

**B** | Center for  
**Middle East Policy**  
at BROOKINGS

# **American Attitudes toward the Middle East**

**A PUBLIC OPINION POLL BY SHIBLEY TELHAMI**

*A survey sponsored by the*

**Sadat Chair**

**for Peace and Development  
at the University of Maryland**

*fielded by*

**Nielsen Scarborough**

Note: These questions were fielded as part of a larger poll on foreign and domestic issues. Participants in this study were provided by Nielsen from Nielsen's sample of respondents

# Survey Methodology (May 2016)

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The survey was conducted May 20-31, 2016 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. A total of 1580 panelists completed the survey including a national sample of 855 adults, plus an oversample of 735 millennials (18-34), making for a total sample of millennials of 863. Responses were weighted by age, gender, income, education, race, and geographic region using benchmarks from the US Census. The survey was also weighted by partisan identification and millennials were down-weighted consistent with these groups' incidence rate in the U.S. Census. The margins of error for the national sample and for each subgroup is: National – 855 respondents, MoE: 3.4% Millennials –863, MoE: 3.3%

# Survey Methodology (June 2016)

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The survey was conducted June 24-30, 2016 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. A national sample of 1312 panelists completed the survey. Responses were weighted by age, gender, income, education, race, and geographic region using benchmarks from the US Census. The survey was also weighted by partisan identification. The margin of error is 2.7%

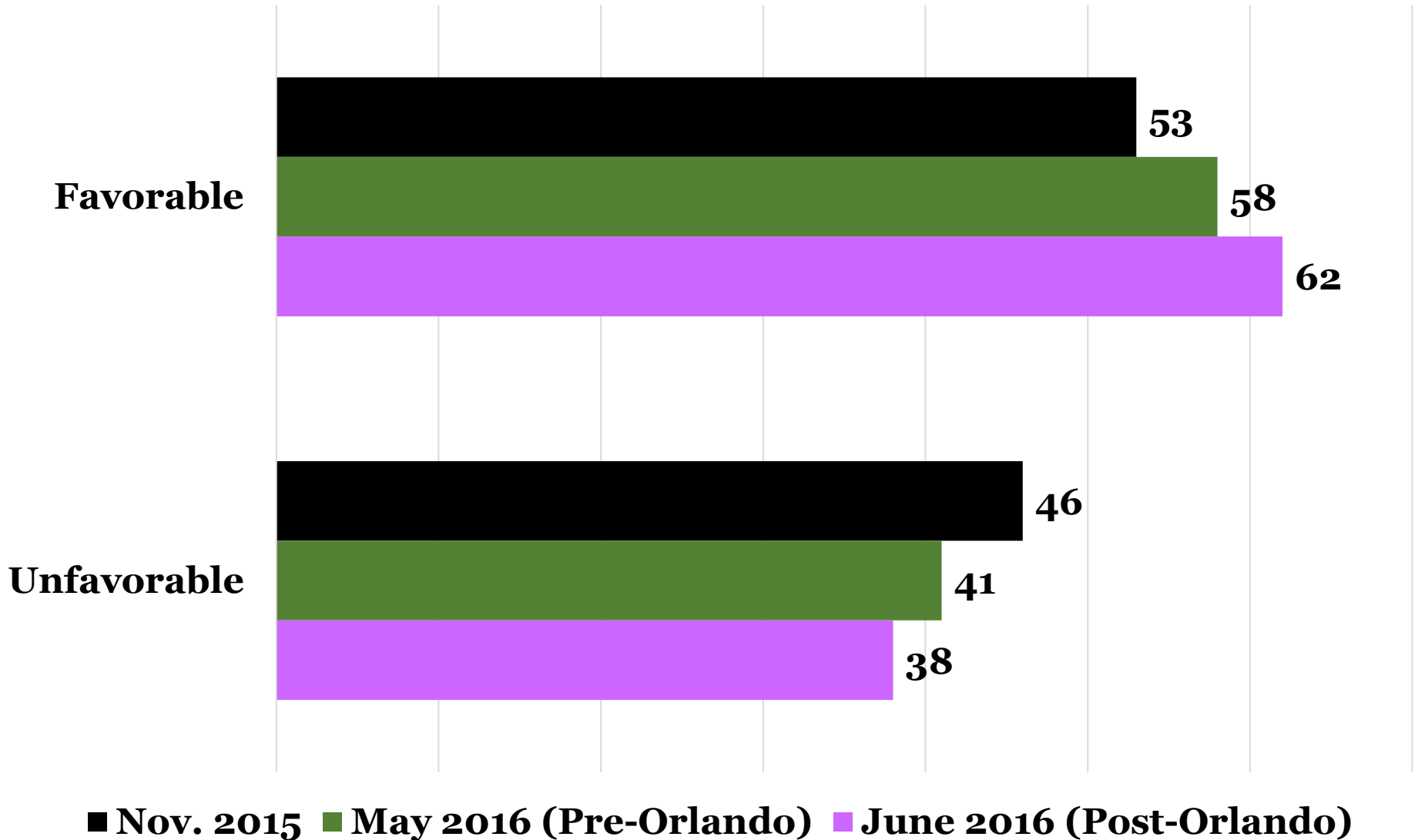
# **American Attitudes toward Islam and Muslims**

