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# GLOBAL WARMING & ALTERNATIVE ENERGY: A LEADERSHIP SURVEY

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Civil Society Institute and 40MPG.org

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# METHODOLOGY

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A series of questions was asked on CARAVAN®, Opinion Research Corporation's twice-weekly national shared-cost survey. The purpose of the research was to gain an understanding of the views of Americans on issues related to global warming, alternative fuel and dependency on Middle Eastern oil.

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted among a sample of 1,029 adults (512 men and 517 women) age 18 and over, living in private households, in the continental United States. Interviewing was completed at ORC's Central Telephone Facilities during the period of February 23-26, 2006.

Completed interviews of the 1,029 adults were weighted by four variables: age, sex, geographic region, and race, to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the total adult population.

The margin of error at a 95% confidence level is plus or minus three percentage points for the sample of 1,029 adults. Smaller sub-groups will have larger error margins.



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# Executive Summary

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## Executive Summary

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Amid growing public concerns about climate change, strong majorities of Americans do not think there is enough national leadership on global warming and alternative energy issues and also support related state and local initiatives that are taking place in the absence of federal leadership. Key findings include the following:

- ◆ Three out of four Americans (76 percent) think the Federal government is “not doing enough to address global warming and develop alternative energy sources in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil”. Only about one in 10 Americans (12 percent) feels that the Federal government is doing enough. More than three out of five conservatives (63 percent) and about four out of five independents (79 percent) fault the Federal government for not doing enough.
- ◆ 83 percent of Americans support “more leadership from the Federal government to reduce the pollution linked to global warming, encourage new approaches to promoting conservation and spark the development of renewable or alternative energy sources.” The level of support is relatively uniform across political lines, including 81 percent of conservatives, 83 percent of independents and 88 percent of liberals.



## Executive Summary

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- ◆ More than three out of four Americans (77 percent) -- including 71 percent of conservatives -- think that “developing alternative or renewable energy sources and reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil should be President Bush's top priority for the balance of his term in office.”
- ◆ Over four out of five Americans (83 percent) – including 72 percent of conservatives and 85 percent of independents – would like to see more attention paid to global warming during the 2006 Congressional elections and the 2008 Presidential elections.
- ◆ More than four out five Americans (83 percent) agree that “in the absence of federal leadership,” they support “efforts by state and local officials to curb global warming and promote new energy resources.” Support for grassroots global action on global warming includes 77 percent of conservatives, 86 percent of independents and 92 percent of liberals. The level of backing among respondents in red states (81 percent) and blue states (86 percent) is roughly equal.



## Executive Summary

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- ◆ About three out of five Americans (58 percent) are more concerned about global warming today than they were two years ago – including 76 percent of liberals, 57 percent of independents and 42 percent of conservatives. Only about three in 10 Americans (29 percent) say there is “no change” in their view about global warming.
- ◆ A growing number of Americans think “it is patriotic to drive a more fuel-efficient vehicle since it requires less fuel to run, and therefore, can help to reduce U.S. dependency on Middle Eastern oil.” Today, 71 percent of Americans agree with that statement, including 66 percent of conservatives. When the same question was posed in a 40mpg.org survey released on March 17, 2005, two thirds of Americans agreed with the statement, including 57 percent of conservatives.
- ◆ Three out of four Americans (74 percent) – including 79 percent of conservatives – agree with the following statement: “Growing concerns about the reliability of Middle Eastern oil now make it difficult to separate our national security policy-keeping America safe - from our environmental policy-preserving the environment through conservation and the development of renewable or alternative energy resources.”



## Executive Summary

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Other findings from the CSI/40mpg.org survey include the following:

- ◆ A number of federal scientists and other experts say that they have been barred from speaking out on such topics as global warming - or strongly discouraged from doing so. Do you support or oppose the actions of federal whistleblowers who alert the public to potential problems that their superiors may want to keep hidden?" Eight in ten support these actions (83%) including 58% who strongly support. Among liberals, support is highest (91%) compared to conservatives (73%) and independents (87%). Support is similar in red (82%) and blue (85%) states.
- ◆ In doing their research, scientists operate under the rule that they should not do something that they know is irreversible. Some experts say that the United States should act on global warming and renewable energy resources in the same way: by stepping in before it is too late to deal with the problem. Given that pollution from human activities already may change the climate in irreversible ways, do you agree or disagree with the following statement: U.S. leaders should take steps to reduce carbon pollution now and speed up the conversion to renewable energy and other alternatives." Nearly nine in 10 (87%) support this including 55 percent who strongly support it. Among liberals, support is again highest (93%) compared to conservatives (79%) or independents (89%). The difference among red and blue states is slight (85% vs. 89%).



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# Detailed Findings

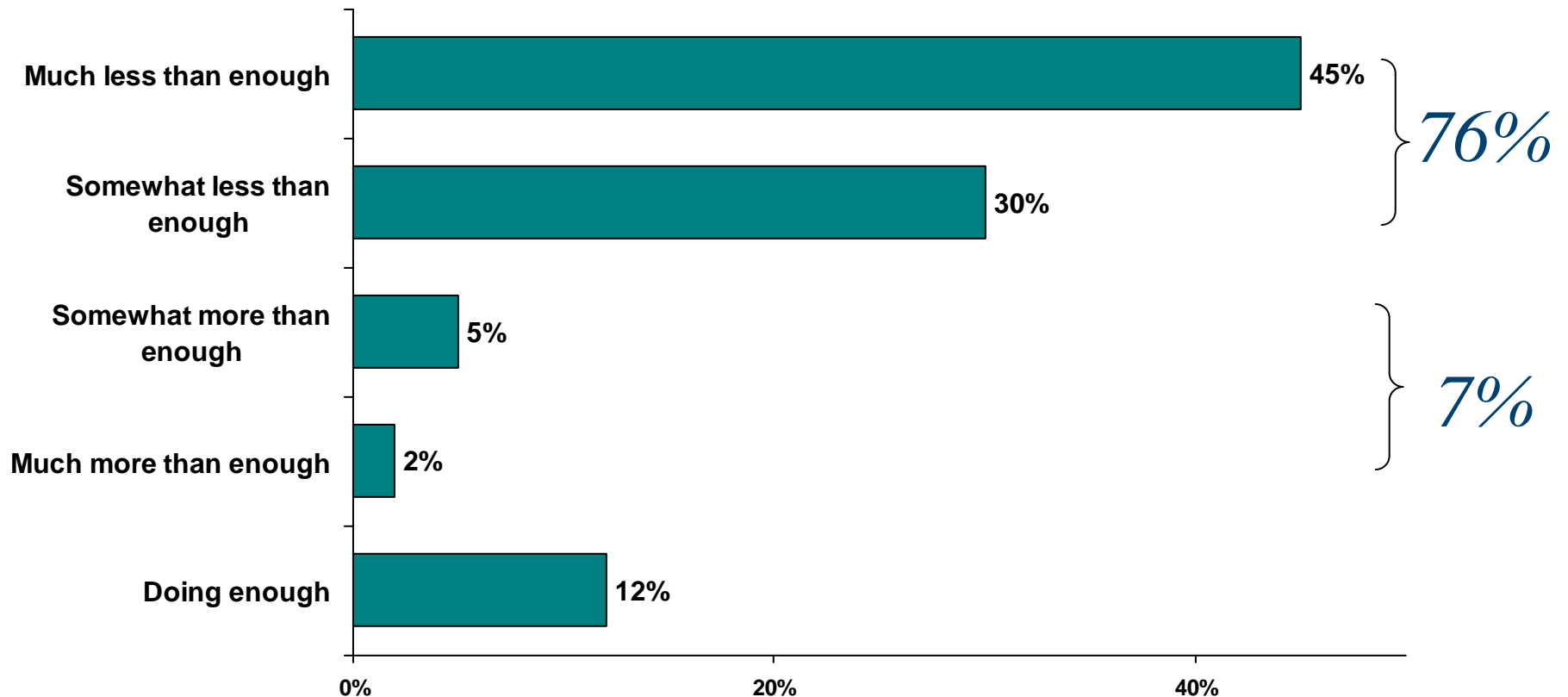
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# The Federal Government's Efforts to Reduce Global Warming

