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the Generation Lab

# *the* STUDENT POLL 2022



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# THE INTRODUCTION

**State of play:** Each year, Generation Lab partners with NBC News to survey the college class of 2025 on the key issues of our time: politics, culture, health, tech, and emotional outlook. Last year, the COVID-19 pandemic hovered above much of the study, yet young people reported near-universal optimism about their personal lives.

Generation Lab interviewed 1,000+ members of the Class of 2025 (rising college Sophomores) around the country to gauge their views on:

*Based on a survey of 1077 rising sophomores conducted on August 12-17, 2022.*

# KEY FINDINGS

## Voter Turnout

Majority of respondents have said they would “absolutely” or “probably” vote in the upcoming midterms.



## Polarization

Majority of respondents would not live with or have a relationship with someone who voted for an opposing presidential candidate.



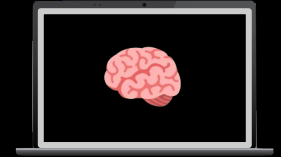
## Abortion Rights

Most respondents consider abortion rights to be the top midterm issue, and think it should be fully legalized



## Mental Health

50% of respondents have experienced anxiety in the past year, 30% have experienced depression



## Joe Biden

Over 60% of respondents do not want him to run in 2024



## Rising Prices

Vast majority of respondents are worried about the price of gas, food, and rent.



## Optimism

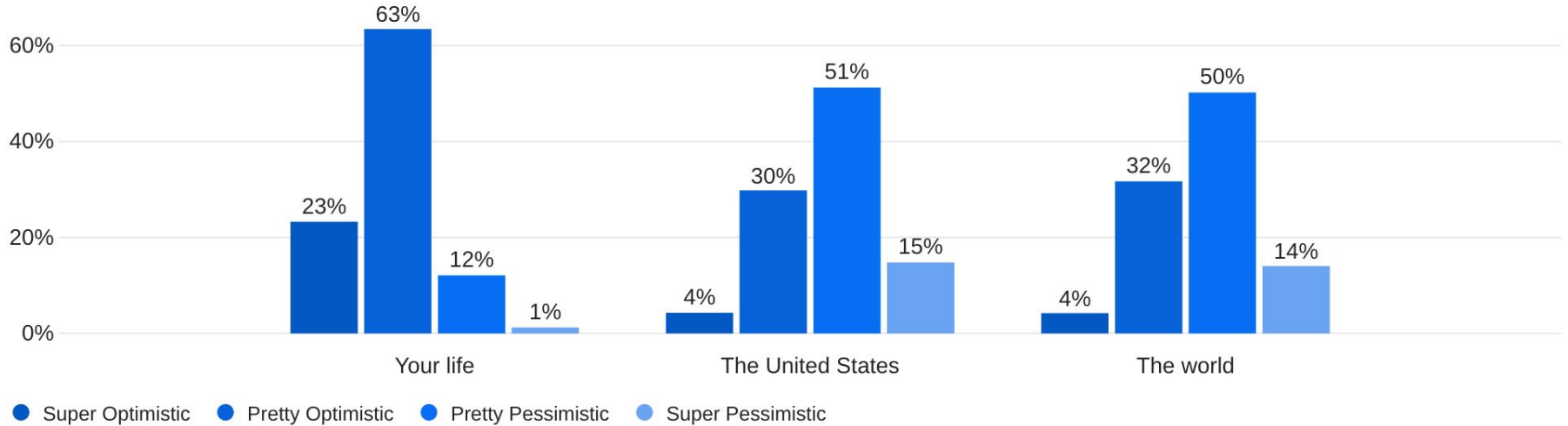
In the past year, optimism about the US and the world has declined, but for personal lives has stayed the same





# 1. Respondents are optimistic about their future, but not the future of the world

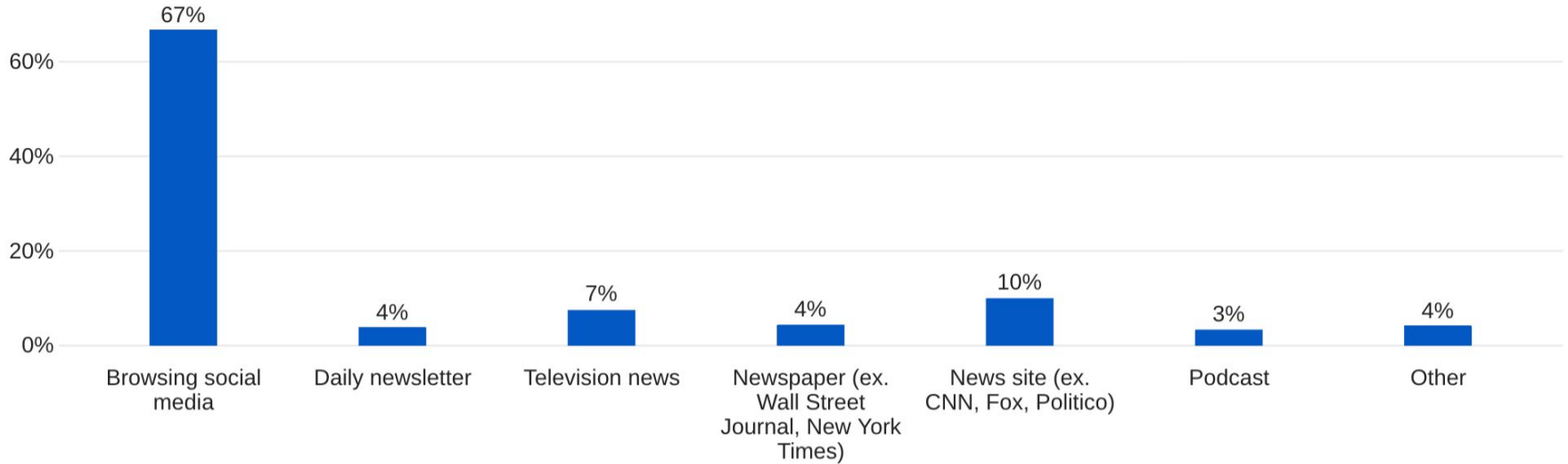
“Rate your level of optimism for the future of \_\_\_\_.”





