



Arapahoe County voter opinion survey

July 5-7, 2005

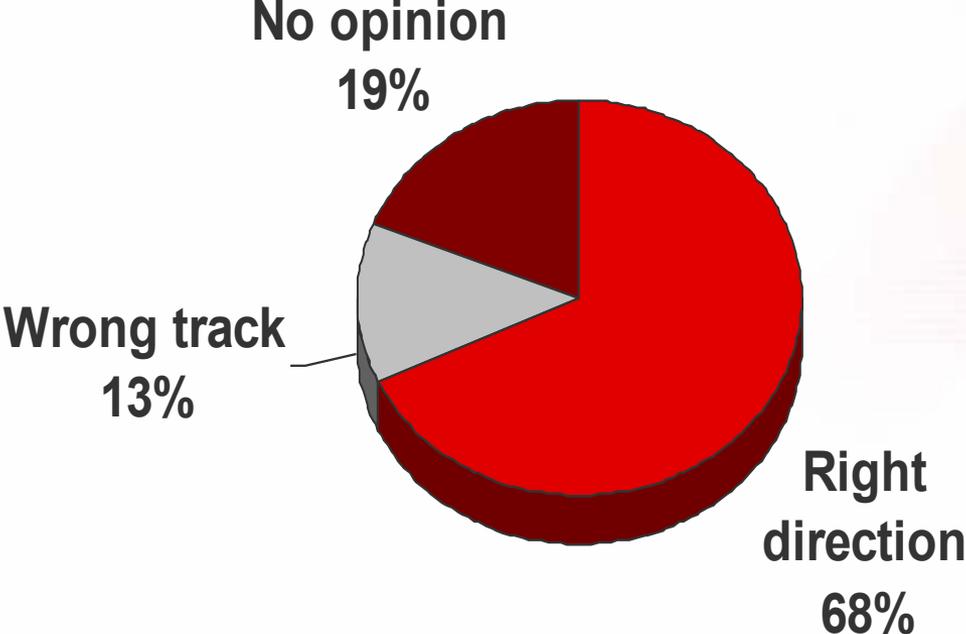
Arapahoe County voter opinion survey

- Sample of 503 respondents taken from a population of likely voters.
- Interviews conducted July 5-7, 2005.
- Typical interview was about 23 minutes.
- Sampling error of $\pm 4.4\%$ for 503 cases.

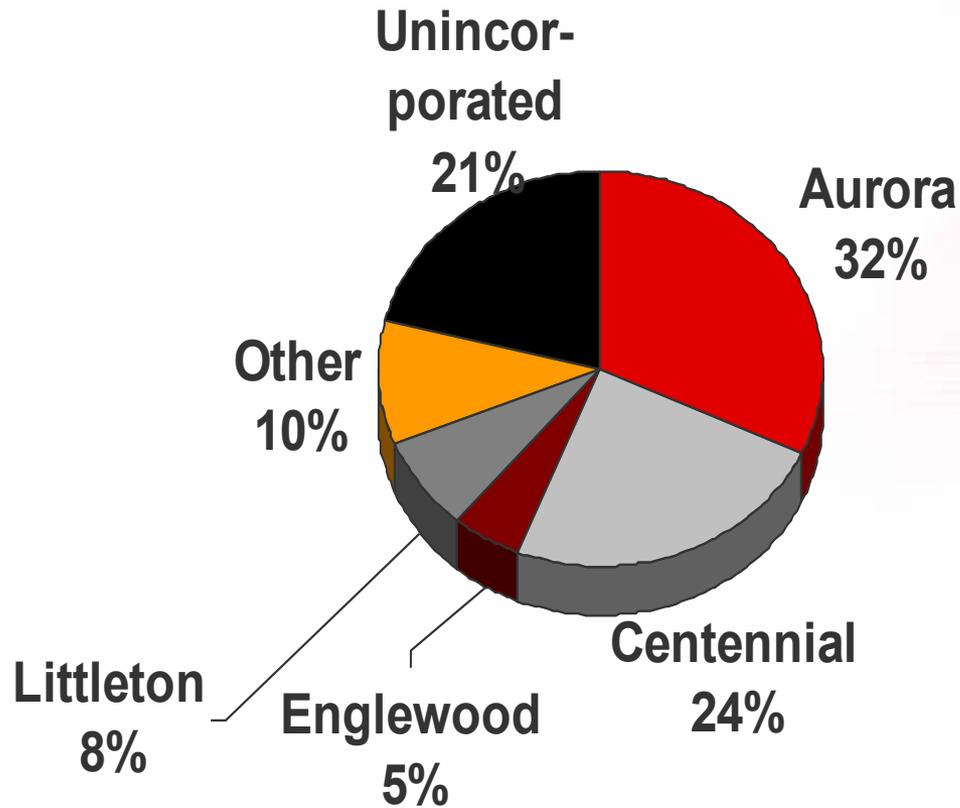
Key findings and conclusions

- Voters are generally happy with Arapahoe County government
 - In fact, so happy that the status quo is fine
- But voters are very reluctant to raise taxes
- A plan to “refinance” an office building is most likely to pass, but it would be difficult given TABOR’s ballot language requirements.
- A de-Brucing measure that parallels Referendum C might also pass if the statewide measure goes well
- There are no arguments or endorsers that significantly enhance support for county proposals

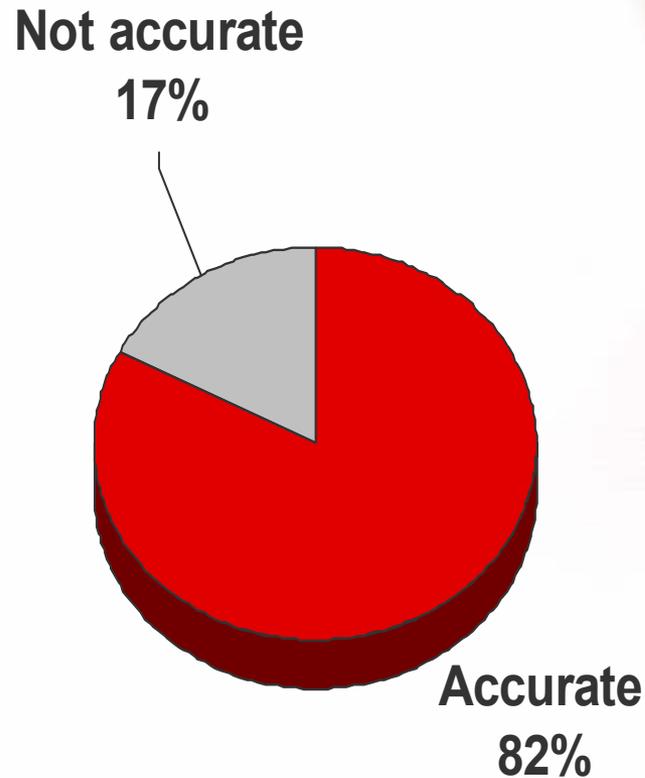
Direction things are going in Arapahoe County today



