inquire

National Undergraduate Study

Sponsored By:

BUCKLEY INSTITUTE

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Prepared by:
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Methodology and Demographic Summary

Inquire conducted a national survey of 803 undergraduate students from September 5 to 14, 2026. 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. This study's universe is the "conventional" four-year undergraduate, therefore excluding undergraduates who either attend a two-year school, technical school, junior college or trade school, are over the age of 24 or attend on a part-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 most recent National Center for Education Statistics Report (2024) to reflect the actual demographic composition of four-year, full-time undergraduate students in the United States. According to the NCES Statistics, there are approximately 8,337,103 undergraduates who fall within these parameters.

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. However, a confidence interval of 95% was calculated in order to produce an error estimate of +/- 3.5% for the 803 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, refusals and the ability for respondents to give multiple answers to certain questions. All surveys may be subject to multiple sources of error, including, but not limited to question wording and ordering, sampling error, coverage error and measurement error. This study is the twelfth iteration of our undergraduate research on behalf of the Buckley Institute.

School Type	Total
Private	30%
Public	70%
Class Year	**Total**
Freshman	27%
Sophomore	26%
Junior	24%
Senior	22%
Ethnicity	**Total**
White	51%
Black	14%
Hispanic	24%
Asian	7%
Age	**Total**
18-19	30%
20-21	38%
Over 21	32%
Gender	**Total**
Male	44%
Female	55%
Other	1%

School Geo.	Total
East	18%
Midwest	21%
South	36%
West	25%
Top 5 Majors	**Total**
Math/Eng.	34%
Soc./Beh. Sc.	18%
Business	16%
Healthcare	14%
Humanities	12%
Party ID	**Total**
Republican	19%
Democrat	46%
Ind./Other	26%
Not Registered	4%
Ideology	**Total**
Liberal	52%
Moderate	29%
Conservative	13%

Part One –

The First Amendment, Free Speech & Intellectual Diversity

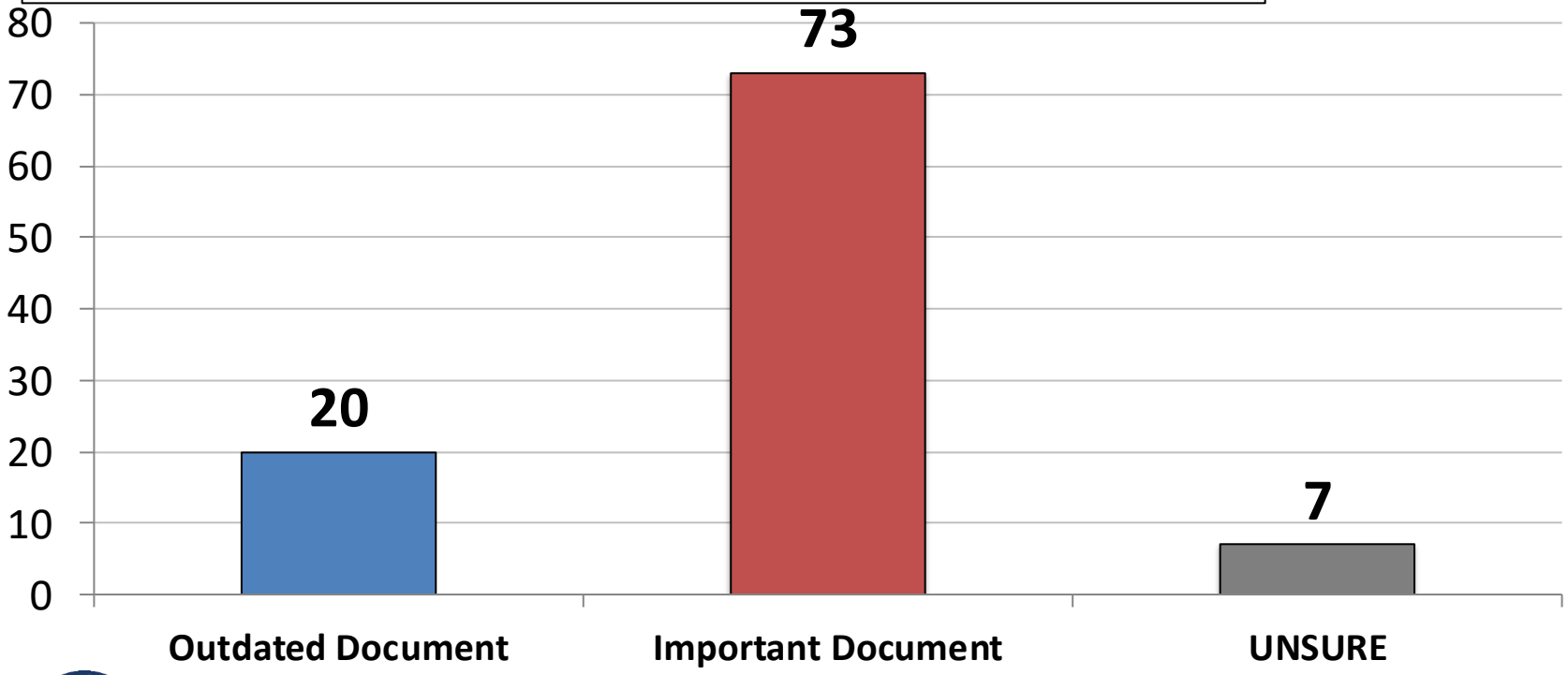
By a 73% to 20% margin, students say the Constitution is a very important document for our country rather than an outdated document. This matches last year's 73%—the highest recorded response in the eight years this question has been asked.

Which of the following comes closer to your own personal opinion regarding the U.S. Constitution?

It is an outdated document that is over 200 years old. Amending the Constitution to keep up with today's society is too slow and difficult of a process.

OR

It is a very important document for our country that serves as the indispensable rulebook for honest government. It still needs to be followed and respected in today's society.



Trend Line	10/19	9/20	9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26
Outdated	27%	36%	31%	36%	33%	28%	20%	20%
Important	63%	52%	55%	49%	57%	65%	73%	73%

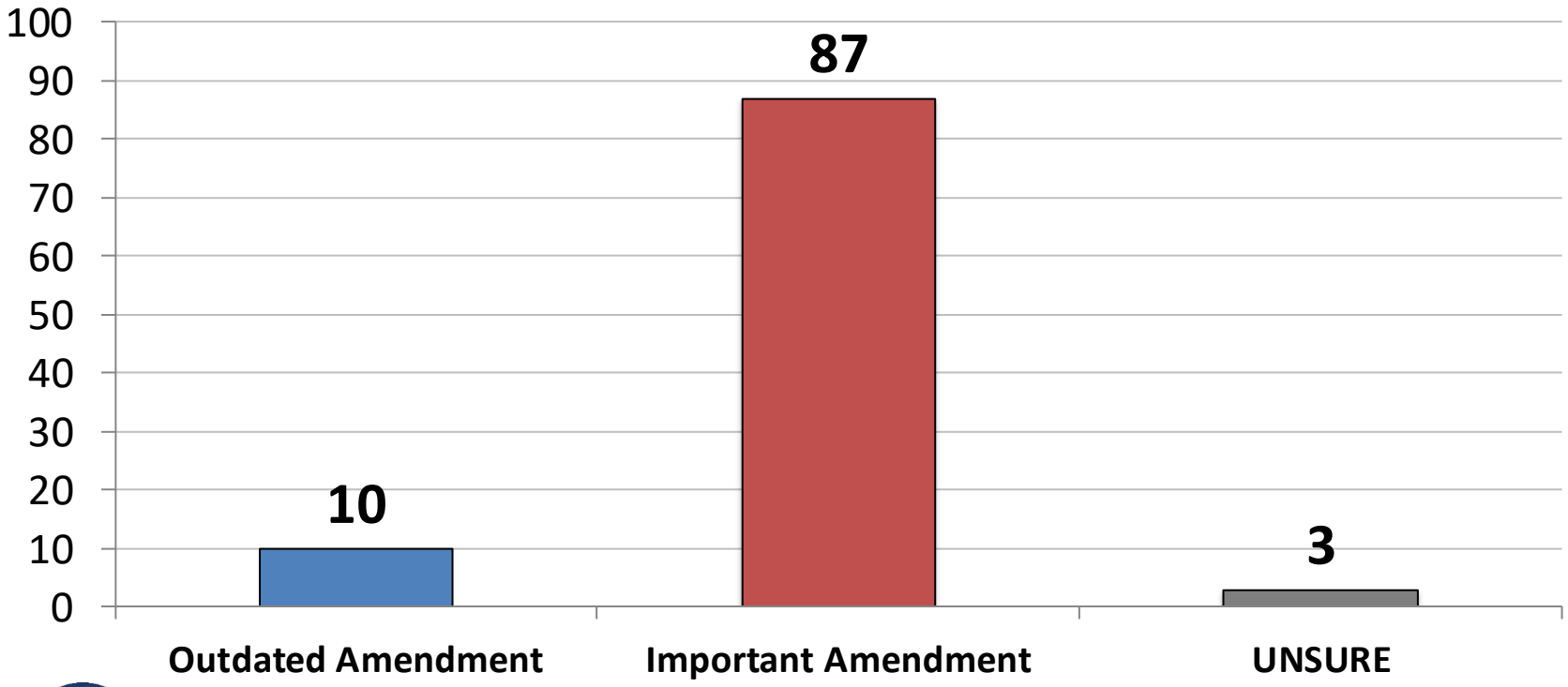
	Outdated	Important
Private School	17	77
State School	22	72
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	21	73
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	19	74
Liberal	23	72
Moderate	14	78
Conservative	18	79
White	19	76
Black	20	71
Hispanic	22	71
Asian	27	61
Men	20	76
Women	19	72
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	18	79
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	18	76
Major – Business	21	74
Major – Healthcare	17	75
Major – Humanities	18	77
Major – Arts	26	61
Major – Trades	18	75

Eighty-seven percent (87%) say the First Amendment is an important amendment that still needs to be followed and respected in today's society. This is down three points from last year's record 90%, but is the second highest response in the twelve years this question has been asked.

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

Trend Line	9/15	9/16	9/17	10/18	10/19	9/20	9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26
Outdated	17%	10%	12%	17%	12%	20%	13%	12%	14%	12%	8%	10%
Important	77%	84%	83%	79%	84%	72%	80%	80%	78%	85%	90%	87%

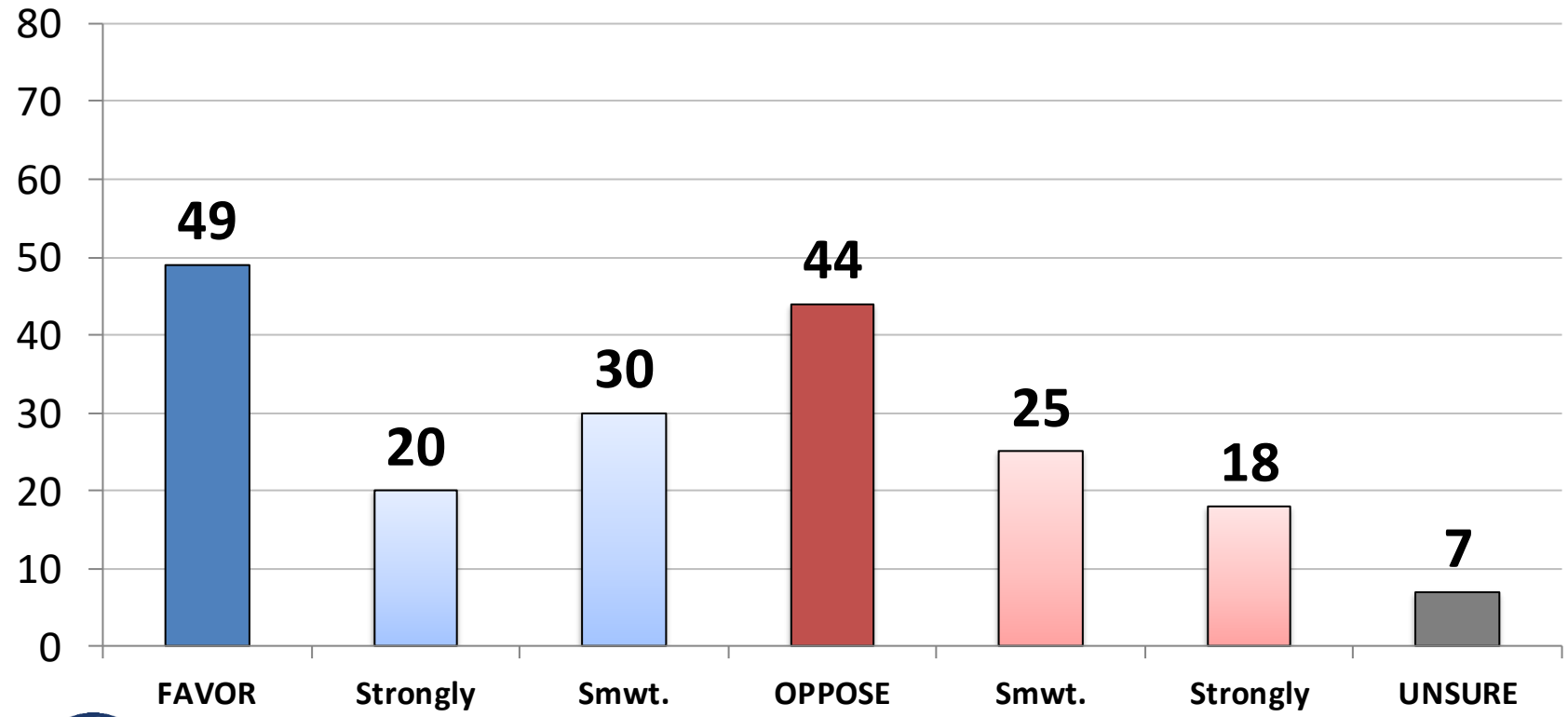


	Outdated	Important
Private School	9	88
State School	11	86
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	11	86
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	10	87
Liberal	12	87
Moderate	8	86
Conservative	12	88
White	11	86
Black	13	86
Hispanic	10	87
Asian	5	92
Men	12	85
Women	9	88
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	12	85
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	10	88
Major – Business	11	88
Major – Healthcare	14	82
Major – Humanities	15	82
Major – Arts	20	76
Major – Trades	16	84

More students favor than oppose their college or university having speech codes to regulate speech for students and faculty—49% favor to 44% oppose. The 49% "favor" score is up five points from last year and is the second highest ever recorded, trailing only the 51% in 2023.

Would you favor or oppose your college or university having speech codes to regulate speech for students and faculty?

