



# Canada This Month

# Legault's Resignation

Public Opinion Research  
Release Date: February 20, 2026  
Field Dates: Jan 16 to Feb 1, 2026

# Table of Contents

<b>Study Overview</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Key Findings</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Key Voter Segments</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Background</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>The Future of the CAQ</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>The Parti Quebecois &amp; Quebec Sovereignty</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Vote Intentions</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Methodology</b>	<b>44</b>

# Study Overview



This report presents findings from a survey on **the resignation of the Quebec Premier, François Legault**, using January data about Québécois' attitudes toward the CAQ, the Parti Québécois, Quebec Sovereignty, and vote intentions.

# Key Findings

1

## **The public mood toward the CAQ is bleak.**

71% of Quebecers say it's time for a change. 6-in-10 are dissatisfied with the Quebec government and 48% say that the CAQ governments have worsened Quebec's economy. François Legault never recovered from his late 2022 drop in favourability. Overall net impression of PQ leader Paul St-Pierre Plamondon is at +9 points, but lower than July 2024 peak (+20pts).

2

## **Only 22% would vote for the CAQ if they selected a new leader that implements the changes they want.**

Addressing healthcare issues (14%) and tackling the cost of living (11%) are the top changes people want to see from the new leader of the CAQ. Only 22% of Quebecers would vote for the CAQ if desired changes are implemented, and 3-in-10 agree with forgiving their mistakes and considering voting for them, with those aged 55+ and those living in the 450 more likely to forgive the CAQ.

3

## **More Quebecers oppose Quebec sovereignty than support it, and the gap has widened since 2024.**

Net support for Quebec sovereignty has receded 16 points since June 2024 and stood at -27pts in January 2026. Most agree that a PQ government would make the referendum a priority and that it would be a distraction from critical issues, especially among CAQ and Liberal partisans but even among PQ supporters (31%). Yet, more than a third of Quebecers and half of CAQ partisans think the PQ would step back from its commitment to hold a referendum if elected.

4

## **The Parti Québécois is the frontrunner, with a 5-point lead in decided vote over the Liberals.**

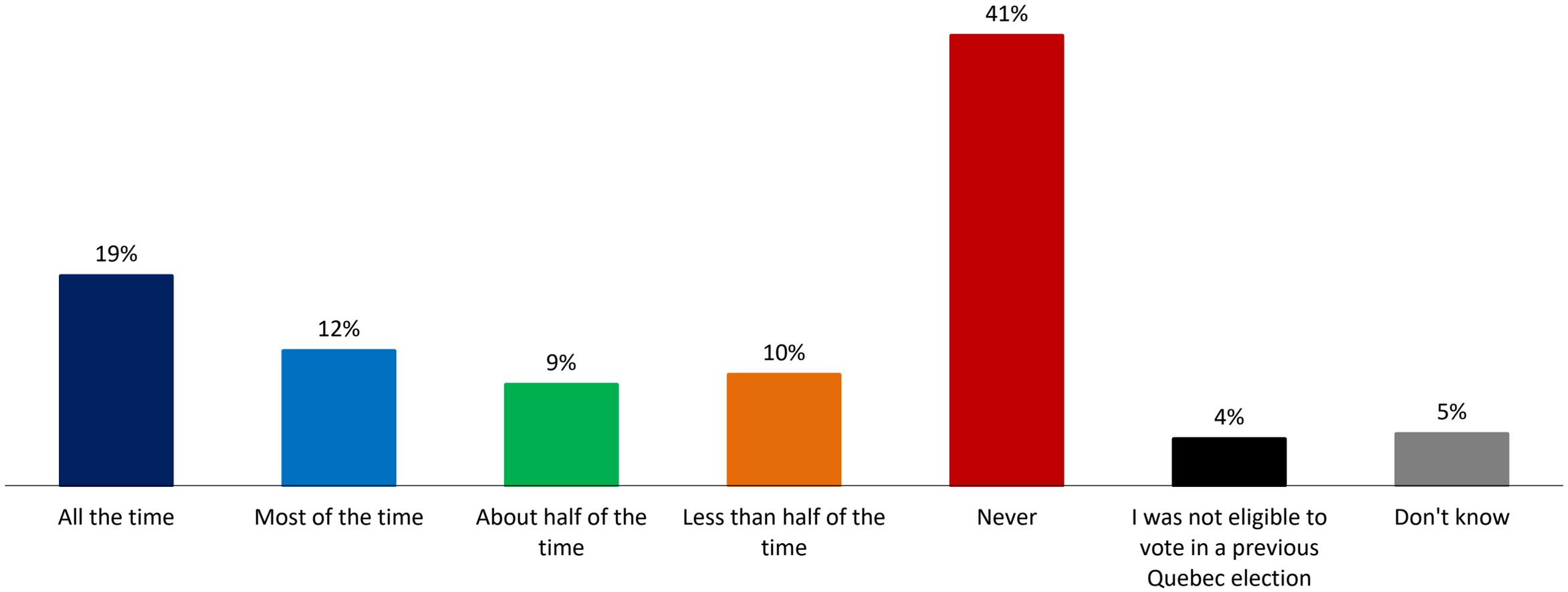
The PQ leads with 31% of decided voters, followed by Liberals at 26%. Men and francophones are more likely to vote PQ, while those 55+ and those living in Quebec City & Chaudière-Appalaches are more likely to vote for the CAQ than average. Economic Strugglers are more likely to vote PQ, while Achievers are more likely to vote CAQ than average. The CAQ is in fourth place with 14%, behind the Conservatives (18%).

# Key Voter Segments

# CAQ Self-reported Past Vote Frequency



Thinking about Quebec elections over the past 10 years, how often have you voted for the CAQ (Coalition Avenir Québec)?  
[Asked of all respondents in Quebec, n=600]

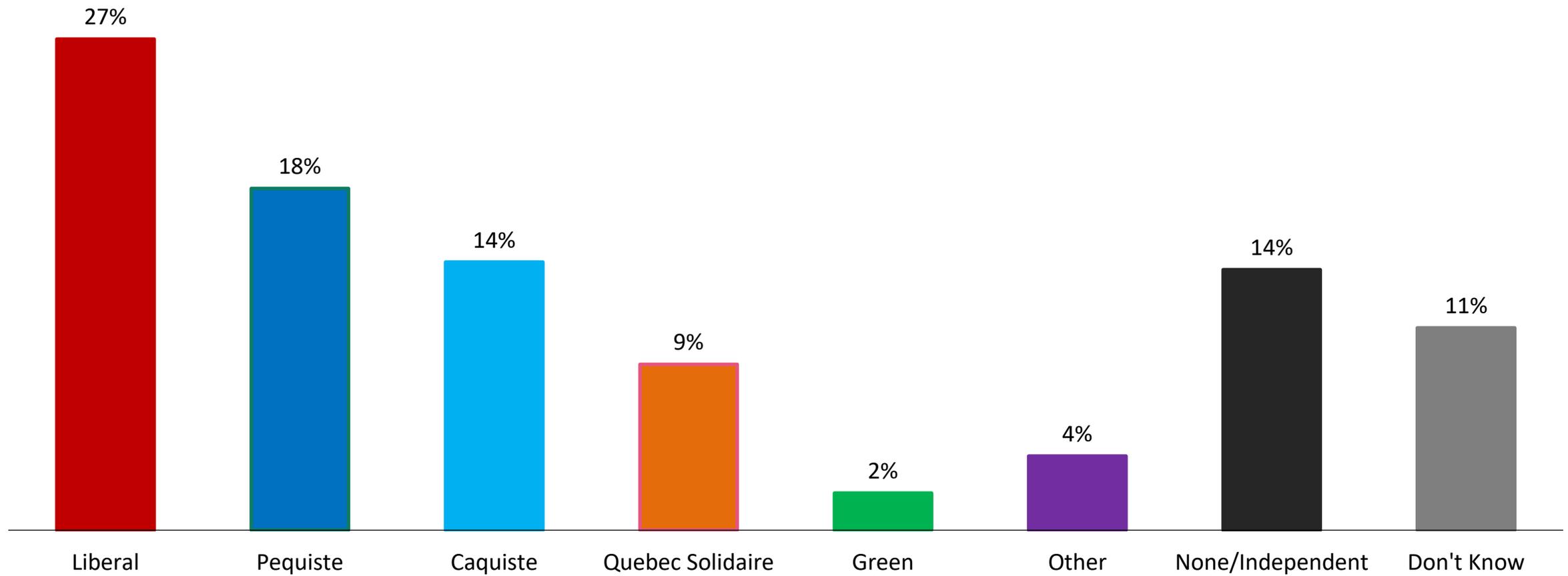


# Provincial Party ID



Thinking about politics in [PROV], generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a...

[asked of all respondents; n=600]



**Key Segmentations:** We use attitudinal clusters to explore opinions within groups that share common motivations. Detailed definitions and results for each segment are included in the appendix.

## Economic Gap

The economic gap segmentation divides Québécois by their outlook on their economic future, splitting them into four groups:

1. **Achievers** (21%) - Optimistic Québécois who believe hard work still leads to success.
2. **Strugglers** (41%) - Believe hard work still leads to success but find it increasingly difficult to get ahead.
3. **Ambivalent** (22%) - Uncertain about whether opportunity exists or if hard work pays off anymore.
4. **Alienated** (17%) - Don't believe hard work leads to success and feel the system doesn't work.

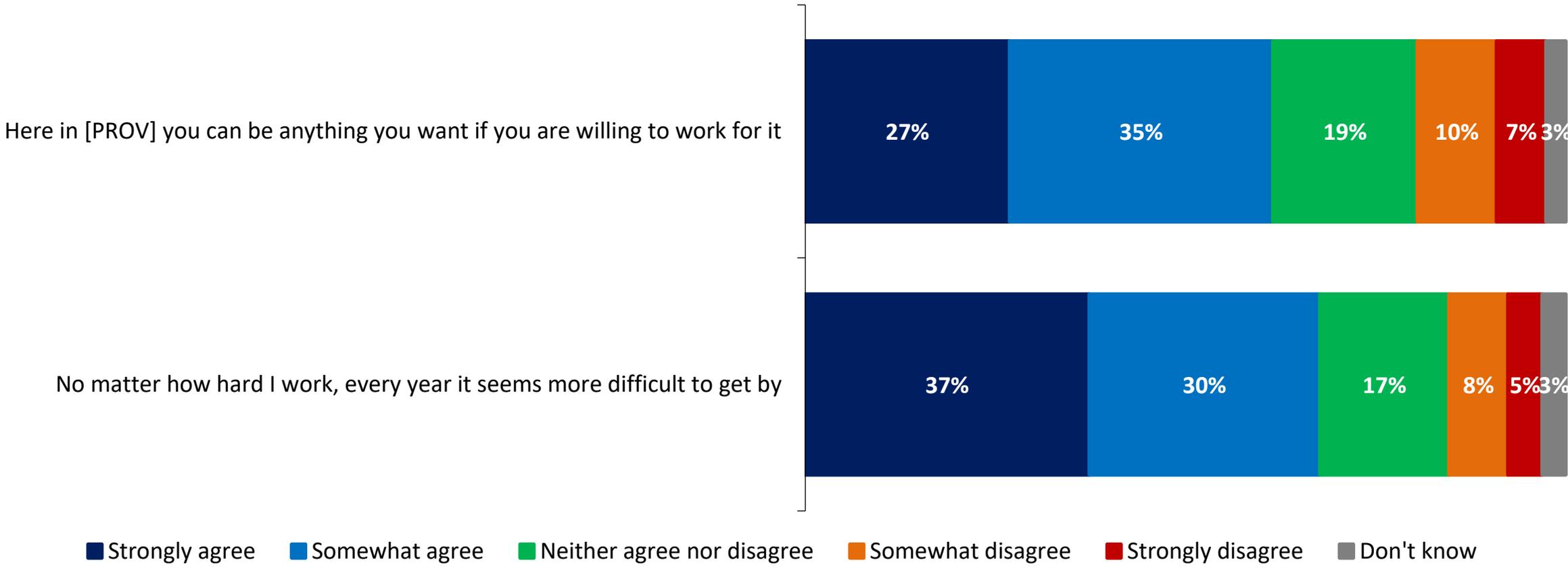
## Time For Change

This segmentation separates Québécois by their views on the incumbent government. Is it time for a change, and is there a better alternative than the current government? This creates six groups:

1. **Core CAQ** (7%) - Strongly support the CAQ and don't want change.
2. **Soft CAQ** (8%) - Lean toward CAQ but aren't firmly committed.
3. **Time for Change CAQ** (10%) - Want change but still see the CAQ as the best option to govern.
4. **Uncertain** (12%) - Conflicted about whether it's time for a change at all
5. **Soft anti-CAQ** (37%) - Want change and don't see the CAQ as the best government option
6. **Hostile** (26%) - Strongly oppose the CAQ and are eager for change

# Economic Gap: 67% agree that no matter how hard they work, it is increasingly more difficult to get by

Q Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? -  
[asked of all respondents; n=600]

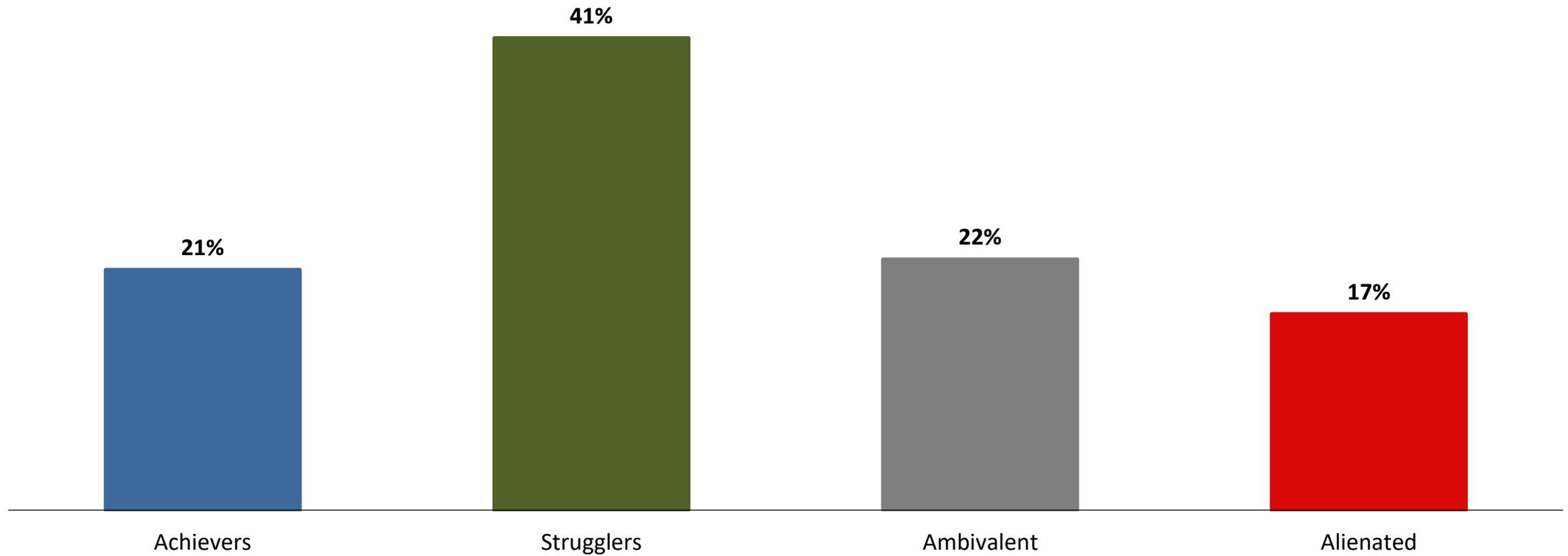


# Economic Gap Segmentation: 41% of Quebecers are Strugglers



Gap segmentation: Agree with 'Here in [PROVINCE] you can be anything you want if you are willing to work for it' BY Agree with 'No matter how hard I work, every year it seems more difficult to get by'.

