



# Survey of Public Opinion in Macedonia

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September 29 - October 5, 2015

# Detailed Methodology

- The survey was conducted on behalf of the [International Republican Institute's Center for Insights in Survey Research](#) by the [Brima](#) market research firm (member of Taylor Nelson Sofres and Gallup International) under the supervision of David Williams from [Williams and Associates](#) in Salem, Massachusetts.
- Data was collected from September 29 - October 5, 2015, using in-person, face-to-face methodology by trained professional interviewers.
- A total of 1,106 interviews was completed yielding an overall margin of error of plus or minus three percent at the midrange of the 95-percent confidence level. A nationally representative sample was based on a multistage stratification proportionate to population sample distribution, with a random selection of households and respondents. The refusal rate stands at 382 cases, out of which 71 refused to take part in the survey due to resistance to political questions.
- The sample was prepared using the State Statistical Office data (2002 census results) for the population aged 18 and older, considering the structure of the population according to age, gender, education, type of housing, national affiliation and region and updated according to estimates and primary information, collected by Brima.
- Stratification was based on three stages: first, the number of respondents for each of the regions was specified in proportion to the size of the population aged 18 and older that live in the region. Second, the sampling plan consisted of 164 sampling points located according to urban/rural split, municipality size and nationality diffusion. Third, the selection of households was based on random route method, whereby in urban areas, every third household on the left-hand side of the street was selected. In rural areas, the wave-wise approach is applied and the selected household is every fourth inhabited house/dwelling on both sides of the interviewer's route/track, counting from the first house on the left.
- The next birthday method was used to select respondents 18 years and older.
- Figures in charts and tables may not add to 100 percent due to rounding error.
- This poll was conducted with support from the [United States Agency for International Development](#).



# Citizens Remain Skeptical Parties Will Implement Przino Agreement

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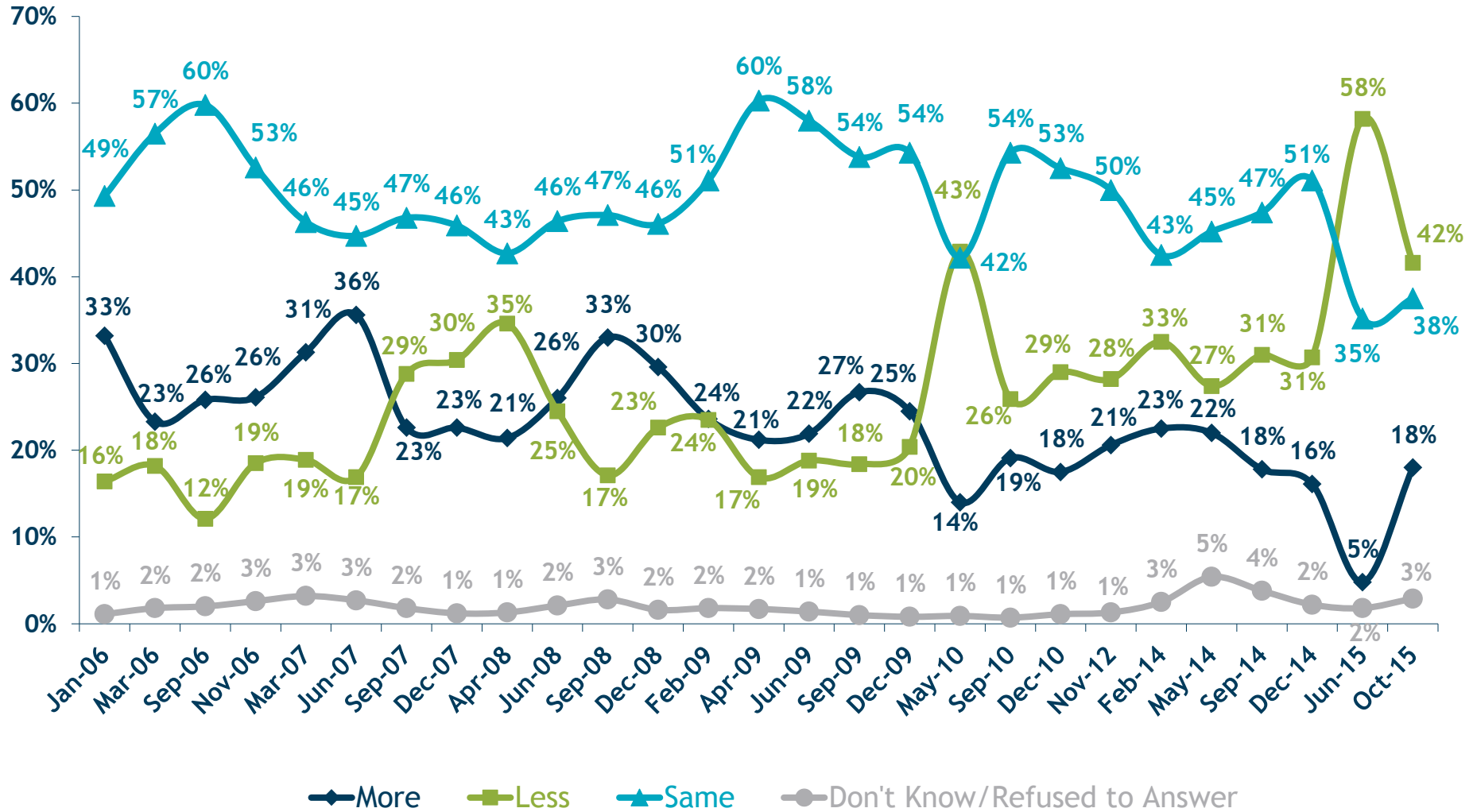
# The Przino Agreement

In early 2015, a series of wiretapped phone conversations were released by the opposition Social Democratic Party of Macedonia (SDSM) that implicated government officials in misconduct, including the cover-up of the death of a young man by a police officer in 2011. The release of the wiretaps led to large demonstrations and calls for the government's resignation.

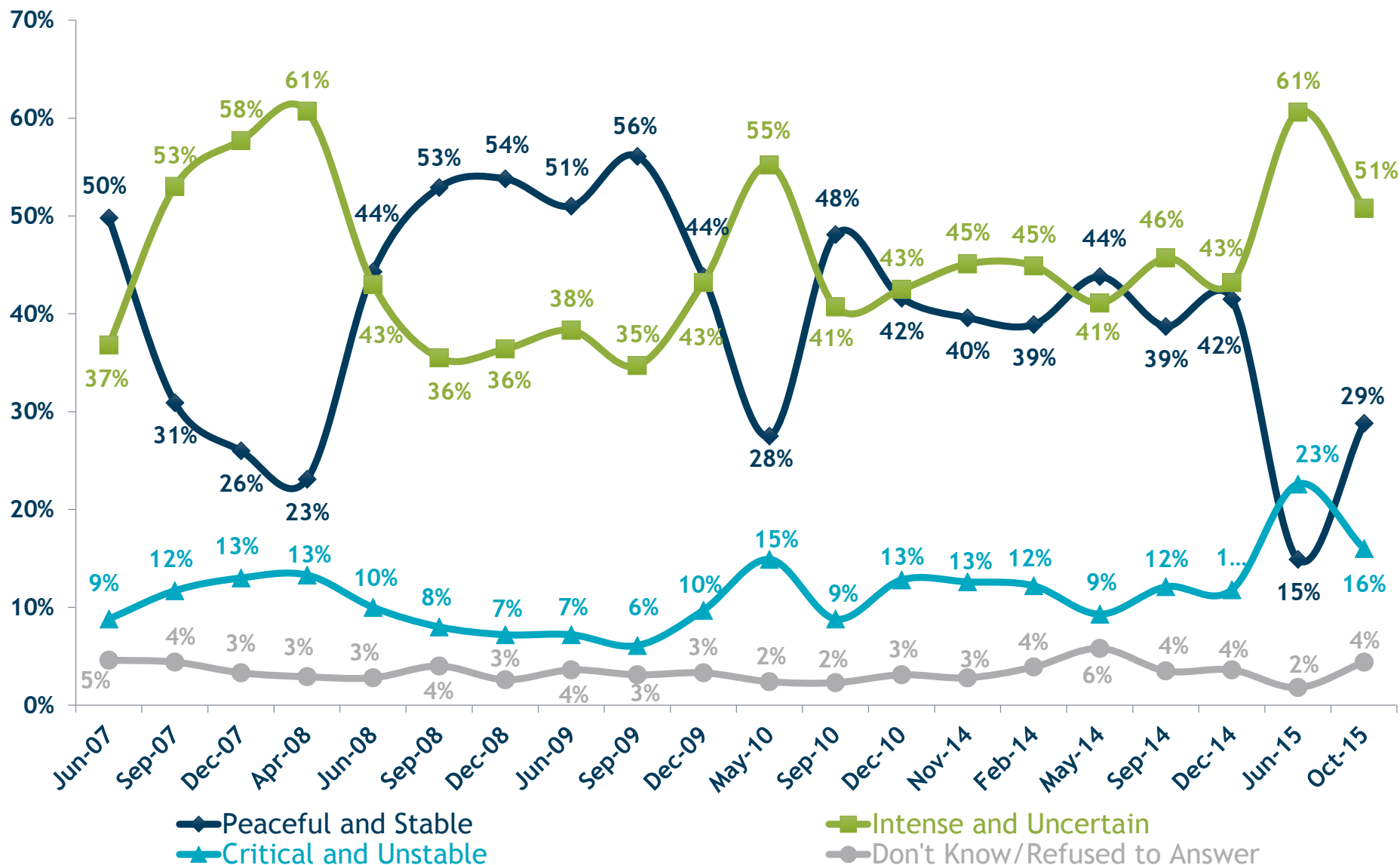
In June and July 2015, in an effort to reduce political tensions, the four largest Macedonian political parties (the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization - Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE), SDSM, the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI) and the Democratic Party of Albanians (DPA)), under the auspices of European Union commissioner Johannes Hahn, negotiated the so-called Przino Agreement. The agreement laid out the following steps:

- SDSM would return to parliament, which their members had been boycotting since;
- A special prosecutor would be appointed to investigate allegations resulting from the wiretapping;
- SDSM would appoint ministers to the ministries of interior, labor and social policy;
- SDSM would have deputy ministers appointed to other ministries spelled out in the agreement;
- The current government would resign and would be replaced by a caretaker government in January 2016; and
- Parliamentary elections would be held on April 24, 2016.

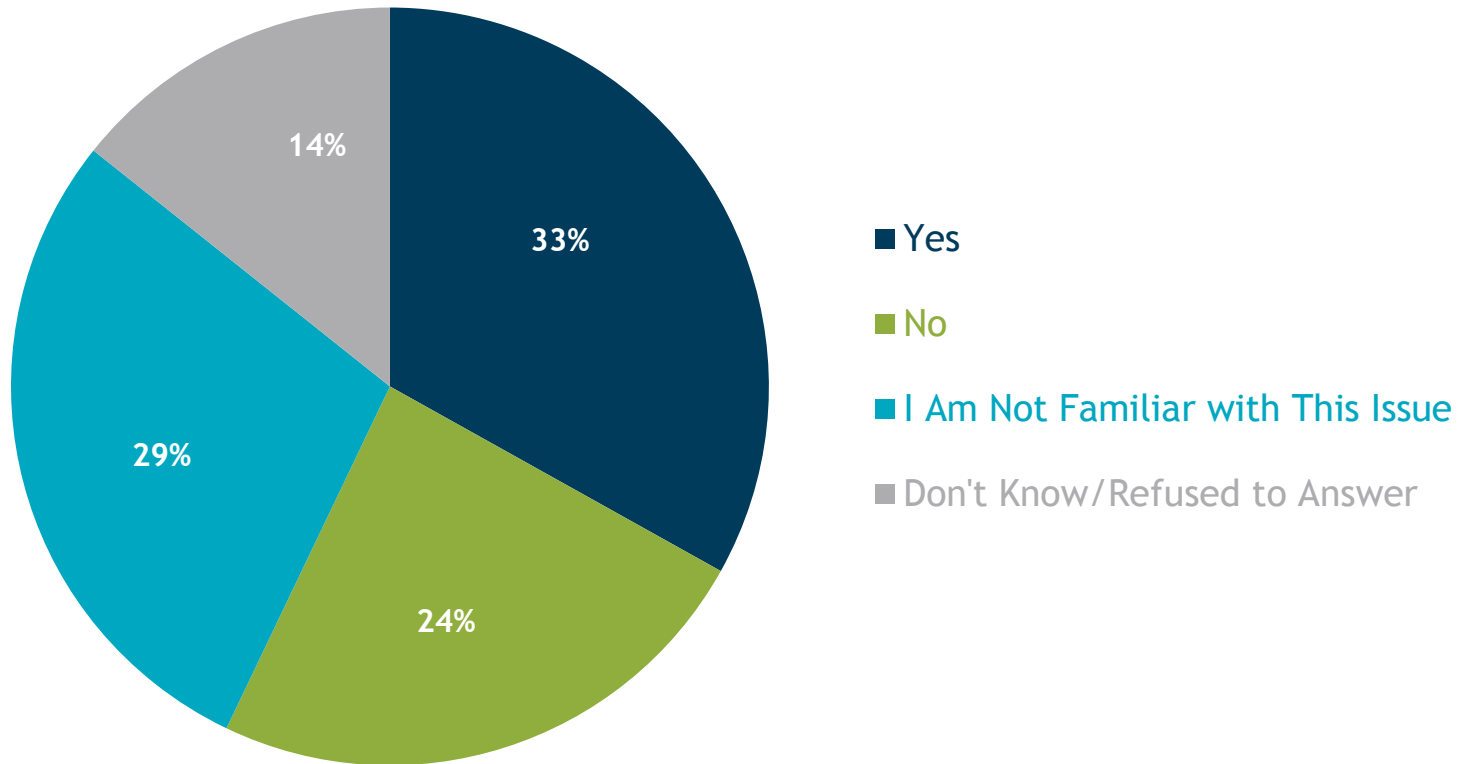
# Is the Republic of Macedonia more or less stable today than it was one year ago?



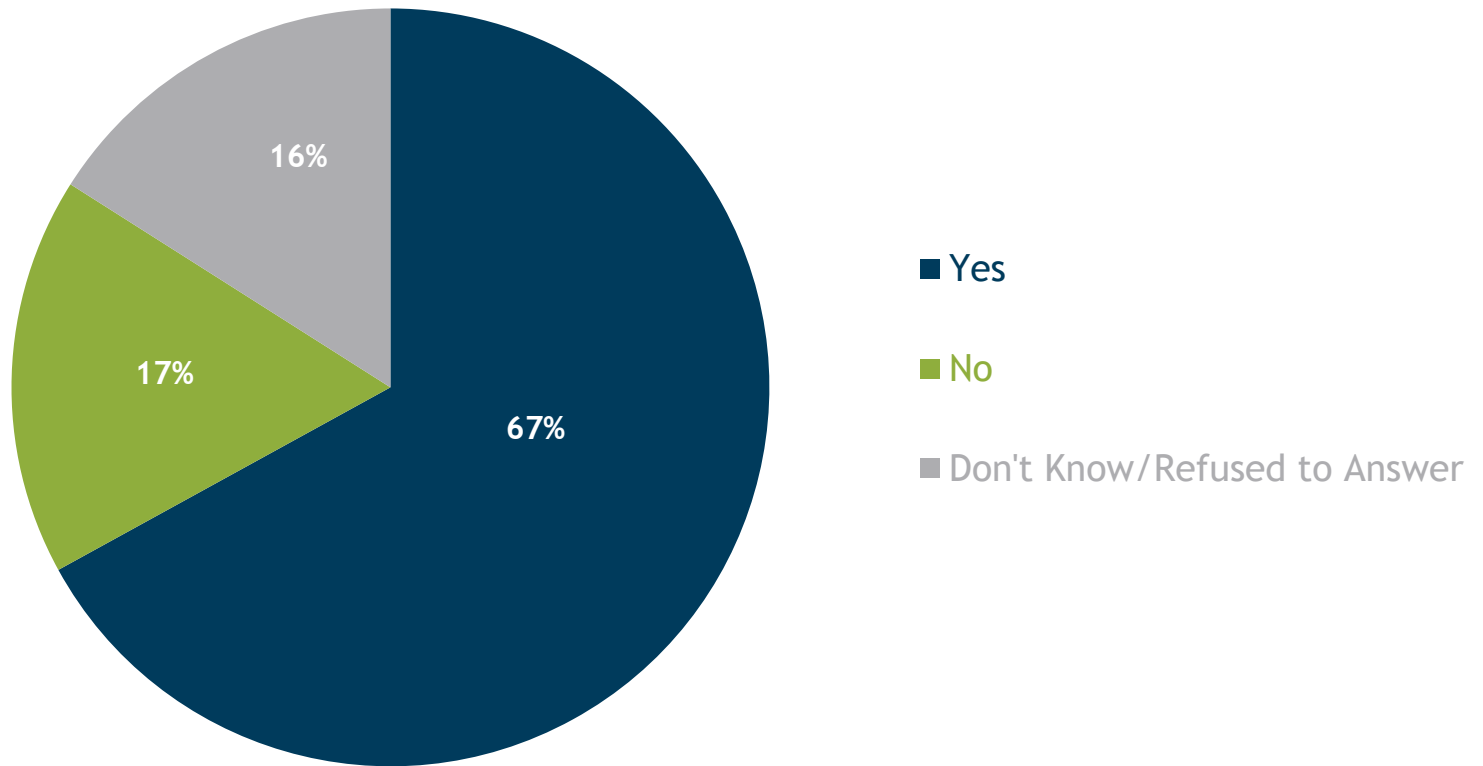
# How would you describe the current internal political situation in Macedonia?



In your opinion, will the ongoing negotiations between the four parties lead to successful implementation of all aspects of the Przino agreement?

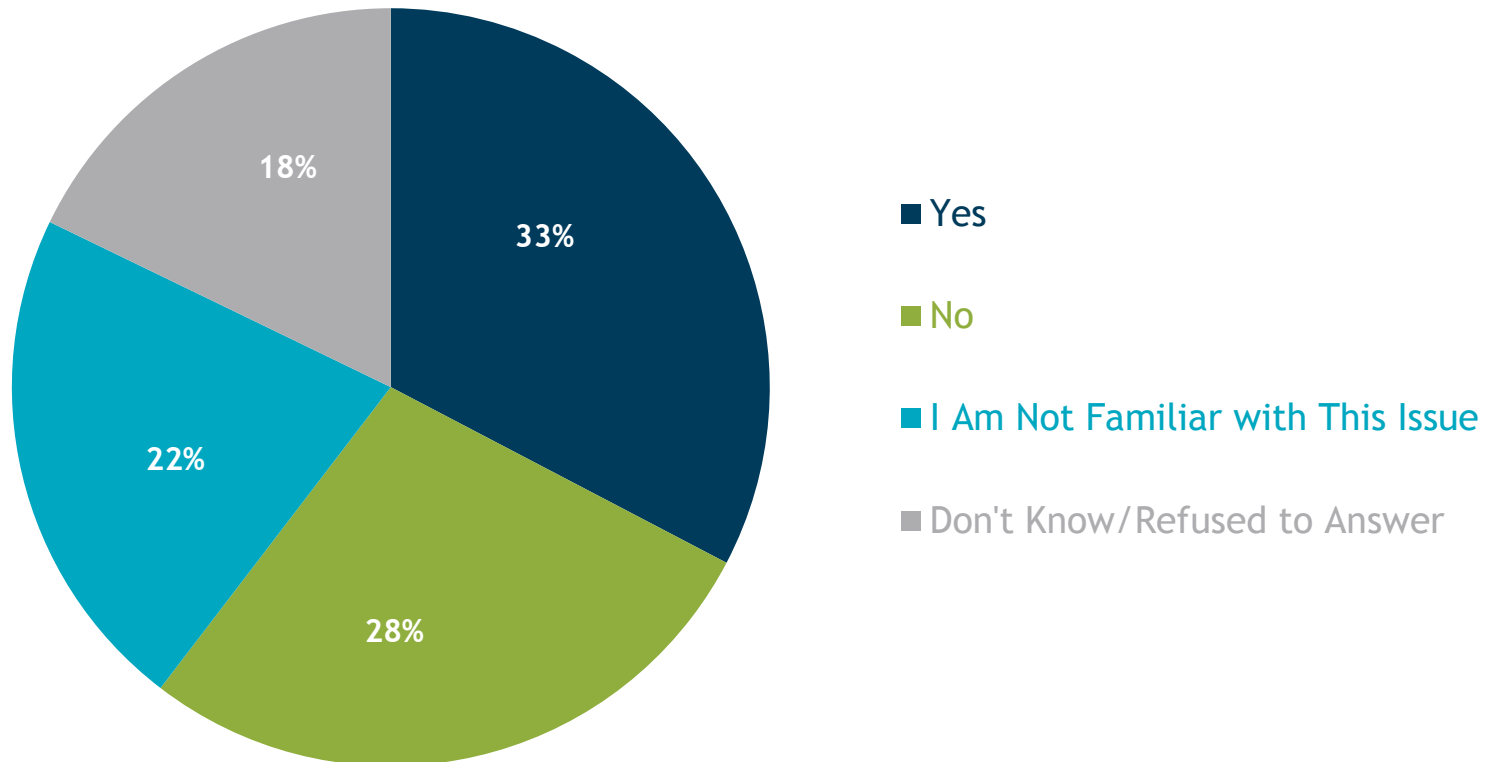


# Do you support SDSM's decision to return to Parliament?

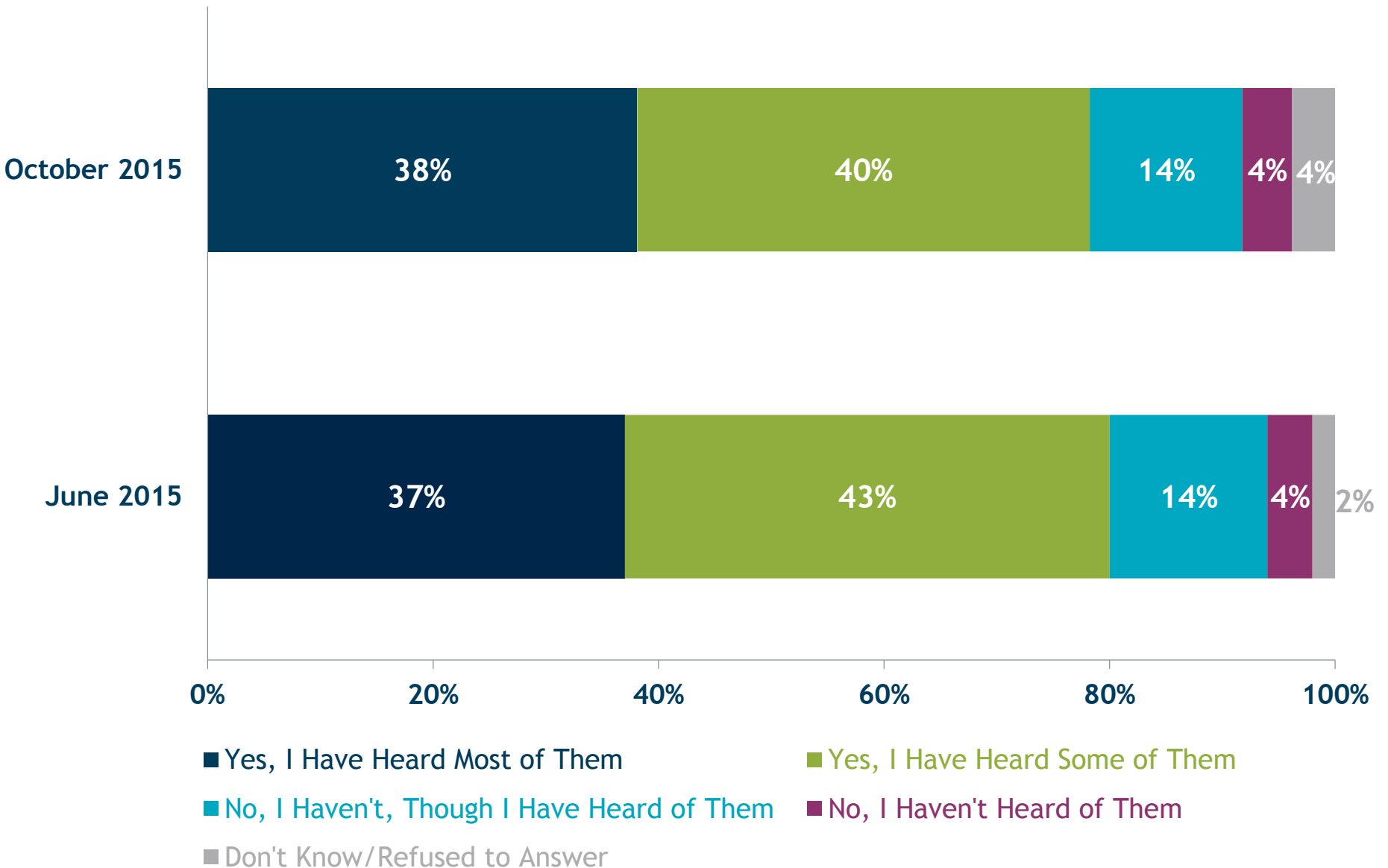




Recently, a special prosecutor, Katica Janeva, was appointed to investigate cases connected to the wiretapped conversations. Do you think that Ms. Janeva will be able to investigate these cases independently and without obstruction?

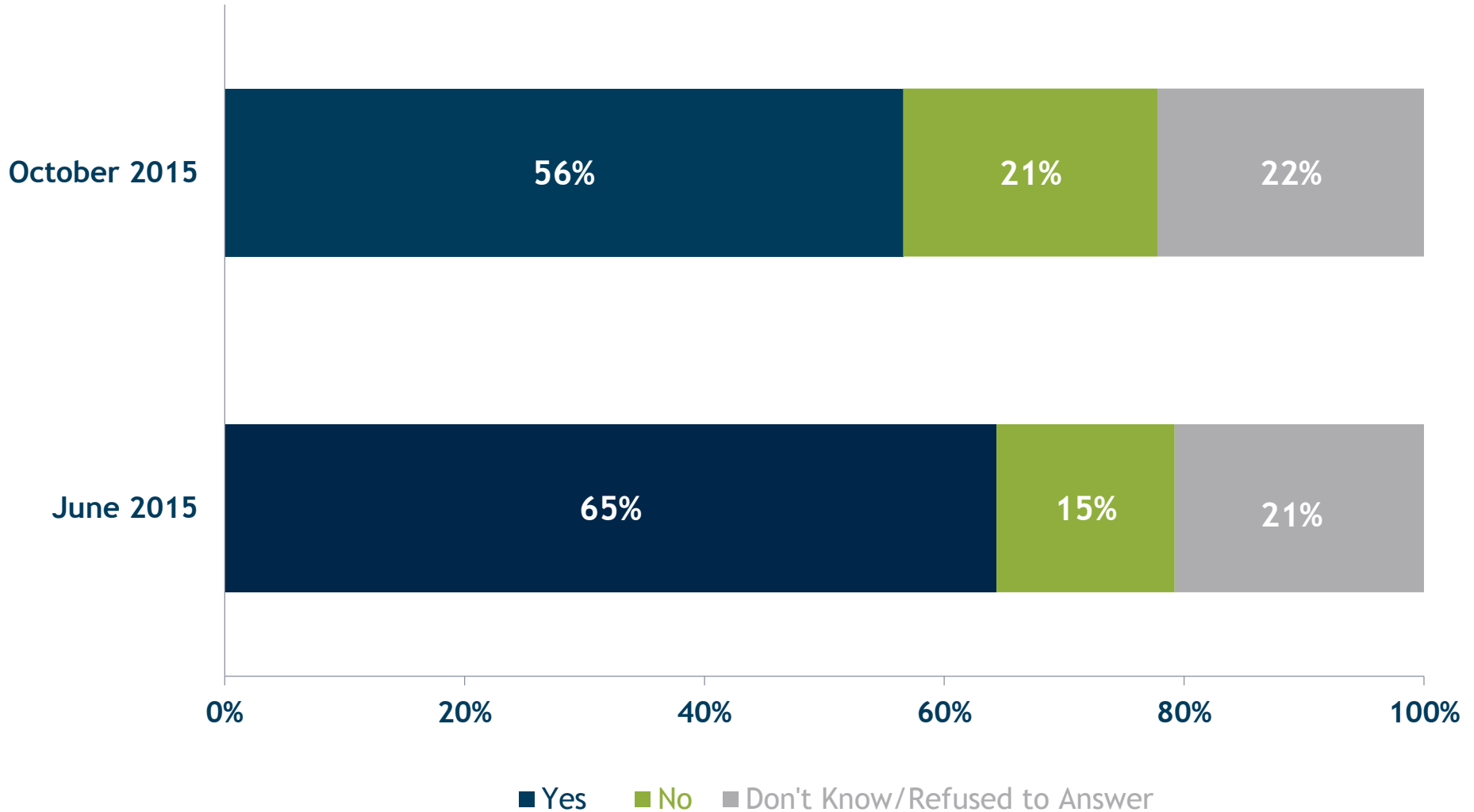


# Have you heard the tapped phone conversations released by the opposition?



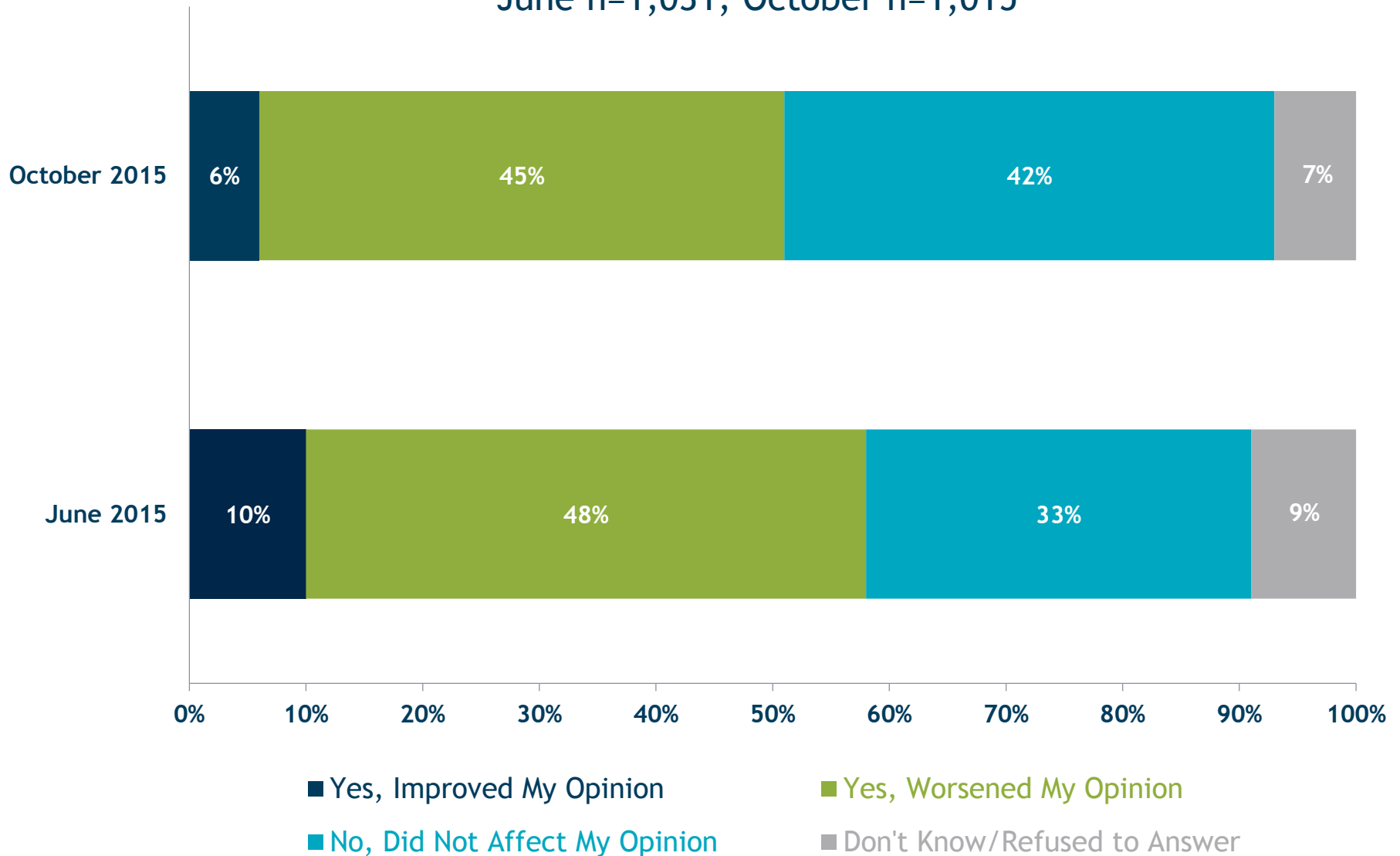
# Do you think the recordings of tapped phone conversations are authentic?

June n=1,031; October n=1,015



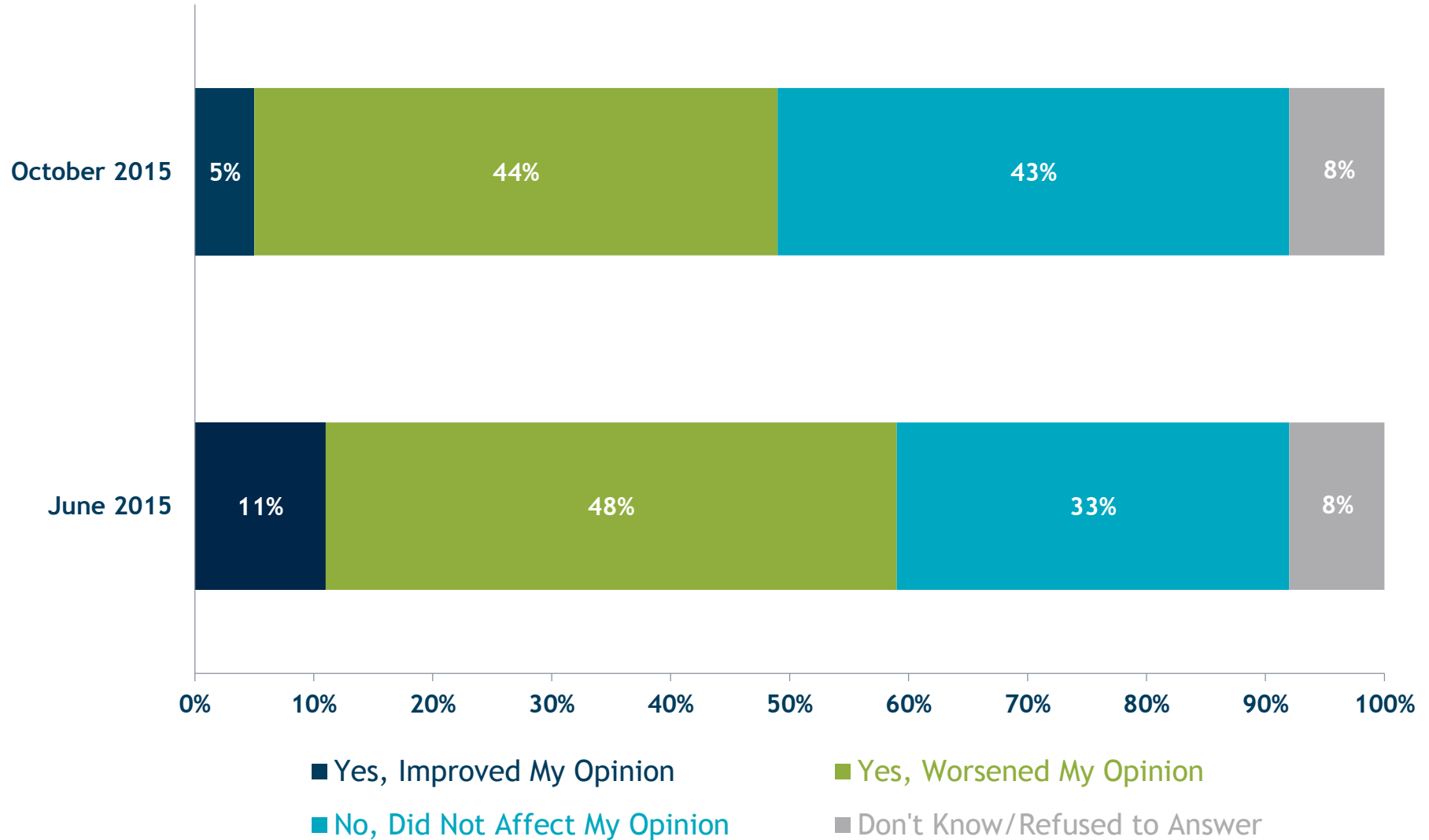
# Did these phone conversations affect your opinion about the officials who allegedly took part in them?

