



JUSTICE
ACTION NETWORK

*Key Findings from a National Survey of 800 Registered Voters
January 11-14, 2018*

Robert Blizzard, Partner



**PUBLIC OPINION
STRATEGIES**

Methodology

On behalf of the Justice Action Network, Public Opinion Strategies conducted a survey of 800 registered voters nationwide. Four hundred and eighty respondents were reached via landline and 320 via cell phone.

The survey was conducted January 11-14, 2018 and has a margin of error of $\pm 3.46\%$.

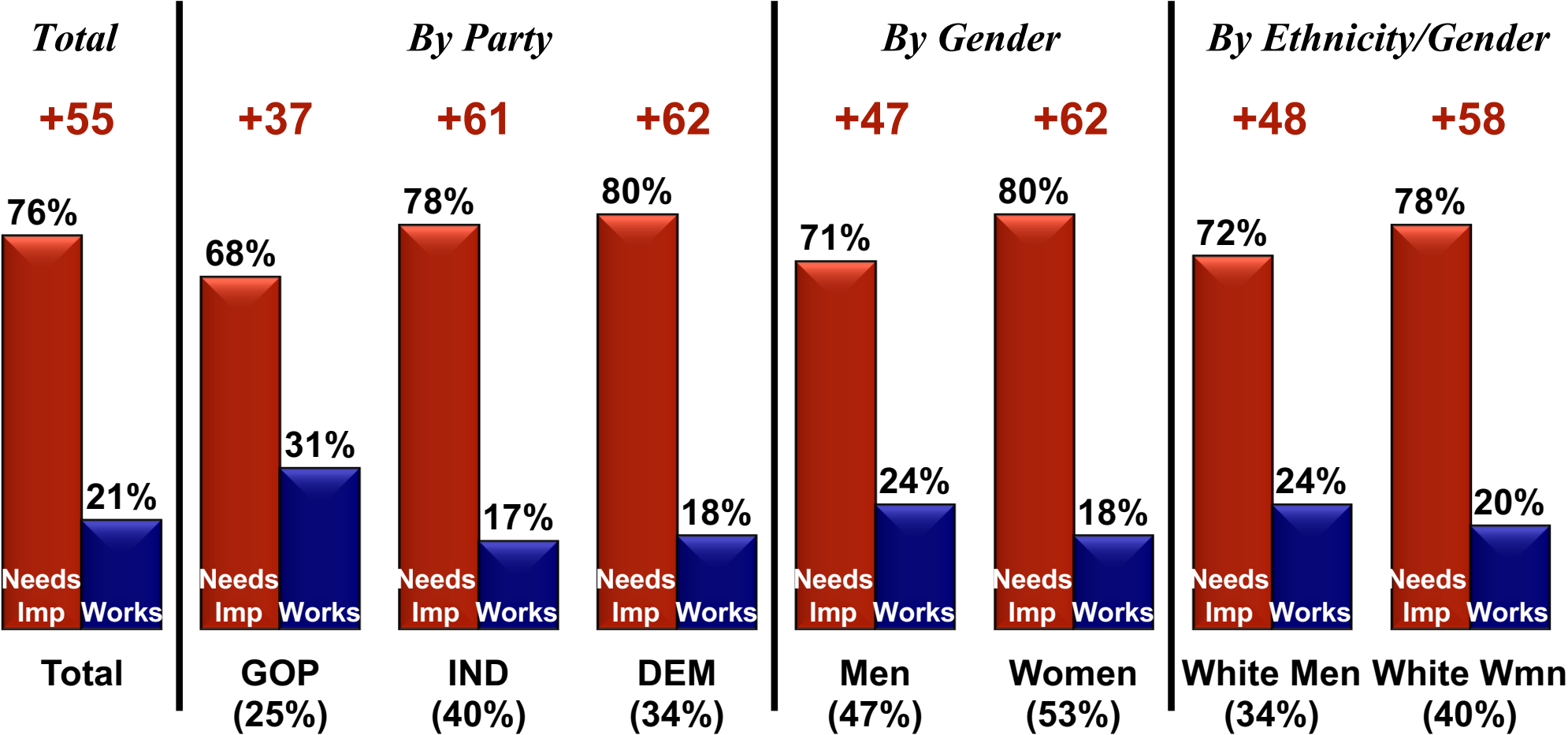


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The Criminal Justice System

Fully three-quarters of Americans believe the country's criminal justice system needs significant improvements.

Generally speaking, do you think the country's criminal justice system...
Needs significant improvements...OR...Is working pretty well as it is?

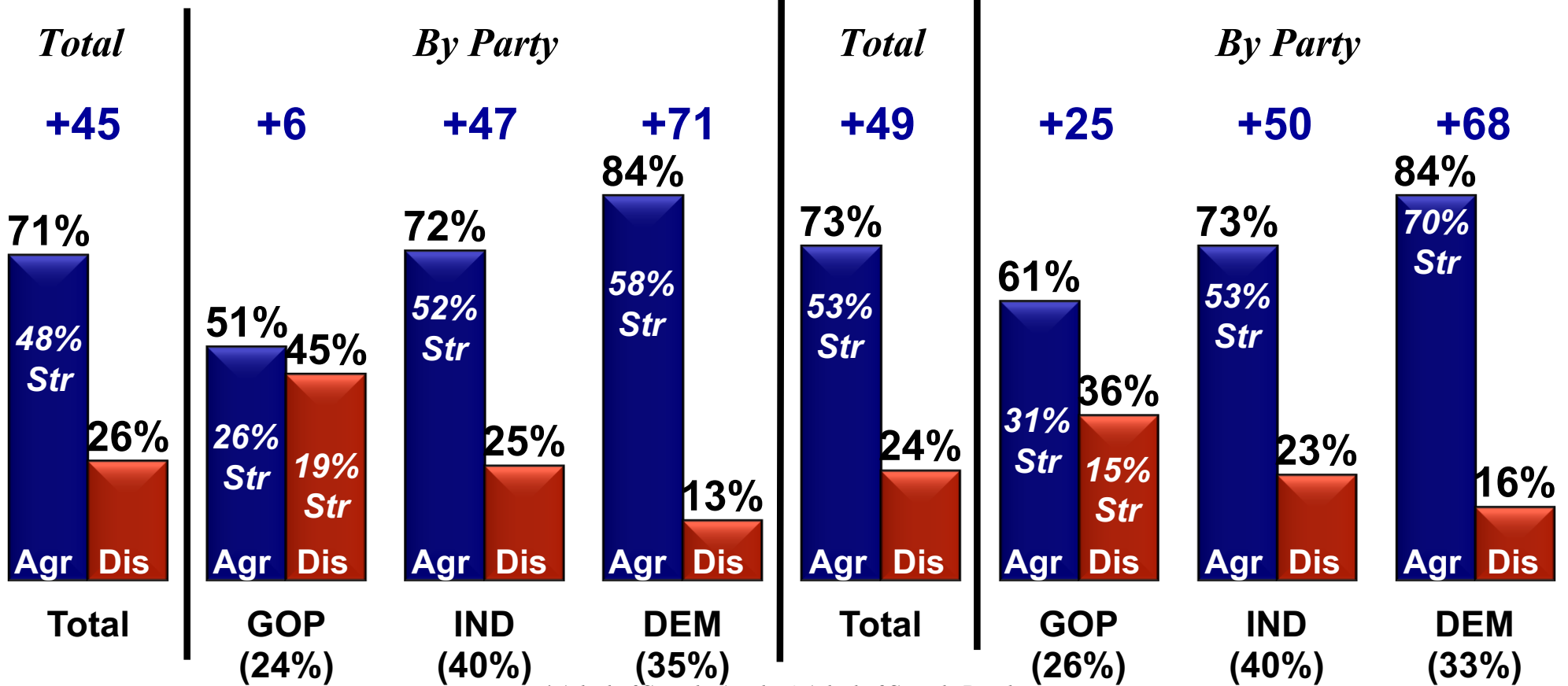


There's significant agreement that we're spending too much money on prisons.

Now, I'd like to read you some different statements that people make about improving the criminal justice system here in the U.S. After I read each one, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement...