- ◆ Most Americans (76%) do not think the Federal government is doing enough to address global warming and develop alternative energy sources in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Forty-five percent think the government is doing much less than enough in this area and 30% think it is doing somewhat less than enough. Only 19% think the government is doing enough (12%) or more than enough (7%).
  - Males (49%) and respondents aged 45-64 (52%) are more likely to think the government's efforts have been much less than enough. Females (34%) and respondents aged 18-34 (39%) think the government is doing somewhat less than what is needed.
  - Among liberals (59%) and independents (51%) the feeling is that the government has done much less than needed, while only 28% of conservatives feel the same way.
  - Just fewer than half of those who live in red (42%) or blue (49%) states think the government has done much less than enough.

# The Federal Government's Efforts on Global Warming and Alternative Energy

QP2: Do you think the Federal government is doing enough to address the issue of global warming and develop alternative energy sources to reduce our dependence on foreign oil?



Base: Total respondents, N=1,029.



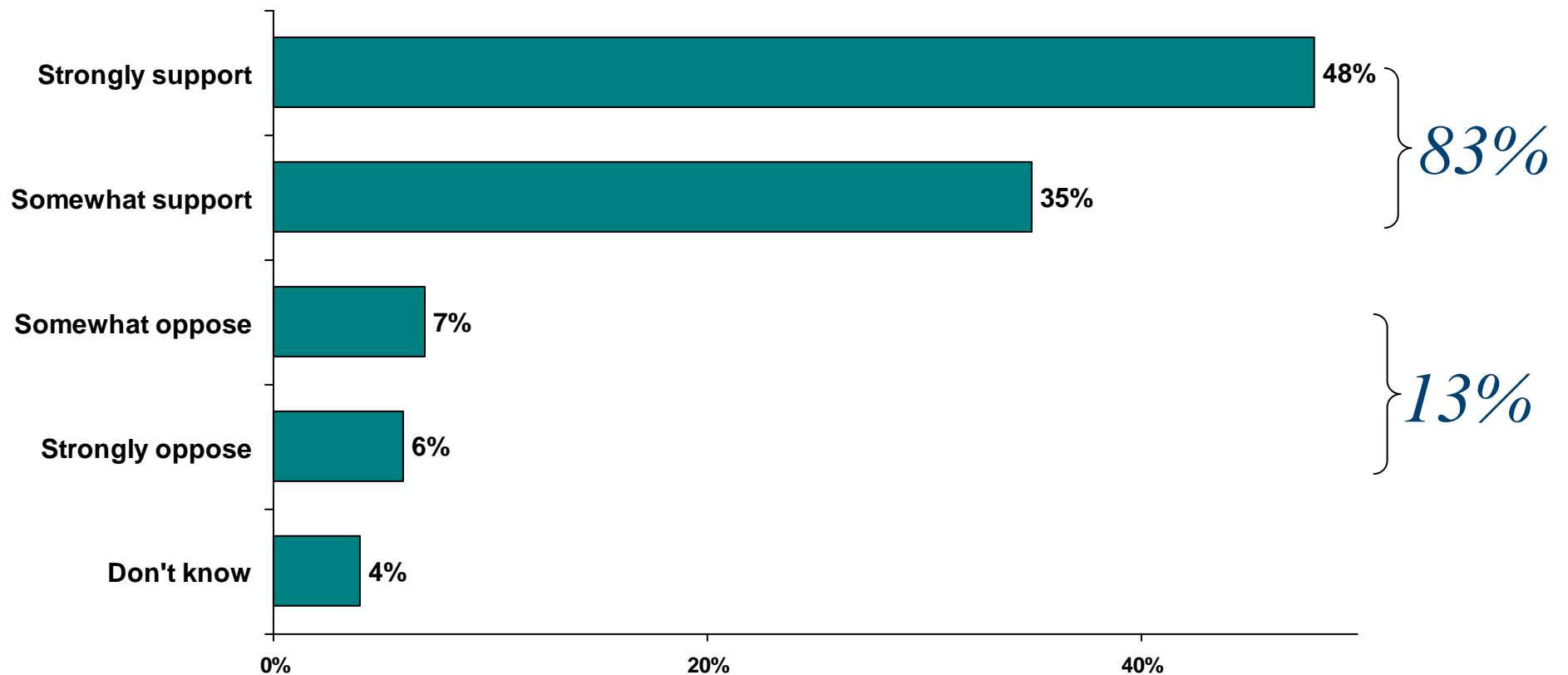
## More Federal Government Leadership Wanted

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- ◆ Eight in ten Americans strongly or somewhat support more leadership from the Federal government to reduce the pollution linked to global warming, encourage new approaches to promoting conservation and spark the development of renewable or alternative solutions. Forty-eight percent strongly support such efforts while 35% somewhat support it. Only 13% would oppose such action by the Federal government.
  - Women are slightly more likely than men to support Federal government activity in this area (86% vs. 80%).
  - There is little difference in the level of support for action on this issues by the Federal government among liberals (88%), conservatives (81%), independents (83%) or those in red (81%) or blue states (85%).

# Federal Government Leadership Wanted on Reducing Global Warming and Developing Alternative Energy

QP7: Do you support or oppose, somewhat or strongly, more leadership from the Federal government to reduce the pollution linked to global warming, encourage new approaches to promoting conservation, and spark the development of renewable energy sources?



