



CUPE – 2012 Budget Report

April 4th, 2012



Introduction

Background and Research Objectives



CUPE Ontario expressed interest in developing and executing a strategic survey of Ontarians' views on the 2012 provincial budget, presented on March 27, 2012.

On behalf of CUPE, this survey explored Ontarians' familiarity with and general opinions of the budget, as well as trade offs and specific policies broached in the budget which impact government services and the goal of achieving a balanced budget on the government's proposed timeline.

Methodology

Overview: From April 2nd to April 3rd, 2012, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey on behalf of the CUPE. Participants were recruited through the Angus Reid Forum. The median completion time for completing the survey was 5 minutes and 56 seconds.

Sample Size: A sample of 1505 Ontarians. The data was weighted on age, gender, education, region and past provincial vote in order to create a representative sample of Ontario. The margin of error is +/- 2.5%, 19 times out of 20.

Qualifying Criteria: All respondents were over the age of 18 and living in Ontario.

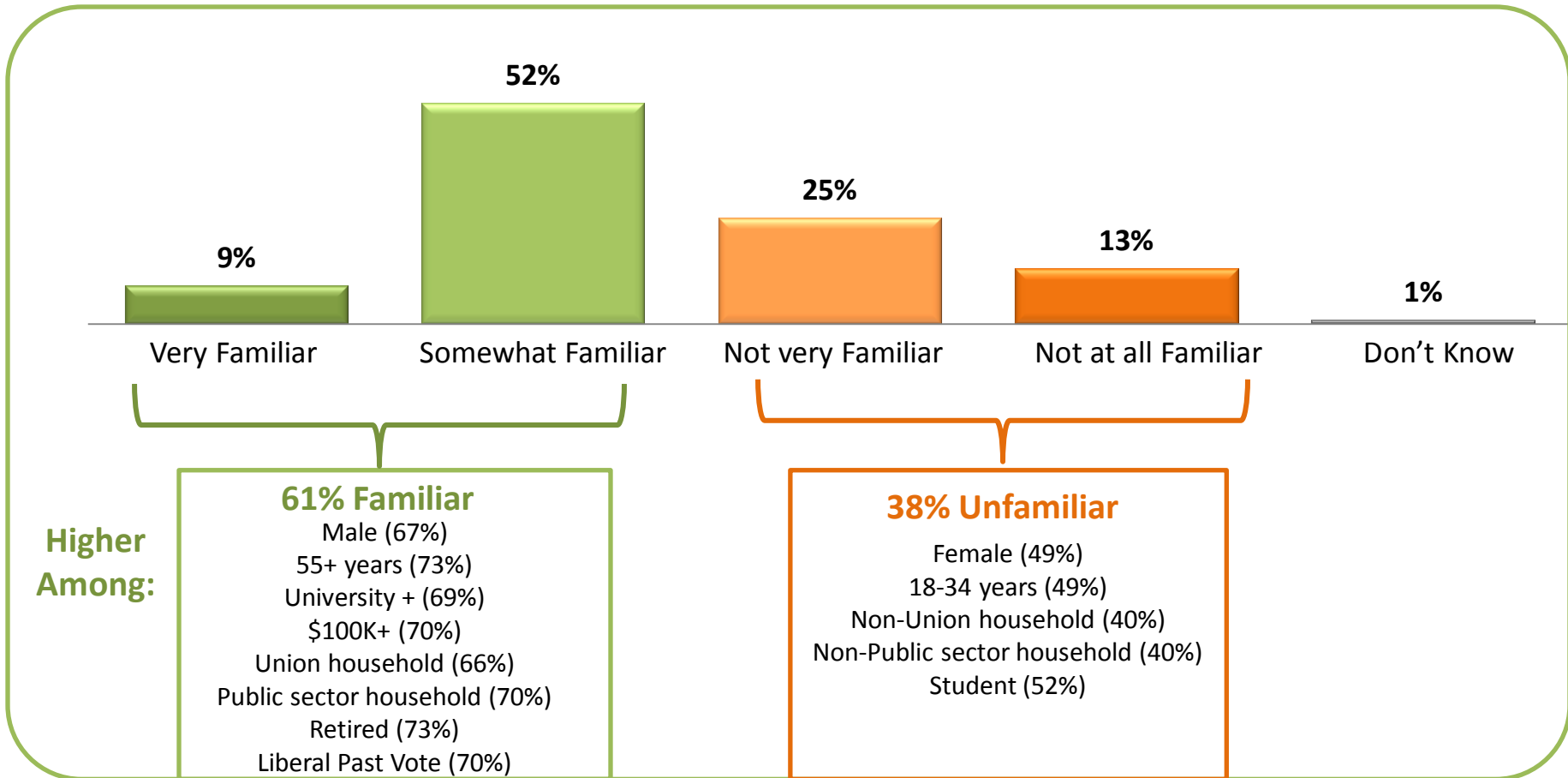
Fieldwork: Fieldwork took place from April 2nd to April 3rd, 2012.

