



Nationwide Public Opinion Poll: The Gambia

November 26 - December 7, 2019



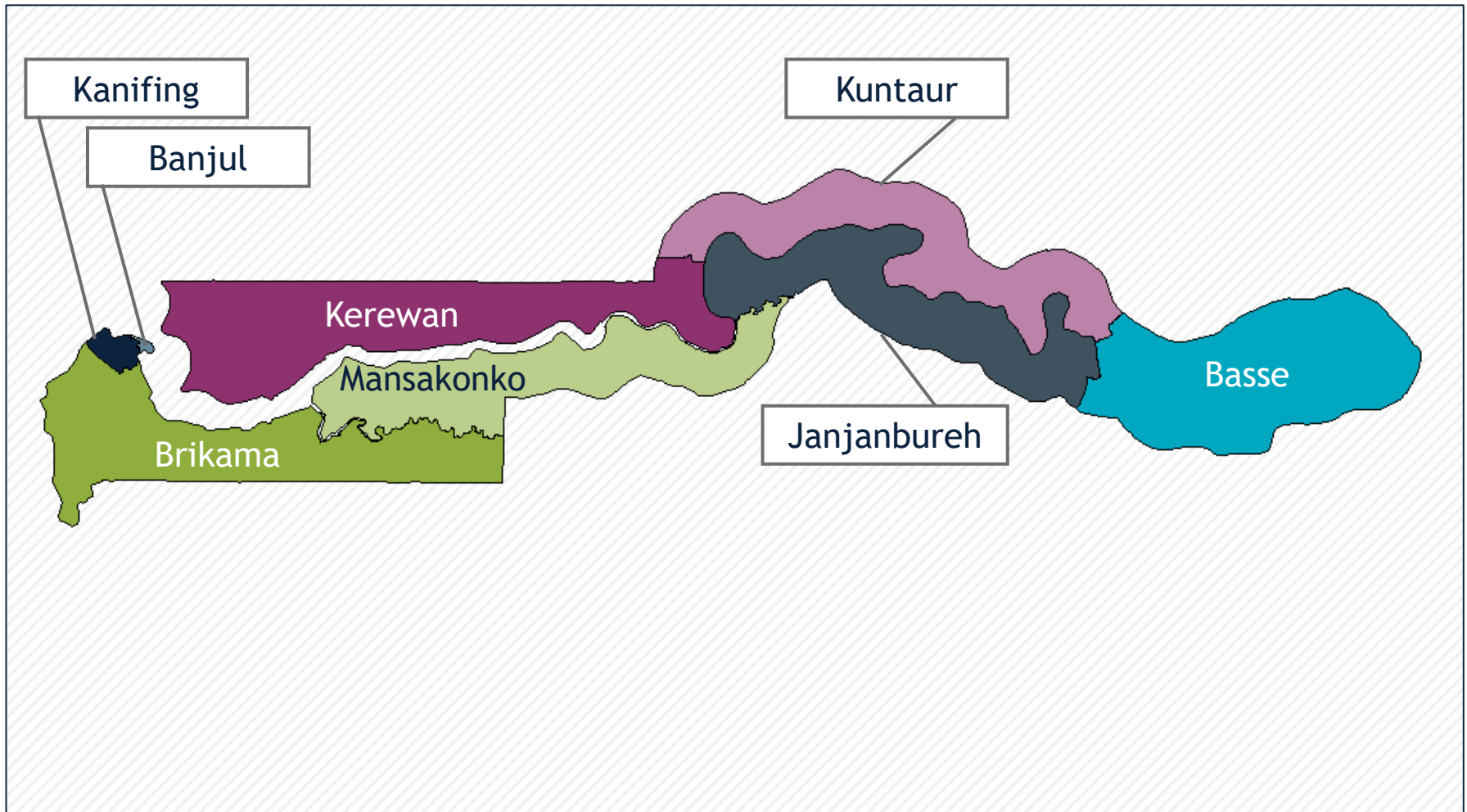
Methodology

- The poll was conducted by the Center for Research and Policy Development on behalf of the International Republican Institute's [Center for Insights in Survey Research](#).
- Data was collected from November 26 to December 7, 2019 through face-to-face interviews at respondents' homes.
- The sample comprised 1,178 residents of The Gambia, aged 18 and older. The sample is representative of the adult population of The Gambia by age, Local Government Area (LGA) and urbanicity in accordance with results of the 2013 Population and Housing Census of The Gambia.
- The poll's response rate was 98 percent. The margin of error for the full sample is ± 3.0 points at 95 percent confidence level.
- A multistage probability sampling method was used, employing a random route method for household selection and the Kish grid for respondent selection.
 - Stage 1: PPS stratification across eight LGAs.
 - Stage 2: PPS stratification in urban and rural enumeration areas within LGAs.
 - Stage 3: Randomized assignment of primary sampling units.
- The sample is weighted for age, gender, urbanicity and LGA based on results of the 2018 Labor Force Survey of The Gambia.
- Interviews were conducted in English, Mandinka, Wolof and Fula.
- Charts and graphs may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.
- Cited bases are weighted.
- The poll was funded by the [U.S. Agency for International Development](#).

Contextual Note

- Any reference to the “current constitution” refers to the 1997 constitution as amended. The 1997 constitution is the country’s second constitution. In 1994, a military coup led by Yahya Jammeh overthrew the democratic government. This military government held a referendum in 1996, resulting in the 1997 constitution. The constitution has since been amended numerous times under the former authoritarian ruler, Yahya Jammeh. Therefore, many Gambians polled refer to this constitution as Jammeh’s constitution.
- The Constitutional Review Commission (CRC) was established in June 2018 to review and analyze the current constitution and draft a new constitution for the Republic of The Gambia. Following consultations of Gambians domestic and abroad, the CRC released a draft of the constitution on November 15, 2019.
- The CRC conducted a second round of countrywide public consultations between November 31 and December 16, 2019.
- The CRC subsequently released and sent the final draft constitution to the executive on March 30, 2020.
- Data for this poll was collected between November 26 and December 7, 2019. Therefore, any references to the draft constitution refer to the initial draft released by the CRC on November 15, 2019.

Geographical Key: LGAs of The Gambia



**Due to relatively small sample size, Kanifing and Banjul are combined when displaying LGA-disaggregated results.*

Frequent Disaggregates, Part 1

Disaggregate	Disaggregation Category	Base
LGA	Kanifing & Banjul	n=270
	Brikama	n=537
	Mansakonko	n=49
	Kerewan	n=100
	Kuntaur	n=57
	Janjanbureh	n=69
	Basse	n=96
Urbanicity	Urban	n=673
	Rural	n=505
Sex	Male	n=557
	Female	n=621
Age Groups	Age 18-29	n=404
	Age 30-35	n=207
	Age 36-55	n=403
	Age 56 and older	n=164

*Cited bases are weighted. Margin of error will vary with sample size.

Frequent Disaggregates, Part 2

Disaggregate	Disaggregation Category	Base
Economic Situation	Barely Subsistence	n=351
	Subsistence	n=458
	Adequate	n=278
	More than Adequate	n=79

***Economic Situation* is based on the question “Please tell us which answer best describes your current economic situation.”

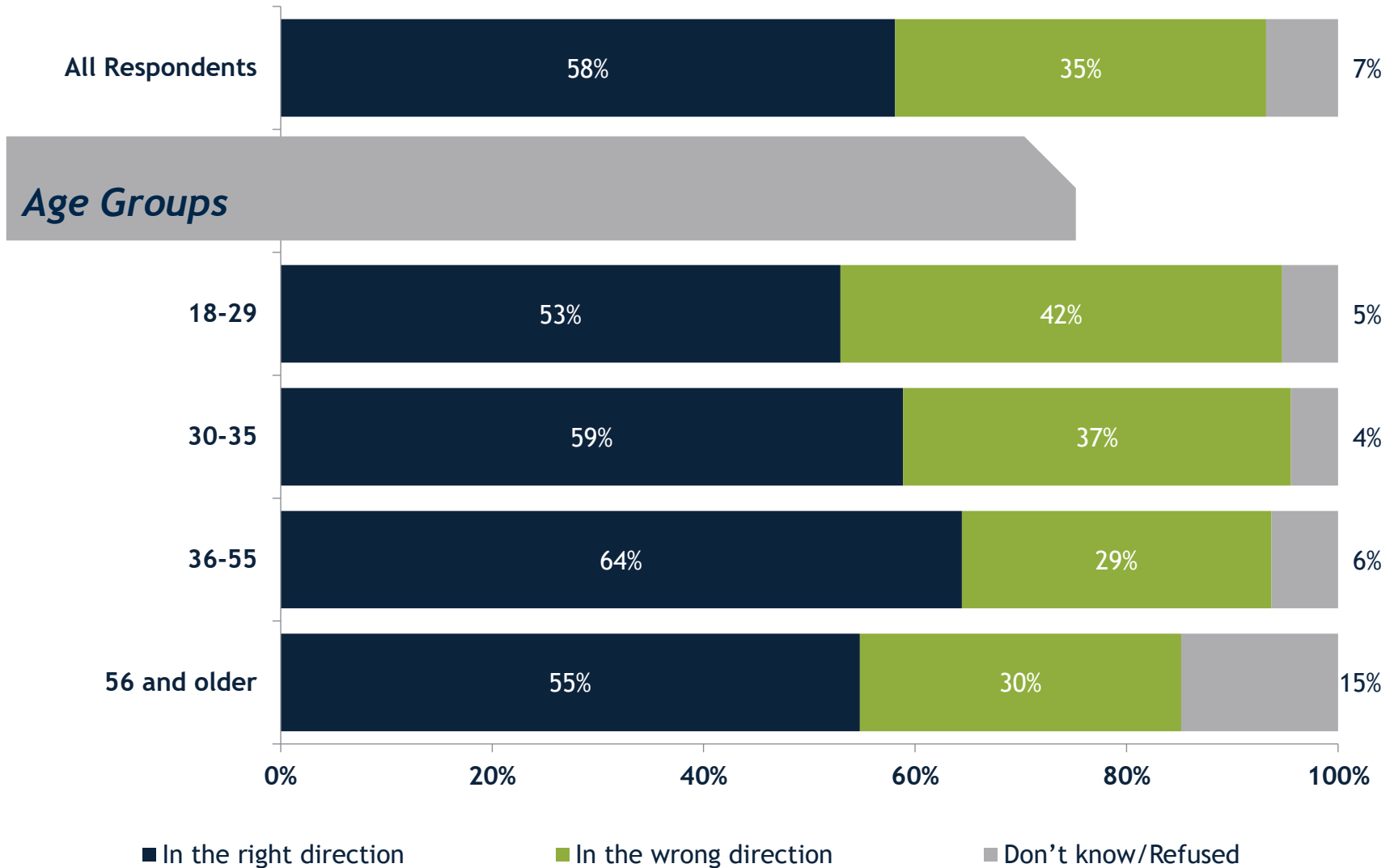
- Barely Subsistence = “I have trouble feeding myself and my family and buying even the most essential things for survival.”
- Subsistence = “I have enough means for survival, but I do not have enough money for extra things.”
- Adequate = “I am able to afford a few new extra things.”
- More than Adequate = “I am able to afford most things I want.”



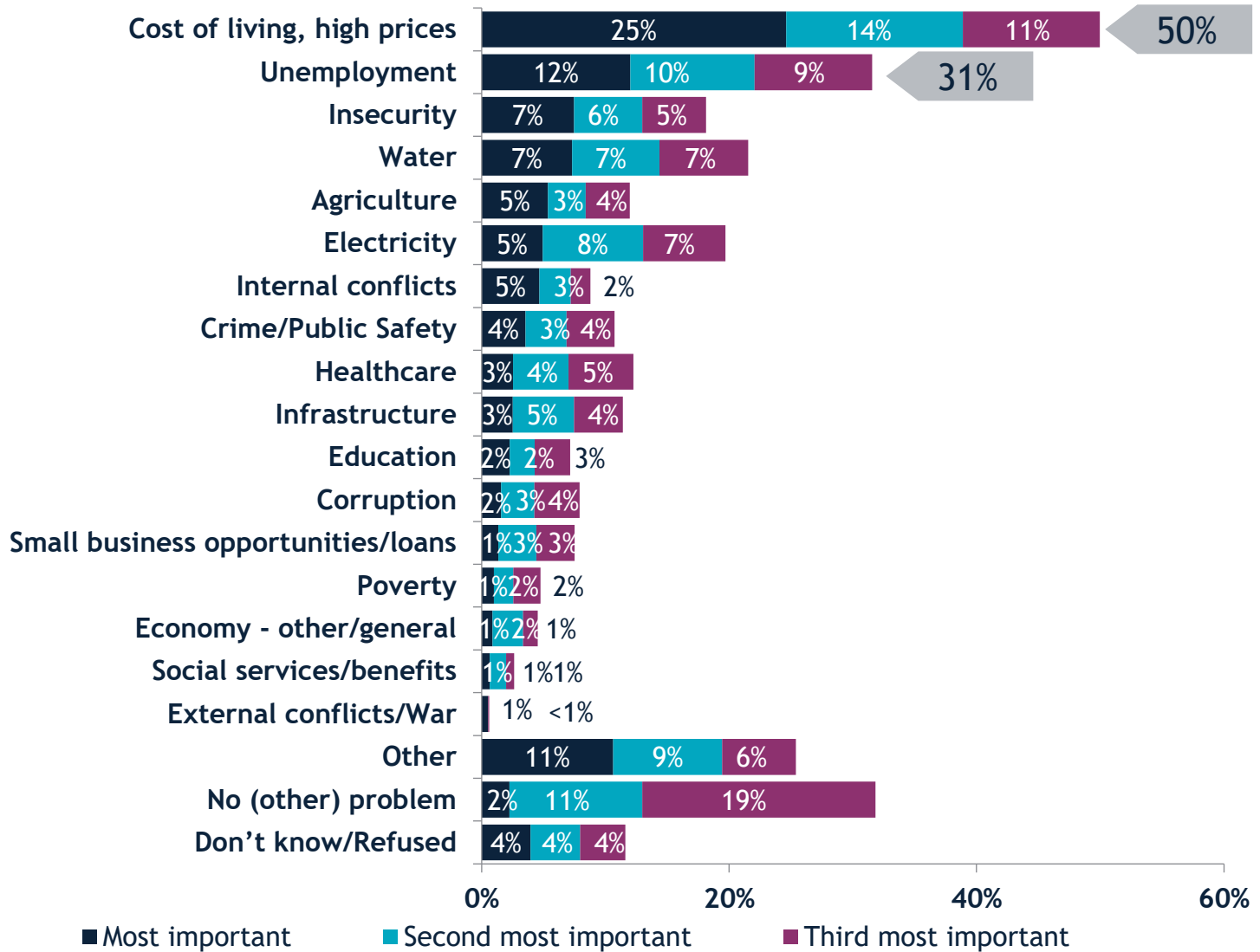
Outlook and Priority Issues



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



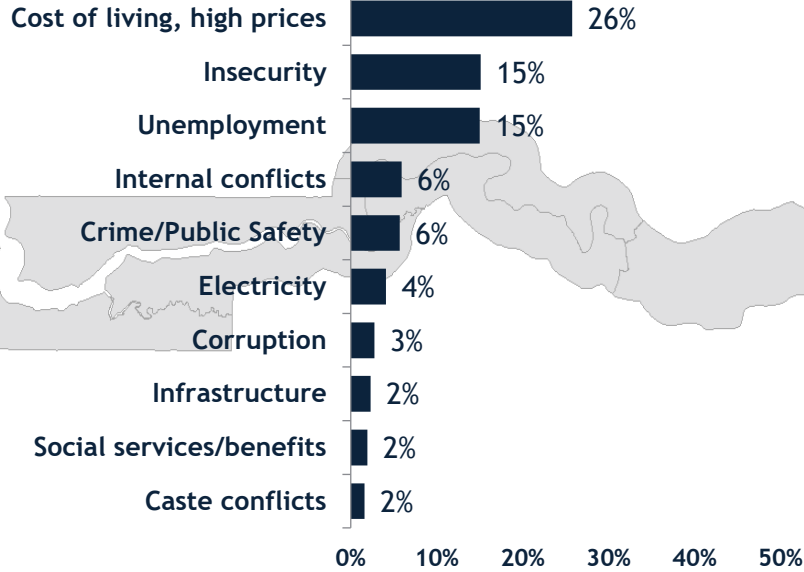
What is the most important problem facing The Gambia today? (Spontaneous response; up to three responses permitted)



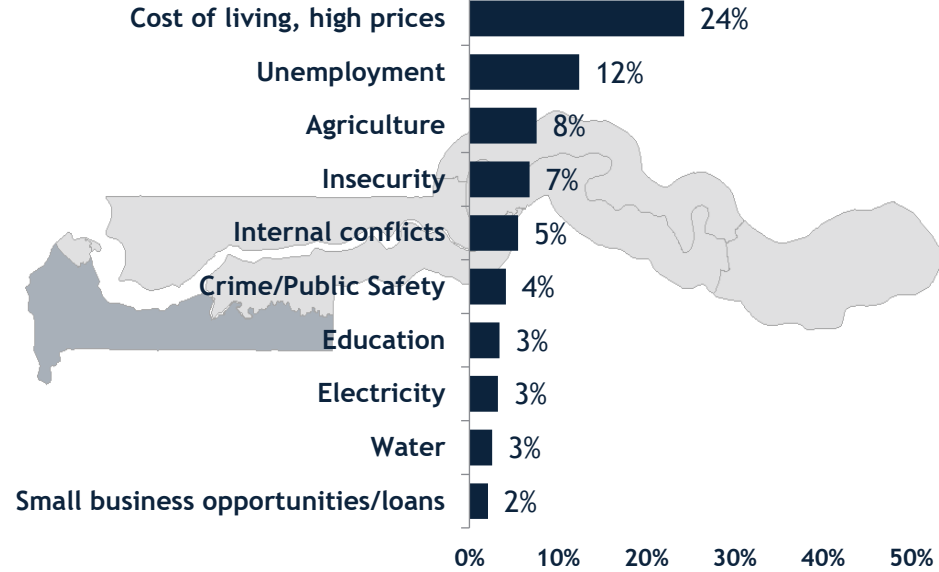
*Responses receiving less than 1 percent on first response are combined into *Other*.

What is the most important problem facing The Gambia today? (Spontaneous response; *first response only* - Top 10 responses)

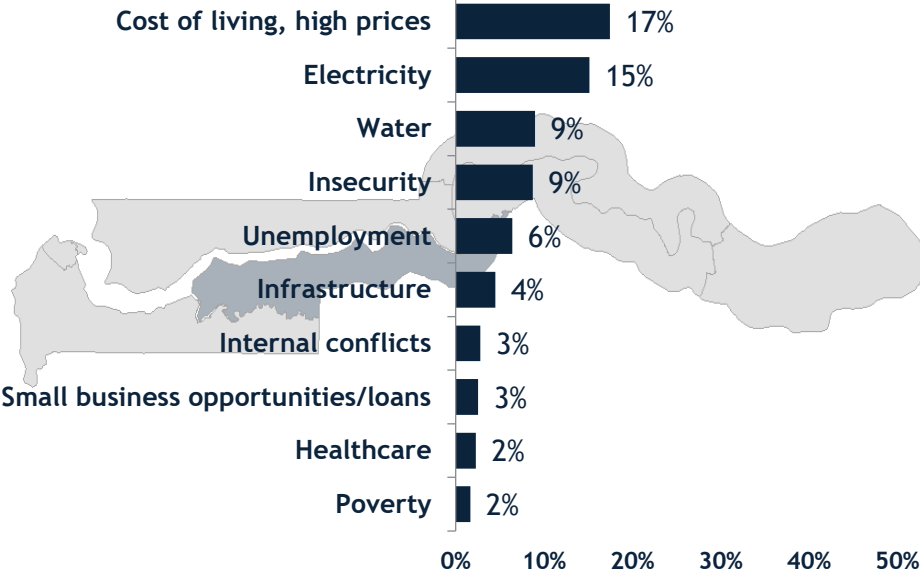
Banjul+Kanifing



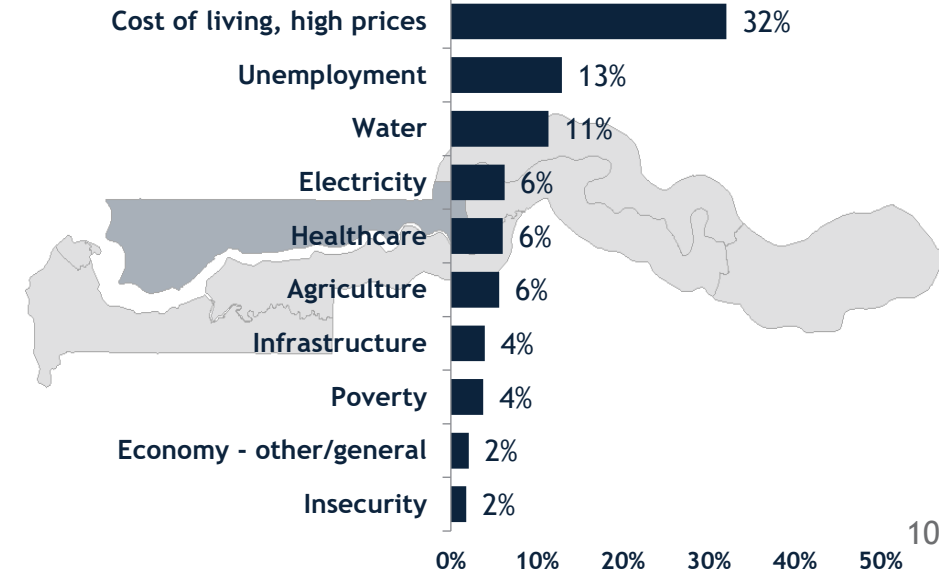
Brikama



Mansakonko

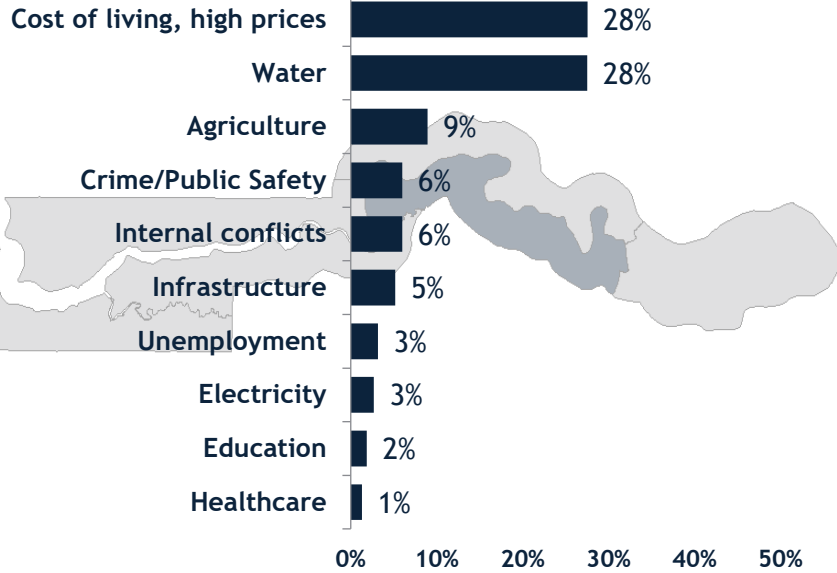


Kerewan

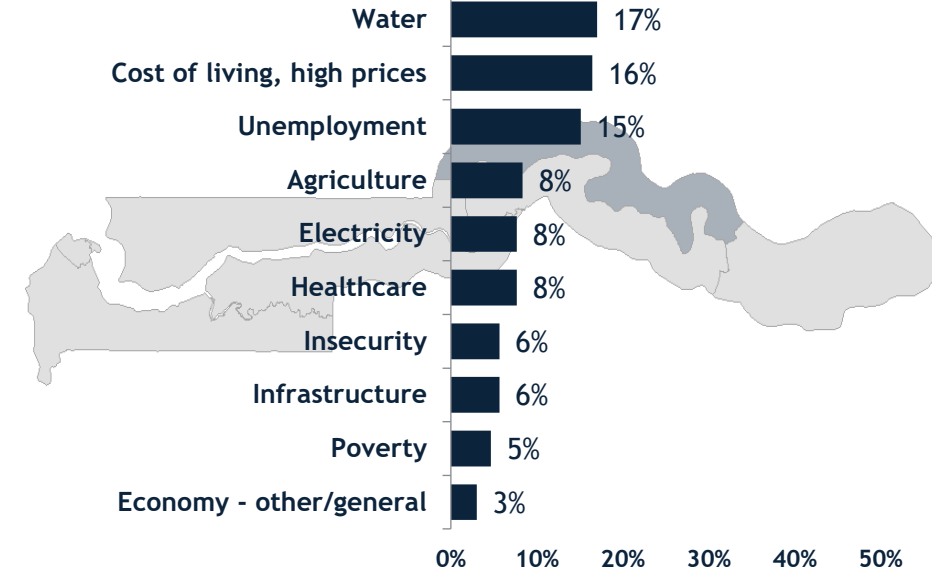


What is the most important problem facing The Gambia today? (Spontaneous response; *first response only* - Top 10 responses)

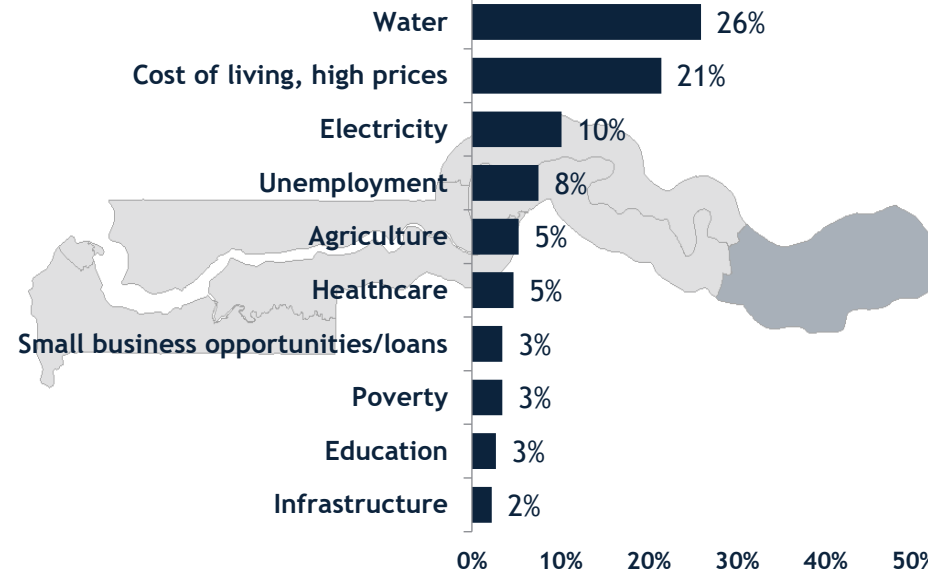
Janjanbureh



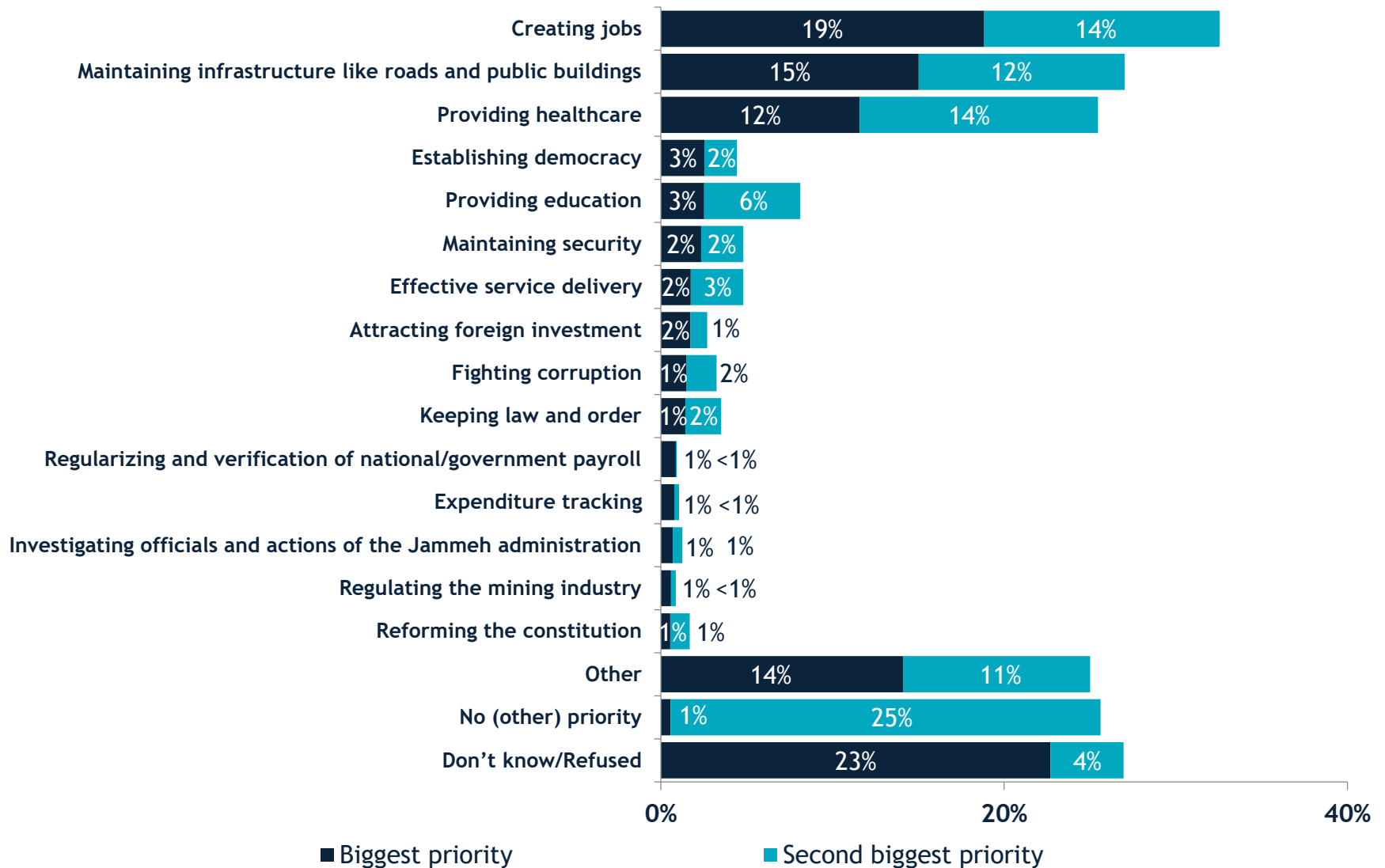
Kuntaur



Basse

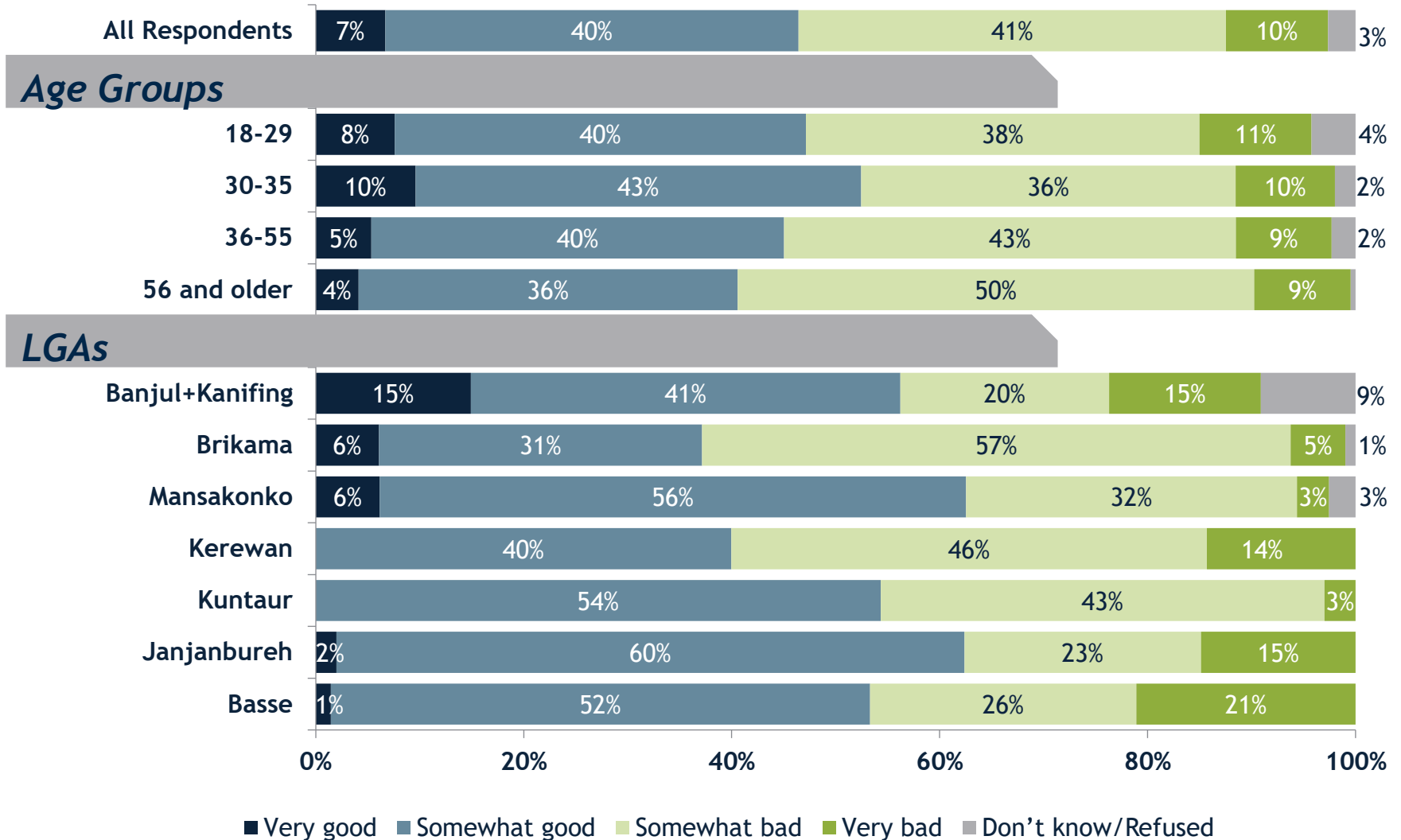


What has the national government said to be its biggest priority? (Spontaneous response; up to two responses permitted)

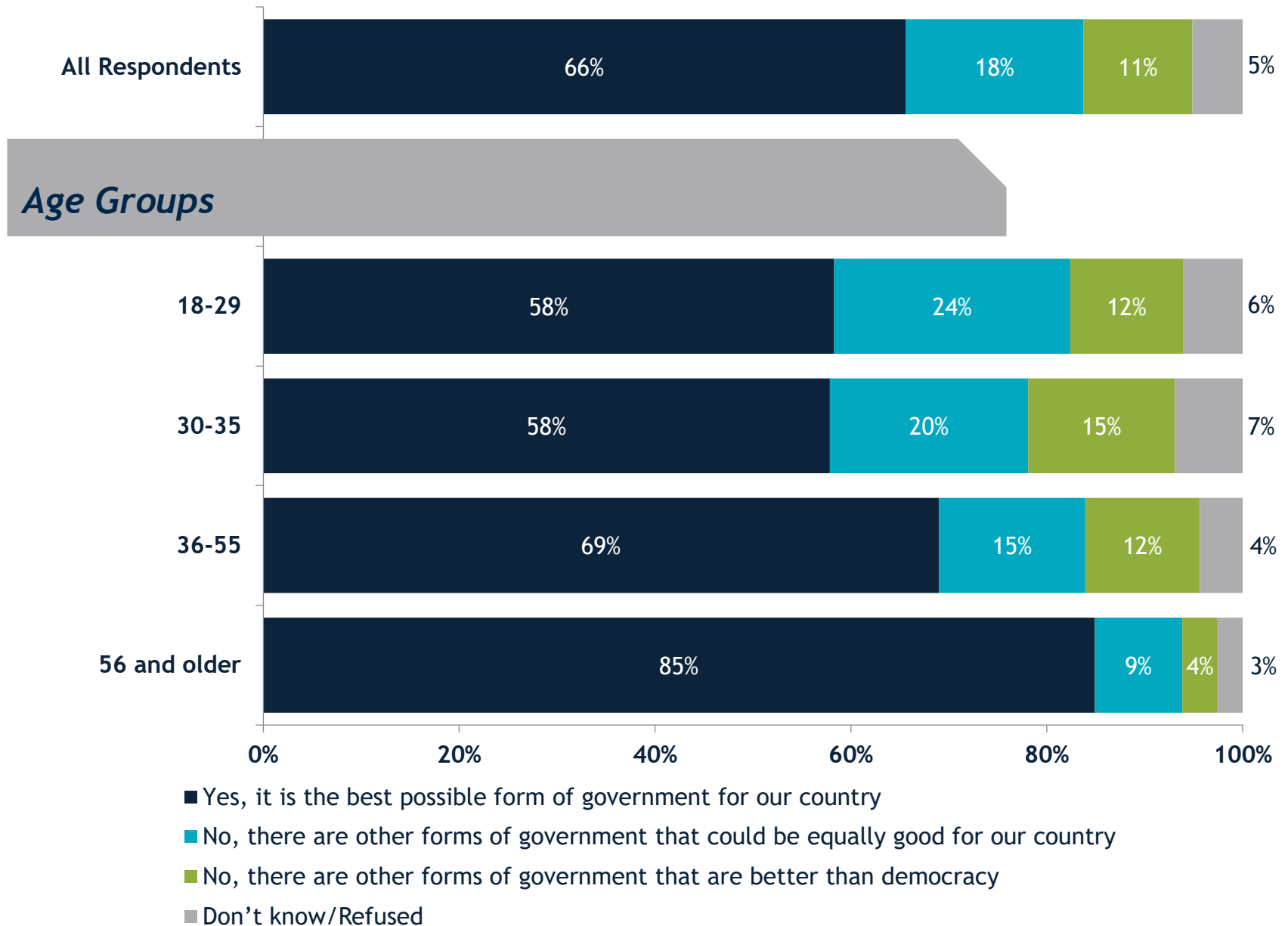


*Responses receiving less than 1 percent on first response are combined into *Other*.

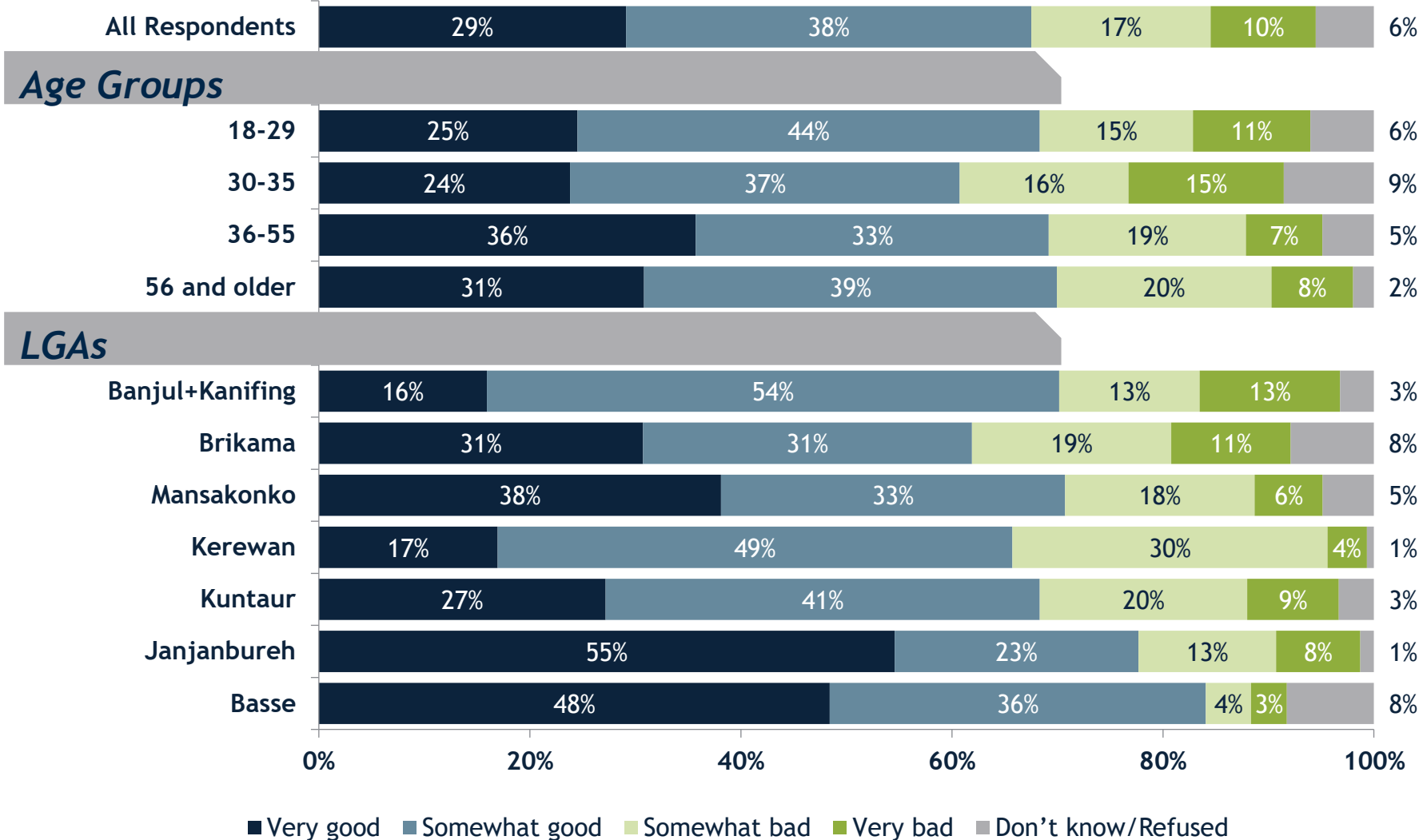
How would you describe the current economic situation of your household?