Self-reported city of residence



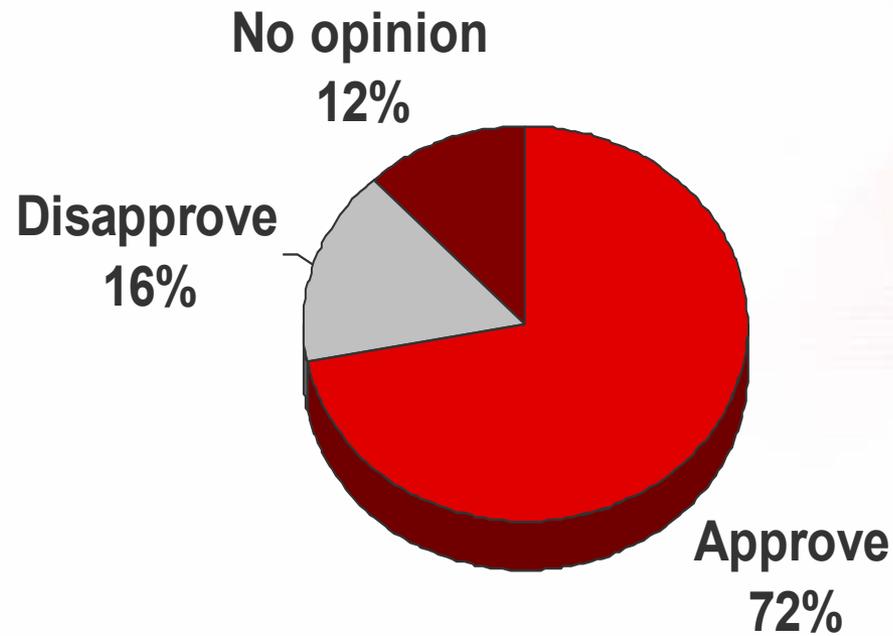
Self-reported vs. actual city of residence



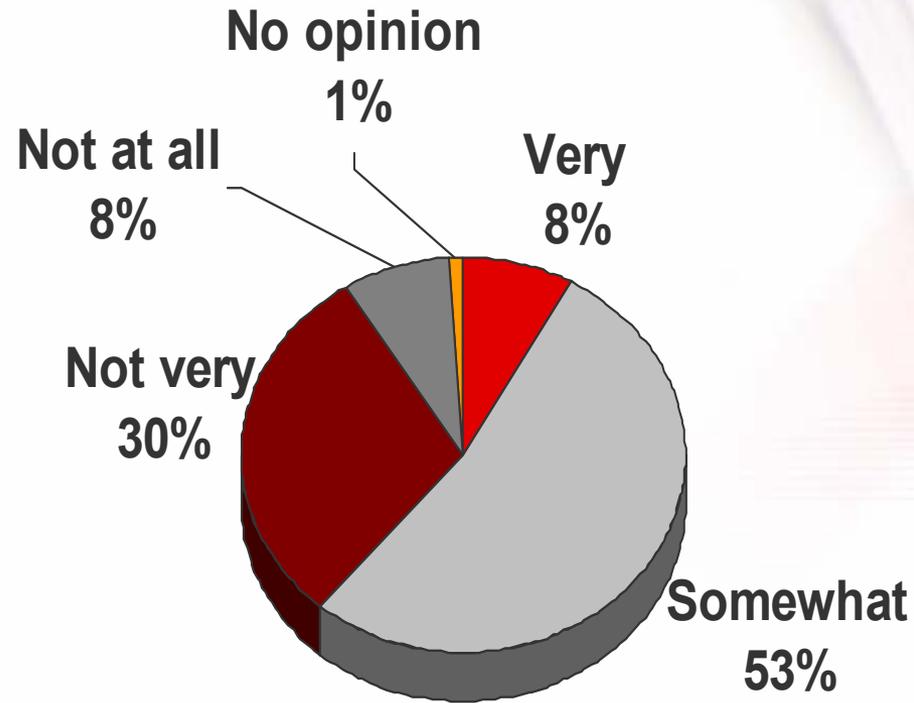
Note: percentages do not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Own city government job approval