*We are putting too many people in prison for too long, and spending way too much in taxpayer dollars to keep them there.**

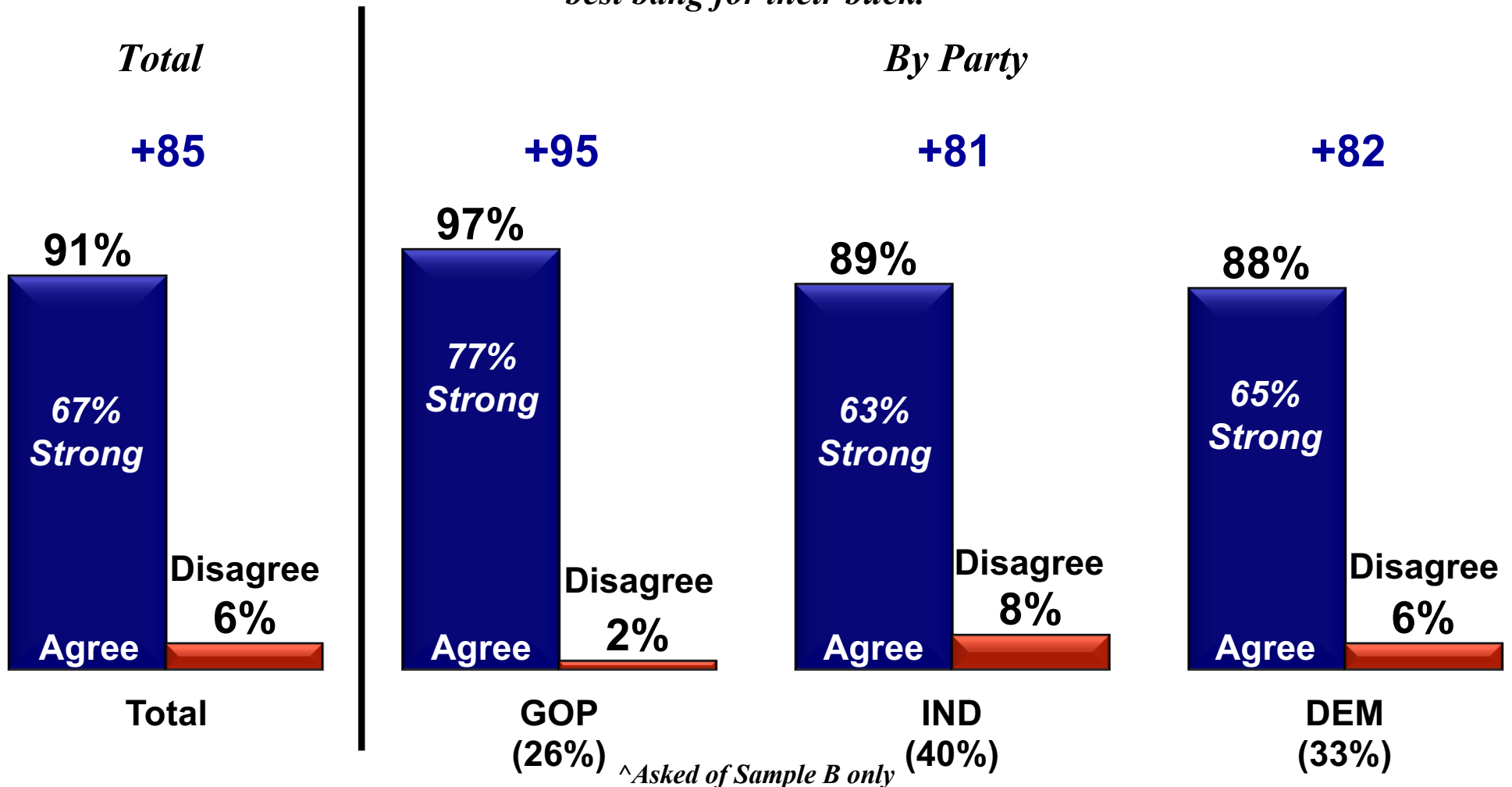
The U.S. spends too much money on prisons, money that could be used for treatment, rehabilitation, law enforcement, and victim services.^



*Asked of Sample A only; ^Asked of Sample B only

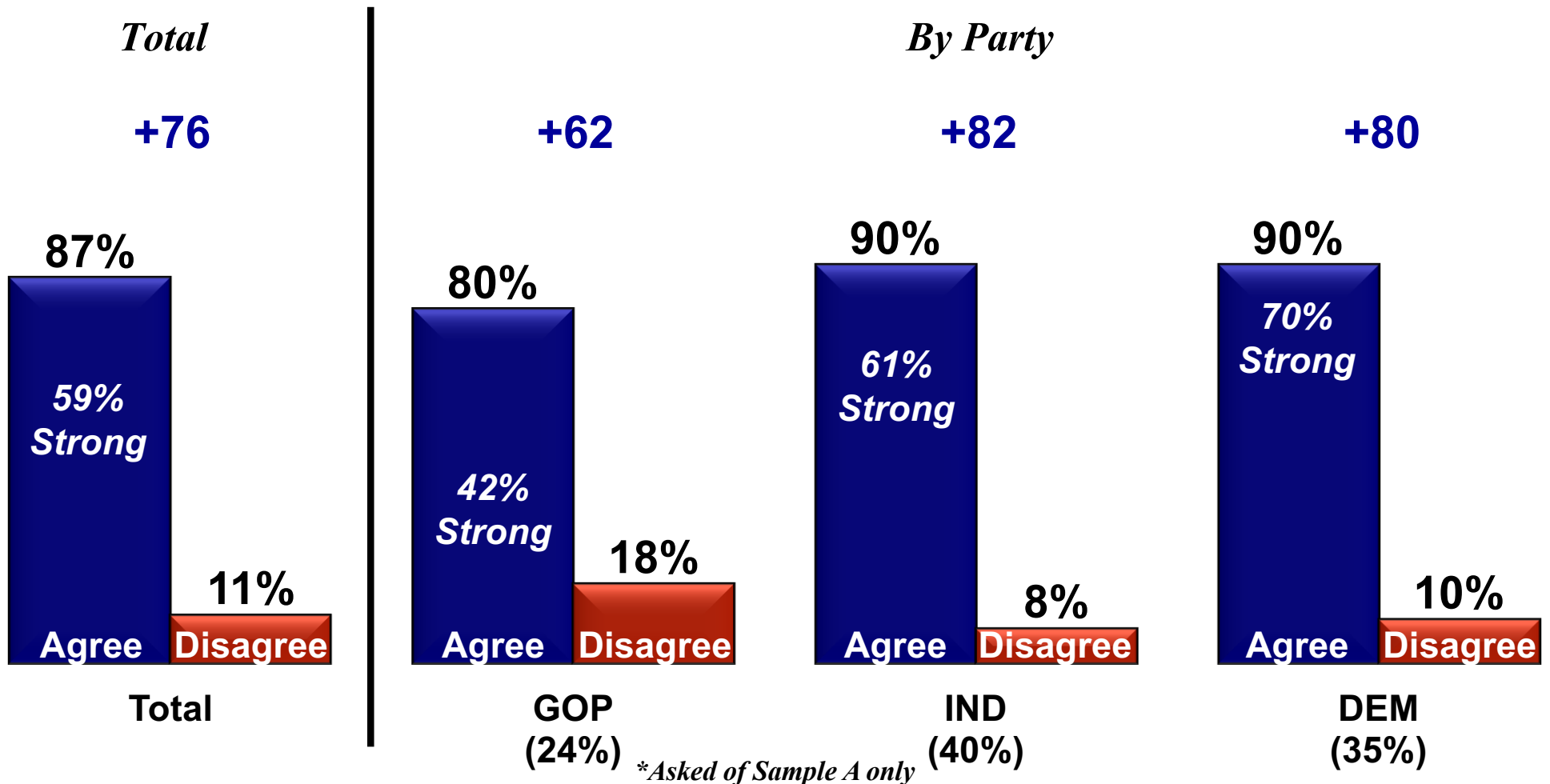
An overwhelming majority of Americans believe we should be regularly reviewing prisons to ensure taxpayers are getting the best bang for their buck.

Prisons are a government program, and should be regularly reviewed to ensure taxpayers are getting the best bang for their buck. ^



And, there's significant support for shifting money for locking up nonviolent offenders to other alternatives.

*Some of the money we are spending on locking up nonviolent offenders should be shifted to alternatives like electronic monitoring, community service, and probation.**



