

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Policy Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: December 16, 2025 **Approx. Start Time:** 1:30PM **Approx. Length:** 60 mins

Presentation Title: Public Safety Levy Poll Results

Department: Clackamas County Sheriff's Office

Presenters: Sheriff Angela Brandenburg and Maggie Simich, Patinkin Research Strategies

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

None, informational only.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Clackamas County Public Safety Levy will expire on December 31, 2026. To prepare for the vote to replace the expiring levy on the May 2026 ballot, the Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with the County Administrator, engaged with a public opinion research firm to conduct a review and analysis of voters' thoughts and opinions on a variety of public safety related subjects.

No action is requested today. The information presented is intended to inform the Board and support a thoughtful decision-making process regarding what to place before voters on the ballot as it relates to the CCSO Public Safety Levy.

Patinkin Research Strategies will present the polling results and provide a general overview of the process, including the questions asked on potential levy options and community responses. Polling was conducted October 28 through November 3, 2025, in preparation for the May 2026 ballot.

Background on the Public Safety Levy

The Clackamas County Public Safety Levy is a countywide voter-approved funding measure that supports a variety of law enforcement, jail operations, and public safety programs. It is renewed every five years and provides funding to maintain staffing, equipment, and services. The Public Safety Levy was first approved by voters in 2006.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

Is this item in your current budget? ☐ YES ☒ NO

What is the cost? \$ N/A

What is the funding source? N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- How does this item align with your Department's Strategic Business Plan goals?
 - This item advances CCSO efforts to strengthen public safety, reinforce accountability, and build community trust by providing polling data that highlights community priorities and informs where resources should be directed.
- How does this item align with the County's Performance Clackamas goals?
 - This item supports **safe, secure, and livable communities** by using polling results to guide funding decisions and ensure investments match residents' needs.

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS: None

PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:

Public participation has consisted of meaningful population sampling conducted via statistical polling.

OPTIONS: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

None, informational only.

ATTACHMENTS:

#A: Patinkin Research Strategies CCSO Public Safety Levy Polling Results 2025

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval _____

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Stephanie Warneke @ 503-785-5022

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Levy



**PATINKIN
RESEARCH
STRATEGIES**



- A survey of 400 likely voters in Clackamas County was conducted by telephone using professional interviewers (n=215) and SMS/Text-to-Web (n=185).
- A voter file sample was used and the poll universe was diminished to reflect a May 2026 likely electorate.
- Interviews were conducted October 28th-November 3rd, 2025.
- The margin of error for the sample as a whole is plus or minus 4.9 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The margin of error for subgroups varies and is higher.
- Throughout this report we refer to “younger” and “older” voters. Younger voters are under age 50 and older voters are age 50 and up.

Regional definitions:



Mt. Hood: Brightwood, Government Camp, Rhododendron, Sandy, Welches

East Metro: Clackamas, Damascus, Gladstone, Gresham, Happy Valley, Milwaukie, Oak Grove

West Metro: Lake Oswego, Marylhurst, Portland, Sherwood, Tualatin, West Linn, Wilsonville

