

Center for
Middle Eastern Policy
at BROOKINGS

What Americans (especially Evangelicals) Think About Israel and the Middle East

Principal Investigator: Shibley Telhami

A survey sponsored by the
Sadat Chair
for Peace and Development
at the University of Maryland

In cooperation with the
Program for Public Consultation
fielded by
Nielsen Scarborough

Steven Kull, Evan Lewis, Clay Ramsay, Rachel Slattery, Neil Schwartz, Scott Willoth, Brittany Kyser, Diana Partridge, Katayoun Kishi, Allison Stettler, and Elizabeth Pearce provided assistance.

This probabilistic online panel survey was fielded by Nielsen Scarborough among a nationally representative sample. 1738 panelists completed the survey including a national sample of 875 adults, plus an oversample of 863 self-identified Evangelical or Born-again Christians, making for a total sample of Evangelicals/Born-again Christians of 1074. November 4-10, 2015.

Survey Methodology

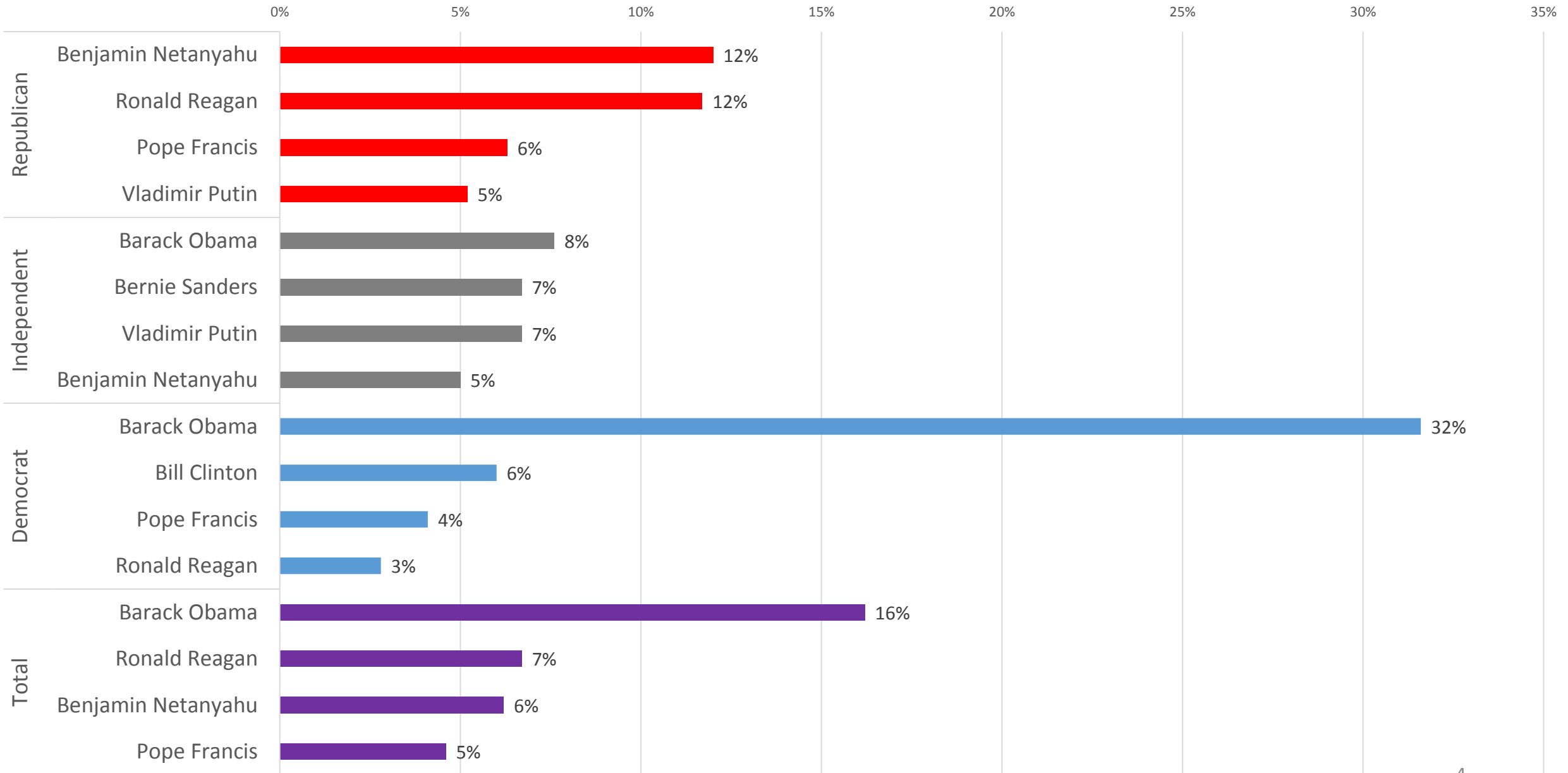
The survey was conducted November 4 to 10, 2015, with a panel consisting of a probability-based representative sample. The panel was recruited by Nielsen Scarborough from its larger probability-based national panel, which was recruited by mail and telephone using a random sample of households provided by Survey Sampling International. A total of 1738 panelists completed the survey including a national sample of 875 adults, plus an oversample of 863 self-identified Evangelical or Born-again Christians, making for a total sample of Evangelicals/born-again Christians of 1074. Responses were weighted by age, gender, income, education, race, and geographic region using benchmarks from the U.S. Census. The survey was also weighted by partisan identification and Evangelical and Born-again Christians were down-weighted consistent with these groups' incidence rate in Nielsen Scarborough sample, so that they represented 24 percent of the national sample for this study (211 of 875).

The margins of error (MoE) for the national sample and for each subgroup is:

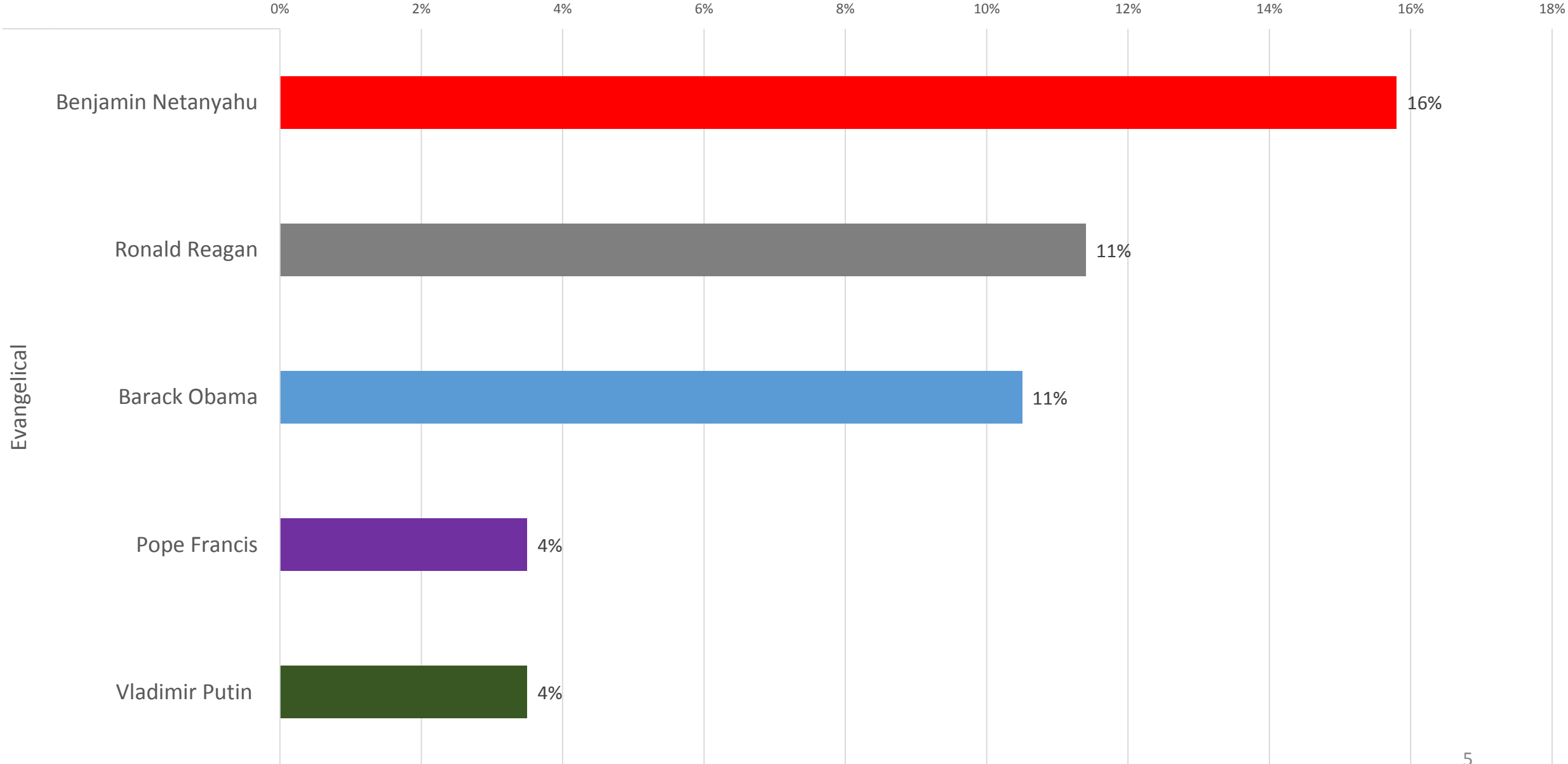
- National – 875 respondents, MoE: 3.3 percent
- Evangelical – 586, MoE: 4 percent
- Born-Again – 1003, MoE: 3.1 percent (88 percent of Evangelicals also identified as Born-again)
- Born-again, but not Evangelical – 488, MoE: 4.4 percent
- Born Again or Evangelical – 1074, MoE: 3 percent

Attitudes Toward Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

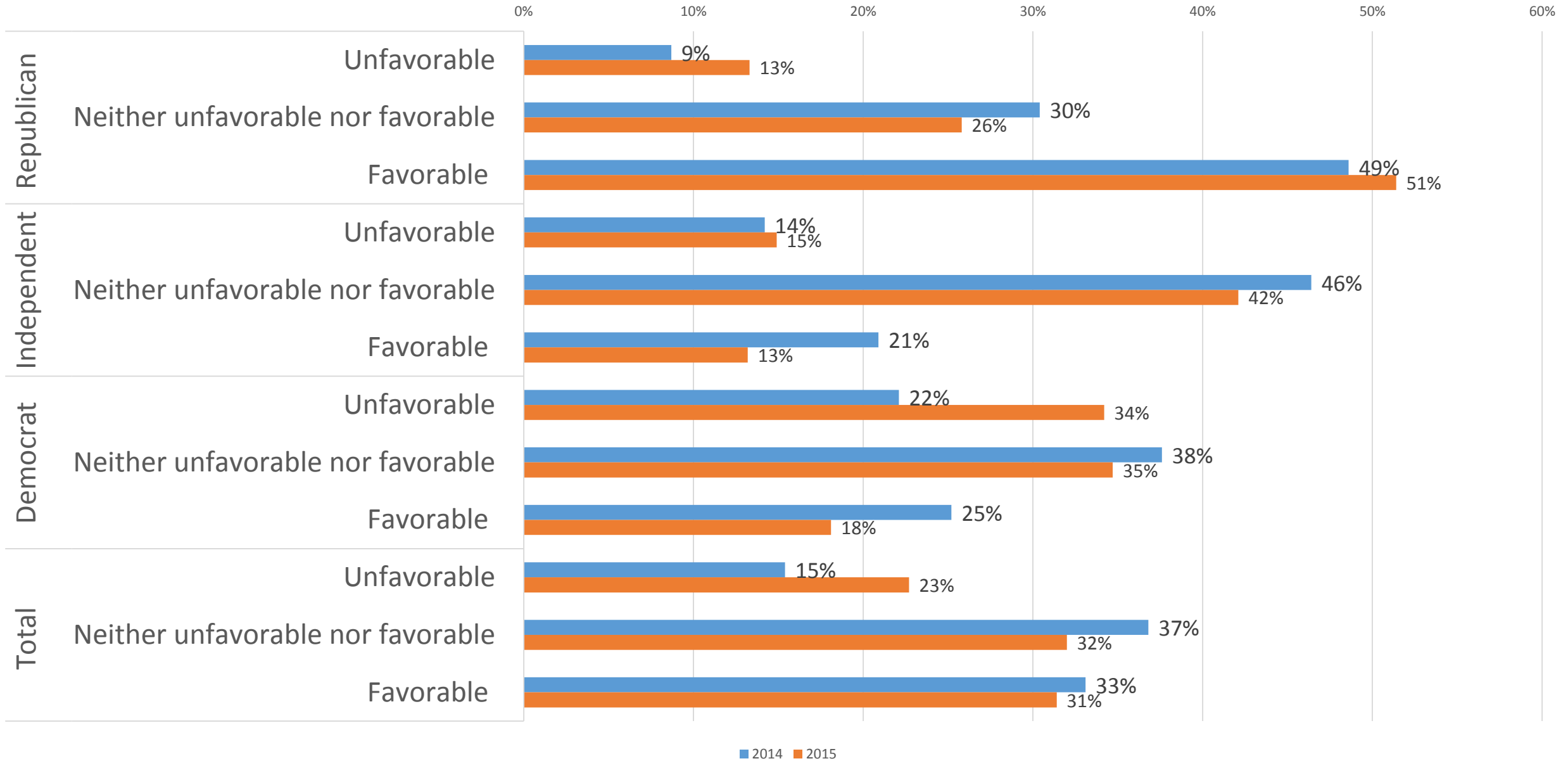
Q10: Please name a national or world leader you admire most:



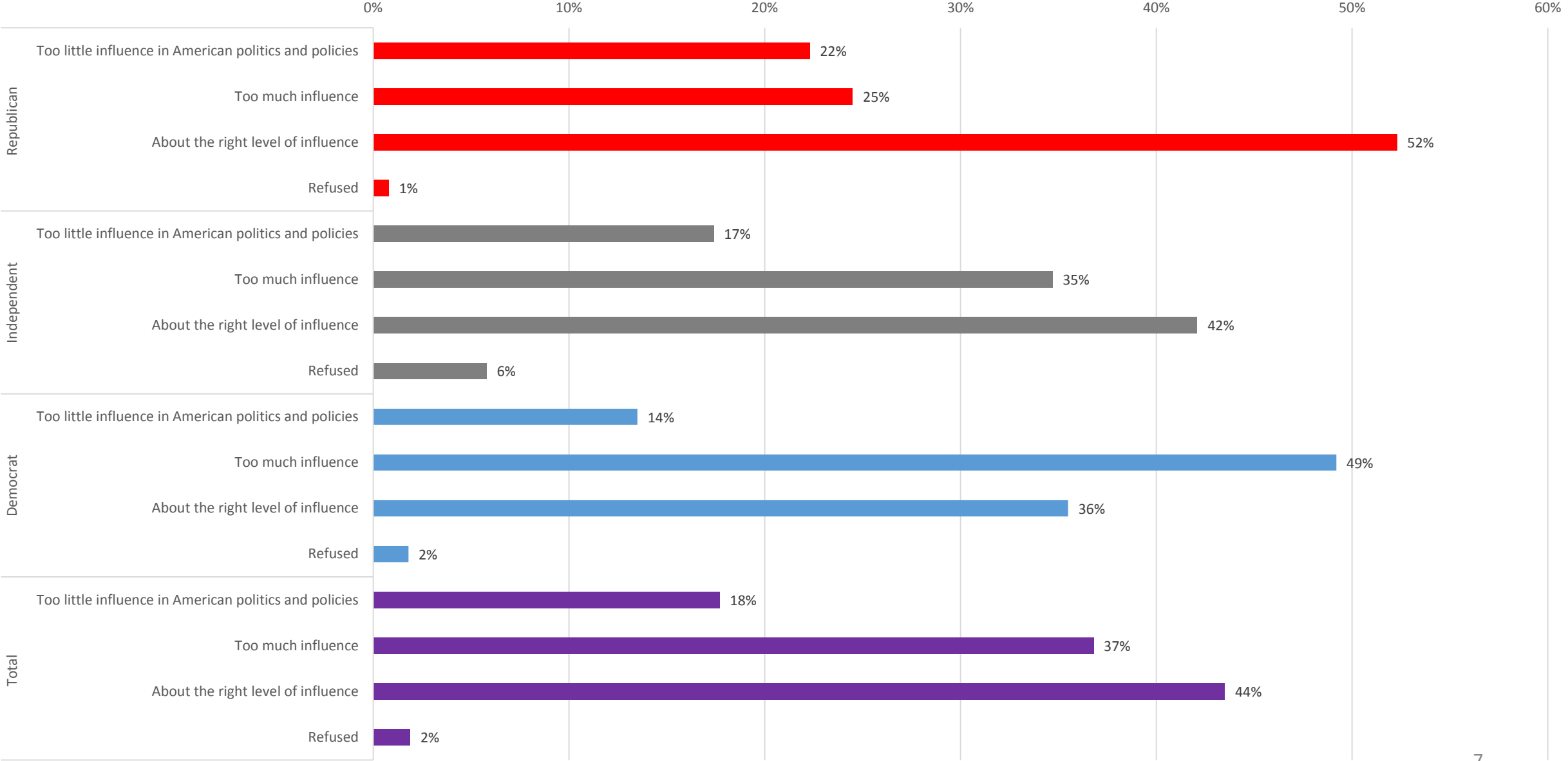
Q10: Please name a national or world leader you admire most [among Evangelicals]:



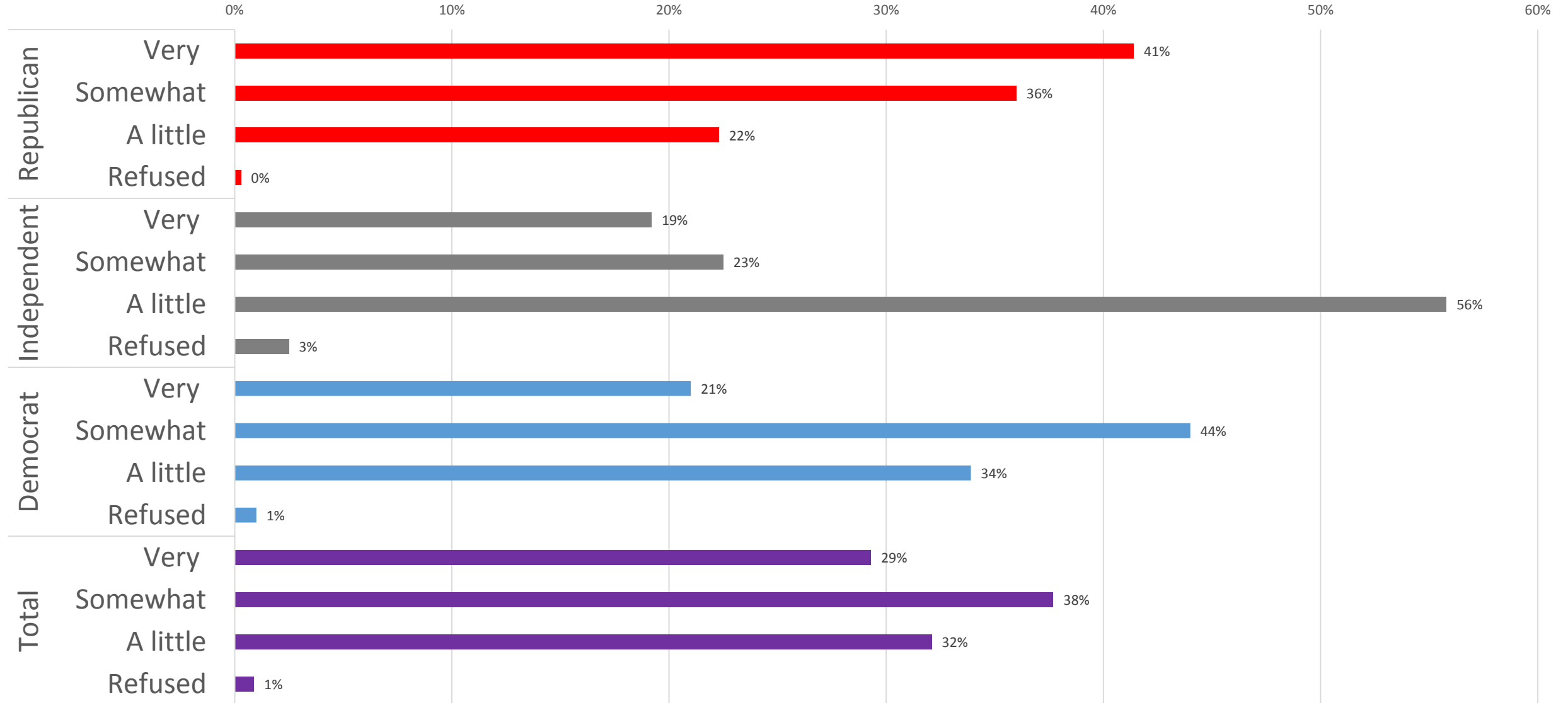
Q11A: I would like you to give your opinion of the following three leaders on a scale 0-10 [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu]:



