

**GREENBERG QUINLAN ROSNER** RESEARCH

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April 16, 2007

# New Urgency for Action on Energy Independence, Global Warming

Center for  
American Progress



## Methodology

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- This nationwide survey of 1000 registered voters was conducted March 19-22 by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research through a random digit dialing process. The sample has a margin of error of approximately  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.
- Prior to the survey, Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research conducted a series of eight focus groups across the country on energy and global warming. These groups were conducted in:
  - Charleston, West Virginia
  - Suburban Detroit, Michigan
  - Suburban Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
  - Denver, Colorado

## Key points

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- Americans want freedom and self-sufficiency from our energy policies
- Americans say we should lead the world in a new, clean energy future—believe America can do it
- Public sees clean energy as a path to economic growth, new jobs and a stronger economic future
- Global warming strengthens the case for energy independence

## Key points continued

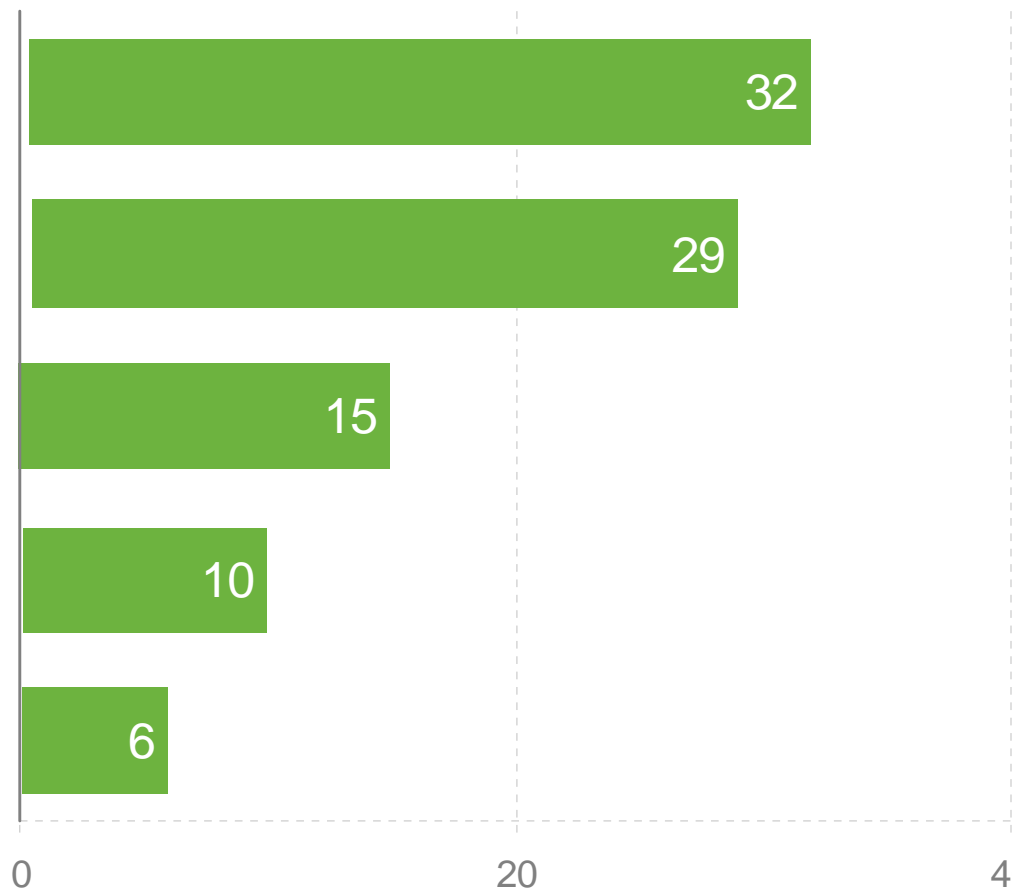
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- Public believes global warming is here and man-made
- Believe we must take action now
- Creating a new energy policy now a top tier issue
- Bold proposals enjoy strong support
- Americans are ready to act—but they want their leaders to hold themselves accountable and bear some of the burden themselves

