

# Climate Change Attitudes in the American Southwest

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PAPOR Conference  
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Filling the need for trusted information on national health issues.

# What We'll Cover Today

1. About the poll we conducted
2. Exploring...
  - The public's belief in climate change
  - The public's experiences with climate change
  - Regional differences
3. Policy preferences

# About the Survey

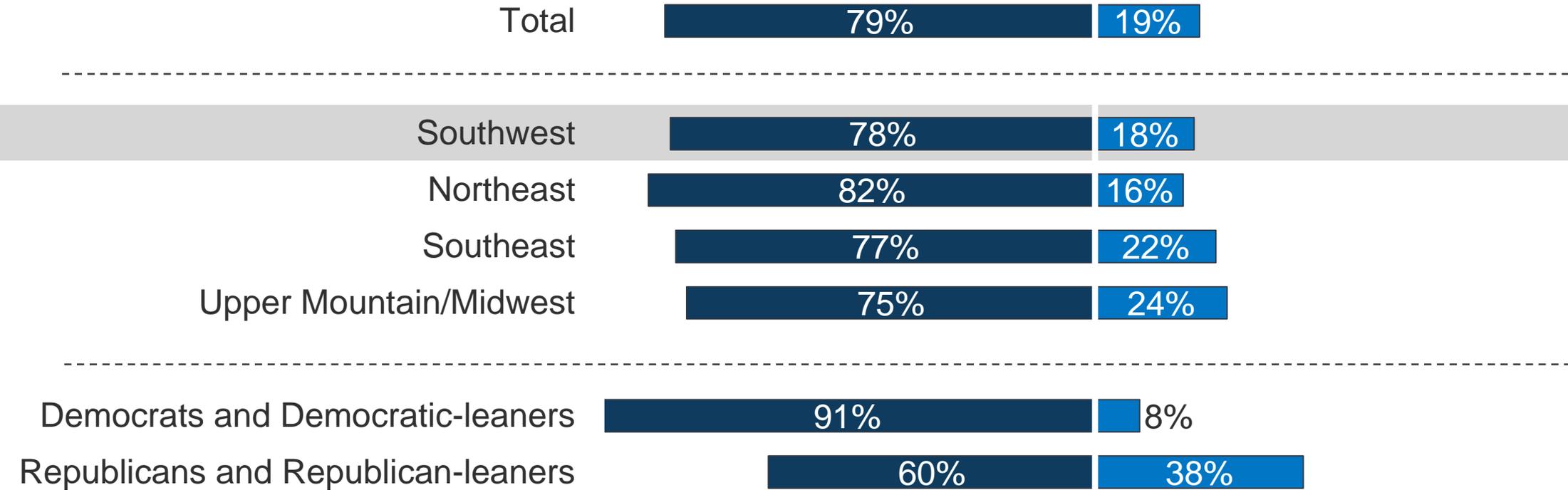
- Partnership project conducted with the Washington Post, 34<sup>th</sup> in series
- Online and phone interviews using probability-based NORC AmeriSpeak panel
- N=2,293 adults and 629 teens ages 13-17
- Field dates: July 9 – August 5, 2019
- Regional oversamples:
  - Southwest (CA, AZ, NM, NV, UT, CO)
  - Upper Mountain West/Midwest (MN, ND, SD, MT, ID)
  - Southeast/gulf coast (FL, GA, SC, NC, AL, MS, LA, TX gulf counties)
  - Upper Northeast (ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ)
- All data weighted to match national Census demographics

# Exploring the Public's Belief in Climate Change

# At Least Three In Four Across Regions Believe Human Activity Is Causing Climate Change

Do you think **human activity** is or is not **causing changes to the world's climate**, including an increase in average temperature?

- Yes, human activity is causing the climate to change
- No, human activity is not causing the climate to change



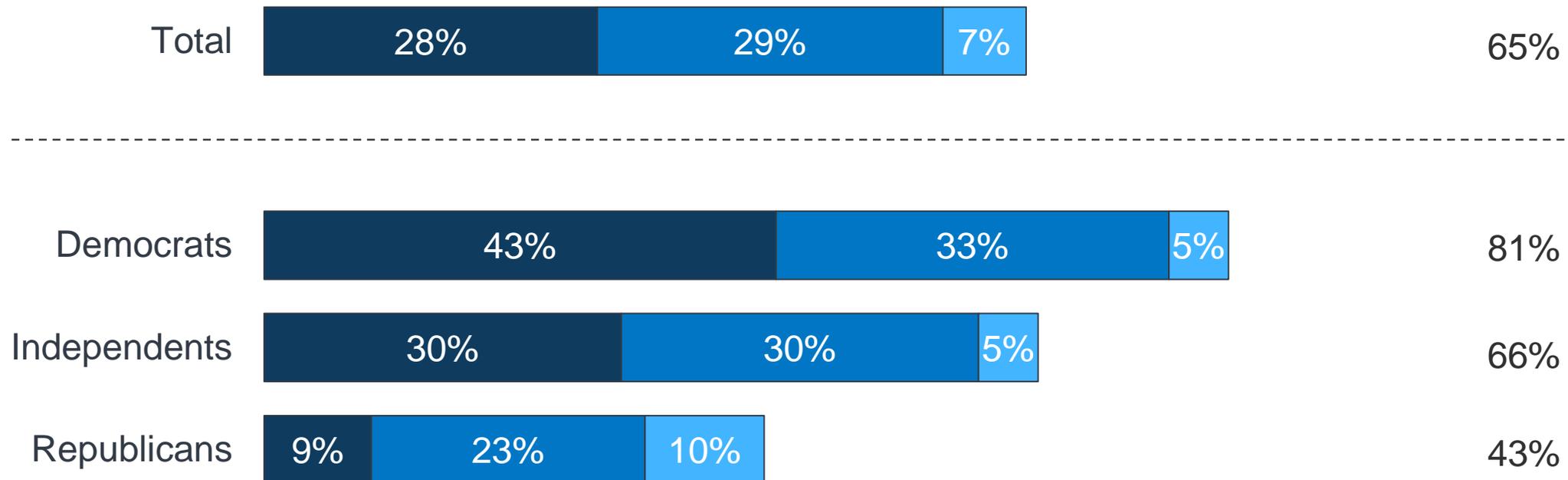
SOURCE: KFF/Washington Post Climate Change Survey (conducted Jul. 9-Aug. 5, 2019). See topline for full question wording and response options.

