
Political Polarization in Ohio: 2022 Election

Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics
The University of Akron



2022 Bliss Institute Poll

- Survey conducted by the Center for Marketing and Opinion Research
- Random sample of 1,550 Ohio eligible voters
- Conducted online, February 17-March 15, 2022
- Margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points

Major Findings

- **As the 2022 election approaches, Ohioans prefer Republican control of federal and Ohio governments**
- **These views reflect underlying factors:**
 - Partisanship
 - General conditions
 - Responses to COVID-19
 - Plus “Hot-button” issues:
 - *teaching about race in public schools*
 - *election reform*
 - *growth of federal programs*
 - *abortion restrictions*
 - *addressing climate change*

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- **The Democrats control the federal government.**

This year, would you like to see the Democrats continue to control the federal government or would you like to see the Republicans take control of the federal government for a change?

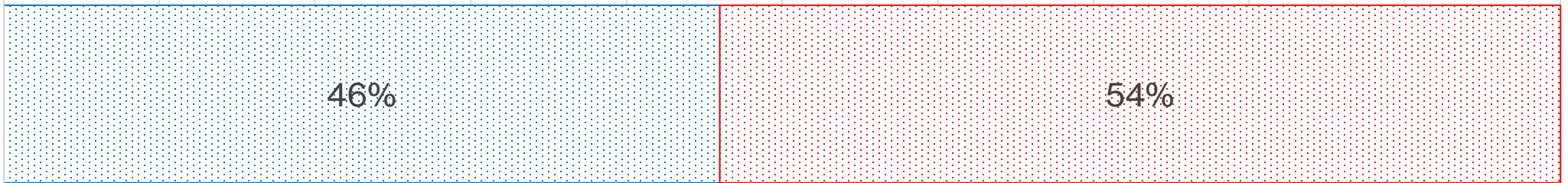
OHIO GOVERNMENT

- **The Republicans control Ohio state government.**

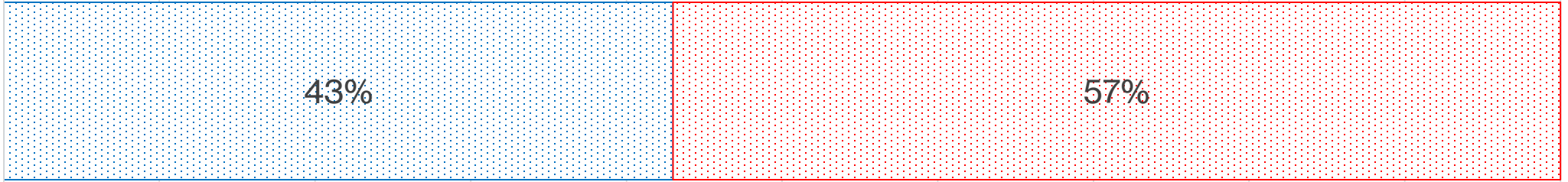
This year, would you like to see the Republicans continue to control Ohio state government or would you like to see the Democrats take control of Ohio state government for a change?

