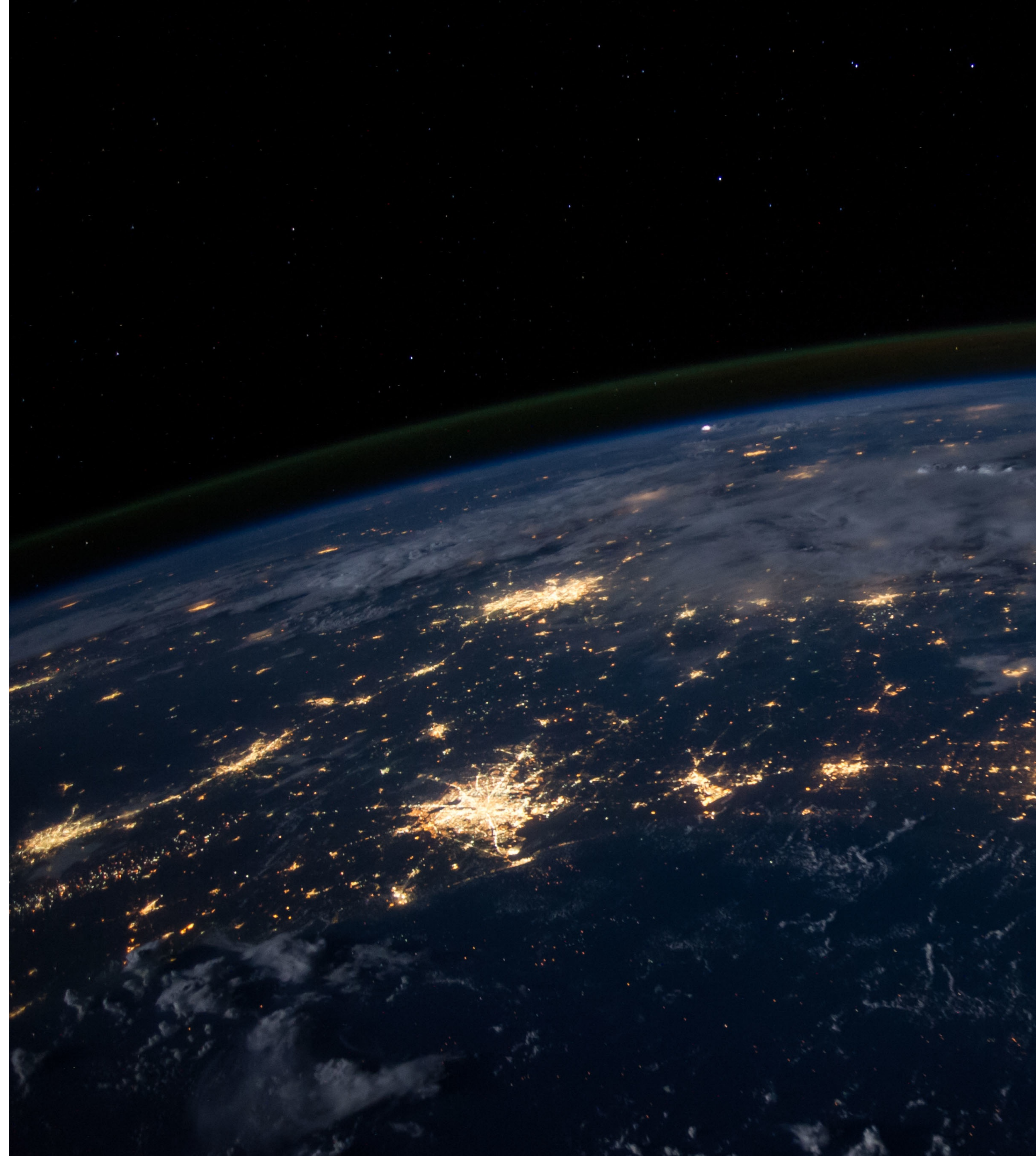




Young America's Foundation

Survey of 821 high school students ages 15–20 and
804 college students ages 15–24
Field Dates: June 4 - June 9, 2024



Key Findings: Free Speech and Campus Protests

- **Free speech is no longer just a conservative issue.** After a year of campus protests, liberal college students are now somewhat more likely—and conservative college students somewhat less likely—to say public colleges that fail to protect free speech should lose funding.
- **Most conservative and liberal students alike say their schools should allow speakers with ideological views opposing their own to speak on campus.** Among college students, conservative students are more likely to support this than liberal students (71% vs. 54%).
- **A majority (69%) of college students say their school should allow students to protest on campus, but most also feel there should be some limits and consequences for bad behavior.**



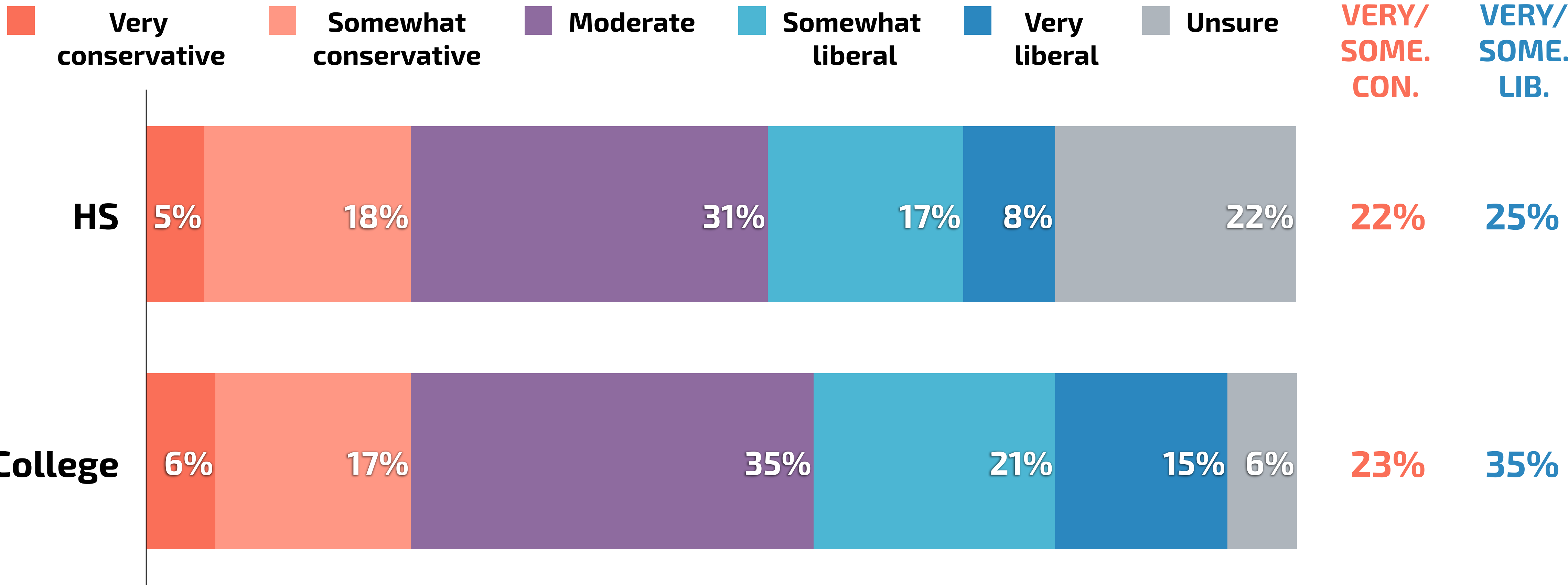
Key Findings: Political Leaders and Current Issues

- **President Biden's approval ratings remain low, and most students are not confident he is an effective leader when it comes to the needs of young people.**
- **Neither Biden nor Trump wins a majority vote of confidence in his mental fitness**, although Republican students are more likely to think Trump is mentally fit enough to be president than Democratic students are to think Biden is.
- **The economy is the clear top issue of concern for students.** While most are at least somewhat confident about their own prospects, less than half are *very* confident they will be able to get a good job after finishing school, and fewer than 4 in 10 are *very* confident they will be financially secure by age 30 or be able to buy a home someday.
- **When it comes to immigration policy, students support both increasing border security and providing more opportunities for legal immigration**, as well as a path to citizenship for immigrants who are currently living in the United States illegally if they meet certain requirements.



Ideology, School Environment, and Free Speech on Campus

About 1 in 3 students identify as moderate

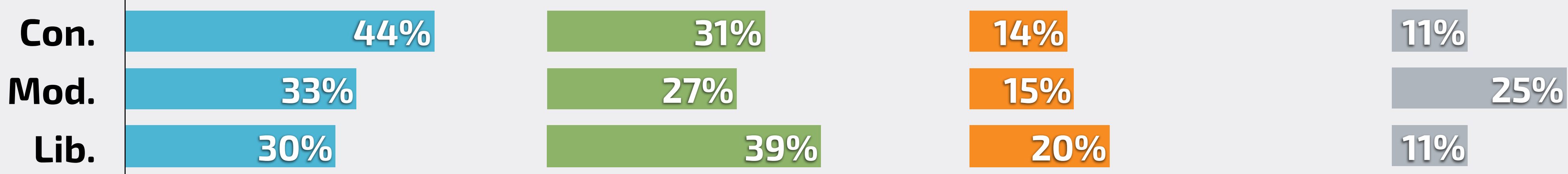


Q. Would you say you consider yourself to be...?

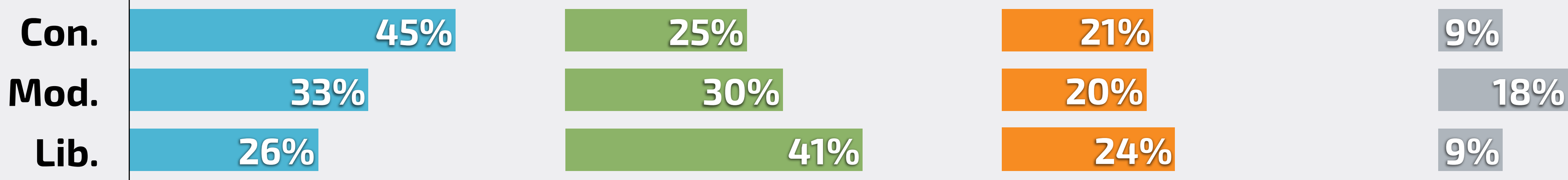
Liberal students are more likely to say their classmates are about the same as them ideologically than conservative students



High School Students



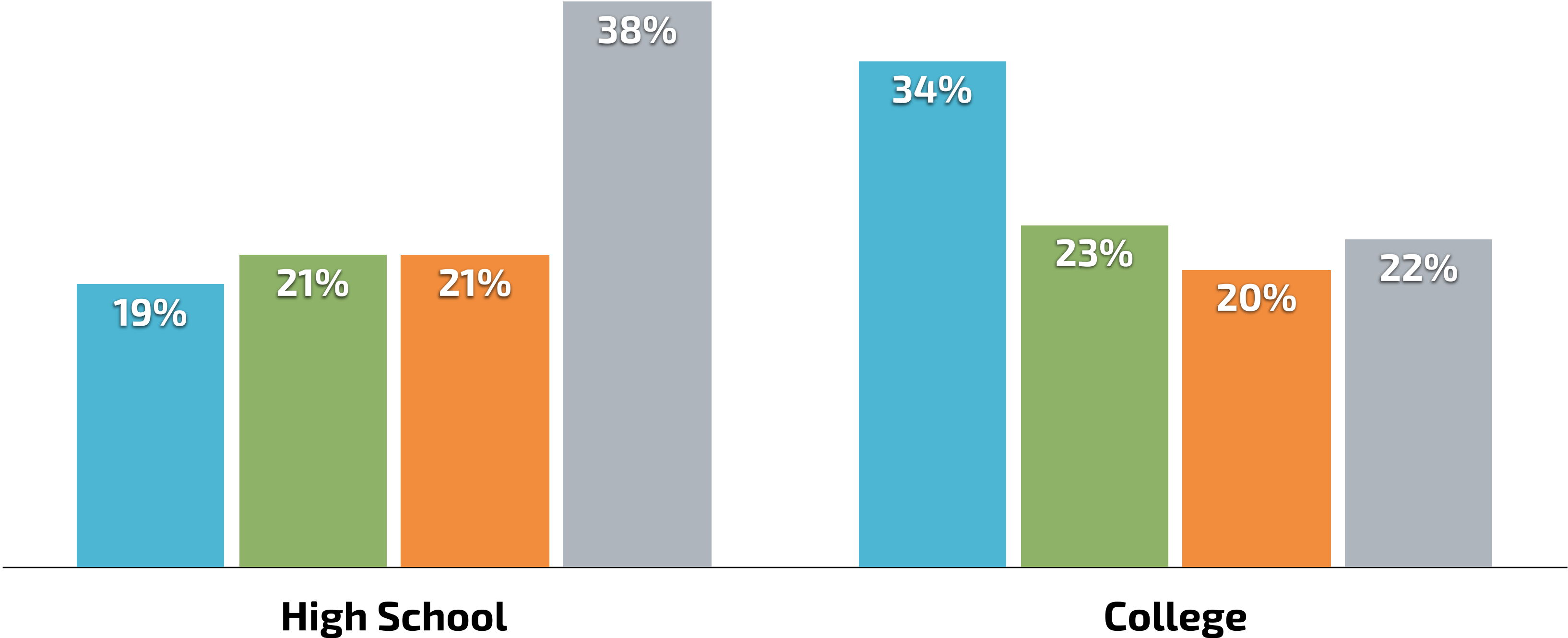
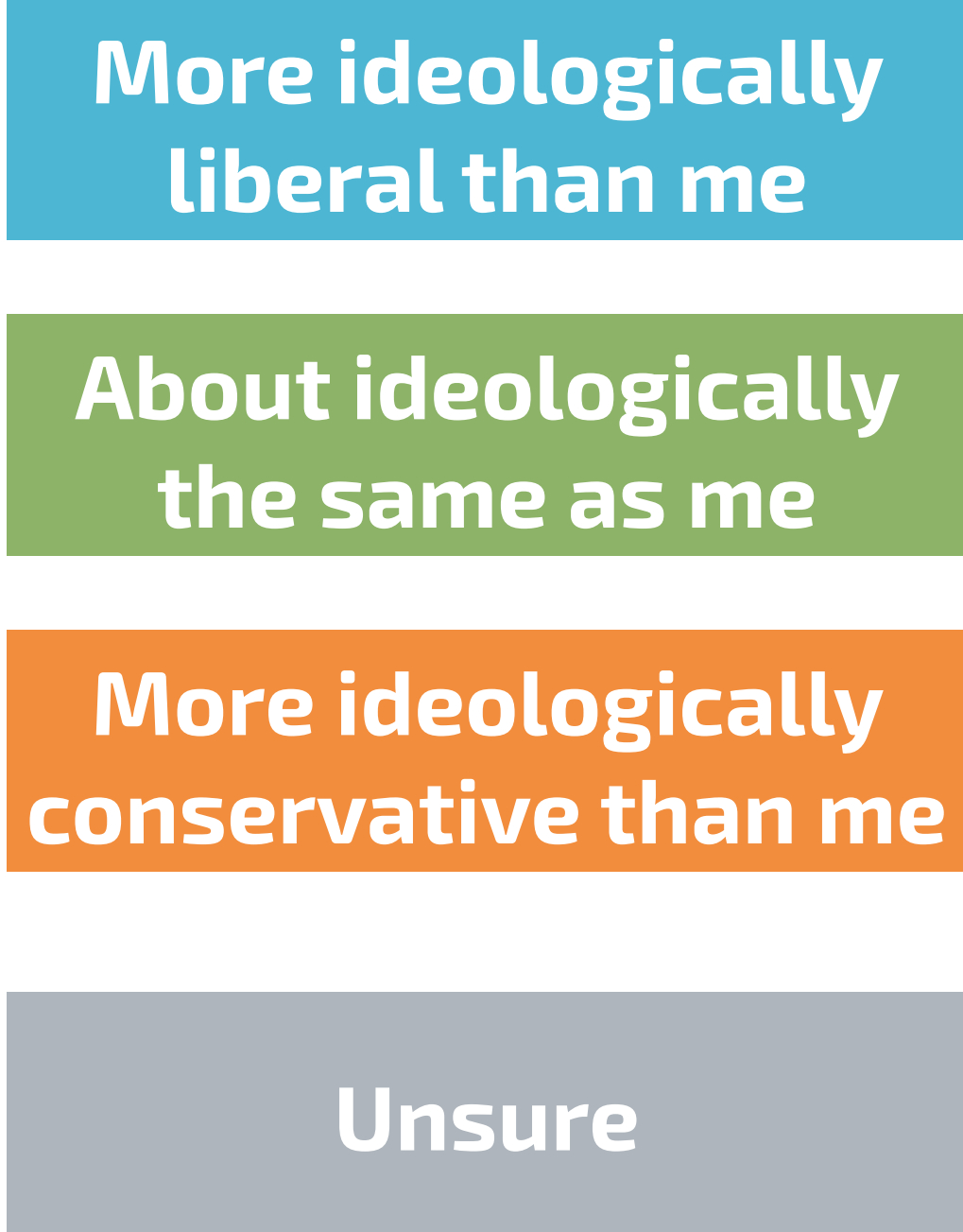
College Students



Q. In general, how would you describe most of your classmates at your current or most recent school?

About 1 in 3 college students describe their teachers as more liberal than them, while a plurality of high school students are unaware of their teachers' views

In general, how would you describe most of your teachers at your current or most recent school?



