

The State of Education Poll Results

February 11, 2020



ILLINOIS
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION



Poll Details



Conducted by:

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Sample:

- 1,000 adults (not just voters) in Illinois

Dates:

- November 13 – 21, 2019

Margin of error:

- +/- 3.1% with 95% confidence

Data weighted:

- U.S. Census data for Illinois

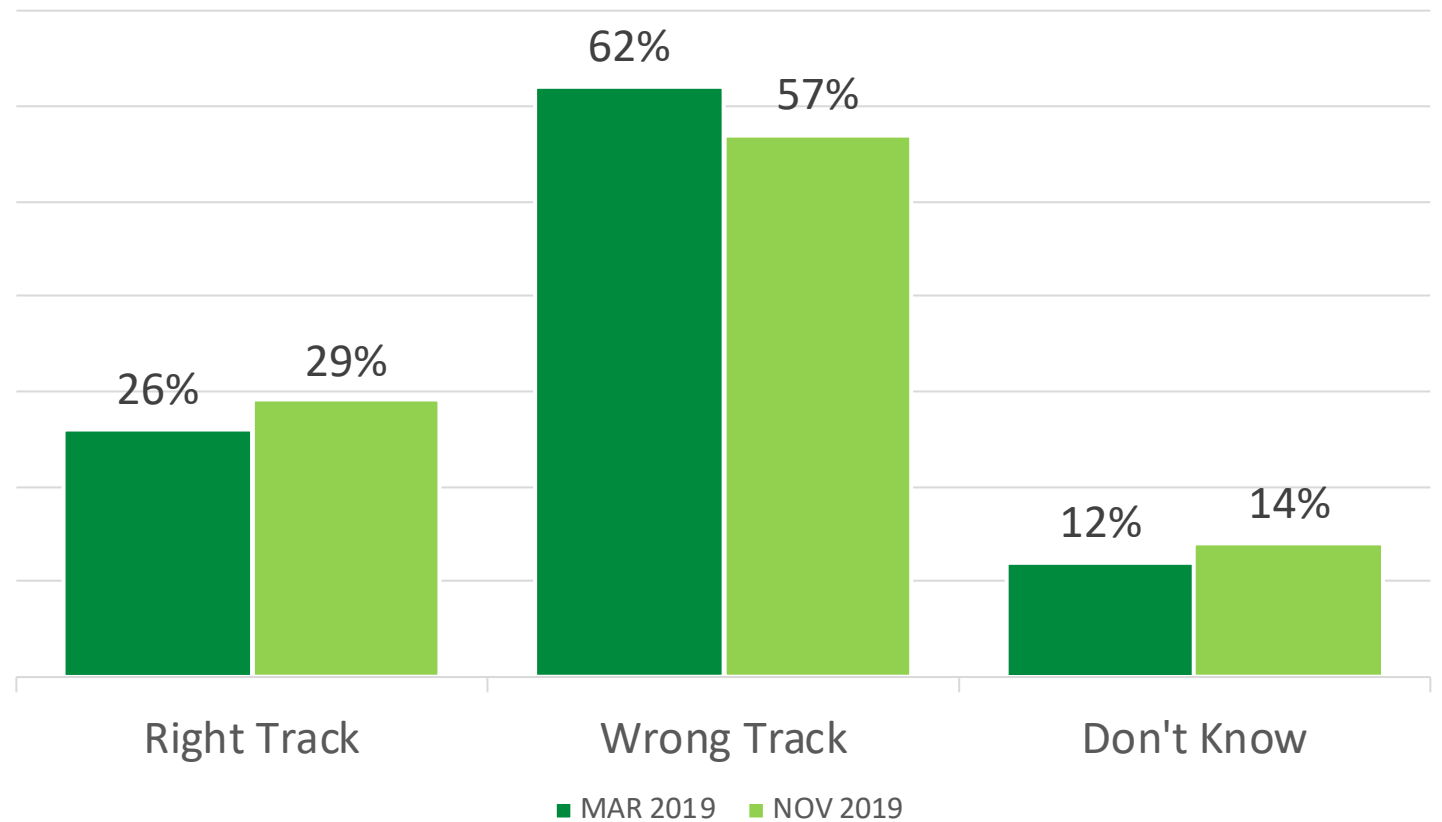
**The public continues to have
a pessimistic view of Illinois
and the state of our public
schools**



Public perception of the state has slightly improved, but most still believe that Illinois is on the wrong track



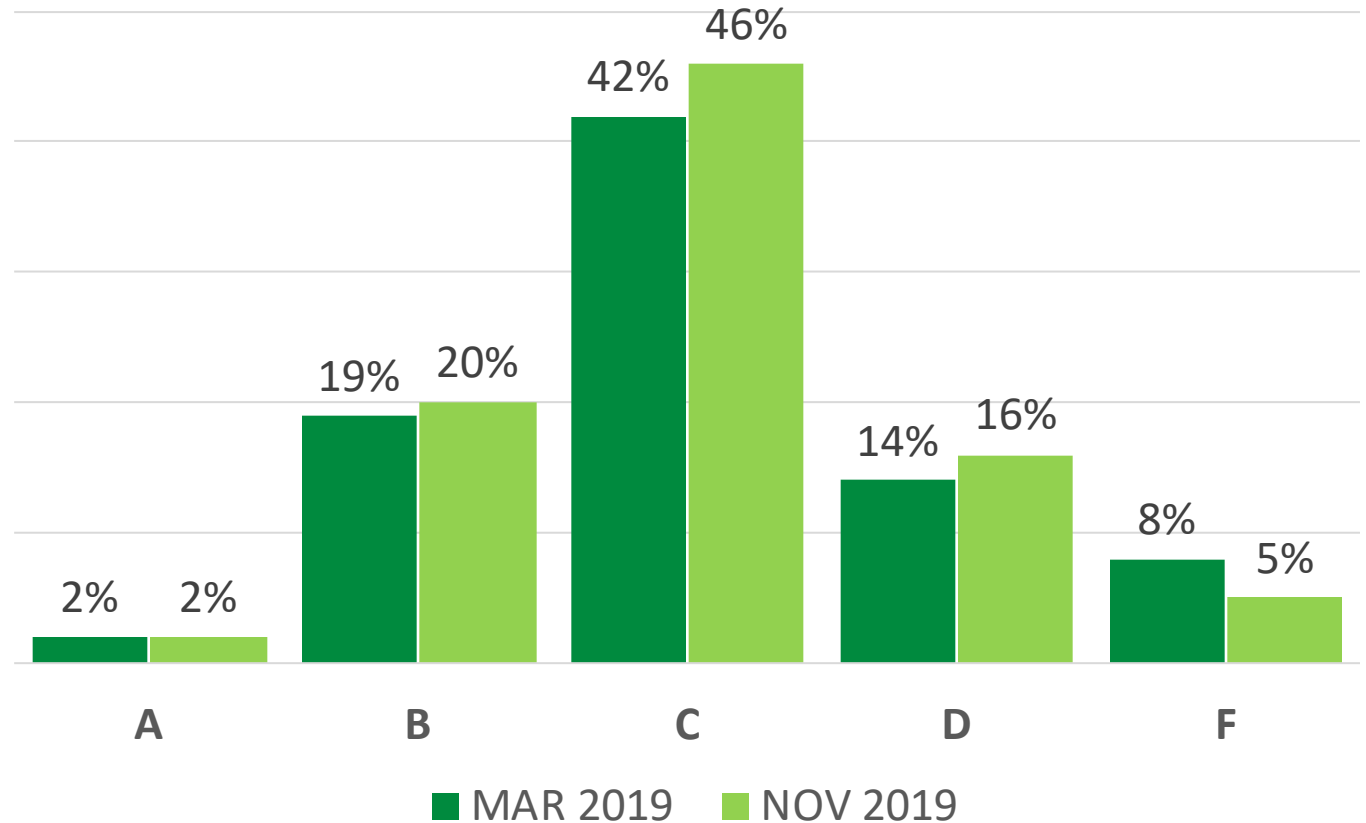
“Would you say things in Illinois today are generally headed in the right direction or would you say things are off on the wrong track?”



**Slight
improvement
but still poor
grades for
public
schools
nationally**



“What grade would you give the public schools in the nation as a whole?”

