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Survey of South African Voter Opinion

April 2025

Methodology

- Nationally representative survey of South African registered voters.
- Weighted to voters roll statistics on gender, age and province.
- Registered voters only.
- N = 3837.
- Margin of error: 2%.
- Fieldwork: 24 February – 11 March 2025.
- 20-minute questionnaire.



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Summary of Key Findings

Key Findings

- 7 in 10 voters believe South Africa is going in the wrong direction.
- Jobs/unemployment is the top issue for voters, followed by illegal immigration and corruption.
- 72% believe South Africa's economic condition is bad. 52% say their family's current living conditions are bad.
- Cyril Ramaphosa has the highest net favourability of all politicians tested (-2%) while Jacob Zuma has the lowest (-40%).
- The Government of National Unity (GNU) has the highest net favourability of all parties and coalitions tested (-1%) while the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) and uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) have the lowest (-34%).

Key Findings

- If an election was held now, the African National Congress (ANC) would win 41% of the national vote (43% when modelled for turnout) and the Democratic Alliance (DA) 26% (27% when modelled for turnout).
- The ANC wins a majority in the Eastern Cape (63%) and 45% in Gauteng, with both MK and EFF seeing a drop in support since the 2021 provincial elections.
- MK wins 42% in KZN, where the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) has gained since 2021 at the expense of the ANC and MK.
- The DA wins 46% in the Western Cape, dropping 9% since 2021, while the EFF has gained support.
- 78% of voters would be happy to see their municipality governed by a coalition. The preferred choice for most is a coalition centring on the ANC-DA-IFP. This is also the preference for the majority of ANC and DA voters, and for over a third of EFF and MK voters.

Key Findings

- 57% think the GNU is performing well, while 60% think it is performing better than the last ANC government.
- Of the government departments tested, five ministries run by opposition politicians ranked higher than the Presidency.
- Infrastructure is considered the biggest problem in municipalities, including Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, eThekweni, Nelson Mandela Bay and Cape Town. The state of public spaces is the top issue for voters in Johannesburg.
- 29% of voters consider the DA the most effective party at governing, followed by the ANC with 24%.
- 80% of voters want South Africa to have closer ties with Africa, while 59% also want closer ties each with China, the EU and the US.
- 64% are aware of President Trump's Executive Order in February cutting aid to South Africa. Of those, a majority (55%) think it is unjustified and 74% think it will be harmful to South Africa.

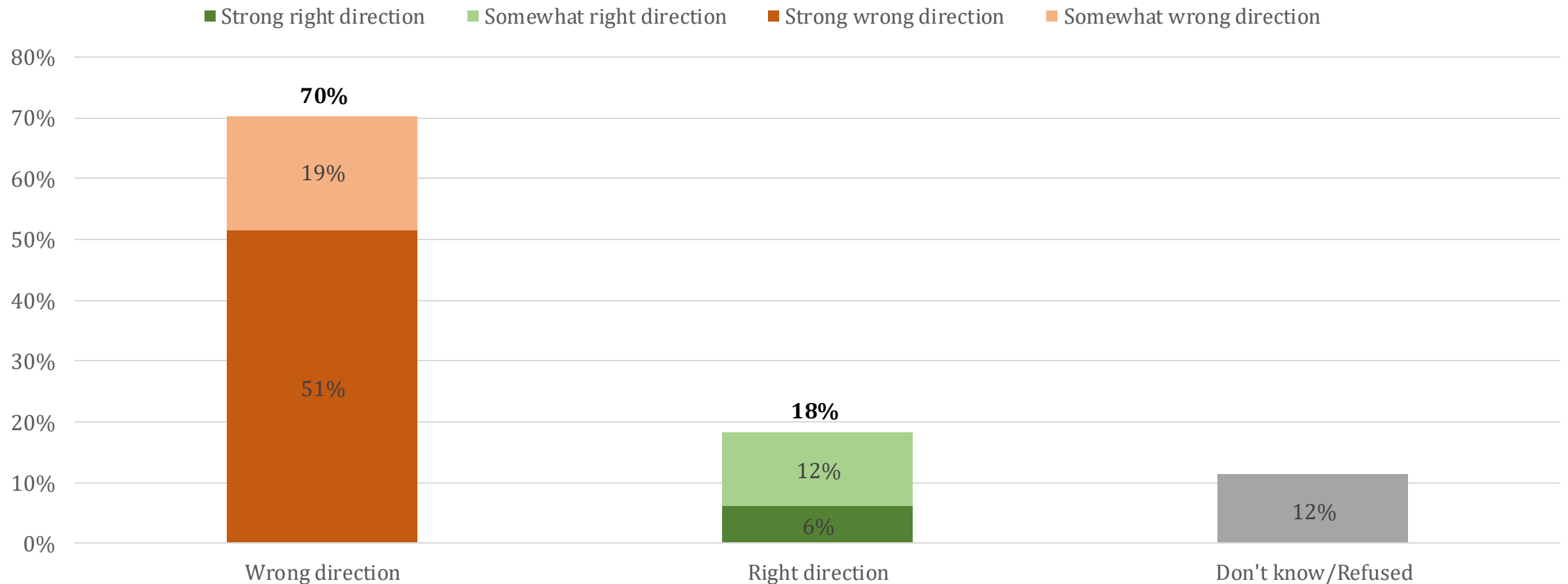


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Outlook and Issues

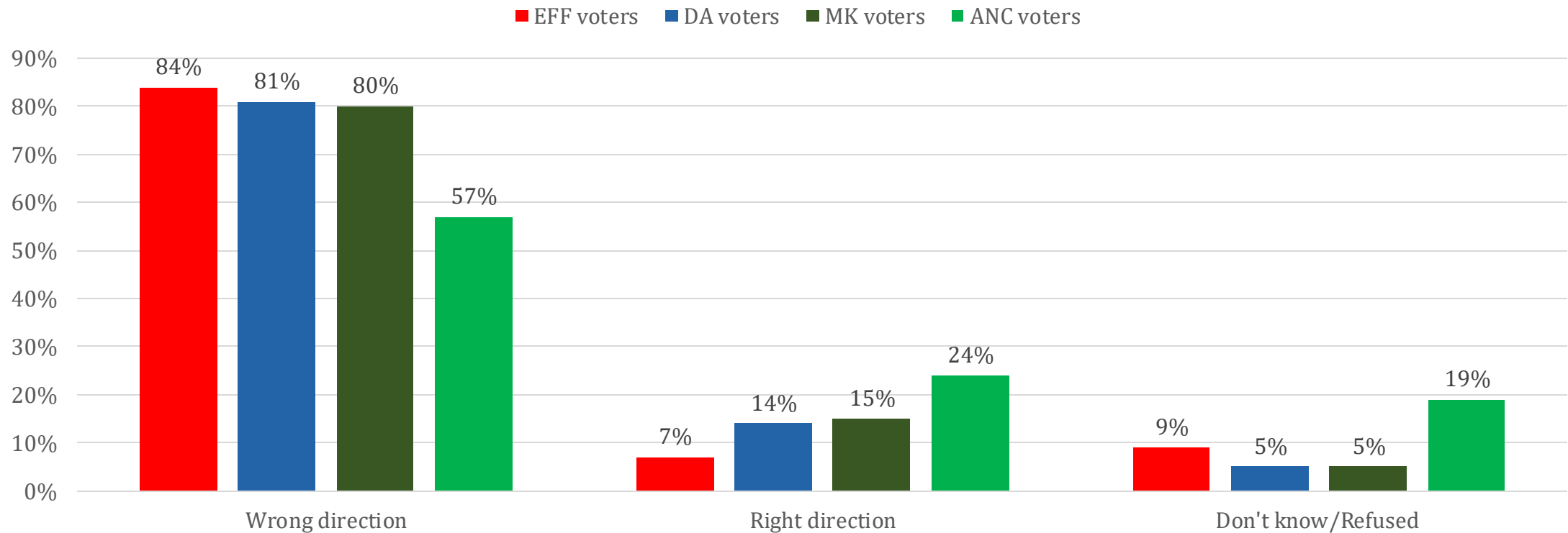
70% of voters believe SA is going in the wrong direction

In general, are things in South Africa going in the right direction or in the wrong direction?



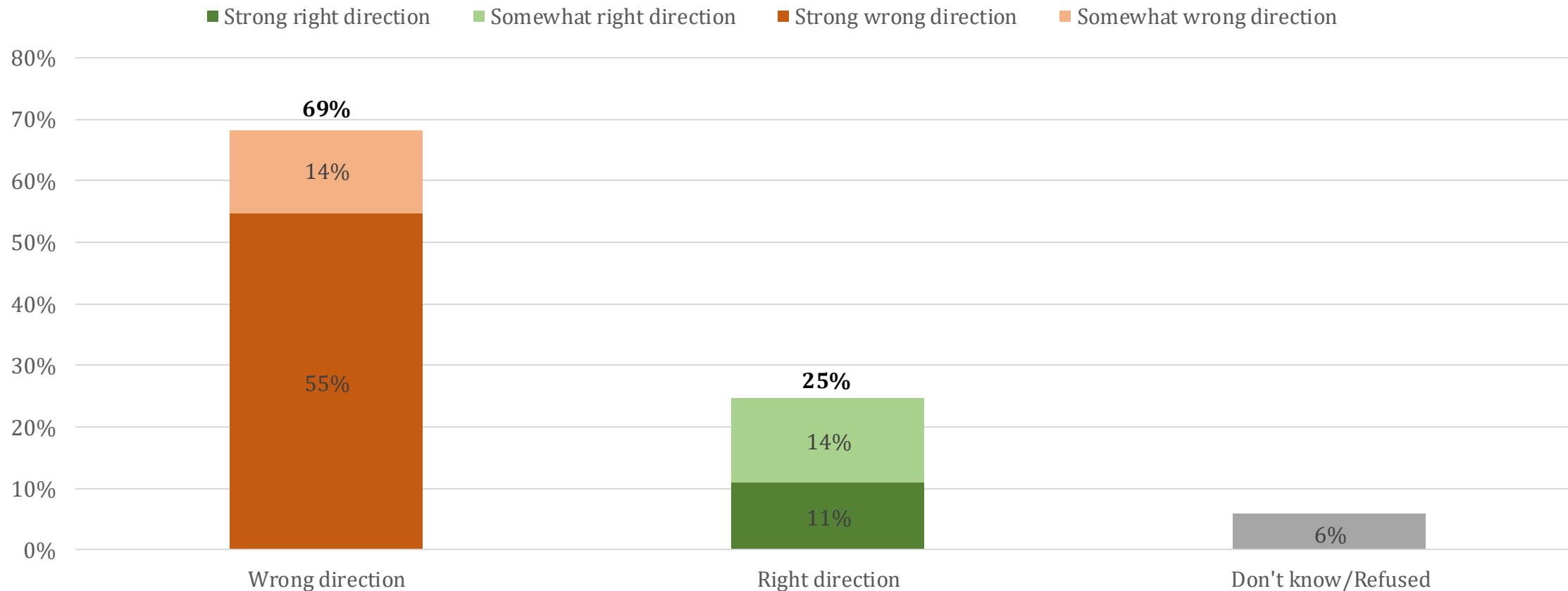
Only a quarter of ANC voters think SA is going in the right direction

In general, are things in South Africa going in the right direction or in the wrong direction?



69% of voters countrywide believe their municipality is going in the wrong direction

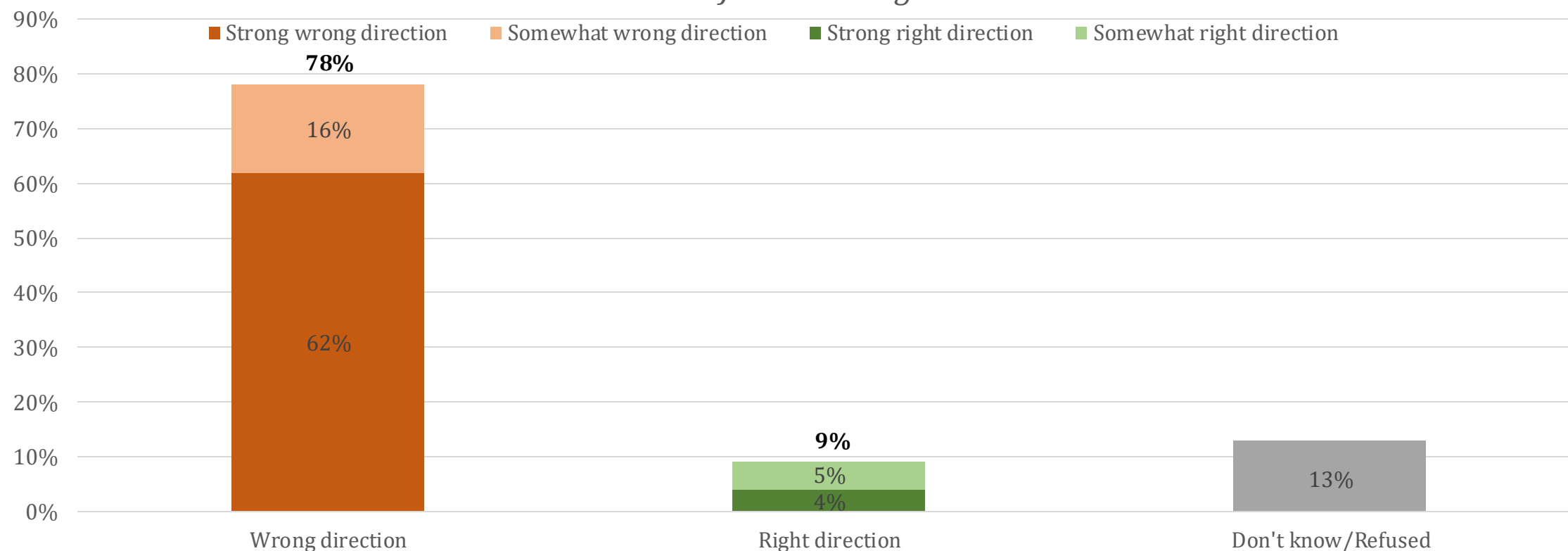
In general, are things in your municipality going in the right direction or in the wrong direction?



78% of Johannesburg voters think the metro is going in the wrong direction

In general, are things in your municipality going in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

Johannesburg

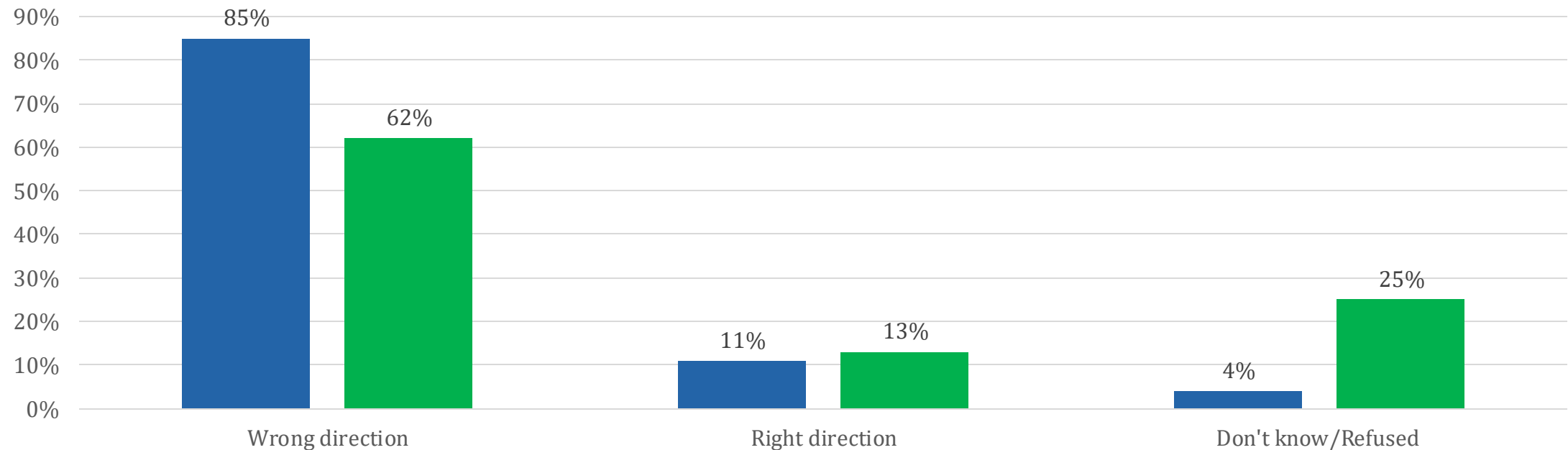


A majority of DA and ANC voters in Johannesburg think the metro is heading in the wrong direction

In general, are things in your municipality going in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

Johannesburg

■ DA voters ■ ANC voters

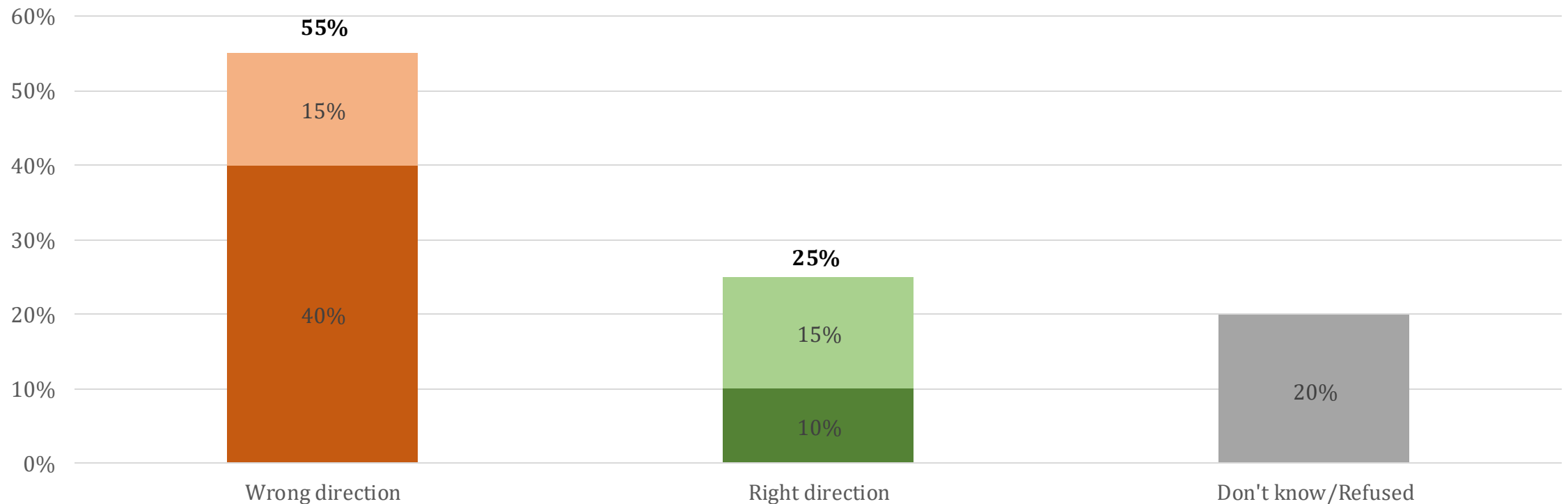


55% of Tshwane voters think the metro is going in the wrong direction

In general, are things in your municipality going in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

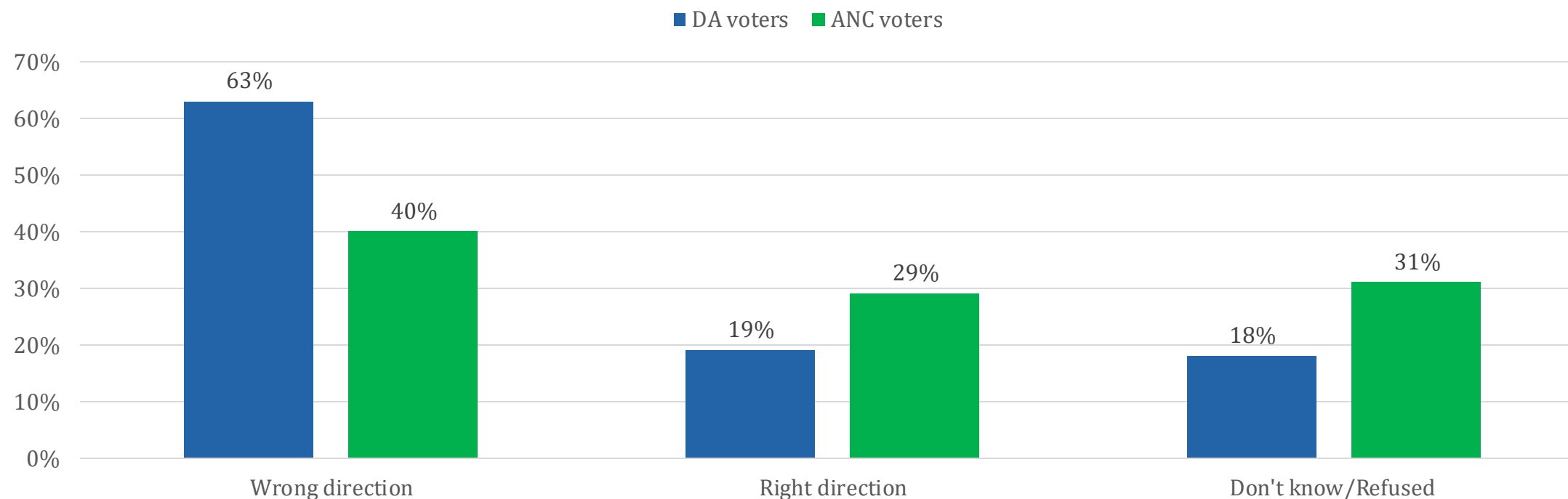
Tshwane

■ Strong right direction
 ■ Somewhat right direction
 ■ Strong wrong direction
 ■ Somewhat wrong direction



Only 19% of DA and 29% of ANC voters in Tshwane think the metro is going in the right direction

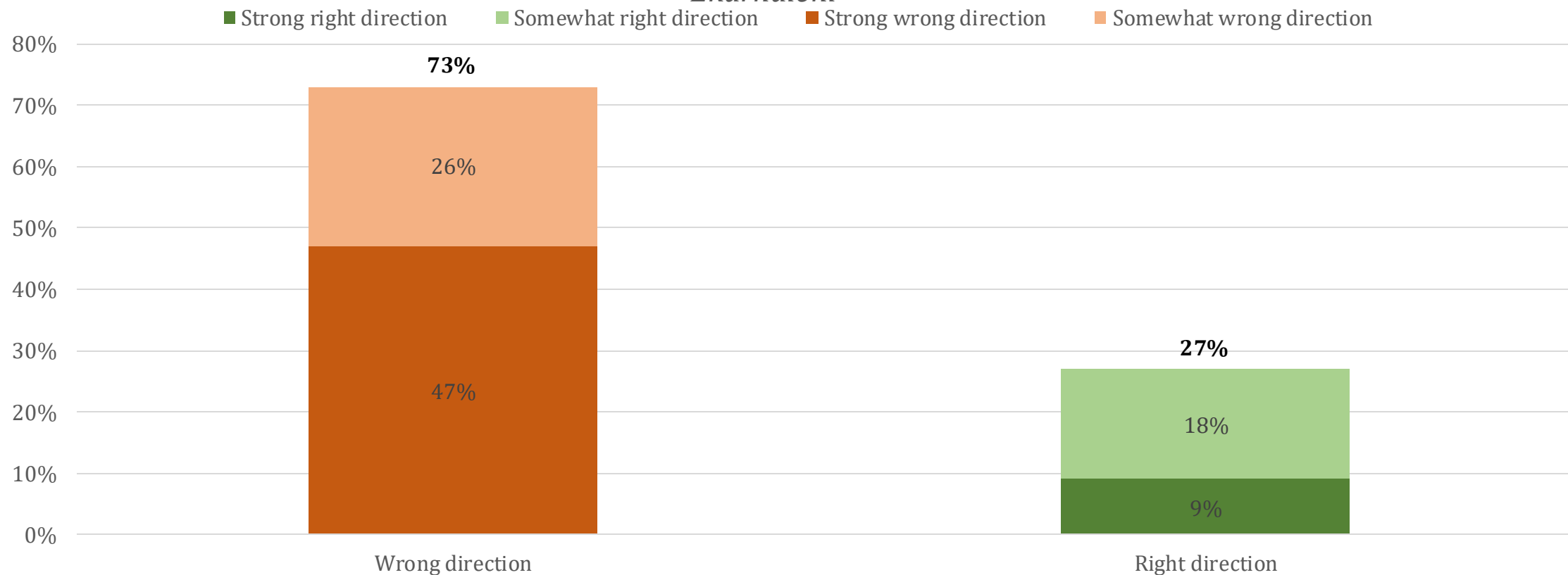
In general, are things in your municipality going in the right direction or in the wrong direction?
Tshwane



73% of Ekurhuleni voters believe the metro is going in the wrong direction

In general, are things in your municipality going in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

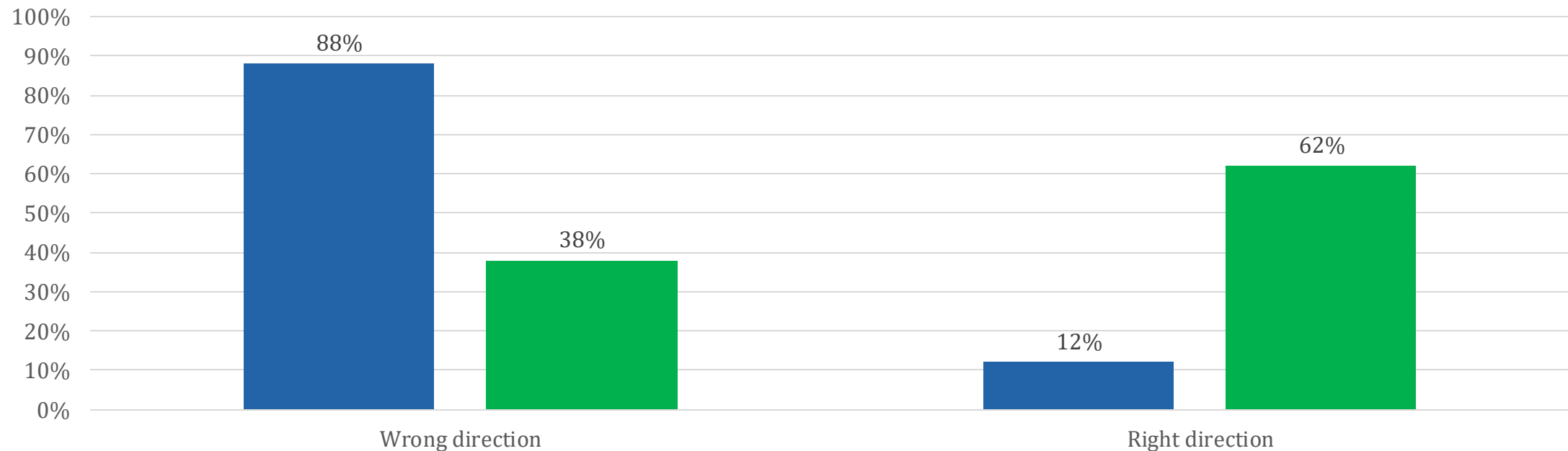
Ekurhuleni



In Ekurhuleni, the majority of DA voters think the metro is going in the wrong direction, while the majority of ANC voters think it is going in the right direction

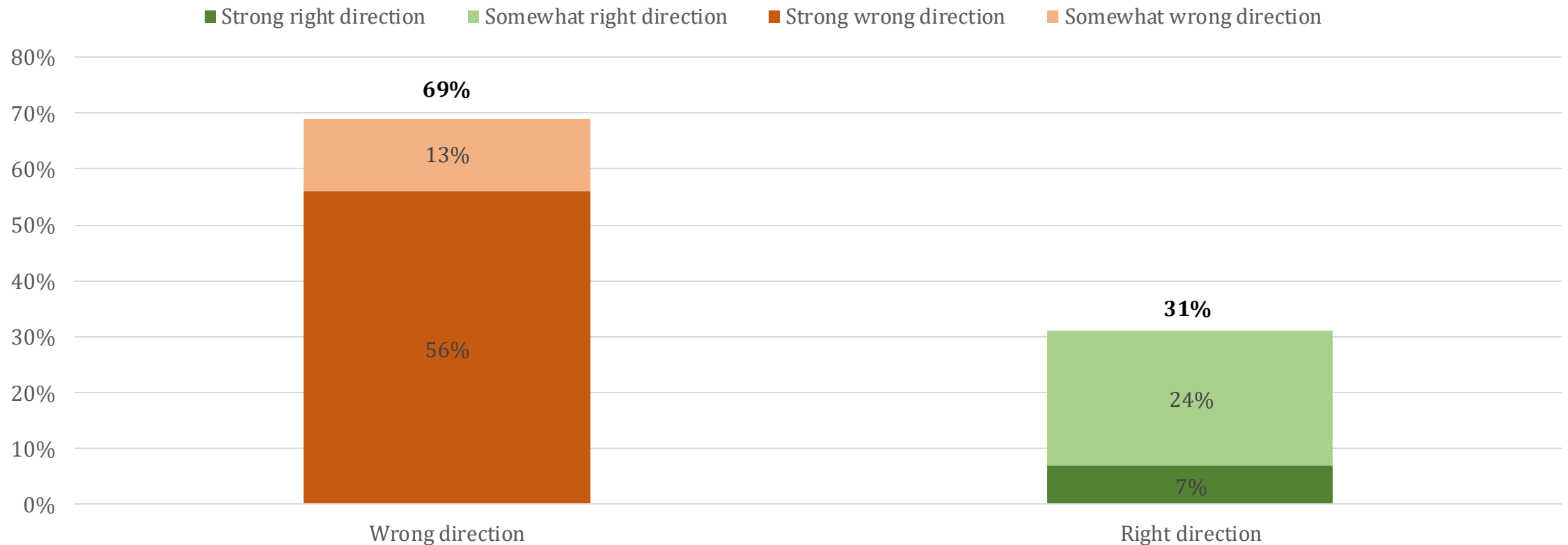
In general, are things in your municipality going in the right direction or in the wrong direction?
Ekurhuleni

■ DA voters ■ ANC voters



69% of eThekweni voters believe the metro is going in the wrong direction

In general, are things in your municipality going in the right direction or in the wrong direction?
eThekweni

