



Support for Clean Energy & Energy Efficiency in Illinois

*Key Findings from a
February 2015 Statewide Voter Survey*

220-4088C

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**PUBLIC OPINION
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Methodology

- FM3 and POS completed 402 telephone interviews with likely November 2016 voters in Illinois
 - *Interviews conducted February 8-15, 2015*
 - *Interviews conducted on landlines and cell phones*
- Margin of sampling error of +/- 4.9% at the 95% confidence interval
 - *Margins of error for subgroups are larger*
 - *Due to rounding, not all percentages sum to 100%*

Key Findings

- Energy and climate issues are at best middle-tier concerns in Illinois, with cost of living issues much more at the top of voters' minds.
- At the same time, most voters are confident that the state can have both a healthy environment and strong economy; want better enforcement of environmental laws; and believe some action should be taken to address global warming.
- Voters strongly support more use of energy efficiency -- and to a lesser degree wind and solar power -- but are also strongly supportive of more use of natural gas.
- They believe more use of renewable energy will create jobs and reduce energy costs – and are willing to pay more on their electricity bills to obtain it.
- Voters offer strong support for the Clean Power Plan (66%) and establishing a state-level plan to meet its goals in Illinois (80%).
- That support cuts across partisan, demographic, and regional lines – and remains relatively strong after messaging.



Issue Context

Illinois voters do *not* see the environment and the economy as being in conflict.

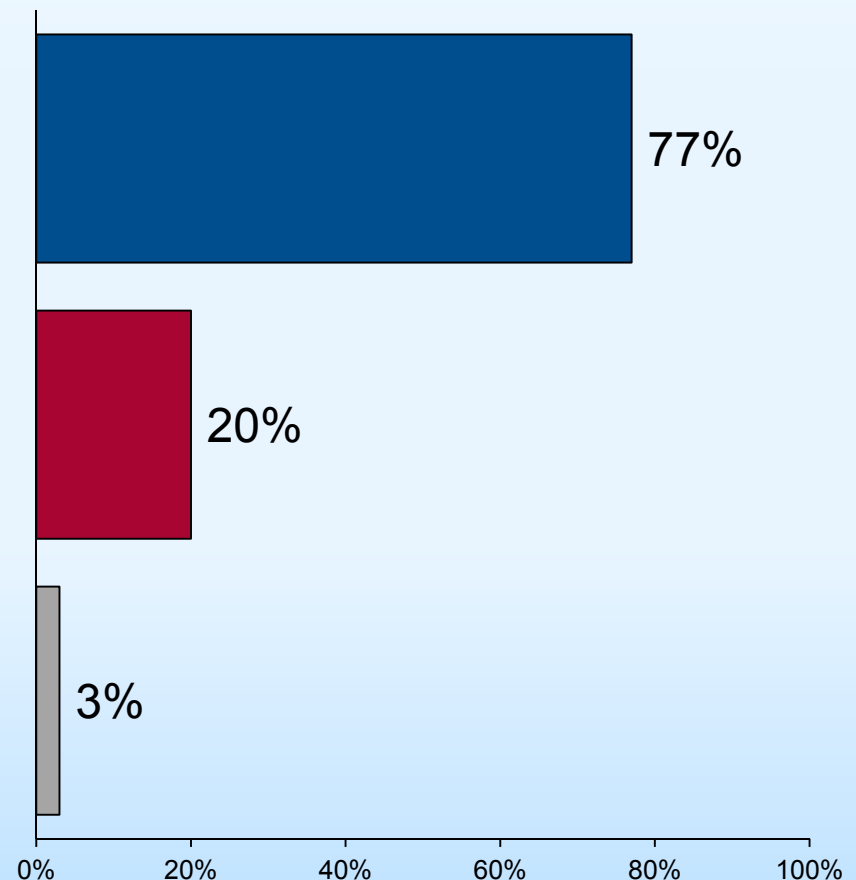
I am going to read you a pair of statements. Please tell me which statement comes closest to your own view, even if neither of the statements matches your views exactly.

We can have a clean environment and a strong economy at the same time without having to choose one over the other.

