

2006 Multi-State TABOR Survey - Oregon -

**TOPLINE REPORT
PRESENTED TO:**



May 2006

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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 Oregon.

- **Data Collection Mode:** Phone Survey
- **Field Period:** May 9 – May 16, 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):** 21%
- **Cooperation Rate (COOP3):** 43%
- **Refusal Rate (REF3):** 25%
- **Statistical Note:** Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Executive Summary

- **The majority of AARP Members in Oregon believe too little money is being spent on state services.** One-half believe Oregon is spending too little money on services such as keeping people safe, providing health and long-term care, repairing roads, etc.
- **Three out of four Members feel the state and local taxes they pay are either too high or about the right amount.** One-third believe the state and local taxes they pay in Oregon 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 and local governments.** One-fifth of AARP Members in Oregon say they do not trust either their state or local governments. Two-fifths say they only trust their state government “a little.” Similarly, only one-third say they have “a little” trust in their local government. In all, fewer than one out of ten AARP Members living in Oregon say they trust either their state or local government “a great deal.”
- **More than one-half of AARP Members assert that improving state services is a higher priority than limiting taxes.** One-half also suggest that among the most important goals for state government is improved accountability. Three out of ten suggest setting spending priorities is among the most important goals.
- **The majority of AARP Members have not seen or heard anything about the “Stop OverSpending” or Rainy Day Fund Initiative #6 proposal for Oregon.** Only two out of five report seeing or hearing something about the SOS proposal in the last year.
- **Police protection and education (both K-12 and College) are the most highly valued state and local services according to AARP Members.** Consequently, funding cuts to either police protection or K-12 public education would have the biggest impact on Members support of SOS. Three-fifths of Members suggest that if the SOS proposal cut these services, they would be more likely to oppose the measure.



Executive Summary (continued)

- **Overall, AARP Members appear generally unconvinced by any of the arguments either in support or in opposition to the SOS 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 SOS would take power away from state politicians and that SOS would control runaway government spending.
- **Two out of five AARP Members would be more likely to oppose the SOS proposal if they knew AARP and other senior and disability organizations also opposed it.** One-third say AARP’s opposition as well as that of other senior and disability organizations would not make a difference in how they voted on the SOS proposal.
- **Initially, more than two out of five AARP Members claimed they would vote for the SOS Initiative. However, when asked again at the end of the survey, only one-third continued to indicate they would vote in favor of the proposal.** Forty-four percent of AARP Members said they would probably vote in favor of the proposal after hearing a brief description of the SOS Initiative. Members were then presented a short series of arguments both for and against the initiative. When asked about supporting or opposing the initiative after hearing these arguments, only about one-third expressed support. Finally, at the end of the interview, Members were again asked how they would vote regarding SOS. Again, one-third expressed support for the Initiative. This twelve percent shift between the initial measure and the final measure is statistically significant at the 95 percent level of confidence.



DETAILED FINDINGS



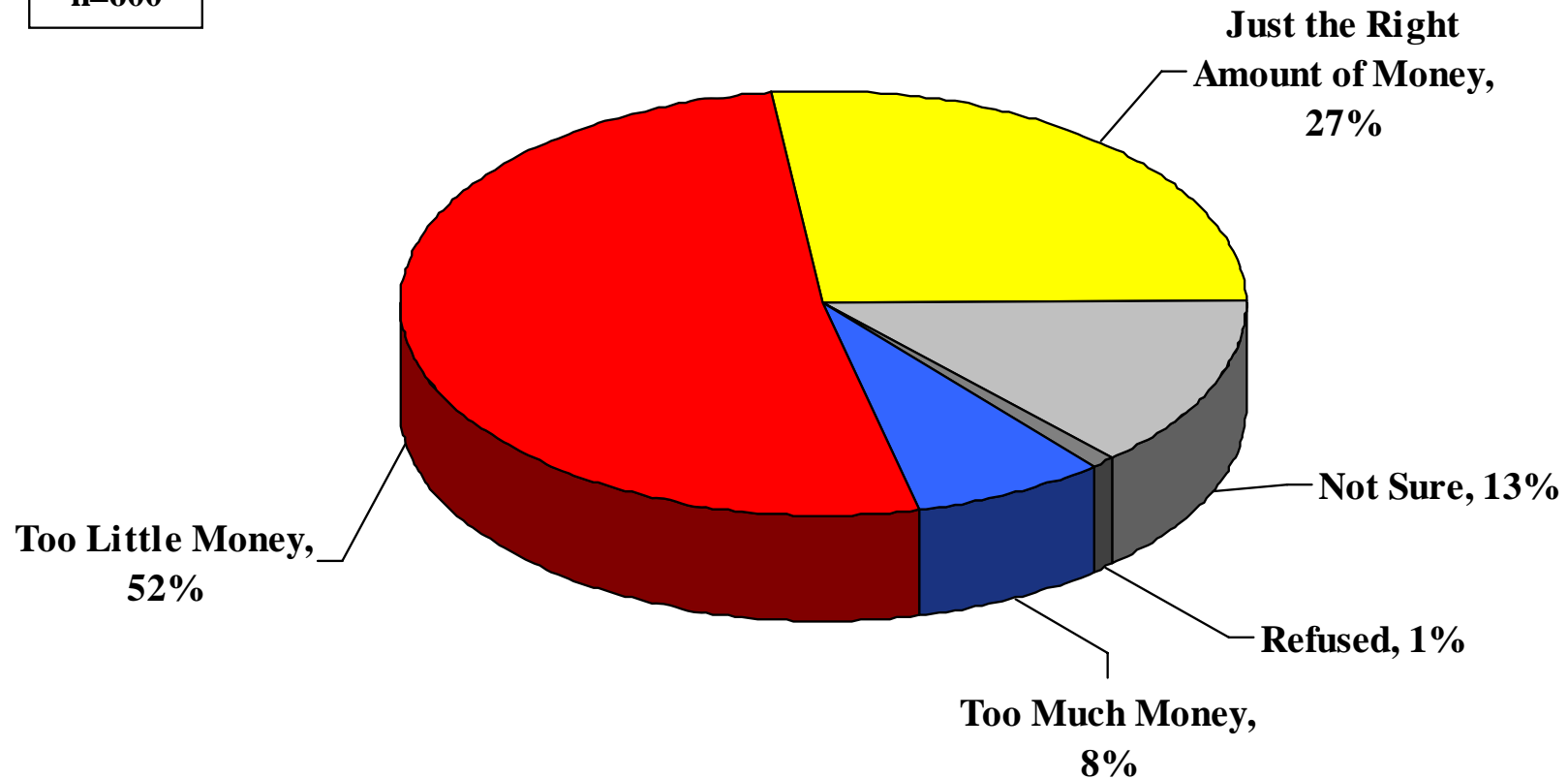
Univariate Analysis



Q1. Do you think that Oregon 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?

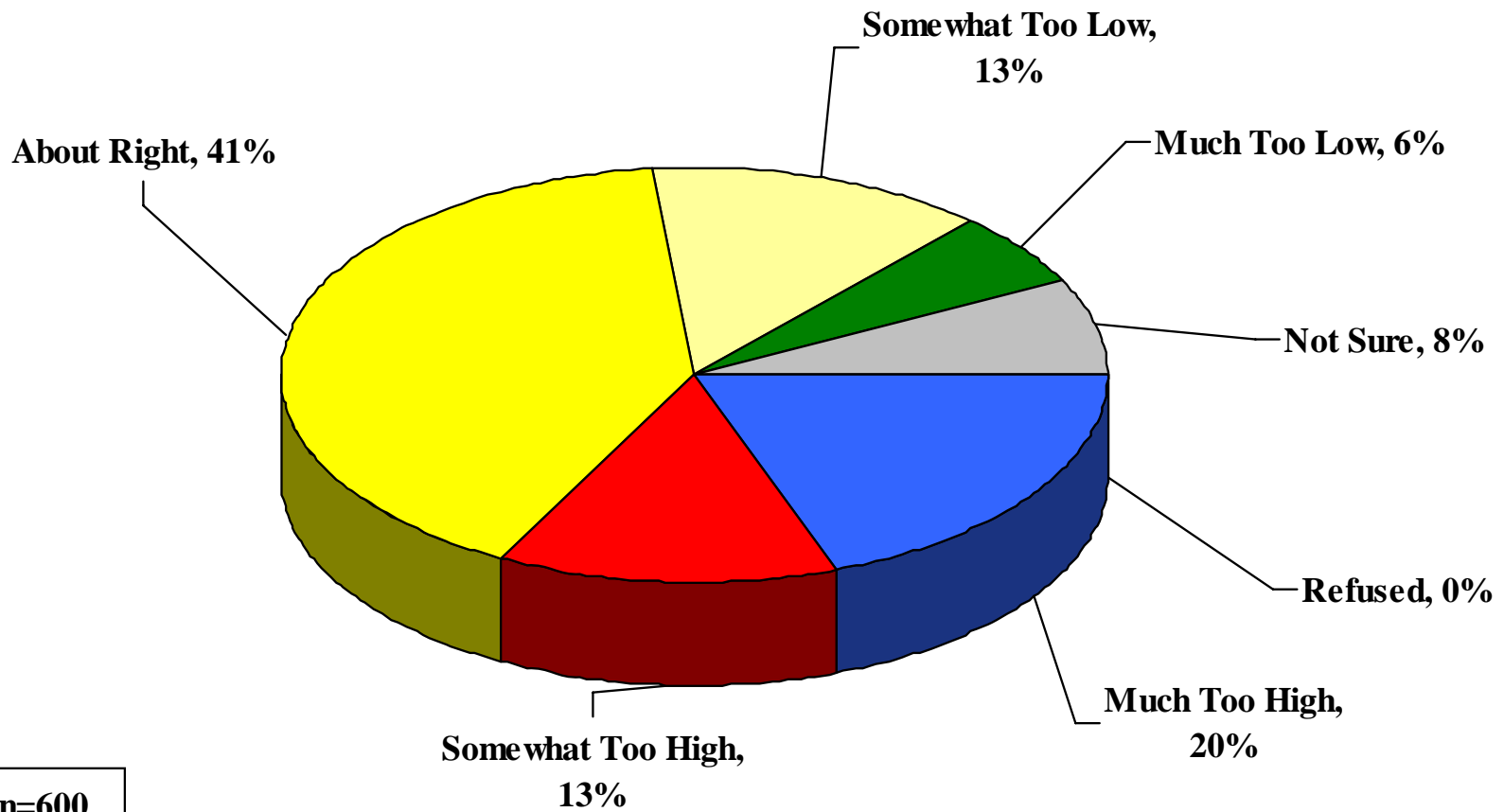
One-half of AARP Members in Oregon believe the State is spending too little money on state services. One-fourth believe Oregon is spending the right amount of money. One out of eight, however, report being unsure about how they feel regarding Oregon's level of spending on state services.

n=600



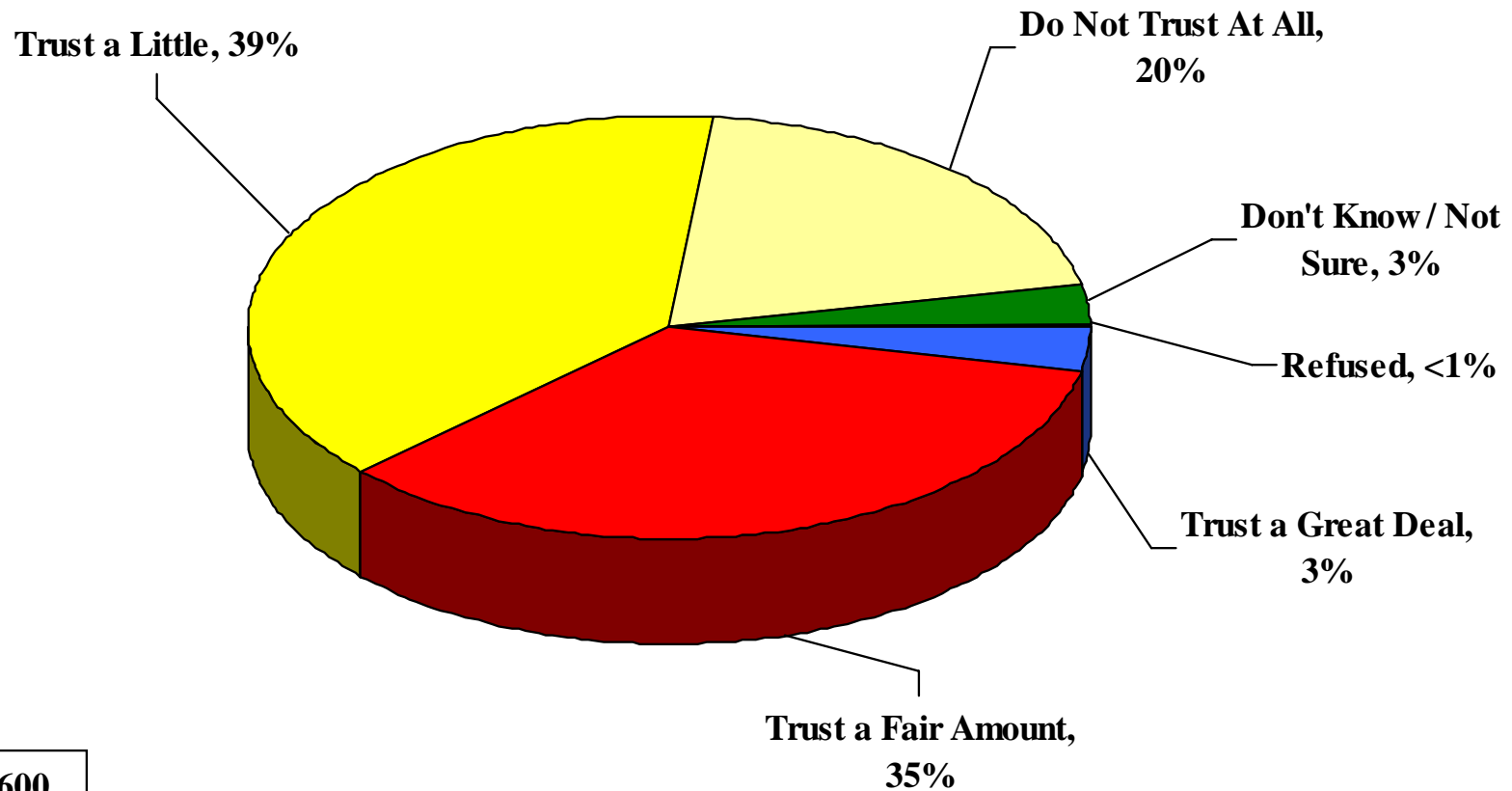
Q2. Thinking about the state and local taxes that you pay, not including federal taxes, do you think that taxes in Nevada are too high, are about right, or are too low to support state services?

Though AARP Members in Oregon most frequently claim the taxes in Oregon are “about right,” one-third of Members believe the taxes in Oregon are too high while one-fifth perceive them as being too low.



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.

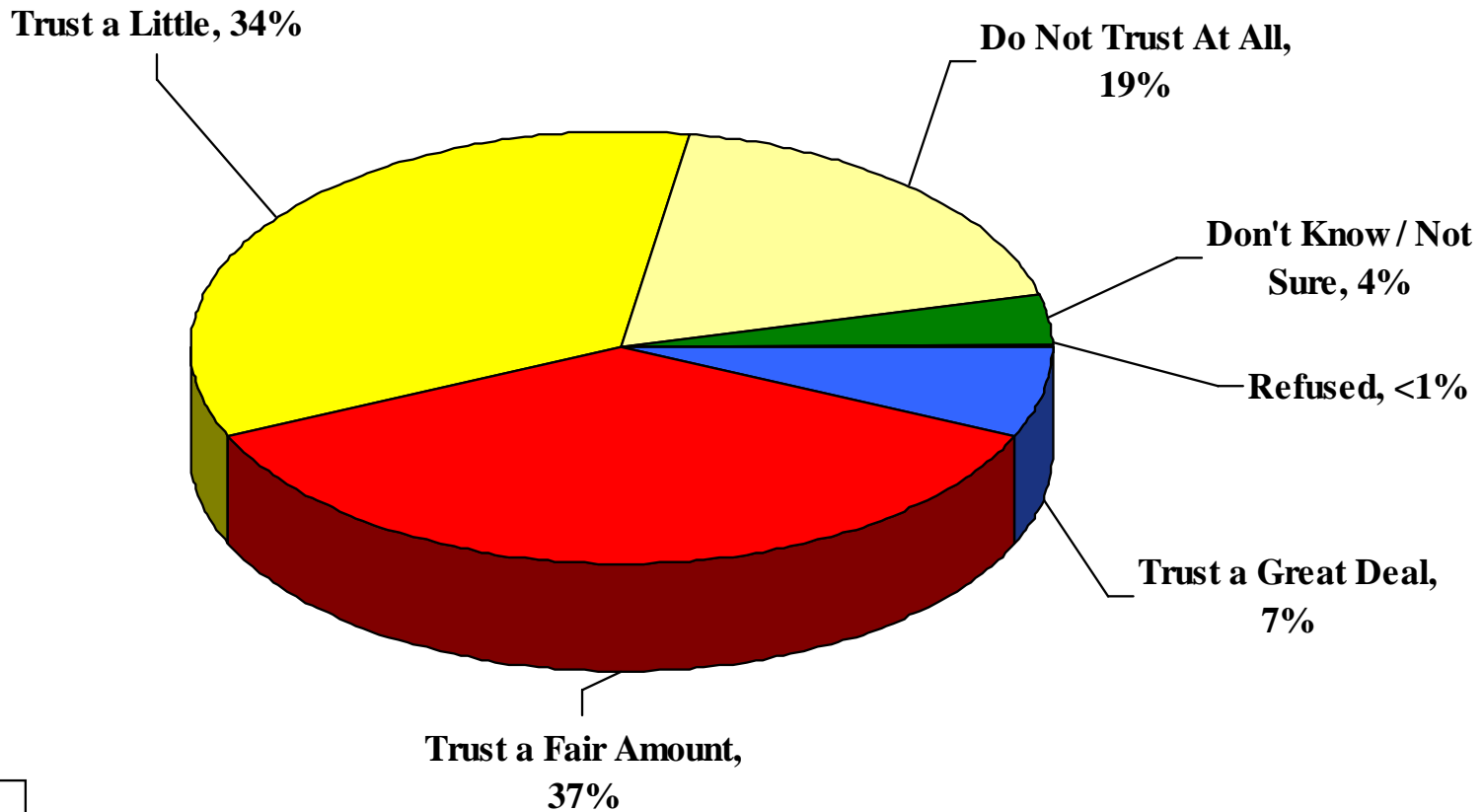
Only about two out of five AARP Members in Oregon say they trust their state government at least a fair amount. An equal proportion say they trust their state government only “a little.” However, one out of five AARP Members say they do not trust their state government at all.



n=600

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.

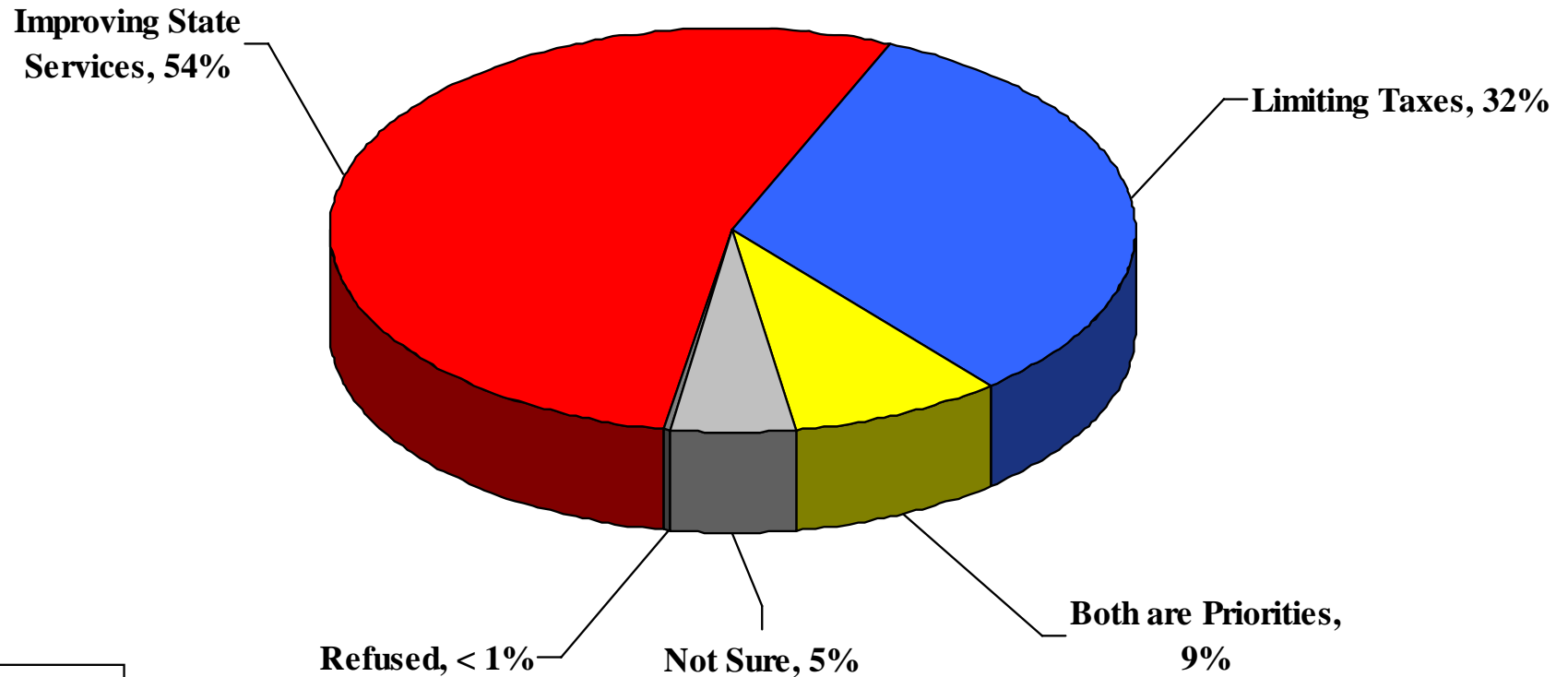
Only about two out of five AARP Members in Oregon say they trust their state government at least a fair amount. However, one-third say they trust their state government only “a little” and one out of five AARP Members say they do not trust their state government at all.



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

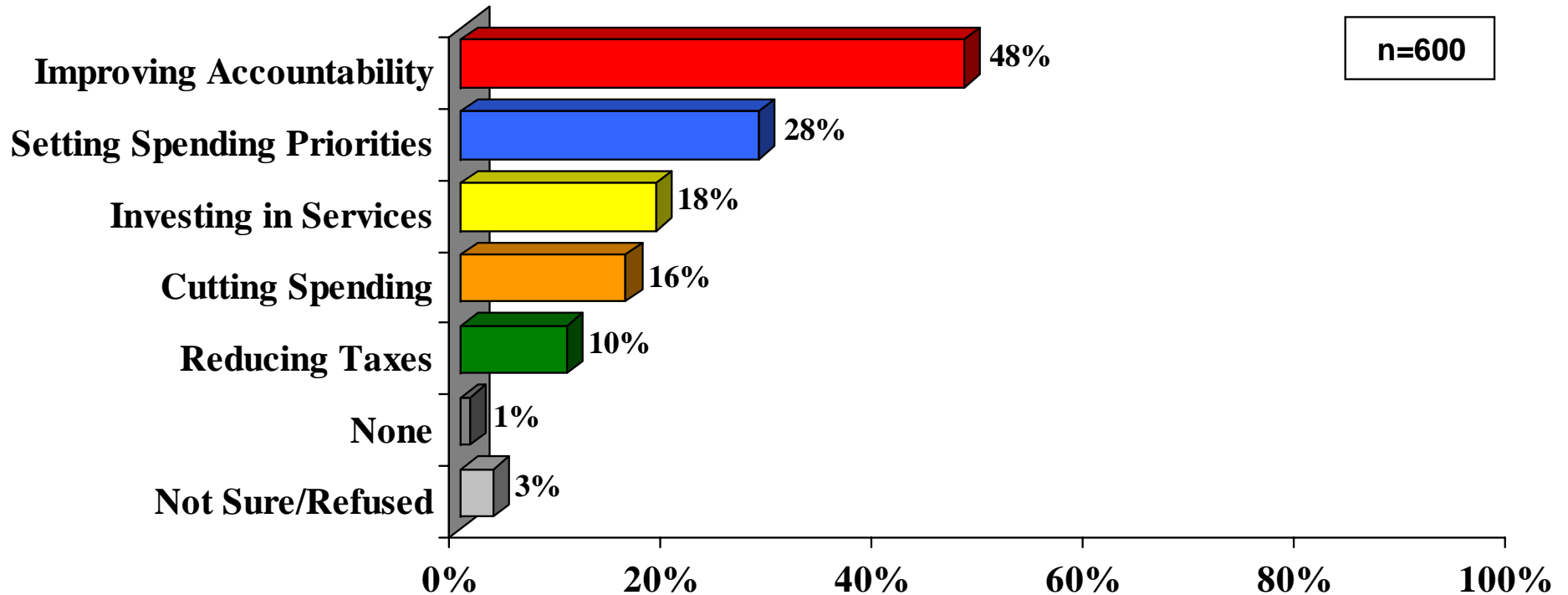
More than one-half of AARP Members suggest improving state services is a higher priority than limiting taxes. One-third of Oregon Members state that “limiting taxes” is a higher priority. Only one out of ten indicate both of these goals are a priority.



n=600

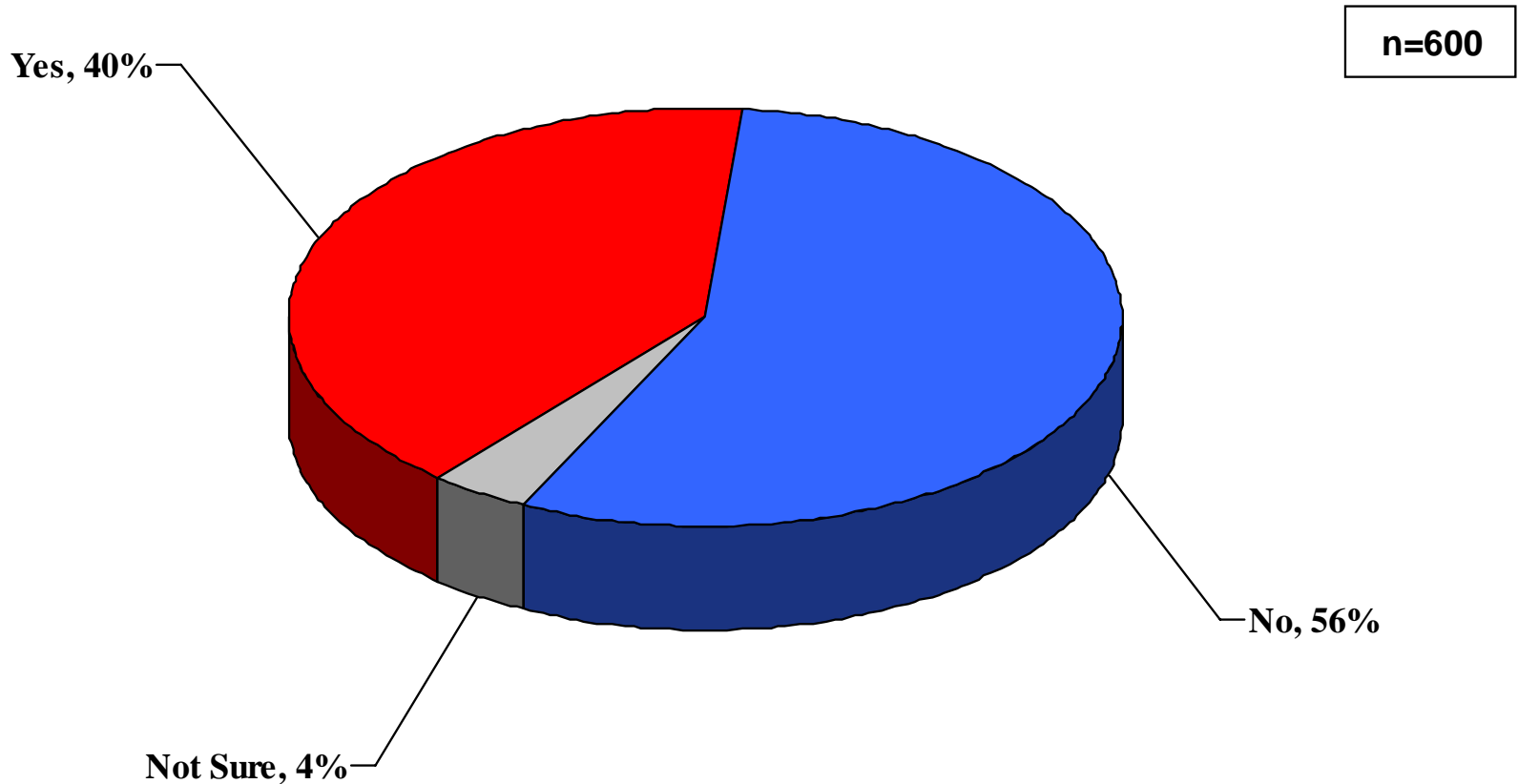
Q5. Thinking about state government today in Oregon, which one or two of the following goals are most important to you?

