Planning for a Safer, More Resilient Island

Addressing Our Infrastructure Needs

Purpose

- Consider placing a $300 million GO bond (infrastructure bond) on the November 3, 2026 ballot to allow Alameda voters to decide whether to fund infrastructure needs.
- If approved by voters, property owners would pay approximately $49 per year for every $100,000 of assessed value (not the home’s market value).

Outreach and Education

- In fall 2025, City staff conducted four City Council workshops on Alameda’s Infrastructure and Facilities Needs
- Produced a fact sheet, FAQ, newsletter, PowerPoint presentation, social media content, and email blast
- Sent out two mailers to all registered voters in Alameda
- Conducted a community survey mailed to all registered voters with an online option to share priorities for a potential funds
    - 1,700+ total responses
    - 600+ mailed in
    - 1,000+ online entries
    - 675+ public comments
- City staff gave 16 presentations to community

Updating Alameda
Voter Views of a Potential Infrastructure Bond Measure

Key Findings of a Survey Conducted June 10-17, 2026

220-8019

Key Milestones & Benchmarks

1 Test

- Voter survey
- Election timing
- Funding mechanism
- Political landscape
- Measure structure
- Potential controversy

2 Vet

- Non-advocacy communication
- Existing comms
- Informational mailers
- Internal & external audiences
- Seek feedback
- Refine proposal

3 Build

- Ballot measure structure
- Ballot ordinance/ resolution
- 75 words
- Accountability features
- Tax rate
- Project List

4 Win

- Fundraising
- Direct mail
- Lawn signs
- Endorsements
- Grassroots
- Texting
- Mailers
- Digital ads
- GOTV

Campaigns must be privately funded

Council Action Dates: Jul. 7th/21st
Resolution Due Date: Aug. 7th

TeamCivX

Survey Methodology

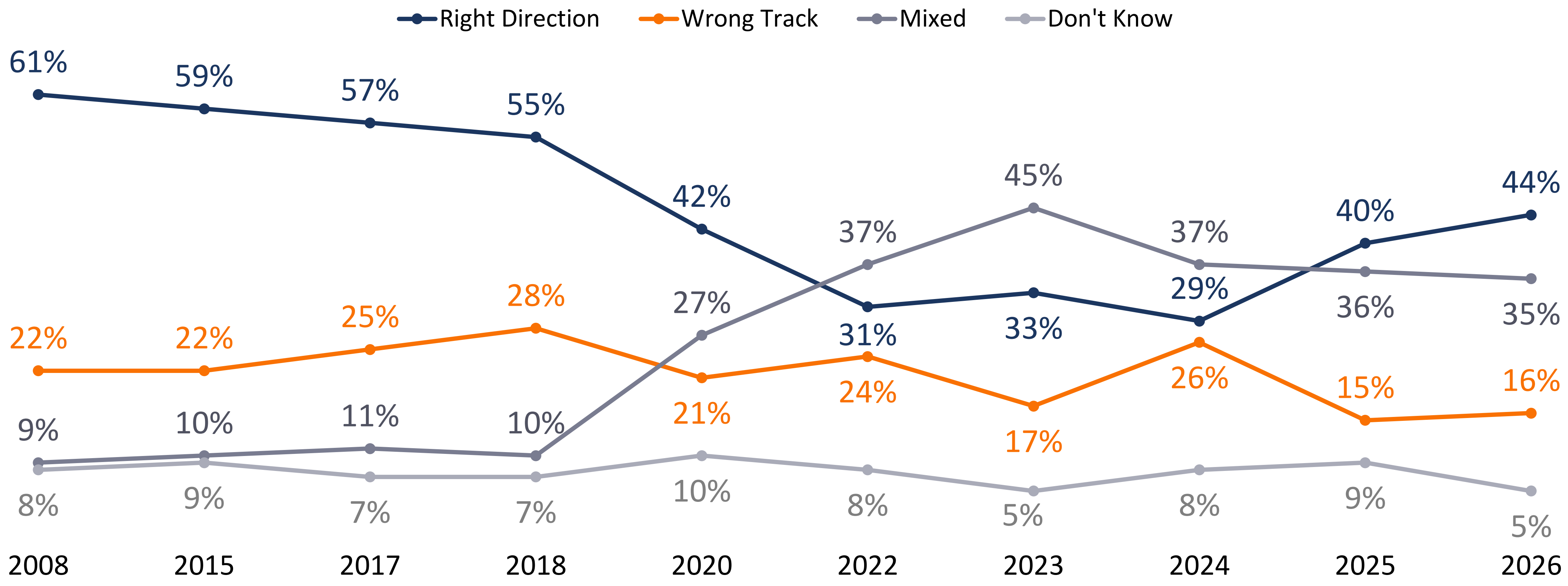
Dates	June 10-17, 2026
Survey Type	Dual-mode Voter Survey
Research Population	Likely November 2026 Voters in Alameda
Total Interviews	420
Margin of Sampling Error	(Full Sample) ±4.9% at the 95% Confidence Level (Half Sample) ±6.9% at the 95% Confidence Level
Contact Methods	Telephone Calls; Email Invitations; Text Invitations
Data Collection Modes	Telephone Interviews; Online Interviews
Survey Tracking	2008, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 Surveys
Languages	English, Spanish, and Chinese

(Note: Not All Results Will Sum to 100% Due to Rounding)

