

# Californians and Public Education

— VIEWS FROM THE 2020 PACE/USC ROSSIER POLL —

PACE Annual Conference  
February 7, 2020  
Sacramento, California

@edpolicyinca



#2020PACE

# Panelists



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Julie Marsh, Professor  
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USC Rossier School of  
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Director, PACE



Michal Kurlaender,  
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Karen Symms  
Gallagher, Emery  
Stoops and Joyce  
King Stoops Dean  
of the USC Rossier  
School of  
Education

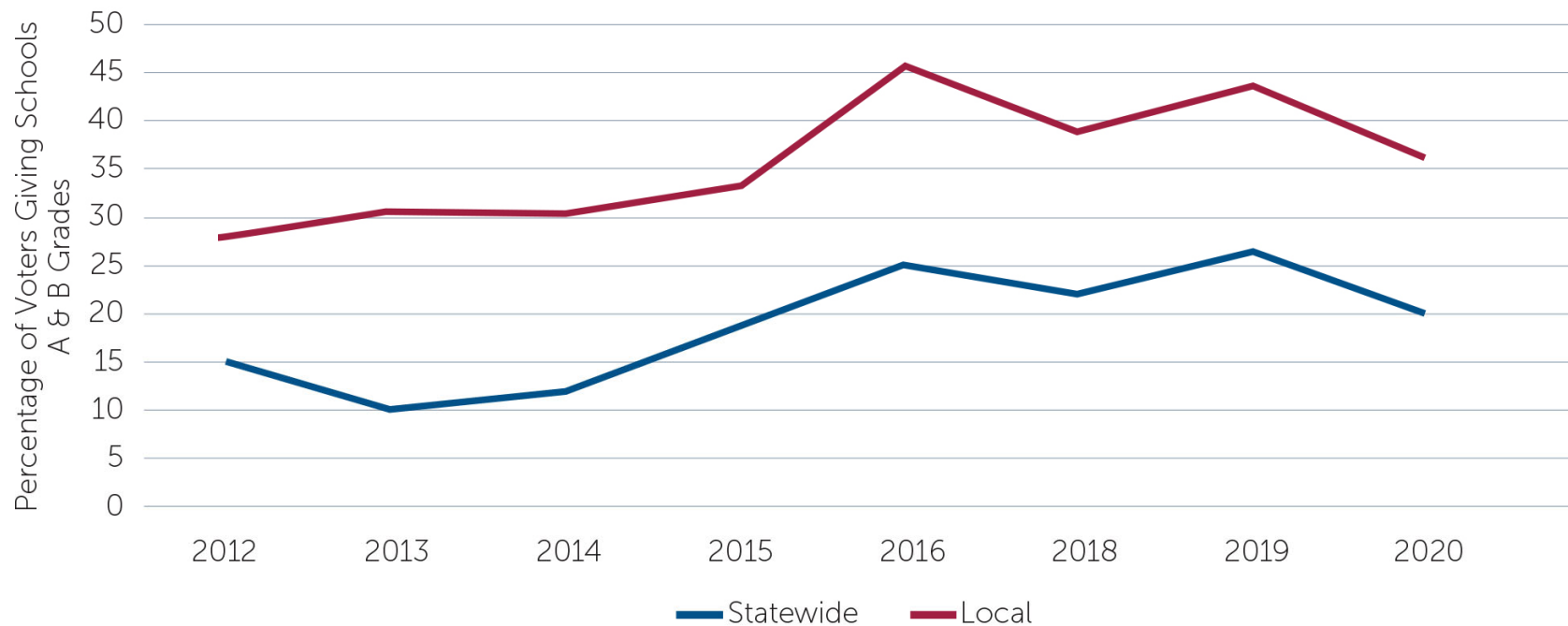
# The PACE/USC Rossier poll

- Registered California voters.
- Annually (mostly) since 2012.
- Online poll conducted by Tulchin Research.
- Mixture of new and legacy questions on state and national education policy issues.