## 2. Most college students get news from social media

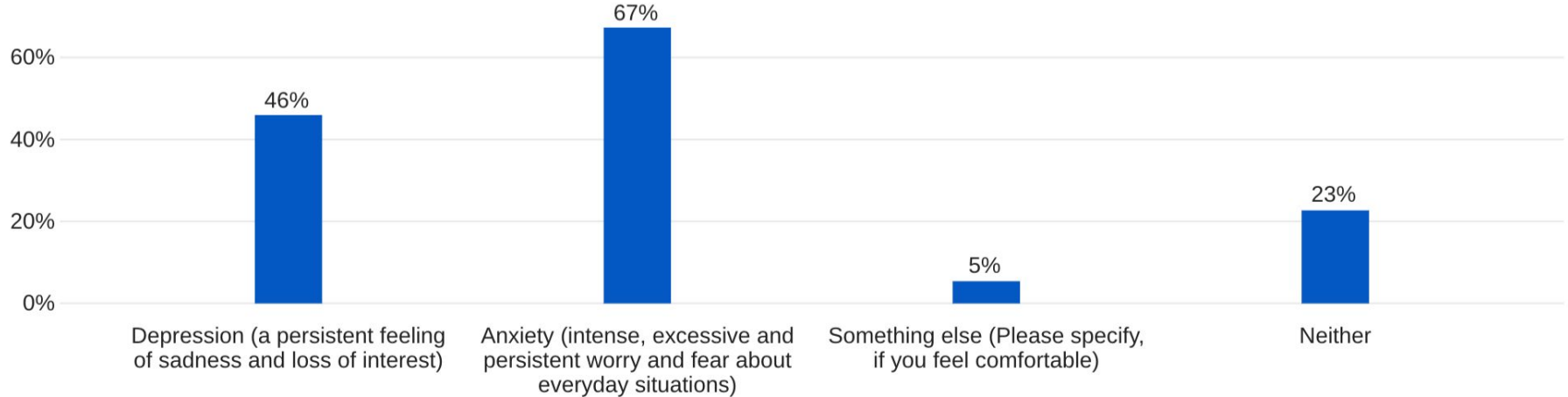
**“How do you get the majority of your news?”**





3. Nearly half of respondents dealt with depression this past year, and two thirds of respondents dealt with anxiety

**“Which of the following have you experienced in the last year? (Select all that apply)”**

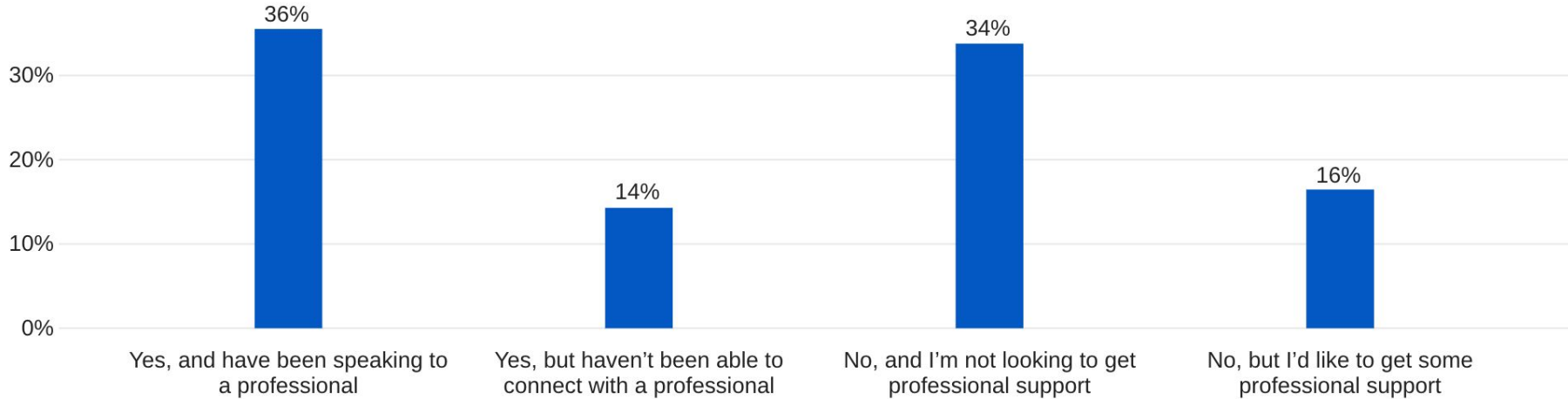






4. Majority of people have either sought help or are interested in receiving help, though 34% of people are not interested in professional support