Partisan Control of Federal and Ohio Government

Federal Government

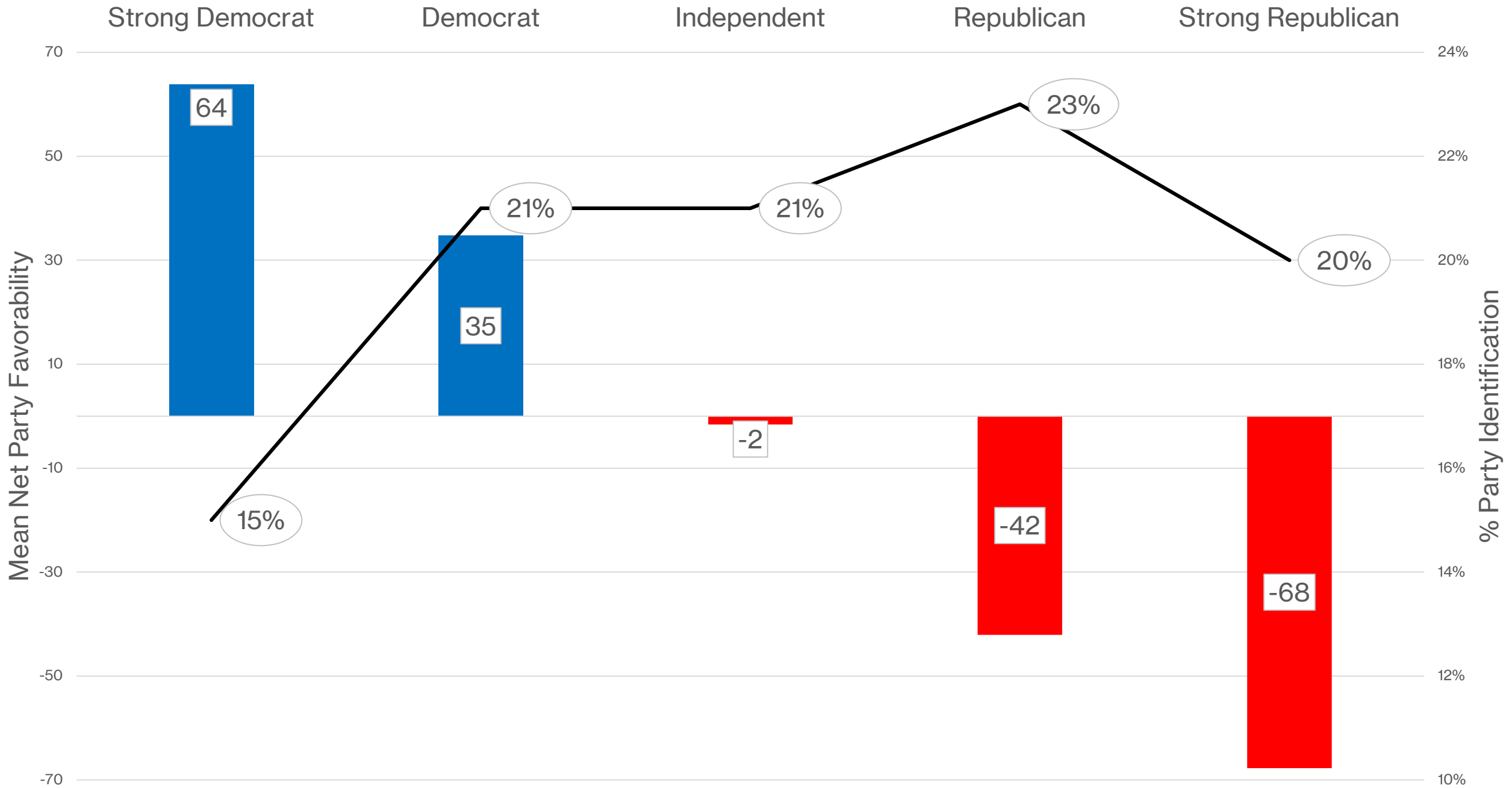


Ohio Government



■ Democrats control ■ Republicans control

Party Identification and Net Party Favorability



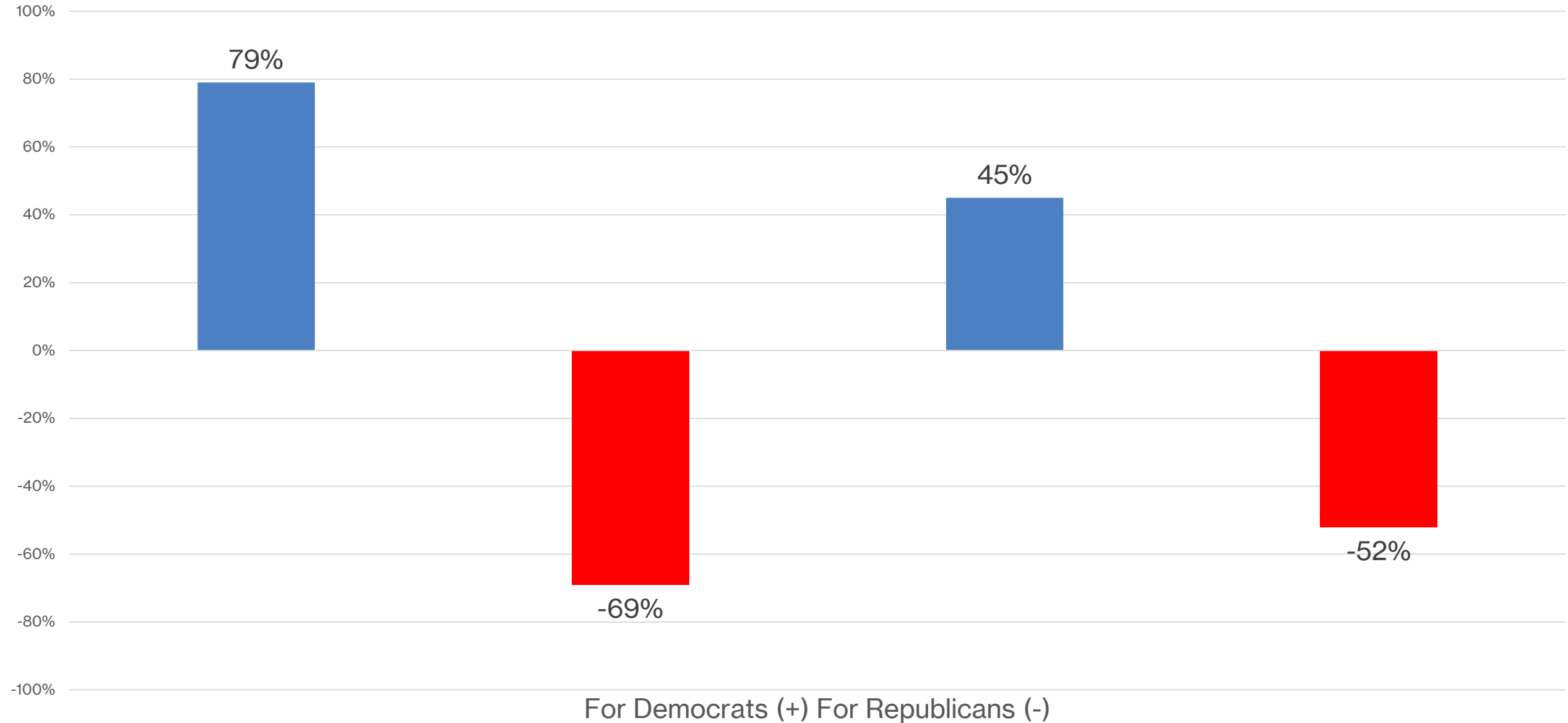
Partisan Control and Mean Net Party Favorability

