

Public Opinion Poll: Blagoevgrad

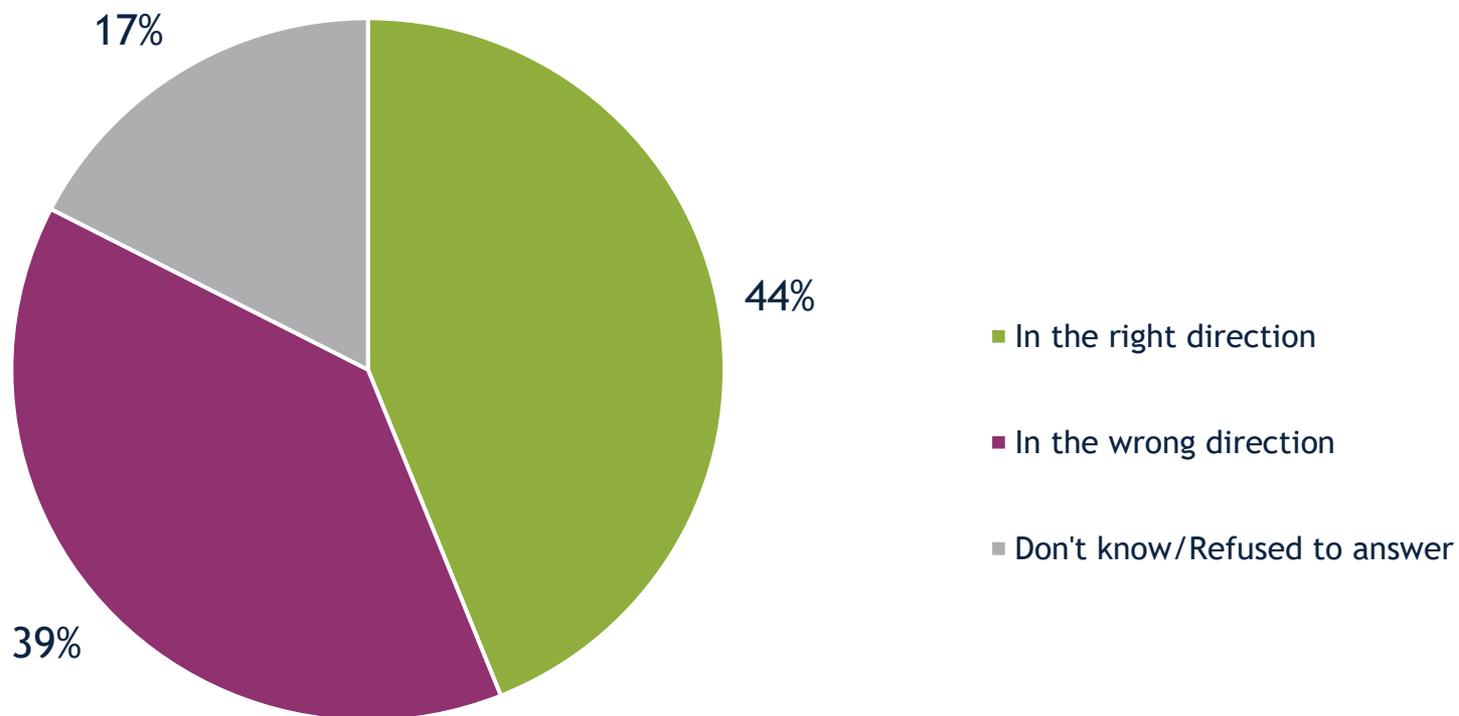
February 2022



Methodology

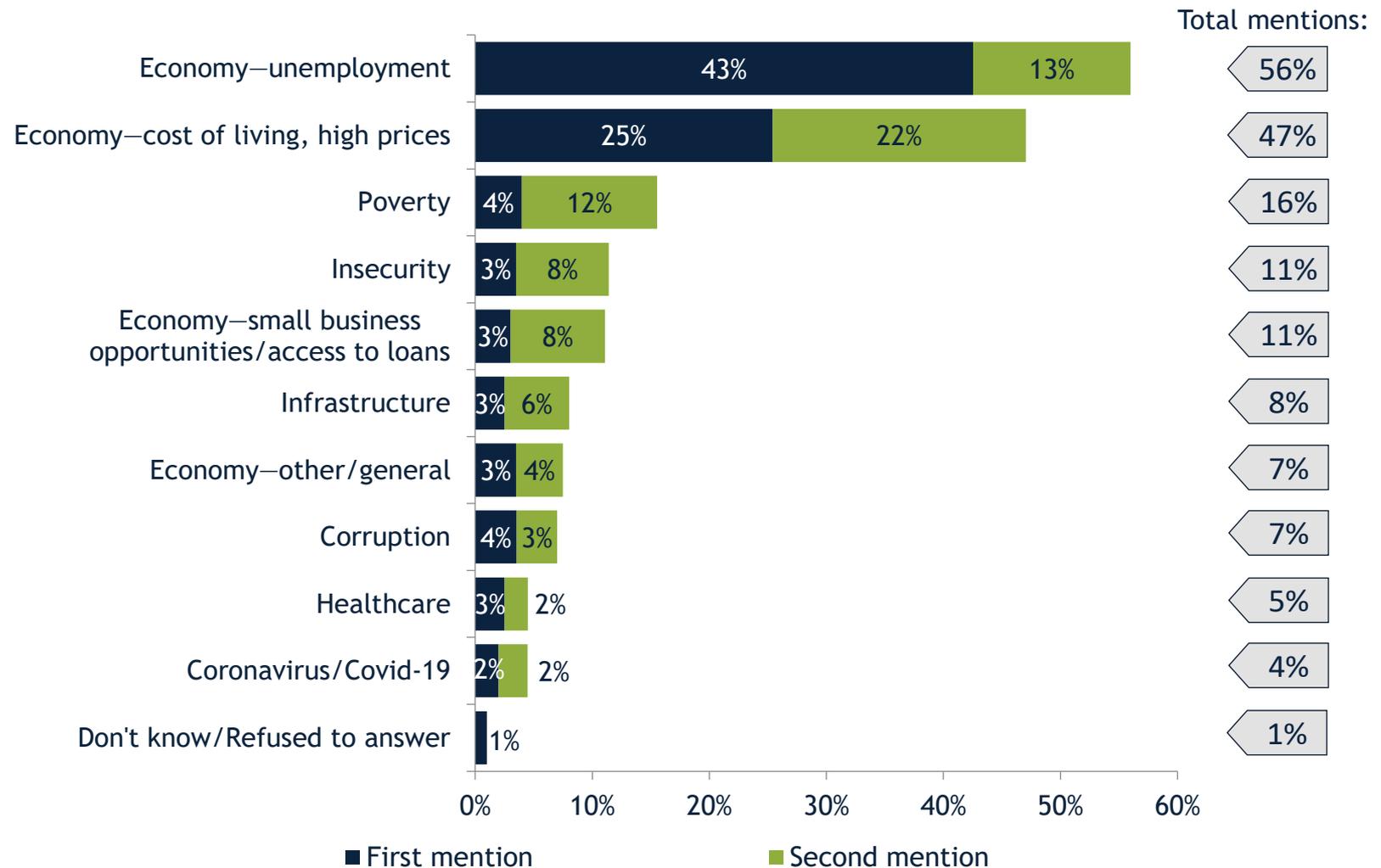
- The survey was conducted on behalf of the International Republican Institute's [Center for Insights in Survey Research](#) by research and consulting company [ESTAT Ltd.](#)
- Data was collected between February 14 - February 25, 2022 through CAPI administered face-to-face interviews.
- The sample for Blagoevgrad consisted of n=200 adults, aged 18 and older.
- The sample in the municipality was structured in a way to fully represent the official distribution for 2020, provided by the National Statistical Institute since no official data for 2021 was published at the time. Settlements and districts were the primary sampling units (PSU), each PSU within the municipality has been selected randomly but at the same time using probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling. PPS stratification by urban/rural was applied too and represented the distribution per municipality for 2020.
- After all sampling points within the municipality have been selected, a starting point within the sampling point (area) has been randomly selected. The selection of households was based on a random route method. In urban areas, every 3rd house was selected. In rural areas, every 5th house or block of flats and if a block of flats, every 5th apartment from only one entrance.
- The survey respondents in the study were selected within each household using the Kish grid method.
- The achieved sample was weighted for gender and type of settlement.
- The response rate was 62 percent.
- The margin of error for the sample for the municipality does not exceed ± 6.9 points at 95 percent confidence level.
- Charts and graphs may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

In general, would you say that your municipality is heading in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

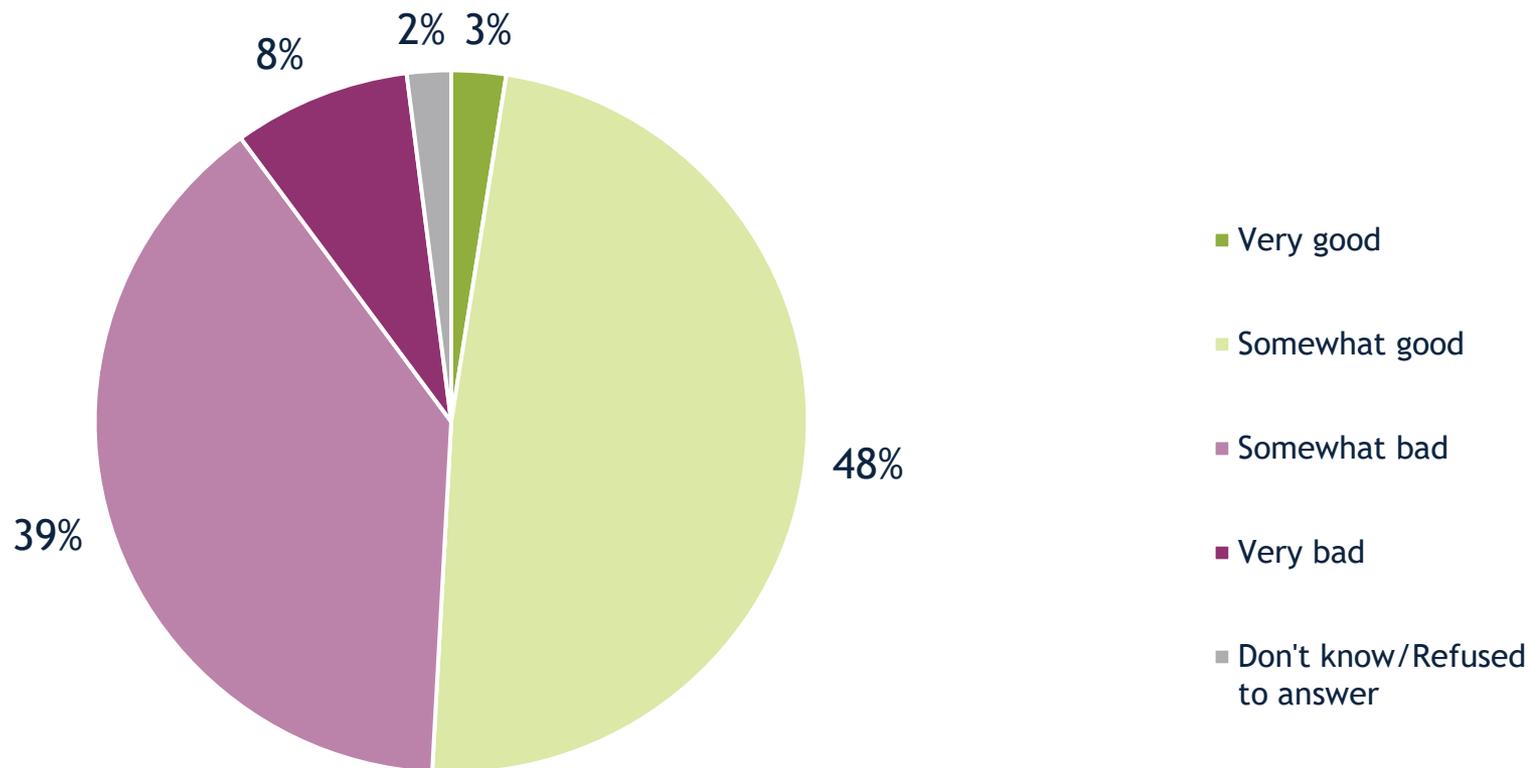


What is the most important problem facing your municipality today? And what is the second most important problem facing your municipality today?

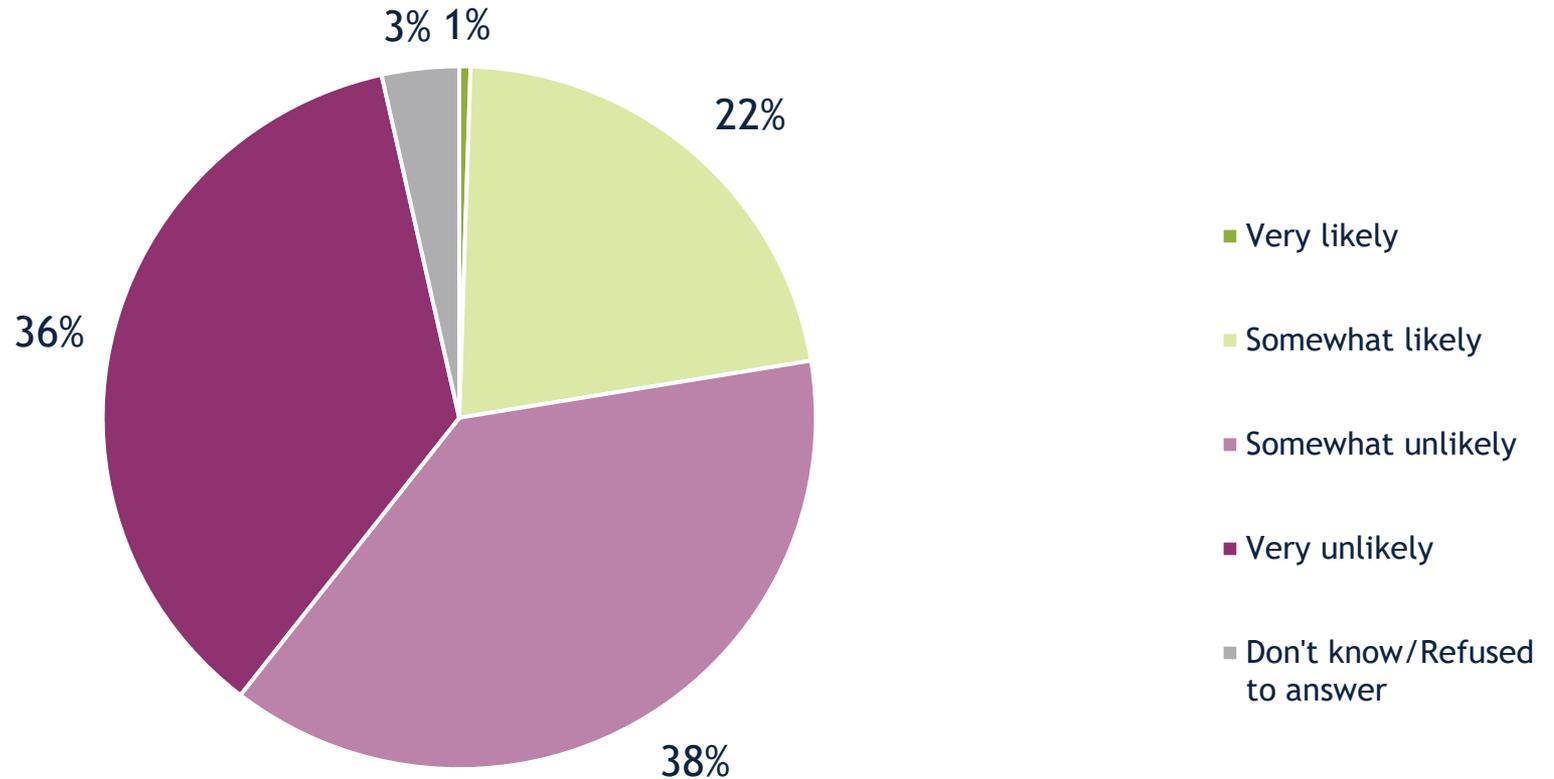
(Up to two responses accepted; spontaneous response; top ten responses displayed)



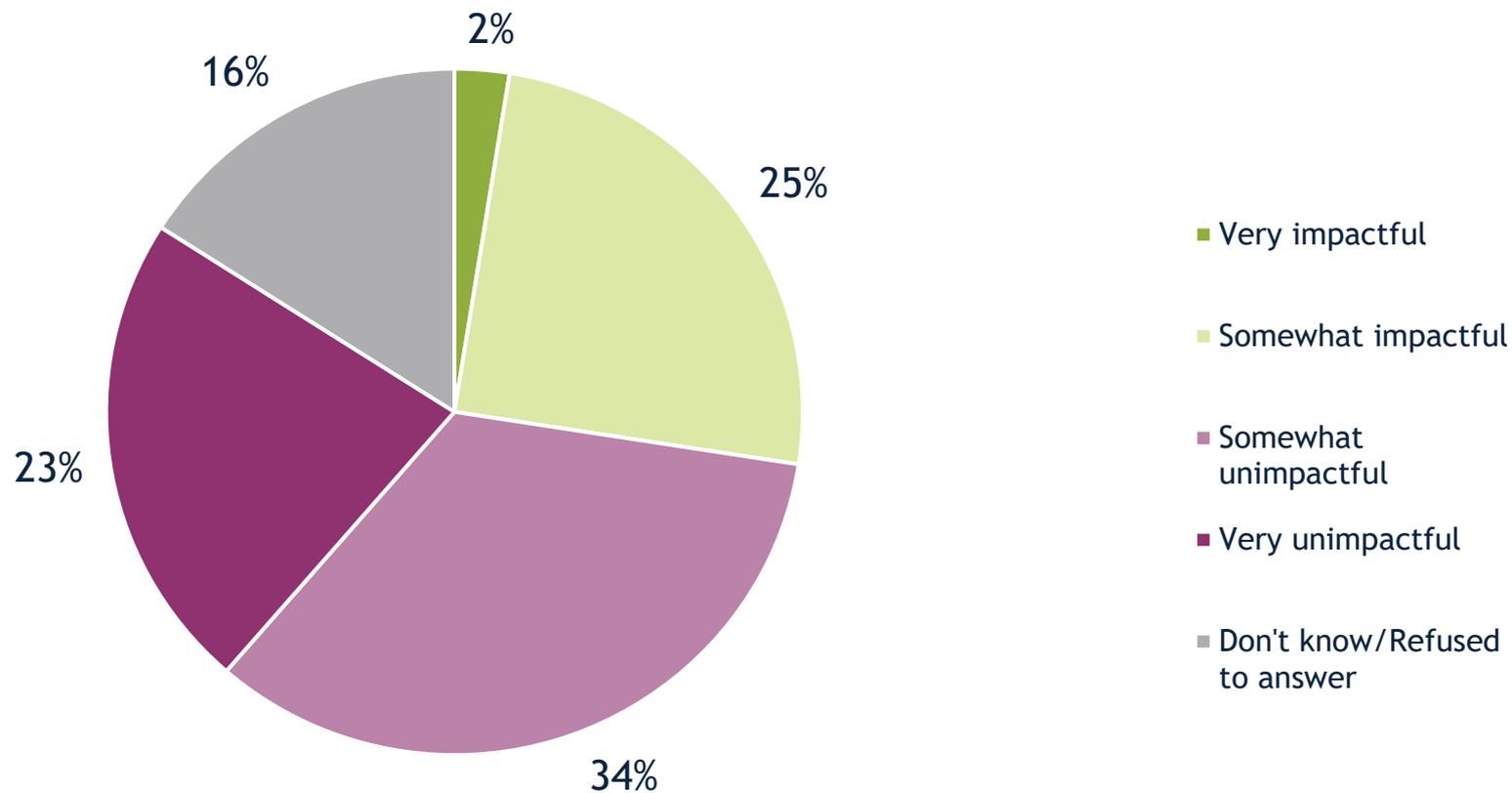
How would you describe the current economic situation of your household?



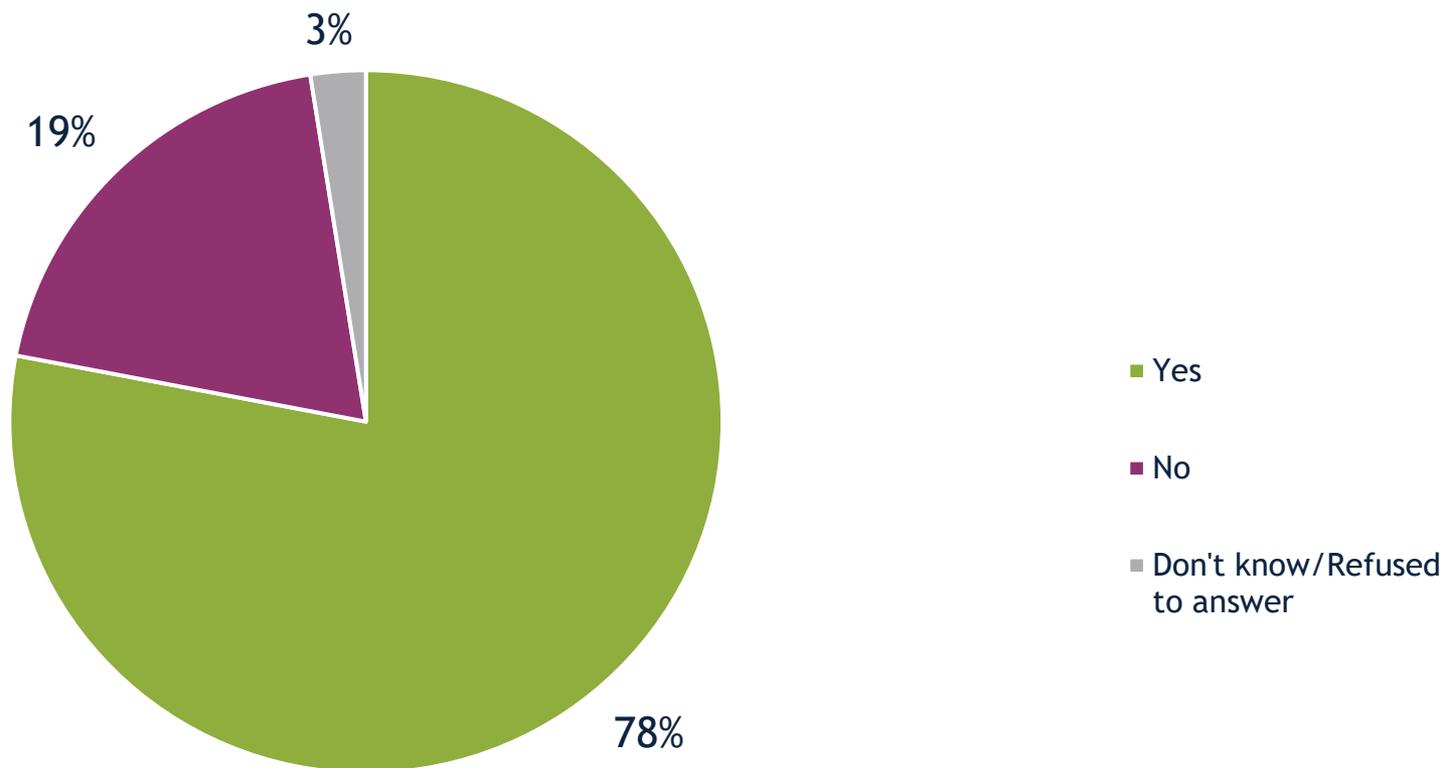
How likely or unlikely are ordinary people able to influence decisions made in your municipality?



To what extent do civil society organizations (CSOs) impact municipal government policy in your municipality?

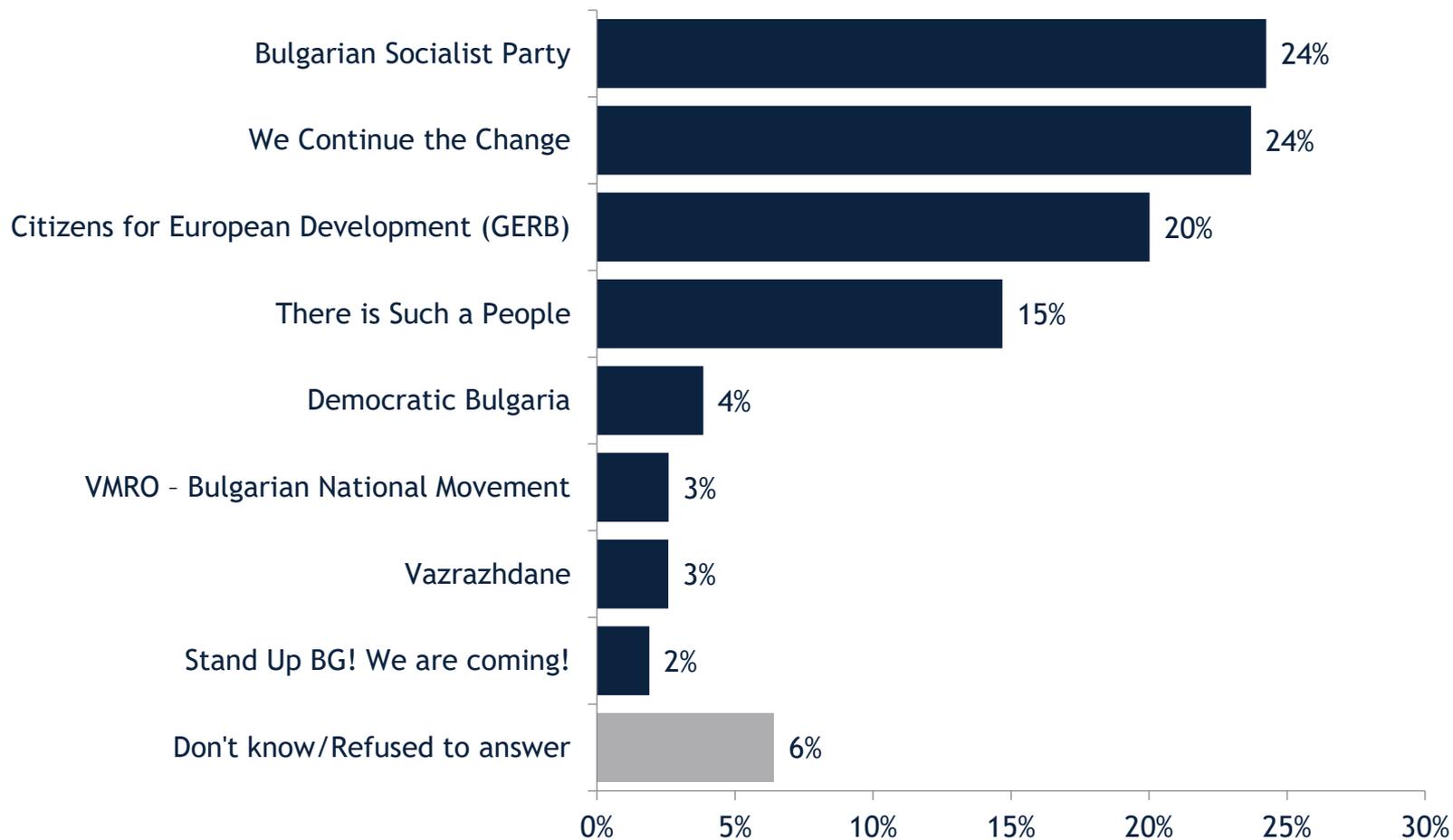


Did you vote in the November 14 parliamentary elections?

