





# Hospital Issues in the City of San Clemente

*Highlights of a Survey of San Clemente Voters*



OPINION  
RESEARCH  
& STRATEGY

# Survey Specifics and Methodology

<b>Dates</b>	December 4 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
<b>Survey Type</b>	Dual-mode Voter Survey
<b>Research Population</b>	Likely Voters in the City of San Clemente
<b>Total Interviews</b>	990
<b>Margin of Sampling Error</b>	(Full Sample) $\pm 4.9\%$ at the 95% Confidence Level (Half Sample) $\pm 6.9\%$ at the 95% Confidence Level
<b>Contact Methods</b>	 Telephone Calls  Email Invitations
<b>Data Collection Modes</b>	 Telephone Interviews  Online Interviews

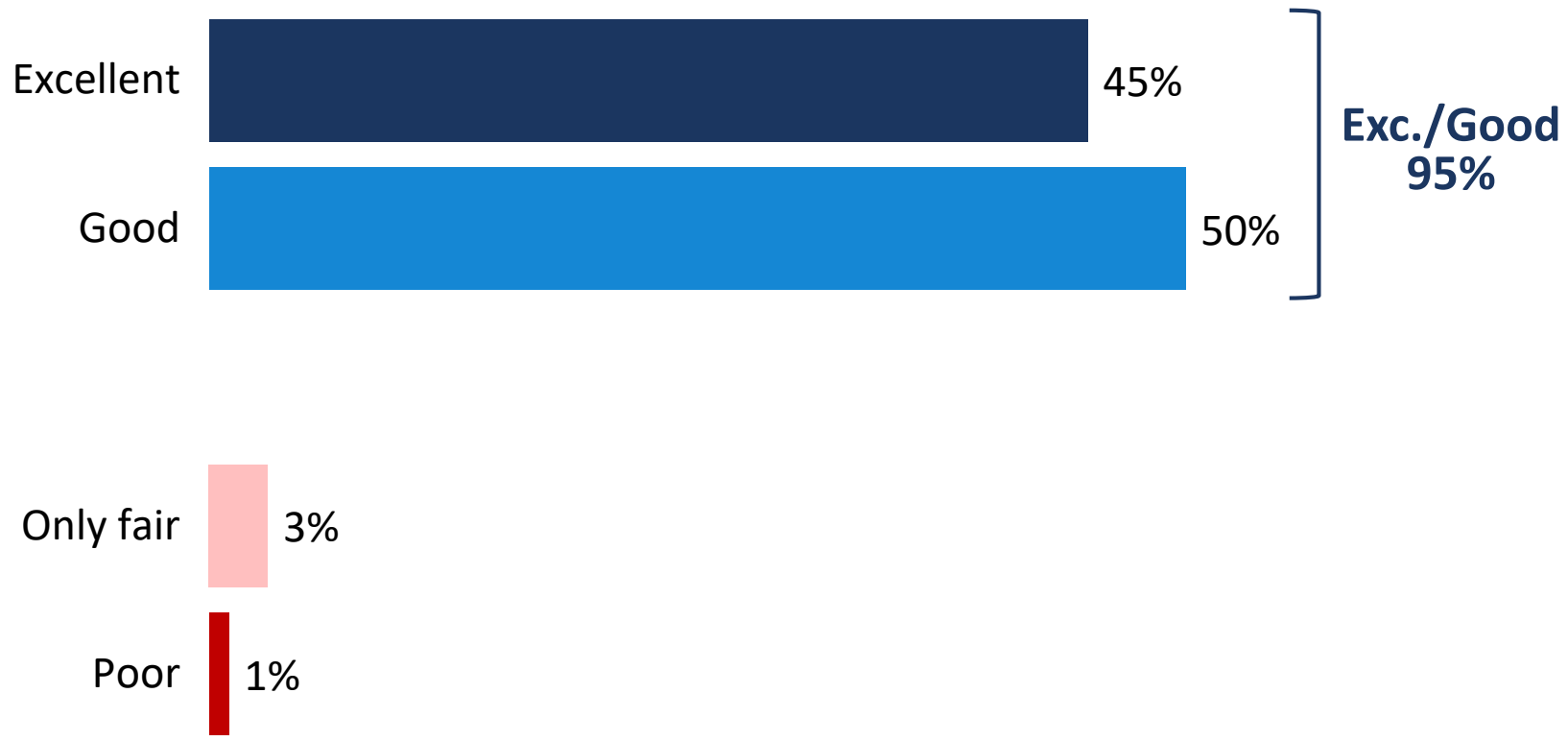
*(Note: Not All Results Will Sum to 100% Due to Rounding)*



# **Initial Opinions on Health Care/ Hospital Availability**

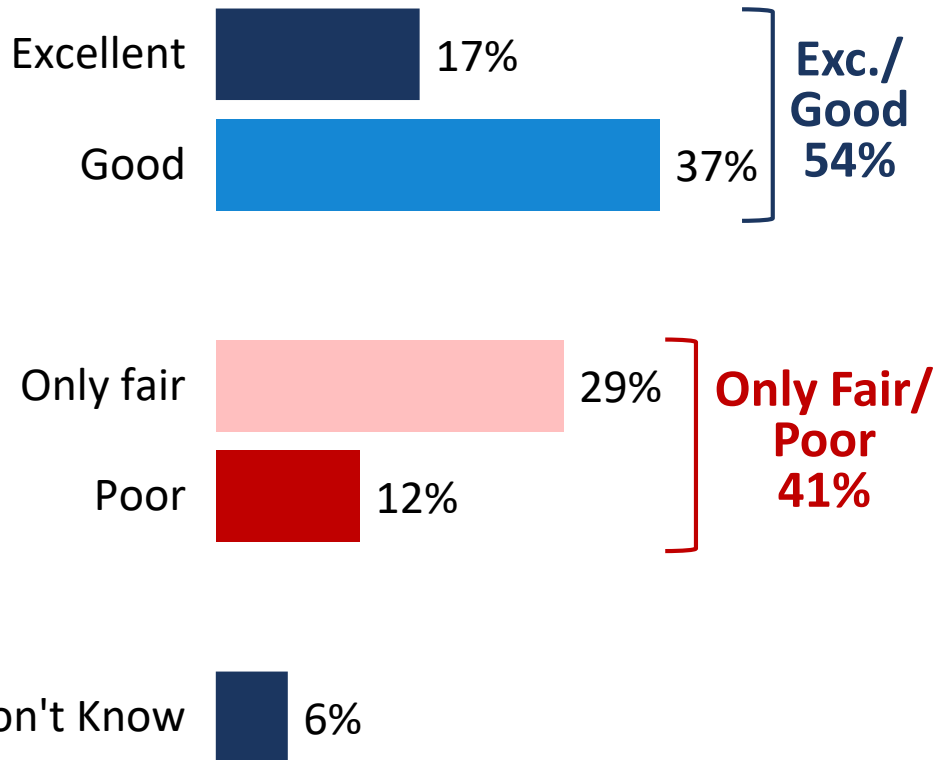
# Nearly all respondents perceive that the quality of life in San Clemente is either excellent or pretty good.

*Overall, how would you rate the quality of life in the City of San Clemente?*



# A smaller majority holds positive attitudes about the quality of health care available in the City.

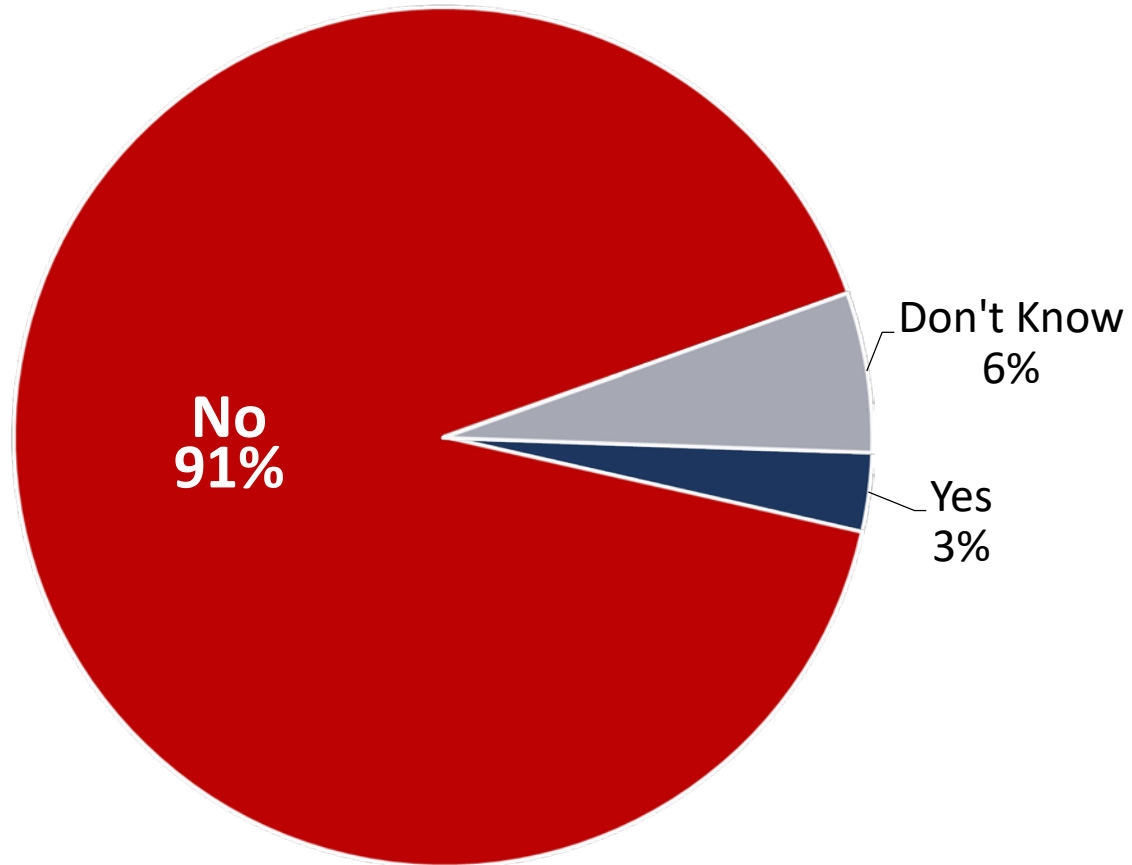
*How would you rate the quality of health care available today in your area of San Clemente?*