Democrats control federal government

Republicans control federal government

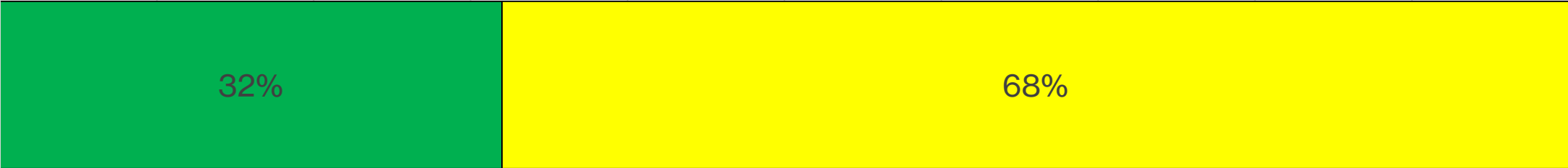
Democrats control Ohio government

Republicans control Ohio government

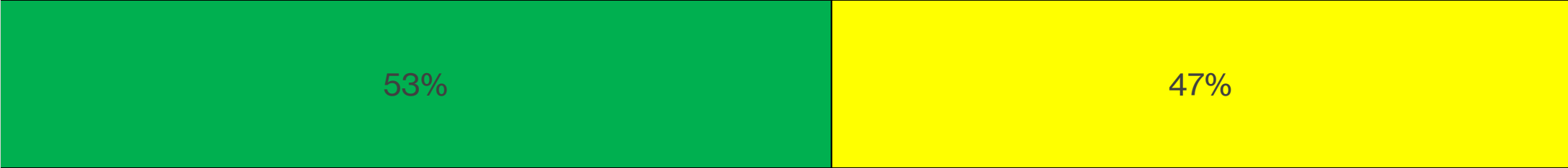


Right Track/Wrong Track, US and Ohio

United States



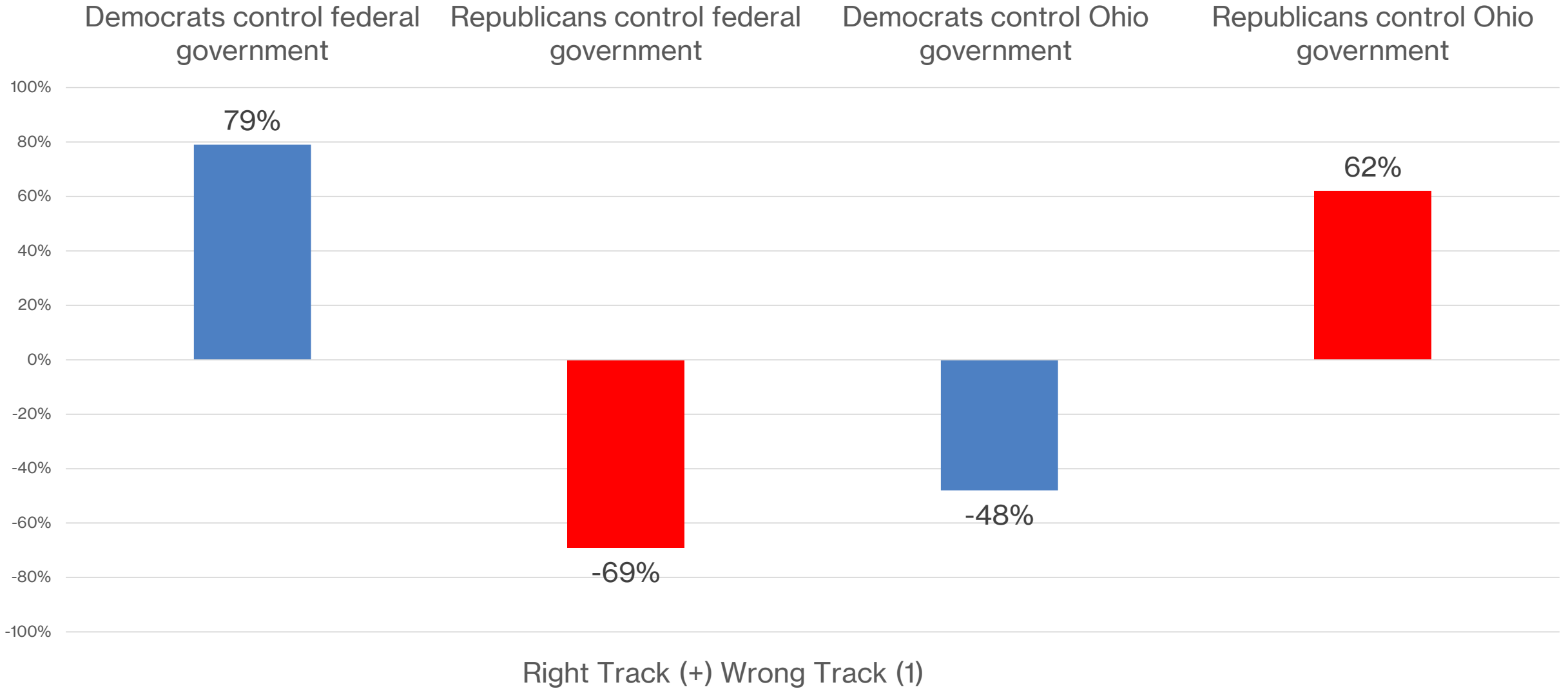
State of Ohio



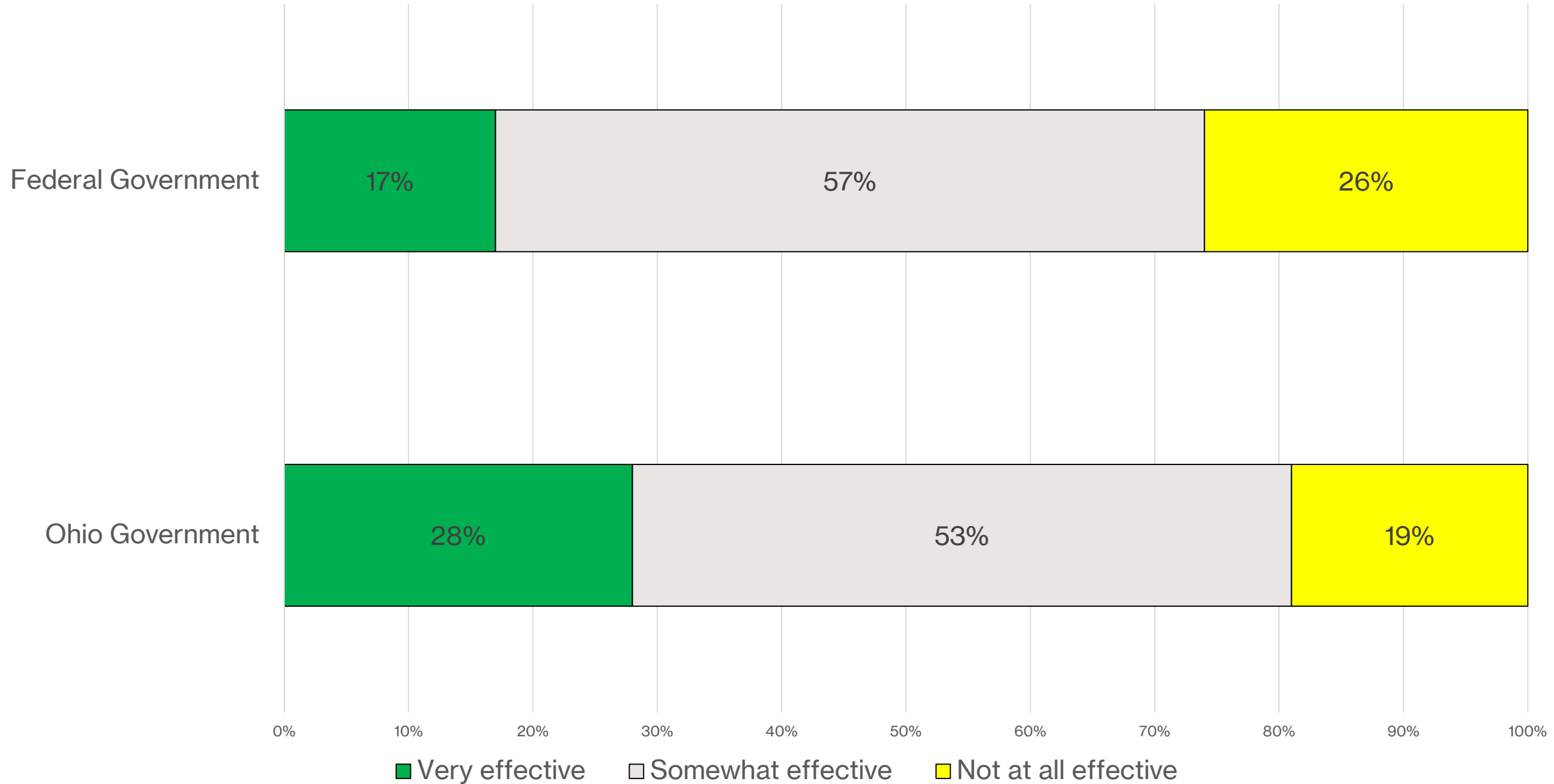
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

