

Canada This Month



August 2007

BC Strikes – Tracking poll

Methodology

- Each wave of tracking was conducted via an online survey among current members of the INNOVATIVE's Canada 20/20 panel in British Columbia only.
- The following table provides dates, sample sizes and margins of error for all waves of tracking:

| Start | End | Sample Size | Margin of Error |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| July 25 | August 1 | N=233 | ±6.4% |
| August 2 | August 8 | N=235 | ±6.4% |
| August 8 | August 15 | N=225 | ±6.5% |
| August 15 | August 22 | N=232 | ±6.4% |
| August 23 | August 29 | N=299 | ±5.7% |
| August 30 | September 2 | N=473 | ±4.5% |

- For this week, field was conducted between August 30th and September 2nd and 473 British Columbians completed the survey, with a margin-of-error of plus or minus 4.5%.
- The margin of error will be larger within each sub-grouping of the sample.

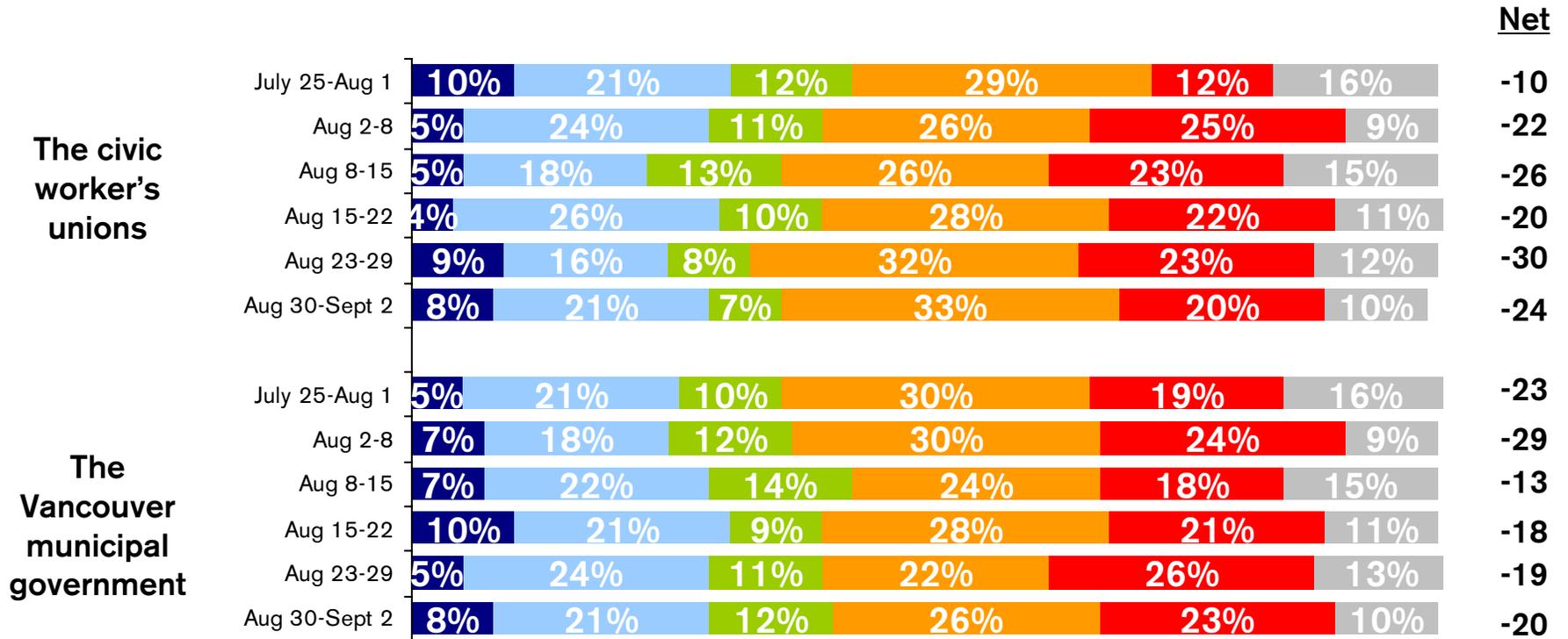
Vancouver City Workers



Both parties viewed as being unreasonable, gap narrows this week



In your view, how fair and reasonable has each of the following been in the way they have approached the dispute?