Base: Total respondents, N = 1,029



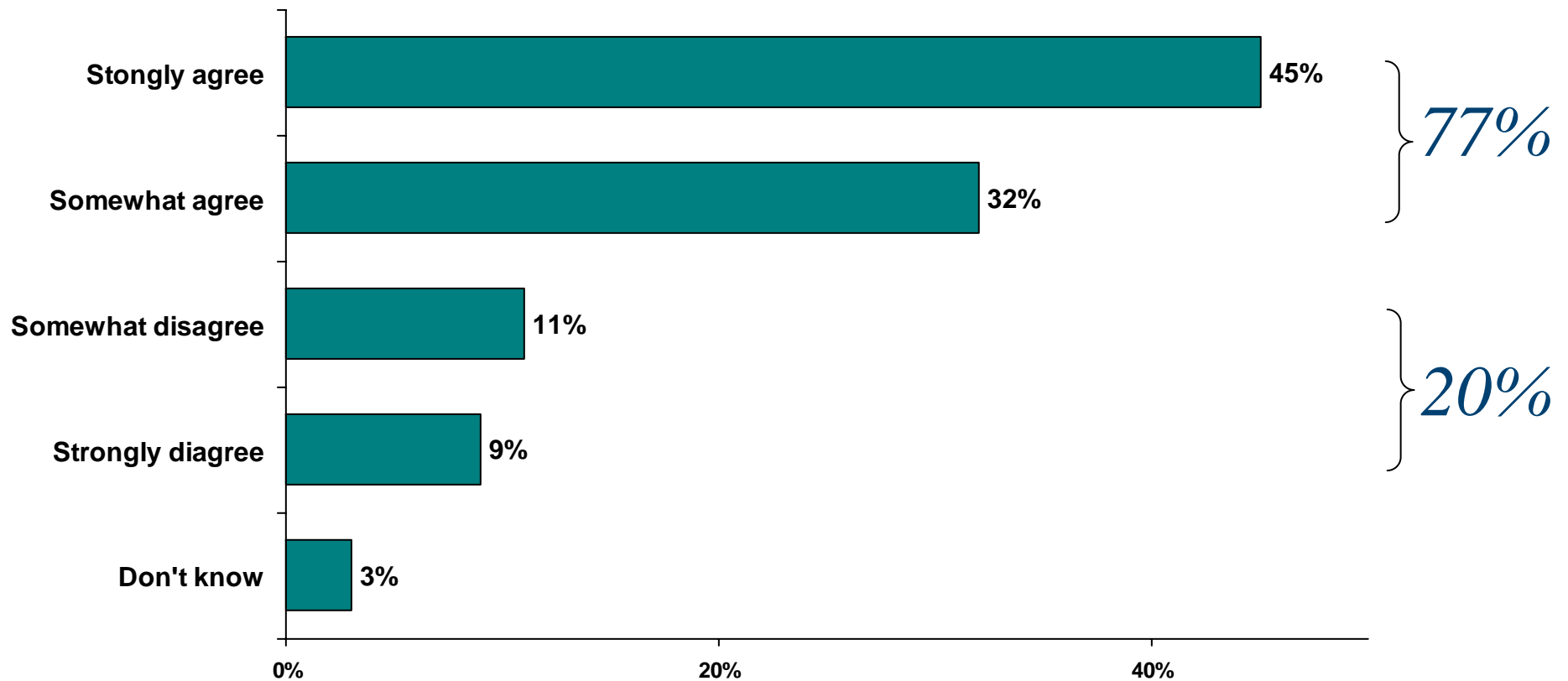
## The President's Top Priority

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- ◆ More than three fourths of Americans (77%) agree that the President's top priority for the rest of his term should be developing alternative or renewable energy sources and reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil. Forty-five percent strongly agree that the President should focus his efforts in this area while 32% somewhat agree. Only one-fifth (20%) disagree that the President should focus his efforts in this way.
  - Liberals (84%) and independents (78%) are more likely to agree that the President should focus on this issue for the remainder of his term than are conservatives (71%). Red and blue state residents have the same level of agreement with this statement (77%).

# The President's Top Priority

QP5: Do you agree or disagree, somewhat or strongly, that developing alternative or renewable energy sources and reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil should be President Bush's top priority for the balance of his term in office? Do you...?



Base: Total respondents, N = 1,029.



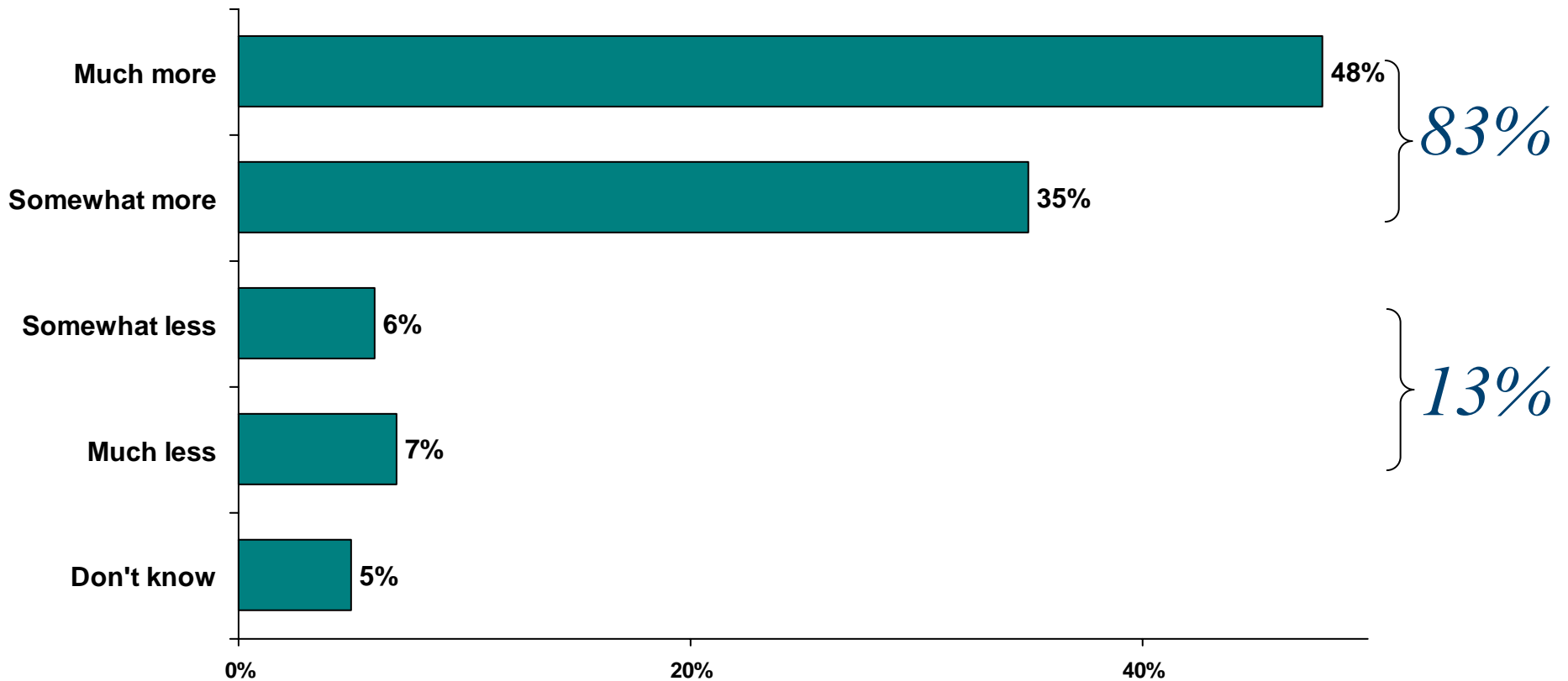
## Attention Paid to Global Warming/Alternative Energy Sources in the Upcoming Elections

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- ◆ More than eight in ten Americans (83%) would like more attention -- much more (48%) or somewhat more (35%) -- paid to global warming or alternative energy sources in the upcoming Congressional and Presidential elections. Only 13% would like these issues to receive less attention in the elections.
  - Liberals (92%) and independents (85%) are much more likely than conservatives (72%) to want global warming and alternative energy sources to receive more attention in the upcoming elections.