Trend Line	9/15	9/17	10/18	10/19	9/20	9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26
Favor	48%	38%	38%	35%	48%	42%	41%	51%	46%	44%	49%
Oppose	40%	52%	54%	55%	41%	45%	45%	38%	44%	47%	44%

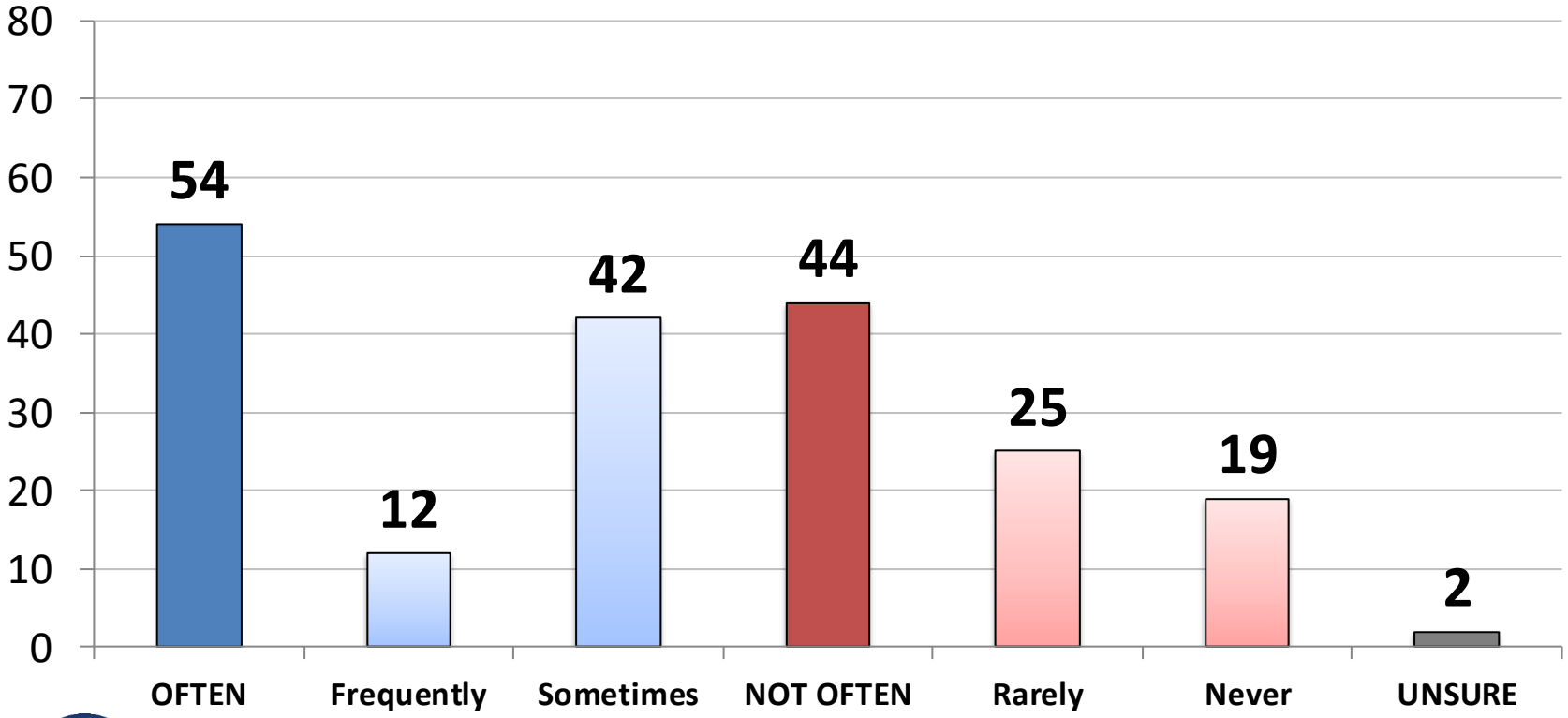


	Favor	Oppose
Private School	45	48
State School	51	42
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	53	40
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	46	48
Liberal	53	42
Moderate	46	45
Conservative	42	53
White	53	43
Black	52	43
Hispanic	51	38
Asian	18	61
Men	55	40
Women	46	46
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	61	33
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	40	57
Major – Business	53	40
Major – Healthcare	52	38
Major – Humanities	56	34
Major – Arts	51	39
Major – Trades	73	27

A majority (54%) say they have often felt intimidated in sharing their ideas, opinions or beliefs in class because they were different from those of their professors. This is essentially unchanged from last year's 53%.

Have you felt intimidated in sharing your ideas, opinions or beliefs in class because they were different than those of your *professors*?

Trend Line	9/15	9/16	9/17	10/18	10/19	9/20	9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26
Often	49%	53%	44%	53%	50%	53%	50%	58%	61%	51%	53%	54%
Not Often	50%	45%	53%	45%	46%	43%	45%	38%	35%	46%	47%	44%

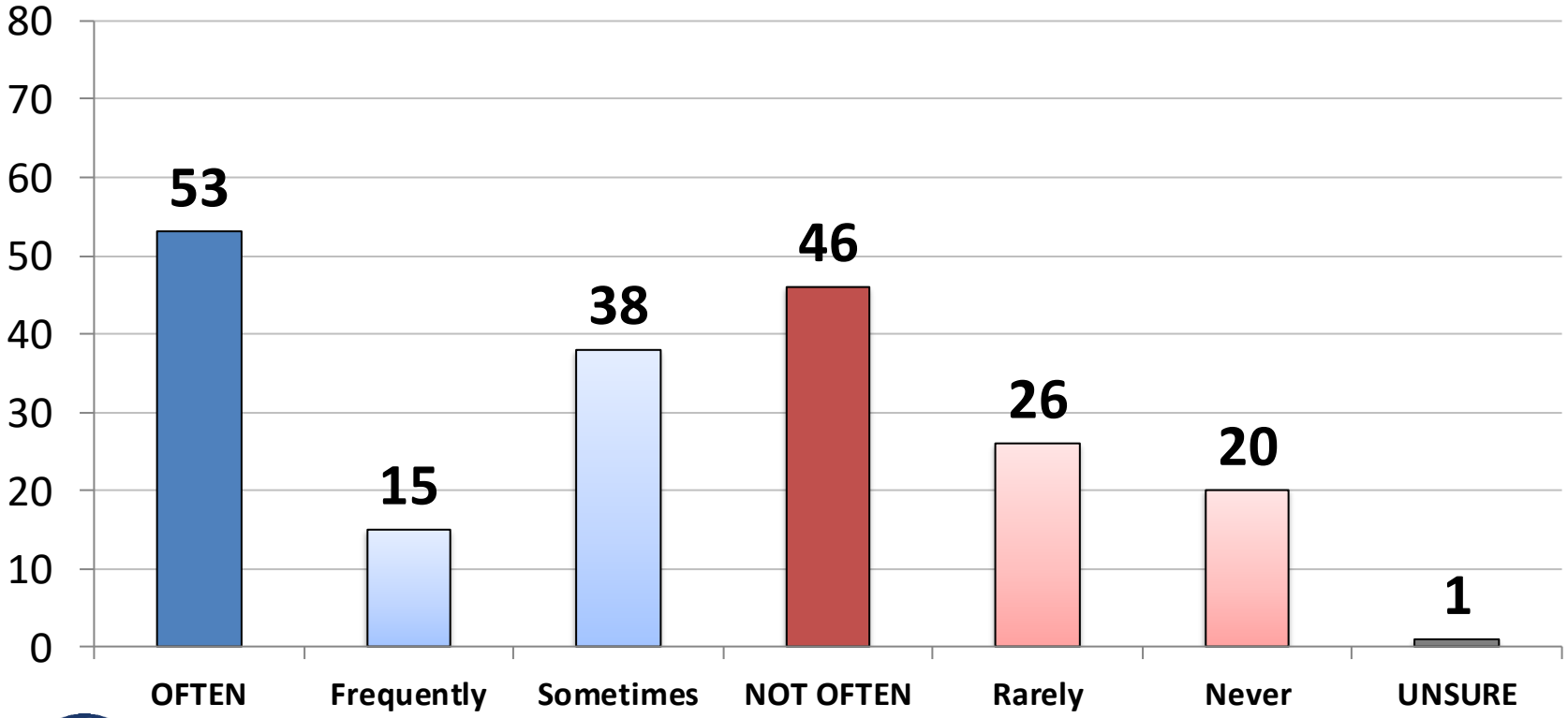


	Often	Not Often
Private School	49	50
State School	56	42
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	55	43
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	53	46
Liberal	55	43
Moderate	54	42
Conservative	47	53
White	54	45
Black	56	41
Hispanic	49	46
Asian	61	36
Men	58	41
Women	50	47
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	60	38
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	53	43
Major – Business	66	33
Major – Healthcare	50	47
Major – Humanities	59	38
Major – Arts	58	40
Major – Trades	77	21

When it comes to opinions or beliefs that were different from their classmates or peers, 53% have often felt intimidated in sharing their ideas, opinions or beliefs, down from 57% last year.

And have you felt intimidated in sharing your ideas, opinions or beliefs in class because they were different than those of your *classmates or peers*?

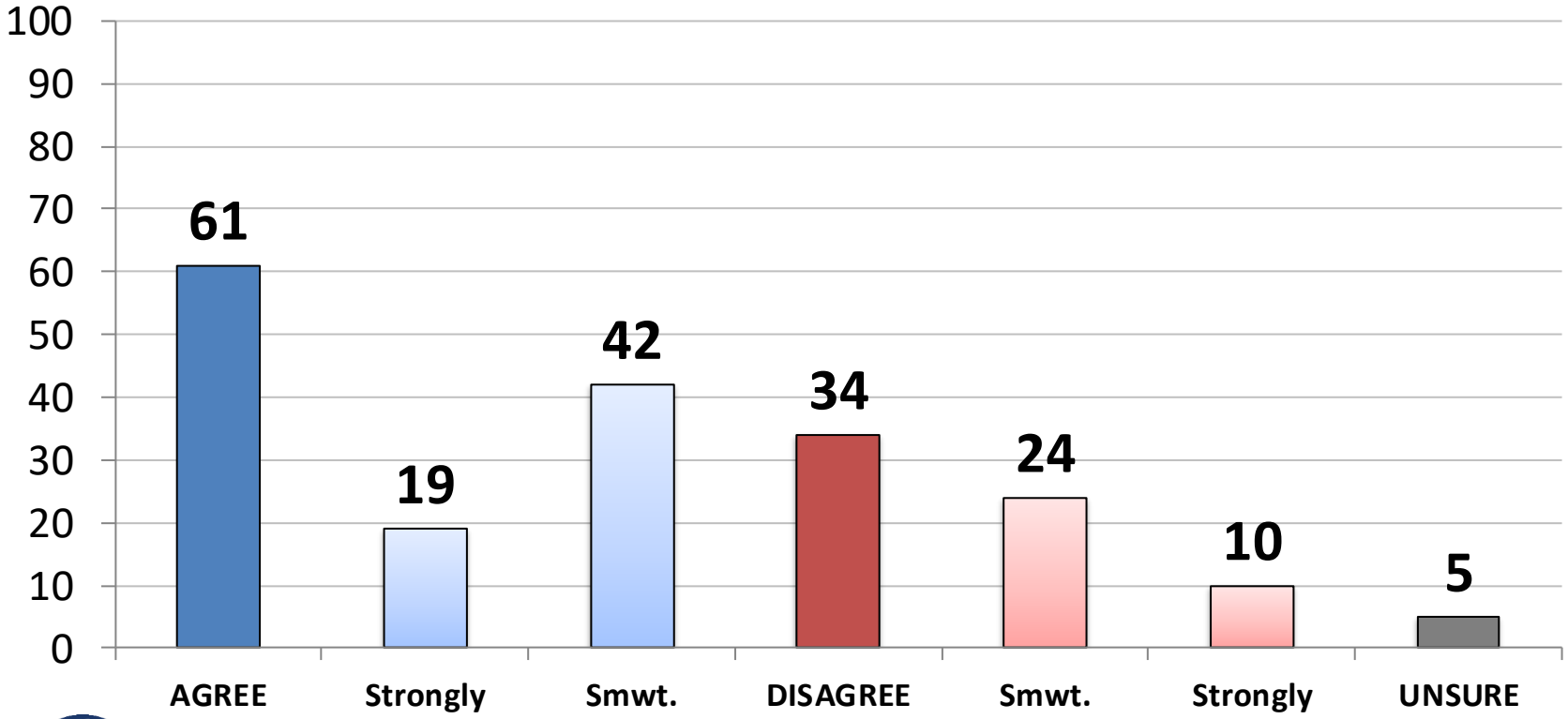
Trend Line	9/15	9/16	9/17	10/18	10/19	9/20	9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26
Often	55%	51%	45%	54%	51%	54%	50%	63%	59%	56%	57%	53%
Not Often	43%	47%	52%	44%	46%	42%	47%	34%	38%	41%	42%	46%



	Often	Not Often
Private School	55	43
State School	53	47
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	54	44
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	52	47
Liberal	53	46
Moderate	54	45
Conservative	53	46
White	55	44
Black	50	47
Hispanic	51	49
Asian	57	41
Men	58	42
Women	50	49
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	61	38
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	50	47
Major – Business	63	36
Major – Healthcare	50	48
Major – Humanities	56	42
Major – Arts	55	42
Major – Trades	75	21

Six in ten (61%) agree that, in general, their professors make their political leanings clear in how they teach, particularly on politically contested issues. One third (34%) disagree.

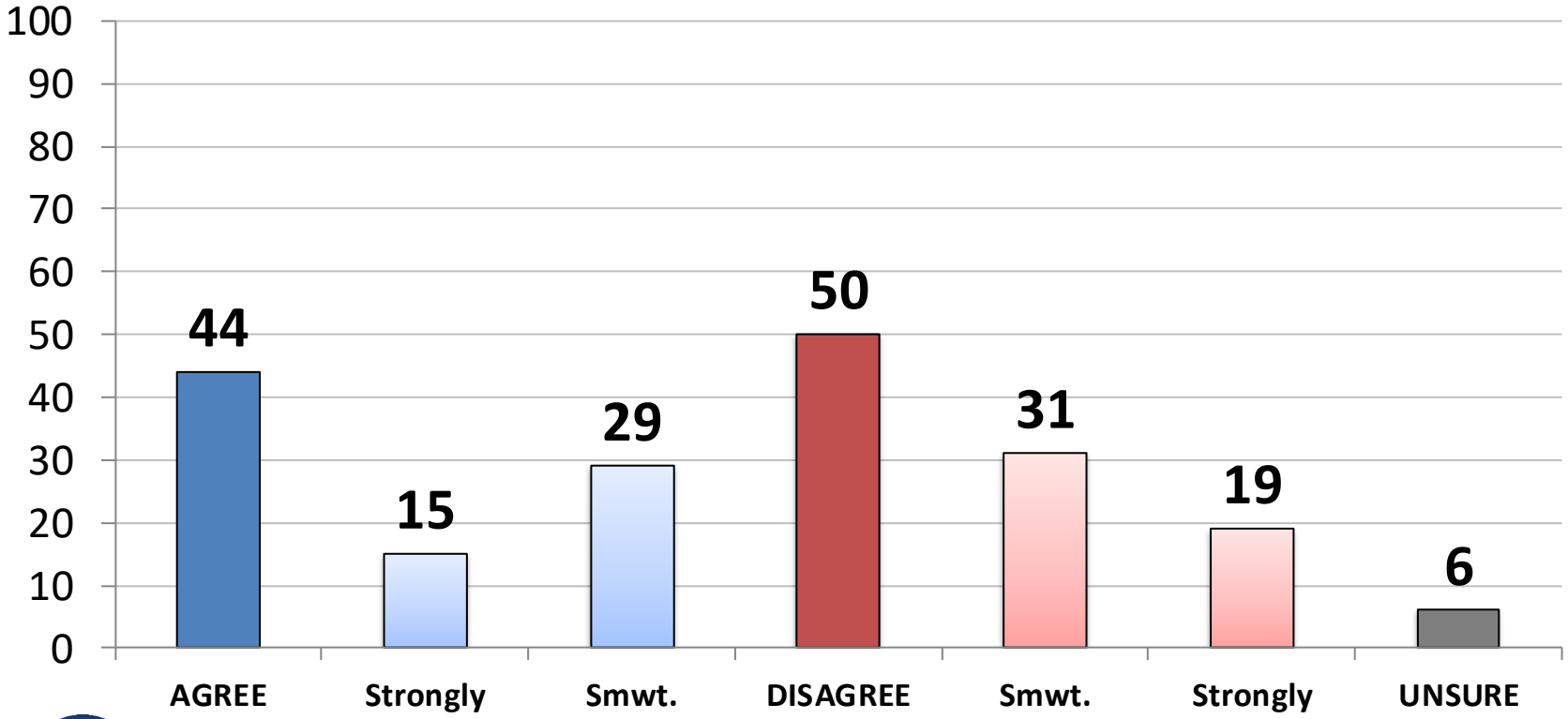
Agree/Disagree:
"In general, my professors make their political leanings clear in how they teach—particularly on politically contested issues."



	Agree	Disagree
Private School	69	27
State School	58	37
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	64	29
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	58	40
Liberal	63	35
Moderate	61	32
Conservative	63	31
White	63	33
Black	70	27
Hispanic	60	34
Asian	43	54
Men	69	26
Women	55	40
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	68	29
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	60	34
Major – Business	76	21
Major – Healthcare	53	41
Major – Humanities	71	26
Major – Arts	61	38
Major – Trades	76	24

Forty-four percent (44%) of students agree that they would avoid taking a class with a professor who publicly shares opinions they disagree with, while 50% disagree.