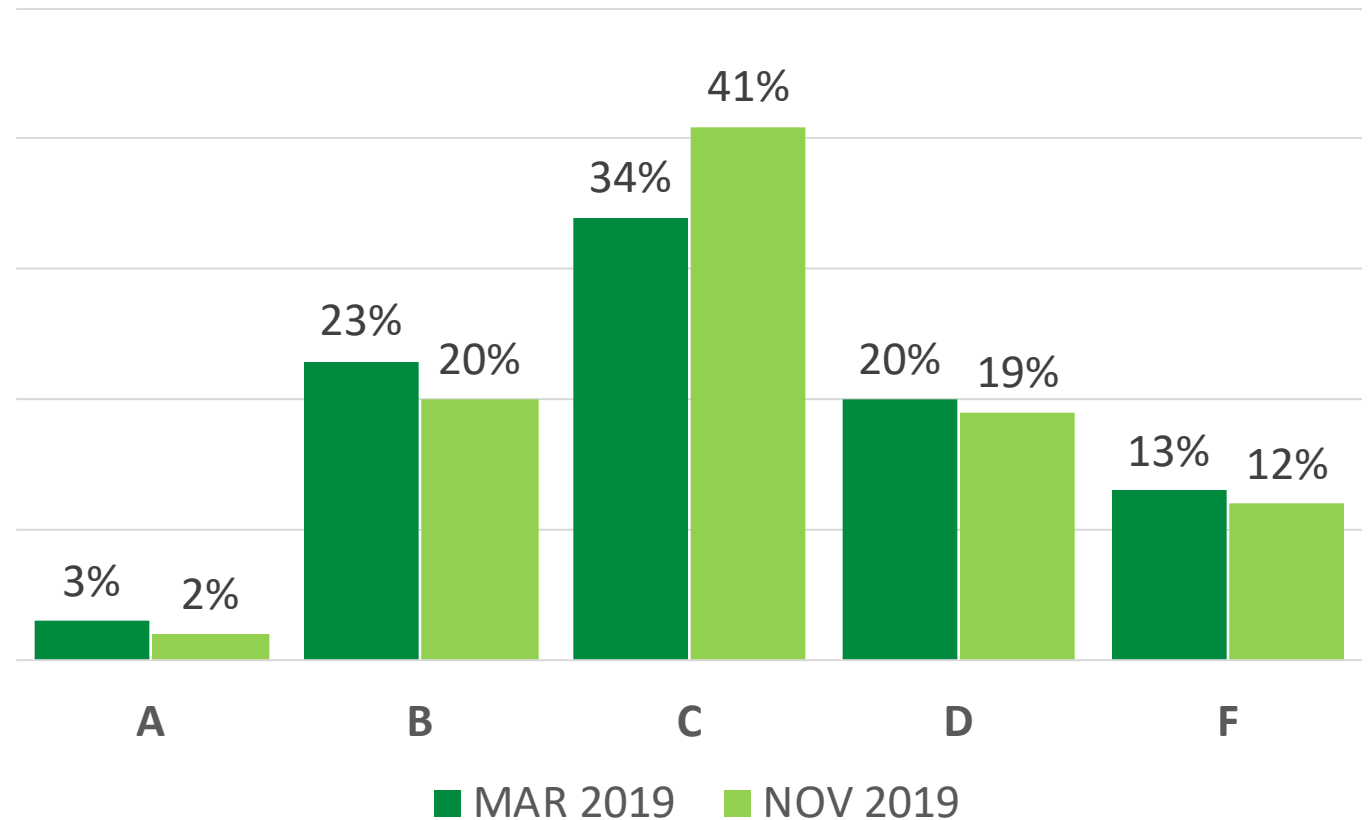


Overall GPA: 1.99 (+0.07%) or C

Small drop in grades for public schools in Illinois



“What grade would you give the public schools in Illinois as a whole?”

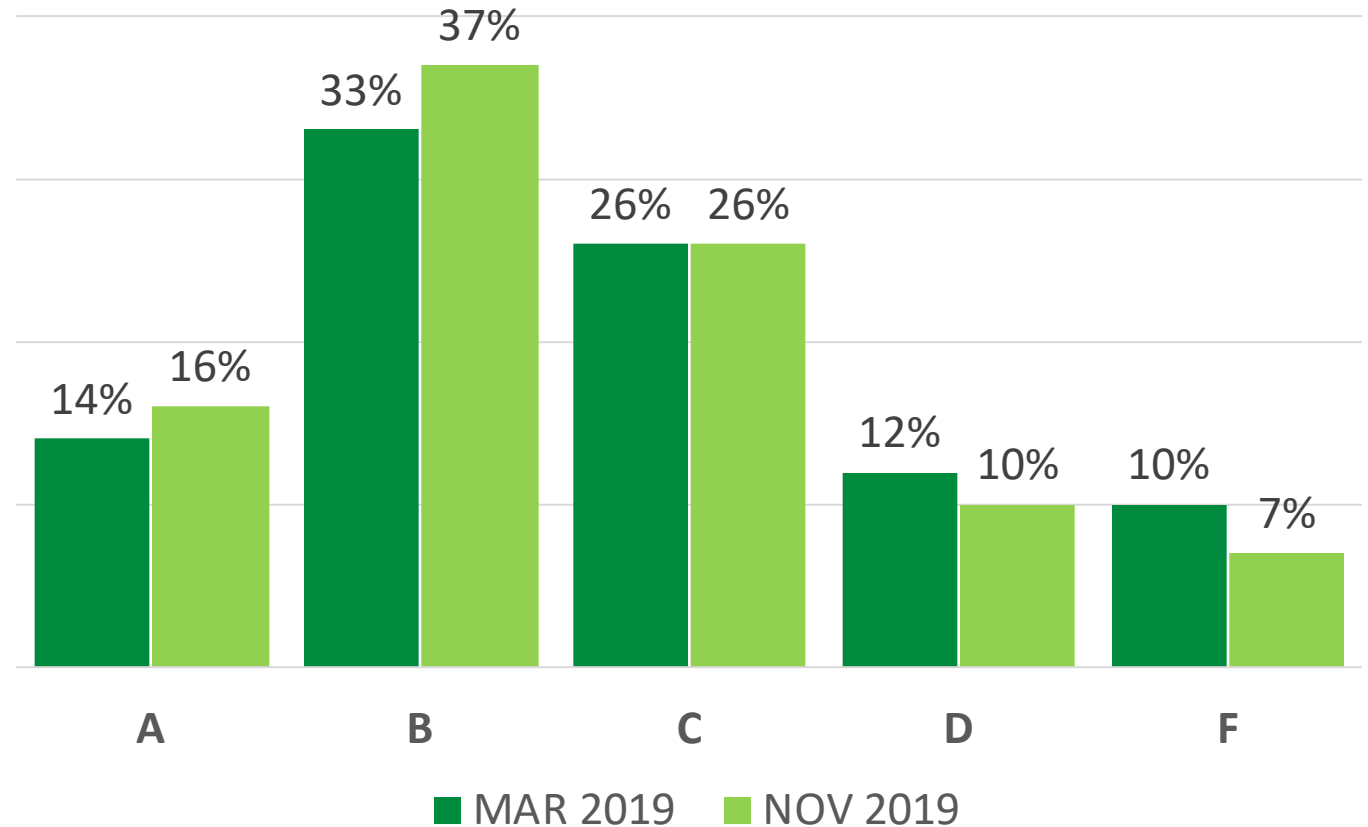


Overall GPA: 1.80 (-0.03%) or C-

Some improvement in the grades for local public schools



“What grade would you give the public schools in your local community?”