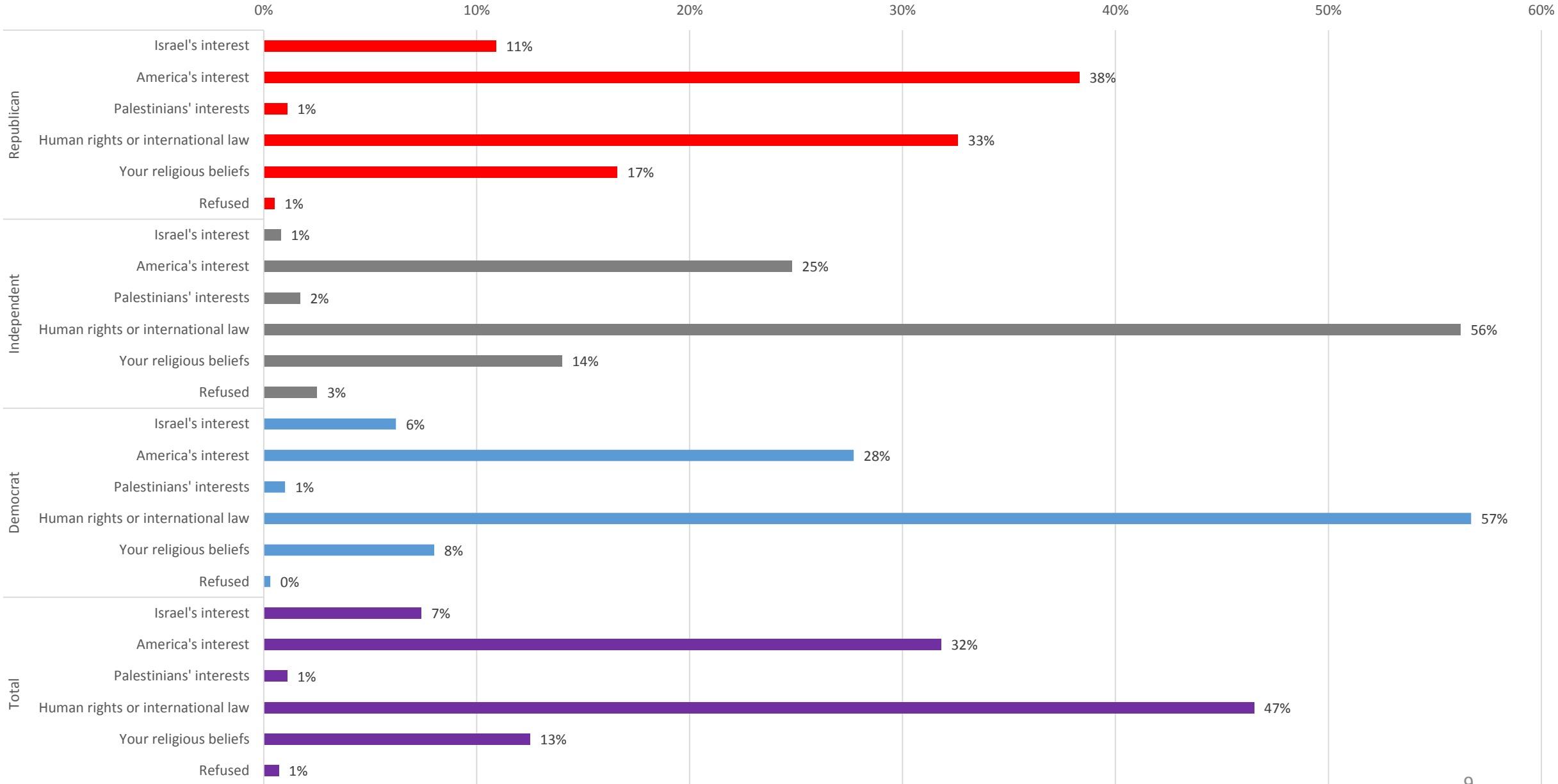
Q32: Do you believe the Israeli government has:



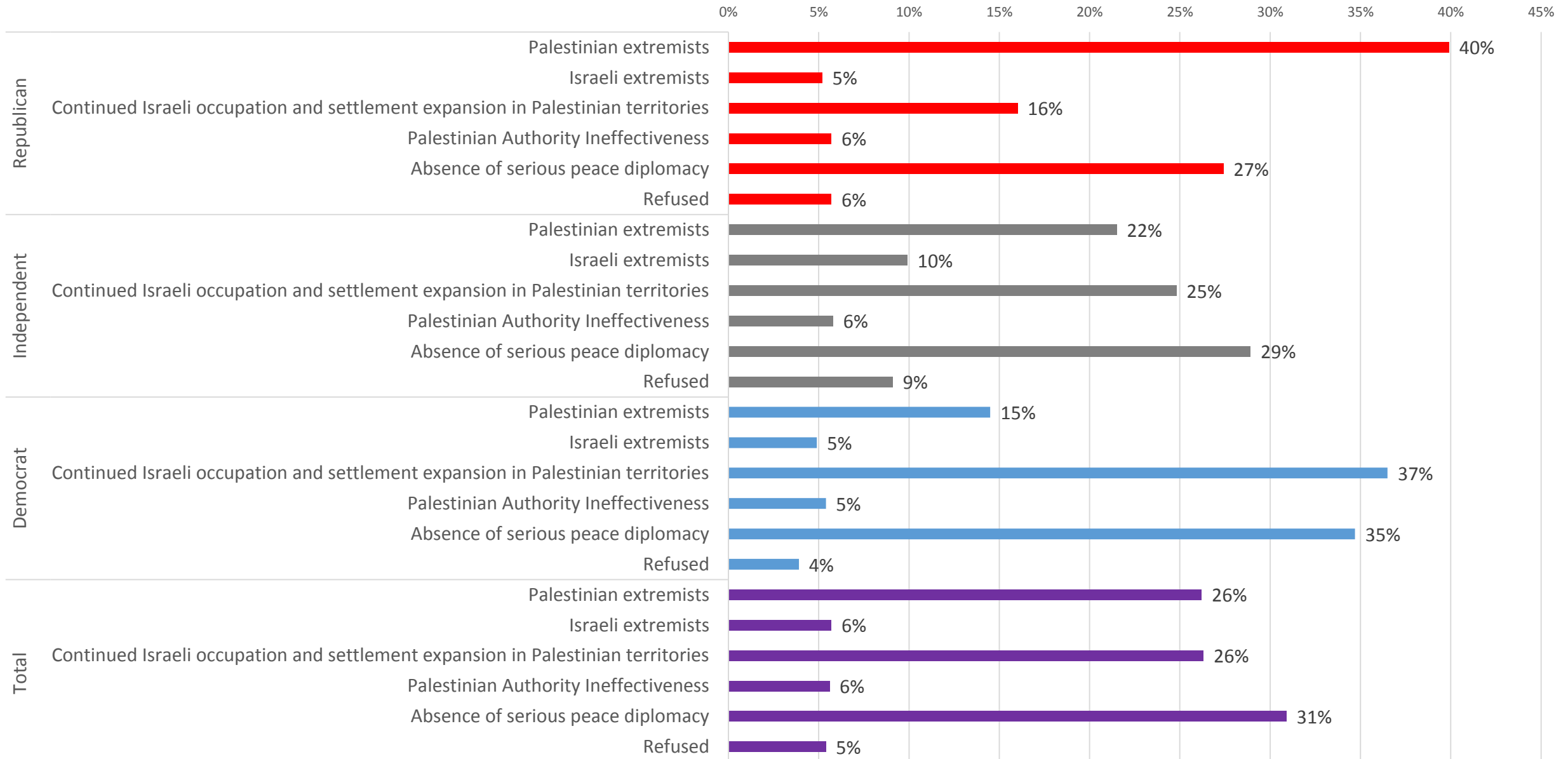
Q36: How concerned are you about events in Israel and the Palestinian Territory?



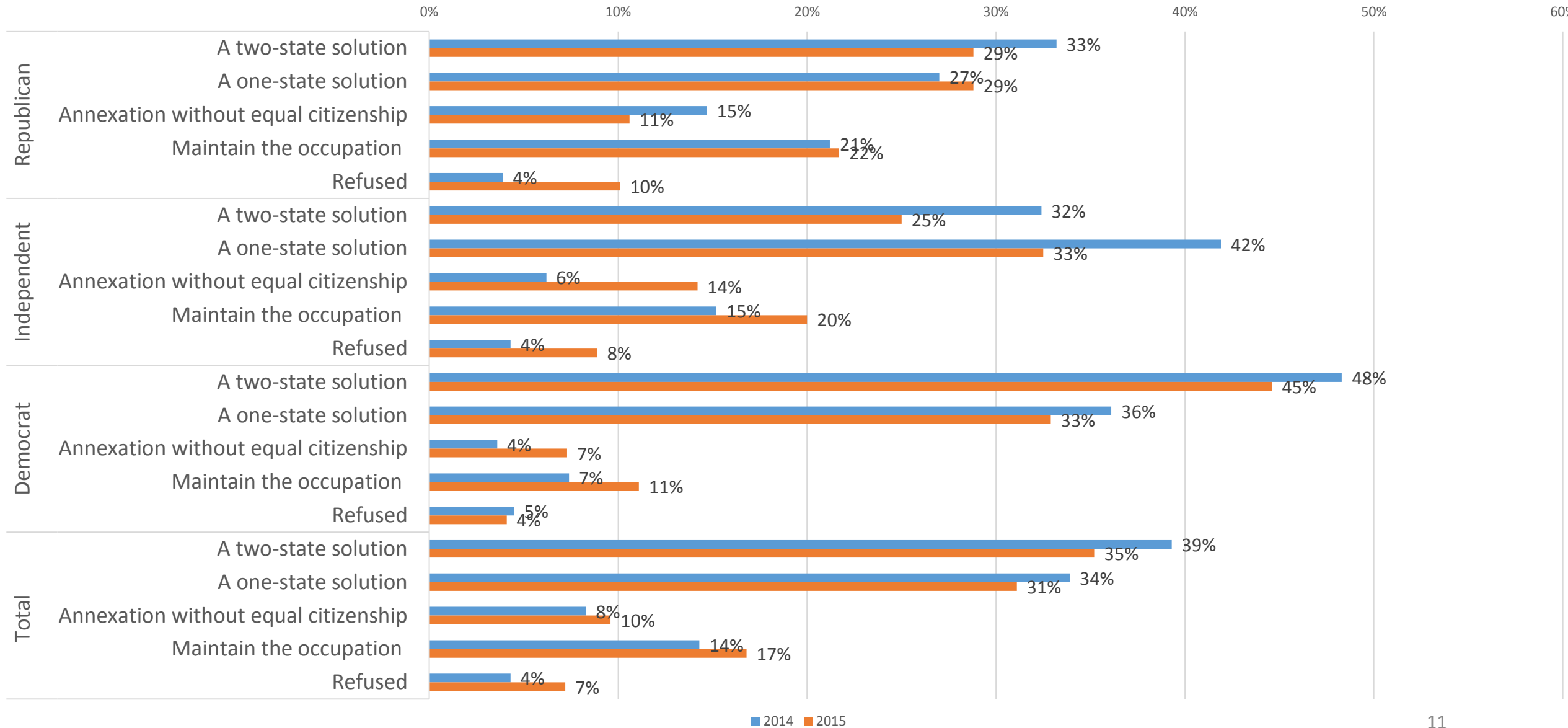
Q36A: Are your concerns mostly related to:



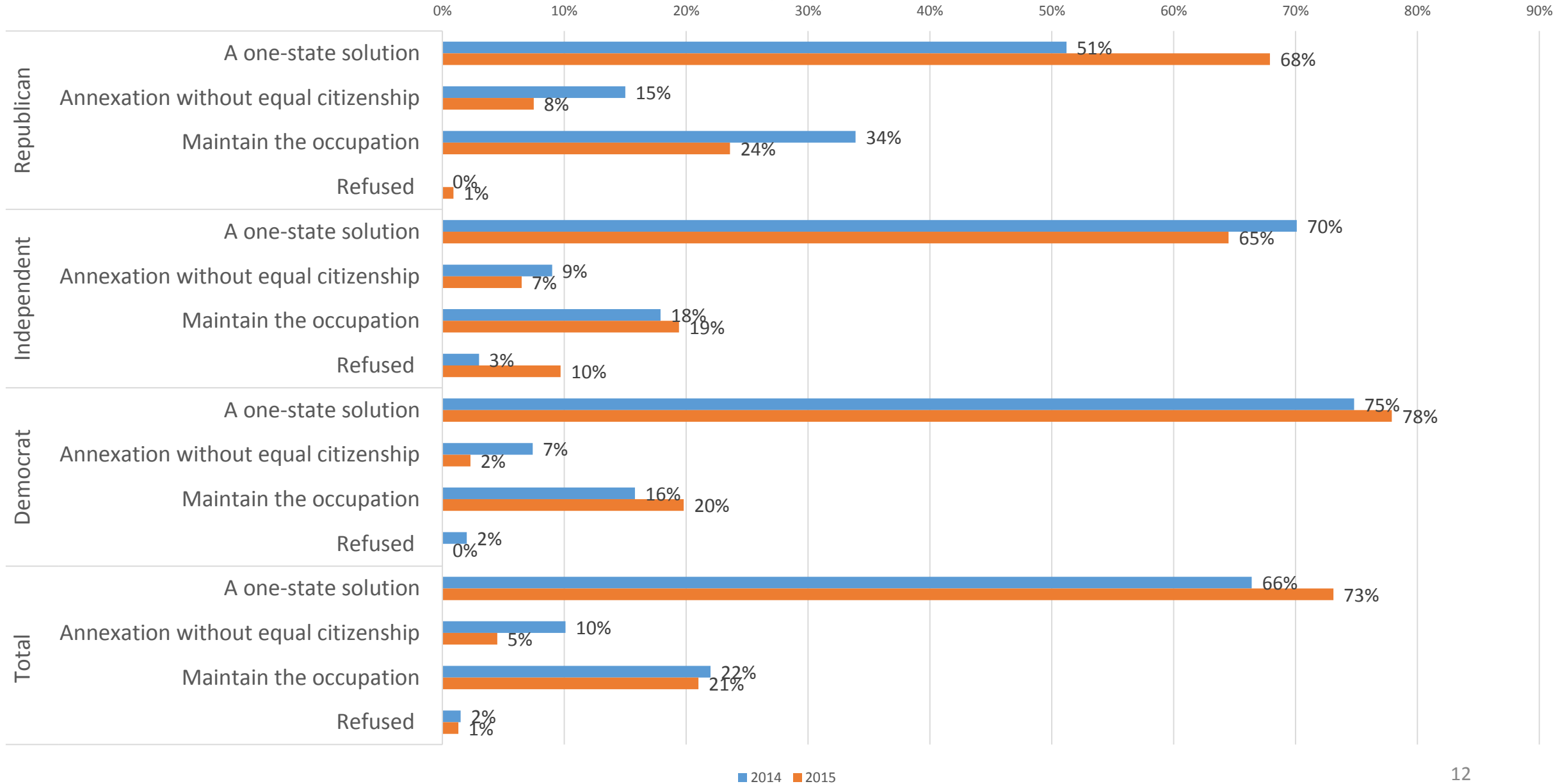
Q47: Which one of these factors do you believe is most responsible for the current escalation in violence between Israelis and Palestinians?



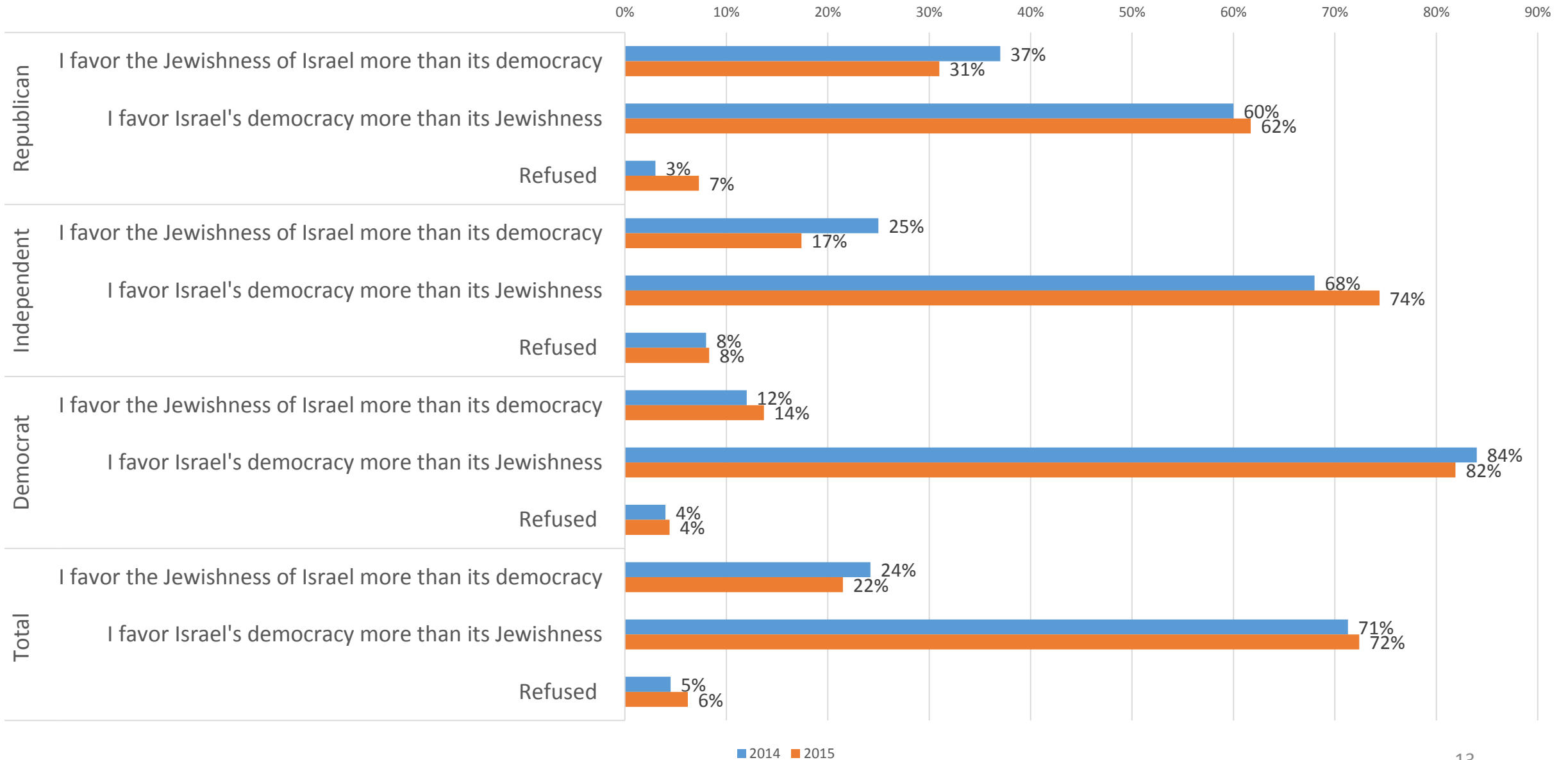
Q37: As you may know, the United States has been acting as a mediator between the Israeli government... Here are four possible options that are frequently discussed. Please select the one you think the US should support.



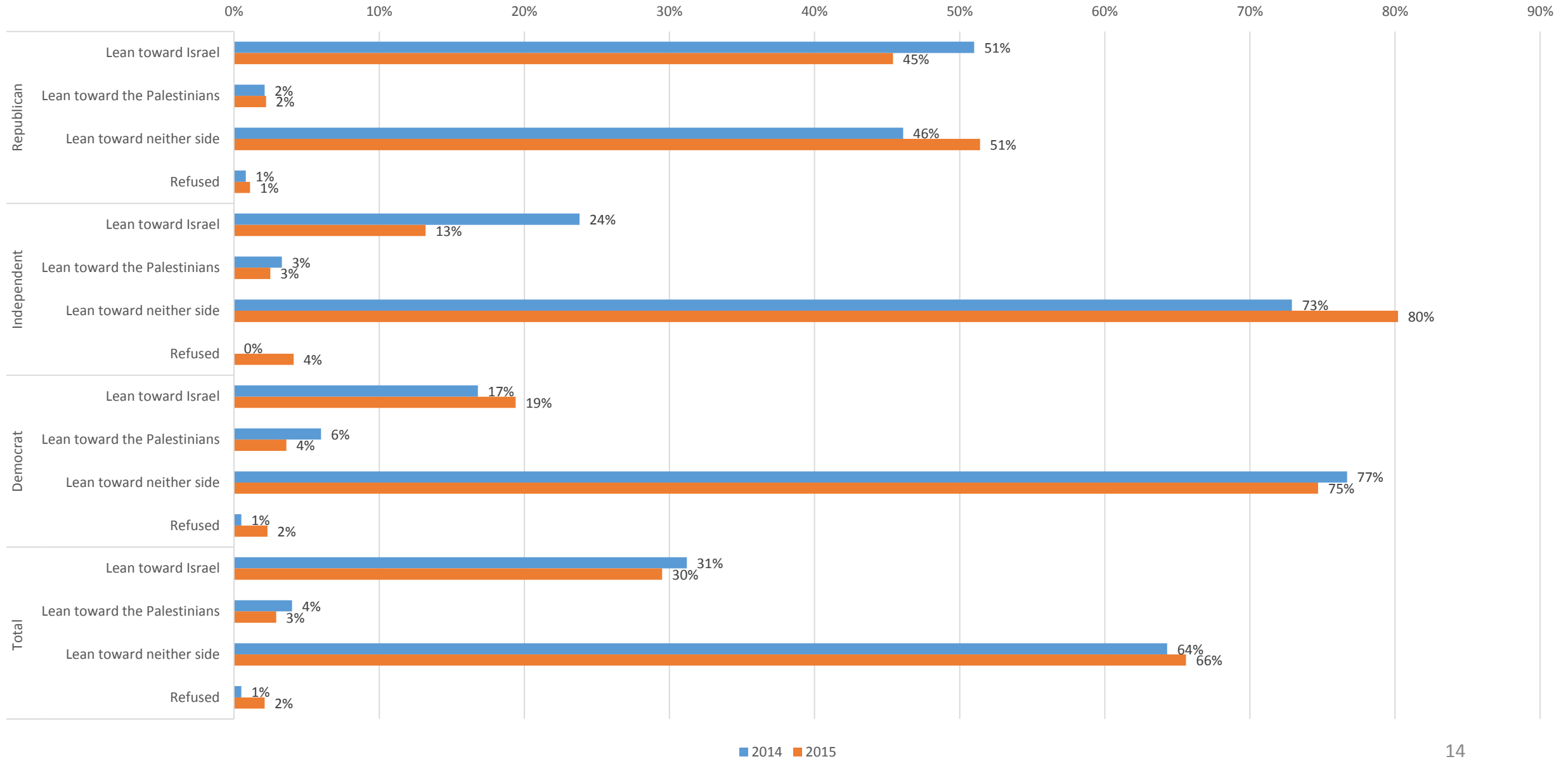
Q38: If the approach you selected turns out over time to be impossible, which of the remaining three would you prefer? [Asked if responded with “two-state solution” in previous question]



