

# Disability Issues for Voters in the Senate Battleground

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

**GREENBERG QUINLAN ROSNER** RESEARCH



# Methodology

**This presentation is based on a bi-partisan survey conducted by the Democratic polling firm Greenberg Quinlan Rosner and the Republican polling firm North Star Opinion Research conducted in the Senate Battleground.**

**The survey of 1000 likely 2014 voters was conducted from September 20-24, 2014, in the Senate Battleground.**

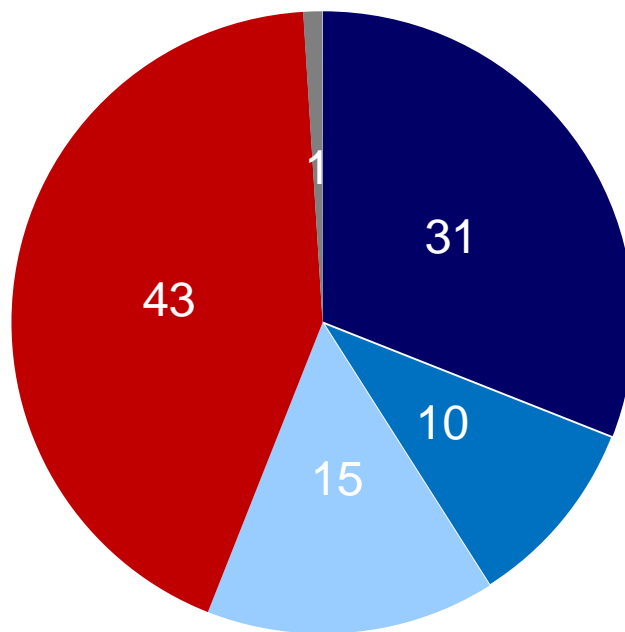
**The Senate Battleground is comprised of AK, AR, CO, GA, IA, KY, LA, MI, MT, NH, NC, and WV.**

**Unless otherwise noted, margin of error= +/-3.10 percentage points at 95% confidence.**

**We reached 40 percent of our respondents by cell phone, in order to account for ever-changing demographics and trying to accurately sample the full American electorate.**

# Disability Touches More than Half the Electorate

*Do you, a family member, or a close friend have a disability?*



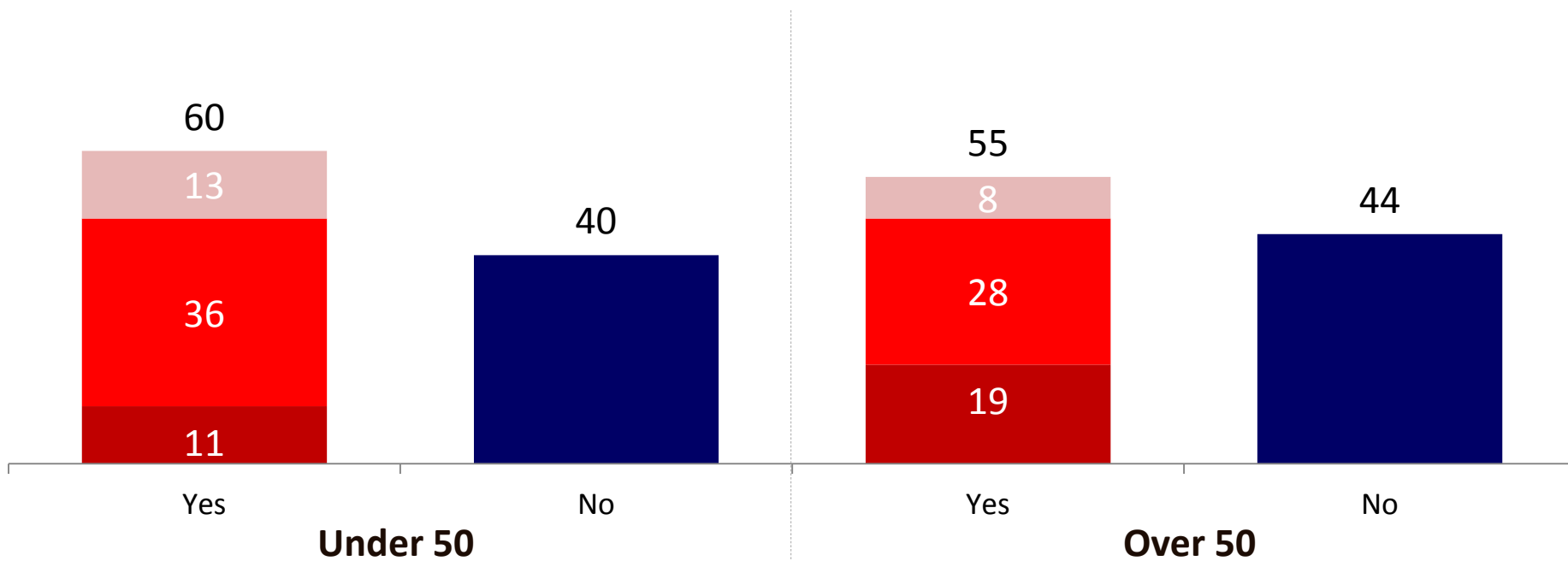
■ Family member   ■ Close friend   ■ Myself   ■ No   ■ Don't know

*"Do you, a family member, or a close friend have a disability?"* Yes, family member, 31 percent. Yes, close friend, 10 percent. Yes, myself, 15 percent. No, 43 percent. Don't know, 1 percent.

