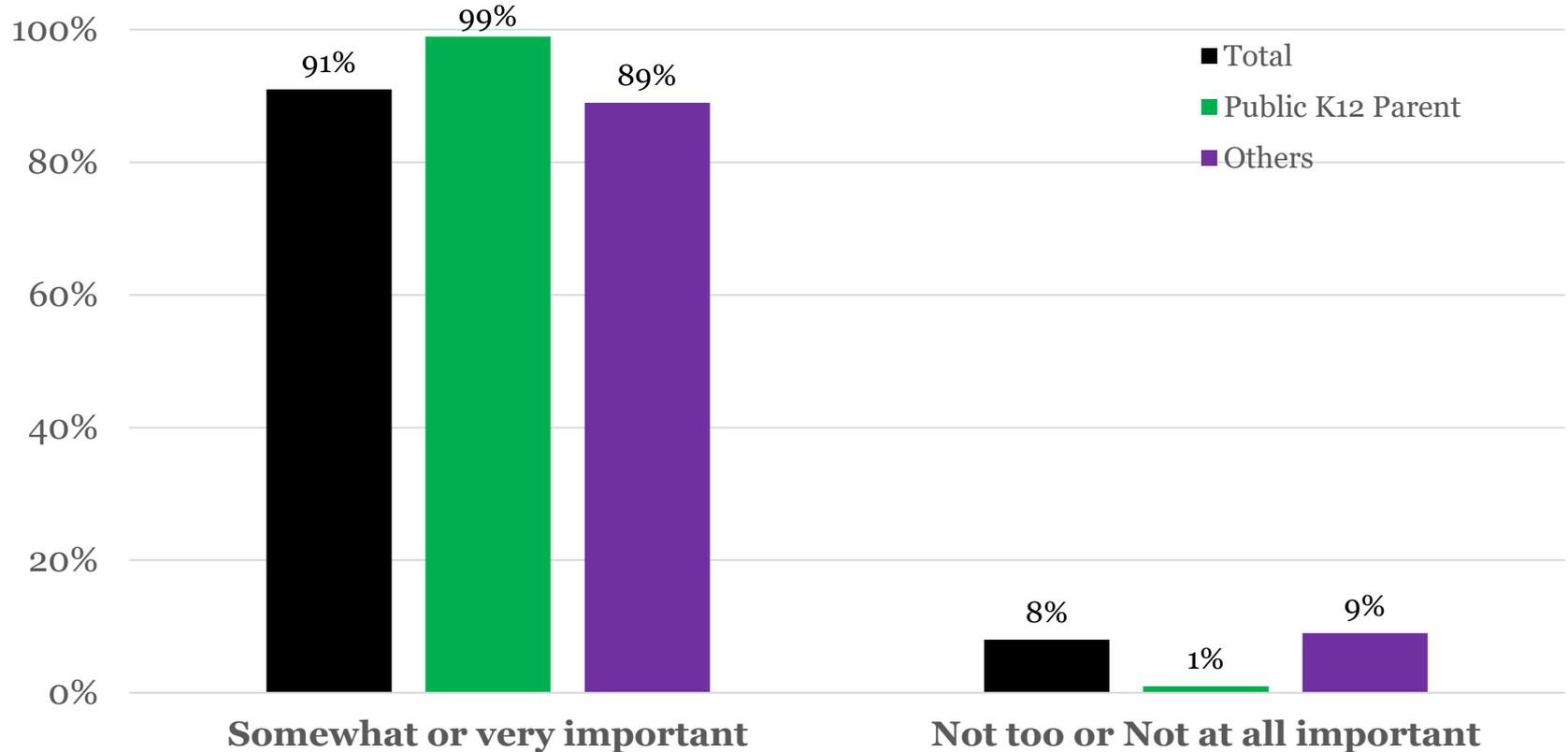
Opinion on Importance of Access to Good Public Education by Party ID

In general, how important to you and your family is access to good quality k-12 public school education?



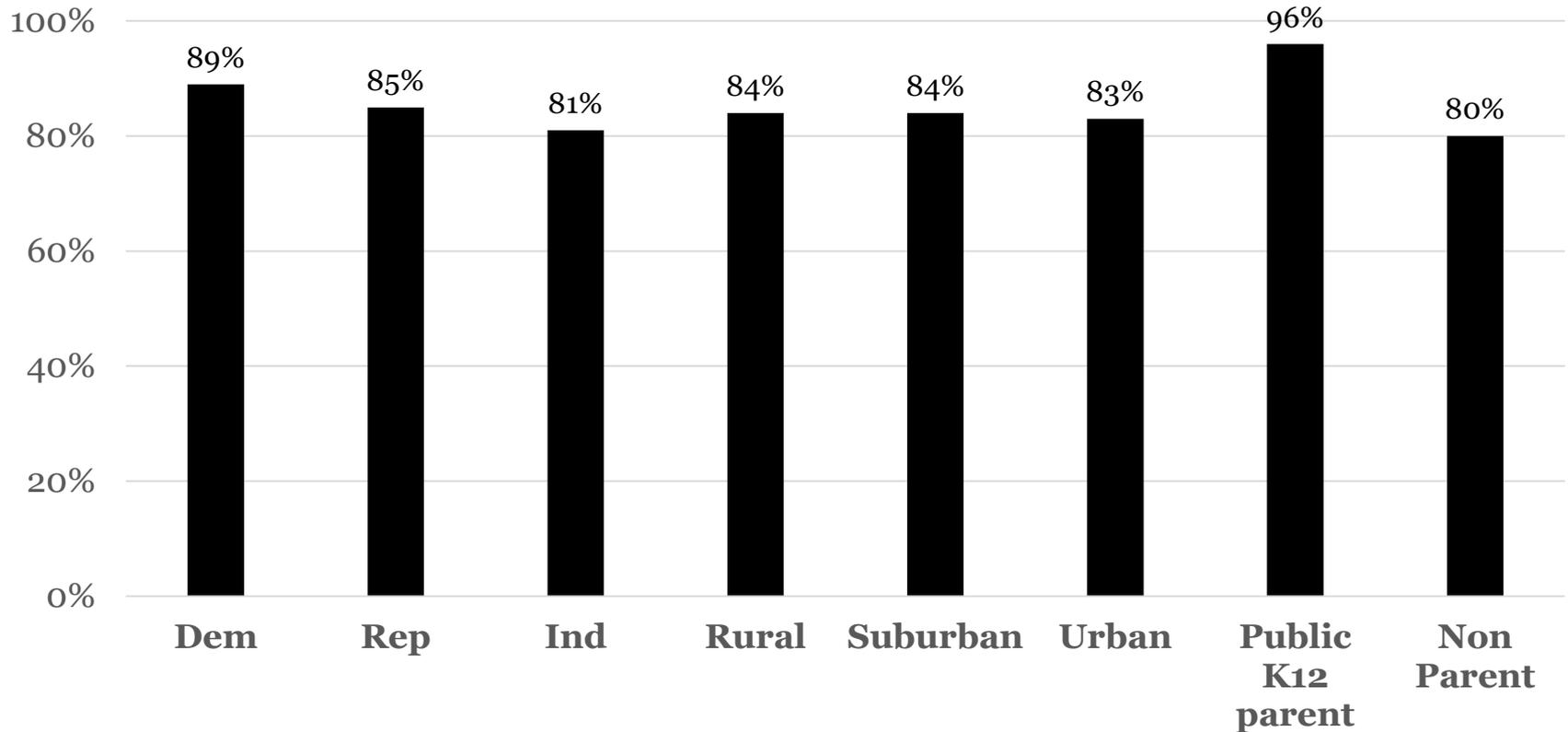
Opinion on Importance of Access to Good Public Education by Kids or No Kids in Public Schools

In general, how important to you and your family is access to good quality k-12 public school education?