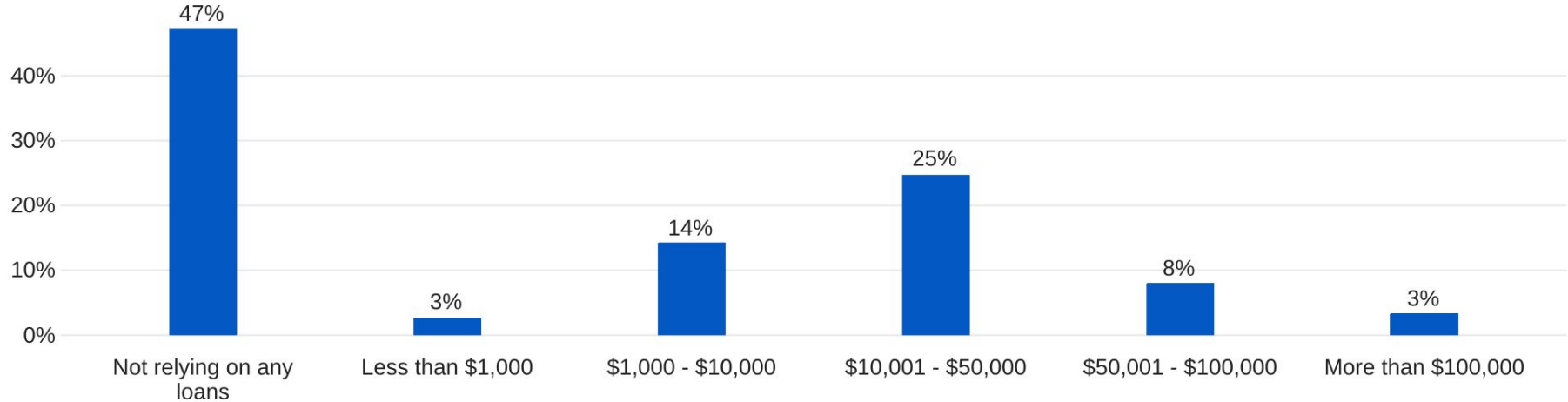
**“[Among those who have experienced any mental health condition] Have you sought help?”**





5. 89% of students do not rely on loans or do not expect to owe more than \$50,000 by the time they graduate

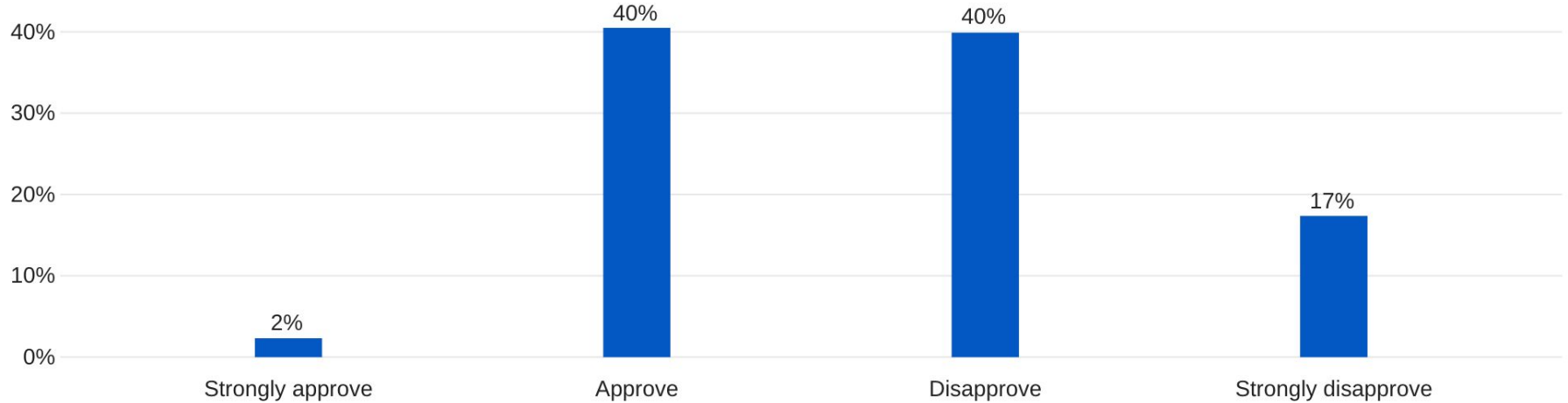
**“If relying on loans in part or in full to pay for your education, how much do you expect to owe at graduation?”**





6. Opinions on Joe Biden are split, but very few people think he's doing an outstanding job, while 17% think he's doing a very poor job

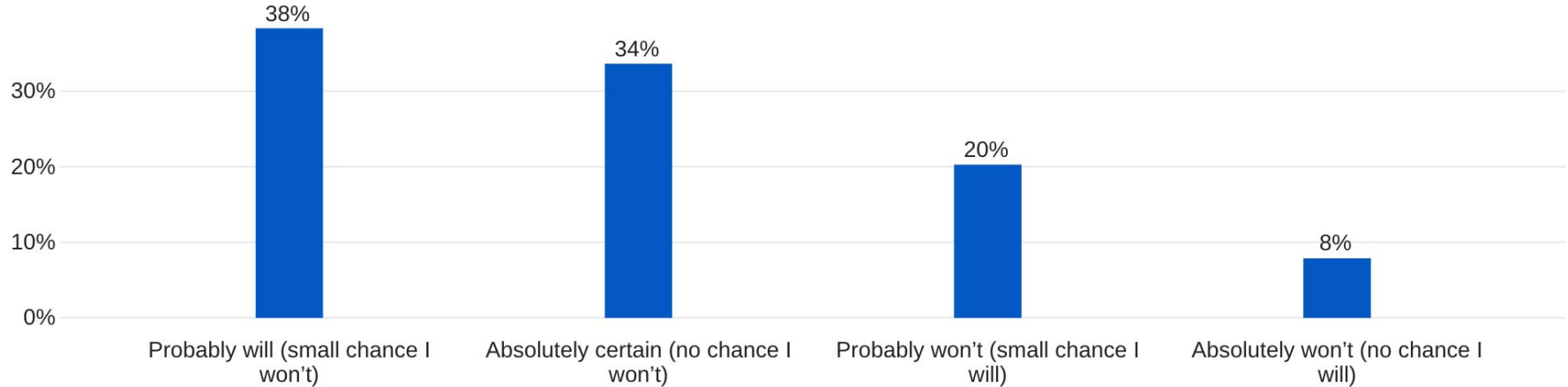
**“Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president?”**





