



Minnesota
Environmental
Partnership

Minnesota Voters' Environmental Priorities in 2017

*Results of a Statewide Voter Survey
Conducted February 1-5, 2017*

220-4733

Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates – FM3

PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH & STRATEGY



**PUBLIC OPINION
STRATEGIES**



Survey Methodology

- 502 live telephone interviews with registered Minnesota voters, with an oversample of rural Minnesotans to yield 306 rural interviews and 196 urban interviews
 - *Interviews conducted from February 1-5, 2017 on both landlines and cell phones*
 - *Data statistically weighted to reflect true geographic distribution of voters throughout the state*
- Margin of sampling error of +/-5.3% for statewide sample; +/-6.9% for urban voters and +/-5.7% for rural voters
- Some percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding

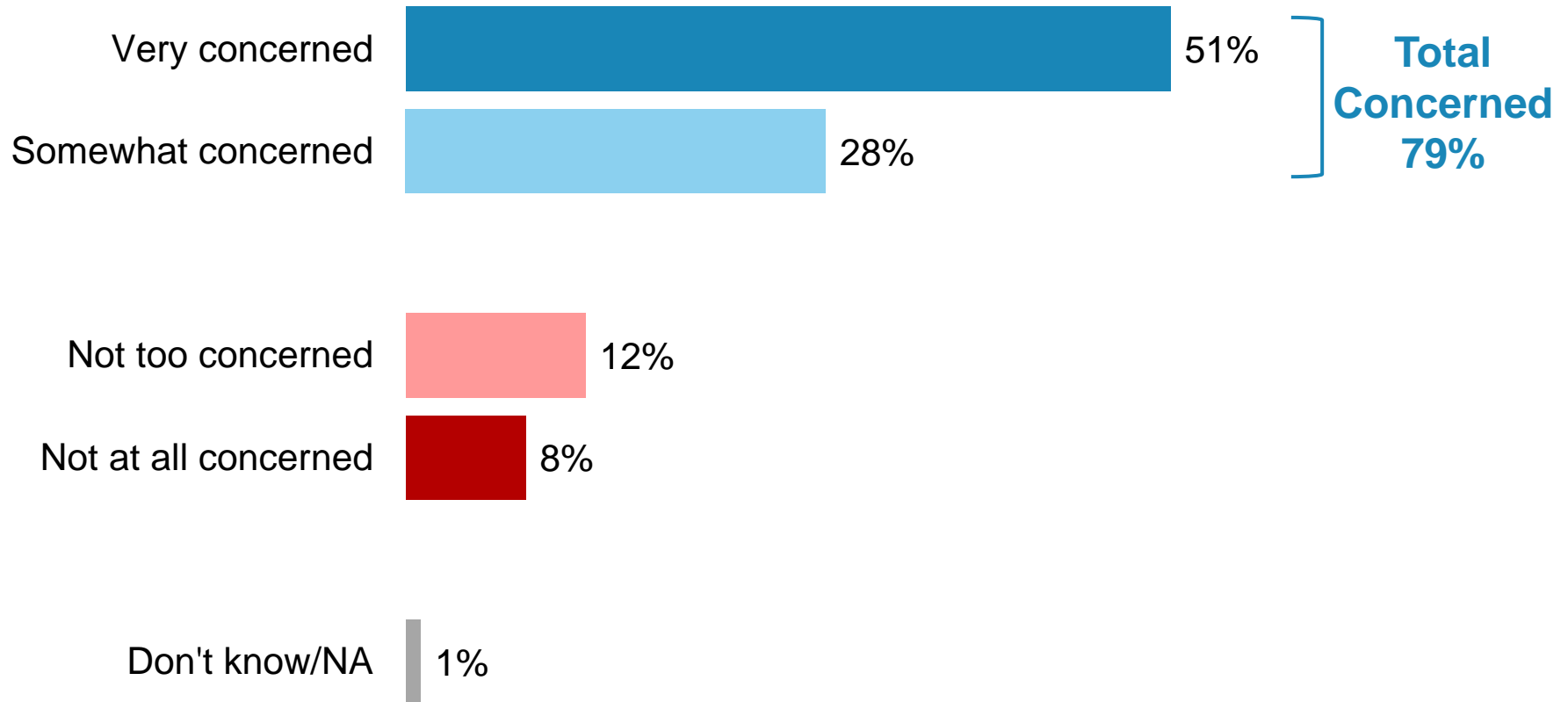




Agricultural Pollution & Safe Drinking Water

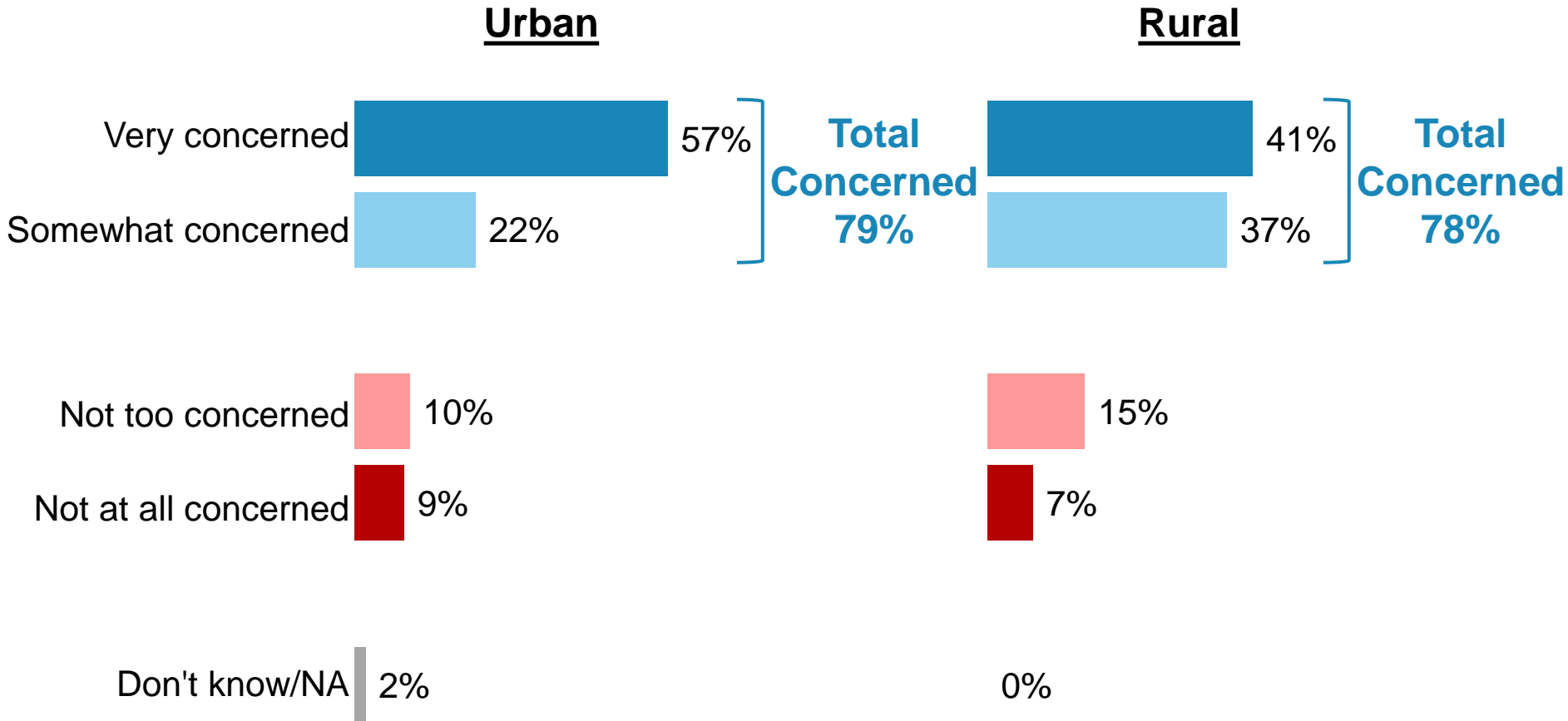
Half of Minnesotans are “very concerned” about pollution of drinking water.