# Five key findings

# 1. There is growing pessimism about the direction of California and its public schools.

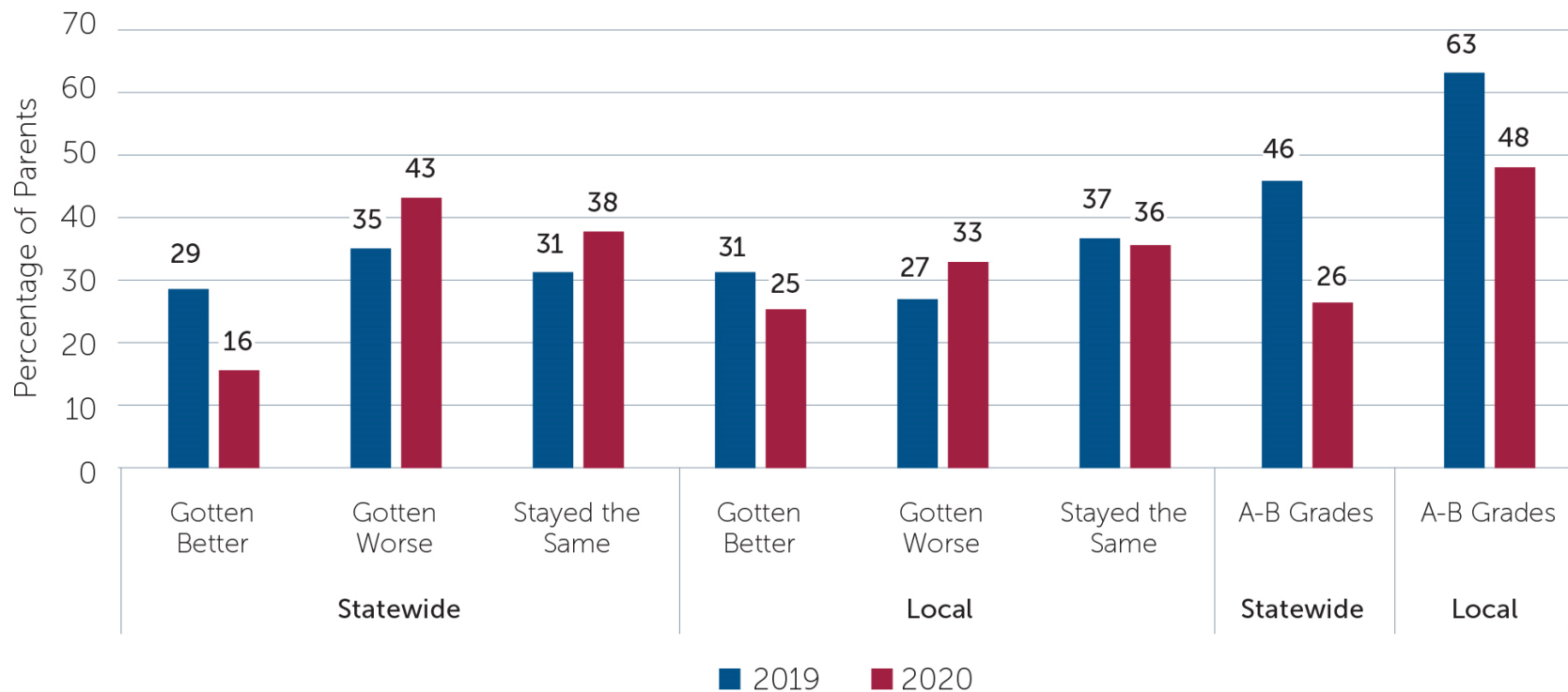
**Figure 1.** Voters' Perceptions of California Public Schools Over Time



Note: "Don't know" responses are not reported here. Poll was not administered in 2017.

# ... and parents' pessimism increased sharply

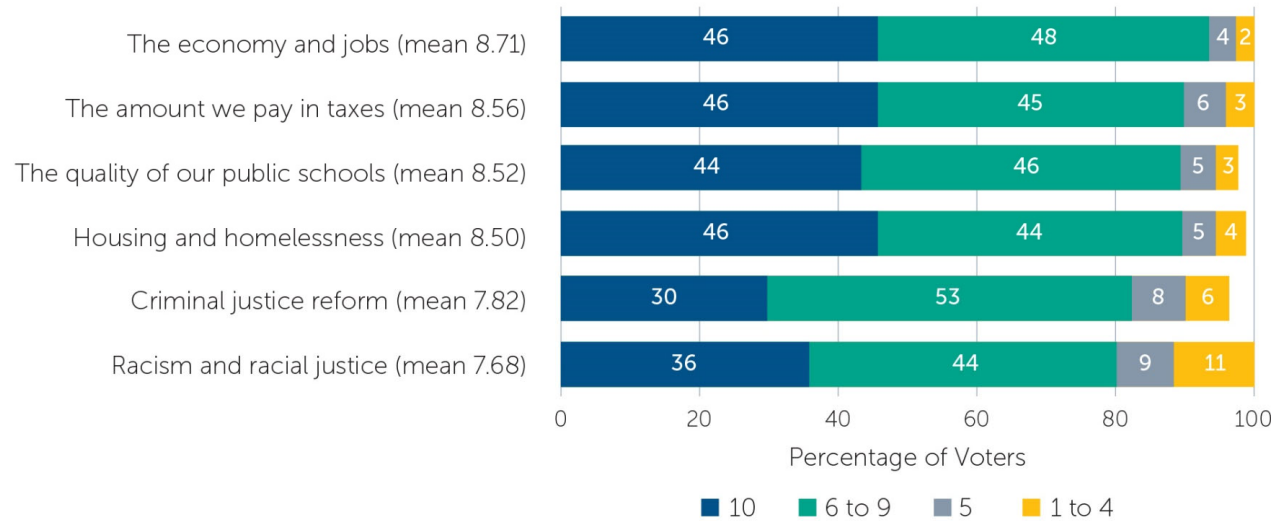
**Figure 3.** Parents' Perceptions of California Public Schools, 2019 vs. 2020



Note: "Don't know" responses are not reported here.