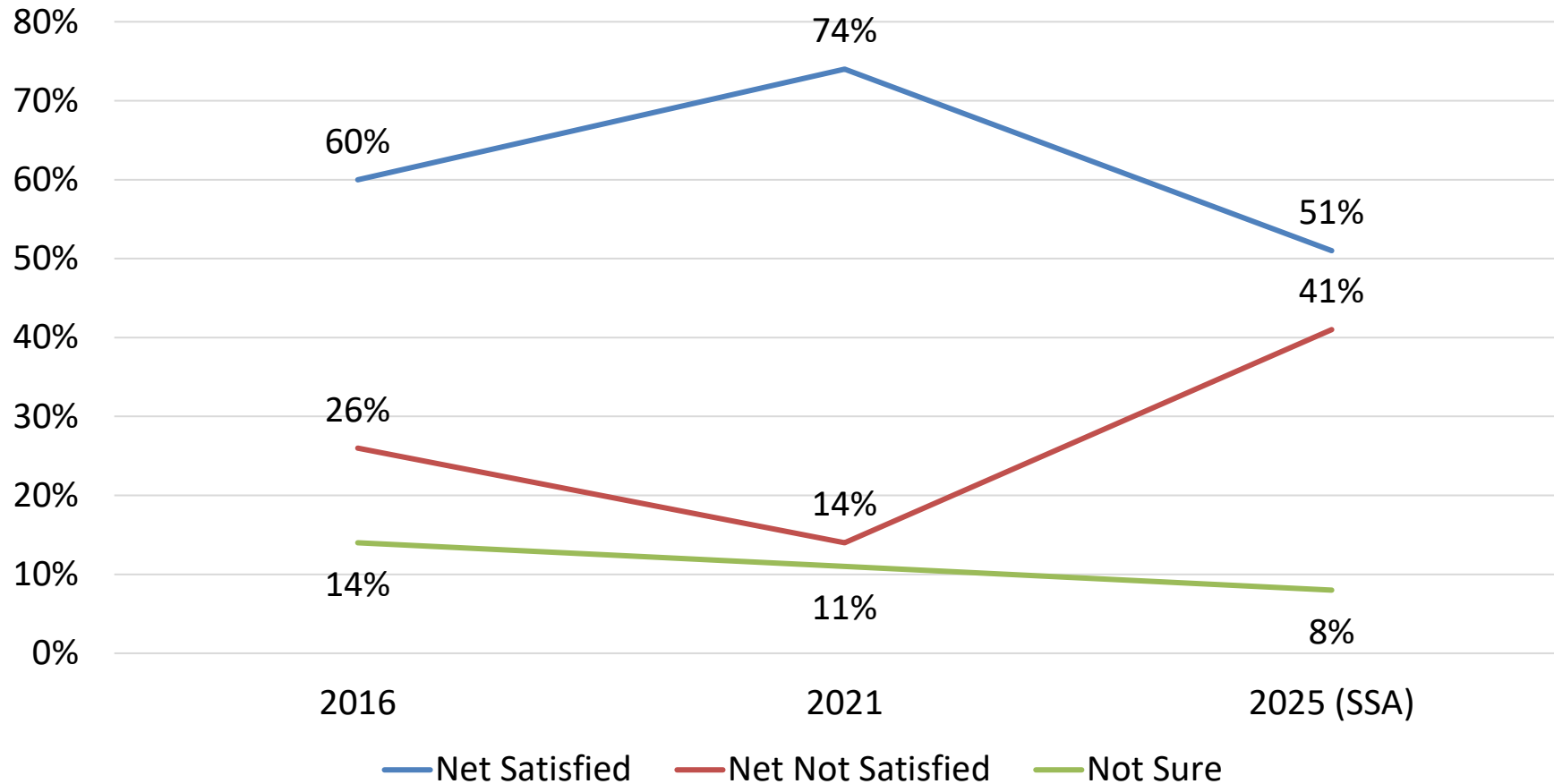
South County: Aurora, Canby, Hubbard, Molalla, Mt. Angel, Newberg, Scotts Mills, Woodburn

Rural Central: Beaver Creek, Boring, Colton, Eagle Creek, Estacada, Mulino, Oregon City



Where We Start

A narrow majority of Clackamas County voters are satisfied with how their tax dollars are being spent

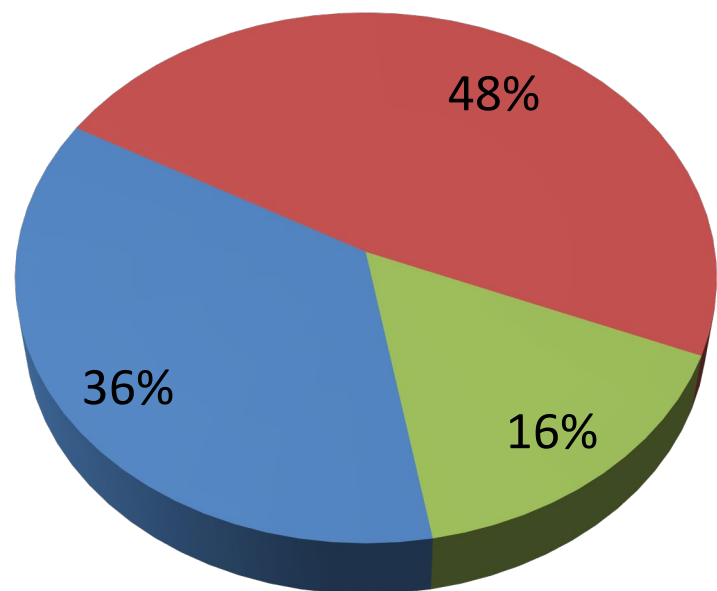


How satisfied are you with how Clackamas County government spends the tax dollars it receives?

