

# American Democracy and Business

Poll of U.S. Business Leaders

JANUARY 2022

# KEY FINDINGS

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1. A strong majority of business leaders surveyed (85%) believe capitalism in the U.S. depends upon a well-functioning democracy. Many of those surveyed (72%) believe American democracy is being threatened right now.
2. Two-thirds of business leaders indicate a well-functioning democracy is *beneficial* to their businesses, while just over one-fourth say theirs are helped or unaffected by a dysfunctional democratic system.
3. Most business leaders surveyed believe U.S. companies should play a *major role* in upholding American democracy.
4. Similar shares (about  $\frac{3}{4}$ ) of respondents *support* the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.
5. Broad supports exists for amending House and Senate rules in the interest of passing voting rights legislation and the preserving democracy.

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DEMOCRACY AND INSTITUTIONS

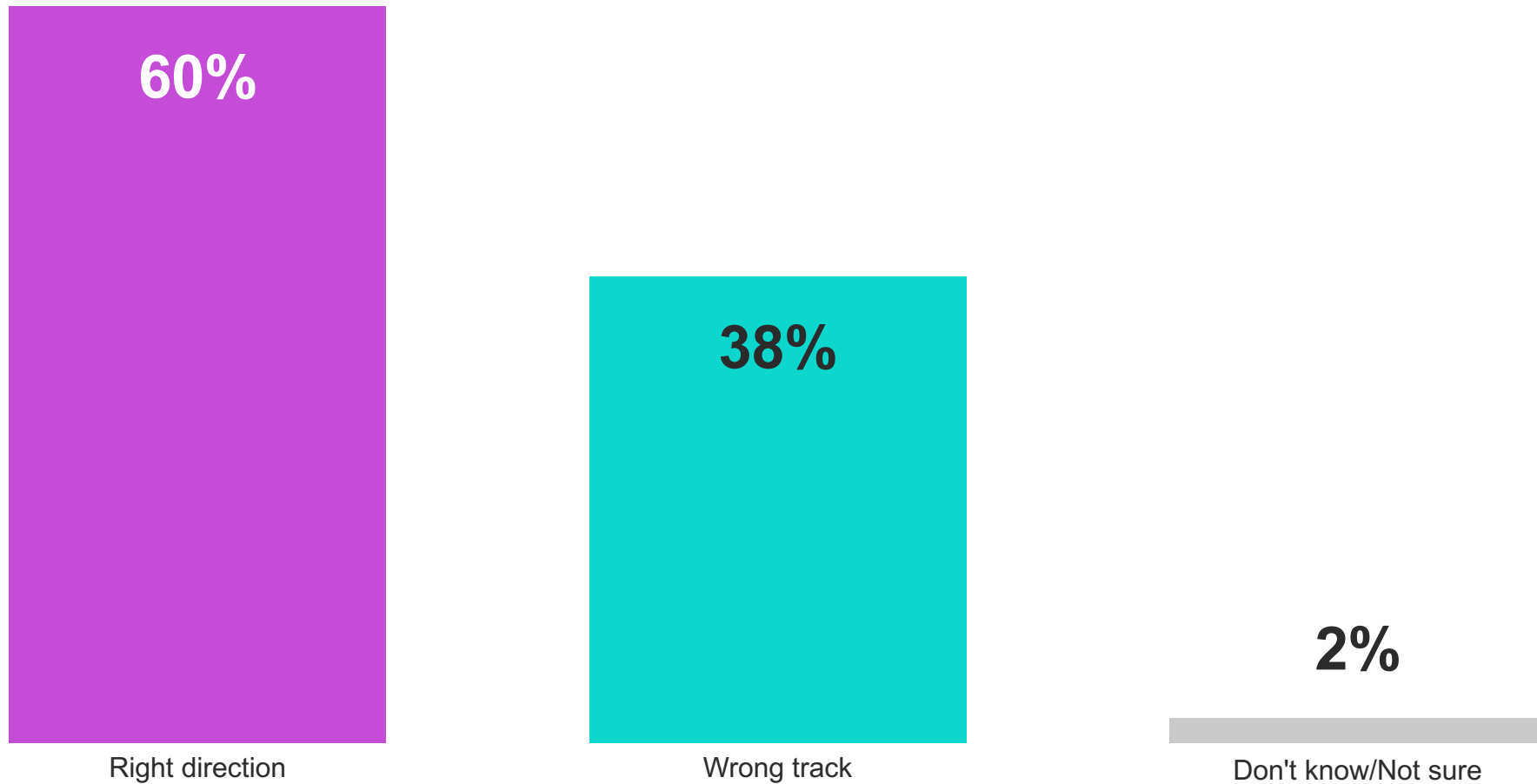
ELECTION CONFIDENCE

POLICY POSITIONS



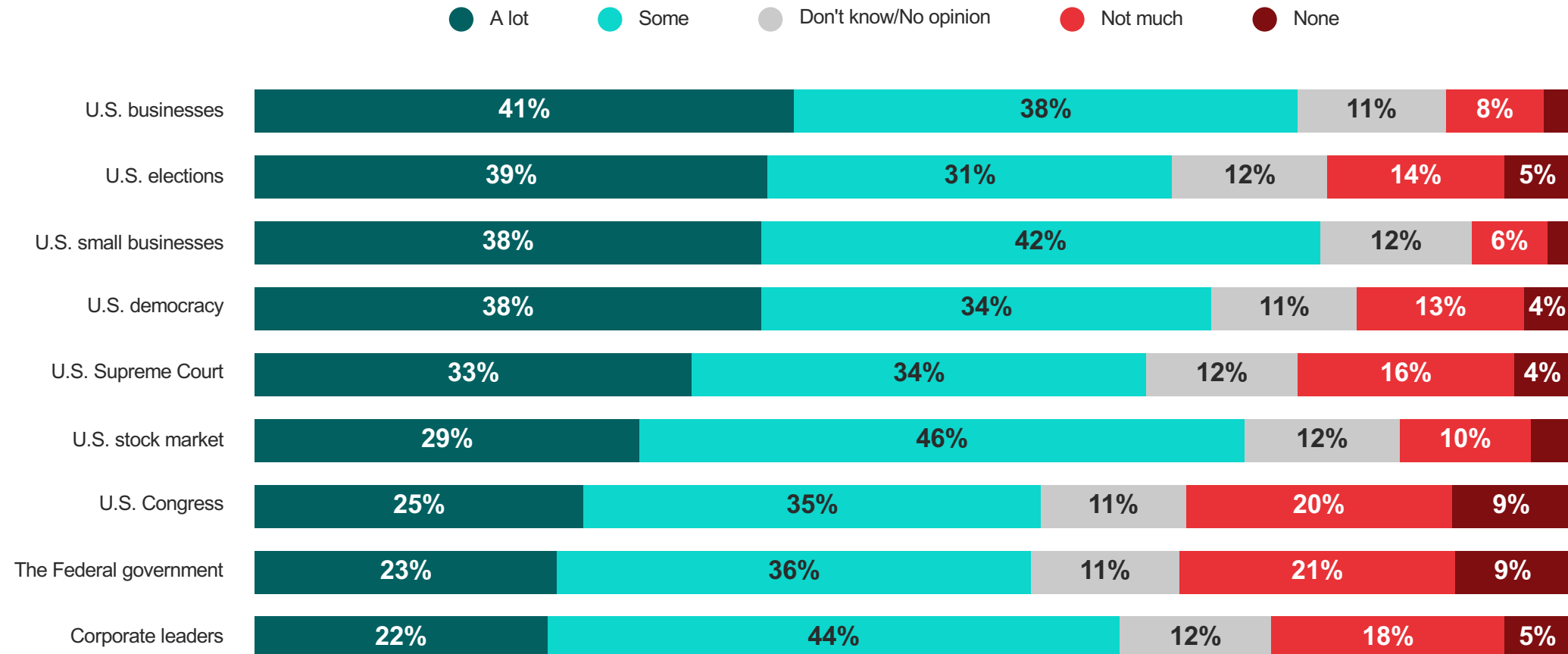
Three in five business leaders surveyed say the U.S. is headed in *the right direction*.