■ Right track ■ Wrong track

Partisan Control and Right/Wrong Track



Effectiveness of Responses to COVID-19



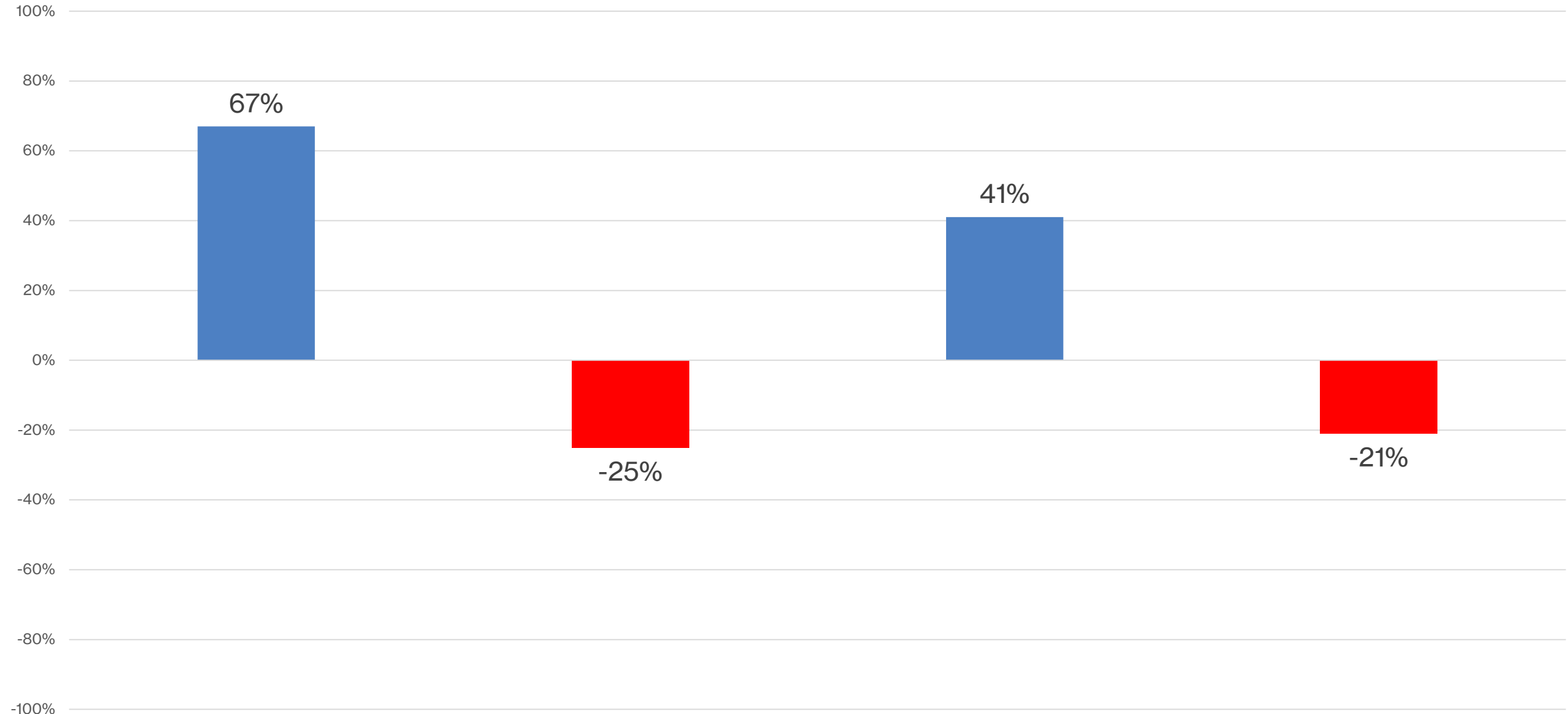
Partisan Control and COVID Response

Democrats control federal government

Republicans control federal government

Democrats control Ohio government

Republicans control Ohio government



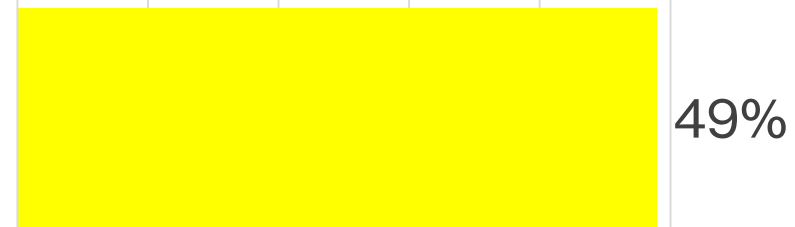
Response Effective (+) Ineffective (-)

Teaching about Race in Public Schools

The systematic racism of our society must be taught in public schools



Divisive claims about systemic racism in our society should not be taught in public schools



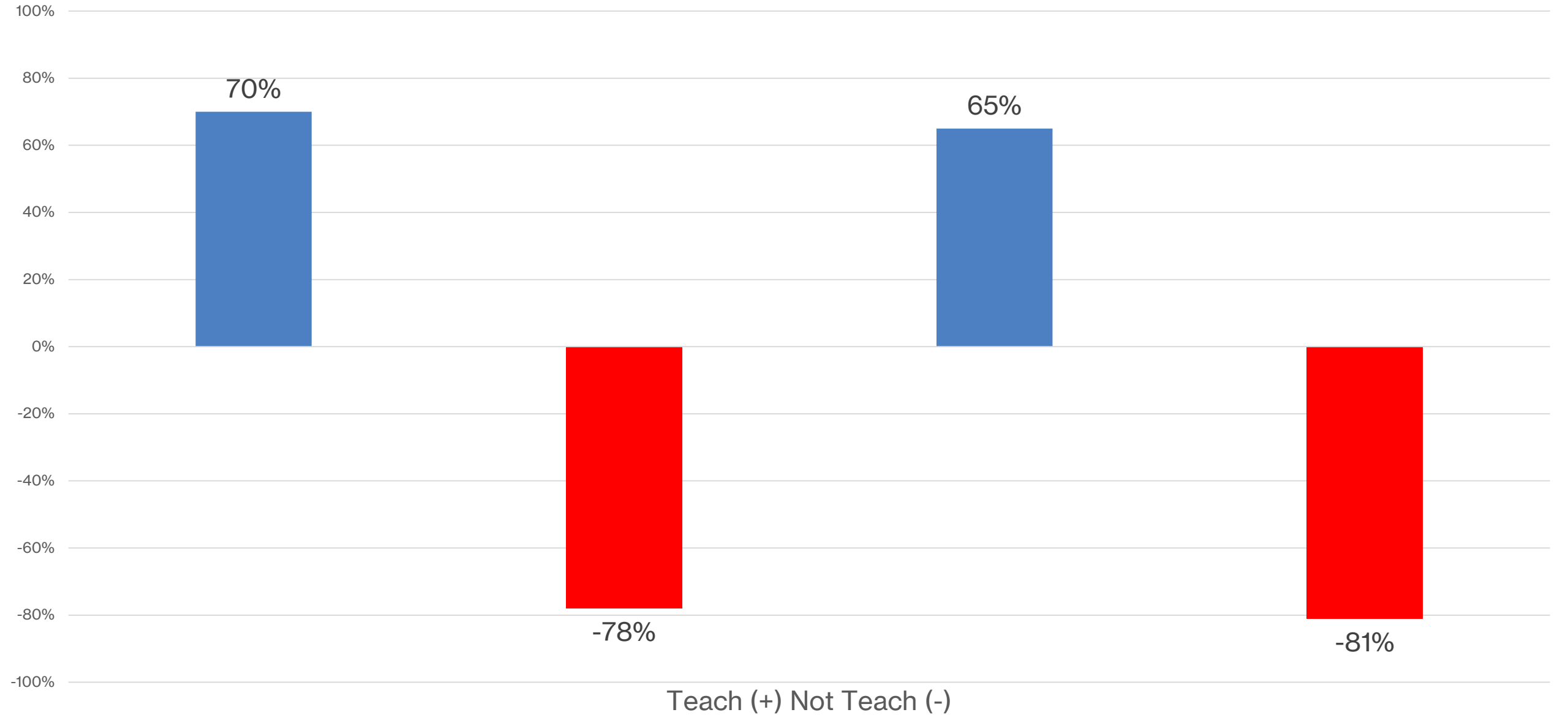
Partisan Control and Teaching about Race in Public Schools