# Disability Affects Younger Voters Too

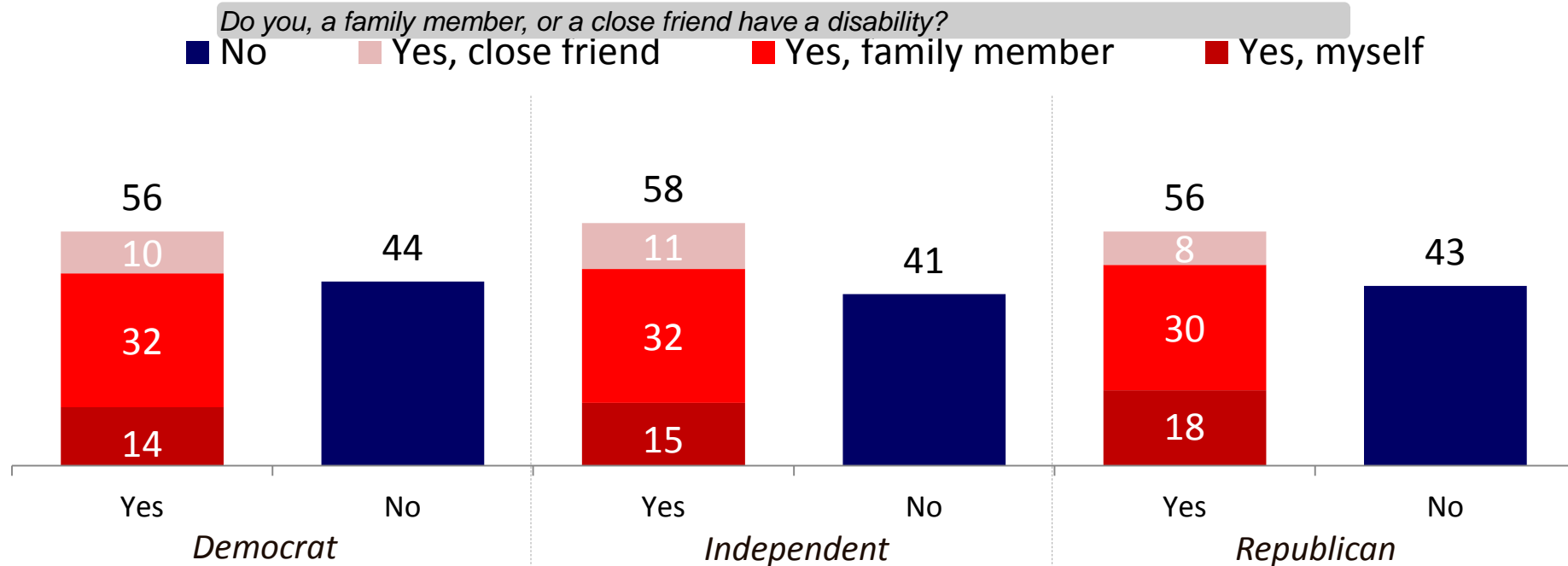
Do you, a family member, or a close friend have a disability?

■ No    ■ Yes, close friend    ■ Yes, family member    ■ Yes, myself



*“Do you, a family member, or a close friend have a disability?”* **Under 50**, yes, total, 60 percent. Under 50 yes, family member, 33 percent. Under 50, close friend, 11 percent. Under 50, myself, 16 percent. Under 50 no, 38 percent. **Over 50** yes, total, 45 percent. Over 50 yes, family member, 26 percent. Over 50 yes, close friend, 6 percent. Over 50 yes, myself, 13 percent. Over 50 no, 54 percent.

# Disabled Community Spans Partisanship



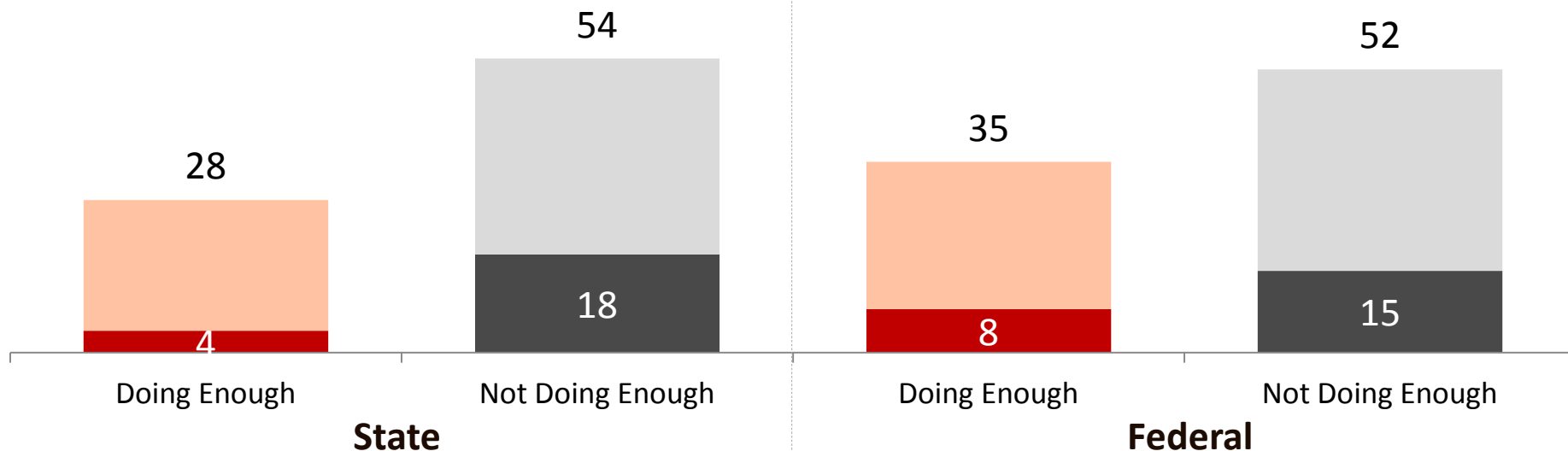
“Do you, a family member, or a close friend have a disability?” **Democrat**, yes, total, 56 percent. Democrat yes, family member, 32 percent. Democrat, close friend, 10 percent. Democrat, myself, 14 percent. Democrat no, 44 percent. **Independent** yes, total, 58 percent. Independent yes, family member, 32 percent. Independent yes, close friend, 11 percent. Independent yes, myself, 15 percent. Independent no, 41 percent. **Republican** yes, total, 56 percent. Republican yes, family member, 30 percent. Republican yes, close friend, 8 percent. Republican yes, myself, 18 percent. Republican no, 43 percent.