June n=1,031; October n=1,015

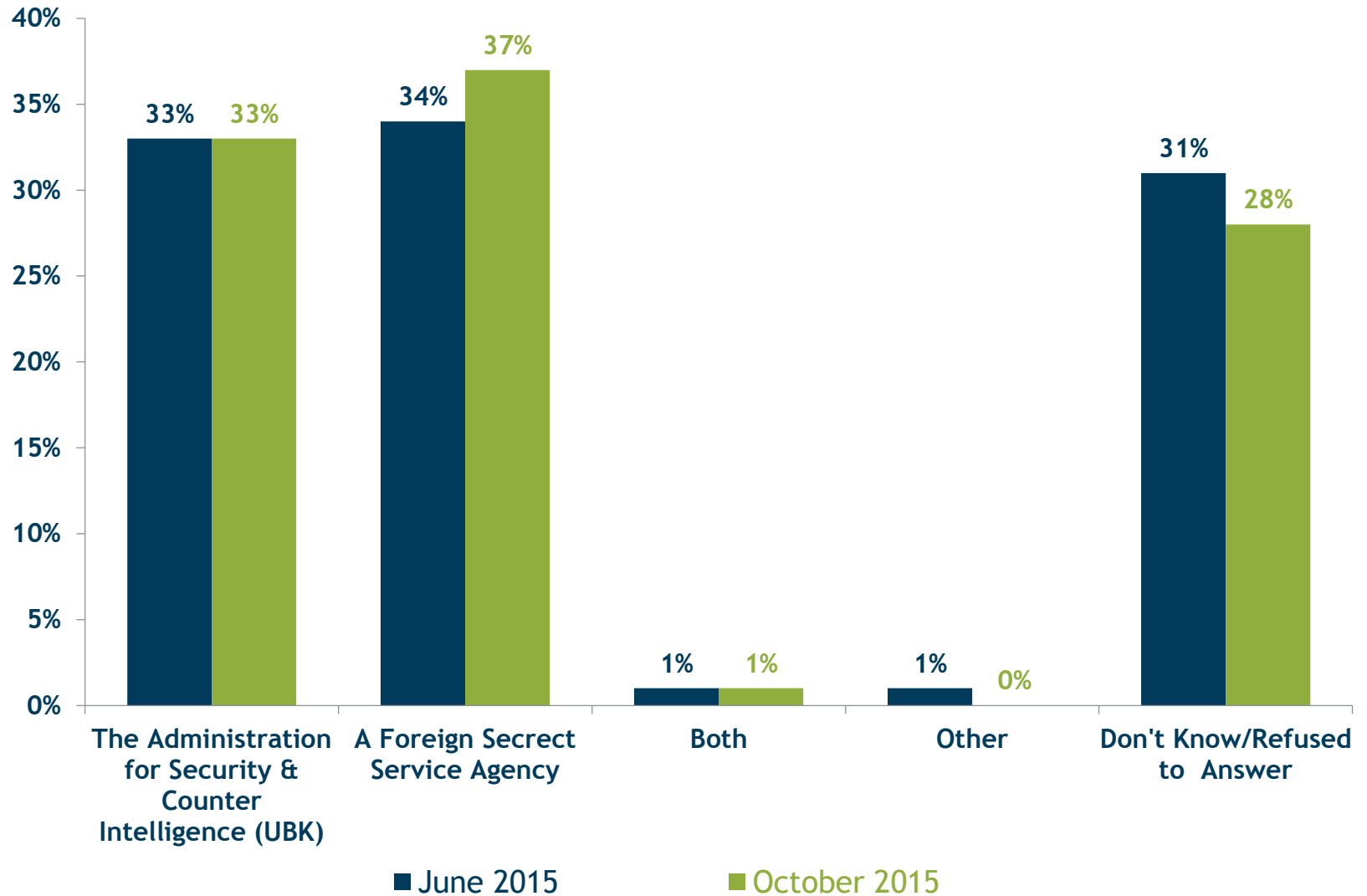


# Did these phone conversations affect your opinion about how well Macedonia is governed?

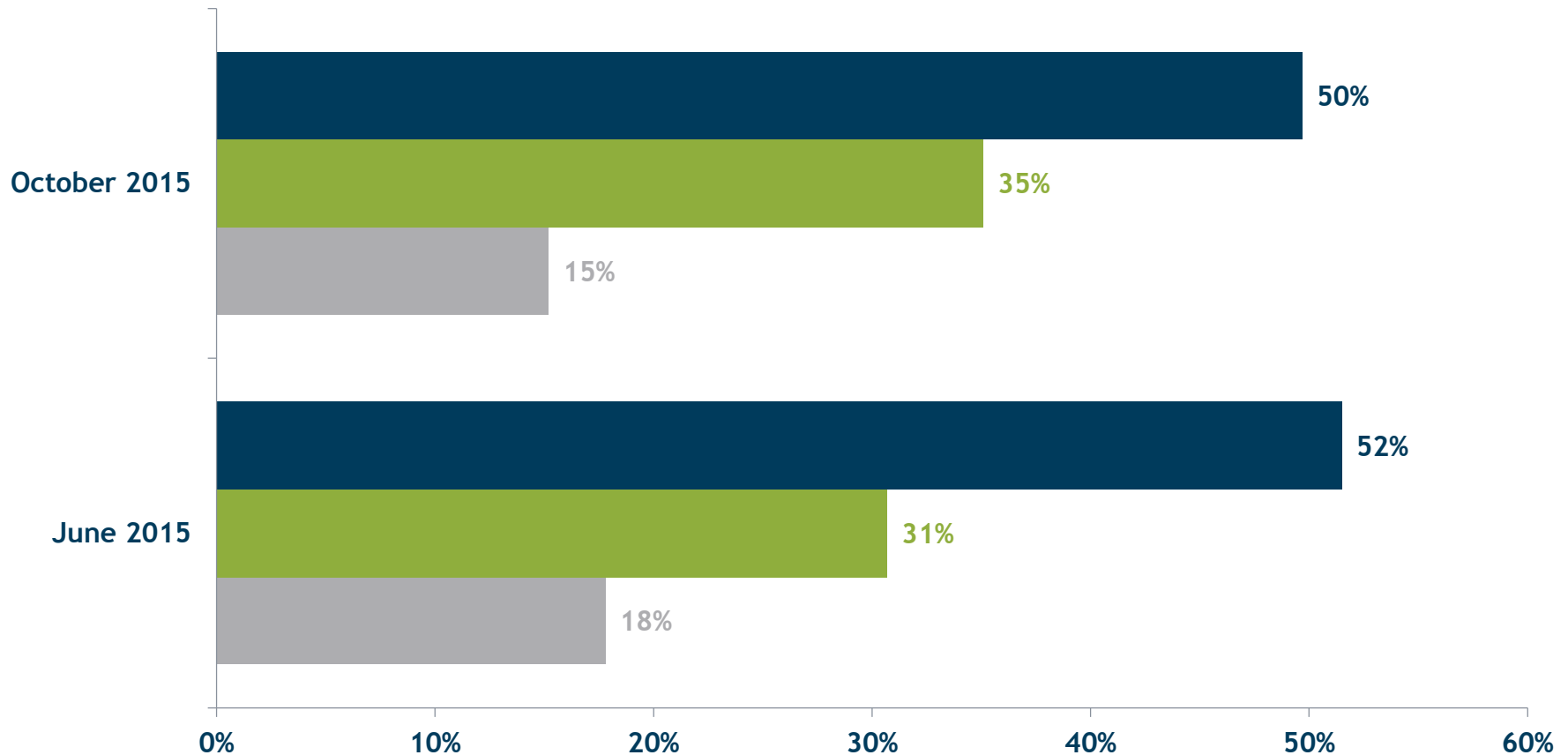
June n=1,031; October n=1,015



# According to you, who conducted these wiretaps? n=1,015



# Do you think your phone conversations...?



- Are not private and safe? That is, there is a possibility that my conversations are being listened to and/or recorded by a third party.
- Are private and safe? That is, you and the other person in the conversation are the only ones aware of the conversation.
- Don't Know/Refused to Answer

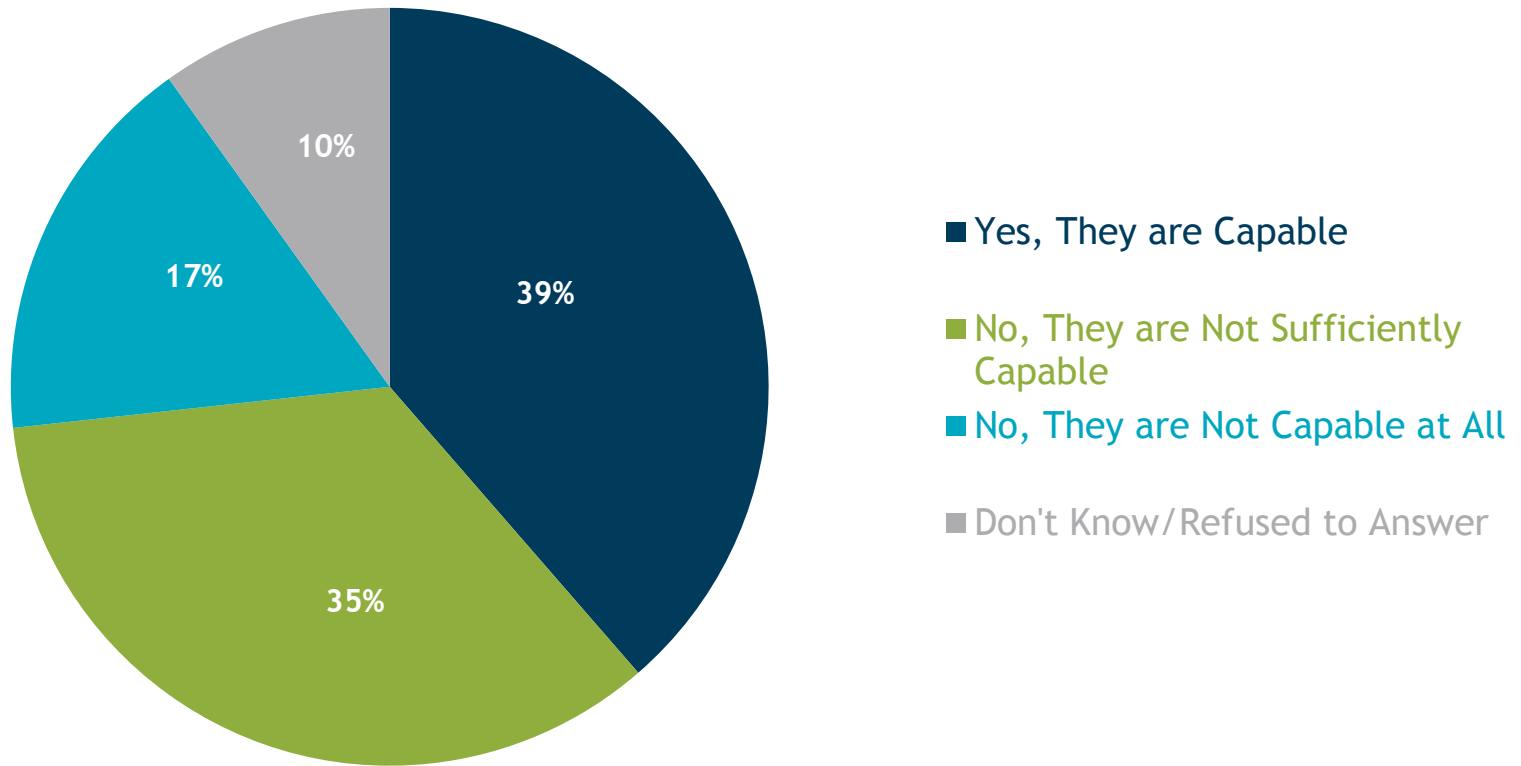


# Concerned about State Institutions' Ability to Protect Elections

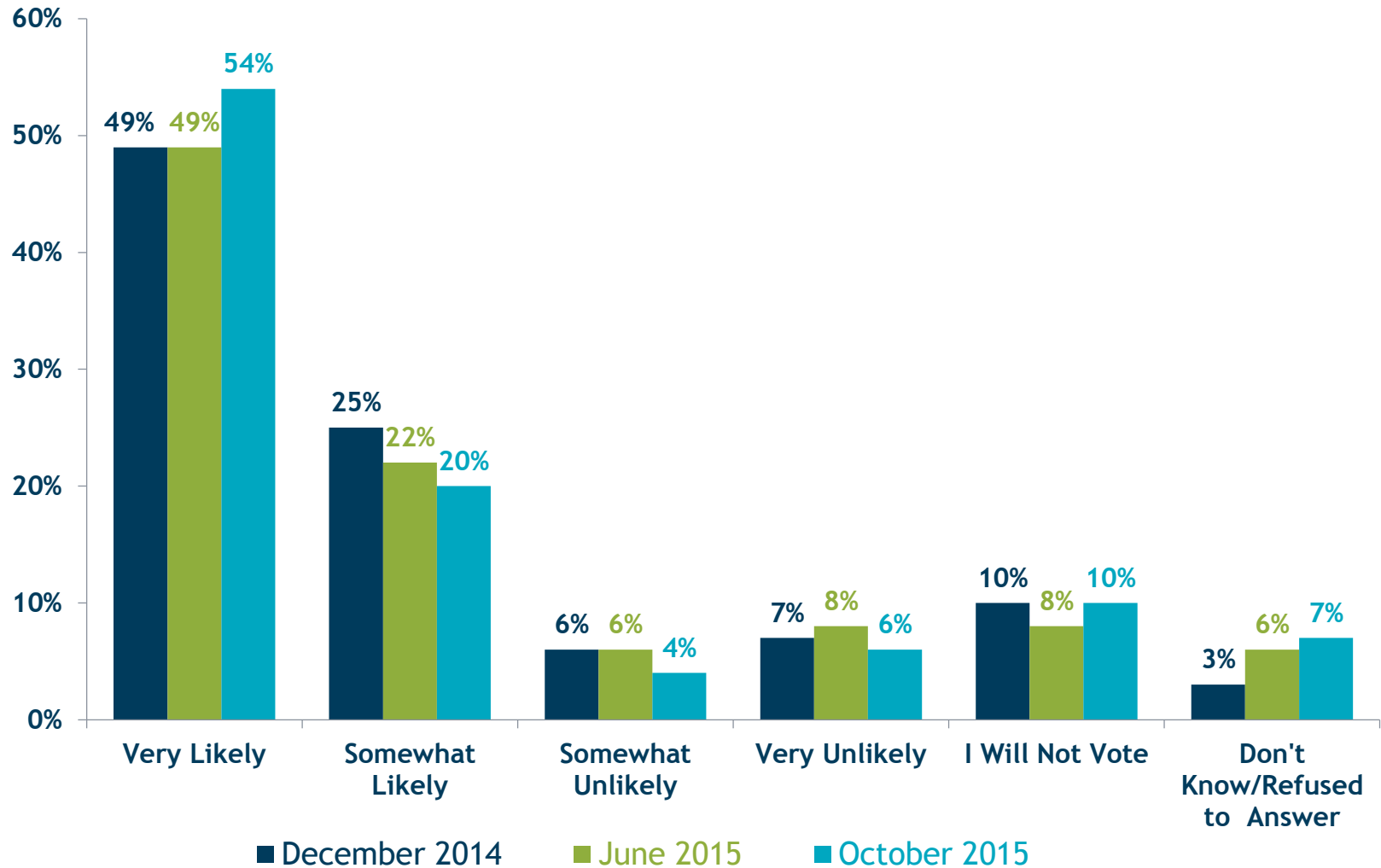
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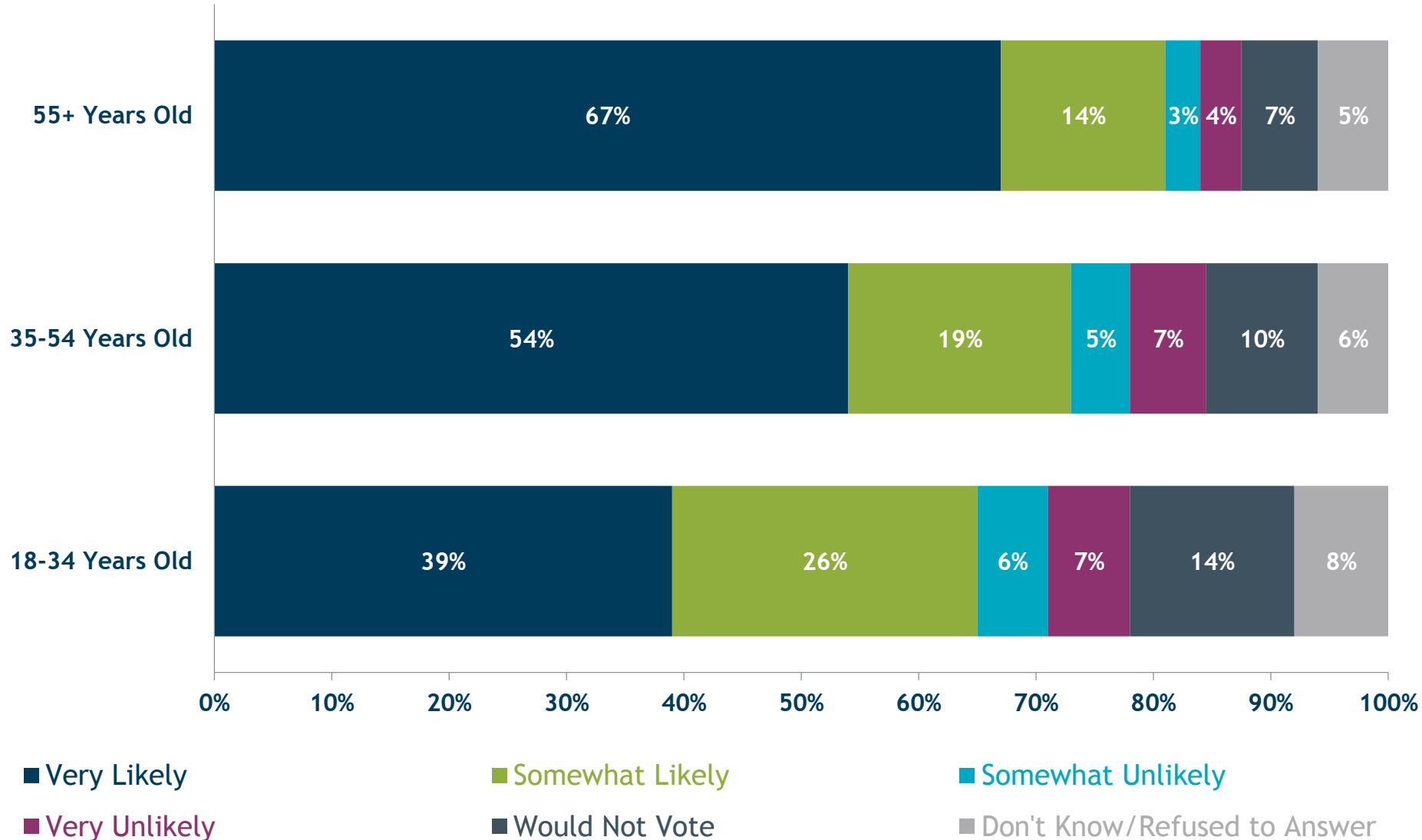
Do you think that state institutions are capable of sufficiently addressing any irregularities, should they occur, on Election Day?



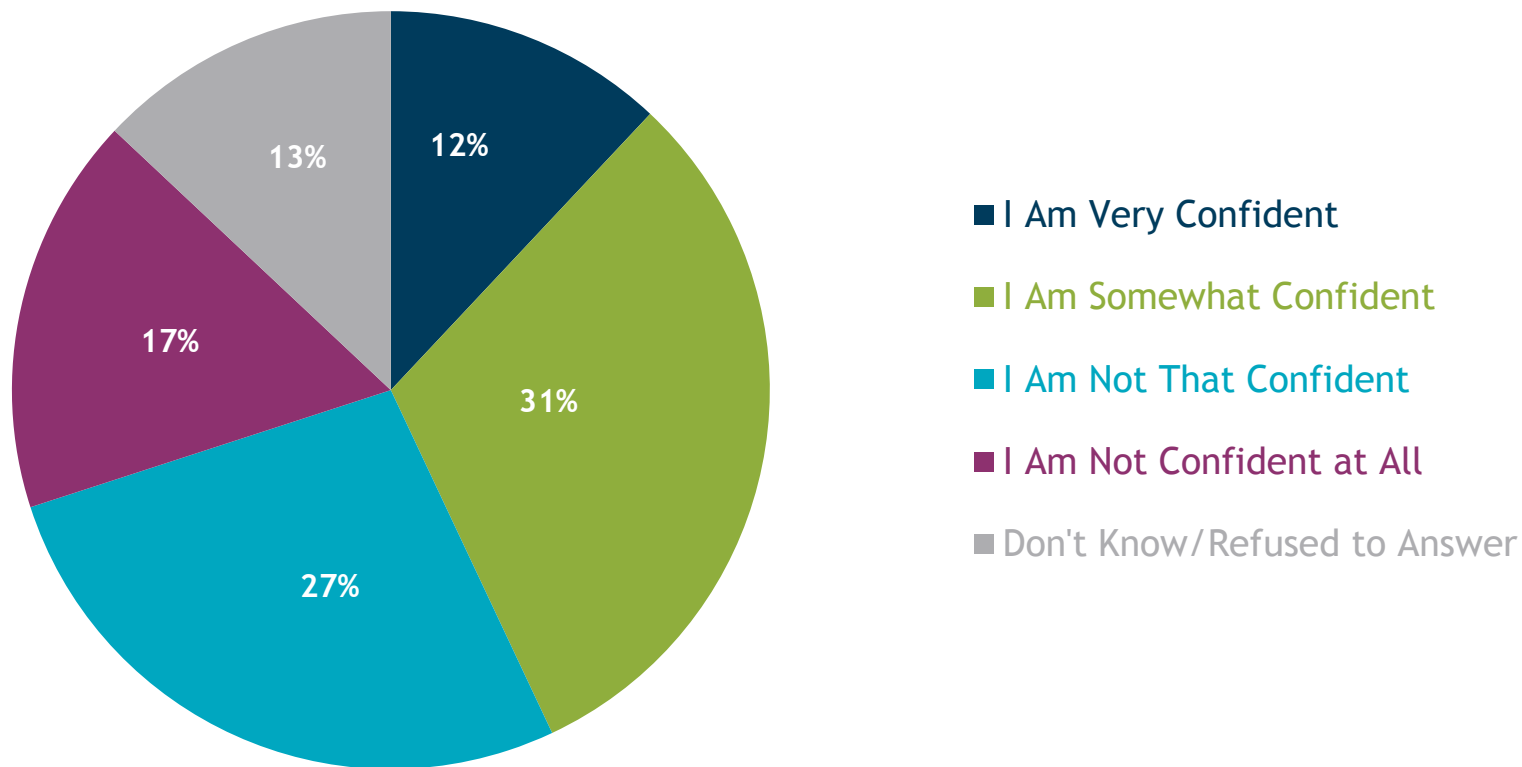
# If parliamentary elections were held today, how likely is it that you would vote?



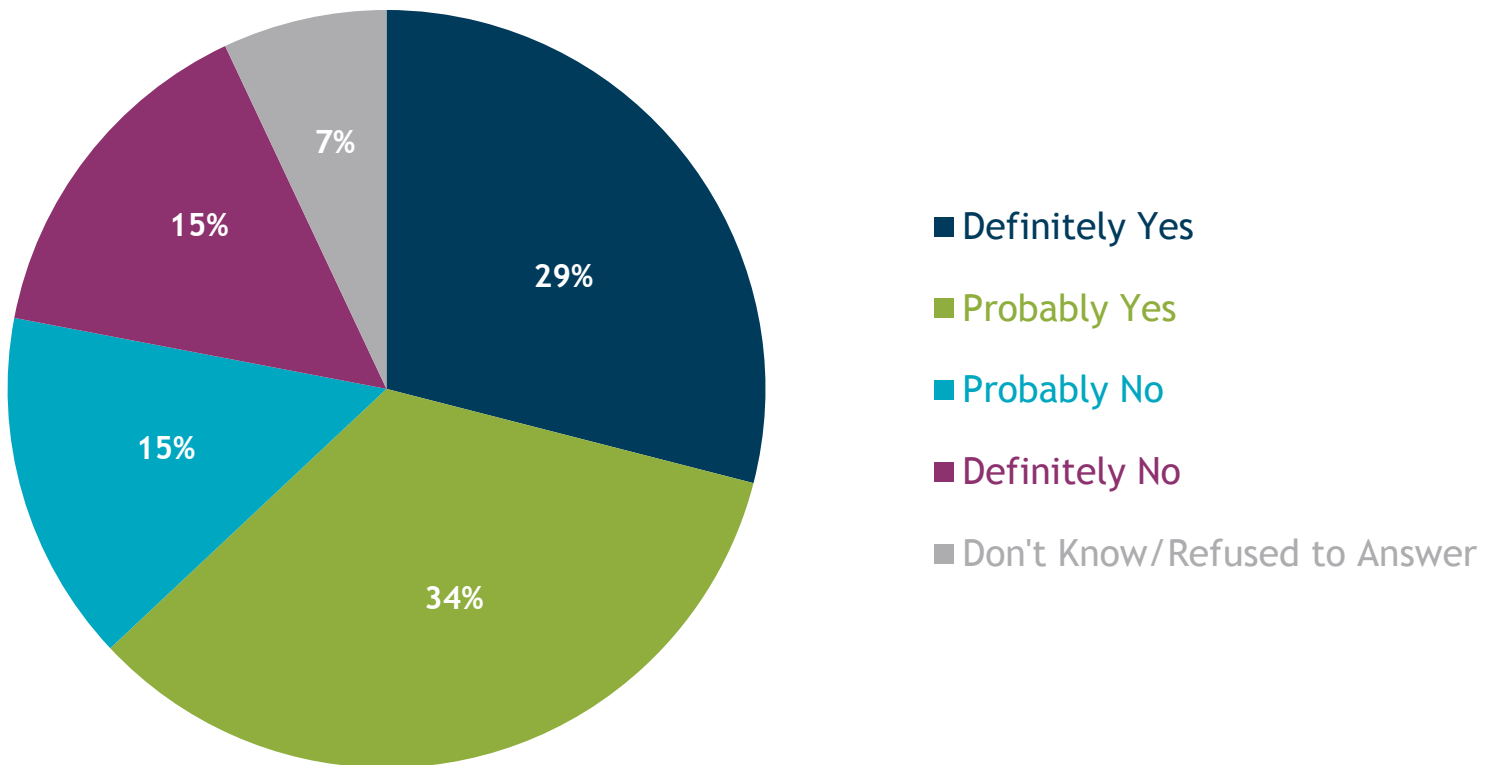
# If parliamentary elections were held today, how likely is it that you would vote? By Age



As you may know, a credible voter list should contain all eligible voters in the country and not have any ineligible or duplicate voters in it. How confident are you in the credibility of the voter list in Macedonia?

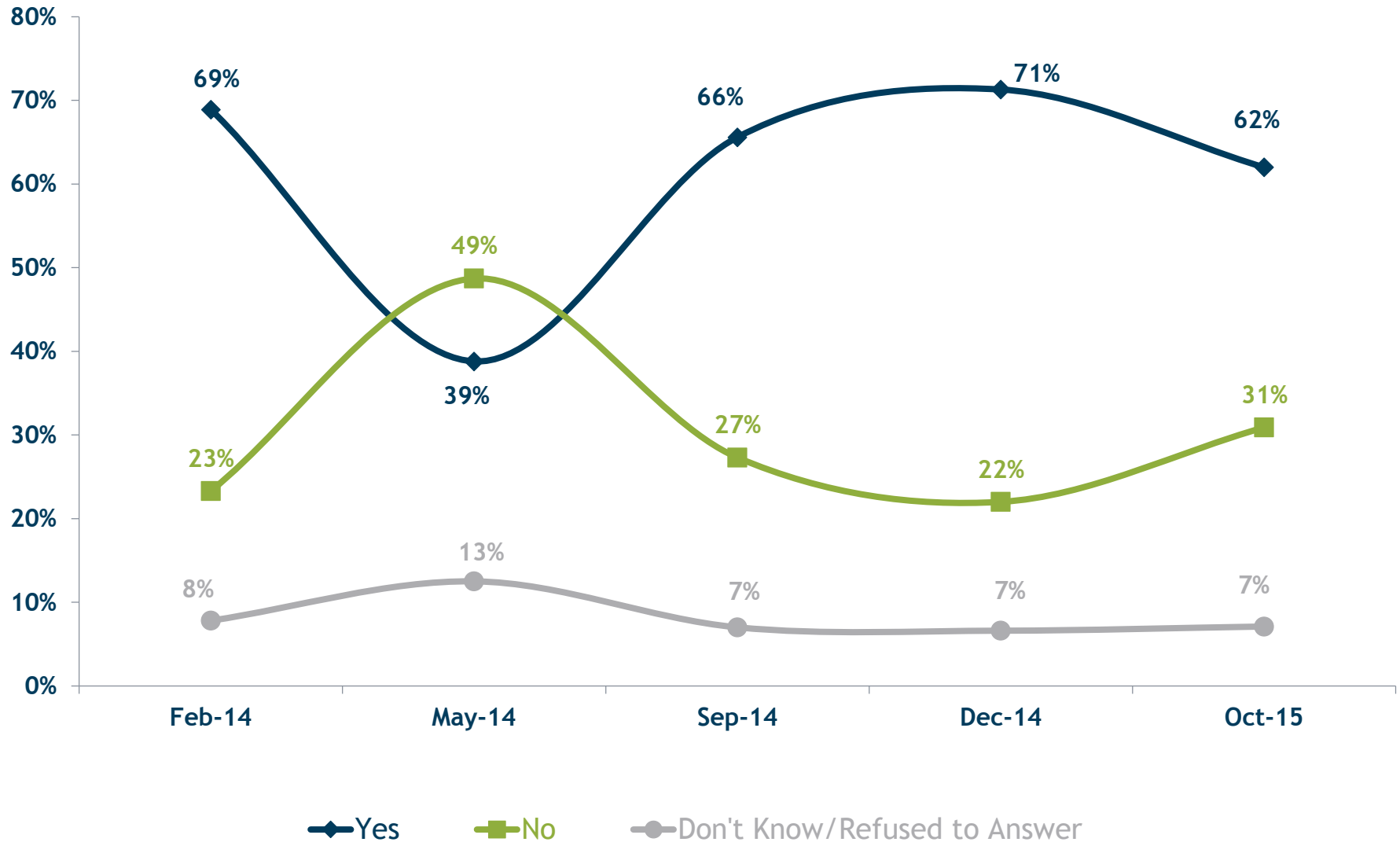


## Do you think there are conditions in the country to hold free and fair elections?



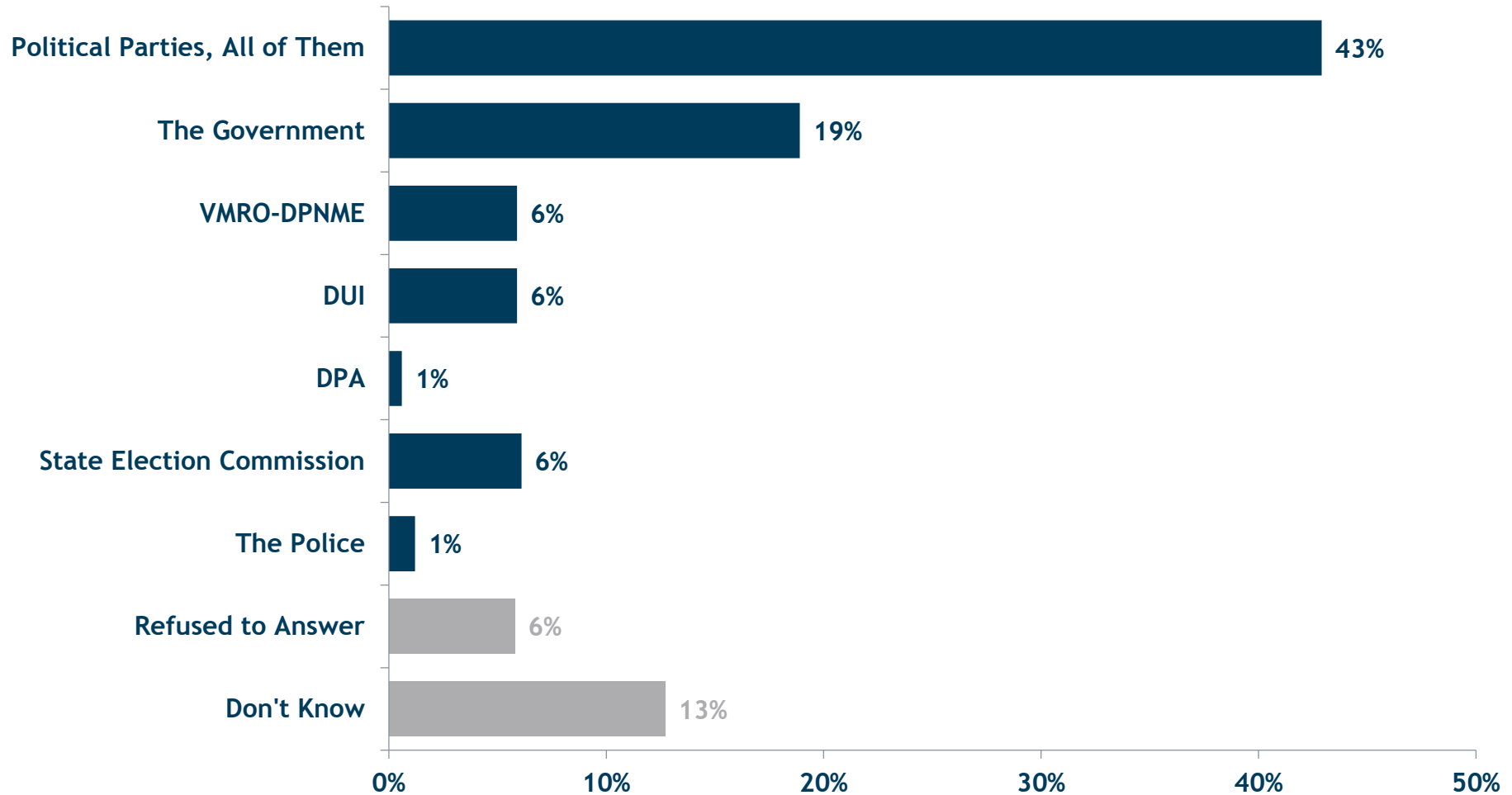
# Do you believe that your vote on election day is secret?

In May 2014 the question was phrased “Do you believe that even though voting on Election Day was secret some political party knows who you voted for?”



# Who do you think violates the secrecy of your vote?

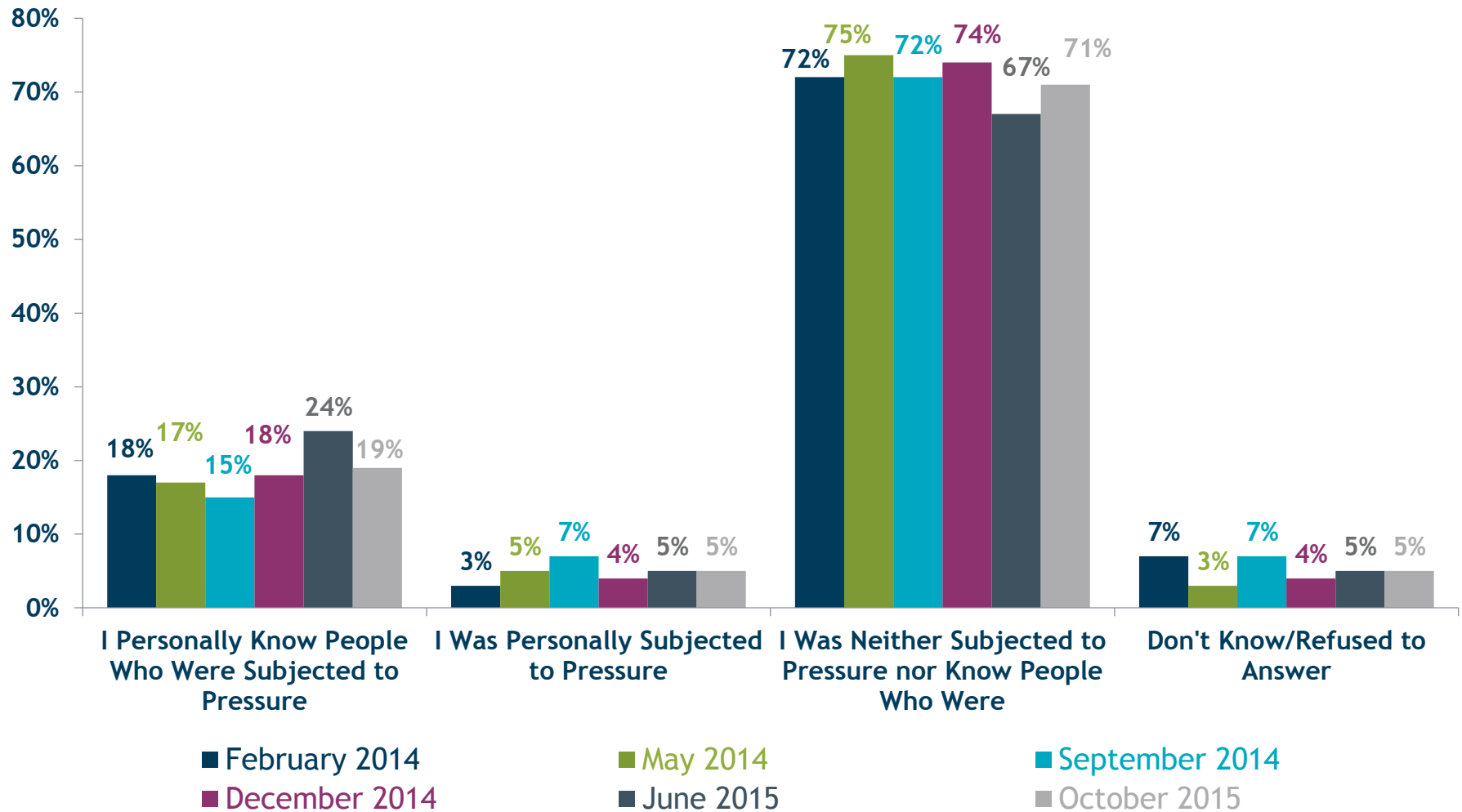
Those who think that their vote on election day is not secret, n=341



# Have you, a member of your family, or someone you personally know ever been subjected to pressure such as force, threats, vote buying or other illegal means to vote in a particular way?

