

 McLaughlin & Associates

National Undergraduate Study

Sponsored By:

The William F. Buckley, Jr. Program at Yale



October 5th, 2016

Presented by:

Jim McLaughlin and Rob Schmidt

On the web

www.mclaughlinonline.com

Presentation Online

- **Methodology**
- **Free Speech and the First Amendment**
- **Intellectual Diversity on College Campuses**
- **The Presidential Election and Political Environment**
- **Citizenship Test**

Methodology

McLaughlin & Associates conducted a national survey of 800 undergraduate students from September 17th to 25th, 2016. All student participants were under the age of 25 and attend either a four-year private or public college or university on a full-time basis. All interviews were conducted online and respondents were carefully selected and screened from a nationwide representative platform of individuals who elect to participate in online surveys.

Data for this survey have been stratified by age, race/ethnicity, gender and geography using the National Center for Education Statistics 2014 Report to reflect the actual demographic composition of undergraduate students in the United States.

Because the sample is based on those who initially self-selected for participation rather than a probability sample, no estimates of sampling error can be calculated. All surveys may be subject to multiple sources of error, including, but not limited to sampling error, coverage error and measurement error.

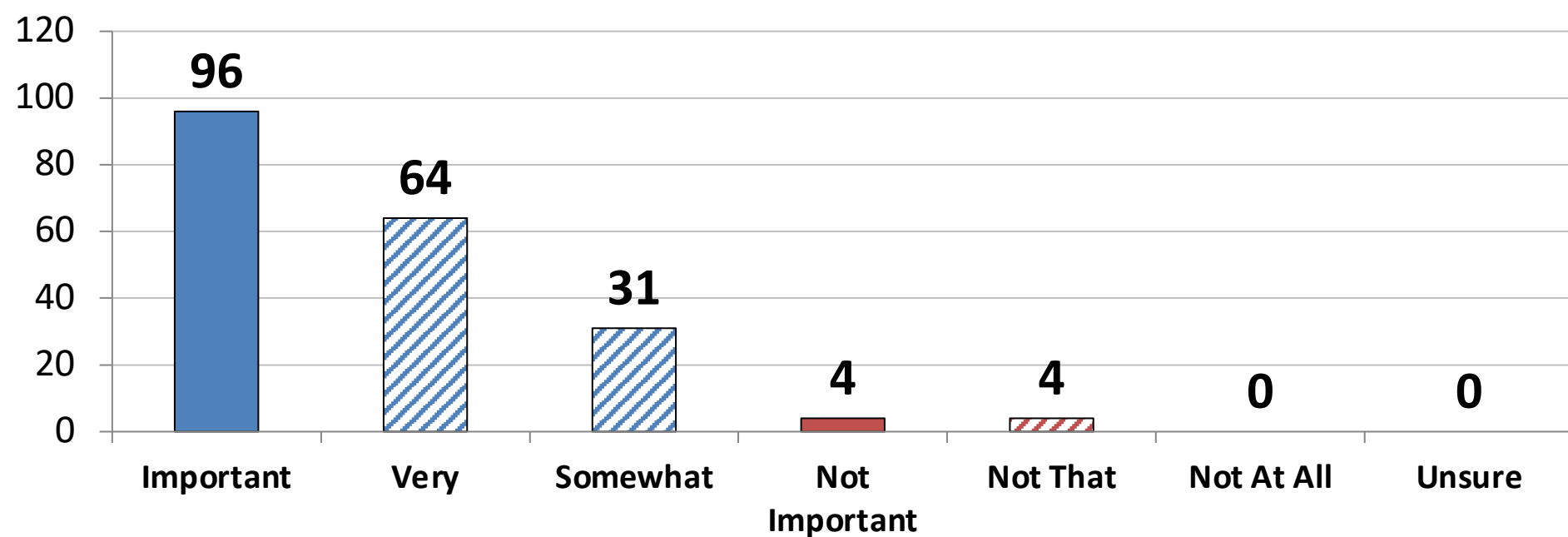
However, a confidence interval of 95% was calculated in order to produce an error estimate of +/- 3.4% for the 800 respondents. This error estimate should be taken into consideration in much the same way that analysis of probability polls takes into account the margin of sampling error. The error estimate increases for cross-tabulations. Totals may not add up to exactly 100% due to rounding.

Part One - Free Speech and the First Amendment

Undergraduates continue to strongly believe that the issue of free speech is important on campus.

How important to you personally is the issue of free speech at your college or university?

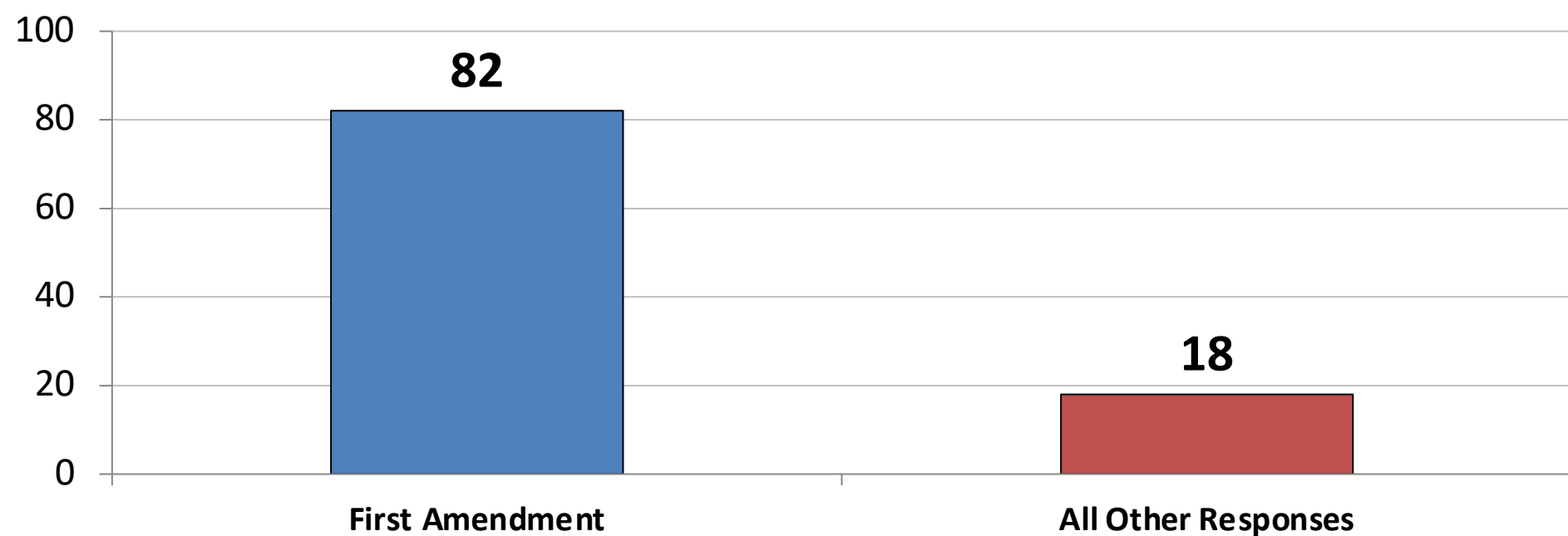
	9/15	9/16
Important	94	96
Not Important	6	4



Eight in ten students were able to correctly identify that the First Amendment encompasses freedom of speech. This has improved from last year.

Of the 27 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, do you know which Amendment deals specifically with freedom of speech?

	9/15	9/16
First Amendment	76	82
All Other Responses	24	18



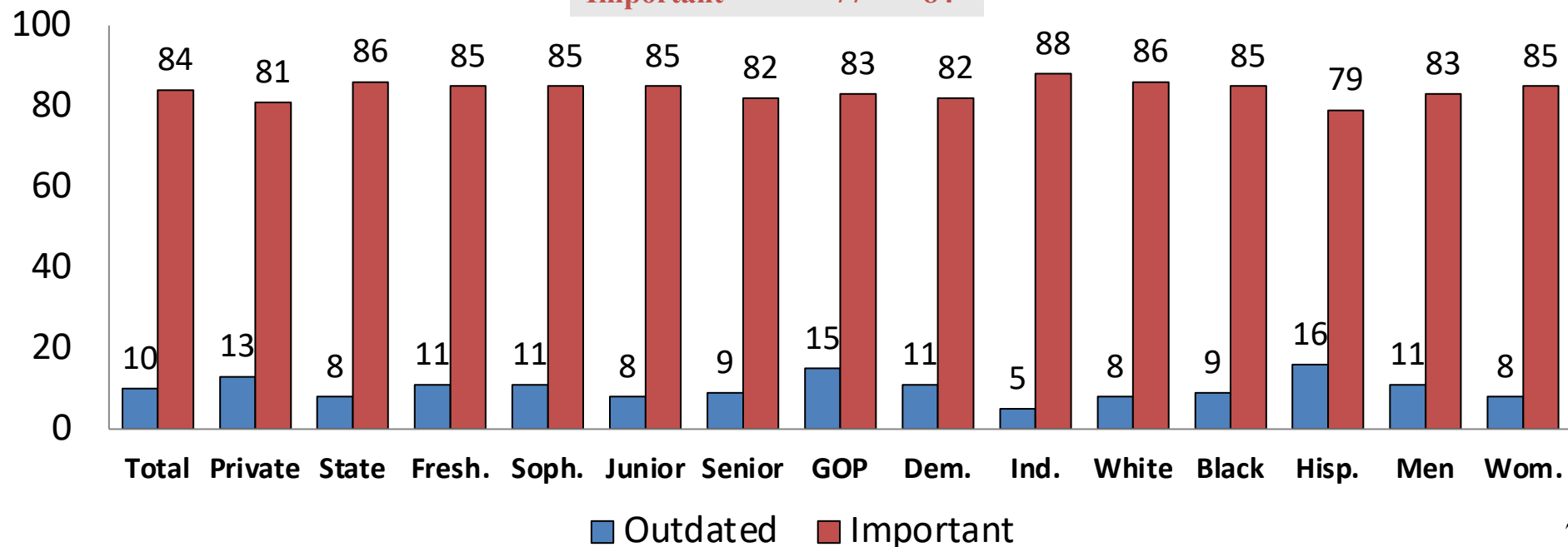
Greater than eight in ten say the First Amendment is an important amendment that still needs to be followed and respected in society. This is also improved from last year.

