

# Voter Opinions on the Clean Electricity Performance Program (CEPP)

EPSA Polling Results

SEPTEMBER 2021

# KEY FINDINGS

1. More than three-fourths of U.S. voters voice **concern over the \$3.5 trillion price tag** of the infrastructure spending package brought forth by President Biden and Congressional Democrats, with most (58%) reporting they are *very or moderately concerned*.
2. Market-based strategies that leverage **competition and private investment** in clean energy are popular. Three-times as many voters prefer policies focused on market-based mechanisms for reducing emissions than allocating taxpayer dollars to reward utilities for reducing their carbon footprints (54% vs. 18%). Nearly three in five voters (58%) would support the passage of policies that promote competition among energy producers to minimize to cost of transitioning to lower emitting resources. Seven in ten voters (70%) agree that **competitive bidding** should be part of the process for determining who is paid to carry out energy infrastructure projects.
3. **Carbon pricing** as a means to incentivize emissions reductions has voter support, with four in seven voters (57%) saying they would support such a measure and relatively few voters (21%) opposing.
4. Voters consider **electrical reliability** a top priority to consider alongside goals of promoting reliance on green energy resources – older voters are particularly insistent on this. Voters are largely comfortable with continued reliance on **natural gas** to meet U.S. energy demands. Nearly three-quarters (73%) agree it should be included in clean energy policies. Just 11% of voters surveyed disagree.

CONTENTS

INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN PERCEPTIONS

EMISSIONS REDUCTION PREFERENCES

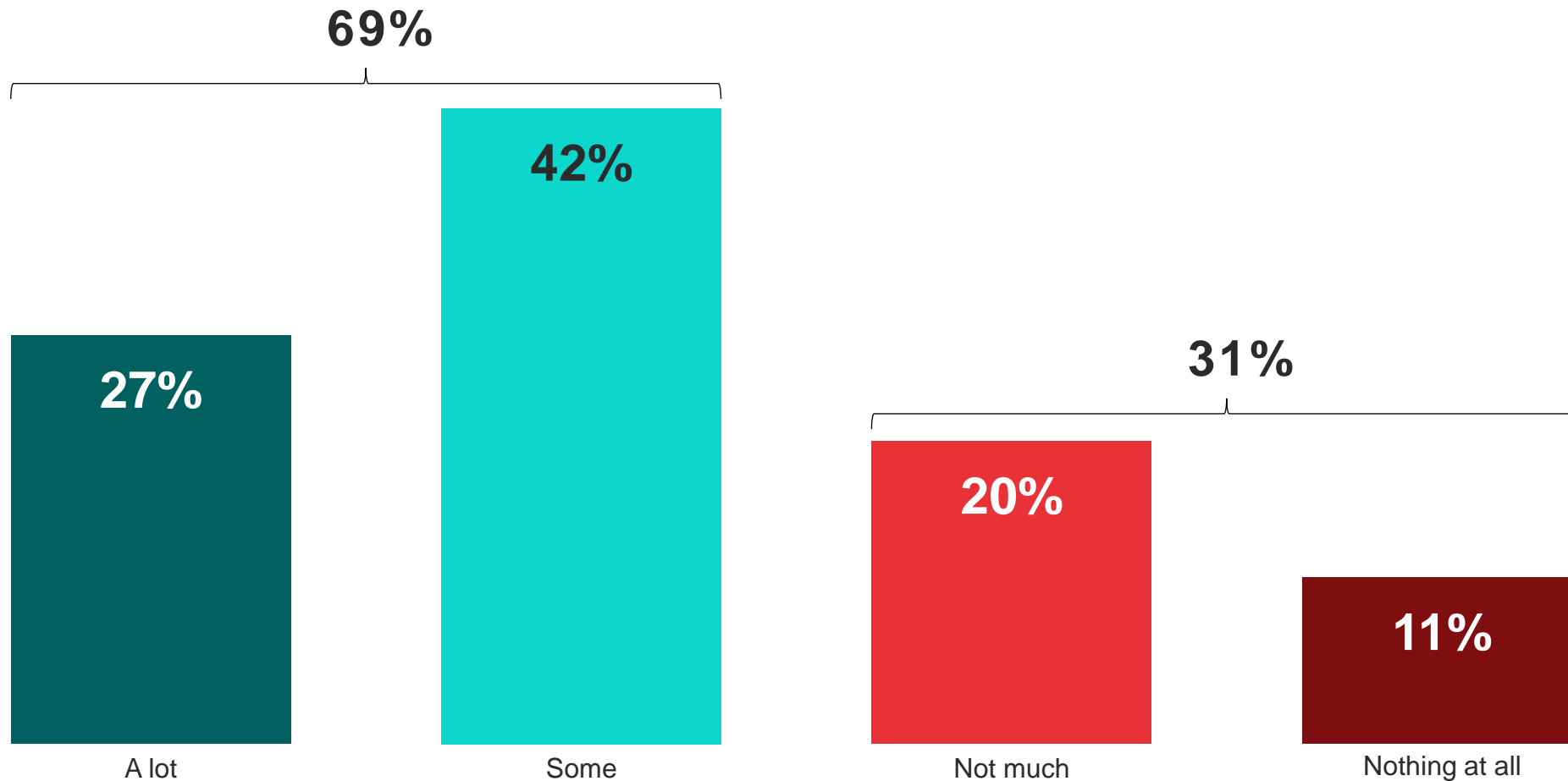
MARKET COMPETITION



## INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN PERCEPTIONS

More than two-thirds of U.S. voters have heard at least *some* about Biden's infrastructure plan recently, while only about one in ten report hearing *nothing at all*.

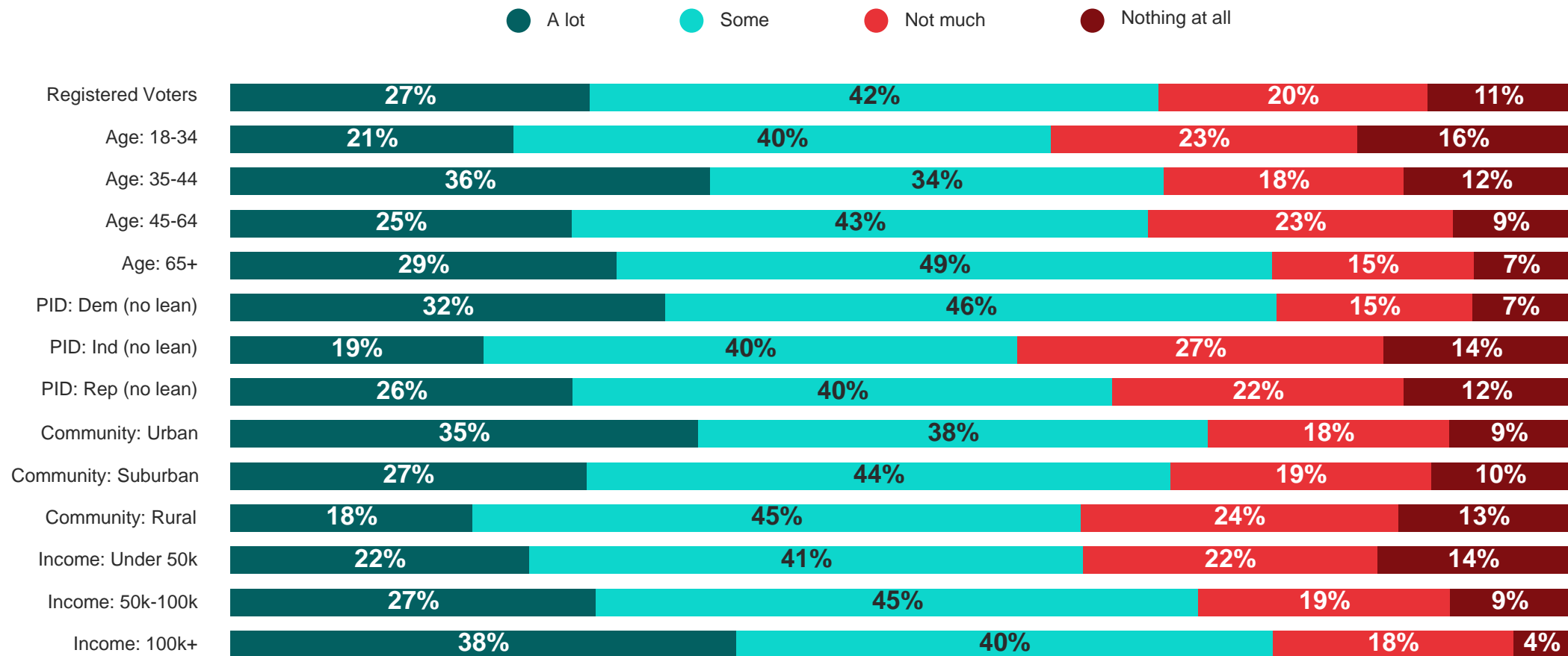
How much have you seen, read, or heard about President Biden's infrastructure plan in the past two or three months?



INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN PERCEPTIONS

Political independents, younger (<35) voters, and those who live in rural areas are among those *least familiar* with the proposed spending package.