About Angus Reid Public Opinion: Angus Reid Public Opinion is a North American full-service polling and market research firm which is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995. Located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Ottawa, and with satellite offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney, our team of specialists provide solutions across every type and sector of research.

Findings:

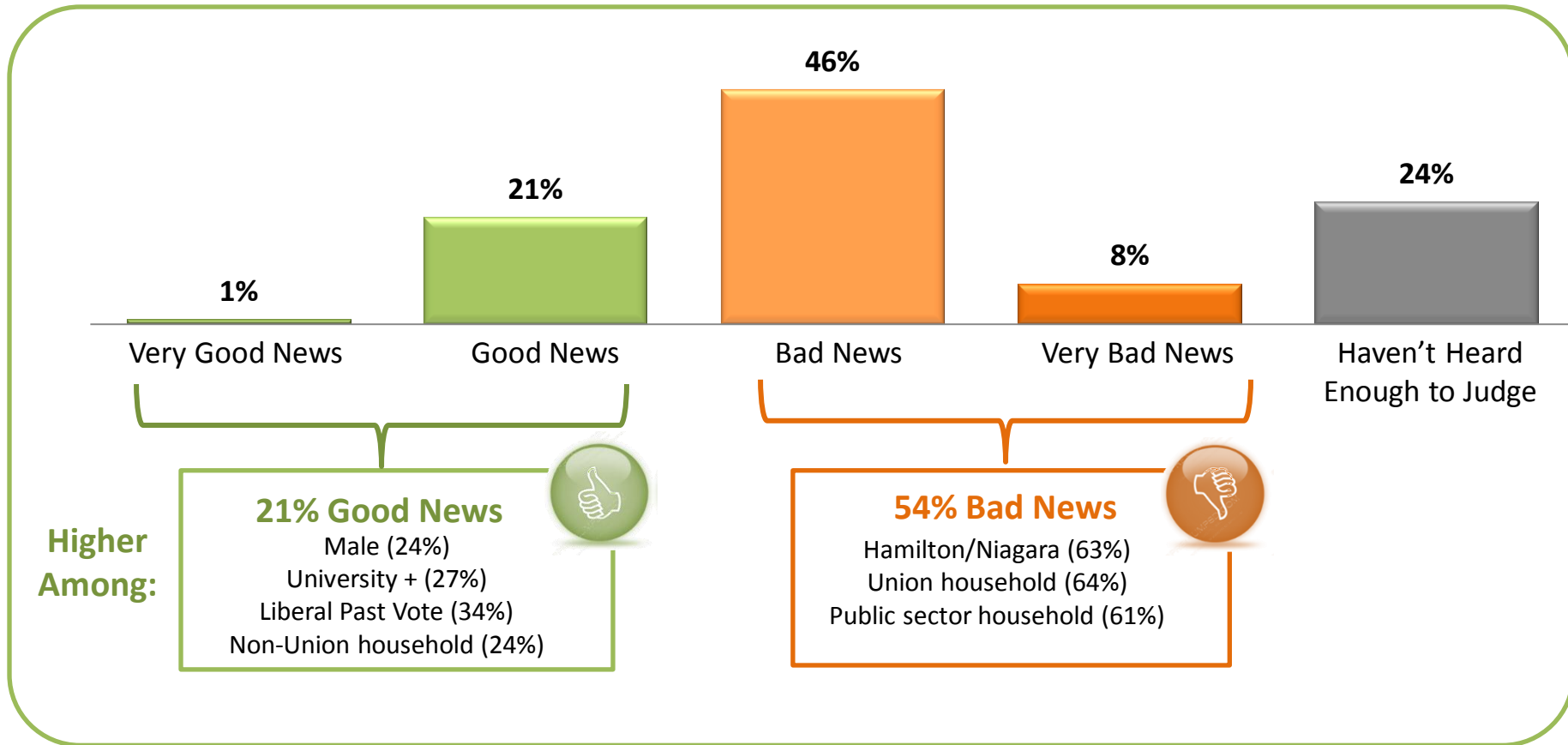