Would you say the United States is headed in the right direction, or is it off on the wrong track?



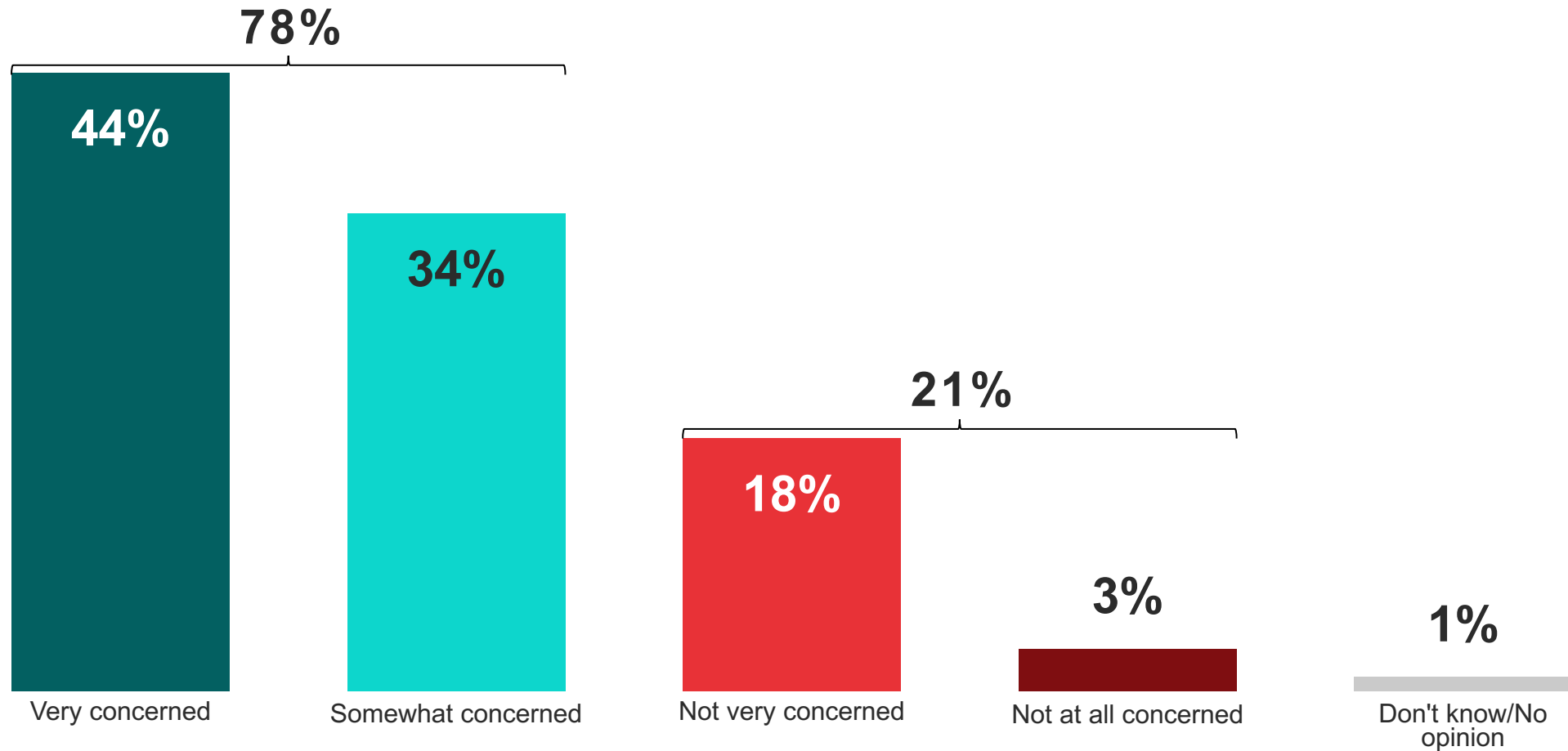
# Most business leaders surveyed expressed at least *some* confidence in the nine institutions tested.

How much confidence, if any, do you have in the following?