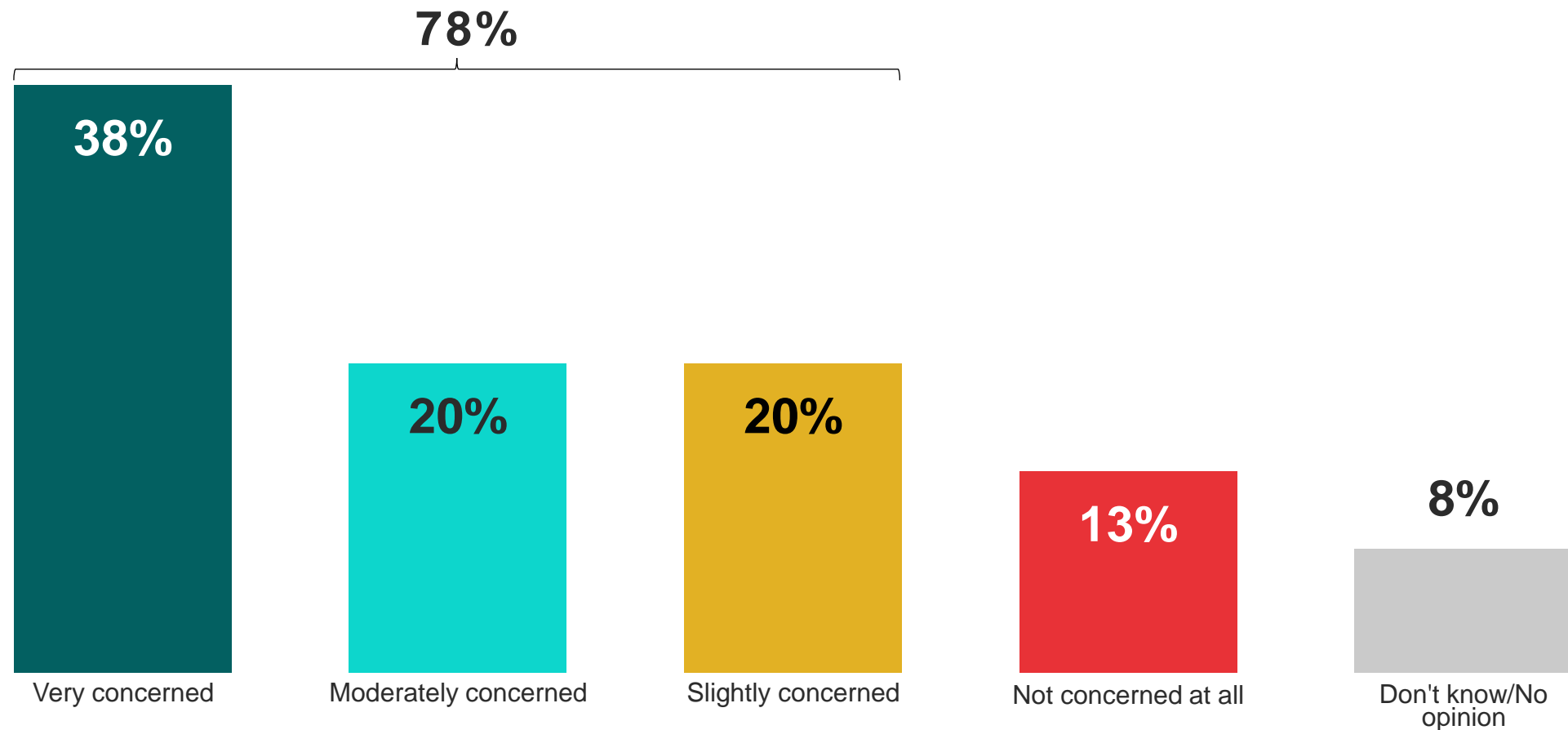
How much have you seen, read, or heard about President Biden's infrastructure plan in the past two or three months?



## INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN PERCEPTIONS

A plurality of voters surveyed are *very concerned* about the price tag of the Democrats' \$3.5 trillion infrastructure spending package. More than three-fourths of voters (78%) voice at least some concern.

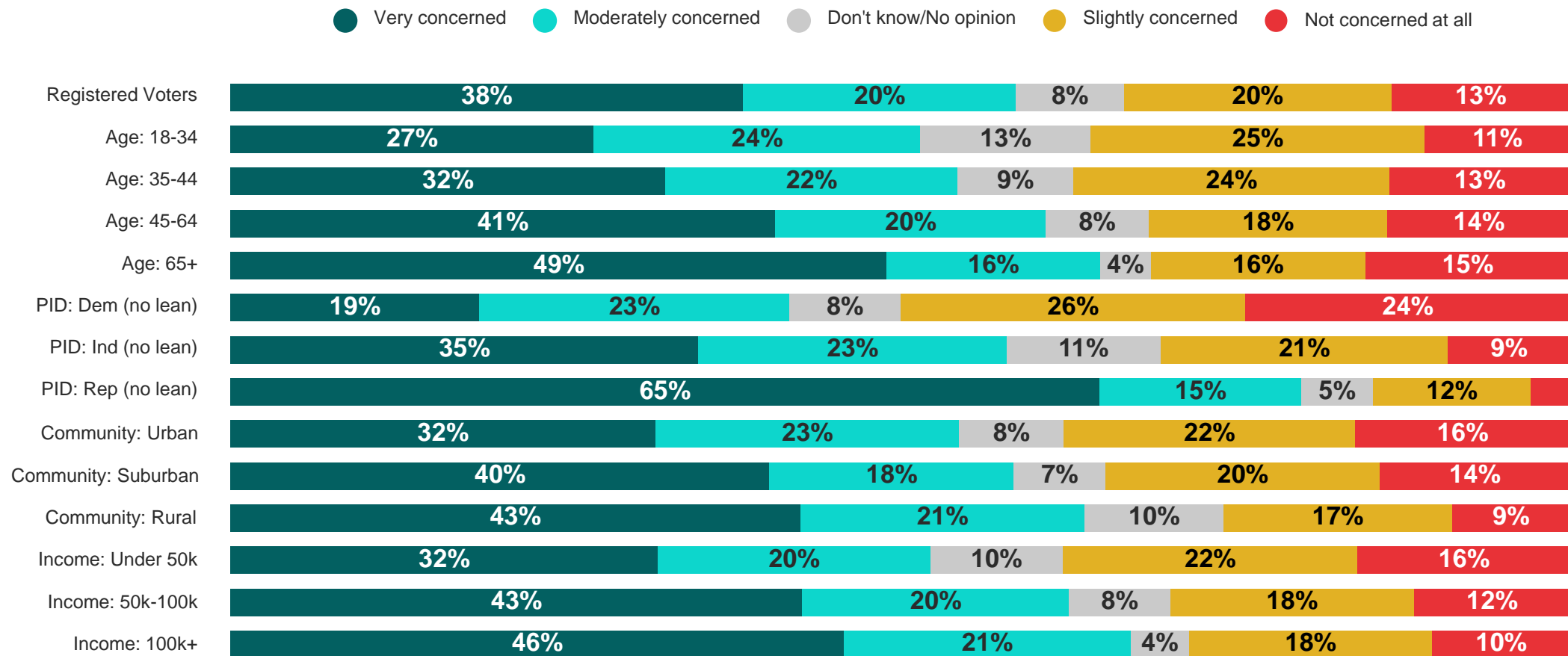
How concerned, if at all, are you by the cost of the \$3.5 trillion spending package currently under consideration by Congress?



INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN PERCEPTIONS

Concern about the price of the plan is driven primarily by Republican and senior voters. Younger, lower income, and Democrat voters voice less concern than others.

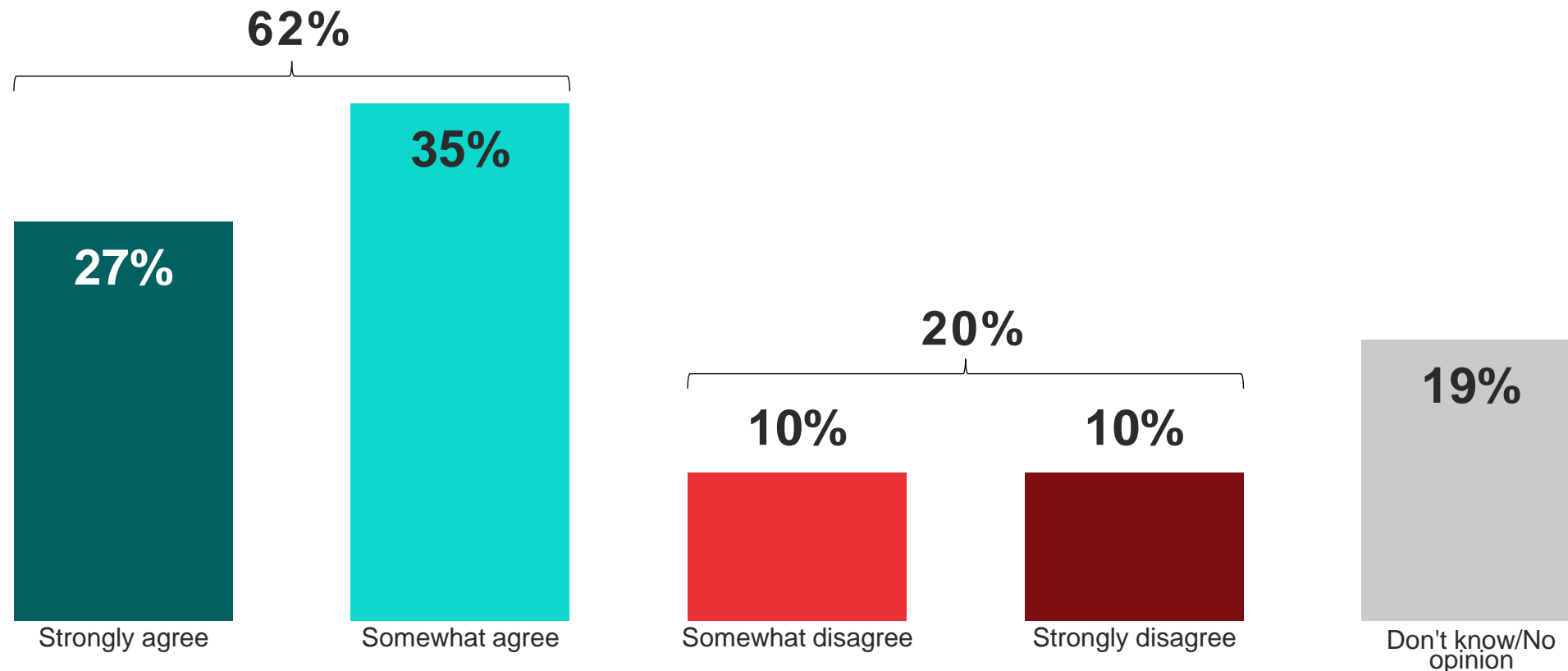
How concerned, if at all, are you by the cost of the \$3.5 trillion spending package currently under consideration by Congress?



INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN PERCEPTIONS

While agreement is mostly soft, more than three in five voters surveyed *agree* that Congress should require utilities to procure clean energy at the lowest possible cost.

The primary clean energy component of the spending plan, the Clean Energy Performance Program (CEPP), is currently estimated to cost at least \$150 billion. Do you agree or disagree that Congress should require utilities to procure the lowest cost clean energy resources to meet the goals under the CEPP?