Q. In general, how would you describe most of your classmates at your current or most recent school?

Just over half of conservative college students say their teachers are more ideologically liberal than them

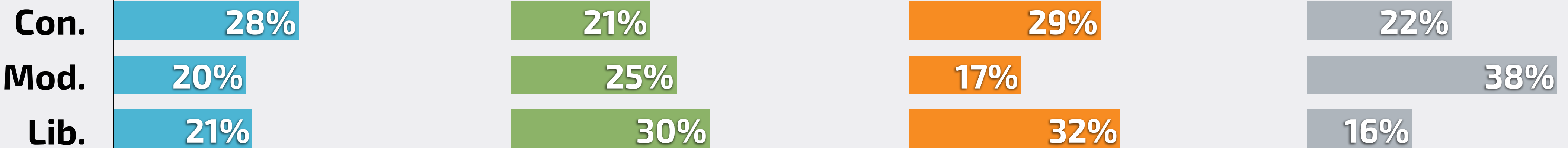
More ideologically liberal than me

About ideologically the same as me

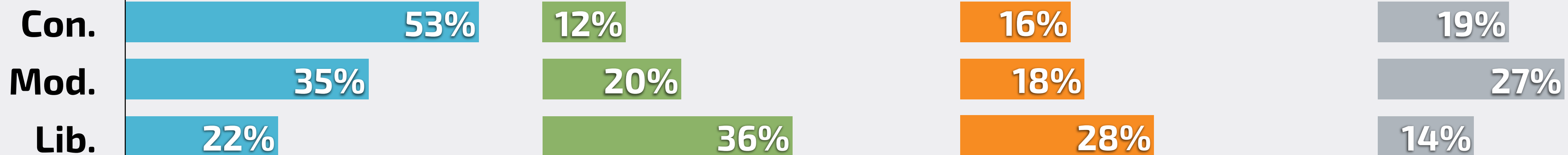
More ideologically conservative than me

Unsure

High School Students



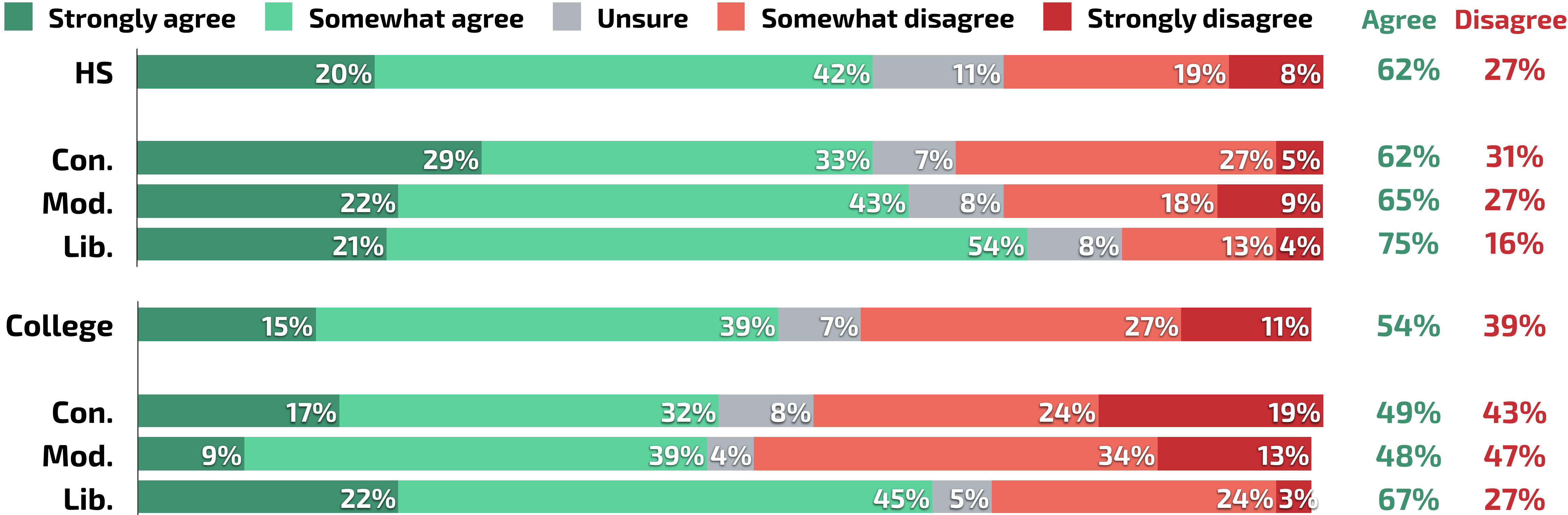
College Students



Q. In general, how would you describe most of your teachers at your current or most recent school?

Liberal students are more likely to feel comfortable discussing their views with their teachers than conservative or moderate students

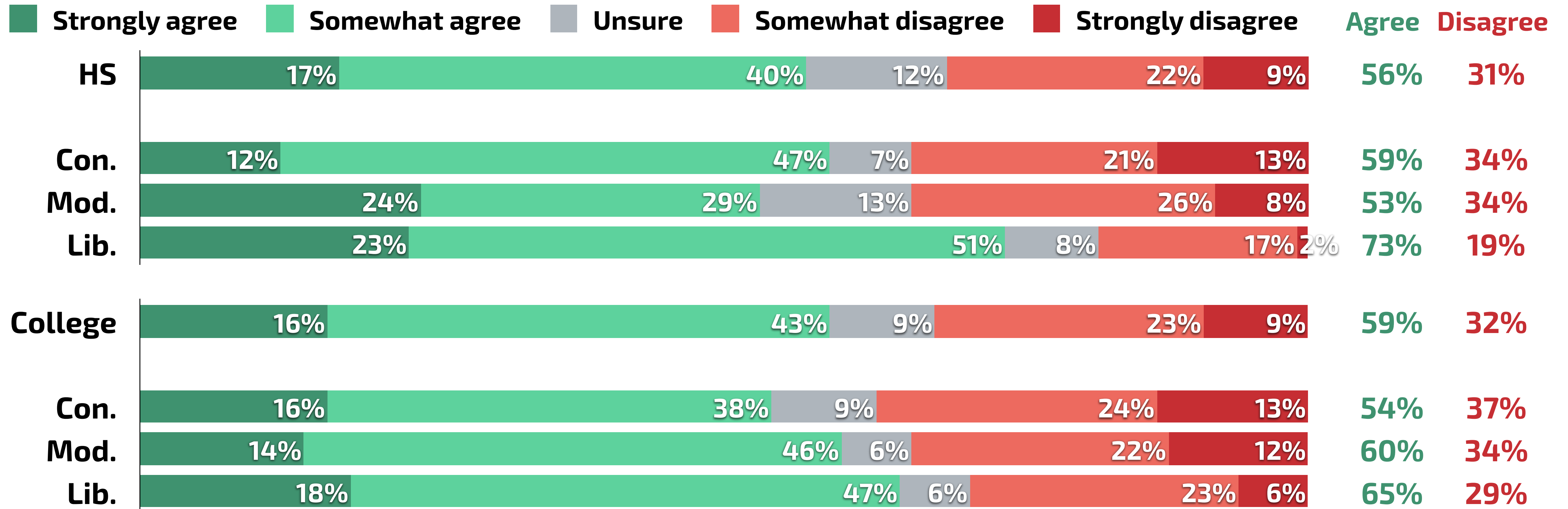
I feel comfortable discussing my views on national political and economic issues with my teachers.



Q. Please rate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the school you attended during the 2023–2024 school year.

Liberal students are also more likely to think their classmates are willing to listen to people who have different political views

Most of my classmates are willing to listen to people who have different political views from them.



Q. Please rate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the school you attended during the 2023–2024 school year.

Students are more likely to say liberal students are made to feel welcome than conservative college students

■ Are made to feel welcome

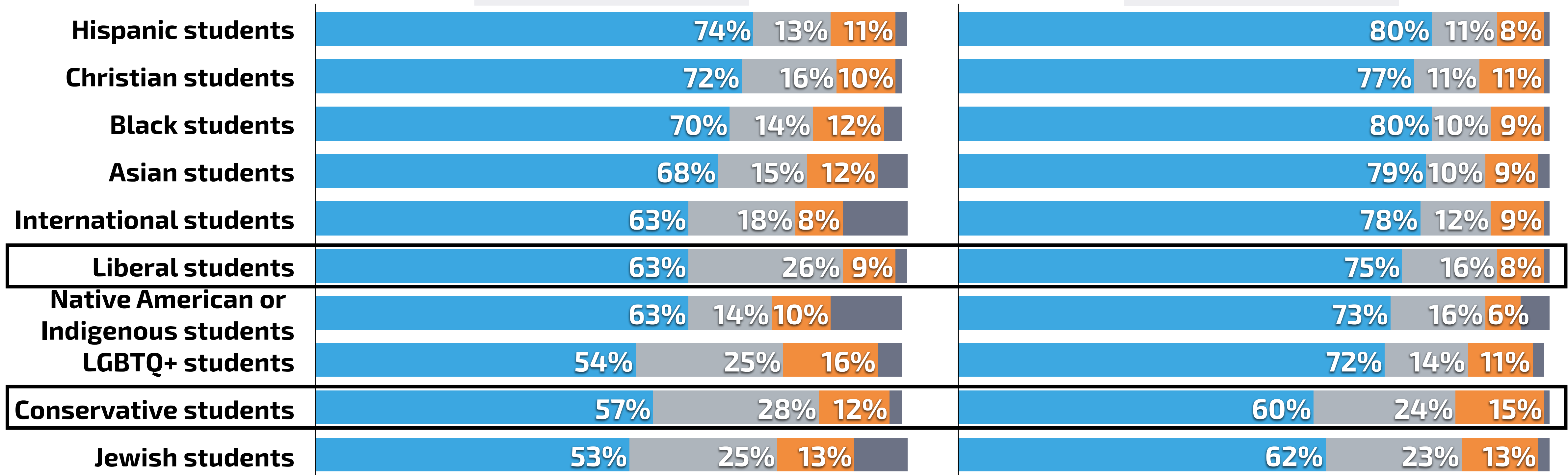
■ Unsure

■ Are NOT made to feel welcome

■ Not applicable – There are not any students in this group at my school

High School

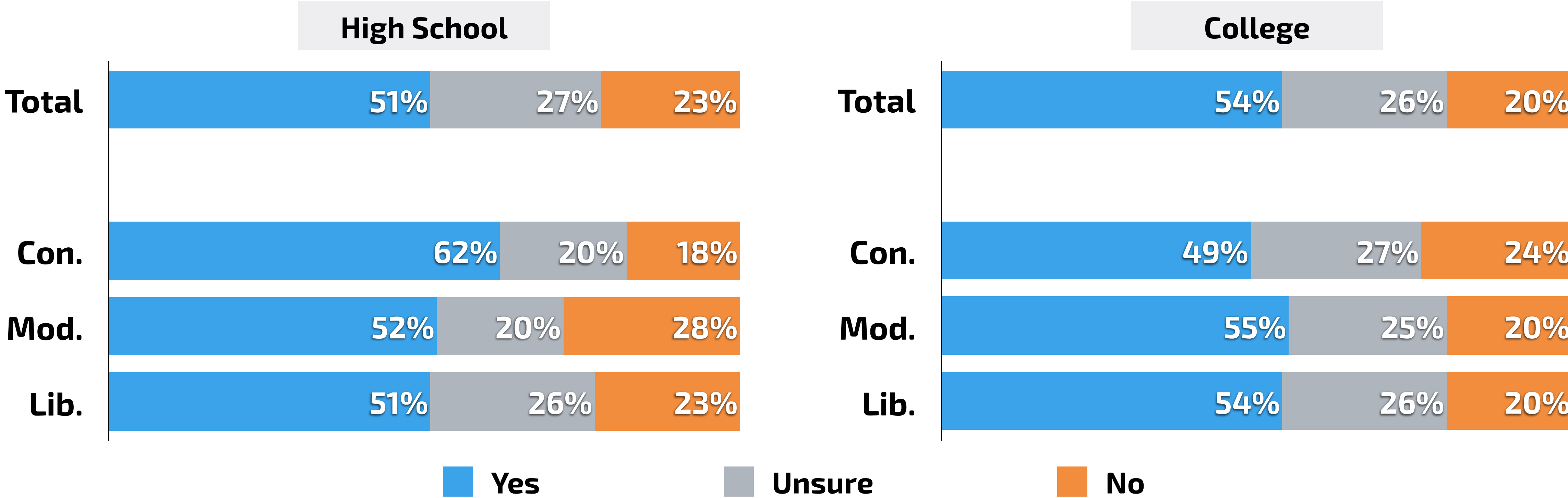
College



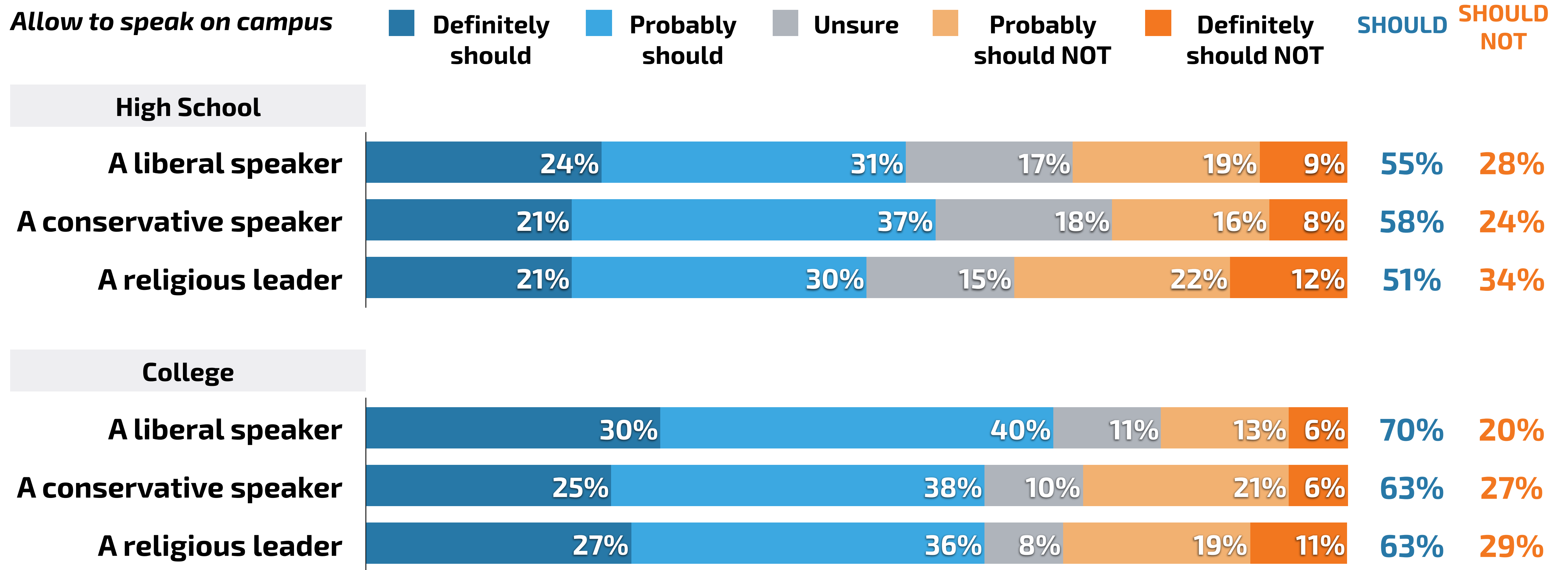
Q. Do you feel that the following groups of students generally are or are not made to feel welcome by most other students at your school?

A slim majority say publicly funded educational institutions should lose funding if they fail to protect free speech on campus

In your opinion, should publicly funded colleges and universities lose funding if they fail to protect free speech on campus?