Voters lean negative in their perceptions of Clackamas County’s trajectory



“Right track” voters lean only slightly “yes,” while “wrong track” voters are by-in-large “no” on the levy.



- Right direction
- Wrong track
- DK/NA

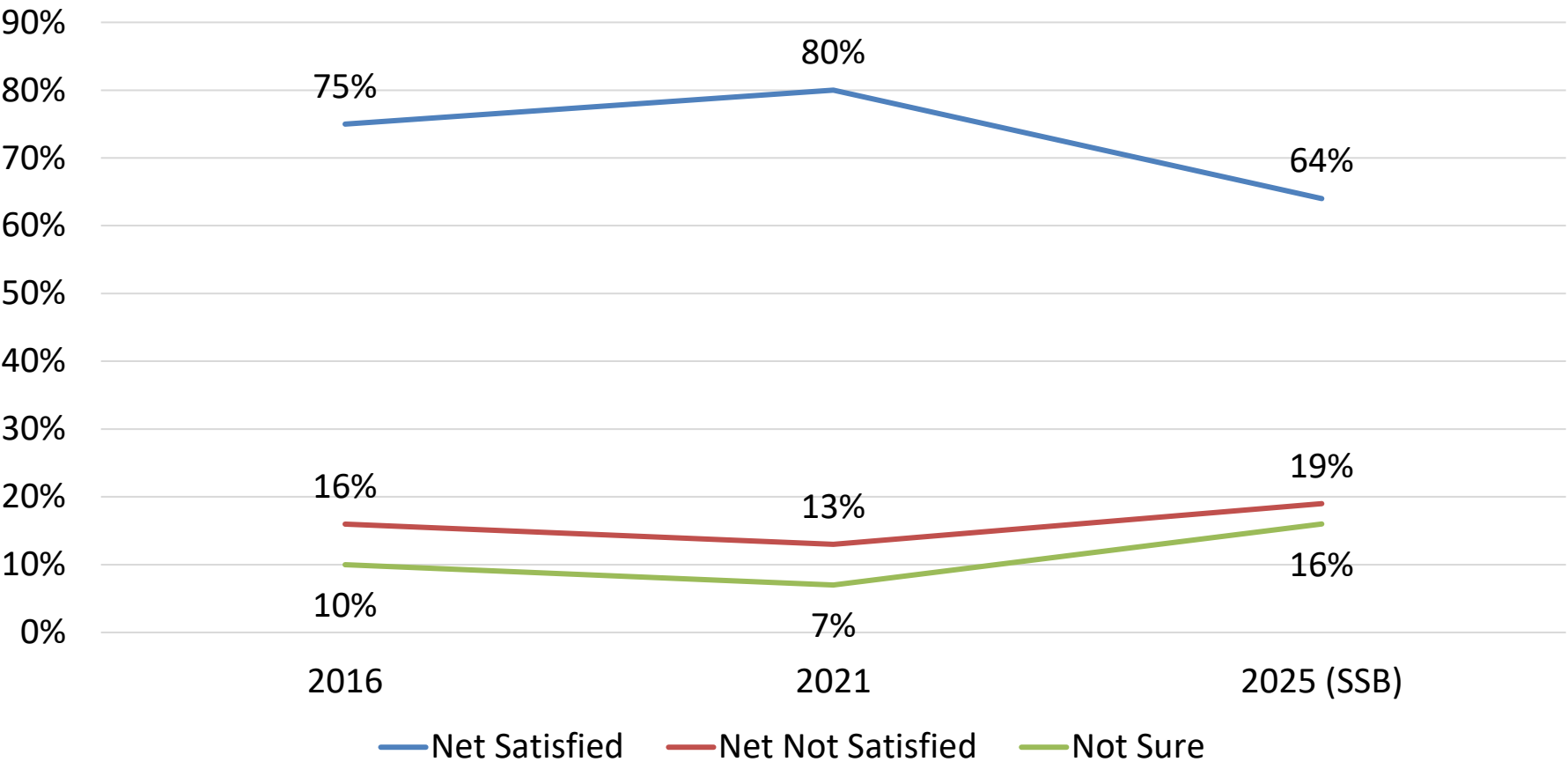
	Right direction	Wrong track
“Yes” on levy	46%	31%
“No” on levy	43%	59%
Margin	+3	-28