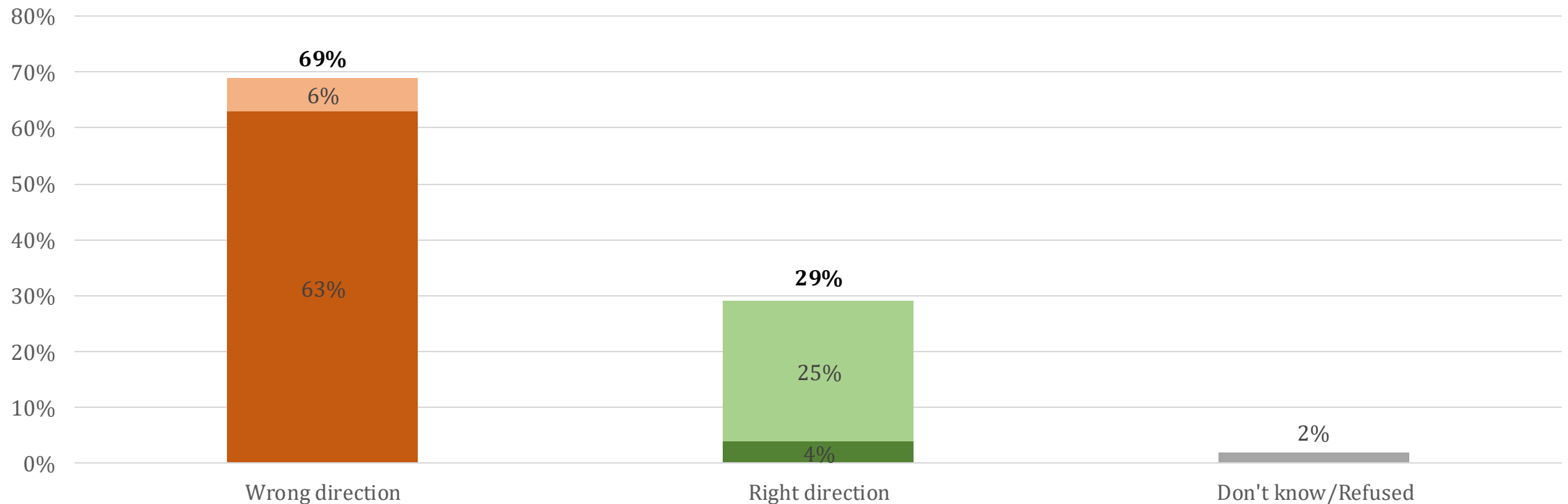


69% of NMB voters think the metro is going in the wrong direction

In general, are things in your municipality going in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

Nelson Mandela Bay

■ Strong right direction ■ Somewhat right direction ■ Strong wrong direction ■ Somewhat wrong direction

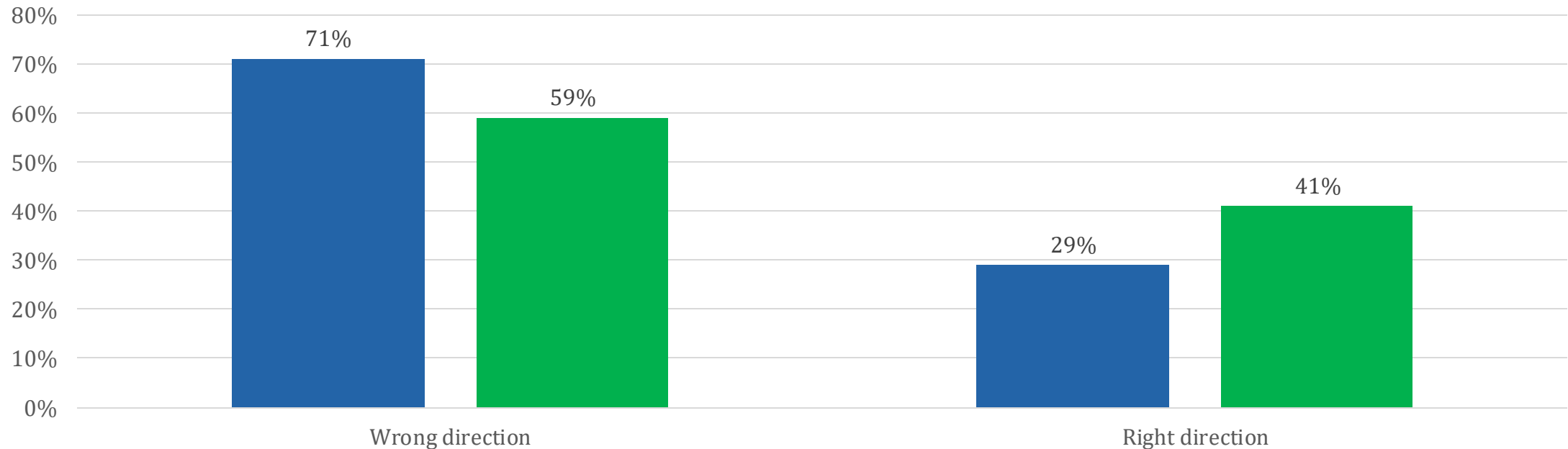


In NMB, the majority of both DA and ANC voters think the metro is going in the wrong direction

In general, are things in your municipality going in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

Nelson Mandela Bay

■ DA voters ■ ANC voters

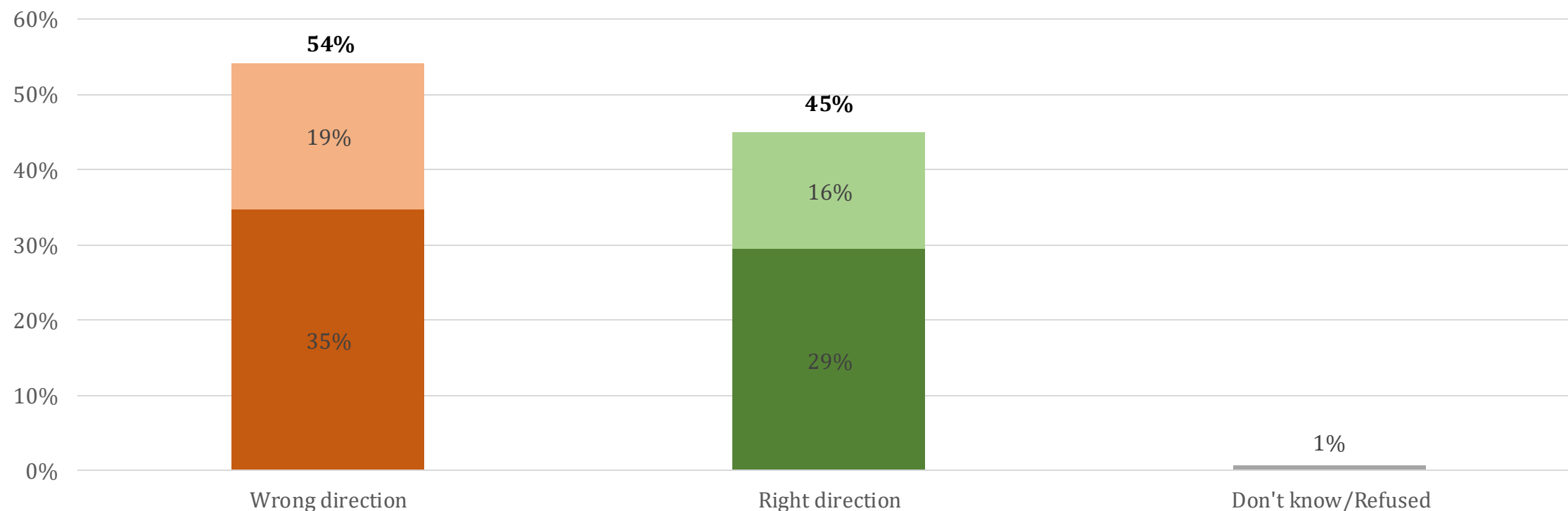


54% of Cape Town voters believe the metro is going in the wrong direction

In general, are things in your municipality going in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

City of Cape Town

■ Strong right direction
 ■ Somewhat right direction
 ■ Strong wrong direction
 ■ Somewhat wrong direction

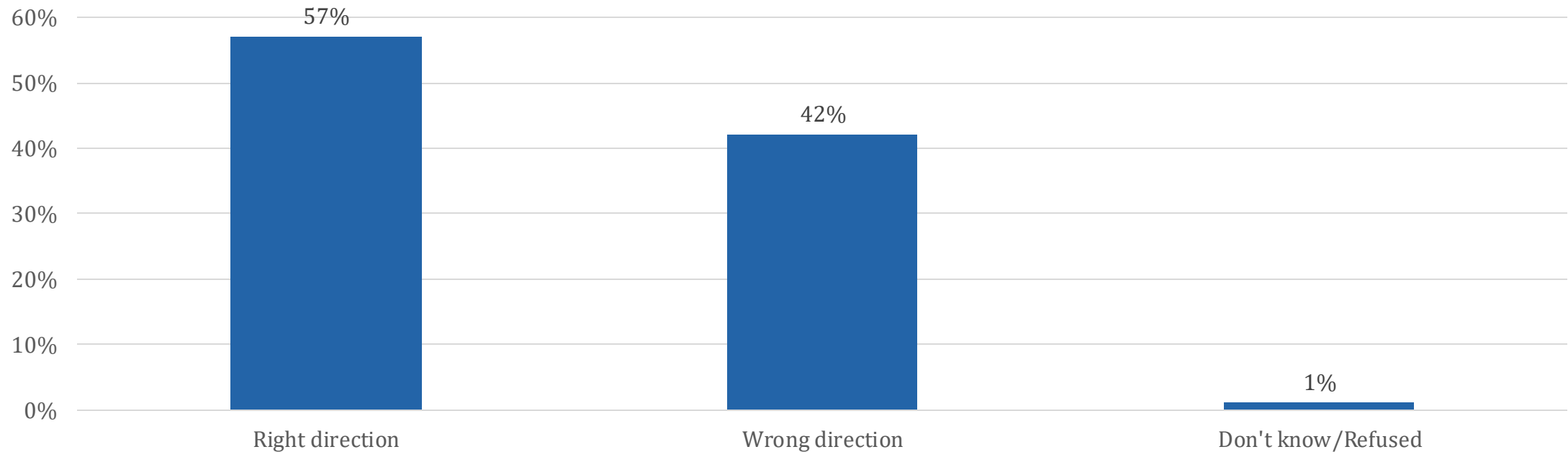


In Cape Town, the majority of the DA voters think the metro is going in the right direction

In general, are things in your municipality going in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

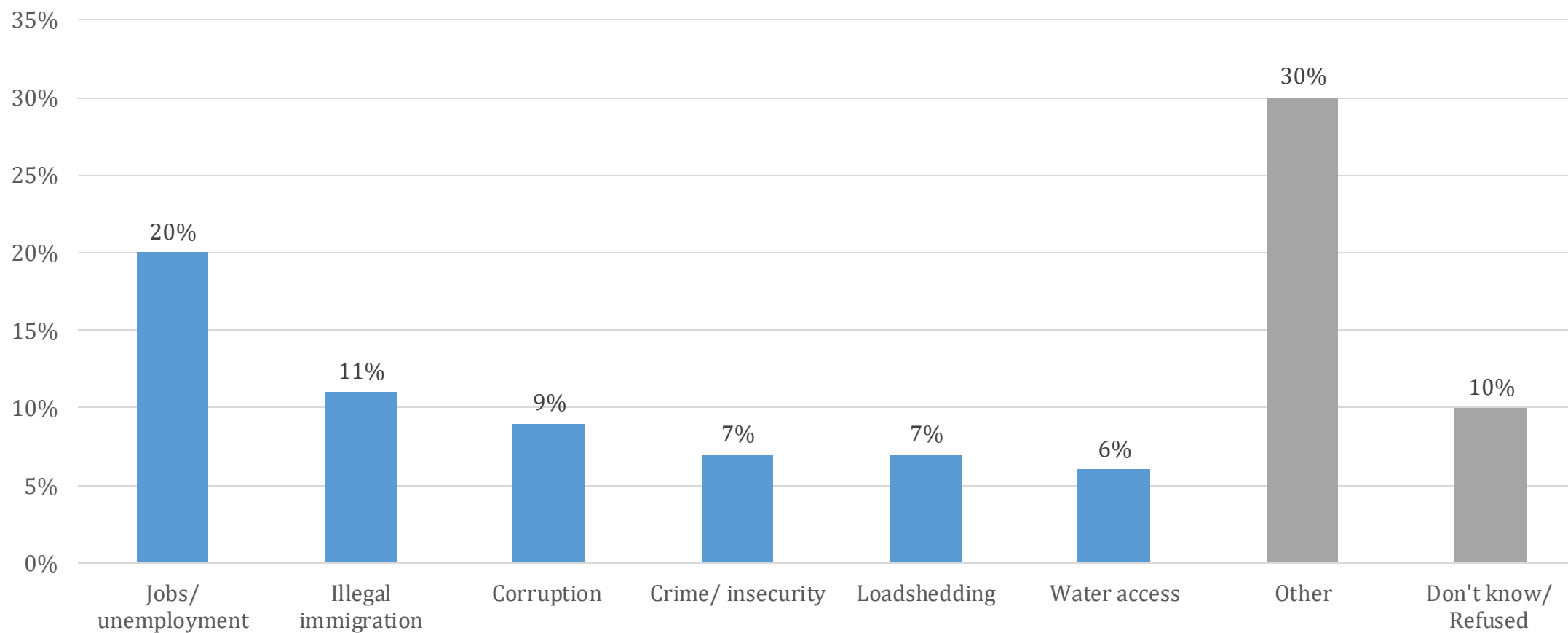
City of Cape Town

■ DA voters



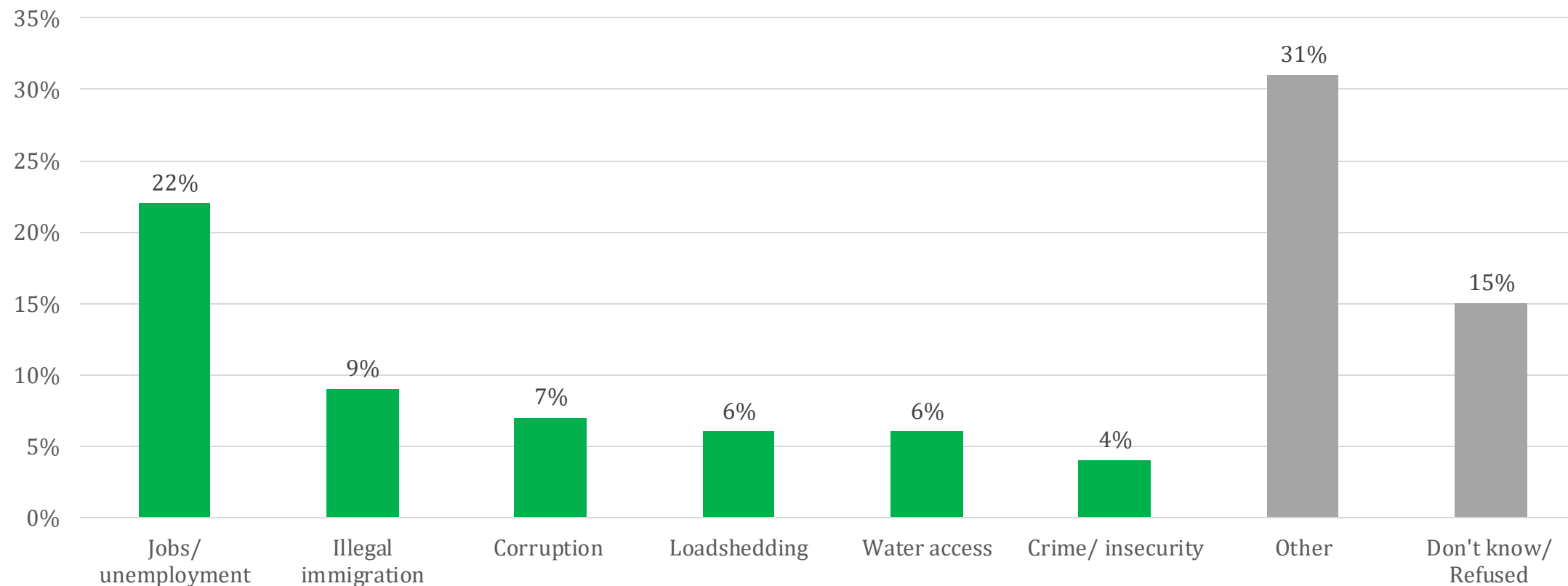
Of the top six issues identified by voters, unemployment is the most important

What issues do you think should be the top priority for the national government?



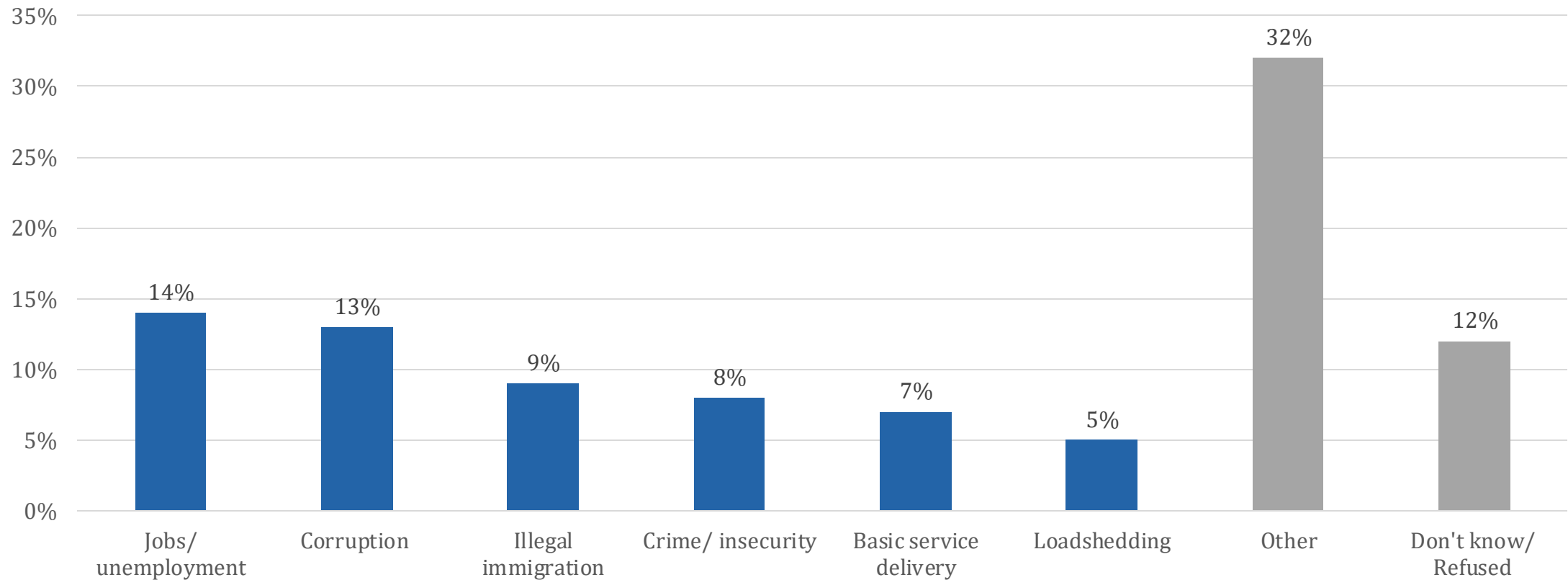
Of the top six issues identified by ANC voters, unemployment is the most important

What issues do you think should be the top priority for the national government?
ANC voters



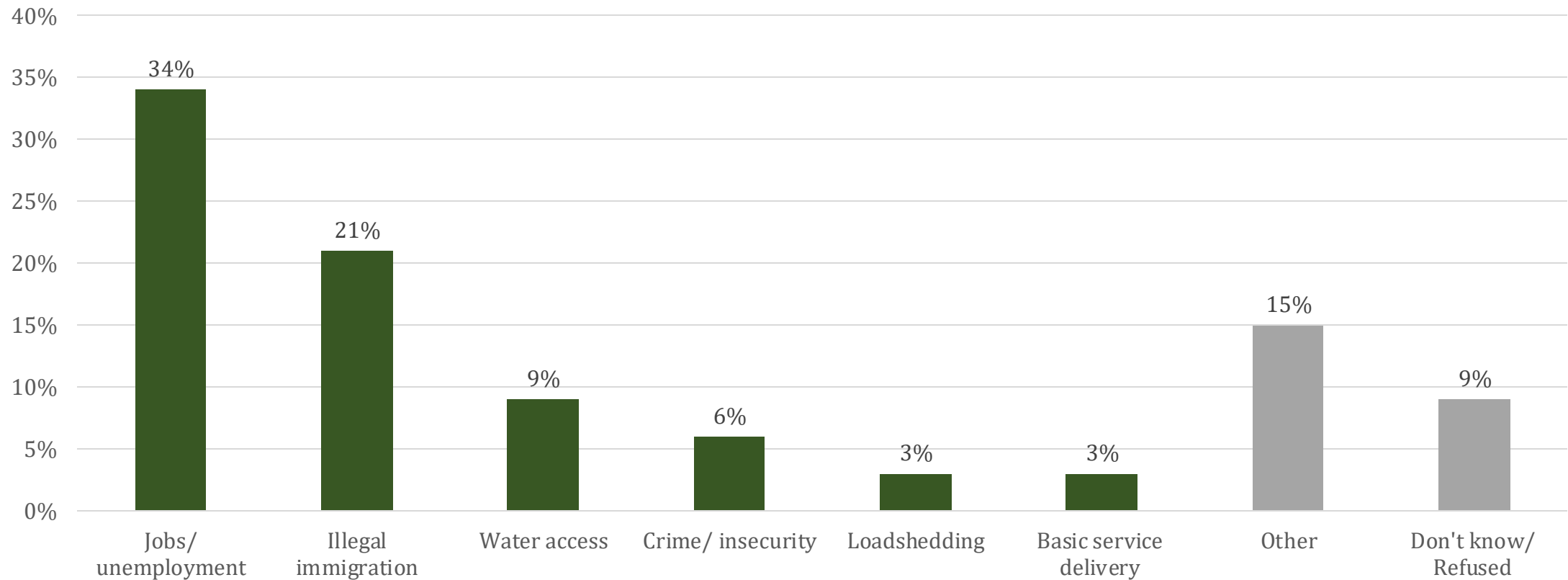
Jobs/unemployment and corruption are the top issues for DA voters

What issues do you think should be the top priority for the national government?
DA voters



Jobs/unemployment and illegal immigration are the top issues for MK voters

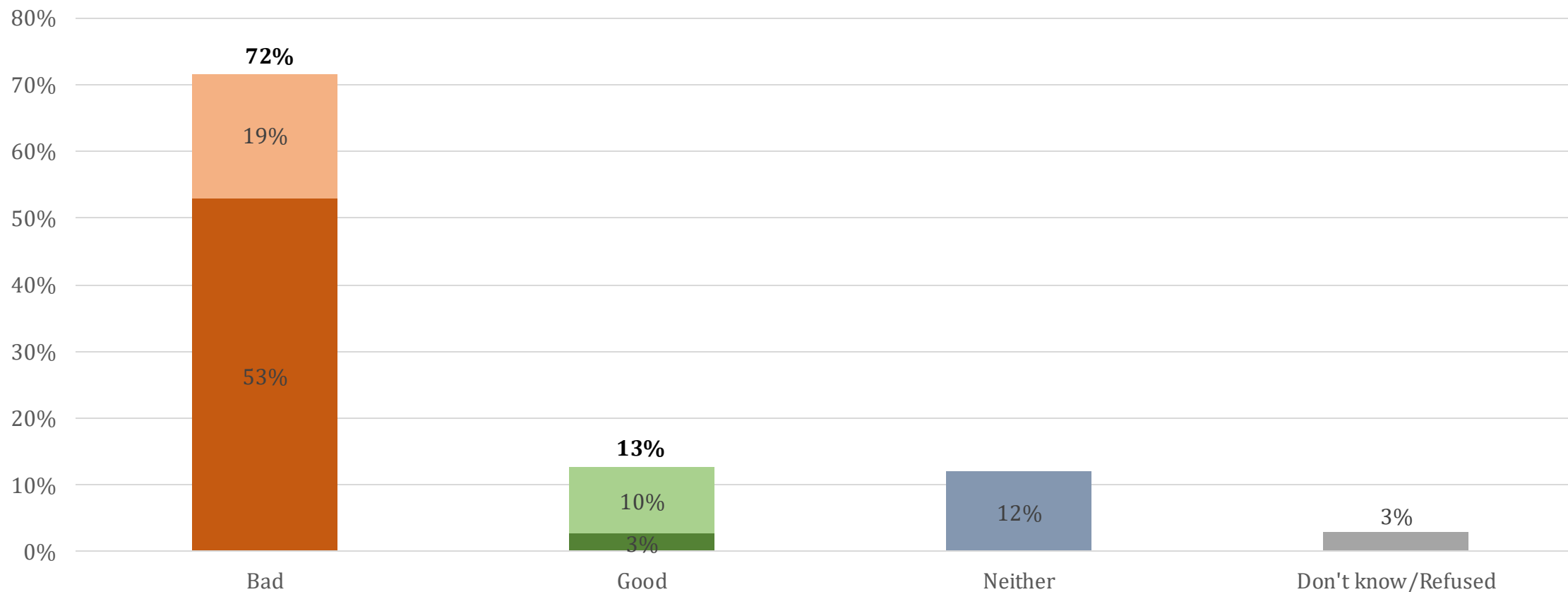
What issues do you think should be the top priority for the national government?
MK voters



72% believe SA's economic condition is bad; 53% believe it is "very bad"

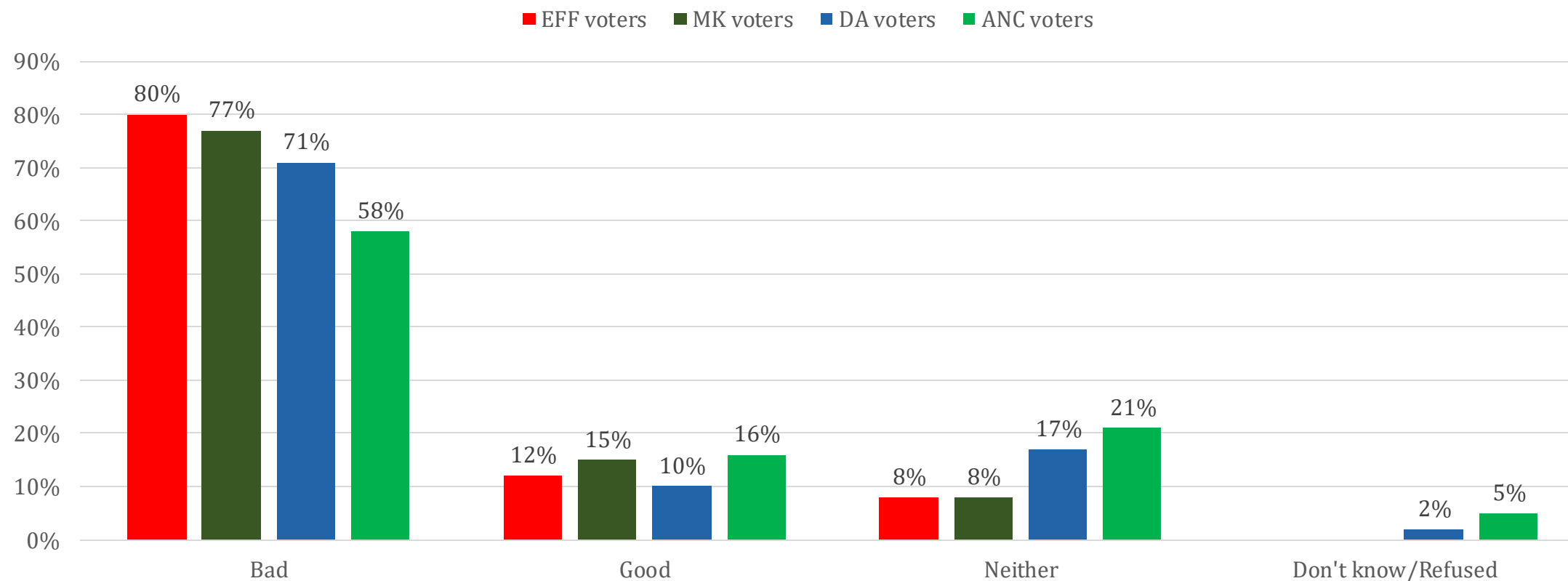
In general, how would you describe South Africa's current economic condition?

Very good Fairly good Very bad Fairly bad



A majority of voters of the four major parties describe SA's current economic condition as bad

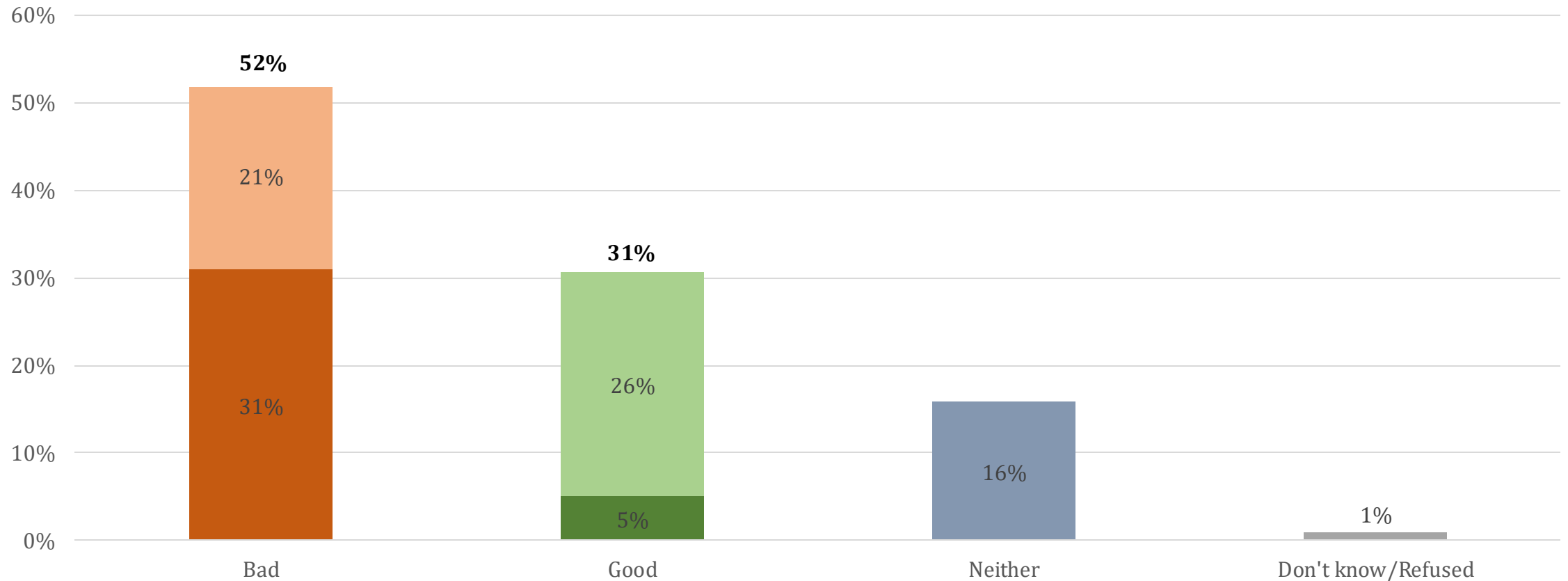
In general, how would you describe South Africa's current economic condition?