Most say a variety of speakers should be allowed on campus

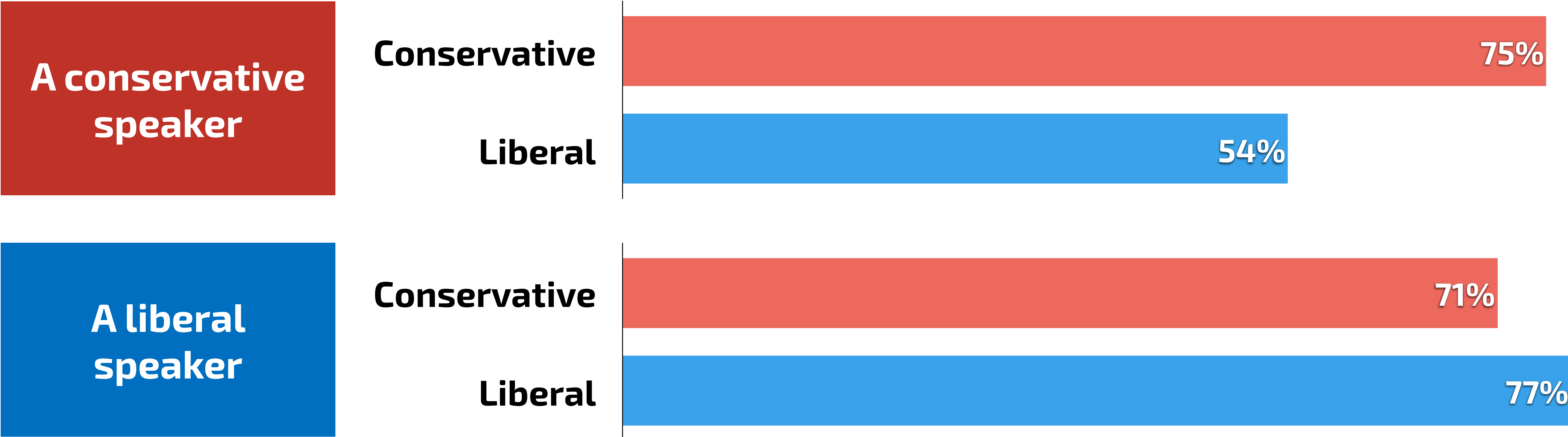


Q. Do you think your school should or should not do each of the following?

Among college students, conservatives are more likely than liberals to say a speaker with the opposite ideological views should be allowed to speak

% DEFINITELY/PROBABLY SHOULD ALLOW TO SPEAK ON CAMPUS

Responses of College Students

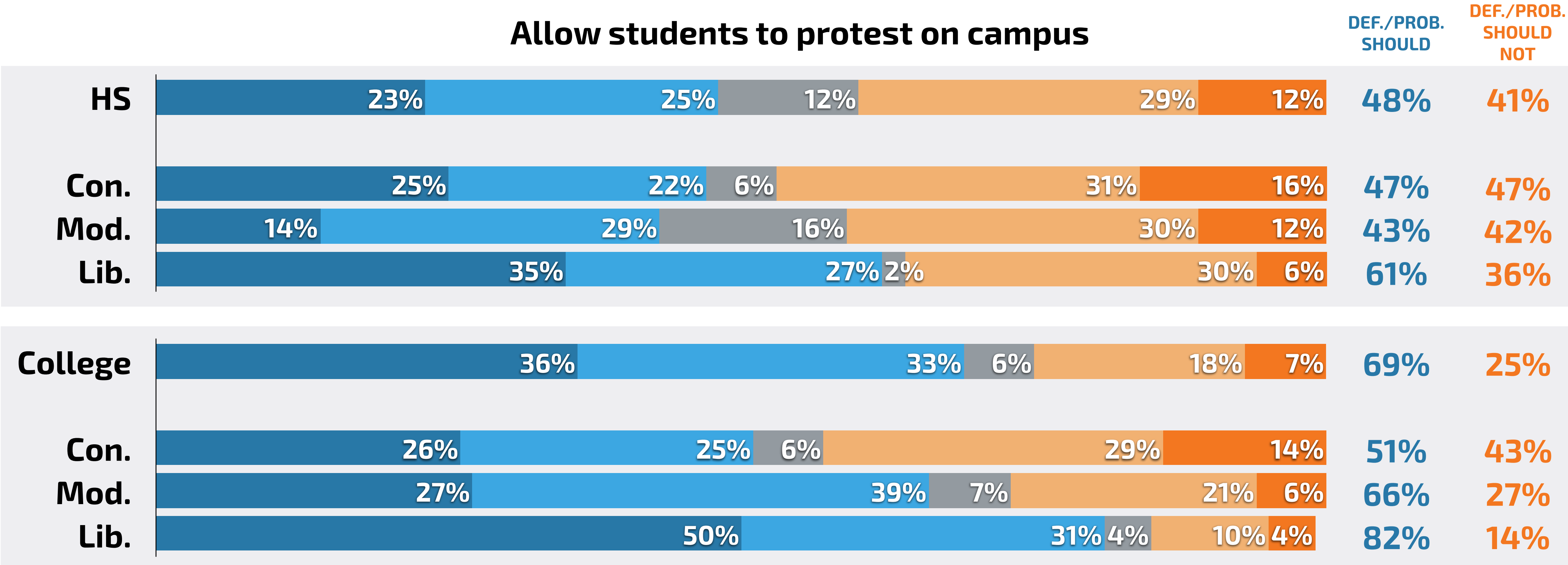


Q. Do you think your school should or should not do each of the following?

Campus Protests

A majority of college students think their school should allow students to protest on campus, but high school students are more divided

Allow students to protest on campus

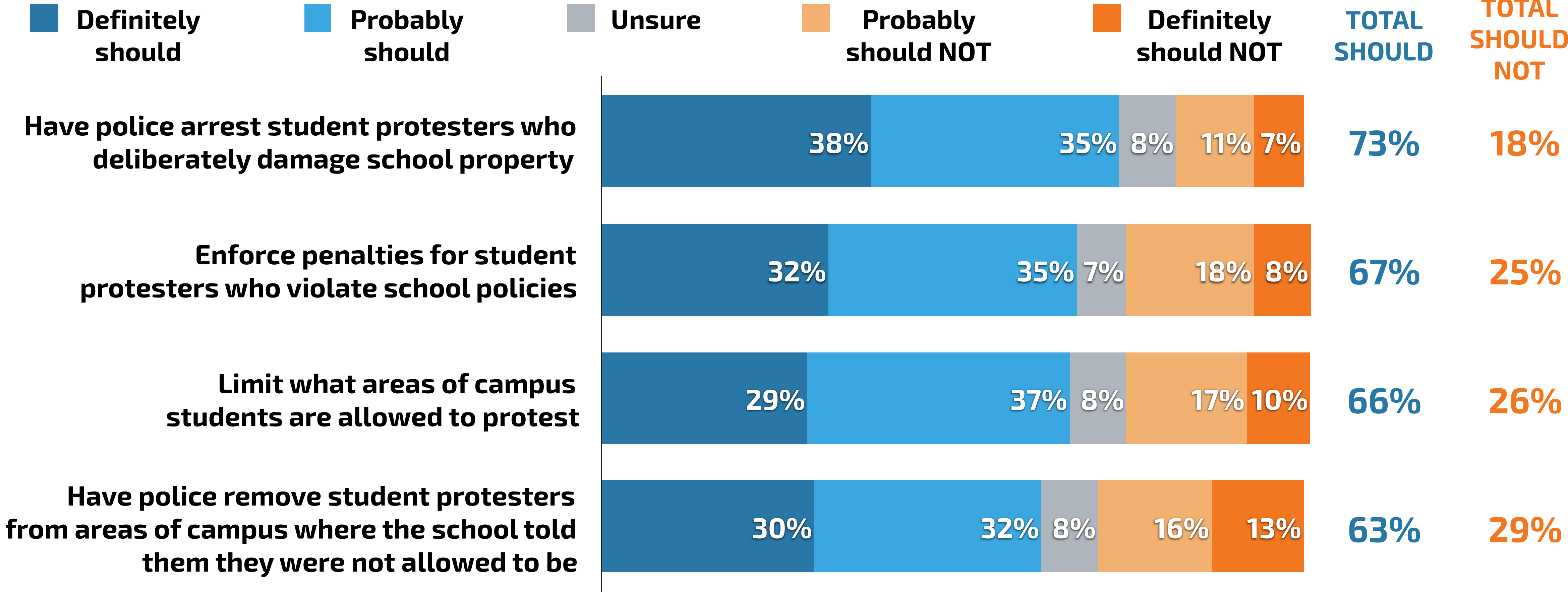


■ Definitely should
 ■ Probably should
 ■ Unsure
 ■ Probably should NOT
 ■ Definitely should NOT



Q. Do you think your school should or should not do each of the following?

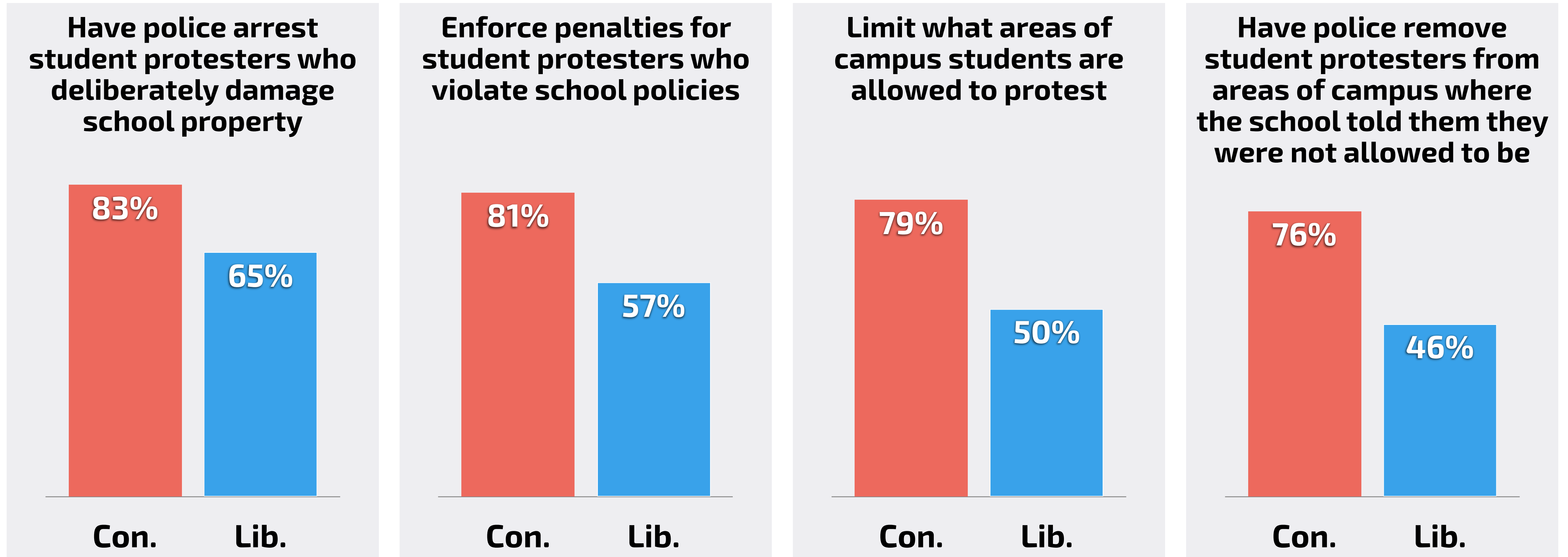
About 7 in 10 college students say schools should enforce consequences for students violating school policies or damaging school property while protesting



Q. Do you think your school should or should not do each of the following?
 Note: This chart shows responses only among college students

Majority of conservative and liberal college students agree there should be consequences for student protesters who damage property or violate policies

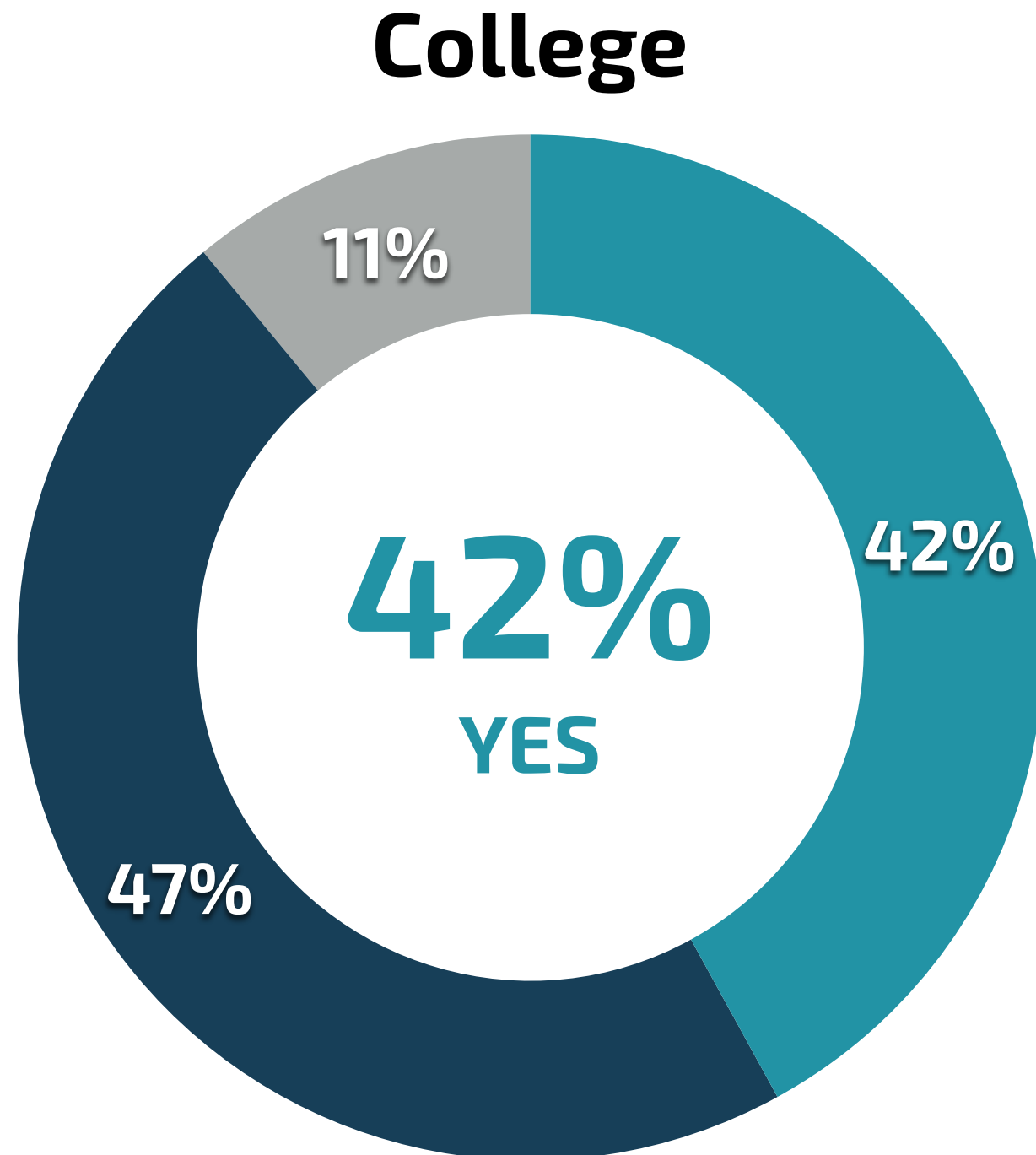
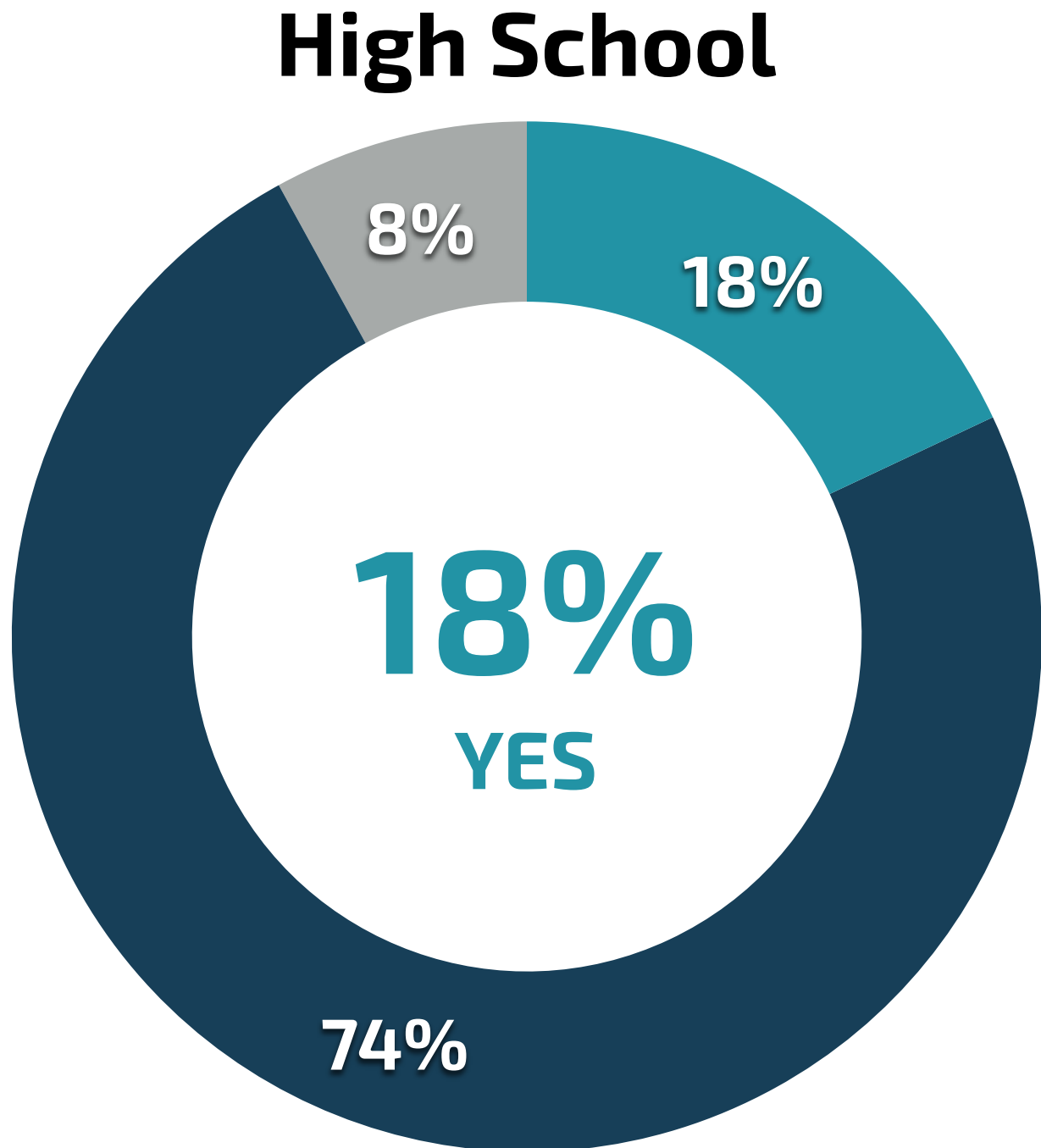
% DEFINITELY/PROBABLY SHOULD