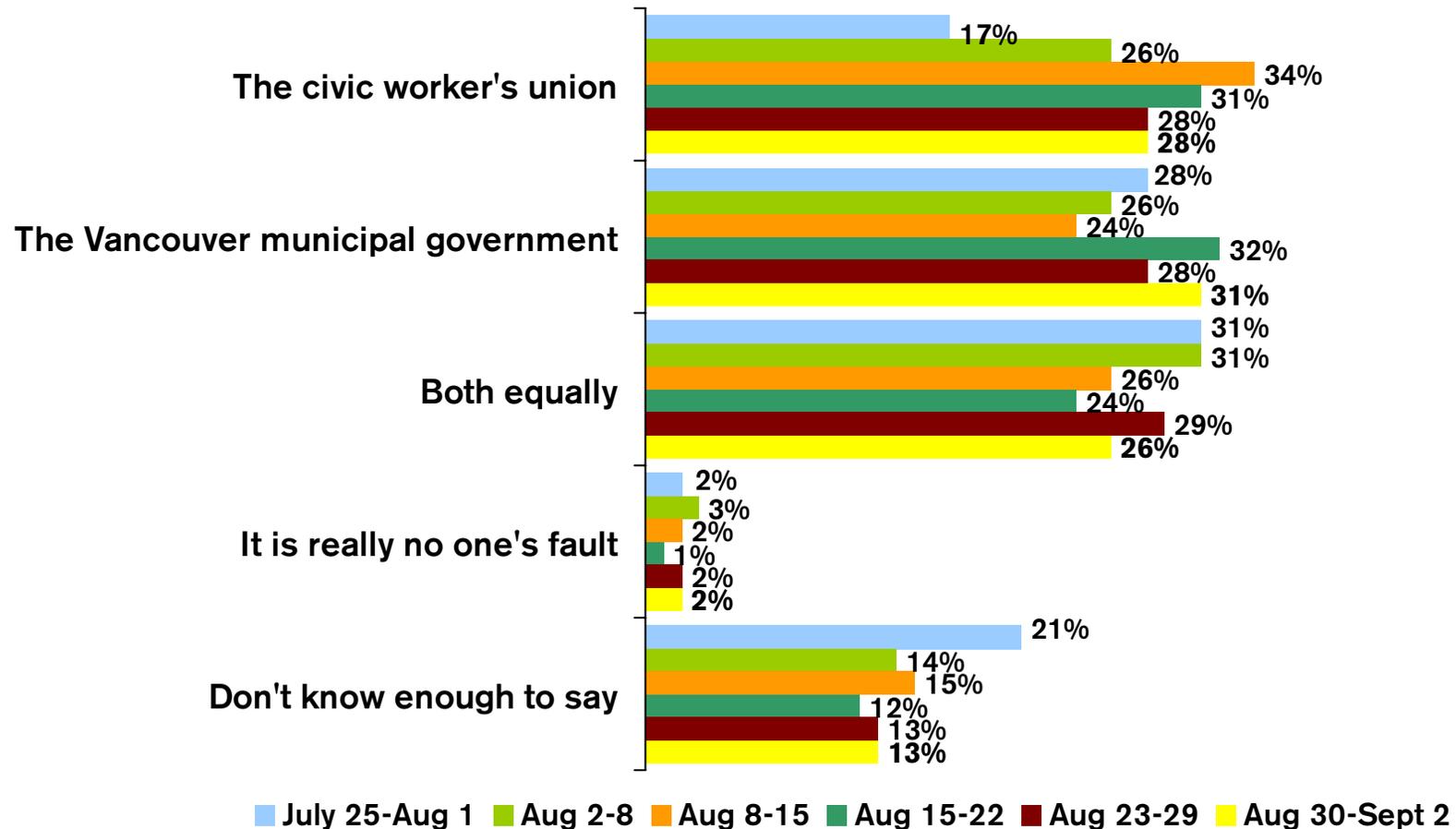
■ Very reasonable
■ Neither reasonable nor unreasonable
■ Very unreasonable
■ Somewhat reasonable
■ Somewhat unreasonable
■ Don't know