# Public, Partisans Divided On Cause Of Extreme Weather Events

Do you think extreme weather events are becoming more severe, less severe, or staying about the same?  
IF MORE SEVERE: Do you think the severe weather is...?

- Caused mostly by climate change
- Caused about equally by climate change and natural year-to-year variations
- Caused mostly by natural year-to-year variations

Total who say  
weather events  
are becoming  
more severe:



SOURCE: KFF/Washington Post Climate Change Survey (conducted Jul. 9-Aug. 5, 2019). See topline for full question wording and response options.

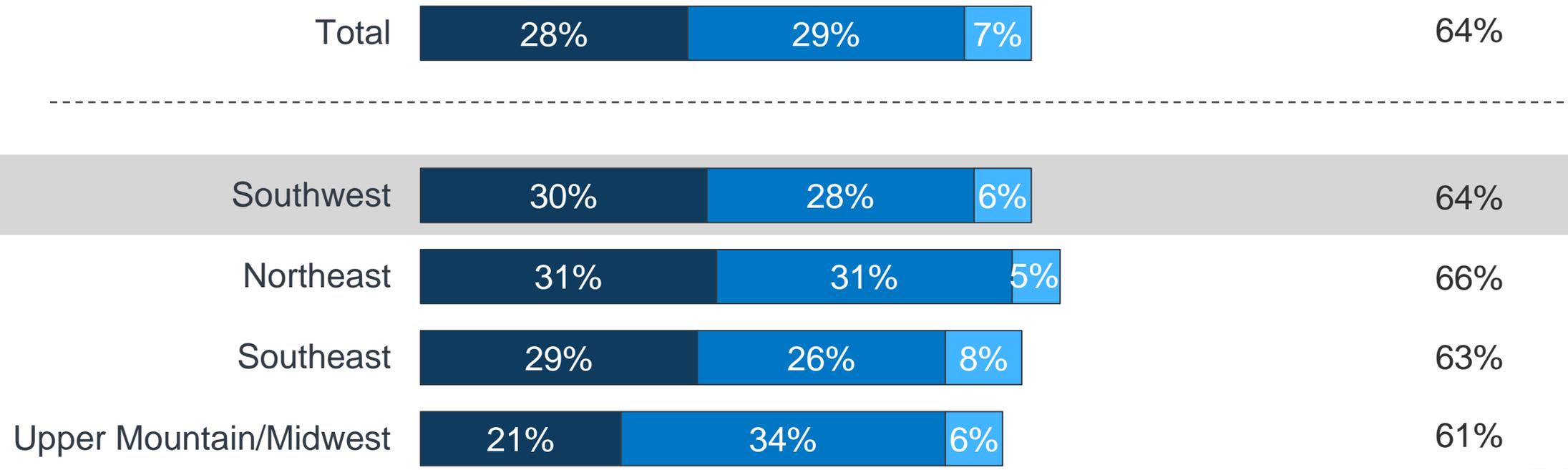
# Nearly Two-Thirds Across Regions Say Weather Events Are Becoming More Severe

Do you think extreme weather events are becoming more severe, less severe, or staying about the same?

IF MORE SEVERE: Do you think the severe weather is...?

- Caused mostly by climate change
- Caused about equally by climate change and natural year-to-year variations
- Caused mostly by natural year-to-year variations

Total who say weather events are becoming **more severe**:

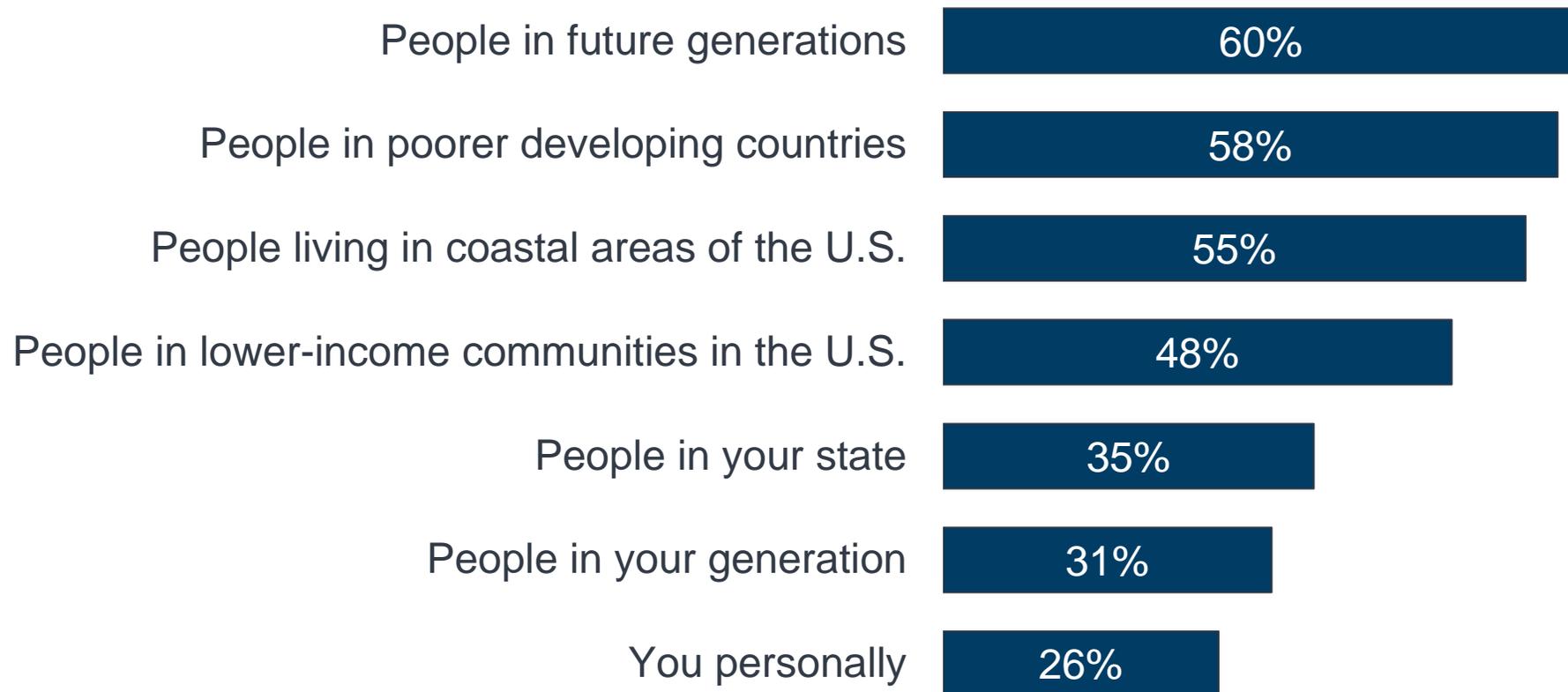


SOURCE: KFF/Washington Post Climate Change Survey (conducted Jul. 9-Aug. 5, 2019). See topline for full question wording and response options.



# Many Say Climate Change Will Hurt Various Groups; Fewer Expect Personal Harm

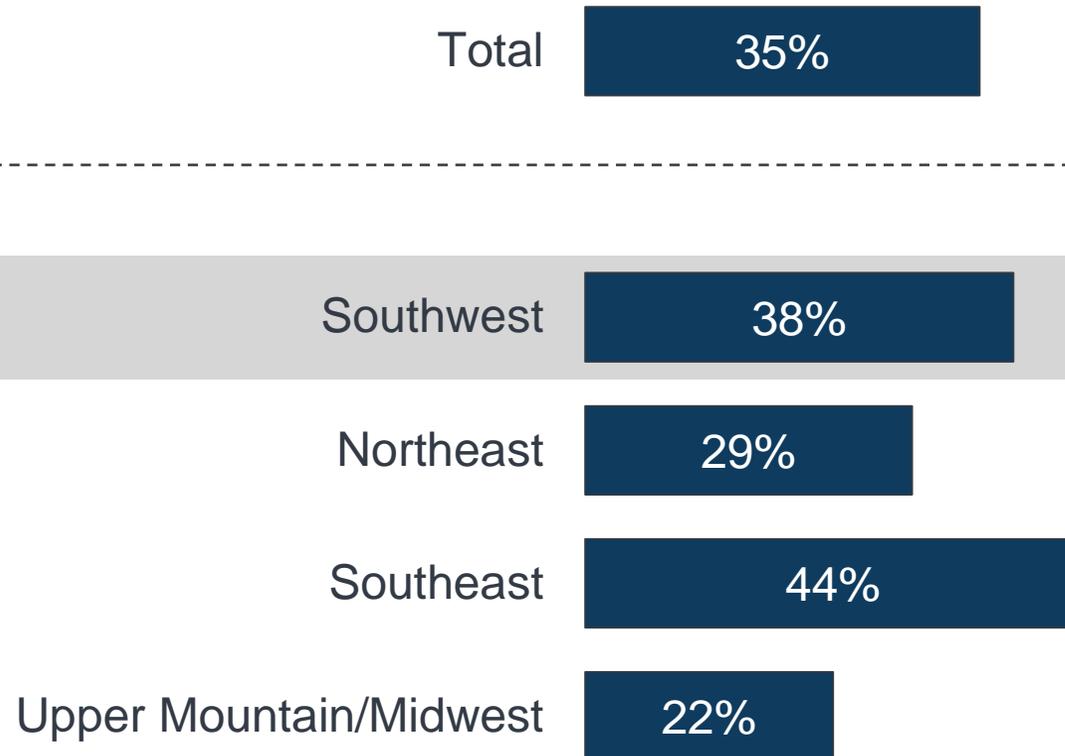
Percent who say each of the following will be **hurt a great deal by climate change** in the long term:



SOURCE: KFF/Washington Post Climate Change Survey (conducted Jul. 9-Aug. 5, 2019). See topline for full question wording and response options.

# Residents Of Southwest And Southeast More Likely To Expect Climate Change To Harm People In Their State

Percent who think people in their state will be **hurt a great deal by climate change** in the long term:

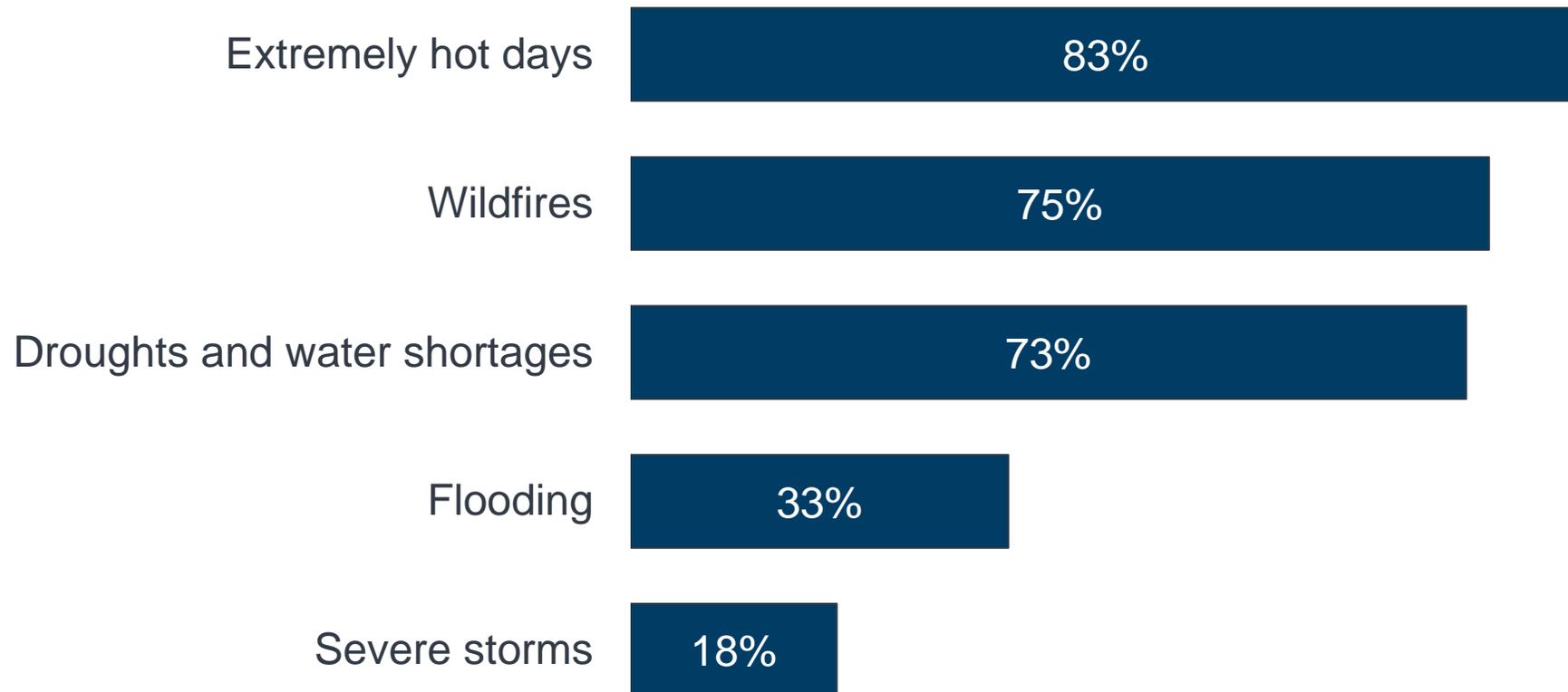


SOURCE: KFF/Washington Post Climate Change Survey (conducted Jul. 9-Aug. 5, 2019). See topline for full question wording and response options.

# Exploring the Southwest's Experiences With Climate Change

# Most In The Southwest Say The Area Where They Live Has Been Affected By Extreme Heat, Wildfires, And Drought

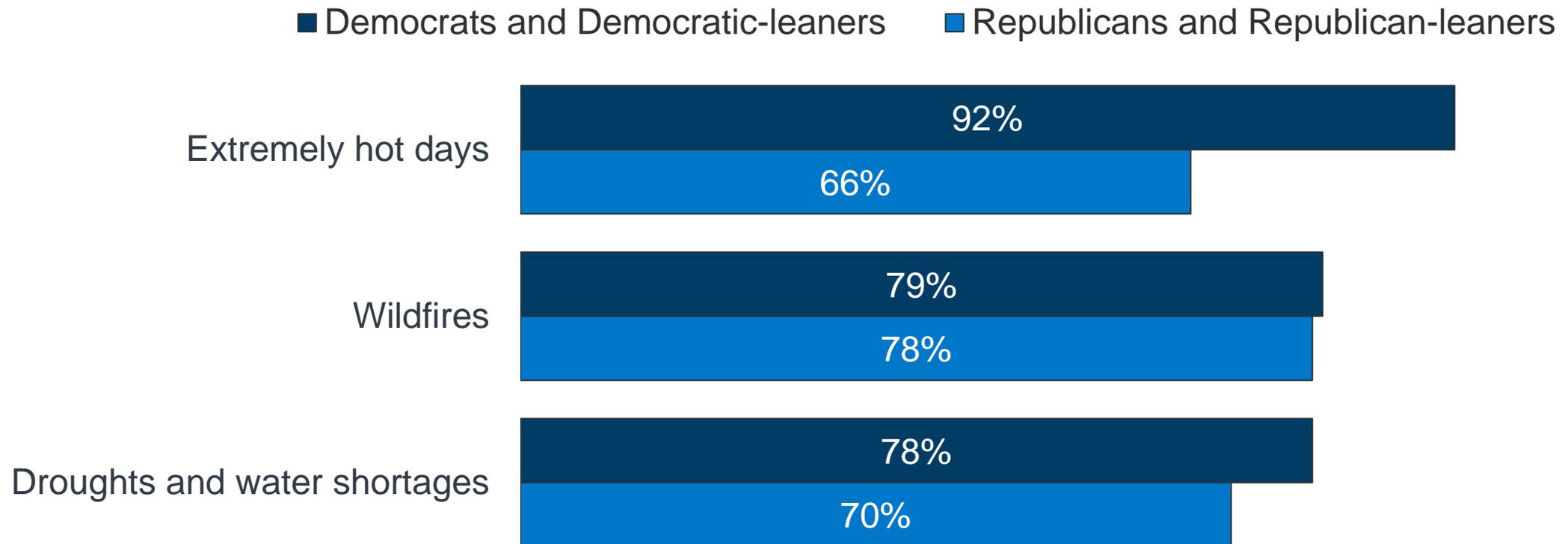
AMONG THOSE IN THE SOUTHWEST: Percent who say the area where they live has been affected by each of the following in the past five years:



SOURCE: KFF/Washington Post Climate Change Survey (conducted Jul. 9-Aug. 5, 2019). See topline for full question wording and response options.