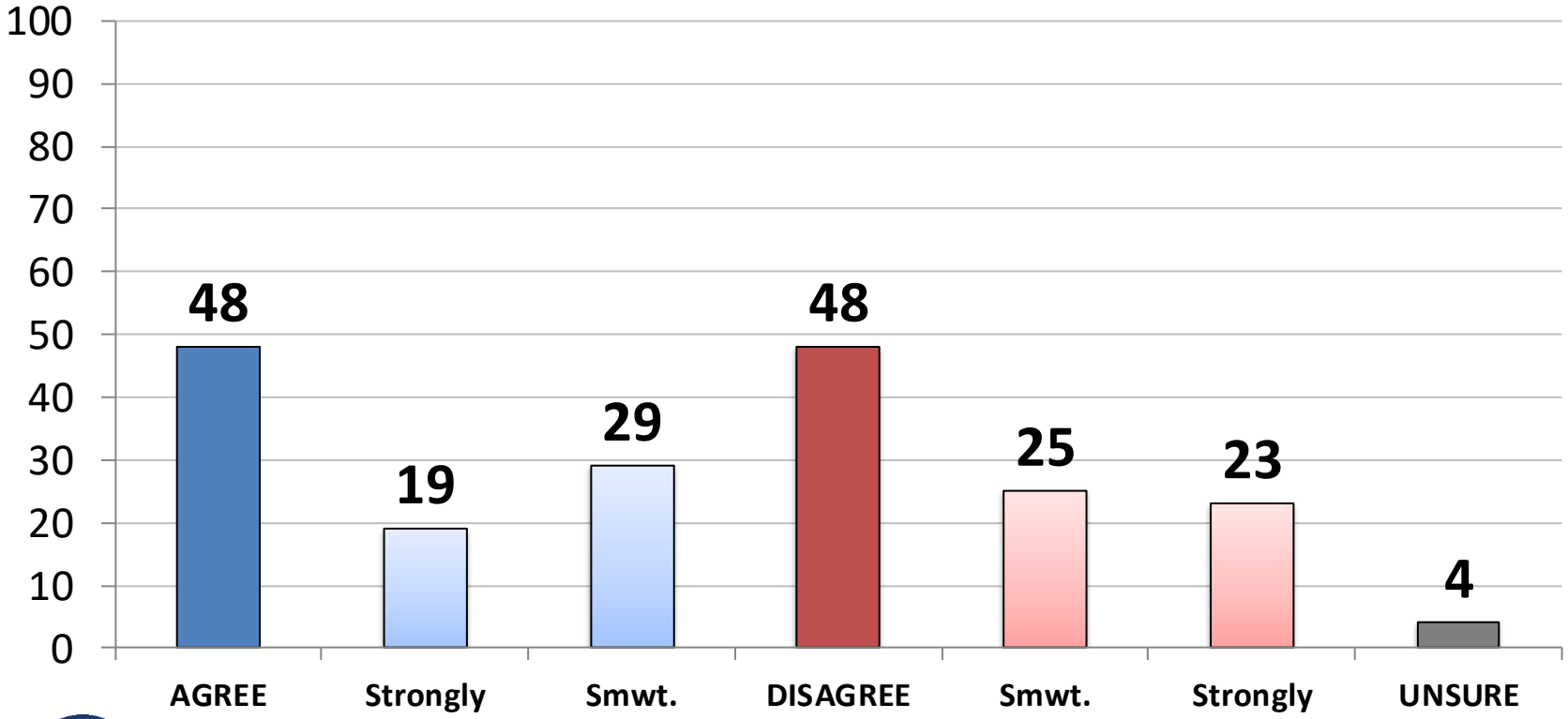
Agree/Disagree:
"I would avoid taking a class with a professor who publicly shares opinions I disagree with."



	Agree	Disagree
Private School	34	59
State School	48	46
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	45	49
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	42	52
Liberal	55	41
Moderate	33	58
Conservative	33	64
White	42	53
Black	47	48
Hispanic	48	46
Asian	37	48
Men	45	51
Women	42	50
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	49	47
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	50	45
Major – Business	47	47
Major – Healthcare	42	48
Major – Humanities	48	48
Major – Arts	58	34
Major – Trades	67	33

Forty-eight percent (48%) of students agree that they cannot bring themselves to be close friends with someone who affiliates with a different political party than them, while an identical 48% disagree. Agreement is up two points from last year and ties the high of 48% recorded in 2023.

Agree/Disagree:
"I cannot bring myself to be close friends with someone who affiliates with a different political party than me. That person likely harbors opinions that I find unacceptable."



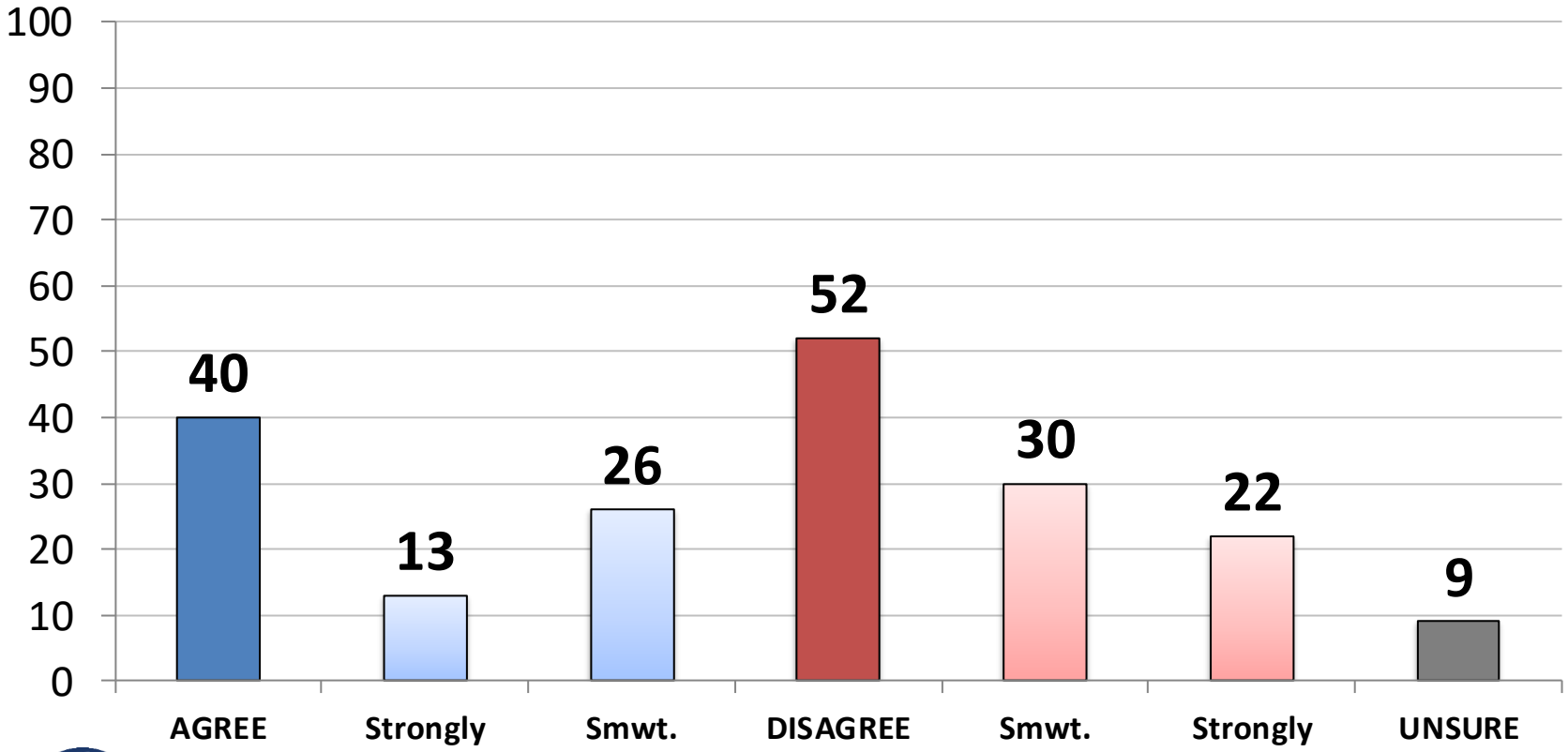
Trend Line	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26
Agree	48%	40%	46%	48%
Disagree	44%	54%	50%	48%

	Agree	Disagree
Private School	43	53
State School	51	46
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	49	47
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	47	49
Liberal	65	33
Moderate	33	60
Conservative	27	72
White	48	50
Black	55	38
Hispanic	53	45
Asian	40	54
Men	41	55
Women	53	43
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	49	49
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	60	35
Major – Business	48	50
Major – Healthcare	45	51
Major – Humanities	50	48
Major – Arts	61	34
Major – Trades	68	32

Part Two –
Offensive Speech

Four in ten (40%) agree that offensive speech should be subject to criminal prosecution, while 52% disagree. Agreement is up seven points from last year and is the highest in the three years this question has been asked.

Agree/Disagree:
"Offensive speech should be subject to criminal prosecution."

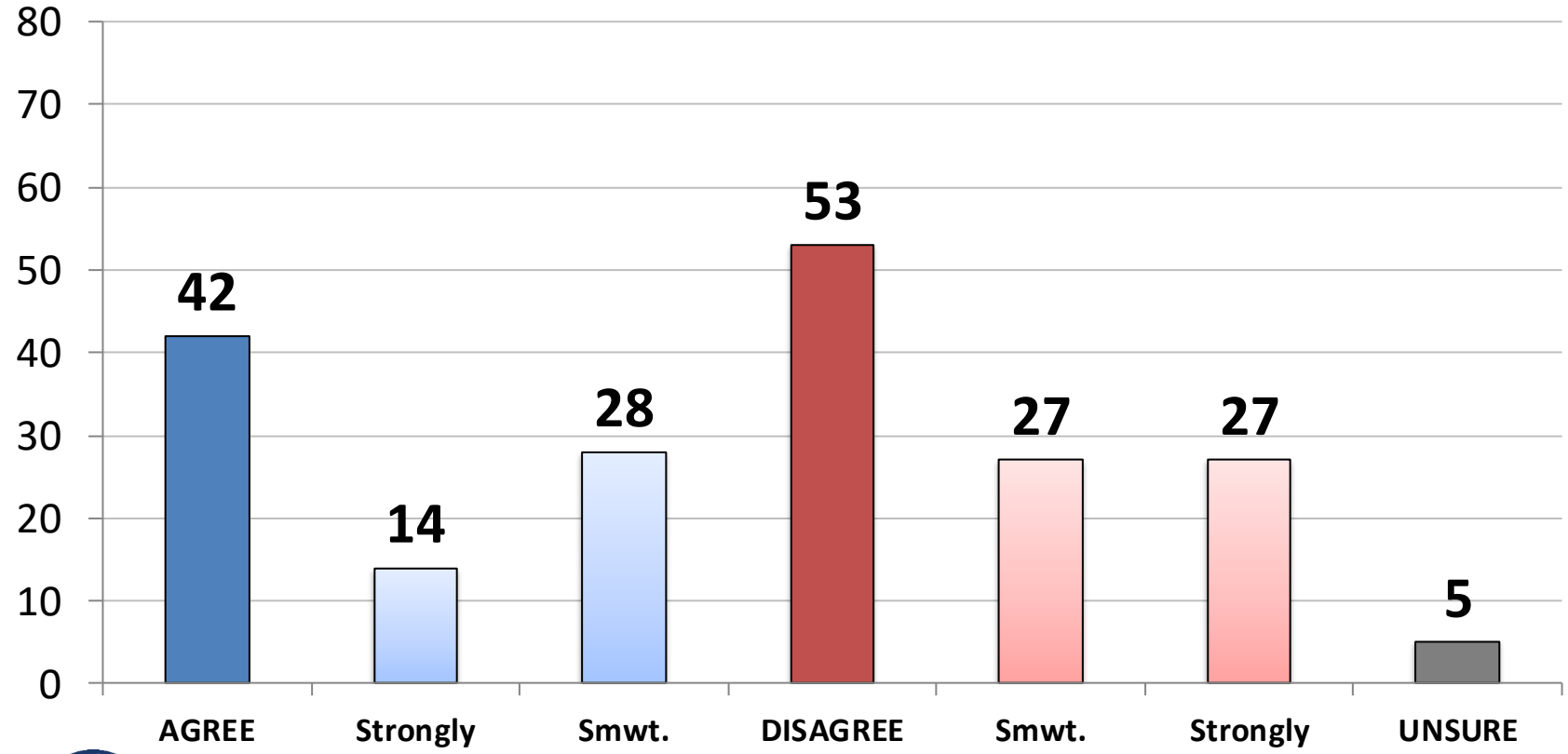


Trend Line	9/24	9/25	9/26
Agree	31%	33%	40%
Disagree	55%	59%	52%

	Agree	Disagree
Private School	35	58
State School	42	49
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	41	49
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	38	54
Liberal	47	45
Moderate	34	55
Conservative	24	69
White	41	54
Black	48	45
Hispanic	34	52
Asian	42	37
Men	43	52
Women	37	51
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	45	49
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	41	50
Major – Business	36	60
Major – Healthcare	39	53
Major – Humanities	49	46
Major – Arts	50	40
Major – Trades	62	37

Forty-two percent (42%) agree that political comments they disagree with can be harmful to their mental health, while 53% disagree. This is up four points from last year and is the highest reading in the five years this question has been asked.

Agree/Disagree:
"Political comments that I disagree with can be harmful to my mental health."



Trend Line	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26
Agree	38%	39%	31%	38%	42%
Disagree	54%	52%	62%	56%	53%

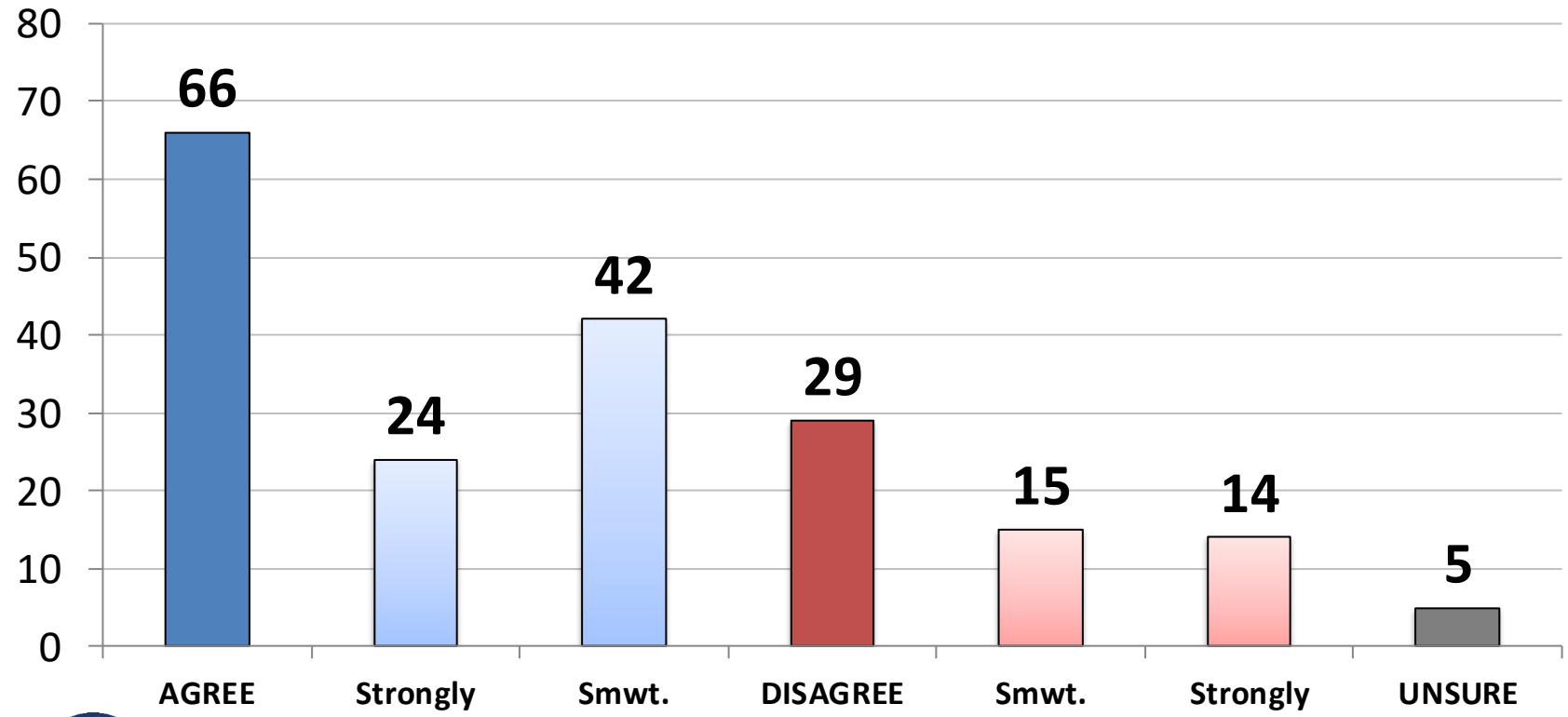
	Agree	Disagree
Private School	37	57
State School	43	51
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	42	51
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	41	55
Liberal	51	46
Moderate	31	62
Conservative	31	64
White	44	52
Black	42	53
Hispanic	43	52
Asian	28	62
Men	47	50
Women	37	56
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	50	46
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	43	50
Major – Business	52	46
Major – Healthcare	41	51
Major – Humanities	48	50
Major – Arts	49	39
Major – Trades	57	43

Part Three –
Hate Speech

Two thirds (66%) agree that hate speech—no matter how racist or bigoted it is—is still technically protected under the First Amendment as free speech, while 29% disagree. This is up six points from last year and is a record high over the ten years this question has been asked, clearing the previous high of 60% set in 2025.

