



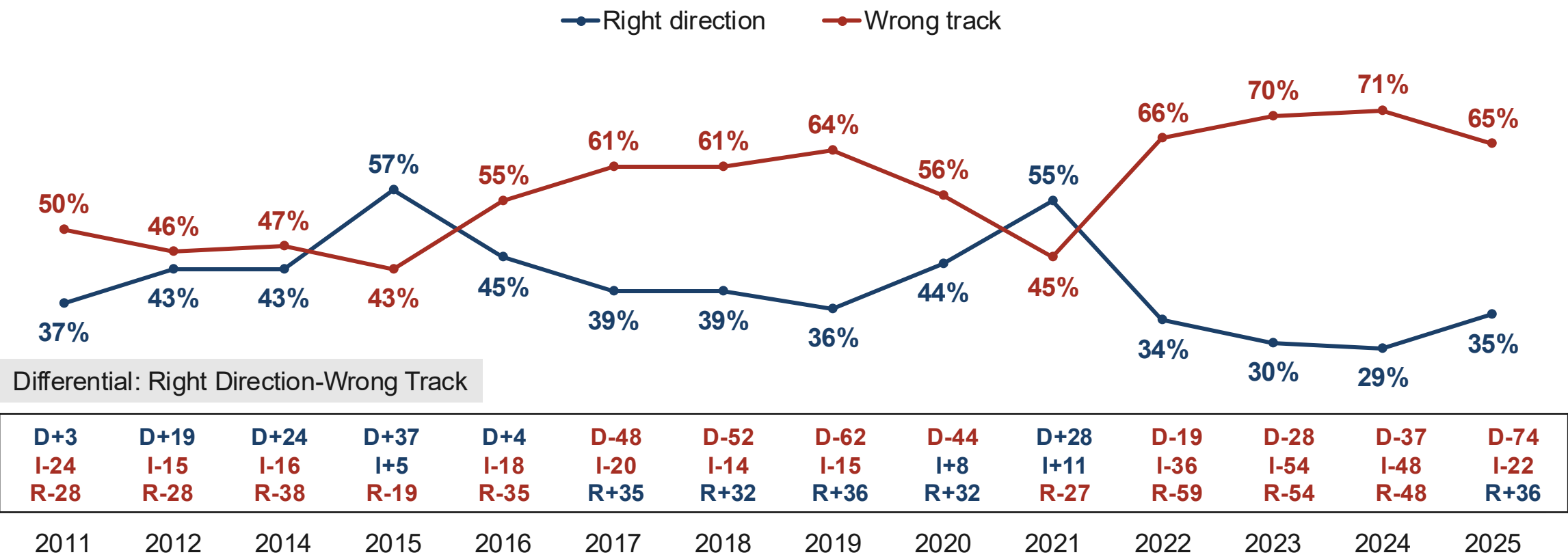
2025 Survey of America's College Students

Key findings from a national survey of college students conducted May 19-29, 2025.



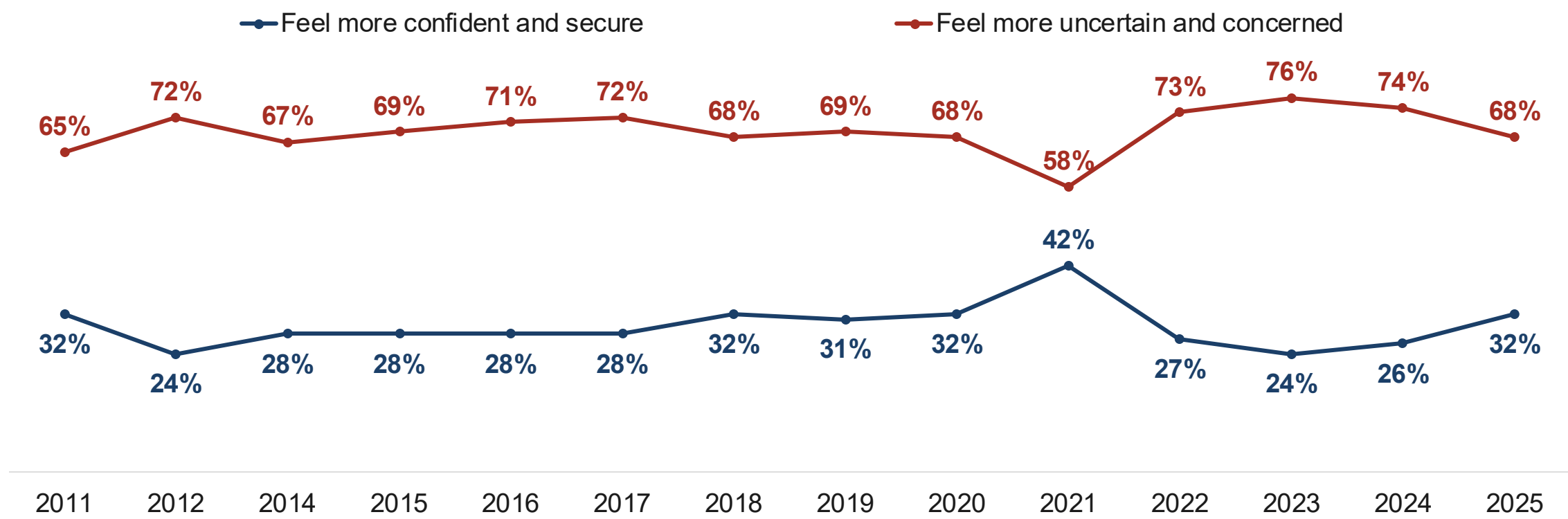
College students continue to believe the country is headed off on the wrong track, with a slight improvement driven by Republicans.

Assessment of the Nation's Direction



Nearly 7 in 10 college students are uncertain and concerned about the future of the country.

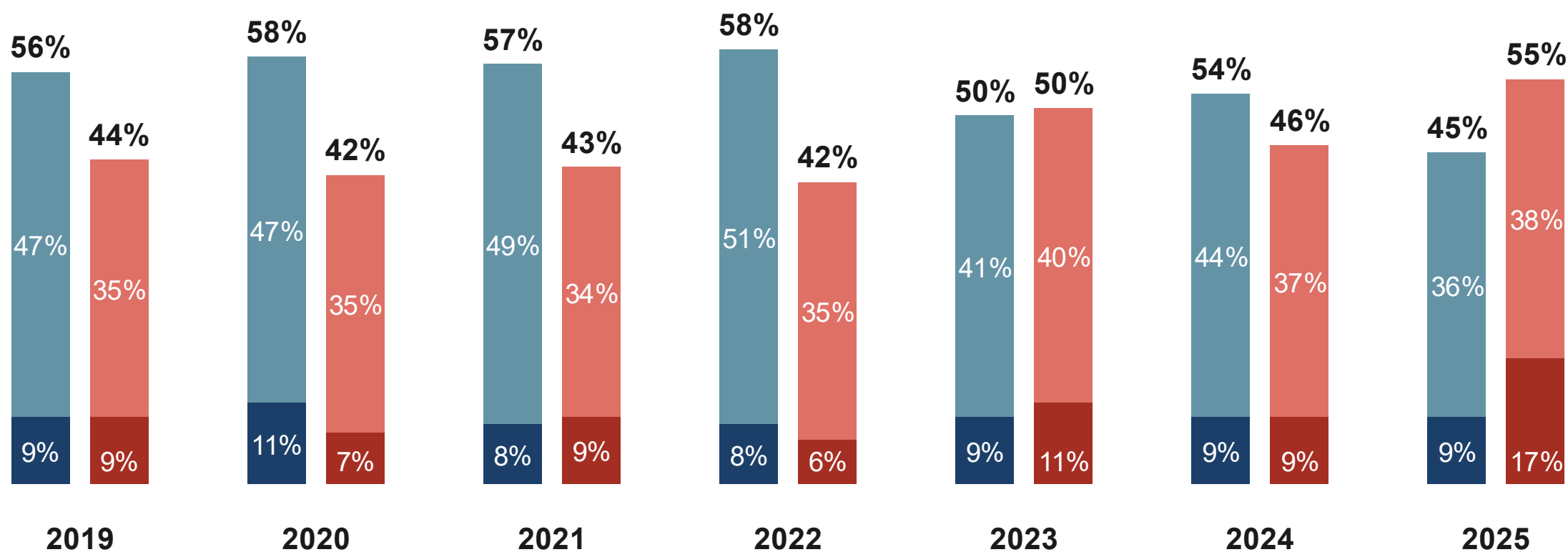
Expectations for the Future of the Country



For the first time, more than 50 percent of college students say that democracy is not working well.

How well would you say democracy is working in the United States today?

■ Very well ■ Somewhat well ■ Not too well ■ Not at all well



A majority of college students believe that the president and executive branch have too much power.

Would you say this branch has...?