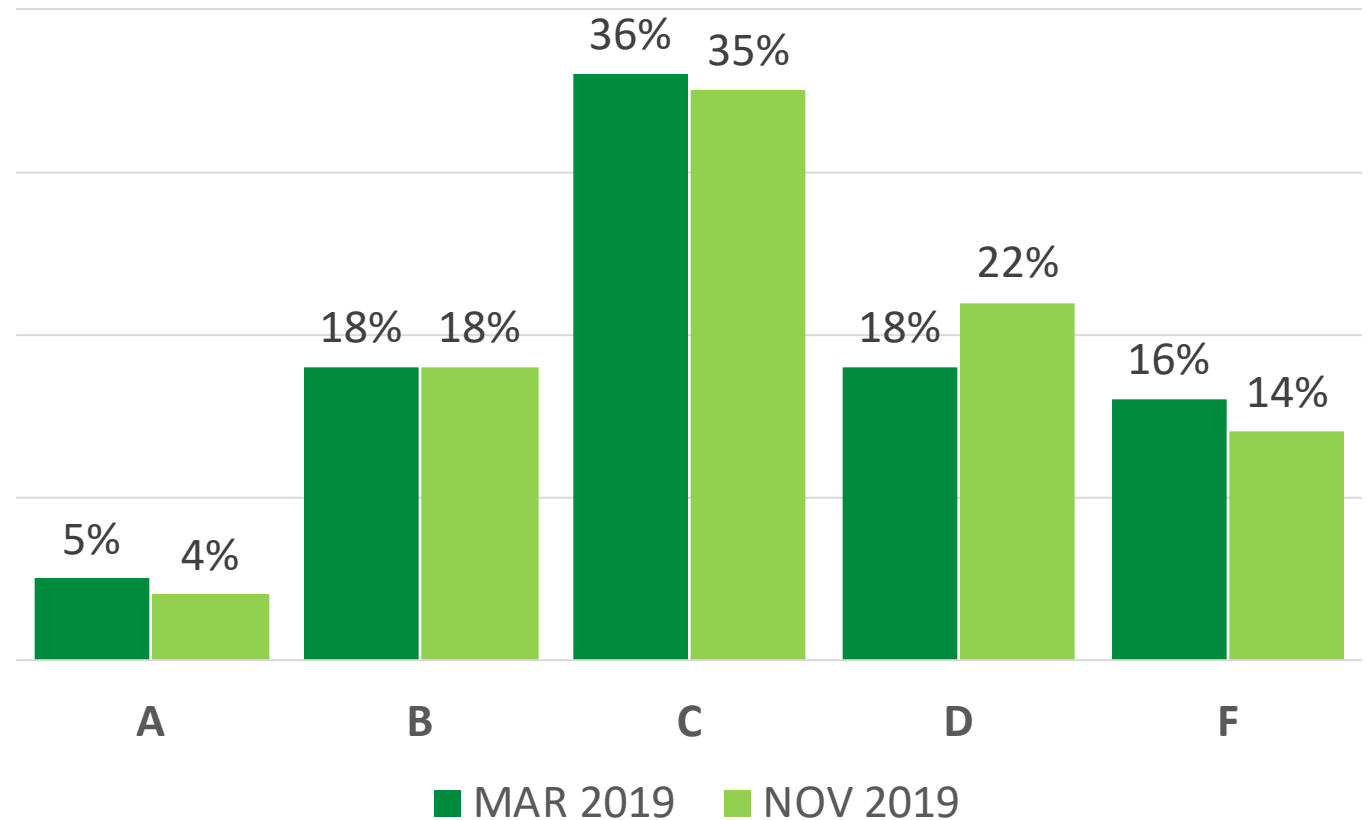


Overall GPA: 2.47 (+0.16%) or C+

Schools still aren't seen to be doing enough to attract & retain teachers



“How would you grade Illinois public schools on attracting and retaining the best educators?”

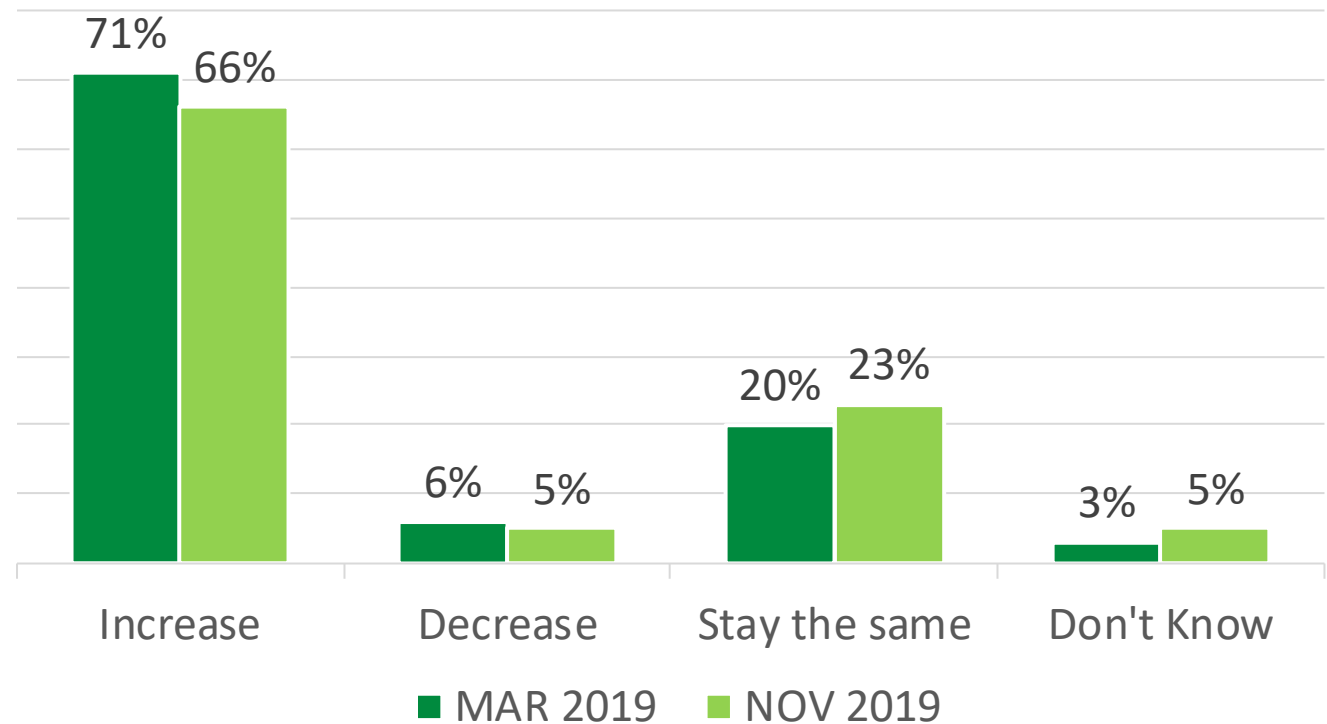


Overall GPA: 1.87 (+0.03%) or C

Two-thirds of Illinoisans believe funding for public schools should increase



Do you think funding for public schools in Illinois should increase, decrease or stay about the same?



Public school teachers continue to be viewed as the solution, not the problem.

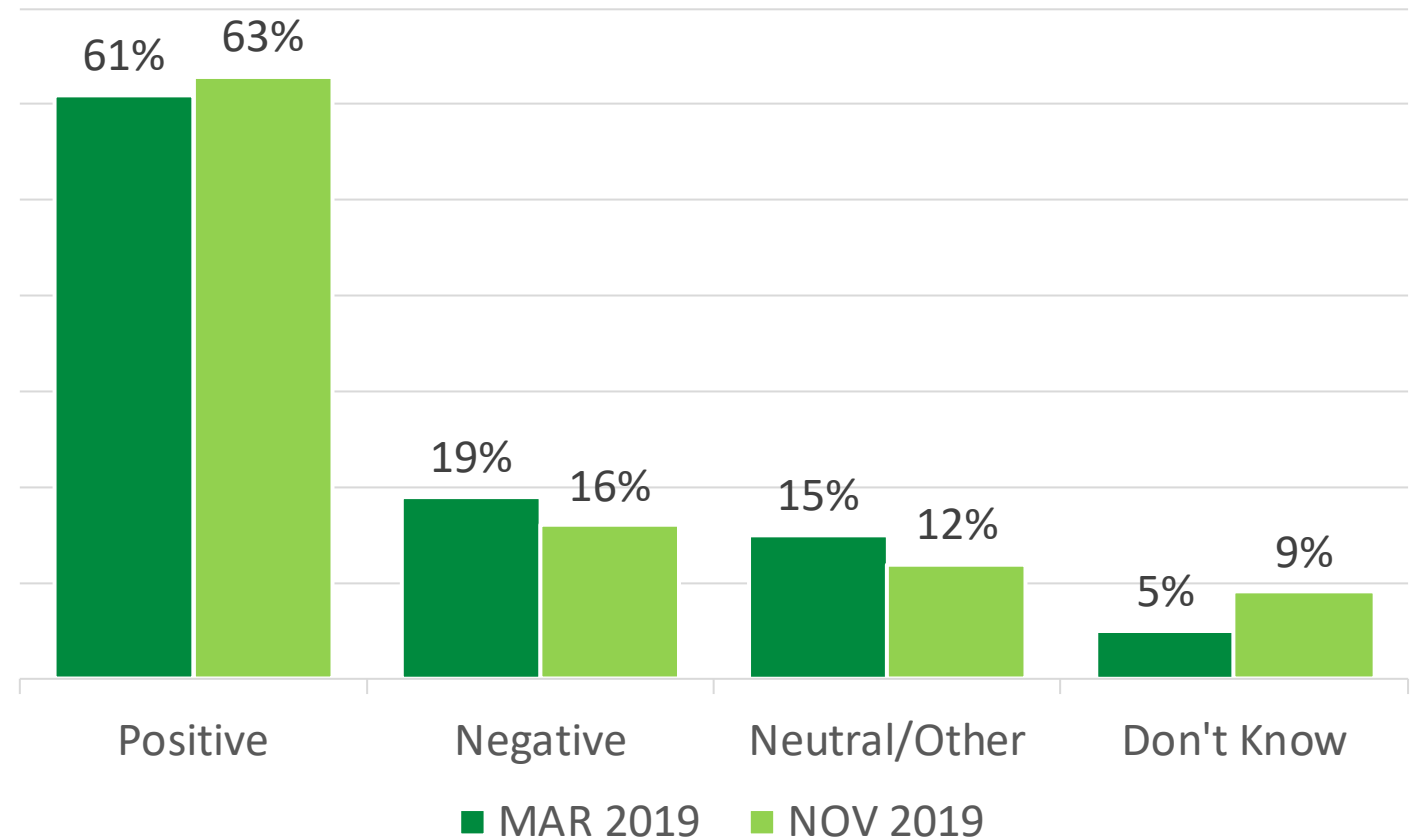
Most still believe teachers should be paid more and have a larger say in the direction of public education



