



**FRIENDS** *of* **ASBA**  
educating arizona

## Proposition 123 and Education Funding in Arizona

Findings from a survey of 500 May 2016  
Special Election Voters in Arizona

Jonathan Voss

July 27, 2016



**Lake Research Partners**

Washington, DC | Berkeley, CA | New York, NY

[LakeResearch.com](http://LakeResearch.com)

202.776.9066

# Methodology

- Lake Research Partners conducted a telephone survey of 500 registered likely voters in the State of Arizona who were screened for indicating they had voted in the May 17<sup>th</sup> Arizona Special Election, or were “almost certain” to vote. Interviews were conducted by professional live interviewers over the telephone on Monday May 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup>. 32 percent of interviews were completed among respondents who were using a cell phone.
- The survey has a margin of error of  $\pm 4.38\%$  at the 95% confidence interval.
- The poll was commissioned by the Arizona Education Association, Children's Action Alliance and The Friends of ASBA.

# Views on Proposition 123



# Full text of The Education Finance Amendment, or Proposition 123

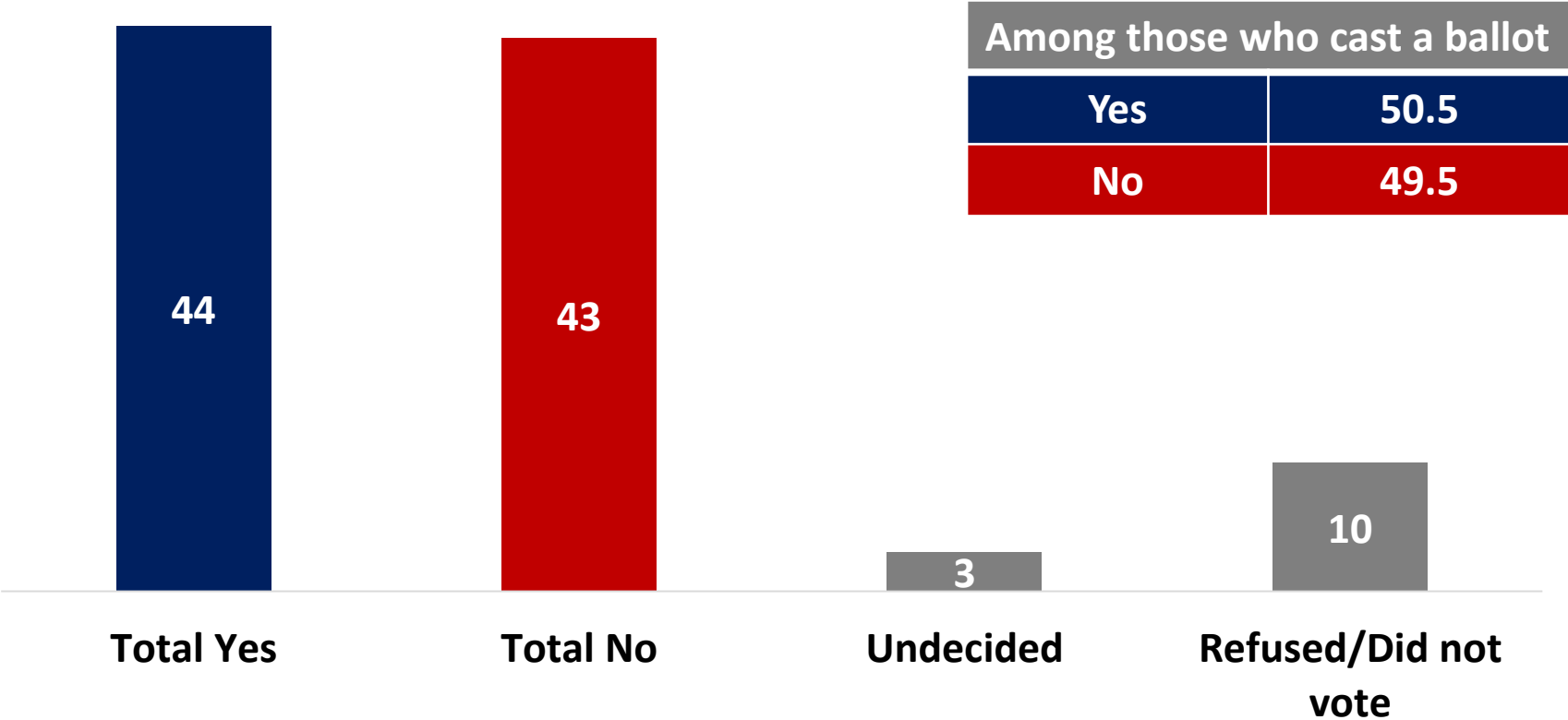
The proposal increases annual distributions from the State Land Trust Permanent Endowment Fund from 2.5 percent to 6.9 percent to benefit Arizona K-12 schools, colleges and other beneficiary institutions.

A "YES" vote will increase annual distributions from the State Land Trust Permanent Endowment Fund in fiscal years 2016 - 2025 from 2.5 percent to 6.9 percent of average monthly market values to benefit Arizona K-12 schools, colleges and other beneficiary institutions, including a roughly 260 million dollar distribution in fiscal year 2016; includes protections for state funds in the case of a severe economic downturn.

A "NO" vote shall have the effect of retaining the existing 2.5 percent distribution formula from the State Land Trust Permanent Fund and maintain current funding levels for Arizona K-12 schools, colleges and other beneficiary institutions.

# Proposition 123 passed with a narrow majority.

COMBINED Vote From Monday/Tuesday



White women, younger voters, Latinos and African Americans, self-identified Democrats and Phoenix residents were Yes voters. Self identified Republicans and Independents divided evenly, while Registered Republicans voted yes.