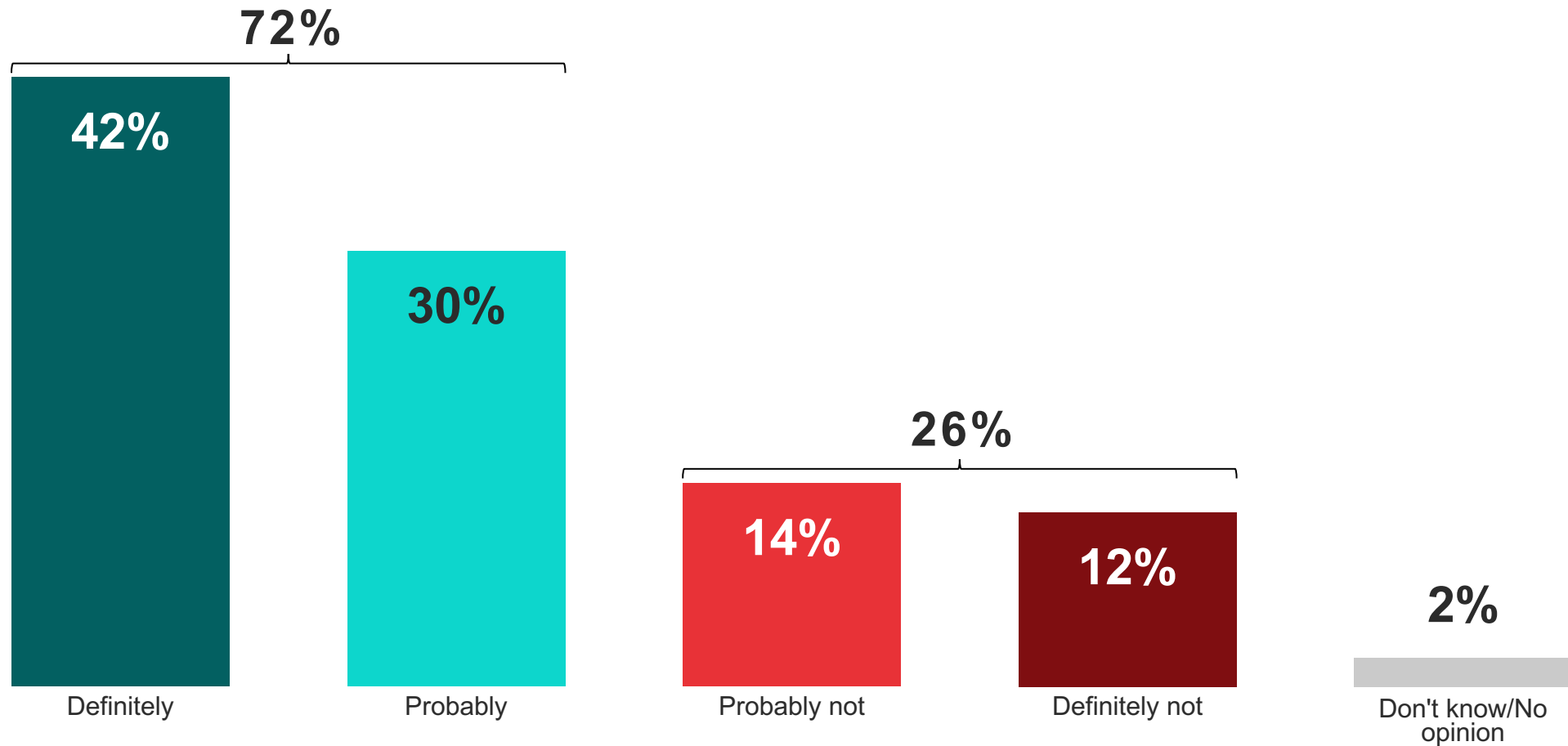
Forty-four percent of respondents are *very concerned* about the state of democracy in the United States.

How concerned are you, if at all, about the state of U.S. democracy?



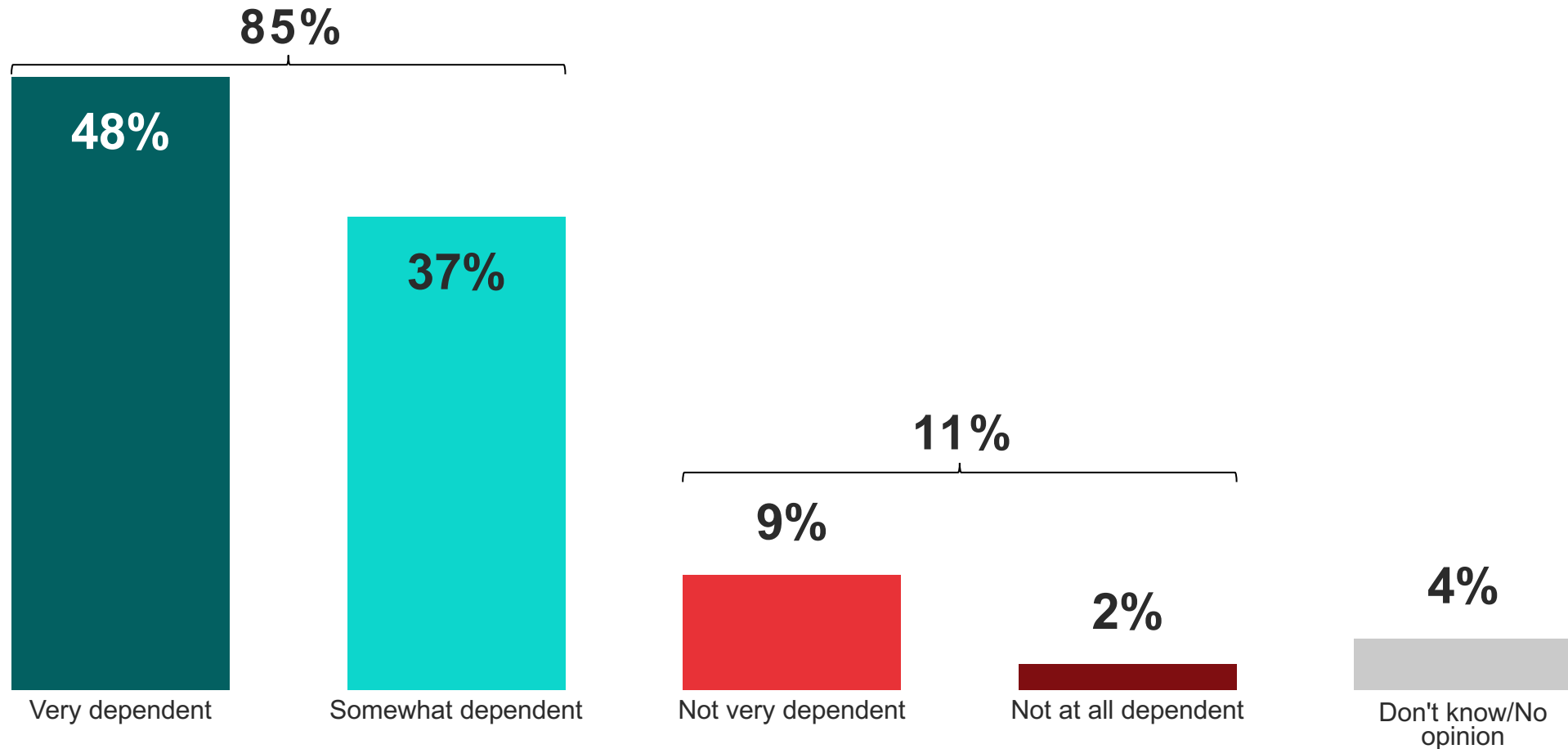
Only about a quarter of business leaders express doubt that America's democracy is currently being threatened. Two in five believe this is *definitely* the case.

In your view, is America's democracy currently being threatened?



Nearly half of those surveyed say capitalism is *very dependent* upon a well-functioning democracy. Few respondents (11%) *doubt* how closely the two are intertwined.