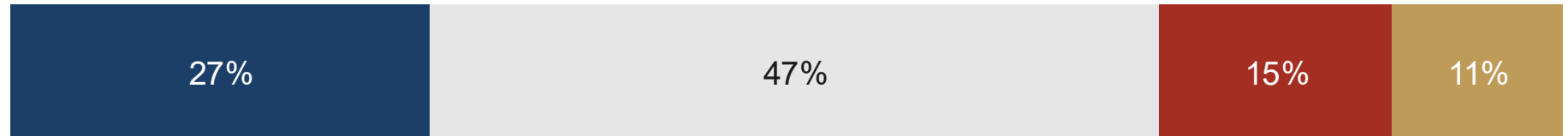
■ Too much power ■ About the right amount ■ Too little power ■ Don't know enough to say



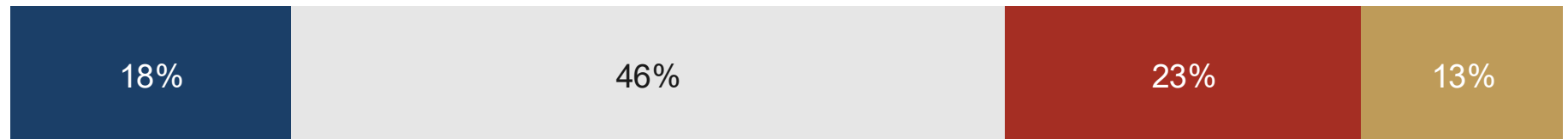
Executive



Judicial

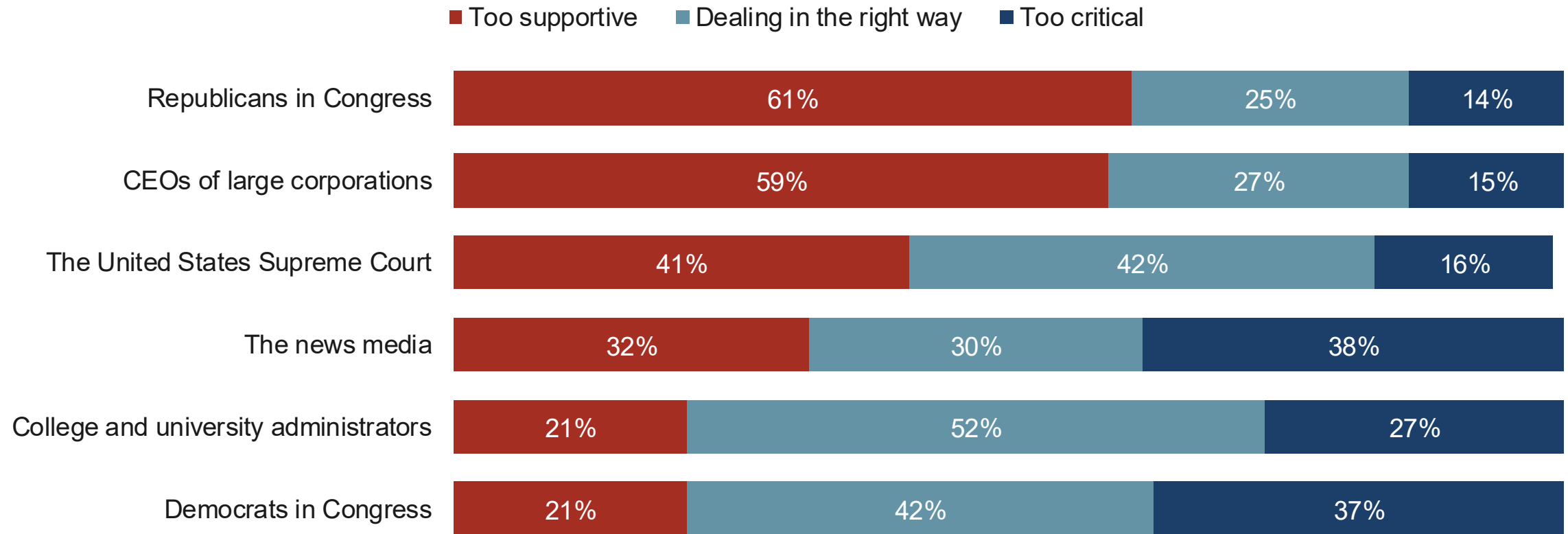


Legislative



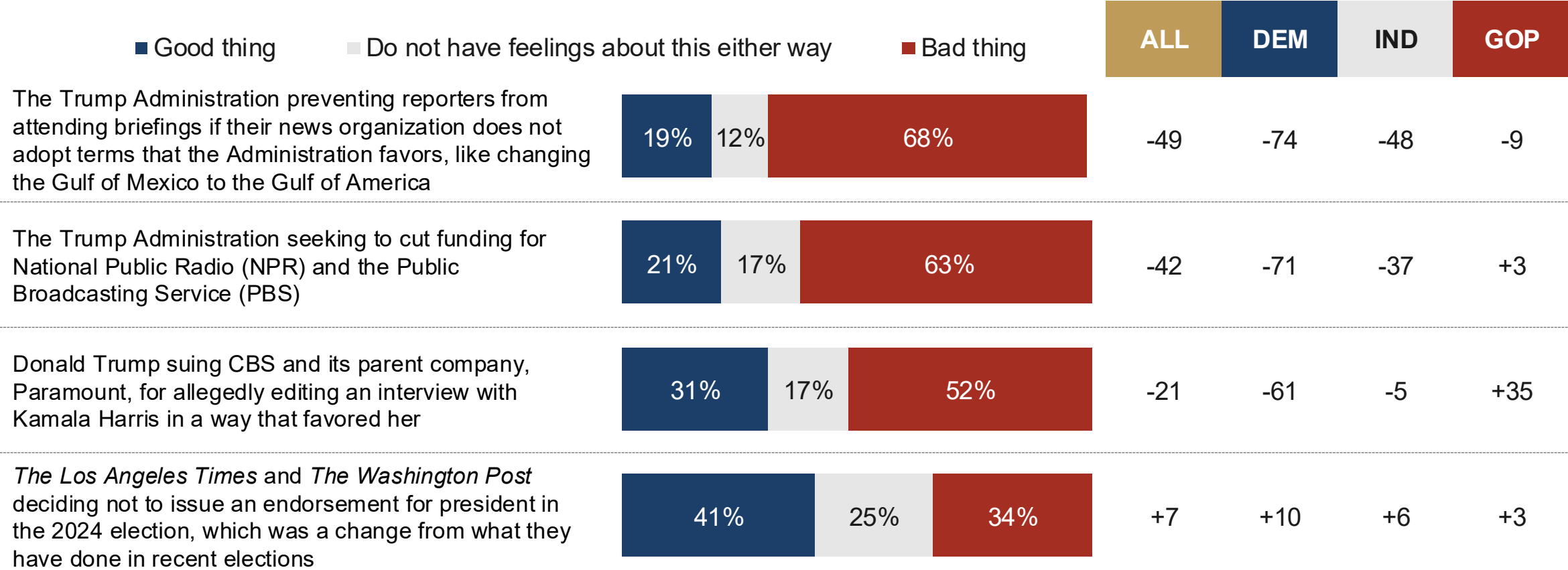
Majorities of college students believe that Republicans in Congress and CEOs of large corporations are too supportive of Donald Trump. A majority say administrators are dealing with him in the right way.

In thinking about their dealings with Donald Trump, please indicate whether you believe each of the following is being...



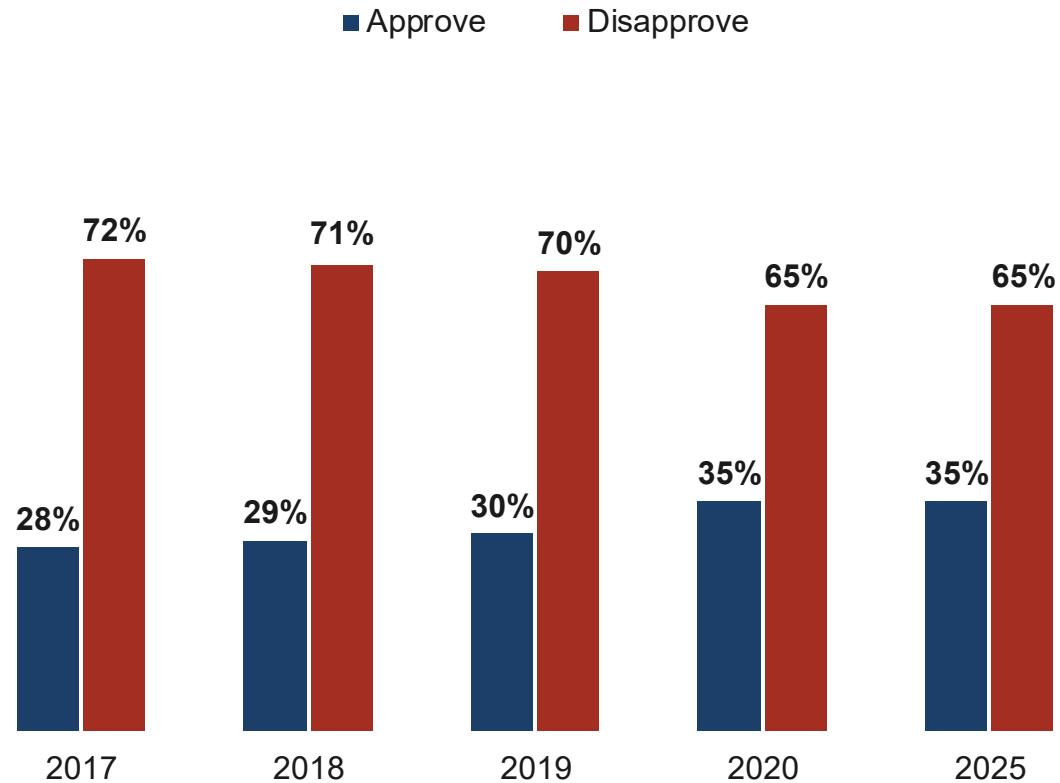
College students believe that actions taken by the Trump Administration against media outlets are a bad thing, though are more mixed on newspapers not endorsing for president.

Thinking specifically about the news media, is the following action a...?