# Neither Federal, Nor State are Doing Enough to Help People with Disabilities Work

■ Not doing enough ■ Not doing near enough ■ Doing enough ■ Doing more than enough

*Thinking about the current policies and programs your state government has to help people with disabilities get jobs and become independent, would you say the state government is doing more than enough, doing enough, not doing enough, or not doing anywhere near enough to help citizens in your state who have disabilities get a job and become independent?*

*Thinking about the current policies and programs the federal government has to help people with disabilities get jobs and become independent, would you say the federal government is doing more than enough, doing enough, not doing enough, or not doing anywhere near enough to help citizens in your state who have disabilities get a job and become independent?*



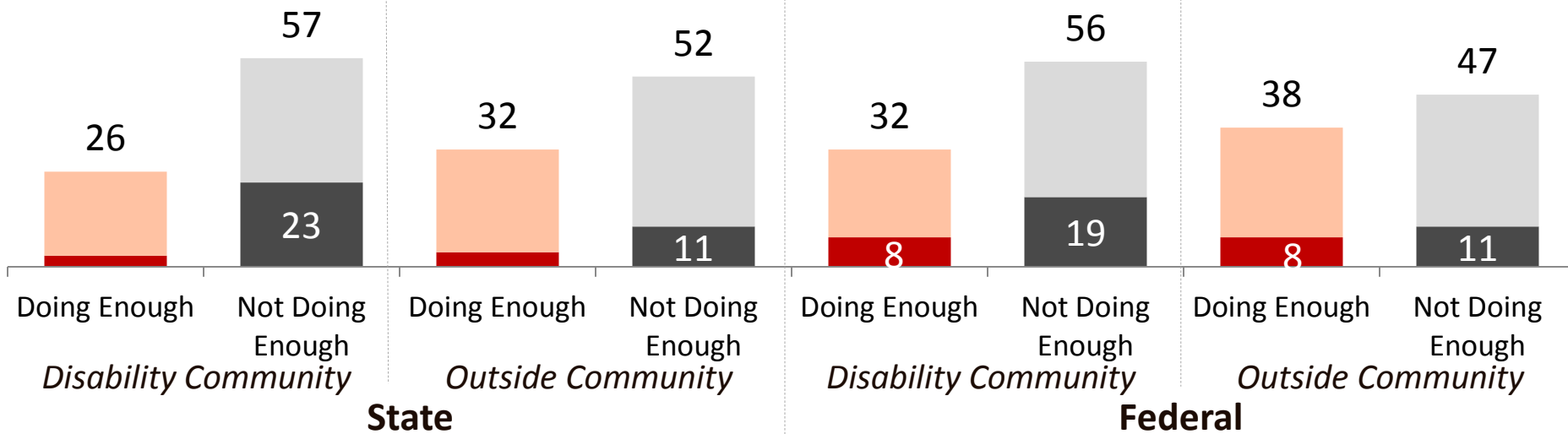
*“(Question text above)”* **State:** Doing enough, 28 percent. Not doing enough, 54 percent. **Federal:** Doing enough, 35 percent. Not doing enough, 52 percent.

# Disability Community More Likely to Fault State and Federal Government

■ Doing more than enough ■ Doing enough ■ Not doing near enough ■ Not doing enough

*Thinking about the current policies and programs your state government has to help people with disabilities get jobs and become independent, would you say the state government is doing more than enough, doing enough, not doing enough, or not doing anywhere near enough to help citizens in your state who have disabilities get a job and become independent?*

*Thinking about the current policies and programs the federal government has to help people with disabilities get jobs and become independent, would you say the federal government is doing more than enough, doing enough, not doing enough, or not doing anywhere near enough to help citizens in your state who have disabilities get a job and become independent?*