Democrats control federal government

Republicans control federal government

Democrats control Ohio government

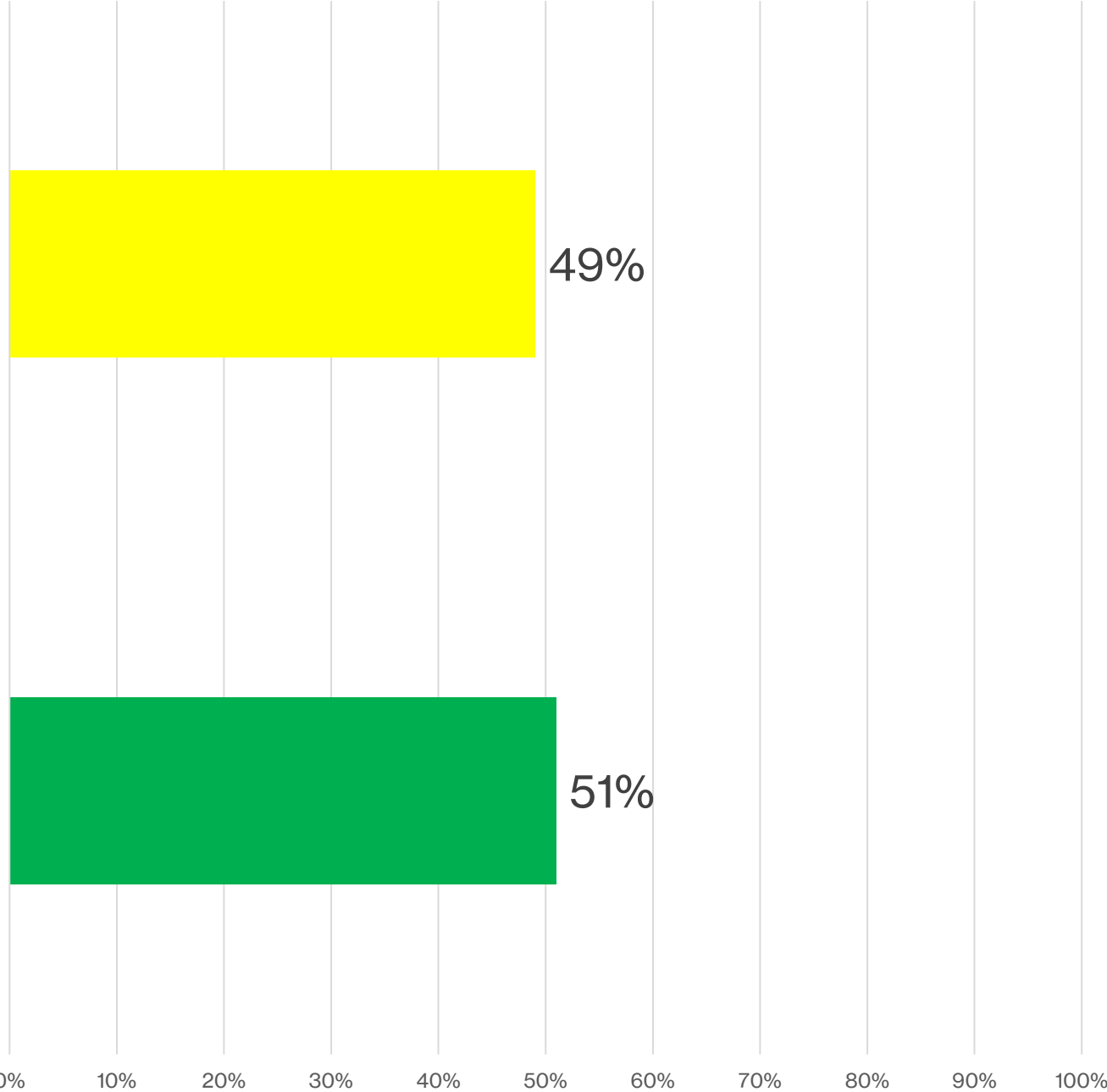
Republicans control Ohio government



Election Reform

US elections are being rigged to allow voting fraud and ballot box stuffing

49%



Fears of voter fraud are exaggerated, and too much regulation may prevent poor and minority voters from voting