Demographic Group	Excellent/ Good	Fair/ Poor
<b>Total</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>Gender</b>		
Men	54%	42%
Women	54%	40%
<b>Age</b>		
18-39	53%	42%
40-64	53%	40%
65+	54%	41%
<b>Party</b>		
Democrats	48%	46%
Independents	54%	41%
Republicans	56%	38%
<b>East/West of 5 Freeway</b>		
East	53%	42%
West	53%	39%

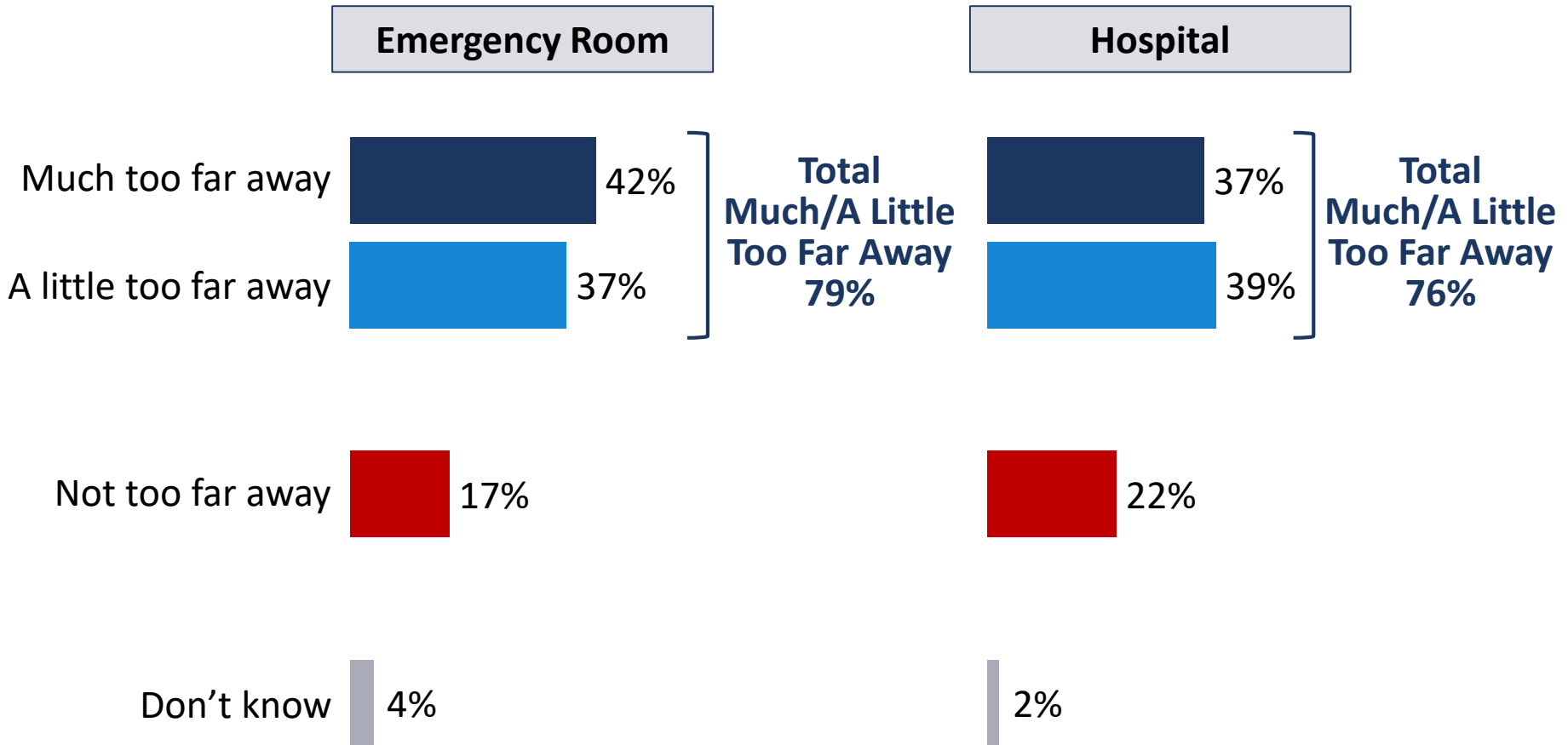
# More than nine-in-ten voters recognize that there is not an open hospital in San Clemente.

*As far as you know, is there a hospital that is open in the City of San Clemente?*



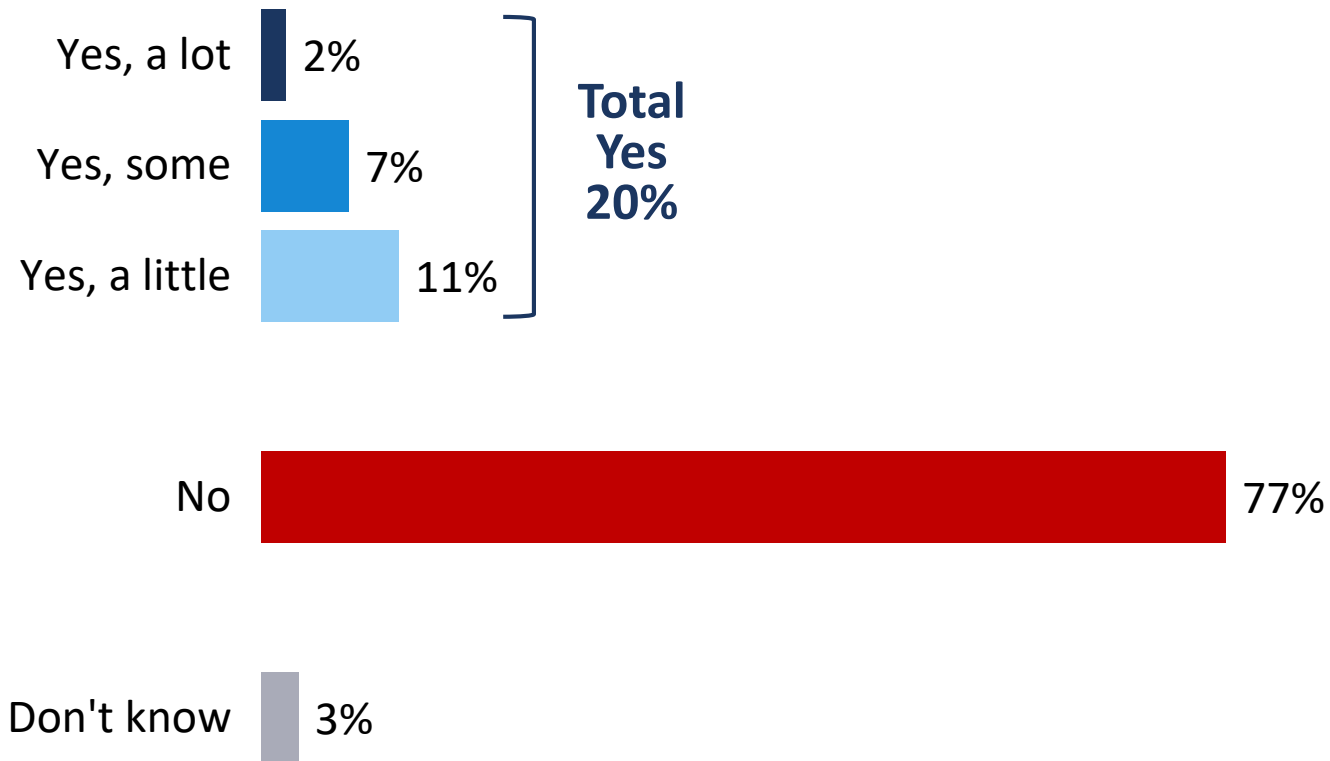
# Nearly eight-in-ten voters think the nearest emergency room or hospital is too far away.

Do you feel that the closest \_\_\_\_\_ to your home is too far away or not too far away?



# Awareness of the City's efforts to reopen a hospital in San Clemente is low, with only 2% saying they have heard a lot about it.