The public continues to have an extremely positive view of public school teachers

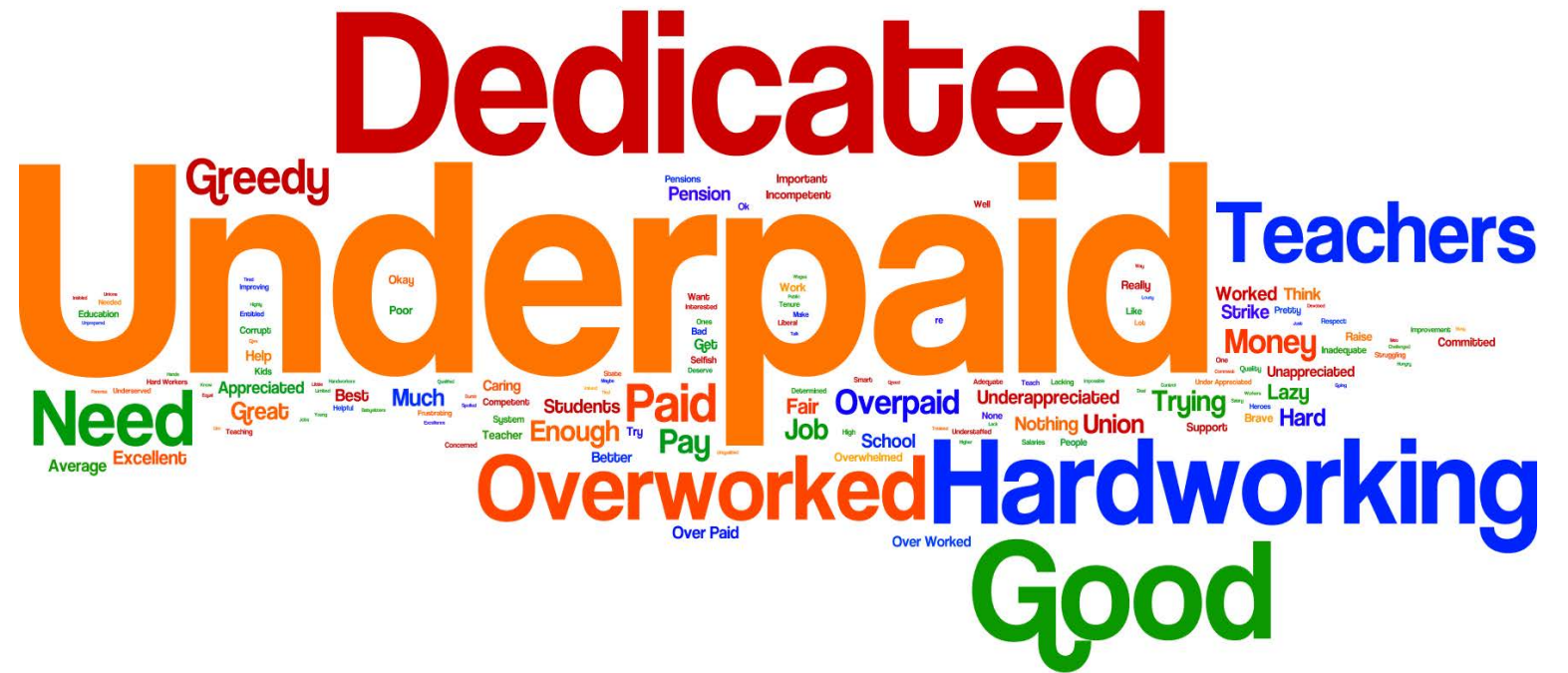


“I want you to think about Illinois public school teachers and I want you to tell me the ONE WORD or phrase that first comes to mind.”



Belief that teachers are underpaid, dedicated and over-worked

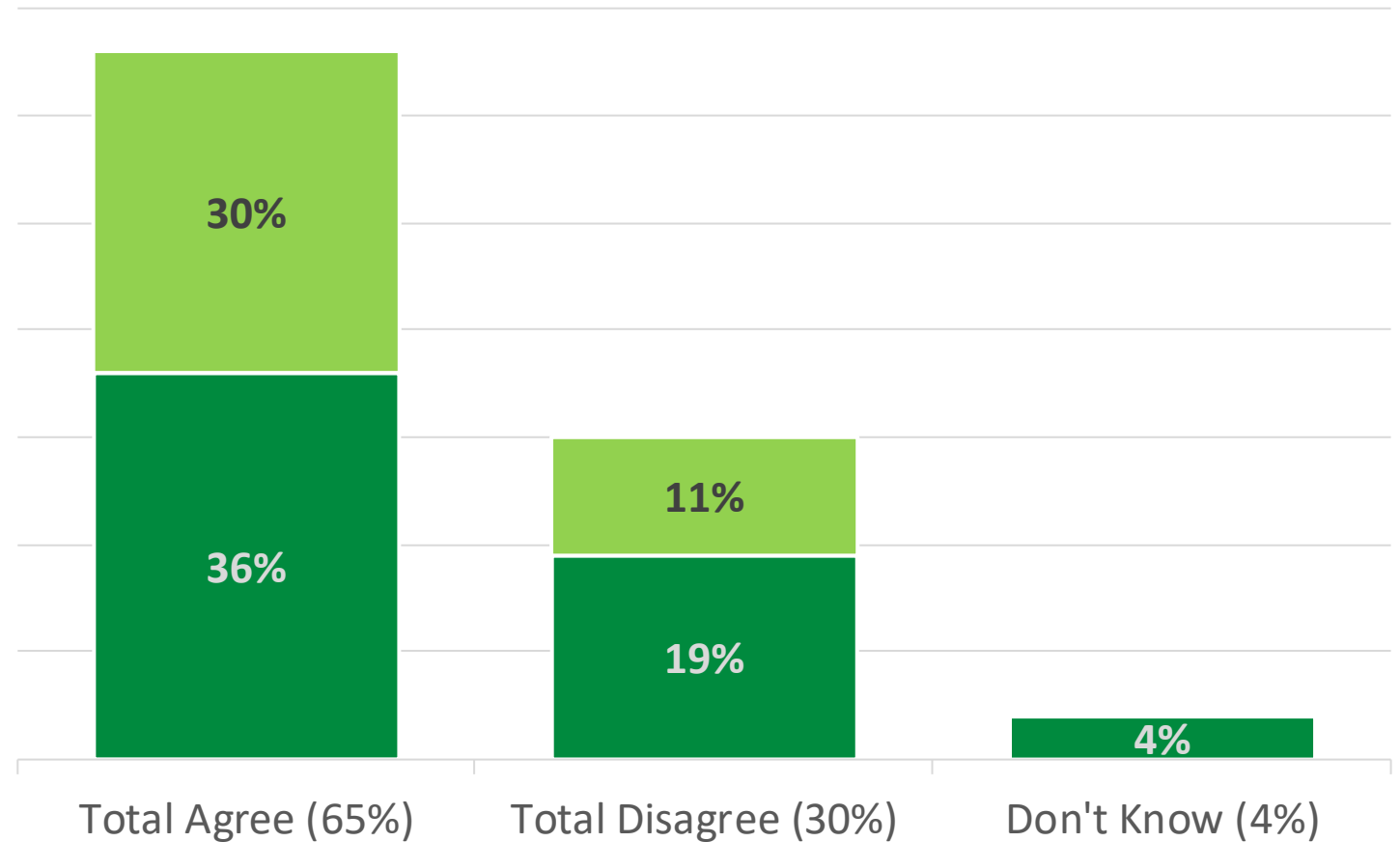
"I want you to think about Illinois public school teachers and I want you to tell me the ONE WORD or phrase that first comes to mind."



Two-thirds support recent legislation passed to help end the teacher shortage by ensuring teachers are paid more.