Generally speaking, do you think the First Amendment, which deals with freedom of speech, is...?

An outdated amendment that can no longer be applied in today's society and should be changed
OR

An important amendment that still needs to be followed and respected in today's society

	9/15	9/16
Outdated	17	10
Important	77	84



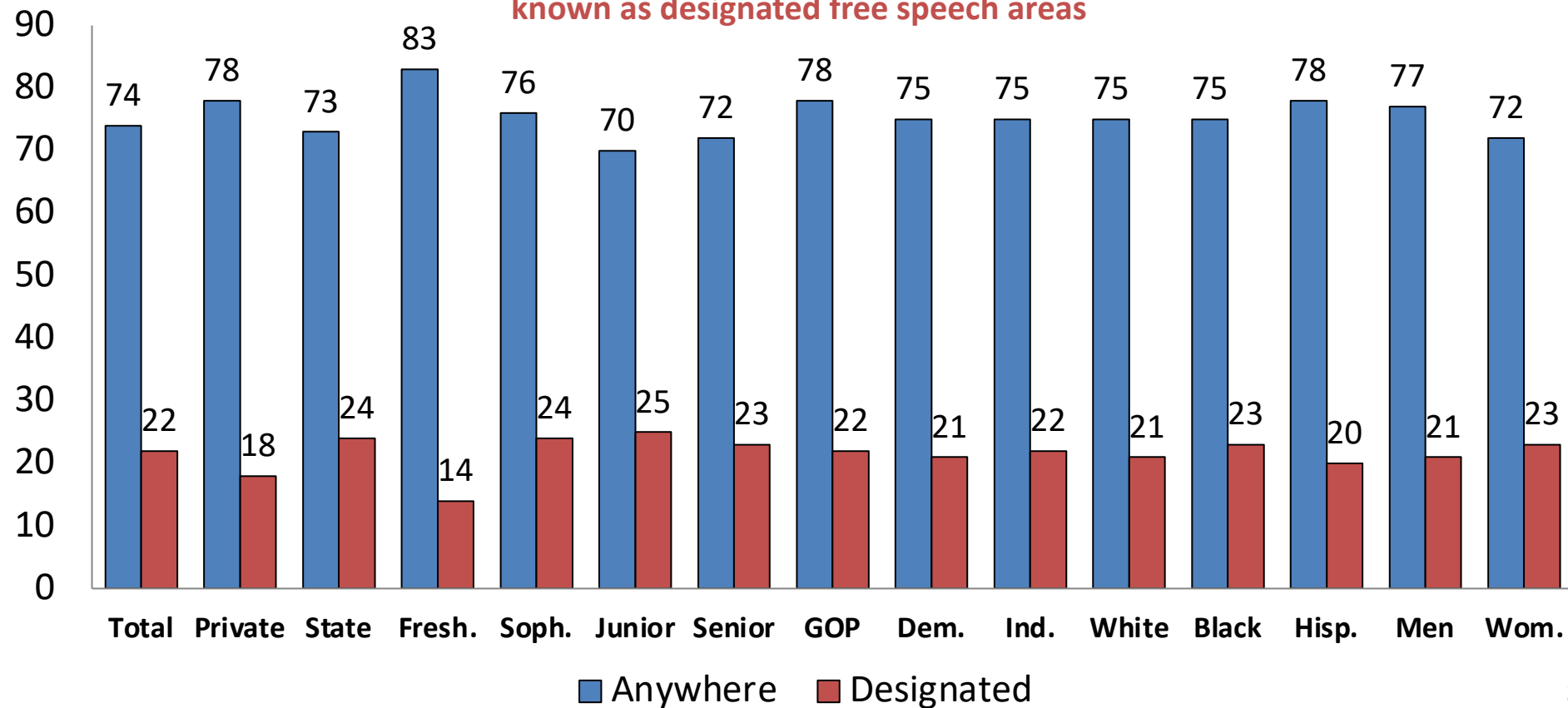
Nearly three in four say students should be allowed to express their views anywhere on campus. One in five prefer designated free speech areas.

Generally speaking, do you think that students like yourself...?

Should be allowed to express their views anywhere on campus

OR

Should only be allowed to express their views in areas that are approved by the college, sometimes known as designated free speech areas



Part Two - Intellectual Diversity on College Campuses

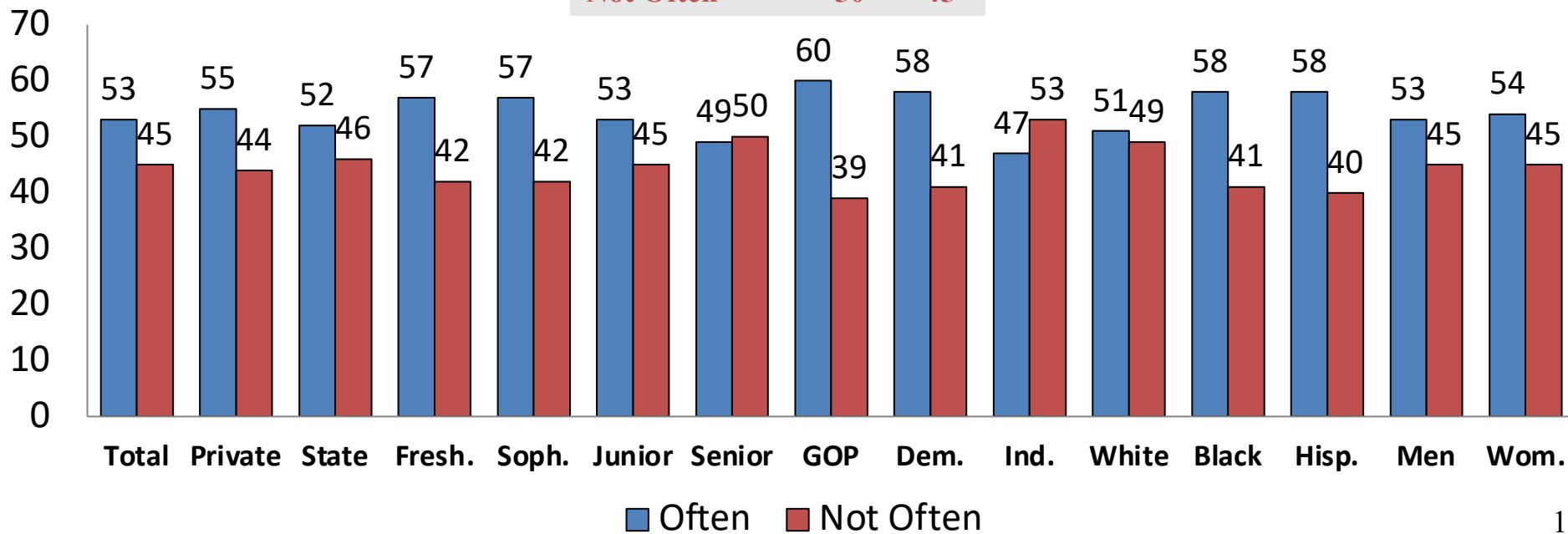
Students remain divided on the “Intimidation Index,” which deals with sharing their ideas, opinions and beliefs on campus.

The majority (53%) say they have often felt intimidated to share beliefs that differ than their professors, while 45% say they have not often felt intimidated. This is a slight increase from last year, when 49% often felt intimidated.

By party, Republican students are more likely to feel intimidated to express their opinions. Freshmen and Sophomores are more intimidated than Juniors and Seniors.

Have you felt intimidated to share your ideas, opinions or beliefs in class because they were different than your professors and course instructors?