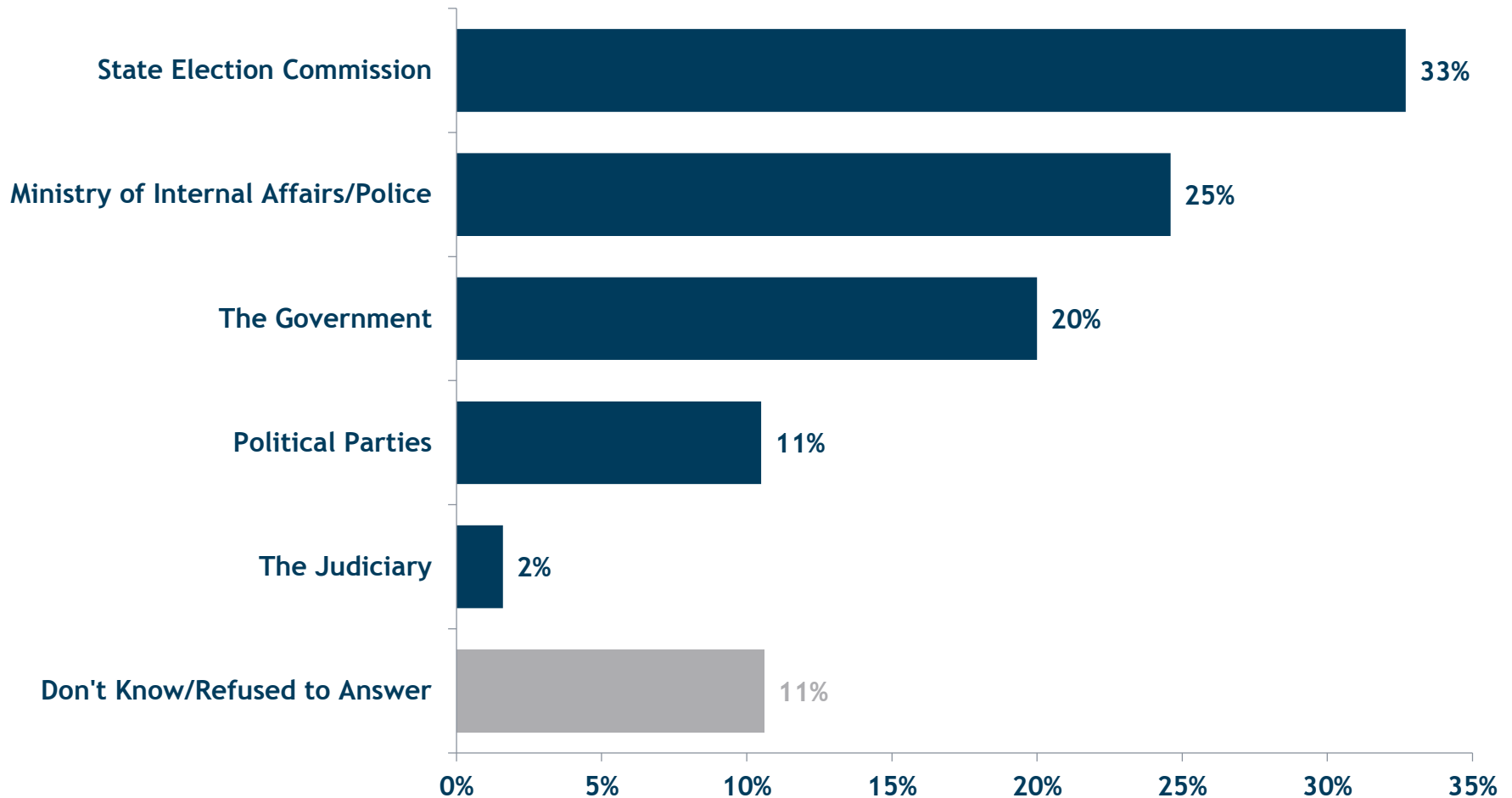
In Feb. 2014 responses refer to 2011, 2013 and 2014 elections

In May 2014 responses refer to 2014 elections

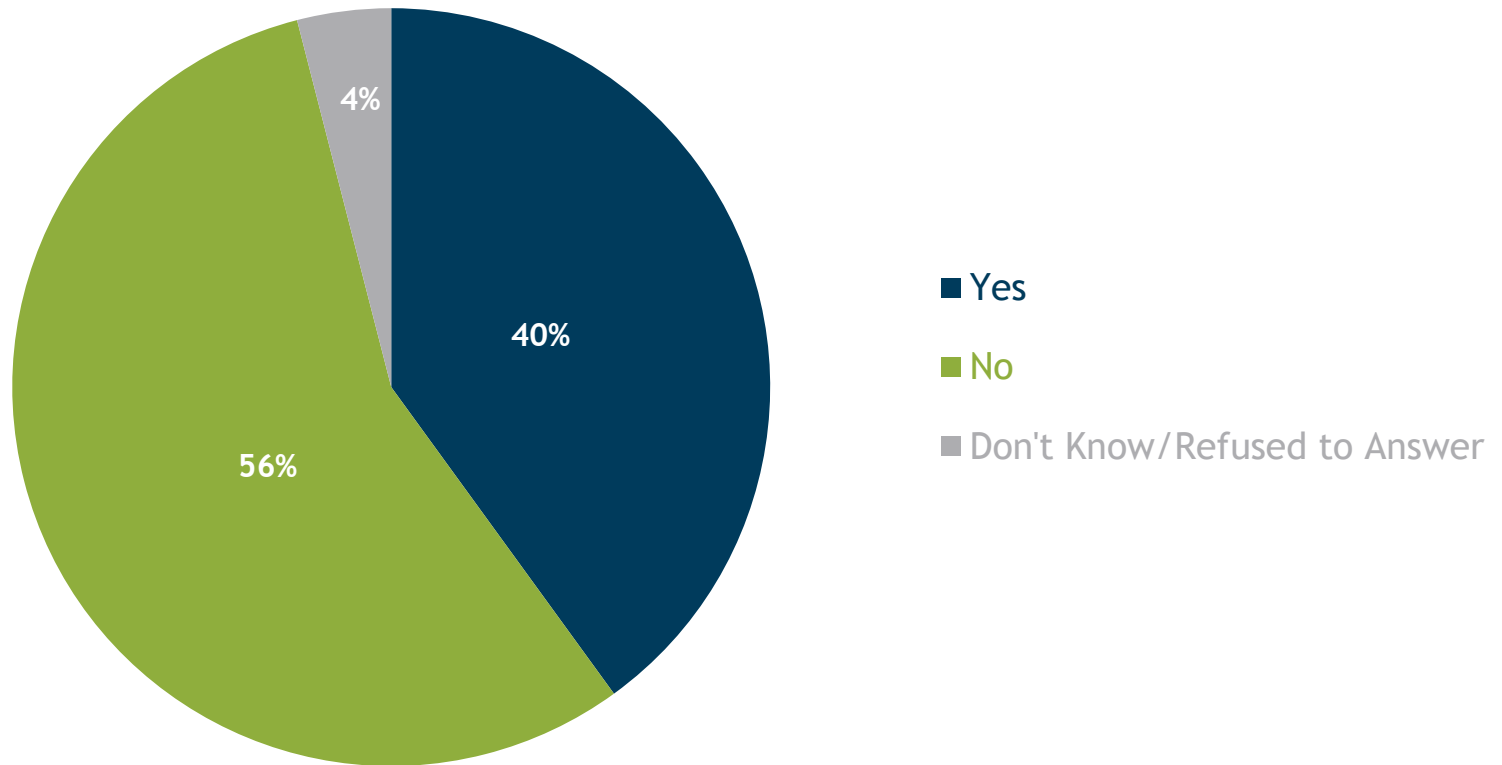




Which institution do you think is most responsible to ensure that the elections will be free, democratic and with no irregularities?

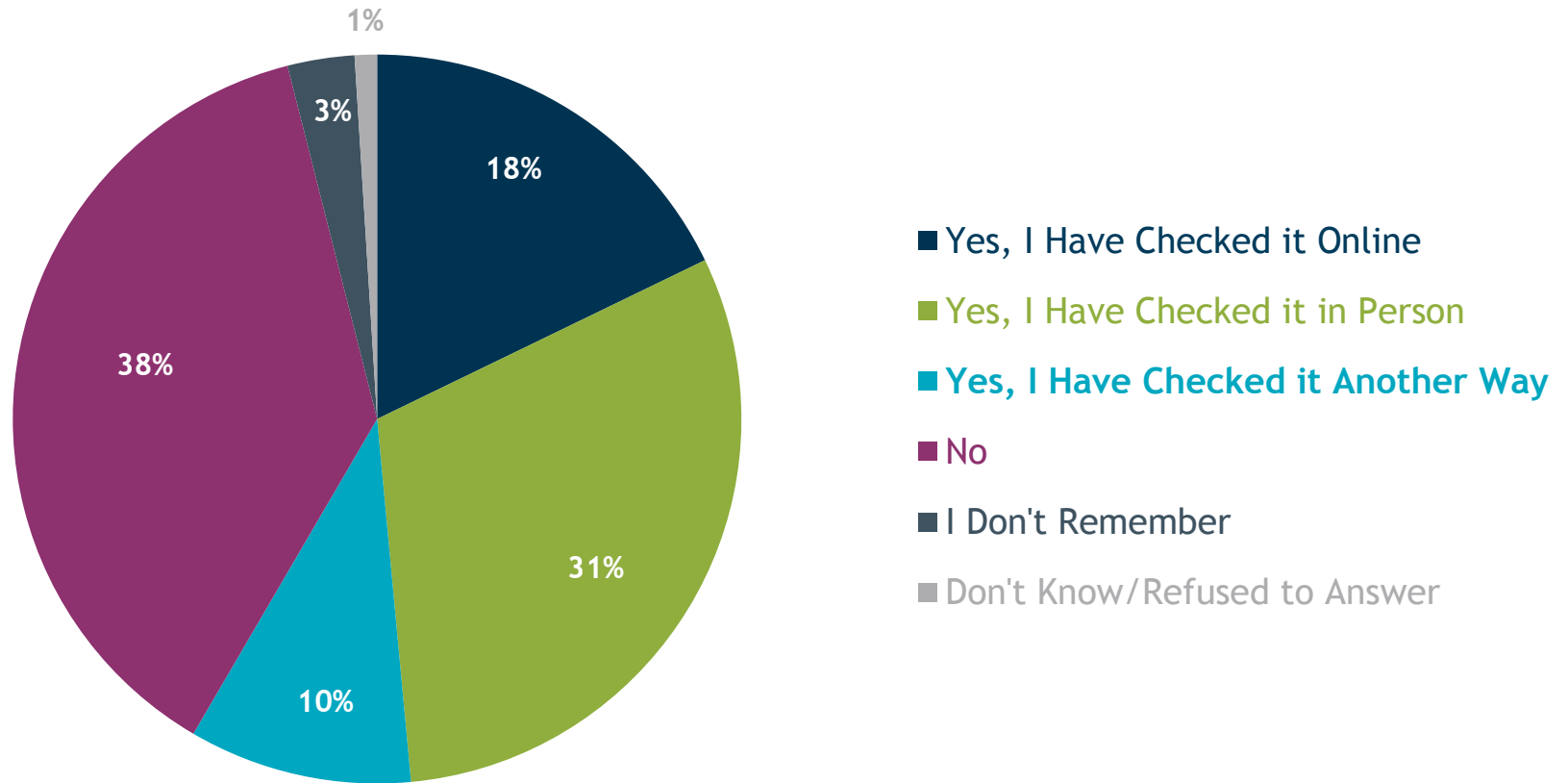


# Do you know how to check whether you are on the voter's list?



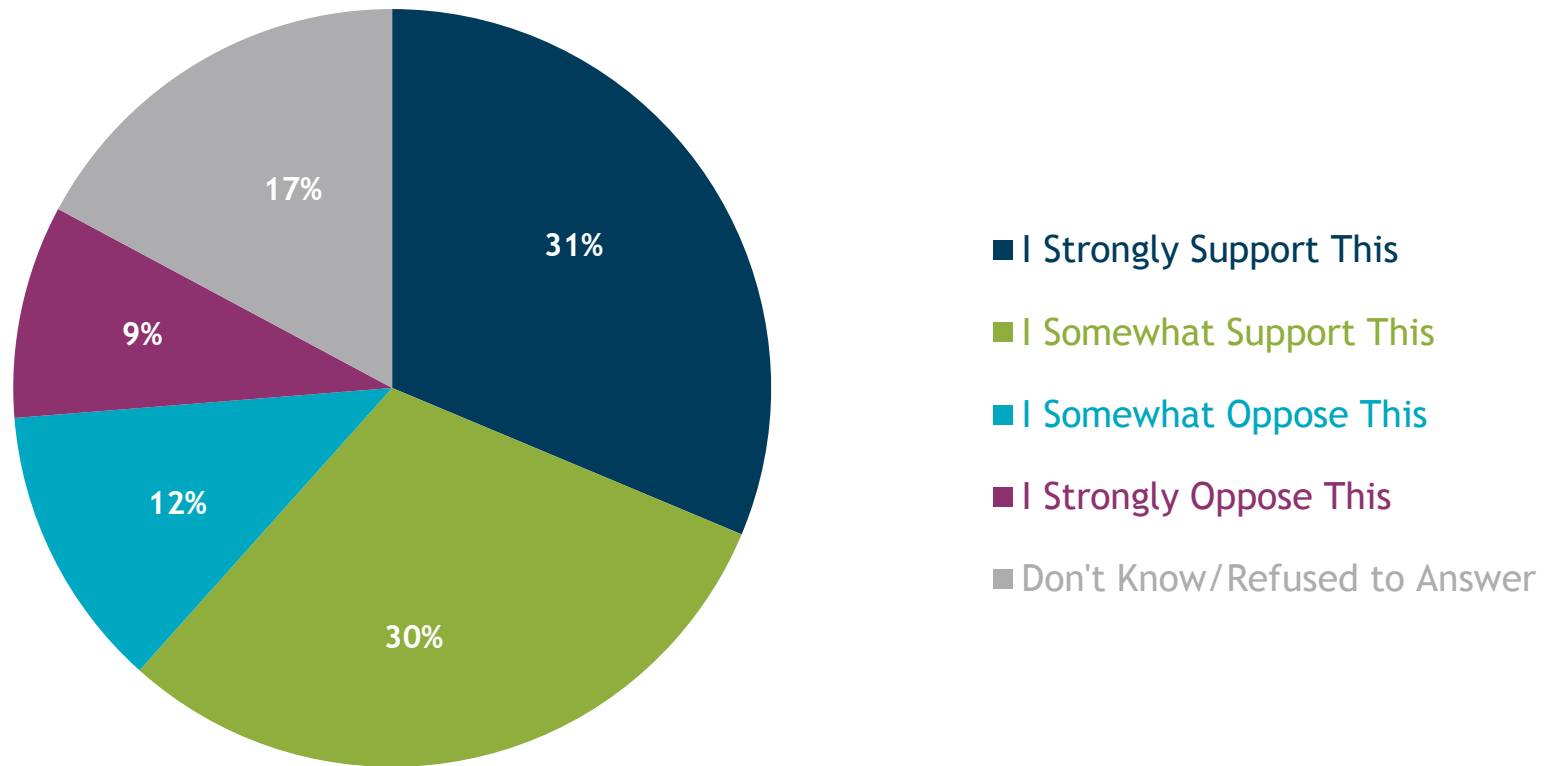
# Have you ever checked your status on the list?

Those who know how to check the voter list, n=447

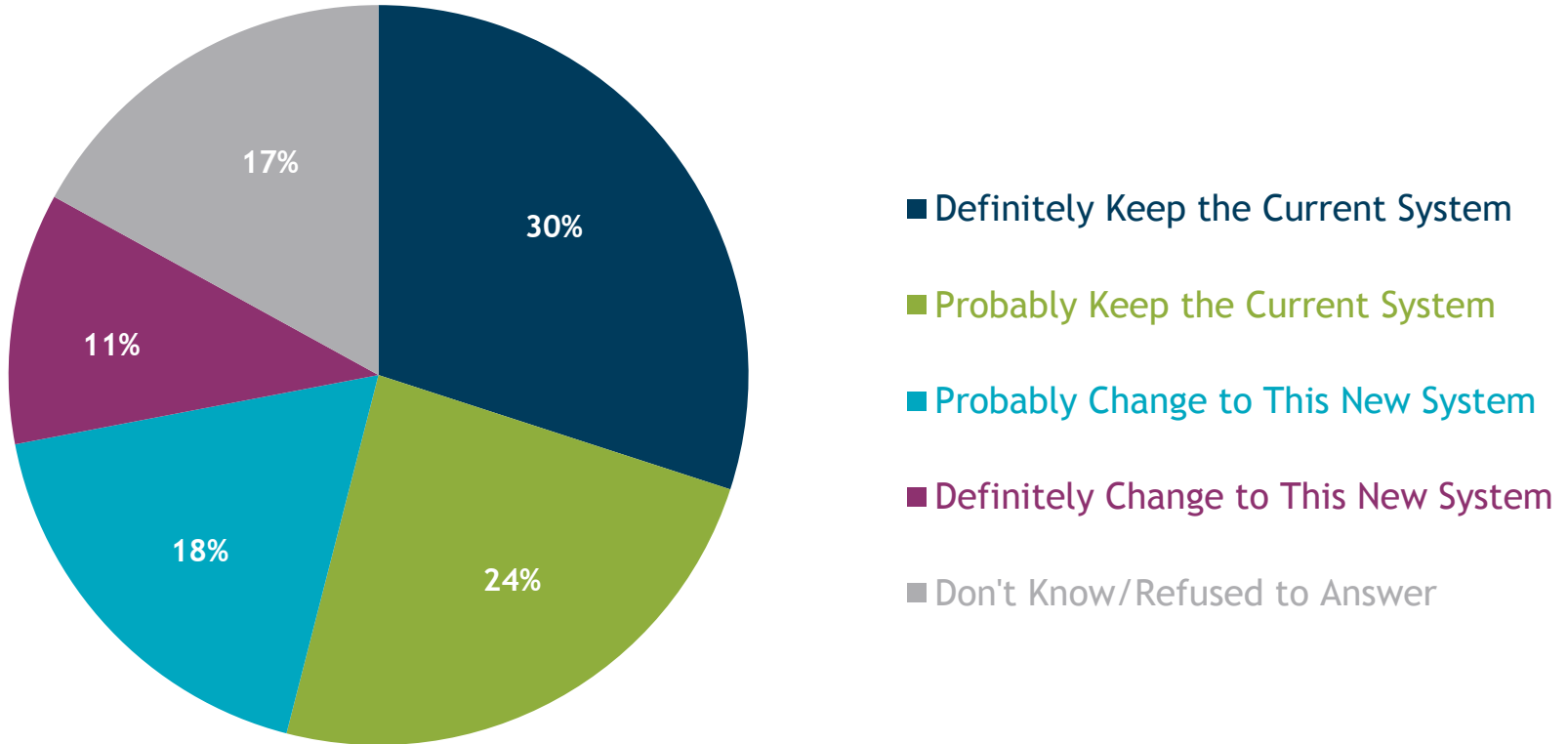


Some people have proposed that before a voter is issued a ballot paper in the polling station, the election board should record the voter's fingerprints to confirm his or her identity.

What is your opinion on this?

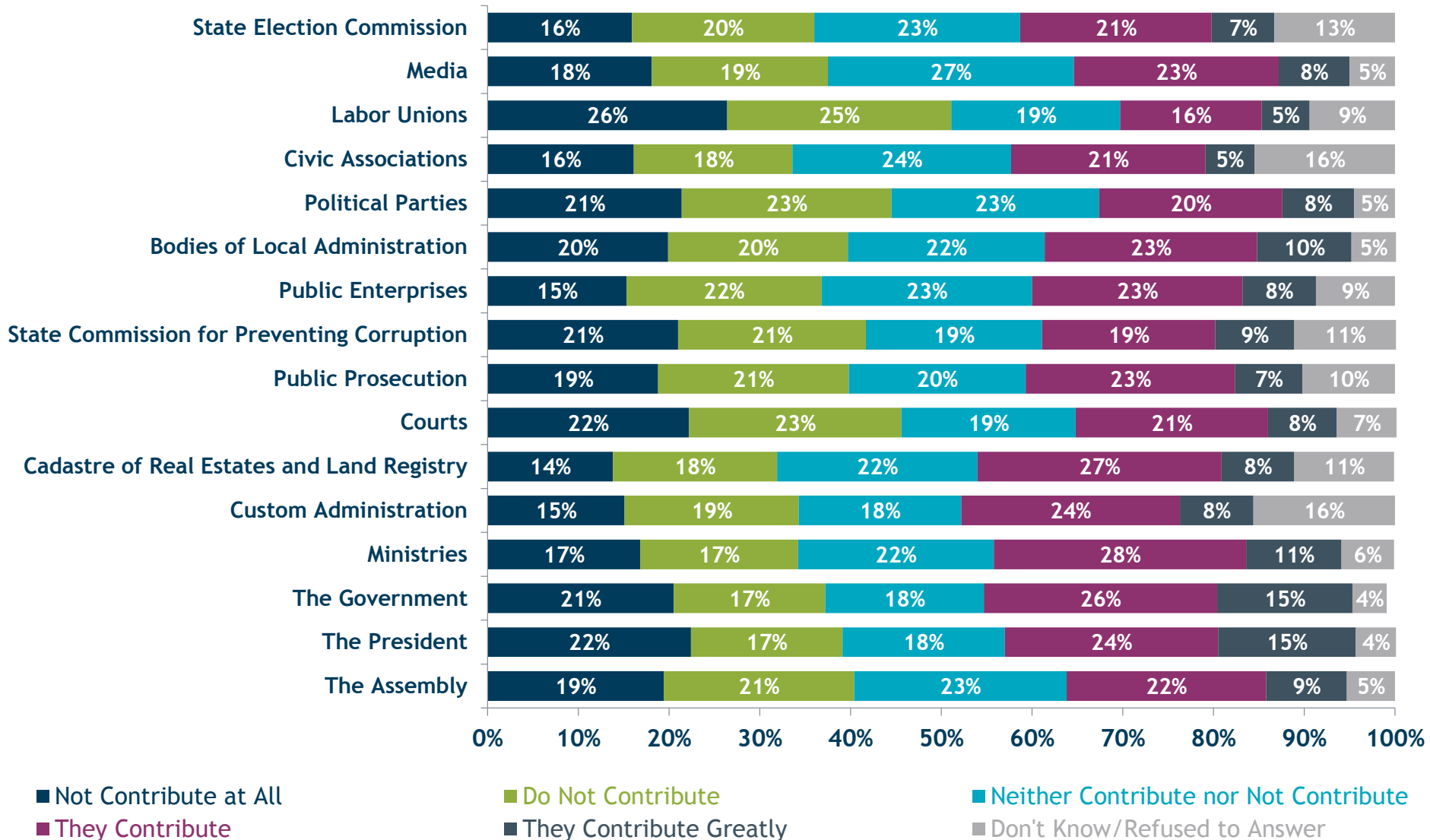


Some people have proposed that Macedonia should change to a system where voters would have to go to an appropriate facility to register themselves to vote. In your opinion, should we keep the current system or should we change to this new system?

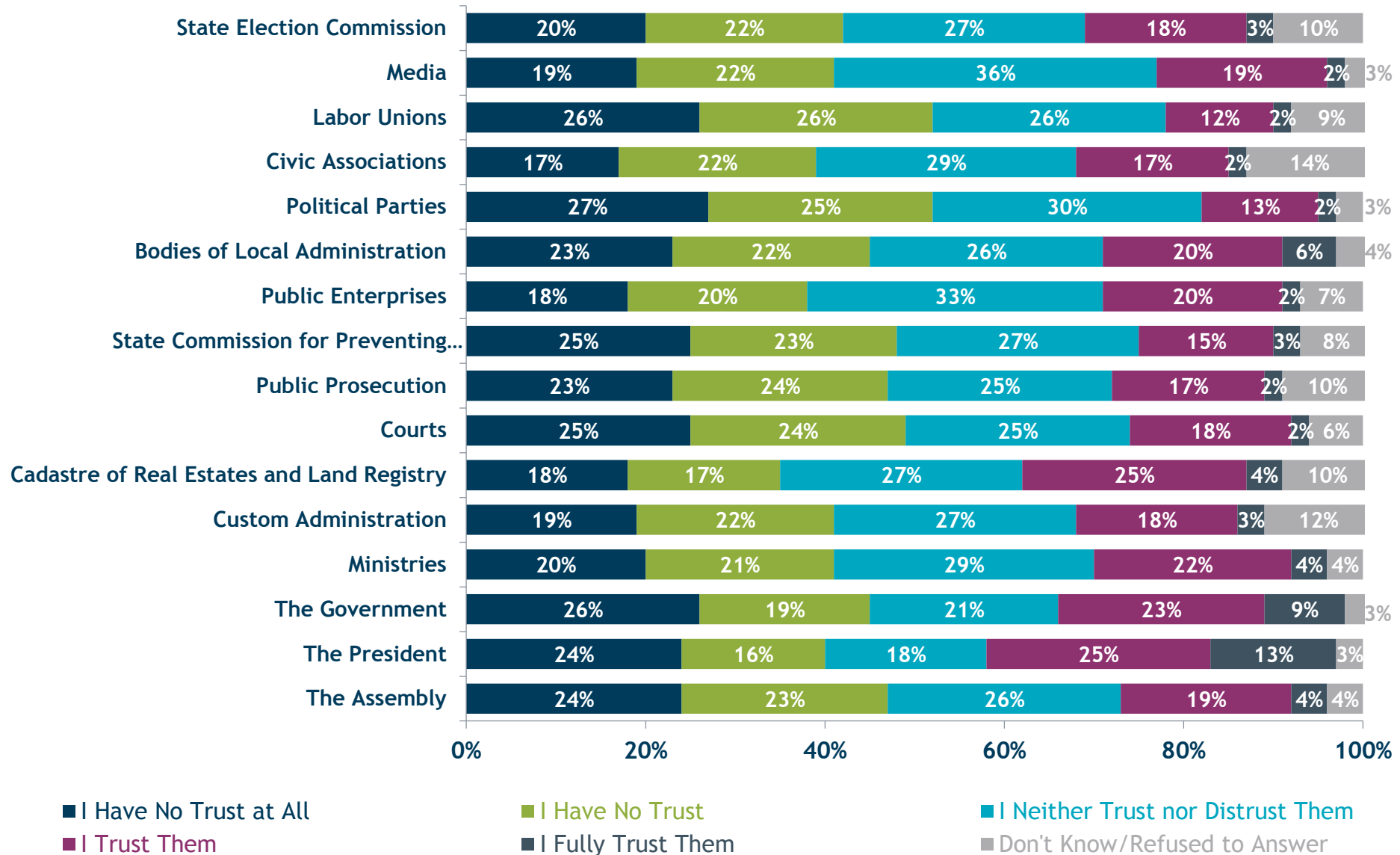


Note: The current system automatically adds all Macedonian citizens to the voter list if they have housing within Macedonian territory and a Macedonian I.D. card or passport.

# According to you, to what degree do the following institutions, through their work and activities, contribute to solving problems in our country?



# To what degree did you trust the following according to their actions in the last 12 months?





# Anticipating Elections, Citizens Most Concerned about Bread and Butter Issues

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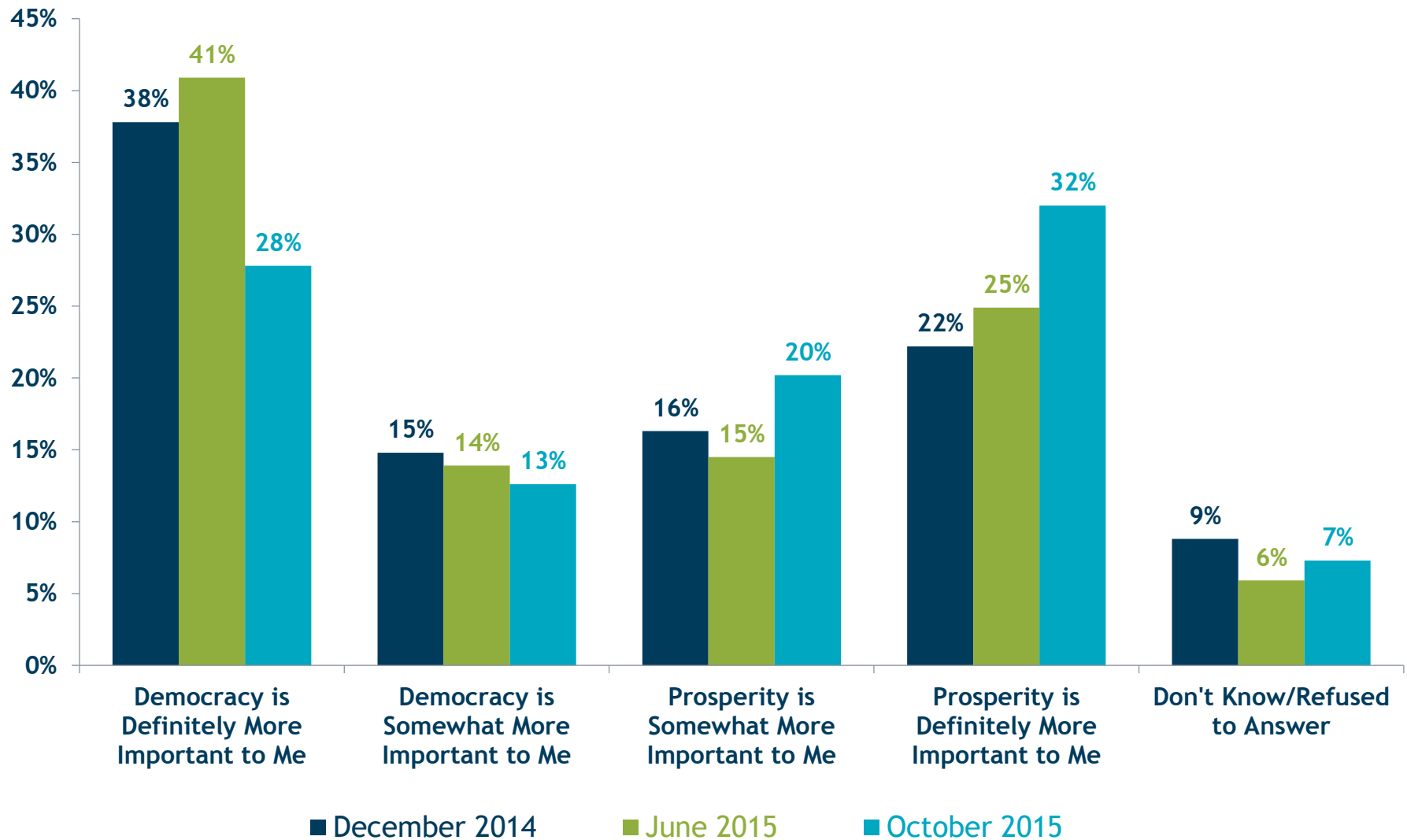


# In your opinion, what are the two most serious problems facing Macedonia today?

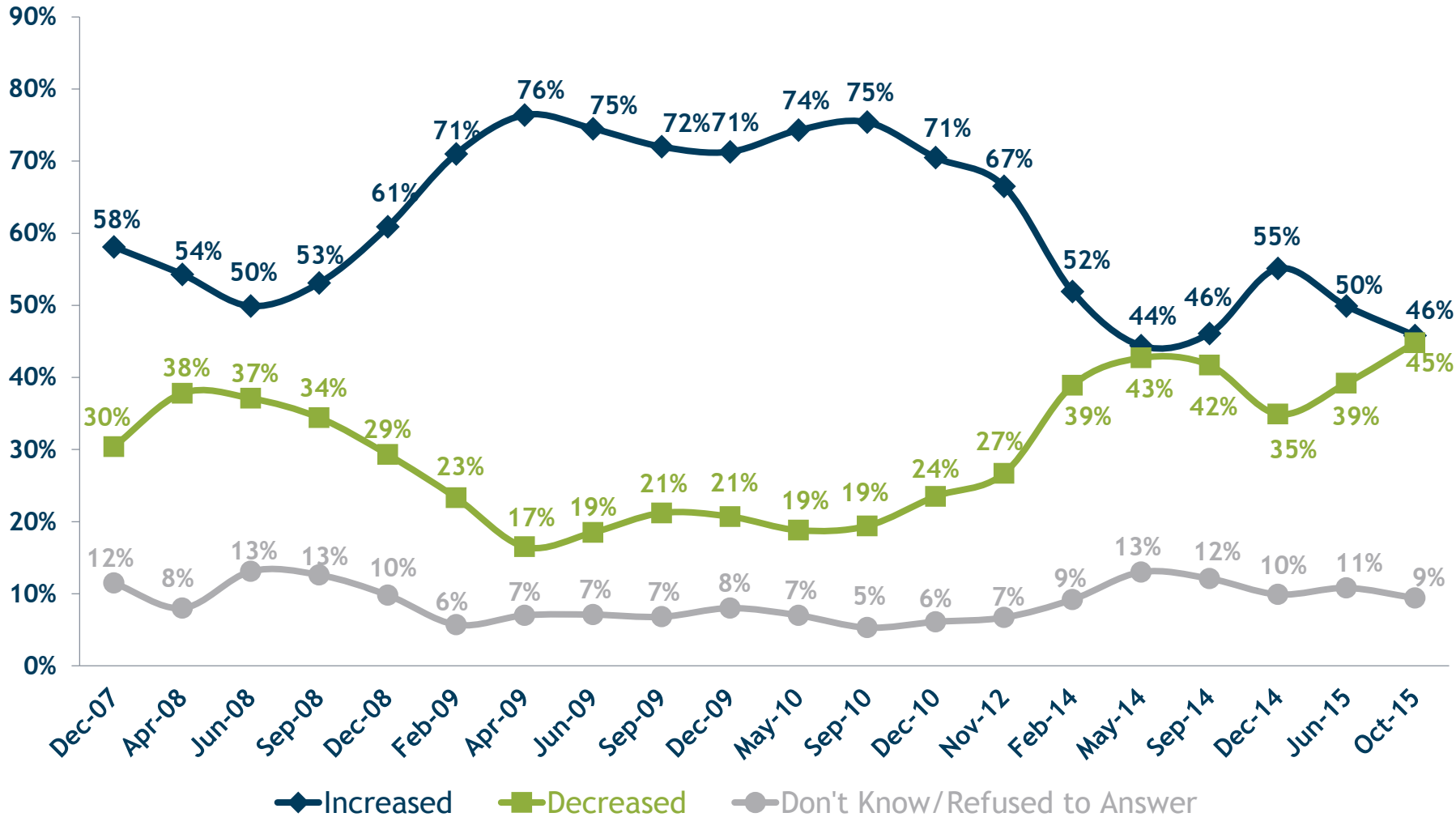
Open-Ended

Issue	First	Second	Total
Unemployment	41%	15%	56%
Poverty, Low Standard of Living, Problems of Common People	13%	17%	30%
Low/Non Payment of Salary or Pension	6%	12%	18%
Economic and Financial Crises	9%	8%	17%
General Political Situation	5%	7%	12%
Corruption	3%	5%	8%
High Prices	2%	6%	8%
Name of the Country	3%	2%	5%
Poor Performance of the Current Government	2%	3%	5%
Crime	2%	3%	5%
Low Prices for Agricultural Products	2%	2%	4%
Security Crises, Peace/Stability, War, Terrorism	1%	2%	3%
Entrance into NATO/European Union	1%	2%	3%
Emigration of Youth	1%	2%	3%
Interethnic Relations/Conflicts	1%	1%	2%

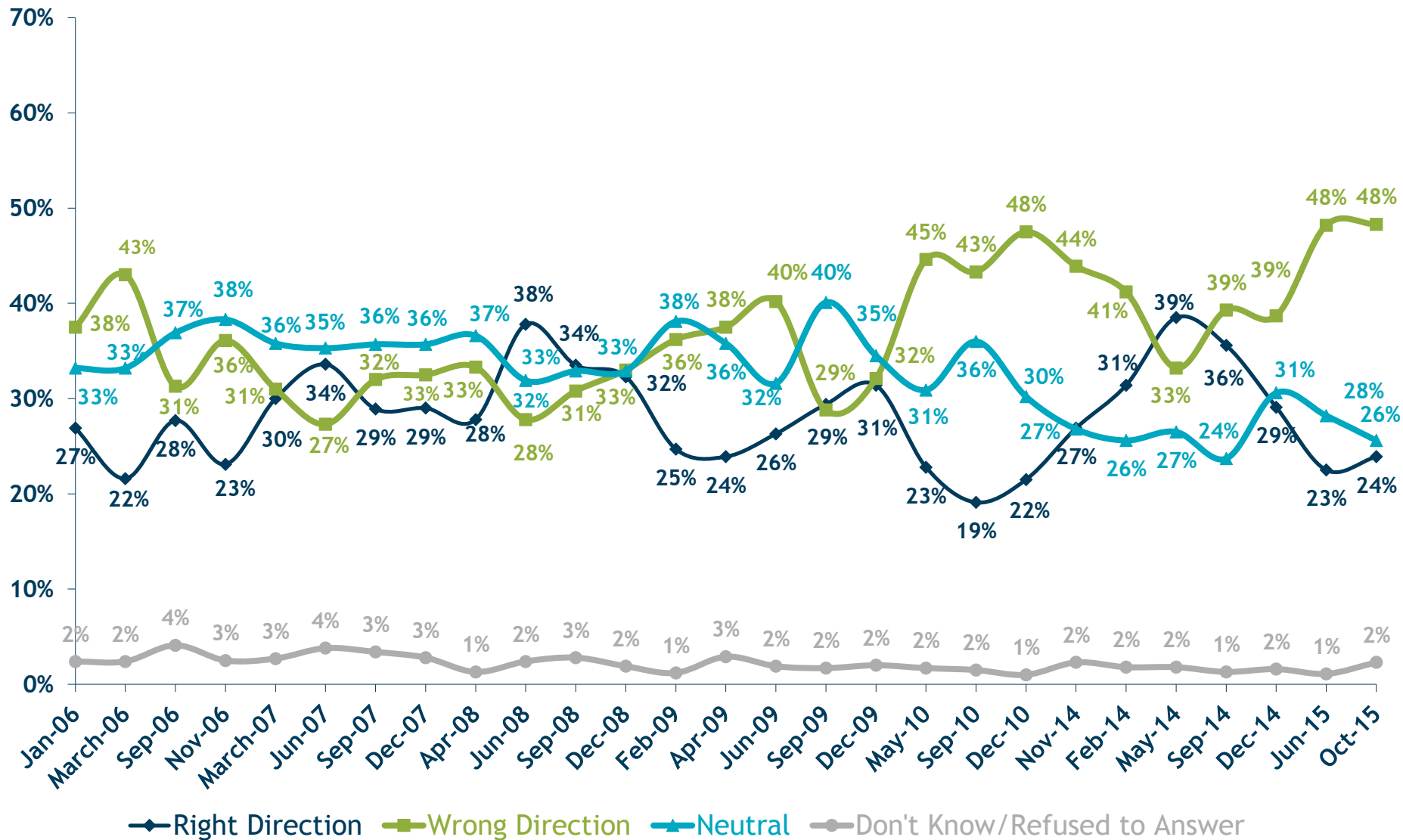
# If you could have only one or the other, which is more important to you: a democratic system of government or a prosperous economy?



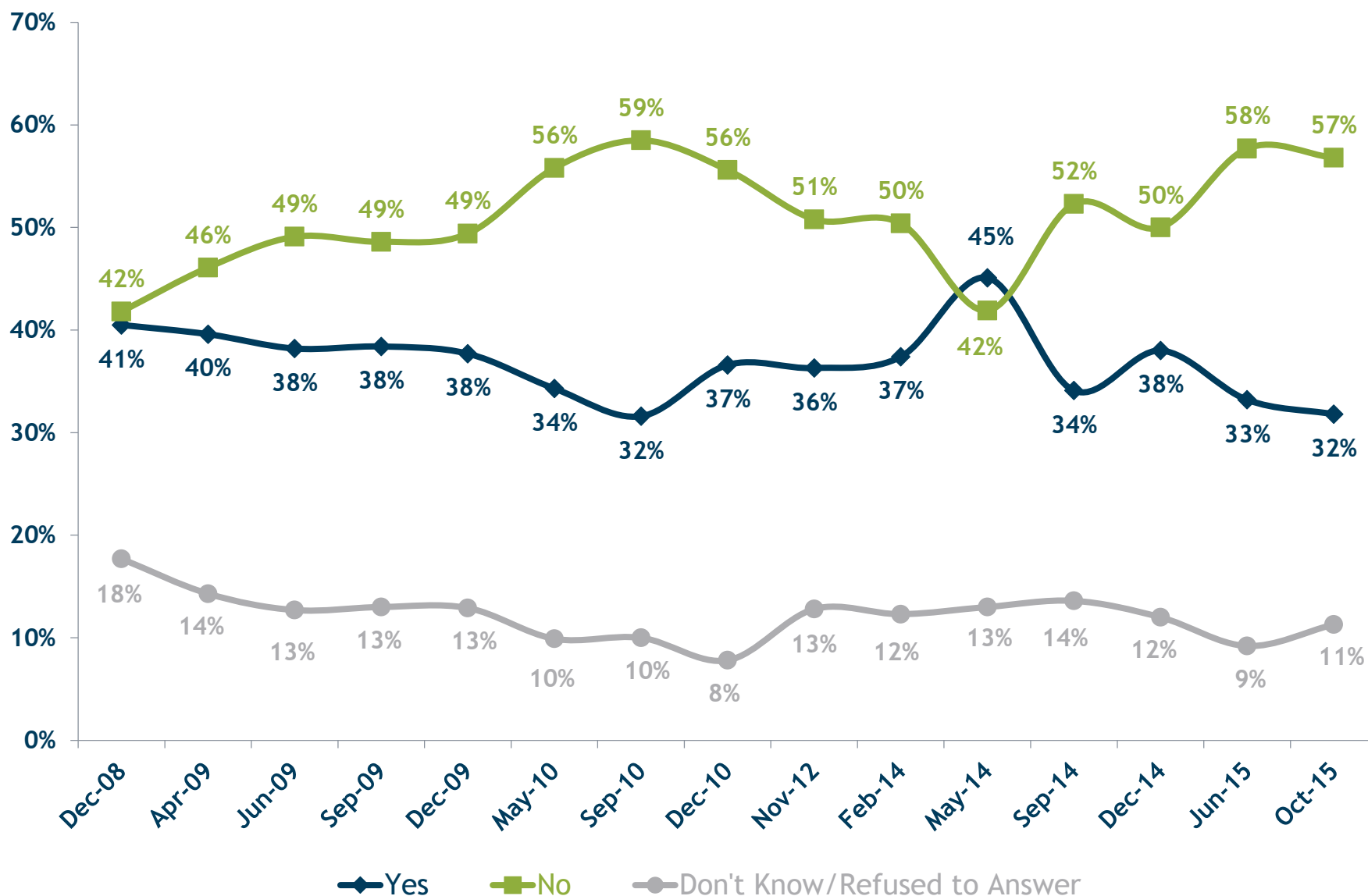
# In your opinion, has unemployment increased or decreased over the last year?