OR

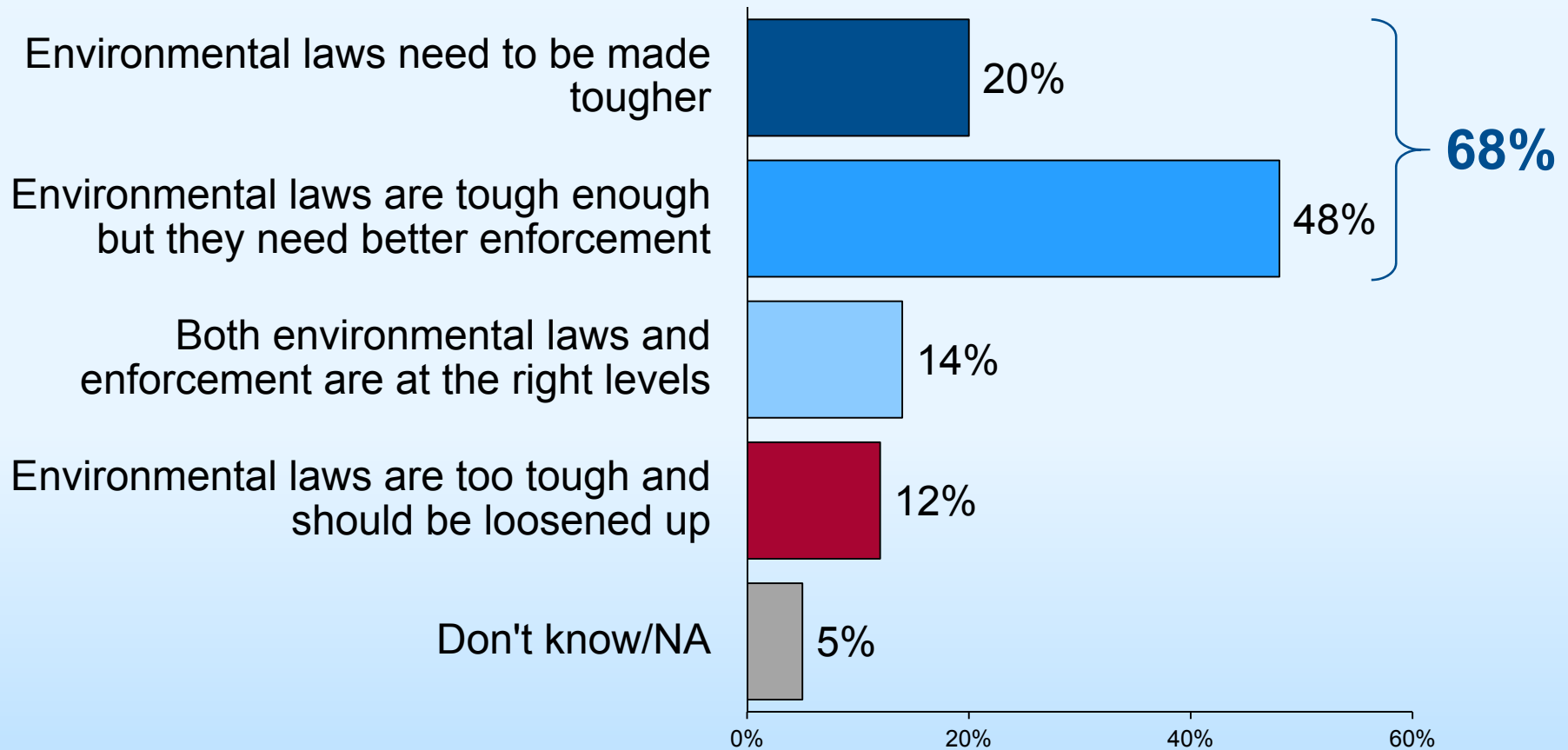
Sometimes a clean environment and a strong economy are in conflict and we must choose one over the other.

Both/Neither/Don't know/NA



More than two-thirds want tougher environmental laws or better enforcement.

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of government regulations of the environment in Illinois?