	9/15	9/16
Often	49	53
Not Often	50	45



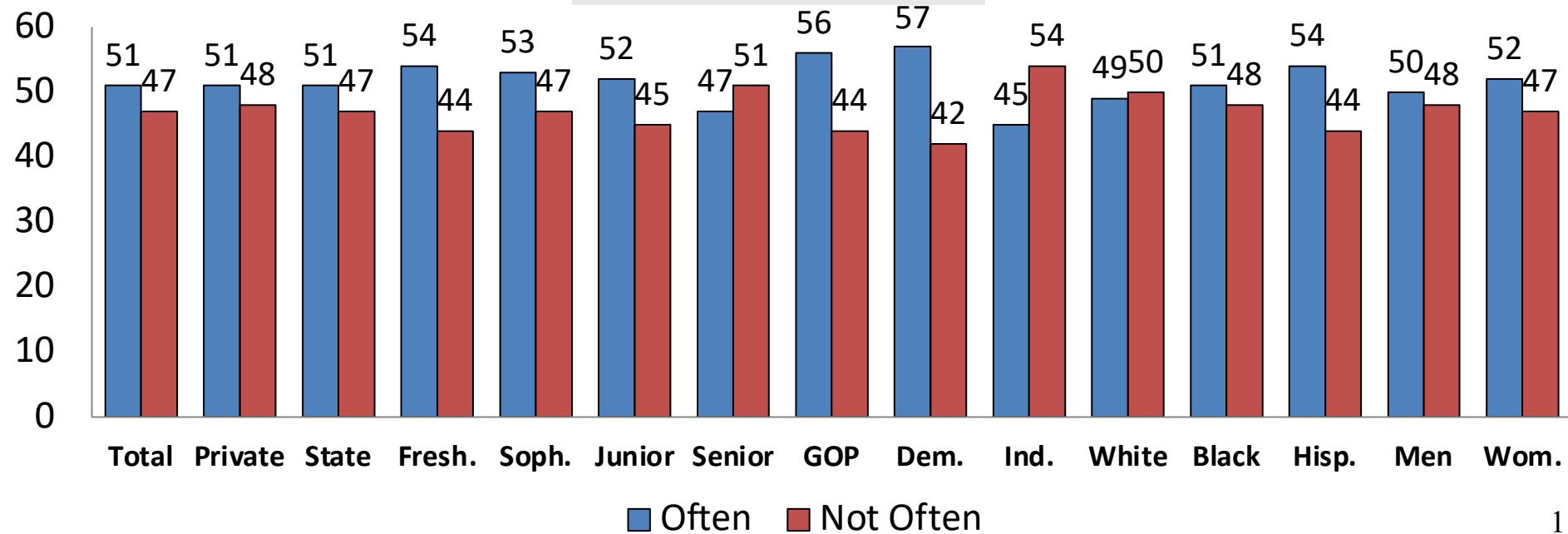
When it comes to sharing ideas, opinions and beliefs that are different than their classmates, students are still generally divided.

Slightly more than half (51%) say they have often felt intimidated to share beliefs that differ than their classmates, while 47% say they have not often felt intimidated.

Compared with last year, slightly fewer students often feel intimidated.

And have you felt intimidated to share your ideas, opinions or beliefs in class because they were different than your classmates or peers?

	9/15	9/16
Often	55	51
Not Often	43	47



By a greater than two to one margin, students said their school is generally more tolerant of liberal ideas and beliefs than conservative ideas and beliefs. Thirty-eight percent (38%) said their school was equally tolerant of both.

Private school students are more likely than public school students to say their school is more tolerant of liberal ideas, 46% to 35%, respectively.

Would you say your college or university in general is...?

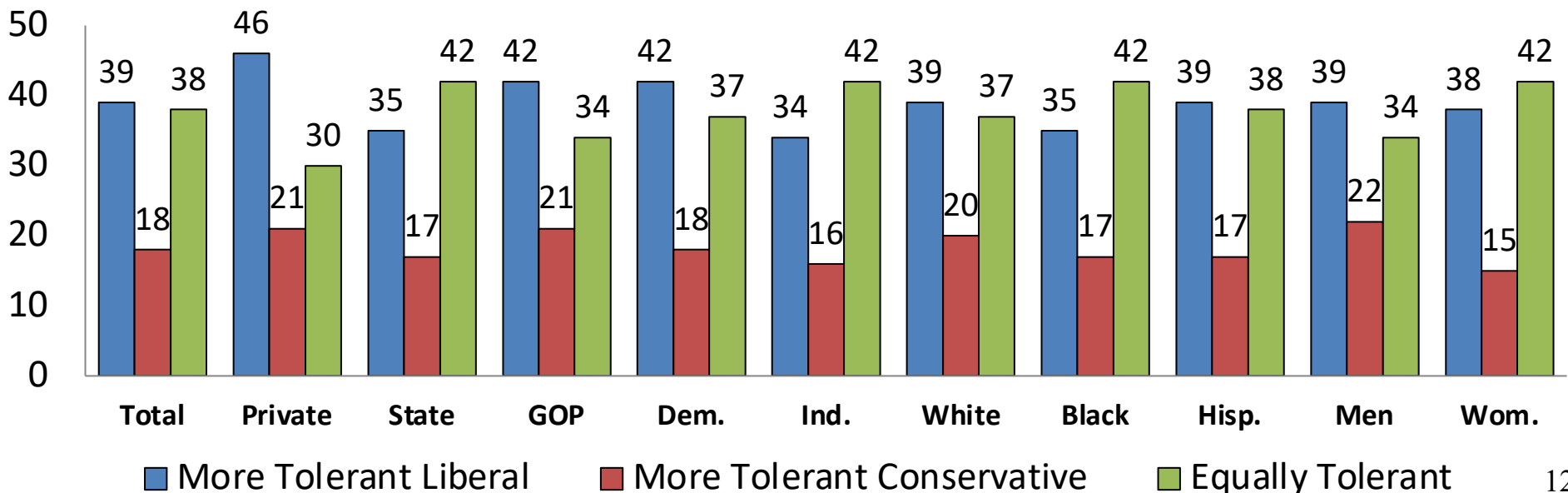
More tolerant of liberal ideas and beliefs

More tolerant of conservative ideas and beliefs

OR

Equally tolerant of both liberal and conservative ideas and beliefs

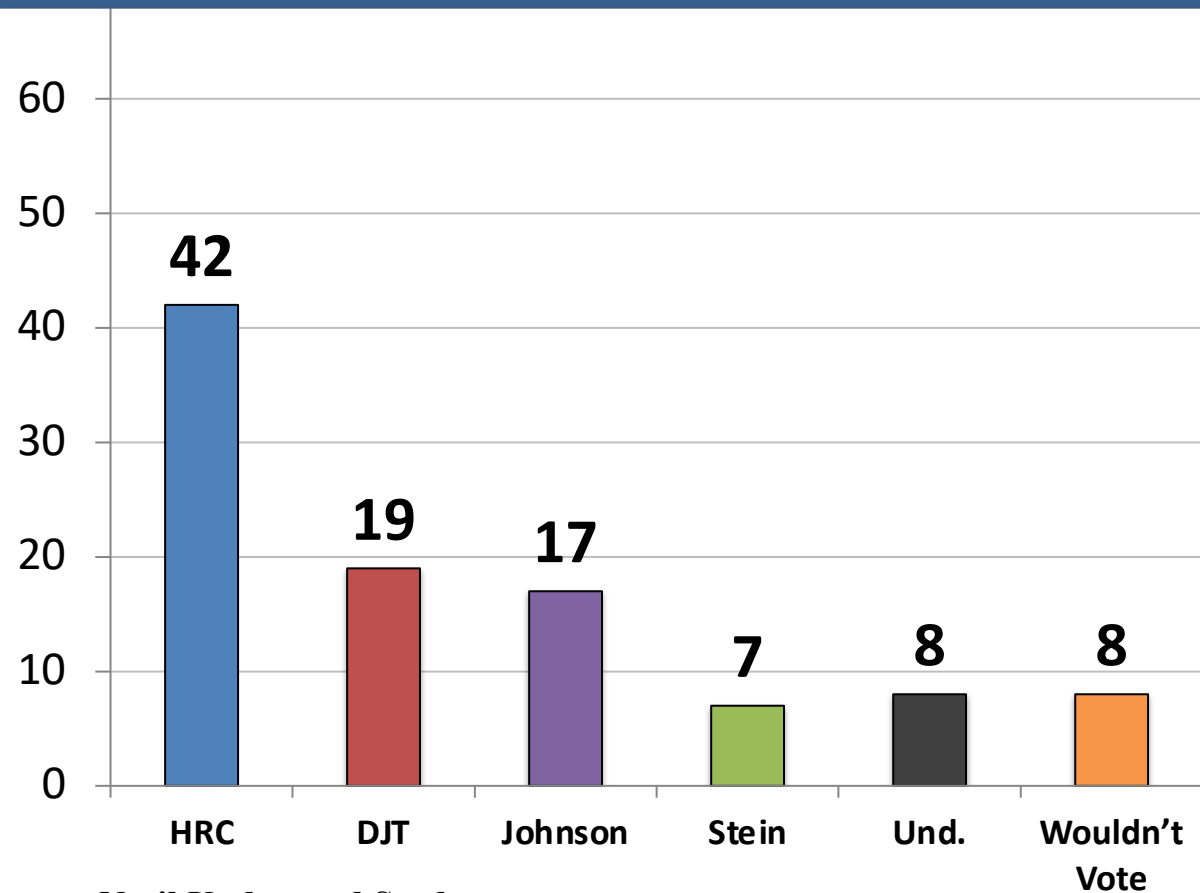
	9/15	9/16
Liberal	41	39
Conservative	23	18
Equally	30	38



Part Three - The Presidential Election & Political Environment

Hillary Clinton has a 23-point lead over Donald Trump, 42% to 19%. A notable 17% are voting for Gary Johnson and 7% say they are voting for Jill Stein. Eight percent (8%) are undecided and another 8% say they would not vote in the election.

Clinton receives 74% of the Democratic vote, while Trump receives just 57% of college Republicans. However, Johnson leads with Independents, 29% to 25% over Clinton, with Trump at 13%.



