

# 2006 Multi-State TABOR Survey - Ohio -

**TOPLINE REPORT  
PRESENTED TO:**



**May 2006**



Alan Newman Research  
MARKET RESEARCH CONSULTANTS

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## Introduction / Methodology

**In May 2006, AARP engaged Alan Newman Research to conduct a series of surveys in eight states regarding AARP members' awareness, knowledge, and opinions of proposed TABOR measures in their state. This report offers data and analysis for Ohio.**

- **Data Collection Mode:** Phone Survey
- **Field Period:** May 15 – May 22, 2006
- **Sample Size:** 600 Completed Interviews
- **Screening Criteria:** AARP Membership
- **Calling Procedures:** Unless otherwise requested by the respondent, calling was done between 5:00pm and 9:00pm Monday through Friday. Up to 10 call attempts were made per number at varying times of day as well as days of the week. Respondents who specifically request removal from our “list” are assigned a final disposition and are added to a cumulative “Do Not Call” database which automatically removes them from future research studies.
- **Margin of Error:** The maximum margin of error at the 95% confidence level for a sample of 600 respondents is  $\pm 4.0\%$ .
- **Response Rate (RR3):** 20%
- **Cooperation Rate (COOP3):** 34%
- **Refusal Rate (REF3):** 32%
- **Statistical Note:** Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

## Executive Summary

- **The majority of AARP Members in Ohio believe too little money is being spent on state services.** More than one-half believe Ohio is spending too little money on services such as keeping people safe, providing health and long-term care, repairing roads, etc.
- **Nearly nine out of ten Members feel the state and local taxes they are paying are either too high or about right.** More than two out of five believe the state and local taxes they pay in Ohio are too high. Another two out of five suggest the amount they pay is about right.
- **The majority of AARP Members have little or no trust in their state government. In contrast, the majority have “a fair amount” or “a great deal” of trust in their local government.** One-fourth of AARP Members in Ohio say they do not trust their state government. More than one-third only trust their state government “a little.” However, more than one-half reportedly trust their local government at least “a fair amount.”
- **Nearly one-half of AARP Members assert that improving state services is a higher priority than limiting taxes.** Two out of five also suggest that among the most important goals for state government is improved accountability. One out of five suggest setting spending priorities and reducing taxes are among the most important goals.
- **The majority of AARP Members have not seen or heard anything about the “Tax and Expenditure Limitation” or TEL proposal for Ohio.** Only one out of five report seeing or hearing something about the TEL proposal in the last year.
- **Police protection and K-12 education are the most highly valued state and local services according to AARP Members in Ohio.** Consequently, cutting funds to either police protection or K-12 public education would have the biggest impact on Members support of TEL. More than one-half of Members suggest that if the TEL proposal cut these services, they would be more likely to oppose the measure. One-half also say they’d be more likely to oppose it if funding to Senior State Services or Healthcare for Low Income families was cut.



## Executive Summary (continued)

- **Overall, AARP Members appear generally unconvinced by any arguments either in support or in opposition to the TEL proposal.** More than one-half of all Members find the various arguments no more than “somewhat convincing.” Nonetheless, among the messages rated most convincing are those suggesting TEL would take power away from state politicians and that TEL would control runaway government spending.
- **Two out of five AARP Members would be more likely to oppose the TEL proposal if they knew AARP and other senior organizations also opposed it.** One-third say AARP’s opposition as well as that of other senior organizations would not make a difference in how they voted on the TEL proposal.
- **Initially, two out of five AARP Members claimed support for the TEL Proposal. However, when asked again at the end of the survey, only one-third continued to say they support the proposal.** Forty-two percent of AARP Members said they would probably vote in favor of the proposal after hearing a brief description of TEL. Members were then presented a short series of arguments both for and against the proposal. When asked about supporting or opposing the proposal after hearing these argument, only about one-third expressed support. Finally, at the end of the interview, Members were again asked how they would vote regarding TEL. One-third indicated they would vote for the proposal. This eleven percent shift between the initial measure and the final measure is statistically significant at the 95 percent level of confidence.



# DETAILED FINDINGS



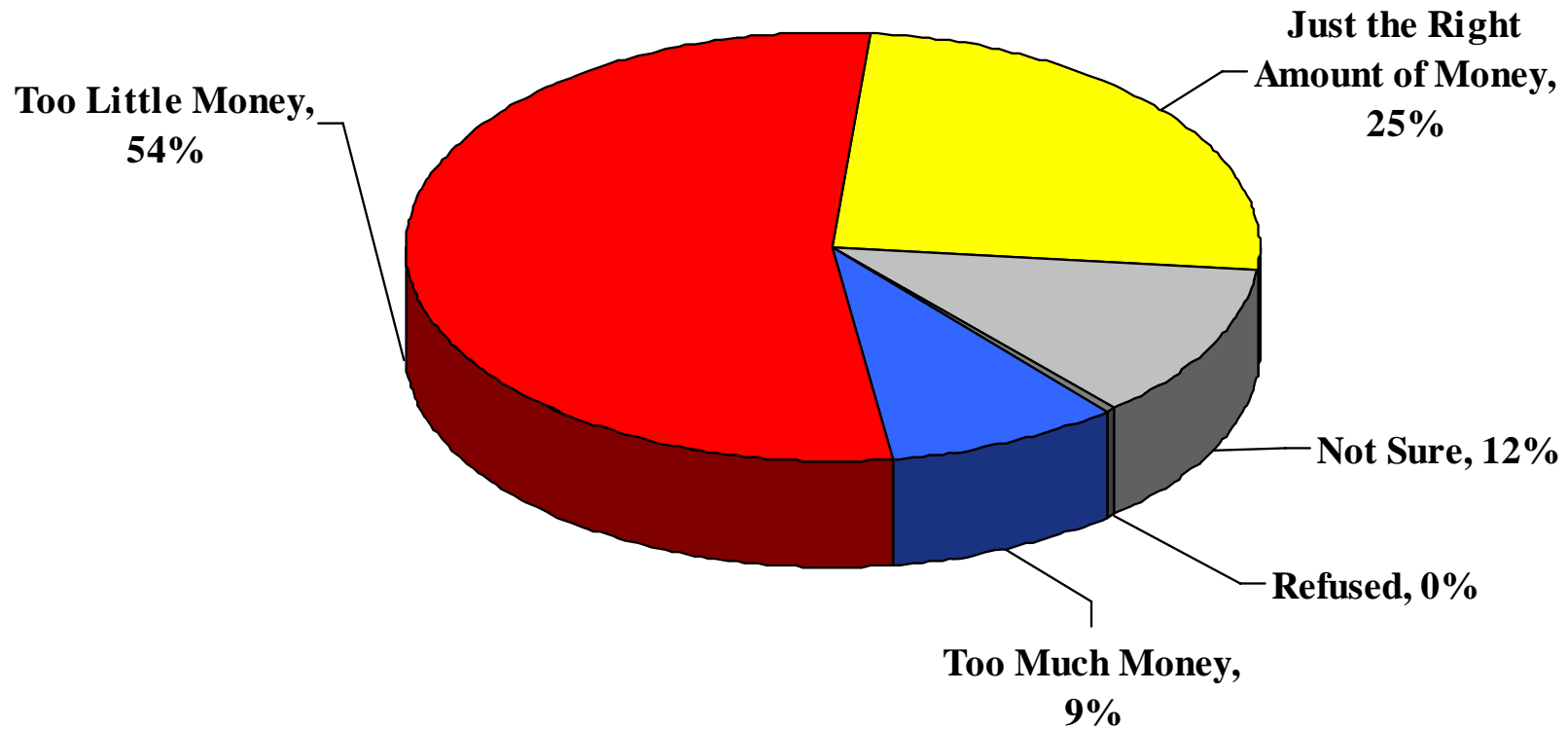
# Univariate Analysis



**Q1. Do you think that Ohio is spending too much money, too little money, or just the right amount of money on state services such as keeping people safe, providing health and long-term care, repairing roads and highways, maintaining parks, and providing education?**

*More than one-half of AARP Members in Ohio believe the State is spending too little money on state services. One-fourth believe Ohio is spending just the right amount of money.*

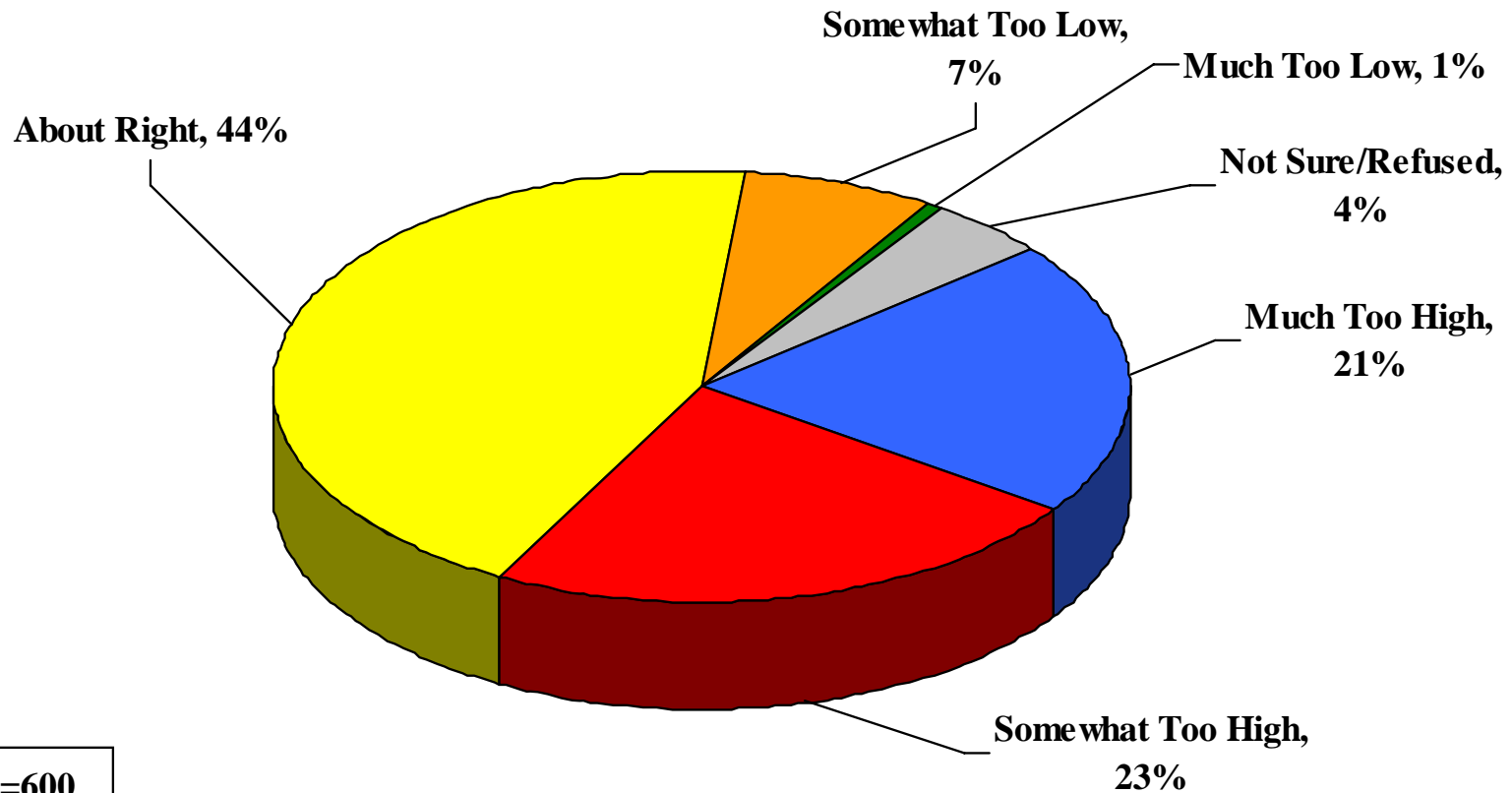
n=600





**Q2. Thinking about the state and local taxes that you pay, not including federal taxes, do you think that taxes in Ohio are too high, are about right, or are too low to support state services?**

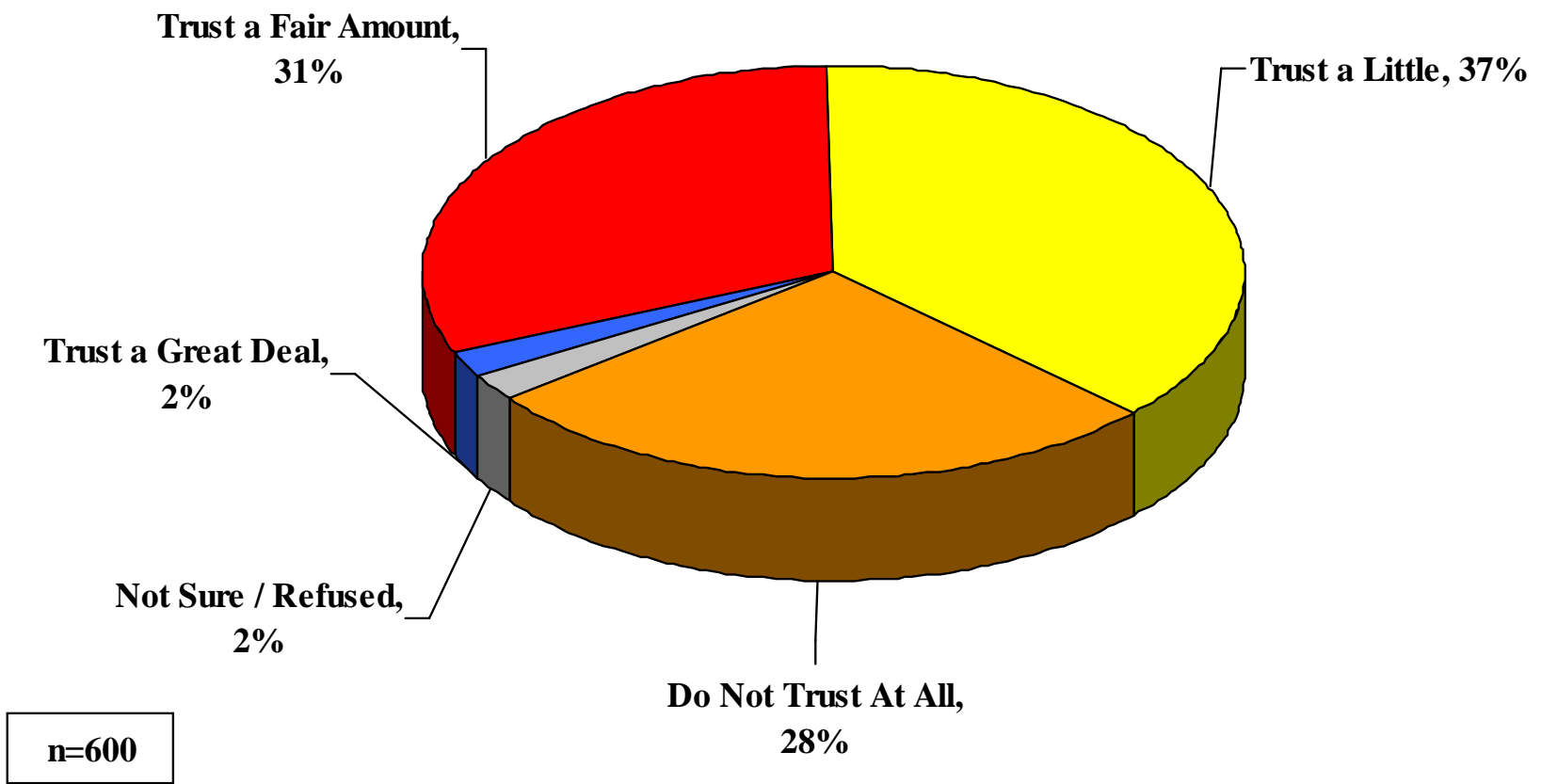
*AARP Members in Ohio appear to be split in terms of whether they think the state and local taxes in Ohio are “about right” or whether they are “too high.” Fewer than one out of ten say the taxes they pay are “too low.”*



n=600

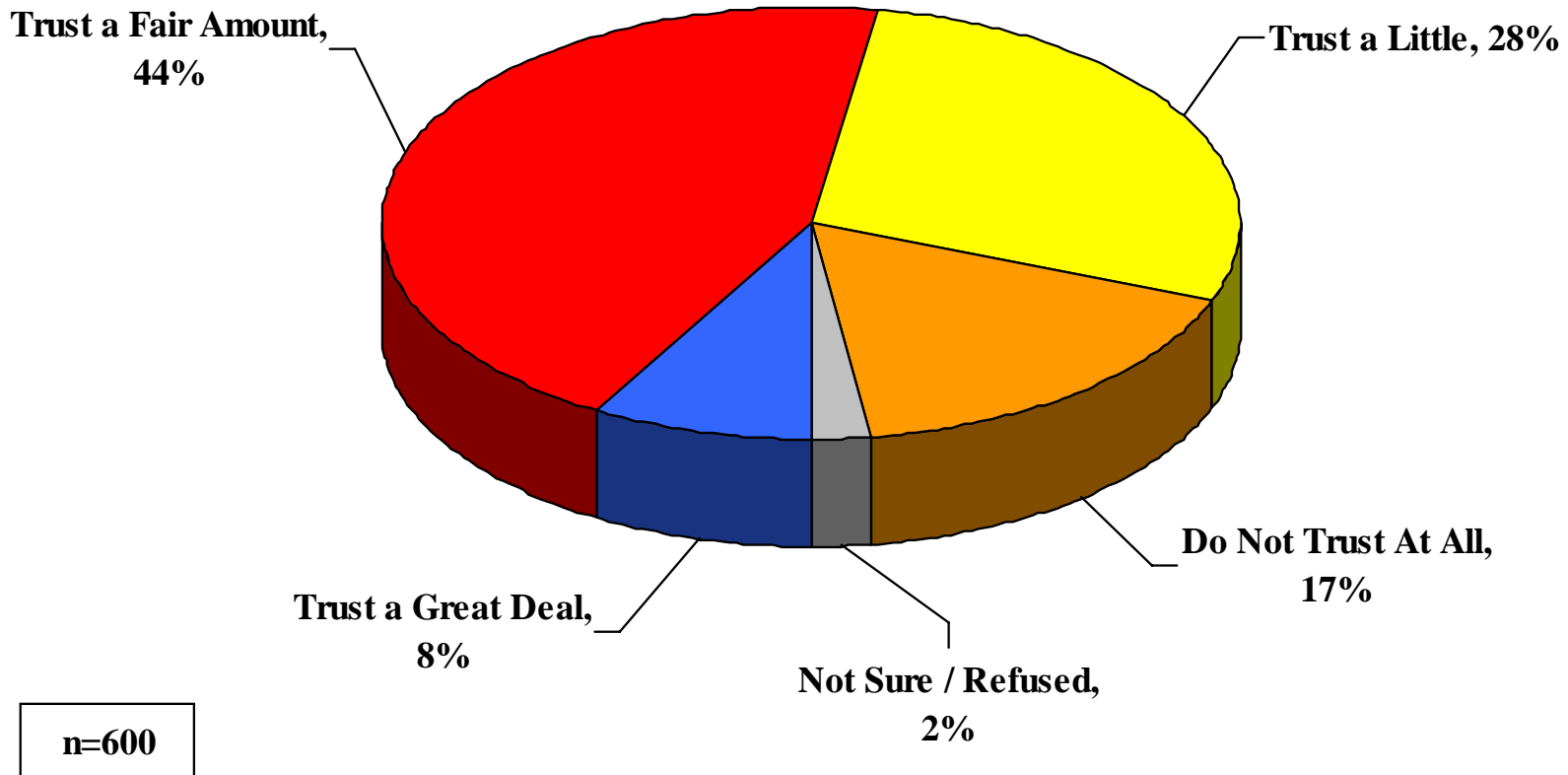
**Q3a. How much do you trust your state government to use your tax money effectively and deliver quality state services – a great deal, a fair amount, just a little, or not at all.**

*About one-third of AARP Members in Ohio trust their state government a fair amount. However, nearly two out of five say they only trust their state government “a little.” One out of four AARP Members suggest they do not trust their state government at all.*



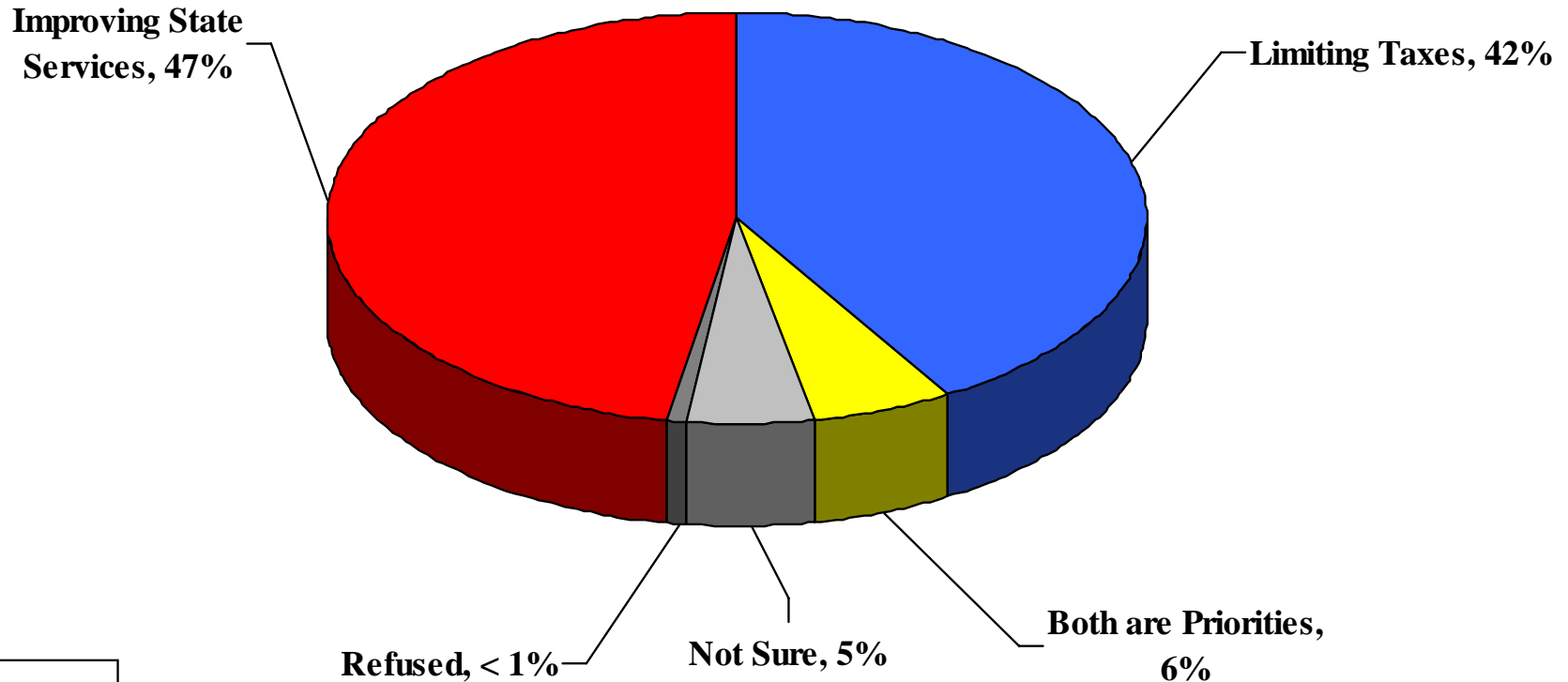
**Q3b. How much do you trust your local government (includes Towns, Cities, and Counties) to use your tax money effectively and deliver quality state services – a great deal, a fair amount, just a little, or not at all.**

*One-half of AARP Members living in Ohio say they trust their local government either “a great deal” or “a fair amount.” Only about one out of six Members say they do not trust their local government at all.*



### Q4. In Ohio, which is a higher priority for you...?

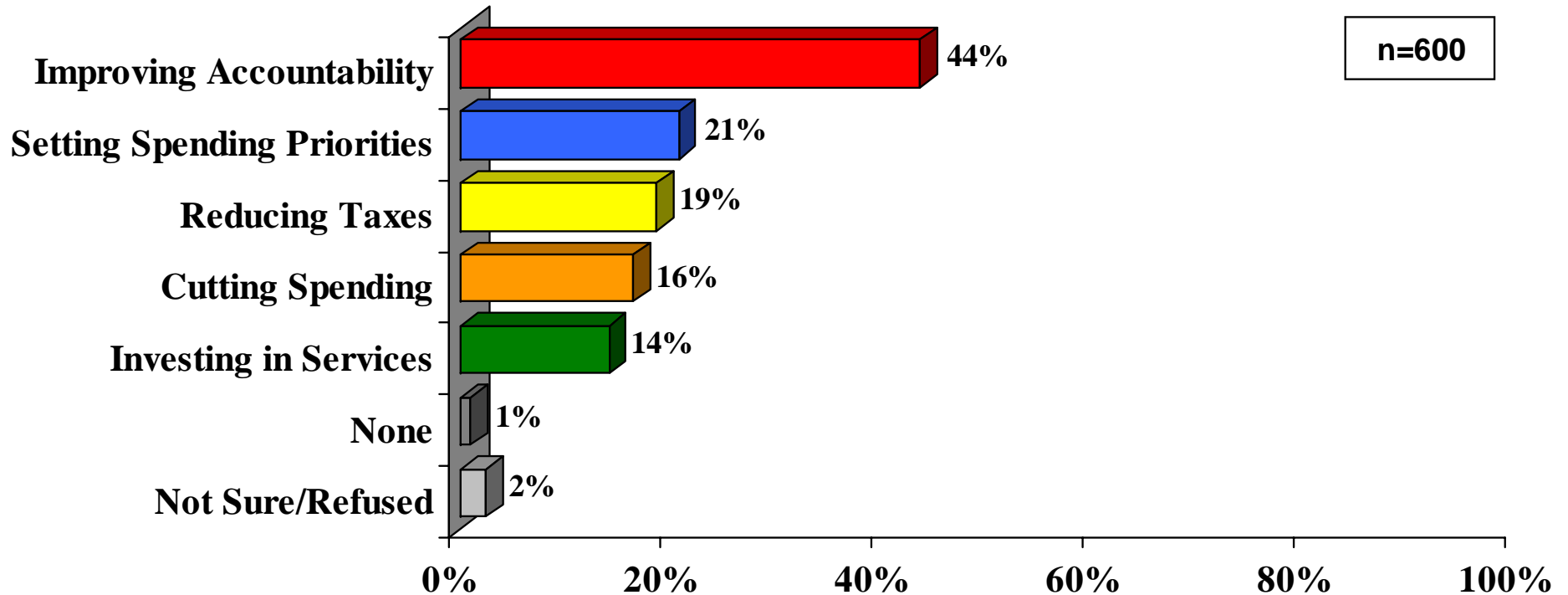
*Nearly one-half of AARP Members suggest improving state services is a higher priority than limiting taxes. However, two out of five Ohio AARP Members state that “limiting taxes” is a higher priority. Only six percent consider both of these goals to be a priority.*



n=600

**Q5. Thinking about state government today in Ohio, which one or two of the following goals are most important to you?**

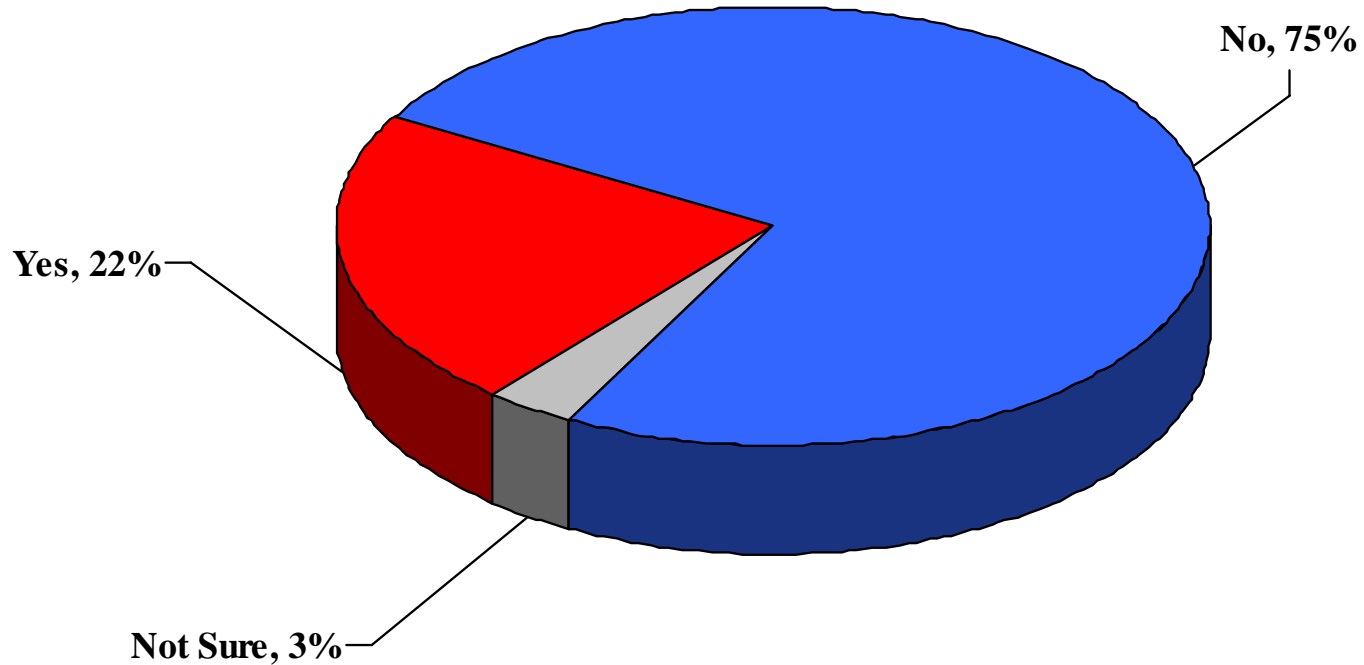
*More than two out of five AARP Members living in Ohio believe “improving accountability” should be among the most important goals for state government. Setting spending priorities ranks second with one out of five saying this is one of the most important goals. Reducing taxes is also mentioned by one out of five Members.*



