

# VERMONT STATEWIDE SURVEY

A SURVEY OF 2020 VOTERS

February 2021



# METHODOLOGY

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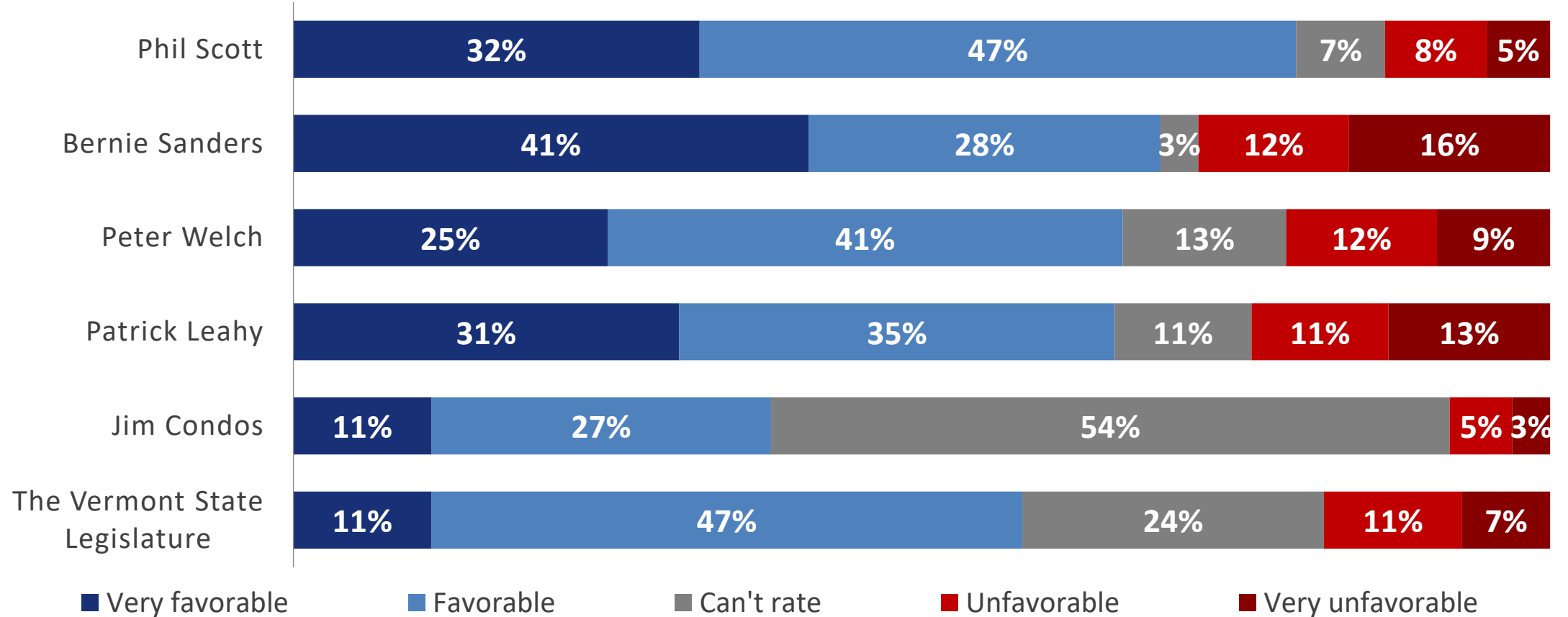
- 500 interviews among 2020 voters were conducted from February 16-18, 2021.
- Interviews were conducted over the phone (both landline and cell phones).
- Results were weighted to ensure proportional response.
- The comparative margin of error for results is  $\pm 4.8\%$  at the 95% confidence level. This number is higher for subgroups.

# BREAKOUT DEFINITIONS

Category	Definition	N
<b>TOTAL</b>	All respondents	500
Men	Respondents who identify as men	235
Women	Respondents who identify as women	265
South	Respondents who live in Windham, Windsor, or Bennington county	110
Middle	Respondents who live in Washington, Addison, Rutland, or Orange county	151
North/NEK	Respondents who live in Lamoille, Franklin, Grand Isle, Orleans, Caledonia, or Essex county	104
Chittenden	Respondents who live in Chittenden county	135
Under 45	Respondents under the age of 45	170
45-64	Respondents age 45 to 64	176
65+	Respondents age 65 and older	152
Non-college	Respondents without a Bachelor's degree	231
College	Respondents with at least a Bachelor's degree	263
Republican	Respondents who identify as Strong Republican, Not-so Strong Republican, or Independent – lean Republican	110
Independent	Respondents who identify as Independent and do not lean towards a party	114
Democrat	Respondents who identify as Strong Democrat, Not-so Strong Democrat, or Independent – lean Democrat	174
Progressive	Respondents who identify as Strong Progressive, Not-so Strong Progressive, or Independent – lean Progressive	72

