



PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

turning questions into answers



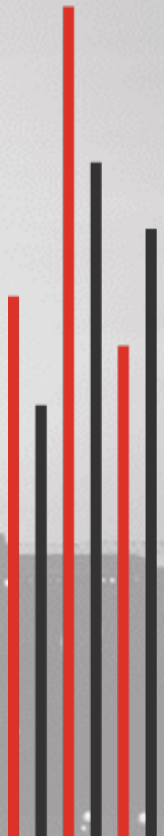
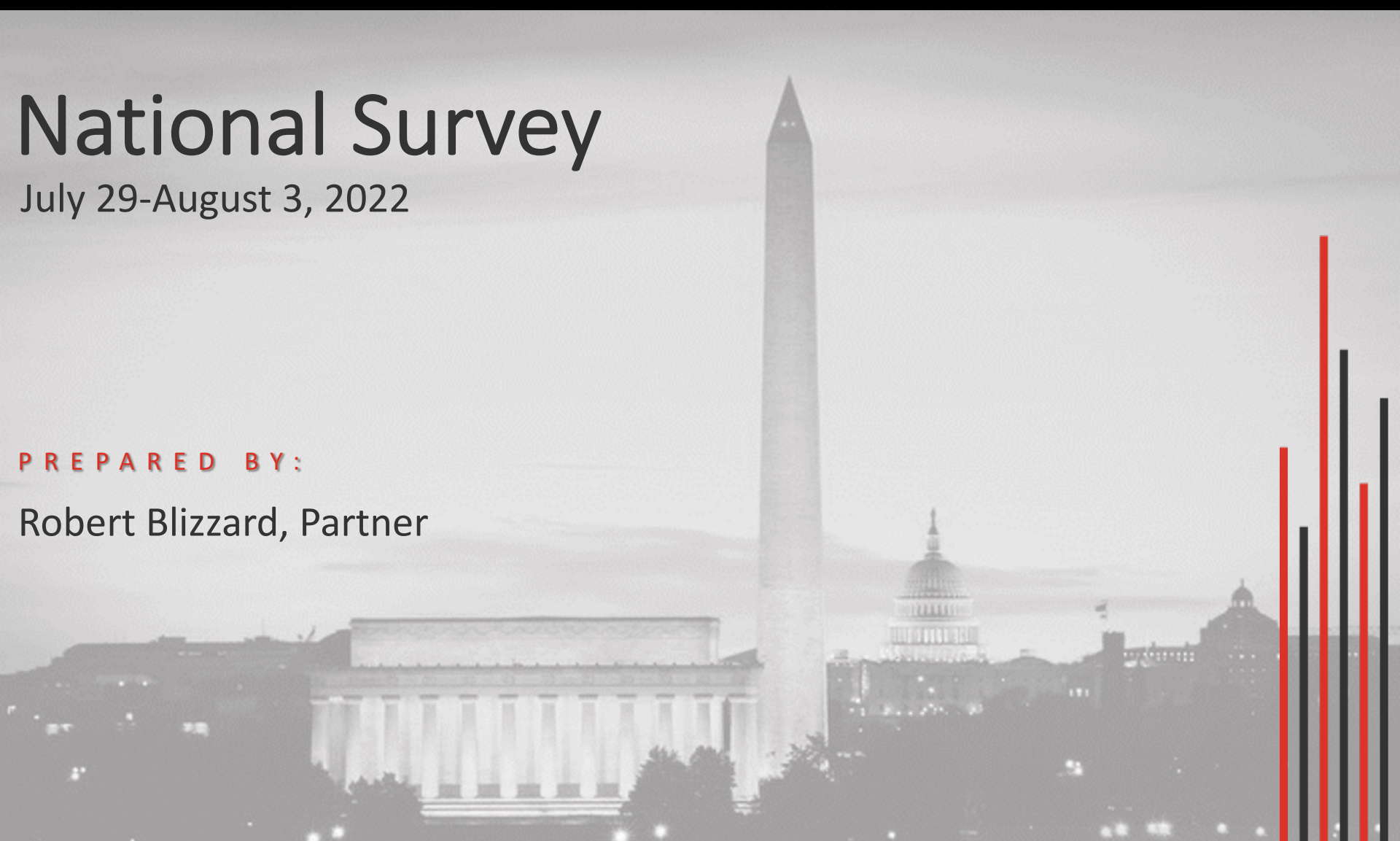
FAMM

National Survey

July 29-August 3, 2022

PREPARED BY:

Robert Blizzard, Partner



METHODOLOGY

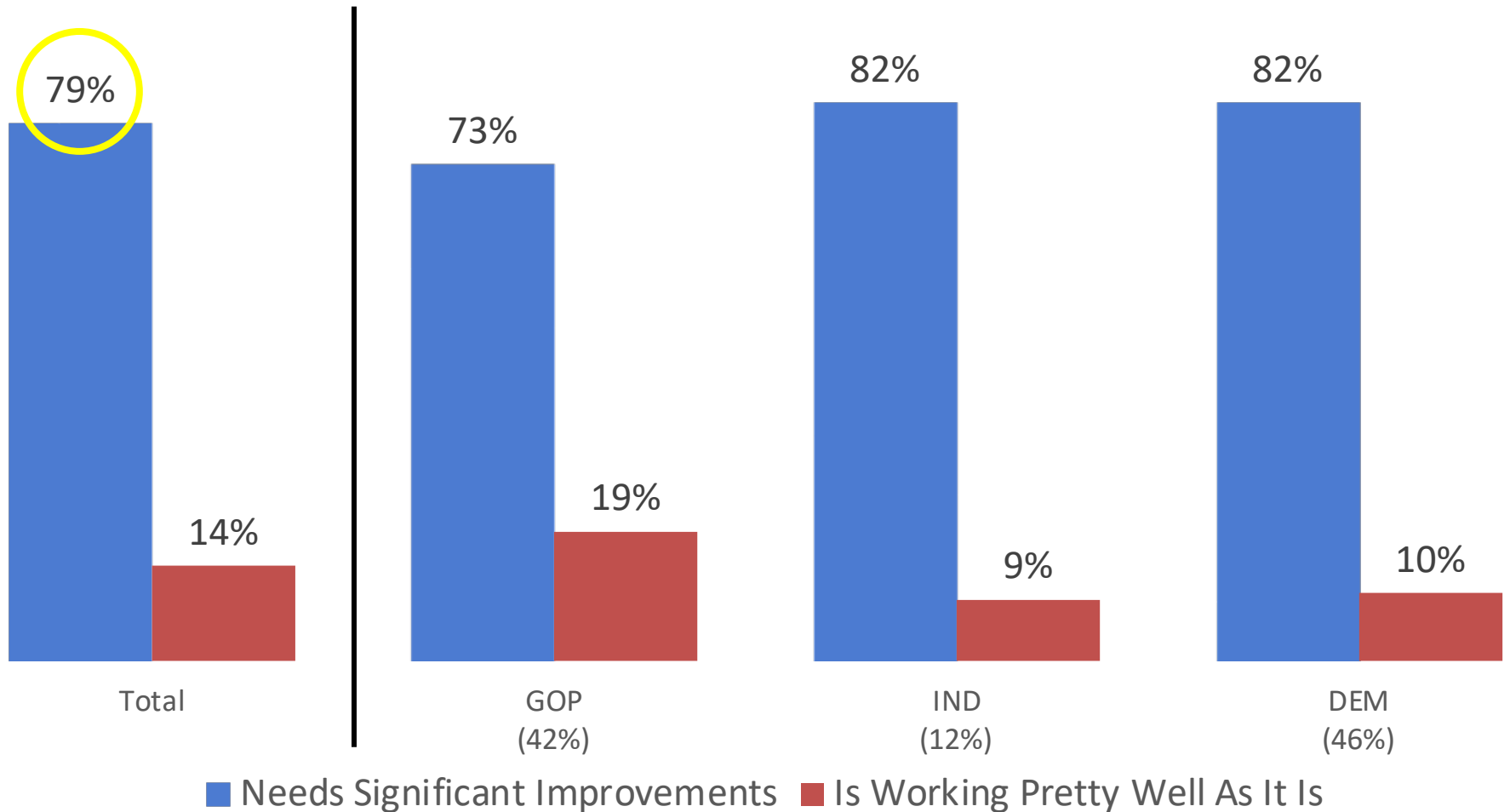
On behalf of Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM), Robert Blizzard of Public Opinion Strategies completed a national survey of 1000 registered voters via online.