# Attention Paid to Global Warming/Alternative Energy Sources in the Upcoming Elections

*QP4: Some scientists are warning that we may be reaching a “point of no return” on global warming. Some experts say we may have as little as 10 years to make serious strides to reduce the pollution linked to global warming. How much attention would you like to see paid to global warming or alternative energy solutions during the 2006 Congressional elections and the 2008 Presidential elections? Would you say...?*



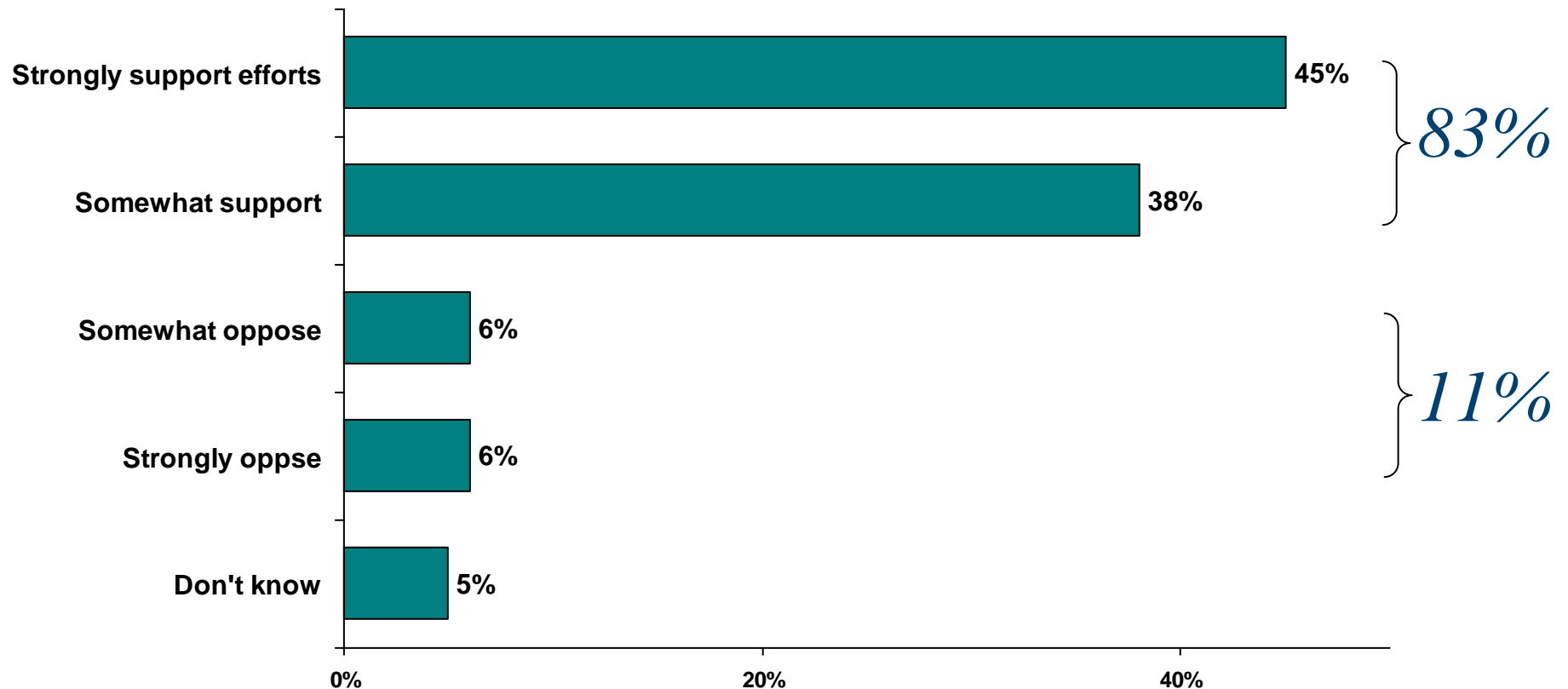
Base: Total respondents, N = 1,029.

## Support for Action at the State/Local Level in the Absence of Any Federal Action

- ◆ Eight in ten (83%) Americans strongly (45%) or somewhat (38%) support action by state or local authorities to deal with global warming in the absence of Federal action on this issue. Only 11% do not support action at the local or state level to fill the Federal vacuum.
  - Women are more likely than men to support this local action (86% vs. 81%.)
  - Strong support is highest in the West (91%) but there is also support for this activity in the Midwest (86%) and Northeast (83%), although less in the South (77%.)
  - Respondents with higher levels of education and household income are also more likely to strongly support state and local efforts to take steps to curb global warming. Only 45% of those with household incomes of less than \$25,000 strongly support these actions compared to 53% of those with incomes of \$75,000 or more. Also, only 38% of those with less than a high school education strongly support local action compared to 52% of those with a college degree.

# Support for Action at the State/Local Level in the Absence of Any Federal Action

*QP6: A number of efforts are taking place at the state and local level to deal with global warming through the promotion of renewable and other alternative energy sources, higher fuel-efficiency standards for vehicles, and other steps. Do you support efforts by state and local officials to curb global warming and promote new energy resources in the absence of federal leadership in these areas? Would you say you...*



Base: Total respondents, N=1,029.