**What is your attitude about  
each of the following?**

**The Muslim People**

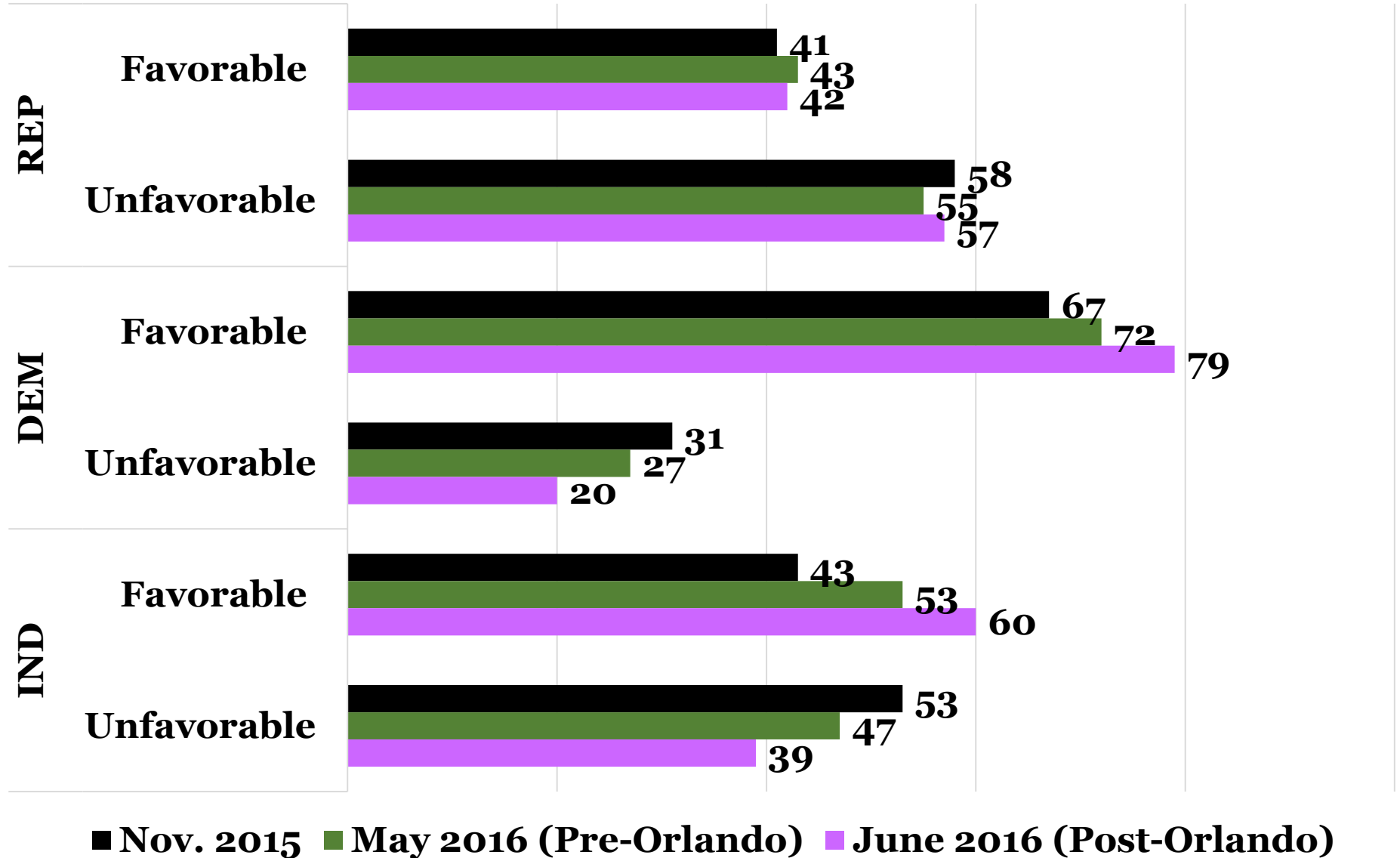
# What is your attitude about each of the following?

## The Muslim People



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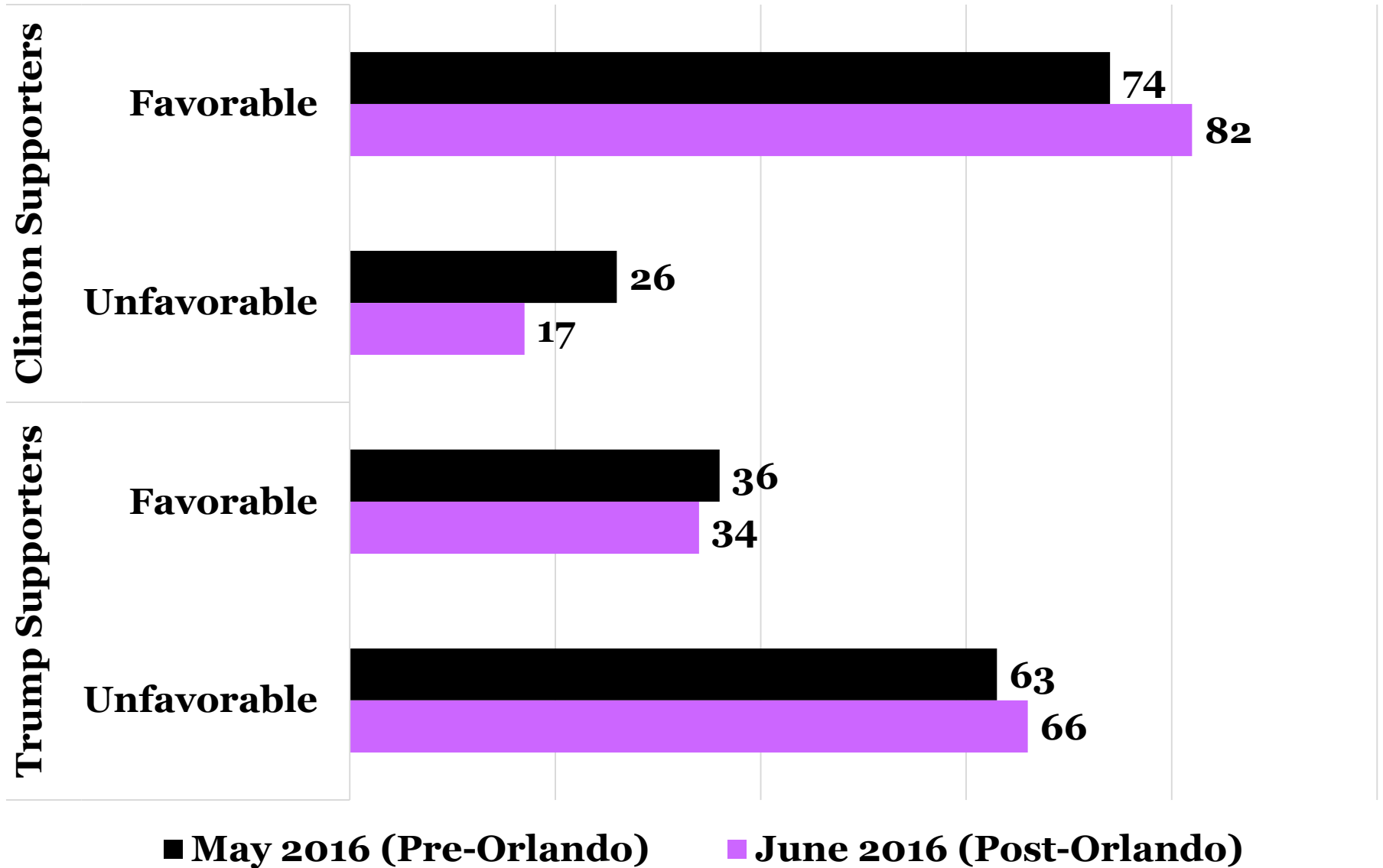
## The Muslim People