The survey was conducted July 29-August 3, 2022 and has a credibility interval of $\pm 3.53\%$.

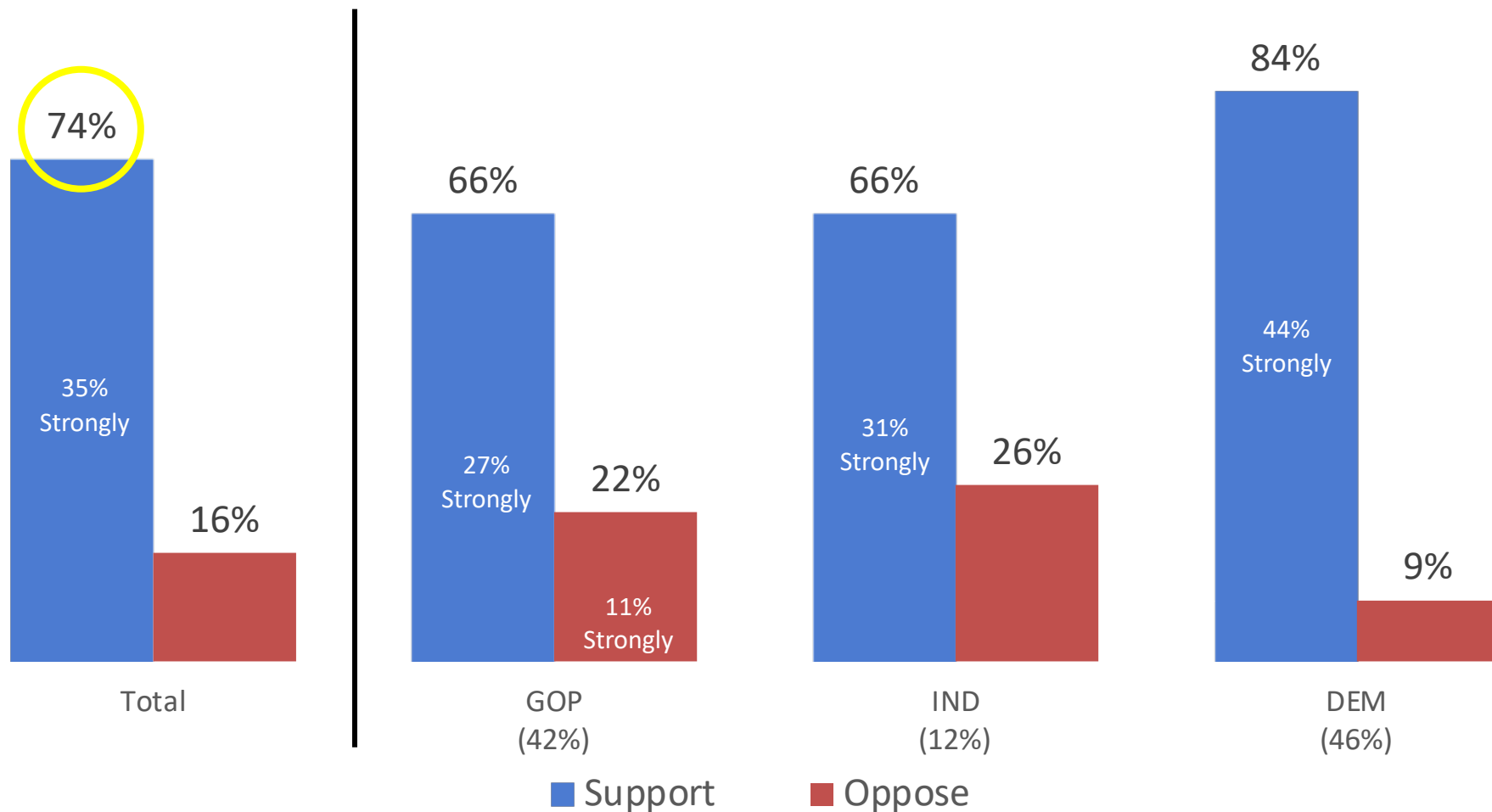


The Criminal Justice System

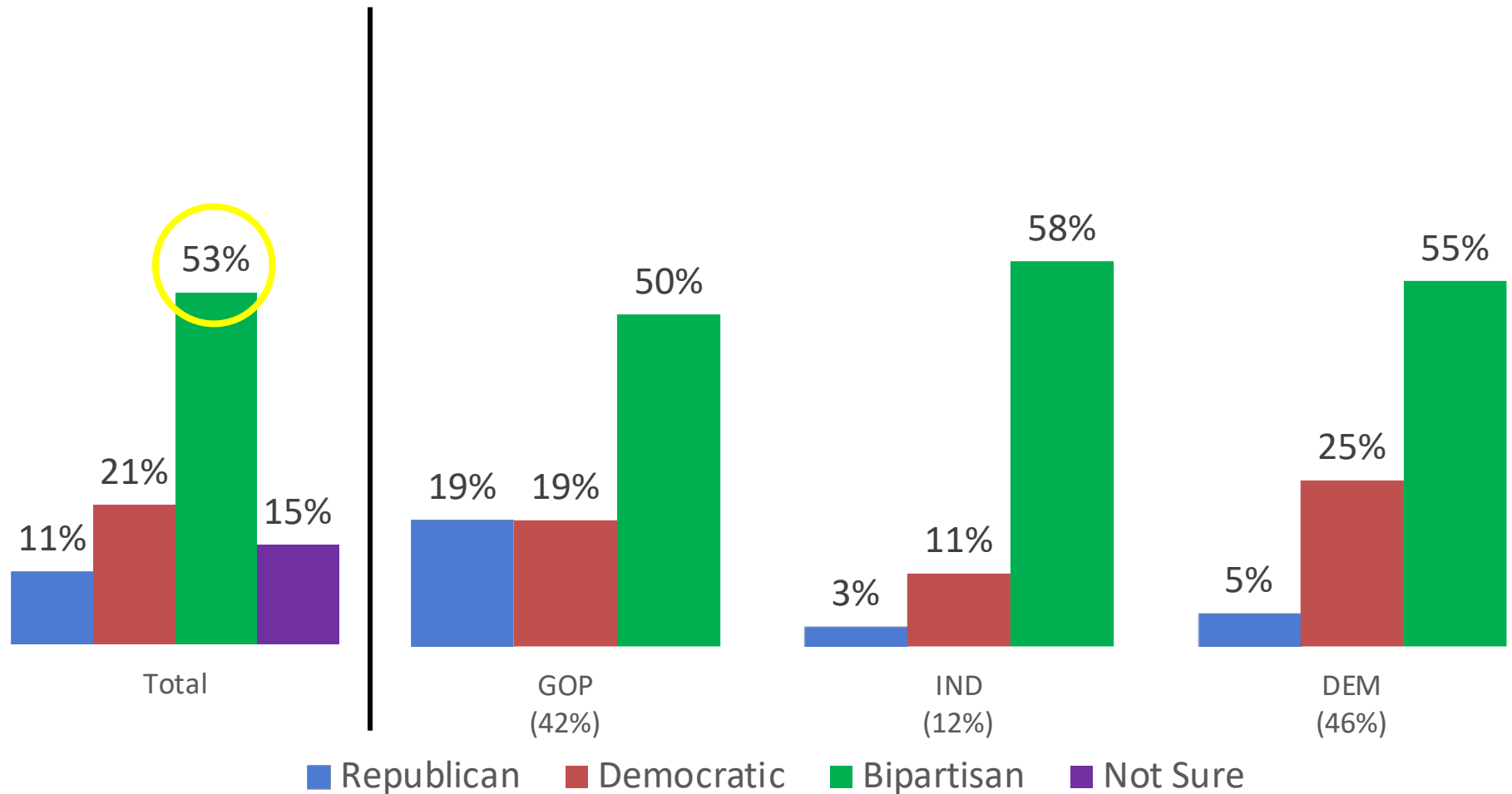
There's a strong sense among voters the nation's criminal justice system "needs significant improvements."