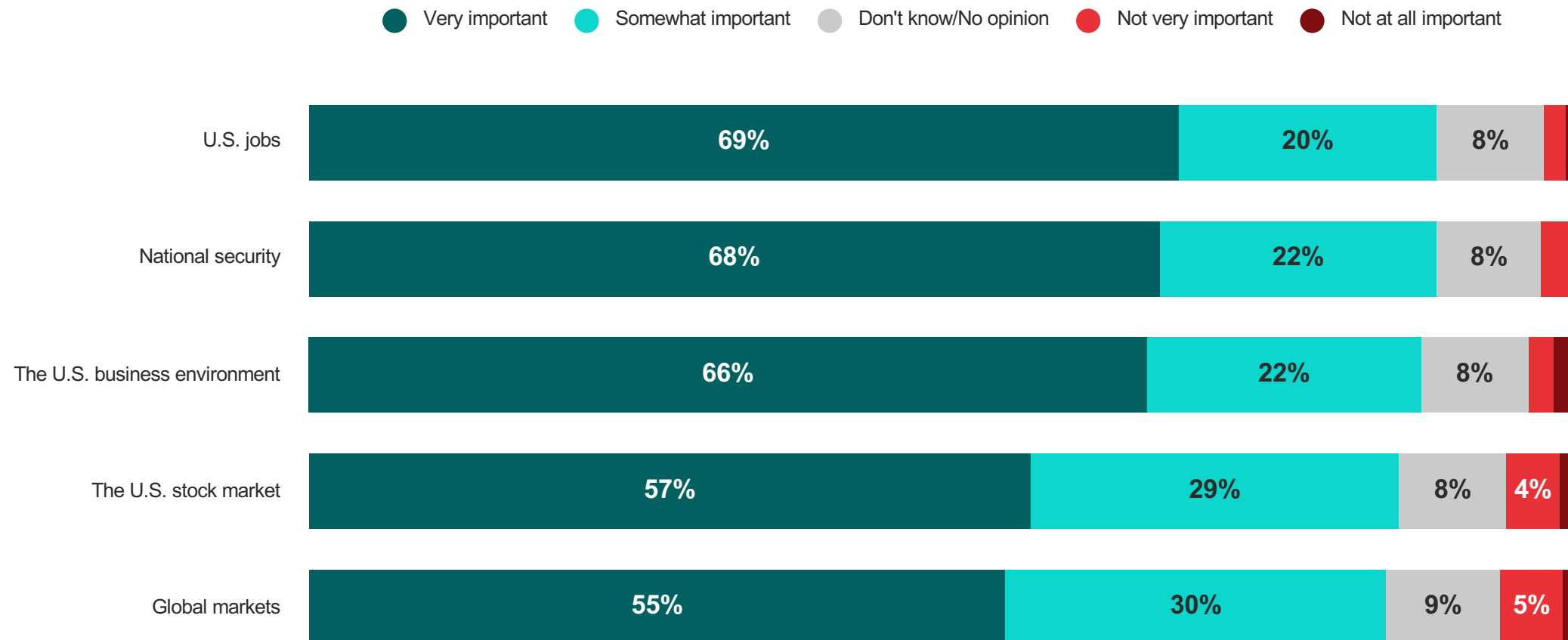
How dependent, if at all, is capitalism in the U.S. on a well-functioning democracy?





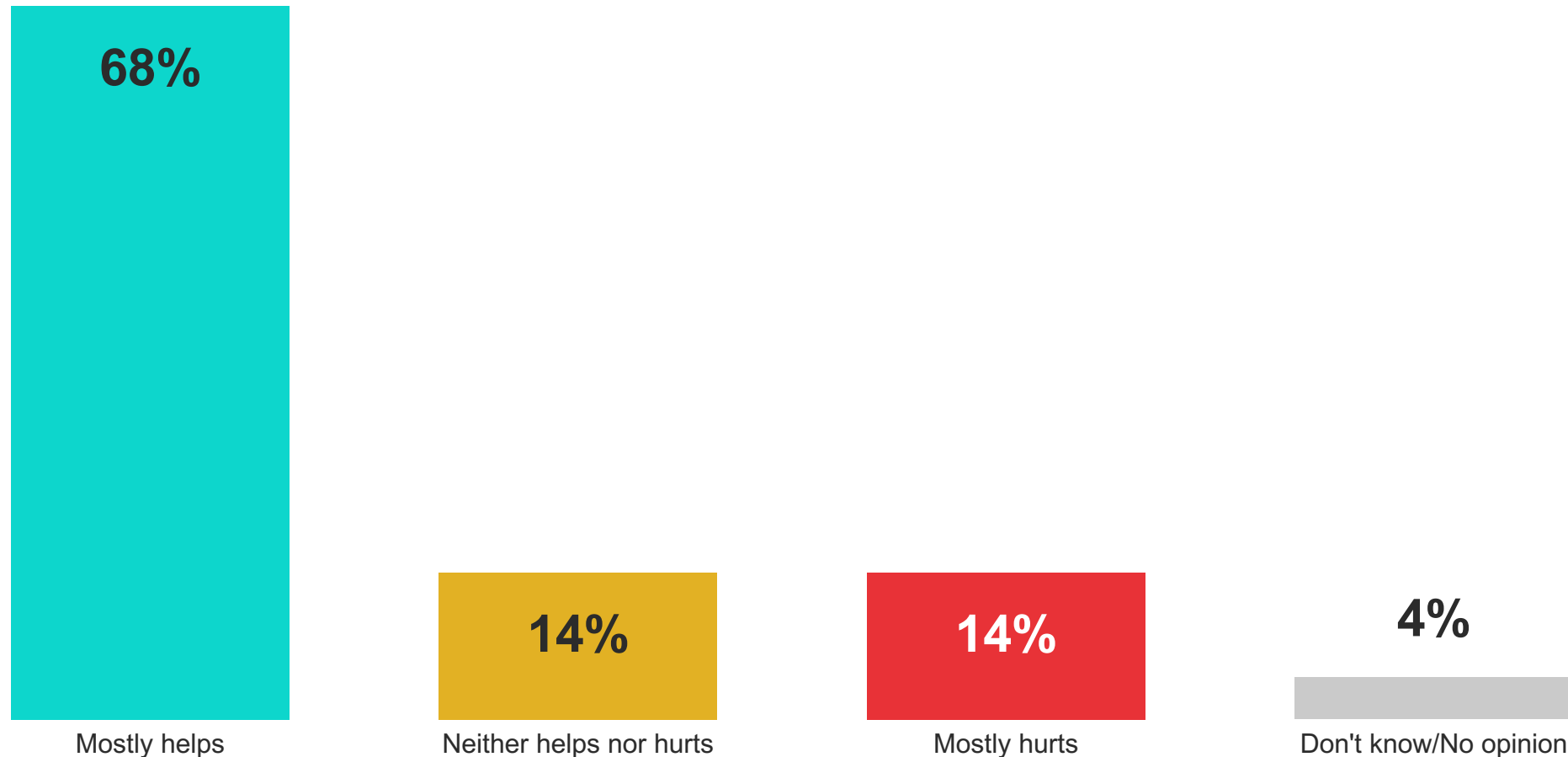
Nine in ten business leaders agree that a well-functioning democracy is *very* or *somewhat important* to the stability of the U.S. business environment and jobs.