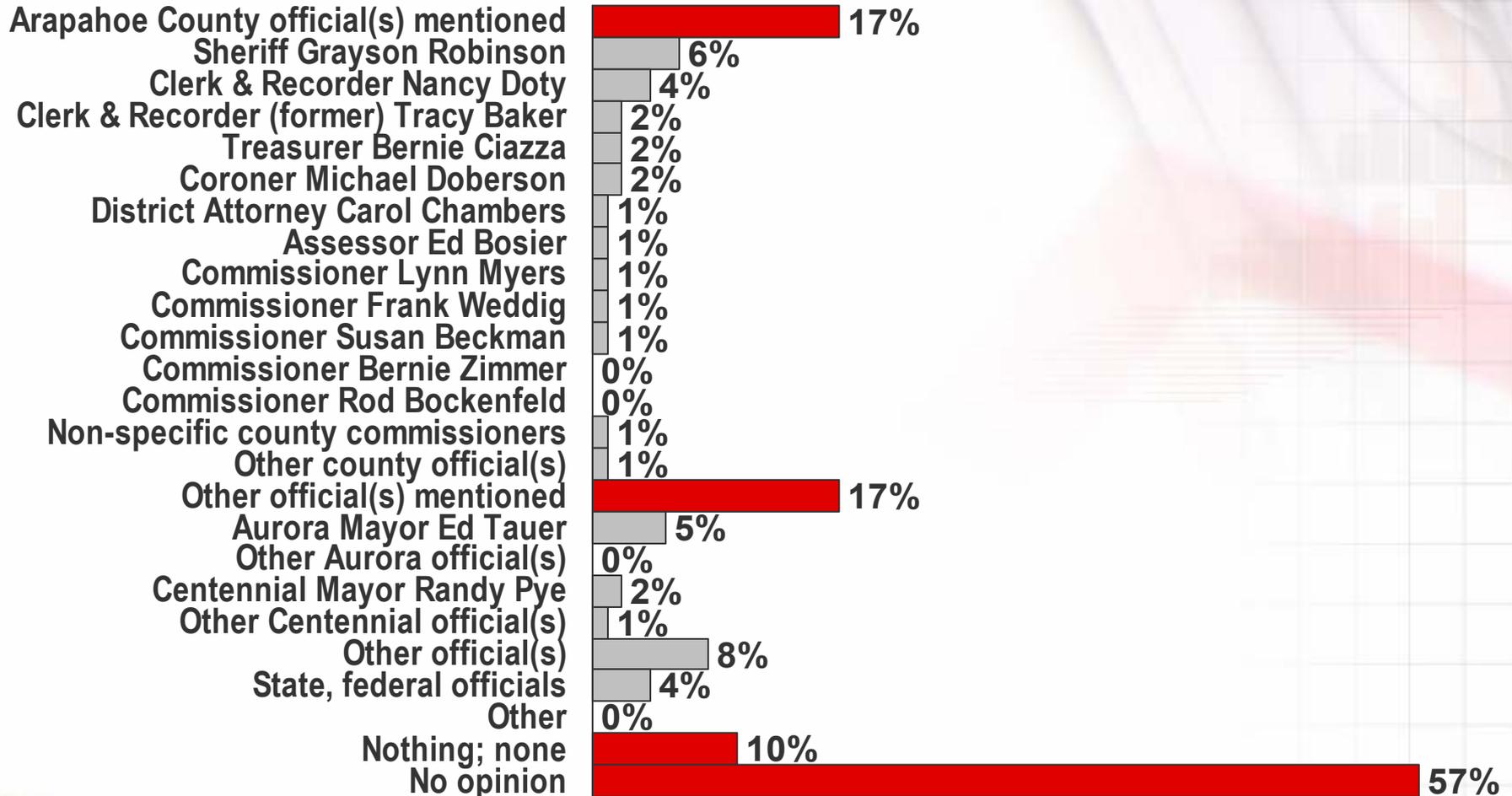
(inside city limits only, 378 cases)



Familiarity with Arapahoe County government



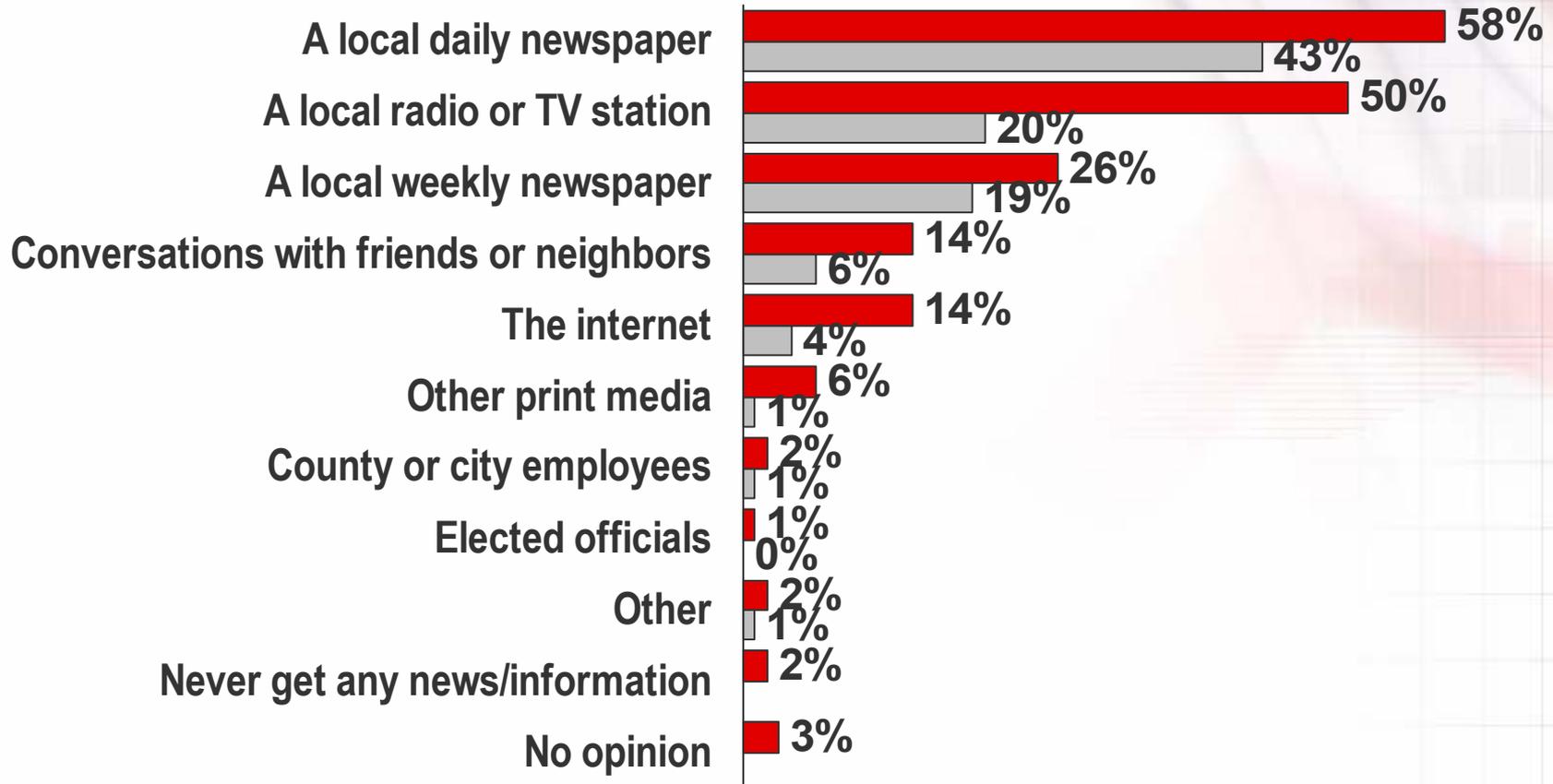
Names of leaders or other people that come to mind first when thinking of Arapahoe County government



Job approval of selected offices & individuals in Arapahoe County

	Approve	Disapprove
Local fire & rescue department	94%	2%
Arapahoe Library District	85%	1%
Local parks & recreation district	84%	8%
Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office	79%	8%
County Clerk & Recorder's office	78%	8%
Your local school district	72%	14%
Tri-County Health Department	60%	5%
Arapahoe County Road & Bridge Section	60%	20%
Your neighborhood association	56%	13%
Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners	53%	11%

Get news & information about Arapahoe County government from . . .