Agree/Disagree:
"Hate speech, no matter how racist or bigoted it is, is still technically protected under the First Amendment as free speech."

Trend Line	9/17	10/18	10/19	9/20	9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26
Agree	59%	57%	48%	47%	47%	44%	46%	54%	60%	66%
Disagree	31%	38%	45%	45%	41%	48%	43%	41%	34%	29%

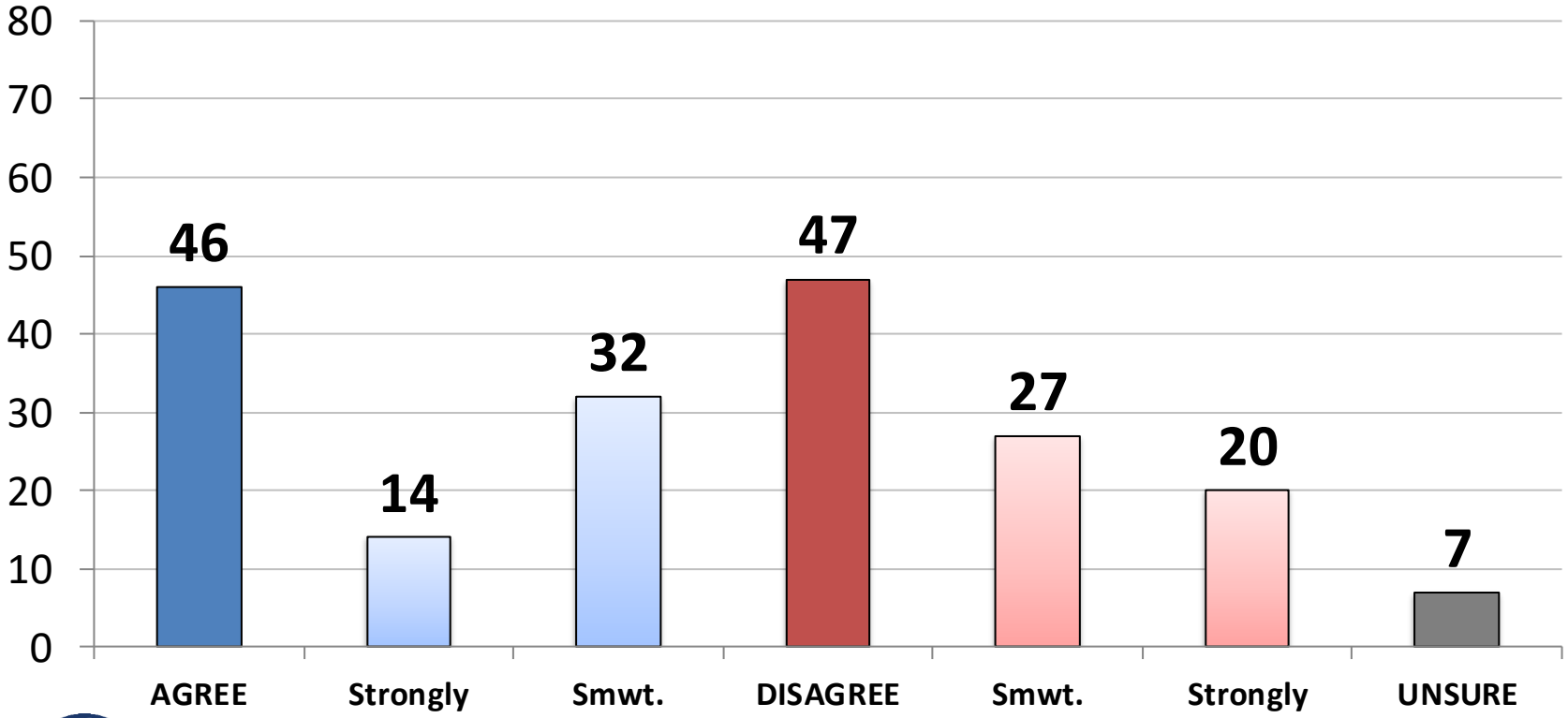


	Agree	Disagree
Private School	67	28
State School	66	29
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	64	31
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	69	27
Liberal	68	31
Moderate	62	31
Conservative	72	23
White	73	23
Black	62	35
Hispanic	63	31
Asian	57	34
Men	76	21
Women	59	35
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	79	17
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	66	32
Major – Business	72	28
Major – Healthcare	55	35
Major – Humanities	64	33
Major – Arts	61	33
Major – Trades	73	23

Forty-six percent (46%) agree that it is sometimes appropriate to shout down or disrupt a speaker on their campus, while 47% disagree. This is down two points from last year's record high of 48%.

Agree/Disagree:
"It is sometimes appropriate to shout down or disrupt a speaker on my campus."

Trend Line	9/17	10/18	10/19	9/20	9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26
Agree	38%	41%	32%	40%	40%	44%	46%	40%	48%	46%
Disagree	56%	54%	61%	51%	47%	47%	45%	51%	45%	47%

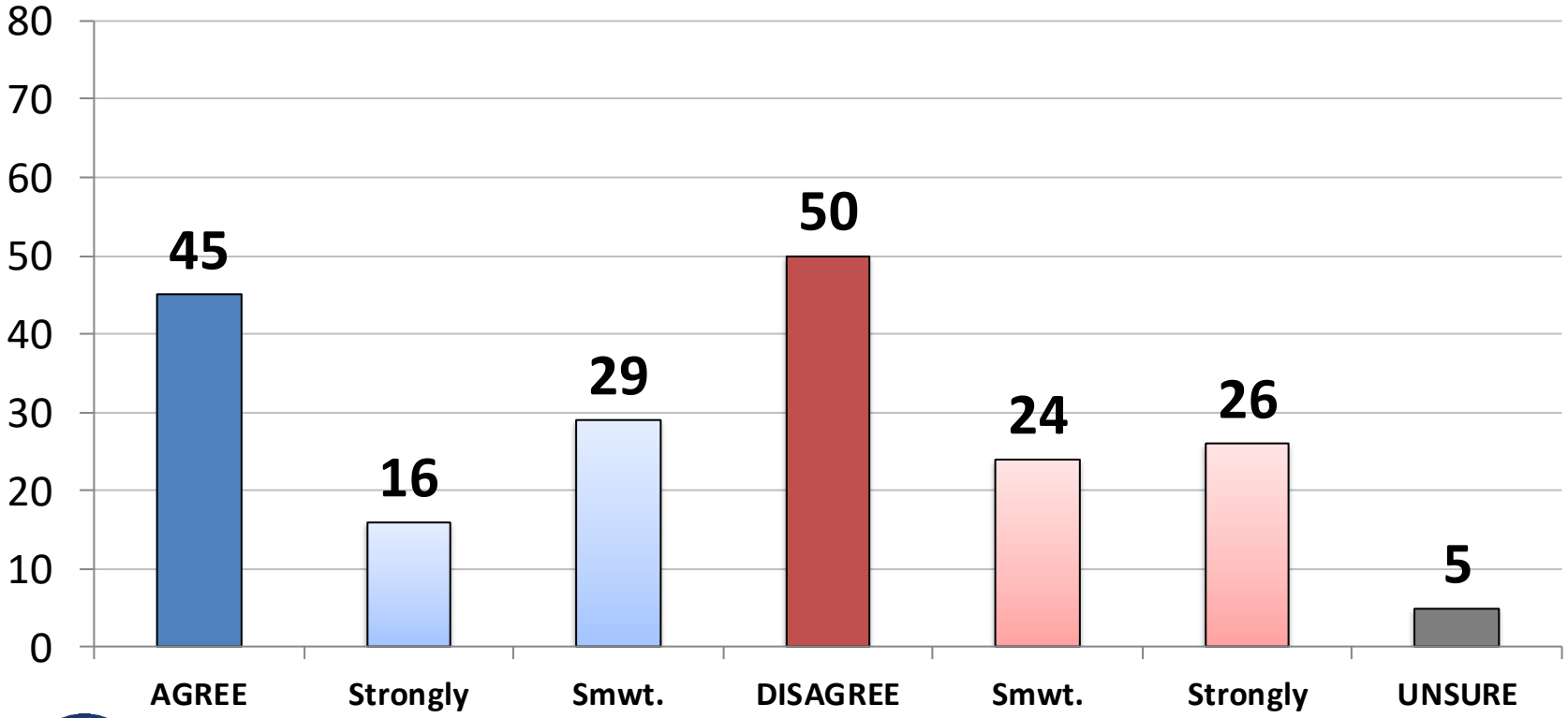


	Agree	Disagree
Private School	41	52
State School	48	45
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	46	46
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	46	48
Liberal	59	35
Moderate	33	59
Conservative	30	63
White	46	49
Black	47	43
Hispanic	47	44
Asian	42	44
Men	45	50
Women	46	45
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	50	46
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	52	44
Major – Business	44	51
Major – Healthcare	37	55
Major – Humanities	51	43
Major – Arts	65	25
Major – Trades	63	35

Forty-five percent (45%) agree that physical violence can be justified to prevent a person from using hate speech or making racially charged comments, while 50% disagree. Agreement is up six points from last year and ties the all-time high of 45% set in 2023. In 2017, the first year this question was asked, agreement was 30%.

Agree/Disagree:
"If someone is using hate speech or making racially charged comments, physical violence can be justified to prevent this person from espousing their hateful views."

Trend Line	9/17	10/18	10/19	9/20	9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26
Agree	30%	33%	31%	39%	36%	41%	45%	38%	39%	45%
Disagree	62%	60%	62%	51%	54%	49%	47%	53%	56%	50%

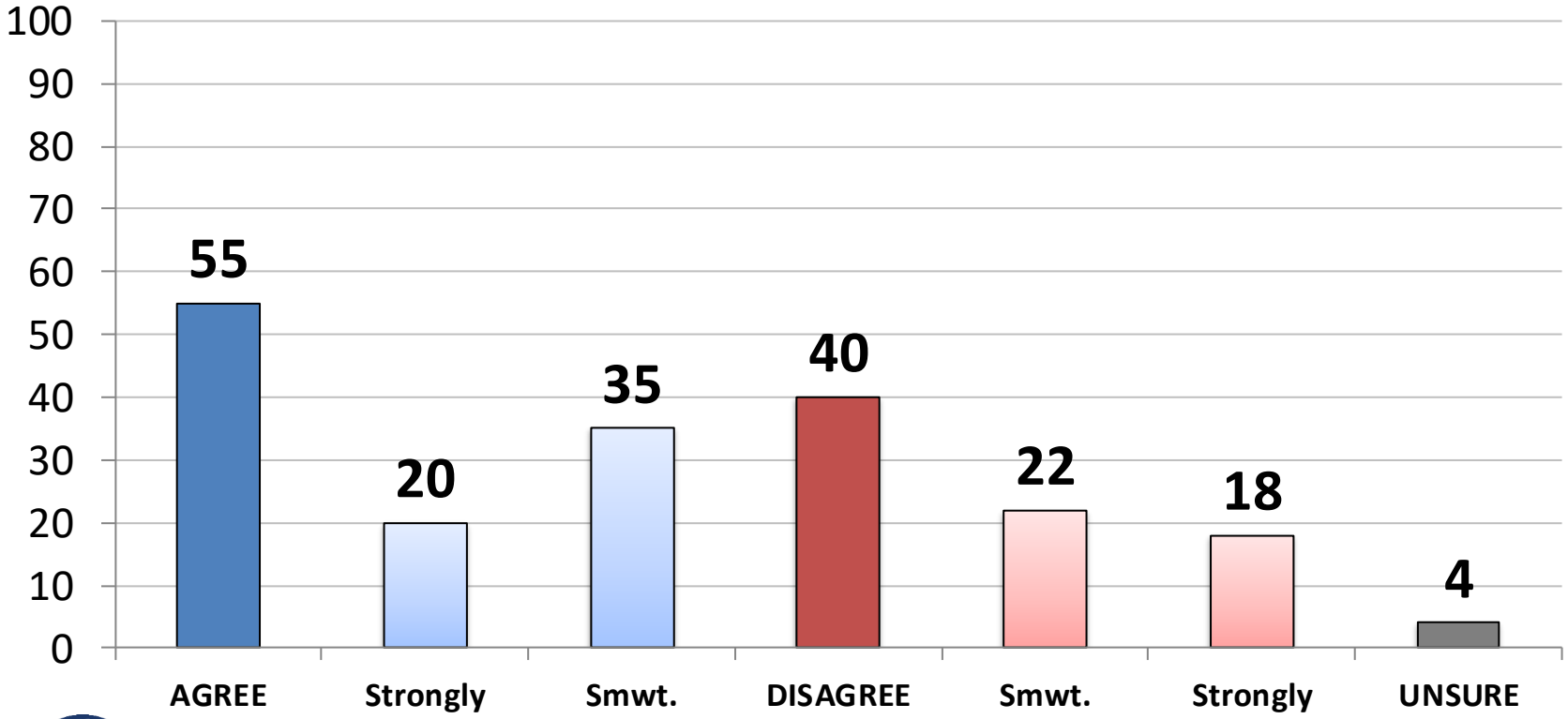


	Agree	Disagree
Private School	38	58
State School	48	47
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	46	46
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	42	55
Liberal	54	42
Moderate	36	57
Conservative	30	67
White	44	52
Black	48	45
Hispanic	47	46
Asian	36	61
Men	46	50
Women	44	50
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	49	48
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	42	51
Major – Business	49	45
Major – Healthcare	41	54
Major – Humanities	49	47
Major – Arts	61	29
Major – Trades	62	36

Part Four –
Higher Education & Campus Speech

A majority (55%) agree that when they were deciding which college or university to attend, the political climate among the student body and the political values of the school were an important factor in their decision. Four in ten (40%) disagree.

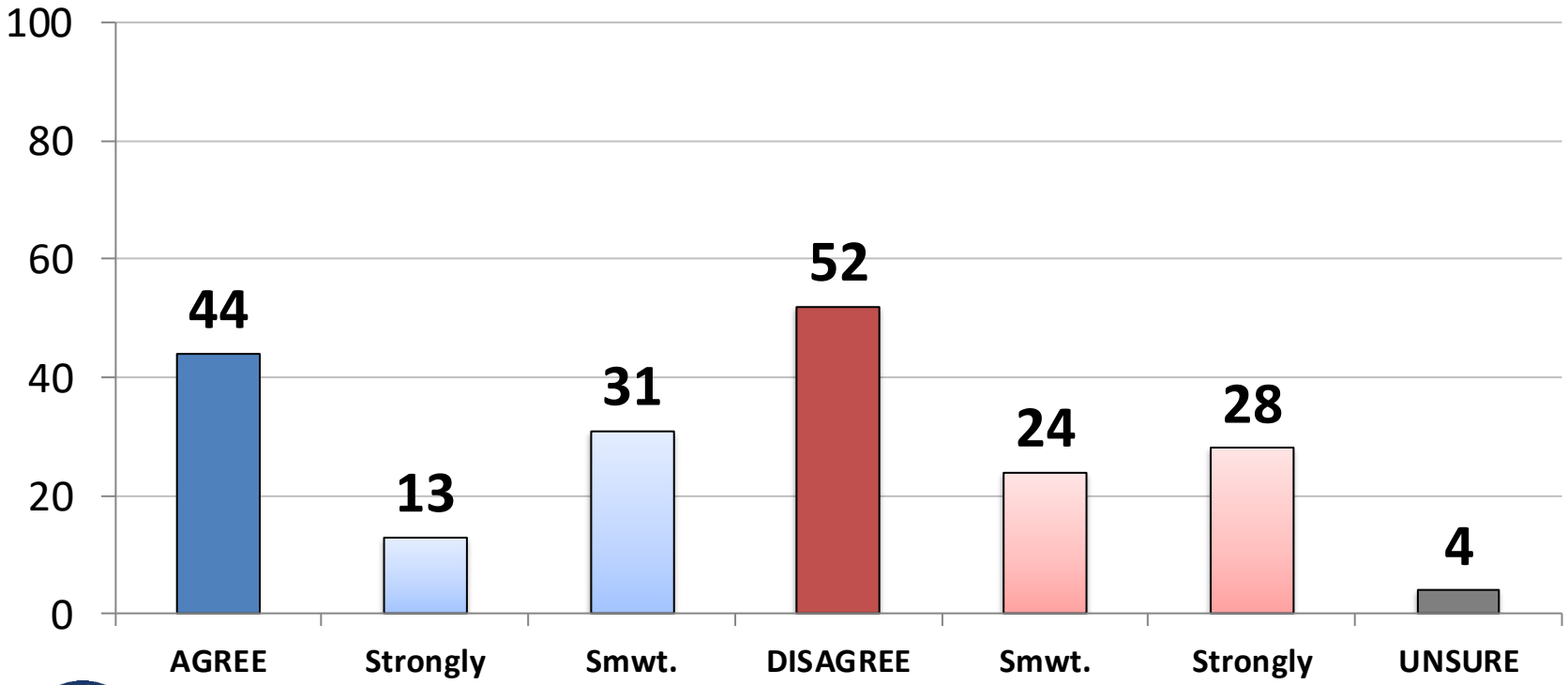
Agree/Disagree:
"When I was deciding on which college or university to attend, the political climate among the student body and the political values of the school were an important factor in my decision."



