

# NATIONAL SECURITY & NUCLEAR DETERRENCE

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## PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH RESULTS



*N = 2150 Fielded 8-10-21 to 8-23-21*

*M.o.E. +/- 2.1%*

*Oversamples:*

*N = 200 in CO, MT, ND, NE, WY*

*N = 100 in AZ*

*N = 100 in NM*

*N = 100 in MD*

*N = 100 in VA*

*N = 100 in PA*

# DEMOGRAPHICS:

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VOTER SAMPLE MODELING METHODOLOGY MIRRORS 2020 ELECTION

# SAMPLE

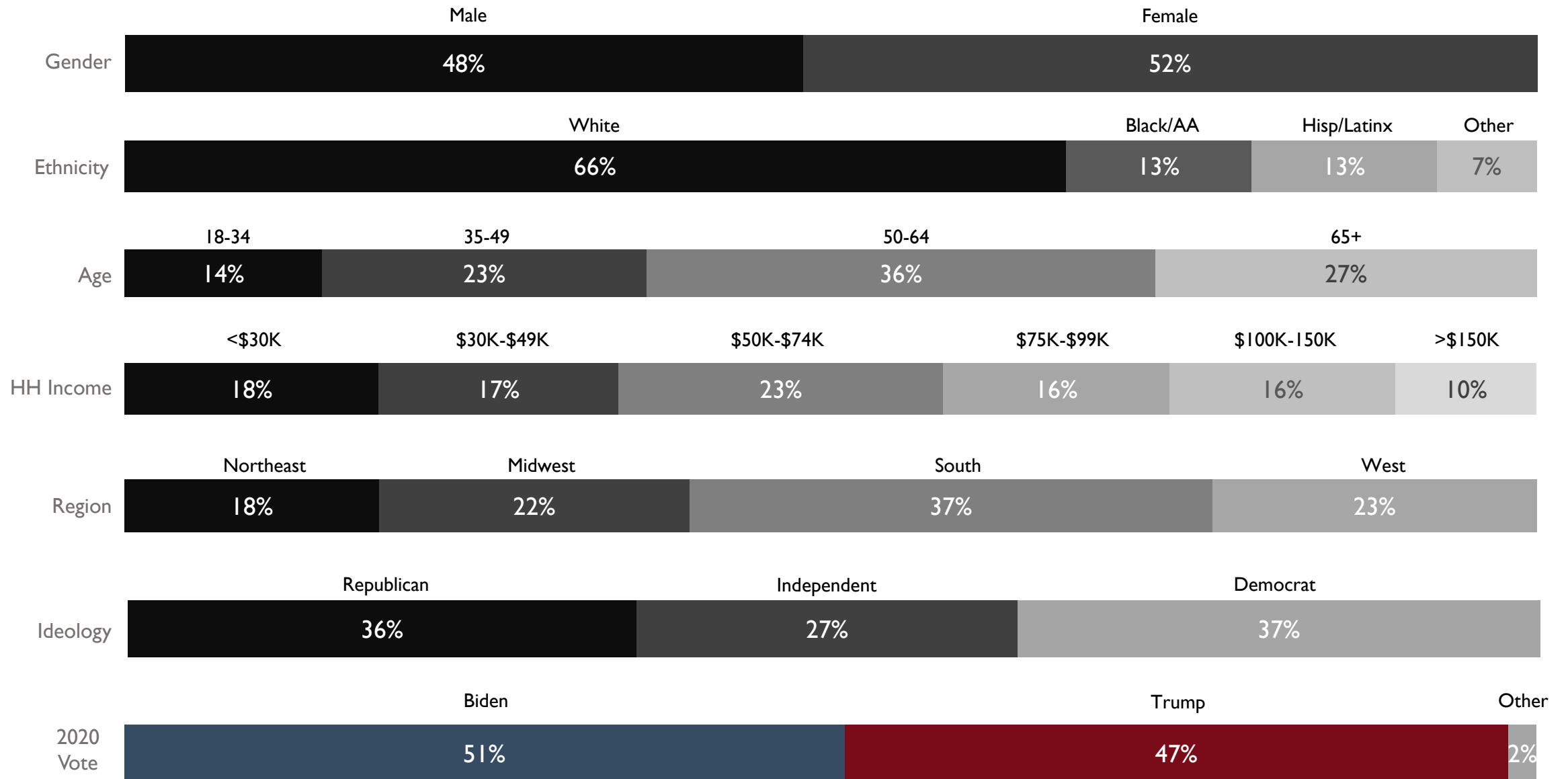
## DEMOGRAPHICS

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- N = 2150 respondents who voted in the 2020 election, nationally
- Poll conducted online
- Voter sample model methodology mirrors 2020 voting records and exit polling data.
- Accurate representation along key demographic markers: gender, race, age income, geographic region and ideology.
- Regional oversamples taken in key industrial states as well as states that contain ICBM missile silos. These oversamples were weighted back to proportional representation within the larger total sample.

# QUANTITATIVE: NATIONAL VOTER SAMPLE BREAKDOWN: N=2150

(N = 2150 | Fielded 8-10-21 to 8-23-21 | M.o.E +/- 2.1%)



# THE SECURITY LANDSCAPE:

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UNDERSTANDING VOTERS' SENTIMENT ON NATIONAL SECURITY

# KEY FINDINGS

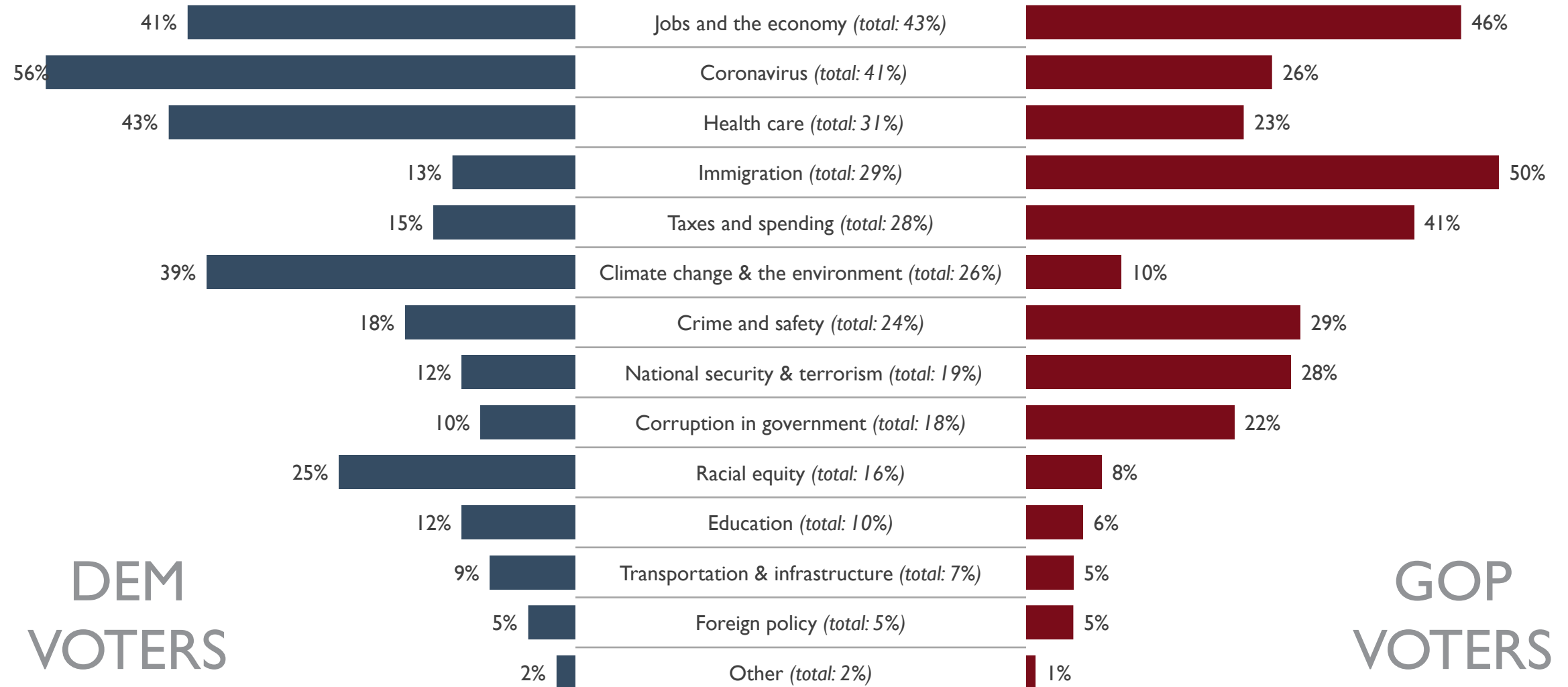
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- Concern about different types of national security threats vary. The top concern is currently cyber attack.
- US military superiority and military spending contribute directly to Americans' sense of safety and security.
- Jobs & economy, Coronavirus and Health care remain the top voter priorities. National security appears around the middle of the issue list.
- Americans see the UK, Canada and Israel as top allies. China, Russia, North Korea and Iran are top threats.