Generally speaking, do you think things in Clackamas County are headed in the right direction or are they pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

Six-in-10 are satisfied with the quality of service provided by the Sheriff's Office

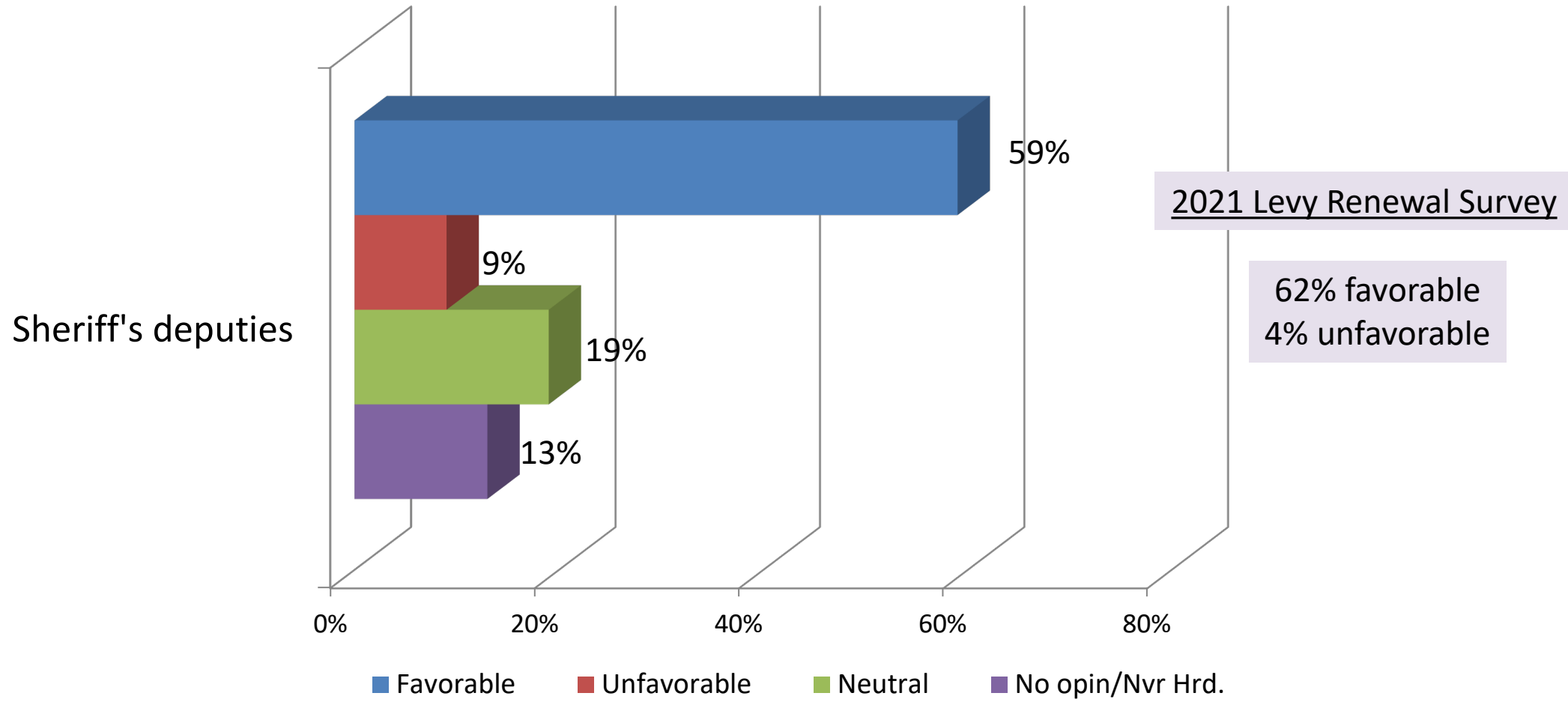


“Net satisfied” numbers are down 16 points since 2021, with uncertainty increasing by 9 points. **This said, the overall ratings for the Sheriff’s Office remain well above water.**