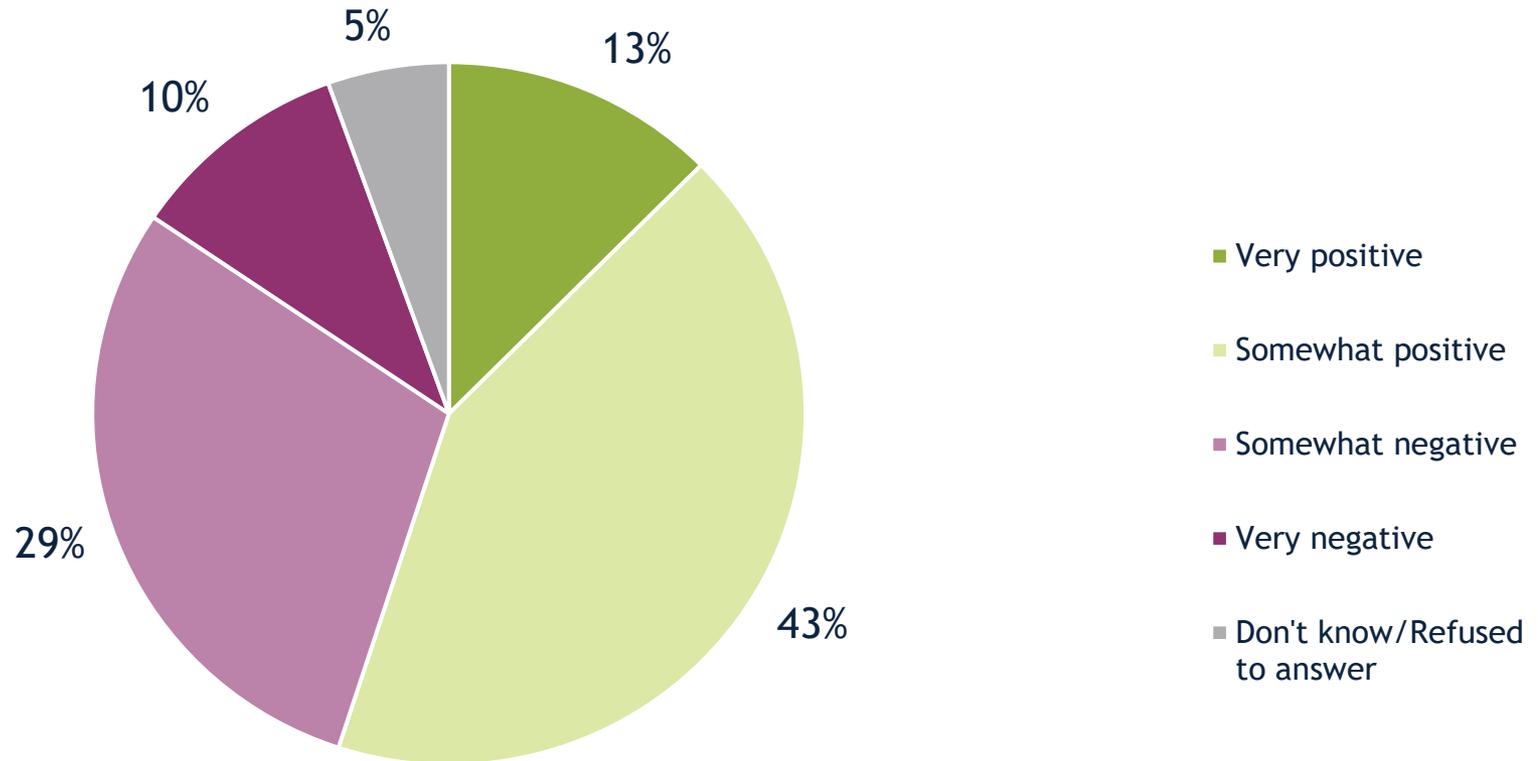


For which party, did you vote in the November 14 parliamentary elections?

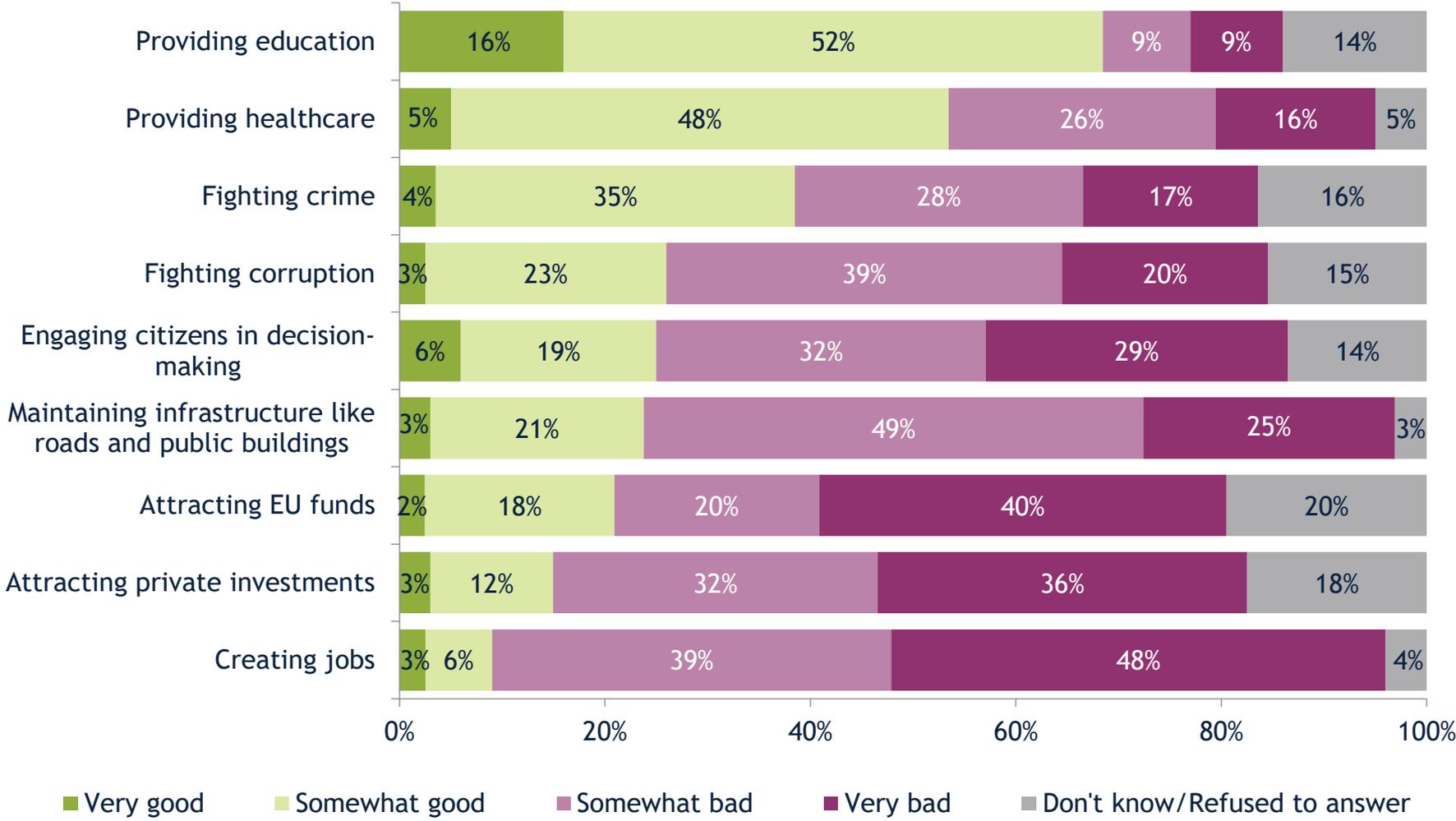
(Among respondents from Blagoevgrad who voted in the November 14, 2021 parliamentary elections: n=156; spontaneous response)



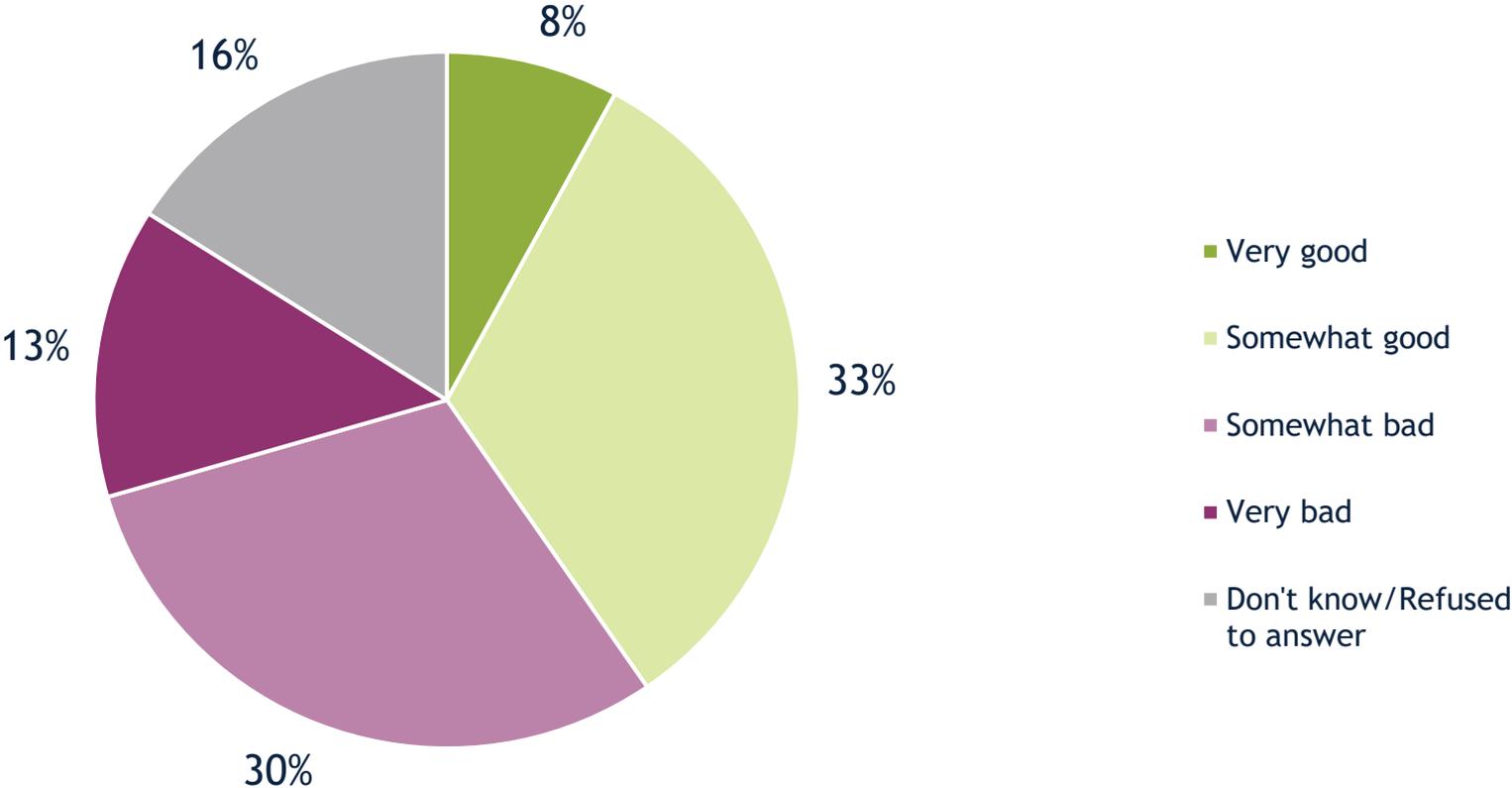
How do you view the recent change in national government as a result of the November 14 parliamentary elections?



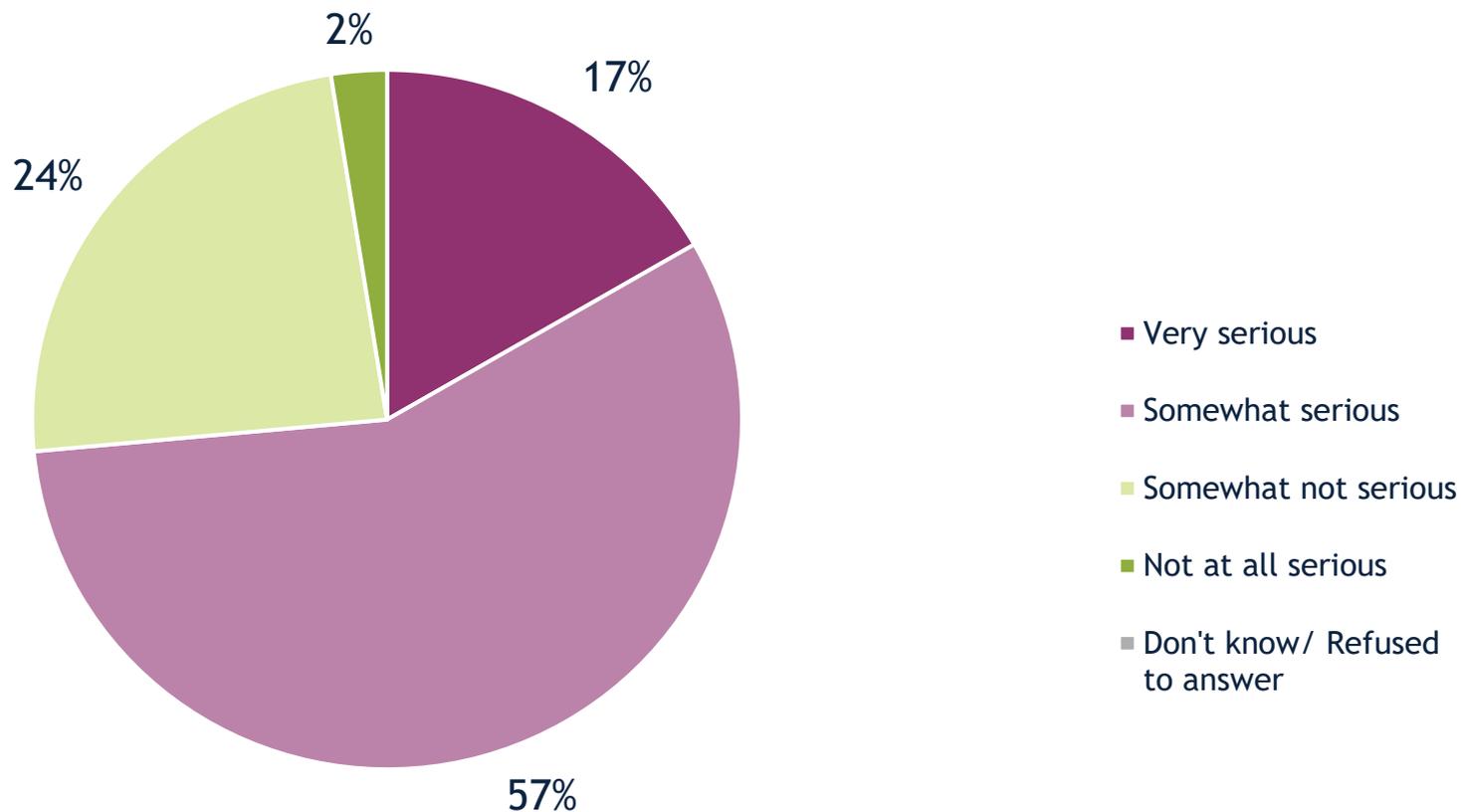
For the following issues, is the municipal government doing a very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad job?



How would you rate the performance of the municipal government in communicating with the public about the projects they are working on?



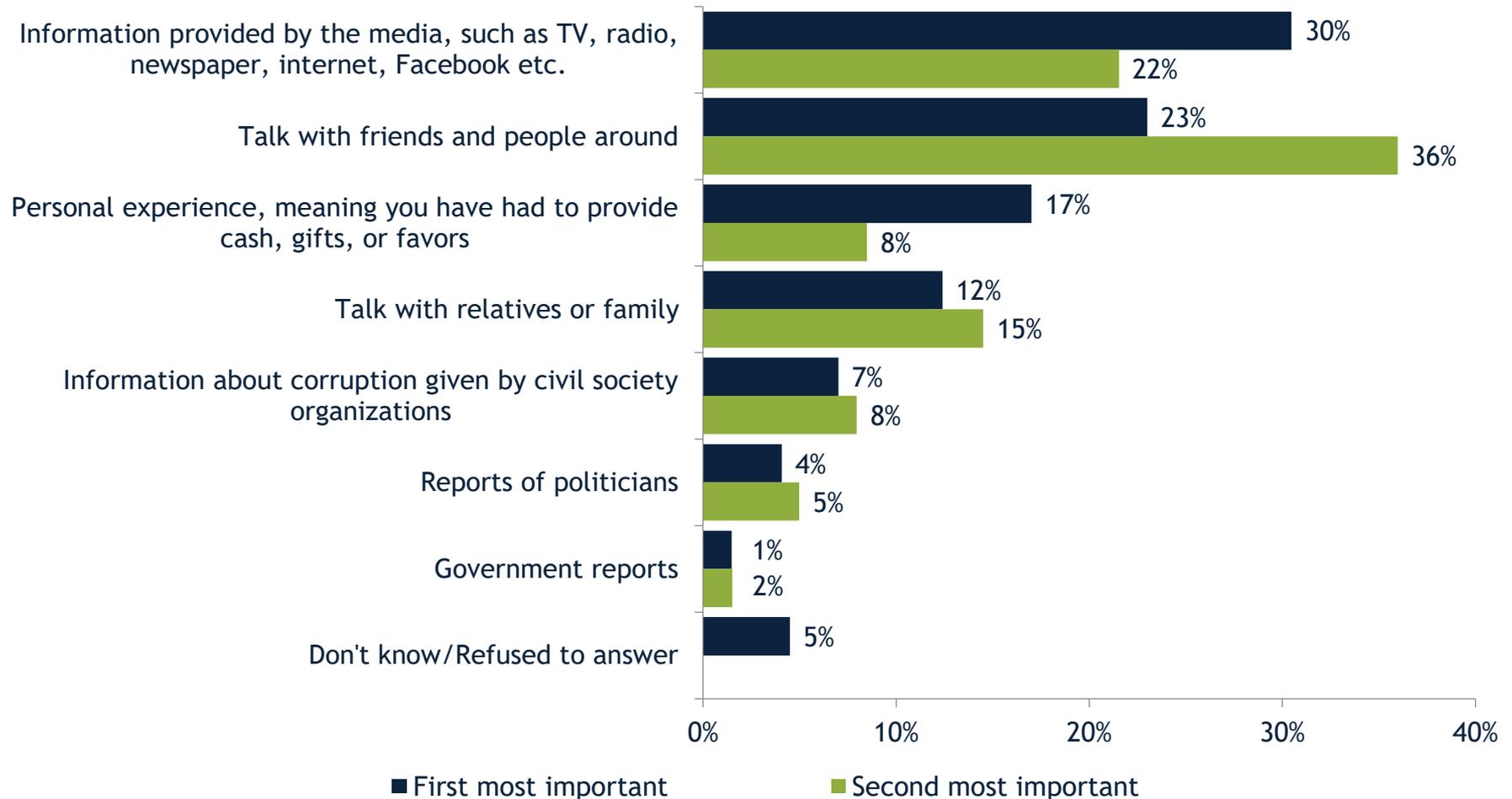
Do you believe that corruption in your municipality is a serious problem or not?



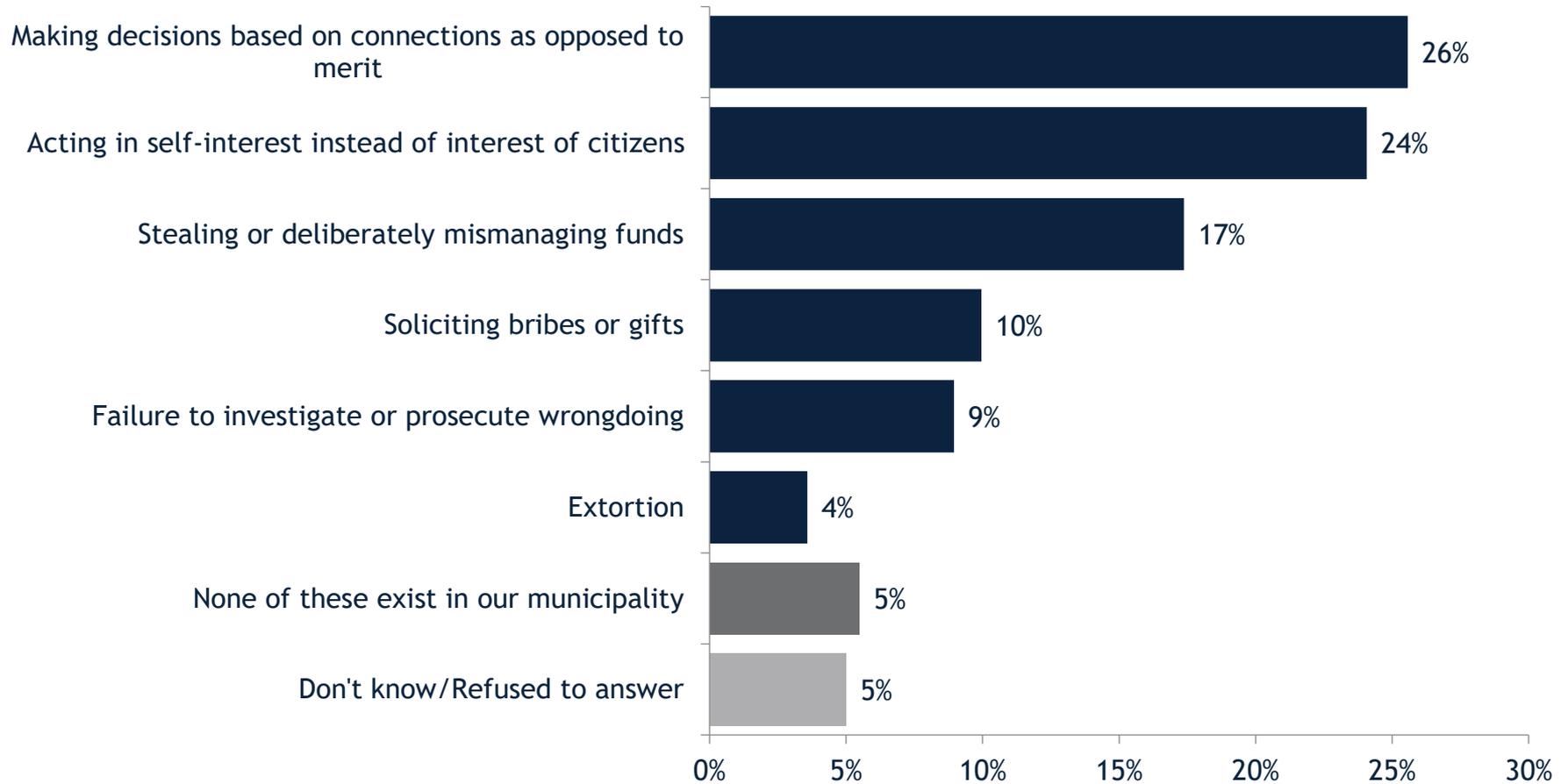
Prior to asking this question, the following introduction was read to the respondent "I will now ask you a series of questions about corruption. When I say corruption, I mean abusing public office for personal gain, like when a government official solicits bribes or awards a contract in exchange for political support or money. "

On which source do you base your assessment of the level of corruption?