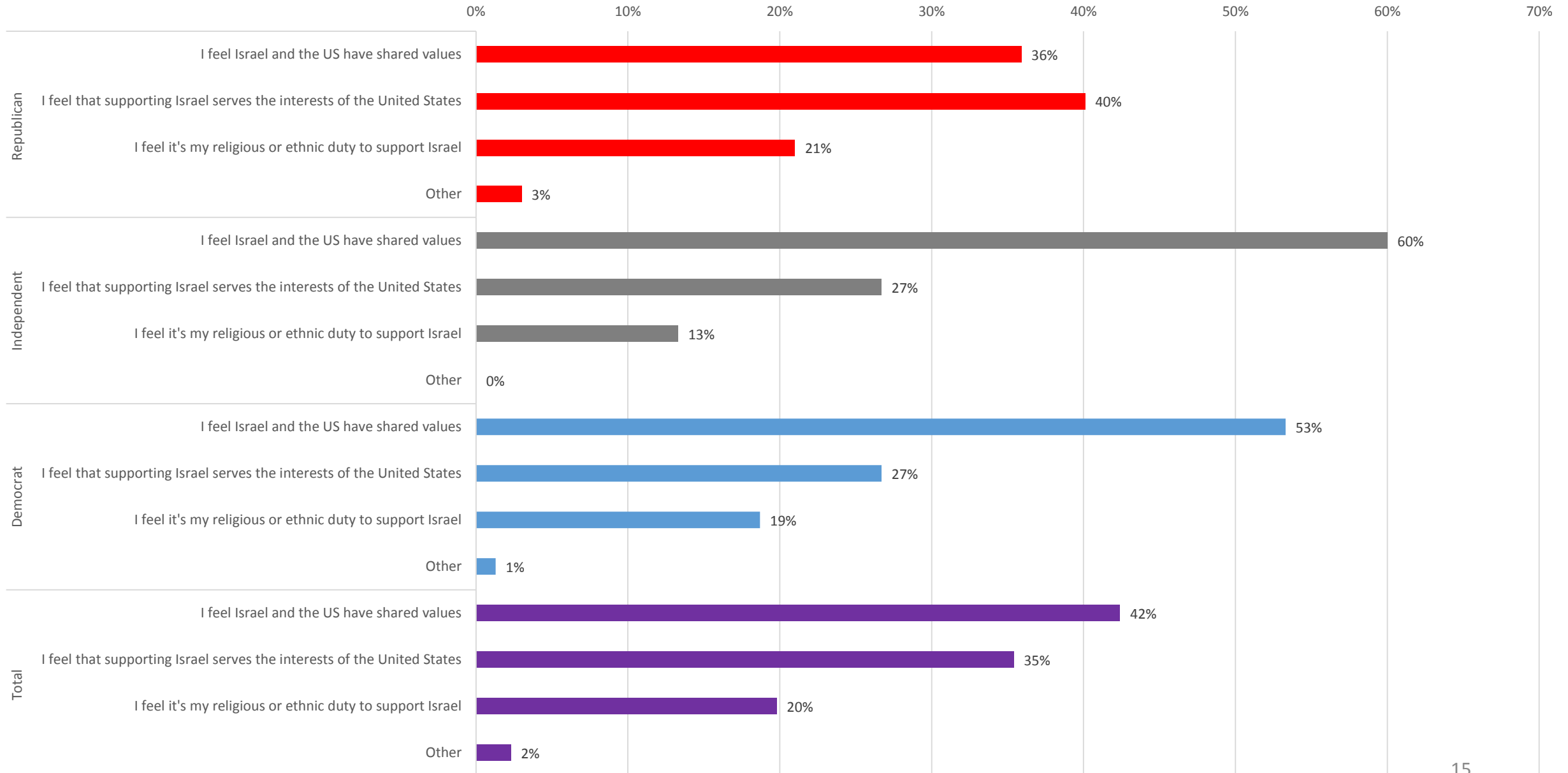
Q39: Which of the following statements is closer to your view if a two-state solution is not an option:



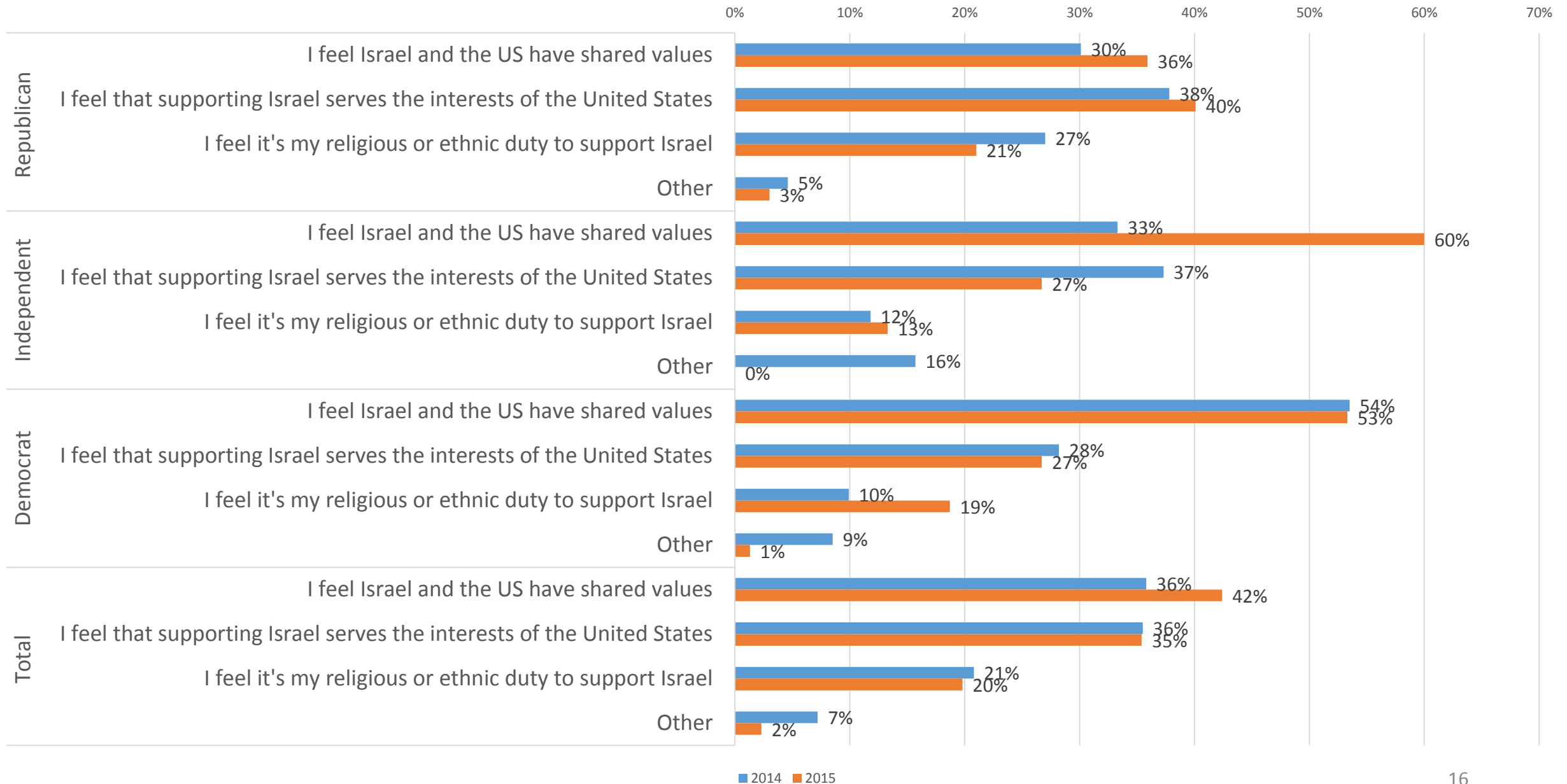
Q40: In general, what role do you want the United States to play in mediating the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Should the United States:



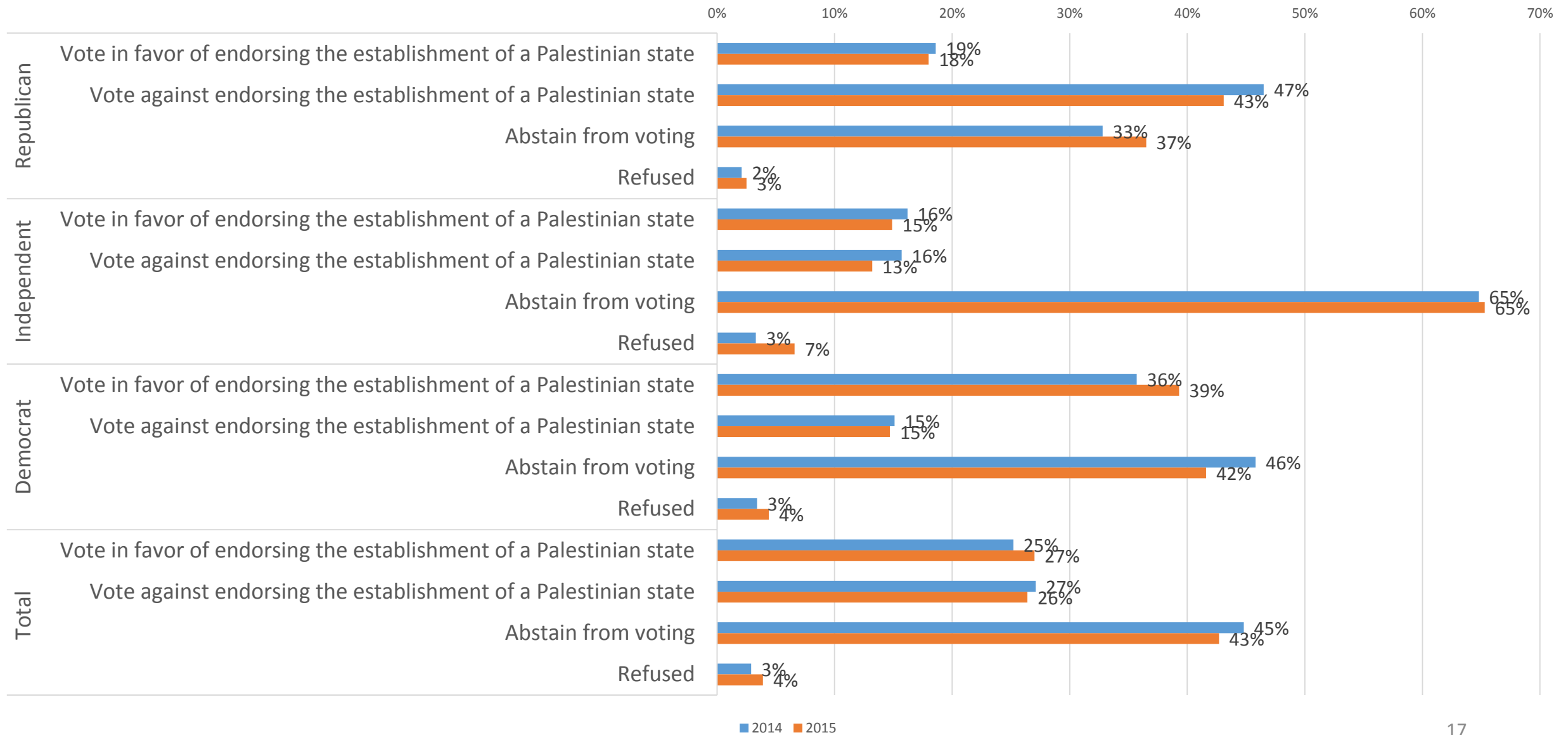
Q41: When you say you want the US to lean toward Israel, which one of the following is the most important reason? [asked only among those who want the US to learn toward Israel]



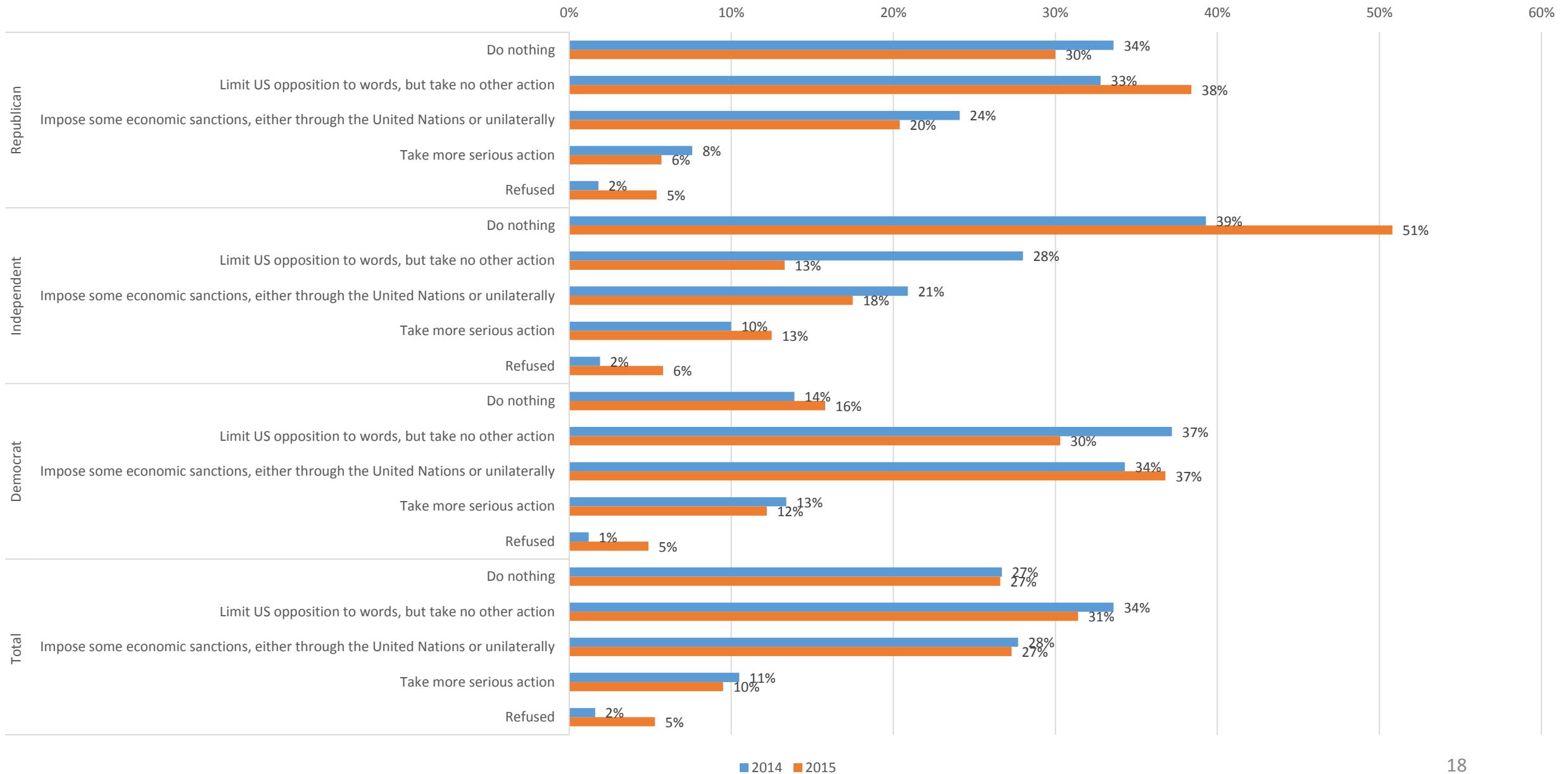
Q41: When you say you want the US to lean toward Israel, which one of the following is the most important reason? [asked only among those who want the US to learn toward Israel]



Q42: As you may know, there have been suggestions that the UN Security Council should endorse the... If the UN Security Council considers such a plan, what do you think the US should do as a member of the UN Security Council?

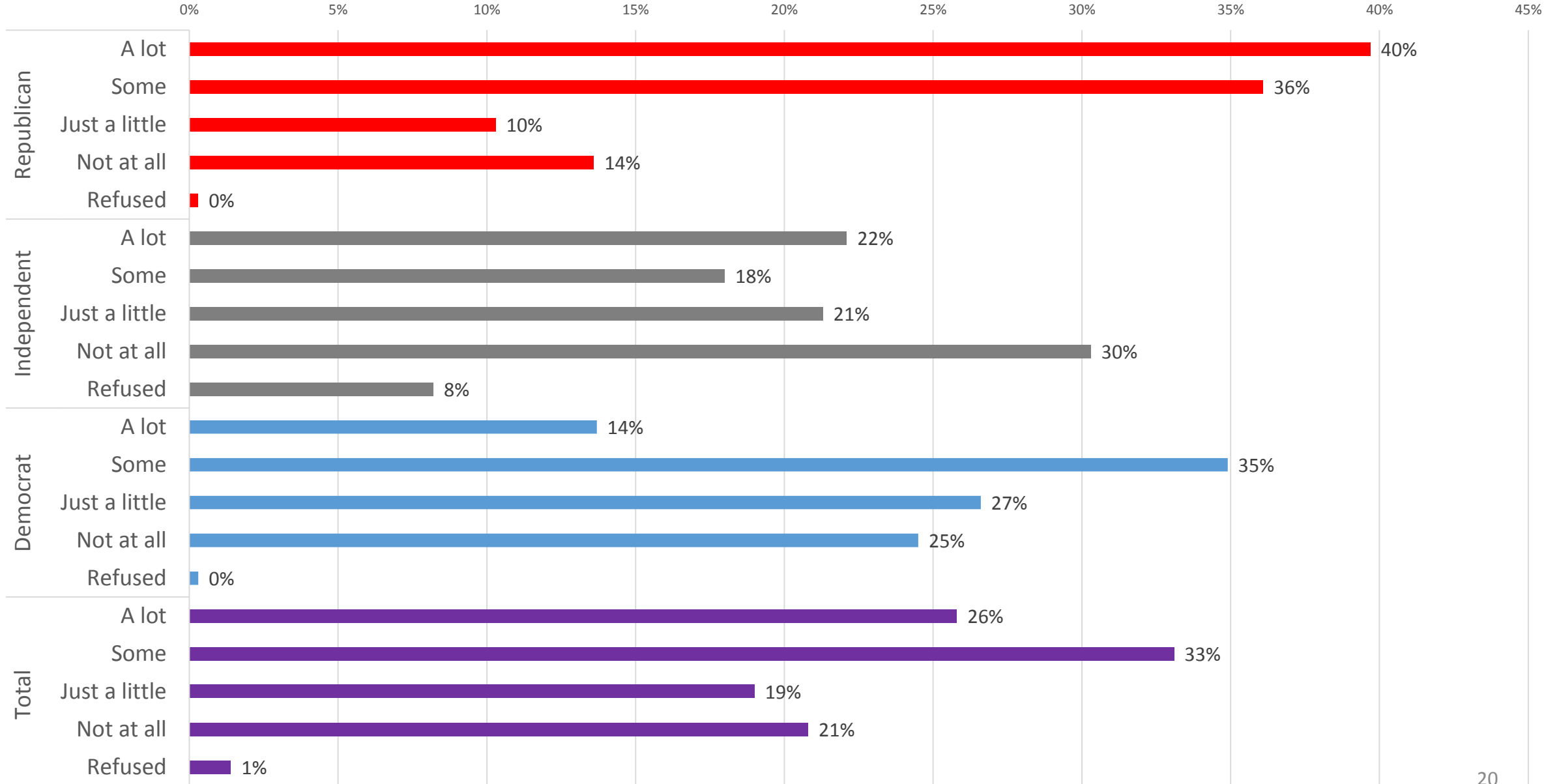


Q43: One of the issues of tension between the United States and Israel has been its construction of Israeli settlements in the territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 war... How do you believe the US should react to new settlements?



American Politics and the Middle East

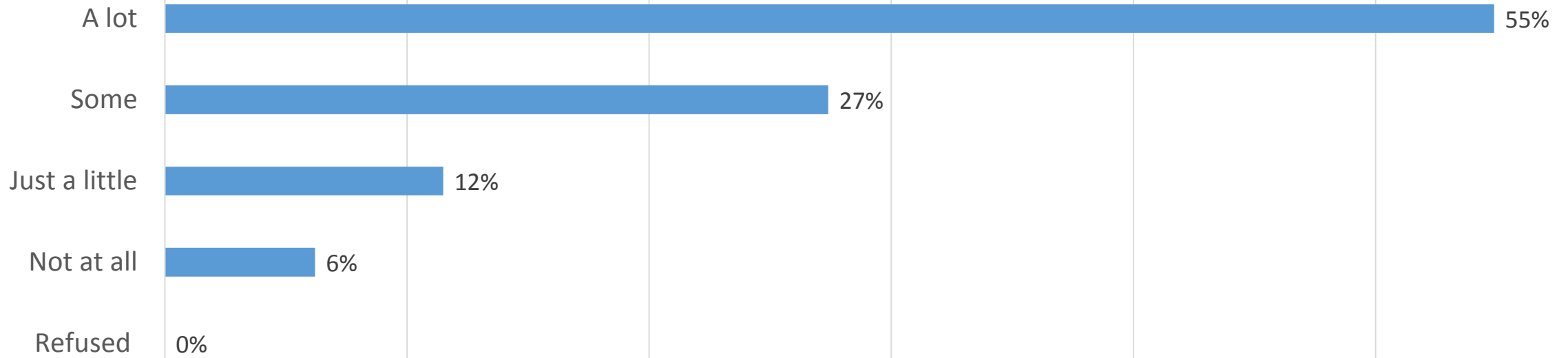
Q2A: When you are deciding which candidate to vote for in Congress or for President, how much do you consider the candidate's position on US policy toward Israel?