## 7. Over 70% of participants plan to vote in the upcoming midterms

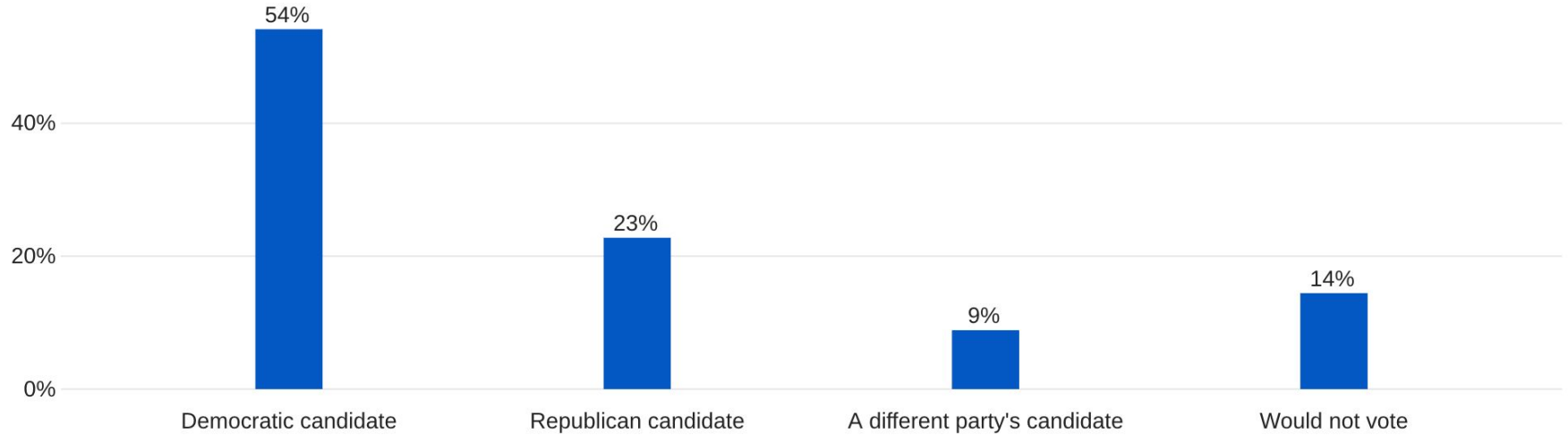
**“How likely are you to vote in the 2022 midterm elections?”**





8. Majority of voters would go Democrat, then Republican; interestingly, more participants would not vote than vote for someone else

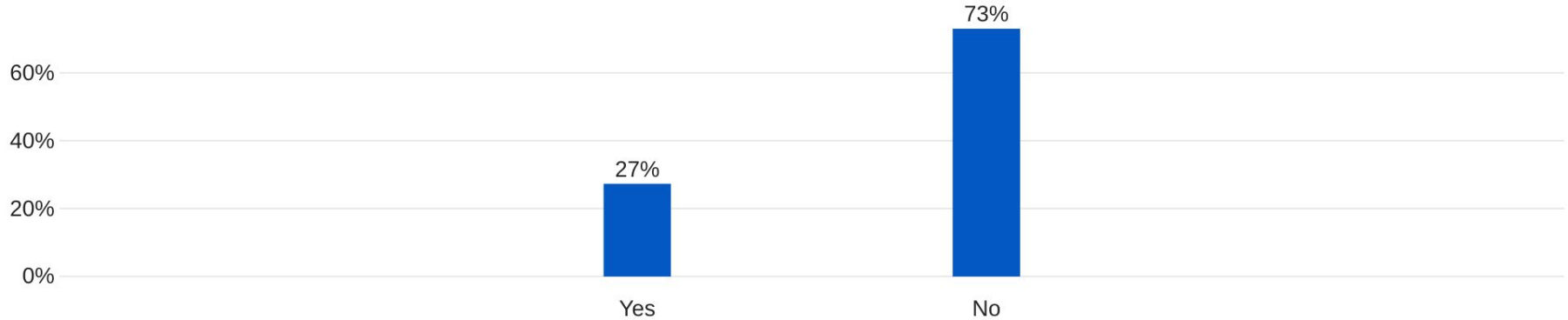
**“If the election for U.S. Congress in your district was held today, which candidate are you most likely to vote for?”**