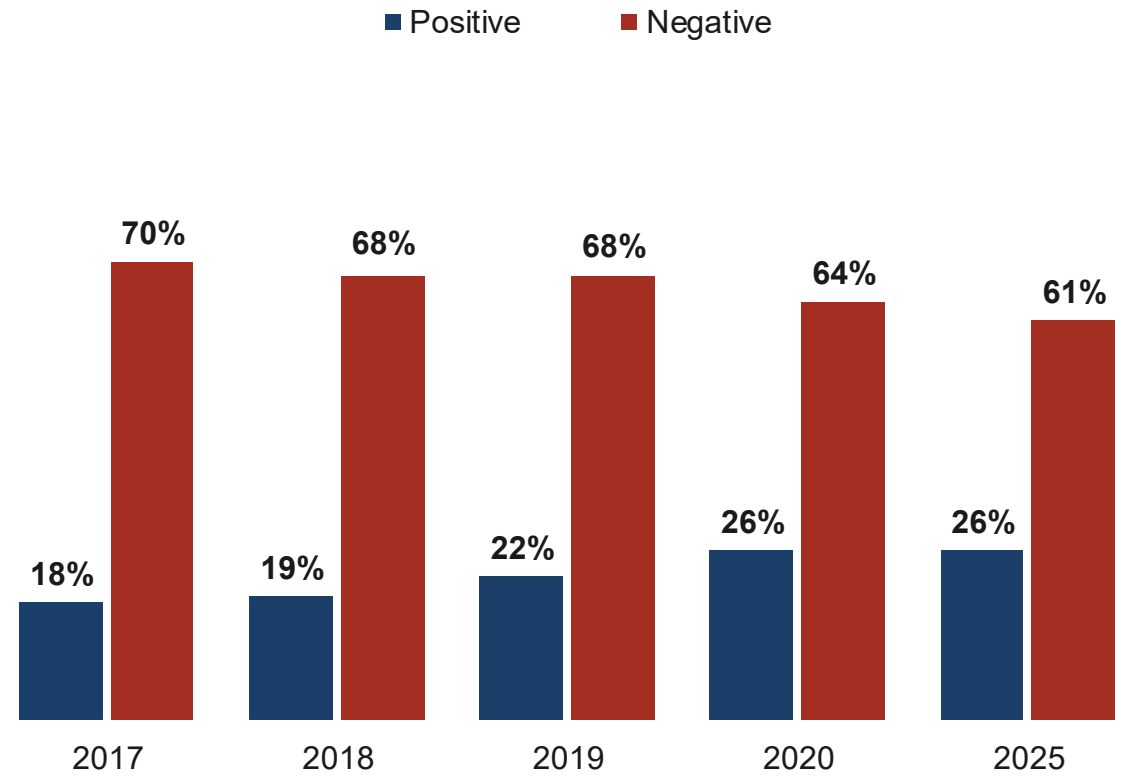


Donald Trump's professional and personal ratings are very low, but compared to his first term, are on the higher end.

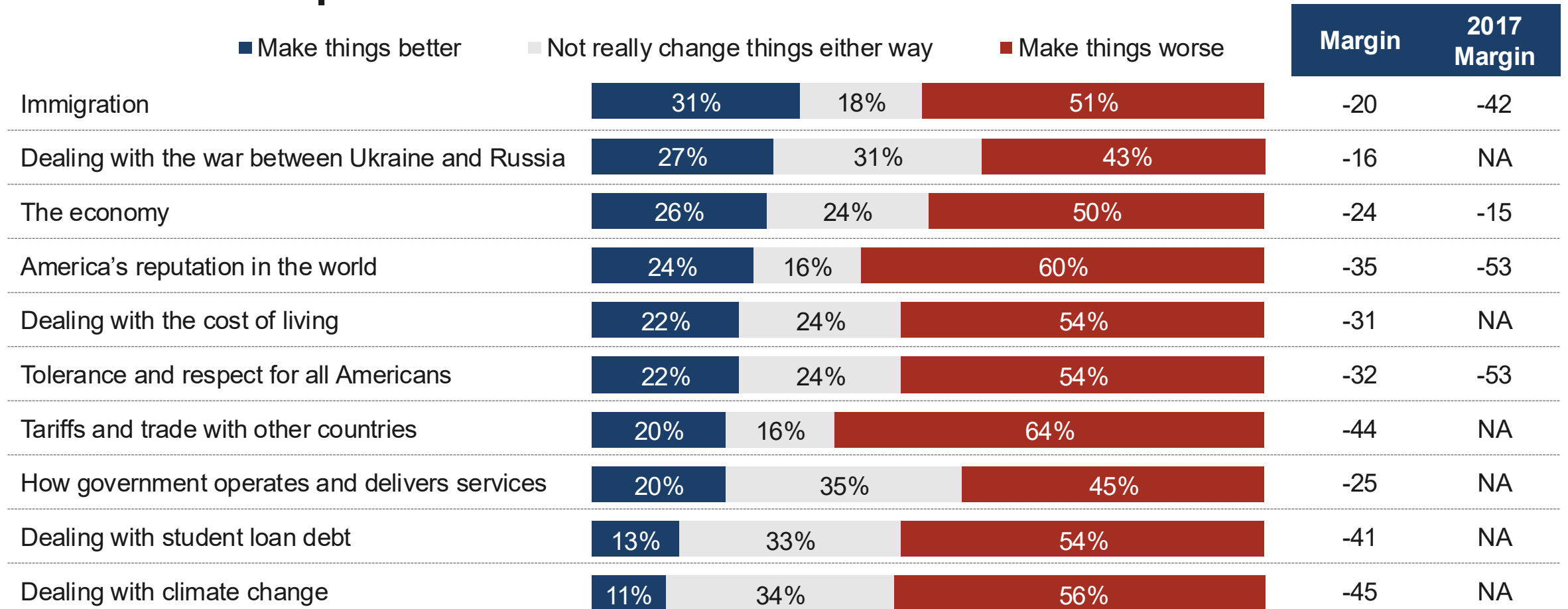
Donald Trump's Job Performance as President