**Initial Ballot by Demographics among VOTERS**

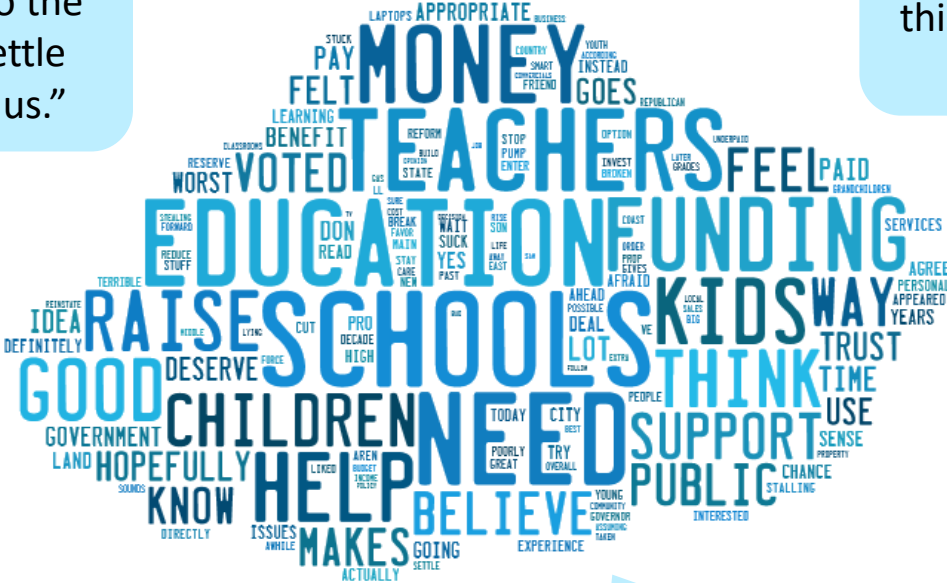
	Yes	No
Men	37	53
Women	51	34
Under 50	54	35
50-64	45	41
Over 65	38	48
White	42	45
Non-White	55	33
White men	36	53
White women	47	38

	Yes	No
Registered Democrat	42	46
Registered Republican	47	42
Democrat ID	48	42
Republican ID	45	45
Independent ID	39	39
Phoenix	50	44
Rest of Maricopa	42	44
Pima	41	46
North	34	45

# Yes voters said they wanted to fund public schools.

“Because we can’t force the government to do the right things so we settle with what they give us.”

“Because our schools are underfunded and I think this is a good way for them to get the money.”



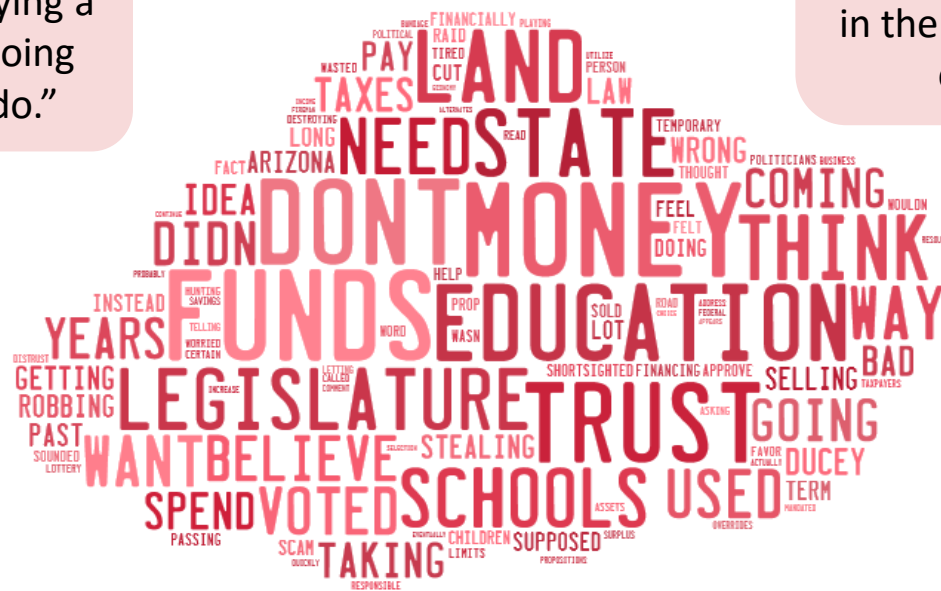
“I’m so frustrated with education here and I voted yes so education can get the money needed.”

What was the main reason you voted Yes? [Verbatim responses shown. Words in image are sized according to the frequency with which they were said. Image created at tagxedo.com

# No voters disapproved of the process and State legislature, but wanted to increase funding.

“Because it just seems like the legislatures are trying a quick fix instead of doing what they need to do.”

“Because they are robbing the future they should raise taxes or spend the money that is already in the budget. They shouldn't rob our children's future.”



“Don't believe funds are going to be used for education as stated. The government is going to keep the money and spend it on the projects they want.”

What was the main reason you voted No? [Verbatim responses shown. Words in image are sized according to the frequency with which they were said. Image created at tagxedo.com



Three factors had a statistically significant impact on voting yes. Views on the state land trust overwhelmingly predicted support, not surprisingly given that it is the central ask of the proposition. A desire to increase funding and a positive rating of Governor Ducey’s job performance also predicted a yes vote with statistical significance.