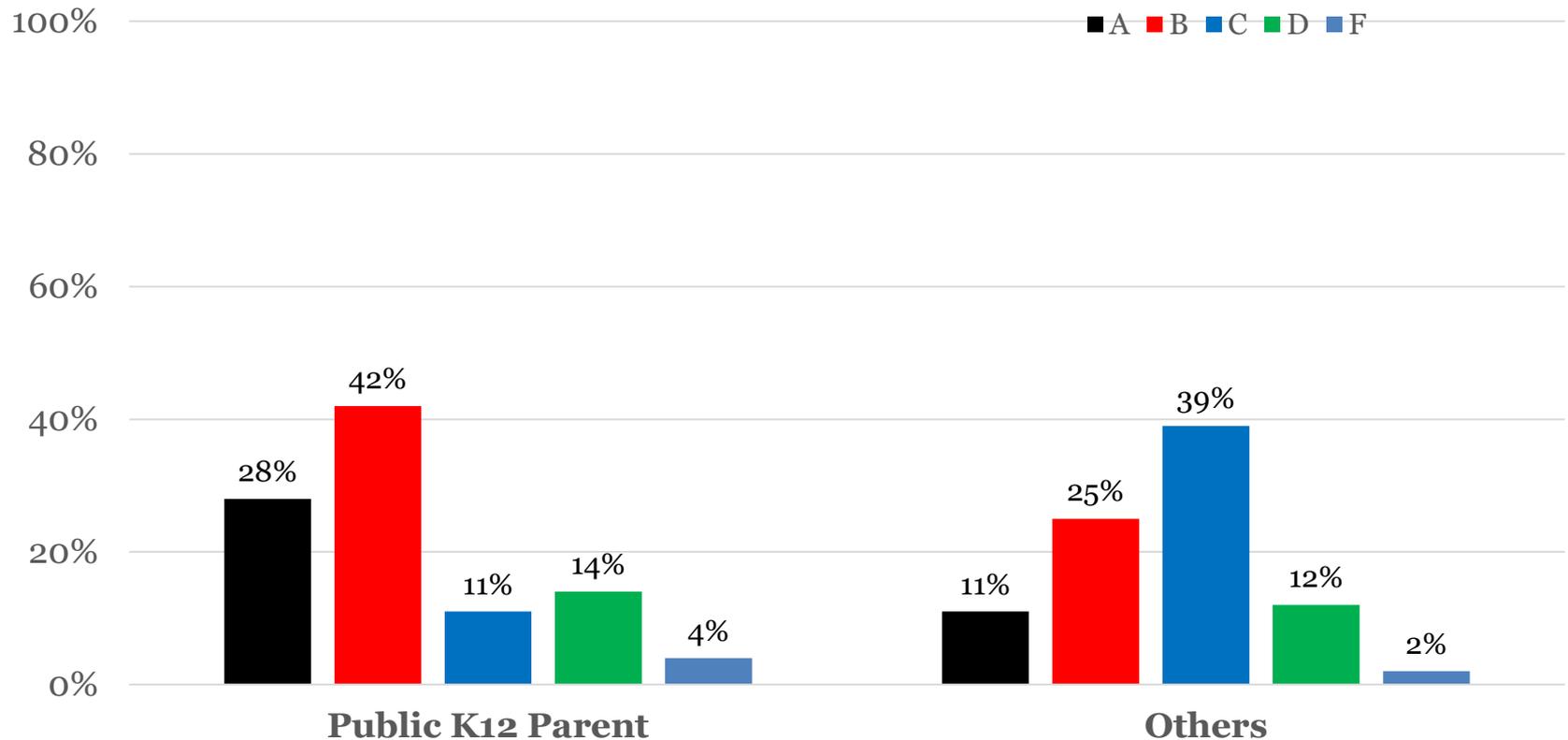
Opinion on Importance of Access to Good Public Education by

In general, how important to you and your family is access to good quality k-12 public school education?
(% "Very Important" for each group)



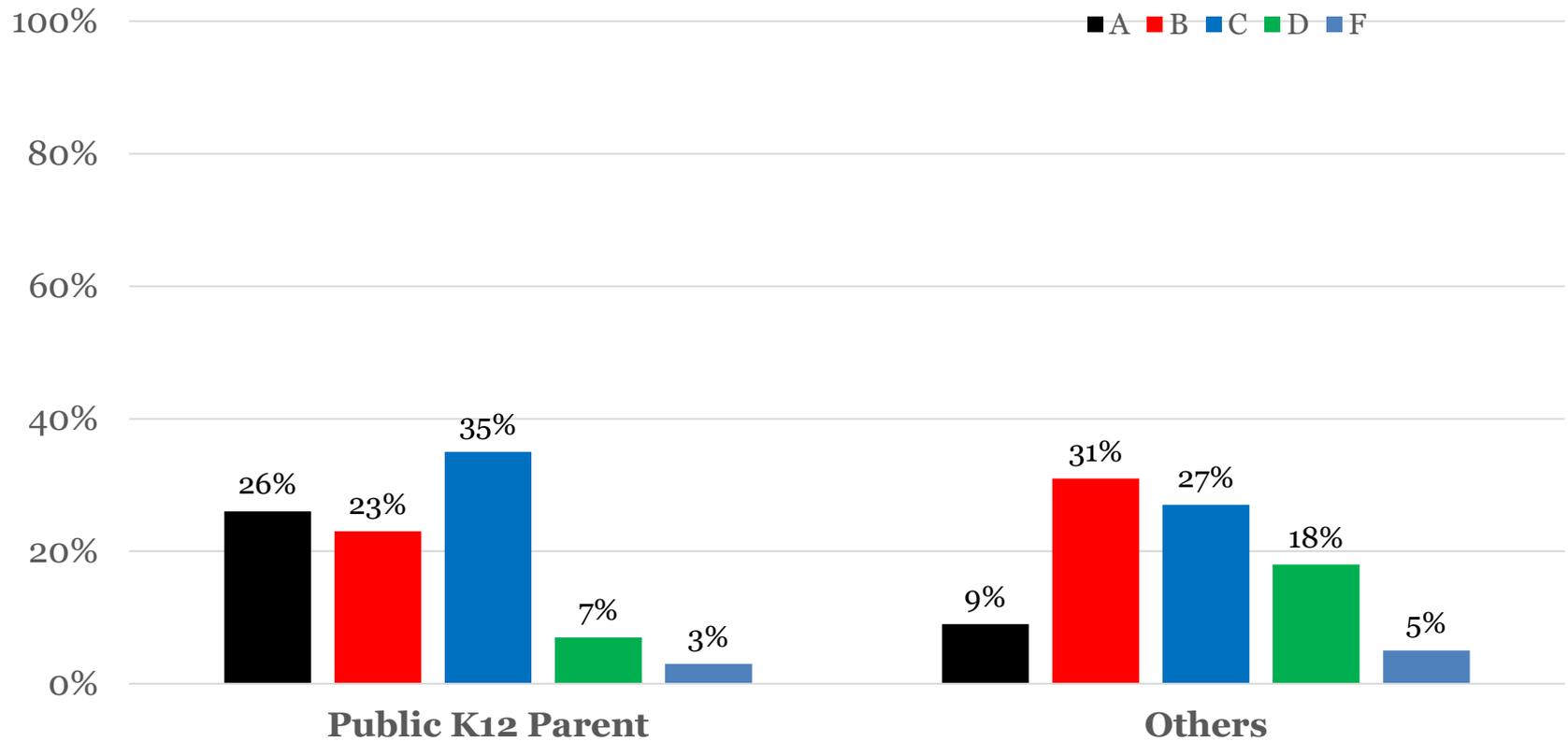
Grade Given to K12 Public education in TN

Thinking about education in Tennessee... what grade would you give the performance of public preschools, kindergartens, and elementary schools in your school district?