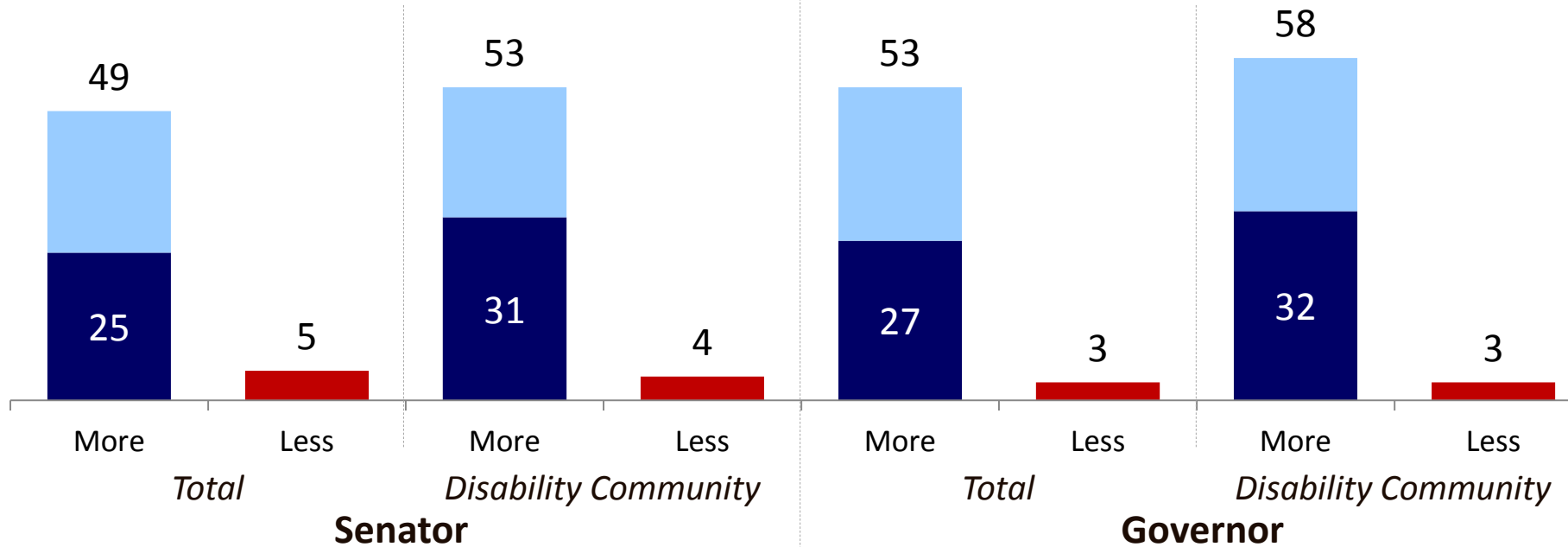
*“(Question text above)”* **State, Disability Community:** Doing enough, 26 percent. Not doing enough, 57 percent. **State, Outside Community:** Doing enough, 32 percent. Not doing enough, 52 percent. **Federal, Disability Community:** Doing enough, 32 percent. Not doing enough, 56 percent. **Federal, Outside Community:** Doing enough, 38 percent. Not doing enough, 47 percent.

# The Issue Has Electoral Consequences in Battleground

■ Less likely    ■ More likely    ■ Much more likely

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for **U.S. Senate** who makes enabling citizens with disabilities to get jobs and become independent a high priority, or would it make no difference to your vote?

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for **governor** who makes enabling citizens with disabilities to get jobs and become independent a high priority, or would it make no difference to your vote?



“(Question text above)” **Senator, Total:** More likely, 49 percent. Less likely, 5 percent. **Senator, Disability Community:** More likely, 53 percent. Less likely, 4 percent. **Governor, Total:** More likely, 53 percent. Less likely, 3 percent. **Governor, Disability Community:** More likely, 58 percent. Less likely, 3 percent.



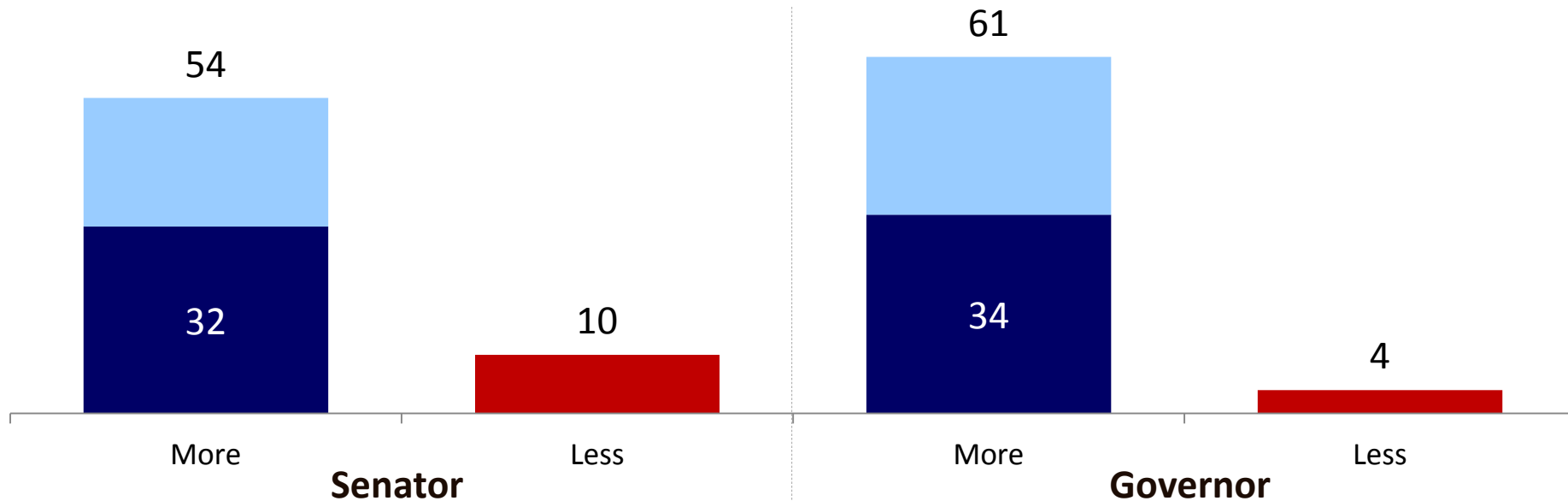
# Swing Voters in Disability Community Take Issue Seriously