51%

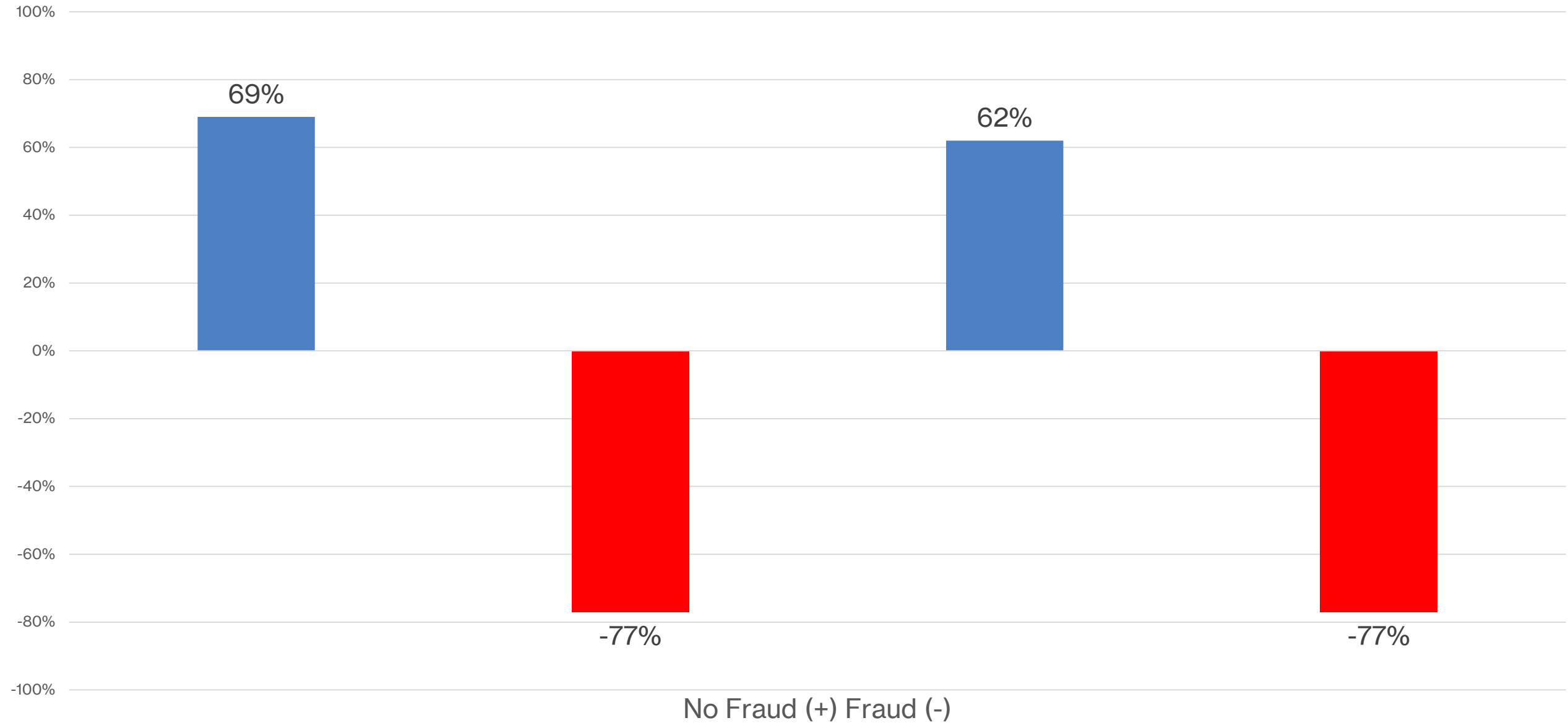
Partisan Control and Election Reform

Democrats control federal government

Republicans control federal government

Democrats control Ohio government

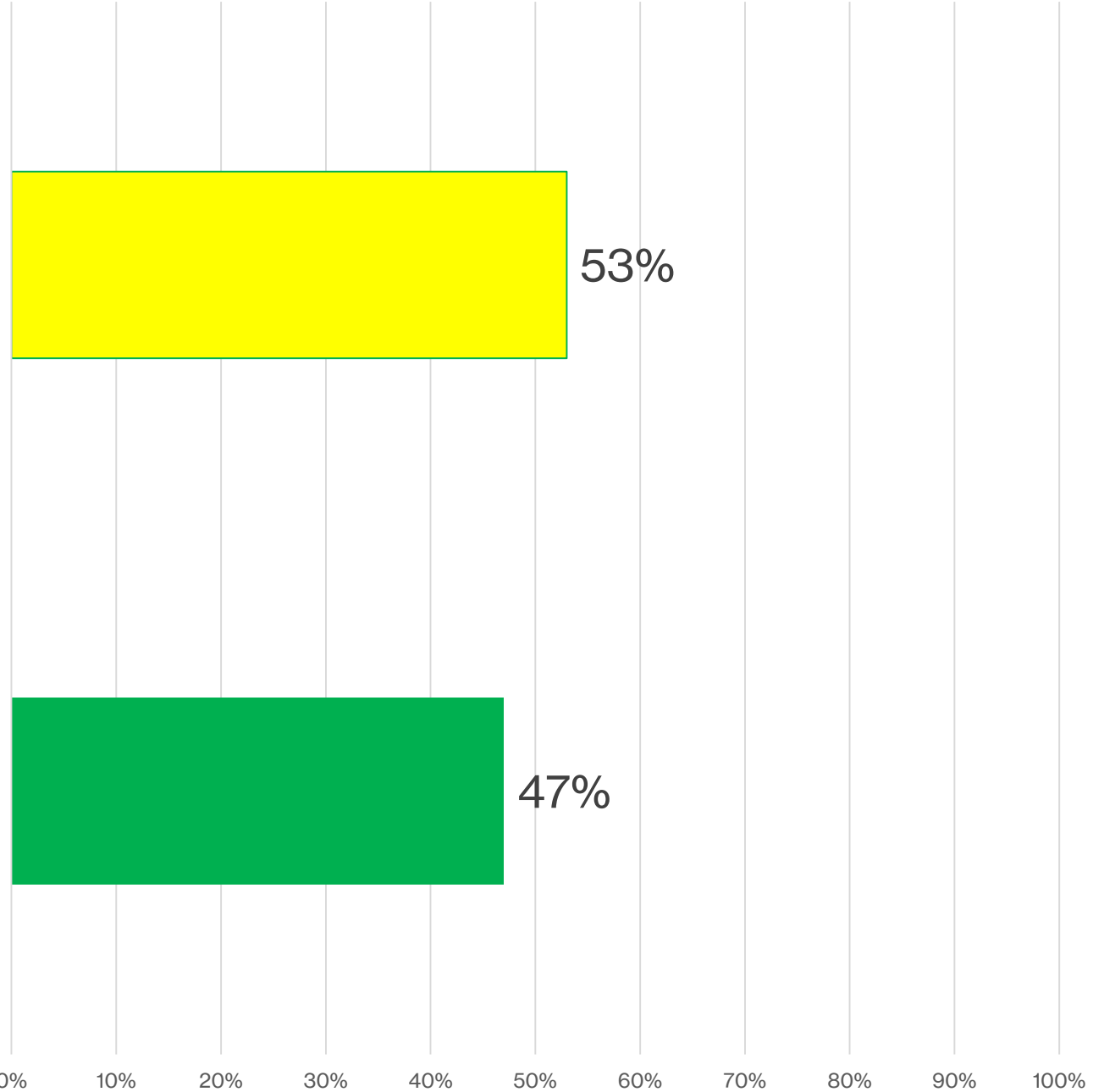
Republicans control Ohio government



Growth of Federal Programs

The steady growth of federal programs will turn the United States into a socialist country

53%



Fear of socialism is exaggerated, and limiting federal programs will delay justice in the country

47%

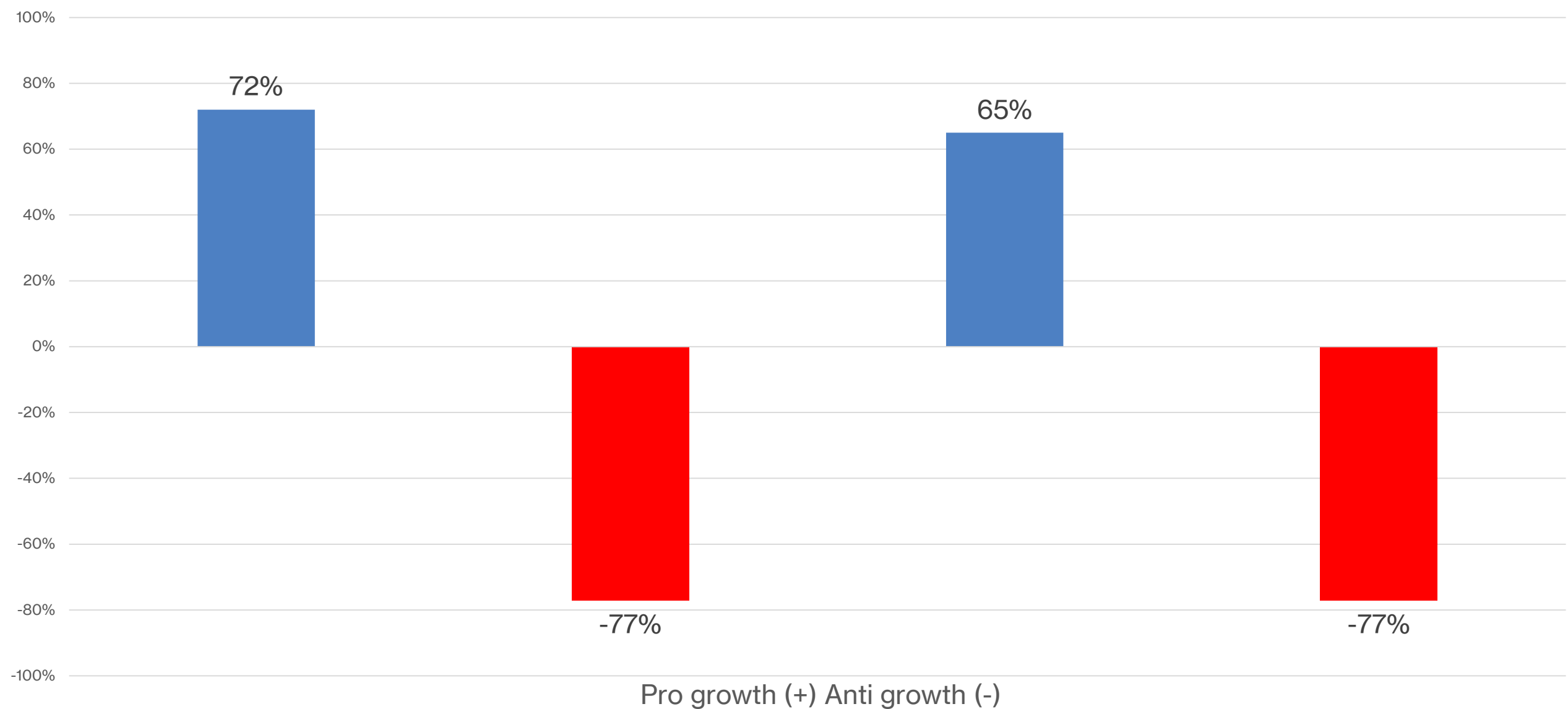
Partisan Control and Federal Program Growth