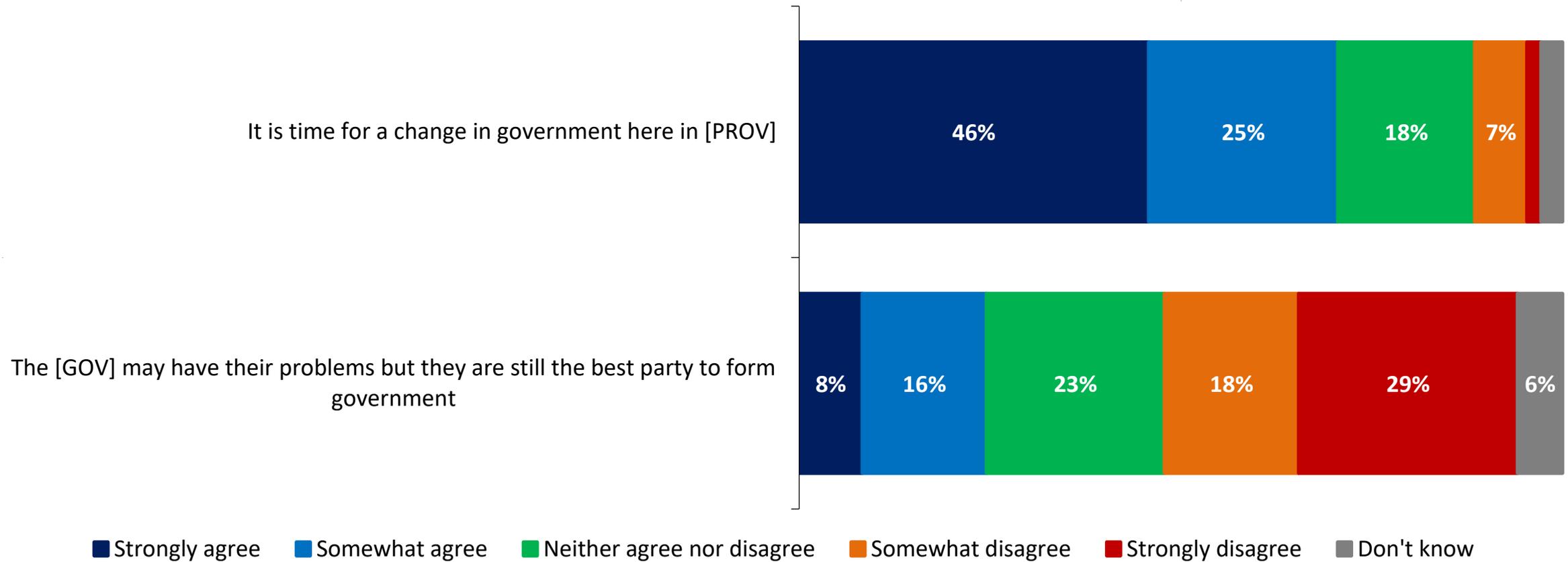
[asked of all respondents; n=600]



# Time for Change Attitudes:

## 71% agree it is time for a change in government in Quebec

Q Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? -  
[asked of all respondents; n=600]

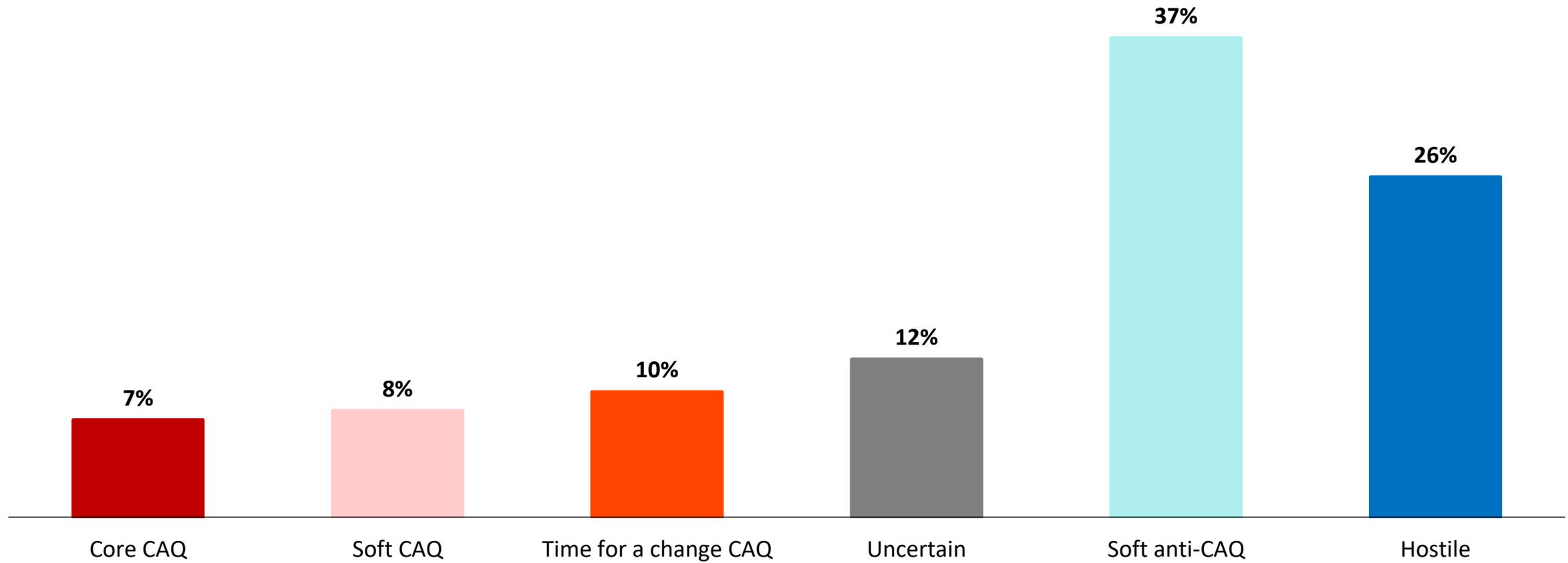


# Time for Change Segmentation: Most want a change, and among them only 10% see the CAQ as the best option to govern



Time for Change segmentation: Agree with 'The CAQ may have their problems but they are still the best party to form government' BY Agree with 'It is time for a change in government here in Quebec'.

[asked of all respondents; n=600]



**Background**

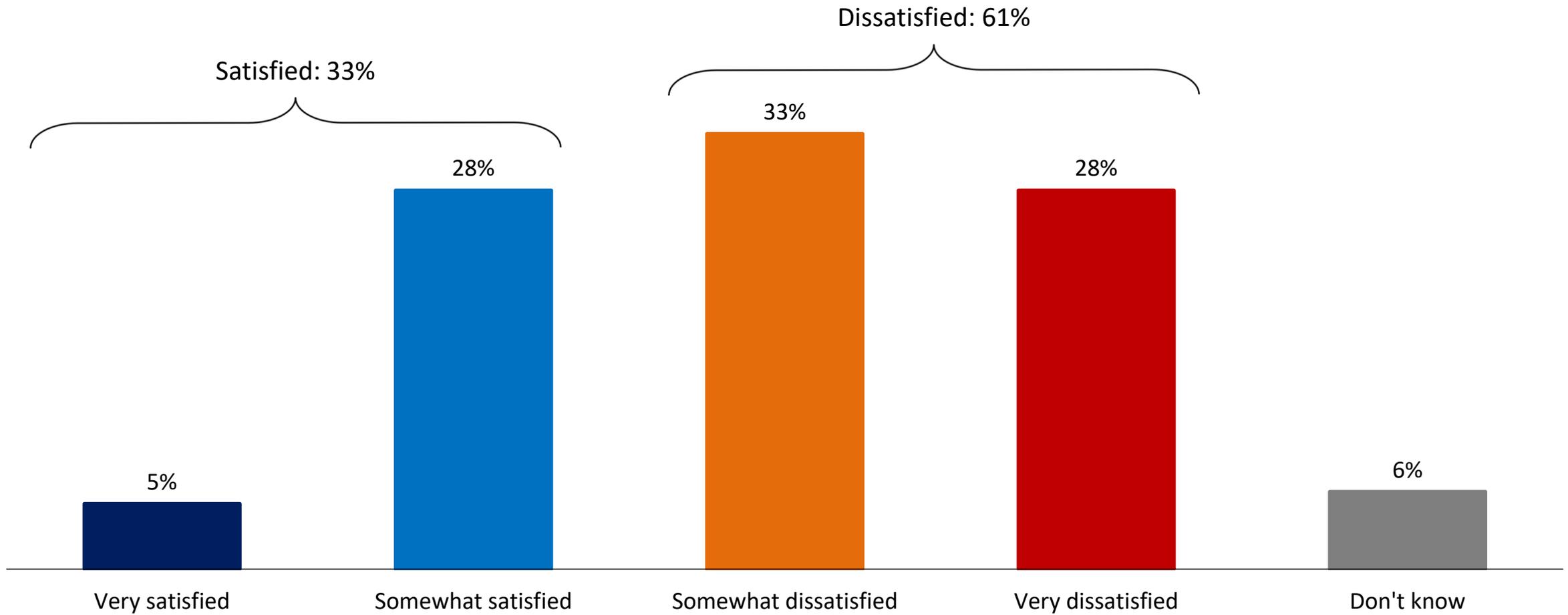
The background is a solid dark blue color. It features several faint, light blue circles of varying sizes scattered across the surface. The circles are semi-transparent and do not overlap each other.

# Quebec Government Approval:

## 6-in-10 are dissatisfied with the Quebec government



Generally speaking, how satisfied are you with the performance of the PROVINCIAL government in [PROV]? Would you say you are...?  
[asked of all respondents; n=600]