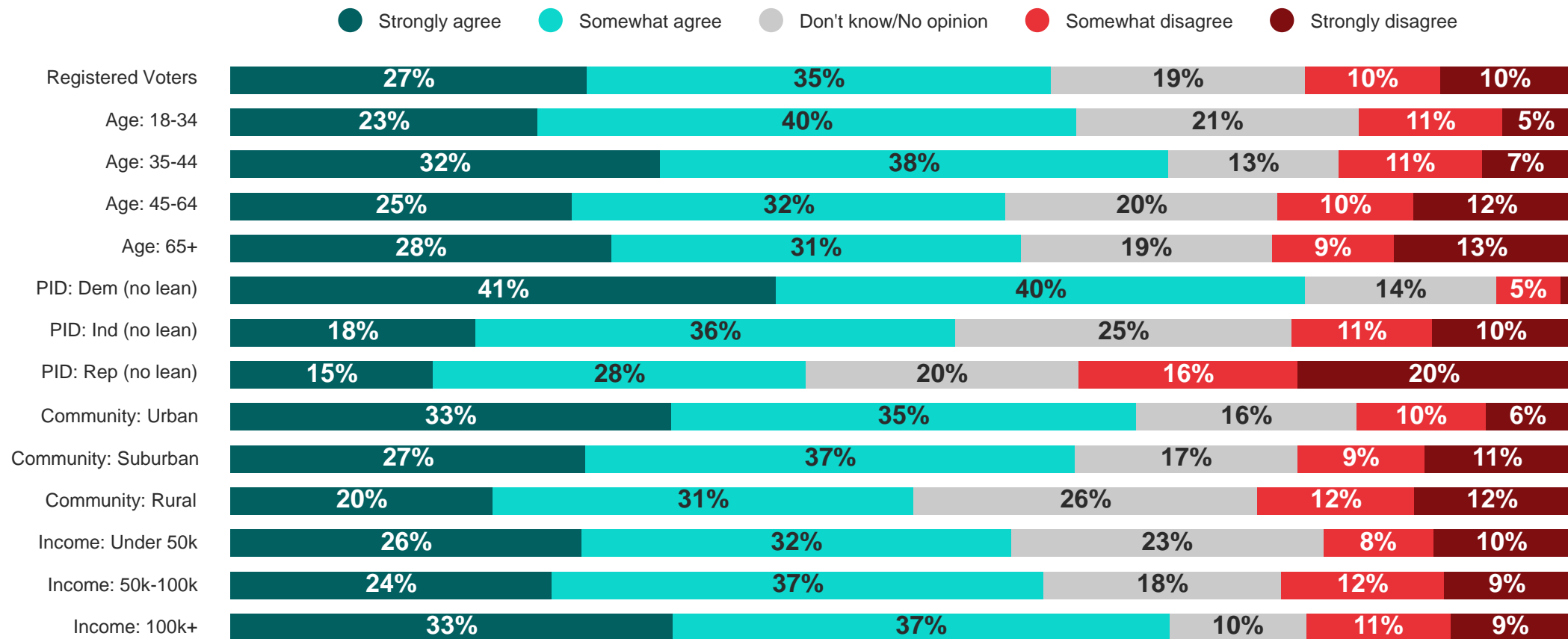




INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN PERCEPTIONS

Democrats, urban voters, and those who earn more than \$100k annually voice the strongest support for requiring utilities to pursue CEPP goals at the lowest available cost.

Do you agree or disagree that Congress should require utilities to procure the lowest cost clean energy resources to meet the goals under the CEPP?



CONTENTS

INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN PERCEPTIONS

MARKET COMPETITION

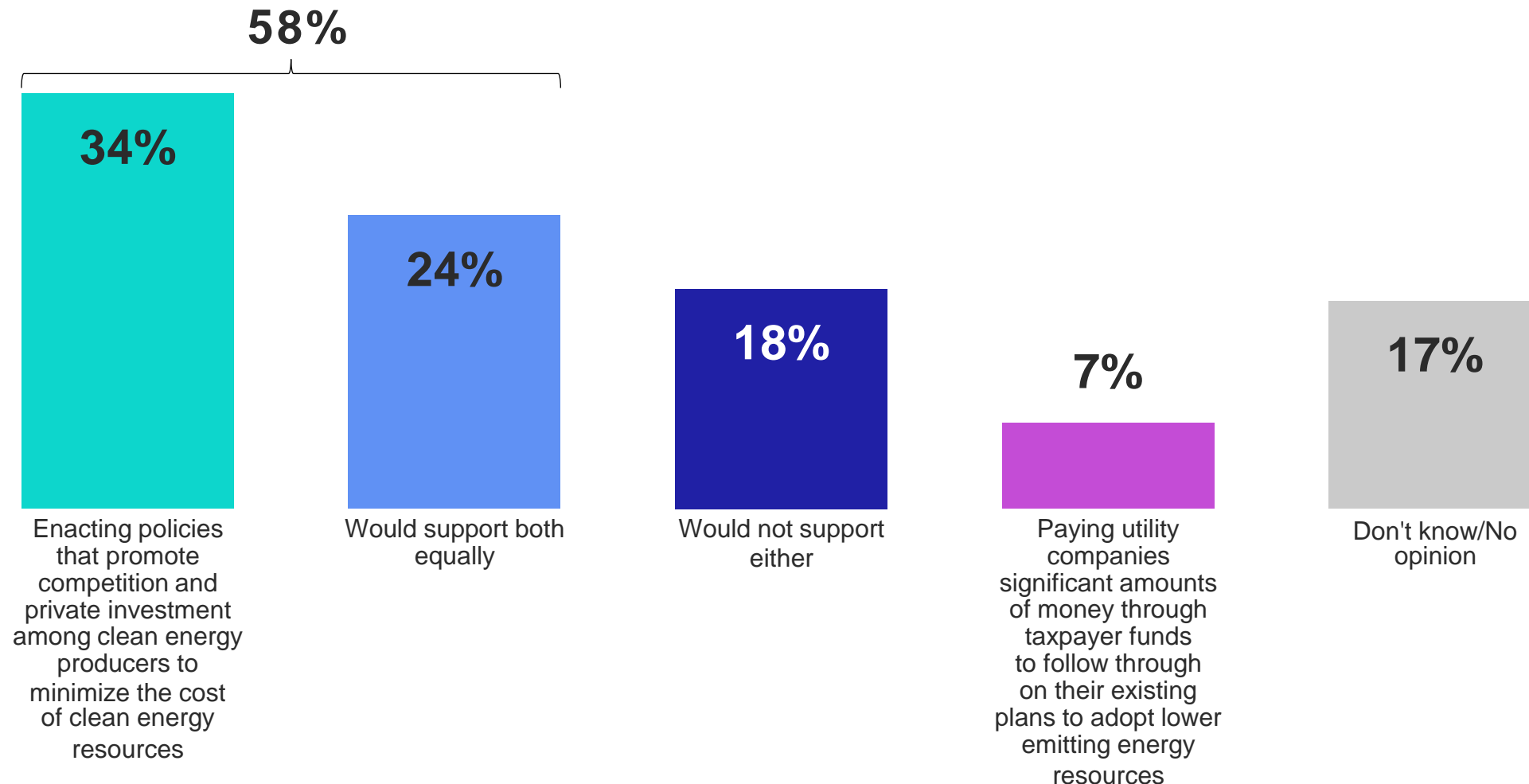
EMISSIONS REDUCTION PREFERENCES



MARKET COMPETITION

Nearly three in five voters would support the passage of policies that promote competition among energy producers to minimize to cost of transitioning to lower emitting resources as compared to paying utility companies through taxpayer funds to follow through on their existing plans to adopt greener resources.

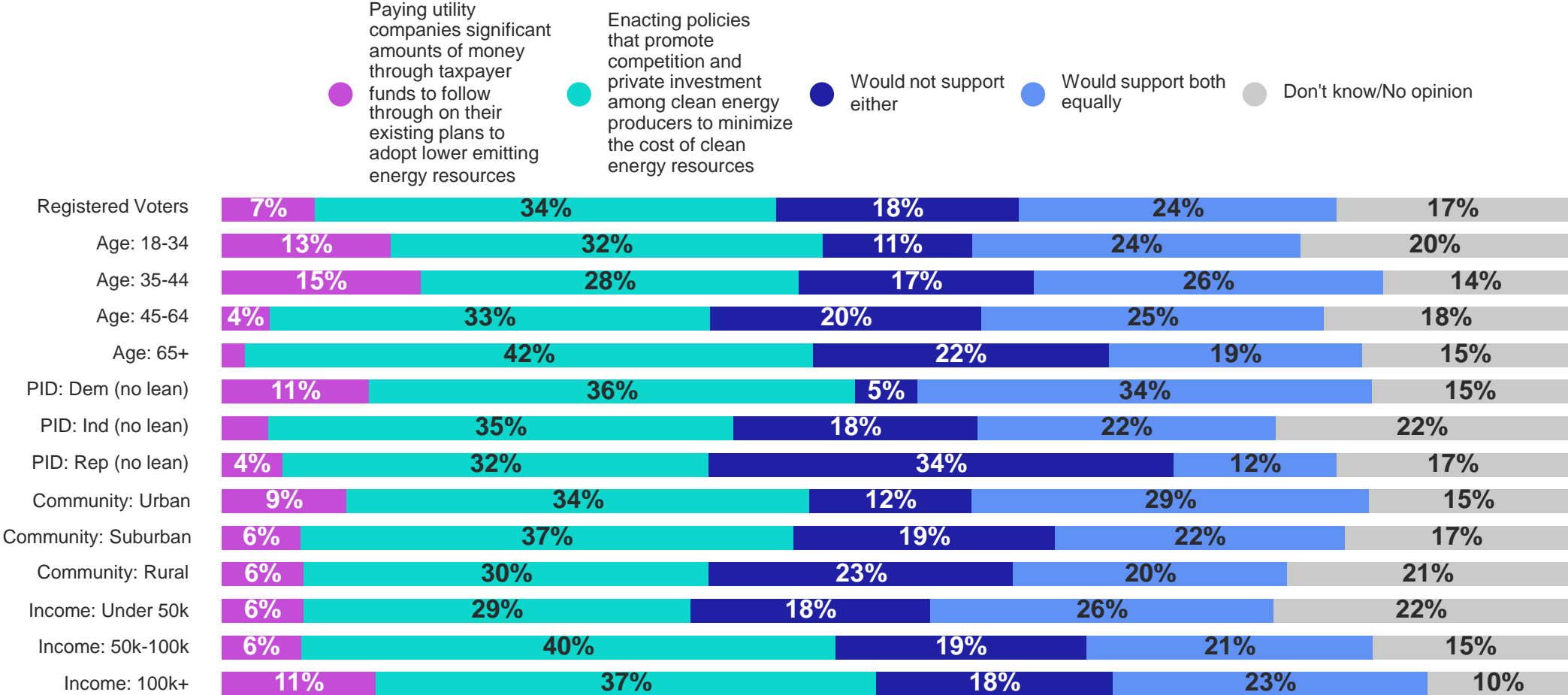
Which of the following approaches would you support to increase the use of clean energy resources?