# Reducing Dependence On Oil/Coal To Stop Global Warming A Top Concern

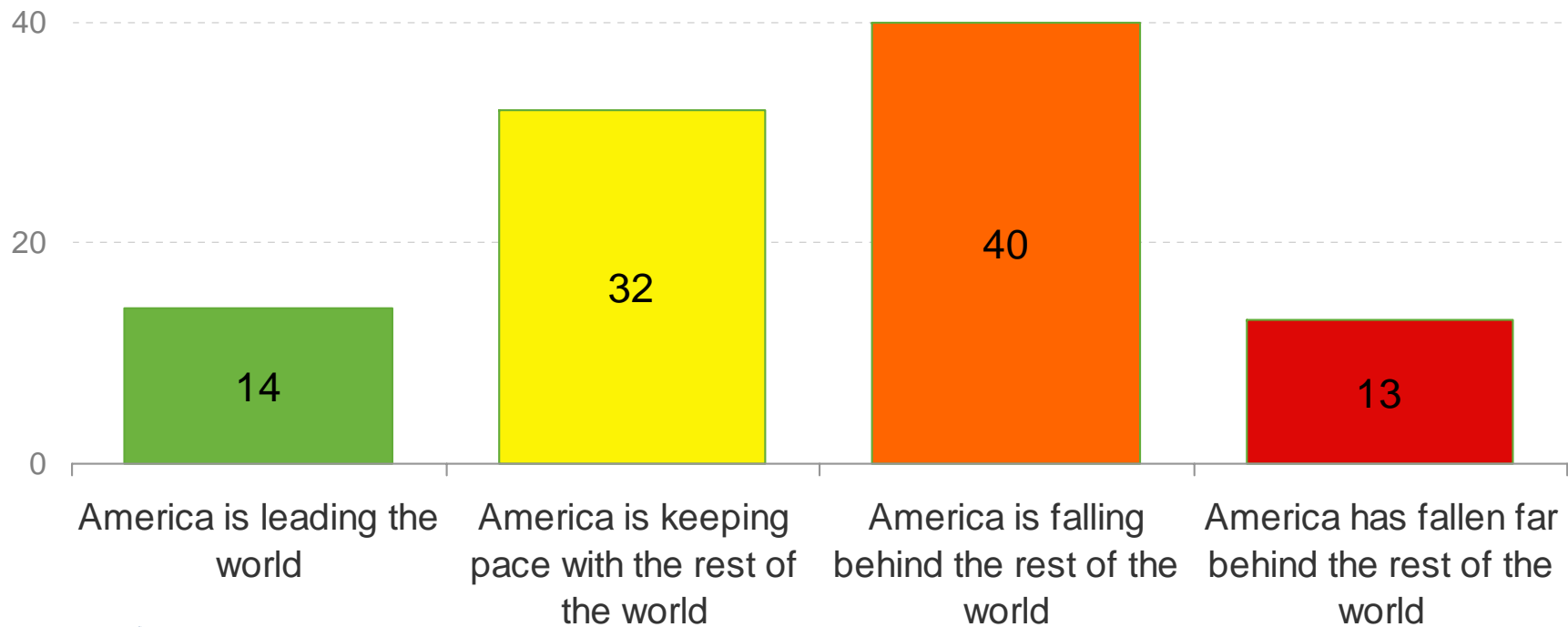
*I'm going to read you a list of challenges facing the country today. Please tell me which ONE of these challenges you think is the MOST important for us to work on as a country.*

- Bringing down rising health care costs**
- Reduce dependence on oil and coal to stop global warming [500 respondents]**
- Improving student performance in schools and colleges**
- Helping businesses and workers to compete with the rest of the world**
- Helping families achieve a secure retirement**



## Americans Believe We Are Falling Behind on Energy

Now let me read you some statements about America's role in developing clean, alternative energy. Please tell me which statement comes closer to your own view.

