



Business and public priorities for the province
***Alberta Perspectives* survey one – Key research findings**

ABOUT THE RESEARCH & ACC ADVOCACY

- **The ACC engaged the Strategic Counsel to develop a market research program to conduct regular surveys of chamber members and the public on priorities for Alberta.**
- **The first survey took place between May 28 and June 16, 2019 following the 2019 provincial election and the chamber network's Vote Prosperity campaign of business priorities for the Alberta government.**
- **734 responses from chamber members were received from chambers that sent a survey link to their members.**
- **834 responses from members of the public were received, a statistically relevant sample.**
- **The large number of responses received provides the ACC with an authoritative representation of business and public views on priorities for the province.**
- **The following document organizes key research using the Vote Prosperity campaign's pillar priorities. It also reports government actions to address the chamber network's recommendations for a stronger Alberta.**

ACC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A COMPETITIVE ALBERTA



STRENGTHENING BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS

- Implement “layered cost” assessment on all policies
- Provide a reasonable time to consult and implement new policies
- Minimize risks to the economy while reducing GHG emissions
- Protect the interests of both employers and workers



GROWING PROVINCIAL TRADE

- Reduce barriers to interprovincial trade, procurement and labour mobility
- Diversify and expand tidewater access for Alberta energy
- Increase export capacity with trade-corridor investments
- Use more public-private partnerships for infrastructure projects



BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- Ensure K-12 education connects learning to real-world skills and endeavours
- Reform healthcare to reduce costs and improve outcomes
- Develop a new predictable and sustainable funding formula for municipalities
- Encourage regional infrastructure planning focused on economic impacts



IMPROVING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

- Balance the budget
- Eliminate operational spending growth
- Conduct a full service-level review and publicly report outcomes
- Consult broadly on all options to stabilize government revenues



STRENGTHENING BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS

Government response to business priorities:

- ✓ **Bill 1: Carbon Tax Repeal Act**
- ✓ **Bill 2: Alberta Open for Business Act**
- ✓ **Bill 3: Alberta Corporate Tax Amendment Act**
- ✓ **Bill 4: Red Tape Reduction Act**