## 2. Voters have strong concerns about both gun violence in schools and the affordability of higher education and prioritize K-12 and higher education over early childhood.

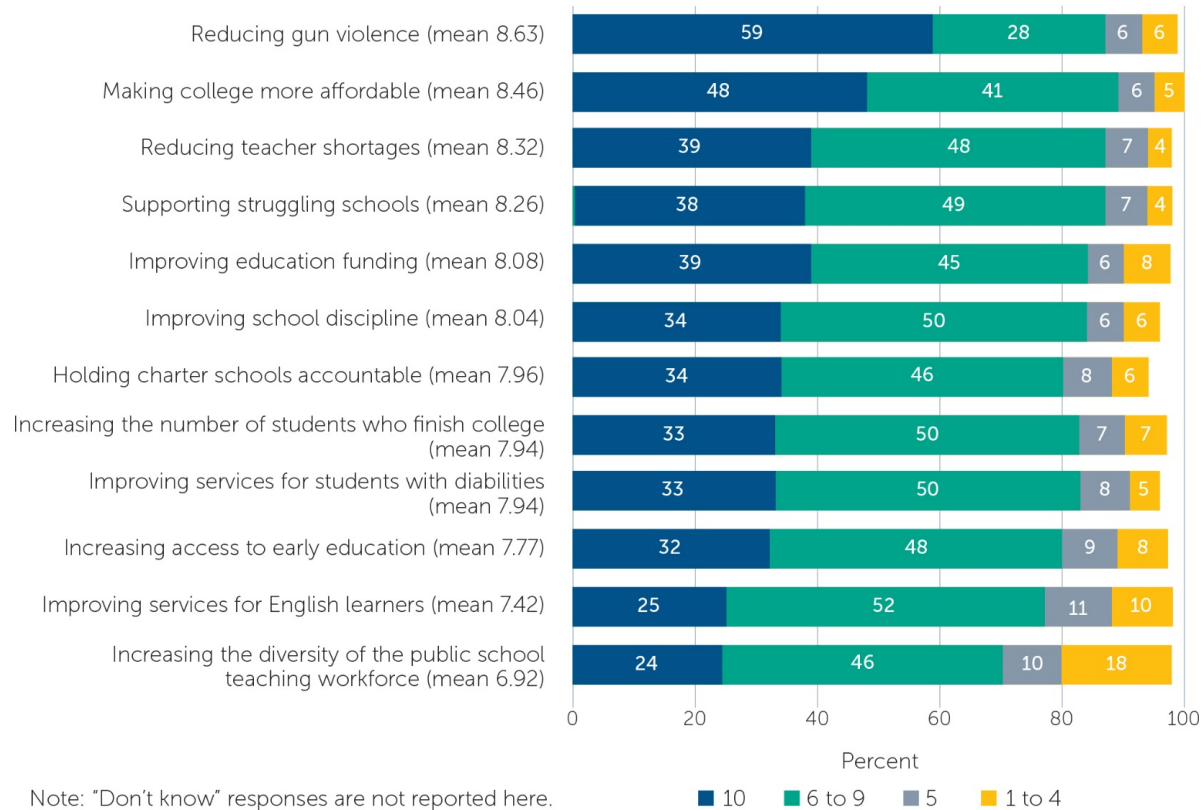
**Figure 6.** Importance of Issues for California Voters



Note: "Don't know" responses are not reported here.