# Partisans In The Southwest Differ On Whether Their Area Has Experienced Extremely Hot Days

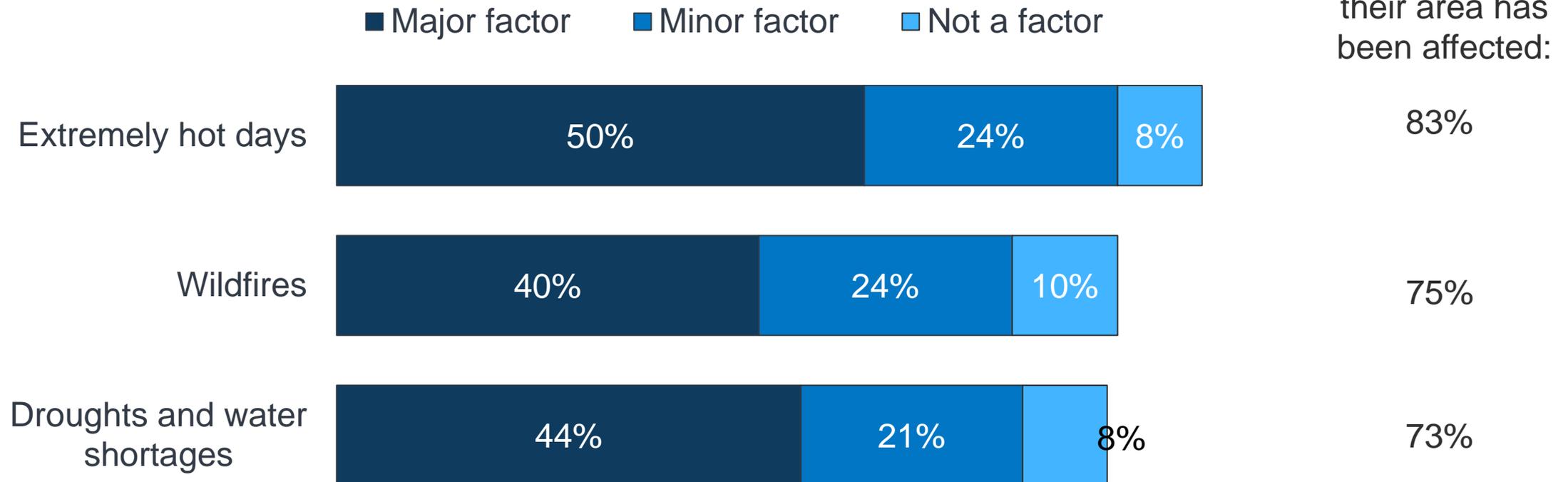
AMONG THOSE IN THE SOUTHWEST: Percent who say the area where they live has been affected by each of the following in the past five years:



SOURCE: KFF/Washington Post Climate Change Survey (conducted Jul. 9-Aug. 5, 2019). See topline for full question wording and response options.

# More Than 6 in 10 Say Climate Change Is At Least A Minor Factor In The Severe Weather Events Their Area Has Experienced

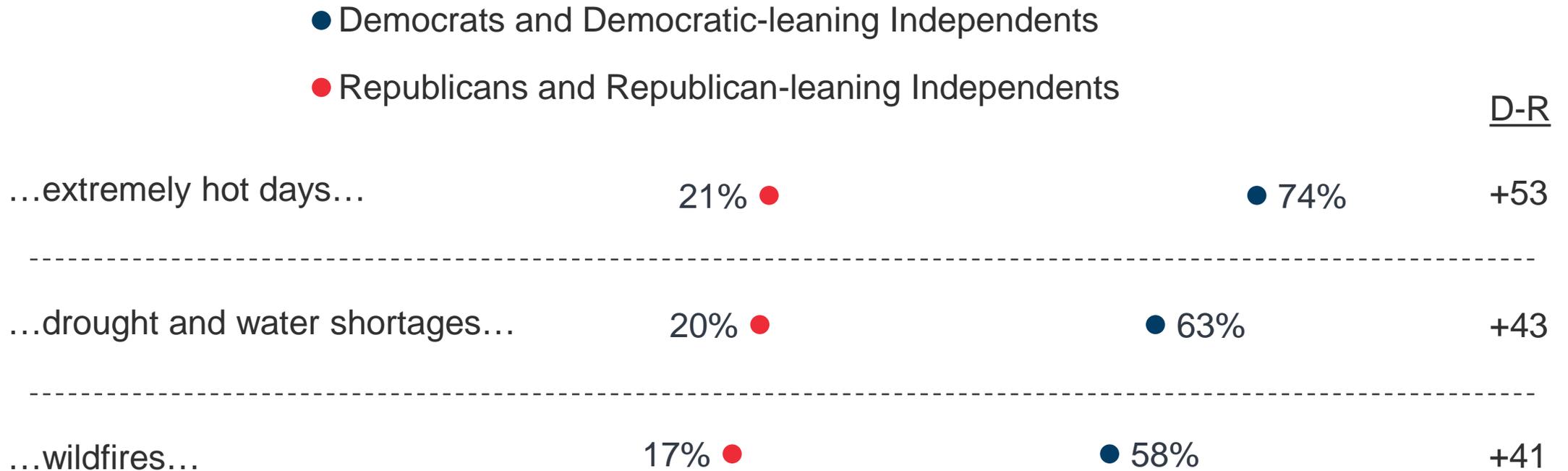
AMONG THOSE LIVING IN THE SOUTHWEST: Percent who say, in the past 5 years, the area where they live has been affected by **this type of weather event** and they think **climate change** is a...:



SOURCE: KFF/Washington Post Climate Change Survey (conducted Jul. 9-Aug. 5, 2019). See topline for full question wording and response options.