Nearly three-quarters of Americans support reforming the nation's criminal justice system.



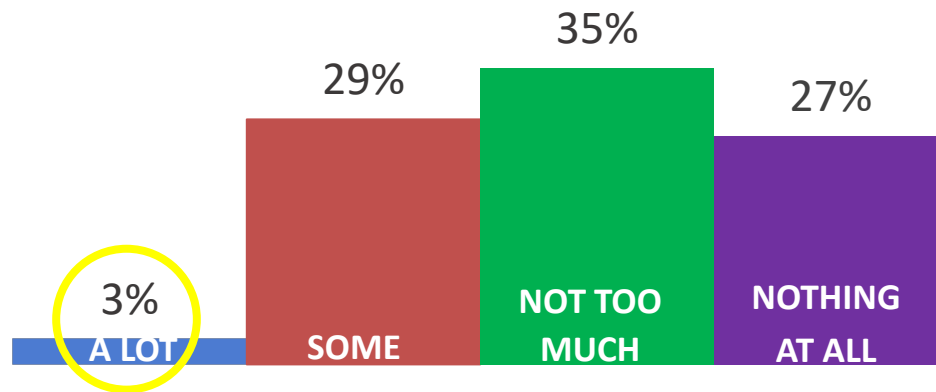
Voters across party lines view criminal justice reform as a bi-partisan issue.





Prison Oversight

As can be expected, very few voters have seen, read, or heard much about prison oversight.



Top Groups % A Lot/Some	
Previous Incarceration- Yes, self & family/friend	47%
Non-White Men	45%
Men 18-54	42%
Black	42%
GOP Men	40%
Religious Conservatives	40%
Previous Incarceration- Yes, friend	40%
IND/College +	40%

Voters believe the country's prisons should be inspected "more than once a year."

And, in your opinion, how often do you think the country's prisons should be inspected?

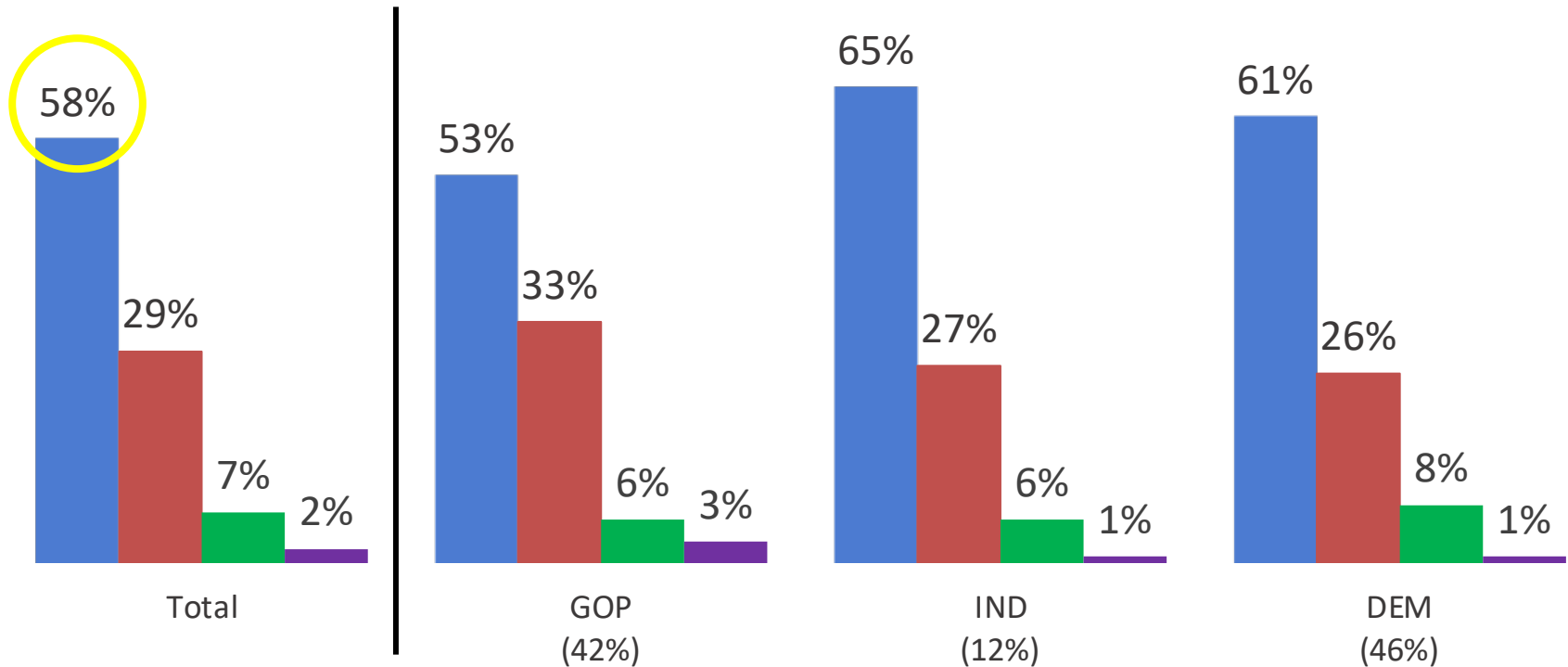
More than once a year

Once a year

Once every three years

...or...

Only when problems arise?