■ Less likely ■ More likely ■ Much more likely

*Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for **U.S. Senate** who makes enabling citizens with disabilities to get jobs and become independent a high priority, or would it make no difference to your vote?*

*Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for **governor** who makes enabling citizens with disabilities to get jobs and become independent a high priority, or would it make no difference to your vote?*

## Swing Voters Among Disabled Community

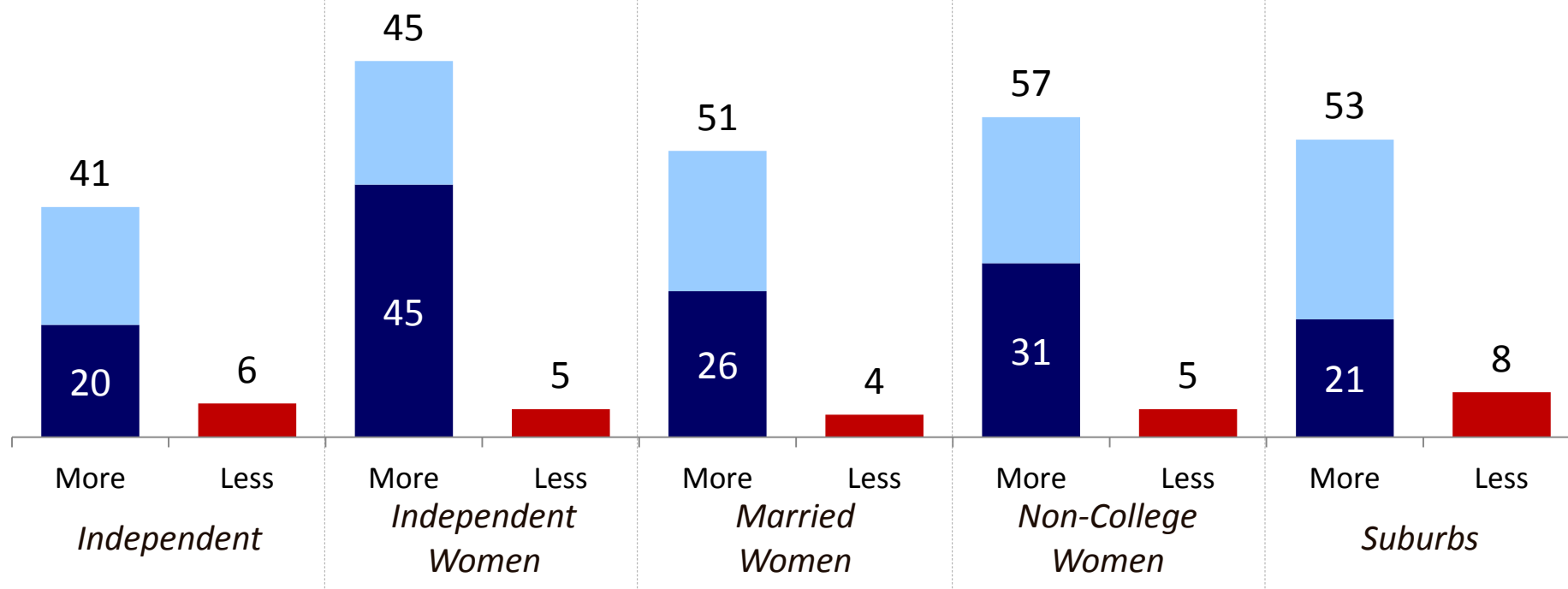


*“(Question text above)” Swing Voters Among Disabled Community. **Senator**: More likely, 54 percent. Less likely, 10 percent. **Governor**,: More likely, 61 percent. Less likely, 4 percent.*