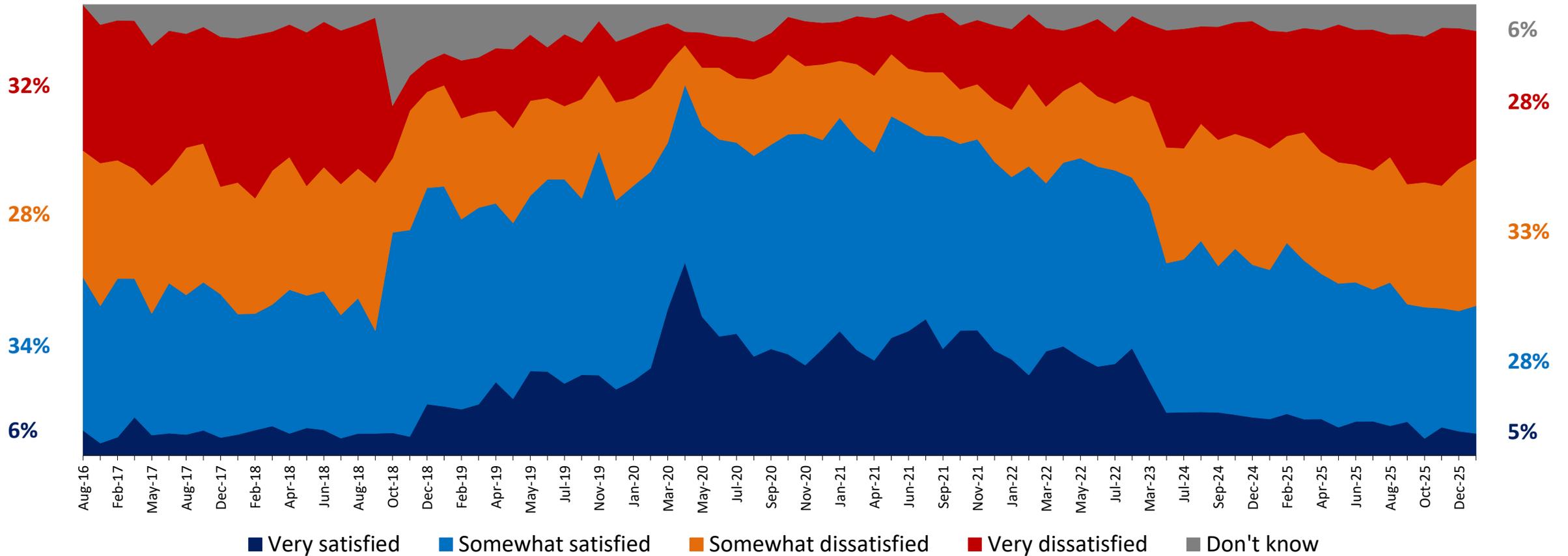


# Quebec Government Approval Tracking:

## The government never recovered from August '22 drop in satisfaction

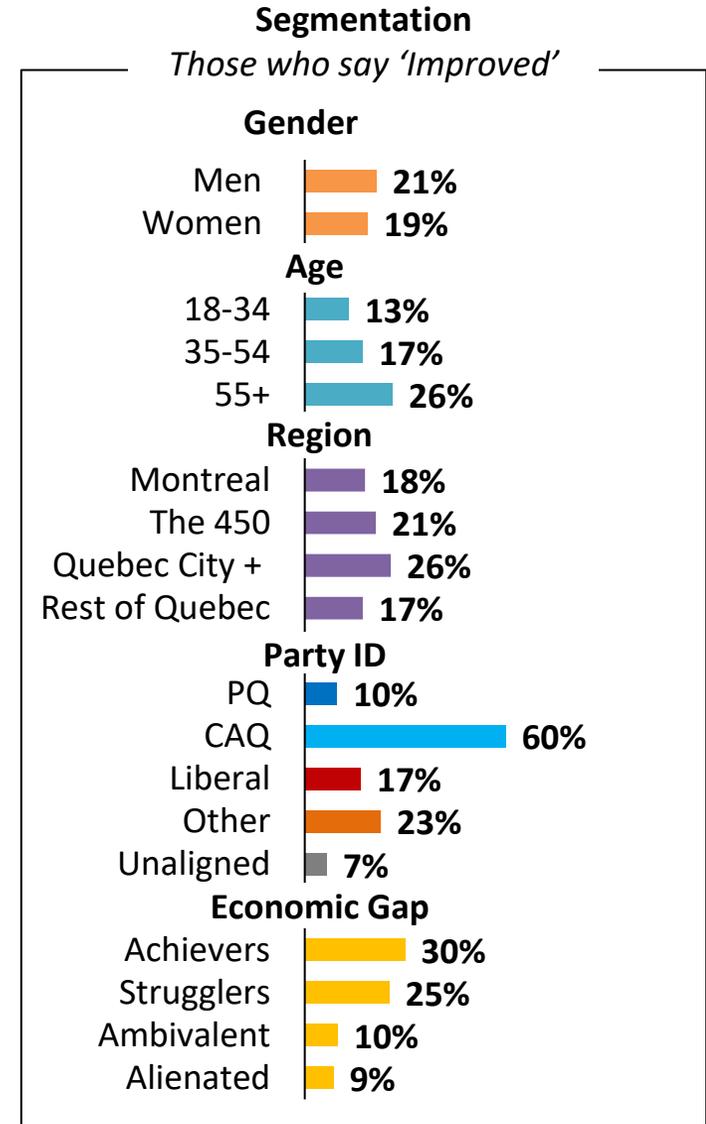
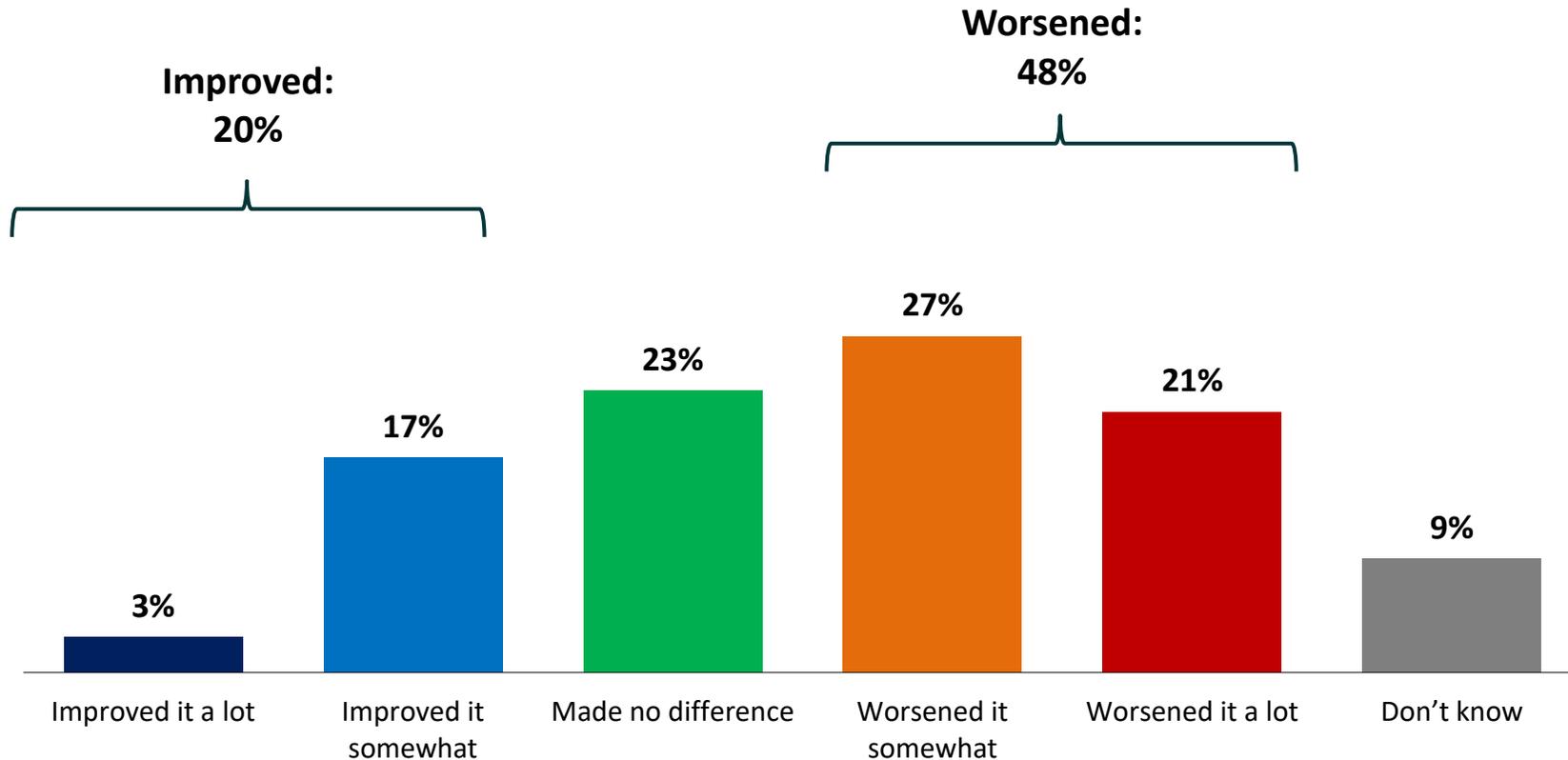


Generally speaking, how satisfied are you with the performance of the PROVINCIAL government in [PROV]? Would you say you are...?  
 [asked of all respondents; n=600]



# CAQ – Economy: Almost half (48%) think the CAQ gov'ts worsened Quebec's economy; 55+ and Quebec City + more likely to say improved

**Q** Overall, do you think CAQ governments have improved or worsened Quebec's economy?  
 [Asked of all respondents in Quebec, n=600]

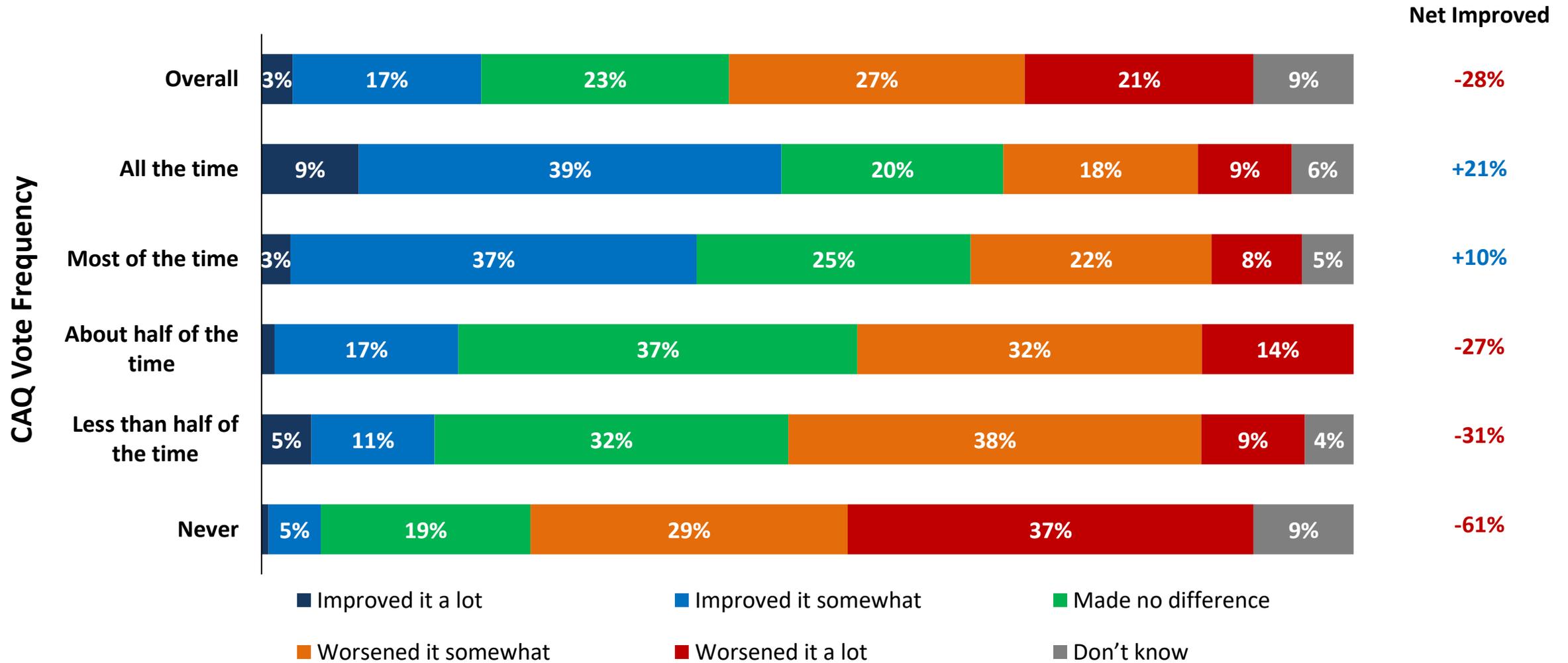


# CAQ – Economy BY CAQ Voter: Only those who have voted for CAQ all or most of the time are more likely to say it improved than not



Overall, do you think CAQ governments have improved or worsened Quebec’s economy? **BY CAQ Voter**

[Asked of all respondents in Quebec, n=600]



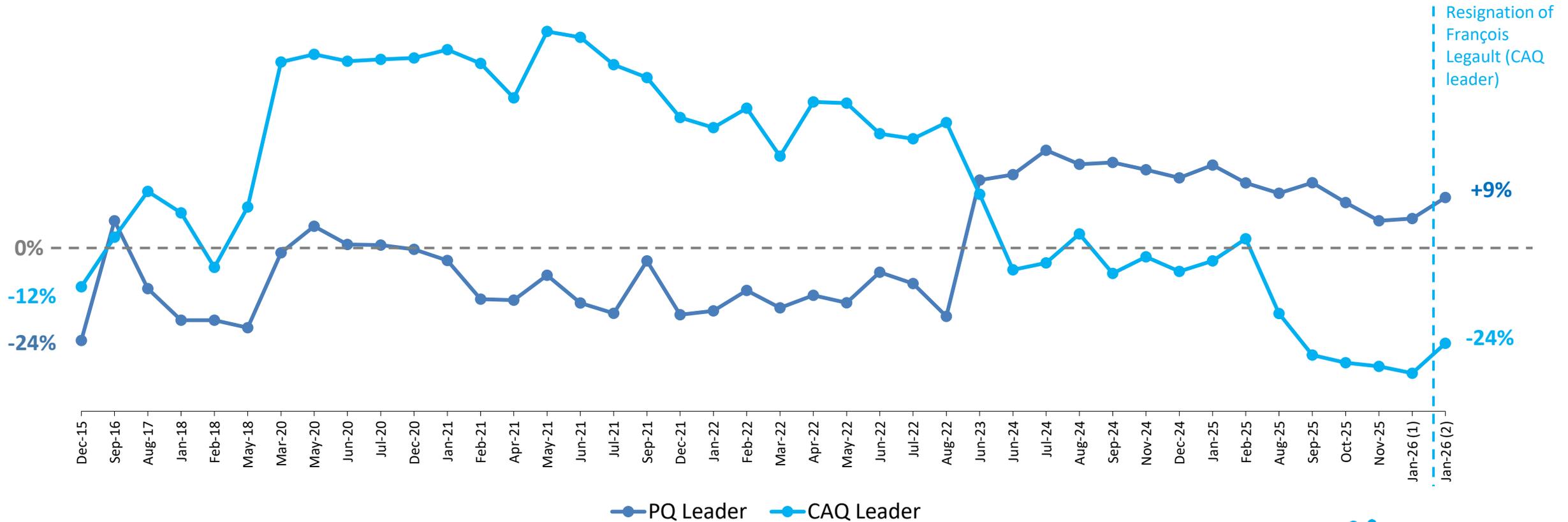
Note: "Don't know" and "Not eligible to vote" not shown (CAQ Vote Frequency).

# Leader NET Favourables Tracking: Legault never recovered from late '22<sup>18</sup> drop, Plamondon positive (+9) but down since July '24 peak (+20)



Below are the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please indicate whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, neither favourable or unfavourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just indicate.

[Asked of all respondents in Quebec, n=600]

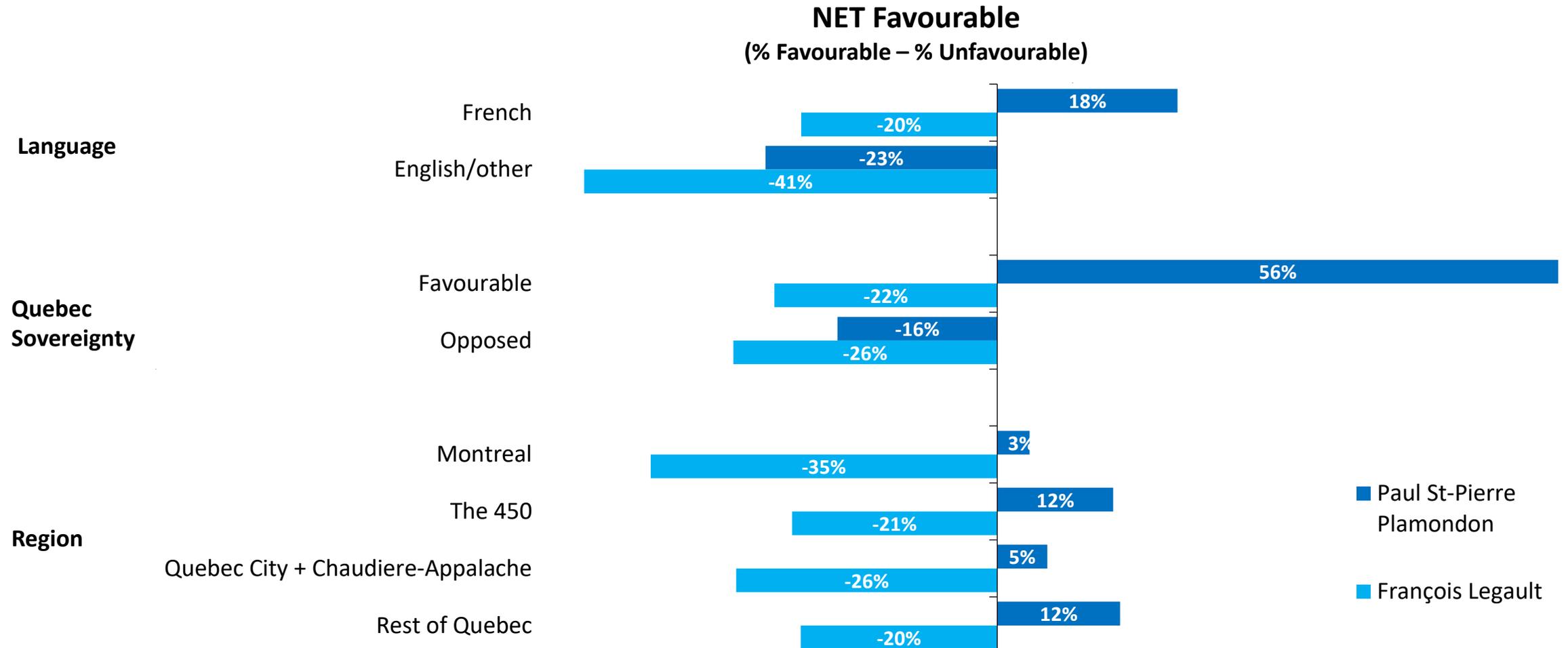


# Leader NET Favourables by Language, QC Sovereignty, Region: Plamondon's net favourables highest in the 450 and Rest of Quebec



Below are the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please indicate whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, neither favourable or unfavourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just indicate.