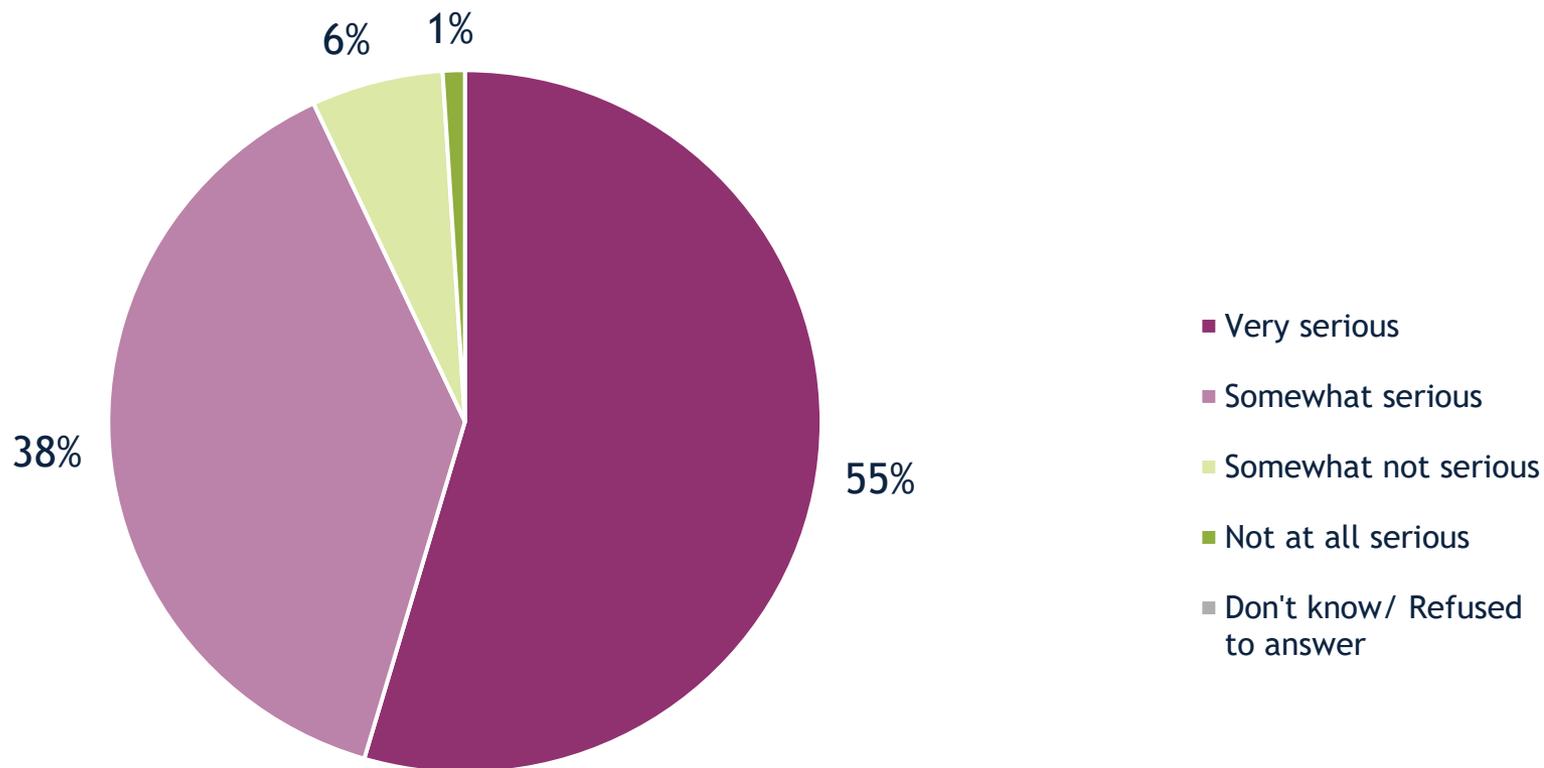
(Up to two responses accepted)



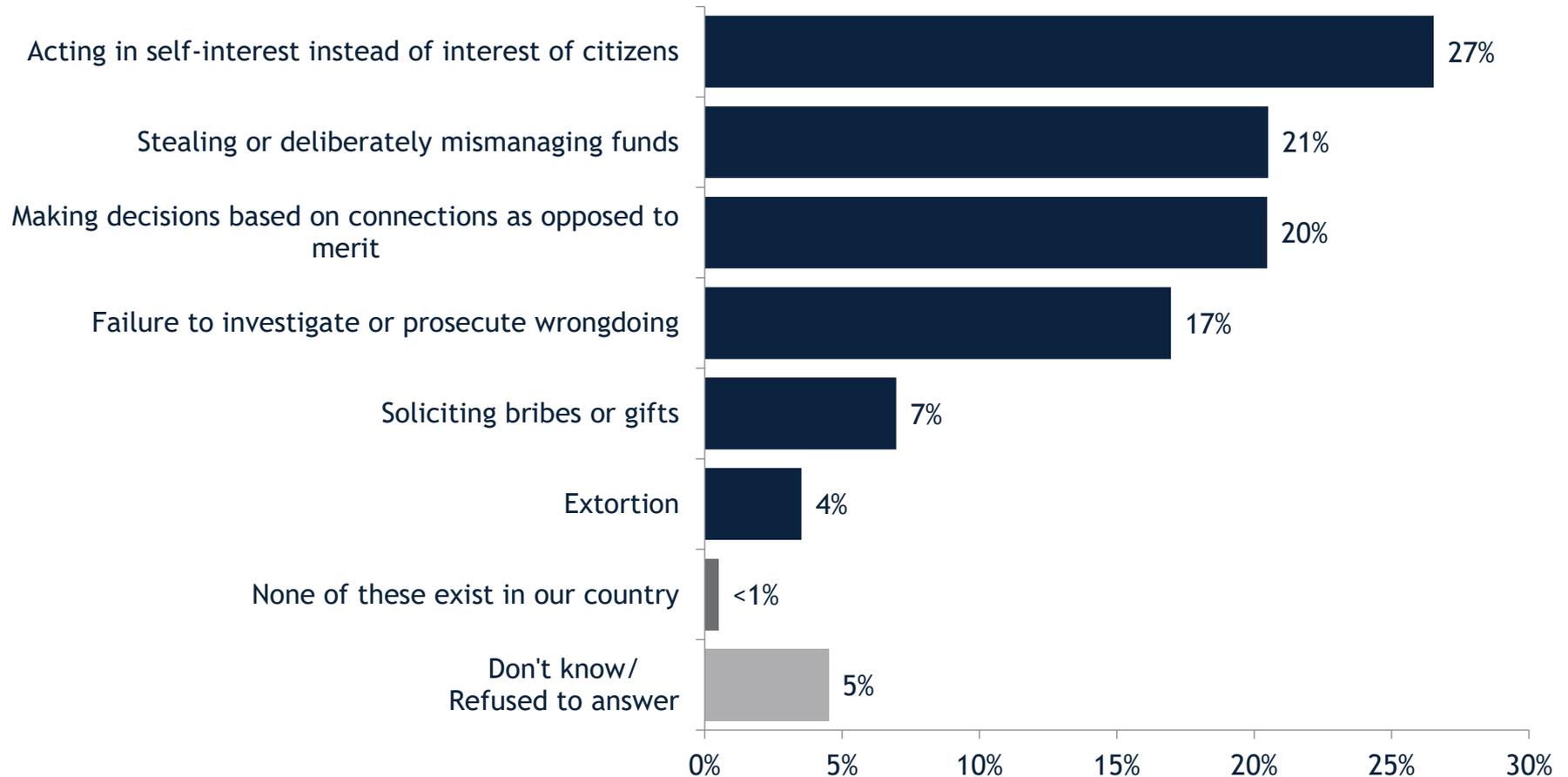
In your experience, what type of corruption is most common in our municipality?



Do you believe that corruption in our country is a serious problem or not?

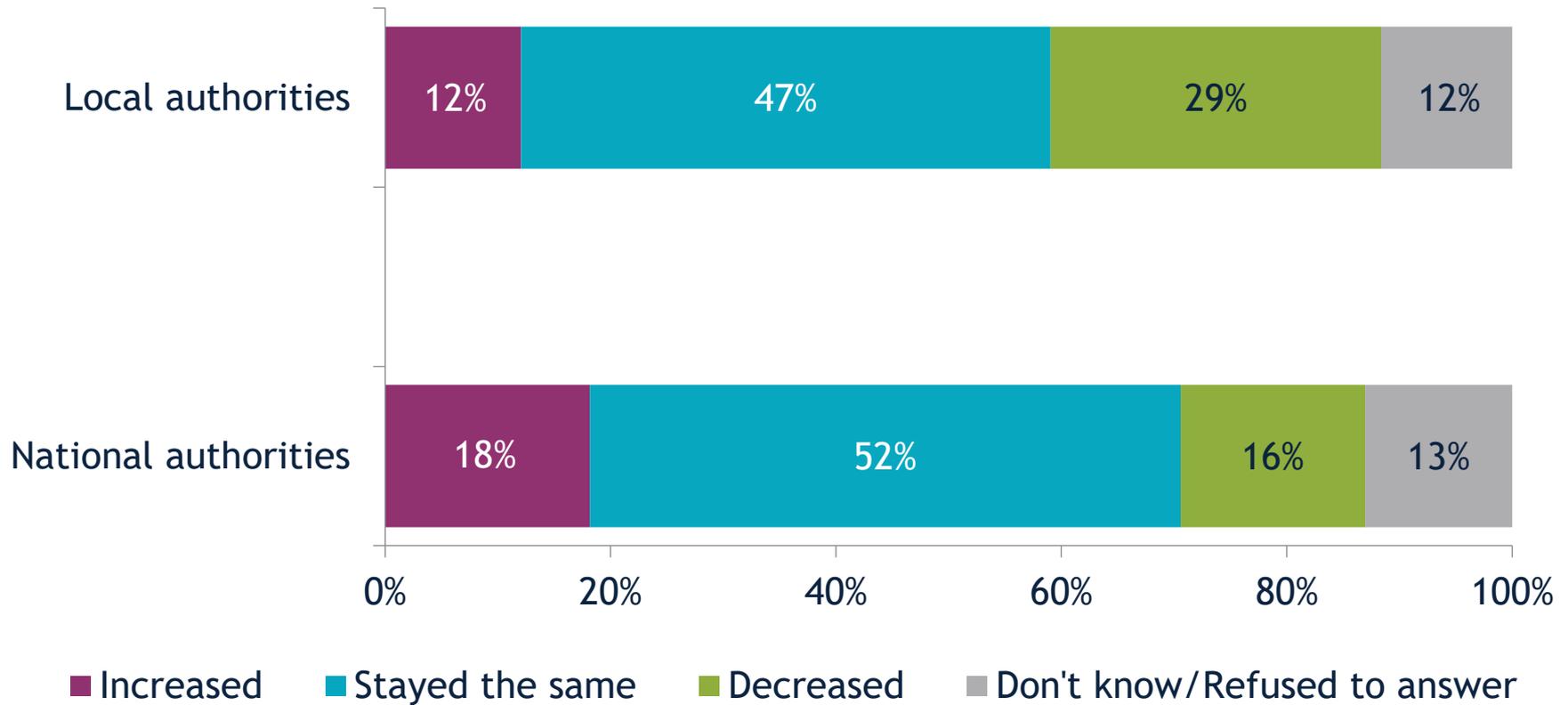


In your experience, what type of corruption is most common in our country?

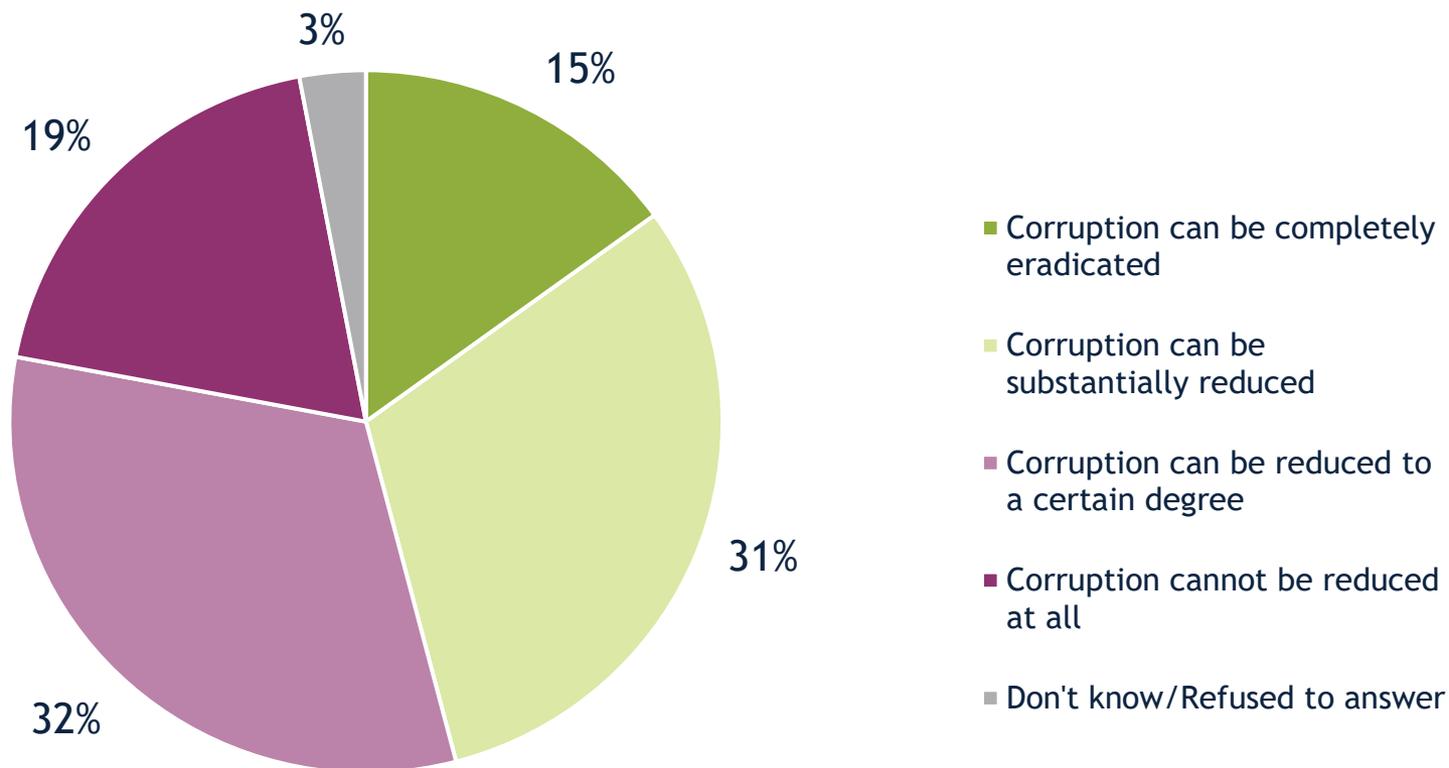


Over the past 12 months, has corruption among each of the following levels of government increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

Blagoevgrad

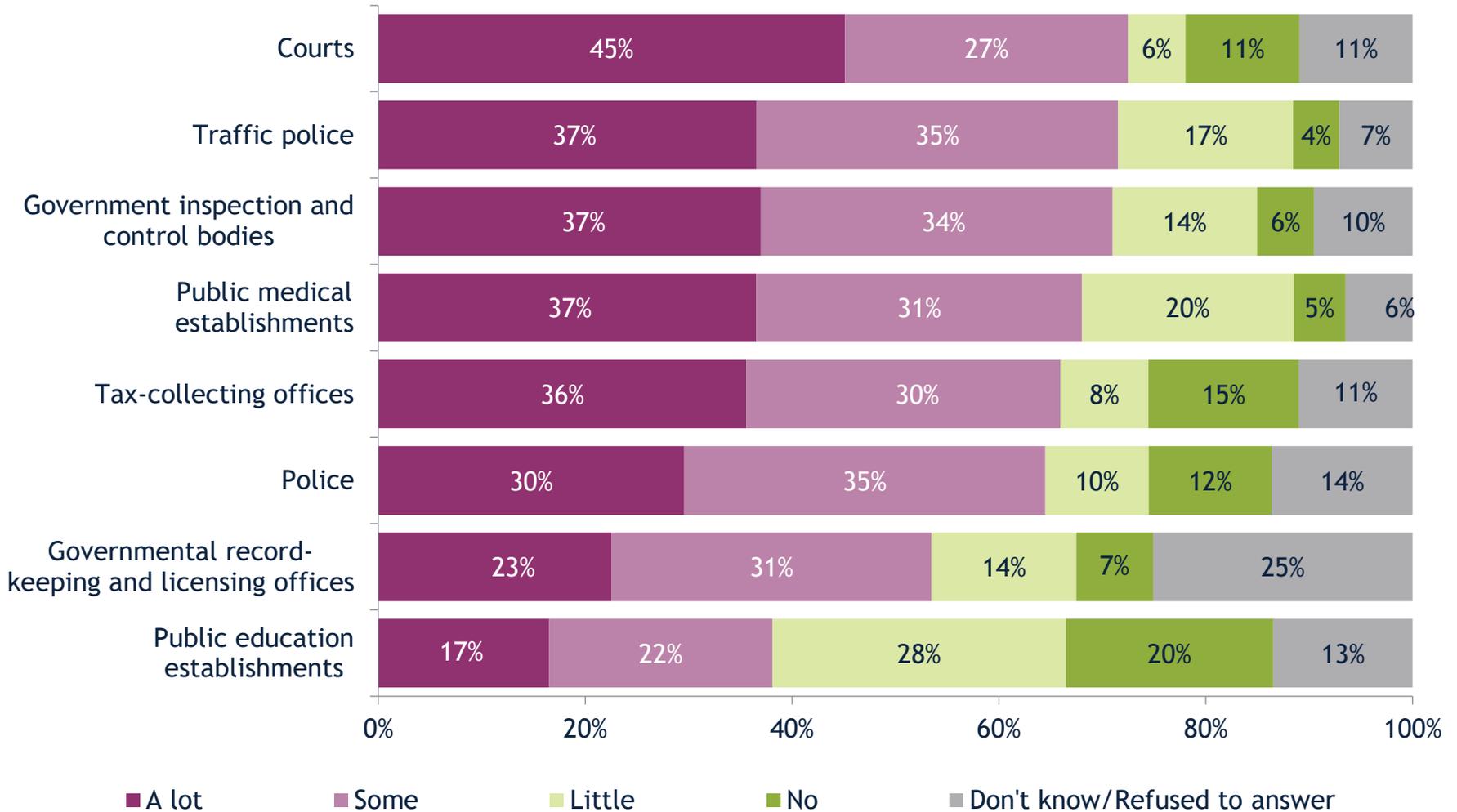


To what extent do you think corruption can be reduced in your municipality?

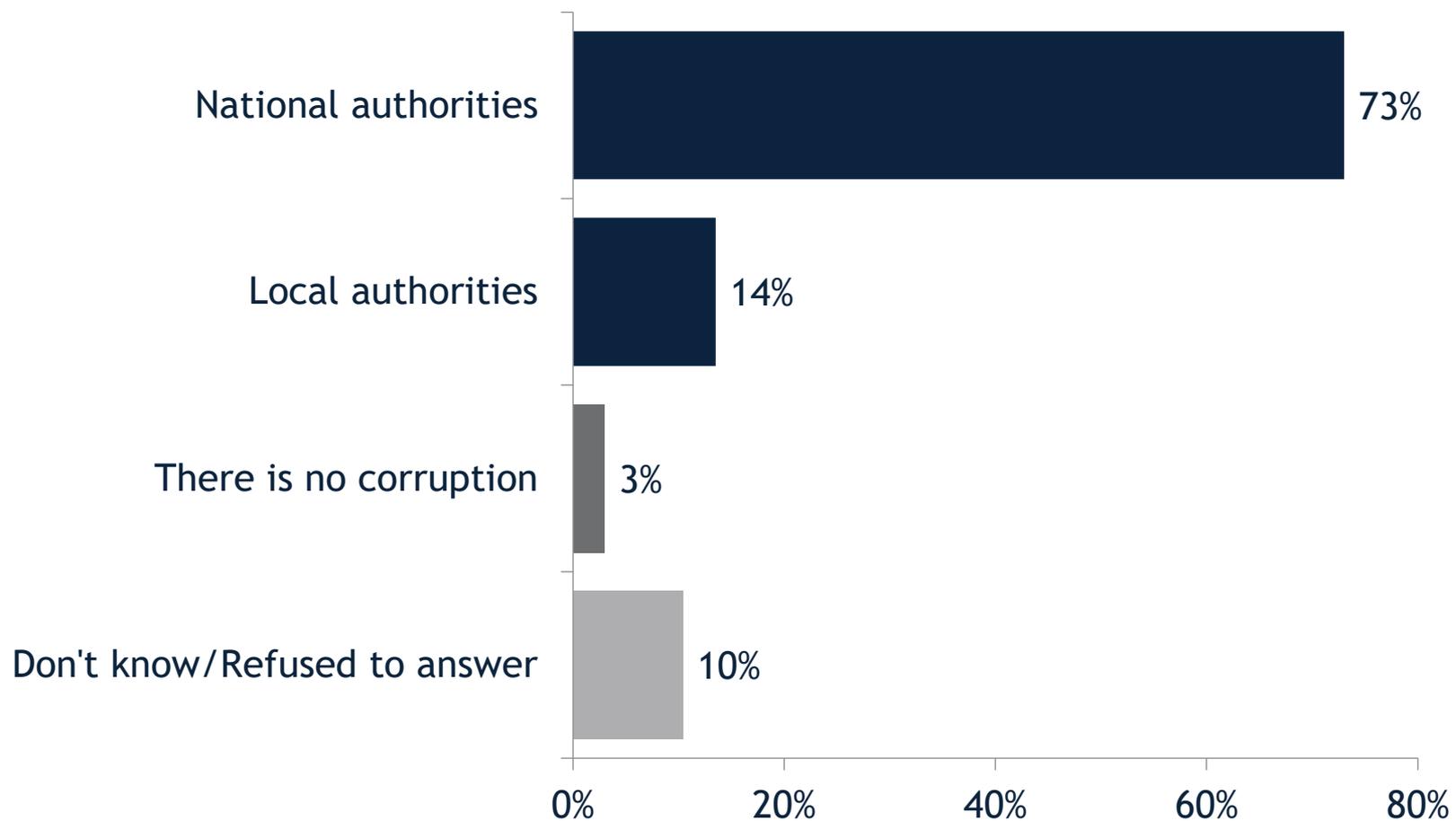


Please tell me if there is a lot, some, little, or no corruption among each of the following providers of municipal government services.

Blagoevgrad

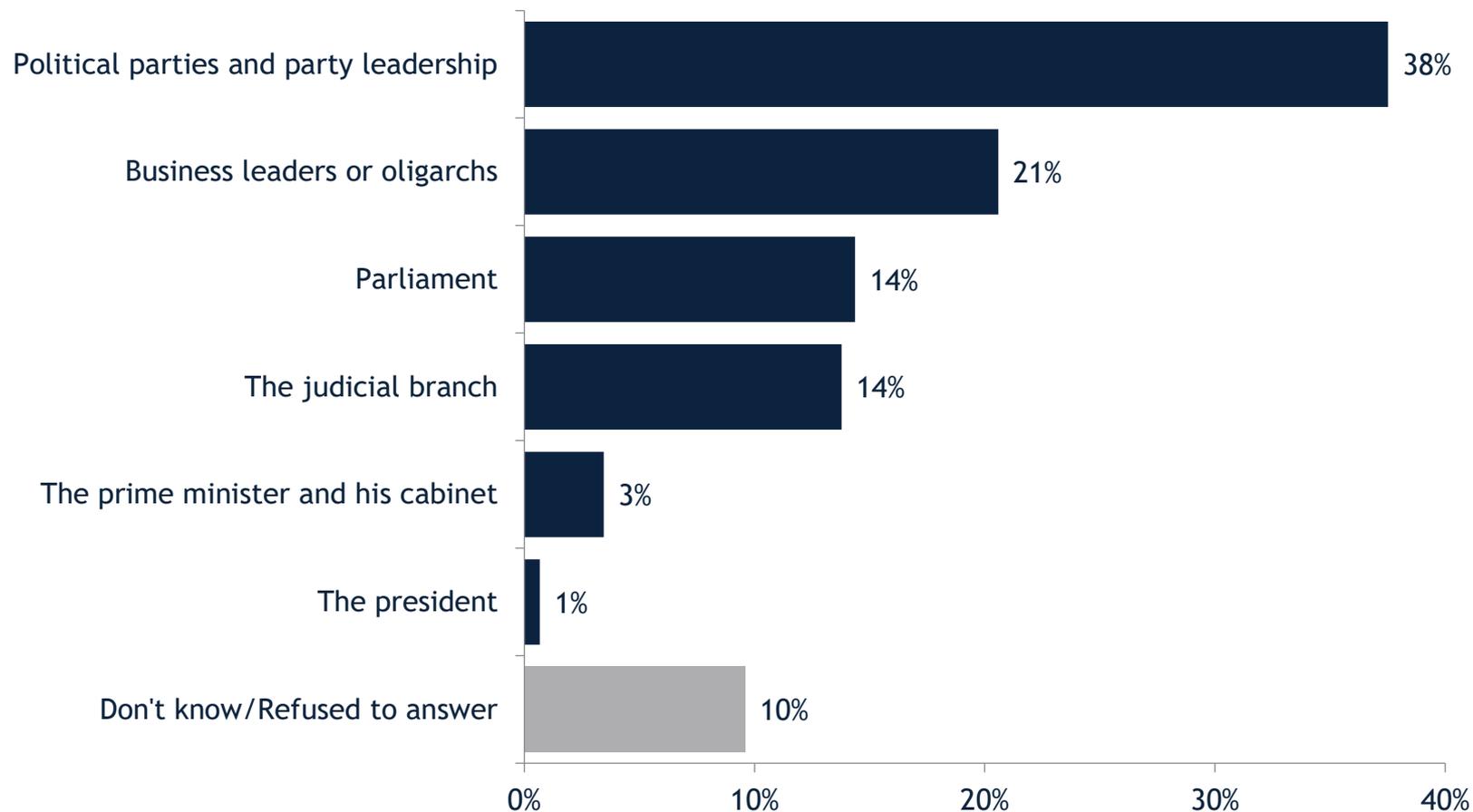


At which level of government is corruption most prevalent?

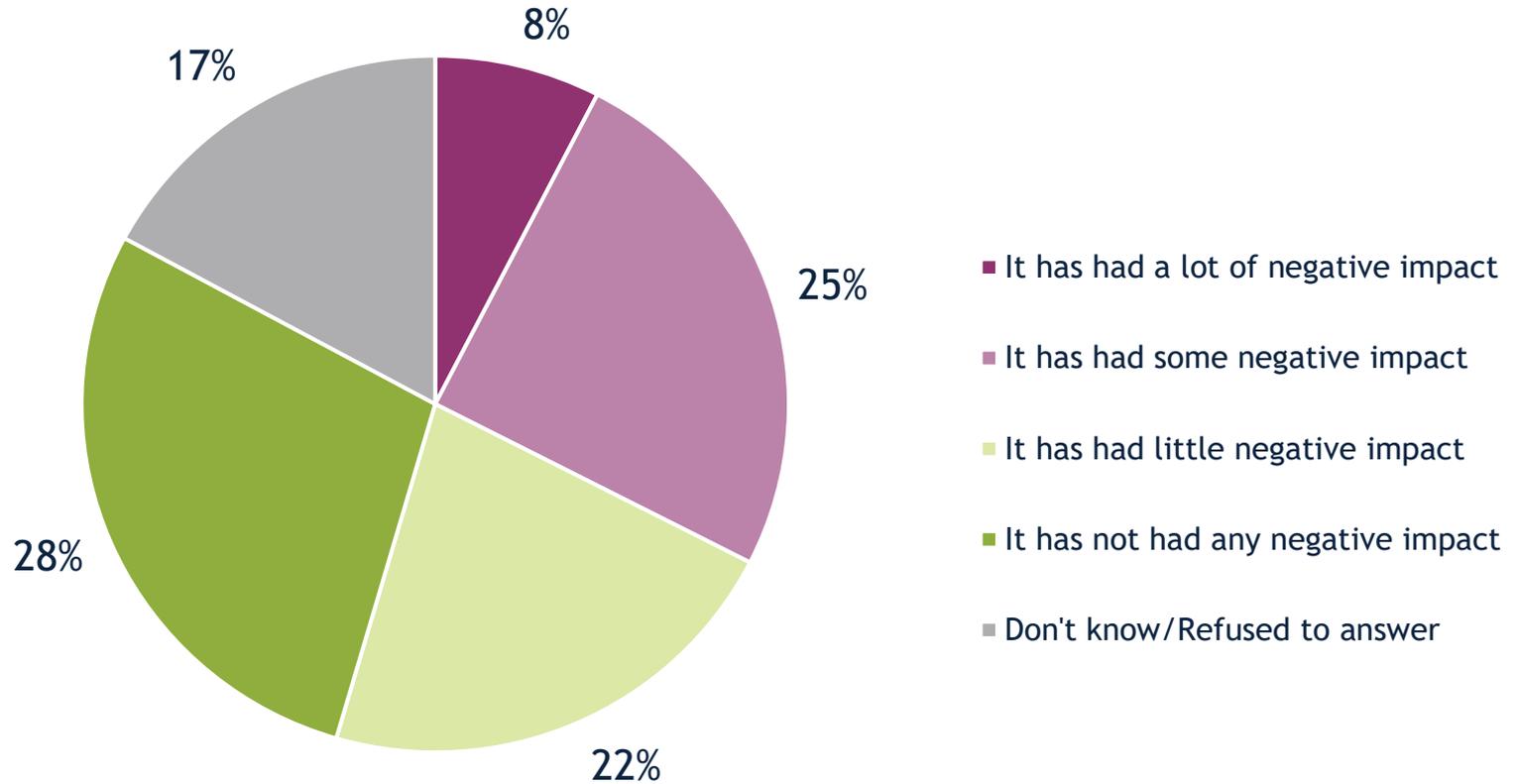


Who among national authorities is most corrupt?