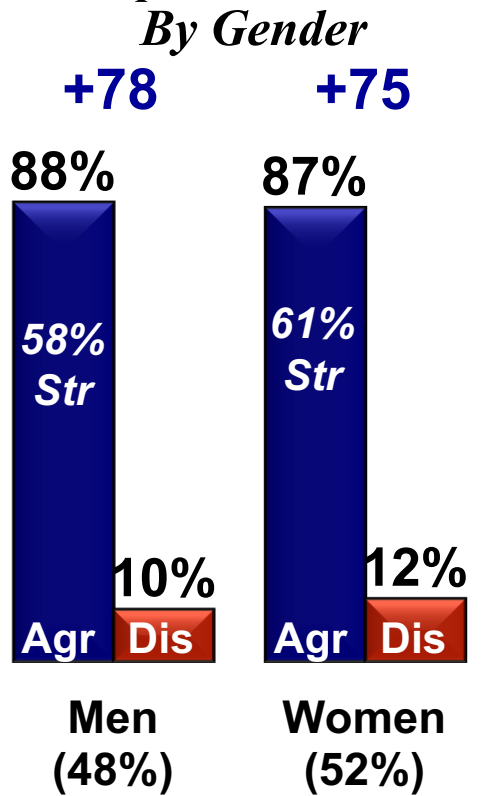
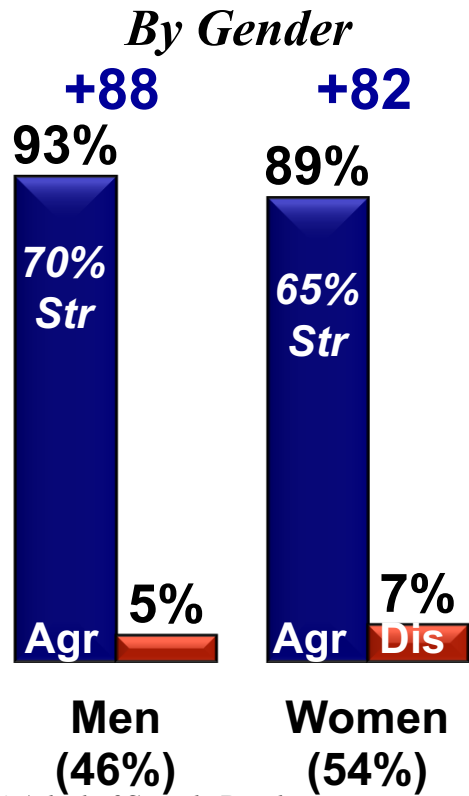
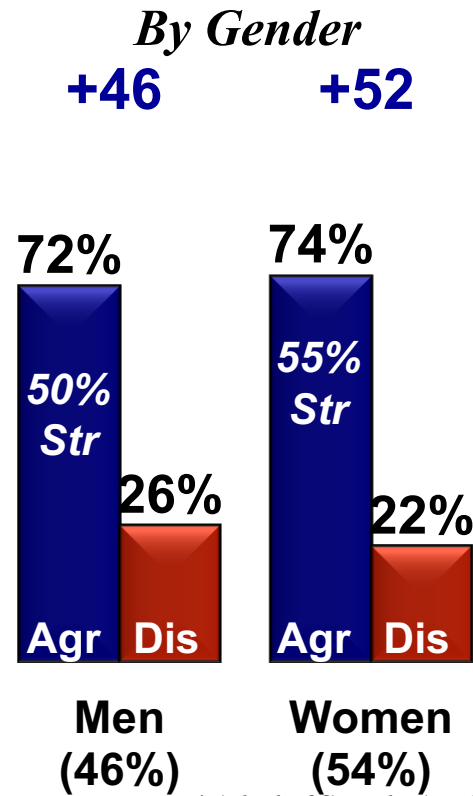
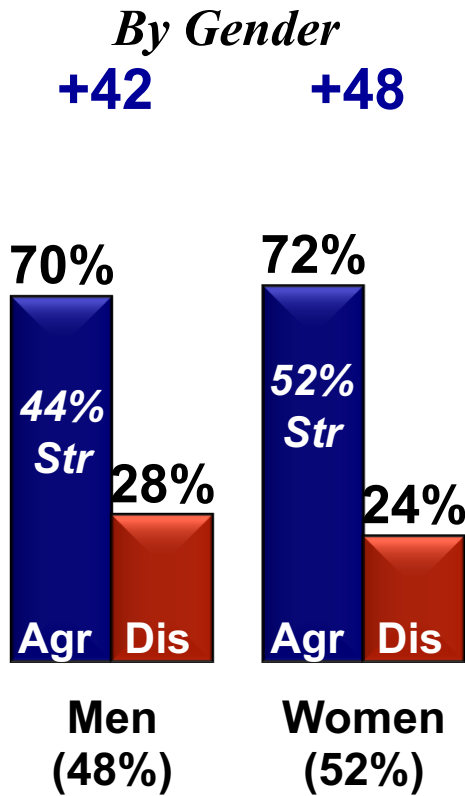
Women, in particular, are strong supporters of all of these...

*We are putting too many people in prison for too long, and spending way too much in taxpayer dollars to keep them there.**

The U.S. spends too much money on prisons, money that could be used for treatment, rehabilitation, law enforcement, and victim services.^

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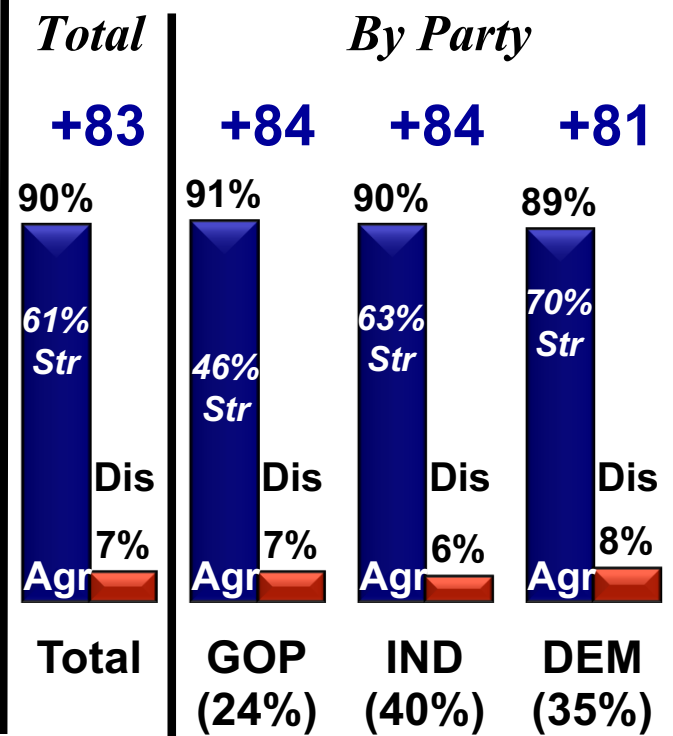
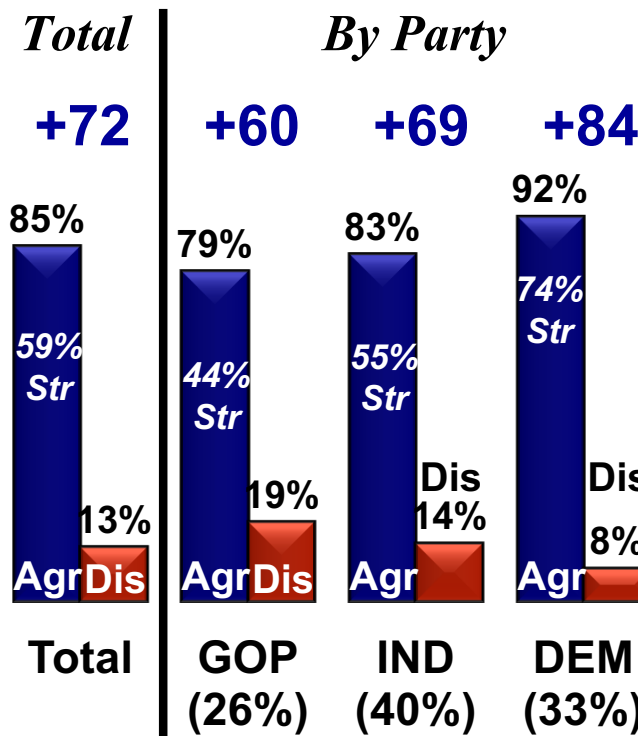
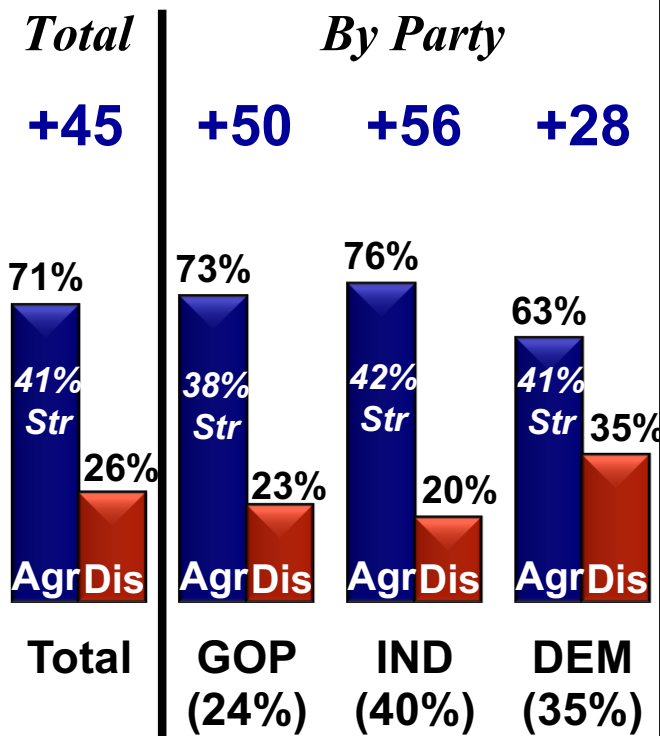
*Prison Reforms,
Fair Chance Hiring,
Expungement*

There's strong agreement the goal should be to make sure people don't commit further crimes and come out of the system ready for jobs.