# VOTER PRIORITIES:

Political ideology can have a significant impact on which issues voters care about most.

Over the next two years, which of the following issues do you think is most important for the President & Congress to address? (Top 3 choices combined)



DEM  
VOTERS

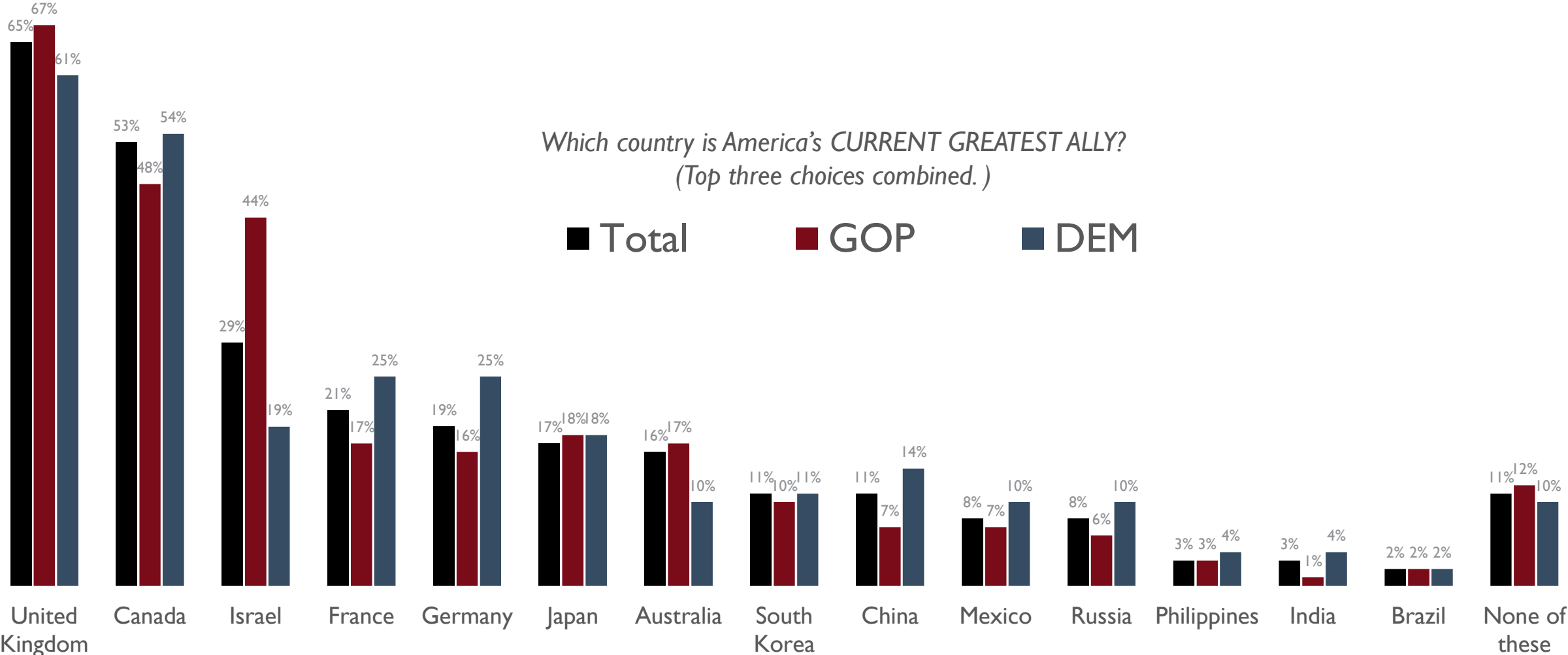
GOP  
VOTERS

# AMERICA'S GREATEST ALLY:

UK & Canada are most common responses.

Republican voters are more likely than Democratic voters to see Israel as our greatest ally.

Democratic voters are more likely than Republican voters to see European countries as our greatest ally.



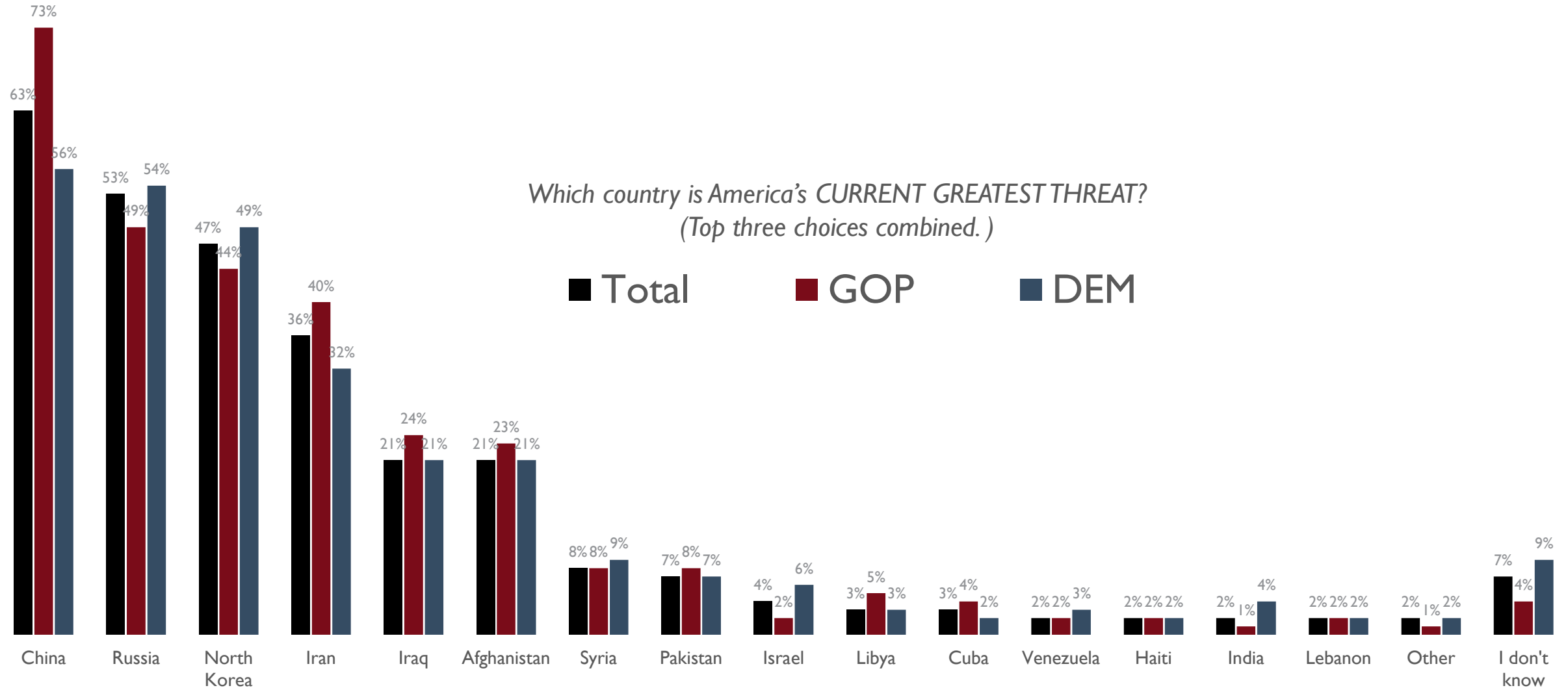


# AMERICA'S GREATEST THREAT:

*China, Russia, North Korea & Iran are the top four for every demographic.*

*Republican voters are more likely to see China and Iran as threats than Democratic voters.*