# What is your attitude about each of the following?

## The Muslim People

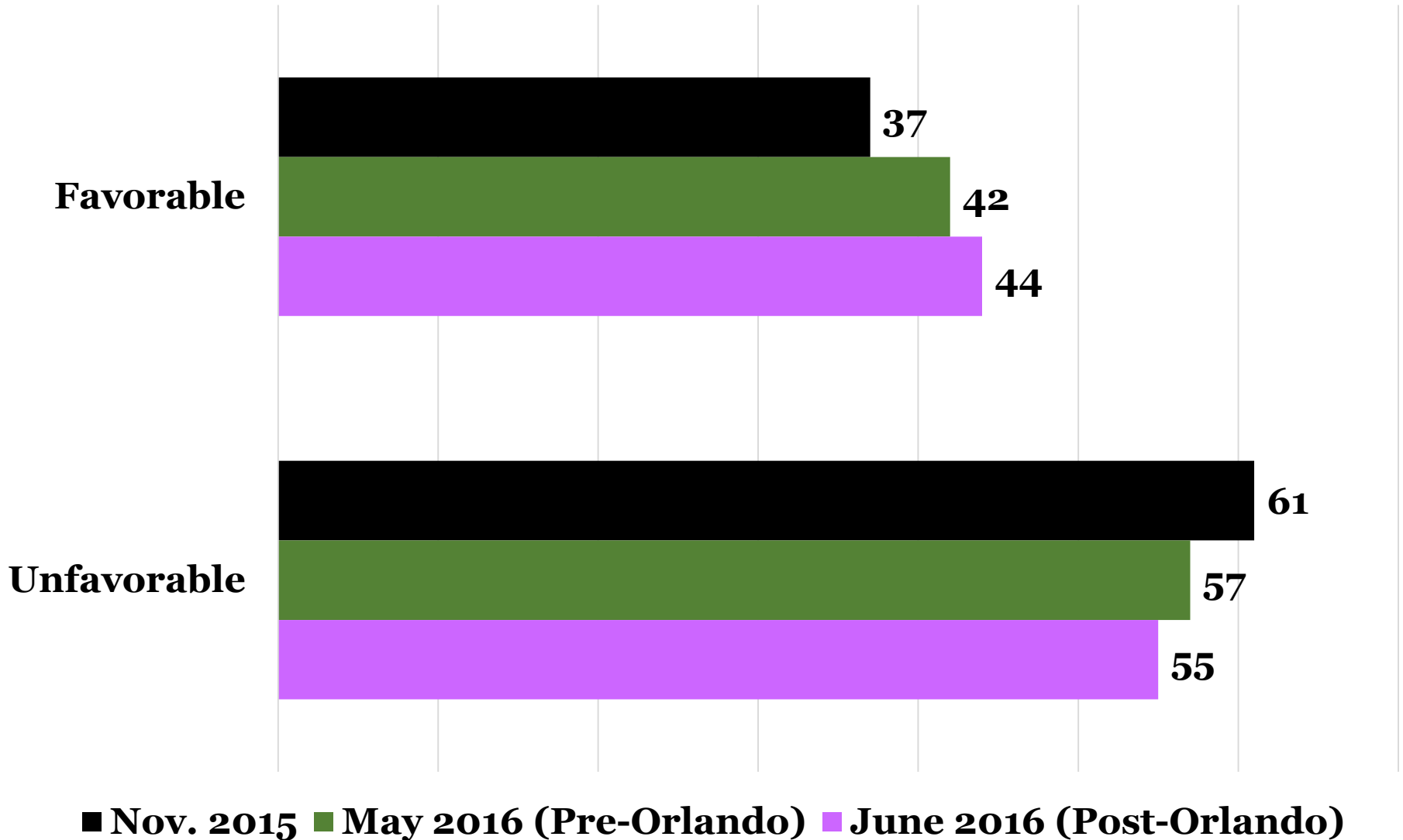


**What is your attitude about  
each of the following?**

**The Muslim Religion**

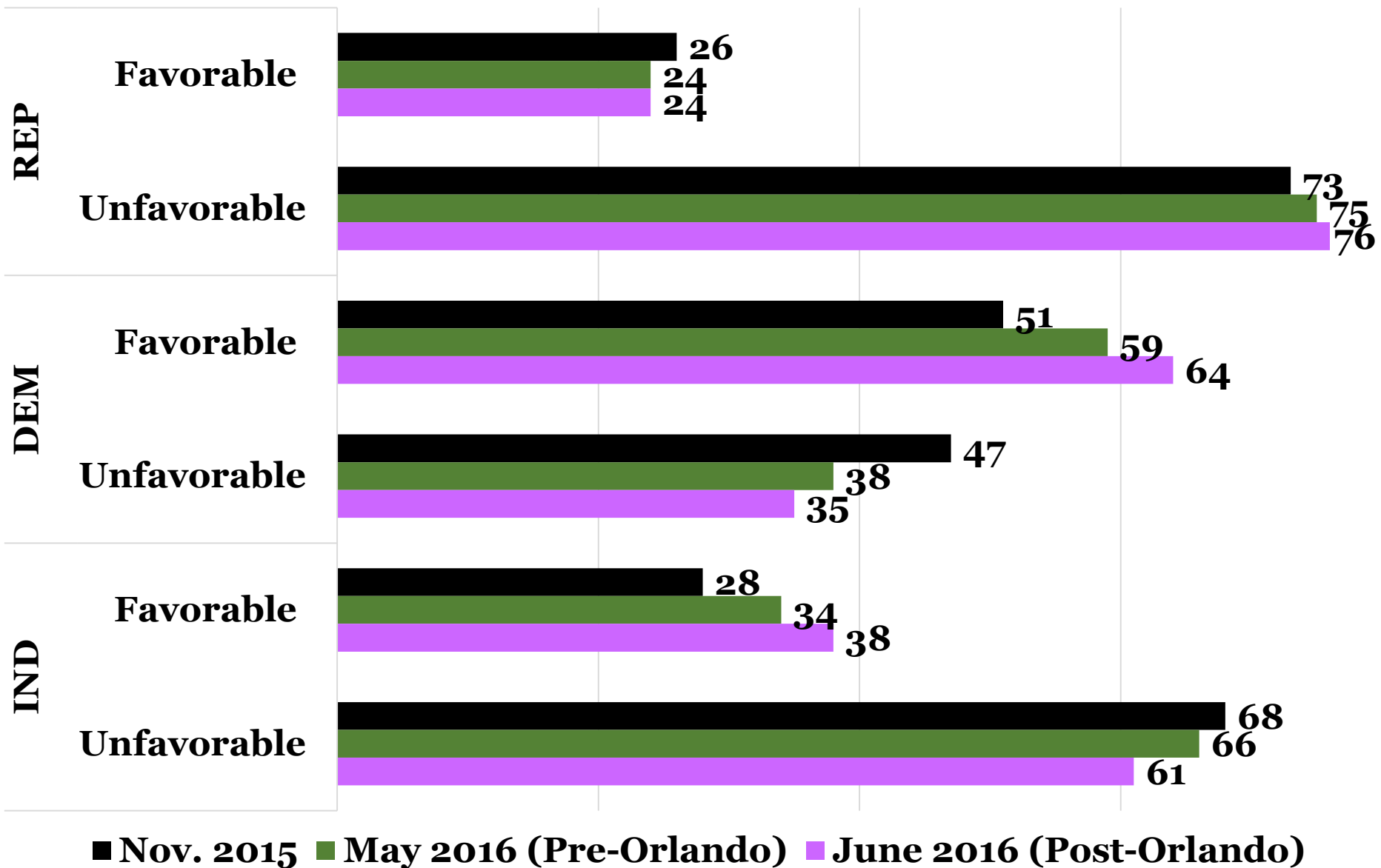
