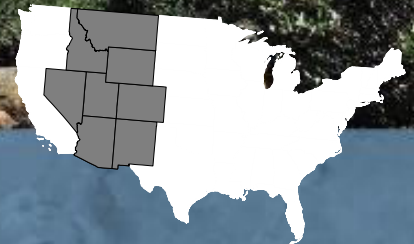




KEY FINDINGS

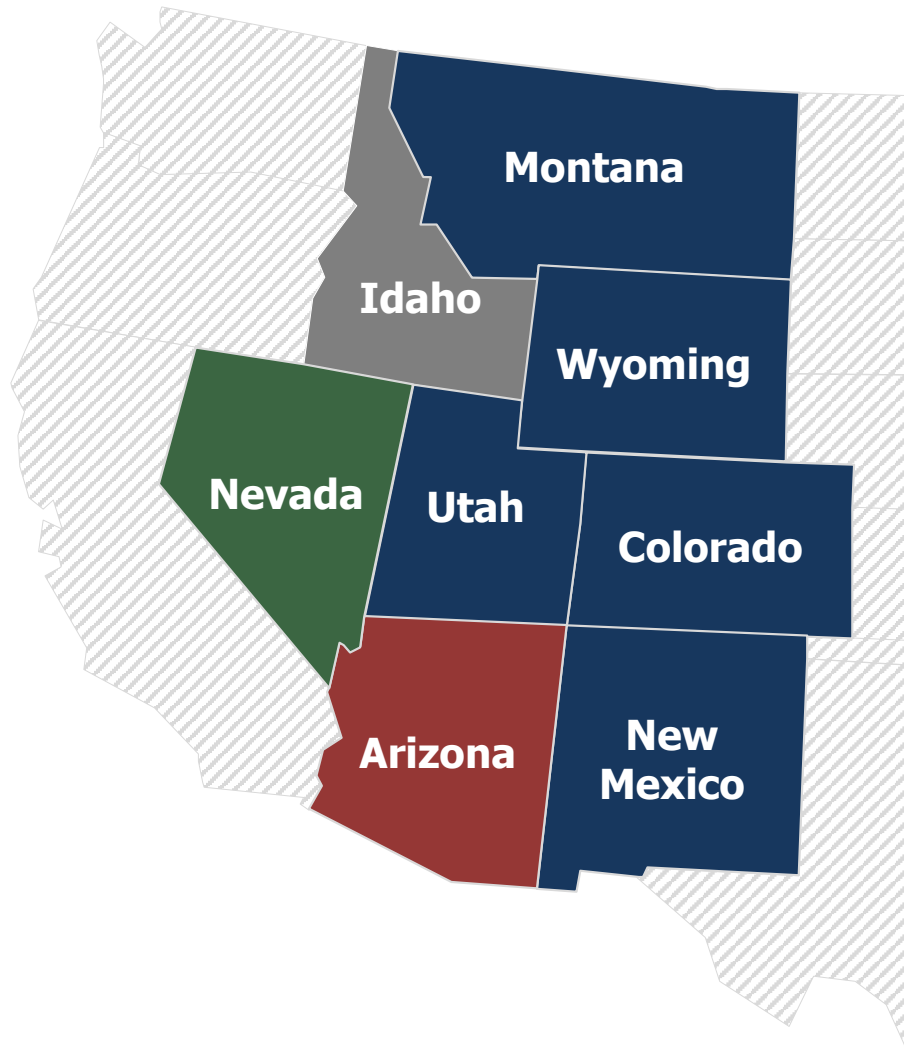
2023 SURVEY OF THE ATTITUDES OF VOTERS IN EIGHT WESTERN STATES



CONDUCTED BY: **LORI WEIGEL & KATHRYN HAHNE/ NEW BRIDGE STRATEGY**
DAVE METZ / FAIRBANK, MASLIN, MAULLIN, METZ & ASSOCIATES

Methodology

- ❖ 3,413 telephone (cell and landline) and online interviews via email invitation with registered voters in eight states: Arizona (N=504), Colorado (N=437), Idaho (N=402), Montana (N=406), Nevada (N=427), New Mexico (N=423), Utah (N=413), and Wyoming (N=401).
- ❖ Two oversamples were conducted in order to have greater ability to report distinctions among racial/ethnic sub-groups. We conducted additional interviews to reach a total of N=200 Black voters and a total of N=204 Native American voters, which were then weighted back to reflect their true proportions within the electorate in this region.
- ❖ Interviews were conducted January 5-22, 2023, in Spanish and English.
- ❖ The effective margin of error is $\pm 2.4\%$ at the 95% confidence interval for the total sample; and at most $\pm 4.9\%$ for each state.
- ❖ The total numbers have been statistically weighted to reflect the true geographic distribution of voters throughout the region. Interviews within each state were distributed proportionally by region.
- ❖ Comparisons are made to similarly conducted surveys each year from 2011 to 2022.
- ❖ Bi-partisan research team of New Bridge Strategy (R) and Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (D).



Over the past decade, the number of states included in this survey has increased.

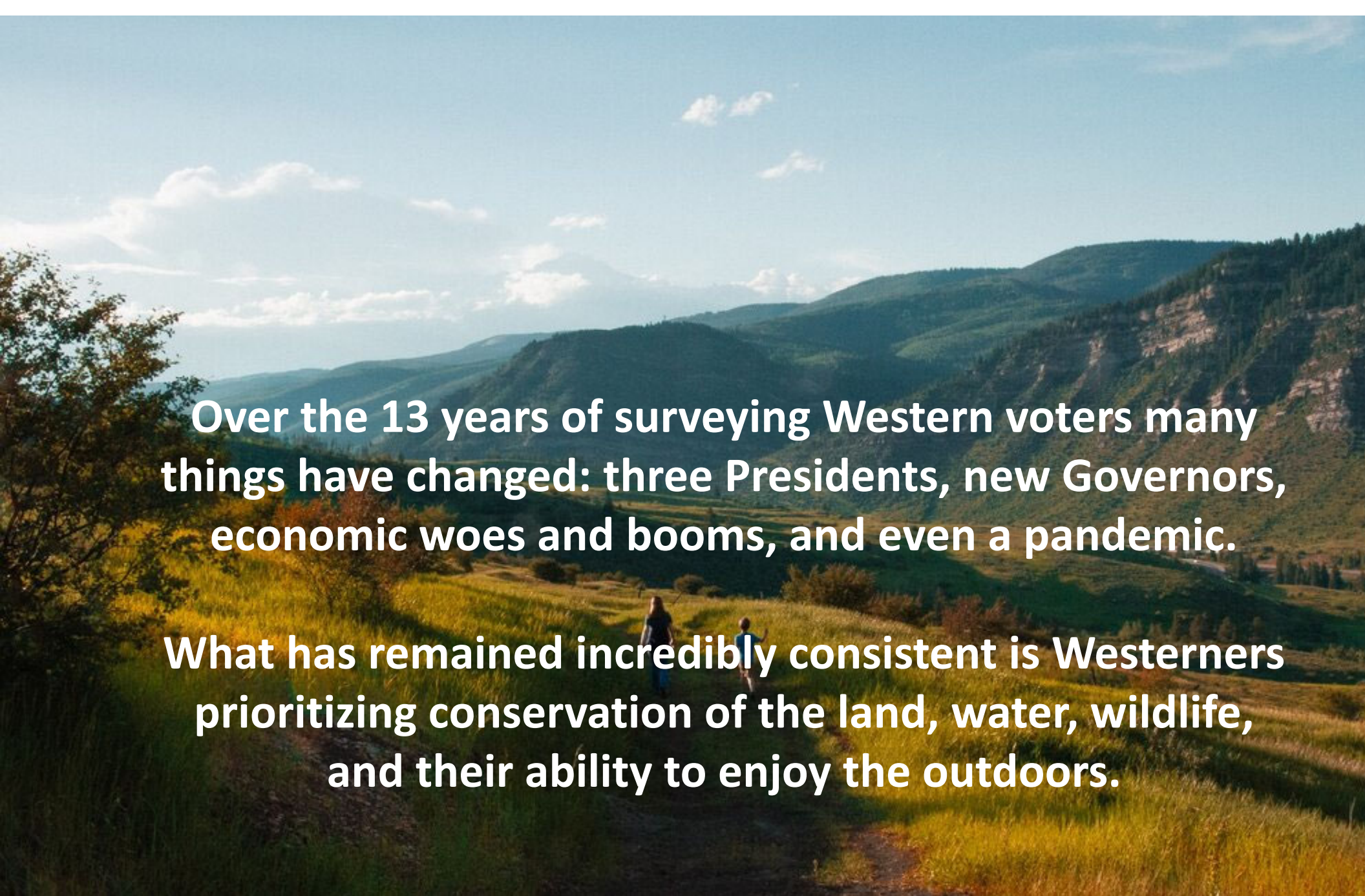
In order to provide accurate comparisons over time, we compare data based on only the states interviewed in that year as follows:

2011 5 States: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY

2012-2015 6 States: AZ, CO, MT, NM, UT & WY

2016-2017 7 States: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY

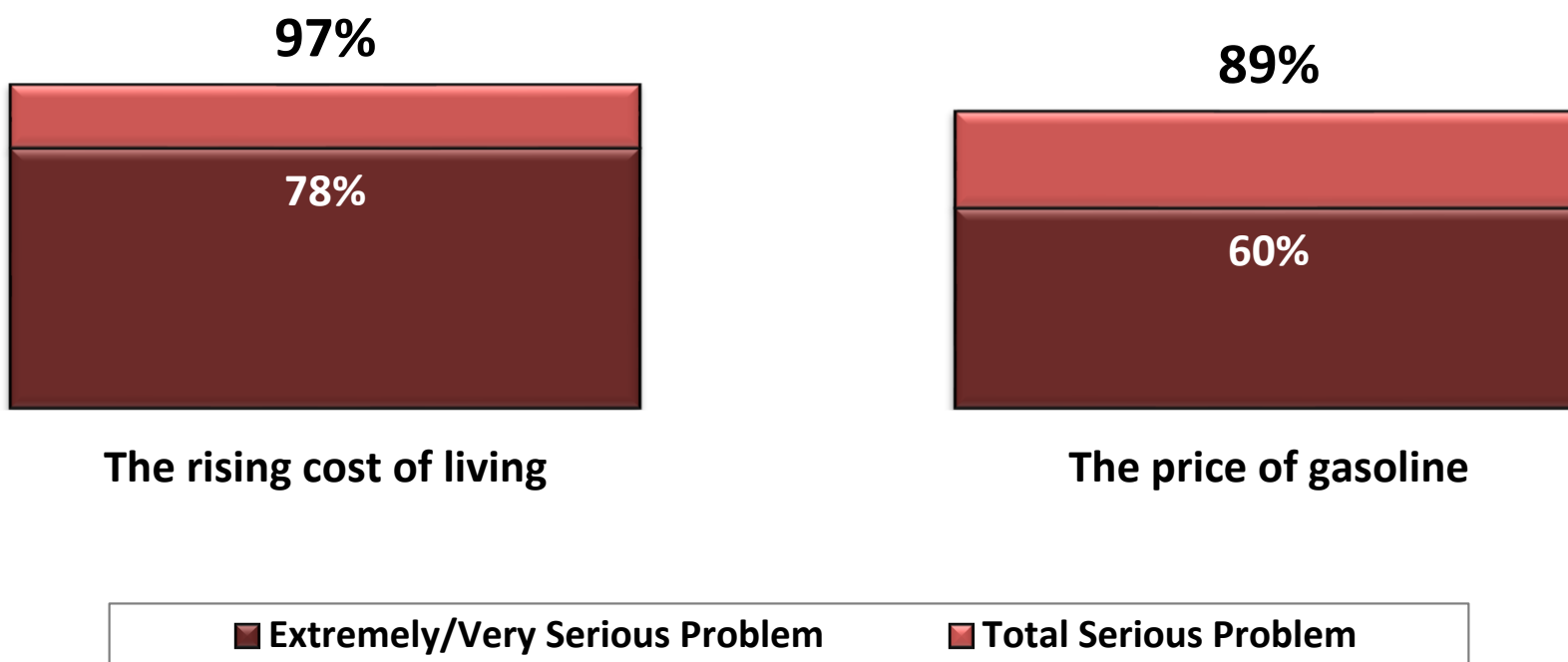
2018-2023 8 States: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY



Over the 13 years of surveying Western voters many things have changed: three Presidents, new Governors, economic woes and booms, and even a pandemic.

What has remained incredibly consistent is Westerners prioritizing conservation of the land, water, wildlife, and their ability to enjoy the outdoors.