*It does not matter whether a person is in prison for months or years. What really matters is the criminal justice system does a better job of making sure they are less likely to commit another crime.**

The main goal of our criminal justice system should be rehabilitating people to become productive, law-abiding citizens.^

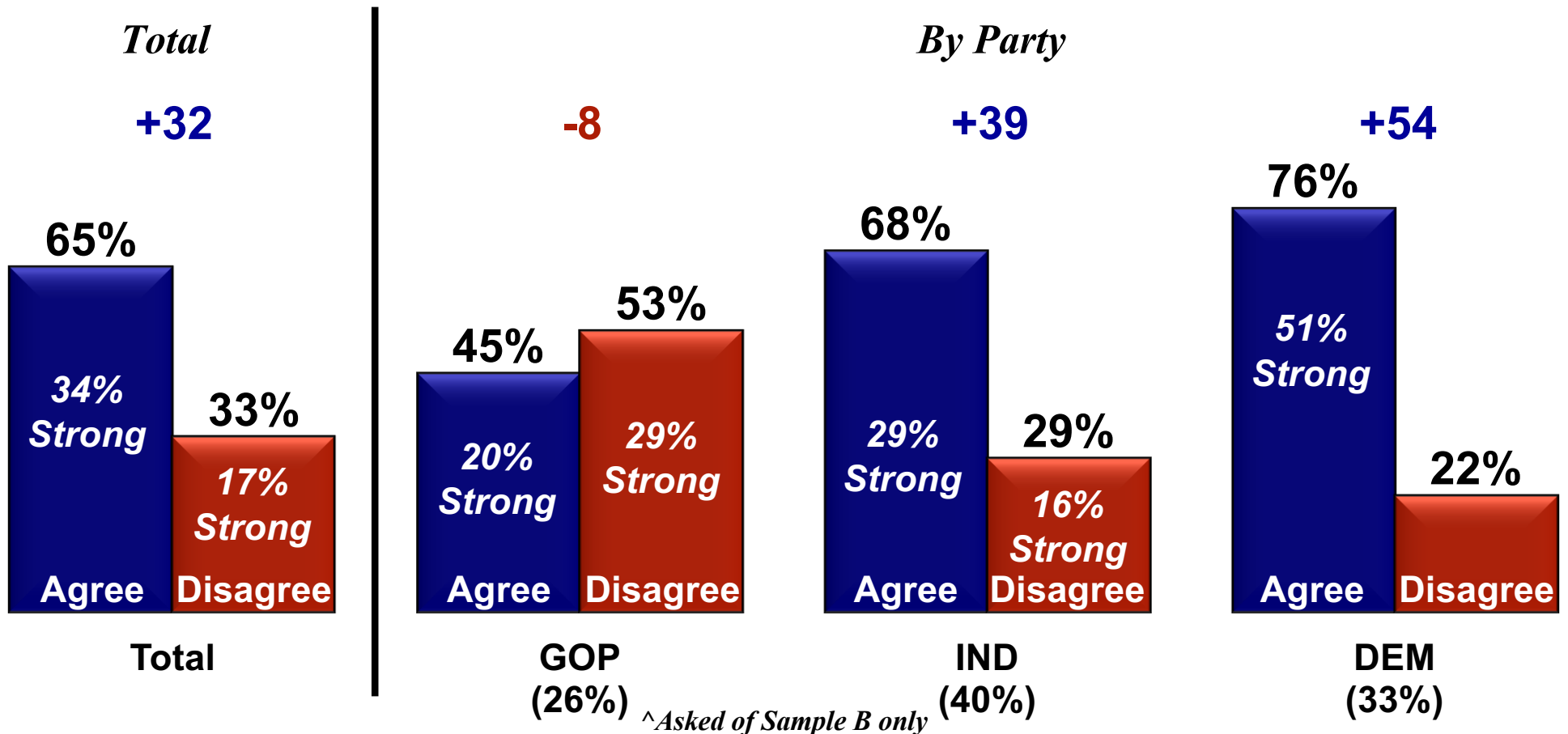
*We should break down barriers for people coming out of prison so they can get jobs, support their families, and stop being so dependent on government services.**



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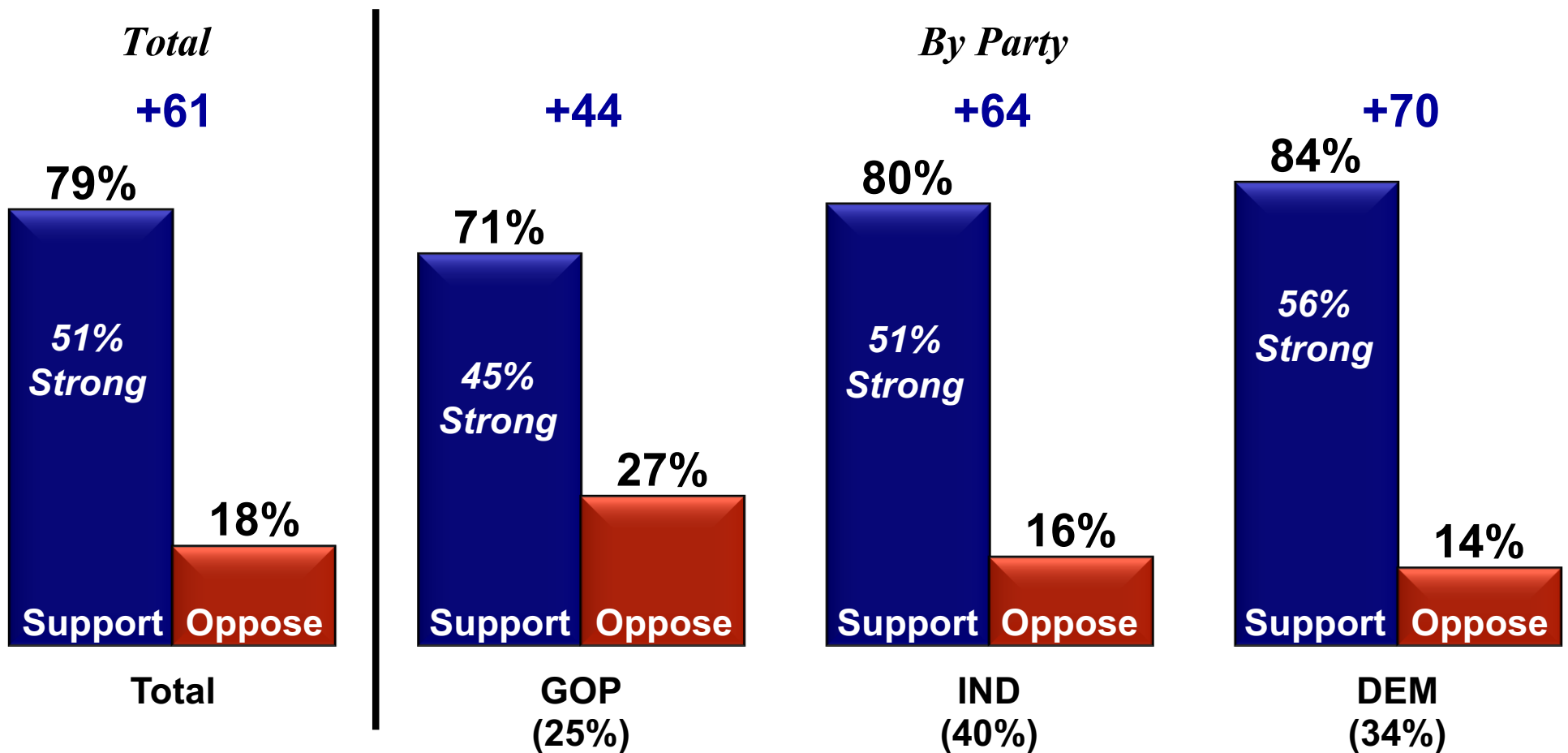
And, nearly two-thirds of voters agree that federal law should be changed to allow job applicants to explain their qualifications before a criminal background check.

Federal law should be changed so that all job applicants be allowed to explain their skills and qualifications for a public sector job before they are asked about their criminal history. ^



There's also very strong support for providing first-time nonviolent offenders with the ability to expunge their conviction after probation.

Would you support or oppose providing first-time, low-level, nonviolent offenders under the age of twenty-five the ability to expunge that conviction after successful completion of court-imposed probation?