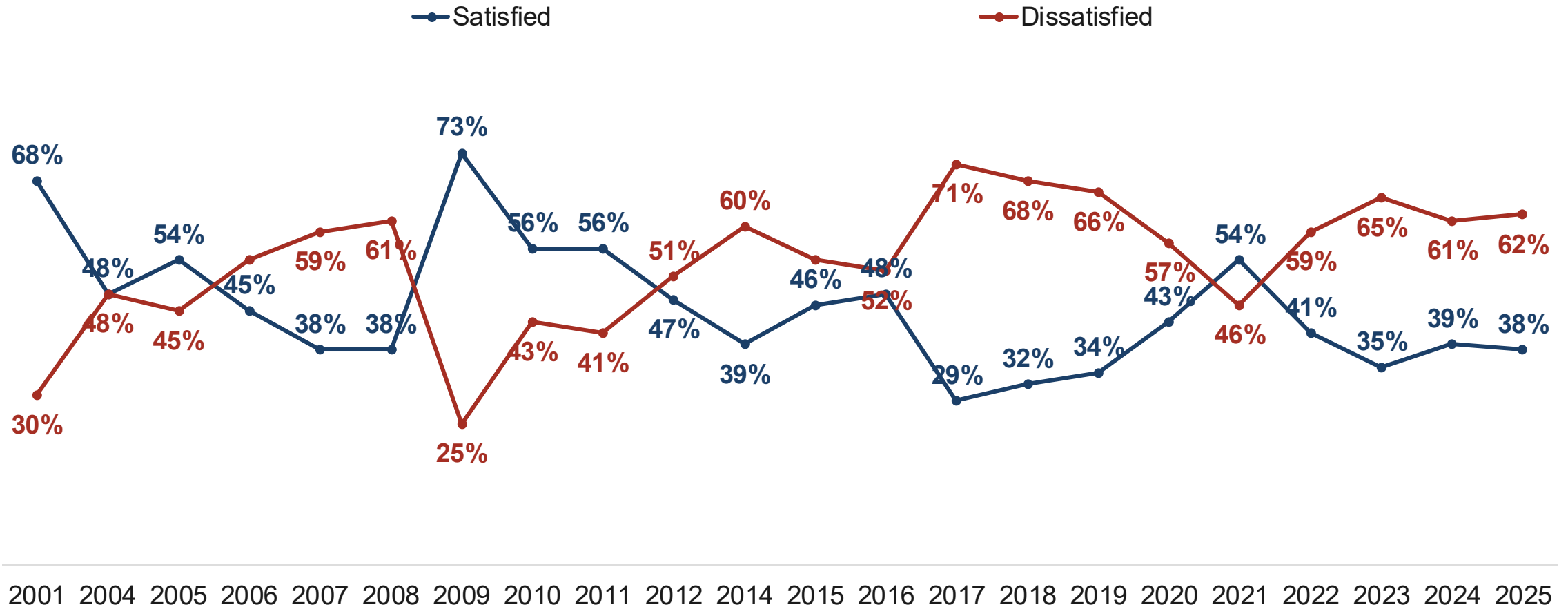
Feelings toward Donald Trump



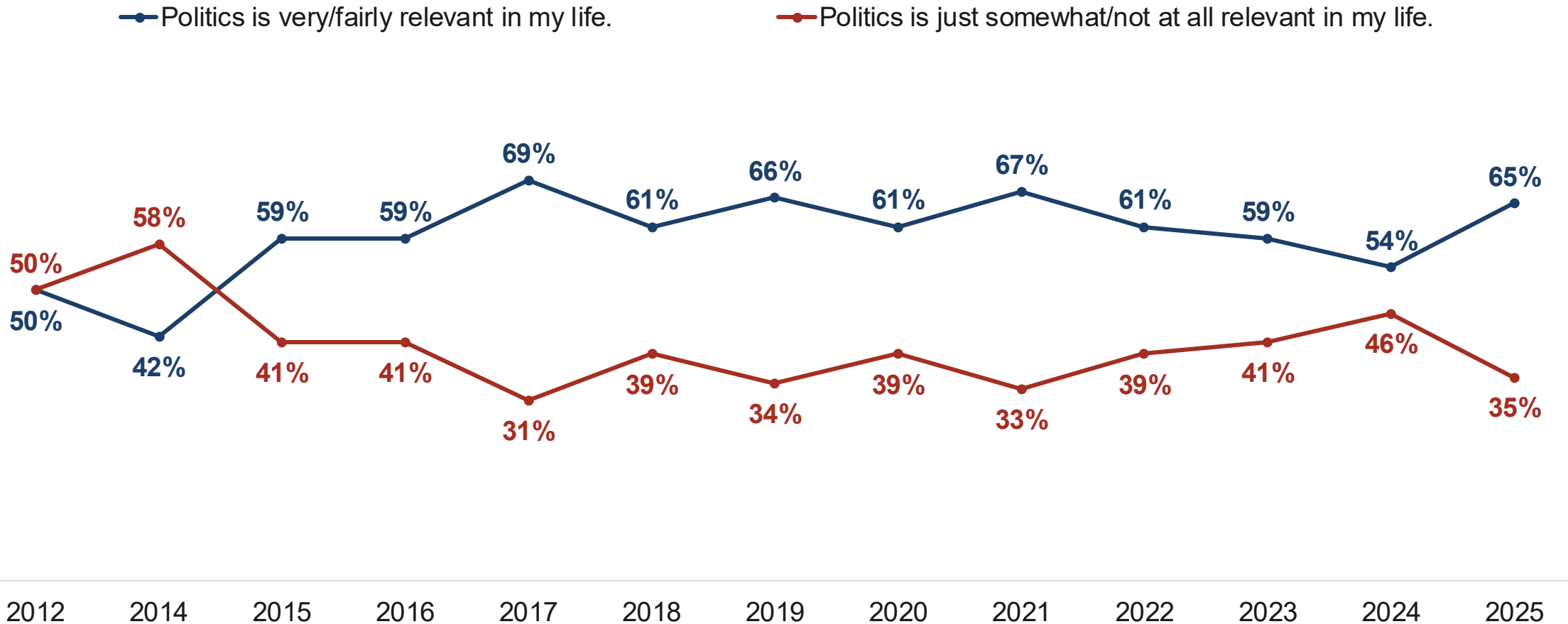
Across the board, college students believe that Donald Trump is making things worse, with deeper concern about trade and tariffs and America's reputation in the world.



College students remain deeply dissatisfied with the country's political leadership.

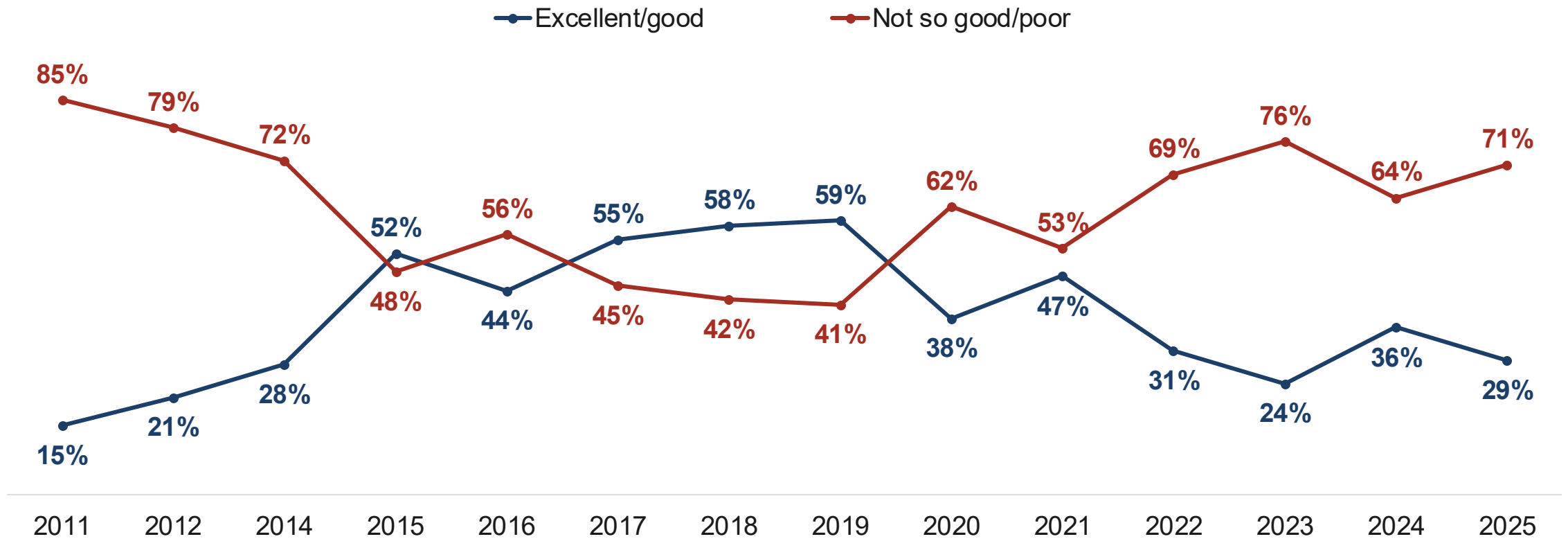


College students are more likely than they have in recent years to feel that politics is relevant to them.



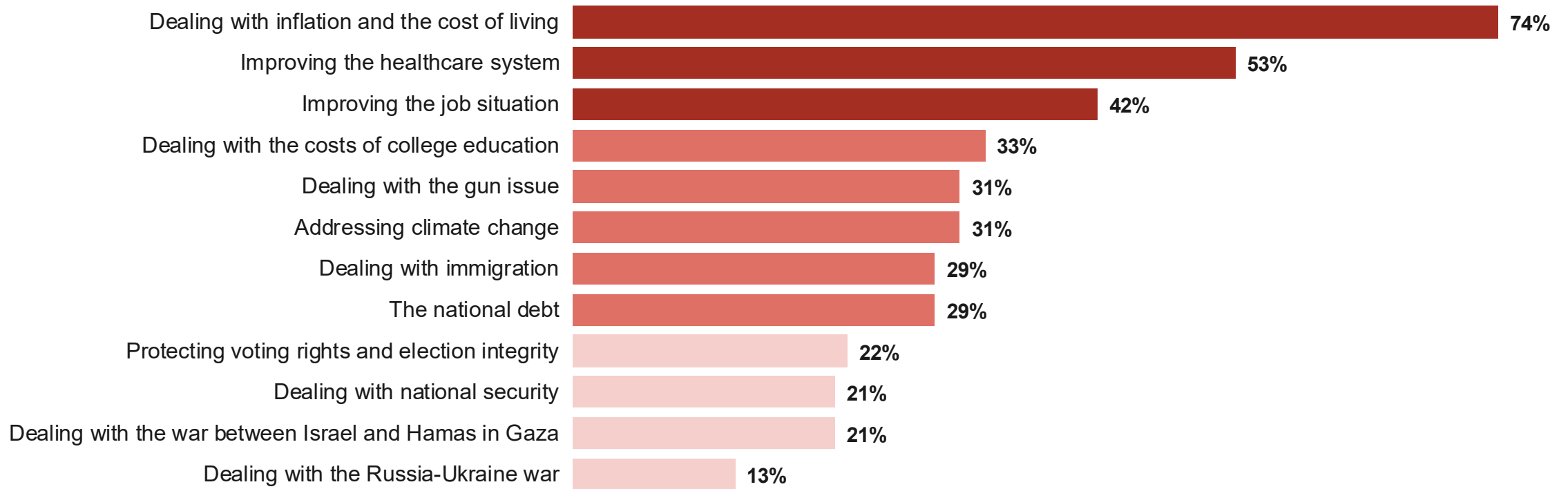
Views on the economy have dropped, with 7 in 10 college students now offering a negative assessment.

Assessment of the Nation's Economy



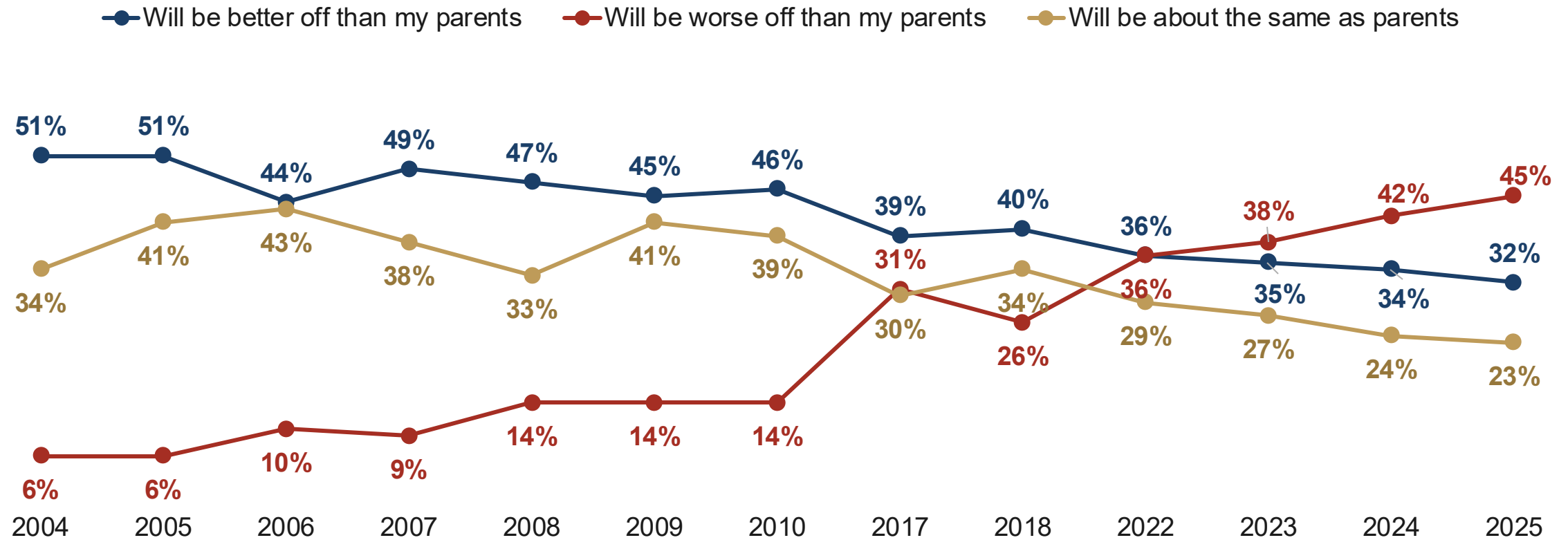
Cost of living is THE dominant issue for college students personally.