Pollution of drinking water



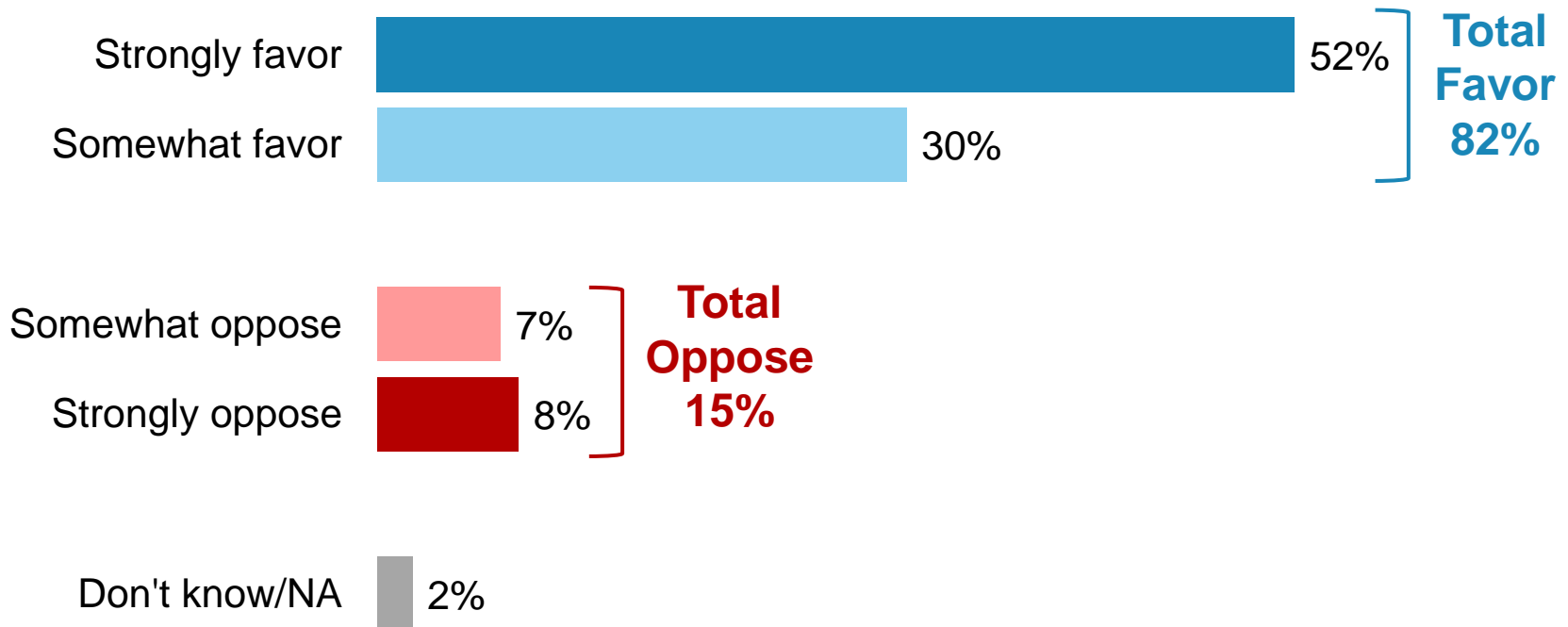
More than two in five rural voters are “very concerned,” as are nearly three in five urban voters.