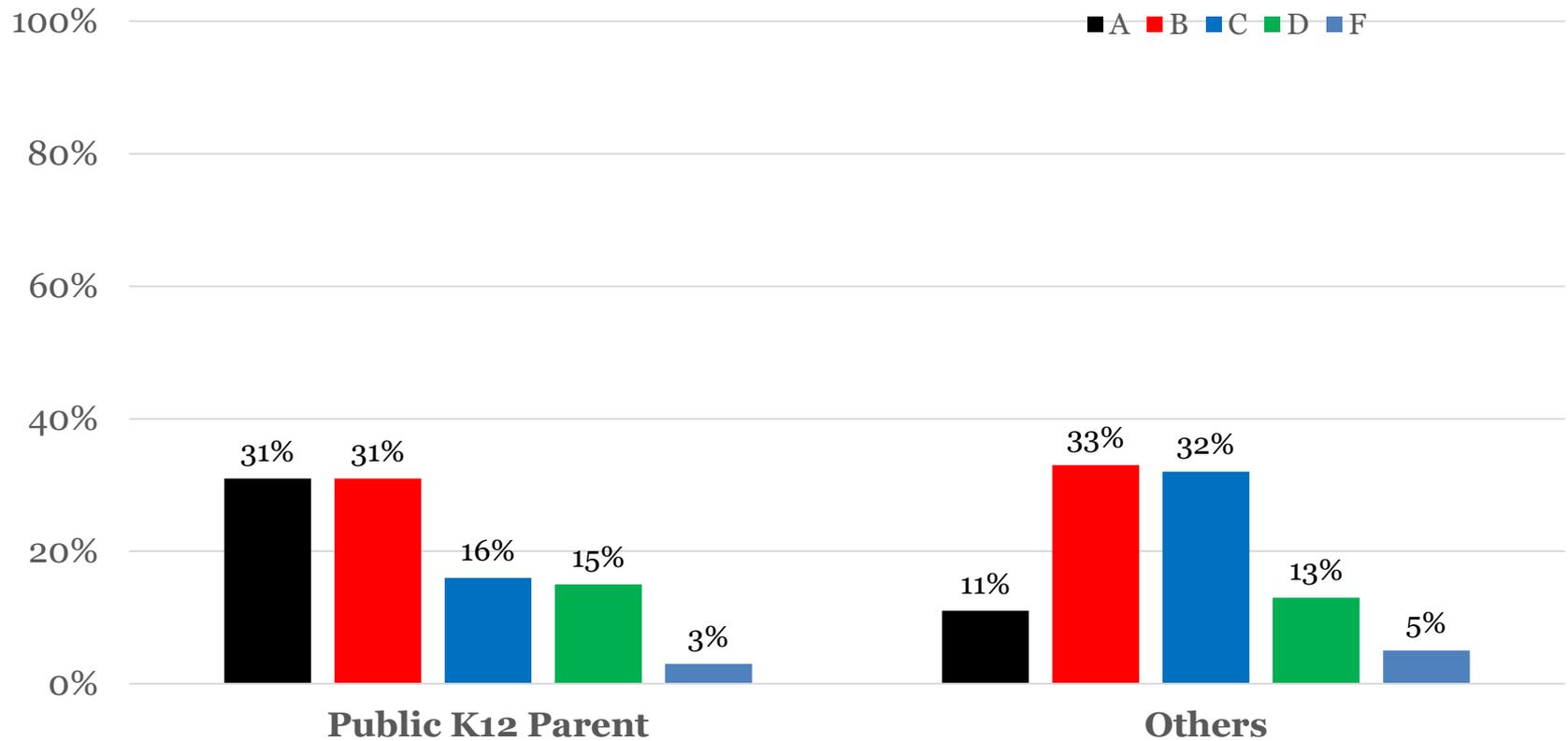
Grade Given to K12 Public education in TN

Thinking about education in Tennessee... what grade would you give the performance of public middle schools in your school district?



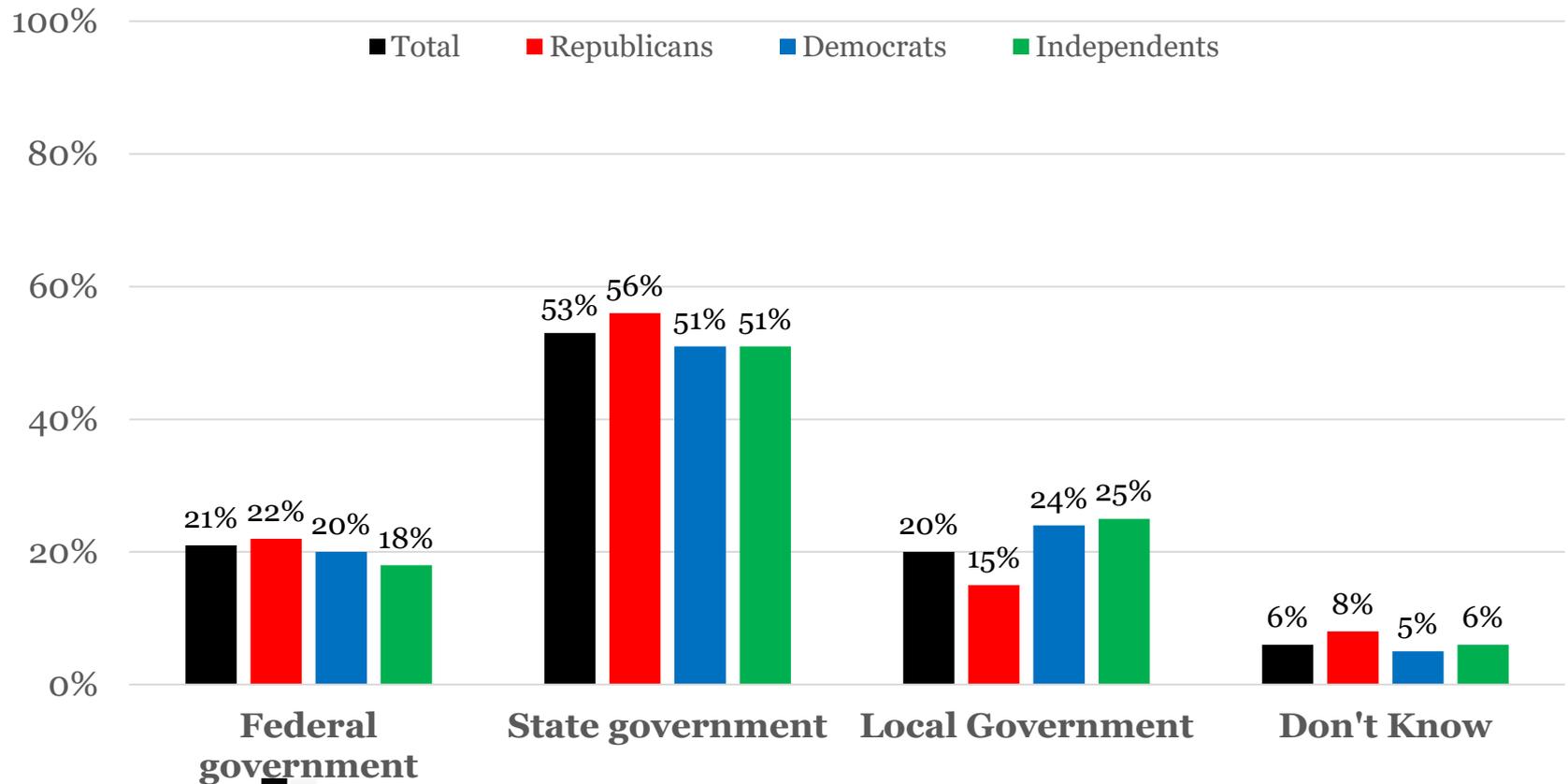
Grade Given to K12 Public education in TN

Thinking about education in Tennessee... what grade would you give the performance of public high schools in your school district?