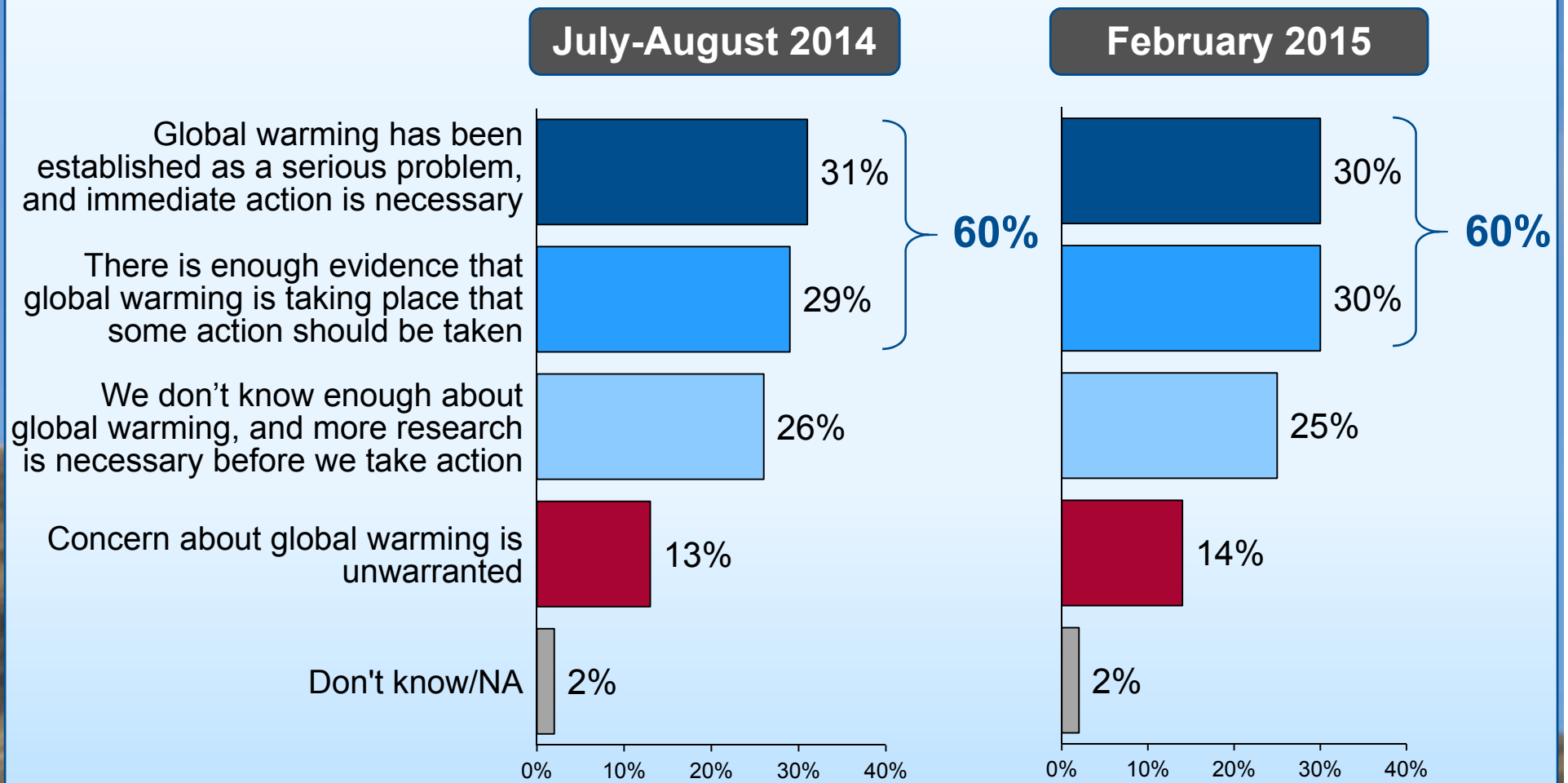


There is a broad consensus for tougher laws or better enforcement among all but conservative Republicans.

| Statements | Democrats | | Independents | Republicans | |
|--------------------|-----------|---------------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | Liberal | Moderate/ Conservative | | Liberal/ Moderate | Conservative |
| Made Tougher | 38% | 24% | 15% | 20% | 8% |
| Better Enforcement | 43% | 52% | 53% | 51% | 36% |
| Right Levels | 13% | 15% | 14% | 3% | 20% |
| Too Tough | 4% | 8% | 11% | 18% | 27% |
| Don't Know/NA | 2% | 1% | 7% | 8% | 8% |

Voters have held steady in their support for action on global warming since last summer.

From what you know about global warming, which of the following four statements is closest to your opinion:

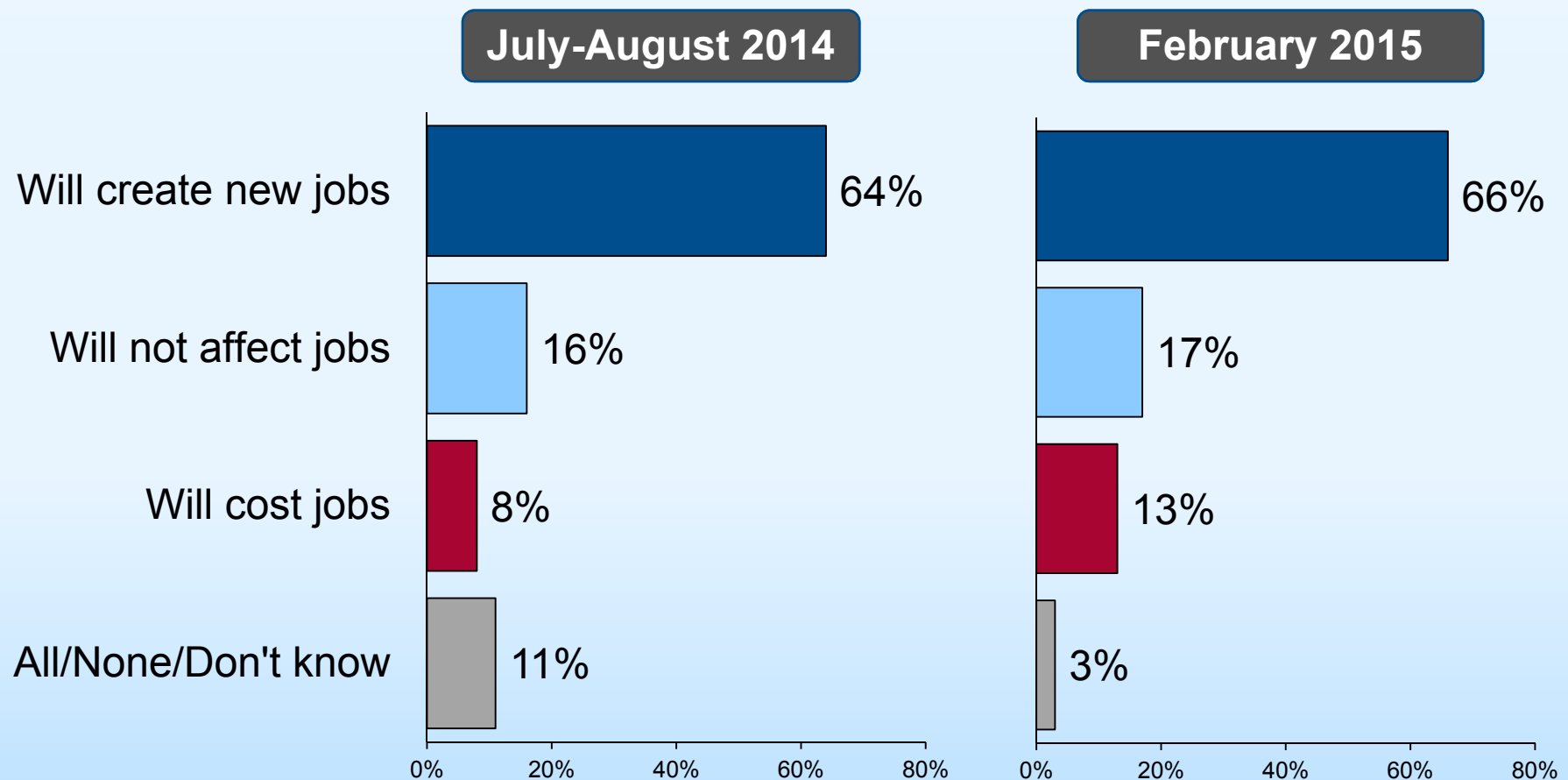


A photograph of a wind farm in a rural landscape. Three large white wind turbines are visible, standing on rolling green and yellow hills. The foreground is a lush green field. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. The