Democrats control federal government

Republicans control federal government

Democrats control Ohio government

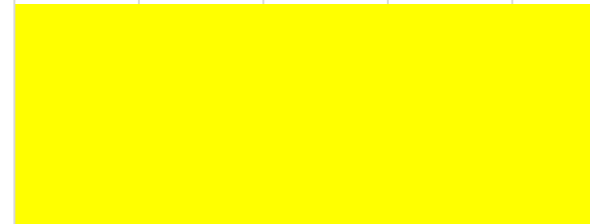
Republicans control Ohio government



Abortion Restrictions

State governments must be allowed to prohibit abortions after the first fifteen weeks of pregnancy

47%



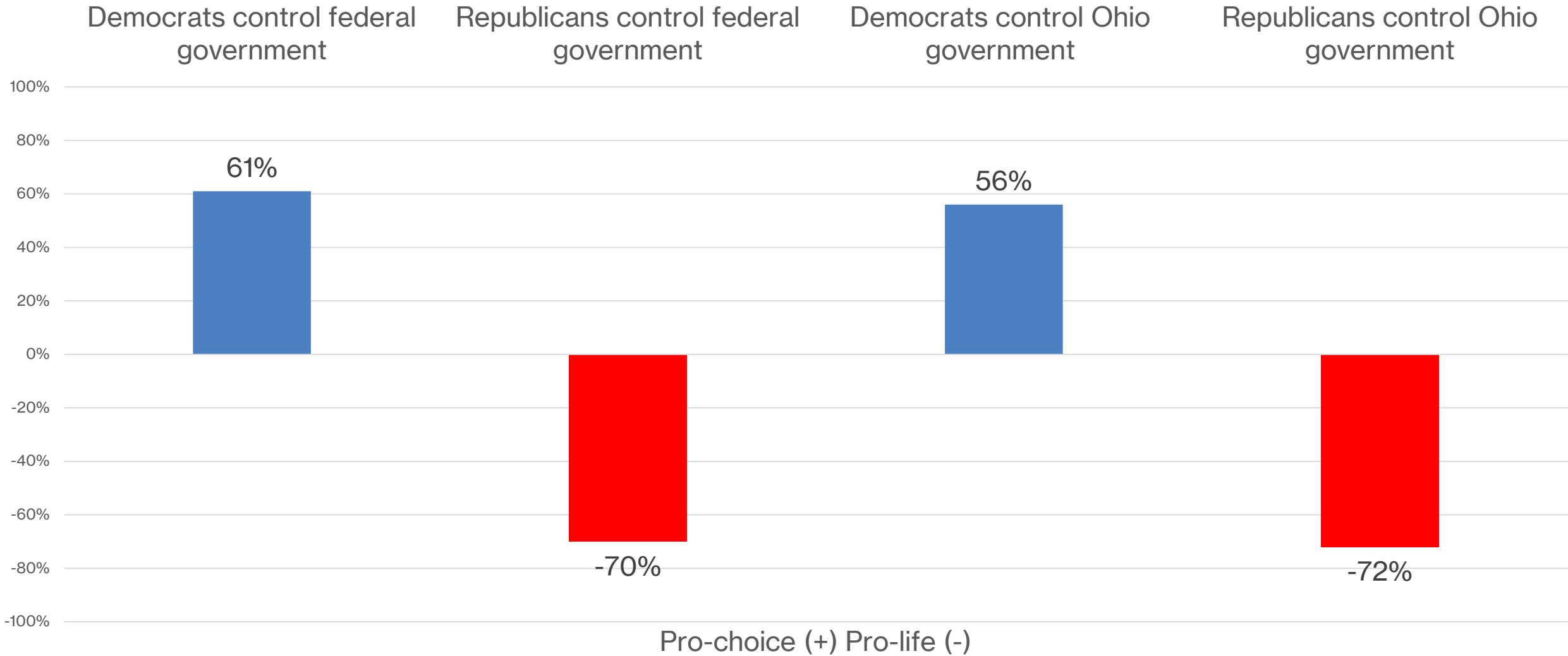
State governments must not be allowed to prohibit abortions after the first fifteen weeks of pregnancy

53%



0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Partisan Control and Abortion Restrictions