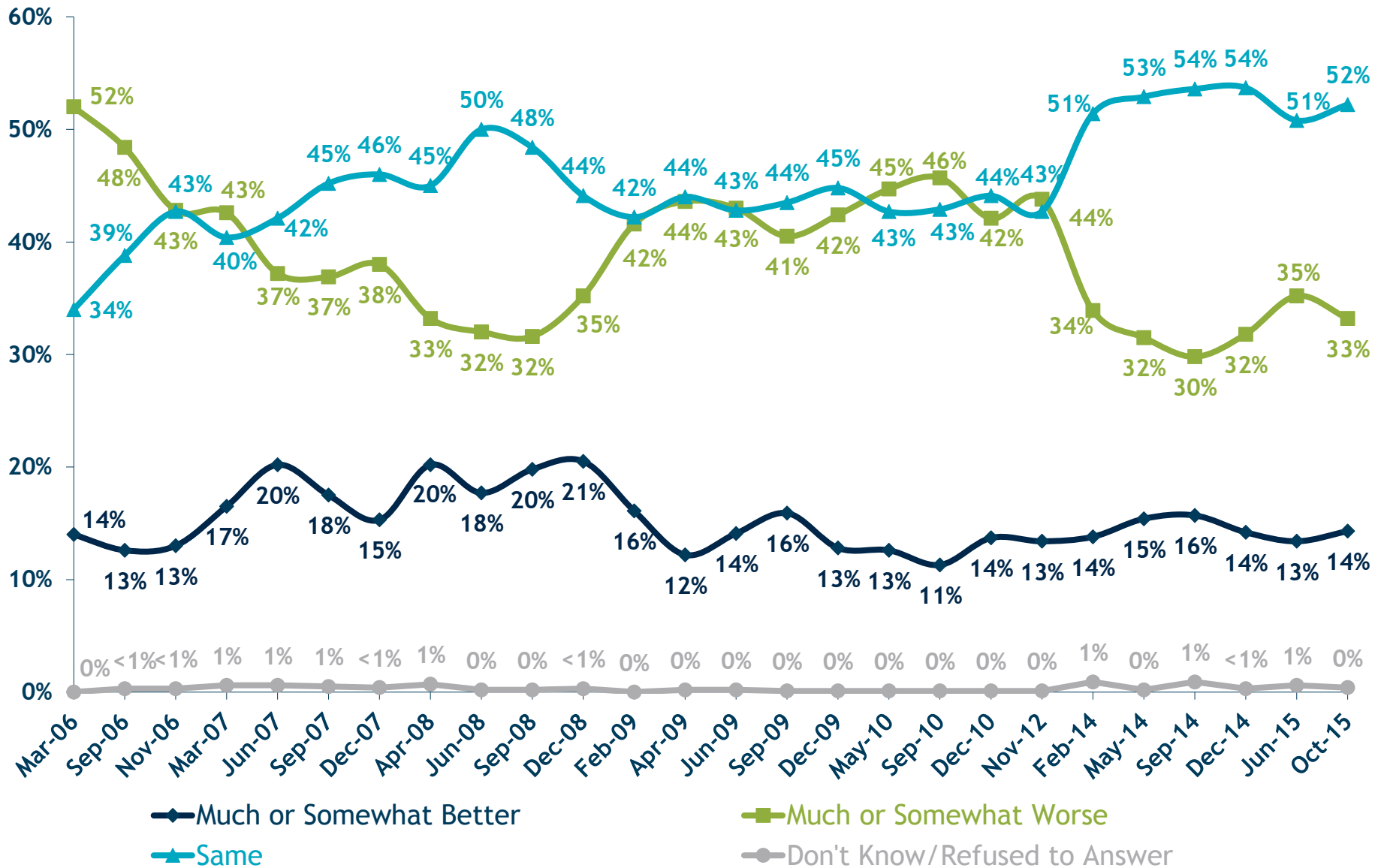
# Overall, is Macedonia moving in the right or wrong direction?



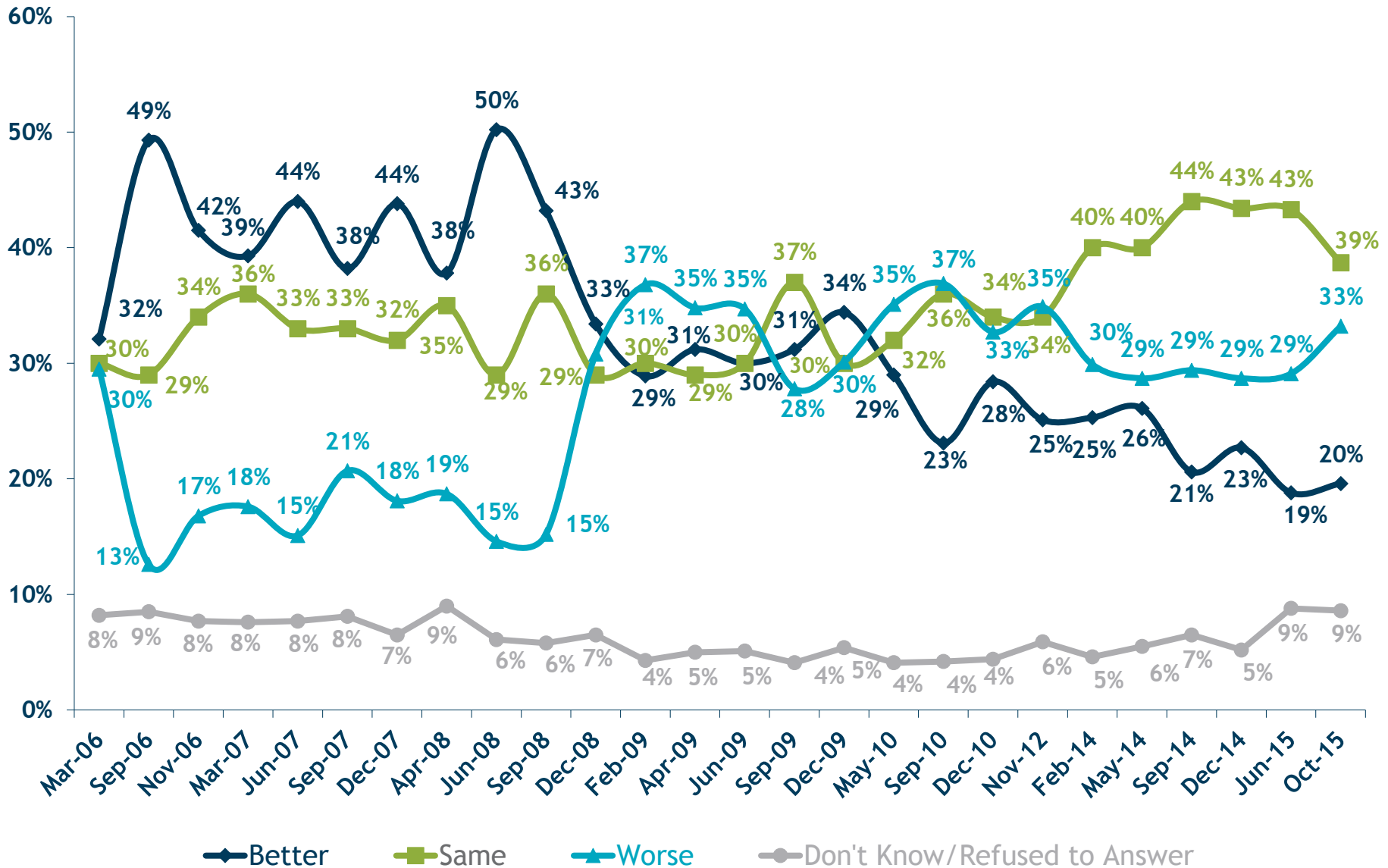
# According to you, does the government have an effective plan to address the economic problems Macedonia is facing?



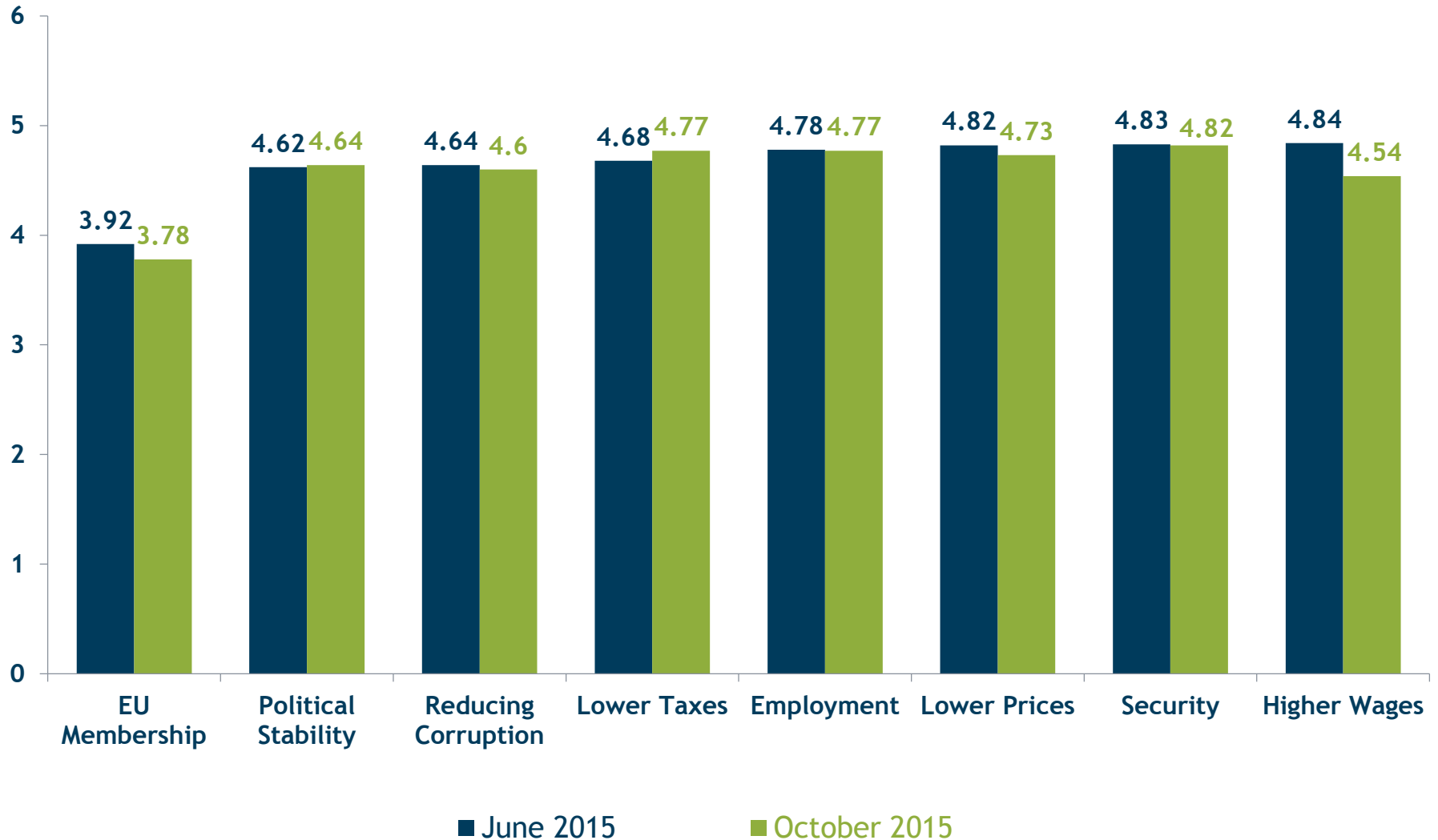
# How is your family's economic situation compared with one year ago?



# In the next two years, will the Macedonian economy get better, get worse or stay the same?

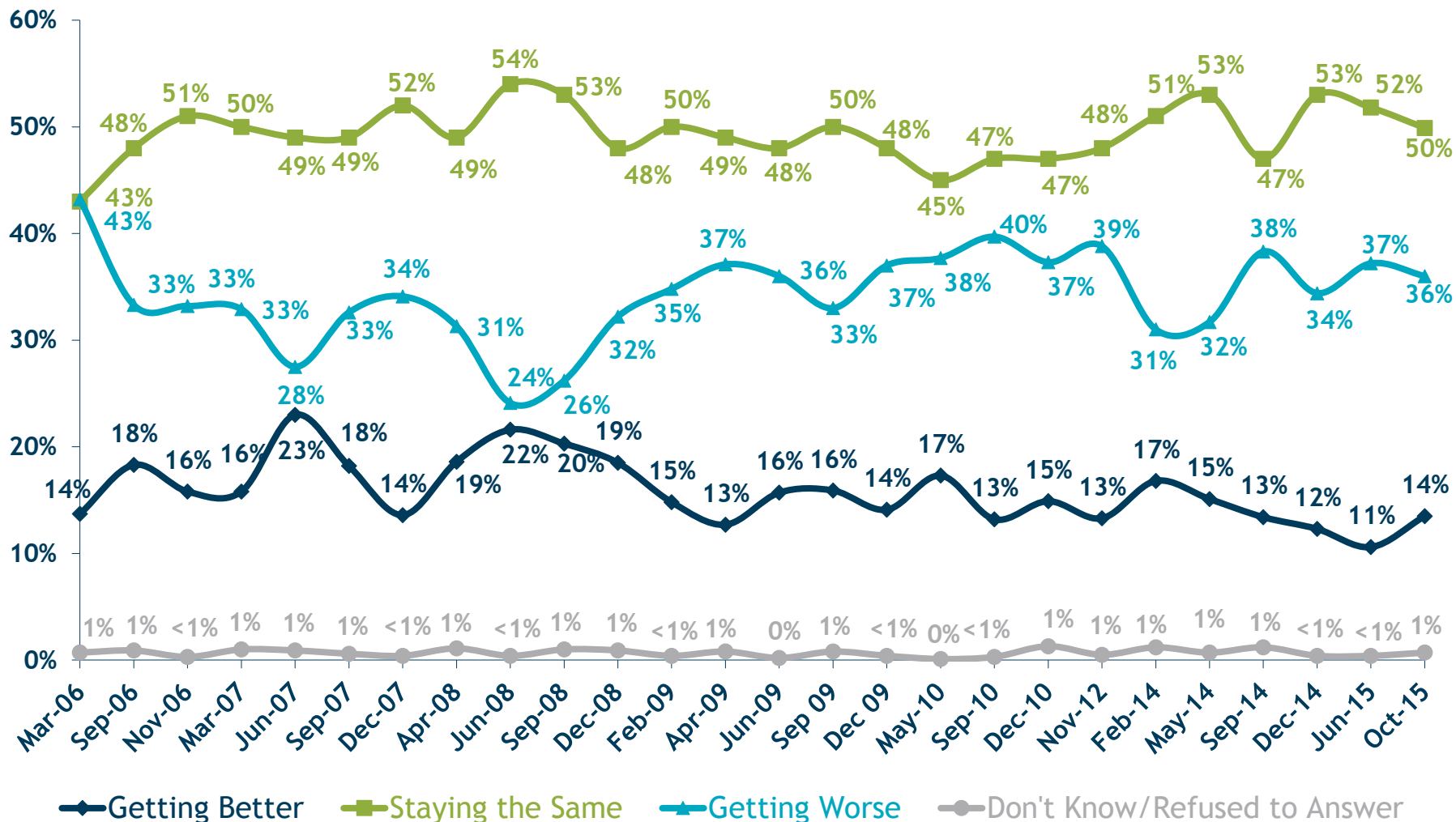


Using the scale in Macedonian schools, from one to five (one being the least important and five being the most important), how important is each of these issues in your daily life?

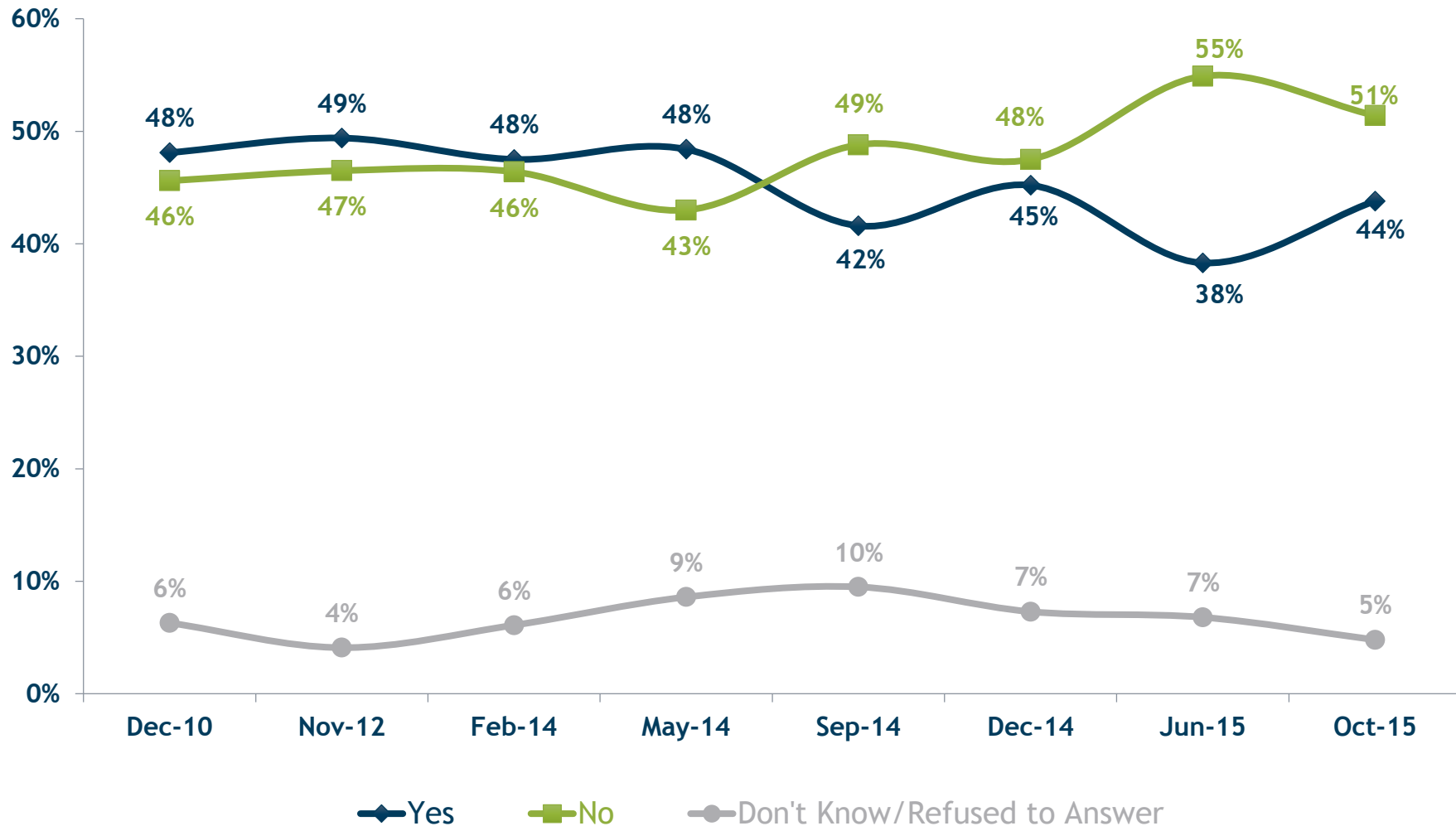




# Speaking personally, is your overall quality of life...?



# Do you think that free speech and the free expression of ideas exists in Macedonia today?



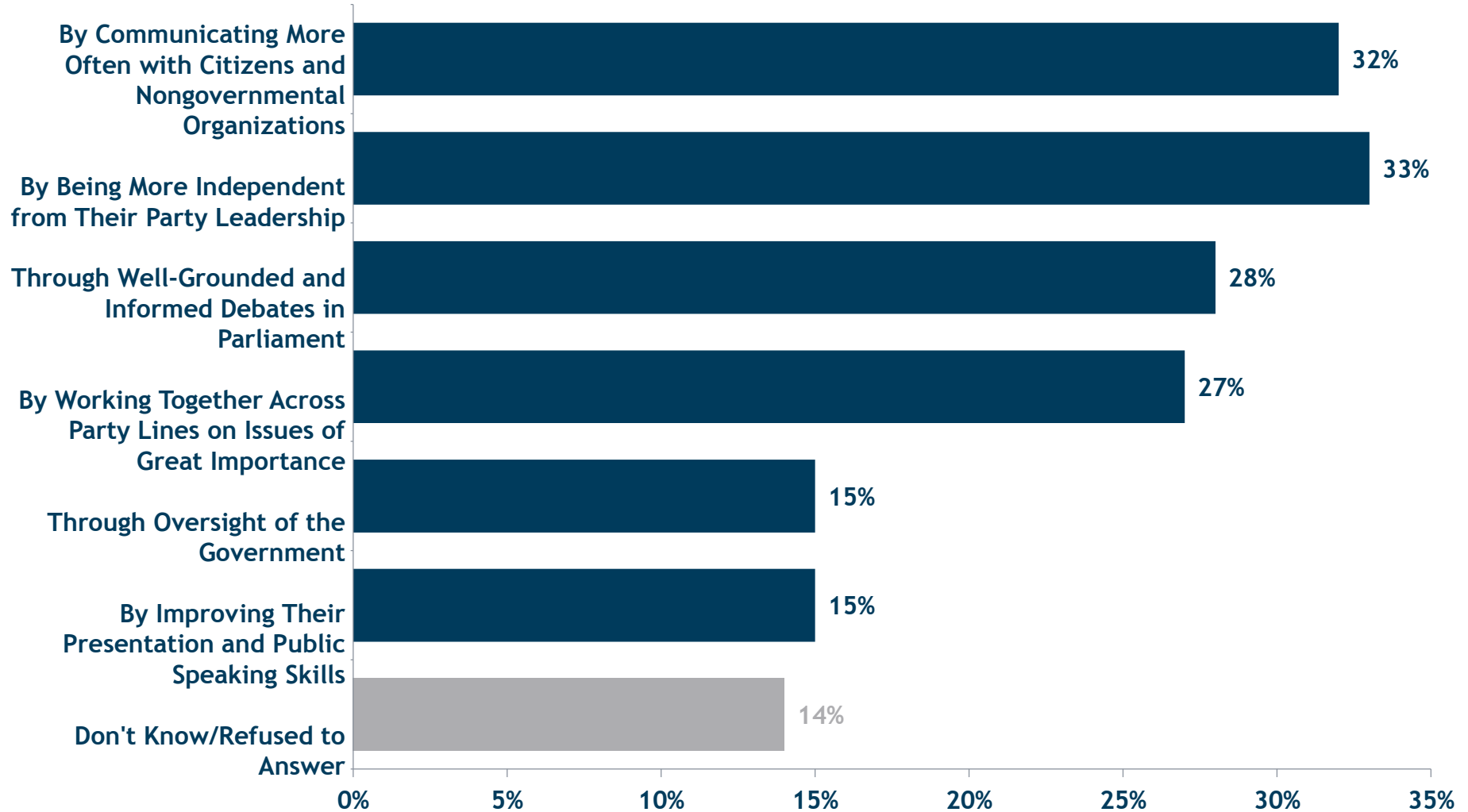


# Voter Attitudes and Participation

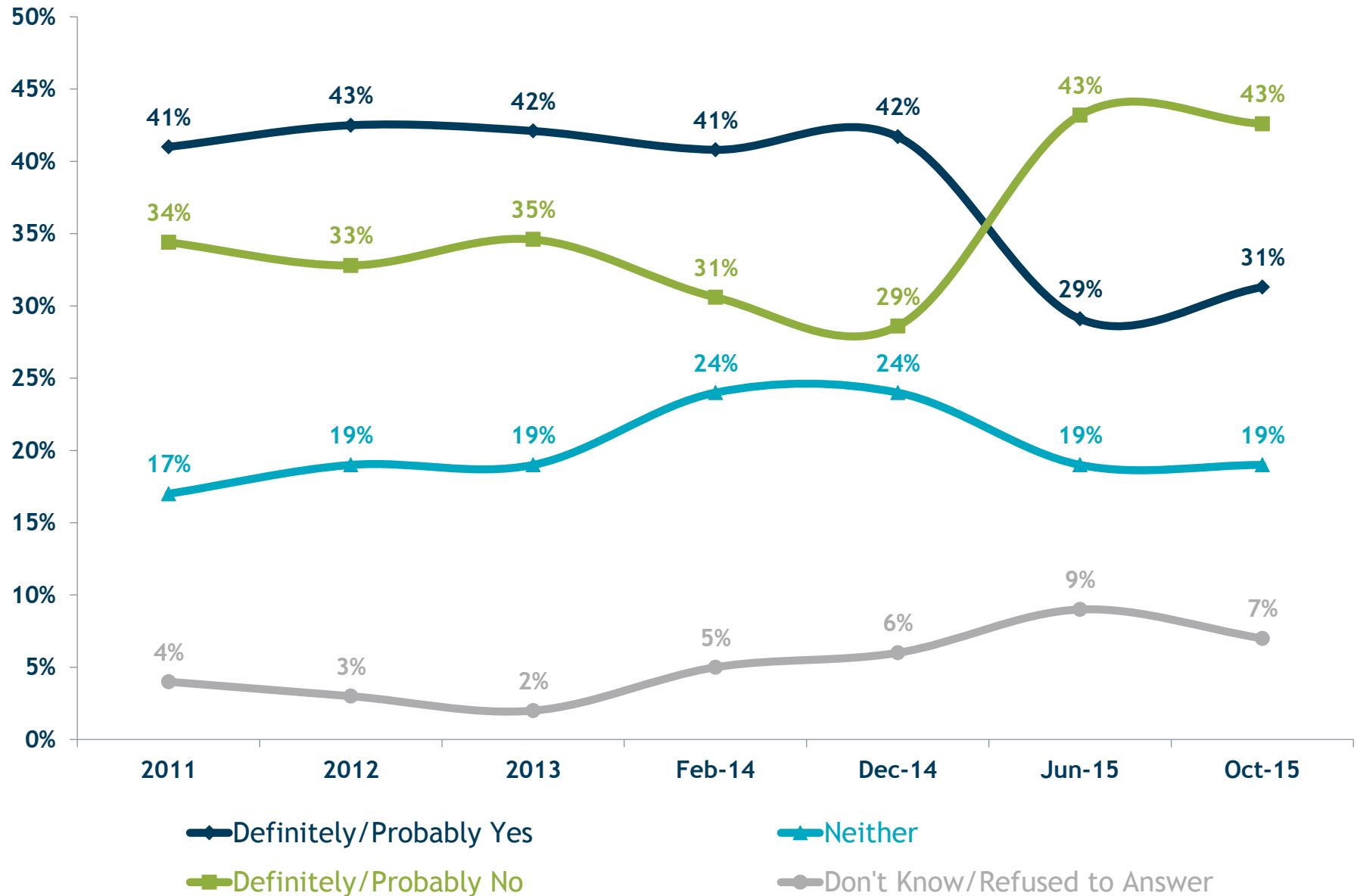
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# How, according to your opinion, could members of Parliament more effectively perform their jobs?