Familiarity with the Ontario Budget

- Two-in-three Ontarians report being very or somewhat familiar with the 2012 Ontario Budget, of which only 9% are “very familiar” with the document.
- Union and public sector households report paying closer attention to the budget.



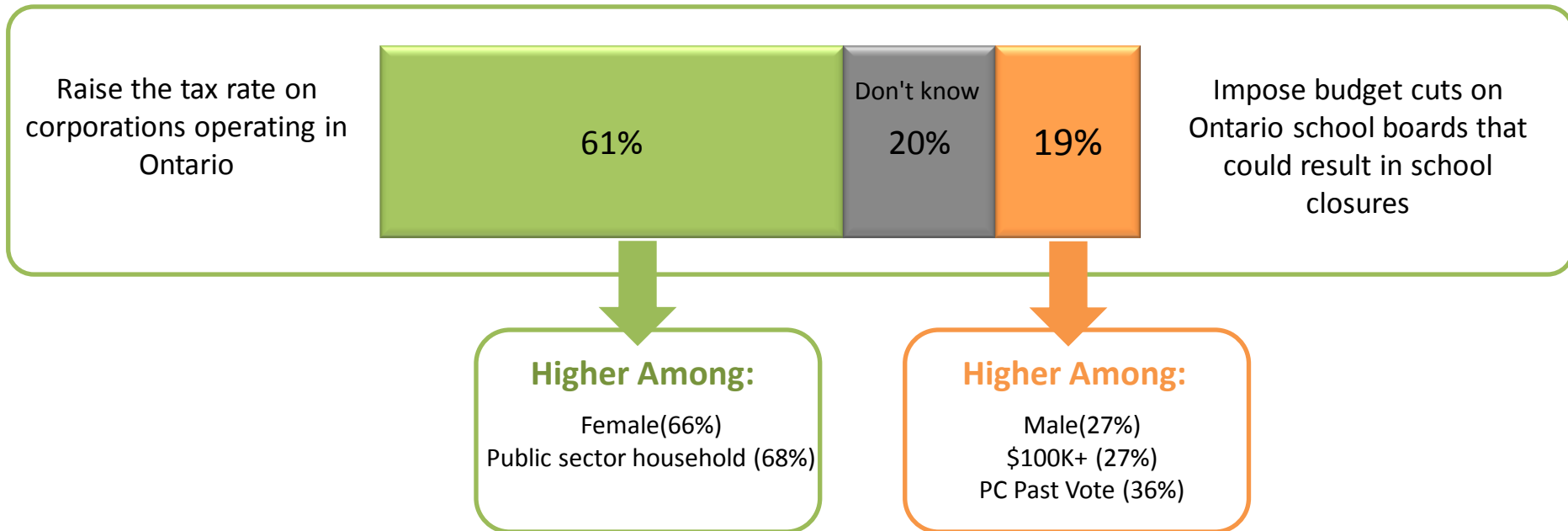
General Reception of the Budget

- More than half (54%) of Ontarians report they have heard mostly bad news about the budget.
- One-quarter (24%) report not having enough knowledge to judge.