Pollution of drinking water



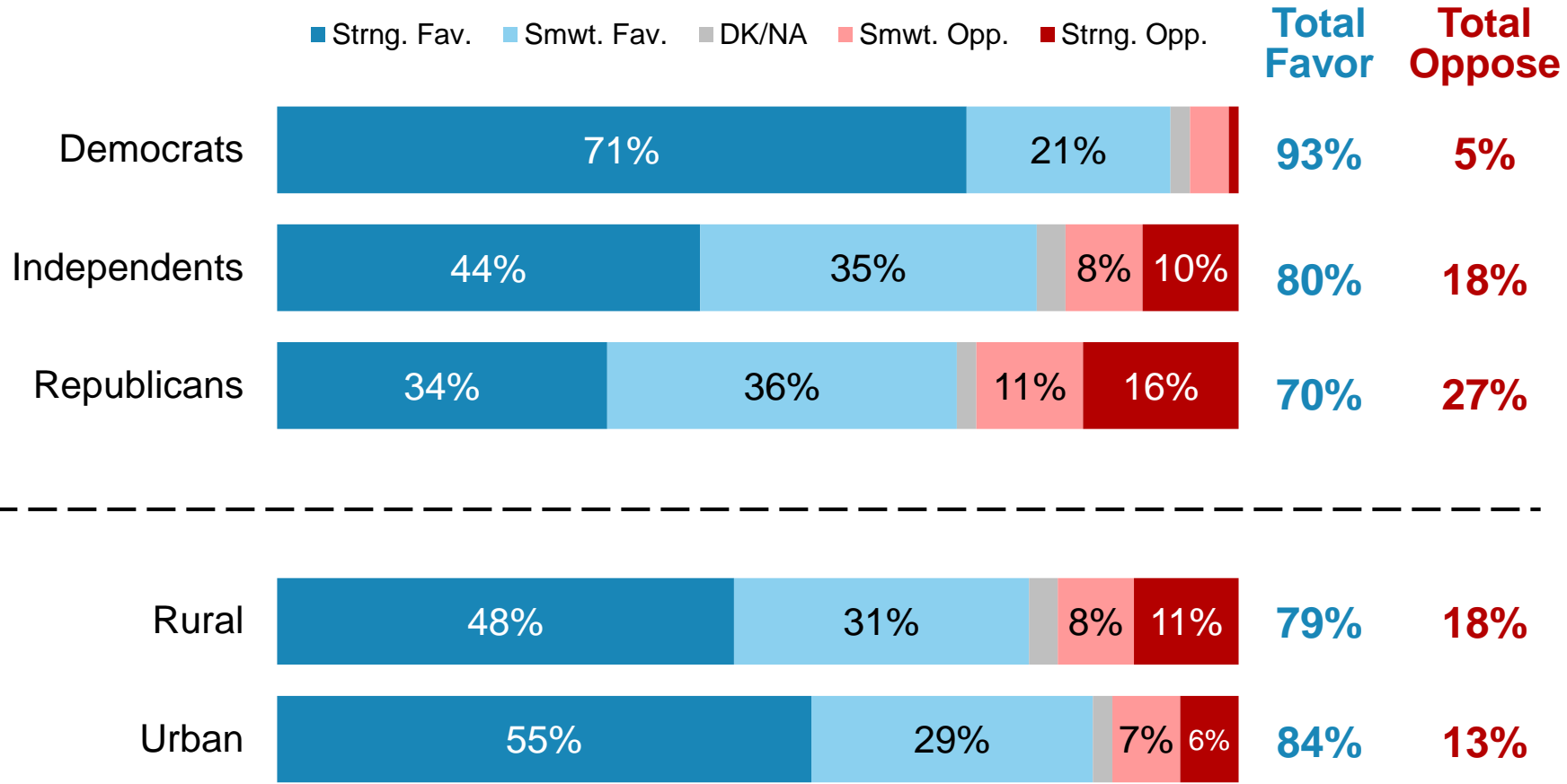
A majority of Minnesota voters “strongly favor” the buffer initiative law.

In 2015, a “buffer initiative” law was approved in Minnesota. It designated more than 100,000 acres statewide to be set aside in up to 50-foot strips of natural vegetation along rivers, streams, and ditches. These buffers help filter out agricultural pollution from Minnesota’s waters. Would you say you currently favor or oppose this buffer initiative?



Urban voters are only slightly more supportive than their rural counterparts.