**Regressions: Dependent Variable = Vote Yes**

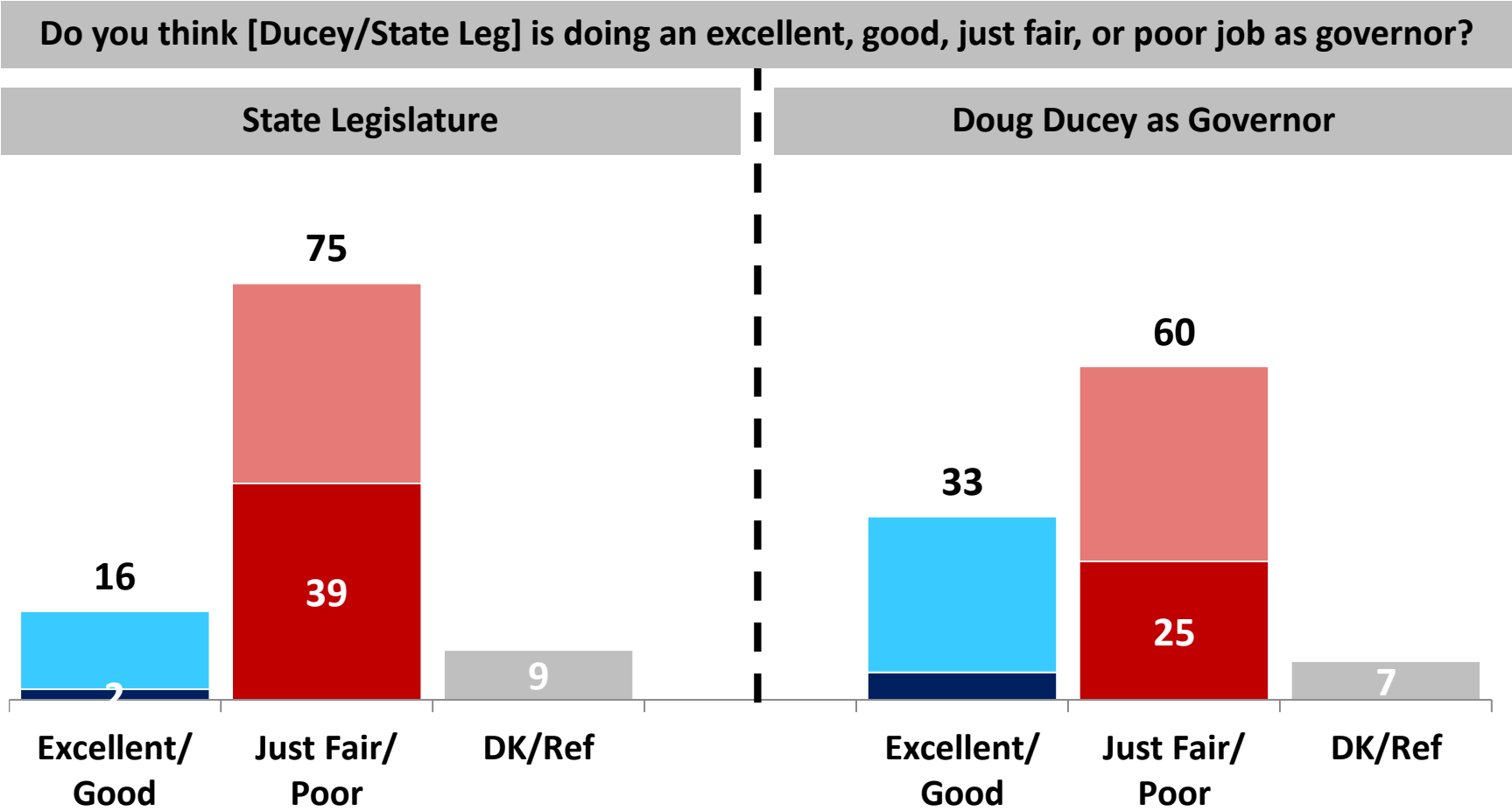
	<b>Standardized Coefficient (1)</b>	<b>T Score (2)</b>	<b>Statistical Significance (3)</b>
<b>Support for use of state land trust funds for education</b>	<b>.579</b>	<b>15.171</b>	<b>.000</b>
<b>Increase funding for public schools</b>	<b>.119</b>	<b>3.035</b>	<b>.003</b>
<b>Positive rating of Governor Ducey</b>	<b>.100</b>	<b>2.703</b>	<b>.007</b>

- (1) The higher the number the stronger the predictive power toward a Yes vote. A 1.000 would mean an exact positive relationship.
- (2) The higher the number the stronger the predictive power toward a Yes vote.
- (3) The lower the number the stronger the statistical significance. Anything lower than .050 we consider strong.

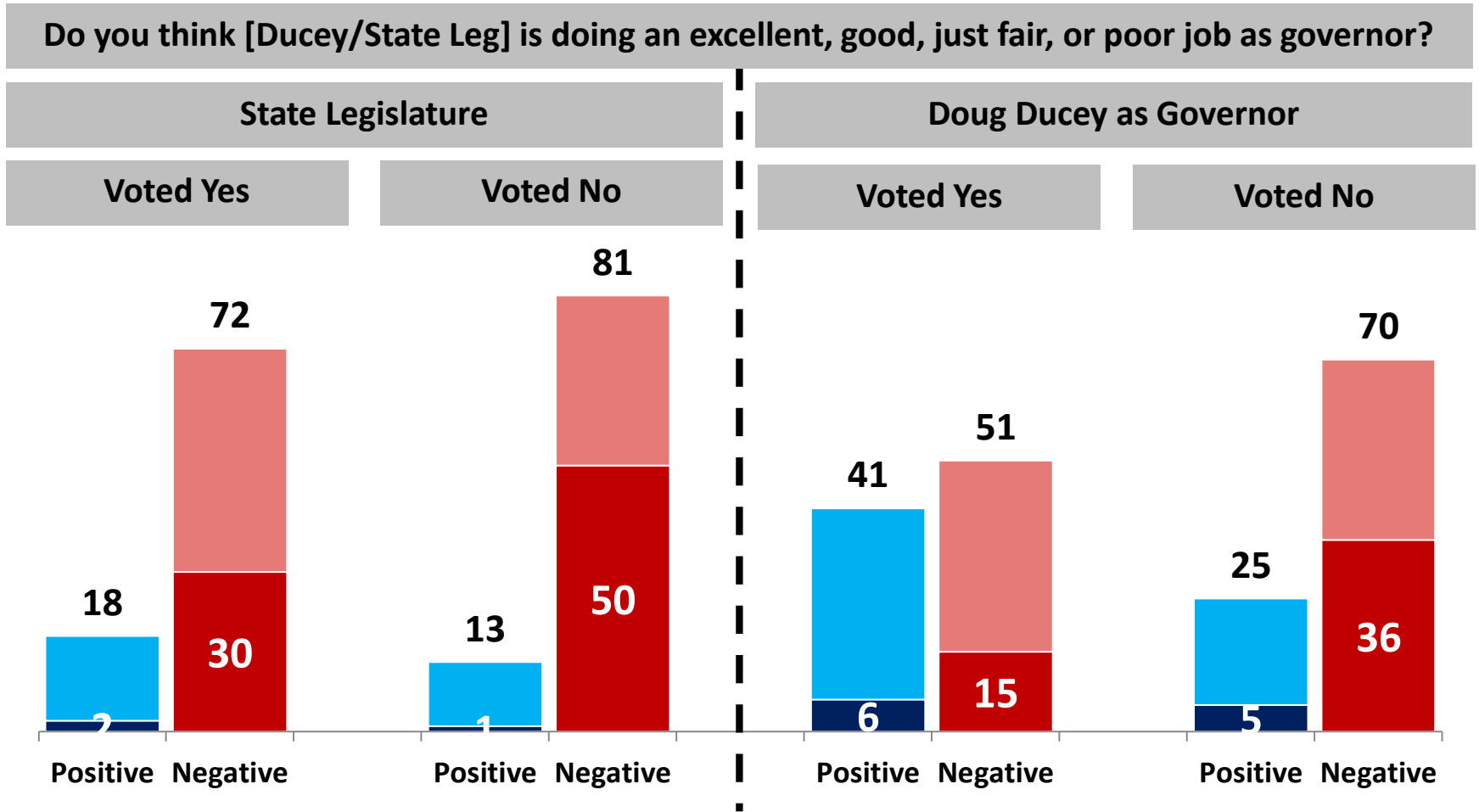
# Political Context



# Voters rated both Governor Ducey and the State legislature negatively.



# No voters were much more likely to have negative ratings of both the Governor and State legislature.



Darker colors indicate intensity

**Seniors, Democrats and Independents, and Pima residents were more likely to have negative ratings of Governor Ducey. Republicans were evenly divided.**

**Ducey Job Performance**

	Positive	Negative
Men	36	59
Women	30	62
Under 50	33	57
50-64	39	56
Over 65	29	65
White	33	60
Non-White	32	64
White men	36	60
White women	30	60

	Positive	Negative
Registered Democrat	16	80
Registered Republican	46	45
Democrat ID	19	78
Republican ID	48	44
Independent ID	22	70
Phoenix	39	57
Rest of Maricopa	36	59
Pima	22	71
North	30	55

Democrats, Independents, and Pima residents had the most negative ratings of the State legislature. No demographic rated the State legislature’s job performance positively.