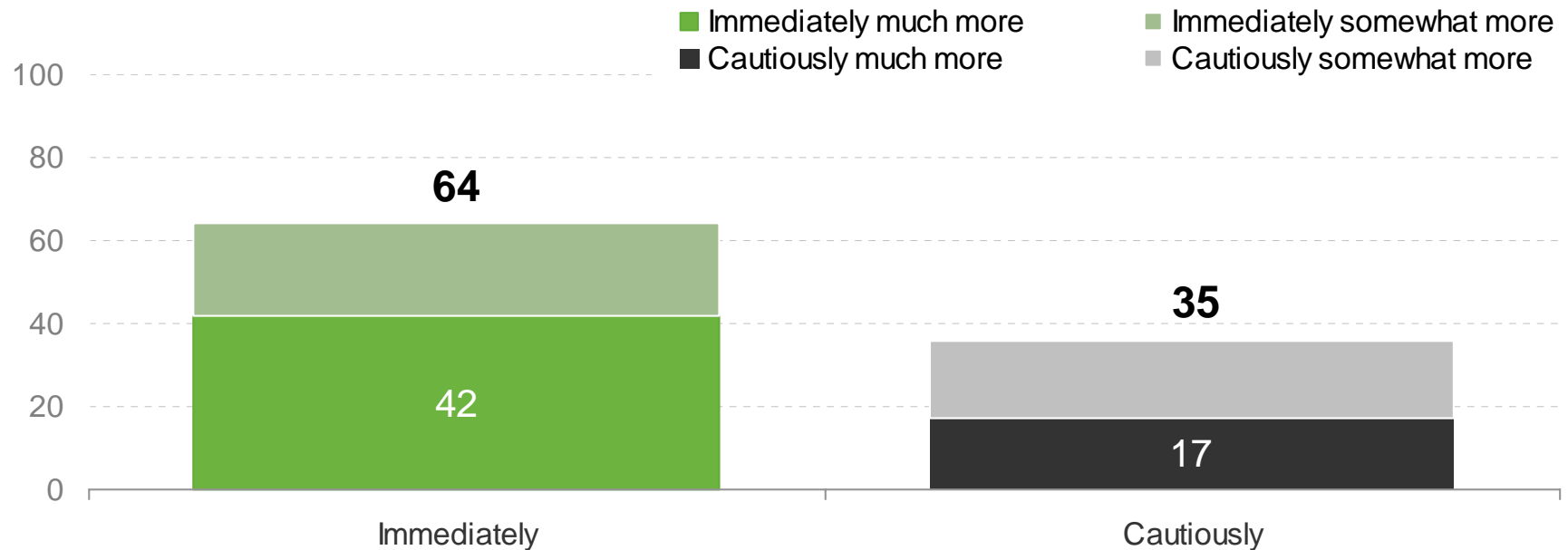


## Americans Want Clean, Alternative Energy Now

Now let me read you two statements. After, please tell me which statement comes closer to your view.

**Statement 1:** Some people say that America needs to act immediately to make our country less dependent on oil and move to cleaner, alternative energy sources.

**Statement 2:** Other people say that America needs to become less dependent on oil and move to cleaner, alternative energy sources, but we should do so cautiously and take our time.

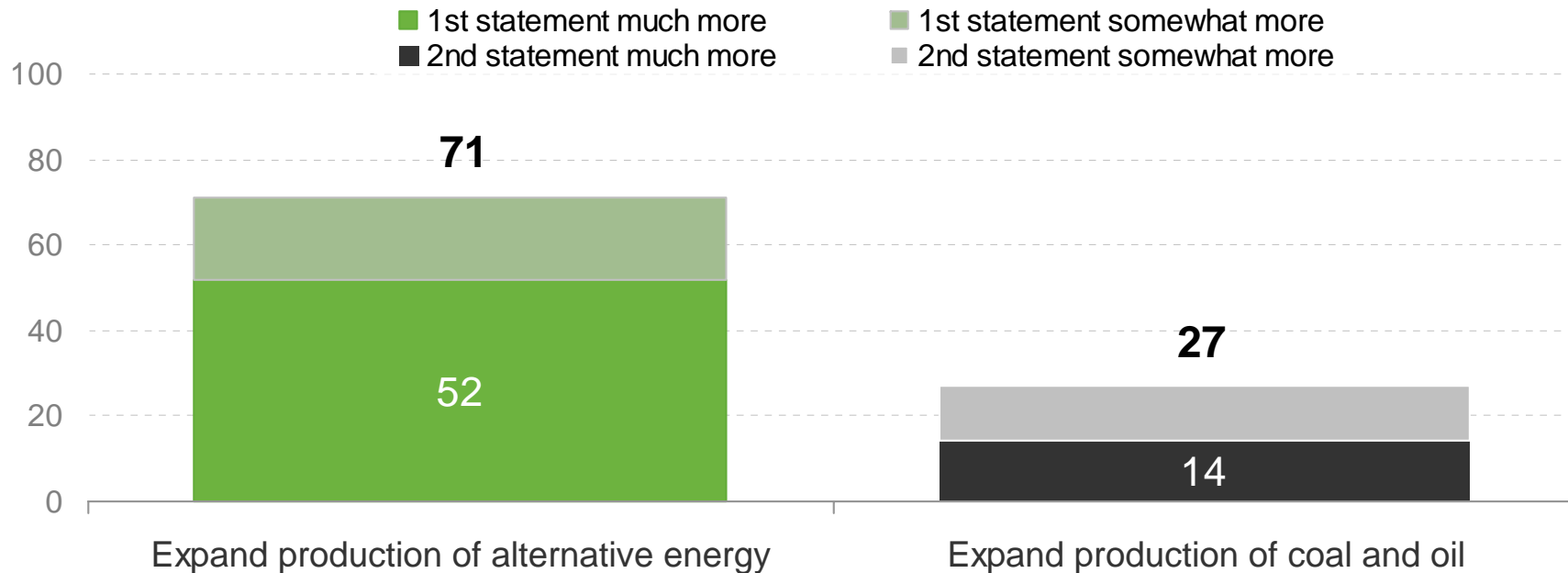


## Americans Ready to Move Off Oil and Coal

Now let me read you some short pairs of statements on energy and the environment. Please tell me which statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither matches your view exactly. [367 respondents]

The most important thing we should do is move quickly to expand the production of clean, alternative energy and reduce our use of oil and coal.

The most important thing we should do is expand our production of oil and coal.