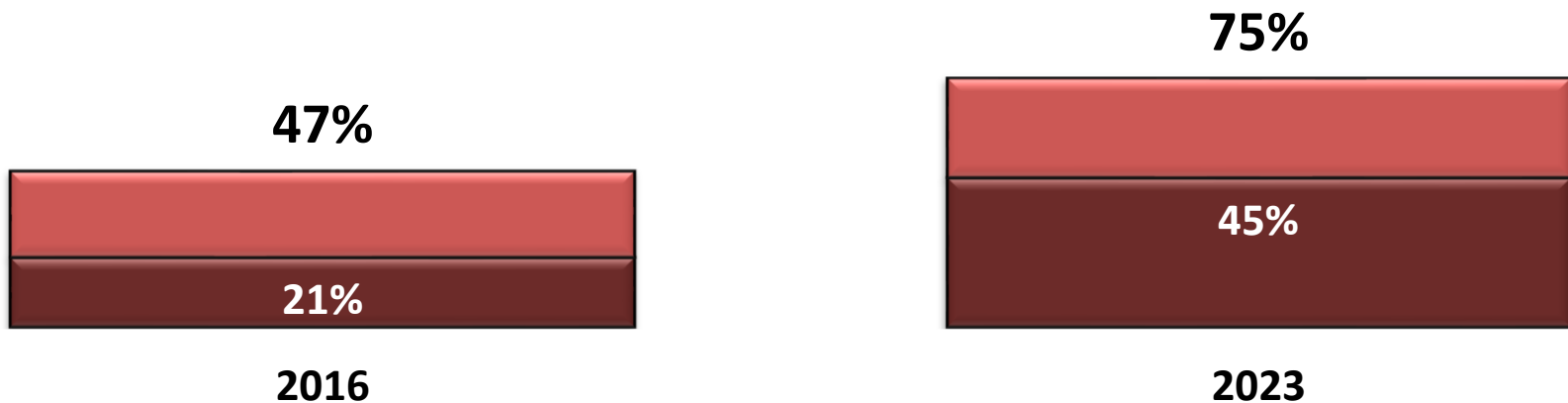
Inflation generally, and the price of gasoline specifically, are newer stressors among Western voters.



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE).

There has also been a 28-point increase since 2016 in the share of Western voters saying too many people moving into their state is a serious problem.

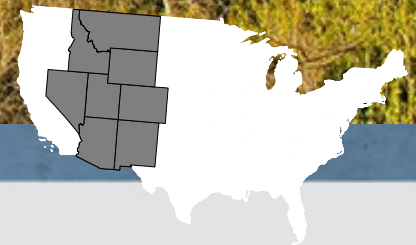
Too many people moving into STATE



■ Extremely/Very Serious Problem

■ Total Serious Problem

*For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Too many people moving into STATE** (Asked N=1,704 Respondents)*

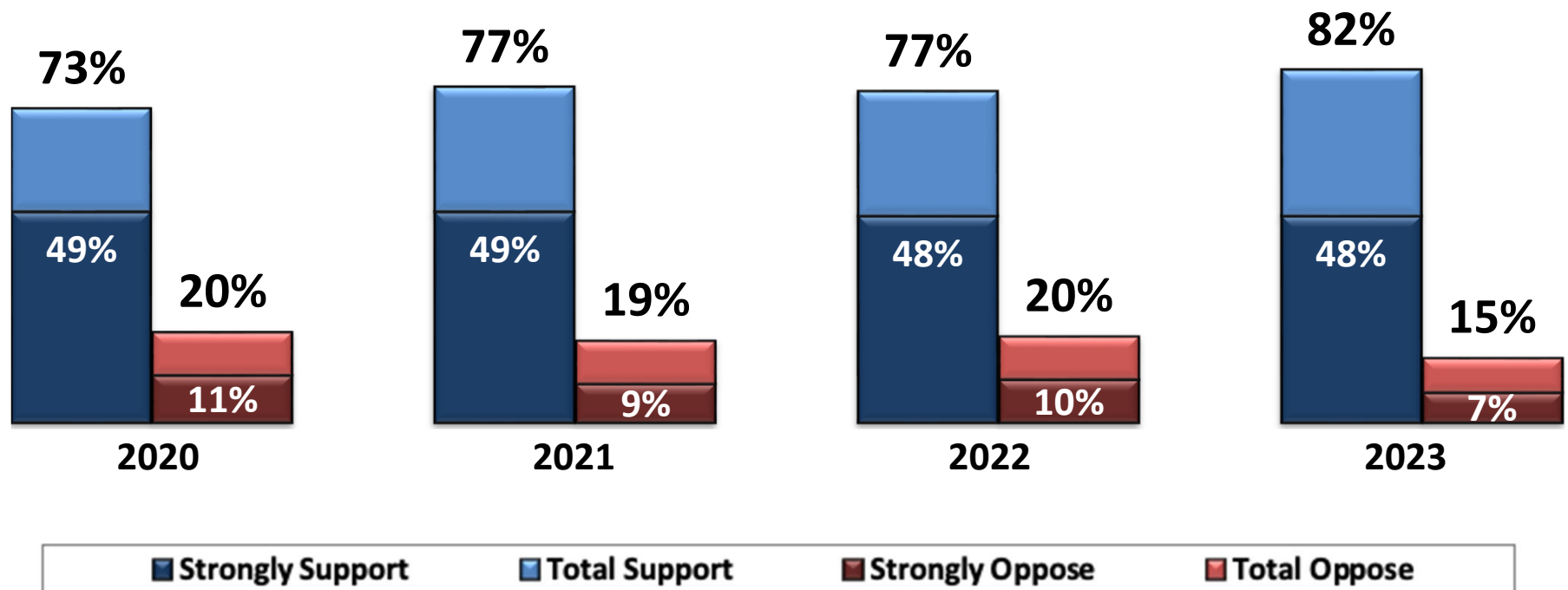


Conservation & Public Lands



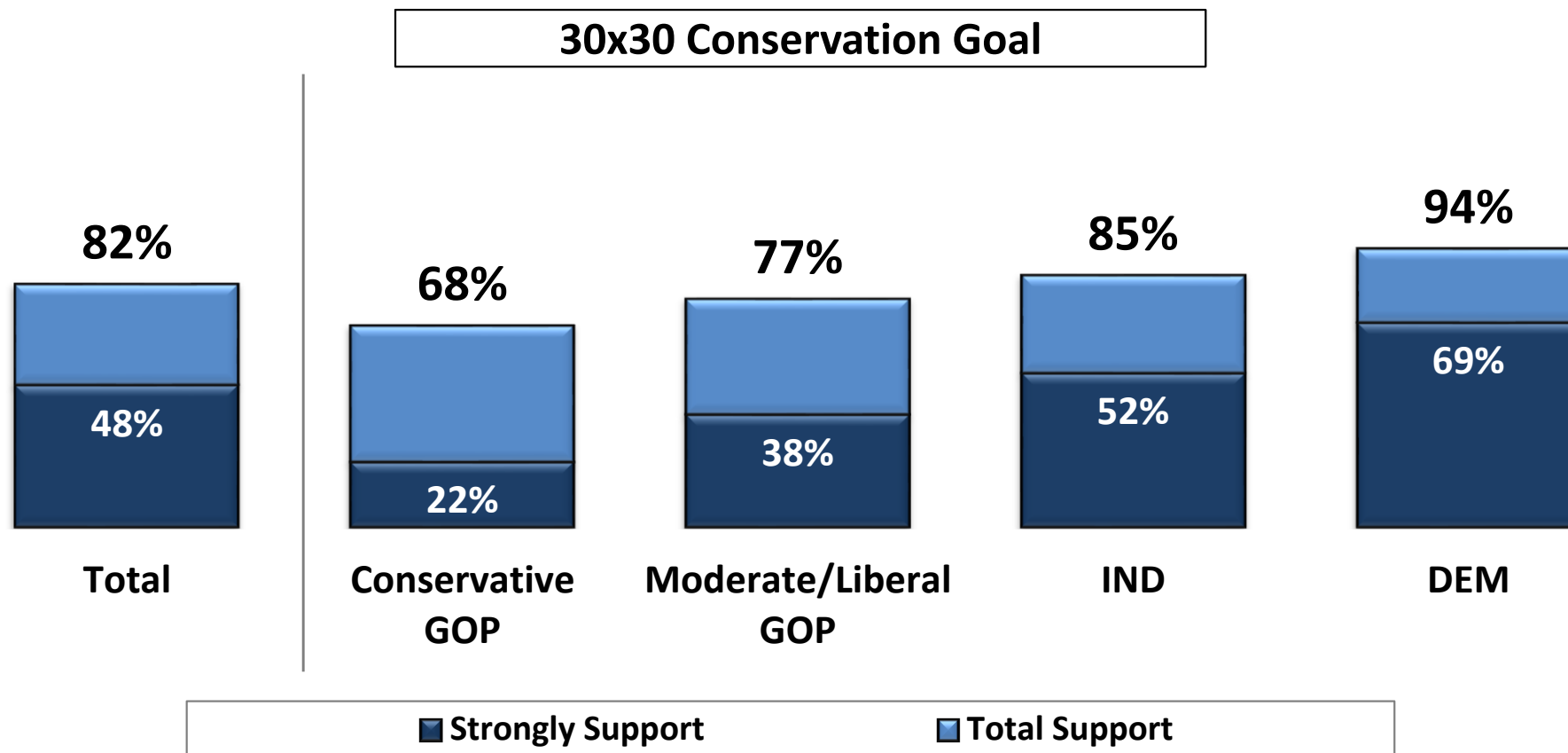
We continue to see strong support for conservation. For example, the 30x30 conservation goal is now registering the highest overall support in the last four years.

30x30 Conservation Goal



*For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state. **Achieving a national goal of conserving thirty percent of land and inland waters in America, and thirty percent of its ocean areas by the year 2030.** (Asked N=1,704 Respondents)*
2020 language read – "Setting a national goal of protecting 30 percent of America's lands and ocean areas by the year 2030" and 2022 language read "Setting a national goal of conserving thirty percent of land and inland waters in America, and thirty percent of its ocean areas by the year 2030."

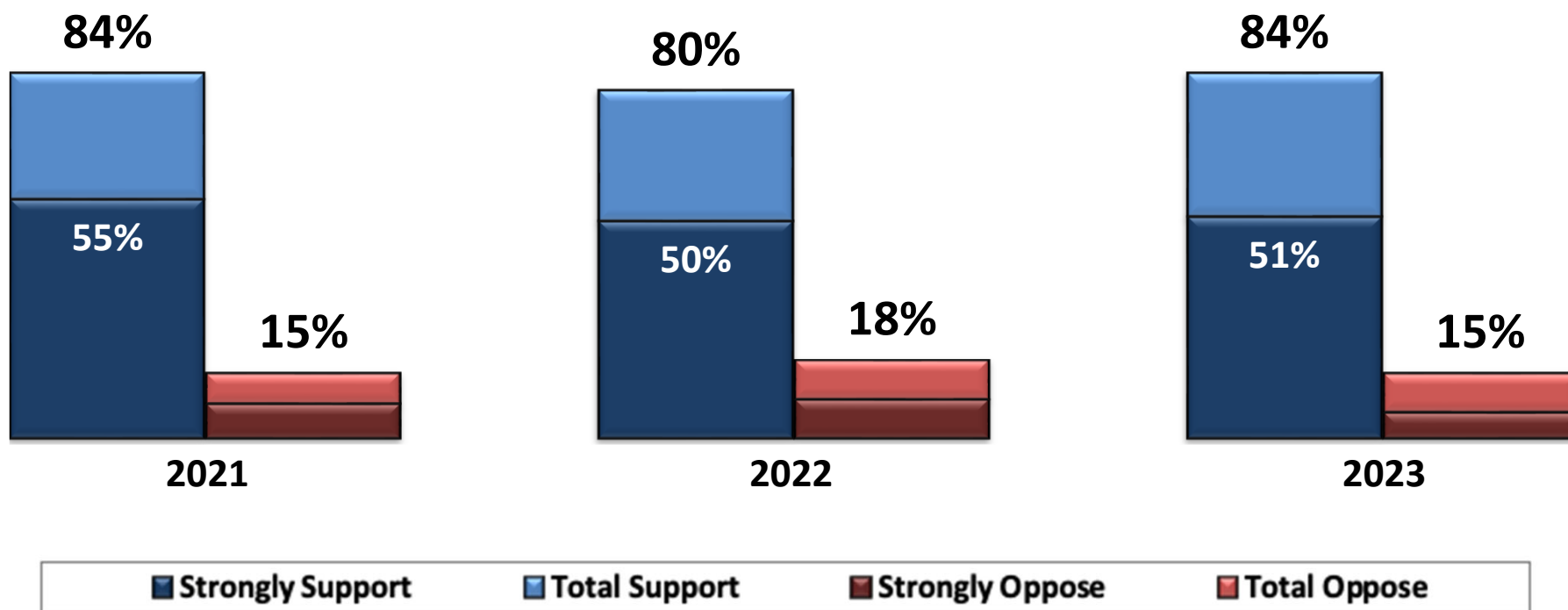
The 30x30 conservation goal also has majority support across party lines, including over two-thirds of conservative GOP voters.