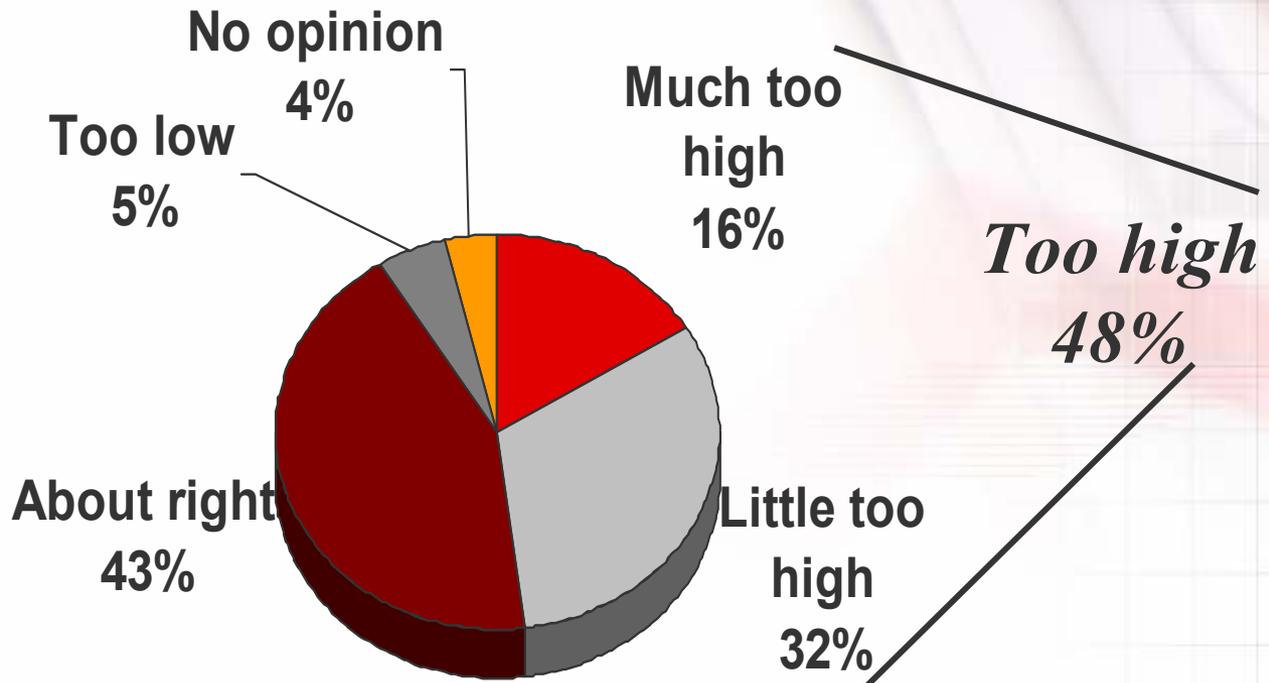


■ All mentions ■ Get most

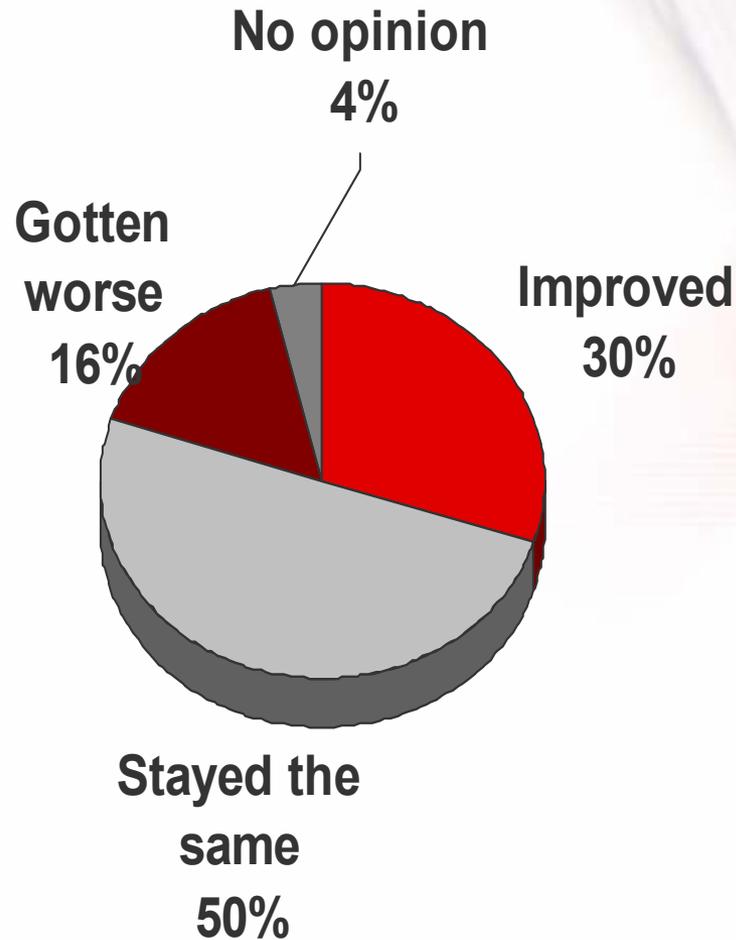
Agreement with statements about the county, government & politics