# Partisanship Drives Perceptions Of Role Of Climate Change In Local Weather Events Within The Southwest

AMONG THOSE IN THE SOUTHWEST: Percent who say the area where they live has been affected by specific weather events and that climate change is a major factor:

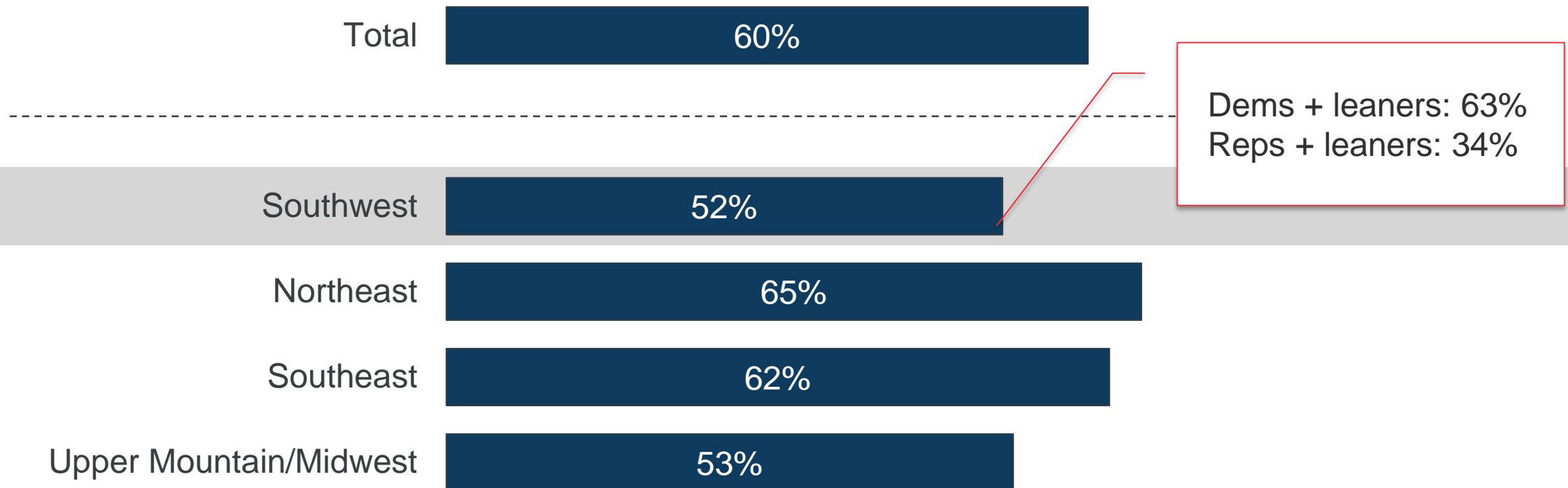


SOURCE: KFF/Washington Post Climate Change Survey (conducted Jul. 9-Aug. 5, 2019). See topline for full question wording and response options.

# Policy Preferences

# About Half In The Southwest Say Their State Government Is Doing Too Little To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Percent who think their **state government** is doing **too little** to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