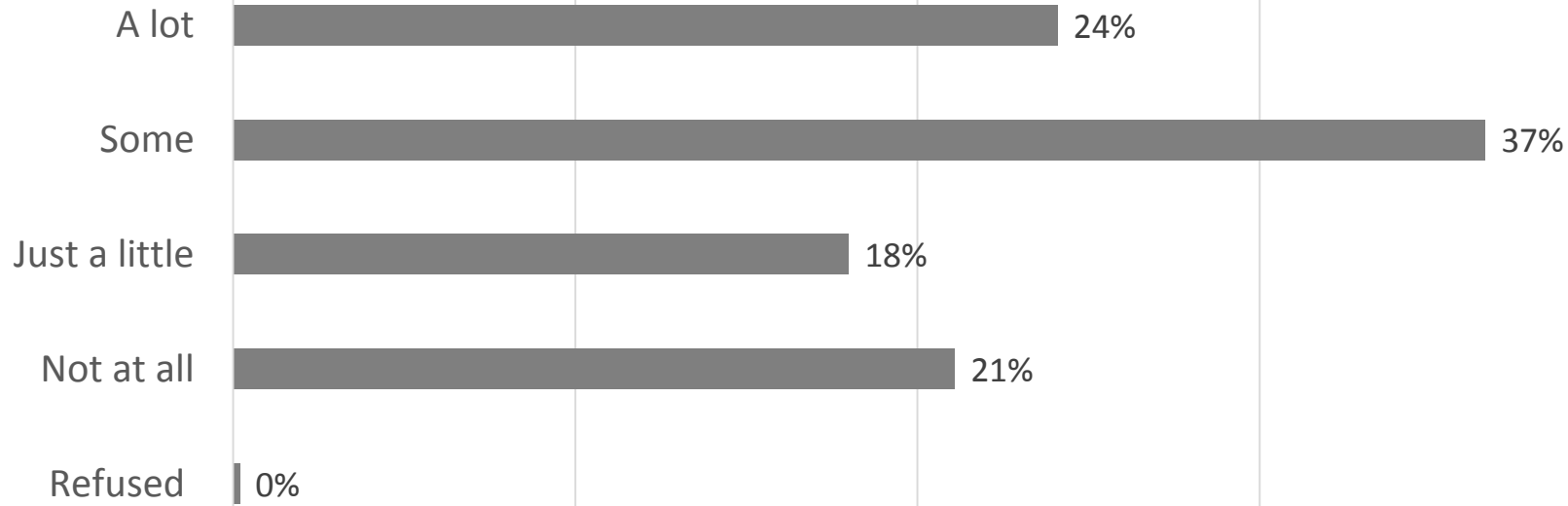
Q2A: When you are deciding which candidate to vote for in Congress or for President, how much do you consider the candidate's position on US policy toward Israel?

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%

Evangelicals

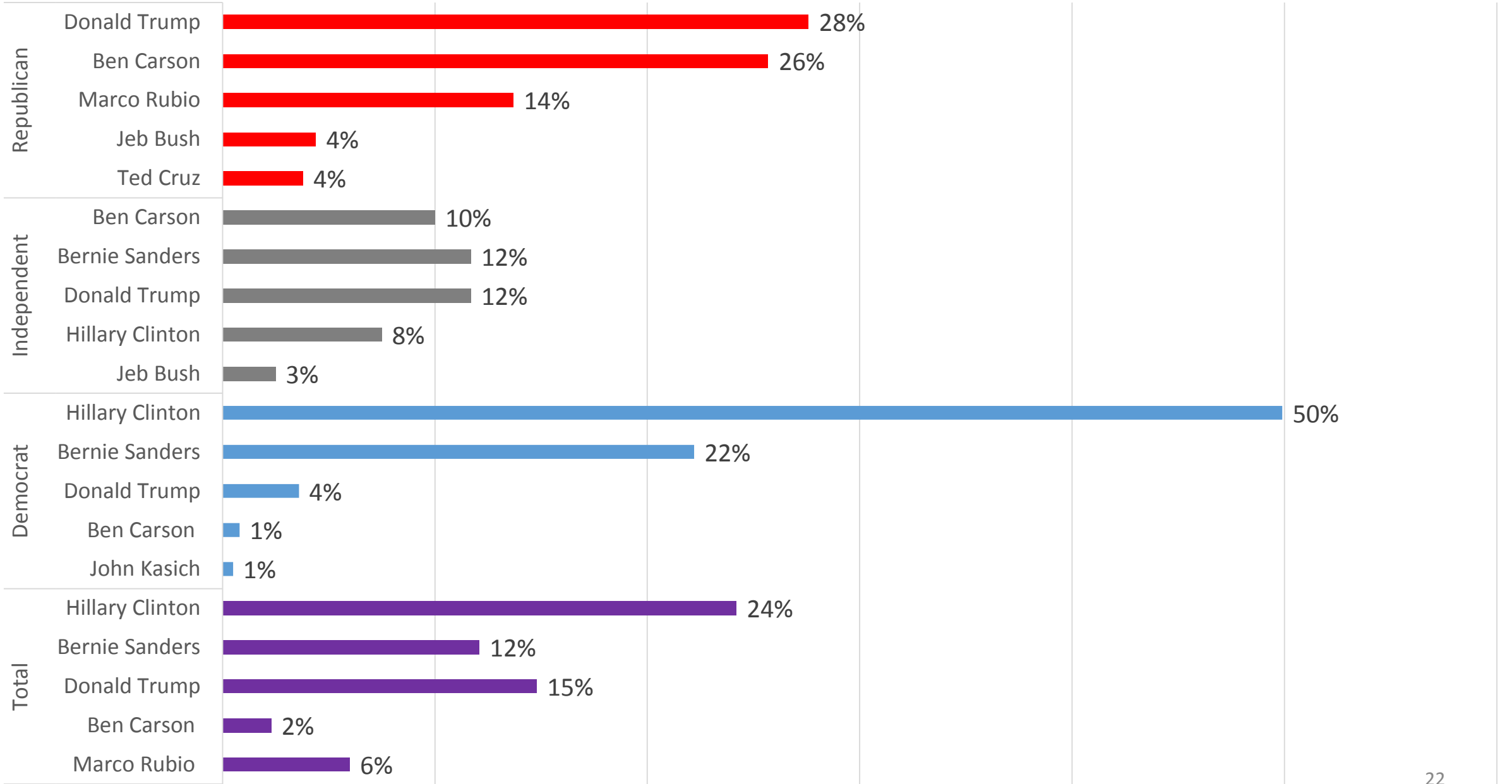


Non-Evangelical Christians

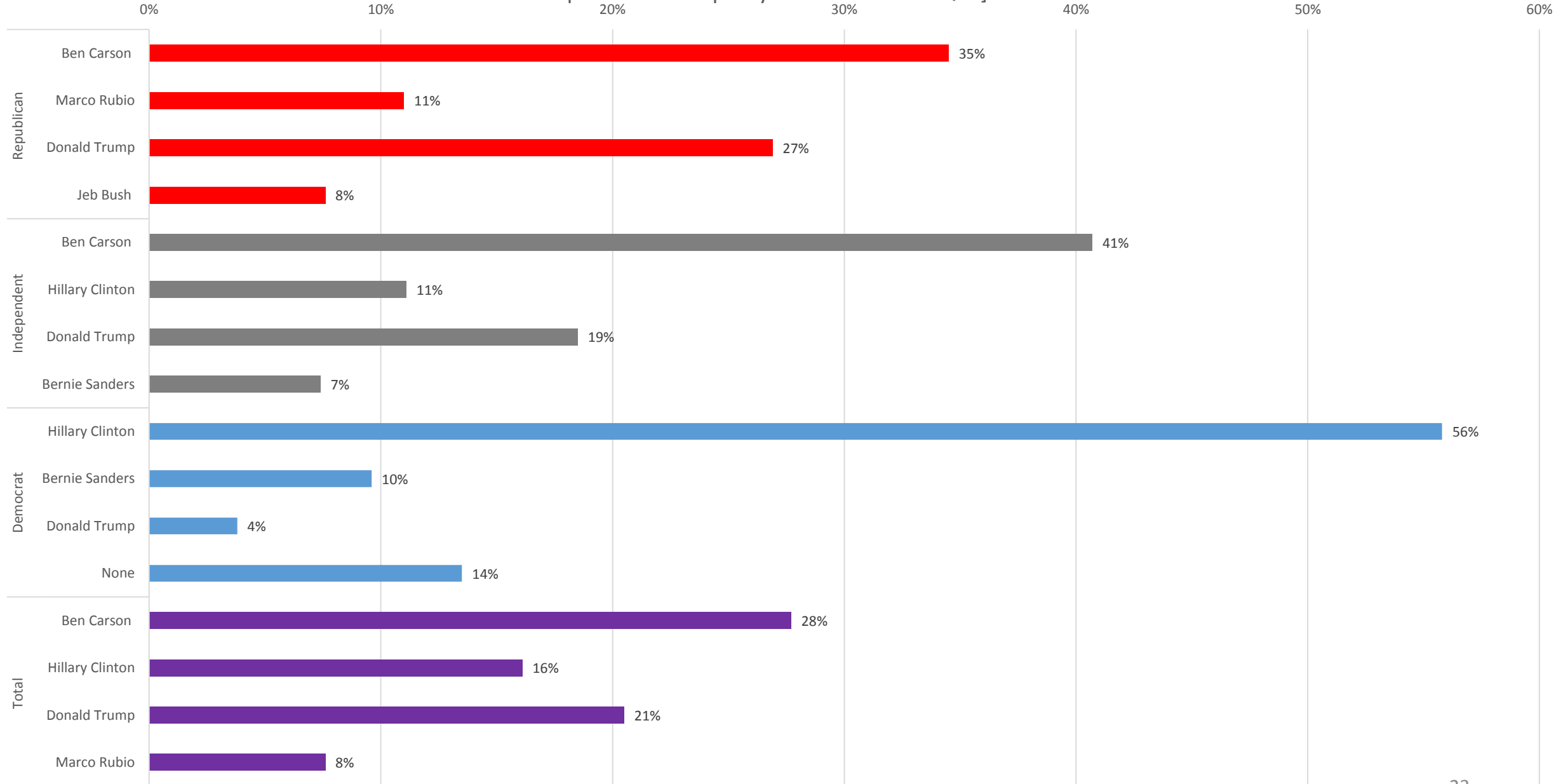


Q5: If elections were held today, for whom would you vote among current Presidential candidates?

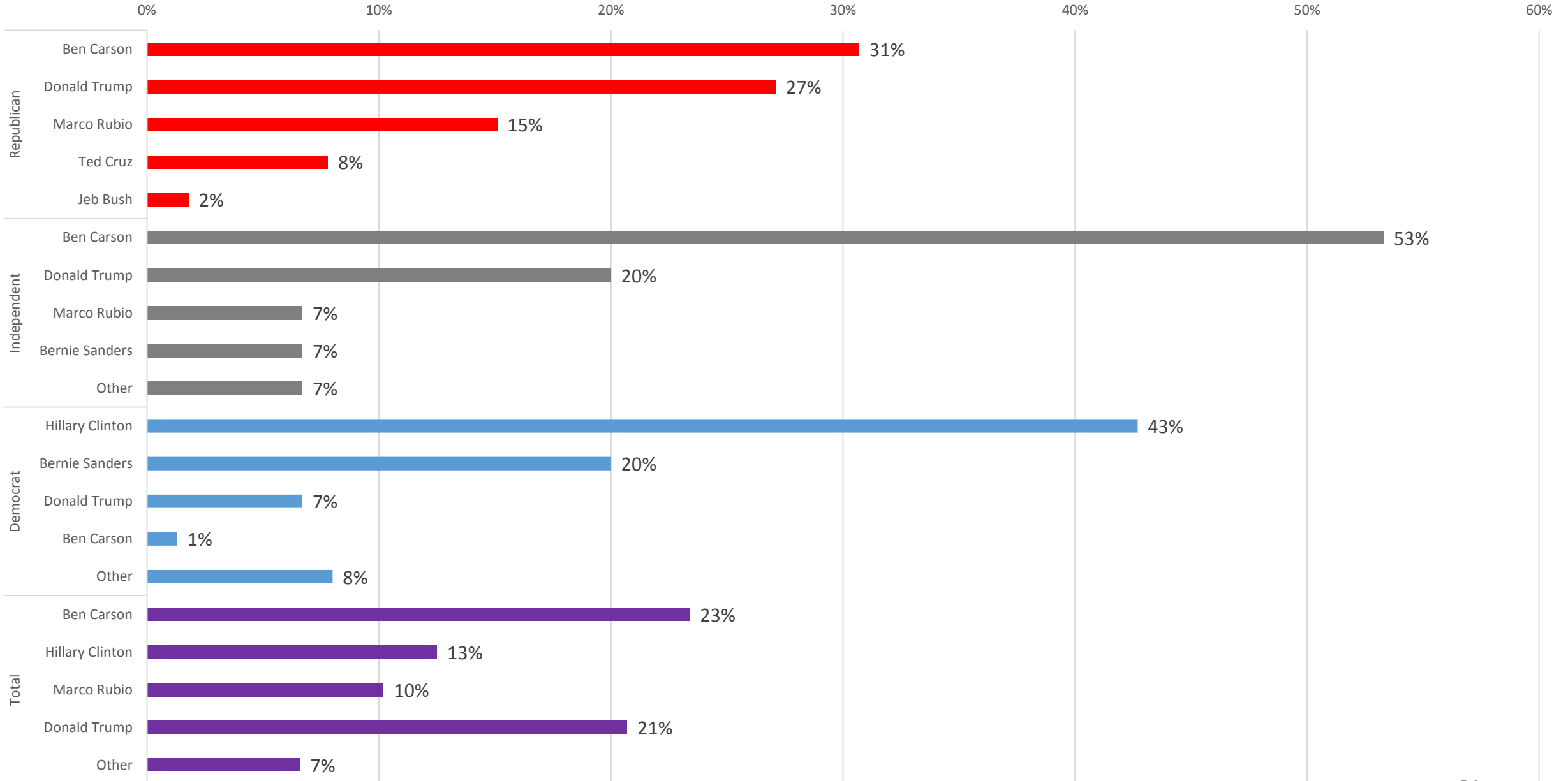
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%



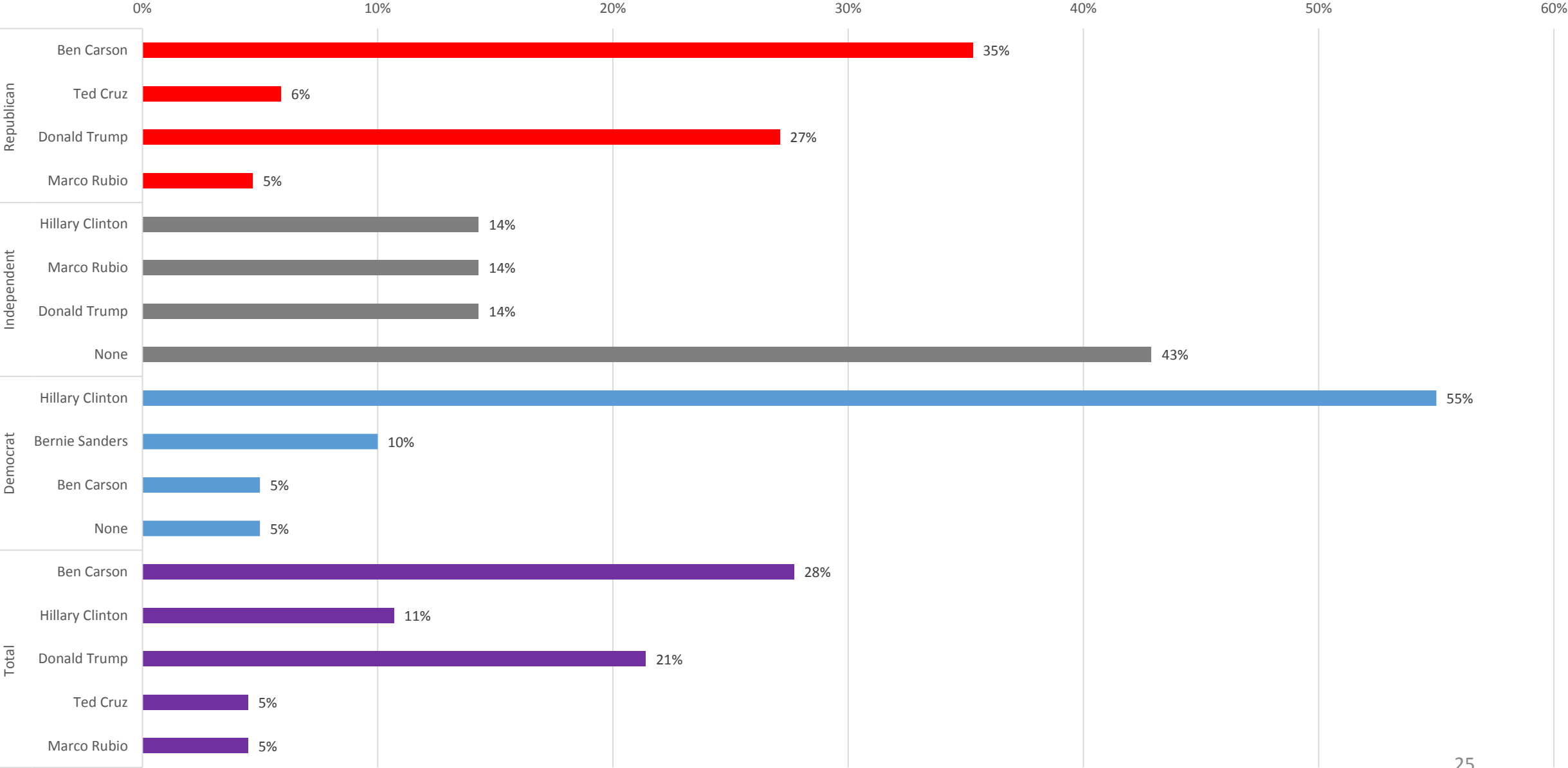
Q5: If elections were held today, for whom would you vote among current Presidential candidates?
 [among respondents who said “a lot” when asked “how much do you consider the candidate’s
 position on US policy toward Israel” in Q2A]



Q5: If elections were held today, for whom would you vote among current Presidential candidates? [Among those who say US should lean toward Israel in Q40]

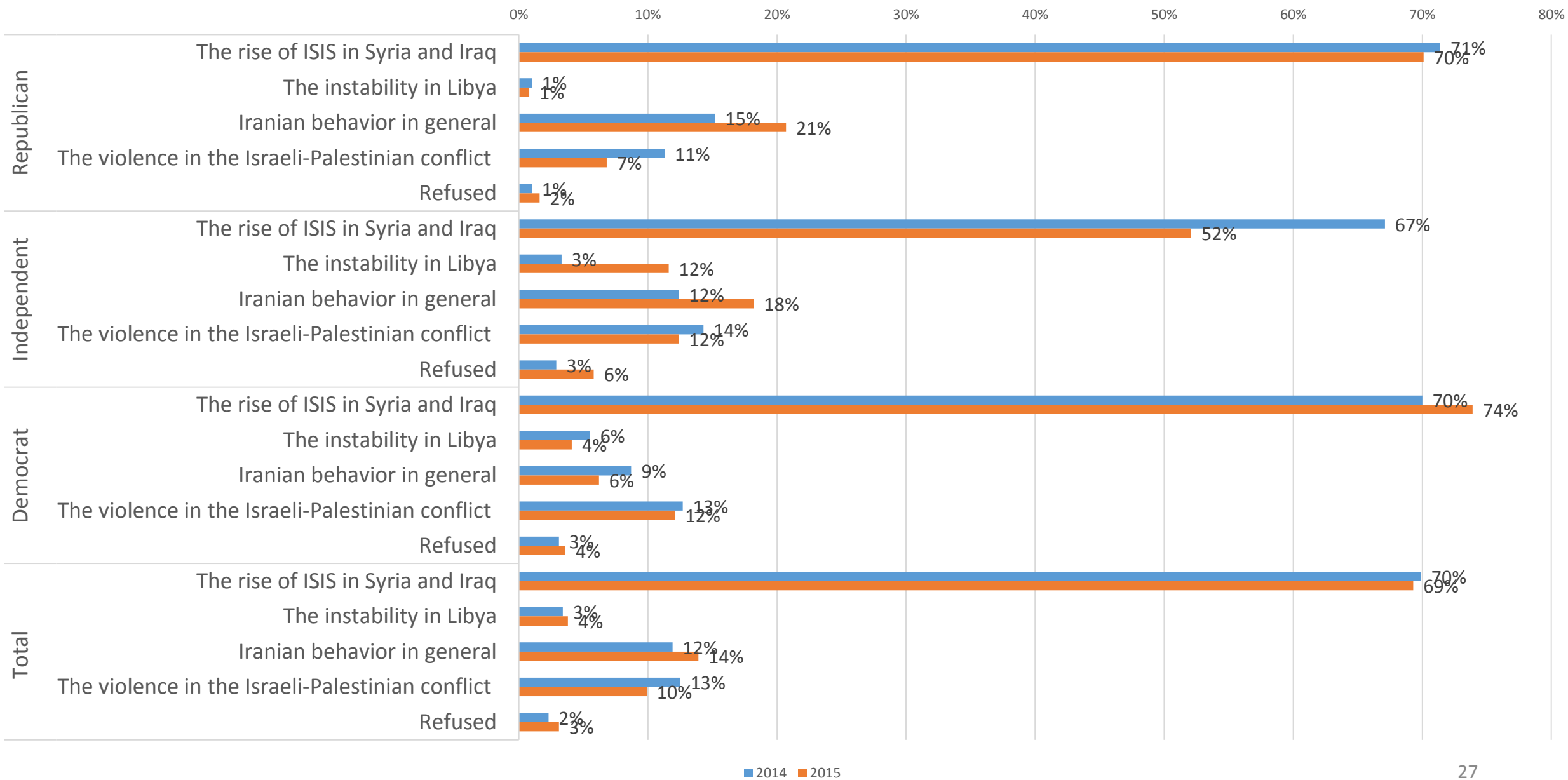


Q5: If elections were held today, for whom would you vote among current Presidential candidates?
 [Evangelical Christians]