Do you believe that democracy is the best possible form of government for The Gambia or not?



How would you rate the performance of the national government?

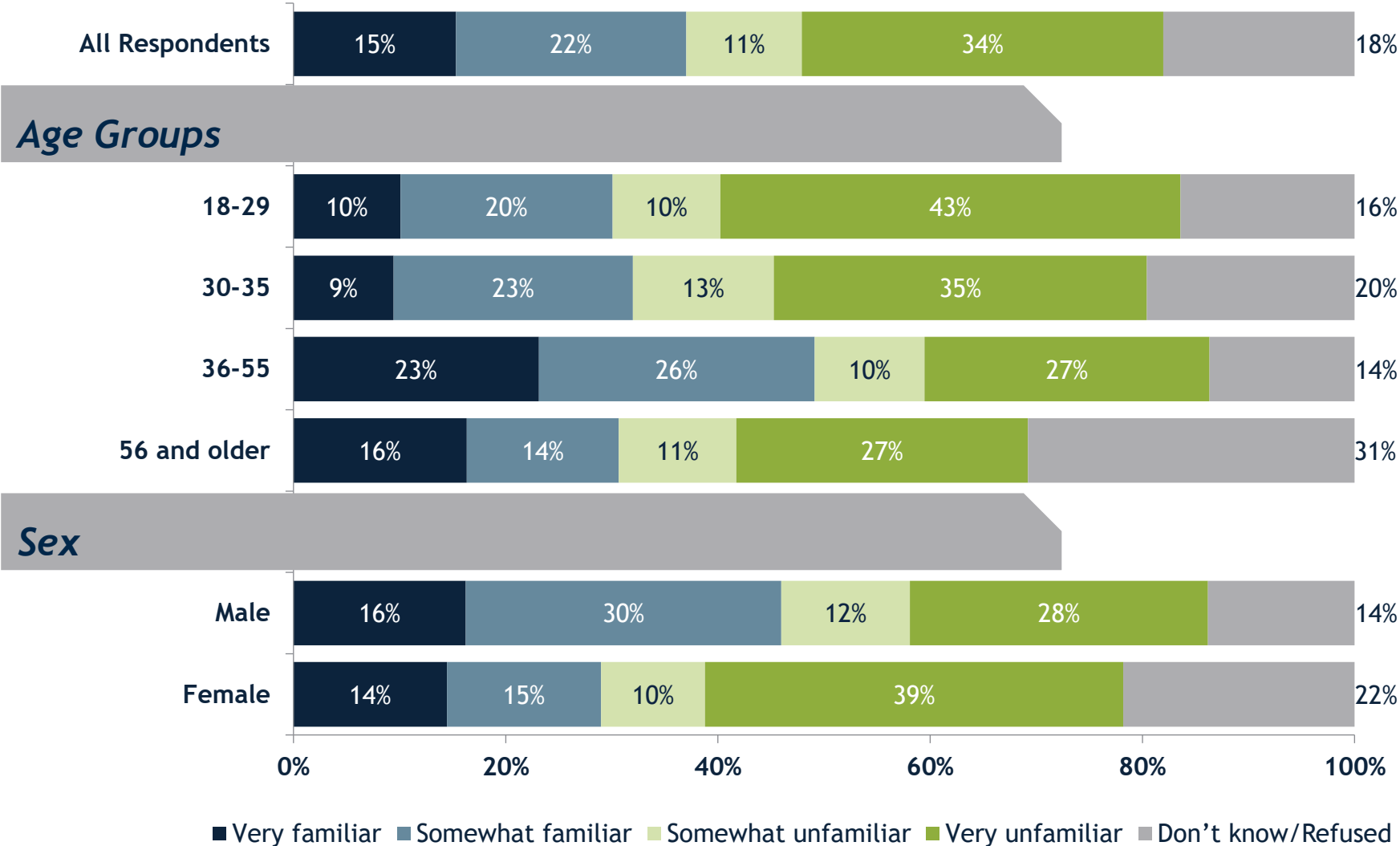




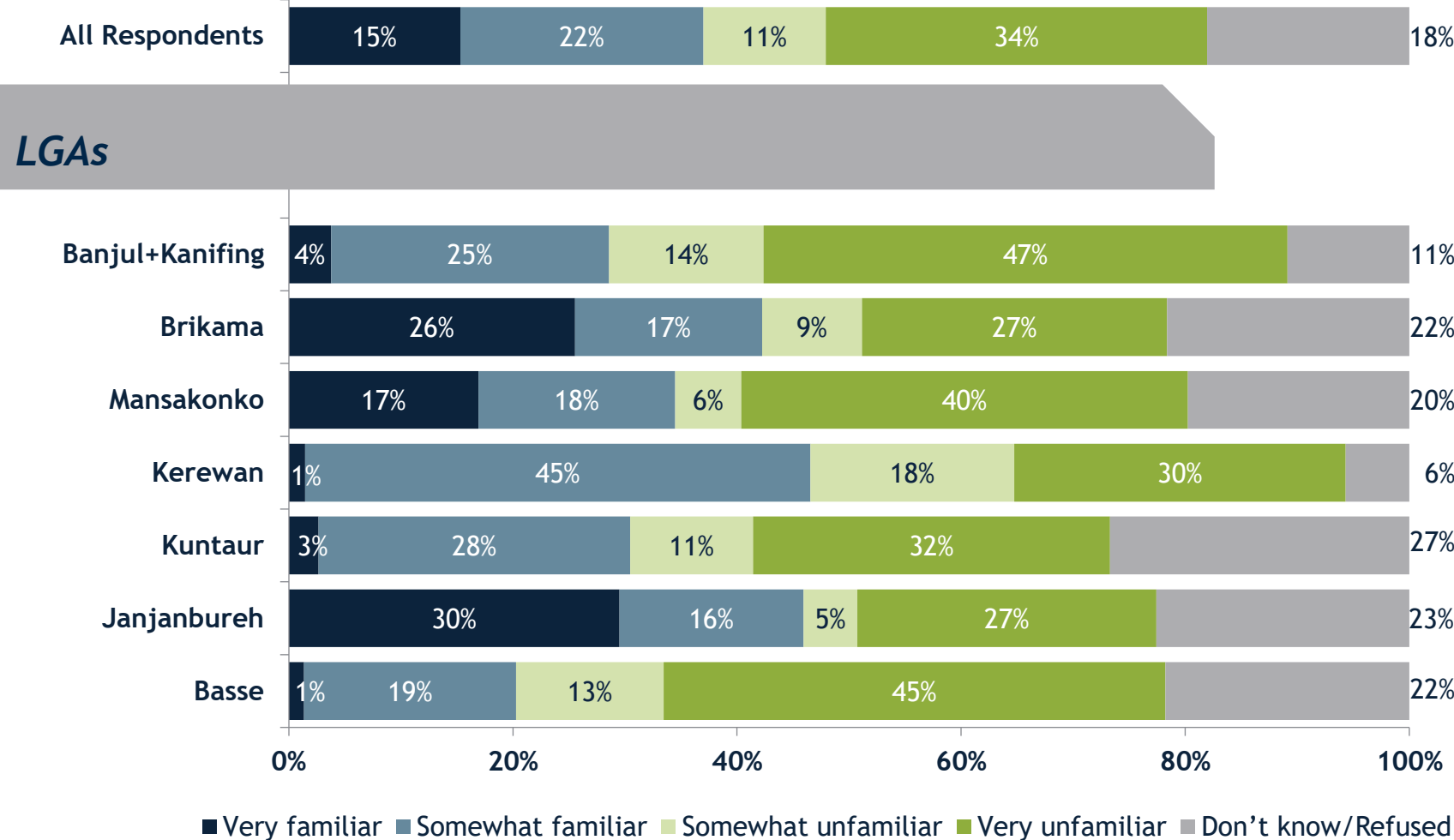
Citizen Views on the Constitution



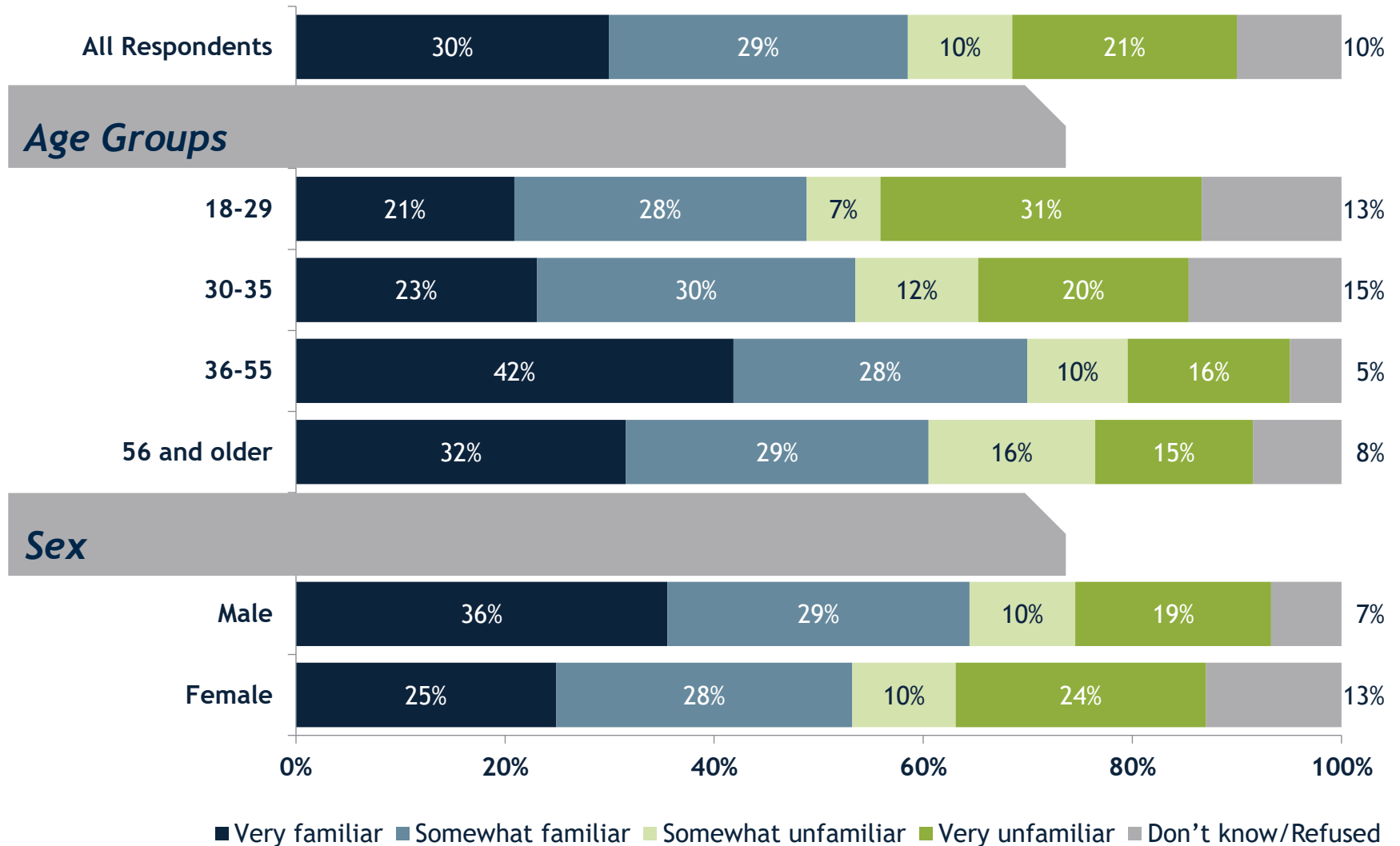
How familiar or unfamiliar are you with The Gambia's current constitution?



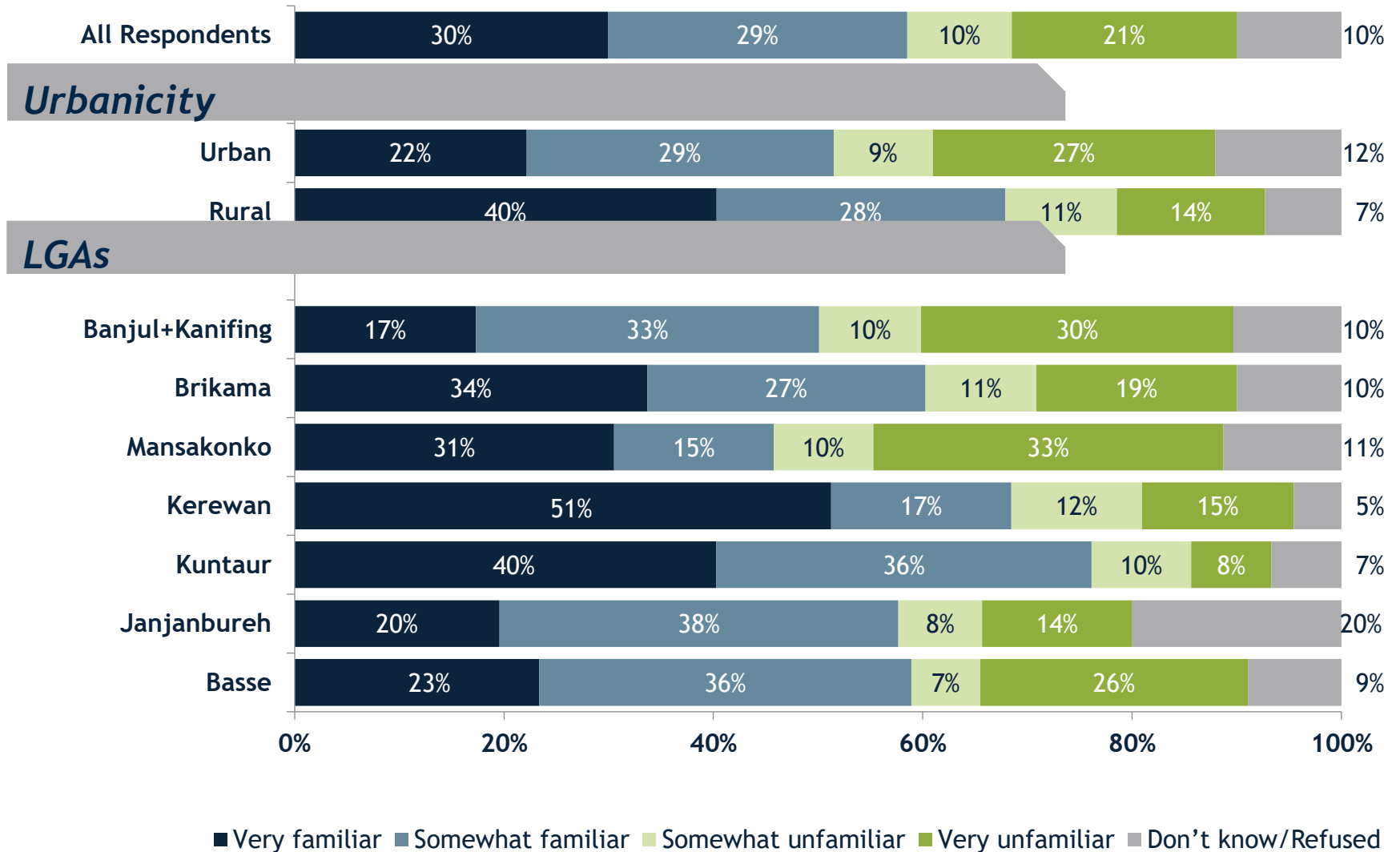
How familiar or unfamiliar are you with The Gambia's current constitution?



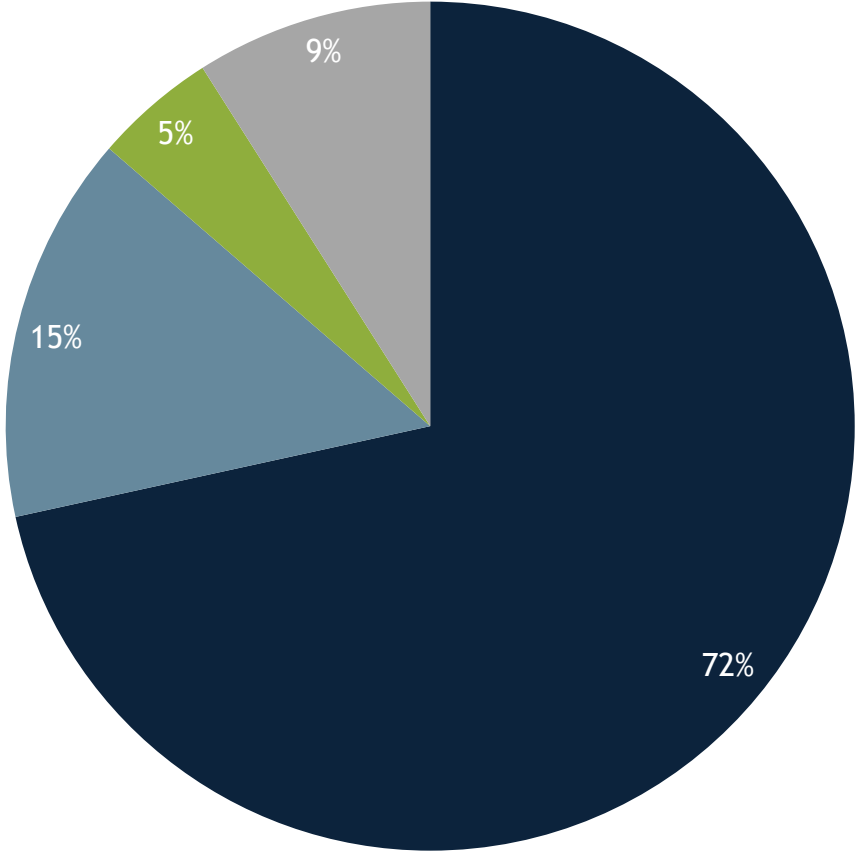
You may have heard about efforts underway to change the constitution. How familiar or unfamiliar are you with this issue?



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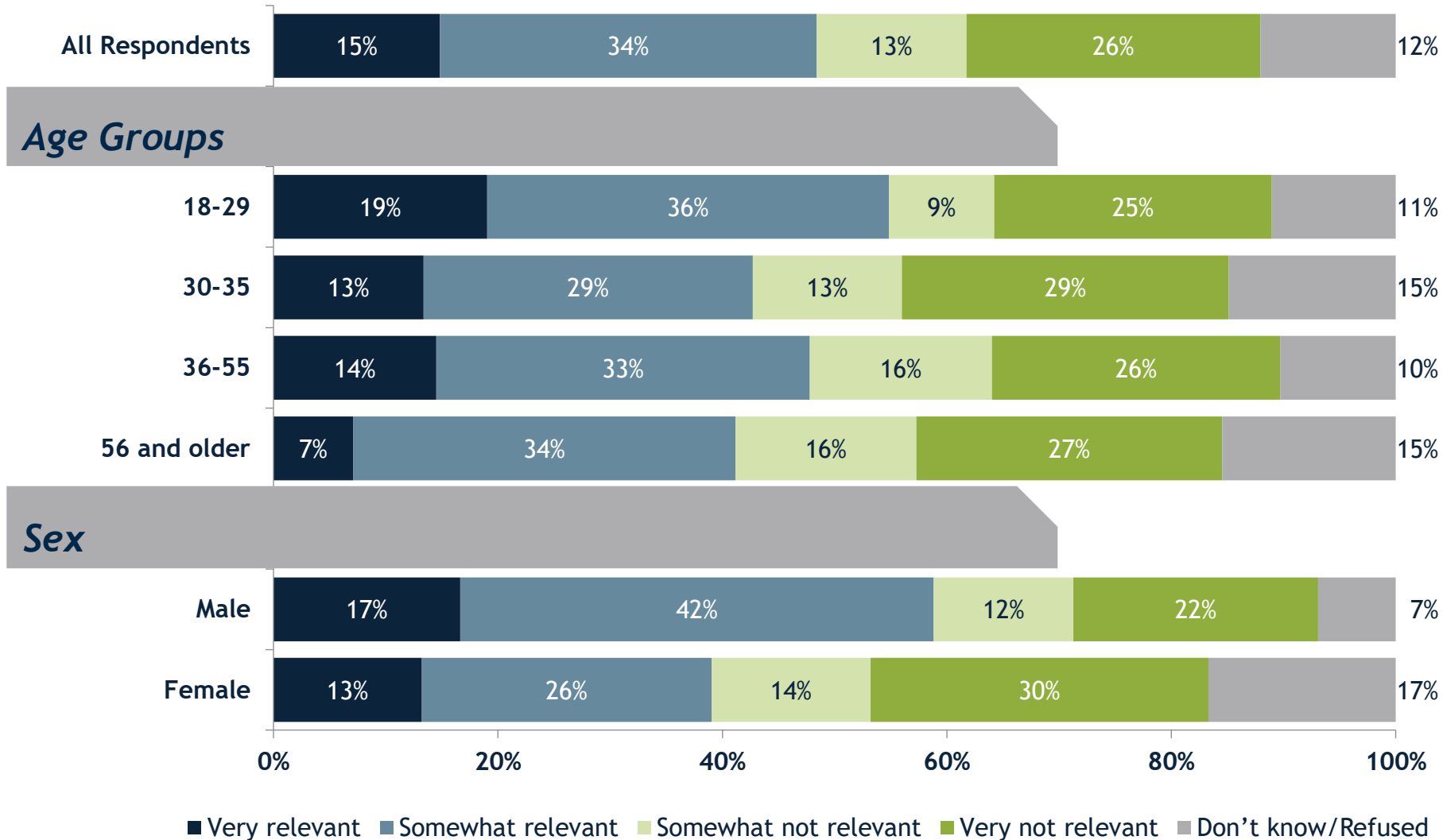


Do you think The Gambia needs a new constitution?

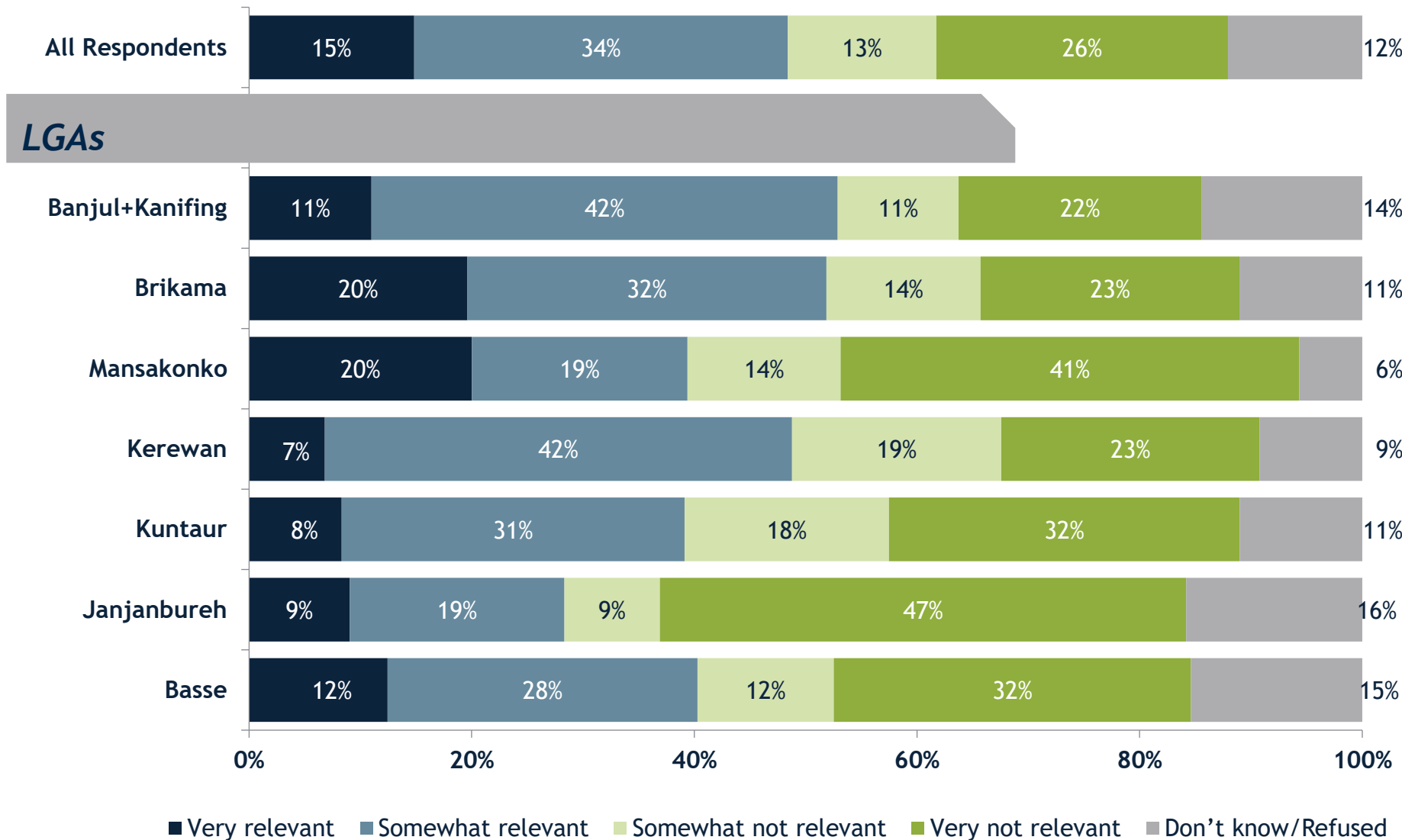


■ Yes, it is a priority ■ Yes, but it is not a priority ■ No ■ Don't know/Refused

Is the 1997 constitution still relevant or no longer relevant for The Gambia?

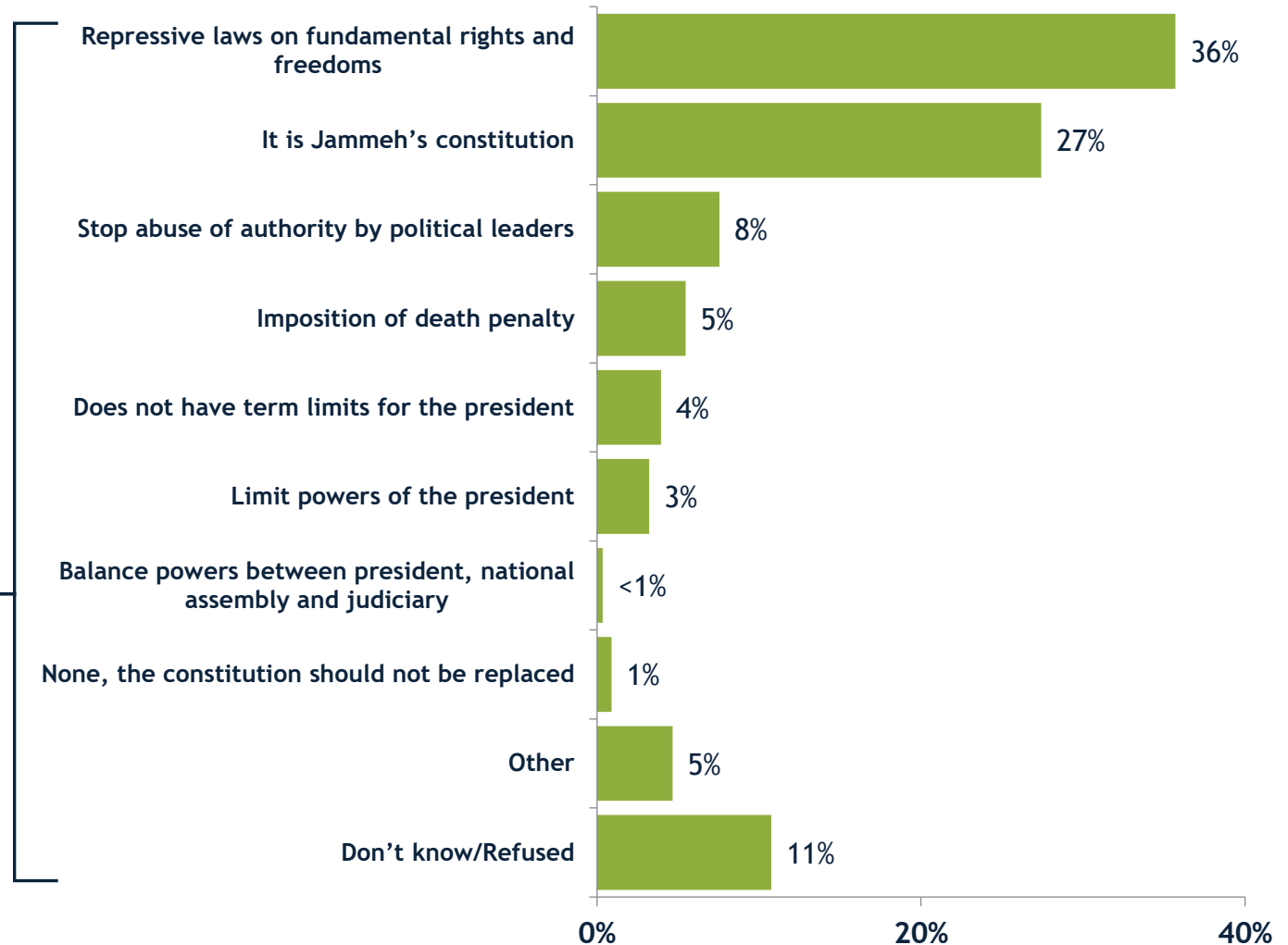
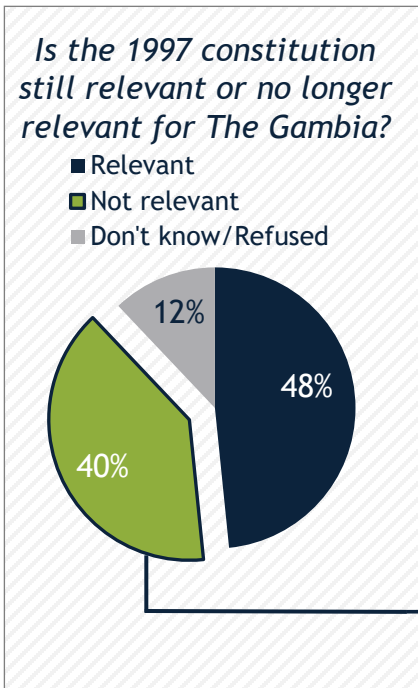


Is the 1997 constitution still relevant or no longer relevant for The Gambia?



What is the most important reason for replacing the 1997 constitution?

(Spontaneous response; among those who say that the 1997 constitution is *not relevant*; n = 466)

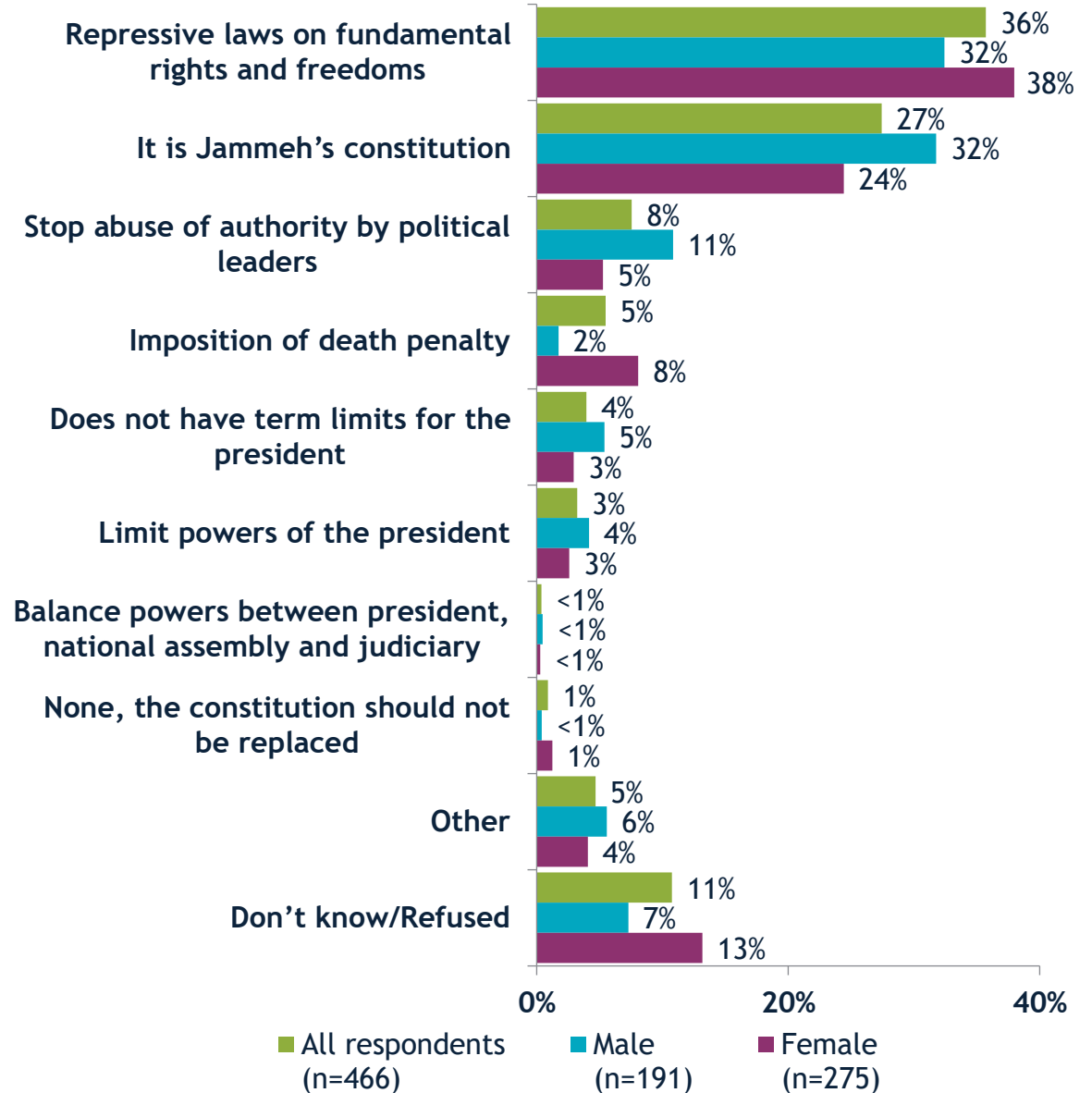
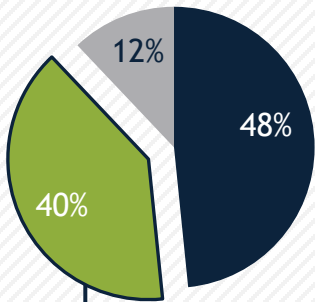


What is the most important reason for replacing the 1997 constitution?

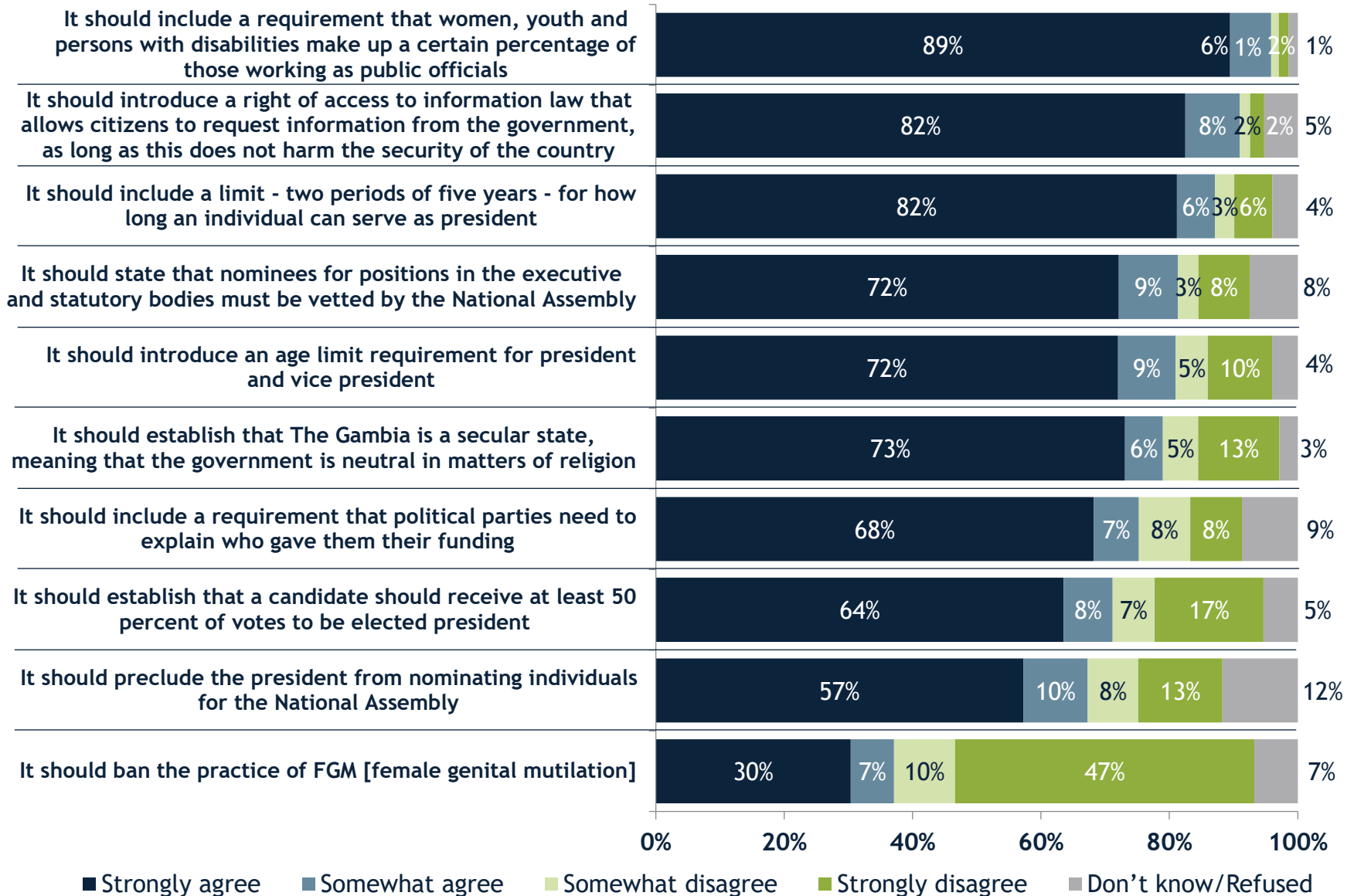
(Spontaneous responses from those say that the 1997 constitution is *not relevant*)

Is the 1997 constitution still relevant or no longer relevant for The Gambia?