# Issue Also Moves Swing Voters in Battleground

■ Less likely
 ■ More likely
 ■ Much more likely

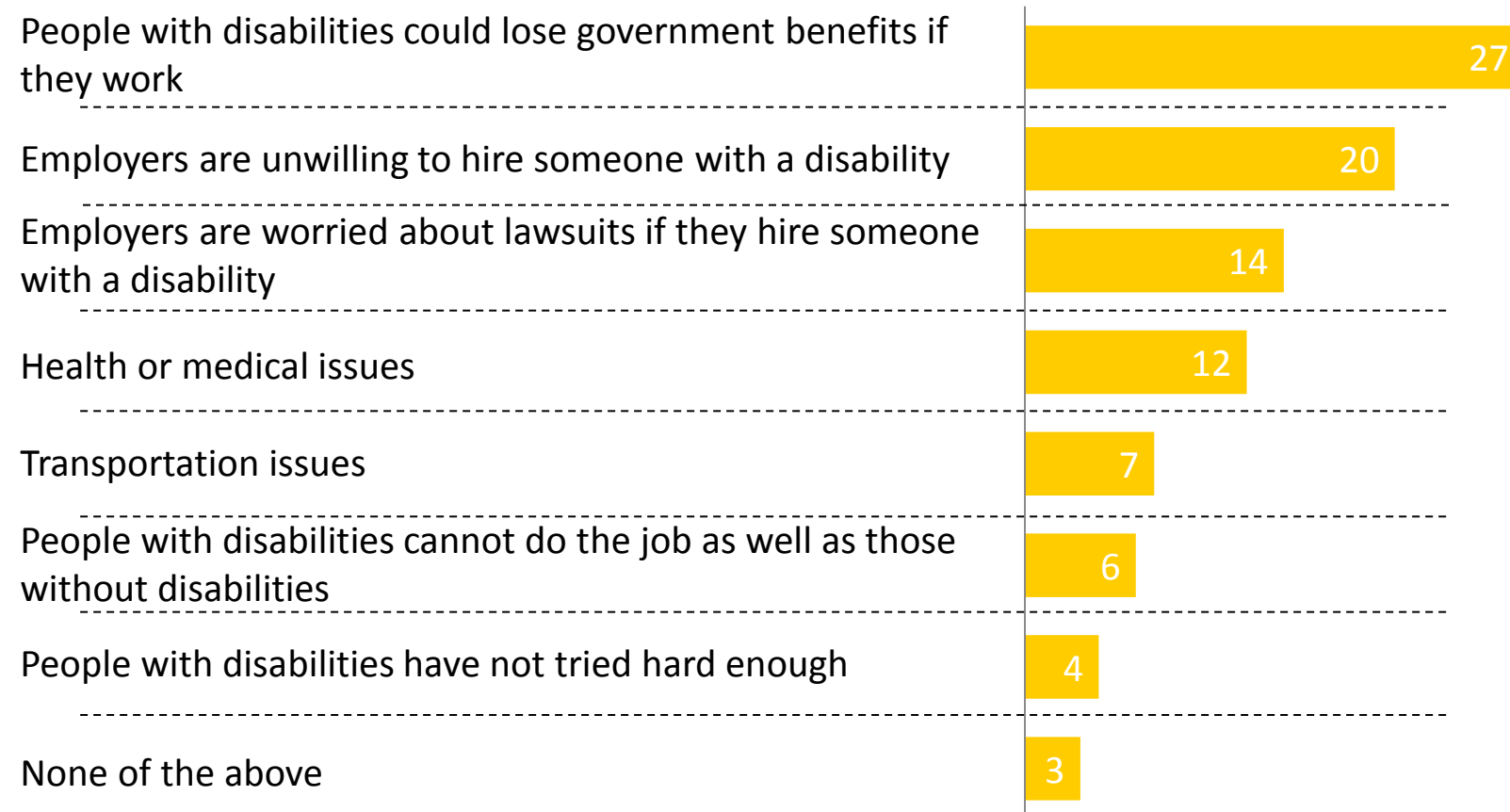
*Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for **U.S. Senate** who makes enabling citizens with disabilities to get jobs and become independent a high priority, or would it make no difference to your vote?*



*“(Question text above)”* **Independent:** More likely, 41 percent. Less likely, 6 percent. **Independent Women:** More likely, 45 percent. Less likely, 5 percent. **Married Women:** More likely, 51 percent. Less likely, 4 percent. **Non-College Women:** More likely, 57 percent. Less likely, 5 percent. **Suburbs:** More likely, 53 percent. Less likely, 8 percent.

# Government and Discrimination Responsible for High Unemployment among People with Disabilities

*Today, 70 percent of people with disabilities don't have jobs, even though most of them would prefer to work. Of the following reasons, which do you believe is the most important reason why unemployment is so high among people with disabilities?*



# Government and Discrimination Responsible for High Unemployment among People with Disabilities

*“Today, 70 percent of people with disabilities don't have jobs, even though most of them would prefer to work. Of the following reasons, which do you believe is the most important reason why unemployment is so high among people with disabilities?”*

People with disabilities could lose government benefits if they work, 27 percent. Employers are unwilling to hire someone with a disability, 20 percent. Employers are worried about lawsuits if they hire someone with a disability, 14 percent. Health or medical issues, 12 percent. Transportation issues, 7 percent. People with disabilities cannot do the job as well as those without disabilities, 6 percent. People with disabilities have not tried hard enough, 4 percent. None of the above, 3 percent.