Context

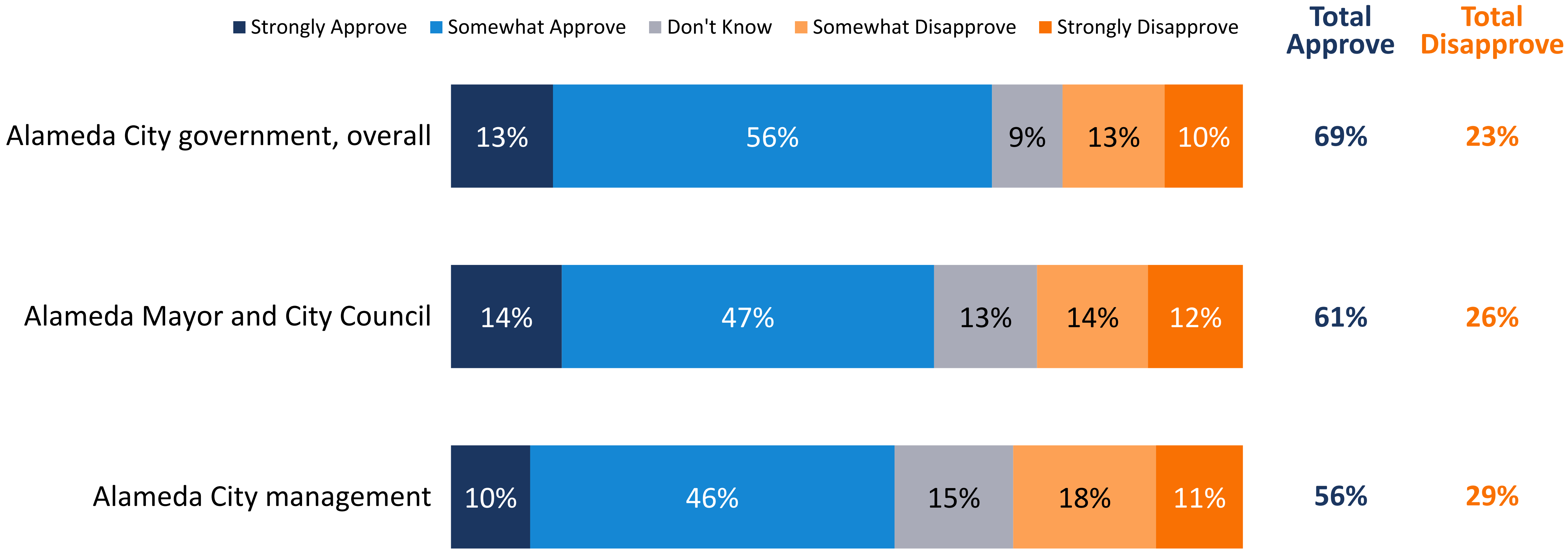
After a few years of largely mixed opinions, Alameda voters are more optimistic than pessimistic.

First, would you say that things in the City of Alameda are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are pretty seriously off on the wrong track?



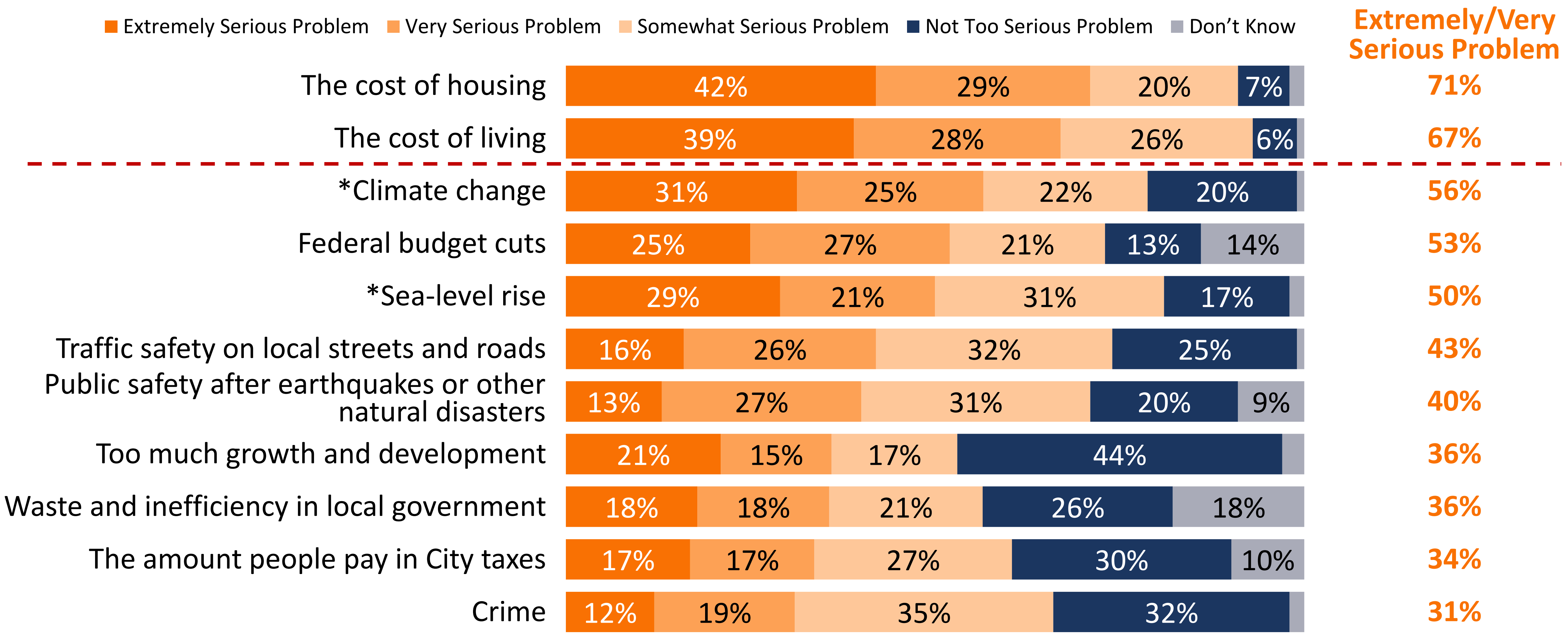
Q1.

Broad shares approve of City government, the Mayor, and City Council.



Q2. Next, I am going to read you a brief list of public officials and agencies. Please tell me whether you approve or disapprove of the job each is doing.

The cost-of-living issues are widely seen as a serious problems.