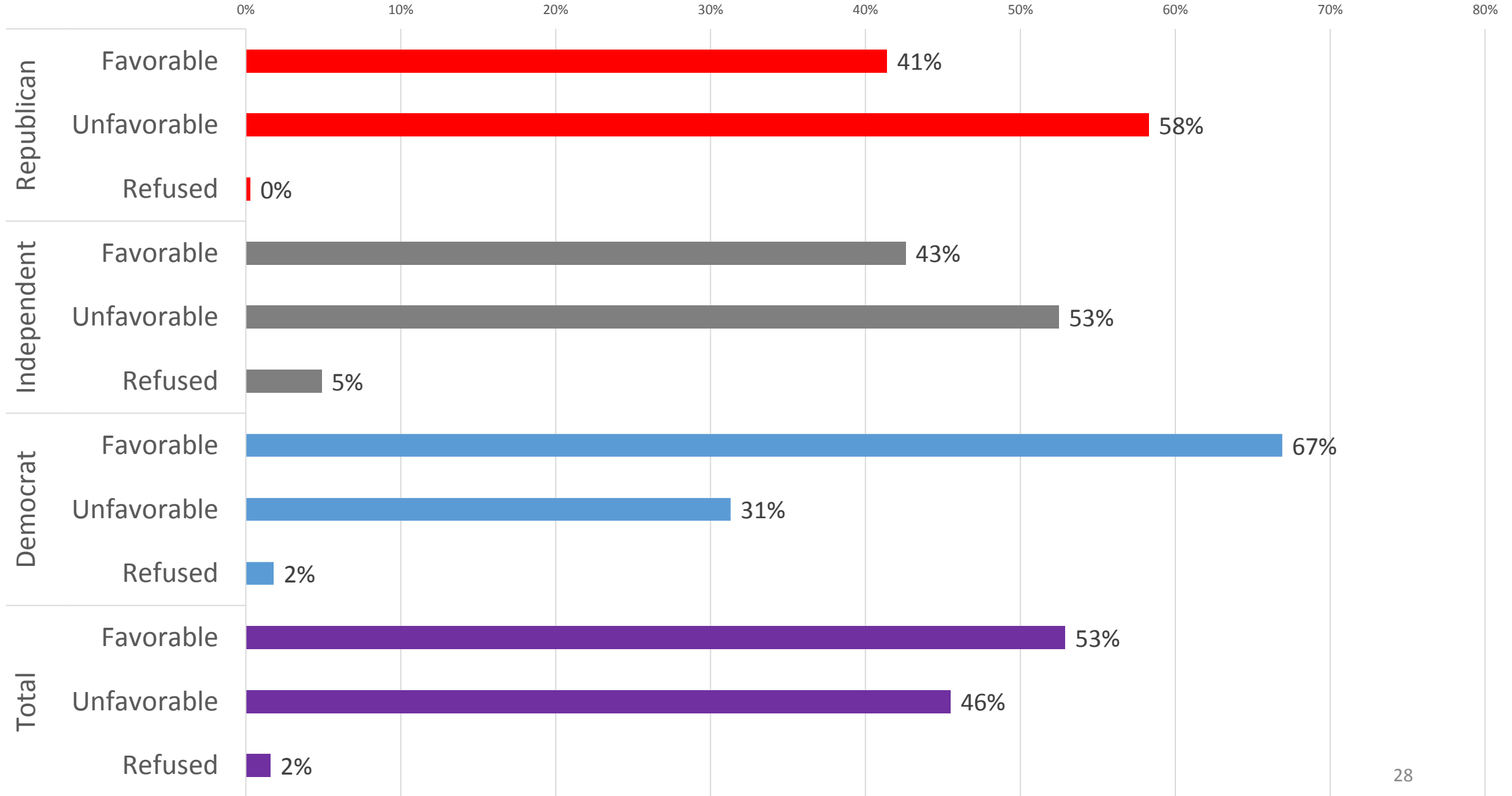


Religion and the Middle East

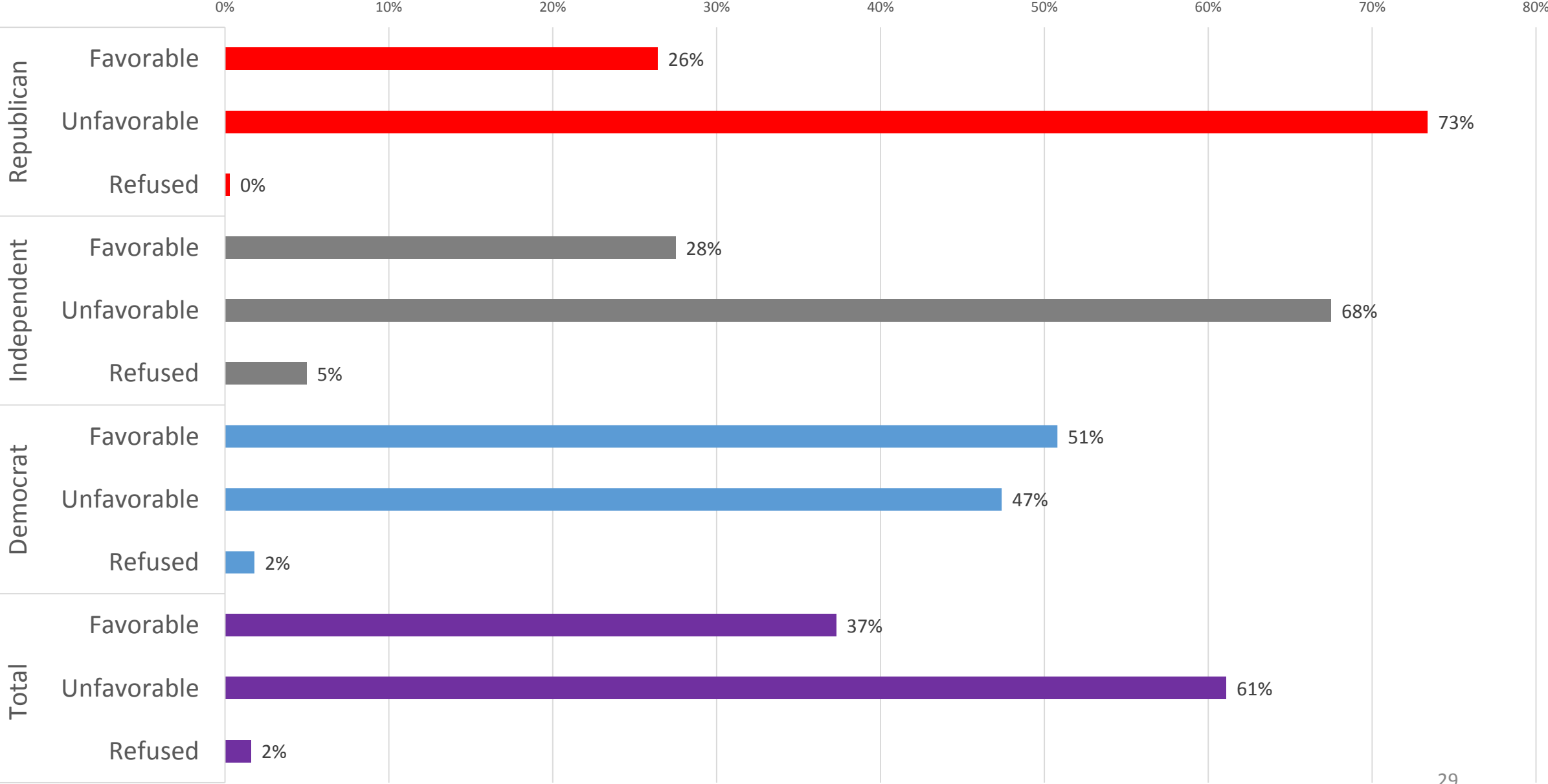
Q44: Of the challenges facing the United States in the Middle East, which of the following do you believe threatens American interests the most?



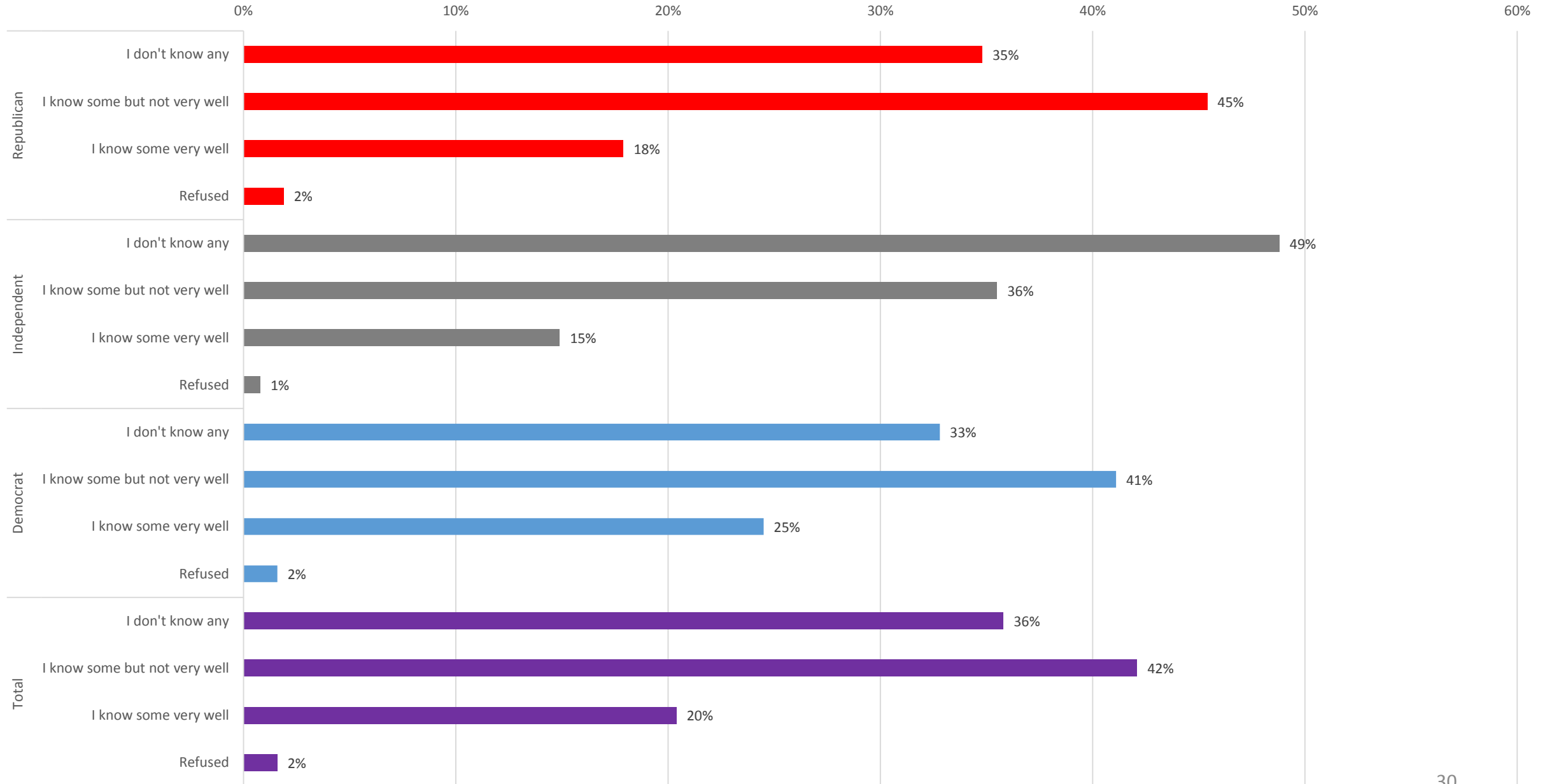
Q33C: What is your attitude about each of the following? (The Muslim People)



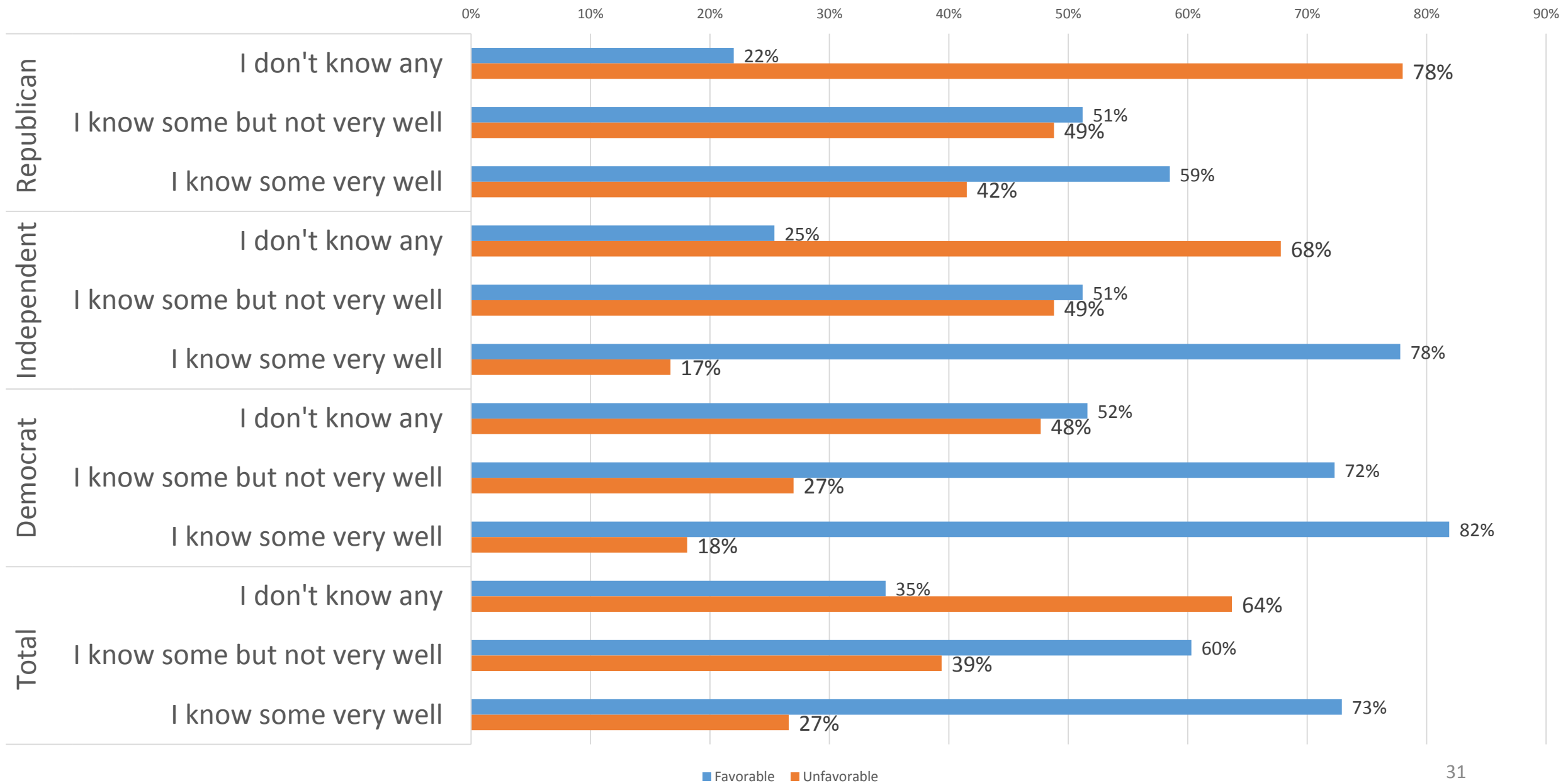
Q33D: What is your attitude about each of the following? (The Muslim Religion)



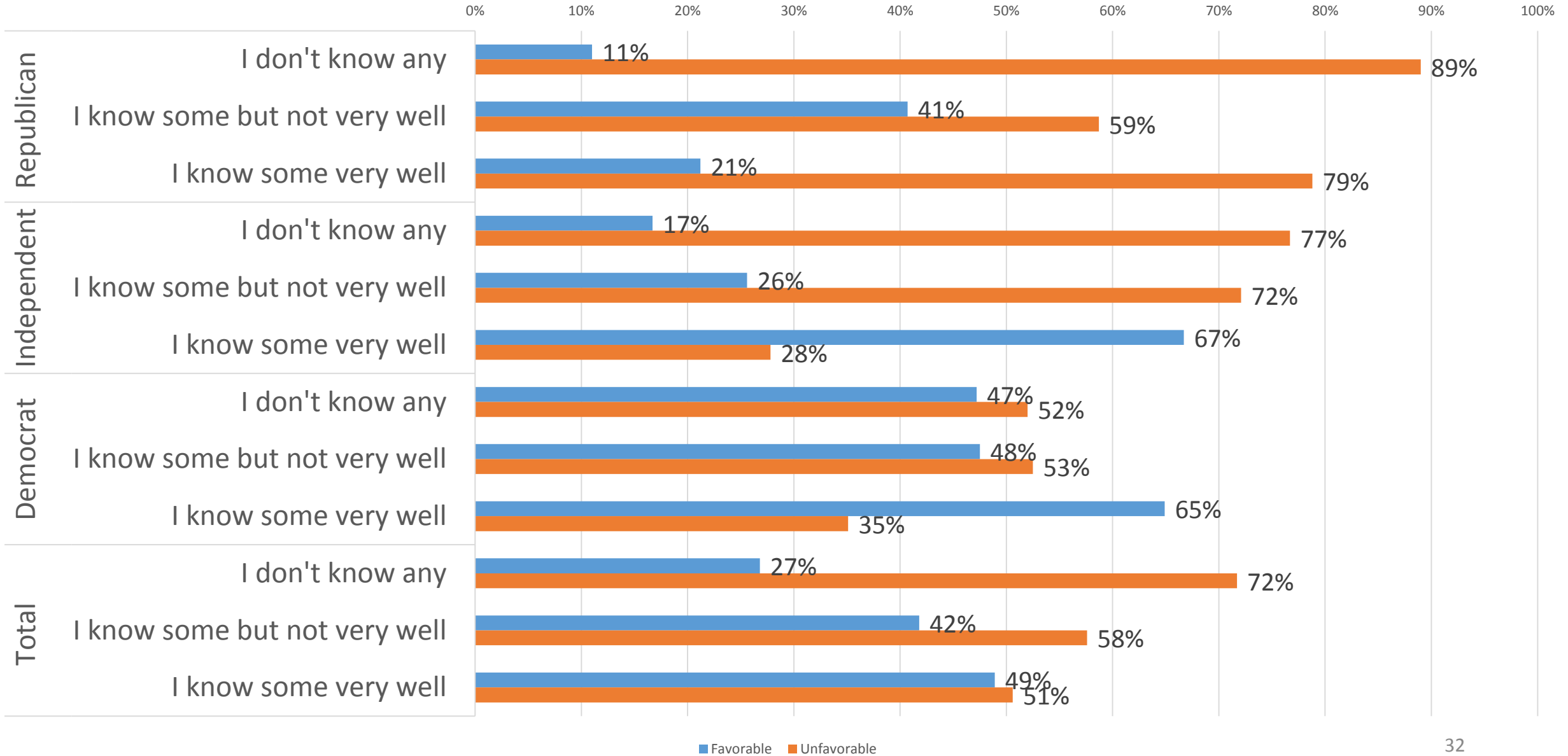
Q35: In your life how familiar are you with people who are Muslim?



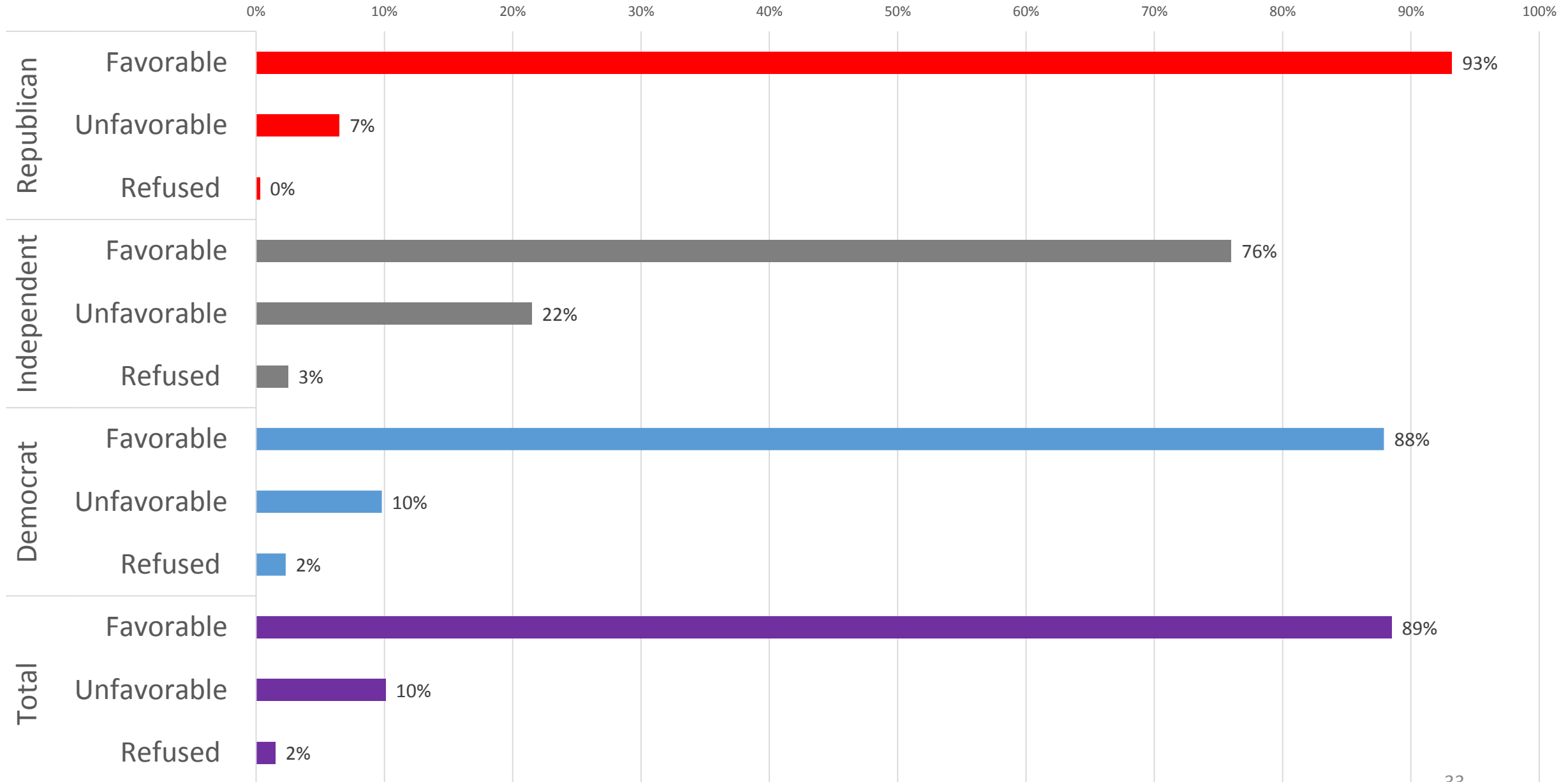
Q33C: What is your attitude about each of the following? (The Muslim People) [compared with Q35: In your life how familiar are you with people who are Muslim?]