*Have you heard, read, or seen anything recently about the City's search for a new healthcare provider to run a local hospital in San Clemente?*



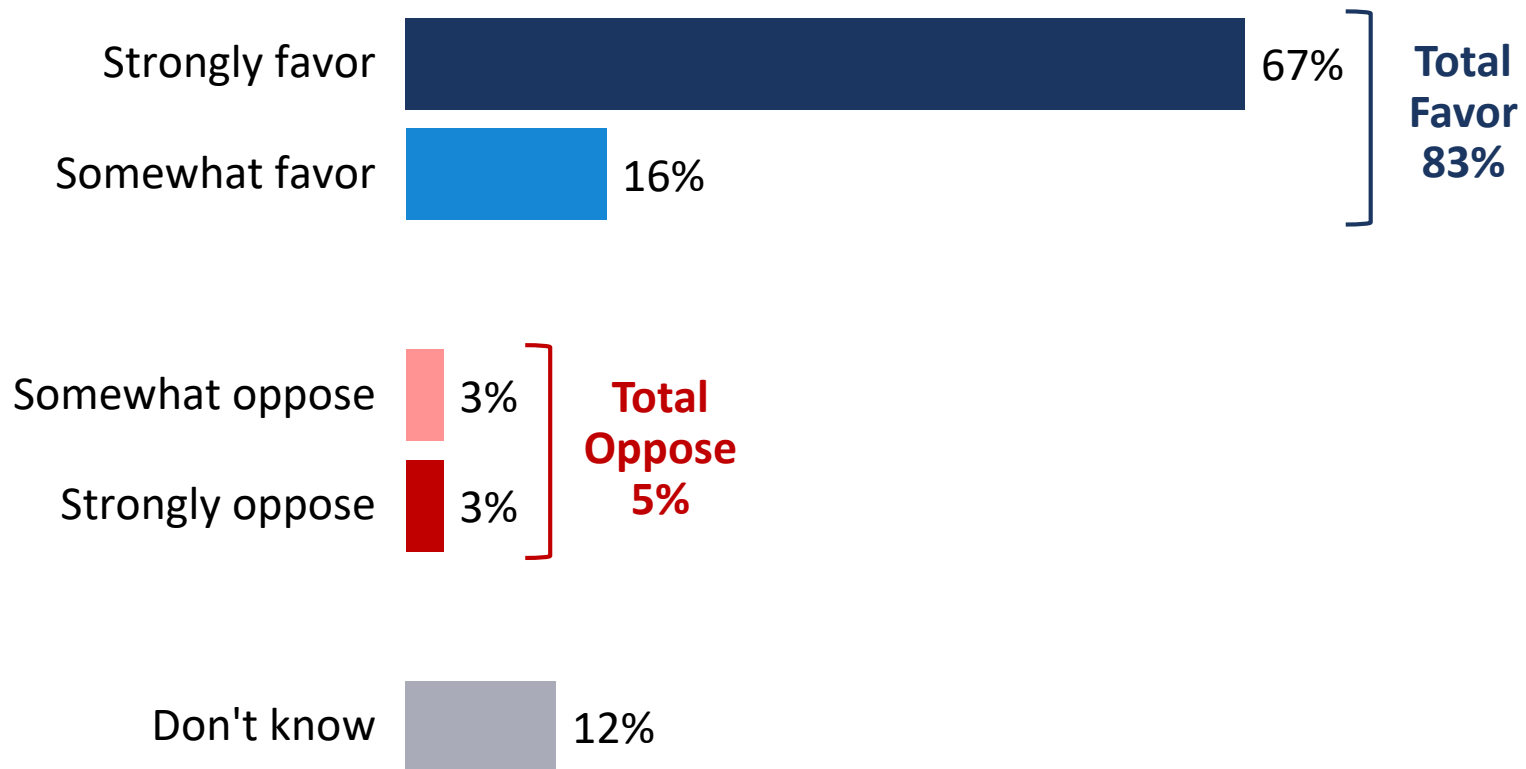




# **Opinions on Creating a New Hospital**

# At a purely conceptual level, more than eight-in-ten favor creating a new hospital.

*Do you favor or oppose creating a new hospital in San Clemente?*

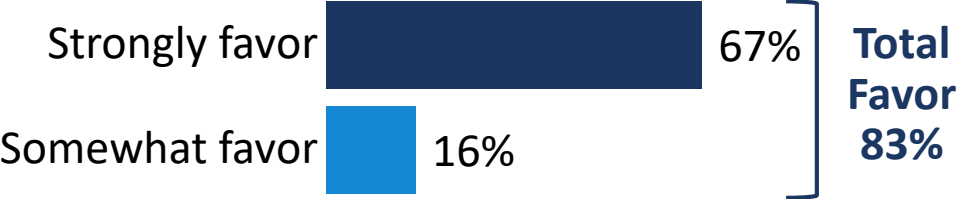


# Additional Information about the Former Hospital and Plans for a New Hospital

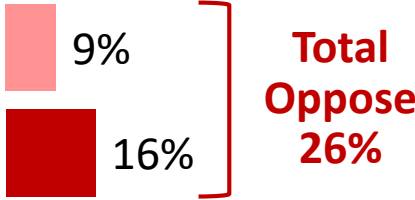
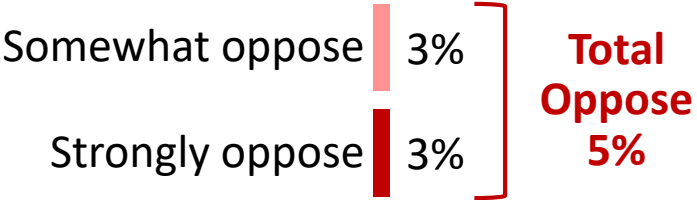
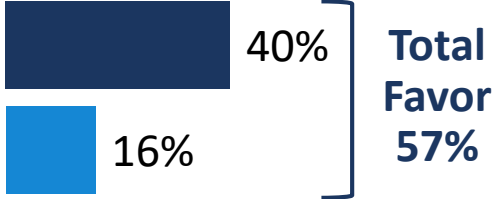
As you may know, the Saddleback Memorial Medical Center on Camino de los Mares in San Clemente closed in 2016 and there are currently no hospitals or emergency rooms open in the city of San Clemente. The City has explored many options for attracting a healthcare provider to take over the former Saddleback Memorial Medical Center. All of the experts who have analyzed the building have said that it would take approximately \$200 million to either rebuild the closed hospital, or to knock it down and build a new one that meets the city's current needs and hospital standards, or to build a new hospital at a different location.

# A majority favor using public funds to pay for the construction of a local hospital, but far more voters favor the idea at a conceptual level.

**Opinion on Concept of New Hospital**



**Opinion After Info. About New Hospital**

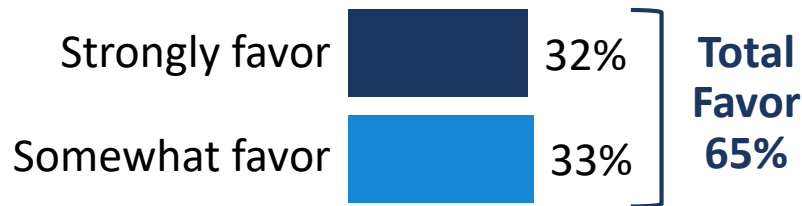


Don't know 12%

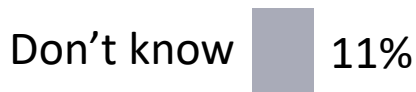
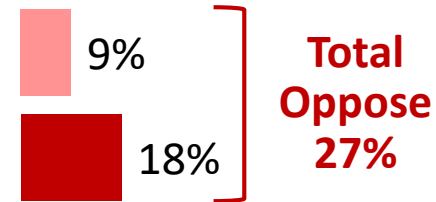
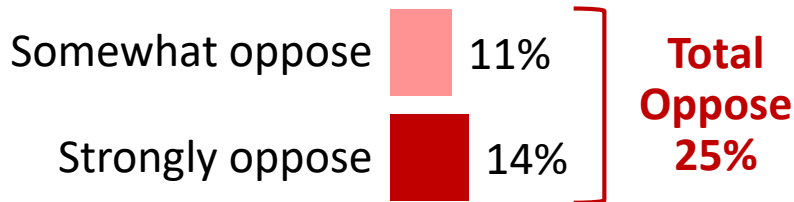
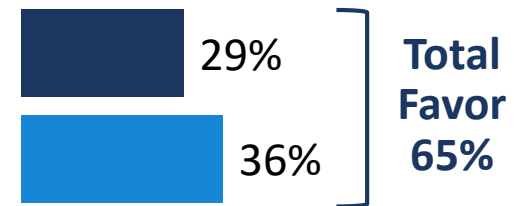
Don't know 18%

# Nearly two-thirds favor either of the proposed locations for a new hospital in San Clemente, with little variation between locations.