# LANDSCAPE

# FAVORABILITIES



# BREAKOUT: SCOTT AND LEGISLATURE FAVORABILITY

	Phil Scott			State Legislature		
	Total favorable	Total unfavorable	Can't rate	Total favorable	Total unfavorable	Can't rate
<b>TOTAL</b>	80%	13%	7%	58%	18%	24%
Men	80%	14%	7%	57%	19%	23%
Women	79%	13%	8%	58%	17%	24%
South	77%	10%	12%	46%	19%	35%
Middle	79%	16%	6%	62%	21%	18%
North/NEK	74%	17%	8%	51%	23%	26%
Chittenden	86%	10%	4%	68%	12%	20%
Under 45	81%	13%	6%	57%	18%	25%
45-64	75%	17%	8%	58%	18%	24%
65+	83%	9%	9%	57%	20%	23%
Non-college	75%	16%	9%	51%	20%	29%
College	84%	10%	6%	64%	16%	19%
Republican	69%	27%	4%	31%	41%	29%
Independent	84%	11%	5%	49%	24%	27%
Democrat	90%	4%	7%	75%	7%	19%
Progressive	72%	18%	10%	78%	4%	18%

- Governor Phil Scott is very popular among 2020 voters with four in five having a favorable opinion of him and just 13% having an unfavorable opinion. Scott's favorability is consistent across the state and even among Democrats and Progressives.

- Republicans are most likely to have an unfavorable opinion of the governor.

- A majority of voters have a favorable opinion of the state legislature and less than one in five have an unfavorable opinion. Voters in Chittenden, voters with a college degree, Democrats, and Progressives are most likely to have a favorable opinion of the state legislature while Republicans are most likely to have an unfavorable opinion of it.

- Over a third of voters in the south cannot rate the state legislature.



Q3-8. Now I'm going to read you a list of people and organizations that are often mentioned in the news. Please tell me whether, in general, you have a very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of each one. If you have no opinion or have never heard of someone please say so.

Both Senators Bernie Sanders and Patrick Leahy are favorable among over three in five 2020 voters. Over a quarter of voters have an unfavorable opinion of Sanders while less than a quarter have an unfavorable opinion of Leahy.

Sanders is most popular in Chittenden, with college voters, Democrats and Progressives while over a third of voters in the North, non-college voters, and Republicans have an unfavorable opinion of him.

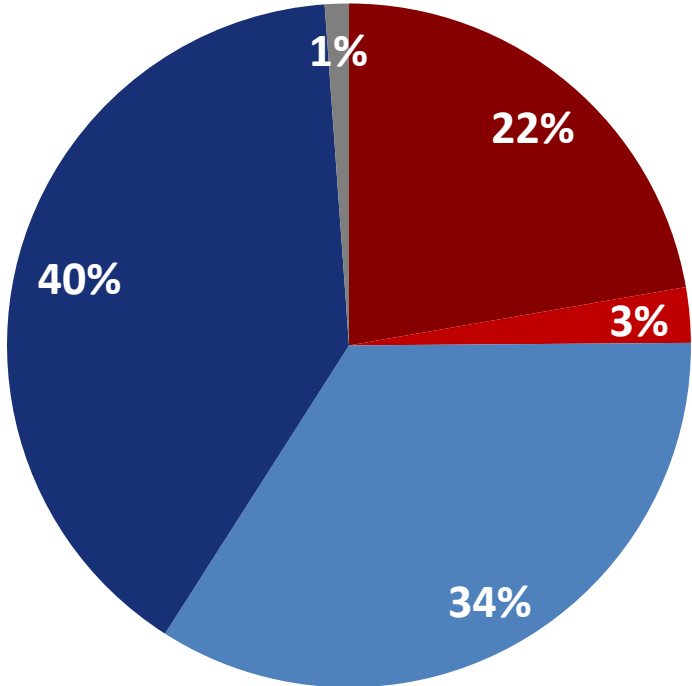
Leahy is also most popular among voters in Chittenden, college voters, Democrats, and Progressives while a third of non-college voters and three in five Republican voters have an unfavorable opinion of him. One in five voters in the South cannot rate him.

## BREAKOUT: SENATORS' FAVORABILITY

	Bernie Sanders			Patrick Leahy		
	Total favorable	Total unfavorable	Can't rate	Total favorable	Total unfavorable	Can't rate
<b>TOTAL</b>	69%	28%	3%	65%	24%	11%
Men	69%	29%	2%	65%	26%	10%
Women	69%	26%	4%	66%	22%	12%
South	64%	32%	4%	60%	21%	20%
Middle	70%	27%	3%	66%	26%	8%
North/NEK	62%	35%	3%	59%	32%	10%
Chittenden	77%	20%	2%	74%	18%	8%
Under 45	70%	27%	3%	64%	23%	14%
45-64	66%	30%	4%	63%	25%	12%
65+	70%	27%	3%	70%	25%	5%
Non-college	59%	39%	2%	53%	34%	13%
College	78%	18%	4%	77%	15%	9%
Republican	20%	76%	4%	26%	61%	13%
Independent	66%	31%	3%	60%	30%	10%
Democrat	91%	6%	4%	88%	3%	9%
Progressive	95%	5%	0%	83%	4%	13%