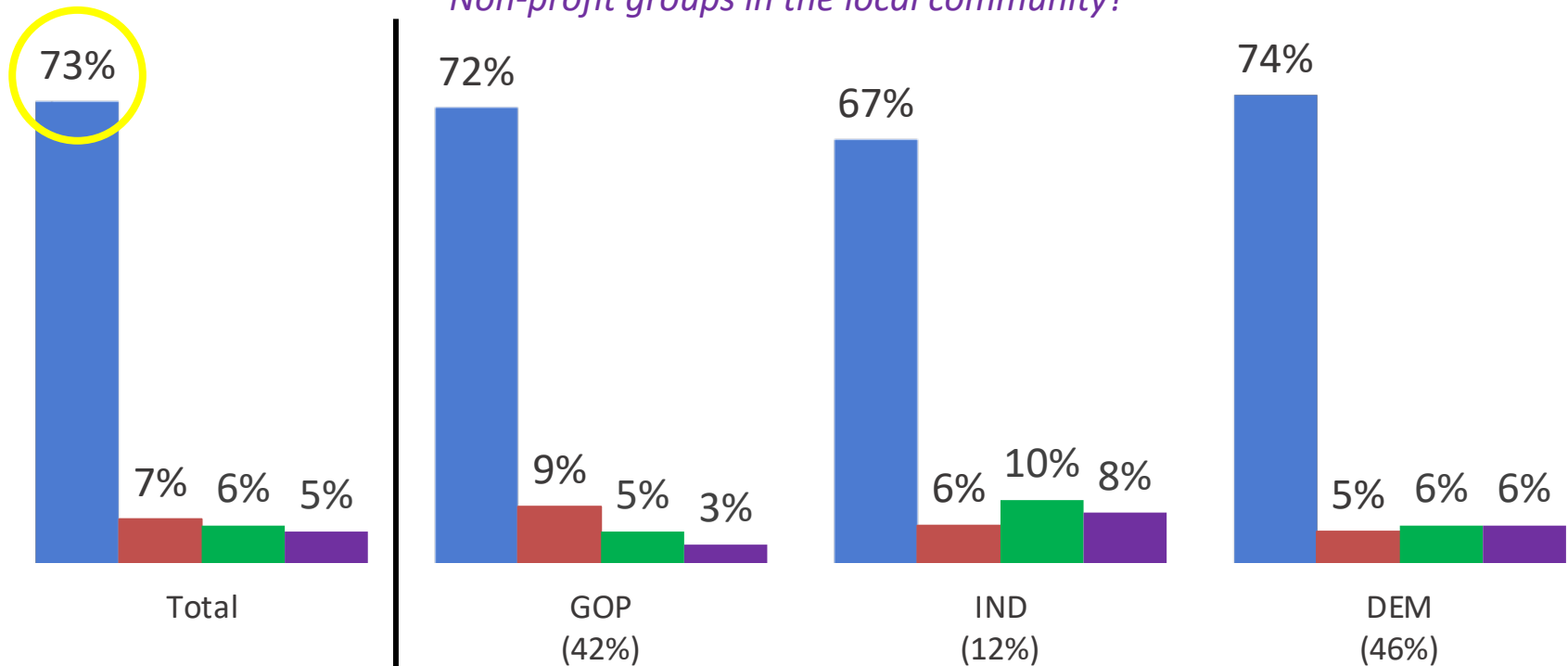


When it comes to who should oversee, voters have a strong preference for professional inspectors independent of the prison system.

And, in your opinion, which ONE of the following should inspect the country's prisons?
Professional inspectors who are independent of the prison system that they are inspecting
People who work in the same prison system that they are inspecting
People who used to be incarcerated and/or their family members in the local community

...Or...

Non-profit groups in the local community?



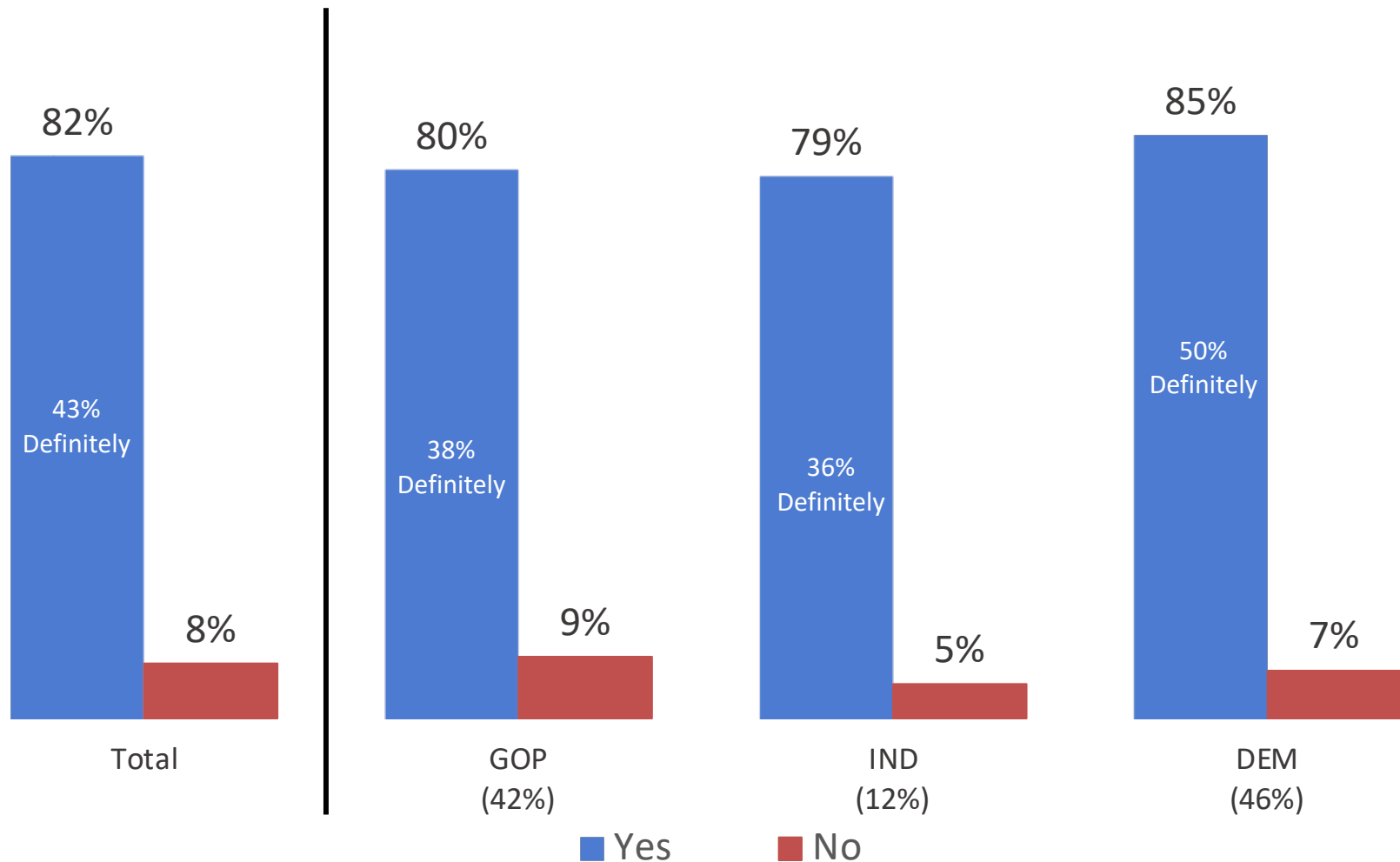
The best reason to inspect prisons: making sure the public and policymakers know about problems that exist.

% Most Important Reason	Total	GOP (42%)	IND (12%)	DEM (46%)	White (72%)	Black (12%)	Hispanic (10%)
Making sure the public and leaders know about the problems in our prisons so they can fix them	35%	28%	33%	42%	36%	34%	33%
Making sure our tax dollars are spent effectively	16%	22%	18%	12%	17%	12%	16%
Improving public safety by reducing the risk that someone in prison will commit another crime when released	16%	16%	22%	15%	15%	22%	17%
Keeping people in prisons safe while they are incarcerated	16%	13%	16%	18%	15%	20%	14%
Keeping those who work in prisons like corrections officers and guards safe	11%	15%	5%	7%	12%	3%	13%

Voters really aren't sure about the primary reason NOT to inspect the country's prisons.

% Most Important Reason	Total	GOP (42%)	IND (12%)	DEM (46%)	White (72%)	Black (12%)	Hispanic (10%)
Prison oversight, meaning the inspection of the country's prisons, is just more big government bureaucracy	19%	22%	24%	14%	19%	17%	22%
Prison oversight, meaning the inspection of the country's prisons, costs too much taxpayer money	18%	18%	12%	19%	16%	27%	20%
Criminals who break the law deserve whatever they get while they are in prison	17%	21%	17%	15%	18%	17%	12%
Prisons already take care of their own problems, and there is no need for independent oversight	8%	9%	3%	7%	8%	5%	6%
Not Sure	38%	29%	44%	44%	39%	33%	38%

By an overwhelming margin, Americans believe states and the federal government should have a system of independent oversight.



And, even after voters hear from both sides...

Now, please read some more information about this...