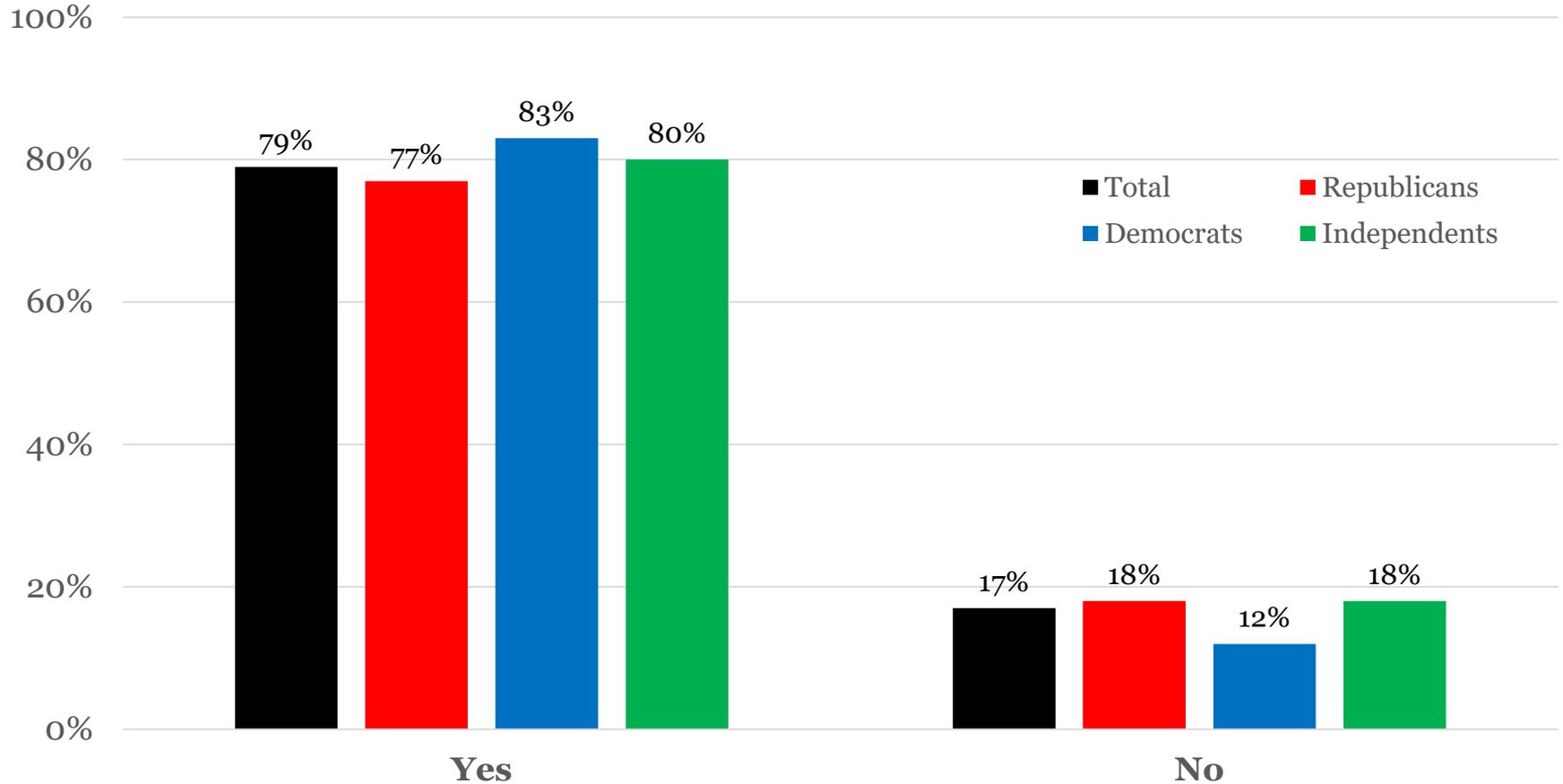
Knowledge of where School Funding Comes From In Tennessee by Party ID

Schools in Tennessee receive funding from a combination of sources. Where do you think local public schools get most of their funding from?



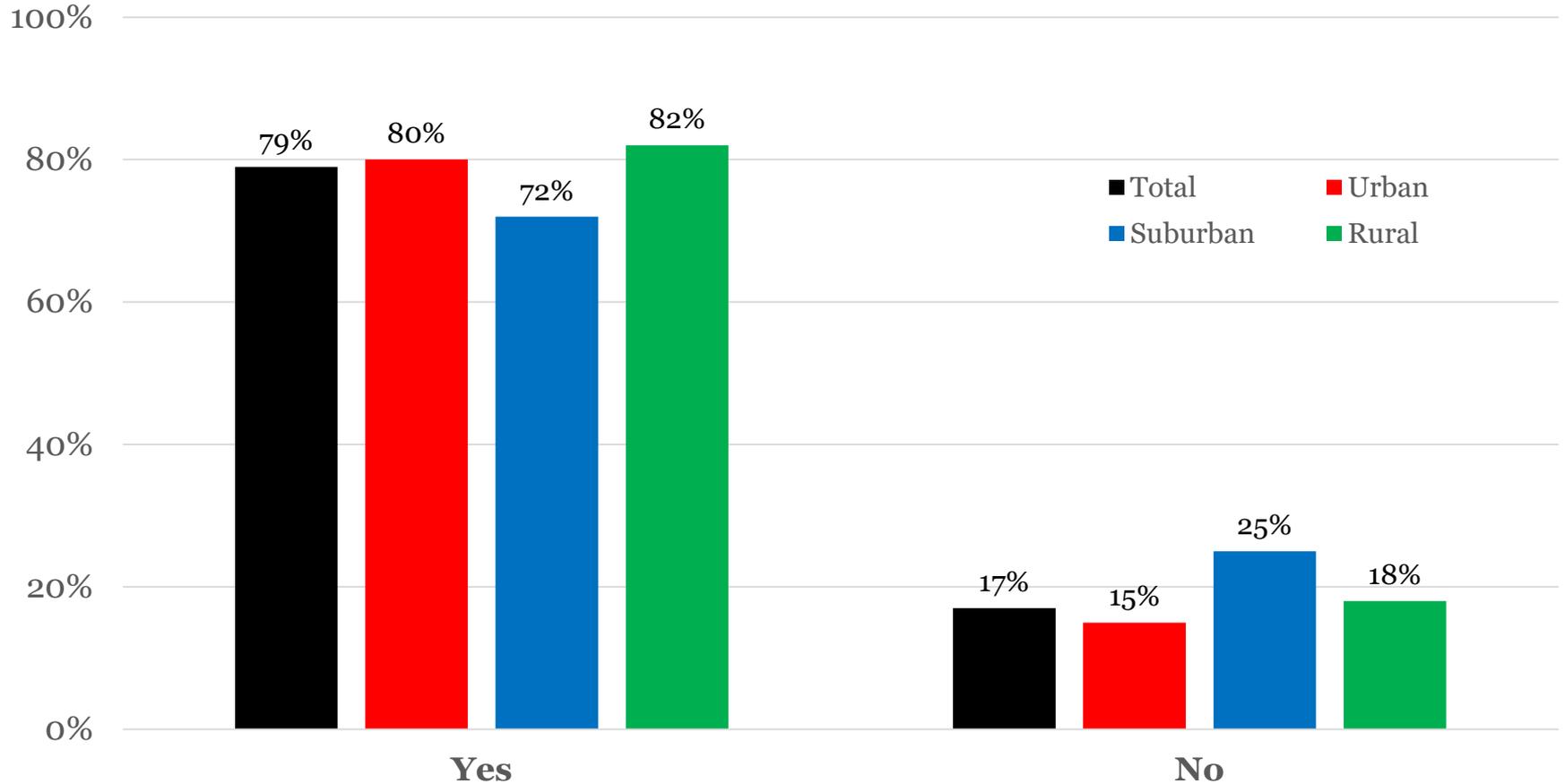
Opinion on funding for Success by Party ID

Should schools receive additional funding if they show measurable success in educating students with higher needs, such as students with disabilities and English-language learners?