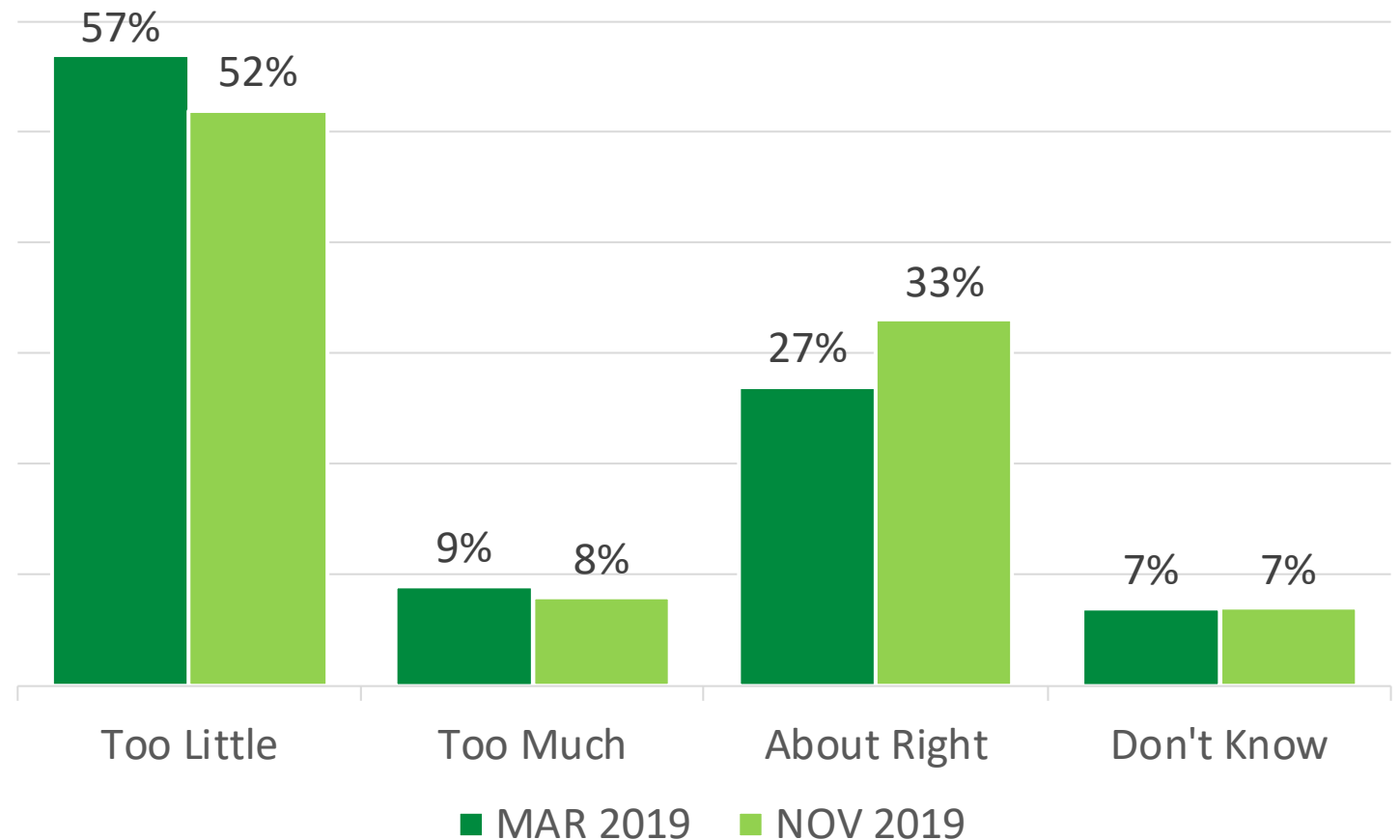
“I support the new law that sets the minimum teacher salary in Illinois at \$40,000 per year.”



The public is six times more likely to think teachers are underpaid



“Do you think that public school teachers in your community are paid too little, too much or about right?”



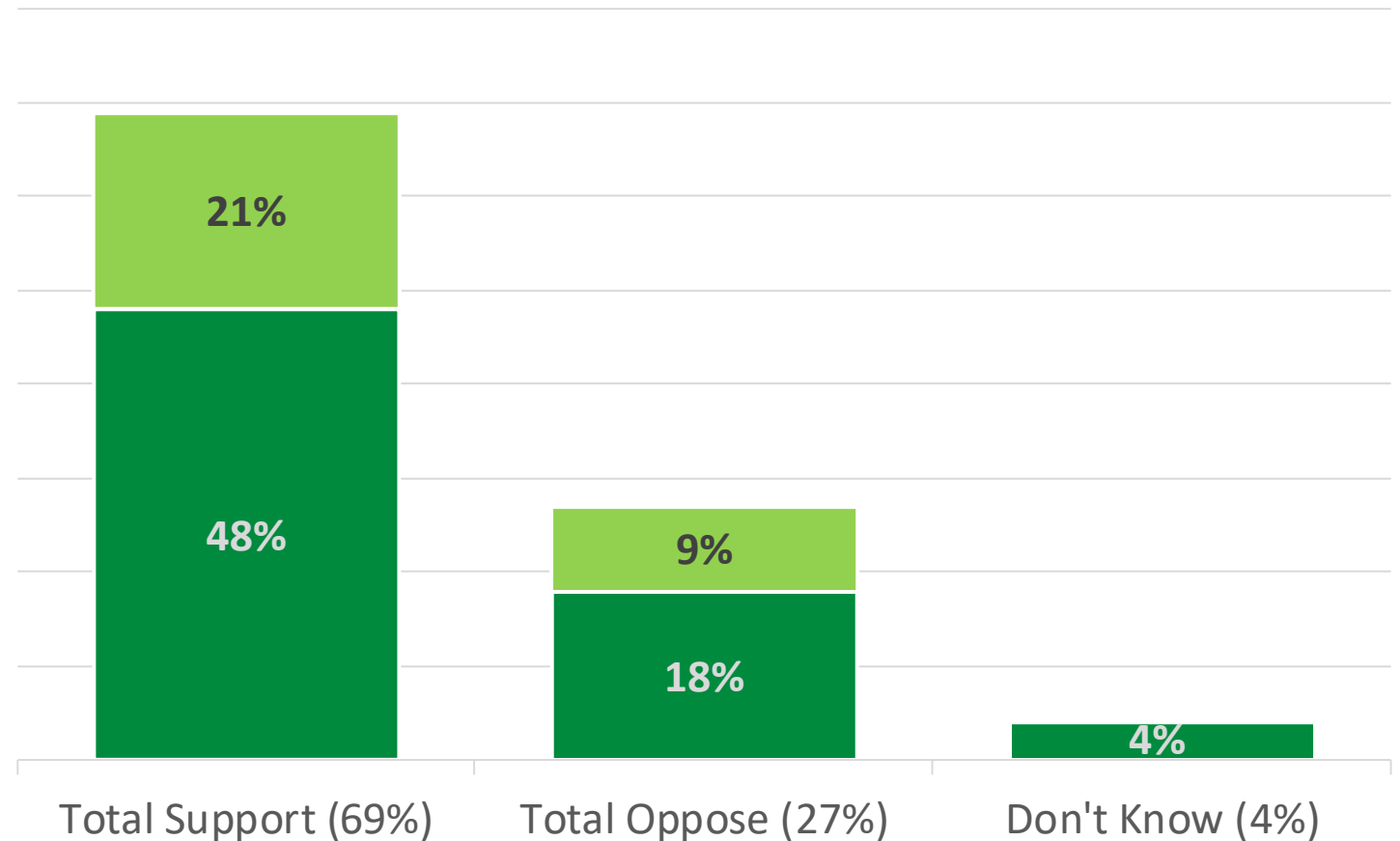
We tested other ideas that might help end the teacher shortage to see what the public's reaction to them might be and they were overwhelmingly supportive.



Nearly 70 percent say they'd erase student loan debt for an Illinois resident who went to college in Illinois and stayed here to teach