■ Relevant
■ Not relevant
■ Don't know/Refused

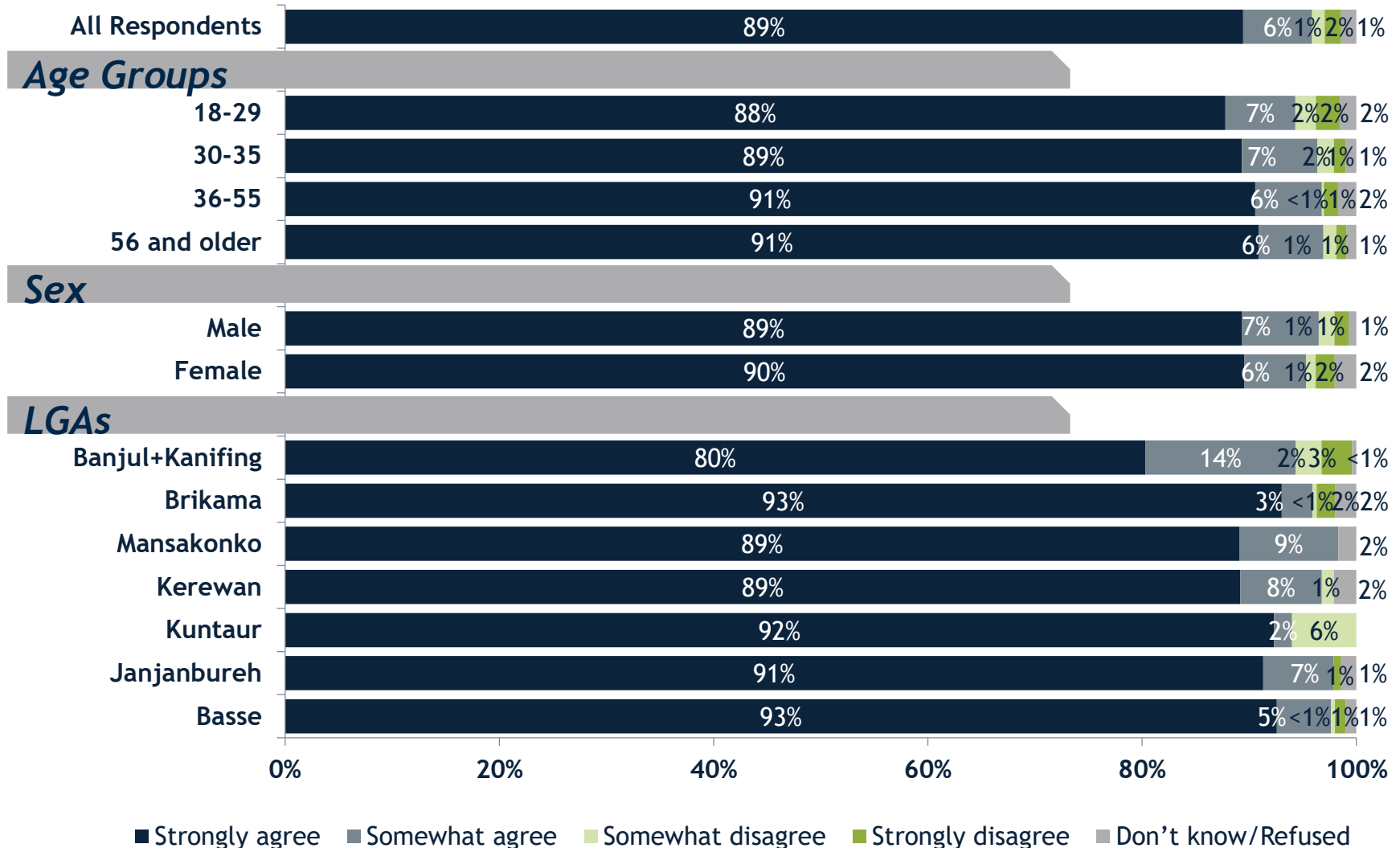


Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the draft constitution for The Gambia?



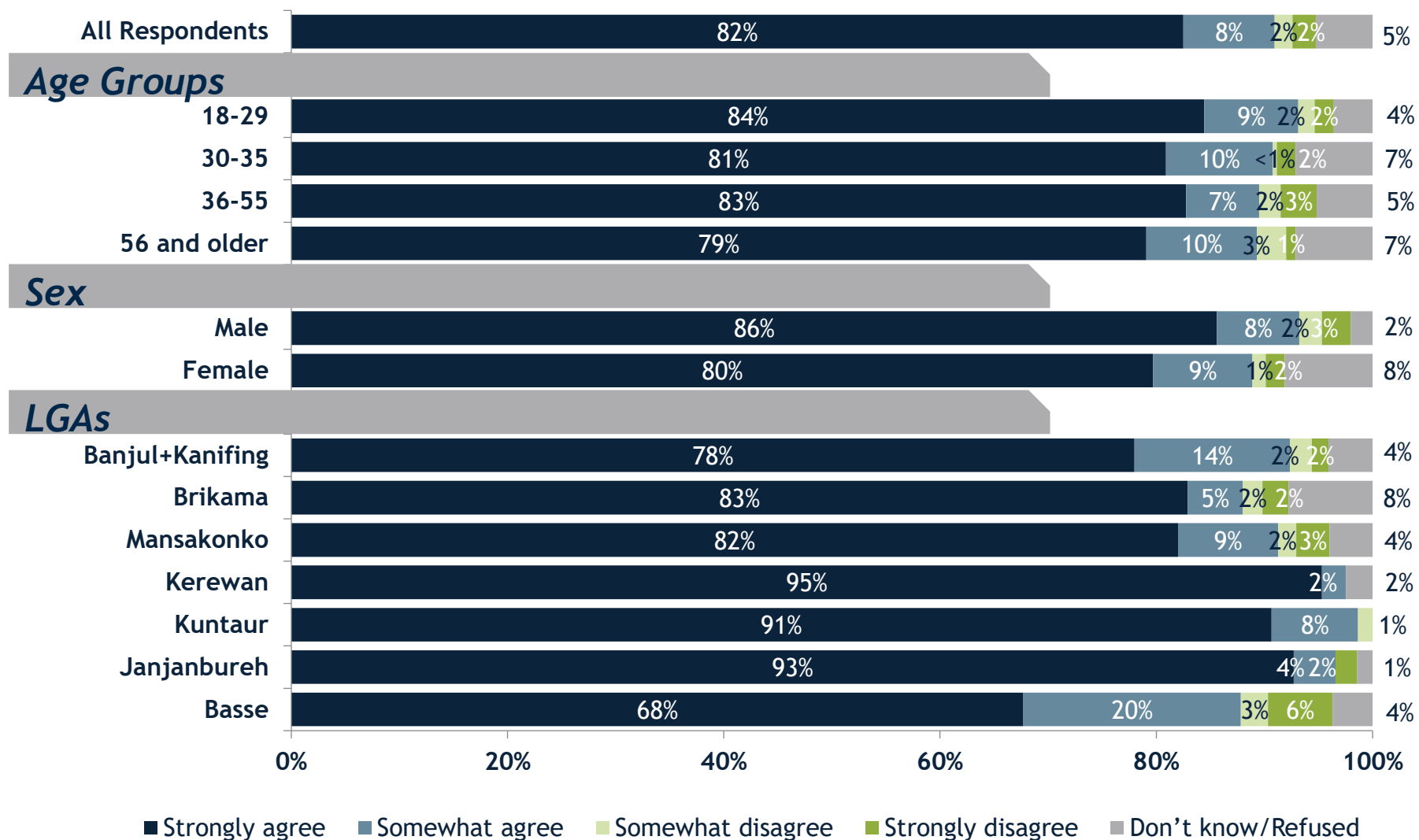
Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the draft constitution for The Gambia?

“It should include a requirement that women, youth and persons with disabilities make up a certain percentage of those working as public officials.”



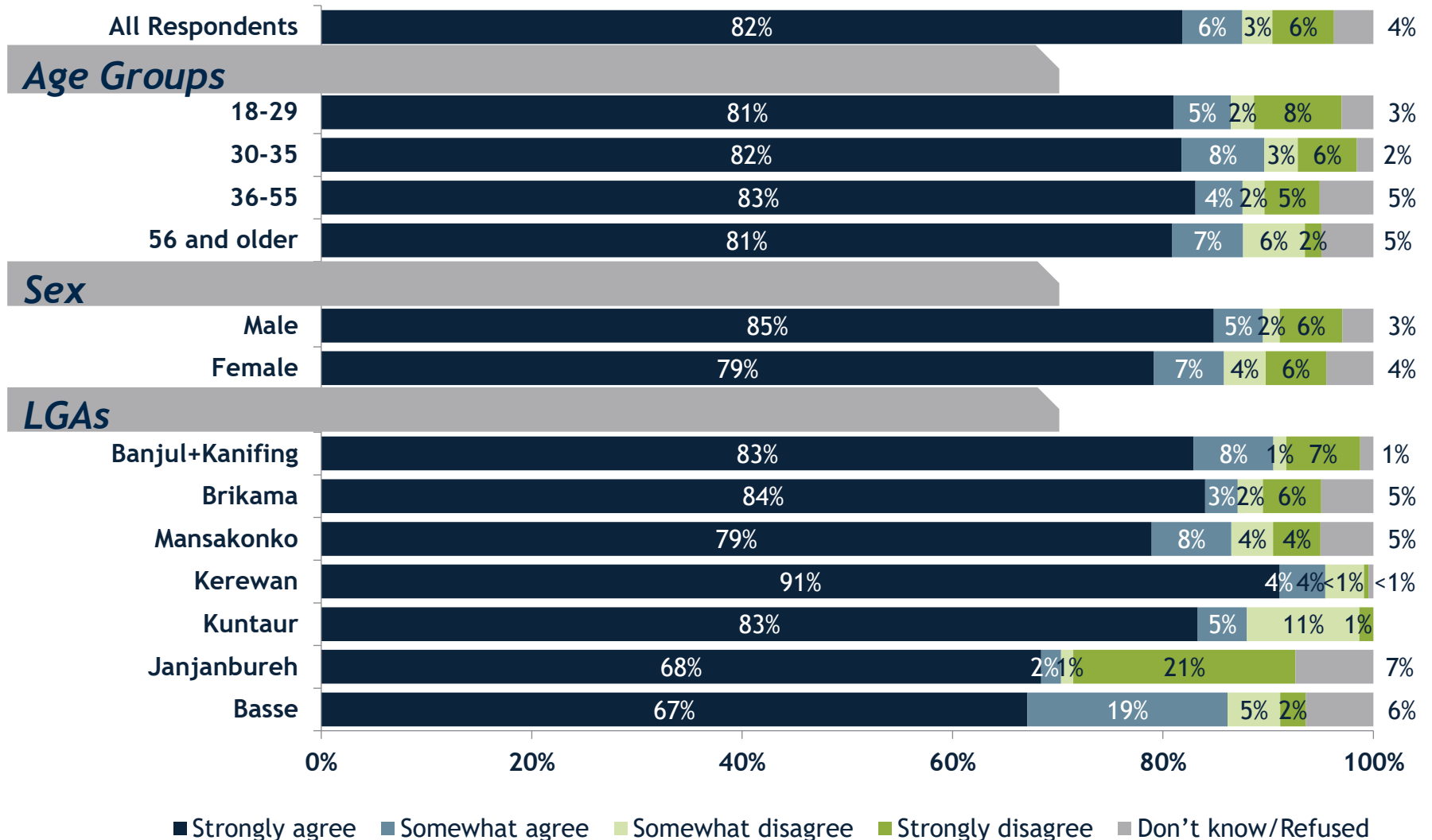
Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the draft constitution for The Gambia?

“It should introduce a right of access to information law that allows citizens to request information from the government, as long as this does not harm the security of the country.”



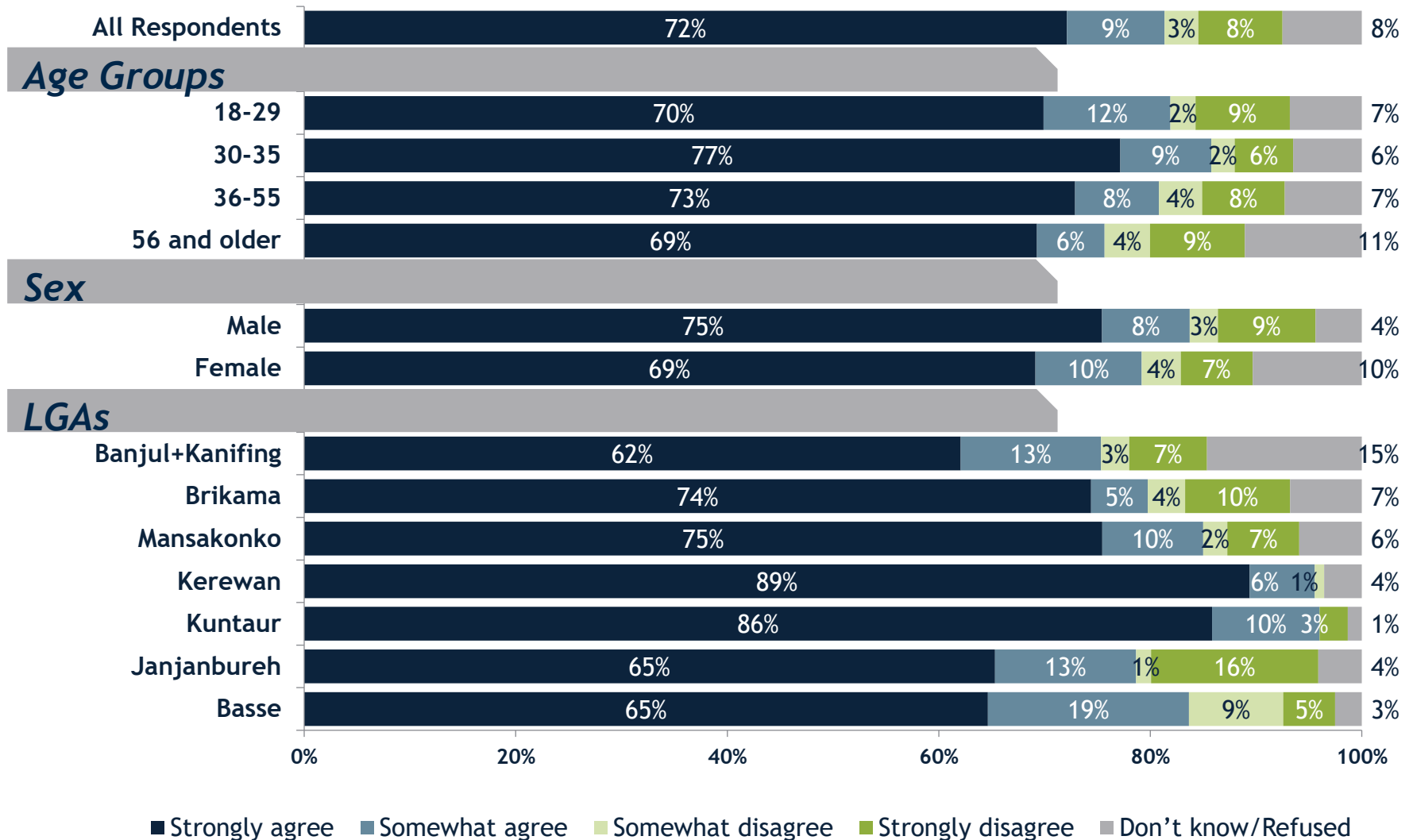
Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the draft constitution for The Gambia?

“It should include a limit - two periods of five years - for how long an individual can serve as president.”



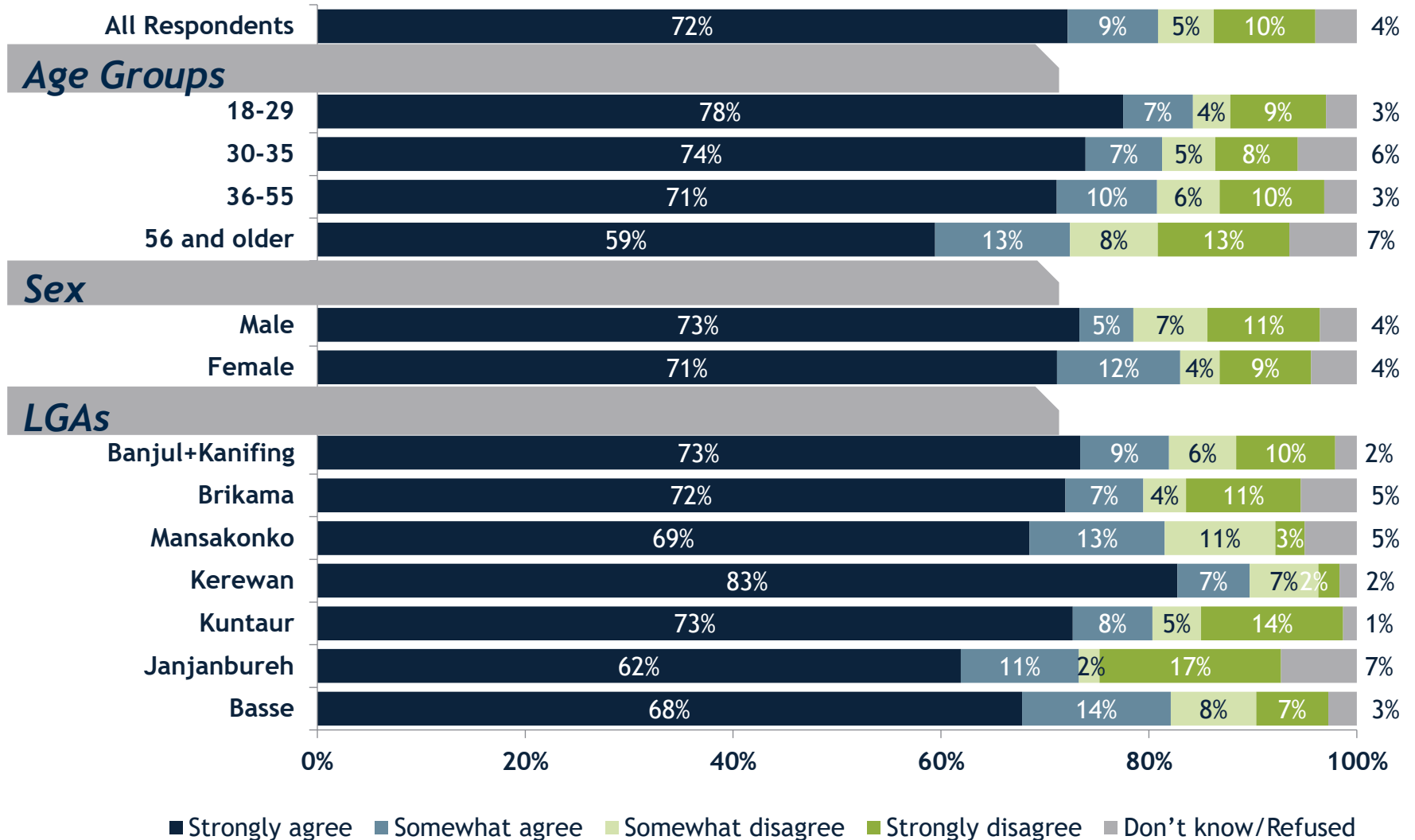
Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the draft constitution for The Gambia?

“It should state that nominees for positions in the executive and statutory bodies must be vetted by the National Assembly.”



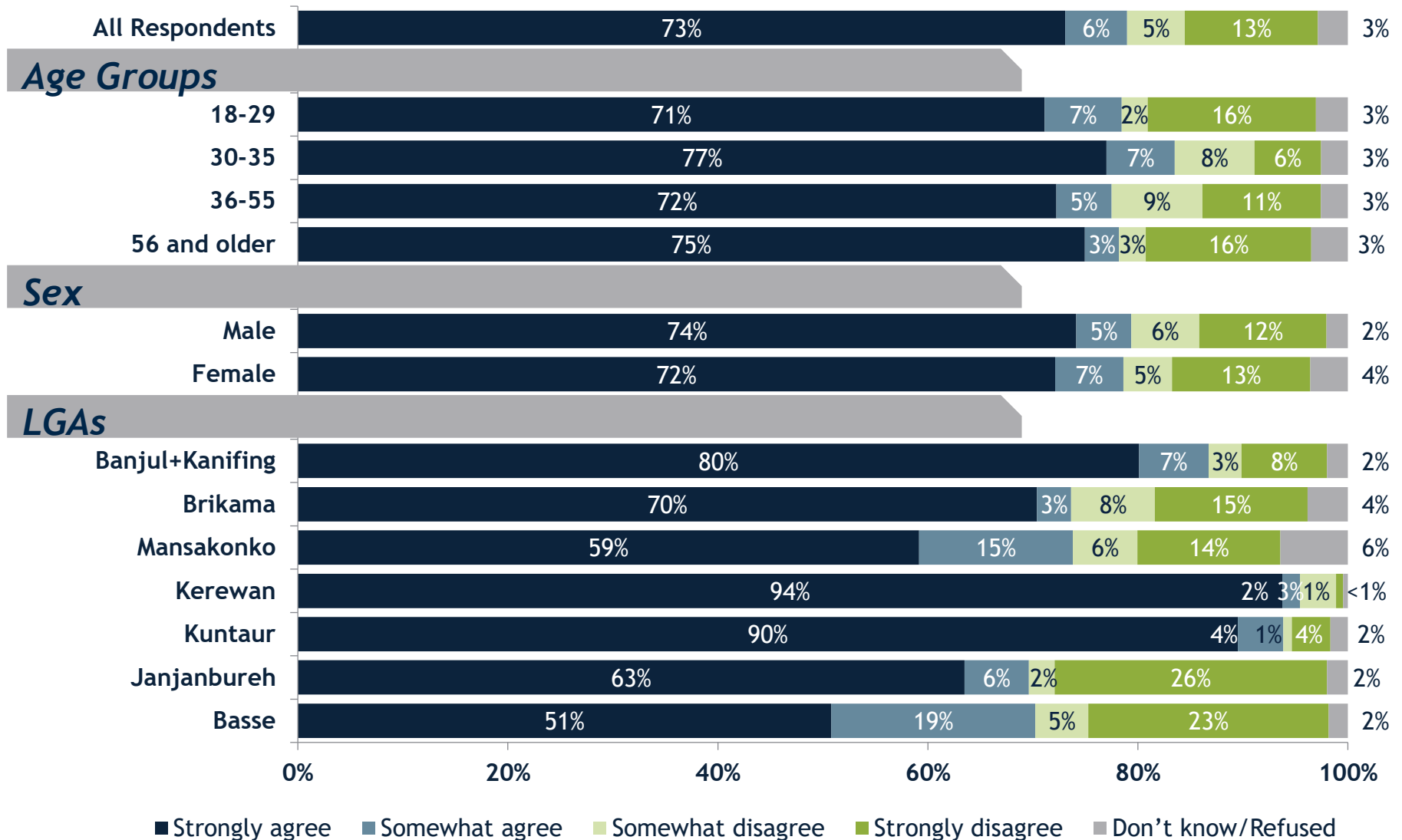
Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the draft constitution for The Gambia?

“It should introduce an age limit requirement for president and vice president.”



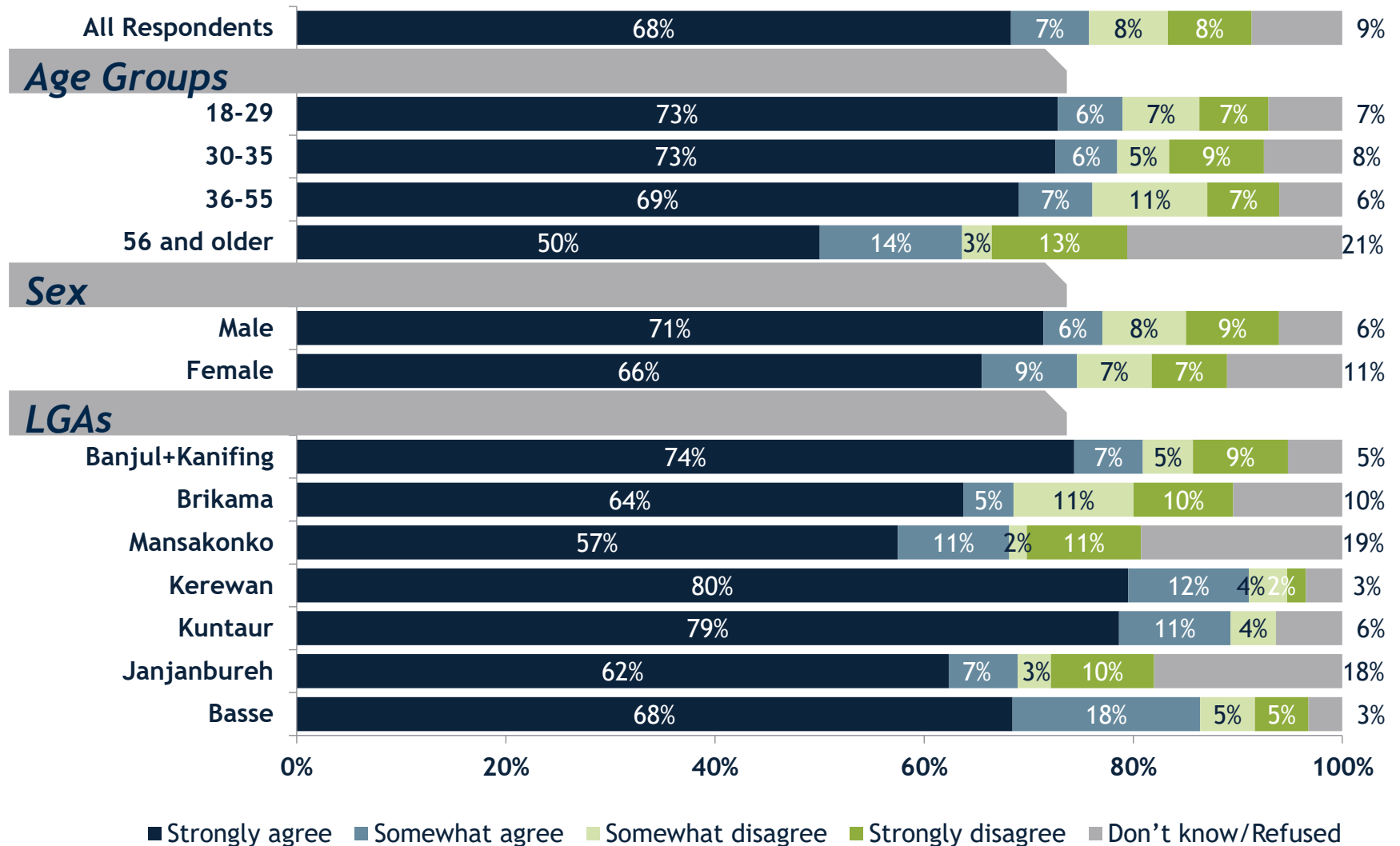
Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the draft constitution for The Gambia?

“It should establish that The Gambia is a secular state, meaning that the government is neutral in matters of religion.”



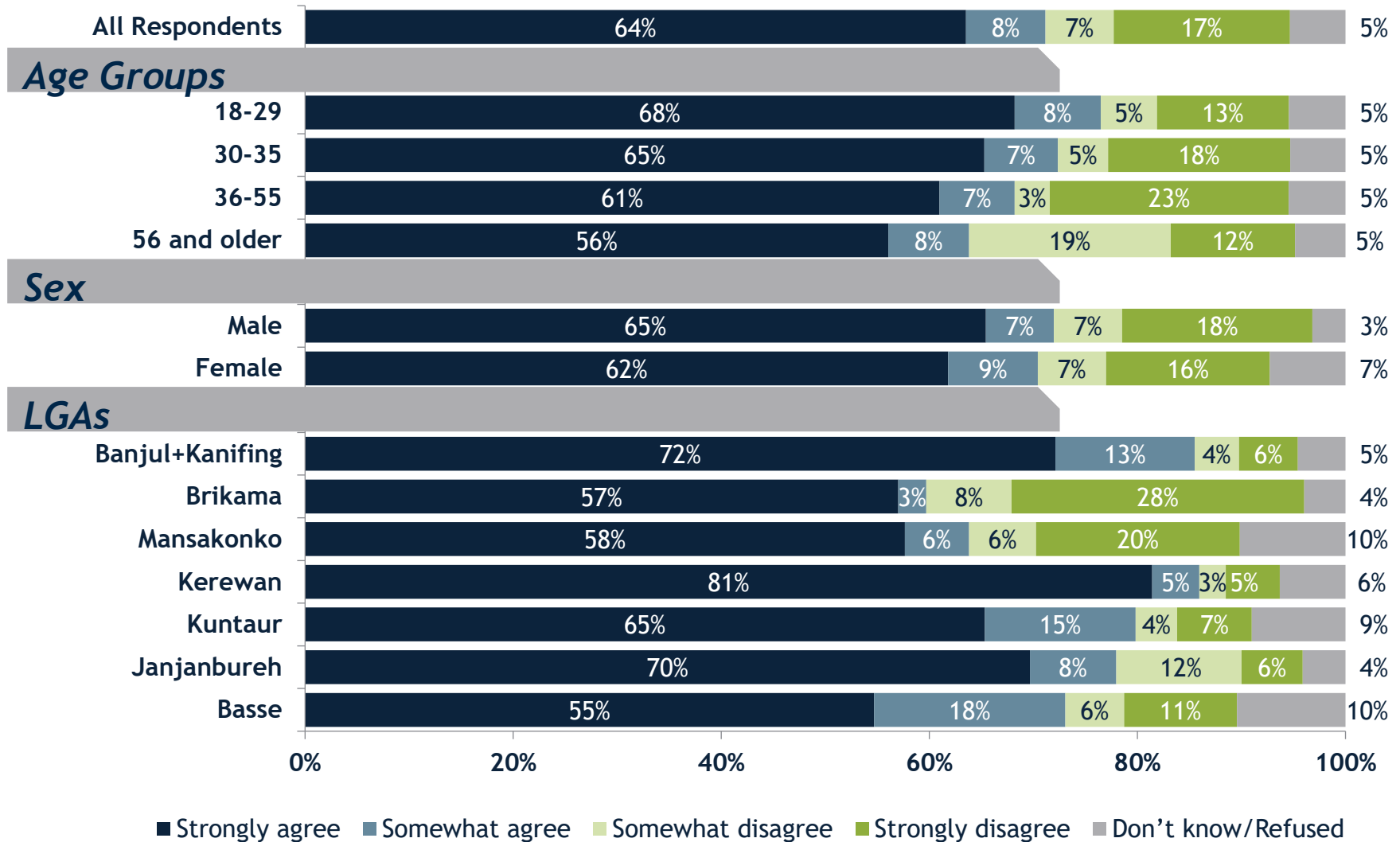
Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the draft constitution for The Gambia?

“It should include a requirement that political parties need to explain who gave them their funding.”



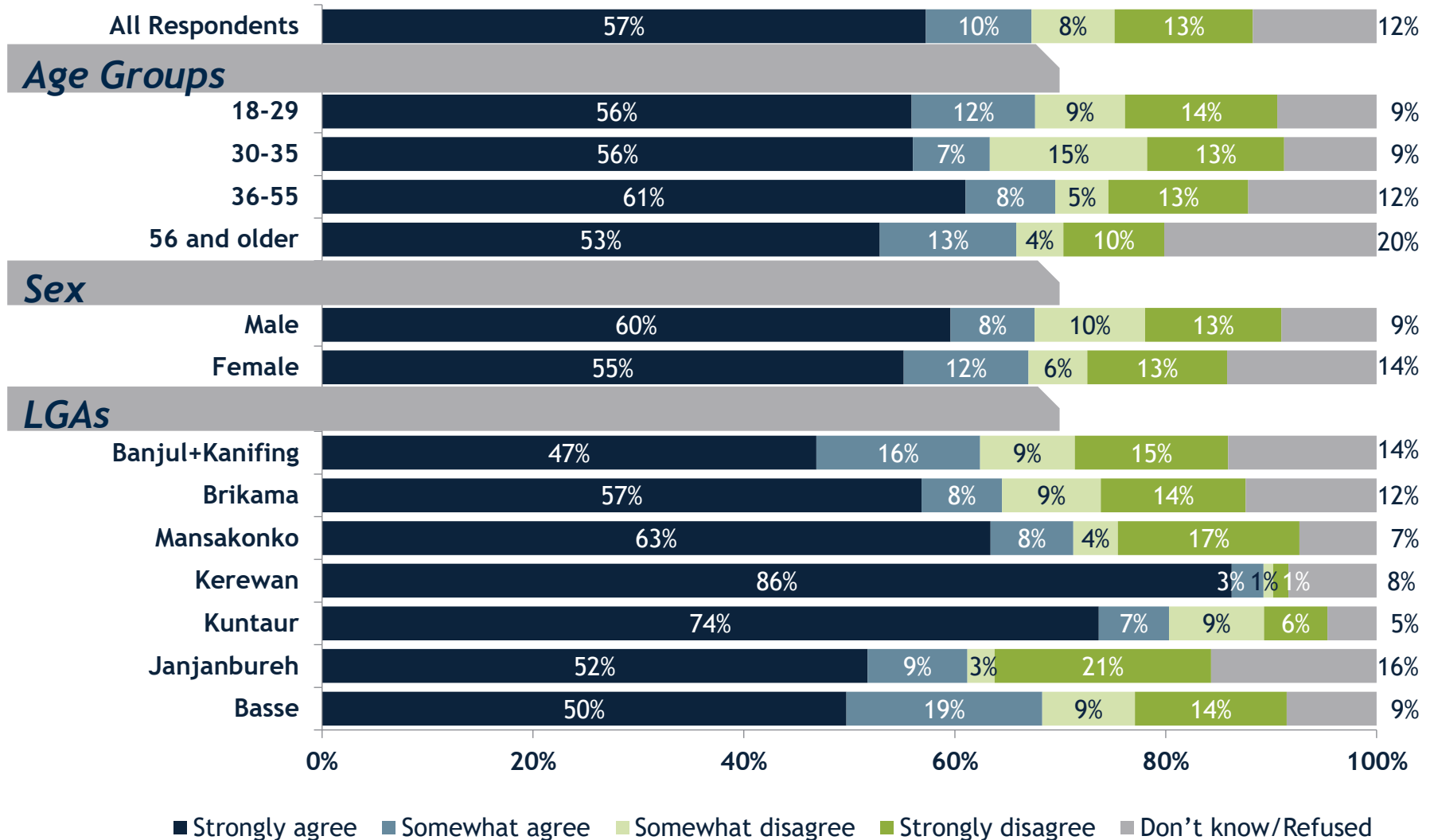
Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the draft constitution for The Gambia?

“It should establish that a candidate should receive at least 50 percent of votes to be elected president.”



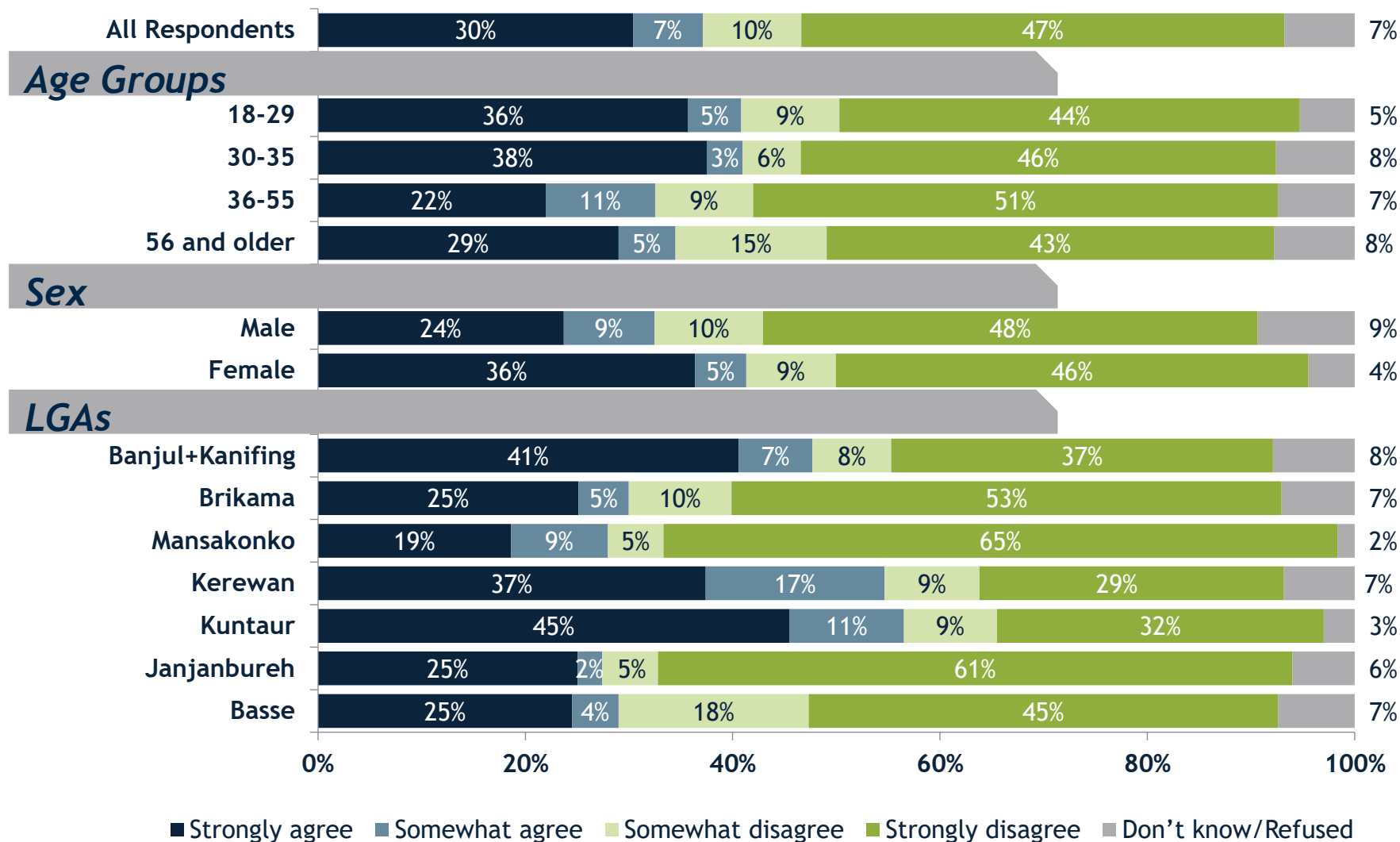
Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the draft constitution for The Gambia?

“It should preclude the president from nominating individuals for the National Assembly.”

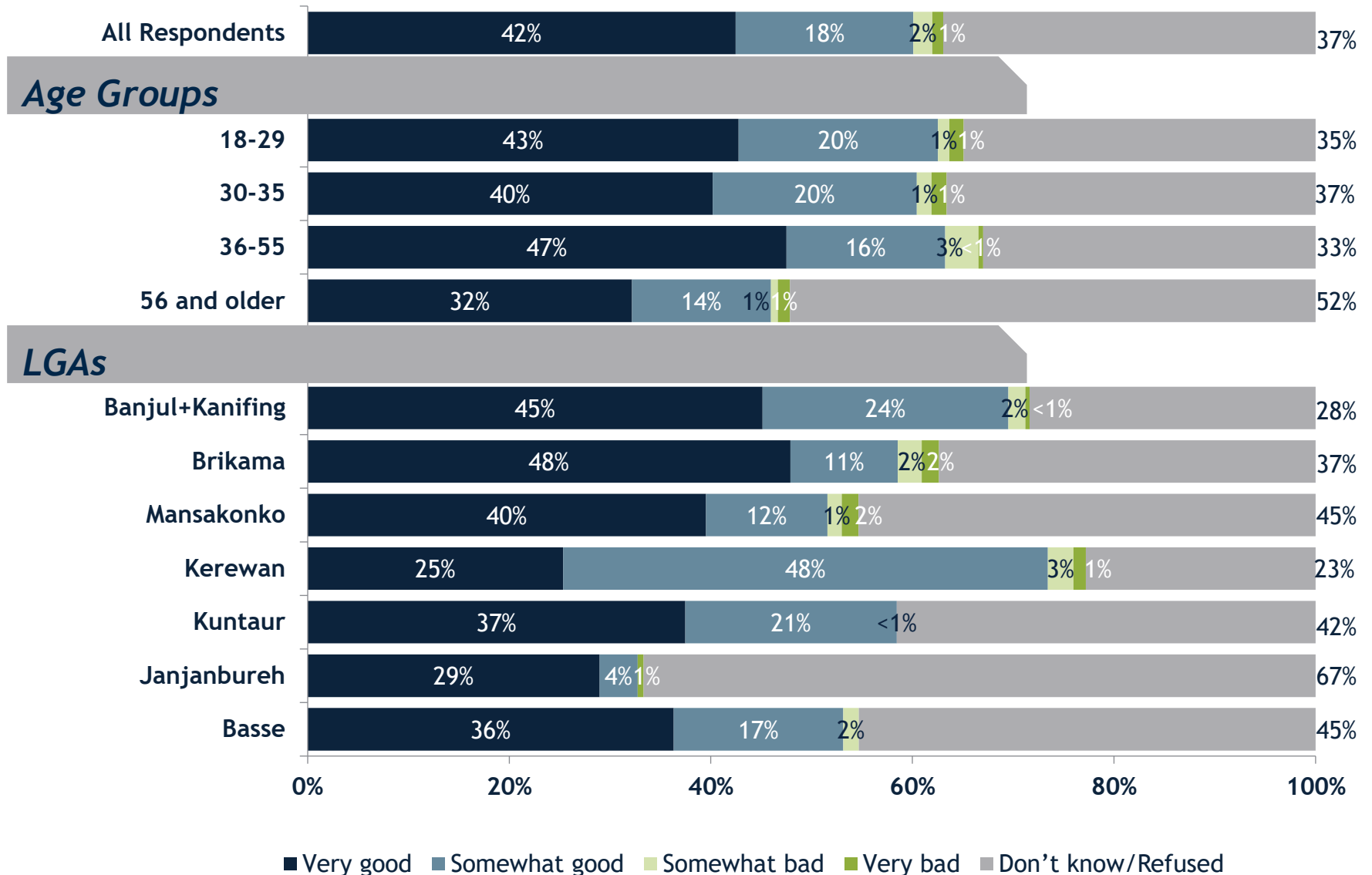


Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the draft constitution for The Gambia?