52% of voters describe their family's current living conditions as bad

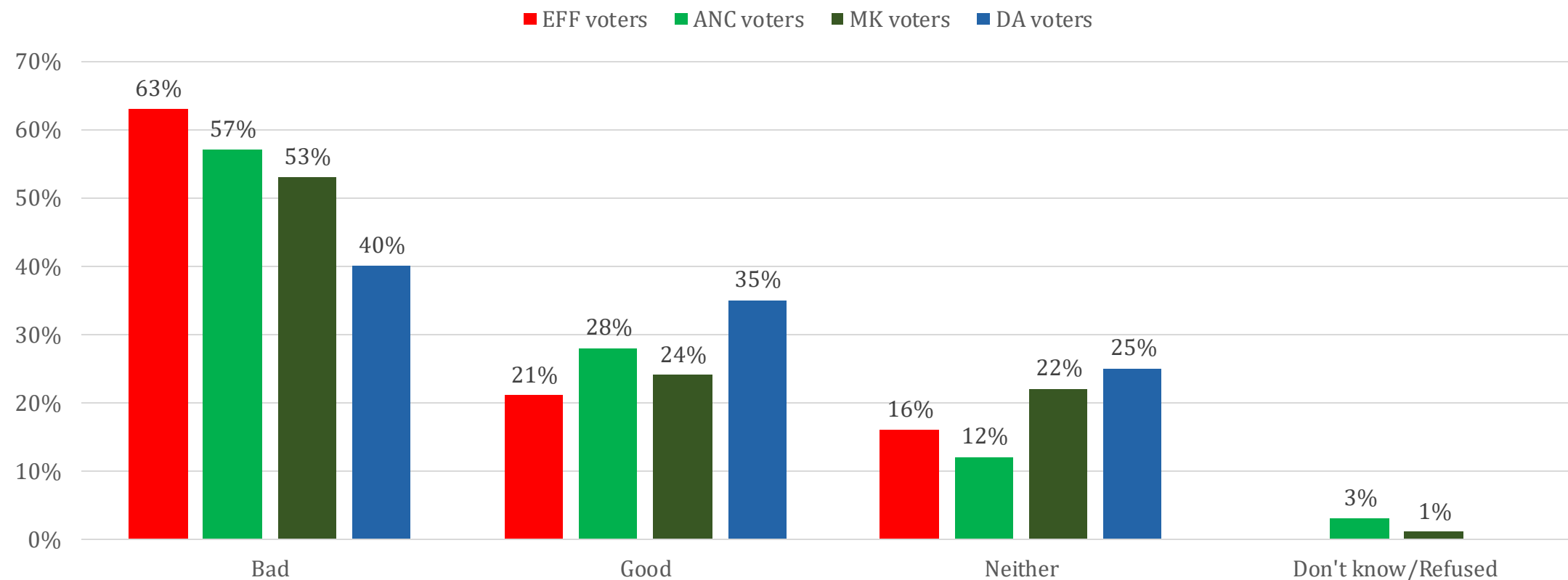
In general, how would you describe you and family's current living conditions?

Very good Fairly good Very bad Fairly bad



A majority of ANC, EFF and MK voters describe their living conditions as bad

In general, how would you describe you and family's current living conditions?



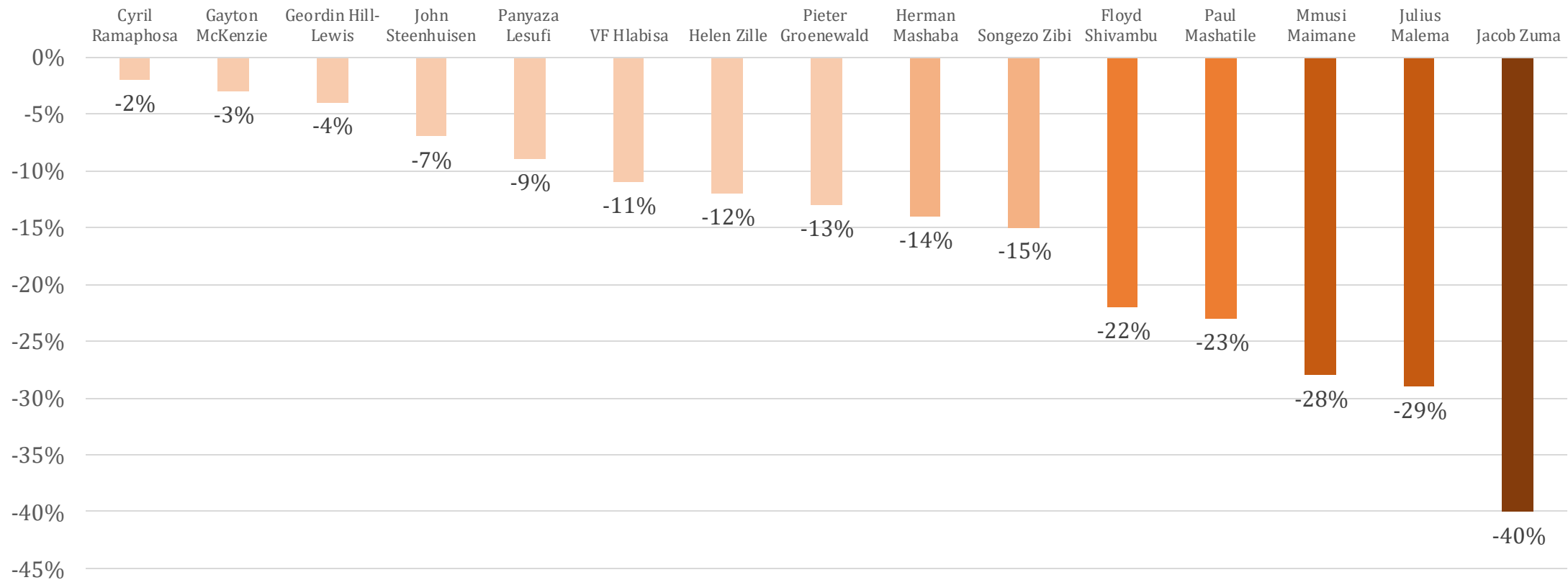


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Favourabilities

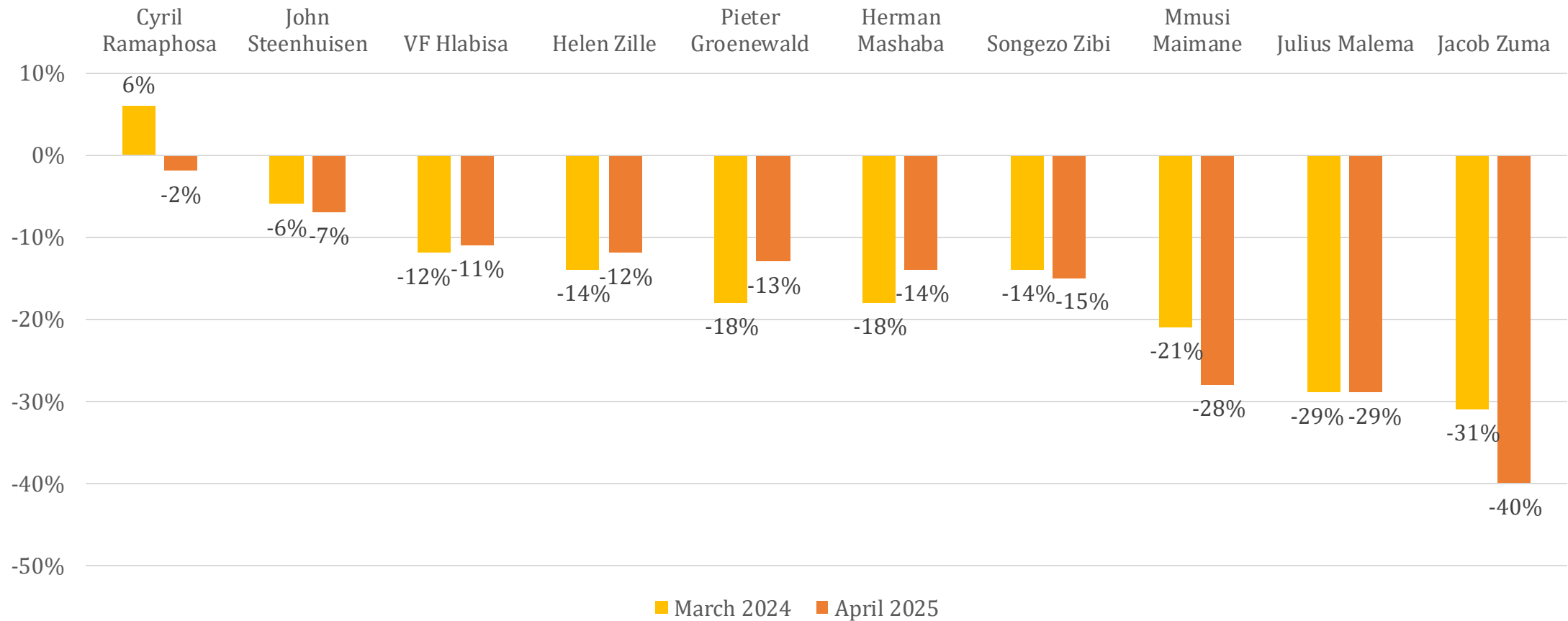
No SA politician has a positive net favourability. Paul Mashatile is among the least favourable

Net favourability: Politicians



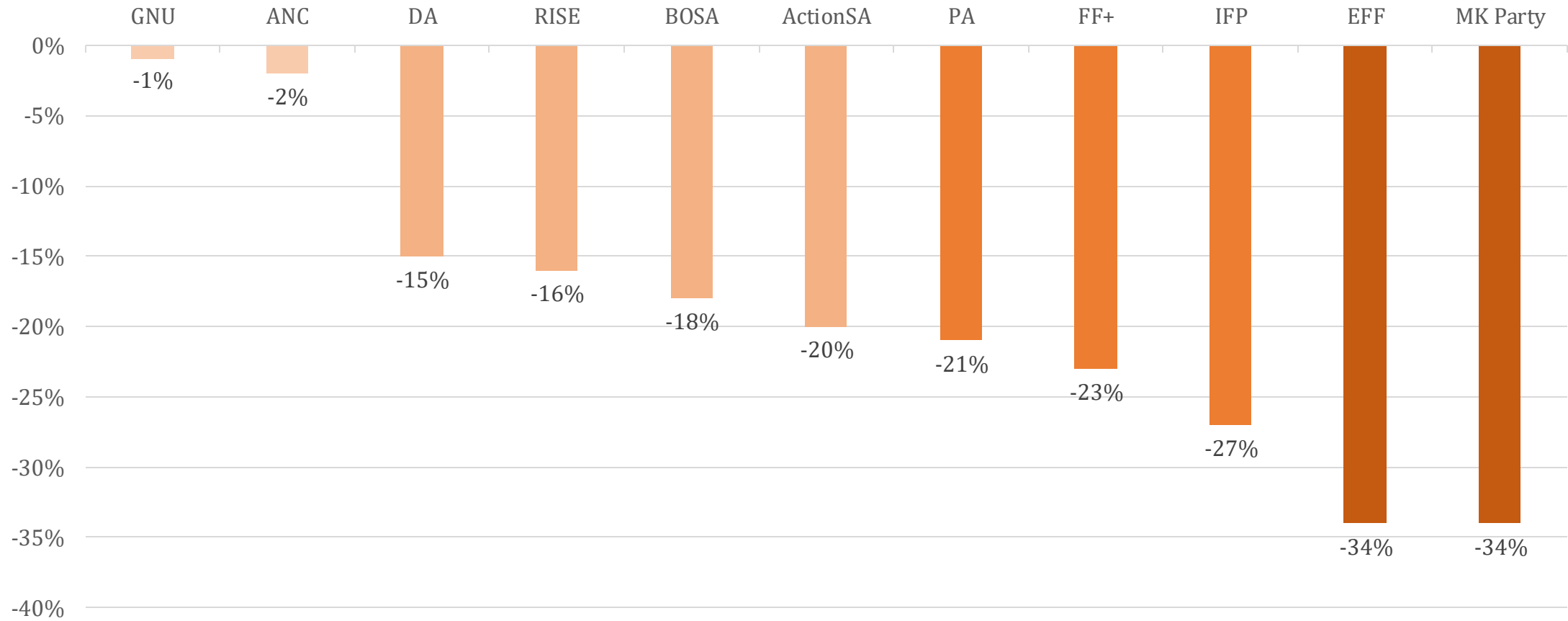
Cyril Ramaphosa's net favourability has dropped 8% since March 2024, while Jacob Zuma's has dropped 9%

Net favourability: Politicians



The GNU has the highest net favourability among all political groupings tested

Net favourabilities: Parties and coalitions



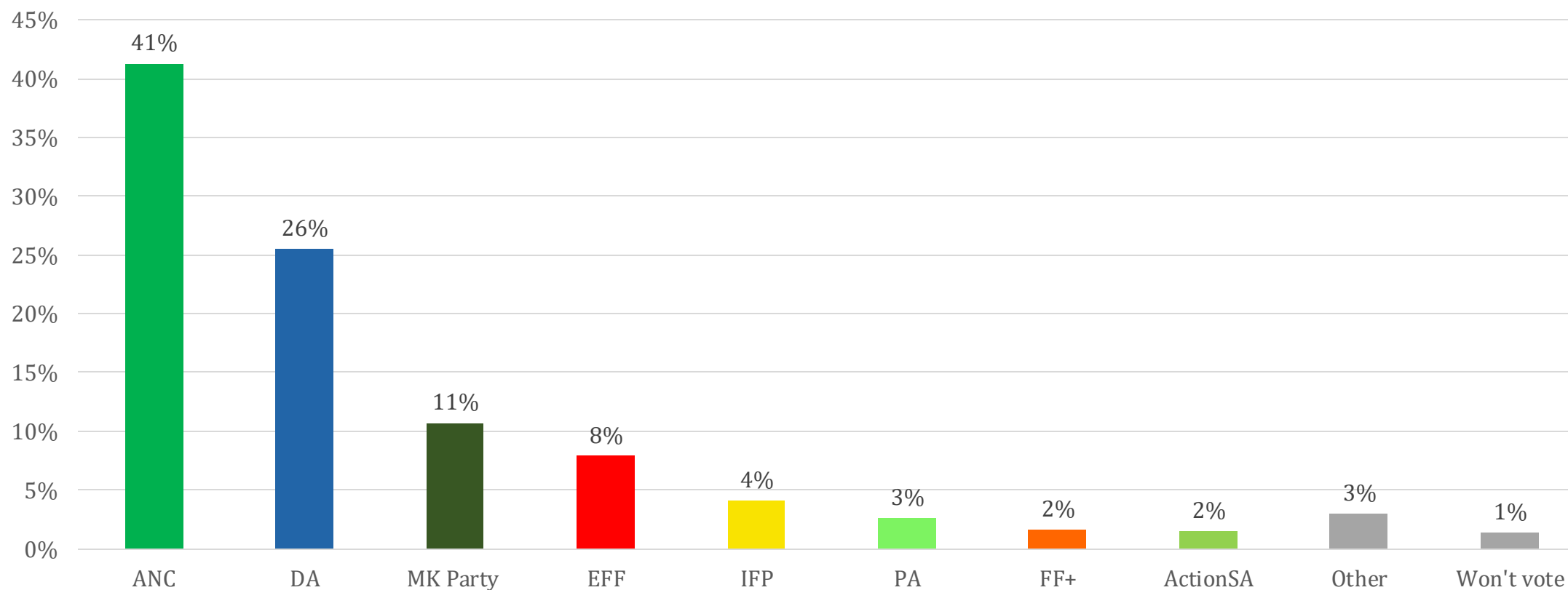


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Voting Intention

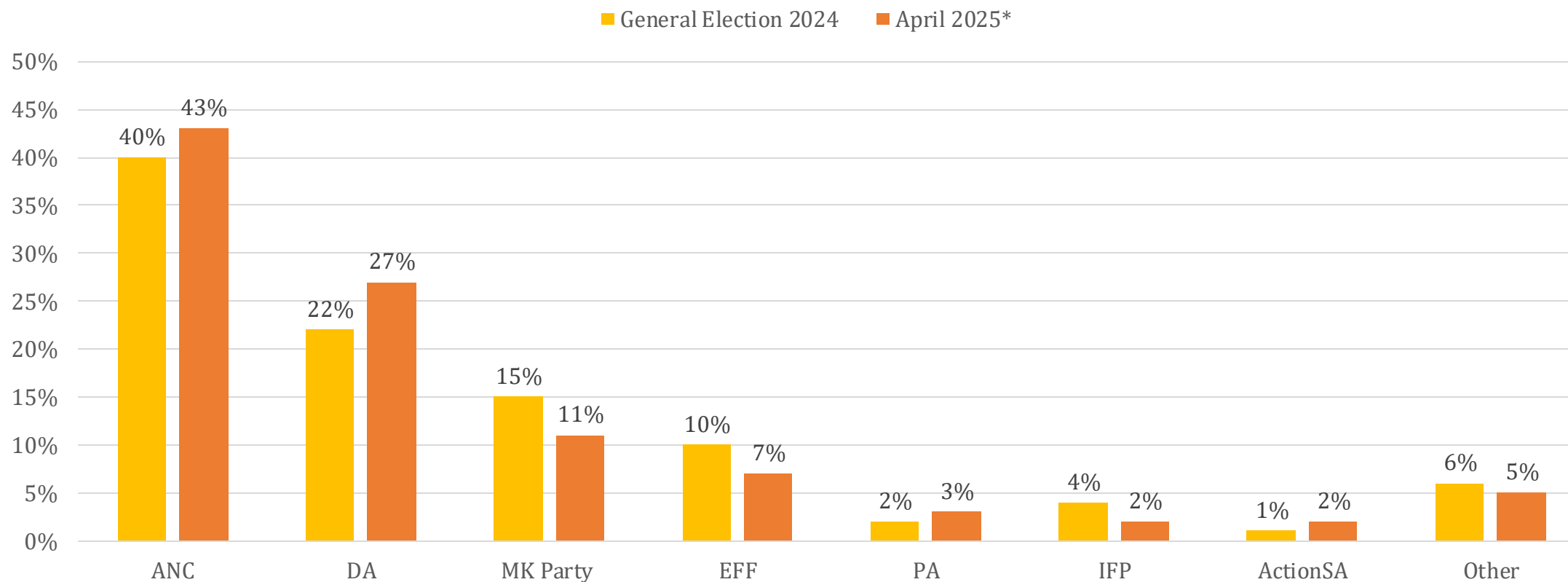
On straight voting intention, the ANC wins 41% of the national vote, with the DA on 26%

If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?



Modelled for likely voter turnout (at 58%), the ANC wins 43% of the vote, up 3% from 2024. The DA wins 27%, up 5%

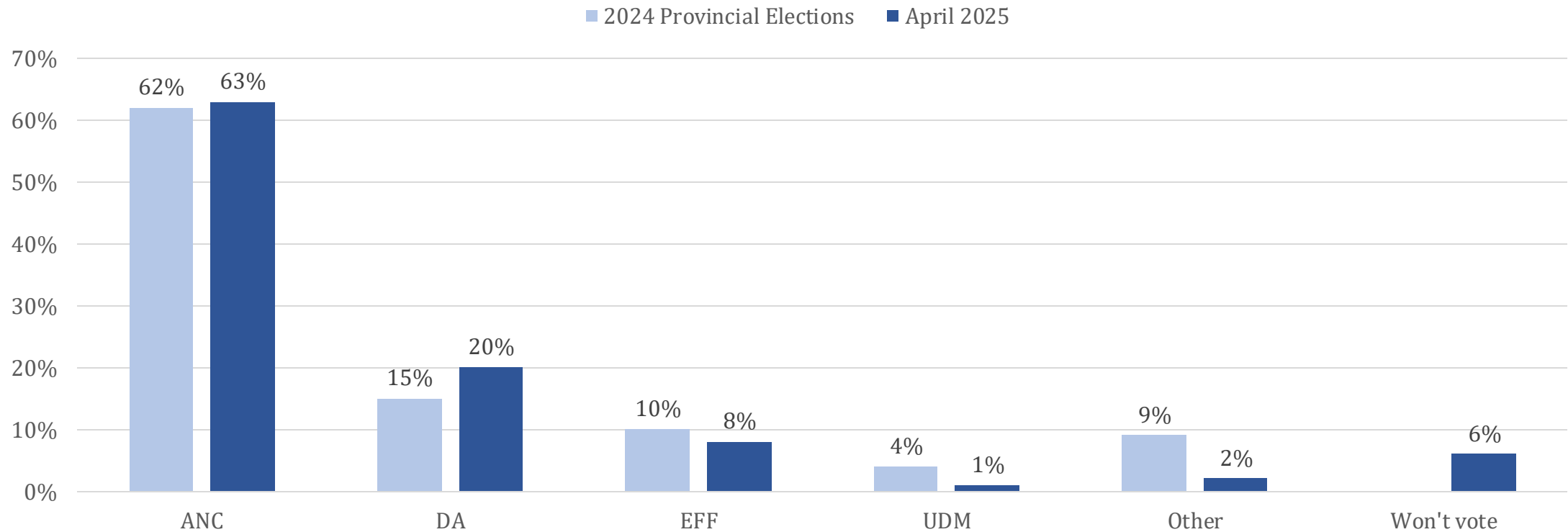
If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?



**Modelled for 58% likely voter turnout*

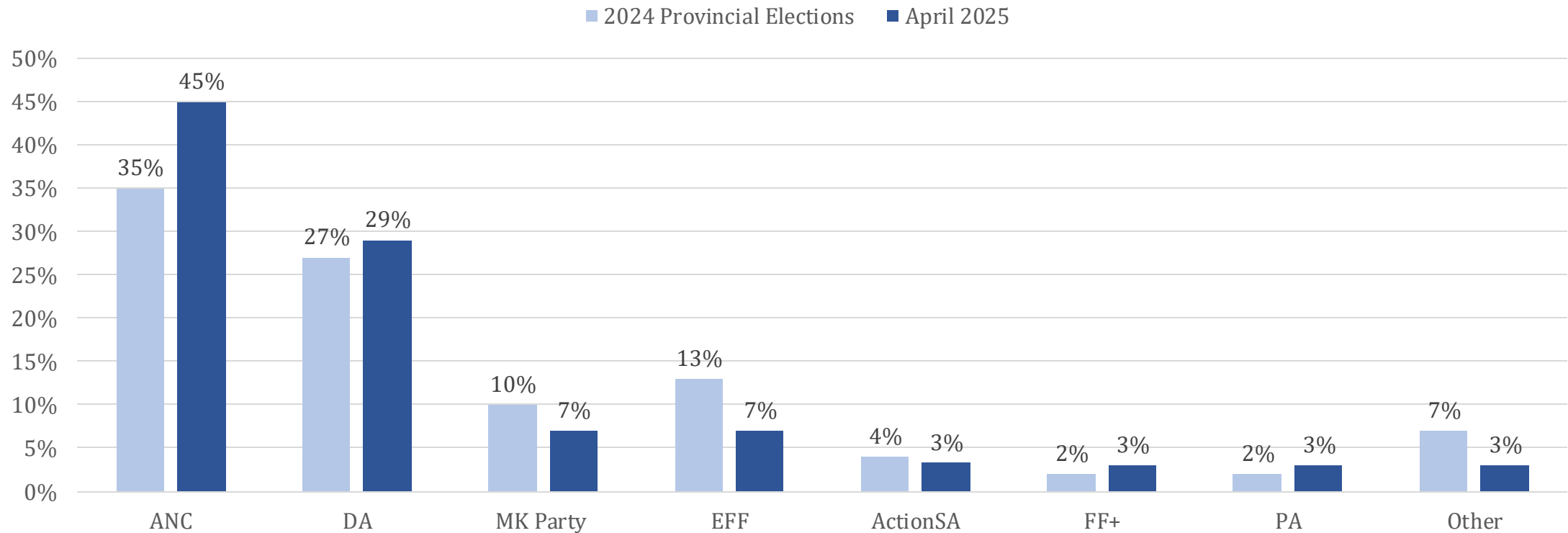
The ANC wins 63% of the vote in the Eastern Cape. The DA gains 5%

If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
Eastern Cape



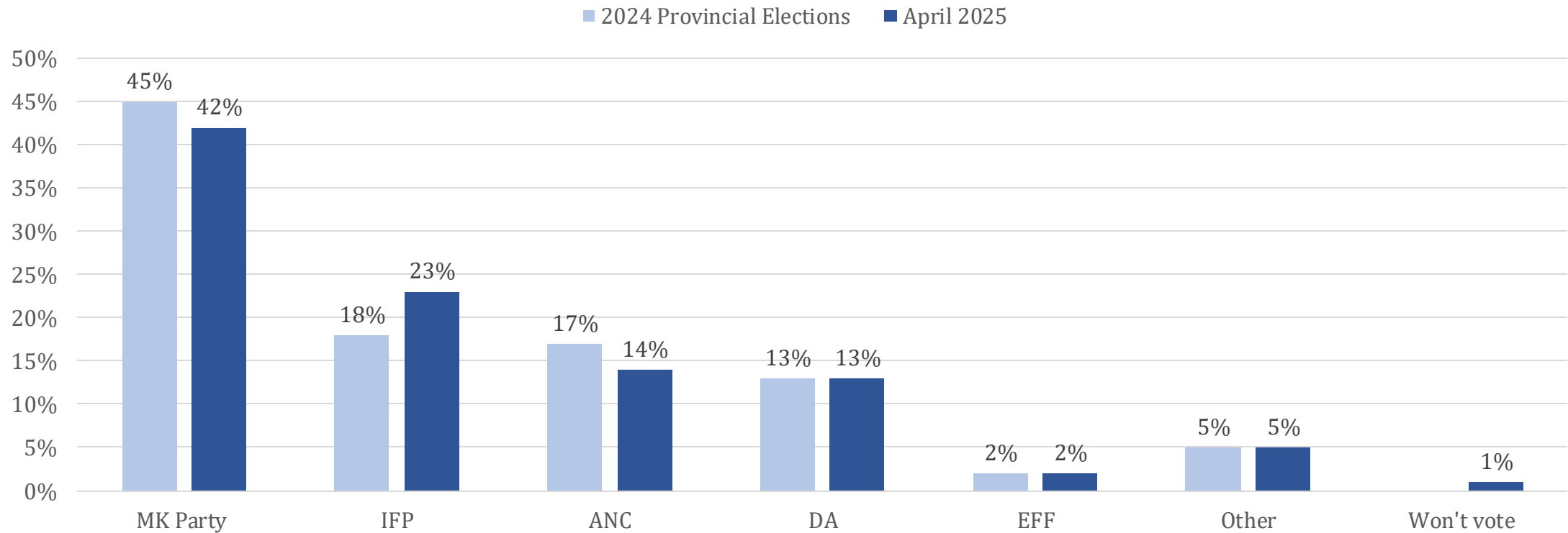
The ANC gains in Gauteng at the expense of MK and the EFF

If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
Gauteng



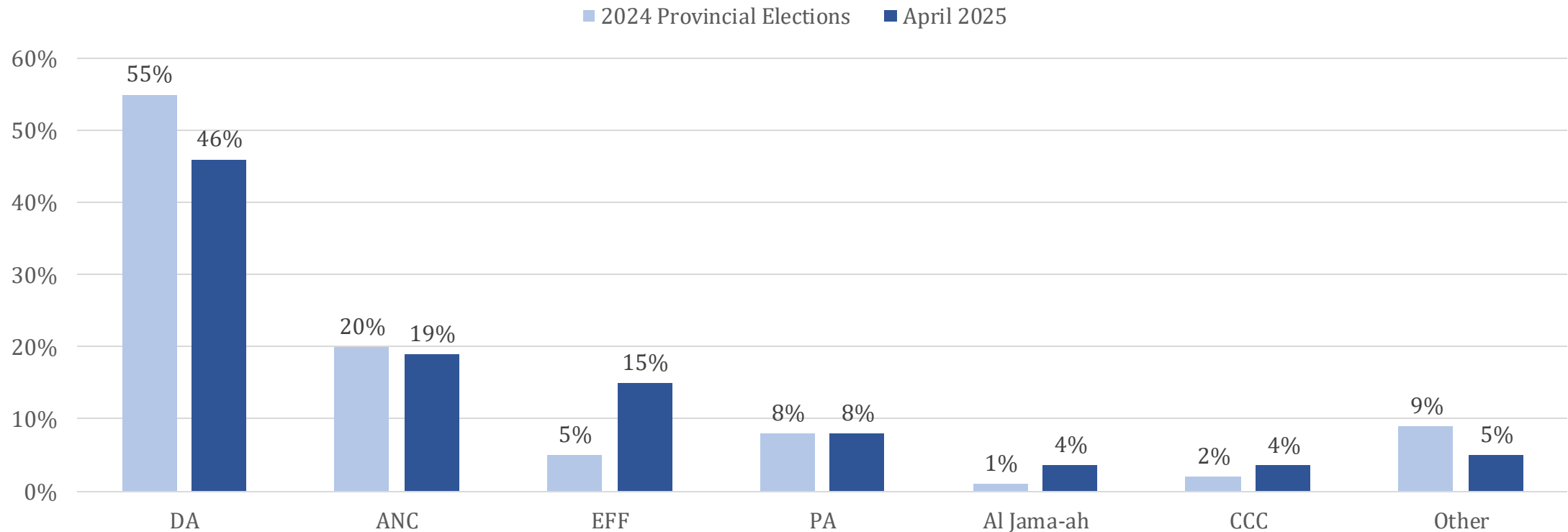
The IFP gains in KZN at the expense of the ANC and MK

If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
KZN



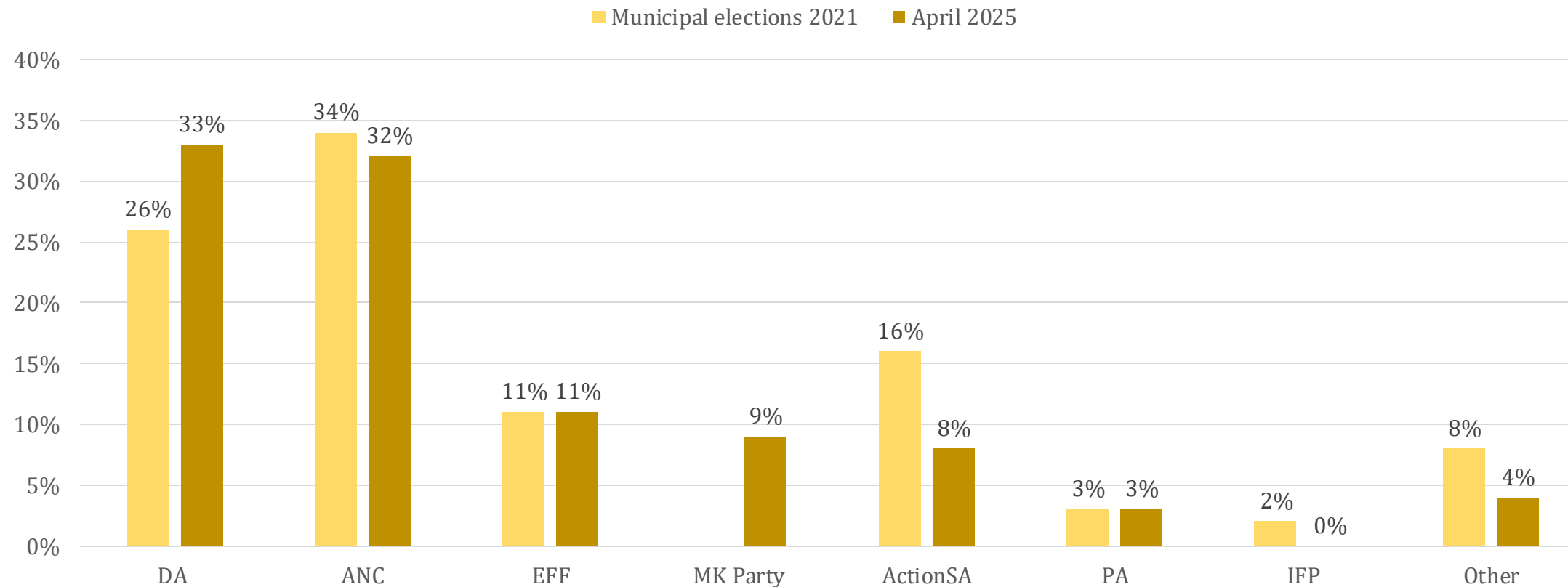
The DA's support erodes in the Western Cape, with EFF up