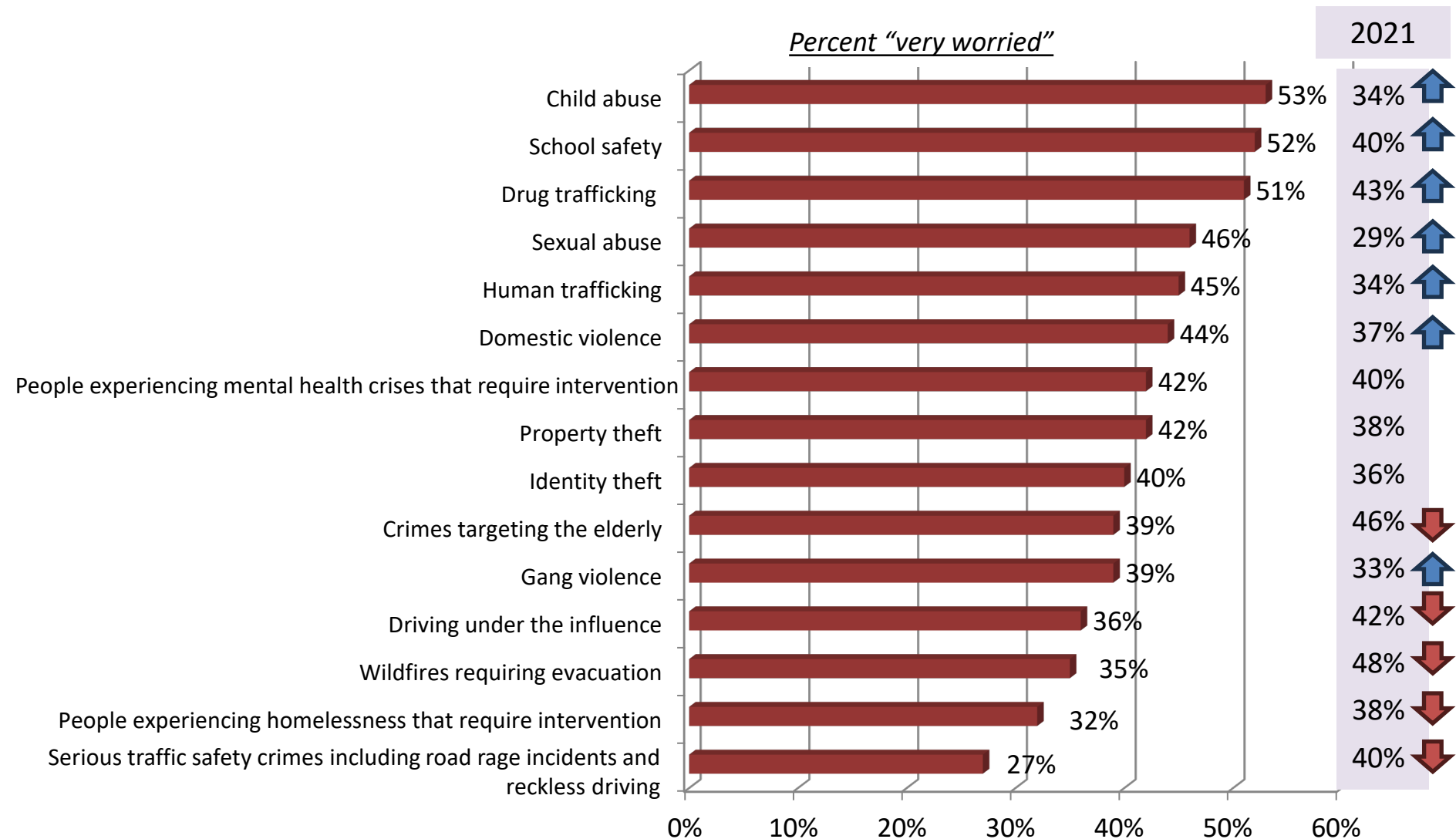
How satisfied are you with the quality of service provided by the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office?