**Q6. Have you seen, read, or heard anything about the Tax and Expenditure Limitation proposal, often referred to as TEL, and which is also sometimes referred to as the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, or TABOR, proposal in the last year?**

*Only one out of five AARP Members in Ohio say they have seen or heard something about the TEL proposal in the last year.*

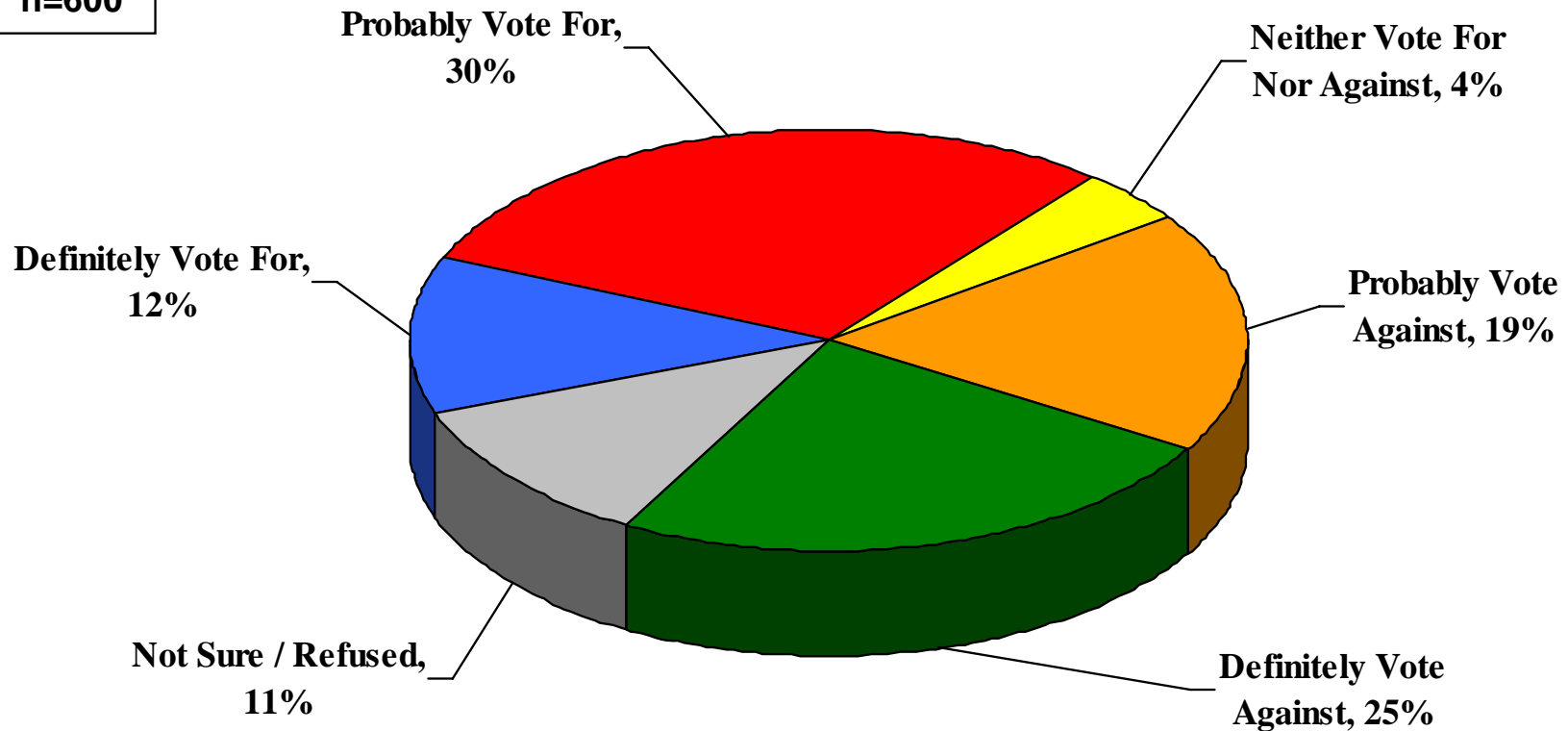
n=600



**Q7. Given what you know about the proposal, if the election were held today, would you vote for or against the Tax and Expenditure Limitation proposal , also known as TEL?**

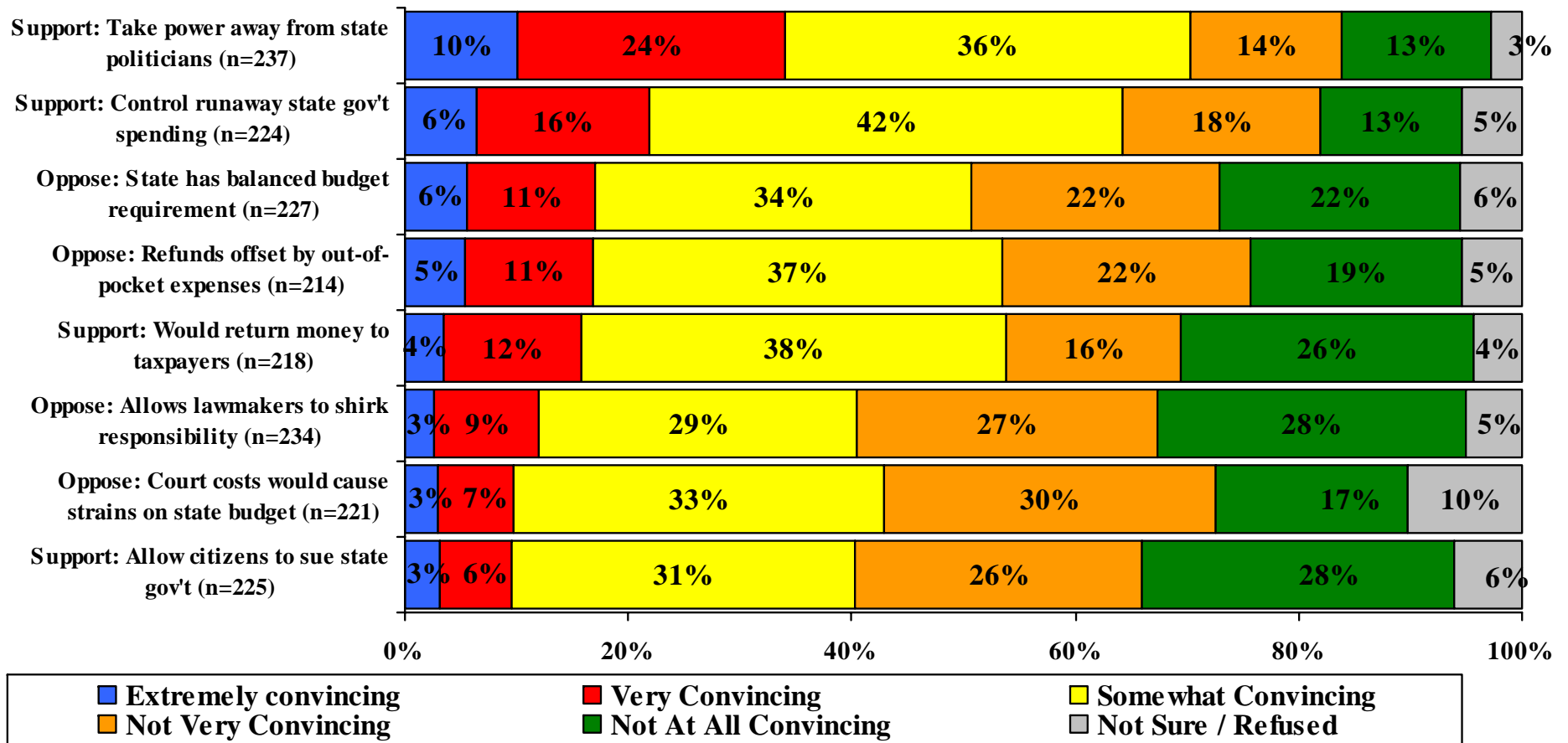
*Nearly as many AARP Members say they would vote for the TEL proposal in Ohio as say they would vote against it. Only one out of ten are either not sure about how they would vote or refuse to say. Four percent say they would vote neither for nor against the proposal.*

**n=600**



**Q8. Next I'm going to read you some of the things that supporters of TEL, say about the proposal and some of the things opponents say....I'd like you to please tell me whether you find it an extremely convincing argument, very convincing, somewhat convincing, not very convincing, or whether this particular argument is not at all convincing.**

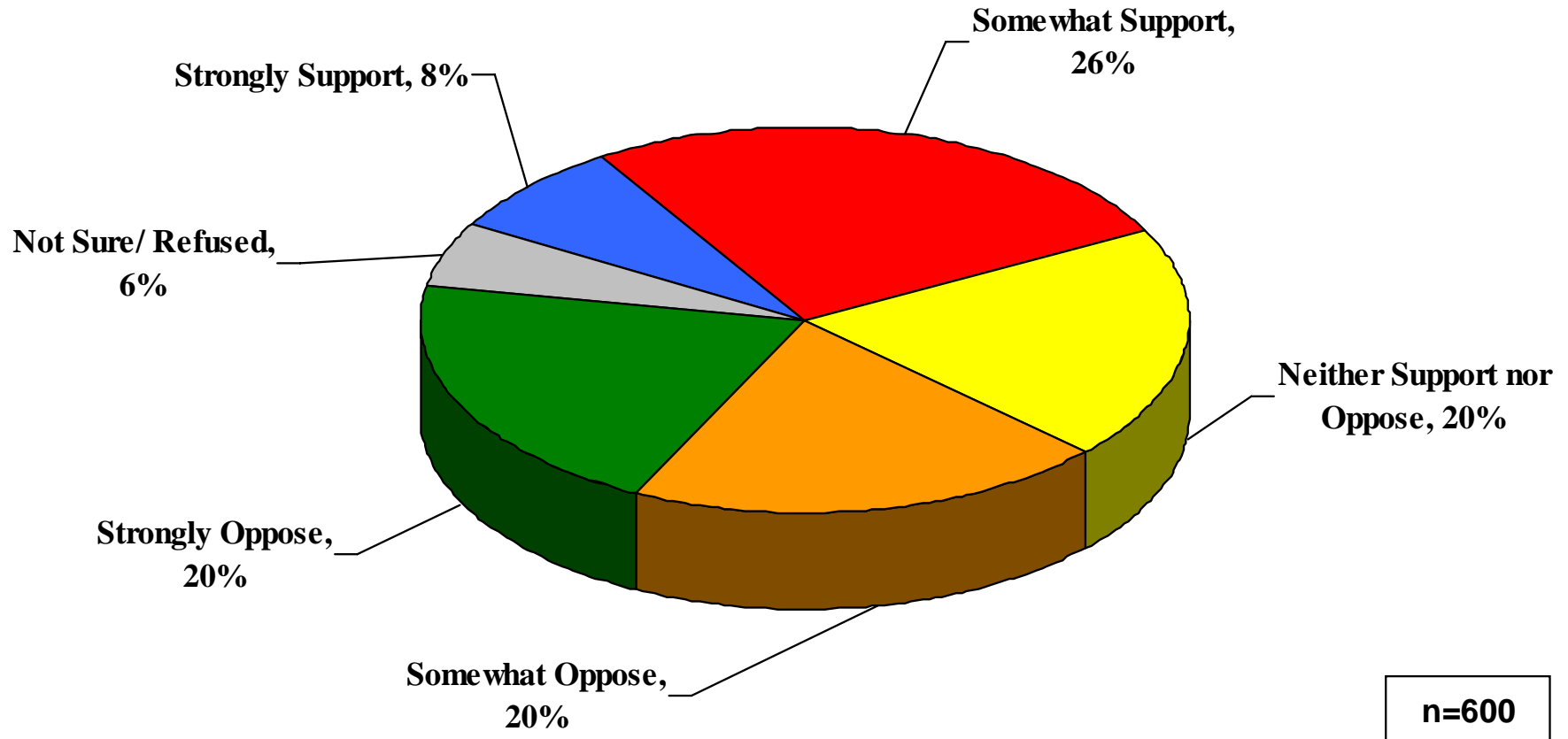
*Though AARP Members find most of the arguments no more than somewhat convincing, they appear to be most persuaded by arguments that the TEL proposal will take power away from state politicians and that it will control runaway spending by the state government.*





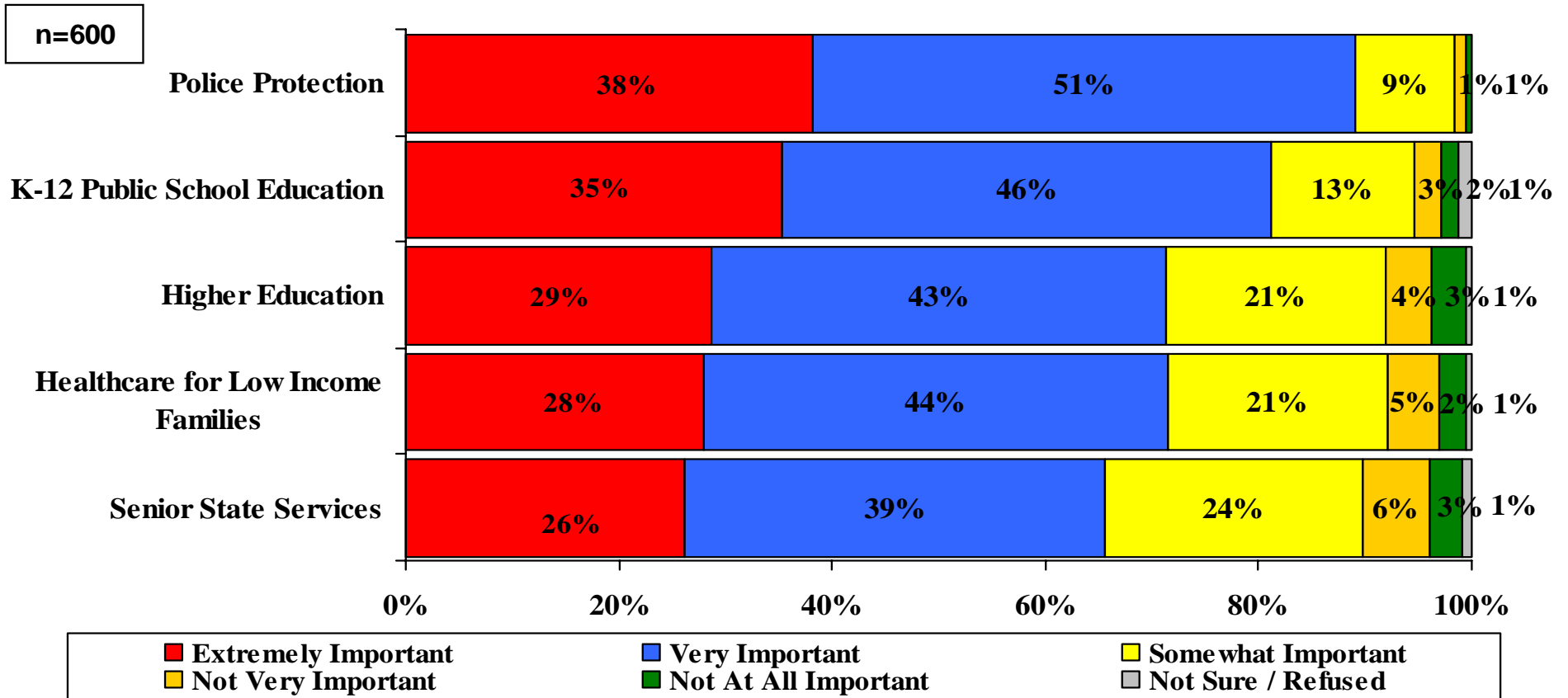
**Q9. Having heard arguments both for and against the Tax and Expenditure Limitation, now how strongly do you support or oppose TEL in Ohio?**

*After hearing arguments both in support of and in opposition to the TEL proposal, only one-third of AARP Members living in Ohio say they support the proposal. Another one out of five say they neither support nor oppose the proposal. However, two out of five Members state they either somewhat or strongly oppose the TEL proposal.*



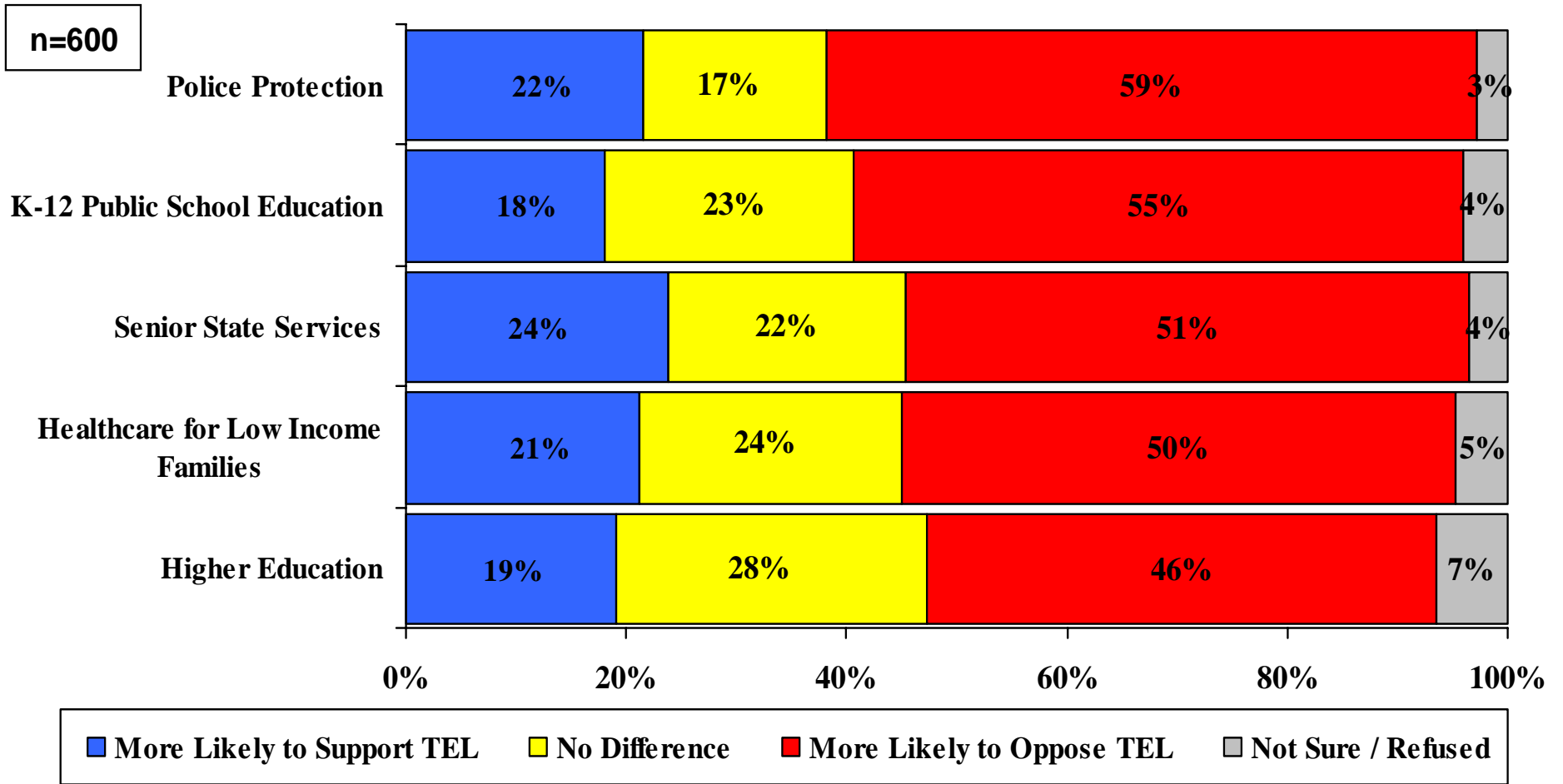
**Q10. Now, I am going to ask you about state and local services Ohio provides. How important [are each of the following] to you? [Are they] extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important?**

*AARP Members value police protection above all other state and local services presented. Education is considered next most important with four out of five saying K-12 Public School Education is either “extremely” or “very” important and seven out of ten saying Higher Education is either “extremely” or “very” important.*



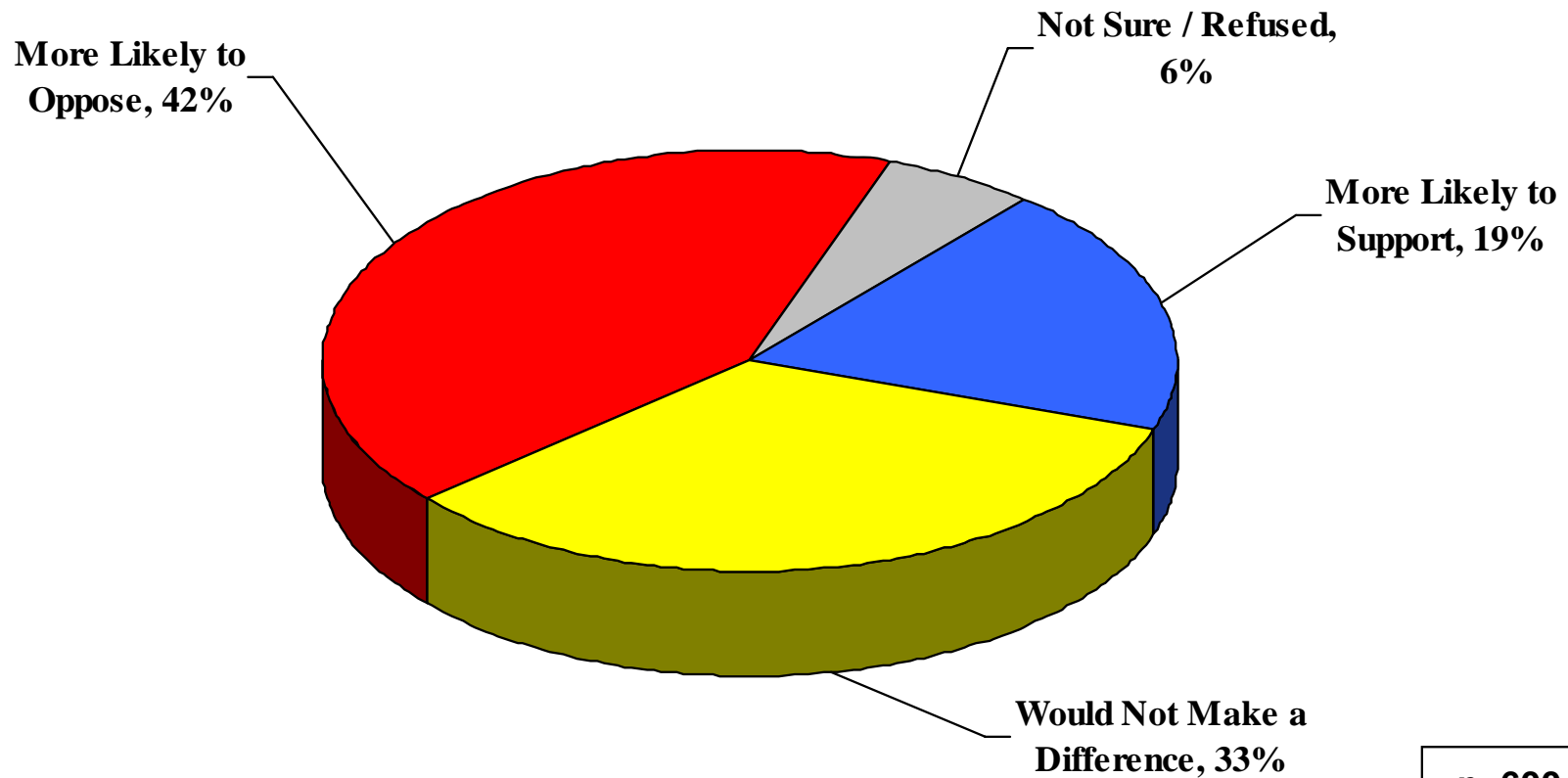
**Q11. If TEL cut state funding for [each of the following services], would you be more likely to support TEL, more likely to oppose TEL, or would it not make a difference?**

*At least one-half of AARP Members in Ohio would be more likely to oppose TEL if the proposal cut funding for police protection, K-12 public education, Senior State Services, or Healthcare for Low Income Families.*



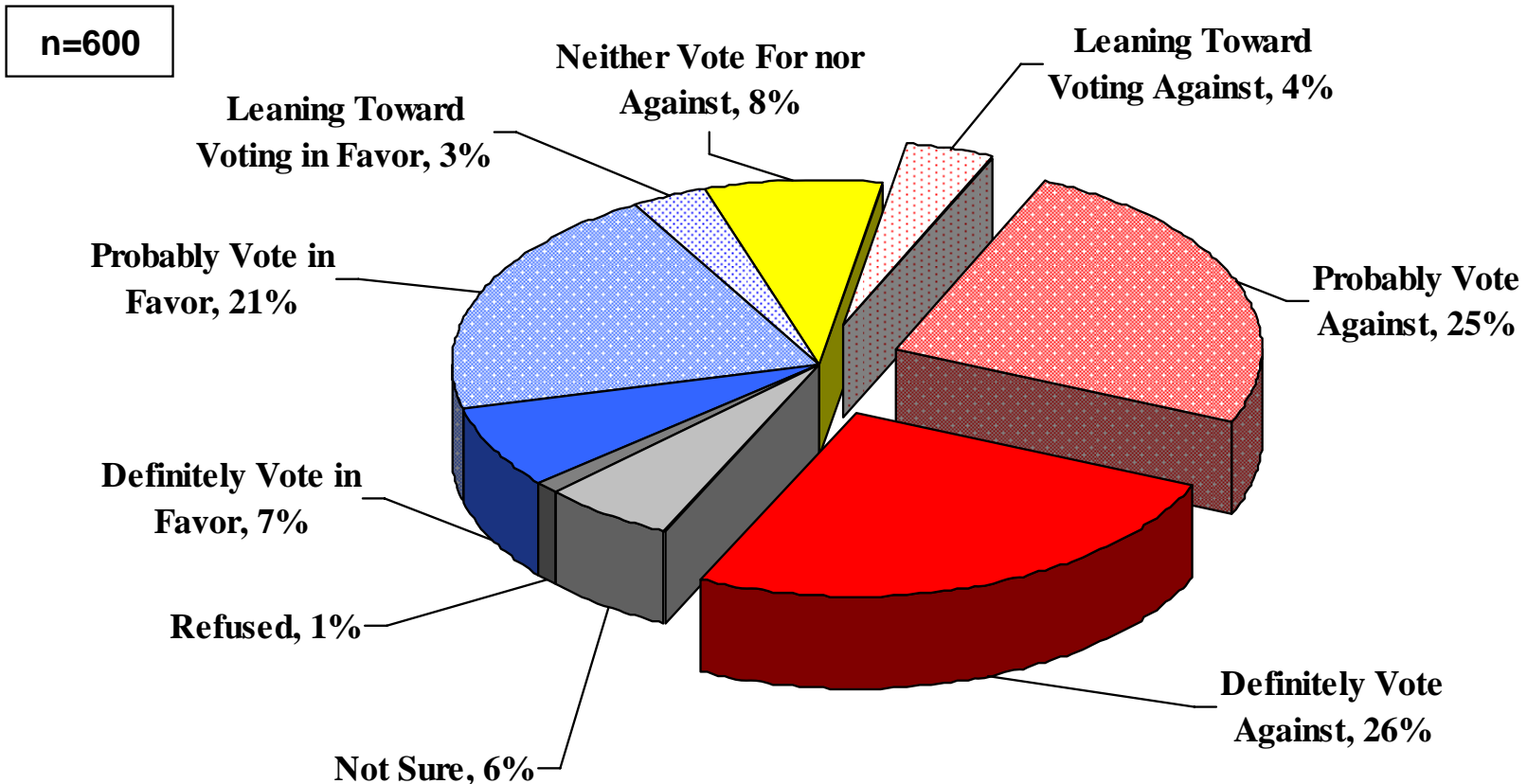
**Q12. Suppose you learned that AARP and other senior organizations OPPOSED the Tax and Expenditure Limitation proposal, because they believe it would lead to significant cuts in important state services for Ohio seniors. Would you be more likely to support TEL, more likely to oppose TEL, or would it not make a difference in how you voted for TEL?**

*Two out of five AARP Members living in Ohio say that knowing AARP and other senior organizations oppose TEL would make them more likely to oppose it as well. One-third suggested that knowing this information would not make a difference in how they voted.*



**Q13 & Q14. Now thinking about all the information we have discussed about this proposal that may be on the ballot in November, if the election were held today, would you vote for or against this proposal? [IF INITIALLY UNDECIDED ASK: Well, if you had to decide right now, which way would you say you are leaning—toward voting in favor or toward voting against?"]**