How important, if at all, is a well-functioning democracy to the stability of each of the following?



Two in three business leaders say that a well-functioning democracy helps their business (or the business they work for).

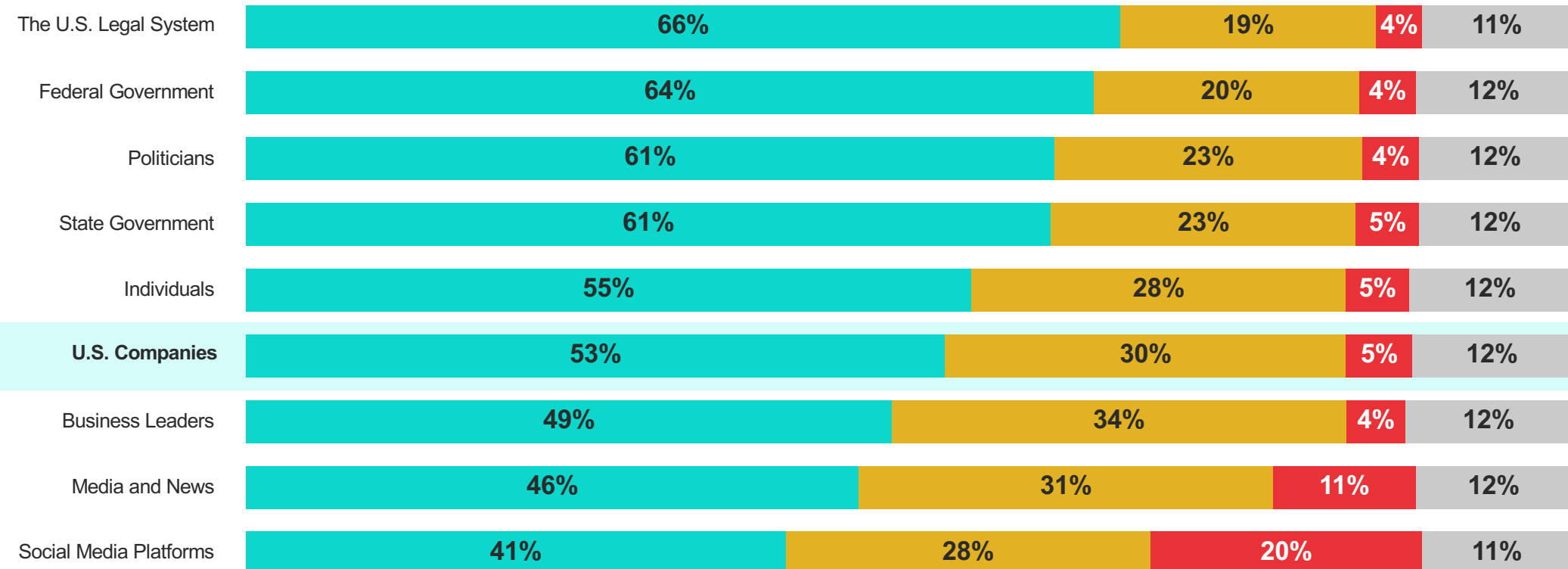
Asking this another way, would you say the existence of a well-functioning democracy mostly helps or mostly hurts your business (or the business for which you work)?



More than half (53%) of business leaders say that **U.S. companies** should play a major role in upholding American democracy.

How big of a role, if at all, should each of the following have in upholding American democracy?

● A major role
 ● A minor role
 ● No role at all
 ● Don't know/no opinion



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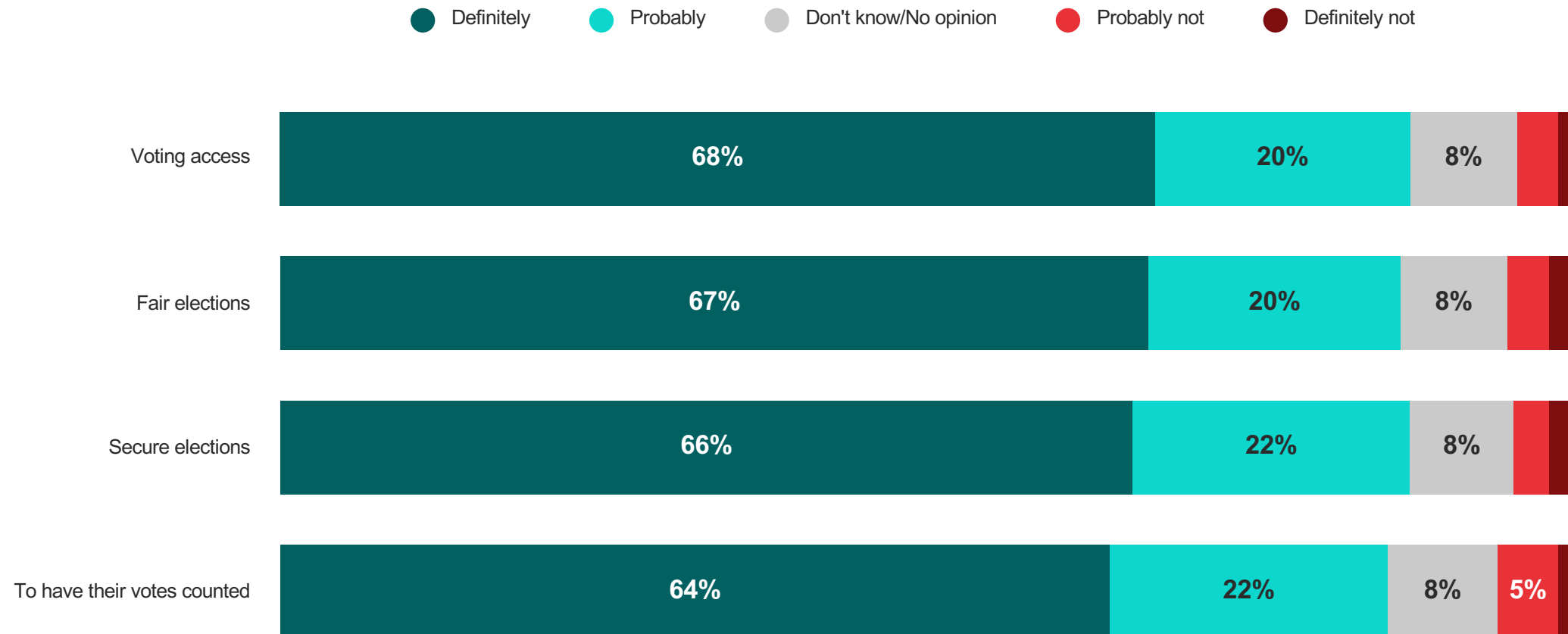
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## Vast majorities of business leaders surveyed expect access to vote in fair and secure elections where all votes are counted.