9. Building on low approval for Biden, the vast majority of Democrats do not want him to run for office in 2024

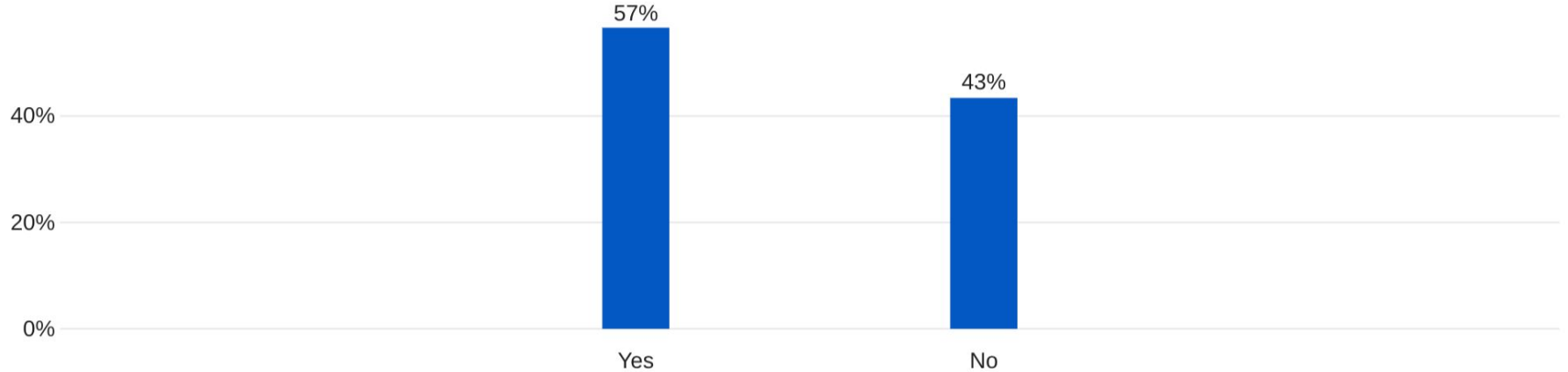
“[Among Democratic voters] Do you believe Joe Biden should run for president in the 2024 election?”





10. In contrast, the majority of Republican voters want Trump to run again

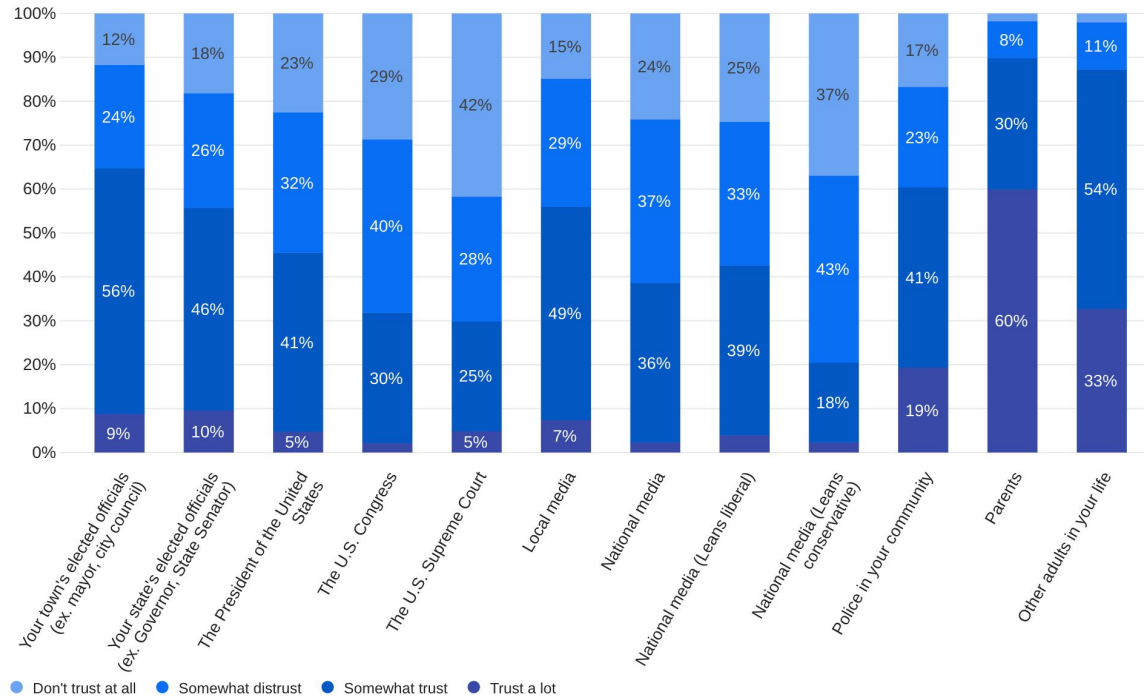
**“[Among Republican voters] Do you believe Donald Trump should run for president in the 2024 election?”**





## 11. Students prefer family, friends and local institutions over statewide and national institutions

**“To what extent do you trust the following people or institutions in your life?”**

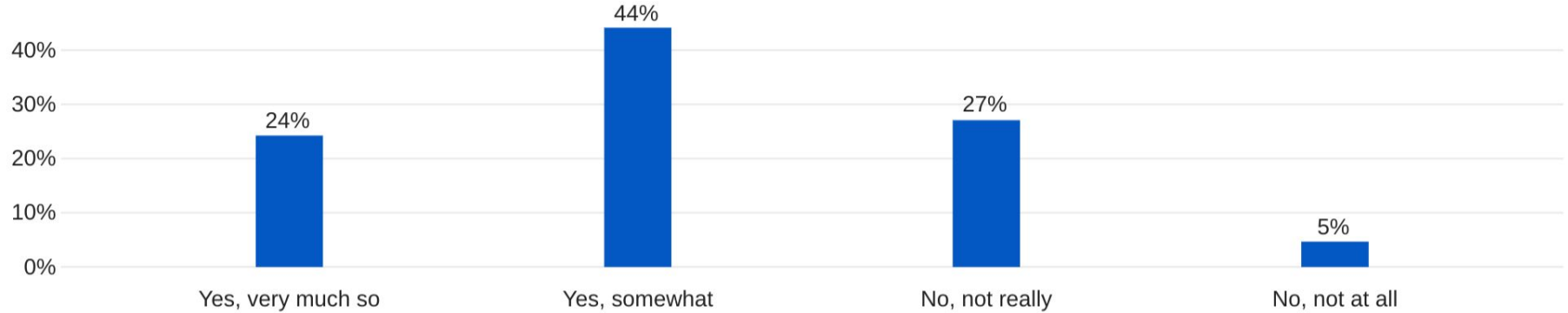






## 12. Majority of students think the midterm elections will affect family life

**“Do you think the outcome of this year’s midterm elections will have a direct impact on your life or your family’s life?”**