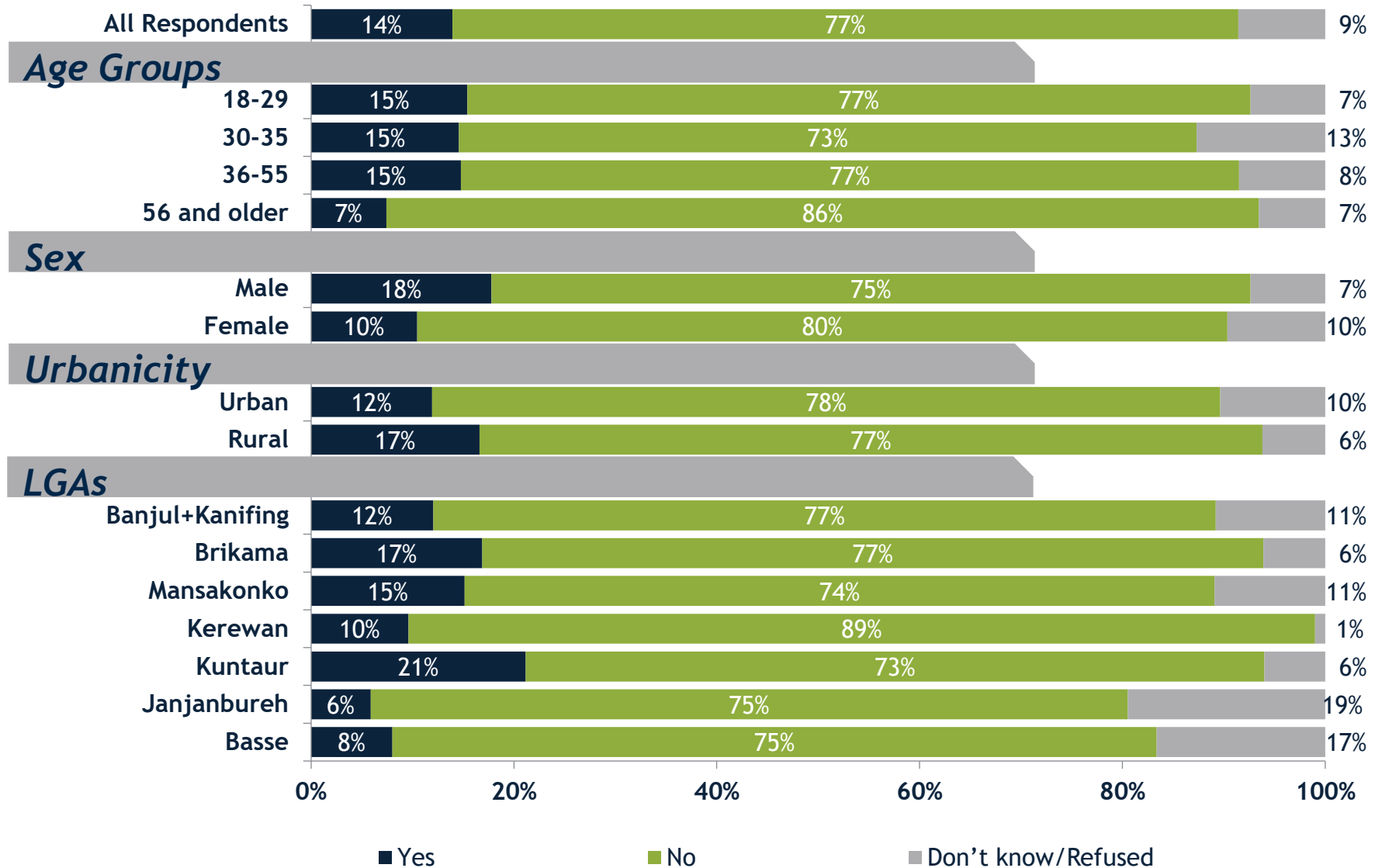
“It should ban the practice of FGM [female genital mutilation].”



How would you rate the performance of the Constitutional Review Commission in the developing of the draft constitution for The Gambia?



Did you participate in the Constitutional Review Commission consultations?

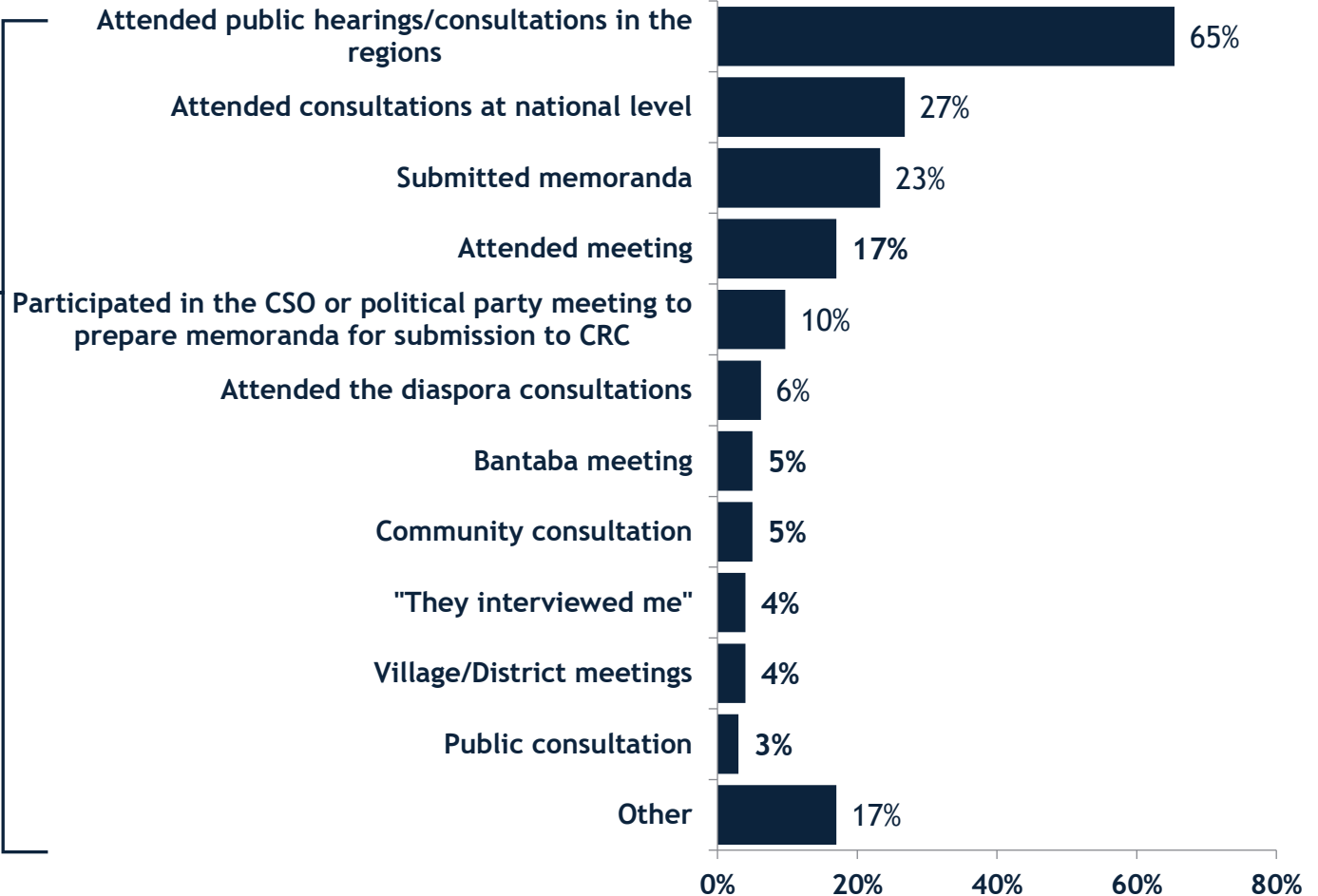
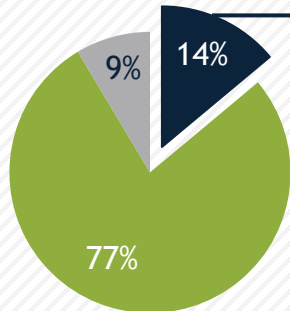


How did you participate in the Constitutional Review Commission (CRC) consultations?

(Spontaneous response; among those who participated in the CRC consultations, n=164; multiple responses permitted, figure displays *Named* responses only)

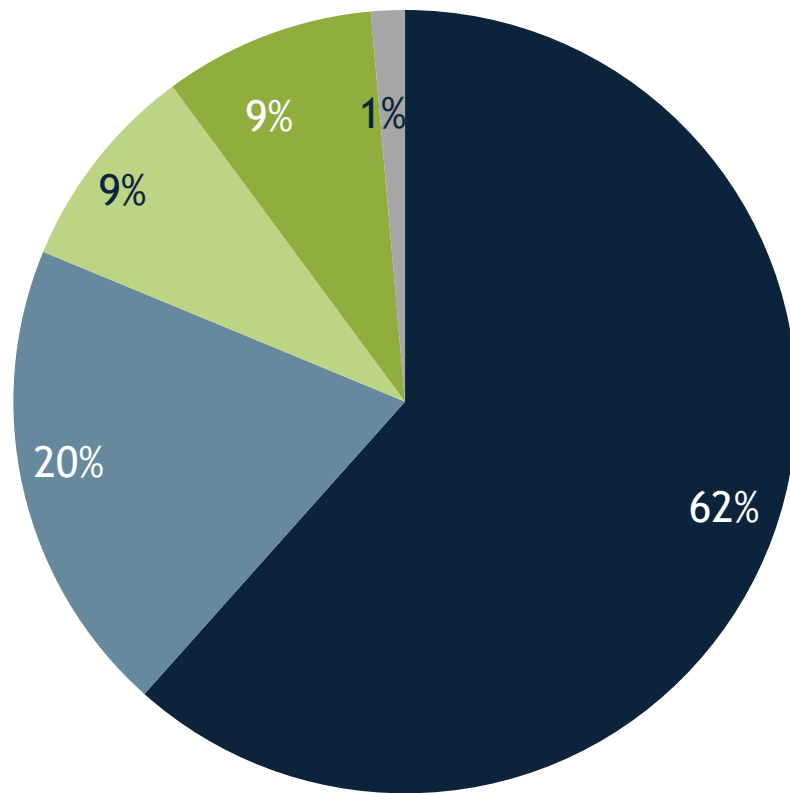
Did you participate in the Constitutional Review Commission (CRC) consultations?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know/Refused



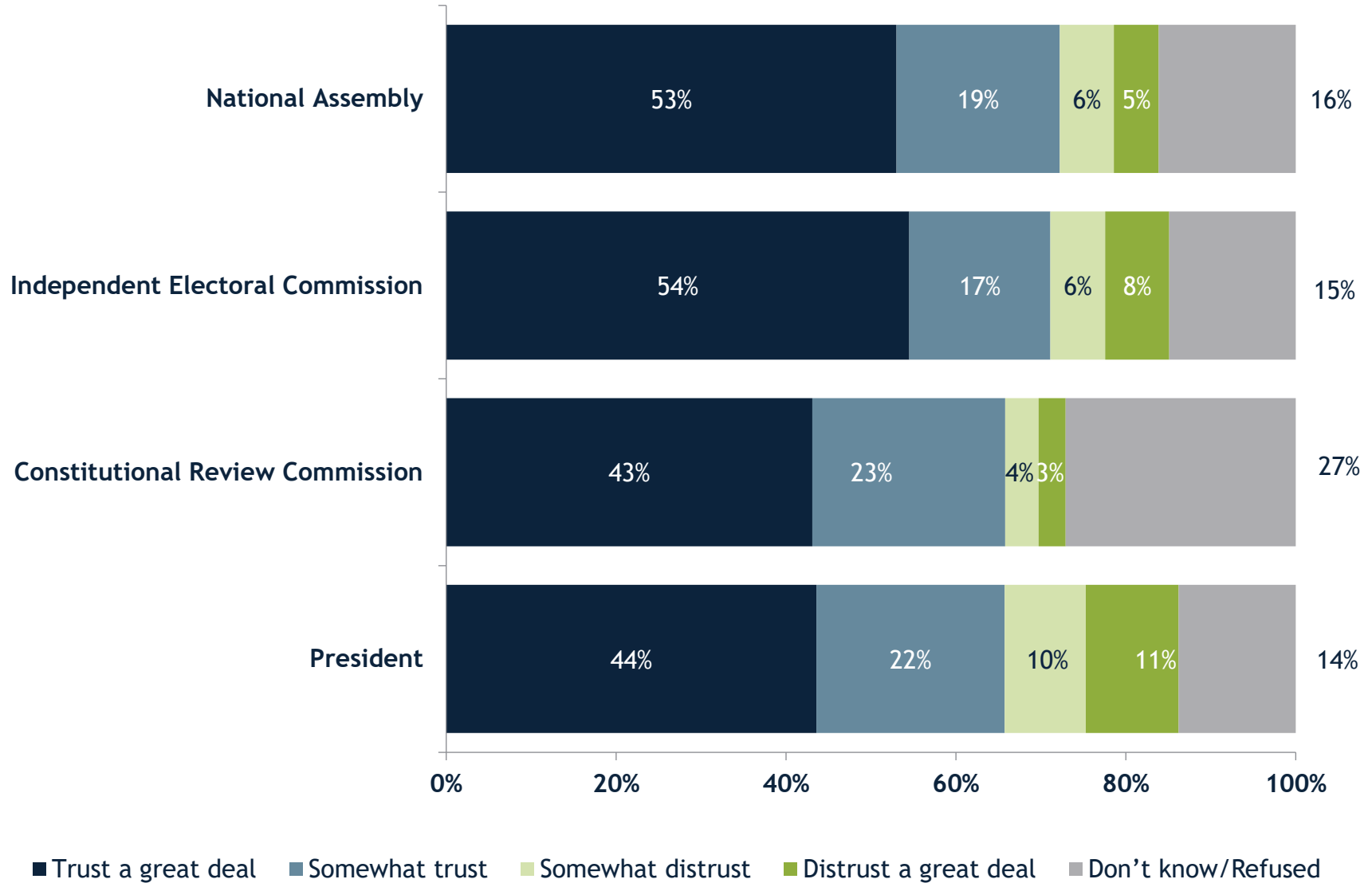
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the Constitutional Review Commission's consultations and engagement of citizens for the draft constitution of The Gambia?

(Among those who participated, n=164)



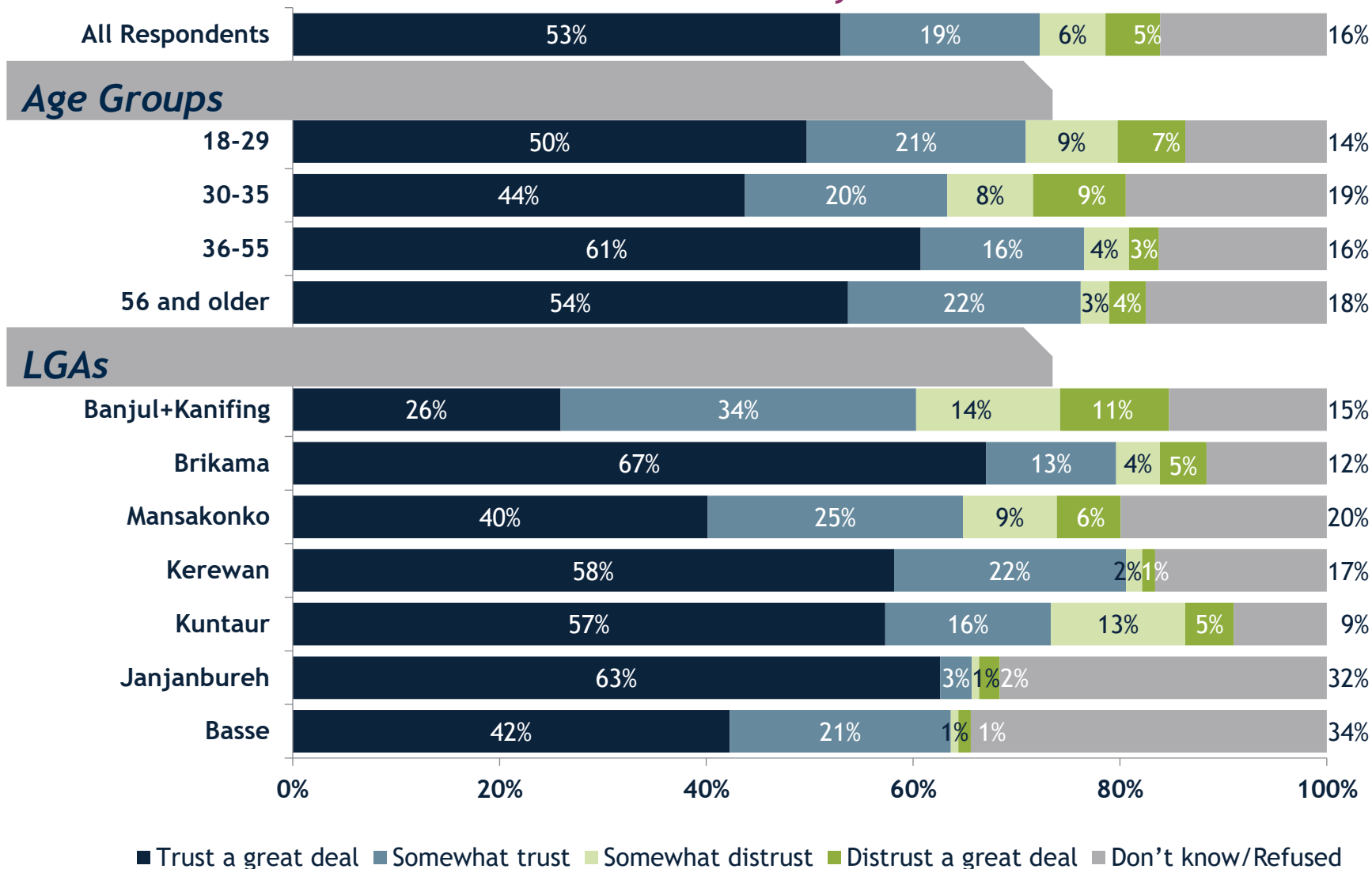
■ Very satisfied ■ Somewhat satisfied ■ Somewhat dissatisfied ■ Don't know ■ Refused

To what extent do you trust or distrust each of the following institutions and commissions that will handle the draft constitution?



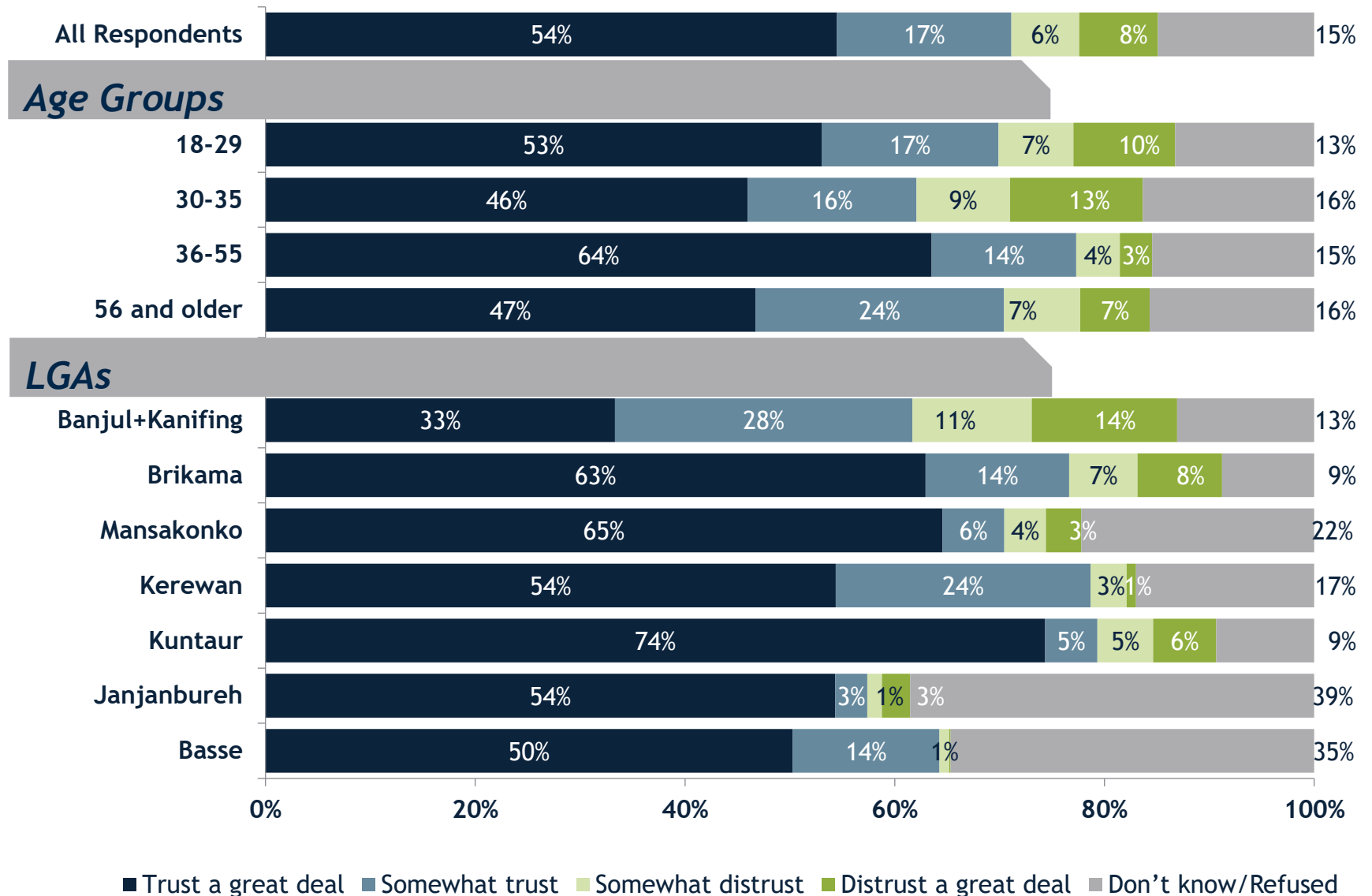
To what extent do you trust or distrust each of the following institutions and commissions that will handle the draft constitution?

National Assembly



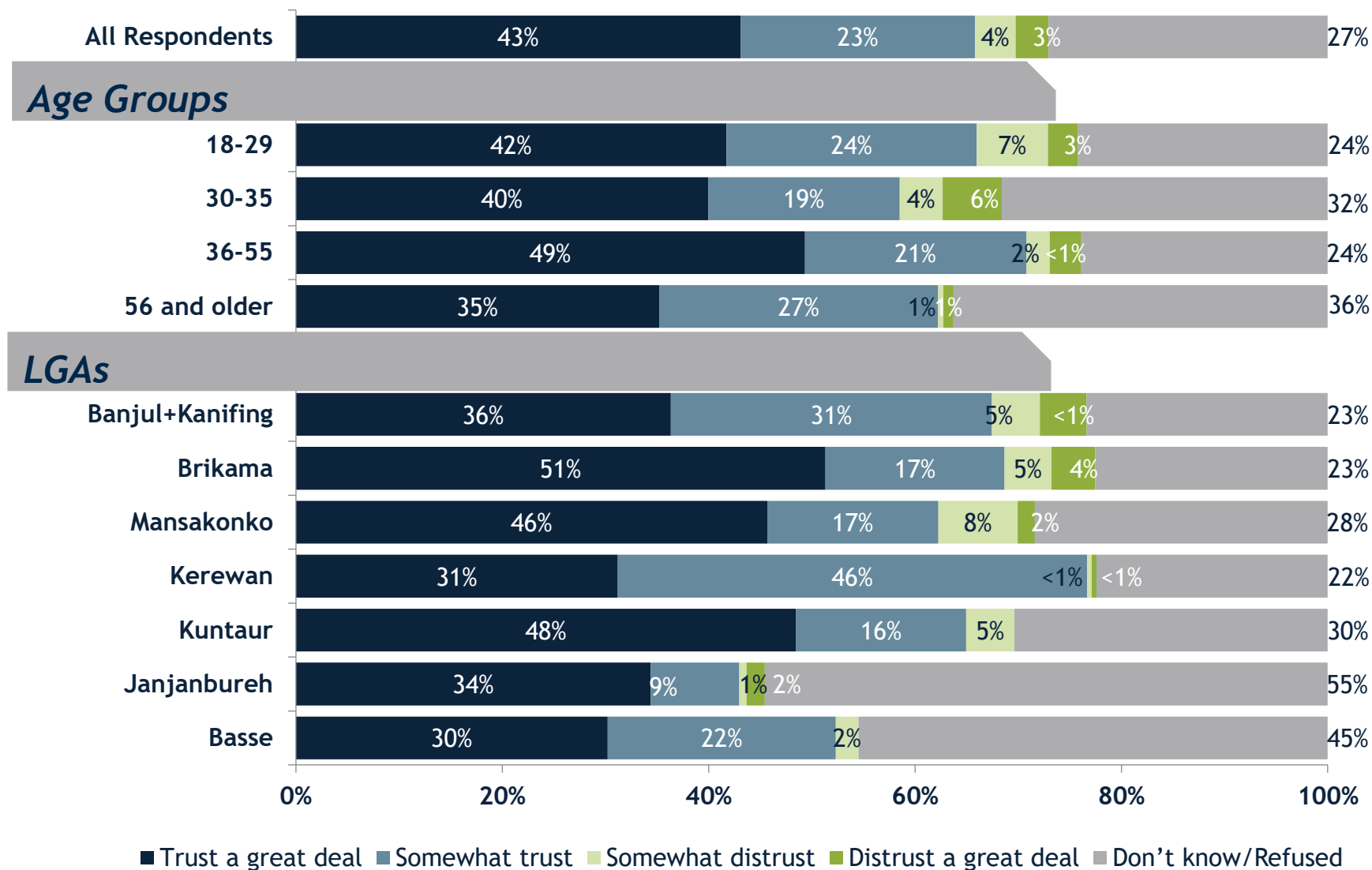
To what extent do you trust or distrust each of the following institutions and commissions that will handle the draft constitution?

Independent Electoral Commission



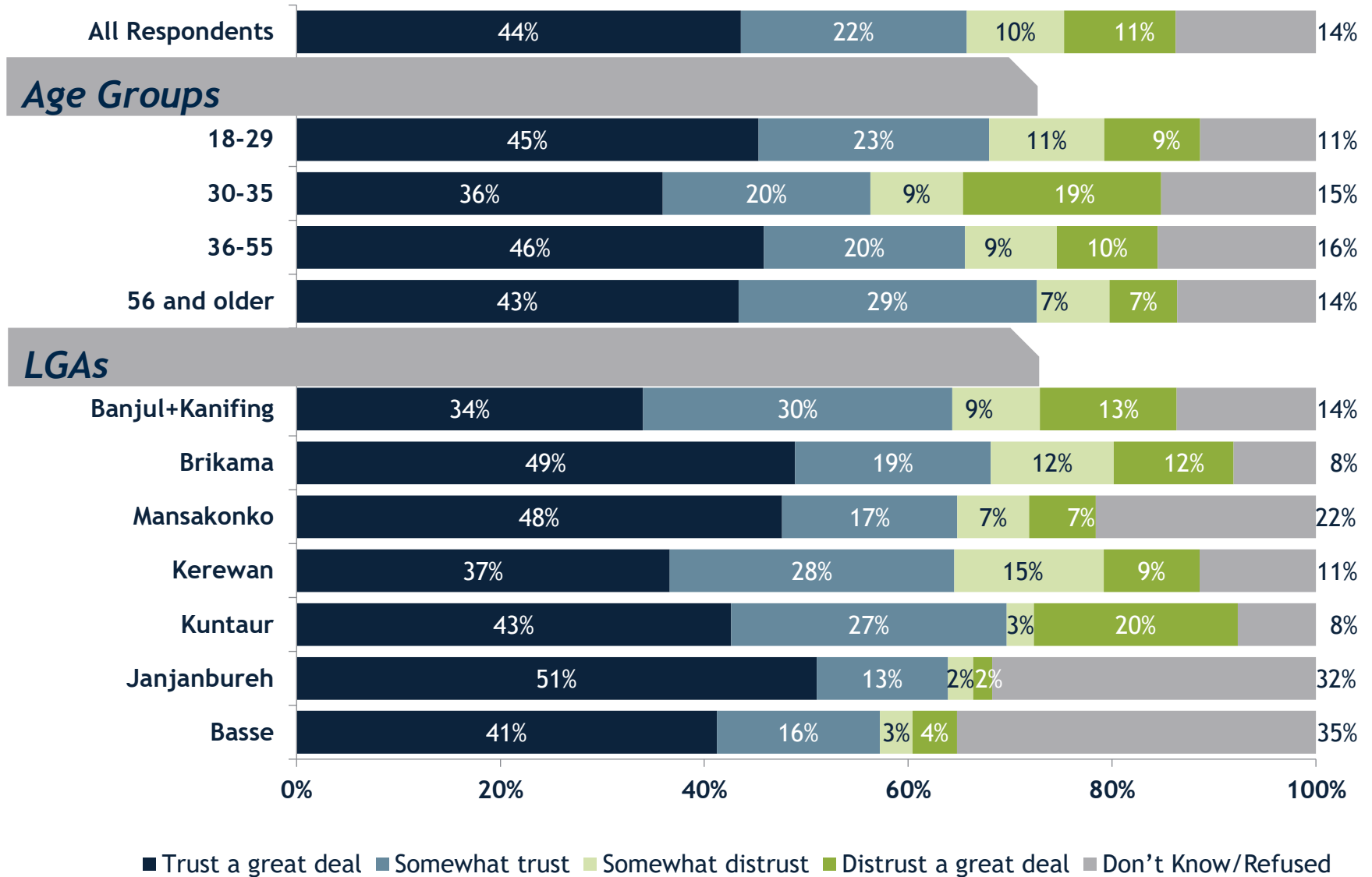
To what extent do you trust or distrust each of the following institutions and commissions that will handle the draft constitution?

Constitutional Review Commission

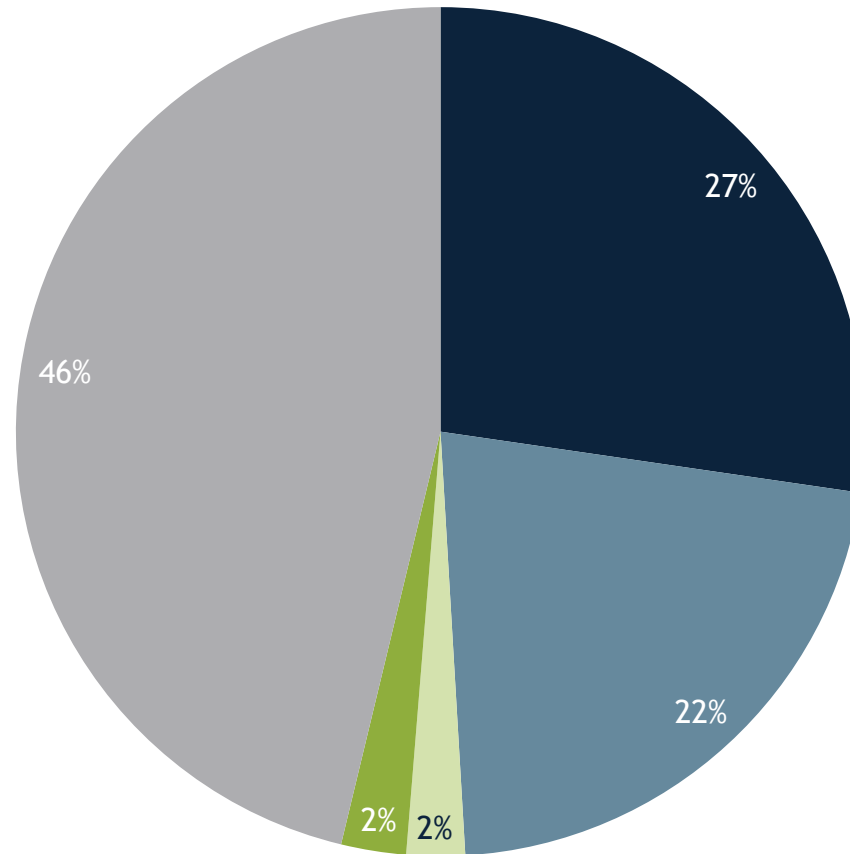


To what extent do you trust or distrust each of the following institutions and commissions that will handle the draft constitution?

President



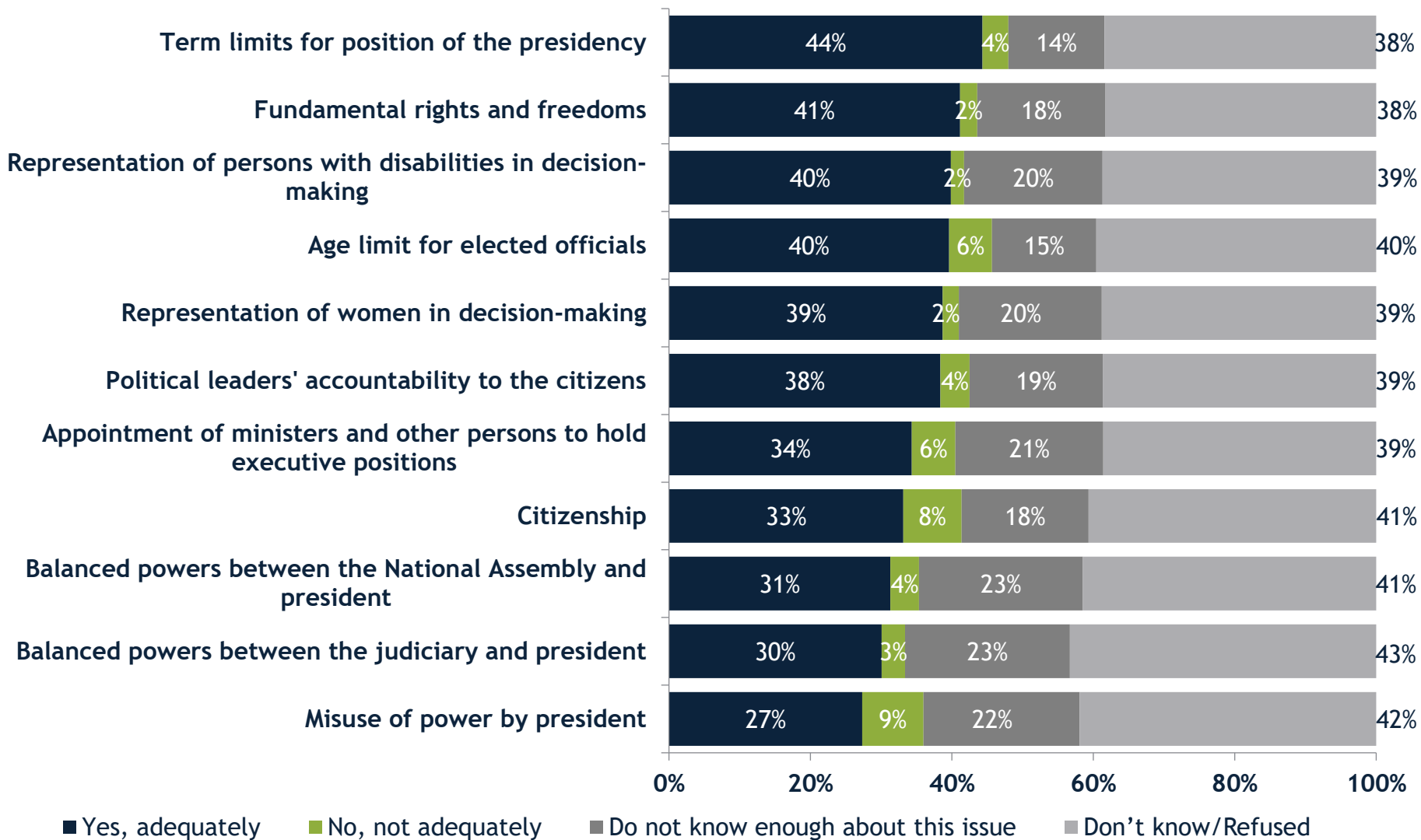
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the draft constitution†?



■ Very satisfied ■ Somewhat satisfied ■ Somewhat dissatisfied ■ Very dissatisfied ■ Don't know/Refused

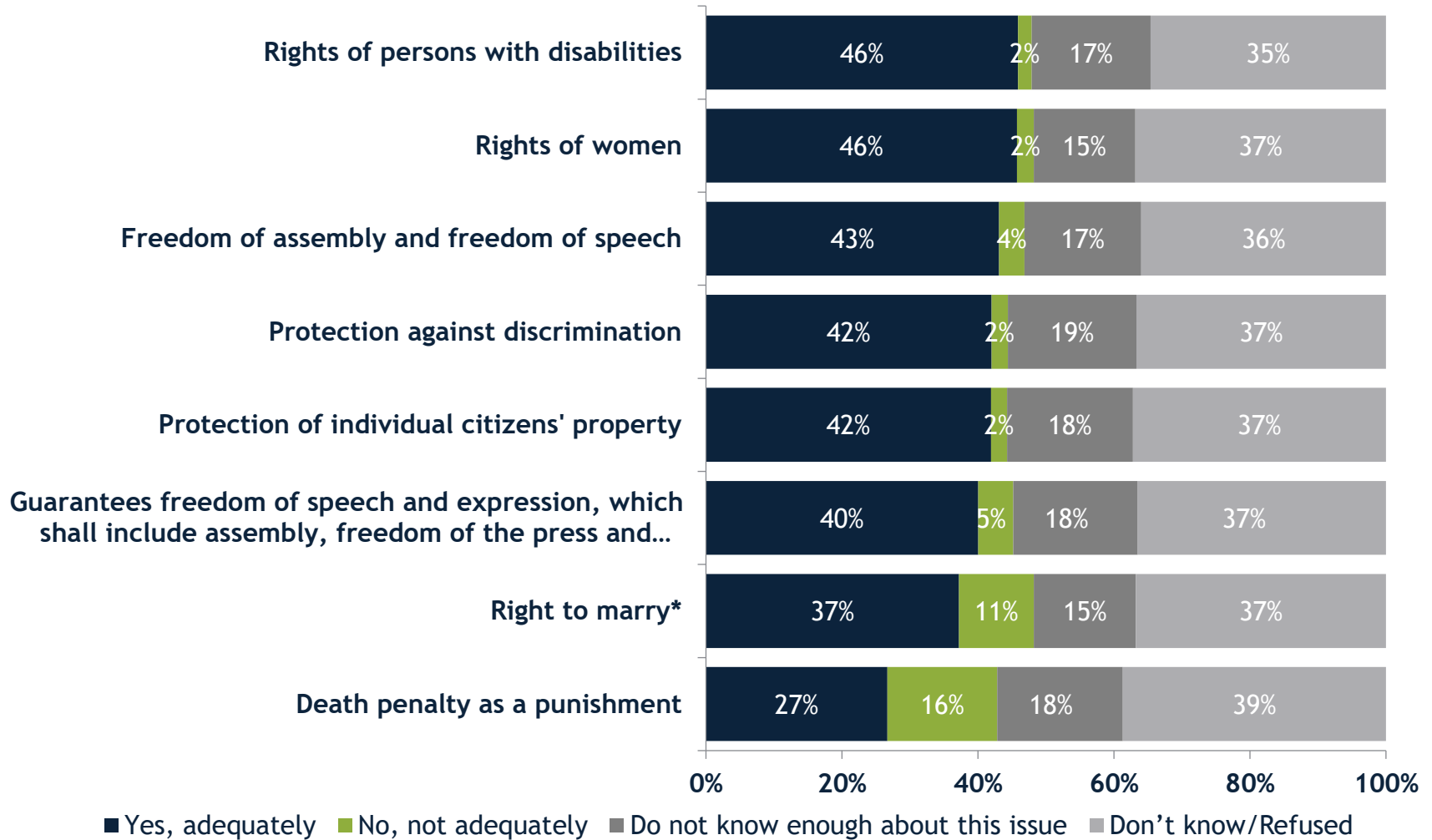
†The initial draft constitution released by the CRC on November 15, 2019.