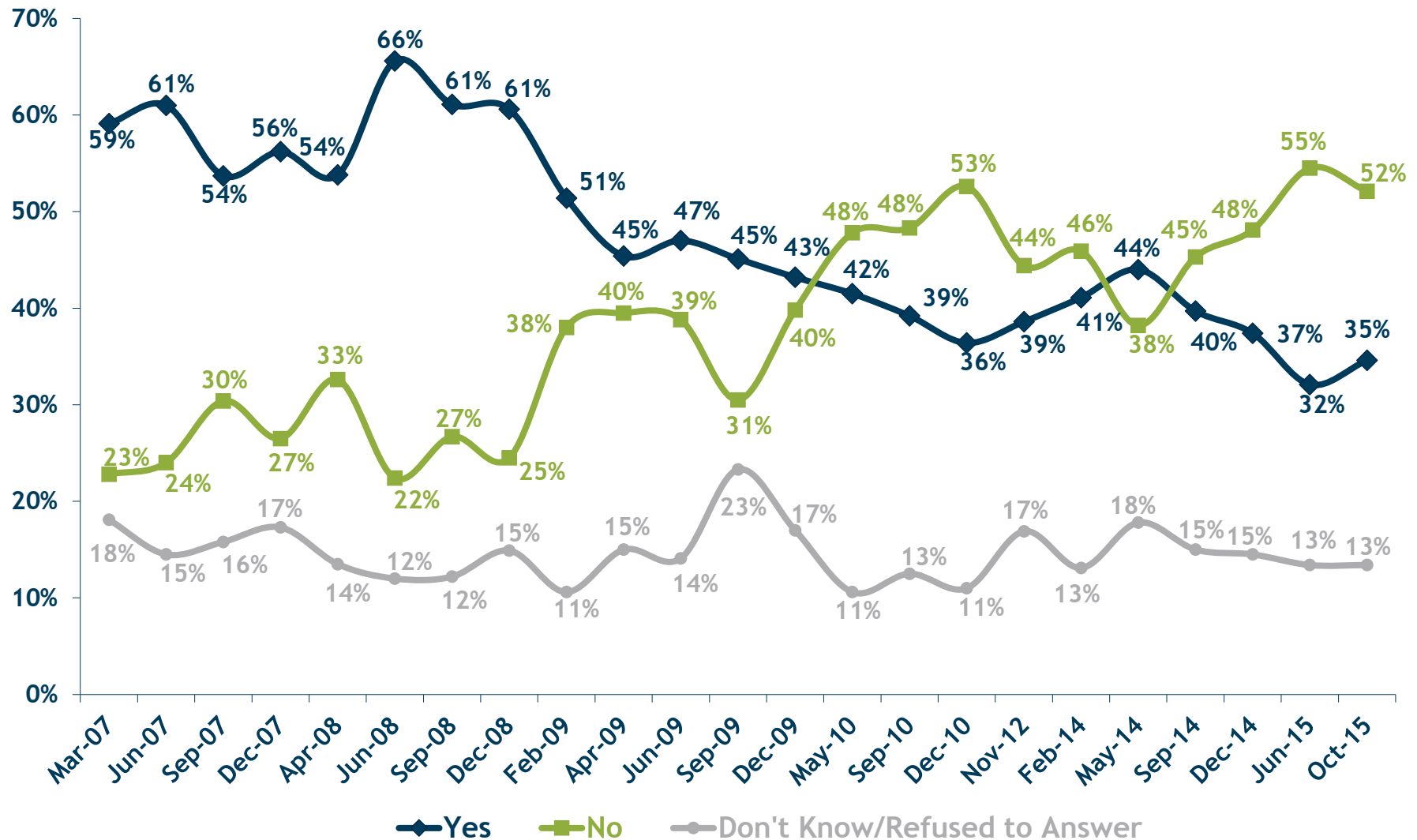
Multiple Responses



# Is this government seeking to solve the corruption problem?

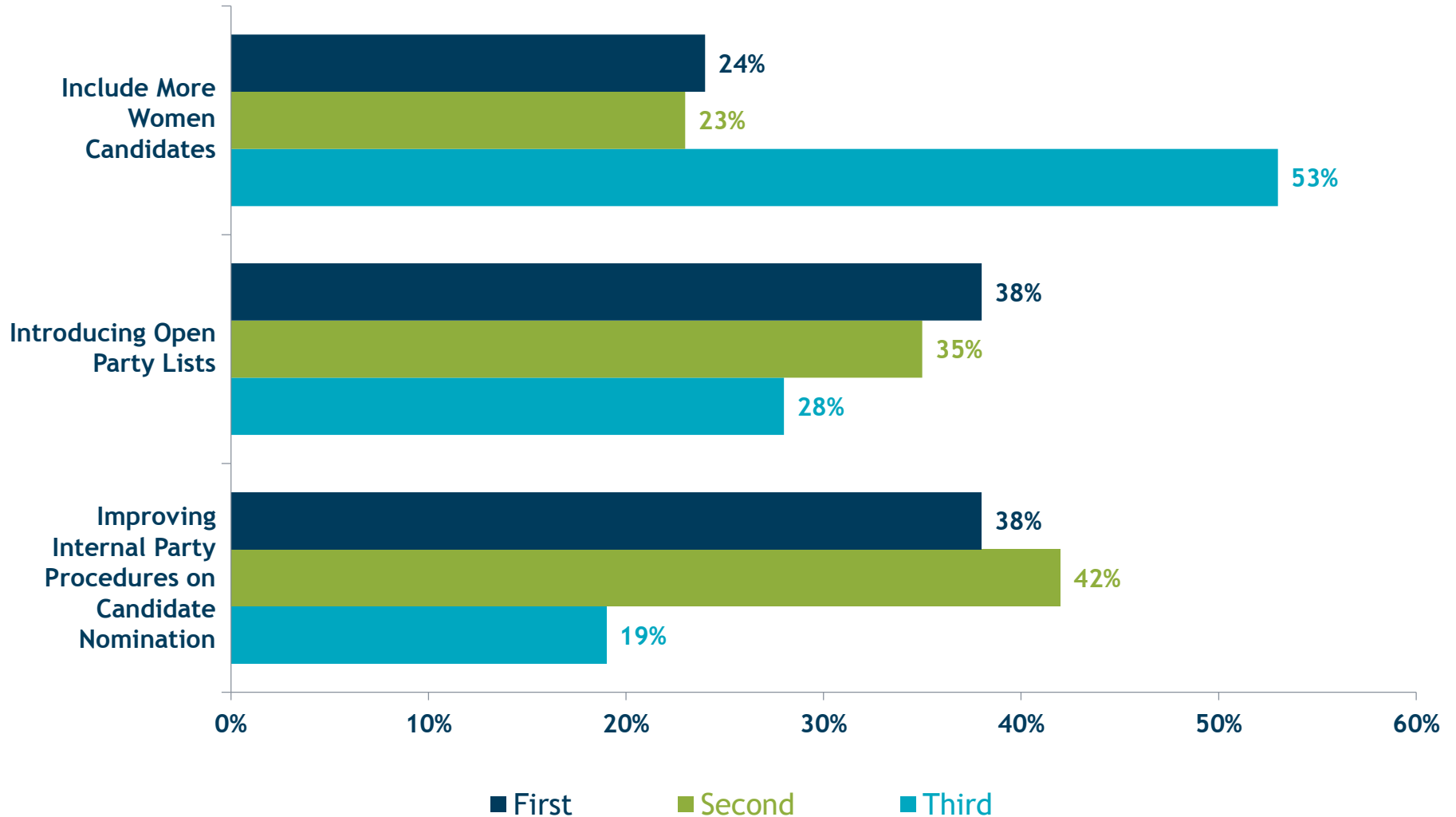


# Has Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski done his job well enough to deserve re-election?

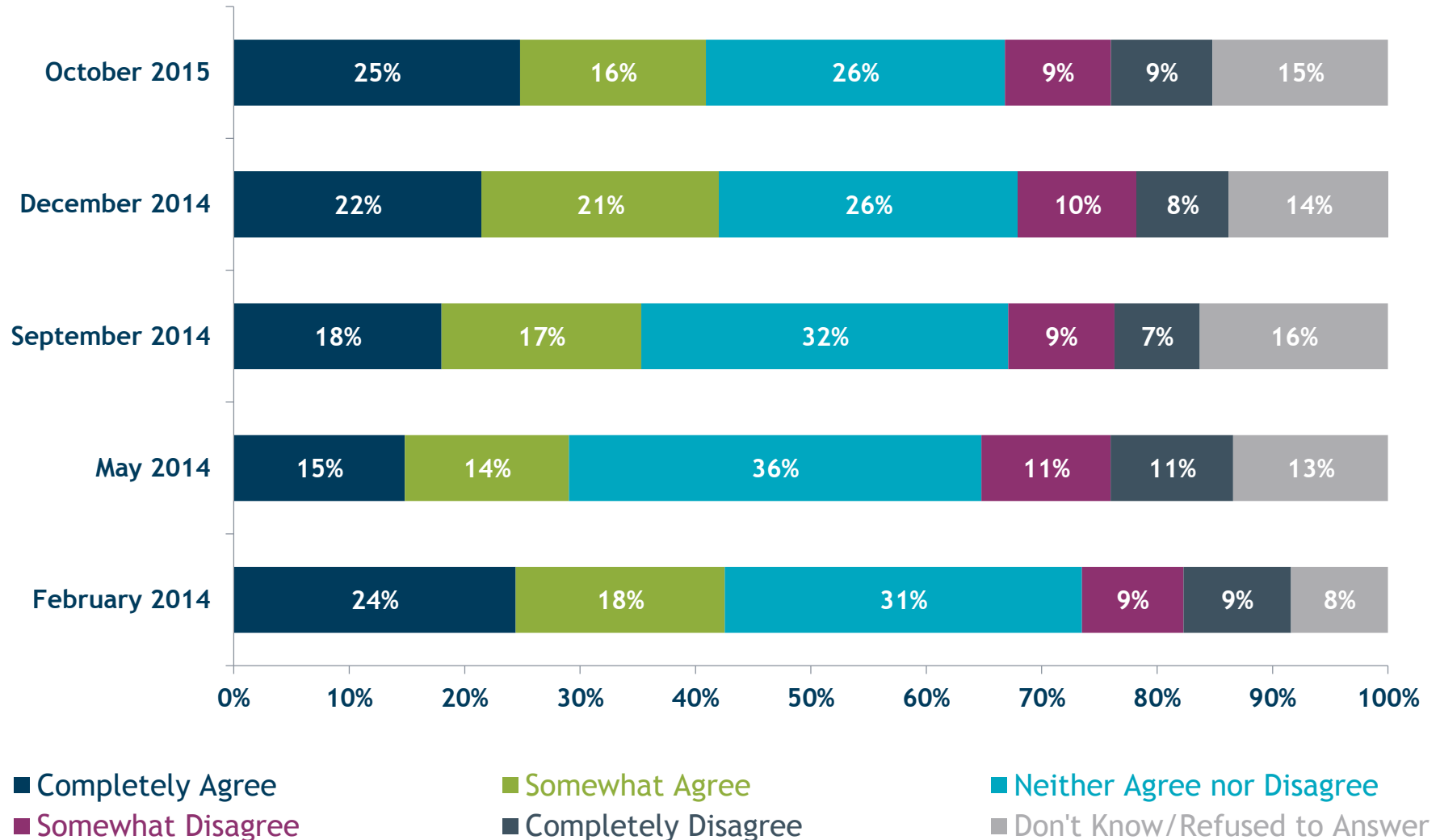


# In your opinion, how can parties improve their candidate selection for Parliament?

Ranked Lowest to Highest

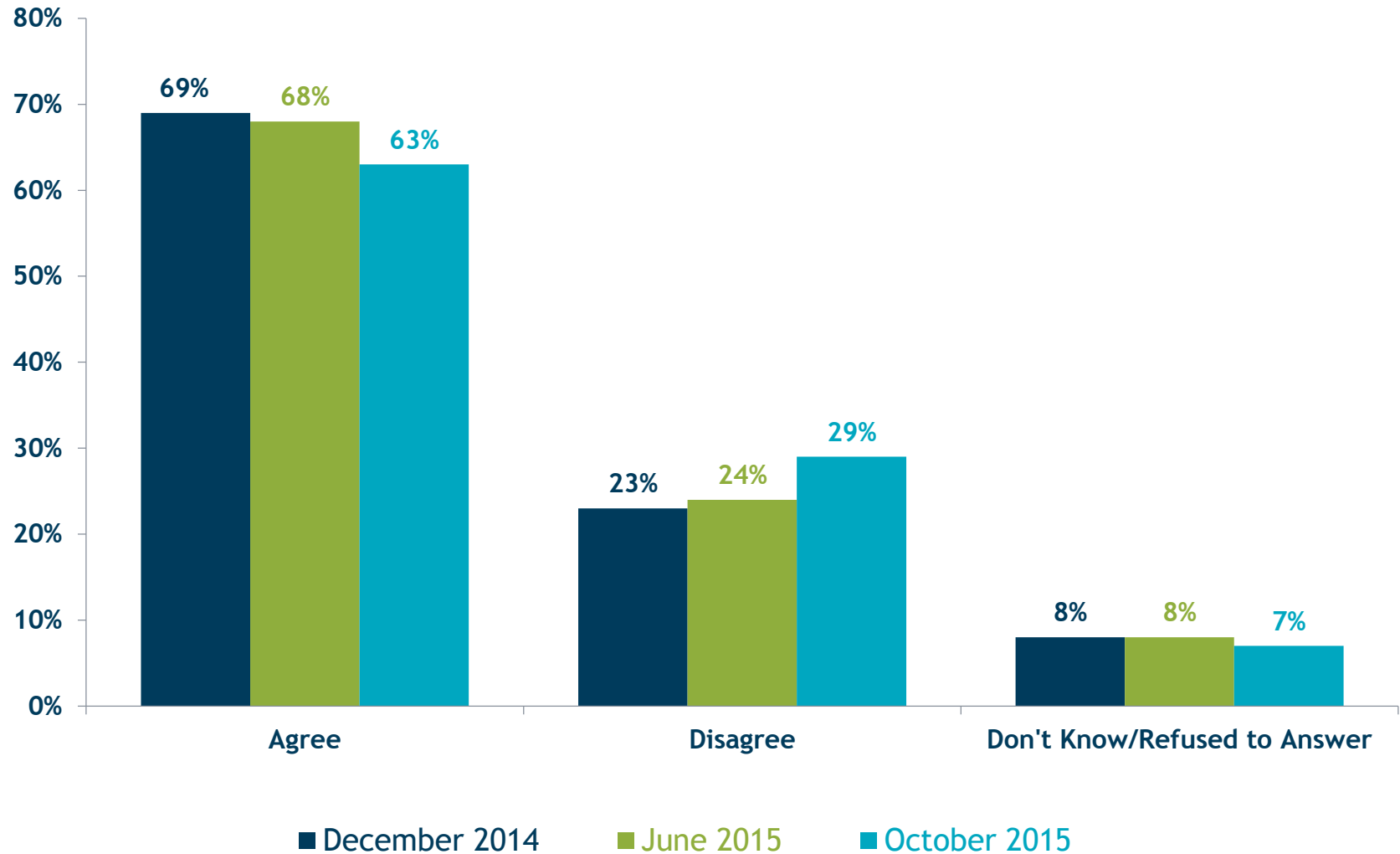


# To what level do you agree with the statement? “Government advertising in the media negatively affects press freedom.”

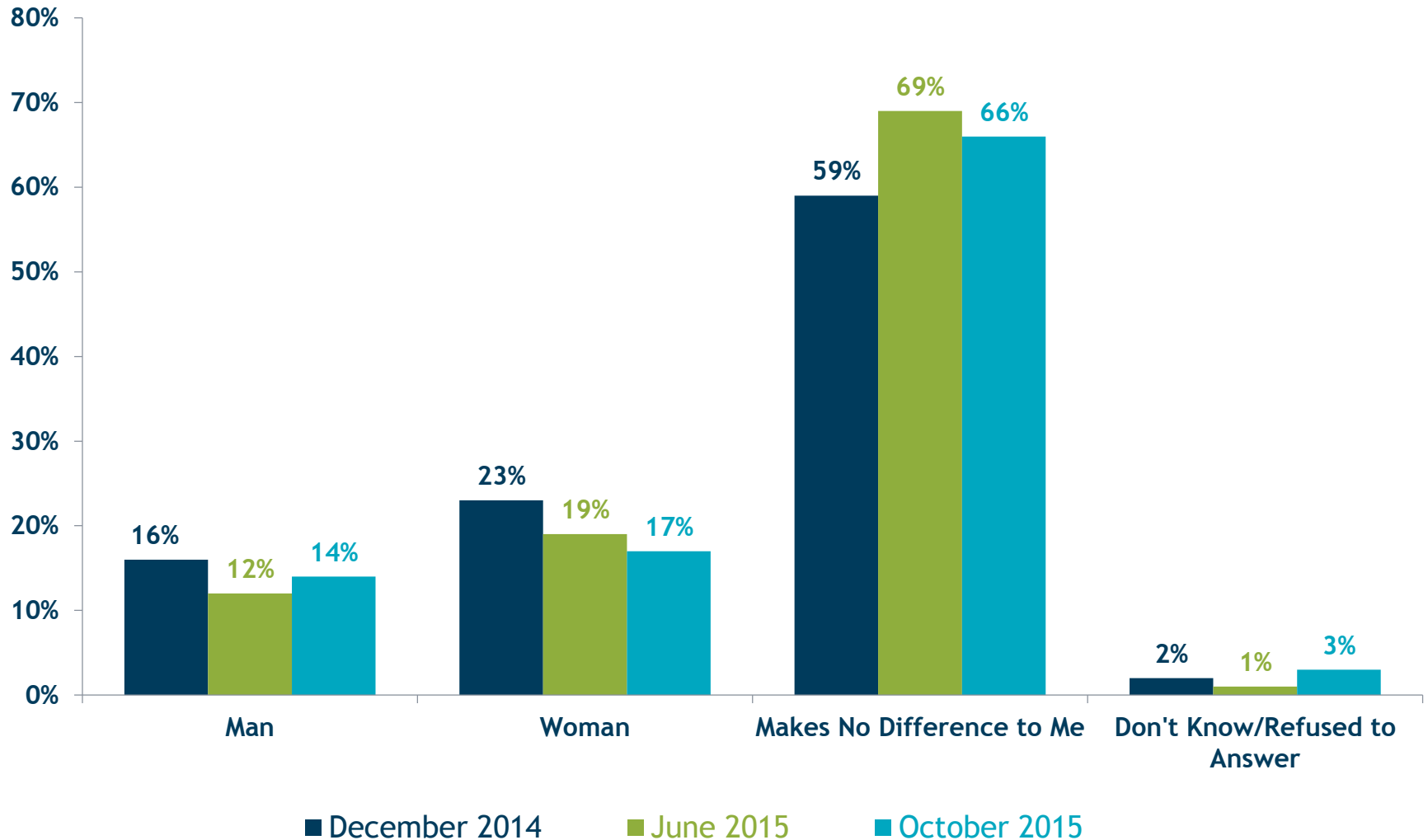




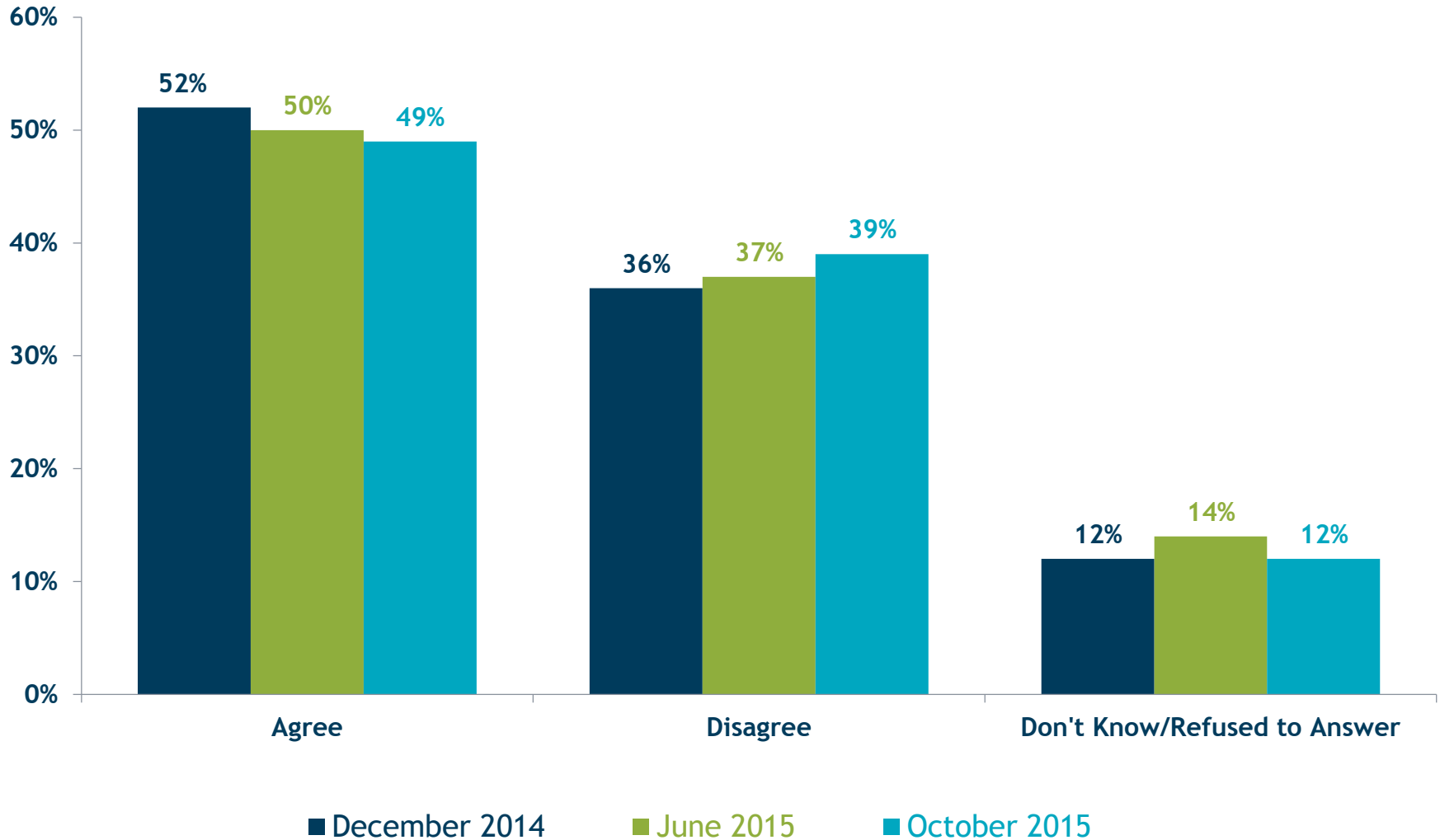
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
“Politicians do not listen to the needs and ideas of young people.”



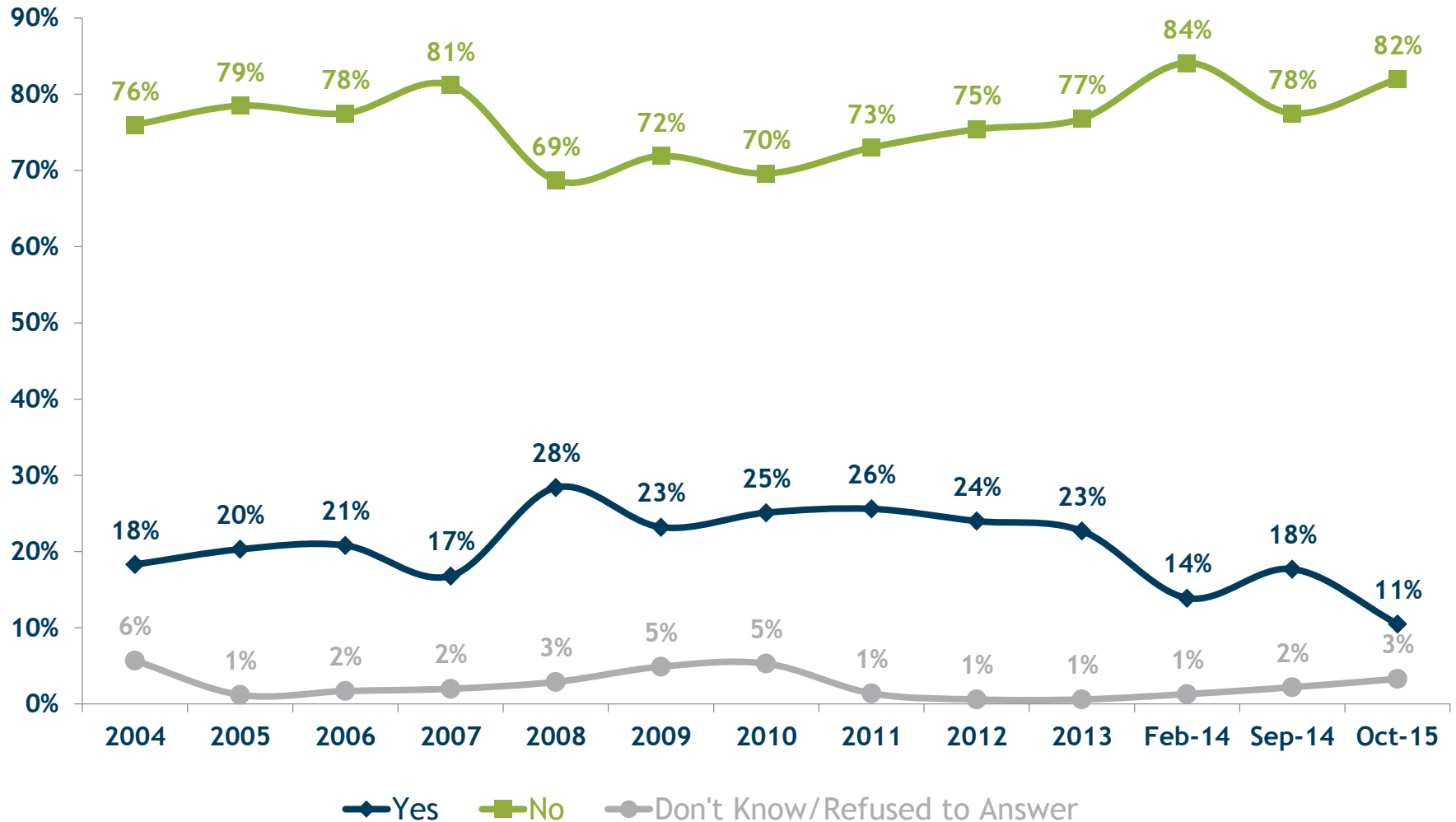
If there are two candidates running for office and they have the same qualifications aside from the fact that one is a man and one is a woman, which candidate are you more likely to support?



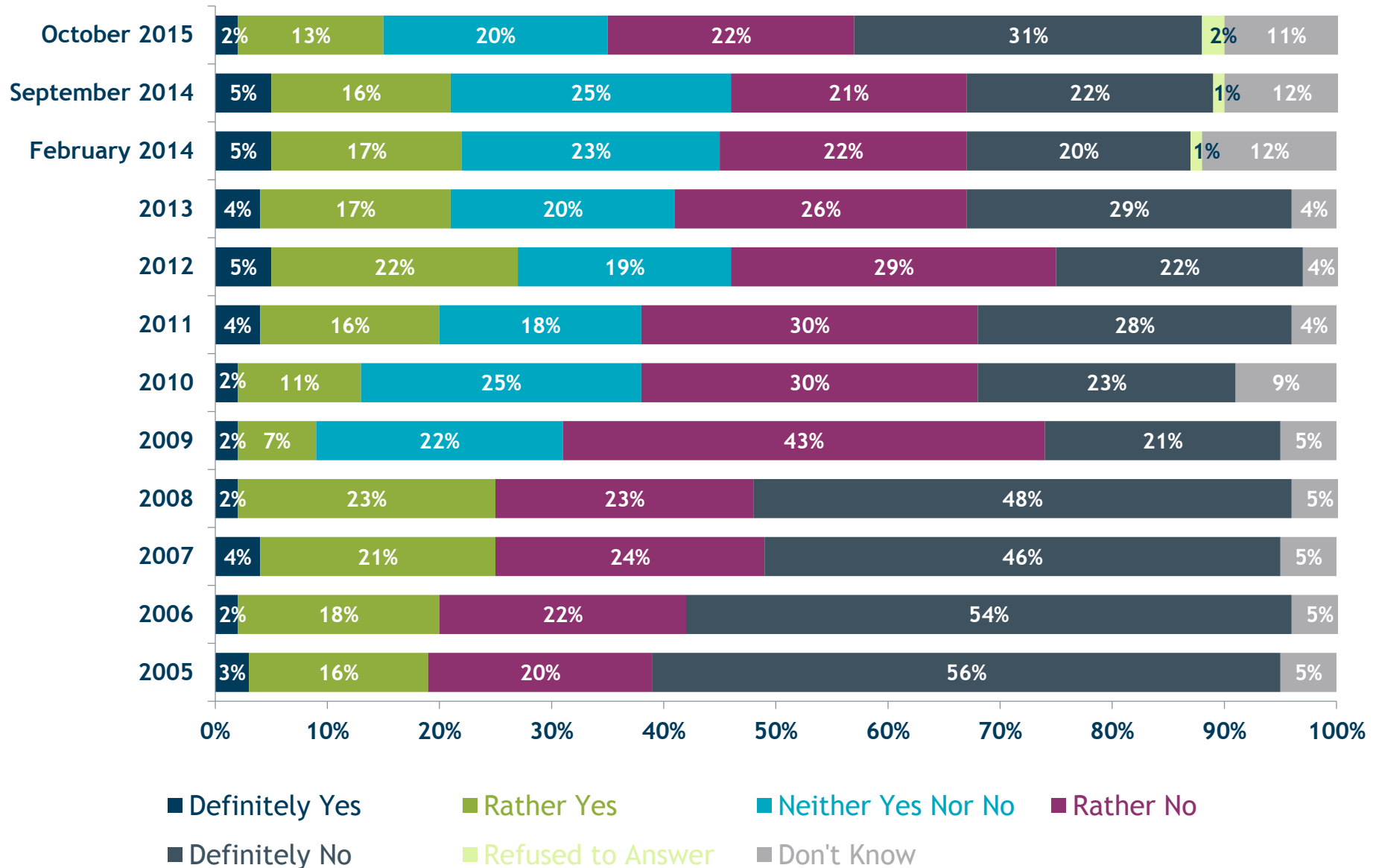
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
“Politicians do not listen to the needs and ideas of women.”



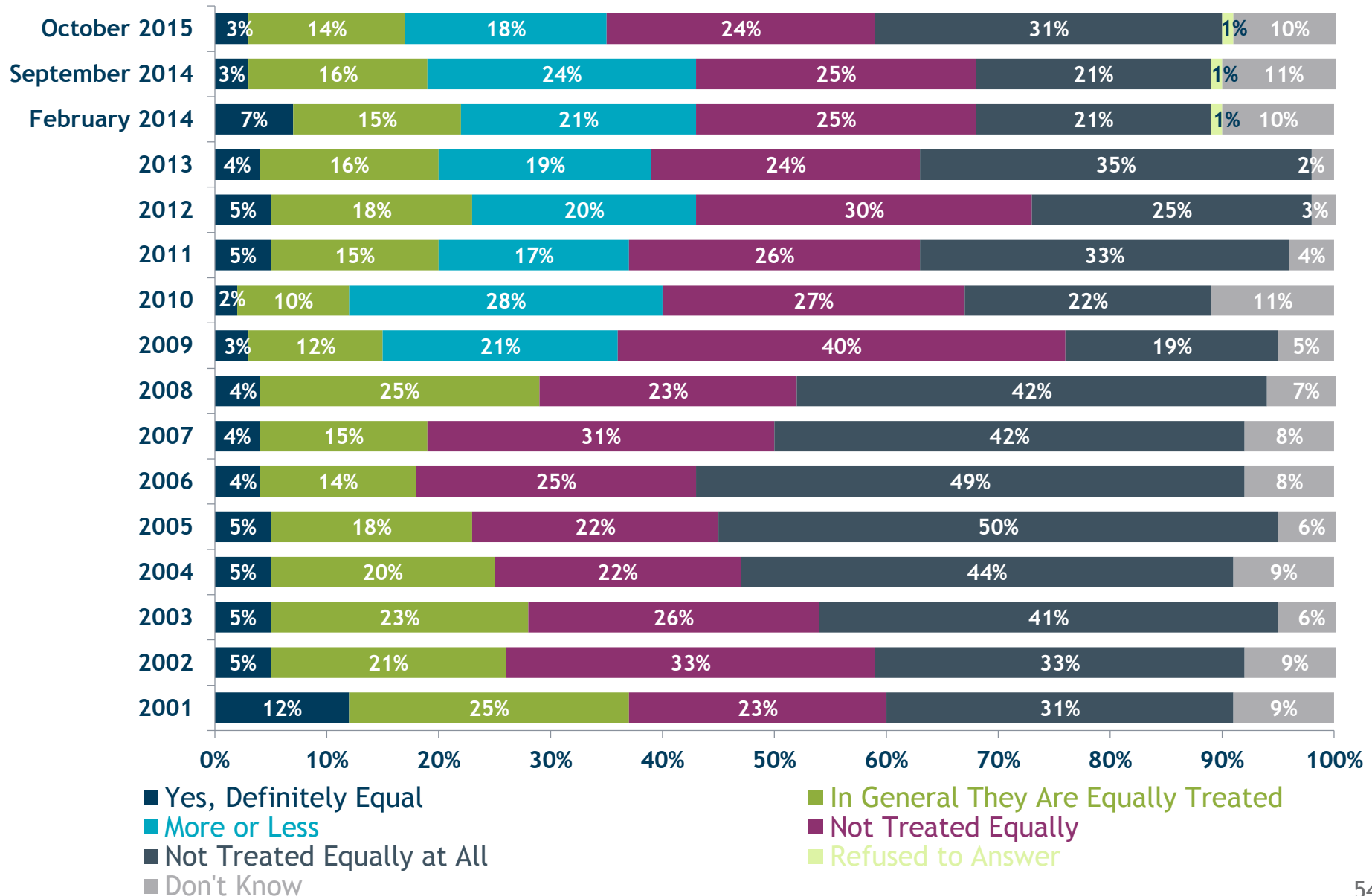
Did you, or a member of your family, have any experience with the courts within the last 12 months (as a witness, party in a case, filed a complaint or any other business in the courts)?



# Do you think the courts in Macedonia resolve cases in a timely manner?

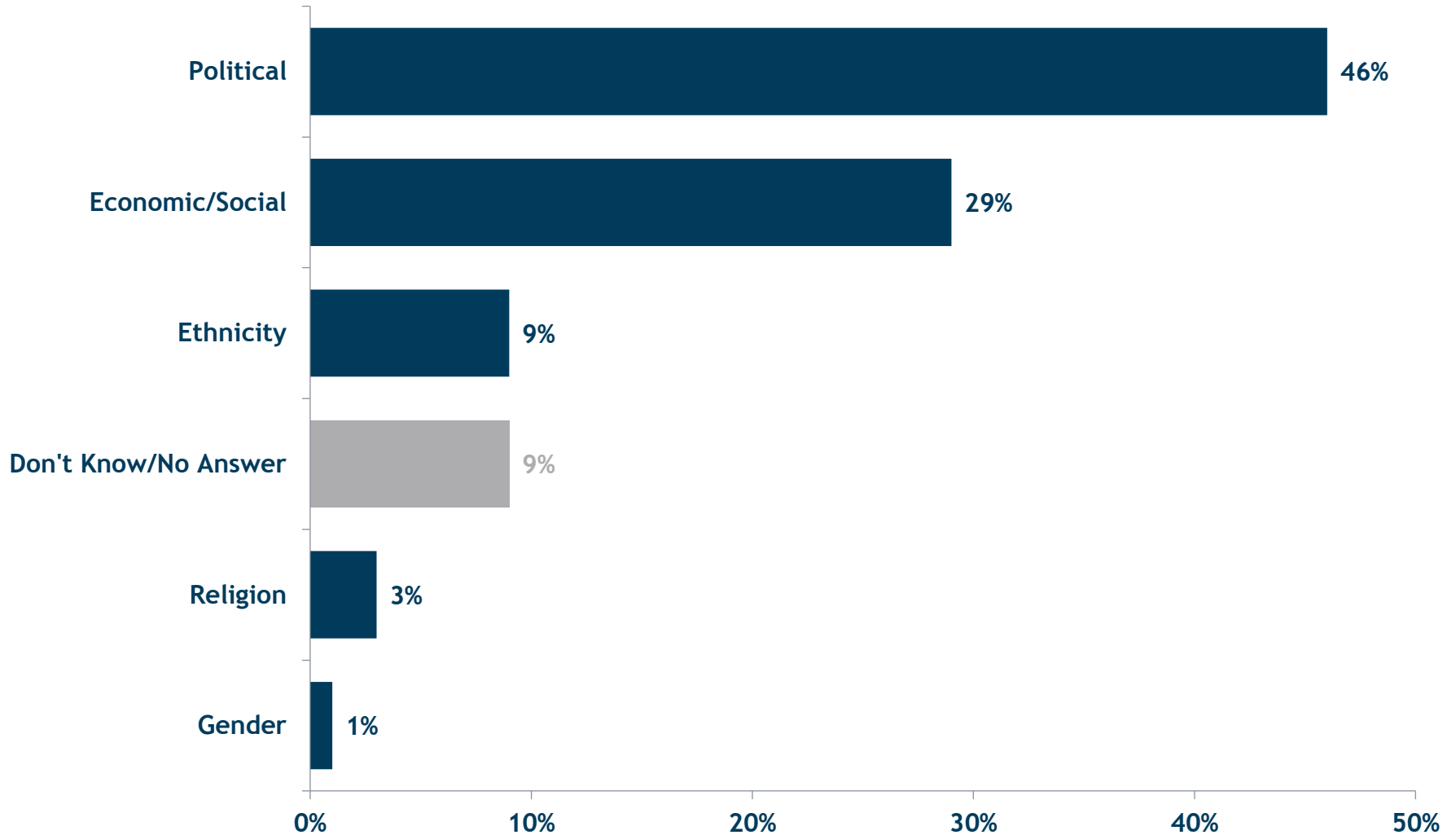


# Are all citizens equally treated under the court procedures and in deciding cases?



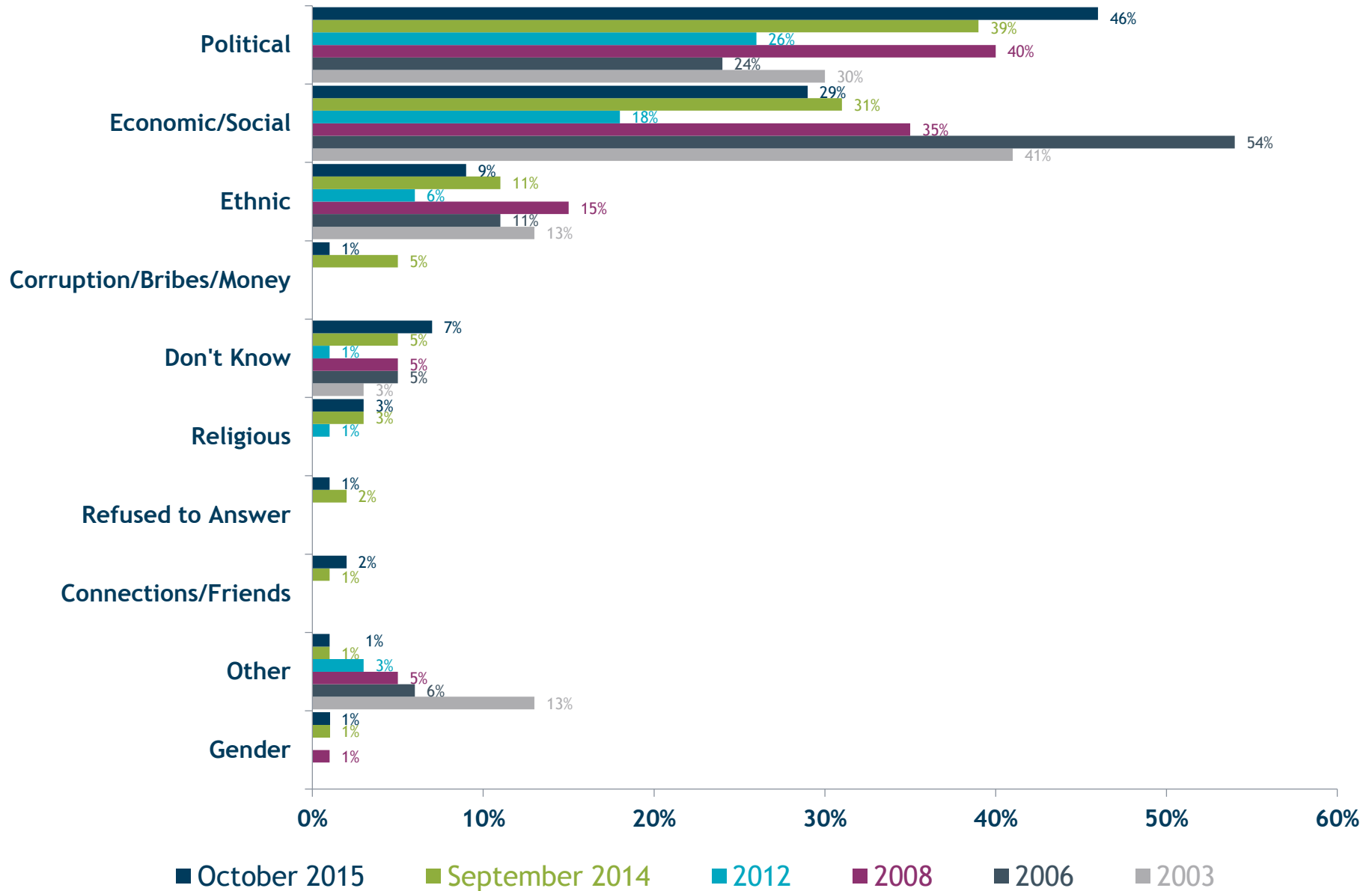
# What is the main reason for unequal treatment?

Those who believe citizens are not treated equally, n=607



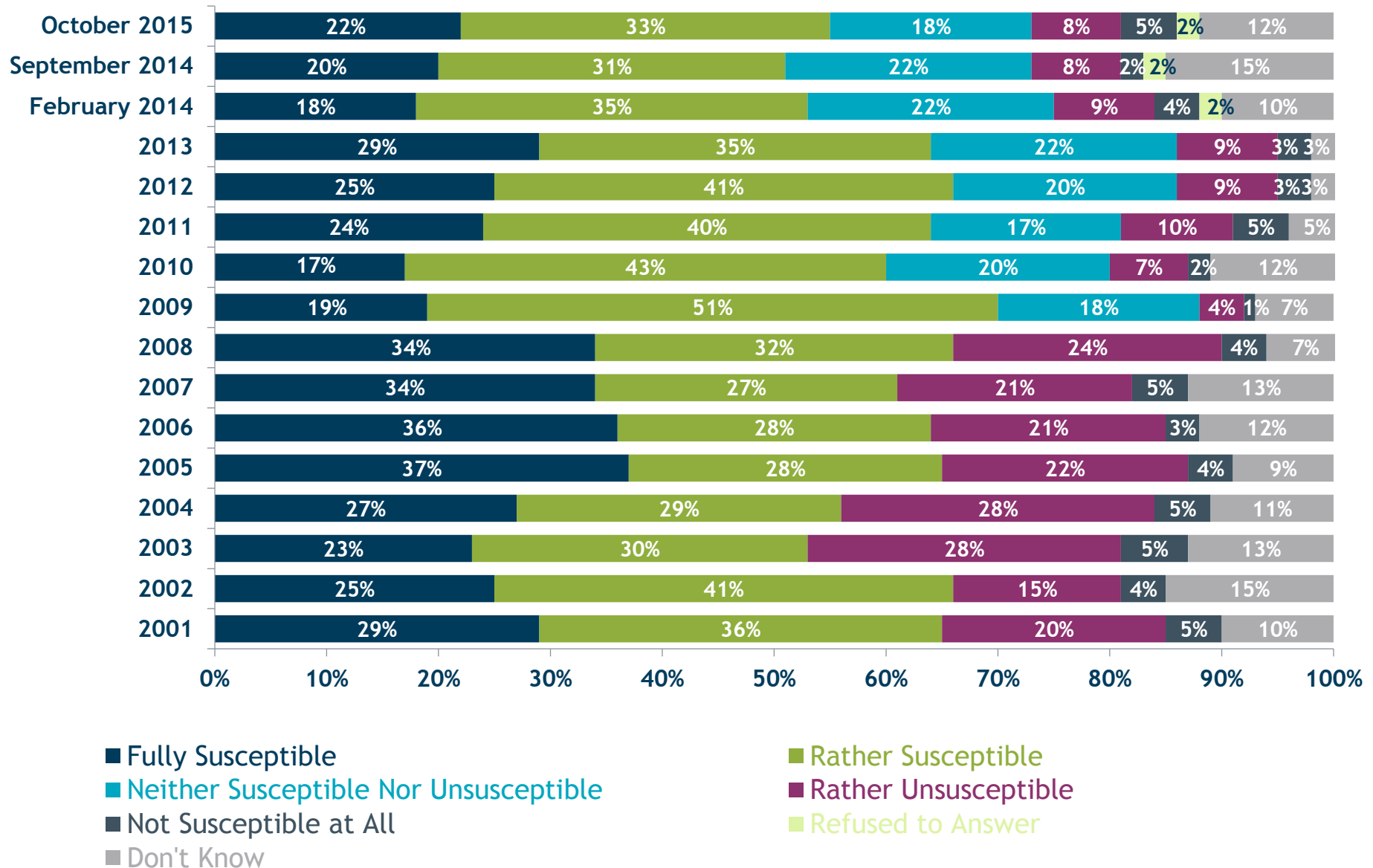
# What is the main reason for unequal treatment?