# Gun violence looms large

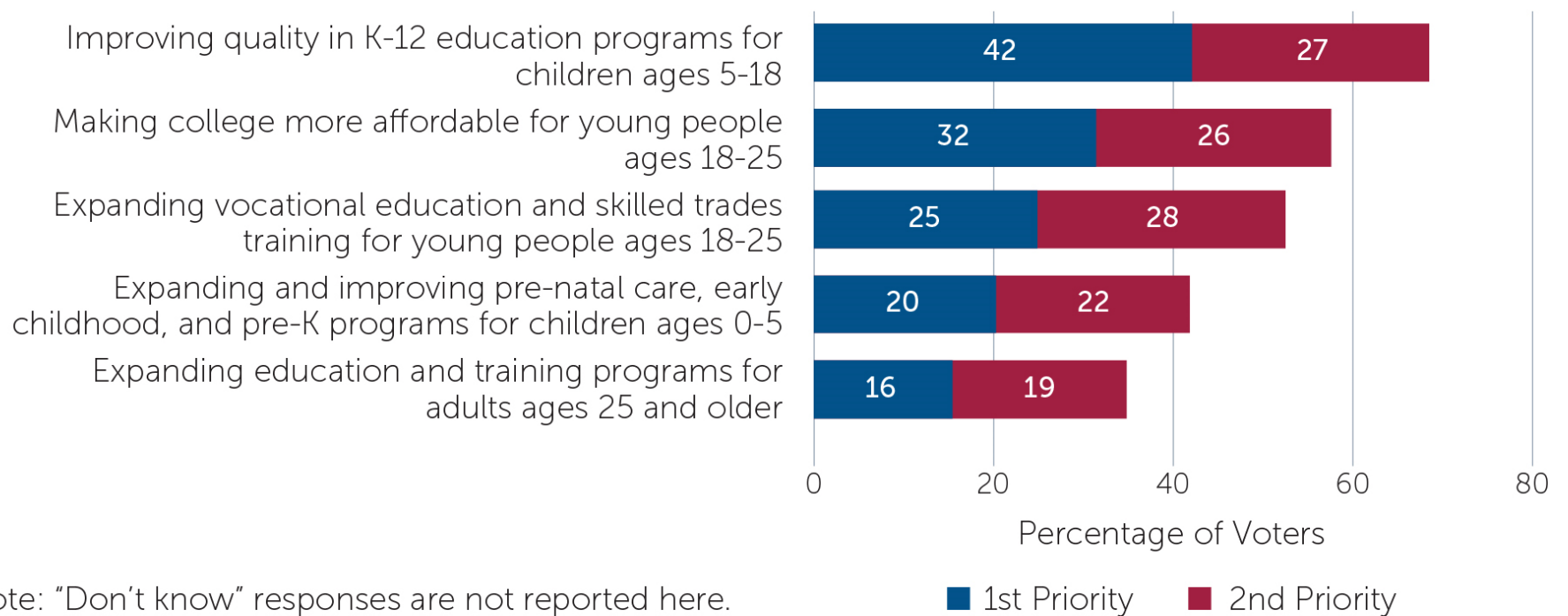
**Figure 7.** Importance of Education Issues for California Voters





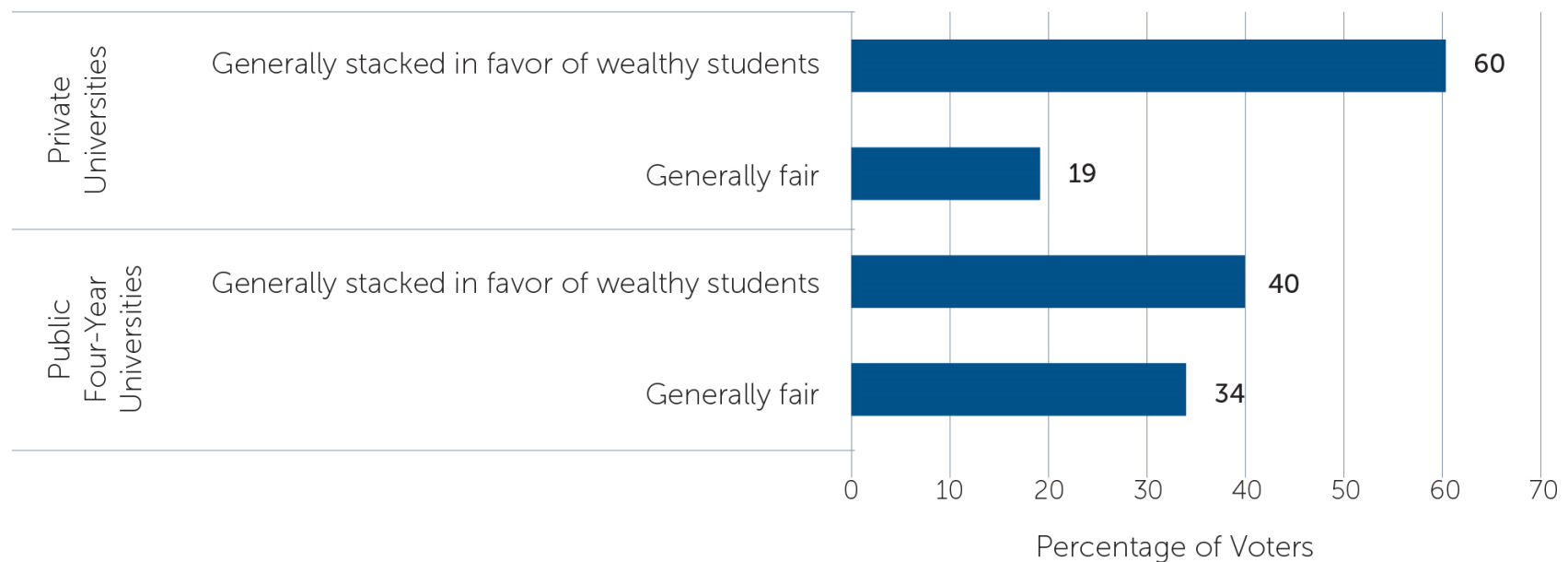
# K-12 and higher education are top priorities