About one-half of AARP Members living in Oregon believe “improving accountability” should be among the most important goals for state government. Setting spending priorities ranks second with roughly three out of ten saying this is one of the most important goals. Reducing taxes is mentioned by only one out of ten Members.



Q6. Have you seen, read, or heard anything about the “Stop OverSpending” or Rainy Day Fund Initiative #6, which is sometimes also referred to as the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, or TABOR, proposal in the last year?

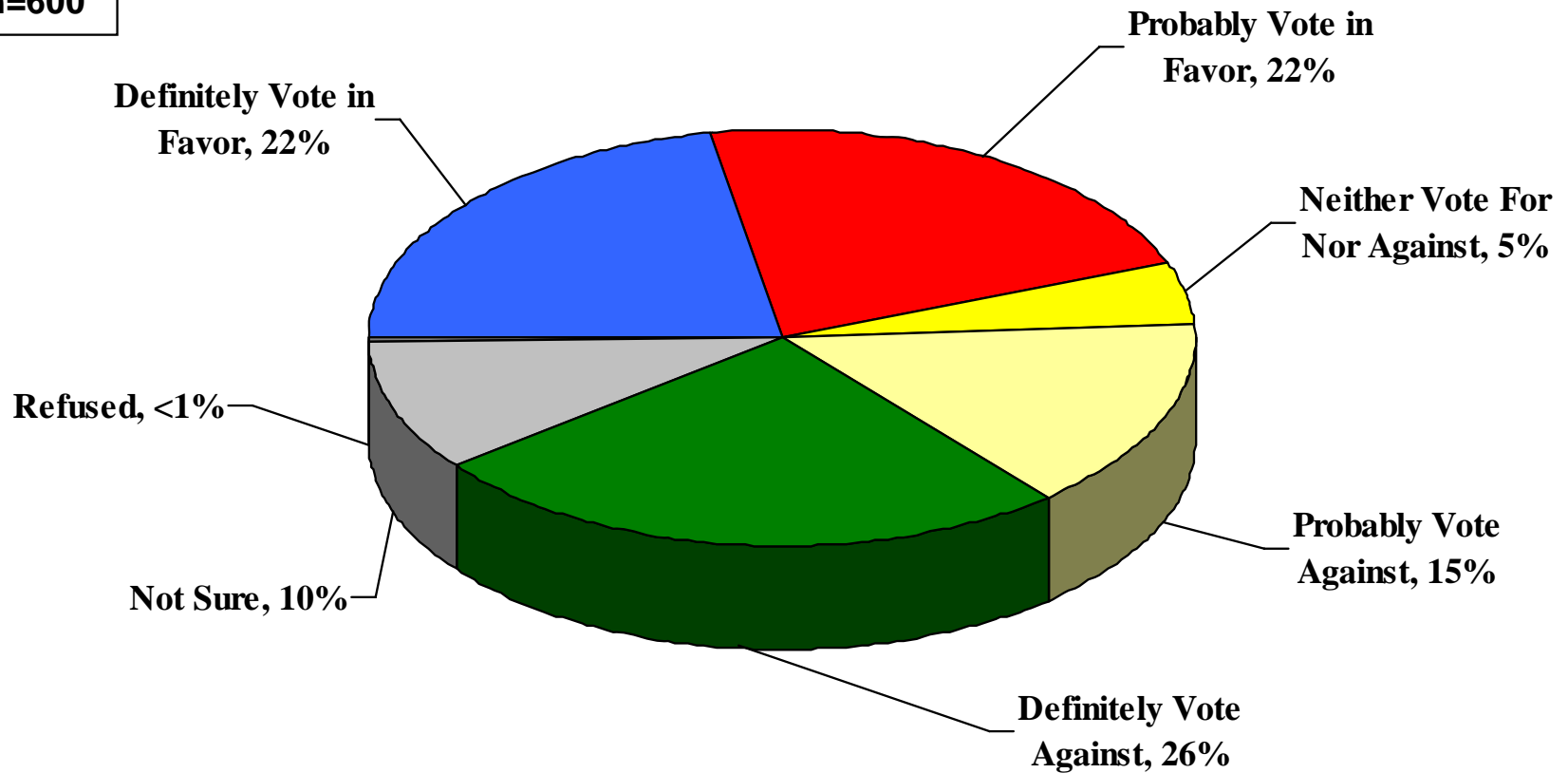
The majority of AARP Members have not seen or heard anything about the “Stop OverSpending” or Rainy Day Fund Initiative #6 proposal for Oregon. Only two out of five report seeing or hearing something about the SOS proposal in the last year.



Q7. Given what you know about the proposal, if the election were held today, would you vote for or against the “Stop OverSpending” or Rainy Day Fund Initiative #6, also known as SOS?

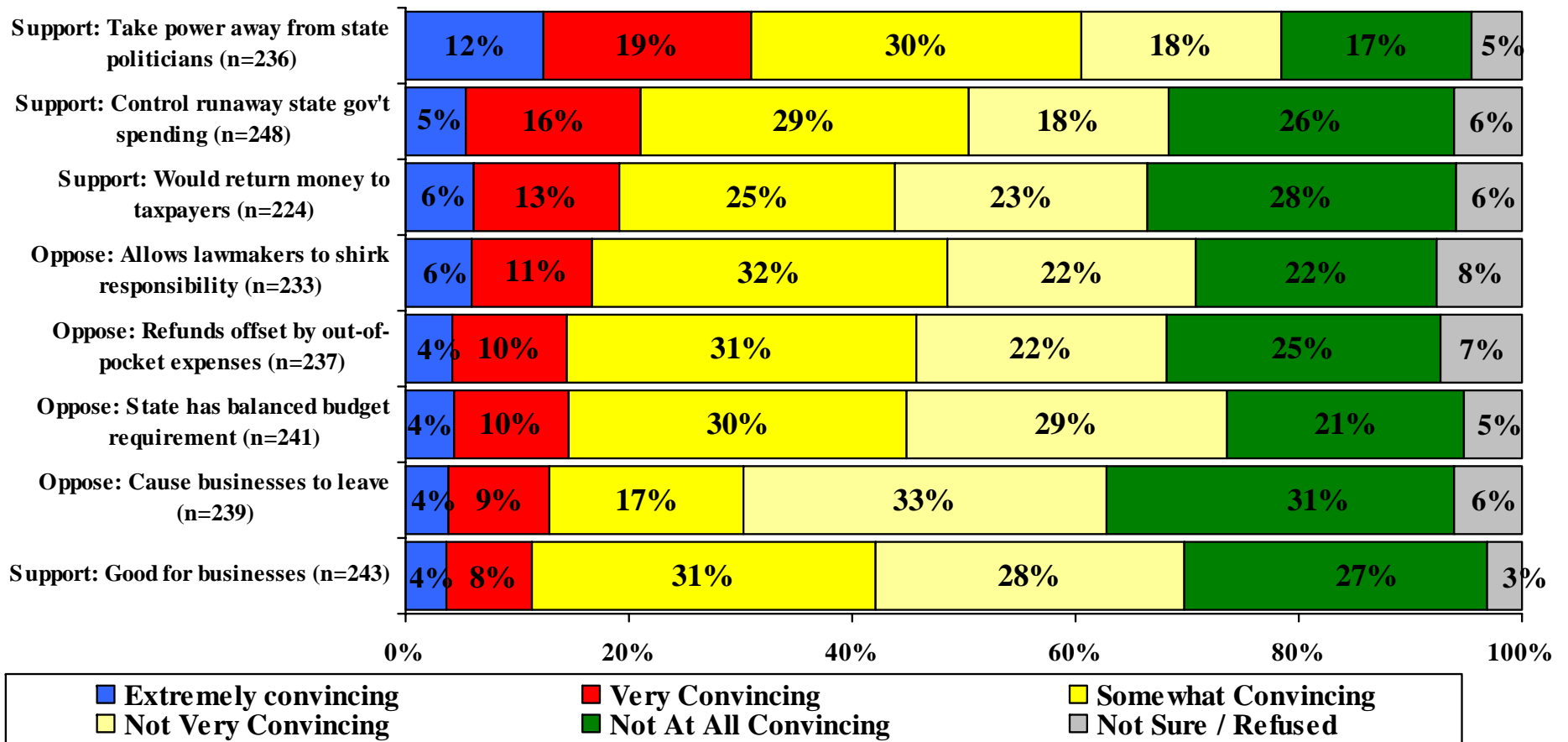
Nearly as many AARP Members say they would vote in favor of the “Stop OverSpending” proposal in Oregon as say they would vote against it. Only one out of ten say they are not sure about how they would vote. Five percent say they would vote neither for nor against the proposal.

n=600



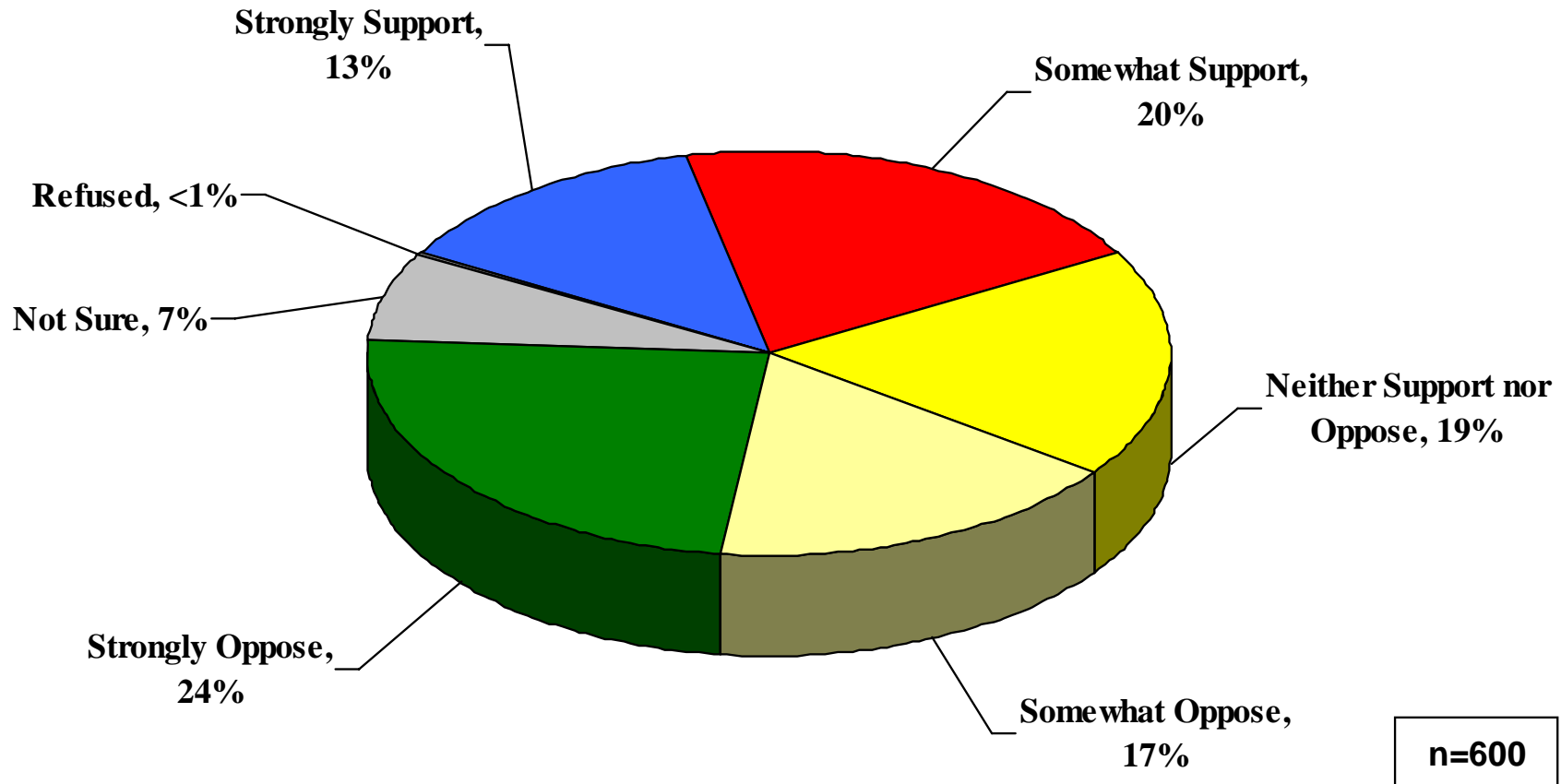
Q8. Next I'm going to read you some of the things that supporters of the "Stop OverSpending" or Rainy Day Fund Initiative #6 say about the proposal and some of the things opponents say....I'd like you to please tell me whether you find it an extremely convincing argument, very convincing, somewhat convincing, not very convincing, or whether this particular argument is not at all convincing.

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



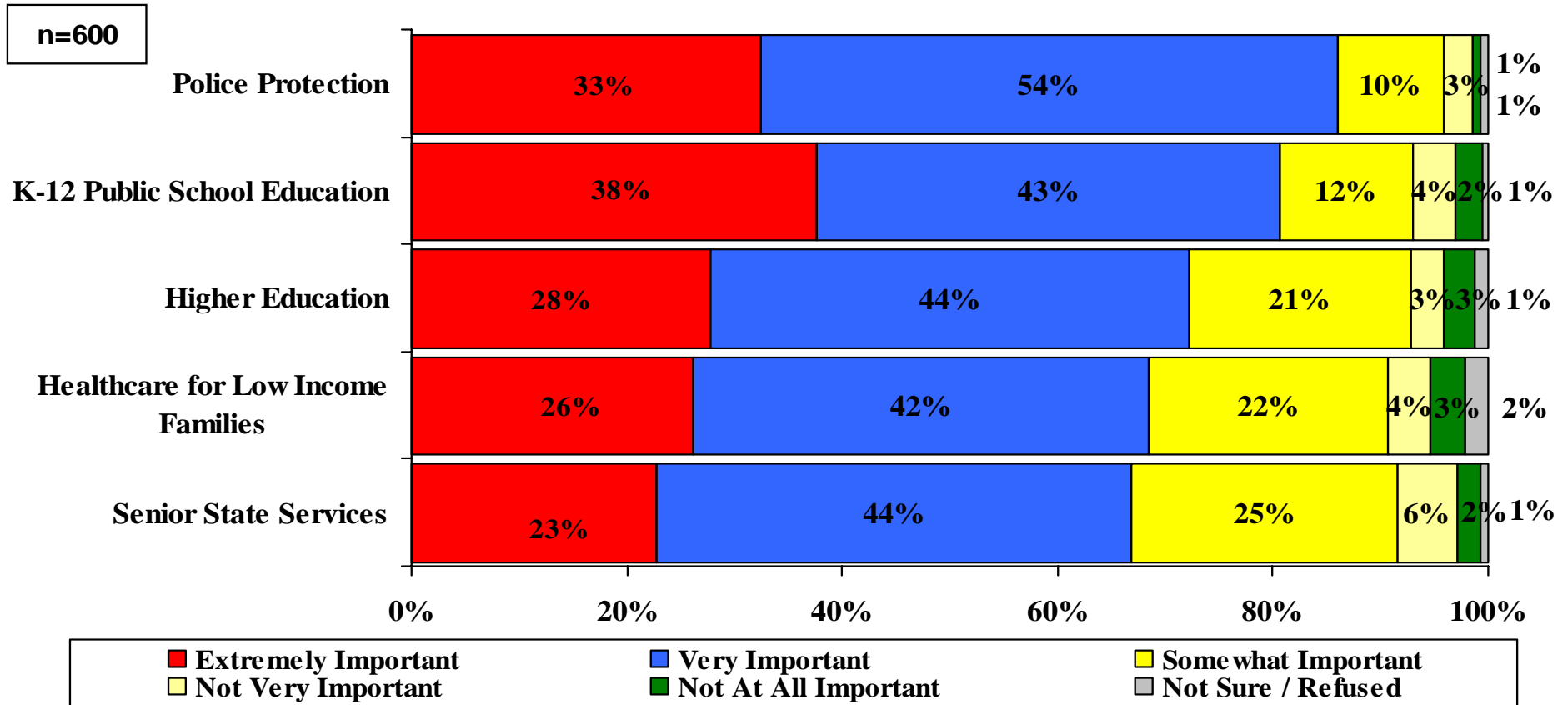
Q9. Having heard arguments both for and against the “Stop OverSpending” or Rainy Day Fund Initiative #6, now how strongly do you support or oppose SOS in Oregon?

After hearing arguments both in support of and in opposition to the “Stop OverSpending” proposal, only one-third of AARP Members living in Oregon say they support the proposal. In addition, one out of five say they neither support nor oppose the proposal. Similar to the proportion “against” the proposal prior to hearing the arguments, two out of five Members either somewhat or strongly oppose the “Stop OverSpending” proposal.



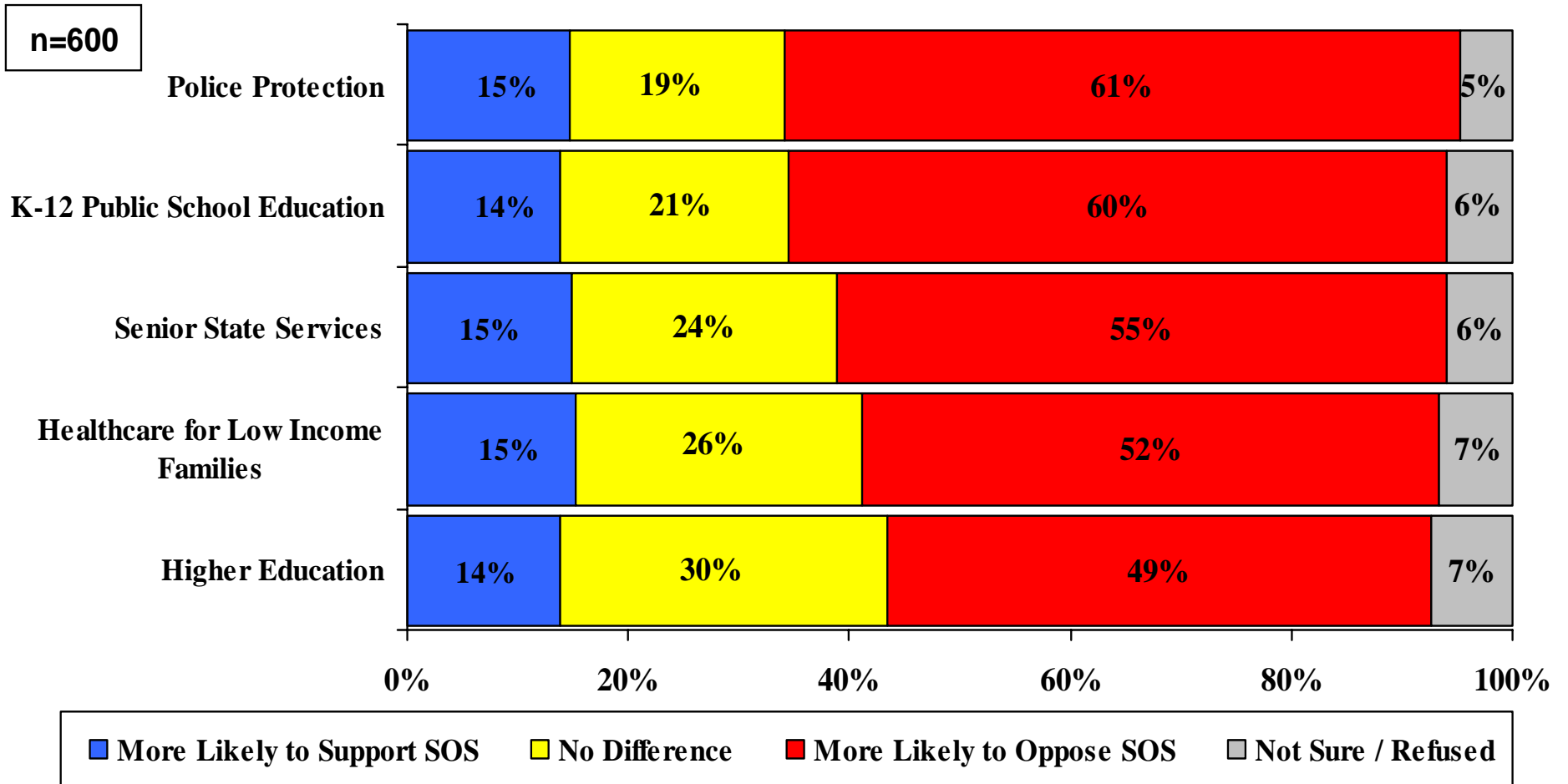
Q10. Now, I am going to ask you about state and local services Oregon provides. How important is [each of the following] to you? Is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important?

AARP Members value police protection above all other state and local services presented, though a slightly larger proportion of Members consider K-12 Public School Education to be “extremely important.”



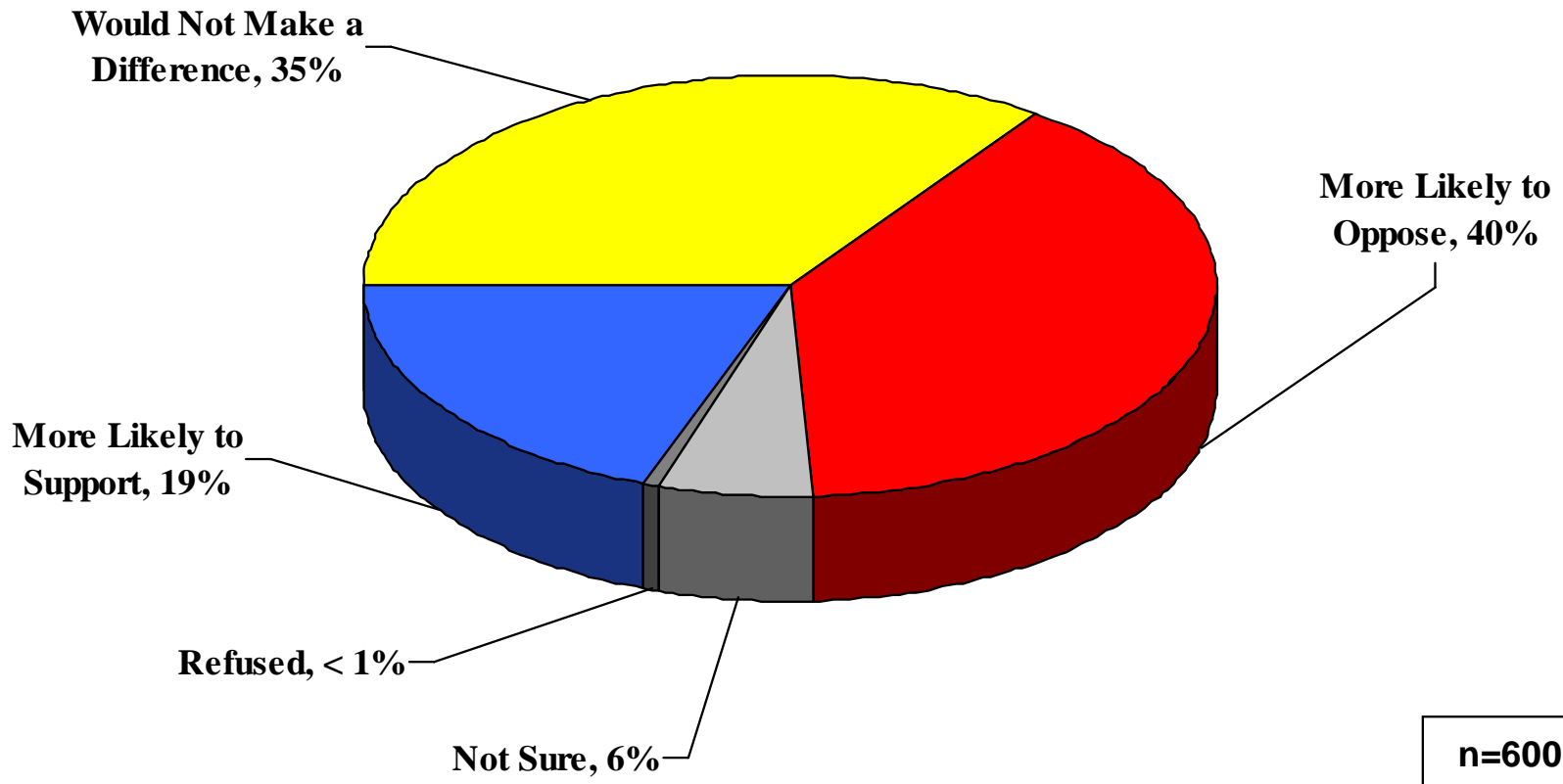
Q11. If SOS cut state funding for [each of the following services], would you be more likely to support SOS, more likely to oppose, or would it not make a difference?

AARP Members in Oregon would be more likely to oppose SOS if the proposal cut funding for police protection and K-12 public education.



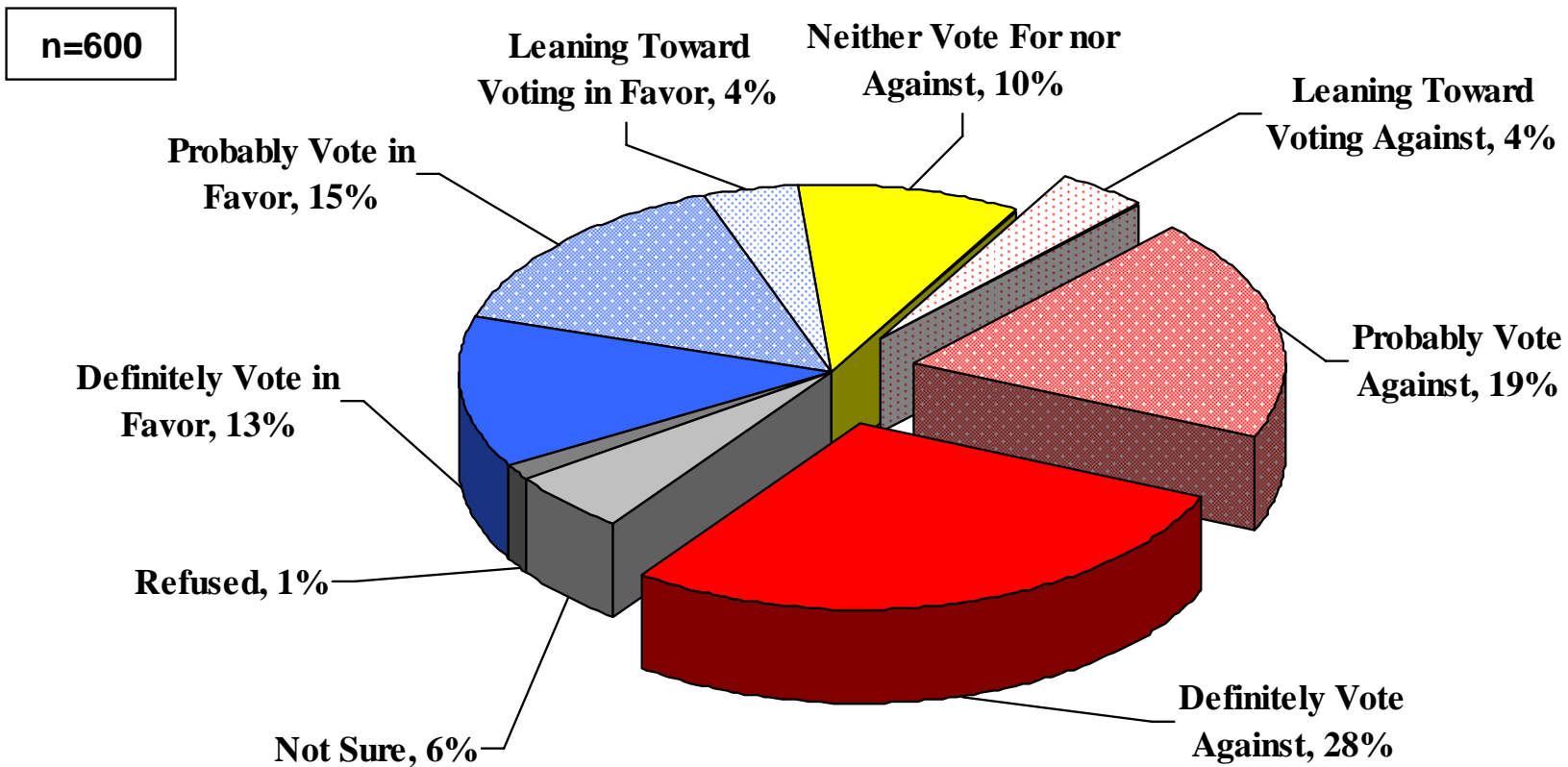
Q12. Suppose you learned that AARP and other senior and disability organizations OPPOSED the “Stop OverSpending” or Rainy Day Fund Initiative #6, because they believe it would lead to significant cuts in important state services for Oregon seniors and their families. Would you be more likely to support SOS, more likely to oppose, or would it not make a difference in how you vote for SOS Amendment?