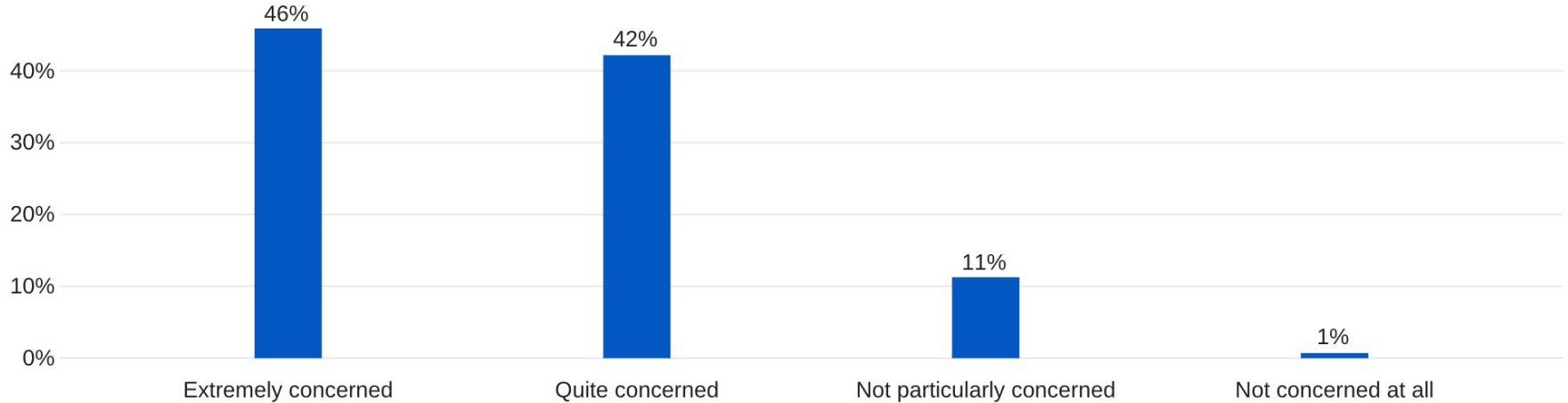






## 14. Nearly 90% of people are concerned about the price of necessities

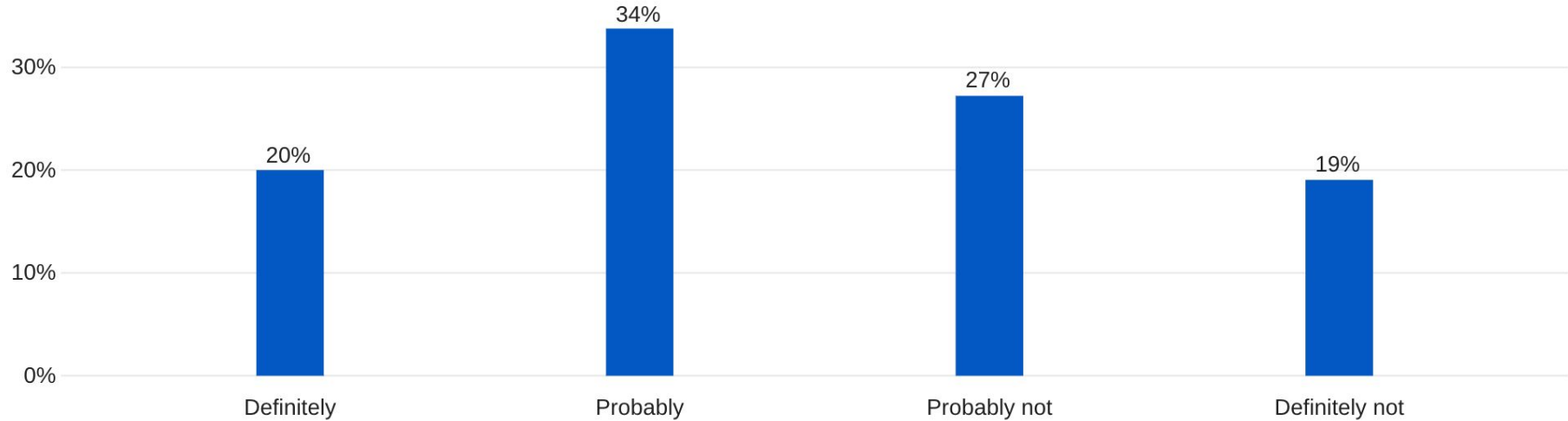
**“How concerned are you personally about the price of gasoline, rent and food?”**