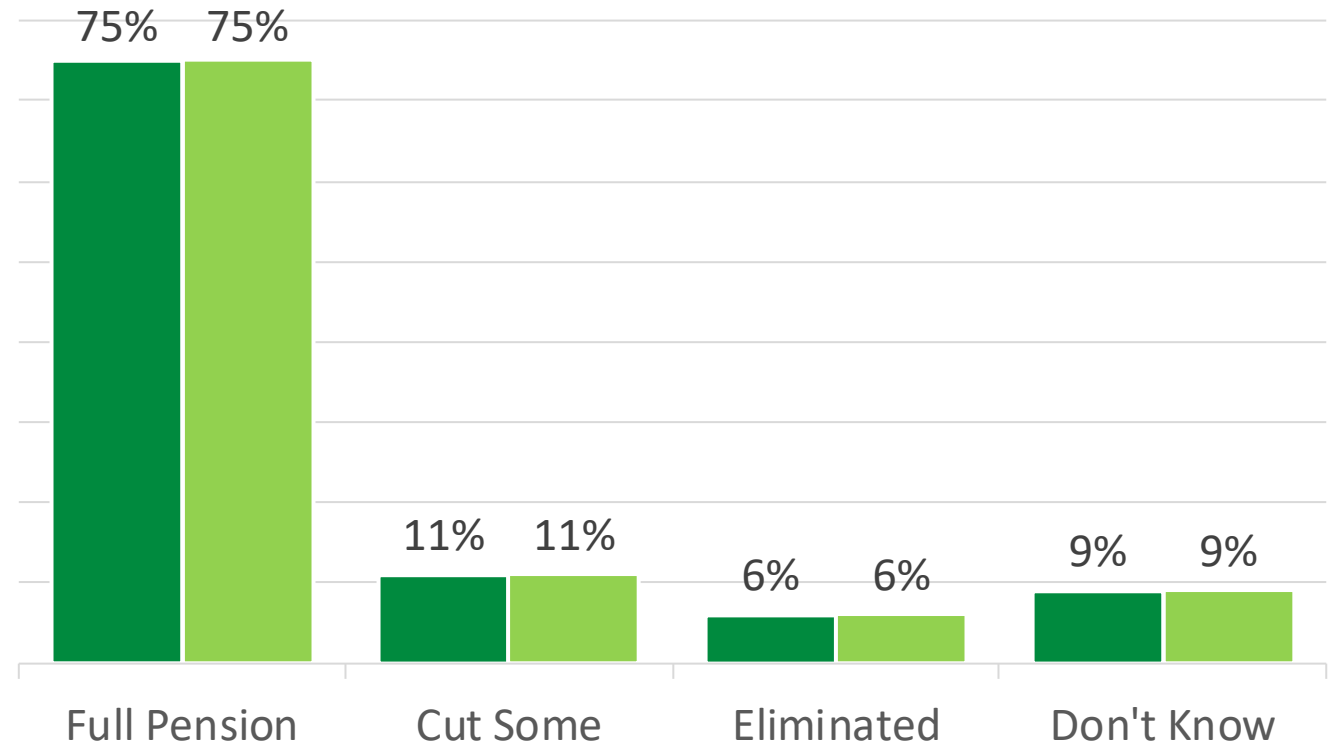
“The average public school teacher in Illinois graduates with 40 thousands dollars in student loan debt. Do you strongly oppose, somewhat oppose, somewhat support or strongly support a program that forgives the student loans of Illinois residents who attend Illinois universities and teach in Illinois public schools for 10 years?”



**There is still
near
universal
belief that
teachers
should keep
their full
pensions**



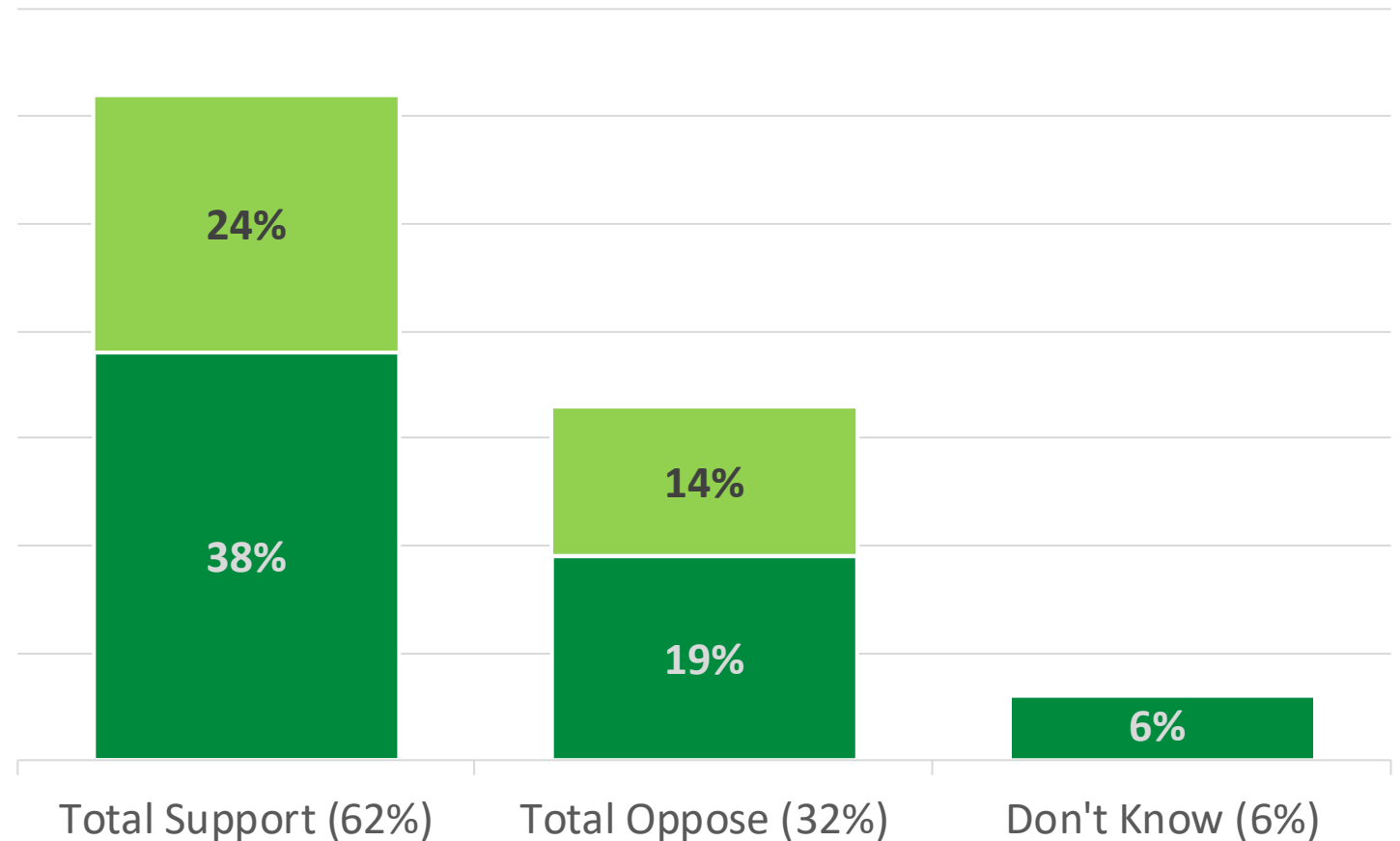
“As you may know, teachers in Illinois do not pay into and therefore do not collect Social Security when they retire. Do you think that Illinois teachers should receive their full pension, see their pensions cut some or see their pensions eliminated?”



Two-thirds believe a teacher shouldn't have to work until they are 67 to receive their pension



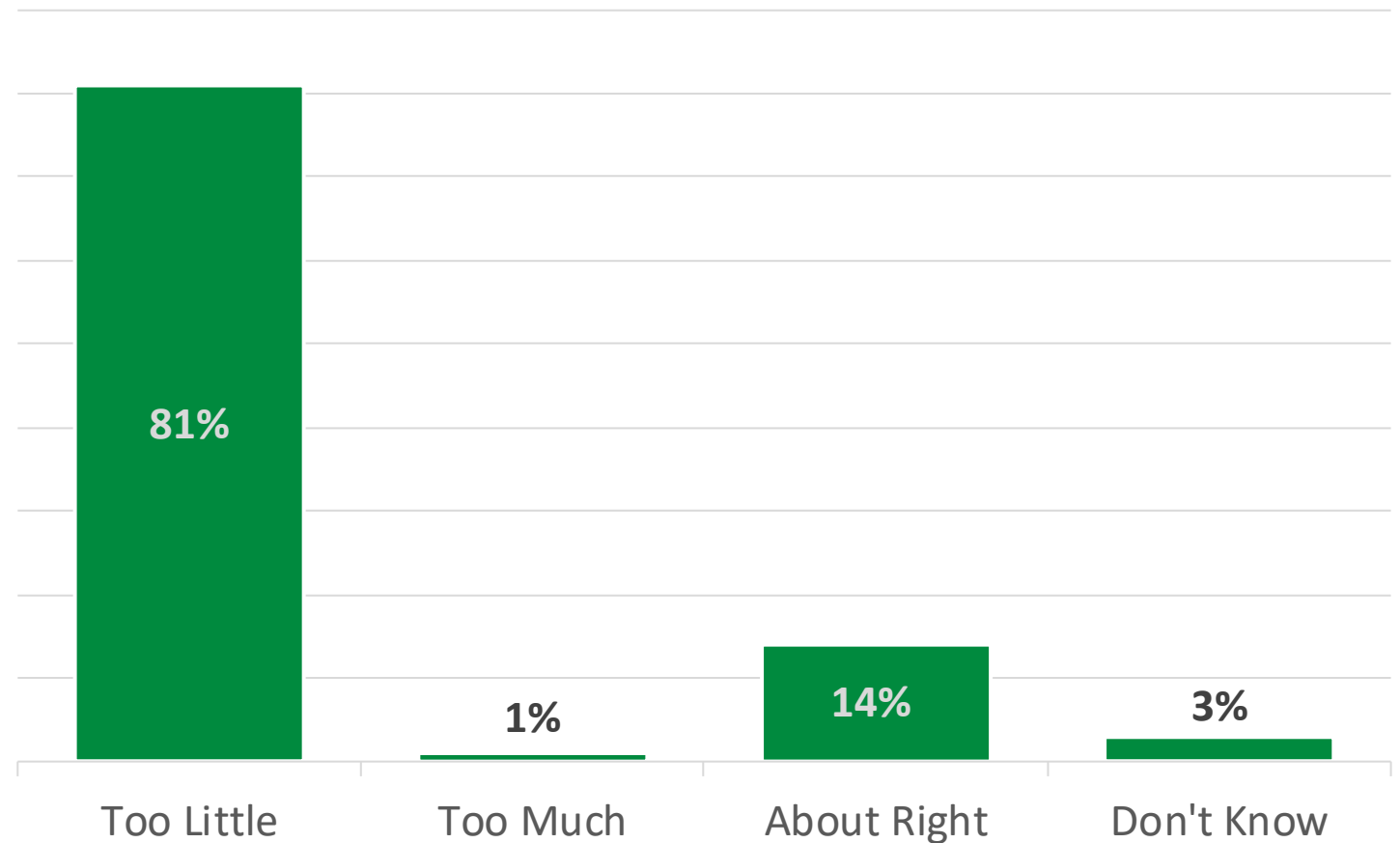
“Right now, teachers hired after the year 2011 in Illinois must work in a classroom until age 67 in order to be eligible to receive their pensions, no matter how many years they have been teaching. Do you strongly oppose, somewhat oppose, somewhat support or strongly support recently hired teachers being able to receive their pensions at age 60 instead of waiting until 67?”