Two out of five AARP Members living in Oregon say that knowing AARP and other senior organizations oppose SOS would make them more likely to oppose SOS 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, one-half of AARP Members living in Oregon say they are at least leaning toward voting against the proposal. On the other hand, one out of three say they are at least leaning toward voting in favor of the “Stop OverSpending” proposal. One out of ten maintain they would vote neither for or against the proposal. Six percent say they are “not sure.”

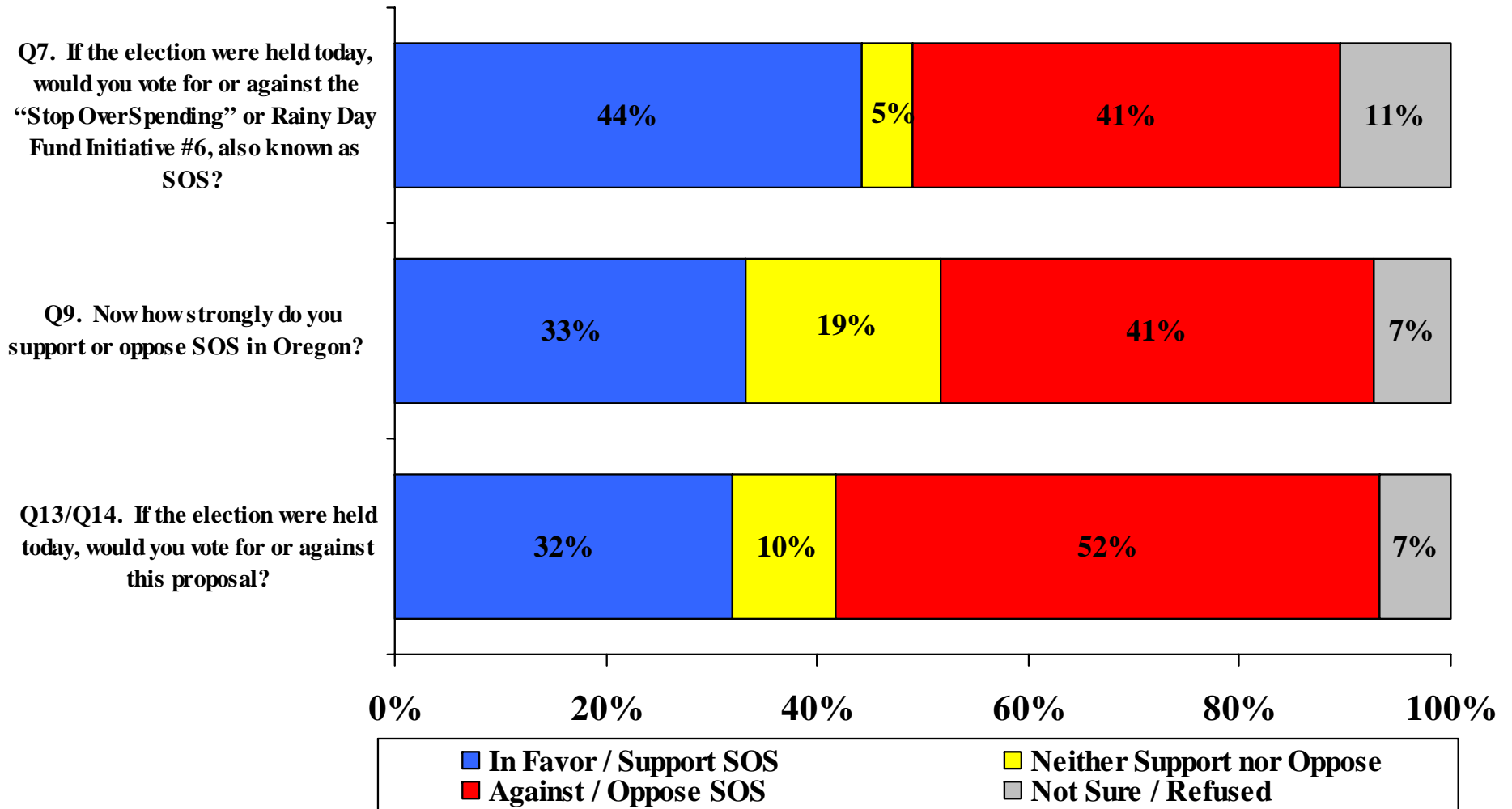


SOS Support/Oppose Summary Chart



SOS SUPPORT/OPPOSE THROUGHOUT SURVEY

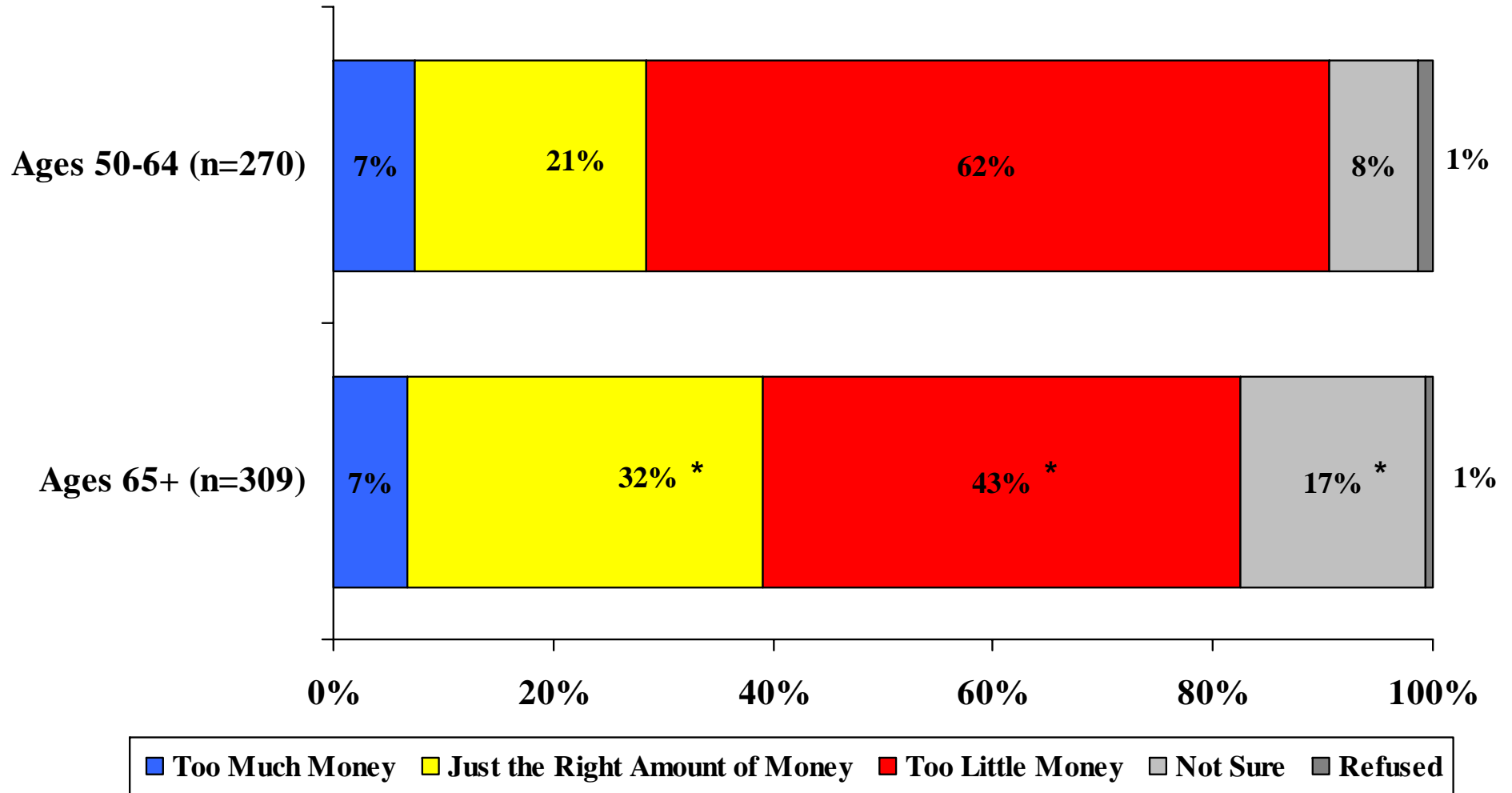
Comparison of the three survey items measuring support for the SOS Initiative indicates a statistically significant decline in support for SOS over the course of the interview.



Subgroup Analysis: Survey Responses by Age

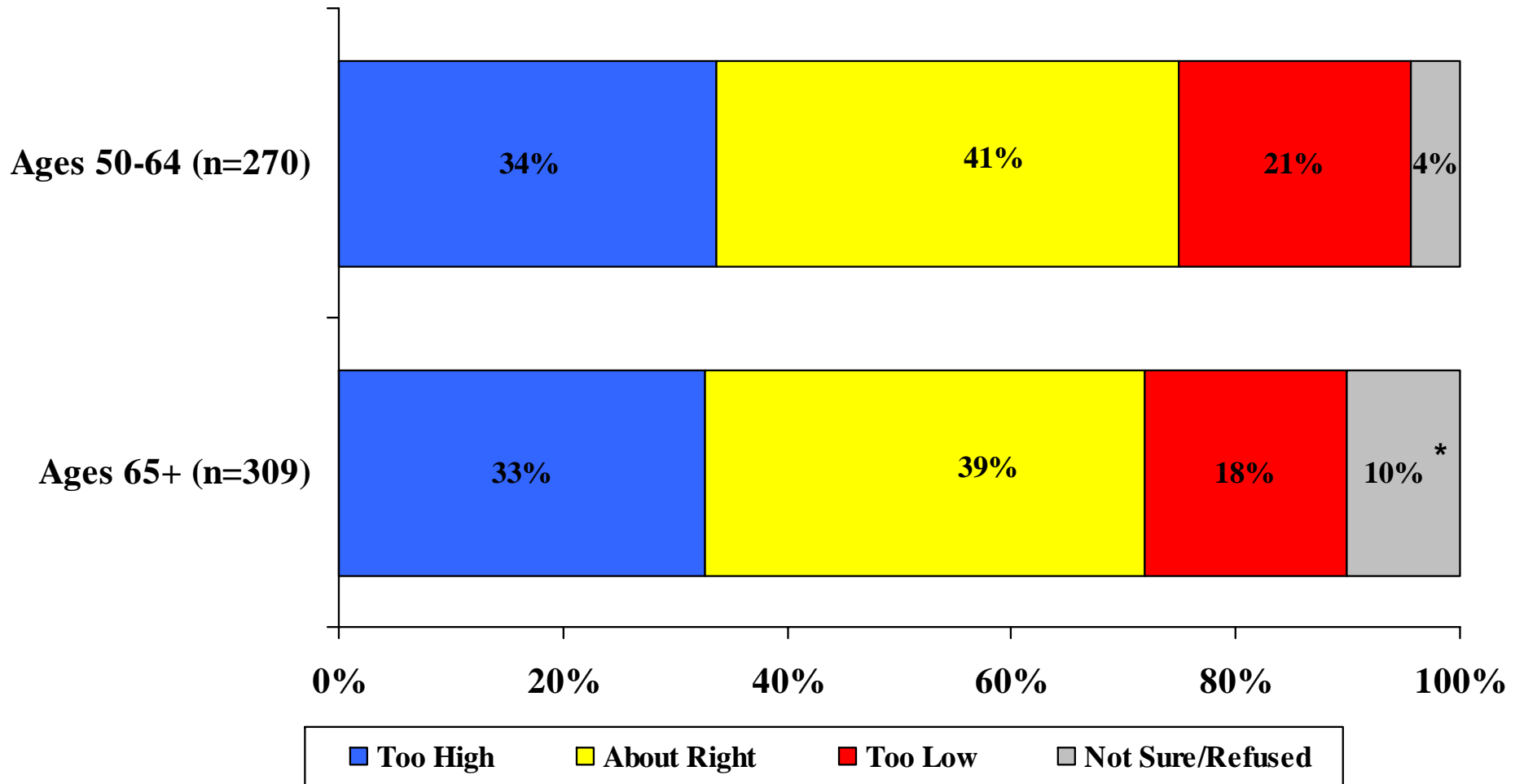


Q1. To begin, do you think that Oregon is spending too much money, too little money, or just the right amount of money on state services such as keeping people safe, providing health and long-term care, repairing roads and highways, maintaining parks, and providing education?



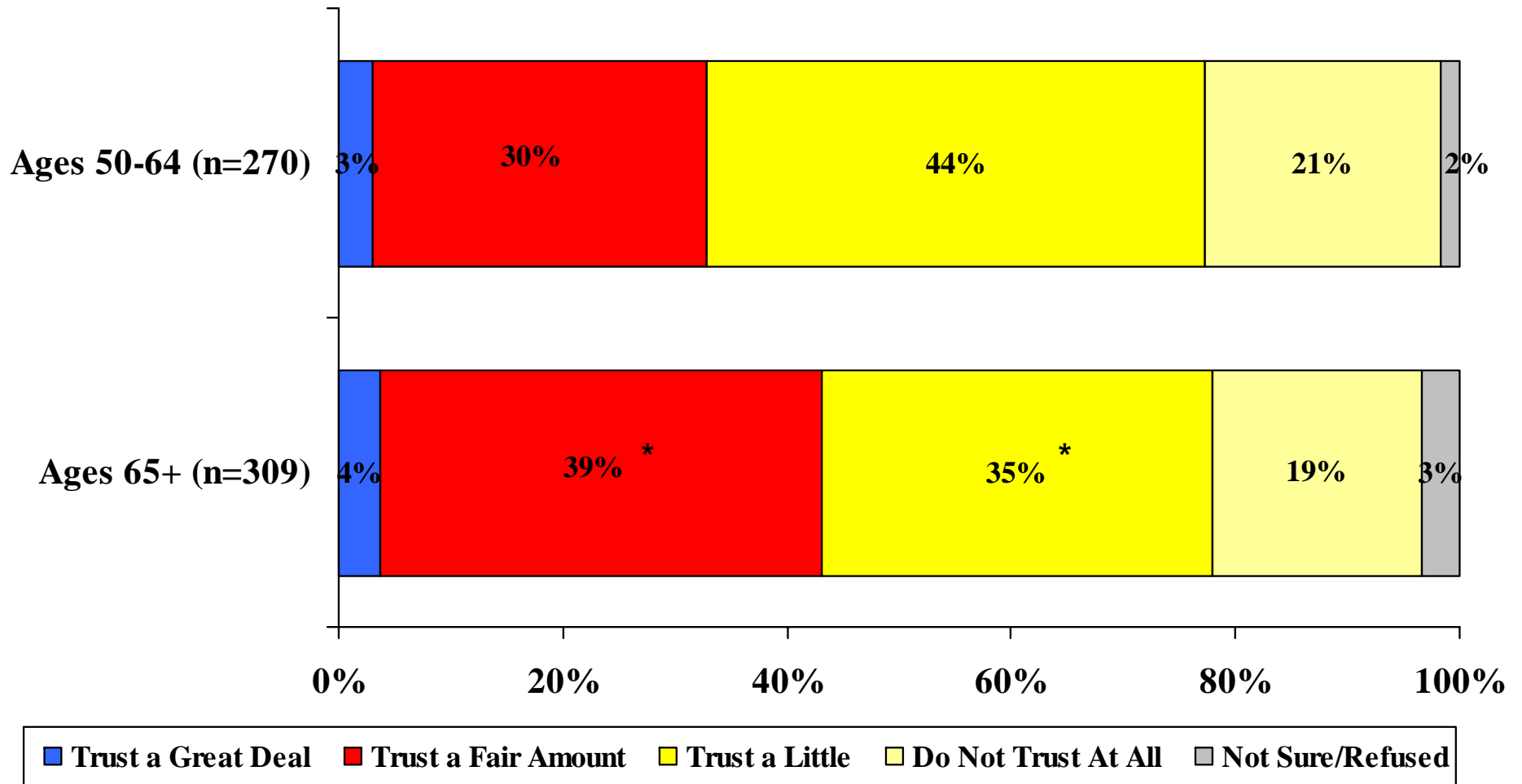
* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

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



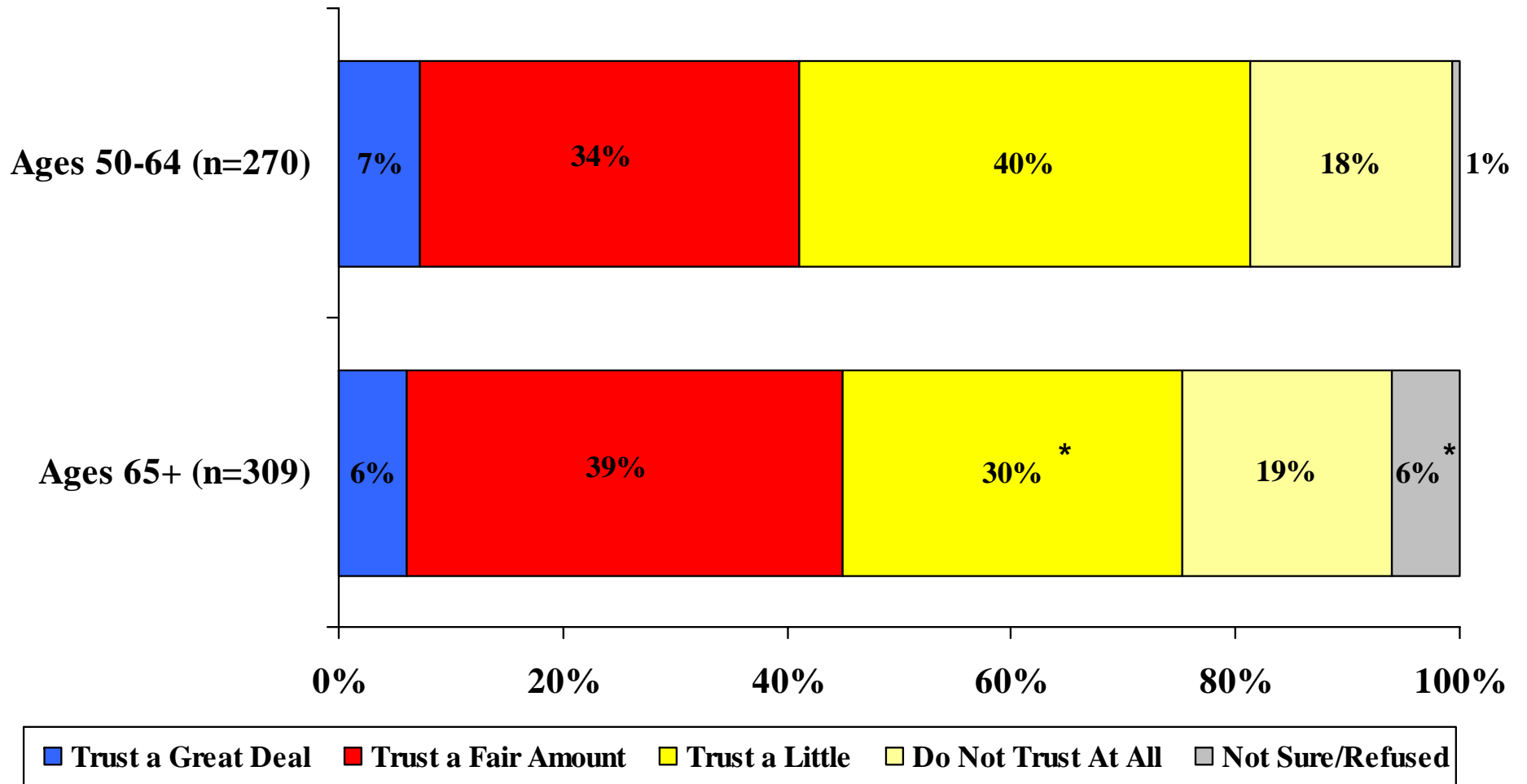
* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

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?



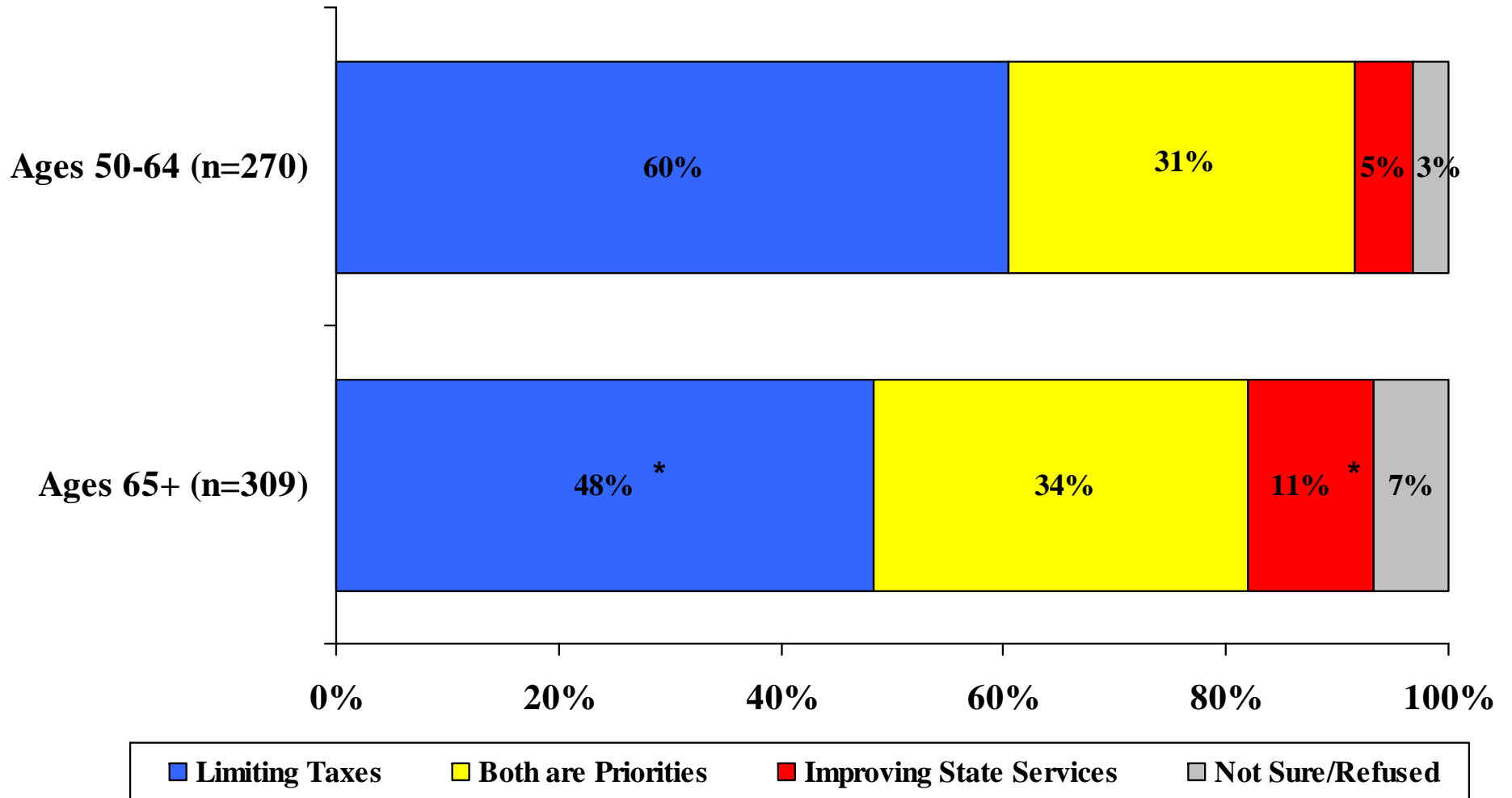
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Q3a. How much do you trust your local government (includes Towns, Cities, and Counties) to use your tax money effectively and deliver quality state services – a great deal, a fair amount, just a little, or not at all?



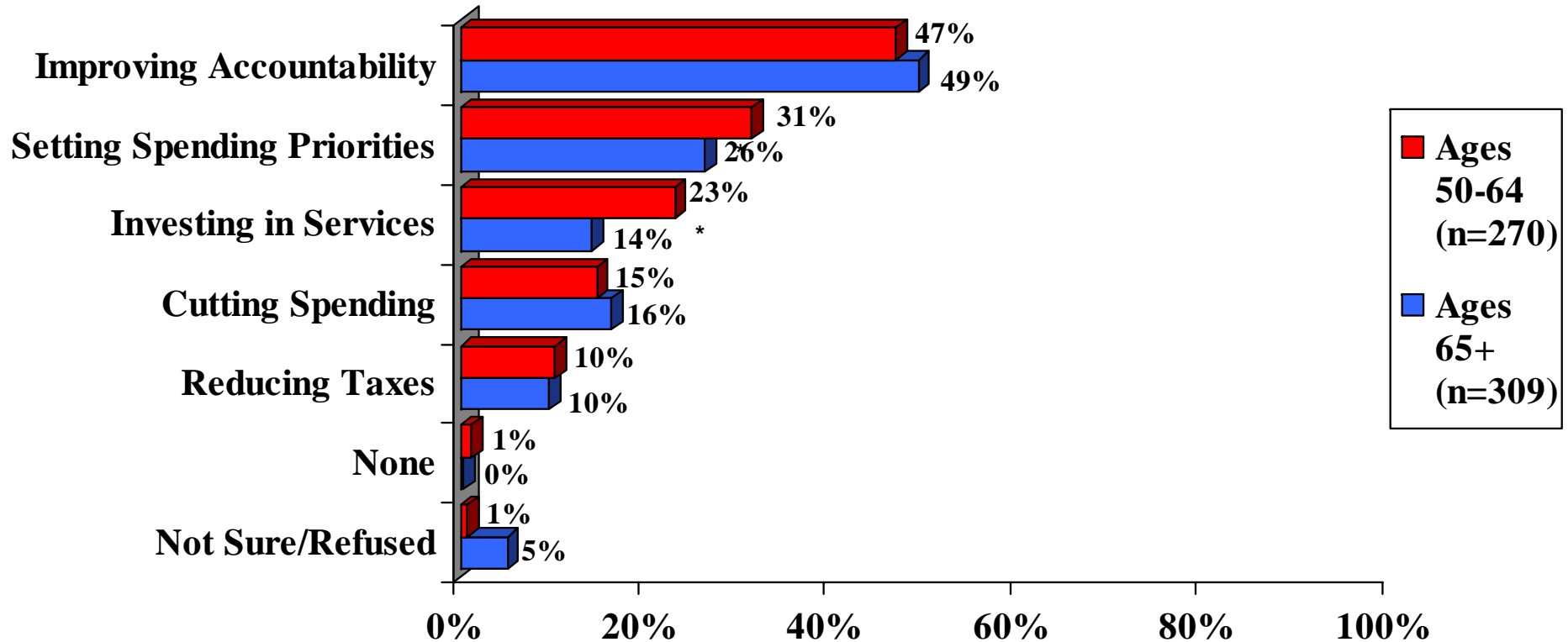
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Q4. In Oregon, which is a higher priority for you...?



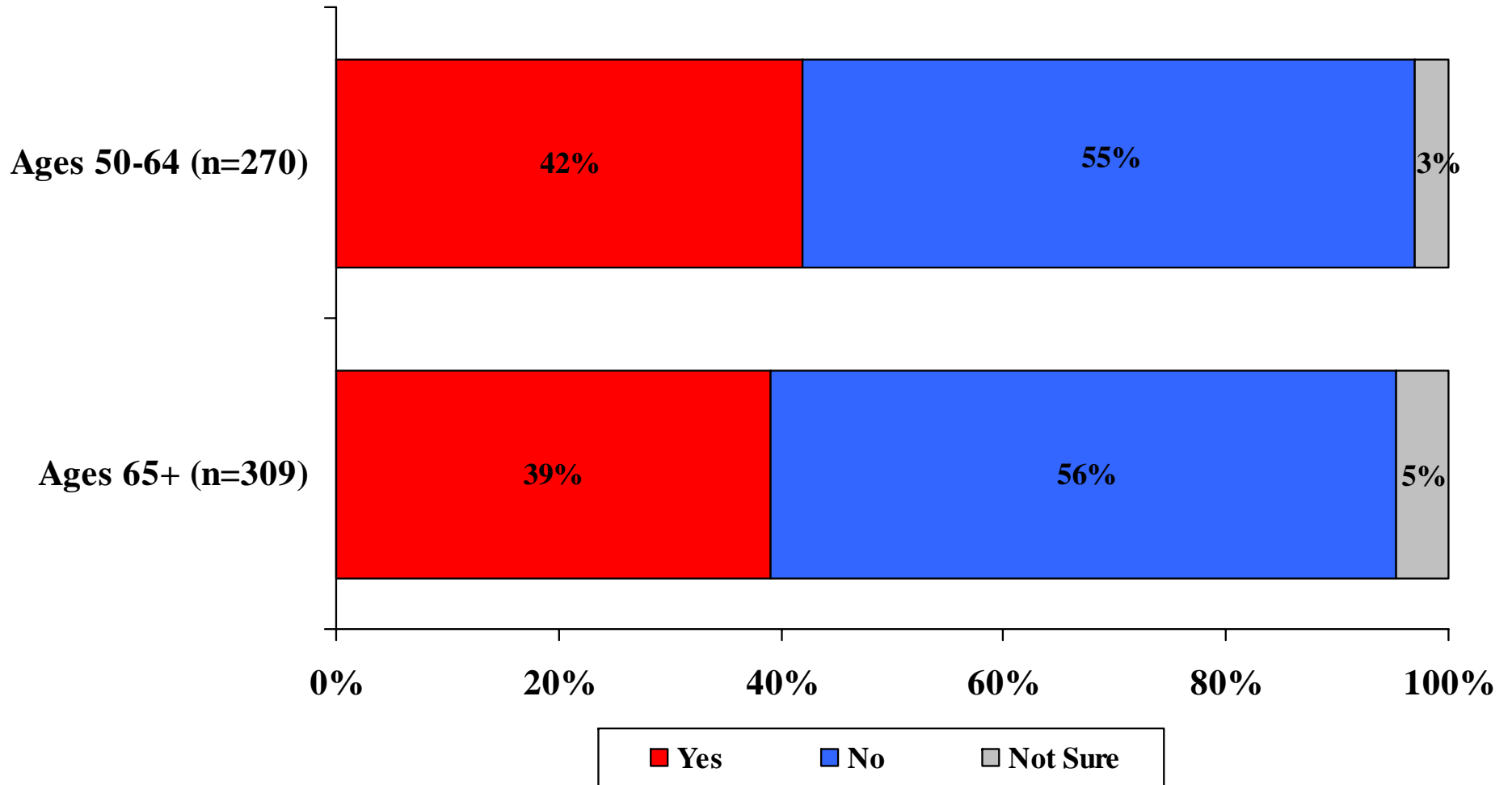
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Q5. Thinking about state government today in Oregon, which one or two of the following goals are most important to you?