text "Views on Clean Energy" is overlaid in the center in a white, bold, sans-serif font with a thin black outline.

Views on Clean Energy

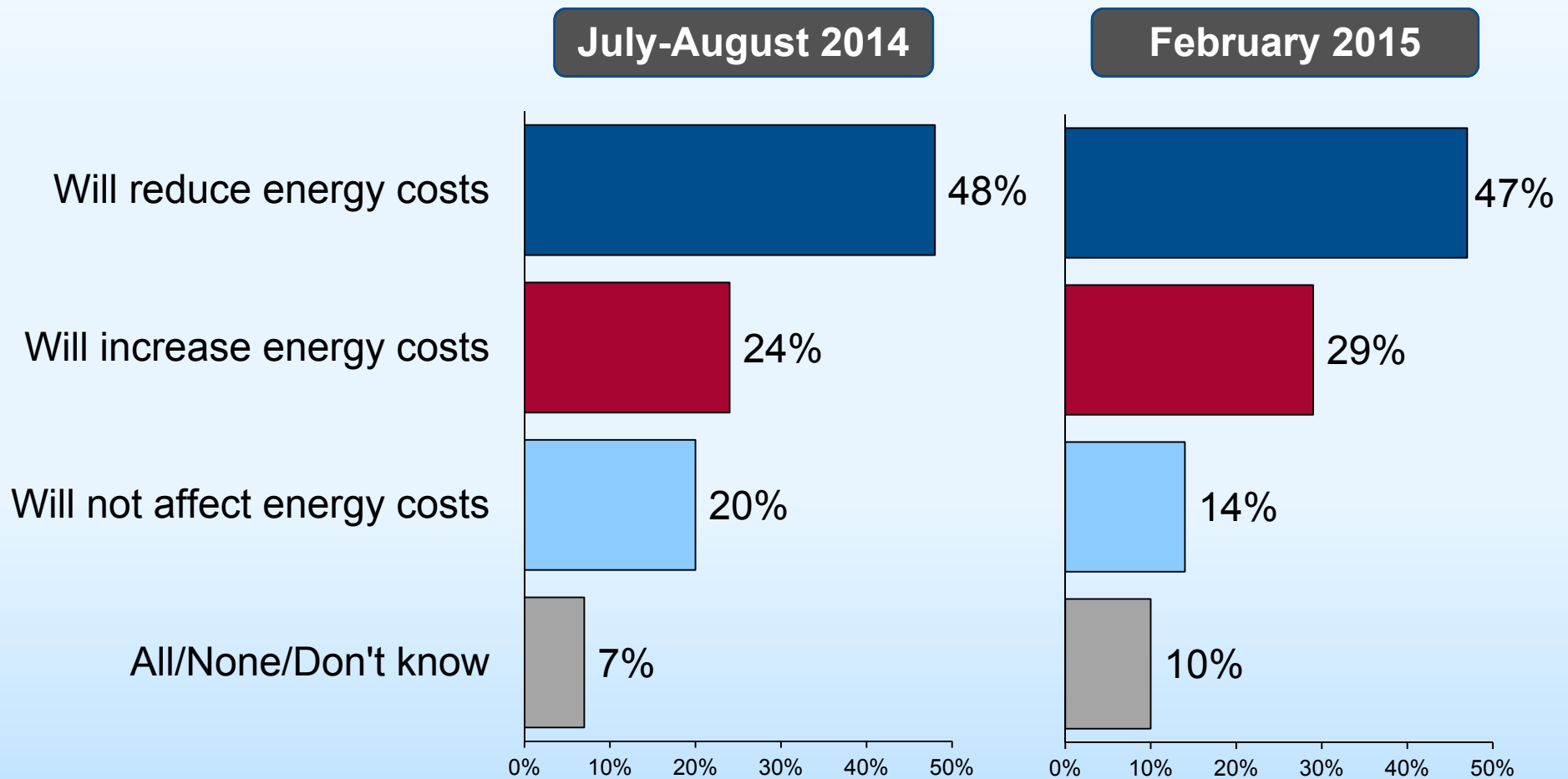
Illinois voters believe more use of clean energy will create jobs...