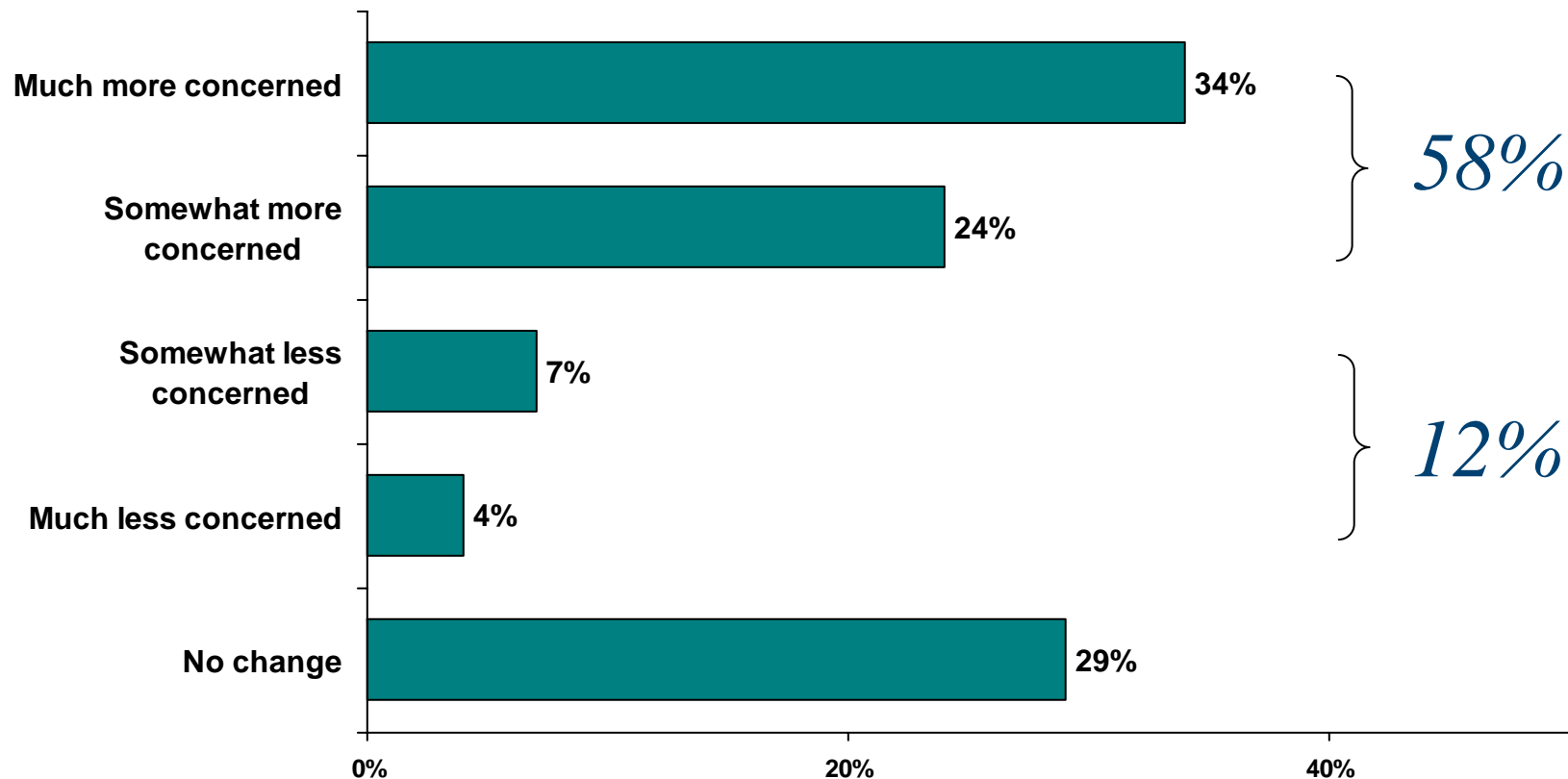
## Concern About Global Warming

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- ◆ More than half of respondents (58%) have had an increase in their level of concern about global warming in the last two years. One-third (34%) are much more concerned and 24% are somewhat more concerned than they were two years ago. Only 12% are less concerned and 29% have not experienced a change in their level of concern about global warming in the last two years.
  - Concern is dramatically up among liberals (76%) and less so among independents (57%) and conservatives (42%). Residents of red (56%) and blue states (60%) are equally likely to say they are more concerned now than they were two years ago about global warming.

# Concern About Global Warming

QP3: Based on what you have heard from experts or in news accounts, are you more or less concerned about global warming today than you were two years ago?



Base: Total respondents, N=1,029.



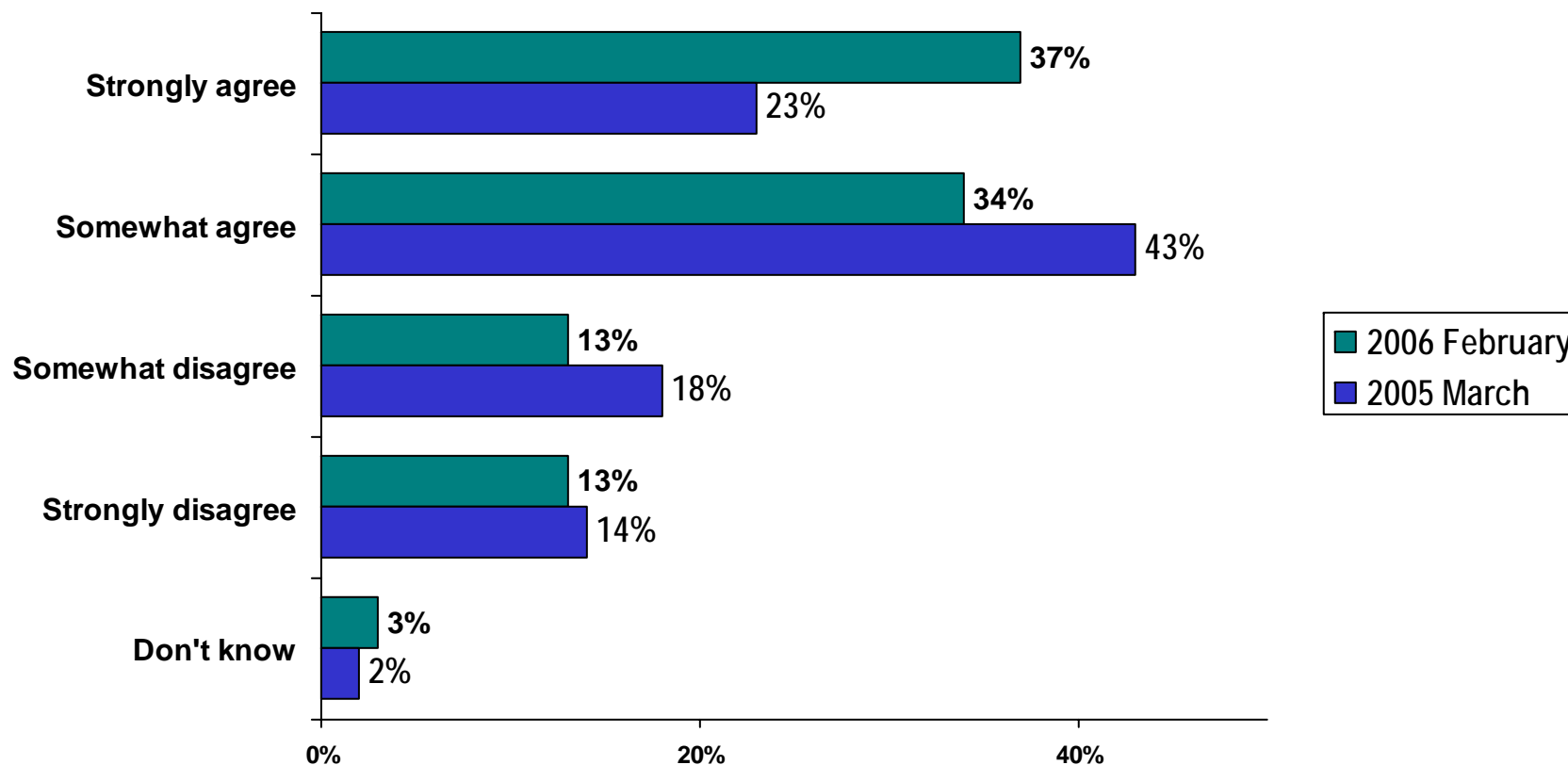
## Driving a Fuel Efficient Vehicle

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- ◆ More than seven respondents in ten (71%) agree it is patriotic to drive a fuel efficient vehicle because it requires less fuel and decreases our dependence on Middle Eastern oil. The last time this question was asked in March 2005 66% agreed that driving a fuel efficient vehicle is patriotic.
  - In this latest asking, women are more likely to agree with this statement than men (78% vs. 63%.) Also liberals are more likely to agree (78%) than independents (71%) or conservatives (66%).