	Agree	Disagree
Private School	49	47
State School	58	37
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	57	38
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	53	43
Liberal	67	30
Moderate	48	47
Conservative	39	58
White	55	41
Black	55	42
Hispanic	57	35
Asian	50	47
Men	54	41
Women	56	40
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	59	37
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	67	30
Major – Business	59	39
Major – Healthcare	58	40
Major – Humanities	61	37
Major – Arts	57	34
Major – Trades	69	30

Forty-four percent (44%) agree that their parents' perspectives on the political climate and political values of the schools they considered impacted their final decision, while 52% disagree.

Agree/Disagree:
"When I was deciding on which college or university to attend, my parents' perspectives on the political climate among the student body and the political values of the schools I considered impacted my final decision."



	Agree	Disagree
Private School	37	59
State School	46	49
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	46	49
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	41	55
Liberal	48	50
Moderate	42	51
Conservative	36	60
White	42	54
Black	52	47
Hispanic	47	46
Asian	29	60
Men	49	46
Women	39	56
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	51	44
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	42	55
Major – Business	49	45
Major – Healthcare	46	50
Major – Humanities	53	45
Major – Arts	49	43
Major – Trades	68	32

On the assassination of Charlie Kirk, a slight majority (54%) say that regardless of how someone feels about his rhetoric, nobody should be killed for their political beliefs. A notable 26% say his rhetoric was harmful and threatening to many people and that it should not be a surprise that his words had consequences. Thirteen percent (13%) say his rhetoric was neither harmful nor threatening and that his assassination is a bad sign for public discourse on college campuses.

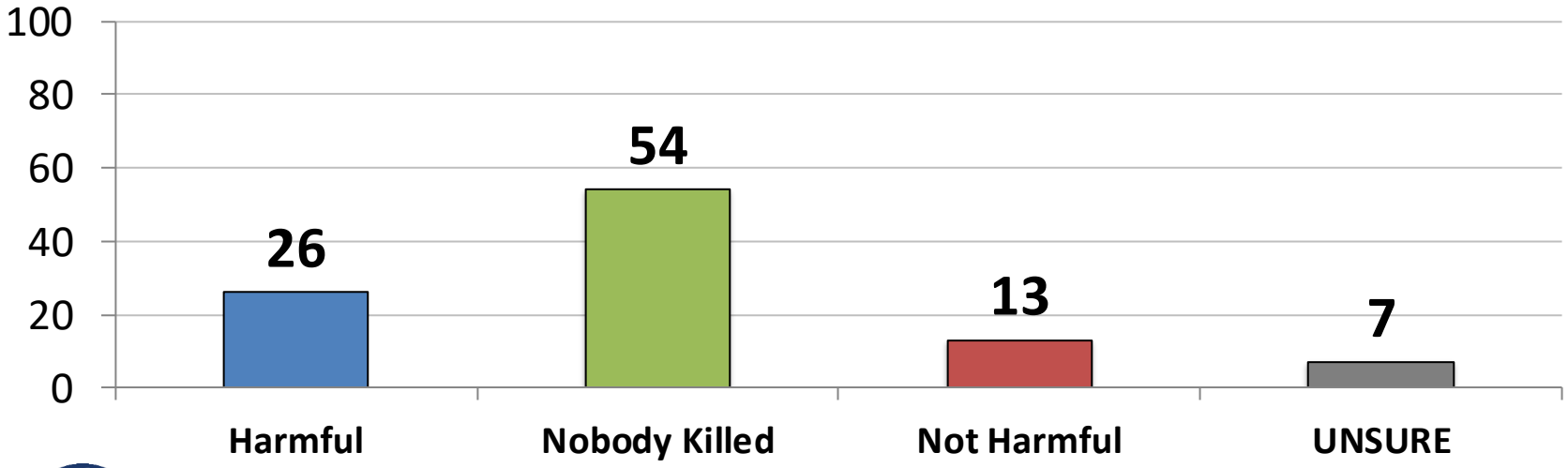
As you may know, conservative activist Charlie Kirk was assassinated last year on a college campus in Utah while speaking with students. Which comes closest to your opinion?

Charlie Kirk's rhetoric was harmful and threatening to many people. It should not be a surprise that his words had consequences.

Regardless of how someone feels about Charlie Kirk's rhetoric, nobody should be killed for their political beliefs.

OR

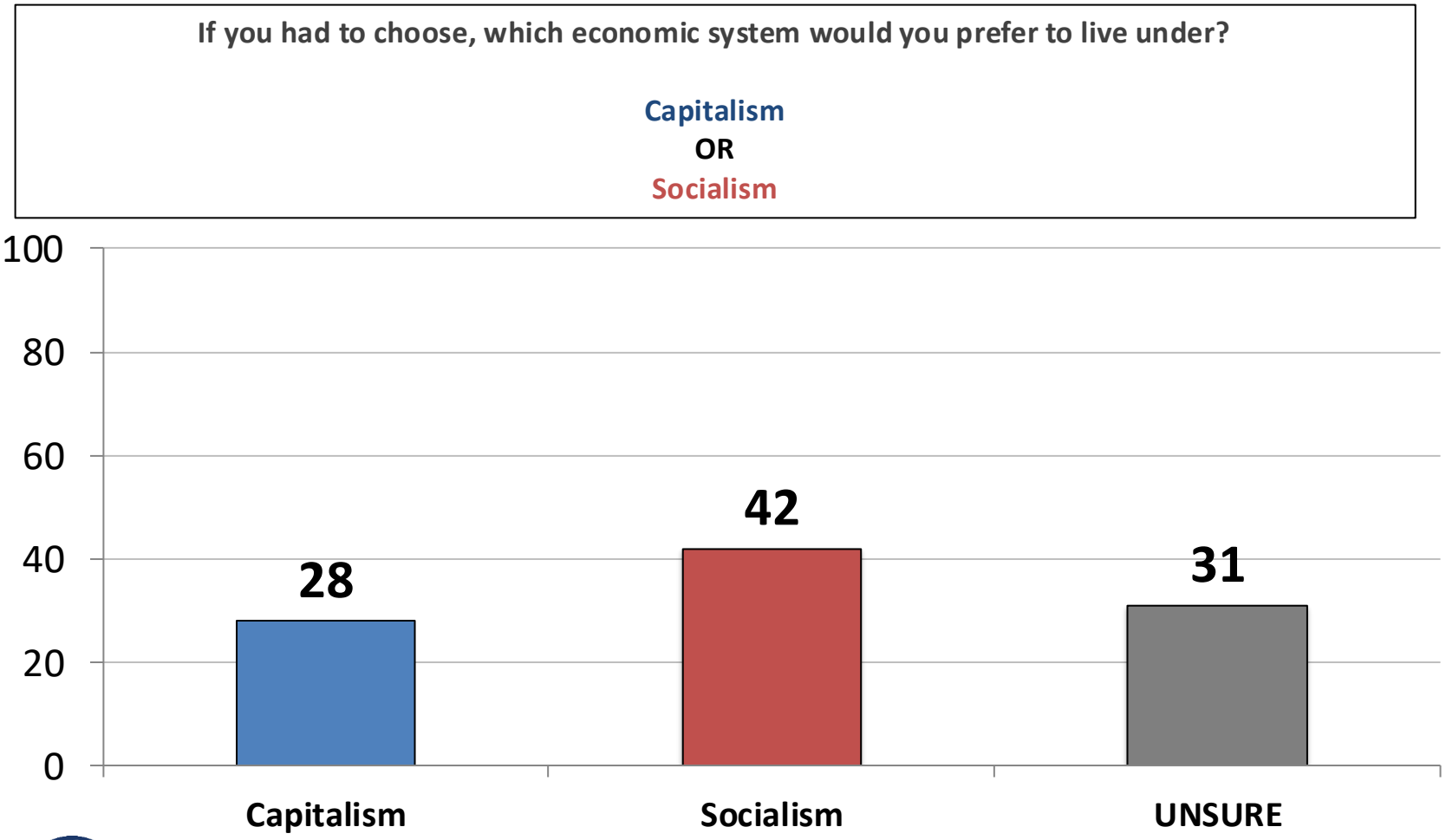
Charlie Kirk's rhetoric was neither harmful nor threatening to anyone. His assassination is a bad sign for public discourse on college campuses.



	Harmful	Nobody	Not Harm.
Private School	25	56	11
State School	27	52	14
Underclassmen	26	52	14
Upperclassmen	26	55	12
Liberal	38	45	12
Moderate	17	65	8
Conservative	7	60	31
White	21	58	14
Black	38	46	15
Hispanic	32	49	11
Asian	19	56	13
Men	18	59	15
Women	33	49	12
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	20	55	18
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	34	48	11
Major – Business	24	60	12
Major – Healthcare	32	52	11
Major – Humanities	23	56	13
Major – Arts	35	53	7
Major – Trades	24	50	18

Part Five –
Economic Systems & Countries

By a 42% to 28% margin, students would prefer to live under a socialist economic system rather than a capitalist one. A notable 31% are unsure. This 14-point margin in favor of socialism is the widest recorded in the five years this question has been asked and represents an 18-point swing from last year, when students preferred capitalism by four points.



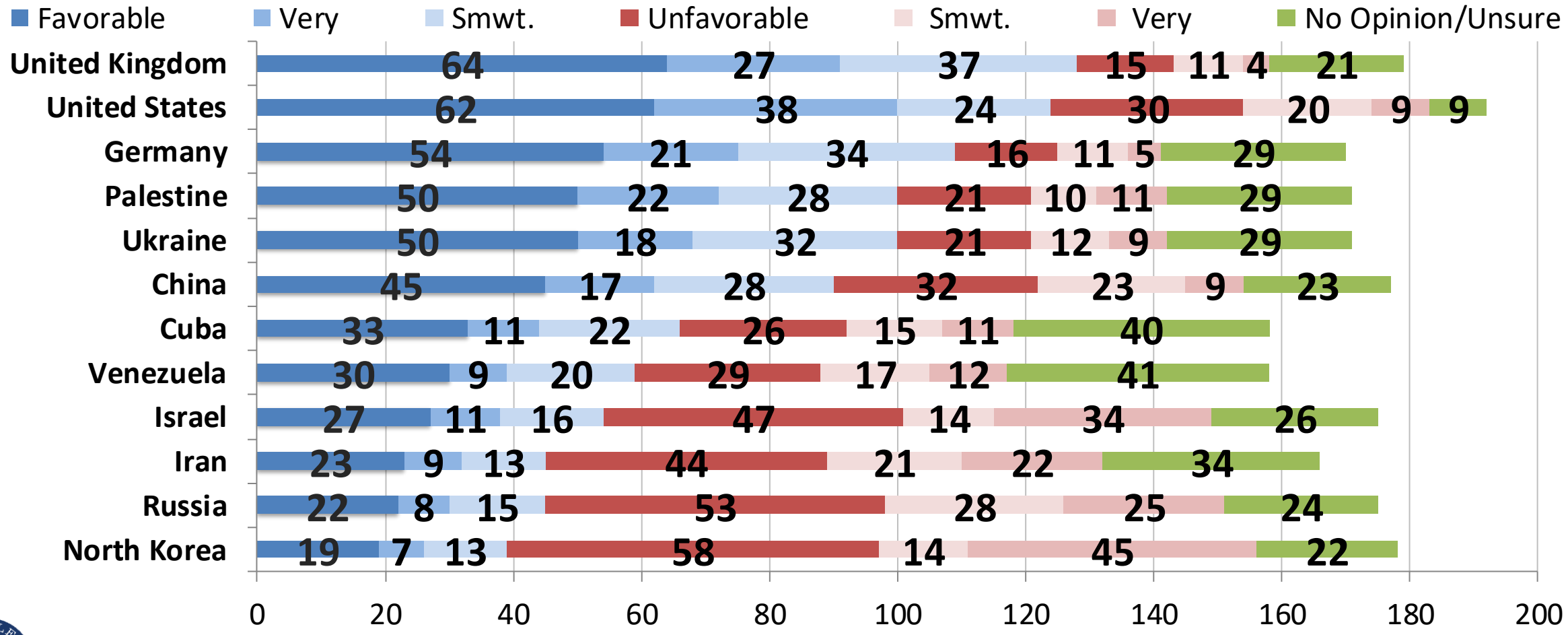
Trend Line	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26
Capitalism	31%	31%	36%	40%	28%
Socialism	33%	37%	34%	36%	42%

	Capitalism	Socialism
Private School	31	33
State School	26	45
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	22	42
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	34	41
Liberal	27	58
Moderate	22	28
Conservative	48	19
White	29	43
Black	21	49
Hispanic	30	38
Asian	31	25
Men	37	38
Women	21	44
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	35	43
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	25	42
Major – Business	27	38
Major – Healthcare	15	45
Major – Humanities	29	50
Major – Arts	14	52
Major – Trades	39	45

Image Ratings of Countries

(Ranked by Total Favorable)

Of the twelve countries rated this year, the United Kingdom is viewed most positively—64% favorable to 15% unfavorable, a net of +49. Germany follows at +38, then the United States at +32, Palestine at +29 and Ukraine at +29.