If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
Western Cape



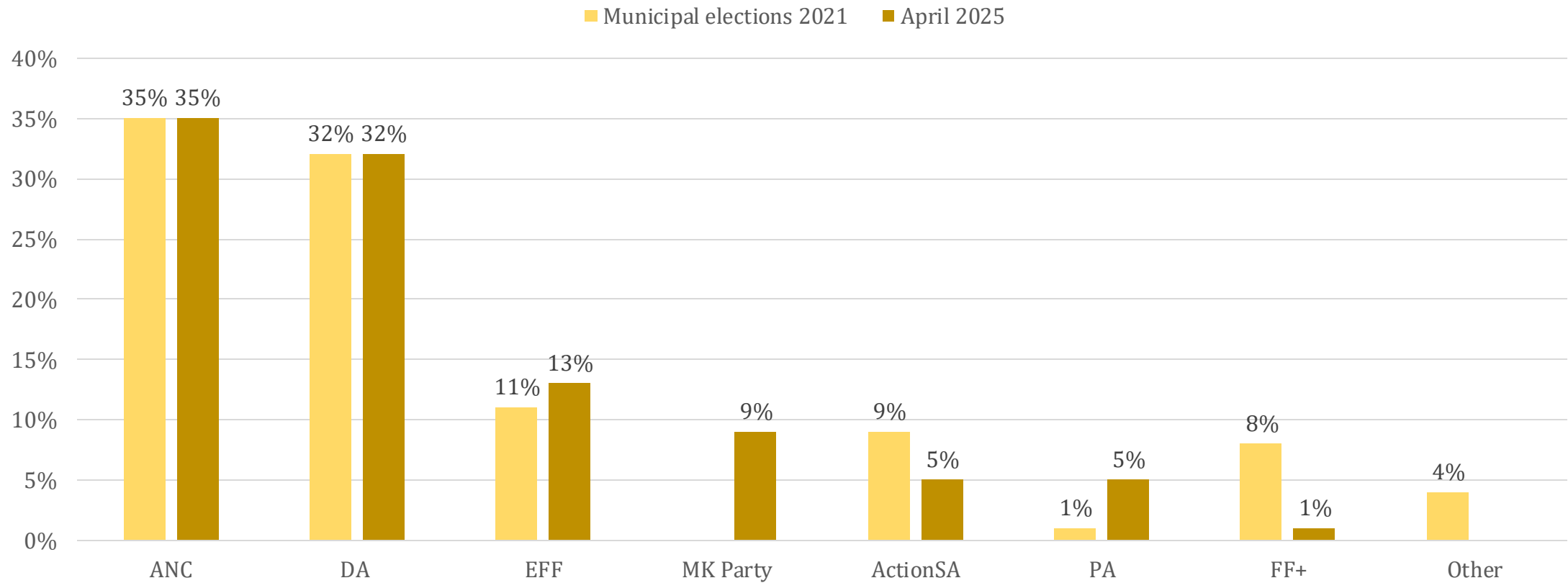
Since the 2021 municipal elections, the DA has gained 7% in Johannesburg with 33% of the vote. ActionSA's vote share has halved

If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
Johannesburg



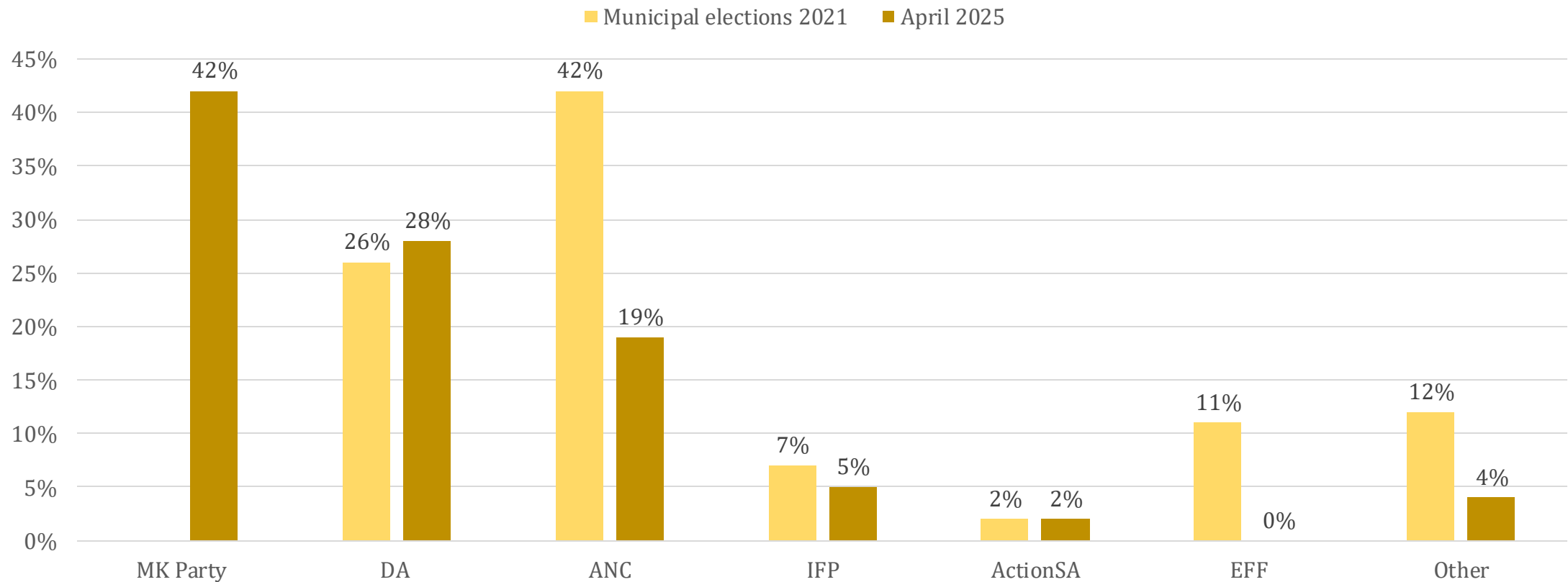
The ANC and the DA's share of the vote has remained constant in Tshwane between 2021 and 2025. FF+ has dropped 7% and ActionSA 4%

If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
Tshwane



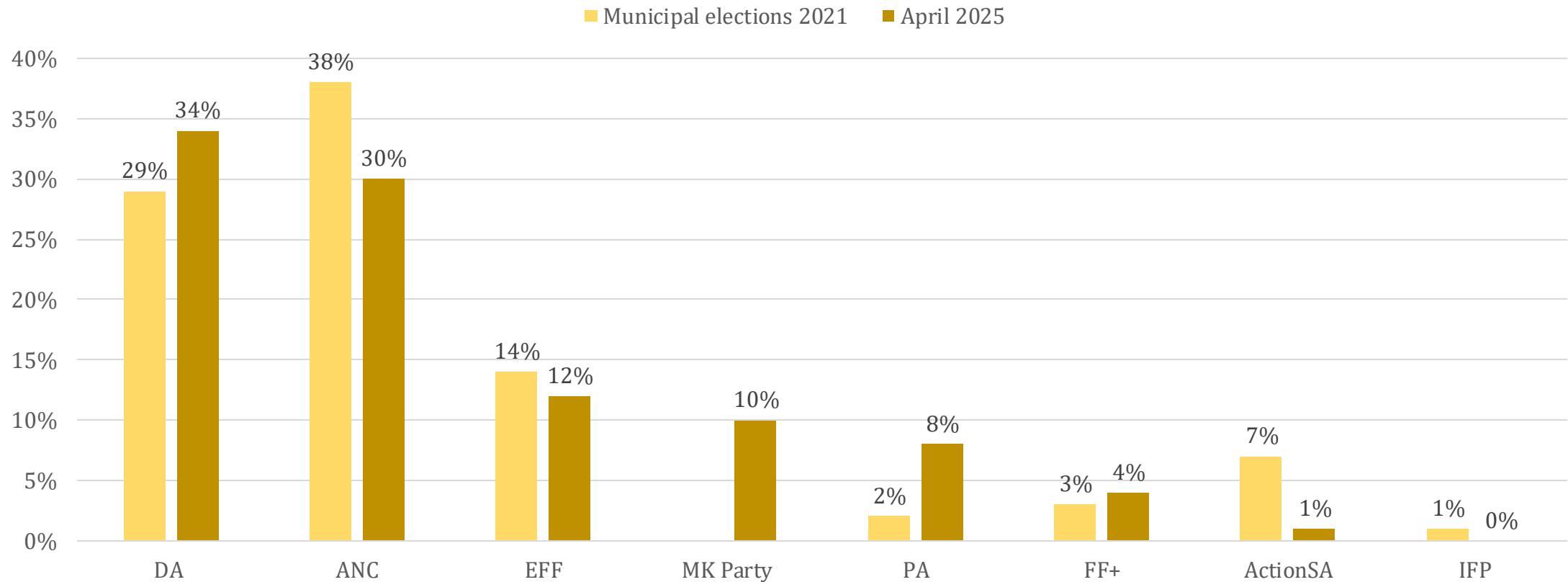
In eThekweni, MK wins 42% of the vote. Since 2021 the ANC has dropped 23% and the EFF 11%

If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
eThekweni



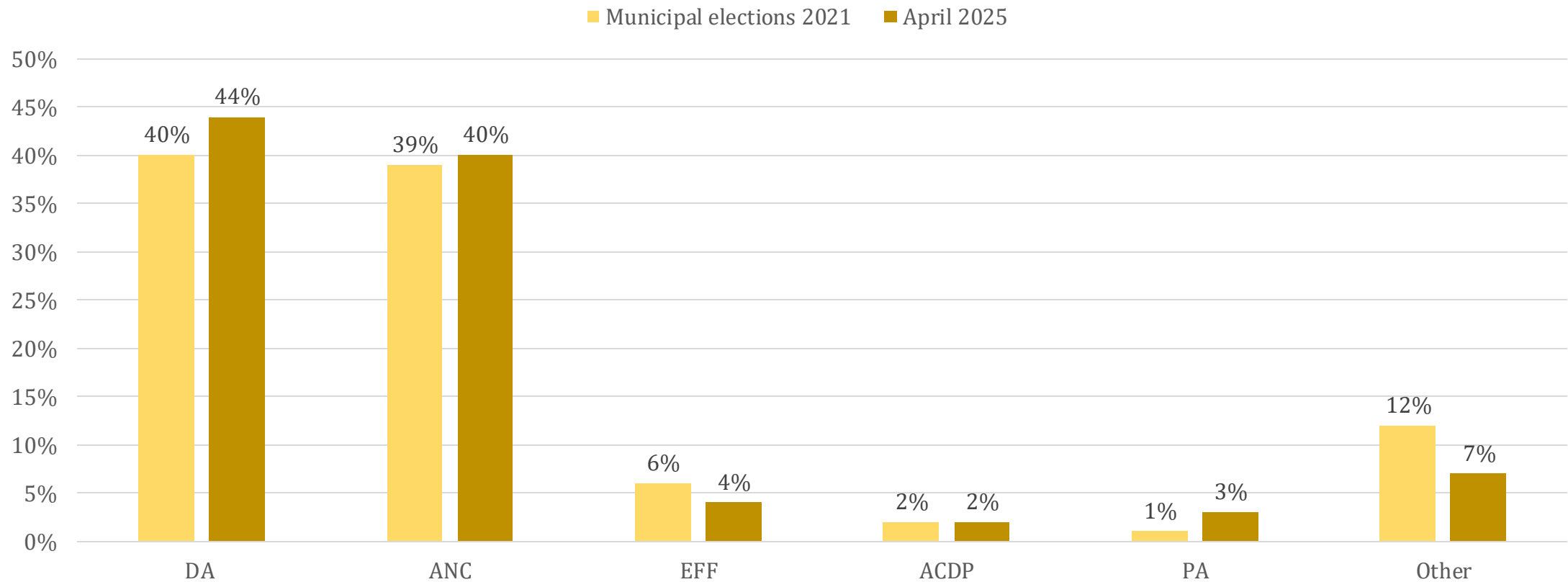
In Ekurhuleni, the DA's vote share has increased by 5% since 2021 while the ANC's has dropped by 8%

If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
Ekurhuleni



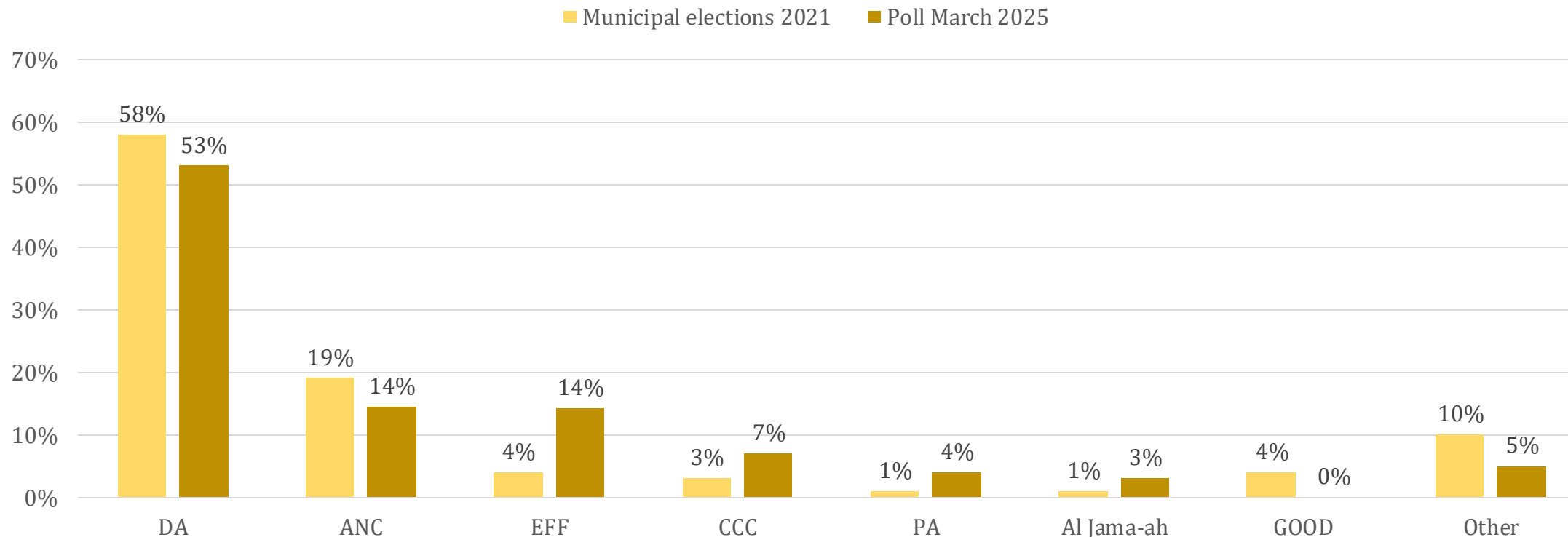
In NMB the DA wins 44% of the vote, an increase of 4% since 2021

If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
Nelson Mandela Bay



In Cape Town, both the DA and ANC have dropped 5% of the vote since 2021. The EFF has gained 10%

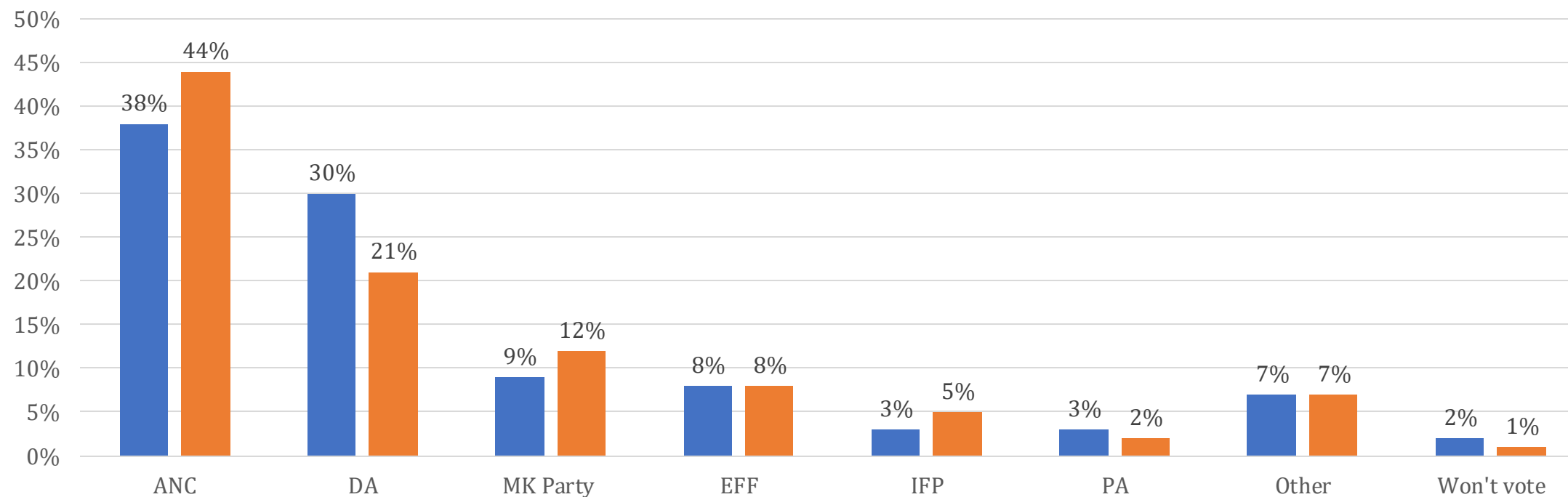
If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
City of Cape Town



Men are more likely to vote for the ANC and women more likely to vote for the DA

If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
By gender

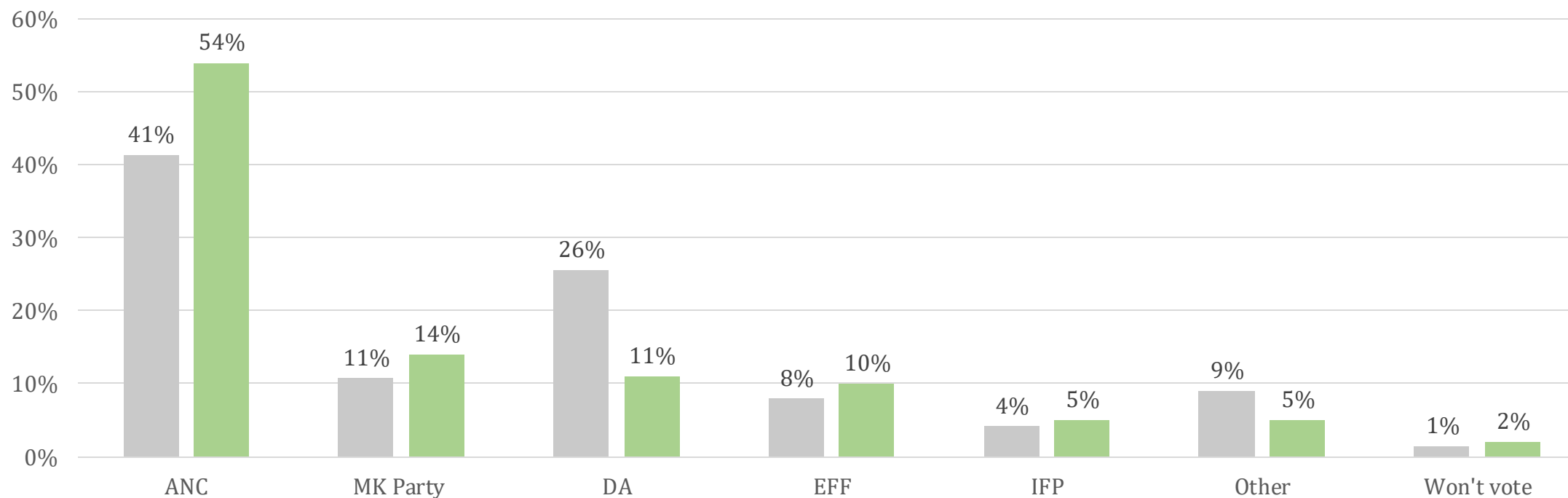
■ Women ■ Men



The DA has more black support than the EFF

If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
By race

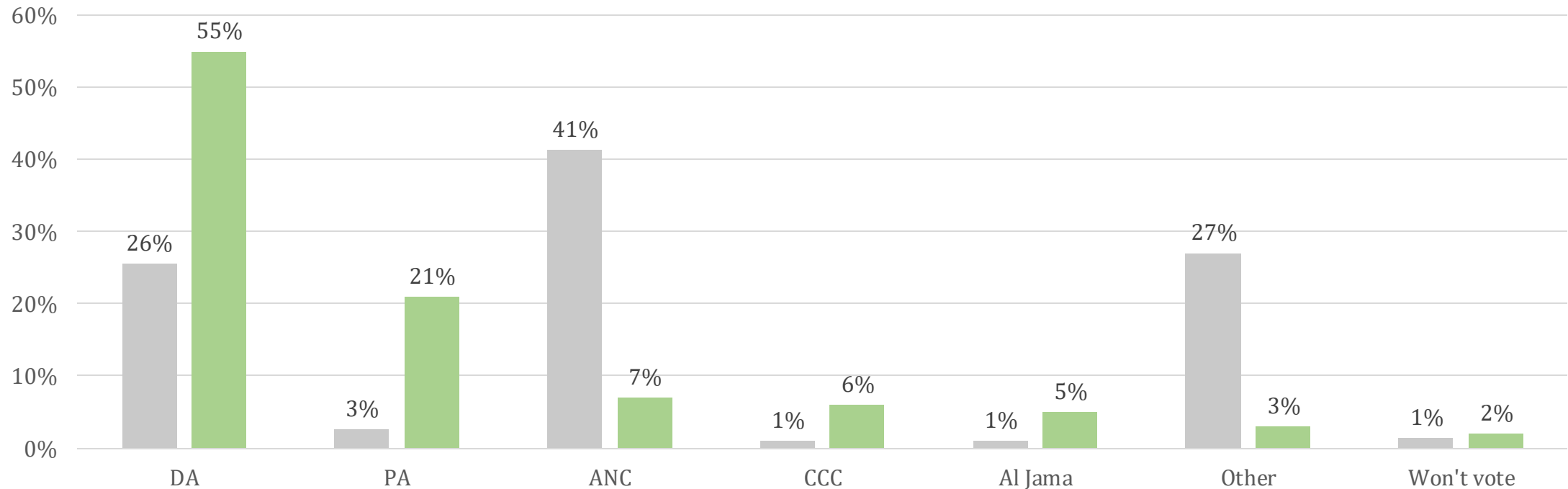
■ National ■ Black



The DA wins 55% of the coloured vote with the PA on 21%

If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
By race

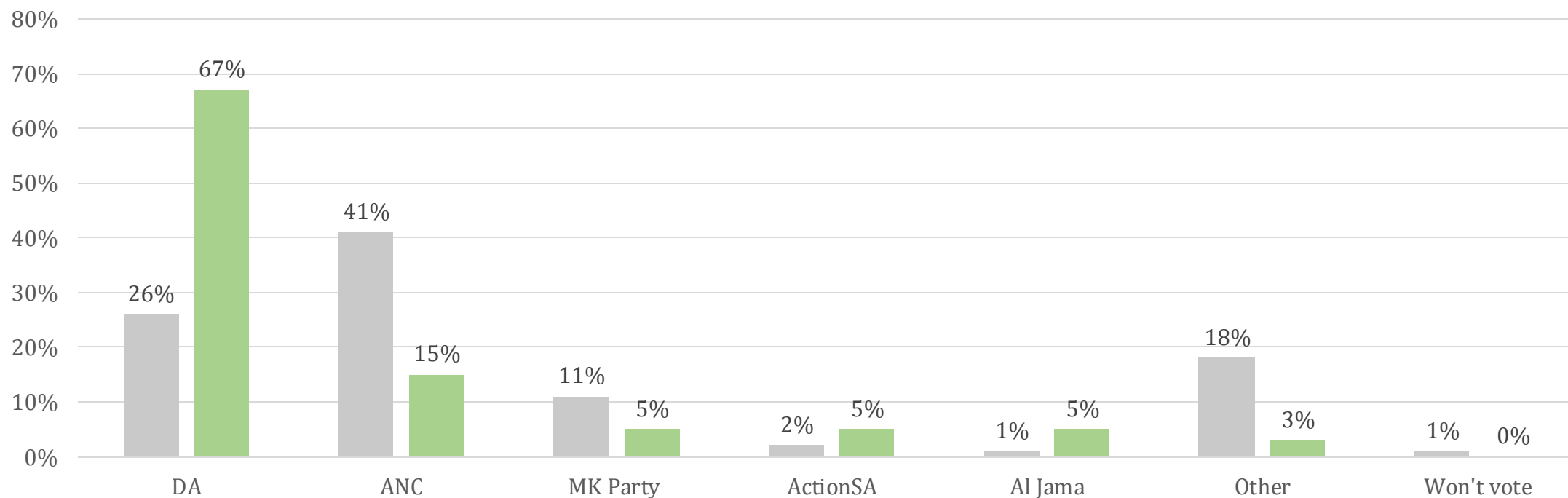
■ National ■ Coloured



The DA wins 67% of the Indian vote

If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
By race

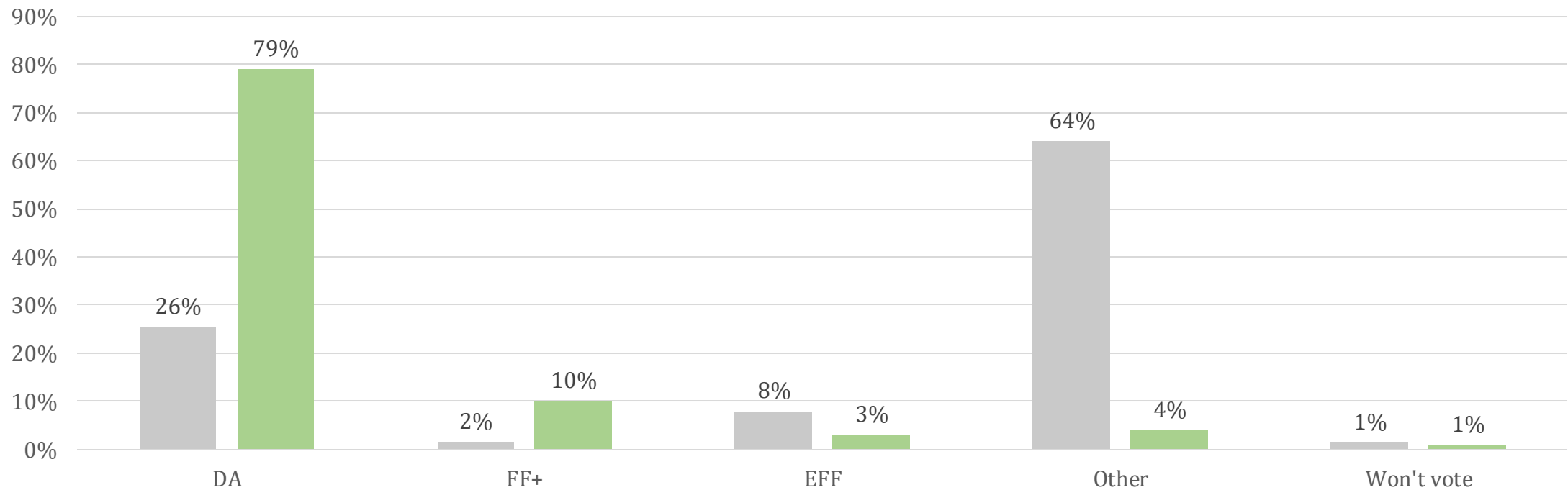
■ National ■ Indian



The DA wins 79% of the white vote

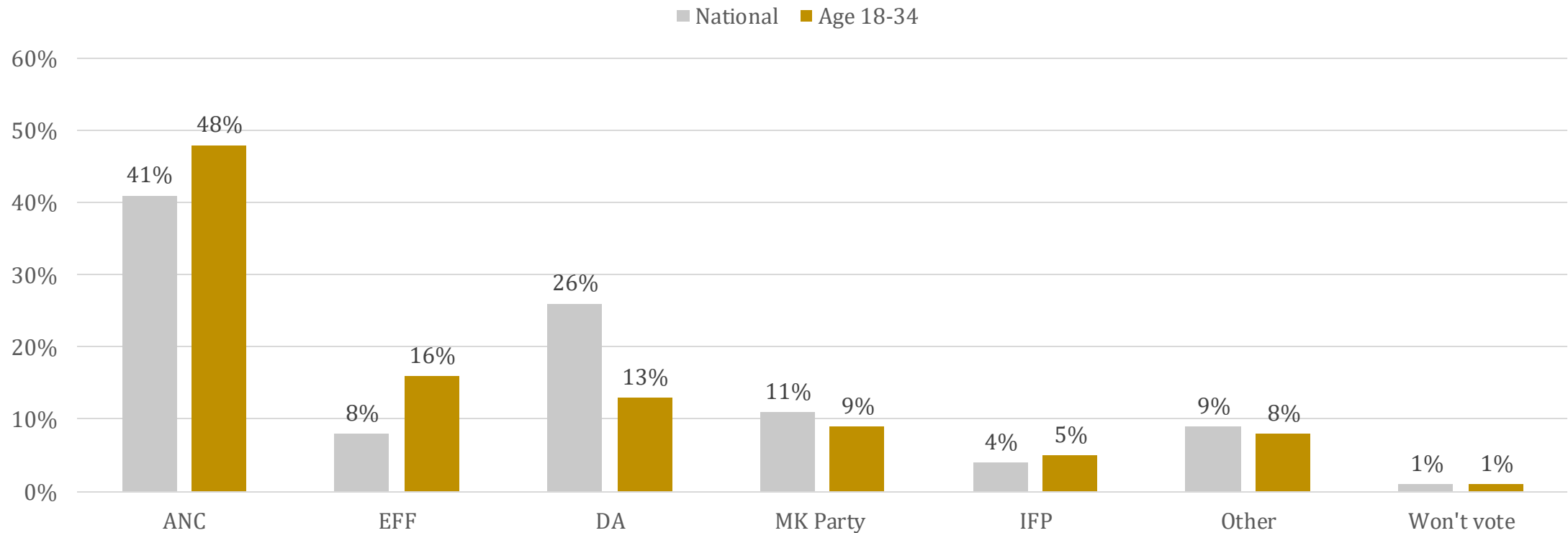
If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
By race