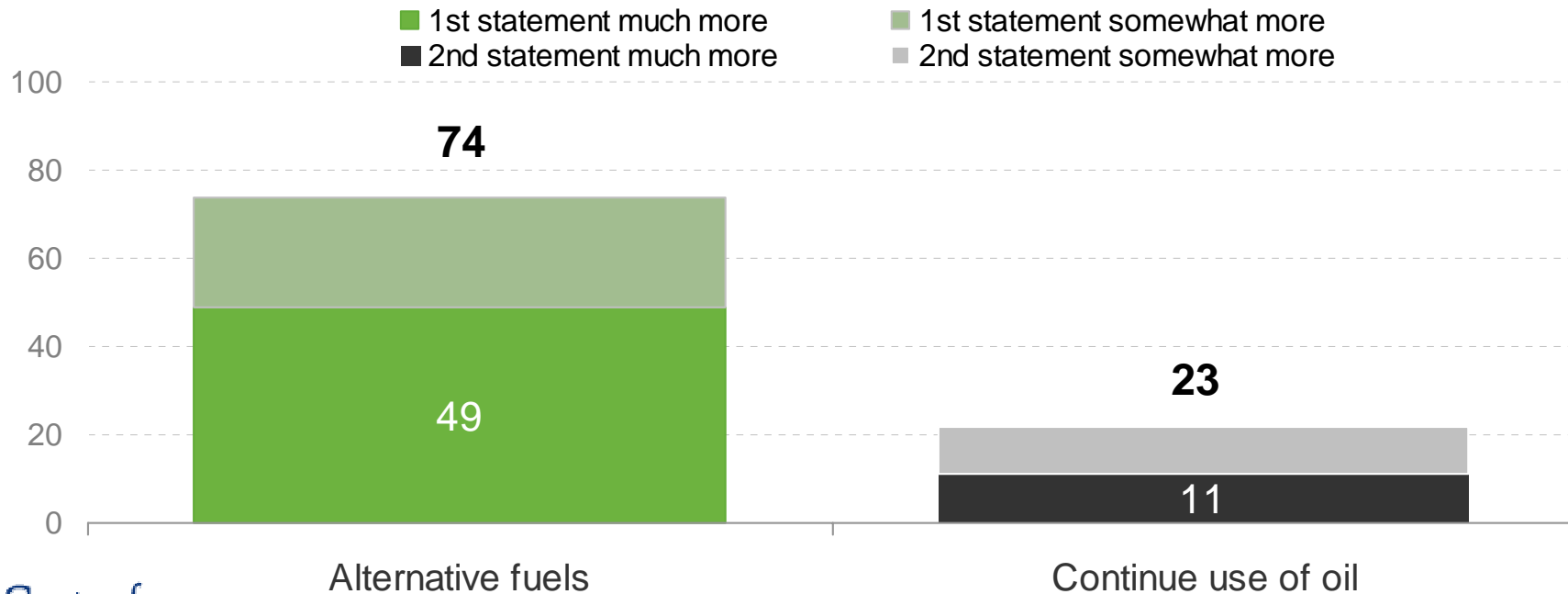


## Americans Want Alternative Fuels for Their Cars

Now let me read you some short pairs of statements on energy and the environment. Please tell me which statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither matches your view exactly. [500 respondents]

We should move from oil to alternative fuels for our vehicles because it will cause less pollution, stop global warming and make us more energy independent.

We should continue to use oil as our main source of fuel for vehicles because other sources for fuel are unreliable, less efficient and will cost consumers more.



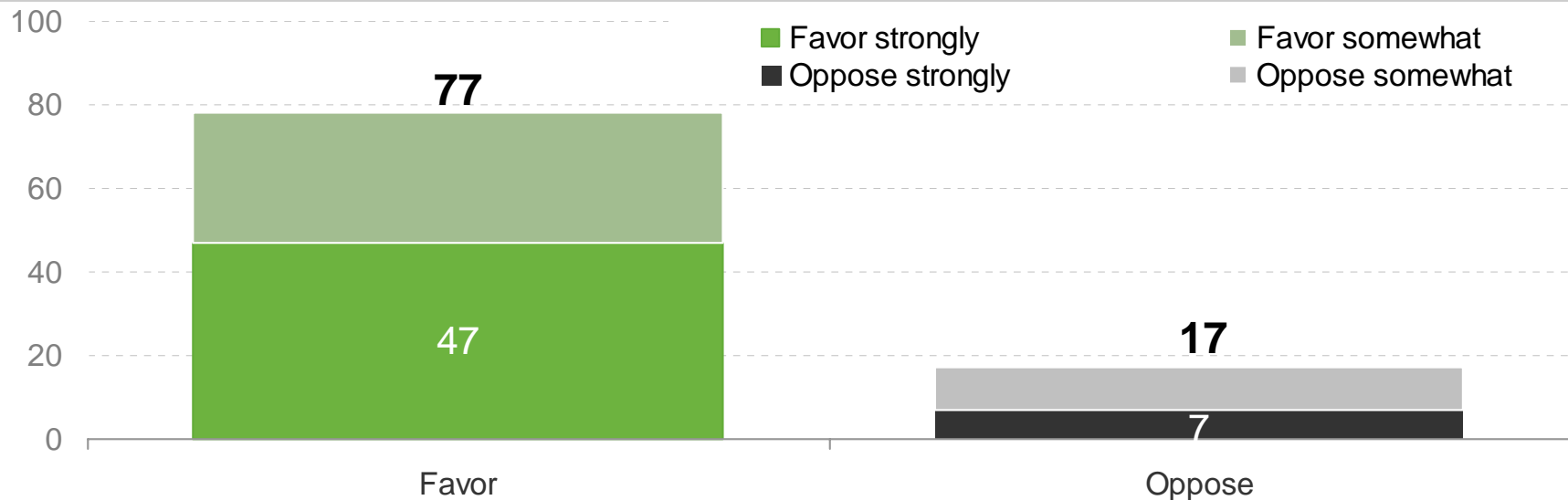
## Public Rejects Notion That New Energy Policies Will Cost Too Much, Result in Smaller, More Expensive Cars