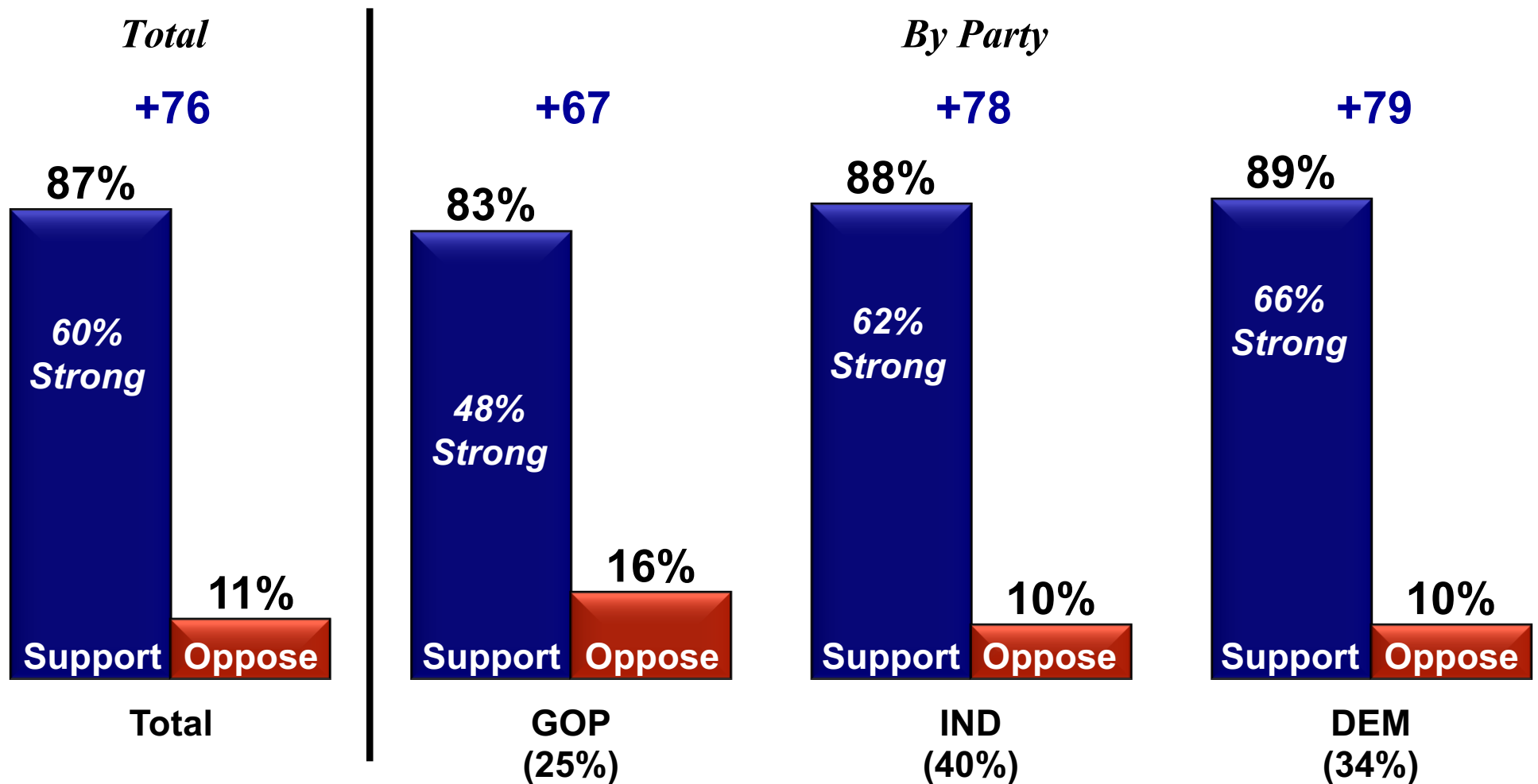
Mandatory Minimums...

When voters are presented with the following information...

As you may know, some crimes carry an automatic mandatory minimum prison sentence, regardless of the circumstances of the crime. Would you support or oppose replacing mandatory minimums for nonviolent offenders with sentencing ranges so that judges have the ability to make decisions on a case-by-case basis?

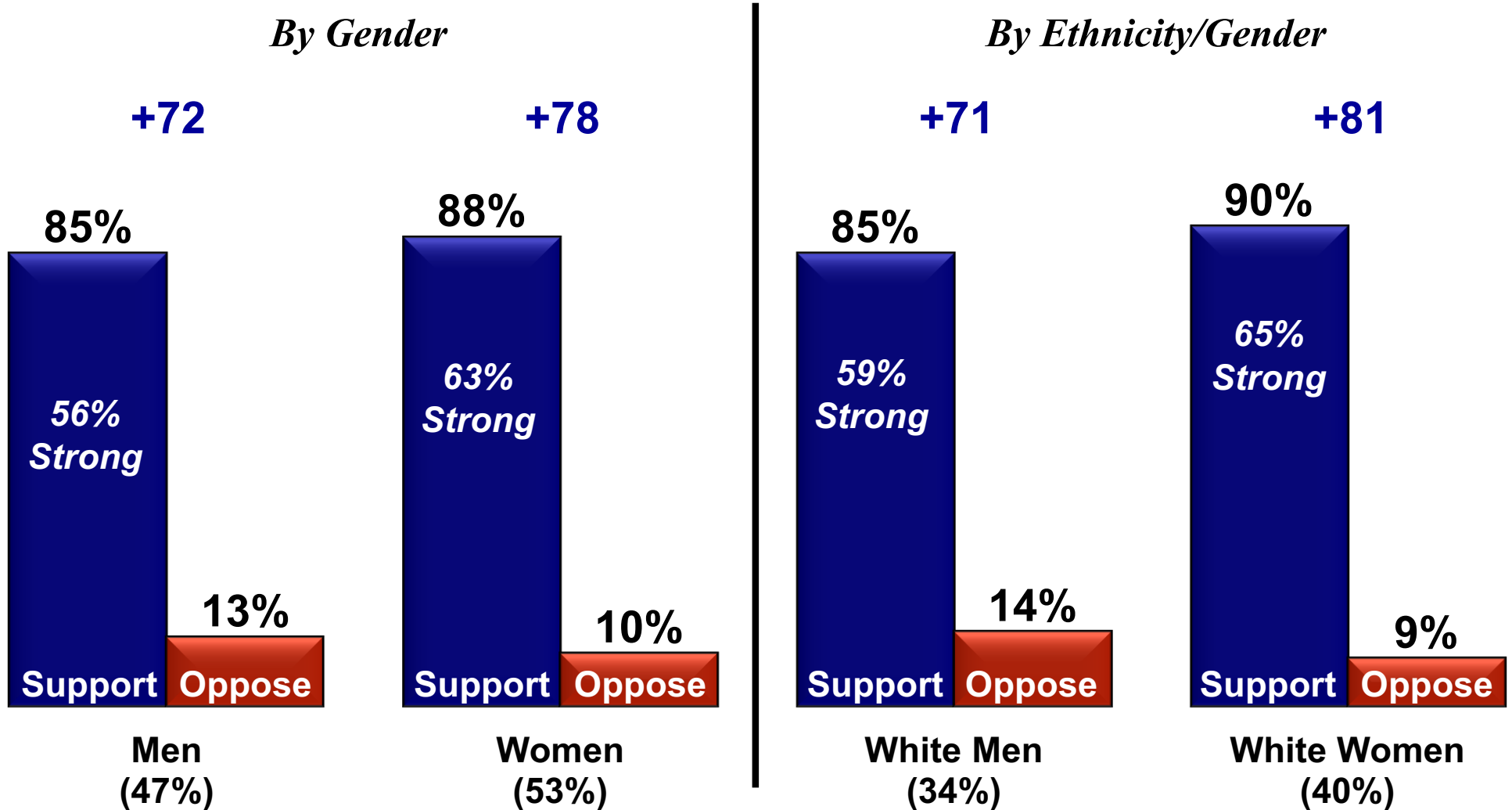
An overwhelming majority support replacing mandatory minimums with sentencing ranges.

Would you support or oppose replacing mandatory minimums for nonviolent offenders with sentencing ranges so that judges have the ability to make decisions on a case-by-case basis?



Women are strong supporters of this.

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Bail Reform...

When voters are presented with the following information...

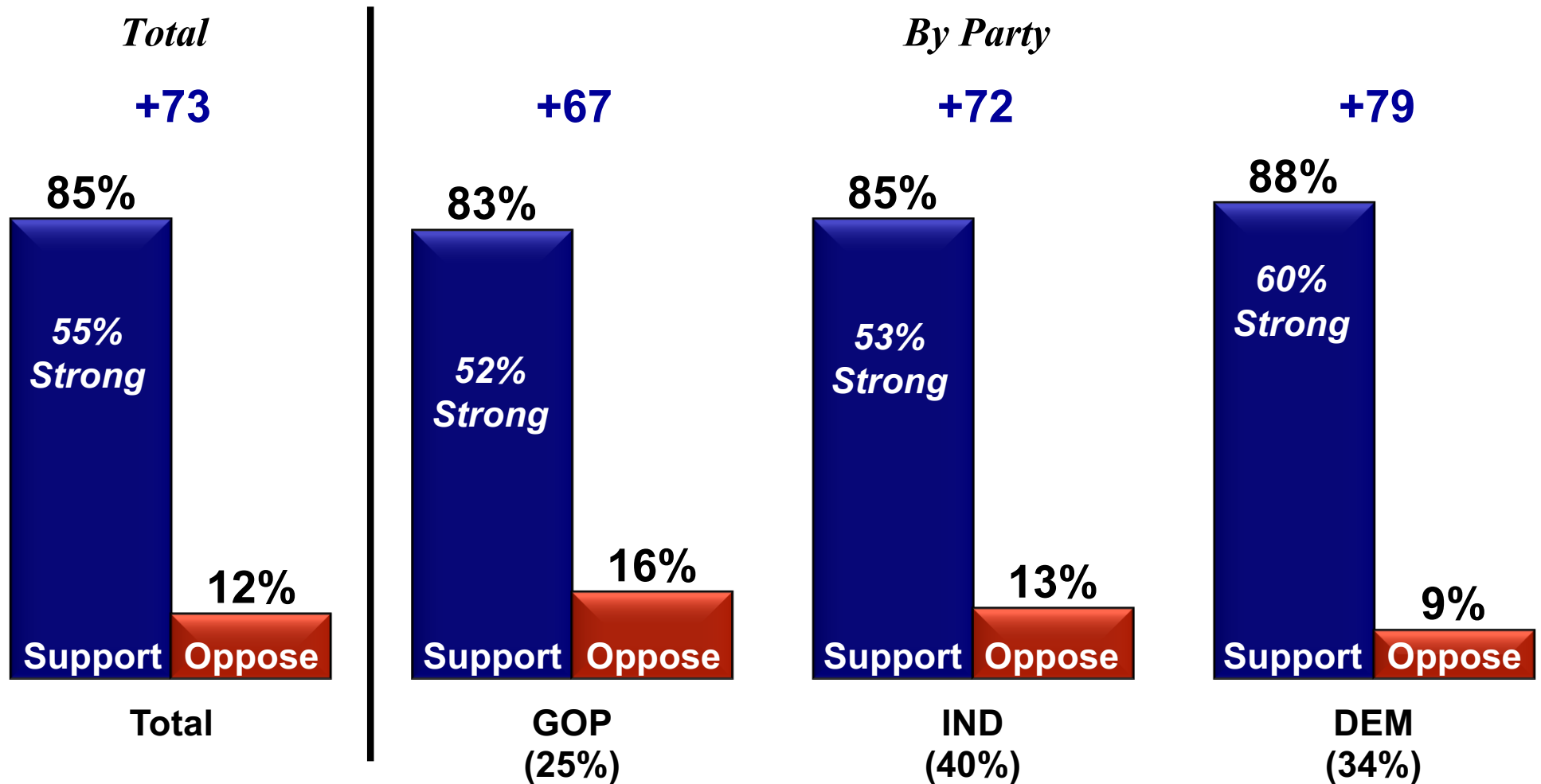
As you may know, a person who has not been convicted of a crime can be imprisoned until their guilt or innocence is determined. But some people, who are able to pay a cash bail set by the court, are released.