■ National ■ White



Nearly half of voters aged 18-34 vote for the ANC

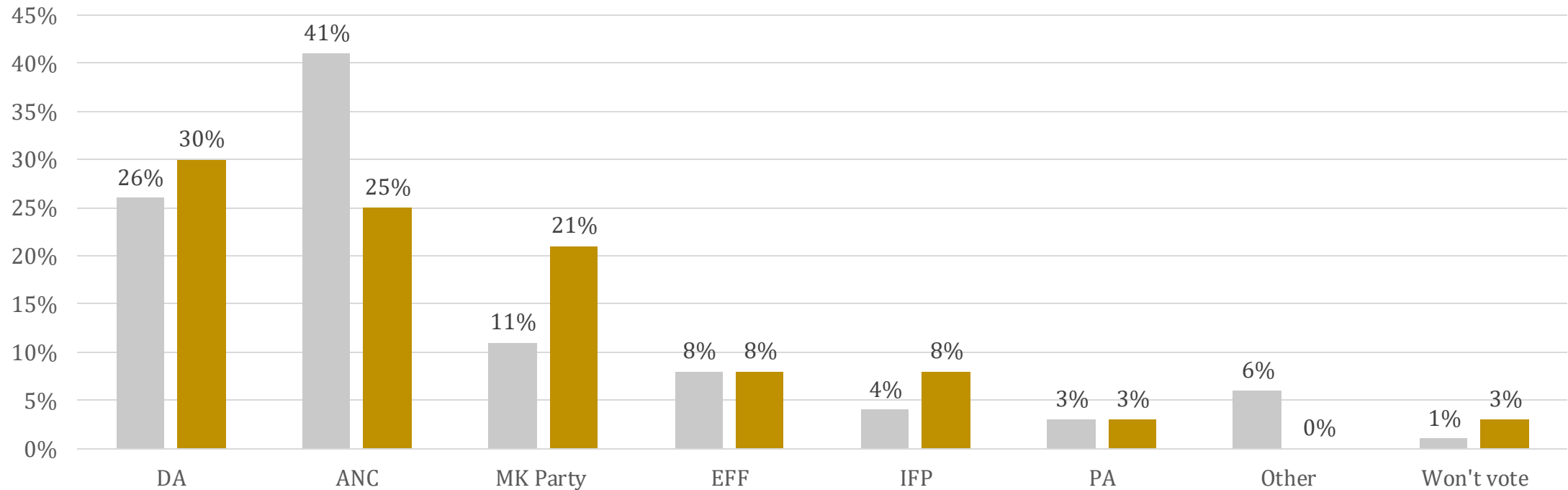
If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
By age



The DA is the most popular party among voters aged 35-44

If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
By age

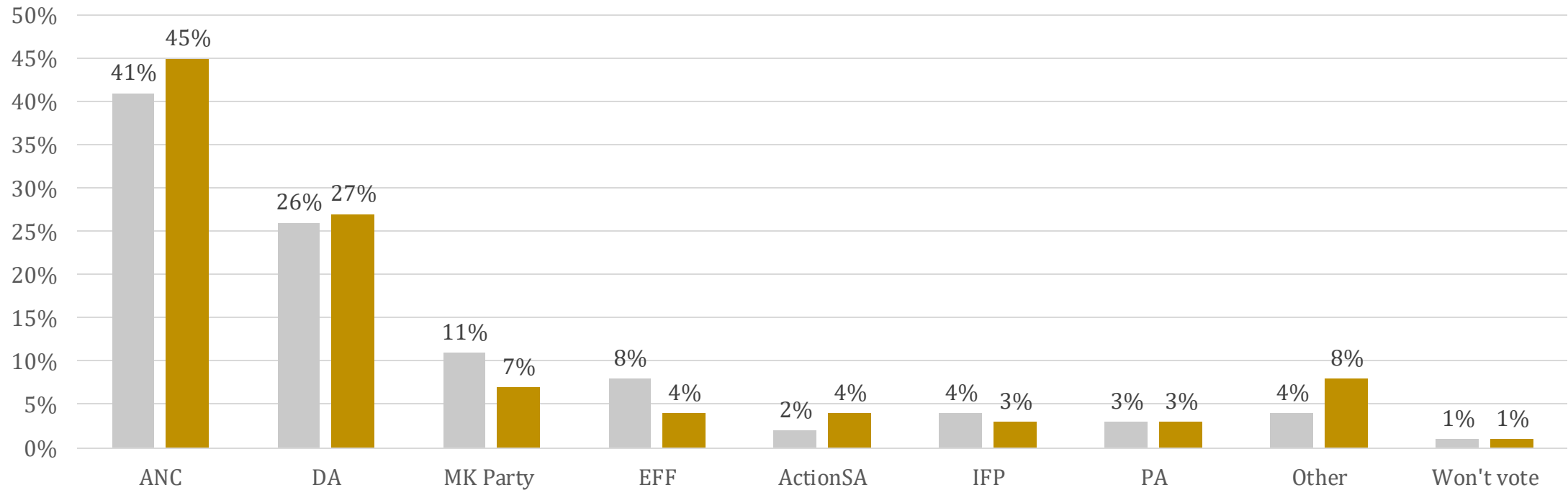
■ National ■ Age 35-44



The ANC is the most popular party among voters aged 45-64

If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
By age

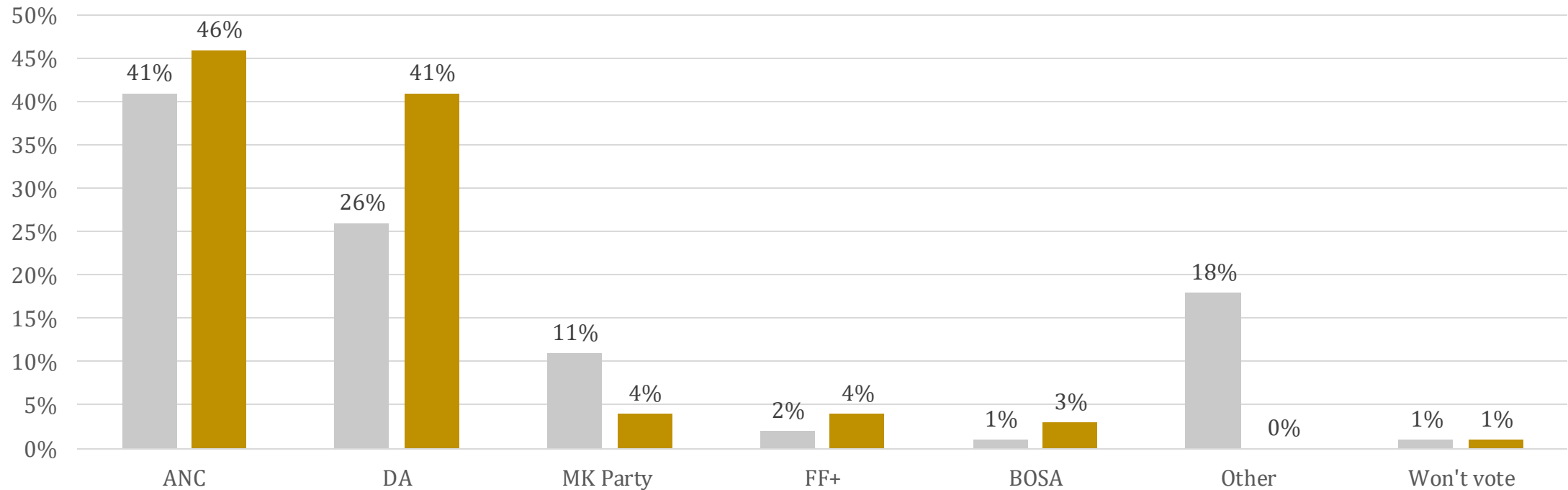
■ National ■ Age 45-64



The ANC is the most popular party among voters aged over 65

If an election was held today, which party would you vote for?
By age

■ National ■ Age 65+



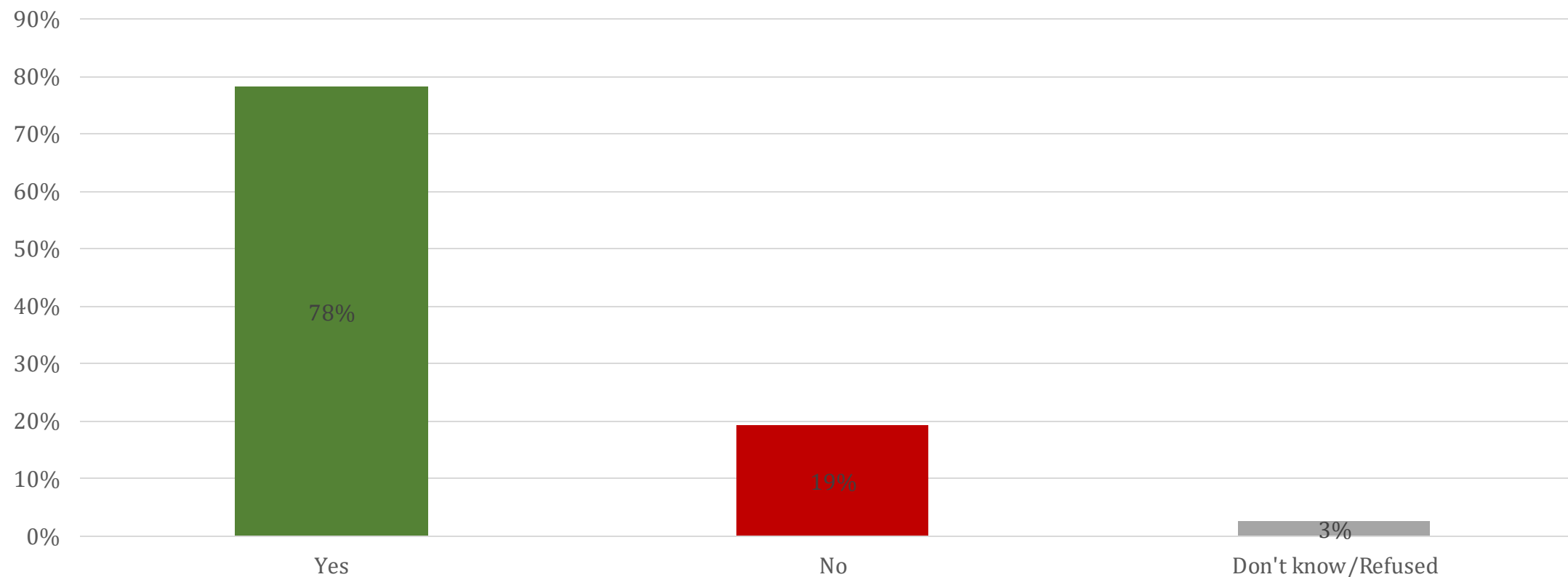


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Coalitions

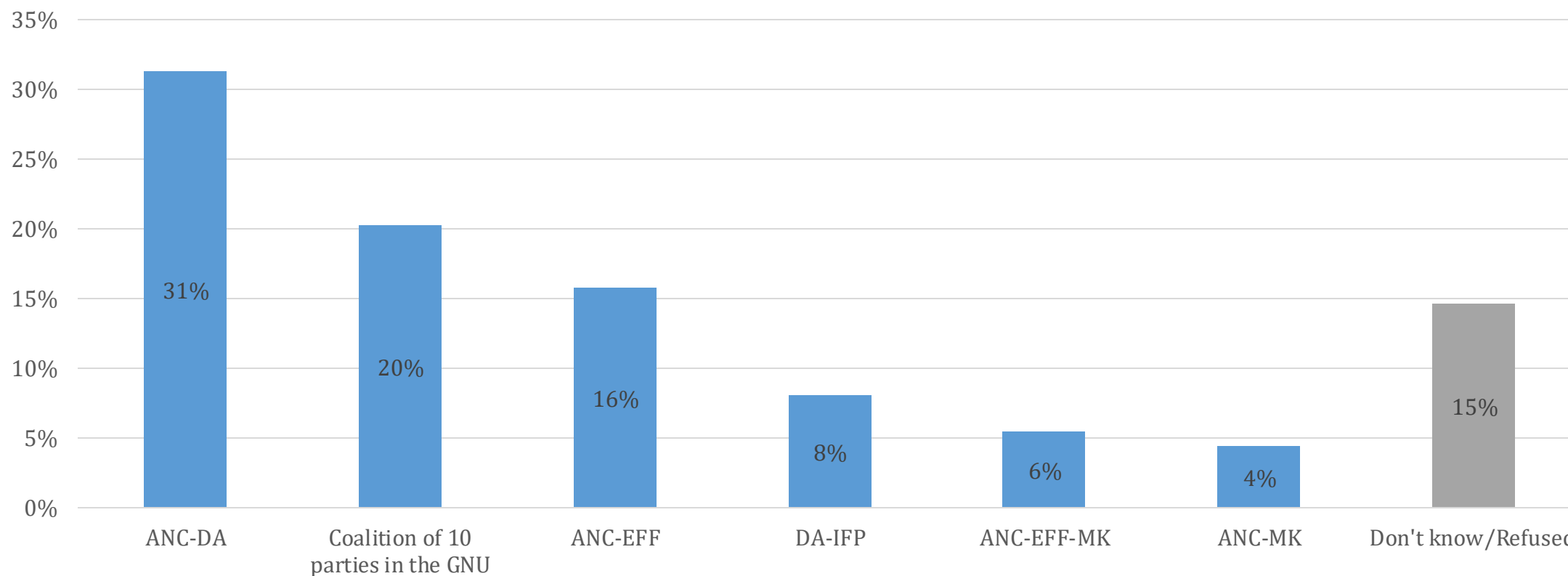
78% of voters would be happy to see their municipality governed by a coalition

Would you be happy to see a coalition of political parties govern your municipality?



If necessary, 6 in 10 voters prefer a municipal coalition centring on the ANC-DA-IFP

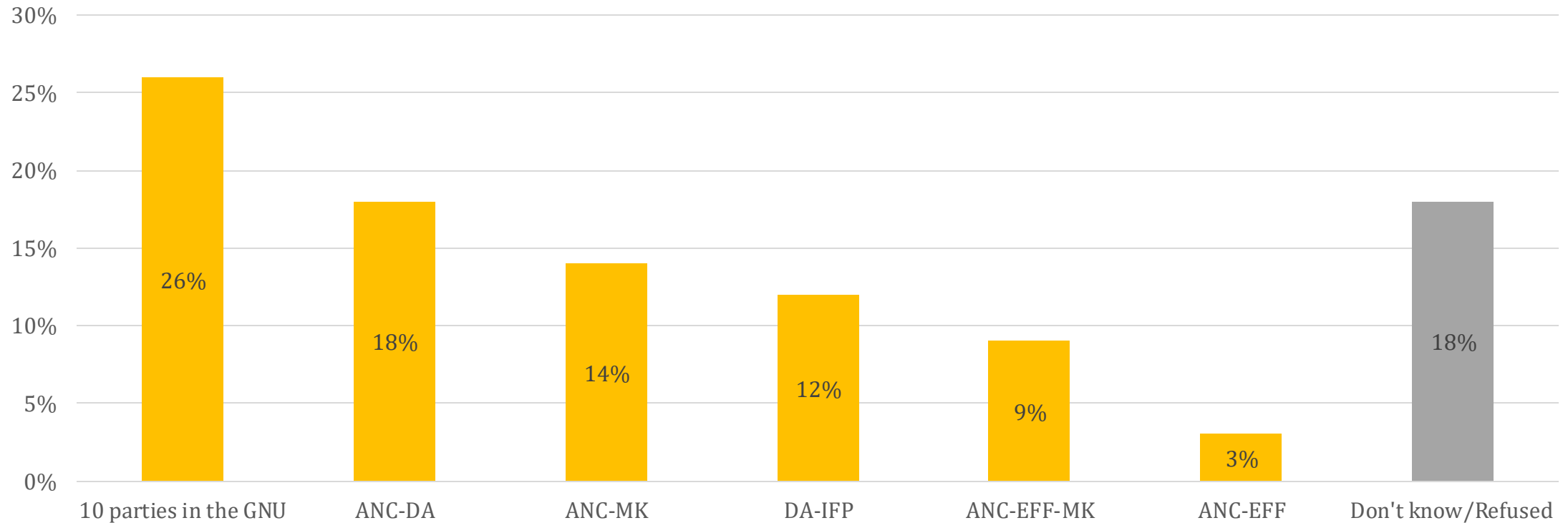
Which of the following coalitions would you prefer to govern your municipality?



If necessary, over half of Johannesburg voters prefer a municipal coalition centring on the ANC-DA-IFP

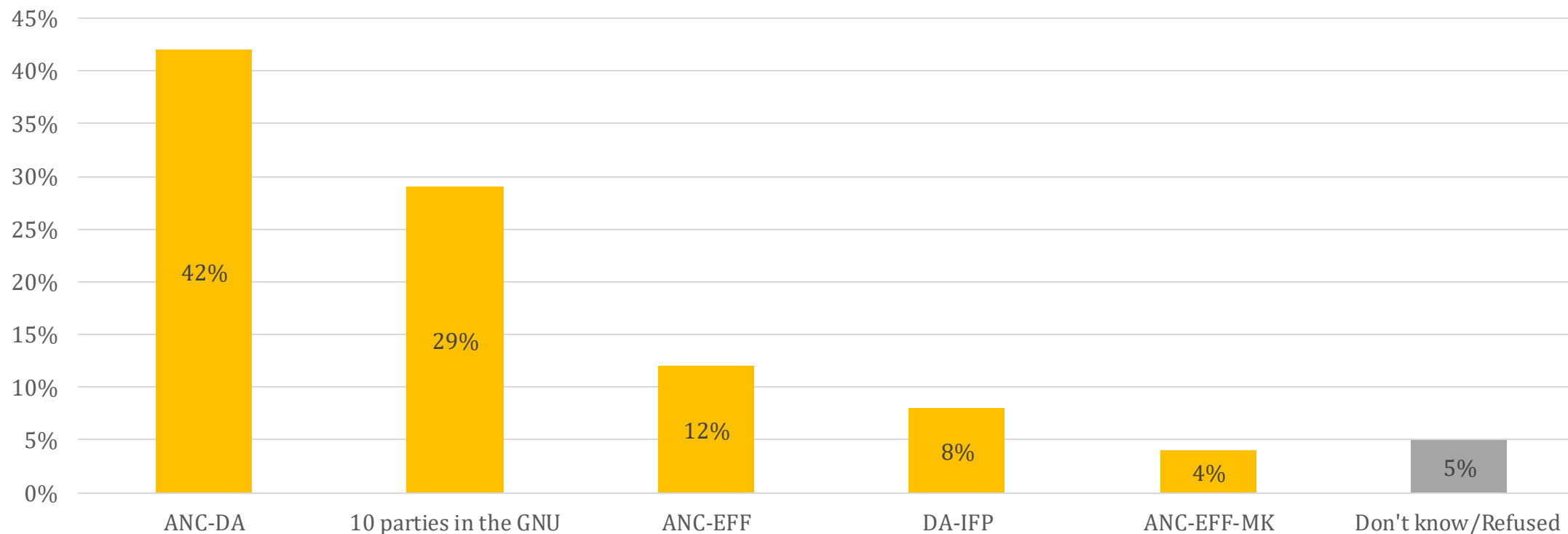


Which of the following coalitions would you prefer to govern your municipality?
Johannesburg



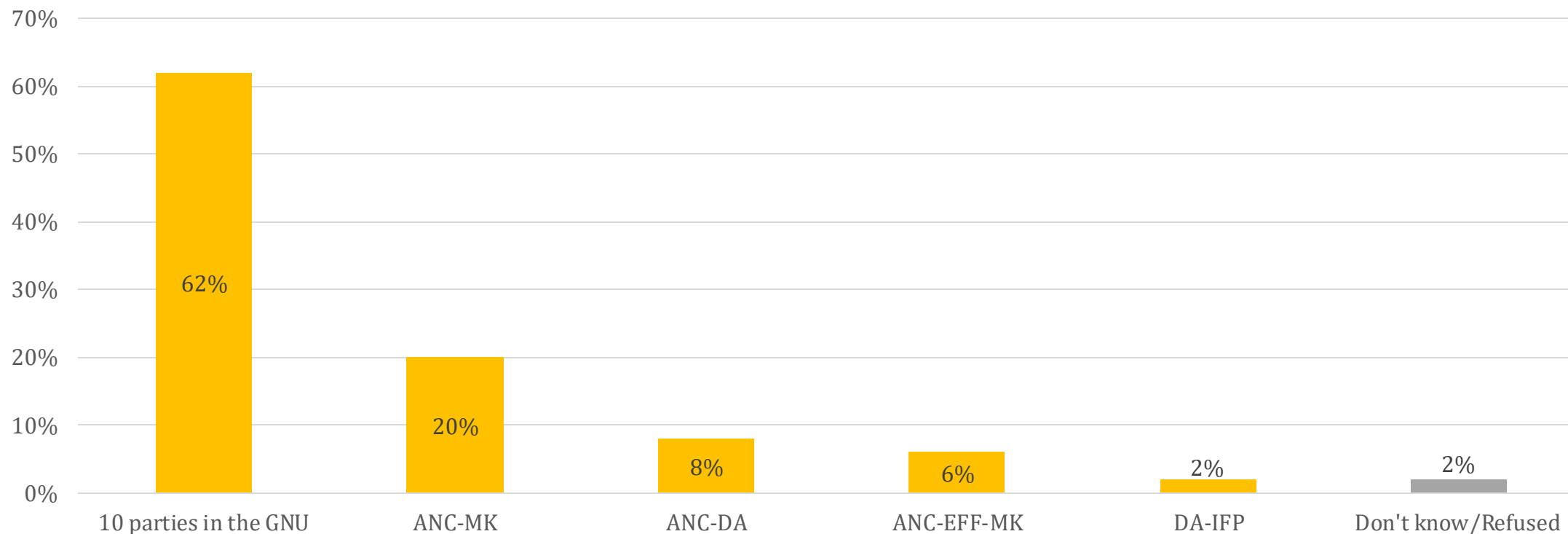
If necessary, 79% of Tshwane voters prefer a municipal coalition centring on the ANC-DA-IFP

Which of the following coalitions would you prefer to govern your municipality?
Tshwane



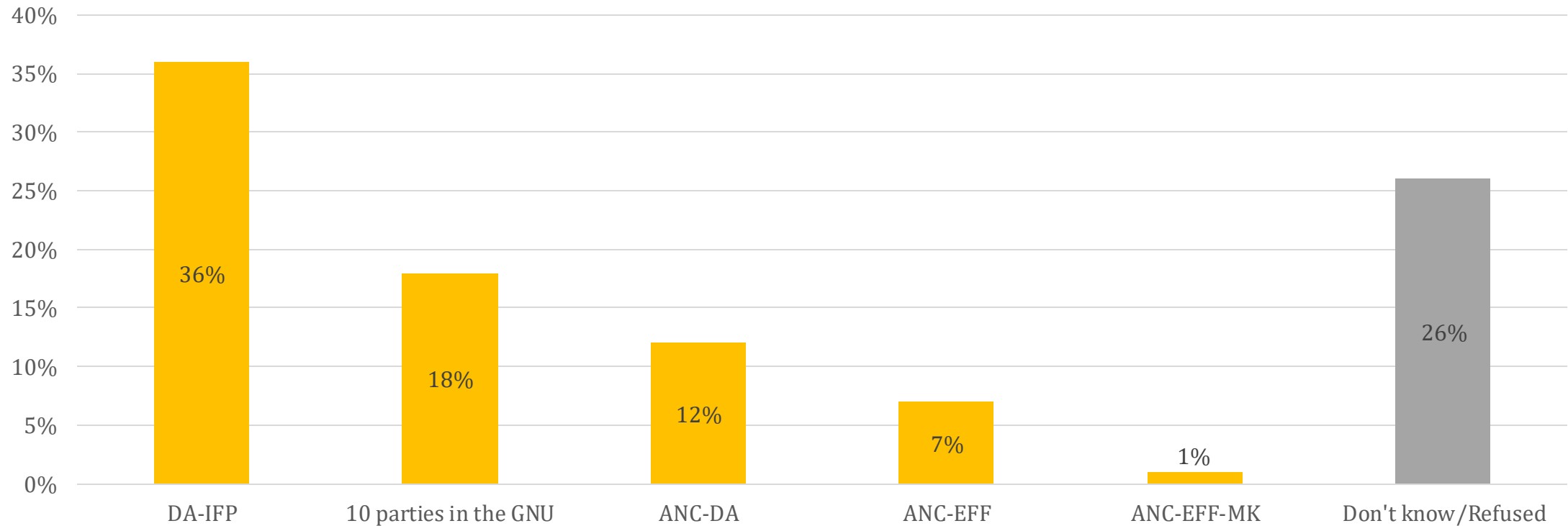
If necessary, in Ekurhuleni, 72% favour a municipal coalition centring on the ANC-DA-IFP

Which of the following coalitions would you prefer to govern your municipality?
Ekurhuleni



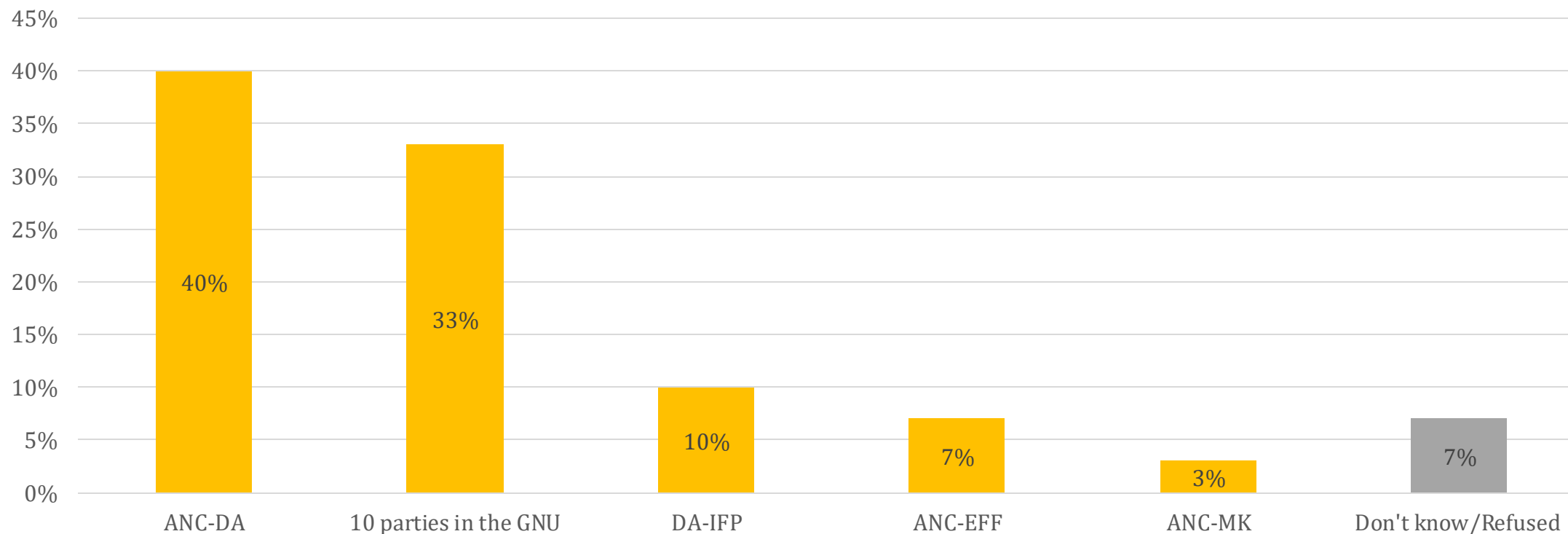
If necessary, a DA-IFP municipal coalition is preferred among eThekweni voters

Which of the following coalitions would you prefer to govern your municipality?
eThekweni



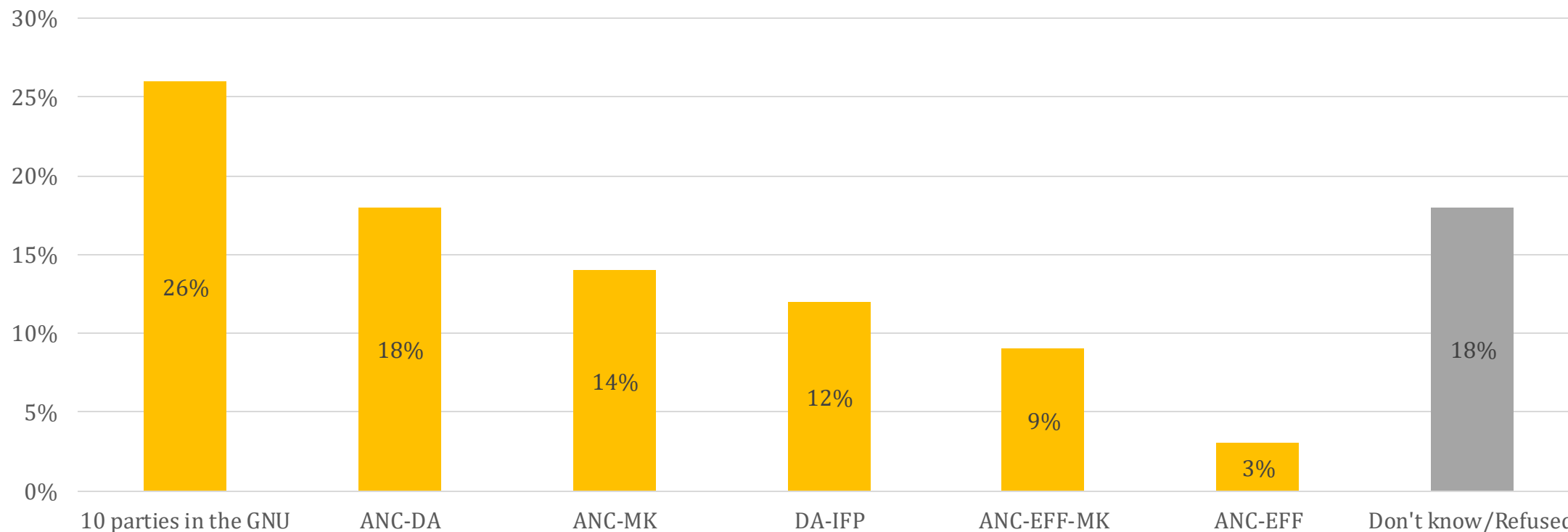
If necessary, 83% of NMB voters favour a municipal coalition centring on the ANC-DA-IFP