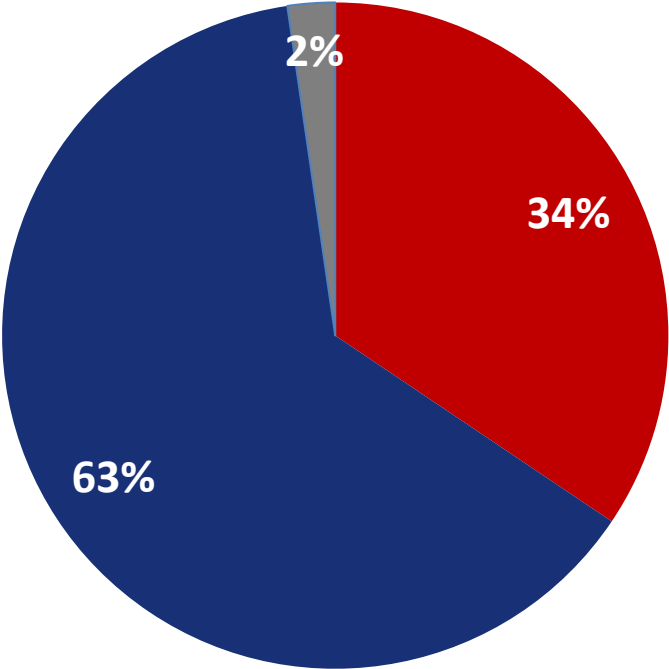
# 2020 VOTE METHOD

Method



- Voted in person on Election Day
- Voted in person early
- Dropped mail ballot in a drop box
- Mailed in ballot

If voted by mail



- Have voted by mail before
- First time voting by mail
- Don't know/refused

Q9. And how did you vote last year?

Q10. [IF BY MAIL] And have you voted by mail in previous elections or was this your first time voting by mail?

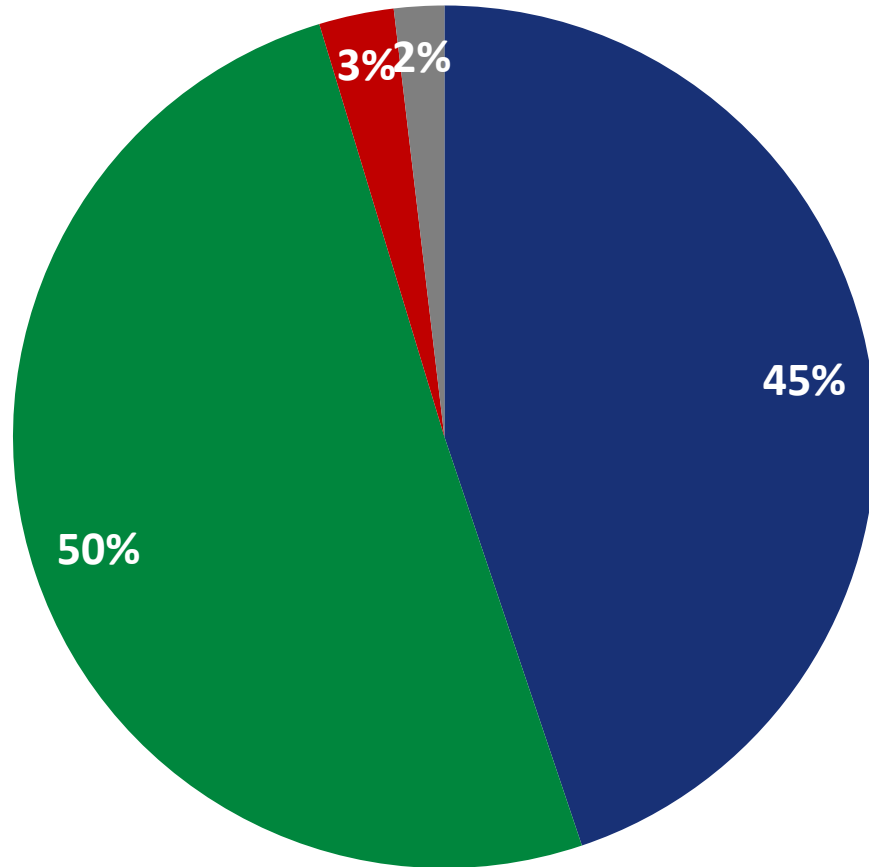


## BREAKOUT: VOTE METHOD

	Vote Method				If voted by mail	
	In person on Election Day	In person early	Dropped ballot in box	Mailed in ballot	Have voted by mail before	First time voting by mail
<b>TOTAL</b>	22%	3%	34%	40%	34%	63%
Men	22%	1%	37%	37%	38%	59%
Women	22%	4%	31%	42%	32%	67%
South	28%	5%	28%	37%	30%	70%
Middle	19%	2%	36%	42%	35%	60%
North/NEK	30%	2%	30%	37%	30%	68%
Chittenden	14%	2%	40%	42%	40%	59%
Under 45	24%	3%	32%	38%	35%	63%
45-64	24%	2%	32%	41%	31%	67%
65+	18%	3%	40%	39%	38%	59%
Non-college	28%	2%	29%	40%	29%	69%
College	17%	3%	40%	40%	38%	59%
Republican	44%	1%	28%	25%	28%	63%
Independent	22%	5%	32%	40%	28%	70%
Democrat	12%	3%	36%	49%	41%	58%
Progressive	11%	1%	46%	42%	39%	61%