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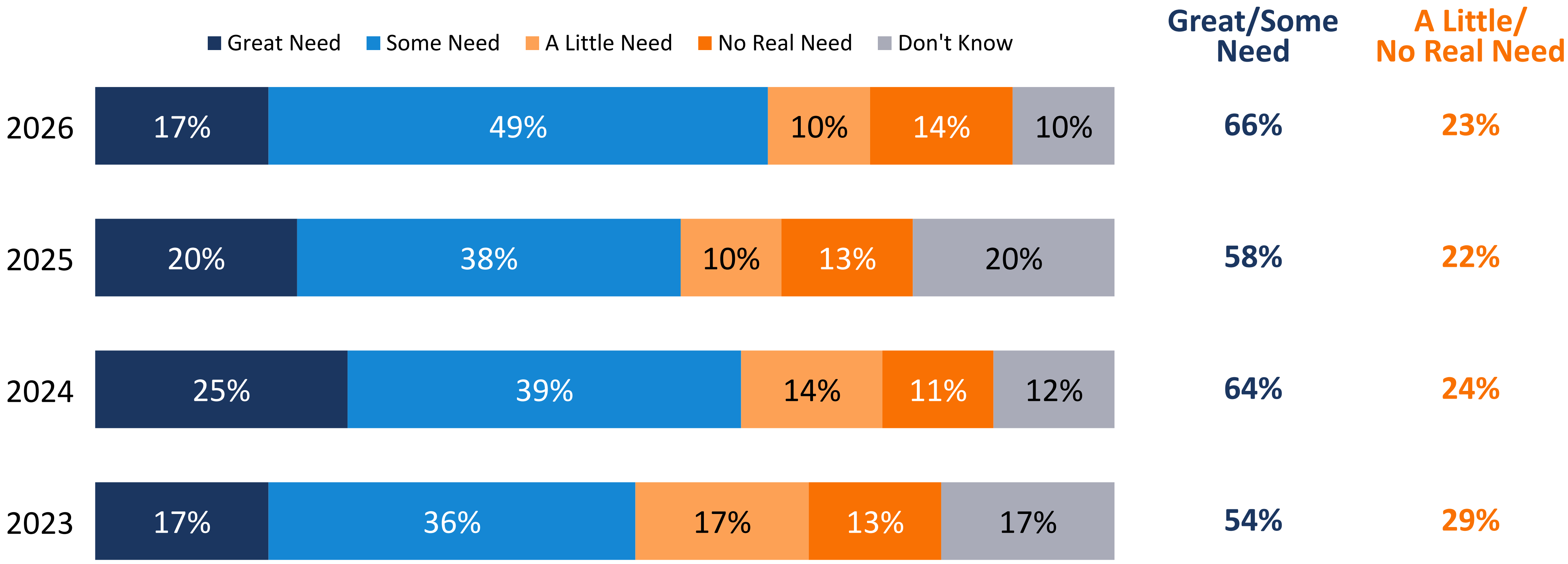
*Q5. Next, please consider the following issues that some people suggest are problems facing the City of Alameda. For each one, please indicate whether you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not too serious a problem for residents of Alameda. *Split Sample*

Two-thirds see at least some need for additional infrastructure funding – up significantly over last year.

Next, would you say that to maintain and improve public infrastructure the City of Alameda has a great need for additional funding, some need, a little need, or no real need for additional funding?



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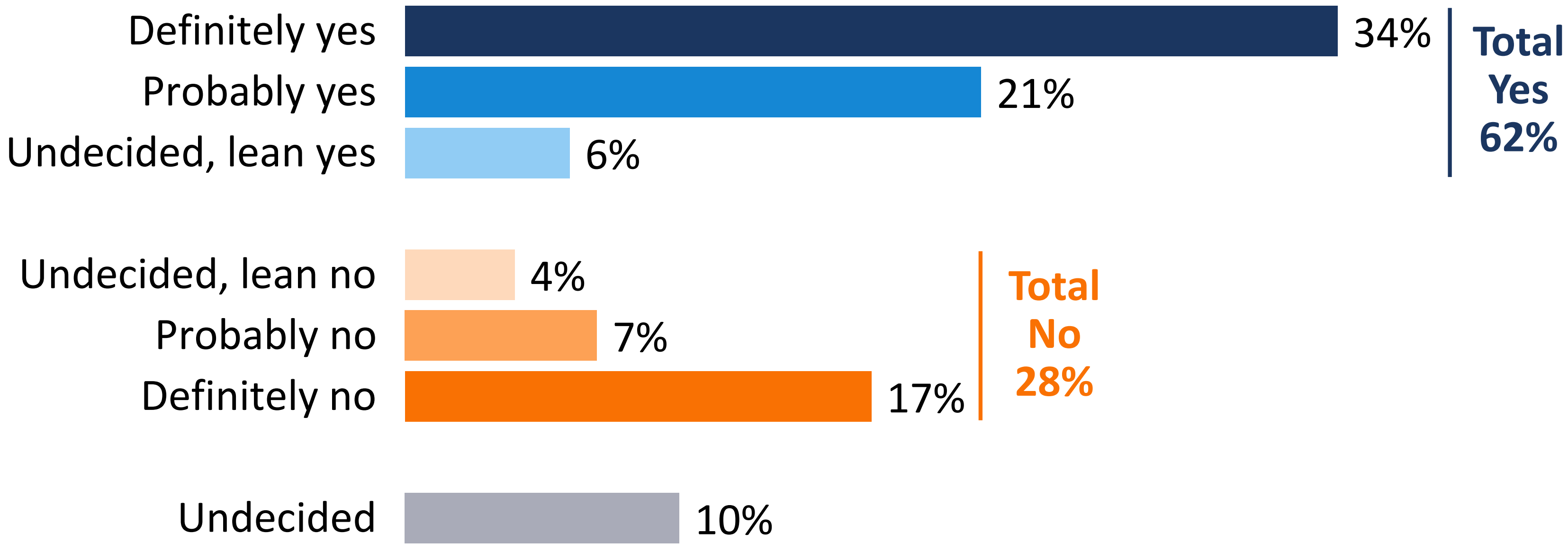
Q4.

Views of a Potential Bond Measure

Three in five support the measure based on ballot language alone – a solid majority, but less than the two-thirds needed for passage.