Which of the following coalitions would you prefer to govern your municipality?
Nelson Mandela Bay



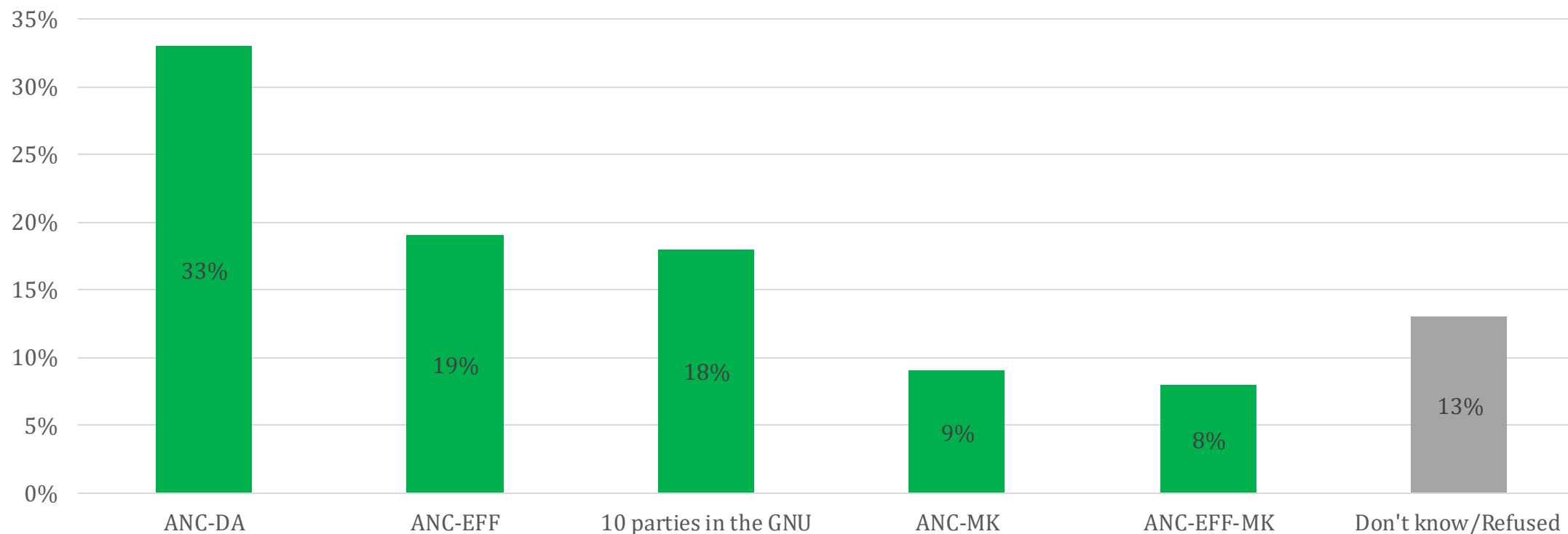
If necessary, 56% of Cape Town voters prefer a municipal coalition centring on the ANC-DA-IFP

Which of the following coalitions would you prefer to govern your municipality?
Cape Town



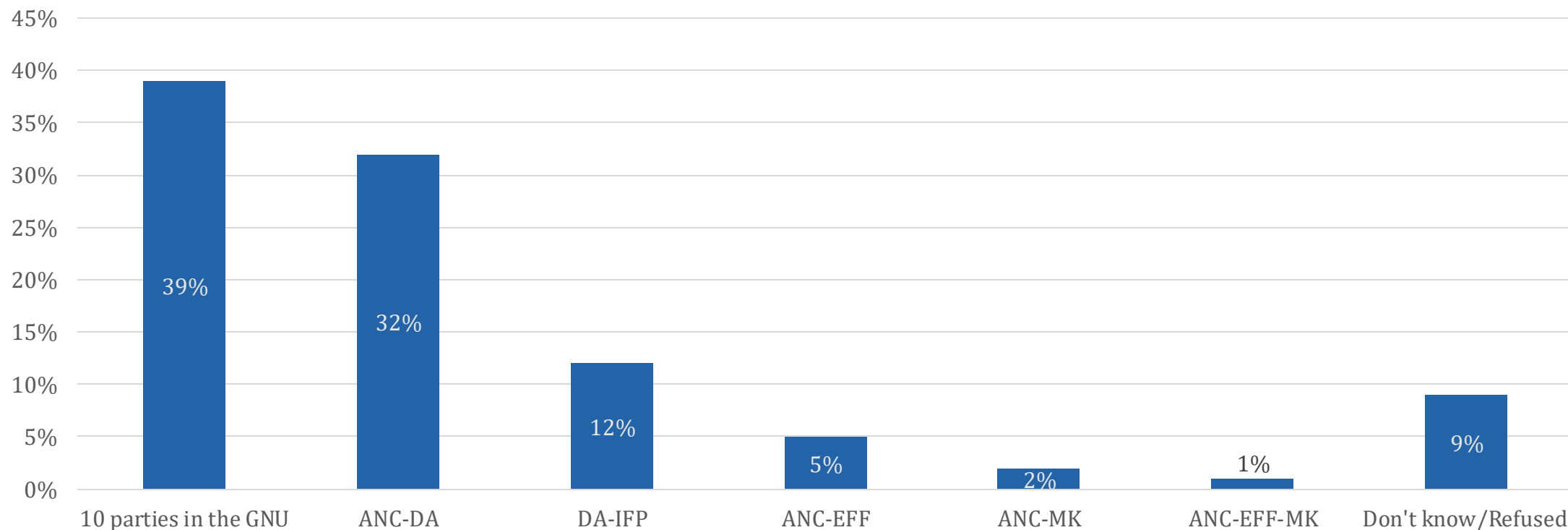
If necessary, over half of ANC voters countrywide prefer a coalition centring on the ANC-DA-IFP

Which of the following coalitions would you prefer to govern your municipality?
ANC voters



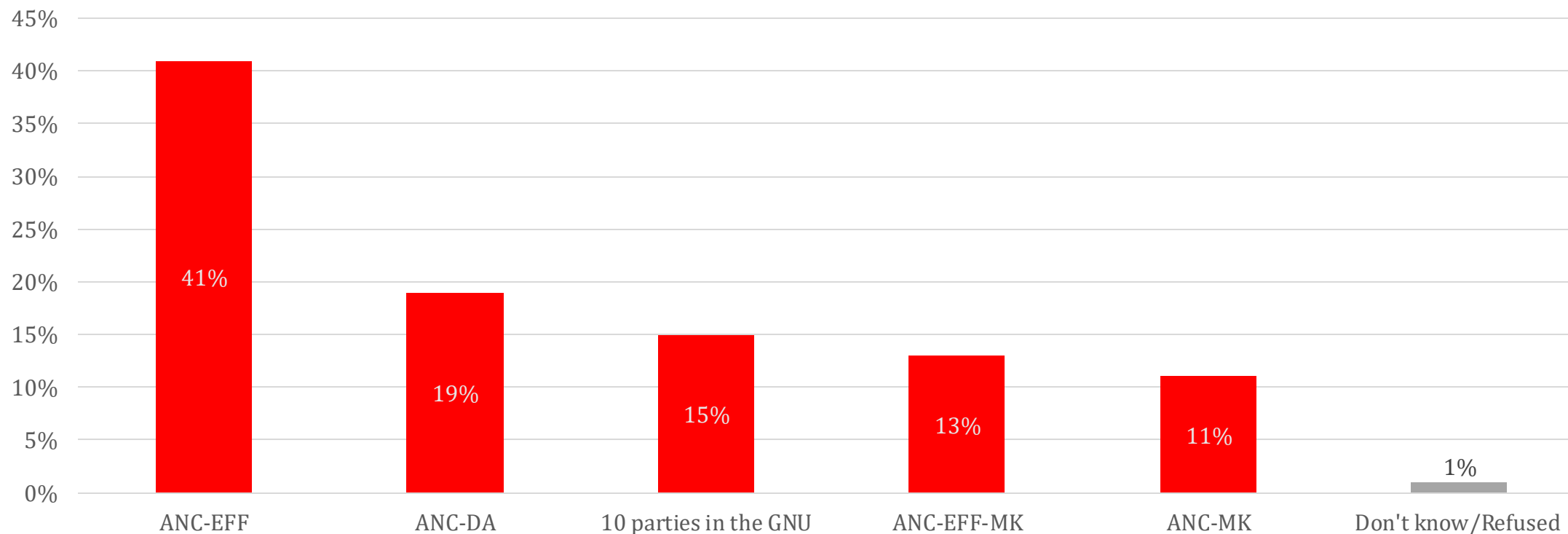
If necessary, 83% of DA voters countrywide prefer a coalition centring on the ANC-DA-IFP

Which of the following coalitions would you prefer to govern your municipality?
DA voters



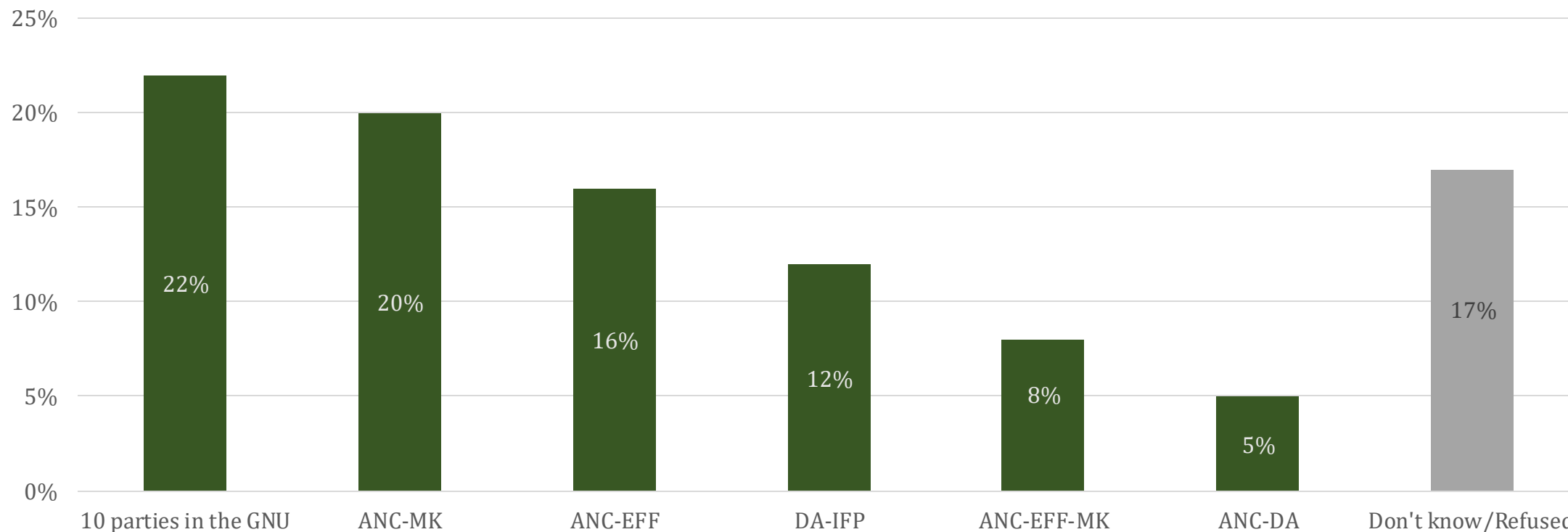
If necessary, over a third of EFF voters countrywide prefer a coalition centring on the ANC-DA-IFP

Which of the following coalitions would you prefer to govern your municipality?
EFF voters



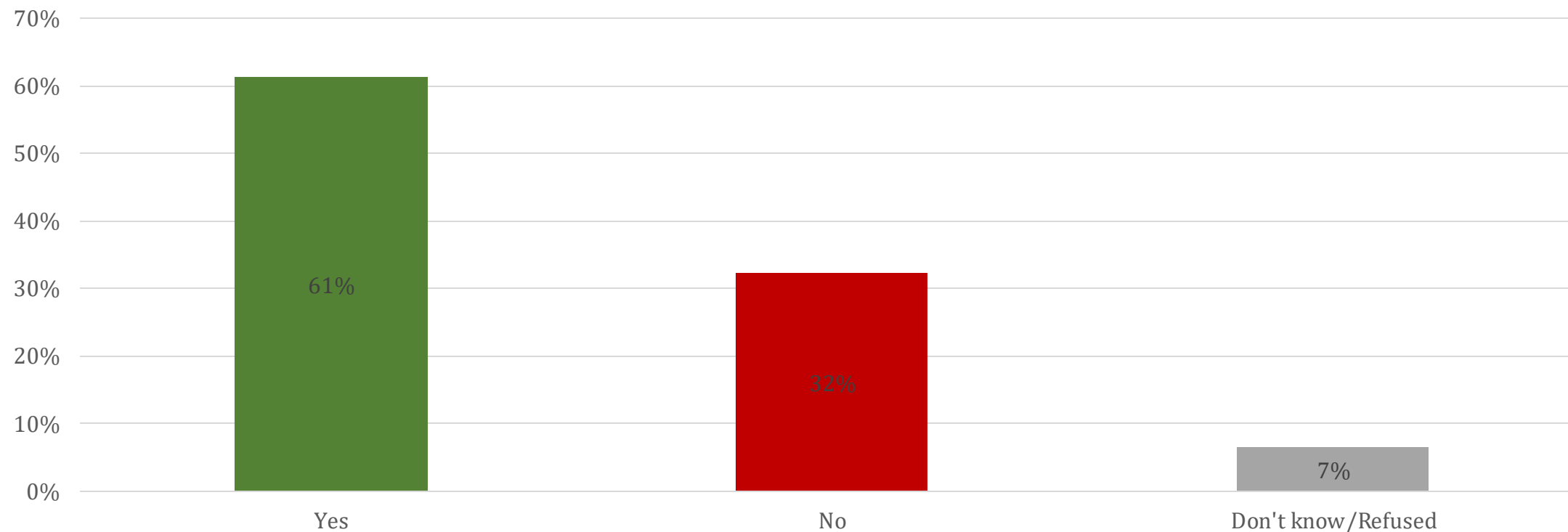
If necessary, 39% of MK voters countrywide prefer a coalition centring on the ANC-DA-IFP

Which of the following coalitions would you prefer to govern your municipality?
MK voters



Over 60% of voters believe that a broad coalition can effectively govern their municipality

Do you think a broad coalition involving lots of different parties can effectively govern your municipality?





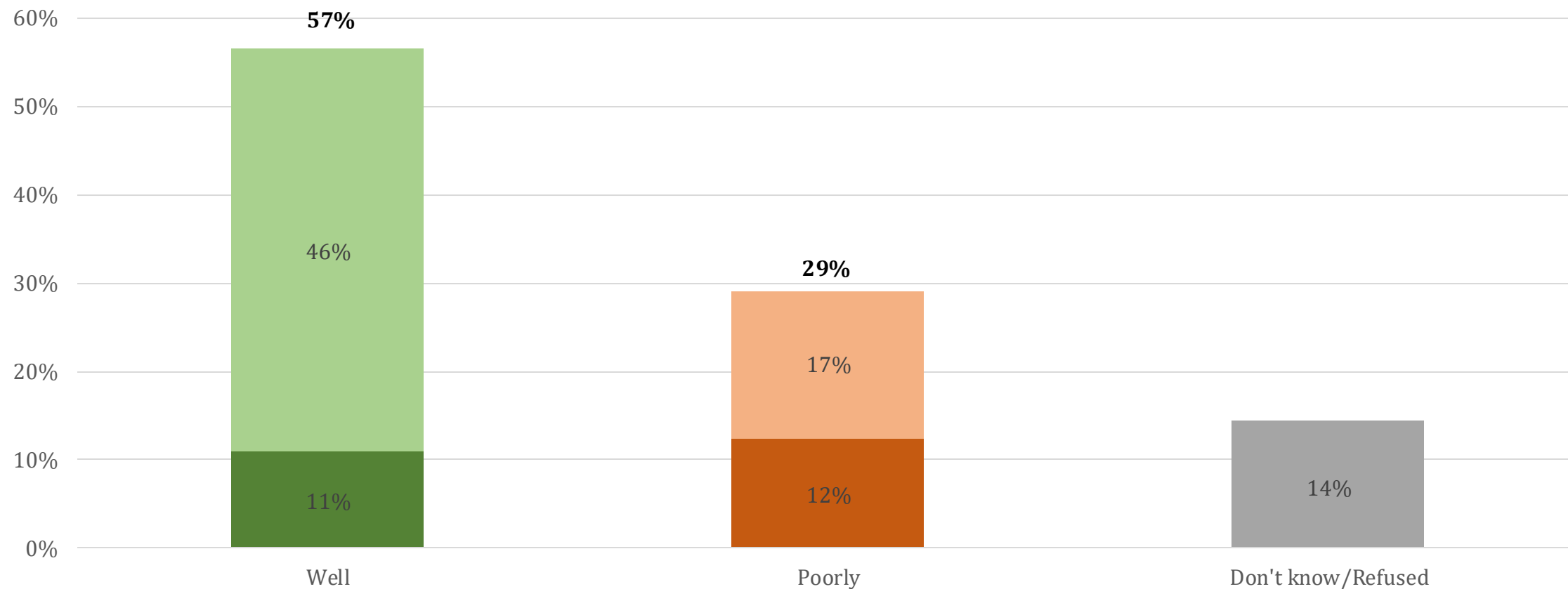
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GNU and Government Departments

57% of voters believe the GNU is performing well

How would you say the GNU is currently performing?

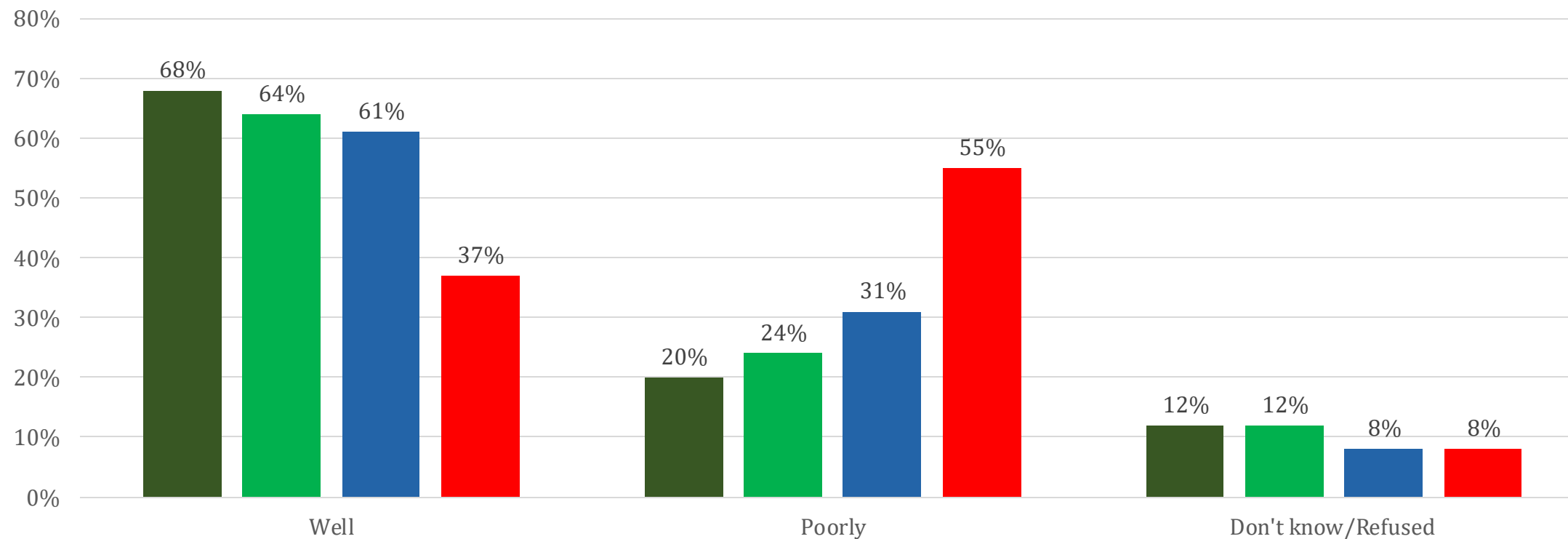
■ Very well ■ Somewhat well ■ Very poorly ■ Somewhat poorly



Over 60% of MK, ANC and DA voters think the GNU is performing well

How would you say the GNU is currently performing?

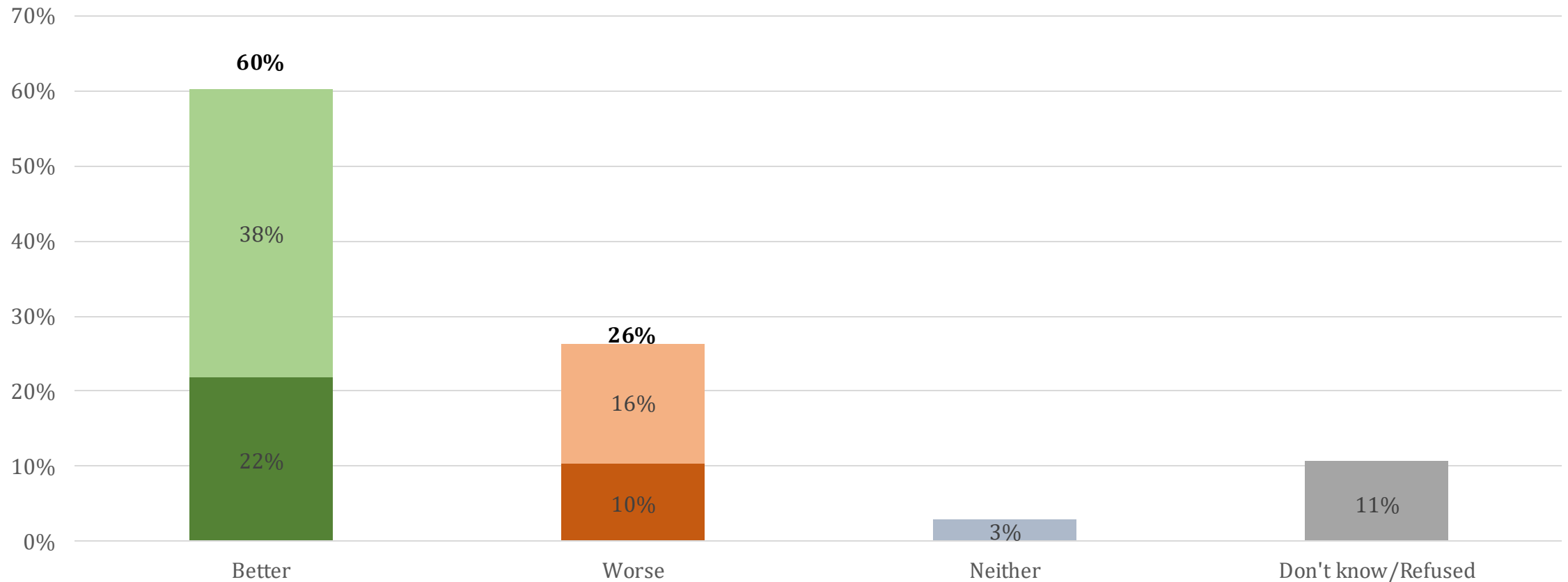
■ MK voters ■ ANC voters ■ DA voters ■ EFF voters



60% think the GNU is performing better than the last ANC government

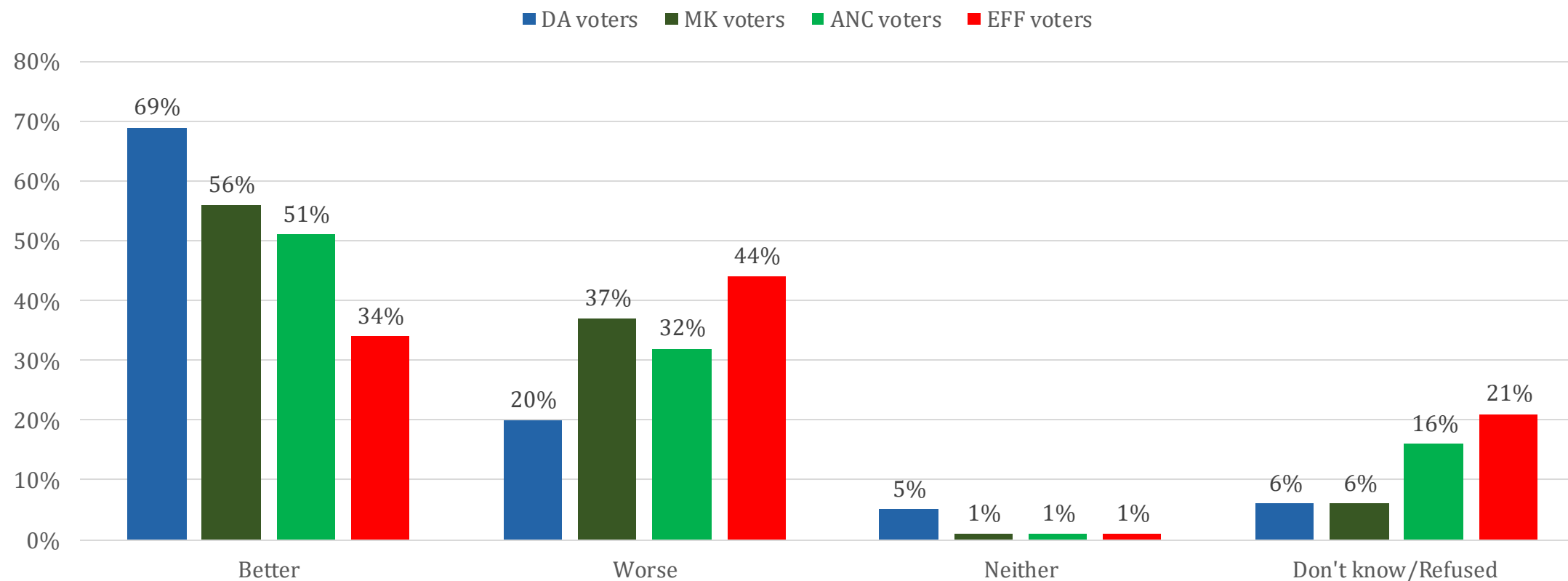
Do you think the GNU is performing better or worse than the last ANC government?

■ Much better ■ Somewhat better ■ Much worse ■ Somewhat worse



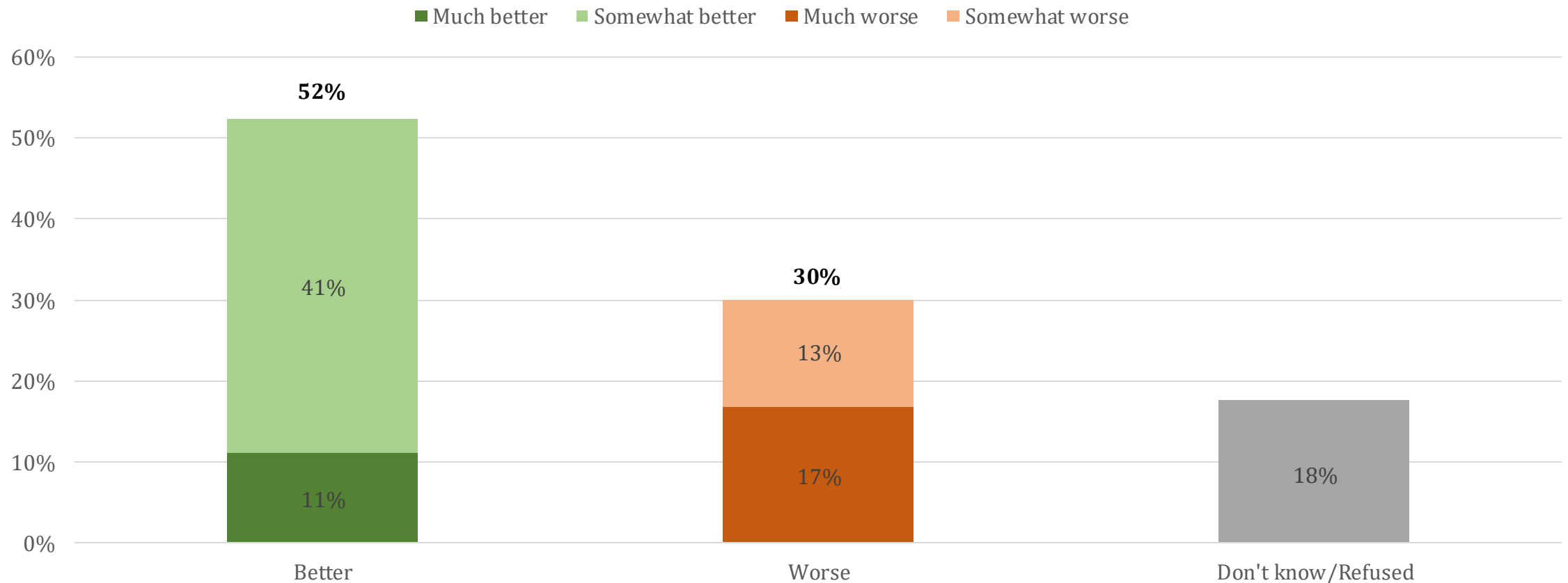
A majority of DA, MK and ANC voters think the GNU is performing better than the last ANC government

Do you think the GNU is performing better or worse than the last ANC government?



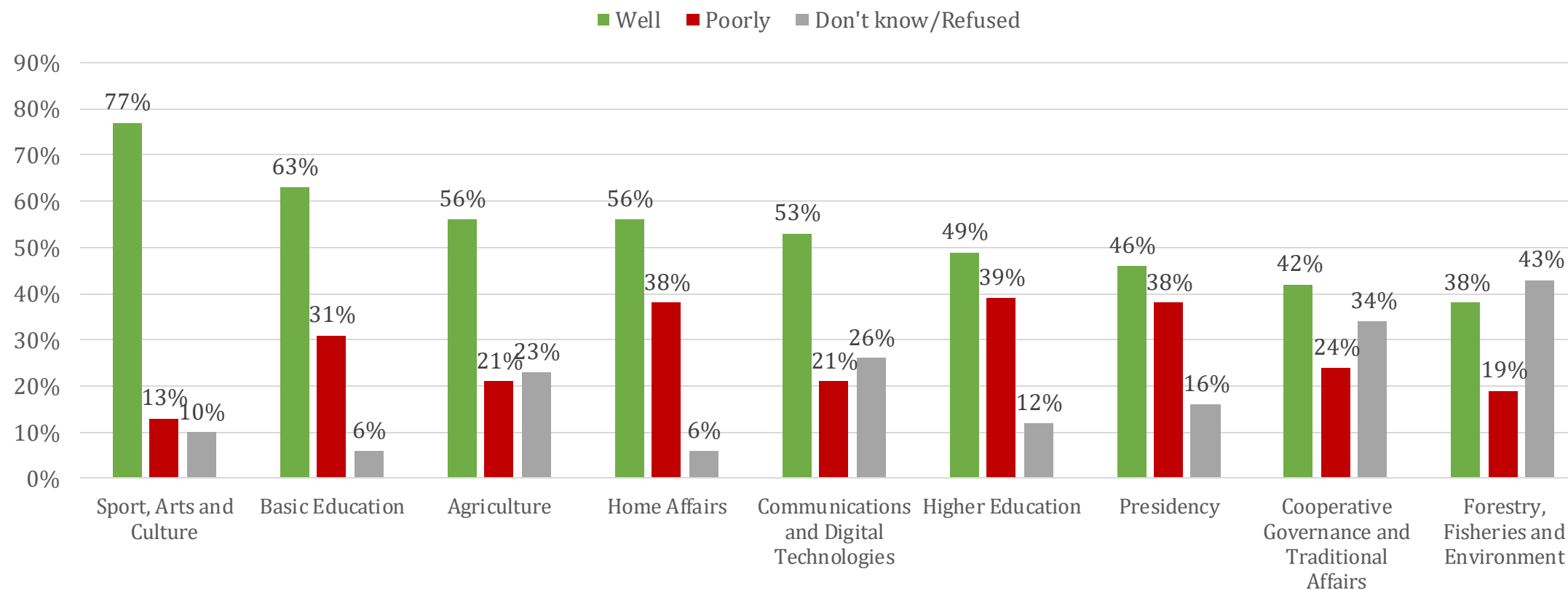
Over half of voters believe that the economy is performing better under the GNU than the last ANC government

Do you think the economy is performing better or worse under the GNU than it was under the last ANC government?