For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state. **Achieving a national goal of conserving thirty percent of land and inland waters in America, and thirty percent of its ocean areas by the year 2030.** (Asked N=1,704 Respondents)

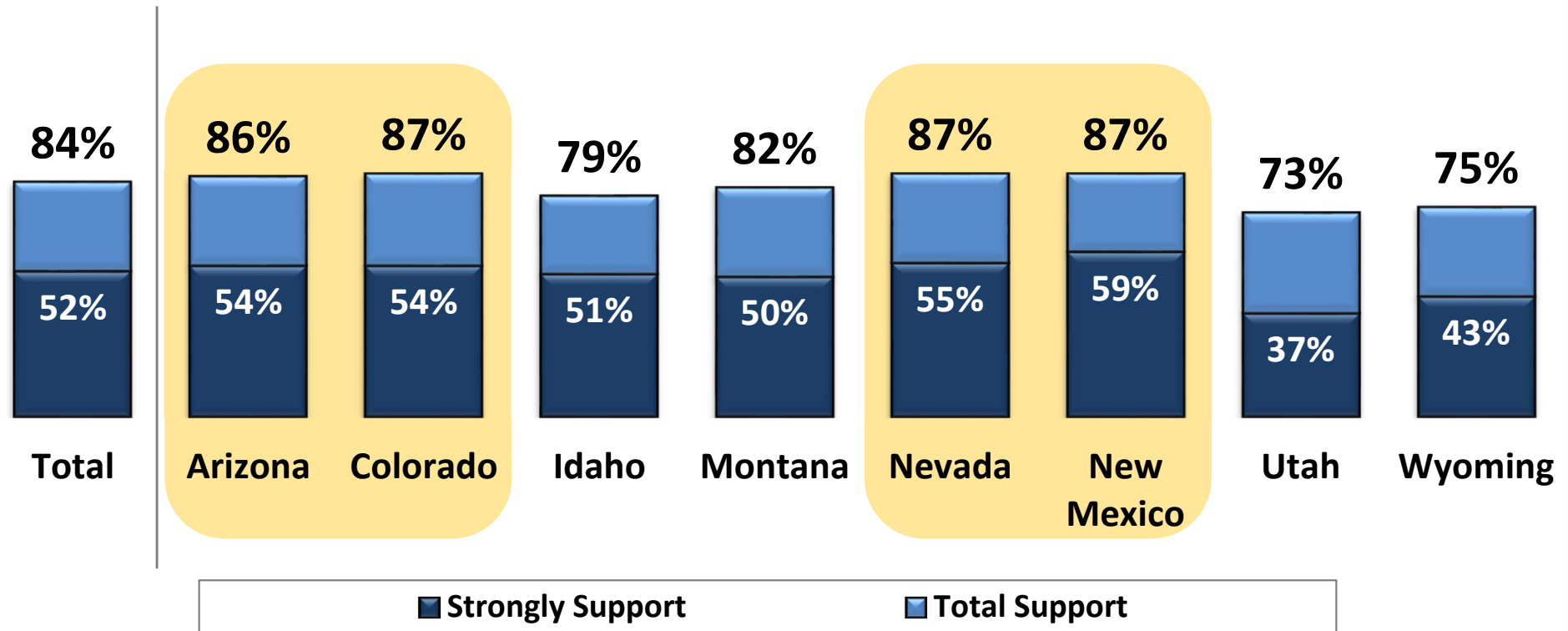
A majority of voters continues to strongly support creating new protected areas, such as national parks, to protect historic sites and areas for outdoor recreation.

Creating new national parks, national monuments, national wildlife refuges and tribal protected areas to protect historic sites or areas for outdoor recreation.



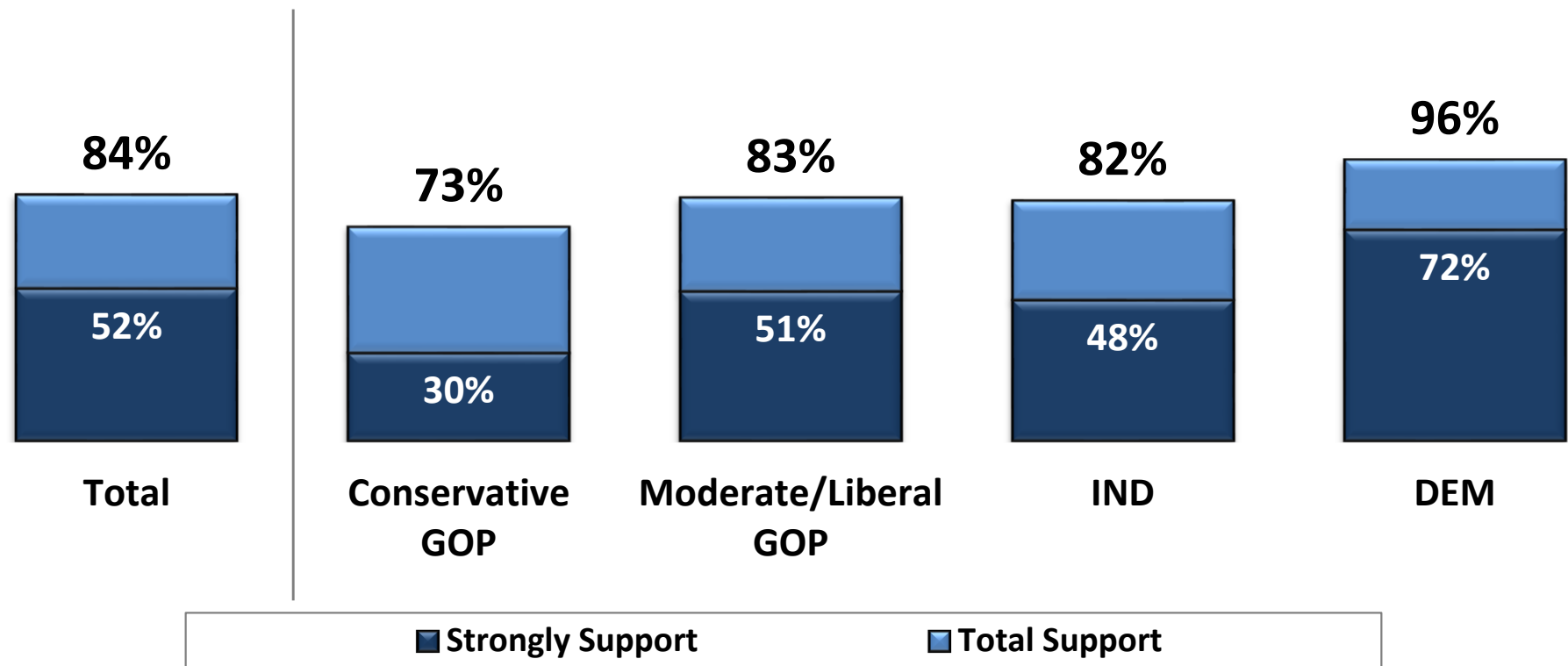
*For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state. **Creating new national parks, national monuments, national wildlife refuges and tribal protected areas to protect historic sites or areas for outdoor recreation.** (Asked N=1,704 Respondents)*

Executive action to establish national monuments is embraced by more than seven-in-ten voters in every Western state.



Do you support or oppose Presidents continuing to use their ability to protect existing public lands as national monuments?

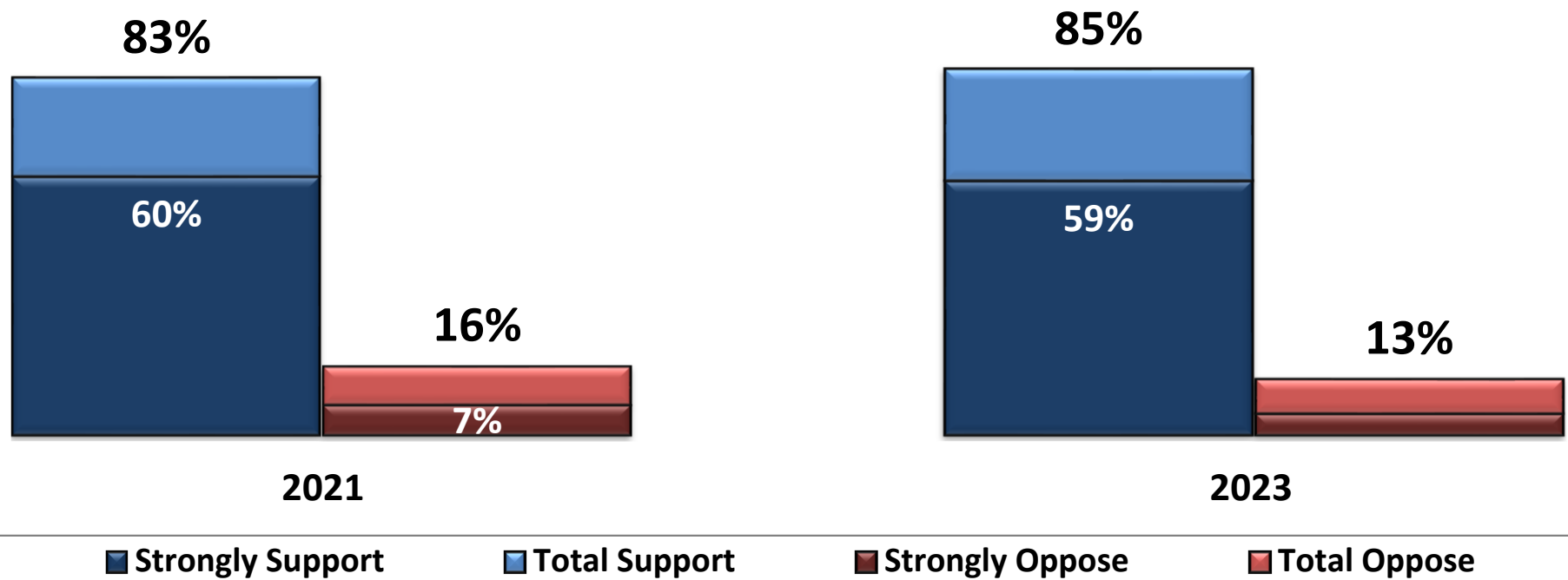
Across party lines, most voters support executive action to establish national monuments, including nearly three-quarters of conservative Republicans.



Do you support or oppose Presidents continuing to use their ability to protect existing public lands as national monuments?

Western voters are just as likely to support Native American tribes having greater input into decisions about areas containing sacred/culturally important sites.

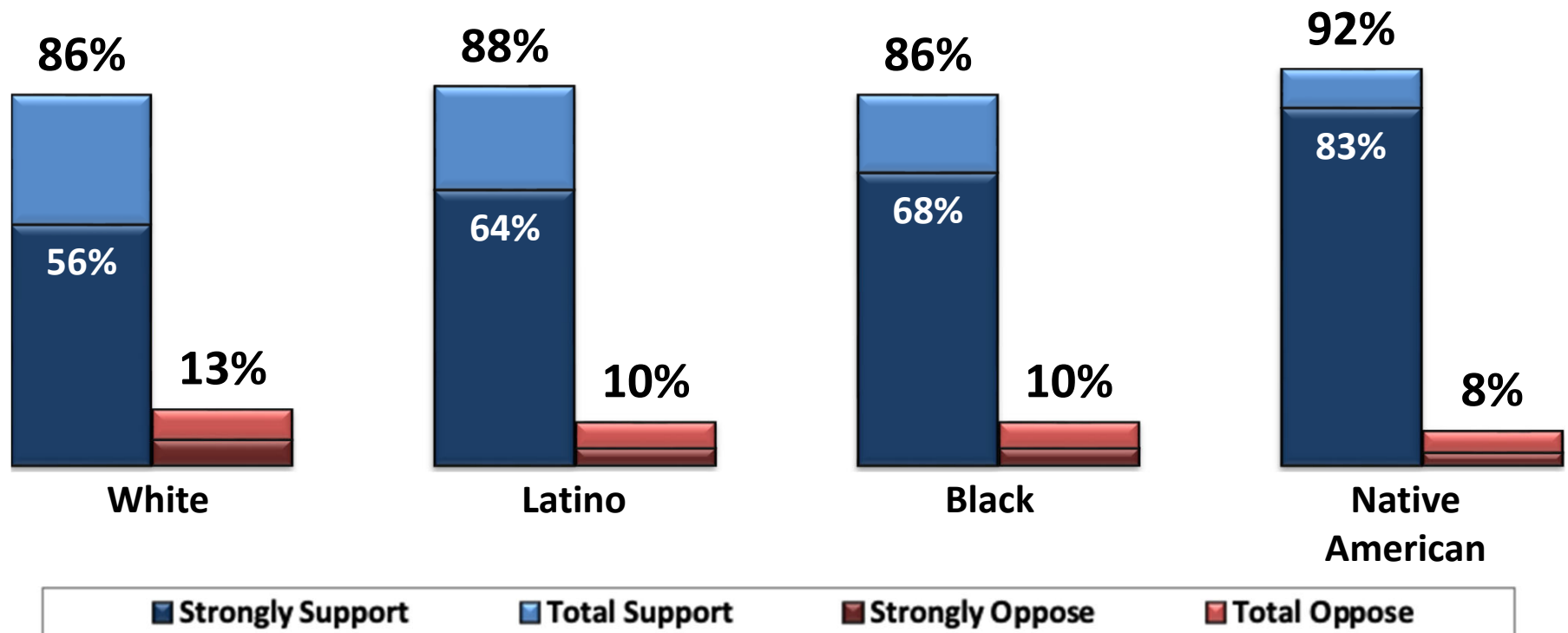
Greater Input from Native American Tribes



*For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state. **Ensuring that Native American tribes have greater input into decisions made about areas within national public lands that contain sites sacred to or culturally important to their tribe.** (Asked N=1,704 Respondents)*

All Westerners – but particularly - Native American voters support greater input from tribes regarding areas that contain sacred/culturally important sites.