*The City purchasing the old Saddleback Memorial Hospital on Camino de las Mares, demolishing it, building a new hospital, and finding a healthcare provider to run it.*



*The City building a new hospital on vacant land it owns north of the Target store at Avenida Vista Hermosa near the Talega neighborhood, and finding a healthcare provider to run it.*





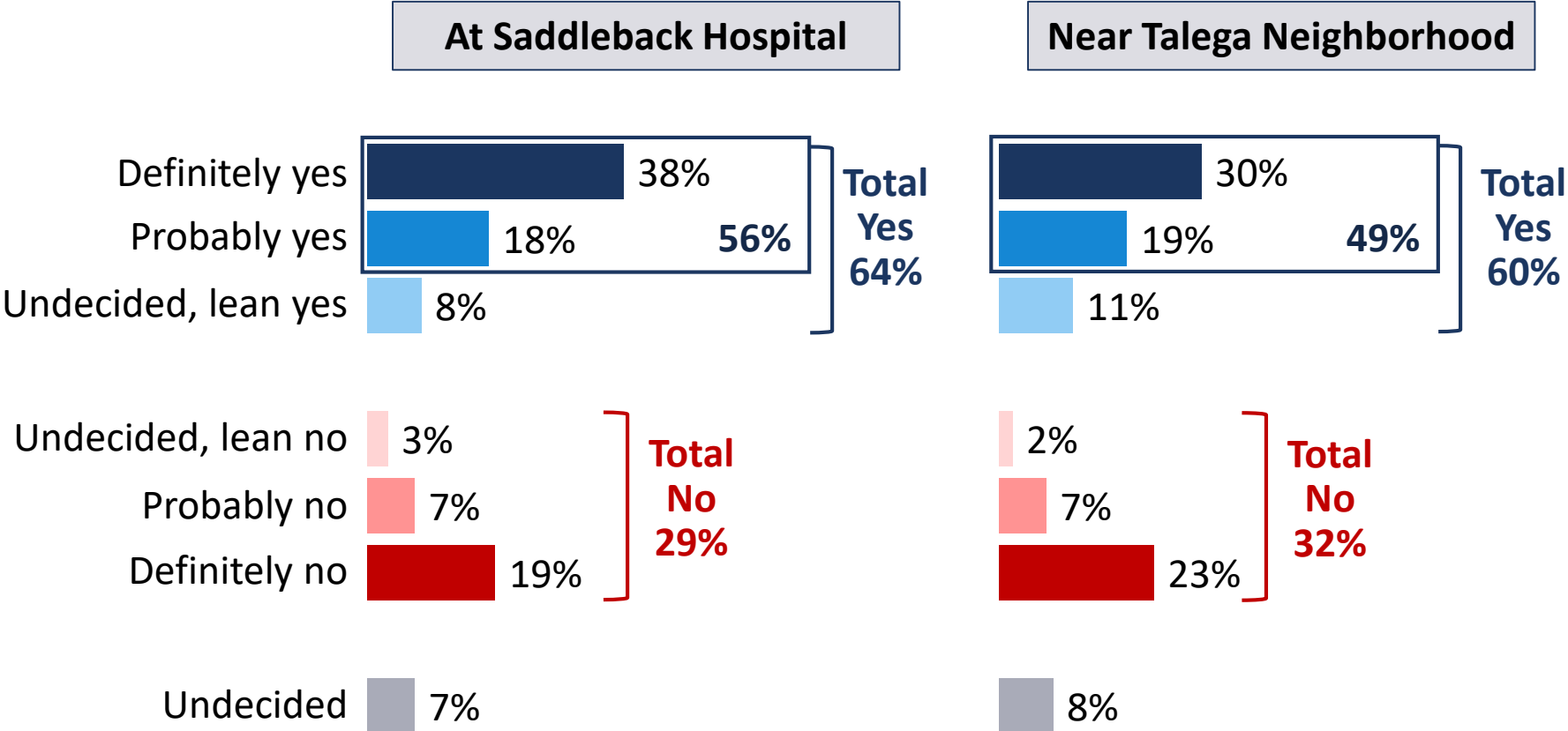
# **Introducing a Bond Measure for Hospital Construction**

# Text of Hypothetical Ballot Measure Tested in Survey

## **San Clemente Hospital/Public Health Measure**

To improve local access to emergency and inpatient/outpatient medical care, natural disaster/public health emergency preparedness, recruit/retain physicians/nurses, by building a new hospital in San Clemente meeting seismic safety standards, shall the measure authorizing \$204,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, funded by levying 3¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation, providing \$10,100,000 annually for 30 years, requiring independent audits, oversight, all funds for a San Clemente hospital only, be adopted?

# Solid majorities support a bond measure to construct a hospital for either location, but initial support is less than the two-thirds threshold necessary for passage.



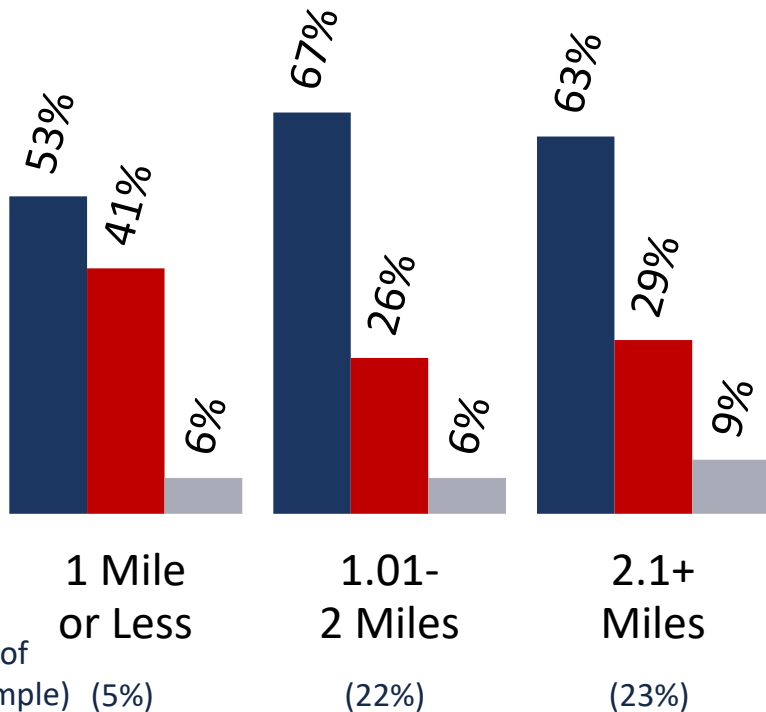


# Voters who live near the existing Saddleback Hospital are somewhat less supportive of the measure for that location. There is little difference in opinions on the Talega location based on where voters live in the city.

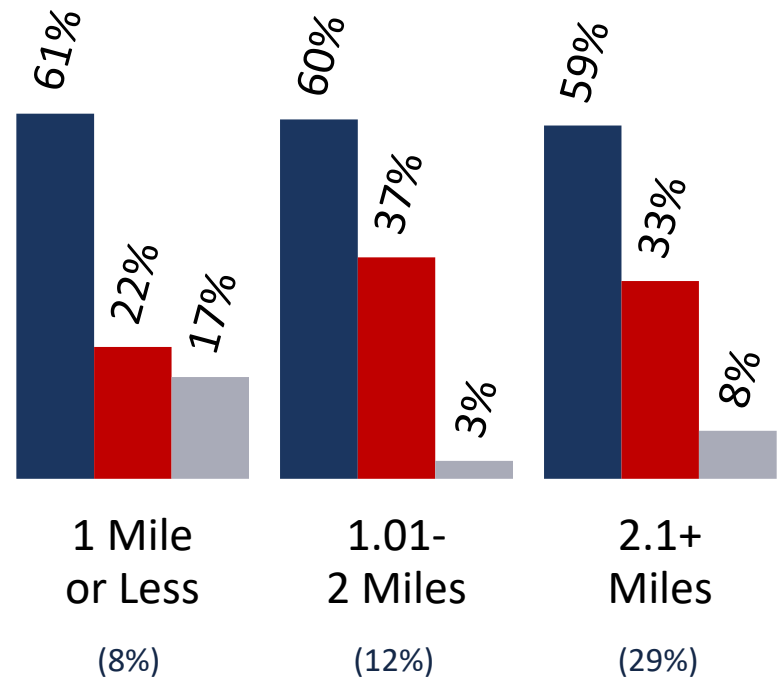
*By Distance from Hospital & Distance from Target*