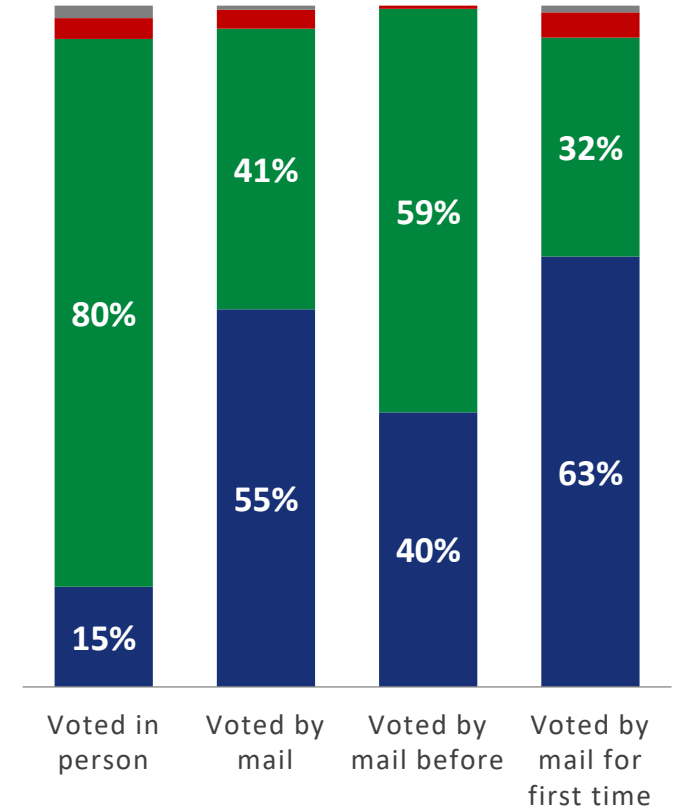
- Just a quarter of 2020 voters voted in person on Election Day with those in the North and South, non-college voters, and Republicans most likely to have voted in person on Election Day while three-quarters voted by mail with more mailing the ballot than dropping it in a box.
- Younger voters were more likely to vote in person than voters 65 and older.
- Over three in five voters who voted by mail did so for the first time (45% of all voters voted by mail for the first time) while a third have voted by mail before.
- Women, voters in the south, and Independents were most likely to be voting by mail for the first time while those in Chittenden and Democrats are more likely to have voted by mail before.

# 2020 VOTING EXPERIENCE



- It was easier than it had been in the past
- It was about the same experience for me personally
- It was harder for me to cast my ballot
- Don't know/refused