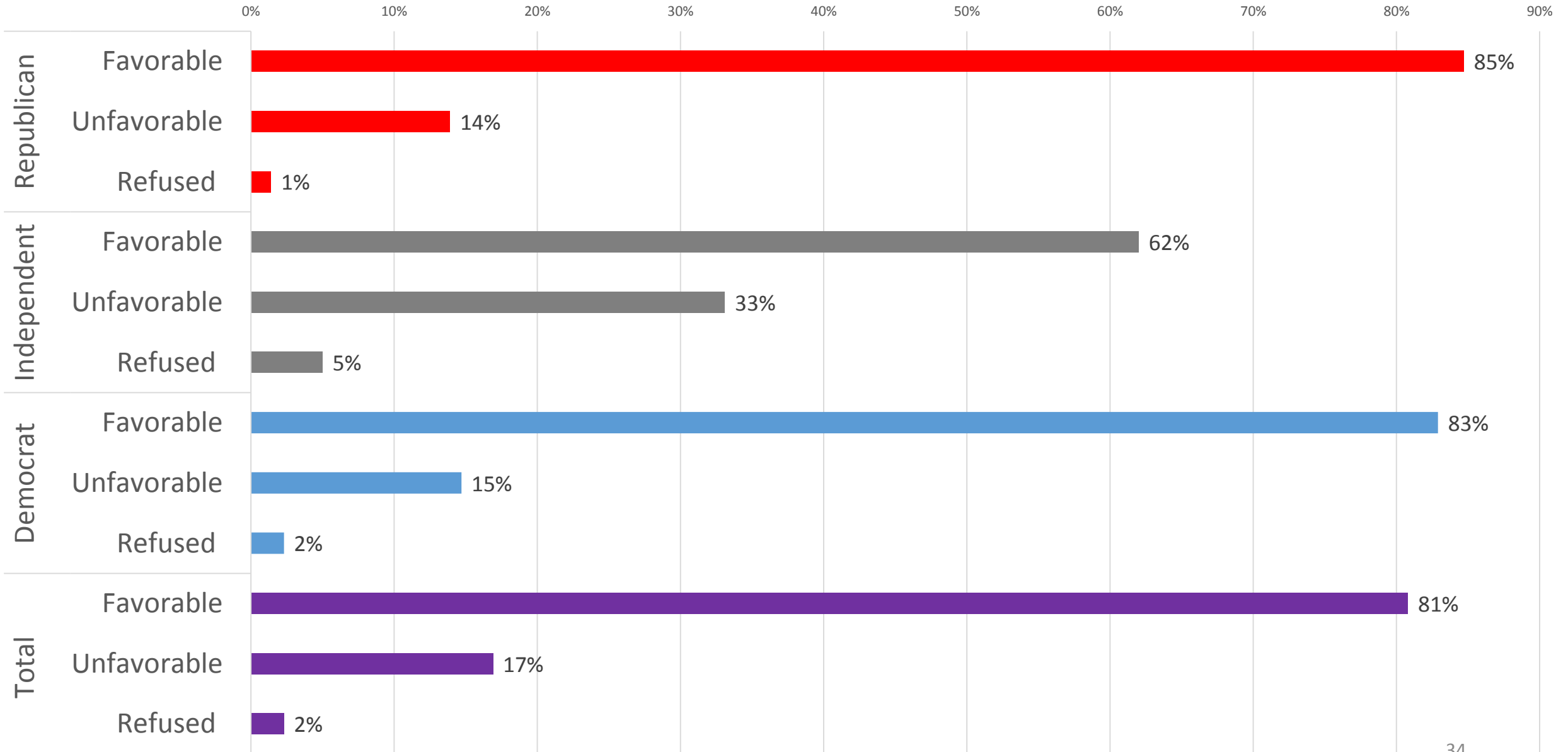
Q33D: What is your attitude about each of the following? (The Muslim Religion) [compared with Q35: In your life how familiar are you with people who are Muslim?]



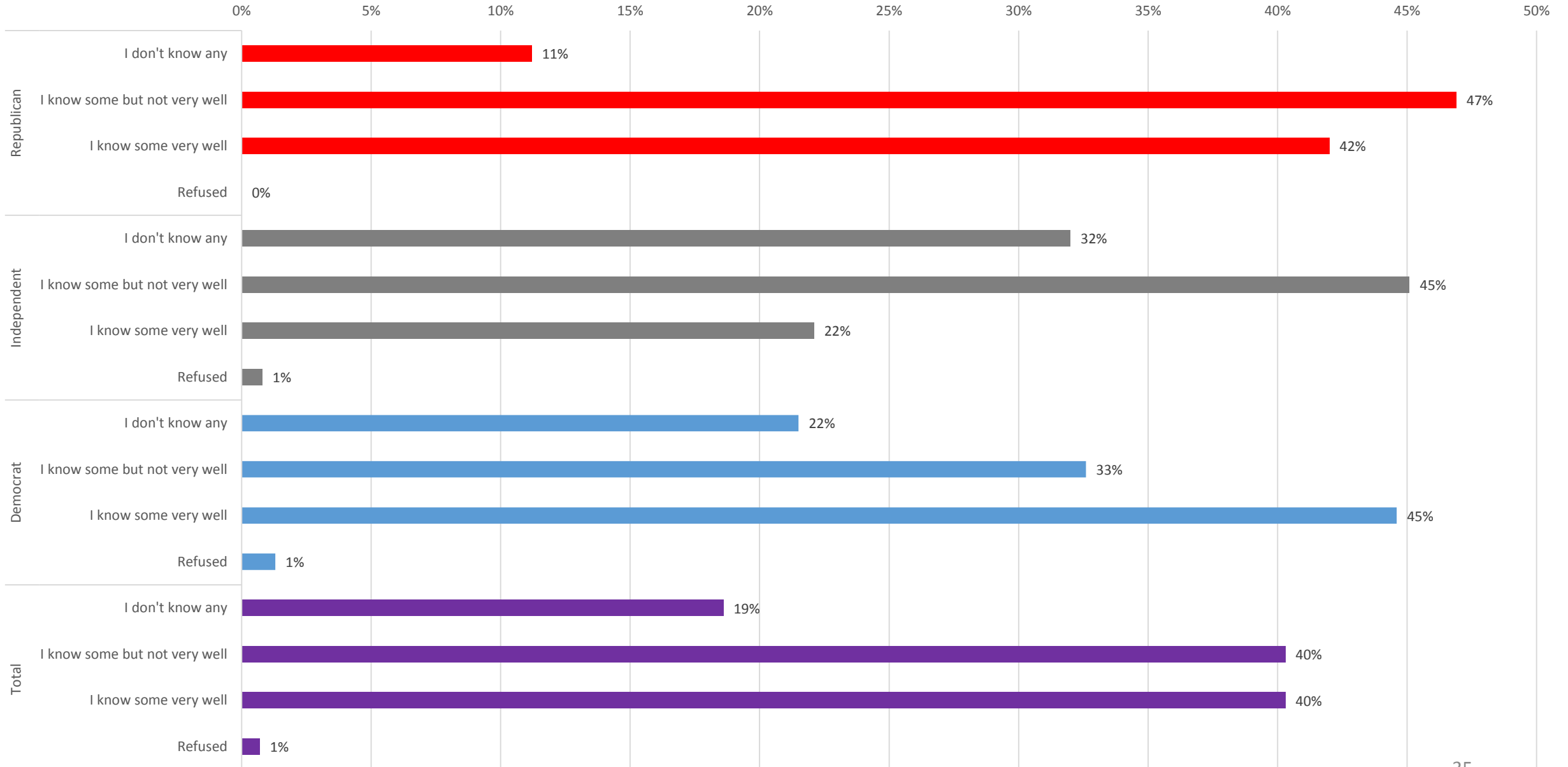
Q33A: What is your attitude about each of the following? (The Jewish People)



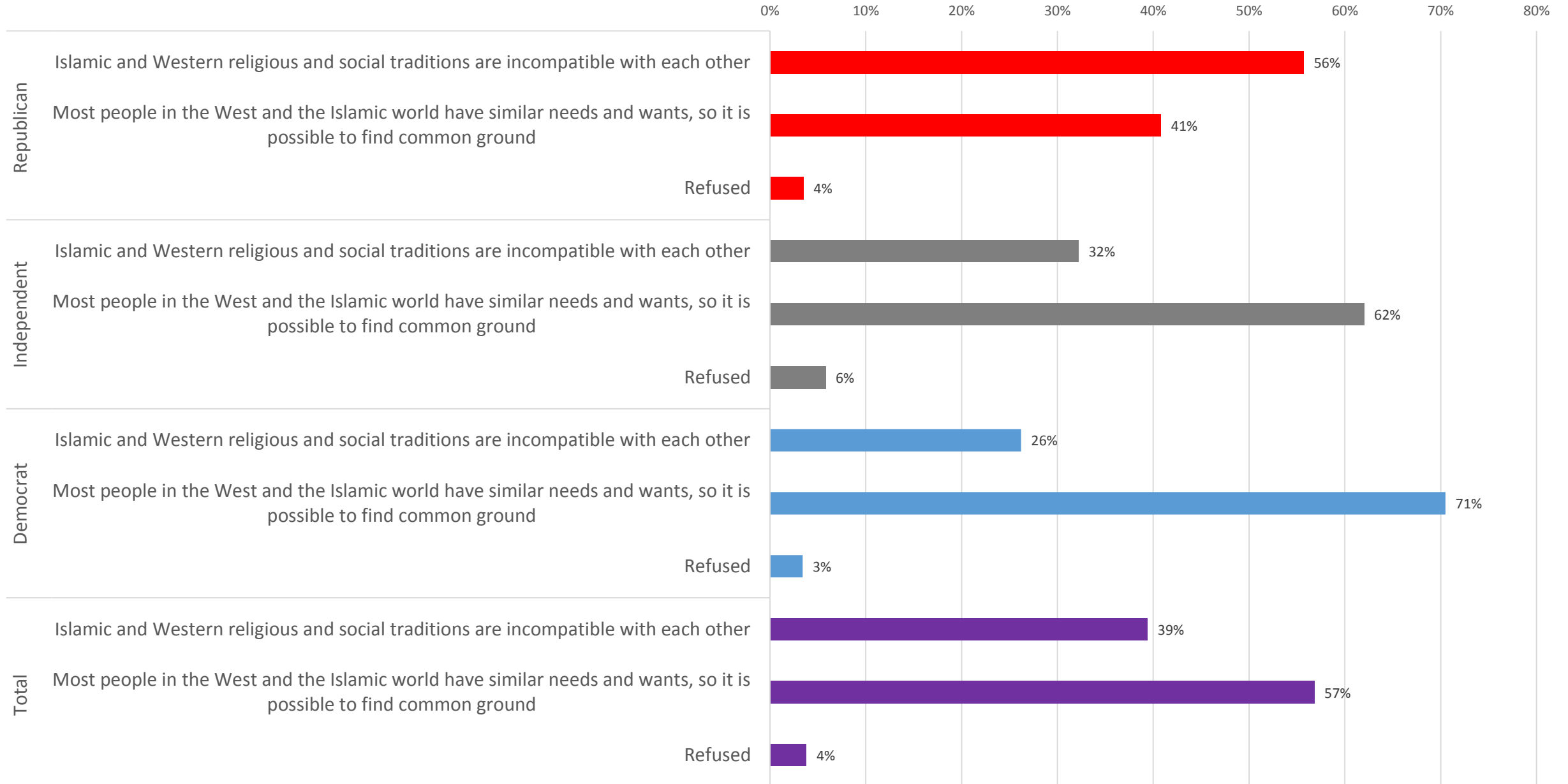
Q33B: What is your attitude about each of the following? (The Jewish Religion)



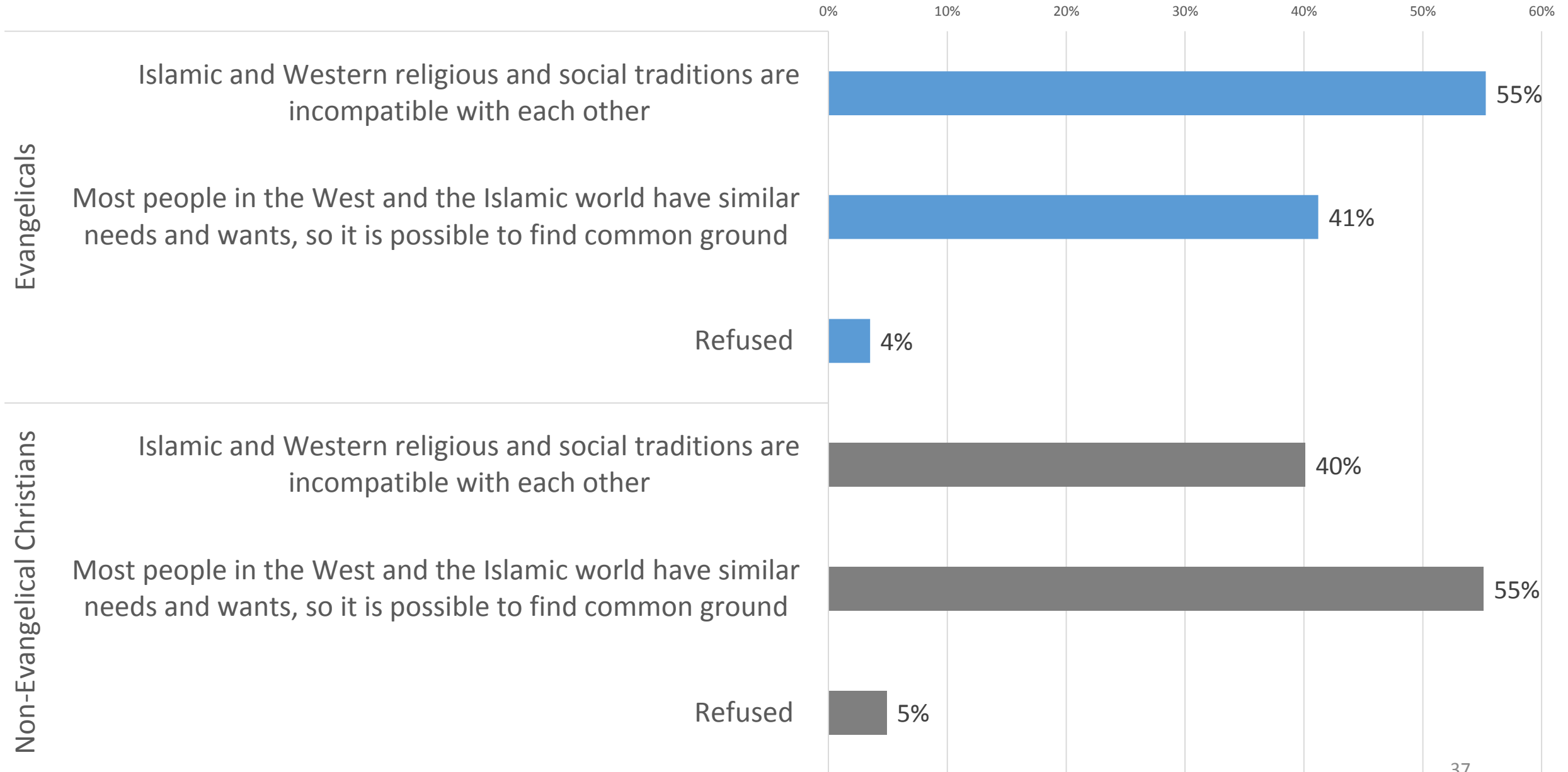
Q34: In your life how familiar are you with people who are Jewish?



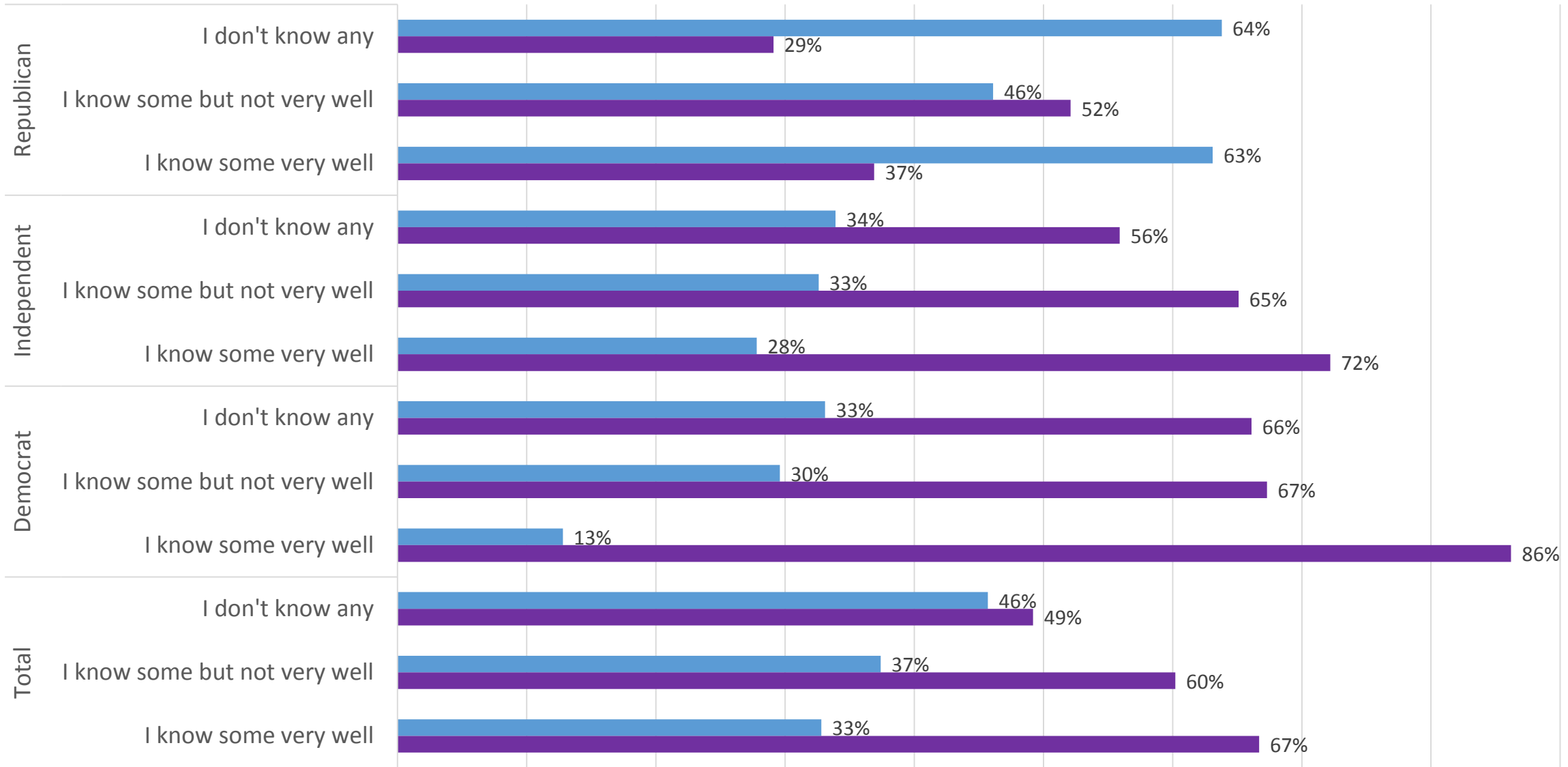
Q35A: Which position is closer to yours?



Q35A: Which position is closer to yours? [among Evangelicals]



Q35A: Which position is closer to yours? [compared with Q35: In your life how familiar are you with people who are Muslim?]