Greater Input from Native American Tribes



*For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state. **Ensuring that Native American tribes have greater input into decisions made about areas within national public lands that contain sites sacred to or culturally important to their tribe.** (Asked N=1,704 Respondents)*

Western voters have also been incredibly consistent in preferring that their member of Congress prioritize natural resources on public lands rather than produce energy there.

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

Ensuring we protect sources of clean water, our air quality and wildlife habitat while providing opportunities to visit and recreate on our national public lands.

65% 67% 69% 67% 68%

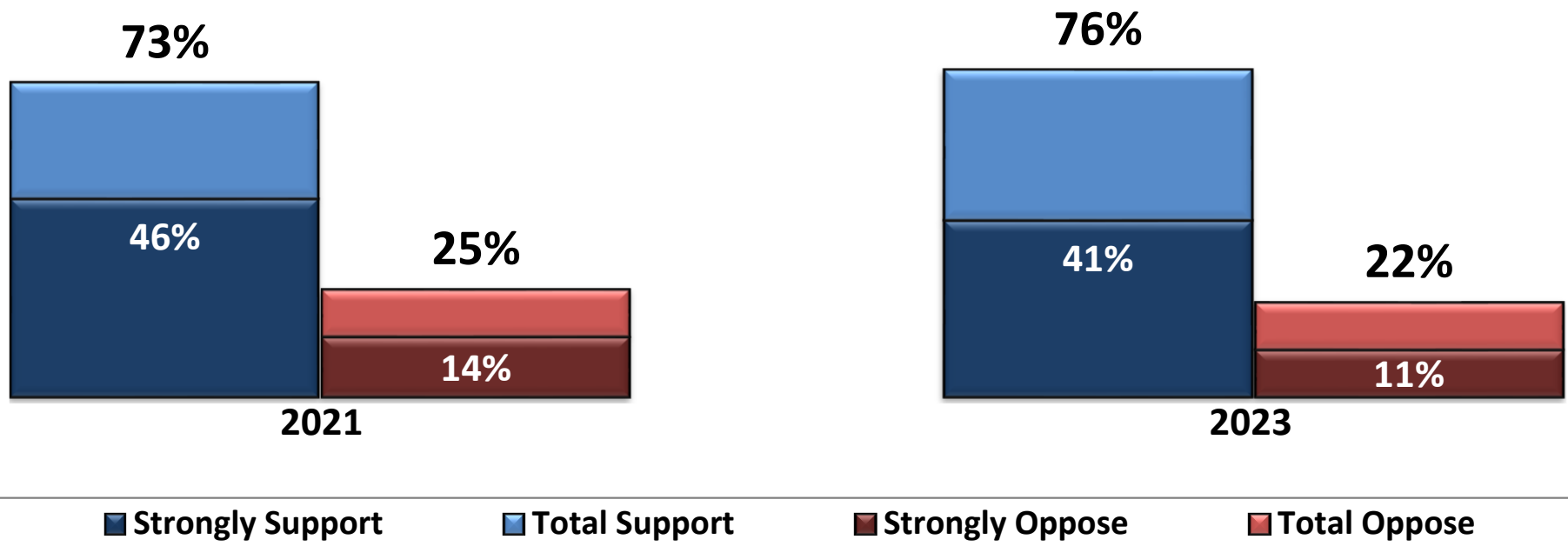
Ensuring we produce more domestic energy by maximizing the amount of national public lands available for responsible oil and gas drilling and mining.

24% 25% 27% 28% 26%

Which one would you prefer your Member of Congress place more emphasis on in upcoming decisions regarding national public lands?

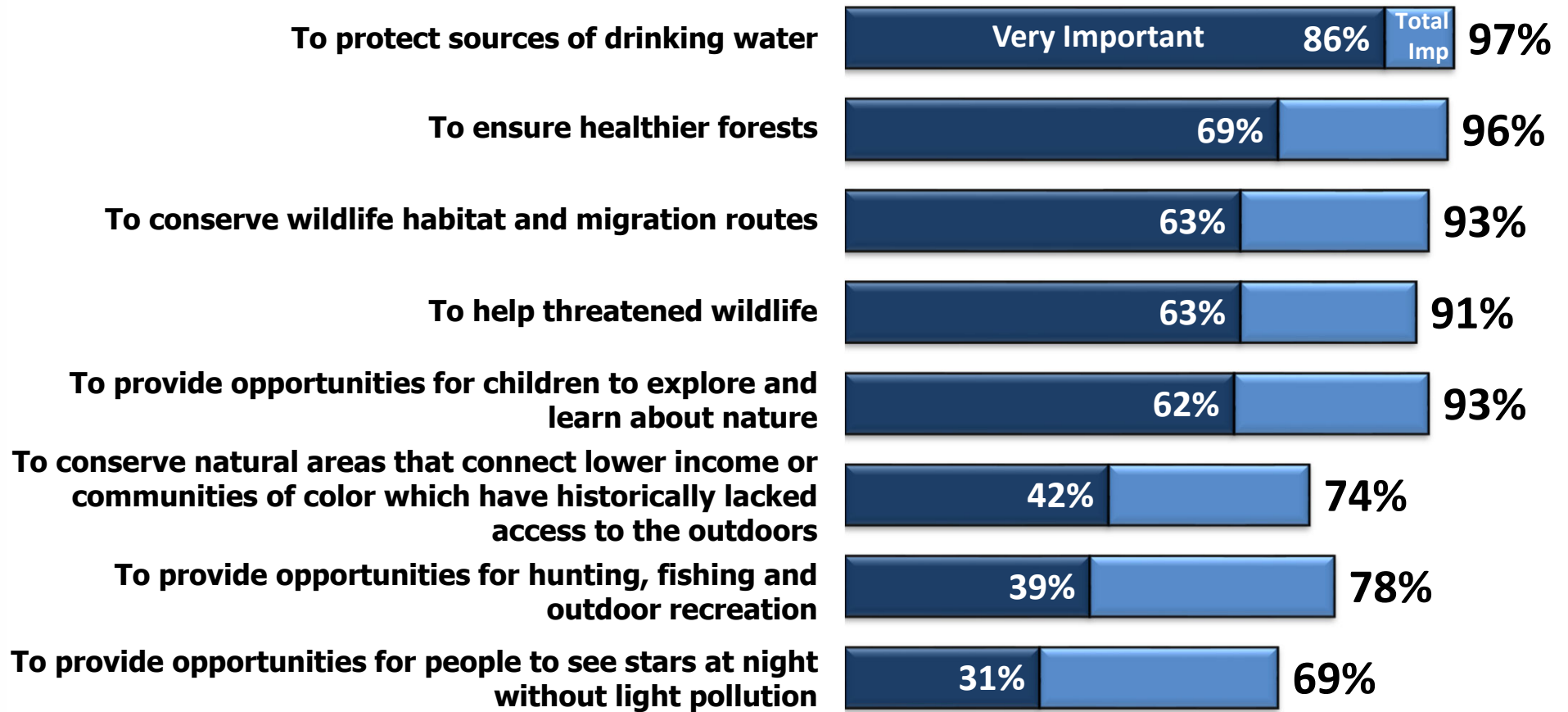
They also continue to support directing funding to ensure adequate access to natural areas for lower-income people and communities of color.

Directing funding to ensure adequate access to parks and natural areas for lower-income people and communities of color that have disproportionately lacked them.



*For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state. **Directing funding to ensure adequate access to parks and natural areas for lower-income people and communities of color that have disproportionately lacked them.** (Asked N=1,709 Respondents)*

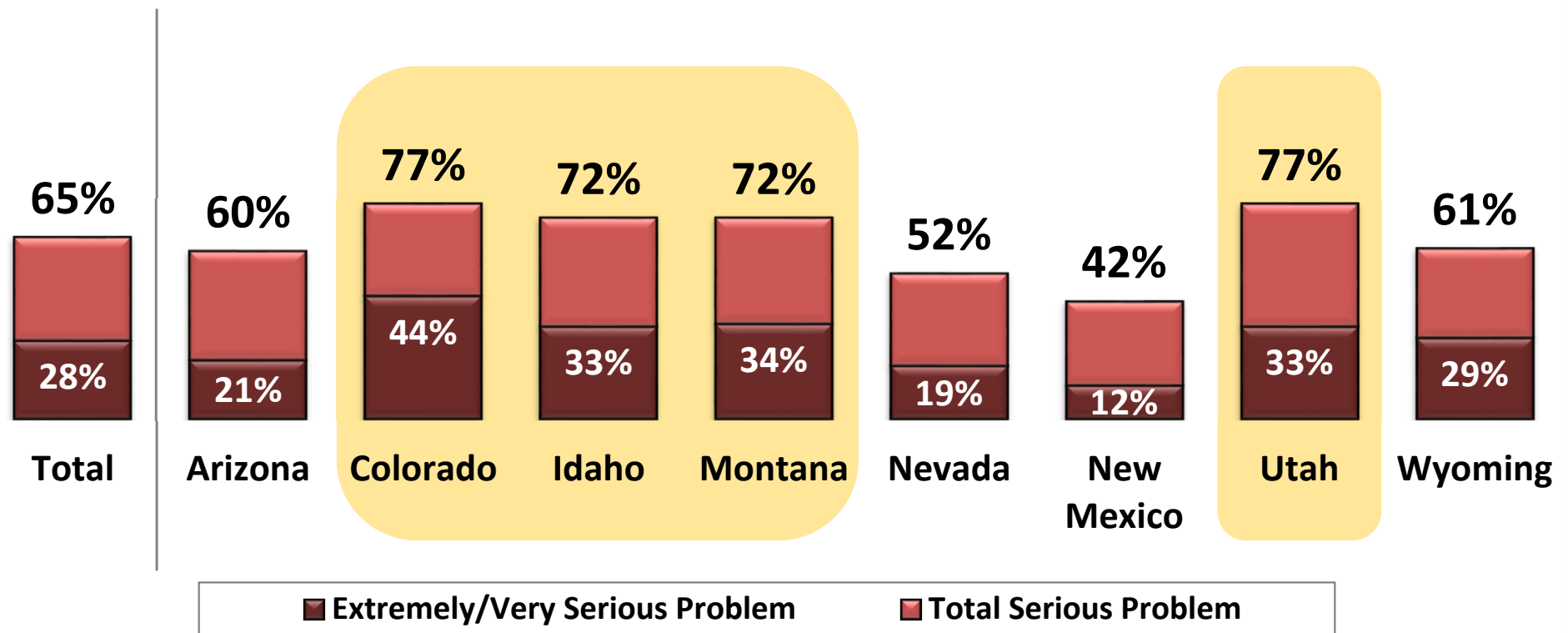
Voters see a host of reasons to support conservation efforts.



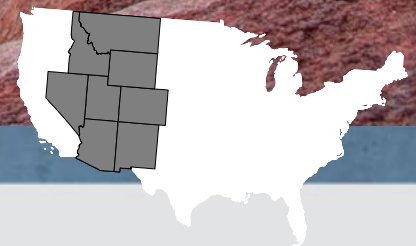
For each of the following items, please indicate if you think that particular reason is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all to you personally.

Nearly two-thirds of Western voters say crowding at outdoor recreation sites is a problem, especially in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, and Utah.

Crowding and more people at outdoor recreation sites like trails and parks



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Crowding and more people at outdoor recreation sites like trails and parks** (Asked N=1,709 Respondents)



Water



The current shortage of water supplies in the West is seen by most as a serious crisis or significant problem.