**State Legislature Job Performance**

	Positive	Negative
Men	15	79
Women	16	72
Under 50	23	68
50-64	16	79
Over 65	12	77
White	14	77
Non-White	23	68
White men	16	78
White women	12	75

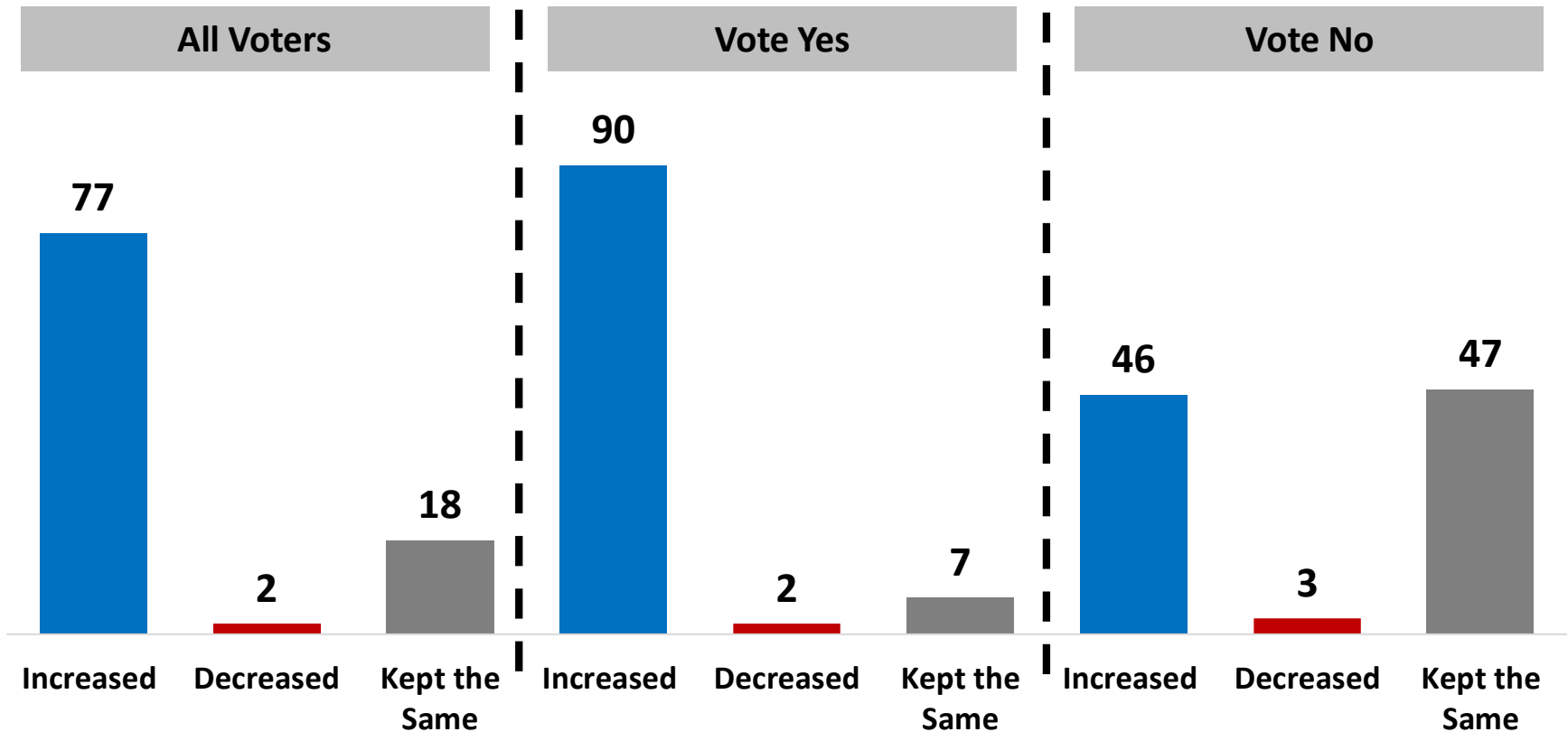
	Positive	Negative
Registered Democrat	10	84
Registered Republican	20	68
Democrat ID	10	84
Republican ID	21	65
Independent ID	13	80
Phoenix	15	78
Rest of Maricopa	19	73
Pima	7	83
North	21	70

# Contours of Support



Recall that in January, No voters were divided between increasing funding for public schools and keeping it the same.