Those who believe citizens are not treated equally, n=607

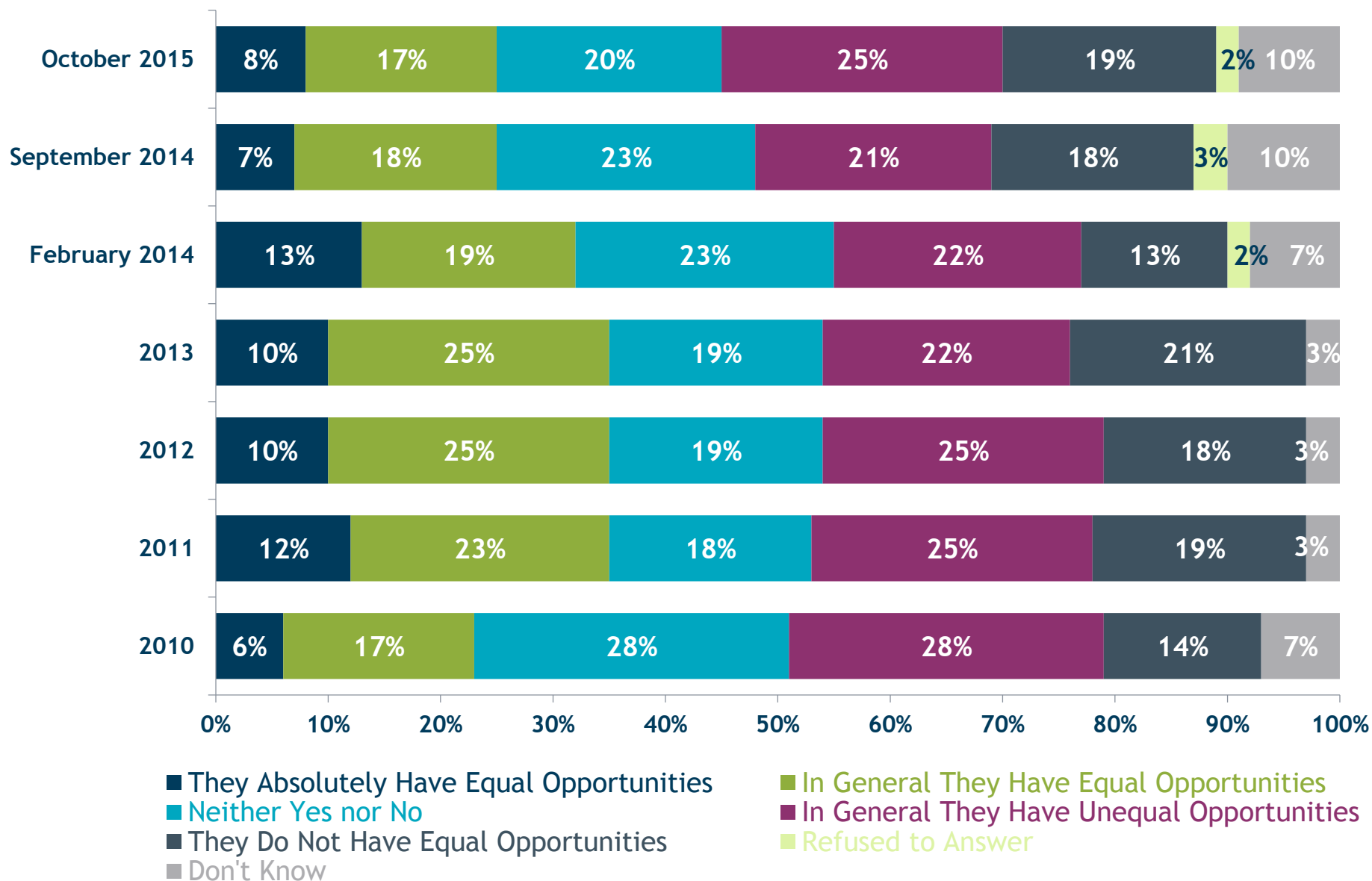




# According to you, to what extent are the courts susceptible to political influence in deciding court cases?

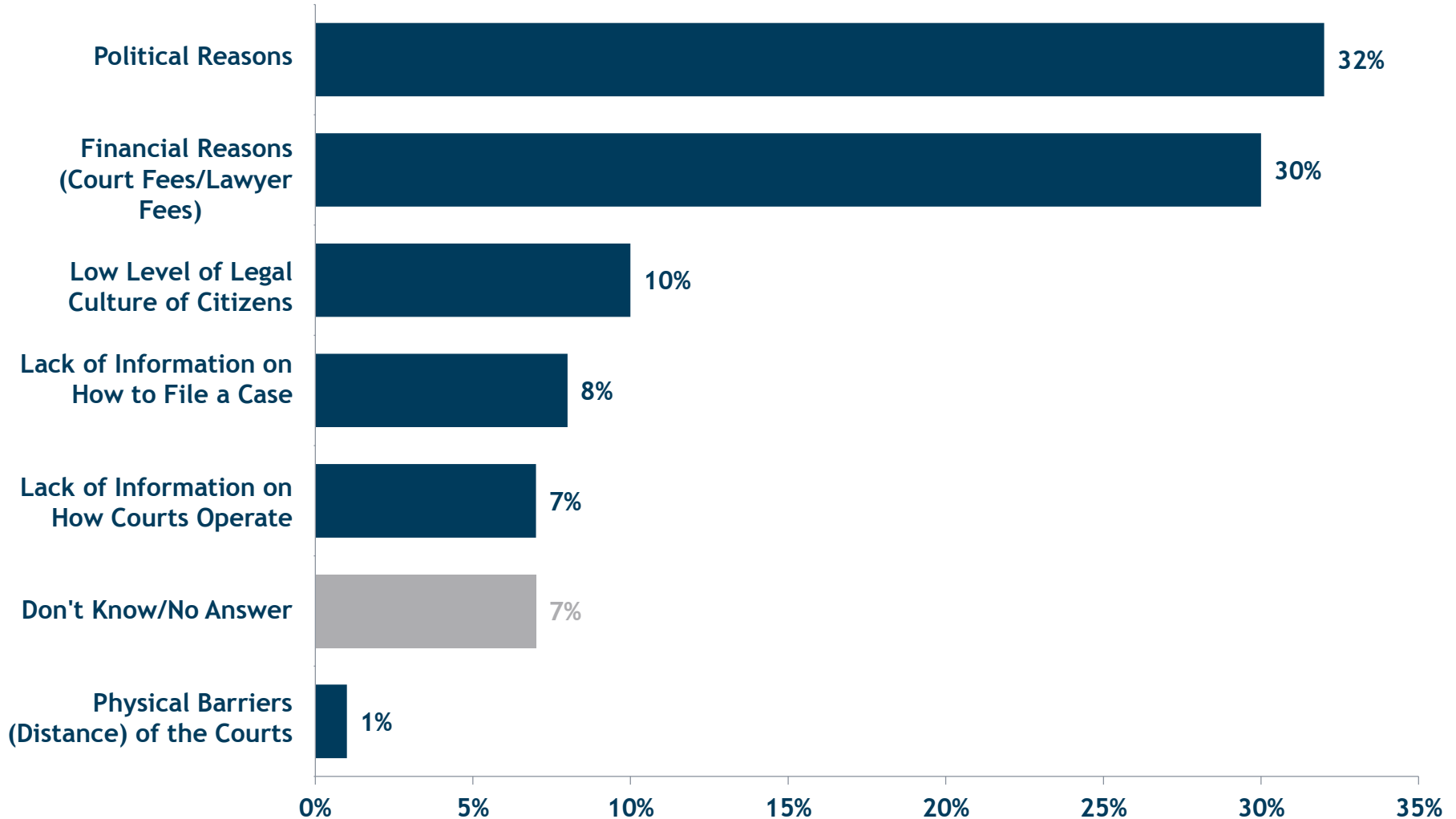


# Do you think that all citizens have equal opportunities to access courts in order to exercise their rights?



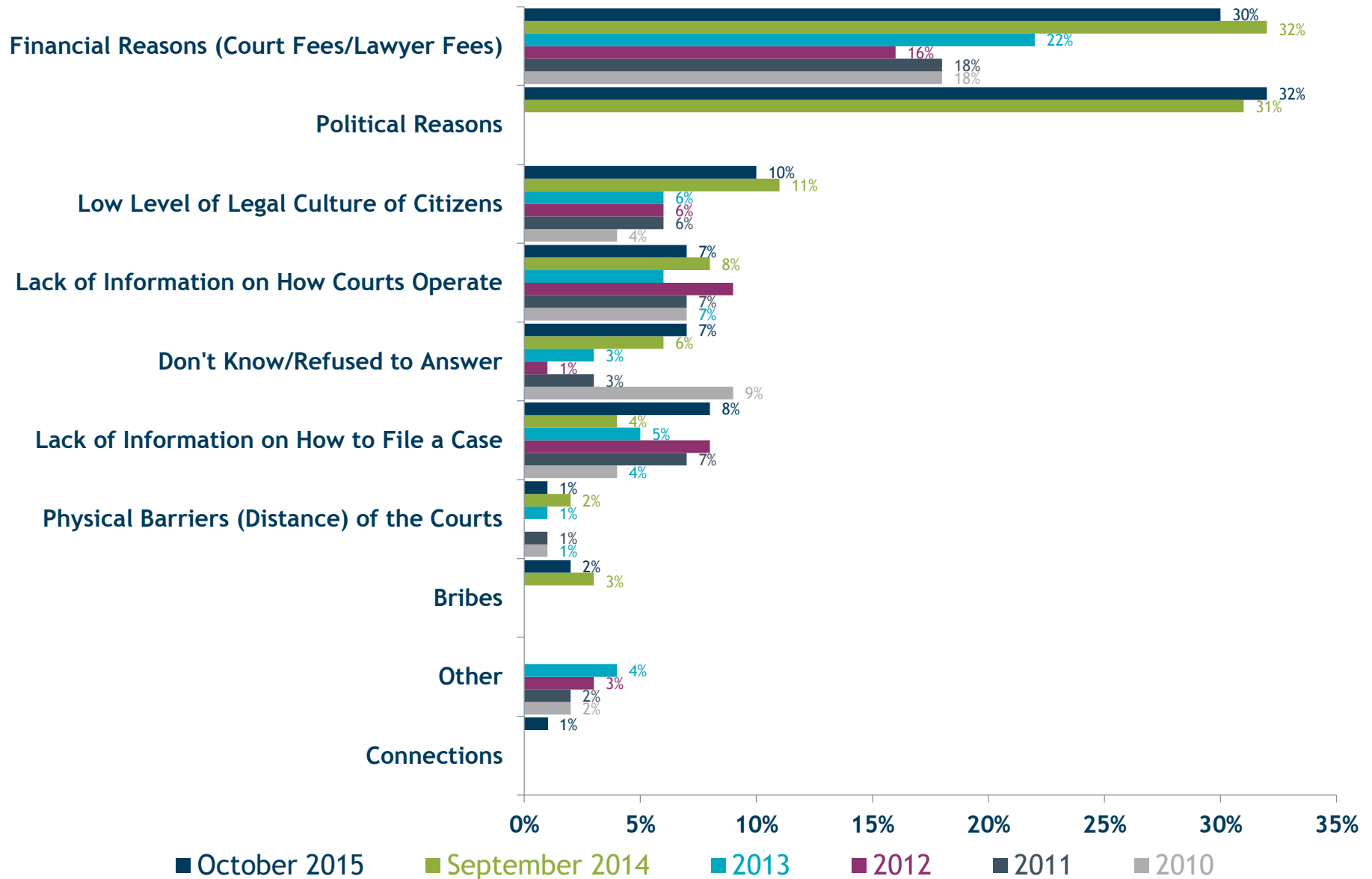
# What is the main reason for unequal access to the courts?

Those who do not believe all citizens have equal access to courts, n=461

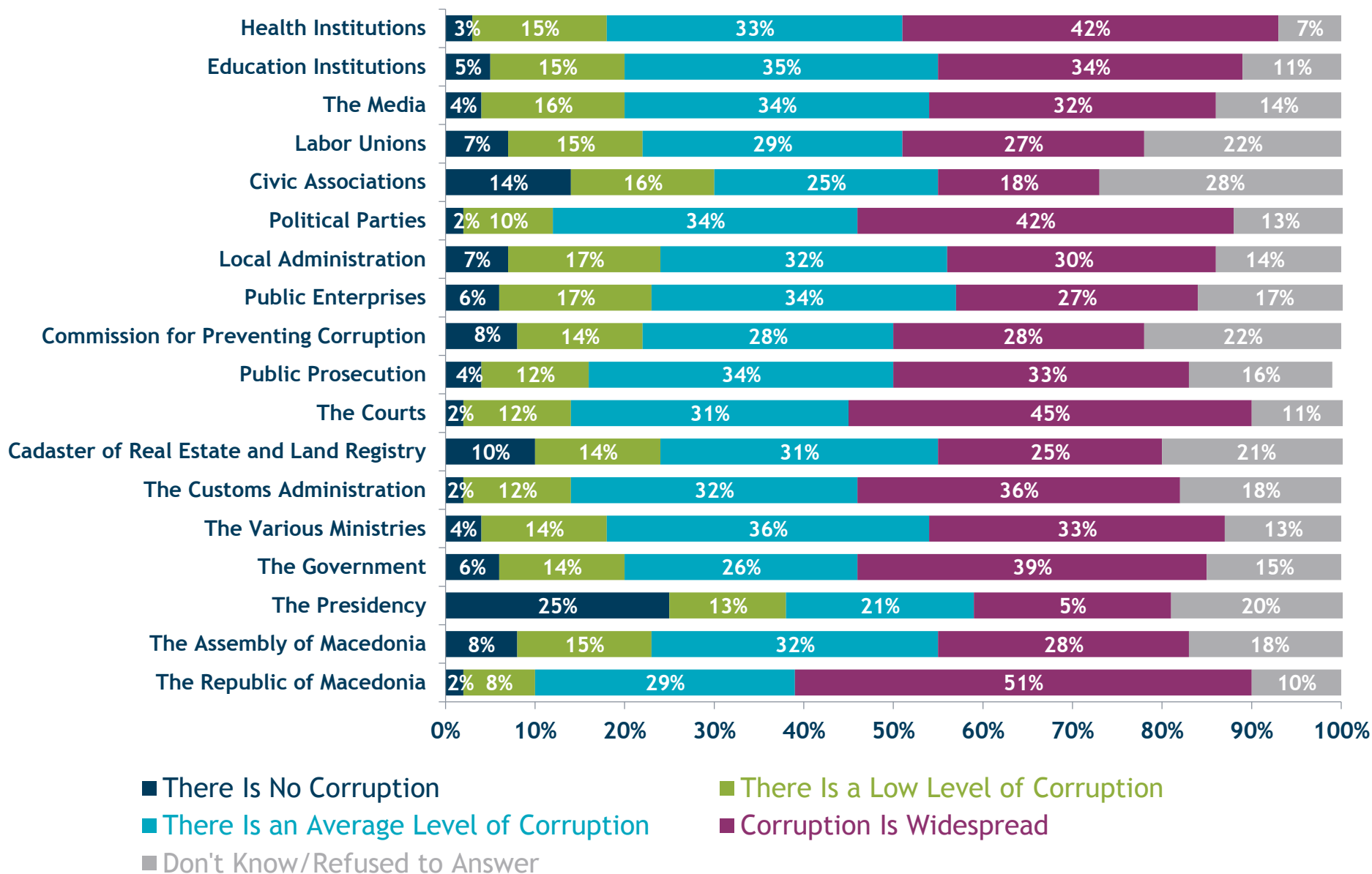


# What is the main reason for unequal access to the courts?

Those who do not believe all citizens have equal access to courts, n=461



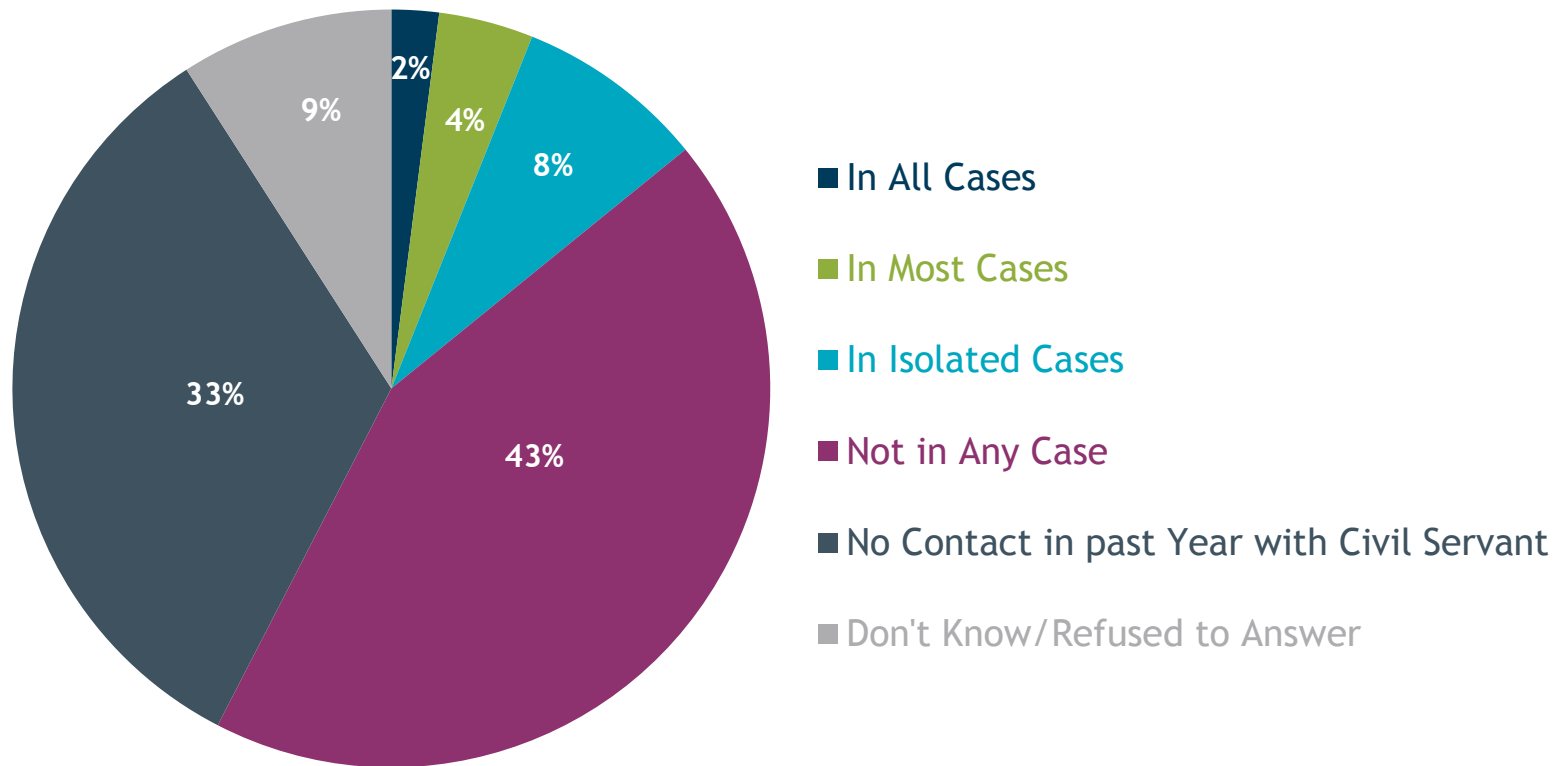
# To what degree do you think corruption is spread in...



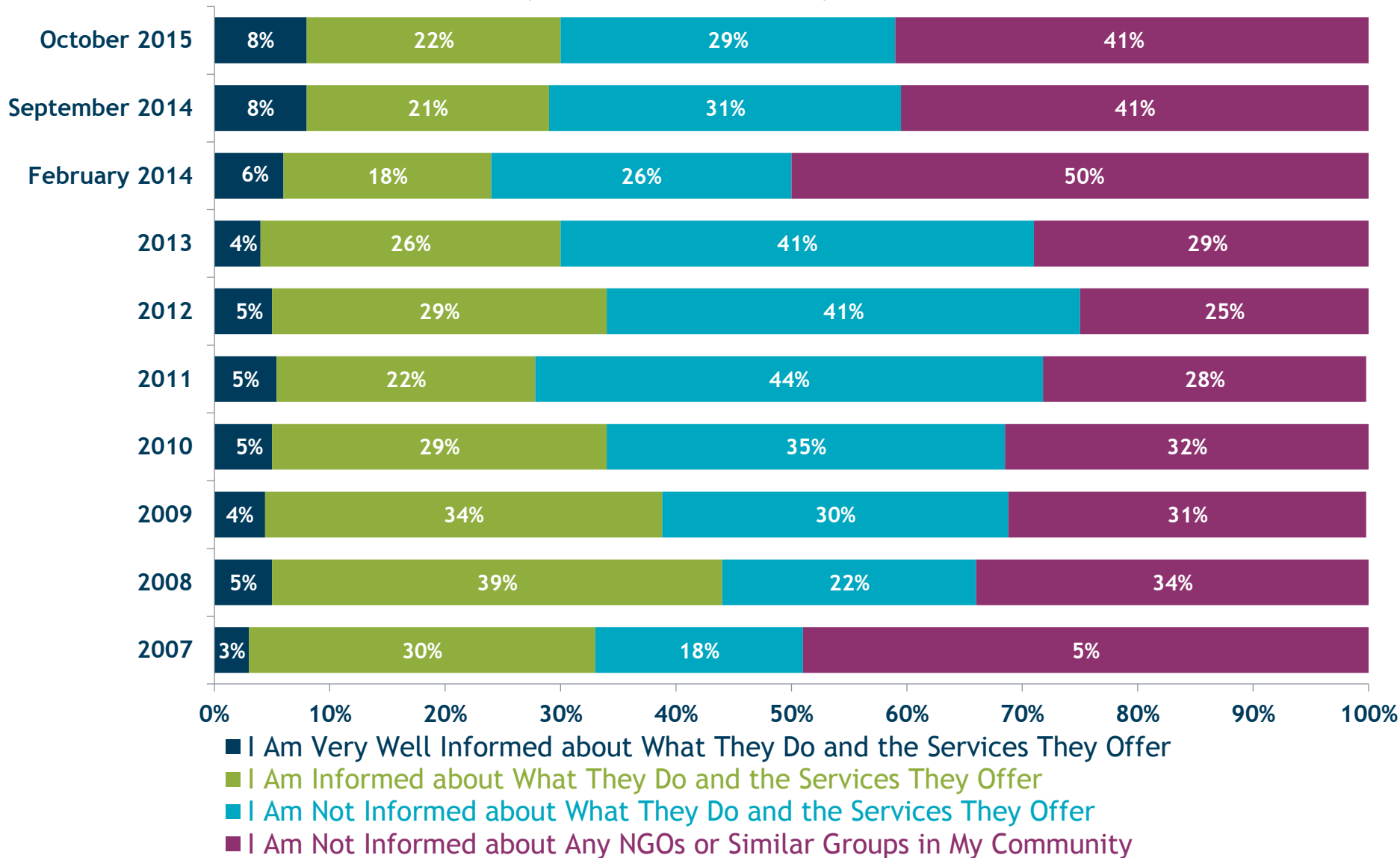
# If someone demanded a bribe from you in order to complete something of great importance, what would you do?



In your interactions with public officials over the past year, how often did you give cash (money) or a gift to, or do a favor for, the civil servant?



# Which of the following statements best describe your knowledge about nongovernmental organizations or citizens' associations in your community?

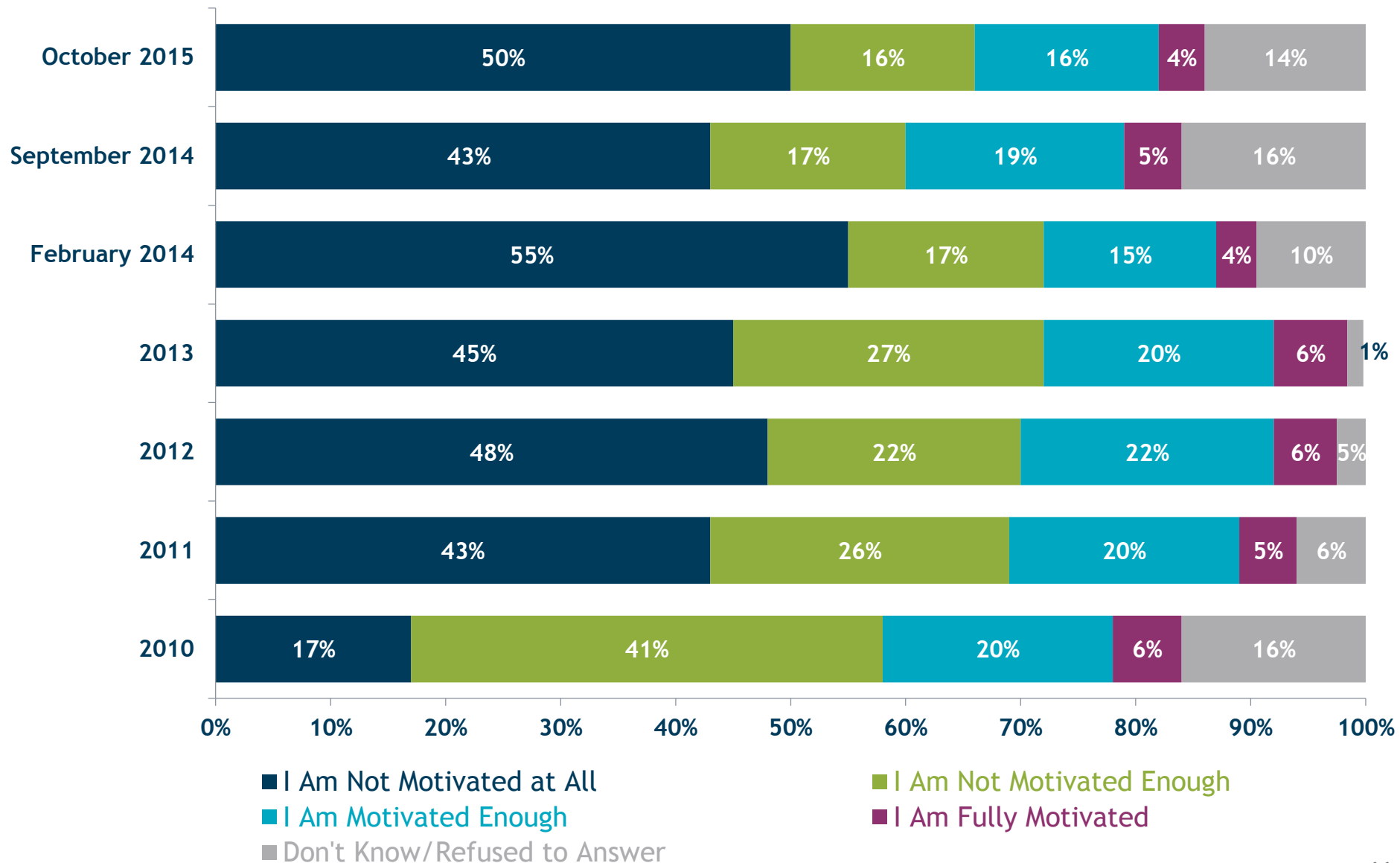




# According to you, what is the motivation (principal reason) that citizens in Macedonia become members of citizens' associations (NGO)?

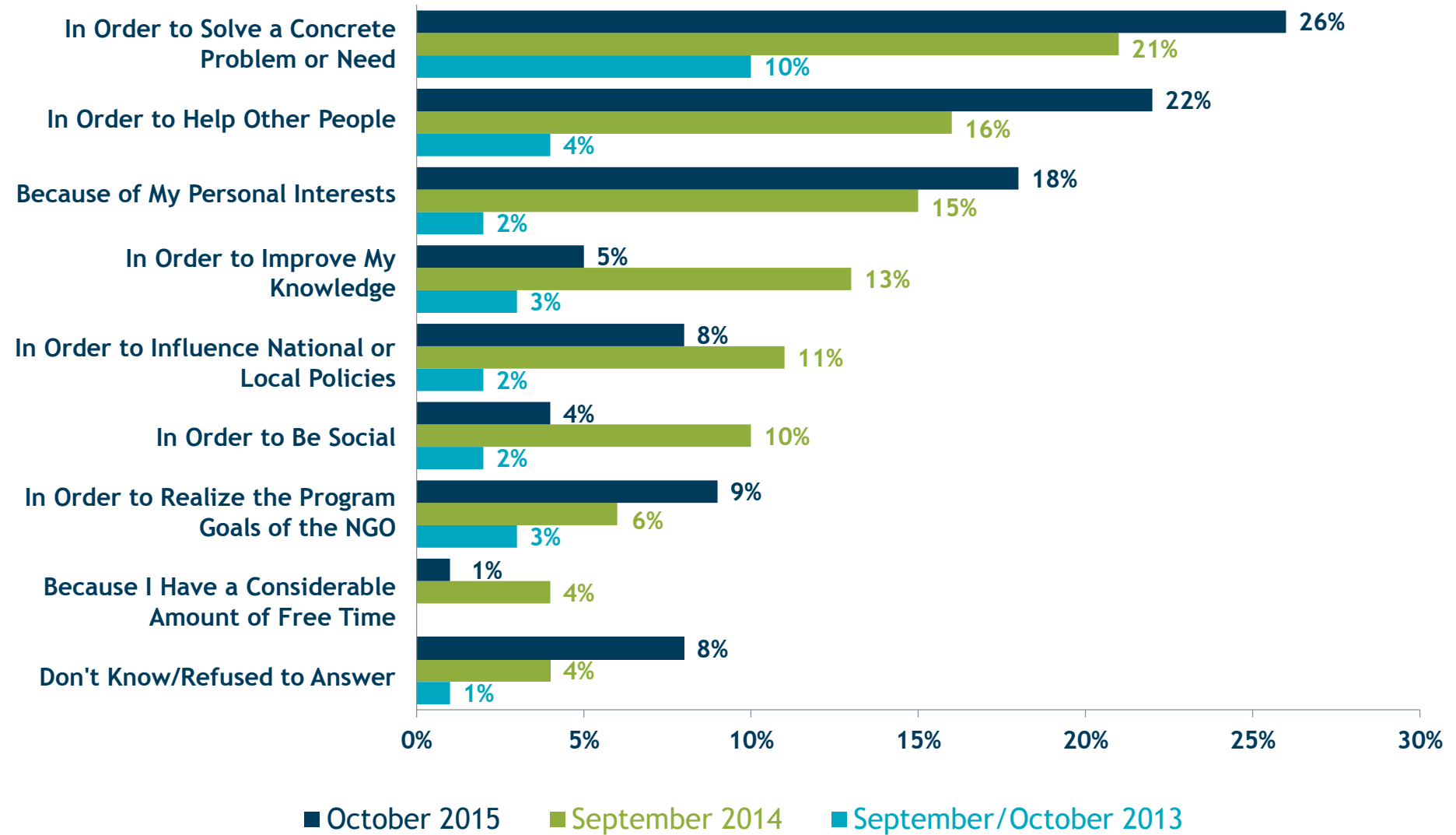


# To what degree are you motivated to engage in activities of citizens' associations on issues you consider to be of social importance?



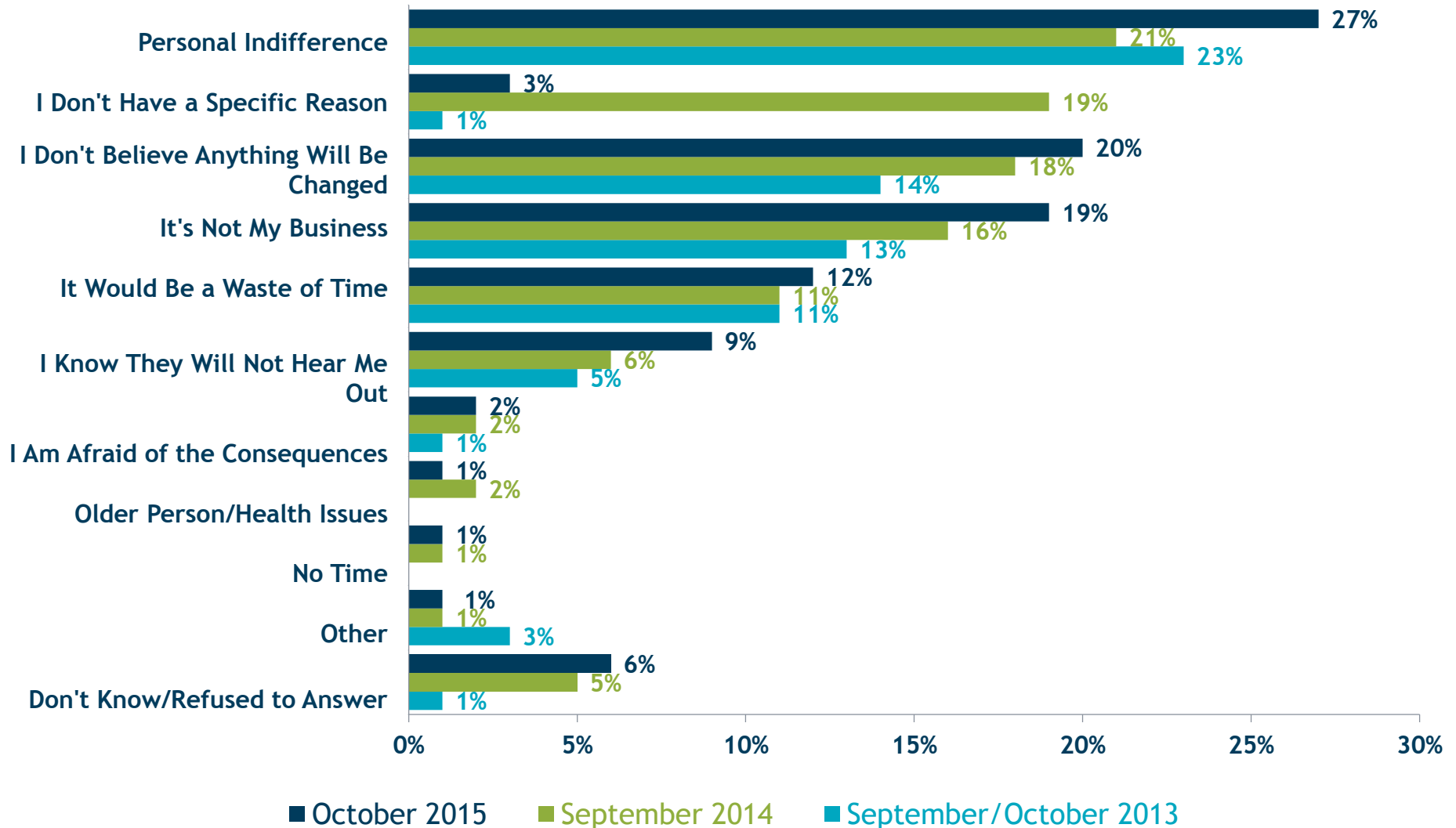
# What is the main reason you are motivated to engage in NGO activities?

Those Who Engage with NGOs, n=222

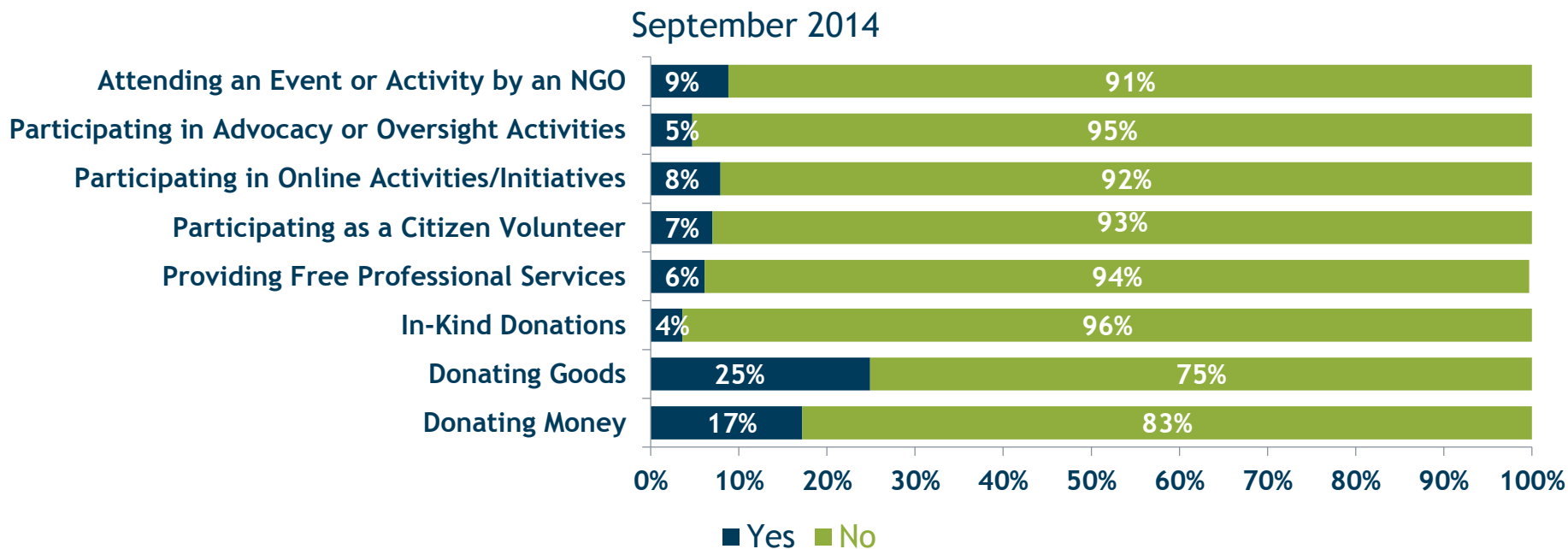
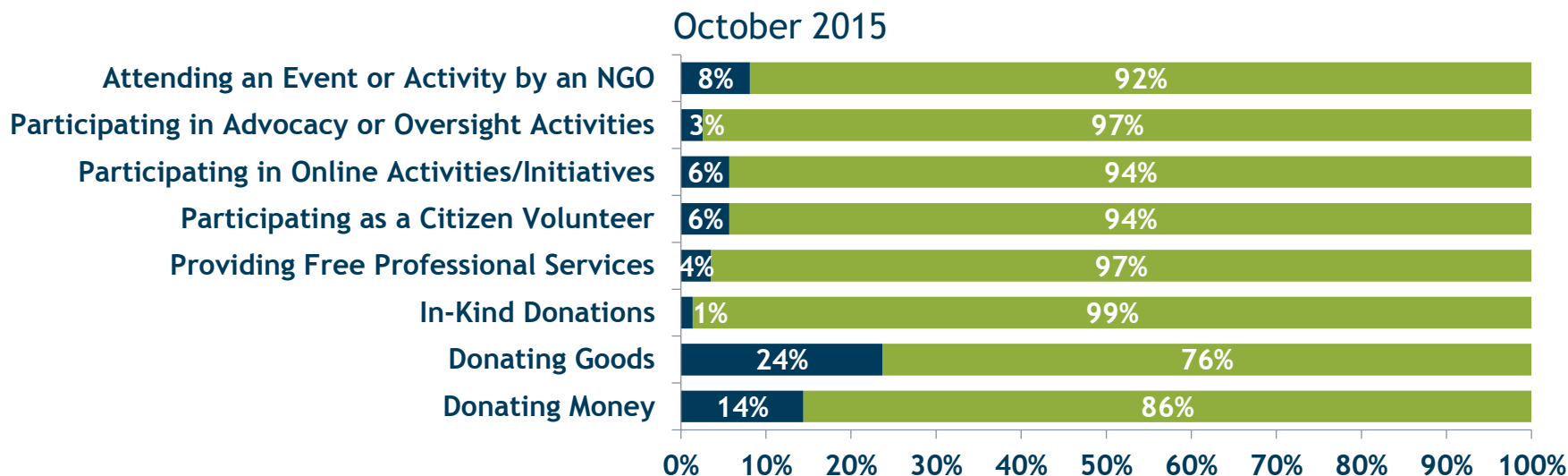


# What is the main reason you are not motivated to engage in NGO activities?

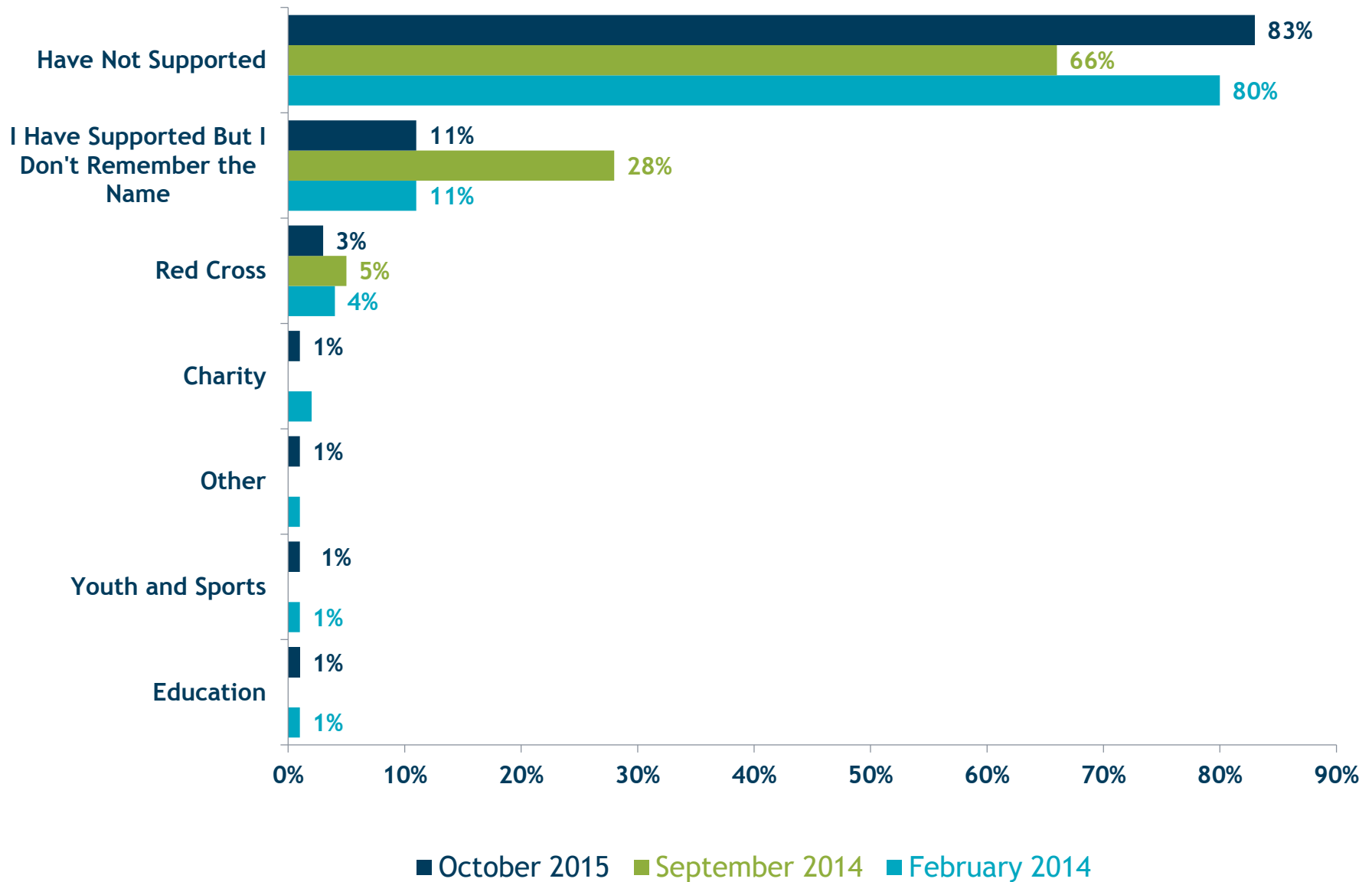
Those Who Do Not Engage with NGOs, n=732



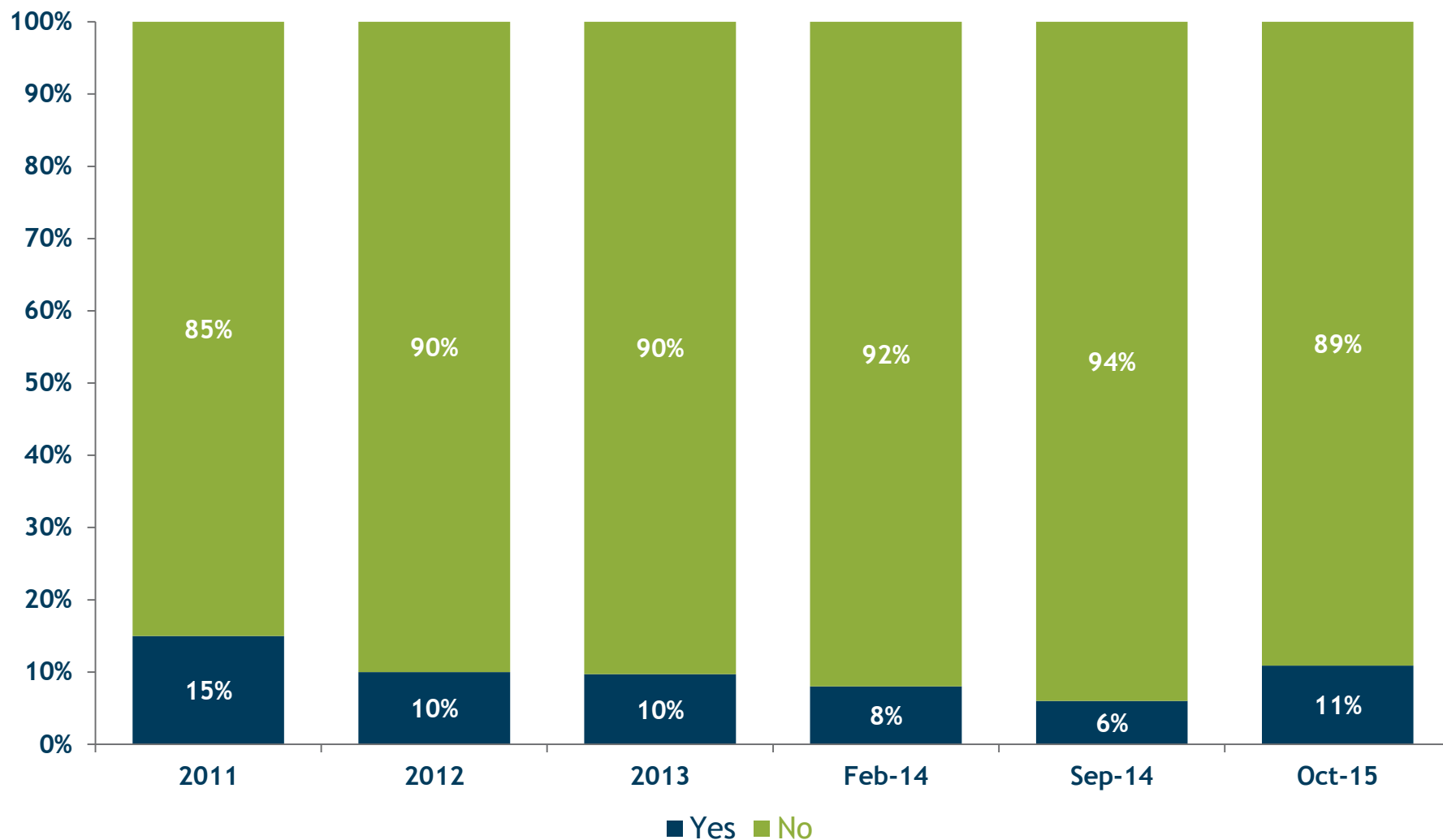
Please indicate if you have personally supported NGO activities in the last 12 months in any of the following ways.