A serious crisis 50%

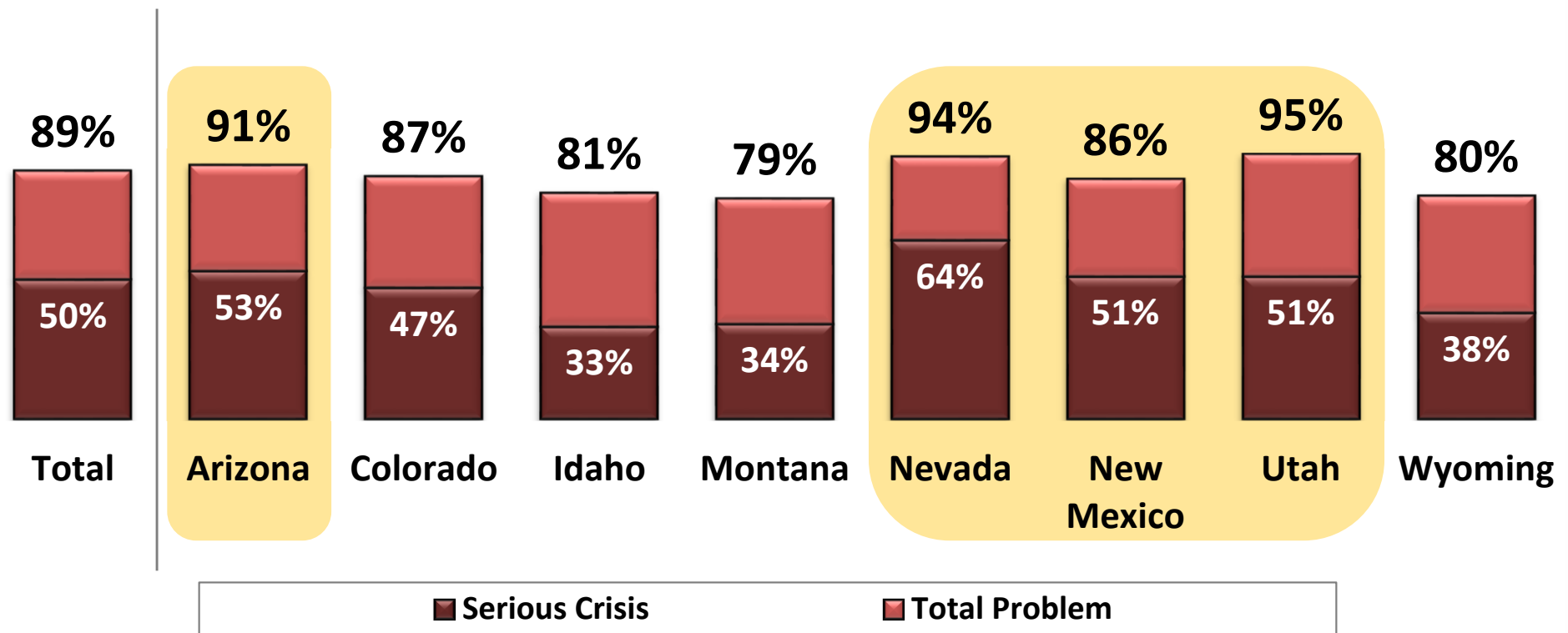
**A significant problem, but
not a crisis 39%**

A minor problem 7%

Not really a problem 4%

Which of the following would you say best describes the current shortage of water supplies in the West?

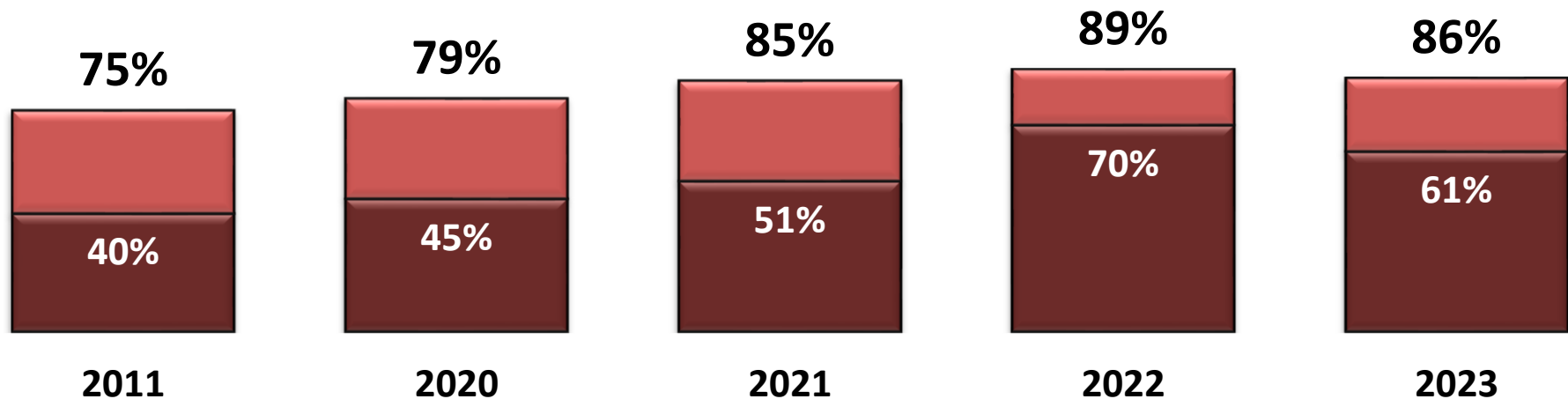
A majority of voters in four of the eight states characterize the current water situation in the West as a “serious crisis,” and overwhelming majorities see it as a problem.



Which of the following would you say best describes the current shortage of water supplies in the West?

Water supplies have been a consistent concern, but it is higher recently – over the last three years nearly nine in ten rate it a serious problem.

Inadequate water supplies

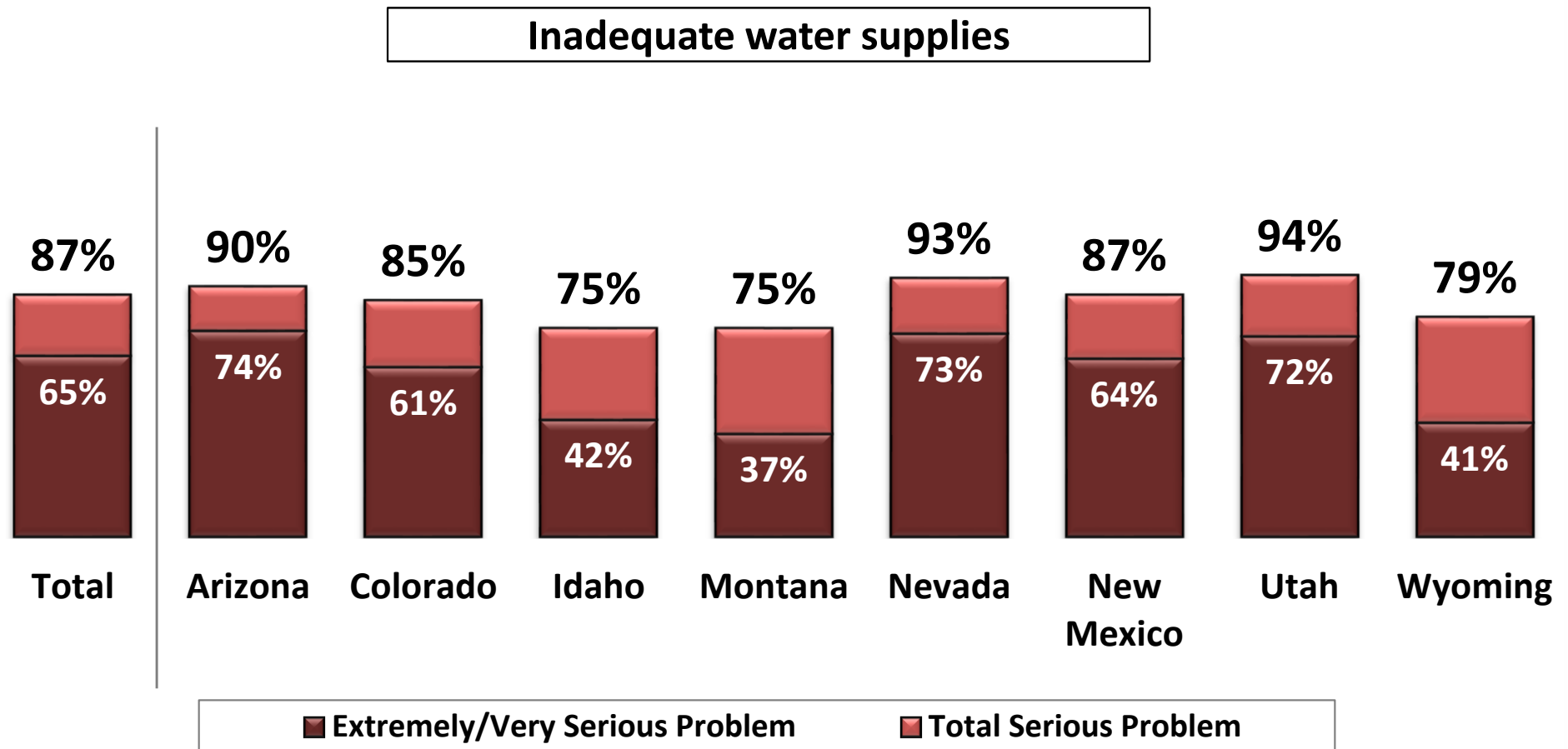


■ Extremely/Very Serious Problem

■ Total Serious Problem

*For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Inadequate water supplies** (Asked N=1,709 Respondents)*

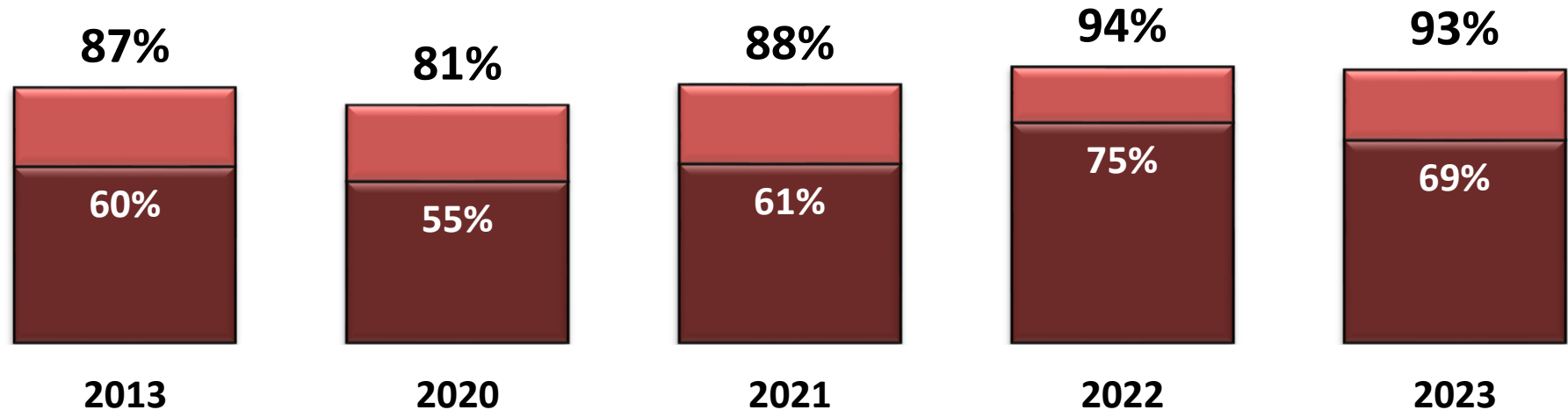
Inadequate water supplies is seen as a serious problem by most voters, with greater intensity in the Southwestern states.



*For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Inadequate water supplies** (Asked N=1,709 Respondents)*

Likewise, the low level of water in rivers has registered more as a serious problem in the last two years.