	<u>HC</u>	<u>DT</u>	<u>GJ</u>	<u>JS</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>WV</u>
Private	48	22	14	6	6	6
State	39	17	18	7	9	9
Freshman	39	22	15	10	7	8
Soph.	41	18	16	5	7	13
Junior	40	21	17	7	10	6
Senior	46	17	19	6	7	6
Republican	14	57	10	4	7	9
Democrat	74	4	9	5	4	4
Ind.	25	13	29	11	11	11
White	35	23	20	6	7	9
Black	58	9	8	7	7	11
Hispanic	50	15	13	9	8	6
Men	41	23	16	6	6	8
Women	43	15	17	7	9	9

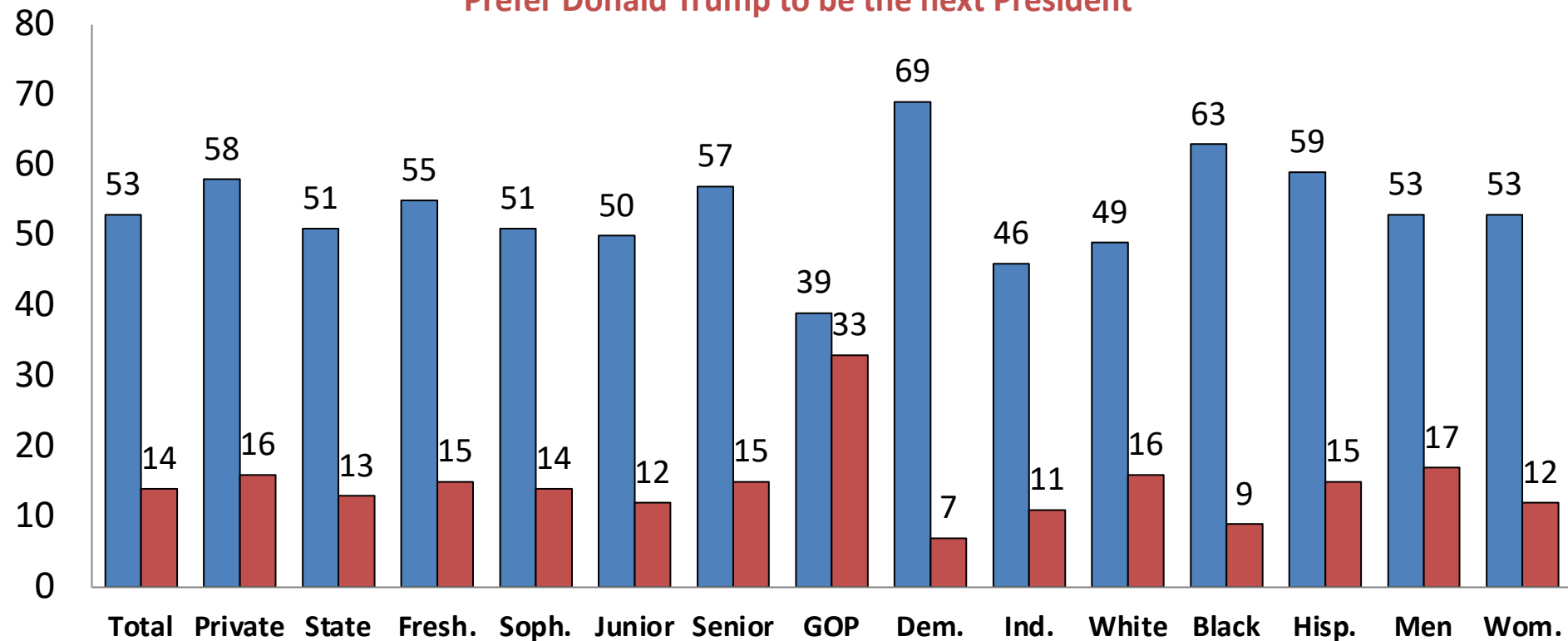
By an almost four to one margin, students say that their professors and faculty generally prefer Hillary Clinton to be the next President.

Would you say most of your professors and faculty in general...?

Prefer Hillary Clinton to be the next President

OR

Prefer Donald Trump to be the next President

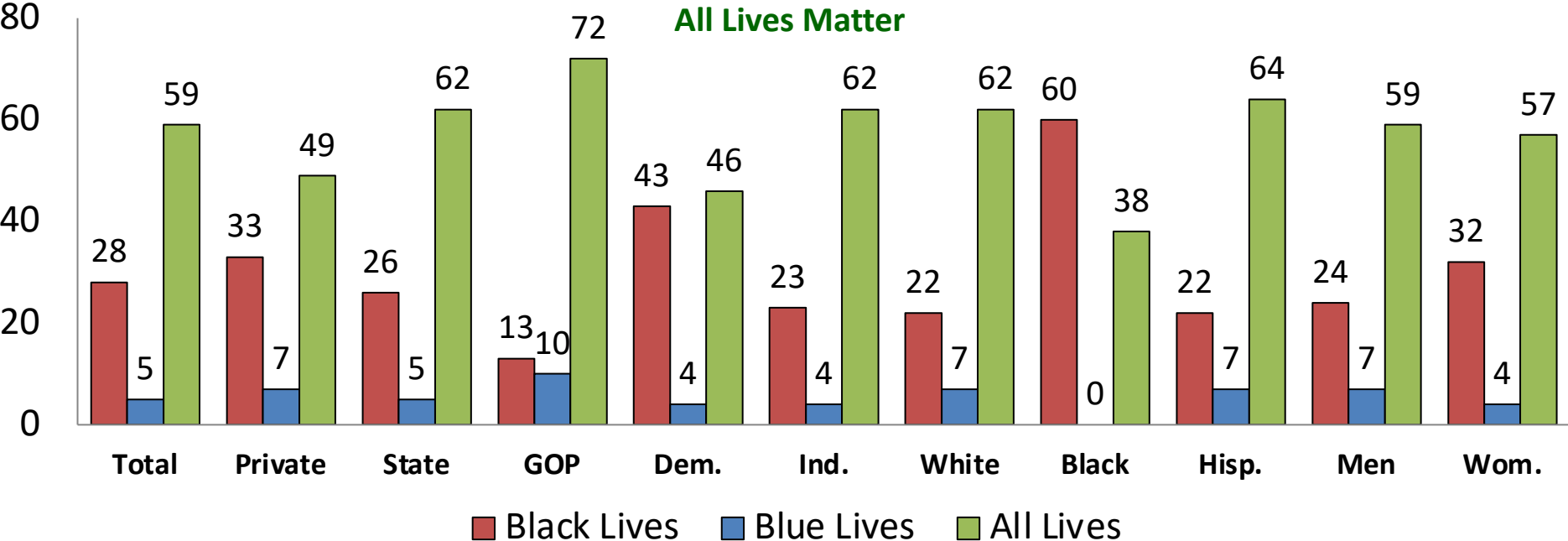


The majority of undergraduates identify with “All Lives Matter.” Greater than one in four identify with “Black Lives Matter” and only 5% identify with “Blue Lives Matter.”

Private school students are slightly more likely to identify with “Black Lives Matter.” African American students largely identify with “Black Lives Matter.”

Which of the following do you most identify with?

Black Lives Matter
Blue Lives Matter
OR
All Lives Matter

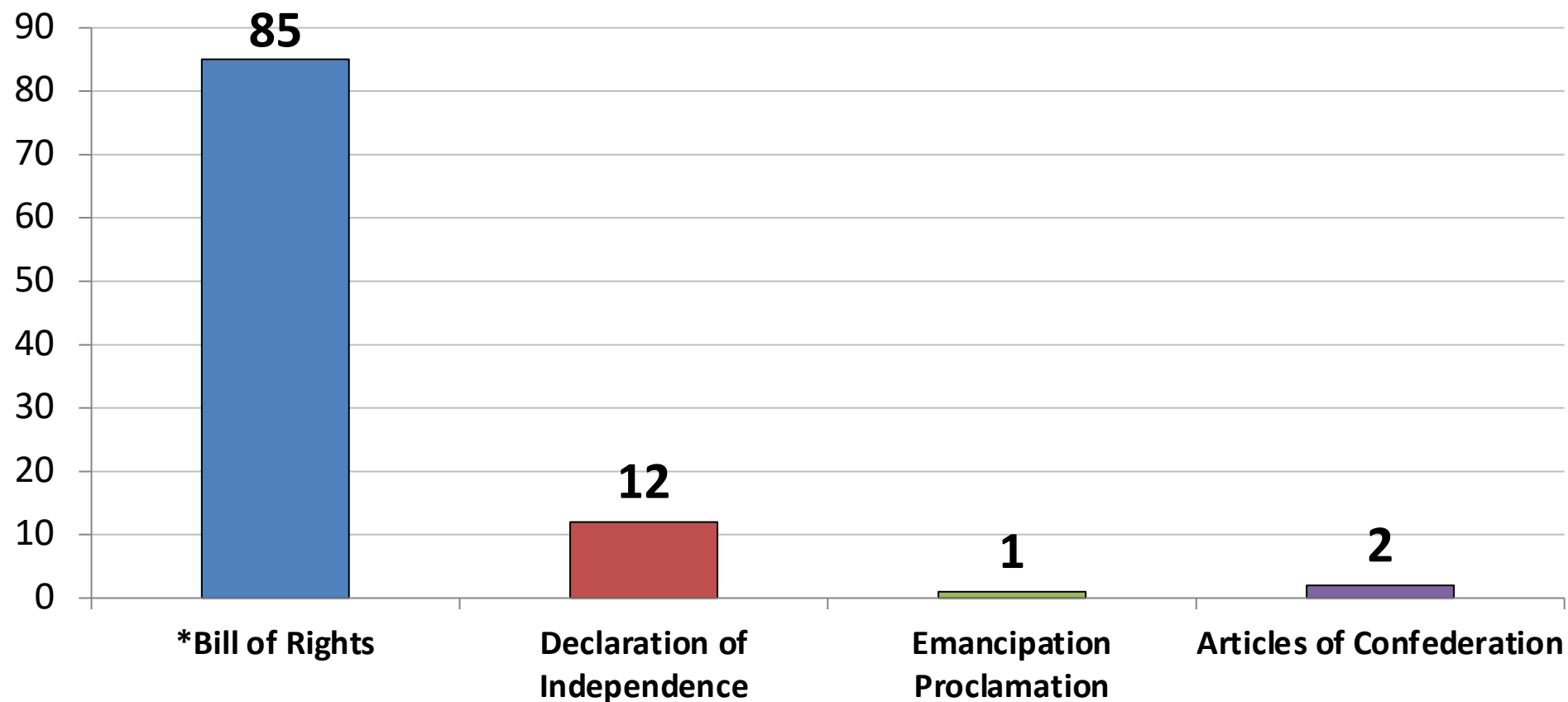


Part Four - Citizenship Test

Students were asked 12 out of the 100 potential civics questions that can appear on a U.S. Citizenship Test. The actual citizenship test is not multiple choice and respondents must answer six of ten questions correctly to pass. In this survey, students “passed” if they answered seven out of the 12 multiple choice questions correctly.