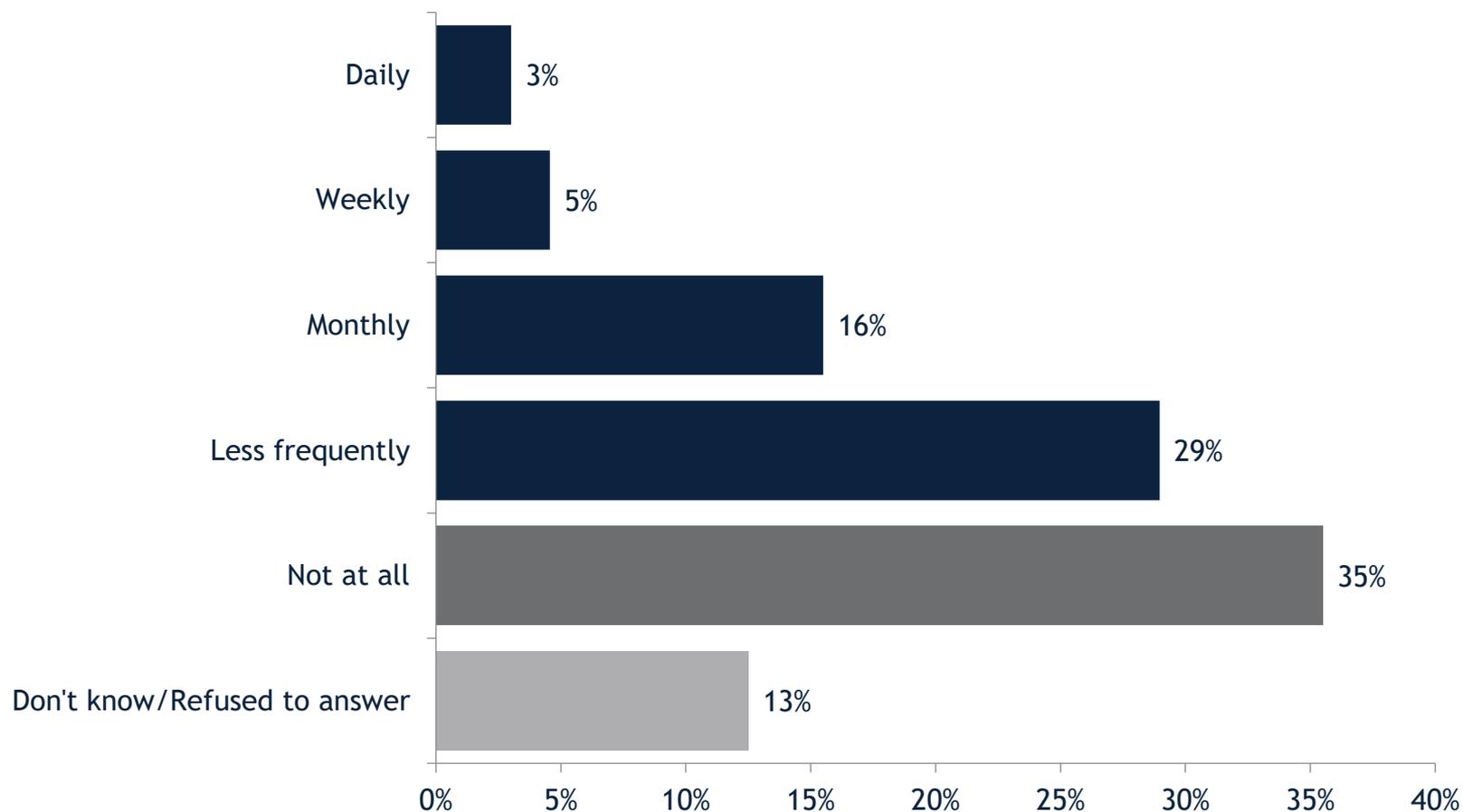
(Among respondents from Blagoevgrad who think that corruption is most prevalent among national authorities: n=146; spontaneous response)



To what extent, if any, has corruption had a negative impact on you?

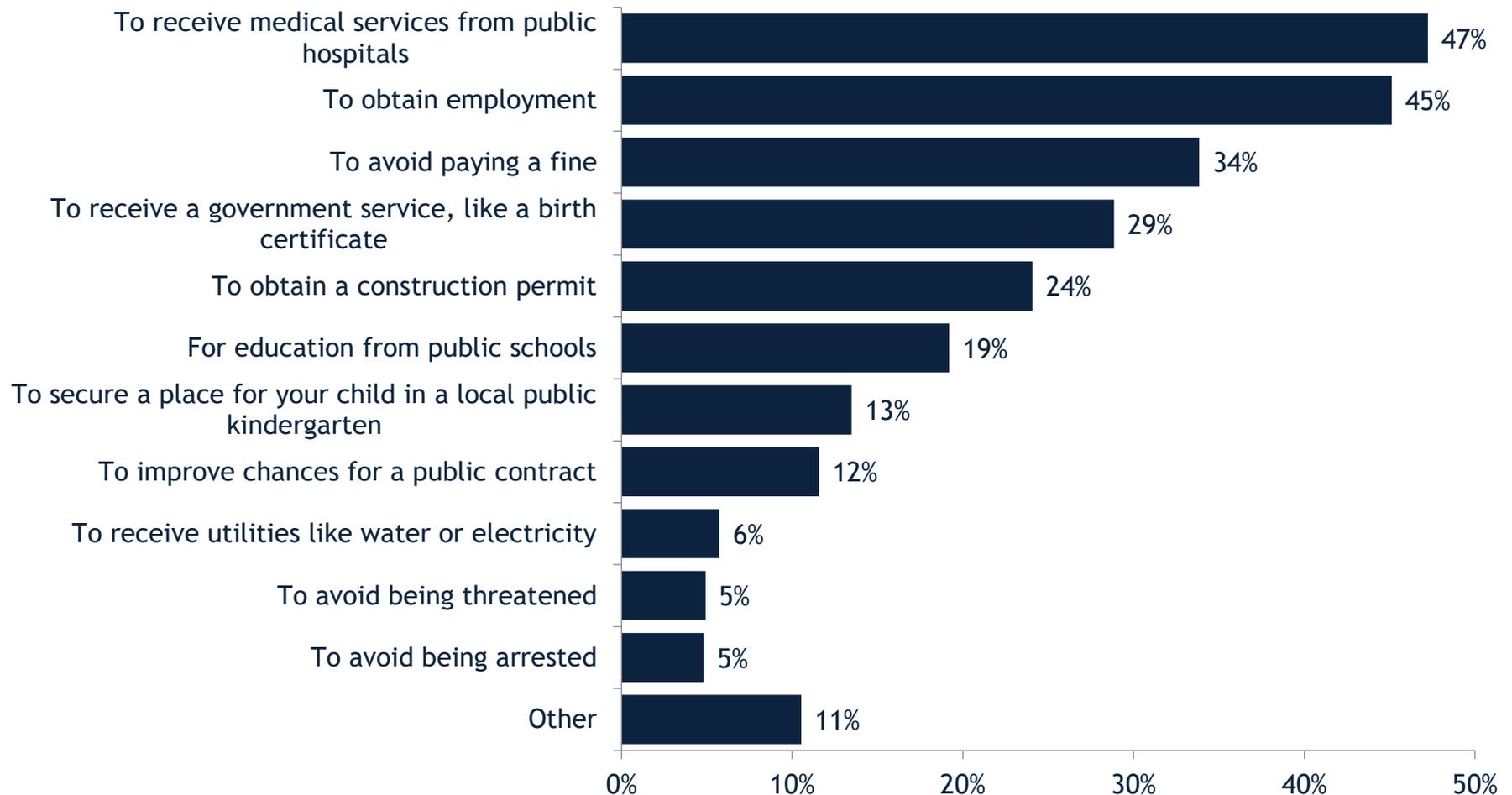


In the past two years, how often, if at all, have you witnessed or experienced corruption?

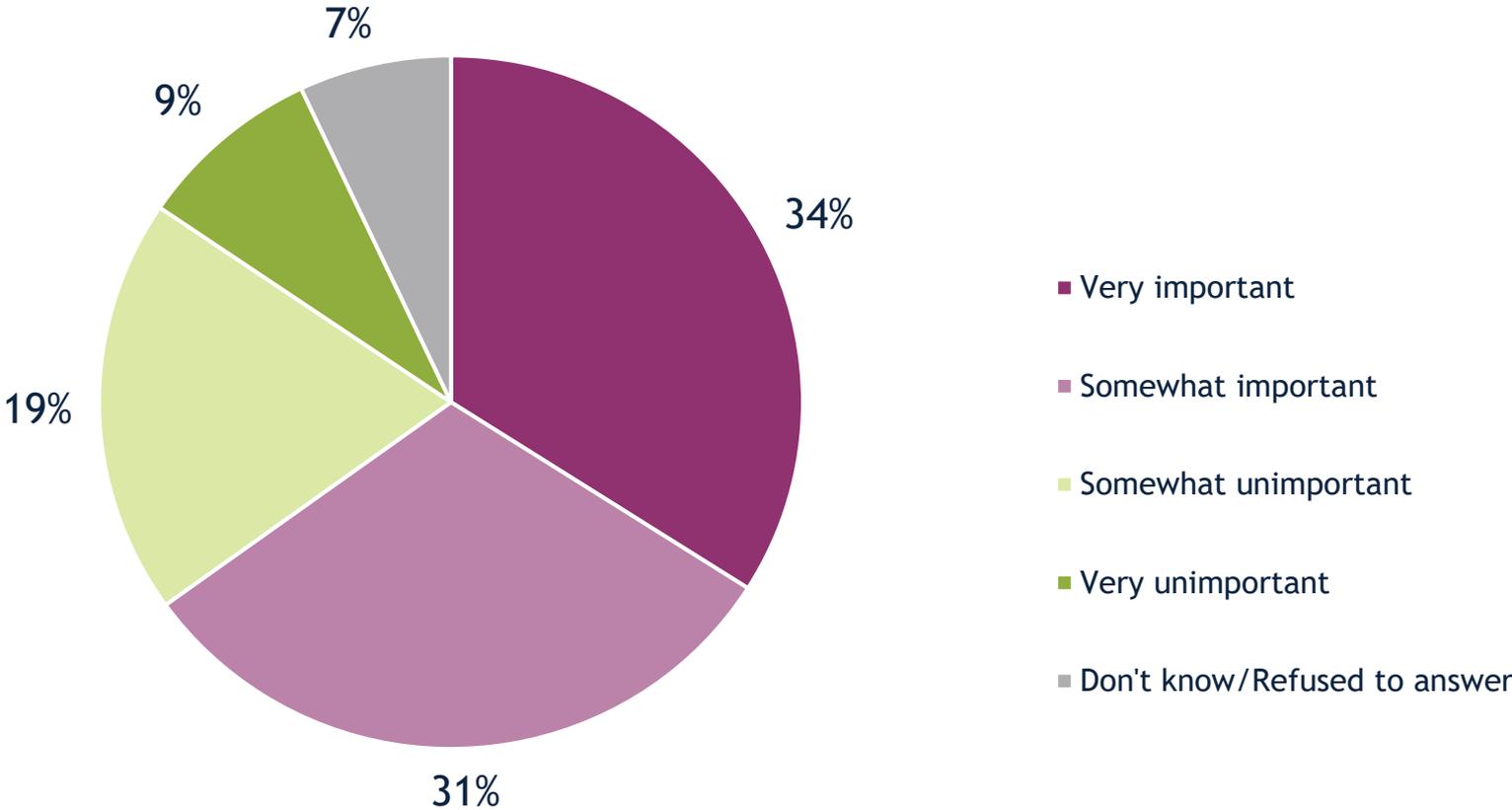


In which context did you witness or experience corruption. Did you experience or witness corruption....?

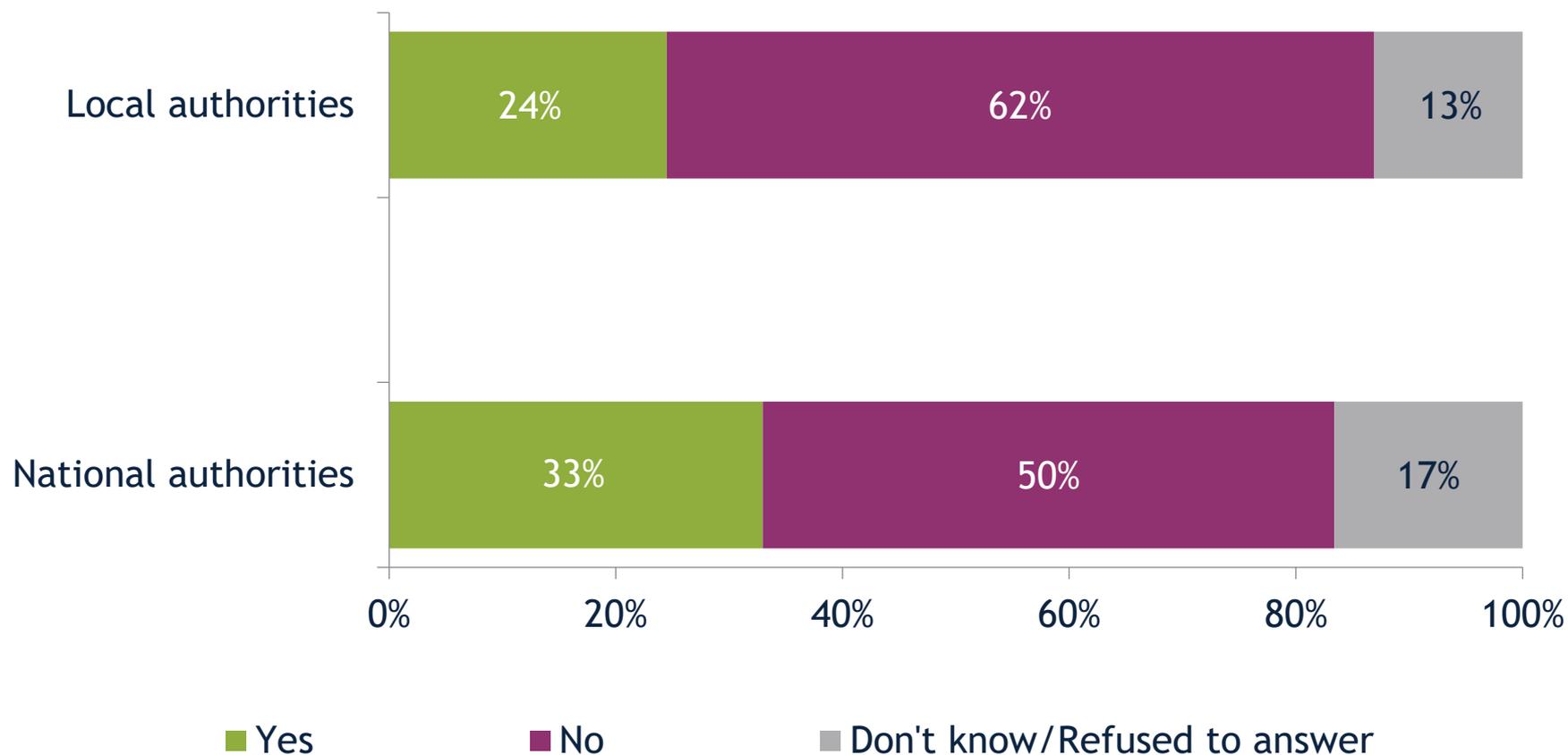
(Among respondents from Blagoevgrad who have witnessed corruption: n=104; only “yes” responses displayed)



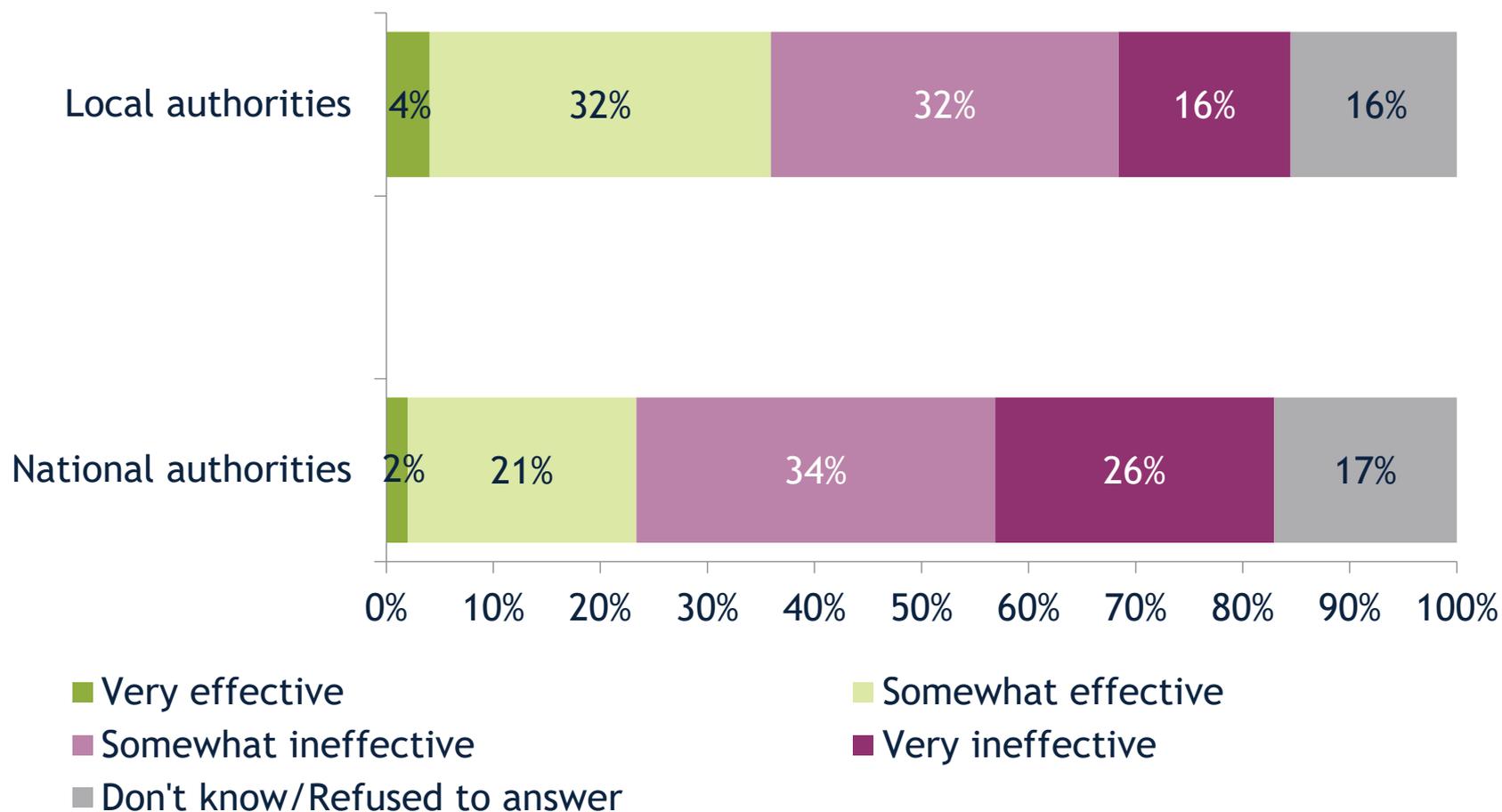
In your dealings with the municipal government, how important are personal contacts and relationships to get things done?



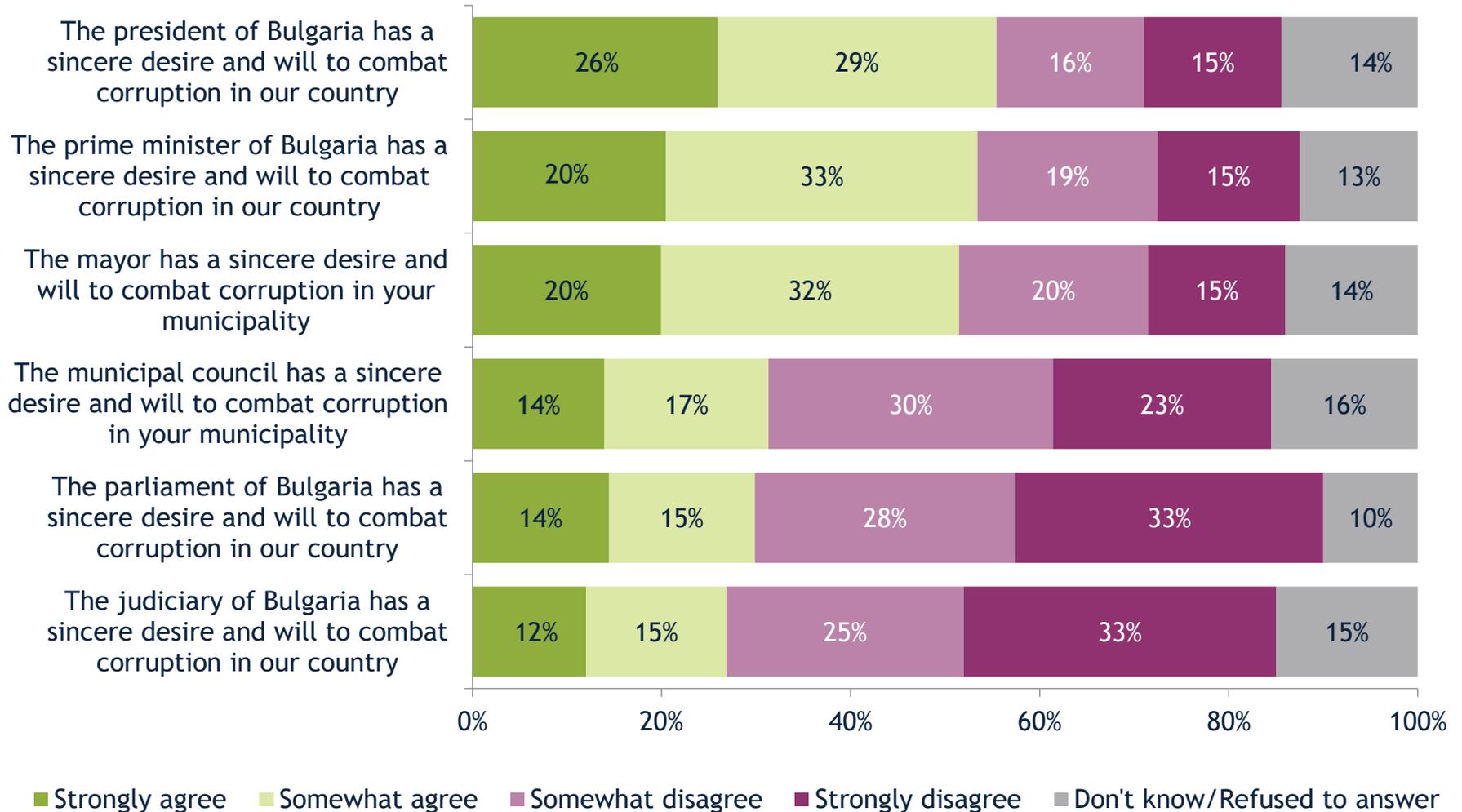
Are you aware of any anti-corruption initiatives by any of the following levels of government?



How effective or ineffective is each of the following levels of government in addressing corruption?



Based on your experience, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with each statement.



Which among the following groups is the most important and the second most important to effectively address corruption in your municipality?

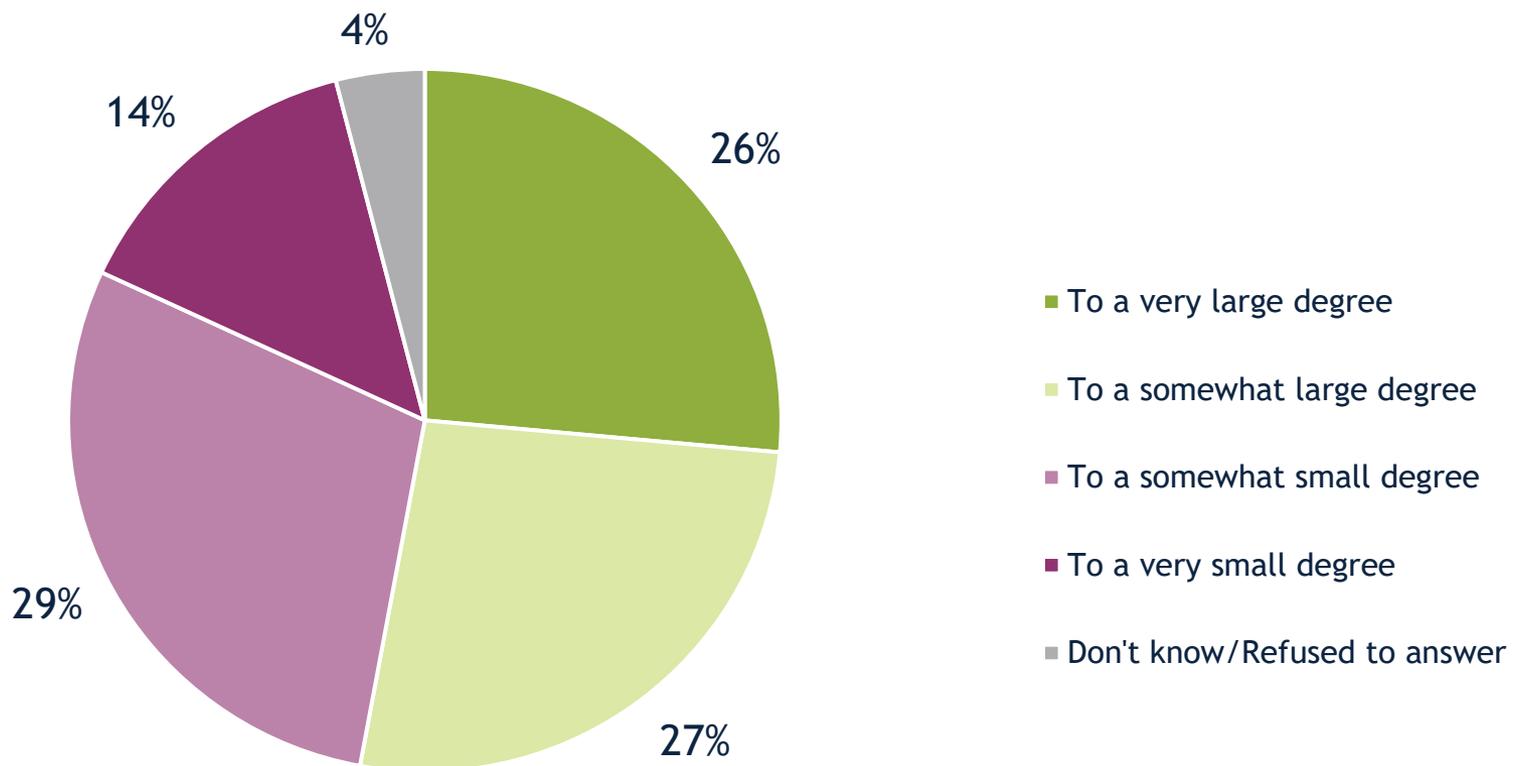
(Up to two responses accepted)



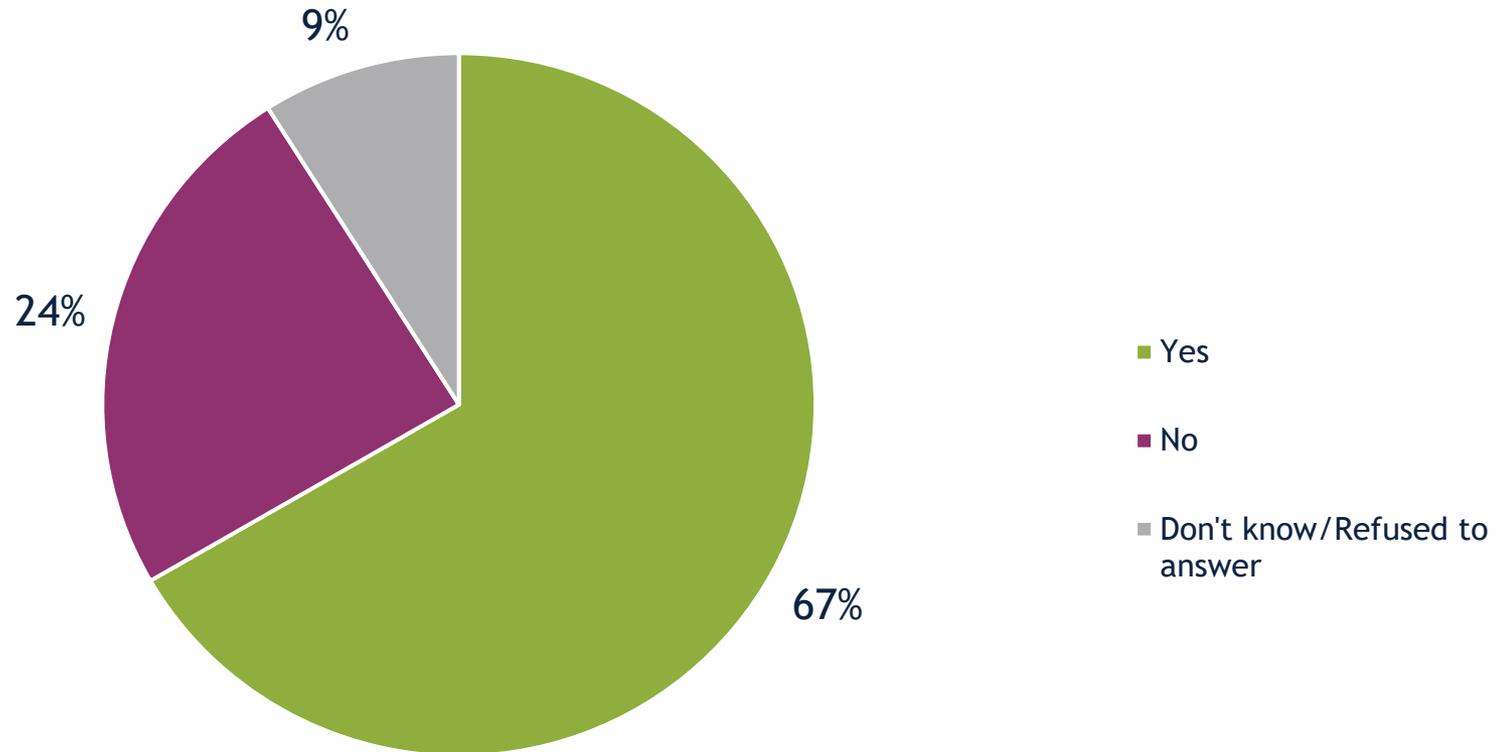
*Domestic NGOs or CSOs are local, regional, or national groups that form around a common goal and are not associated with government

**International NGOs or CSOs are international groups that form around a common goal and not associated with any government

To what degree, if at all, is it the responsibility of citizens to address corruption?