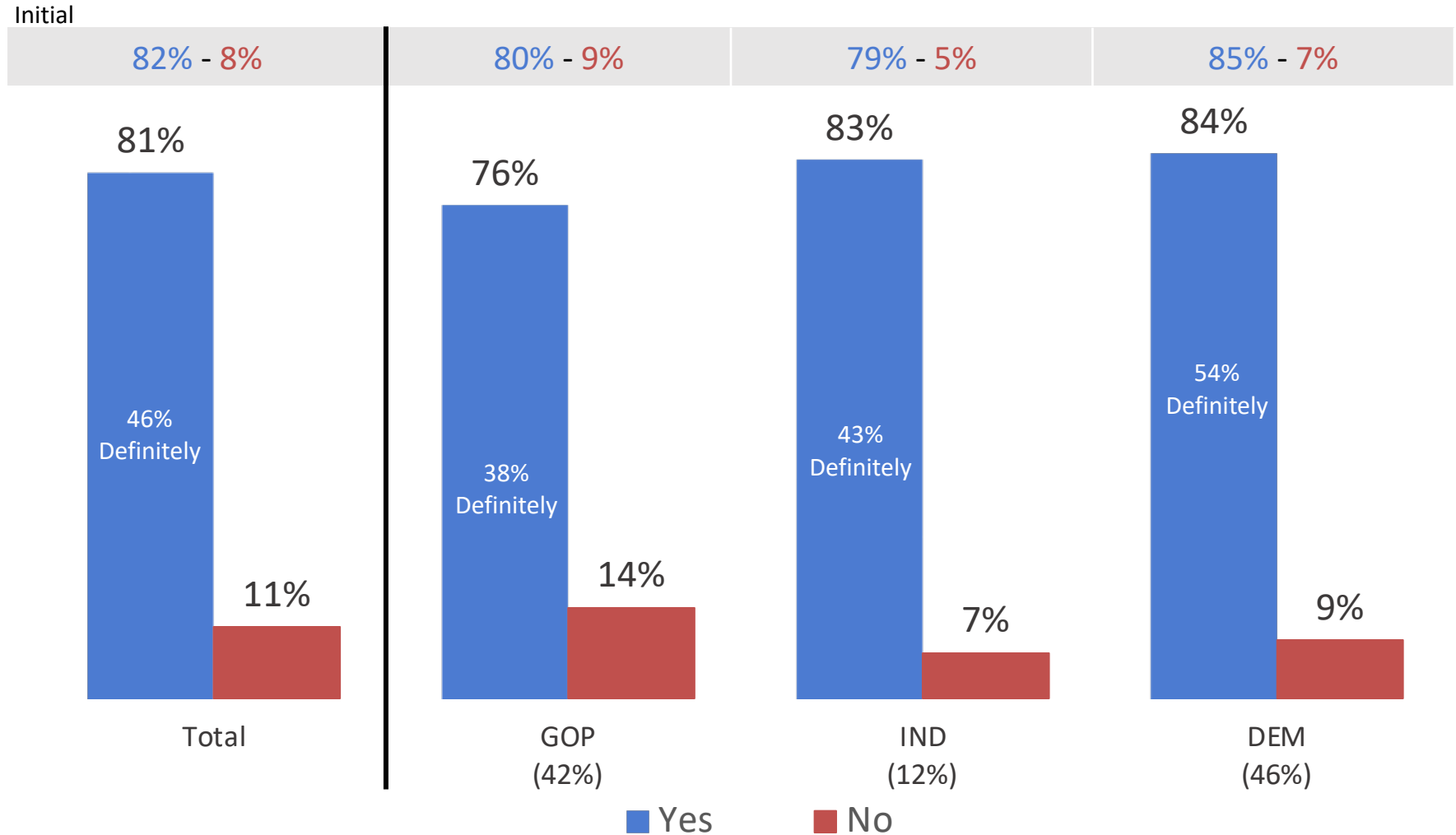
Some people say that prisons have their own staff who can conduct prison oversight through internal investigations and inspections, and that they can be trusted to honestly report problems to the public and lawmakers without additional oversight.

...while...

Other people say that prison oversight must be done by people who are independent of the prison system in order for the public and lawmakers to truly understand what is really happening in prisons.

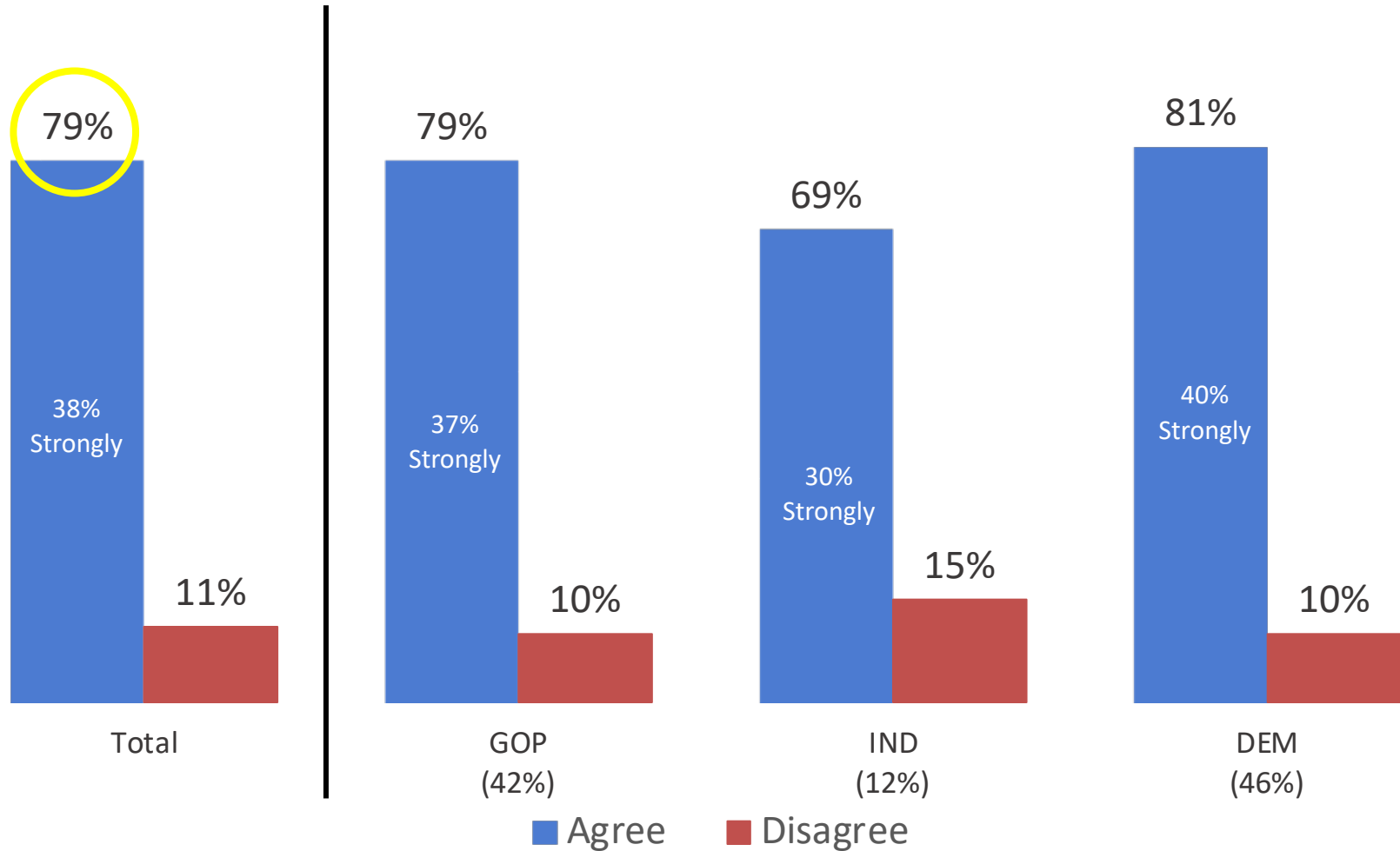
And, now that you have some more information, do you believe that states and the federal government should have a system of independent oversight for their prisons?

Support for independent oversight of prisons remains significant.