SAFER Alameda Act — Preparing Alameda for Sea-Level Rise, Accidents, Flooding, Earthquakes, Resilience. To prepare for emergencies, earthquakes and sea-level rise; prevent flooded Tubes; repair potholes; keep streets safe and accessible; maintain response to fires, accidents, and medical emergencies; prevent Bay pollution; and protect shorelines; shall the City of Alameda measure issuing $300,000,000 in bonds, levying $49/$100,000 of assessed value, generating approximately $19,000,000 annually while bonds are outstanding, requiring oversight, public disclosures, and local control, be adopted?



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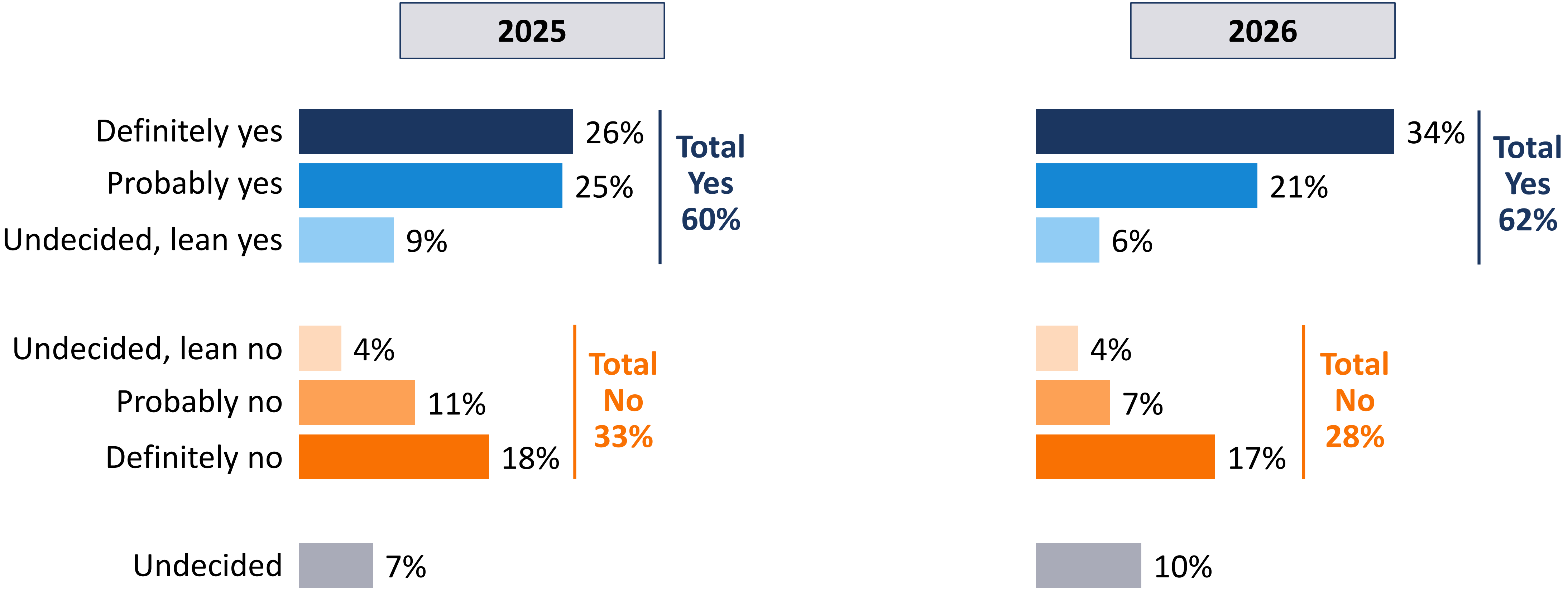
Q3. Do you think you would vote yes or no on this measure?

The “definitely yes” share is broader than in 2025, when slightly different language was tested.



Q3. Do you think you would vote yes or no on this measure?

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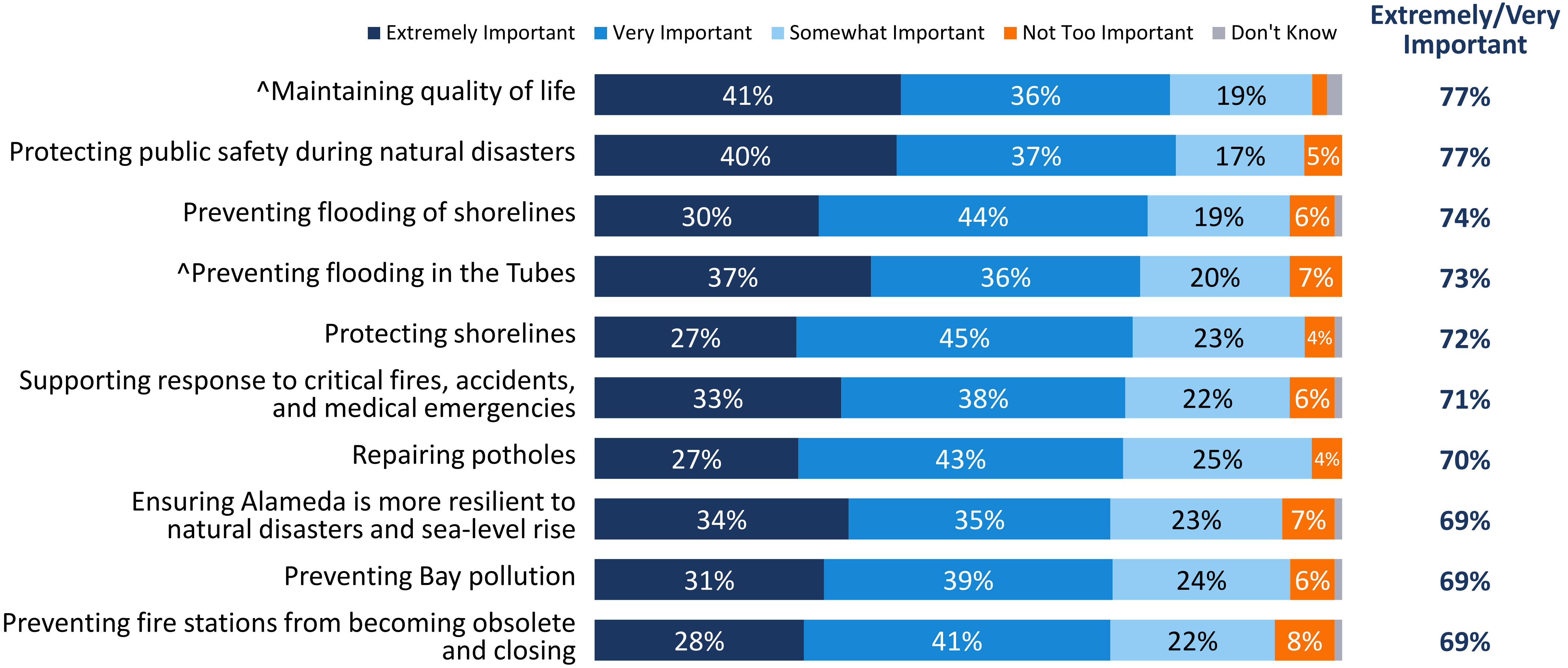
Voter Priorities