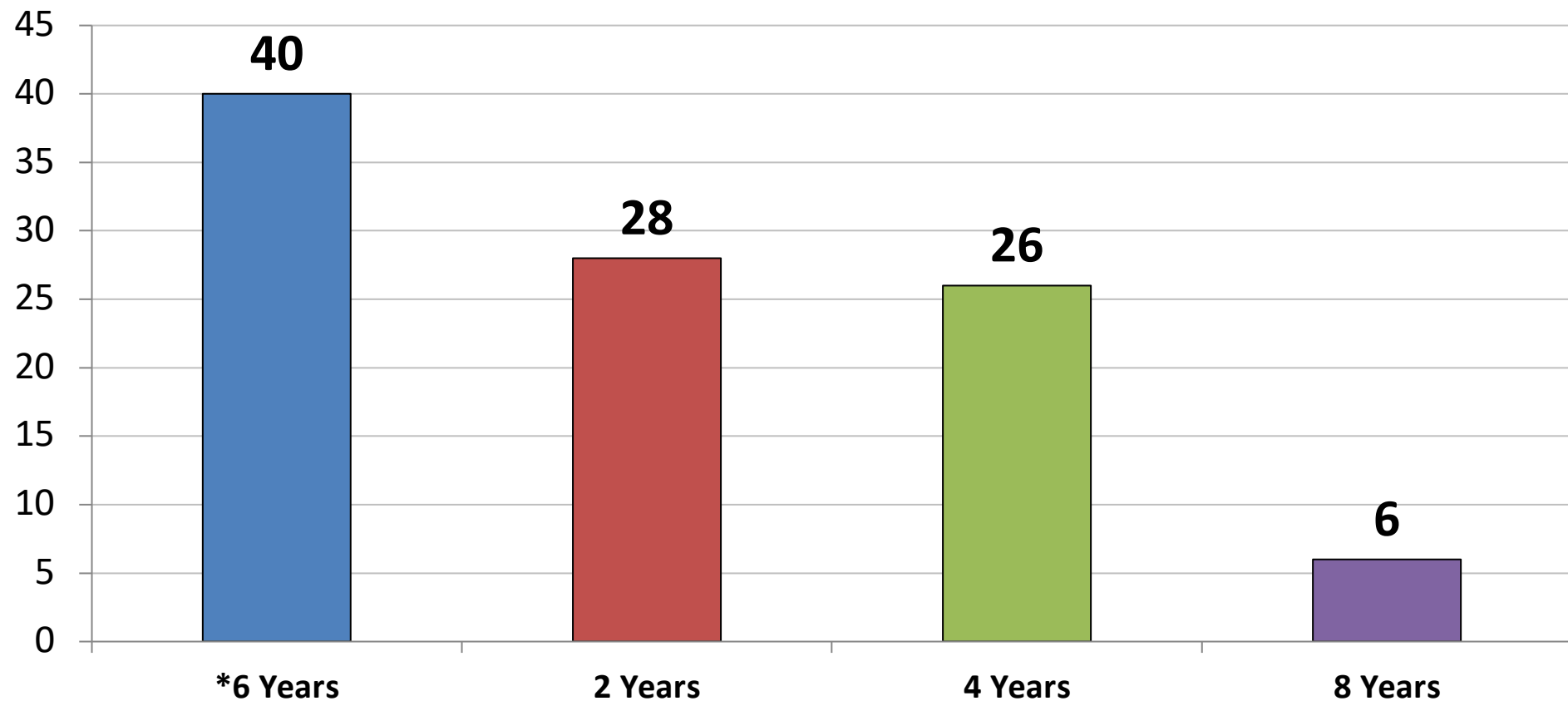
Eighty-five percent (85%) correctly identified the Bill of Rights as the first ten amendments to the Constitution.

What do we call the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution?



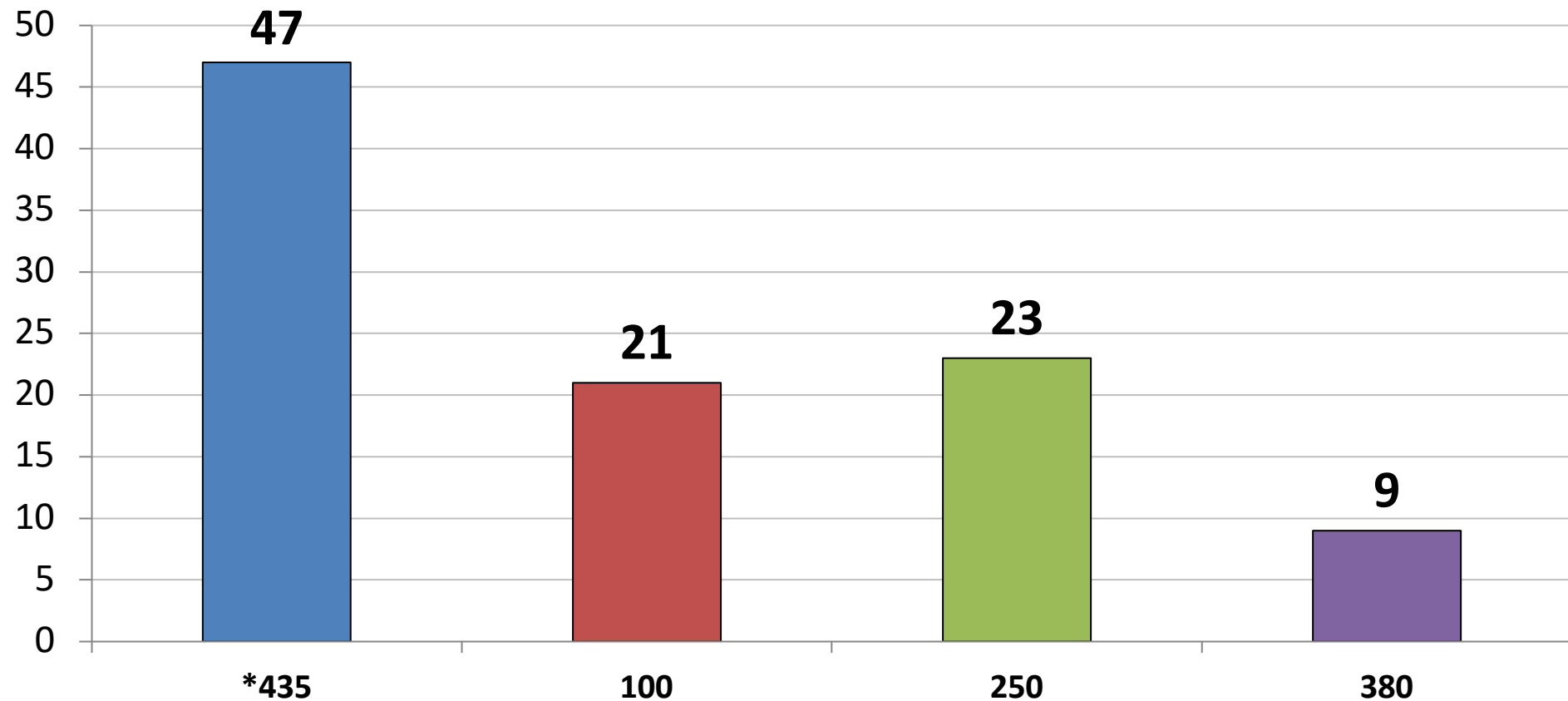
Six in ten did not know how many years a U.S. Senator is elected for.

We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?