Slightly more blame city than union

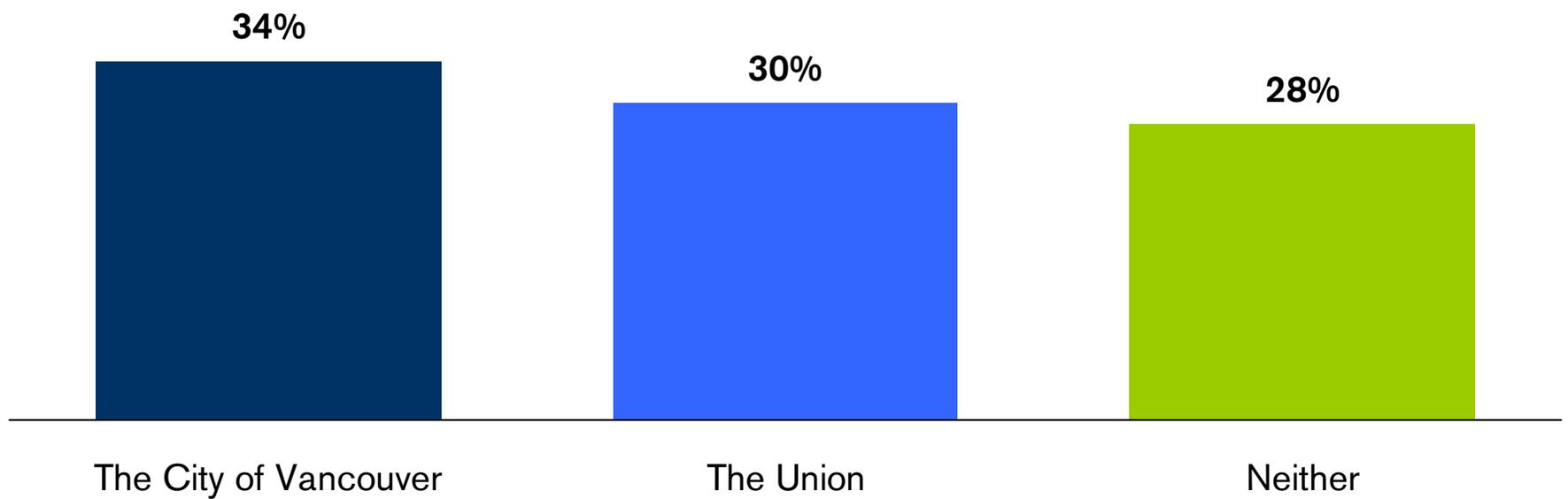
Q

Which negotiating party do you feel is generally most to blame for the labour dispute? Do you think it is mostly the fault of...?



City has slight edge over union in support with more than one third on the fence

Q In the current labour dispute in the City of Vancouver, which side do you support?