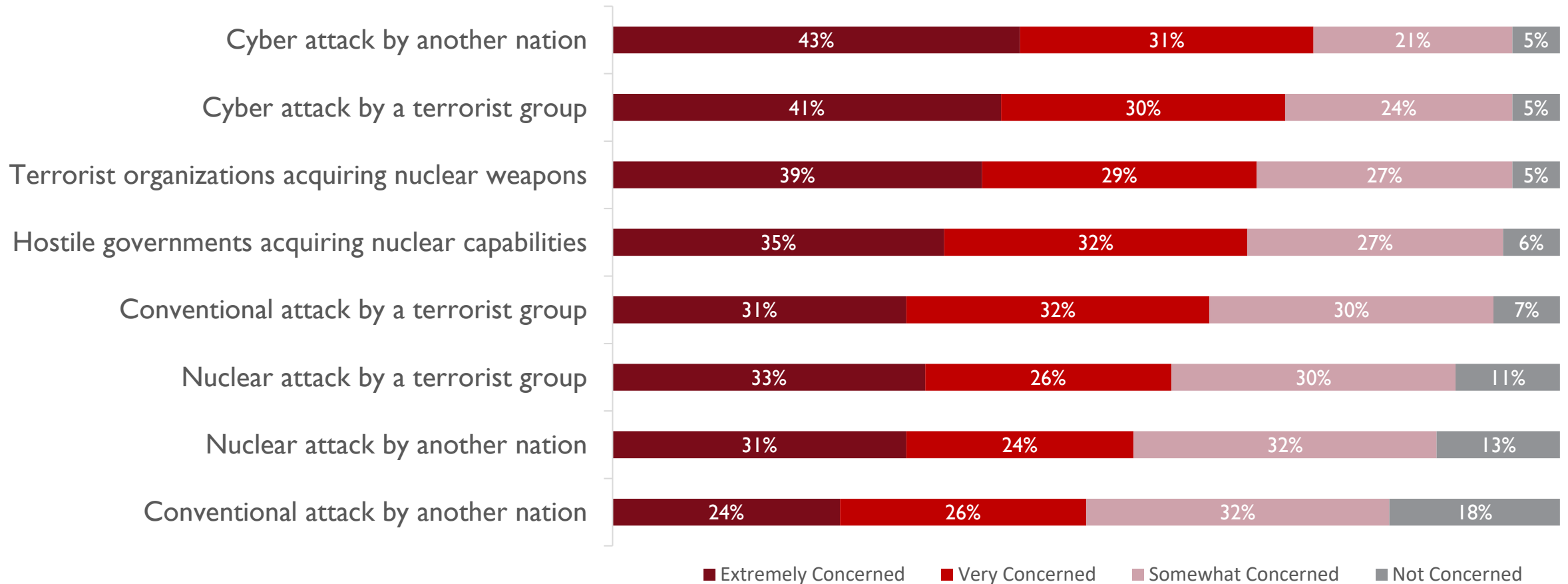
*Democratic voters are more likely to see Russia and North Korea as threats than Republican voters.*



# WHAT KEEPS VOTERS UP AT NIGHT...

*Of note – there isn't much difference between the SOURCE of these threats (except conventional attack).  
Also note nuclear attack is of slightly lower concern which could suggest deterrence is effective.*

*Please indicate your level of concern for each of the following national security threats.  
(Displaying total numbers only)*

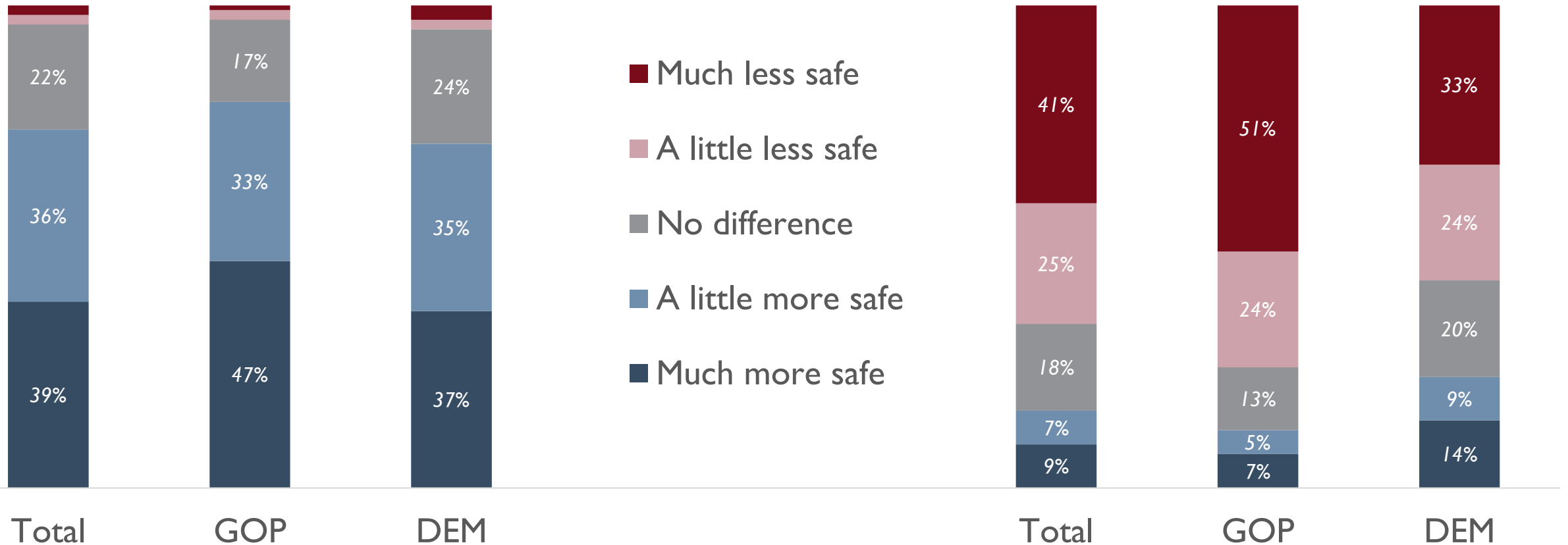


# MILITARY SUPERIORITY ABSOLUTELY CONTRIBUTES TO SENSE OF SECURITY:

*It's one thing to show that military superiority makes us feel safer – but theoretically removing that superiority catalyzes a drastic shift in opinion showing that Americans DO derive a significant portion of their sense of security from military superiority.*

*Does knowing that the United States has global military superiority make you feel more safe, less safe or does it not make a difference?*