# Overwhelming Majority Willing to Work with and Employ People With Disabilities

*As a customer, how important is it to you that the companies you do business with do not discriminate against qualified people with disabilities: very important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important?*

- Not very important
- Somewhat Important
- Not at all important
- Very important

89

61

9

3

Important

Not Important

*If you were an employer, manager or small business owner, how willing would you be to hire a qualified person with a disability: very willing, somewhat willing, not very willing or not at all willing?*

- Not at all willing
- Very willing
- Somewhat willing

98

78

1

Willing

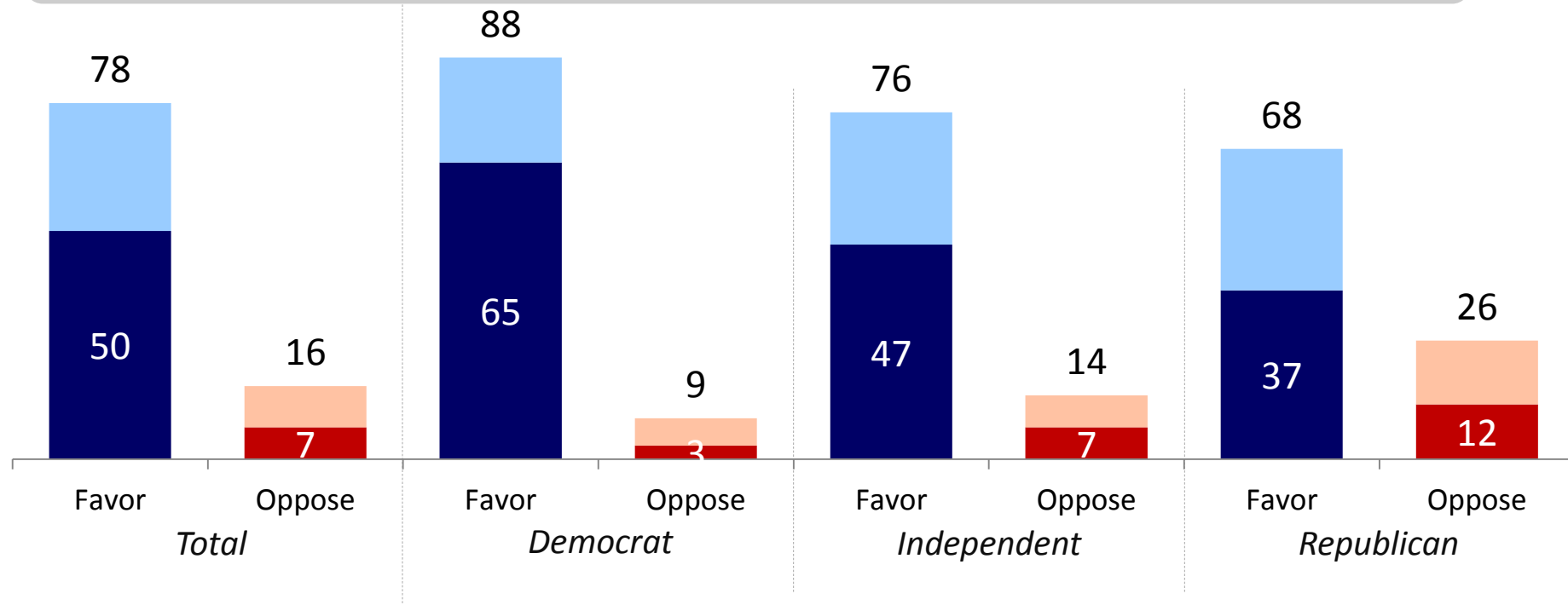
Not Willing

*“(Question text above)”* **Customer:** Very important, 61 percent. Total important, 89 percent. Not at all important, 3 percent. Total not important, 9 percent. **Employer:** Very willing, 78 percent. Total willing, 98 percent. Not at all willing, 1 percent. Not willing, 1 percent.

# Bi-Partisan Consensus on Reforming Work/Asset Rules to Allow People with Disabilities to Work

■ Somewhat oppose 
 ■ Strongly oppose 
 ■ Somewhat favor 
 ■ Strongly favor

*Under current law, people with disabilities who receive Medicaid and other payments from federal and state government have a cap or limit of 1,070 dollars per month in income and 2,000 dollars in total assets before they lose their benefits. Would you favor or oppose changing the law to increase these caps and allow people with disabilities to earn more without risking their benefits?*