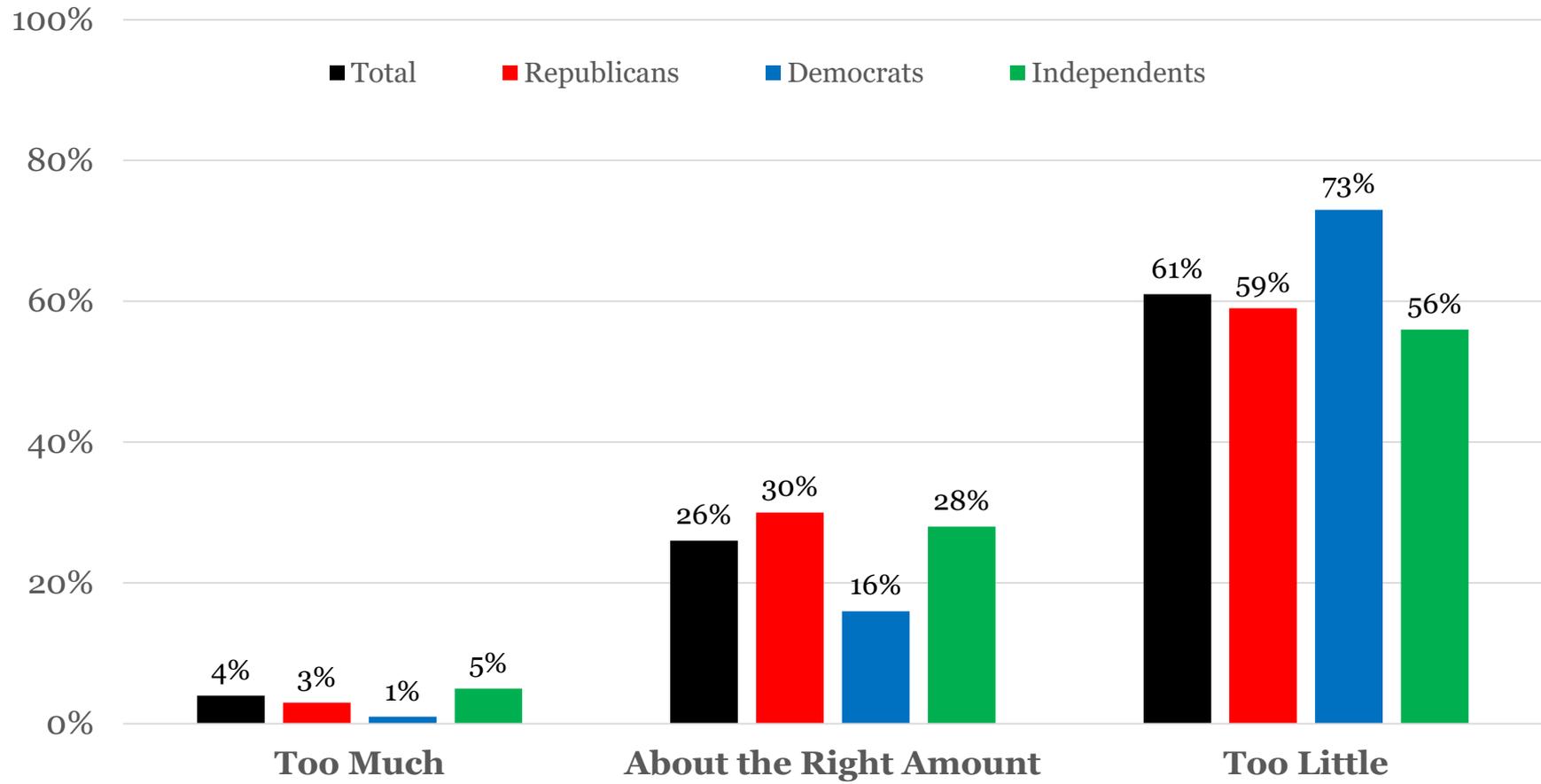
Opinion on funding for success by Community

Should schools receive additional funding if they show measurable success in educating students with higher needs, such as students with disabilities and English-language learners?



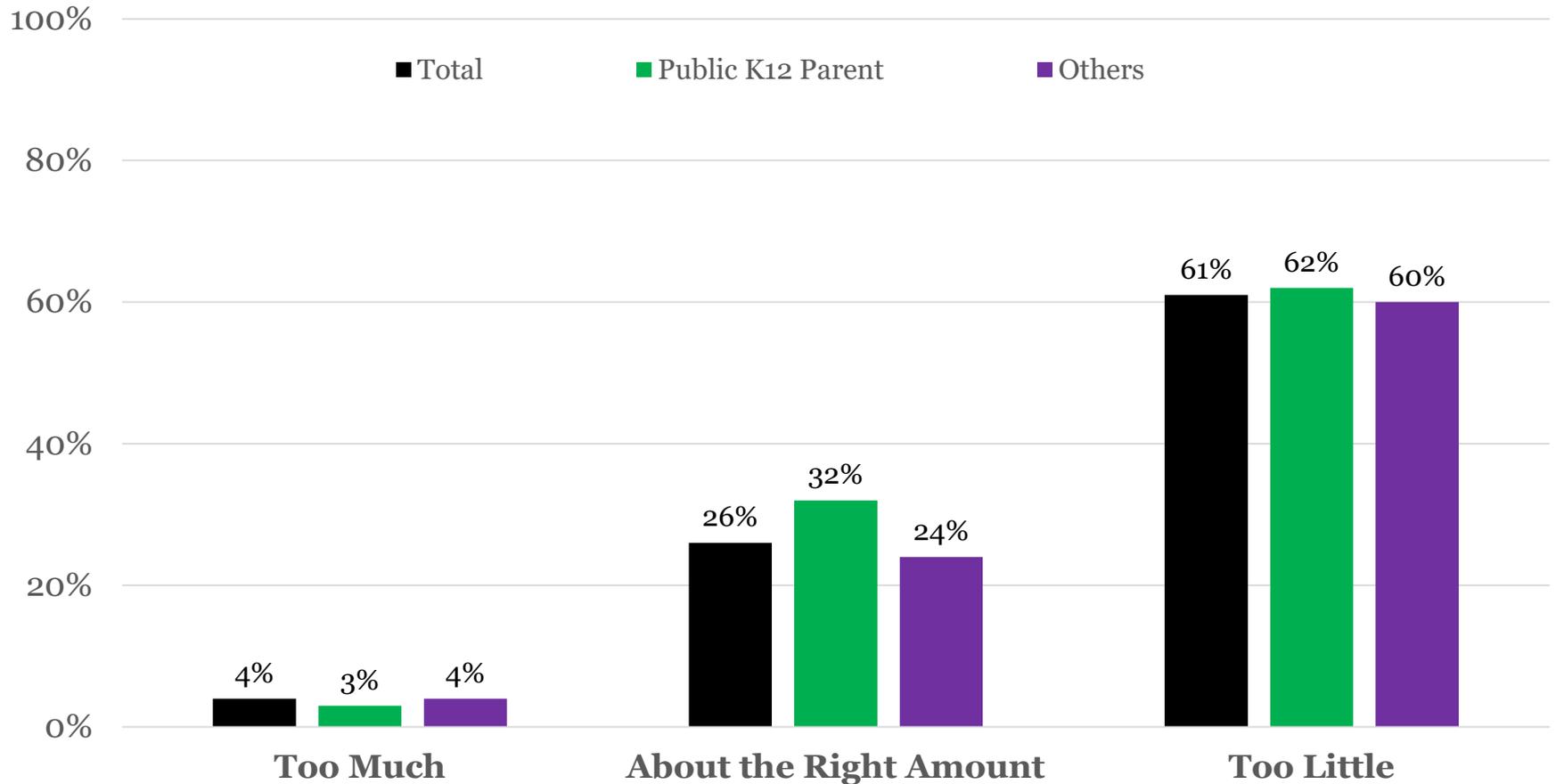
Opinion on School Funding Amounts by Party ID

In terms of the amount of school funding that school districts get from the state, do you believe your public schools receive....