Voters’ top priorities for funding include maintaining quality of life and protecting public safety during natural disasters.



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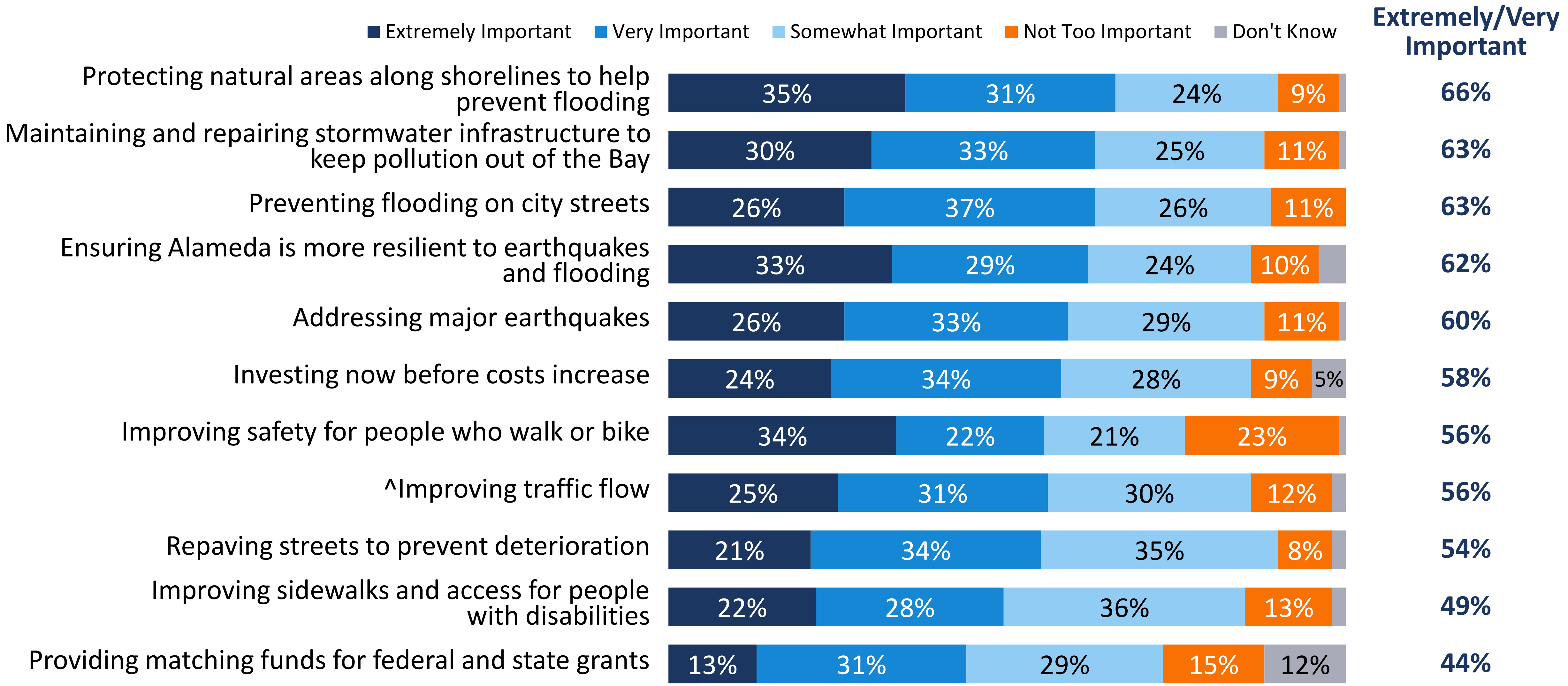
Q6. First, please consider some potential elements of this measure, including ways in which funds it generates could be spent. For each one, please indicate how important each one is to you personally, regardless of how you feel about the measure: either extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not too important. ^Not Part of Split Sample