Q. Do you think your school should or should not do each of the following?
Note: This chart shows responses only among college students

42% of college students experienced protests on their campus, while most high school students did not

Q. During the 2023–2024 school year, did any students at your school protest on campus in opposition to Israel's war against Hamas?



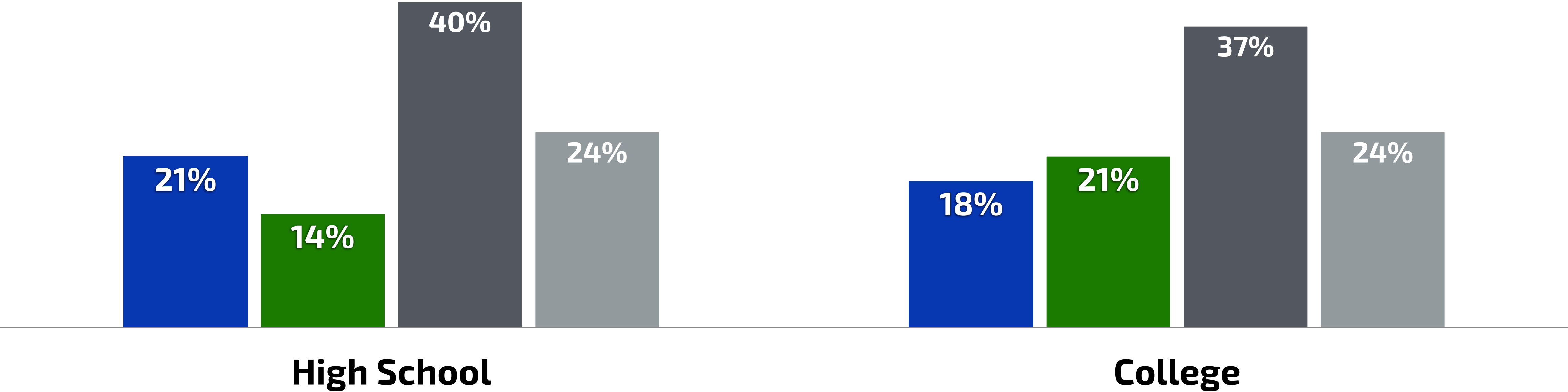
- Yes, students at my school protested on campus
- No, students at my school did not protest on campus
- Unsure



A plurality of students do not support either Israel or Hamas

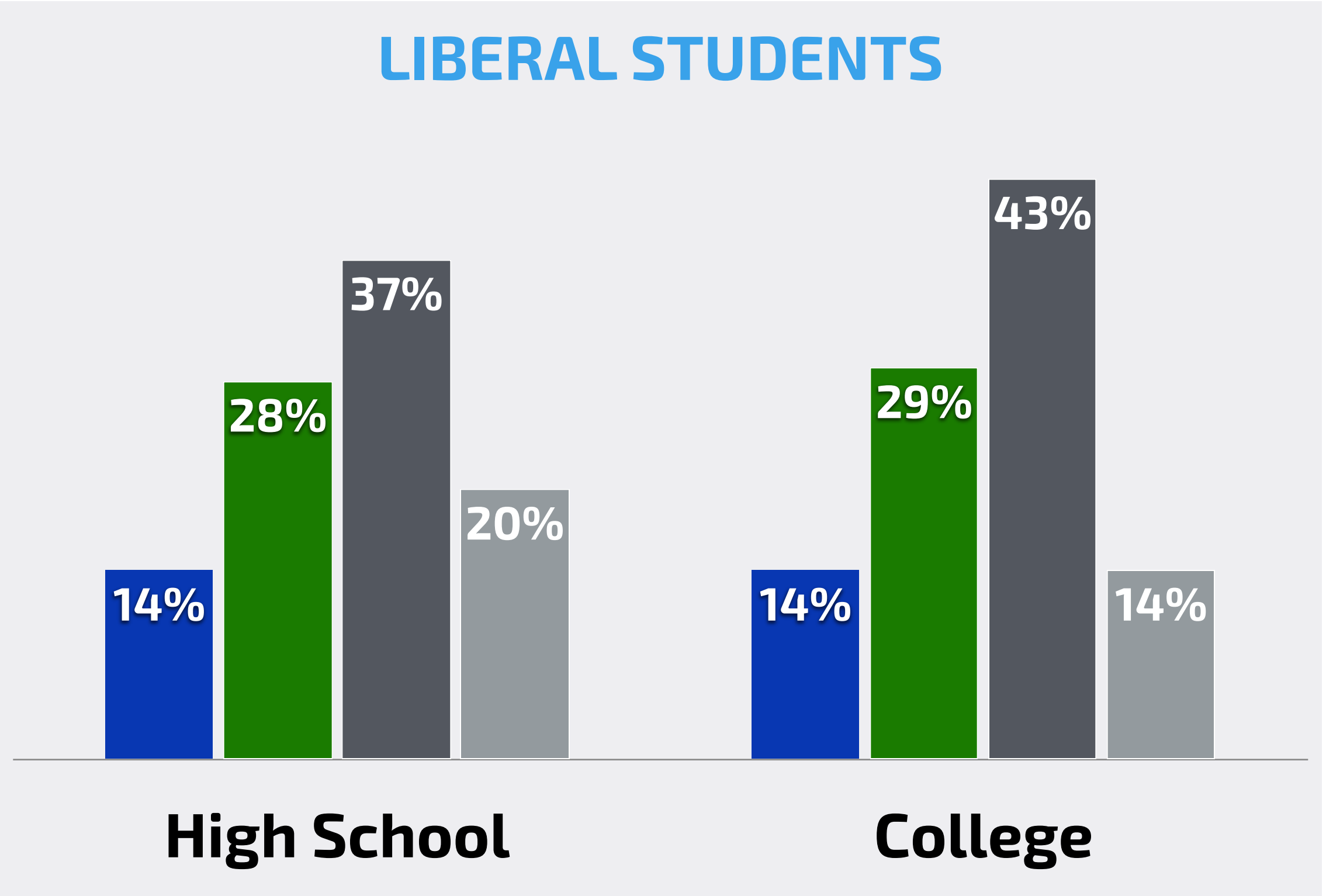
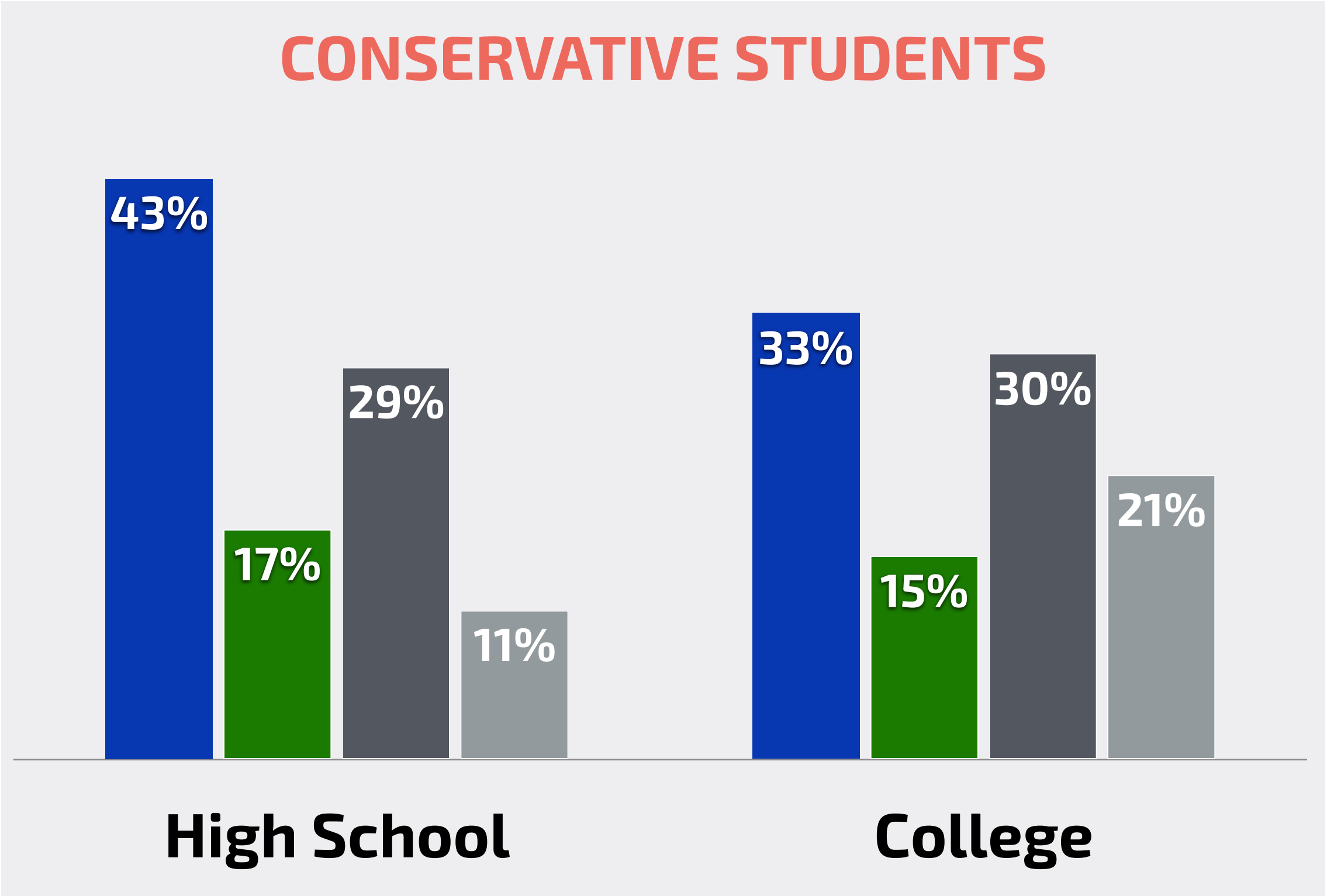
Q. In the conflict between Israel and Hamas, who do you support more?

■ Israel ■ Hamas ■ I do not support either of them ■ Unsure



Among those who pick a side, conservatives are more likely to support Israel, while liberals are more likely to support Hamas

■ Israel ■ Hamas ■ I do not support either of them ■ Unsure



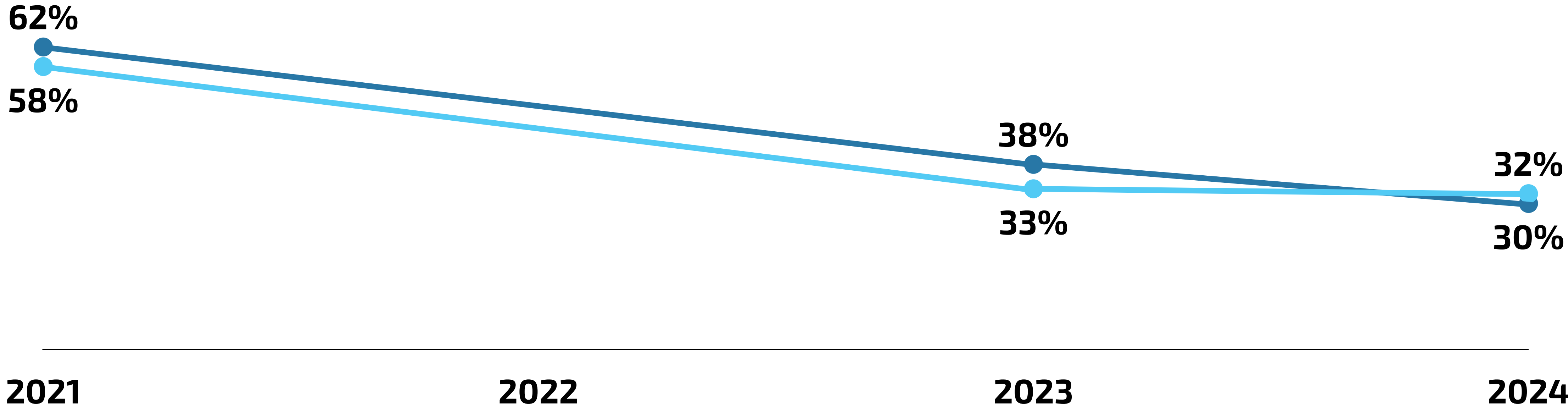
Q. In the conflict between Israel and Hamas, who do you support more?

Political and Economic Landscape

Students' ratings of Biden remain low, and approval has dropped even further among college students this year

% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT APPROVE

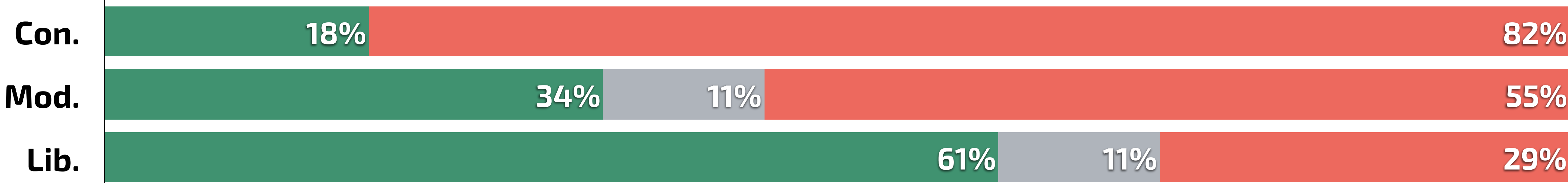
● HS ● College



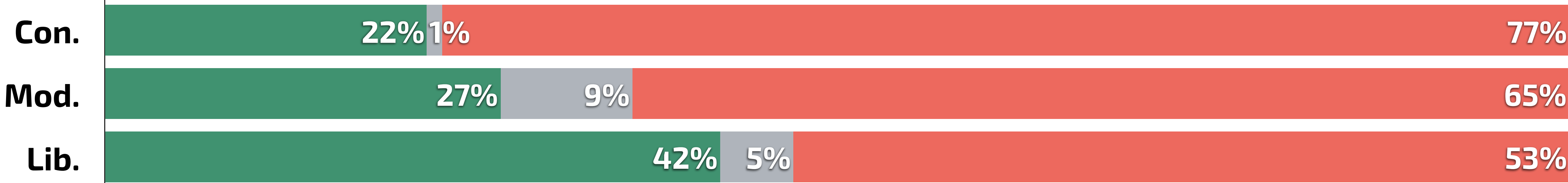
Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as President?