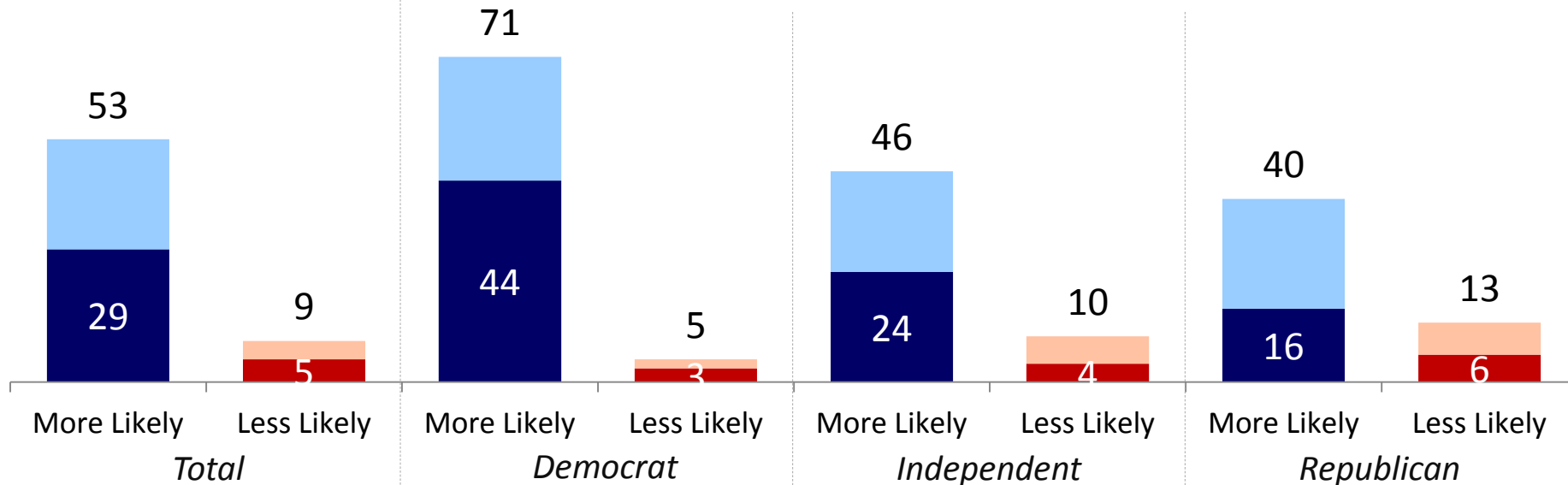


“(Question text above)” **Total:** Favor, 78 percent. Oppose, 16 percent. **Democrat:** Favor, 88 percent. Oppose, 9 percent. **Independent:** Favor, 76 percent. Oppose, 14 percent. **Republican:** Favor, 68 percent. Oppose, 26 percent.

# Majority More Likely to Support Senate Candidate who Supports Changing Law

■ Much more likely  
 ■ Somewhat more likely  
 ■ Much less likely  
 ■ Somewhat less likely

*Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for U.S. Senate who supports changing this law to increase these caps and allow people with disabilities to earn more without risking their benefits or would it make no difference to your vote?*

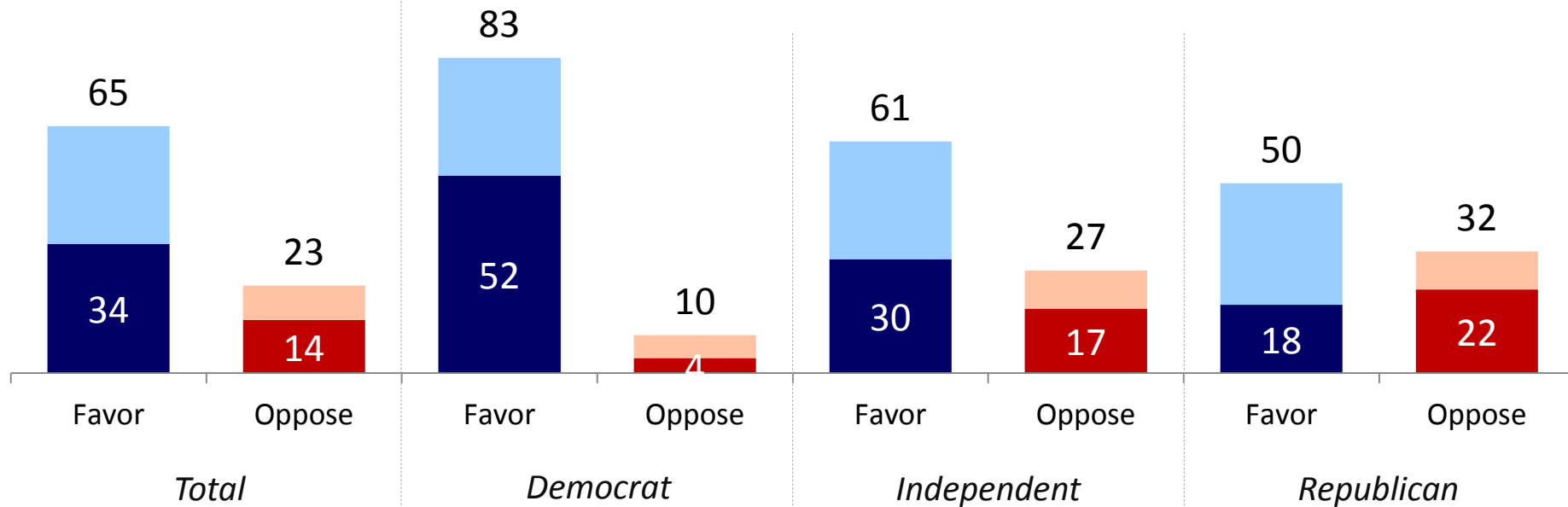


“(Question text above)” **Total:** More likely, 53 percent. Less likely, 9 percent. **Democrat:** More likely, 71 percent. Less likely, 9 percent. **Independent:** More likely, 46 percent. Less likely, 10 percent. **Republican:** More likely, 40 percent. Less likely, 13 percent.

# Strong Support for Disability Treaty

■ Somewhat oppose 
 ■ Strongly oppose 
 ■ Somewhat favor 
 ■ Strongly favor

*The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, also known as the Disability Treaty, is an international human rights treaty of the United Nations modeled after the Americans with Disabilities Act. This Treaty encourages the adoption of laws around the world that promote accessibility, equal opportunities and end abuse and discrimination of people with disabilities. The Treaty will not change existing U.S. law or add additional costs to its budget. Do you favor or oppose the U.S. Senate ratifying this treaty?*



"(Question text above)" **Democrat:** Favor, 83 percent. Oppose, 10 percent. **Independent:** Favor, 61 percent. Oppose, 27 percent. **Republican:** Favor, 50 percent. Oppose, 32 percent.



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