FOUR Most Important Issues to Me Personally



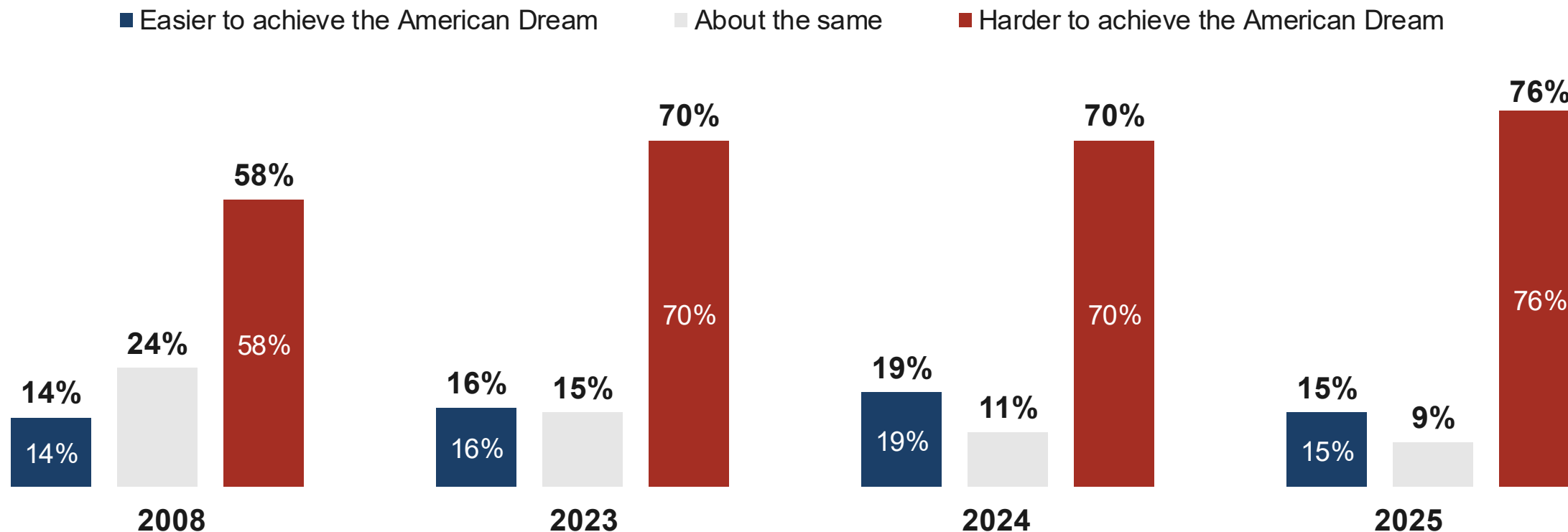
A new low: college students are more likely to believe that they will be worse off than their parents' generation.

Students' Expectations for their Financial Situation

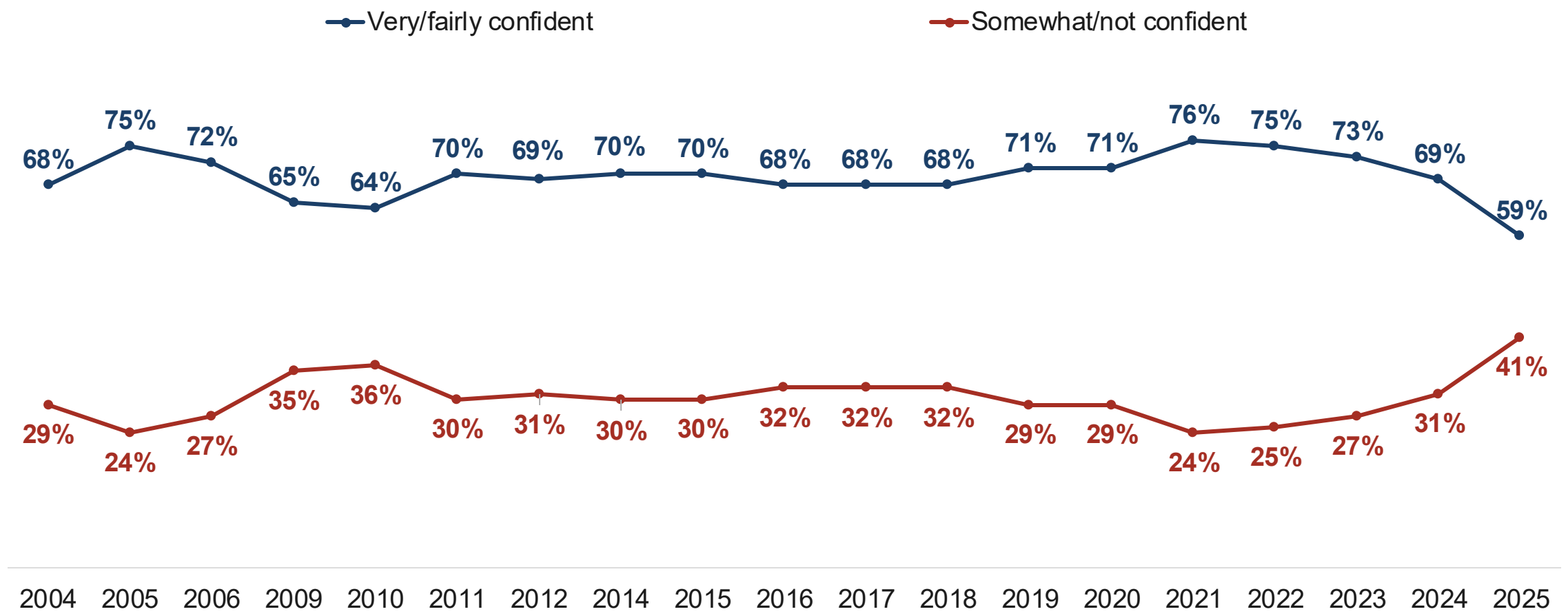


A new low: 76% of college students believe it is harder to achieve the American Dream compared to their parents' generation.

Compared with your parents' generation, do you think achieving the American Dream will be easier, harder, or about the same for people in your generation?



Low confidence: A record low share of college students believe they will be able to find an acceptable job upon graduation.



The Impact of Student Loan Debt

51%

have taken out student loans.

89%

of those who have taken out
loans expect to have debt
after graduation.

\$39,804

is the average amount of debt.

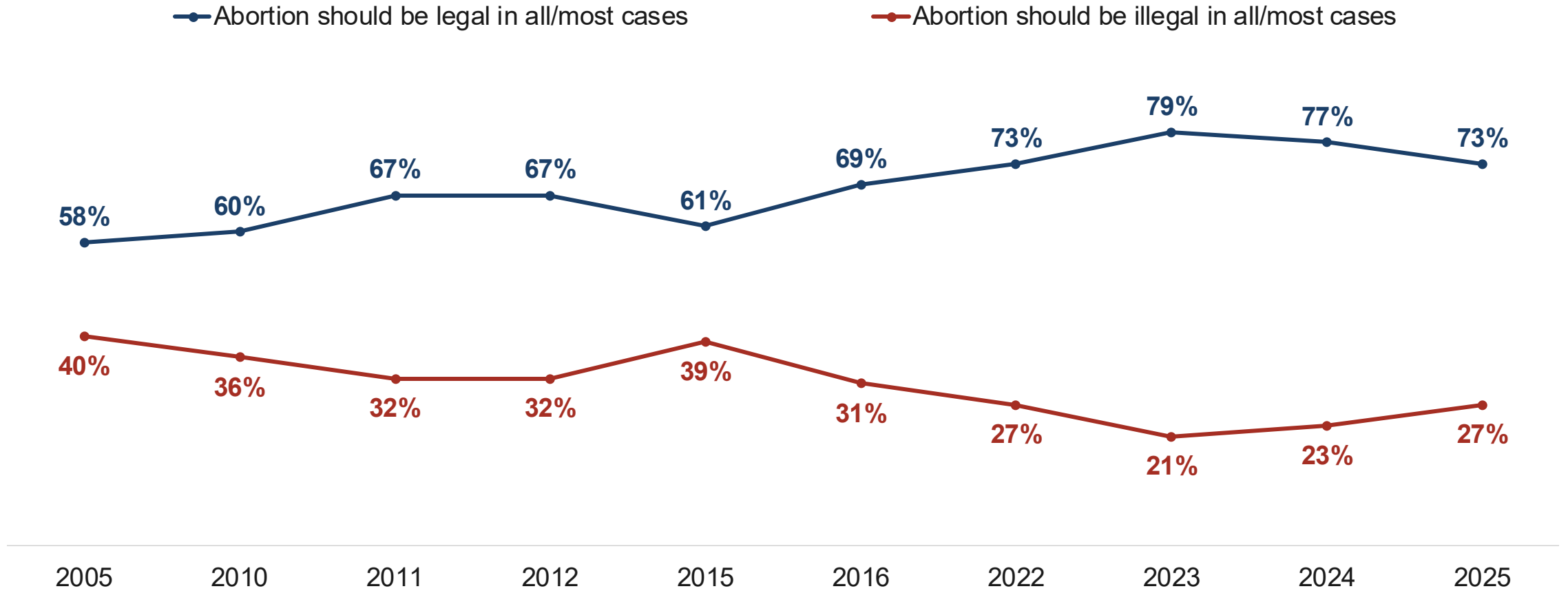
60%

expect it will take six years or longer to pay off.