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## The Muslim Religion



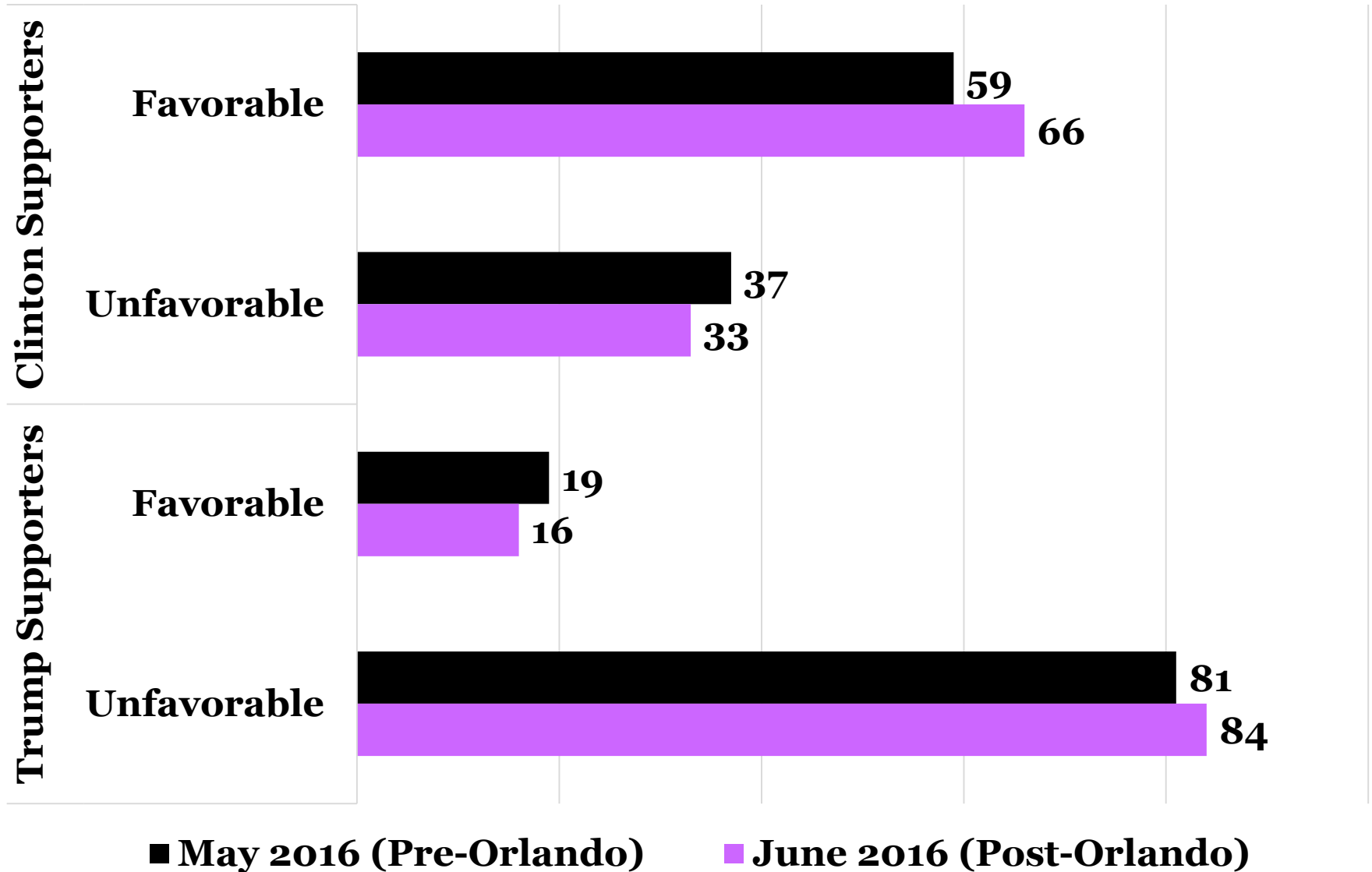
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## The Muslim Religion