MARKET COMPETITION

Support is considerably higher for supporting the increase of clean energy resources via pro-competition policies that rely on private investment rather than paying tax dollars to utilities to follow through on existing emissions reduction plans for voters of all political persuasions.

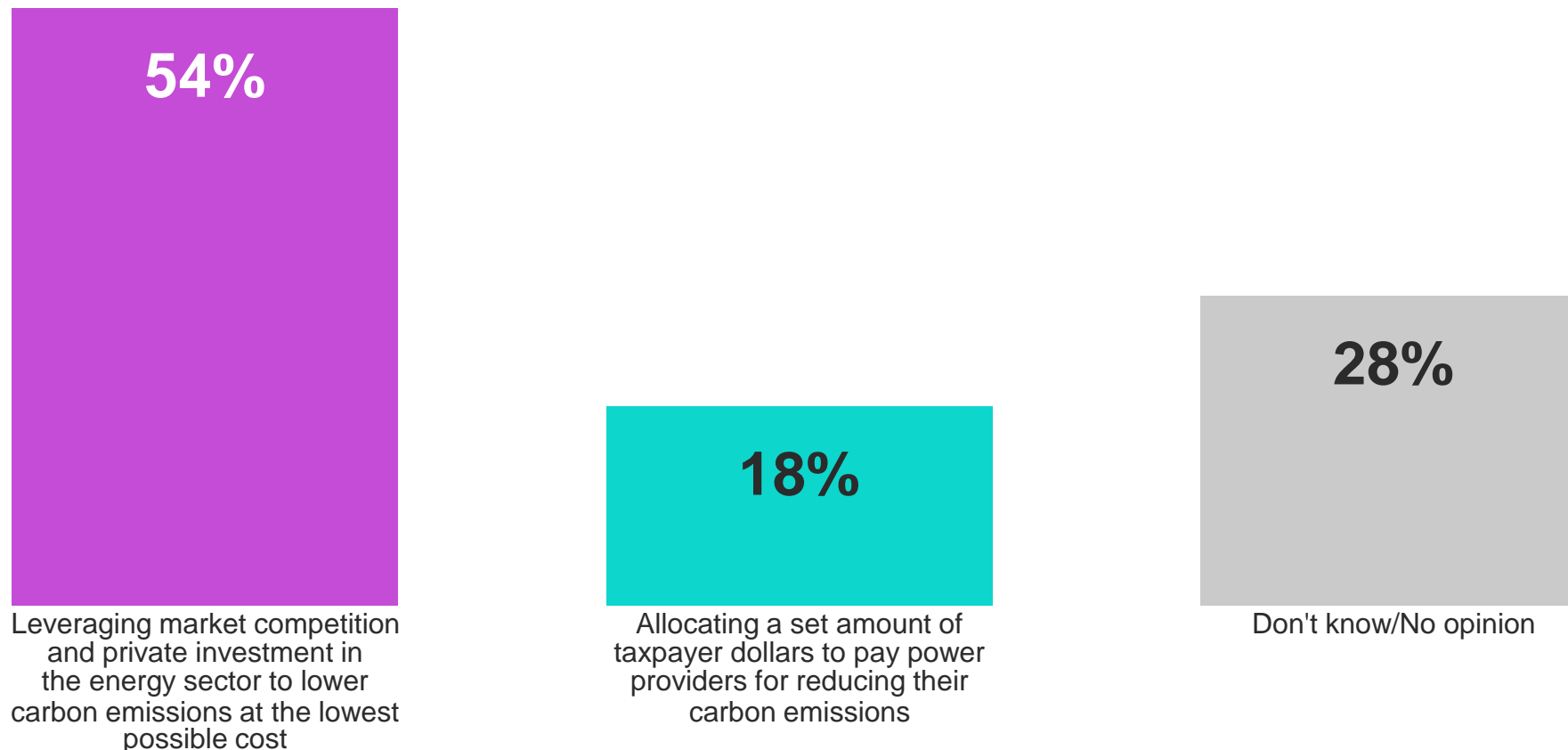
Which of the following approaches would you support to increase the use of clean energy resources?



MARKET COMPETITION

Three-times as many voters surveyed favor *leveraging market competition and private investment* to promote clean energy use over *allocating a set amount of taxpayer dollars to pay power providers*.

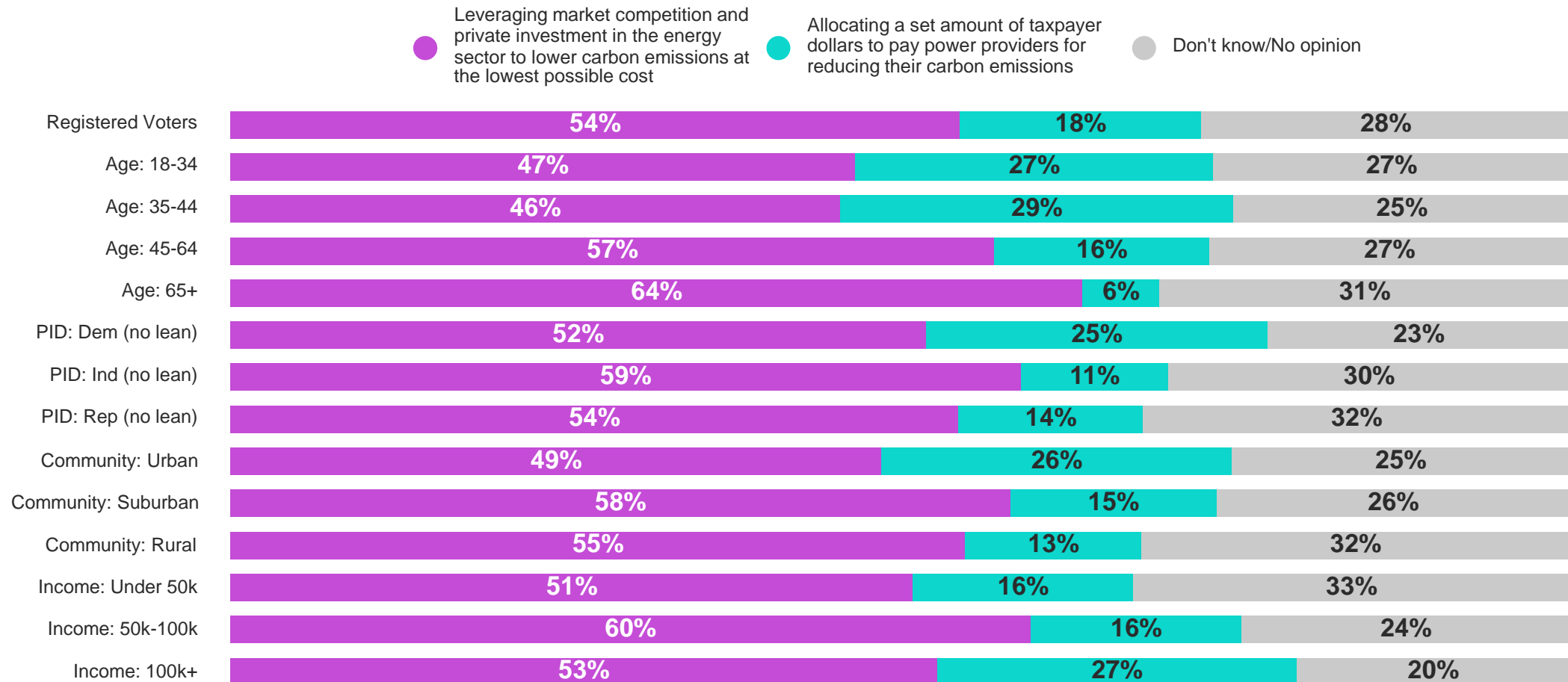
Lowering carbon emissions and increasing use of clean energy resources are among the goals of the proposed spending plan. Which of the following approaches do you believe would be more effective in accomplishing those goals?



MARKET COMPETITION

Across key demographics, far more voters favor a low-cost solution that leverages competition the private sector over writing a blank check to utilities to fund federal energy initiatives.

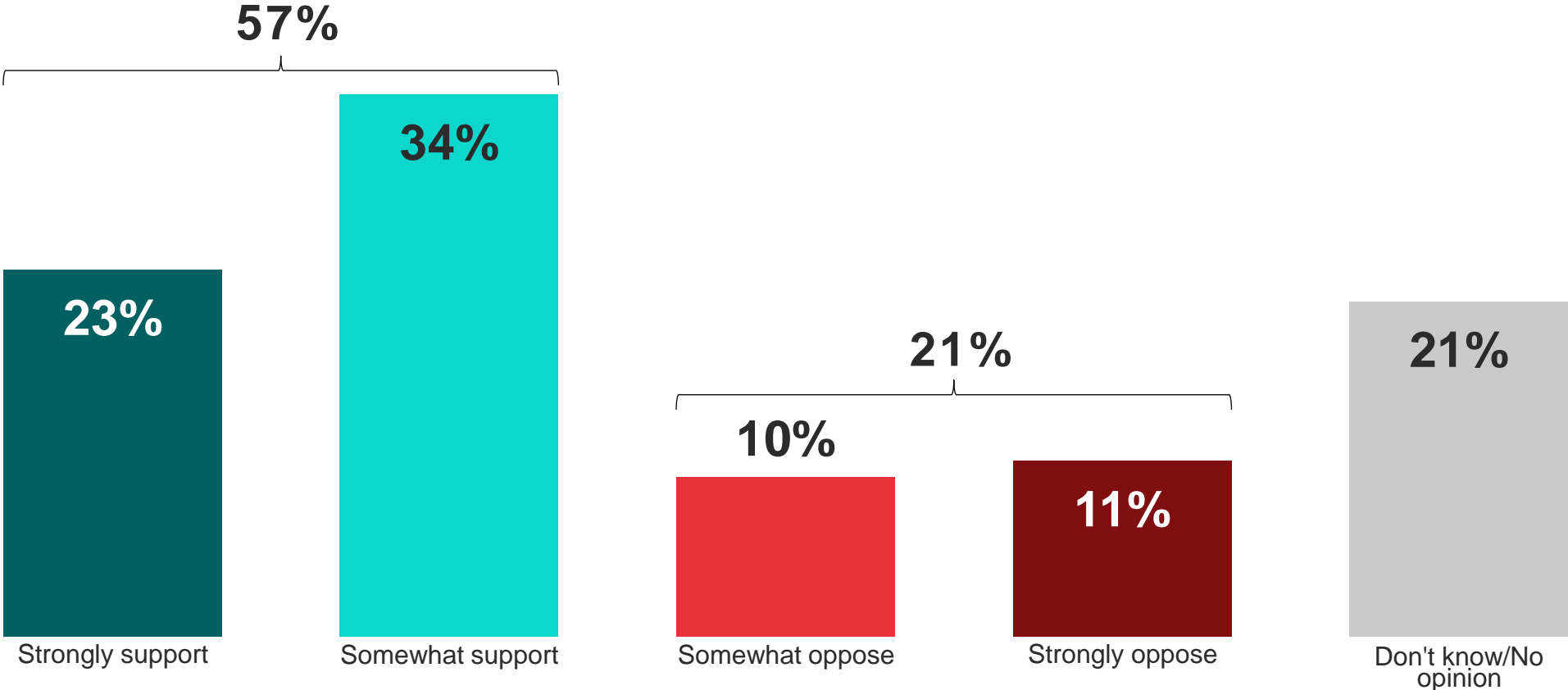
Lowering carbon emissions and increasing use of clean energy resources are among the goals of the proposed spending plan. Which of the following approaches do you believe would be more effective in accomplishing those goals?