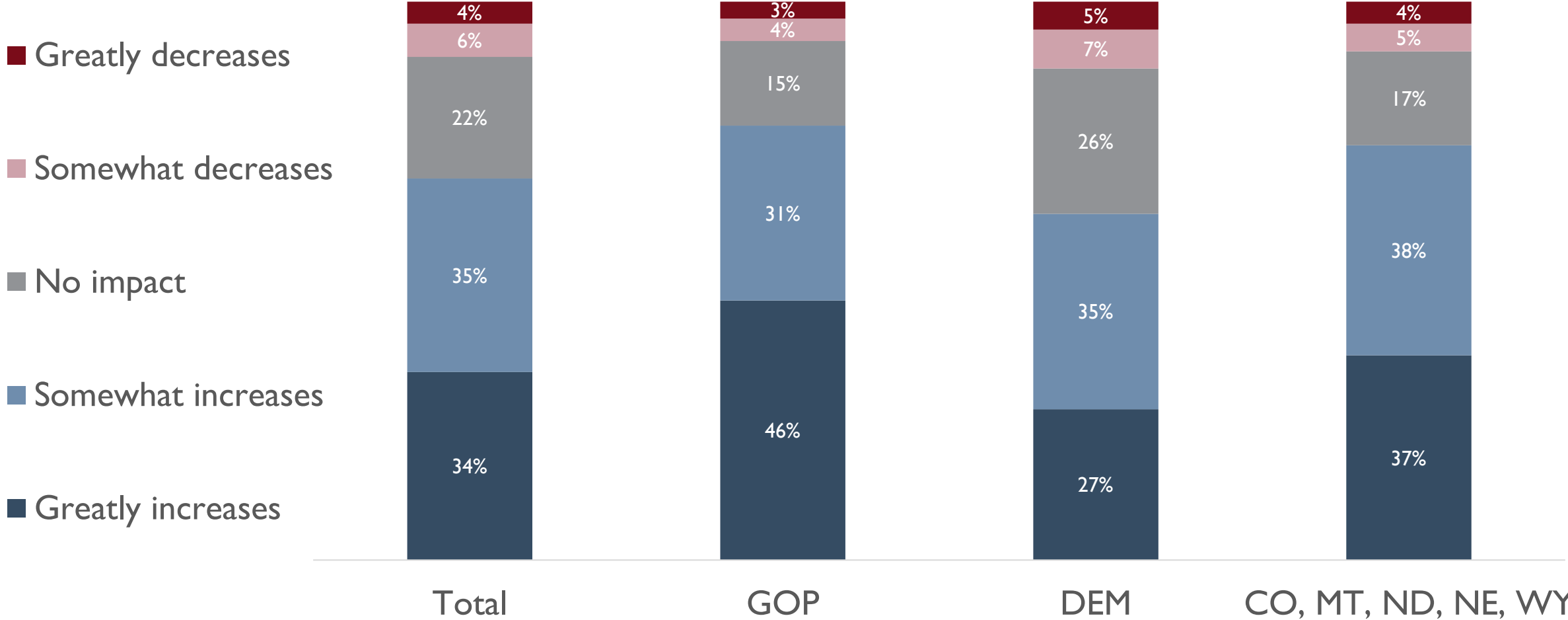
*If China or Russia had global military superiority would that make you feel more safe, less safe or does it not make a difference?*



# SPENDING ON NATIONAL DEFENSE INCREASES FEELINGS OF SECURITY.

77% of Republican voters and 62% of Democratic voters agree.

*Do you believe that spending on national defense projects increases or decreases your feeling of security, or does it have no impact?*



# STRATEGIC NUCLEAR DETERRENCE:

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UNDERSTANDING VOTERS' SENTIMENT ABOUT NUCLEAR DETERRENCE

# KEY FINDINGS

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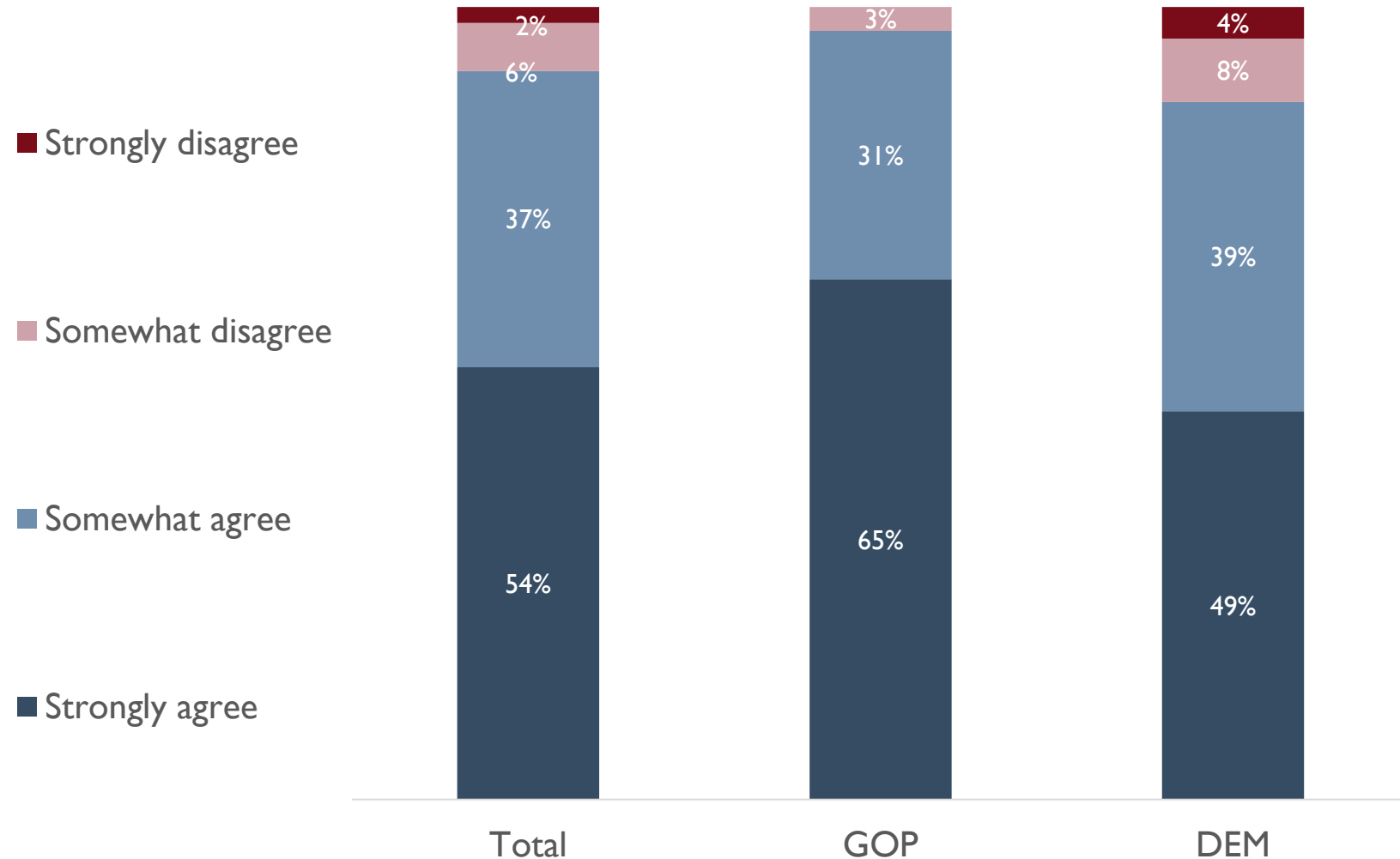
- Americans agree that having a modern deterrence system is a critical priority for the Department of Defense.
- After being given baseline context about current ICBM lifecycle and capabilities, voters would prefer that the missiles be replaced with a modern system rather than being refurbished or phased out.
- Most voters are supportive of either increasing or continuing the current level of spending on nuclear deterrence – and specifically on ground based strategic deterrence.

# 91%

of voters agree that nuclear deterrence capability is critical to our national safety and security and that it should be one of the highest priorities of the Department of Defense.