In your view, do your U.S.-based employees expect each of the following from U.S. elections?



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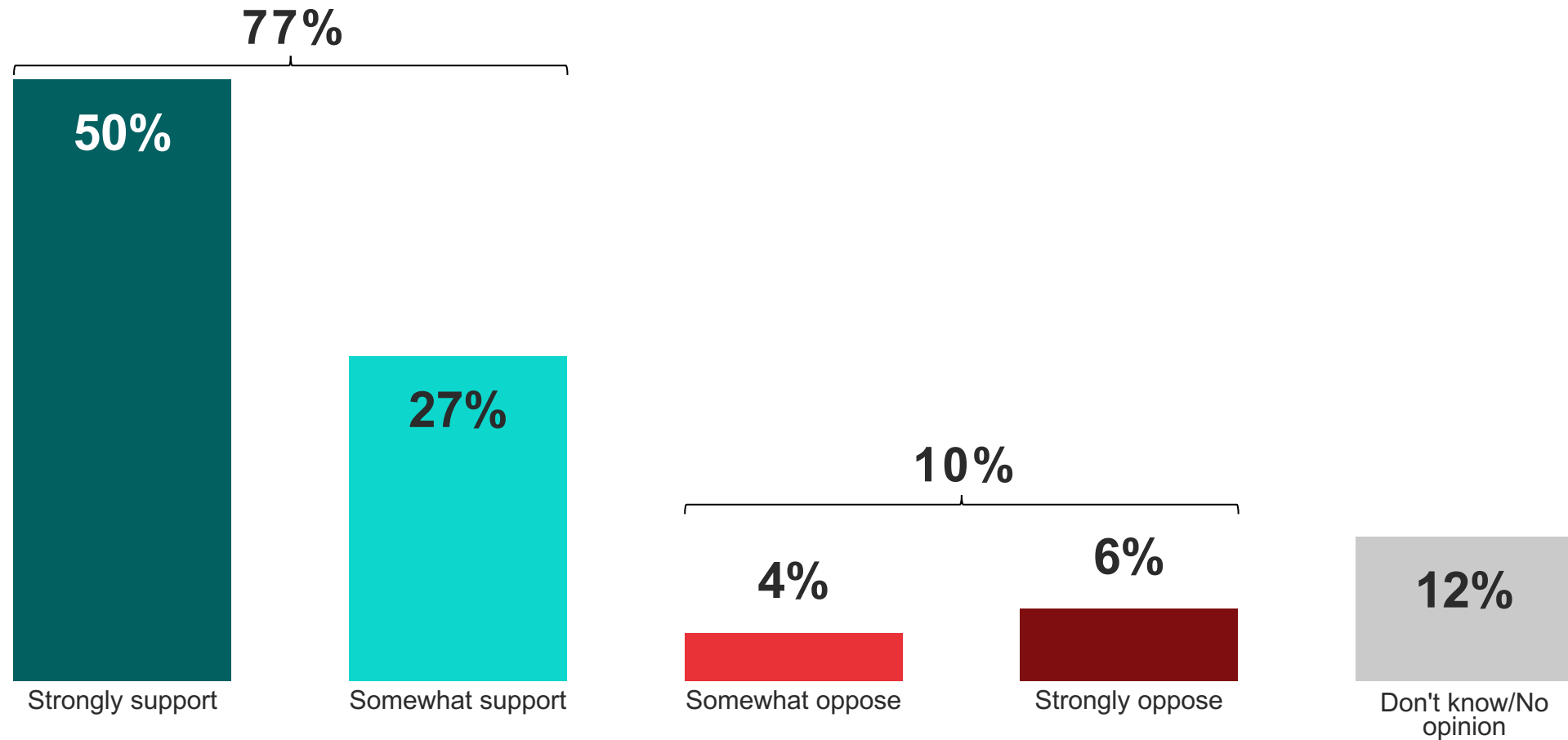
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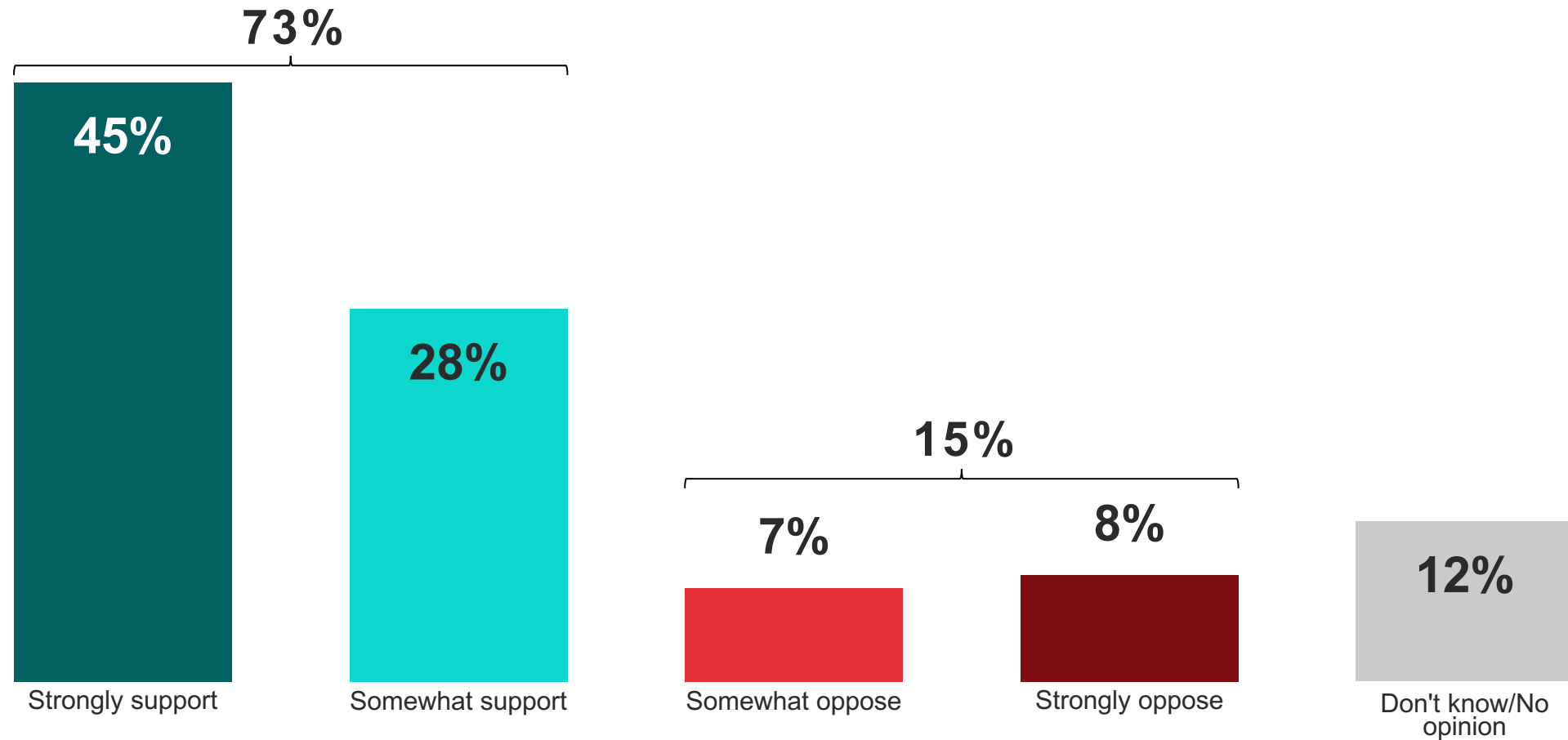
## Nearly eight in ten business leaders support the passage of the Freedom to Vote Act.