Low level of water in rivers



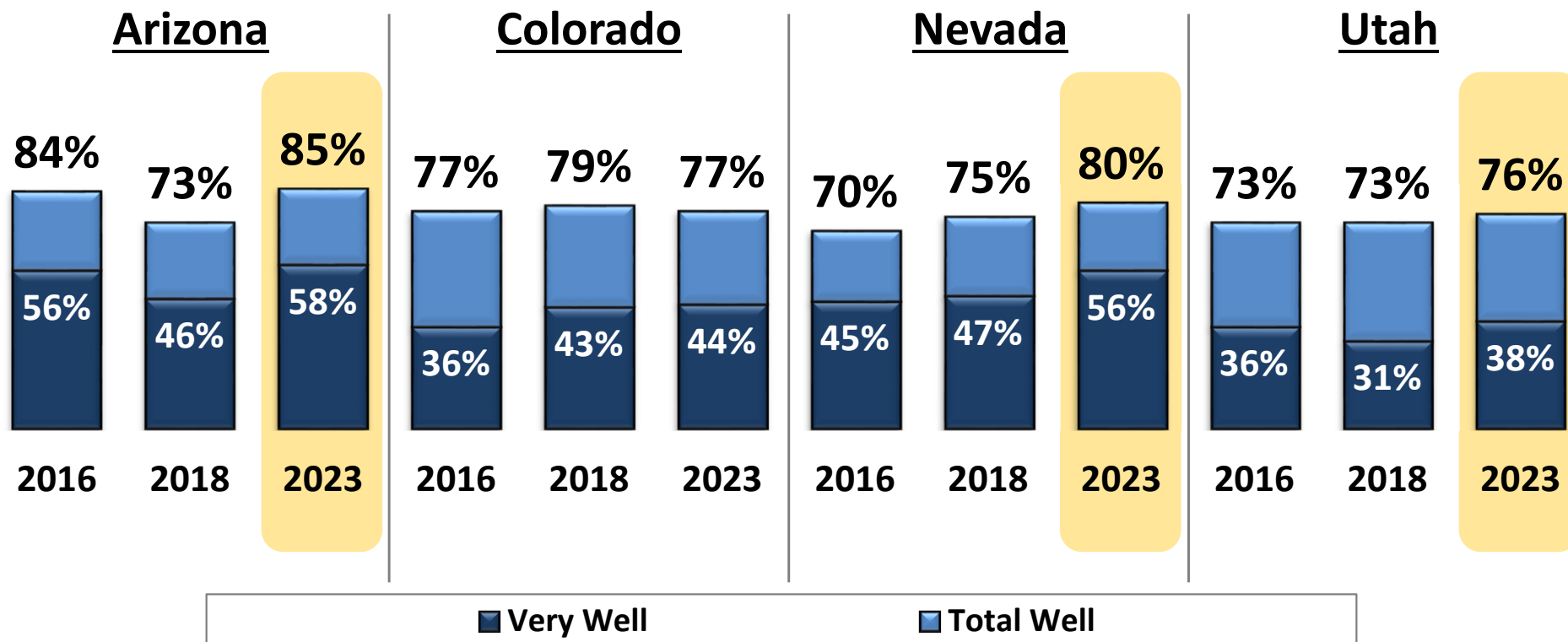
■ Extremely/Very Serious Problem

■ Total Serious Problem

*For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Low level of water in rivers** (Asked N=1,709 Respondents)*

In three of the four states that the Colorado River flows through, more voters today describe the river as “at risk” than ever before.

At risk



I'm going to read you a list of words and phrases, and please indicate whether you think each one describes the Colorado River very well, somewhat well, not very well, or not well at all. **At risk** (Asked N=893 Respondents)

Voters are most likely to say that industry and businesses use the most water in their state.



38%

Industry and businesses



34%

Farmers and ranchers



25%

People using water in their homes

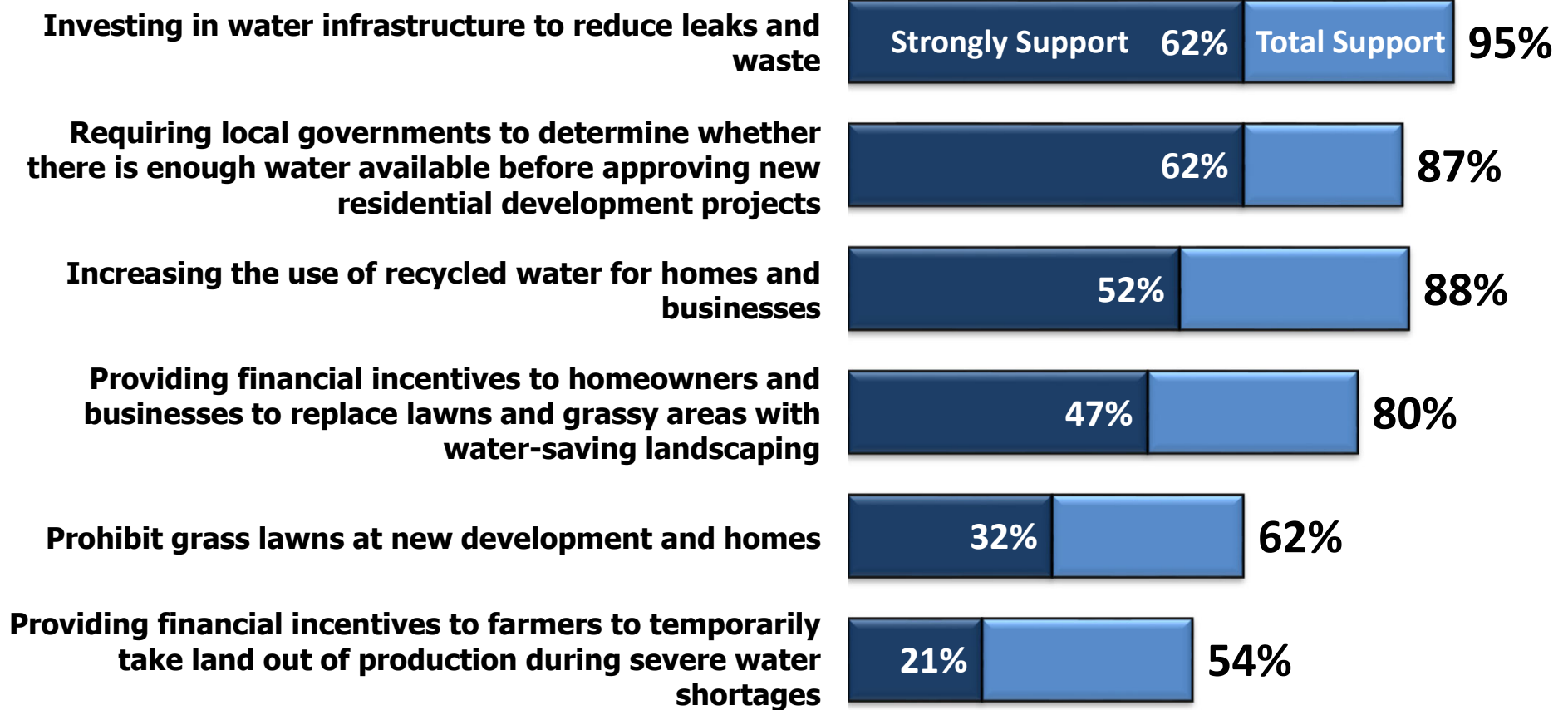
And, which one of the following do you think uses the most water in your state?

The vast majority of water in the region is used by agriculture which voters in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming are most likely to accurately identify.

<i>Uses Most Water</i>	Total	AZ	CO	ID	MT	NV	NM	UT	WY
Industry and businesses	38%	40%	35%	27%	25%	56%	44%	28%	28%
Farmers and ranchers	34%	31%	34%	51%	50%	17%	33%	43%	52%
People using water in their homes	25%	26%	29%	20%	21%	25%	20%	25%	15%

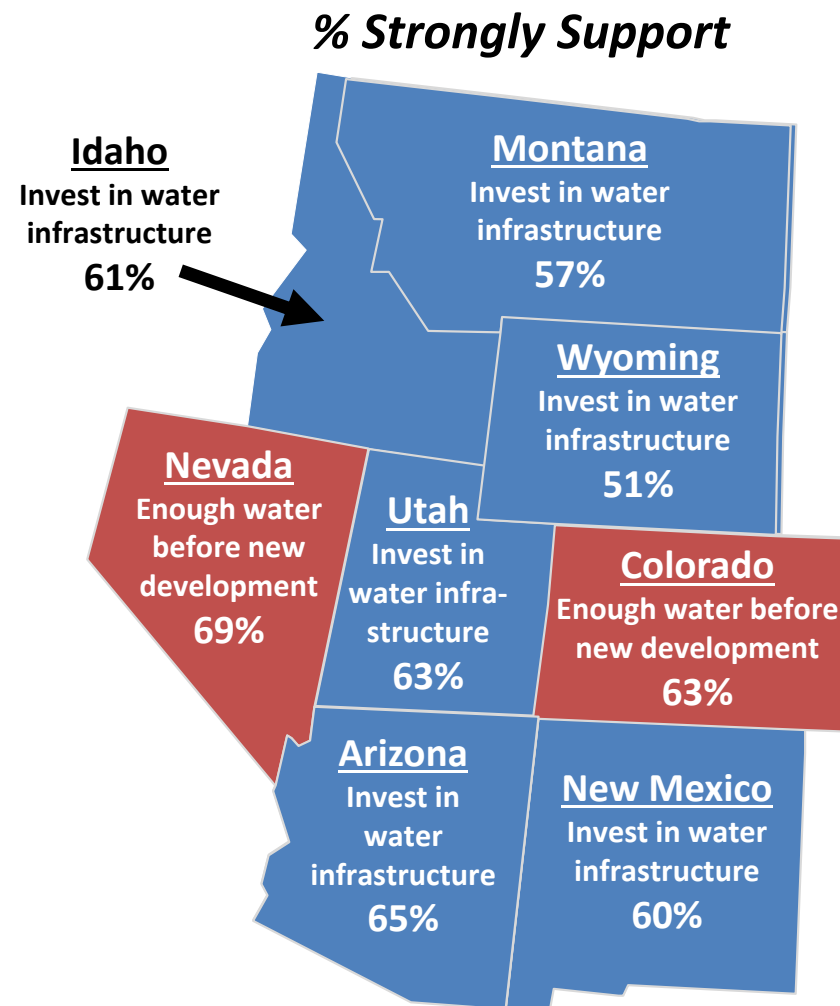
And, which one of the following do you think uses the most water in your state?

A majority of Westerners support every single policy action we tested to help address water supply issues.



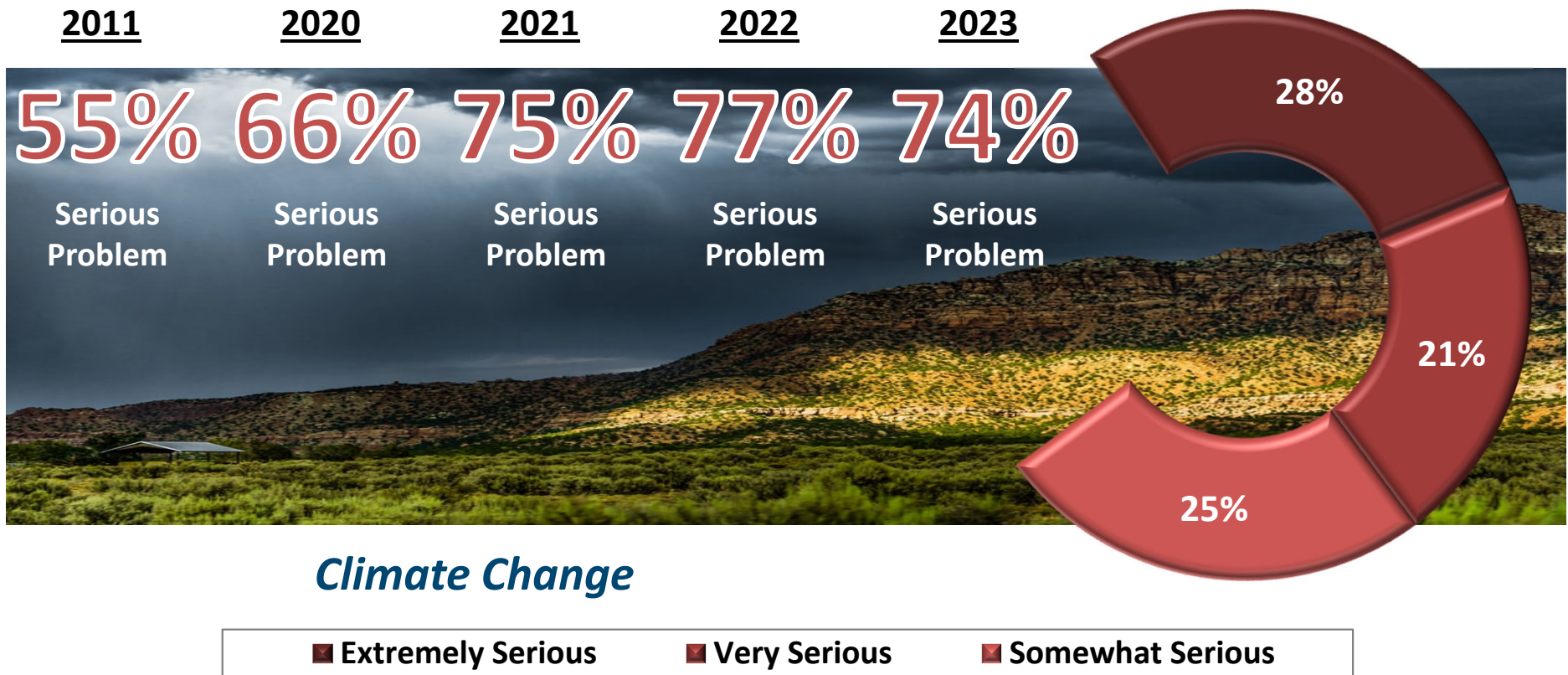
For each one, please indicate whether that is something you would support or oppose in your community or state.