Over half **STRONGLY** agree.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
**"America's nuclear deterrence capability is critical to our national safety and security. It should be one of the highest priorities of the Department of Defense."**

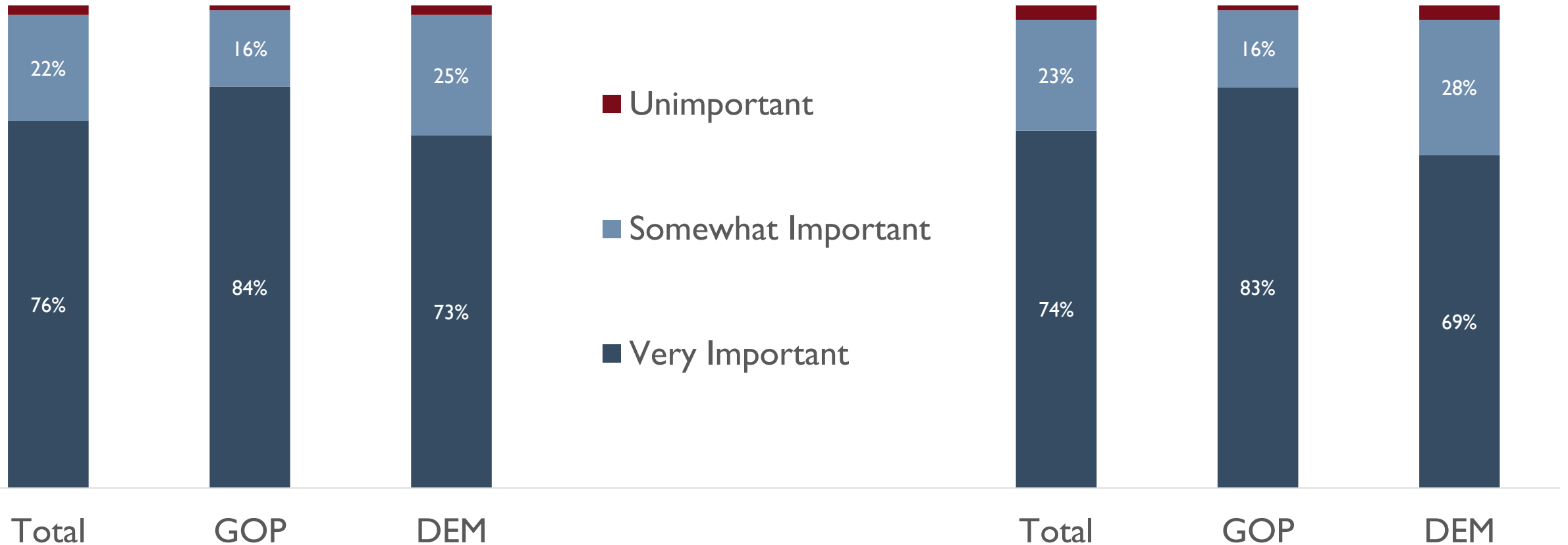


# MODERN DETERRENCE EQUALLY CRITICAL TO NATIONAL / GLOBAL SECURITY:

Nearly 3/4ths of voters believe that United States' modern nuclear deterrence capabilities are VERY important to achieving national and global security.

Is it important or unimportant to our **NATIONAL** security that the US has modern nuclear deterrence capabilities?

Is it important or unimportant to our **GLOBAL** security that the US has modern nuclear deterrence capabilities?

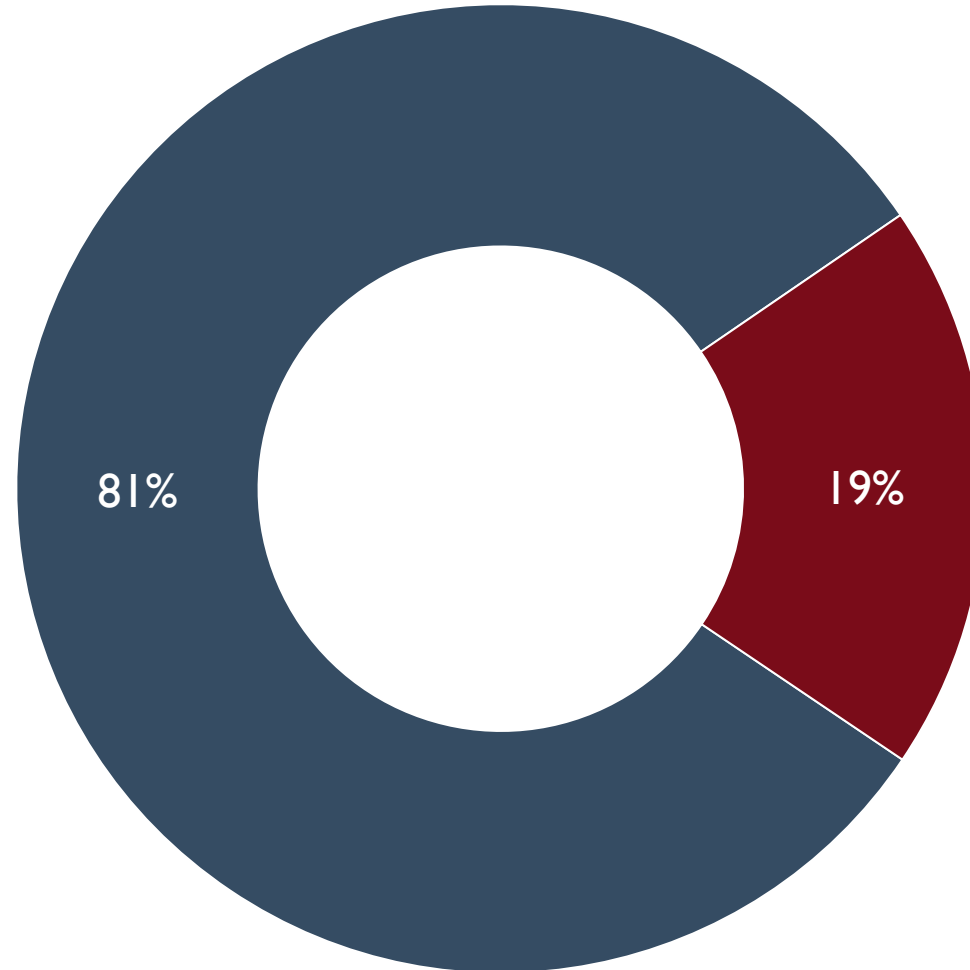




# SECURITY > COST FOR 8-IN-10 VOTERS.

When given a discrete choice between framing the value in terms of security versus cost, voters overwhelmingly choose security.

Which comes closest to your opinion?



**The United States should have ground-based nuclear defense capabilities.**

*Some say that without it, China and Russia could overtake America's military power.*

GOP	DEM	CO, MT, ND, NE, WY
88%	73%	84%

**The United States should not have ground-based nuclear defense capabilities.**

*Some say that it costs too much to maintain and that there are other options to keep the US safe.*