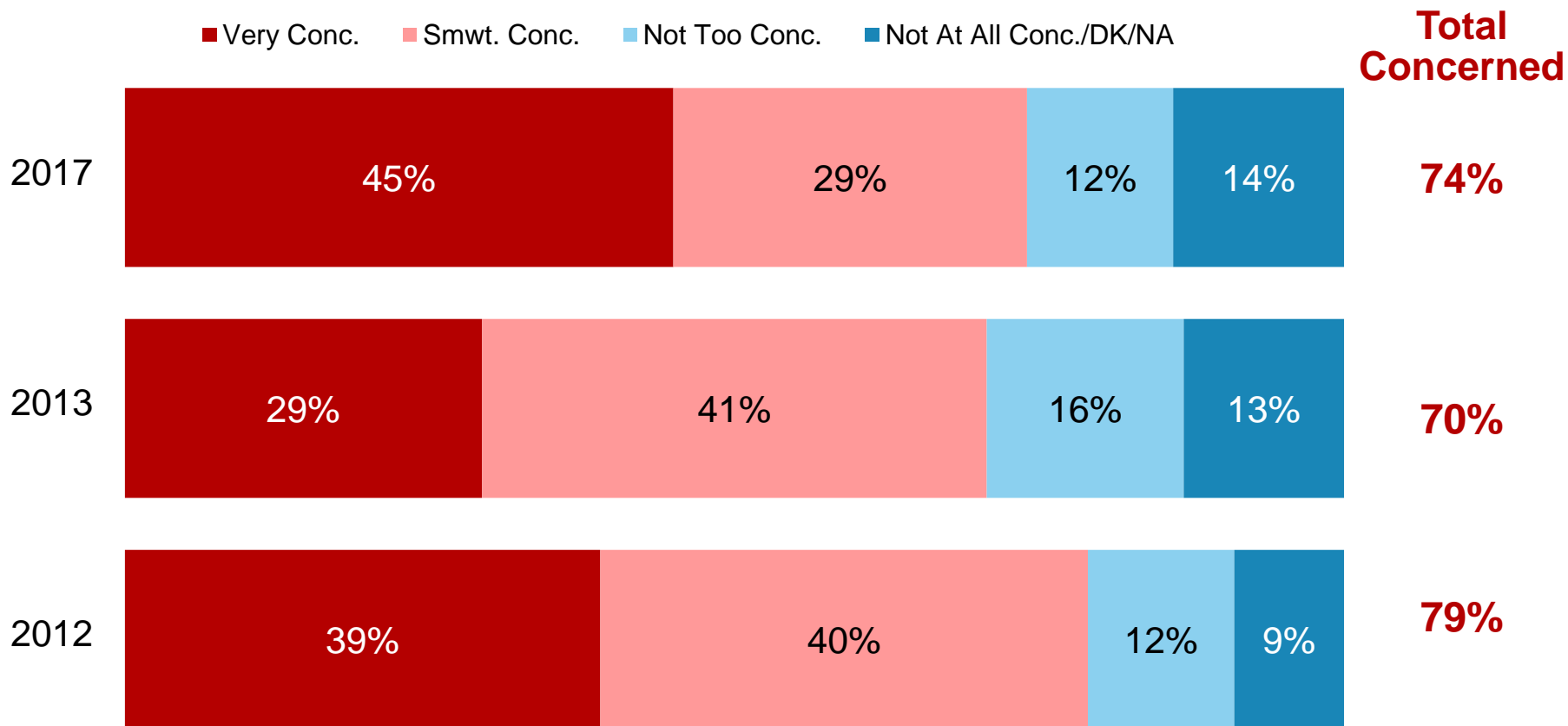
Support for Buffer Initiative by Party ID and Type of Area



Q7. In 2015, a "buffer initiative" law was approved in Minnesota. It designated more than 100,000 acres statewide to be set aside in up to 50-foot strips of natural vegetation along rivers, streams, and ditches. These buffers help filter out agricultural pollution from Minnesota's waters. Would you say you currently favor or oppose this buffer initiative?