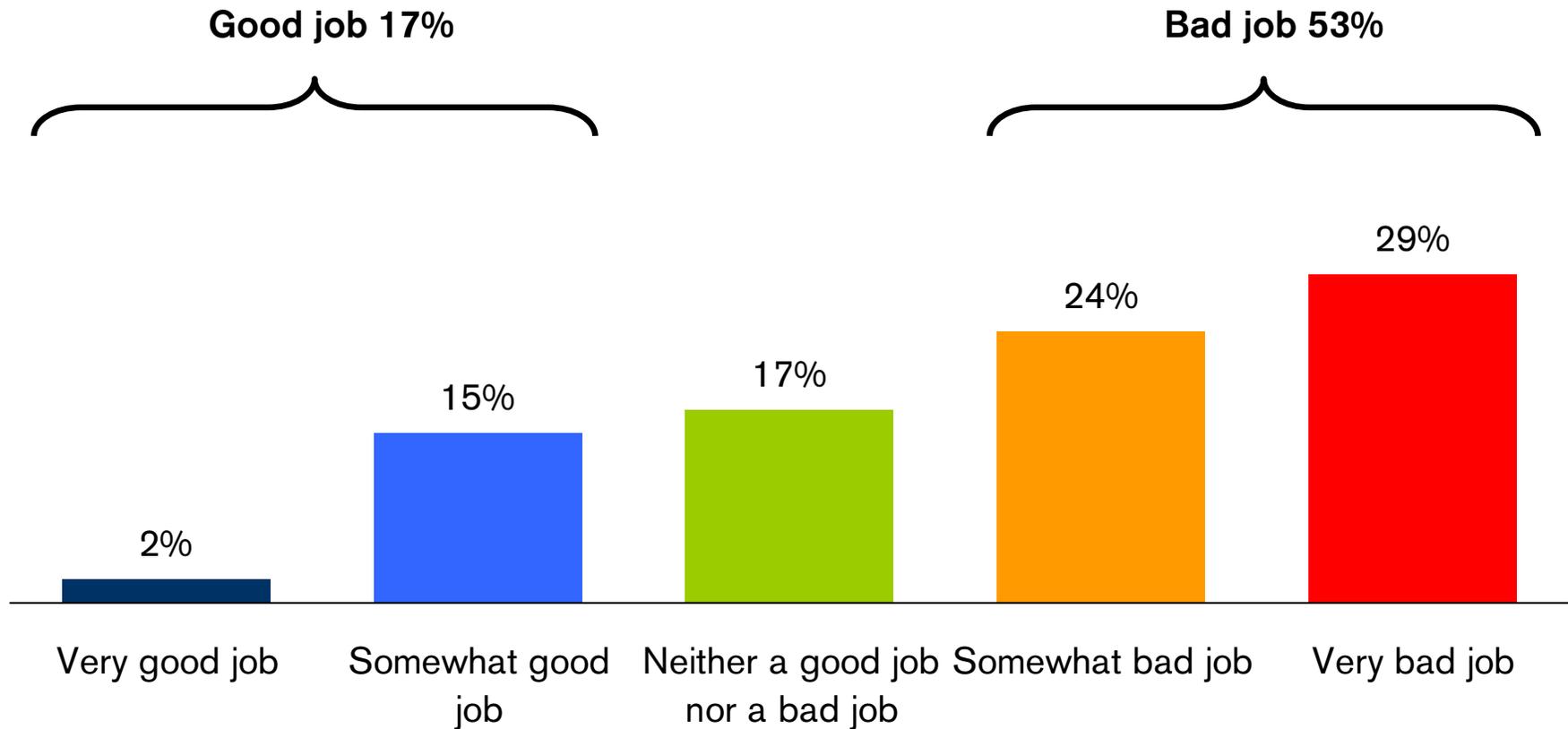


Note: 'Don't know' (8%) not shown

Majority disapprove of Mayor's performance

Q

In your view do you think Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan has done a good or poor job in handling the dispute?



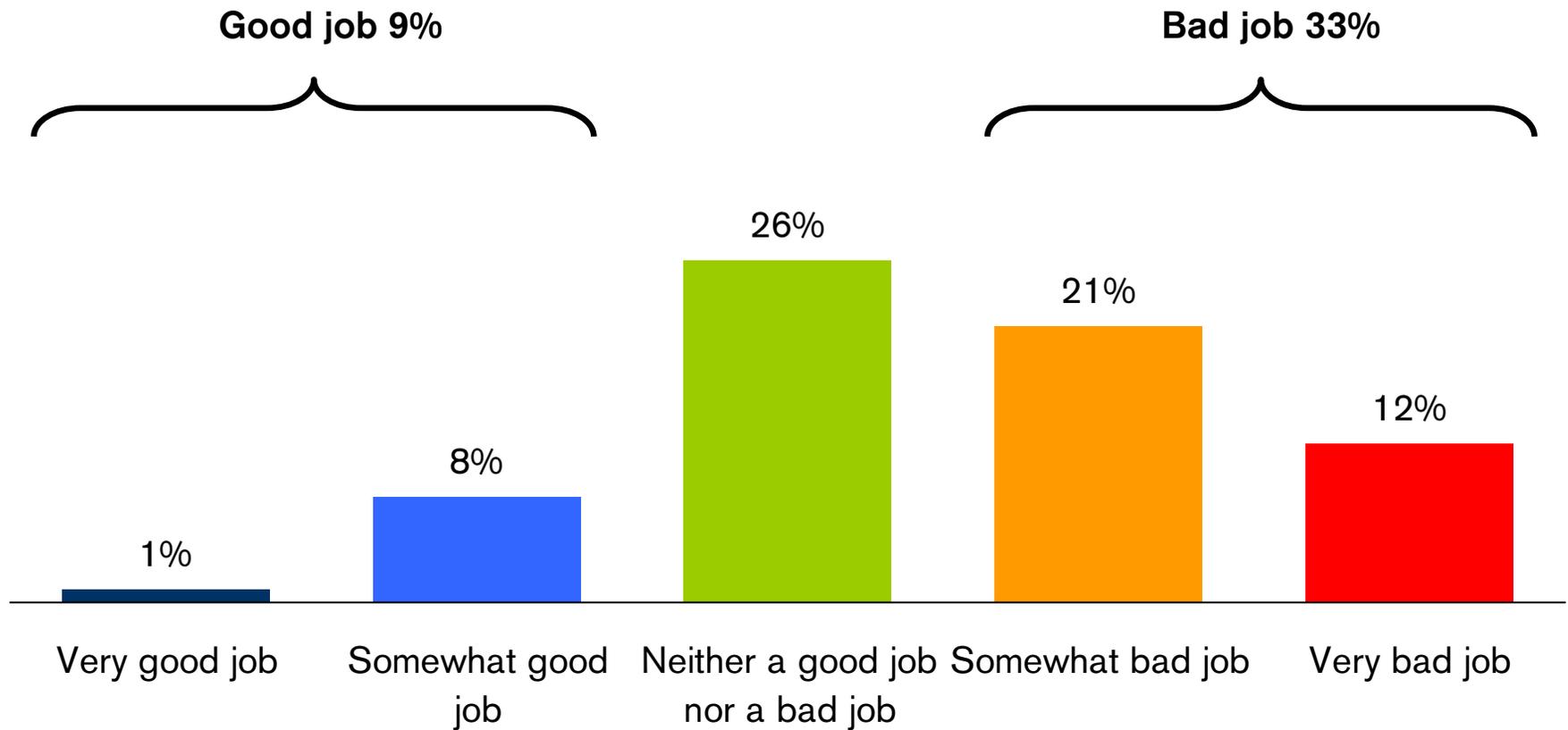
Note: 'Don't know' (13%) not shown

Most have no view on performance of opposition councilors, most of those aware disapprove