# In which area is the NGO activity that you have supported?



Have you engaged in activities to address a social or community problem in the last 12 months? (e.g. participated in a protest, filed a complaint, initiated or supported an online petition, etc.)



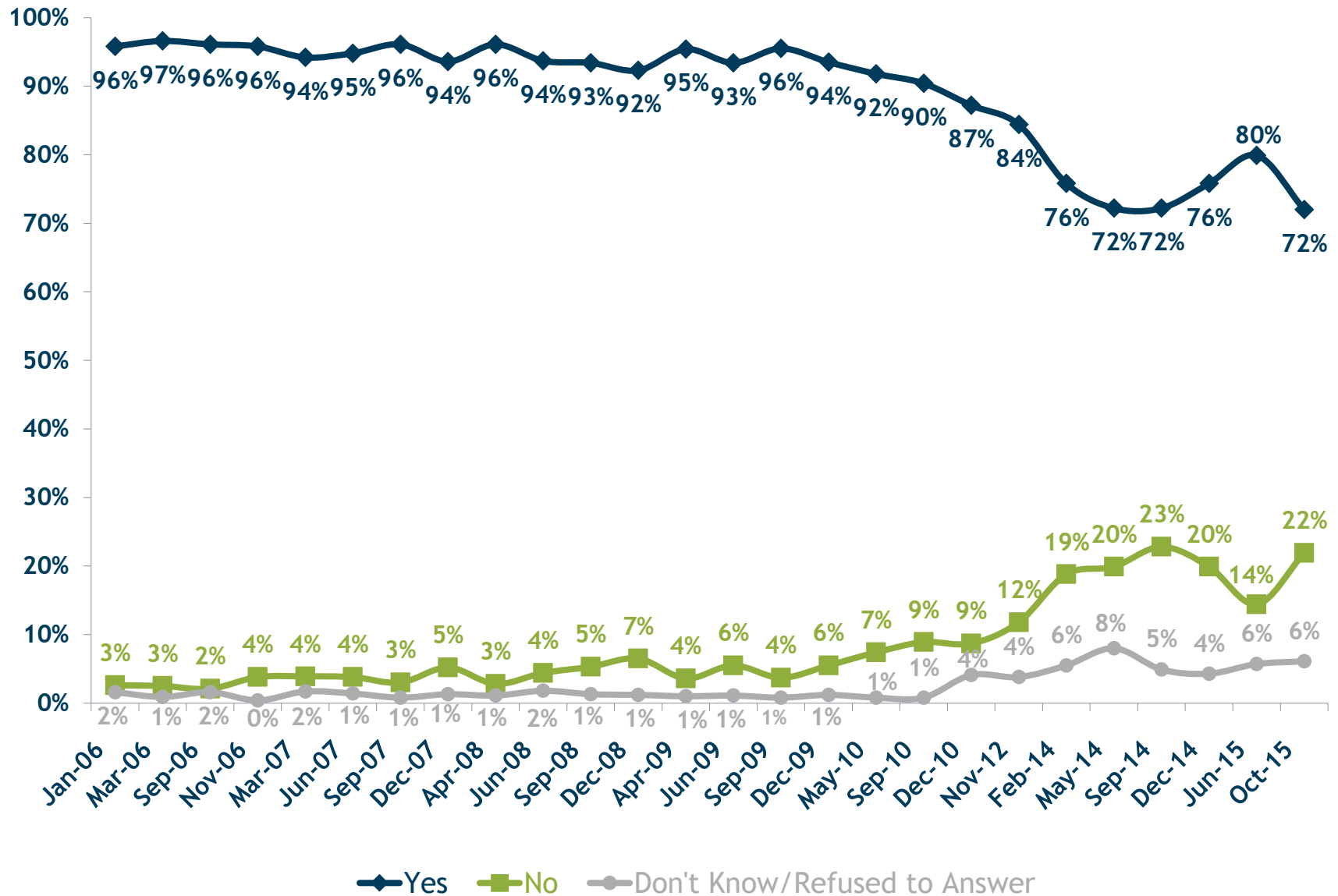


# Euro-Atlantic Integration and Other Issue Attitudes

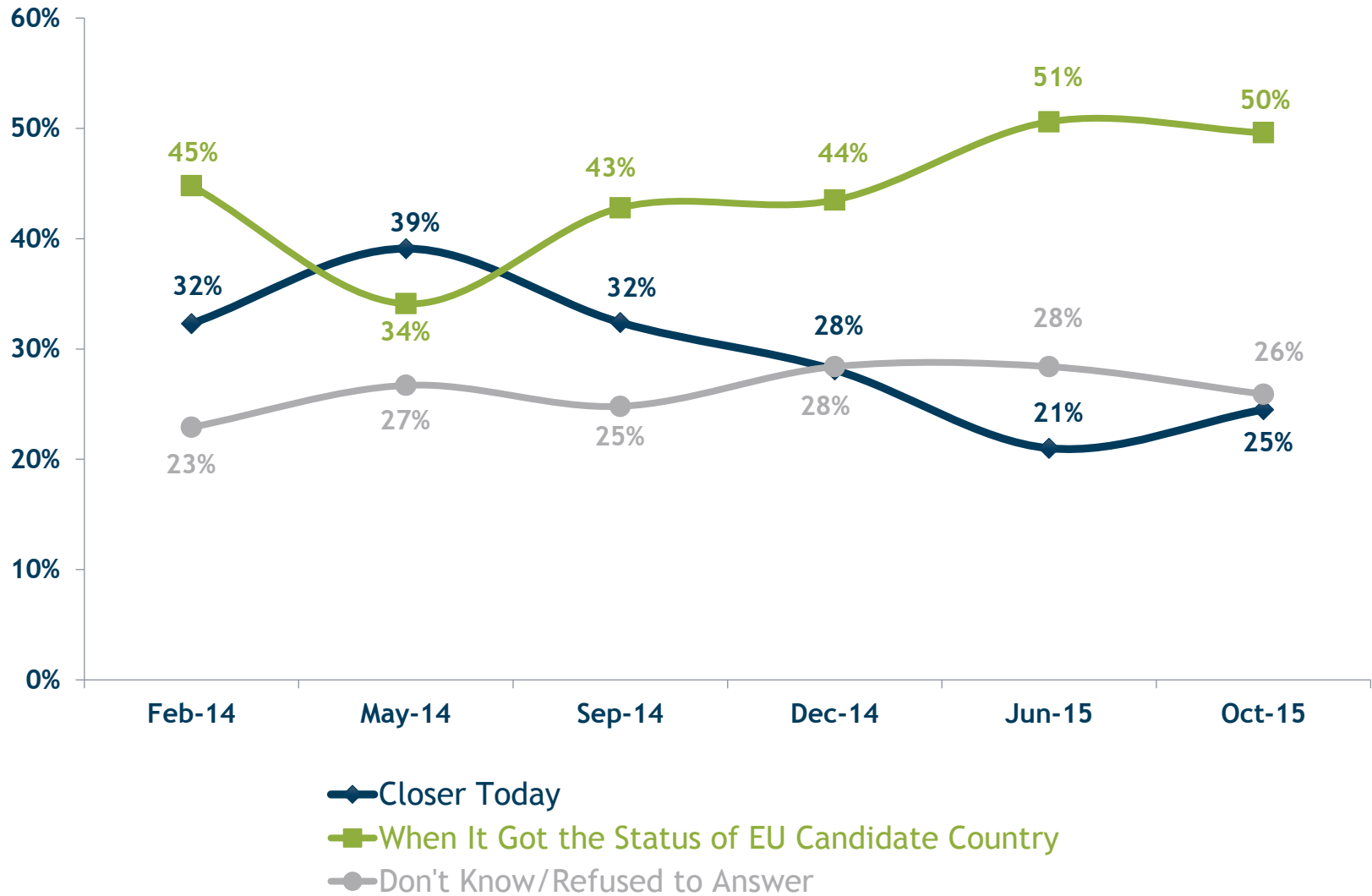
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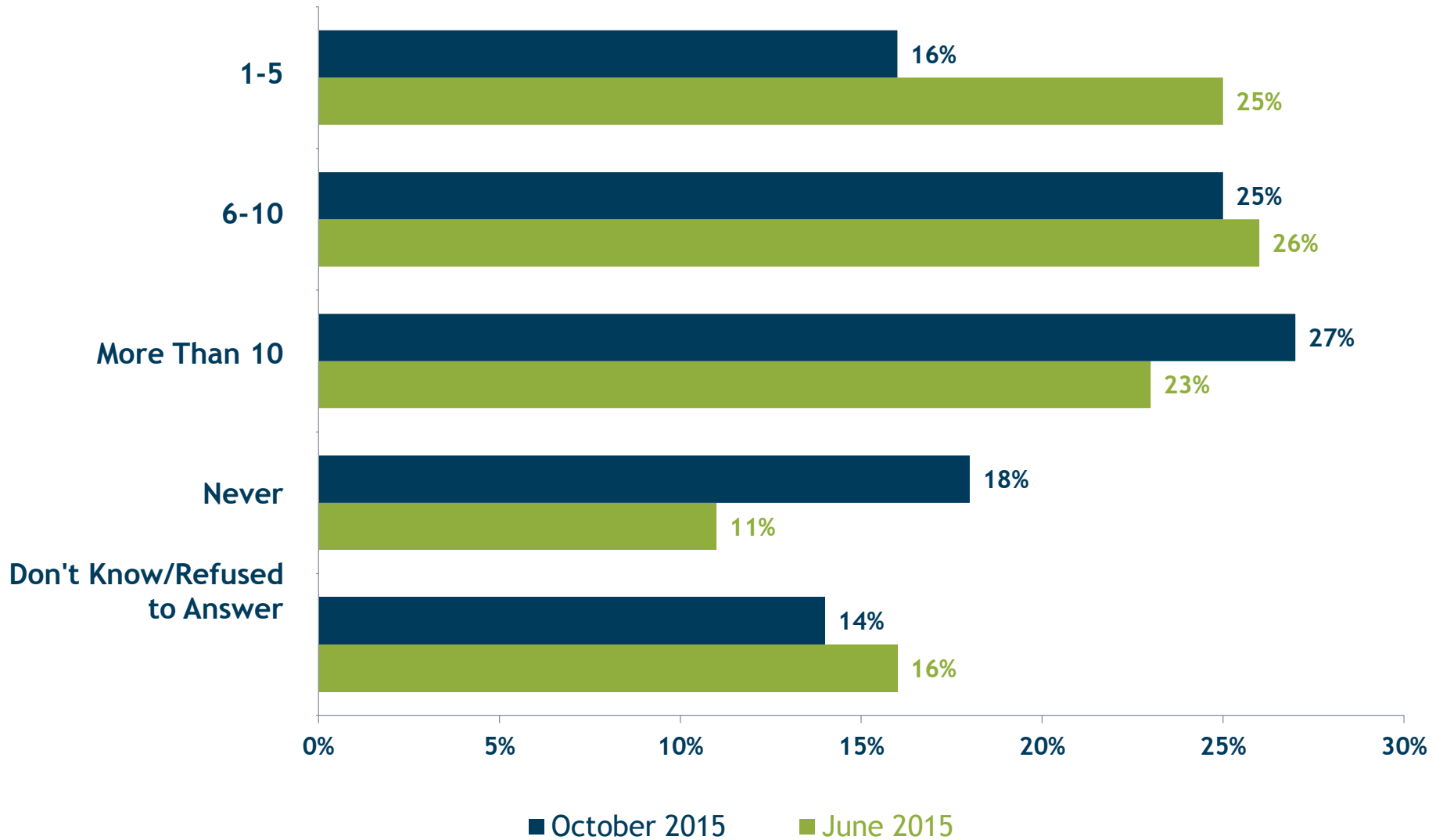
# Do you support Macedonia becoming a member of the EU?



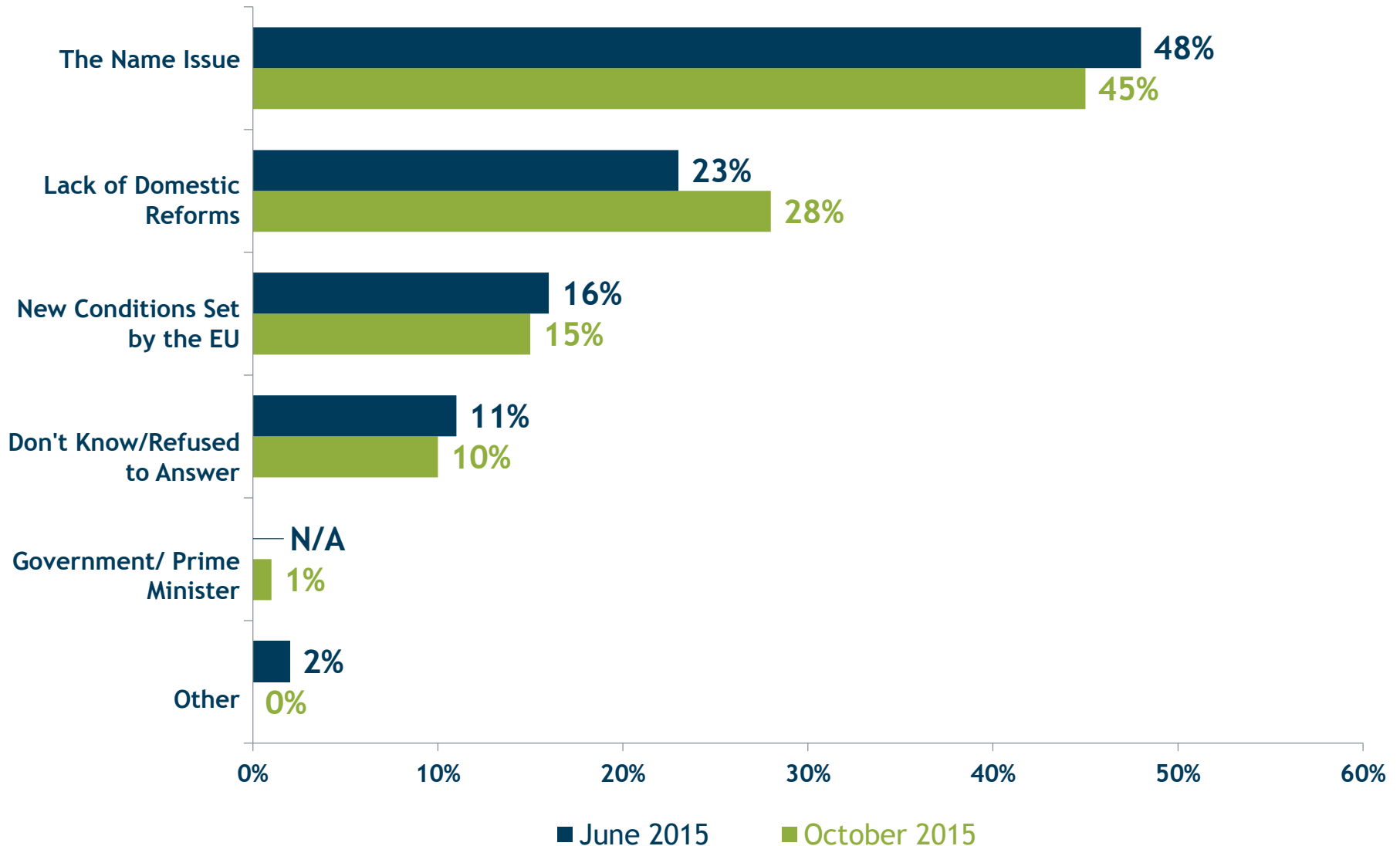
# Do you think Macedonia is closer to EU entry today, or was it closer when it got its EU candidate member status?



# In how many years do you think Macedonia will become a member of the EU?

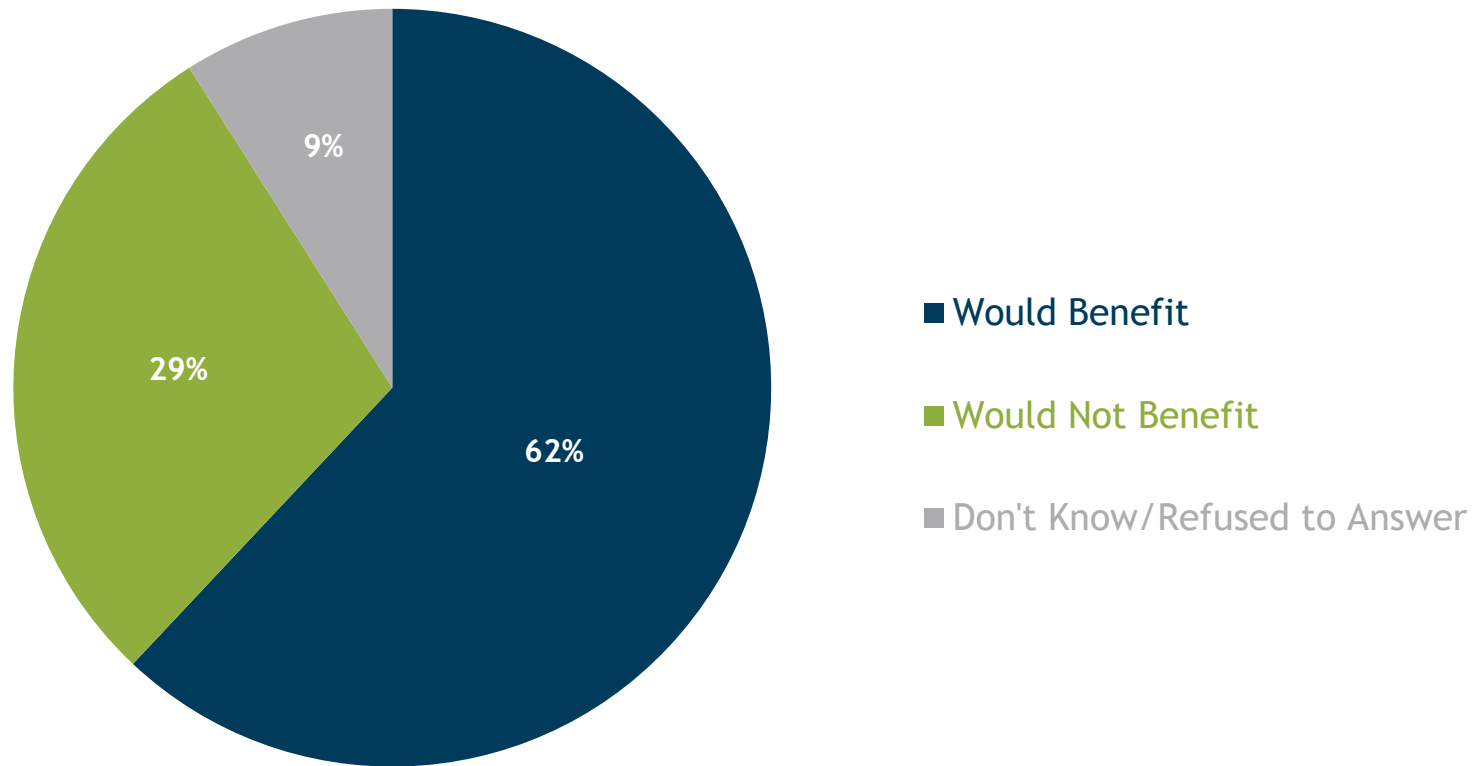


# According to you, what is the reason for the slowdown in Macedonia's EU integration?

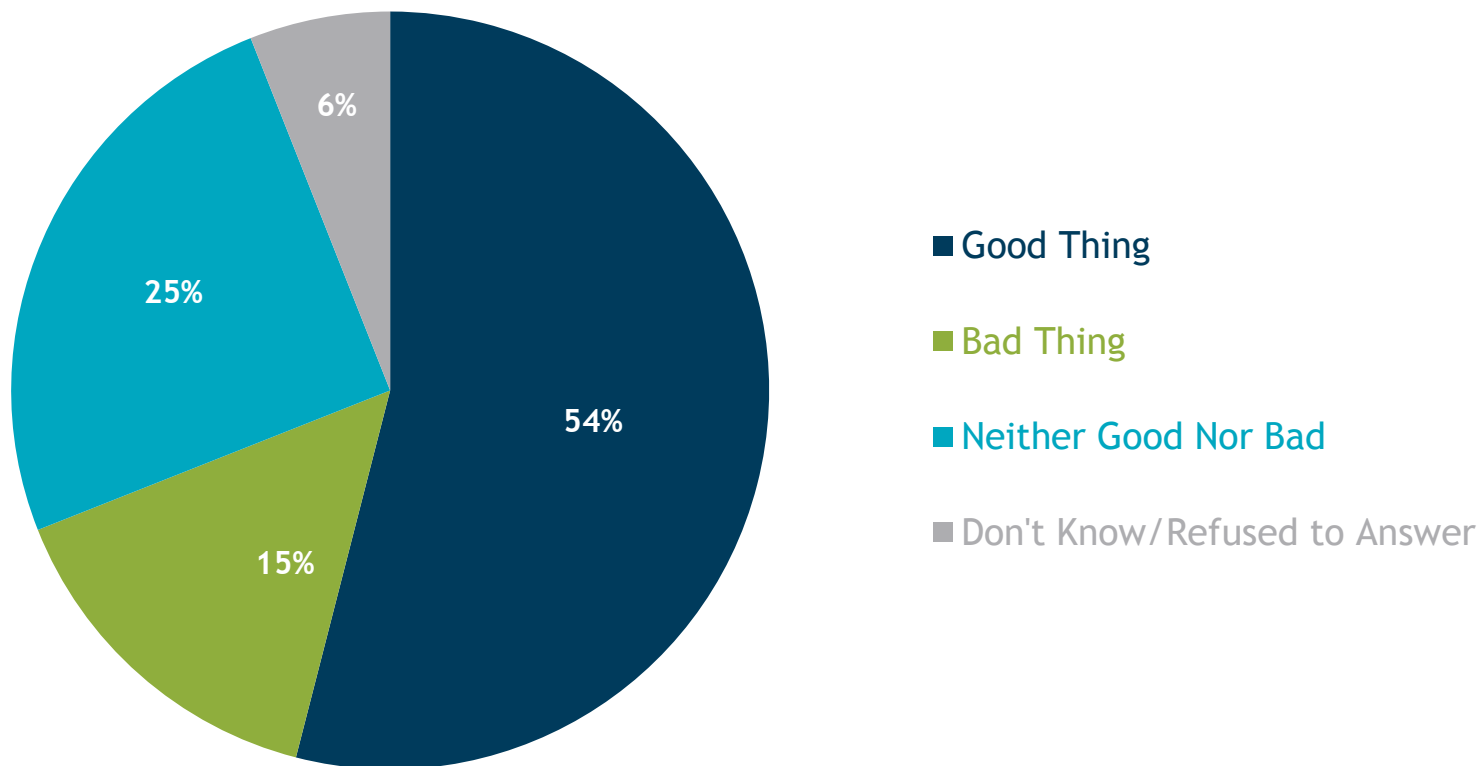


Note: The Government/Prime Minister response was not an option for respondents in the June 2015 poll.

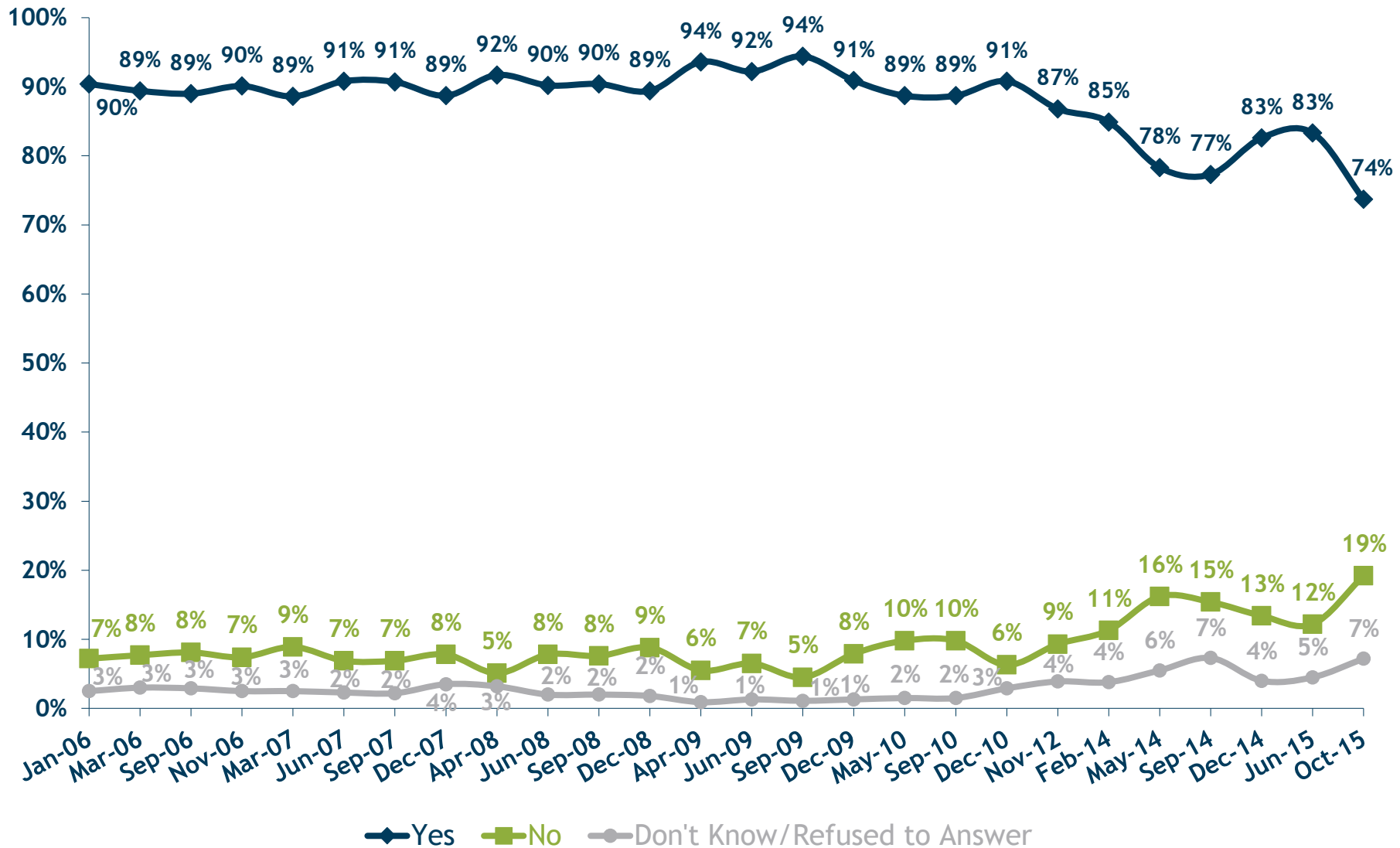
Taking everything into account, would you say that Macedonia would benefit or not benefit from being a member of EU?



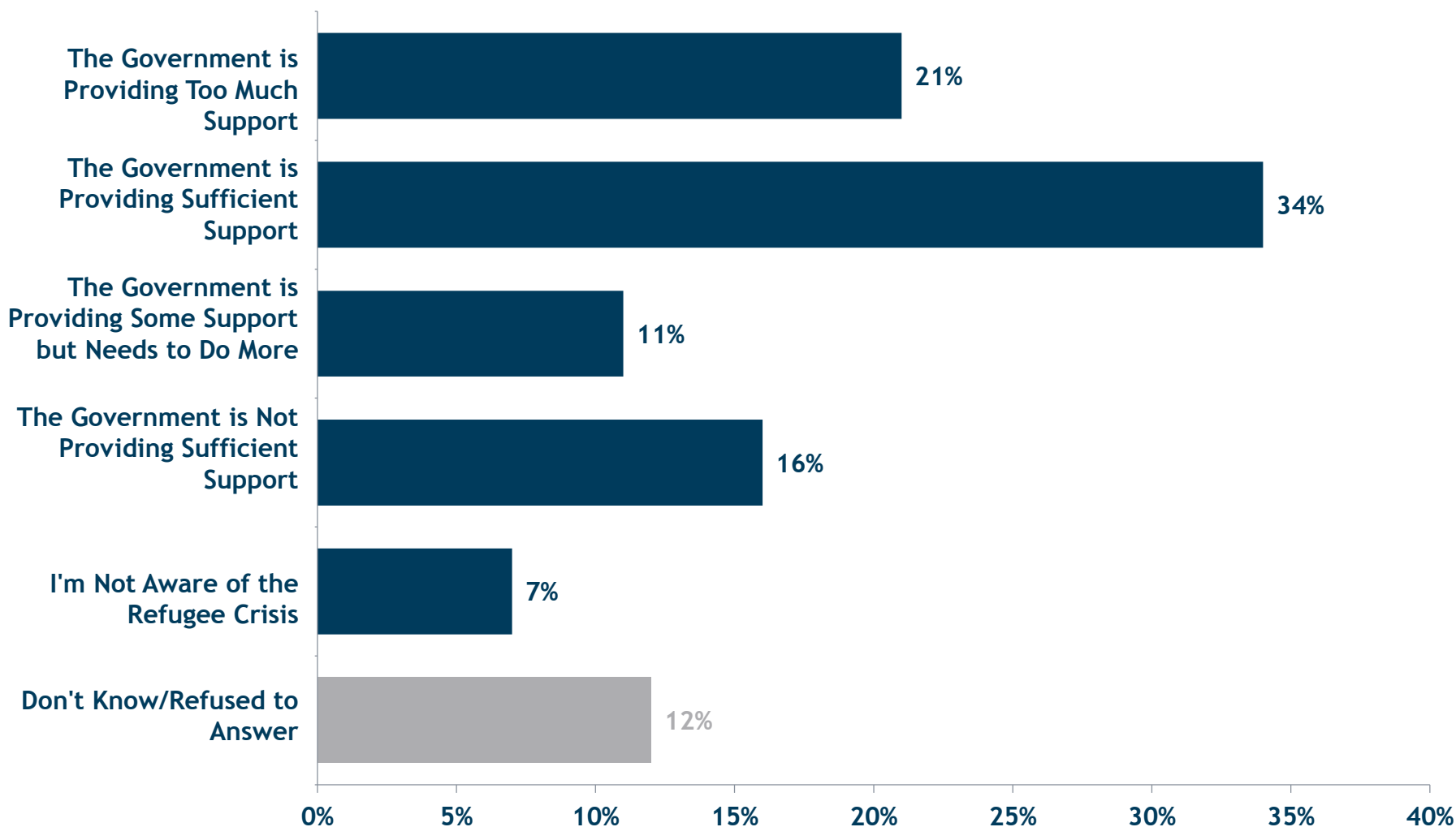
Generally speaking, do you think that Macedonia's membership in the European Economic Area is a good thing or a bad thing?