# Driving a Fuel Efficient Vehicle is An Act of Patriotism

QP9: Some people say it is patriotic to drive a fuel efficient vehicle since it requires less fuel to run, and therefore, can help reduce U.S. dependency on Middle Eastern oil. Do you...



Base: Total respondents, N=1,029.



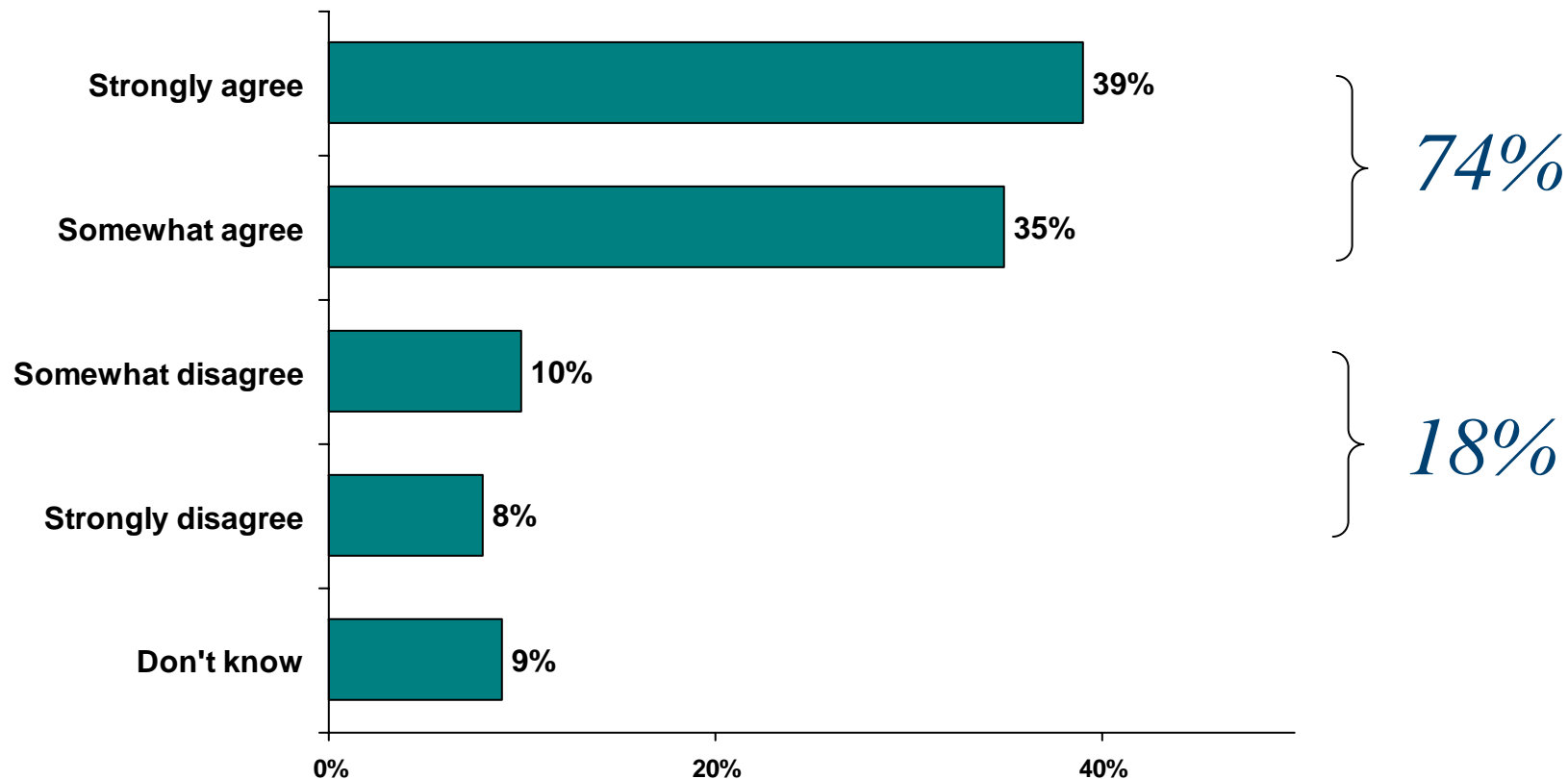
# Separating National Security from Environmental Policy

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- ◆ Three fourths of Americans (74%) agree that concerns about the reliability of Middle Eastern oil make it difficult to separate our national security interest of keeping our country safe, from the environmental interest of preserving through conservation and development of renewable or alternative resources. Only 18% disagree that it is difficult to separate these policies.
  - Conservatives are more likely to agree with this (79%) than liberals (77%) or independents (71%).

# Separating National Security Policy and Environmental Policy

*QPI: Please tell me if you agree or disagree, strongly or somewhat, with the following statement: growing concerns about the reliability of Middle Eastern oil now make it difficult to separate our national security policy -- keeping America safe -- from our environmental policy of preserving the environment through conservation and the development of renewable or alternative energy resources. Would you say you...*



Base: Total respondents, N=1,029.