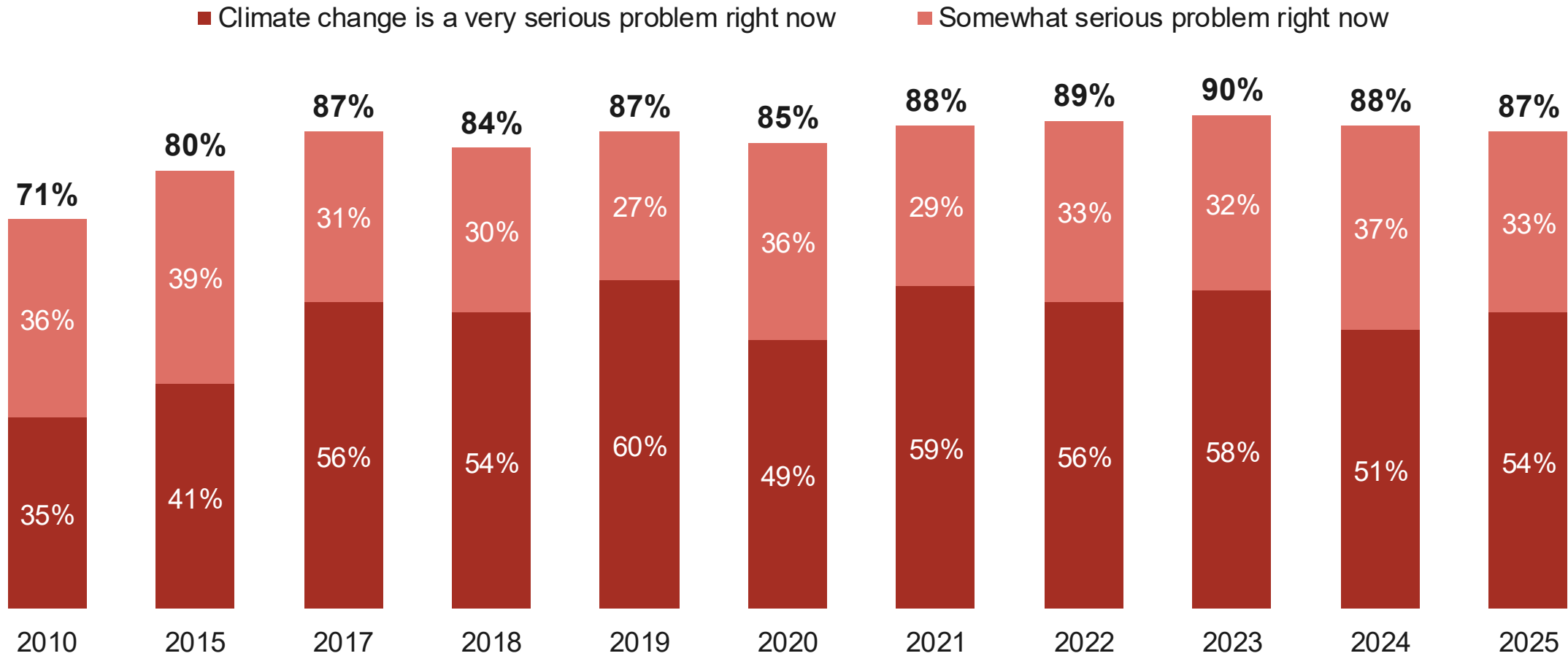
60%

say their debt will have a high impact on the
job they pursue upon graduation.

Seven in ten college students believe that abortion should be legal.

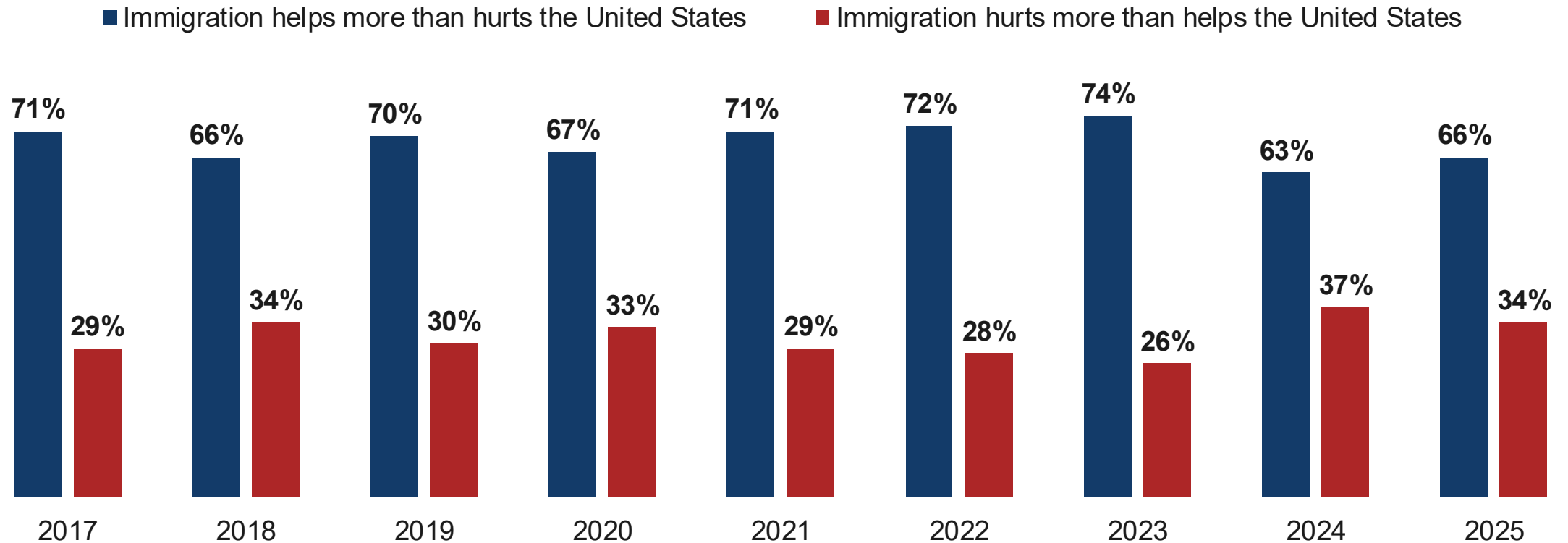


The vast majority of college students believe that climate change is a serious problem right now.



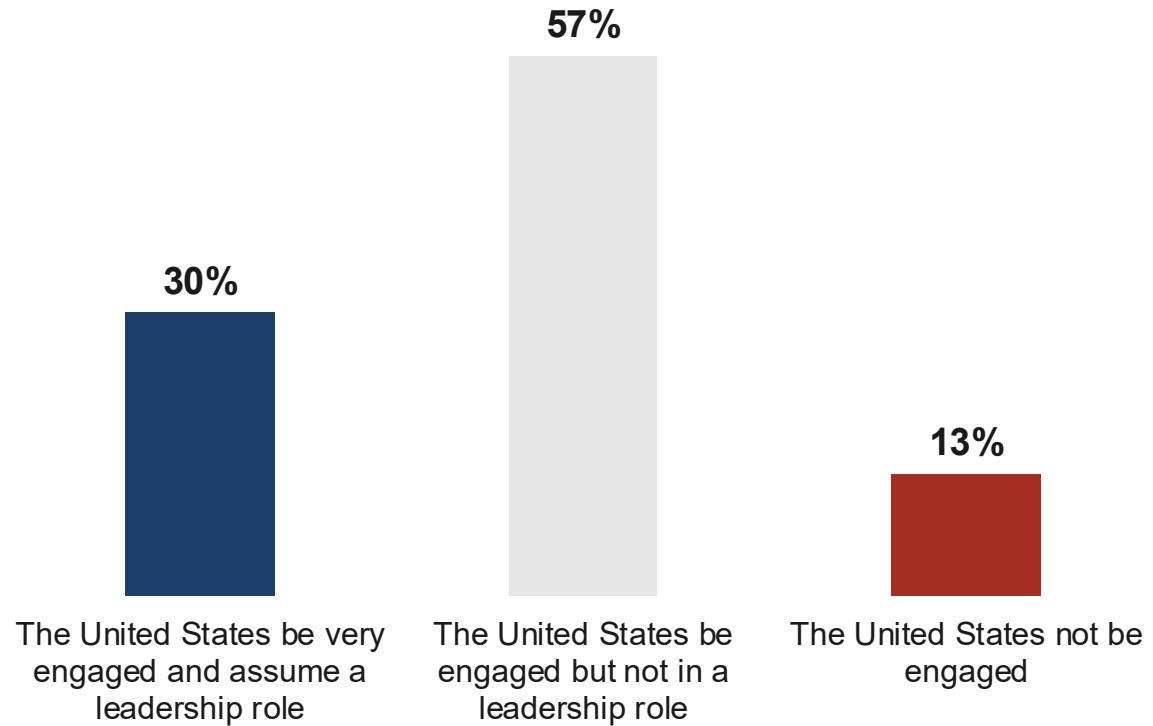
Two in three college students believe that immigration helps more than it hurts the United States.