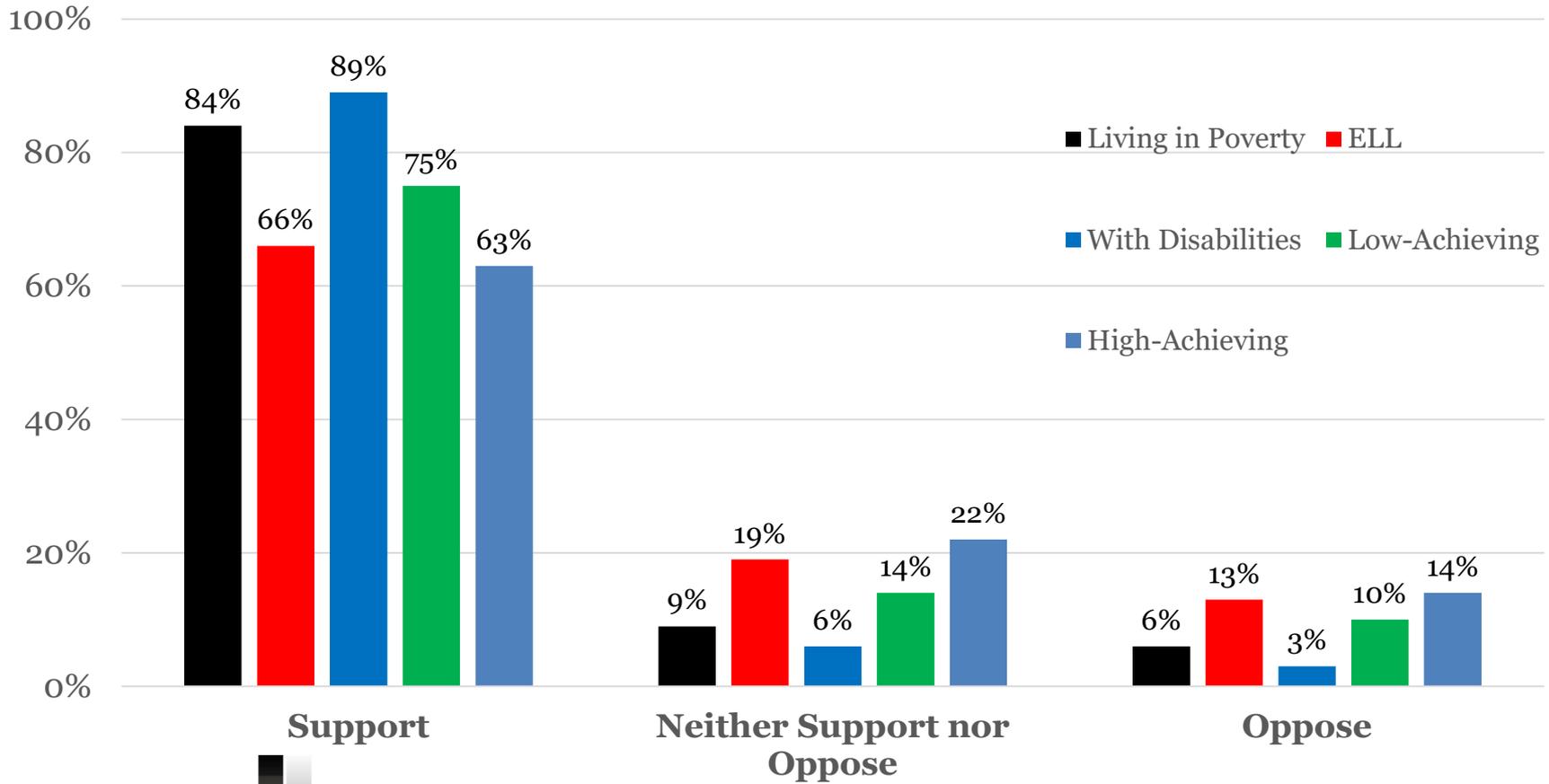
Opinion on School Funding Amounts by Kids or No Kids in Public Schools

In terms of the amount of school funding that school districts get from the state, do you believe your public schools receive....



Opinion on School Funding Needs

Suppose Tennessee were to provide funding to a public school based on student need, rather than the total number of students at the school. For each of the following, please tell me whether you would support, neither support nor oppose, or oppose the state providing more funding to a school with a larger population of this group of students?



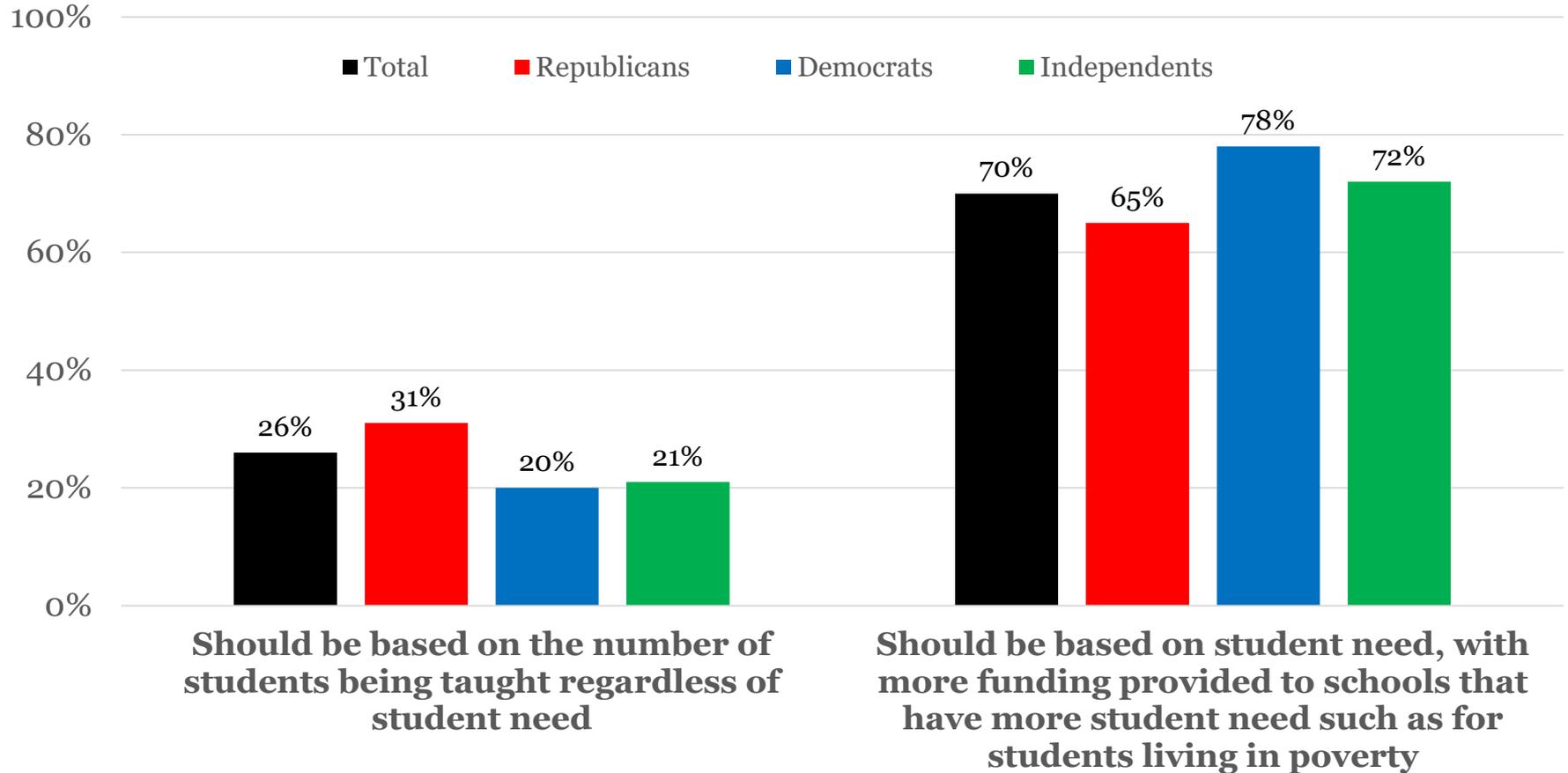
In addition to asking whether respondents “support” or “oppose” increased funding for each group of students, we also asked the question in a slightly different way to make sure the results did not depend on how the question was asked.

We asked each respondent one of the following three questions to highlight whether funding should be based on the total number of students being taught or a particular type of student need. This gave respondents a choice between two policy alternatives (as opposed to simply supporting or opposing).

The results are consistent with prior question although there is more support for funding related to poverty and special needs than ELL.