Do you think that the draft constitution† has addressed the following issues adequately or not, or do you not know enough about this issue in the draft constitution†?



†The initial draft constitution released by the CRC on November 15, 2019.

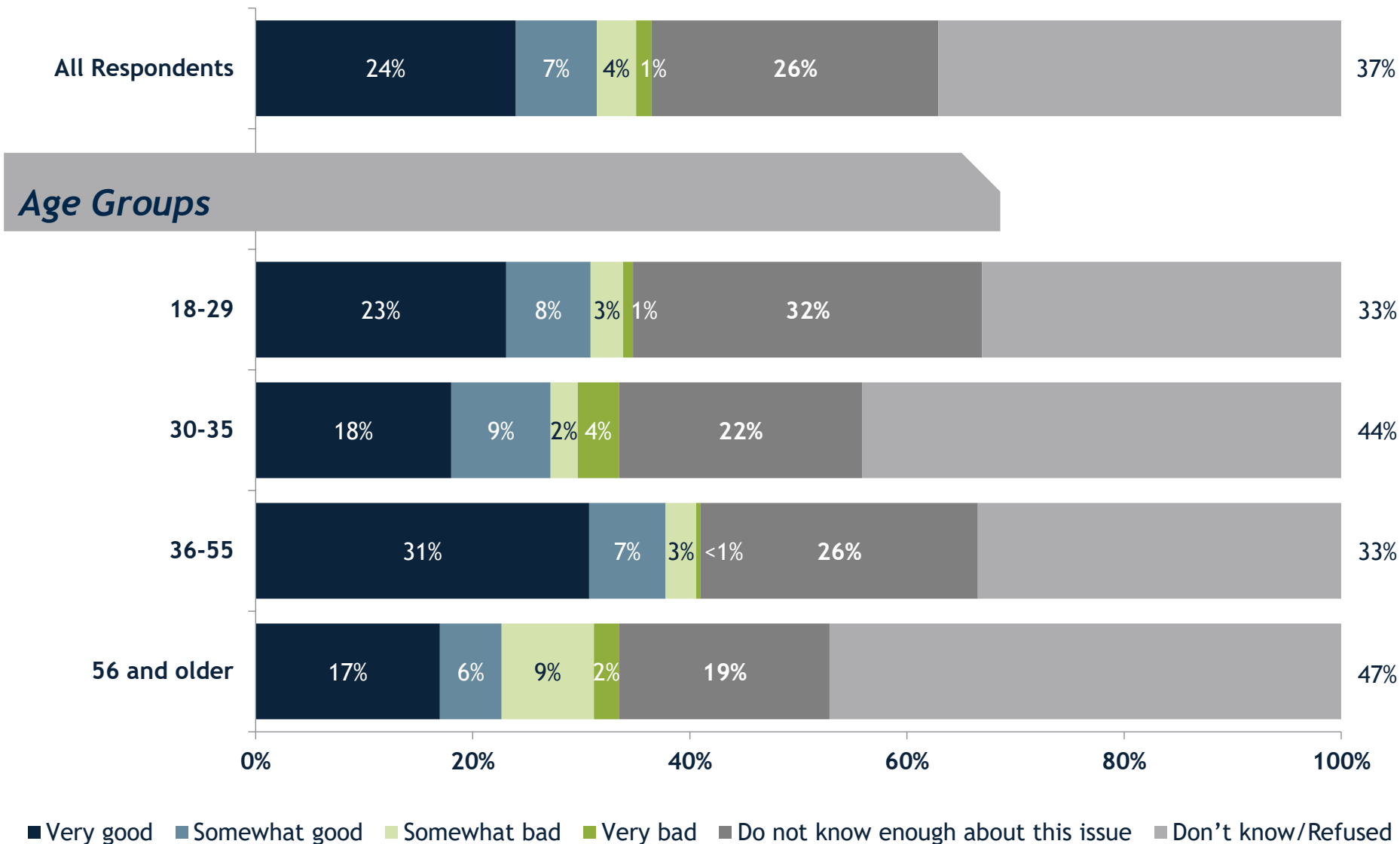
Do you think that the draft constitution† has addressed the following aspects of fundamental rights and freedoms adequately or not, or do you not know enough about these aspects in the draft constitution‡?



*The right to marry here means the right to enter into marriage freely and where both parties consent, referring to a provision to prevent underage child marriages.

†The initial draft constitution released by the CRC on November 15, 2019.

How would you rate the issue of 'election of National Assembly members' as provided in the draft constitution?†



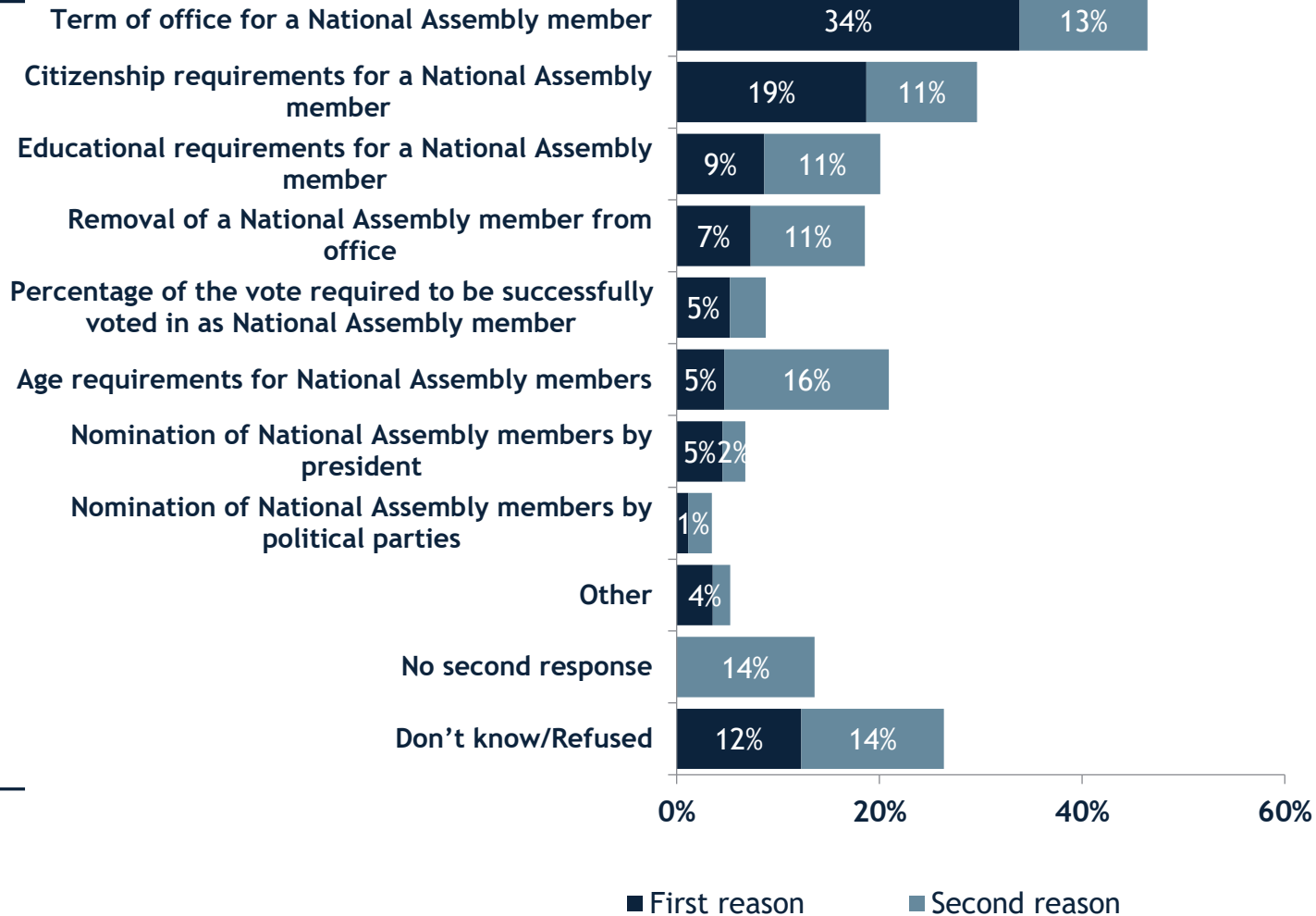
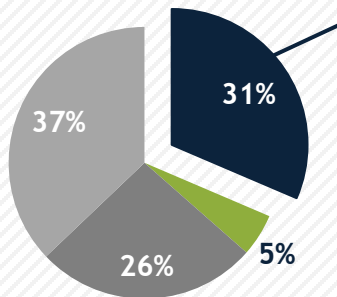
†The initial draft constitution released by the CRC on November 15, 2019.

What are the top reasons for your rating?

(Spontaneous response; among those who rated the issue of 'election of National Assembly members' † as *Good*, n=370; up to two responses permitted)

How would you rate the issue of 'election of National Assembly members' as provided in the draft constitution? †

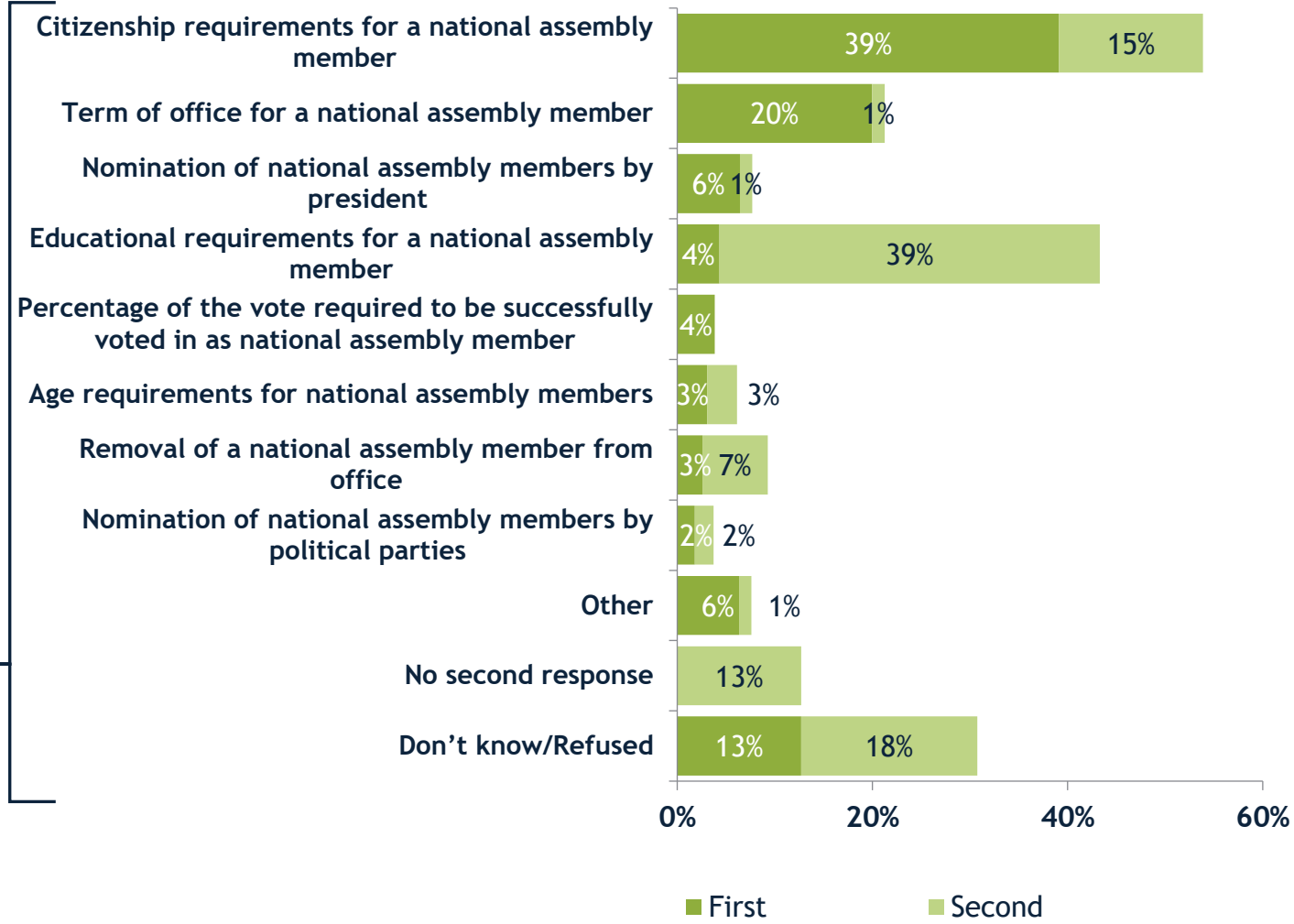
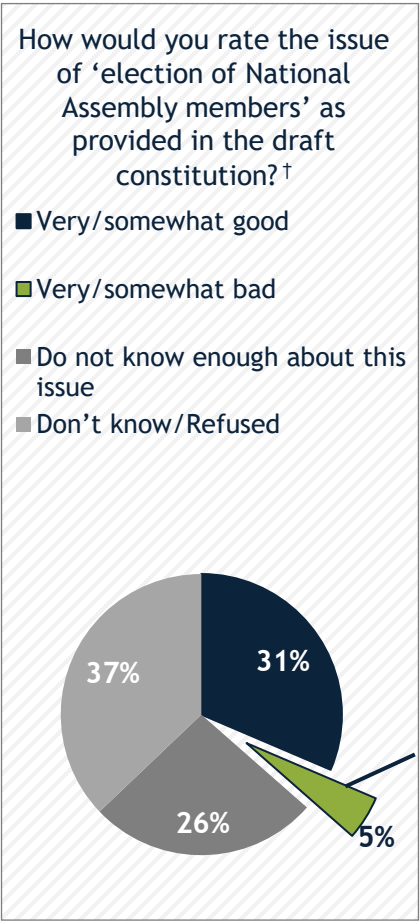
- Very/somewhat good
- Very/somewhat bad
- Do not know enough about this issue
- Don't know/Refused



†The initial draft constitution released by the CRC on November 15, 2019.

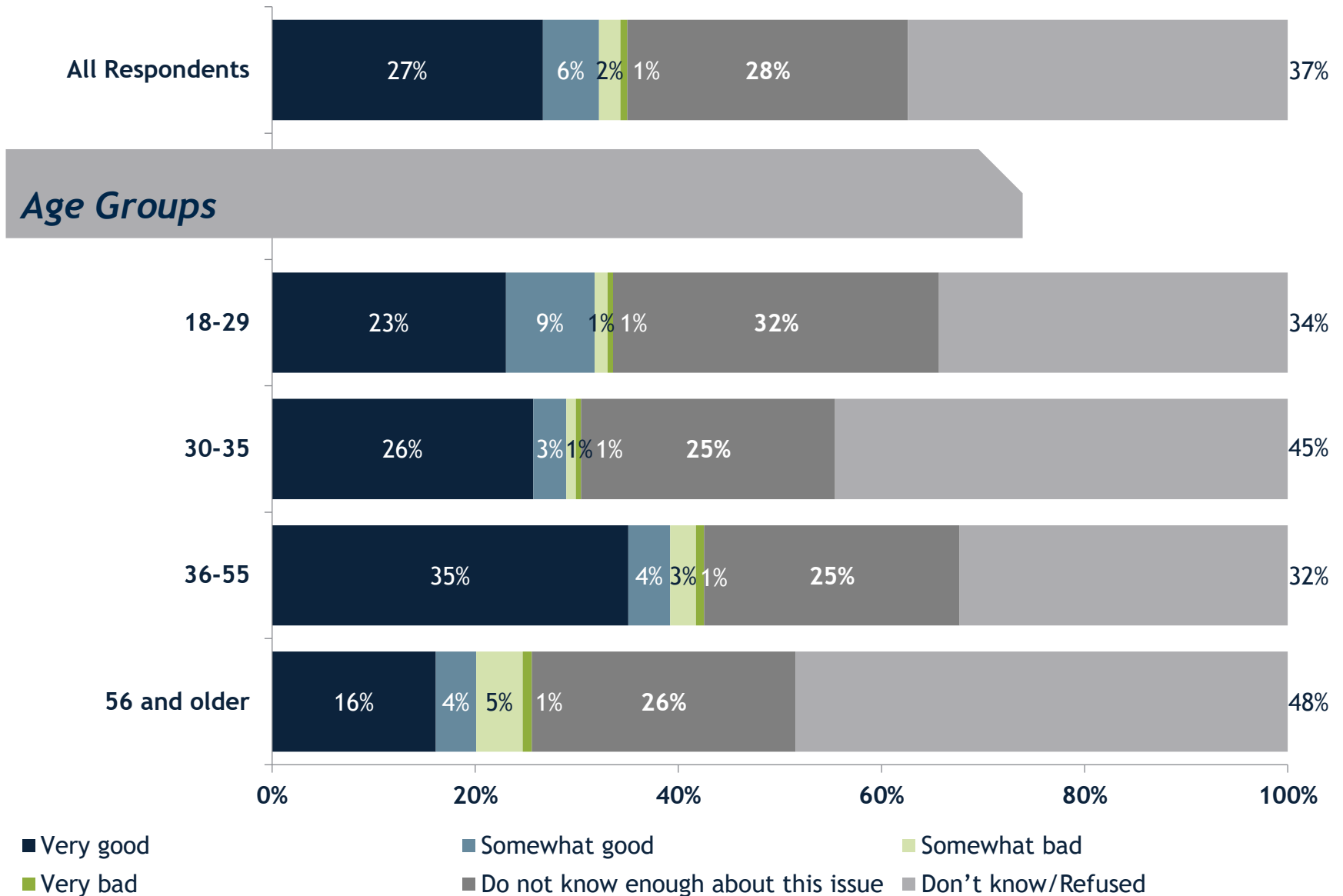
What are the top reasons for your rating?

(Spontaneous response; among those who rated the issue of 'election of National Assembly members'† as *Bad*, n=60; up to two responses permitted)



†The initial draft constitution released by the CRC on November 15, 2019.

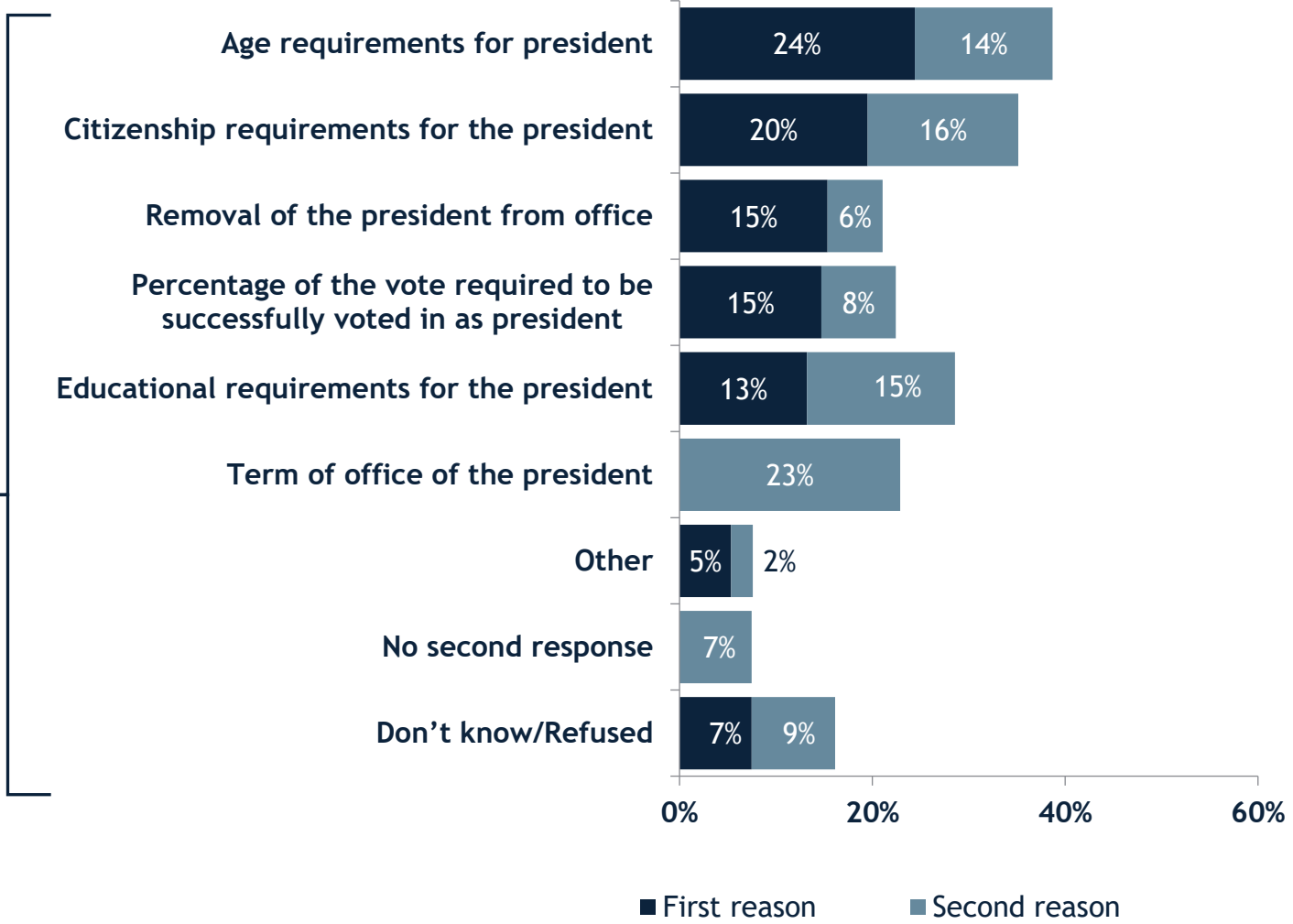
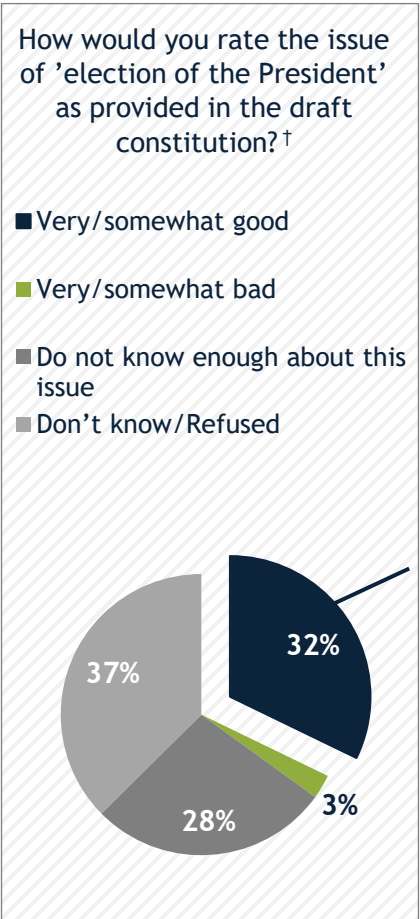
How would you rate the issue of 'election of the president' as provided in the draft constitution?†



†The initial draft constitution released by the CRC on November 15, 2019.

What are the top reasons for your rating?

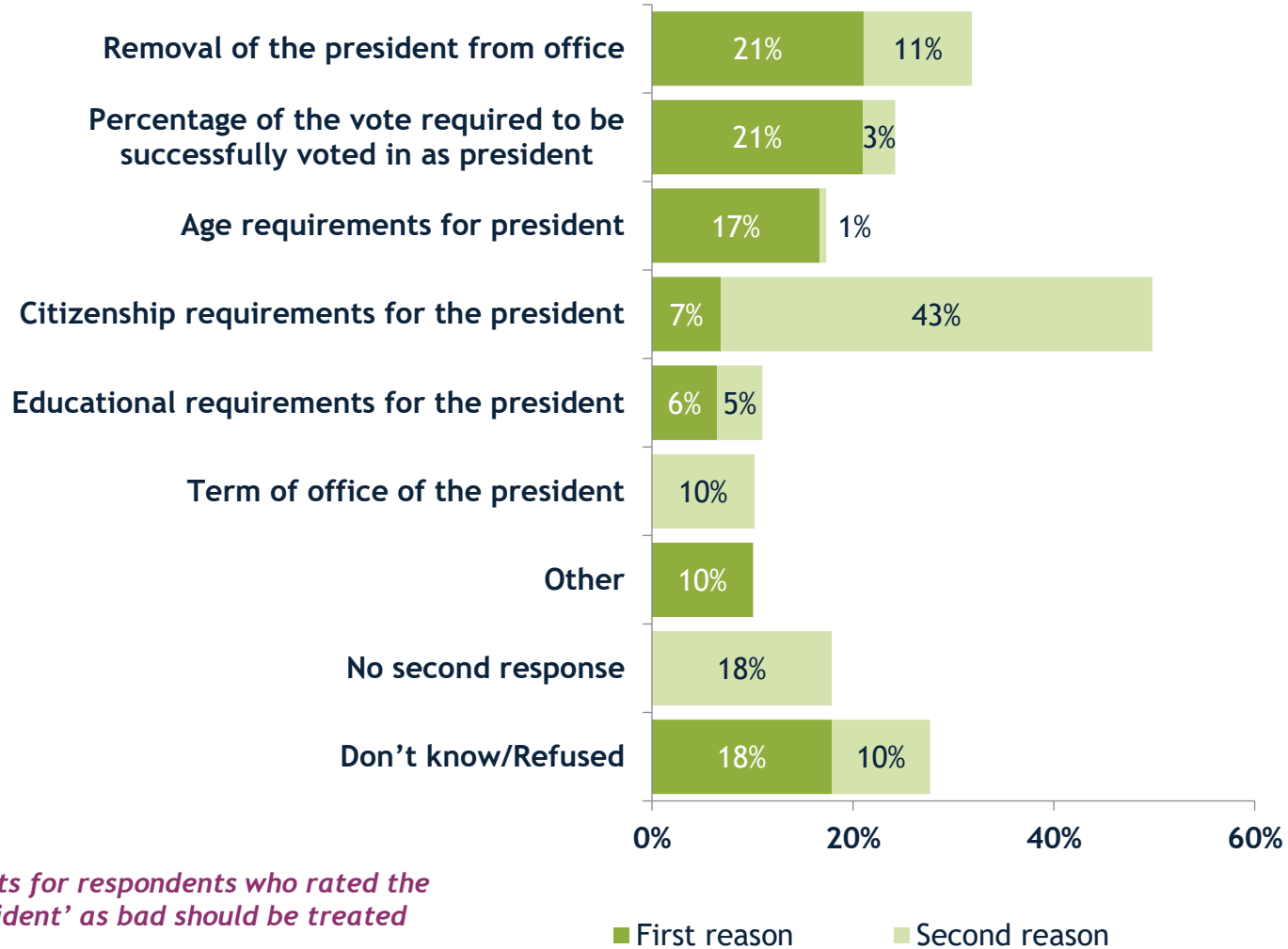
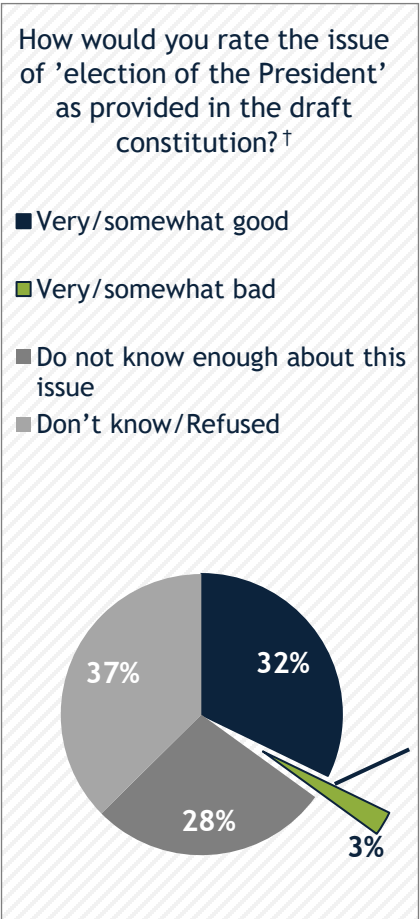
(Spontaneous response; among those who rated the issue of 'election of the President' † as *Good*, n=379; up to two responses permitted)



†The initial draft constitution released by the CRC on November 15, 2019.

What are the top reasons for your rating?

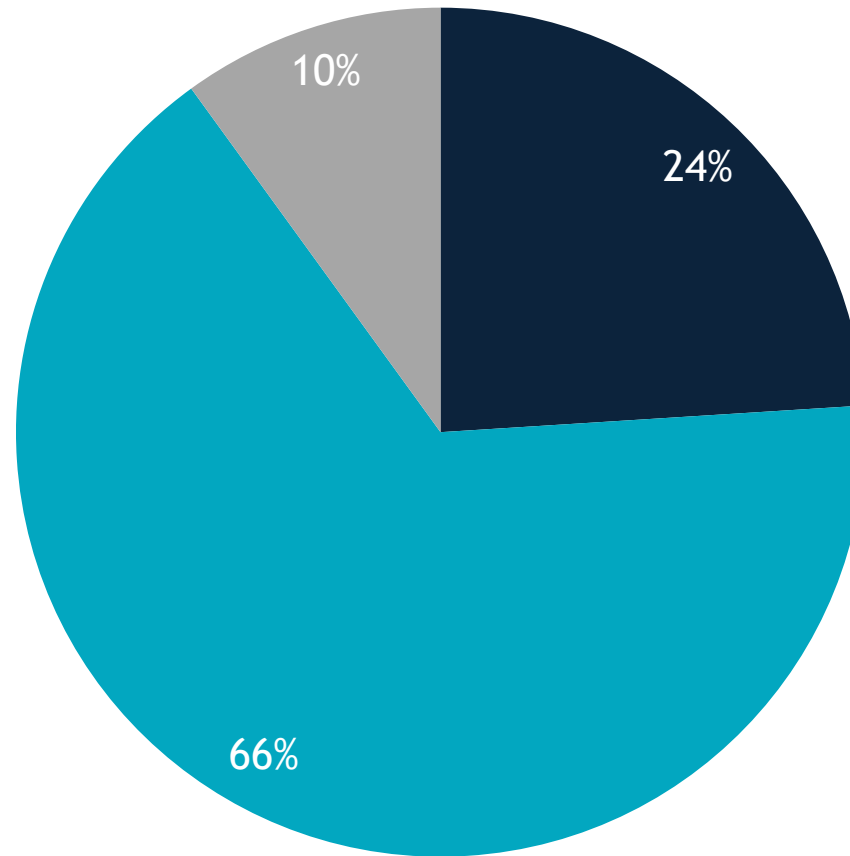
(Spontaneous response; among those who rated the issue of 'election of the President' † as *Bad*, n=33; up to two responses permitted) ⚠



Due to small sample size n, results for respondents who rated the issue of 'the election of the President' as bad should be treated with caution.

†The initial draft constitution released by the CRC on November 15, 2019.

If the new constitution limits the president to serving two terms of five years each, should President Barrow be allowed to serve for two additional terms if elected, or should his current term count as the first of the two possible terms?

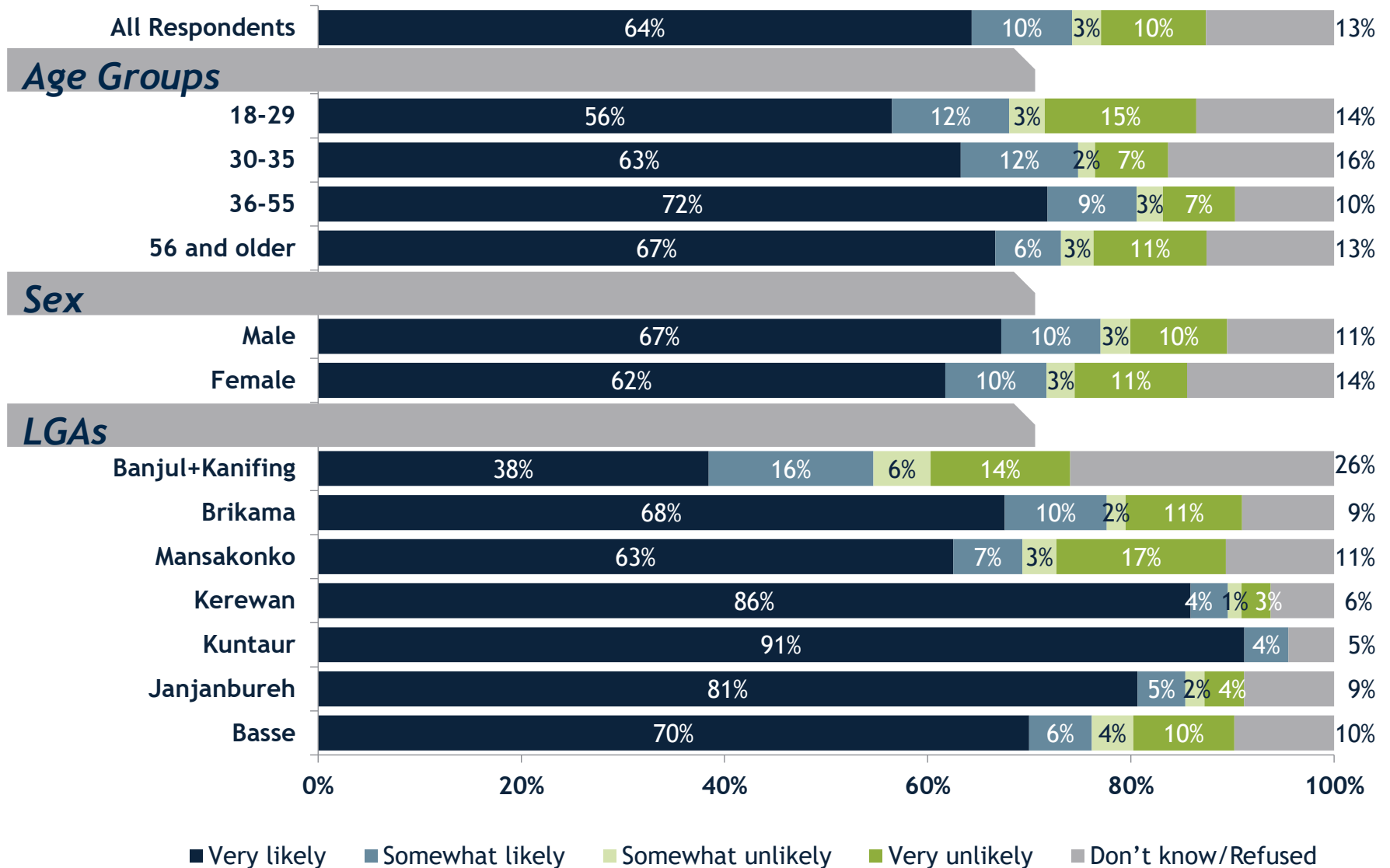


■ Two more terms

■ Current term should count as first term

■ Don't know/Refused

How likely or unlikely are you to vote in the referendum on the new constitution?

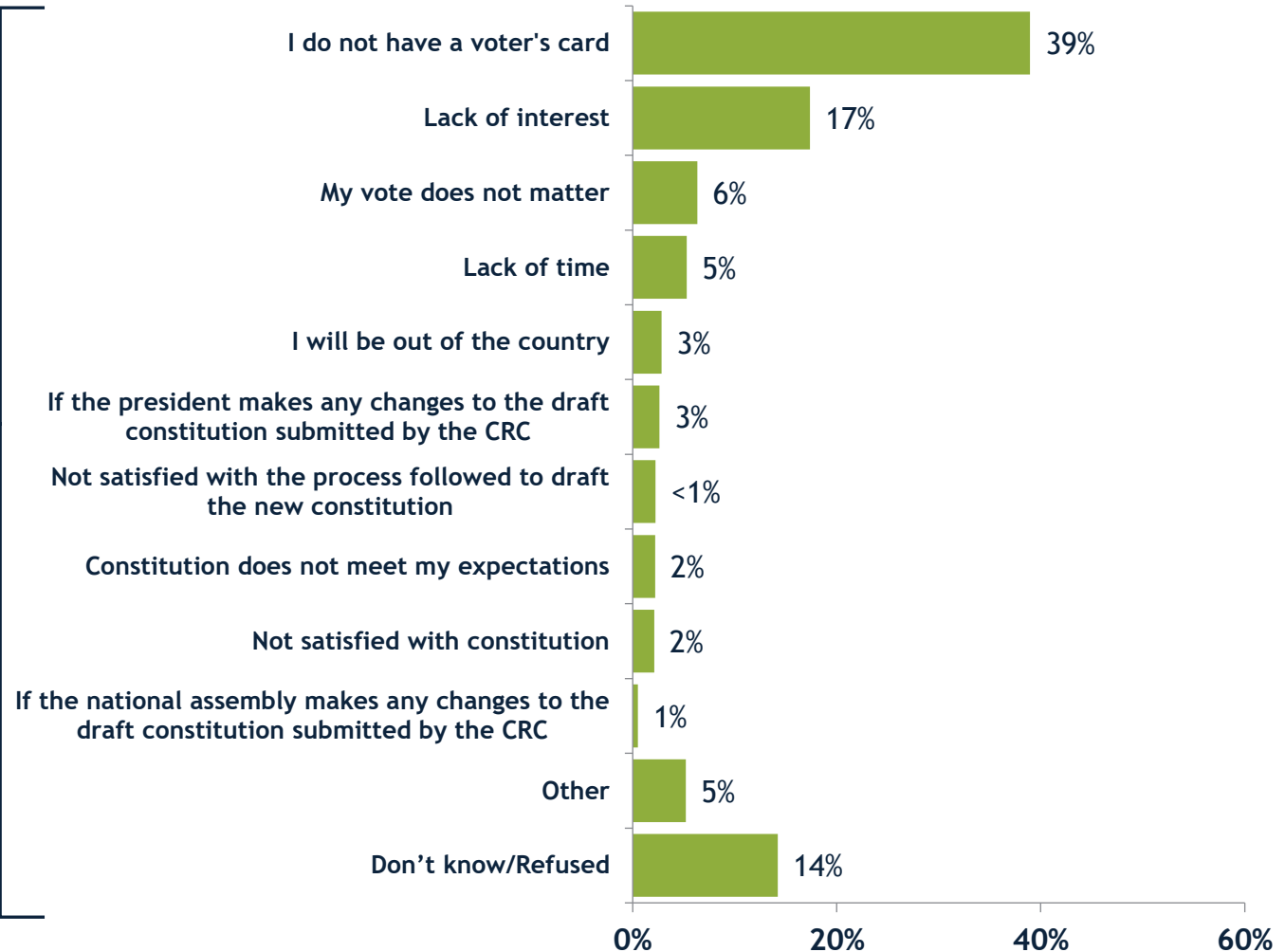
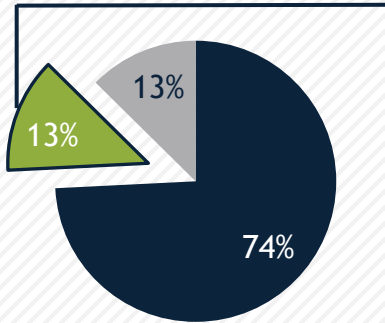


What is the primary reason you are unlikely to vote in the referendum on the new constitution?