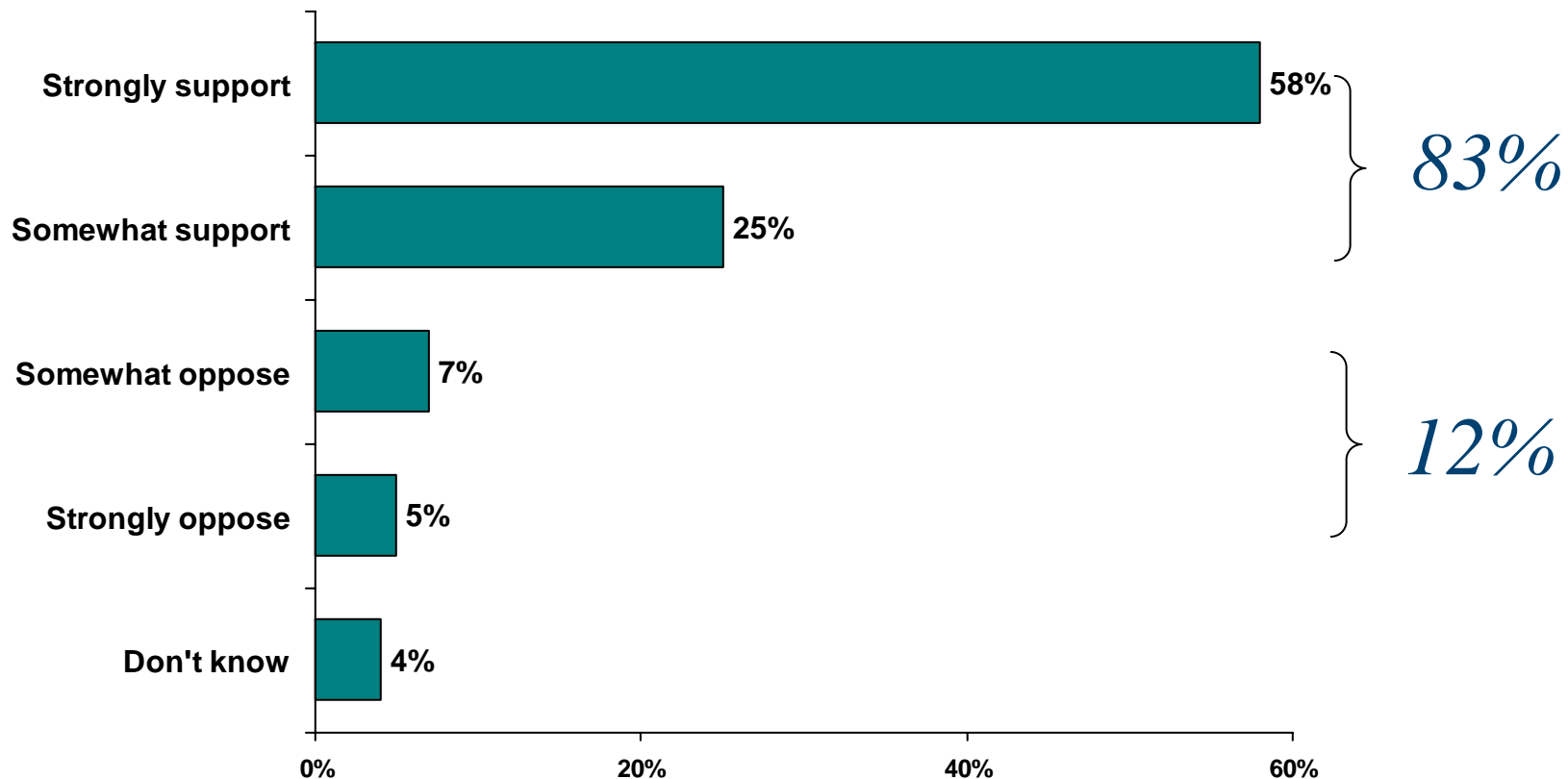
## Federal Whistleblowers

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- ◆ A majority of Americans (83%) support the actions of federal whistleblowers who want to speak out on topics of global warming when they are forbidden or strongly discouraged from doing so. Only 12% do not support such actions.
  - Support for whistleblowers is stronger among liberals (91%) and independents (87%) than conservatives (73%).

# Federal Whistleblowers

*QP8: A number of federal scientists and other experts say that they have been barred from speaking out on such topics as global warming – or strongly discouraged from doing so. Do you support or oppose the actions of federal whistleblowers who alert the public to potential problems that their superiors may want to keep hidden? Would you say you...*



Base: Total respondents, N=1,029.



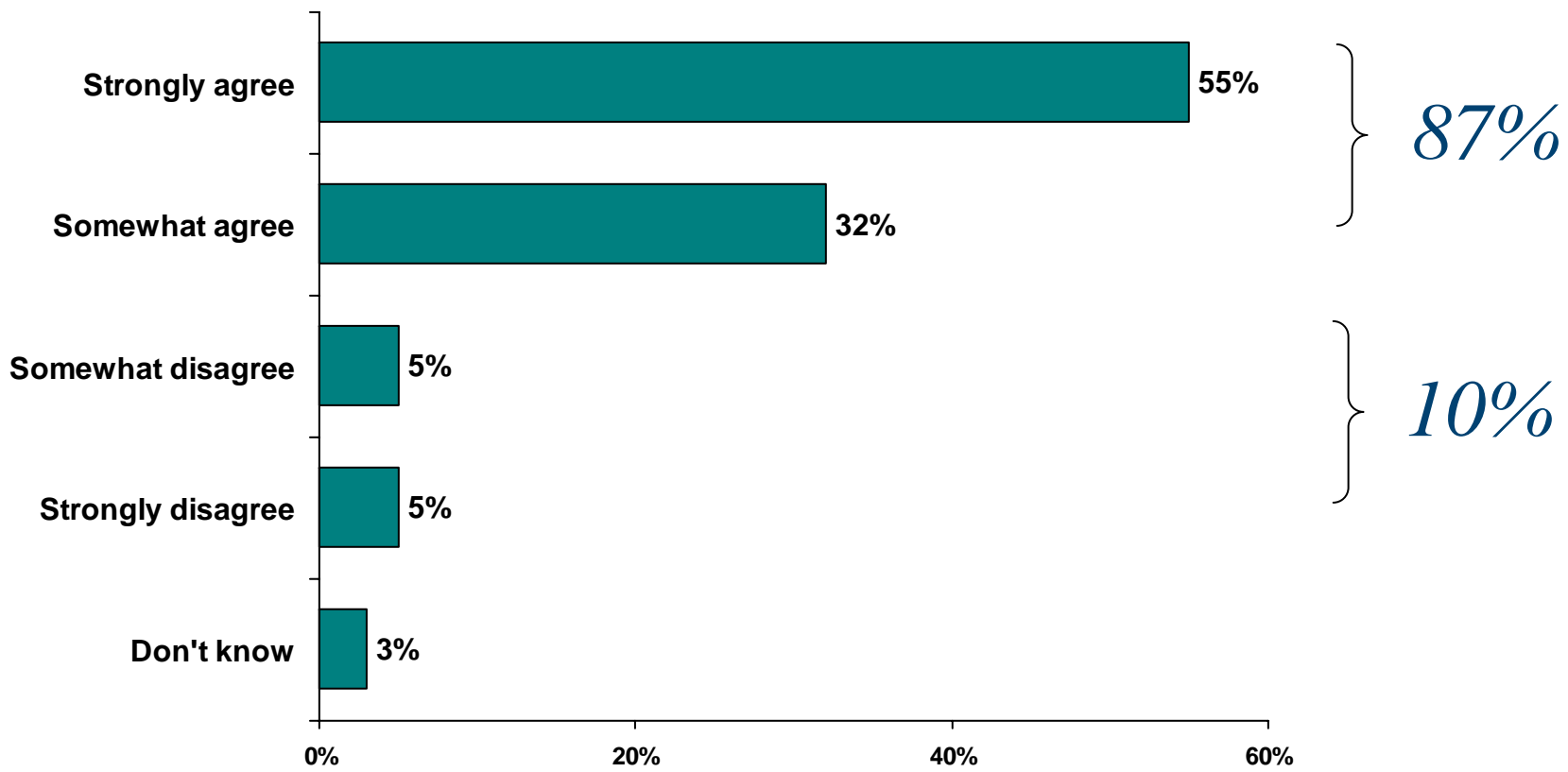
# Increased Action on Carbon Pollution and Renewable Energy Needed

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- ◆ Nearly nine in ten Americans (87%) agree that U.S. leaders should take steps to reduce carbon pollution now and speed up the conversion to renewable energy and other alternatives. Only 10% disagree with this activity.
  - Liberals are more likely to agree with this (93%) than independents (89%) or conservatives (79%).

# Increased Action on Carbon Pollution and Renewable Energy Needed

QP10: In doing their research, scientists operate under the rule that they should not do something that they know is irreversible. Some experts say that the United States should act on global warming and renewable energy resources in the same way: by stepping in before it is too late to deal with the problem. Given that pollution from human activities already may change the climate in irreversible ways, do you agree or disagree with the following statement: U.S. leaders should take steps to reduce carbon pollution now and speed up the conversion to renewable energy and other alternatives.