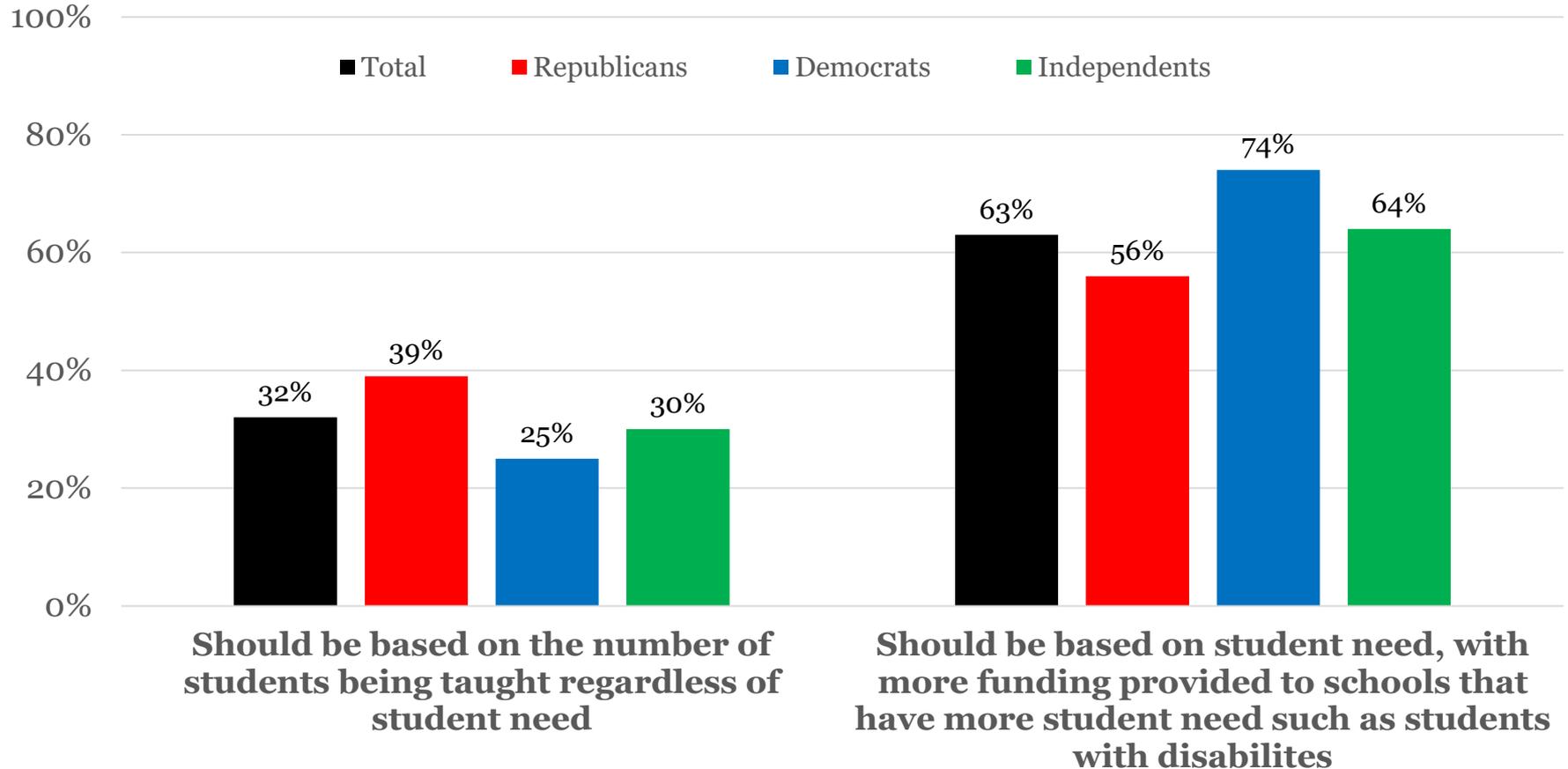
Opinion on funding amounts for public schools by Party ID – Students Living in Poverty

Do you think the amount of funding a school district receives from the state....



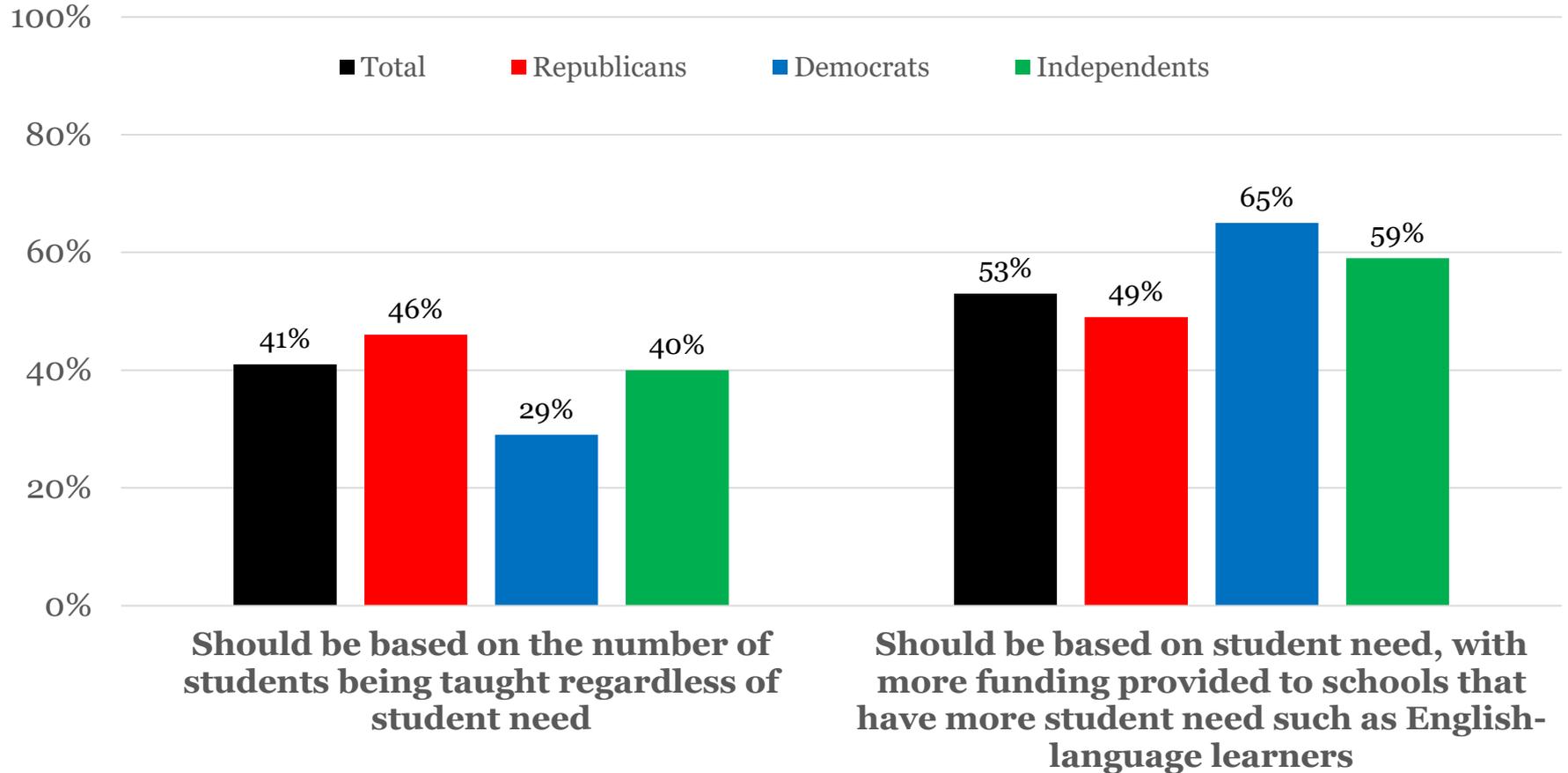
Opinion on funding amounts for public schools by Party ID – Students with Disabilities

Do you think the amount of funding a school district receives from the state....