The most-supported action to address inadequate water supplies in most states is to invest in water infrastructure.



For each one, please indicate whether that is something you would support or oppose in your community or state.

Climate change continues to be seen as a serious problem by most Western voters.

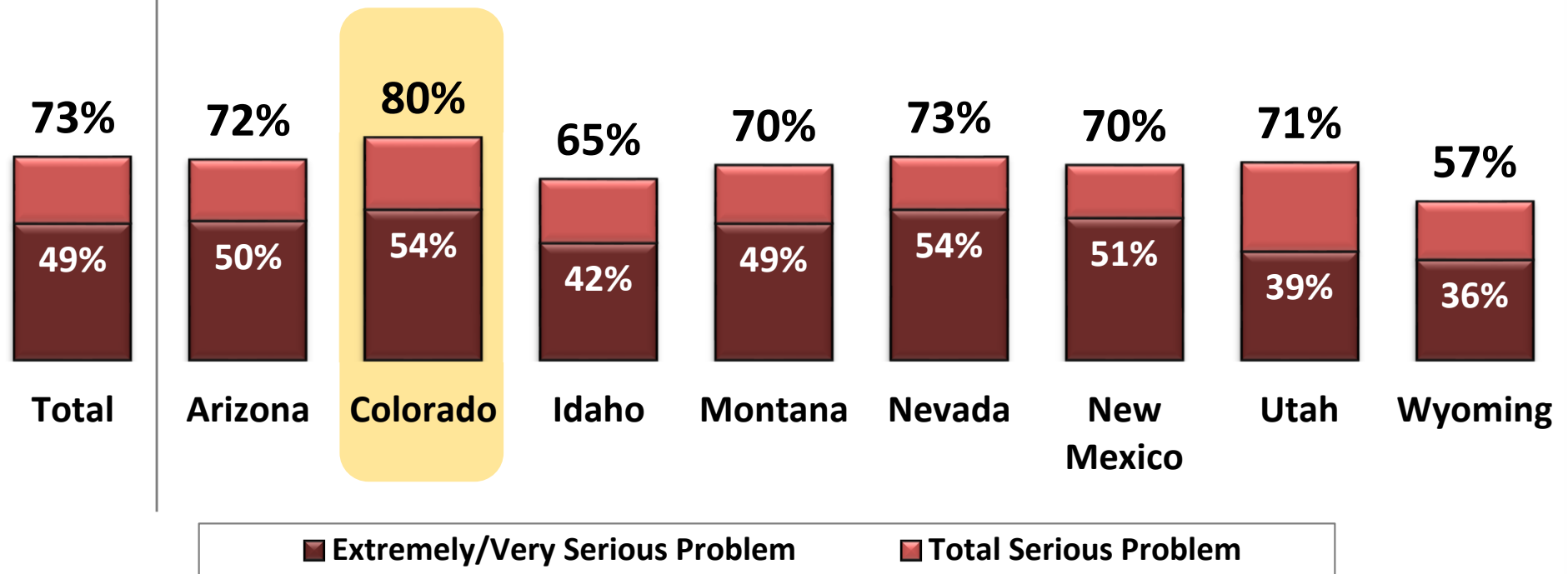


For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Climate change** (Asked N=1,704 Respondents)

Showing 2021 and 2022 data by just 2011 states: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY

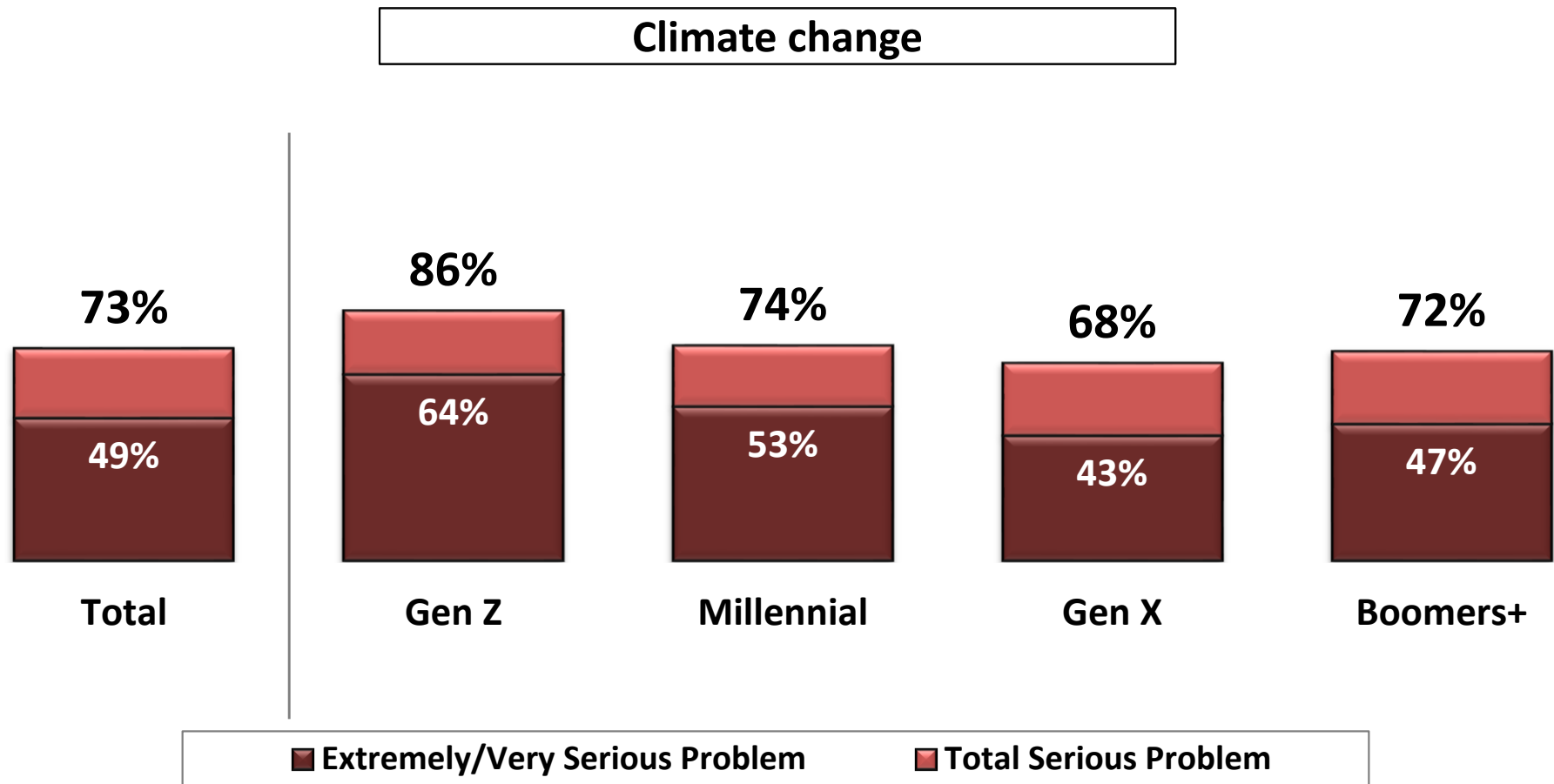
A majority in every state – but highest in Colorado - say that climate change is a serious problem.

Climate change

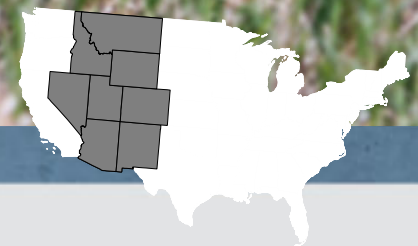


*For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Climate change** (Asked N=1,704 Respondents)*

Most Gen Z and Millennial voters say that climate change is an extremely or very serious problem.



*For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Climate change** (Asked N=1,704 Respondents)*

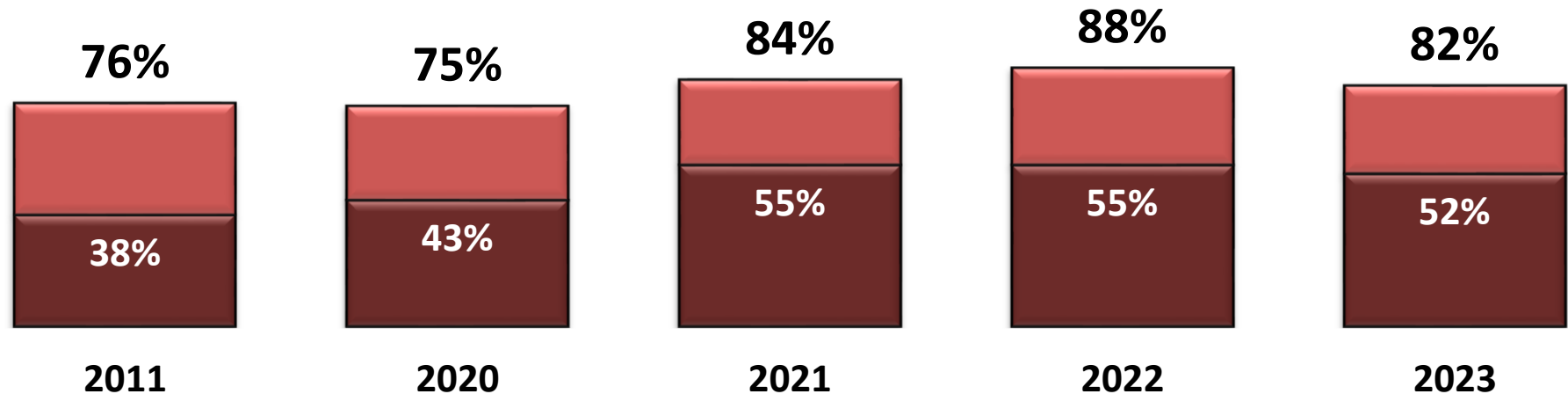


Wildlife



Loss of habitat for fish and wildlife continues to be viewed as an extremely or very serious problem by a majority of Western voters.

Loss of habitat for fish and wildlife



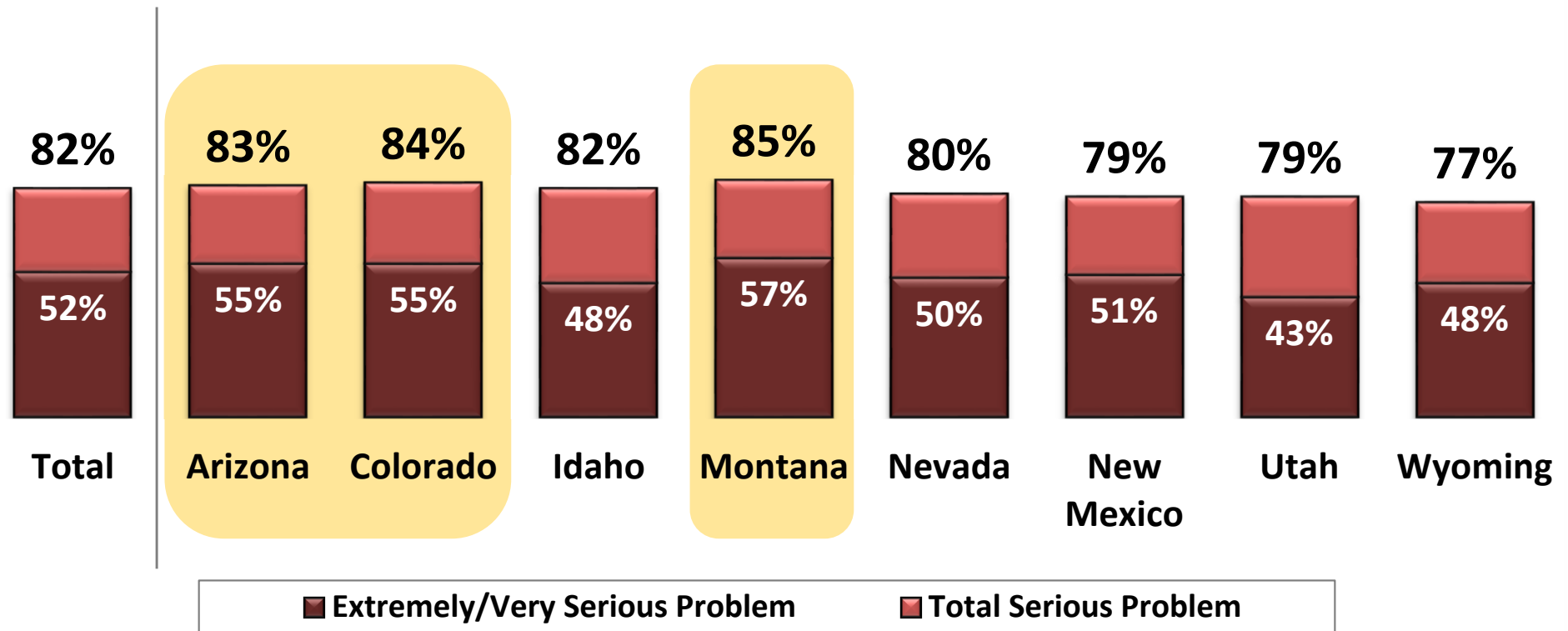
■ Extremely/Very Serious Problem

■ Total Serious Problem

*For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Loss of habitat for fish and wildlife** (Asked N=1,704 Respondents)*

Nearly three-in-five Montana voters say the loss of fish and wildlife habitat is an extremely or very serious problem.