■ Total Yes ■ Total No ■ Undecided

**Old Hospital Location by Distance from Saddleback Hospital**



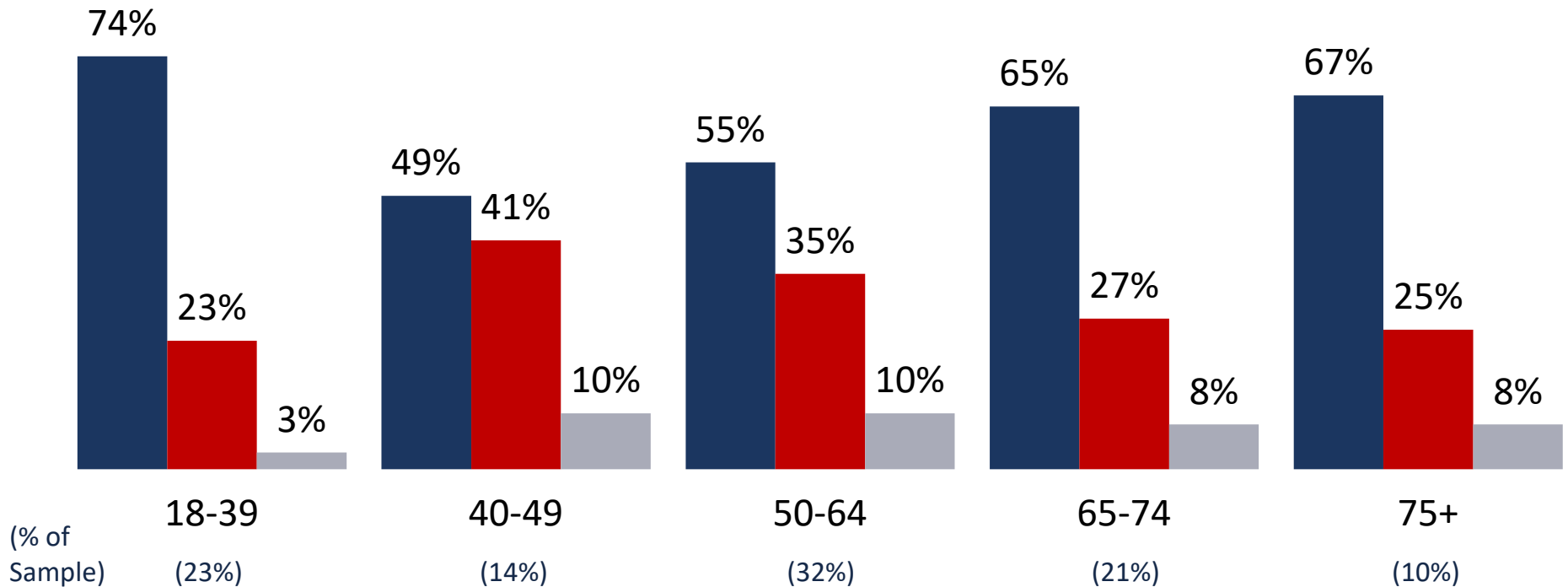
**Talega Neighborhood Location by Distance from Proposed Site**



# Voters ages 18-39 and 65 and above are strong supporters of the measure; pluralities of voters ages 40-64 also support it.

By Age

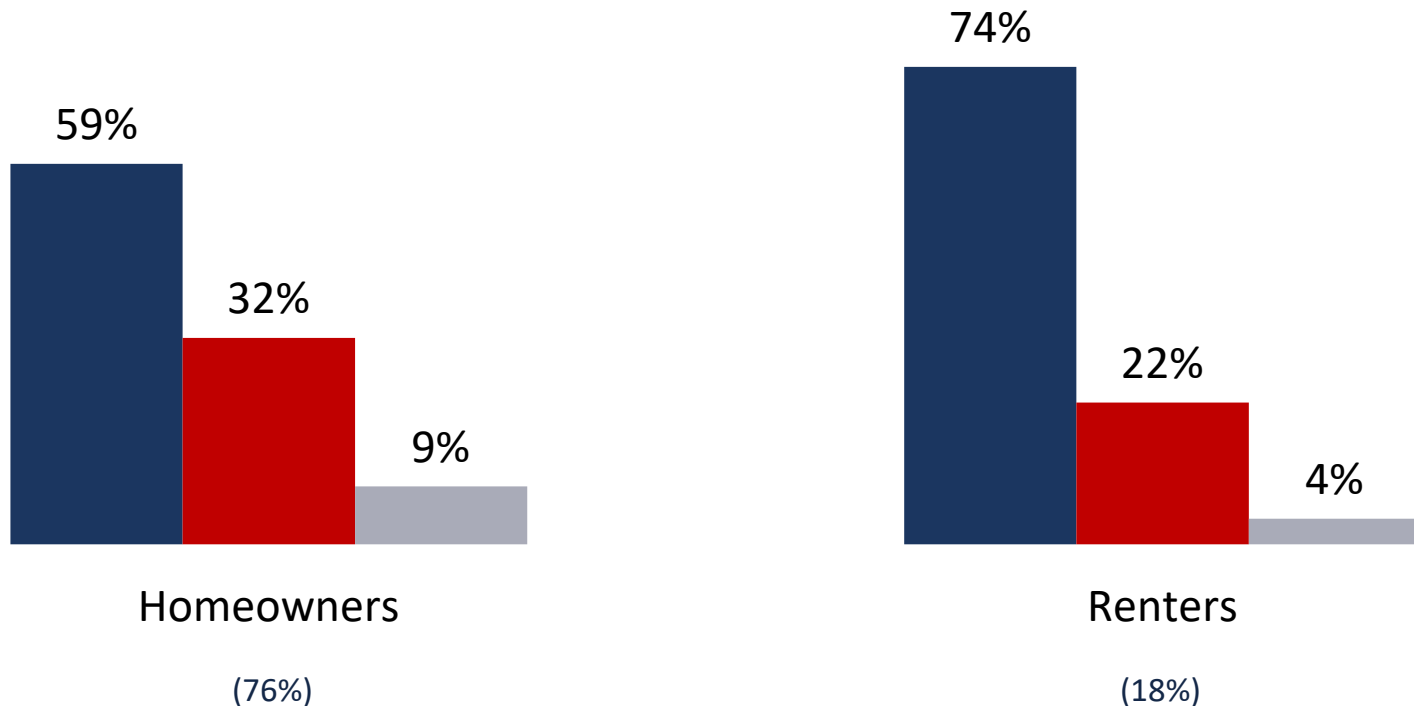
■ Total Yes ■ Total No ■ Undecided



# Majorities of both homeowners and renters support the measure, although only support from renters exceeds the two-thirds threshold.

*By Residence*

■ Total Yes ■ Total No ■ Undecided

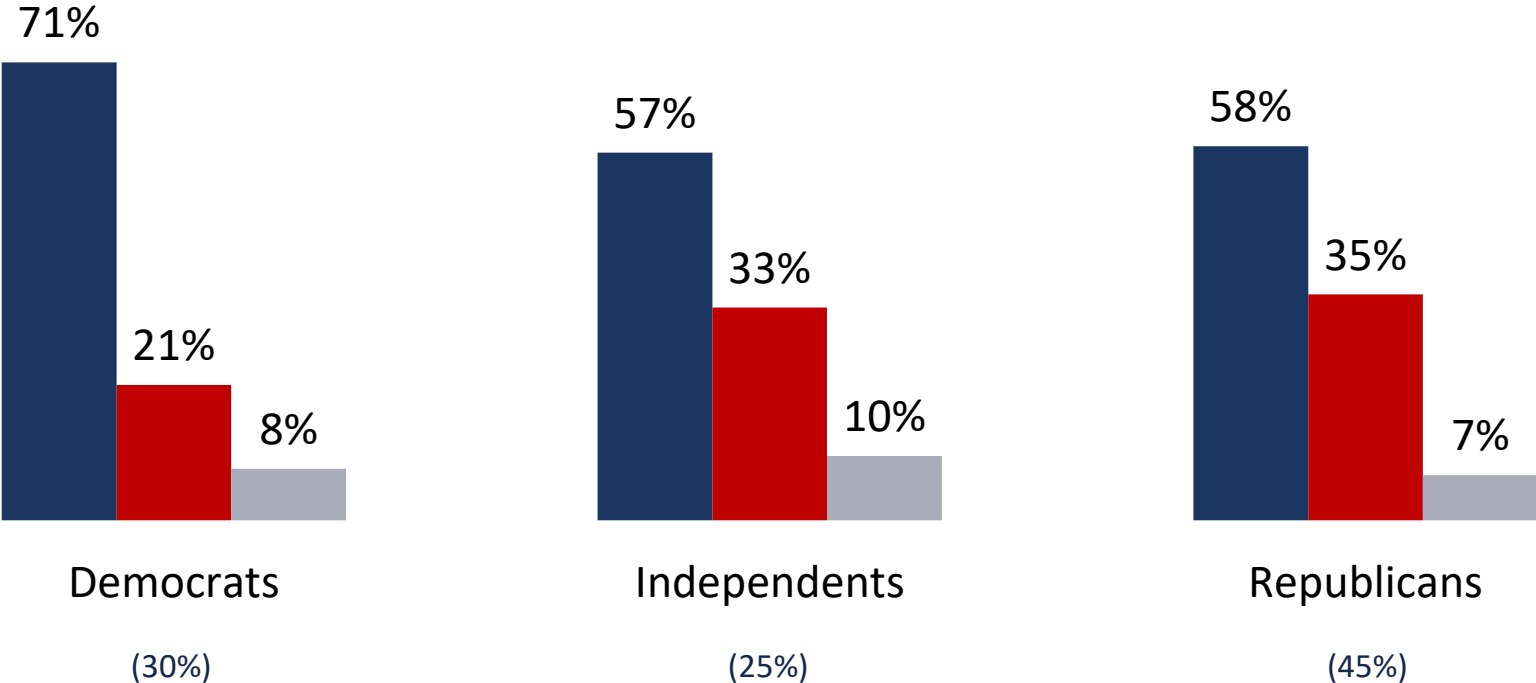


(% of Sample)