*After considering all of the information discussed in the survey, more than one-half of AARP Members living in Ohio say they are at least leaning toward voting against the TEL proposal. On the other hand, about one-third say they are at least leaning toward voting for the proposal. Fewer than one out of ten maintain they would vote neither for nor against the proposal. Six percent say they are not sure how they would vote.*

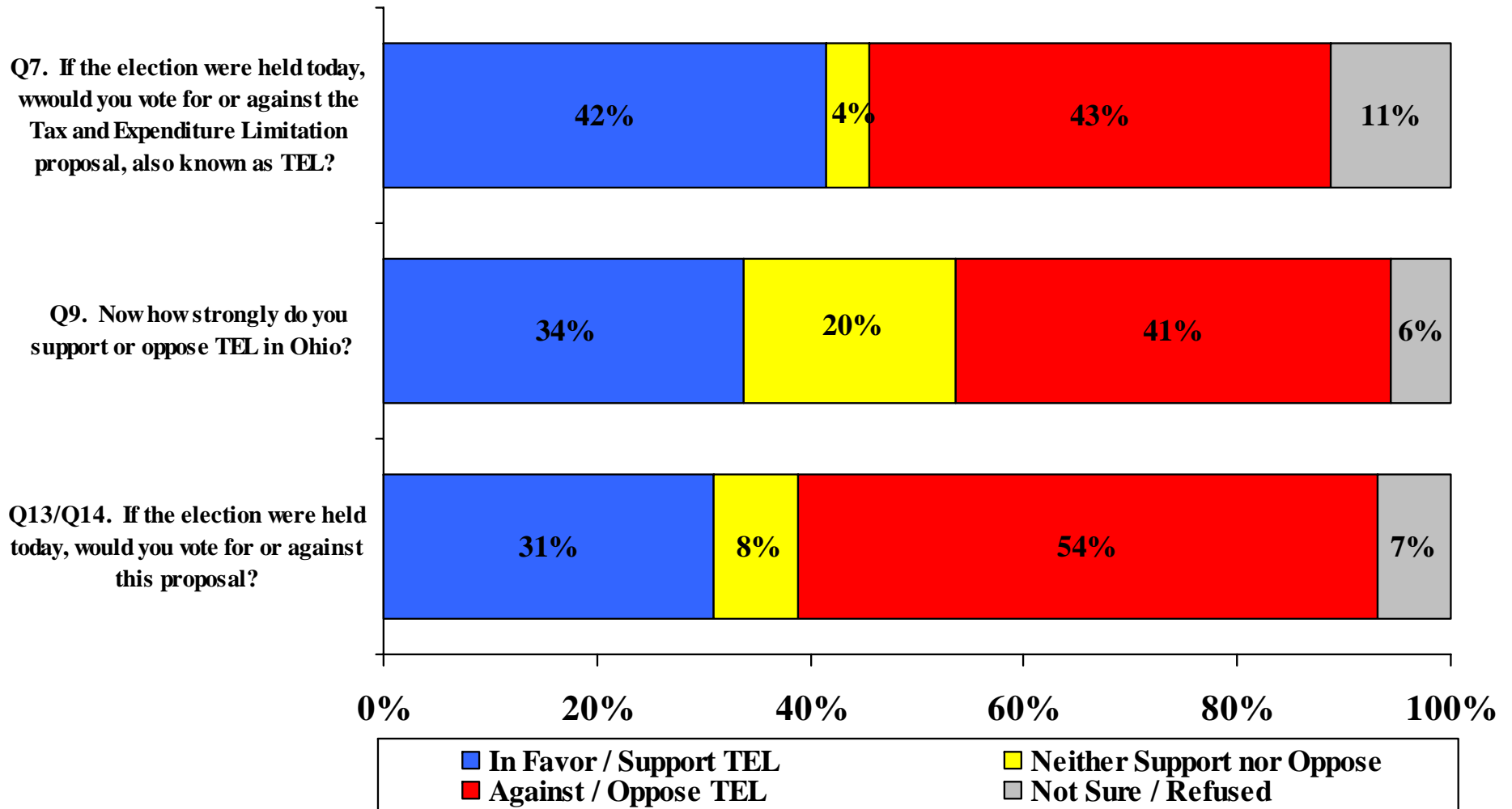


# TEL Support/Oppose Summary Chart



## TEL SUPPORT/OPPOSE THROUGHOUT SURVEY

*Comparison of the three survey items measuring support for the TEL Proposal indicates a statistically significant decline in those either voting for or in support of TEL over the course of the interview.*

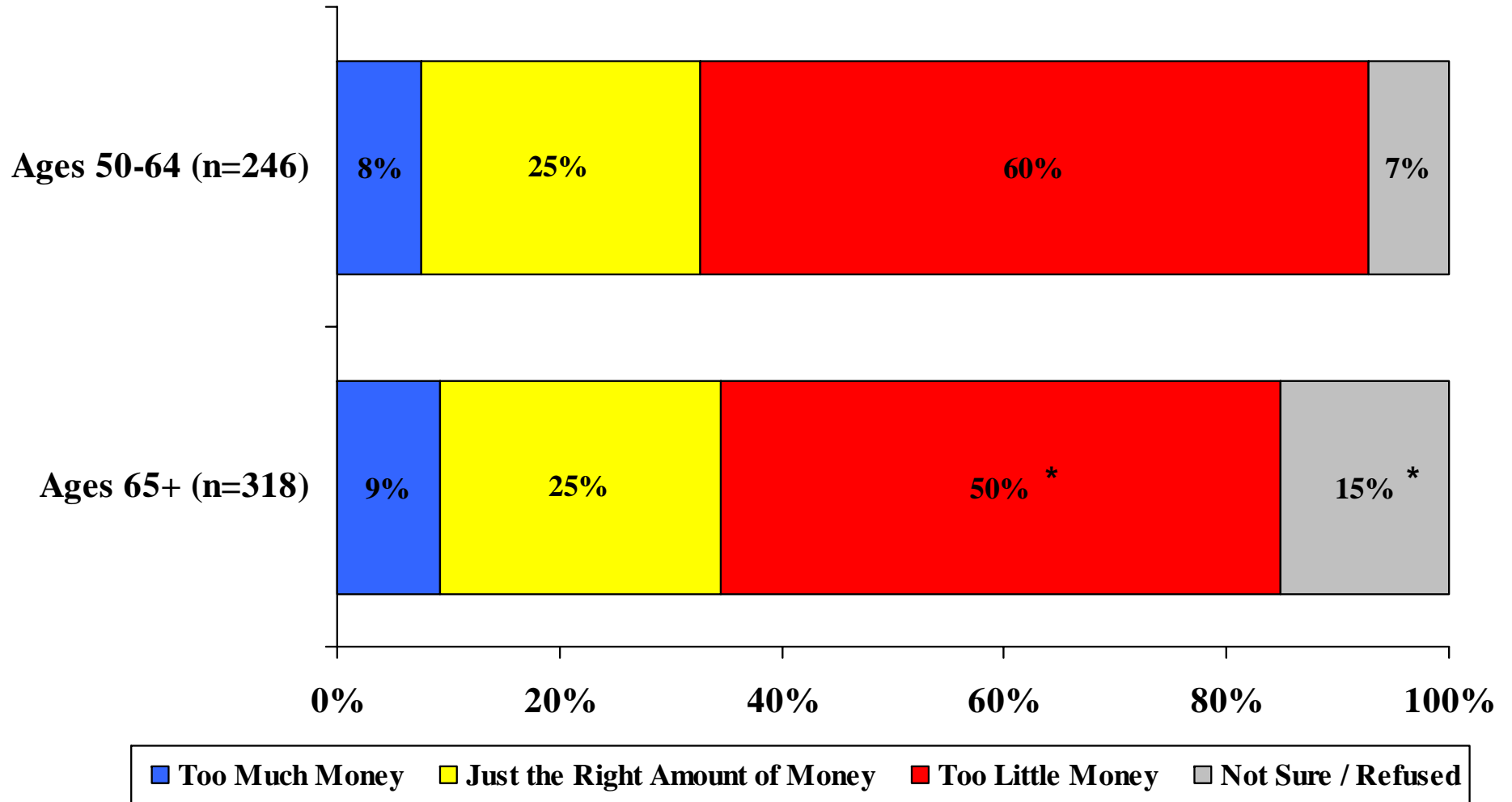


# **Subgroup Analysis: Survey Responses by Age**



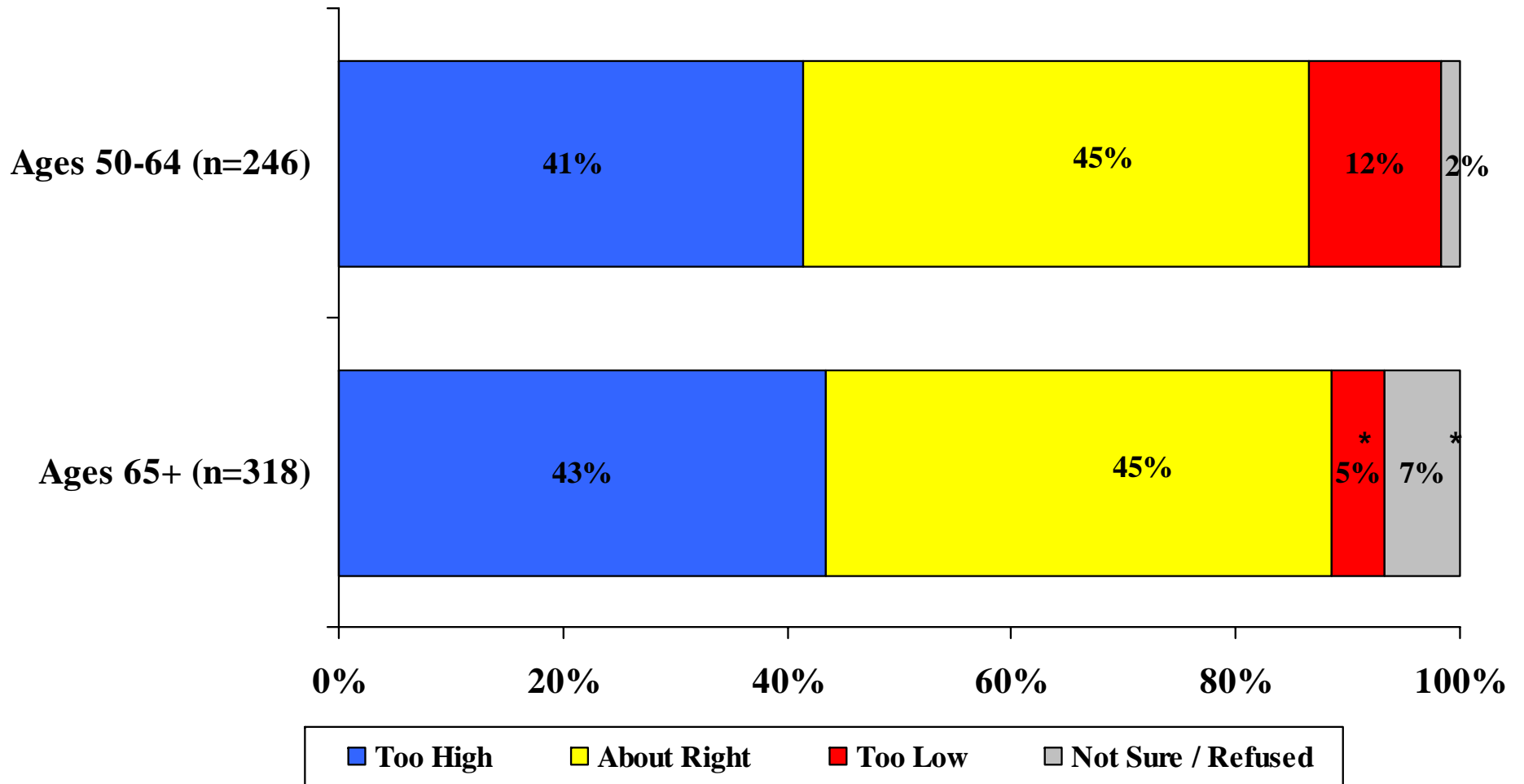


**Q1. To begin, do you think that Ohio is spending too much money, too little money, or just the right amount of money on state services such as keeping people safe, providing health and long-term care, repairing roads and highways, maintaining parks, and providing education?**



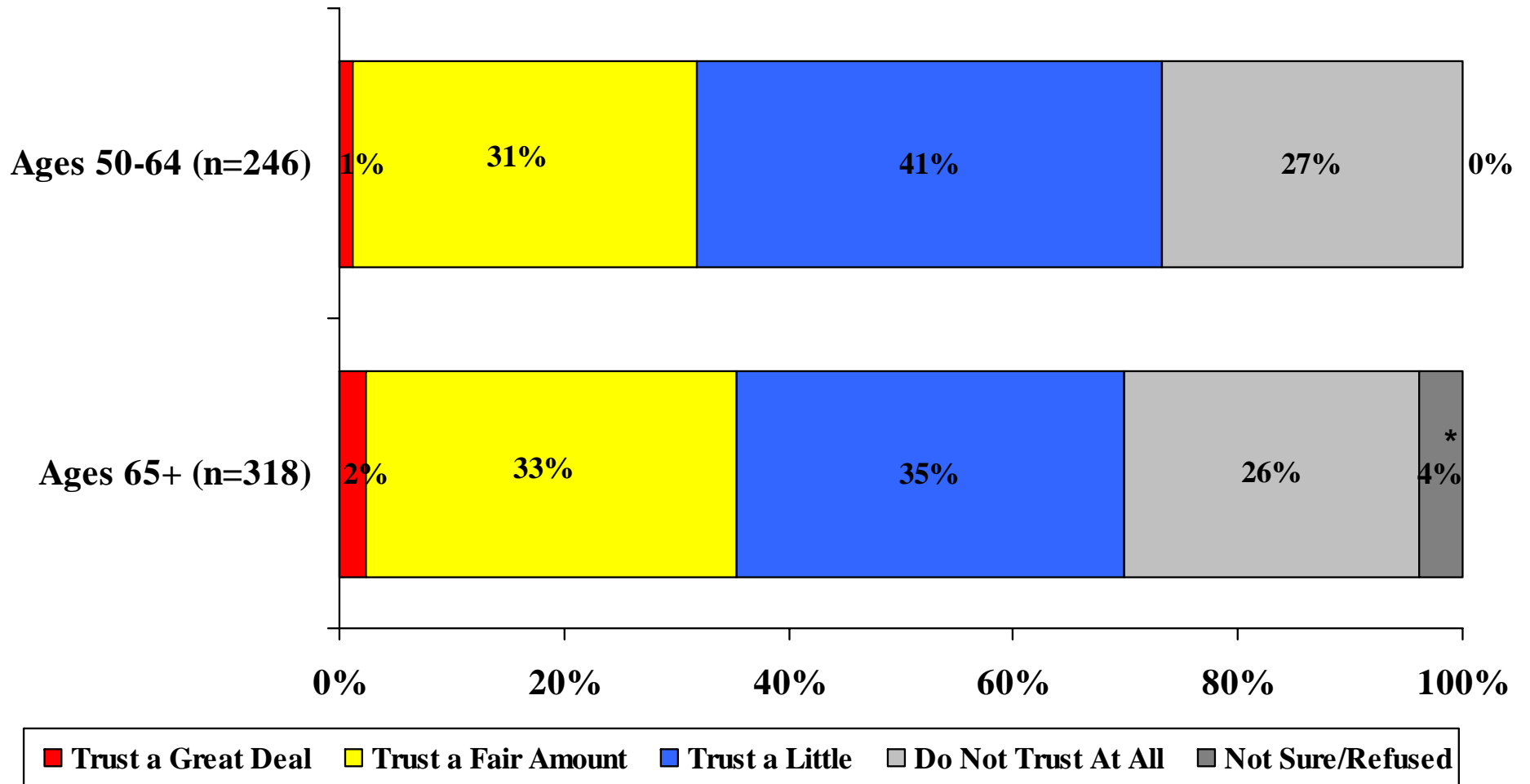
\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q2. Thinking about the state and local taxes that you pay, not including federal taxes, do you think that taxes in Ohio are too high, are about right, or are too low to support state services?**



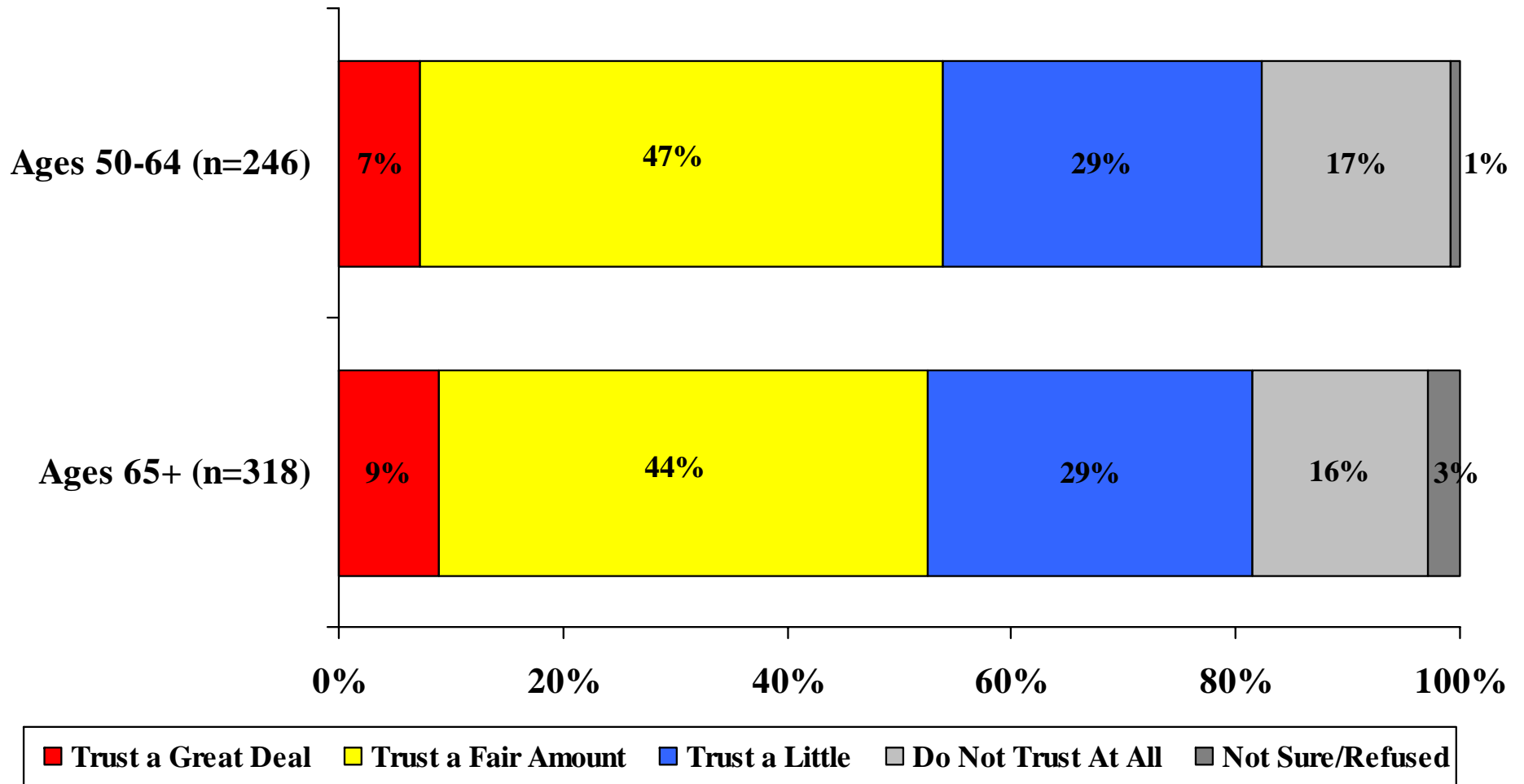
\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q3a. How much do you trust your state government to use your tax money effectively and deliver quality state services – a great deal, a fair amount, just a little, or not at all?**



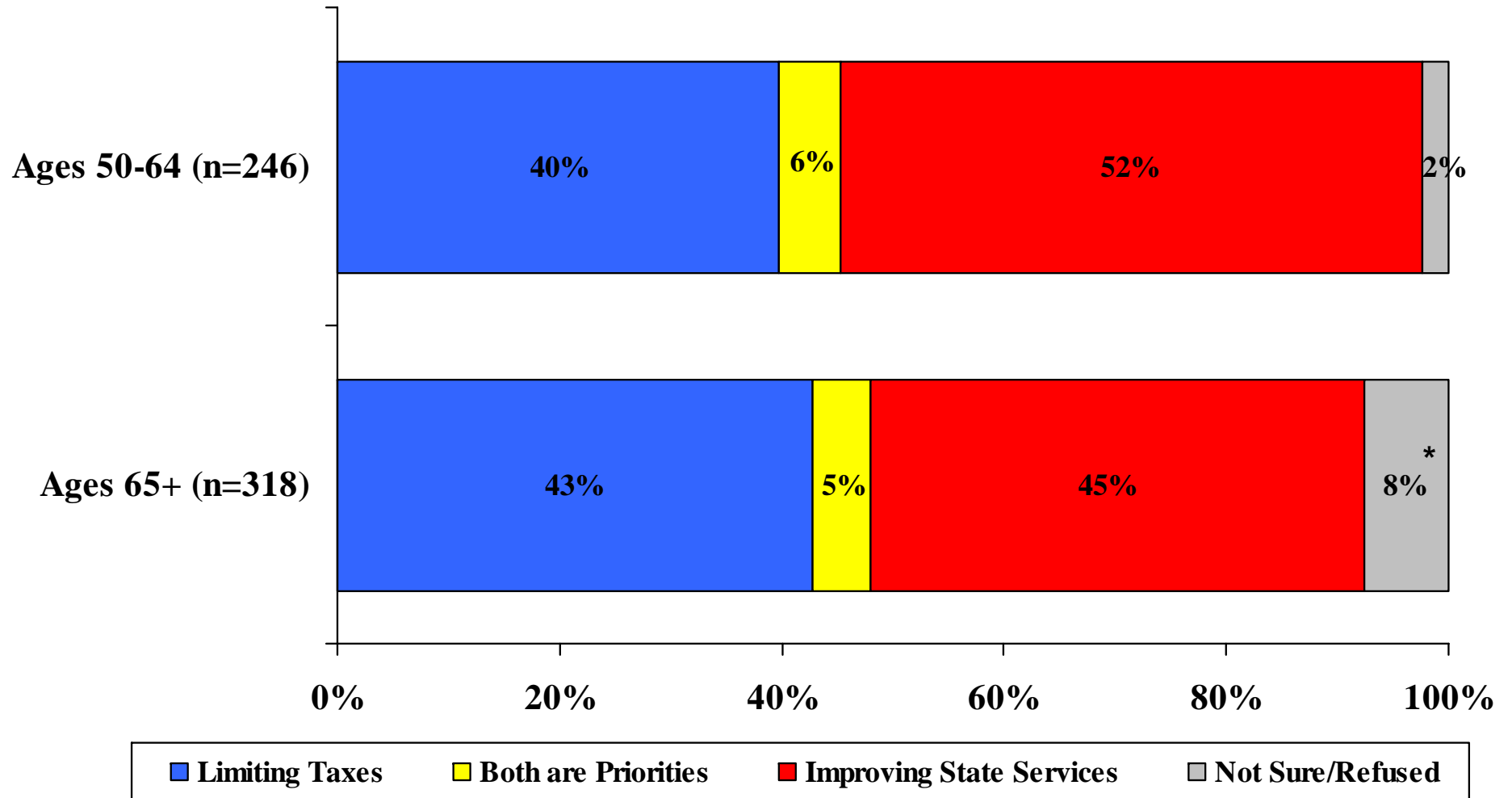
\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q3a. How much do you trust your local government (includes Towns, Cities, and Counties) to use your tax money effectively and deliver quality state services – a great deal, a fair amount, just a little, or not at all?**



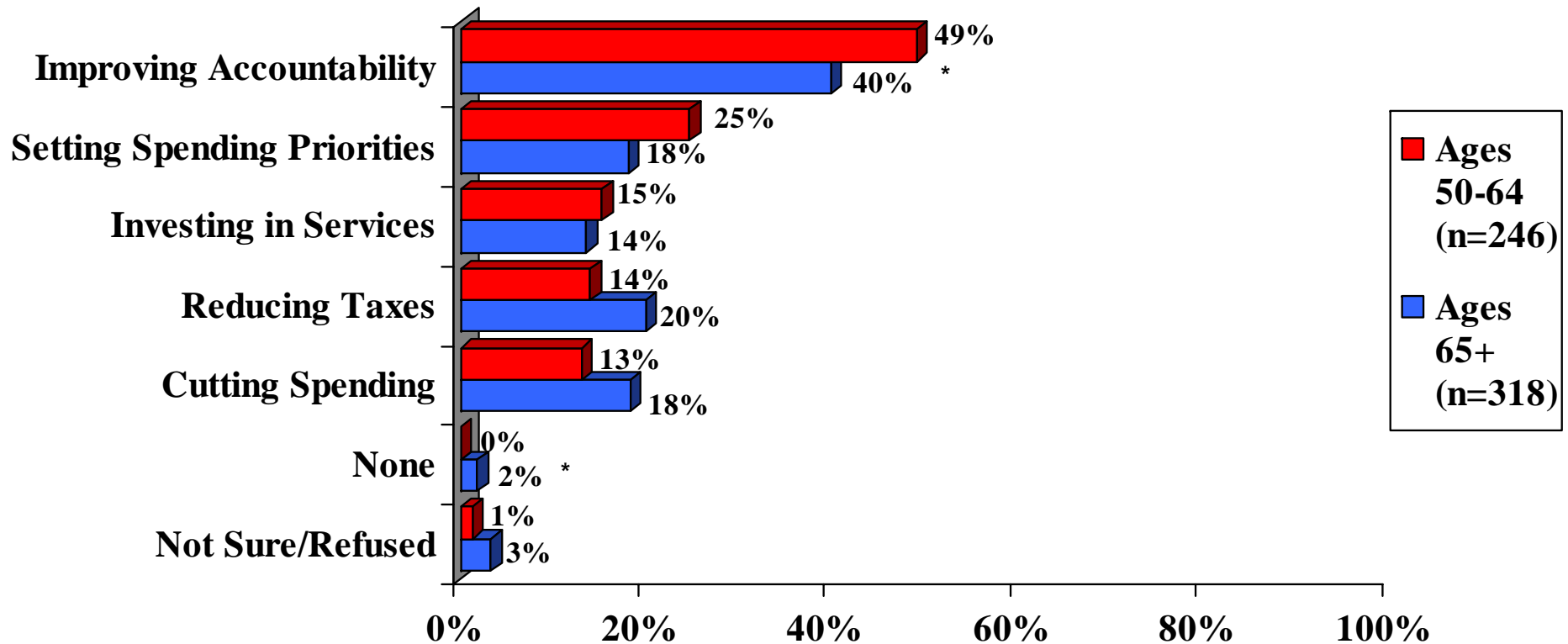
\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q4. In Ohio, which is a higher priority for you...?**



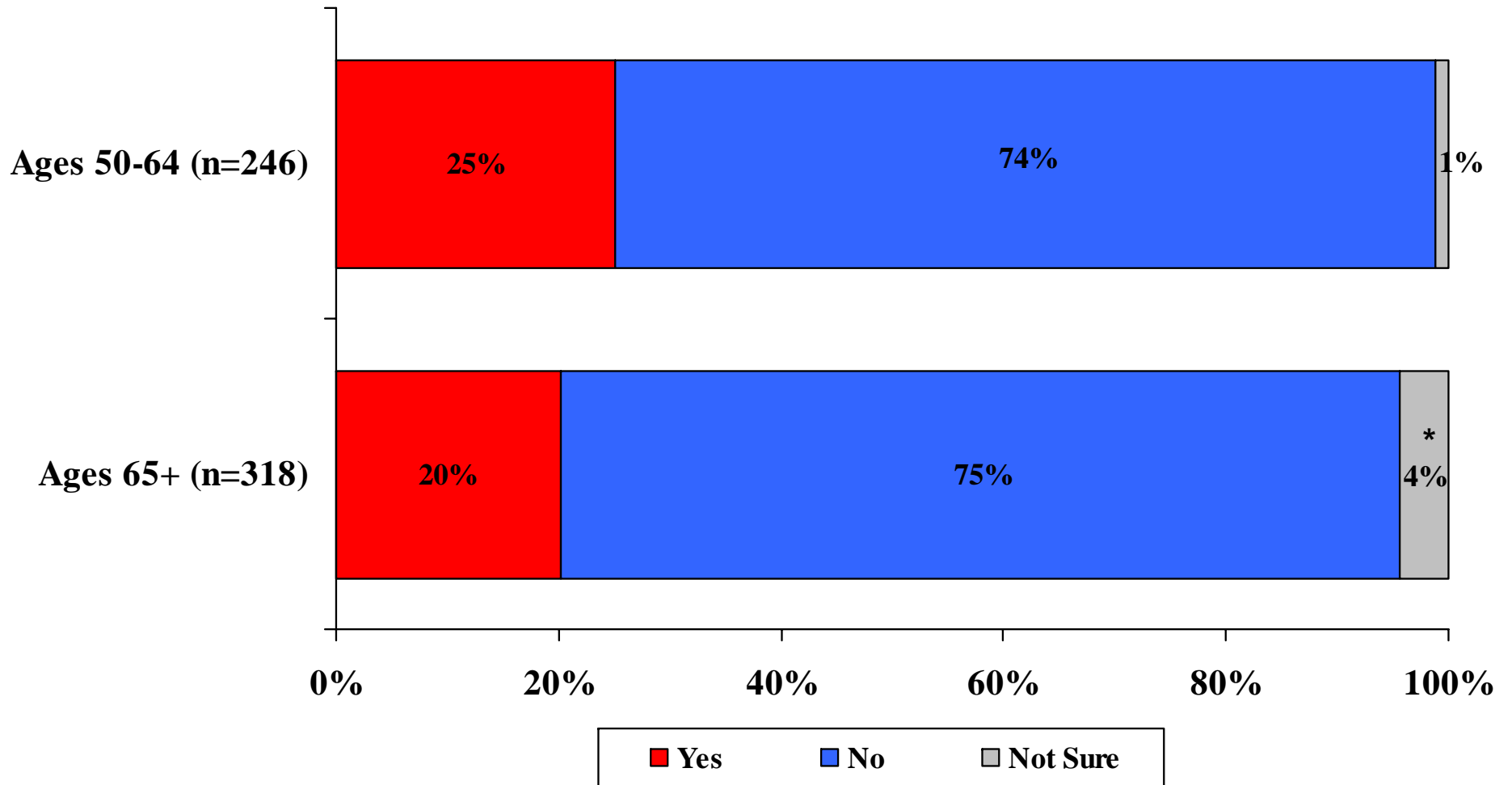
\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q5. Thinking about state government today in Ohio, which one or two of the following goals are most important to you?**