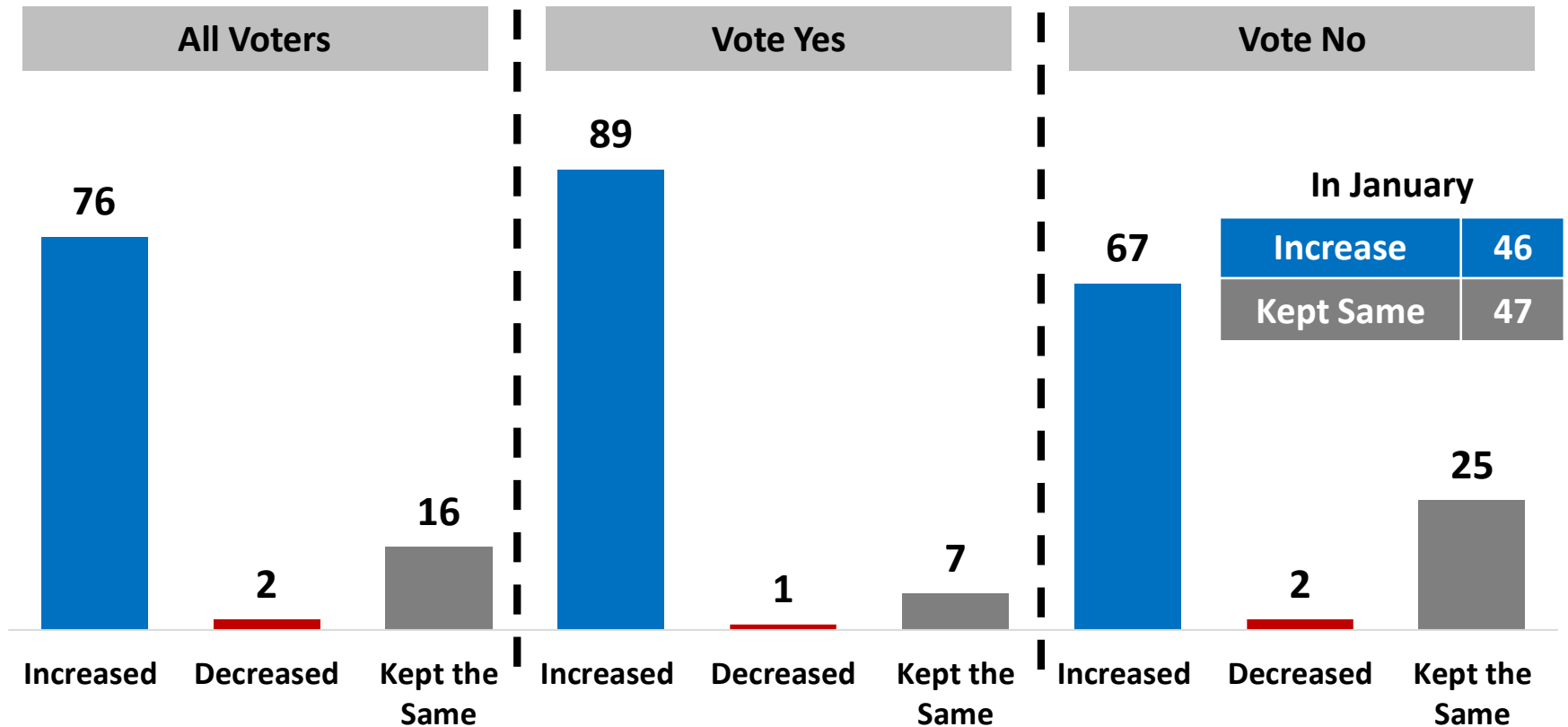
[JANUARY] Should funding for public schools be:





# On Election Day, even two-thirds of No voters said they wanted to increase funding for public schools, up from 46 percent in January.

[ELECTION DAY] Regardless of how you voted, do you think state funding for public schools be:



**Strong majorities across demographics want to increase funding for public education. White women, younger voters, Democrats and Pima residents were among those most likely to want to increase public education funding.**

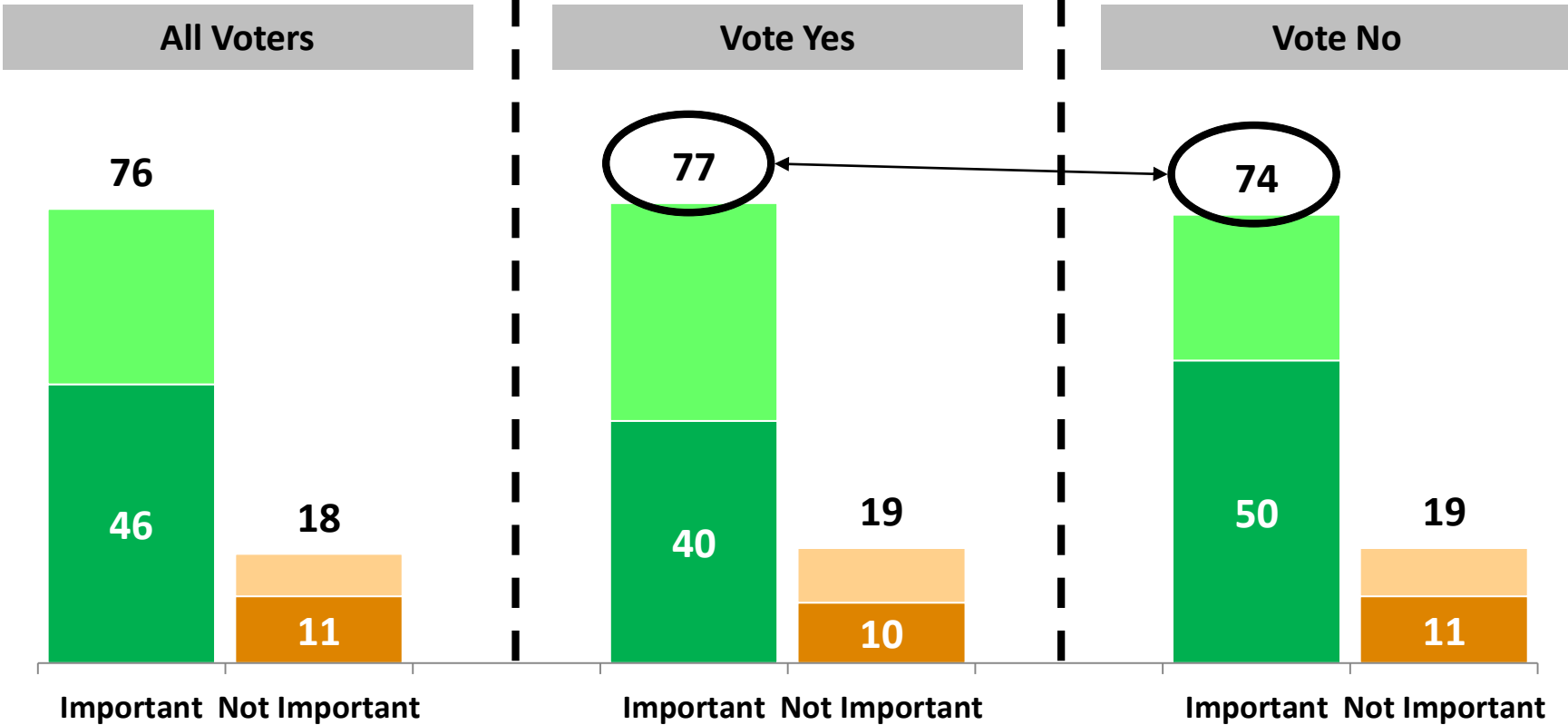
**Regardless of how voted, should funding for public education be:**