(Spontaneous response, among those who are unlikely to vote, n=156)

How likely or unlikely are you to vote in the referendum on the new constitution?

- Very/somewhat likely
- Very/somewhat unlikely
- Don't know/Refused

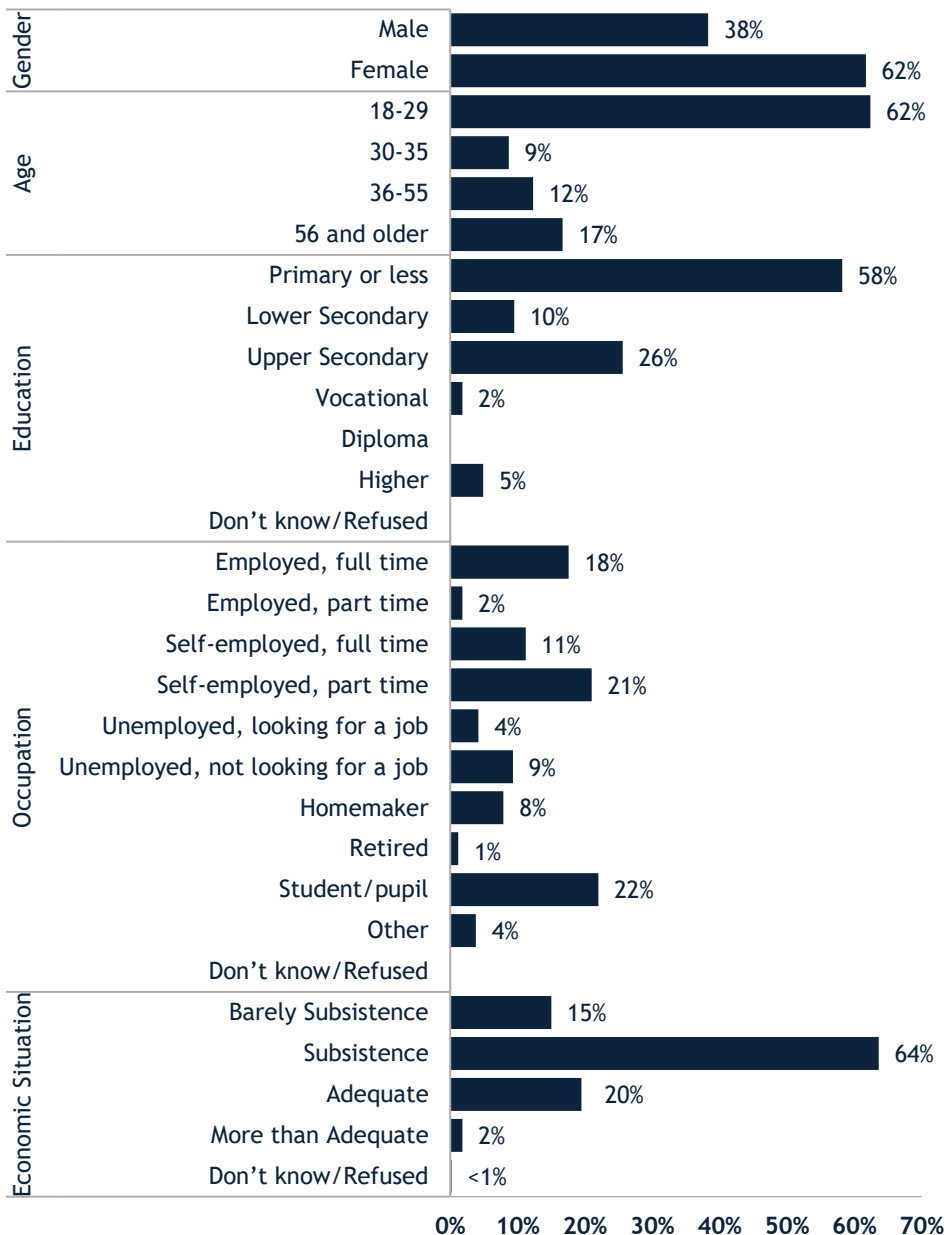


*Other responses included:

- "Don't know much about it," 4%

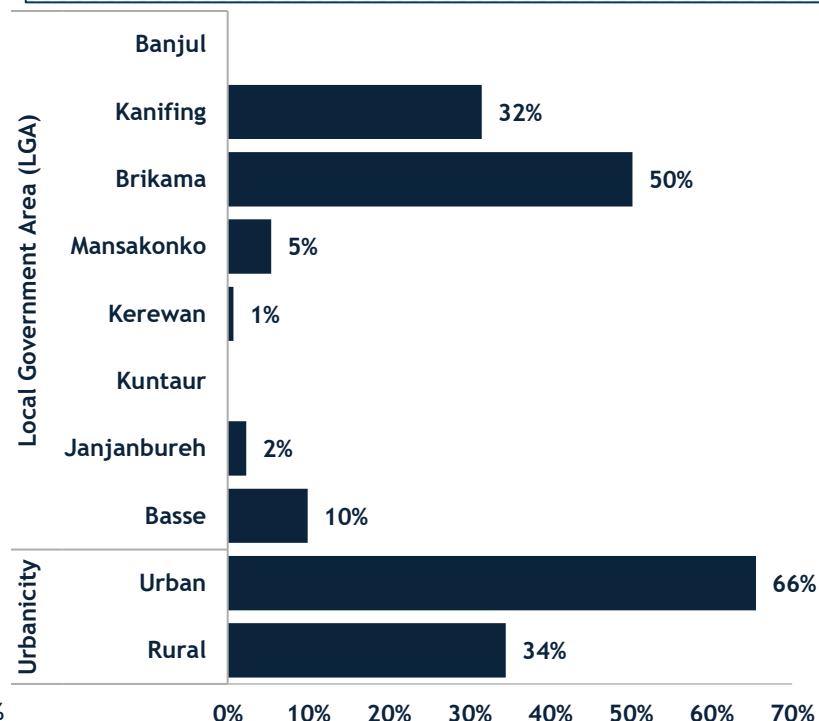
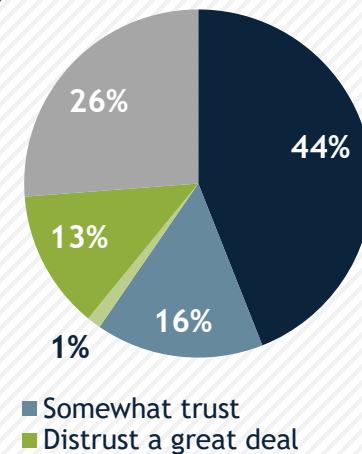
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE: Unlikely voters who lack a Voter ID Card

(Among those who are unlikely to vote and say this is because they do not have a voter ID Card, n=61)

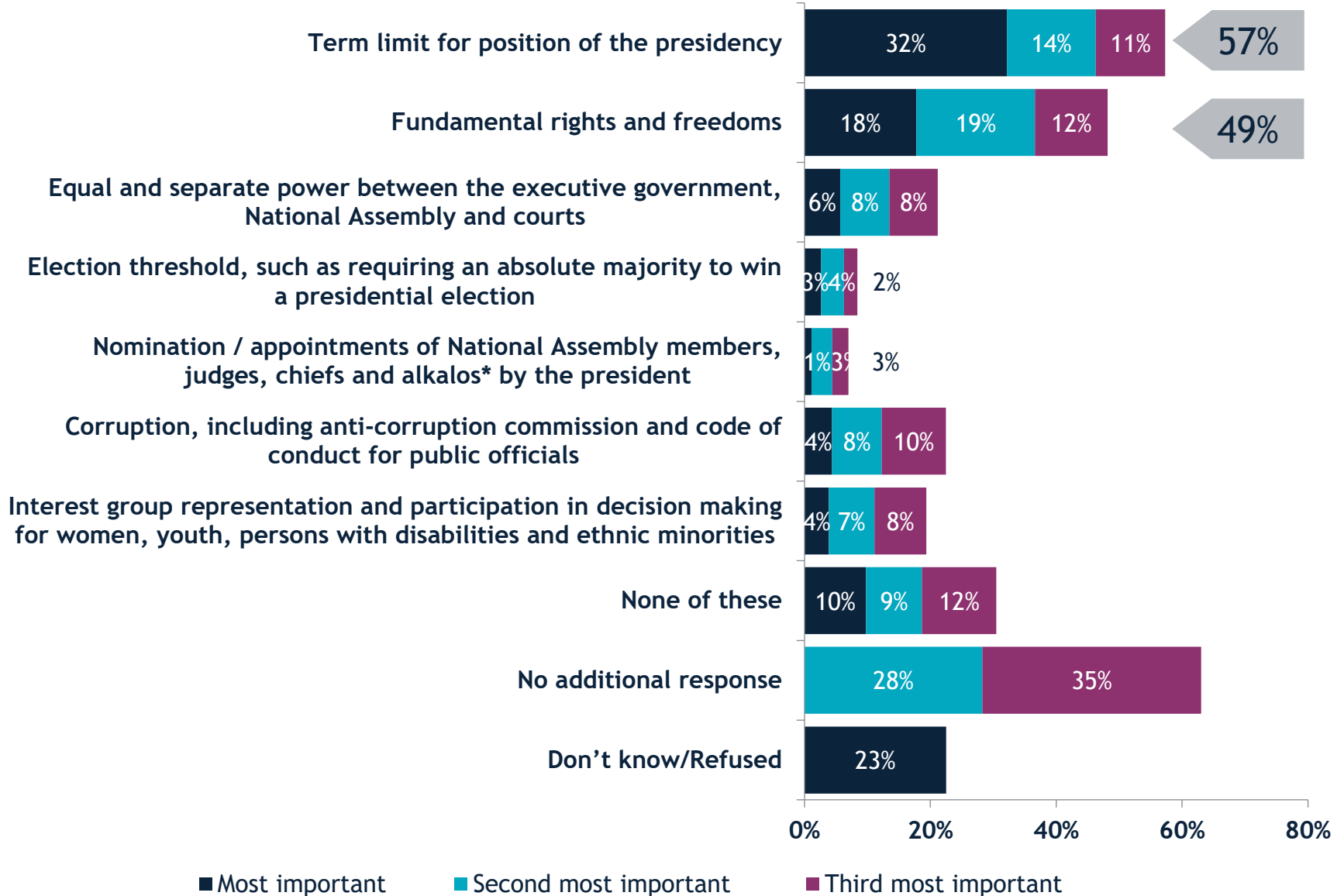


To what extent do you trust or distrust each of the following institutions and commissions that will handle the draft constitution?

Independent Electoral Commission

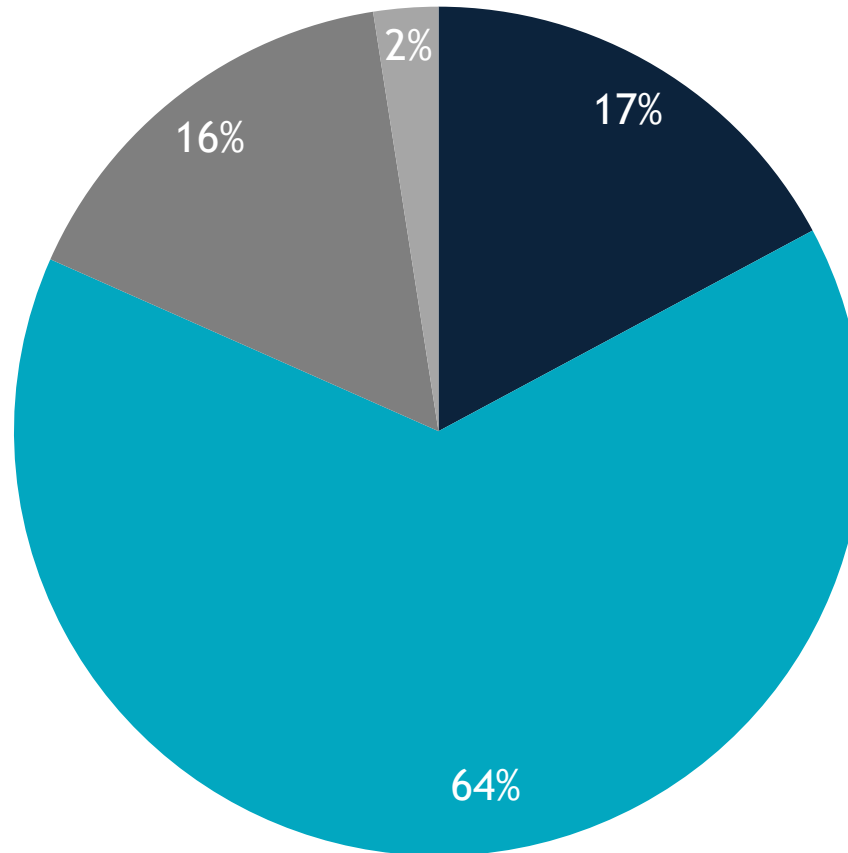


Which of the following issues in the new constitution, if any, will most compel you to vote in the referendum?



*Alkalos are village elders. Districts composed of villages governed by alkalos are overseen by seyfos or chiefs.

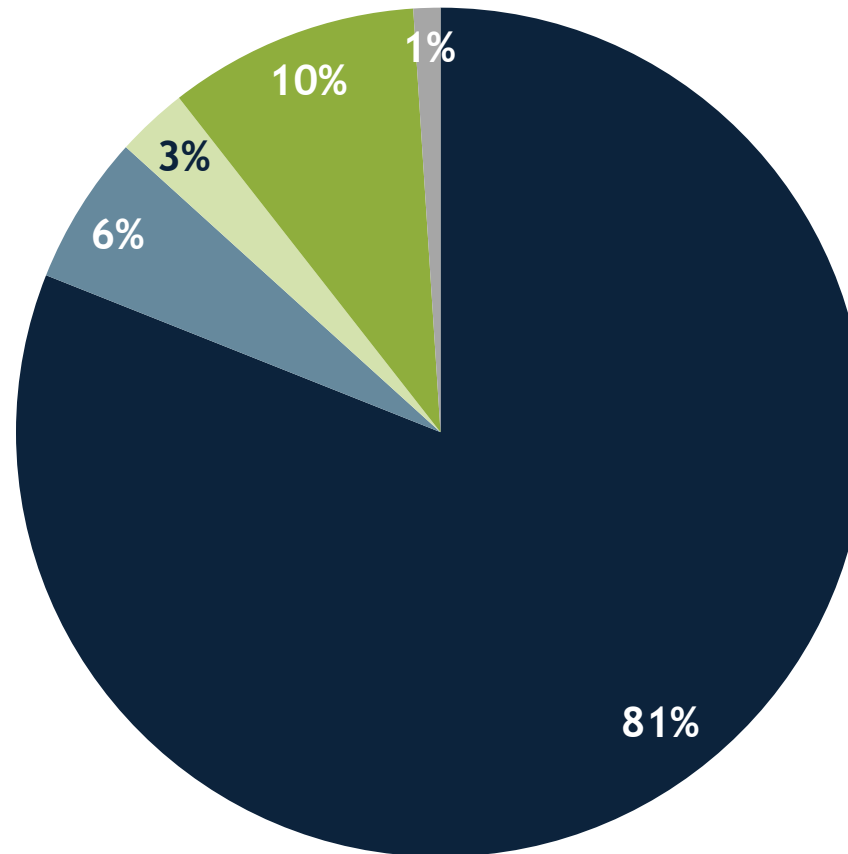
Let us talk for a moment about the appointment of alkalos* and chiefs in The Gambia. Which of the following statements is closest to your view?



- The alkalos and chiefs should be appointed by the president or a designated authority
- The position of alkalo and chief should be hereditary
- Agree with neither
- Don't know/Refused

*Alkalos are village elders. Districts composed of villages governed by alkalos are overseen by seyfos or chiefs.

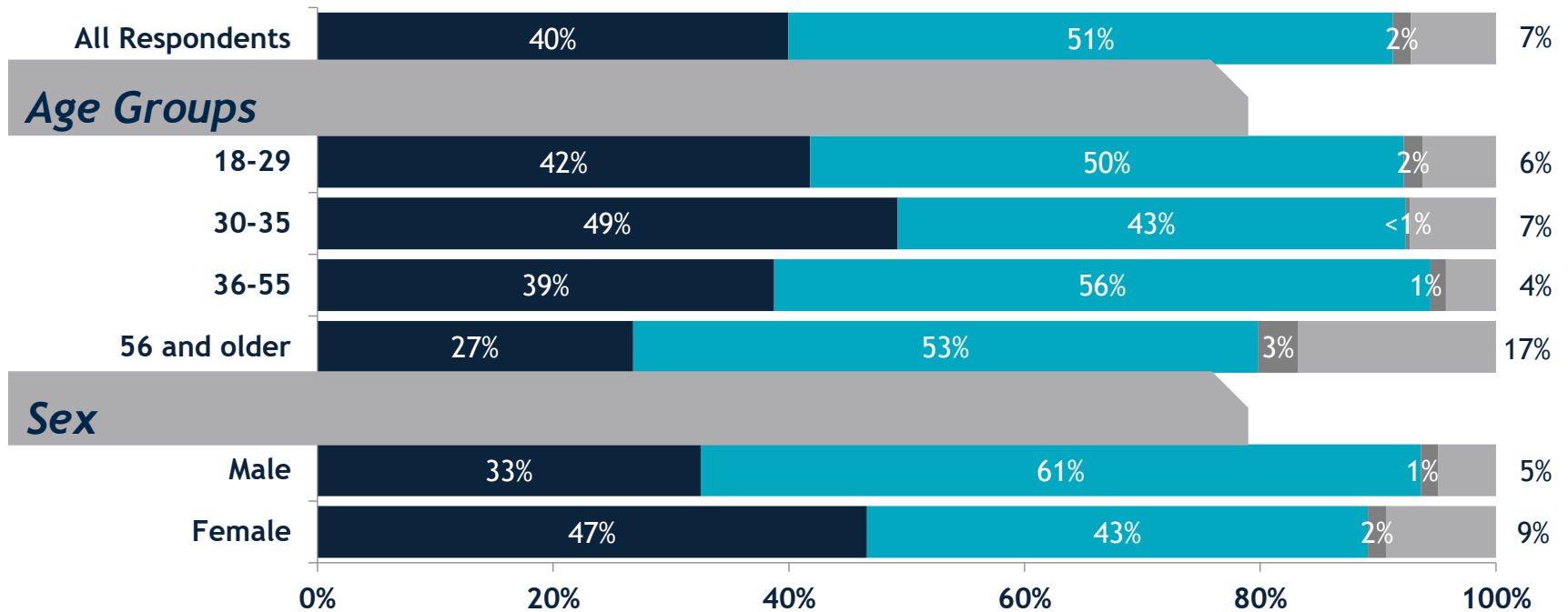
Let us talk for a moment about Gambian citizenship. Do you agree or disagree that children born in the country of two non-Gambian parents should be given Gambian citizenship?*



■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Don't know/Refused

*Under the 1997 constitution, Gambian citizenship is passed down through descent by blood (jus sanguinis). Therefore, children born in the country of two non-Gambian parents do not currently receive citizenship.

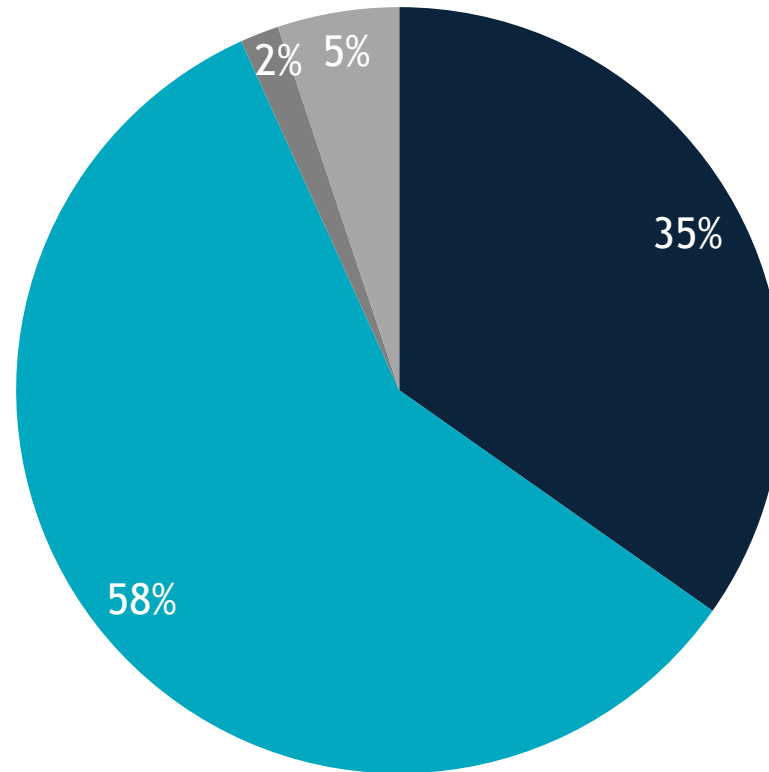
Let us talk for a moment about the office of the vice president*. Which of the following statements is closest to your view?



- The vice president should be elected together with the president on one ticket
- The vice president should be appointed by the president
- Agree with neither
- Don't know/Refused

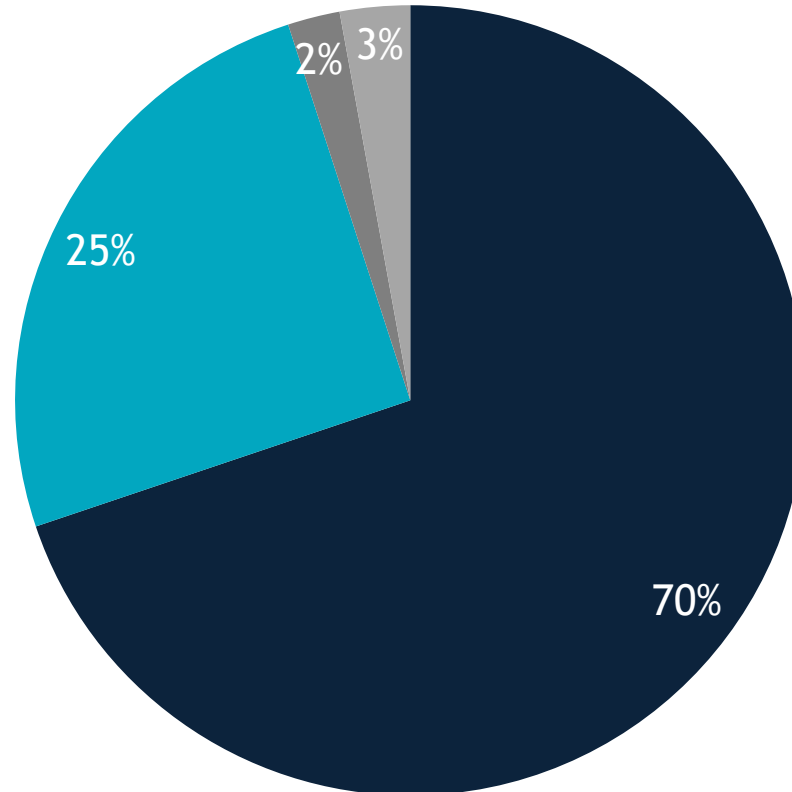
*Under the 1997 constitution the president appoints both the vice-president and the cabinet.

Which of the following statements is closest to your view?



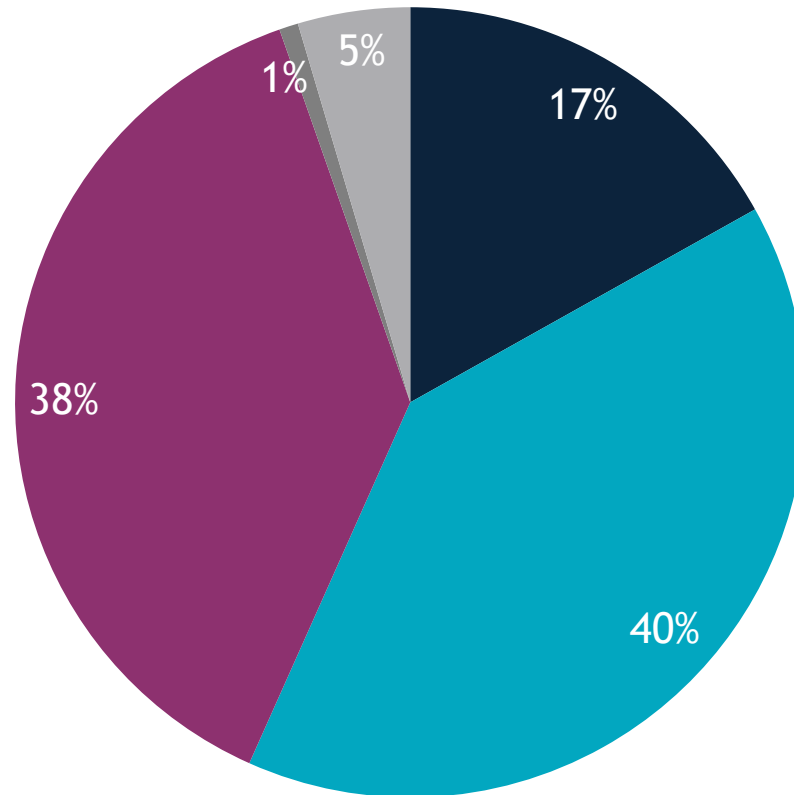
- Government should be able to monitor private communications, for example on mobile phones, to make sure that people are not plotting violence
- People should have the right to communicate in private without a government agency reading or listening to what they are saying
- Agree with neither
- Don't know/Refused

Which of the following statements is closest to your view?



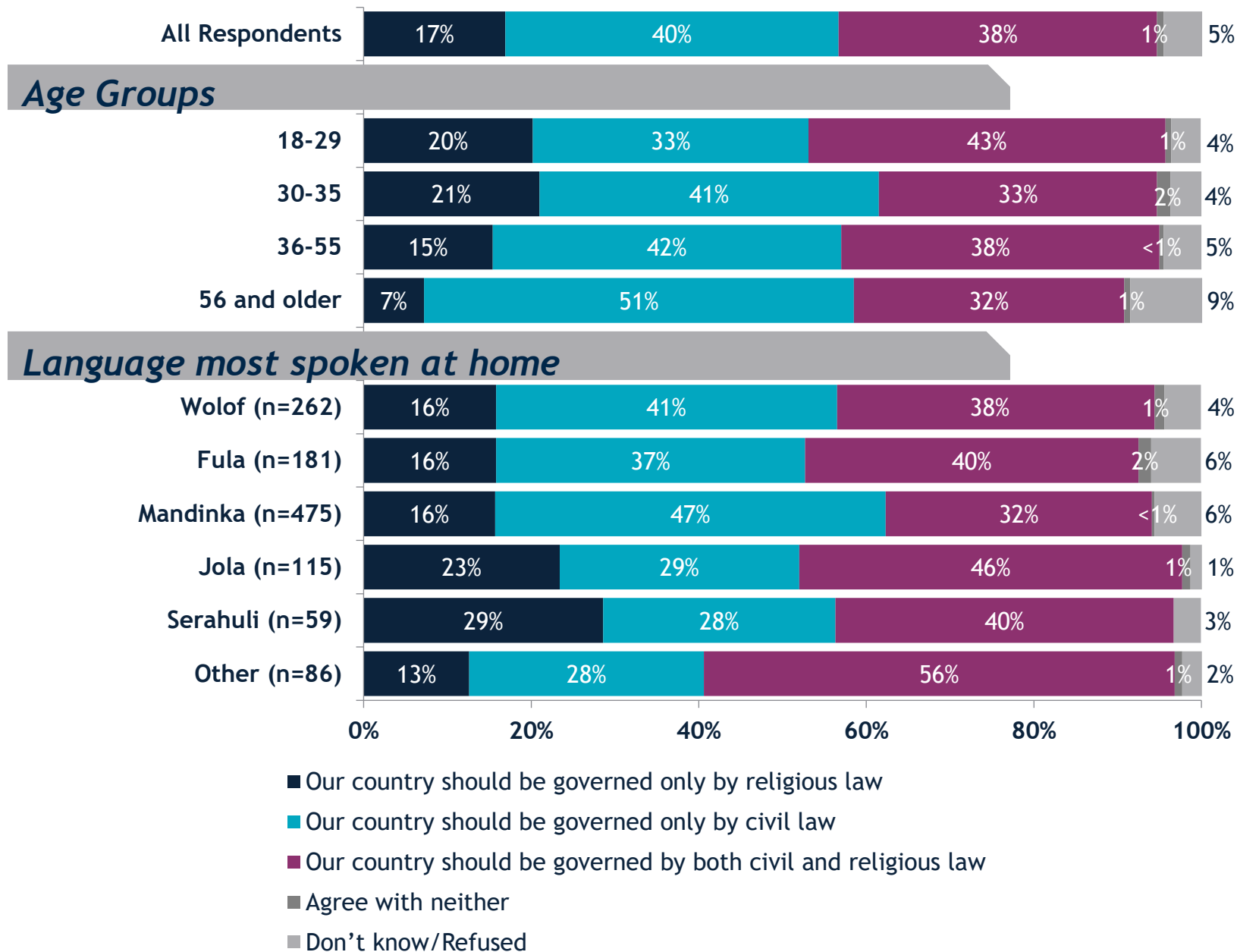
- Freedom of religion and worship are absolute, meaning that government should never limit what is said in a place of worship
- Government should have the power to regulate what is said in places of worship, especially if preachers or congregants threaten public security
- Agree with neither
- Don't know/Refused

Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

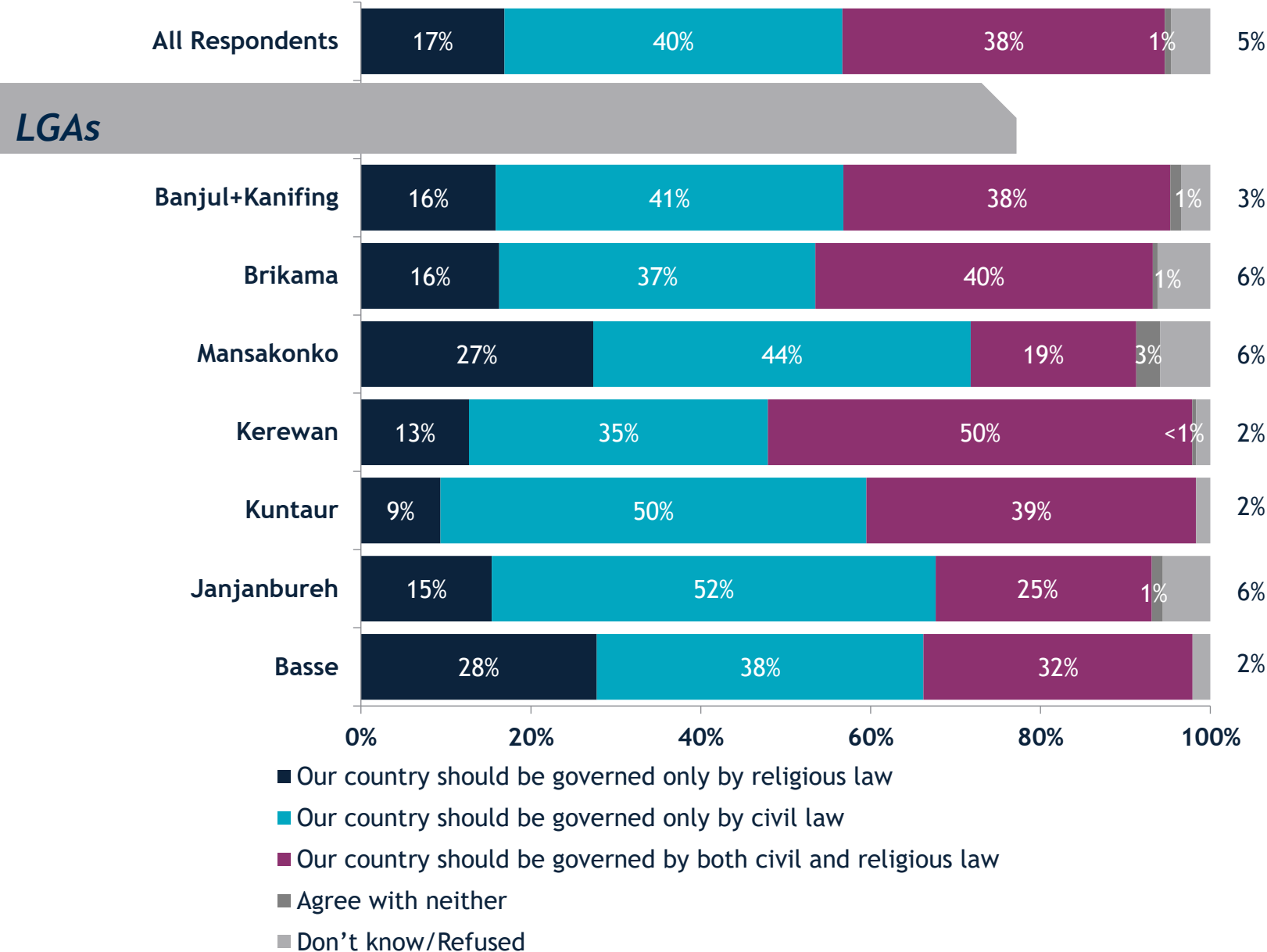


- Our country should be governed only by religious law
- Our country should be governed only by civil law
- Our country should be governed by both civil and religious law
- Agree with neither
- Don't know/Refused

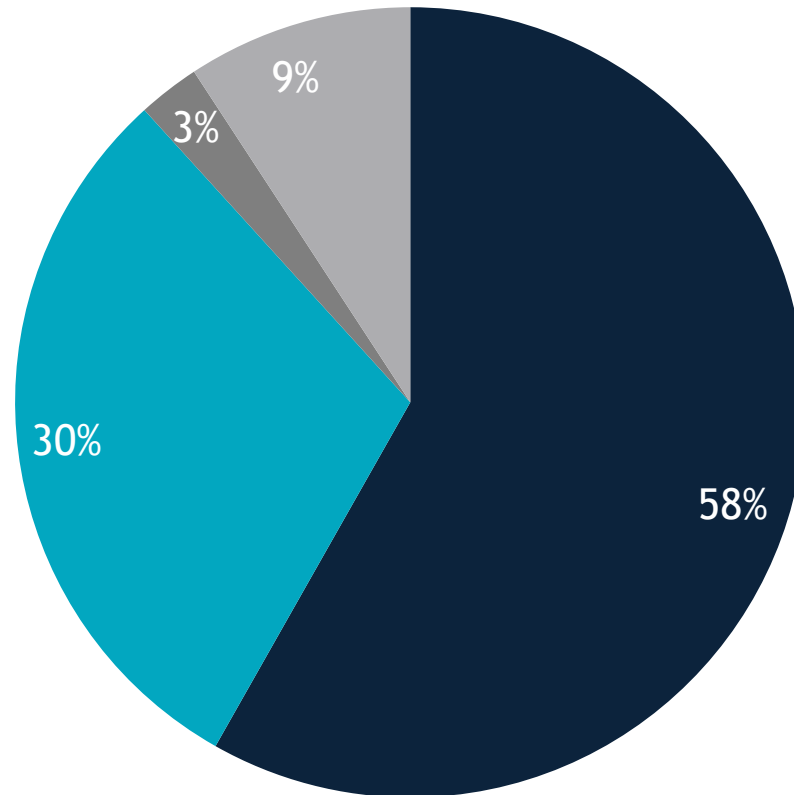
Which of the following statements is closest to your view?



Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

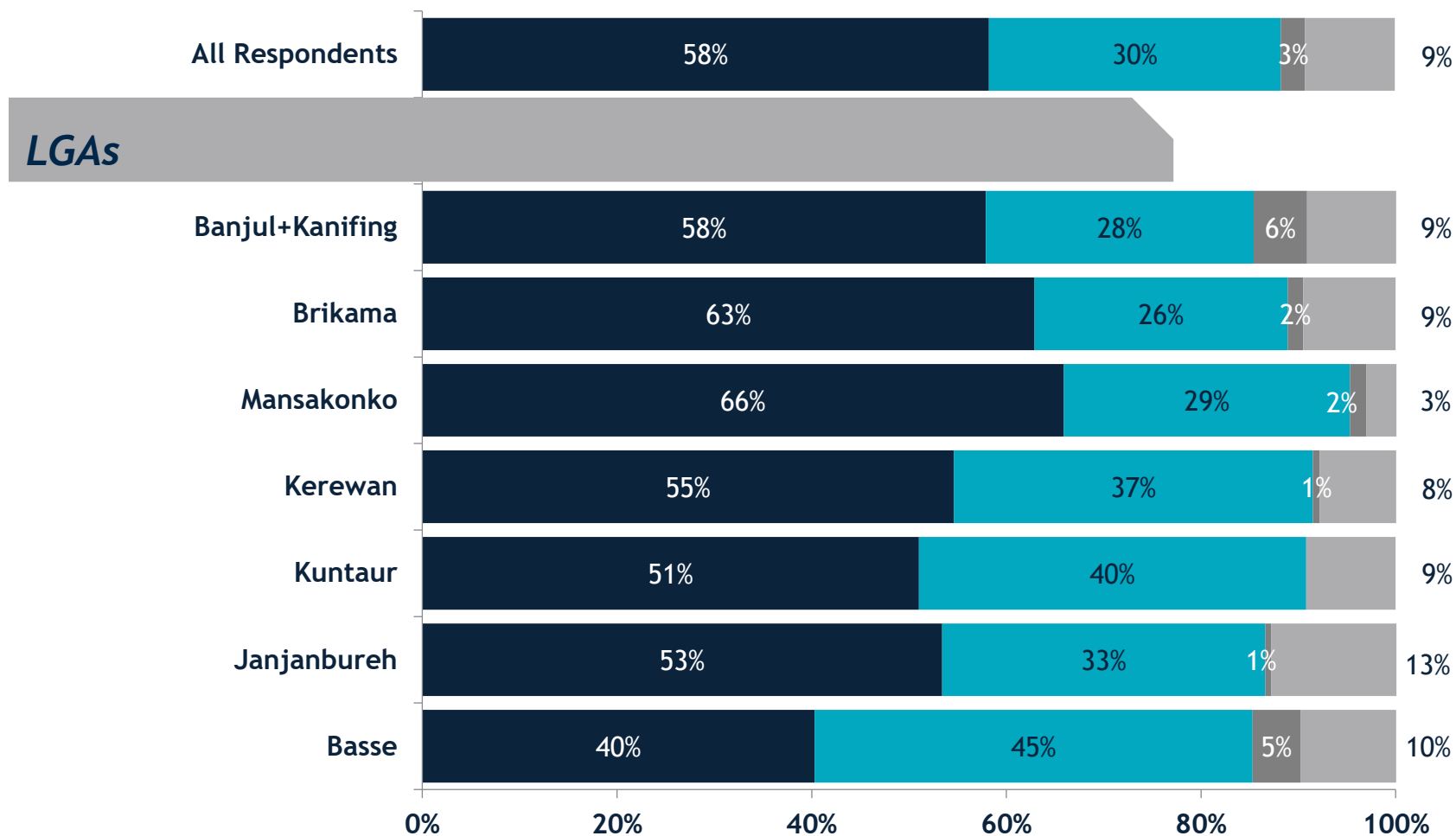


Which of the following statements is closest to your view?



- Provincial governors should be elected by voters in the provinces.
- The president should continue to appoint provincial governors for all provinces.
- Agree with neither
- Don't know/Refused

Which of the following statements is closest to your view?