8

Q

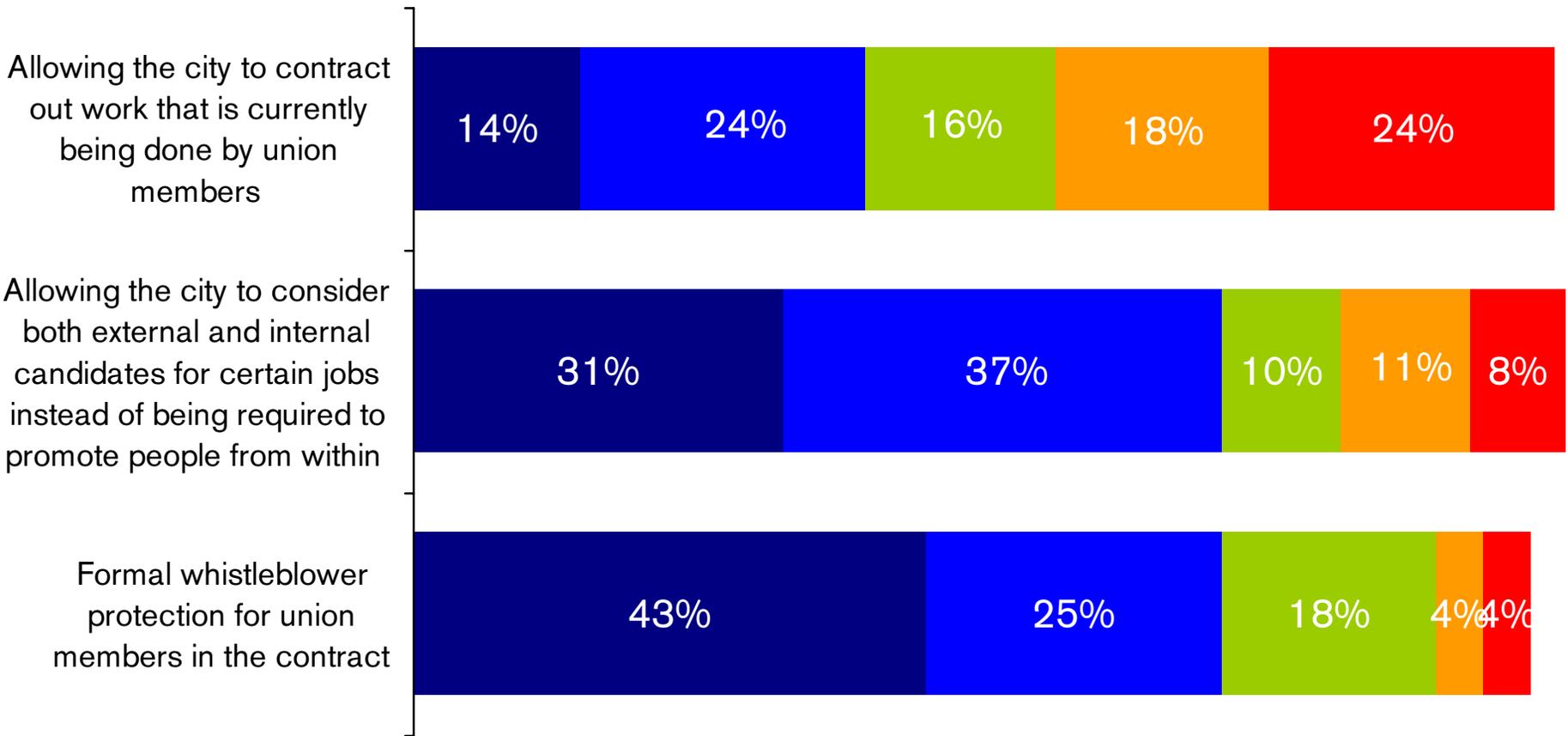
In your view do you think Vancouver opposition councilors have done a good or poor job in handling the dispute?



Note: 'Don't know' (32%) not shown

Low support for contracting out, high support for outside candidates and whistleblower protection

Q The two sides have agreed on wages and benefits, however there are still some key issues that remain unresolved. Do you support or oppose the following?