## Experience by method



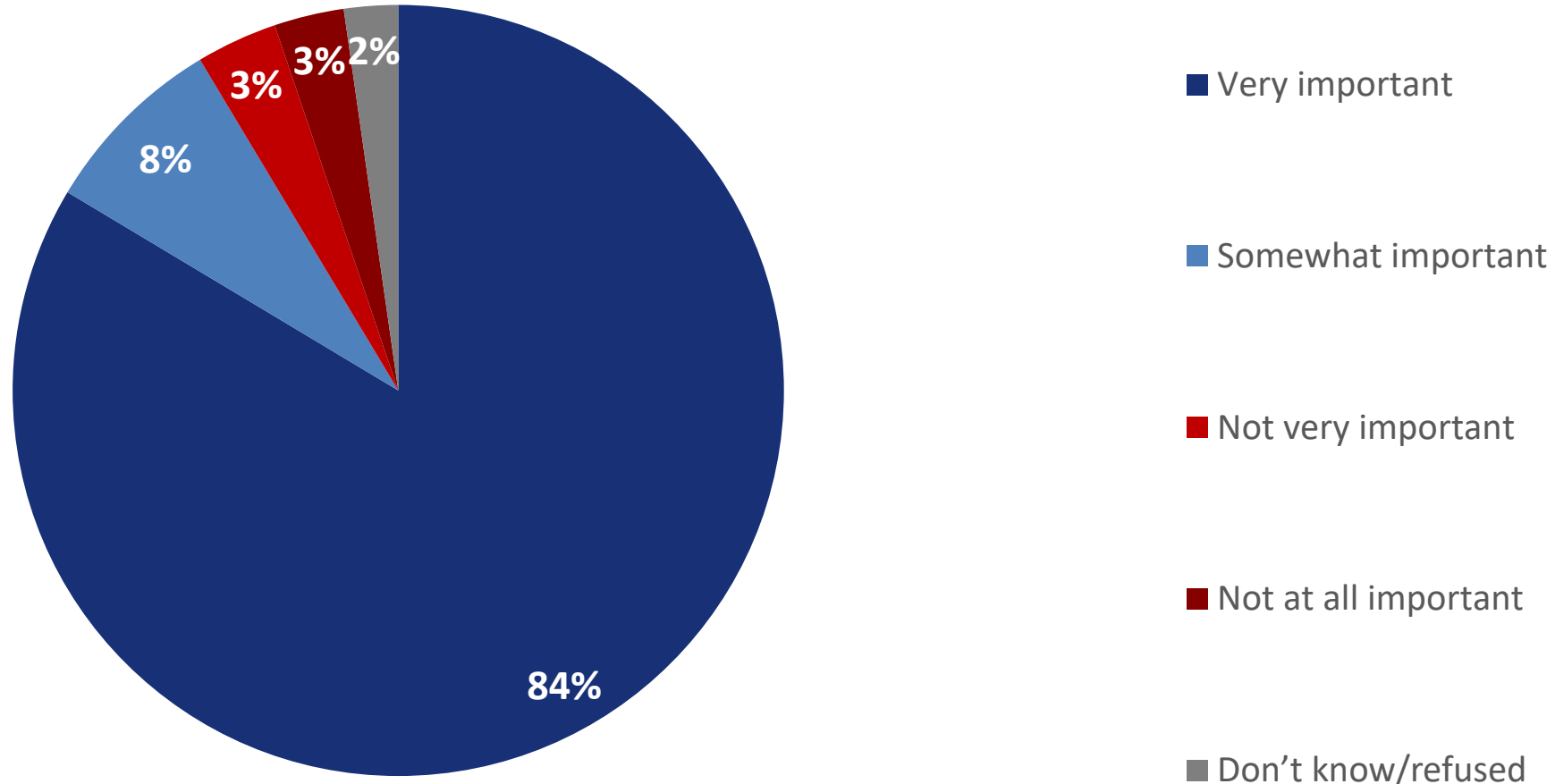
## BREAKOUT: VOTING EXPERIENCE

- Two in five voters say their 2020 general election voting experience was easier than it was in the past while half said it was about the same.
- Voters who voted by mail were more likely to say it was easier than in the past than voters who voted in person while those who have voted by mail for the first time say it was easier than voters who voted by mail before.
- Voters in Chittenden, voters under 45, Democrats, and Progressives are most likely to say it was easier than in the past while a majority of voters in the south, north, voters over 65, non-college voters, and Republicans say it was the same.

	Easier than in the past	About the same experience	Harder than in the past	Don't know/refused
<b>TOTAL</b>	45%	50%	3%	2%
Men	45%	51%	2%	2%
Women	45%	50%	3%	2%
South	41%	56%	1%	3%
Middle	46%	48%	4%	2%
North/NEK	35%	59%	5%	2%
Chittenden	55%	43%	1%	1%
Under 45	50%	45%	2%	4%
45-64	44%	51%	4%	2%
65+	40%	57%	3%	0%
Non-college	36%	60%	3%	2%
College	53%	42%	3%	2%
Republican	23%	71%	3%	3%
Independent	41%	51%	6%	2%
Democrat	53%	46%	1%	0%
Progressive	58%	39%	2%	1%

# MAKING VOTING EASY

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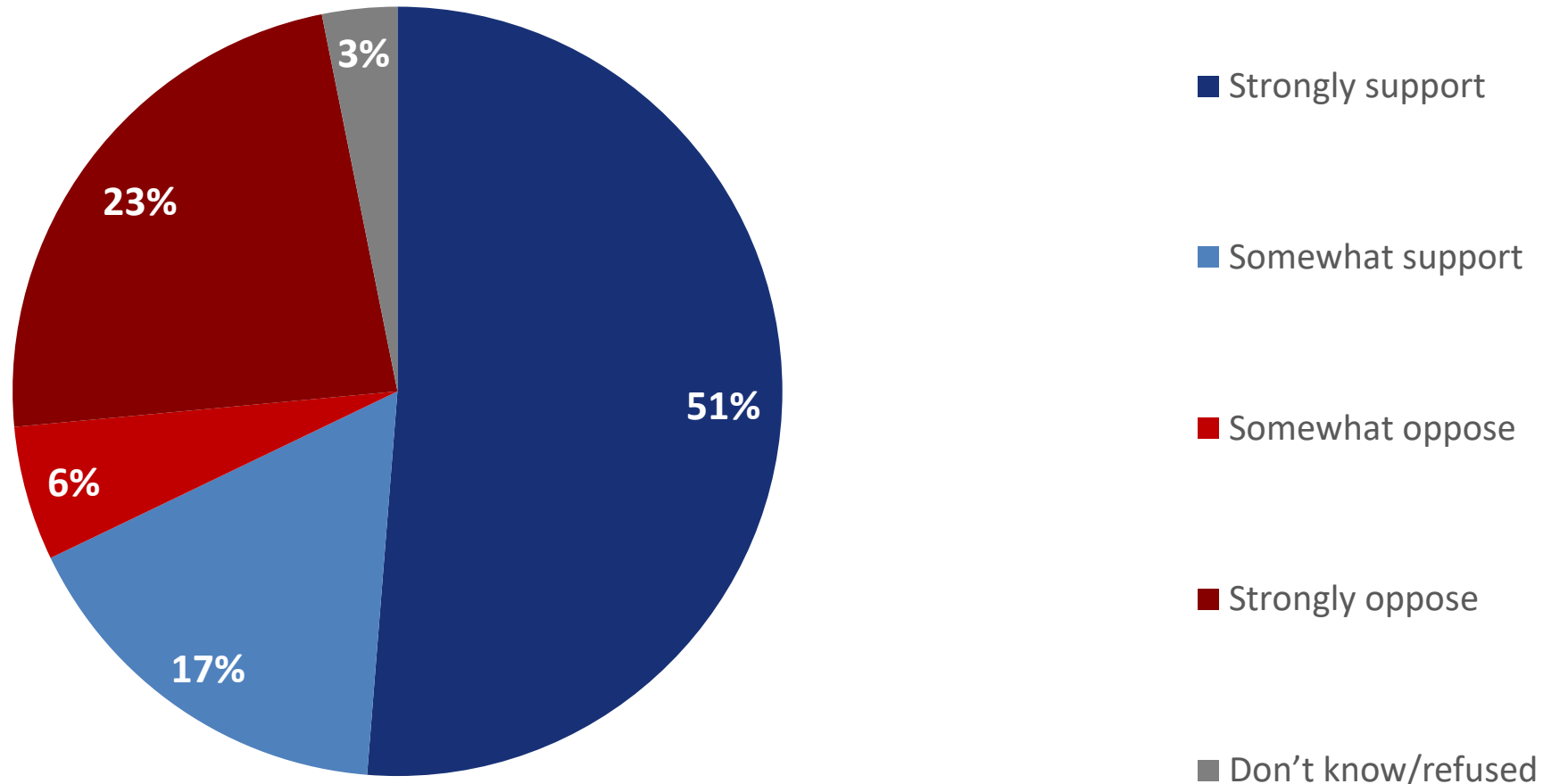
## BREAKOUT: MAKING VOTING EASY