MARKET COMPETITION

Relatively few voters *oppose* carbon pricing as a means to incentivize emissions reduction. Four in seven voters would *support* such a measure.

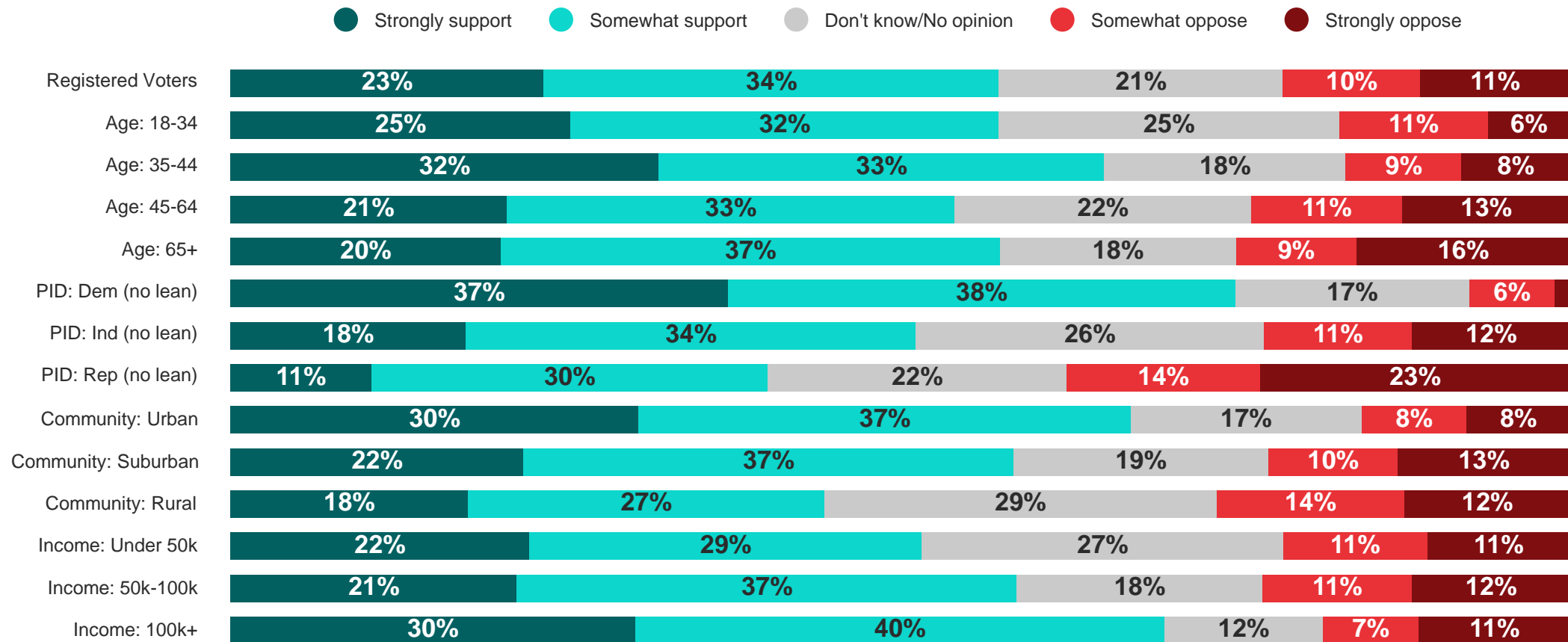
As you may know, 'carbon pricing' is a market-based strategy that aims to hold carbon producers responsible for the public costs of the carbon they emit by requiring them to pay a price based on their amount of carbon emissions. Do you support or oppose carbon pricing as a measure to incentivize reducing carbon emissions?



MARKET COMPETITION

Democrats, urban voters, high-earners, and those age 35-44 stand out for their relatively strong support for carbon pricing (more than 65%).

Do you support or oppose carbon pricing as a measure to incentivize reducing carbon emissions?

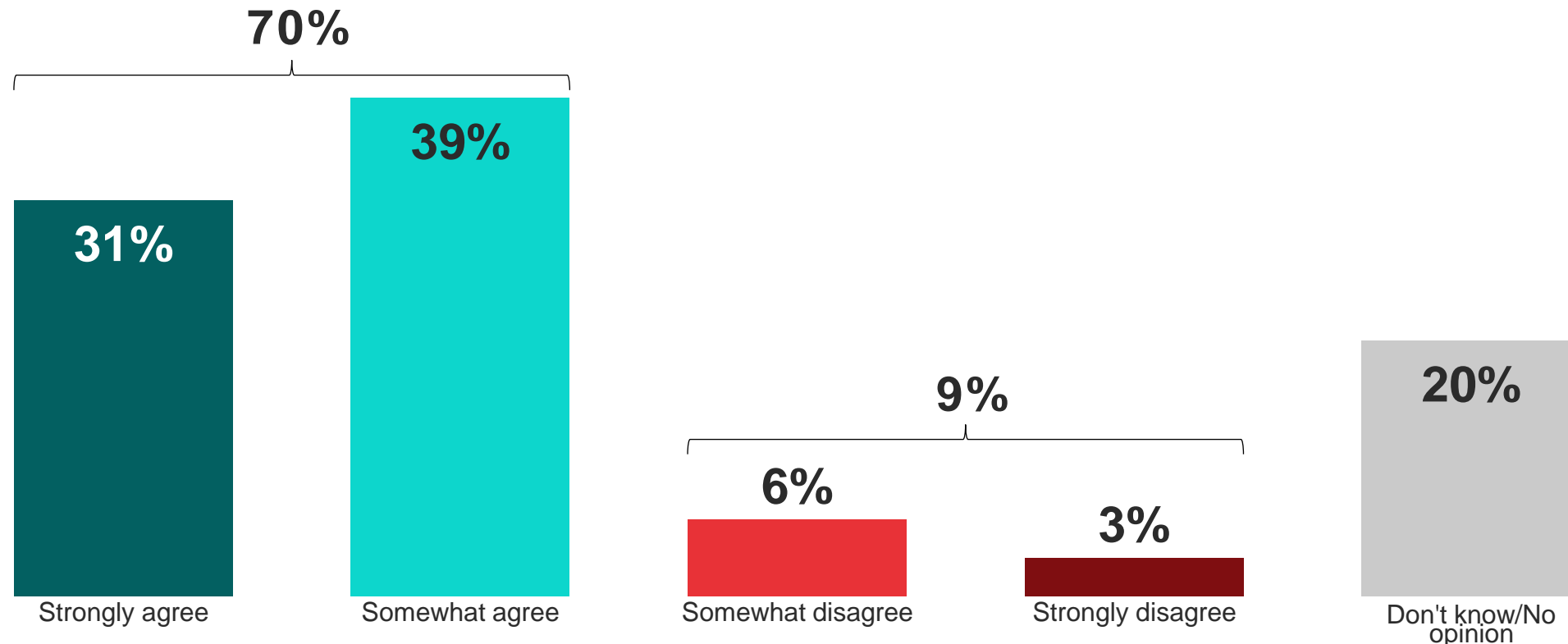




MARKET COMPETITION

Seven in ten voters agree that competitive bidding should be part of the process for determining who is paid to carry out energy infrastructure projects.

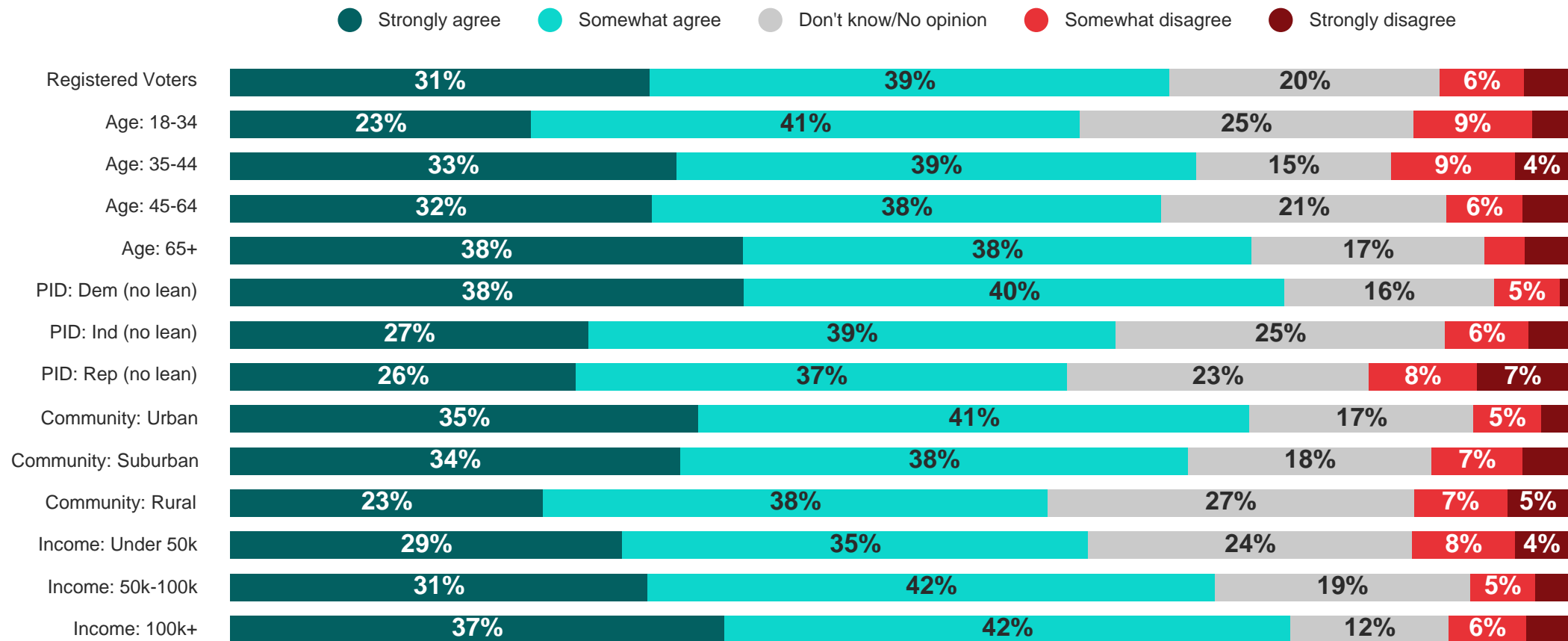
As you may know, competitive bidding in the energy sector refers to when multiple parties are required to submit proposals for infrastructure projects to choose the lowest cost option that meets project requirements rather than relying upon whatever company already supplies energy in a region to carry out the projects. Do you agree or disagree that efforts to address climate change in the federal infrastructure package should include competitive bidding requirements for all new energy resources?