[Asked of all respondents in Quebec, n=600]



# The Future of the CAQ

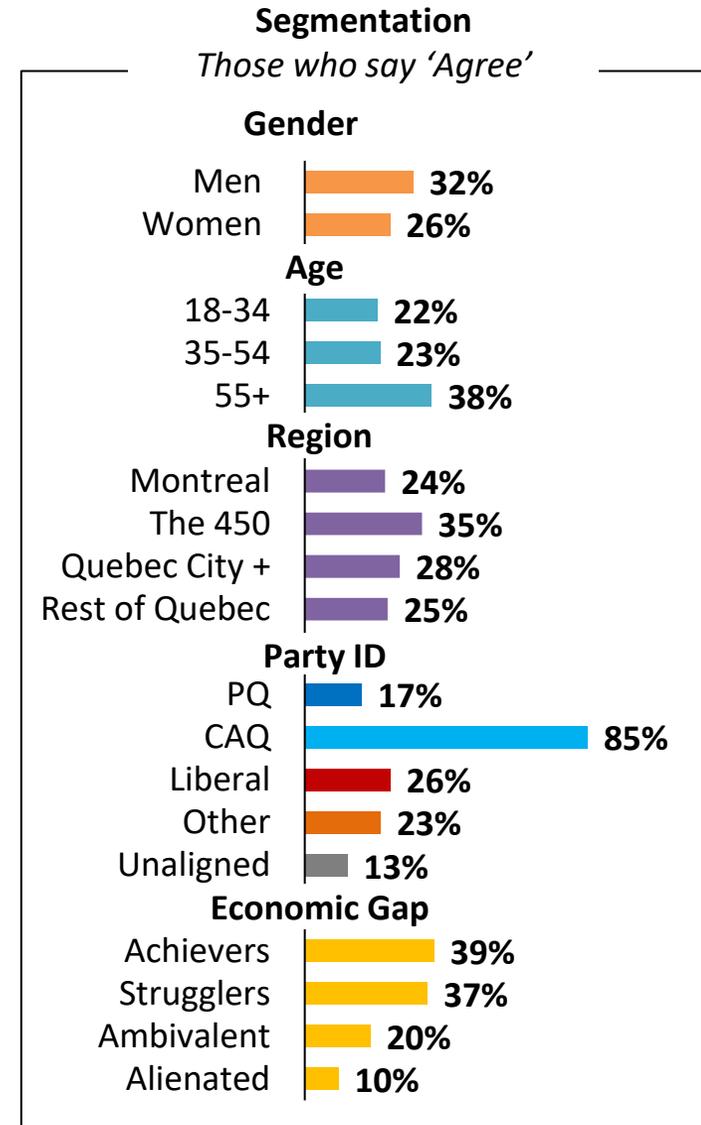
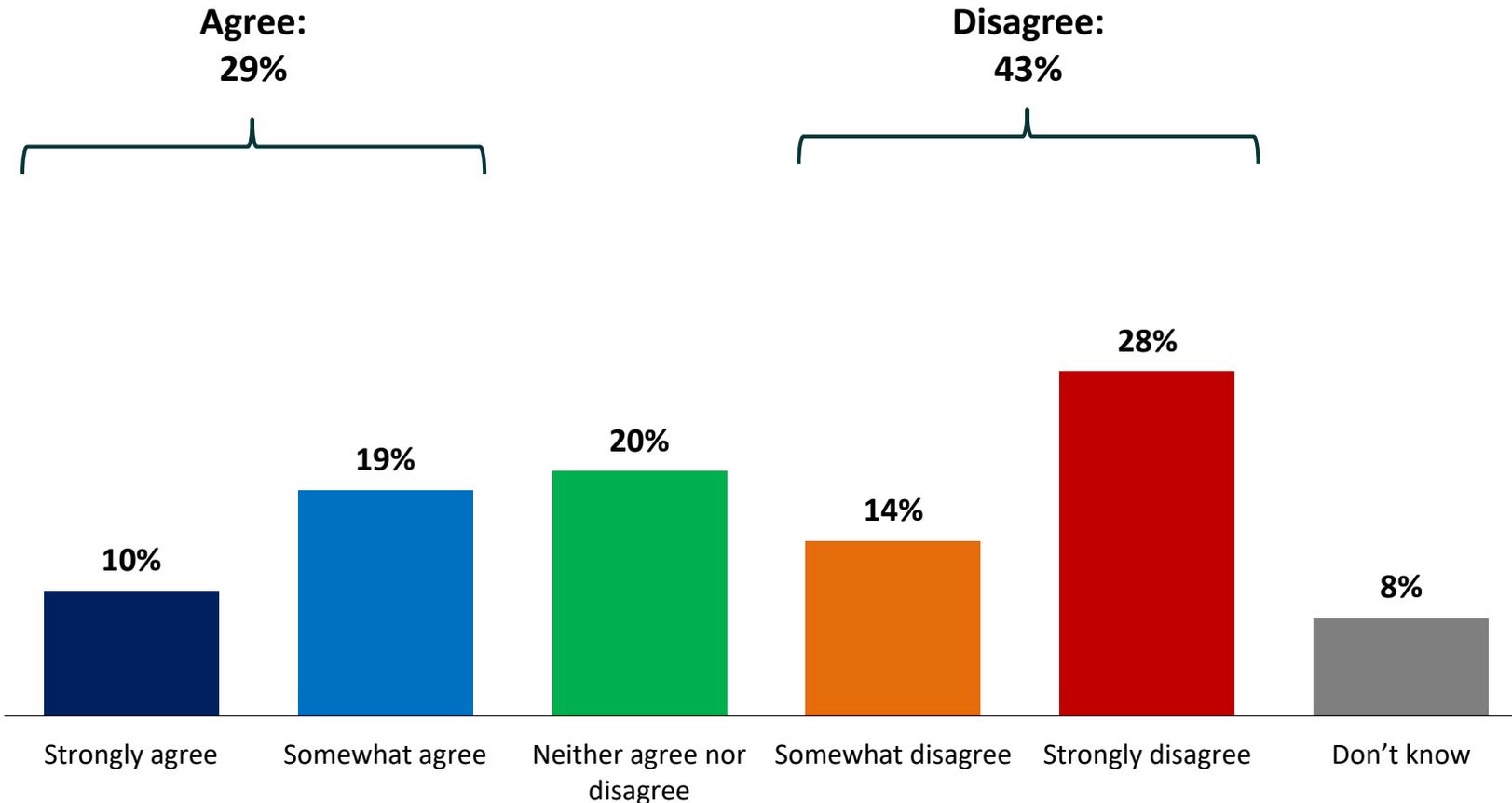
# CAQ – Forgiving Mistakes: Only 3-in-10 agree with forgiving mistakes; Higher among those 55+ and those living in the 450



Below are some statements some people have made about politics in Quebec. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with each statement.

[Asked of all respondents in Quebec, n=600]

The CAQ (Coalition Avenir Québec) have made mistakes, but I am still willing to consider voting for them.



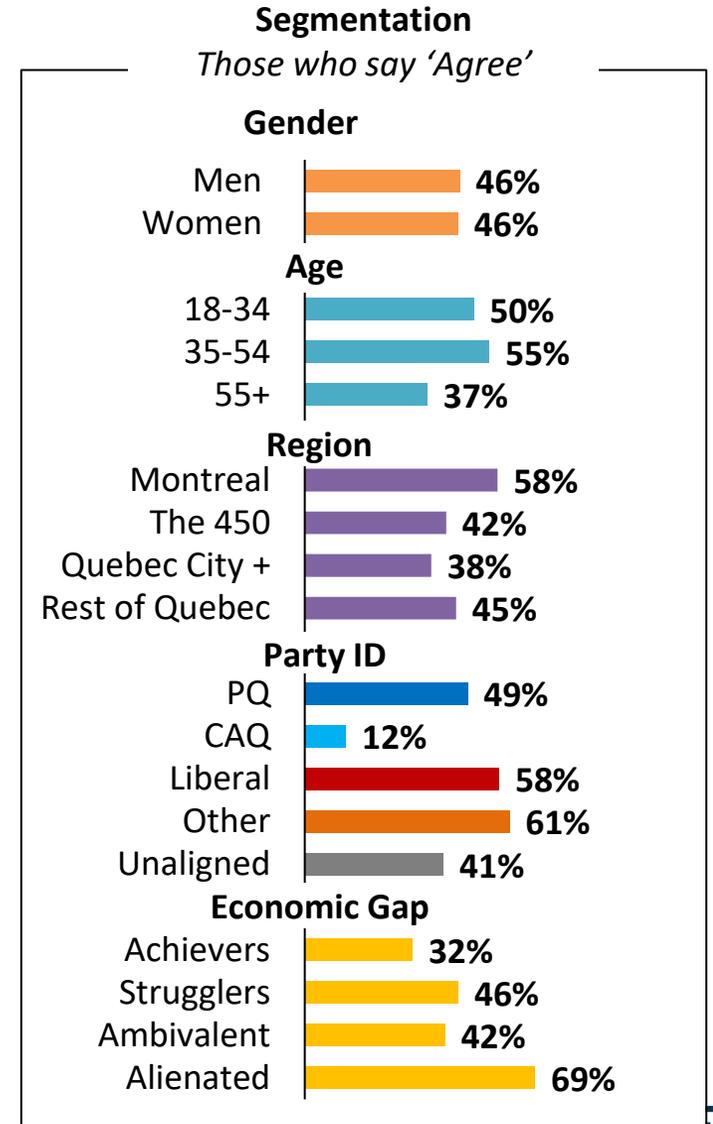
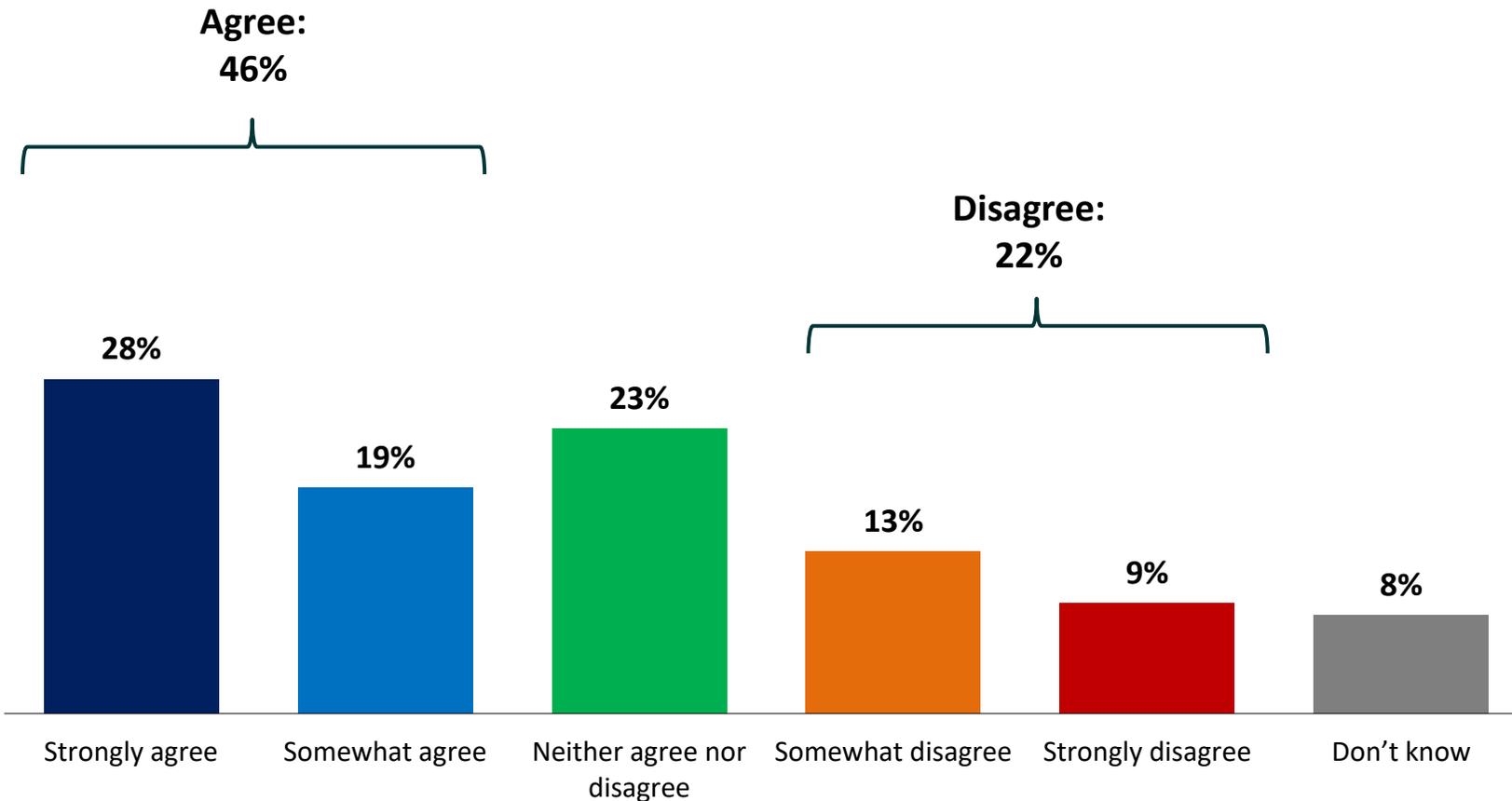
# CAQ – Never Again: 46% agree that CAQ messed up too much to vote them again; more likely for 35-54, Montreal and Alienated



Below are some statements some people have made about politics in Quebec. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with each statement.

[Asked of all respondents in Quebec, n=600]

The CAQ (Coalition Avenir Québec) have messed up so badly I could never vote them again.

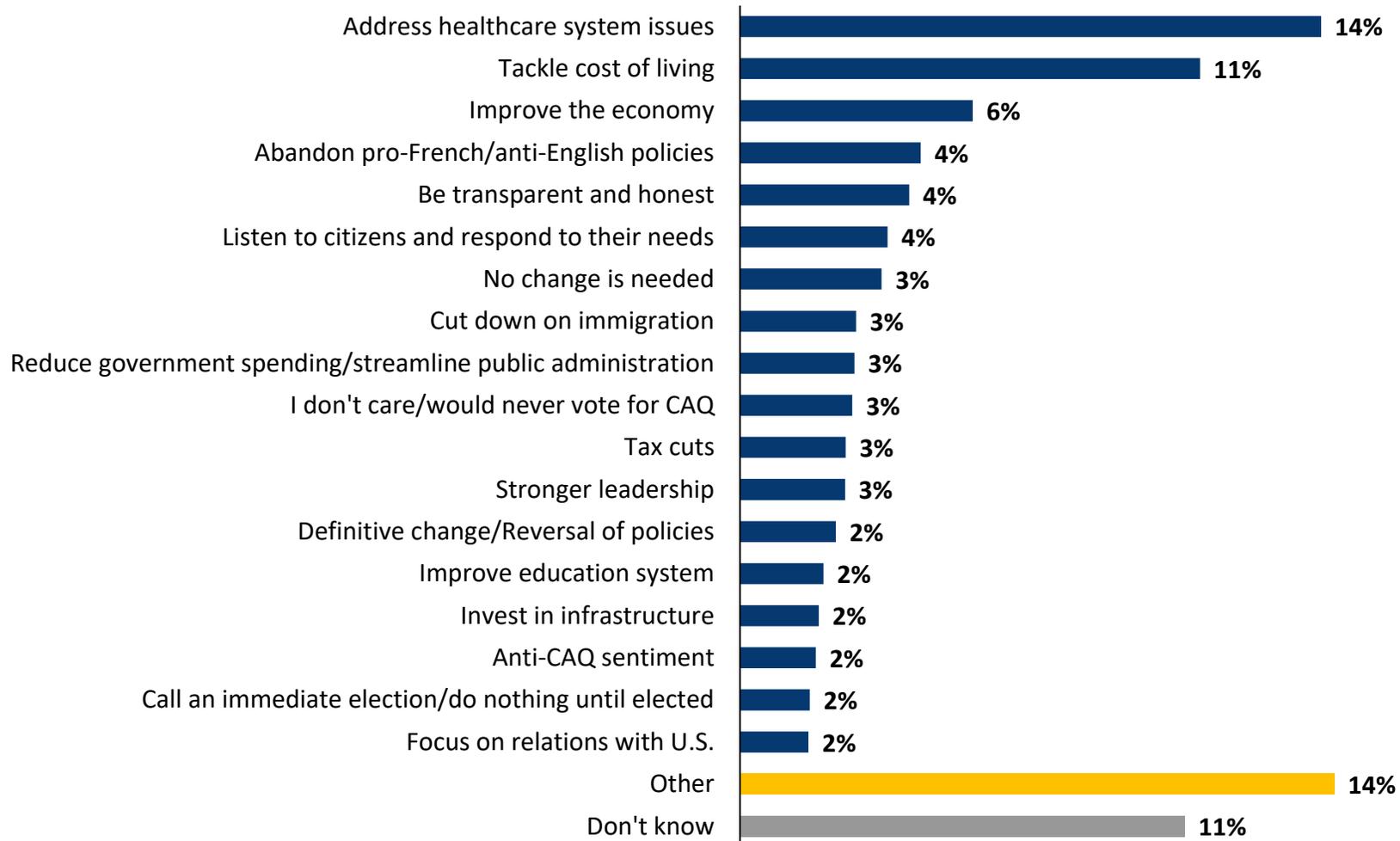


# CAQ - Changes: The main changes desired are addressing healthcare issues (14%) and the cost of living (11%)



As you have likely heard, François Legault has resigned as Premier and leader of the CAQ (Coalition Avenir Québec). The new leader will likely have a few months as Premier before the next provincial election, currently scheduled for this fall. What is the most important change you would like to see from the new leader of the CAQ when they become Premier? [OPEN END]