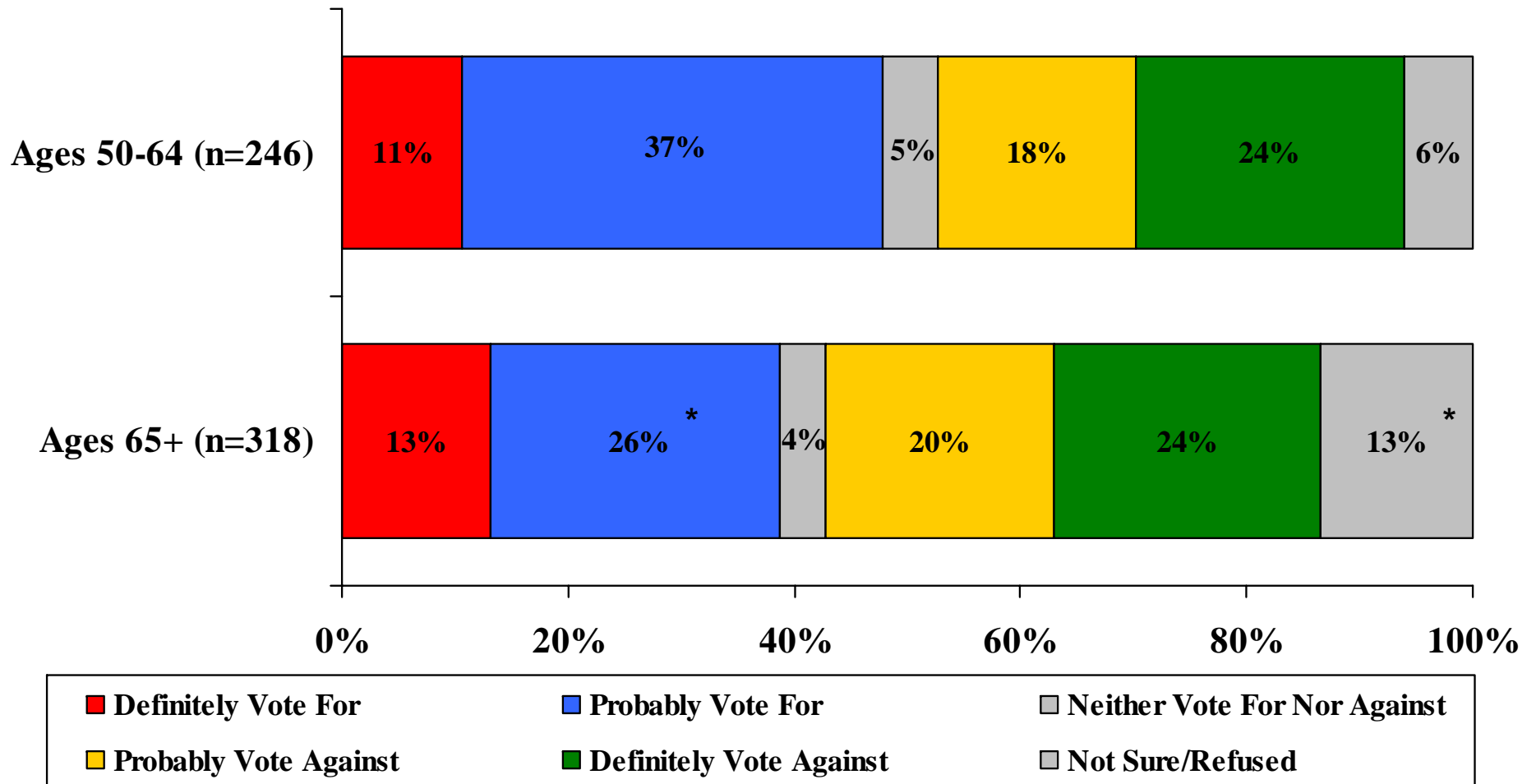
\* Statistically significant difference from Members aged 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q6. Have you seen, read, or heard anything about the Tax and Expenditure Limitation proposal, often referred to as TEL, and which is also sometimes referred to as the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, or TABOR, proposal in the last year?**



\* Statistically significant difference from Men at the 95% level of confidence

**Q7. Given what you know about the proposal, if the election were held today, would you vote for or against the Tax and Expenditure Limitation proposal , also known as TEL?**

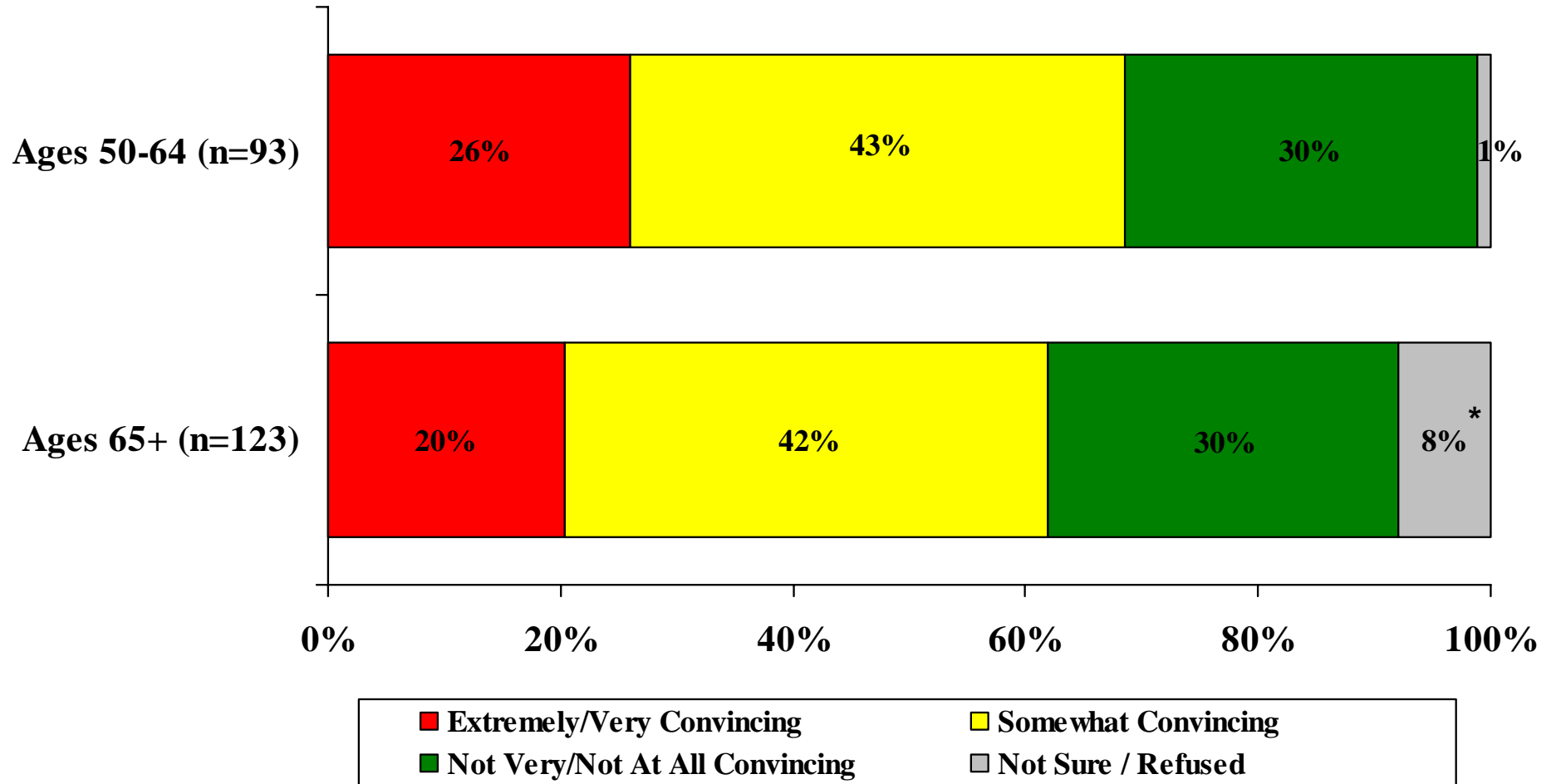


\* Statistically significant difference from Men at the 95% level of confidence



**Q8a1. I'd like you to please tell me whether you find [this] an extremely convincing argument, very convincing, somewhat convincing, not very convincing, or whether this particular argument is not at all convincing:**

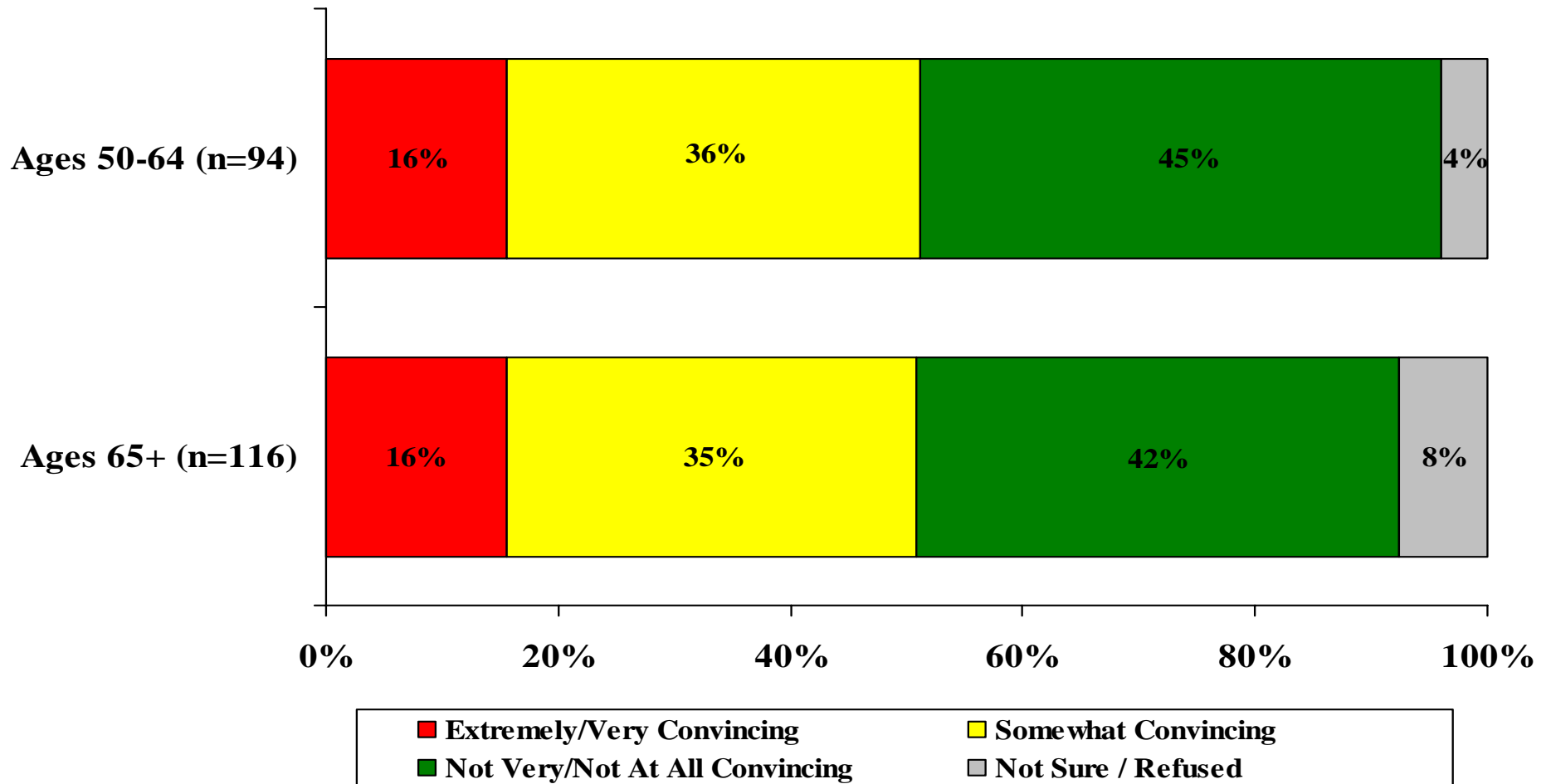
***Supporters of TEL say that it would control runaway state government spending and force the state government to operate more efficiently.***



\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

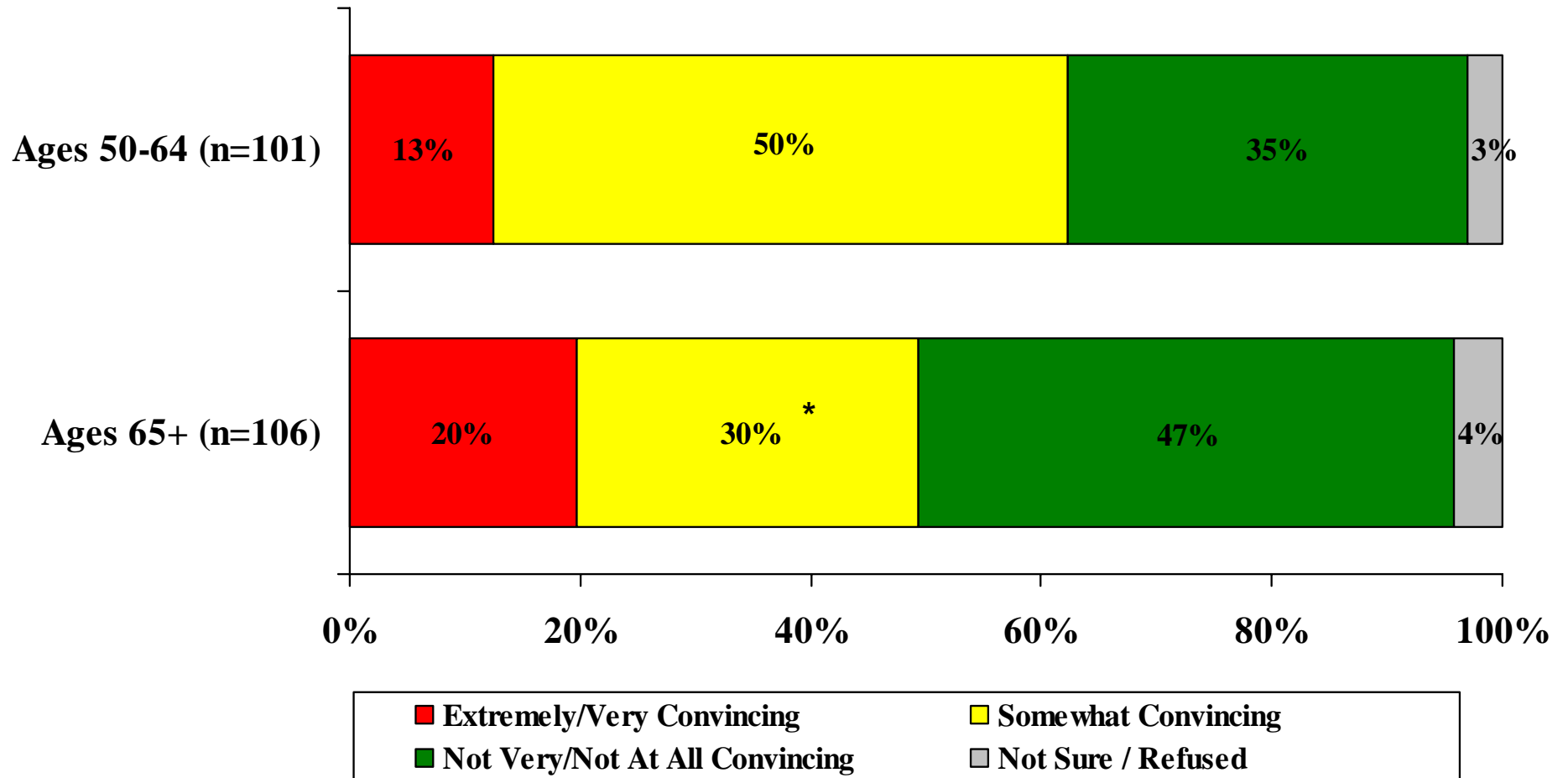
**Q8a2. I'd like you to please tell me whether you find [this] an extremely convincing argument, very convincing, somewhat convincing, not very convincing, or whether this particular argument is not at all convincing:**

***Opponents of TEL say the state already has a balanced budget requirement, voters already can control state government actions at the ballot box, and that TEL would decrease the quality of life in Ohio, forcing major cuts in health, education, transportation, and public safety.***



\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

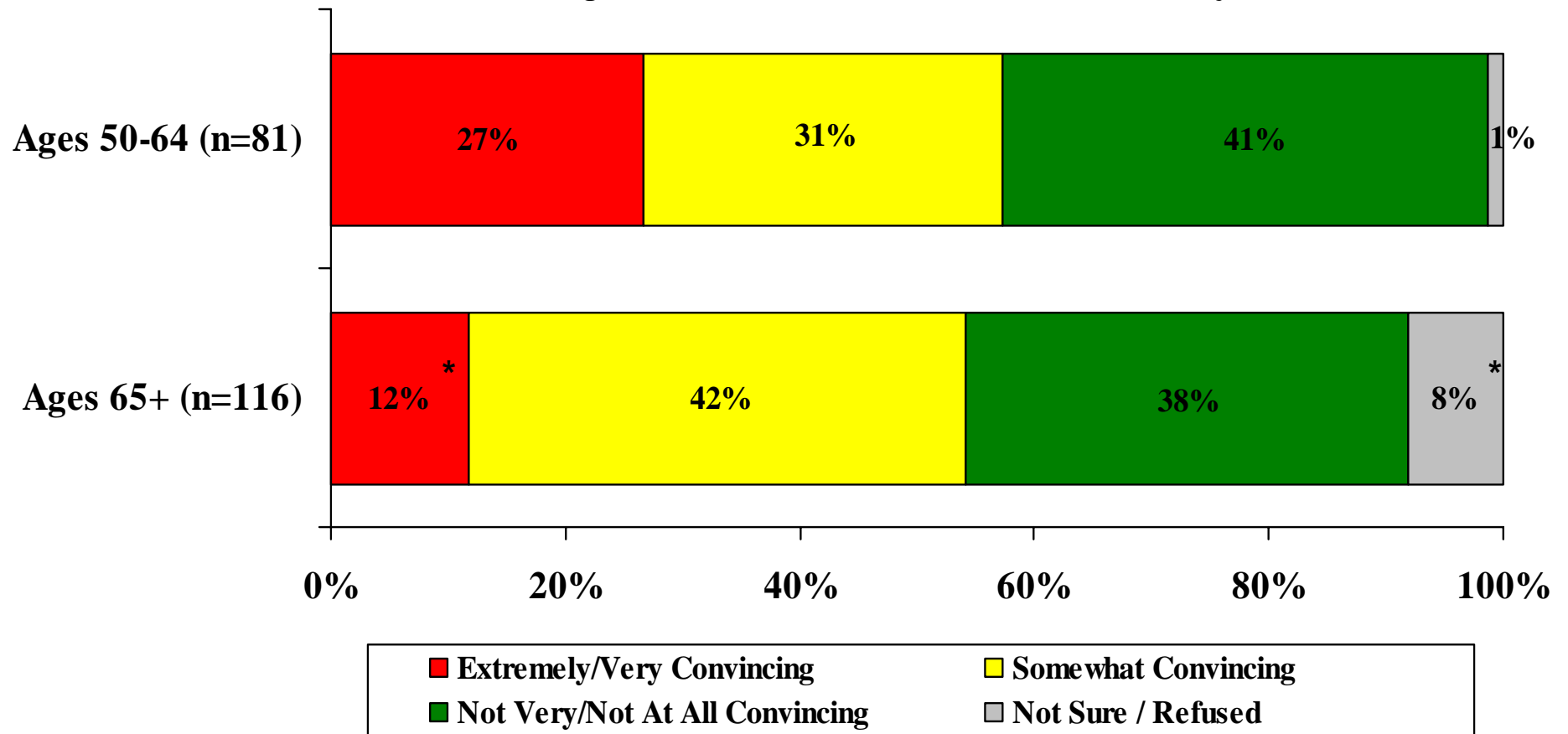
**Q8b1. I'd like you to please tell me whether you find [this] an extremely convincing argument, very convincing, somewhat convincing, not very convincing, or whether this particular argument is not at all convincing:**  
***Supporters of TEL say that it would help the Ohio economy by returning money to taxpayers through tax rebates and tax cuts.***



\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q8b2. I'd like you to please tell me whether you find [this] an extremely convincing argument, very convincing, somewhat convincing, not very convincing, or whether this particular argument is not at all convincing:**

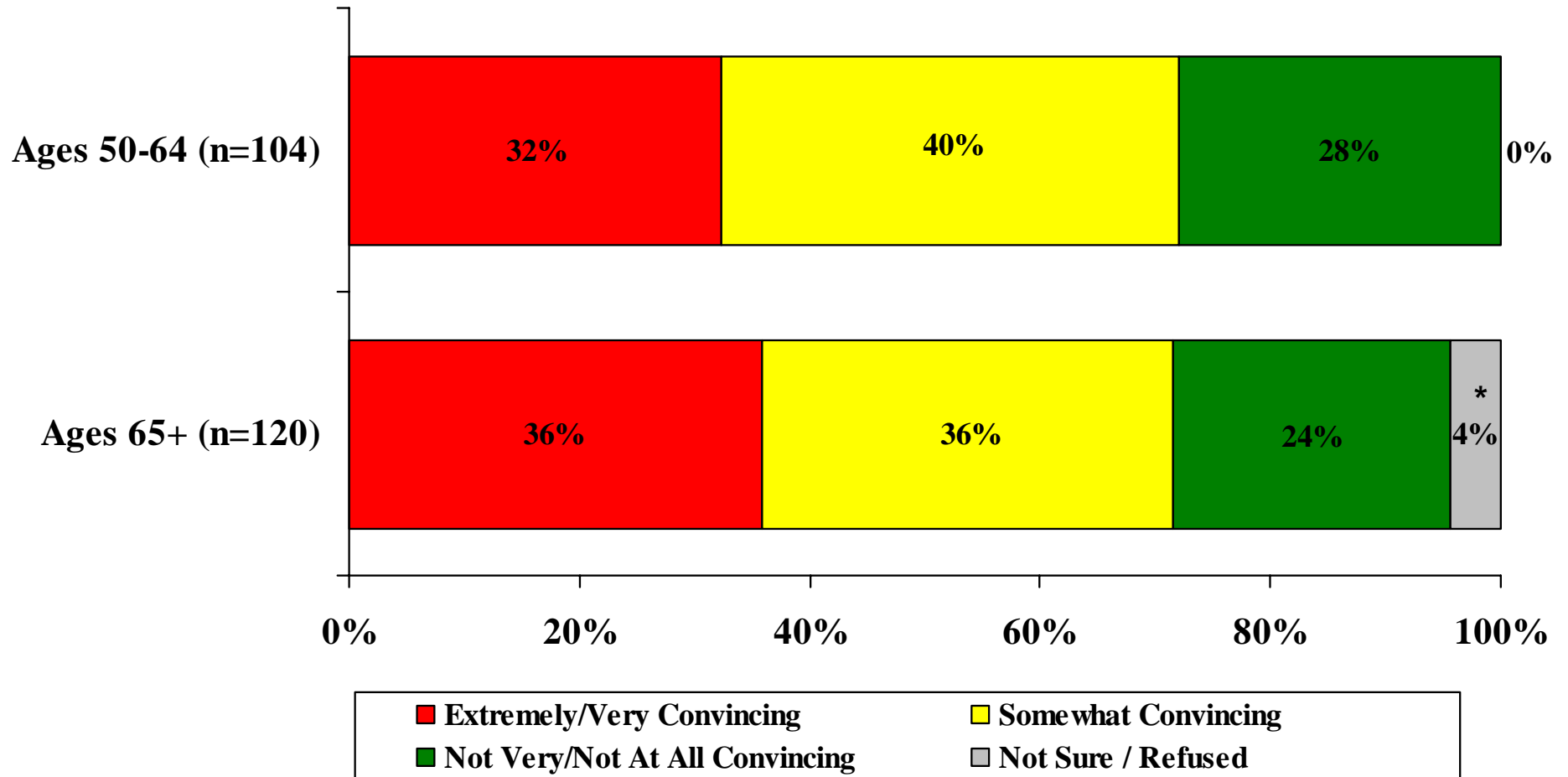
*Opponents of TEL say that any money refunded to tax payers would be more than offset by the increased out-of-pocket expense they would bear. In Colorado, the only state that has passed TABOR, fees have increased for licenses and park admissions. Also, families have had to pay for items that schools typically provided such as textbooks and basic school supplies, while children attended classes wearing coats because heat had been dramatically lowered.*



\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q8c1. I'd like you to please tell me whether you find [this] an extremely convincing argument, very convincing, somewhat convincing, not very convincing, or whether this particular argument is not at all convincing:**

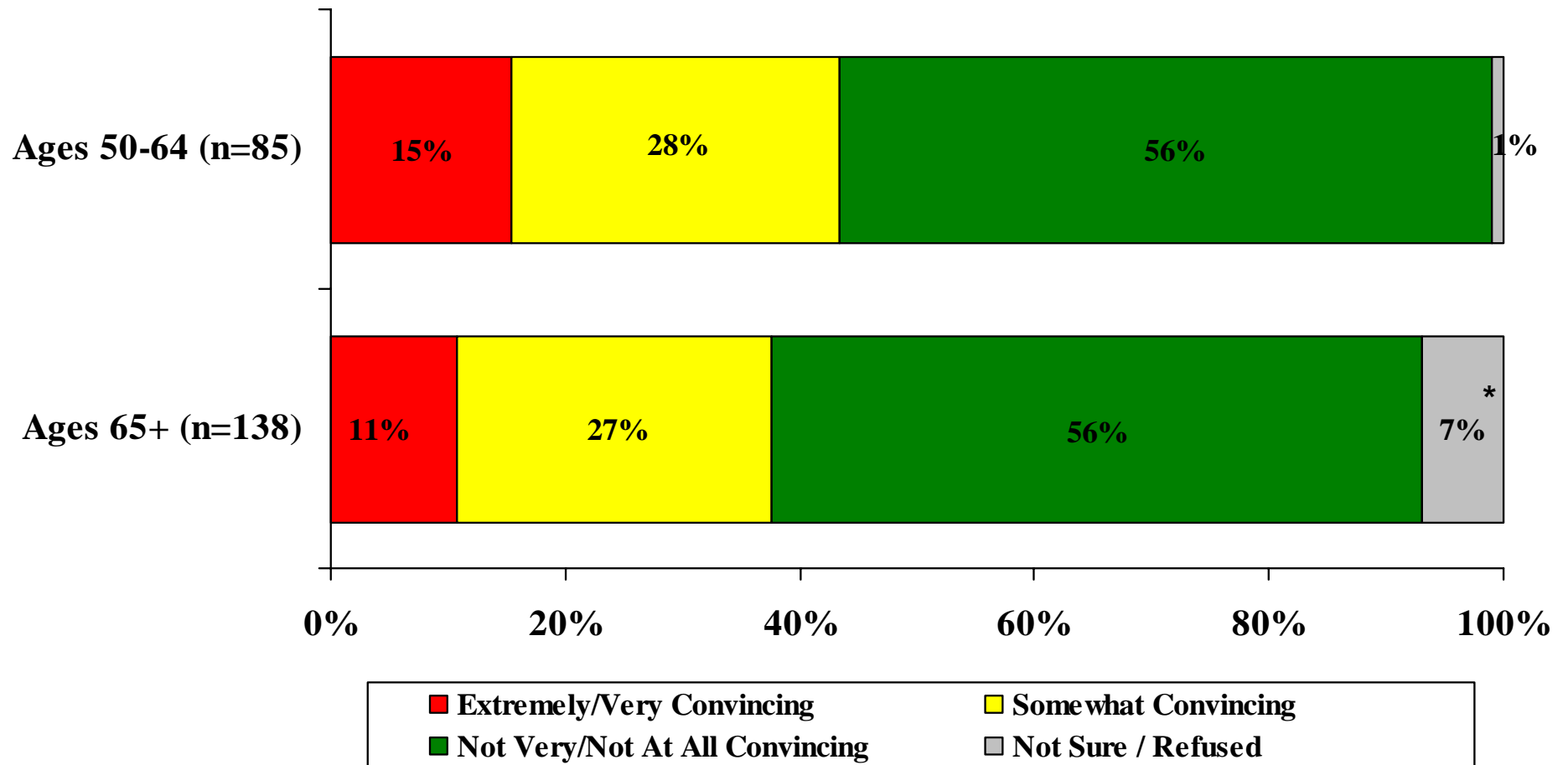
***Supporters of TEL say that it would take power away from state politicians and put it back in the hands of the people by requiring that any tax increase be approved by voters.***