Almost all believe in increasing pay for support staff, too



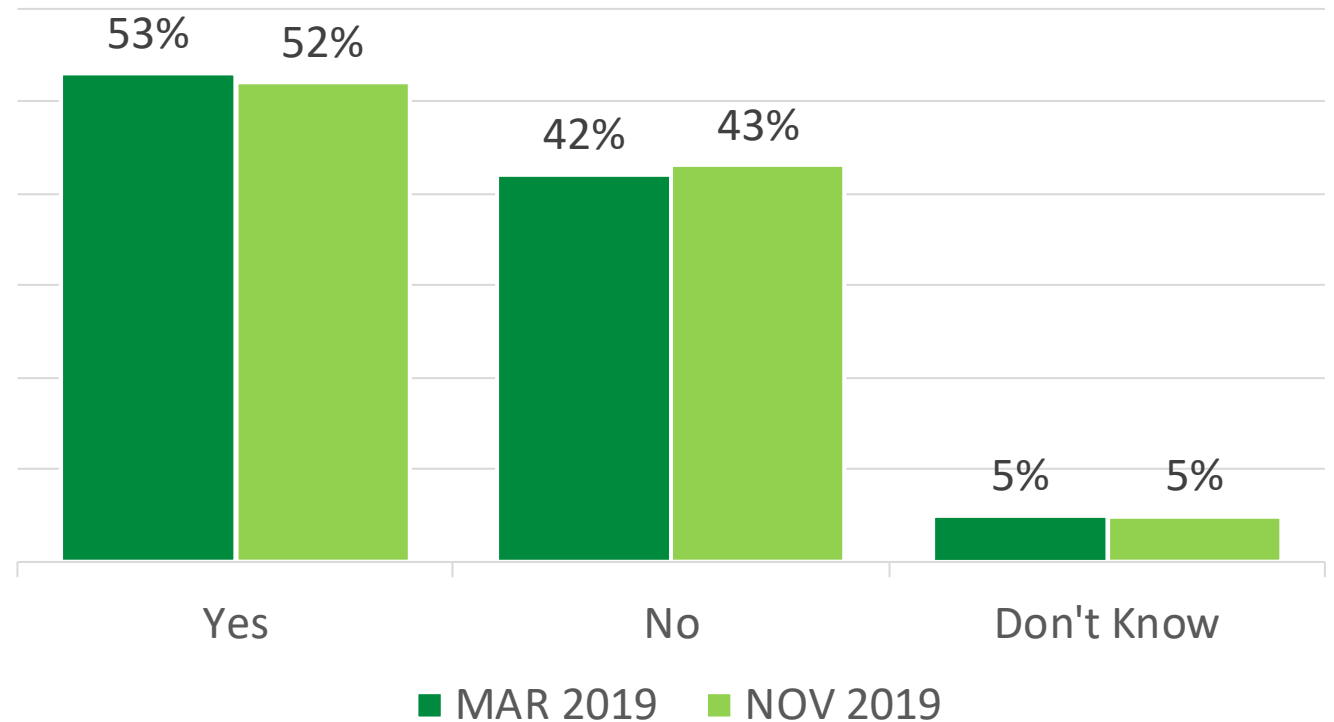
“As you may know, public schools in Illinois have support staff in classrooms called paraprofessionals. These paraprofessionals work with physically, behaviorally and developmentally challenged students. They get paid an average of 10 dollars per hour. Do you think that paraprofessionals in your community are paid too little, too much or about right?”



The public is still split as to whether they would encourage family to become teachers



“Would you encourage your child or another member of your family to begin a career as a public school teacher?”



High quality public education remains a high priority.

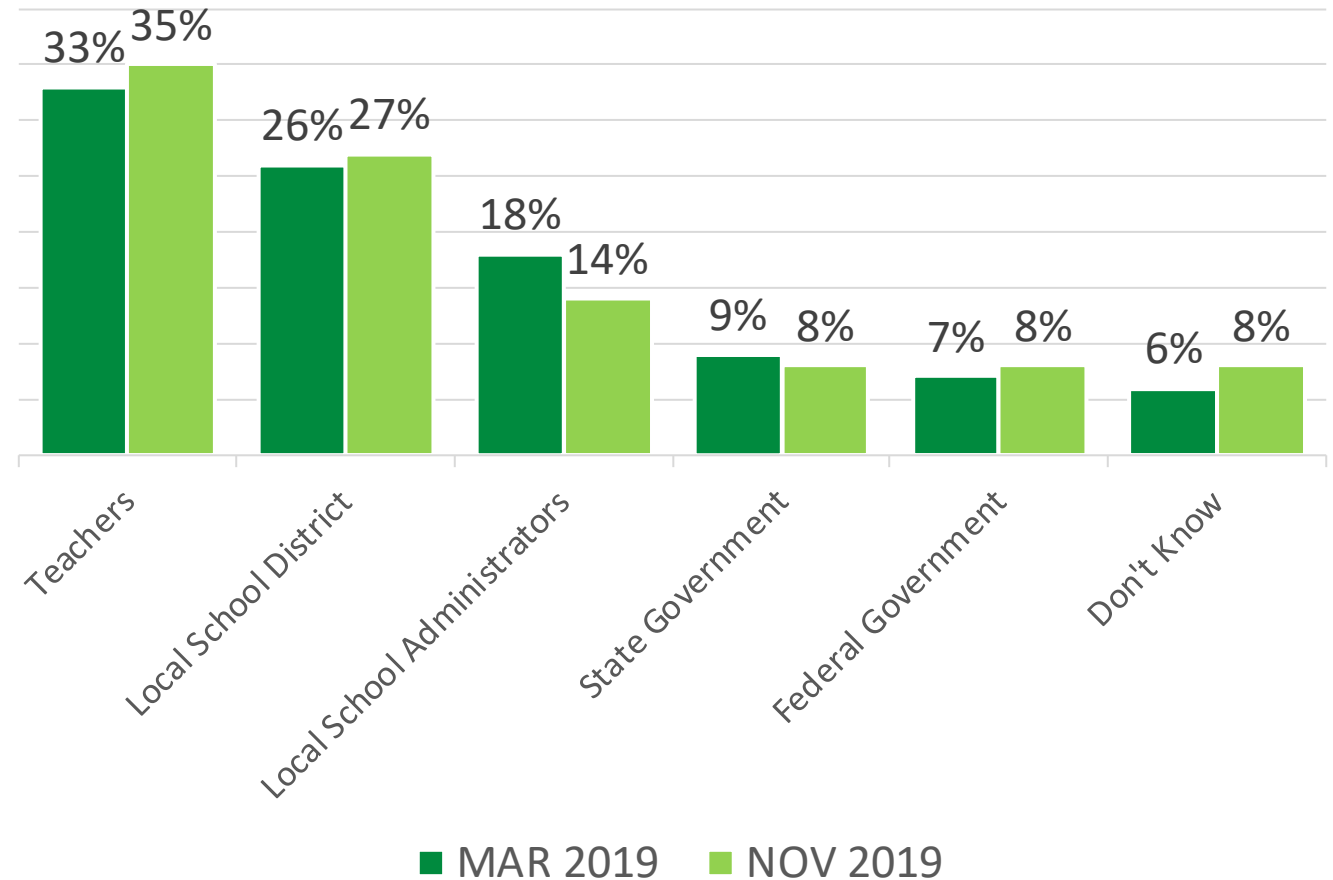
While there still is no consensus on how to fix schools, funding and quality teachers are seen as key.