MARKET COMPETITION

Few across key demographics *oppose* the inclusion of a competitive bidding process for new energy resources funded through the infrastructure package.

Do you agree or disagree that efforts to address climate change in the federal infrastructure package should include competitive bidding requirements for all new energy resources?



CONTENTS

INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN PERCEPTIONS

MARKET COMPETITION

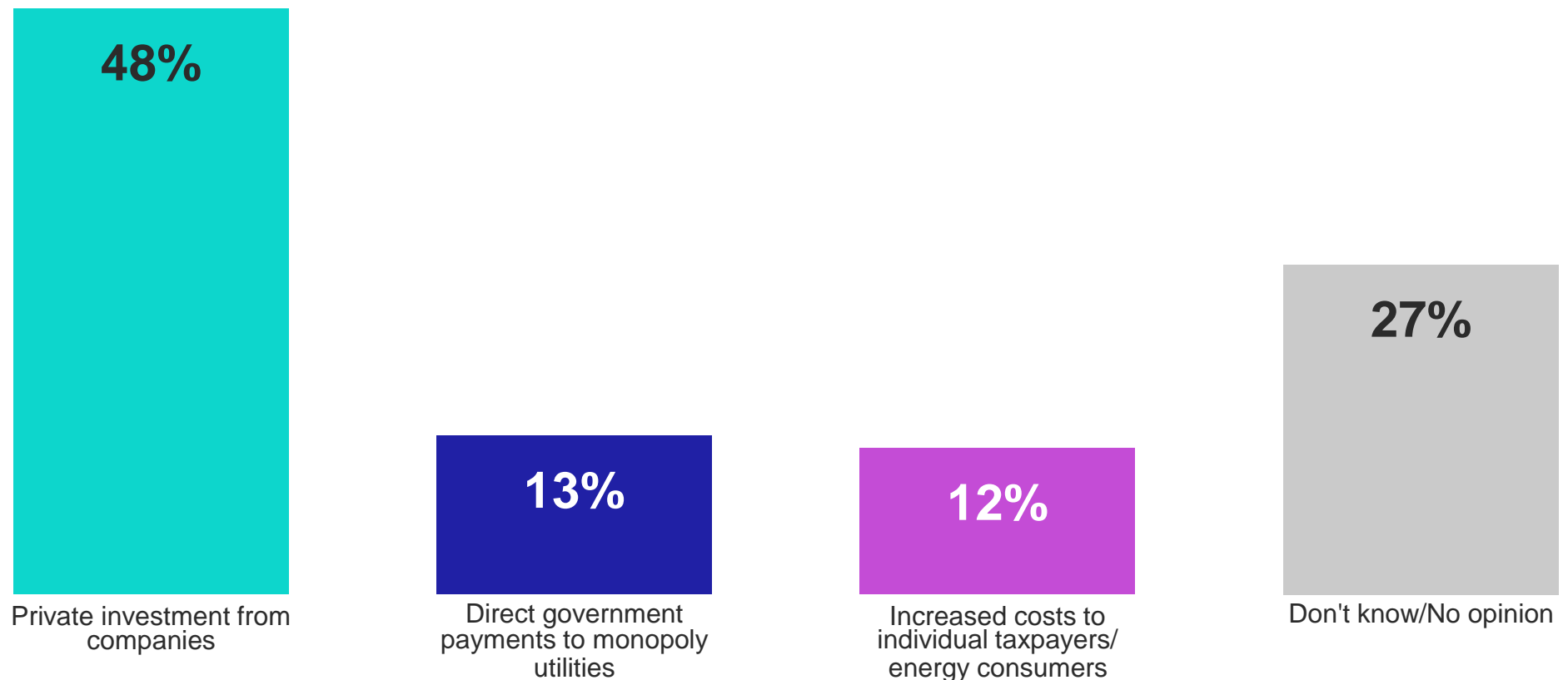
EMISSIONS REDUCTION PREFERENCES



## EMISSIONS REDUCTION PREFERENCES

Nearly half of voters say *private investment from companies* should be the primary funder of the country's transition toward cleaner energy infrastructure – nearly double the share that want that burden placed on individual taxpayers or the federal government.

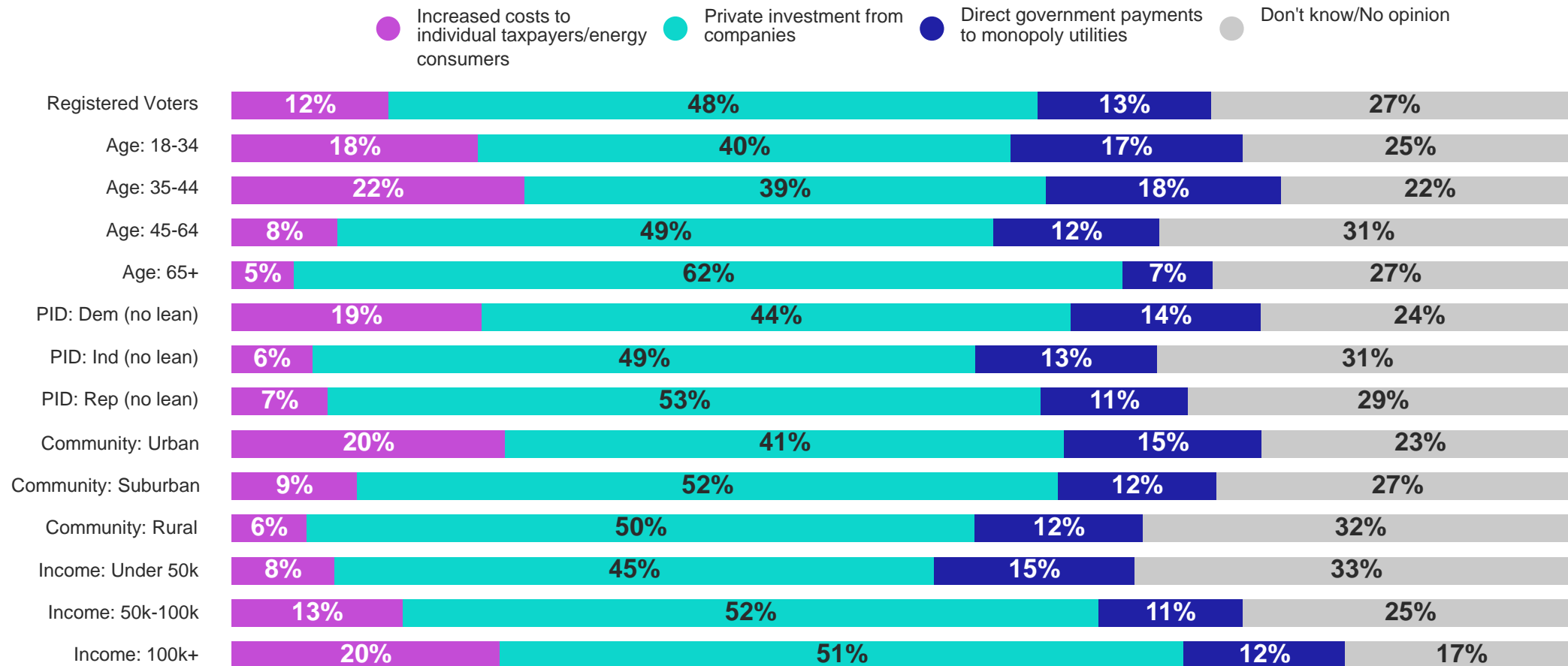
Which of the following tactics do you think should be most responsible for funding the country's transition toward lower emitting energy infrastructure?



EMISSIONS REDUCTION PREFERENCES

Pluralities of voters favor private investment supporting the bulk of the country's transition toward lower emitting energy infrastructure across lines of age, party, and income.