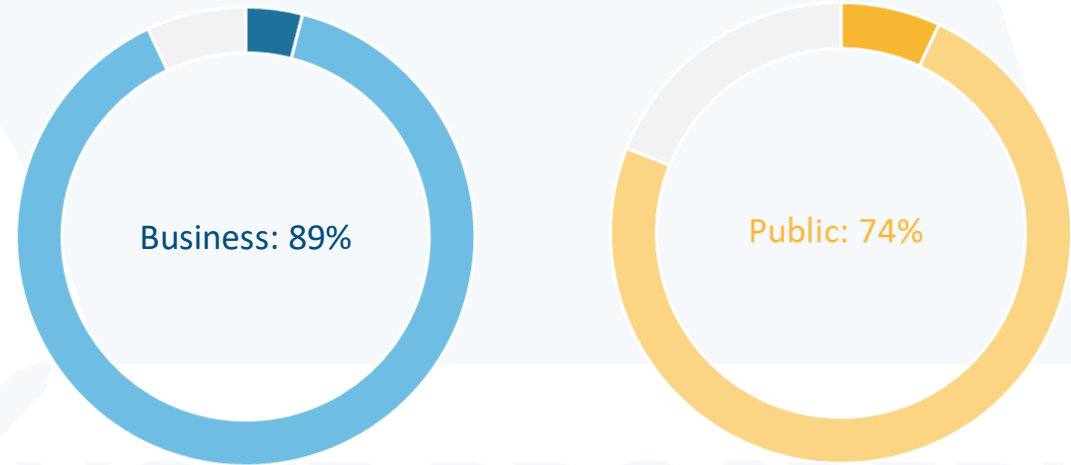


VOTE PROSPERITY

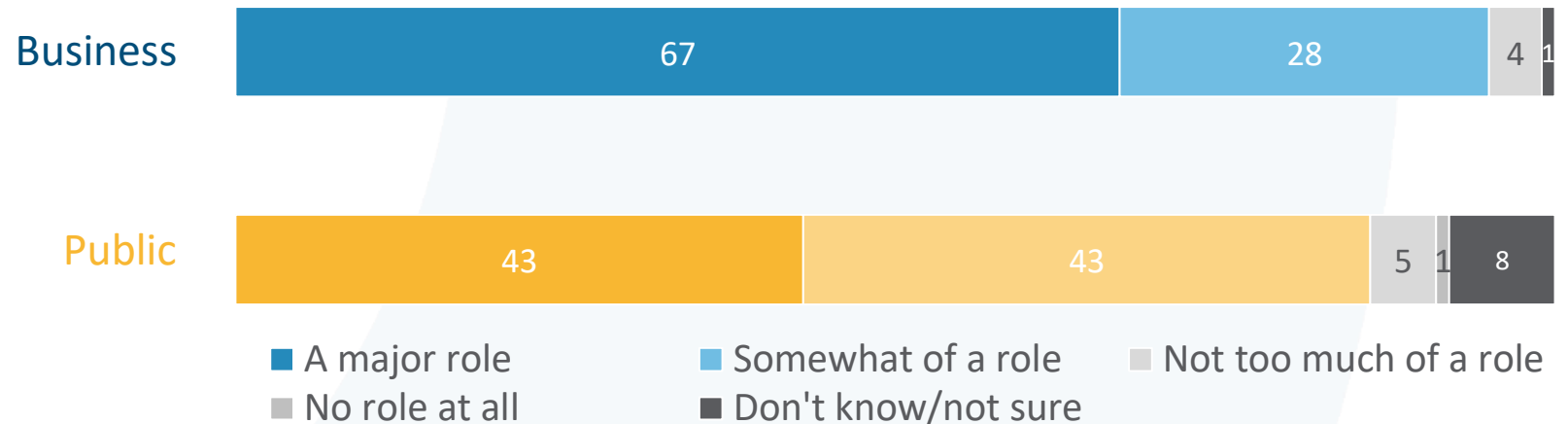
RESEARCH FINDINGS

Most respondents believe the business community has an important role in the province's future.

Business community as a contributor to future success



Role of business community in moving the province forward

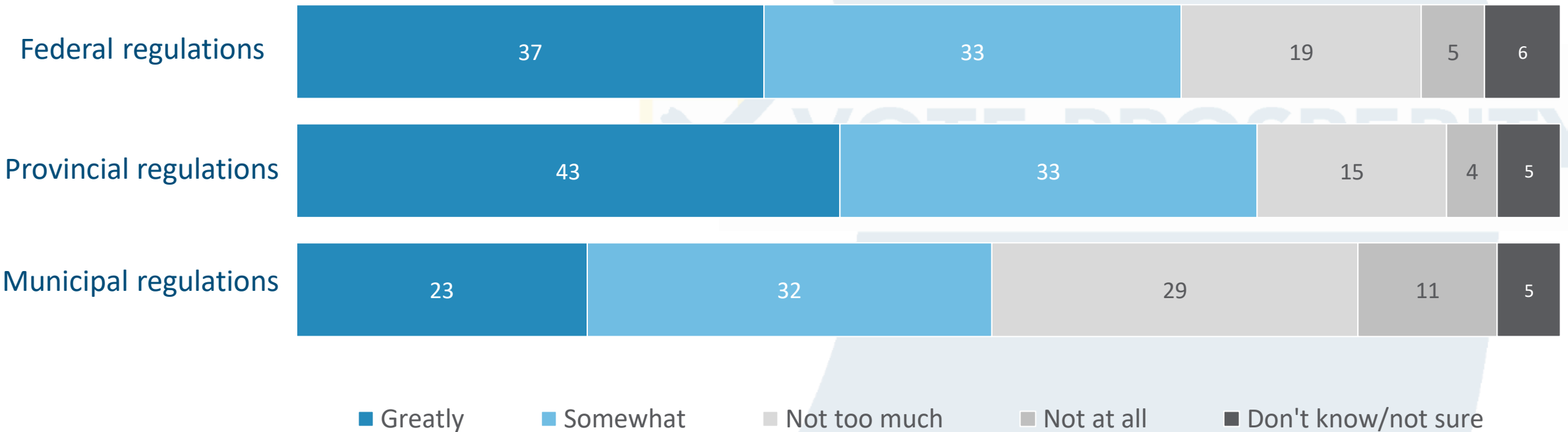


Q30. Overall, do you believe the business community in the province is a barrier or a contributor to the future success of the province?

Q31. To what extent does the business community in Alberta have a role in developing a vision and providing leadership to assist the province to move forward?

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Impact of regulations on Alberta business



Q38. To what extent do regulations at each of the following levels of government directly and negatively impact your business?