	Agree	Disagree
Arapahoe County regulations protect our quality of life	70%	19%
Arapahoe County is not that unique or different from other areas around Denver	64%	29%
Arapahoe County spends our tax dollars wisely	55%	29%
Arapahoe County property values are stronger than property values in other Denver-area counties	48%	33%
County residents have too few opportunities to express their views to decision makers about local issues & policies	42%	46%
My local taxes have been rising faster than my ability to pay them lately	40%	55%
Arapahoe's leaders have an effective long-term, comprehensive plan for the county's future	38%	28%
Taxes in Arapahoe County are lower than taxes in other Denver-area counties along the Front Range	31%	43%

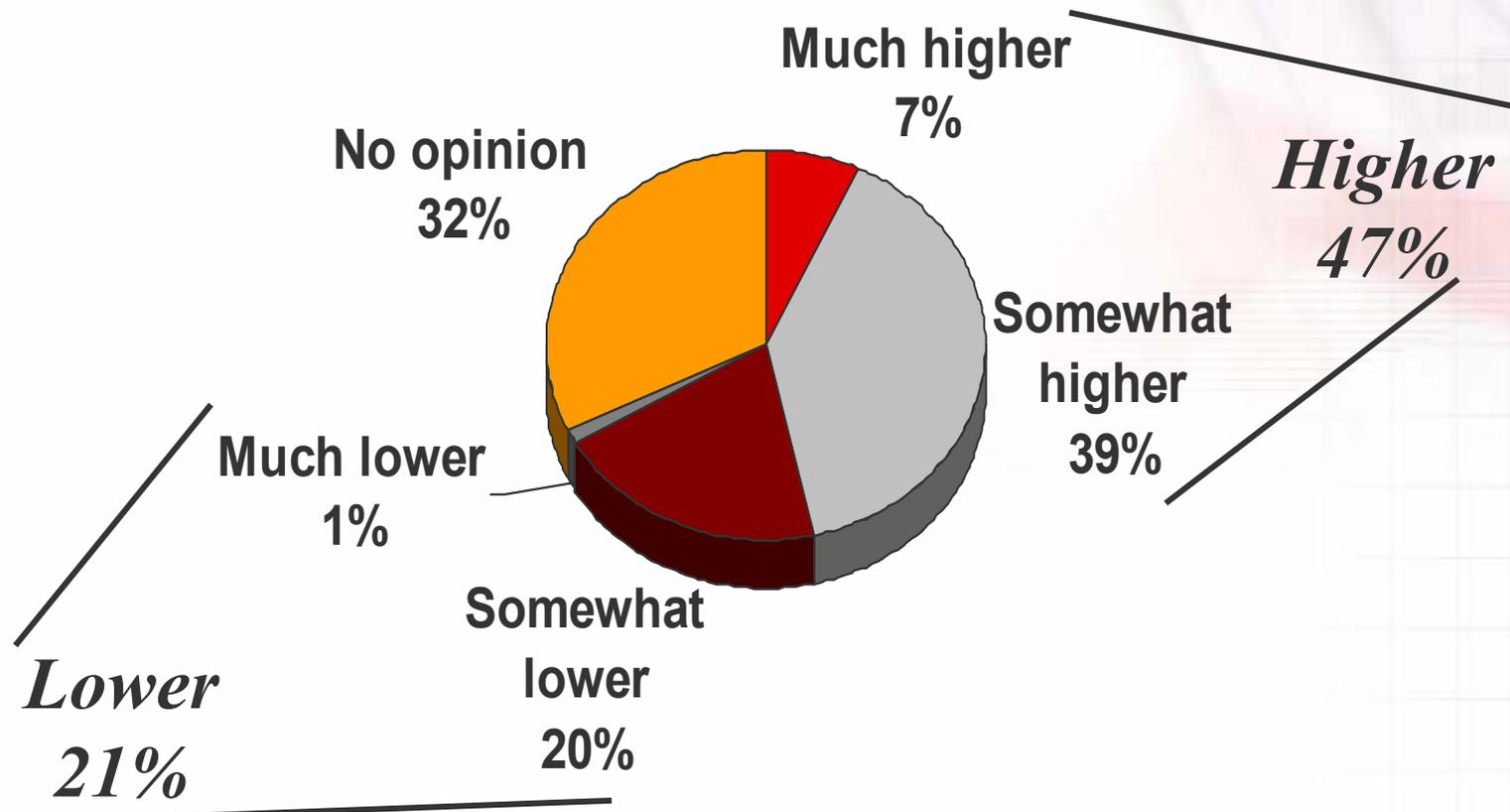
Combined taxes paid to all state, county & local governments, special districts & schools are...



The condition of streets, roads & bridges in Arapahoe County has lately...