Impact of Immigration on the United States

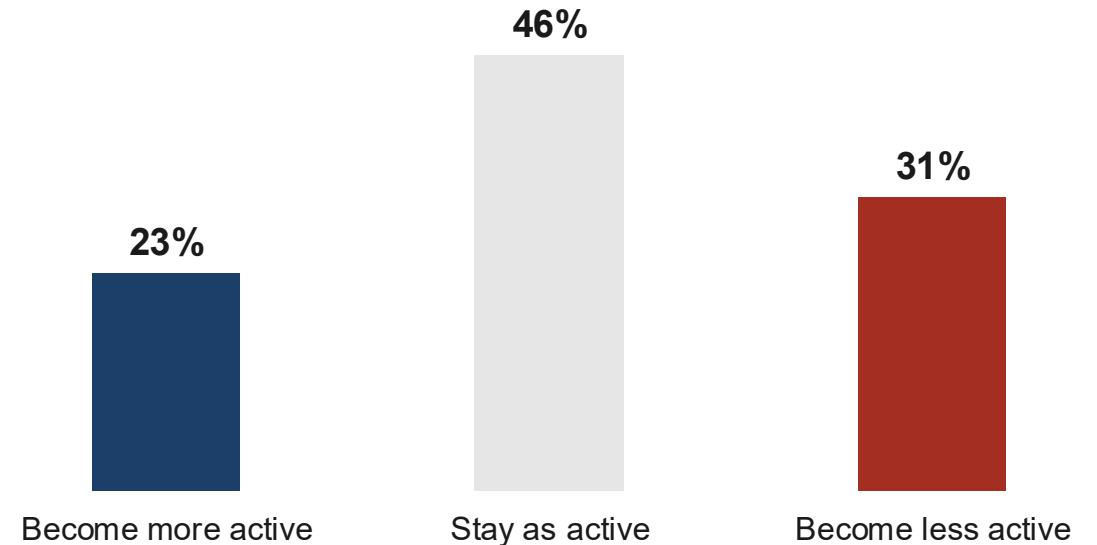


College students want the United States to be engaged in world affairs, though they prefer that this not be in a leadership role. The preference is that America remain as active as it is now.

Preference for U.S. Role in World Affairs

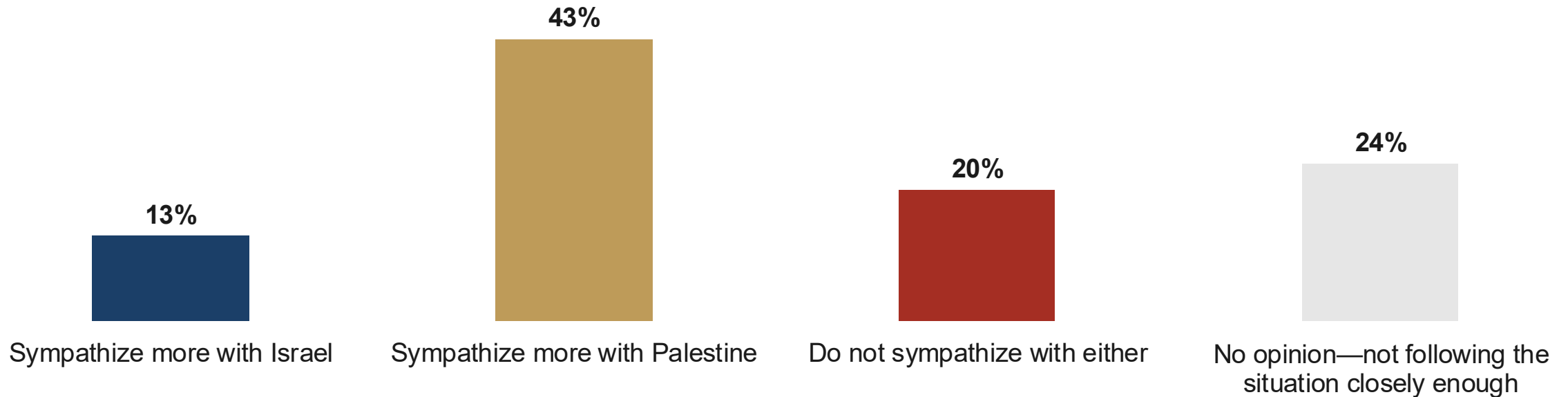


Preference for U.S. in World Affairs



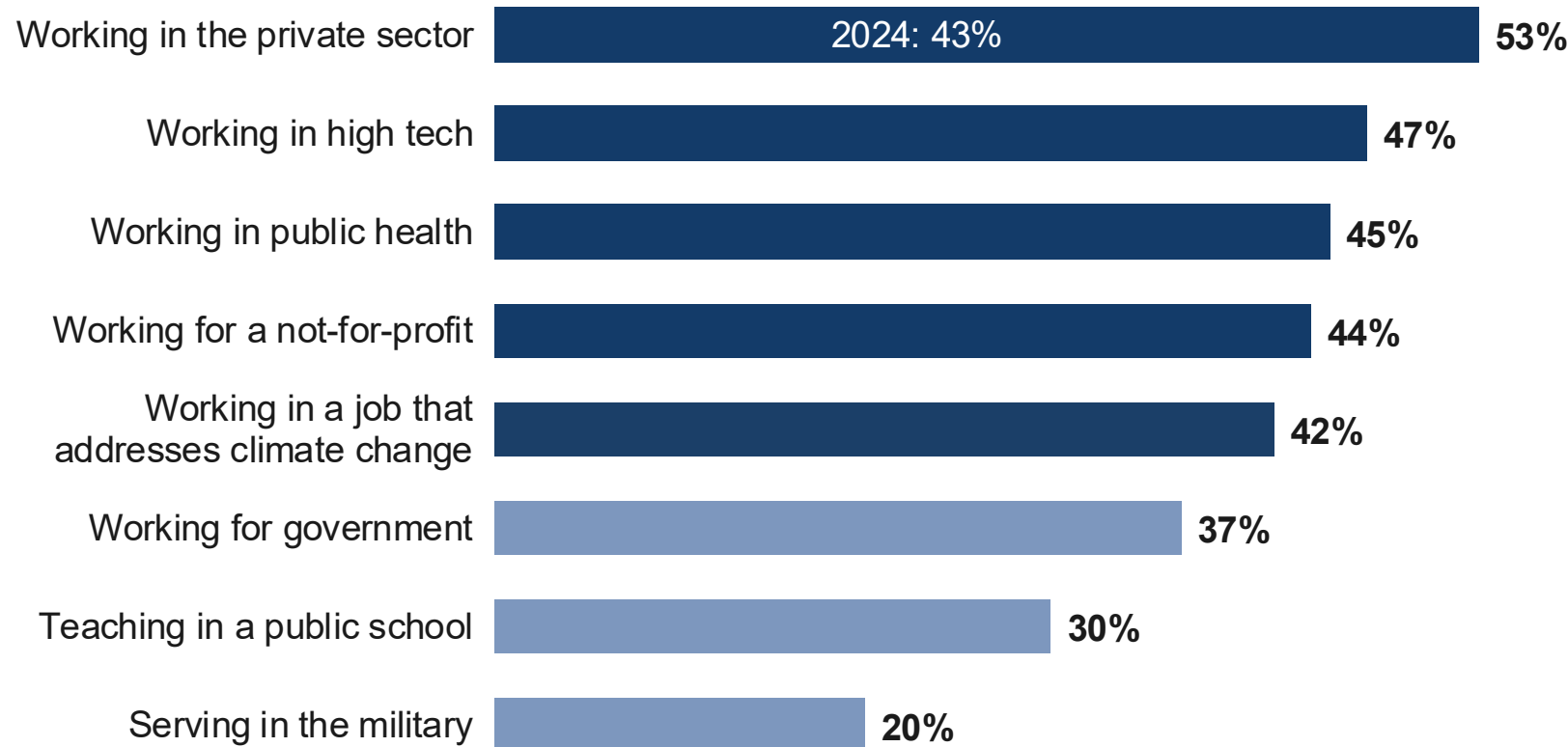
A plurality say they sympathize more with Palestine than with Israel.

Sympathies in War in Gaza



Many students report high interest in public service. There is a notable increase in interest in working in the private sector.

I am very/fairly interested in:

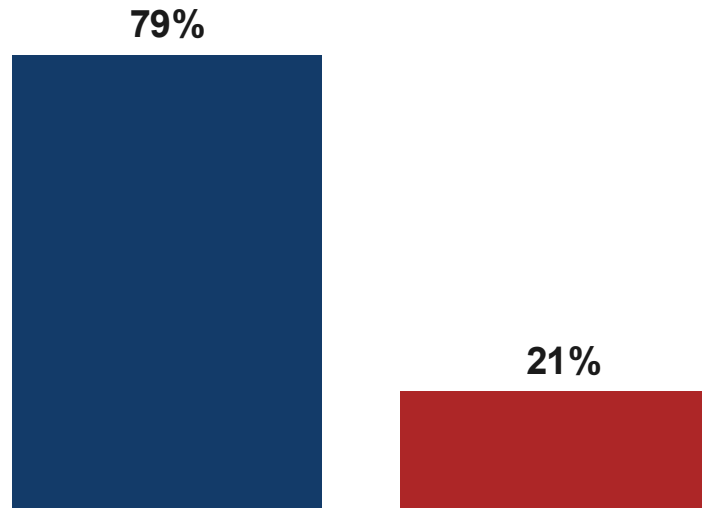


- 33% express interest in running for federal office, like Congress or Senate; 34% say they would be interested in running for local or state office.
- 23% have considered service organizations after college, such as Teach for America, VISTA, or AmeriCorps.

A record high share of college students want government to be doing more. DOGE makes them less rather than more interested in working in government, and Elon Musk is net negative by 3:1.

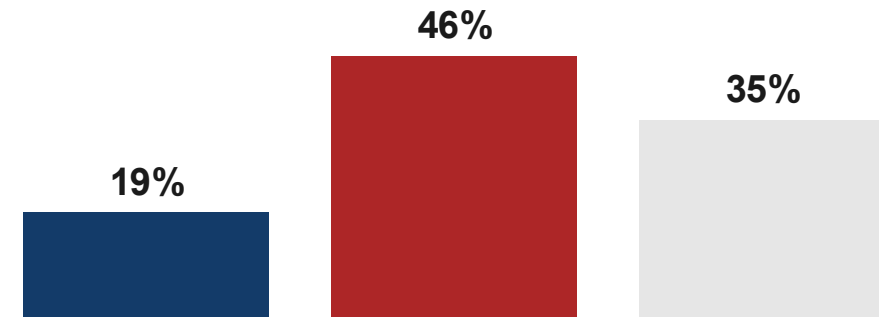
Which statement about the role of government comes closer to your point of view?