Which of the following comes closer to your point of view: Increasing the use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power in Illinois ...



...and lead to *lower* energy costs.

And which of the following comes closer to your point of view: Increasing the use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power in Illinois

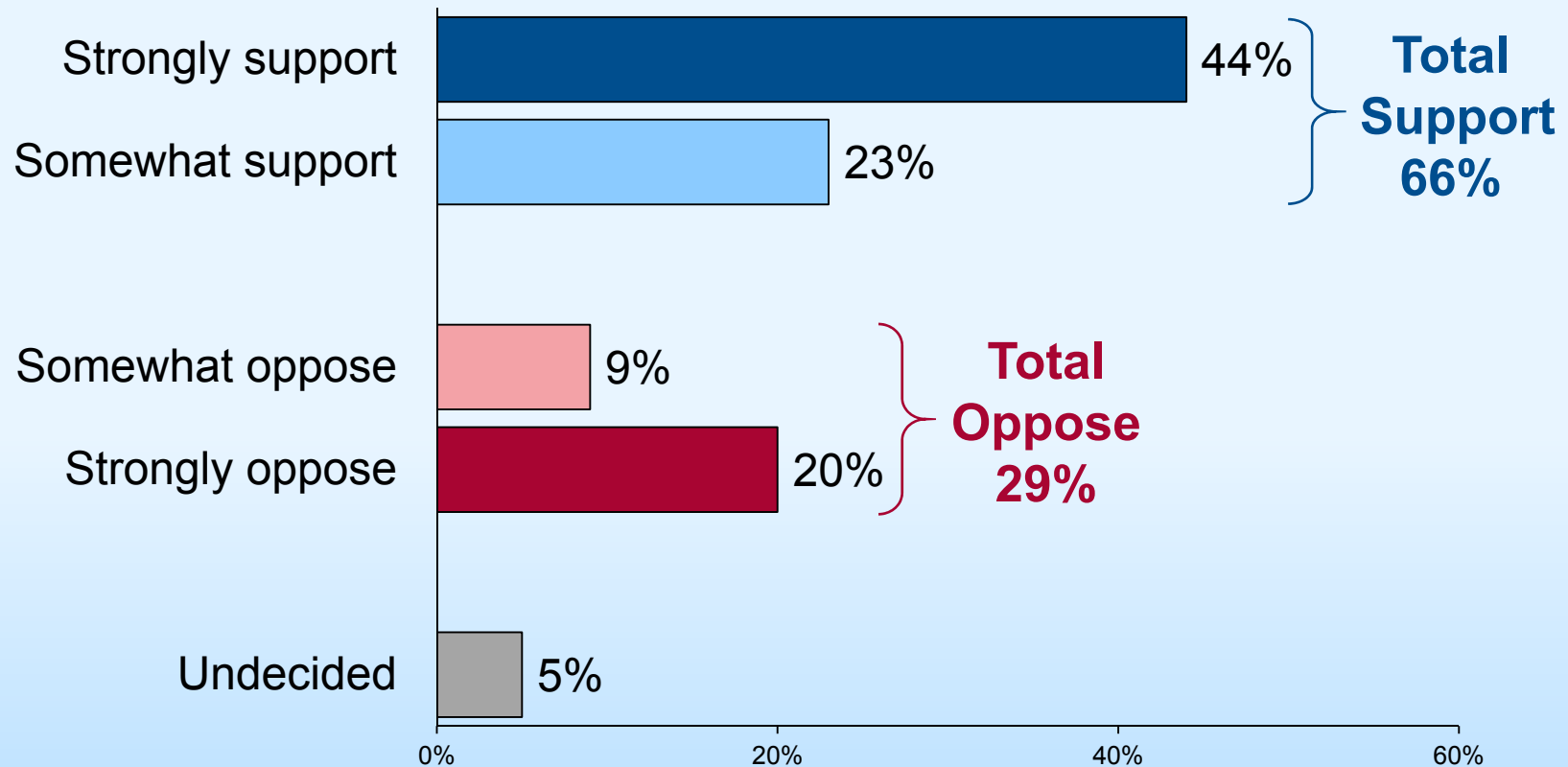




Introducing the Clean Power Plan

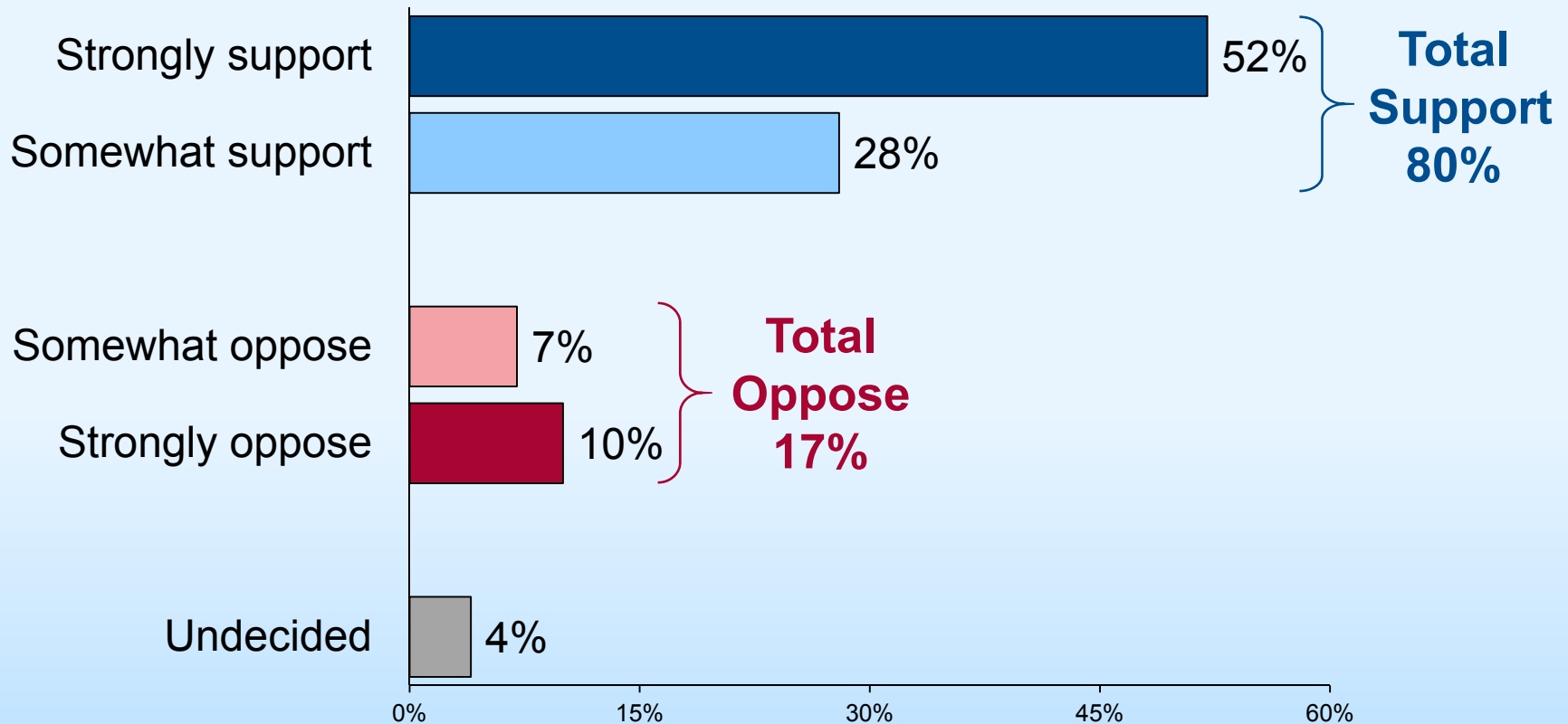
Nearly two-thirds support the Clean Power Plan, given a short description.

President Obama has directed the Environmental Protection Agency, known as the EPA for short, to set strict carbon dioxide emission limits on existing coal-fired power plants with a goal to reduce emissions significantly by the year 2030. Do you support or oppose this policy?