	Increased	Kept Same
Men	70	24
Women	82	10
Under 50	86	10
50-64	75	18
Over 65	72	19
White	76	17
Non-White	79	15
White men	71	23
White women	81	11

	Increased	Kept Same
Registered Democrat	88	8
Registered Republican	68	21
Democrat ID	91	7
Republican ID	67	22
Independent ID	78	17
Phoenix	75	18
Rest of Maricopa	73	19
Pima	83	10
North	76	17

# The state land trust funds were important to all voters.

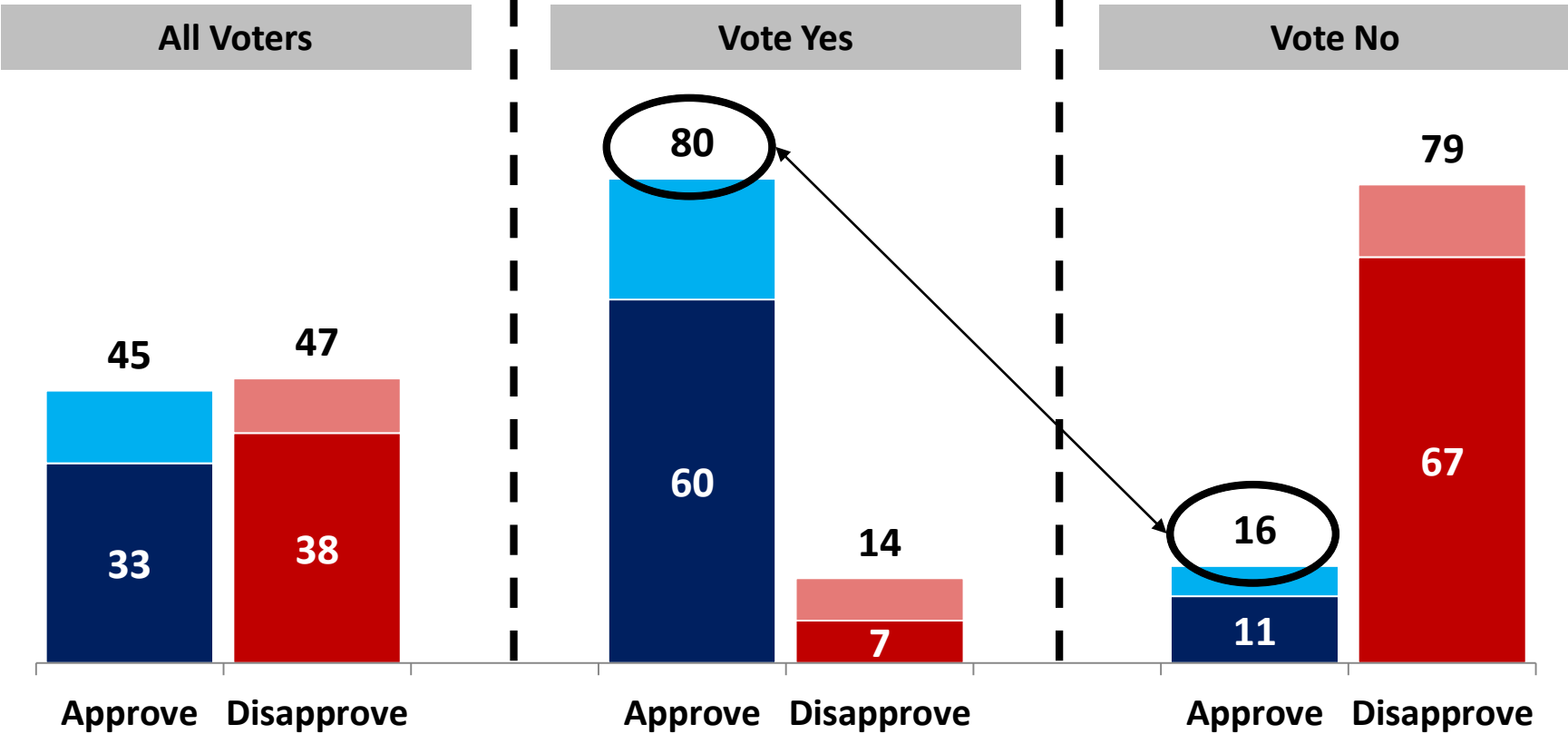
How Important: Use of state land trust funds to fund education as part of Prop 123 in your decision on which way to vote?



Darker colors indicate intensity

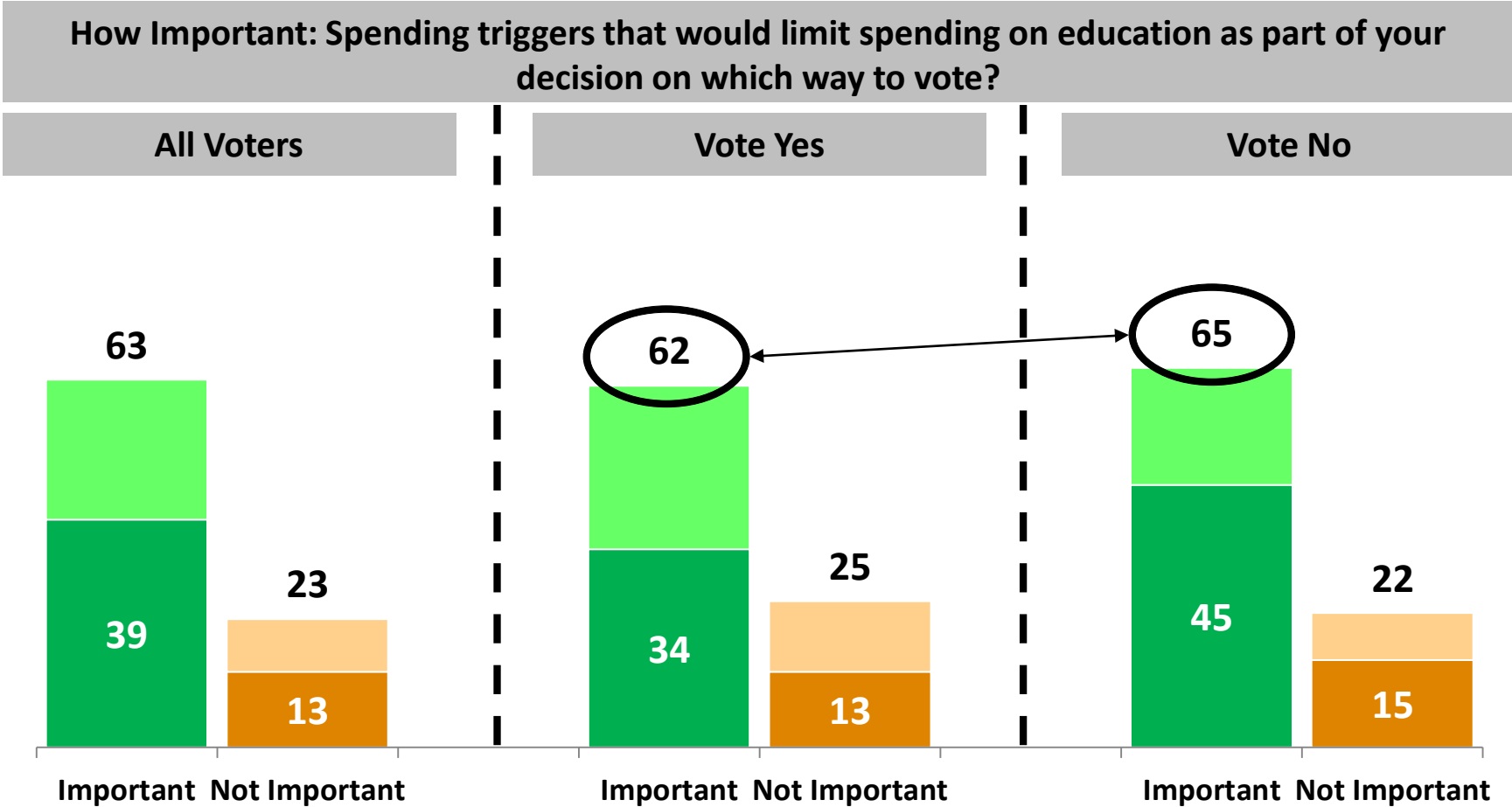
# Approval over using state land trust fund for education predicted people's vote.