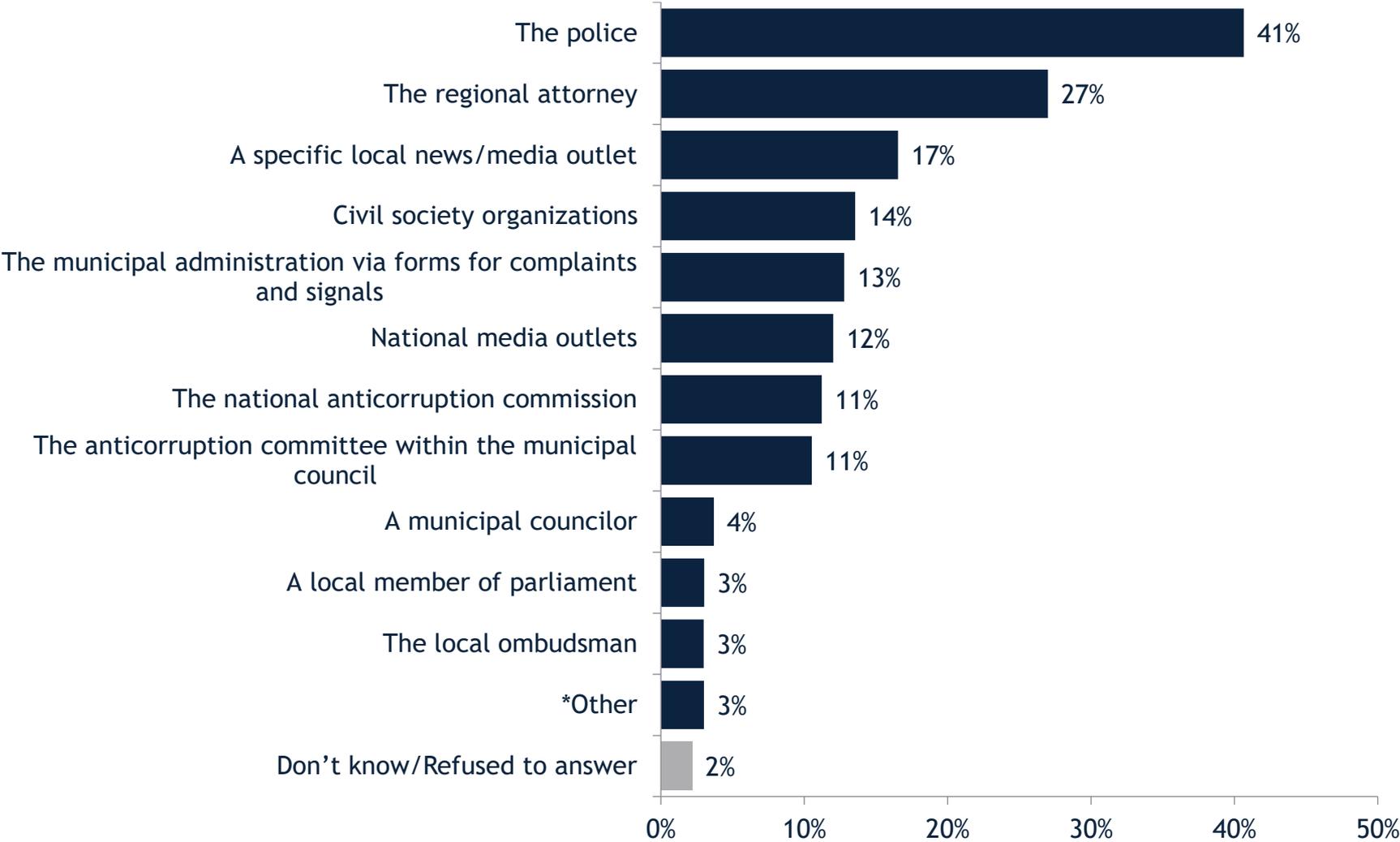


Do you know where to report a corrupt act of an official?



What channels would you contact to report a corrupt act or to file a complaint?

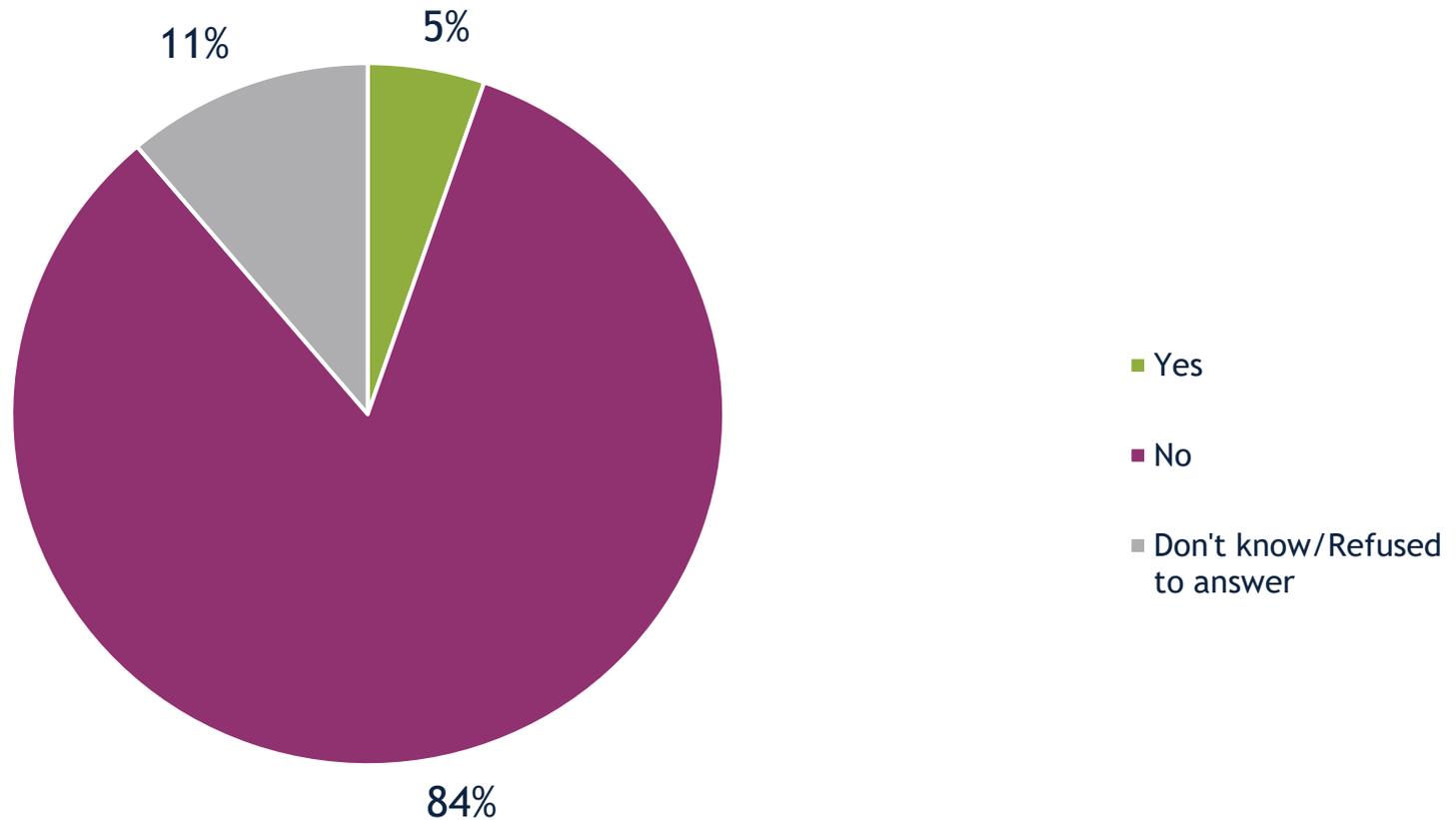
(Among respondents from Blagoevgrad who know where to report a corrupt act: n=133; spontaneous response; multiple responses accepted)



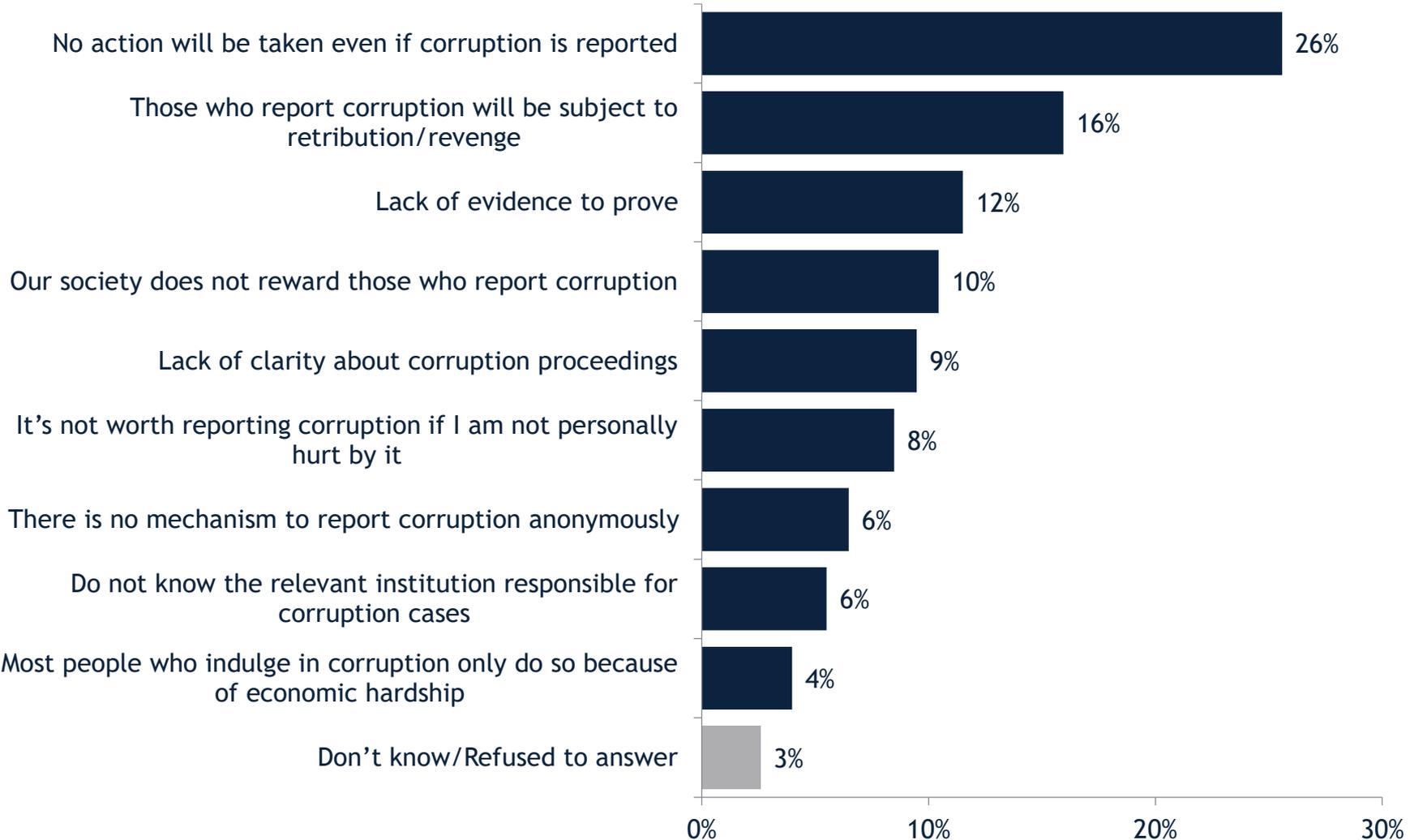
*Responses receiving <3% are collapsed into *Other*.

During the past 12 months, have you or anyone in your household reported a corrupt act by a public official?

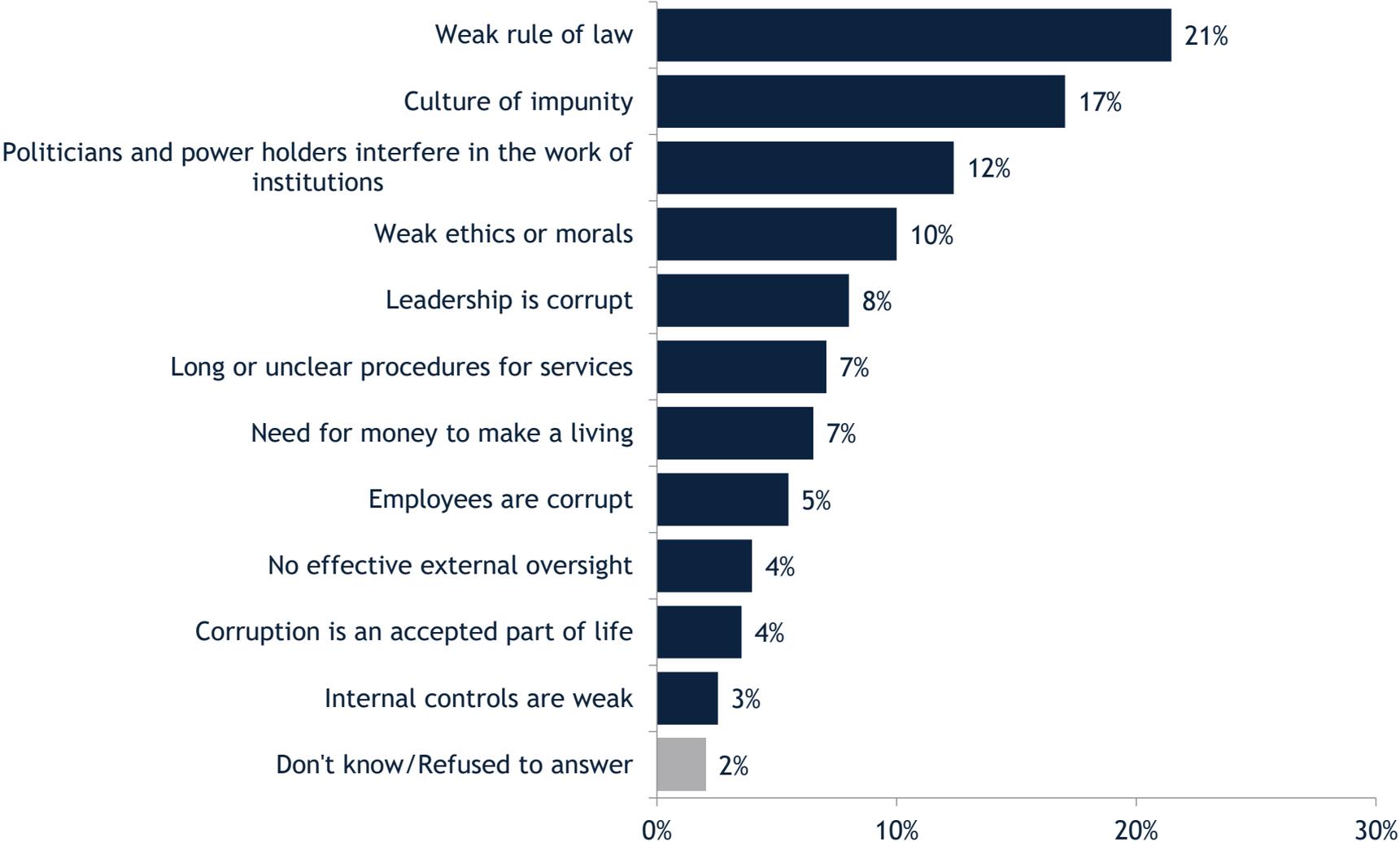
(Among respondents from Blagoevgrad who know where to report a corrupt act: n=133)



Some people are unwilling to report corrupt actions because of various reasons. Please tell me which of the following you personally consider as the primary reason for not reporting corruption to the relevant authorities.

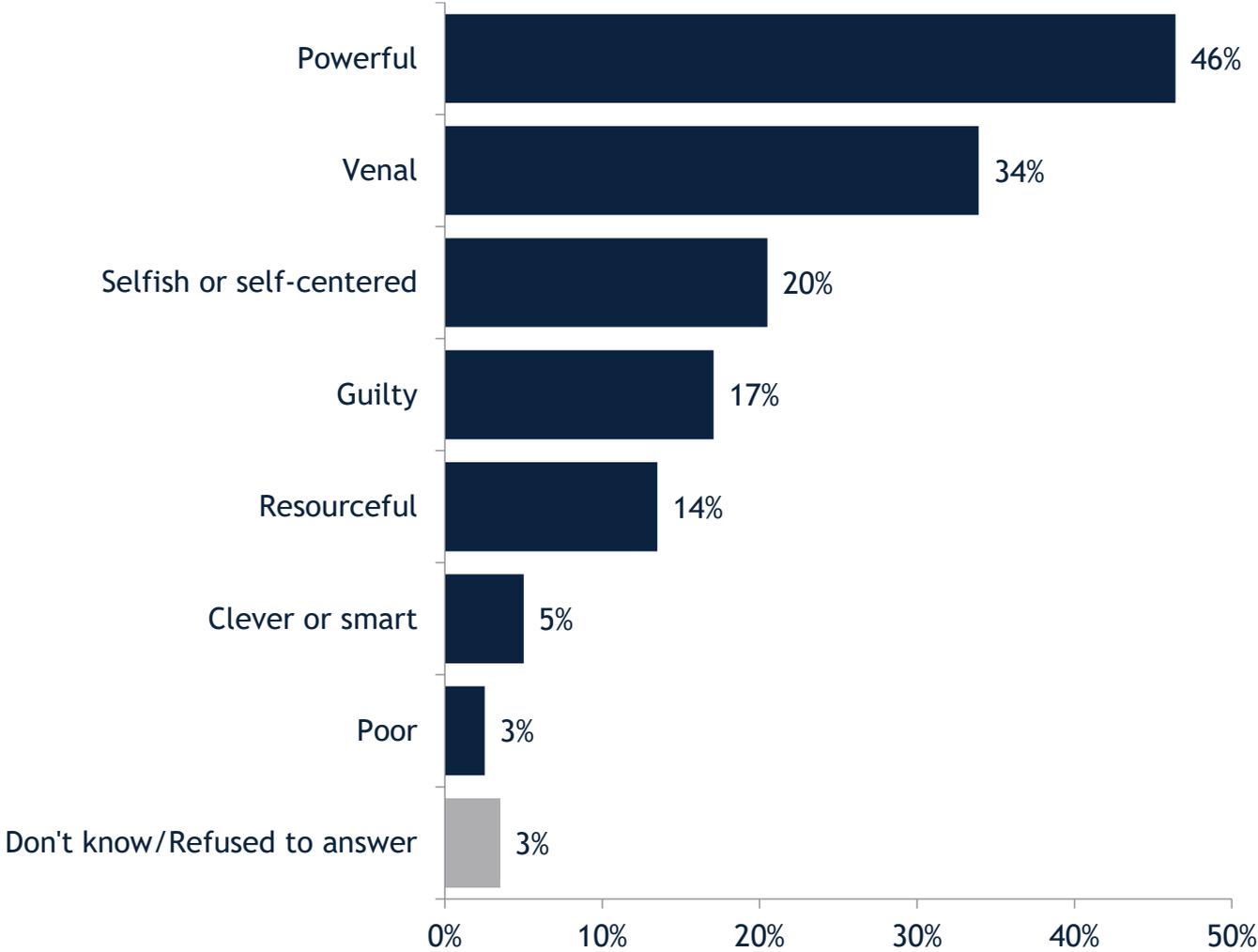


What do you think is the primary factor causing corruption in public institutions?

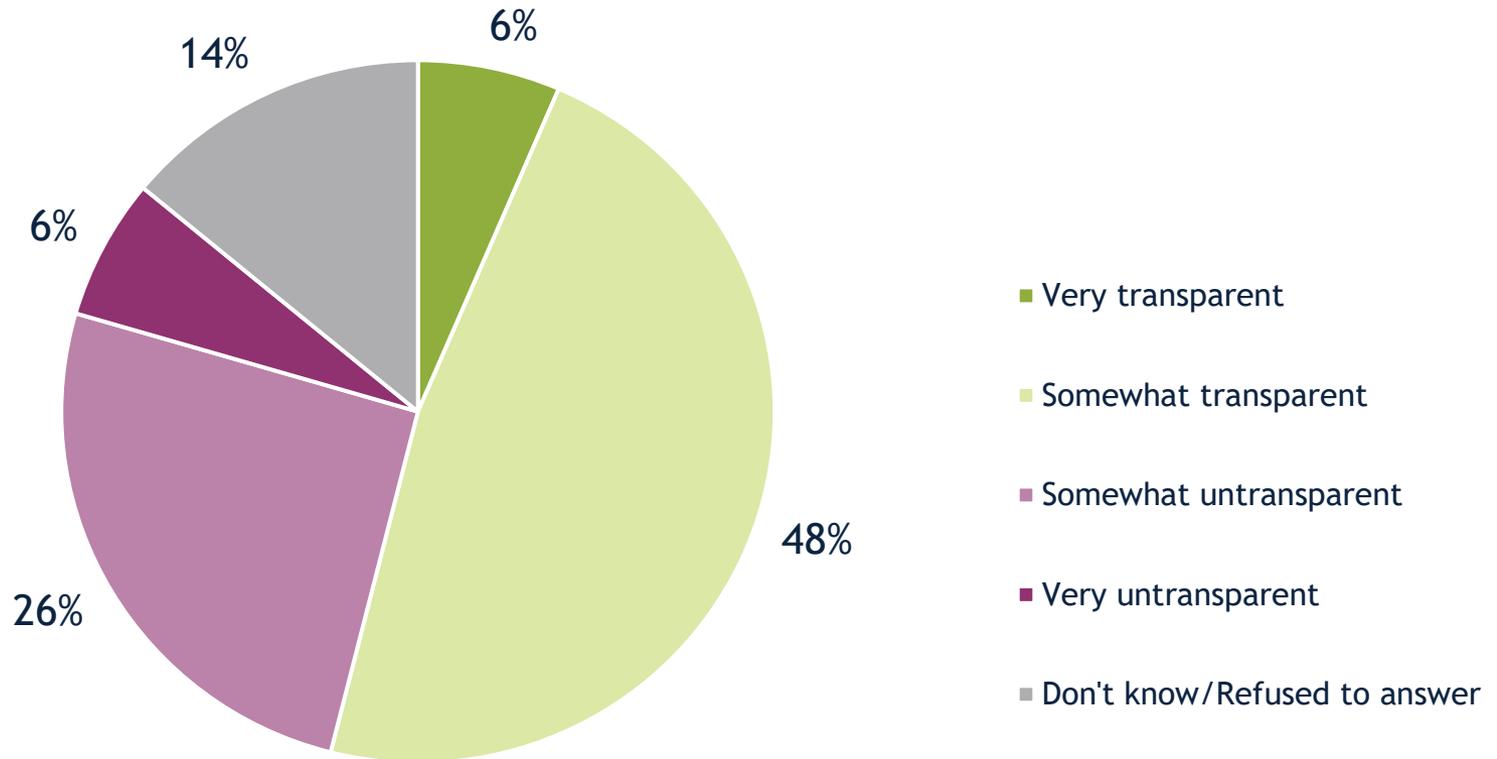


Which of the terms I will show you best reflects how a corrupt person is perceived in our society?