**Figure 8.** Voter Budget Priorities from Cradle-to-Career



### 3. Voters express negative opinions about higher education, especially the fairness of private college admissions.

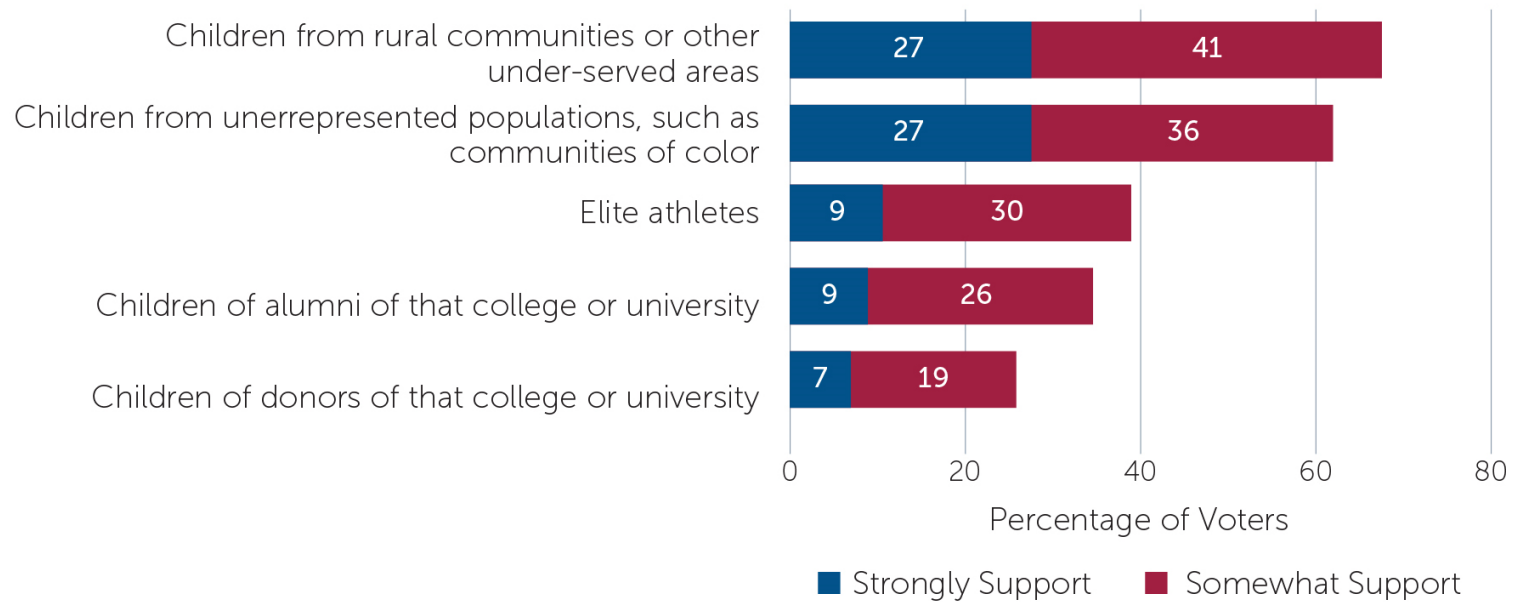
**Figure 9.** Voter Perspectives on the Fairness of College Admissions



Note: "Don't know" and "Neither" responses are not reported here.