Approve or disapprove: Use of state land trust funds to fund education as part of Prop 123?



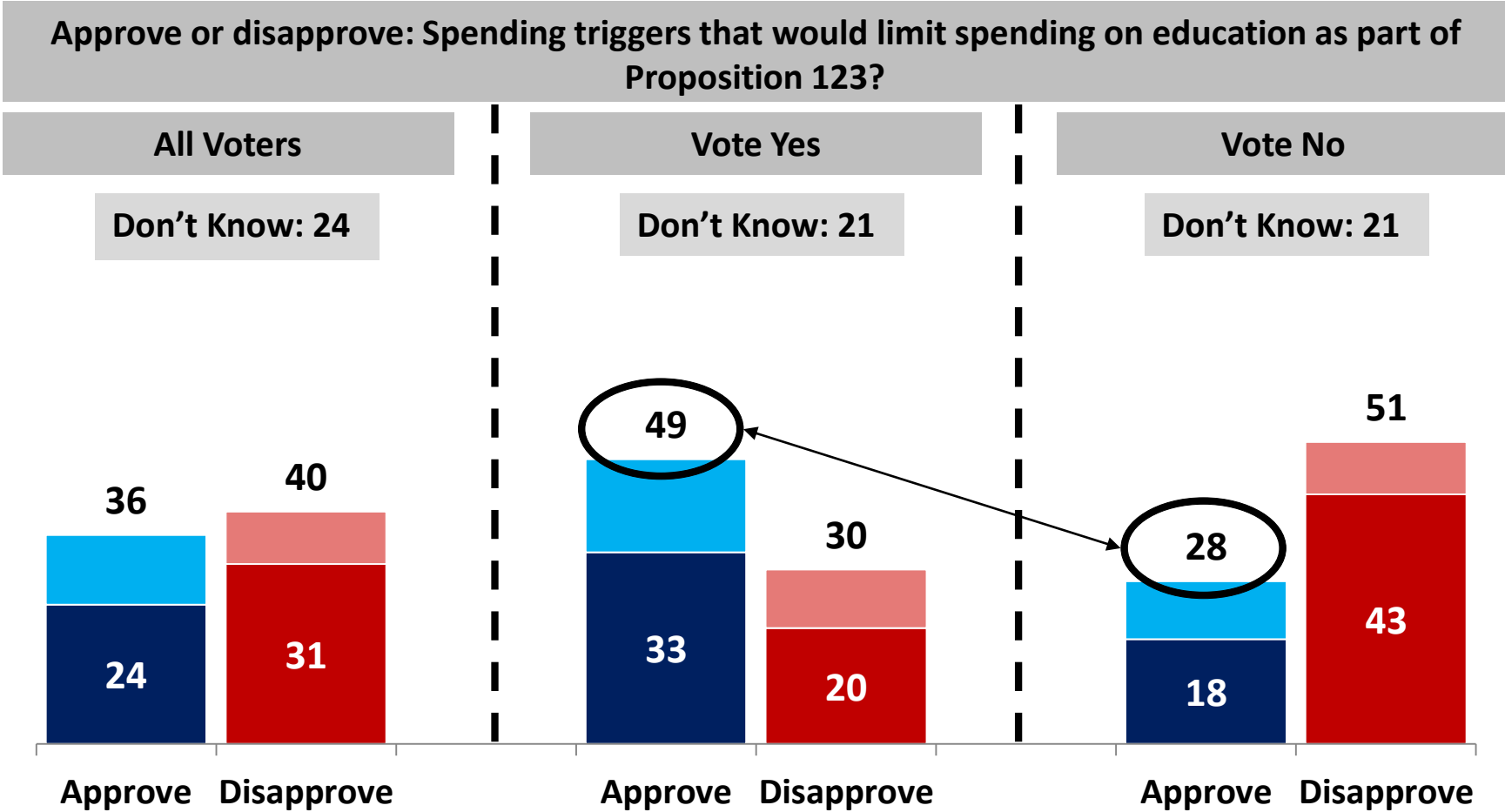
Darker colors indicate intensity

# Spending triggers were less important relative to the use of state land trust funds.



Darker colors indicate intensity

# Approval of spending triggers correlated with support for Proposition 123, but was not predictive.



Darker colors indicate intensity

Voters across demographics were divided on whether to use the state land trust, as they were on the proposition. Majorities of younger voters and Phoenix residents approved of using the land trust, as did a plurality of self-identified Democrats and Republicans.