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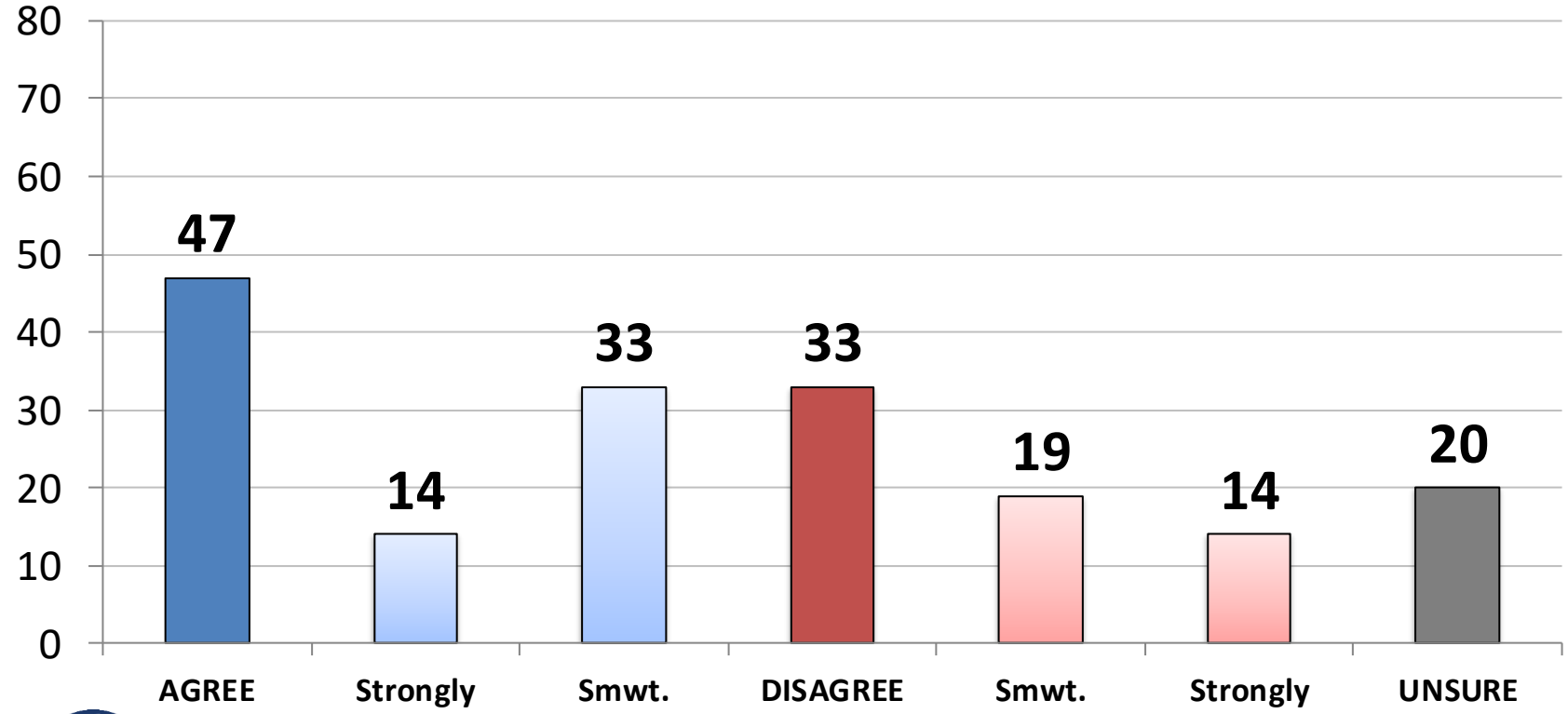
Men rate the United States at +52 net favorable compared to +19 among women. Israel is rated 27% favorable to 47% unfavorable. Palestine is rated 50% favorable to 21% unfavorable. Among liberal students, Palestine (64% favorable/16% unfavorable) is rated more positively than the United States (59% favorable/37% unfavorable).

		Ideology			Ethnicity				Gender	
Favorable/Unfavorable	Total	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Men	Women
United Kingdom	64/15	**69**/19	61/11	59/14	**72**/12	46/**24**	62/18	55/13	**69**/14	60/17
United States	62/30	59/**37**	64/25	**74**/14	**69**/24	56/**35**	55/**37**	49/**36**	**71**/19	56/**37**
Germany	54/16	**61**/15	48/18	45/19	**65**/14	36/**23**	49/19	43/9	**61**/17	49/17
Palestine	50/21	**64**/16	39/25	26/**35**	51/21	46/21	54/20	41/24	49/24	50/19
Ukraine	50/21	**63**/19	36/24	39/**26**	**57**/19	39/**28**	44/25	43/16	**55**/23	46/21
China	45/32	**50**/32	42/29	30/**44**	48/33	45/25	40/32	38/**43**	47/35	44/29
Cuba	33/26	**39**/28	31/21	25/**36**	37/26	29/22	31/**32**	22/17	**40**/28	29/24
Venezuela	30/29	**36**/32	25/26	29/28	34/32	23/24	32/29	21/20	30/**35**	31/24
Israel	27/47	**32**/**54**	19/45	**35**/33	**37**/40	18/46	17/**58**	15/**61**	**37**/43	20/50
Iran	23/44	**29**/44	18/42	14/**55**	27/44	19/37	17/48	13/44	26/**49**	20/39
Russia	22/53	25/**60**	19/49	18/50	**28**/52	19/52	17/55	12/56	26/56	19/52
North Korea	19/58	22/**66**	18/50	19/57	**26**/56	17/52	10/**64**	8/**66**	23/56	17/60

Forty-seven percent (47%) agree that socialist countries like Cuba and the Soviet Union offer a better economic model than capitalist countries like the United States, while 33% disagree and 20% are unsure. Agreement is up one point from last year.

Agree/Disagree:

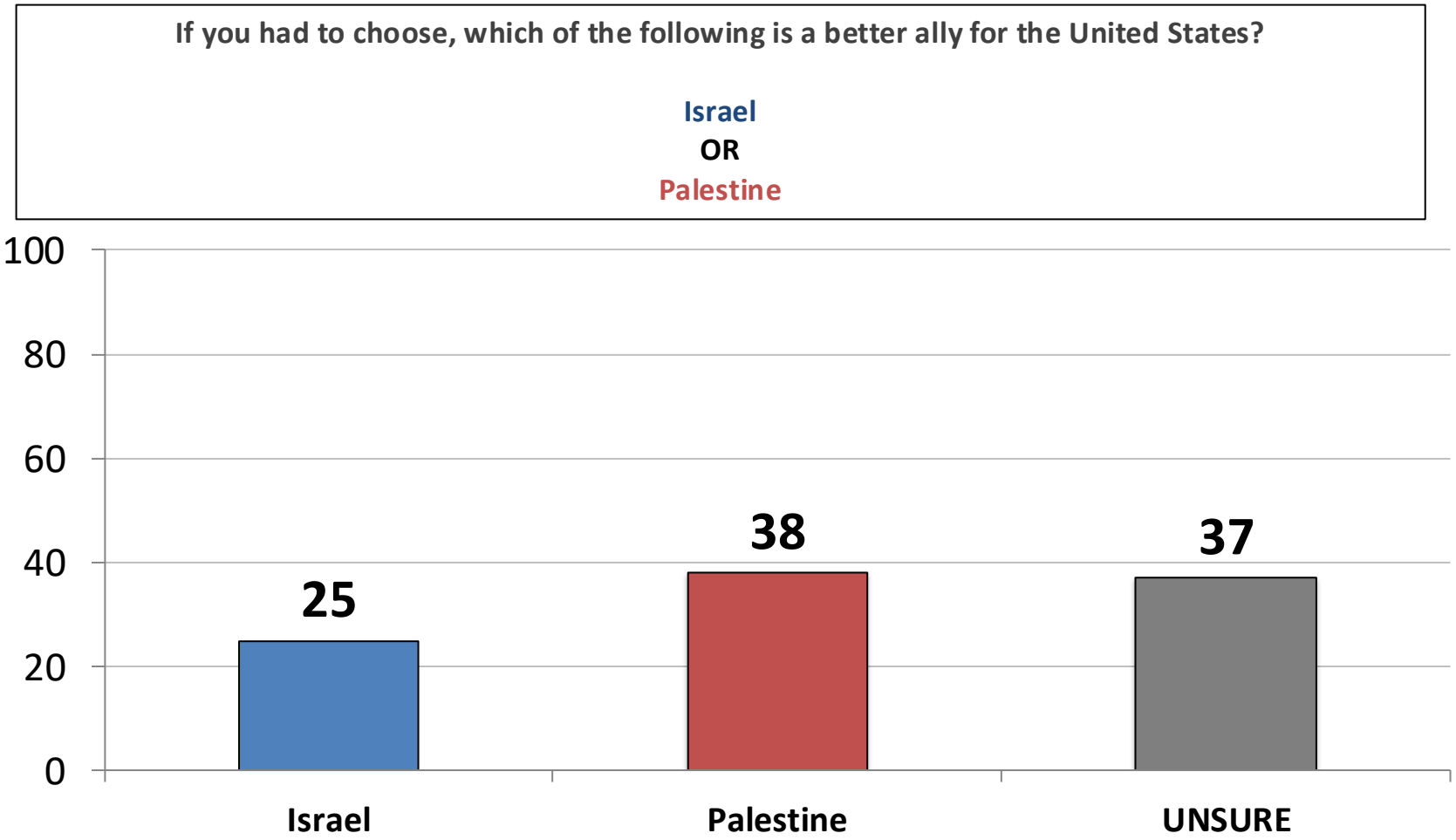
"While socialist countries like Cuba and the Soviet Union have not been perfect, they offer a better economic model than capitalist countries like the United States."



Trend Line	9/25	9/26
Agree	46%	47%
Disagree	39%	33%

	Agree	Disagree
Private School	42	34
State School	49	33
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	50	30
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	44	37
Liberal	57	31
Moderate	40	32
Conservative	33	53
White	48	32
Black	57	23
Hispanic	47	36
Asian	16	53
Men	50	34
Women	45	33
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	47	33
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	49	35
Major – Business	44	26
Major – Healthcare	57	27
Major – Humanities	51	34
Major – Arts	61	29
Major – Trades	65	26

By a 38% to 25% margin, students say Palestine is a better ally for the United States than Israel, with 37% unsure. Last year the margin was 33% to 29%, a nine-point swing toward Palestine.



Trend Line	9/25	9/26
Israel	29%	25%
Palestine	33%	38%

	Israel	Palestine
Private School	25	36
State School	25	39
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	22	38
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	29	38
Liberal	22	55
Moderate	22	24
Conservative	50	17
White	28	40
Black	21	41
Hispanic	22	39
Asian	16	26
Men	31	32
Women	20	42
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	32	35
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	16	54
Major – Business	25	35
Major – Healthcare	21	37
Major – Humanities	27	42
Major – Arts	21	36
Major – Trades	43	30

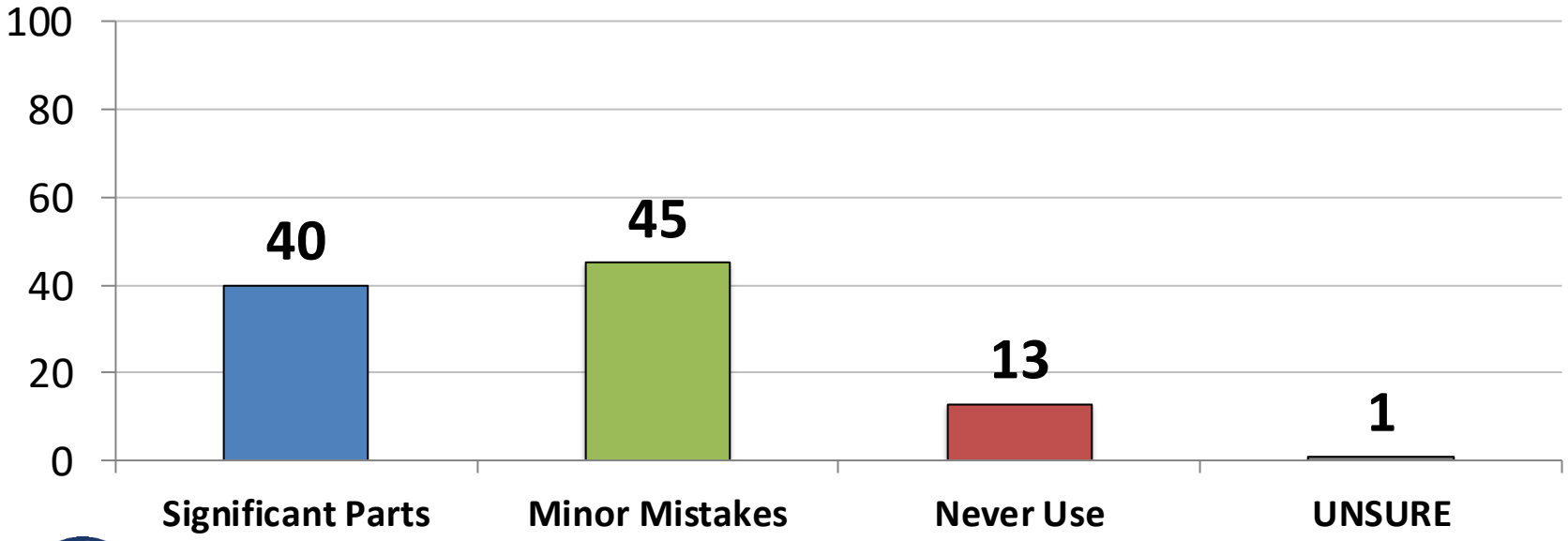
Part Six –
Artificial Intelligence

Four in ten (40%) say they are comfortable using AI for significant parts of or for all of their coursework—from generating ideas for papers to helping write reports and completing take-home tests. Forty-five percent (45%) say they only use AI to catch minor mistakes such as transcription errors, grammatical mistakes and typos, and 13% say they never use AI.

How extensively—if at all—do you use artificial intelligence programs like ChatGPT, Claude or Gemini to assist you with your coursework?

I am comfortable using AI for significant parts of or for all of my coursework—from generating ideas for papers to helping write reports and completing take-home tests.

I only use AI to catch minor mistakes like transcription errors, grammatical mistakes, and typos.
OR
I never use AI.



	Sign.	Minor	Never Use
Private School	34	54	11
State School	43	41	14
Underclassmen	38	46	15
Upperclassmen	44	43	12
Liberal	46	38	15
Moderate	35	55	8
Conservative	41	47	11
White	42	42	14
Black	56	34	10
Hispanic	37	51	11
Asian	27	56	17
Men	50	38	10
Women	33	49	17
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	54	36	7
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	41	43	15
Major – Business	49	47	4
Major – Healthcare	33	47	19
Major – Humanities	38	47	15
Major – Arts	29	49	19
Major – Trades	52	37	9

On the reliability of AI, a majority (52%) say they are cautious and periodically double-check the information it provides but rely on it for general direction. Twenty-four percent (24%) are very concerned about accuracy and either regularly check it themselves or opt not to use AI at all, while 22% say they generally trust that the information AI provides is accurate and reliable.

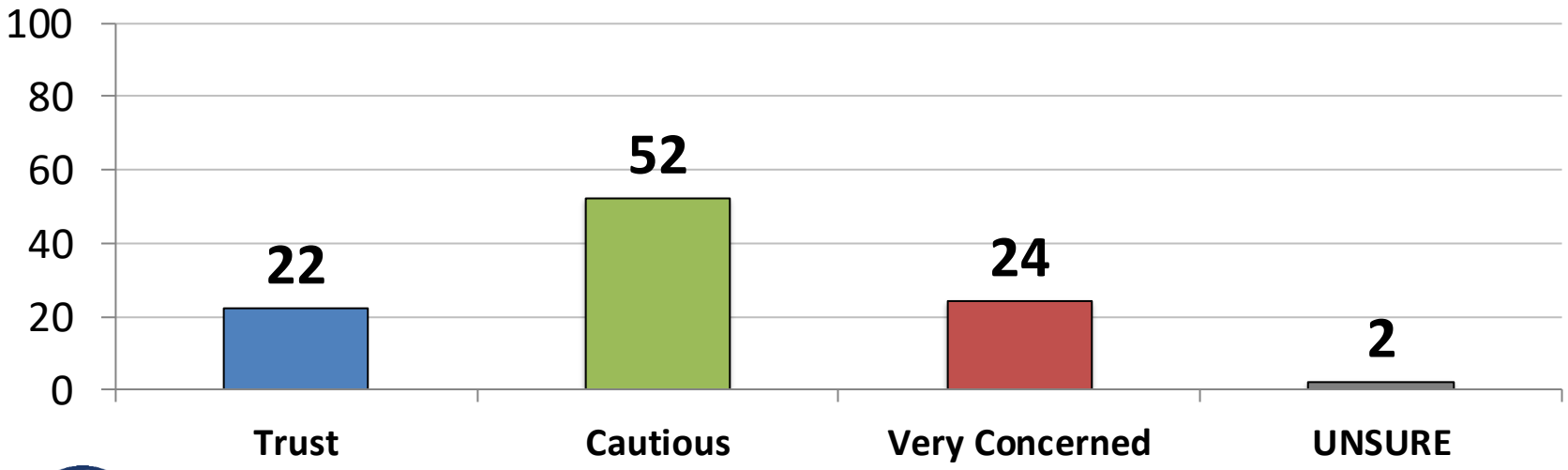
Regardless of how much you use AI, which comes closest to your opinion?

I generally trust that the information provided to me by AI is accurate and reliable.

I am cautious about the information that AI provides and periodically double-check information provided by AI, but rely on it for general direction.

OR

I am very concerned about the accuracy of information provided by AI and either regularly check information provided by AI myself or opt not to use AI altogether.