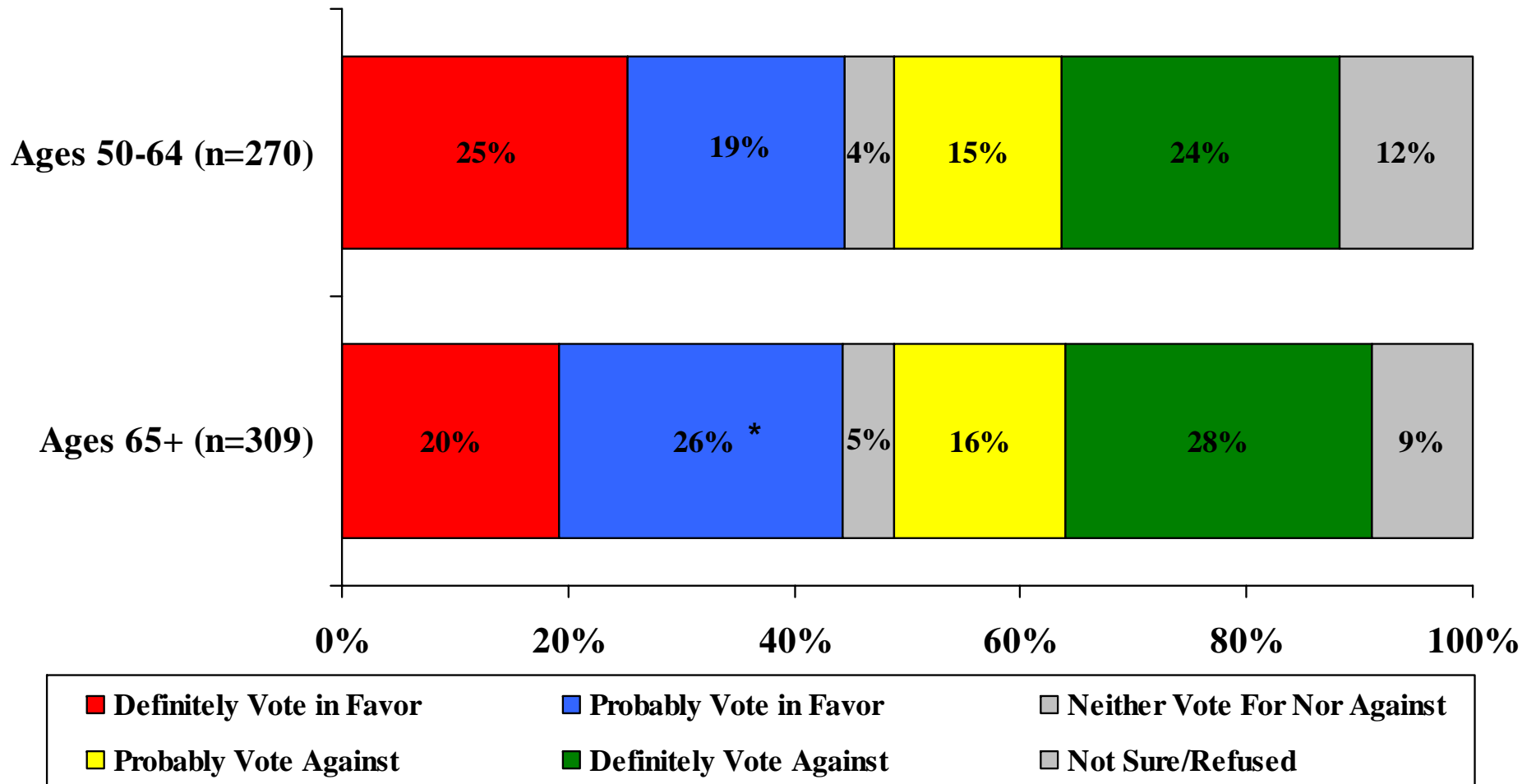
* Statistically significant difference from Members aged 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

Q6. Have you seen, read, or heard anything about the “Stop OverSpending” or Rainy Day Fund Initiative #6, which is sometimes also 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

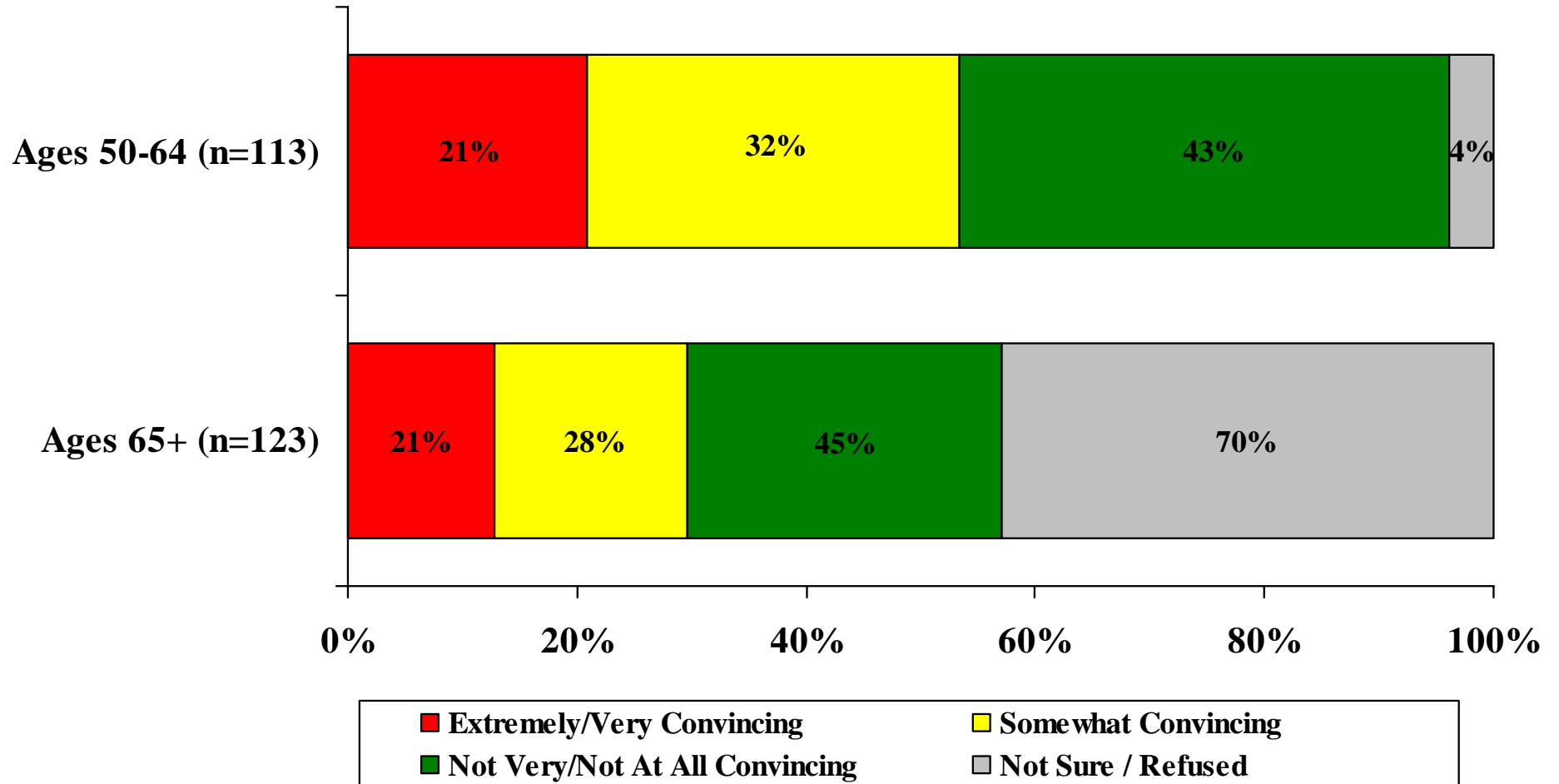
Q7. Given what you know about the proposal, if the election were held today, would you vote for or against the “Stop OverSpending” or Rainy Day Fund Initiative #6, also known as SOS?



* 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:

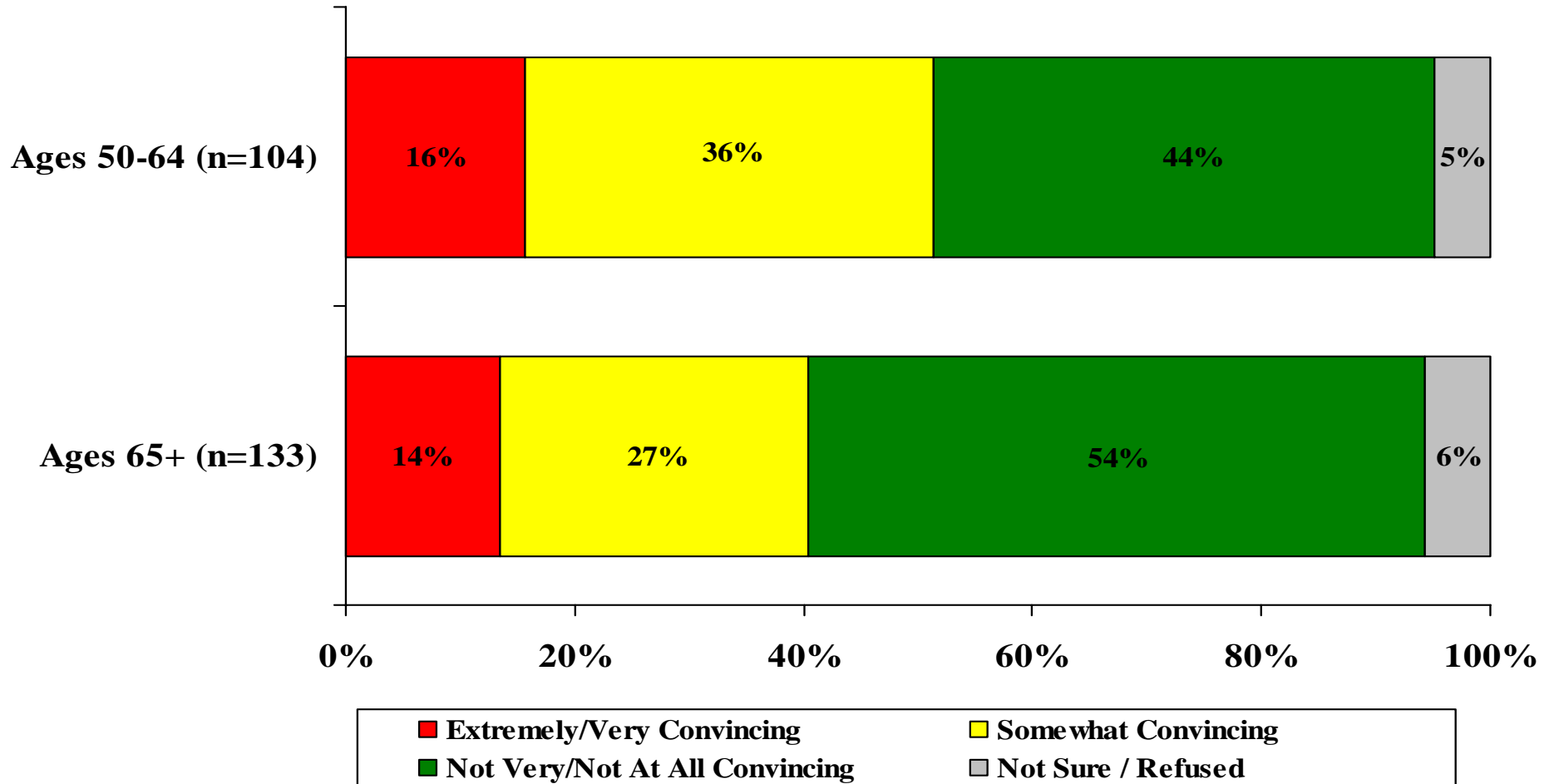
Supporters of SOS say that it would control runaway state government spending and force the state government to operate more efficiently.



* 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:

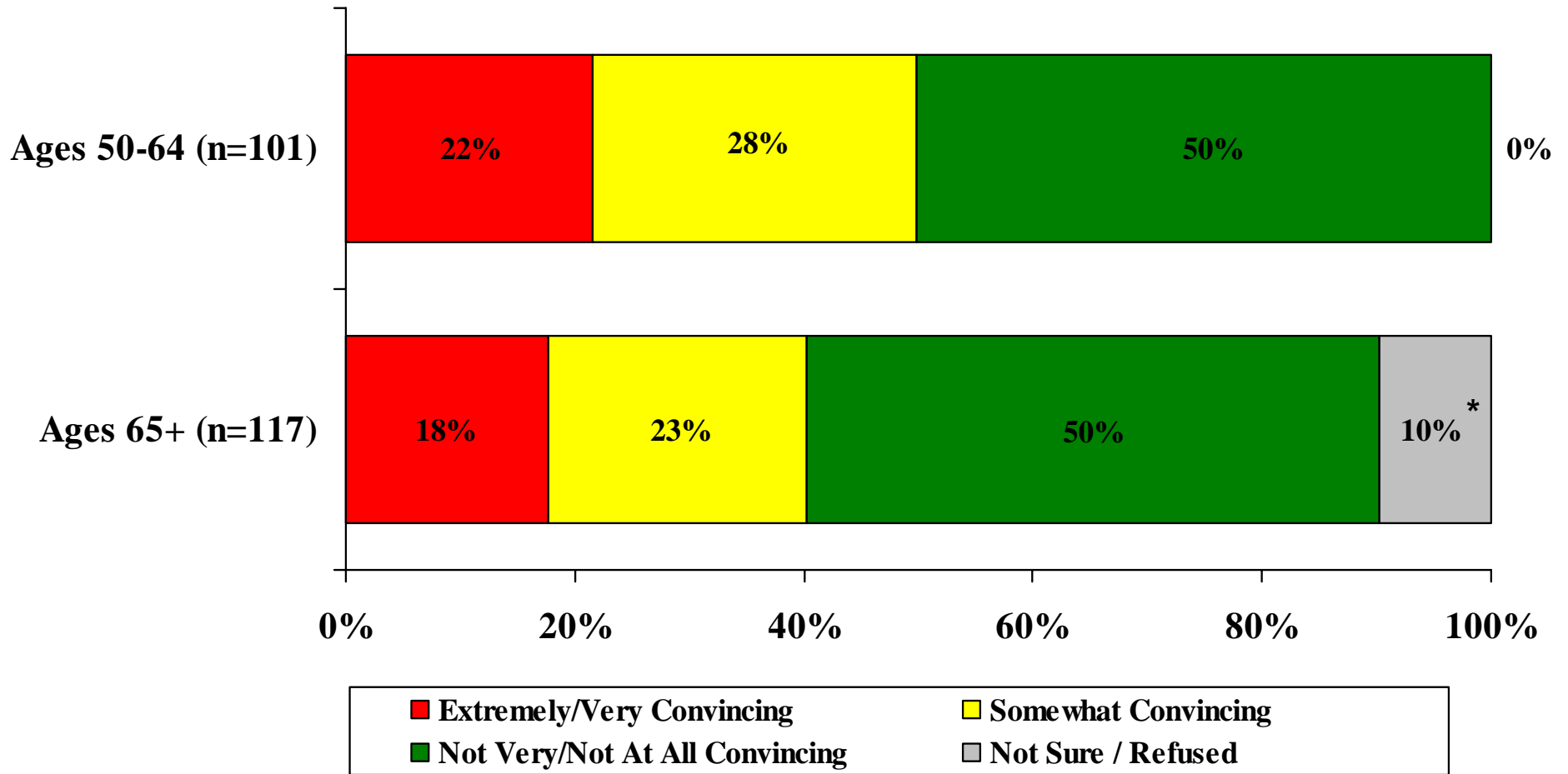
Opponents of SOS say the state already has a balanced budget requirement, voters already can control state government actions at the ballot box, and that SOS would decrease the quality of life in Nevada, forcing major cuts in health, education, transportation, and public safety.



* 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:

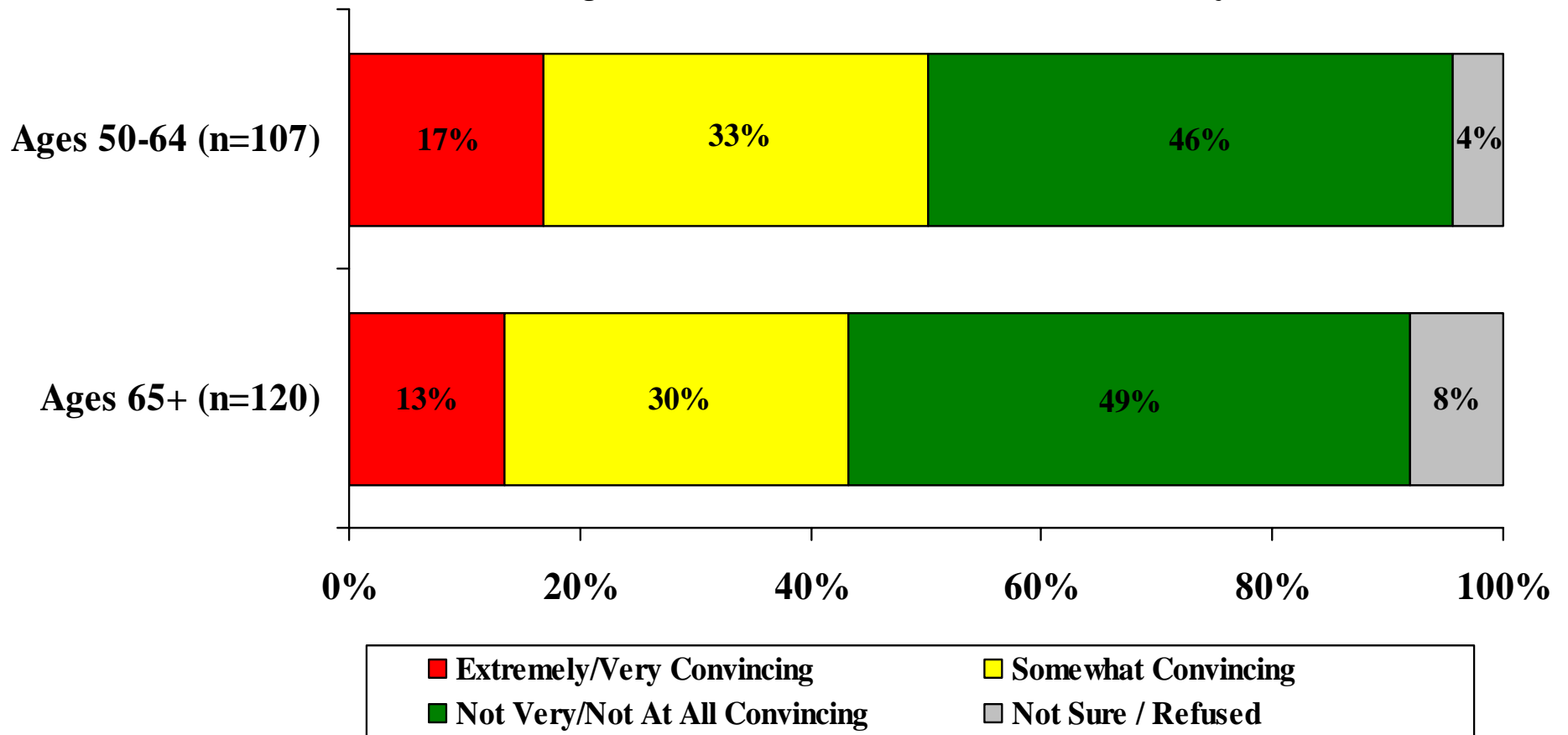
Supporters of SOS say that it would help the Oregon economy by returning money to taxpayers through tax rebates and tax cuts.



* 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:

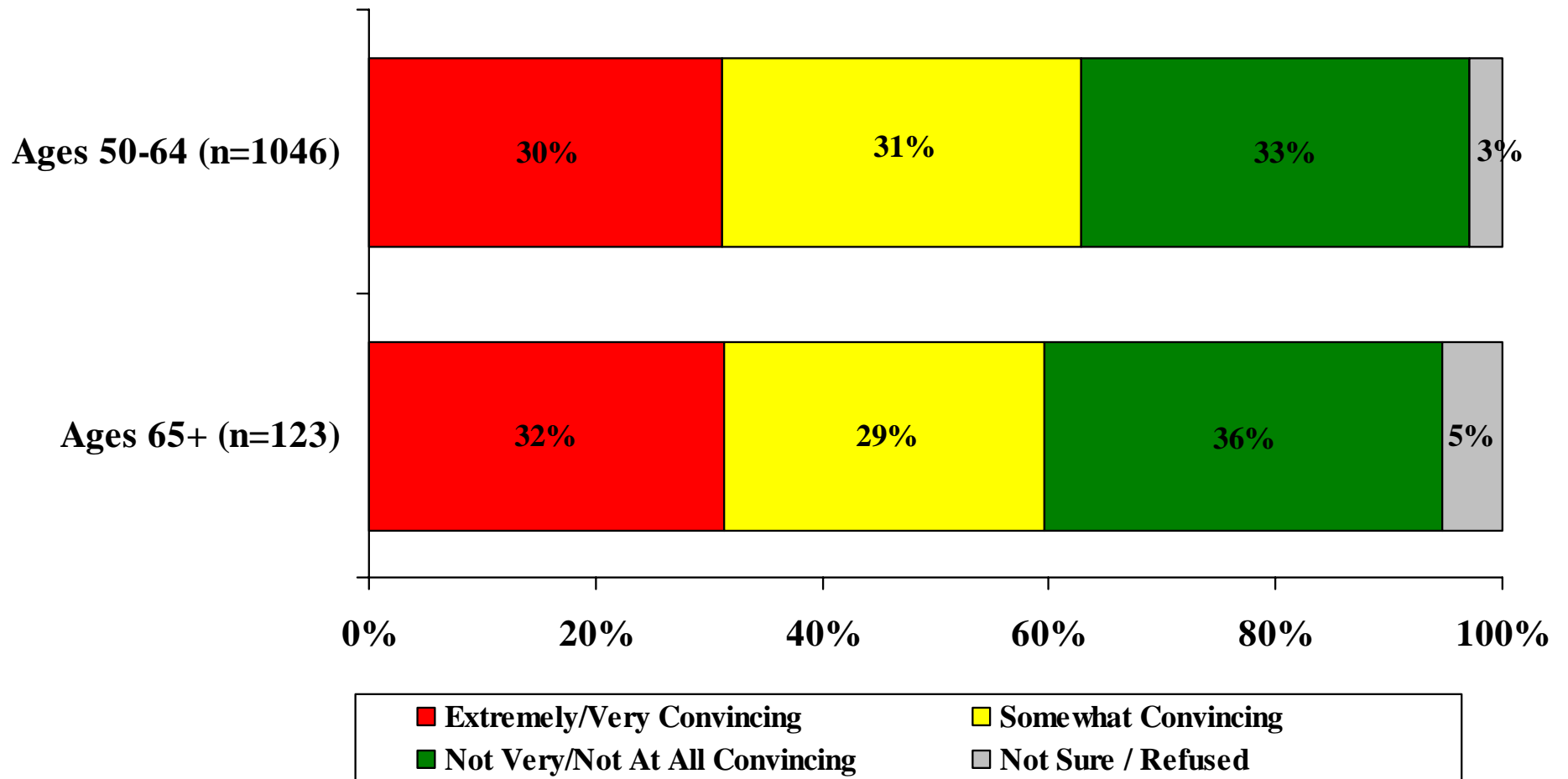
Opponents of SOS say that any money refunded to tax payers would be more than offset by the increased out-of-pocket expense they would bear. In Colorado, the only state that has passed TABOR, fees have increased for licenses and park admissions. Also, families have had to pay for items that schools typically 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:

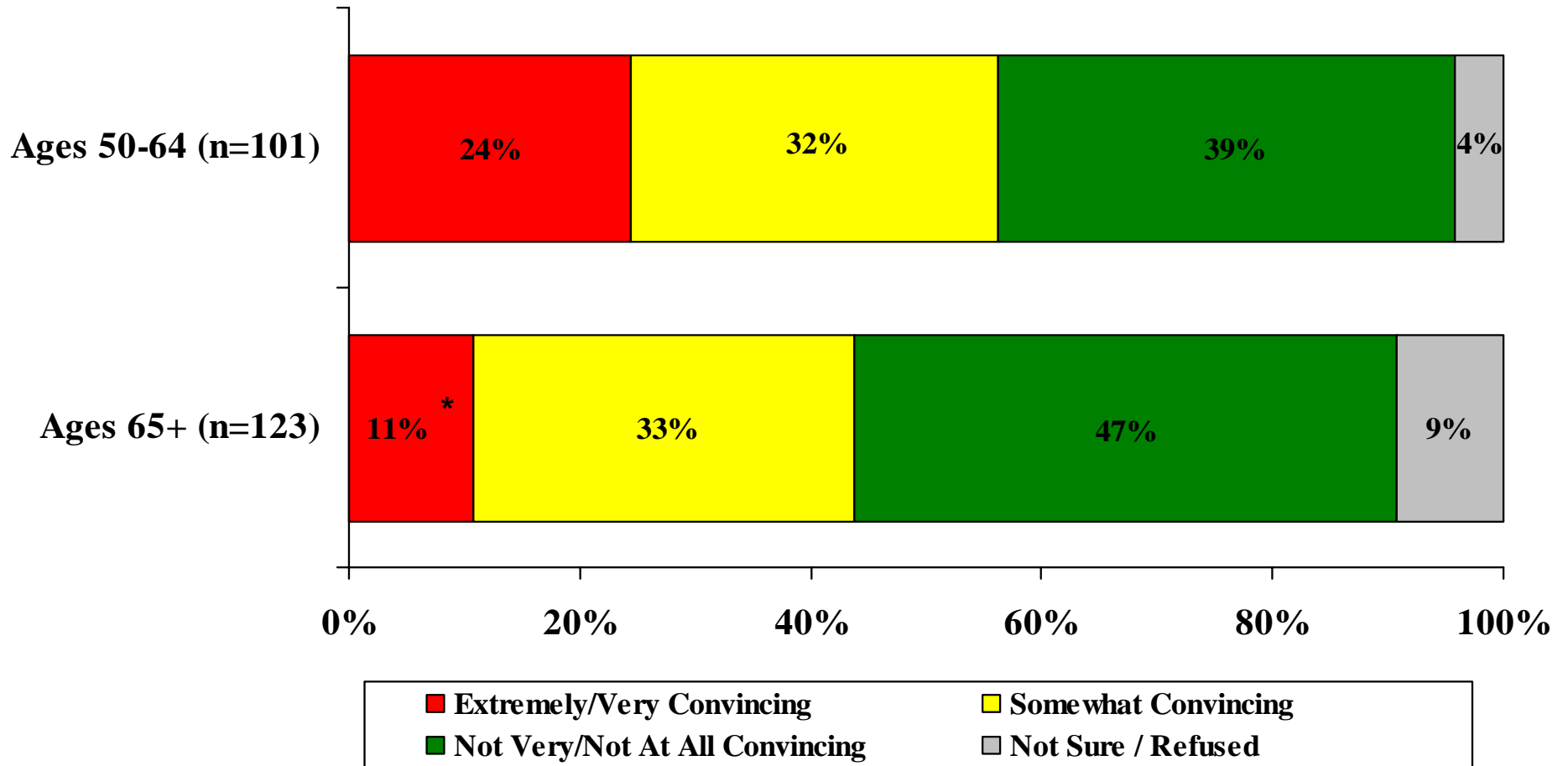
Supporters of SOS say that it would take power away from state politicians and put it back in the hands of the people by requiring that any tax increase be approved by voters.