Sheriff's deputies continue to be *extremely popular*



Favorability ratings

Worries about crime have shifted with the biggest increases in concern happening vis-à-vis child abuse, school safety, sexual abuse, and human trafficking

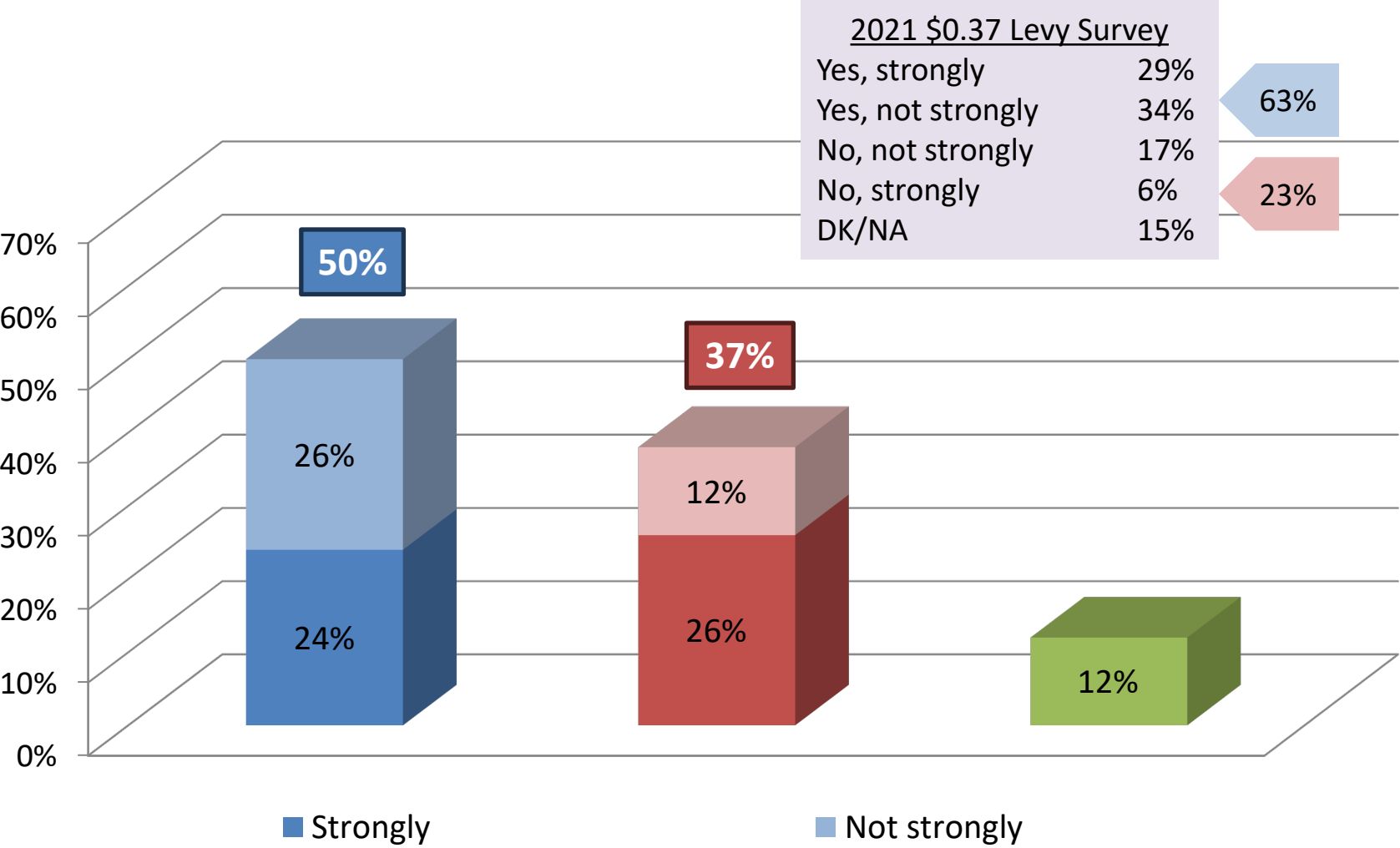


I’m going to read you some types of crime and public safety issues people have said they are worried about in Clackamas County. After each, please tell me whether you are very worried about that type of crime or public safety issue, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not worried at all.