\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q8c2. I'd like you to please tell me whether you find [this] an extremely convincing argument, very convincing, somewhat convincing, not very convincing, or whether this particular argument is not at all convincing:**

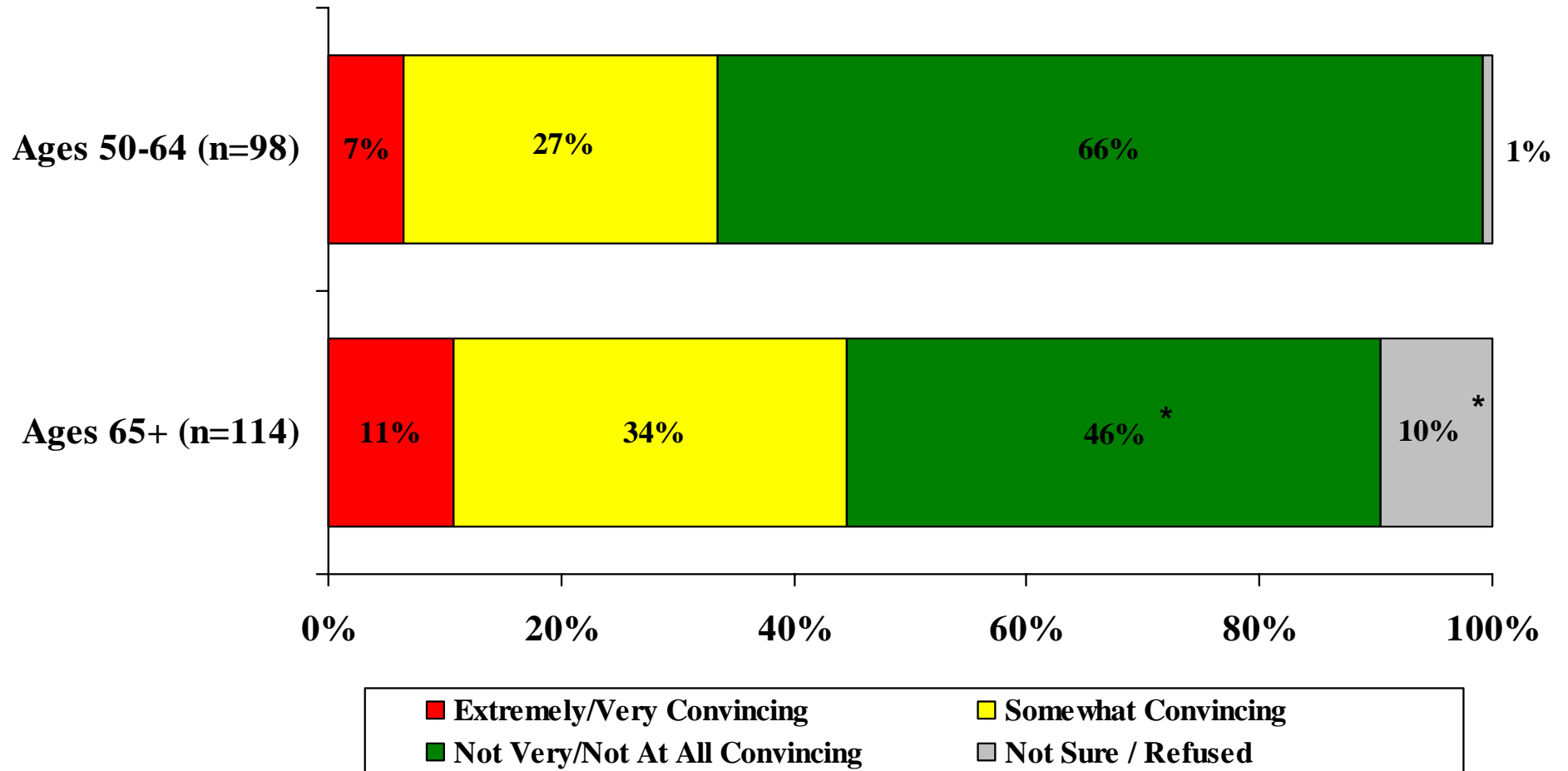
***Opponents of TEL say that it allows lawmakers to shirk their responsibility for managing the state budget, and, by making voters decide on every single tax increase that the state may need, ties up the budget process and creates gridlock, in addition to expecting taxpayers to become budget and tax experts.***



\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q8e1. I'd like you to please tell me whether you find [this] an extremely convincing argument, very convincing, somewhat convincing, not very convincing, or whether this particular argument is not at all convincing:**

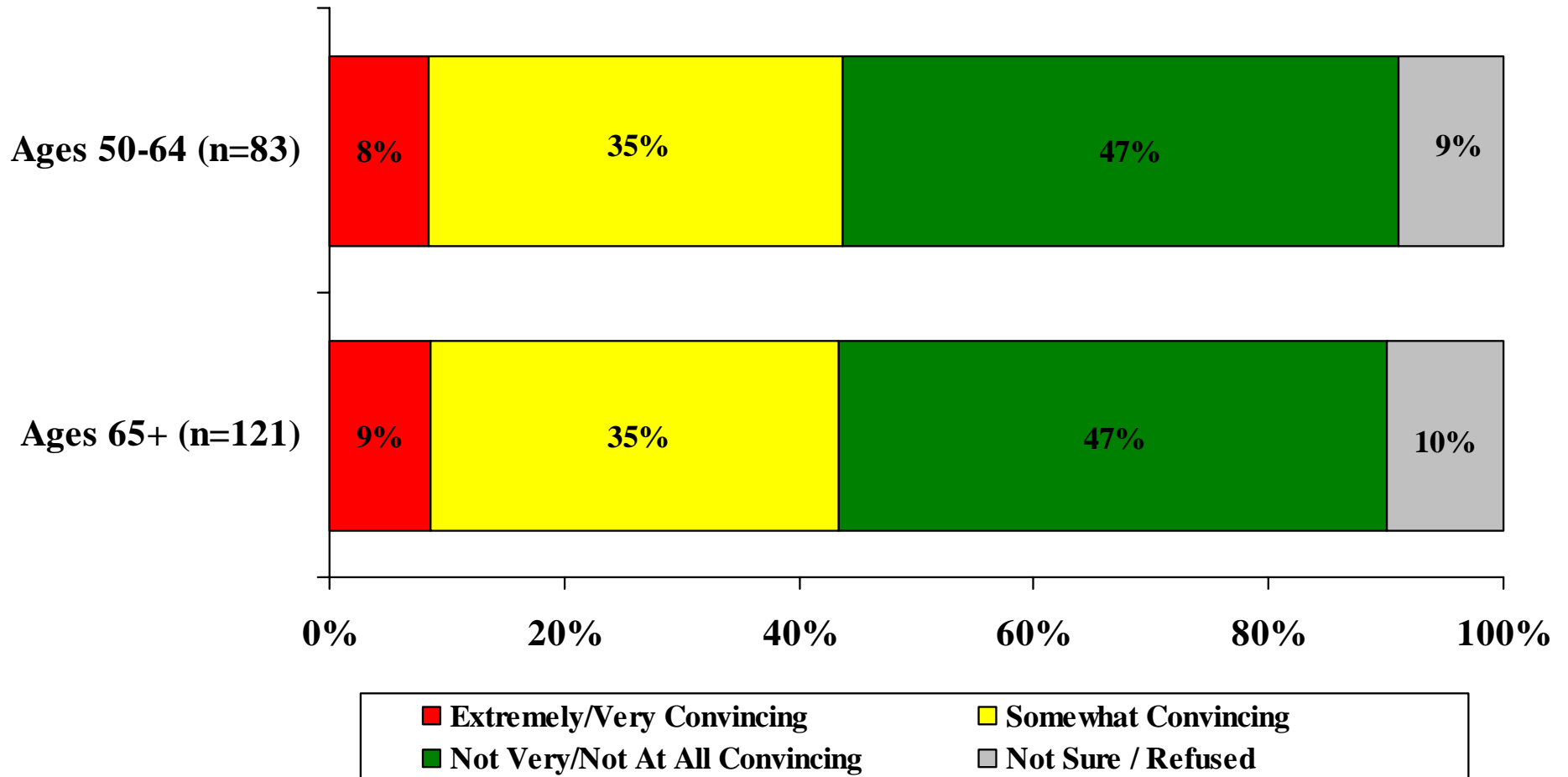
***Supporters of Ohio TEL say that it would allow citizens to sue state government if they believe TEL limits are not being met.***



\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q8e2. I'd like you to please tell me whether you find [this] an extremely convincing argument, very convincing, somewhat convincing, not very convincing, or whether this particular argument is not at all convincing:**

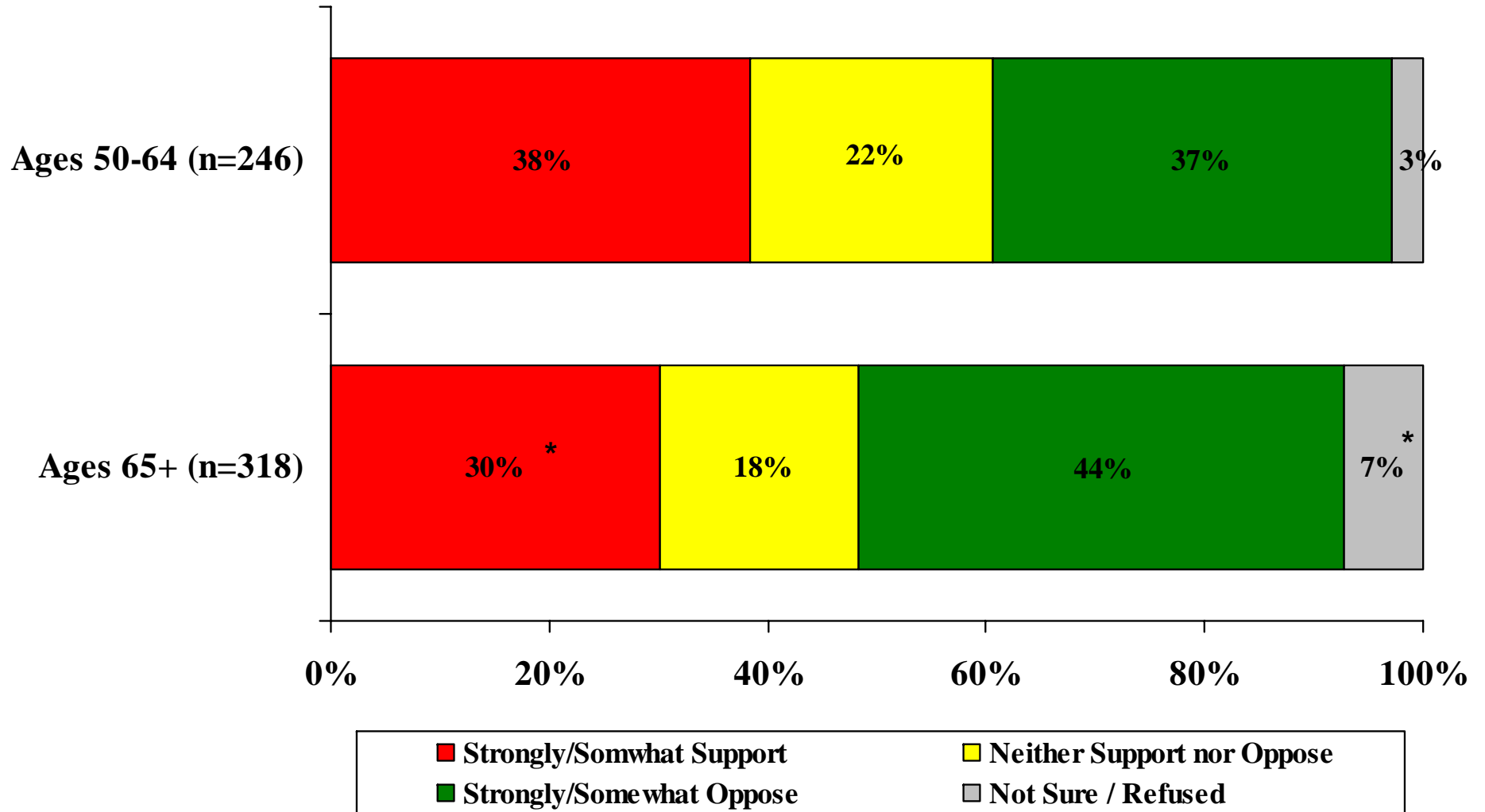
***Opponents of Ohio TEL say that it would cost taxpayers more money and would cause further strains on the state budget to pay court costs and attorney fees if citizens could sue for enforcement of TEL limits.***



\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

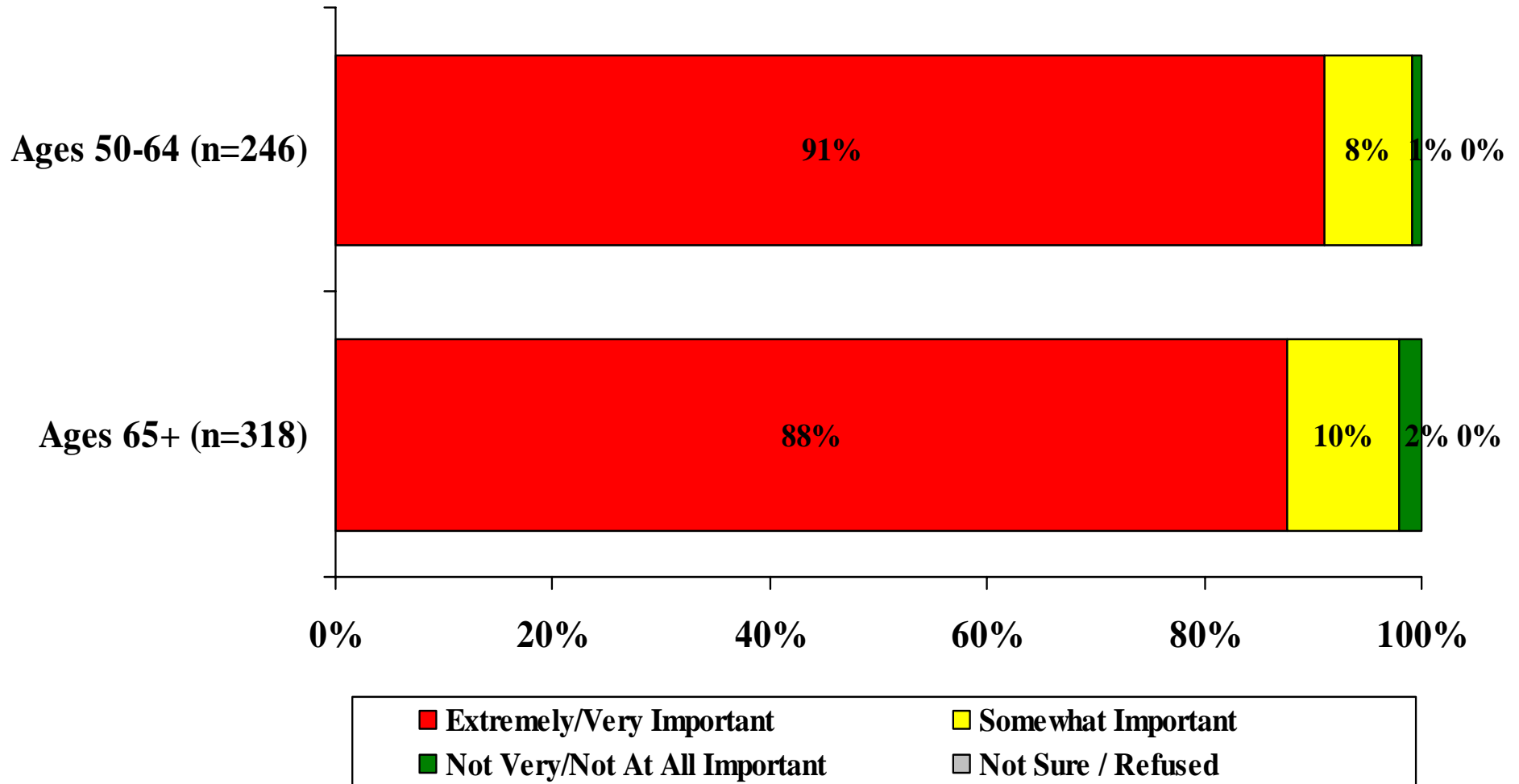


**Q9. Having heard arguments both for and against the Tax and Expenditure Limitation, now how strongly do you support or oppose TEL in Ohio?**



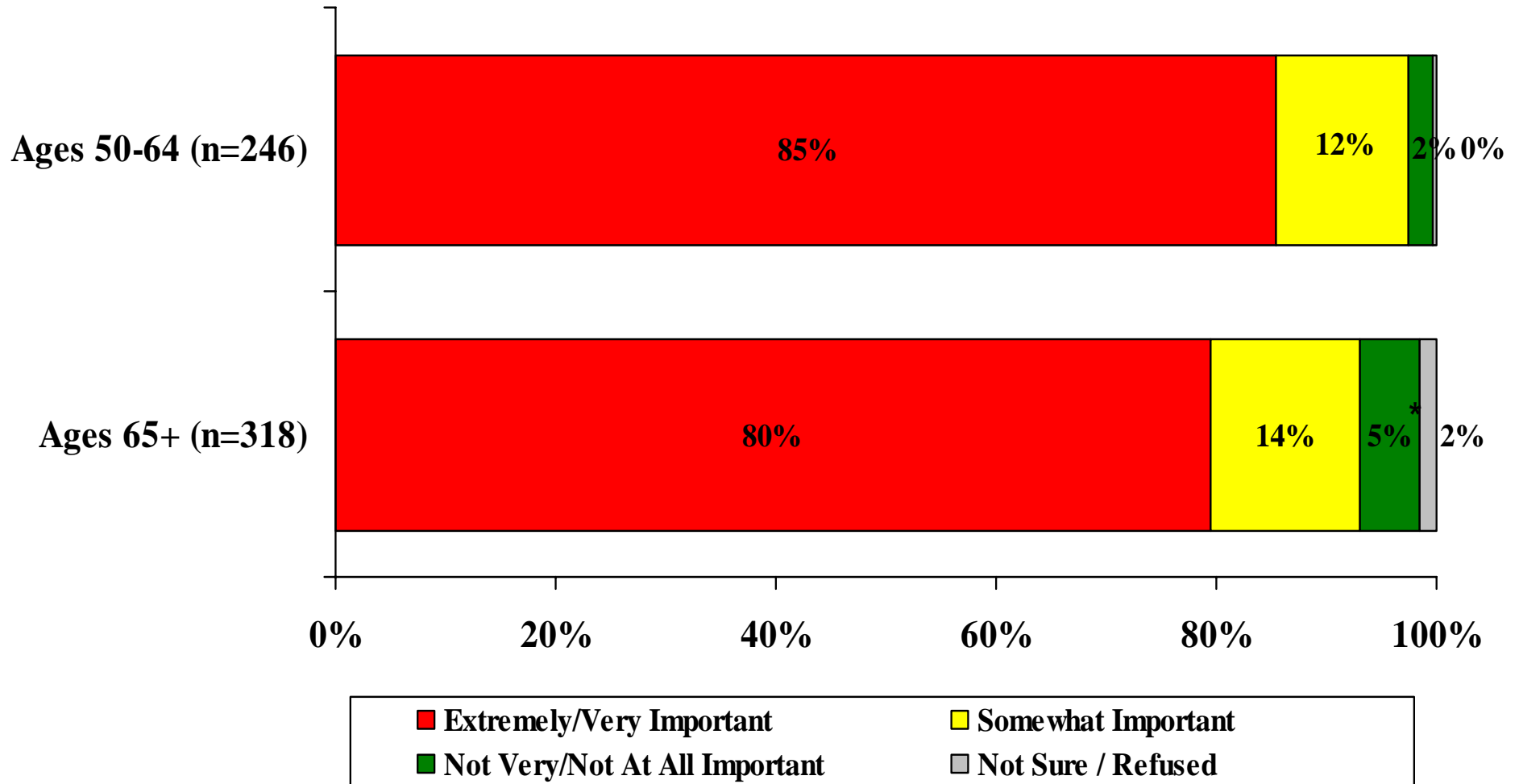
• Statistically significant difference from Members Age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q10b. Now, I am going to ask you about state and local services Ohio provides. How important is police protection and public safety to you? Is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important?**



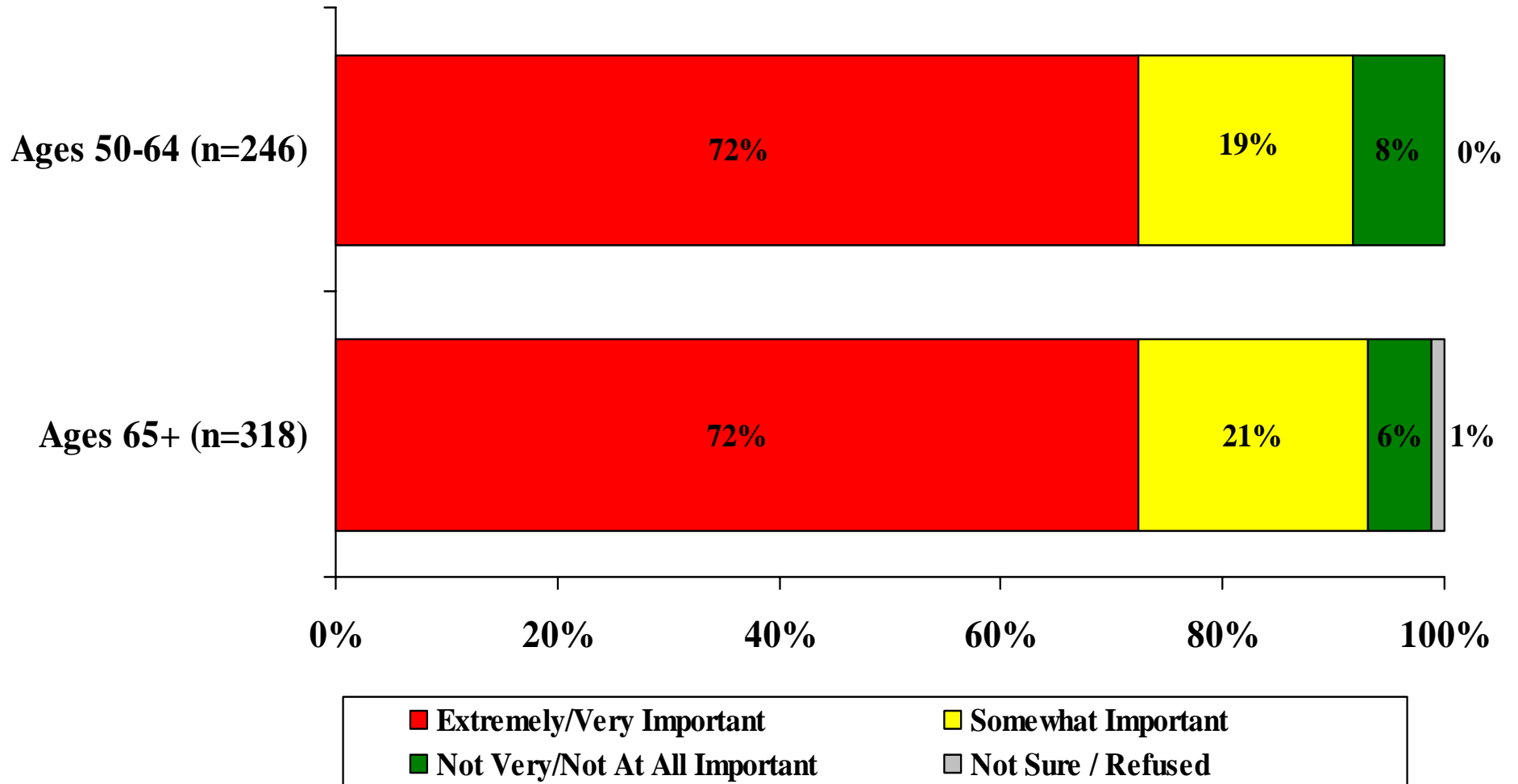
\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q10e. Now, I am going to ask you about state and local services Ohio provides. How important is K-12 public school education to you? Is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important?**



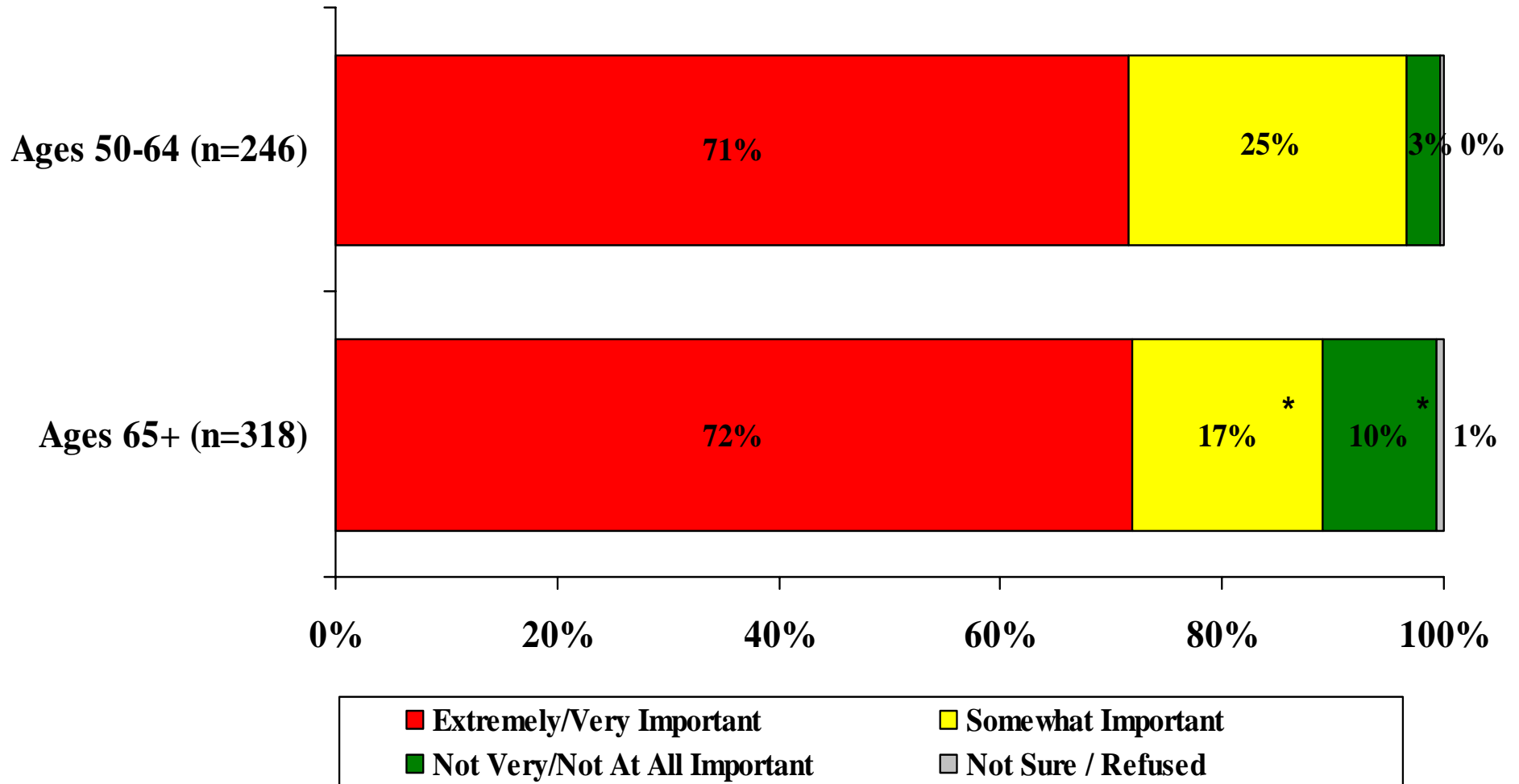
\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q10f. Now, I am going to ask you about state and local services Ohio provides. How important is healthcare for low income families and their children to you? Is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important?**