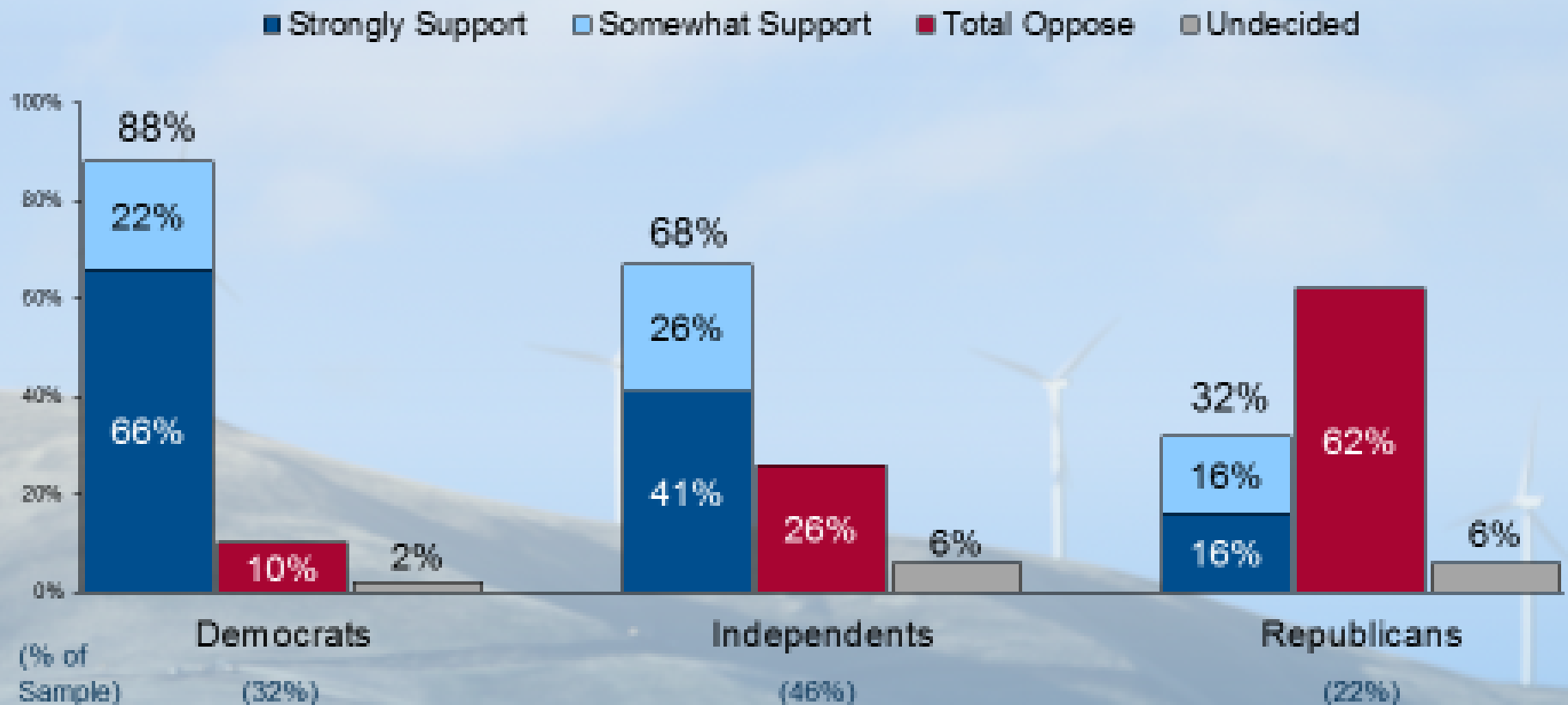
Voters even more strongly support a plan for implementation in Illinois.

These new federal rules will require Illinois to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 33% by 2030. In order to meet these requirements, and to promote the use of clean energy and increased energy efficiency, many states are developing their own energy plans. Would you support or oppose Illinois developing its own state plan to reduce carbon pollution and increase the use of clean energy and energy efficiency?



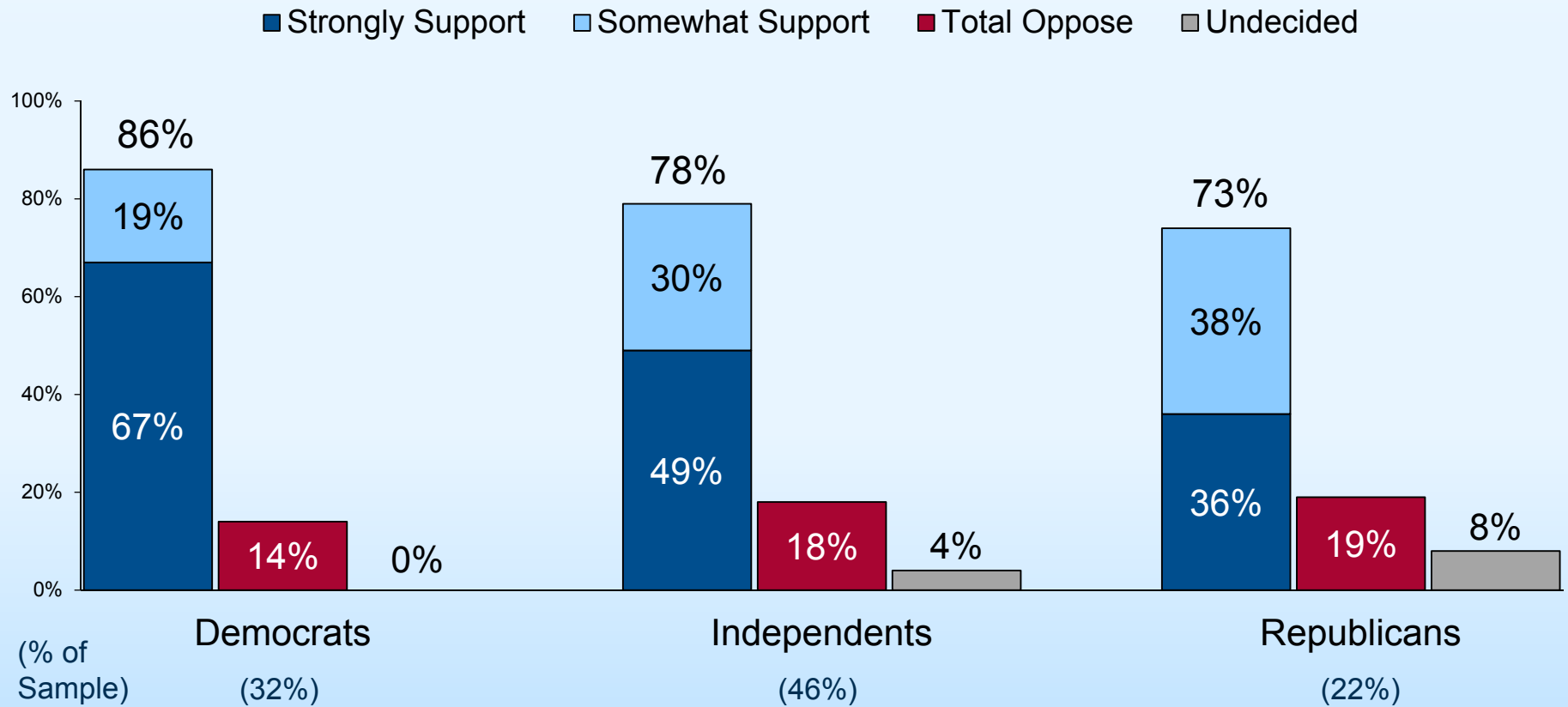
Both Democrats and independents support the Clean Power Plan.