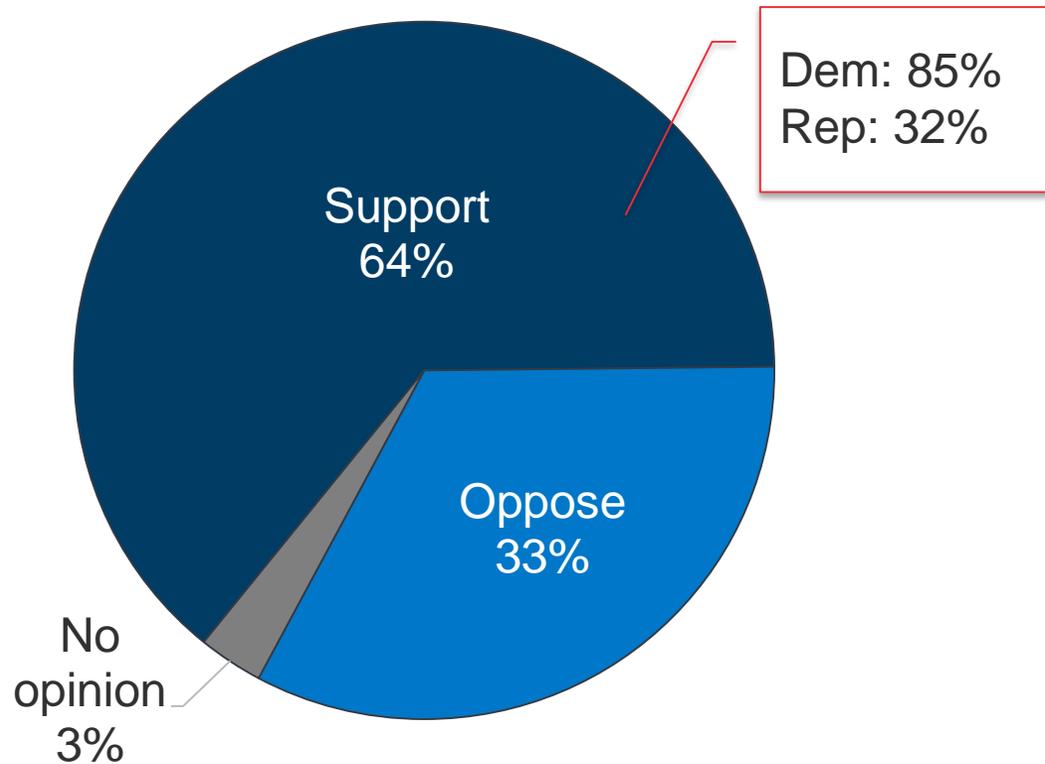


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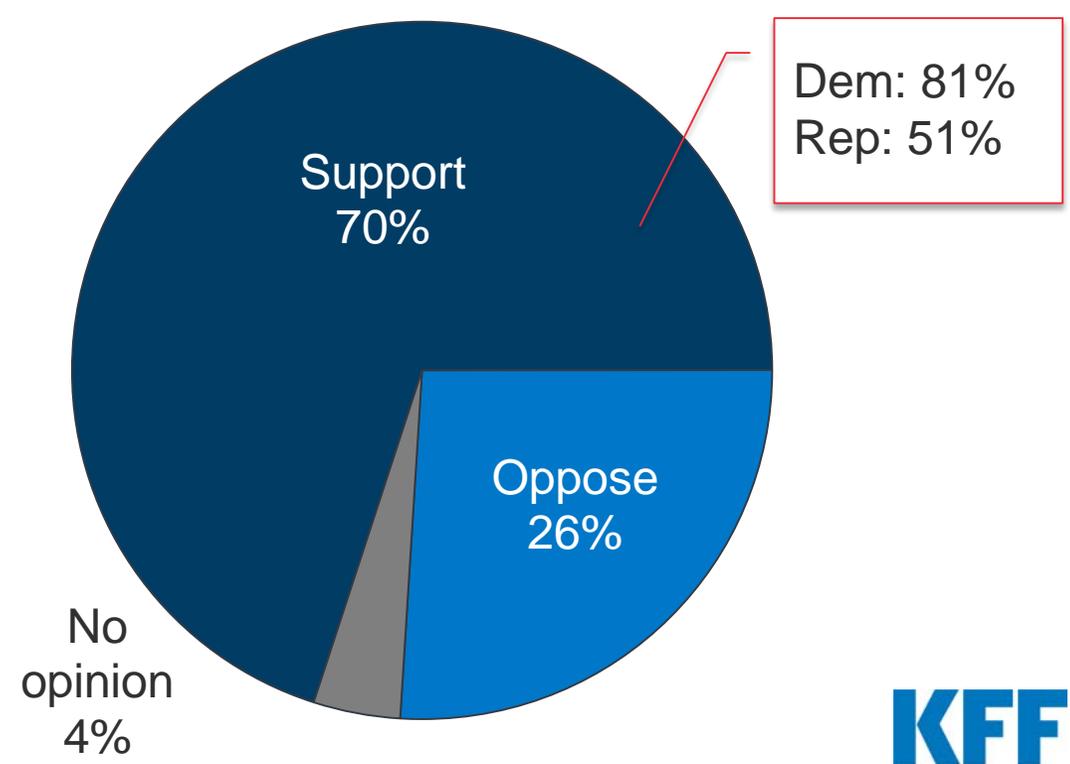
# About Two-Thirds Support Their State Government Setting Stricter Environmental Standards Than The Federal Government

AMONG THOSE LIVING IN THE SOUTHWEST: Would you support or oppose **your state government** setting...than the federal government?

...stricter fuel efficiency standards for cars and trucks...



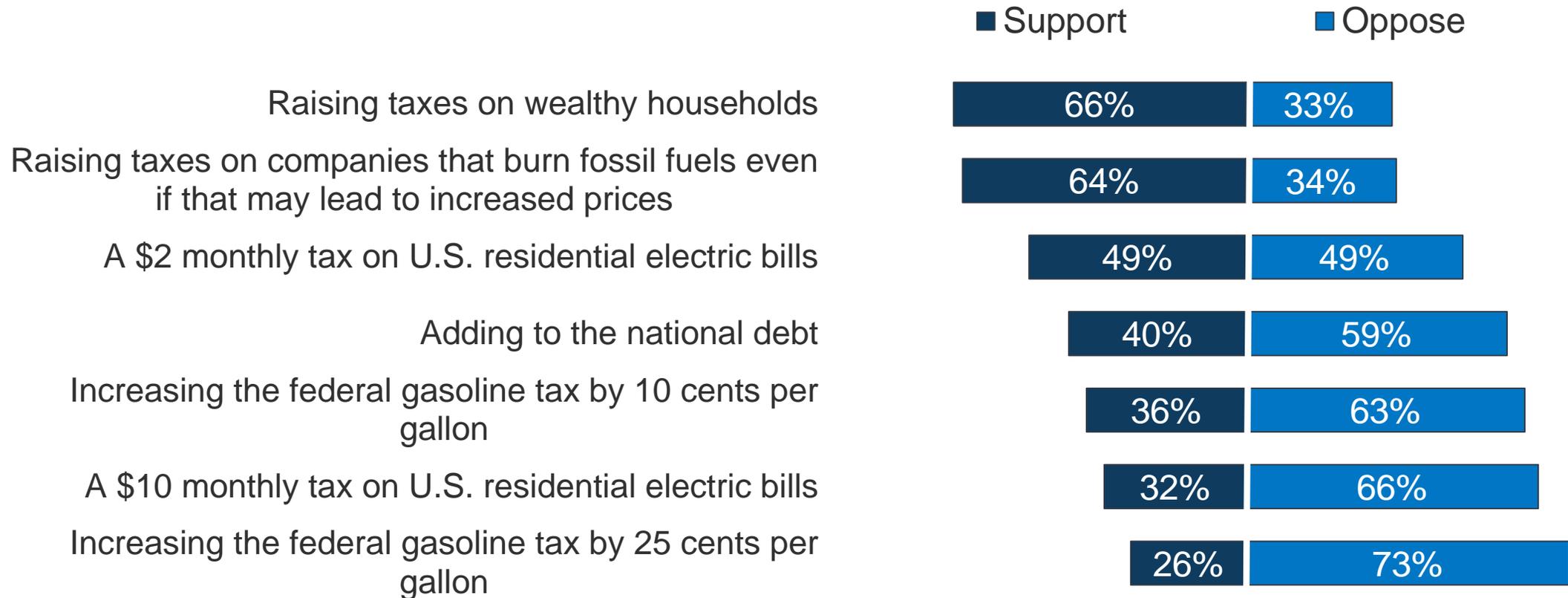
...more ambitious targets for energy that must come from renewable sources...