Top suggested changes to help business thrive

Provincial

Minimum wage/Reduce minimum wage/Minimum wage for students ✓	10%
Employment standards/Labour standards/Labour laws ✓	8%
Carbon tax/Bill 6 ✓	7%
Reduction of red tape and rules/Less regulations/Less bureaucracy ✓	7%
Overtime wages/Time off in lieu of overtime/Banked time ✓	5%

✓ = action taken or in progress

Municipal

Bylaws/Licensing/Permitting	24%
Reduction of red tape and rules/Less regulations/Less bureaucracy	9%
Property taxes/Town taxes/Municipal taxes	9%
Taxes/Lower taxes	7%



GROWING PROVINCIAL TRADE

Government response to business priorities:

- ✓ **Removed 16/24 provincial exemptions to the Canada Free Trade Agreement**
- ✓ **Launched a constitutional challenge to Bill C-69 (“No More Pipelines” bill)**
- ✓ **Introduced Bill 14: Indigenous Opportunities Act to generate investment and jobs**



VOTE PROSPERITY

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Top issues facing Alberta

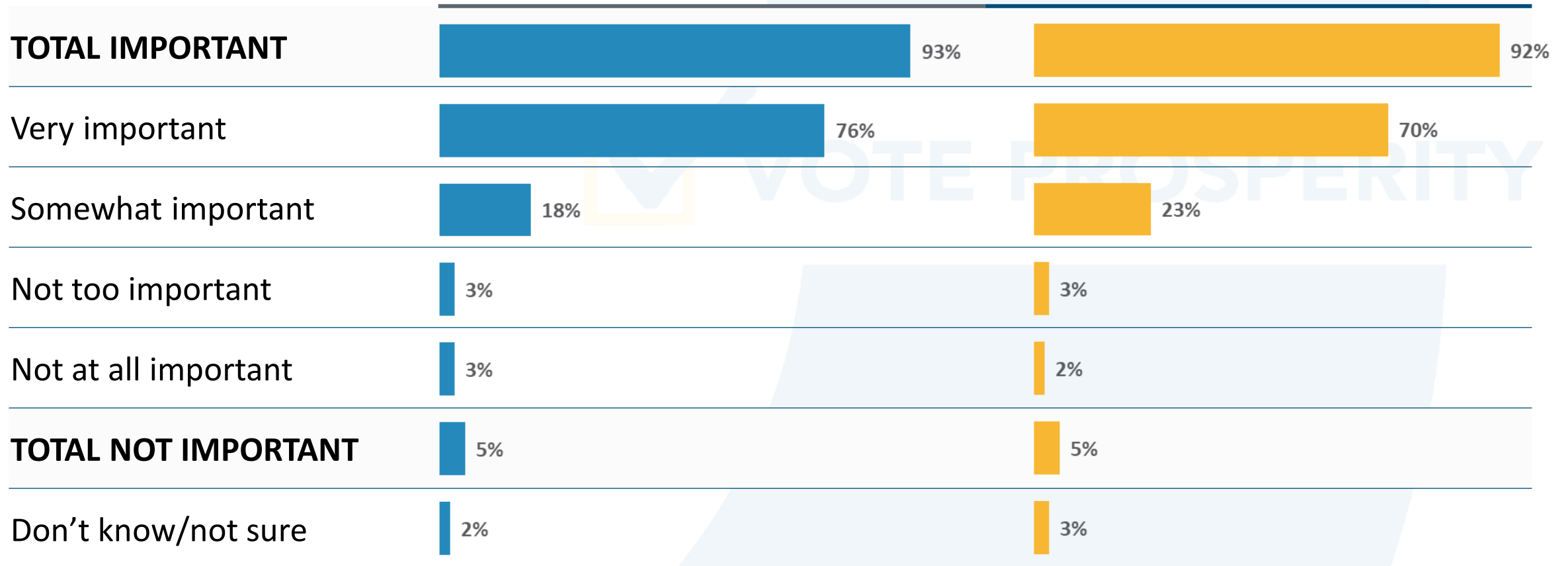
	Business	Public
The provincial economy	28%	24%
Exporting Alberta's oil	26%	26%
Ensuring access to, and the quality of, our health care system	8%	12%
Ensuring access to, and the quality of, our education system	6%	3%
Climate change/global warming	8%	7%
Unemployment	3%	9%
Other	21%	19%

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Importance of building pipelines in addition to TMX

Business

Public





BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Government response to business priorities:

- ✓ **Launched Skills for Jobs Task Force with NAIT and SAIT**
- ✓ **Appointed K-12 curriculum advisory panel emphasizing knowledge, skills, and competencies**
- ✓ **Launched first full review of Alberta Health Services in 10 years**