# The measure has bipartisan support, with stronger support from Democrats.

By Party

■ Total Yes ■ Total No ■ Undecided

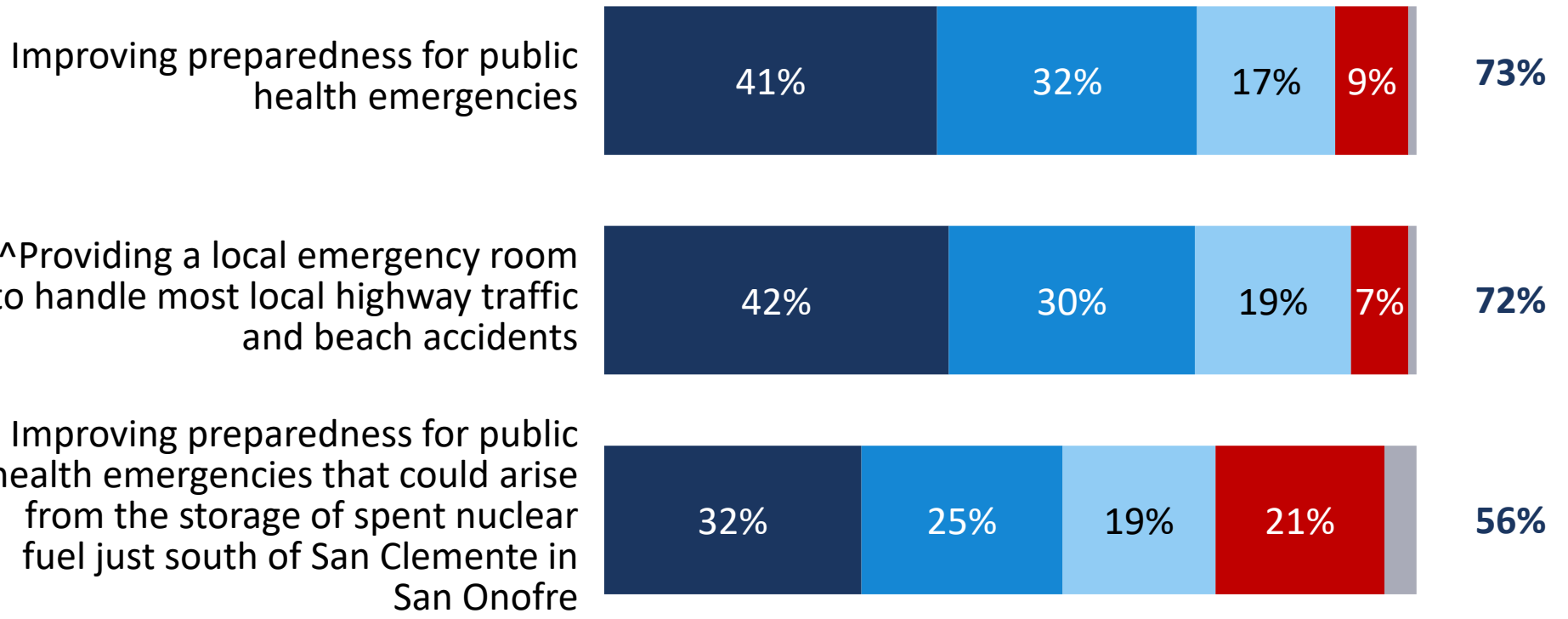


(% of Sample)

# Over seven-in-ten voters think it is at least very important to improve preparedness for public health emergencies and to have a local ER for traffic and beach accidents.

(Ranked by Extremely/Very Important)

■ Ext. Impt.   ■ Very Impt.   ■ Smwt. Impt.   ■ Not Too Impt.   ■ Don't Know   **Ext./Very Impt.**

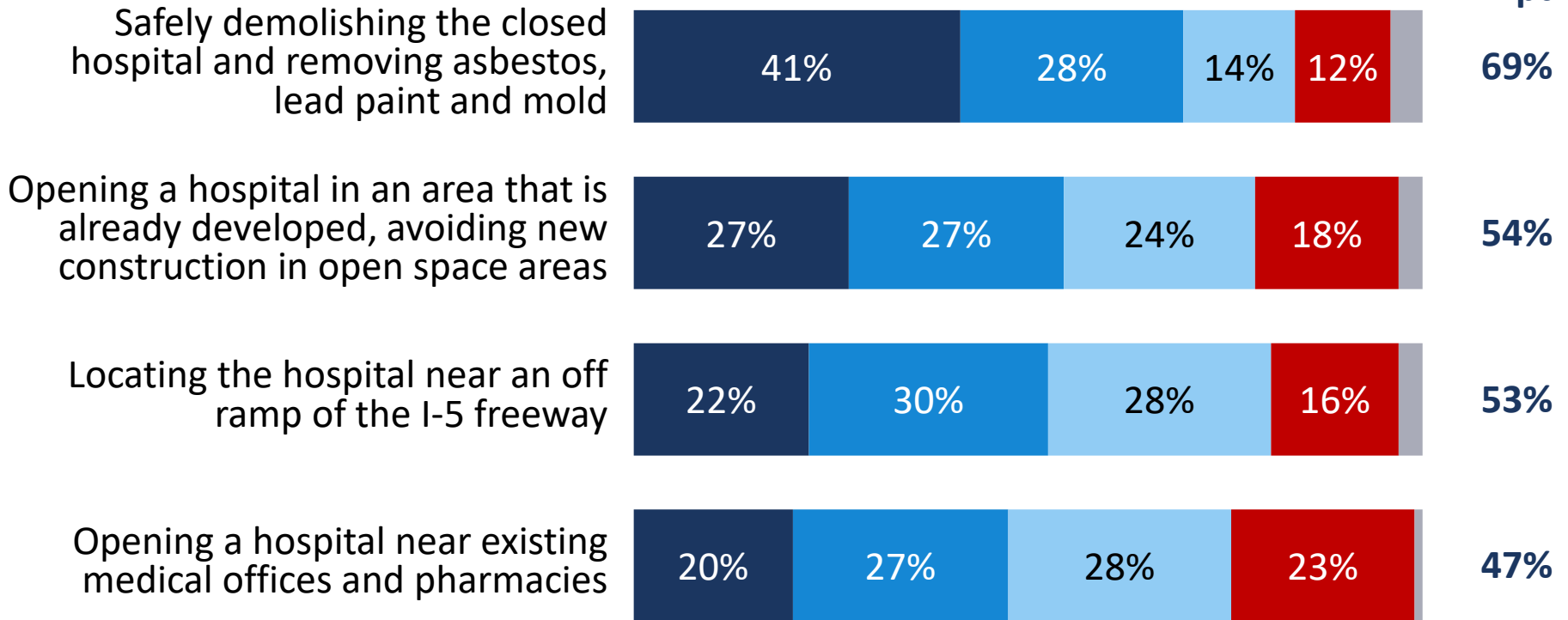


Q10a-c. Thinking more about the proposal for a new hospital in San Clemente, I am going to mention a list of individual features, provisions and outcomes from this proposal. Regardless of whether or not you support the proposal for a hospital or the ballot measure we discussed earlier, as I read each feature, provision and outcome, please tell me how important it is to you personally. Is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not too important? ^Not Part of Split Sample

# OLD HOSPITAL: Of the aspects related to the existing hospital site, the highest priority is safely demolishing the building and removing hazardous materials.

(Ranked by Extremely/Very Important)

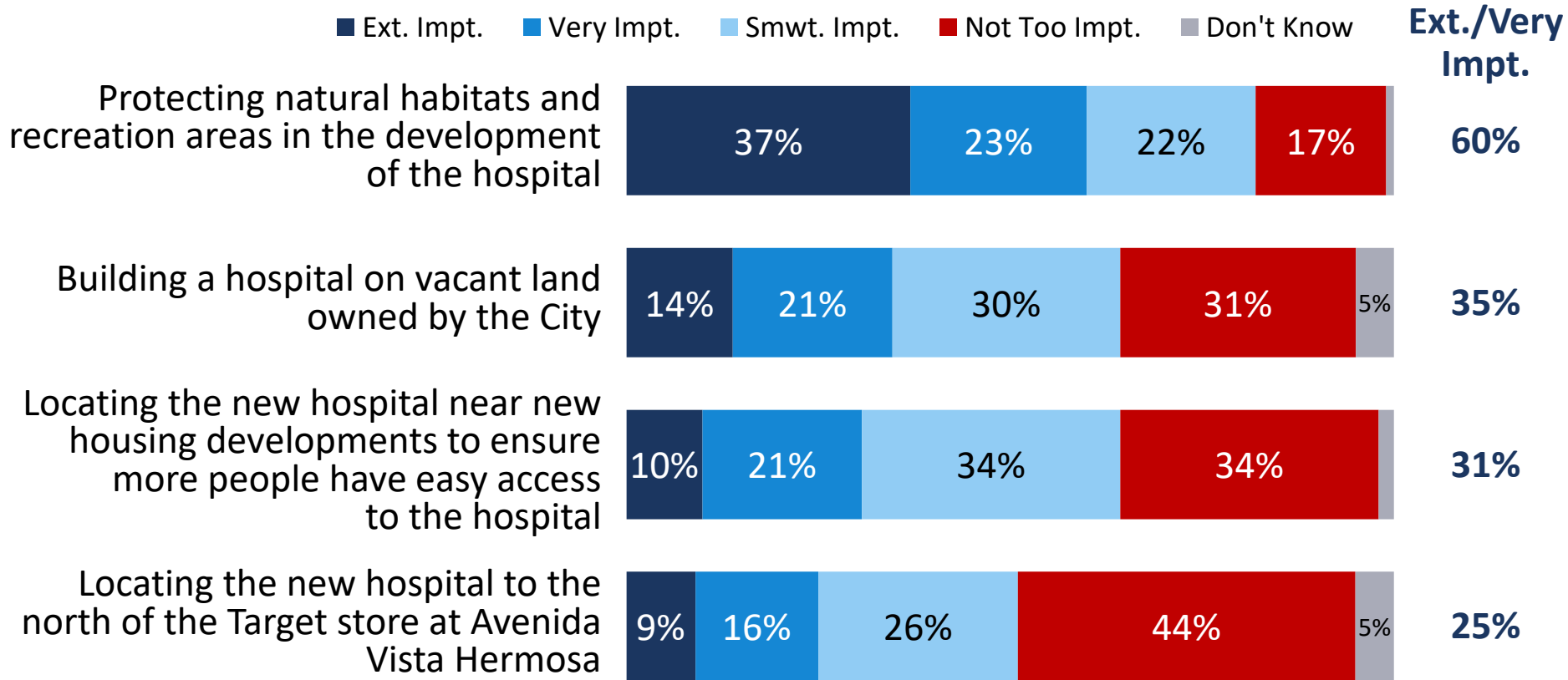
■ Ext. Impt. ■ Very Impt. ■ Smwt. Impt. ■ Not Too Impt. ■ Don't Know **Ext./Very Impt.**