- Four in five 2020 voters say it is very important to make voting as easy as possible for Vermonters with another 8% saying it is somewhat important.
- Support for making voting as easy as possible is consistent across the state and demographic groups with four in five of Republicans saying it is important.
- Just 6% of Vermont voters say it is not important.

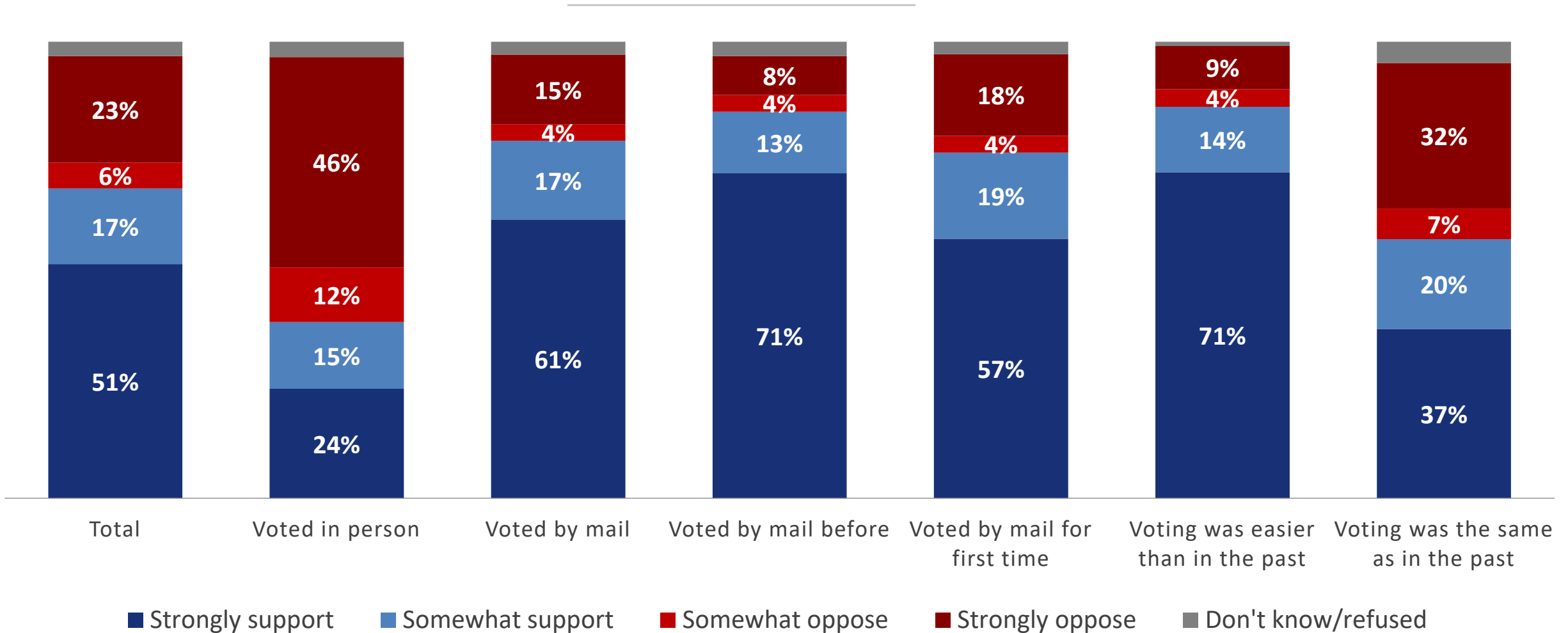
	Very important	Somewhat important	Total not important	Don't know/refused
<b>TOTAL</b>	84%	8%	6%	2%
Men	80%	8%	8%	3%
Women	86%	8%	5%	1%
South	83%	6%	10%	1%
Middle	84%	8%	5%	3%
North/NEK	79%	12%	7%	2%
Chittenden	87%	6%	4%	3%
Under 45	85%	6%	6%	3%
45-64	80%	9%	8%	4%
65+	86%	8%	5%	0%
Non-college	80%	8%	9%	2%
College	86%	8%	4%	2%
Republican	63%	17%	15%	4%
Independent	79%	9%	8%	3%
Democrat	94%	4%	1%	1%
Progressive	96%	3%	1%	0%