# Voters are increasingly skeptical of admissions preferences for certain groups

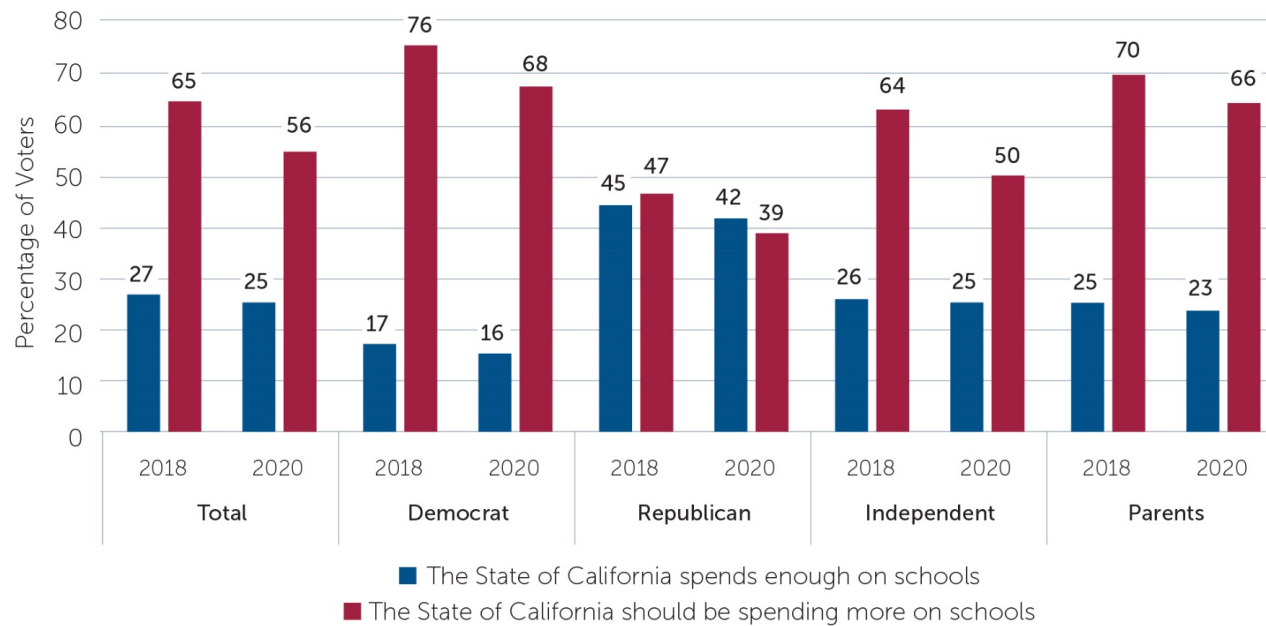
**Figure 10.** Voters' Opinions on Giving Preference in College Admissions



Note: Other response options are "Strongly Oppose", "Somewhat Oppose", and "Don't know."

# 4. Voters support an increase in educational spending and multiple approaches to paying for that spending.

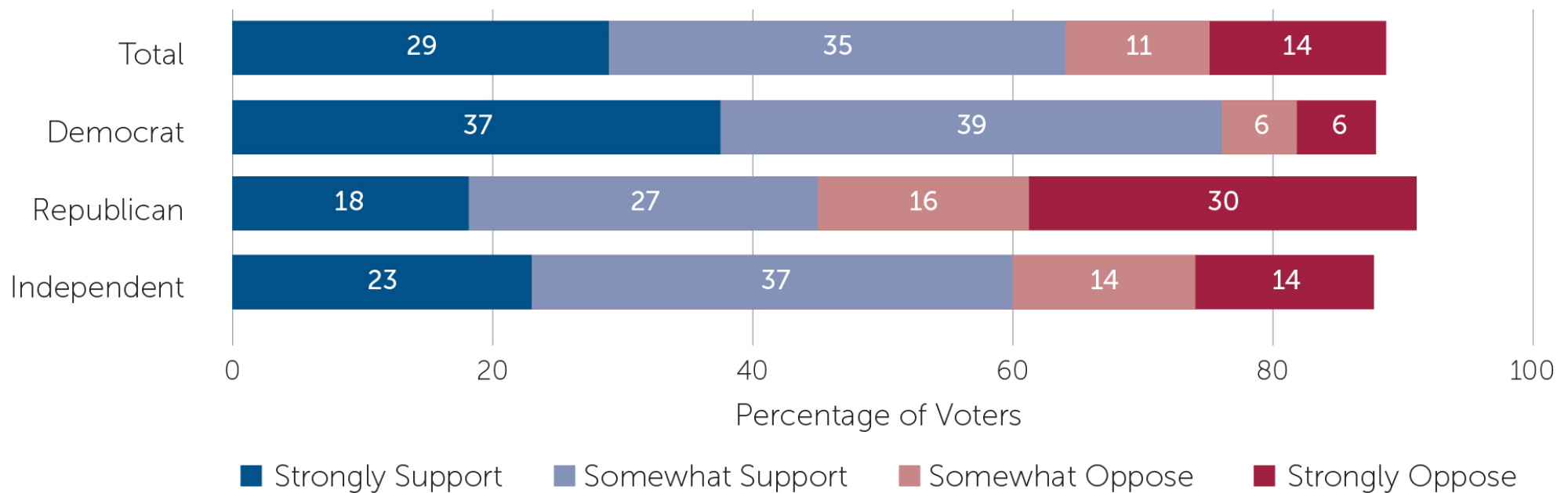
Figure 12. Voters' Opinions on School Spending by Group, 2018 vs. 2020



Note: "Don't know" and "Neither" responses are not reported here.