Q10d-g. Thinking more about the proposal for a new hospital in San Clemente, I am going to mention a list of individual features, provisions and outcomes from this proposal. Regardless of whether or not you support the proposal for a hospital or the ballot measure we discussed earlier, as I read each feature, provision and outcome, please tell me how important it is to you personally. Is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not too important? Split Sample

# TALEGA NEIGHBORHOOD: Of the aspects related to the site near the Talega neighborhood, the highest priority is protecting natural habitats.

(Ranked by Extremely/Very Important)



Q10h-k. Thinking more about the proposal for a new hospital in San Clemente, I am going to mention a list of individual features, provisions and outcomes from this proposal. Regardless of whether or not you support the proposal for a hospital or the ballot measure we discussed earlier, as I read each feature, provision and outcome, please tell me how important it is to you personally. Is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not too important? Split Sample



# **Impact of information**



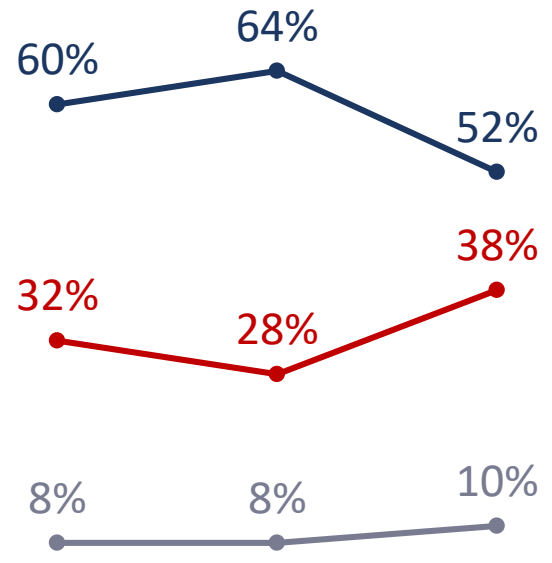
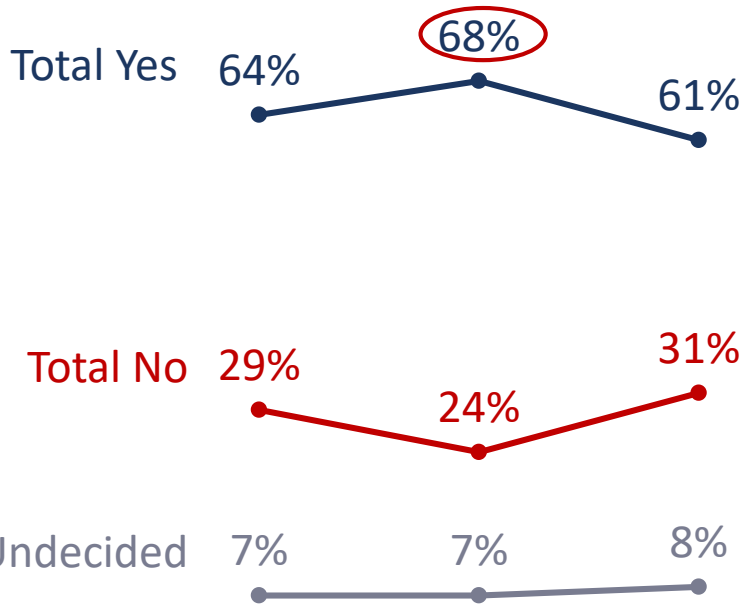
The bond measure to rebuild at the existing site slightly exceeds the two-thirds threshold after supportive information, but after all messages, support for the measure dips below the initial level for both sites and is well under the threshold necessary for passage.

**Saddleback Hospital**

**Near Talega Neighborhood**

Initial Vote    Vote After Information    Vote After Opposition

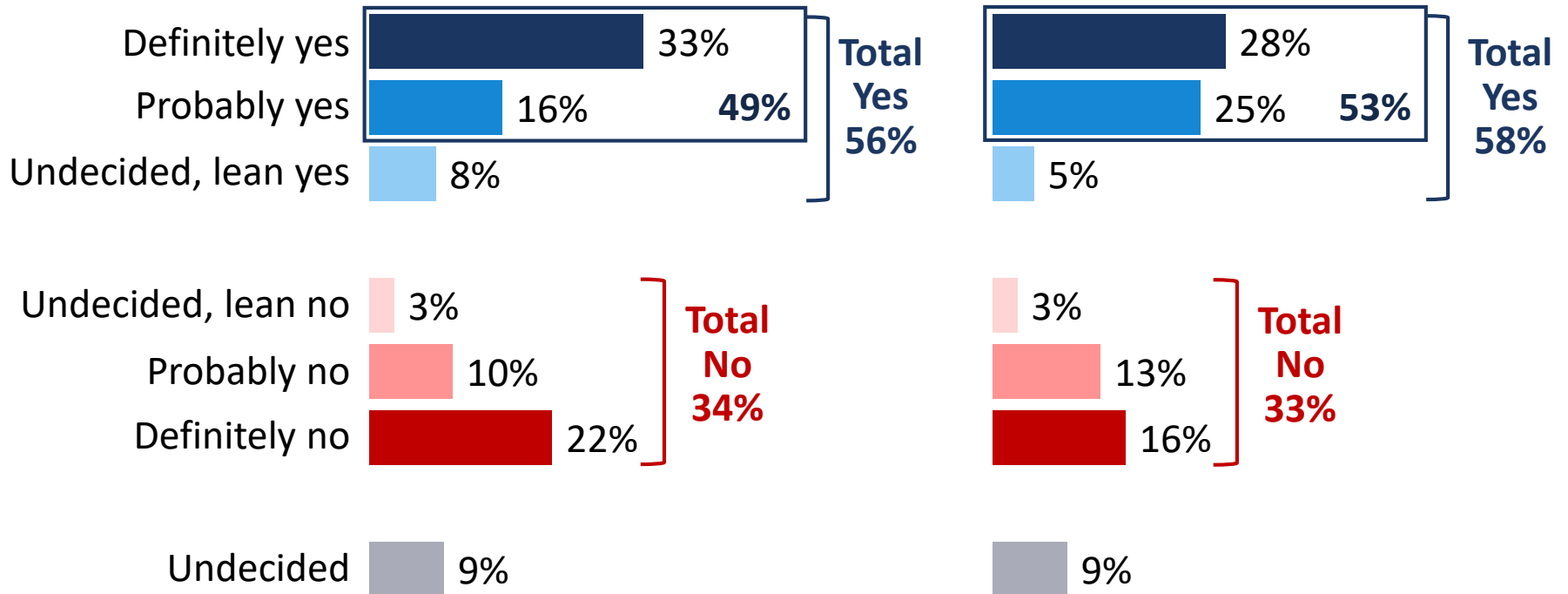
Initial Vote    Vote After Information    Vote After Opposition



# A small number of voters are more likely to support the measure with a lower bond and tax amount, which would require San Clemente to partner with other communities on a measure.