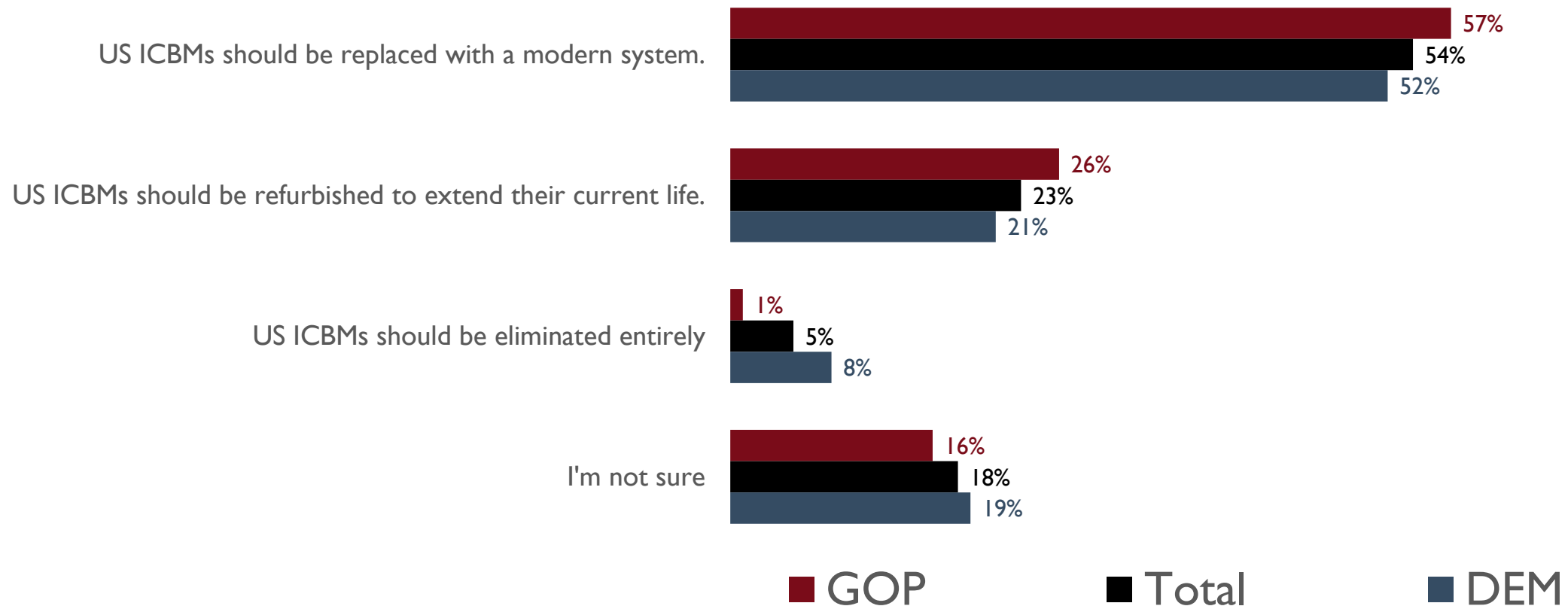
GOP	DEM	CO, MT, ND, NE, WY
12%	27%	16%

# A MAJORITY OF AMERICANS SUPPORT ICBM MODERNIZATION.

When told how old the current Minuteman III missiles and supporting systems are, most identify replacement as the best potential solution.

The current US ground-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) that are used for our ground-based nuclear response capabilities are all over 50 years old and require attention in order to function correctly.

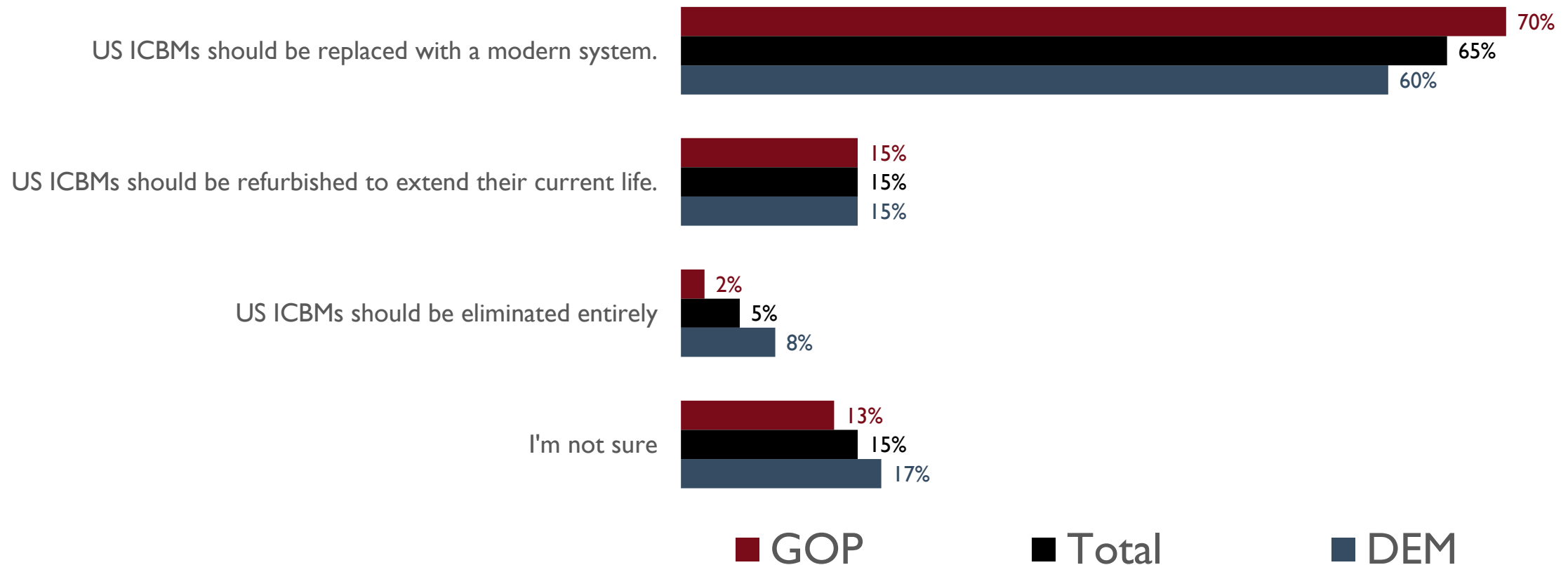
**Based on this information, which statement do you agree with most?**



# MODERNIZATION PROTECTS AGAINST GLOBAL THREATS.

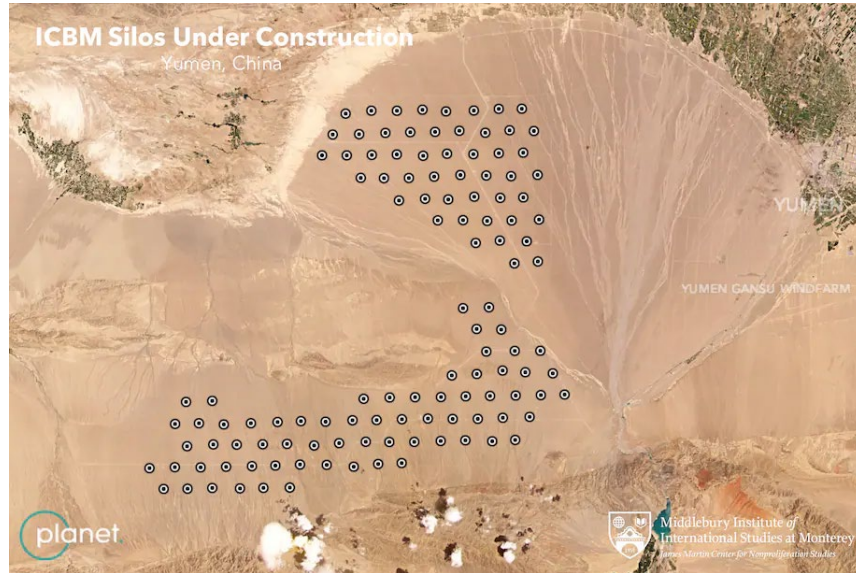
When given essential context about China and Russia's systems, 2/3rds of voters support replacement.

Over the last decade China and Russia have made significant investments in their country's nuclear weapons capability. For example, we estimate that the majority of Russia and China's systems are comprised of modern technology. **Based on this information, which statement do you agree with most?**



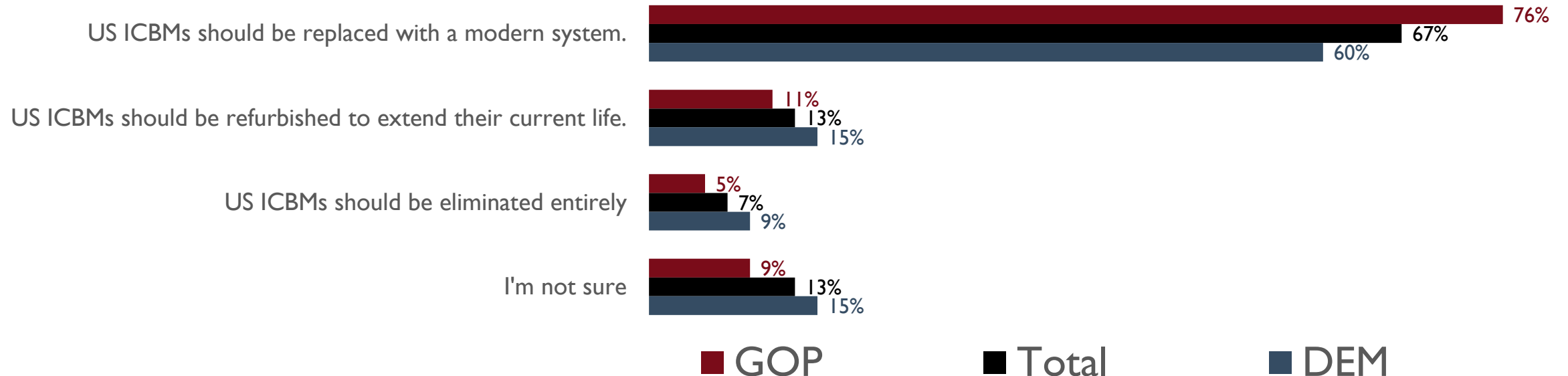
# WHEN VOTERS SEE CHINA'S NEW SILO CONSTRUCTION...