[Asked of all respondents; n=600]



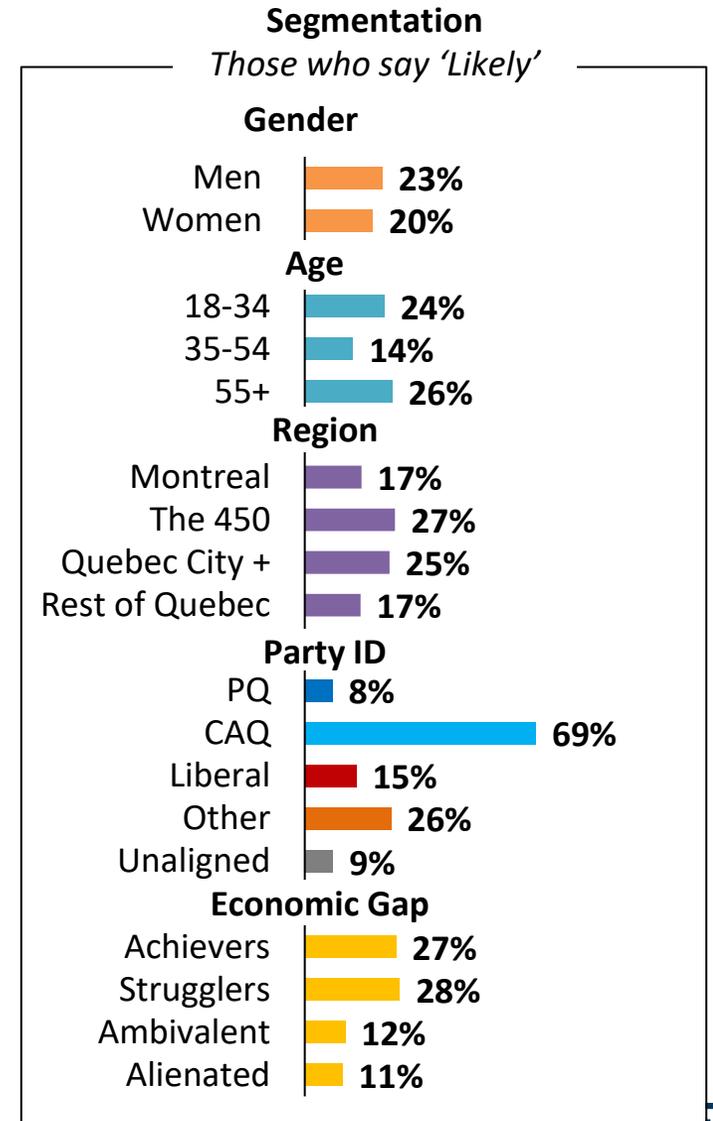
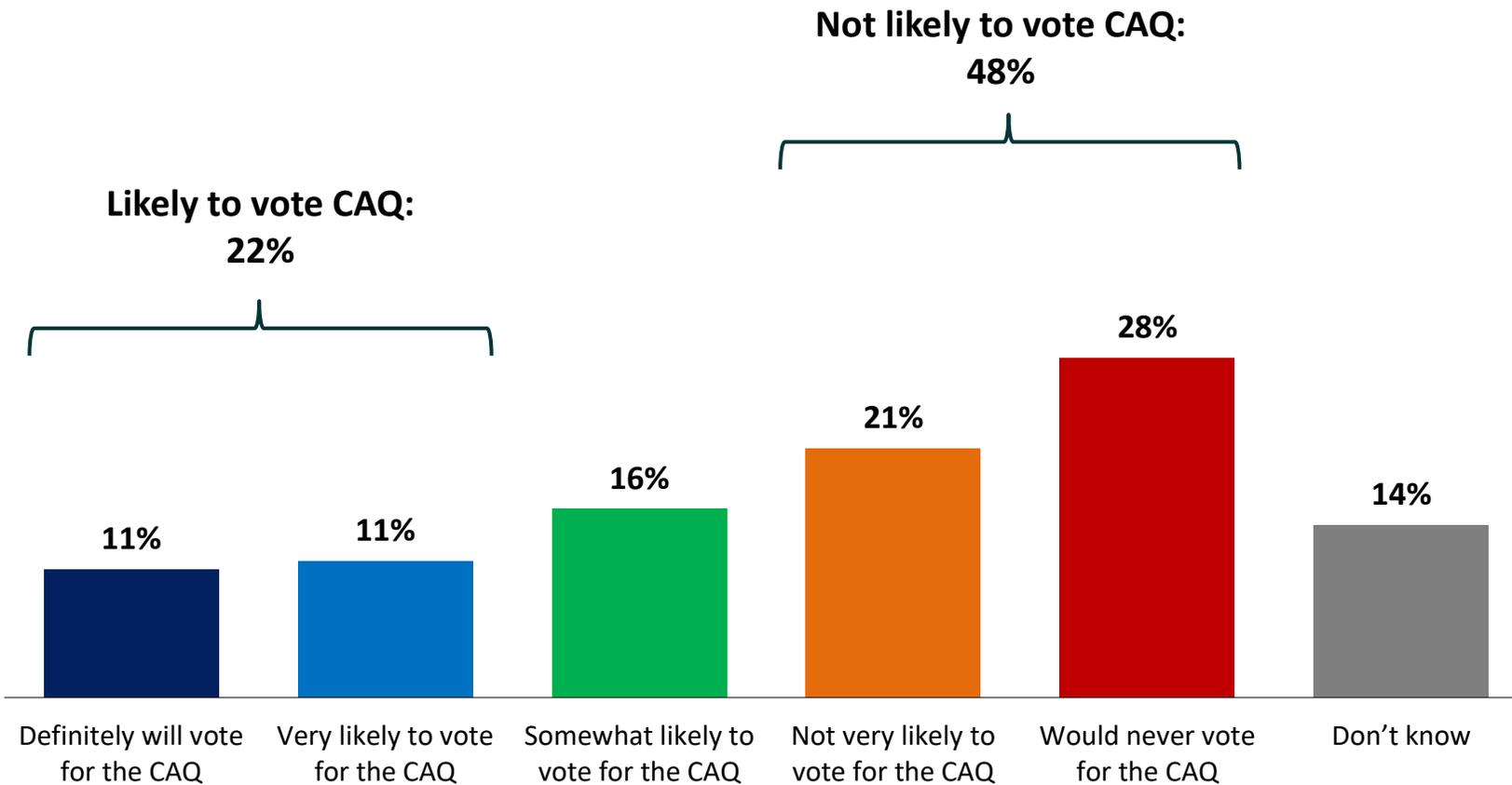
# CAQ – Vote if CAQ Changes:

## Half (48%) unlikely to vote for CAQ even if desired changes implemented



How likely are you to vote for the CAQ (Coalition Avenir Québec) if they select a new leader who implements some of the changes you are looking for?

[Asked of all respondents in Quebec, n=600]

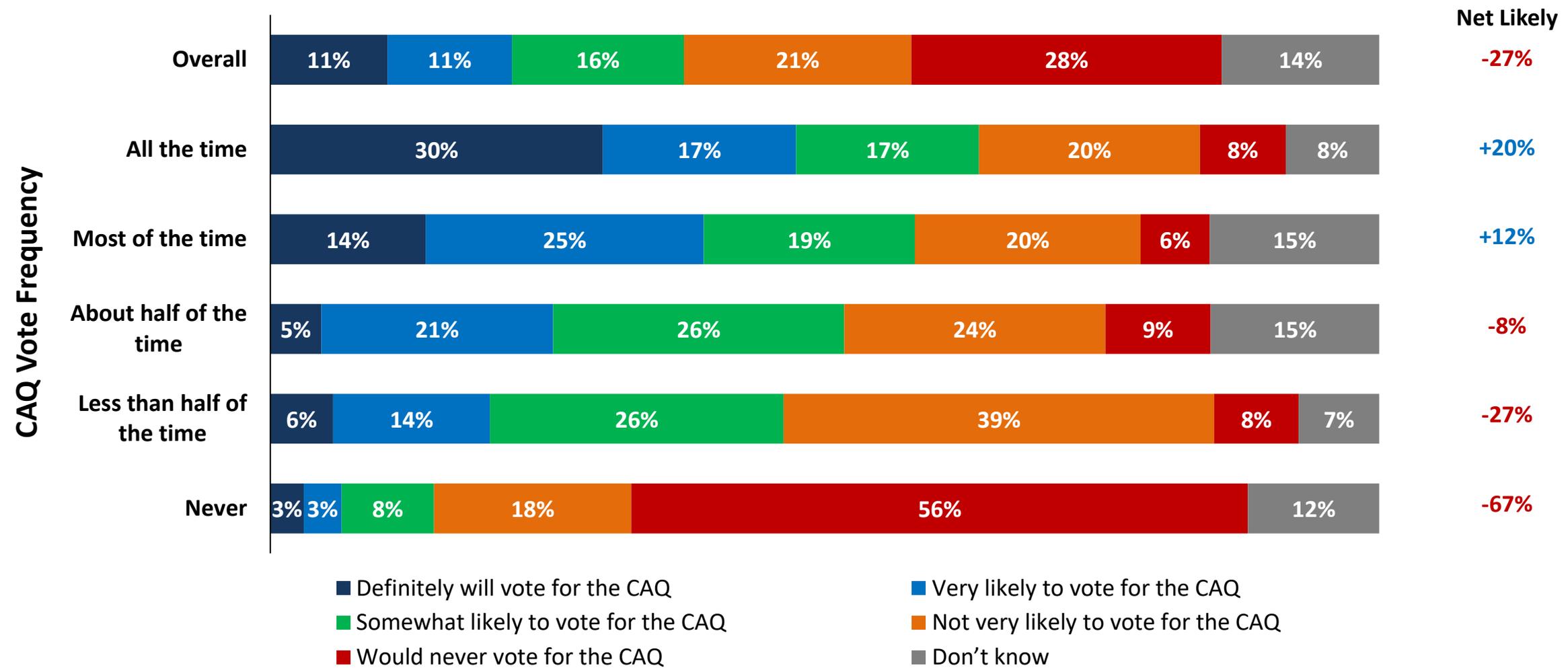


# Vote if CAQ Changes BY CAQ Voter: Only those who have voted for CAQ all or most of the time are more likely to vote CAQ if changes than not



How likely are you to vote for the CAQ (Coalition Avenir Québec) if they select a new leader who implements some of the changes you are looking for? **BY CAQ Voter**

[Asked of all respondents in Quebec, n=600]

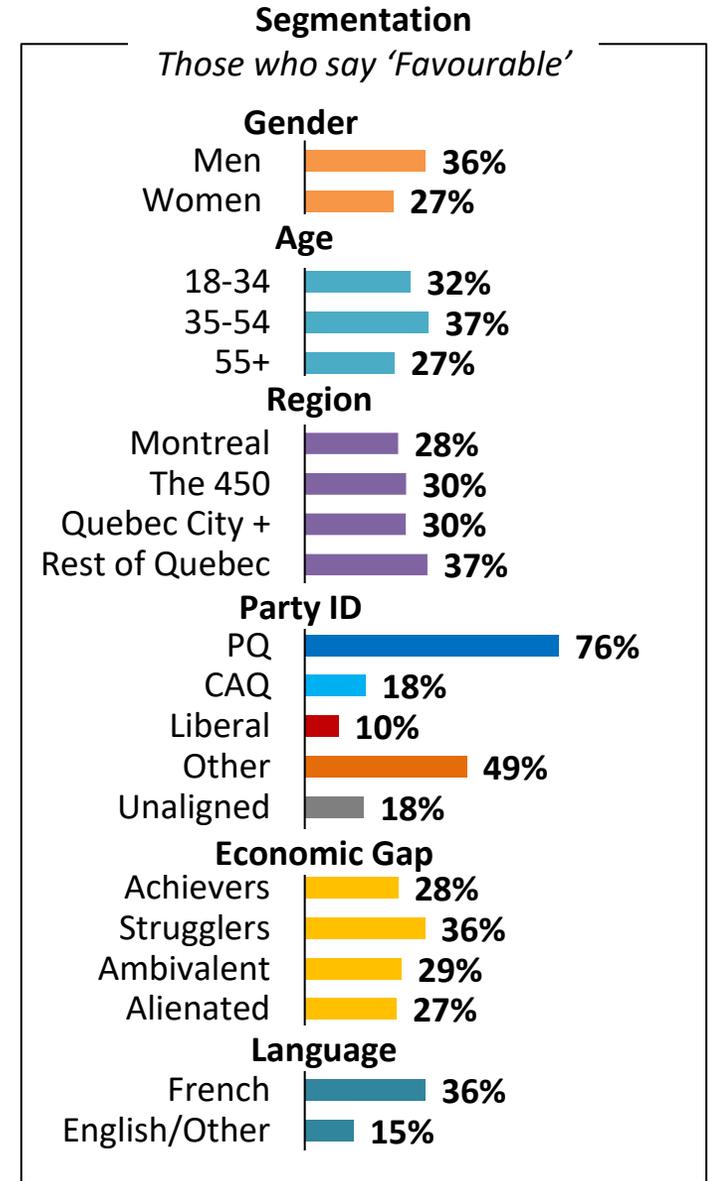
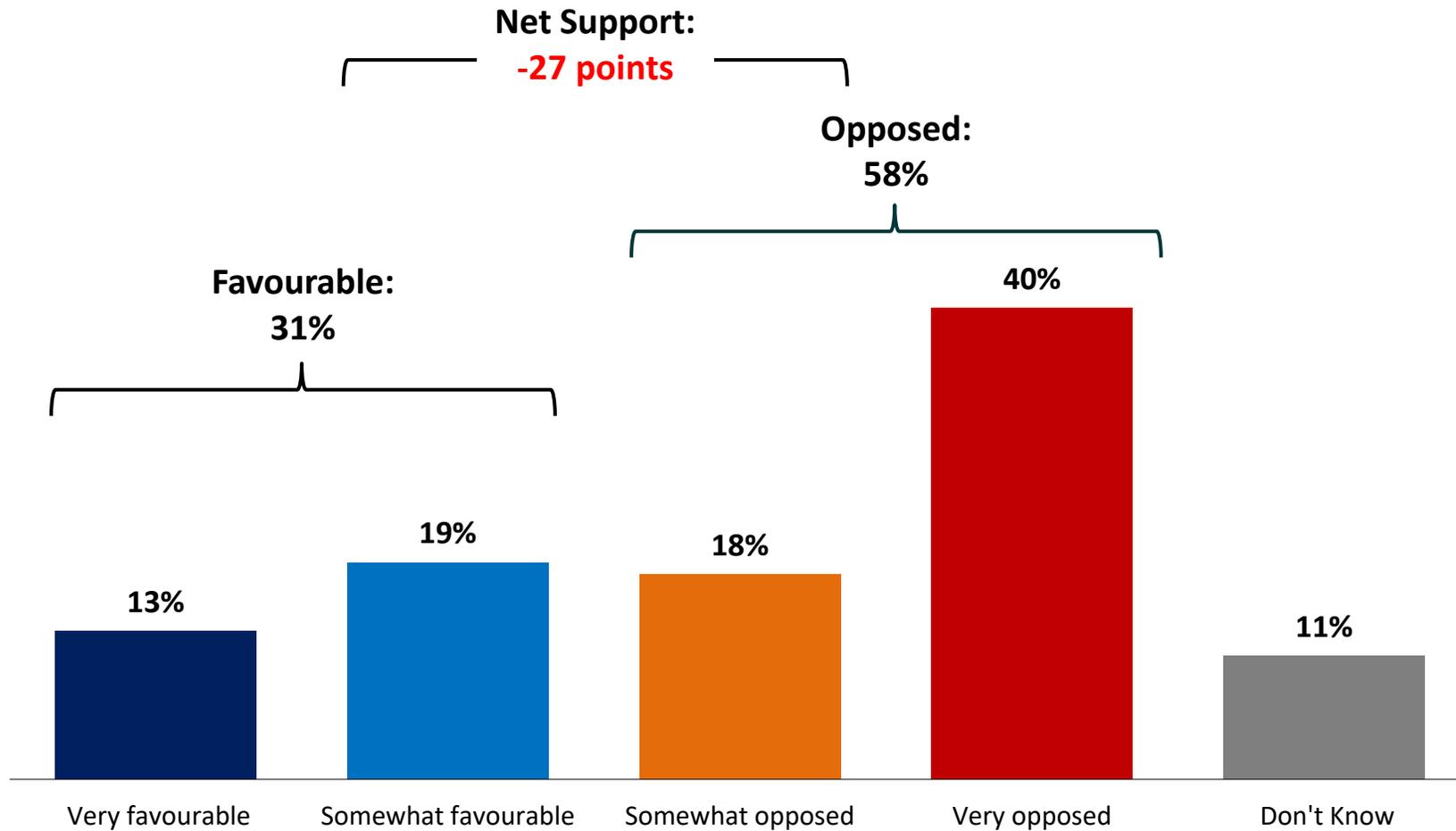


Note: "Don't know" and "Not eligible to vote" not shown (CAQ Vote Frequency).