Some people are proposing changing our energy policy. Under their proposal, we would expand production of clean, alternative energy like wind, solar and ethanol, raise mileage standards for cars, trucks and SUV's, and increase production of hybrid cars. Now let me read you two statements about this proposal for a new energy policy, and tell me whether you favor or oppose the proposal.

*Some people say this proposal will reduce our dependence on oil and create jobs for the future, and reduce global warming. This will allow us to gain our energy independence.*

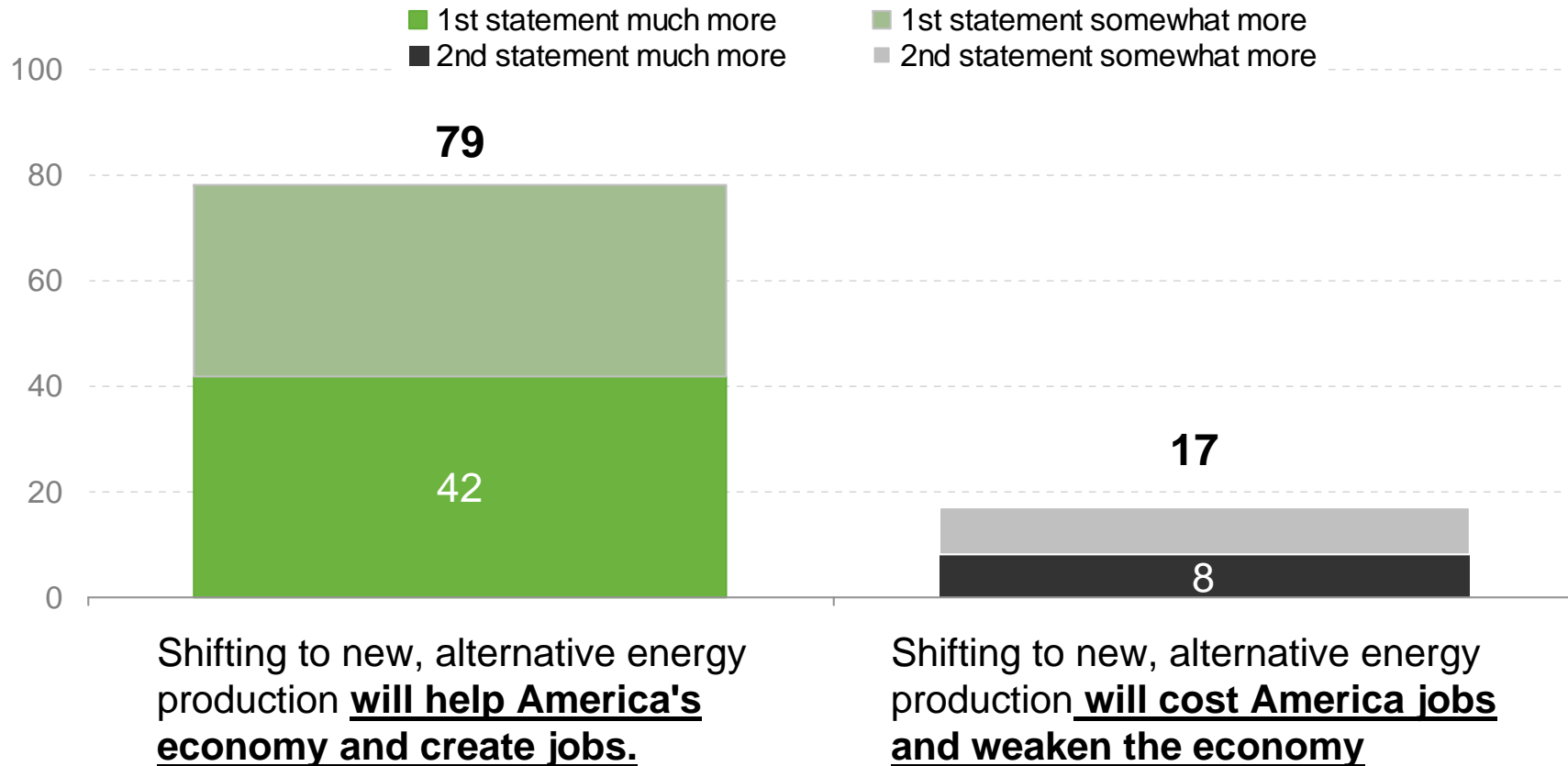
*Other people say this proposal will cost billions of dollars and take a long time to make a difference and will force Americans to drive smaller, more expensive cars.*

Do you favor or oppose this proposal to change our energy policy?