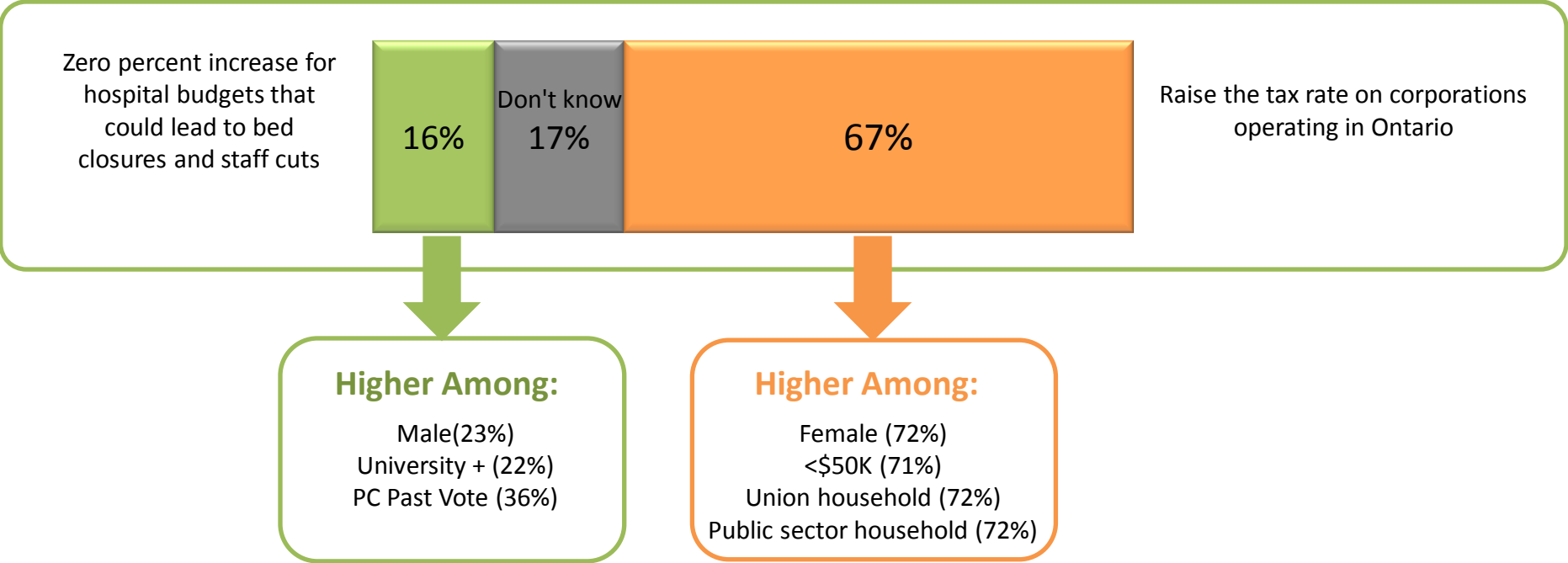
Trade-off: Raise Corporate Tax Rate vs. School Budget Cuts

- When asked to choose between raising the tax rate on corporations operating in the province and imposing budget cuts on Ontario school boards, 61 per cent prefer increasing corporate taxes.



Trade-off: 0% Increase in Hospital Budgets vs. Raise Corporate Tax Rate

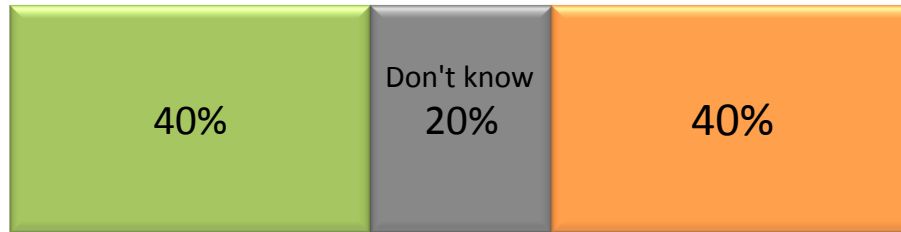
- An even larger majority of Ontarians prefer to raise the rate on corporations operating in Ontario rather than see a zero per cent increase for hospital budgets.