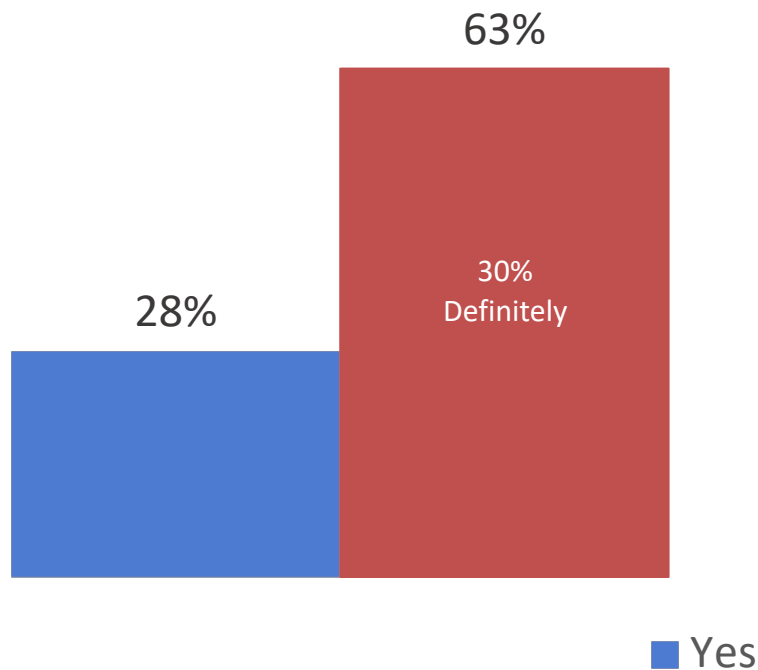
And, now that you have some more information, do you believe that states and the federal government should have a system of independent oversight for their prisons?

Nearly 80% agree “prison oversight is independent if the inspections are performed by people who do not work in the prisons system.”



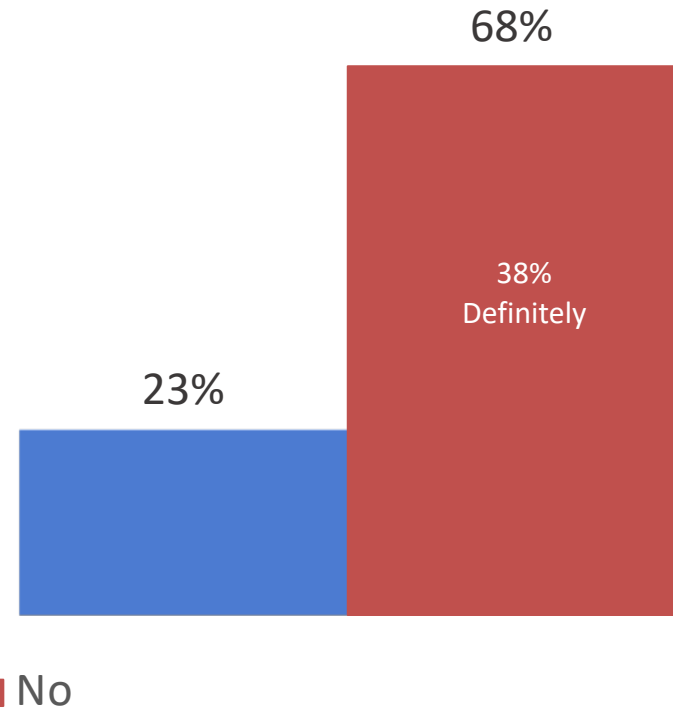
There's a strong sense government agencies are NOT able to investigate their own problems and that voters don't trust agencies to honestly report on problems.

Do you believe government agencies are generally able to investigate their own problems and honestly report on them to the public and lawmakers?



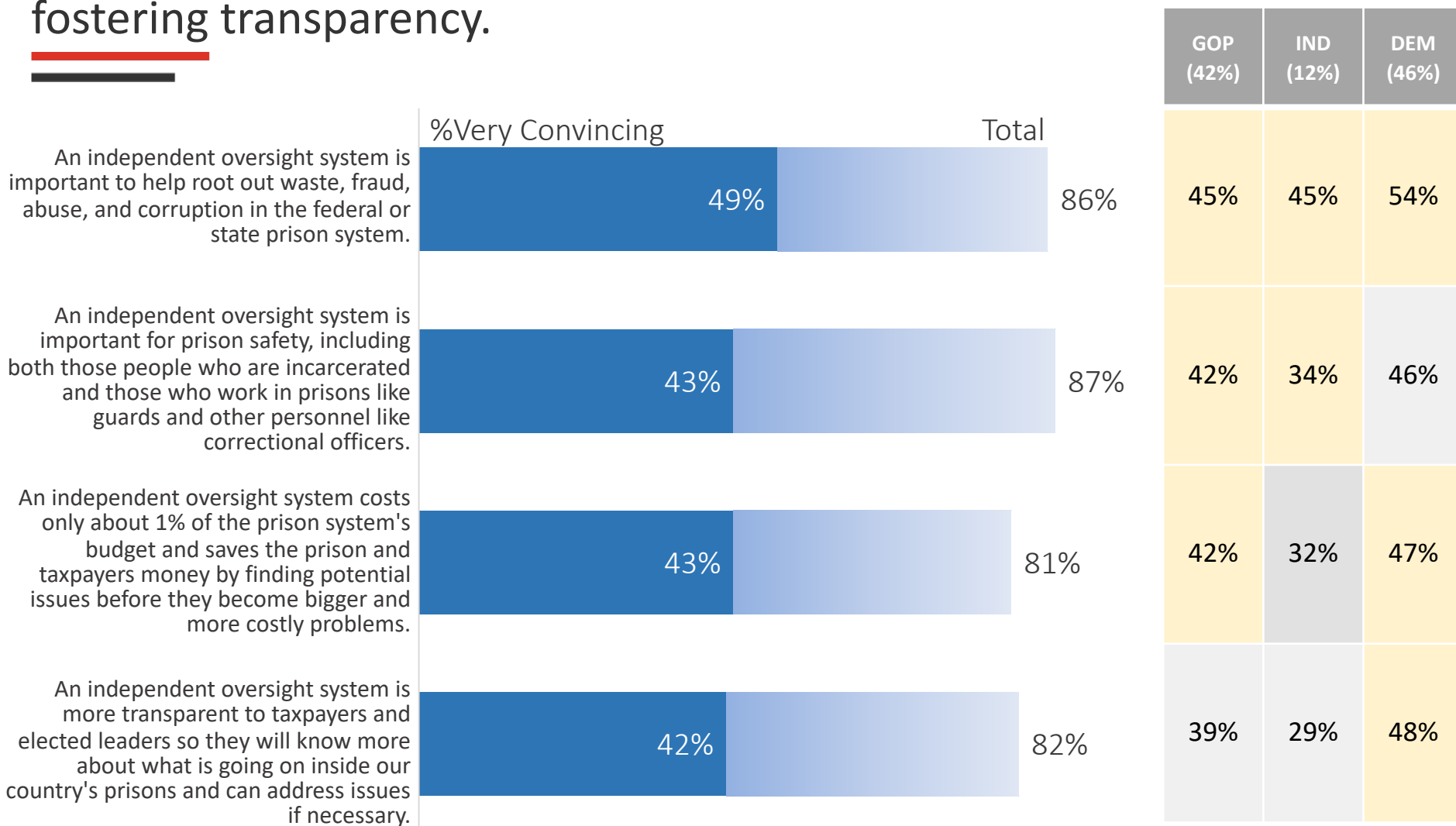
*N=500 Registered voters

Do you trust government agencies to investigate their own problems and honestly report on them to the public and lawmakers?