	Trust	Cautious	Concerned
Private School	19	55	22
State School	23	51	24
Underclassmen	25	50	22
Upperclassmen	19	54	26
Liberal	26	43	30
Moderate	21	60	16
Conservative	16	68	16
White	23	50	25
Black	26	59	14
Hispanic	23	50	24
Asian	10	60	30
Men	27	55	16
Women	18	50	29
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	28	51	18
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	23	48	29
Major – Business	29	59	11
Major – Healthcare	17	55	24
Major – Humanities	25	44	30
Major – Arts	13	56	27
Major – Trades	26	52	20

Part Seven –
Miscellaneous Issues

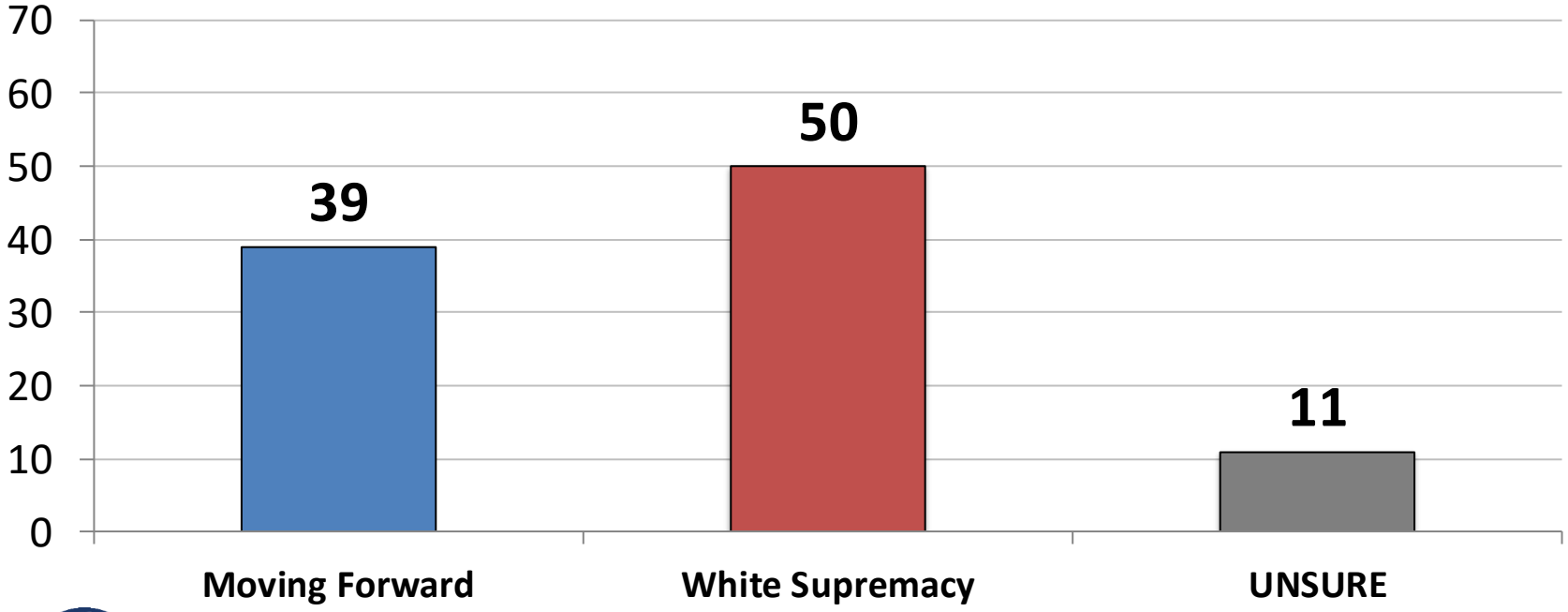
On progress on equality in America, half (50%) say America is inextricably linked to white supremacy and in general most minorities remain excluded from the American promise of equality, while 39% say America is moving forward and the promise of equality continues to be extended to more people. The 39% "moving forward" response is the lowest recorded in the seven years this question has been asked.

Which of the following comes closer to your own personal opinion?

Despite our sometimes troubled past, America is moving forward and the promise of equality continues to be extended to more people.

OR

America is inextricably linked to white supremacy and in general most minorities remain excluded from the American promise of equality.



Trend Line	9/20	9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26
Moving Forward	40%	42%	42%	44%	49%	47%	39%
White Supremacy	51%	49%	50%	46%	42%	48%	50%

	Forward	Supremacy
Private School	38	46
State School	40	52
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	38	49
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	40	52
Liberal	32	66
Moderate	42	36
Conservative	66	27
White	45	43
Black	33	62
Hispanic	30	60
Asian	38	45
Men	46	43
Women	34	56
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	47	41
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	30	62
Major – Business	44	40
Major – Healthcare	31	51
Major – Humanities	42	50
Major – Arts	20	71
Major – Trades	35	60

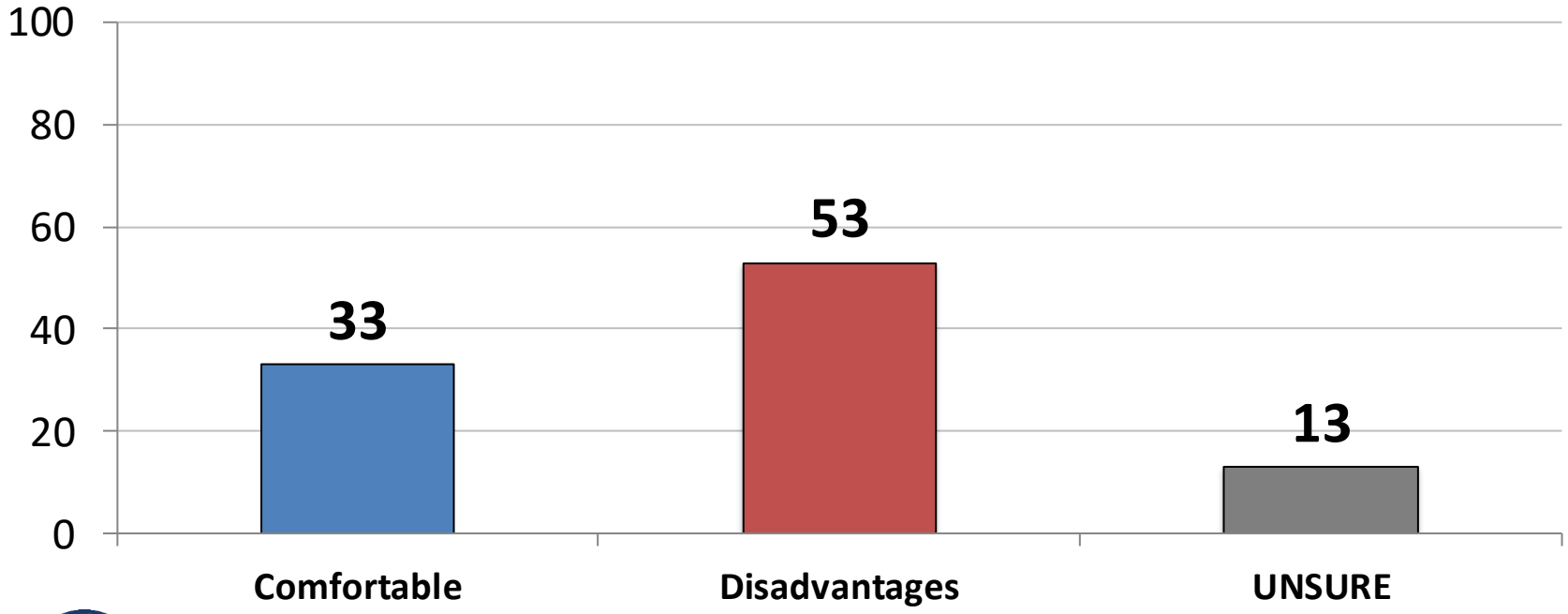
A majority (53%) continue to say the issue of transgender athletes is one of fairness that disadvantages other athletes, while one third (33%) believe transgender athletes should be able to participate in whichever gender class they feel more comfortable in. The 53% "fairness" response is down eight points from last year and is the lowest since 2022, though the decline went almost entirely to "unsure," which nearly doubled from 7% to 13%.

Which of the following comes closer to your opinion on allowing transgender college athletes to participate in a sports league designated for a gender that is different from their assigned gender at birth?

Transgender athletes should be able to participate in whichever gender class they feel more comfortable in.

OR

This is an issue of fairness. And while I may support transgender rights, this disadvantages other athletes because there are biological differences between men and women.



Trend Line	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26
Comfortable	40%	32%	29%	33%	33%
Fairness/Disadvantages	49%	59%	63%	61%	53%

	Comfortable	Disadvantages
Private School	25	55
State School	37	53
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	30	55
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	37	52
Liberal	45	47
Moderate	26	53
Conservative	9	84
White	34	51
Black	33	59
Hispanic	33	56
Asian	31	50
Men	31	53
Women	34	55
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	30	56
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	36	54
Major – Business	28	57
Major – Healthcare	34	54
Major – Humanities	36	59
Major – Arts	40	49
Major – Trades	31	59

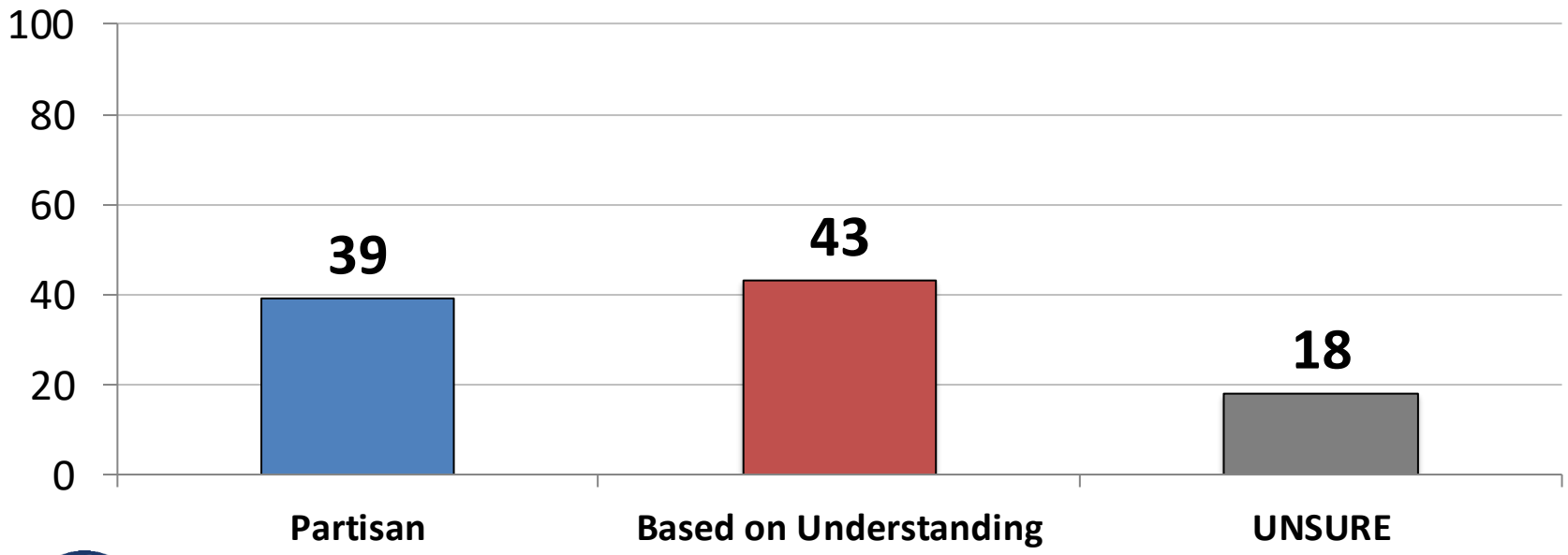
For the first time in the four years that this question has been asked, more students say the Supreme Court tries to decide cases based on its understanding of the law regardless of political implications (43%) than say the Court has become nothing more than a partisan institution like Congress where one party is in power and the outcomes are predictable (39%).

Which of the following comes closer to your opinion on the Supreme Court?

The Court has become nothing more than a partisan institution like Congress where one party is in power and the outcomes are predictable.

OR

The Supreme Court tries to decide cases based on their understanding of the law, regardless of political implications.



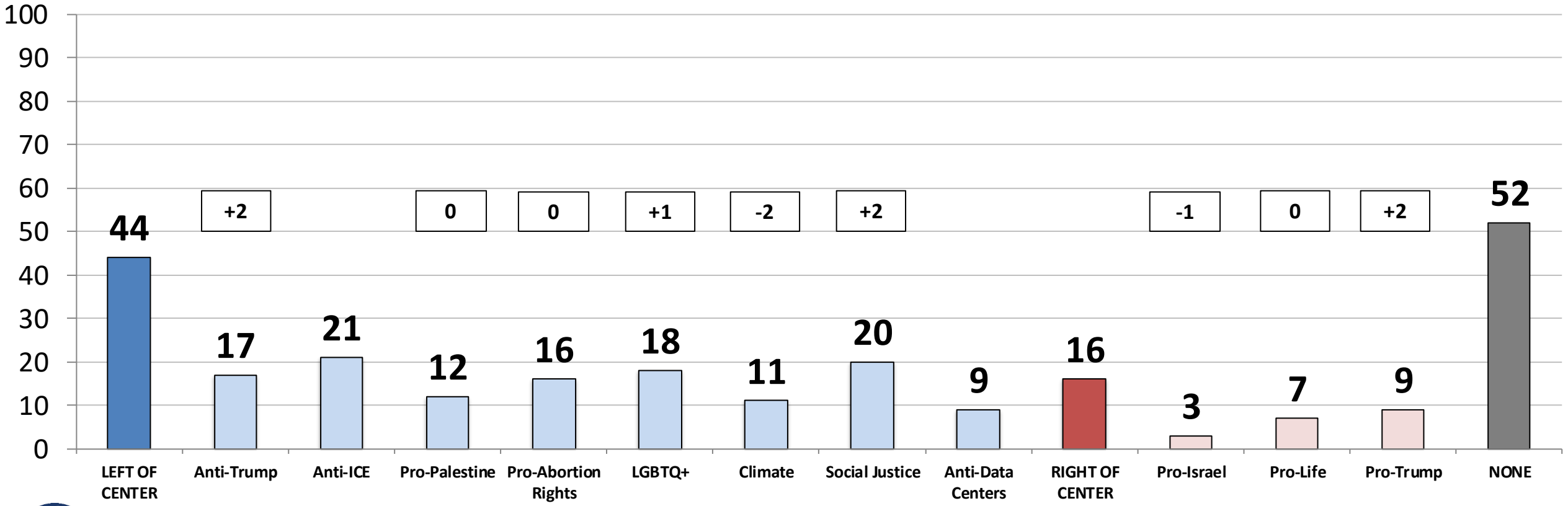
Trend Line	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26
Partisan	48%	49%	48%	39%
Understanding* (Diff. Wording)	37%*	38%	41%	43%

	Partisan	Understanding
Private School	34	43
State School	41	43
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	38	40
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	40	47
Liberal	48	44
Moderate	32	42
Conservative	26	56
White	35	48
Black	40	44
Hispanic	47	38
Asian	39	26
Men	31	53
Women	44	37
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	29	53
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	49	37
Major – Business	33	46
Major – Healthcare	42	39
Major – Humanities	38	48
Major – Arts	47	30
Major – Trades	52	36

Just under half (48%) of students attended a rally or protest in the last year. Anti-ICE demonstrations drew the most students of any single cause (21%), followed by social justice (20%), LGBTQ+ rights (18%), anti-Trump (17%) and pro-abortion rights (16%). Pro-Palestine rallies drew 12%, anti-data center rallies 9%, pro-Trump 9%, pro-life 7% and pro-Israel 3%.

In the last year, have you attended a rally or protest in support of the following causes?