Where the Public Safety Levy Starts

A levy designed to prevent reductions to law enforcement services begins with half in support



“Local option Sheriff’s levy preventing reductions to law enforcement services. Shall County fund Sheriff’s jail beds, law enforcement; levy 69 cents per one thousand dollars assessed value for five years beginning 2027 to 2031? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.” If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this local option levy for public safety services?

**Data from Q13

Support is bipartisan in nature



Base supporters (strong “yes”)

• Union households	35%
• South County	32%
• Republican men	39%
• Young independents	32%
• Democratic men	32%
• Independent men	32%
• Older Republicans	31%

Soft supporters (not strong “yes”)

• Parents w/kids <18 @home	35%
• Renters	34%
• South County	37%
• Democrats	31%
• Ages 40-49	31%
• Republican men	30%

If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this local option levy for public safety services?

Data from Q13

Levy options tested:



\$0.69 increase

- One potential levy is designed to maintain existing services such as 5 detectives who investigate elder and child abuse and human trafficking, the Sheriff's drug enforcement team, body cameras, 34 neighborhood patrol deputies and 84 additional jail beds. This levy would also fund a specialized crime reduction team of 11 deputies and provide additional funding to replace the Sheriff's aging fleet of patrol cars. It would cost the average homeowner an additional \$9.41 cents per month

\$0.61 increase

- Another potential levy is designed to maintain the existing services you just learned about. It would also fund the specialized crime reduction team, but it would not fund replacements for the Sheriff's aging fleet of patrol cars. It would cost the average homeowner an additional \$7.22 cents per month

\$0.55 increase

- Another potential levy is designed to maintain the Sheriff Office's existing services but would not fund a specialized crime reduction team, nor would it fund replacements for the Sheriff's aging fleet of patrol cars. It would cost the average homeowner an additional \$5.40 cents per month