# VOTE BY MAIL LANDSCAPE

# PERMANENTLY MAIL BALLOTS



# PERMANENTLY MAIL BALLOTS BY VOTING METHOD





# BREAKOUT: PERMANENTLY MAILING BALLOTS

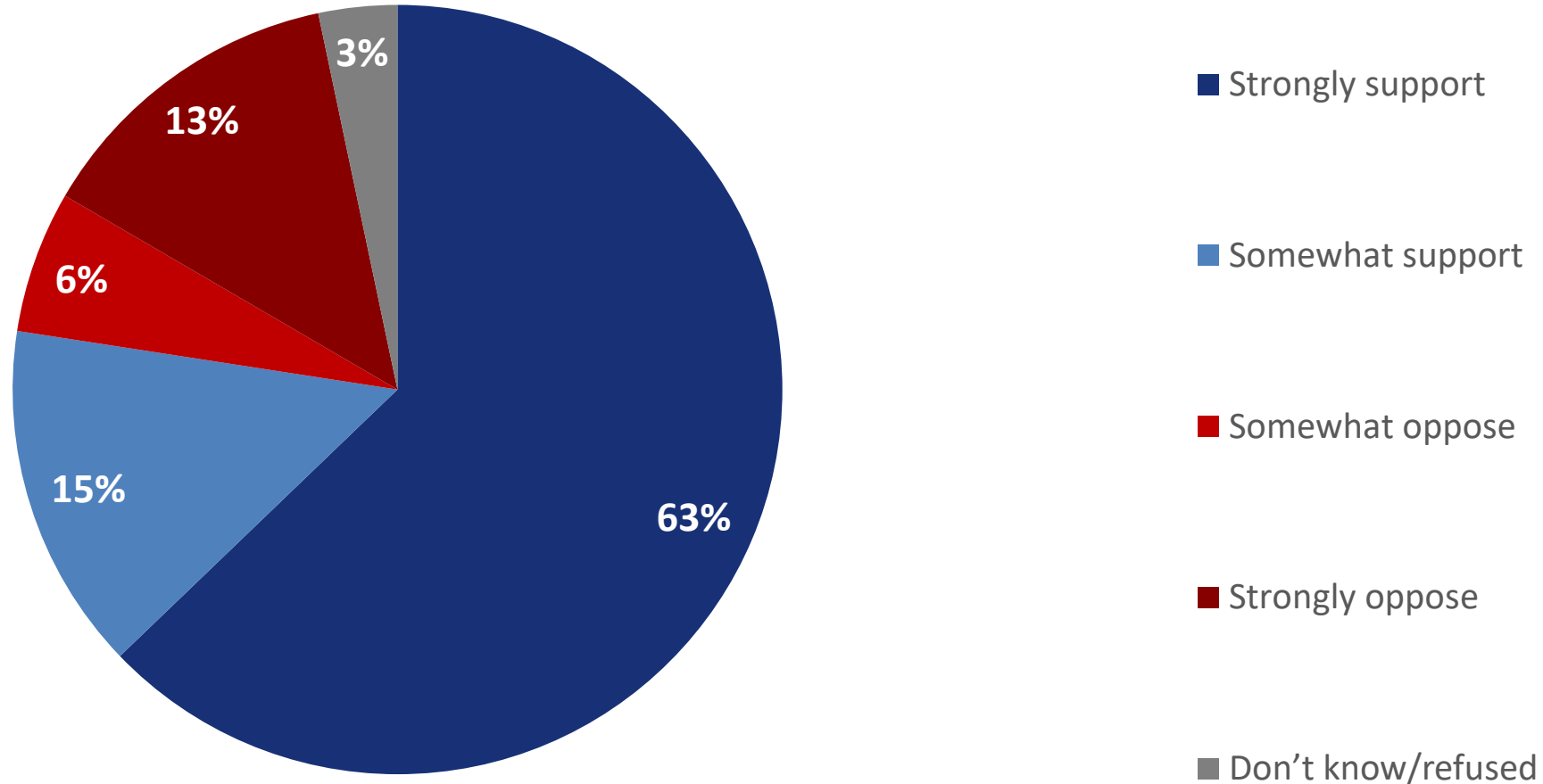
- Two-thirds of 2020 Vermont voters support permanently mailing all voters general election ballots. Support is consistent across demographic groups, except among Republicans.
- Voters who voted by mail before are most likely to strongly support permanently mailing ballots
- Automatically mailing ballots is most popular in Chittenden, with college-educated voters, Democrats, and Progressives.
- Voters in the north, non-college voters, and Republicans are most likely to oppose automatically mailing ballots.