6 in 10 liberal high schoolers approve of Biden, but he is underwater among liberal college students

High School



College



■ Strongly/Somewhat approve
 ■ Unsure
 ■ Strongly/Somewhat disapprove

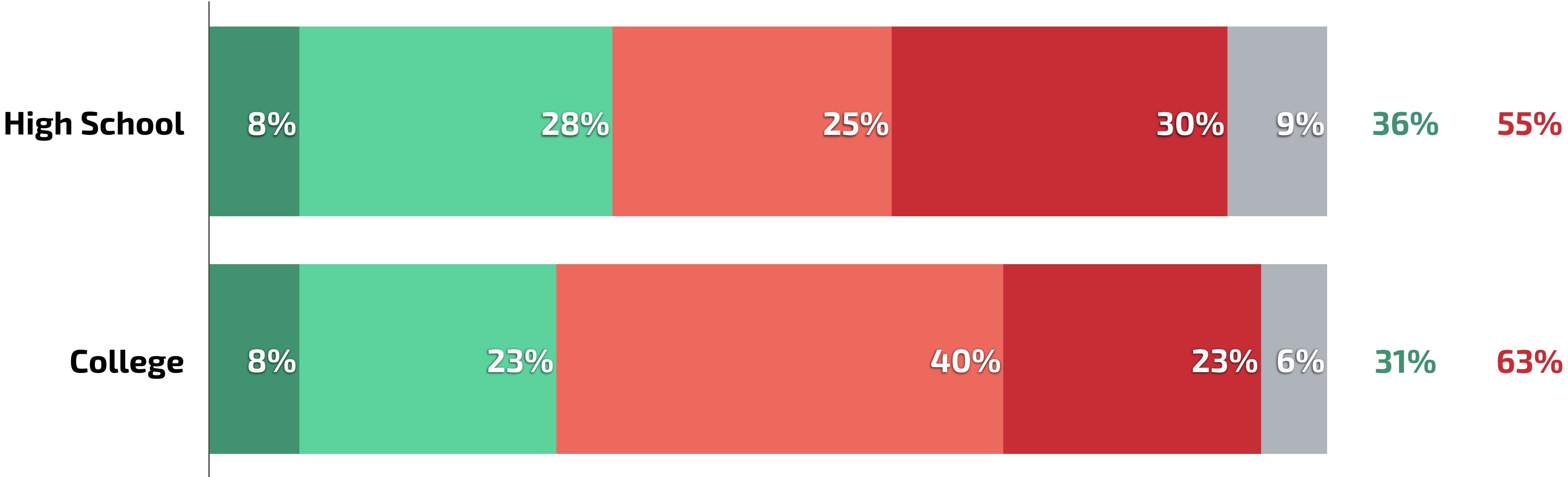


Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as President?

Most students are not confident Biden is an effective leader when it comes to the needs of young people

■ Very confident
 ■ Somewhat confident
 ■ Not very confident
 ■ Not confident at all
 ■ Unsure

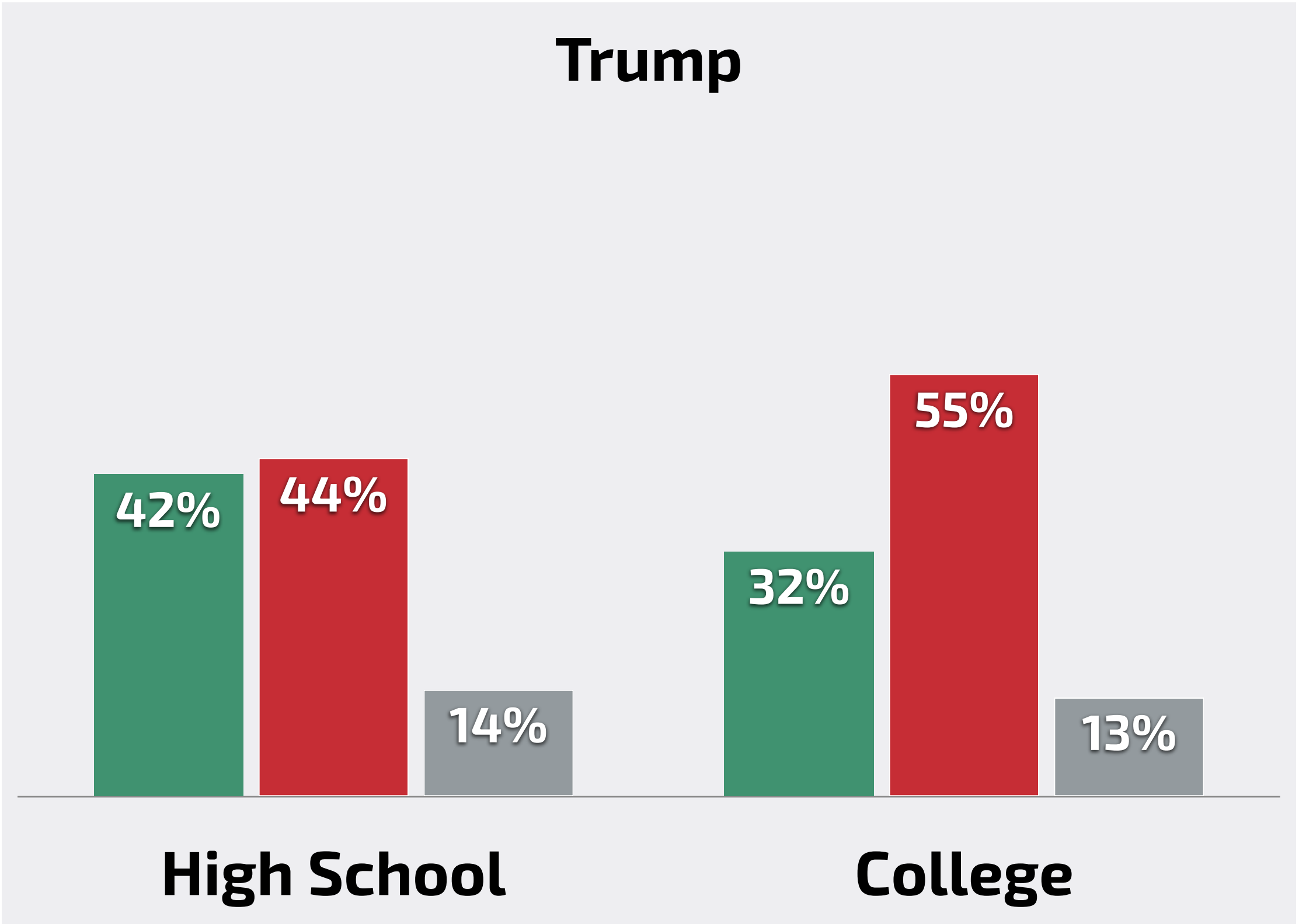
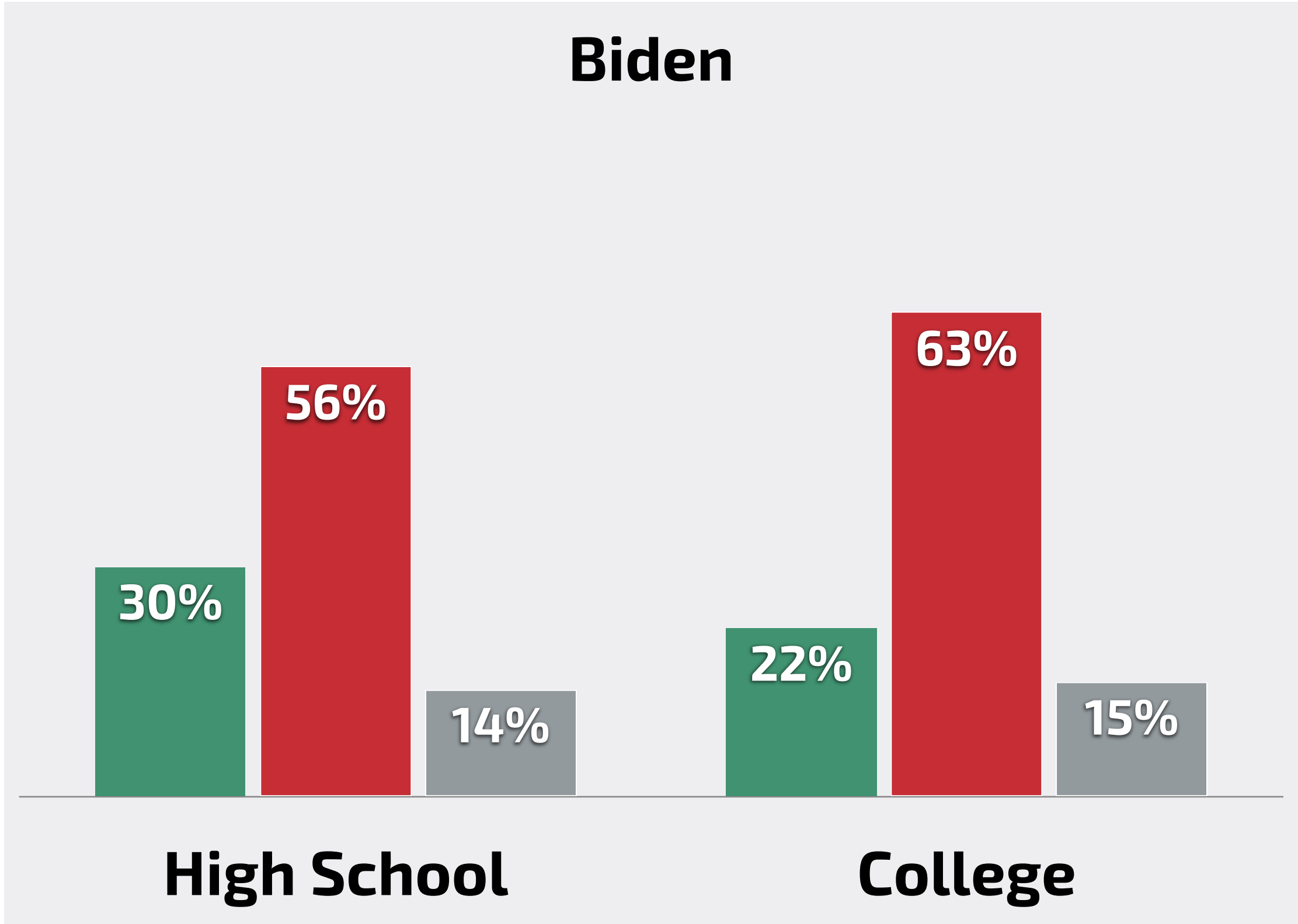
VERY/
SOME.
CONFIDENT
NOT VERY/
AT ALL
CONFIDENT



Q. How confident are you that Joe Biden is an effective leader when it comes to the needs of young people?

Neither candidate receives majority vote of confidence in his mental fitness to handle the job of President

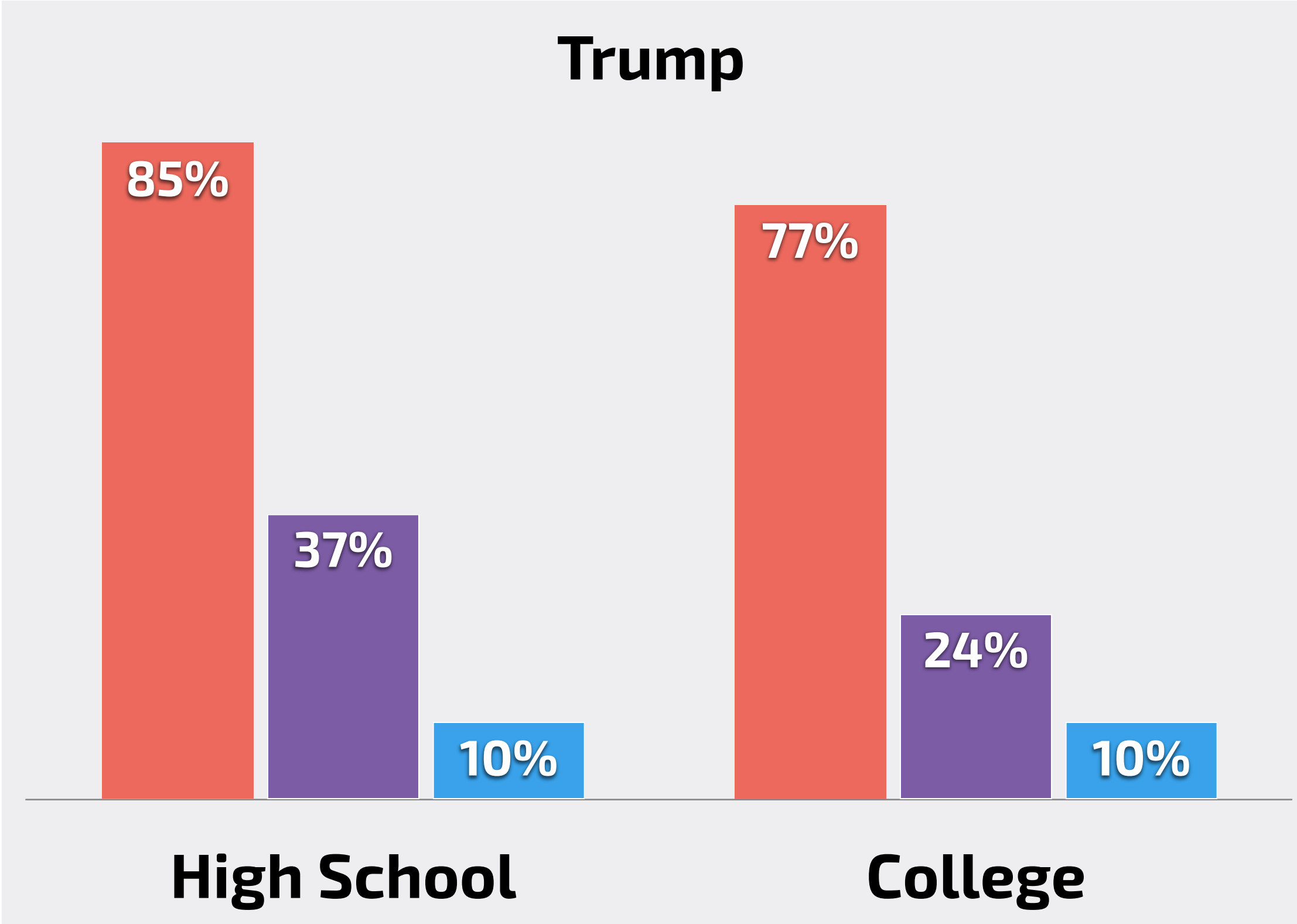
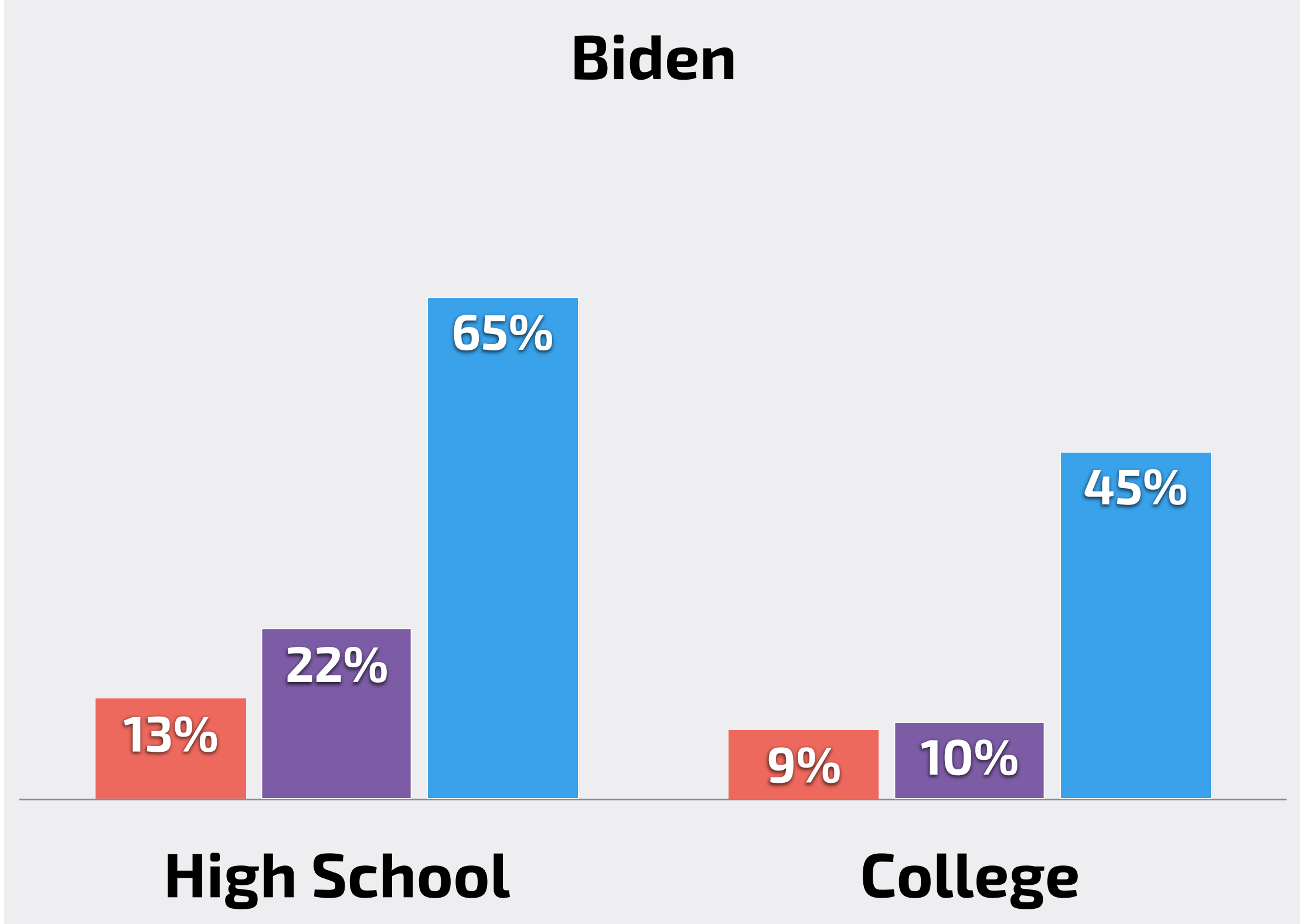
Mentally fit enough to handle the job of President? ■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure