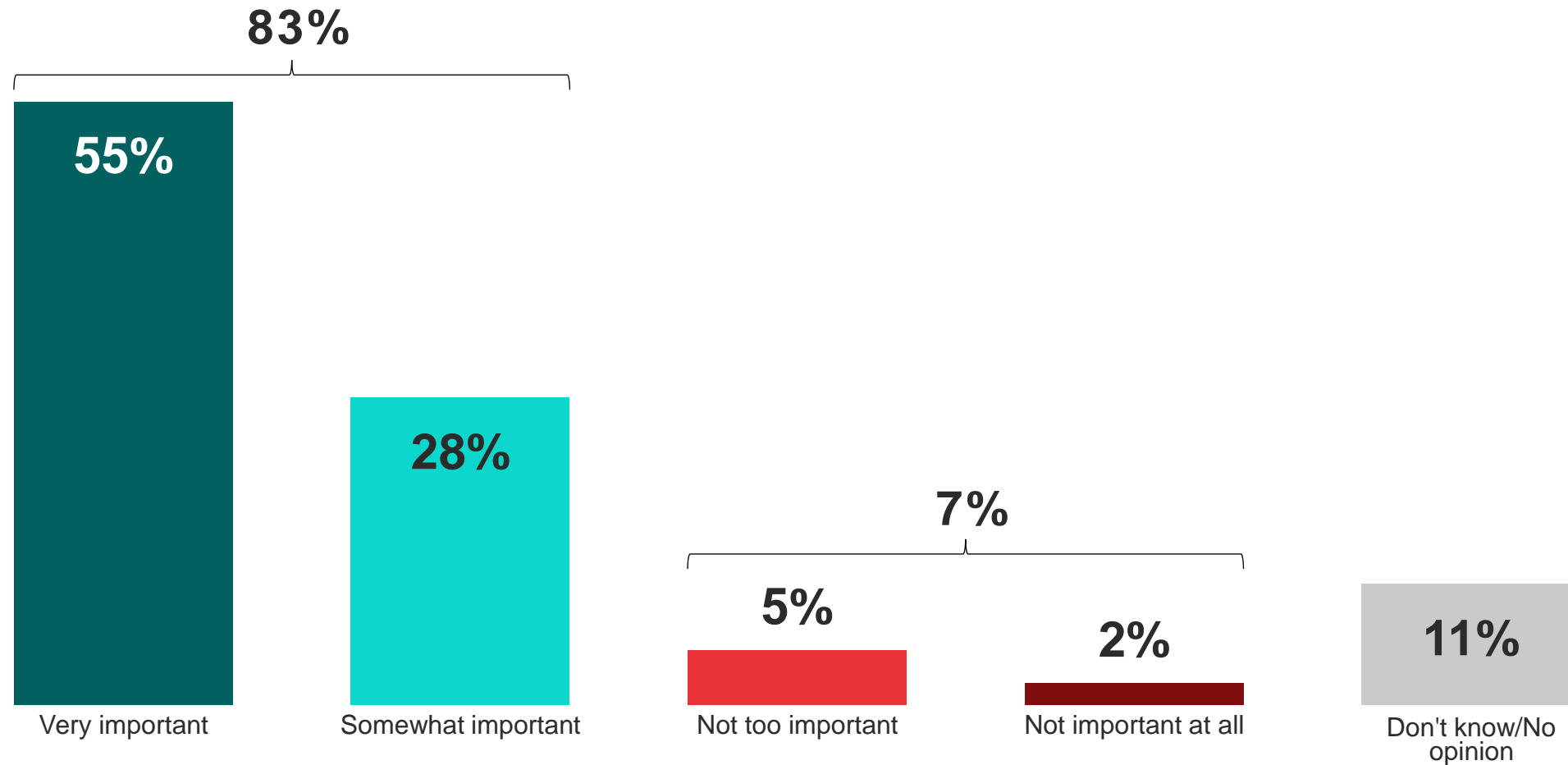
Which of the following tactics do you think should be most responsible for funding the country's transition toward lower emitting energy infrastructure?



EMISSIONS REDUCTION PREFERENCES

Most voters say maintaining overall reliability is a *very important* priority for policymakers to consider when making choices about clean energy policies.

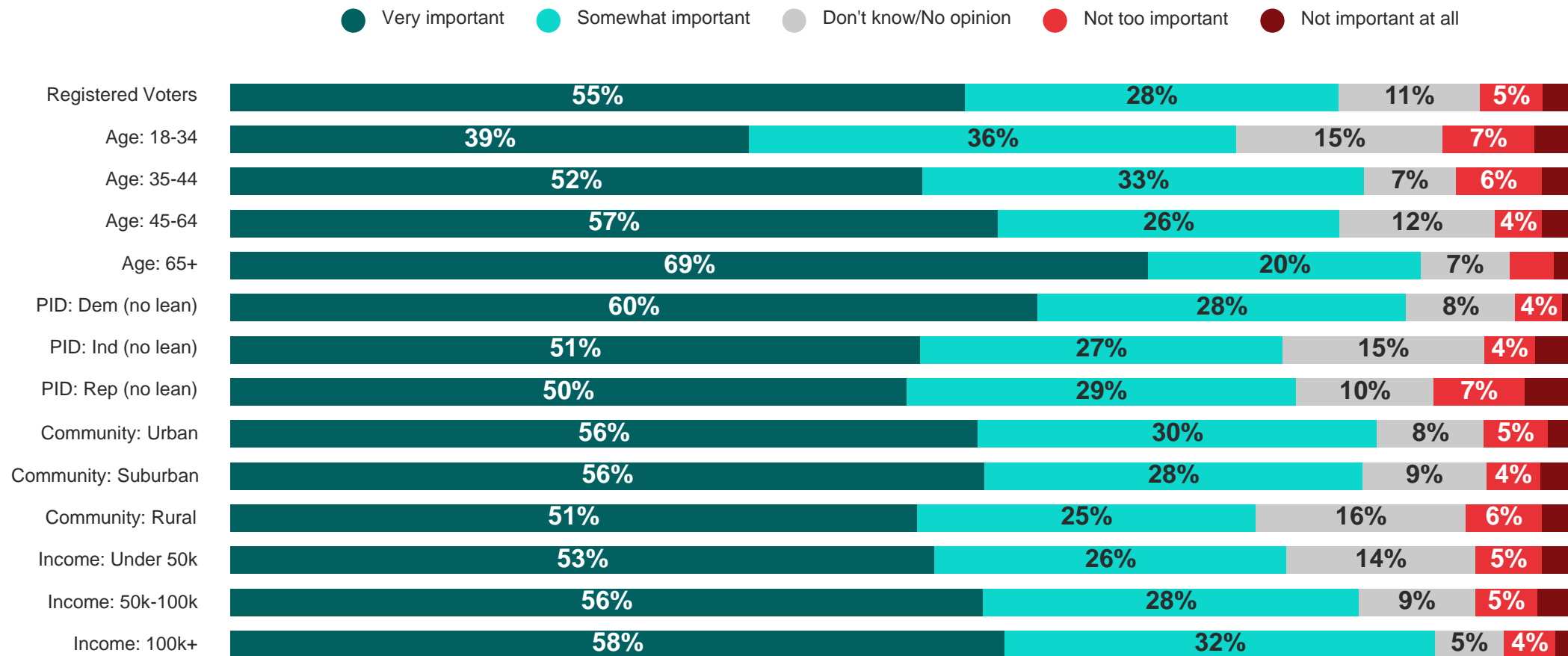
How important, if at all, is maintaining overall reliability with the country's electric infrastructure as policymakers pursue clean energy goals?



EMISSIONS REDUCTION PREFERENCES

The perceived importance of maintaining electric reliability is positively associated with age – older voters are considerably more likely to prioritize it amidst the transition to cleaner energy.

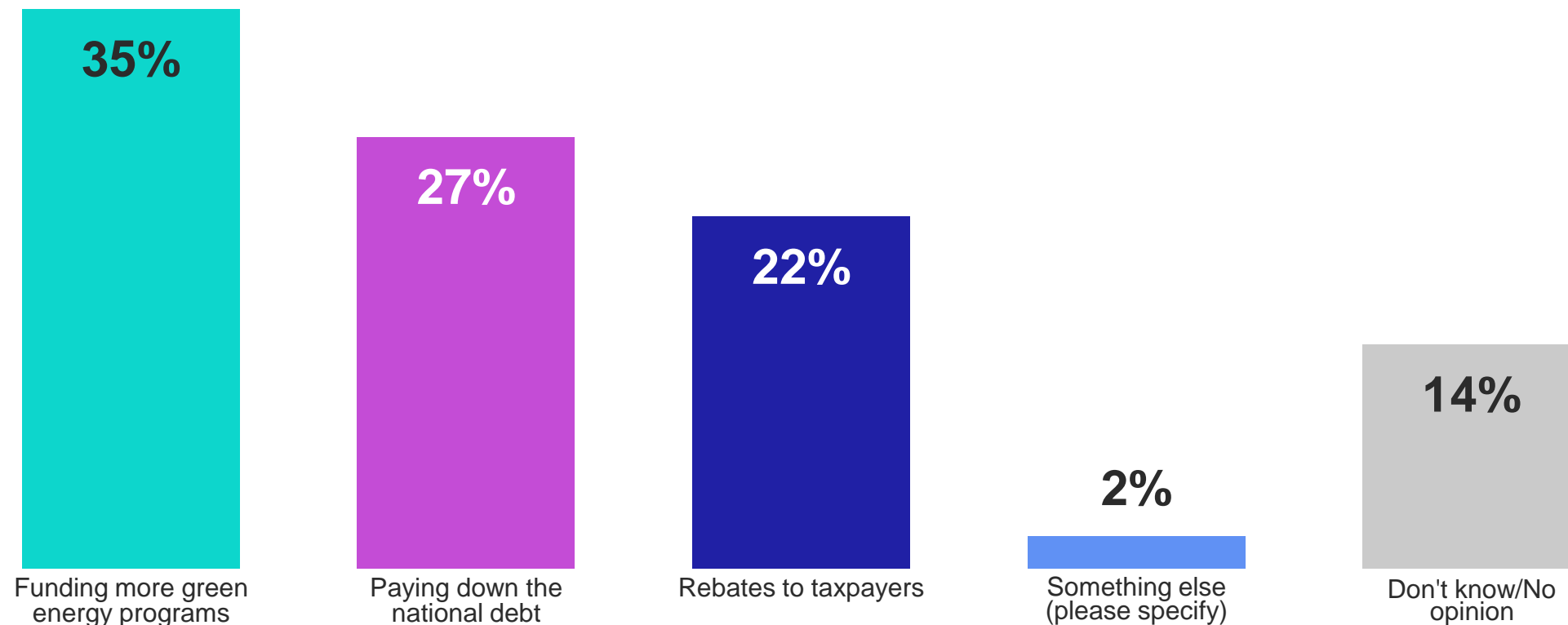
How important, if at all, is maintaining overall reliability with the country's electric infrastructure as policymakers pursue clean energy goals?



## EMISSIONS REDUCTION PREFERENCES

There is no clear consensus among voters about what the most appropriate use of funds generated by a carbon pricing mechanism would be. A plurality say it should be put toward furthering green energy programs.

If a carbon price was put in place, which of the following uses would you support putting the money it generated towards?