The public continues to believe that teachers, and not politicians, should have a say in how our schools are run



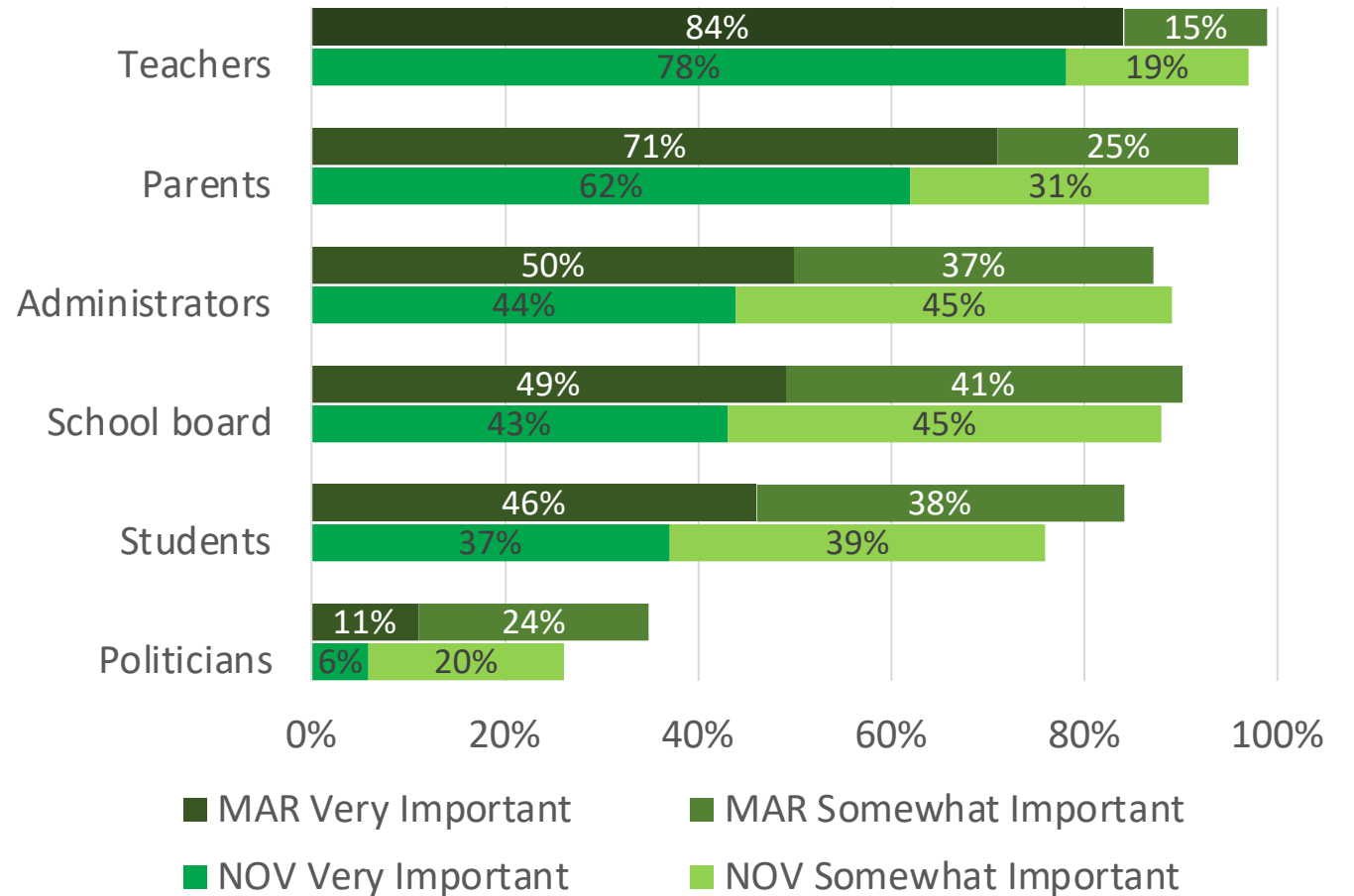
“Who do you believe is best equipped to determine the education standards for children at your local public school?”



Teachers' and parents' voices are still viewed as most important



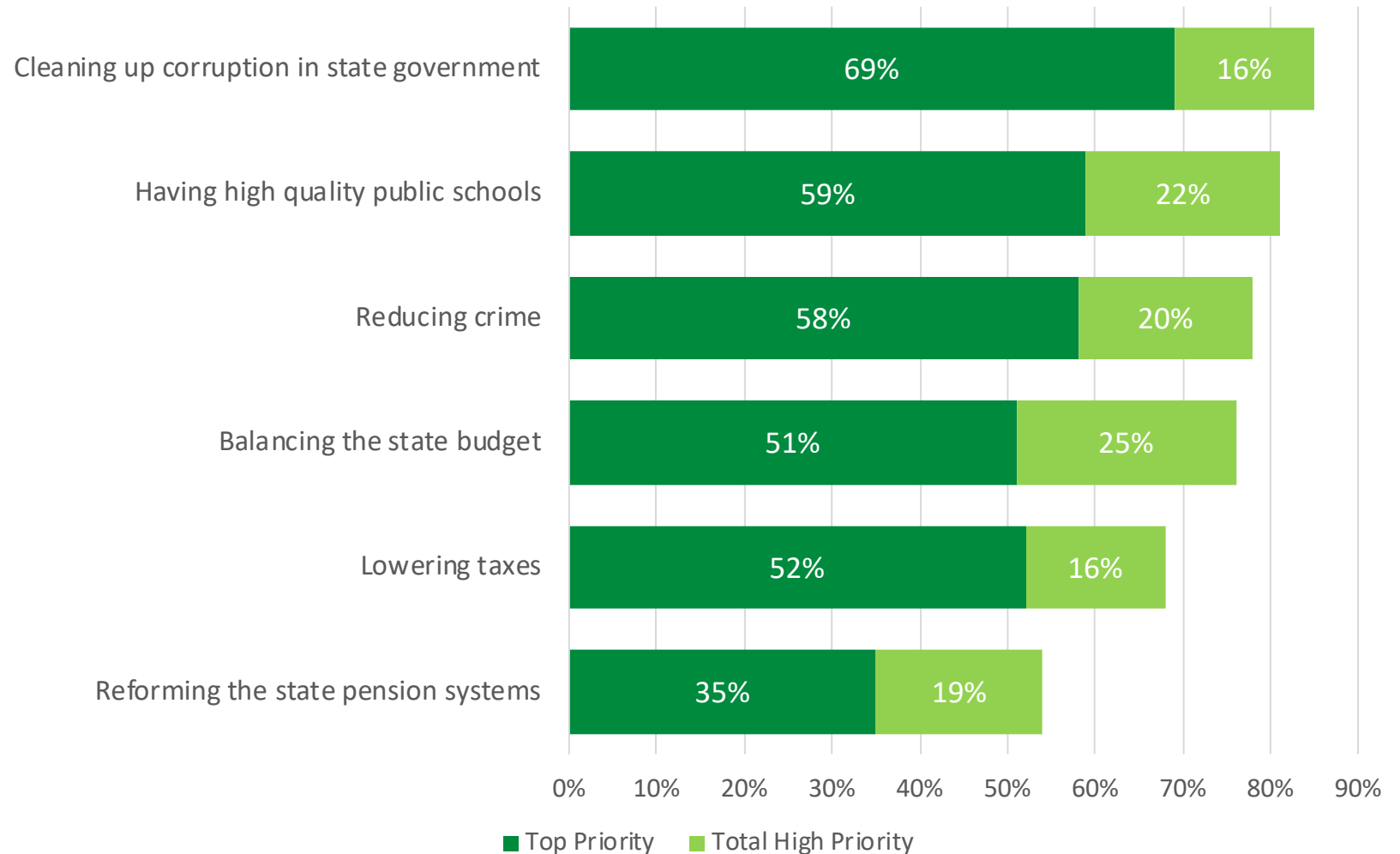
“Please say how important it is for each of these groups to have a strong voice in how public schools in Illinois are run. Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important or not important at all for them to have a strong voice in how public schools in Illinois are run?”



High quality schools are more important to the public than reducing crime, balancing the state's budget or lowering taxes.



“Now, I am going to read you a list of priorities for Illinois. Please tell me how important each one is to you, personally, on a scale of zero to ten where a zero means not a priority at all and ten means it is your top priority. You can choose any number from zero to ten.”





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