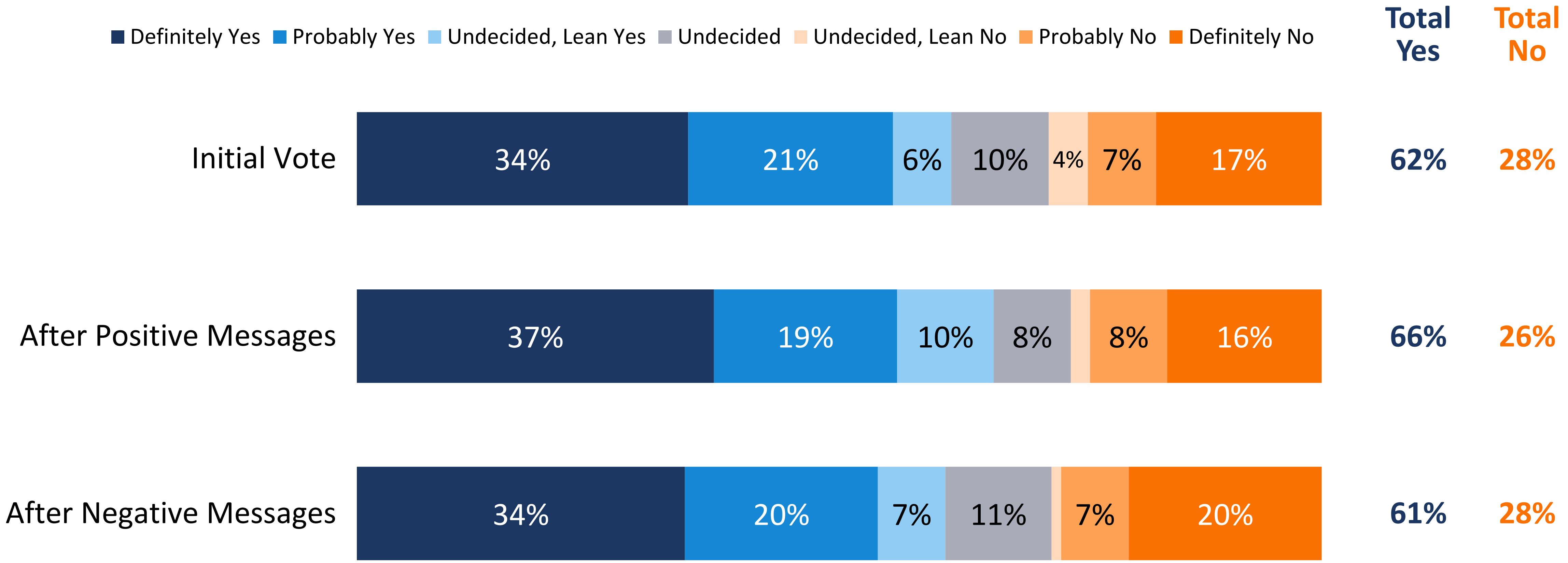
Relatively few prioritize sidewalks or matching funds.



Q6. First, please consider some potential elements of this measure, including ways in which funds it generates could be spent. For each one, please indicate how important each one is to you personally, regardless of how you feel about the measure: either extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not too important. ^Not Part of Split Sample

Reactions to Supportive and Critical Statements

After supportive arguments, two-thirds supported the measure; however, that support dropped after bond criticisms.



Q3, Q8 & Q10. Do you think you would vote yes or no on this measure?

These levels of support are higher than observed in the December survey.

	Total Yes		
	December 2025	June 2026	Δ
Initial Vote	60%	62%	+2%
After Positive Messages	58%	66%	+8%
After Negative Messages	51%	61%	+10%

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Conclusions

Survey Takeaways

- Voters are somewhat more optimistic and have largely positive views of their city government.
- An infrastructure bond measure faces a challenging path to approval in November. It will require that a strong, positive campaign emerge in the community and no deterioration in political and economic conditions.
  - The initial "yes" vote based on ballot measure language alone is below the two-thirds needed for passage.
  - Two-thirds support for a measure was just barely reached after modeling a scenario in which all voters received and contemplated rationales for a bond.
  - The "yes" vote declines below two-thirds after negative messaging.
- Voters' top priorities include maintaining quality of life and protecting public safety during natural disasters. Effective message themes focus on earthquake safety and the risks of sea-level rise.
- At the same time, these results represent an increase in the "definitely yes" vote and perceived need for funding compared to our 2025 survey, indicating the success of outreach so far.

Conclusions

- Despite negative economic headwinds, the measure displayed a positive trend from the initial poll results
- Public education and communication about the issue works
- Continued outreach and education is needed to pass the 2/3 threshold
- A robust independent advocacy campaign is required for the measure to be successful
- While narrow, the measure has a path to victory
- Recommendation: $300 million measure focused on highest-priority projects to begin addressing the over $800 million in unfunded needs

Staff Recommendation

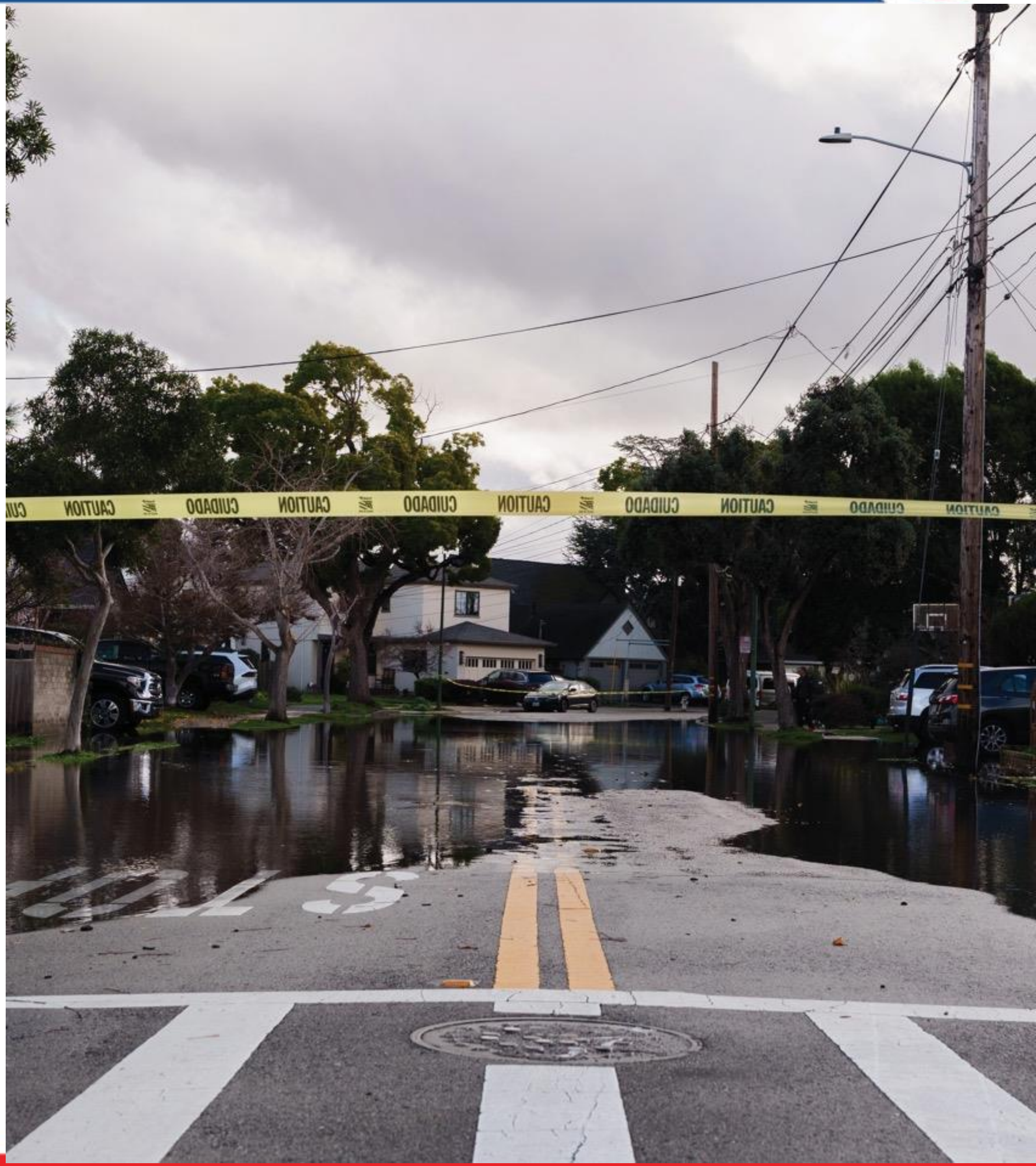
- Adopt a Resolution declaring that public interest and necessity demand the issuance of the GO bond to finance authorized improvements