- Should do more to solve problems and help meet the needs of people.
- Is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals.



In thinking about pursuing a job or career in the federal government, have DOGE's actions made you...?

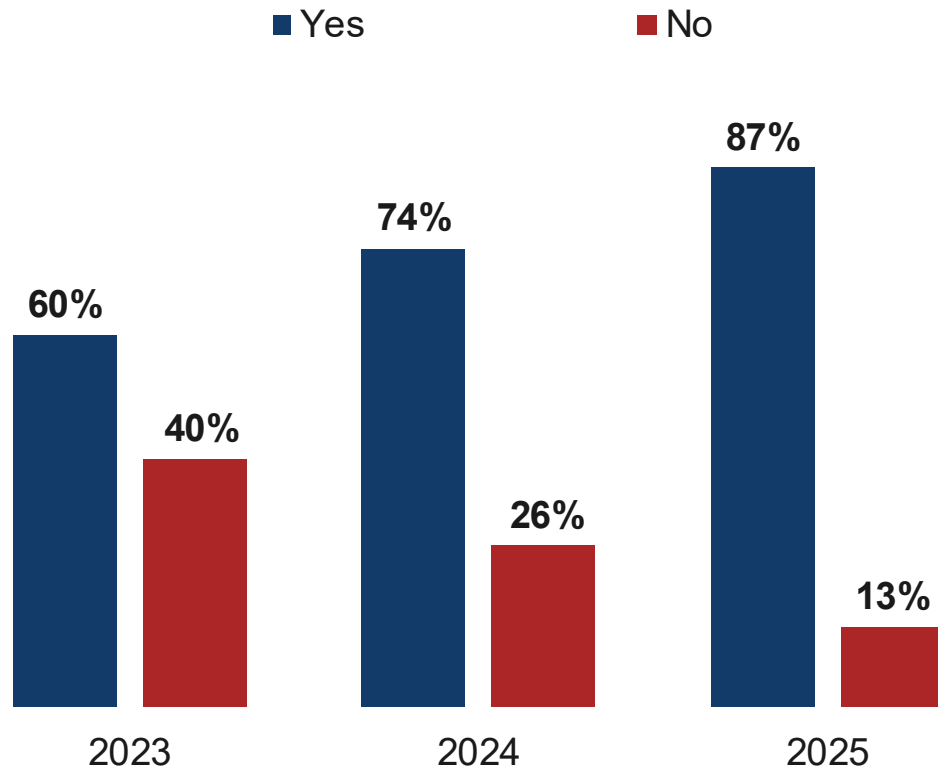
- More interested in working in the federal government
- Less interested in working in the federal government
- Had no impact either way



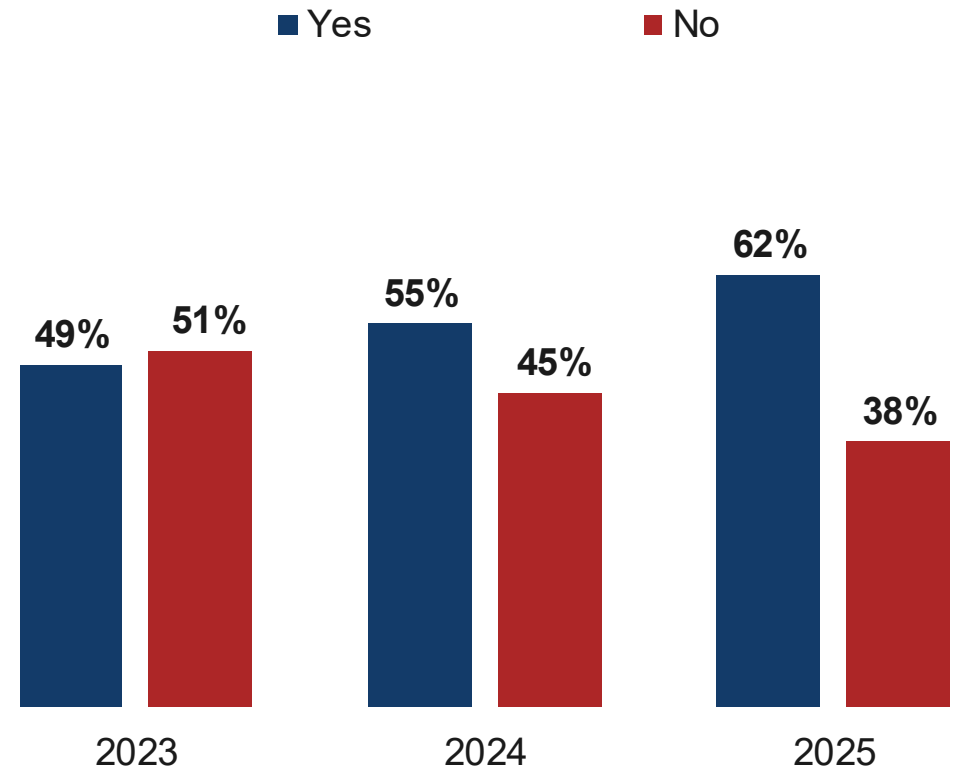
Just 20% view Elon Musk positively, with 63% giving him a negative rating, including 47% who say very negative.

Use of chatbots and awareness of others using chatbots in their work continues to increase year over year.

Have you used chatbots?

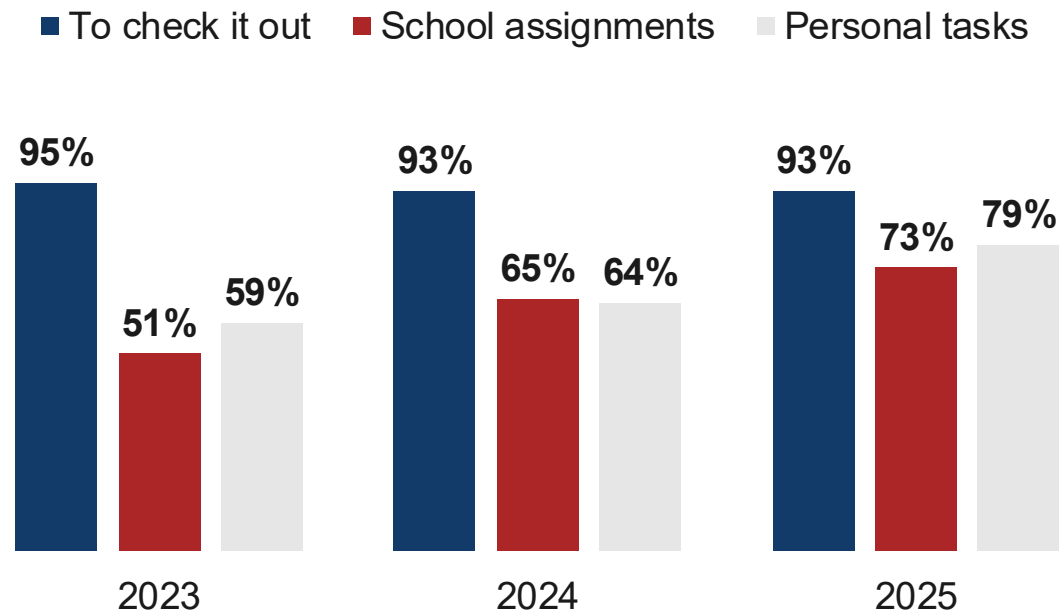


Do you know someone who has submitted work created by a chatbot as their own?

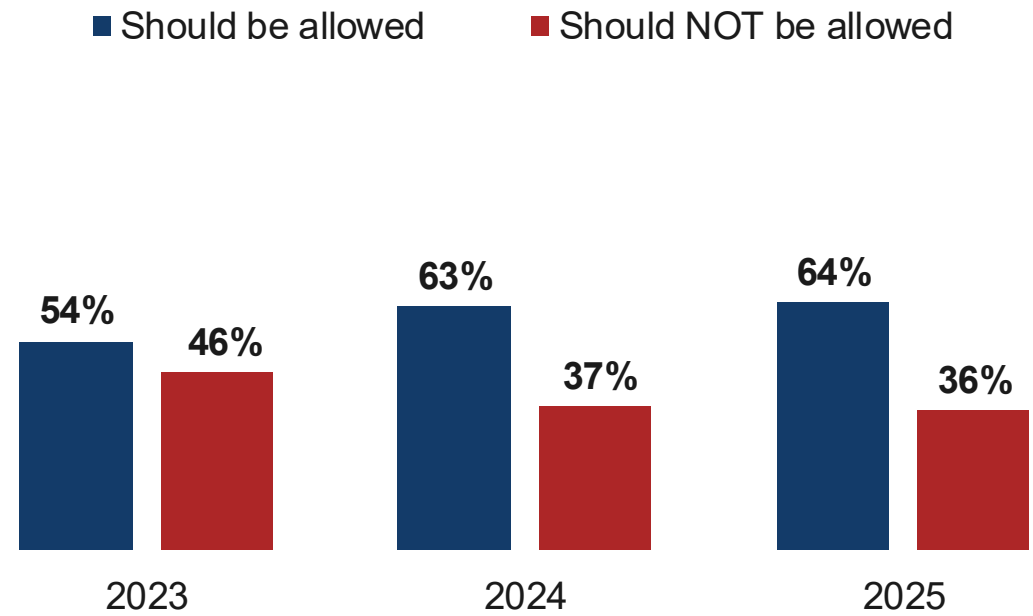


Among students that have used chatbots, they are more likely to use it for both personal tasks and school work. The share of students who believe chatbots should be allowed in work is steady.

In which of the following ways have you used a chatbot?



Should chatbots be allowed when completing school assignments?



Reliance on social media sites for information about politics and civic affairs is dominant, but has plateaued.