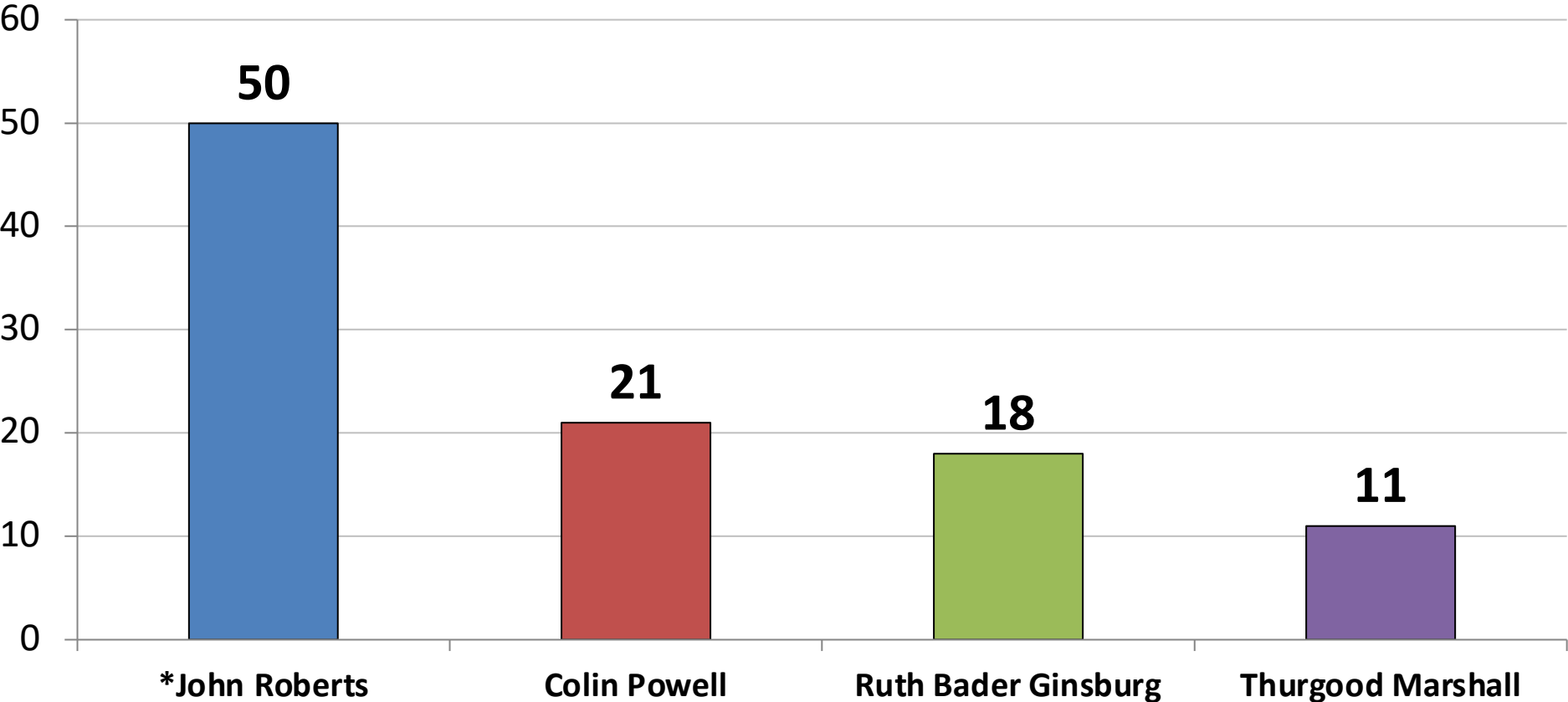
The majority of students did not correctly identify the number of members in the House of Representatives.

The House of Representatives has how many voting members?



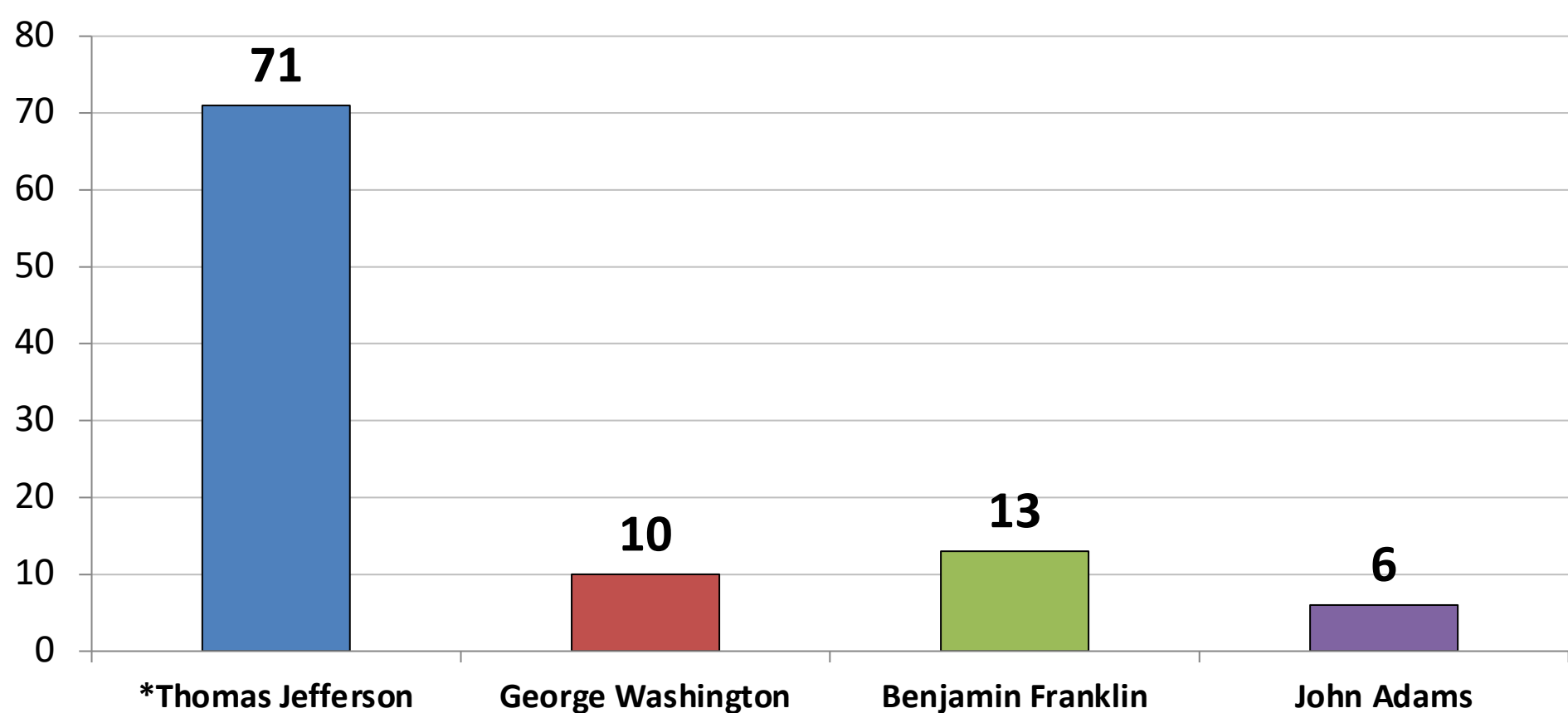
Half of all students knew that John Roberts is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Who is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?



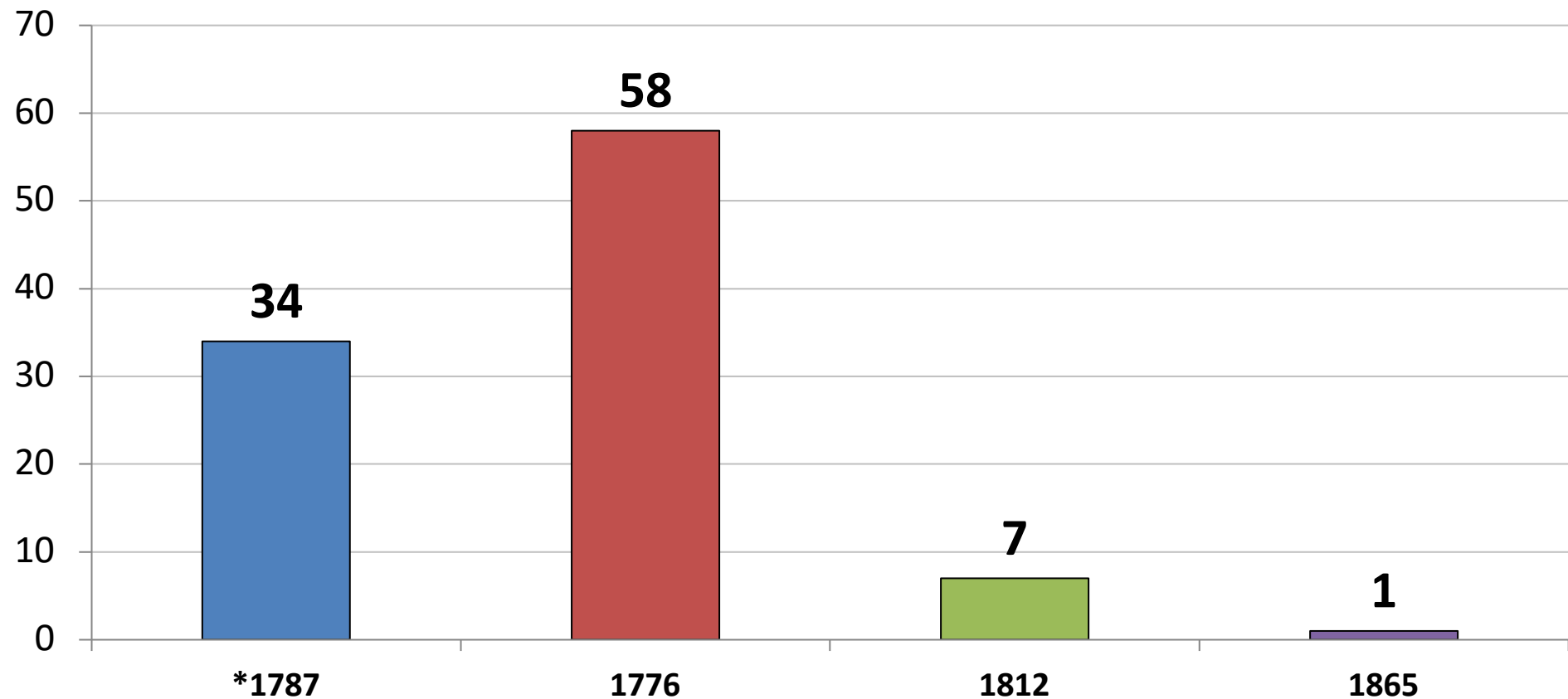
Seven in ten correctly identified Thomas Jefferson as the author of the Declaration of Independence.