Q. In your opinion, do you think the following people are mentally fit enough to handle the job of President?

Republican students are more likely to think Trump is mentally fit enough to be president than Democratic students are to think Biden is

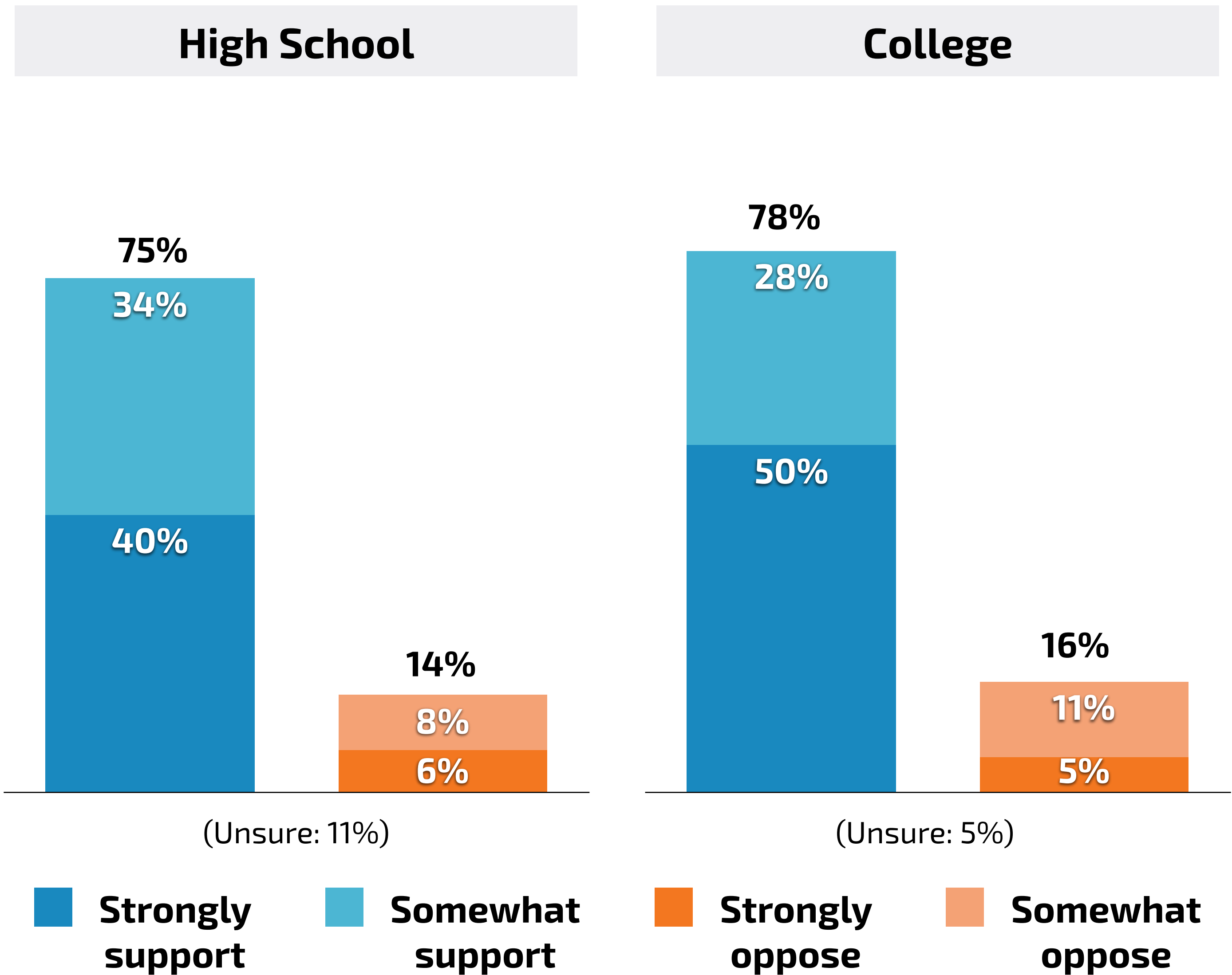
%YES: Thinks ___ is mentally fit enough to handle the job of President ■ **GOP** ■ **Ind** ■ **Dem**



Q. In your opinion, do you think the following people are mentally fit enough to handle the job of President?

Note: Responses for "Unsure" and "No" are not shown.

About 3 in 4 support establishing a maximum age limit for presidential candidates



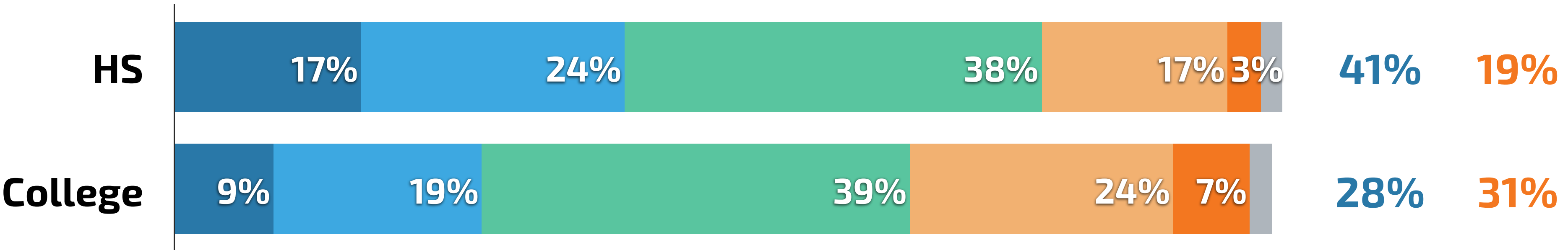
Q. A presidential candidate must be at least 35 years old to run for office, but no maximum age limit currently exists. Would you support or oppose establishing a maximum age limit for presidential candidates?

High school students feel proud of the US more often than college students, though majorities in both groups say they feel proud at least “sometimes”

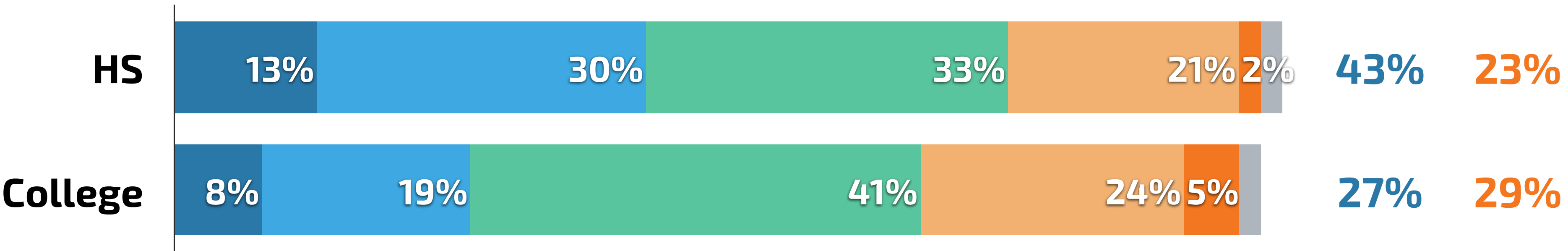
■ Always
 ■ Most of the time
 ■ Sometimes
 ■ Rarely
 ■ Never
 ■ Unsure

ALWAYS/
MOST OF
THE TIME
RARELY/
NEVER

Proud of the United States

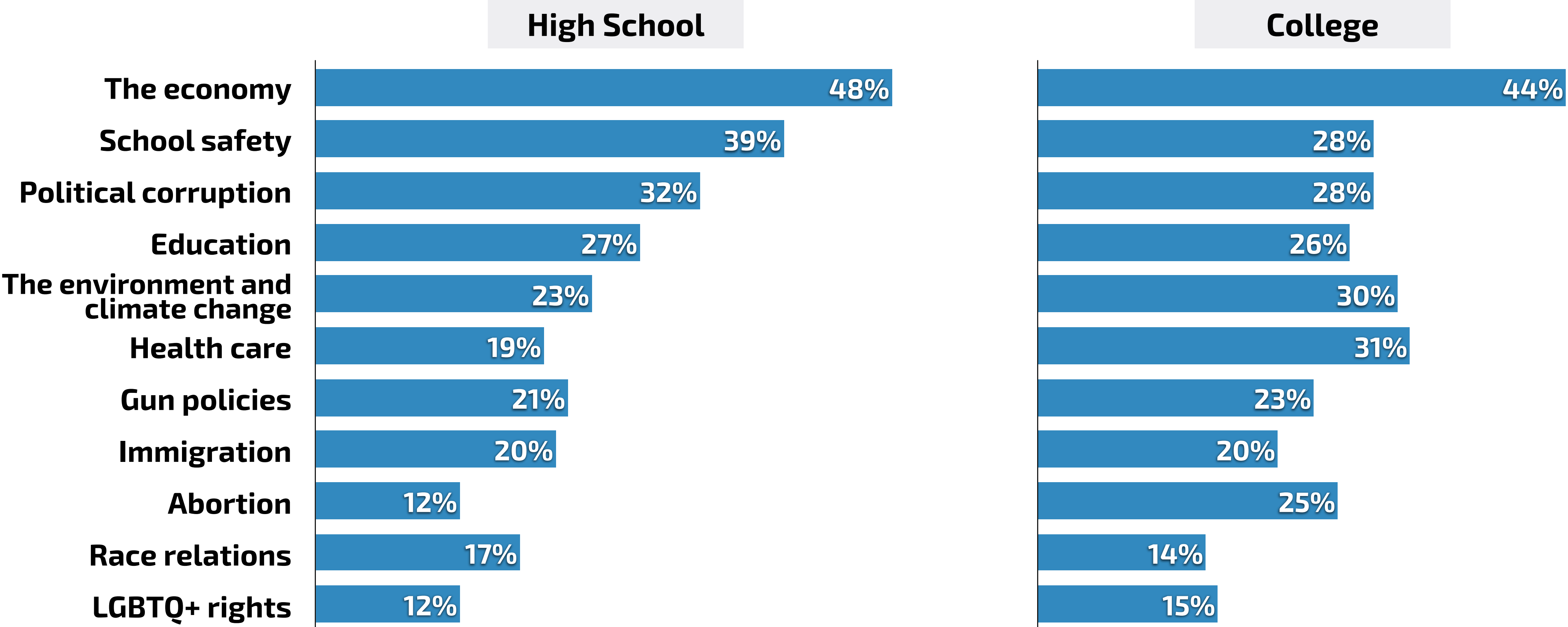


Proud of Americans who are in your generation



Q. How often do you feel each of the following ways?

The economy is a clear top issue for students, with school safety also a major concern for high schoolers

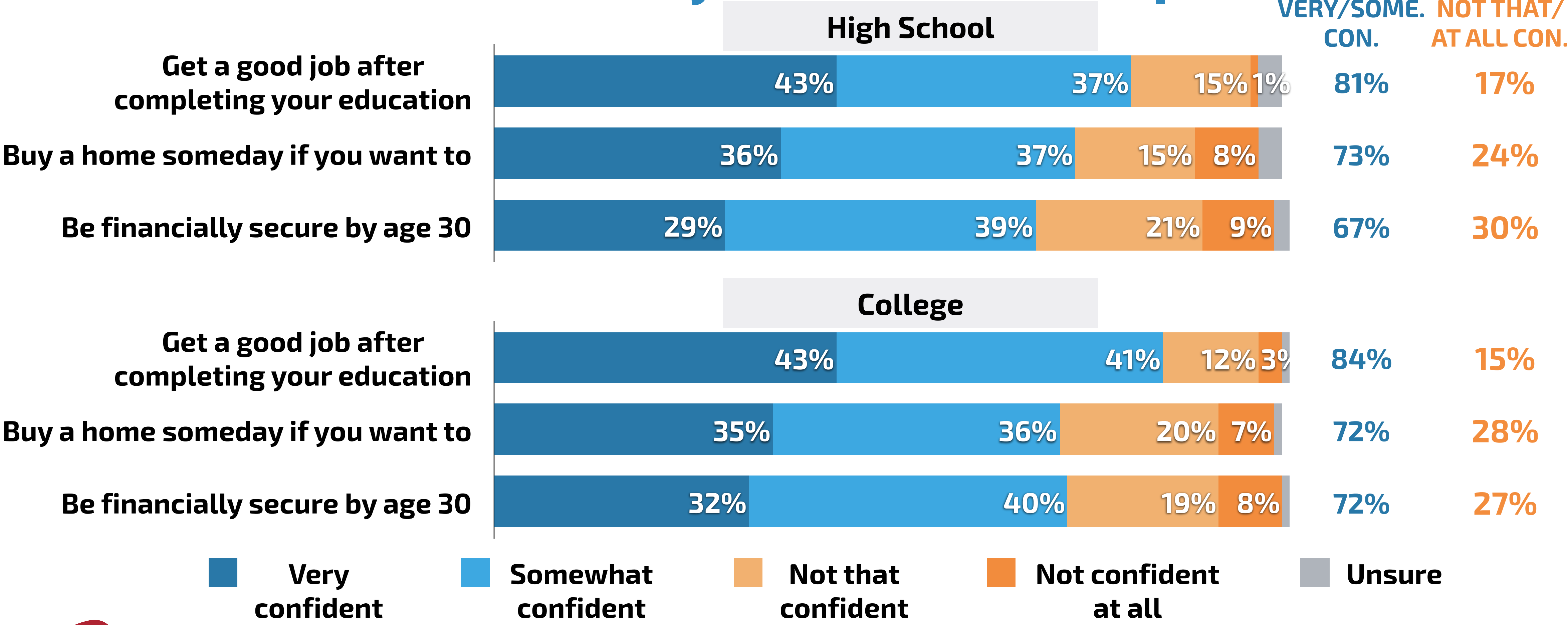


Q. Thinking about issues facing the country today, which issues are you most concerned about personally? Select up to three.

Note: "Something else" and "Unsure" responses not shown in chart.



Students think they're likely to get a good job, but are less sure that means financial security or homeownership



Q. How confident are you that you will be able to do each of the following?

Nearly 6 in 10 college students report feeling stressed about their life all or most of the time

% ALWAYS/MOST OF THE TIME

● High School ● College

Stressed about your own life



Stressed about things happening in the United States



Stressed about things happening in other parts of the world



Q. How often do you feel each of the following ways?
Note: Other response options were "Sometimes," "Rarely," "Never," or "Unsure."