- Provincial governors should be elected by voters in the provinces
- The president should continue to appoint provincial governors for all provinces
- Agree with neither
- Don't know/Refused

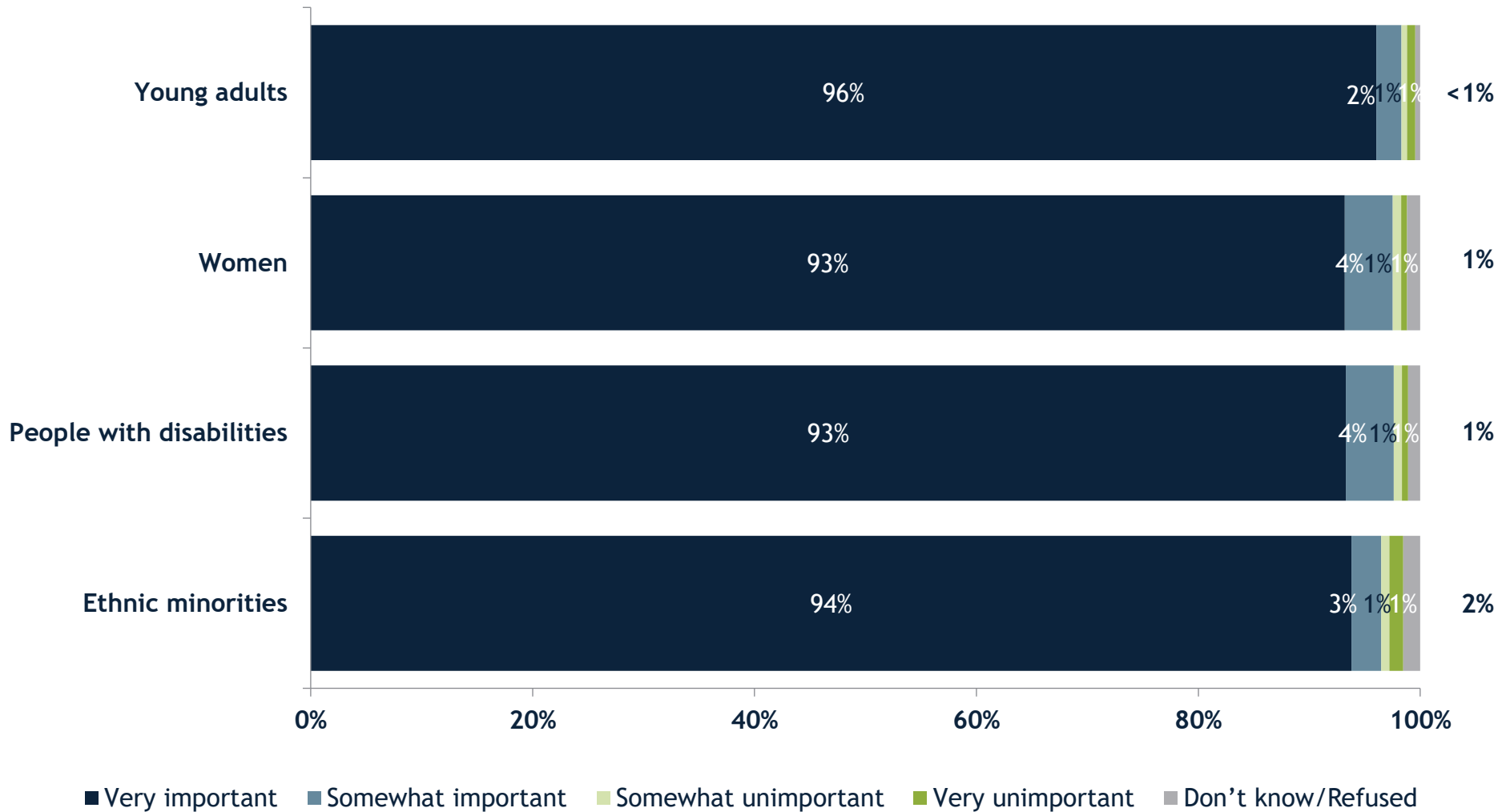


Representation and Opportunities for Minority Groups

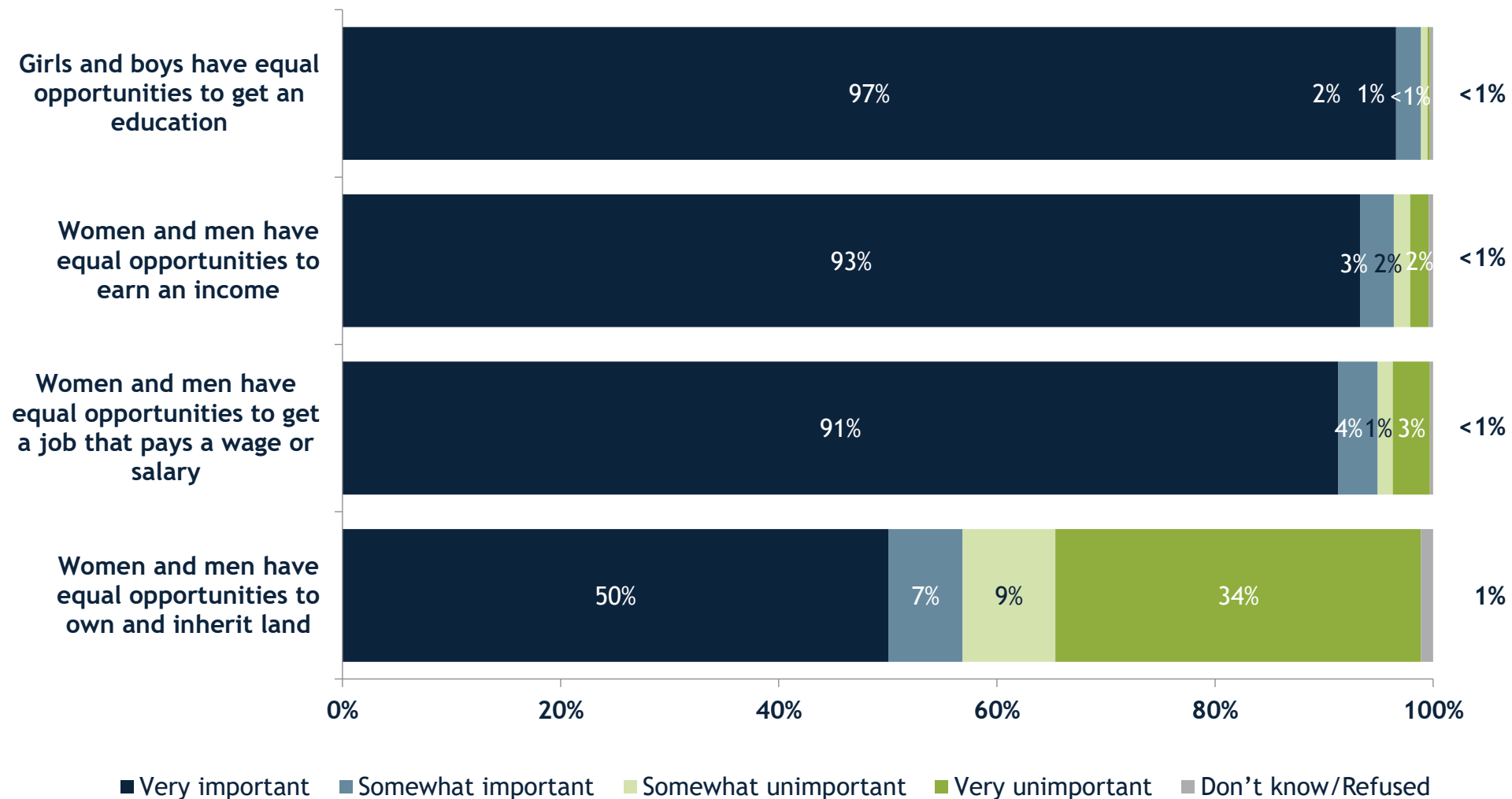


How important or unimportant is it that all members of The Gambia's adult population, are included in political decision making?

How important is it that [each of the following groups] are included?



To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about equal opportunities in The Gambia today?





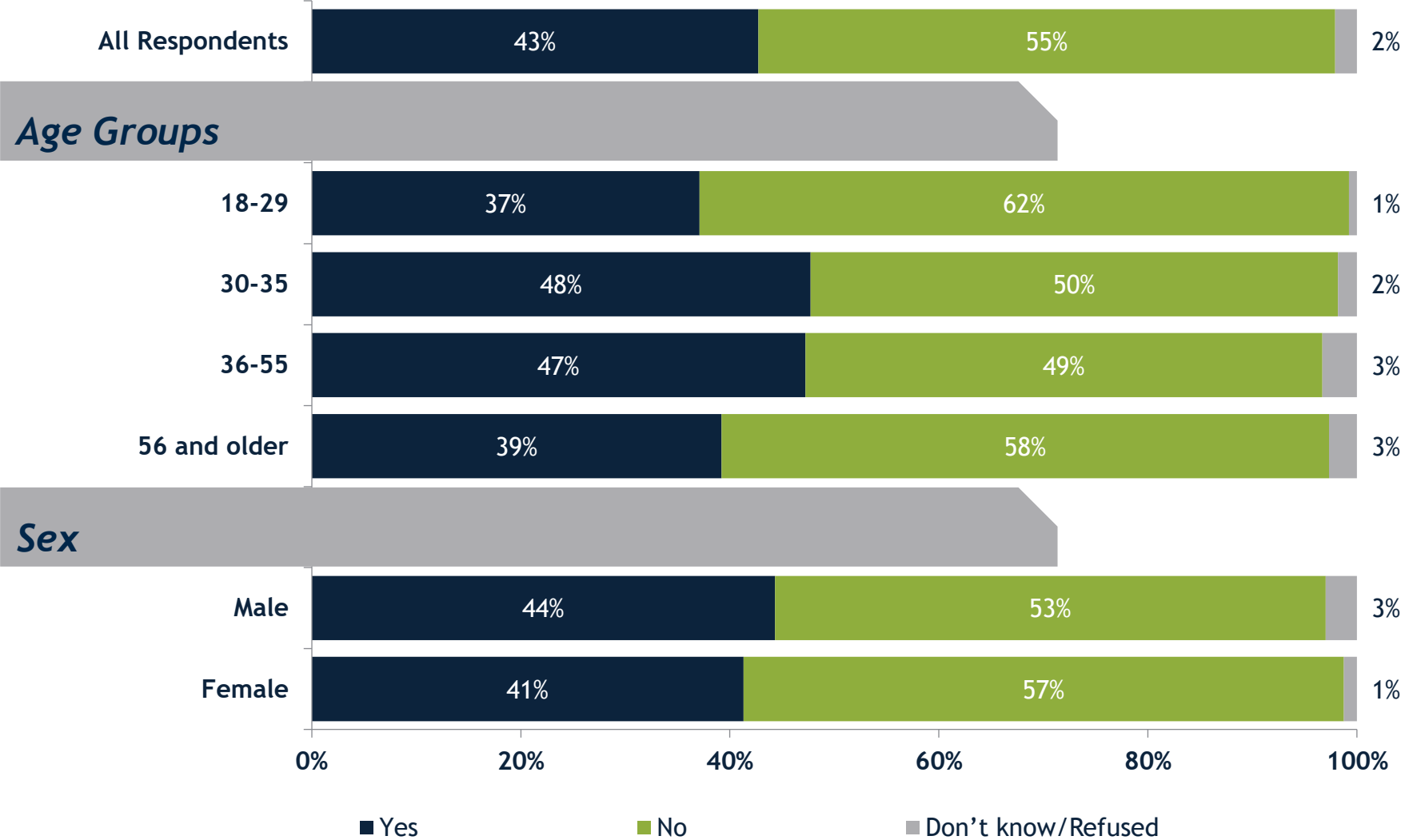
Political Party Affiliation



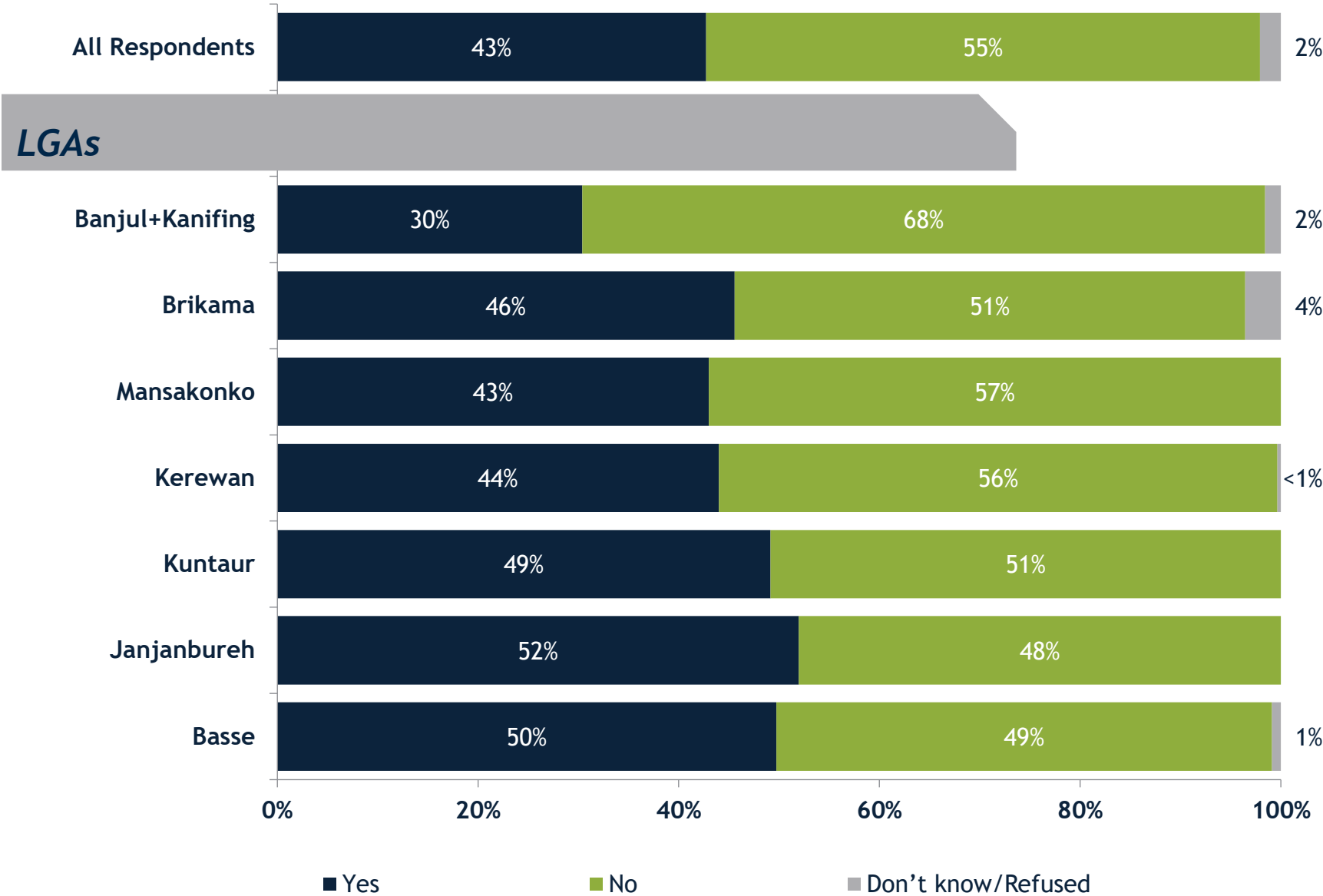
Political Parties as of December 2019

Abbreviation	Political Party Name
APRC	Alliance for Patriotic Re-orientation and Construction
GDC	Gambia Democratic Congress
NRP	National Reconciliation Party
PDOIS	People's Democratic Organization for Independence and Socialism
PPP	Peoples Progressive Party
GPDP	Gambia Party for Democracy and Progress
NCP	National Convention Party
GMC	Gambia Moral Congress
UDP	United Democratic Party
GAP	Gambia Action Party

Do you feel close to any particular political party?



Do you feel close to any particular political party?



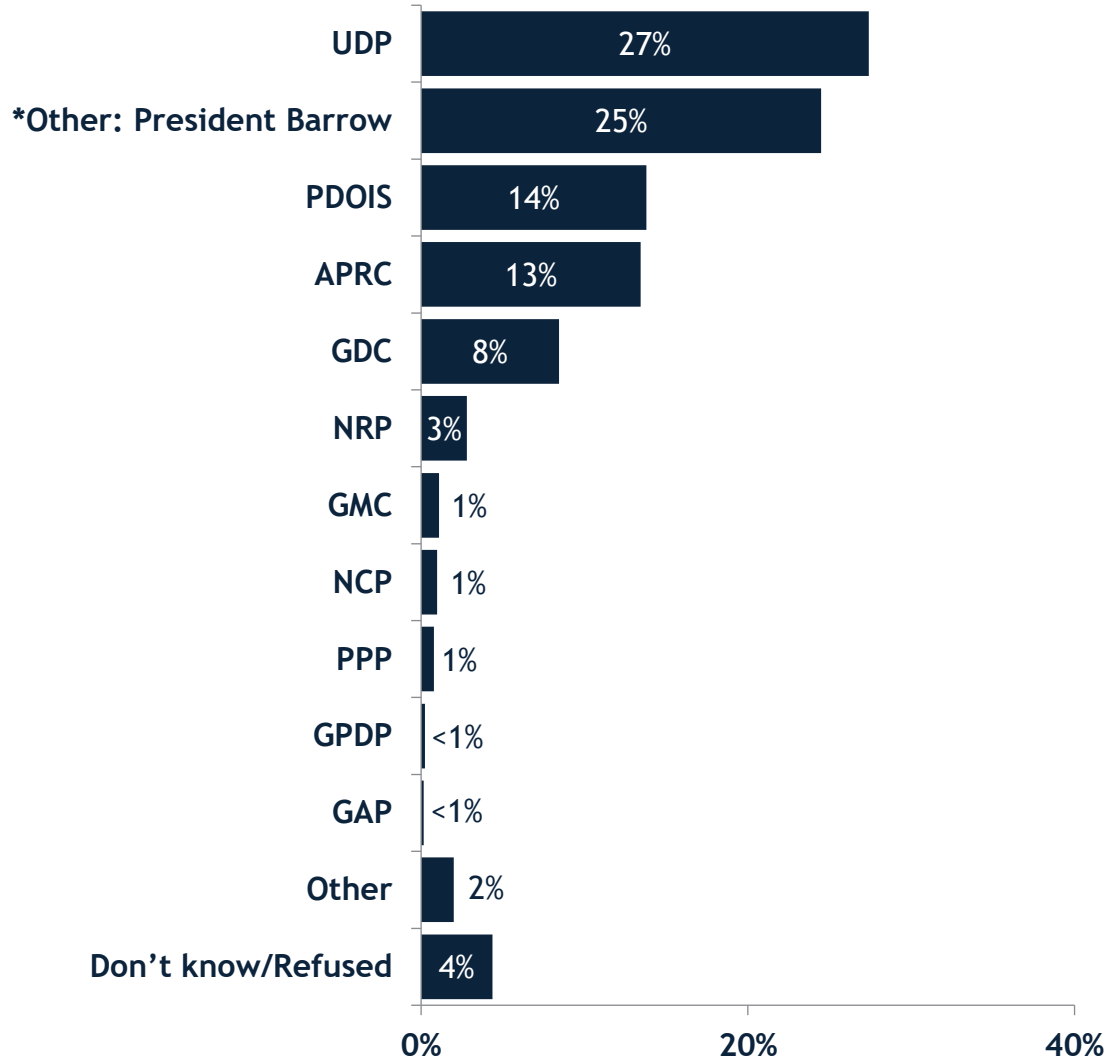
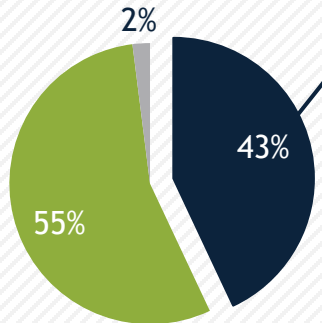
Which political party do you feel closest to?

(Among those who feel close to a political party, n=675)

(Spontaneous response)

Do you feel close to any particular political party?

■ Yes
■ No
■ Don't know/Refused



*Many respondents referenced “Barrow” or “President Barrow” when expressing an *Other* response. This is displayed separately as *Other: President Barrow*.

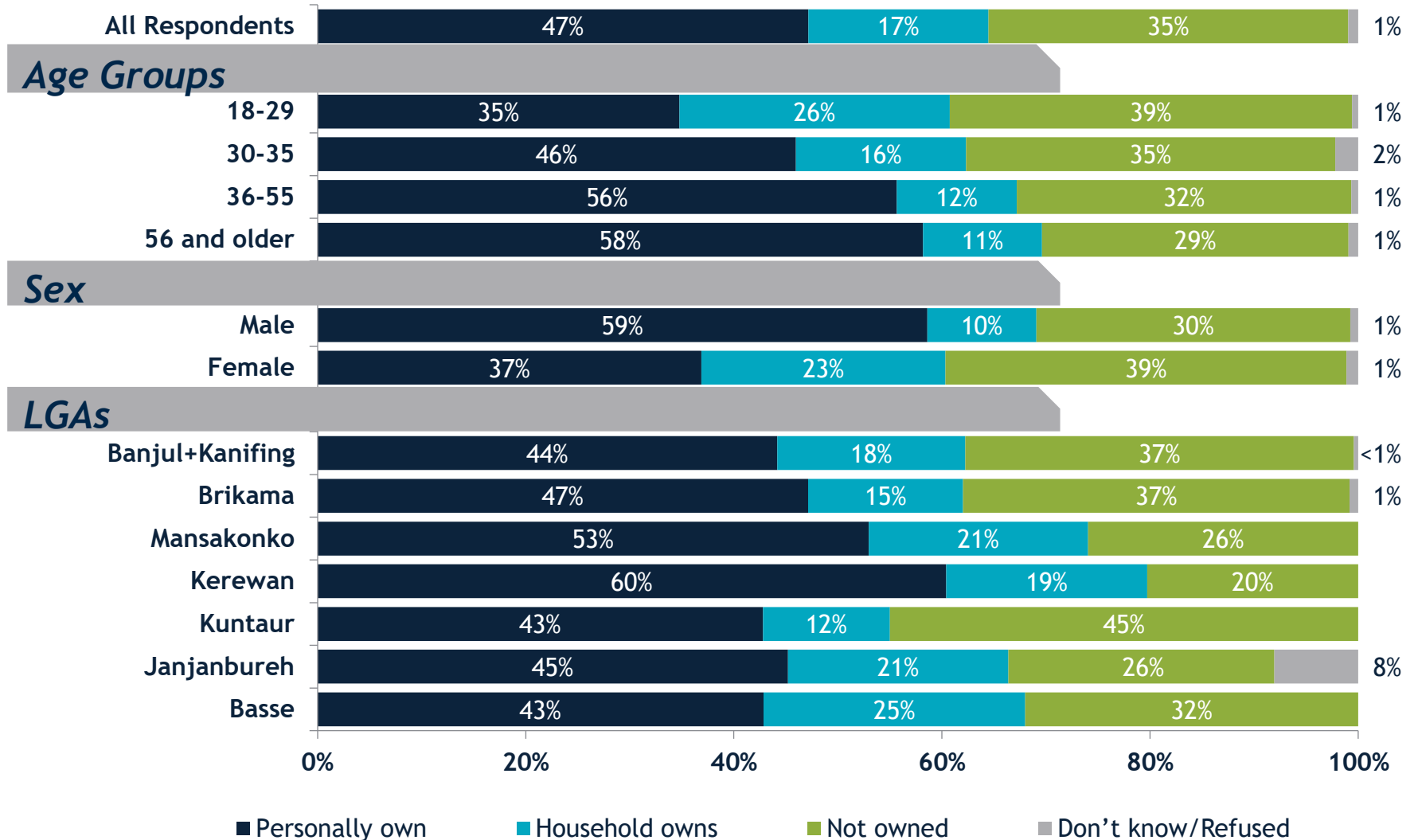


Communication and Media Use



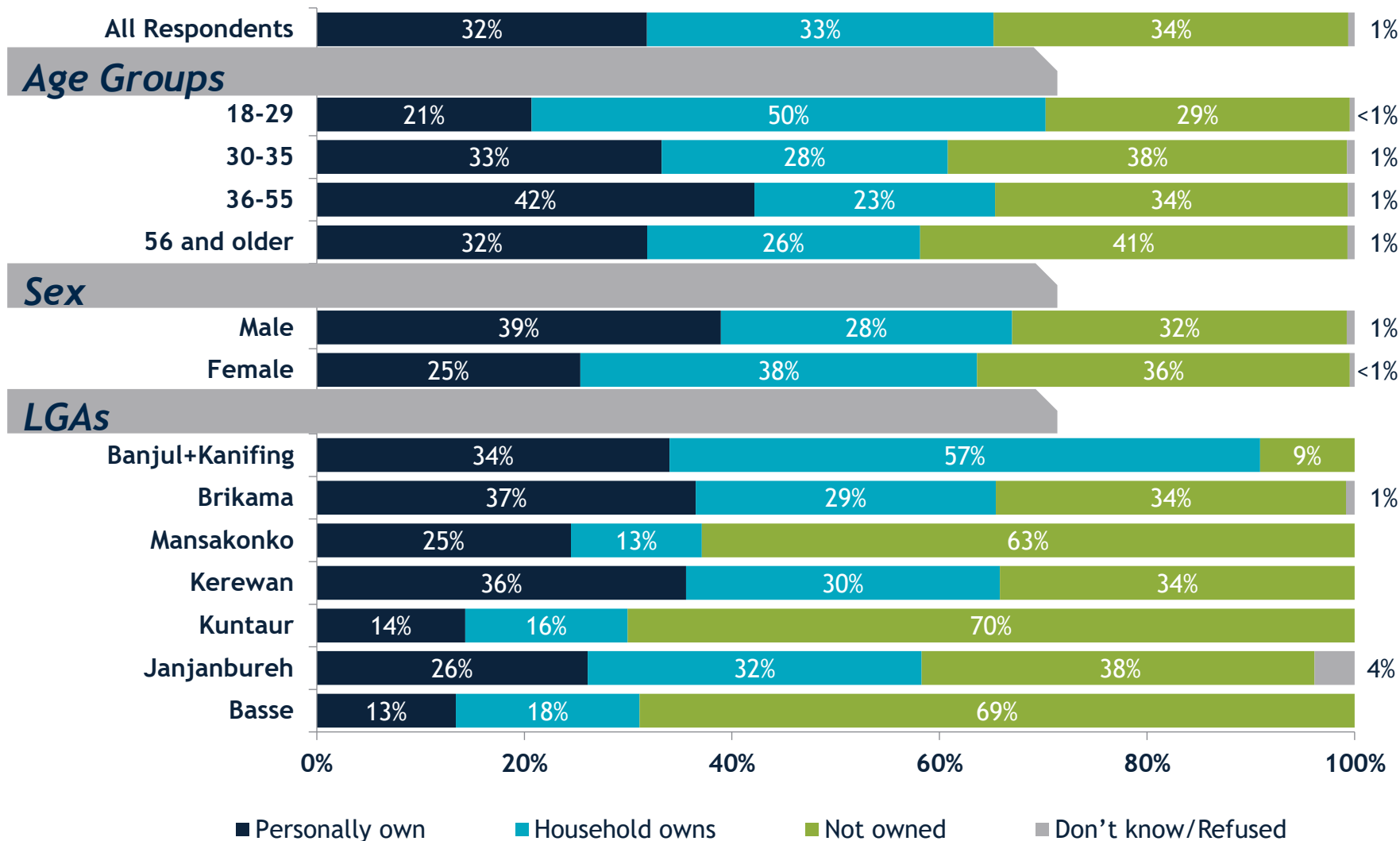
Which of these things do either you or someone in your household own?

Radio



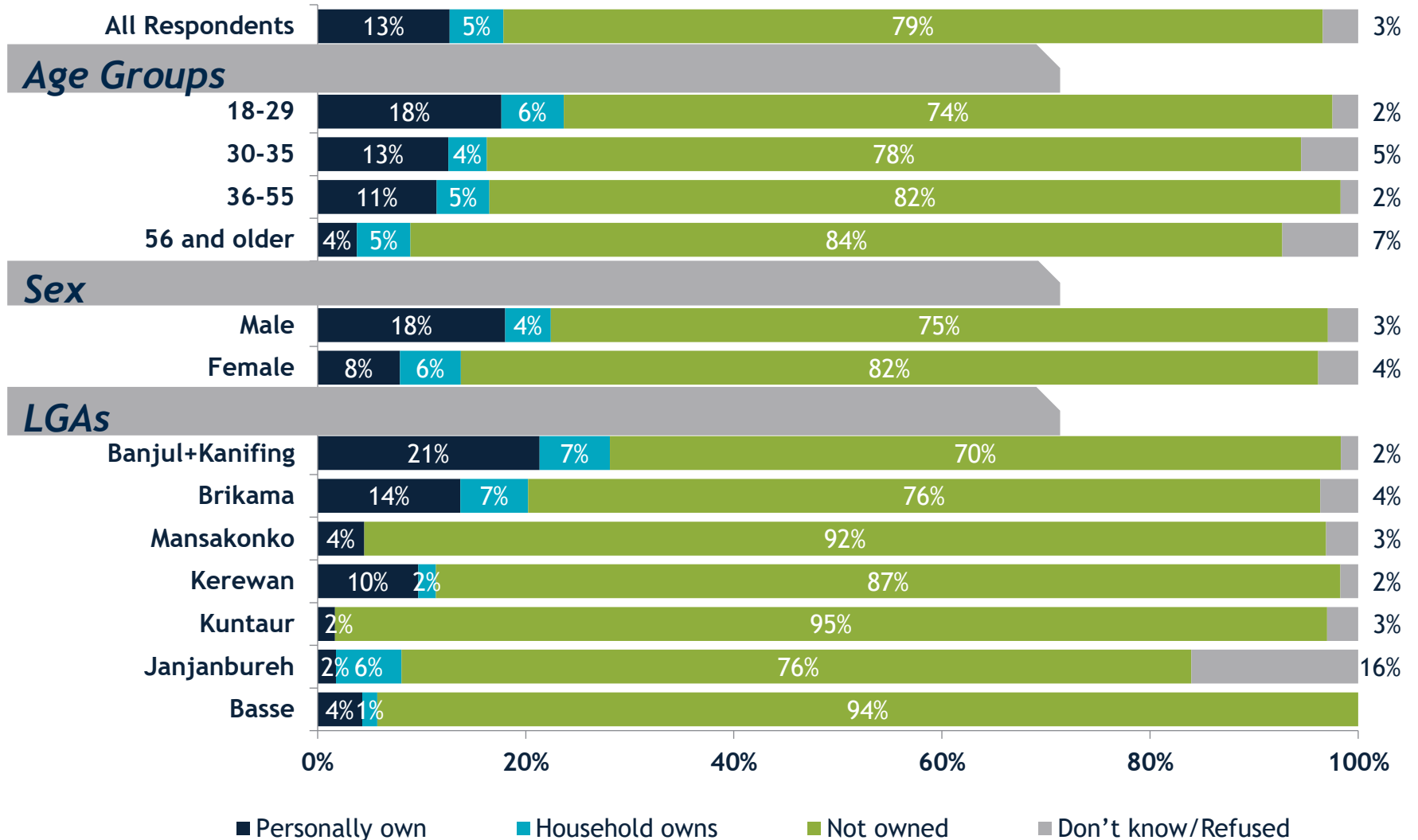
Which of these things do either you or someone in your household own?

Television



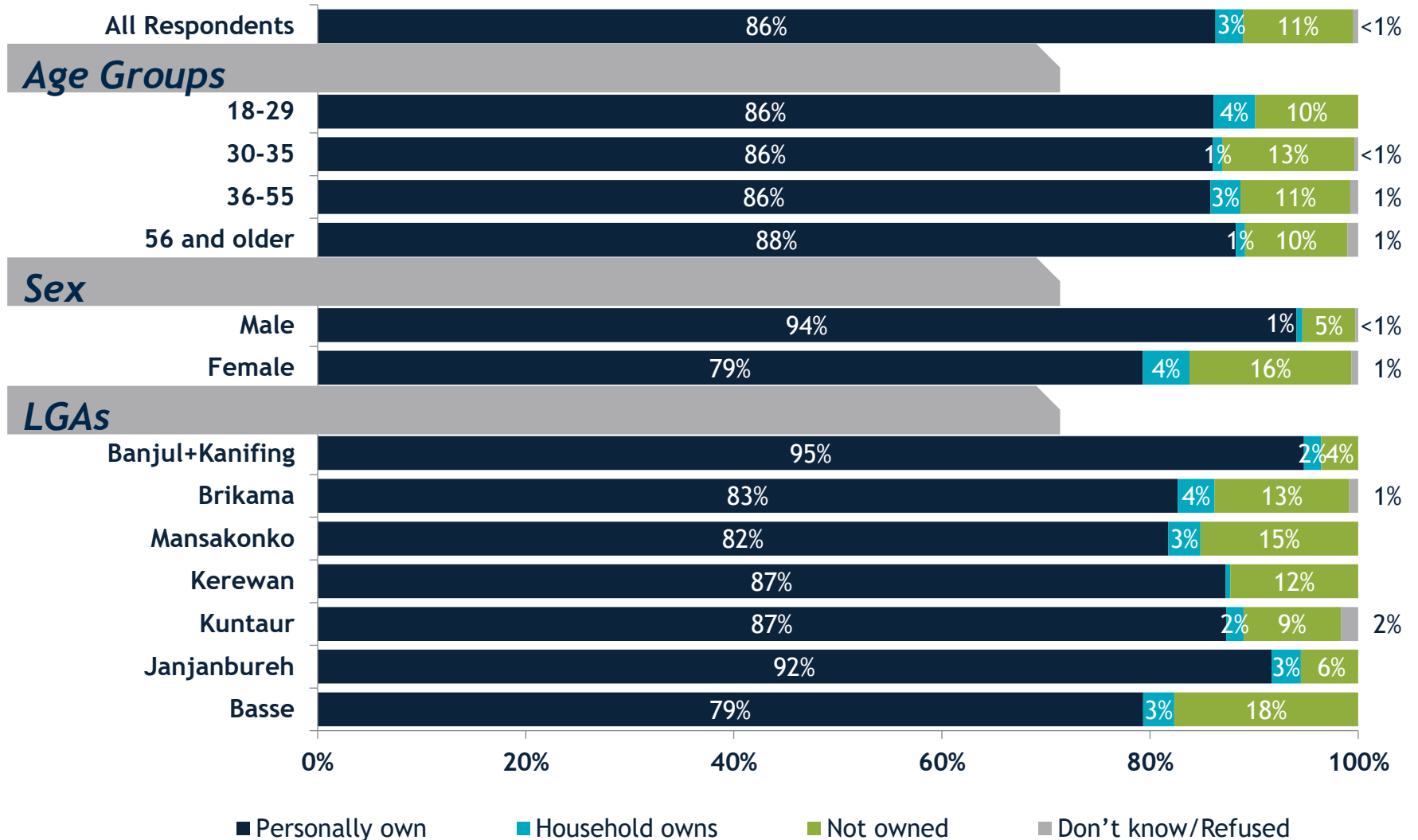
Which of these things do either you or someone in your household own?

Computer

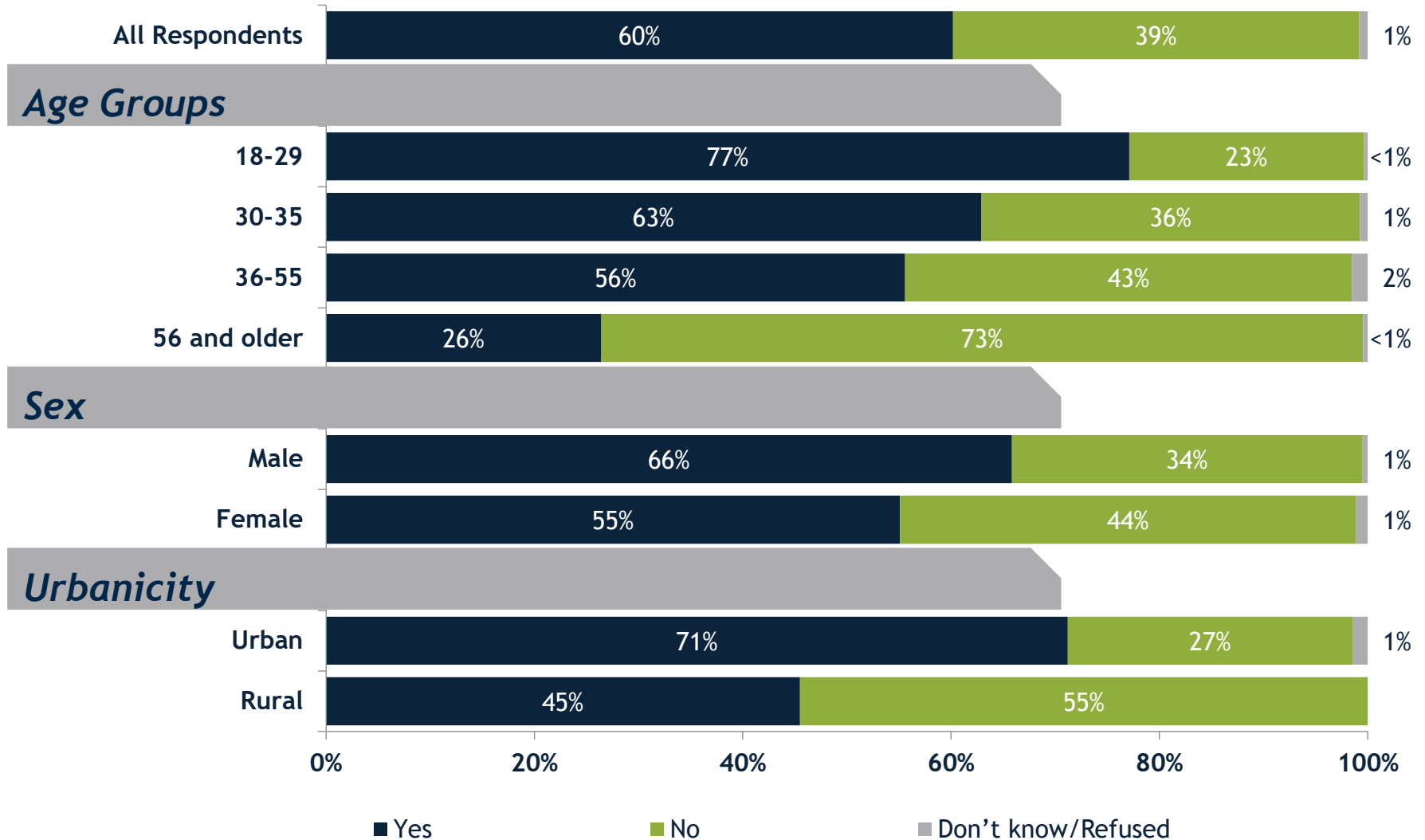


Which of these things do either you or someone in your household own?