# Strong support for a proposed bond measure

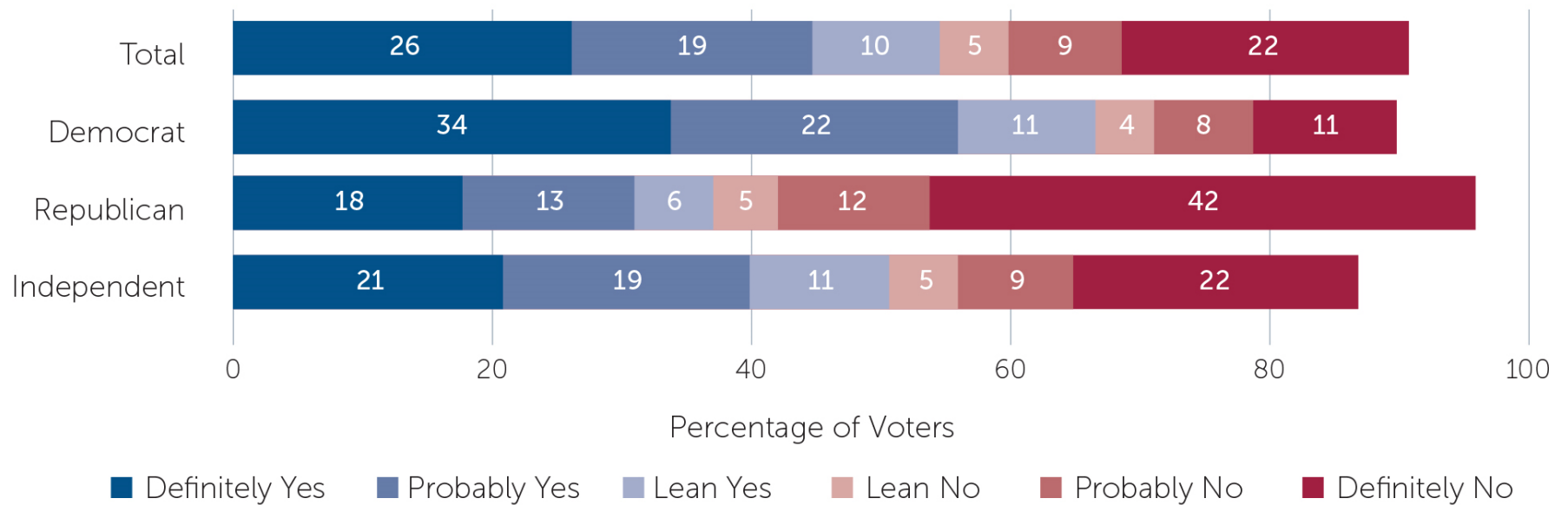
**Figure 13.** Voters' Support of \$15 Billion School Bond, by Party



Note: "Don't know" responses are not reported here.

# Weaker support for the split roll

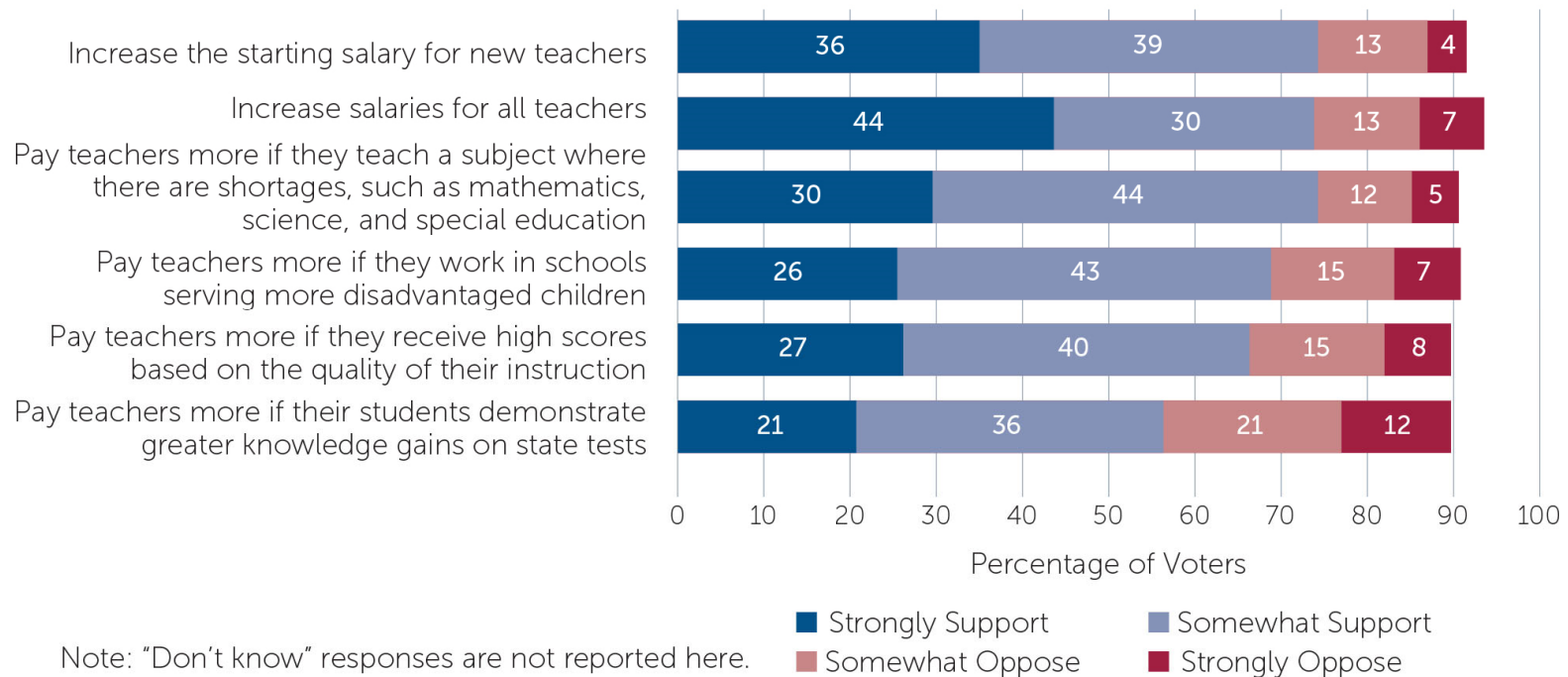
**Figure 14.** Voters' Views on the Proposition 13 "Split-roll" Ballot Measure