Support for Clean Power Plan by Party



Voters of all parties support the idea, though GOP voters do so less strongly.

Initial Support for Illinois Clean Energy & Energy Efficiency Plan by Party



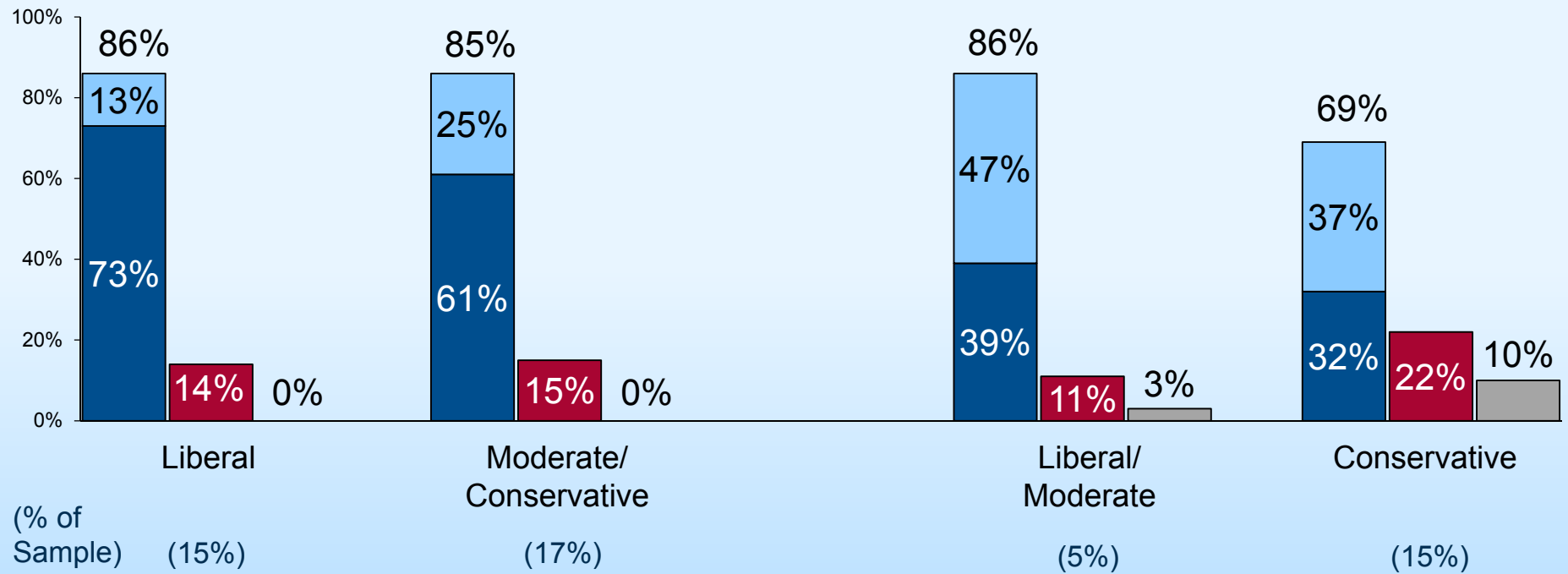
Conservative GOP voters are less supportive, but two in three still favor a state plan.

Initial Support for Illinois Clean Energy & Energy Efficiency Plan by Party by Ideology

■ Strongly Support
 ■ Somewhat Support
 ■ Total Oppose
 ■ Undecided

Democrats

Republicans



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