* 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:

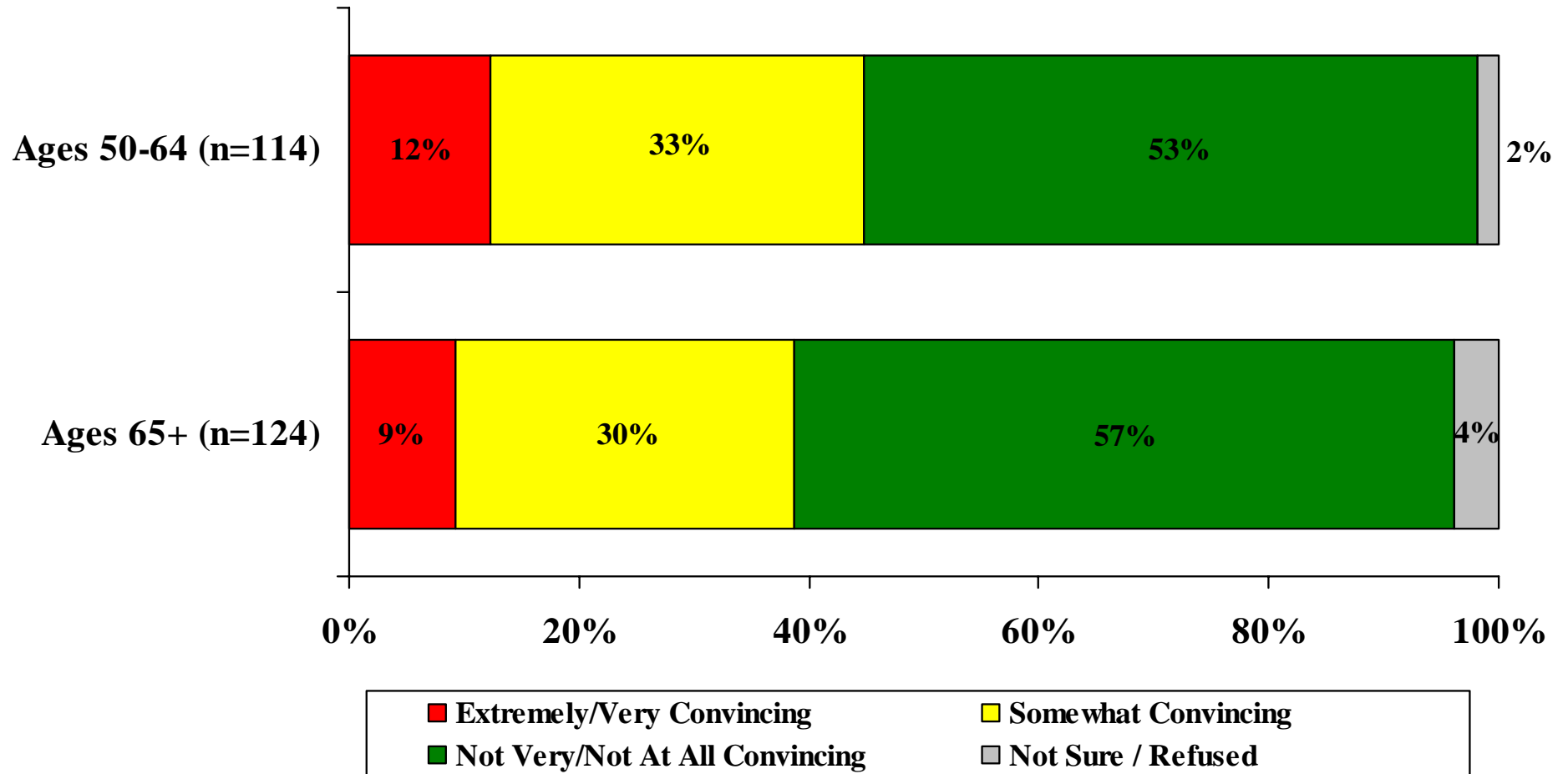
Opponents of SOS say that it allows lawmakers to shirk their responsibility for managing the state budget, and, by making voters decide on every single tax increase that the state may need, ties up the budget process and creates gridlock, in addition to expecting taxpayers to become budget and tax experts.



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

Q8d1. 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:

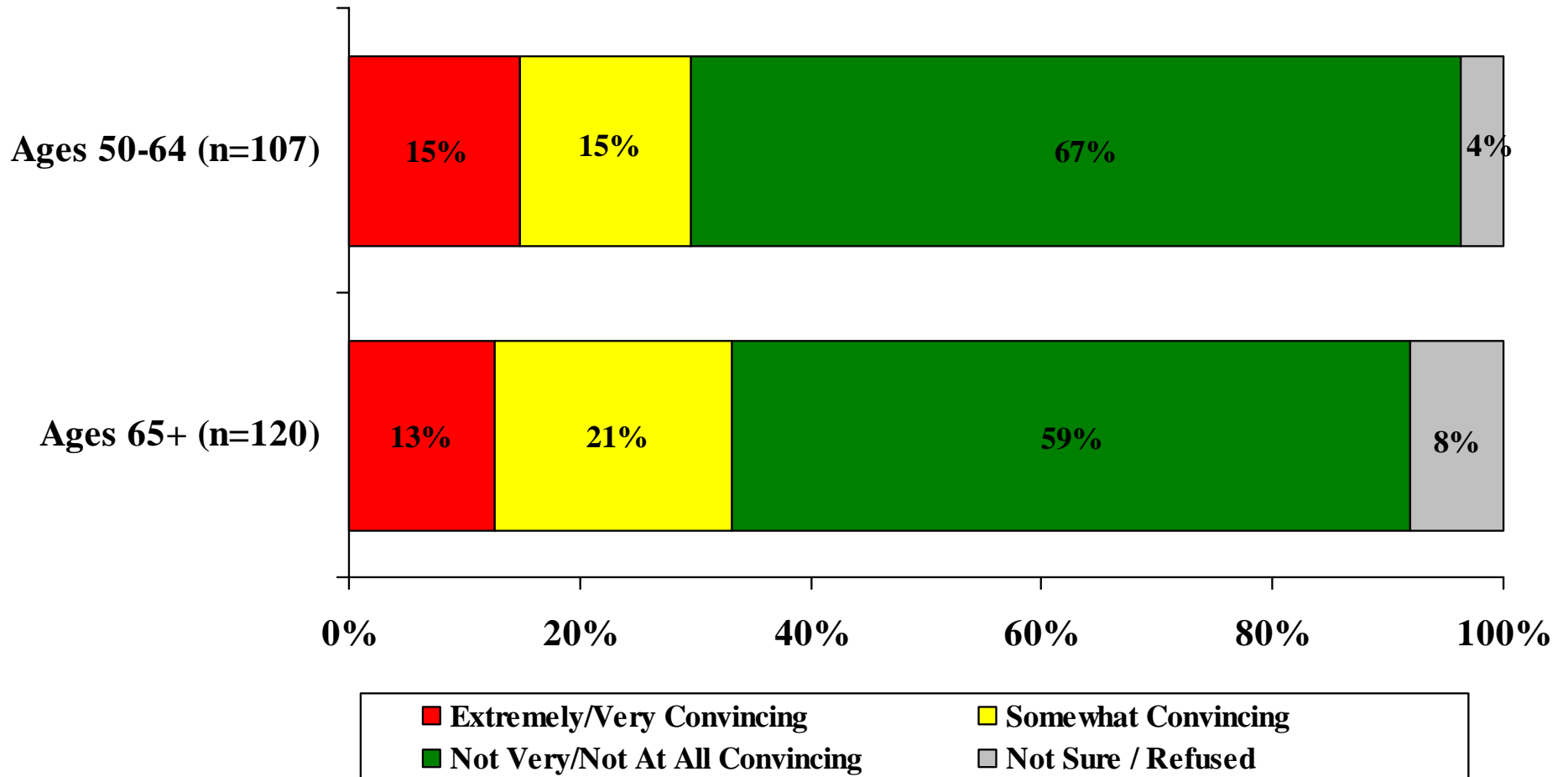
Supporters of SOS say that it would be good for businesses because it would lower the taxes businesses have to pay to operate in the state.



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

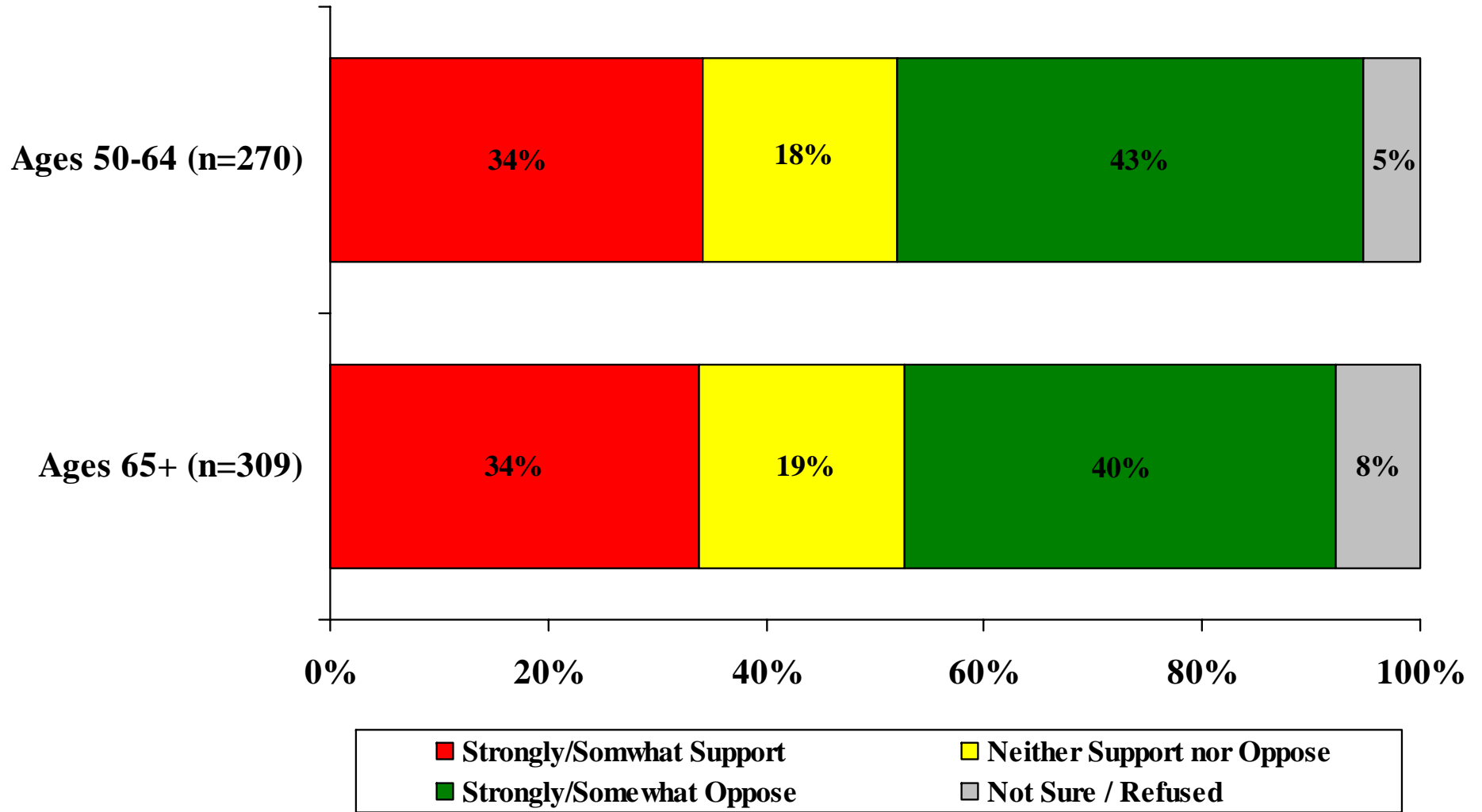
Q8d2. I'd like you to please tell me whether you find [this] an extremely convincing argument, very convincing, somewhat convincing, not very convincing, or whether this particular argument is not at all convincing:

Opponents of SOS say that it would cause businesses to leave or prevent them from relocating to Oregon because the declining quality of life would drive desirable job applicants out of the state.



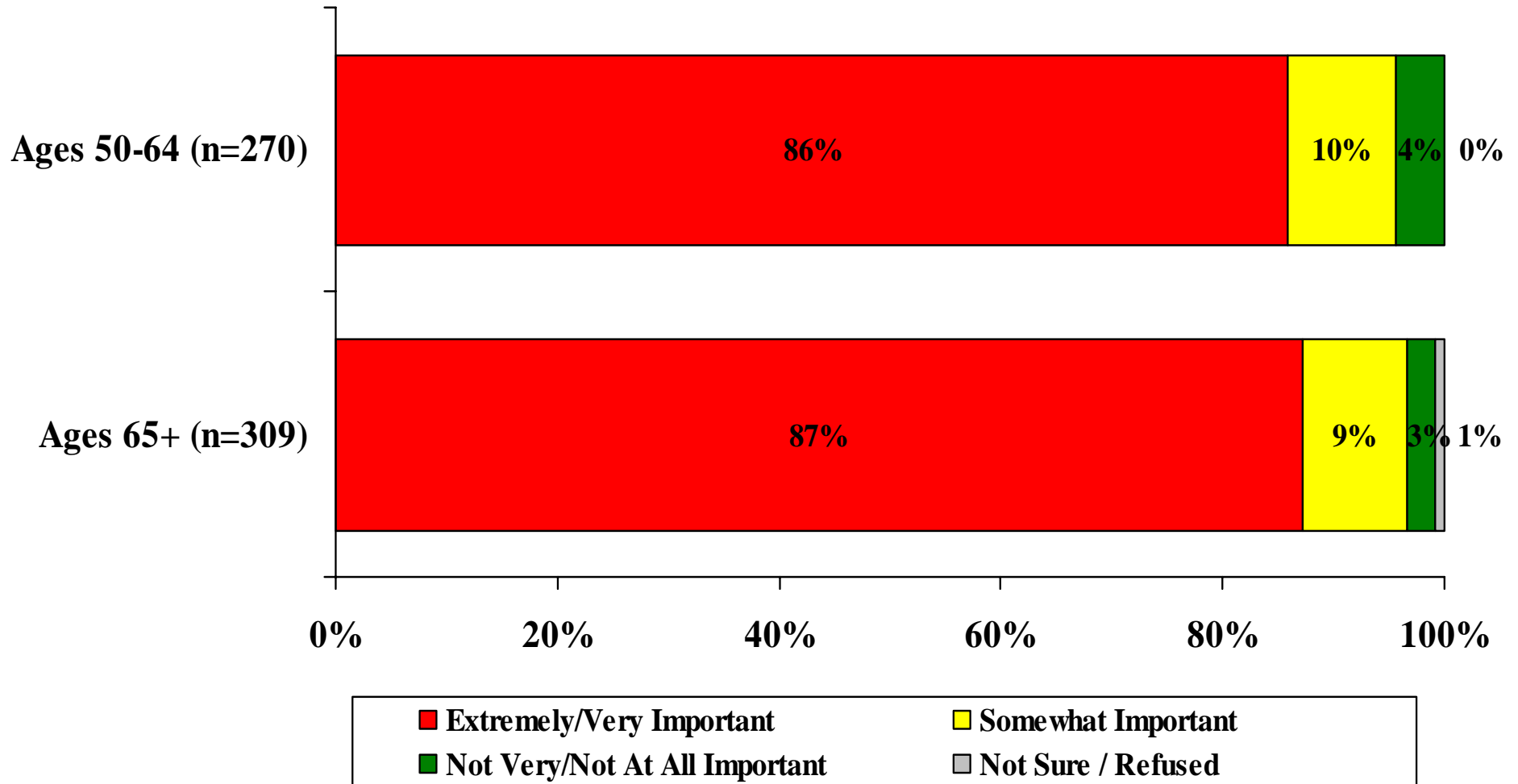
* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

Q9. Having heard arguments both for and against the “Stop OverSpending” or Rainy Day Fund Initiative #6, now how strongly do you support or oppose SOS in Oregon?



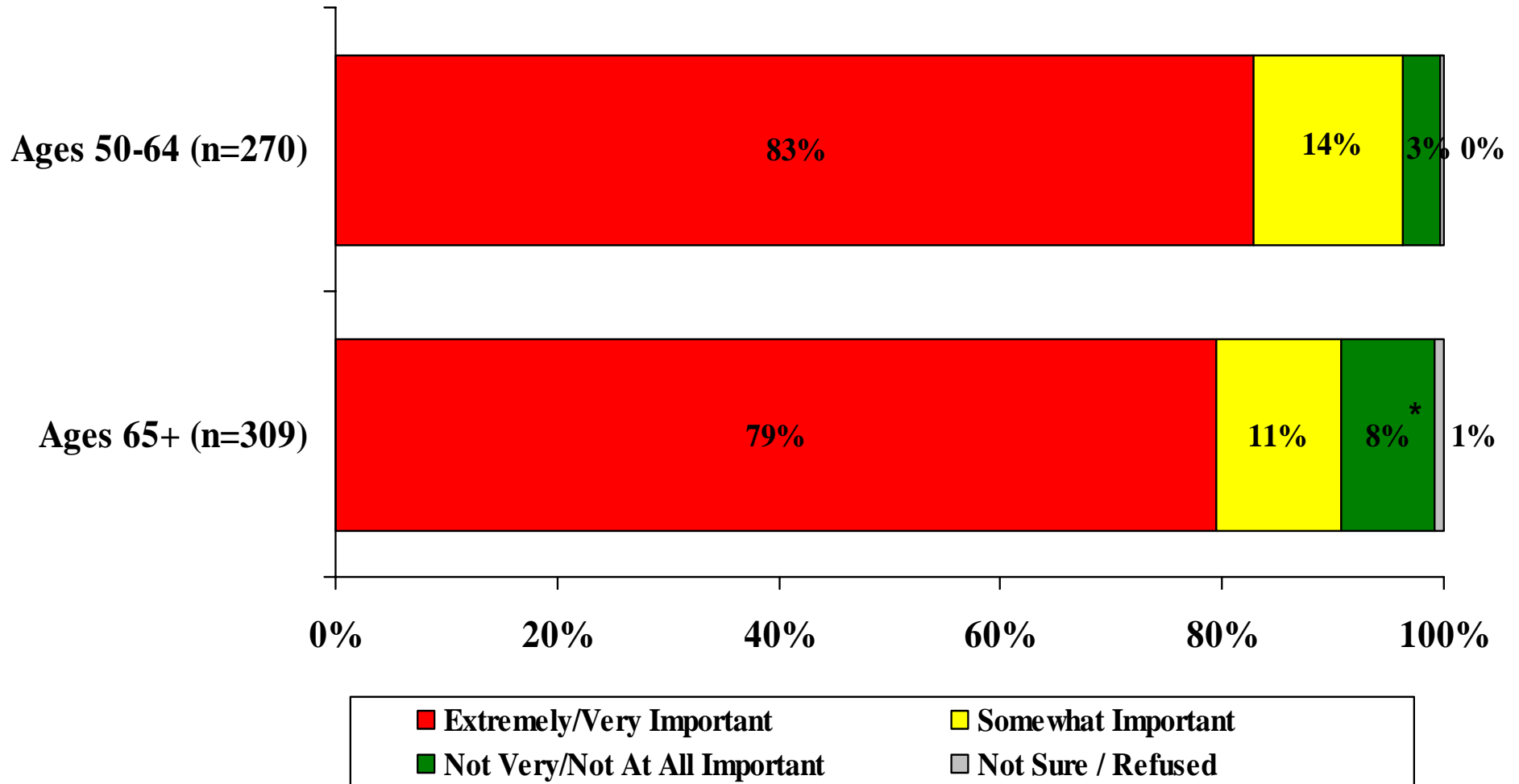
• Statistically significant difference from Members Age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

Q10b. Now, I am going to ask you about state and local services Oregon 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?



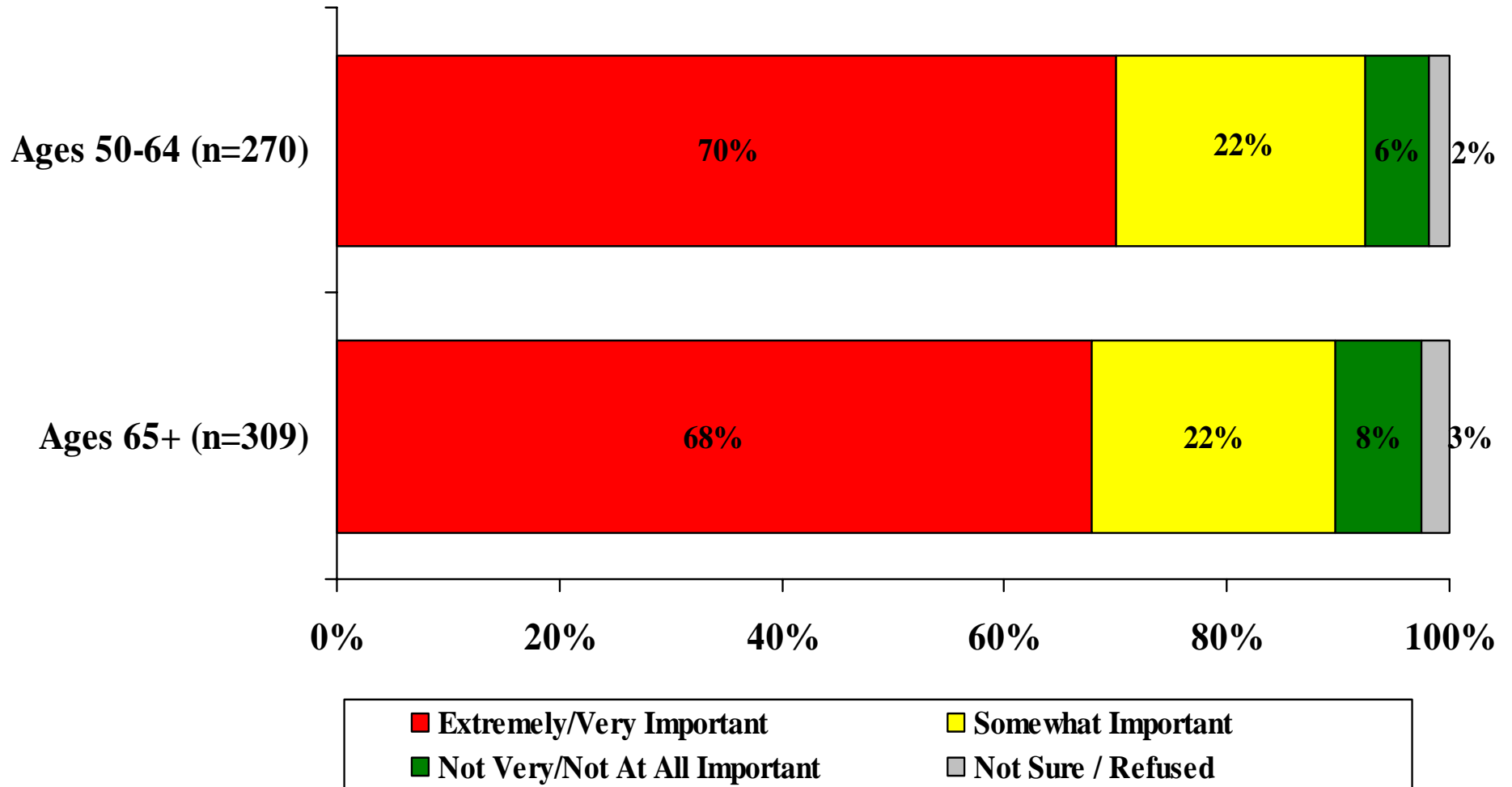
* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

Q10e. Now, I am going to ask you about state and local services Oregon 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?



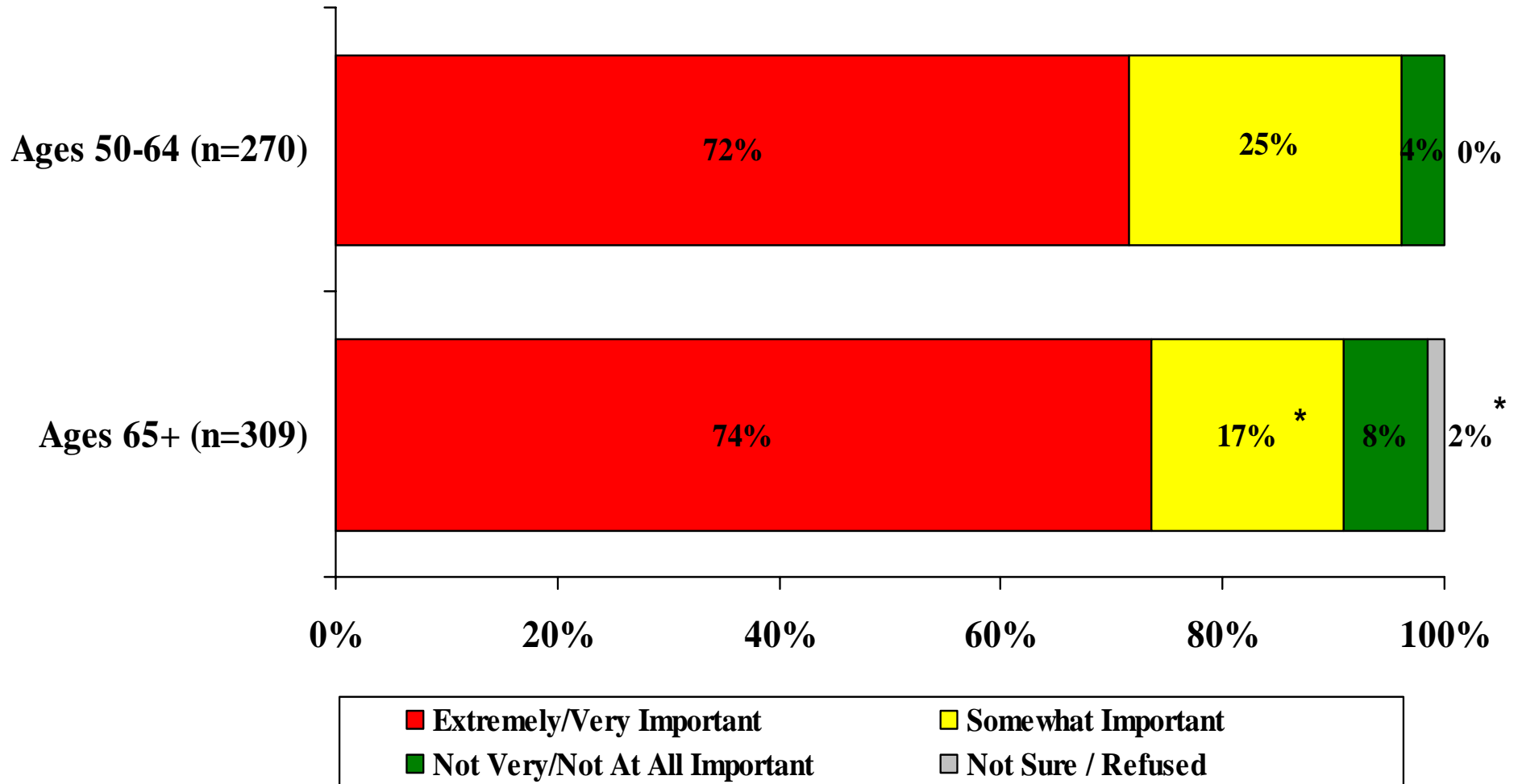
* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

Q10f. Now, I am going to ask you about state and local services Oregon 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?