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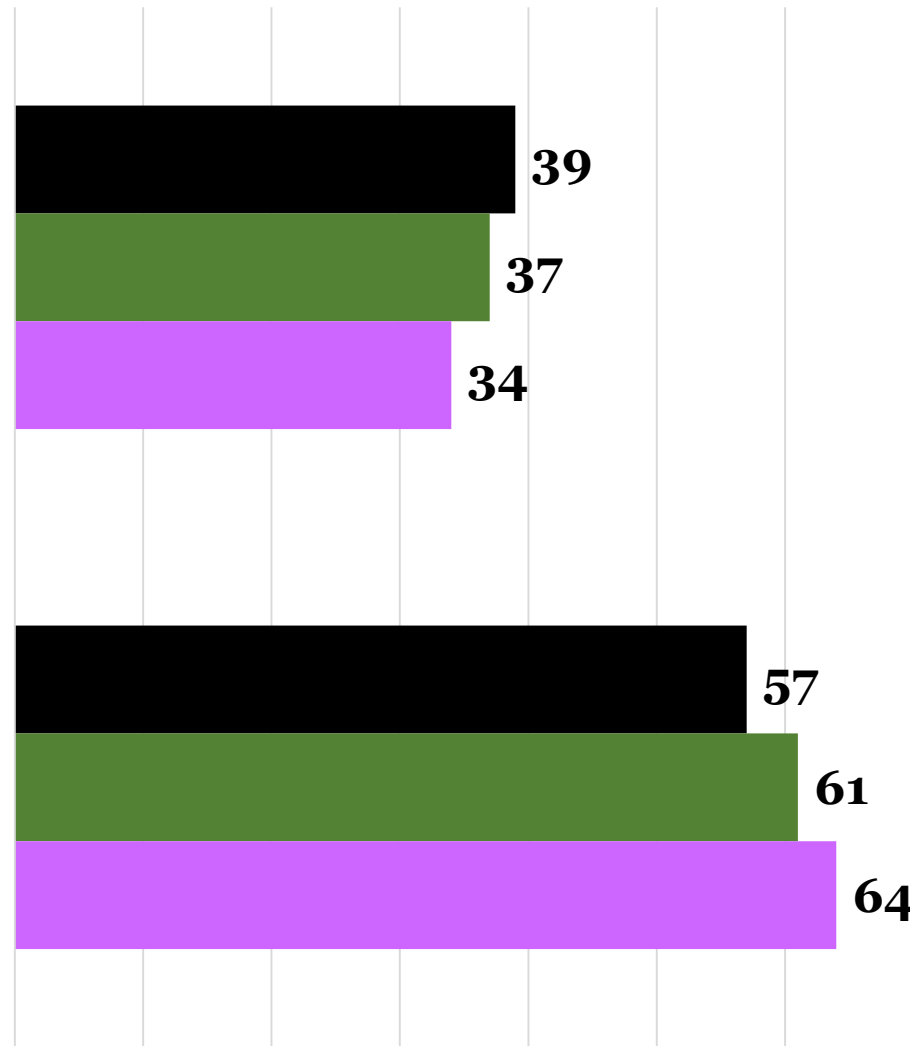
## The Muslim Religion



**Which position is closer to  
yours?**

# Which position is closer to yours?

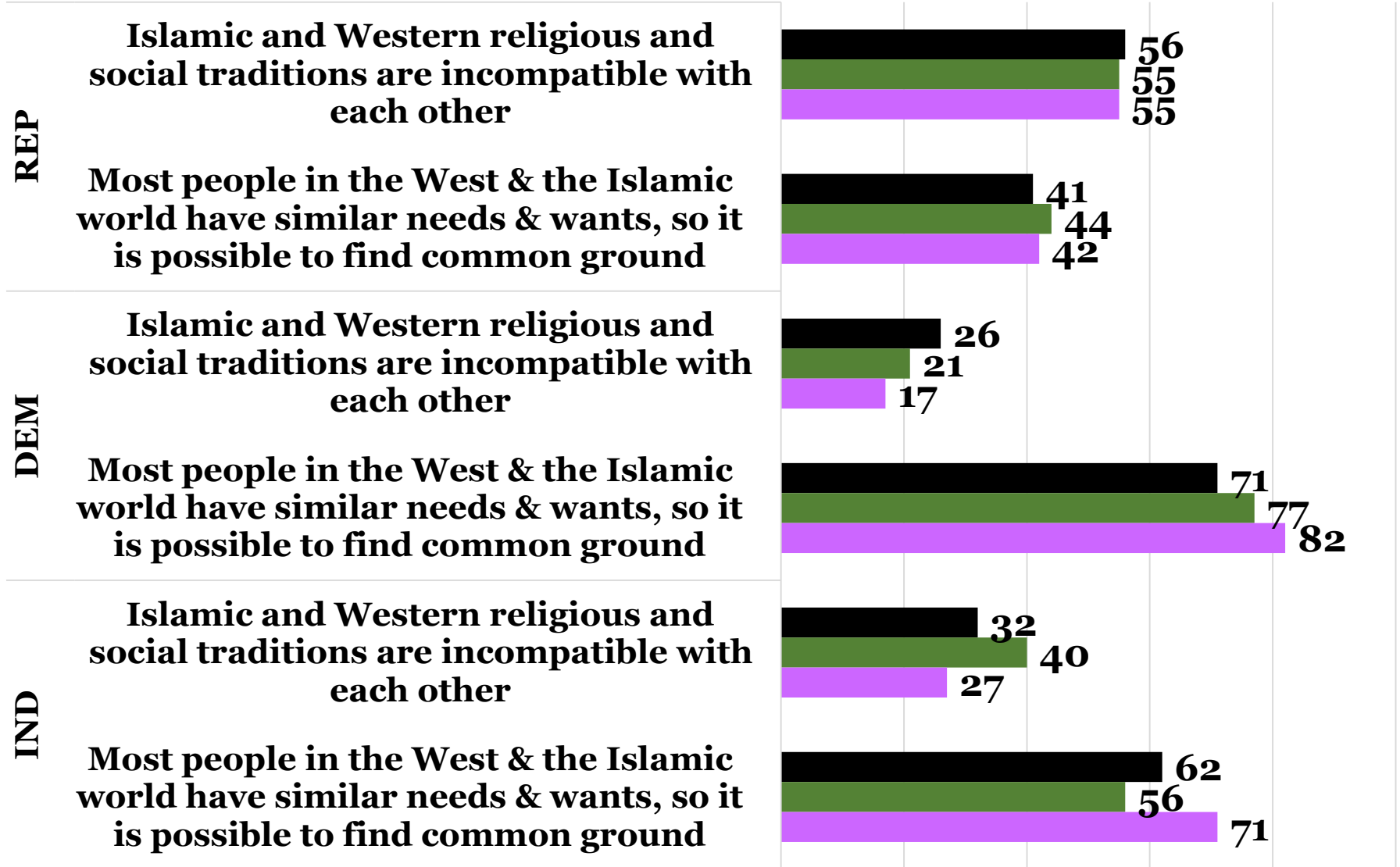
**Islamic and Western religious and social traditions are incompatible with each other**