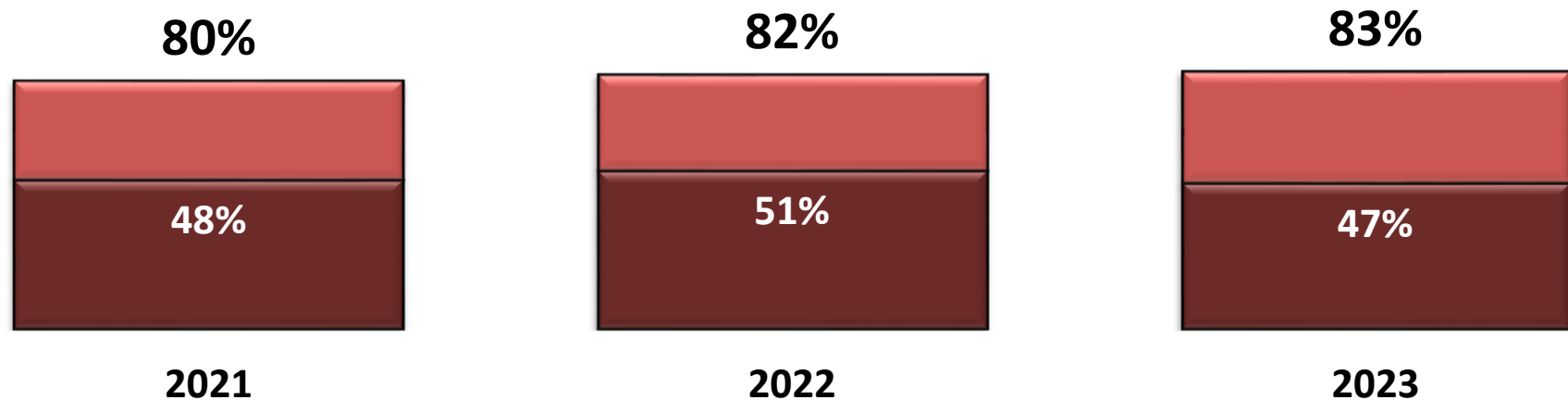
Loss of habitat for fish and wildlife



*For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Loss of habitat for fish and wildlife** (Asked N=1,704 Respondents)*

Over the past few years, at least four-in-five Western voters have said that population declines of fish and wildlife is a serious problem.

Population declines of fish and wildlife



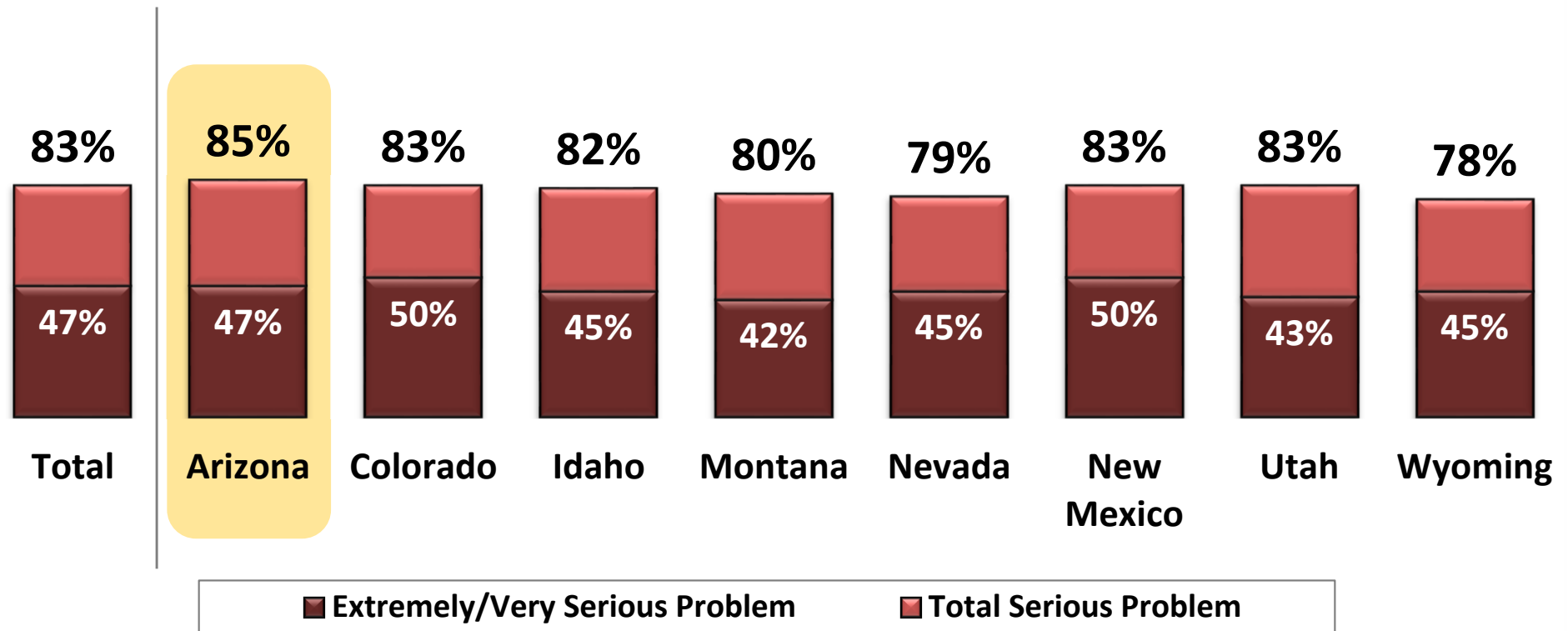
■ Extremely/Very Serious Problem

■ Total Serious Problem

*For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Population declines of fish and wildlife** (Asked N=1,709 Respondents)*

Fish and wildlife population declines are seen as a serious problem by more than three-in-four voters in every state.

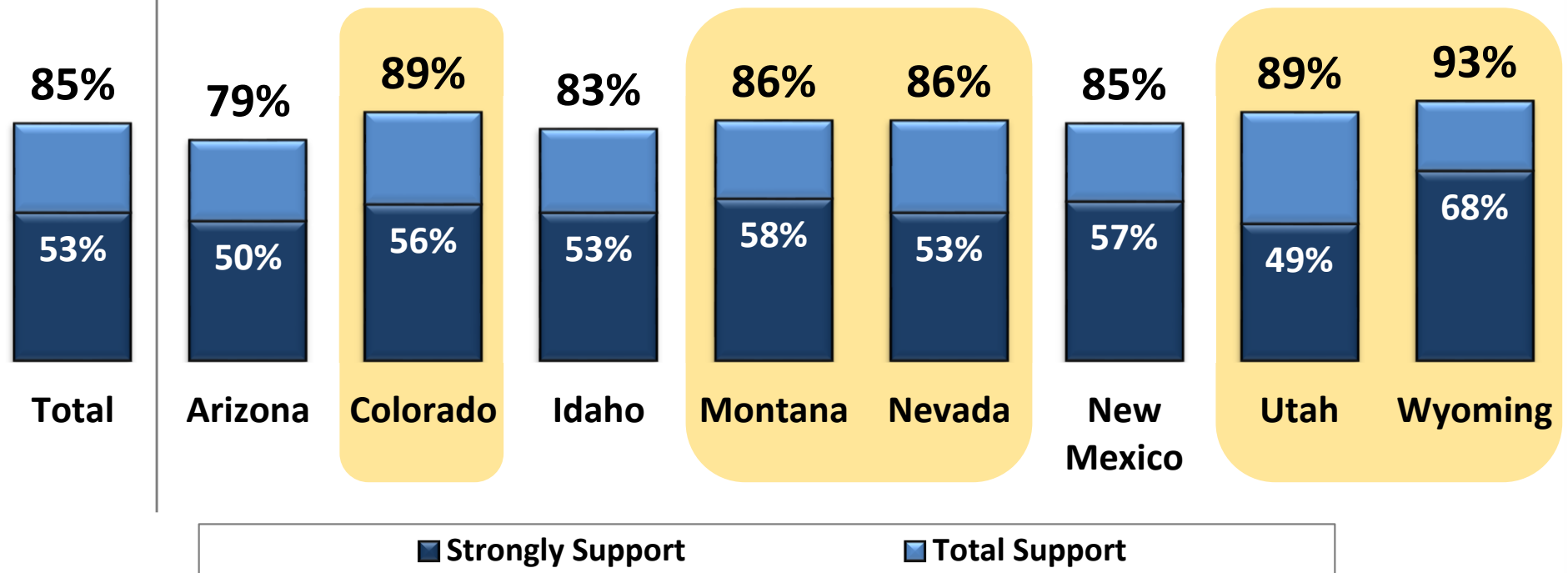
Population declines of fish and wildlife



*For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Population declines of fish and wildlife** (Asked N=1,709 Respondents)*

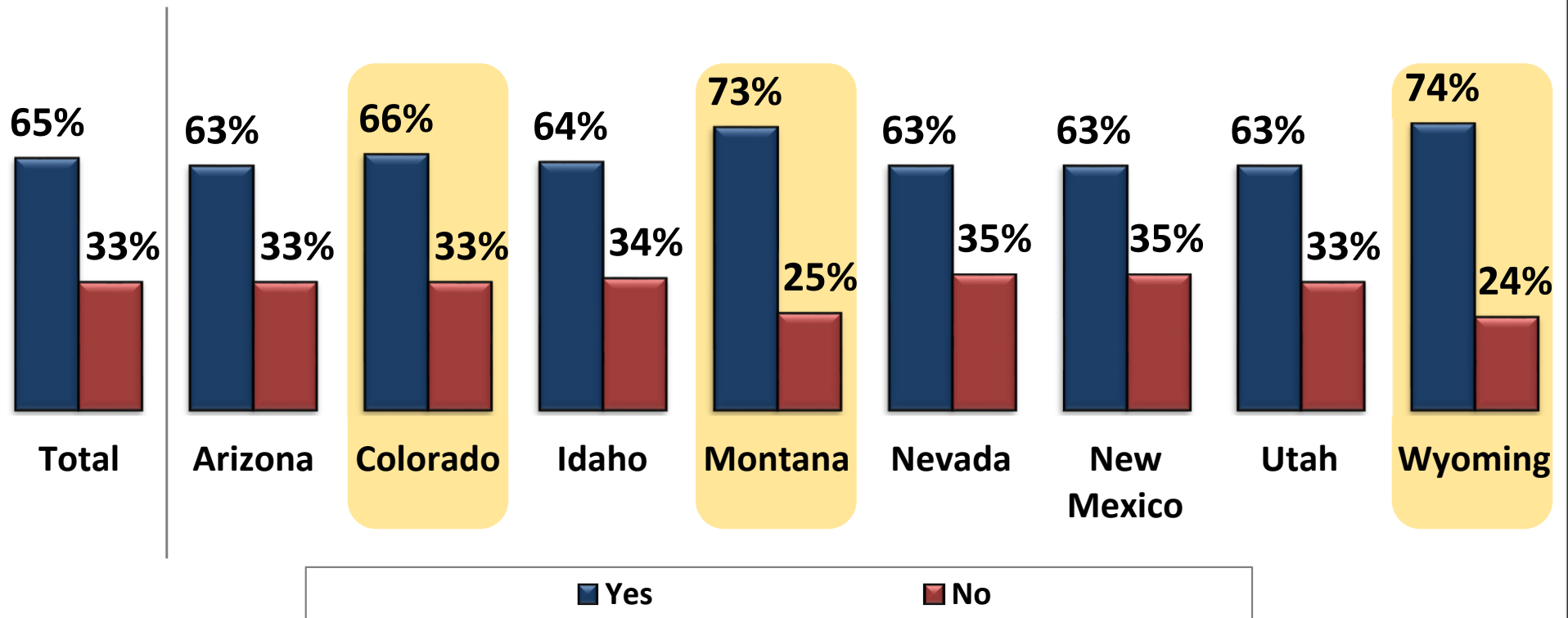
Constructing wildlife crossings across highways has majority support, including over two-thirds in Wyoming who strongly support this.

Constructing Wildlife Crossing Structures Across Major Highways Intersecting with Migration Routes



For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state. **Constructing wildlife crossing structures across major highways that intersect with known migration routes.** (Asked N=1,704 Respondents)

Most Western voters consider themselves conservationists. Montana and Wyoming are the most likely to feel this way, with nearly three-quarters labeling themselves accordingly.



Do you consider yourself to be a conservationist?



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