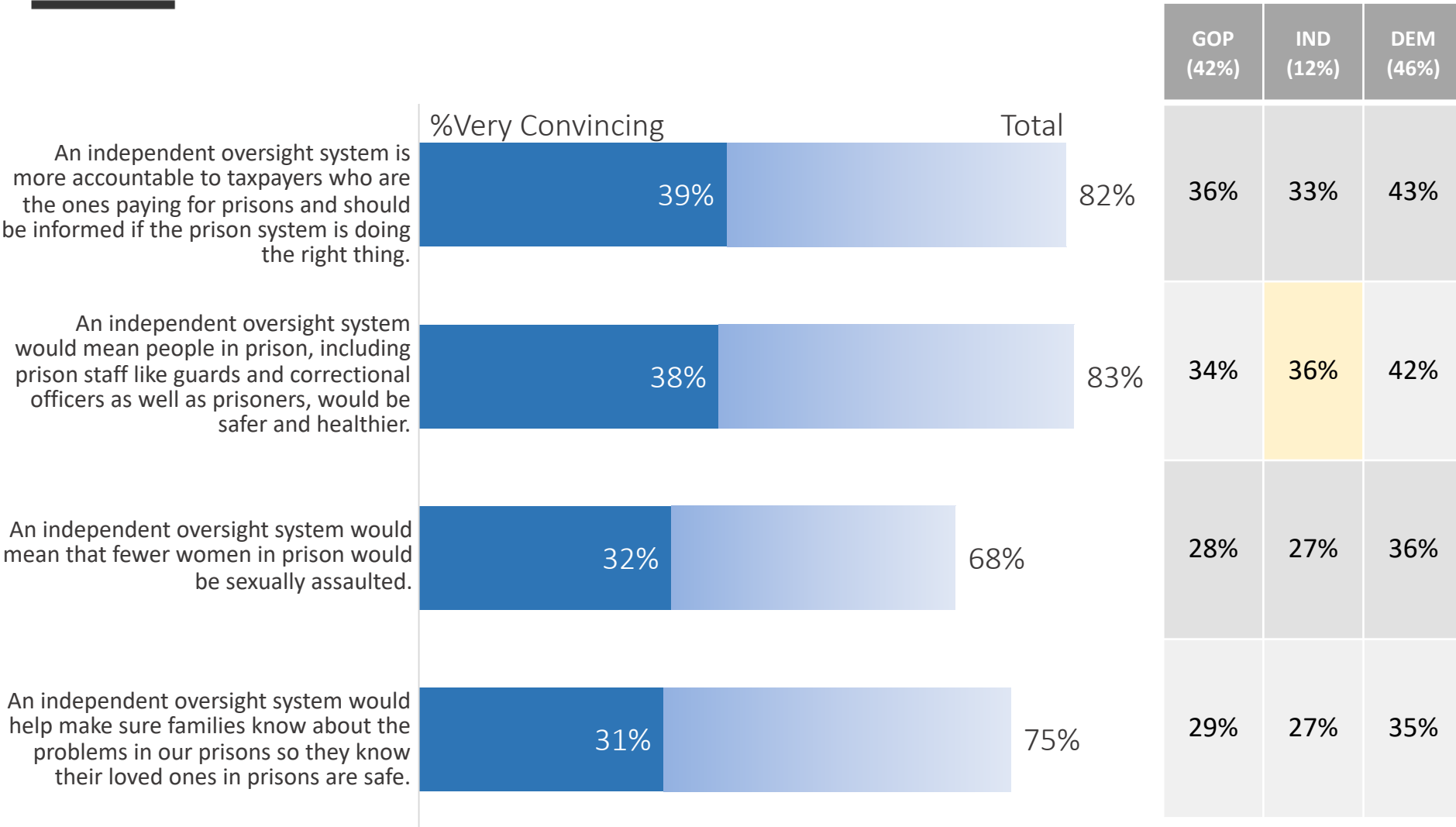
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The most convincing reasons for independent oversight include rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse; safety; saving money; and, fostering transparency.



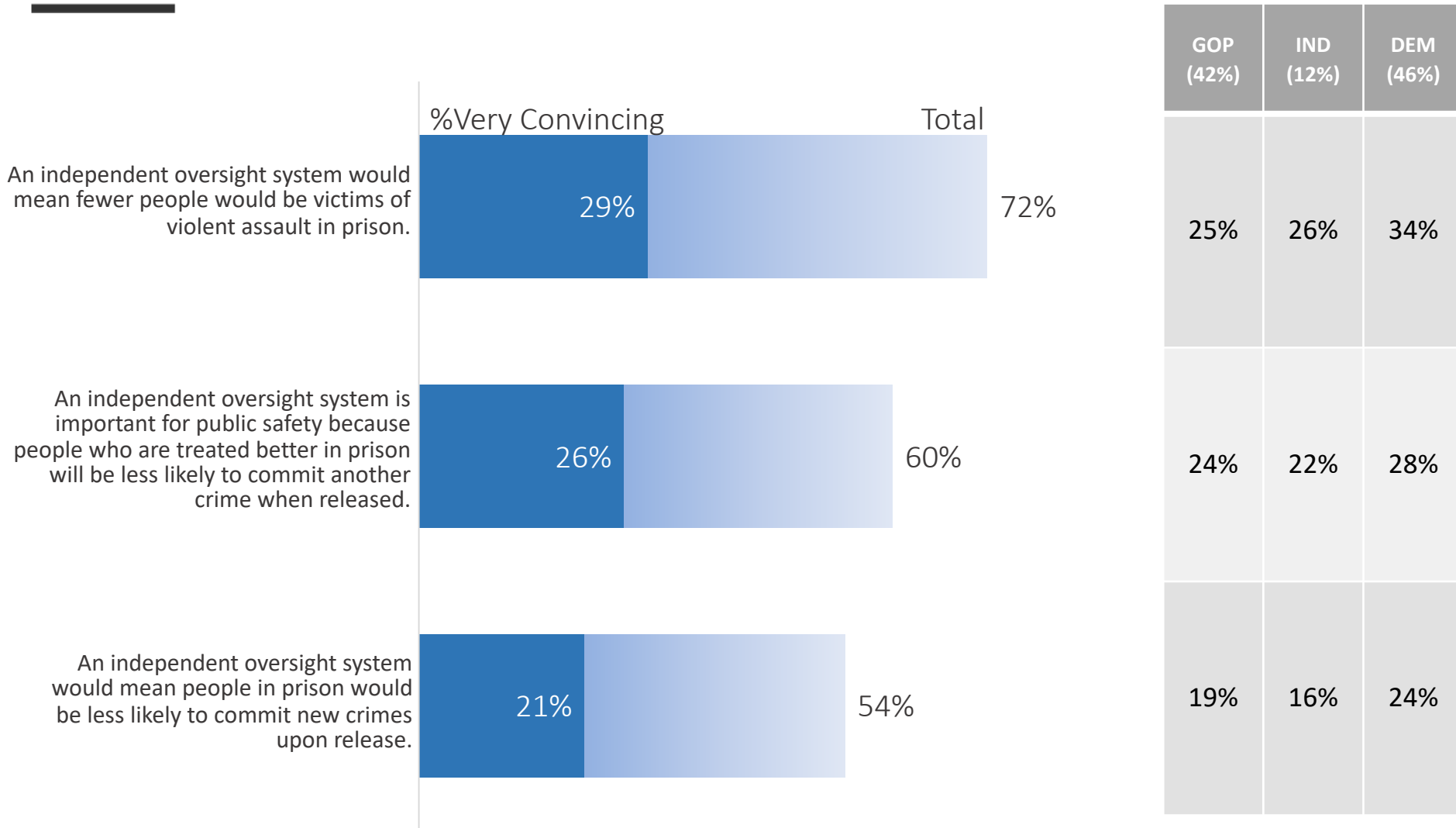
Now, for each of the following, please indicate whether it is a very convincing, somewhat convincing, or not a convincing reason for states and the federal government to have a system of independent oversight for their prisons...