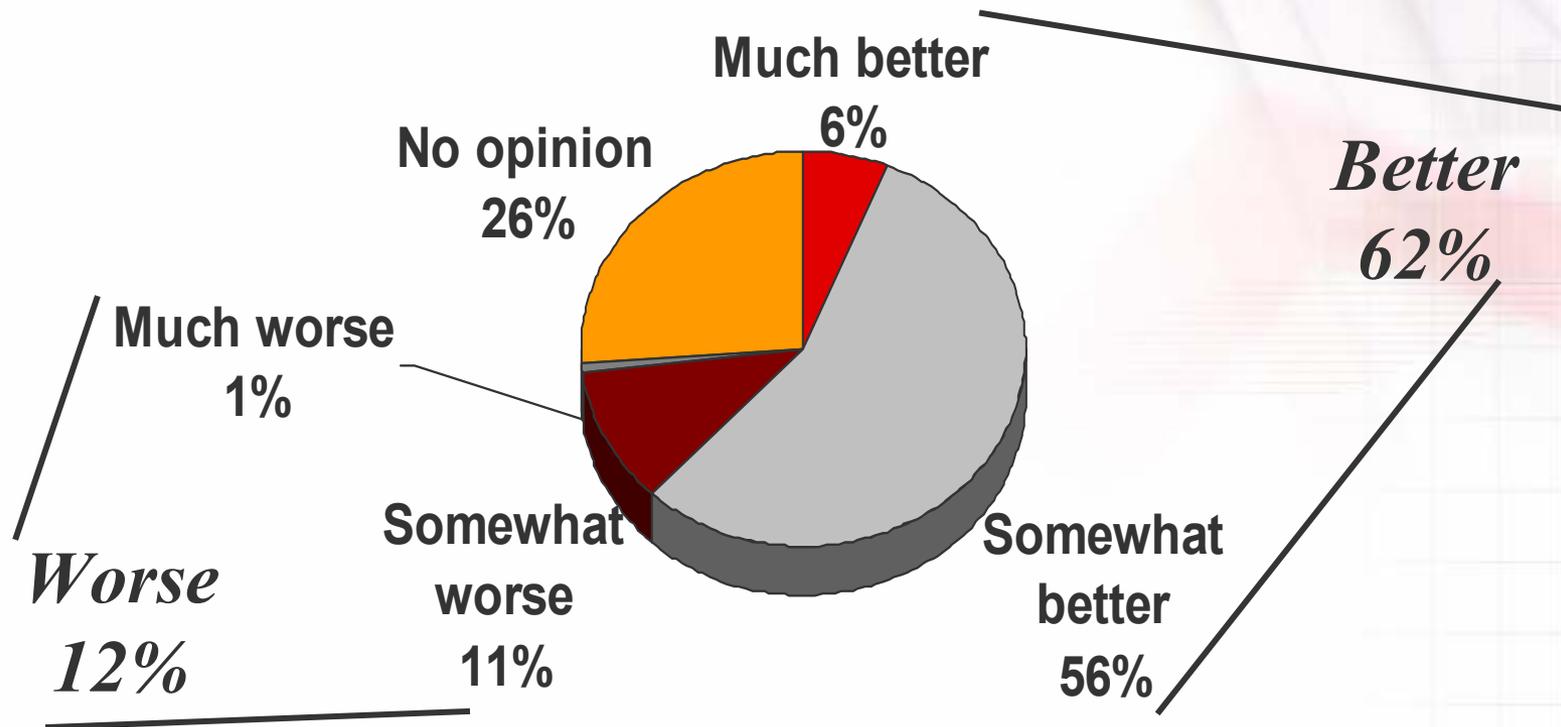


Compare with taxes in other Denver-area counties, taxes in Arapahoe County are...



Note: percentages do not add up to 100% due to rounding.

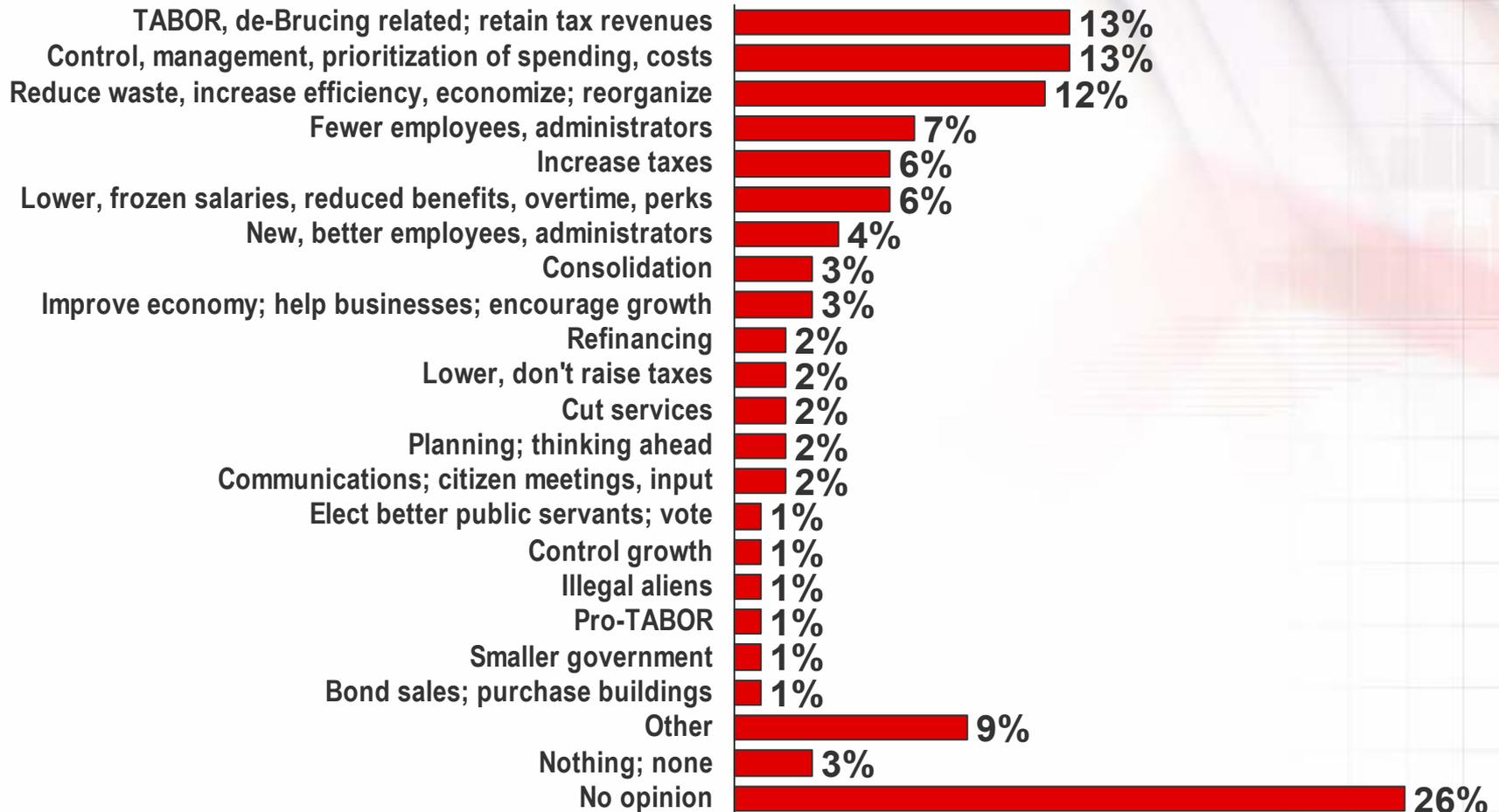
Compared with the services rendered to their citizens by other Denver-area counties, the services given residents by Arapahoe County are...