Note: "Don't know" responses are not reported here.

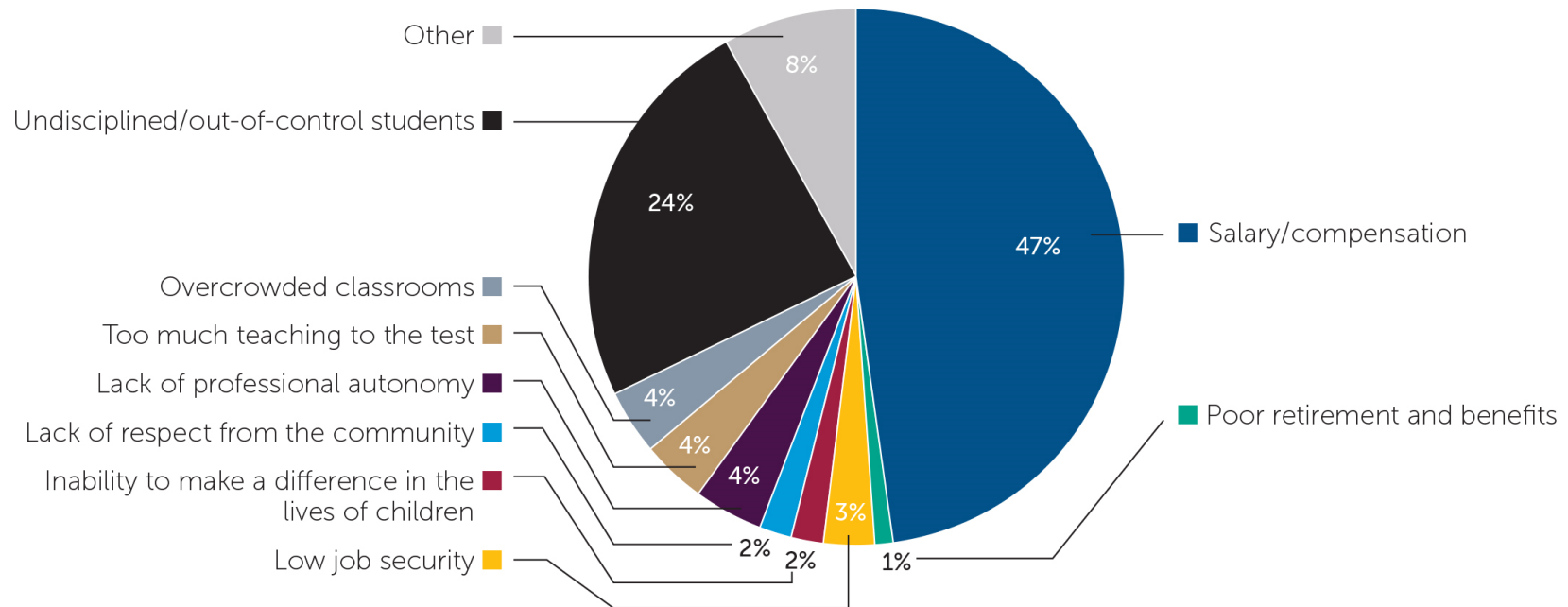
# 5. Voters are concerned about teacher shortages and are strongly supportive of increasing teacher salaries.

**Figure 16.** Voters' Views on Raising Teacher Salaries



# Salary is a main reason voters would discourage young people from being teachers

**Figure 17.** Why Voters Discourage Young People from Becoming Teachers





# Panel Discussion



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# Up Next...!

## Breakouts 1:15-2:45

Supporting Schools  
and Districts in  
Continuous  
Improvement

Magnolia Ballroom  
(Here)

Part 2: Developing  
Systems to Serve  
Students with  
Disabilities

Sycamore  
(Upstairs)

Making College  
Affordability a  
Reality for California  
Students

Alder  
(Upstairs)