■ Strongly support ■ Somewhat support
■ Neither support nor oppose ■ Somewhat oppose
■ Strongly oppose



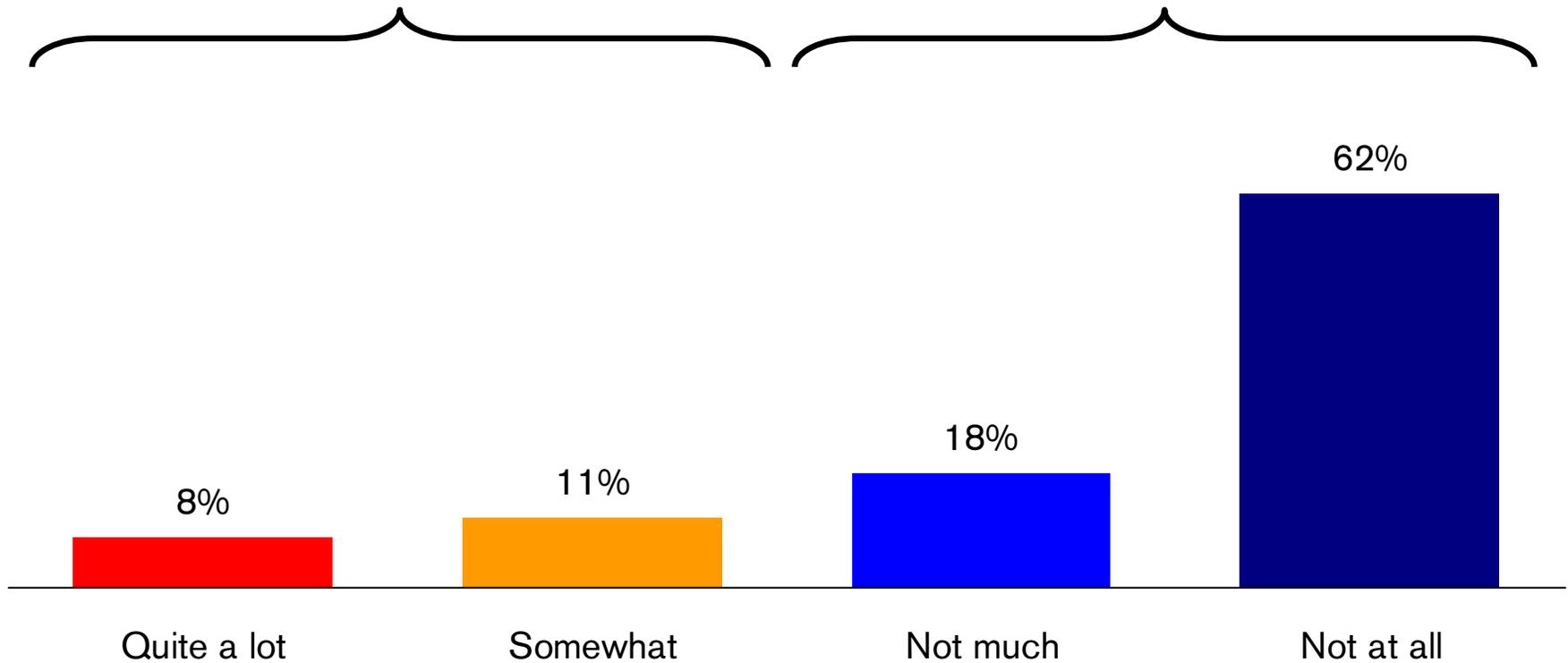
Most feel no impact from strike

Q

How much have you been personally affected by the Vancouver municipal strike so far this summer? Would you say ... ?