Defeat vs. Support the Budget

- Opinion on whether the opposition parties should support or defeat the budget, prompting an election, is evenly split.

Opposition parties should **support the budget** even though it was austere in the way it restricted spending where necessary, made cuts to programs and services, and was fiscally responsible given the current economic situation.



It is better to **defeat the budget** and have an election than to accept a budget that eliminates jobs, freezes hospital budgets, provides no money to childcare centers and freezes assistance to the poorest Ontarians.

Higher Among:

- 55+ years (47%)
- University + (56%)
- Retired (50%)
- Liberal Past Vote (65%)
- Familiar with Budget (46%)

Higher Among:

- <\$50K (47%)
- Union household (45%)
- Looking for work (59%)
- NDP Past Vote (59%)

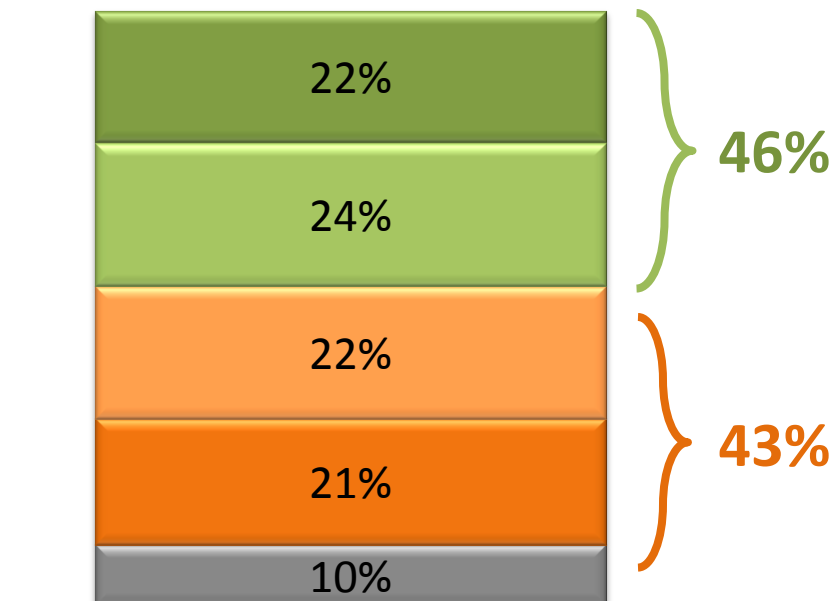
Q6. As you may know, the current Ontario Liberal government has a minority of seats in the Ontario parliament and if both opposition parties vote against the budget, the government will be defeated and an election will be called. Which of the following statements comes closest to your personal point of view?

Base: Total Sample, n = 1505

Support for Defeating the Budget based on Hospital Budgets

- When the impact of the budget on hospital budgets is explained, 46 per cent of Ontarians would support opposition parties defeating the budget and forcing an election; still not a majority sentiment among Ontarians.

Support for opposition parties defeating the budget and forcing an election if the budget's imposition of a 0% increase to hospital budget means that beds will close and layoffs will take place



Support Higher Among:

Union household (53%)
Public sector household (52%)

Opposition Higher Among:

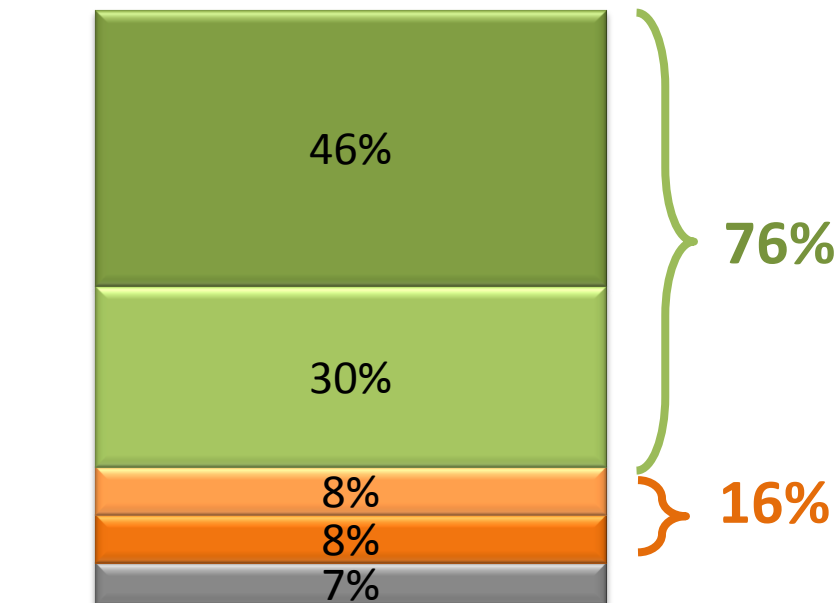
University + (52%)
Non-Union household (46%)
Liberal Past Vote (60%)

Don't know
 Strongly Oppose
 Somewhat Oppose
 Somewhat Support
 Strongly Support

Support for New Tax on High Earning Individuals

- Ontarians overwhelmingly favour introducing a tax on high income earners when positioned as an offset for cost-of-living increases for Ontarians on social assistance.

Support for a measure to create a new tax on individuals with incomes over \$250,000 if it allowed the government to provide a cost of living increase to those on social assistance

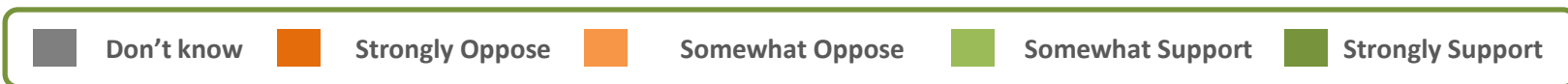


Support Higher Among:

- North (87%)
- 55+ years (86%)
- Union household (80%)
- Retired (87%)

Opposition Higher Among:

- Male (19%)
- 18-34 years (22%)
- \$100K+ (23%)
- PC Past Vote (25%)