- Introduce an Ordinance submitting a $300 million GO Bond measure to voters at the November 3, 2026 General Municipal Election.

Appendix

Alameda’s Infrastructure is Aging

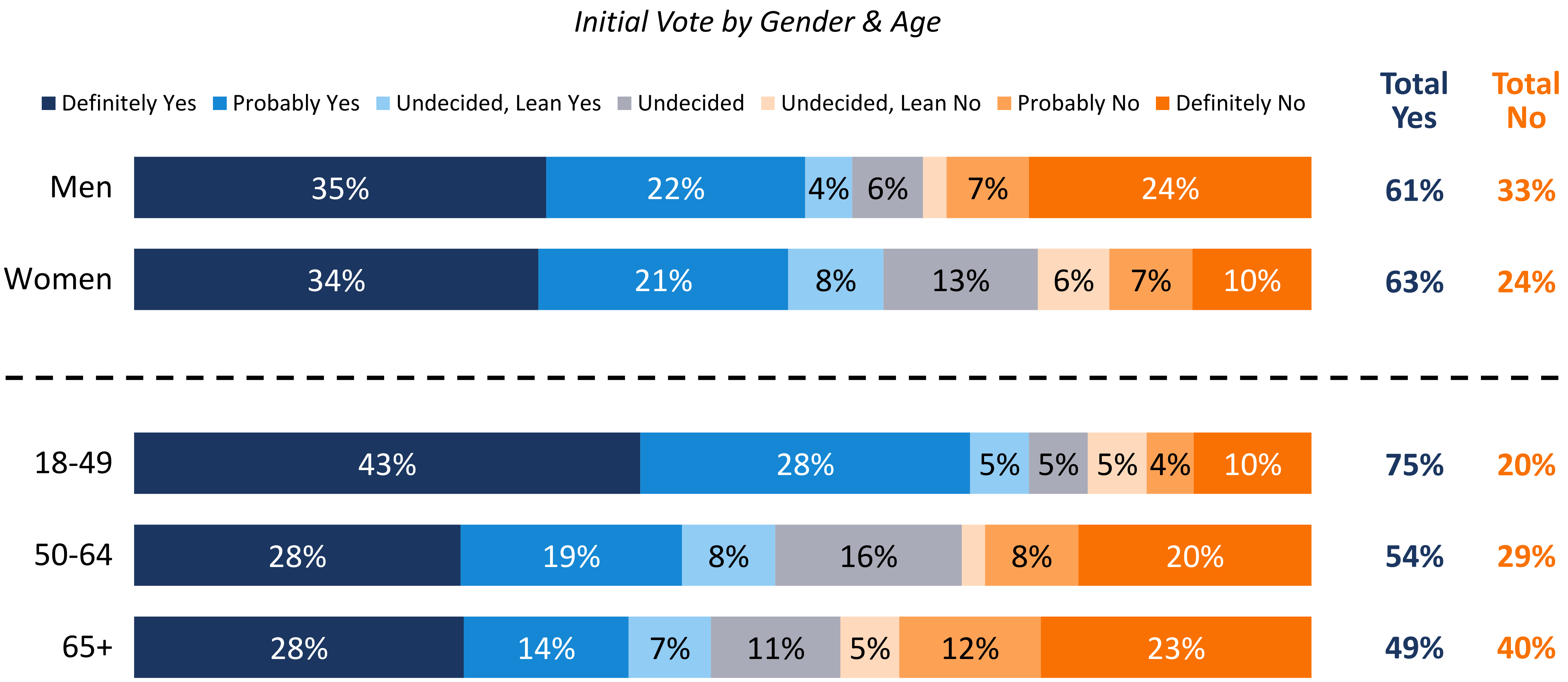
- Aging roads, storm drains, and public safety facilities are increasingly vulnerable to:
  - More frequent and severe storms
  - Flooding and sea level rise
  - Major earthquakes
  - Poor street conditions



Aging Infrastructure Creates a Financial Strain

- The City of Alameda is committed to the long-term financial stability of our island
- The City has over $800 million in unfunded infrastructure projects
- Without a dedicated funding source, the City will be forced to pull from the General Fund
- The General Fund pays for everyday services like parks and emergency response
- Infrastructure needs grow more expensive every year they go unaddressed

Three-quarters of voters under 50 support the measure, while a slim majority aged 50 to 64 back it.