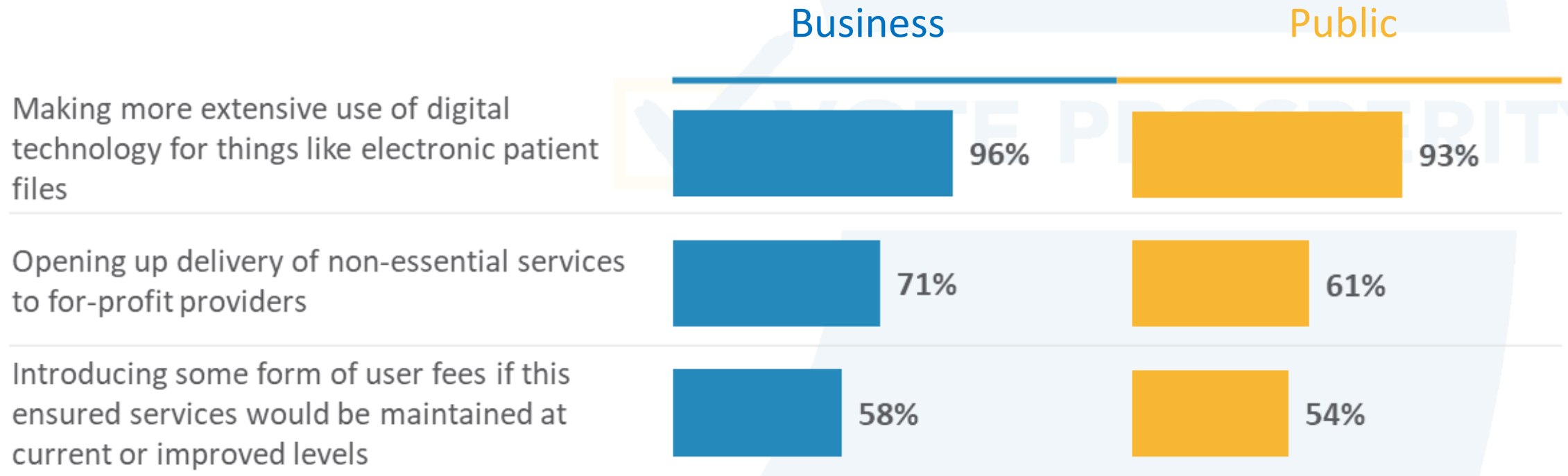


VOTE PROSPERITY

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Health care

Preferred options for achieving better health care outcomes and containing costs



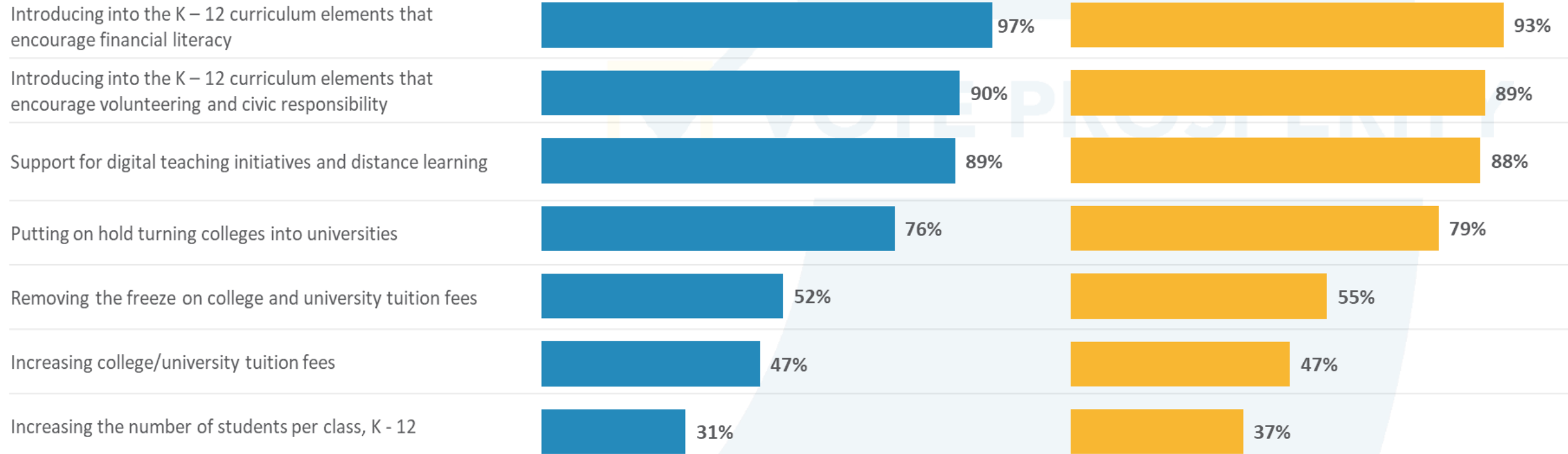
RESEARCH FINDINGS

Education

Preferred options for delivering better education outcomes and/or containing costs

Business

Public





IMPROVING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Government response to business priorities:

- ✓ **MacKinnon Report – full review of provincial programs and spending**
- ✓ **Commitment to review provincial revenues**
- ✓ **Launched review of the Alberta Energy Regulator**



VOTE PROSPERITY

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Most businesses and members of the public agree running a provincial deficit is not acceptable.