Affected 19%

Not affected 80%



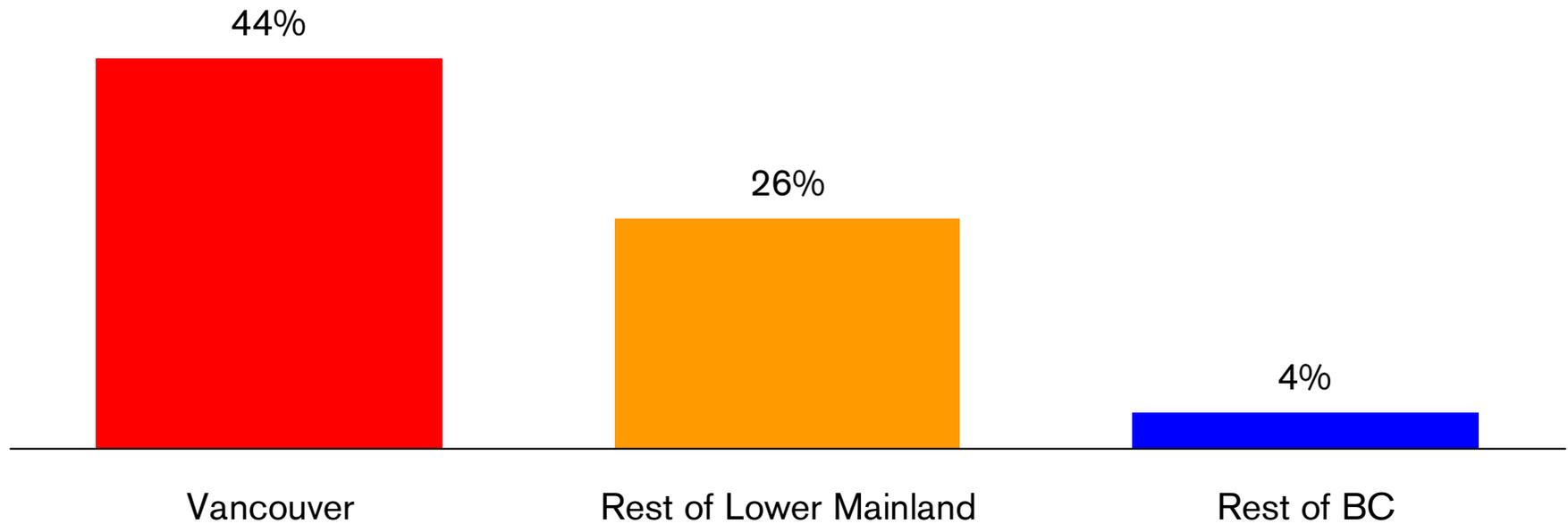
Note: 'Don't know' (1%) not shown

Vancouverites most likely to feel impact

Q

How much have you been personally affected by the Vancouver municipal strike so far this summer? Would you say ... ?

Percent impact quite a lot or somewhat by region



Note: 'Don't know' (1%) not shown

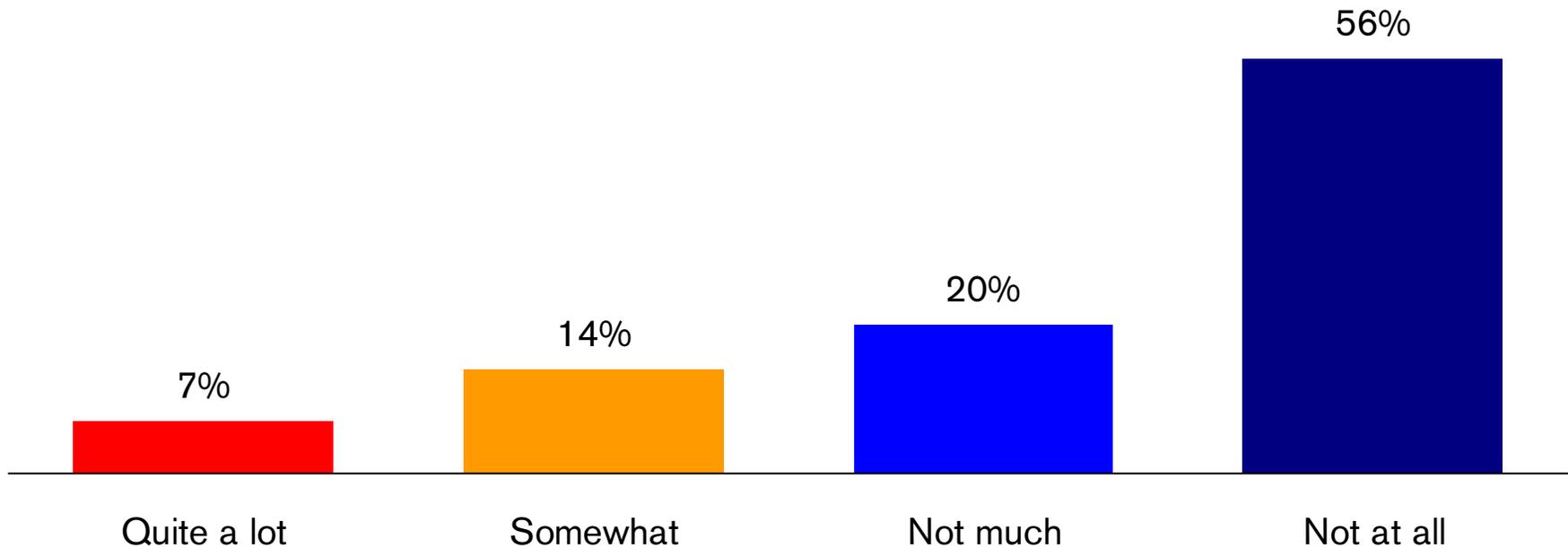
Most anticipate no impact

Q

How much do you expect to be personally affected by the Vancouver municipal strike after Labour Day?