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?



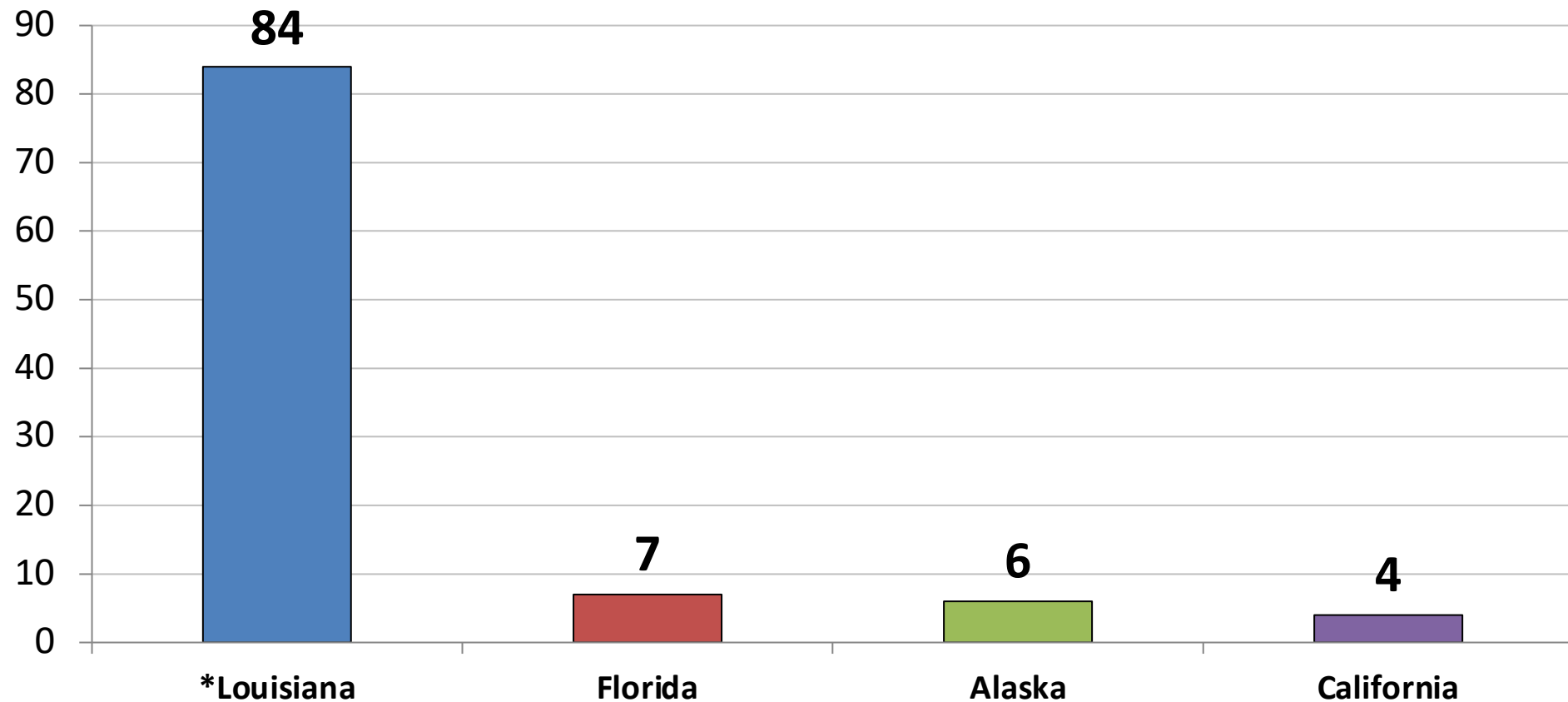
Only one in three students knew when the Constitution was written.

What year was the U.S. Constitution written?



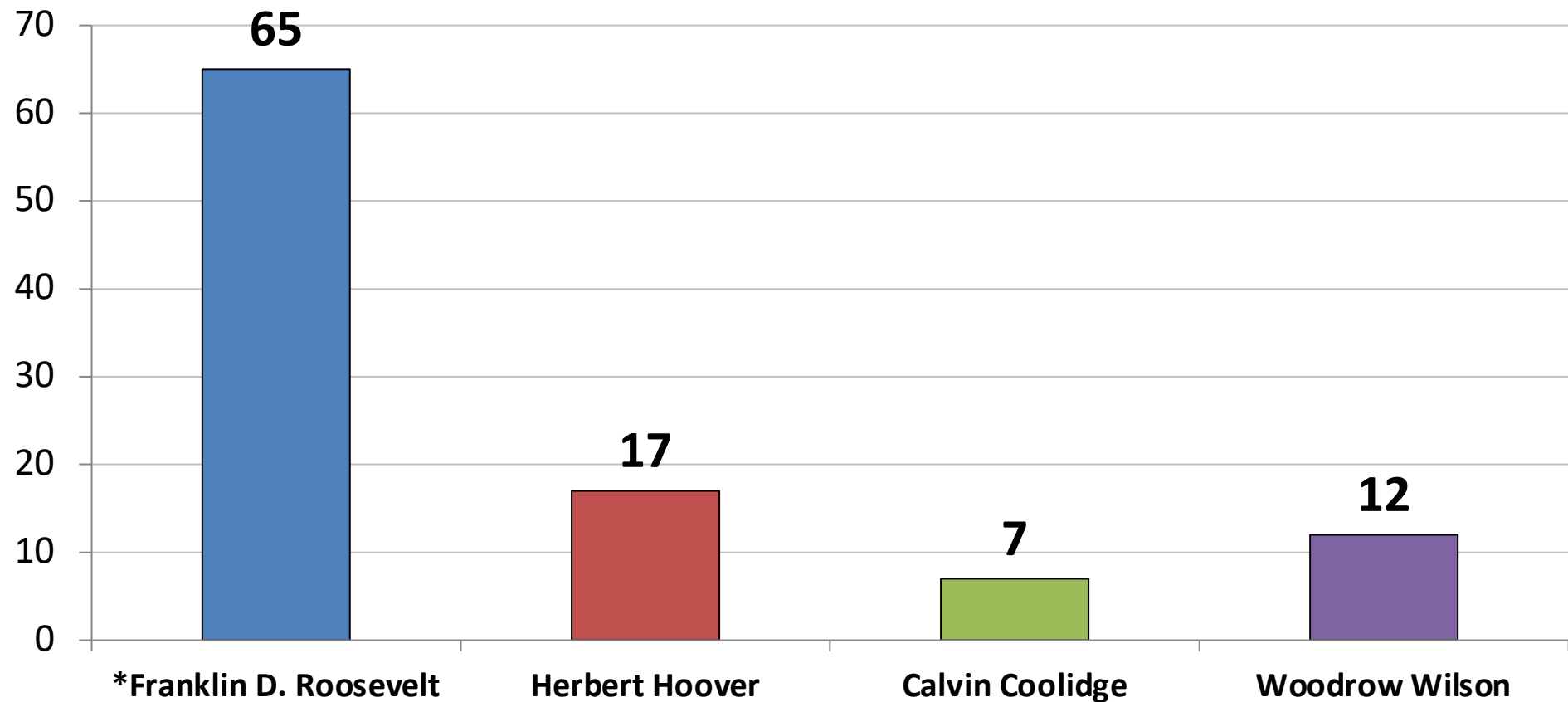
Greater than eight in ten knew about the Louisiana Purchase.

What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?



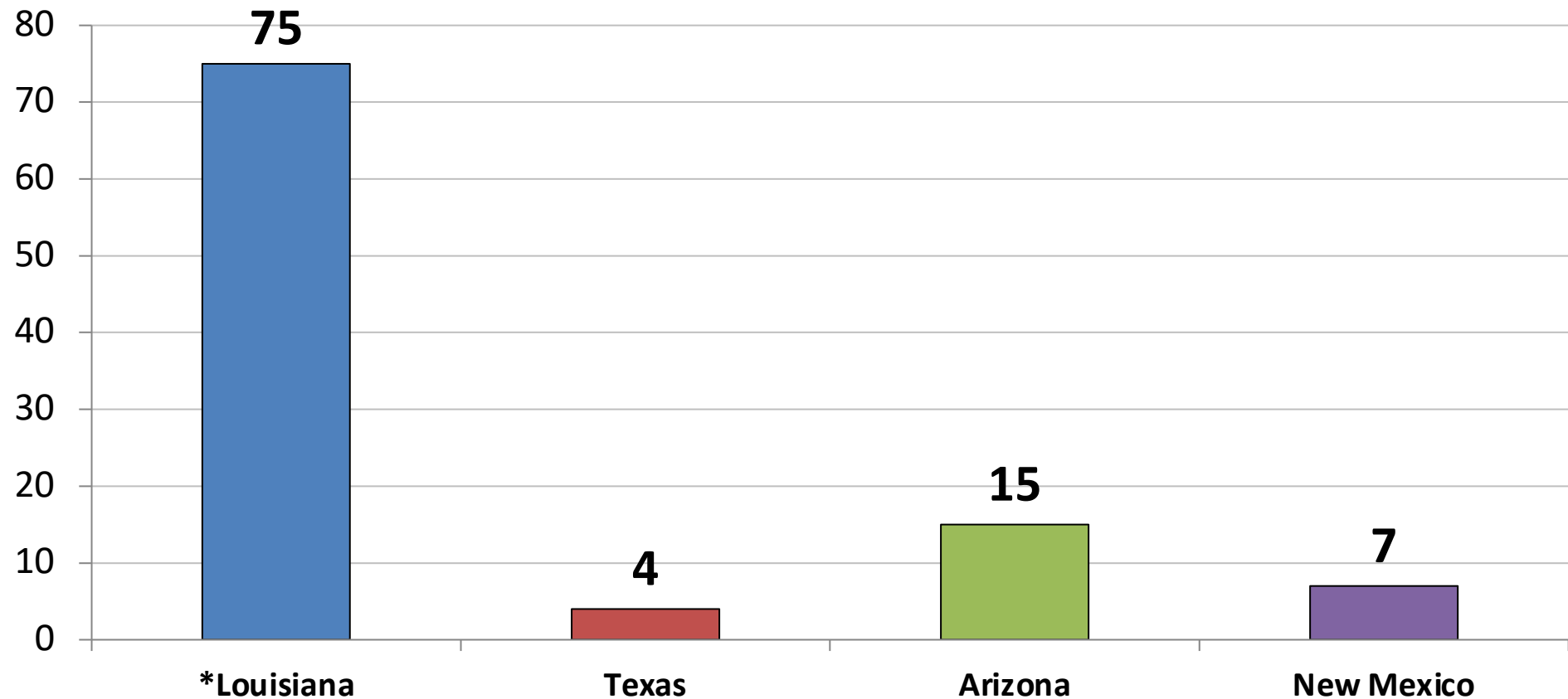
Only two in three correctly identified FDR as the President during The Great Depression and World War II.