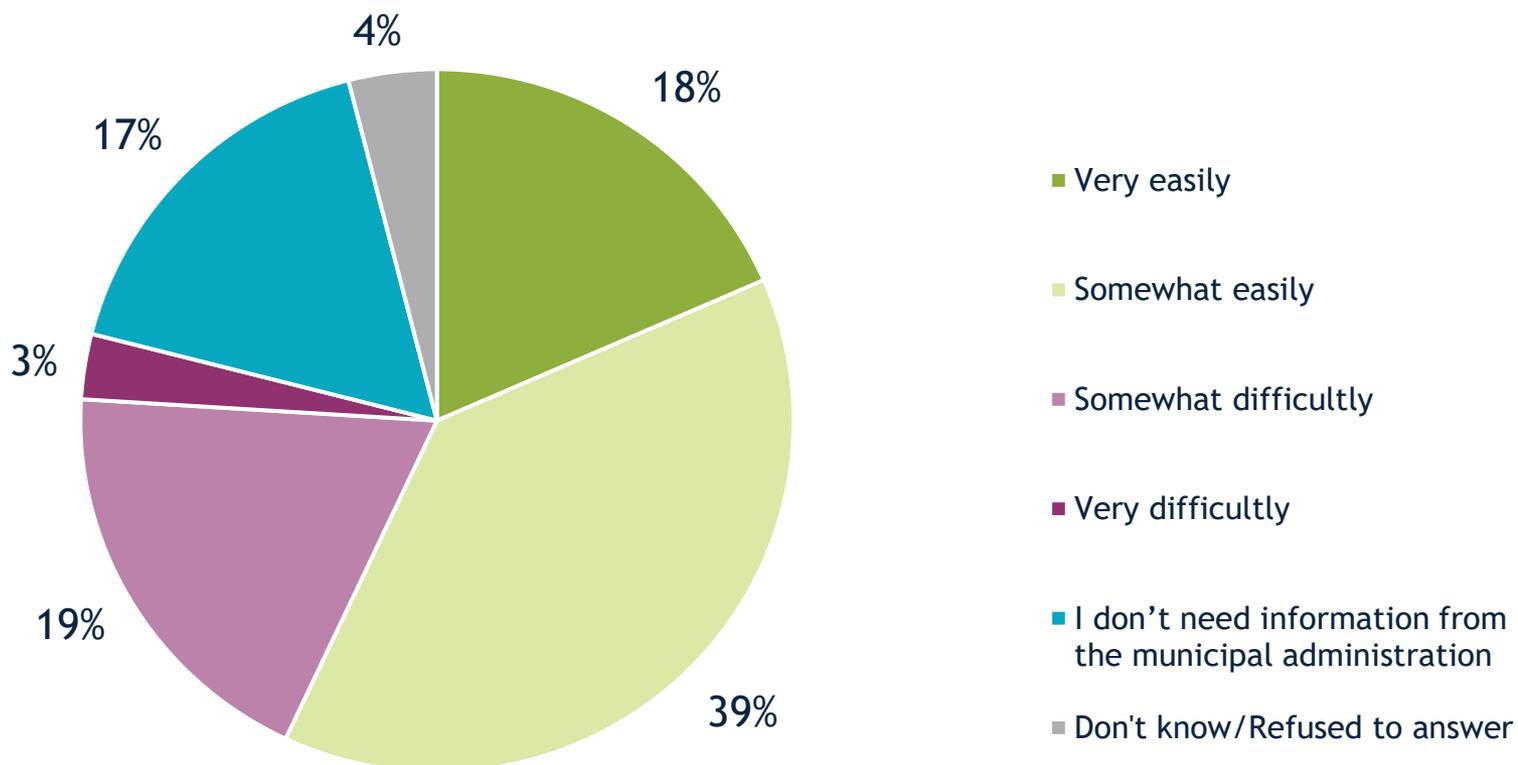
(Multiple responses accepted)



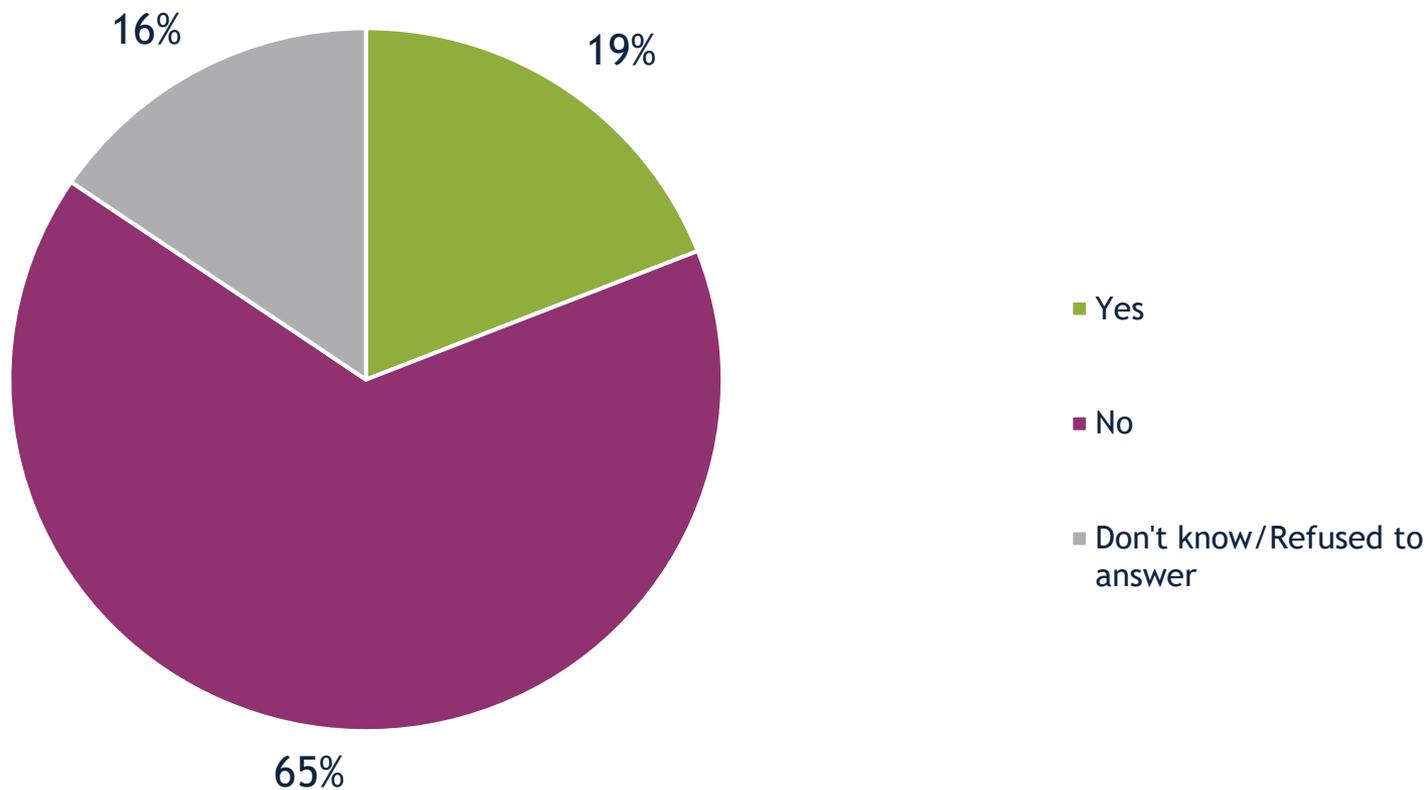
How transparent or untransparent is the work of the mayor and the municipal administration?



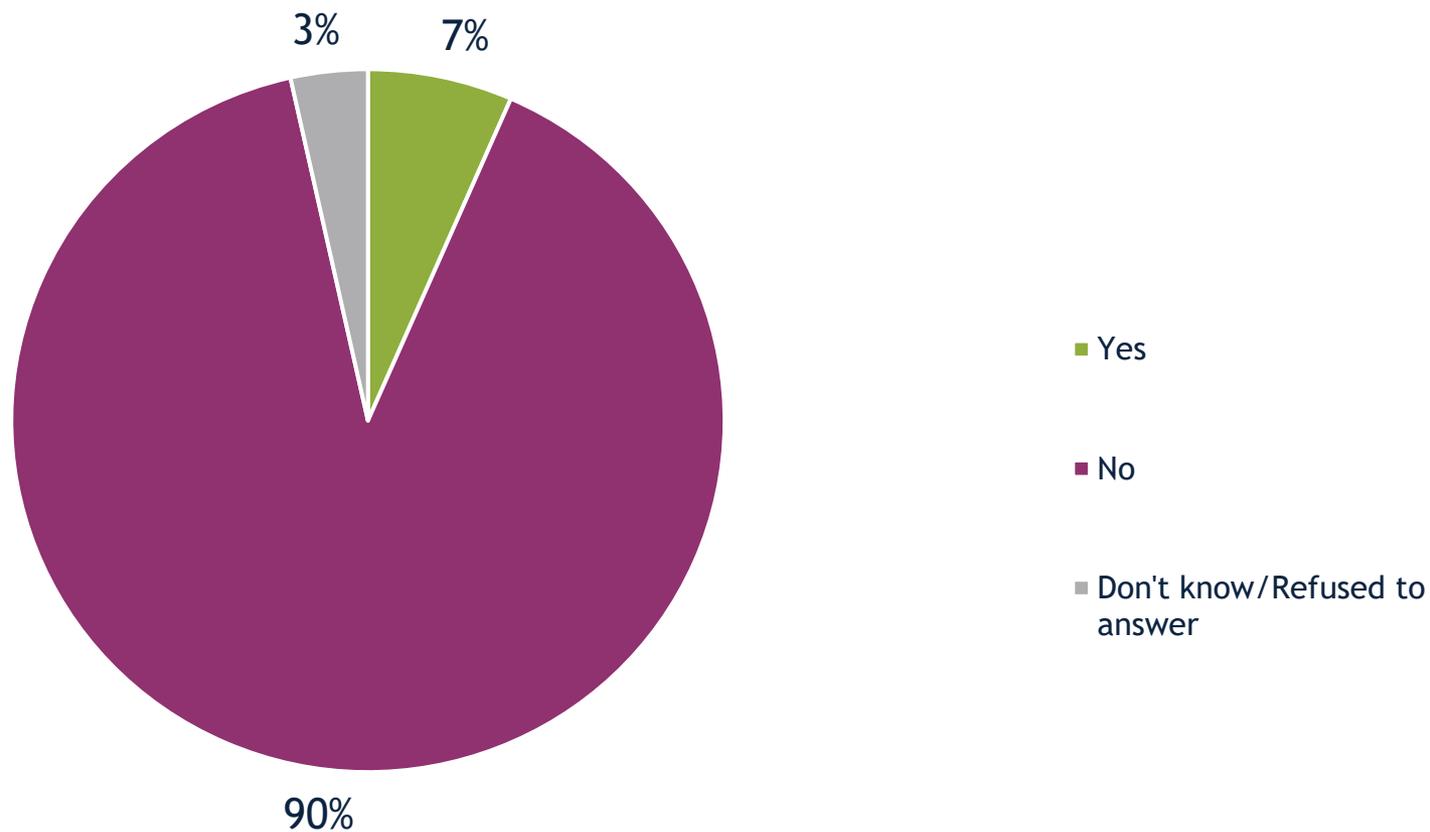
Do you find the information you need from the municipal administration easily or not?



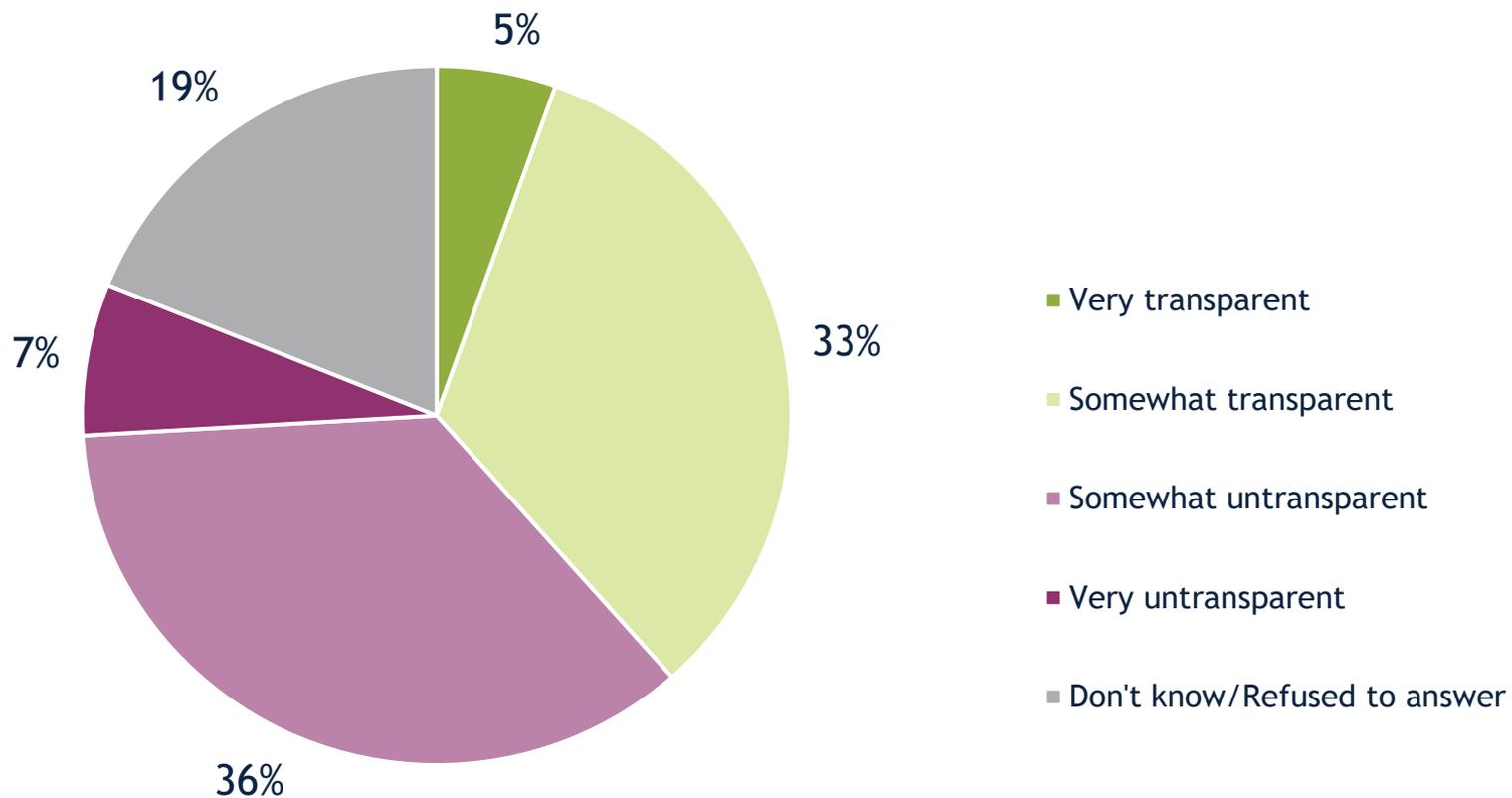
Are you aware of when municipal government public consultation meetings take place?



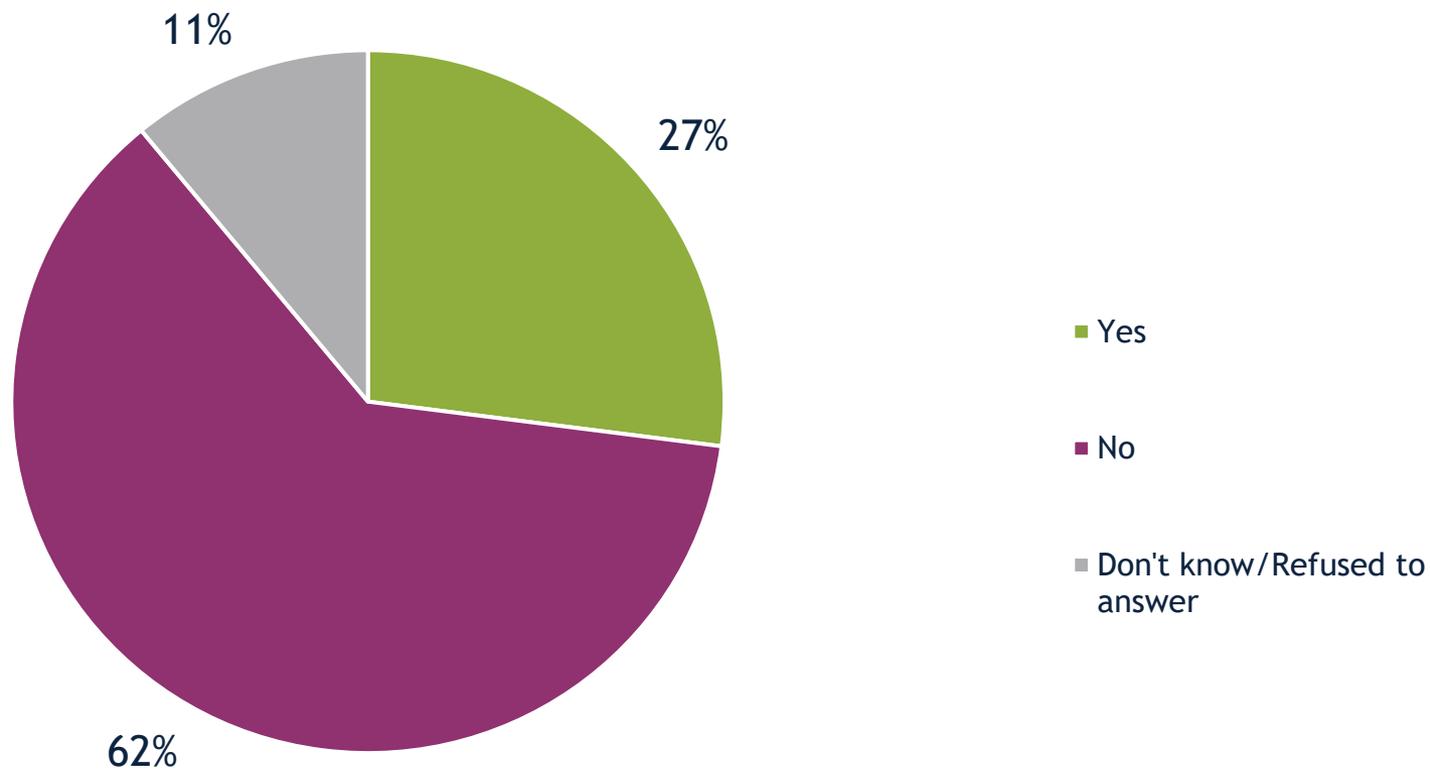
Have you ever attended a municipal government public consultation meeting?



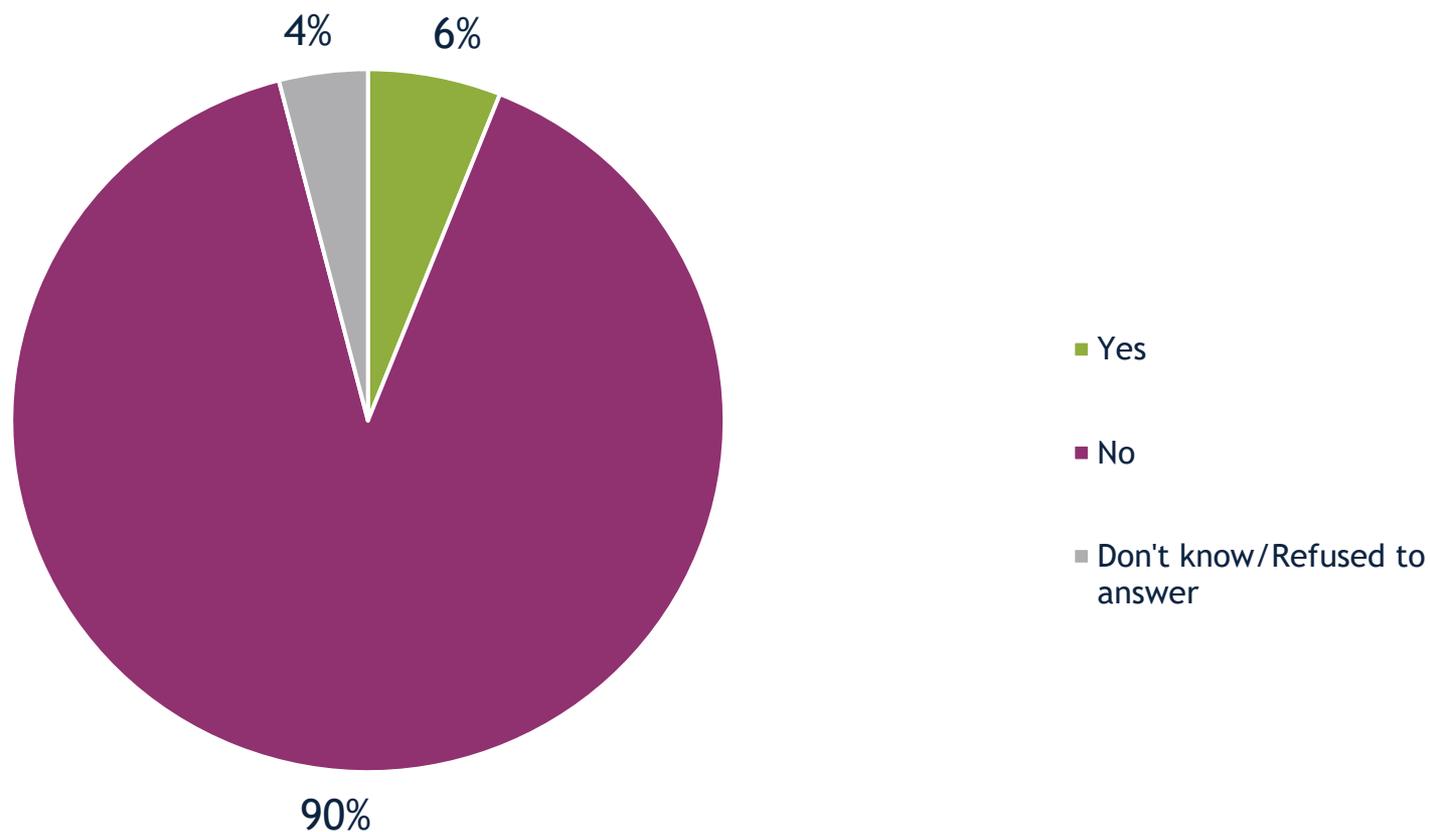
How transparent or untransparent is the work of the municipal council?



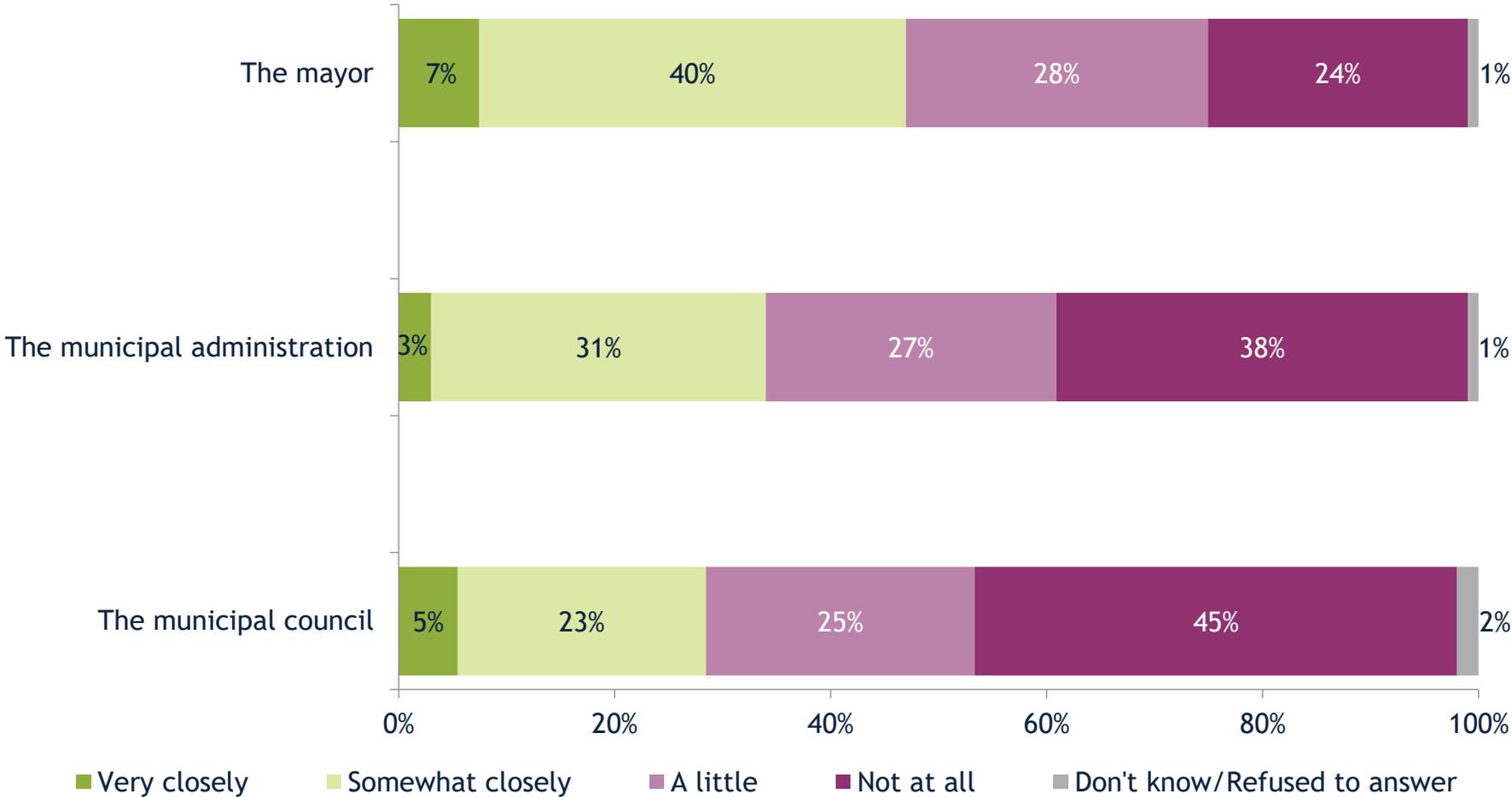
Are you aware of when municipal council meetings take place?