Some states have shifted away from a cash bail-only system, and allow judges to release defendants, under the court's supervision, if they are not considered a threat to society.

Would you support or oppose replacing cash bail options with supervised release, especially in cases where the defendant does not pose a threat to society?

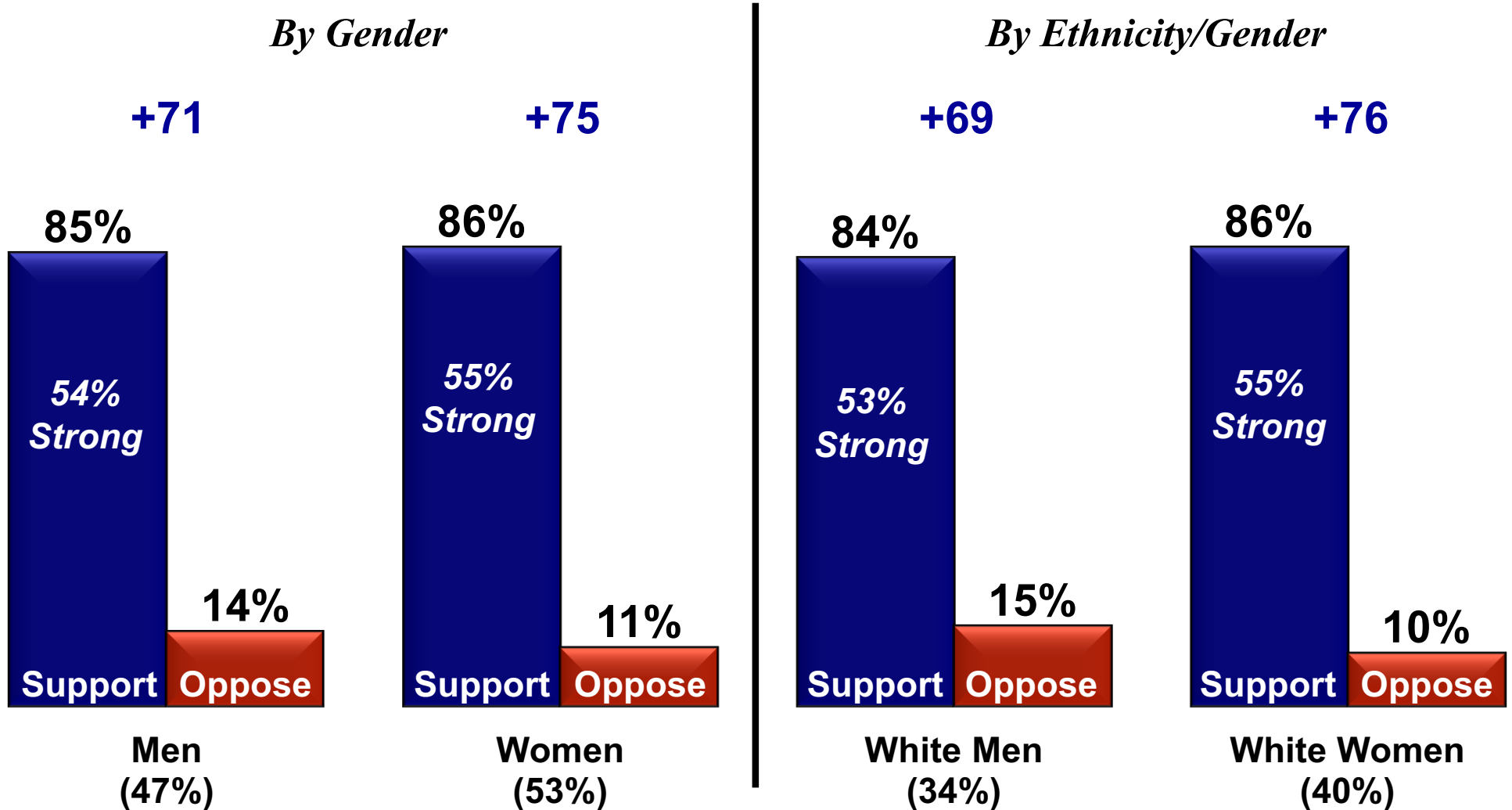
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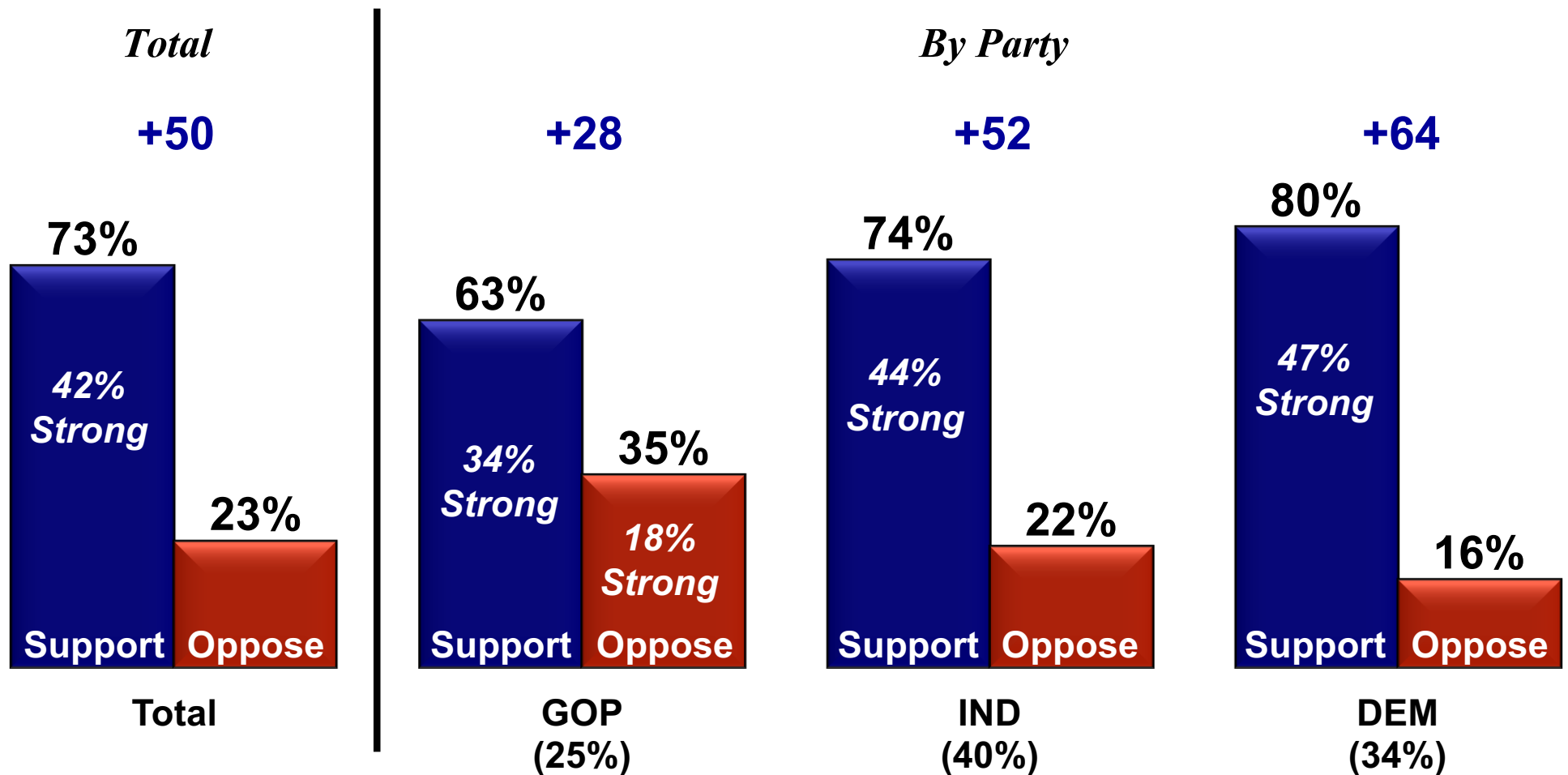
Federal Funding...