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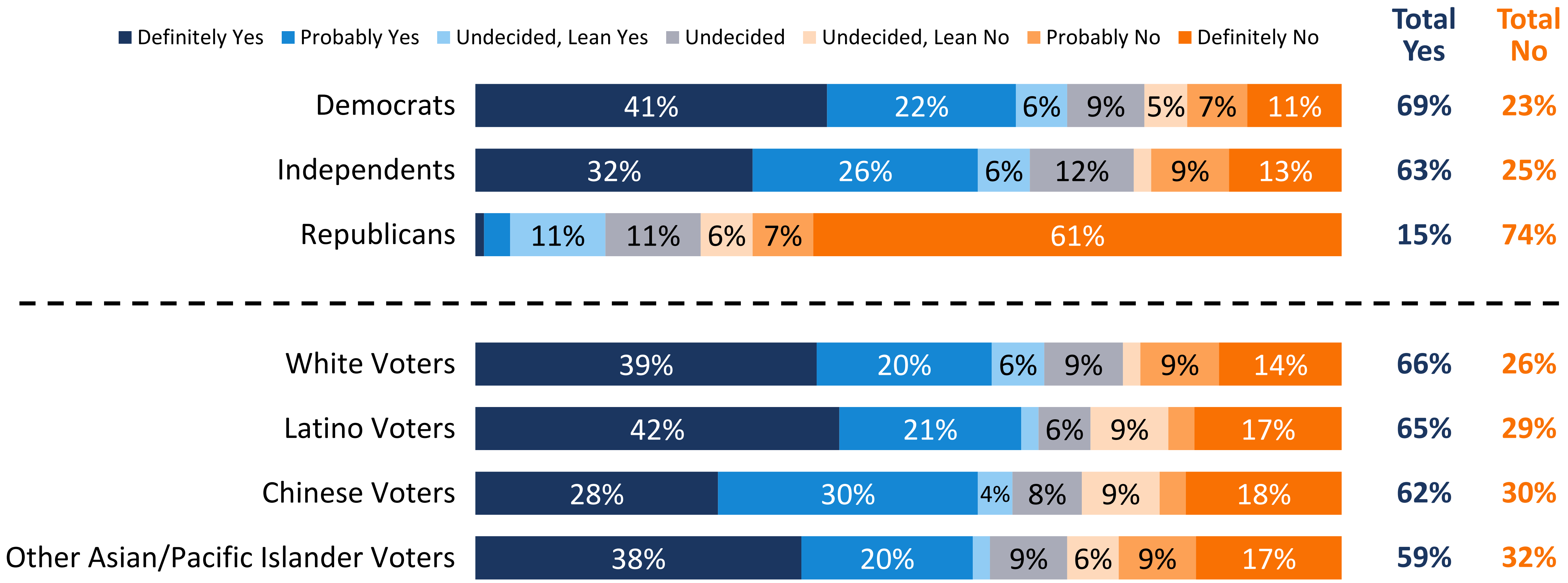
Q3. Do you think you would vote yes or no on this measure?

Seven in ten Democrats support the measure, as does just under two-thirds of independents.

Initial Vote by Party & Race/Ethnicity



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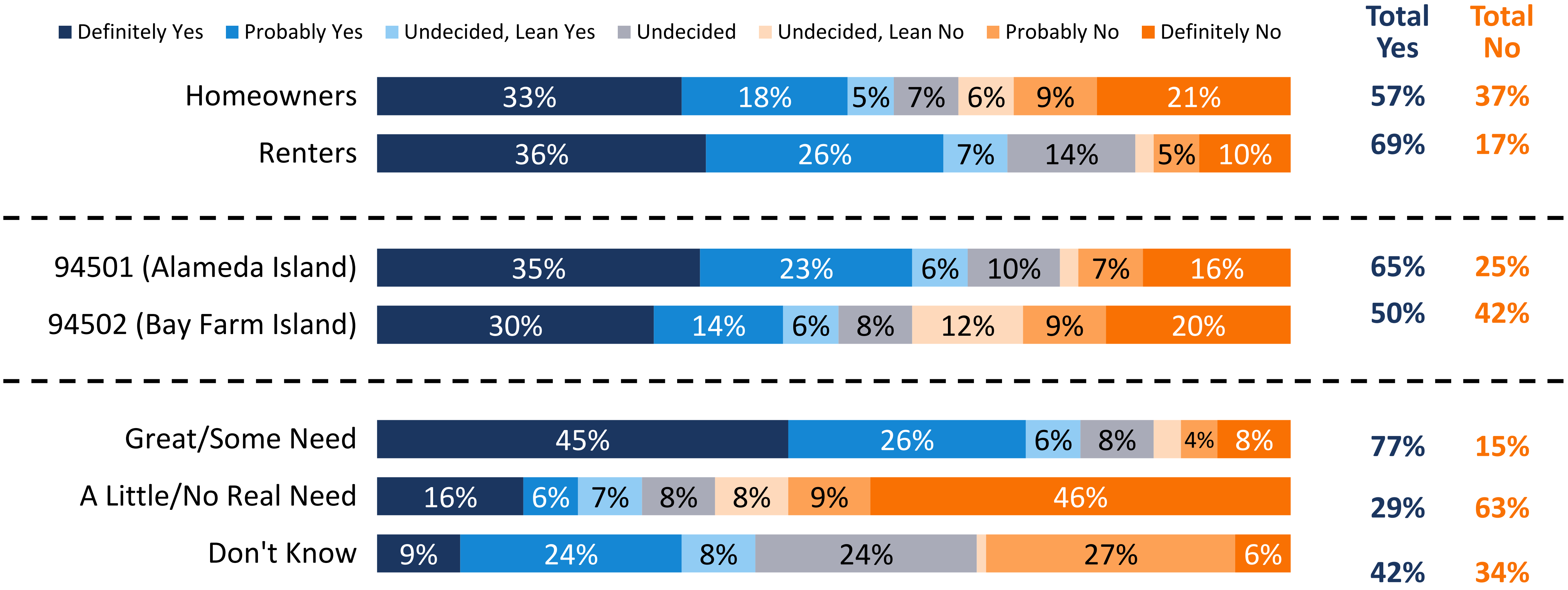
Q3. Do you think you would vote yes or no on this measure?

Those who see “great need” or “some need” for additional funding are quite likely to vote “yes” on a measure.

Initial Vote by Own/Rent & ZIP Code & Need for Funding



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Q3. Do you think you would vote yes or no on this measure?