Renewal

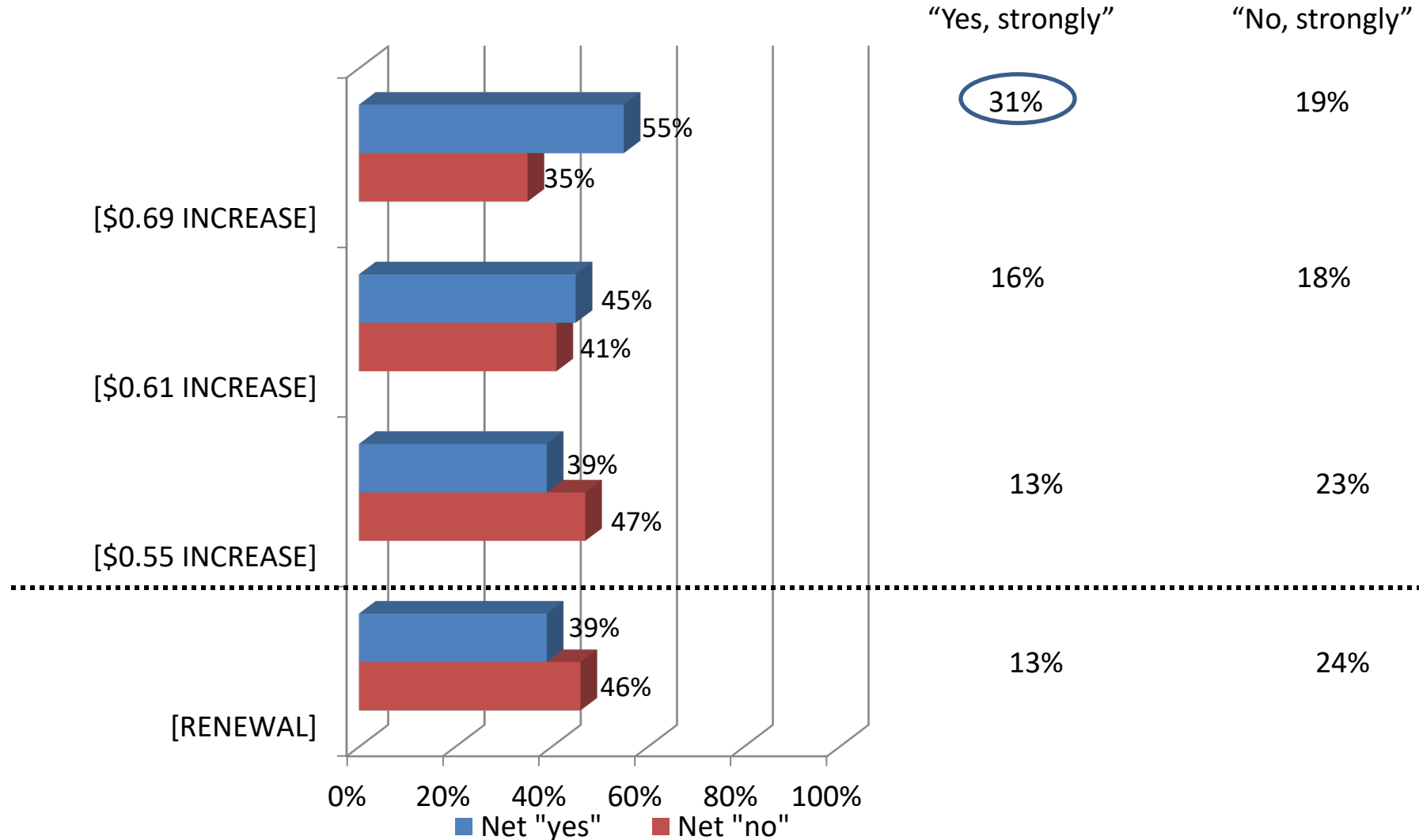
- Another potential levy would maintain the existing tax rate for public safety services. Because inflation has resulted in costs, a renewal of the existing tax rate would require cuts to many of the Sheriff Office's services. Among others, this could include up to 5 detectives who investigate elder and child abuse and human trafficking, the Sheriff's drug enforcement team, body cameras, 34 neighborhood patrol deputies and 84 jail beds which would lead to additional release of inmates

Increase in cost per thousand is based off of a median assessed value of \$358,313.00.

The \$0.69 increase levy is the only option that reaches a majority “yes” votes



At 55% “yes,” there’s a clear shift (+5) into the support column once voters learn what they’re buying.





Where the “yes” vote increases the most when voters learn more information about the levy

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| • High school or less | +14 |
| • Under age 50 | +11 |
| • Women | +10 |
| • Democrats | +10 |
| • Republican women | +10 |
| • All voters | +5 |

[69 CENT INCREASE] One potential levy is designed to maintain existing services such as 5 detectives who investigate elder and child abuse and human trafficking, the Sheriff’s drug enforcement team, body cameras, 34 neighborhood patrol deputies and 84 additional jail beds. This levy would also fund a specialized crime reduction team of 11 deputies and provide additional funding to replace the Sheriff’s aging fleet of patrol cars. It would cost the average homeowner an additional \$9.41 cents per month

The \$0.61 levy ask is less popular among voters, especially those in independent and democratic subgroups



Where the “no” vote increases the most from the \$0.69 to \$0.61 levy option

• West Metro	+17
• No college	+15
• Age 40-49	+14
• Independent women	+13
• Democratic men	+12
• College Democrats	+12
• College independents	+11
• Ages 50-59	+11
• All voters	+6

[61 CENT INCREASE] Another potential levy is designed to maintain the existing services you just learned about. It would also fund the specialized crime reduction team, but it would not fund replacements for the Sheriff’s aging fleet of patrol cars. It would cost the average homeowner an additional \$7.22 cents per month