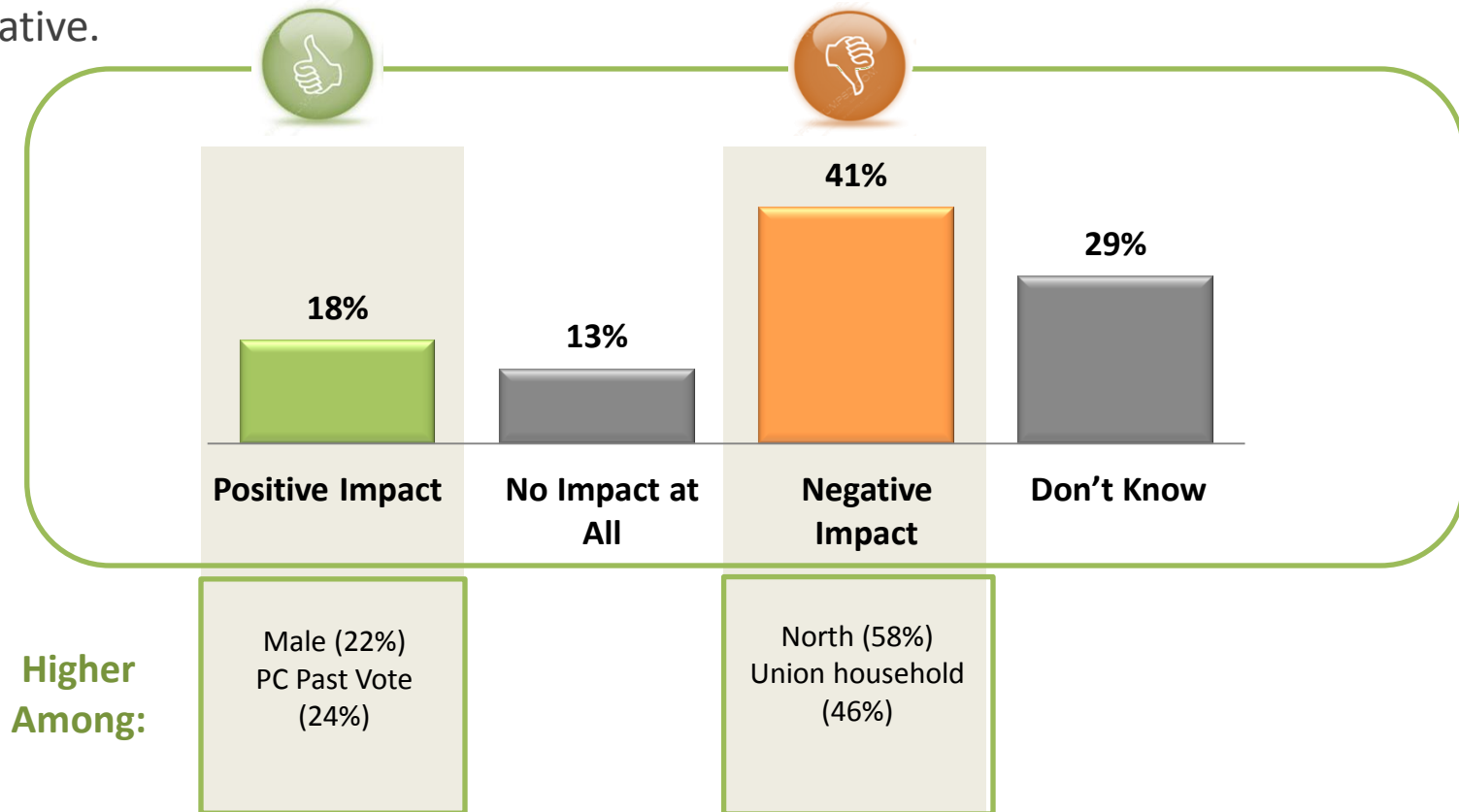


Q8. The current budget proposes to freeze the incomes of those living on \$500/month social assistance while bringing in no changes to the personal income tax charged to Ontario's highest income earners. Would you support or oppose a measure to create a new tax on individuals with incomes over \$250,000 if it allowed the government to provide a cost of living increase to those on social assistance?

Base: Total Sample, n = 1505

Impact of Privatizing the Ontario Northern Railway

- ❑ 41 per cent of Ontarians believe the privatization of the Ontario Northern Railway will have a negative impact for residents of Northern Ontario who use rail travel.
- ❑ Among those residing in Northern Ontario, 58 per cent believe the impact will be negative.