Student Loans and College Tuition

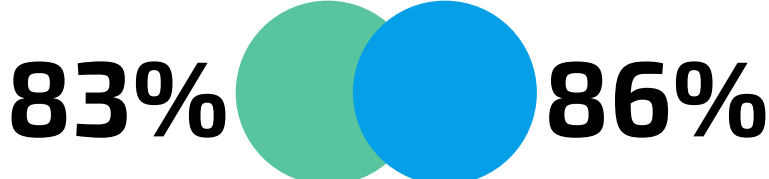
Those who have student loans are less likely to feel confident they will be financially secure by age 30

**% VERY/SOMEWHAT CONFIDENT
WILL BE ABLE TO...**

● **Has student loans**

● **No student loans**

**Get a good job after
completing your education**



**Buy a home someday
if you want to**



**Be financially secure
by age 30**

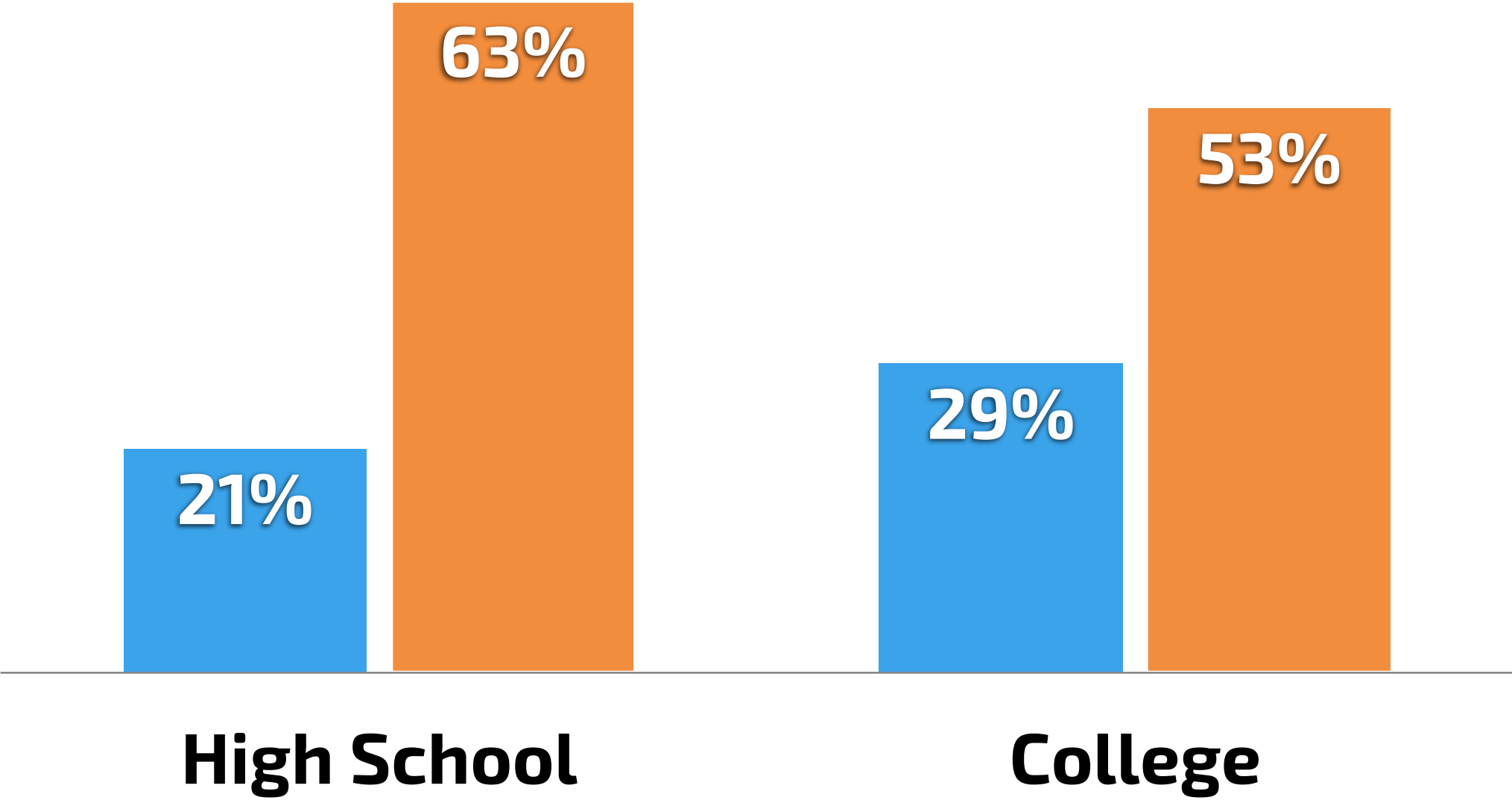
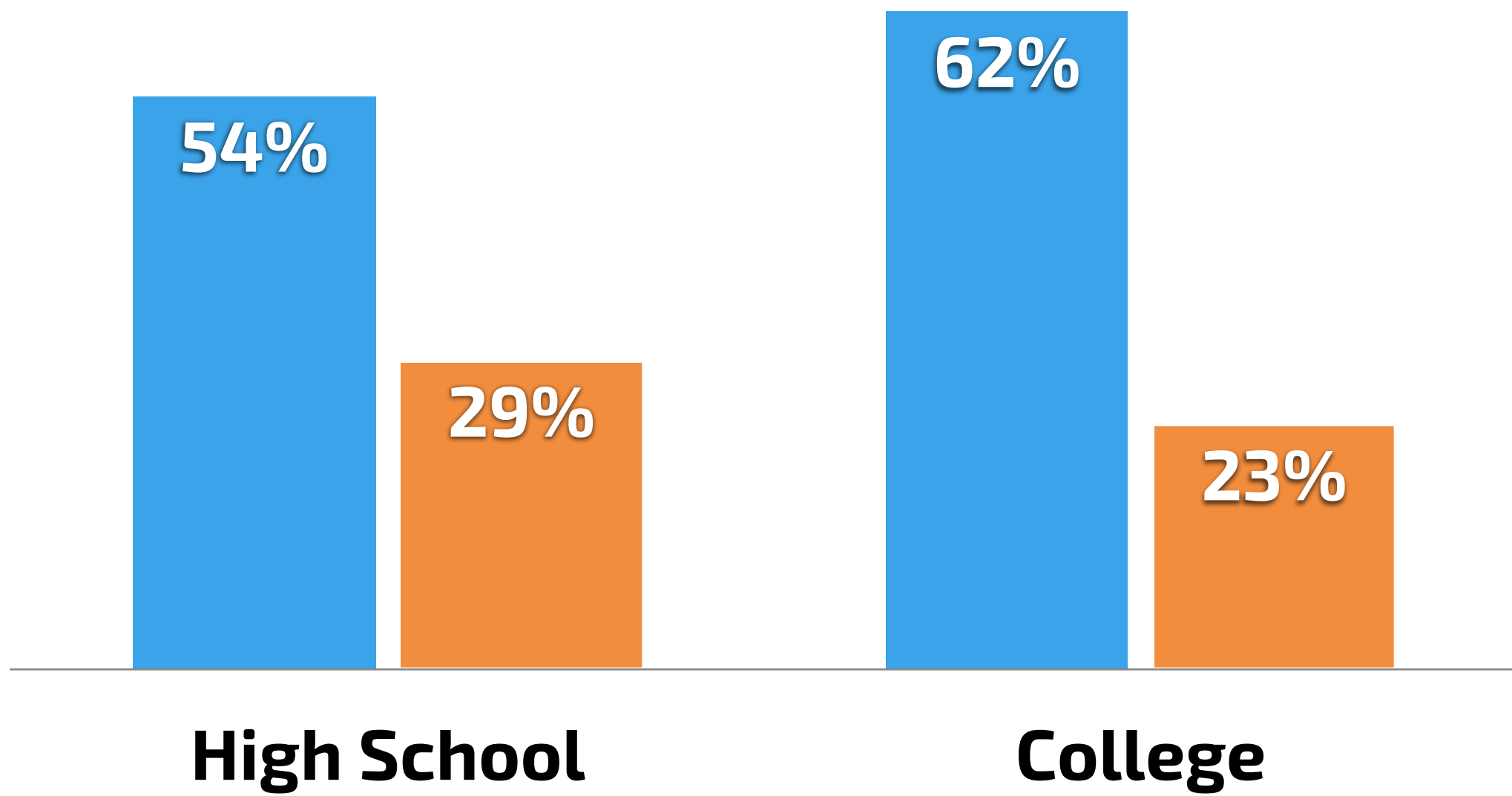


Q. How confident are you that you will be able to do each of the following?

A majority believe that forgiving \$10,000 worth of student loans would be fair, but asking other taxpayers to contribute would be unfair

Forgiving \$10,000 worth of student loans for every borrower, so they don't have to pay them back

Asking taxpayers—including those who didn't take out loans or attend college—to cover \$10,000 of the student loan debt of every borrower who still owes



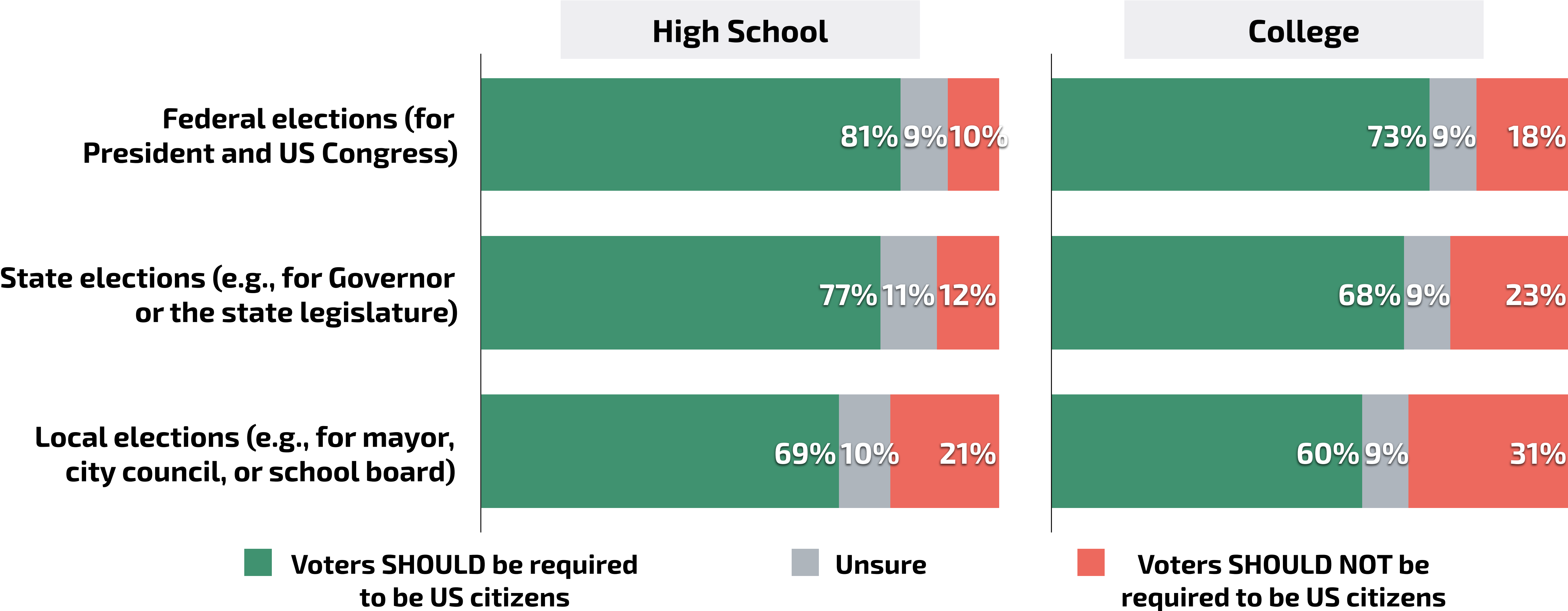
Fair
Unfair



Q. For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you think the action being proposed is fair or unfair.
Note: "Unsure" responses not shown in chart

Policy Issues

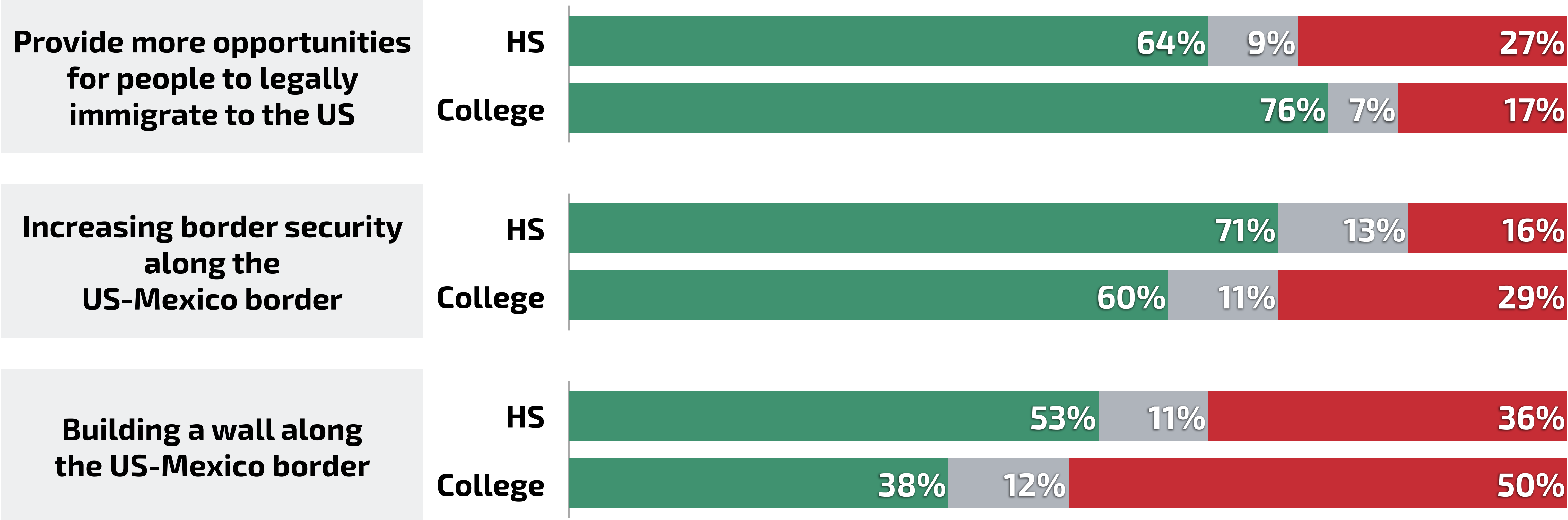
A large majority believe voters should be required to be US citizens to vote, but students are slightly less likely to say this when it comes to local elections



Q. In the following types of elections, do you think voters should be required to be US citizens in order to vote?

Students want more border security *and* opportunities for people to legally immigrate to the US

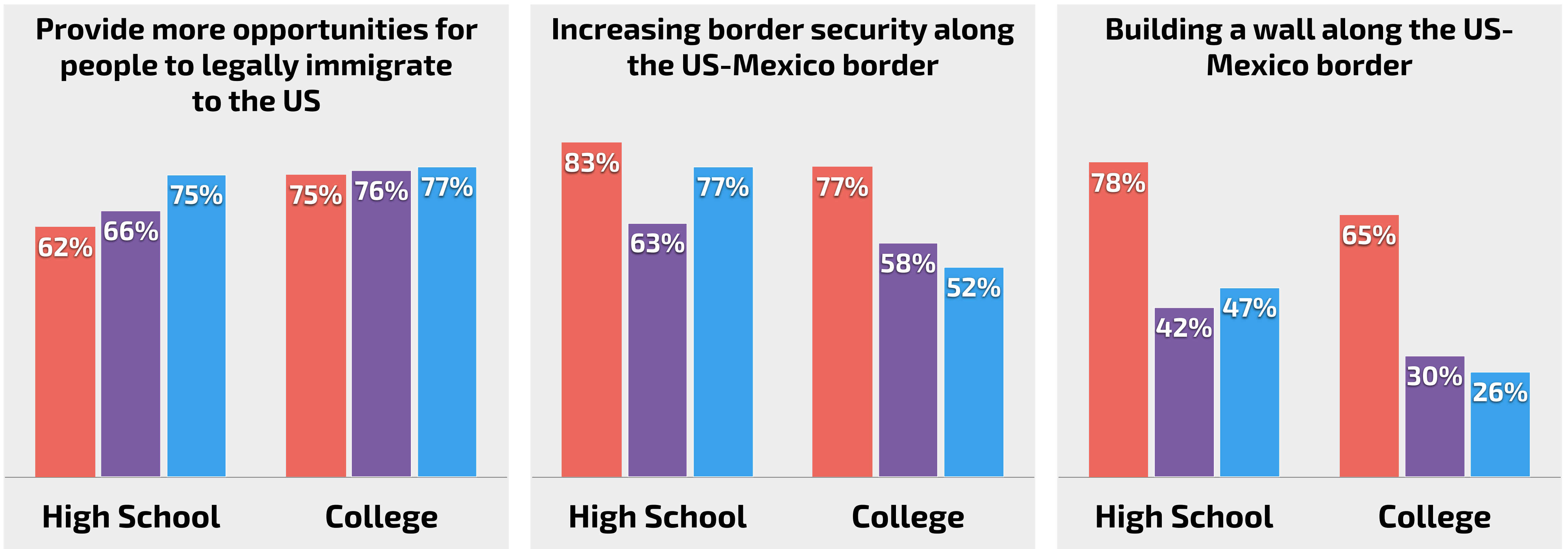
■ Strongly/Somewhat Support
 ■ Unsure
 ■ Strongly/Somewhat Oppose