**Most people in the West & the Islamic world have similar needs & wants, so it is possible to find common ground**

■ Nov. 2015 ■ May 2016 (Pre-Orlando) ■ June 2016 (Post-Orlando)

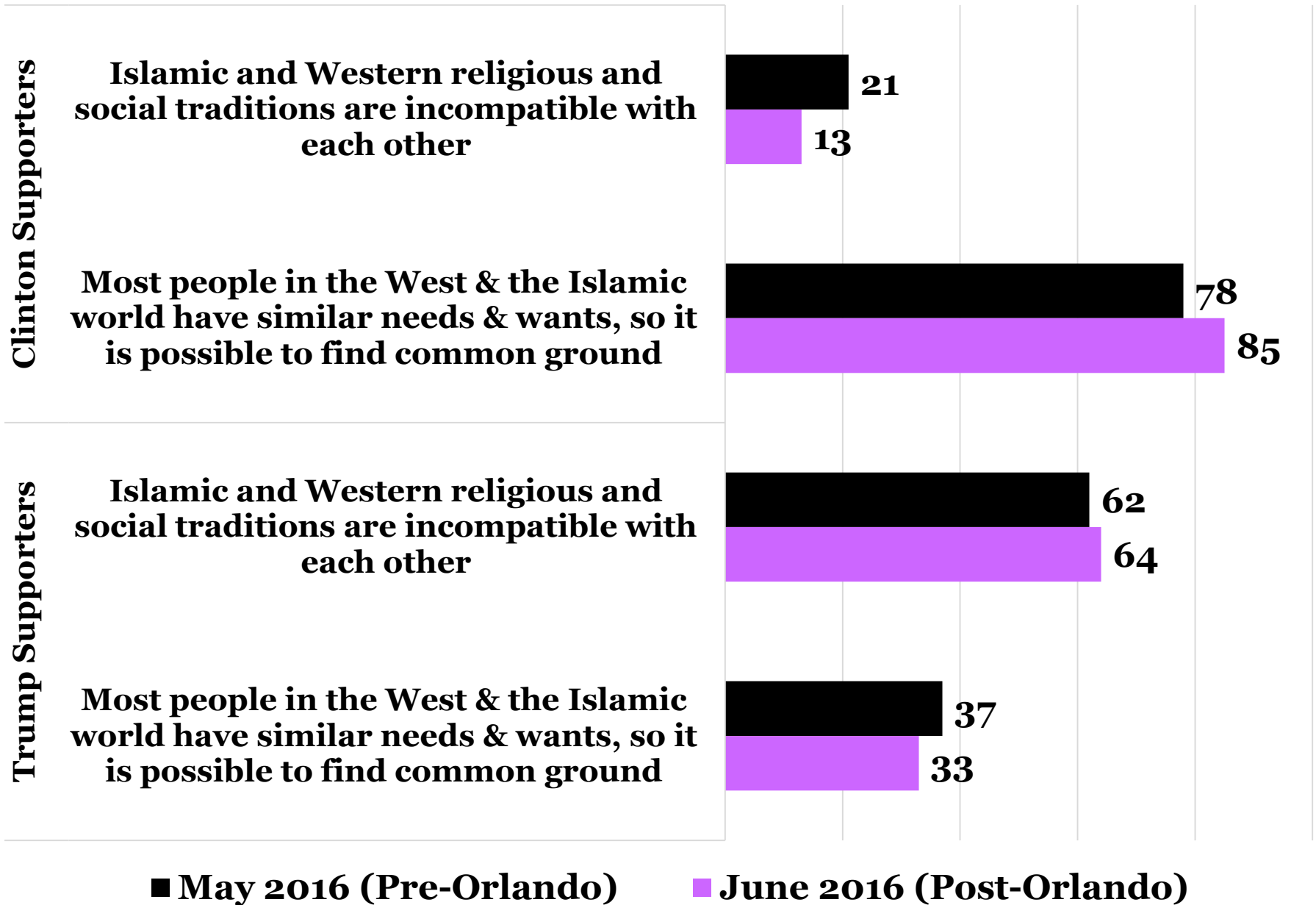
# Which position is closer to yours?