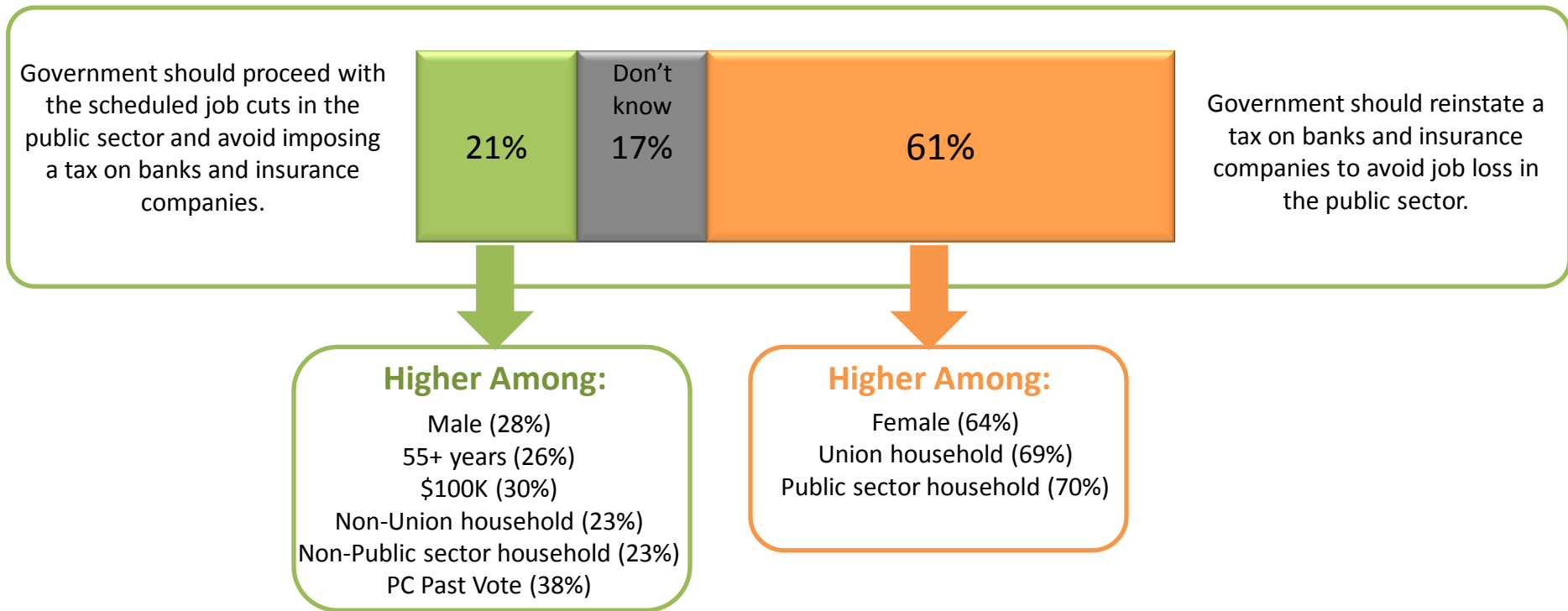


Q9. Historically, the province has always supported the Ontario Northern Railway (ONR) because of the special needs of northern Ontario. The new Ontario Budget includes a plan to privatize the Ontario Northland Railway which serves residents across the north including remote communities. Do you believe this privatization will have a positive or a negative impact, or no impact at all for residents of Northern Ontario who use rail travel?

Base: Total Sample, n = 1505

Statement Closest to Personal View

- Following similar previous sentiments, 61 per cent of Ontarians believe the government should reinstate a tax on banks and insurance companies instead of proceeding with the scheduled job cuts in the public sector.





Q10. The Ontario budget brings in measures that will eliminate thousands of jobs in the province's public sector, including schools and hospitals. Some people believe that restoring a tax that banks and insurance companies in Ontario used to pay could provide funding for services in the public sector and prevent those job losses. Which of the following statements is closest to your personal point of view?




Base: Total Sample, n = 1505

Sample Profile





Sample Profile

		Total Sample (%) Weighted N = 1505	Total Sample (%) Unweighted N = 1505
Region 	Toronto (416 Region)	18%	20%
	905 Region	23%	24%
	GTA Net	42%	44%
	Hamilton / Niagara	10%	9%
	Southwest	24%	24%
	East	17%	17%
	North	7%	6%
Past Provincial Vote 	The Liberal Party	31%	26%
	The Progressive Conservatives	29%	30%
	The New Democratic Party (NDP)	19%	19%
	The Green Party	2%	5%
	Other party	1%	1%

Sample Profile

		Total Sample (%) Weighted N = 1505	Total Sample (%) Unweighted N = 1505
Age 	18-34	29%	29%
	35-54	41%	40%
	55+	30%	31%
Gender 	Male	48%	50%
	Female	52%	50%
Income 	<\$50K	32%	31%
	\$51K - \$99K	34%	34%
	\$100K +	20%	20%
	Prefer not to say	14%	15%

Sample Profile

		Total Sample (%) Weighted N = 1505	Total Sample (%) Unweighted N = 1505
Employment 	Work full time / part time	53%	53%
	Student	8%	8%
	Homemaker	6%	5%
	Currently looking for work	7%	6%
	Retired	20%	21%
Member of Union 	Self or family member	30%	31%
	None of these	68%	67%
Public Sector Employee 	Self or family member	24%	26%
	None of these	72%	71%
Education 	High school or less	45%	45%
	College / tech school	34%	34%
	University or more	21%	21%