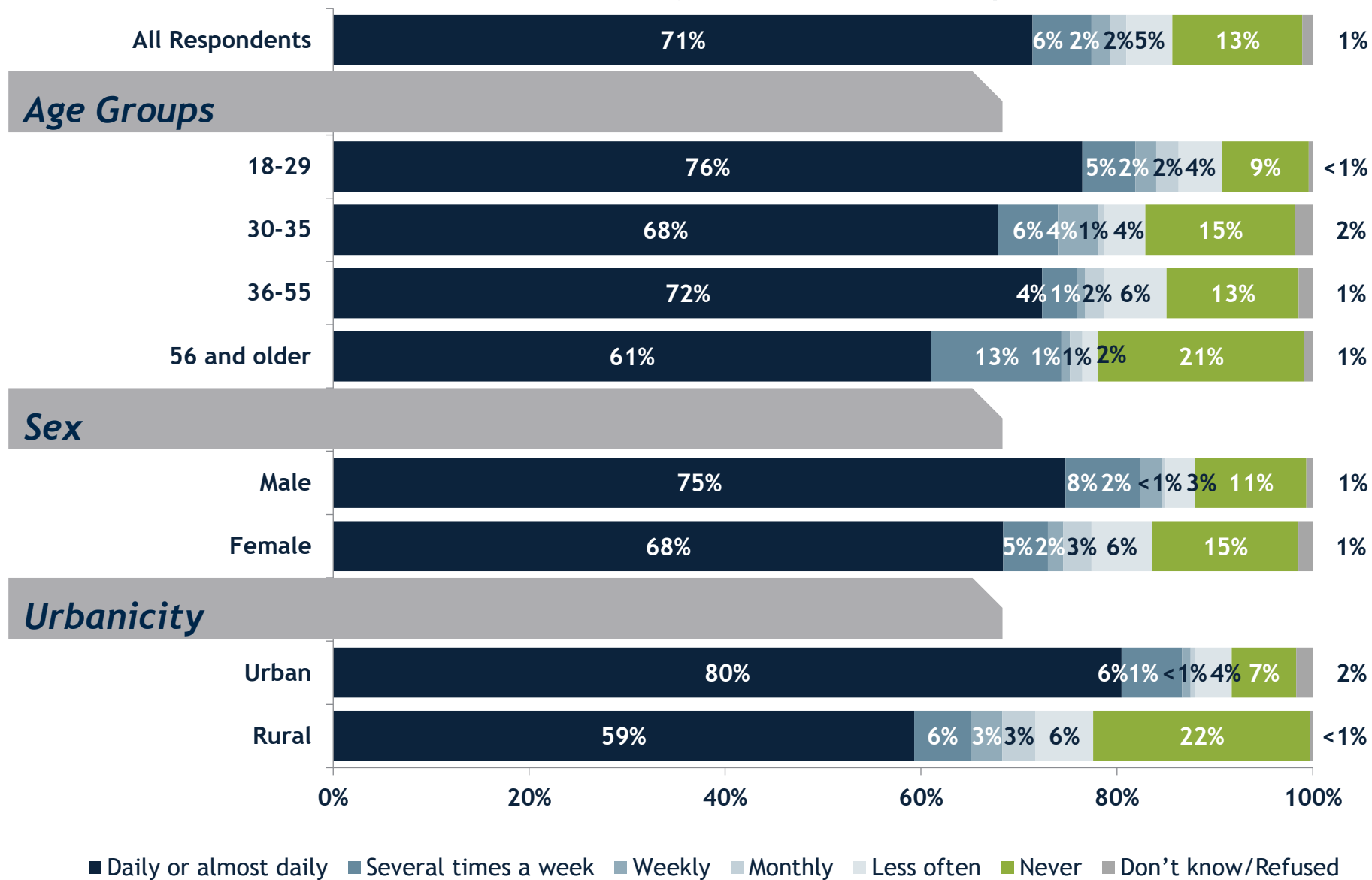
Mobile Phone



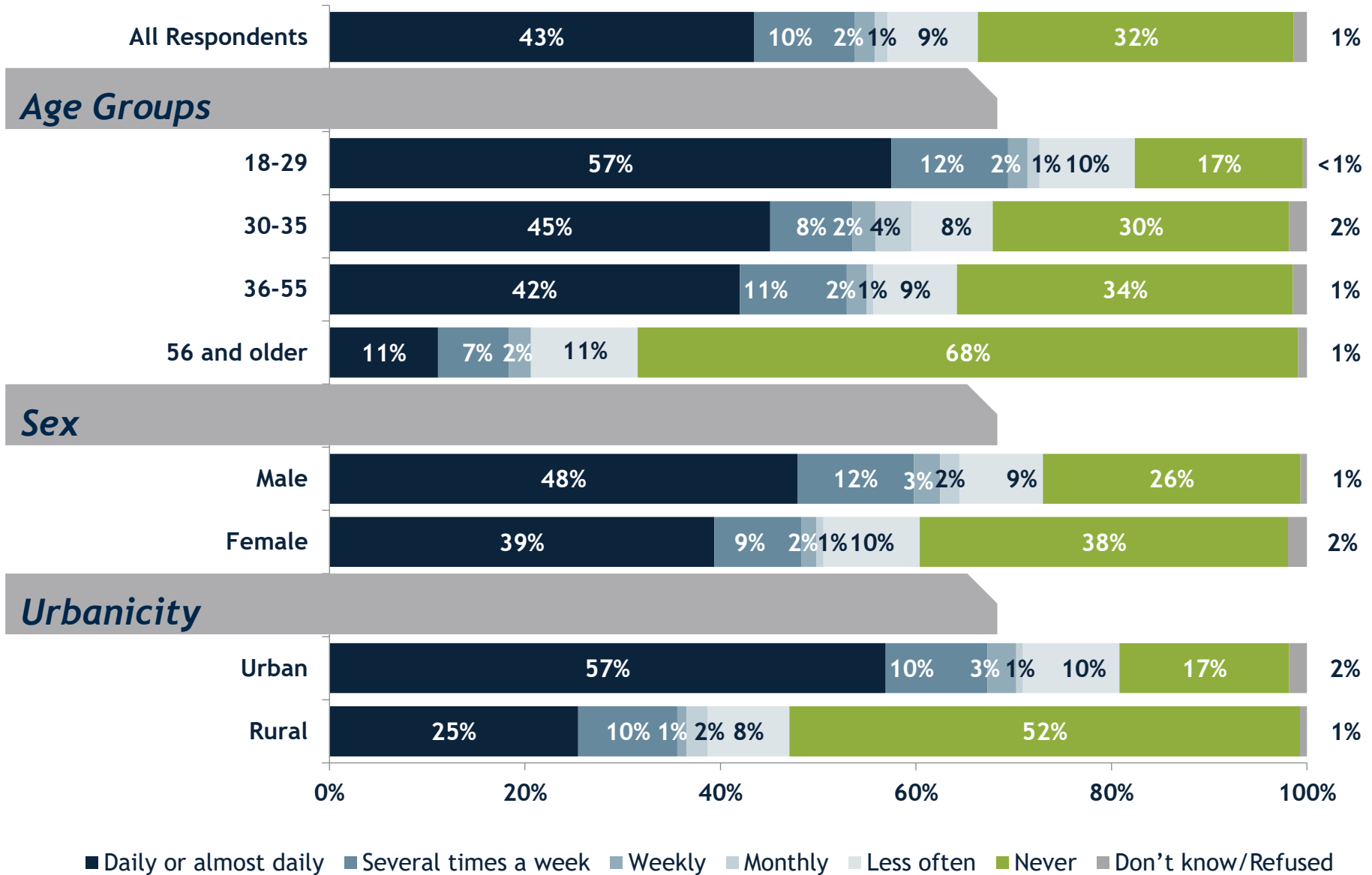
Do you own a smart phone that you use to access the internet, or applications such as Facebook and WhatsApp?



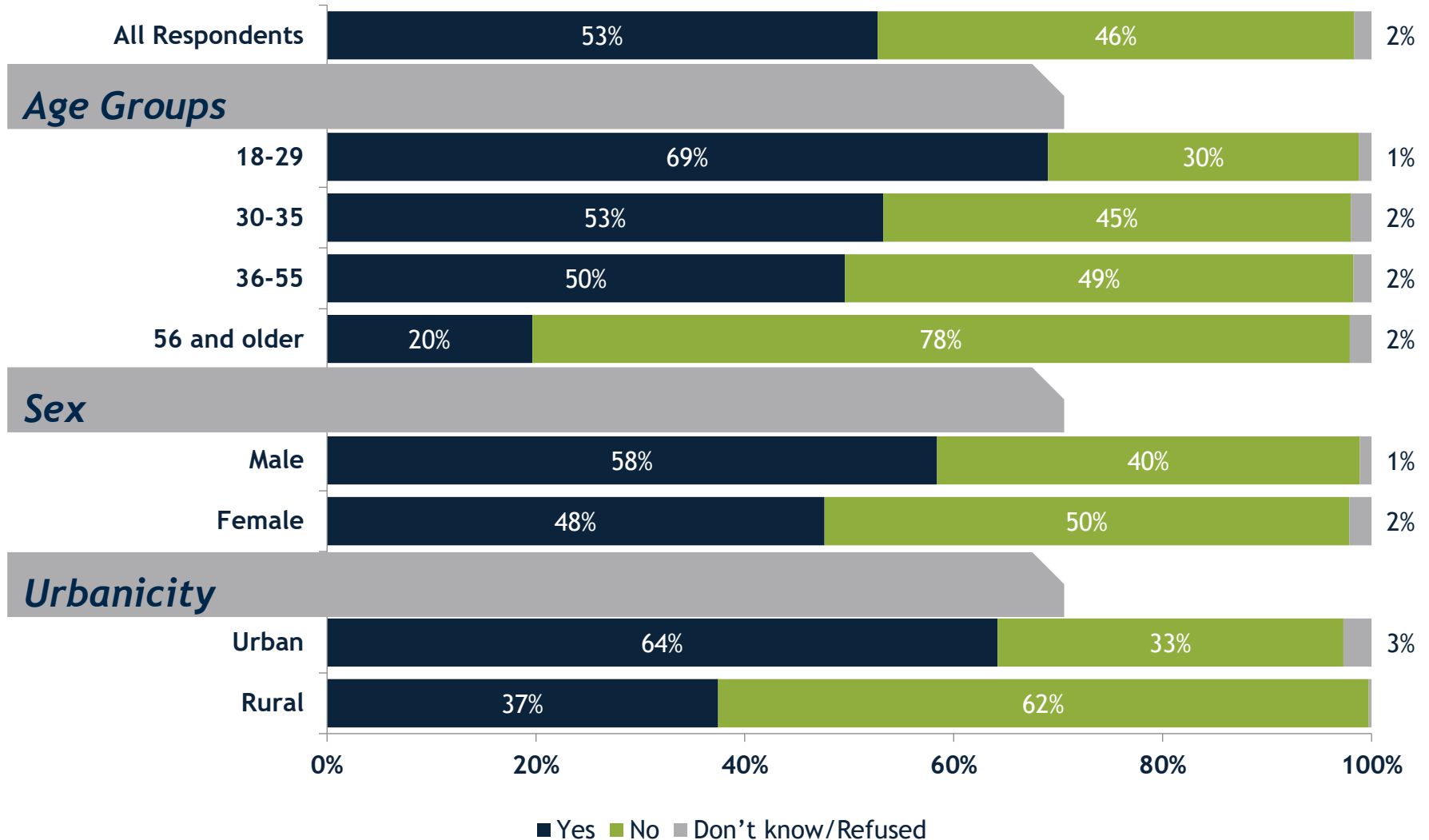
How often, if ever, do you use a mobile phone?



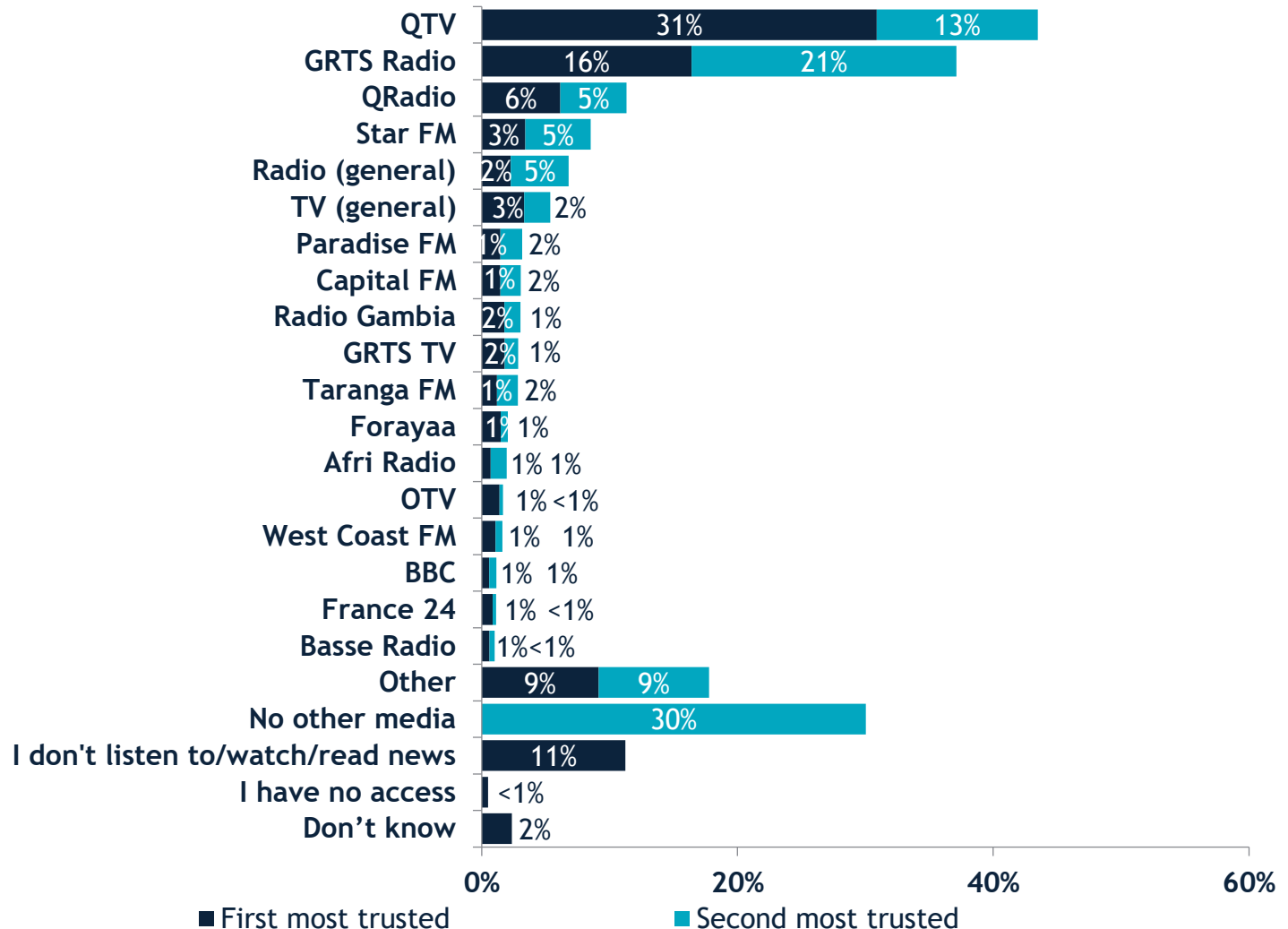
How often, if ever, do you use the internet?



In the past 7 days, have you used social media, for example WhatsApp or Facebook?



Which specific media outlets, such as a specific TV channel, radio station, newspaper, website, etc., do you consider most trustworthy?
 (Spontaneous response; up to two responses permitted)



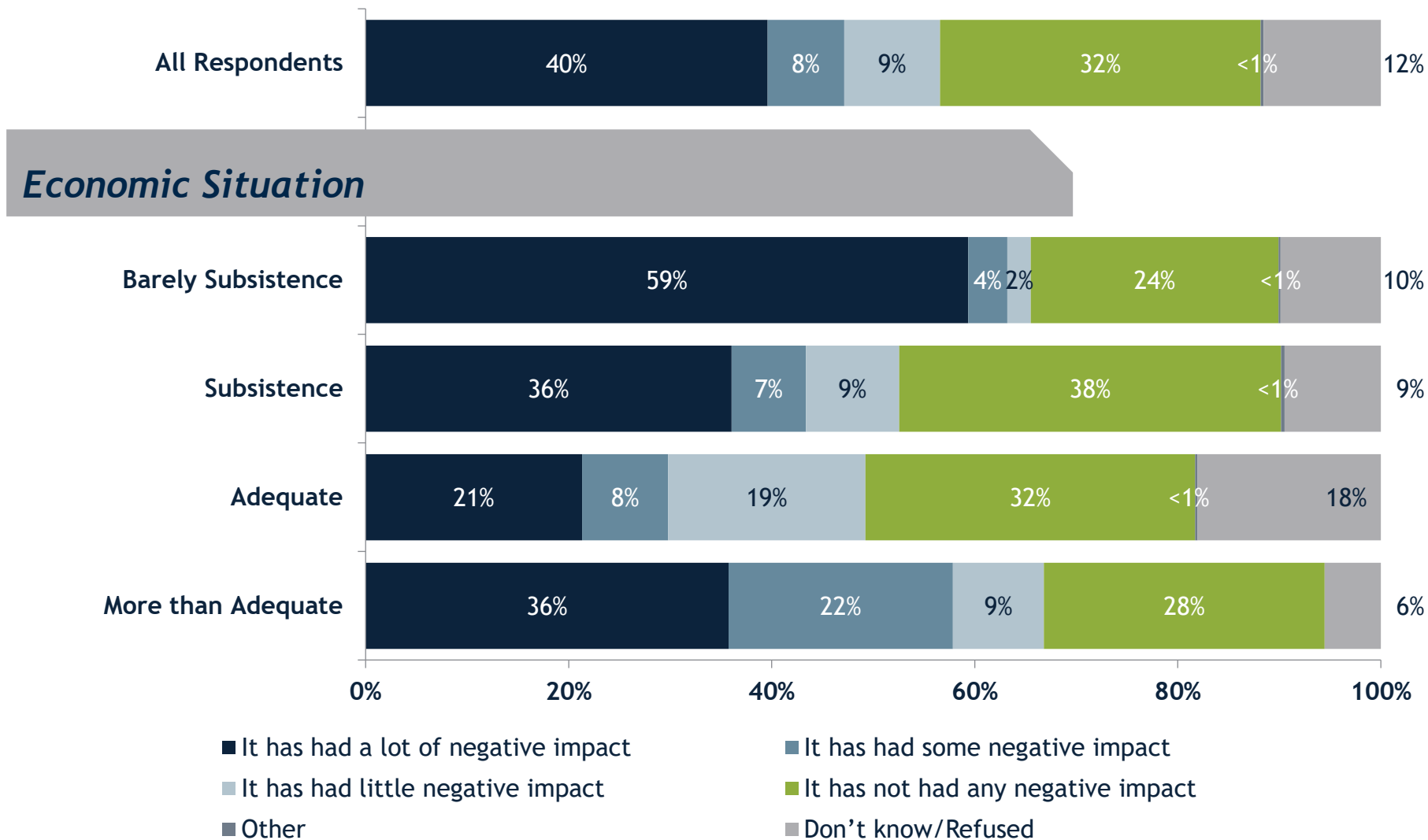
*Responses receiving less than 2 percent overall are collapsed into *Other*.



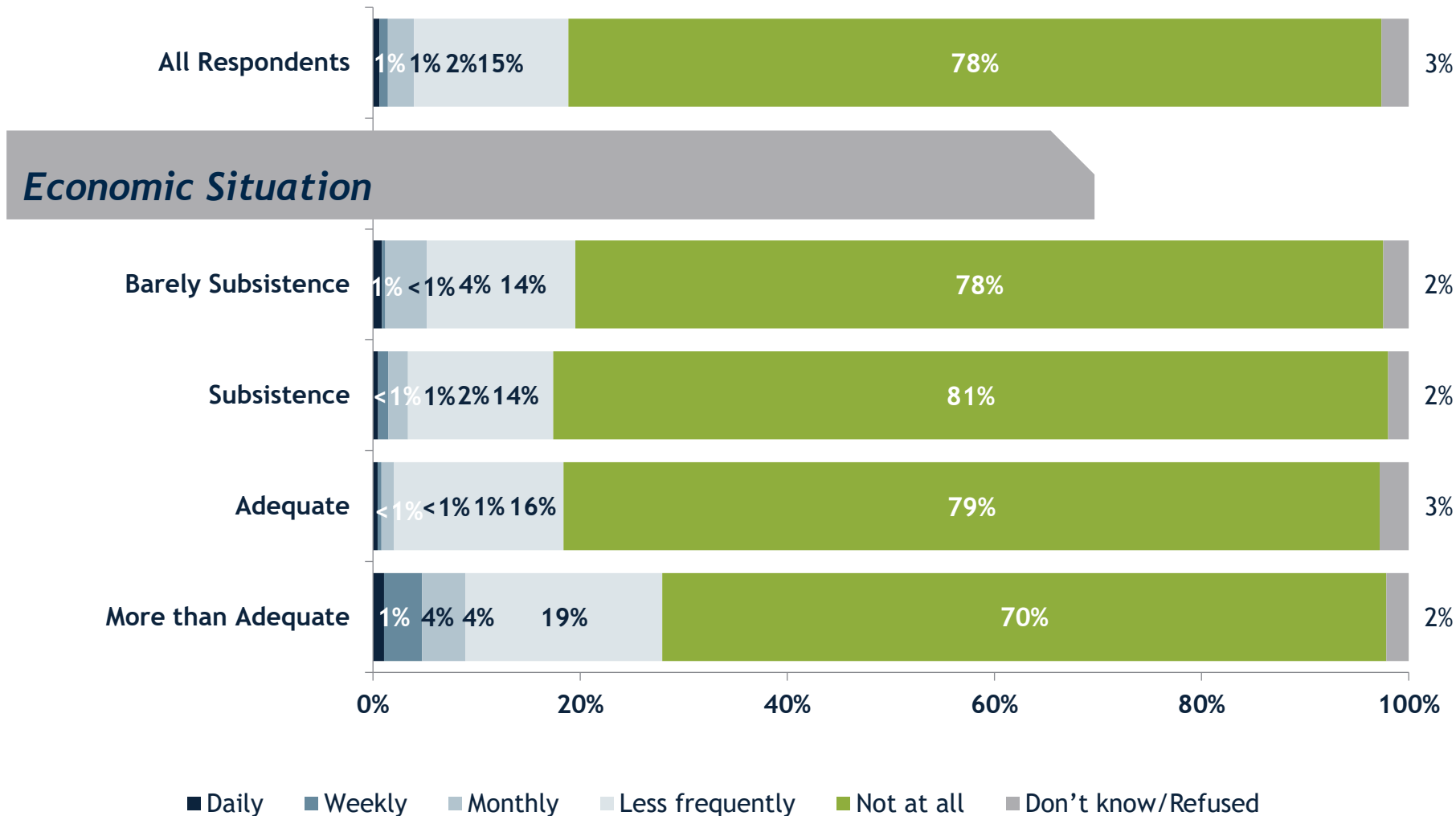
Corruption



Now I would like to discuss corruption with you. When I say corruption, I mean having to do a favor, give a gift or pay a bribe because someone misuses their position for personal gains. To what extent, if any, has corruption had a negative impact on you?



In the past 12 months, how often, if at all, have you had to do a favor, give a gift or pay a bribe?

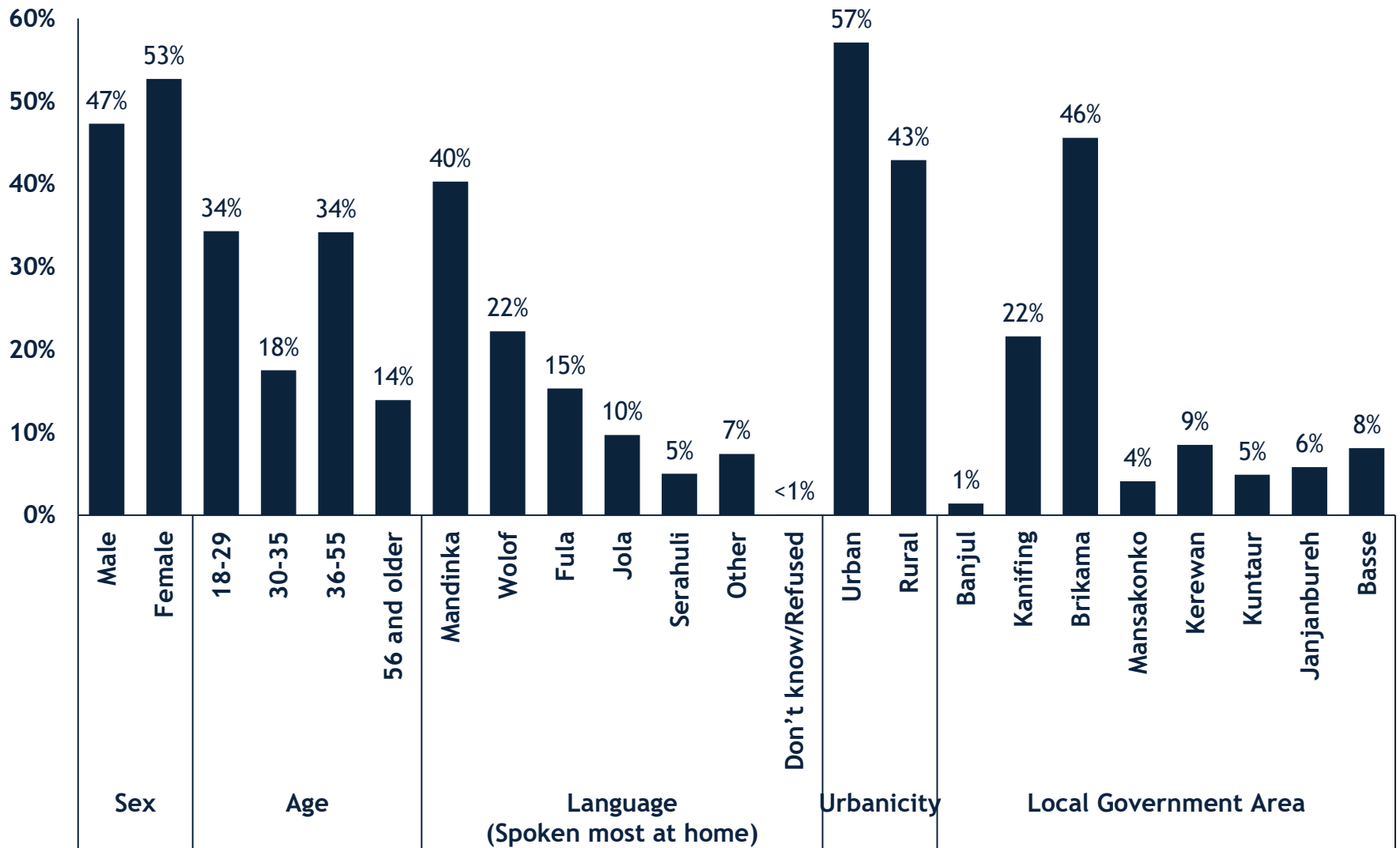




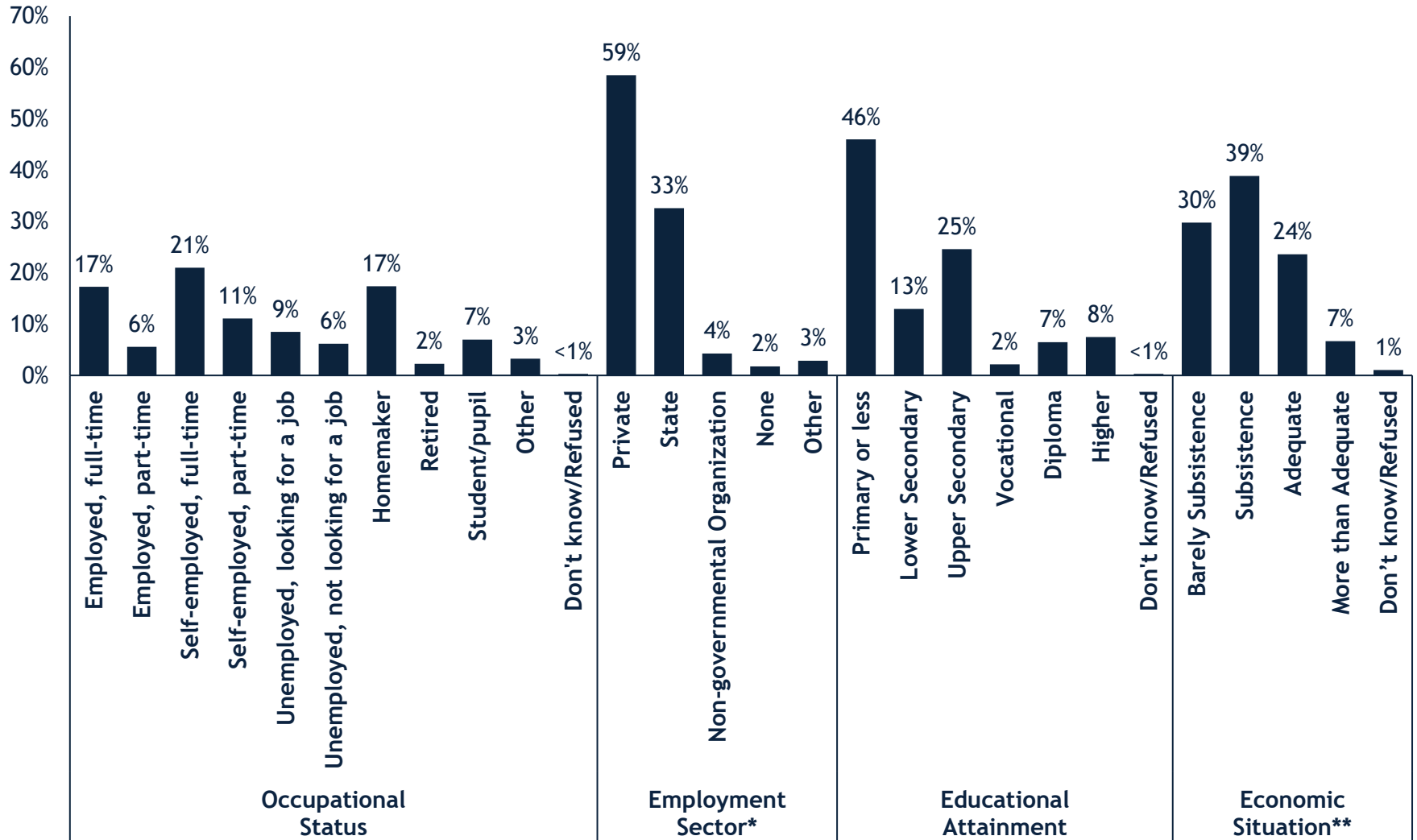
Demographics



Demographics



Demographics



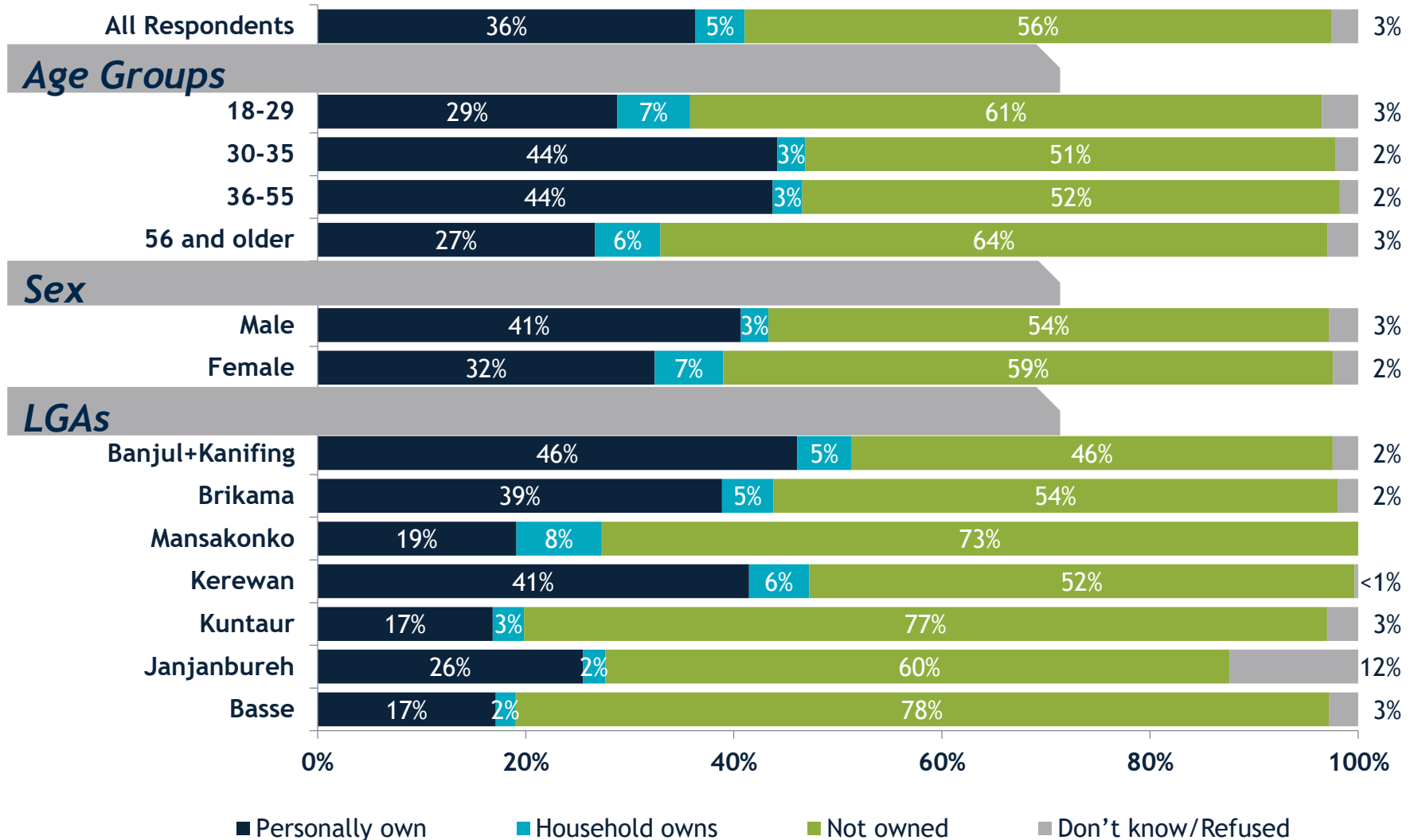
***Employment Sector** is among those who are *employed full-time* or *employed part-time* (n=269).

****Economic Situation** is based on the question “Please tell us which answer best describes your current economic situation.”

- Barely Subsistence = “I have trouble feeding myself and my family and buying even the most essential things for survival.”
- Subsistence = “I have enough means for survival, but I do not have enough money for extra things.”
- Adequate = “I am able to afford a few new extra things.”
- More than Adequate = “I am able to afford most things I want.”

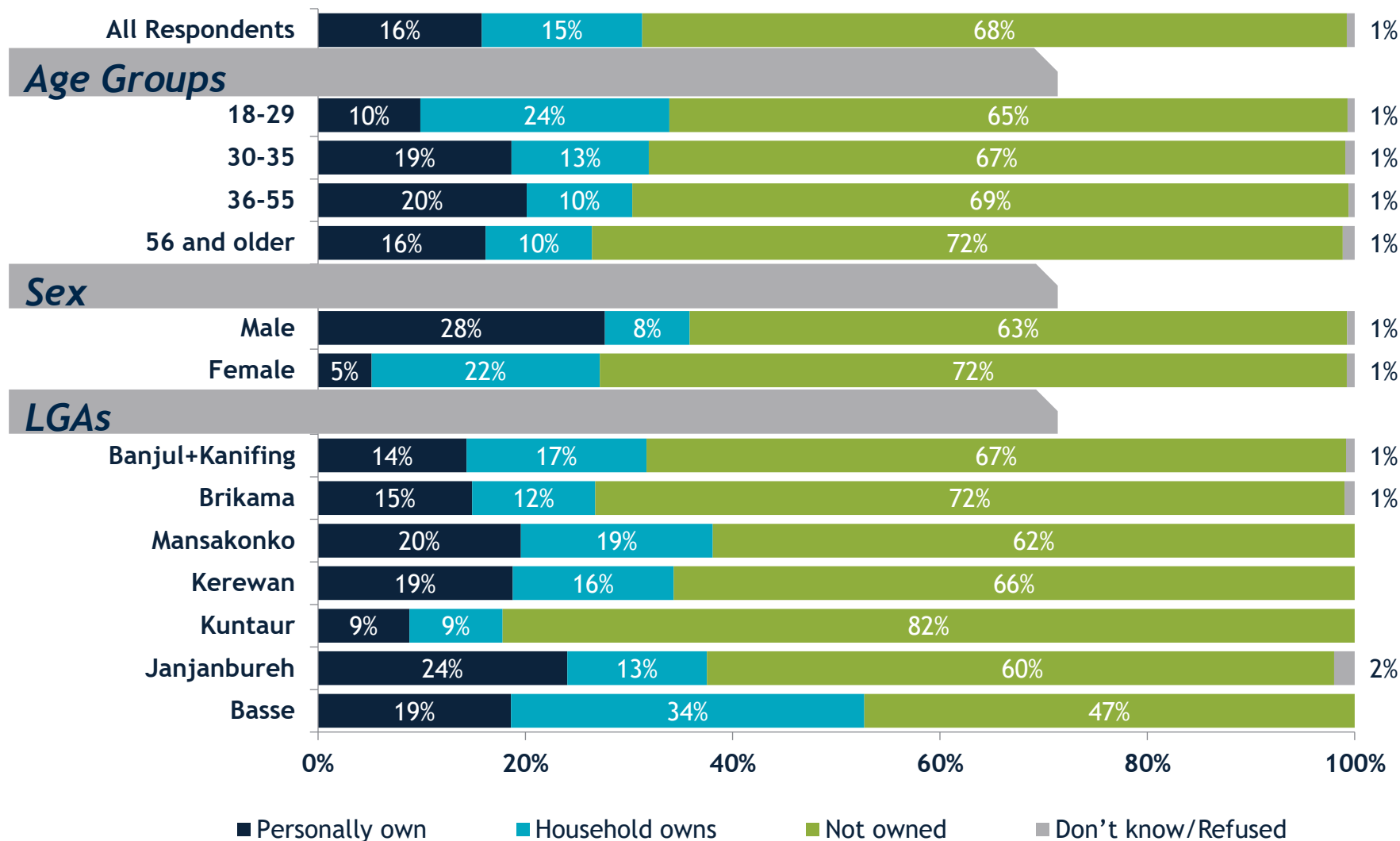
Which of these things do either you or someone in your household own?

Bank Account

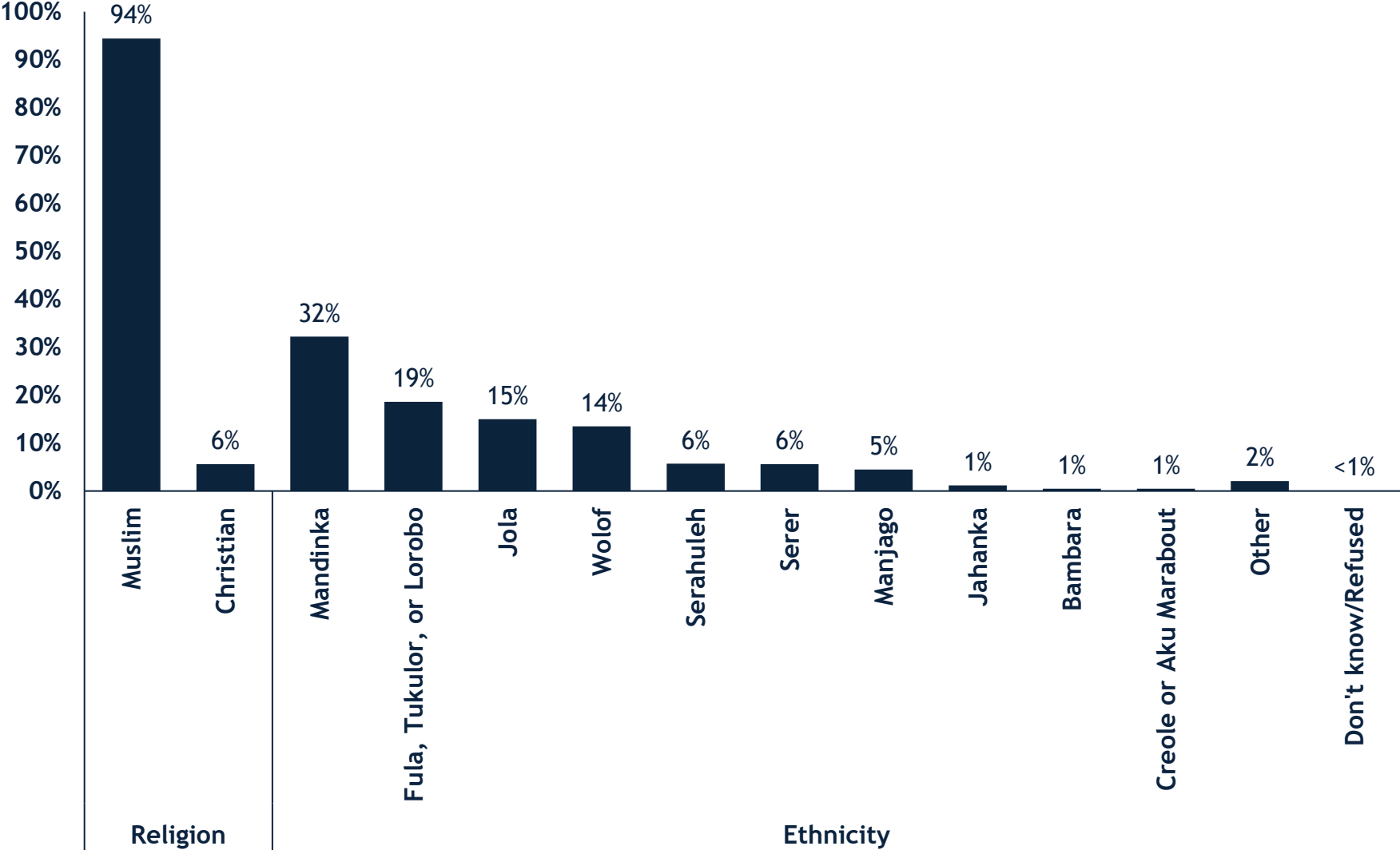


Which of these things do either you or someone in your household own?

Motor Vehicle or Motorcycle



Demographics





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