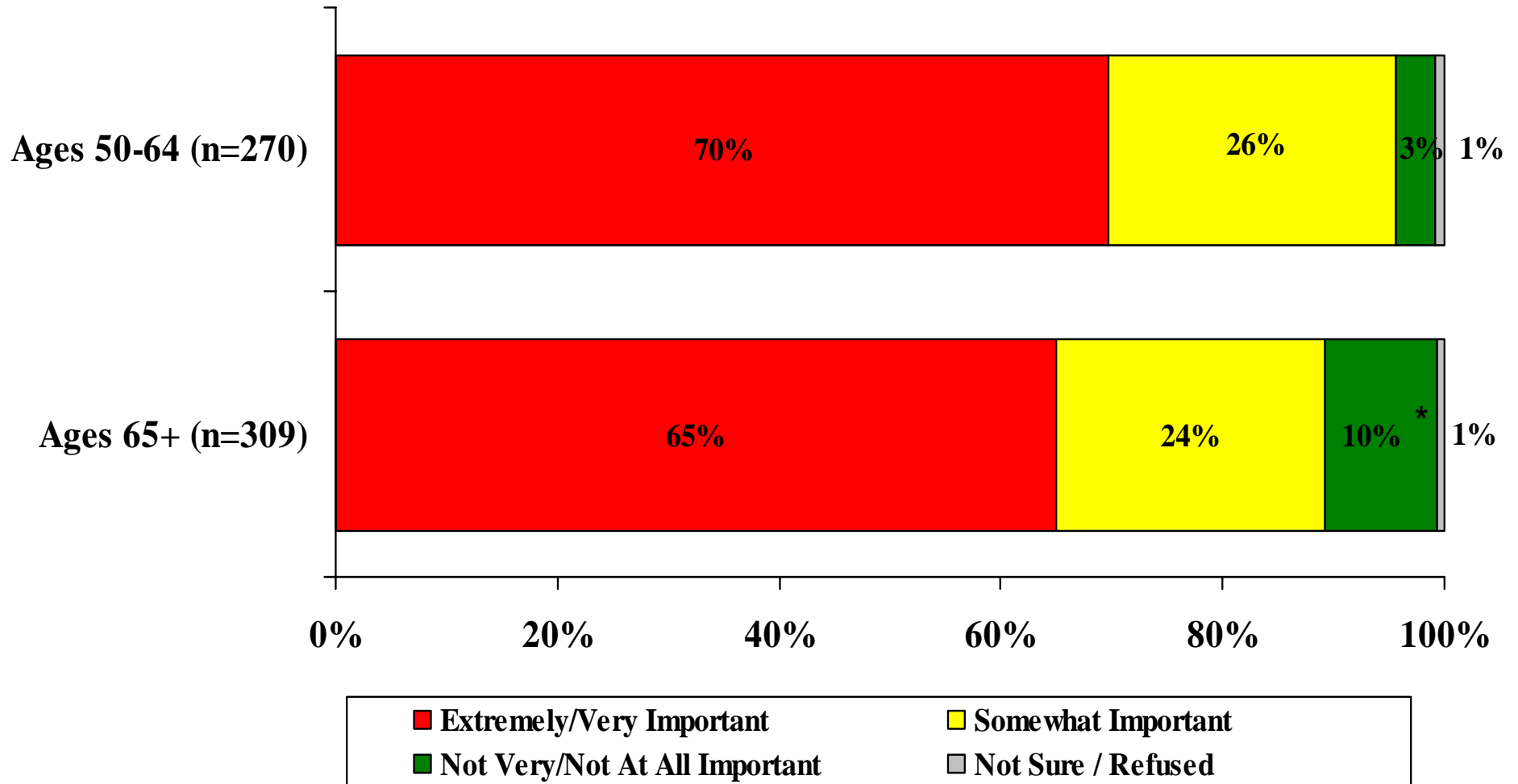
* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

Q10g. Now, I am going to ask you about state and local services Oregon 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?



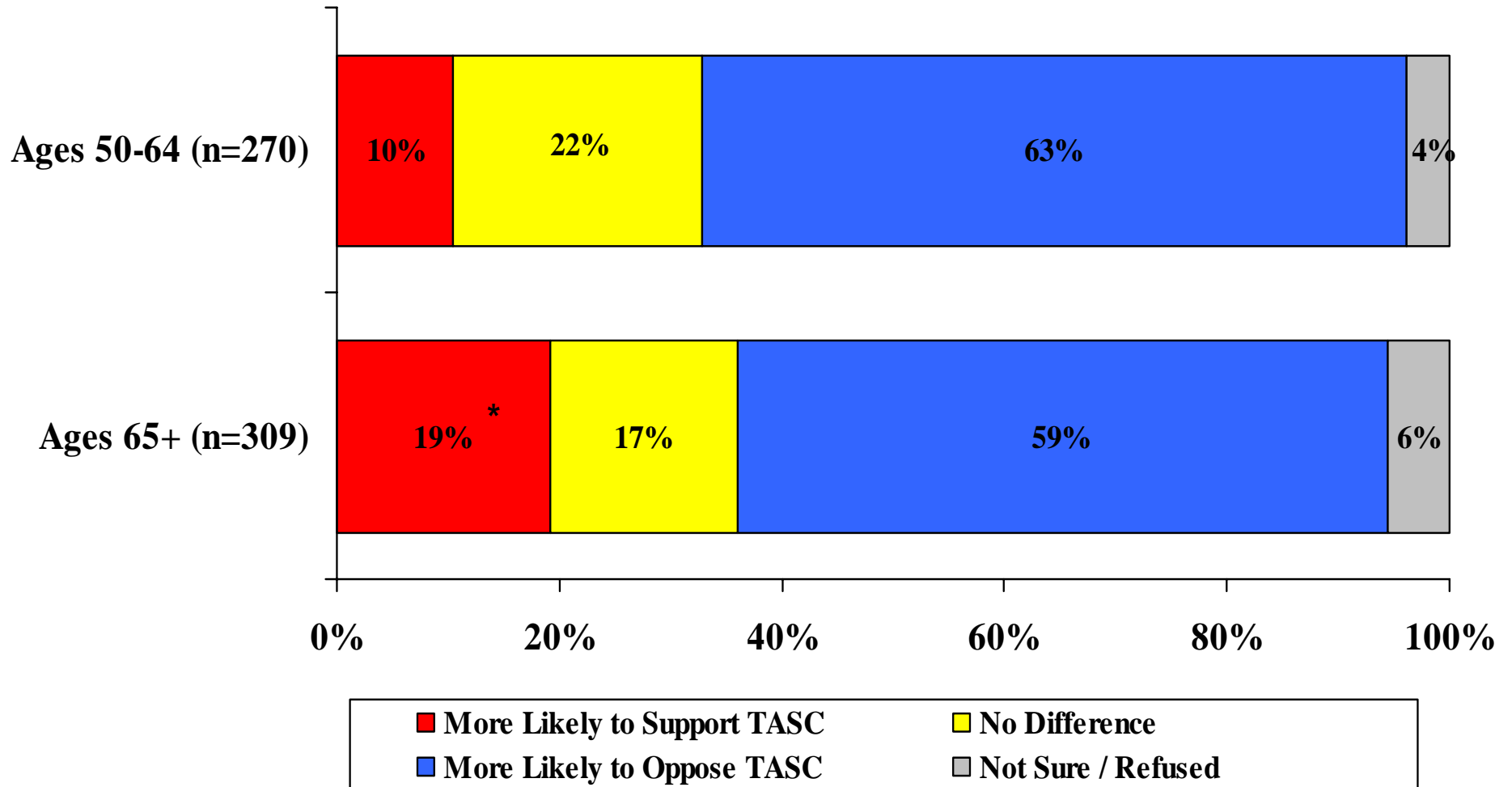
* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

Q10i. Now, I am going to ask you about state and local services Oregon 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?



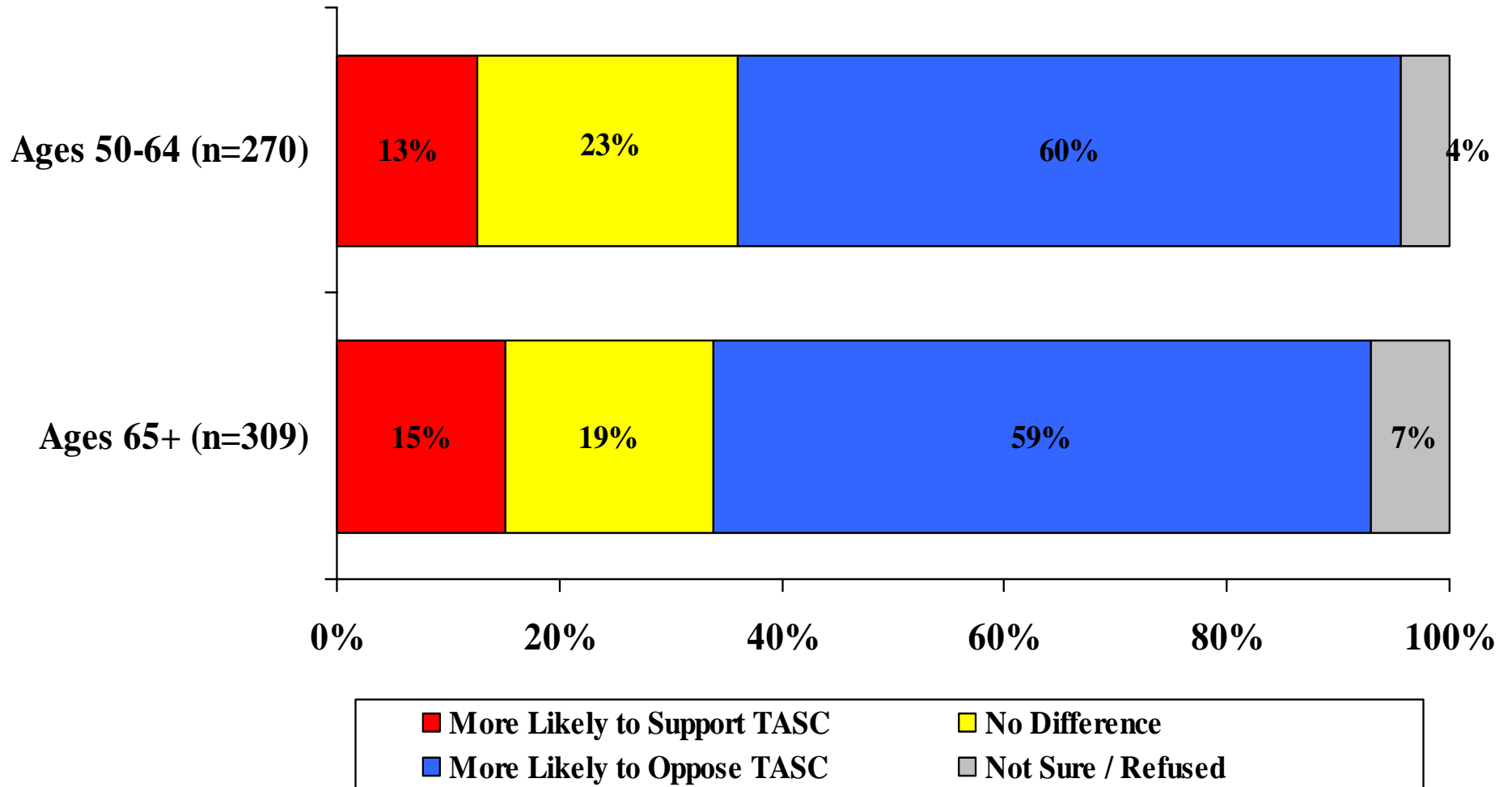
* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

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



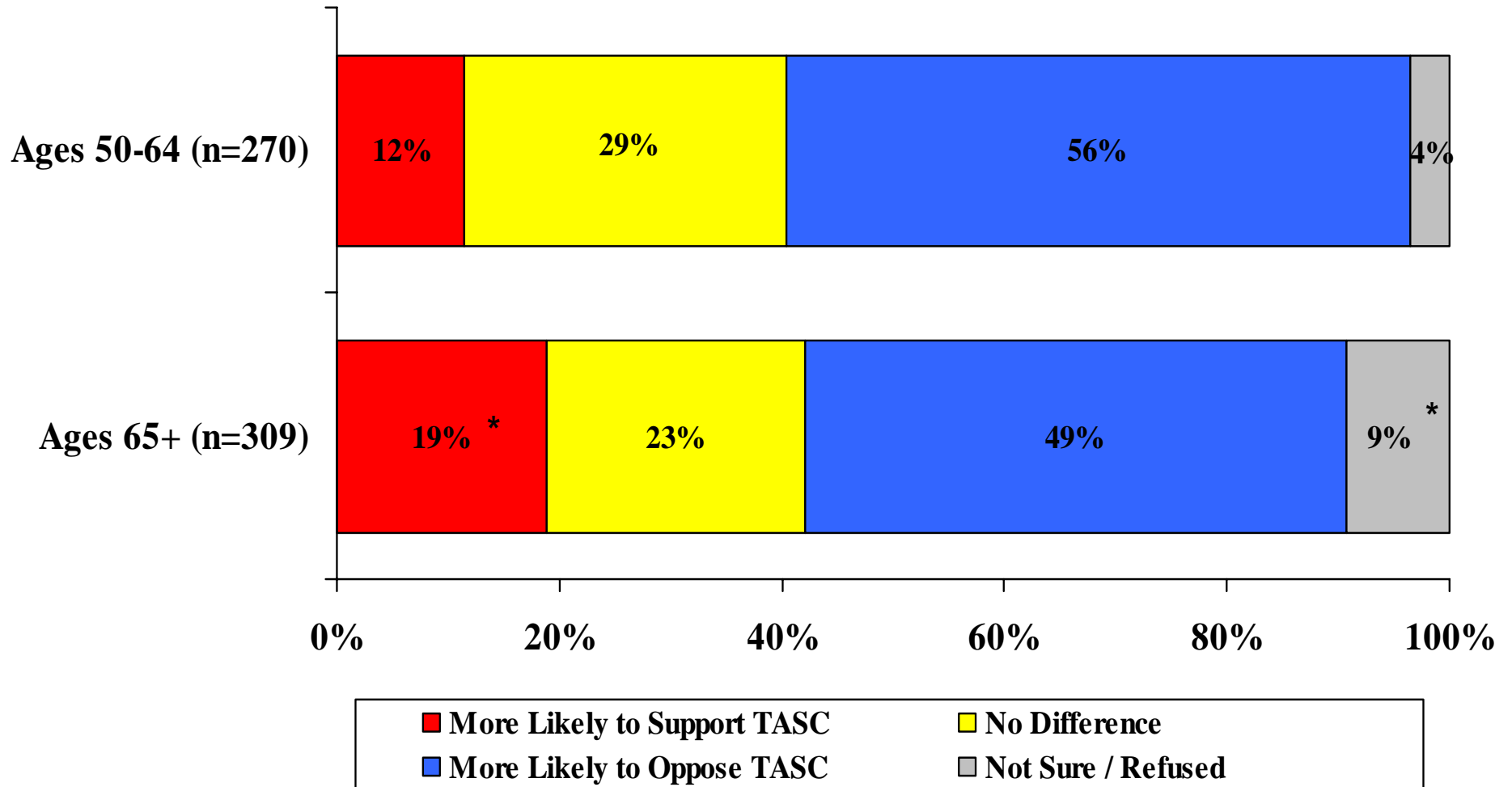
* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

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



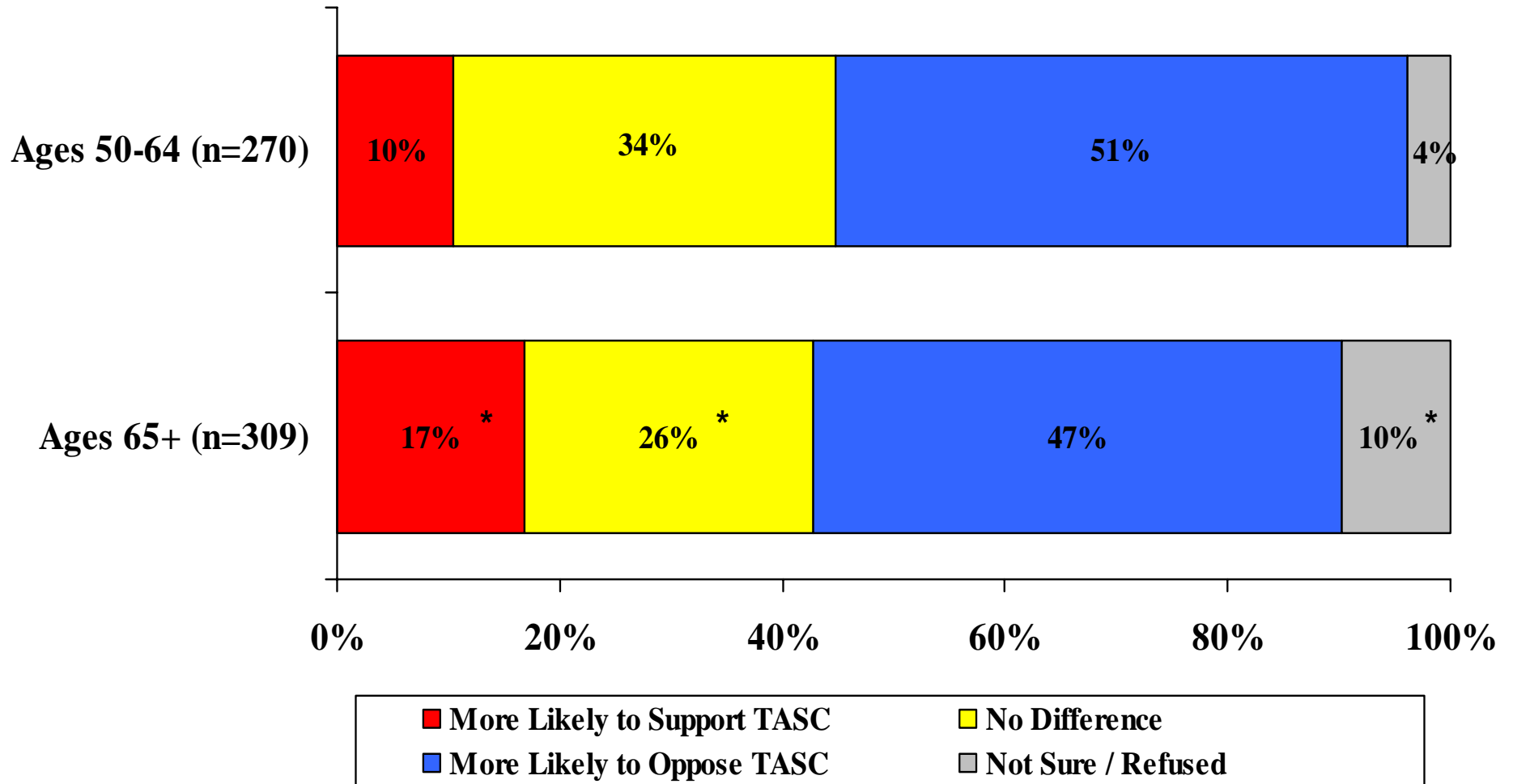
* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

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



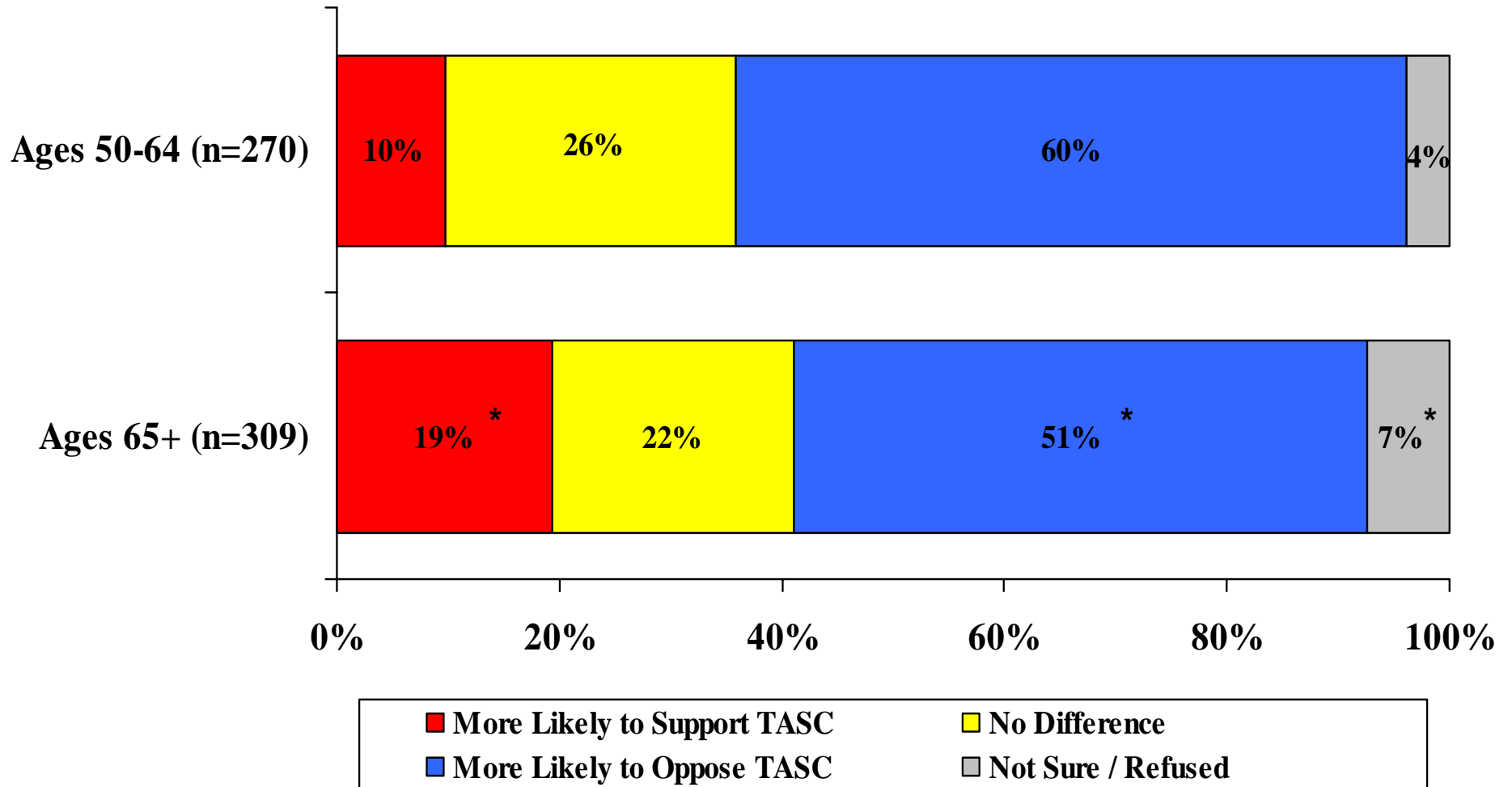
* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

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



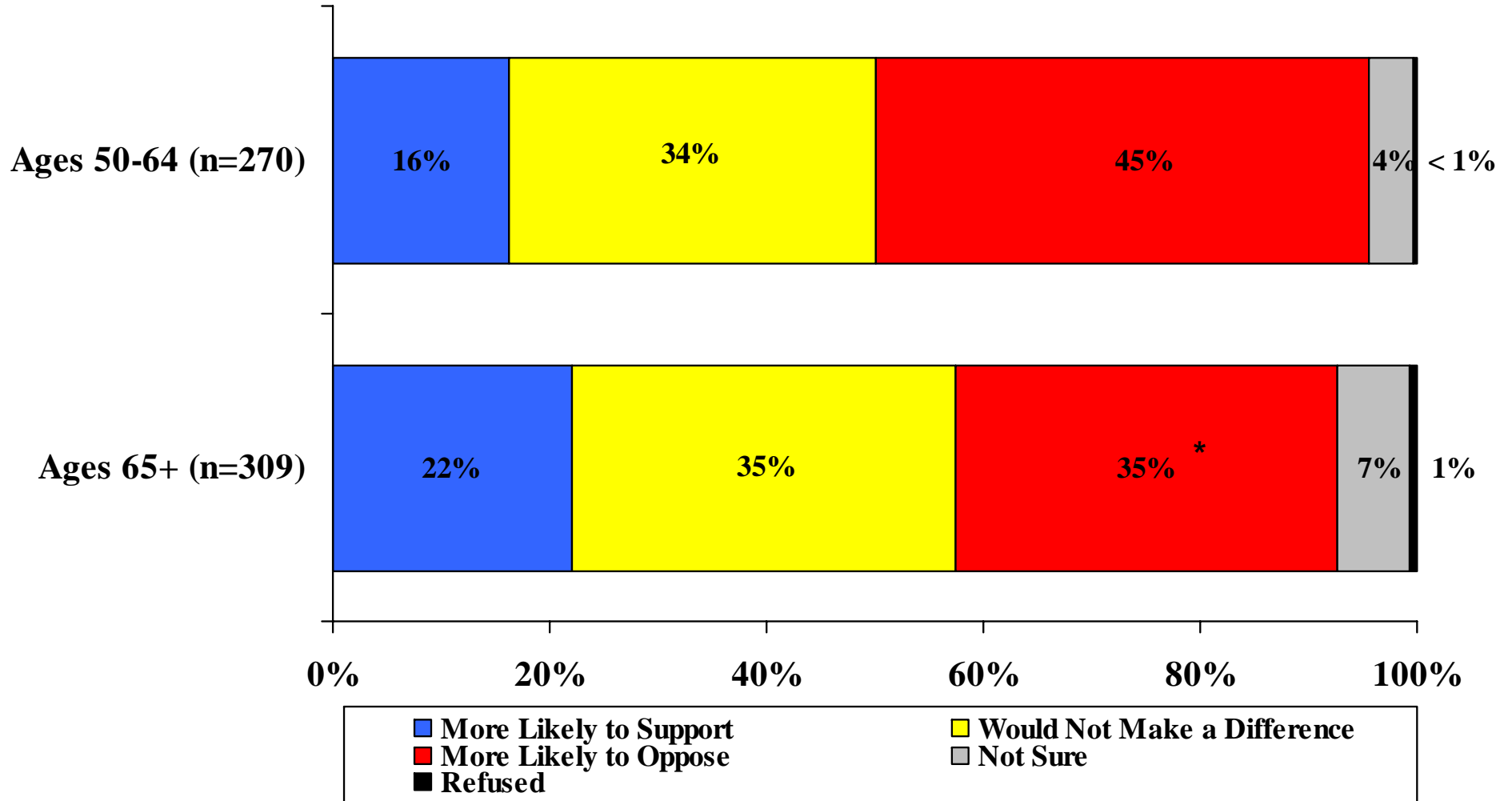
* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

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



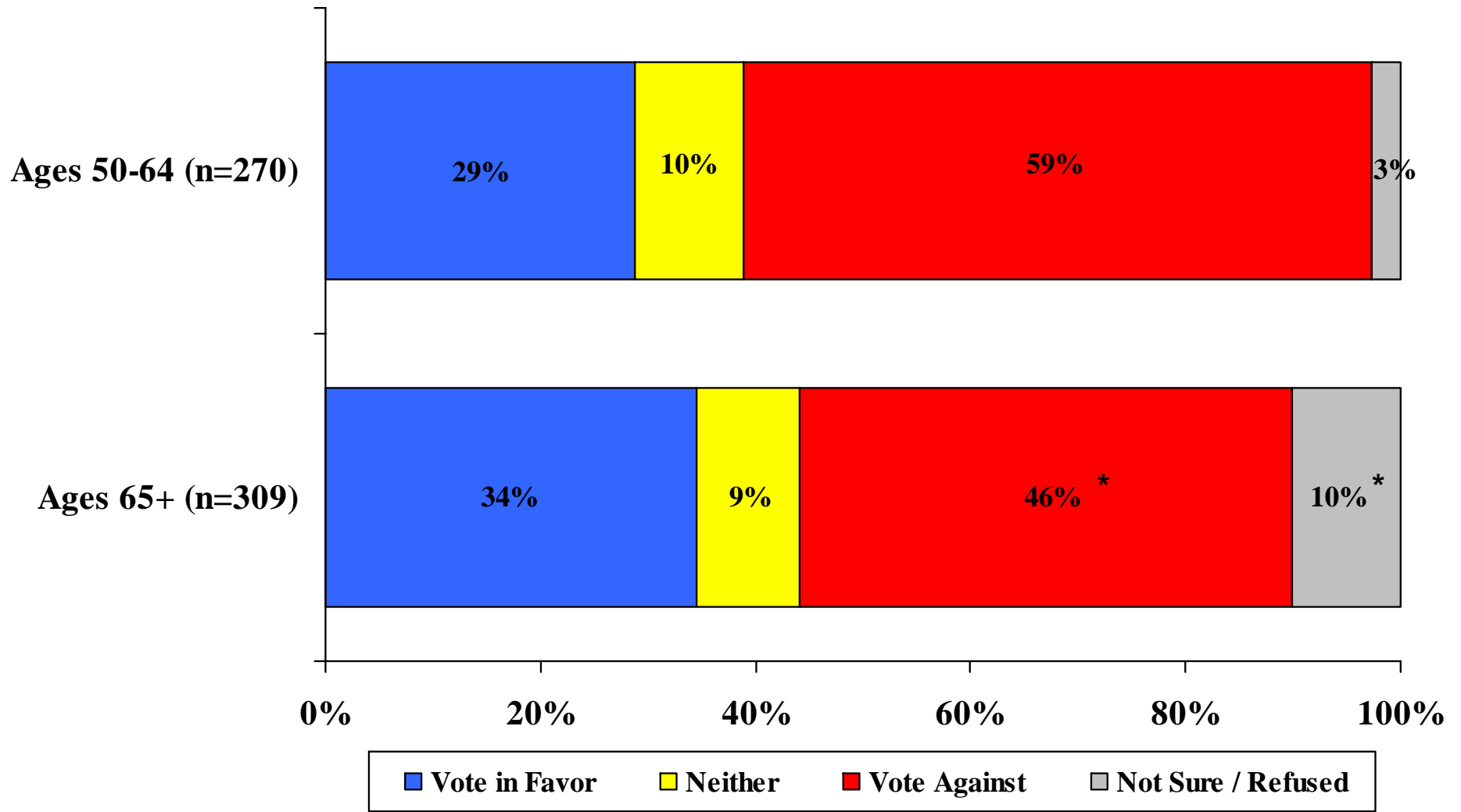
* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

Q12. Suppose you learned that AARP and other senior and disability organizations OPPOSED the “Stop OverSpending” or Rainy Day Fund Initiative #6, because they believe it would lead to significant cuts in important state services for Oregon seniors and their families. Would you be more likely to support SOS, more likely to oppose, or would it not make a difference in how you vote for SOS Amendment?