Who was President during The Great Depression and World War II?



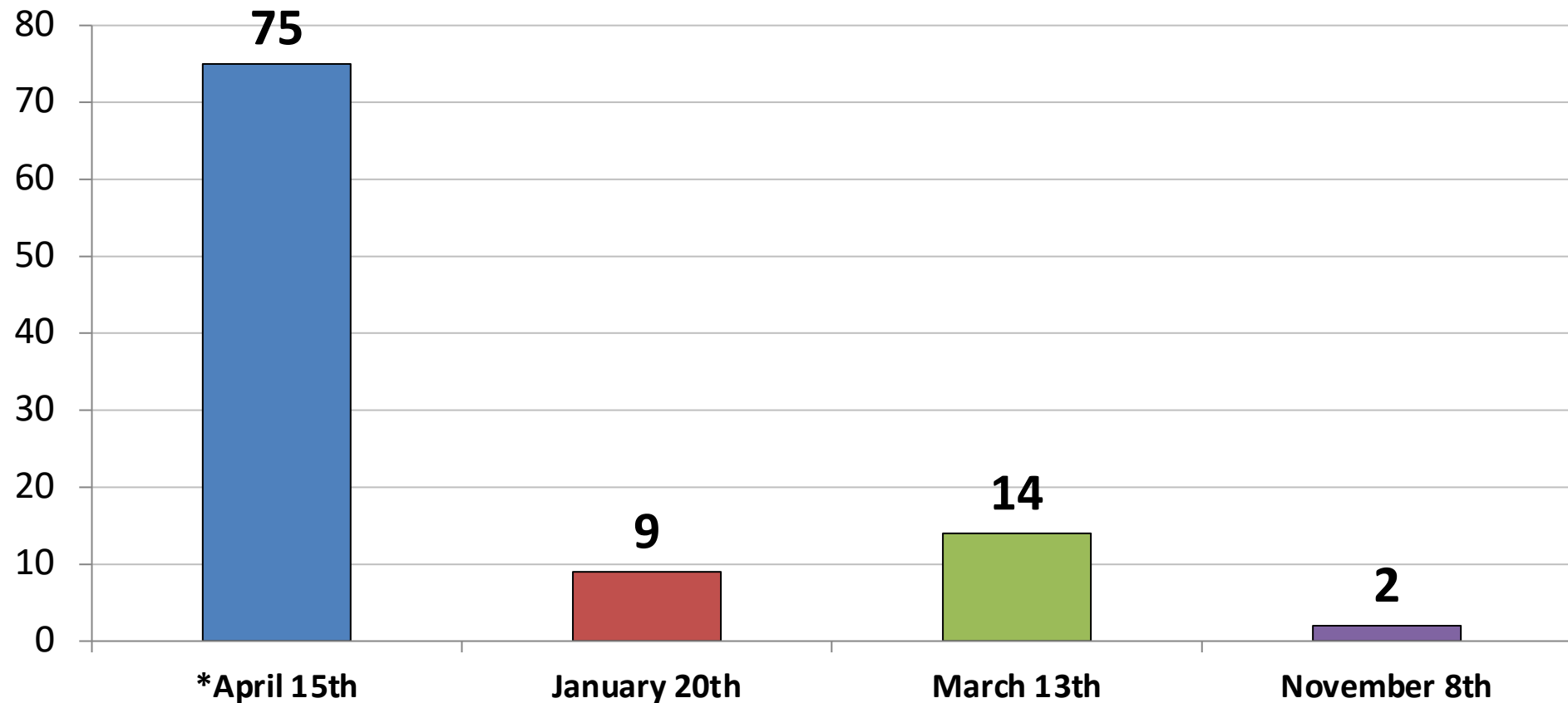
Three in four knew that Louisiana does not share a border with Mexico.

Which of the following states does not share a border with Mexico?



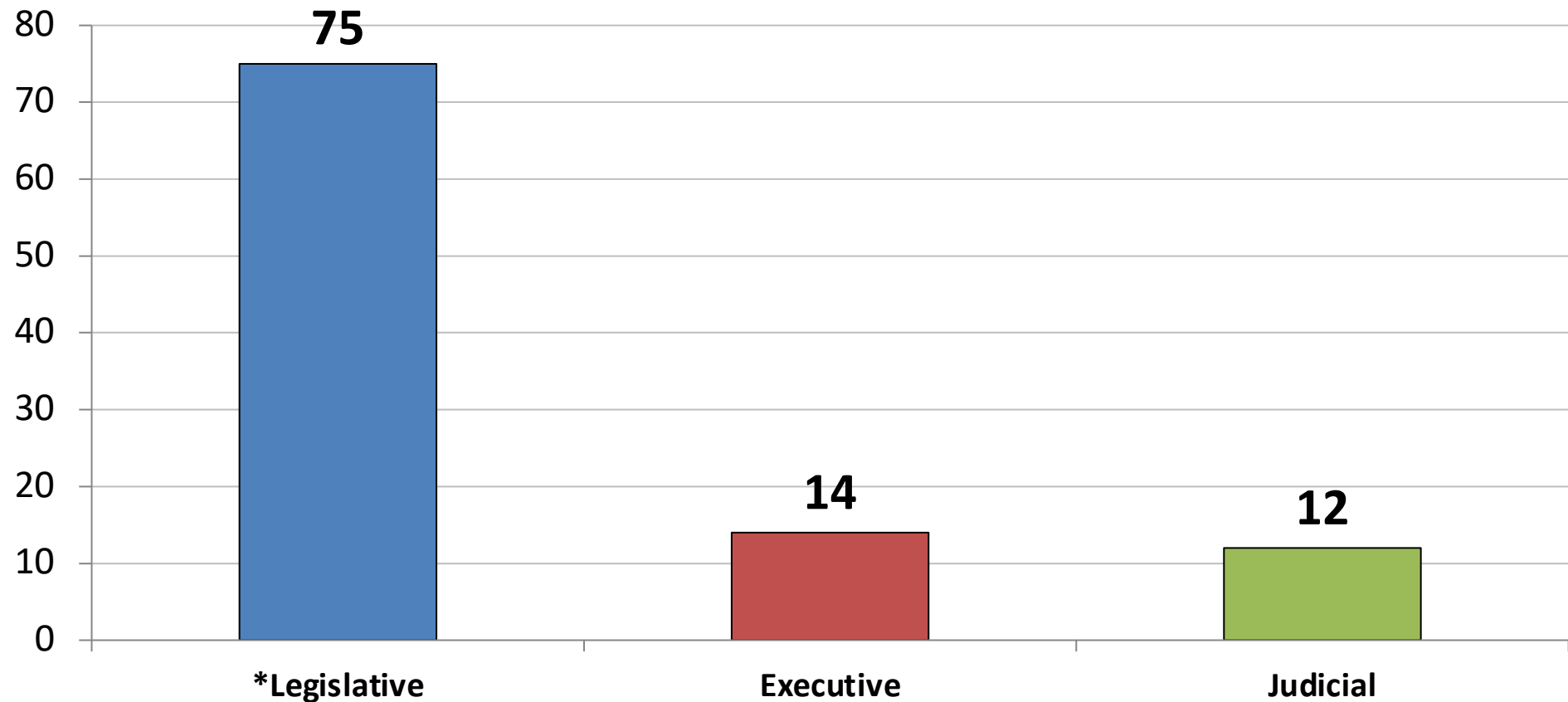
Three in four were able to correctly identify “Tax Day.”

When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?



One in four did not know that the Legislative Branch passes legislation.

What branch of government passes legislation?



Eighty-six percent (86%) correctly identified the intention of the Emancipation Proclamation.

What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?



Overall, 71% of undergraduates “passed” the Citizenship Test, while 29% “failed.”

Students in state schools were more likely to pass the test than those in private schools.

By year, Upper Classmen were more likely to pass the test.

Citizenship Test Score