Addressing Climate Change

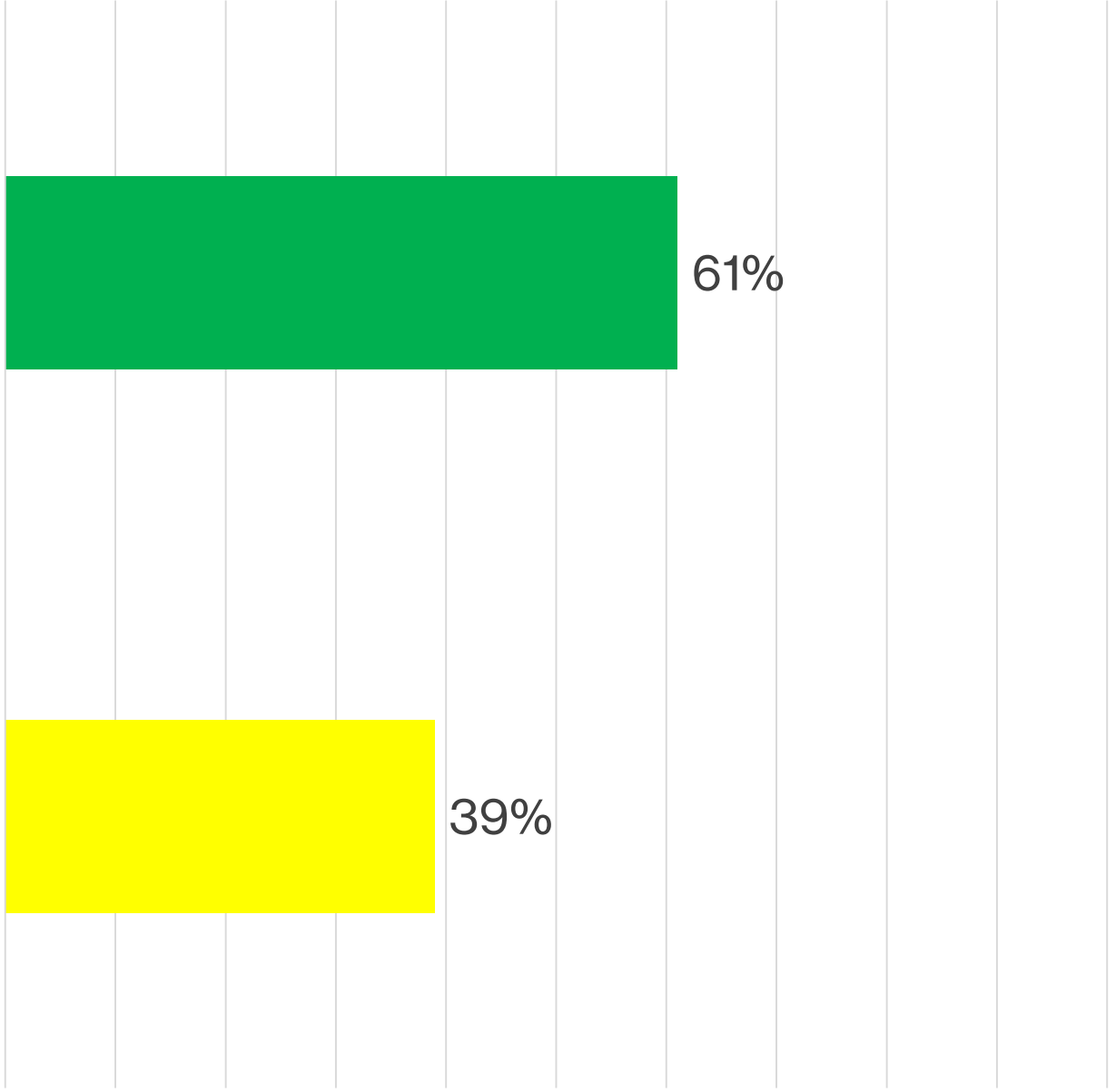
Due to the dangers of climate change, it is crucial to take immediate steps to address the issue

61%

Dangers from climate change are exaggerated and the issue can be addressed steadily over time

39%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%



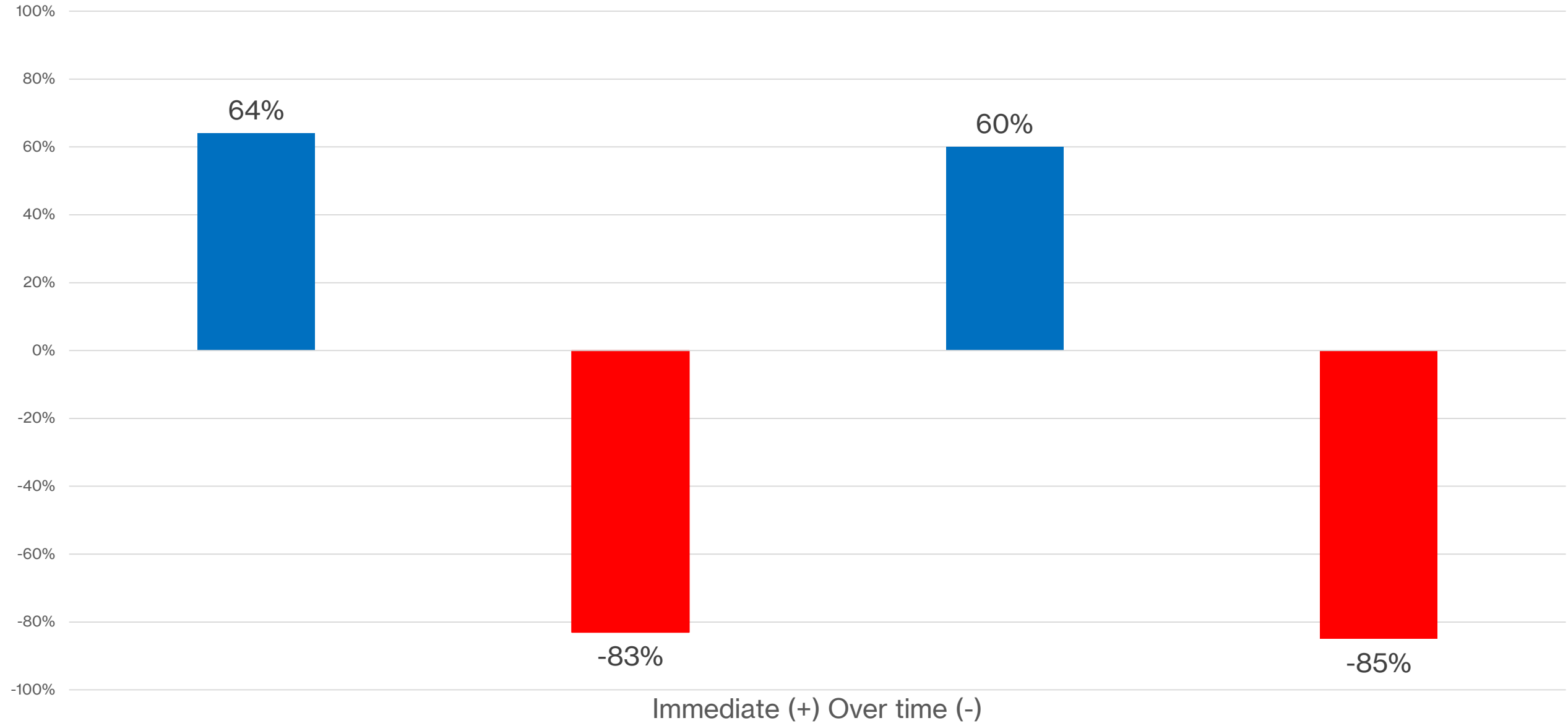
Partisan Control and Addressing Climate Change

Democrats control federal government

Republicans control federal government

Democrats control Ohio government

Republicans control Ohio government



Conclusions

- **2022 is likely a good Republican year**
- **Strong impact of partisan divisions**
- **Differential impact of general conditions**
- **Limited impact of response to COVID**
- **Strong impact of hot-button issues**
- **Candidates and campaigns will matter**

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