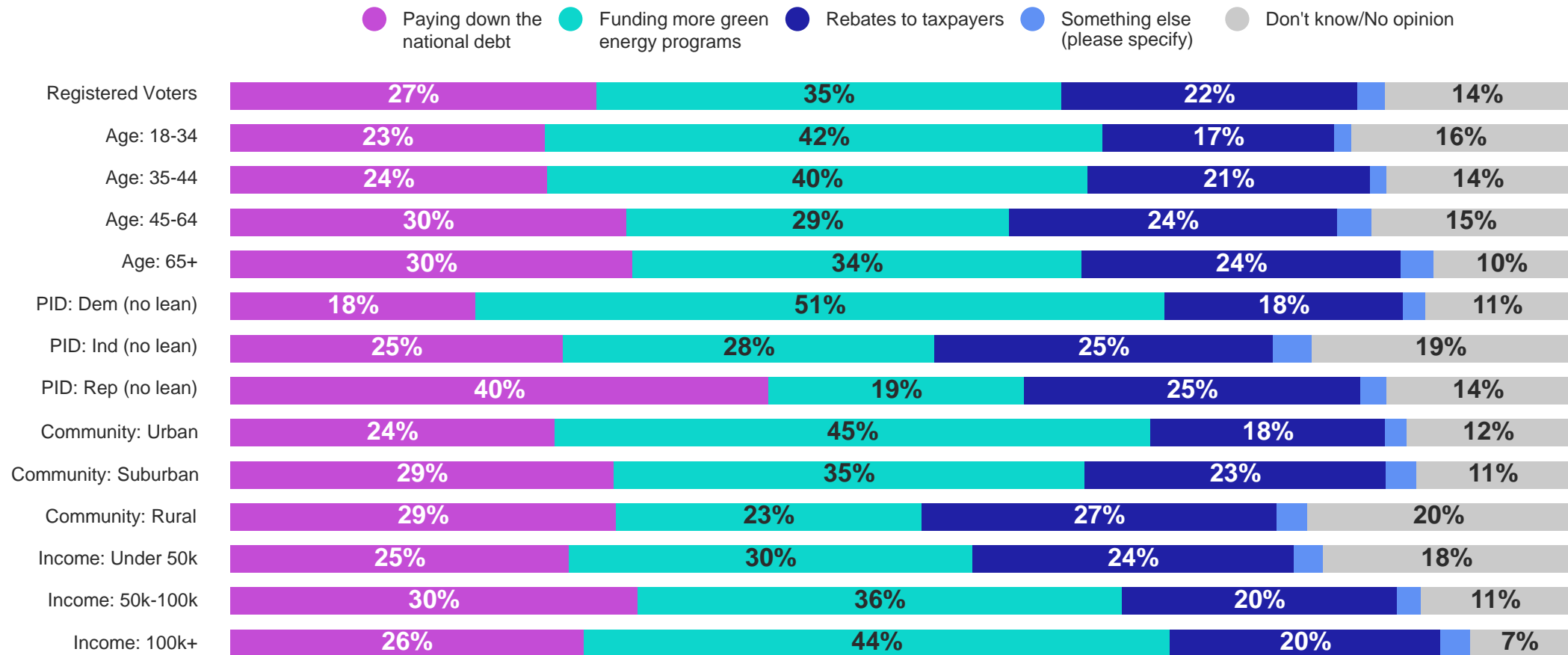




EMISSIONS REDUCTION PREFERENCES

Partisan divides are evident looking at voters' preferred use of money generated by carbon pricing. Republicans tend to favor paying down the national debt, whereas Democrats want it to be invested in green energy initiatives. Independents are divided on the issue.

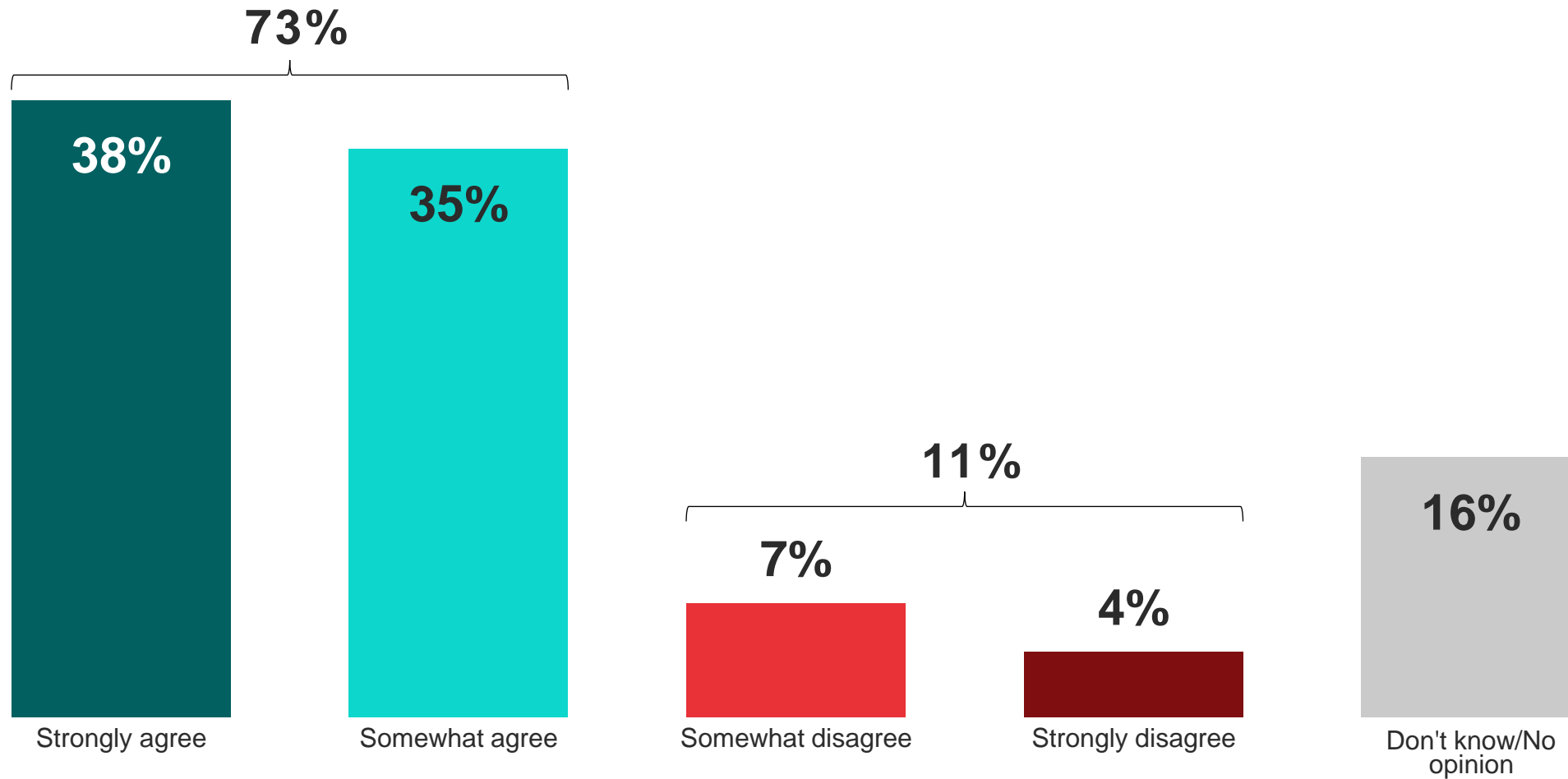
If a carbon price was put in place, which of the following uses would you support putting the money it generated towards?



EMISSIONS REDUCTION PREFERENCES

By and large, voters are comfortable with continued reliance on natural gas to meet U.S. energy demands. Nearly three-quarters *agree* it should be included in clean energy policies.

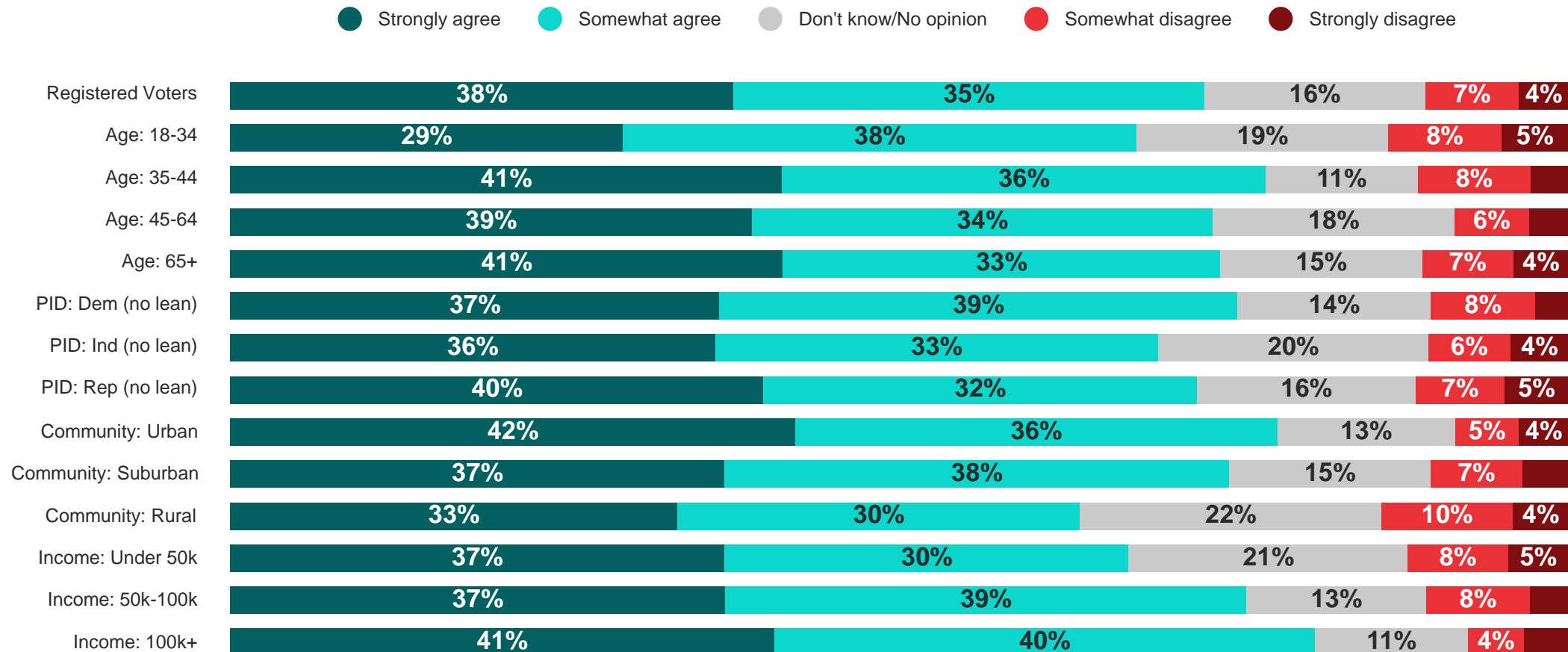
Do you agree or disagree that natural gas should be included in the United States' clean energy policies?



EMISSIONS REDUCTION PREFERENCES

Fewer than 15% of voters *disagree* with including gas in U.S. clean energy policies – agreement is somewhat less strong among young (<35) and rural voters.

Do you agree or disagree that natural gas should be included in the United States' clean energy policies?





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