■ Nov. 2015 ■ May 2016 (Pre-Orlando) ■ June 2016 (Post-Orlando)



# Which position is closer to yours?



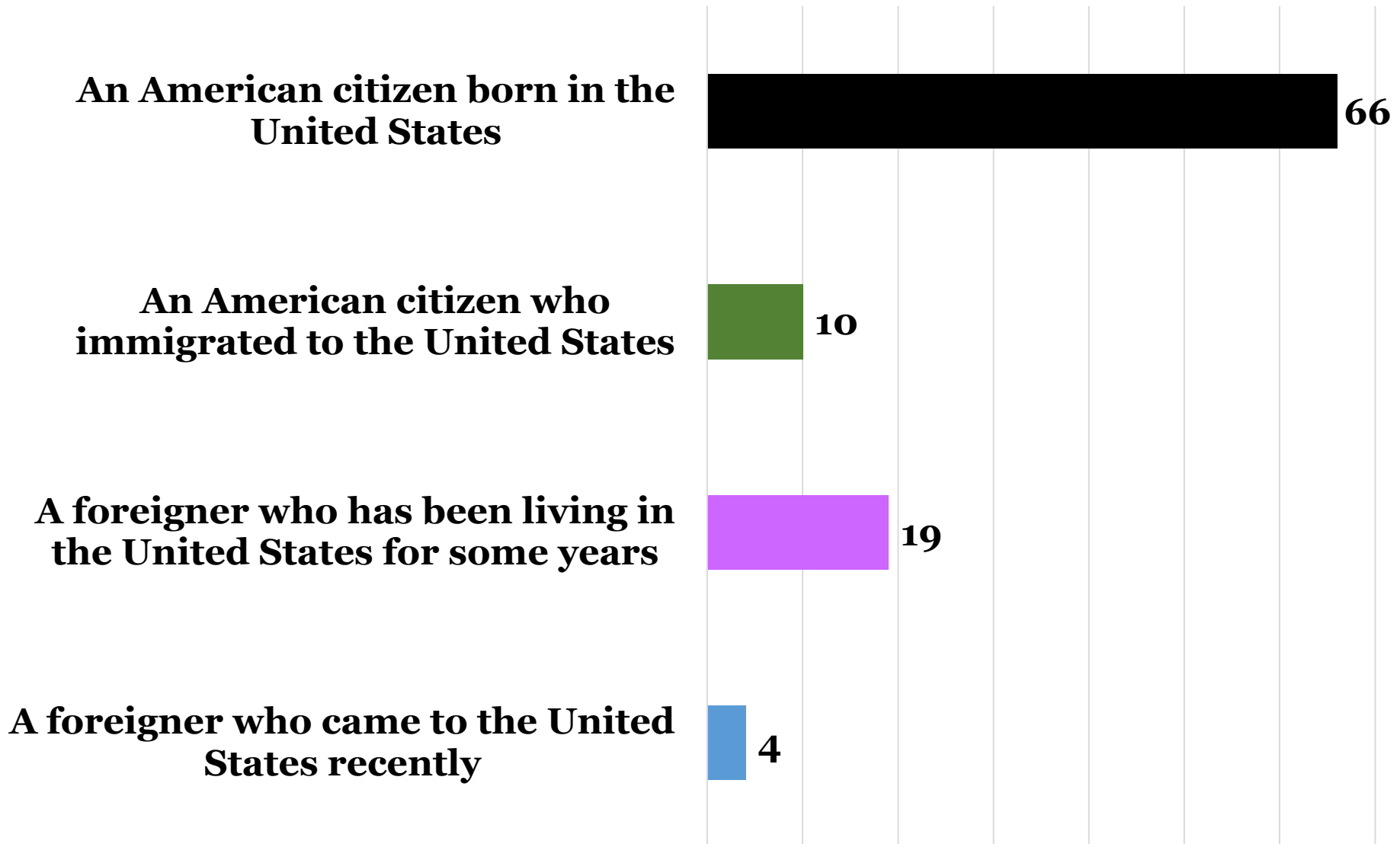
# **American Responses to the Orlando Shooting**

**June 2016**

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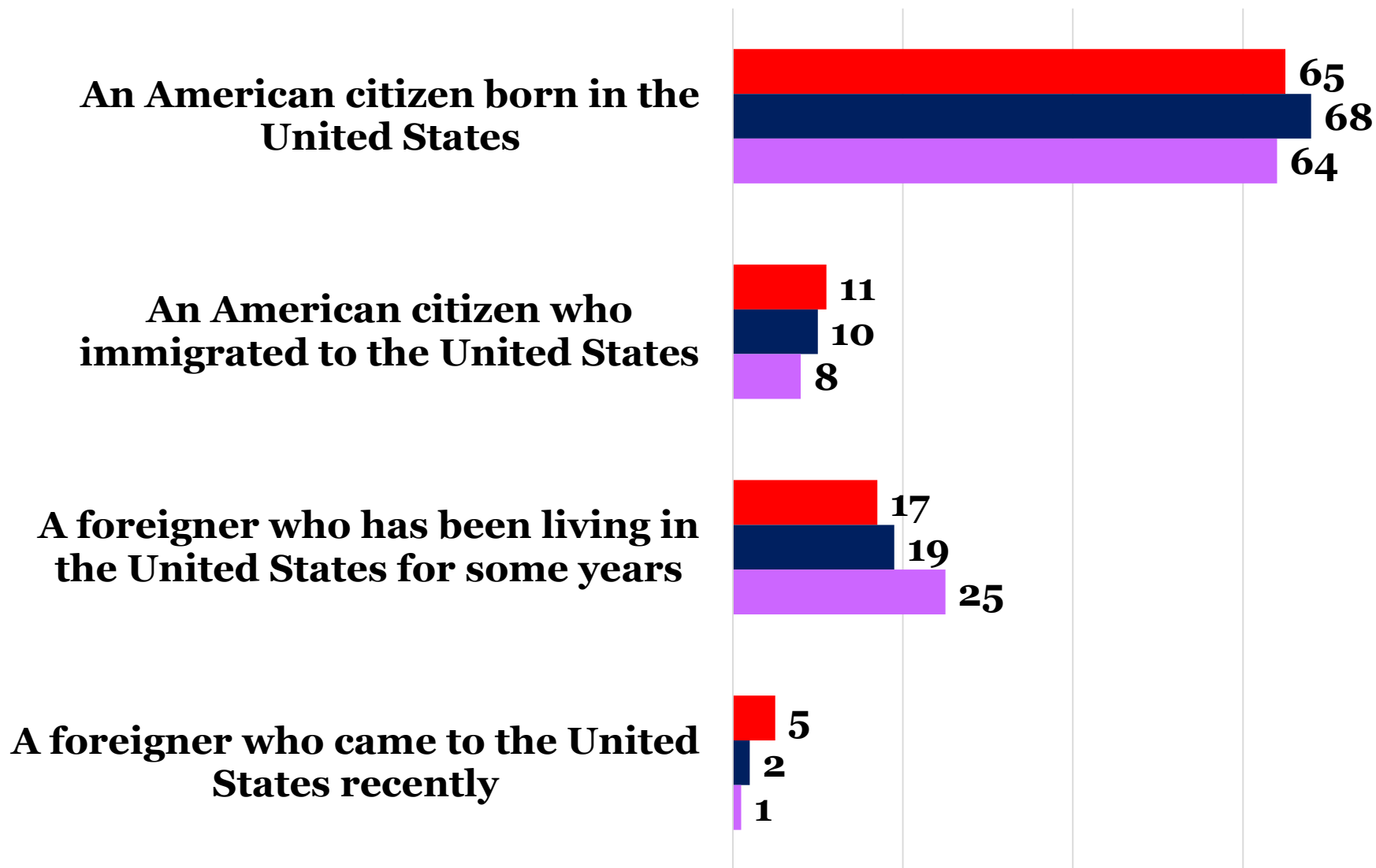
**Based on what you have heard, is it your impression that the Orlando shooter, Omar Mateen, was:**