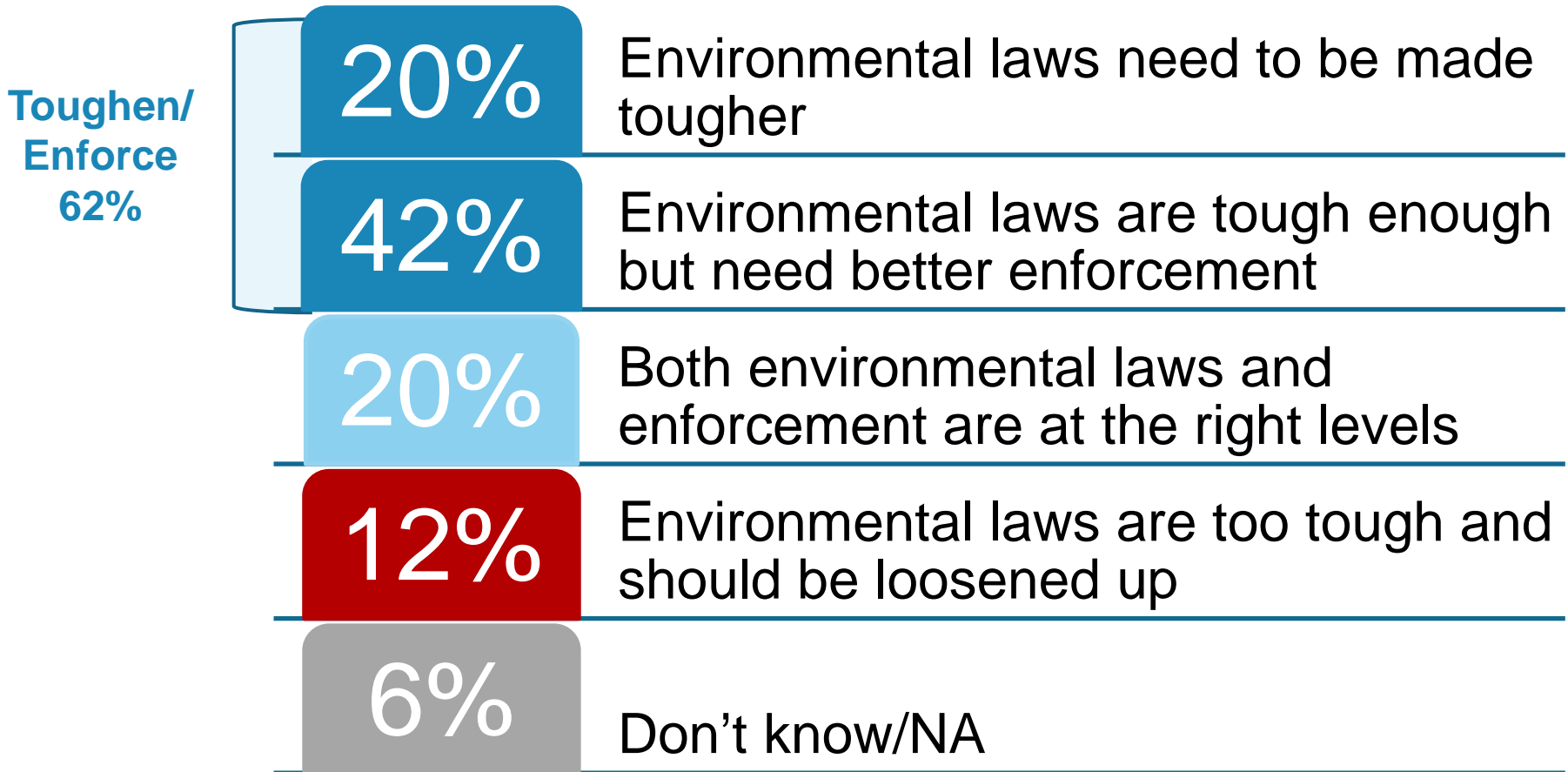
Nearly half of Minnesota voters say they are “very concerned” about rollbacks of environmental laws.

Rollbacks of laws that protect our land, air and water



More than three in five voters want tougher laws or better enforcement of existing laws.

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of government regulations of the environment in Minnesota?