## 15. Sophomores are 50/50 on living with someone that voted differently

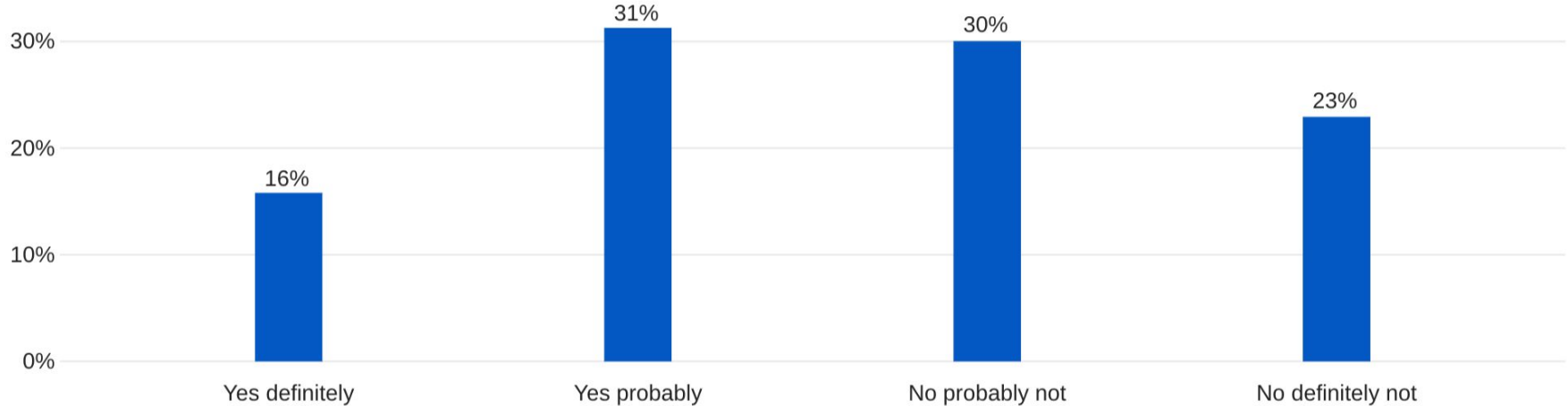
**“Could you see yourself choosing to room with someone who supported the opposing 2020 presidential candidate as the one you supported?”**





## 16. Students are slightly less likely to date someone who voted differently

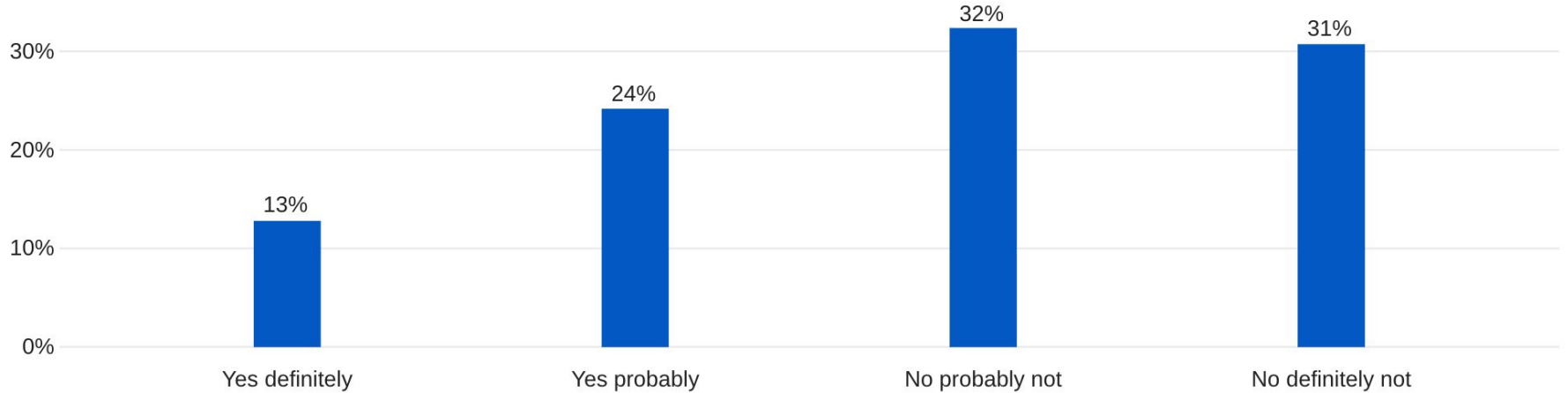
**“Would you go on a date with someone if you knew they supported for the opposing presidential candidate as the one you supported in 2020?”**





## 17. Majority of students would not marry someone who voted differently

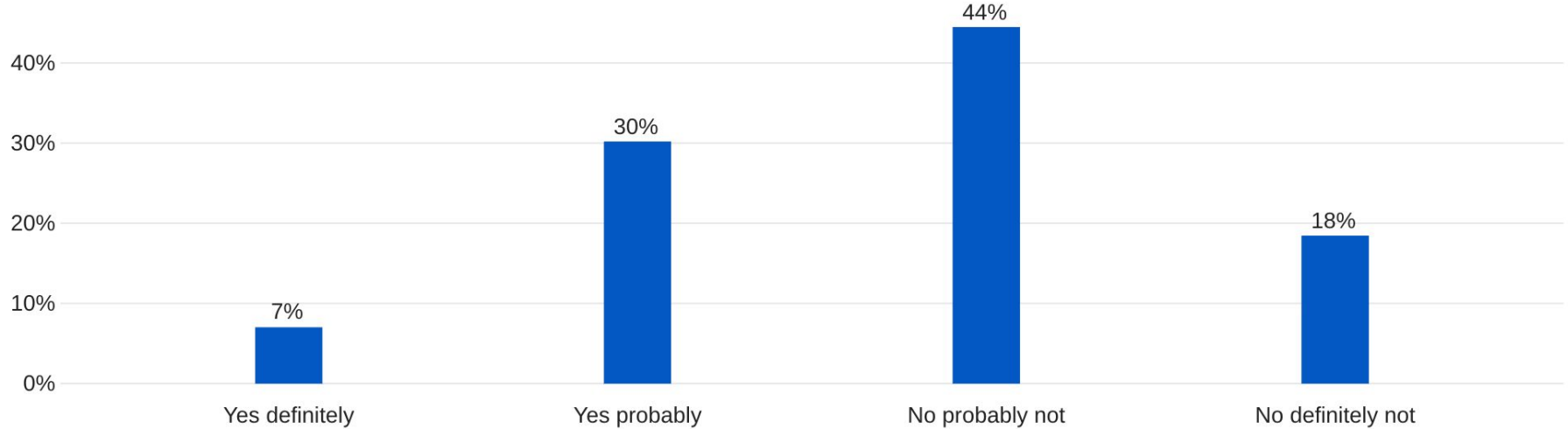
**“Could you see yourself getting married to someone who supported the opposite presidential candidate as the one you supported?”**