Vote After Opposition

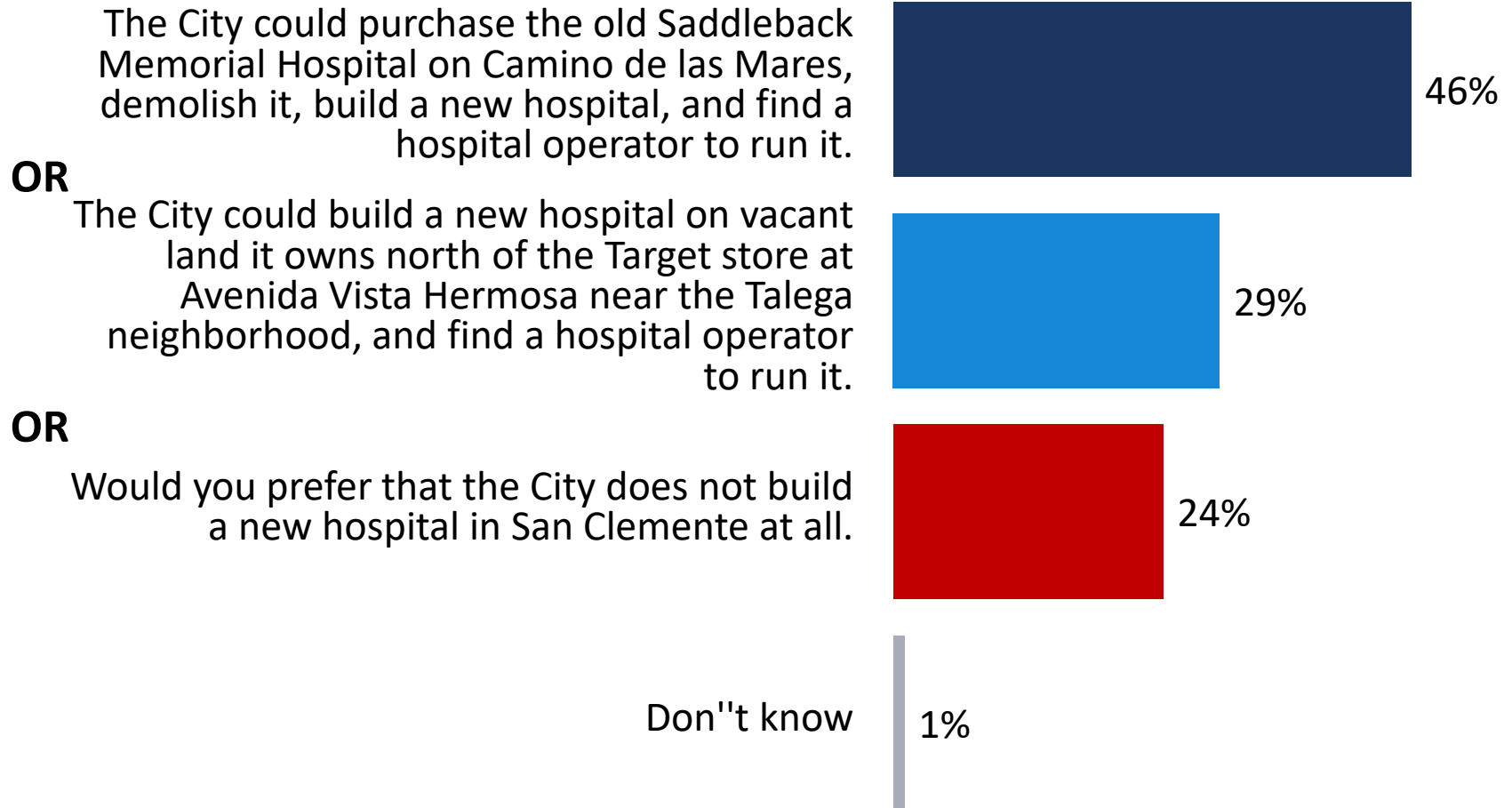
Vote on \$100MM Bond





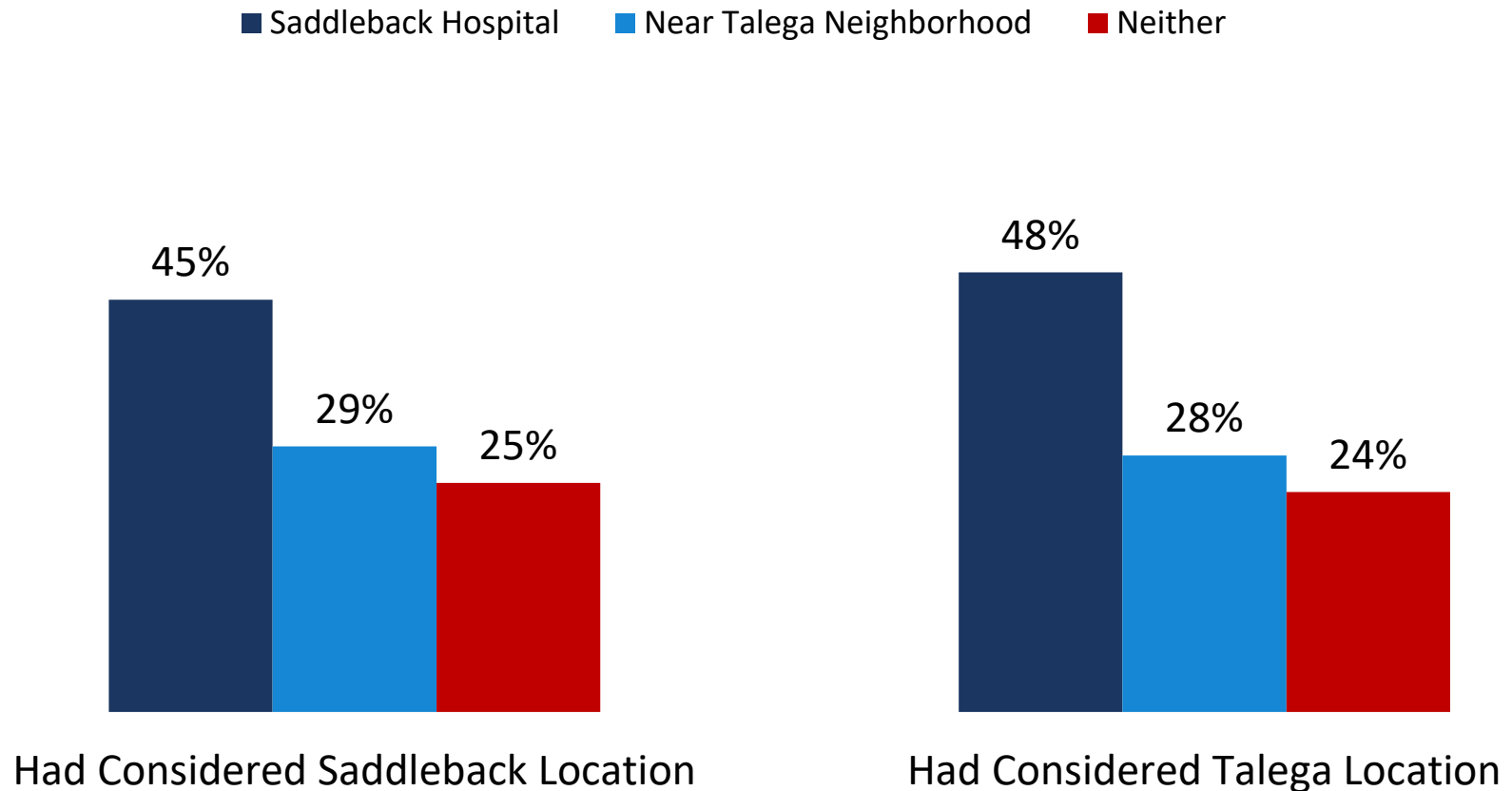
# Choosing Between Hospital Locations

# There is a clear preference for the old hospital site over the new Target location after all information.



Q16. The proposal you have been considering is not the only way for the City to help create a new hospital in San Clemente. I am going to mention another option which would cost approximately the same amount of money and provide approximately the same level of service as the option you have been considering. Please tell me which you prefer and please choose just one even if it is hard to do so.

**At the end of the survey, nearly a majority of voters prefer the old hospital location regardless of which location they had been considering up until then.**



Q16. The proposal you have been considering is not the only way for the City to help create a new hospital in San Clemente. I am going to mention another option which would cost approximately the same amount of money and provide approximately the same level of service as the option you have been considering. Please tell me which you prefer and please choose just one even if it is hard to do so.



# Conclusions

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- San Clemente voters are well aware that there is not an open hospital in the city, perceive that the nearest hospital/emergency room is too far away, and strongly support the idea of creating a hospital in the city.
- At the same time, only an extremely small percentage of voters is closely following the City's efforts to have a hospital developed in San Clemente.
- A majority favors using City resources to help build a hospital and nearly two-thirds favor either replacing the old hospital with a new building or building a new hospital near the Talega neighborhood.

# Conclusions, continued

- A bond measure with a focus on building a new hospital at the existing site reached the two-thirds support level when voters were informed of why the City would be interested in pursuing it.
- But, at the current time, support for a bond measure to provide the funding necessary to build a hospital does not consistently meet or exceed the two-thirds threshold necessary for the passage.
- While both potential sites have support in concept, voters have a clear preference for rebuilding a hospital at the existing site over developing the Talega site.



# Conclusions, continued

- If the City wishes to pursue a bond measure for a new hospital, it should consider this goal to be a long-term priority which will require time and resources for public outreach and education.
- Residents are aware of the current problem, but need to learn more about why a bond measure would be a good investment, that would help improve the availability of emergency medical care for residents.
- This goal has a greater chance for voter support with a focus on building at the existing hospital site, rather than trying to develop the site near the Talega neighborhood.

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