Base: Total respondents, N=1,029.

# APPENDIX

# RELIABILITY OF SURVEY PERCENTAGES

Results of any sample are subject to sampling variation. The magnitude of the variation is measurable and is affected by the number of interviews and the level of the percentages expressing the results.

The table below shows the possible sample variation that applies to percentage results reported herein. The chances are 95 in 100 that a survey result does not vary, plus or minus, by more than the indicated number of percentage points from the result that would be obtained if interviews had been conducted with all persons in the universe represented by the sample.

Size of Sample on Which Survey Results Are Based	Approximate Sampling Tolerances Applicable to Percentages At or Near These Levels				
	<u>10% or 90%</u>	<u>20% or 80%</u>	<u>30% or 70%</u>	<u>40% or 60%</u>	<u>50%</u>
1,000 interviews	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%
500 interviews	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%
250 interviews	4%	5%	6%	6%	6%
100 interviews	6%	8%	9%	10%	10%

## Additional Sampling Tolerances for Samples of 1,000 Interviews

<u>9% or 91%</u> 2%	<u>8% or 92%</u> 2%	<u>7% or 93%</u> 2%	<u>6% or 94%</u> 1%	<u>5% or 95%</u> 1%
<u>4% or 96%</u> 1%	<u>3% or 97%</u> 1%	<u>2% or 98%</u> 1%	<u>1% or 99%</u> .2%	

# SAMPLING TOLERANCES WHEN COMPARING TWO SAMPLES

Tolerances are also involved in the comparison of results from independent parts of the sample. A difference, in other words, must be of at least a certain number of percentage points to be considered statistically significant – that is not due to random chance. The table below is a guide to the sampling tolerances in percentage points applicable to such comparisons, based on a 95% confidence level.

Size of Samples Compared	Differences Required for Significance At or Near These Percentage Levels				
	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
1,000 and 1,000	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%
1,000 and 500	3%	4%	5%	5%	5%
1,000 and 250	4%	6%	6%	7%	7%
1,000 and 100	6%	8%	9%	10%	10%
500 and 500	4%	5%	6%	6%	6%
500 and 250	5%	6%	7%	7%	8%
500 and 100	6%	9%	10%	11%	11%
250 and 250	5%	7%	8%	9%	9%
250 and 100	7%	9%	11%	11%	12%
100 and 100	8%	11%	13%	14%	14%



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# Questionnaire

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Topline Results of 1,029 Telephone Interviews Among American Adults  
Conducted February 23-26, 2006

P1 Please tell me if you agree or disagree, strongly or somewhat, with the following statement:  
Growing concerns about the reliability of Middle Eastern oil now make it difficult to separate our national security policy—keeping America safe—from our environmental policy—preserving the environment through conservation and the development of renewable or alternative energy resources. Would you say you . . . [READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER]  
(Base N=1,029)

39% Agree strongly  
35 Agree somewhat  
10 Disagree somewhat  
8 Disagree strongly  
9 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE/REFUSED

P2 Do you think the Federal government is doing enough to address global warming and develop alternative energy sources in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil? Would you say . . . [READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER]

45% The Federal government is doing MUCH LESS than enough  
30 The Federal government is doing SOMEWHAT LESS than enough  
5 The Federal government is doing SOMEWHAT MORE than enough  
2 The Federal government is doing MUCH MORE than enough  
12 The Federal government is doing enough  
5 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE/REFUSED

P3 Based on what you have heard from experts or in news accounts, are you more or less concerned about global warming today than you were TWO YEARS AGO? Would you say . . . [READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER]

34% You are much more concerned  
24 You are somewhat more concerned  
7 You are somewhat less concerned  
4 You are much less concerned  
29 You have had no change in your views  
1 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE/REFUSED

P4 Some scientists are warning that we may be reaching a “point of no return” on global warming. Some experts say we may have as little as 10 years to make serious strides to reduce the pollution linked to global warming. How much attention would you like to see paid to global warming or alternative energy solutions during the 2006 Congressional elections and the 2008 Presidential elections? Would you say . . . [READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER]

48% Much more attention  
35 Somewhat more attention  
6 Somewhat less attention  
7 Much less attention  
5 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE/REFUSED

P5 Do you agree or disagree, somewhat or strongly, that developing alternative or renewable energy sources and reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil should be President Bush's top priority for the balance of his term in office? Do you . . . [READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER]

45% Strongly agree  
32 Somewhat agree  
11 Somewhat disagree  
9 Strongly disagree  
3 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE/REFUSED

P6 A number of efforts are taking place at the STATE AND LOCAL level to deal with global warming through the promotion of renewable and other alternative energy sources, higher fuel-efficiency standards for vehicles, and other steps. Do you support efforts by state and local officials to curb global warming and promote new energy resources in the absence of federal leadership in these areas? Would you say you . . . [READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER]

45% Strongly support the STATE AND LOCAL EFFORTS  
38 Somewhat support the STATE AND LOCAL EFFORTS  
6 Somewhat oppose the STATE AND LOCAL EFFORTS  
6 Strongly oppose the STATE AND LOCAL EFFORTS  
5 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE/REFUSED

P7 Do you support or oppose, somewhat or strongly, more leadership from the Federal government to reduce the pollution linked to global warming, encourage new approaches to promoting conservation and spark the development of renewable or alternative energy sources? Do you . . . [READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER]

48% Strongly support more federal leadership in this area  
35 Somewhat support more federal leadership in this area  
7 Somewhat oppose more federal leadership in this area  
6 Strongly oppose more federal leadership in this area  
4 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE/REFUSED

P8 A number of federal scientists and other experts say that they have been barred from speaking out on such topics as global warming—or strongly discouraged from doing so. Do you support or oppose THE ACTIONS OF federal whistleblowers who alert the public to potential problems that their superiors may want to keep hidden? Would you say you . . . [READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER]

58% Strongly support such individuals speaking out  
25 Somewhat support such individuals speaking out  
7 Somewhat oppose such individuals speaking out  
5 Strongly oppose such individuals speaking out  
4 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE/REFUSED

P9 Some people say it is patriotic to drive a more fuel-efficient vehicle since it requires less fuel to run, and therefore, can help to reduce U.S. dependency on Middle Eastern oil. Do you . . .  
[READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER]

37% Strongly agree  
34 Somewhat agree  
13 Somewhat disagree  
13 Strongly disagree  
3 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE/REFUSED

P10 In doing their research, scientists operate under the rule that they should not do something that they know is irreversible. Some experts say that the United States should act on global warming and renewable energy resources in the same way: by stepping in before it is too late to deal with the problem. Given that pollution from human activities already may change the climate in irreversible ways, do you agree or disagree with the following statement: U.S. leaders should take steps to reduce carbon pollution now and speed up the conversion to renewable energy and other alternatives. Do you . . . [READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER]

55% Strongly agree  
32 Somewhat agree  
5 Somewhat disagree  
6 Strongly disagree  
3 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE/REFUSED

P11 How would you describe your political views? Would you say . . . [READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER]

23% Liberal  
29 Conservative  
40 Independent  
8 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE/REFUSED