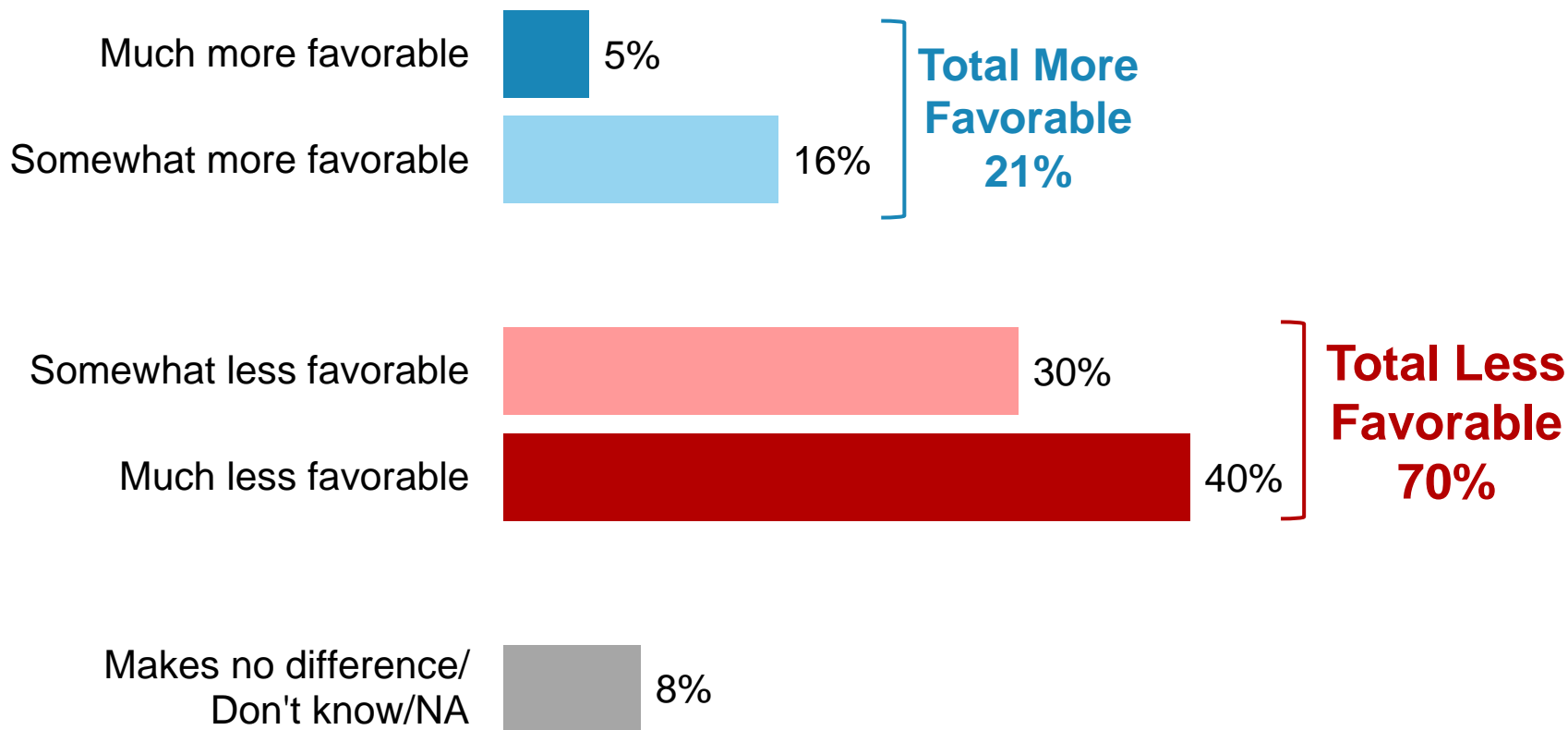


Nearly one-third of Democrats believe environmental laws should be made tougher.

Statement	All Voters	Party ID			Type of Area	
		Dems.	Inds.	Reps.	Rural	Urban
Environmental laws need to be made tougher	20%	32%	12%	10%	17%	22%
Environmental laws are tough enough but they need better enforcement	42%	47%	42%	37%	43%	42%
Both environmental laws and enforcement are at the right levels	20%	16%	21%	24%	22%	18%
Environmental laws are too tough and should be loosened up	12%	1%	14%	25%	14%	11%
Don't know/NA	6%	3%	11%	5%	5%	7%

By a margin of more than three to one, voters say weakening environmental laws would give them a less favorable view of their legislator.

Suppose that your state legislator voted to weaken environmental protection laws. Would you have a more favorable or less favorable view of them?



This impression varies along party lines, though with little difference between urban and rural.

Favorability	All Voters	Party ID			Type of Area	
		Dems.	Inds.	Reps.	Rural	Urban
Much more favorable	5%	1%	5%	10%	5%	5%
Somewhat more favorable	16%	6%	13%	33%	15%	17%
Total More Favorable	21%	7%	18%	43%	20%	22%

Somewhat less favorable	30%	30%	31%	30%	40%	24%
Much less favorable	40%	62%	37%	12%	31%	46%
Total Less Favorable	70%	92%	68%	42%	71%	69%

Makes no difference/ Don't know/NA	8%	1%	14%	14%	9%	8%
---------------------------------------	----	----	-----	-----	----	----

For more information, contact:

Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates – FM3

PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH & STRATEGY

David Metz

Dave@FM3research.com

Miranda Everitt

Miranda@FM3research.com



**PUBLIC OPINION
STRATEGIES**

Lori Weigel

lori@pos.org