* 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?"]

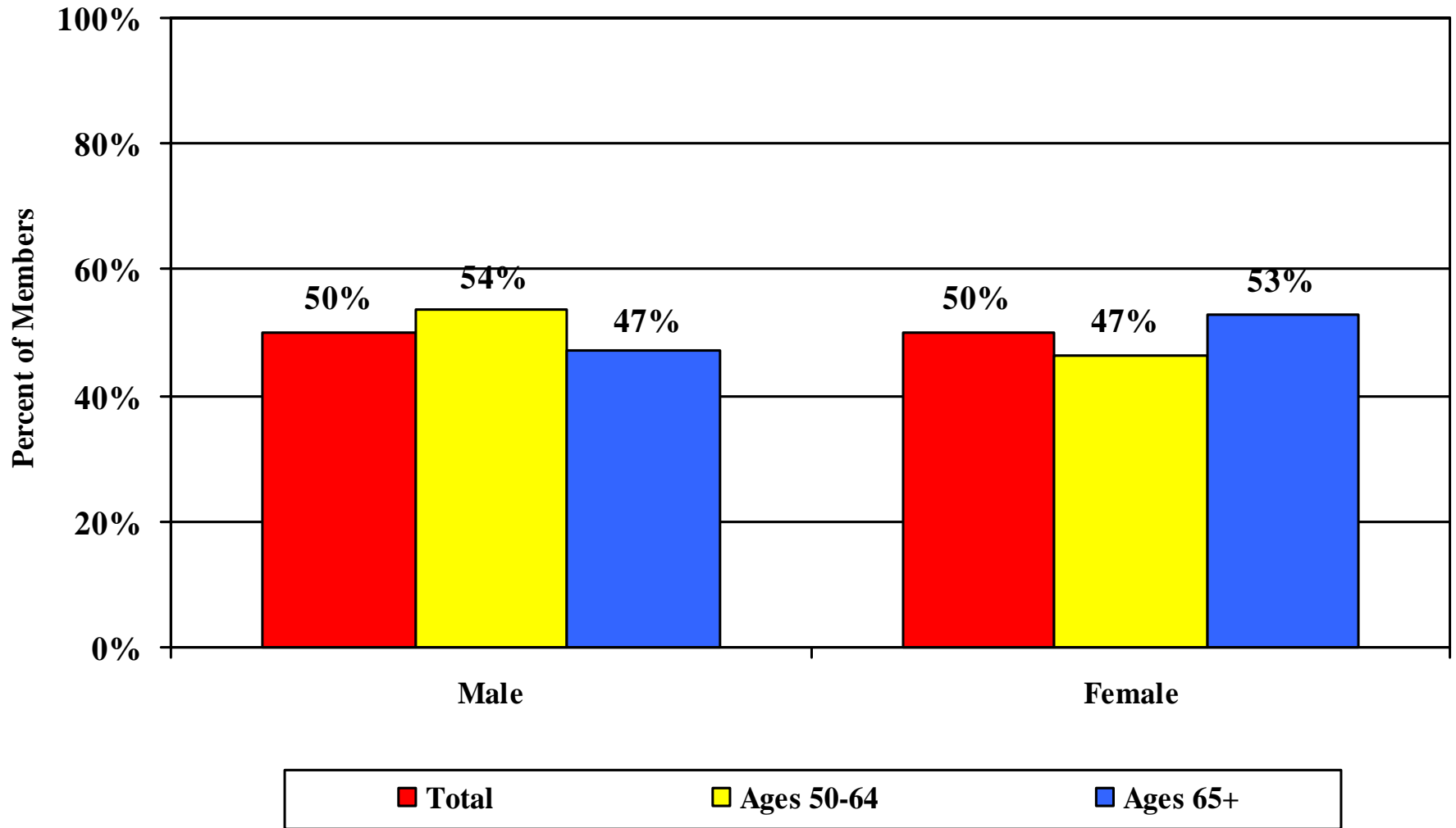


* Statistically significant difference from Members age 50 to 64 at the 95% level of confidence

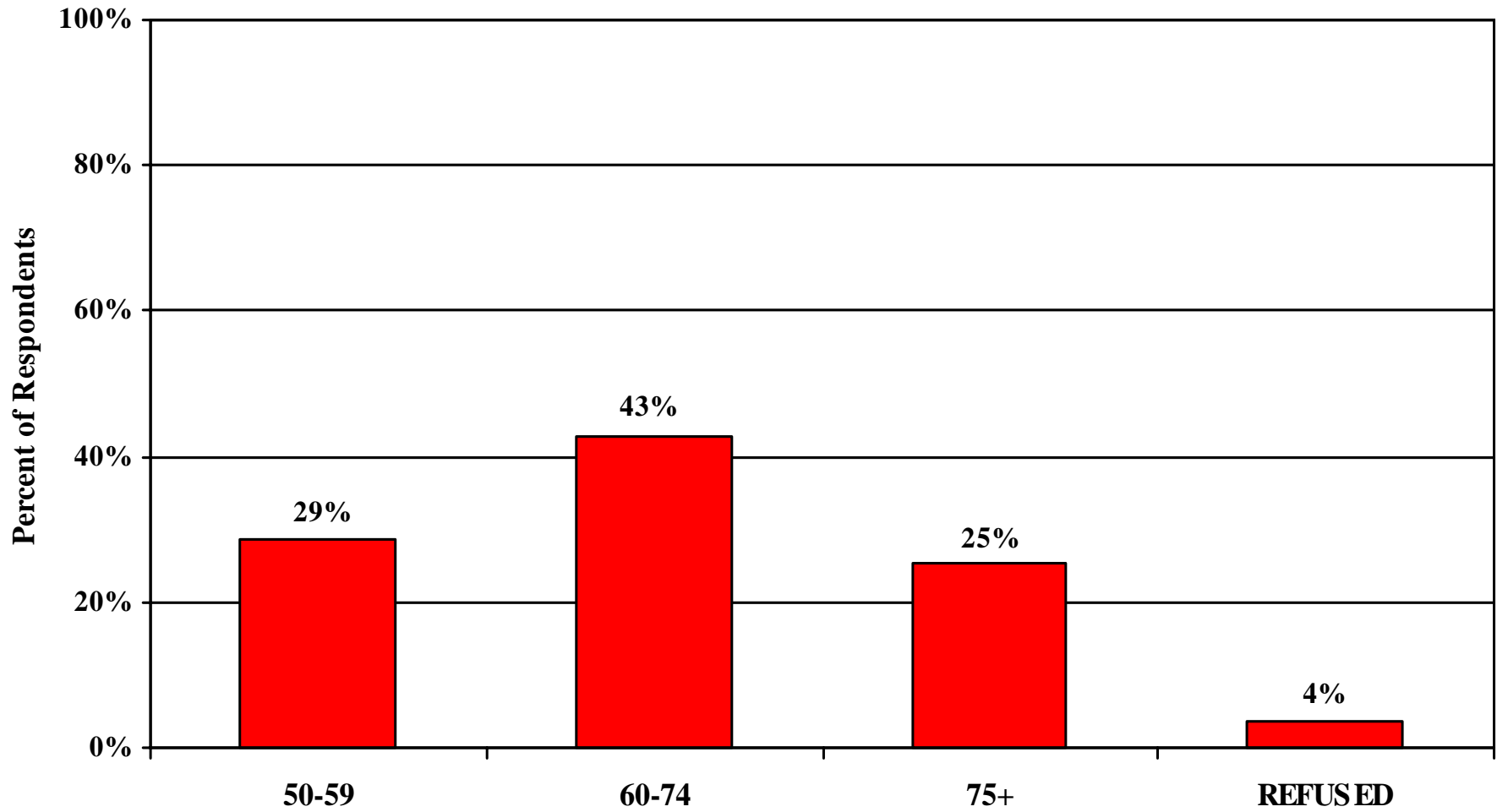
RESPONDENT PROFILE



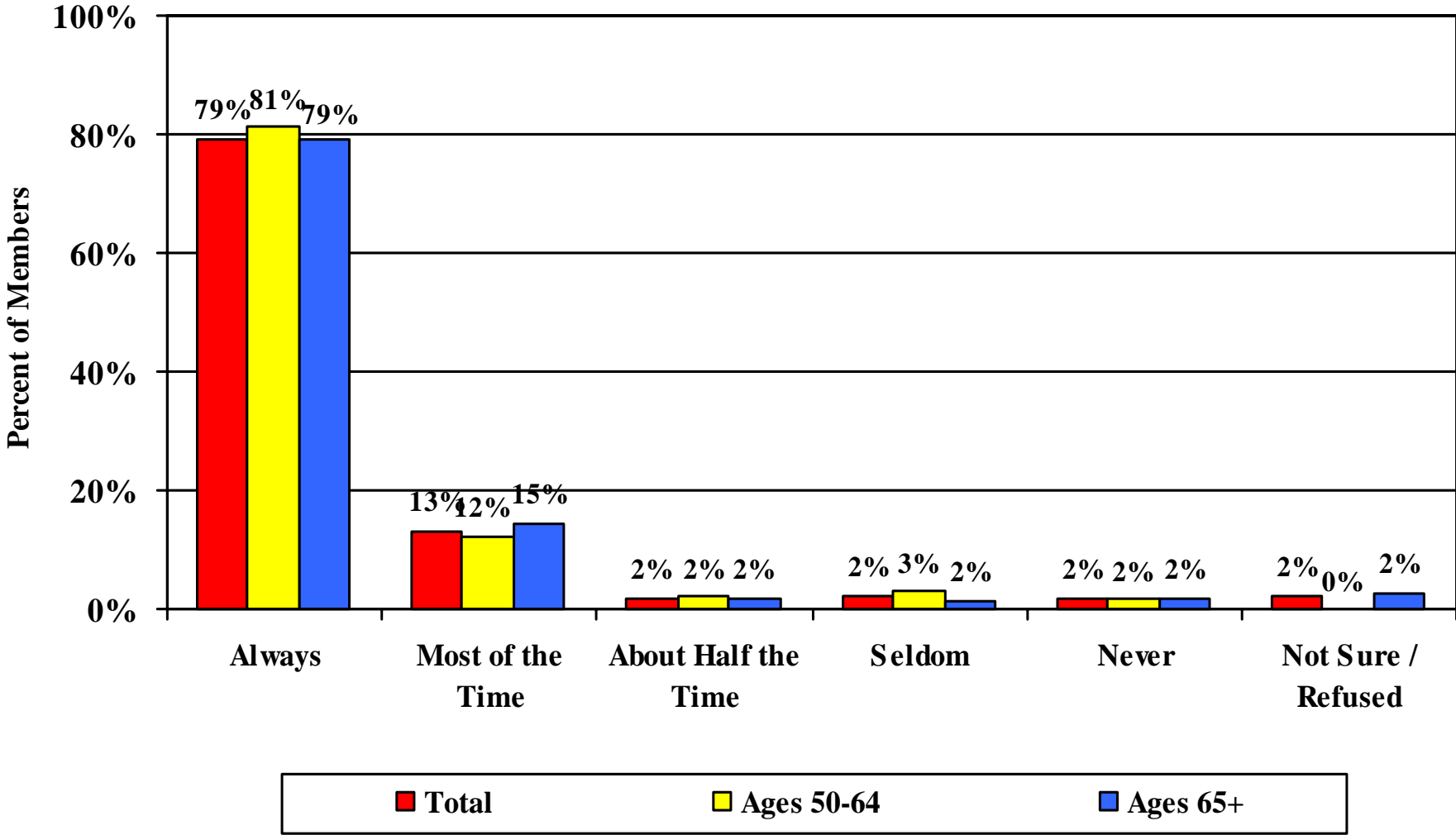
GENDER



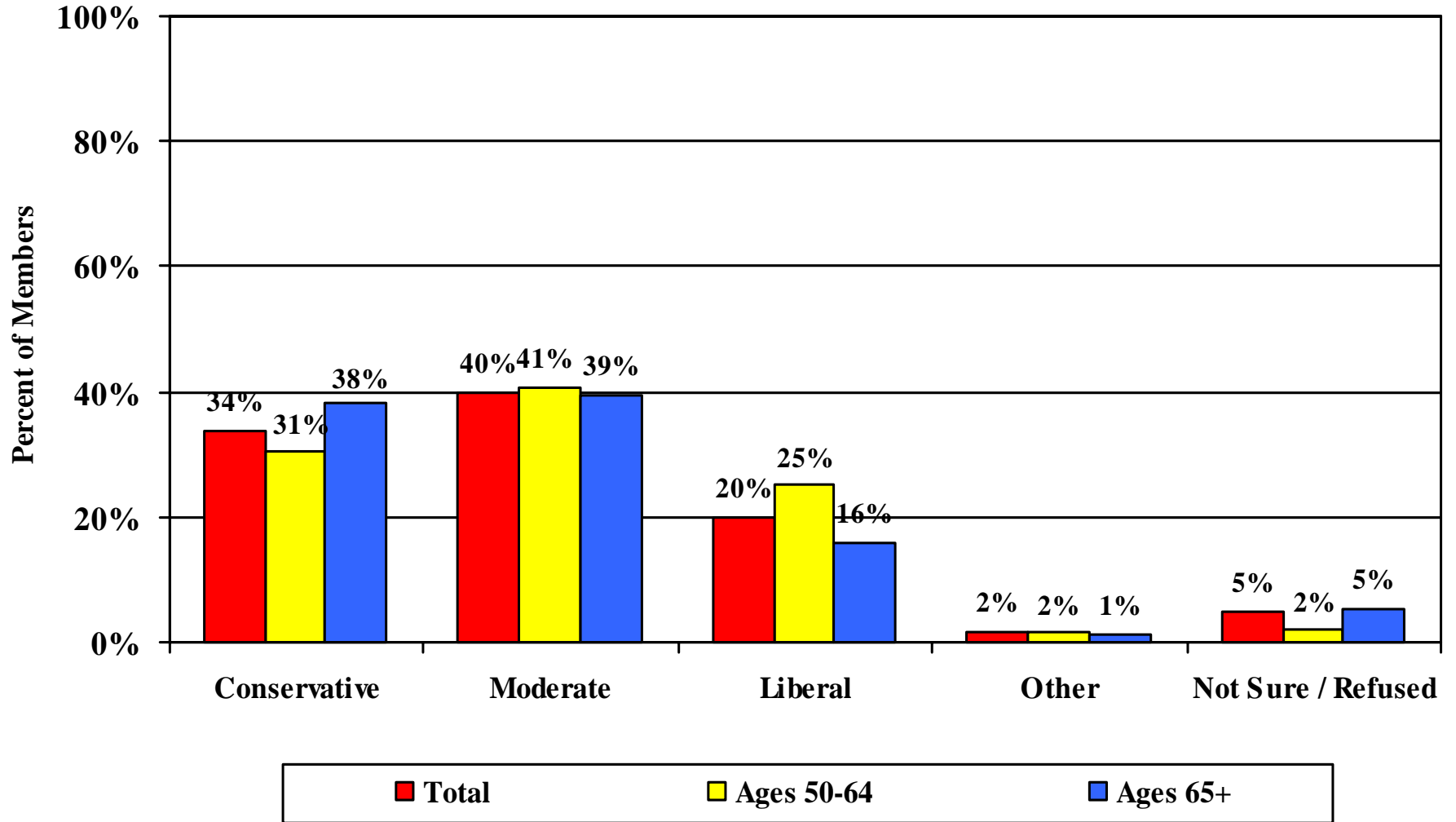
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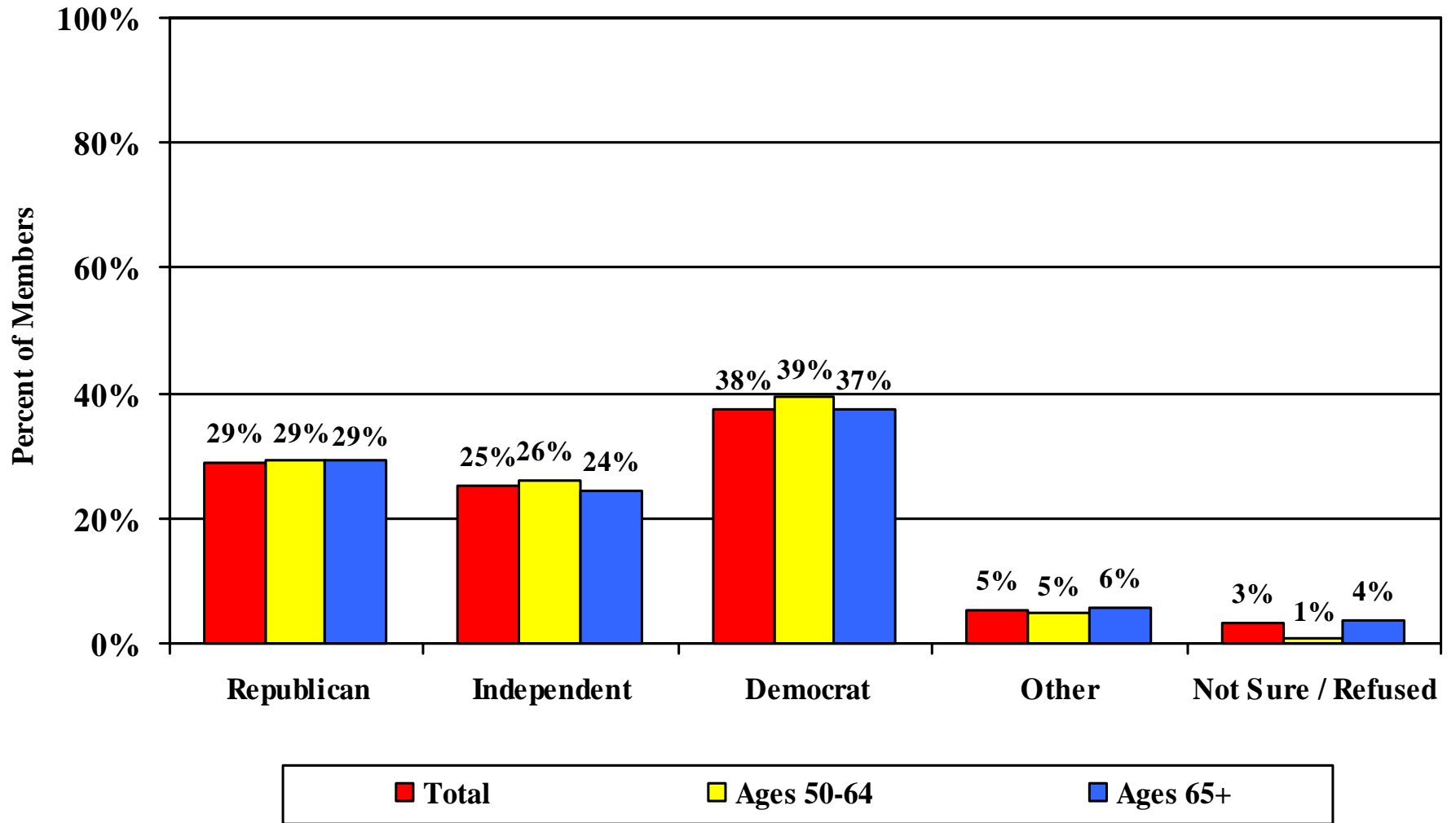
FREQUENCY OF VOTING



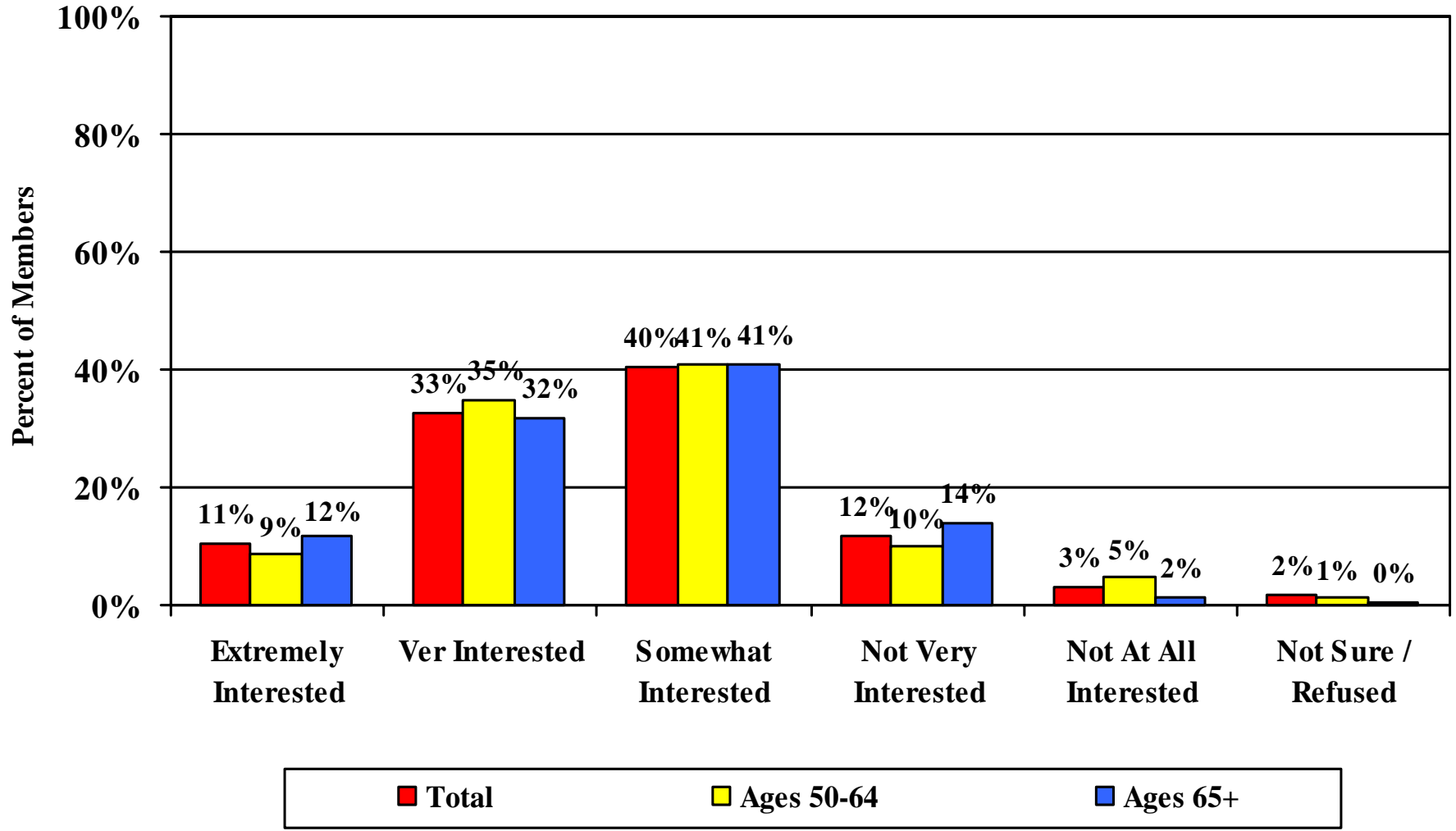
POLITICAL VIEWS



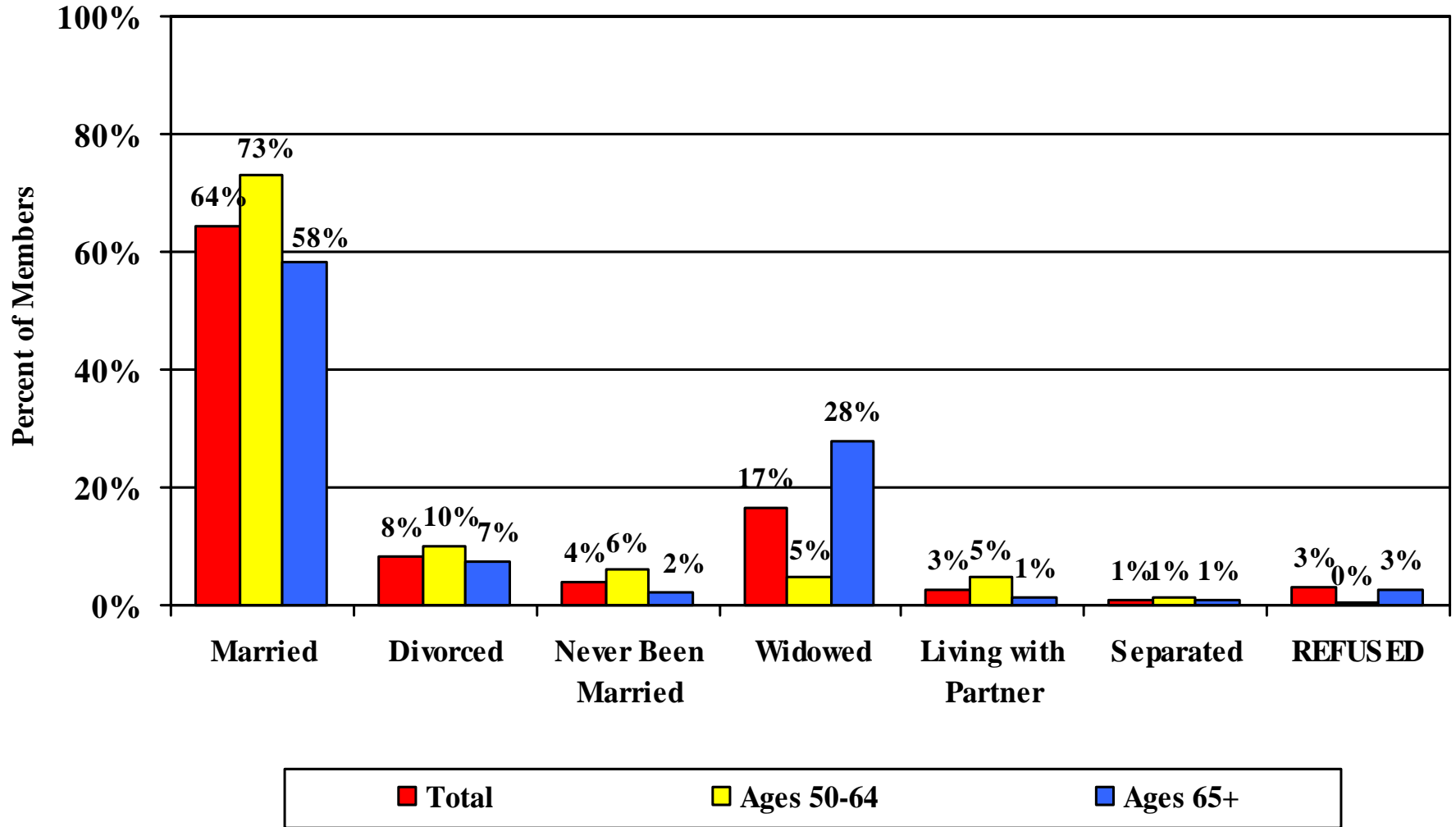
PARTY IDENTIFICATION



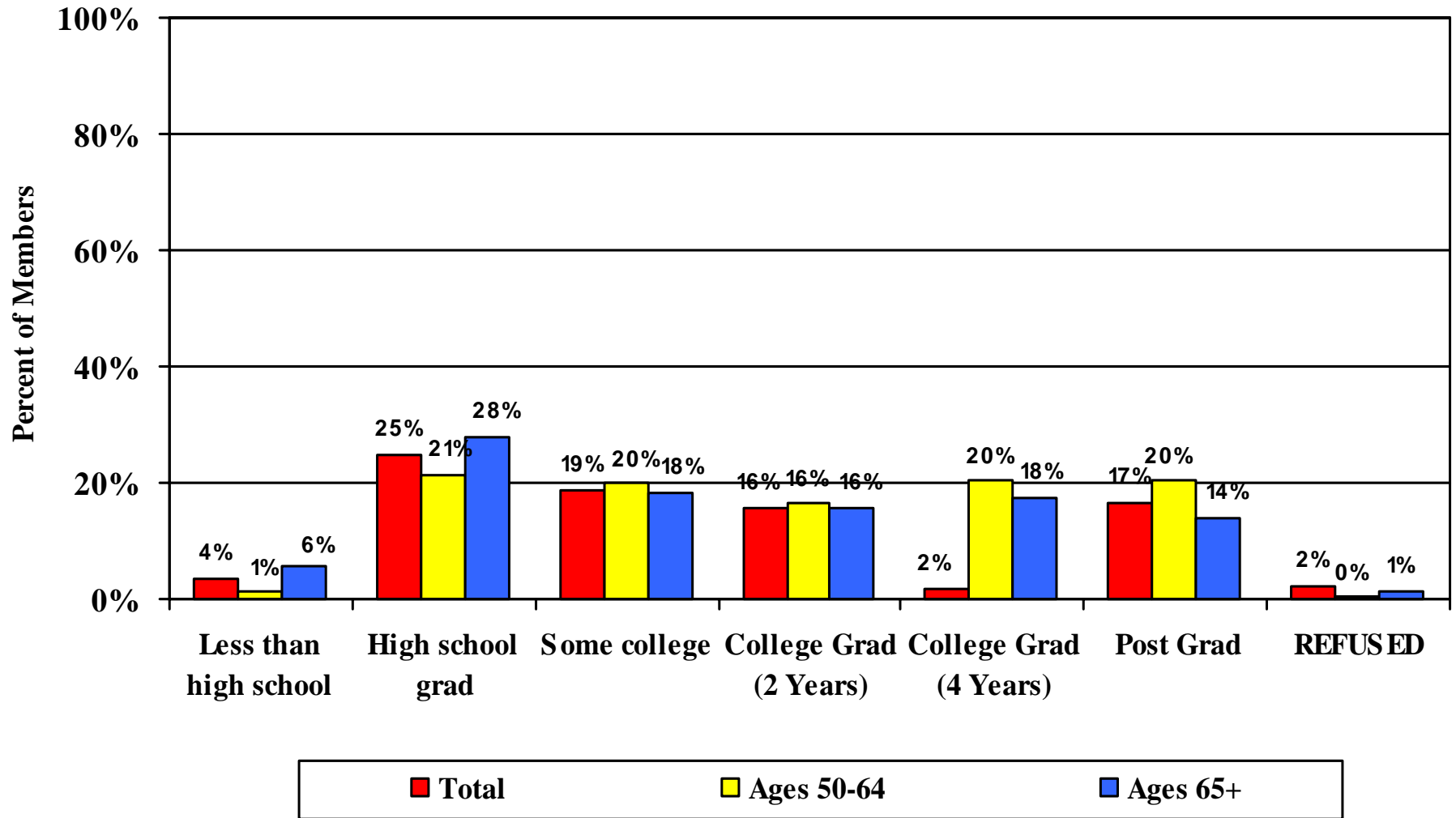
INTEREST IN OREGON STATE GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES



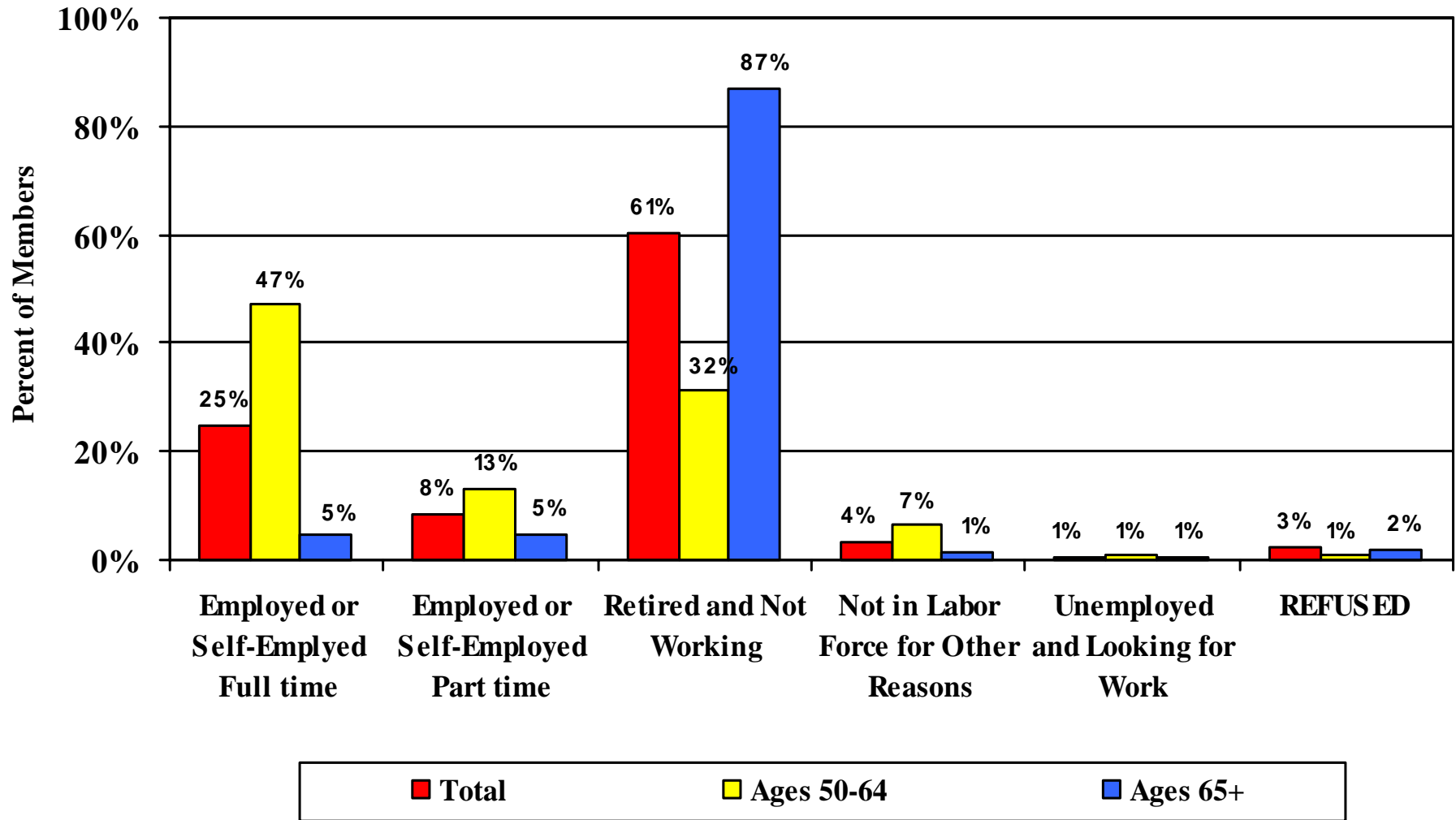
CURRENT MARITAL STATUS



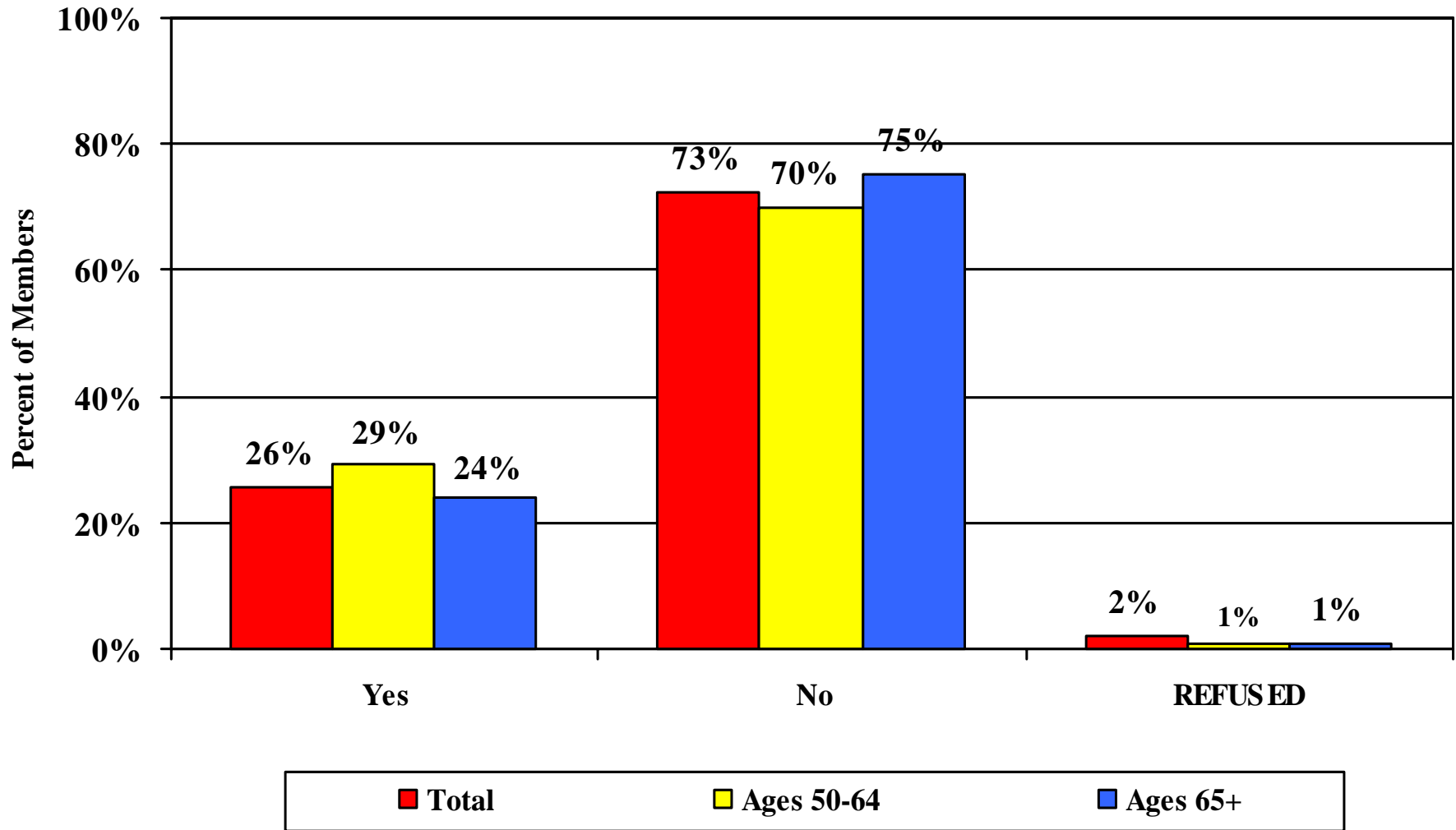
EDUCATION



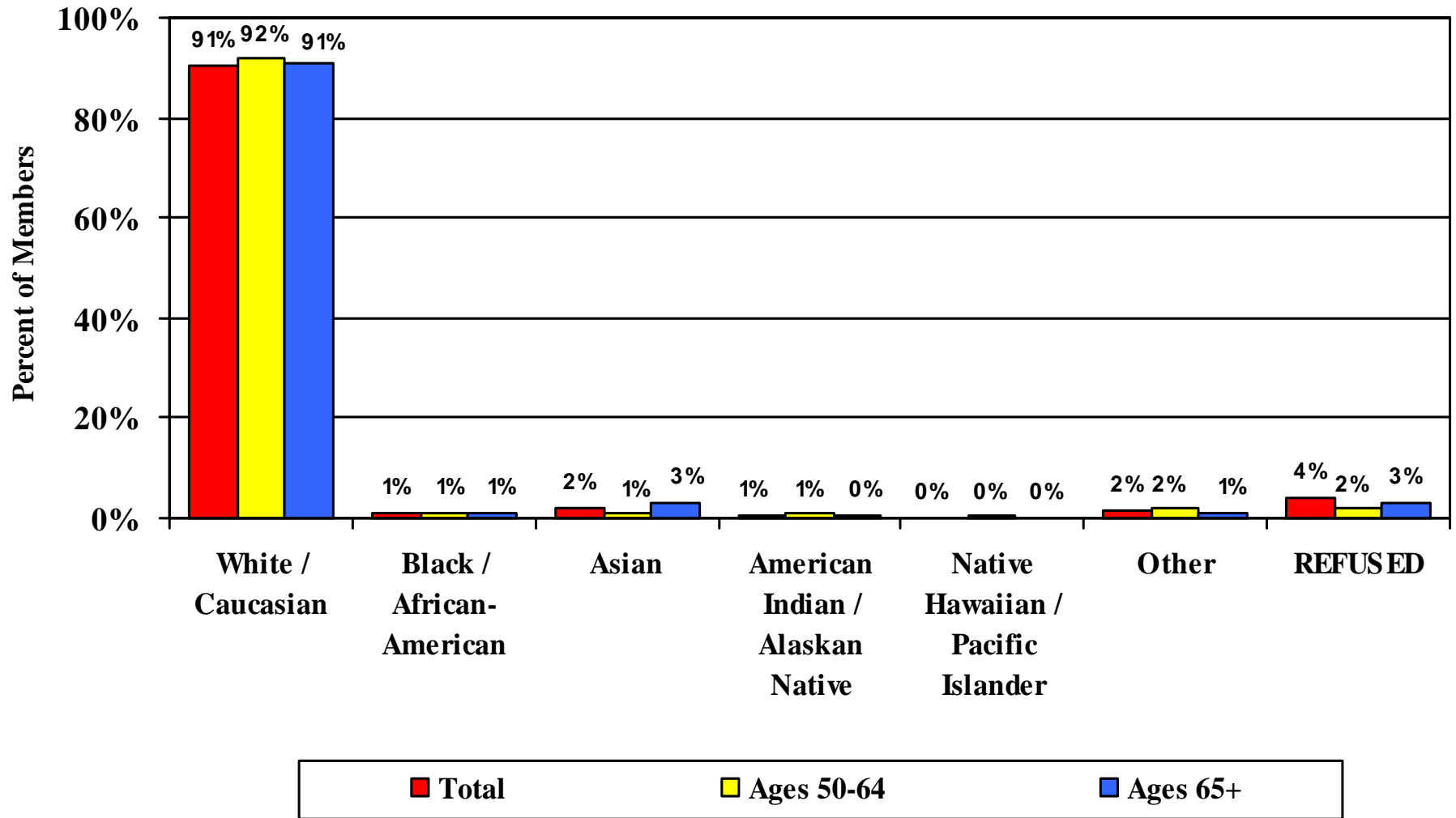
CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS



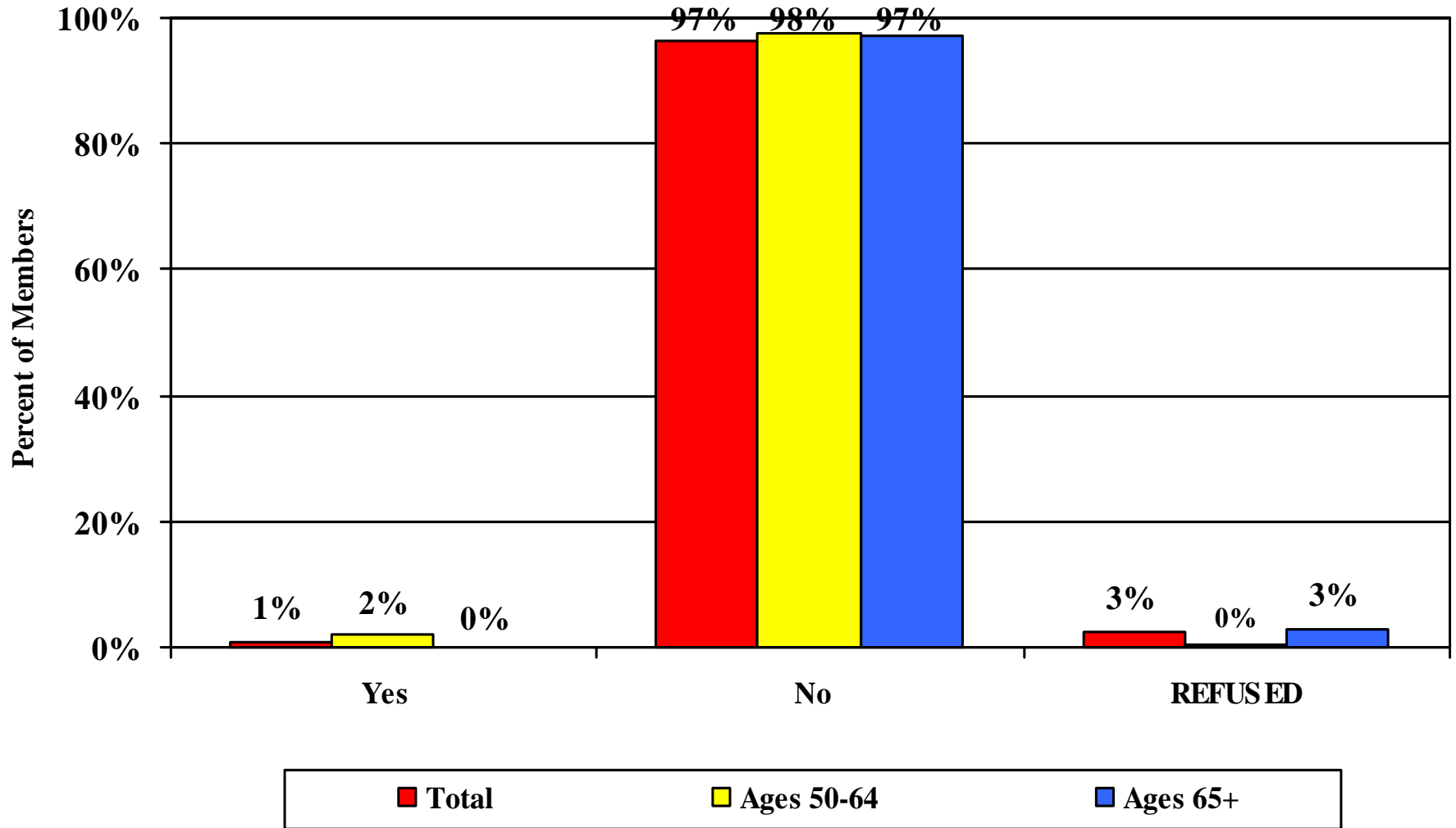
EVER BEEN STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE



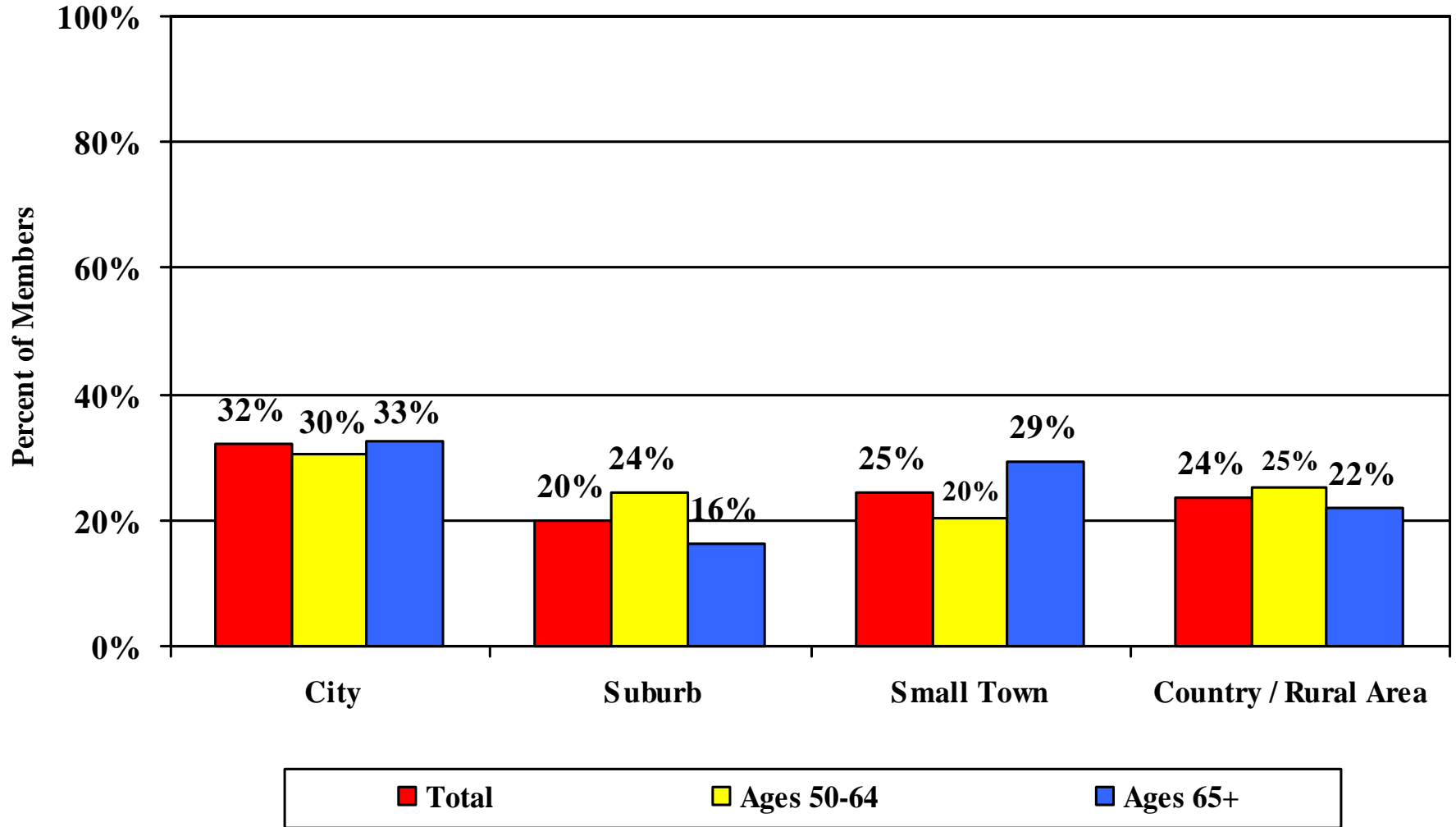
RACE / ETHNICITY



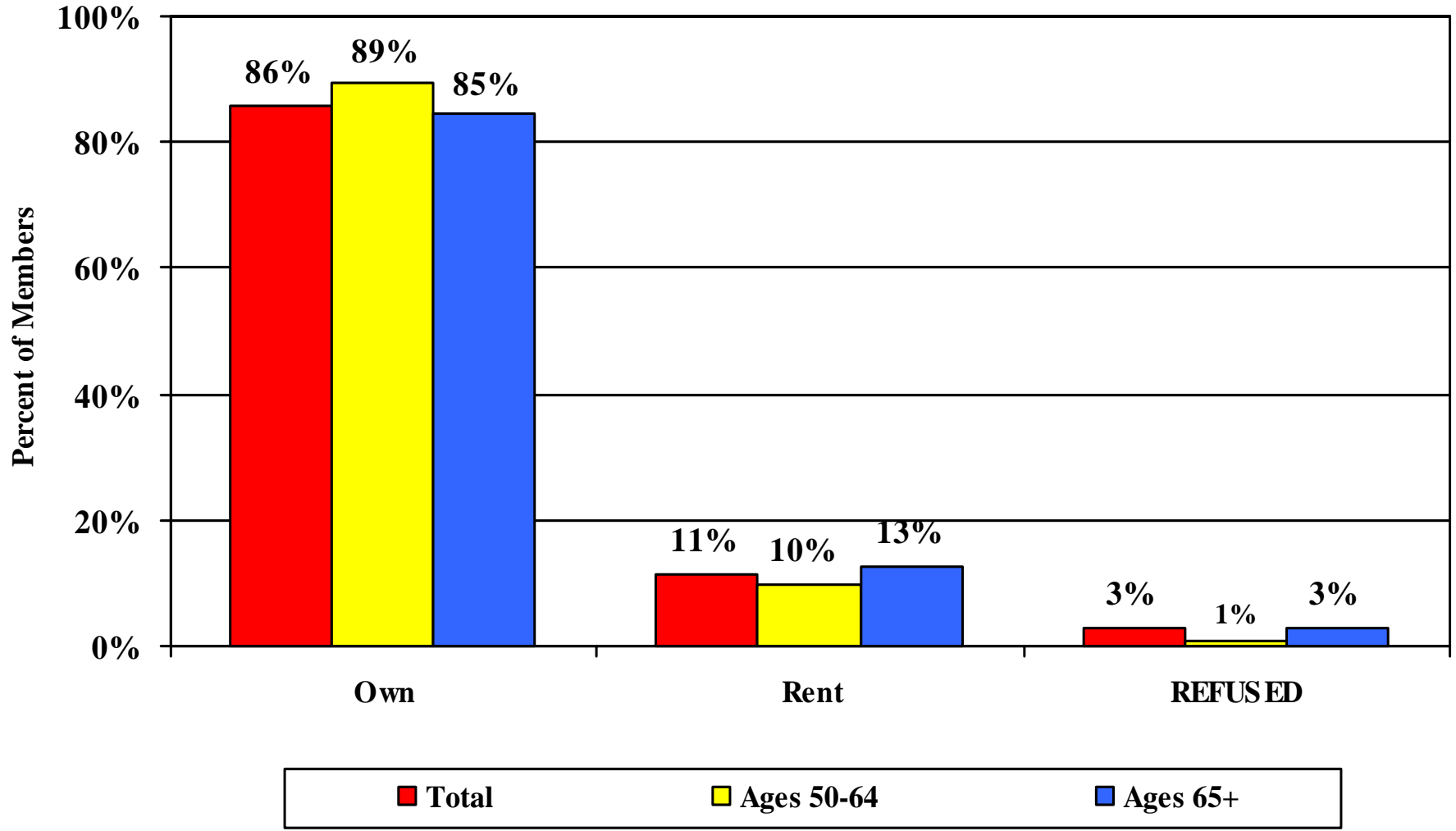
SPANISH, HISPANIC, OR LATINO ORIGIN



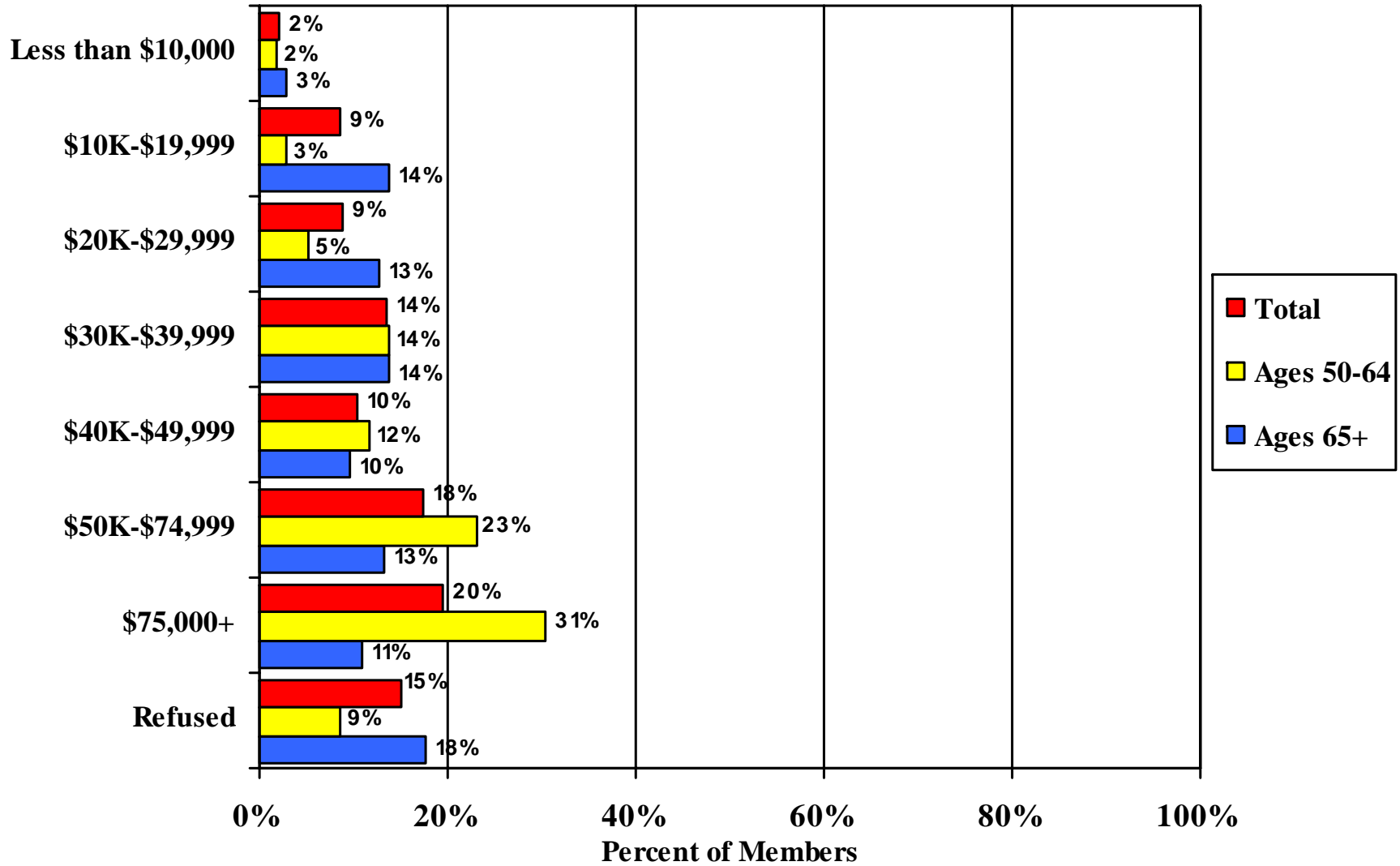
PLACE OF RESIDENCE



HOME OWNERSHIP



HOUSEHOLD INCOME



For Further Information, please contact:

John Fries

Senior Project Director

Alan Newman Research

804.272.6100 ext. 228

jfries@anr.com



Alan Newman Research

MARKET RESEARCH CONSULTANTS