## Americans See Alternative Energy/Fuel as Economic Boon

Now let me read you some short pairs of statements about global warming. Please tell me which statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither matches your view exactly. [500 respondents]

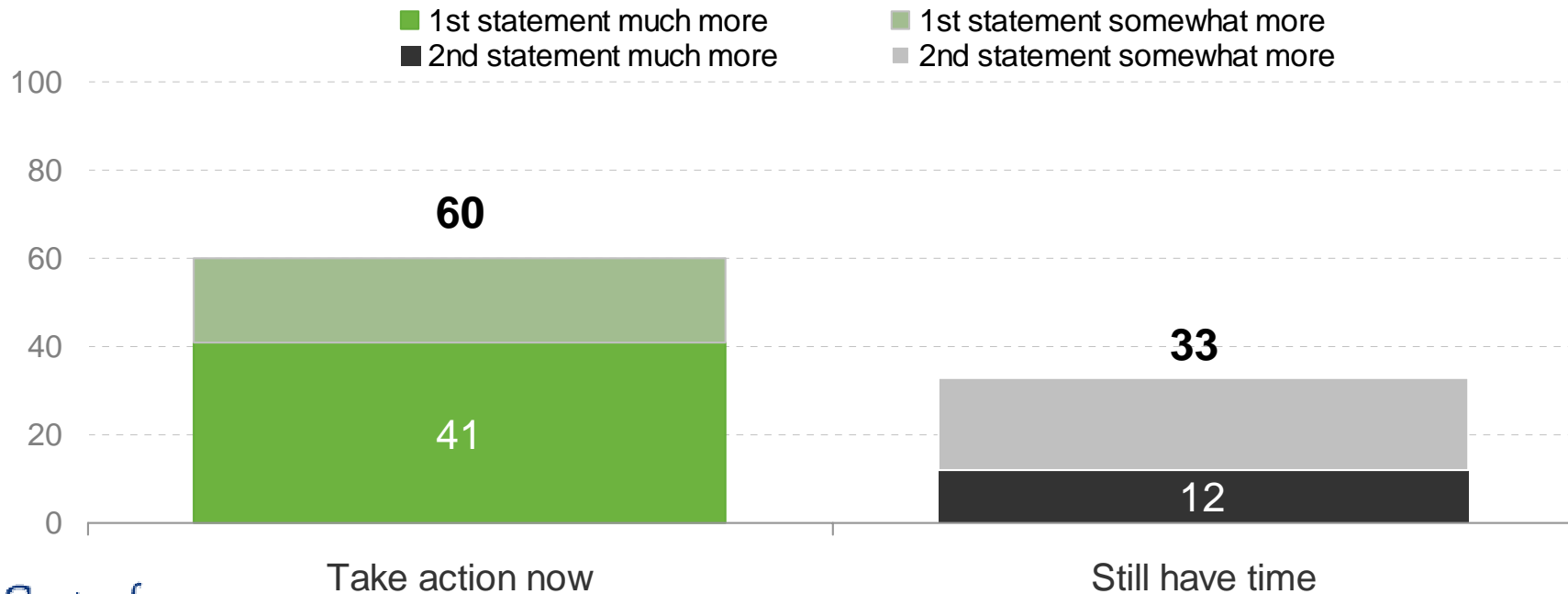


## Public Is Strongly Convinced We Must Act Now on Global Warming

Now let me read you some short pairs of statements about global warming. Please tell me which statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither matches your view exactly. [500 respondents]

The increasing pollution of the past few decades has set global warming into motion and we must take action now or it will be too late to stop it

We need to take action on global warming, but the effects will not occur for decades and we have some time before we must take action to stop it.