Q. Would you support or oppose the US government doing each of the following to deal with illegal immigration?

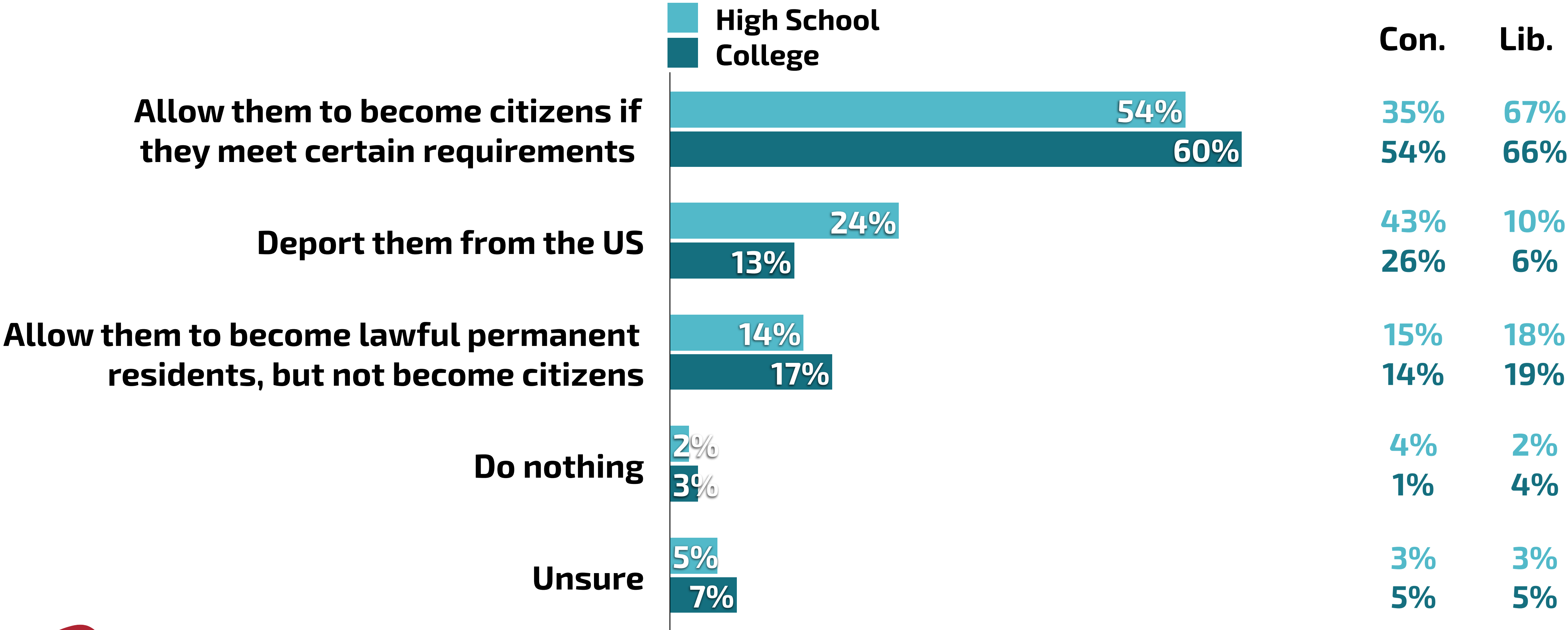
Most conservatives and liberals alike support more legal opportunities and border security, but only conservatives express majority support for a wall

% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT SUPPORT ■ Con. ■ Mod. ■ Lib.



Q. Would you support or oppose the US government doing each of the following to deal with illegal immigration?

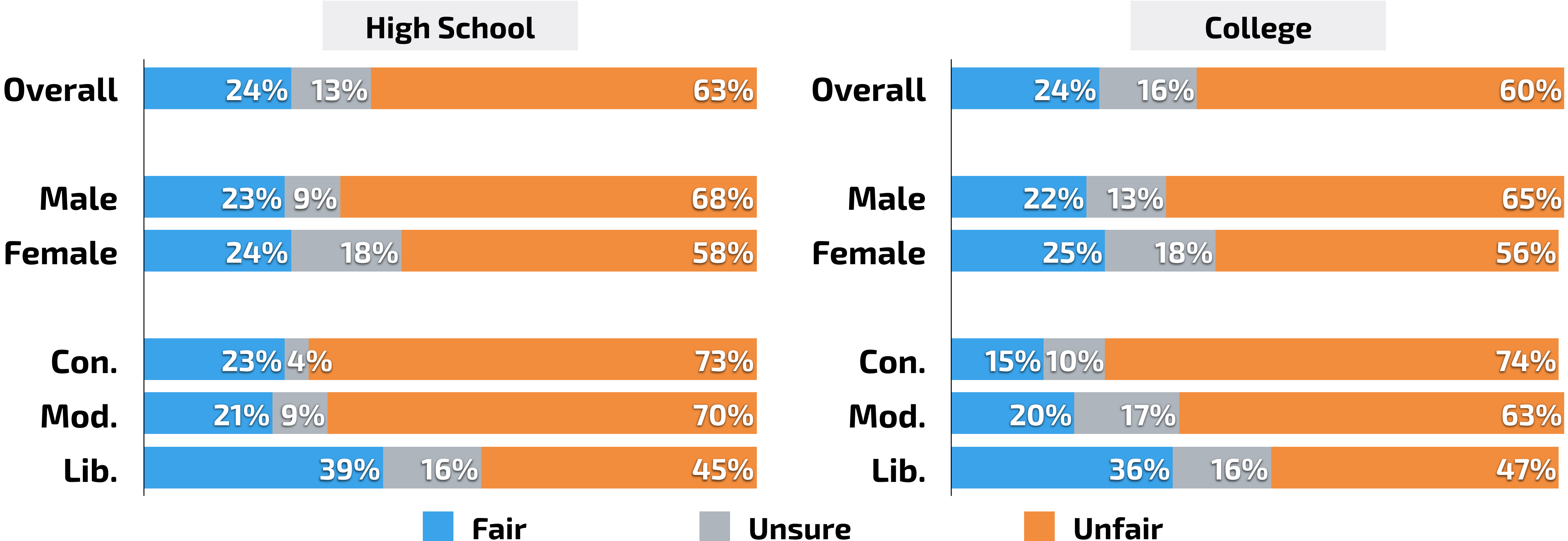
Over half think the US should offer a path to citizenship for immigrants currently living in the US illegally if they meet certain requirements



Q. What do you think the United States should do regarding immigrants who are currently living in the United States illegally?

6 in 10 students say it is unfair for biologically male athletes who identify as women to compete in women's sports

Allowing biologically male athletes who identify as women to compete against biologically female athletes in women's sports, including in high school, college, professional leagues, and the Olympics.

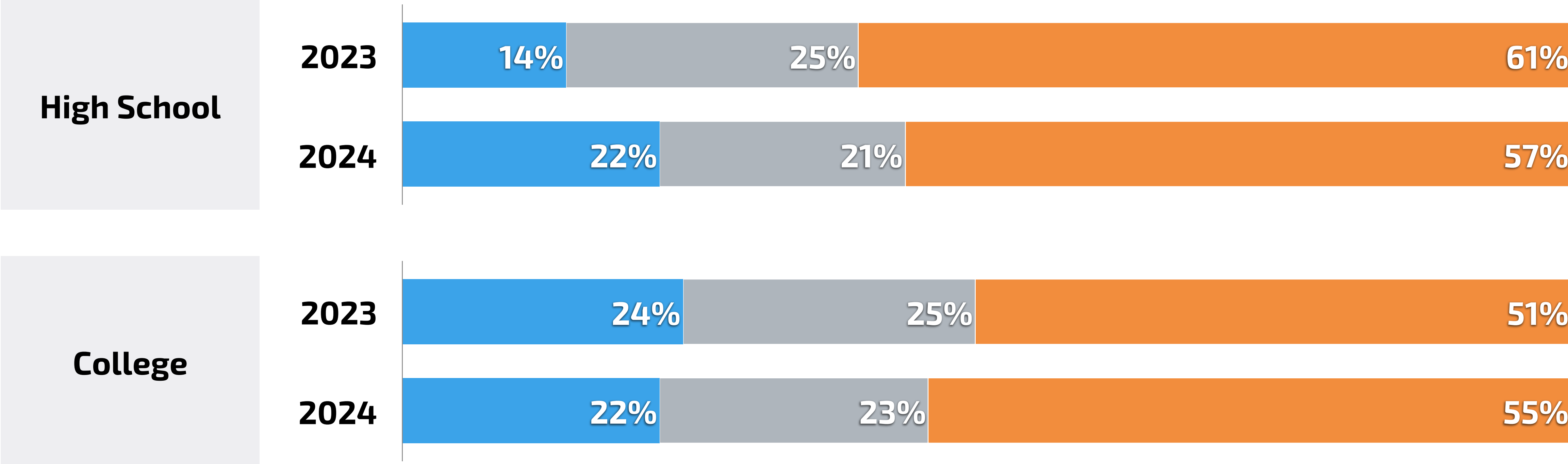


Q. For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you think the action being proposed is fair or unfair.

Most students continue to see racial quotas as unfair

Allowing the use of racial quotas in the workplace and educational institutions

Fair Unsure Unfair

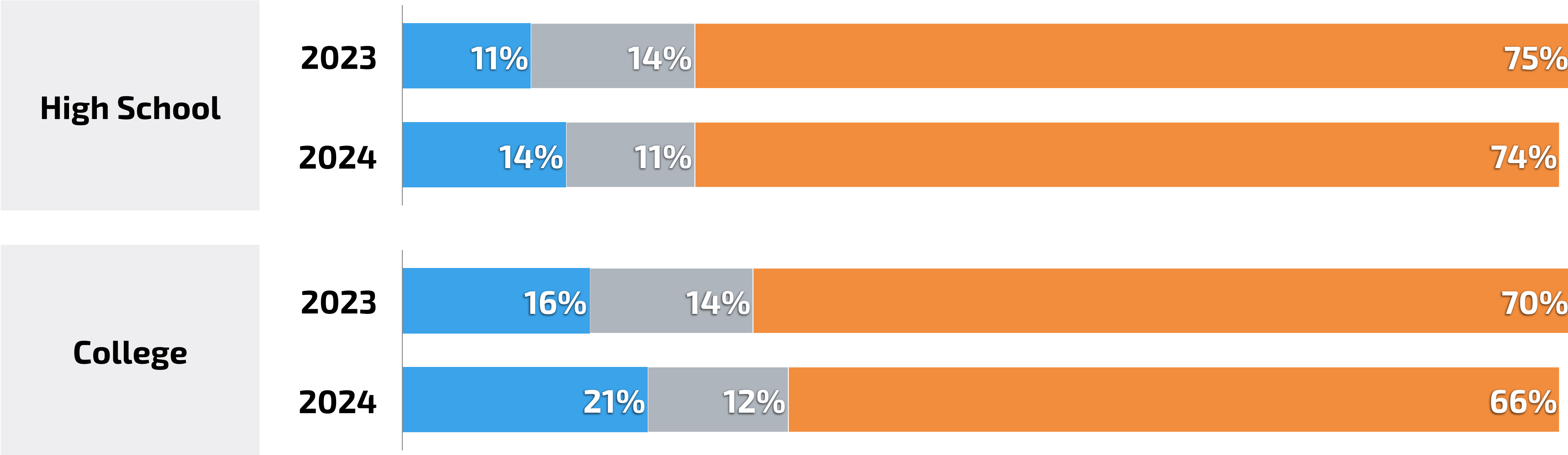


Q. For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you think the action being proposed is fair or unfair.

Most students feel it is unfair for the government to grow the national debt and leave it for future generations to address

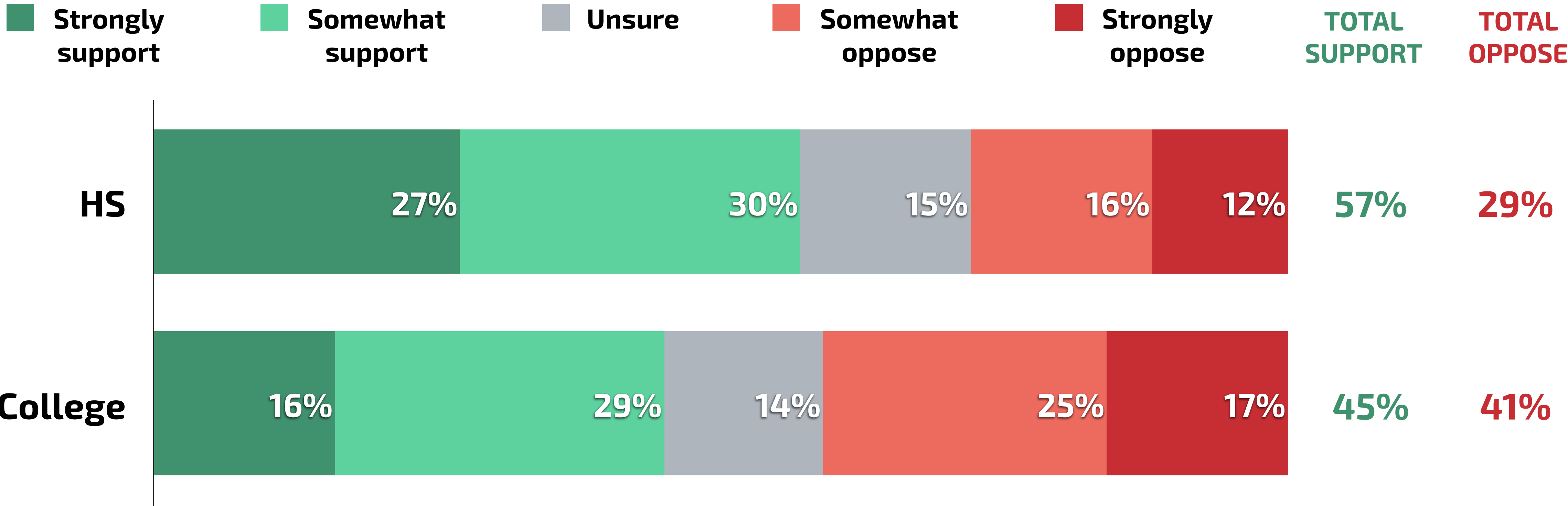
The federal government spending more money than it takes in, growing the national debt so that future generations will have to address it

Fair Unsure Unfair



Q. For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you think the action being proposed is fair or unfair.

More students support than oppose requiring TikTok to be owned by a US entity in order to continue operating in the US



Q. Would you support or oppose requiring TikTok to be owned by a US entity in order to continue operating in the US, so that the Chinese government cannot control the app?

Methodology

Methodology

Echelon Insights conducted a survey on behalf of Young America's Foundation to examine high school and college students' attitudes toward current issues and politics. The survey was fielded online from June 4–9, 2024 in English among a sample of 821 high school students ages 15–20 and 804 college students ages 15–24 using non-probability sampling.

The sample was drawn from the Lucid sample exchange based on gender, age, race/ethnicity, and education level quota targets derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's October 2022 Current Population Survey School Enrollment Supplement. Respondents ages 15–17 were contacted through their parents, who were asked if their child could take the survey. To protect their privacy and anonymity, the survey did not ask respondents for any personally-identifiable information or contact information.

All respondents were required to answer screening questions to verify they fit the criteria for the study. Students were classified as high school students or college students based on their level of enrollment during the 2023–2024 school year.

Data quality measures included the use of an attentiveness check where respondents were directed to select a particular response and measures to prevent duplicate responses. Respondents who answered more than one-third of the questions they were asked in less than one-third of the median response time per question were removed from the data file.

The high school students sample and college students sample were weighted separately to population benchmarks for students ages 15–24 nationwide from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey October 2022 School Enrollment Supplement and September 2021 Volunteering and Civic Life Supplement on the following variables.

Based on the October 2022 CPS School Enrollment Supplement:

- Gender
- Age
- Race/Ethnicity
- Census region
- School type (public vs. private/homeschool)
- College students only: Full-time vs. part-time status
- College students only: Undergraduate vs. graduate level

Based on the September 2021 Volunteering and Civic Life Supplement (self-response data):

- Gender x Whether they said they did or did not post their views about political, societal, or local issues on the internet or social media in the past 12 months

Calculated the way it would be for a random sample and adjusted to incorporate the effect of weighting, the margin of sampling error is ± 5.9 percentage points for high school students and ± 6.0 percentage points for college students. This estimate of precision does not account for other potential sources of error that can occur in online surveys with non-probability samples, such as non-coverage due to the survey being conducted online.