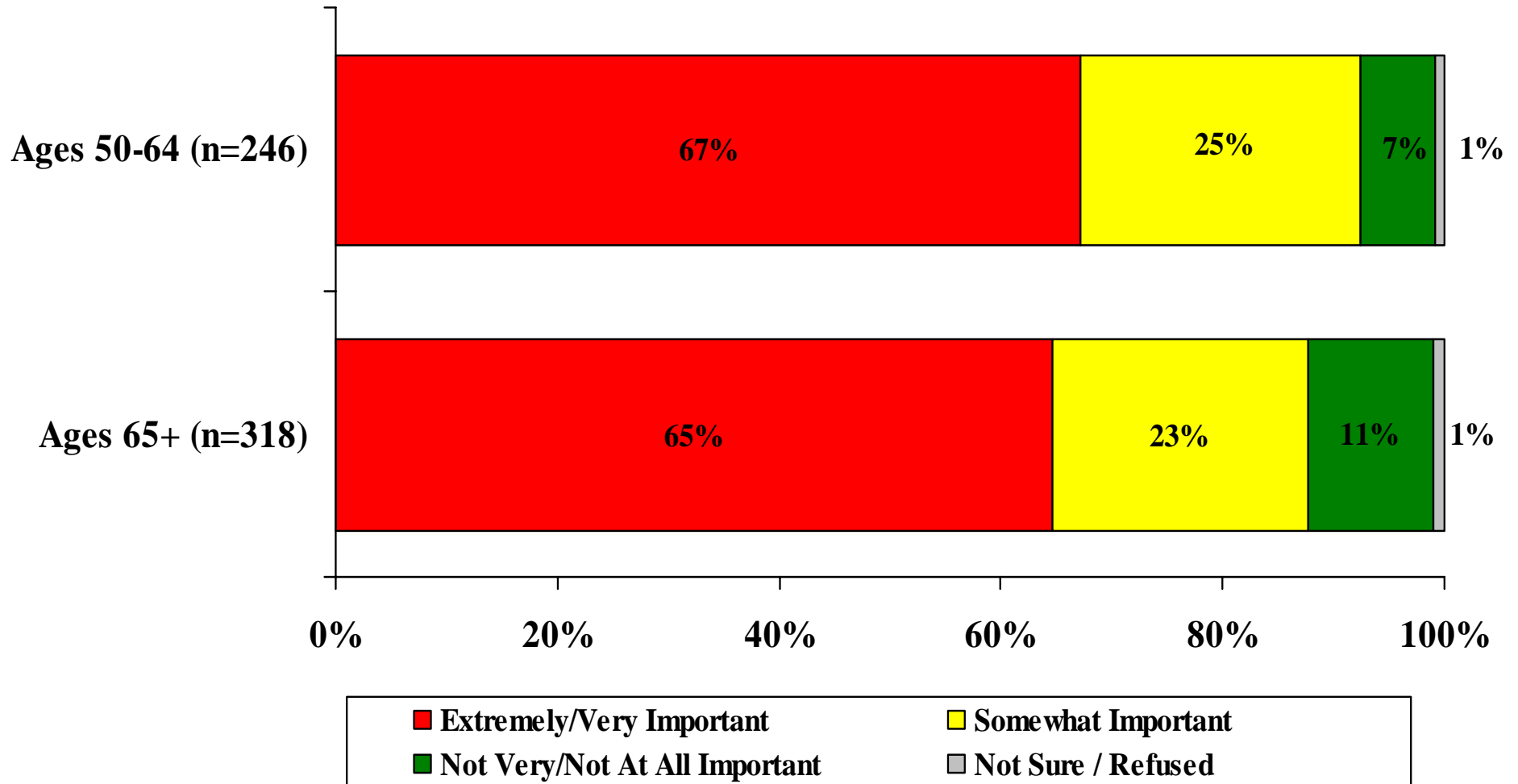
\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q10g. Now, I am going to ask you about state and local services Ohio provides. How important is higher education (Universities, Colleges, & Technical Colleges) to you? Is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important?**



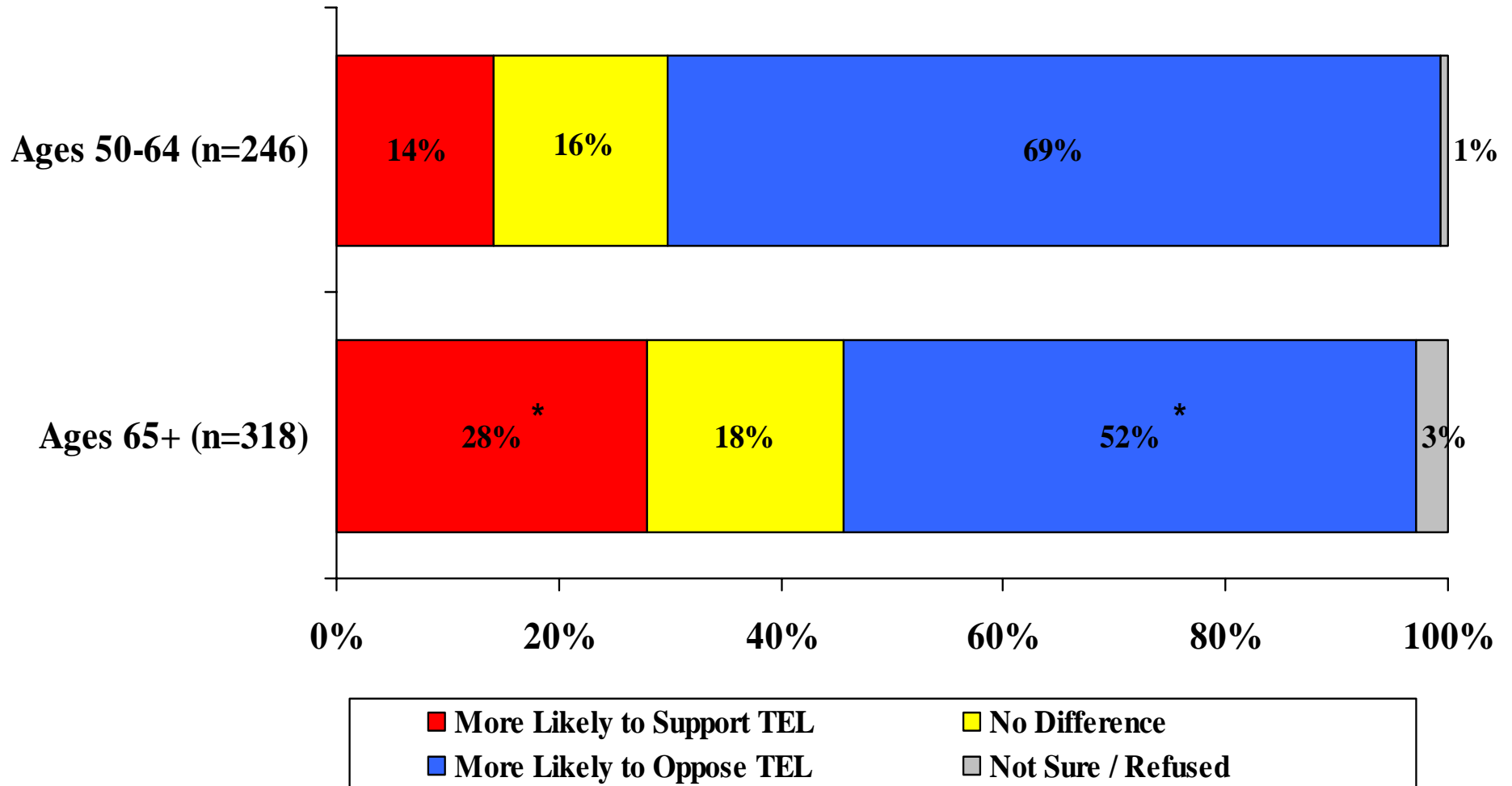
\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q10i. Now, I am going to ask you about state and local services Ohio provides. How important are senior state services including home delivered meals, low-income energy assistance, & senior transportation to you? Are they extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important?**



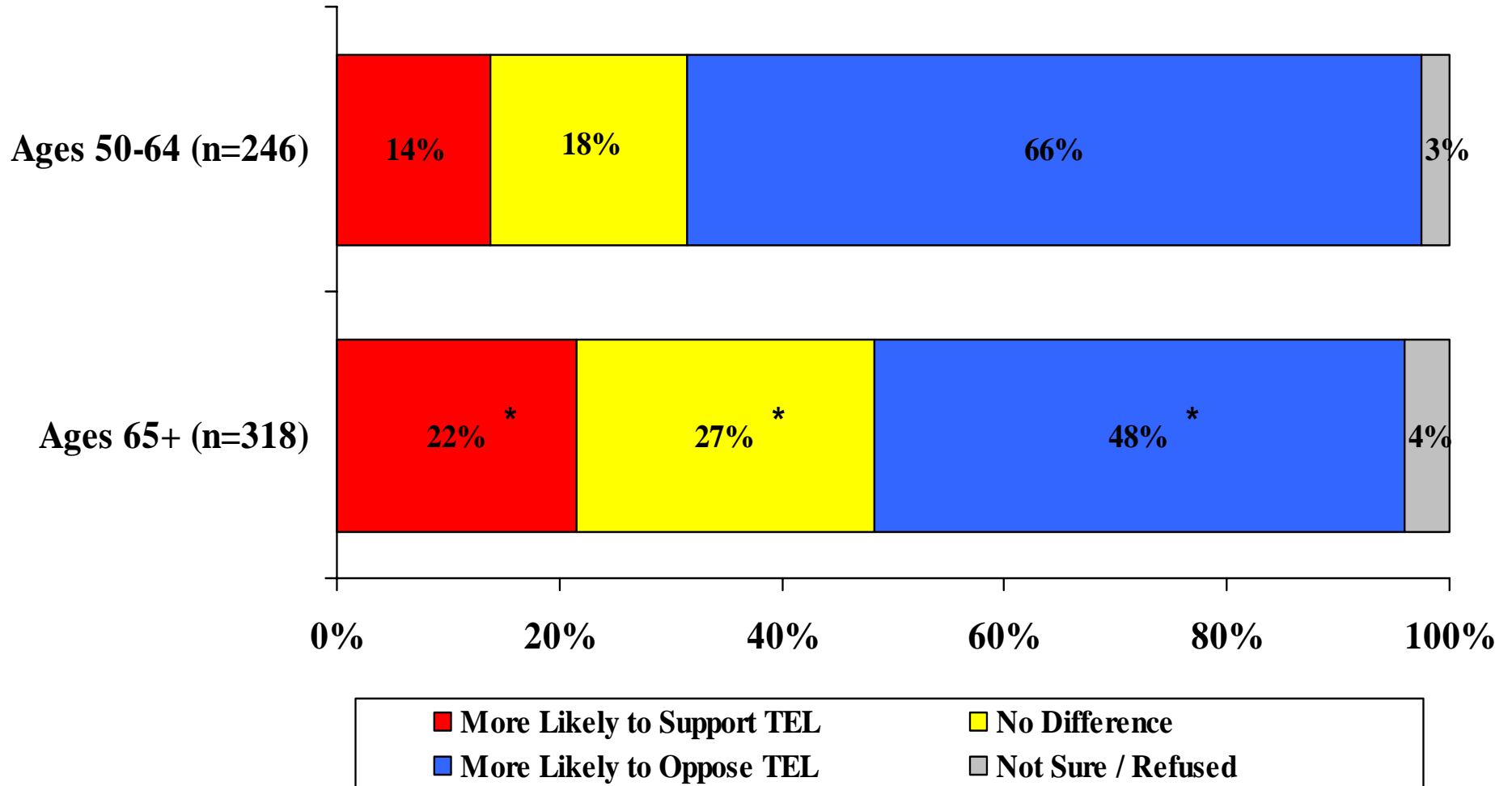
\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q11b. If TEL cut state funding for police protection and public safety, would you be more likely to support TEL, more likely to oppose TEL, or would it not make a difference?**



\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

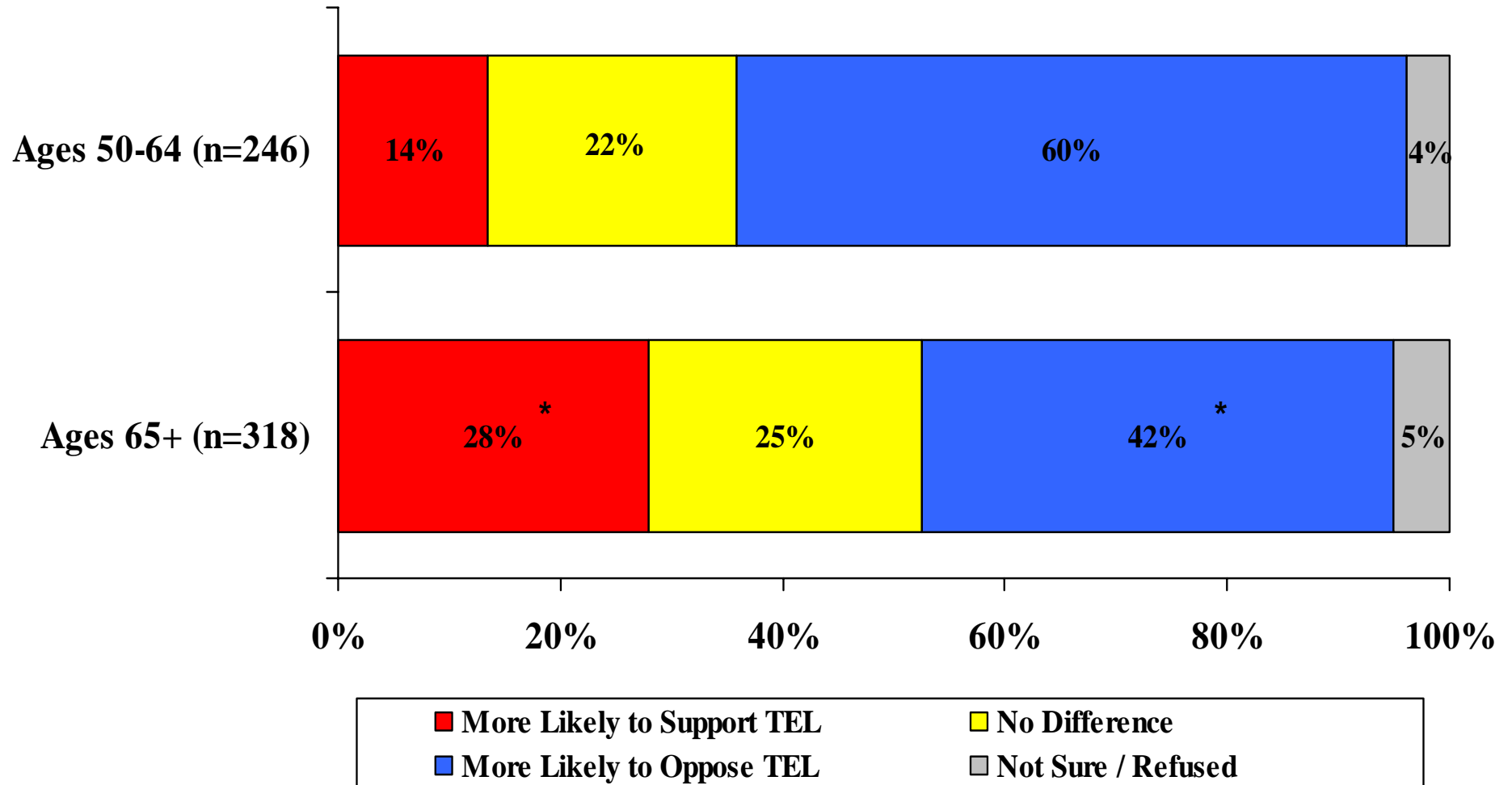
**Q11e. If TEL cut state funding for K-12 public school education, would you be more likely to support TEL, more likely to oppose TEL, or would it not make a difference?**



\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

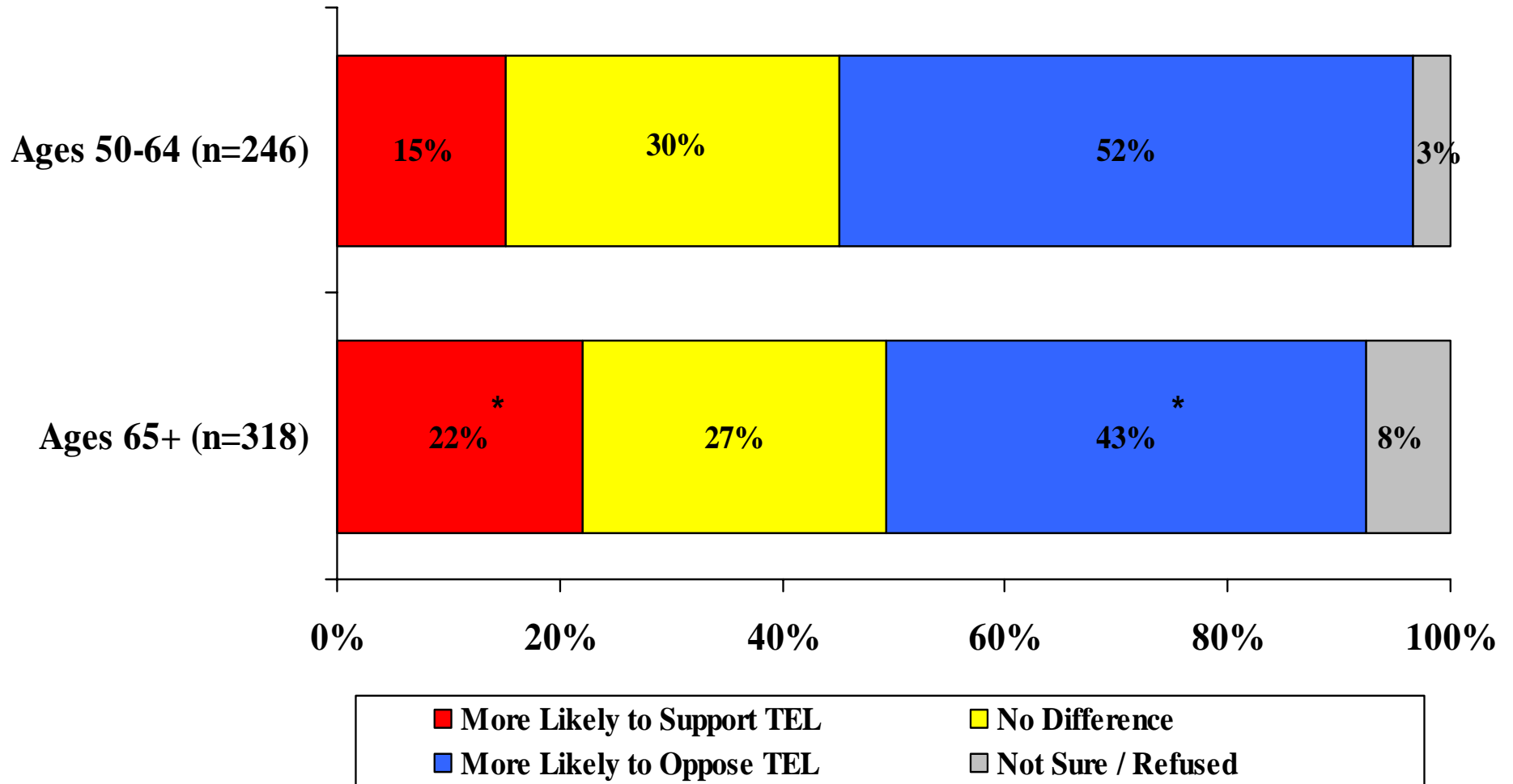


**Q11f. If TEL cut state funding for healthcare for low income families and their children, would you be more likely to support TEL, more likely to oppose TEL, or would it not make a difference?**



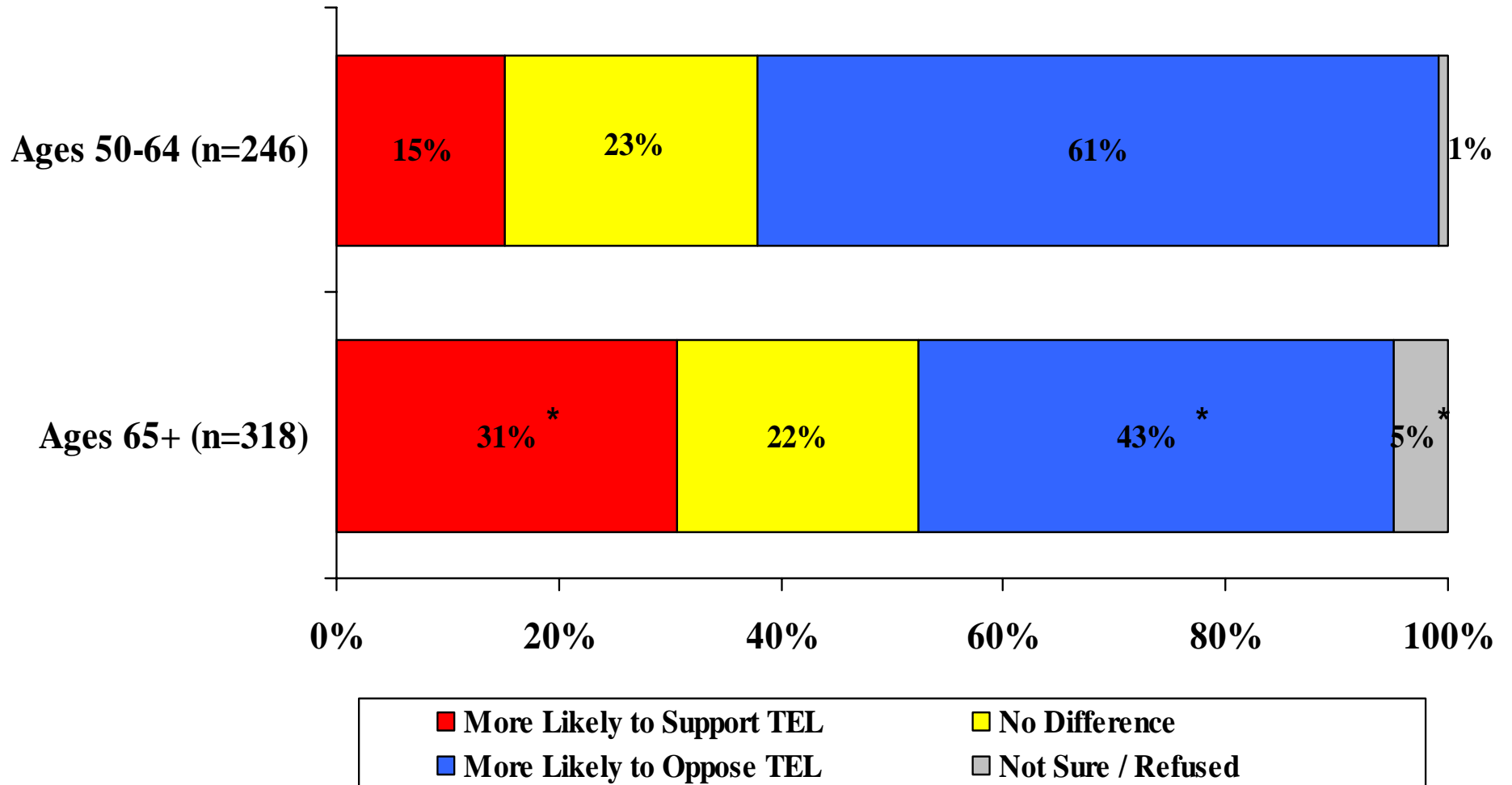
\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q11g. If TEL cut state funding for higher education (Universities, Colleges, & Technical Colleges), would you be more likely to support TEL, more likely to oppose TEL, or would it not make a difference?**



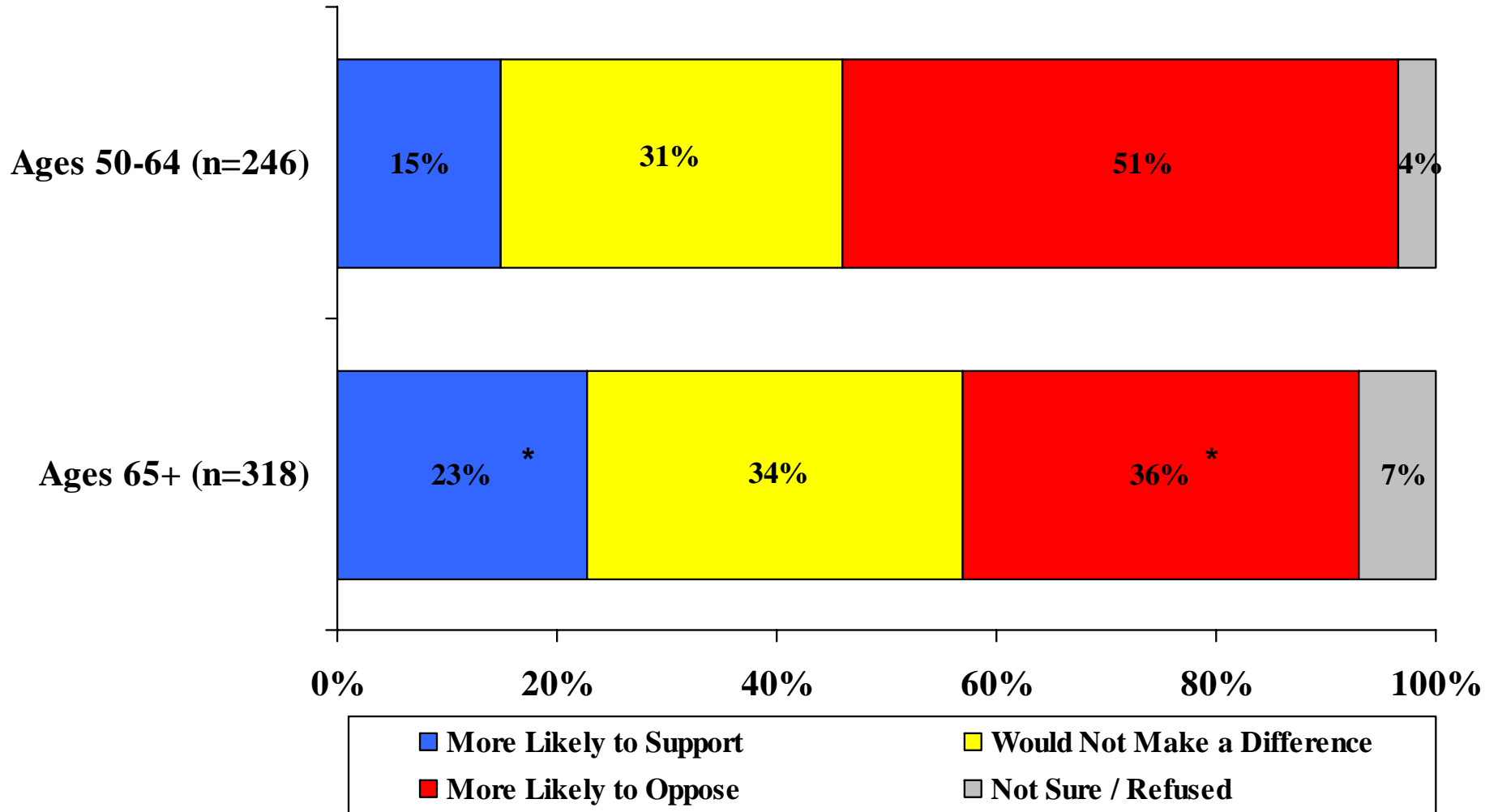
\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q11i. If TEL cut state funding for senior state services including home delivered meals, low-income energy assistance, & senior transportation, would you be more likely to support TEL, more likely to oppose TEL, or would it not make a difference?**



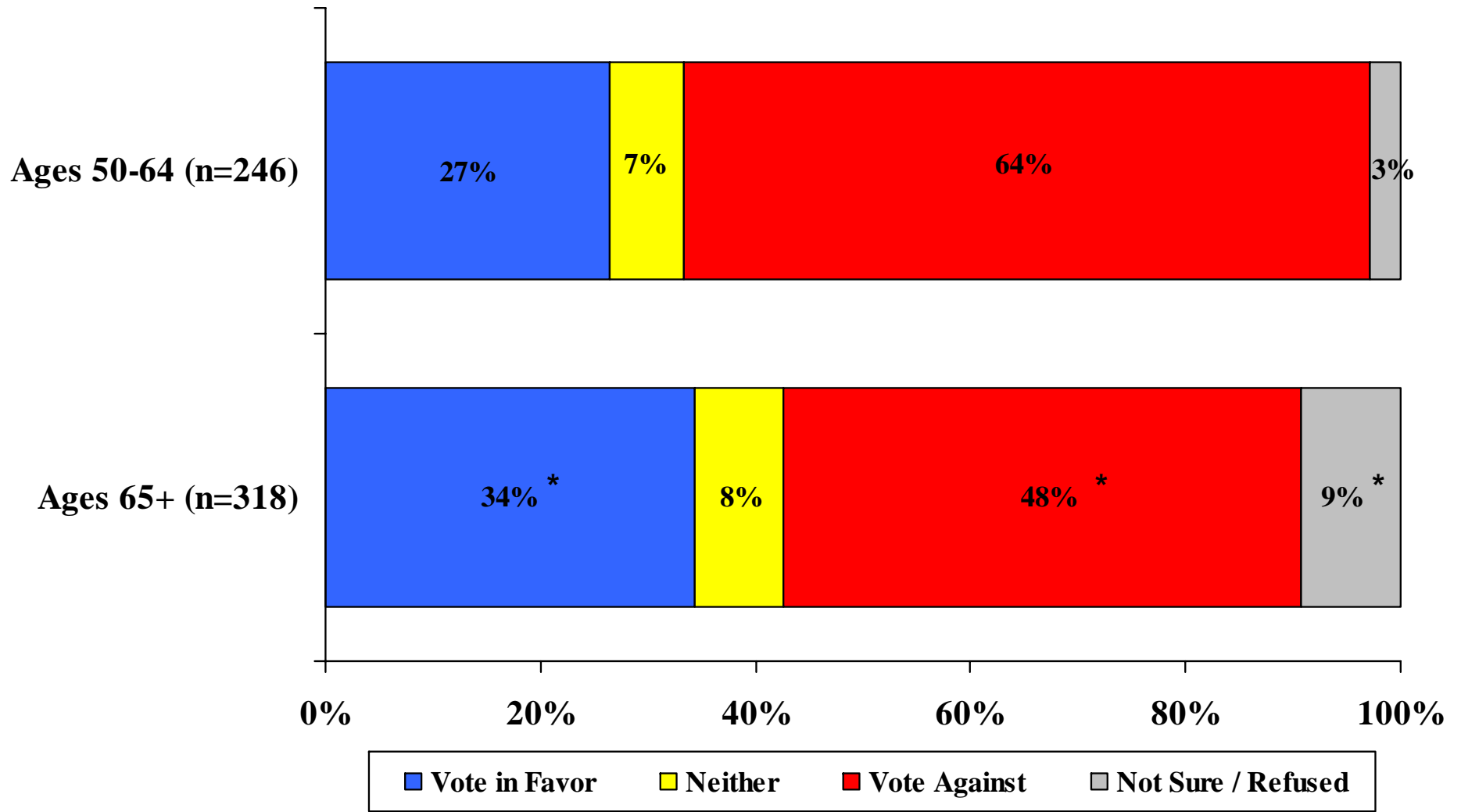
\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q12. Suppose you learned that AARP and other senior organizations OPPOSED the Tax and Expenditure Limitation proposal, because they believe it would lead to significant cuts in important state services for Ohio seniors. Would you be more likely to support TEL, more likely to oppose TEL, or would it not make a difference in how you voted for TEL?**