These messages are effective, but lack the intensity of the others:



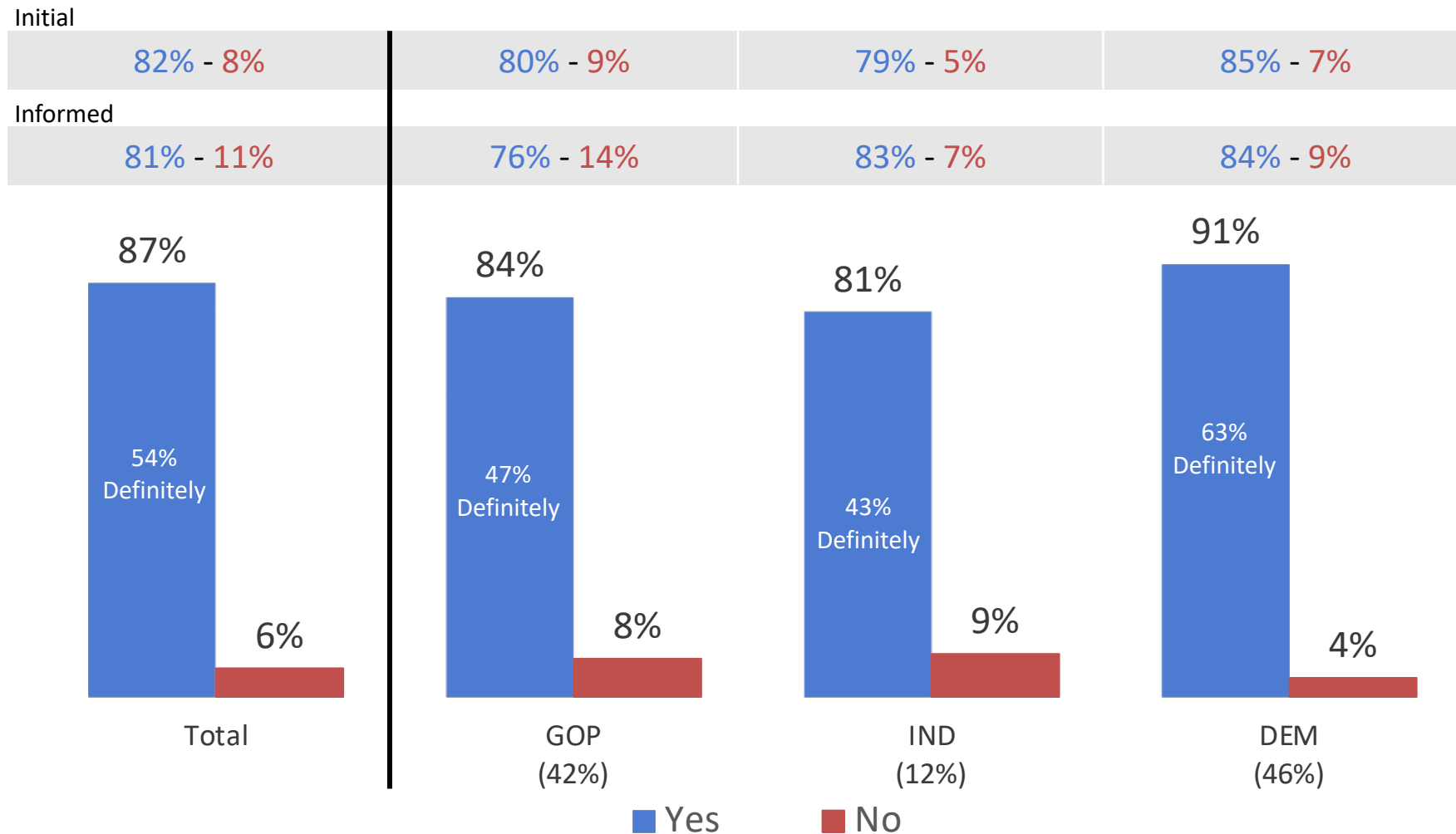
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These messages aren't as convincing:

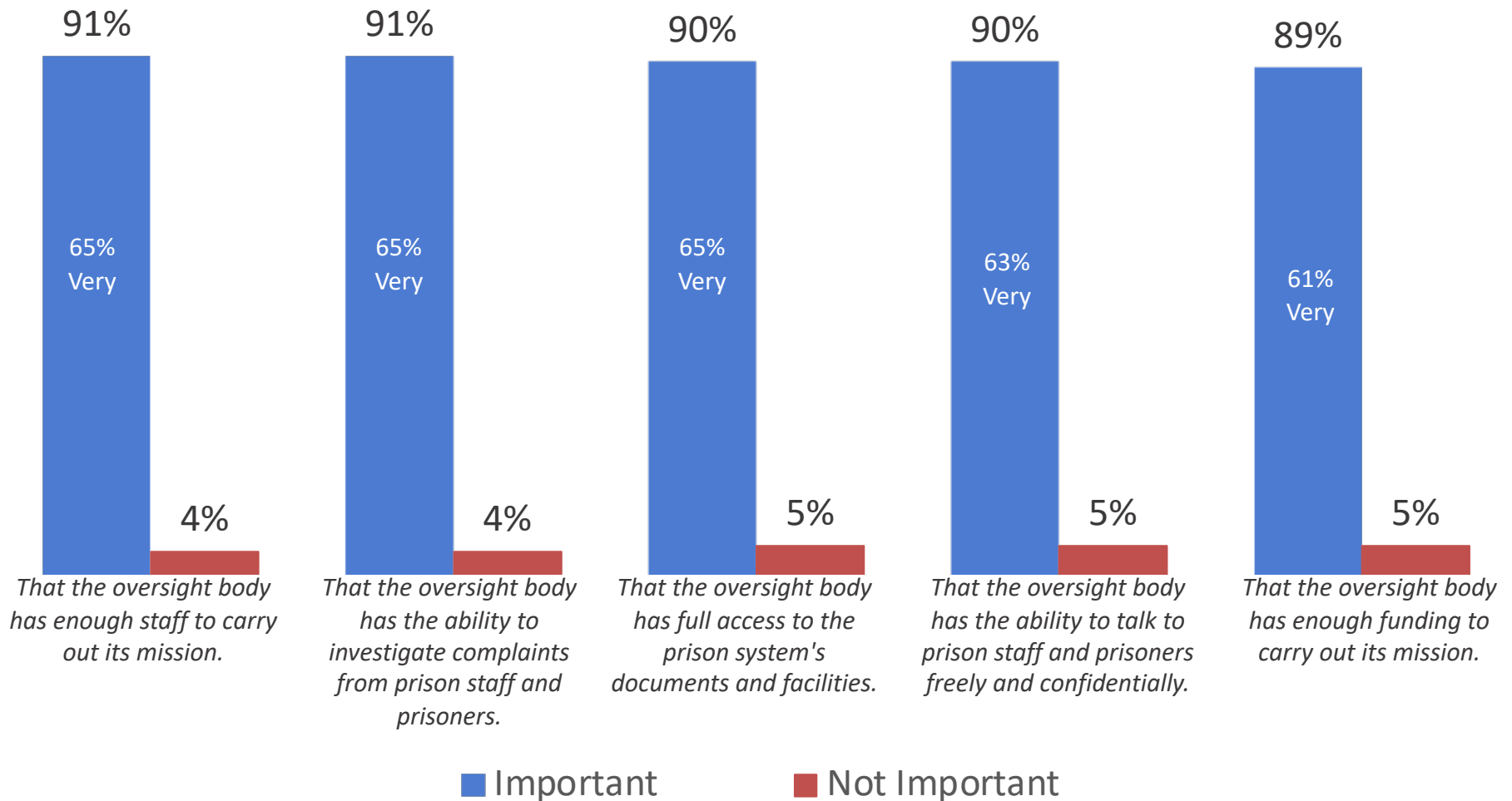


Now, for each of the following, please indicate whether it is a very convincing, somewhat convincing, or not a convincing reason for states and the federal government to have a system of independent oversight for their prisons...

After voters hear the messages, support grows.



Voters believe it is very important a system of independent oversight has each of the following:





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FAMM



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