Mean ratings on selected ideas for Arapahoe County reducing its financial problems

	Mean ranking	Prob. ballot
Refinancing county office space	3.8	63%
Closing the county government's satellite offices	2.9	48%
Borrowing money through bond sales to purchase office buildings	2.9	48%
Refusing to match pay raise offers	2.6	43%
Allowing county government to keep all revenues	2.6	43%
Reducing the number of county employees	2.4	40%
Raising property taxes by \$13.2M annually	2.1	35%
Delaying routine annual street repairs & road resurfacing	2.0	33%
Replacing higher paid county employees with new personnel	2.0	33%
Raising property taxes by \$9.9M annually	1.9	32%
Reducing healthcare & other benefits paid to county employees	1.6	27%

Best way for Arapahoe County government to manage its financial problems



How convincing?

Arguments for the proposals

	Very	Some- what	Not very
Because Arapahoe County taxes are already the lowest per capita in the Denver metro area, the \$2.50 per month that this plan would cost most homeowners is reasonable	30%	32%	35%
Solving its budget shortfall would help the county keep key employees, including deputy sheriffs, who are being recruited away by nearby cities & counties	28%	38%	28%
Because Arapahoe County taxes are already the lowest per capita in the Denver metro area, the \$3 & change per month that this plan would cost most homeowners is reasonable	27%	41%	30%
By maintaining funding for its satellite offices, the county can ensure than every citizens is within a 20-minute drive of an office, or can use public transit to reach one	27%	34%	37%
Approving bonds to purchase office space would reduce interest costs & thereby lower the county's operating expenses	26%	41%	29%
Because we have already voted to allow most of our school districts to de-Bruce & retain excess revenues they collect, it seems fair to allow the county to do the same for five years	20%	33%	43%
Solving its budget shortfall would free up some dollars that could be used to pay for some county road & bridge repairs & maintenance outside city boundaries	19%	46%	33%
Because Arapahoe County has fewer county employees per thousand residents than any other Denver-area county, we can trust that the county is careful with our tax dollars	16%	38%	41%

How convincing?

Arguments against the proposals

	Very	Some- what	Not very
Taxpayers shouldn't have to rescue County officials just because they may run out of money to pay their bills; instead, the county just needs to look for other budget cuts they can make	32%	37%	29%
Taxpayers are already struggling to recover from the recession, so they shouldn't have to bail out the county, too	32%	28%	37%
Because the state is also going to try & take away \$3B in taxpayer refunds for the next five years, it's not fair for Arapahoe County to take away another \$28M in refunds over the same time period, too	31%	25%	40%
Although the County makes some good arguments for their plans, all the other recent local tax hikes for cities, schools, fire protection, open space, parks & libraries makes it unfair for the county taxpayers to pay even more	26%	35%	35%
Approving bonds would put the full faith & credit of Arapahoe taxpayers behind their repayment & that's too big an obligation	16%	36%	44%
Arapahoe County will never be able to pay employees the same salaries that Denver & some other cities or counties can pay, so it's foolish to even try competing with them	12%	18%	68%

Mean ratings on selected ideas for Arapahoe County reducing its financial problems

(follow-up)

	Mean ranking	Prob. ballot
Borrowing money through bond sales	2.7	45%
Allowing county government to keep all revenues	2.5	42%
Raising property taxes by \$13.2M annually	2.2	37%
Raising property taxes by \$9.9M annually	2.0	33%

Mean ratings on selected ideas for Arapahoe County reducing its financial problems

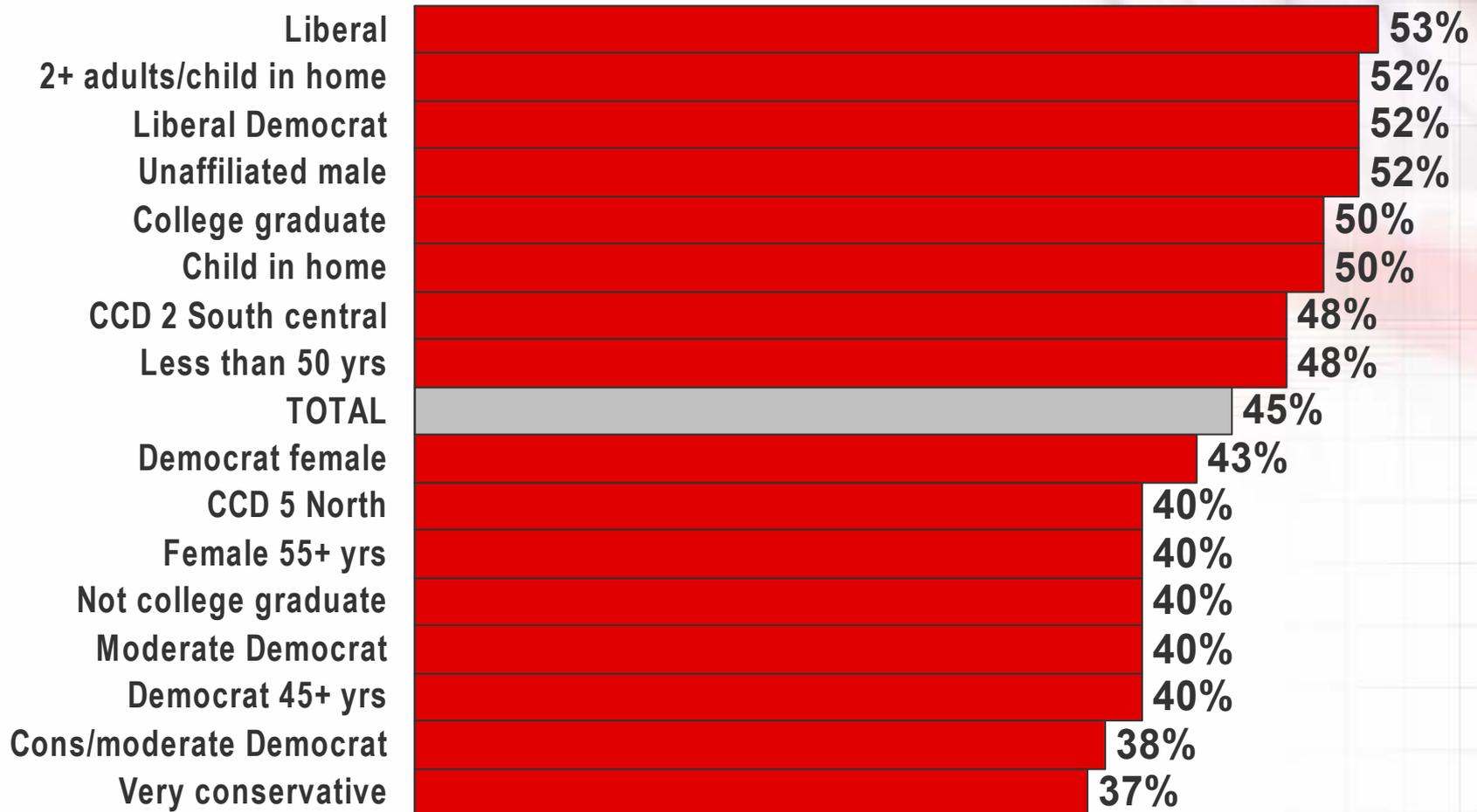
(net movement)