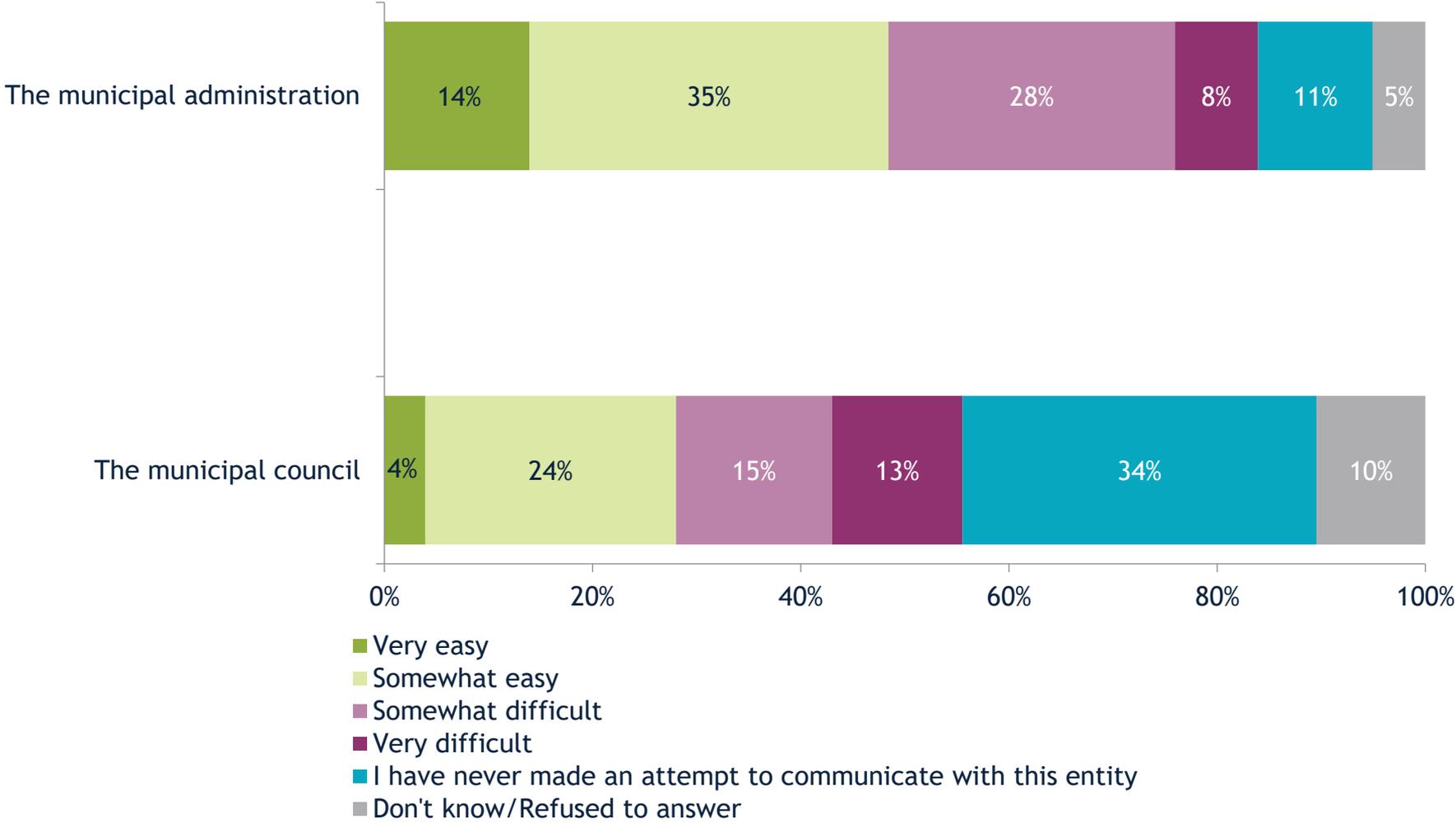
Have you attended any municipal council meetings?



How closely do you follow the decisions and actions taken by each of the following institutions?

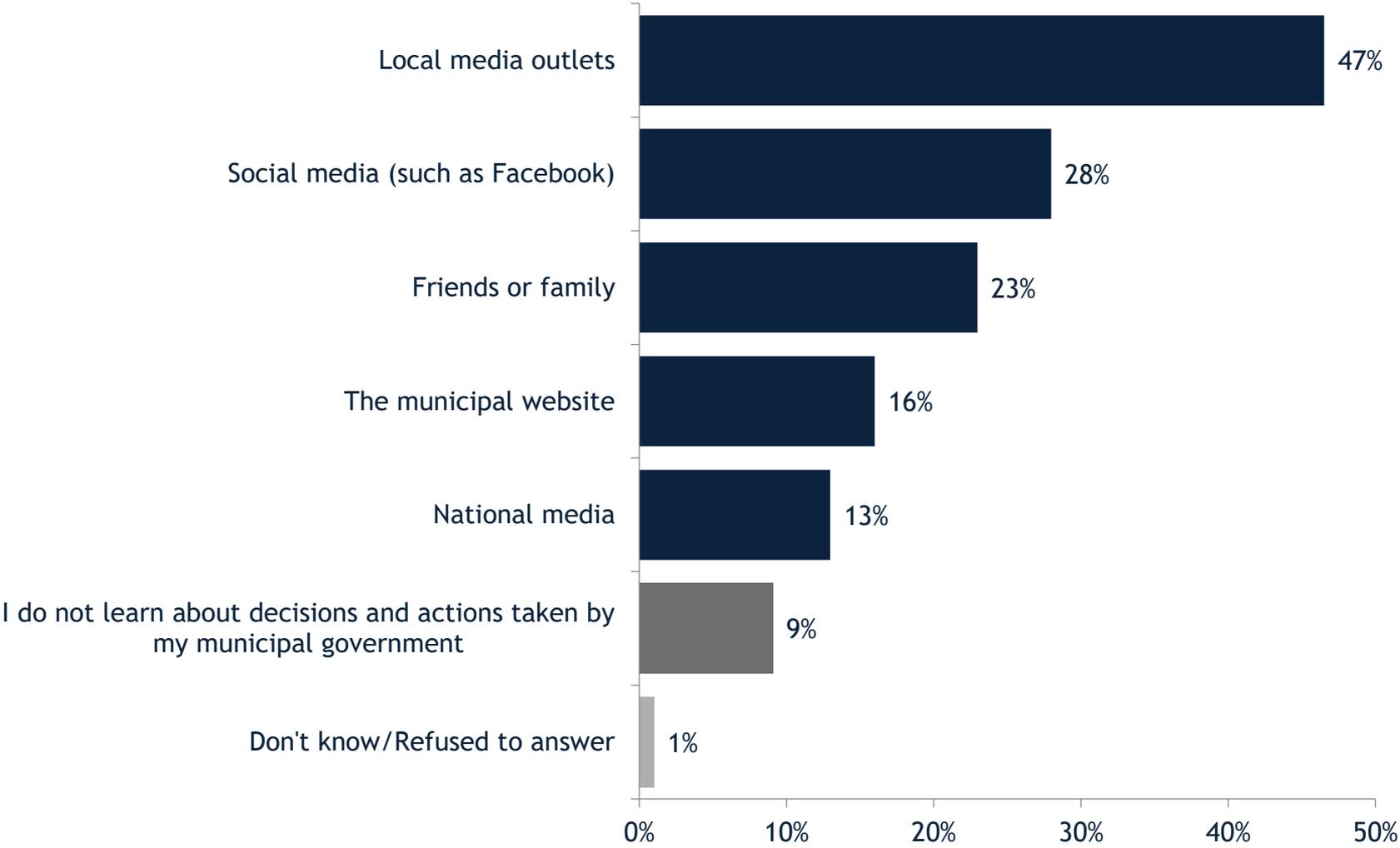


Is it easy or difficult to communicate with the following entities in your municipality?

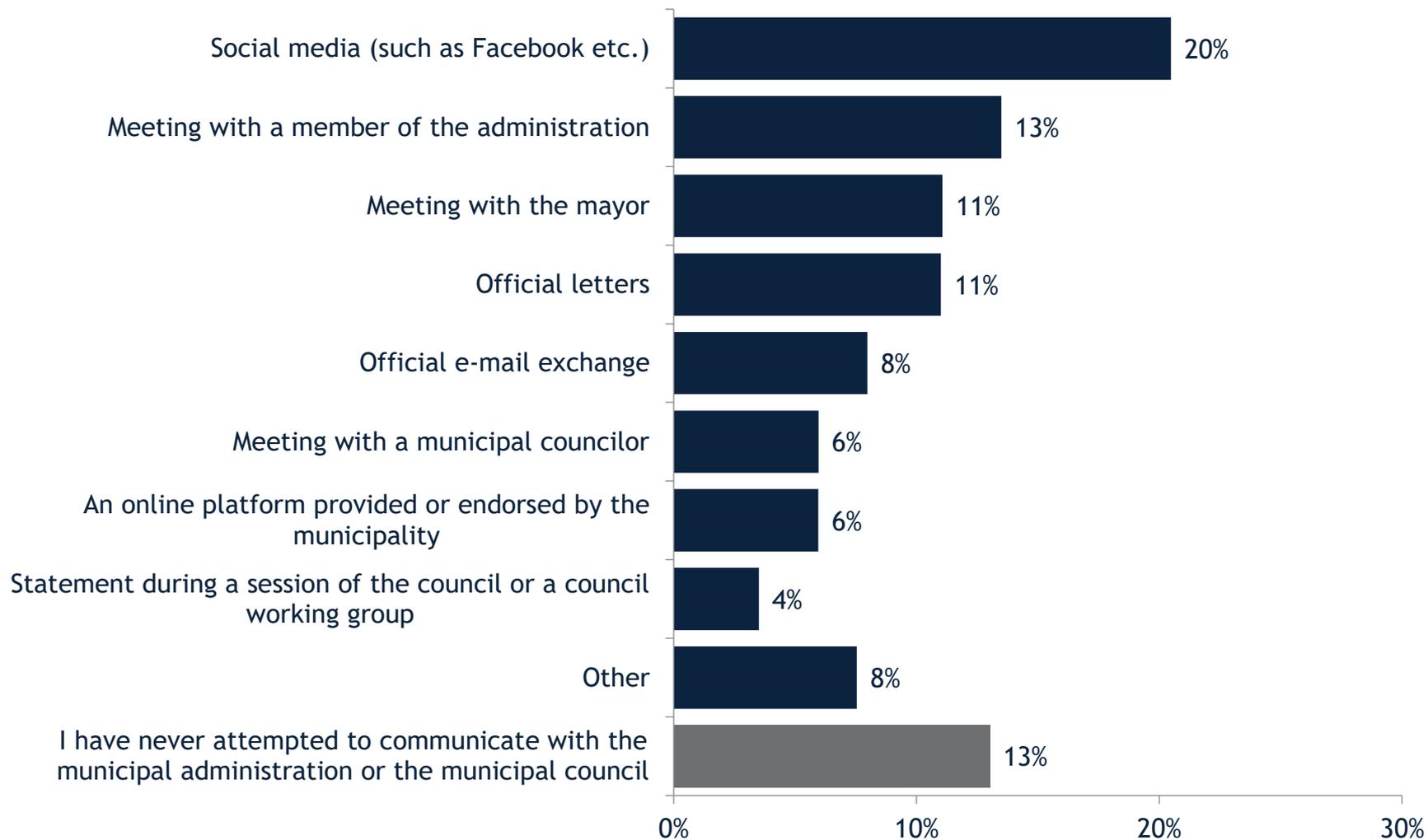


What are the primary sources you use to learn about the decisions and actions taken by the municipal administration and the council?

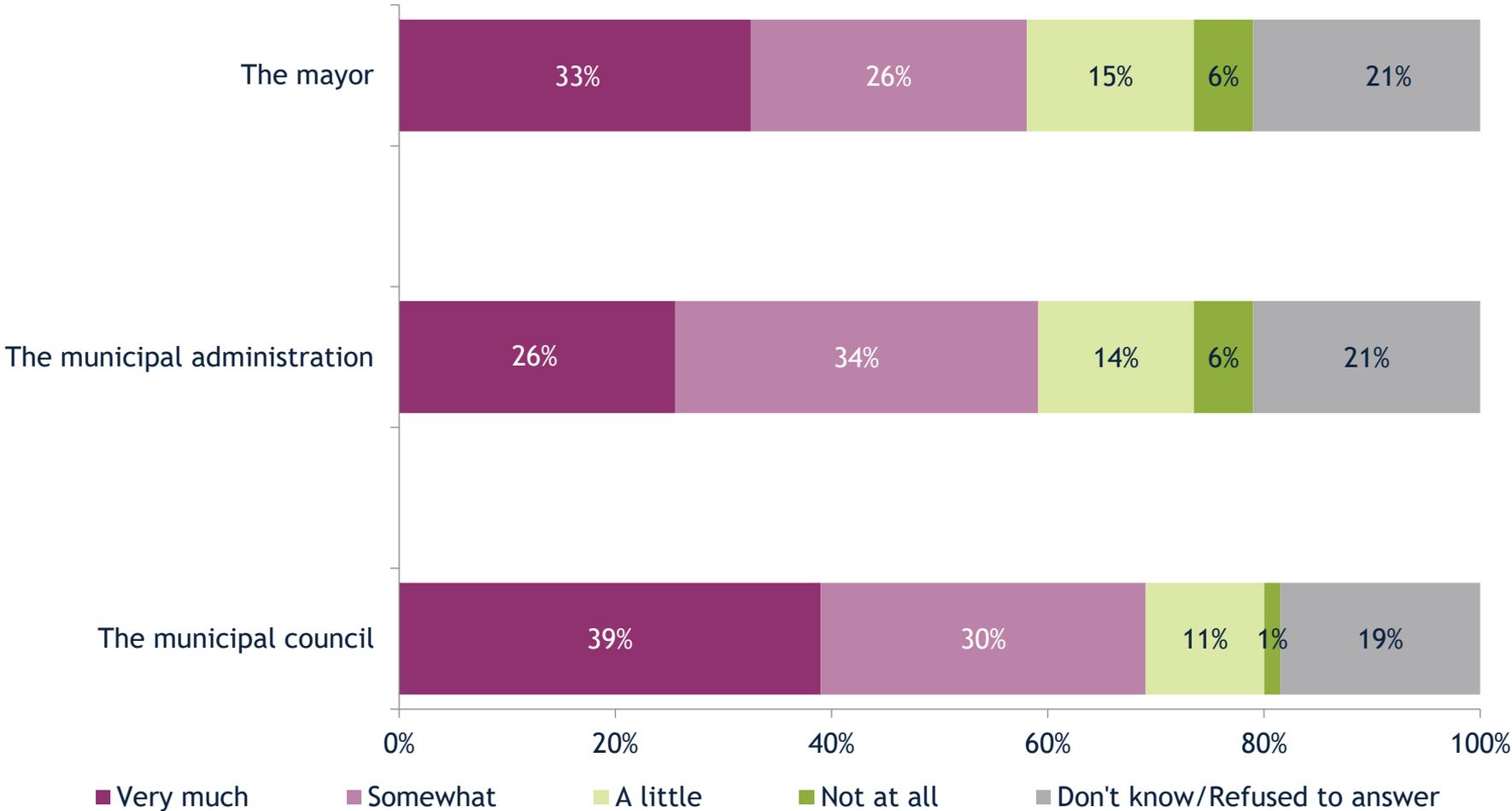
(Spontaneous response; multiple responses accepted)



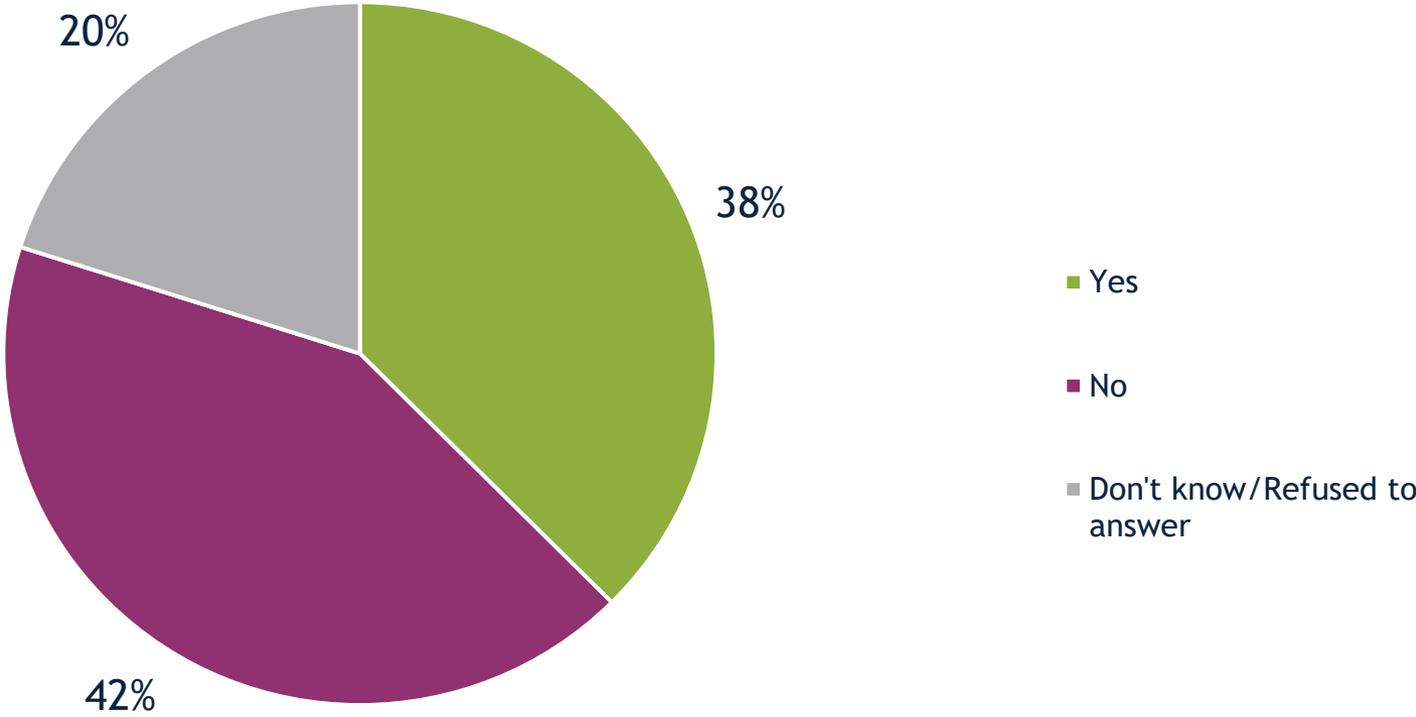
Which of the following is your preferred channel of communication with the municipal administration and the council?



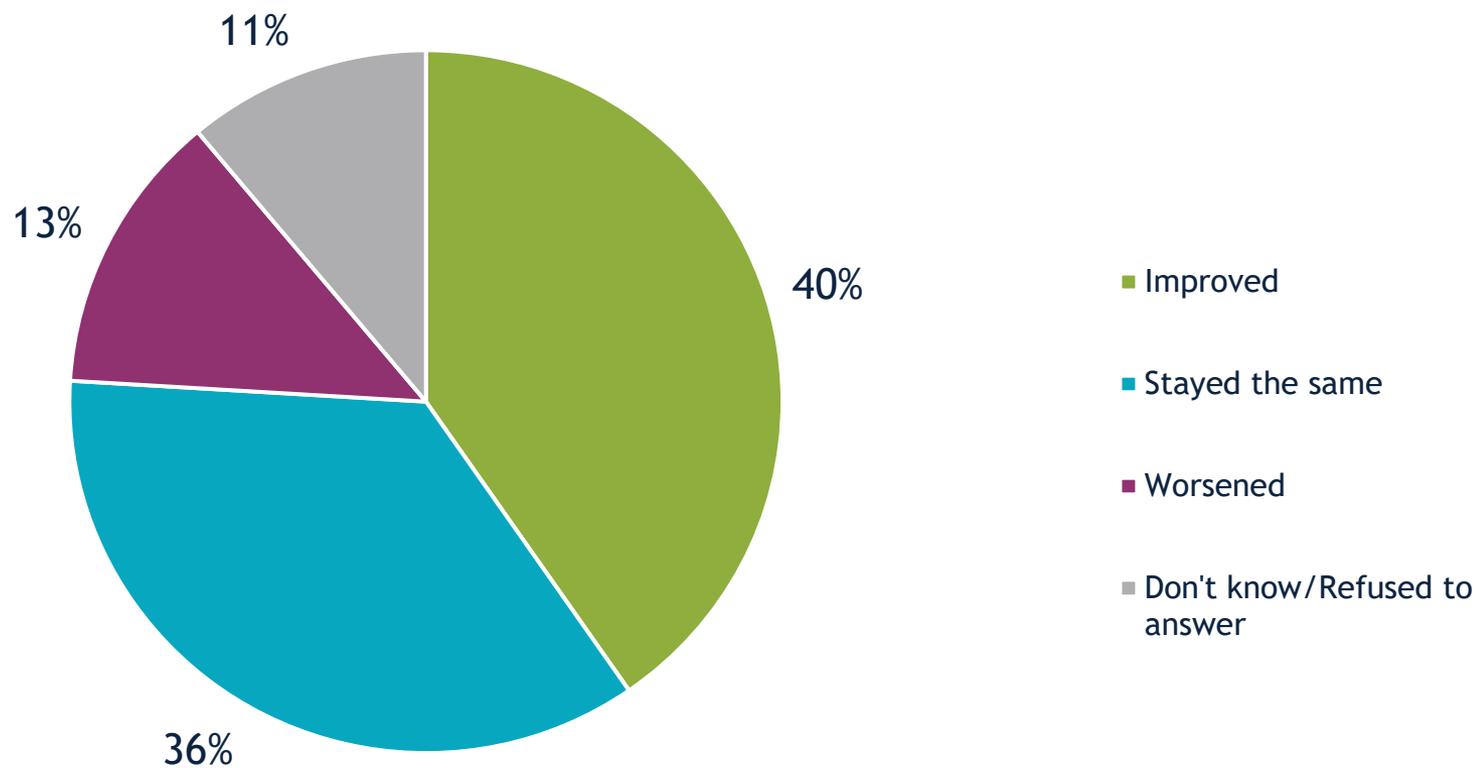
To what extent are each of your municipal government entities influenced by wealthy people?



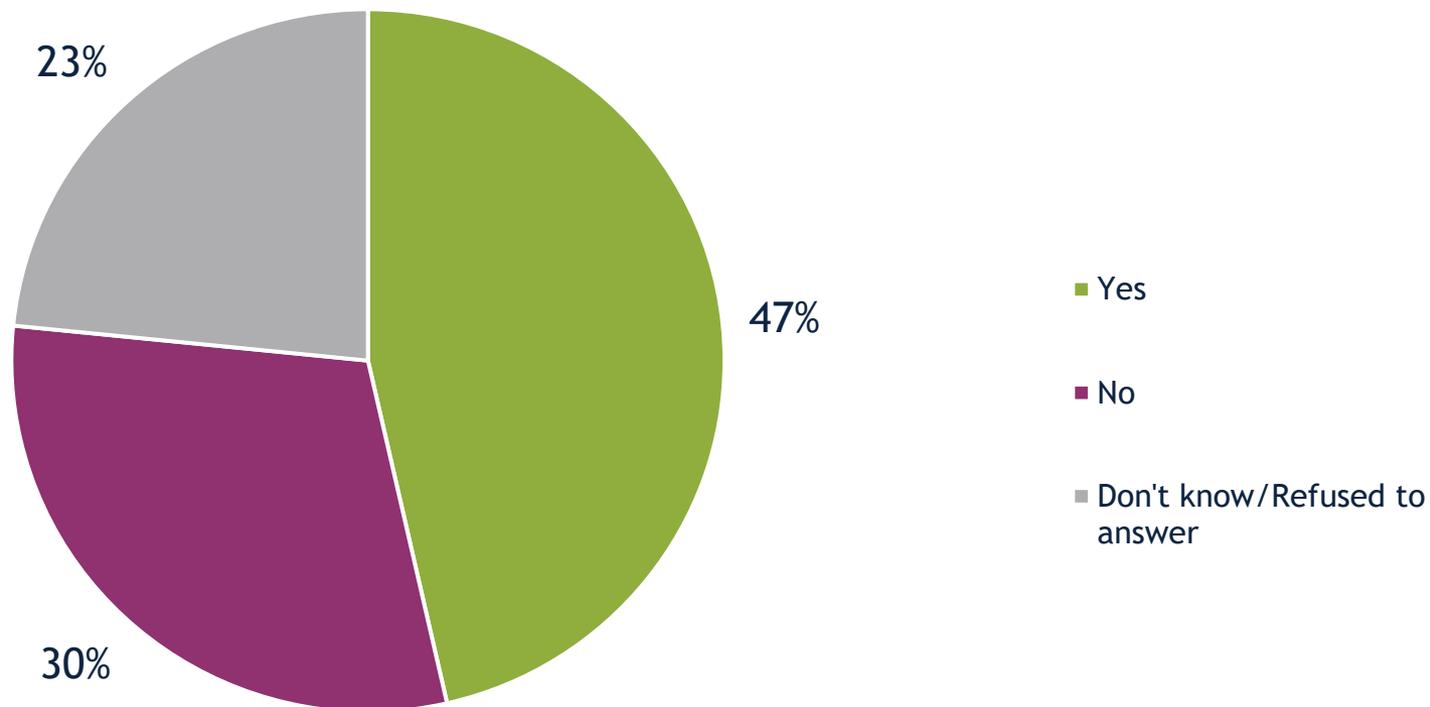
Are you aware of any local NGOs, which means a local group that forms around a common goal and is not associated with the government, that work for more transparency in the municipal administration and the council?



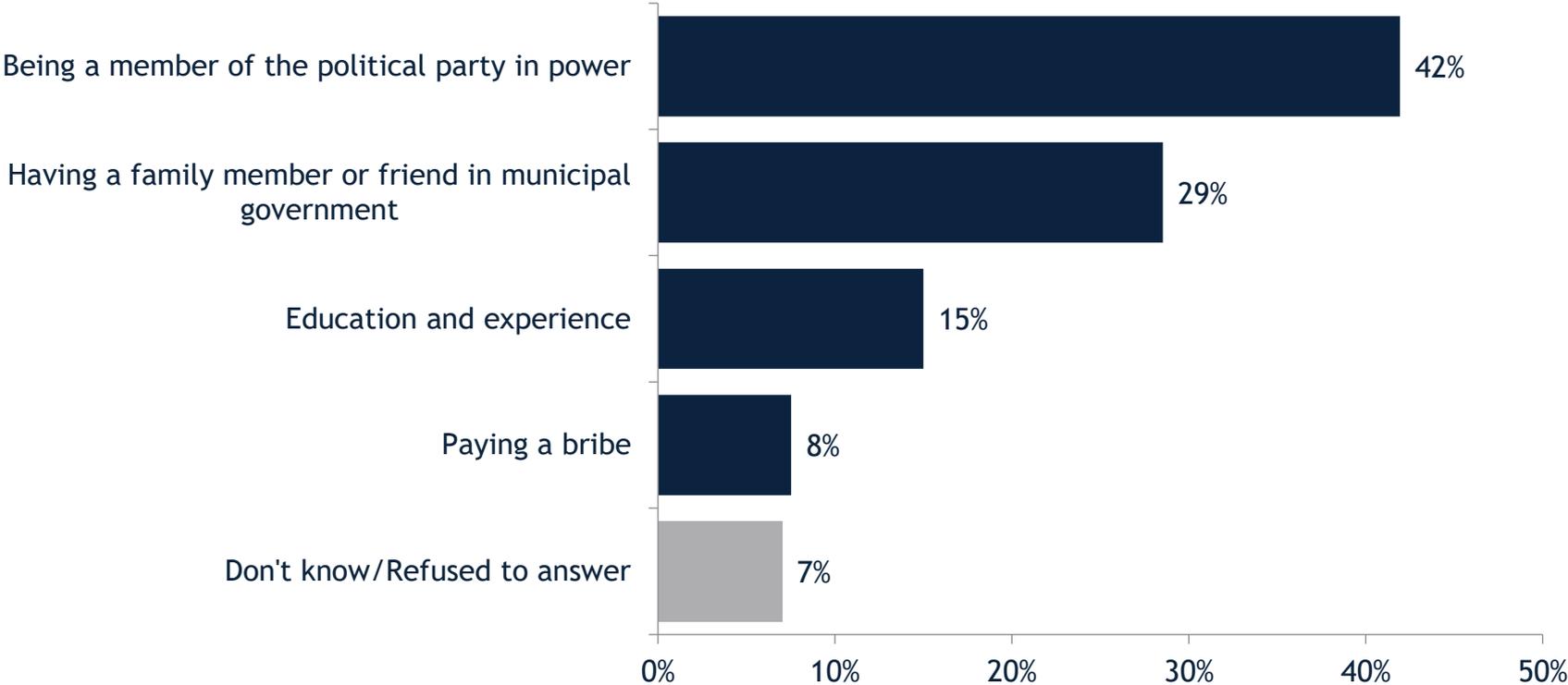
Do you think municipal transparency has improved or worsened, or stayed the same over the last 10 years?