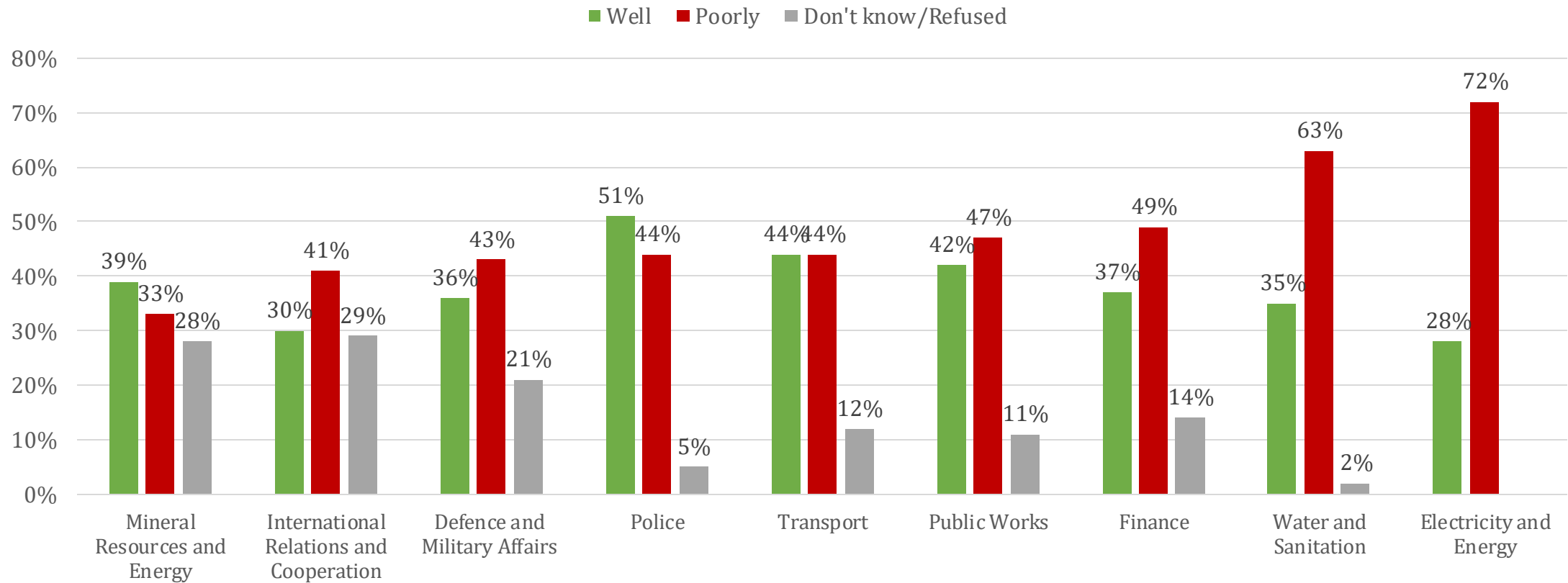
Five opposition-run ministries are rated higher than the presidency

How would you say the following government departments have performed since the May 2024 election?



Just 30% of those surveyed think DIRCO is performing well, 37% Finance, 35% Water and Sanitation, and 28% Electricity and Energy

How would you say the following government departments have performed since the May 2024 election?



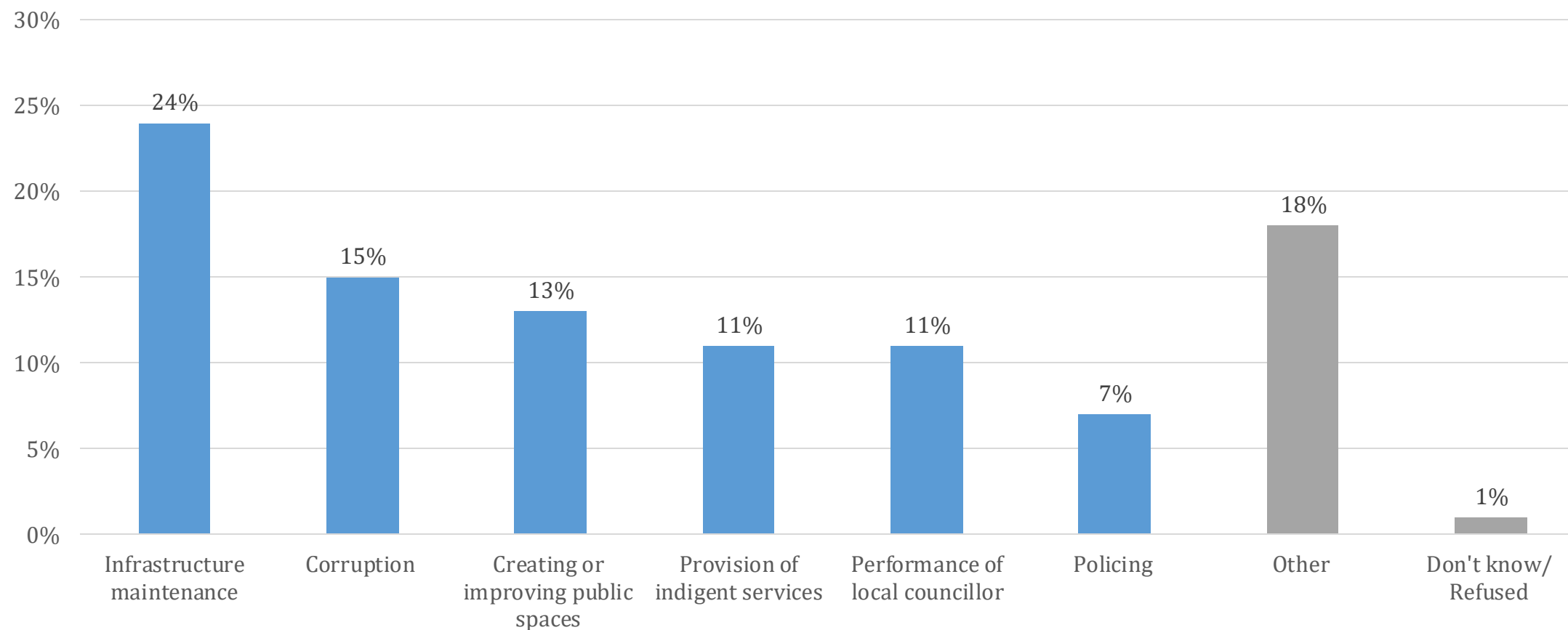


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Local Government

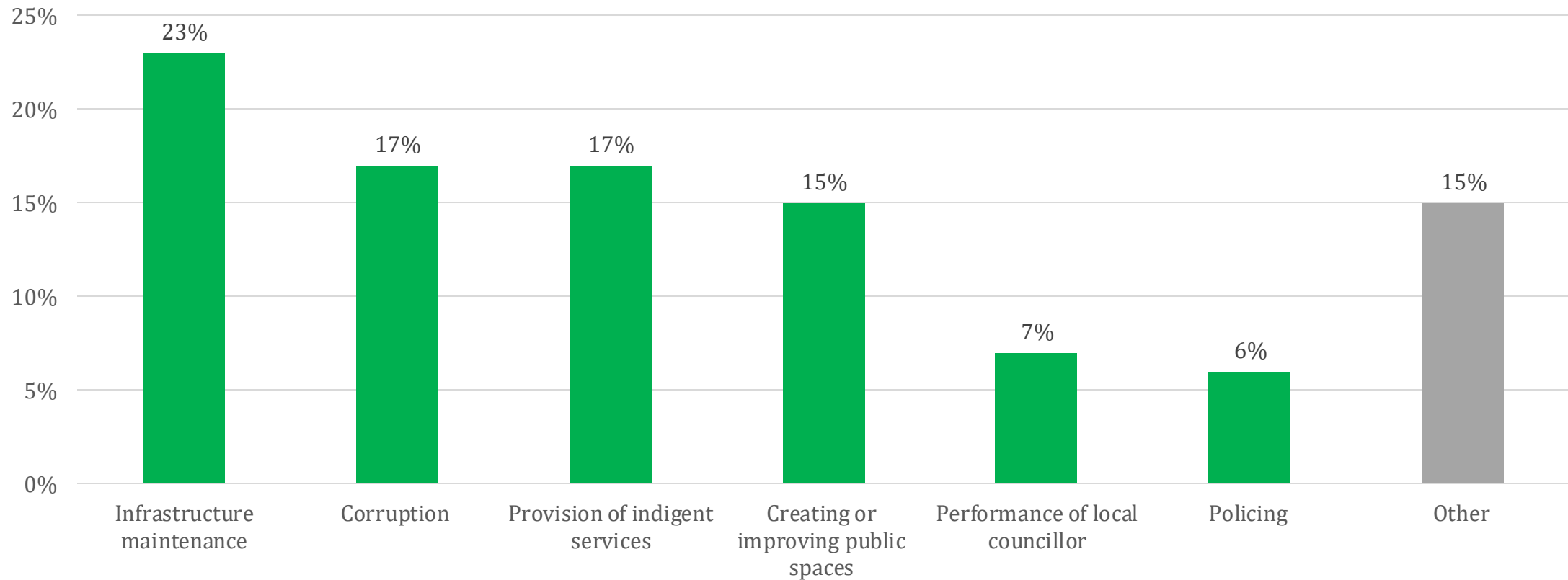
Infrastructure and corruption are the top two problems for voters in their municipalities countrywide

Which issue do you think is the biggest problem in your municipality?



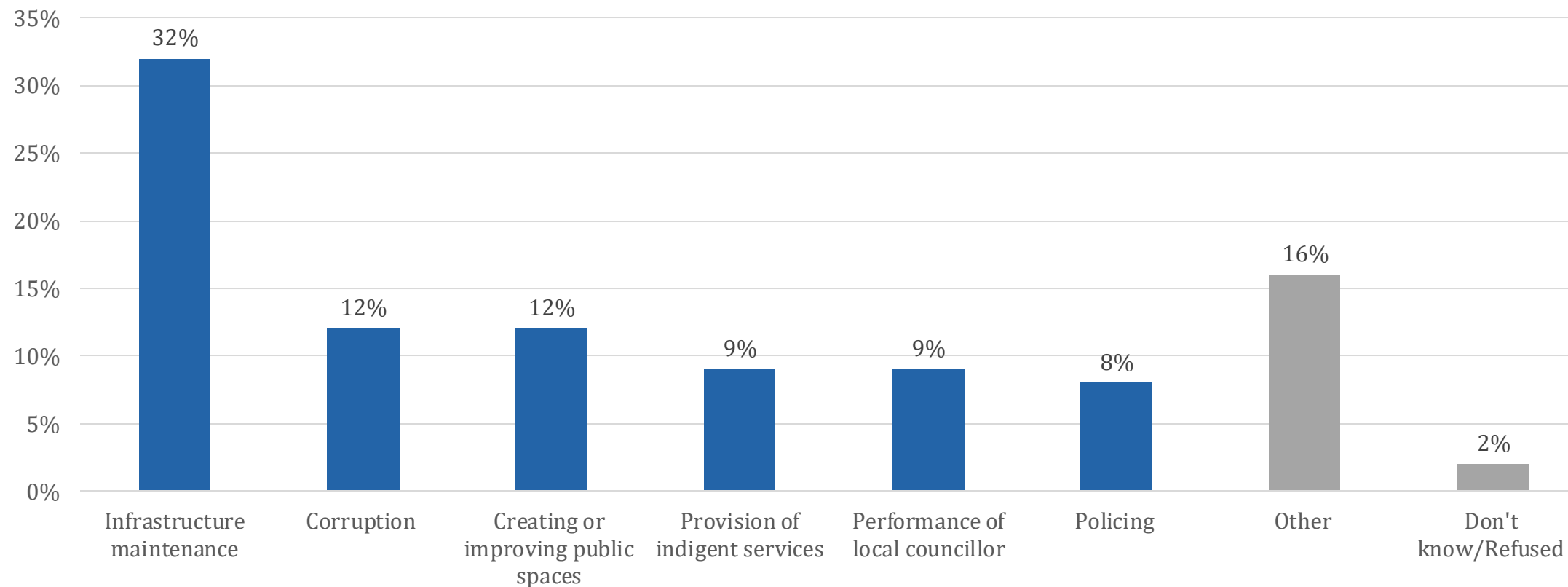
Infrastructure is the top problem for ANC voters in their municipalities countrywide

Which issue do you think is the biggest problem in your municipality?
ANC voters



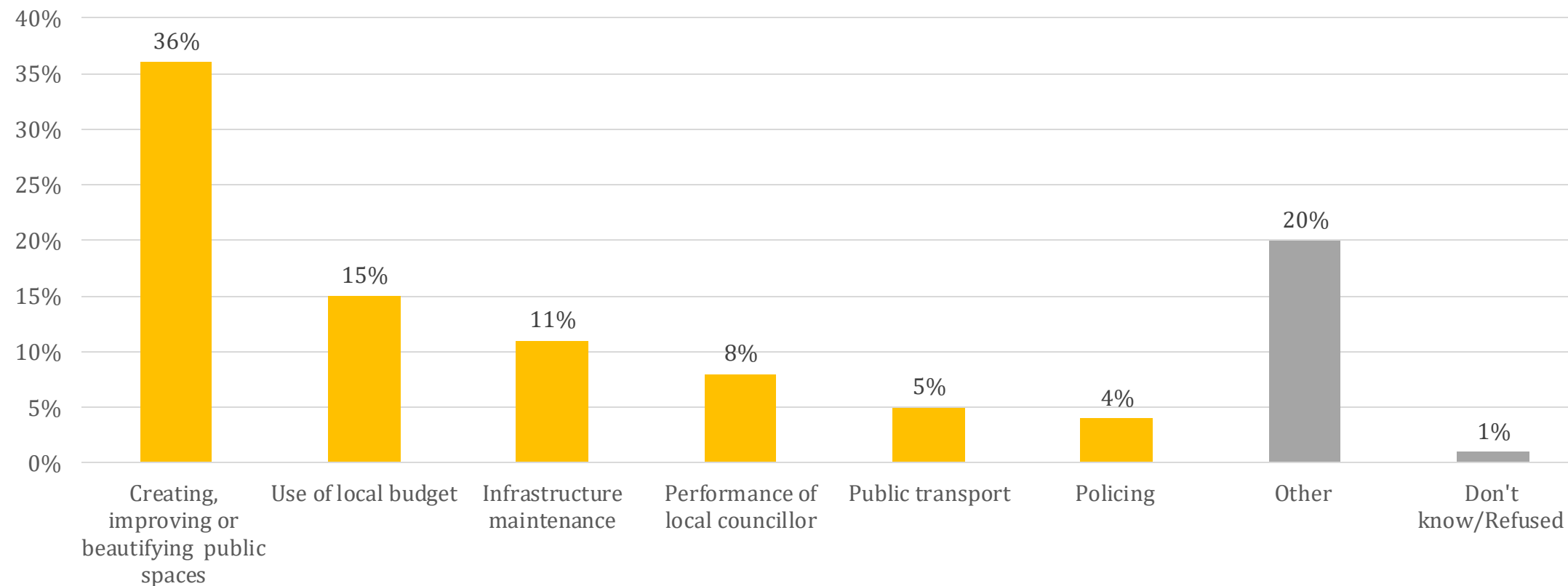
Infrastructure is the top issue for DA voters in their municipalities countrywide

Which issue do you think is the biggest problem in your municipality?
DA voters



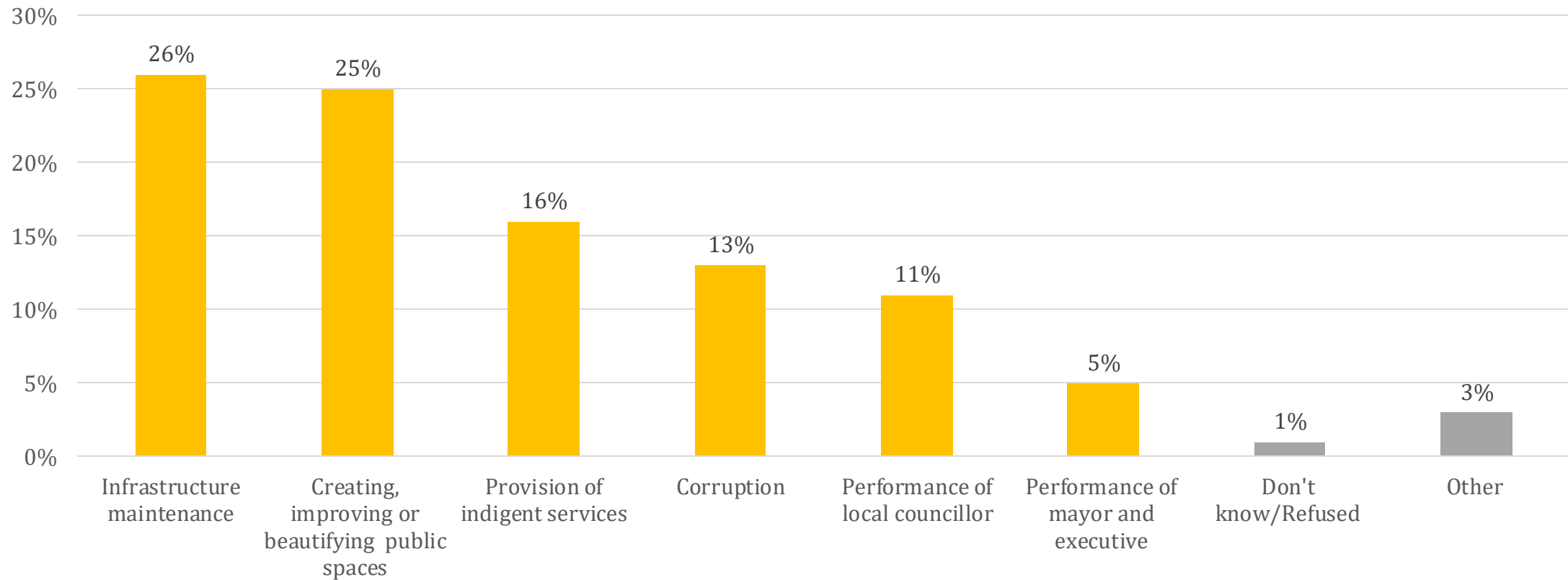
The state of public spaces is the top issue for voters in Johannesburg in their municipality

Which issue do you think is the biggest problem in your municipality?
Johannesburg



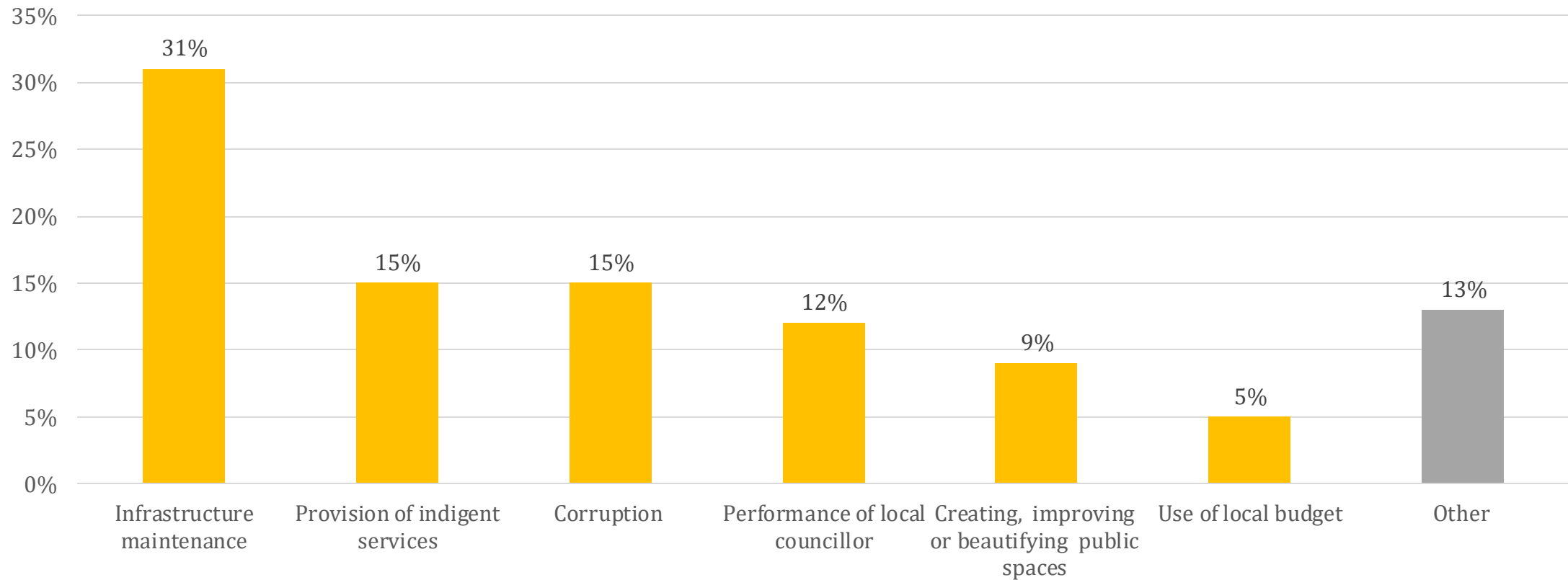
Infrastructure and the state of public spaces are the top issues for Tshwane voters in their municipality

Which issue do you think is the biggest problem in your municipality?
Tshwane



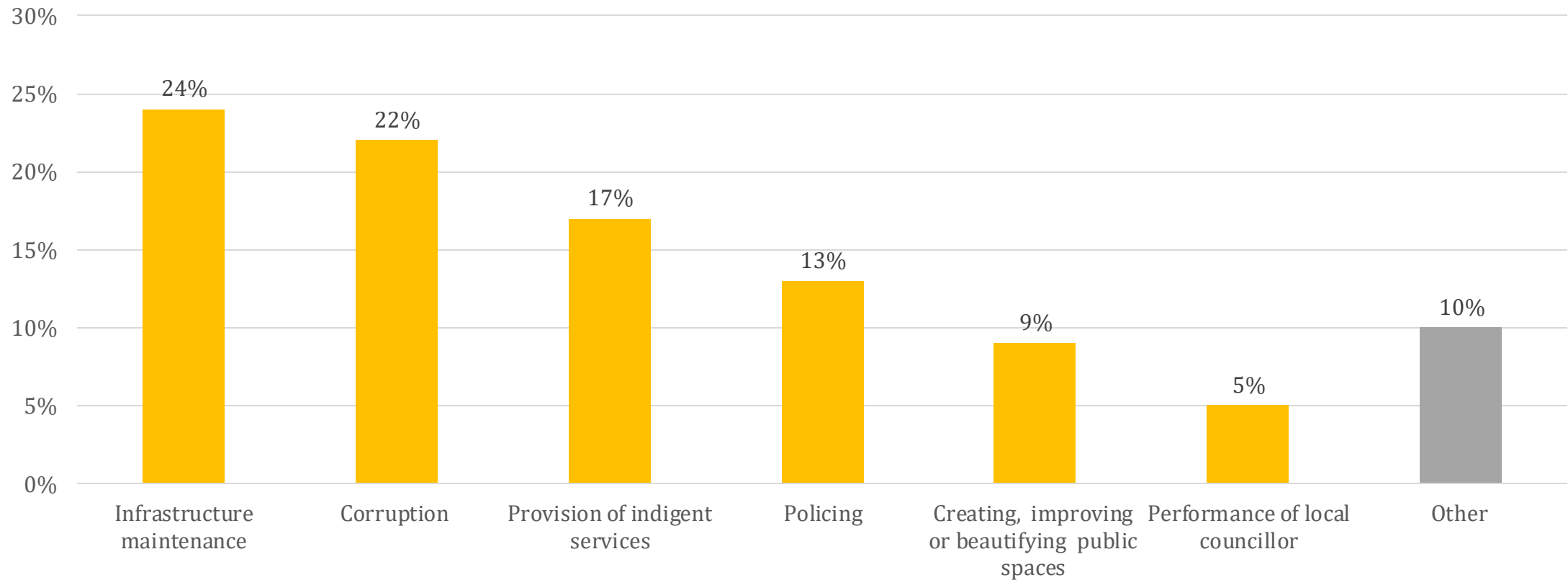
Infrastructure is the top issue for voters in Ekurhuleni in their municipality

Which issue do you think is the biggest problem in your municipality?
Ekurhuleni



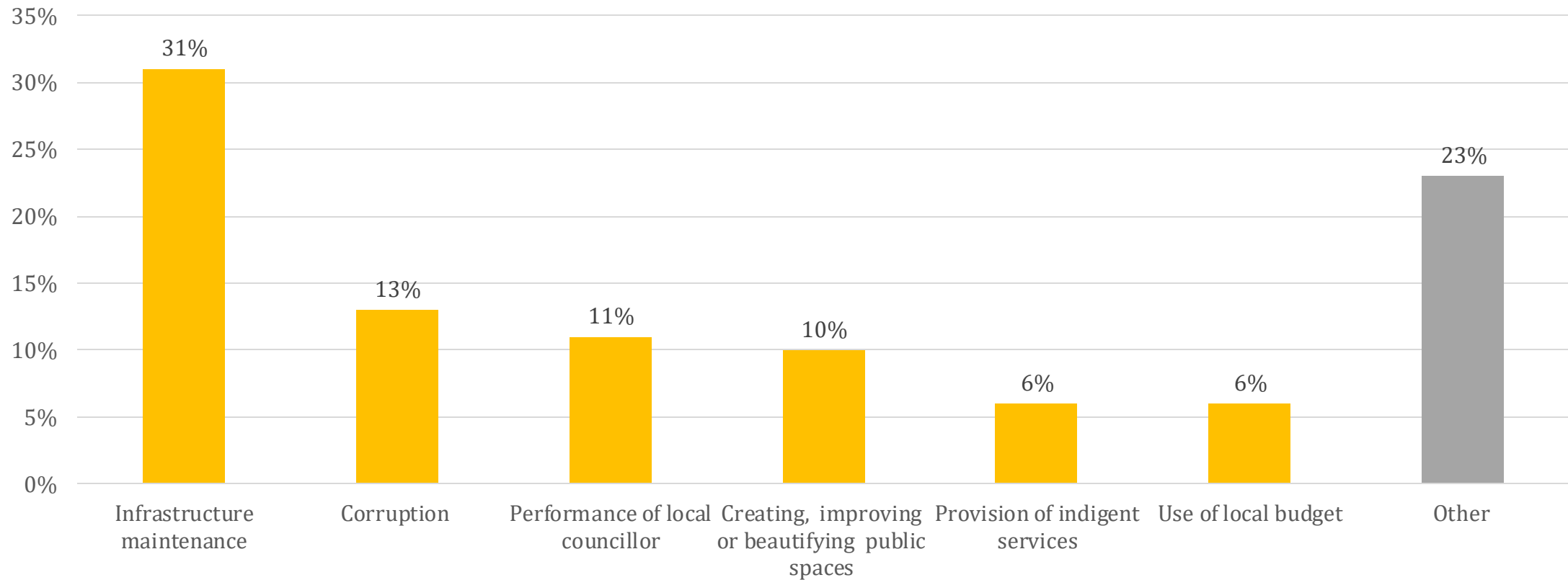
Infrastructure and corruption are the top issues for voters in eThekweni in their municipality

Which issue do you think is the biggest problem in your municipality?
eThekweni



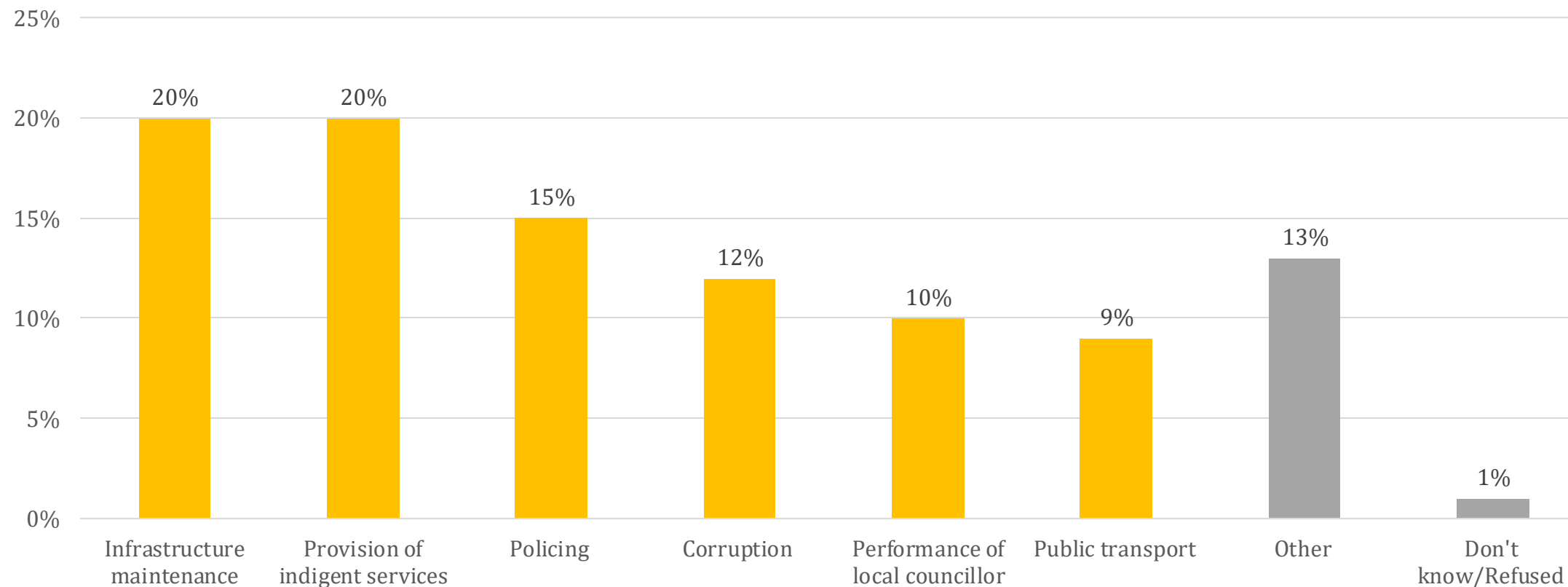
Infrastructure is the top issue for voters in NMB in their municipality