When voters are presented with the following information...

Current law allows the federal government to withhold a certain amount of federal transportation funding from states that choose not to suspend drivers' licenses of low-level drug offenders. Would you support or oppose repealing this to allow states to make their own decisions without fear of losing funding from the federal government?

An overwhelming majority support repealing this to allow states to make decisions without fear of losing funding.

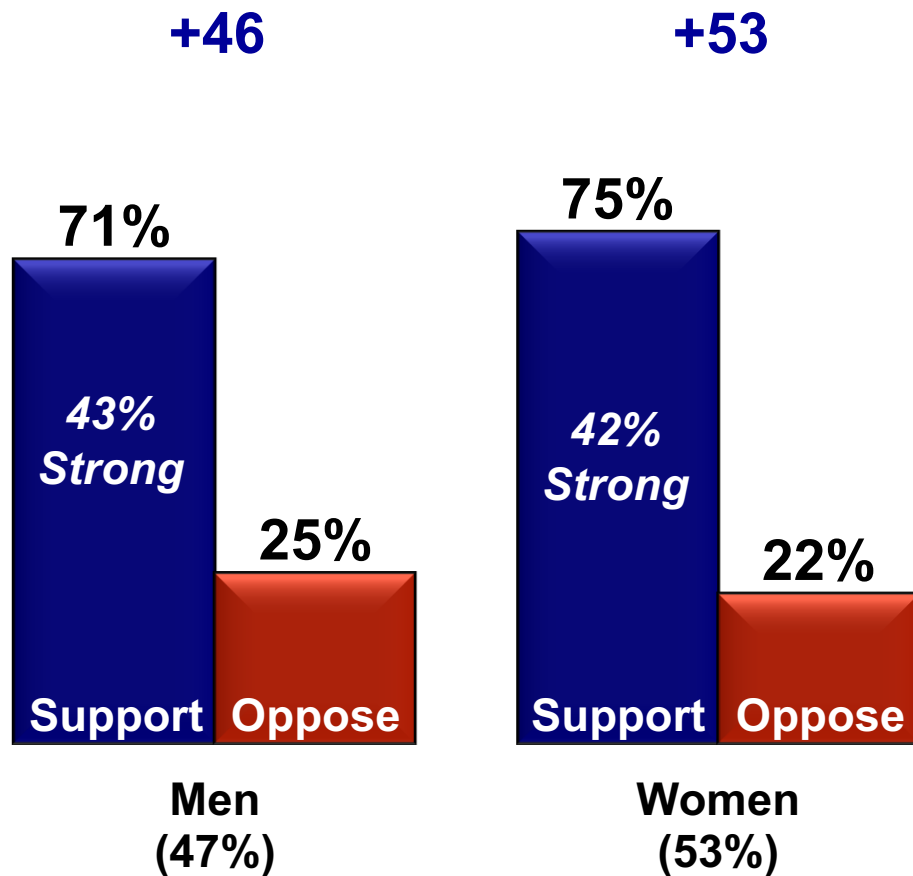
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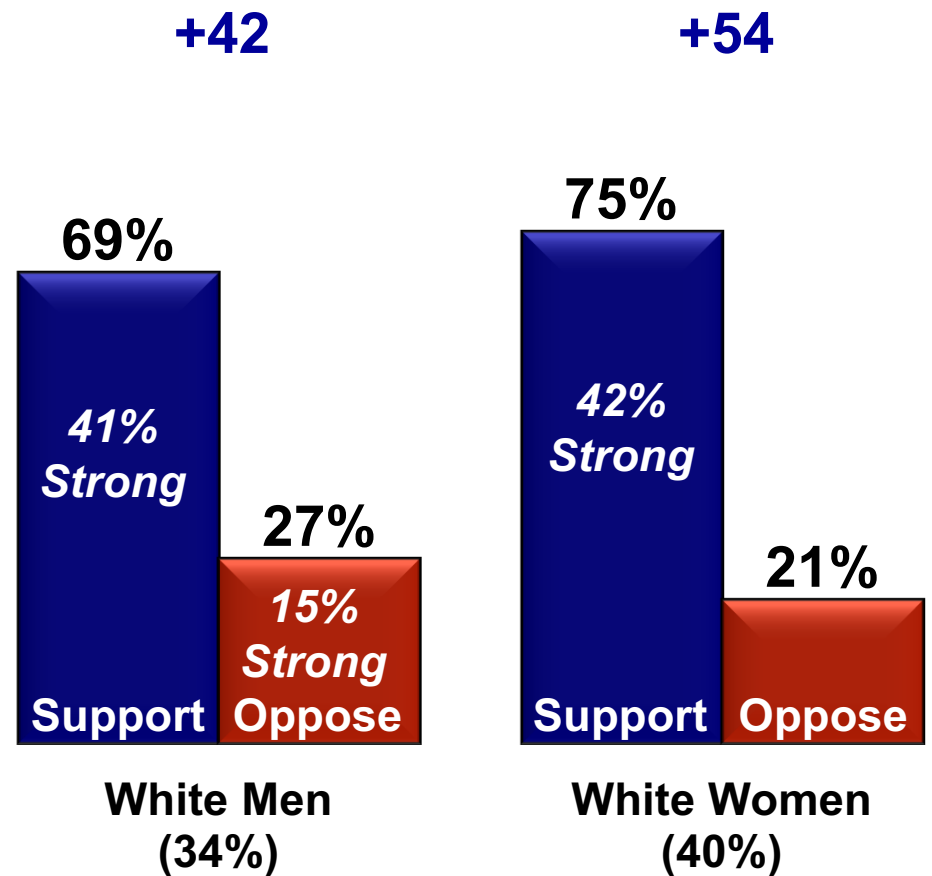
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By Gender



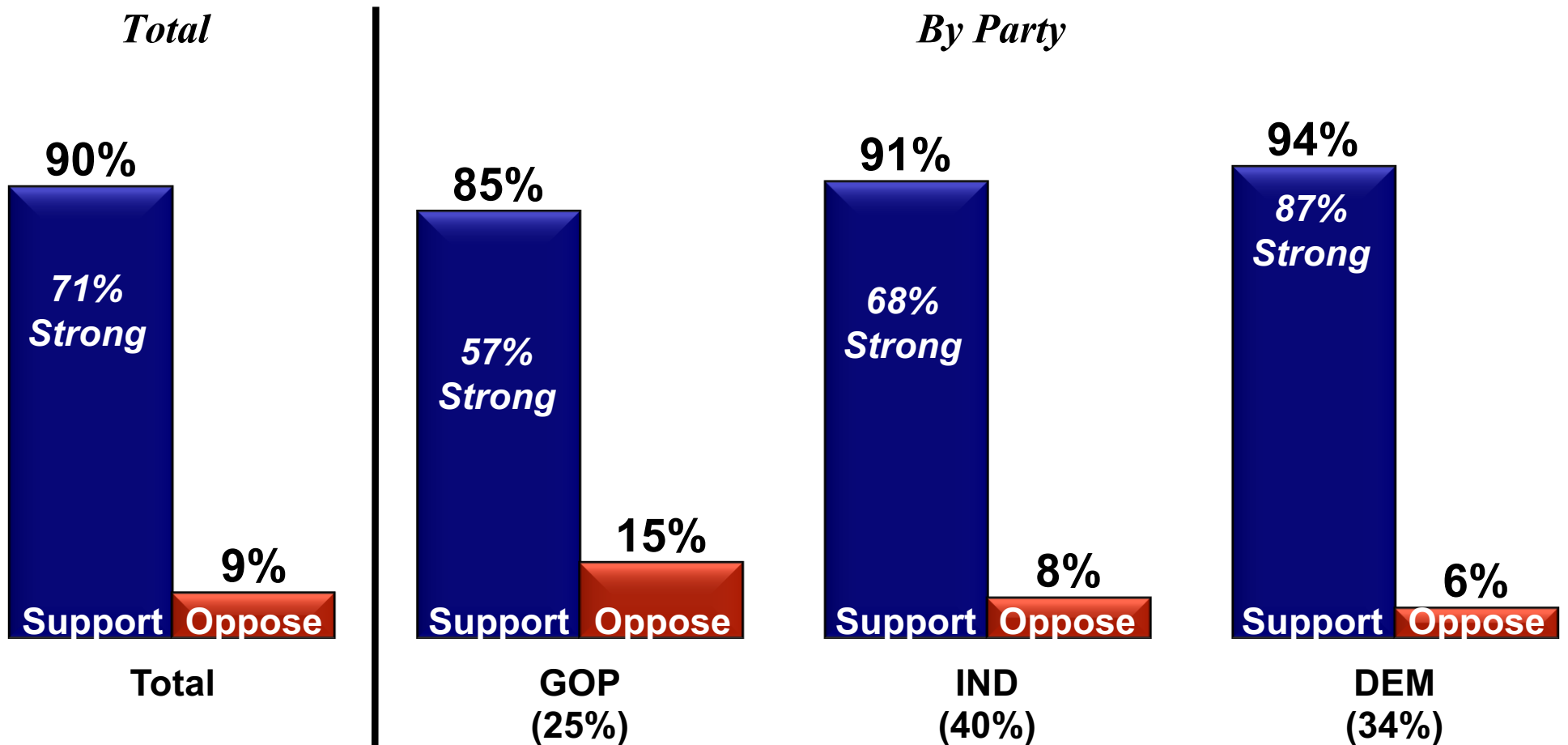
By Ethnicity/Gender



Women's Issues...