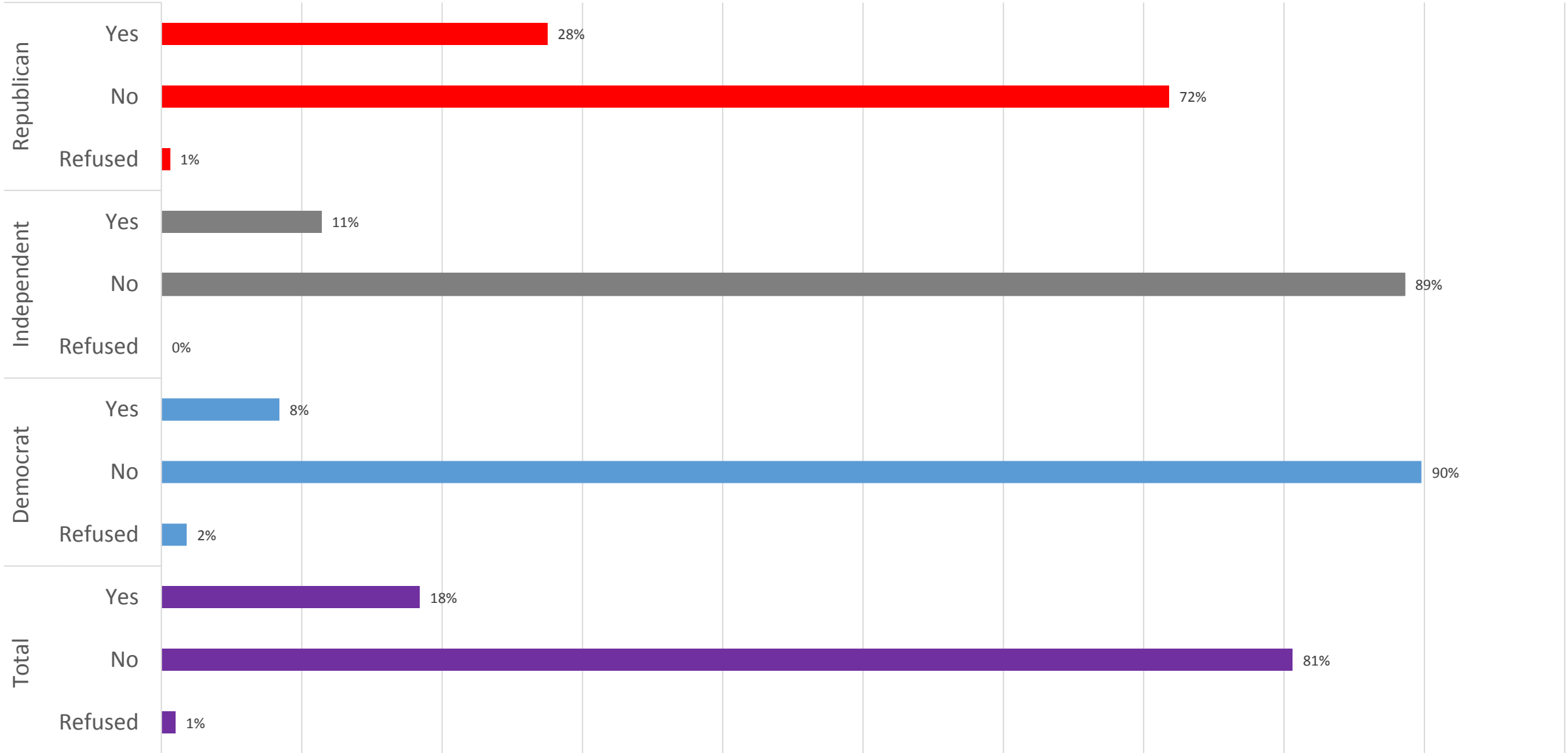


■ Islamic and Western religious and social traditions are incompatible with each other
 ■ Most people in the West and the Islamic world have similar needs and wants, so it is possible to find common ground

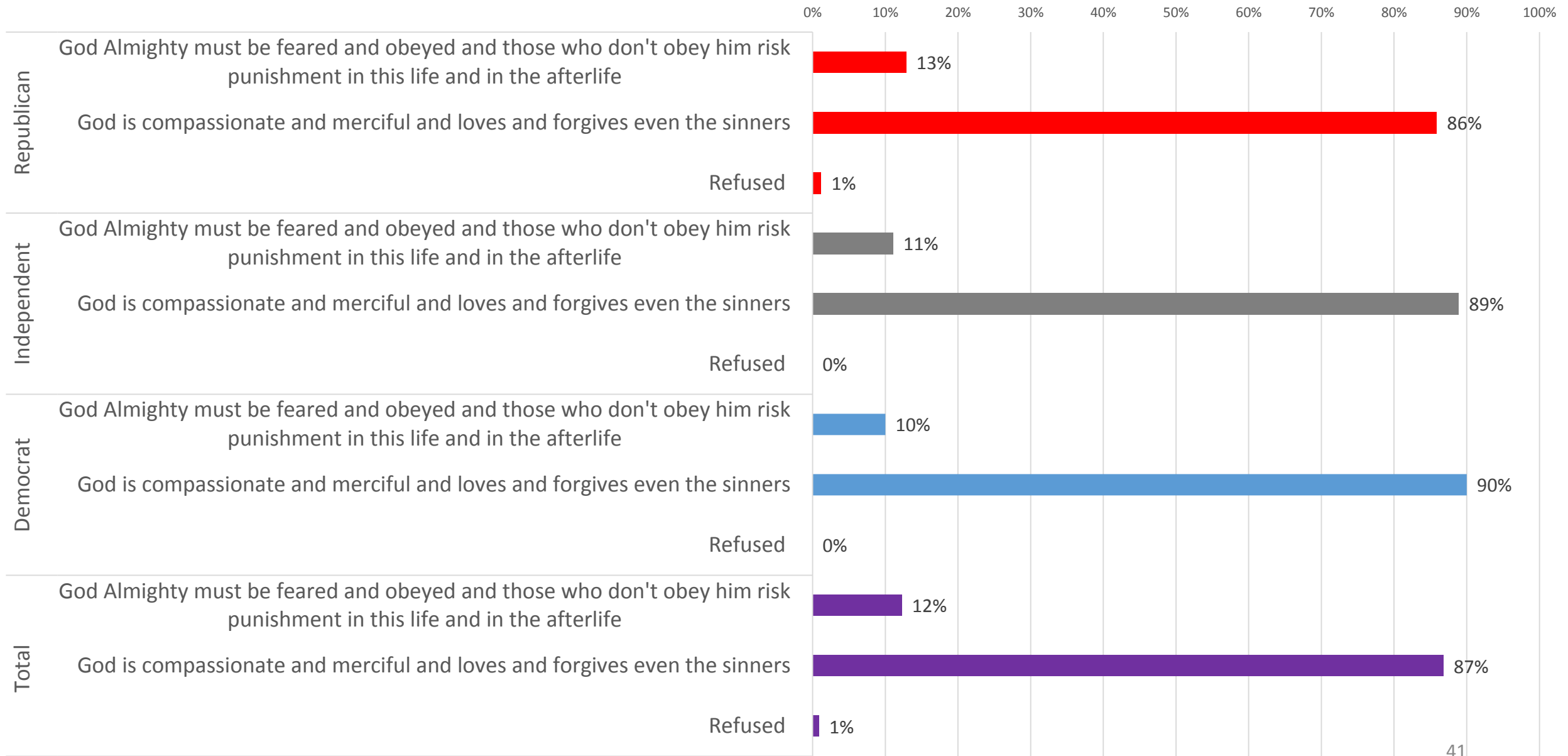
Evangelical Attitudes Toward Israel

Q14: Would you describe yourself as an Evangelical Christian? [asked of Christians only]

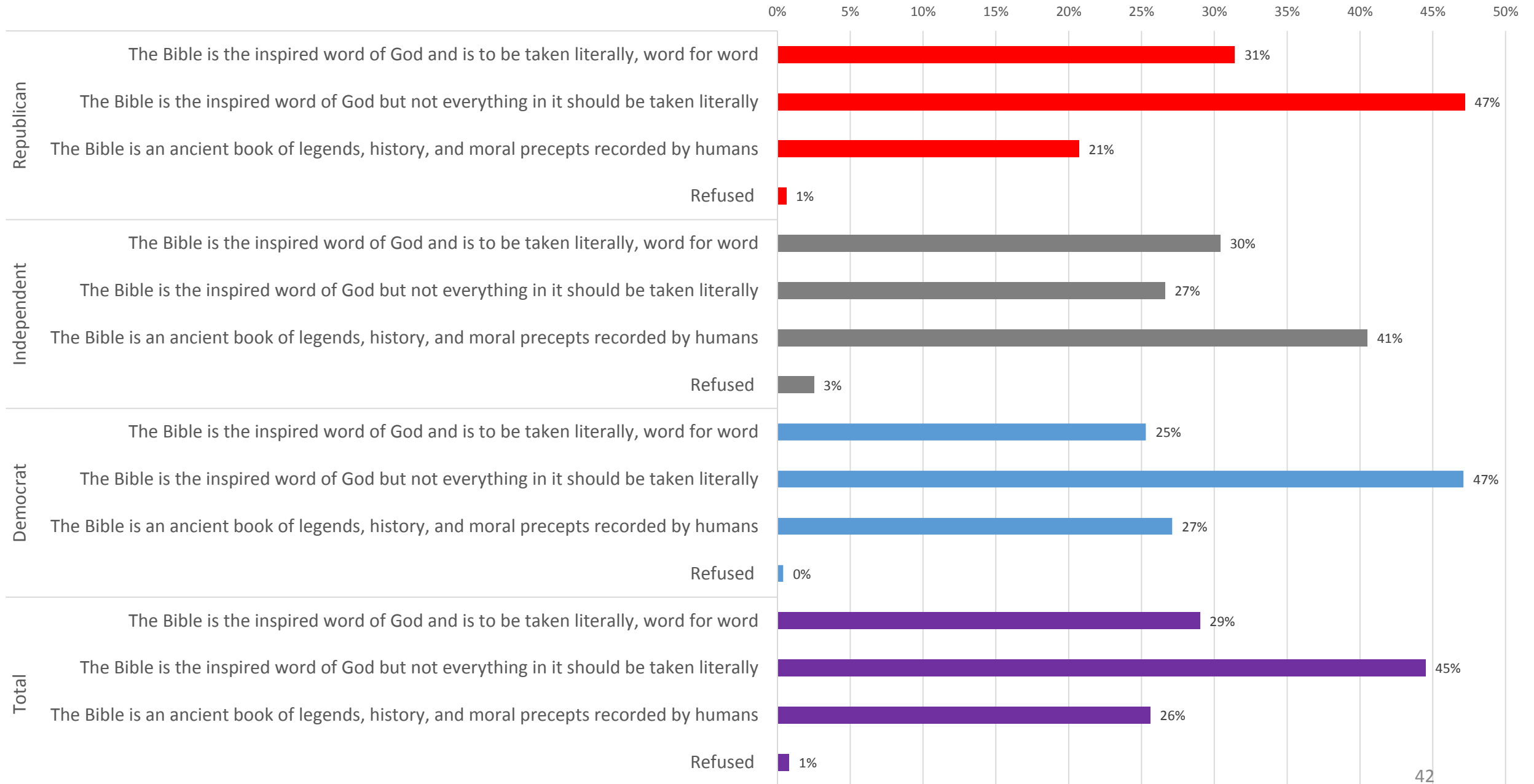
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%



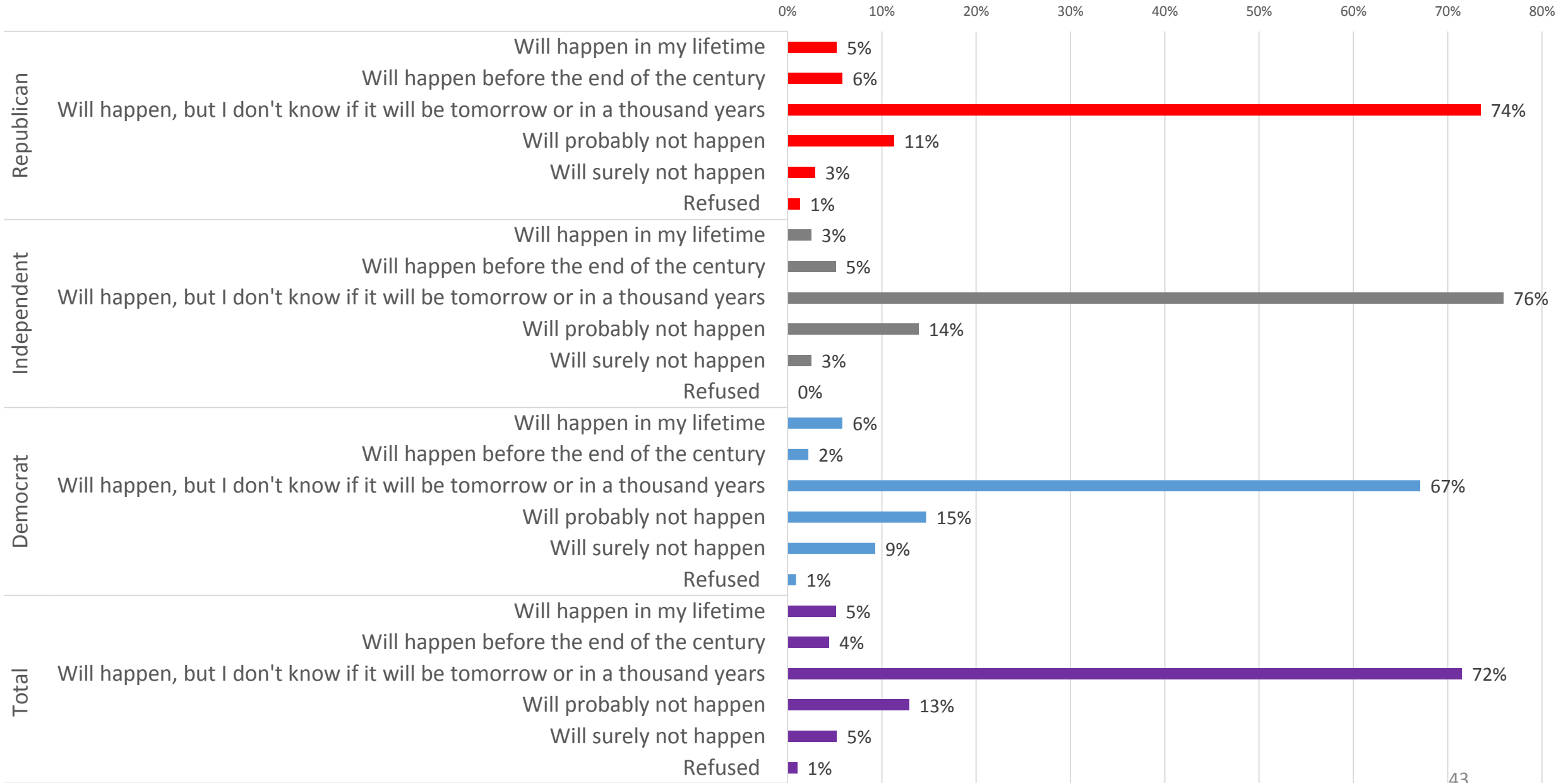
Q24A: Which of the following statements more closely speaks to your core religious faith? [asked of Christians only] [among those who responded “yes” when asked “Would you describe yourself as an Evangelical Christian?” in Q14]



Q26: Which of the following statements comes closest to describing your views about the Bible: [asked of Christians only]

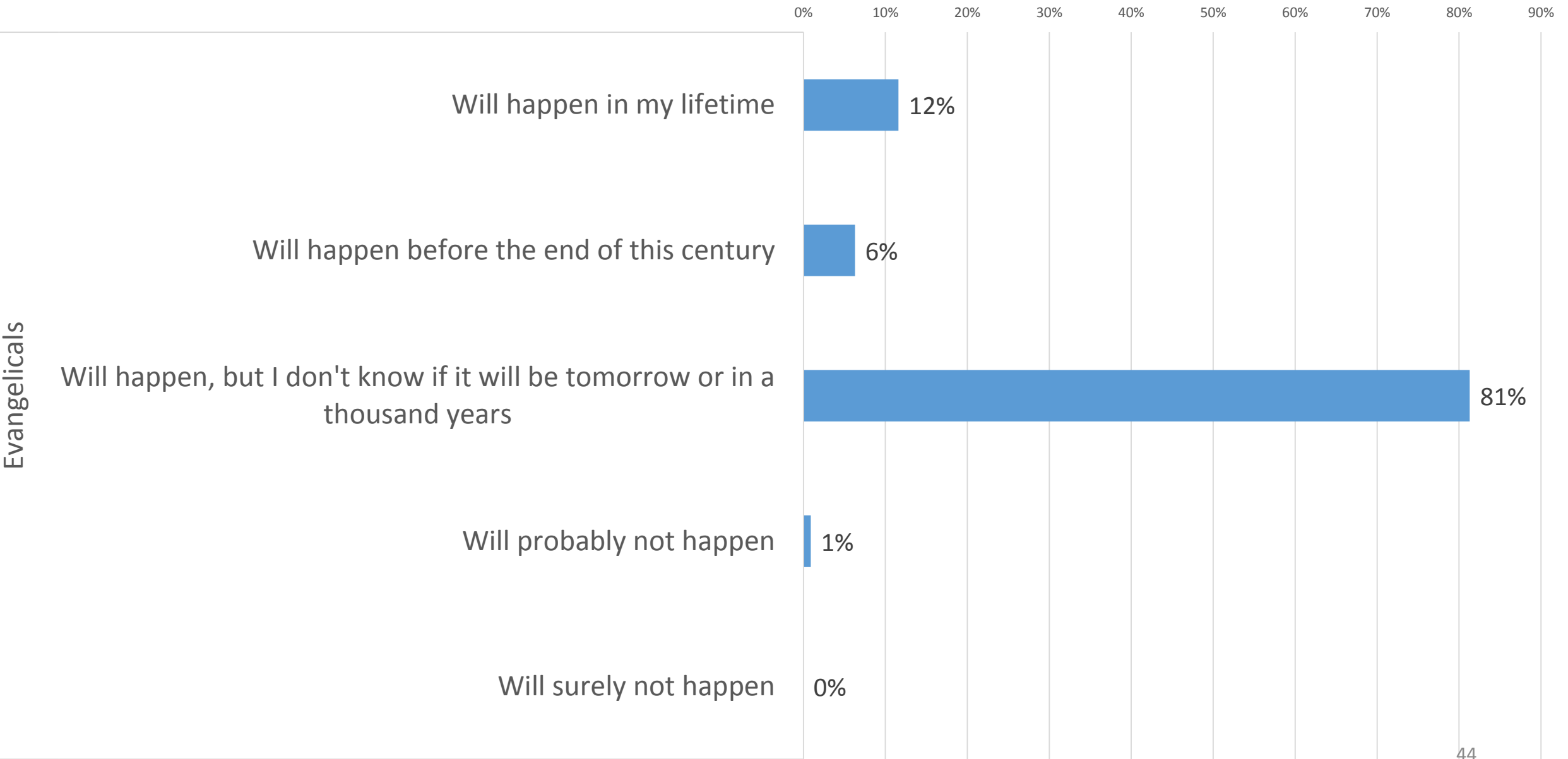


Q28: Biblical prophecies tell of the end times and the return of Christ. Do you believe that this: [asked of Christians only]

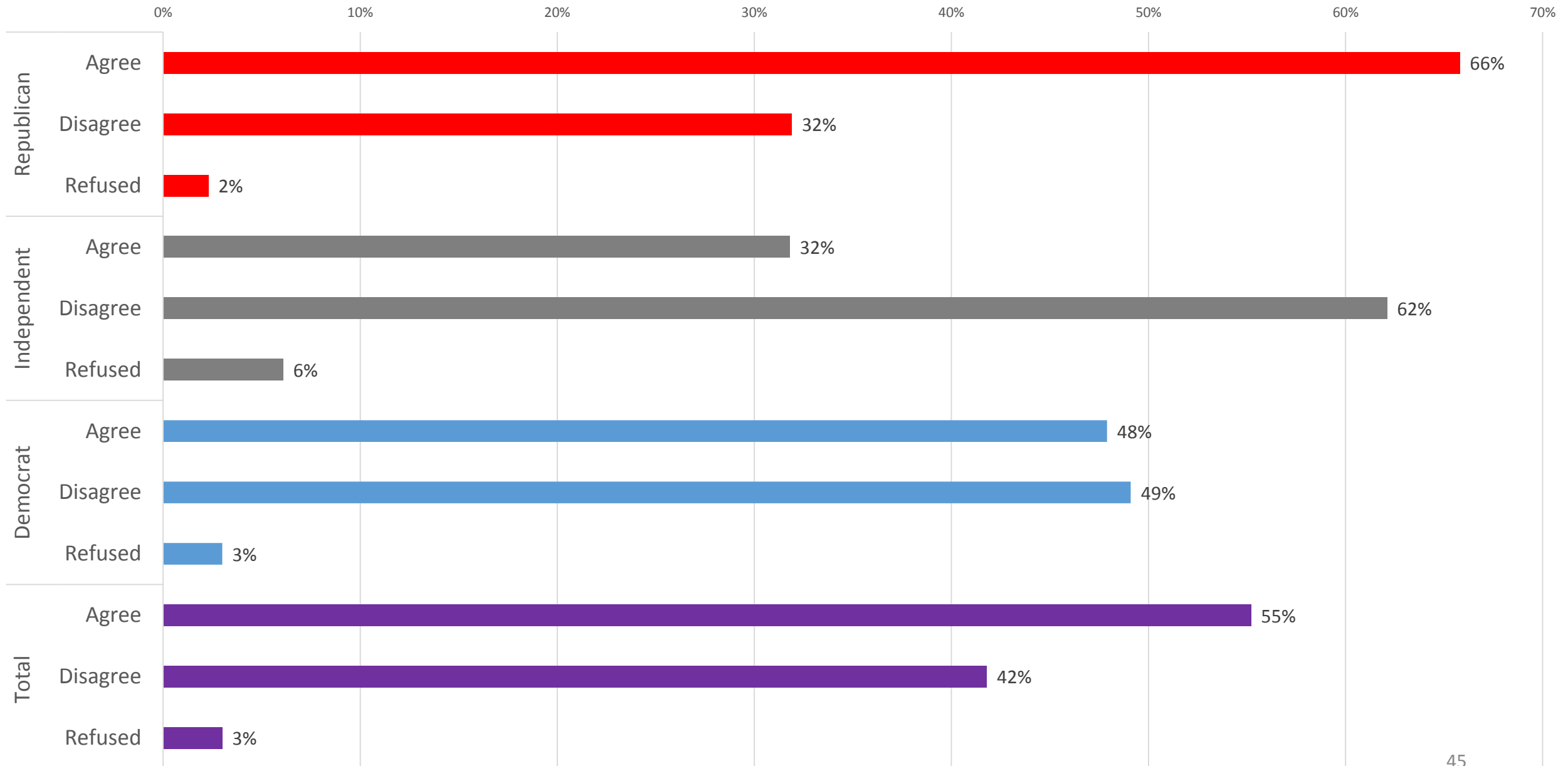


Q28: Biblical prophecies tell of the end times and the return of Christ.