Opinion on funding amounts for public schools by Party ID – English Language Learners

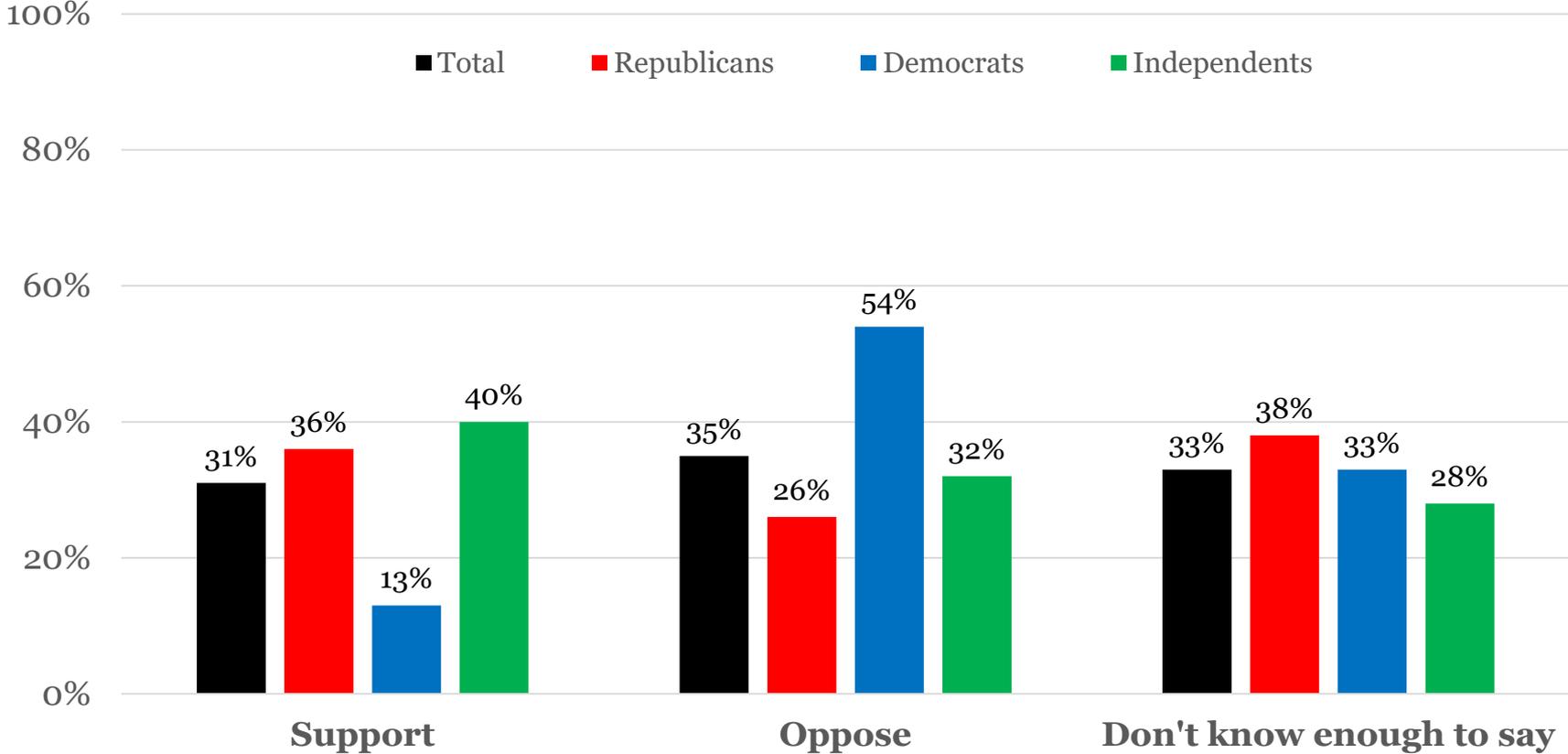
Do you think the amount of funding a school district receives from the state....



The next question is a broader question about school support and support for student funding regardless of where the student attends (e.g., charter schools, private schools, homeschooling) to provide additional context.

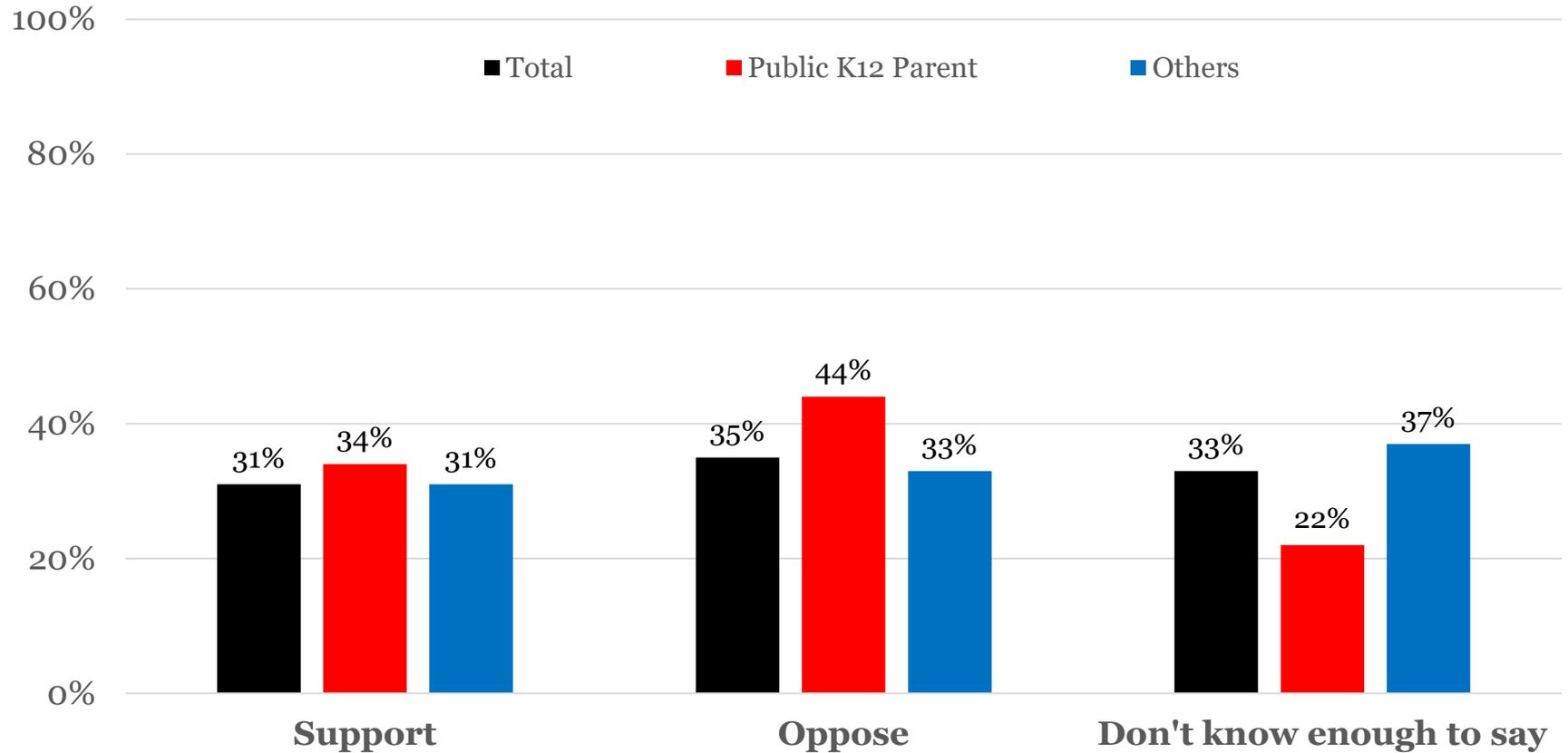
Opinion on School Funding Going Directly to Students and Parents by Party ID

In general, would you support or oppose school funding being given directly from the Tennessee state government to students and their families so they can use the money to pay for schooling of their choice, including homeschooling or public, charter, or private schools, or do you not know enough to say?



Opinion on School Funding Going Directly to Students and Parents by Public K12 Parent

In general, would you support or oppose school funding being given directly from the Tennessee state government to students and their families so they can use the money to pay for schooling of their choice, including homeschooling or public, charter, or private schools, or do you not know enough to say?



While not related to school funding, we also asked about partisan school board elections.

Opinion of Local School Board Elections Being Partisan by Party ID

Do you approve or disapprove of a potential new state law that allows local school board elections to be partisan by listing the political party of school board candidates, or do you not know enough to say?