	Total support	Total oppose	Don't know/refused
<b>TOTAL</b>	68%	29%	3%
Men	69%	28%	3%
Women	67%	30%	3%
South	65%	34%	1%
Middle	68%	27%	5%
North/NEK	56%	40%	4%
Chittenden	79%	19%	3%
Under 45	71%	27%	2%
45-64	67%	30%	3%
65+	65%	30%	5%
Non-college	58%	40%	3%
College	78%	19%	3%
Republican	32%	68%	0%
Independent	61%	35%	3%
Democrat	87%	8%	5%
Progressive	93%	6%	1%

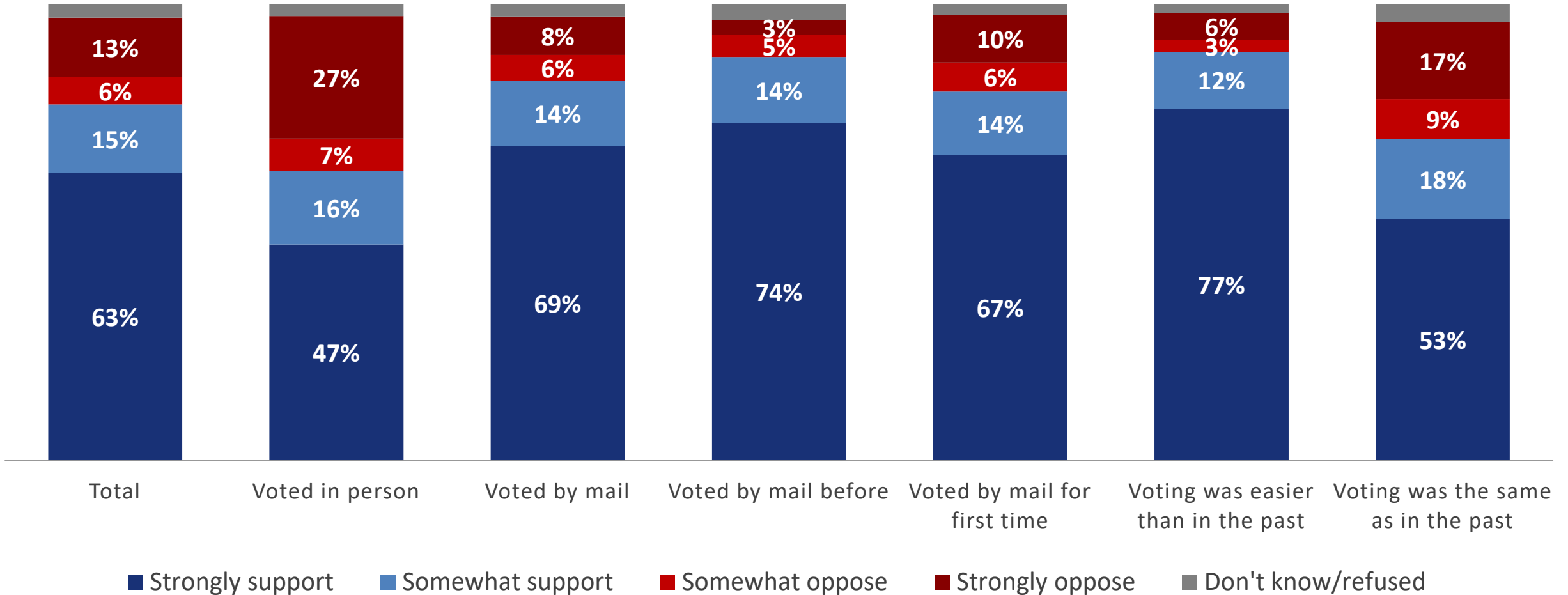
**Q12.** As you may have heard, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Vermont state legislature passed a law granting the Secretary of State the authority to automatically send all eligible voters in the state a mail-in ballot for the 2020 general election.

Based on what you know about this issue, would you support or oppose Vermont permanently adopting a system where all eligible voters get a ballot in the mail for general elections? [IF CHOICE] And would you say you strongly or somewhat support/oppose?

# CURING BALLOTS SUPPORT



# CURING BALLOTS BY VOTING METHOD

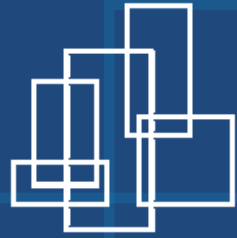


# BREAKOUT: CURING BALLOTS

- Over three-quarters of 2020 Vermont voters support allowing voters to cure their mail-in ballots with 63% strongly supporting it.
- Support is strongest among voters who voted by mail before and those who say voting was easier than in the past.
- Support for curing ballots is strong across the state and demographic groups with a majority of Republican voters and those who voted in person last year supporting it.

	Total support	Total oppose	Don't know/refused
<b>TOTAL</b>	77%	19%	3%
Men	78%	17%	5%
Women	77%	21%	2%
South	77%	22%	2%
Middle	74%	18%	7%
North/NEK	73%	24%	2%
Chittenden	85%	14%	1%
Under 45	81%	14%	4%
45-64	71%	25%	4%
65+	80%	18%	2%
Non-college	69%	27%	4%
College	86%	12%	2%
Republican	54%	44%	2%
Independent	73%	26%	2%
Democrat	91%	7%	2%
Progressive	95%	1%	4%

**Q13.** Sometimes, ballots from registered and legal voters are not counted because of small mistakes, like a missing signature on the inner envelope. Last year in Vermont, more than a thousand otherwise legal ballots were not counted due to small errors like these. Some states use a process called “curing” which means they flag ballots with defects and allow voters to fix the mistake so that their vote is counted and not just thrown away. Based on what you know about this issue, would you support or oppose Vermont giving voters a chance to cure their mail-in ballots if a legal voter made a small mistake? [IF CHOICE] And would you say you strongly or somewhat support/oppose?



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