Affected 21%

Not affected 76%



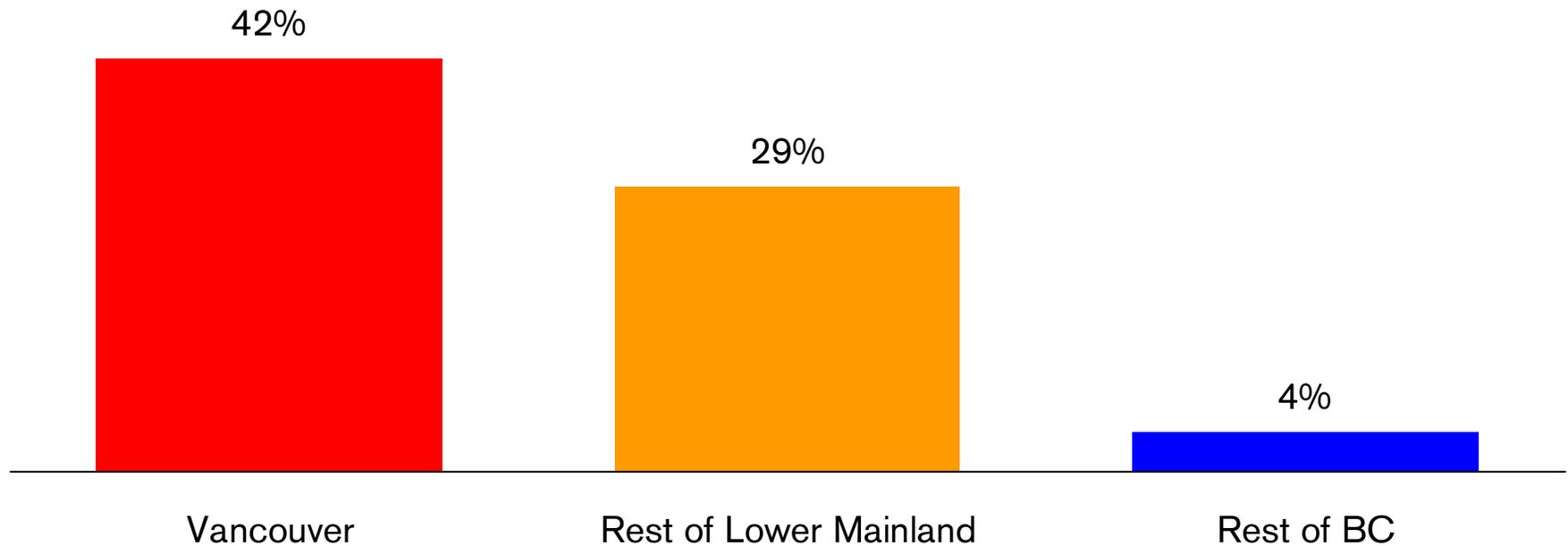
Note: 'Don't know' (3%) not shown

Vancouverites most likely to anticipate impact

Q

How much do you expect to be personally affected by the Vancouver municipal strike after Labour Day?

Percent impact quite a lot or somewhat by region



Note: 'Don't know' (1%) not shown

Summary 1

The public views both sides in the City strike in a similar negative light:

- Both sides in the Vancouver labour dispute have been seen as more unreasonable than reasonable for six consecutive weeks. The union is seen as slightly more unreasonable than the City.
- Slightly more blame the City for the dispute, and one-quarter of respondents (26%) blame both parties equally.
- Slightly more support the City (34%) over the union (30%), but 28% support neither side.

At the political level, the Mayor suffers from spotlight:

- There is 3:1 disapproval of both the Mayor and the opposition councilors.
- However, since there was much lower awareness of the opposition, the Mayor is at a disadvantage.

Summary 2

Public supports arguments on both sides of the dispute

- Whistleblower protection is strongly supported (68%) along with giving the City the ability to consider external and internal candidates for certain jobs (68%).
- There is a clear division on the issue of contracting out, with 38% in support, and 42% opposed, including 24% who strongly oppose.

Personal impacts not strongly felt

- Less than half of Vancouverites say they have been personally impacted by the strike, and there is no increase in concern over personal impacts when the public is asked to look ahead.