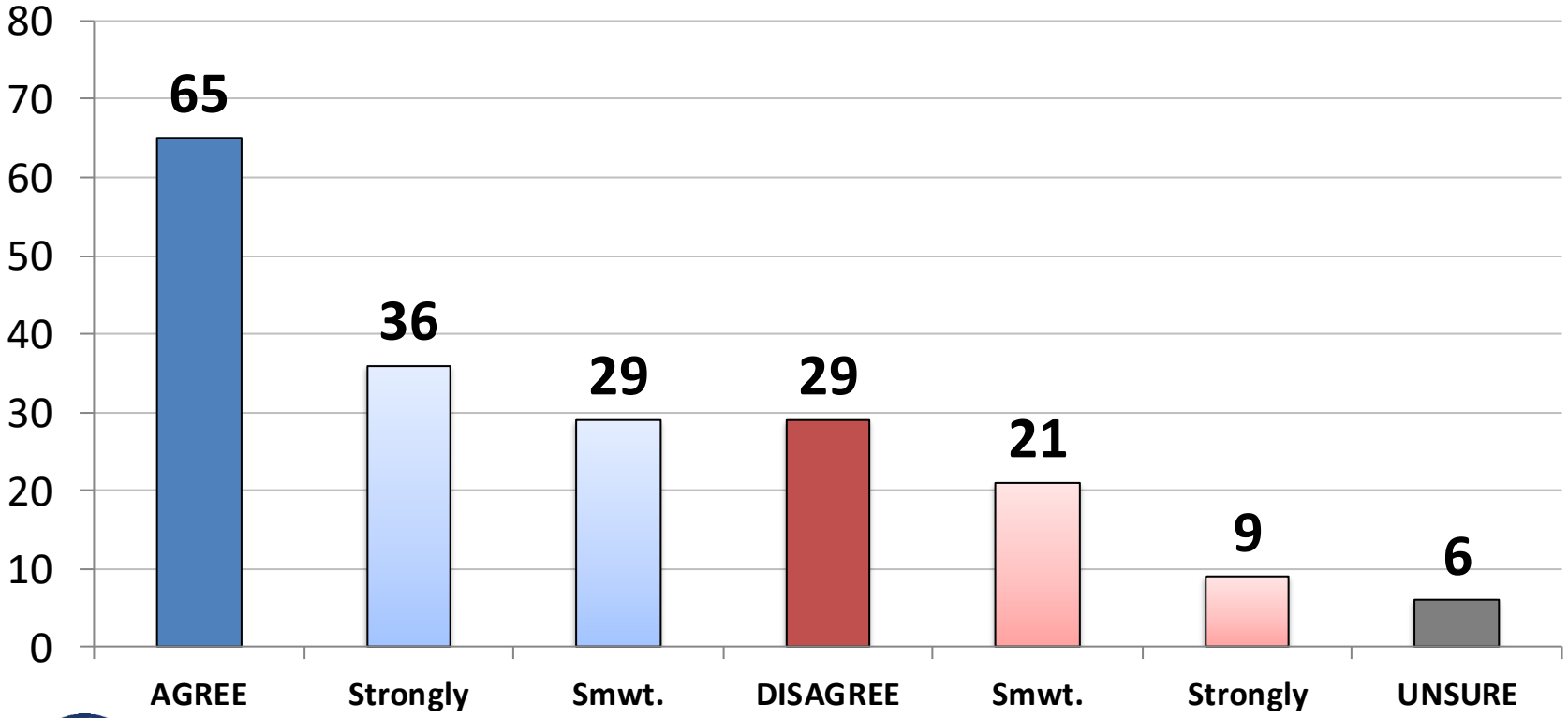
(Multiple Responses Accepted; Nets are Change from 2025 Survey)



Part Eight –
Political Environment & America

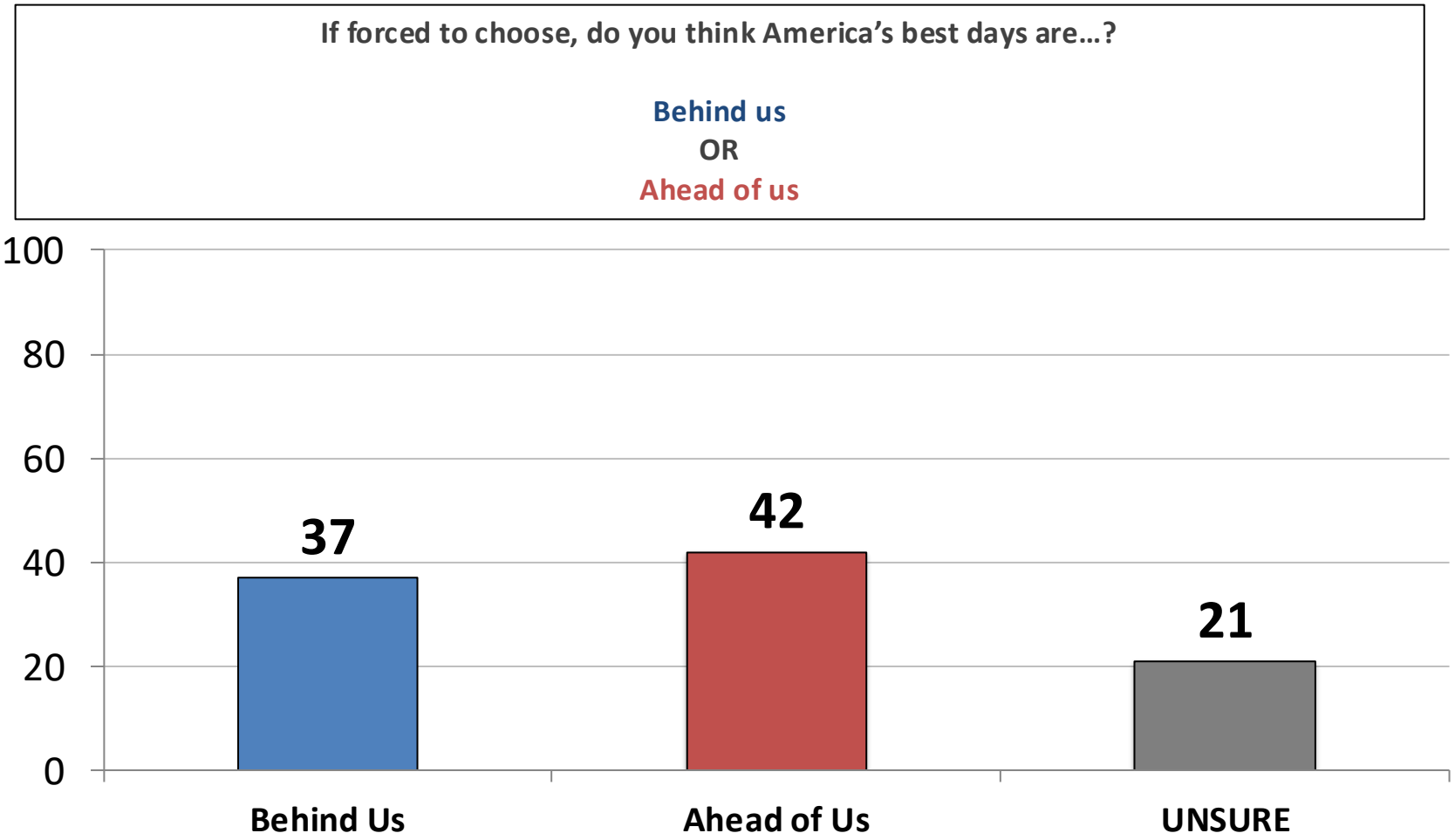
Two thirds (65%) agree that they are proud to be an American, including 36% who strongly agree. Twenty-nine percent (29%) disagree.

Agree/Disagree:
"I am proud to be an American."



	Agree	Disagree
Private School	64	27
State School	65	31
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	65	28
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	66	30
Liberal	62	36
Moderate	67	24
Conservative	86	13
White	72	23
Black	62	36
Hispanic	59	34
Asian	48	41
Men	77	17
Women	57	38
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	79	13
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	59	38
Major – Business	69	22
Major – Healthcare	54	39
Major – Humanities	65	32
Major – Arts	50	44
Major – Trades	77	22

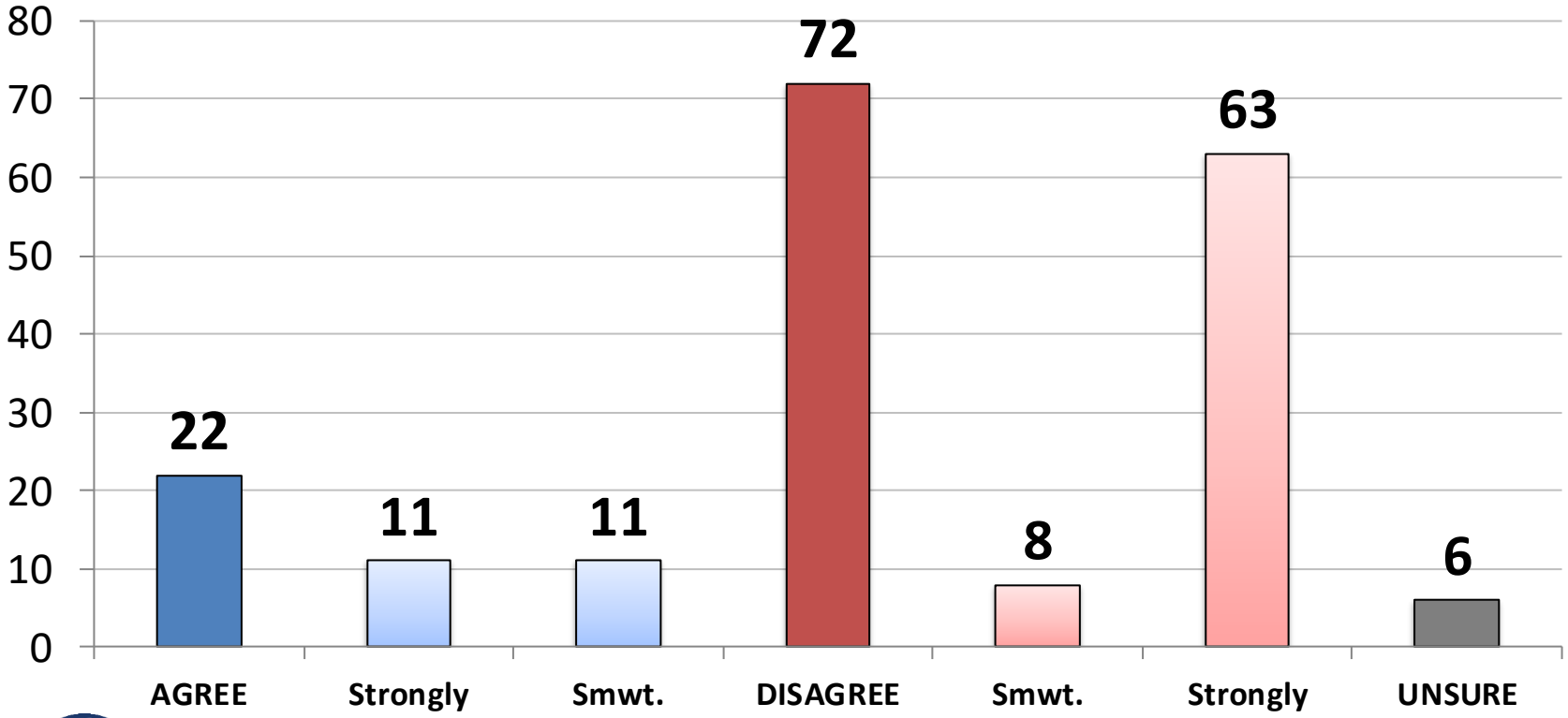
If forced to choose, 42% say America's best days are ahead of us and 37% say they are behind us. One in five (21%) are unsure.



	Behind	Ahead
Private School	33	44
State School	39	41
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	41	38
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	33	47
Liberal	41	41
Moderate	38	39
Conservative	23	59
White	34	48
Black	40	44
Hispanic	44	31
Asian	22	42
Men	25	55
Women	46	32
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	27	56
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	44	37
Major – Business	36	37
Major – Healthcare	45	31
Major – Humanities	40	46
Major – Arts	47	28
Major – Trades	38	45

More than one in five (22%) agree that America deserved September 11th, including 11% who strongly agree. Seven in ten (72%) disagree, including 63% who strongly disagree.

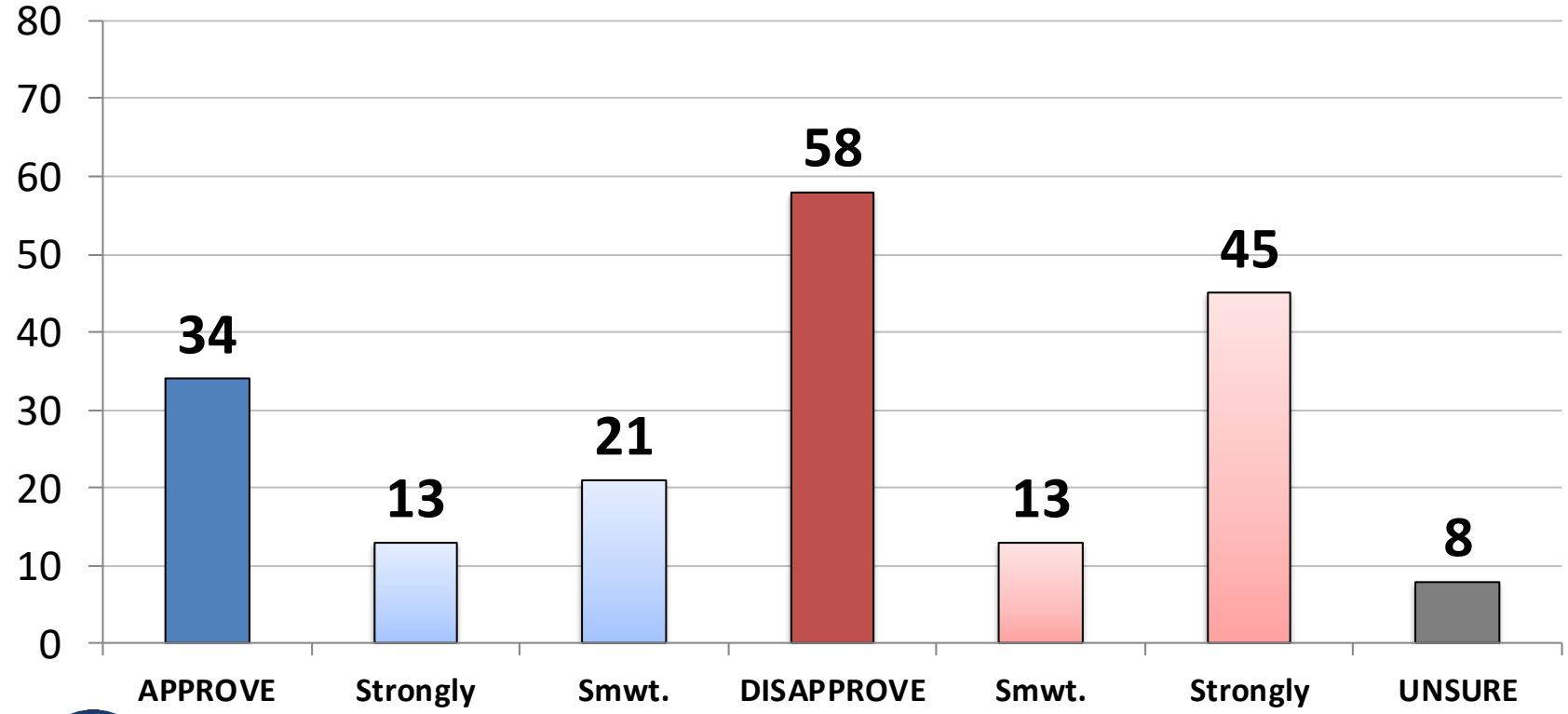
Agree/Disagree:
"America deserved September 11th."



	Agree	Disagree
Private School	18	75
State School	24	70
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	24	69
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	20	75
Liberal	28	69
Moderate	16	76
Conservative	17	72
White	22	73
Black	27	63
Hispanic	22	71
Asian	12	78
Men	26	69
Women	19	73
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	35	61
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	23	69
Major – Business	27	66
Major – Healthcare	20	71
Major – Humanities	28	66
Major – Arts	30	59
Major – Trades	48	48

By a 58% to 34% margin, students disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as President. This is not much different than last year when 33% approved and 62% disapproved of President Trump.

Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Donald Trump is doing as President?



Trend Line	9/25	9/26
Approve	33%	34%
Disapprove	62%	58%

	Approve	Disapprove
Private School	31	53
State School	35	60
Underclassmen (Freshmen/Sophomores)	33	56
Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors)	35	61
Liberal	36	62
Moderate	24	60
Conservative	62	33
White	46	44
Black	23	70
Hispanic	21	74
Asian	14	74
Men	47	43
Women	25	69
Major – Mathematics/Engineering	55	33
Major – Social/Behavioral Sciences	25	72
Major – Business	32	49
Major – Healthcare	19	72
Major – Humanities	29	65
Major – Arts	26	72
Major – Trades	55	45

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