18. Majority of students would not join a company that donated to causes that opposed their beliefs

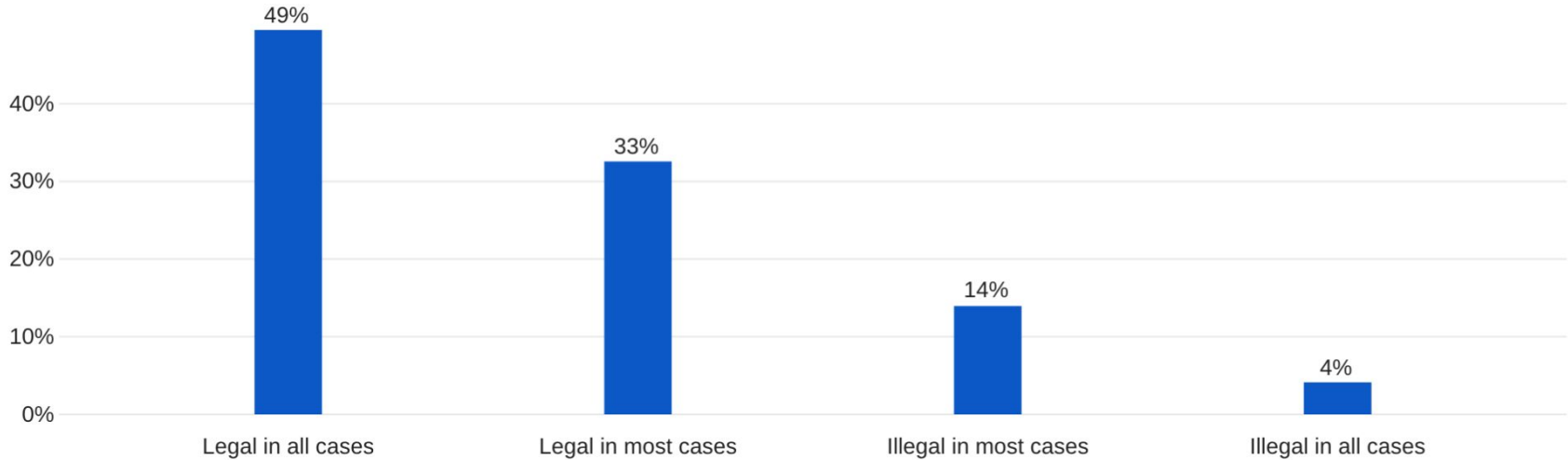
**“Would you work at a company that donated to a cause that conflicts with your value?”**





19. Over 80% of students think abortion should be legal for the most part

“Do you think abortion should be \_\_\_?”

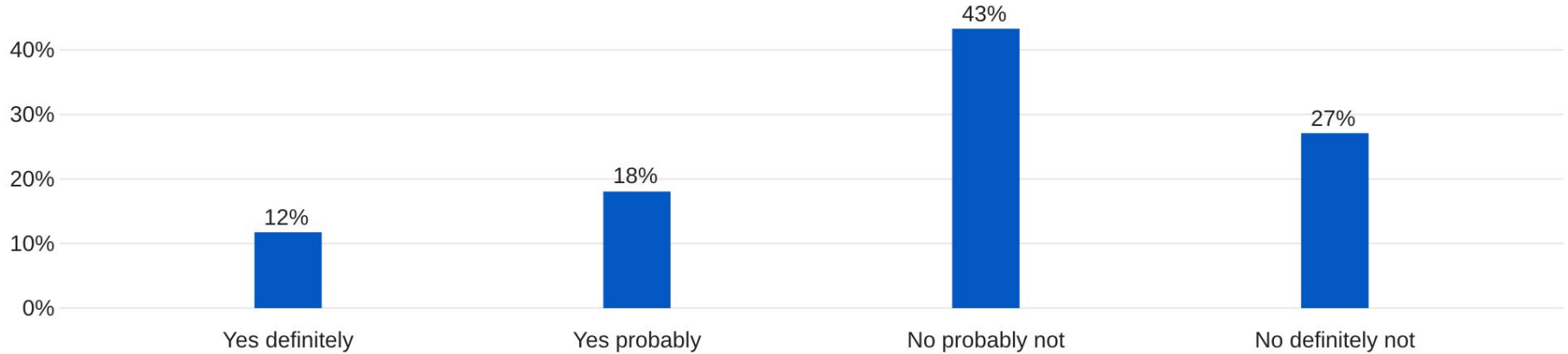






20. 30% of participants would move to colleges with abortion services

**“Would you consider changing colleges if the state where you go to school does not provide access to abortion?”**



# ABOUT US

The Generation Lab is a polling and research firm studying young people and the trends that shape their world.

We translate youth views and behavior for media, academia, businesses, government, and the American public. Whether through a one-day snapshot poll, or a multi-year longitudinal study, we pursue youth truth for our clients and the American public.



*the* Generation Lab