Based on what you know, do you support or oppose the passage of the Freedom to Vote Act to address voter registration and voting access, election integrity and security, redistricting, and campaign finance?



## Three in four business leaders support (73%) the passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

Based on what you know, do you support or oppose the passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act to reinstate U.S. Department of Justice preclearance of changes in state voting laws to ensure that local authorities do not pass discriminatory restrictions on voting?

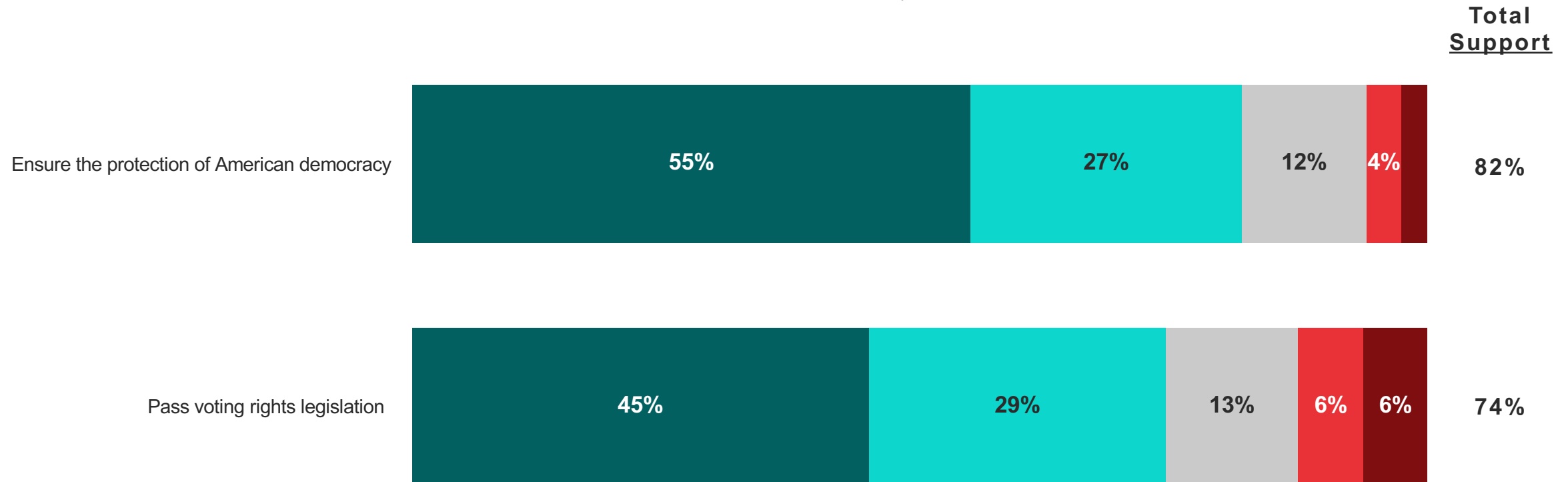




## Leaders express overwhelming support for amending House and Senate rules to protect American democracy and pass voting rights legislation.

Do you support or oppose amending House and Senate rules to do each of the following?

● Strongly support ● Somewhat support ● Don't know/No opinion ● Somewhat oppose ● Strongly oppose