# Do you support Macedonia becoming a member of NATO?

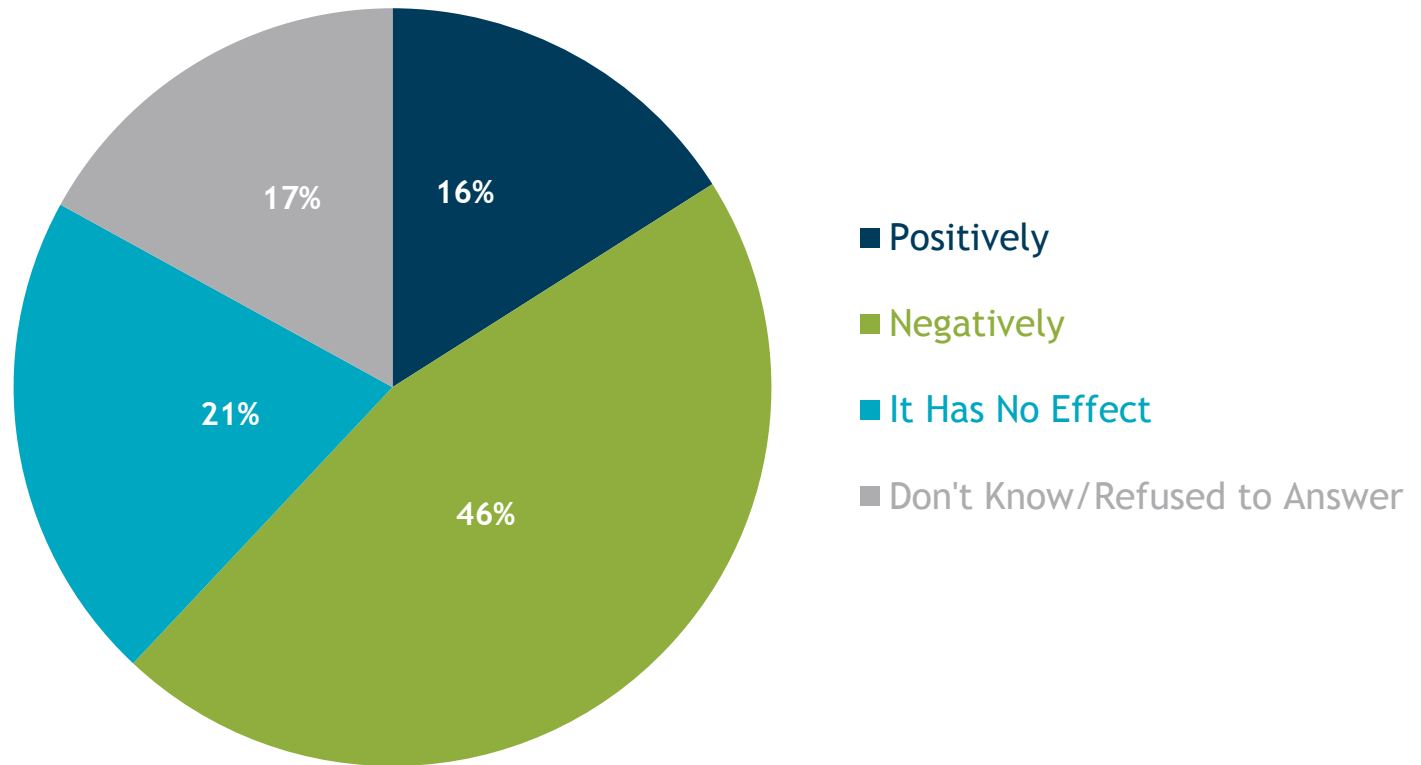


# Given its capacities, how do you feel the Macedonian government is handling the current refugee crisis?

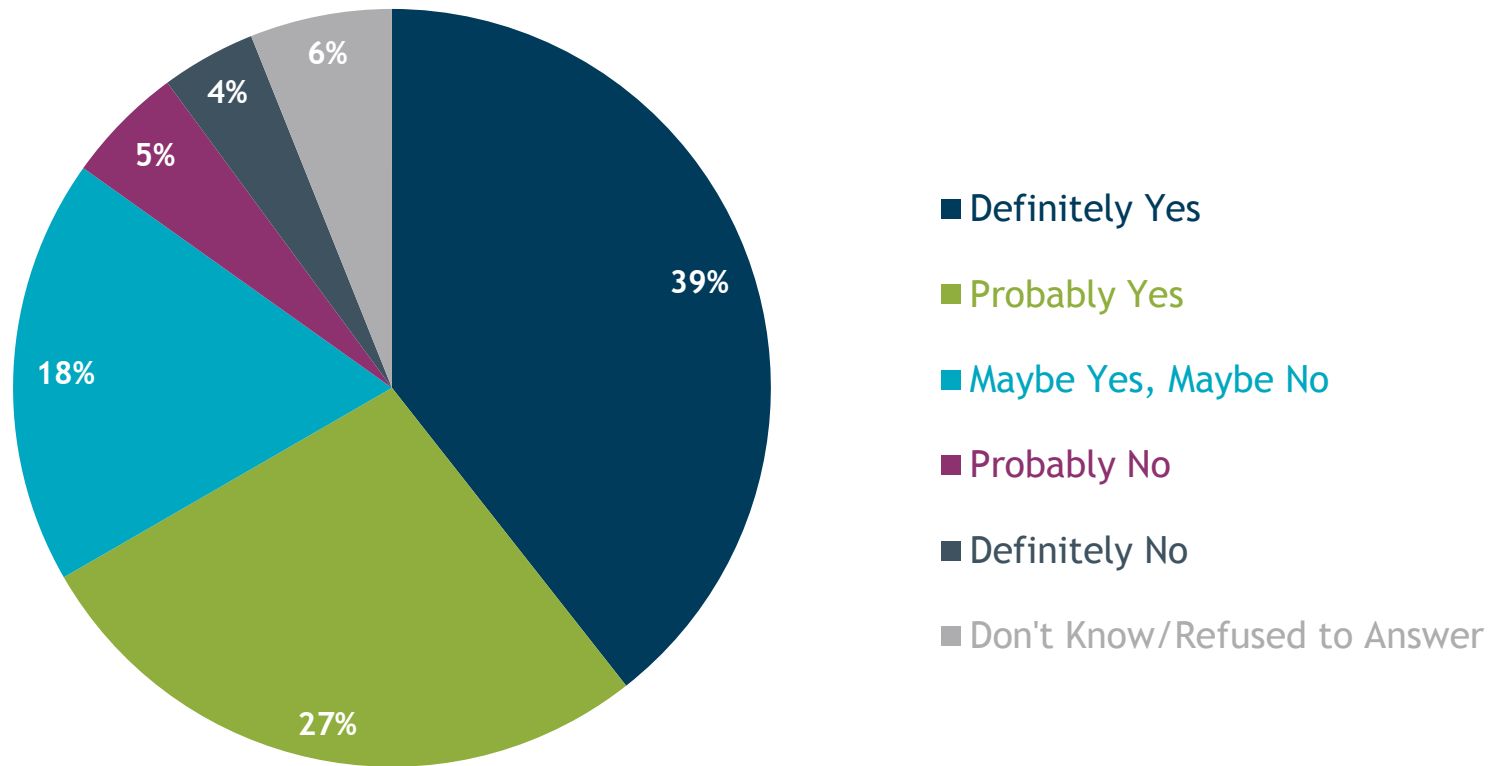




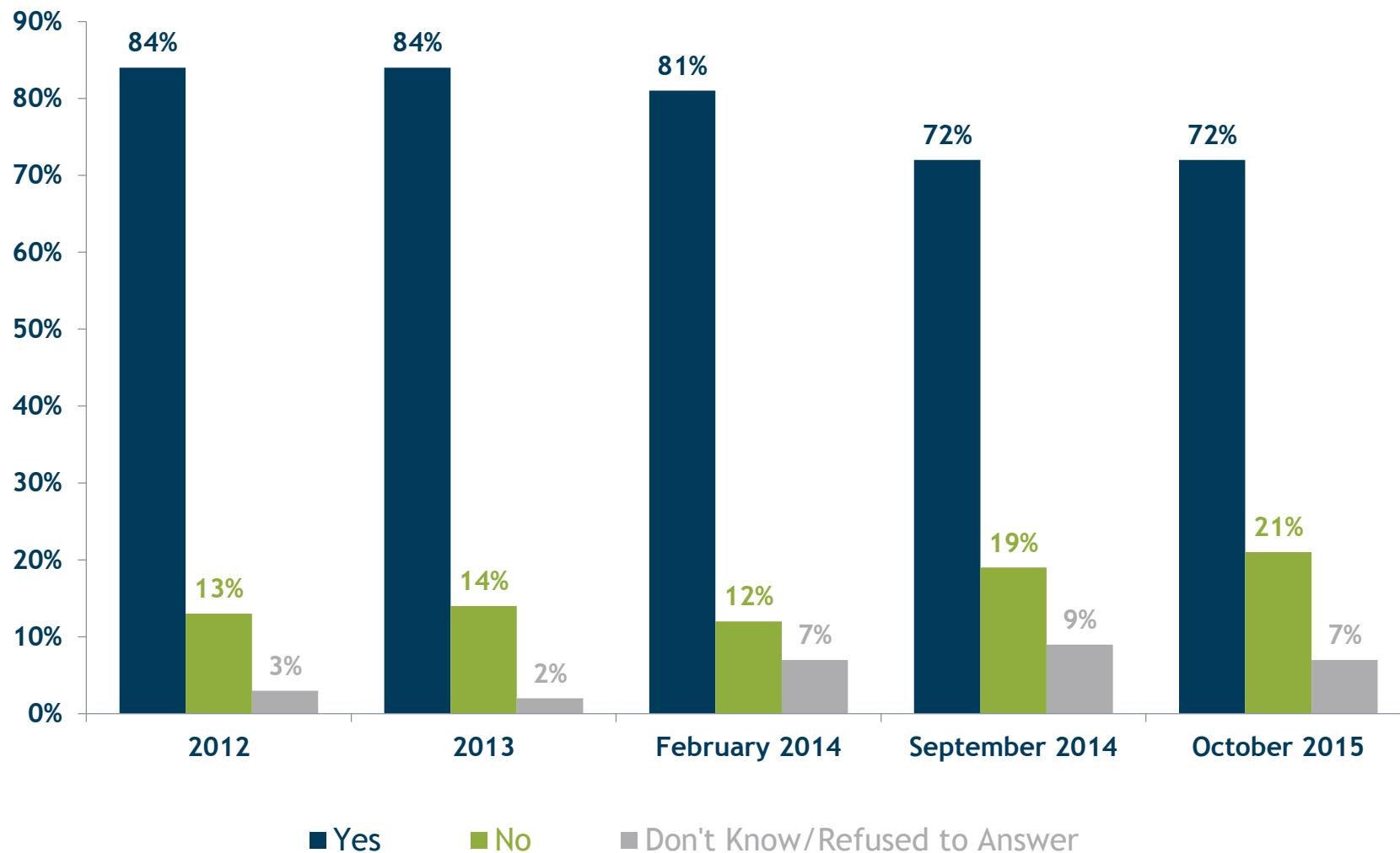
## In your opinion, how is the EU's handling of the refugee crisis affecting Macedonia?



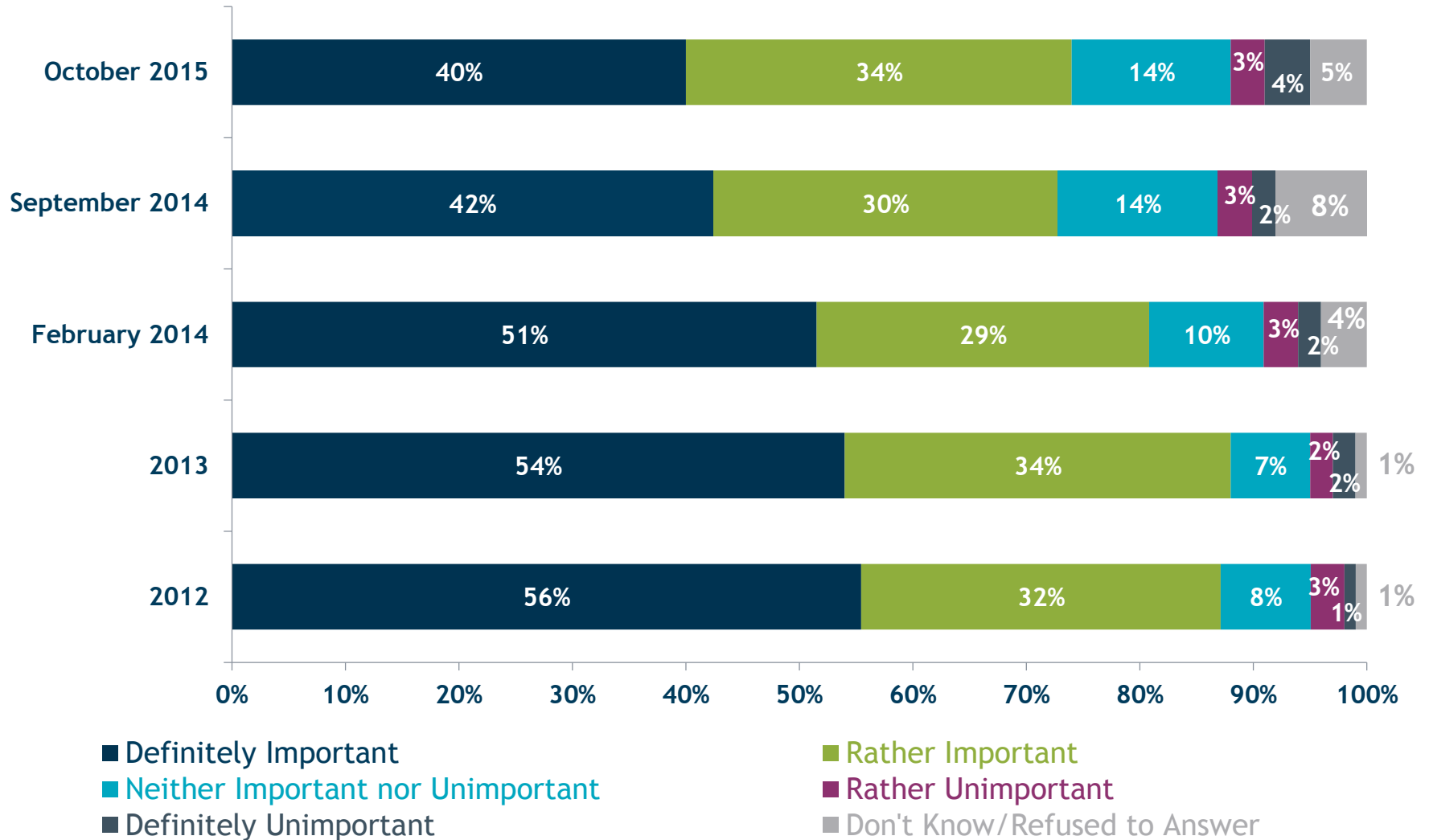
## Do you think climate change will affect you or your family in some way?



## In your view, is climate change having any impact on the region (within Macedonia) where you live?



# How important is it, in your view, to take collective action to reduce any negative impacts arising from climate change ?



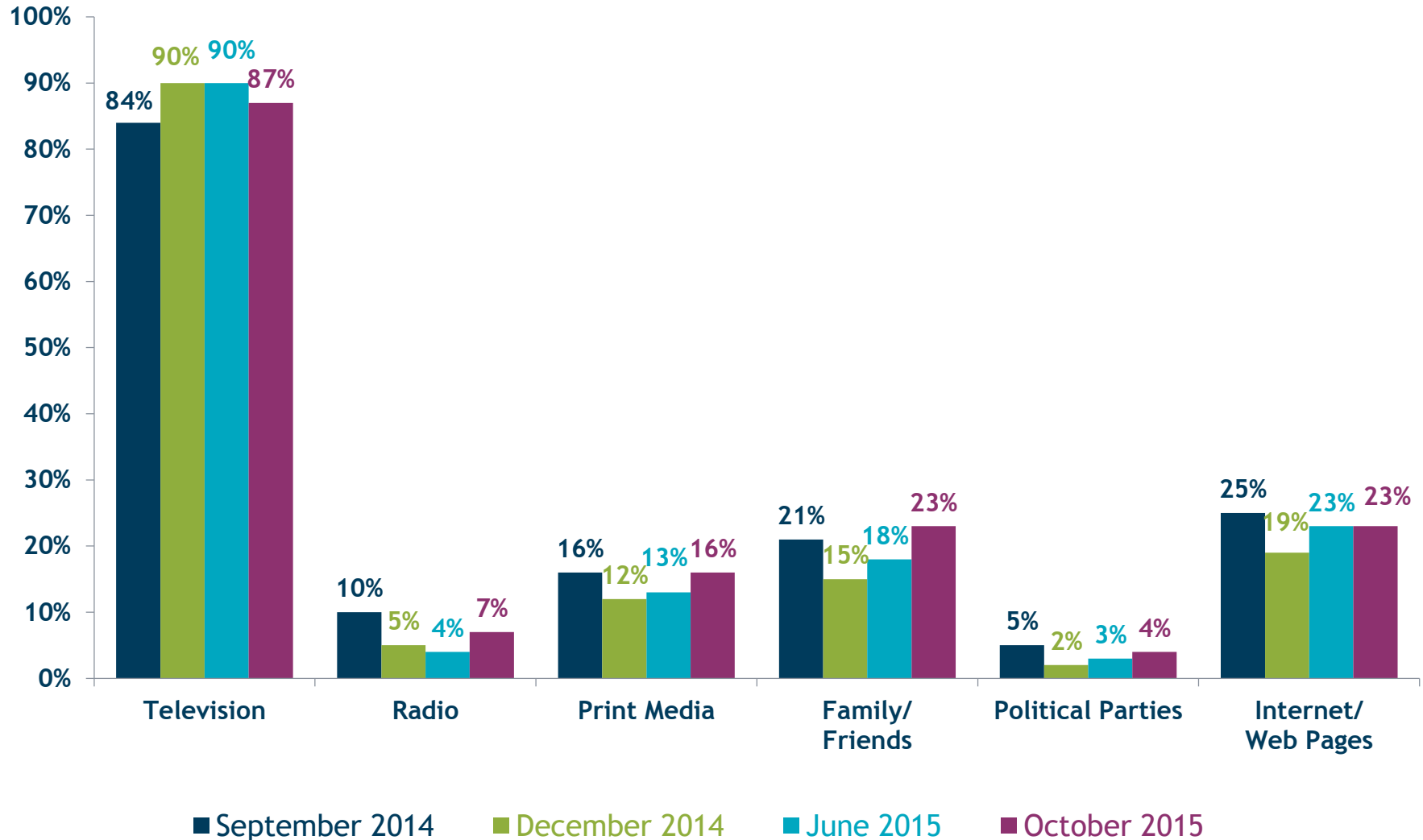


# Sources of Information

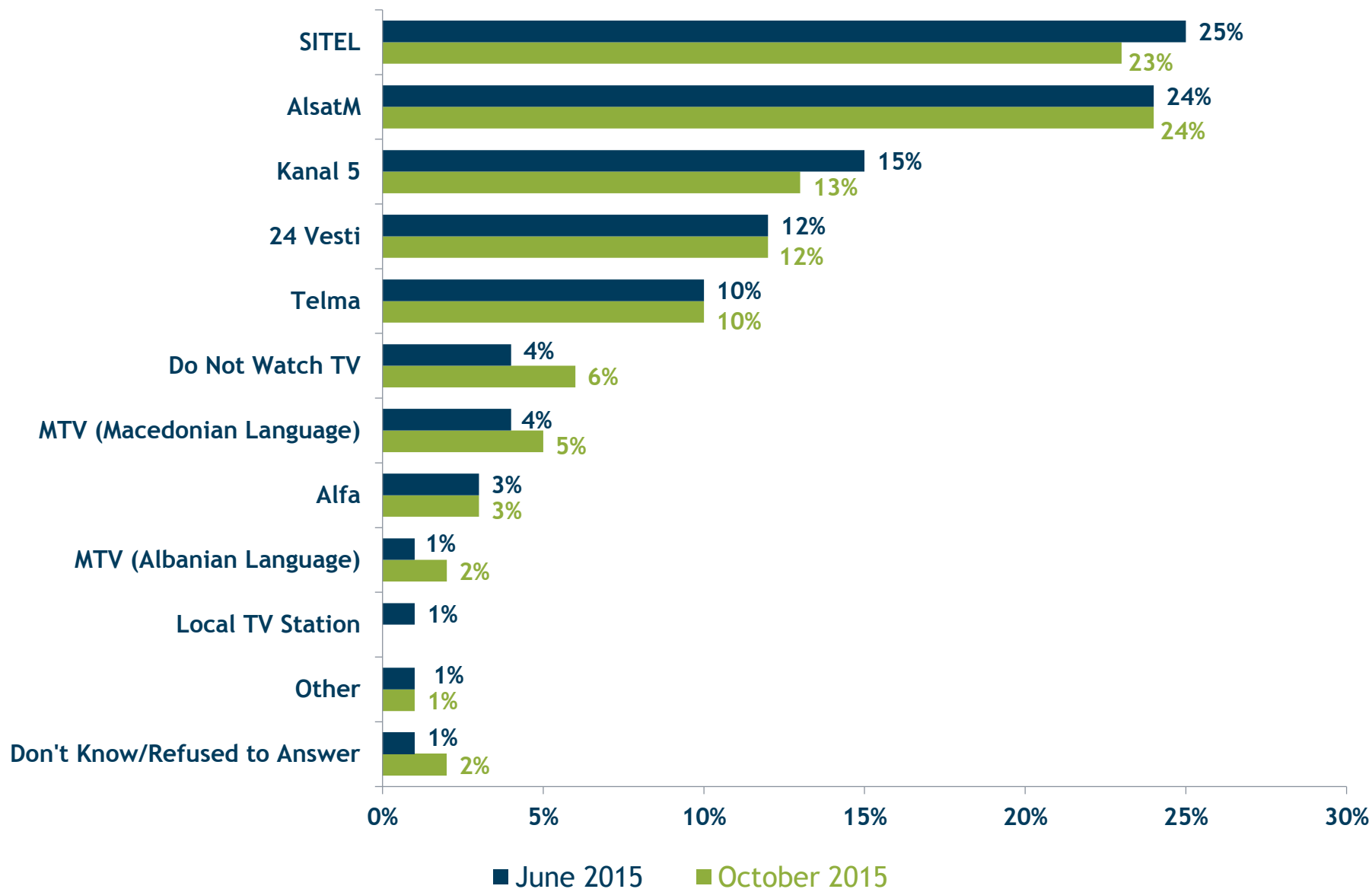
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# What is your primary source of political news?

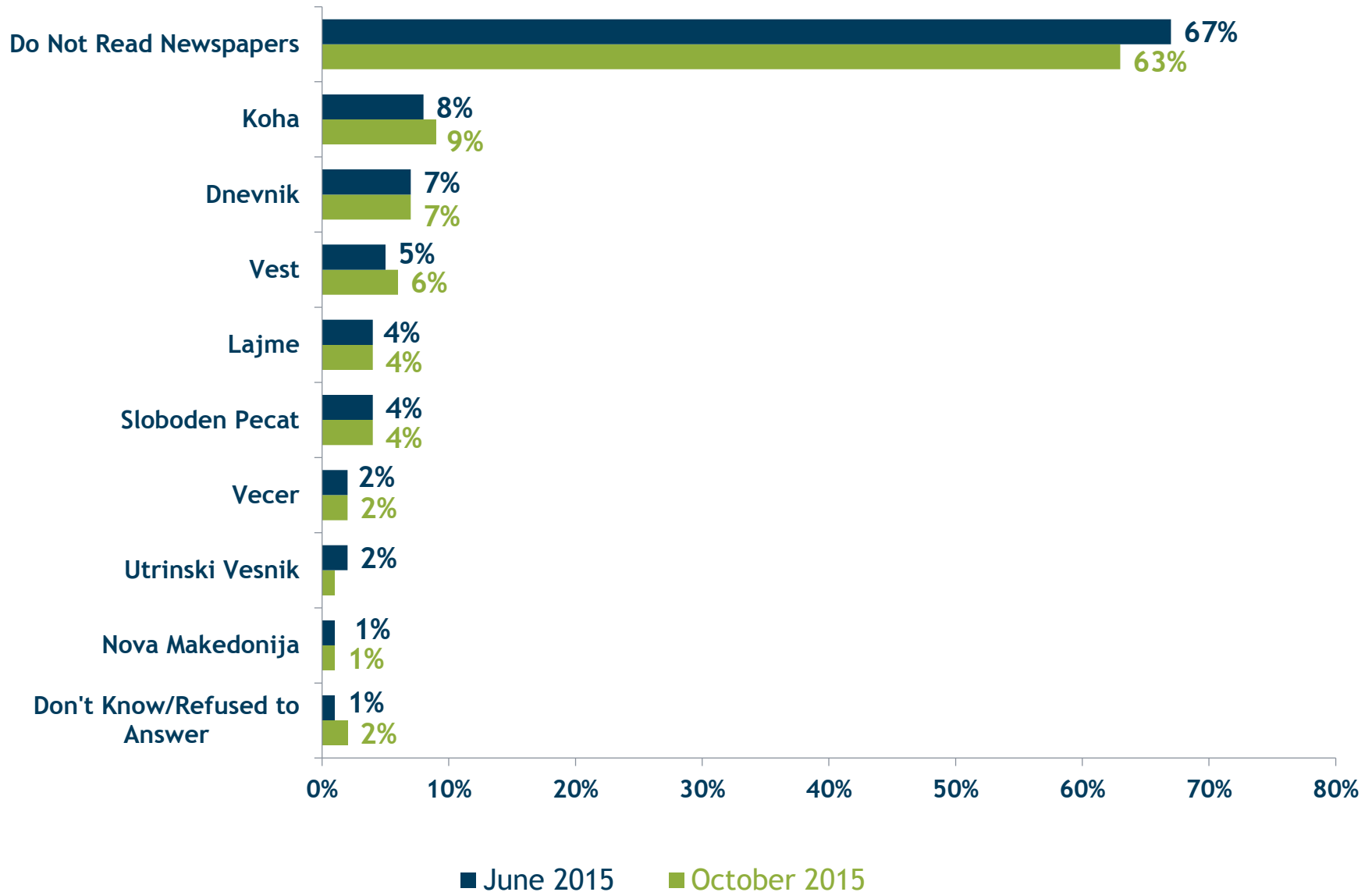
## Multiple Responses



# Which television station do you watch most often for political news?

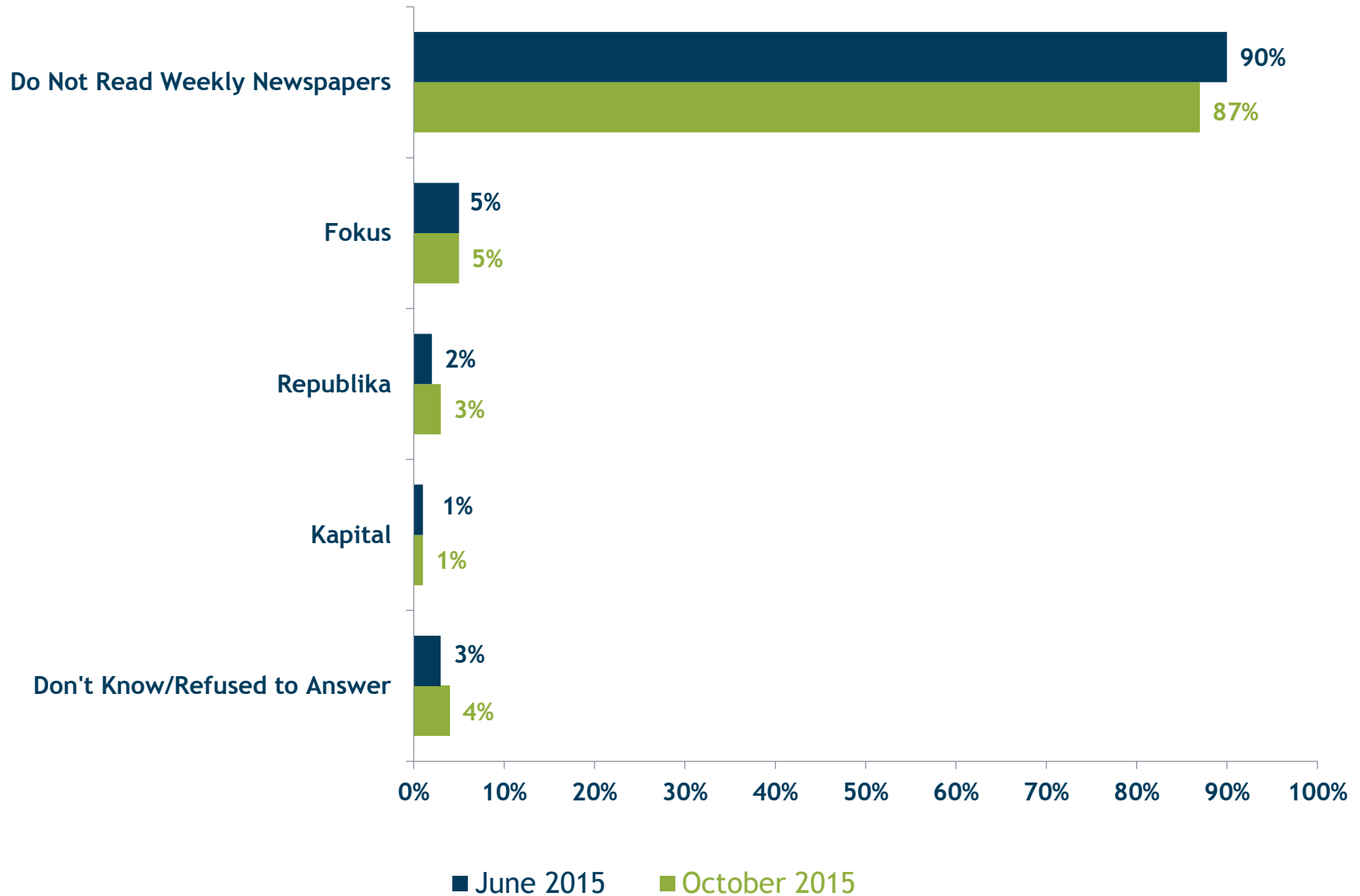


# Which daily newspaper do you read most often for political news?

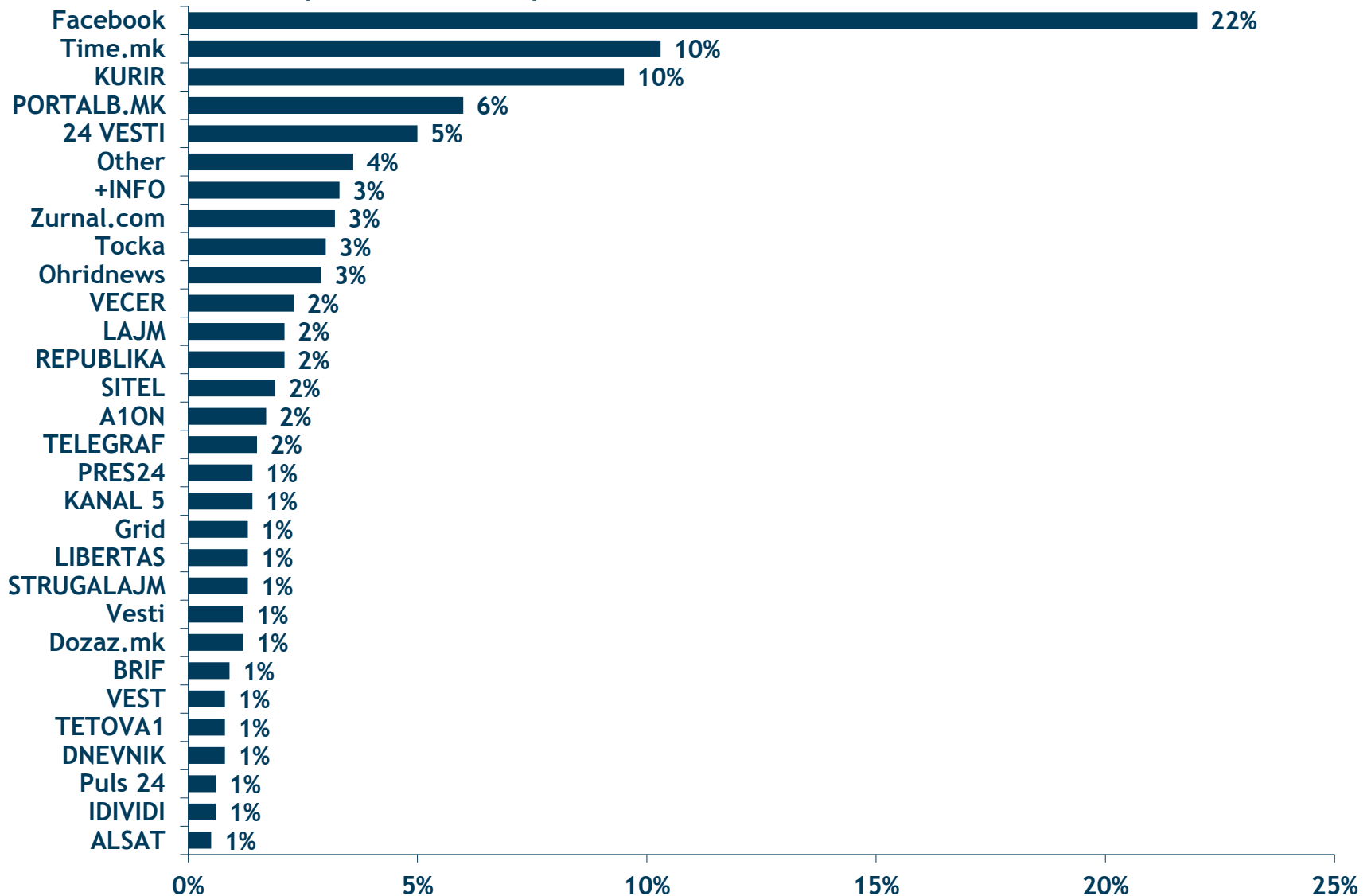




# Which weekly newspaper do you read most often for political news?



# Which Internet news portal/website do you read most often for political news? Open-ended; Spontaneous First Mention; n=272

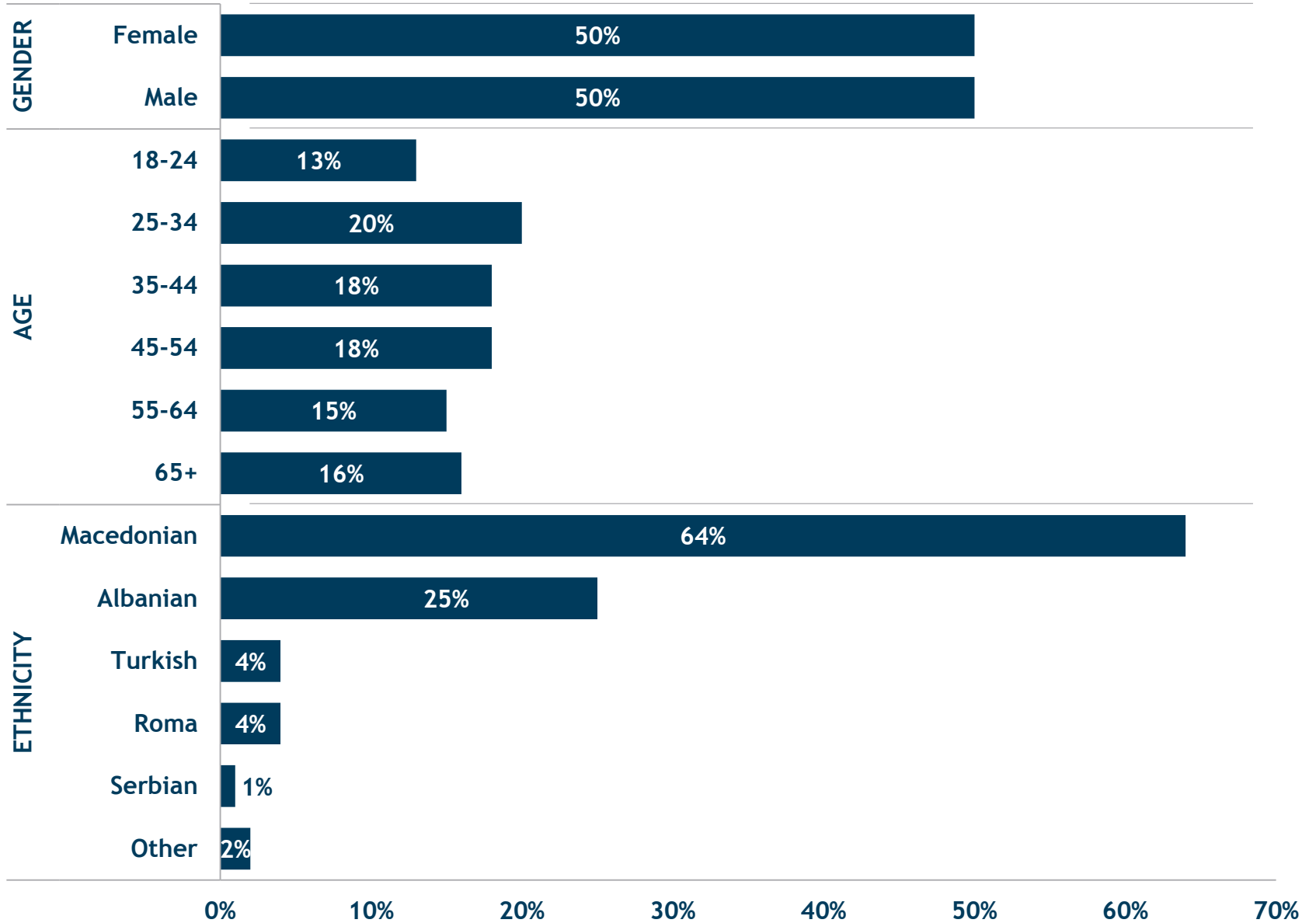




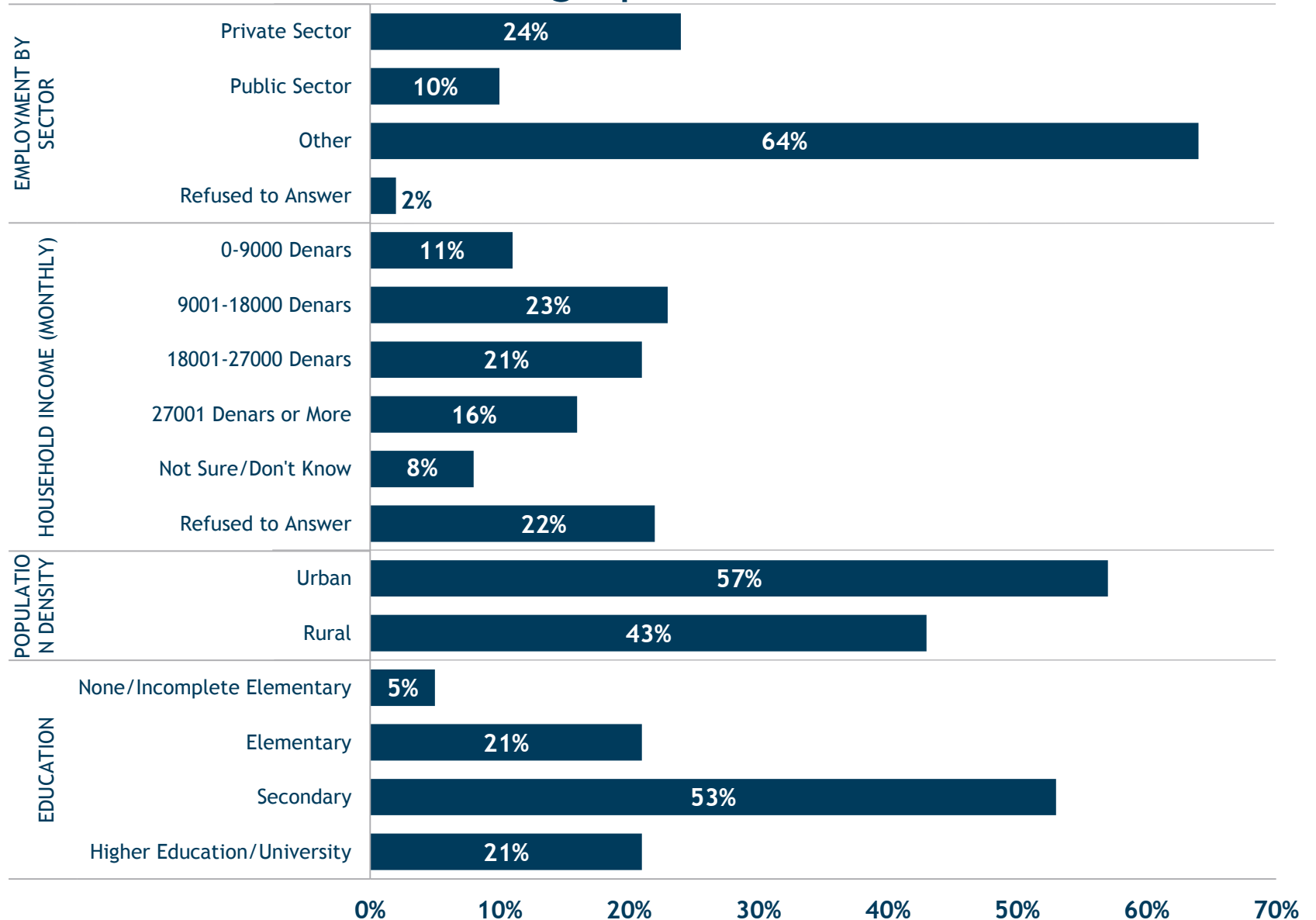
# Demographics

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# Demographics



# Demographics



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