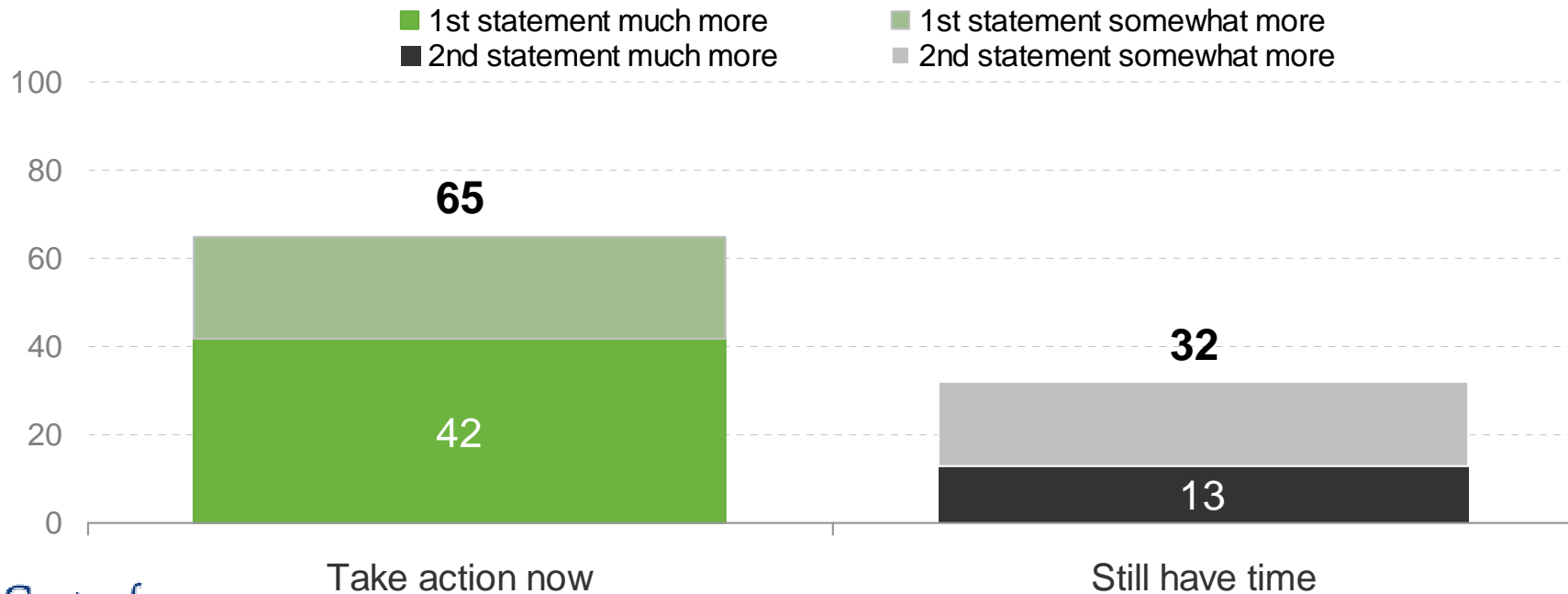


## Potential Costs Do Not Discourage Action on Global Warming

Now let me read you some short pairs of statements about global warming. Please tell me which statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither matches your view exactly. [500 respondents]

Global warming is a serious problem that this country needs to tackle, even if it will cost businesses more to meet stronger regulations on pollution

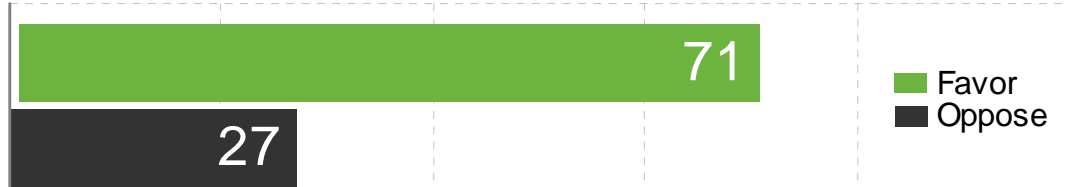
Global warming may be a problem in the future, but we should not put more regulations on businesses that will cost us jobs and increase prices for consumers



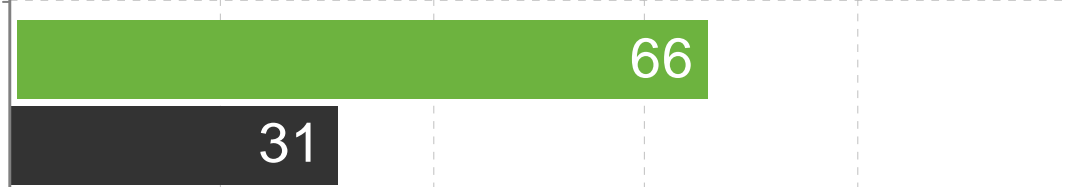
## Support for Clean Energy Initiatives Holds Against Attacks

*Now, I'd like to read you a list of proposals about our energy policy as well as criticisms about each proposal. After each one, please tell me you favor or oppose the proposal. [500 respondents]*

**Provide tax credits** to people who use solar and wind energy and companies who produce alternative sources of energy to expand the use of these new sources. Critics say it will end up increasing taxes for average Americans.