SOURCE: KFF/Washington Post Climate Change Survey (conducted Jul. 9-Aug. 5, 2019). See topline for full question wording and response options.

# Most Support Taxing Wealthy Households, But Oppose Increasing Taxes On Gas, Electricity To Support Climate Policies

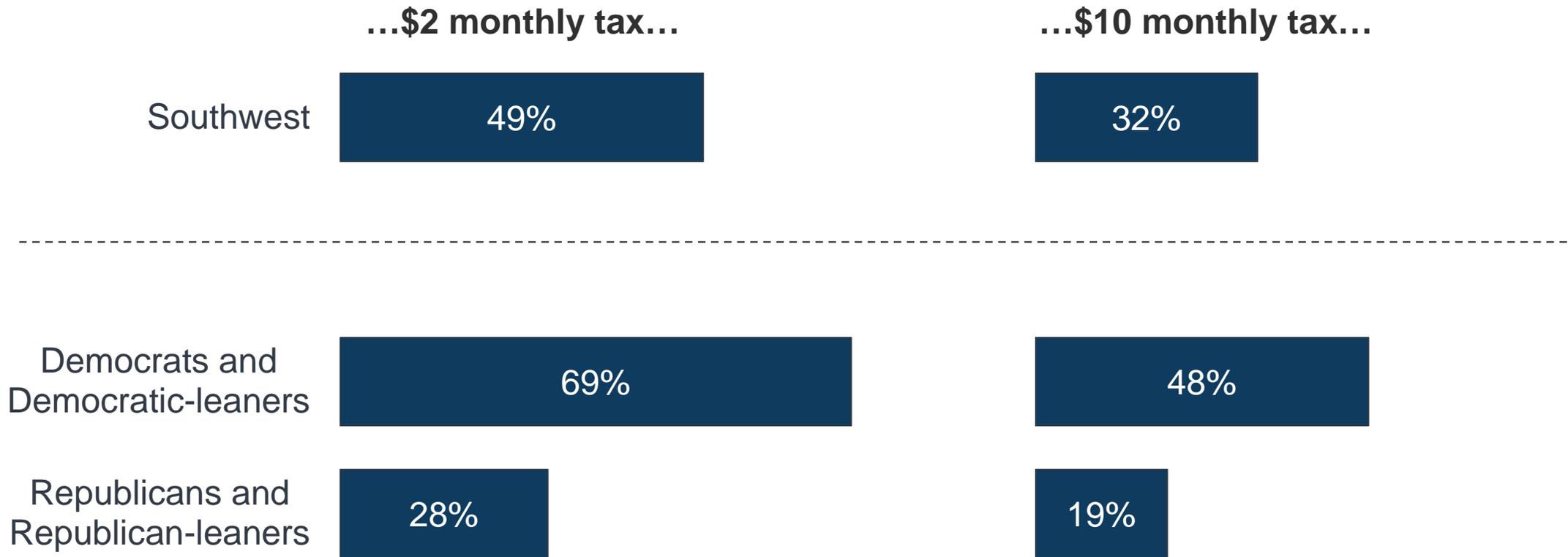
AMONG THOSE LIVING IN THE SOUTHWEST: Would you support or oppose each of the following ways to pay for policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S.?



SOURCE: KFF/Washington Post Climate Change Survey (conducted Jul. 9-Aug. 5, 2019). See topline for full question wording and response options.

# Partisans Are Split On Willingness To Pay Additional Taxes To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

AMONG THOSE LIVING IN THE SOUTHWEST: Percent who say they would support a ... on U.S. residential electric bills to pay for policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S.:



SOURCE: KFF/Washington Post Climate Change Survey (conducted Jul. 9-Aug. 5, 2019). See topline for full question wording and response options.

# Parting Thoughts

# Key Takeaways

- On beliefs/attitudes towards climate change, party identification overshadows regional differences
- While partisans can agree on objective experience with the climate, they differ on whether climate change is a major contributor
- Despite some appetite for more ambitious policies to address climate change, there is limited willingness to pay for policies among residents of the Southwest.

## Americans increasingly see climate change as a crisis, poll shows



Lily Schatz, 5, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., and her father, Jason Schatz, join a gathering in Lafayette Square near the White House on June 1, 2017 to protest the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris climate accord. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

By [Brady Dennis](#), [Steven Mufson](#) and [Scott Clement](#)

September 13, 2019 at 5:00 a.m. PDT

A growing number of Americans describe climate change as a crisis, and two-thirds say President Trump is doing too little to tackle the problem.

The results, from a poll conducted by The Washington Post and the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), point to a growing disconnect between Americans worried about the warming planet and Trump administration officials, who have aggressively scaled back Obama-era environmental regulations and relinquished the nation's role as a global leader in pushing for climate action.

# The Washington Post

## Most American teens are frightened by climate change, poll finds, and about 1 in 4 are taking action



Young activists participate in a climate strike demonstration outside the White House on Friday. (Jahi Chikwendiu/The Washington Post)

By [Sarah Kaplan](#) and [Emily Guskin](#)

September 16, 2019 at 5:00 a.m. PDT

In a coastal town in Washington state, climate change has a high school junior worried about the floods that keep deluging his school. A 17-year-old from Texas says global warming scares him so much he