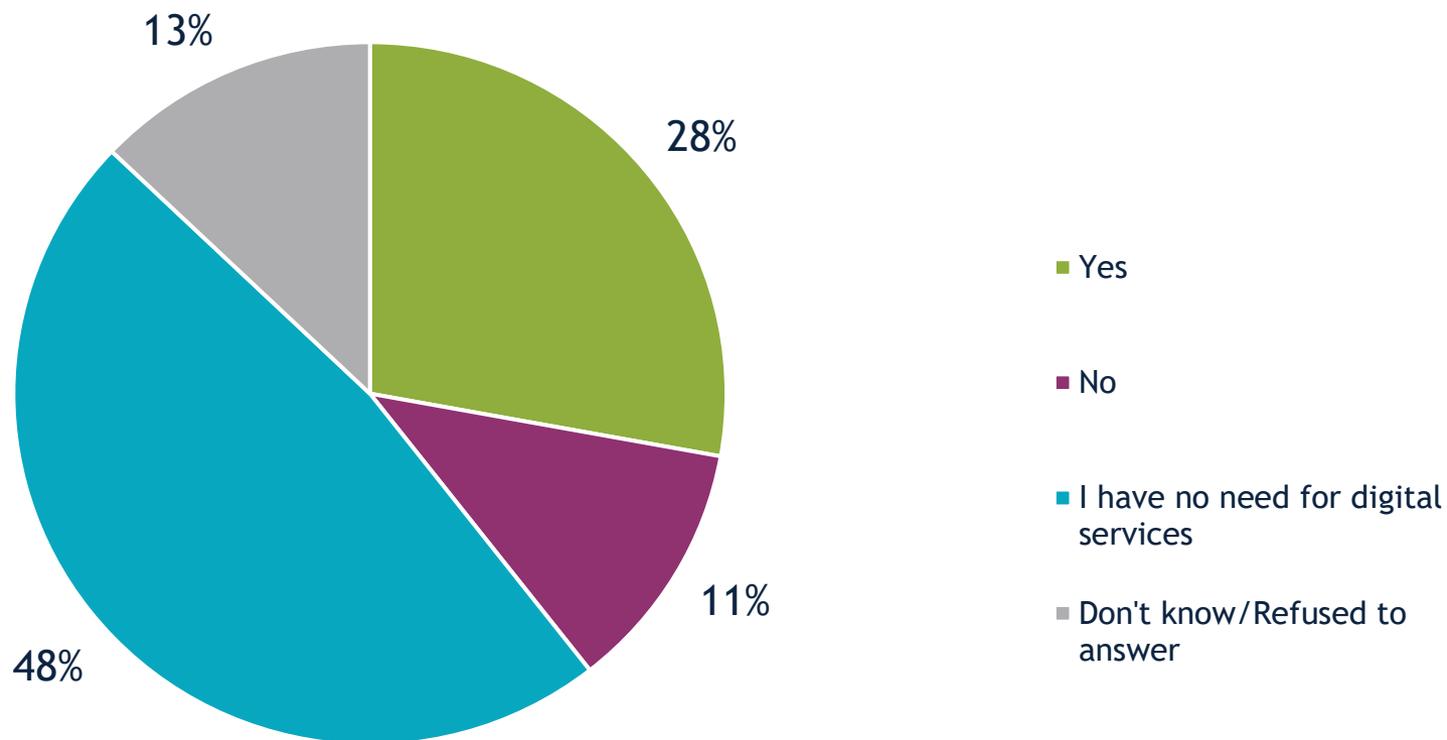
Do you see political will for improvement of municipal transparency?



Which of the following do you think is the most important factor for getting a job in the municipal administration?

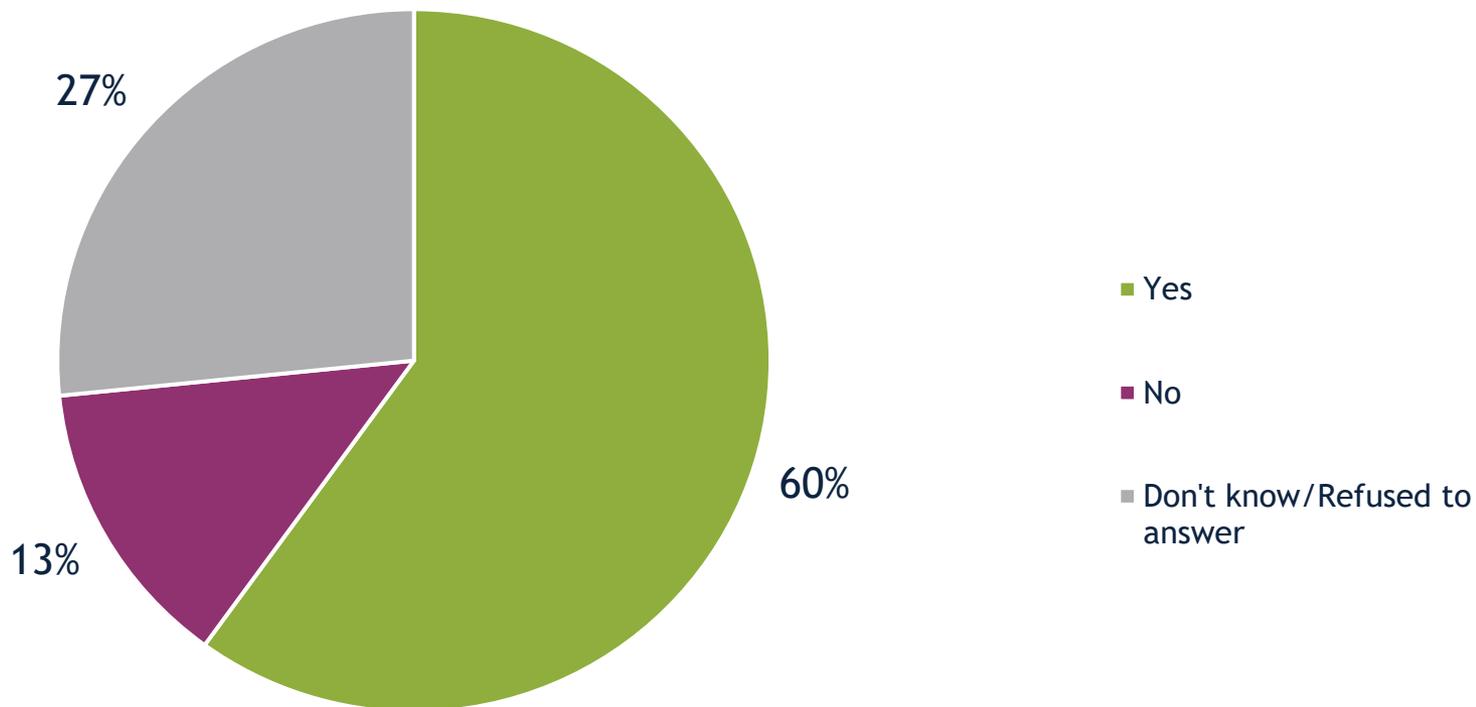


Are you satisfied with the level of digital services offered by your municipality?

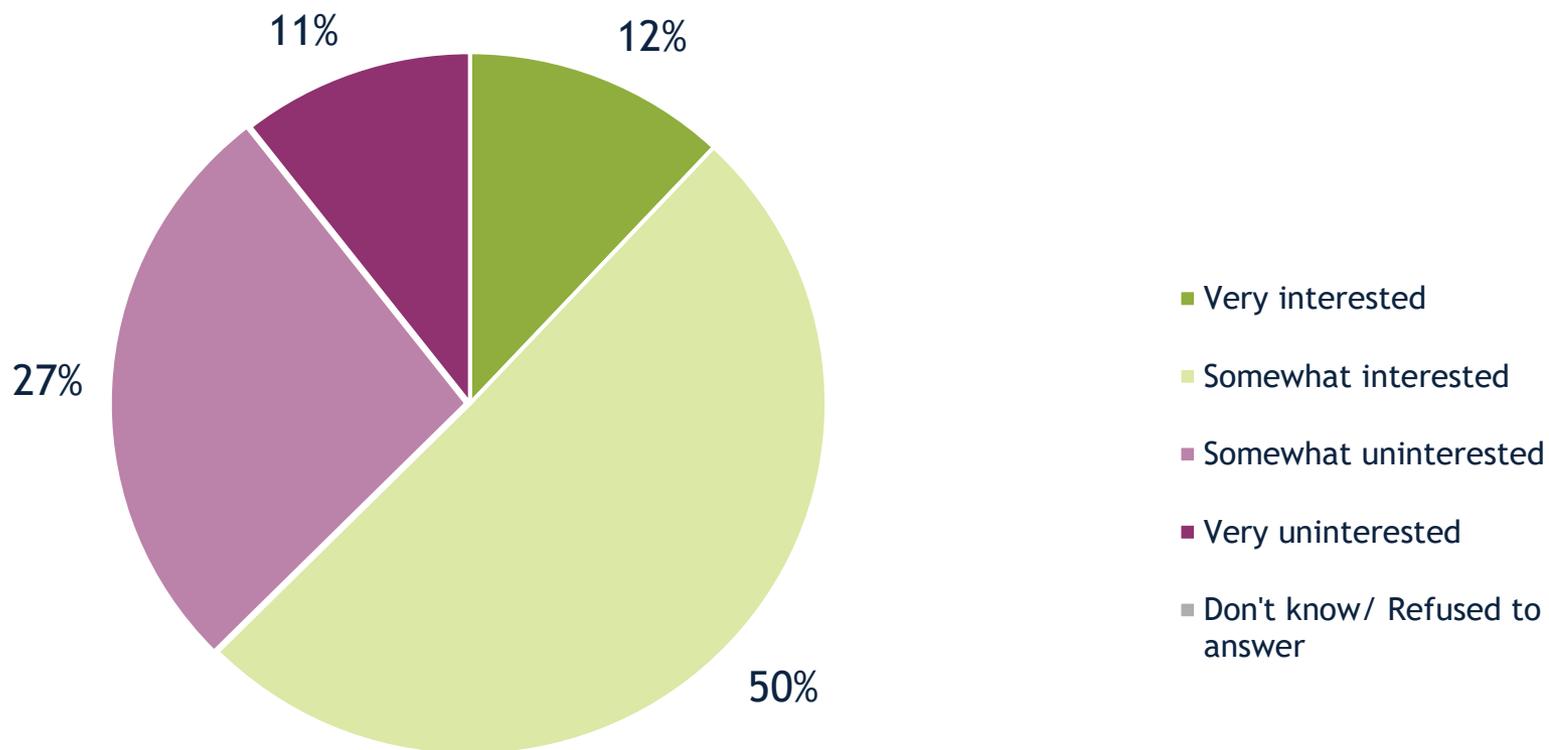


Do you think efforts are made to improve the digital services offered by your municipality?

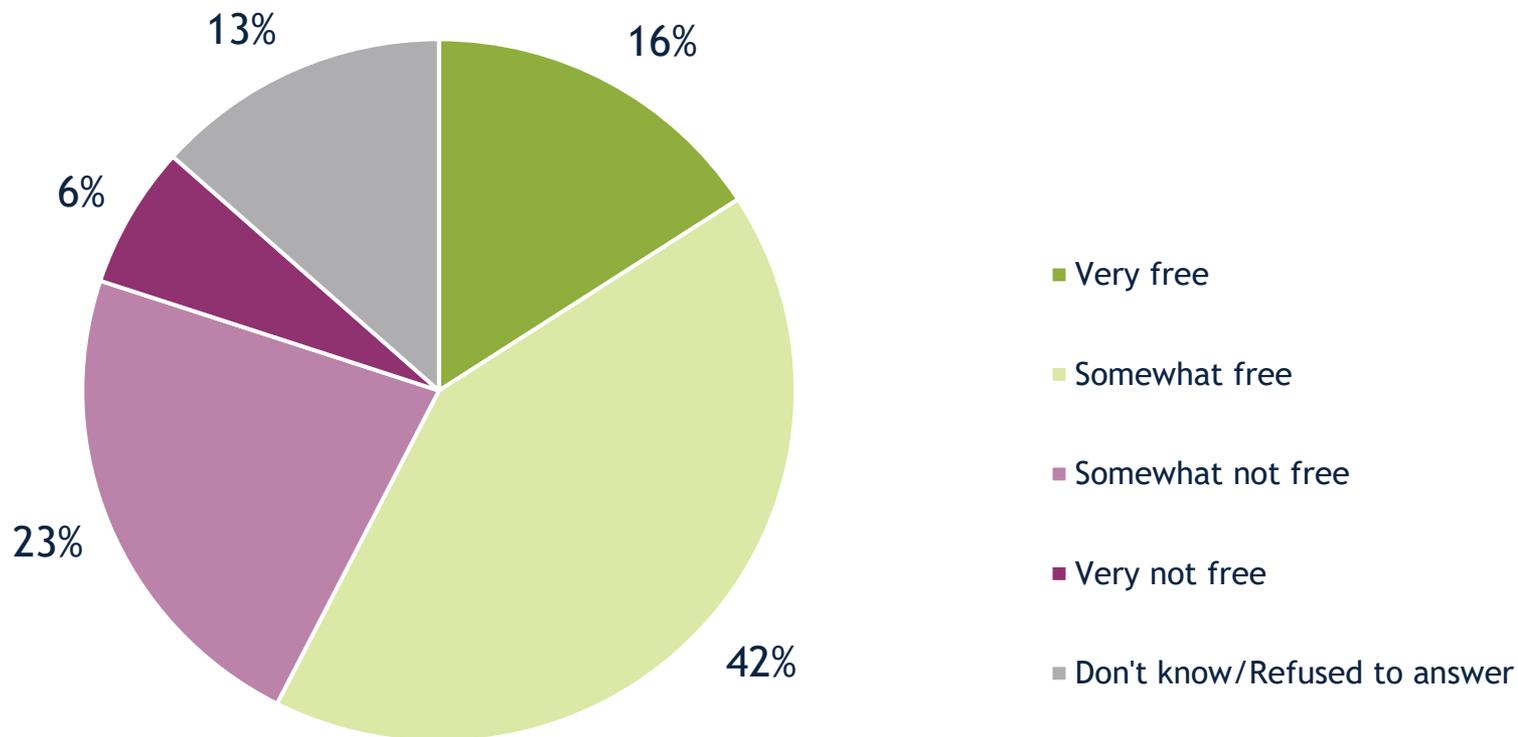
(Among all respondents from Blagoevgrad except for those who stated they have no need for digital services: n=105)



How interested or uninterested are you in political news and information about your municipality?

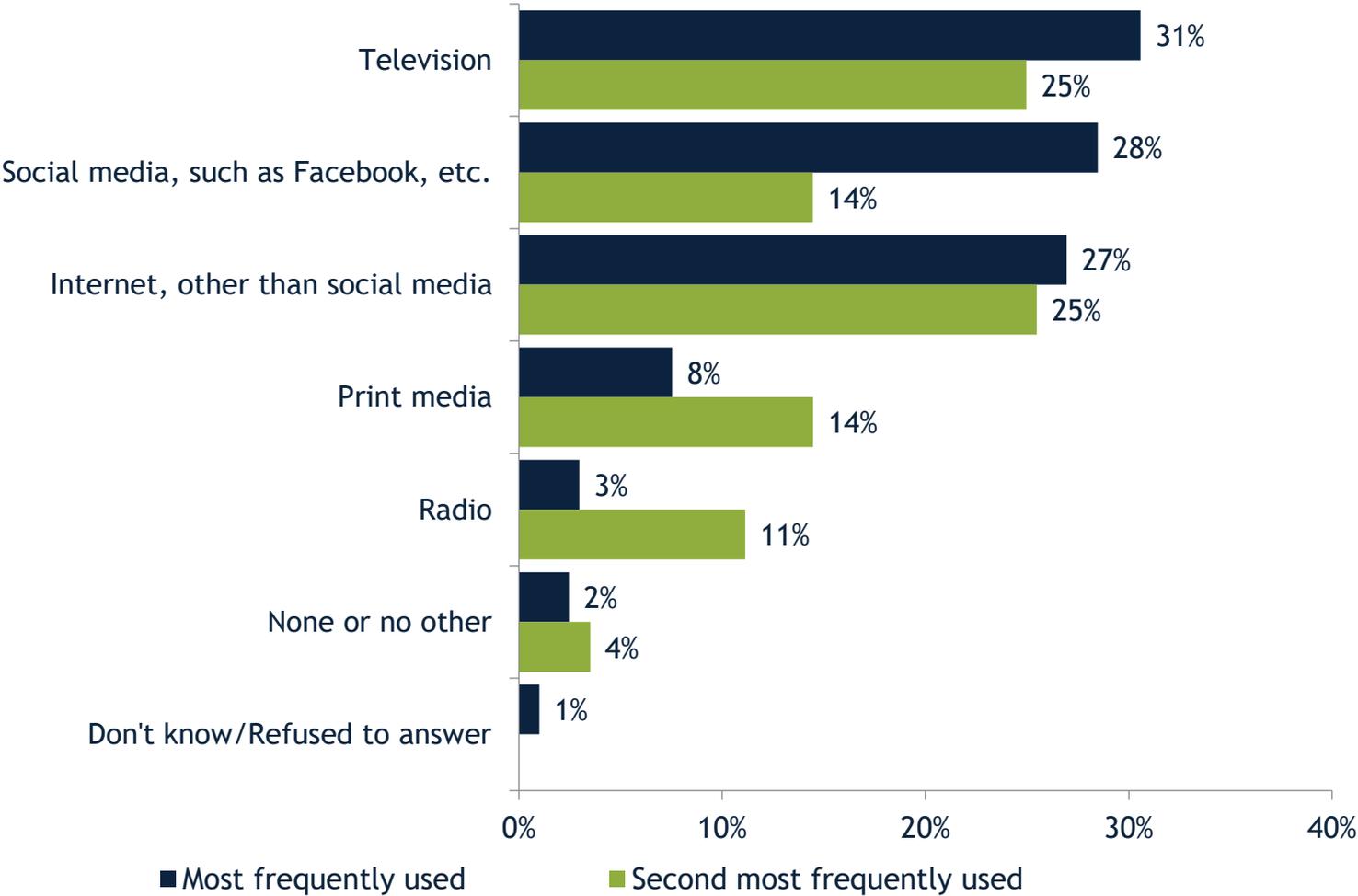


Are the media in your municipality free to independently cover any issue or not?

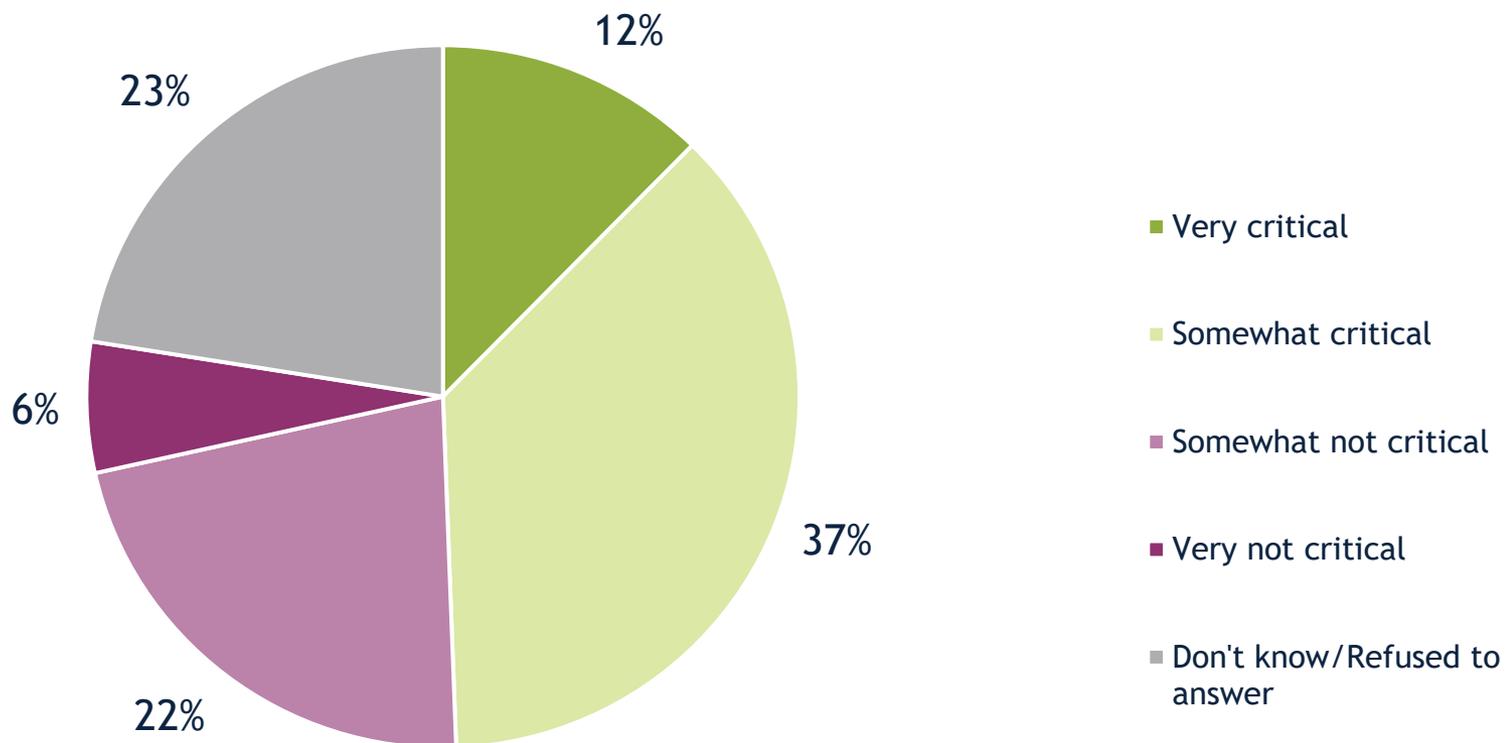


Which media platform do you use most frequently and second most frequently to gain political news and information about your municipality?

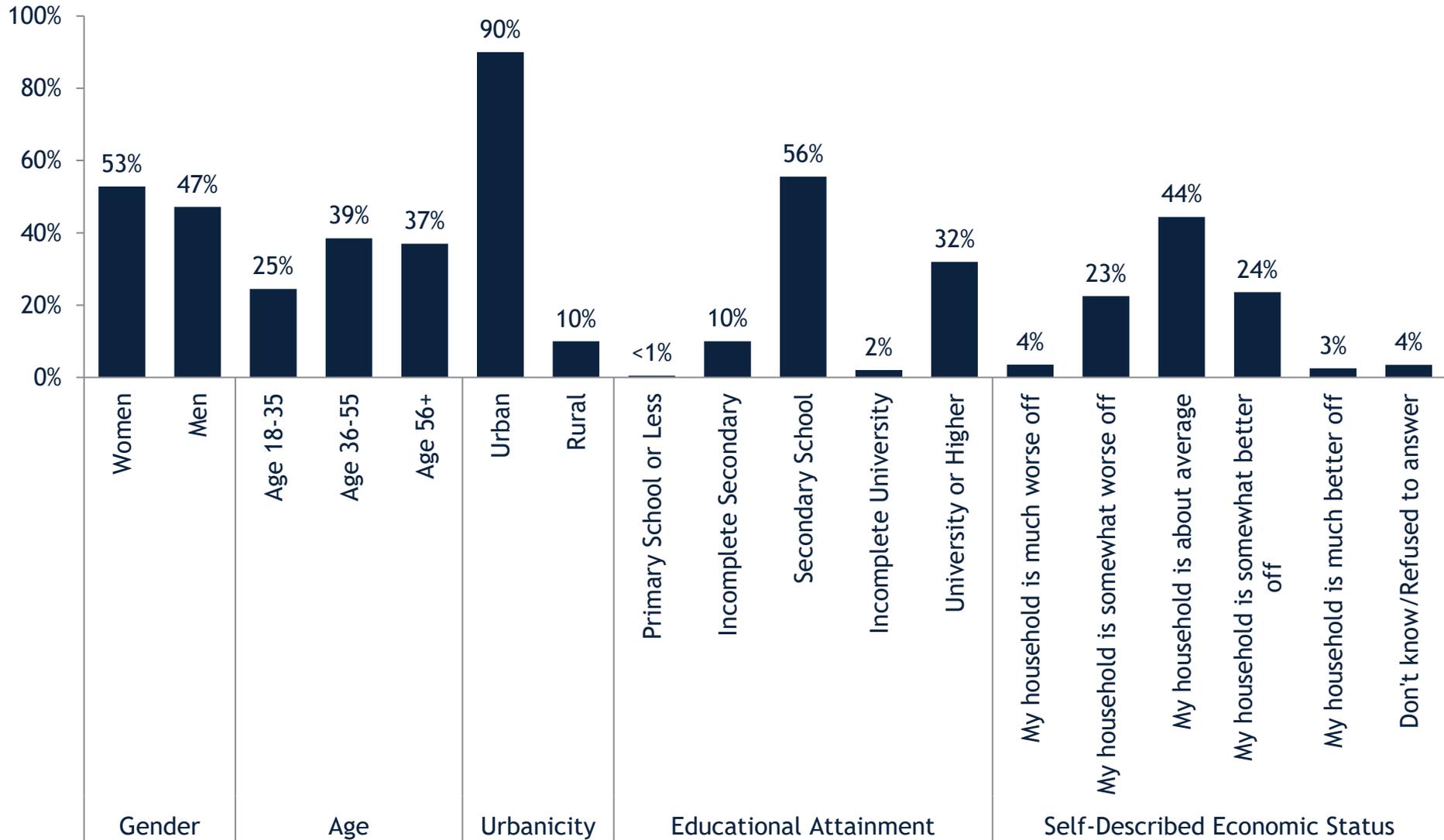
(Up to two responses accepted)



Do you perceive local and regional media as critical or not critical of the municipal administration and the council?



Demographics



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