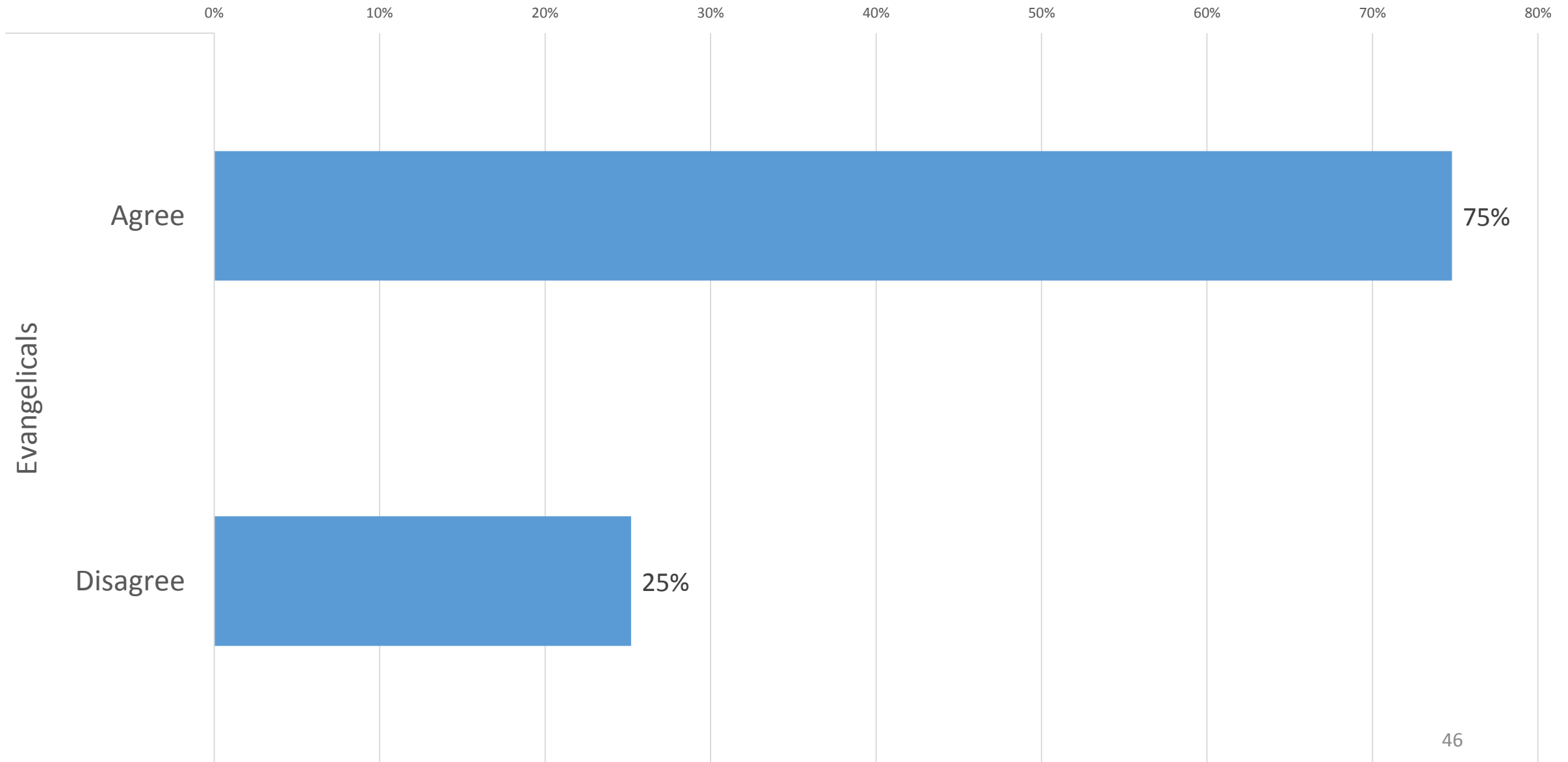
Do you believe that this: [among Evangelicals]



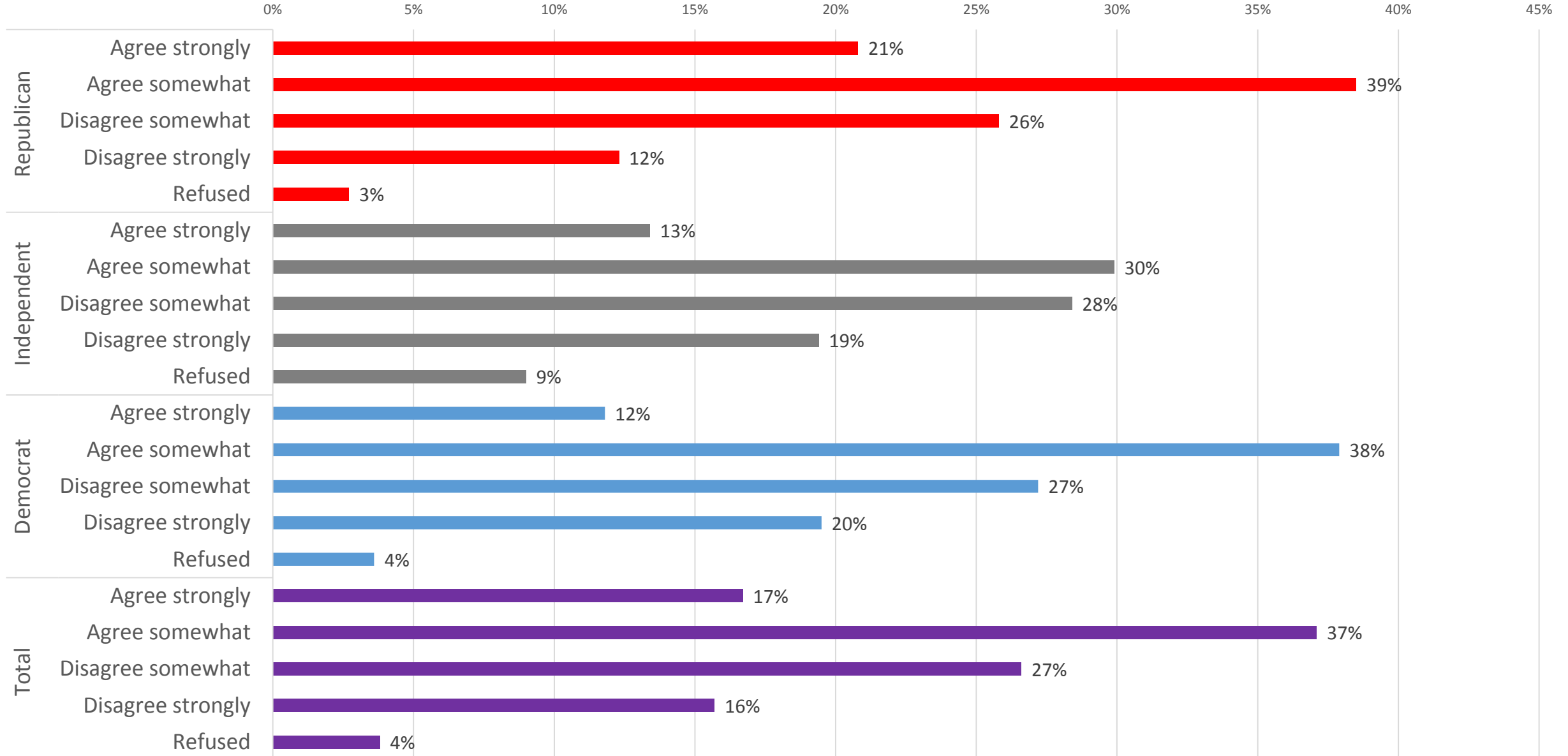
Q29: Some people say there are things that have to happen in Israel before Christ returns. Do you agree or disagree? [asked if respondent answered 1,2, or 3 in Q28] [asked of Christians only]



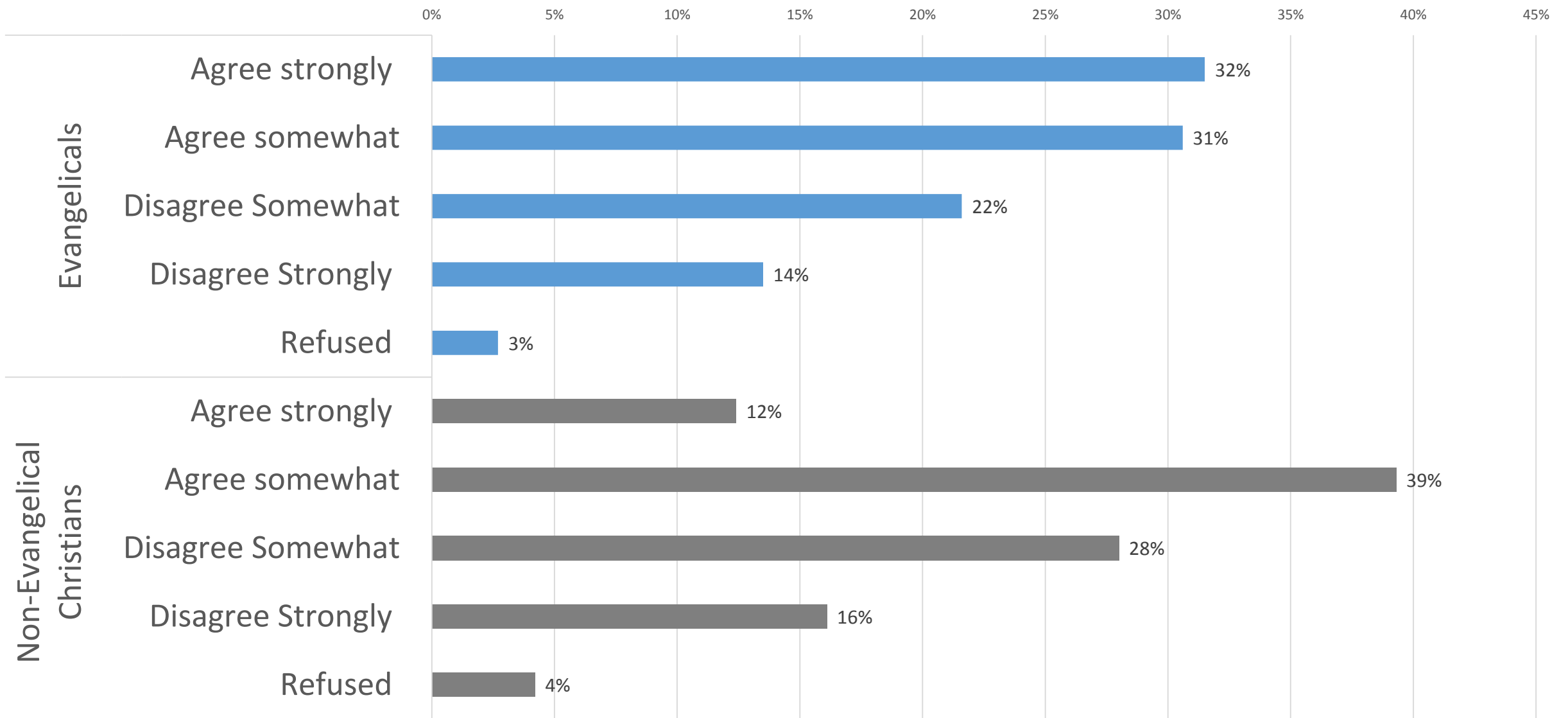
Q29: Some people say there are things that have to happen in Israel before Christ returns. Do you agree or disagree? [asked if respondent answered 1,2, or 3 in Q28] [among Evangelicals]



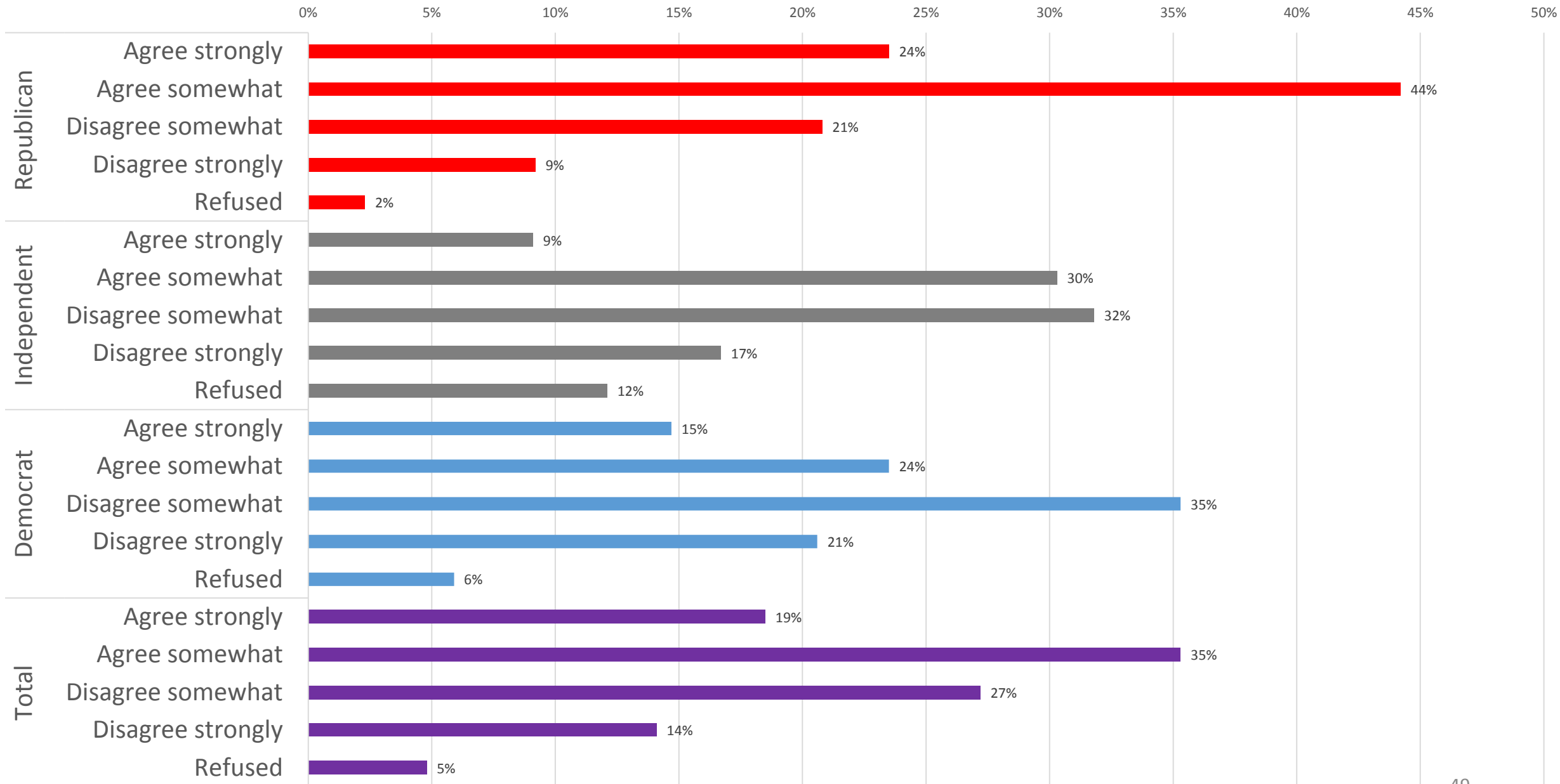
Q45A: For the rapture or Second Coming to occur it is essential for current-day Israel to include all the land that was promised to Biblical Israel in Old Testament
[asked if respondent answered 1,2, or 3 in Q28] [asked of Christians only]



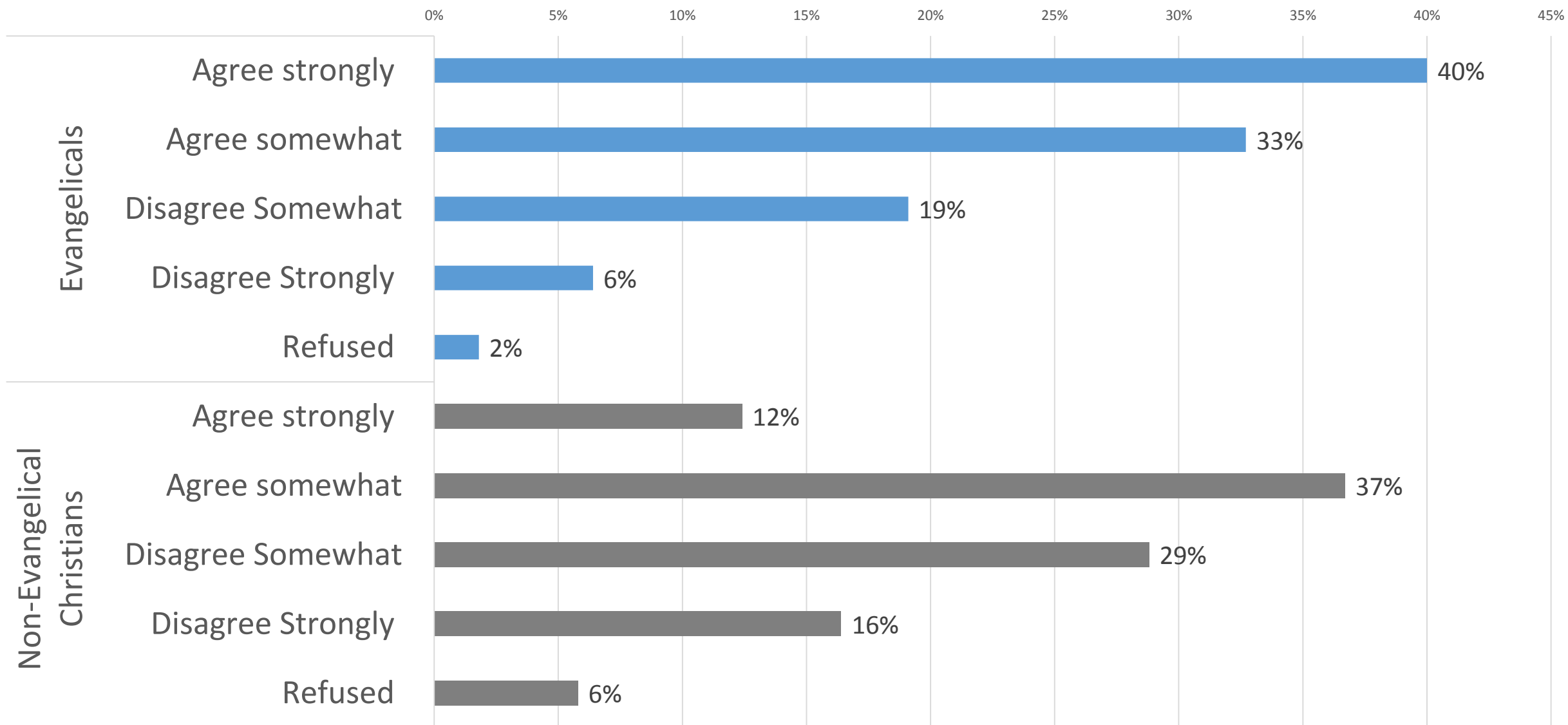
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[asked if respondent answered 1,2, or 3 in Q28] [asked of Christians only]



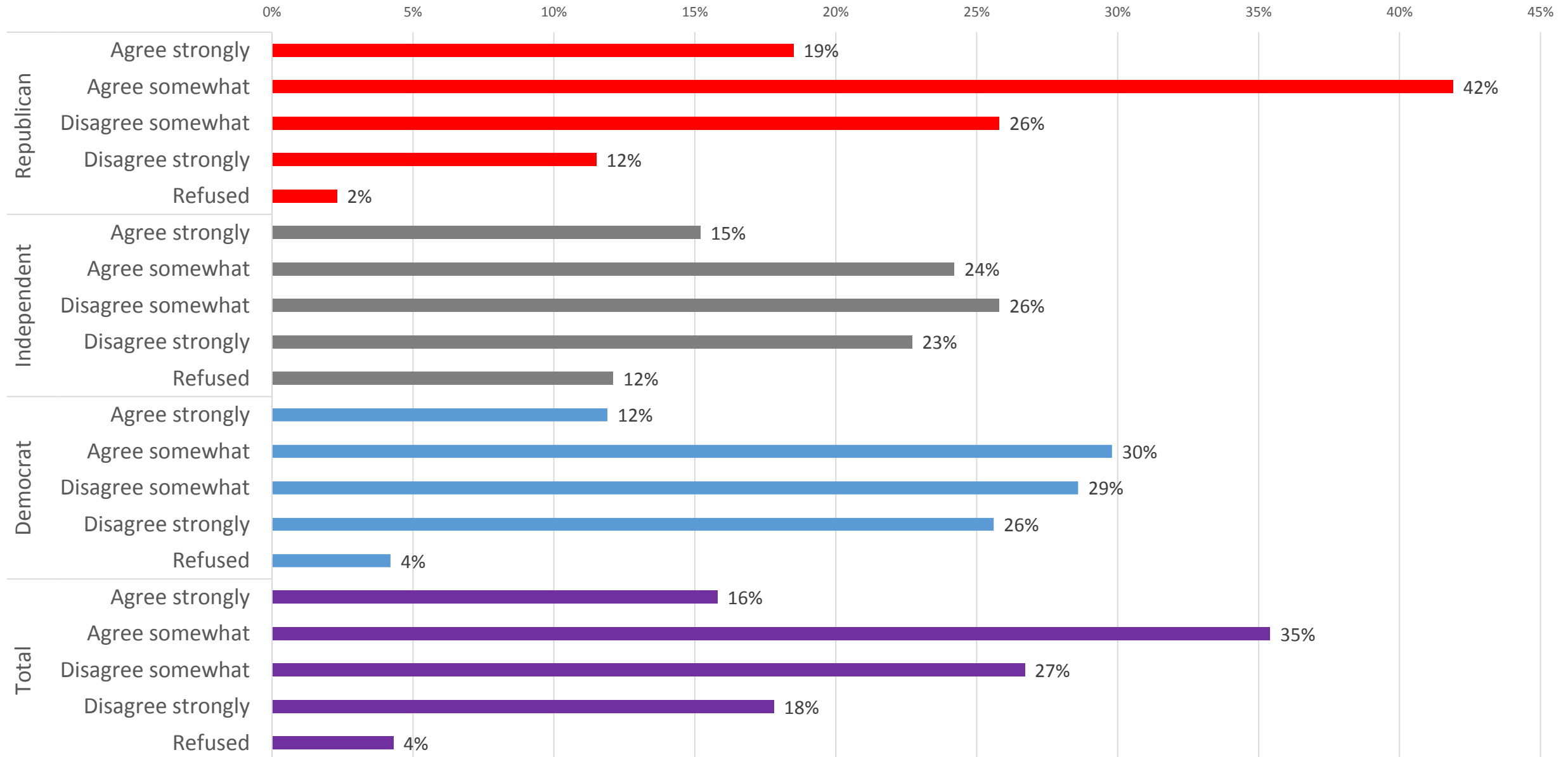
Q45B: World events will turn against Israel the closer we get to the rapture or end-times. [asked if respondent answered 1,2, or 3 in Q28] [asked of Christians only]



Q45B: World events will turn against Israel the closer we get to the rapture or end-times. [asked if respondent answered 1,2, or 3 in Q28] [asked of Christians only]



Q45C: The unfolding violence across the Middle East region is a sign that the end of time is nearer [asked if respondent answered 1,2, or 3 in Q28] [asked of Christians only]



Q45C: The unfolding violence across the Middle East region is a sign that the end of time is nearer [asked if respondent answered 1,2, or 3 in Q28] [asked of Christians only]