**Views toward Land Trust**

	Approval		Importance	
	App	Dis	Imp	Not Imp
Men	42	53	74	21
Women	48	41	77	17
Under 50	52	42	72	22
50-64	49	46	78	16
Over 65	39	49	75	18
White	45	47	76	18
Non-White	47	44	72	21
White men	43	52	76	19
White women	47	42	76	17

	Approval		Importance	
	App	Dis	Imp	Not Imp
Reg. Democrat	42	51	71	22
Reg. Republican	48	42	77	17
Democrat ID	49	46	71	24
Republican ID	48	43	76	16
Independent ID	35	54	82	13
Phoenix	51	40	76	21
Rest of Maricopa	43	50	76	19
Pima	42	47	74	17
North	38	50	78	16

Voters across demographics were less clear in their preference for spending triggers. No demographic had majority approval. Democrats were among those most likely to disapprove of spending triggers.

**Views toward Spending Triggers**

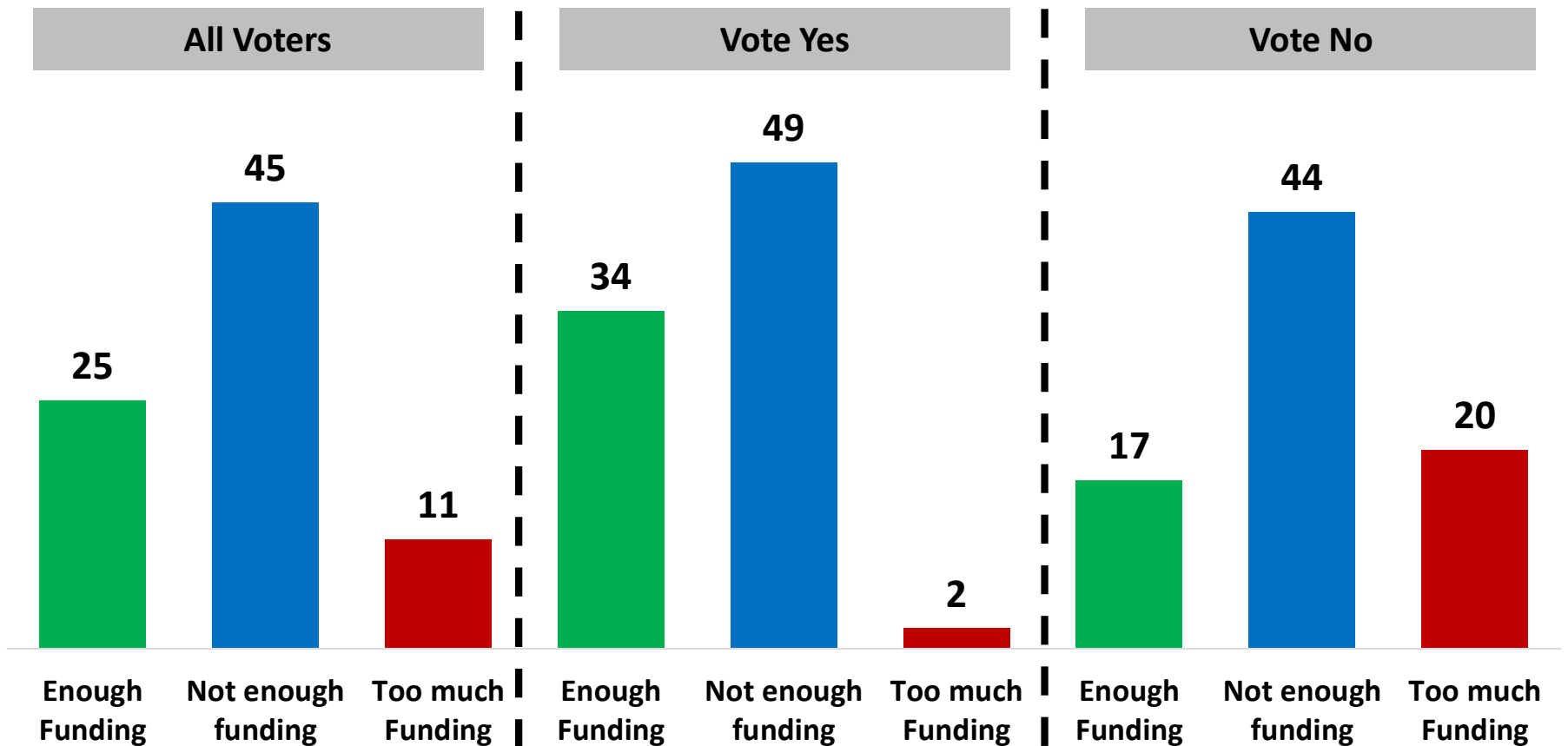
	Approval		Importance	
	App	Dis	Imp	Not Imp
Men	41	41	65	24
Women	32	39	62	21
Under 50	42	35	61	27
50-64	35	43	61	22
Over 65	35	41	66	21
White	35	41	62	24
Non-White	44	33	74	18
White men	38	43	64	25
White women	32	39	60	22

	Approval		Importance	
	App	Dis	Imp	Not Imp
Reg. Democrat	25	51	61	24
Reg. Republican	43	35	65	22
Democrat ID	31	51	60	28
Republican ID	40	32	67	18
Independent ID	37	36	59	23
Phoenix	36	36	64	26
Rest of Maricopa	36	46	66	23
Pima	30	44	58	19
North	42	34	65	20



# Voters did not think Proposition 123 provided enough funding, including pluralities of Yes and No voters.

In your opinion does Prop 123 provide enough funding, not enough funding, or too much funding for Public Schools?



# Women, younger voters, Democrats, Independents and Pima residents were among those most likely to say Proposition 123 did not provide enough funding.

In your opinion does Prop 123 provide enough funding, not enough funding, or too much funding for Public Schools?

	Enough	Not Enough	Too Much
Men	25	40	13
Women	24	50	8
Under 50	27	52	6
50-64	25	46	9
Over 65	23	41	13
White	24	46	10
Non-White	31	42	11
White men	25	40	12
White women	23	52	8

	Enough	Not Enough	Too Much
Reg. Democrat	19	56	7
Reg. Republican	28	39	13
Democrat ID	22	55	7
Republican ID	29	37	14
Independent ID	19	50	6
Phoenix	25	44	11
Rest of Maricopa	28	42	14
Pima	17	54	8
North	24	43	5

# LRP

LAKE  
RESEARCH  
PARTNERS

Strategy • Precision • Impact



Washington, DC | Berkeley, CA | New York, NY

[LakeResearch.com](http://LakeResearch.com)

202.776.9066

Jonathan Voss

[jvoss@lakeresearch.com](mailto:jvoss@lakeresearch.com)

Jesse Kline

[jkline@lakeresearch.com](mailto:jkline@lakeresearch.com)