...fully two-thirds support replacement of US ICBMs with a modernized system.



Here is a photo of the 100 new missile silos China is currently building, which signal a major expansion of China's ground-based nuclear capabilities.

**Based on this information, which statement do you agree with most?**

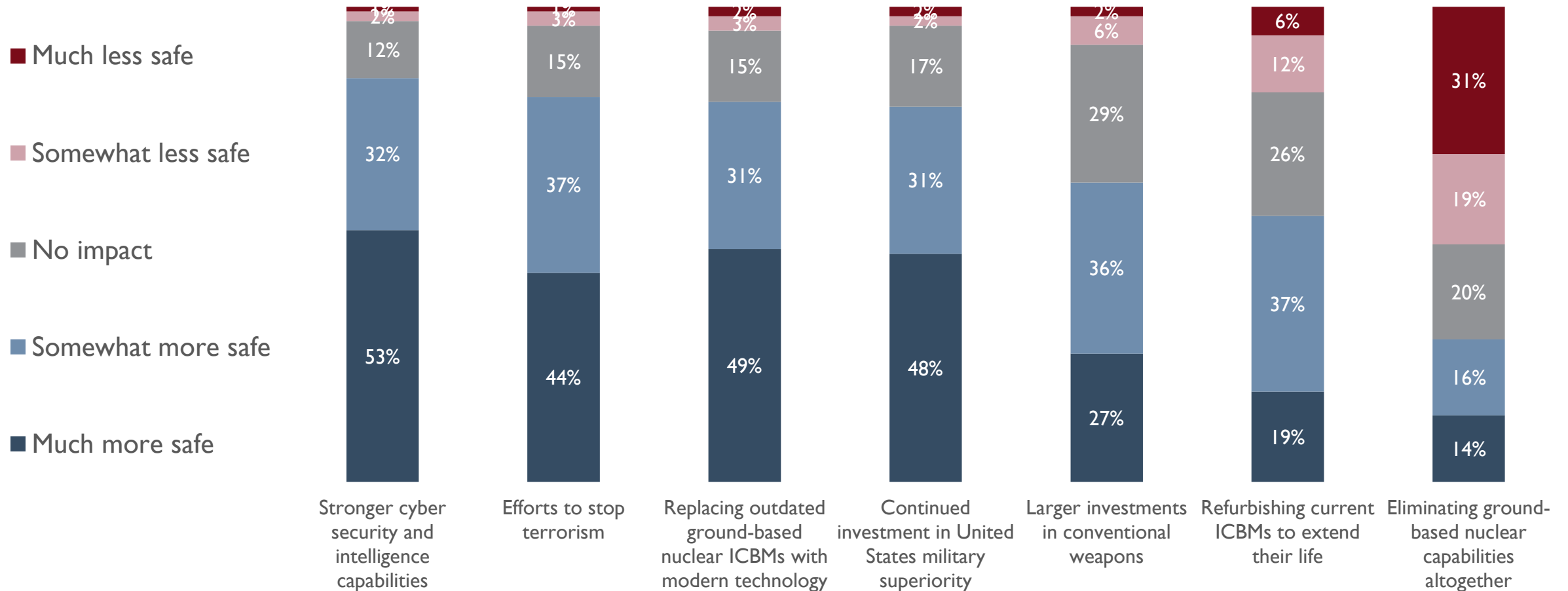


# IMPACT ON FEELINGS OF SECURITY:

80% of polled voters say that replacing ICBMs with modern technology would make them feel safer.

Just over half (56%) say that refurbishing current ICBMs would make them feel safer. And 18% believe it would make them feel less safe.

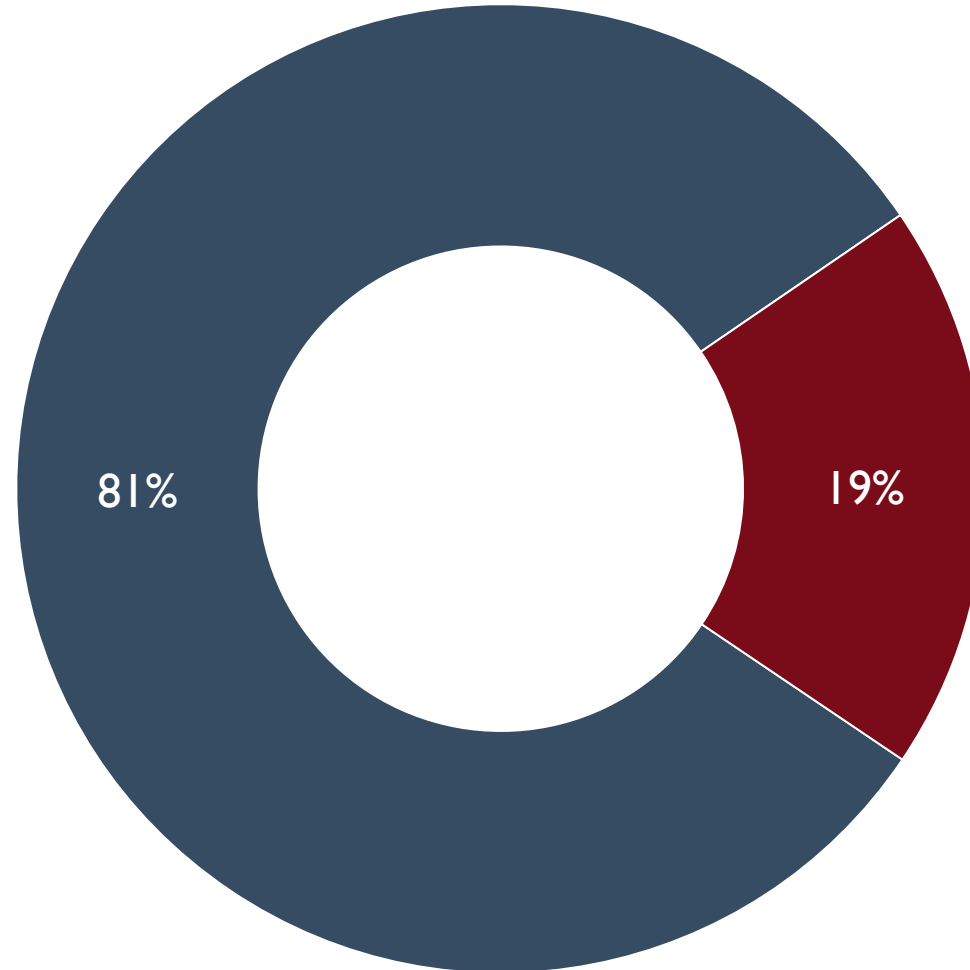
Regardless of how safe you consider the United States to be currently, would the following make you feel more safe, less safe, or have no impact? (Displaying total numbers only)



# 8-in-10 BELIEVE SPENDING ON MODERN NUCLEAR CAPABILITY IS JUSTIFIED.

A majority of members polled from both parties agree.

Which statement do you agree with MORE?