## Business Leader Qualifications

Age: 18+

Employed in private sector OR self-employed

Size of company: 250+ employees

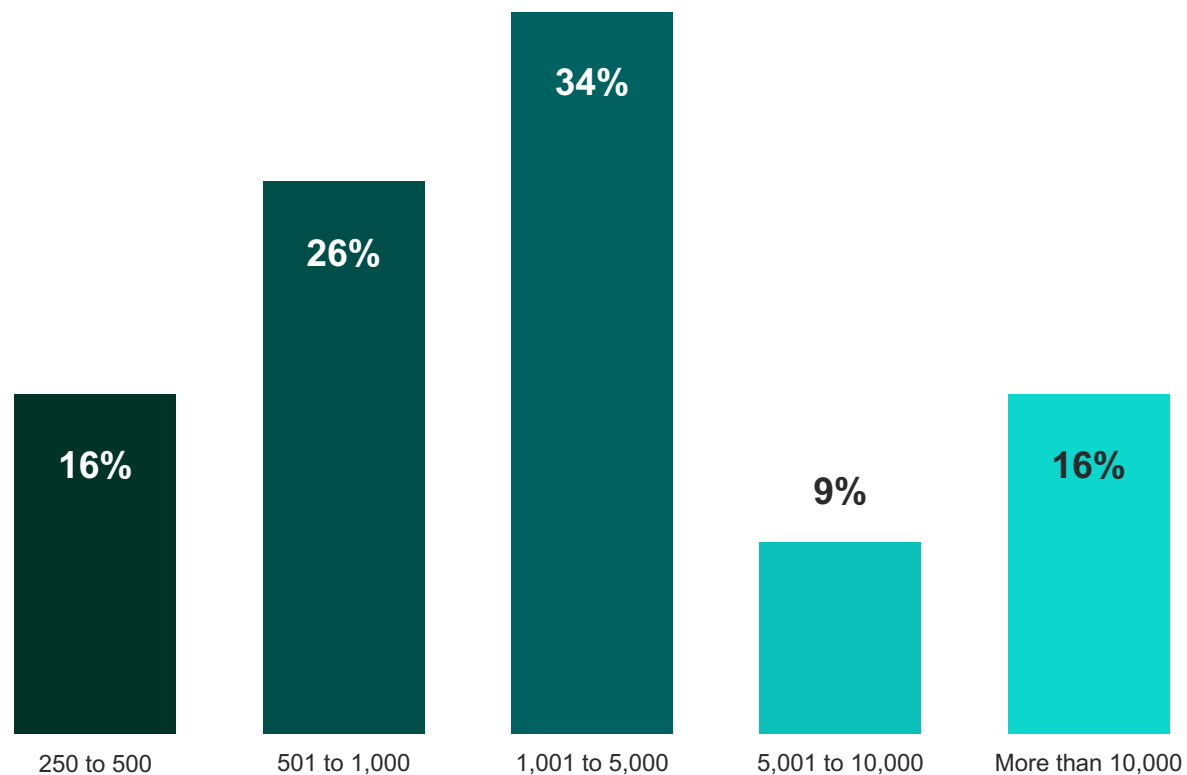
Role: Director, VP, or C-Suite level

## Methodology

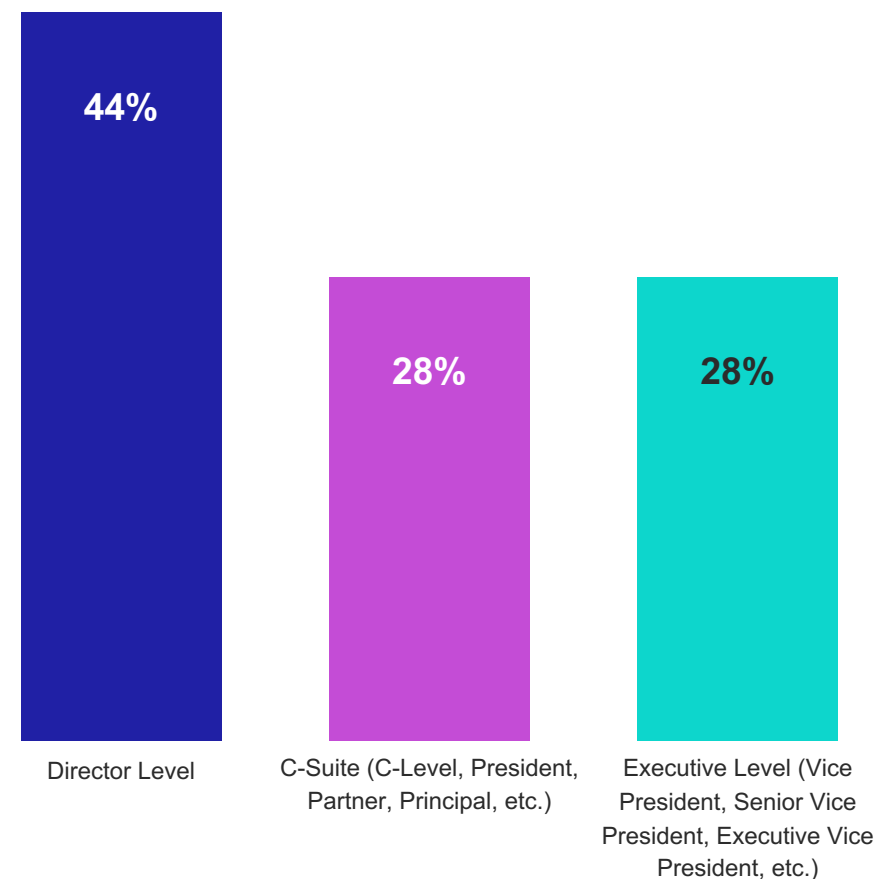
This poll was conducted between December 28-30, 2021 among a national sample of 400 business leaders. Interviews were conducted online. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 5%.

## APPENDIX: SAMPLE BREAKDOWN

How many total full-time employees, including the owner, are currently employed by your business? (To the best of your knowledge, please include the total number of employees at all locations and departments for your business).

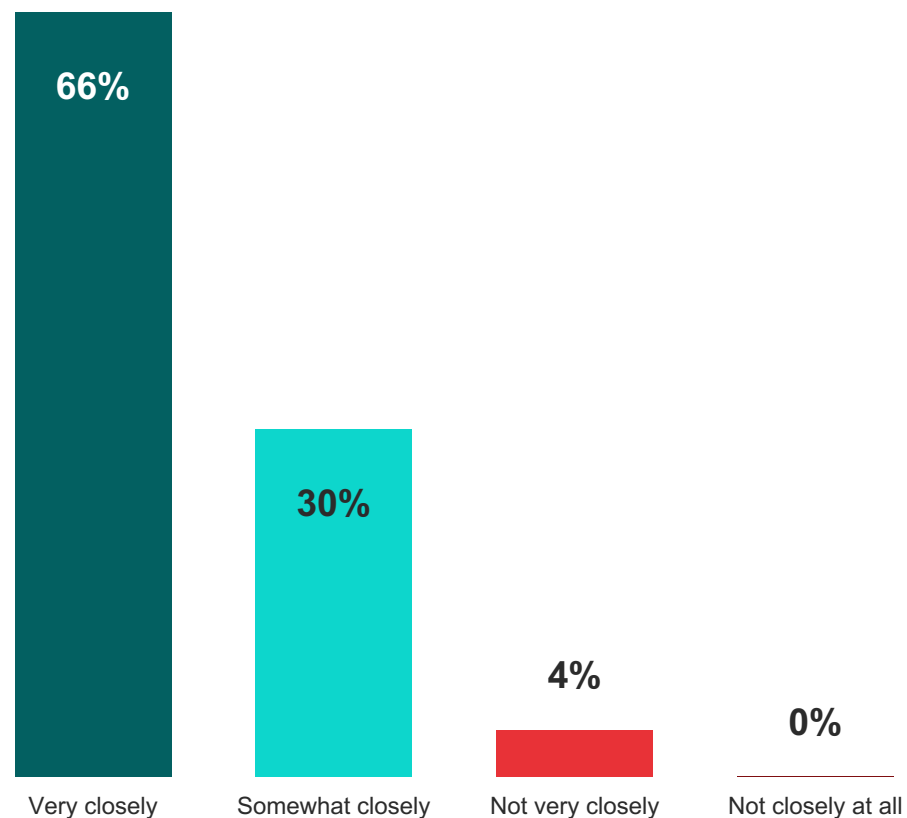


Which of the following best describes your job level?



## APPENDIX: SAMPLE BREAKDOWN

How closely do you follow the news?



Would you say your knowledge about politics and public policy is above average or below average?