	Mean ranking
Borrowing money through bond sales	-0.2
Allowing county government to keep all revenues	-0.1
Raising property taxes by \$13.2M annually	+0.1
Raising property taxes by \$9.9M annually	+0.1

Mean ratings on selected ideas for Arapahoe County reducing its financial problems:

Borrowing money through bond sales

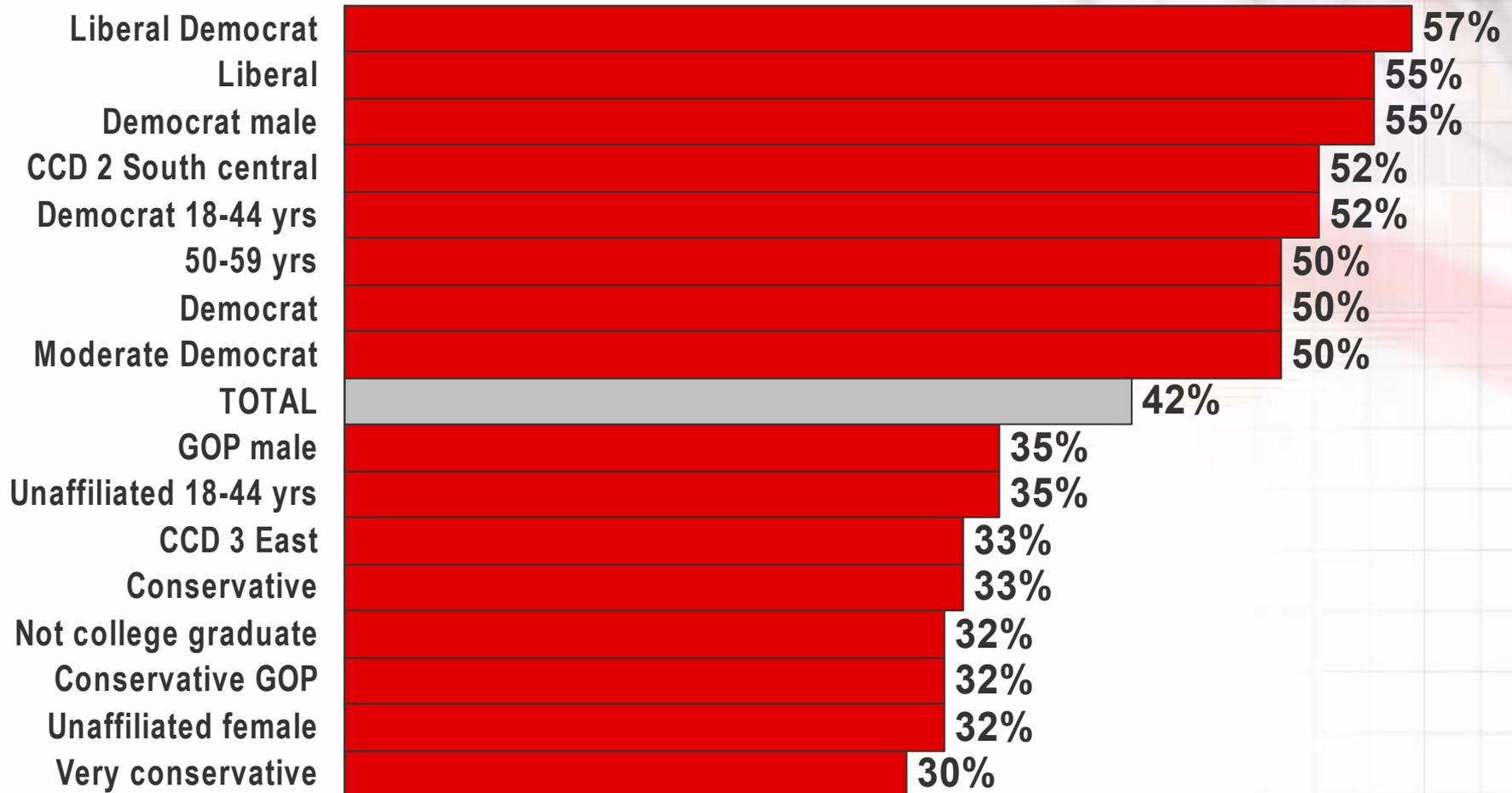
profile of categories with highest & lowest percentages of “the probable ballot”



Mean ratings on selected ideas for Arapahoe County reducing its financial problems:

Allowing county government to keep all revenues

profile of categories with highest & lowest percentages of “the probable ballot”



How influential?

Selected groups & individuals

	Very	Some- what	Little/not at all
League of Women Voters	17%	30%	49%
Local school board	16%	37%	41%
Local homeowners' associations	15%	31%	47%
Local city mayors	13%	43%	40%
Your chamber of Commerce	11%	43%	41%
Board of County Commissioners	10%	41%	42%
County Clerk Nancy Doty	10%	39%	45%
Sheriff Grayson Robinson	9%	38%	44%

How influential?

Selected groups & individuals (part two)

	Very	Some- what	Little/not at all
District Attorney	9%	37%	49%
The Rocky Mountain News editorial page	9%	33%	56%
The Denver Post editorial page	8%	31%	56%
Treasurer Bernie Ciazza	5%	32%	54%
Dr. Bert Glandon, President of Arapahoe Community College	5%	26%	58%
Assessor Ed Bosier	5%	26%	53%
Southeast Business Partnership	4%	29%	53%
County Coroner Michael Dobersen	3%	15%	70%