Which issue do you think is the biggest problem in your municipality?
Nelson Mandela Bay



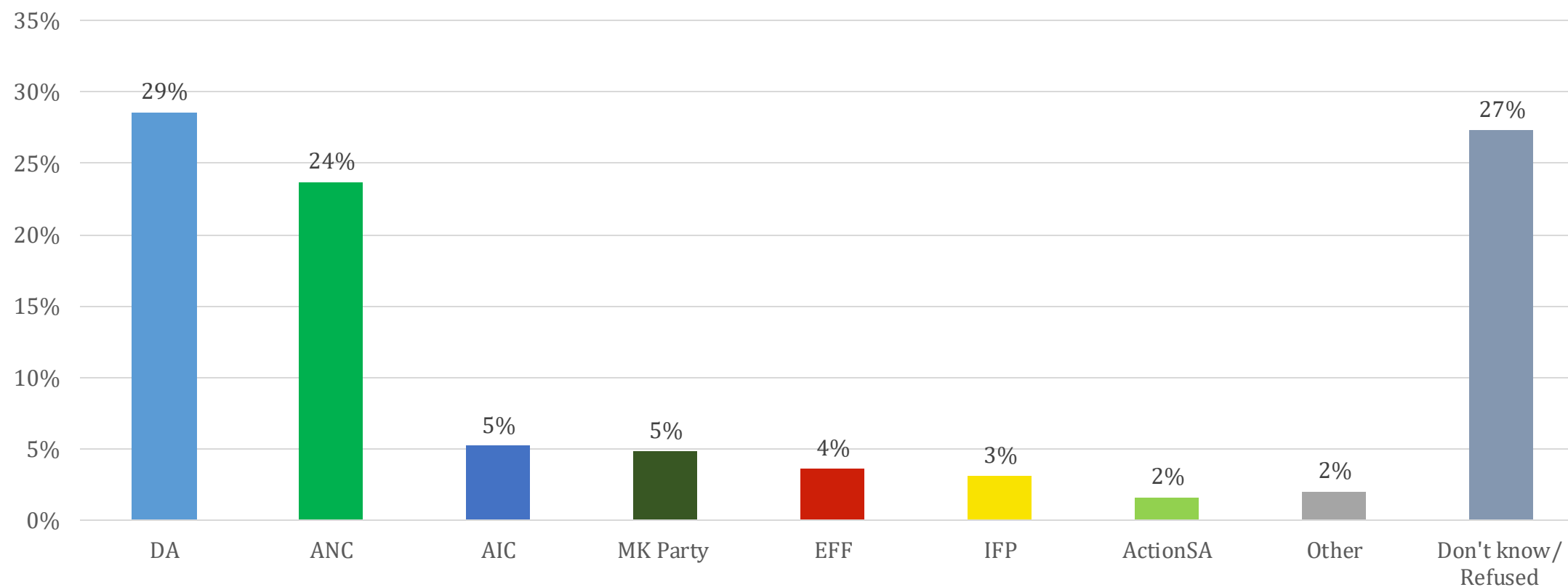
Infrastructure and the provision of indigent services are the top issues for voters in Cape Town in their municipality

Which issue do you think is the biggest problem in your municipality?
City of Cape Town



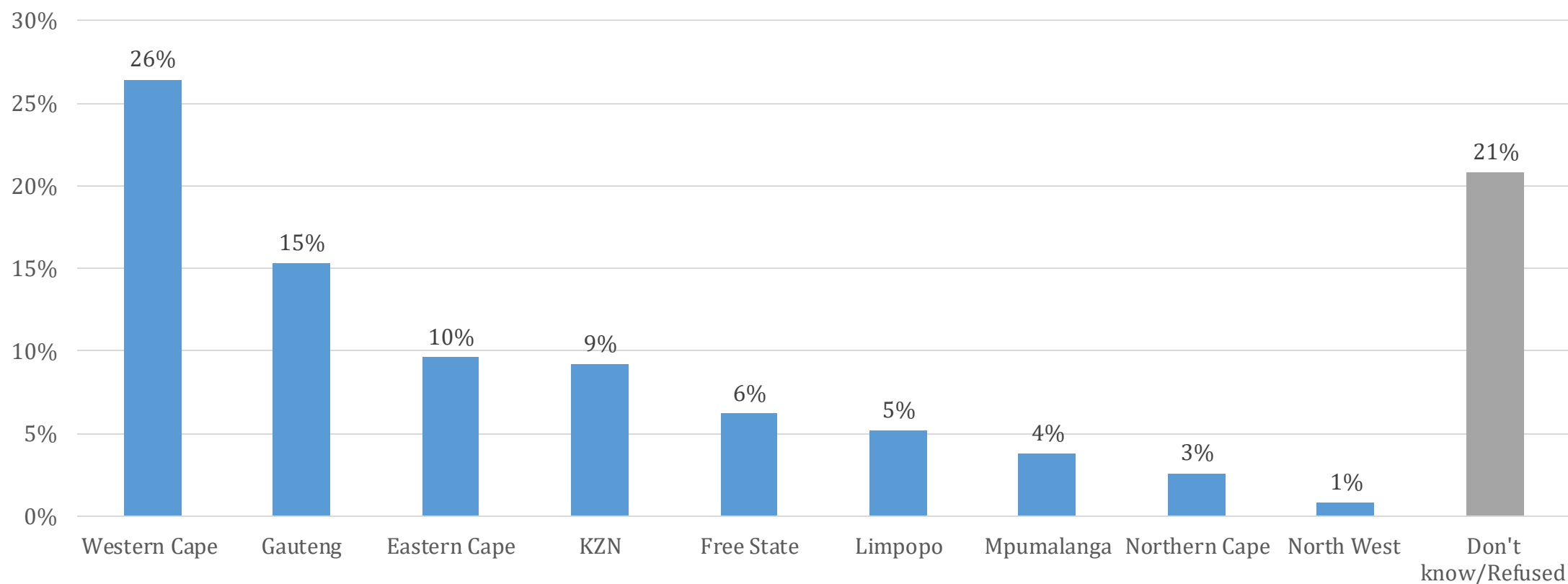
The DA is ranked the most effective at governing

Which party do you believe is the most effective at governing?



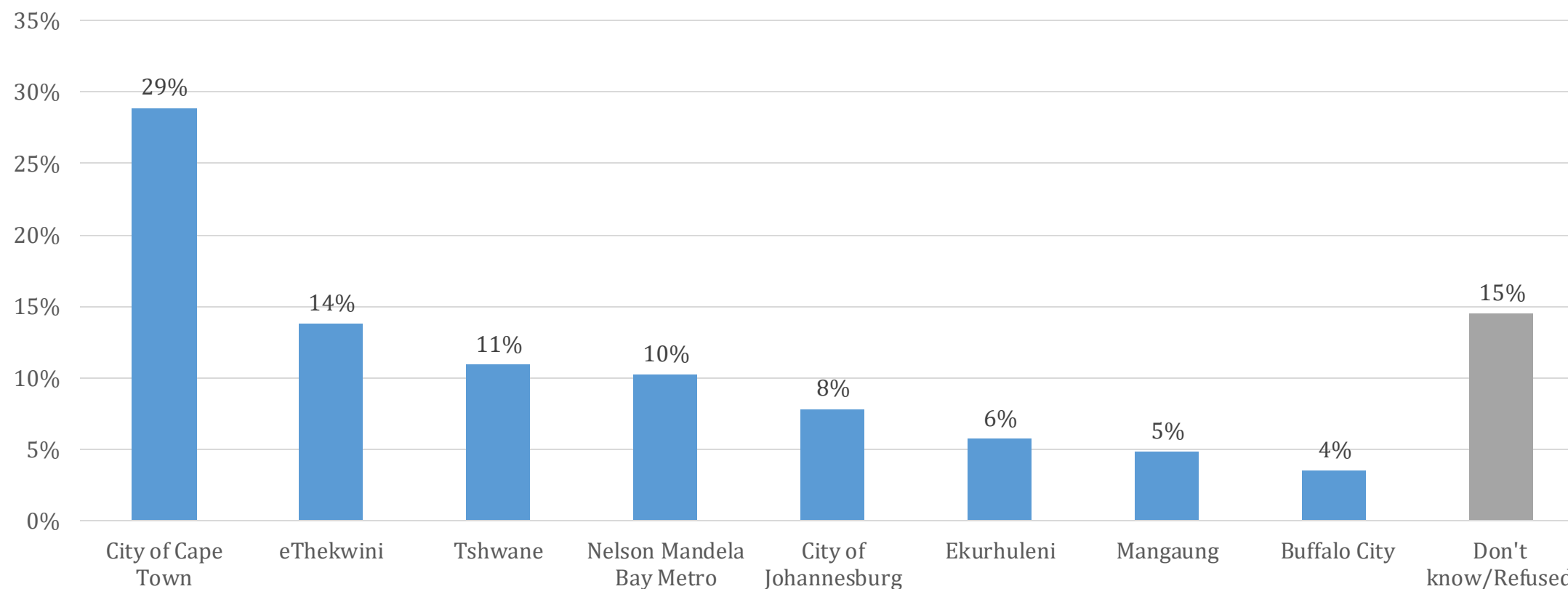
The Western Cape – home to 12% of SA’s population – is voted the best governed province

Which province do you believe is governed the best?



The City of Cape Town (home to 7.6% of the population) is voted the best governed metro nationally

Which of the following metros do you believe is governed the best?



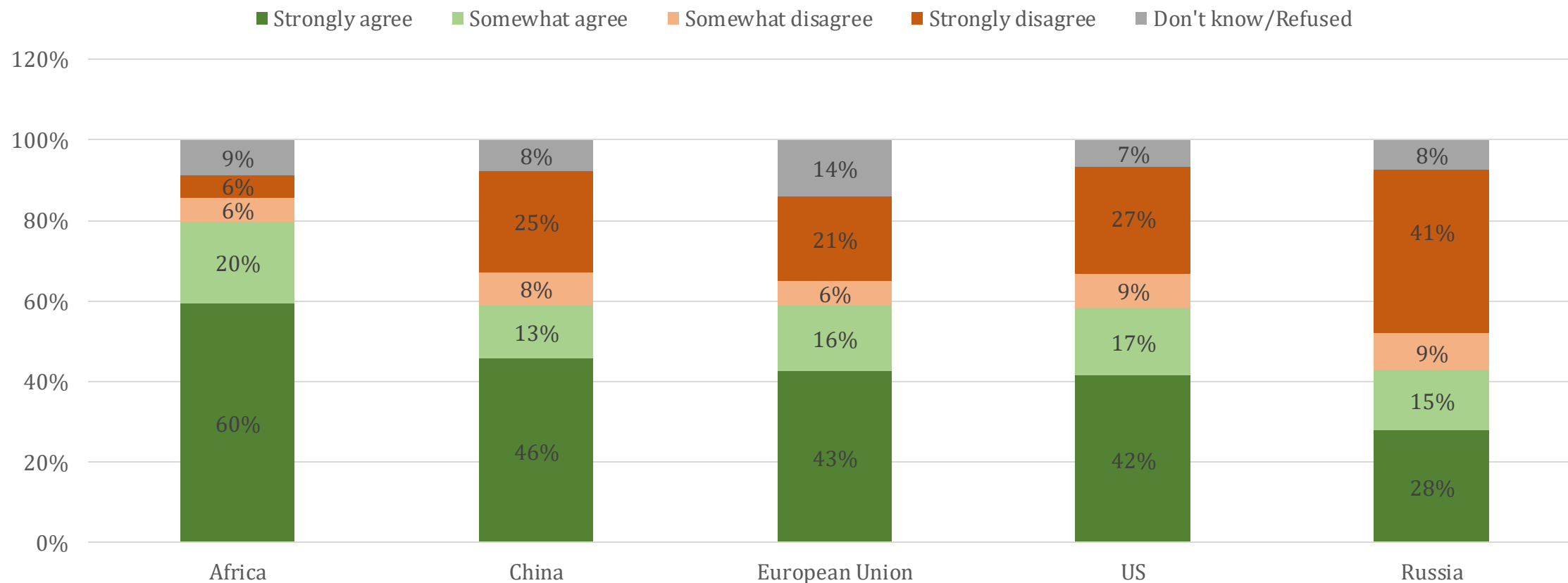


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Foreign Affairs

80% of voters agree SA should have closer ties with Africa, while sentiment on China, the EU and the US is similar. Half of voters do not want SA to have closer ties with Russia

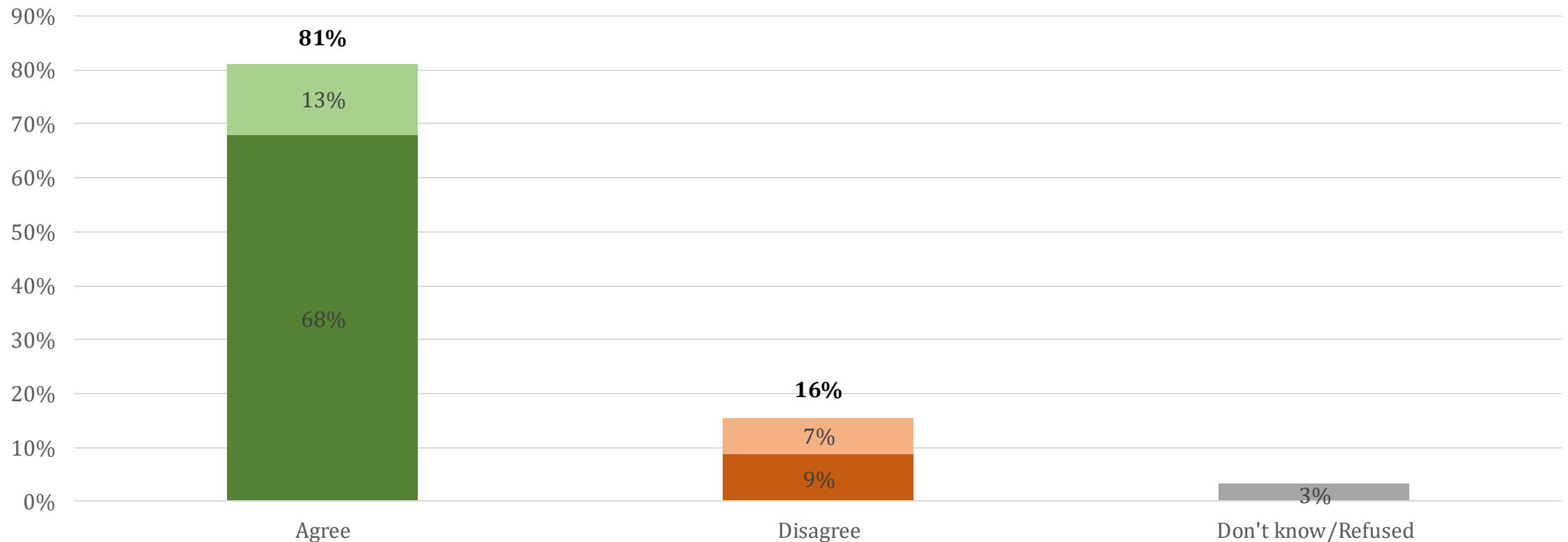
Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
South Africa should have closer ties with:



81% of voters agree that SA should do more to promote democracy in Africa

Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
South Africa should do more to promote democracy in Africa

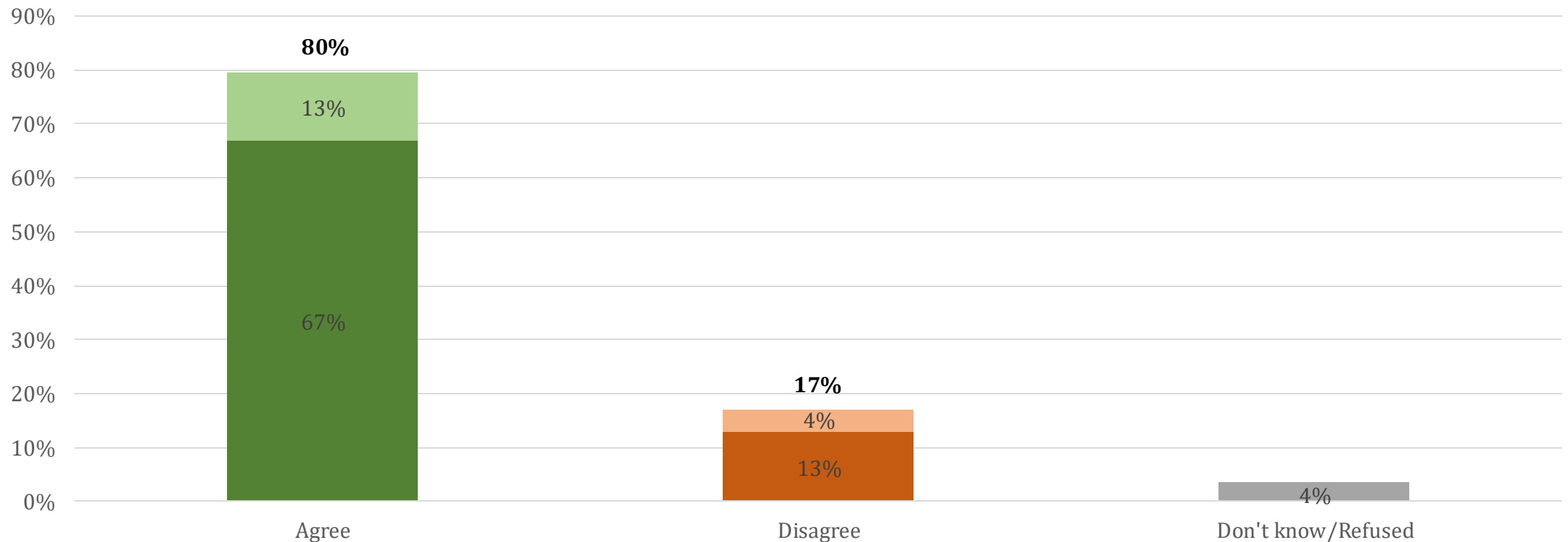
■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Somewhat disagree



80% of voters agree that SA should do more to assist peacekeeping in Africa

Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
South Africa should do more to assist peacekeeping in Africa

■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Somewhat disagree



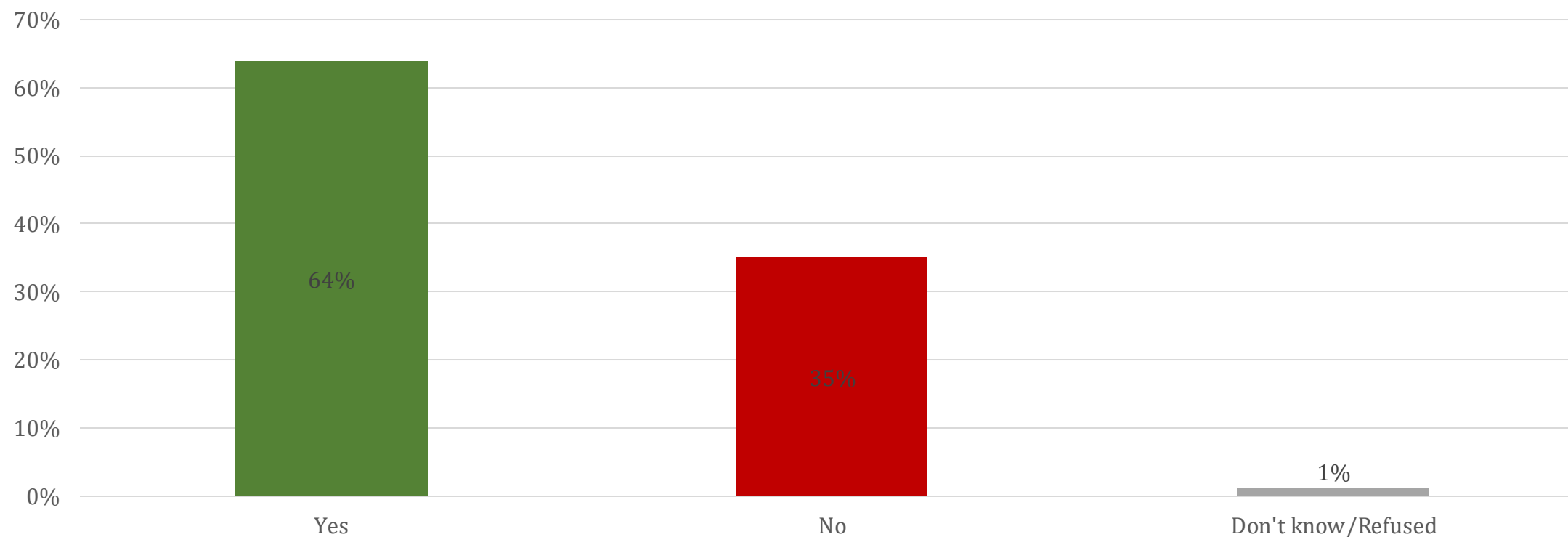


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South Africa/US Relations

Nearly two thirds of voters are aware of the US Executive Order cutting aid to SA

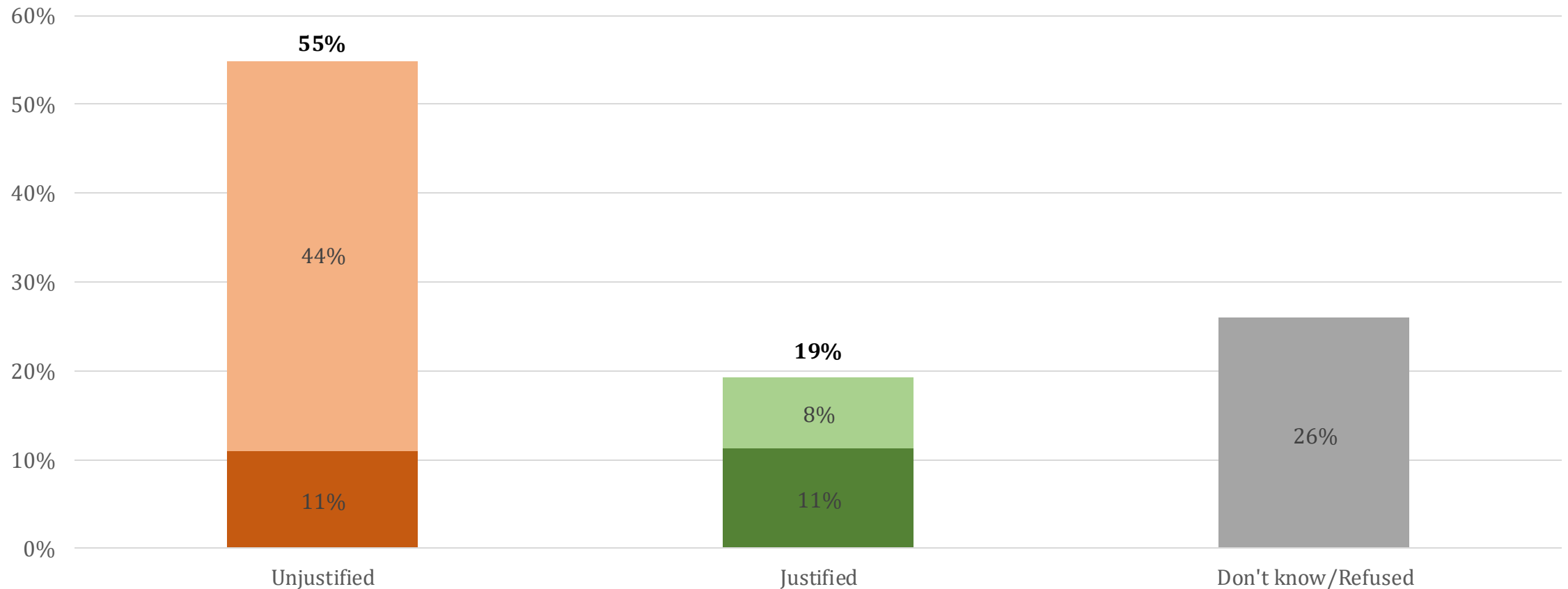
Are you aware of President Donald Trump's Executive Order of February 2025 concerning South Africa?



More than half believe the Executive Order is unjustified

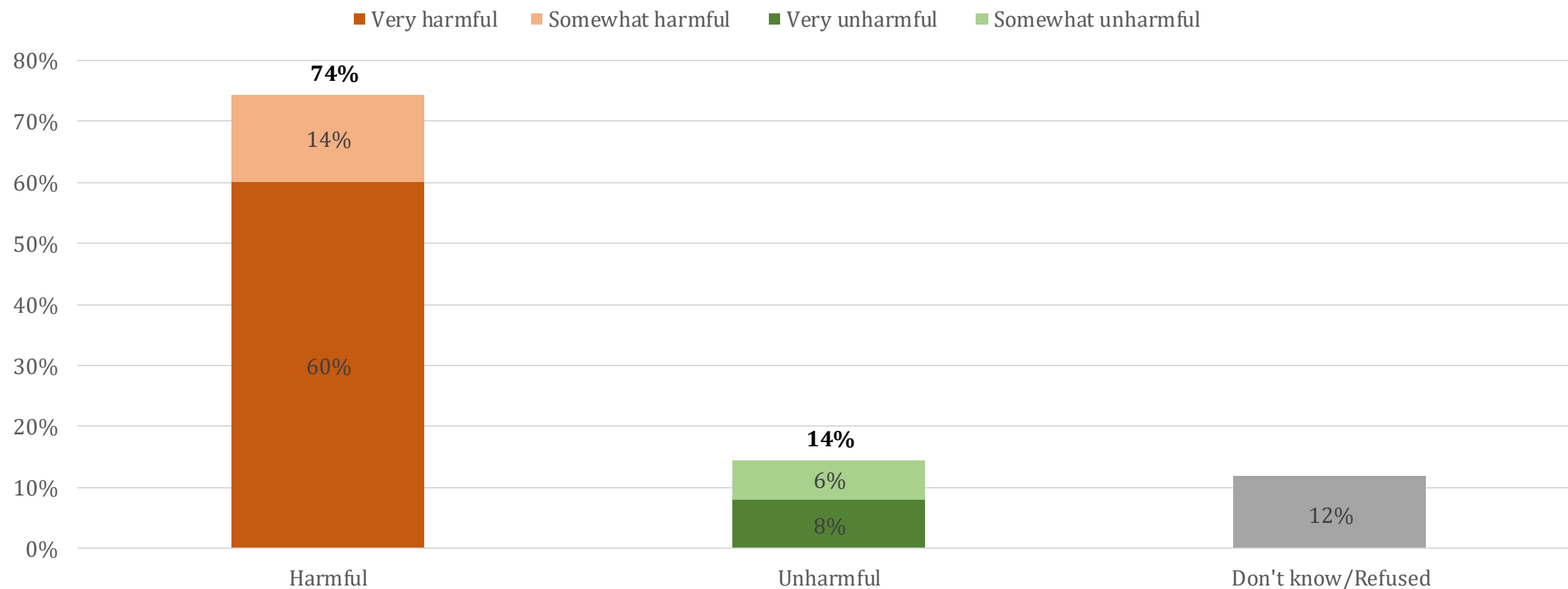
Do you think this Executive Order by the US Government is justified or unjustified?

■ Completely justified ■ Somewhat justified ■ Somewhat unjustified ■ Completely unjustified



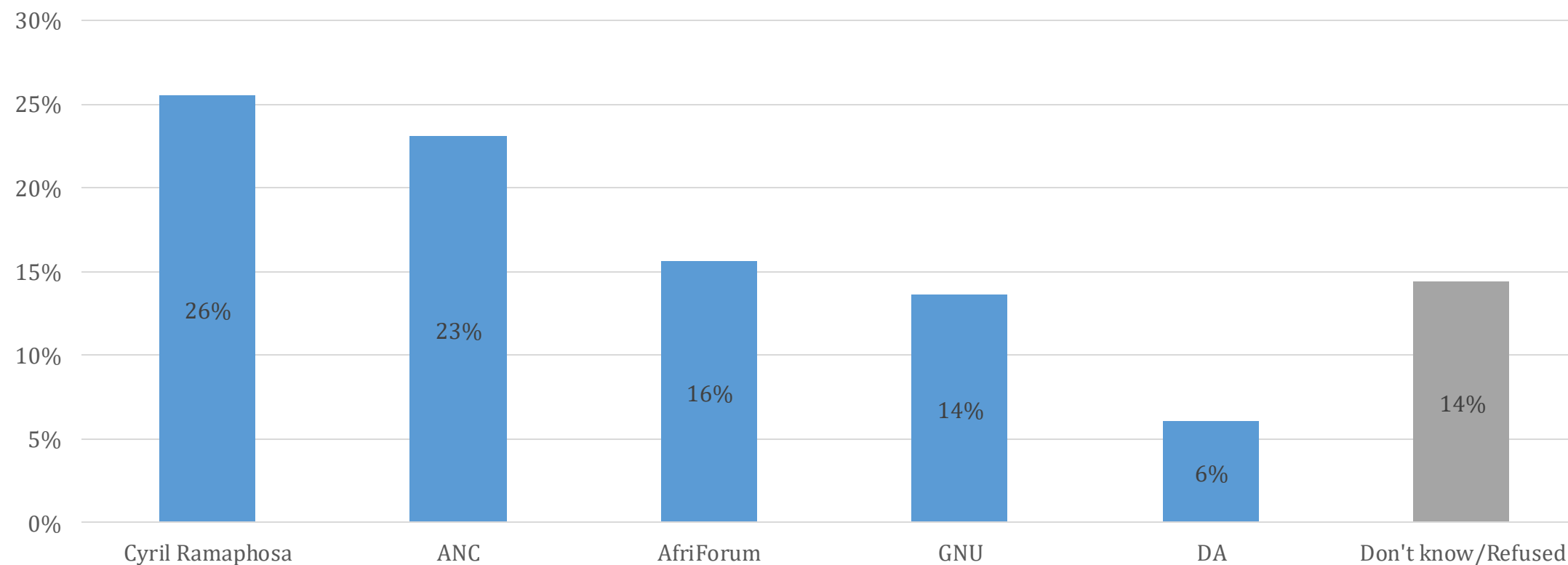
Three quarters of voters believe the Executive Order is harmful to SA

How harmful or unharmed do you believe this Executive Order by the US government is to South Africa?



Three times as many voters hold Cyril Ramaphosa or the ANC responsible for the consequences of the Executive Order than AfriForum

Which person or organisation in South Africa do you think is most responsible for the consequences of this US Executive Order?





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Survey of South African Voter Opinion

April 2025