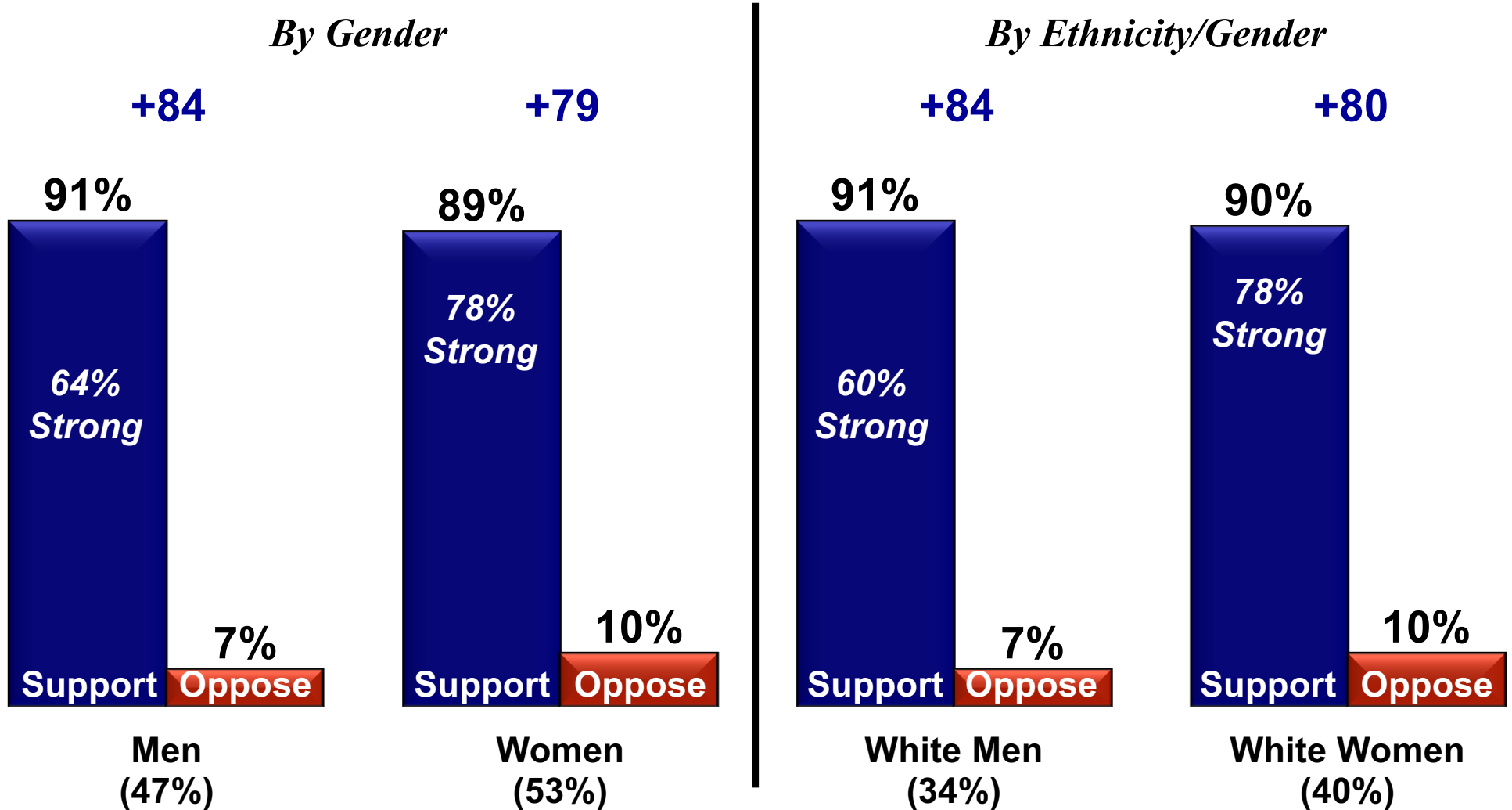
By an overwhelming margin, voters support providing basic feminine hygiene products free of charge.

Women are the fastest growing segment of the prison population, and while they have different needs, they often enter prisons that are set up for men. Would you support or oppose providing basic feminine hygiene products free of charge to women serving time in prison?



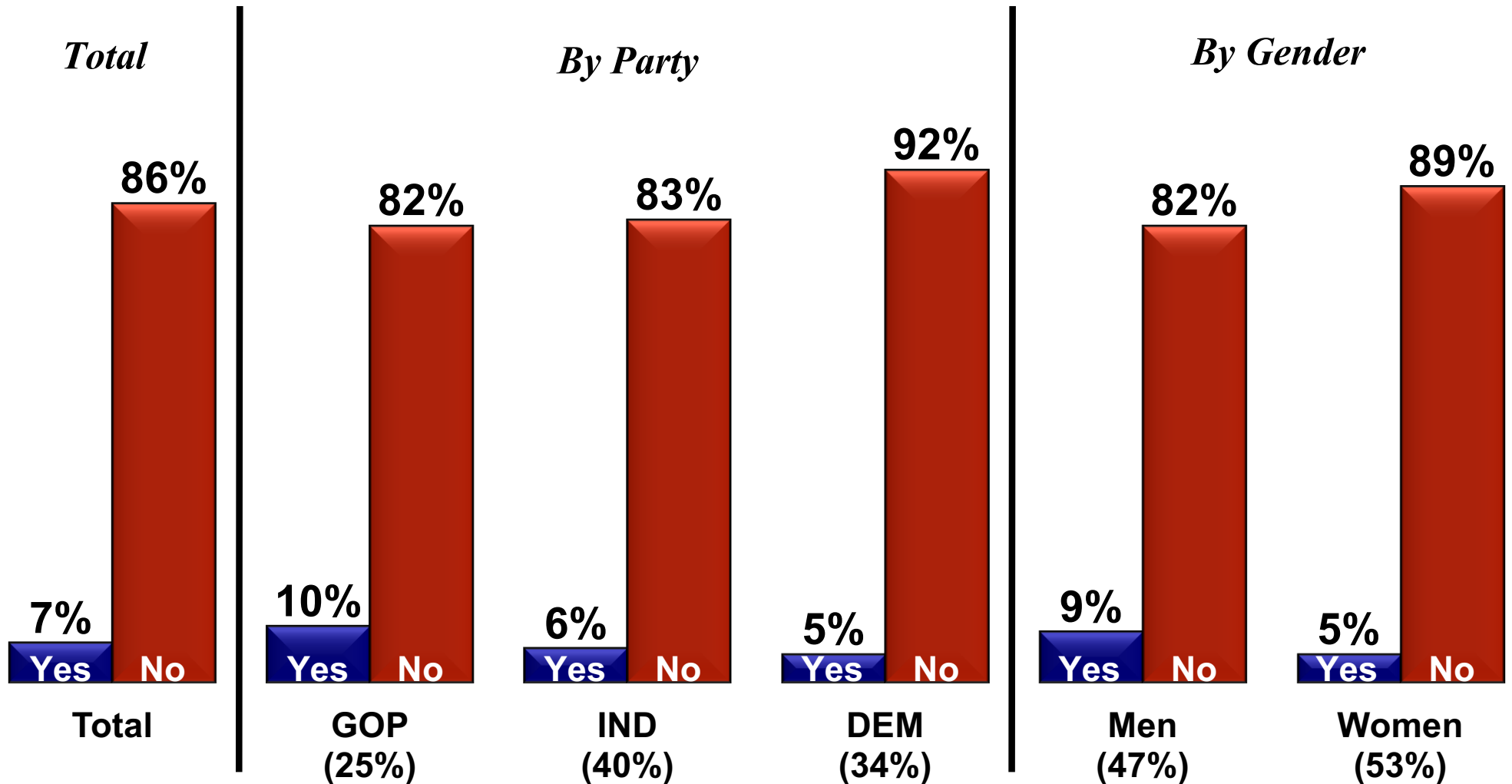
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And, nearly 90% of voters believe pregnant women should NOT be handcuffed while in labor.

One in four women entering our justice system are either pregnant or mothers to children under the age of one. Do you believe pregnant women serving time behind bars should be shackled or handcuffed while they are in labor and in the process of delivering their baby?



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