# **The Parti Quebecois & Quebec Sovereignty**

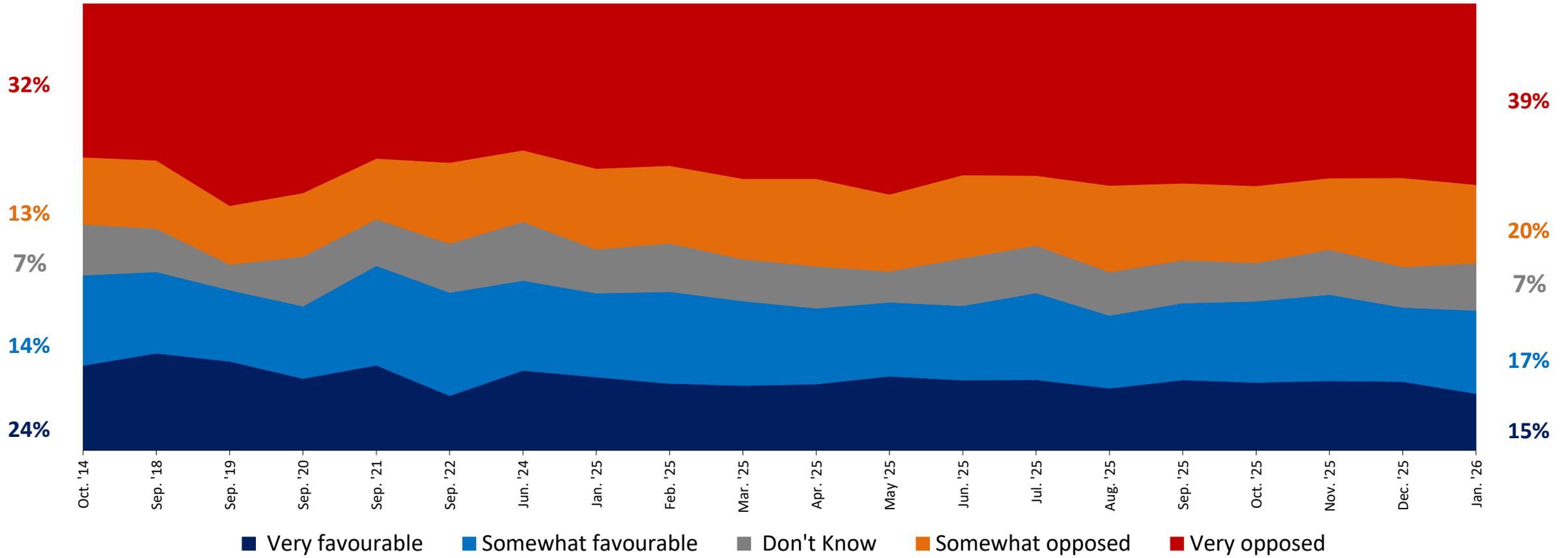
# Quebec Sovereignty: Net support is at -27 points; men, those 35-54, and Strugglers are more likely to be favourable

**Q** Are you very favourable, somewhat favourable, somewhat opposed, or very opposed to Quebec sovereignty, that is Quebec is NO LONGER A PART OF CANADA?  
 [Asked of all respondents; n=600]



# Quebec Sovereignty: Net support for sovereignty in January 2026 (-27pts) shrunk by 16 points compared to June 2024 (-11 pts)

**Q** Are you very favourable, somewhat favourable, somewhat opposed, or very opposed to Quebec sovereignty, that is Quebec is NO LONGER A PART OF CANADA?  
 [Asked of all respondents; n=600]



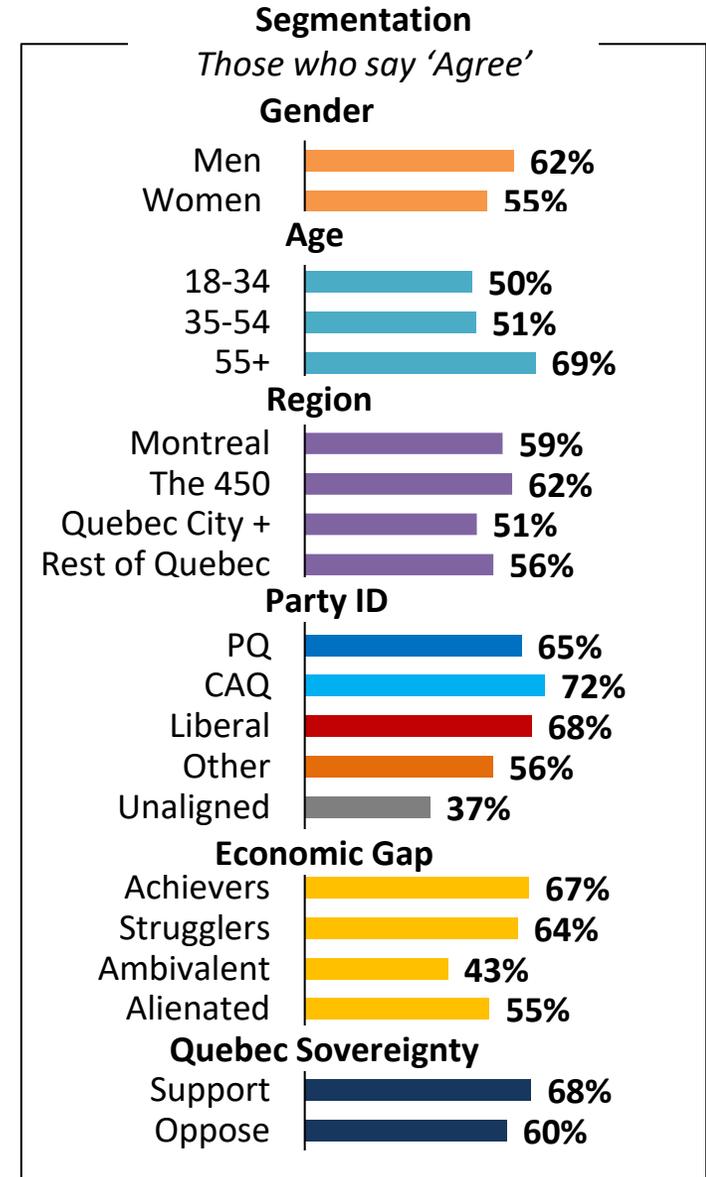
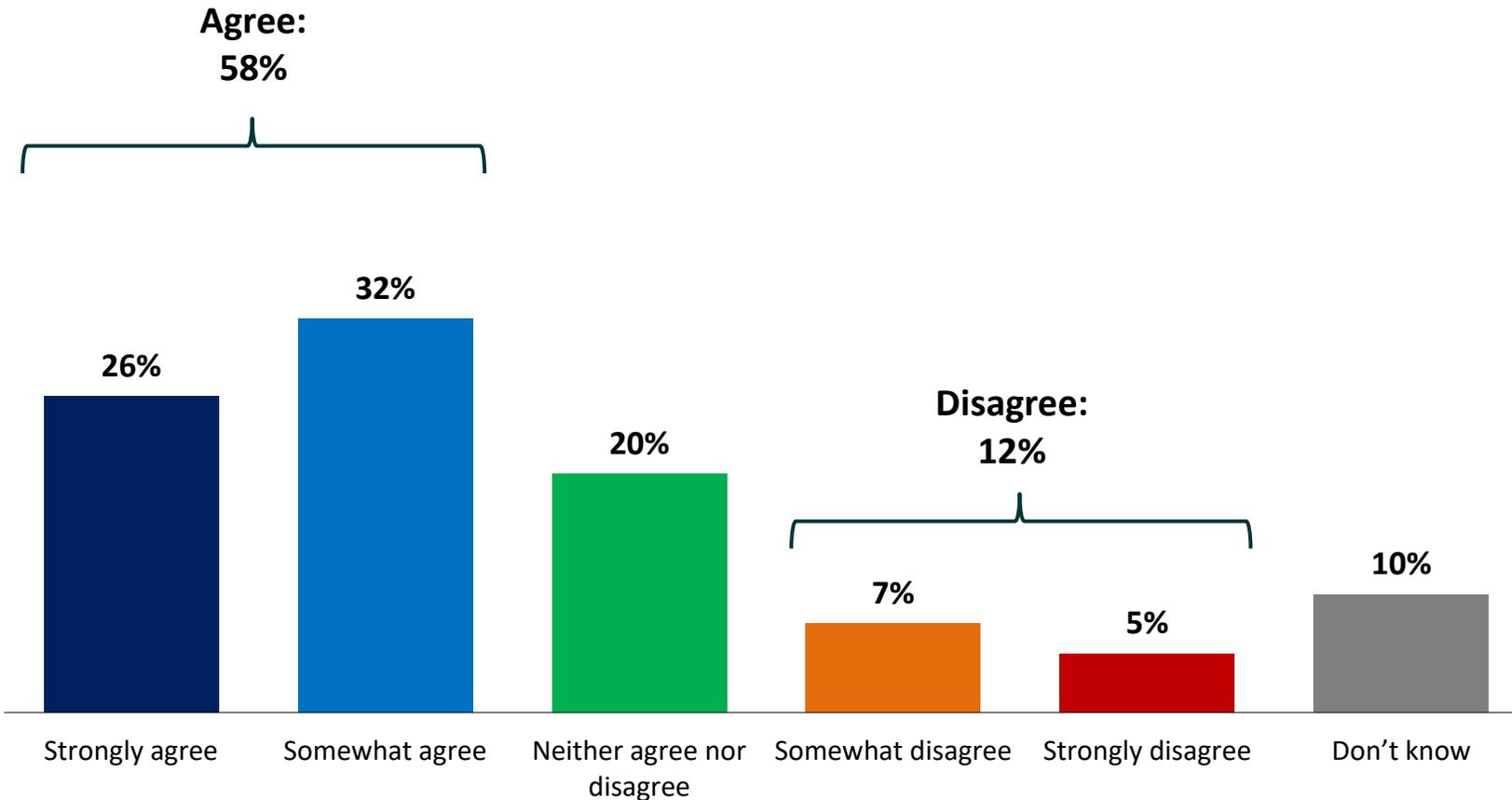
# PQ – Referendum Priority: 6-in-10 agree that a referendum would be top priority; Those 55+ and CAQ partisans more likely to agree



Below are some statements some people have made about politics in Quebec. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with each statement.

[Asked of all respondents in Quebec, n=600]

If elected, I think a Parti Québécois (PQ) government would make a referendum on Quebec’s independence its top priority.



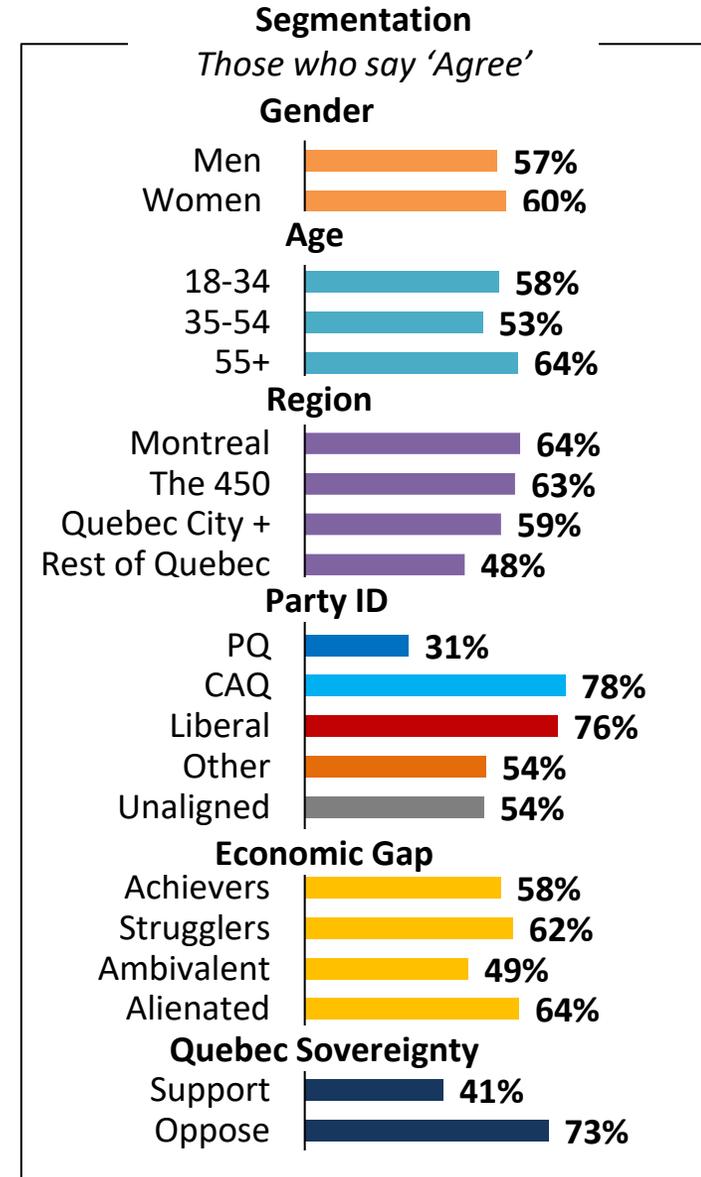
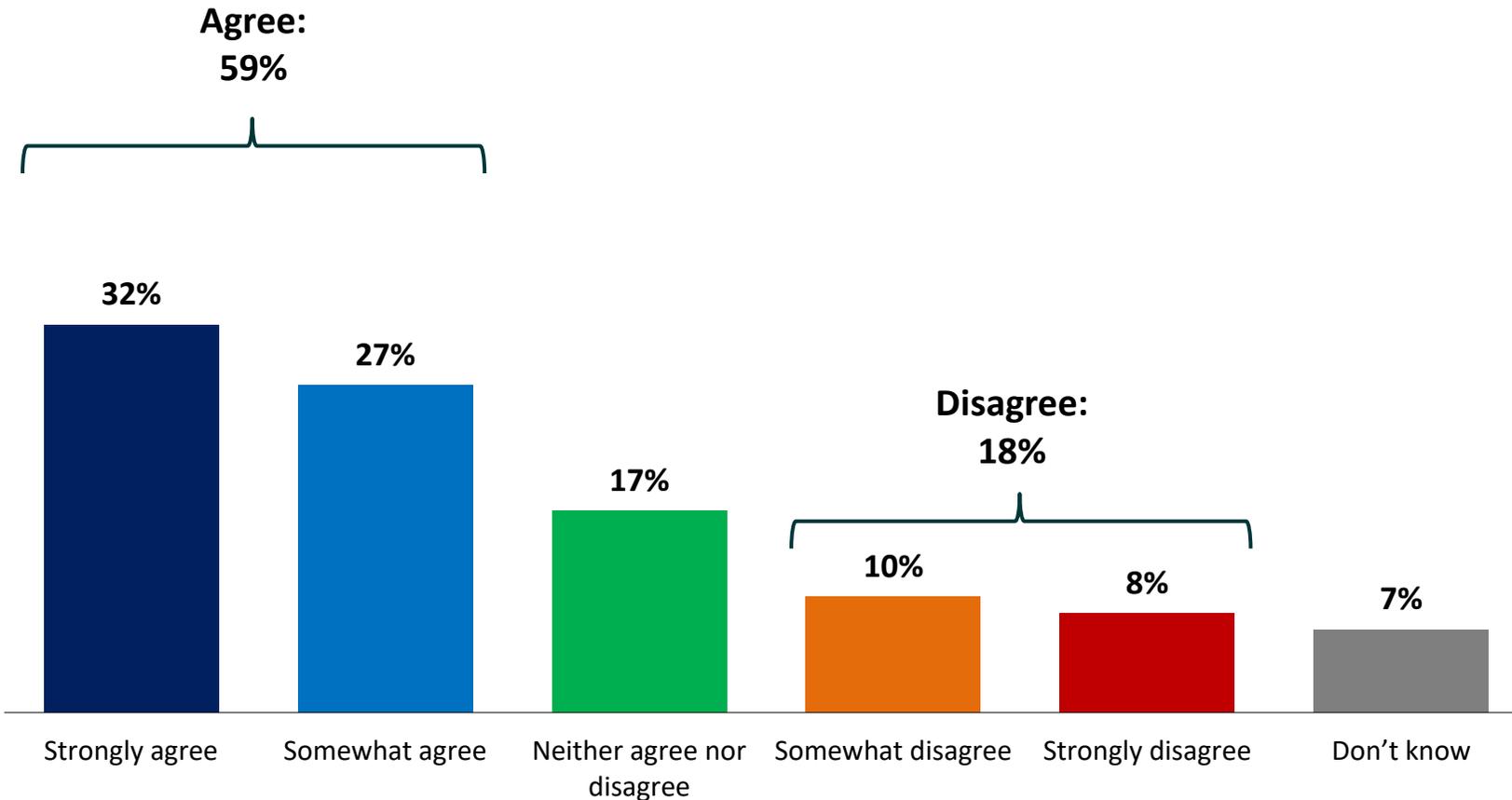
# PQ – Referendum Distraction: Almost 2-in-3 (59%) agree PQ would be distracted; more likely among CAQ and Liberal partisans