\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

**Q13 & Q14. Now thinking about all the information we have discussed about this proposal that may be on the ballot in November, if the election were held today, would you vote for or against this proposal? [IF INITIALLY UNDECIDED ASK: Well, if you had to decide right now, which way would you say you are leaning—toward voting in favor or toward voting against?"]**

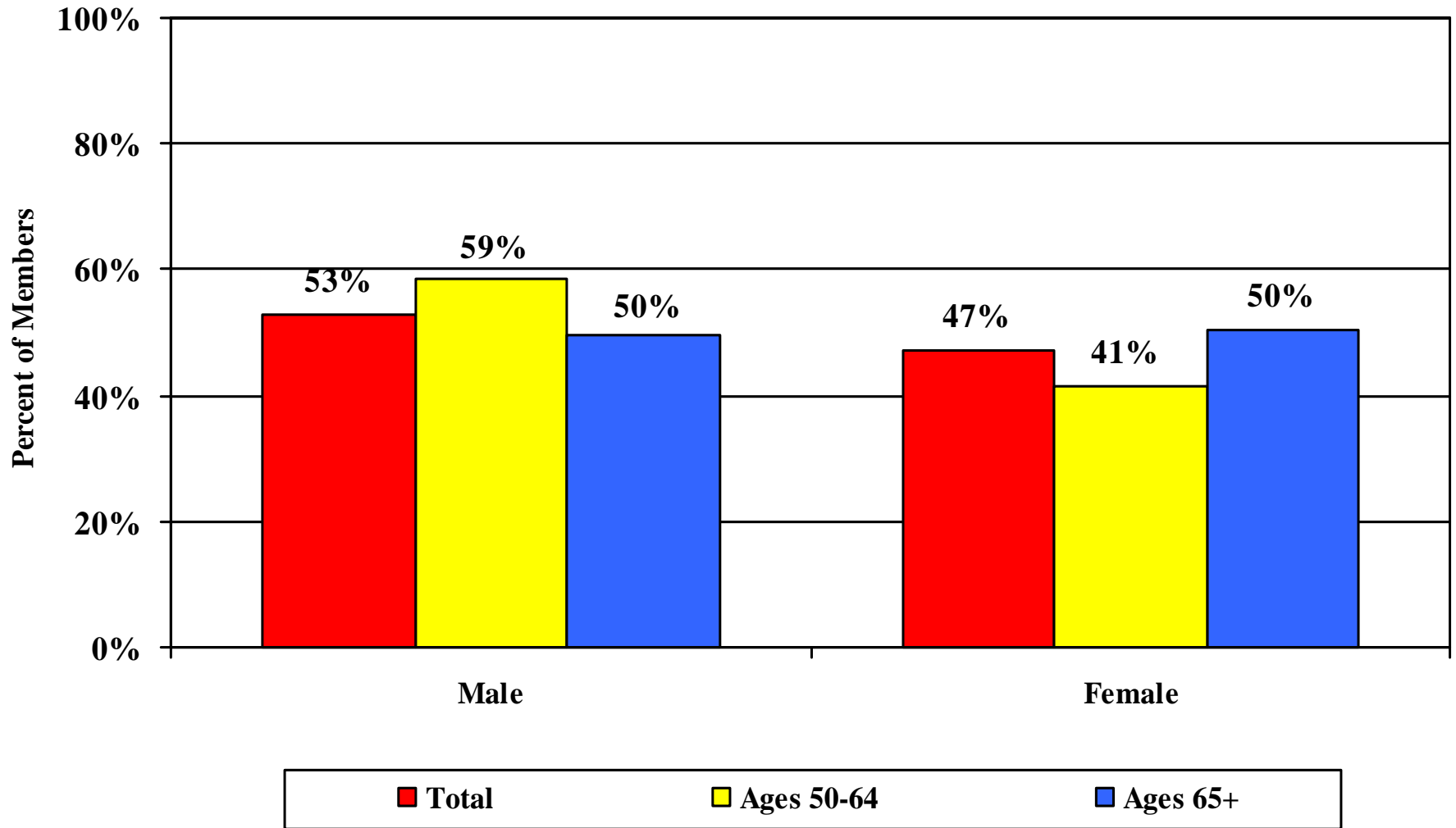


\* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

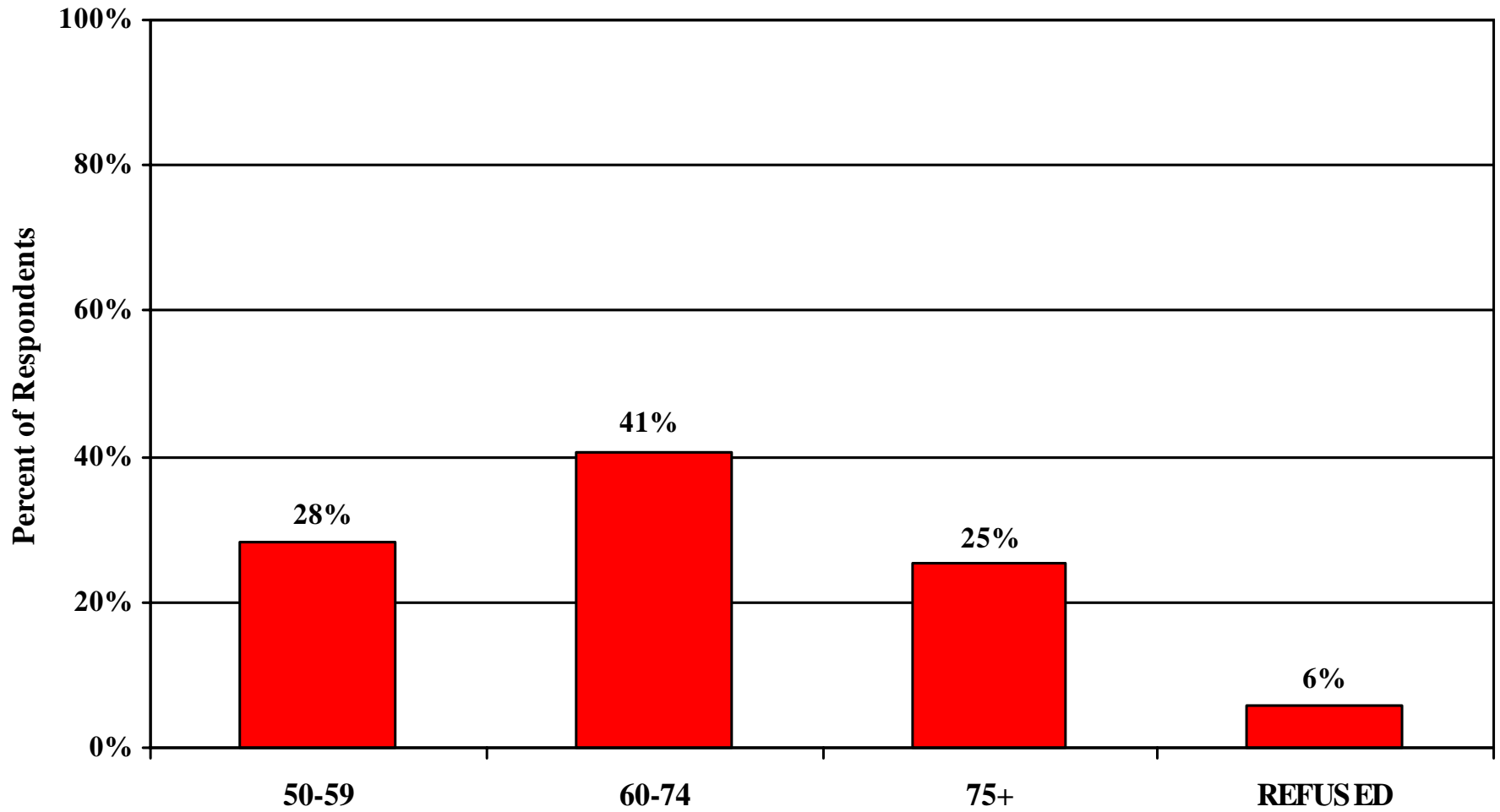
# RESPONDENT PROFILE



### GENDER

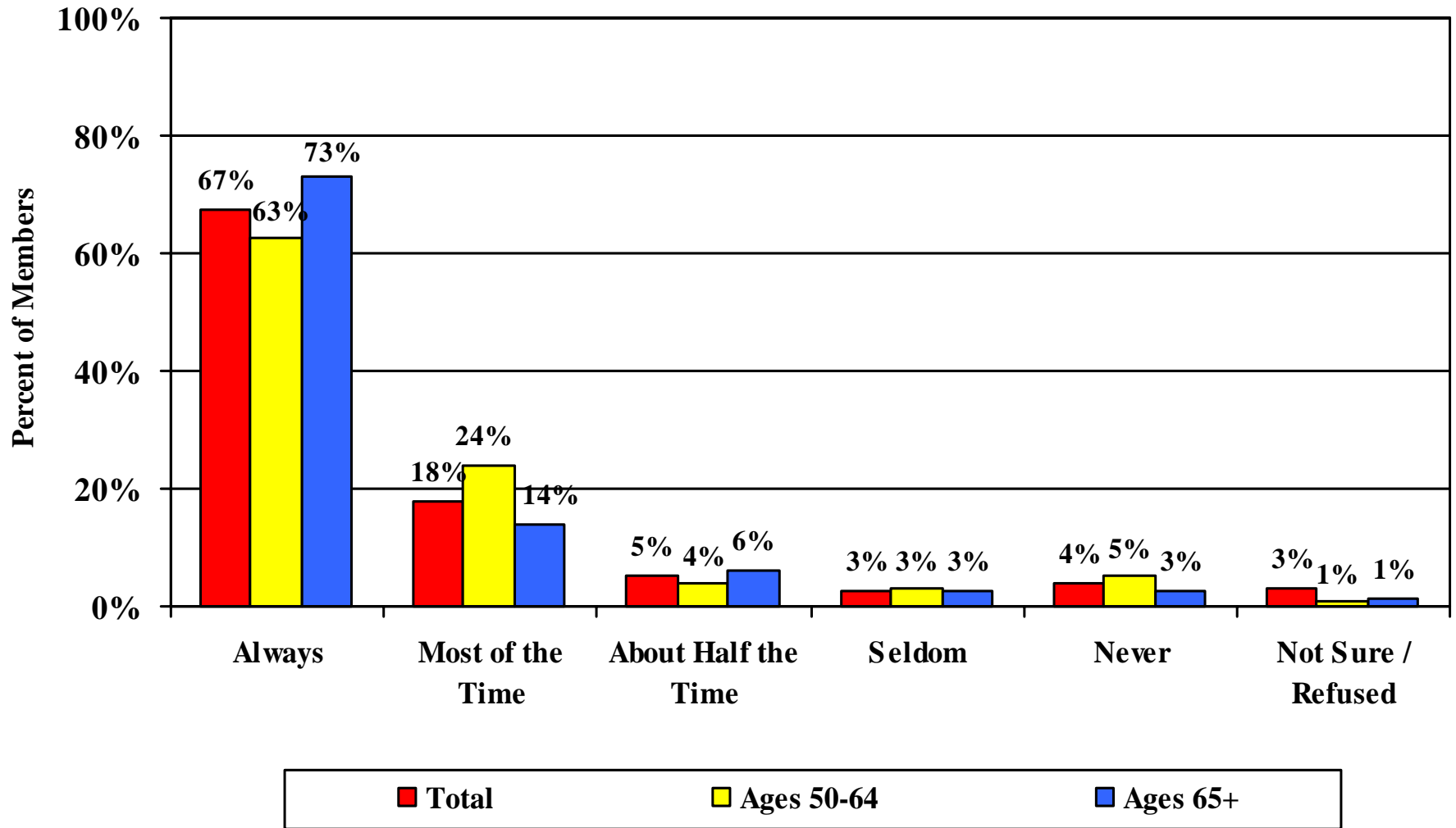


### AGE

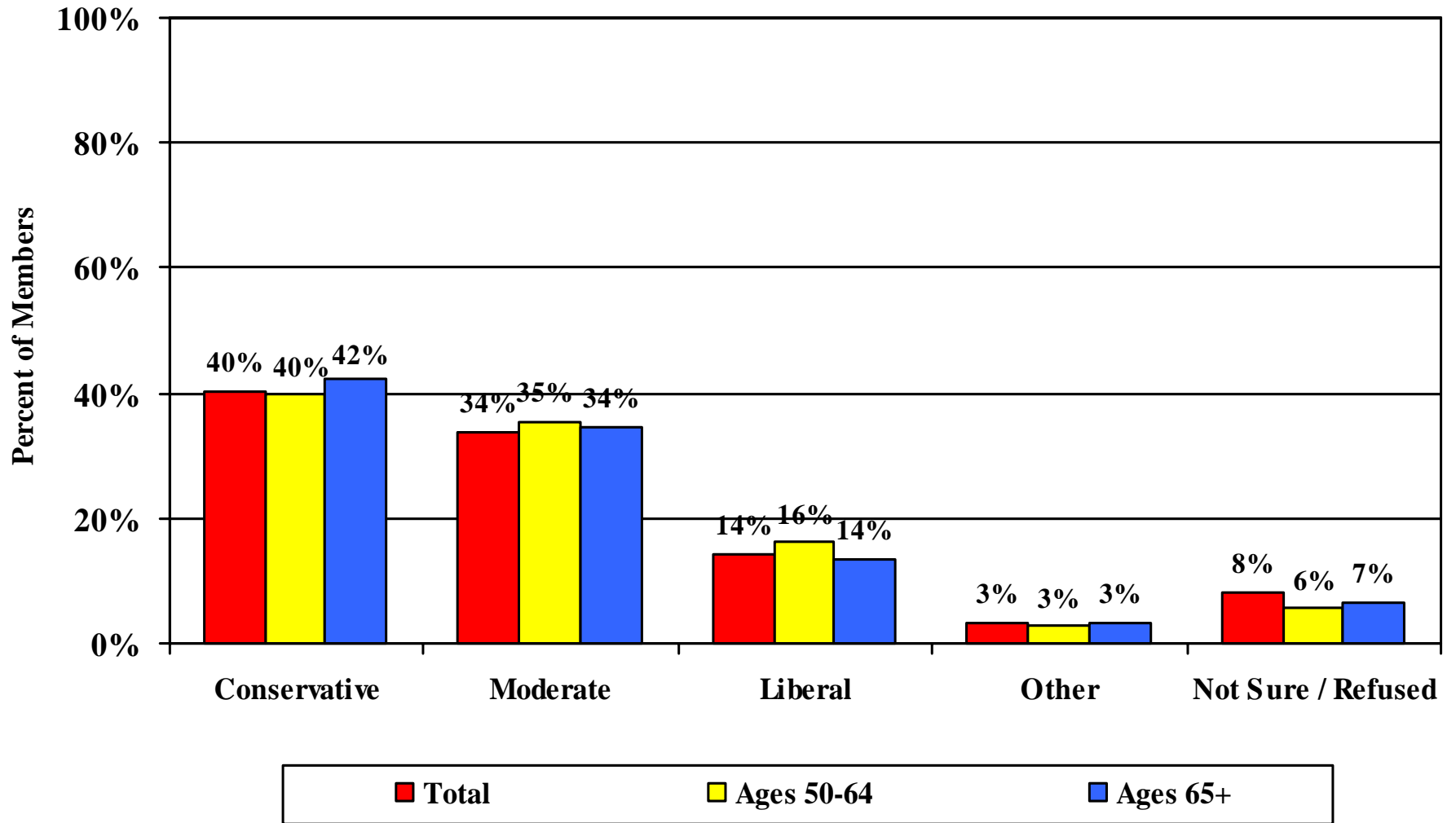




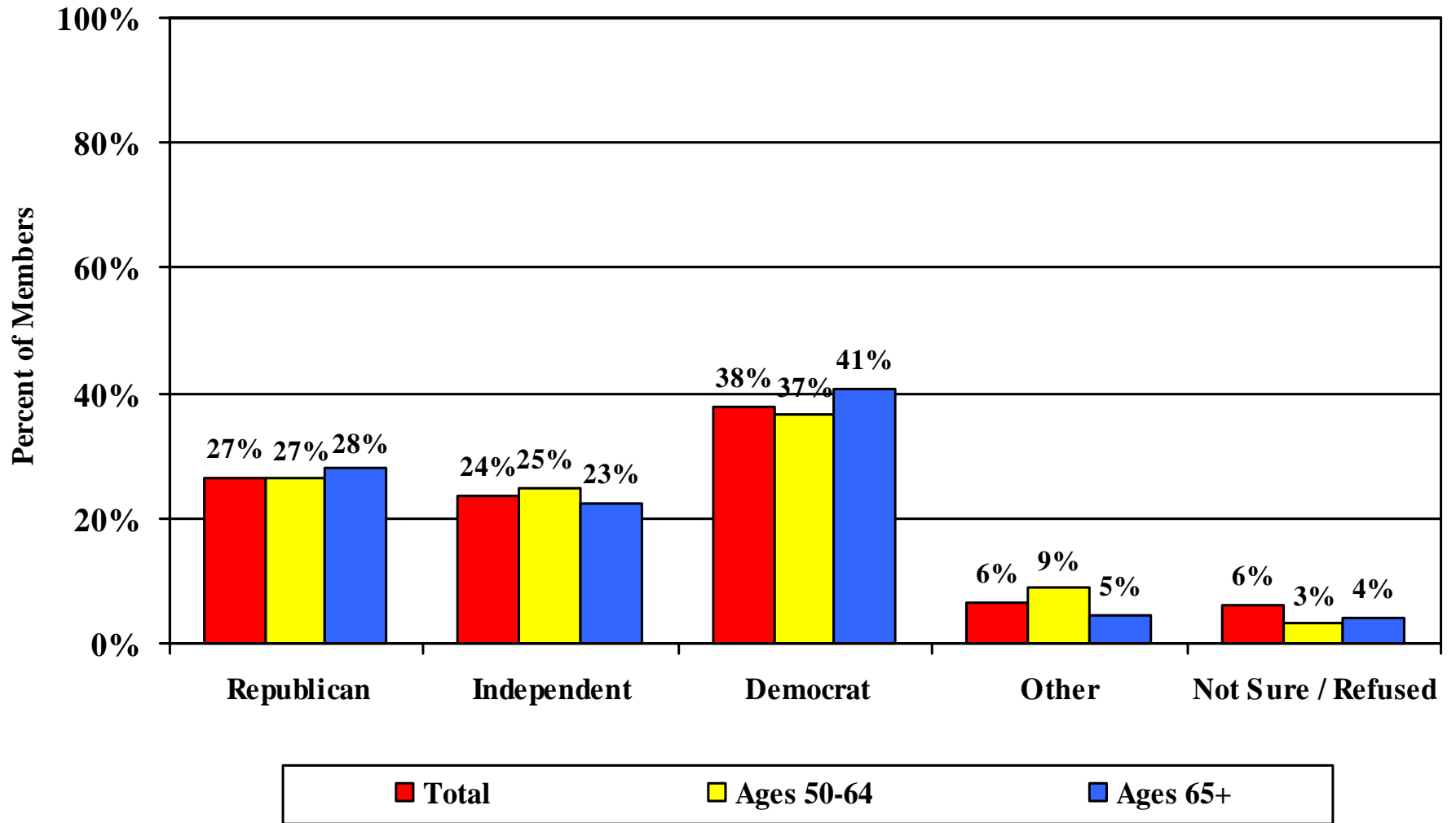
### FREQUENCY OF VOTING



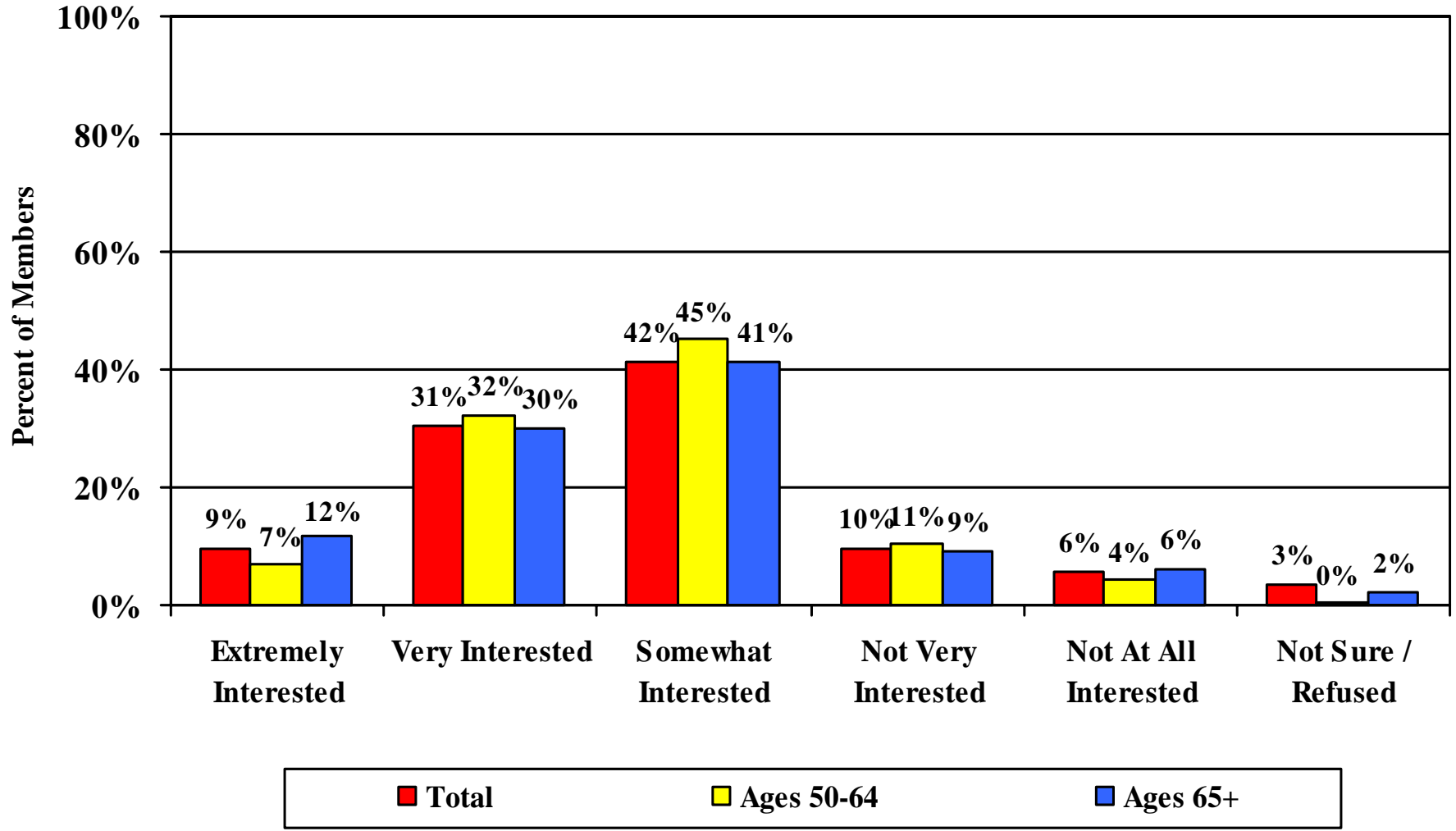
### POLITICAL VIEWS



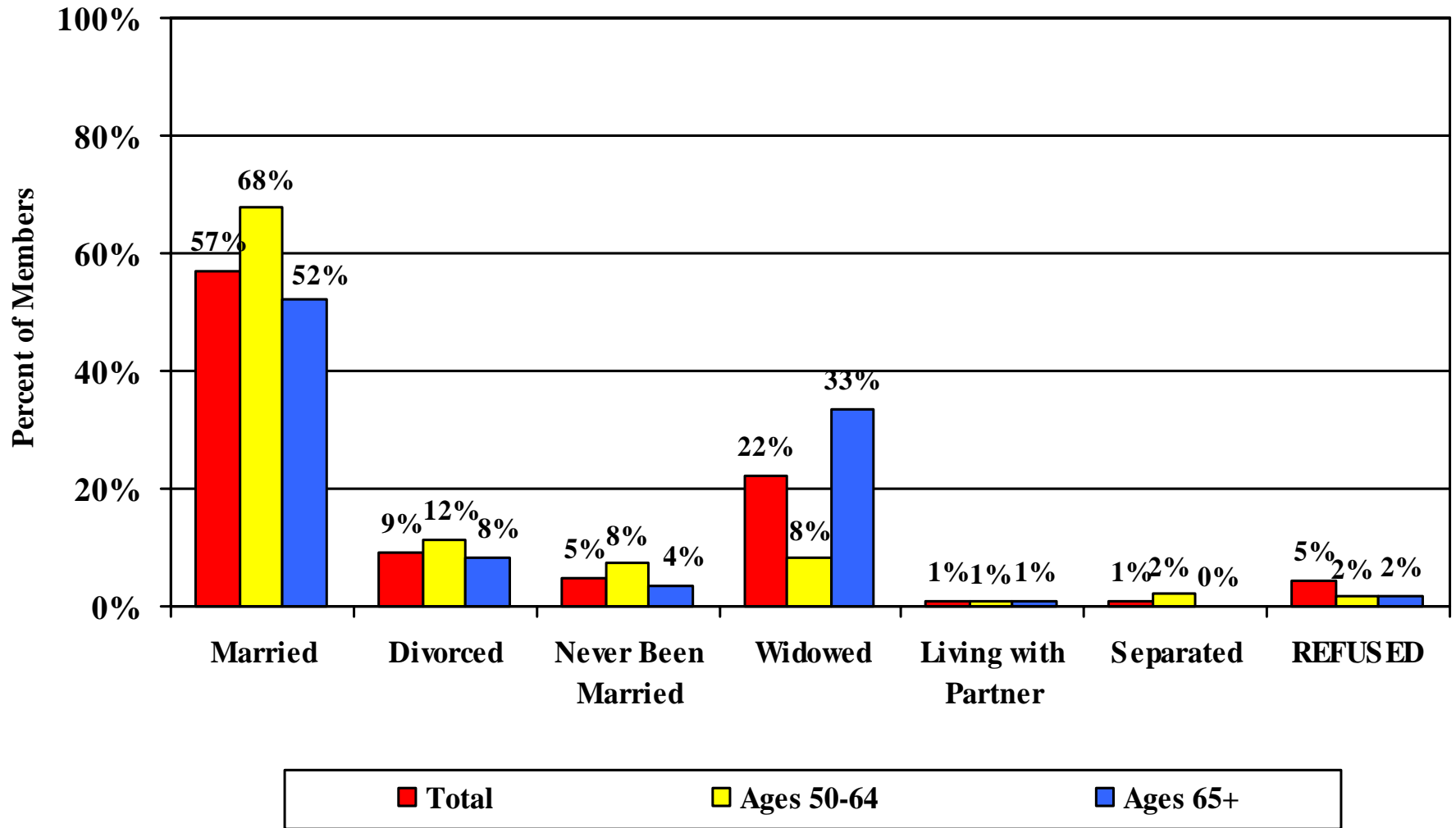
### PARTY IDENTIFICATION



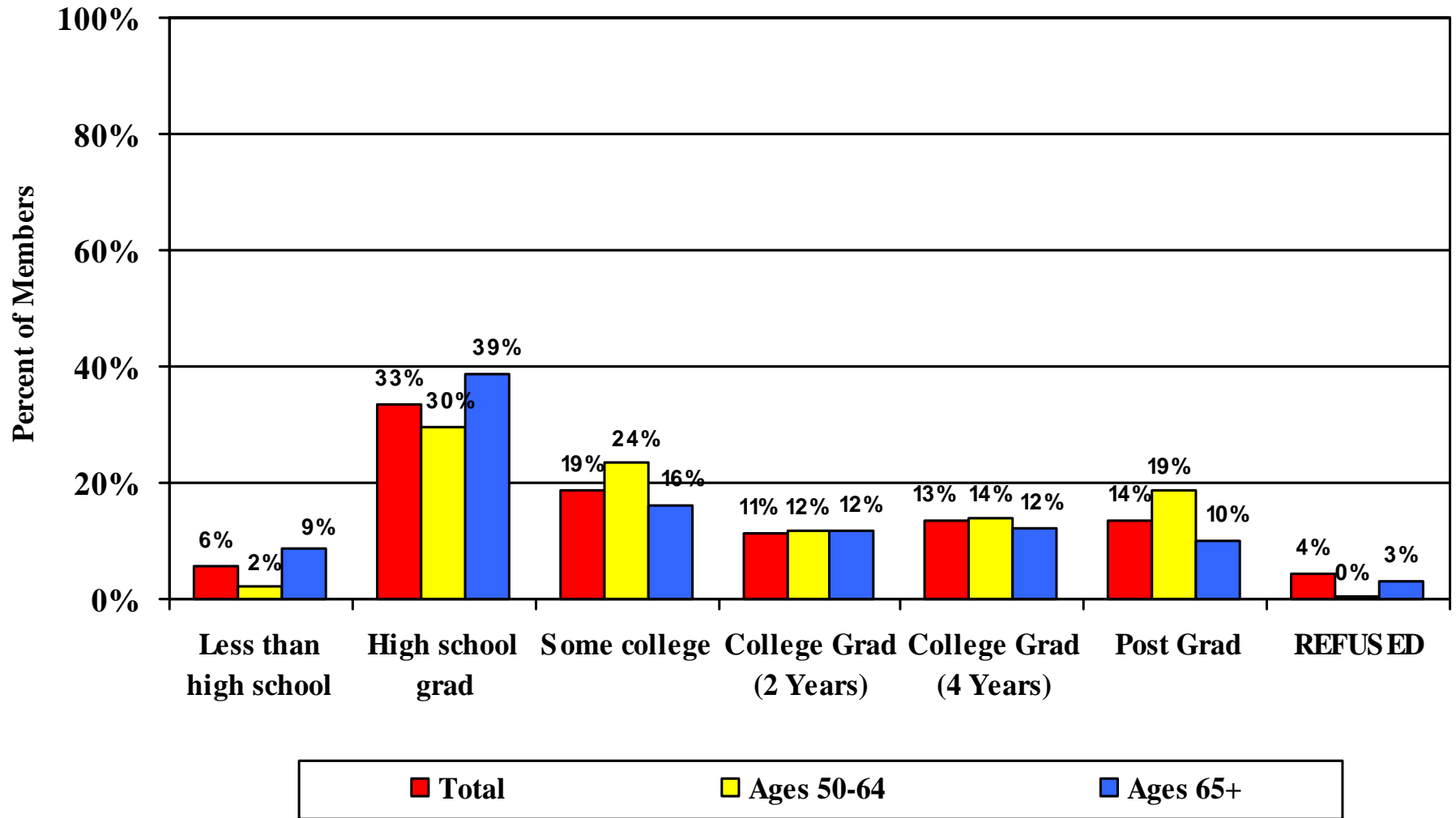
### INTEREST IN OHIO STATE GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES



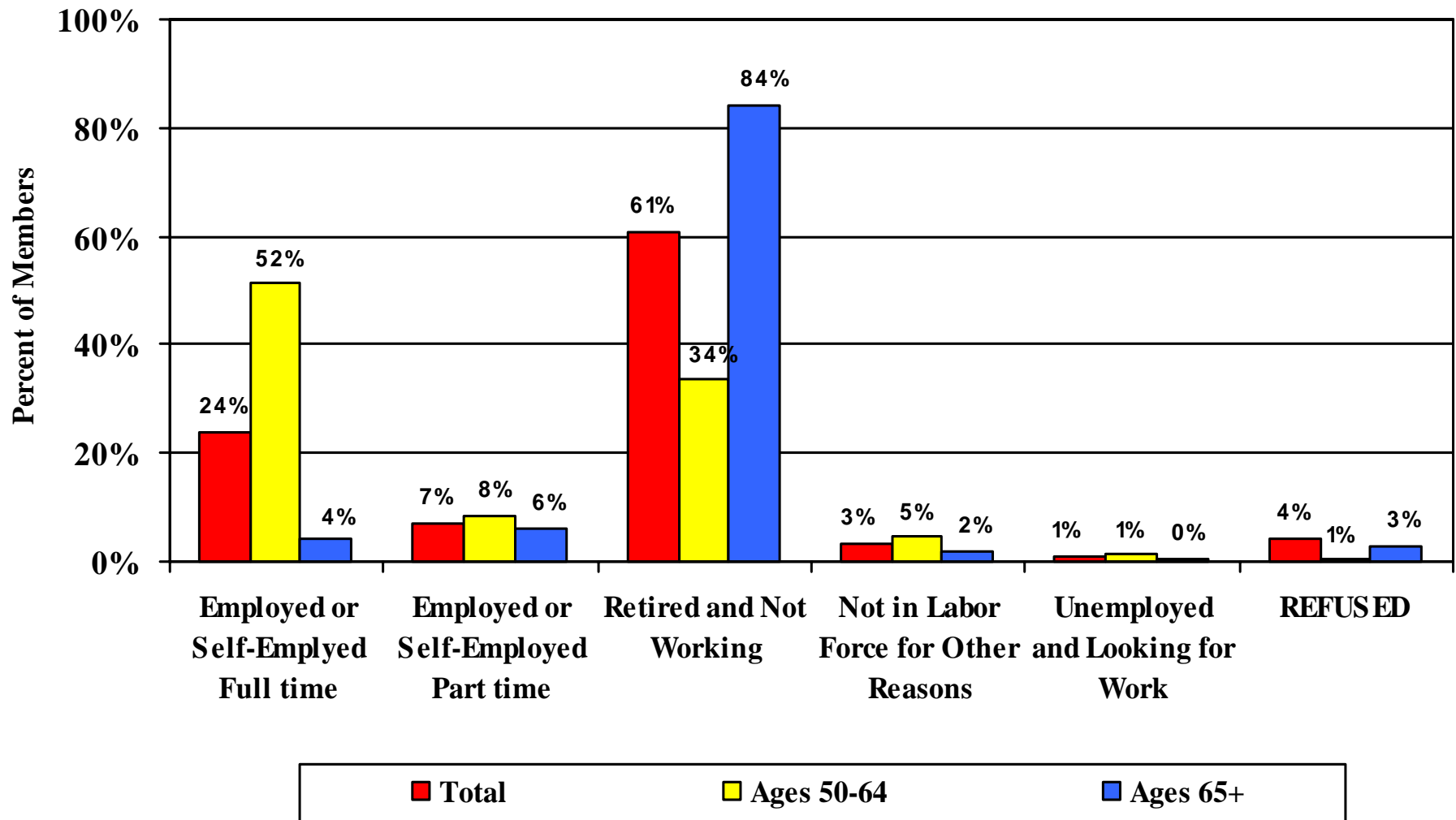
### CURRENT MARITAL STATUS



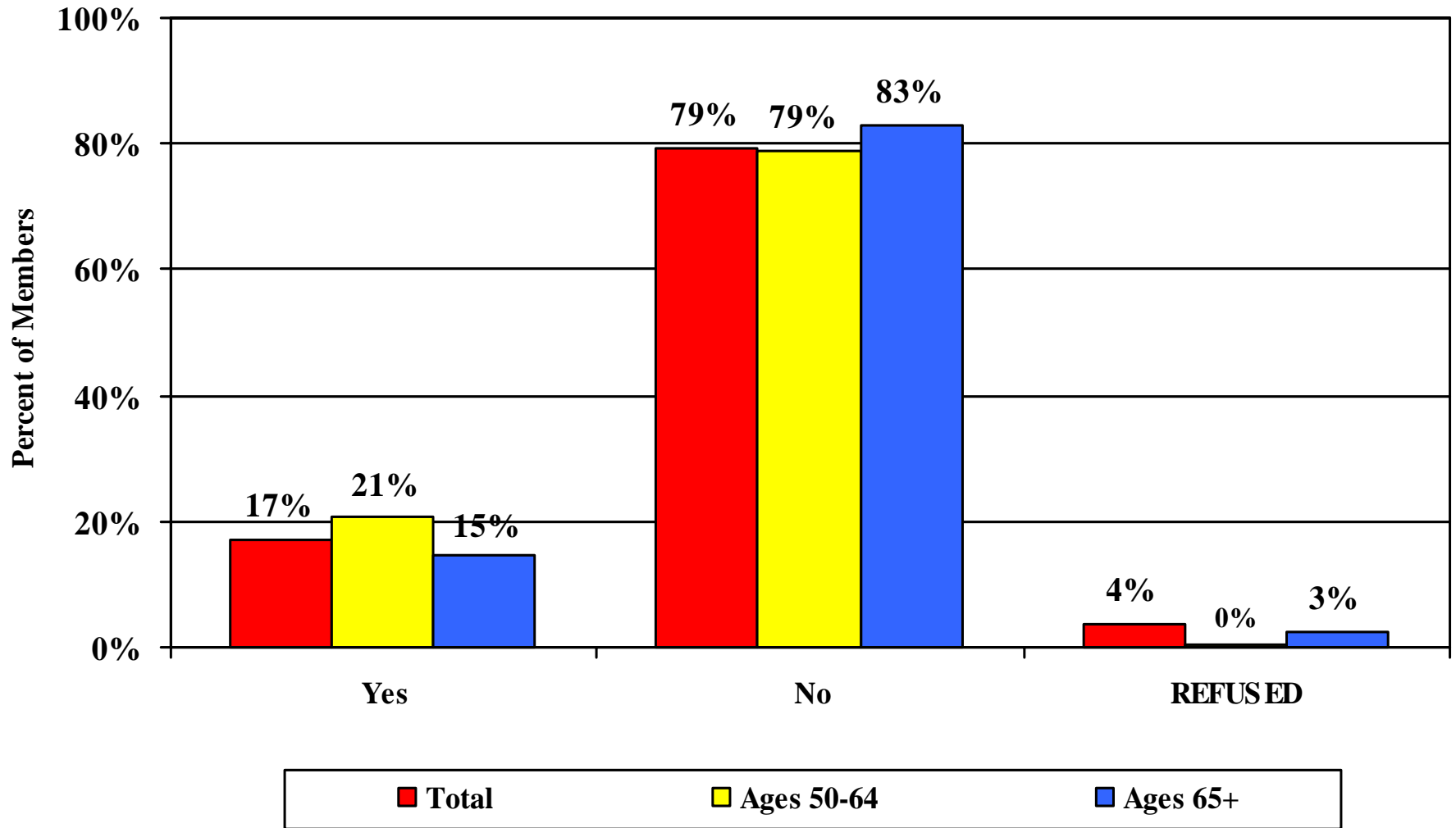
## EDUCATION



### CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS

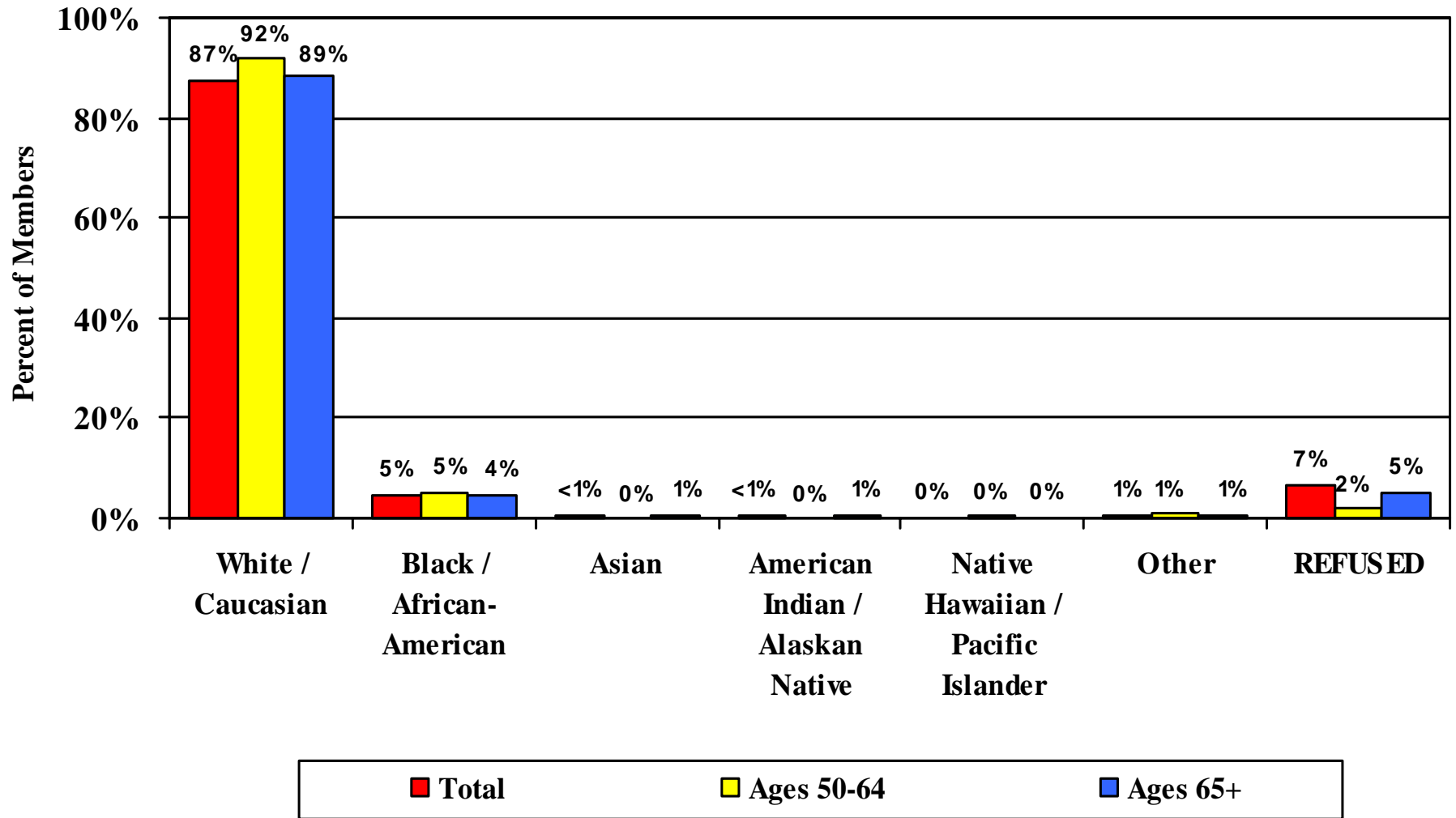


### EVER BEEN STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE

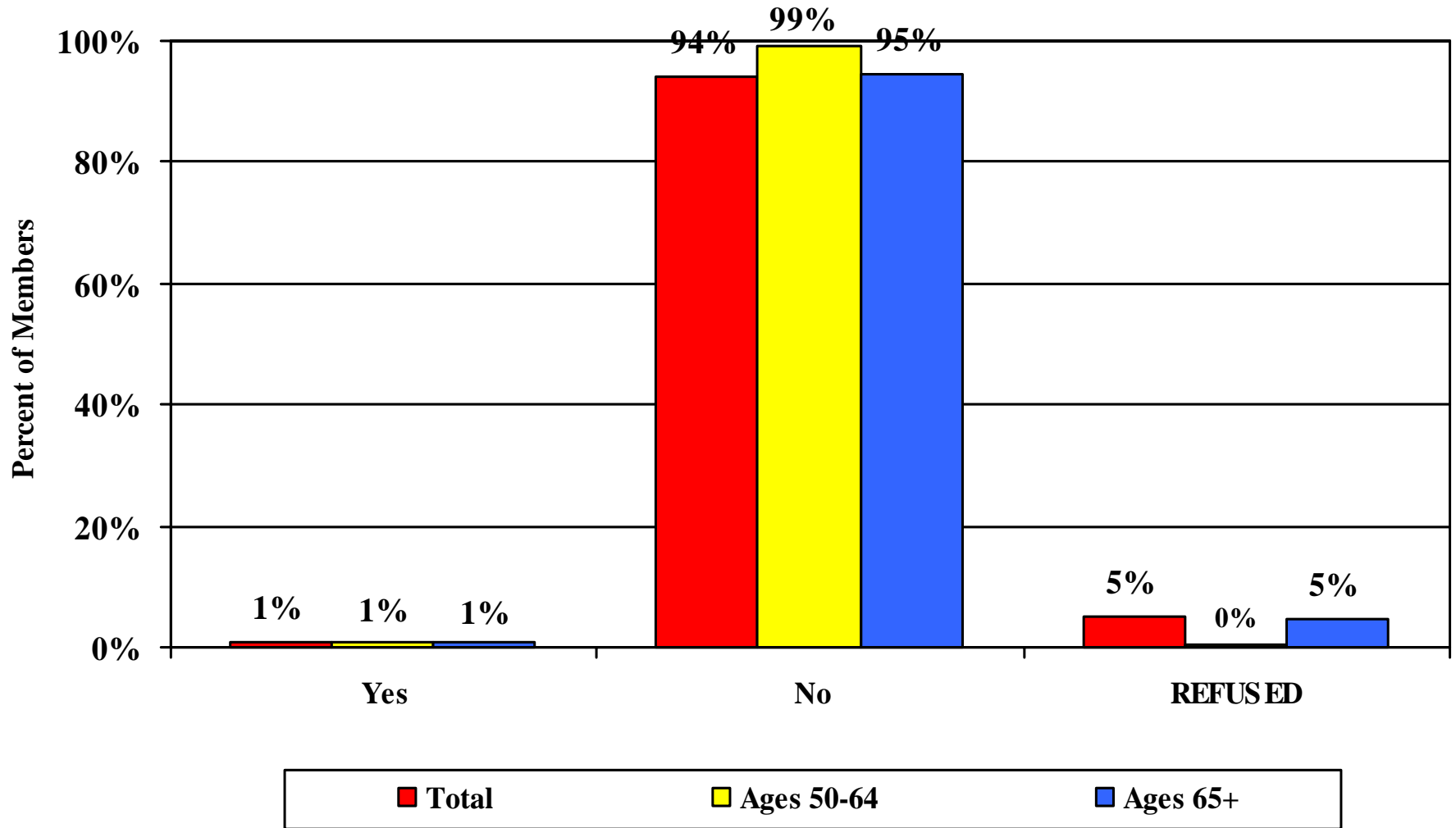




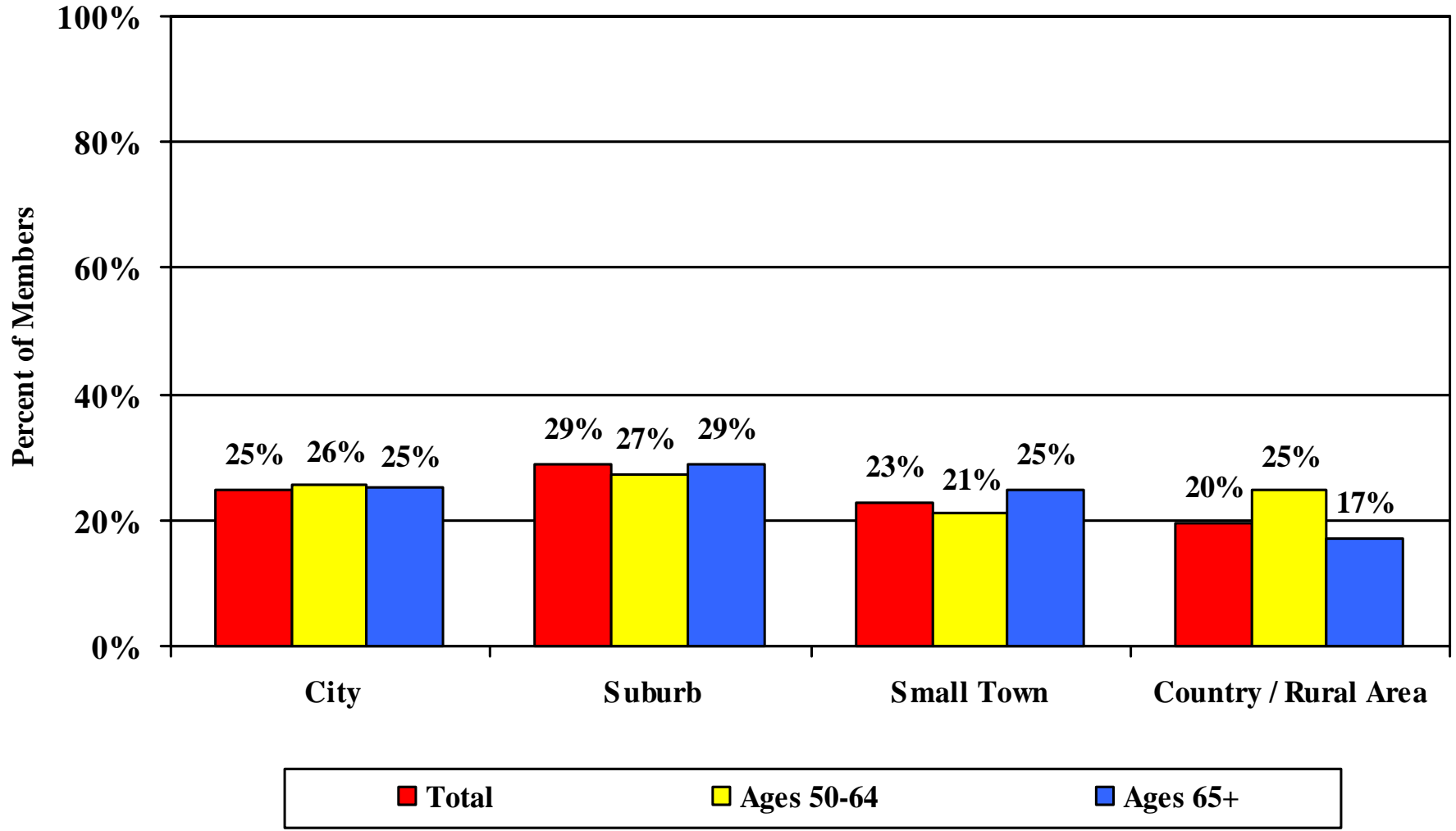
**RACE / ETHNICITY**



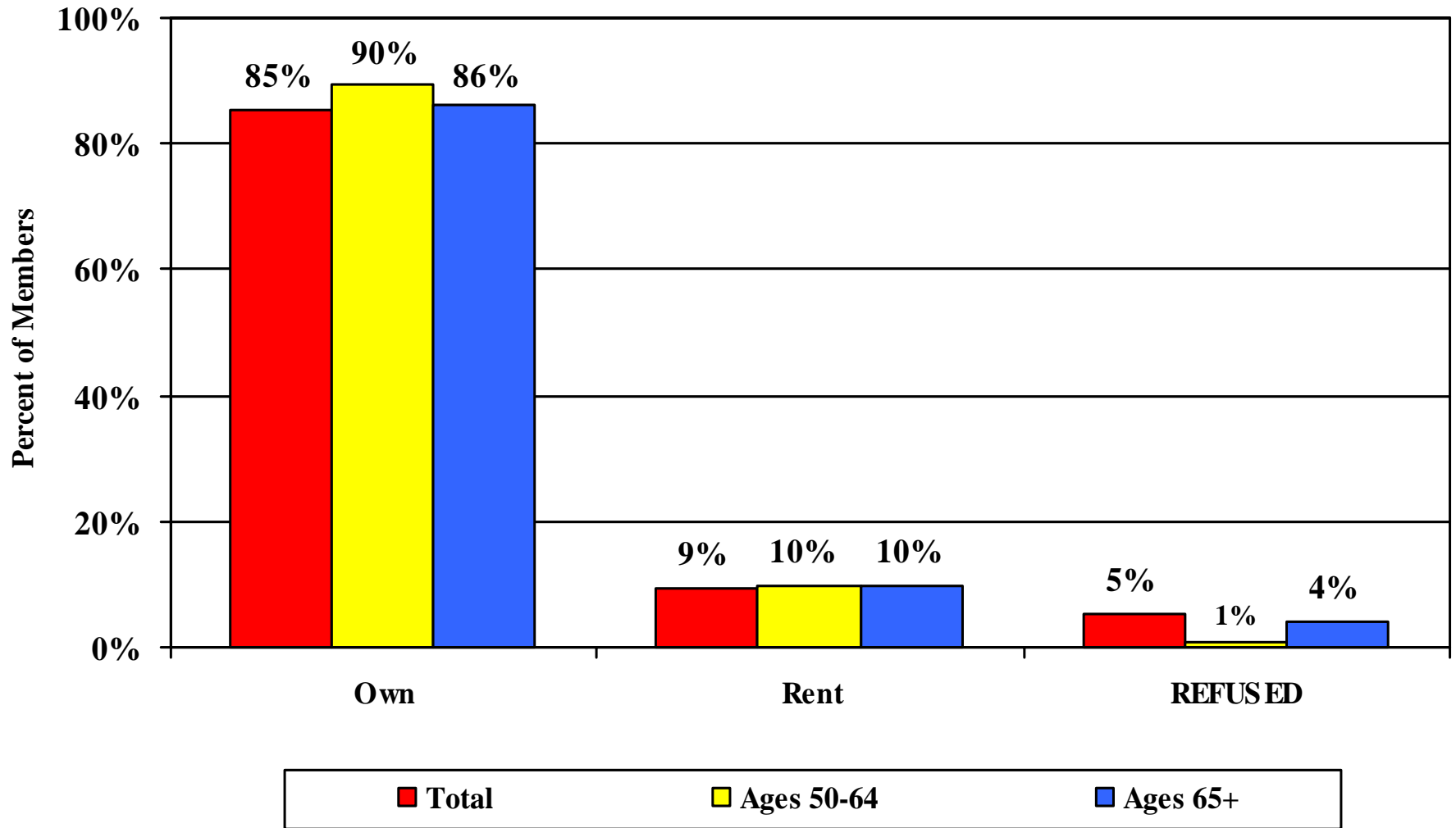
### SPANISH, HISPANIC, OR LATINO ORIGIN



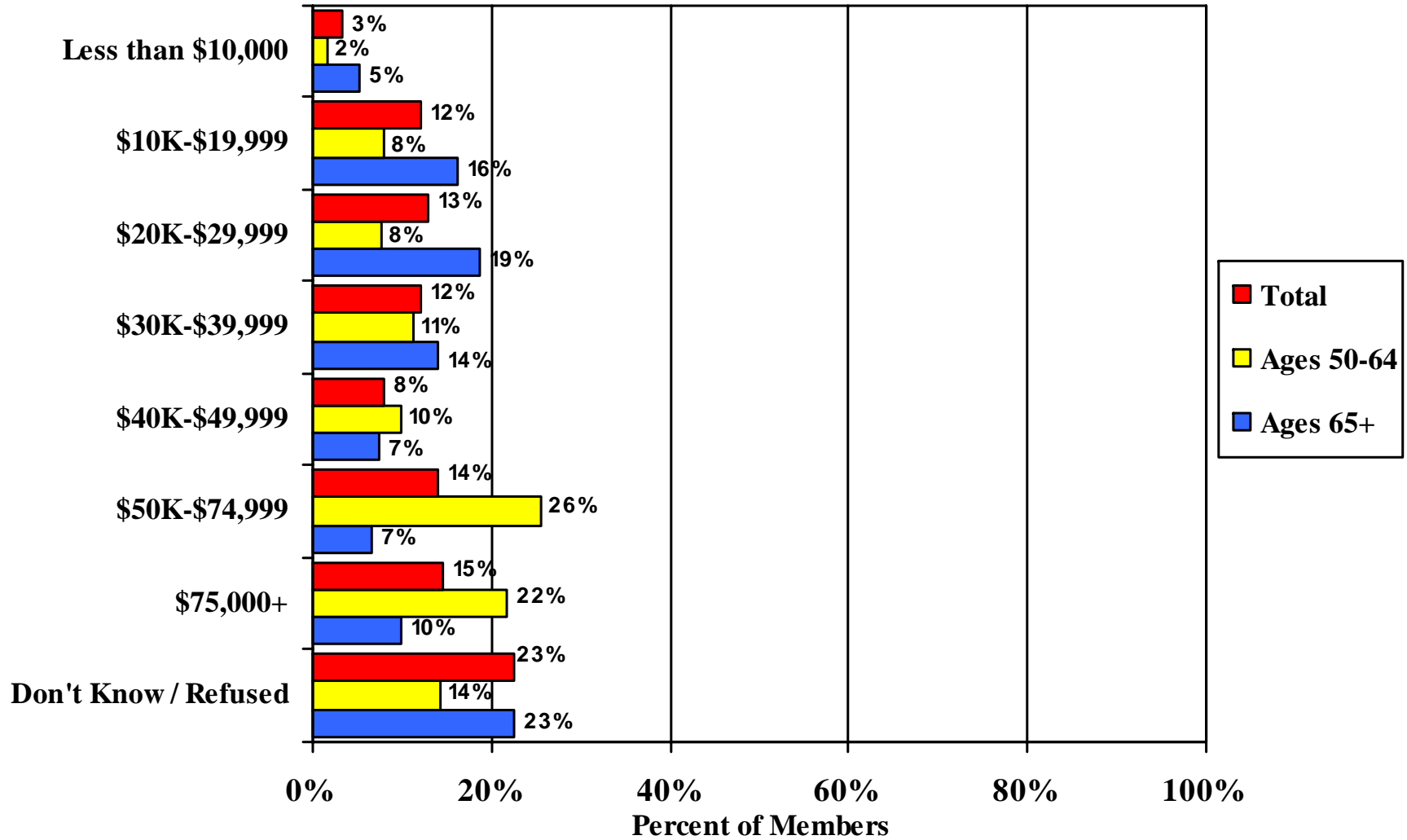
### PLACE OF RESIDENCE



### HOME OWNERSHIP



### HOUSEHOLD INCOME



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MARKET RESEARCH CONSULTANTS