Ensuring that America has modernized, military nuclear capabilities contributes to my sense of national security, and we should therefore **spend military budget to appropriately modernize our capability.**

GOP	DEM	CO, MT, ND, NE, WY
89%	73%	74%

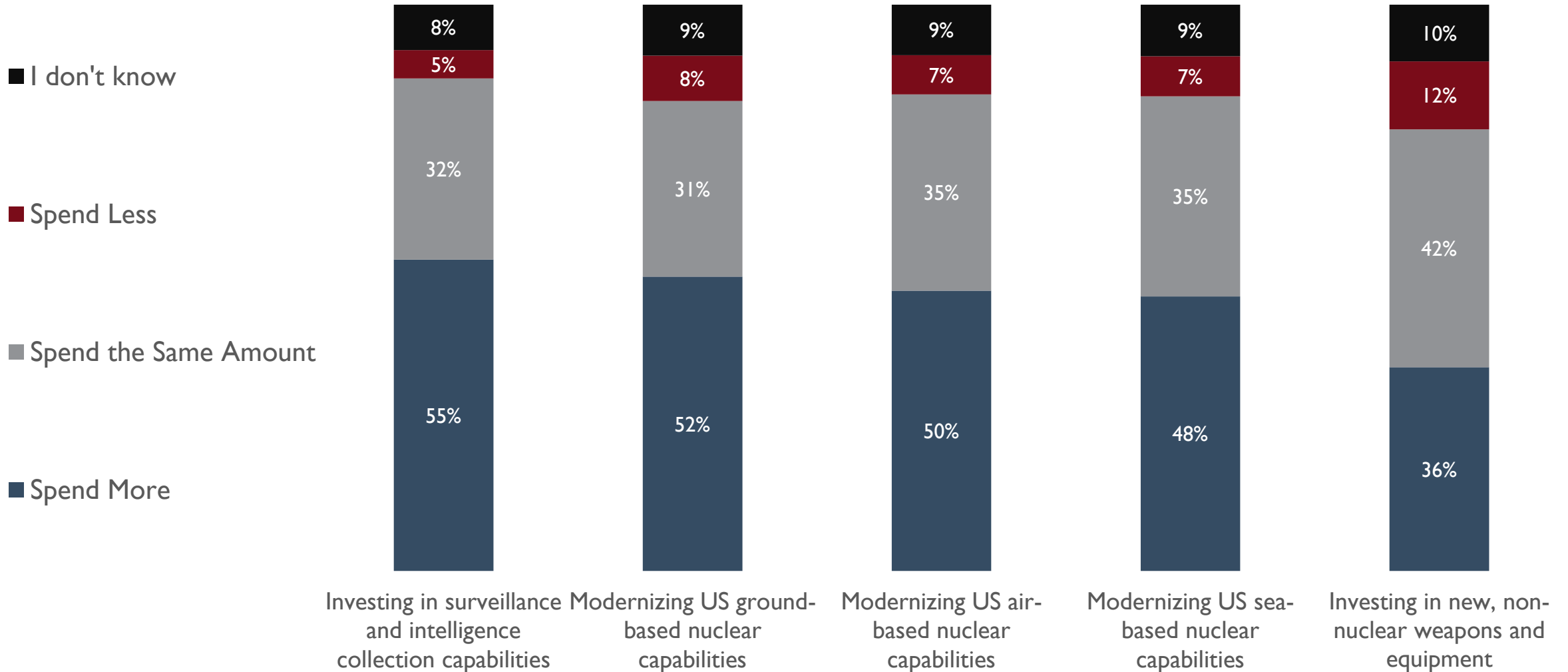
Ensuring that America has modernized, military nuclear capabilities does NOT contribute to my sense of national security, and we should therefore **NOT spend military budget to appropriately modernize our capability.**

GOP	DEM	CO, MT, ND, NE, WY
11%	27%	26%

# A MAJORITY WILLING TO SPEND MORE ON GBSD.

*This outranks the desire to spend on new, non-nuclear weapons and equipment.*

*In your opinion, should the United States spend more, less, or the same amount on the following defense projects? (Displaying total numbers only.)*



# VOTERS DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH SPENDING ON DETERRENCE.

87% of Republican voters and 75% of Democratic voters want to spend more or the same amount on nuclear deterrence.

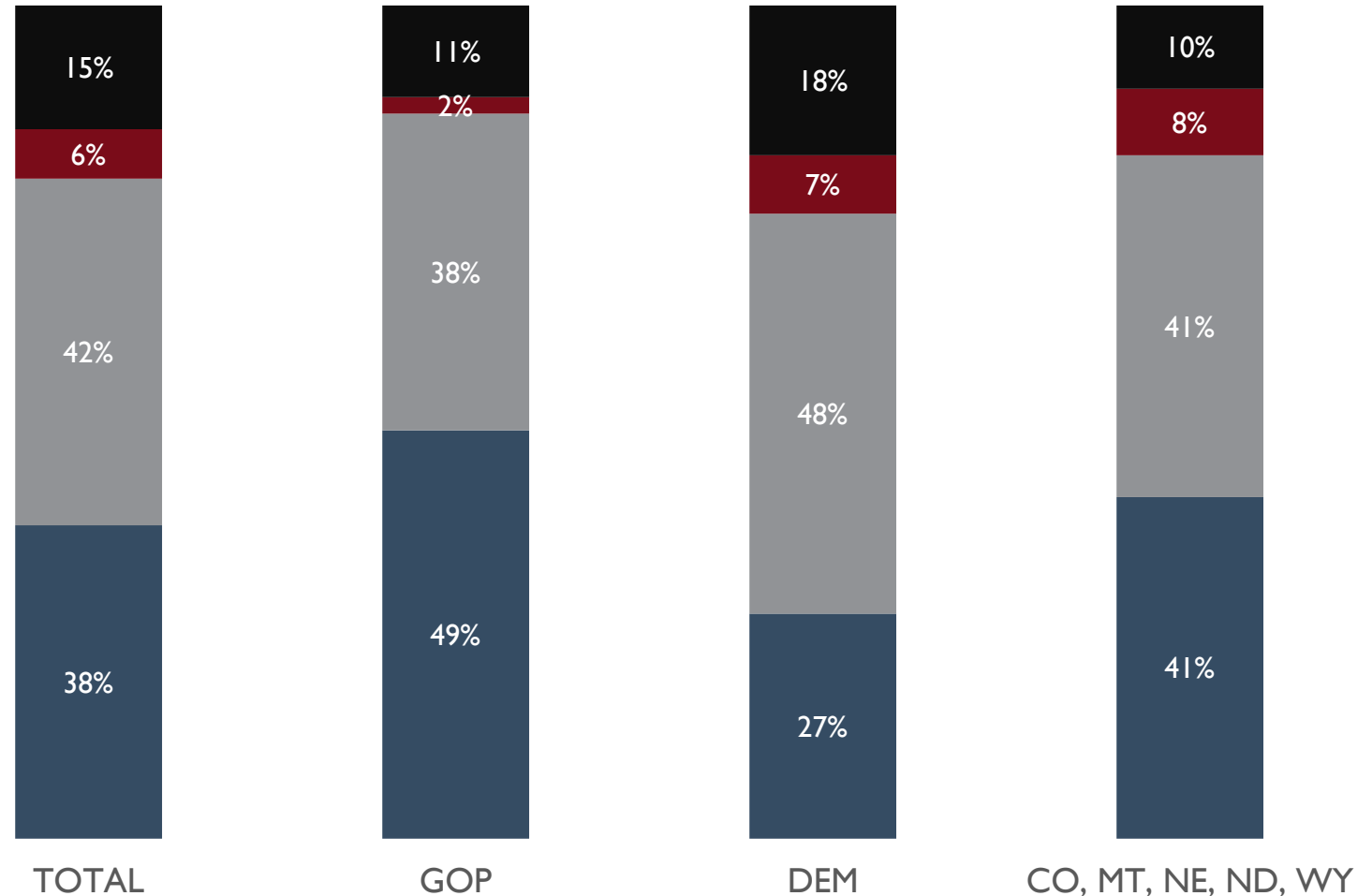
*Nuclear deterrence makes up less than 5% of our total defense budget.  
Should we continue to devote this percentage to nuclear deterrence?*

■ I don't know.

■ We should devote less to nuclear deterrence.

■ We should continue to devote 5% to nuclear deterrence.

■ We should devote more to nuclear deterrence.





# QUESTIONS?

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