Below are some statements some people have made about politics in Quebec. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with each statement.

[Asked of all respondents in Quebec, n=600]

I worry if we elect the Parti Quebecois, the government will be distracted by a new referendum instead of focusing on critical issues like dealing with the US, affordability and health care.



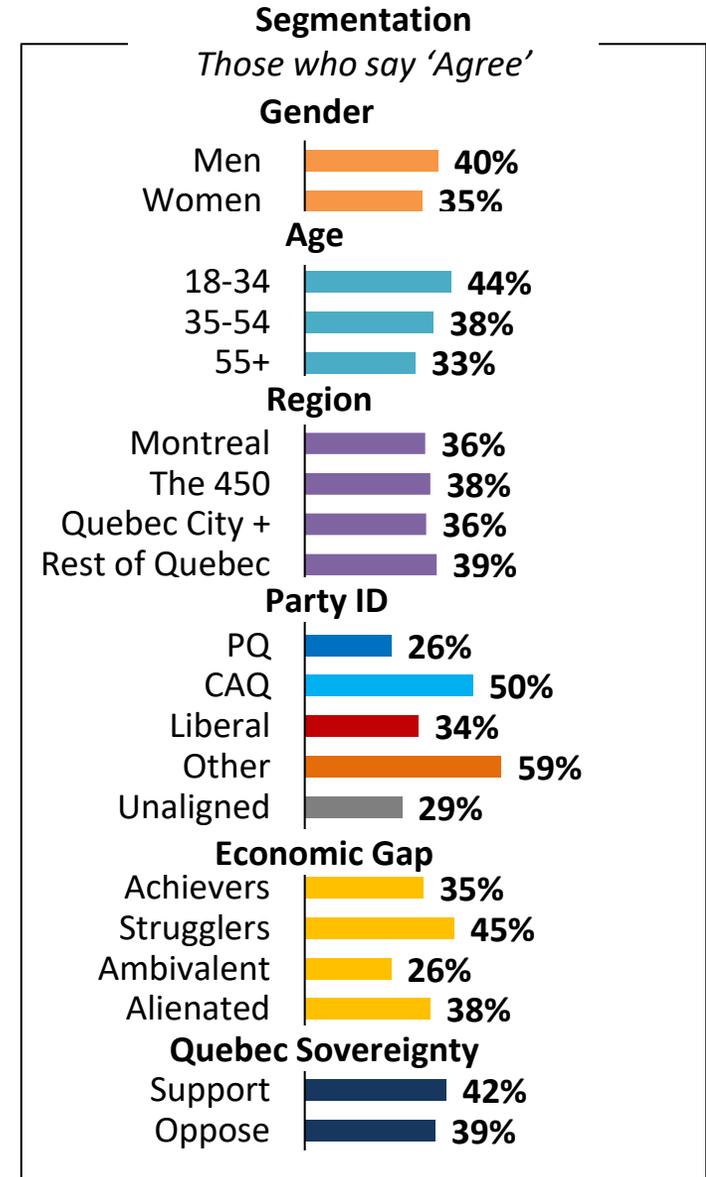
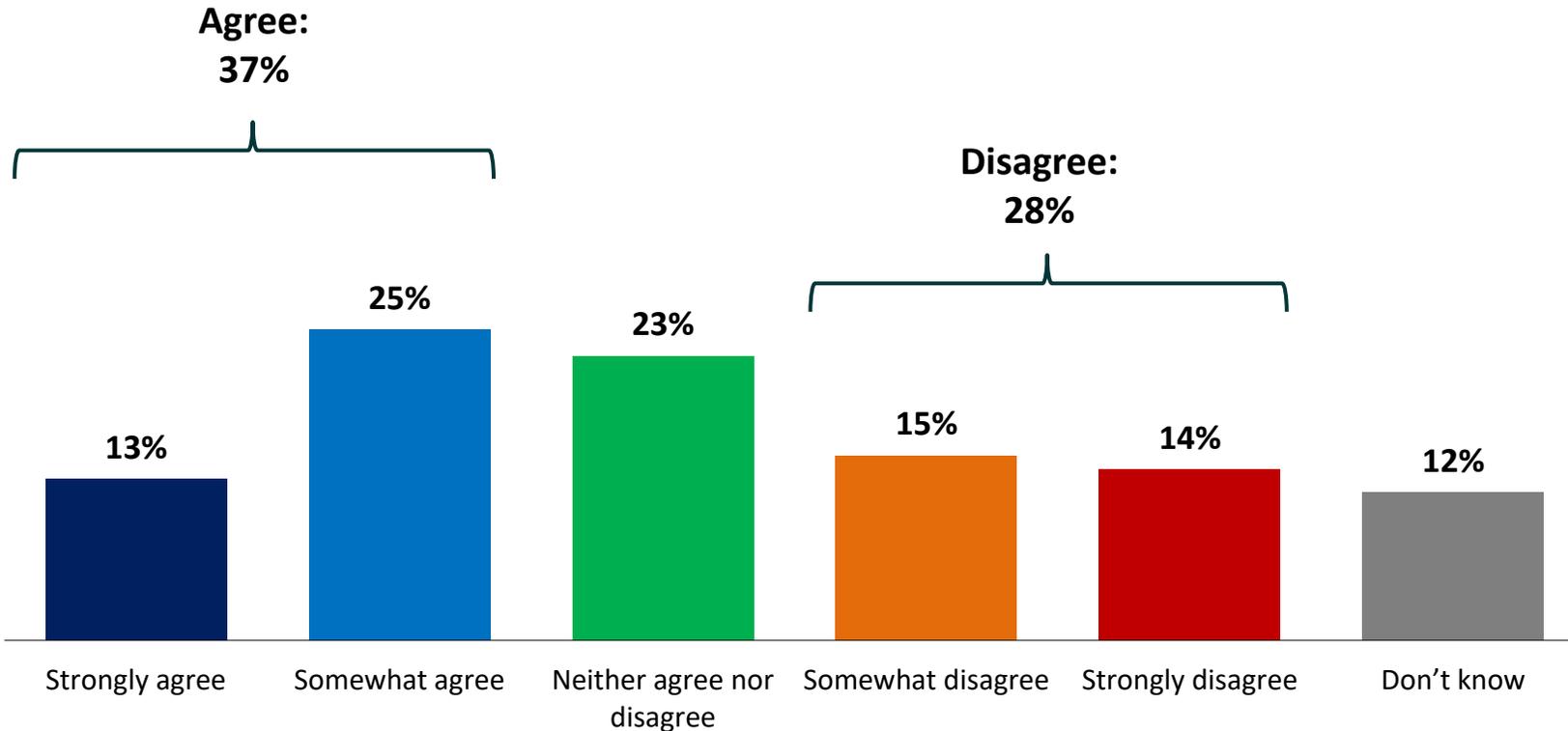
# PQ – No Referendum : Over a third agree that the PQ would step back from a referendum; more likely among CAQ partisans



Below are some statements some people have made about politics in Quebec. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with each statement.

[Asked of all respondents in Quebec, n=600]

If elected, I think the Parti Québécois (PQ) would step back from its commitment to hold a referendum on Quebec’s independence because of insufficient public support among Quebecers.



# Vote Intentions

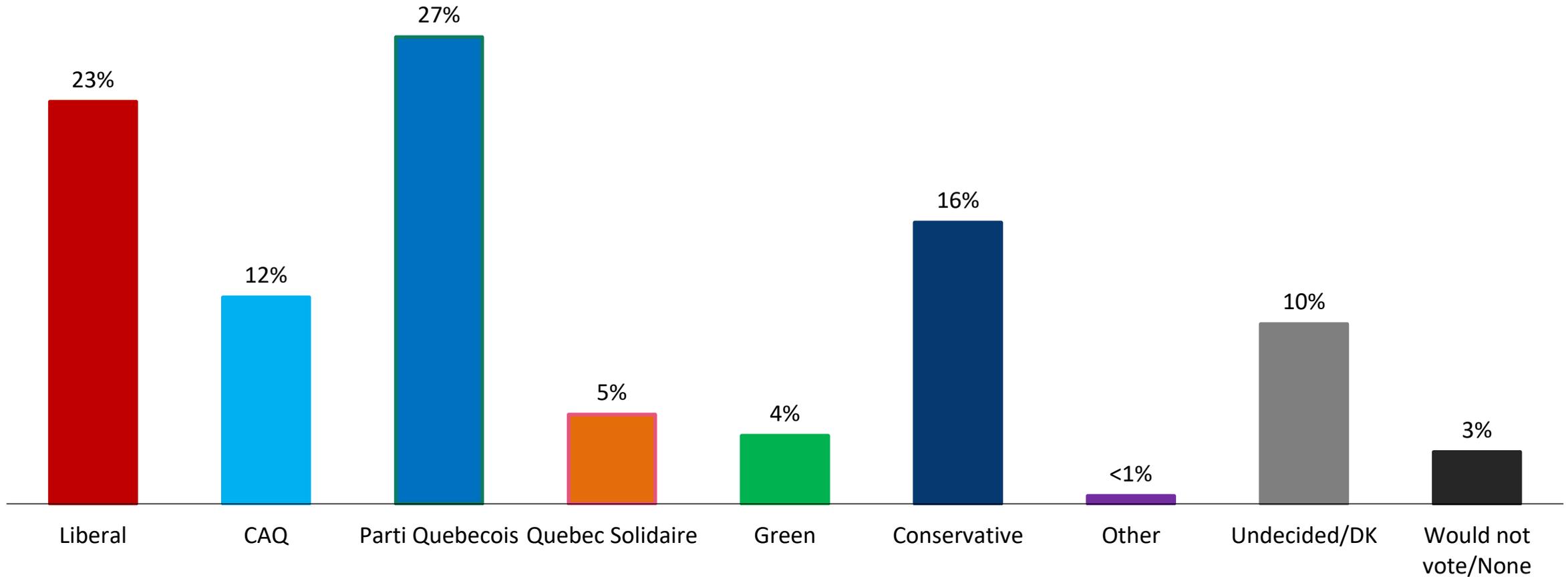
# Combined Vote:

## The Parti Quebecois (27%) is trailed by the Liberals (23%)



If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for? In that case, which party do you lean toward slightly? **[Vote + Lean]**

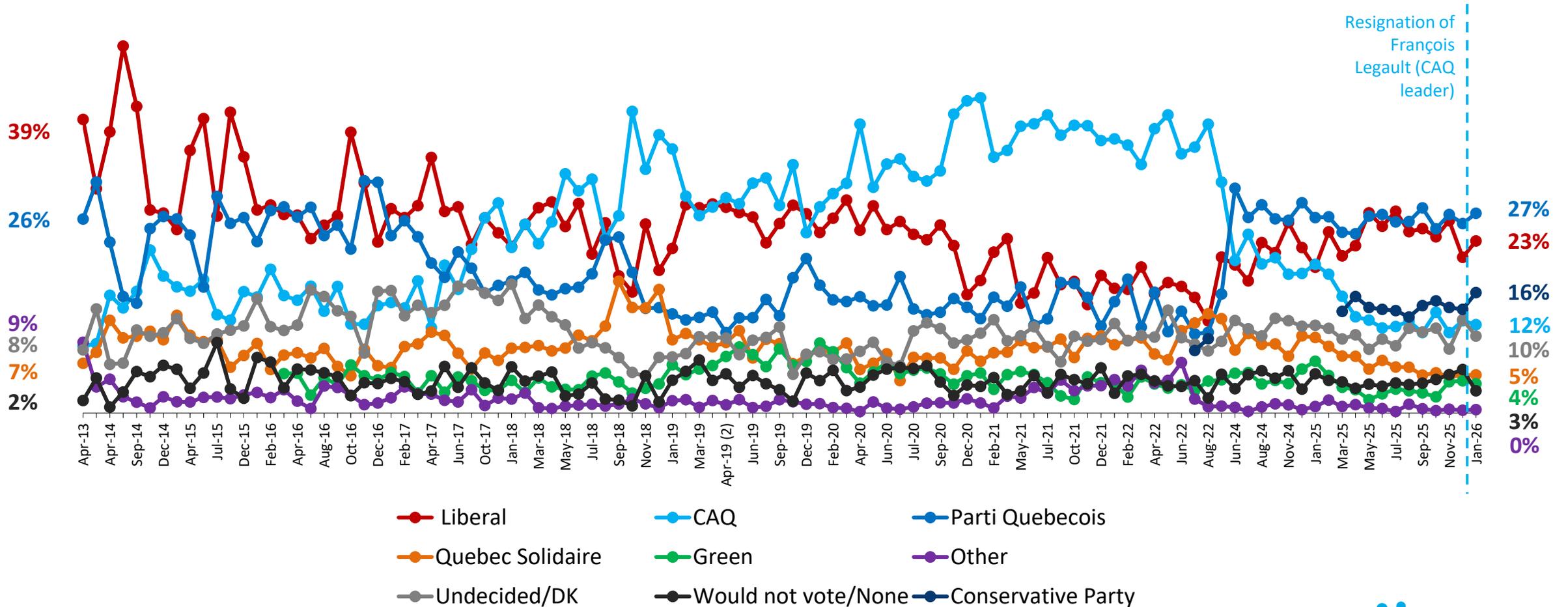
[asked of all respondents; n=600]