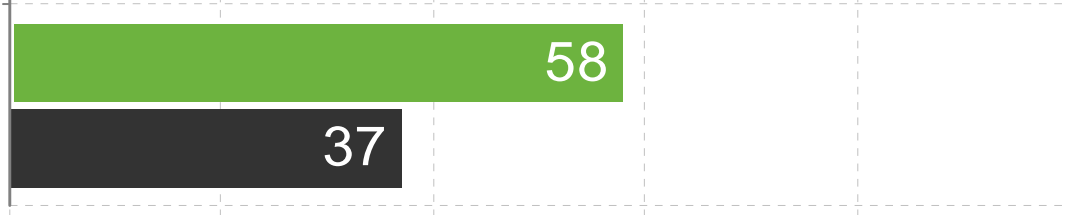
**Raise mileage standards** for new cars and SUVs over the next ten years to 40 miles per gallon, instead of the current 24 miles per gallon. Critics say it would lead automakers to produce smaller and more expensive cars.



**Require 25 percent of all electricity** in the U.S. to come from alternative sources by 2025. Critics say this will raise electricity rates.



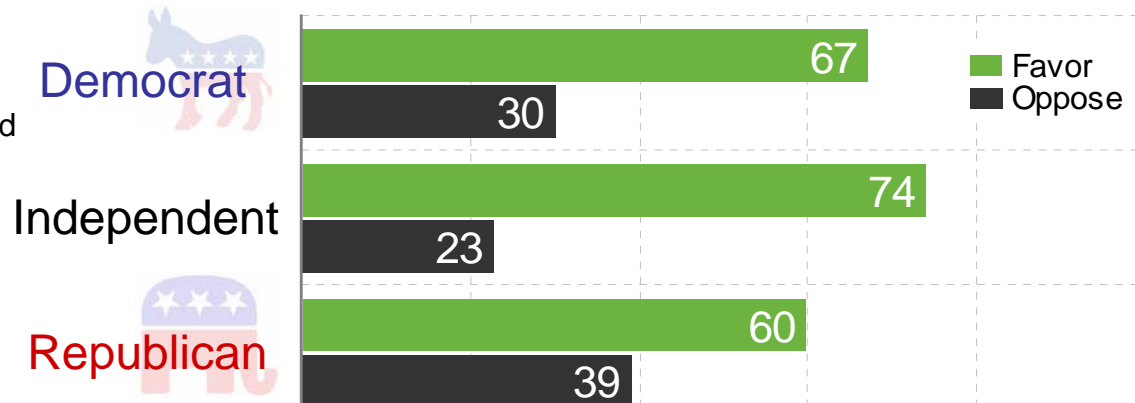
**Cap the amount of carbon emissions** from power plants and industry to reduce carbon emissions by 2 percent every year. Critics say it will reduce America's economic growth and lead to job losses.



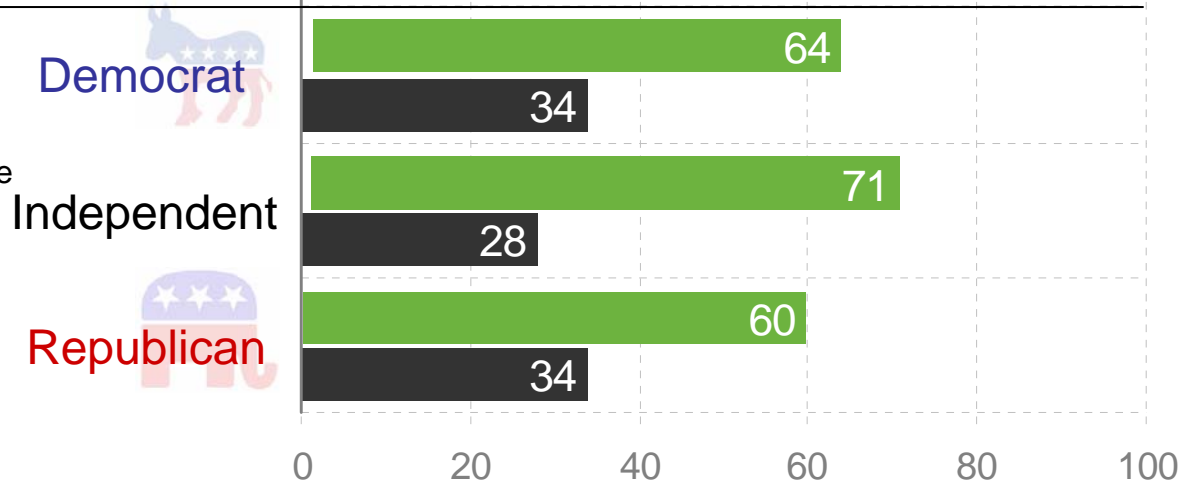
## Strong Support for Initiatives Across Party Lines

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## The Public Supports A Bold Plan Moving Forward

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### **Americans Want Their Leaders To Act Now To Tackle Energy Independence and Global Warming:**

- Renewable portfolio standards for electricity and fuel—25 percent renewable sources by 2025
- New mileage standards for all cars—40 miles per gallon
- Carbon caps—Reduction of carbon emissions by 2 percent each year
- Tax credits—Provide incentives to people who use clean, alternative energy and companies that produce it

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