# Combined Vote Tracking: The PQ vote is relatively stable since 2024; CAQ shows no sign of recovery since Legault resigned



If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for? In that case, which party do you lean toward slightly? [Vote + Lean]  
[asked of all respondents; n=600]



# Combined Vote by Gender, Age, Mother Tongue, QC sovereignty:

## Men & French speakers are more likely to lean PQ, 18-34 Conservative

	Total (N=600)	Gender		Age			Language		Quebec Sovereignty	
		Man (N=296)	Woman (N=304)	18-34 (N=150)	35-54 (N=194)	55+ (N=256)	French (N=467)	Eng./Other (N=133)	Support (N=188)	Oppose (N=348)
		Liberal	23%	19%	26%	19%	26%	23%	16%	46%
CAQ	12%	11%	13%	7%	6%	19%	13%	6%	7%	15%
Parti Quebecois	27%	31%	23%	21%	29%	29%	32%	6%	58%	12%
Quebec Solidaire	5%	4%	7%	9%	6%	2%	5%	4%	7%	5%
Green	4%	3%	4%	8%	4%	1%	3%	6%	3%	4%
Conservative	16%	21%	11%	21%	18%	12%	15%	20%	13%	18%
Other	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Undecided	10%	7%	13%	8%	8%	13%	10%	10%	3%	10%
Would not vote	3%	3%	3%	5%	3%	2%	3%	1%	0%	3%

Combined Vote

# Combined Vote by Party ID:

## 6-in-10 CAQ partisans intend to vote for CAQ or lean toward CAQ

Provincial Party Identification

		Liberal	Pequiste	Caquiste	Quebec Solidaire	Unaligned
		(N=159)	(N=111)	(N=87)	(N=54)	(N=150)
Provincial Combined Vote	Liberal	70%	2%	8%	11%	5%
	CAQ	5%	2%	59%	2%	5%
	Parti Quebecois	8%	89%	10%	30%	13%
	Quebec Solidaire	1%	0%	3%	32%	4%
	Green	1%	0%	2%	5%	6%
	Conservative Party	11%	6%	8%	17%	24%
	Other	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
	Undecided/DK	3%	0%	8%	3%	31%
	Would not vote/None	1%	0%	1%	0%	11%

**Note:** 'Green Party' and 'Other' not shown due to insufficient sample size (Provincial Party Identification).

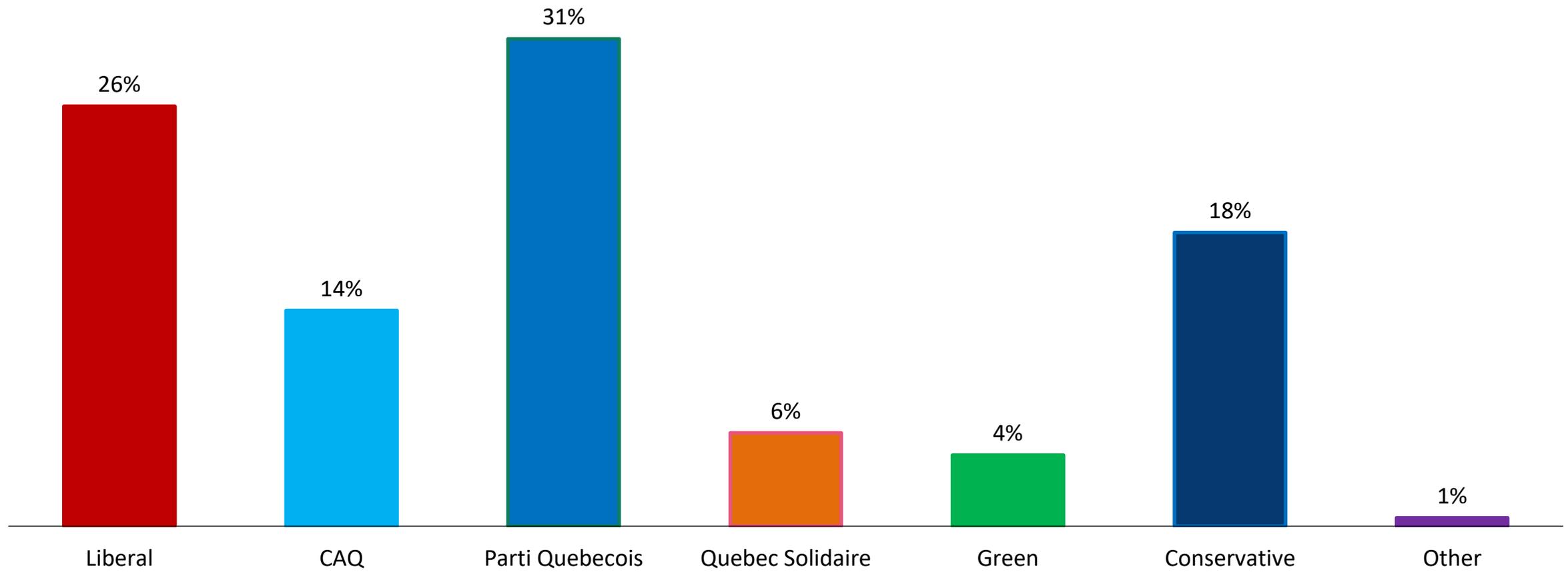
# Decided Vote:

## The PQ leads with 31% of decided voters, followed by Liberals with 26%



If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for? In that case, which party do you lean toward slightly? **[DECIDED]**

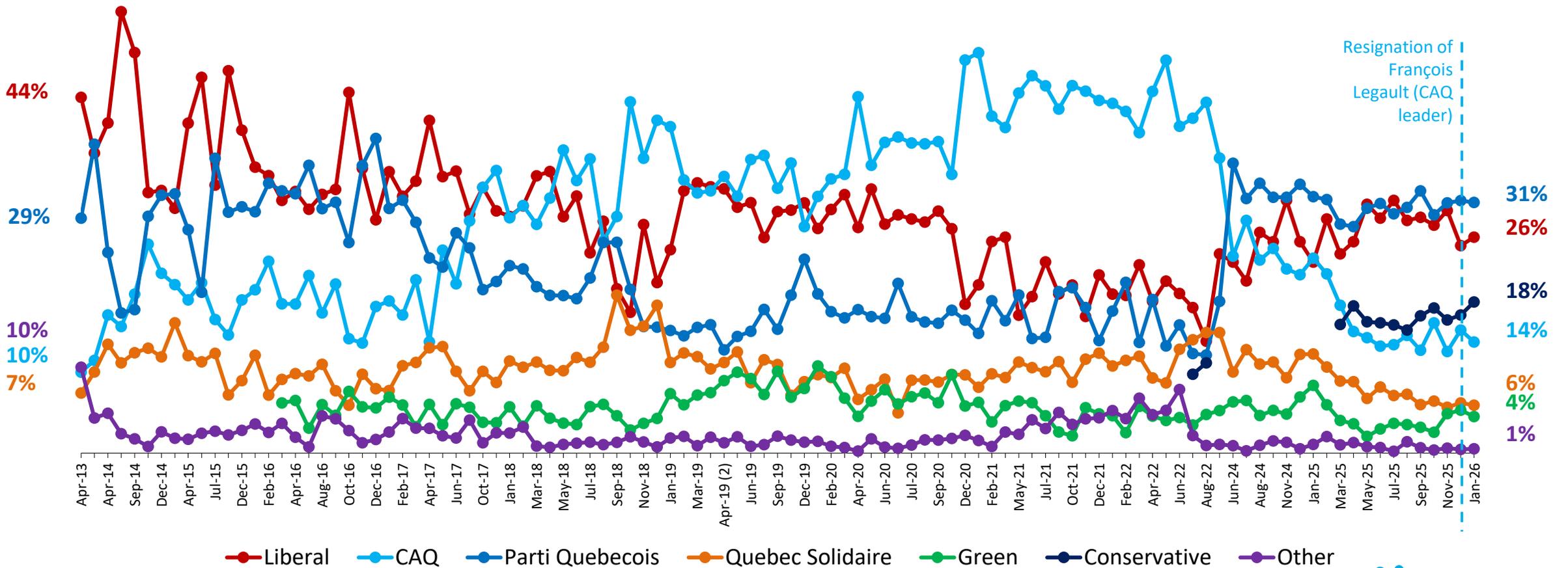
[decided voters only; n=521]



# Decided Vote Tracking: The PQ vote is stable at 31% since Nov. 2025; CAQ shows no sign of recovery since Legault resigned



If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for? In that case, which party do you lean toward slightly? [DECIDED]  
[only decided voters; n=521]



Resignation of François Legault (CAQ leader)



# Decided Vote by Gender, Age, Mother Tongue, QC sovereignty: Those 55+ more likely to vote for the CAQ; Franco. more likely to vote for PQ

	Total	Gender		Age			Language		Quebec Sovereignty	
		Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+	French	Eng./Other	Support	Oppose
	(N=521)	(N=267)	(N=254)	(N=130)	(N=172)	(N=218)	(N=403)	(N=118)	(N=182)	(N=303)
<b>Liberal</b>	26%	22%	32%	22%	29%	27%	19%	52%	9%	38%
<b>CAQ</b>	14%	12%	15%	8%	7%	22%	16%	7%	8%	17%
<b>Parti Quebecois</b>	31%	34%	27%	24%	32%	34%	38%	7%	60%	14%
<b>Quebec Solidaire</b>	6%	4%	8%	11%	7%	2%	6%	4%	7%	5%
<b>Green</b>	4%	4%	5%	10%	5%	1%	4%	7%	3%	4%
<b>Conservative</b>	18%	24%	13%	24%	20%	14%	17%	23%	13%	21%
<b>Other</b>	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%

Decided Vote

# Decided Vote by Region: CAQ doing better in Quebec City +, PLQ in Montreal, and PQ is doing better in Quebec outside Mtrl and QC City +

Decided vote by Region

		Region				
		Total	Montreal	The 450	Quebec City + Chaudière- Appalaches	Rest of Quebec
		(N=521)	(N=127)	(N=197)	(N=68)	(N=128)
Decided Vote	Liberal	26%	37%	26%	15%	22%
	CAQ	14%	8%	16%	21%	11%
	Parti Quebécois	31%	23%	33%	30%	36%
	Quebec Solidaire	6%	7%	7%	3%	5%
	Green	4%	6%	4%	2%	6%
	Conservative	18%	19%	13%	28%	20%
	Other	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%

# Decided Vote by Economic Gap: Strugglers more likely to vote PQ; Alienated, PLQ; Achievers, more likely to vote CAQ than average

		Economic Gap				
		Total	Achievers	Strugglers	Ambivalent	Alienated
		(N=521)	(N=111)	(N=223)	(N=96)	(N=91)
Decided Vote	Liberal	26%	26%	24%	24%	35%
	CAQ	14%	23%	12%	13%	7%
	Parti Quebecois	31%	29%	39%	26%	17%
	Quebec Solidaire	6%	5%	5%	7%	9%
	Green	4%	2%	3%	7%	9%
	Conservative	18%	15%	18%	22%	21%
	Other	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%

# Decided Vote by Time for Change:

## Time for a Change CAQ more likely to vote Liberal (44%)

		Time for Change						
		Total	Core CAQ	Soft CAQ	Time for a Change CAQ	Uncertain	Soft anti-CAQ	Hostile
		(N=521)	(N=44)*	(N=45)*	(N=55)	(N=37)*	(N=189)	(N=151)
Decided Vote	Liberal	26%	13%	17%	44%	24%	28%	25%
	CAQ	14%	64%	50%	12%	23%	2%	1%
	Parti Quebecois	31%	12%	22%	24%	26%	36%	35%
	Quebec Solidaire	6%	0%	3%	6%	5%	7%	8%
	Green	4%	1%	2%	5%	3%	6%	4%
	Conservative	18%	10%	5%	10%	19%	20%	26%
	Other	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%

Note: \* Low sample size; interpret results with caution.

# Provincial 2nd Choice: CAQ voters more likely to choose PQ as 2<sup>nd</sup> choice; Conservatives are split between PLQ & PQ in 2<sup>nd</sup> choice

And which party would be your second choice? BY [Vote+Lean]

First Choice

		Liberal 1st Choice	CAQ 1st Choice	Parti Quebecois 1st Choice	Conservative 1 <sup>st</sup> Choice
		(N=138)	(N=71)	(N=160)	(N=96)
Second Choice	Quebec Liberal 2nd Choice		26%	14%	22%
	CAQ 2nd Choice	12%		18%	9%
	Parti Quebecois 2nd Choice	12%	30%		22%
	Quebec Solidaire 2nd Choice	8%	4%	16%	5%
	Green 2nd Choice	11%	3%	8%	3%
	Conservative 2nd Choice	21%	8%	13%	
	Other 2nd Choice	0%	0%	0%	--
	Undecided	18%	14%	15%	23%
	WNV/None	18%	15%	16%	15%

Note: \*Quebec Solidaire and Green Party (Second Choice) not shown due to insufficient sample size (n <=30).

# Methodology

# Survey Methodology



**These are the results of an online survey conducted between January 16, 2026, and February 1, 2026.**

**Method:** This online survey was conducted using INNOVATIVE's Canada 20/20 national research panel with additional respondents from Lucid, a leading provider of online samples. Each survey is administered to a series of randomly selected samples from the panel and weighted to ensure that the overall sample's composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to Census data to provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample.

**Sample Size:** n= 651 Quebec citizens, 18 years or older. The results are nationally weighted to n=600 based on Census data from Statistics Canada.

**Field Dates:** January 16, 2026, to February 1, 2026

**Weighting:** Results for Quebec are weighted by age, gender, region, language, education, and self-reported federal past vote to ensure that the overall sample's composition reflects that of the actual population according to Census data. Weighted and unweighted frequencies are reported in the table.

**Margin of Error:** This is a representative sample. However, since the online survey was not a random probability-based sample, a margin of error cannot be calculated. Statements about margins of sampling error or population estimates do not apply to most online panels.

**Note:** Graphs may not always total 100% due to rounding values rather than any error in data. Sums are added before rounding numbers.

	Unweighted (n)	Unweighted (%)	Weighted (n)	Weighted (%)
<b>M 18-34</b>	64	9.8%	75	12.5%
<b>M 35-54</b>	112	17.2%	97	16.1%
<b>M 55+</b>	137	21.0%	124	20.7%
<b>W 18-34</b>	86	13.2%	75	12.6%
<b>W 35-54</b>	120	18.4%	97	16.1%
<b>W 55+</b>	132	20.3%	132	22.0%
<b>Region</b>				
<b>Montreal</b>	143	22.0%	143	23.9%
<b>The 450</b>	226	34.7%	224	37.3%
<b>Quebec City + Chaudière-Appalaches</b>	104	16.0%	81	13.6%
<b>Rest of Quebec</b>	178	27.3%	151	25.2%



For more information, please contact:

**Greg Lyle**

**President**

(416) 642-6429

gyle@innovativeresearch.ca

**Report Contributors:**

**Sarah Lachance**, Senior Consultant

**Marina Mandic**, Manager, Omnibus Research Services

**Gale Wang**, Research Analyst

**Building Understanding.**