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Based on what you have heard, is it your impression that the Orlando shooter, Omar Mateen, was:

■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents

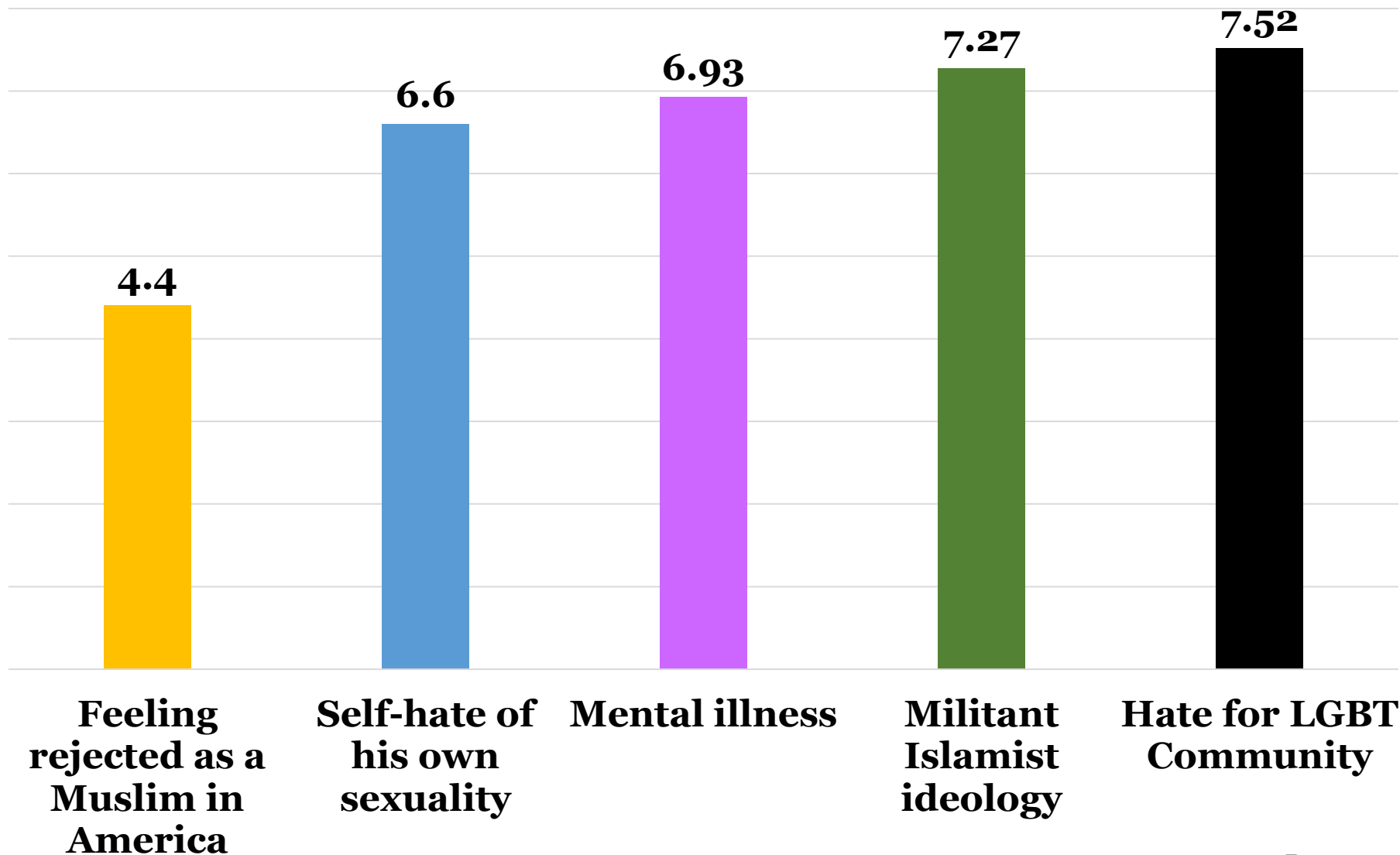


# June 2016

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**Based on what you have heard, please rank your impression of each of the following factors that may have contributed to the Orlando shooter's behavior. Use a scale of 0-10, where 0 is not important and 10 is most important.**

[On a 0-10 scale, where 0 is not important and 10 is most important]  
Based on what you have heard, please rank your impression of each of the following factors that may have contributed to the Orlando shooter's behavior (mean):



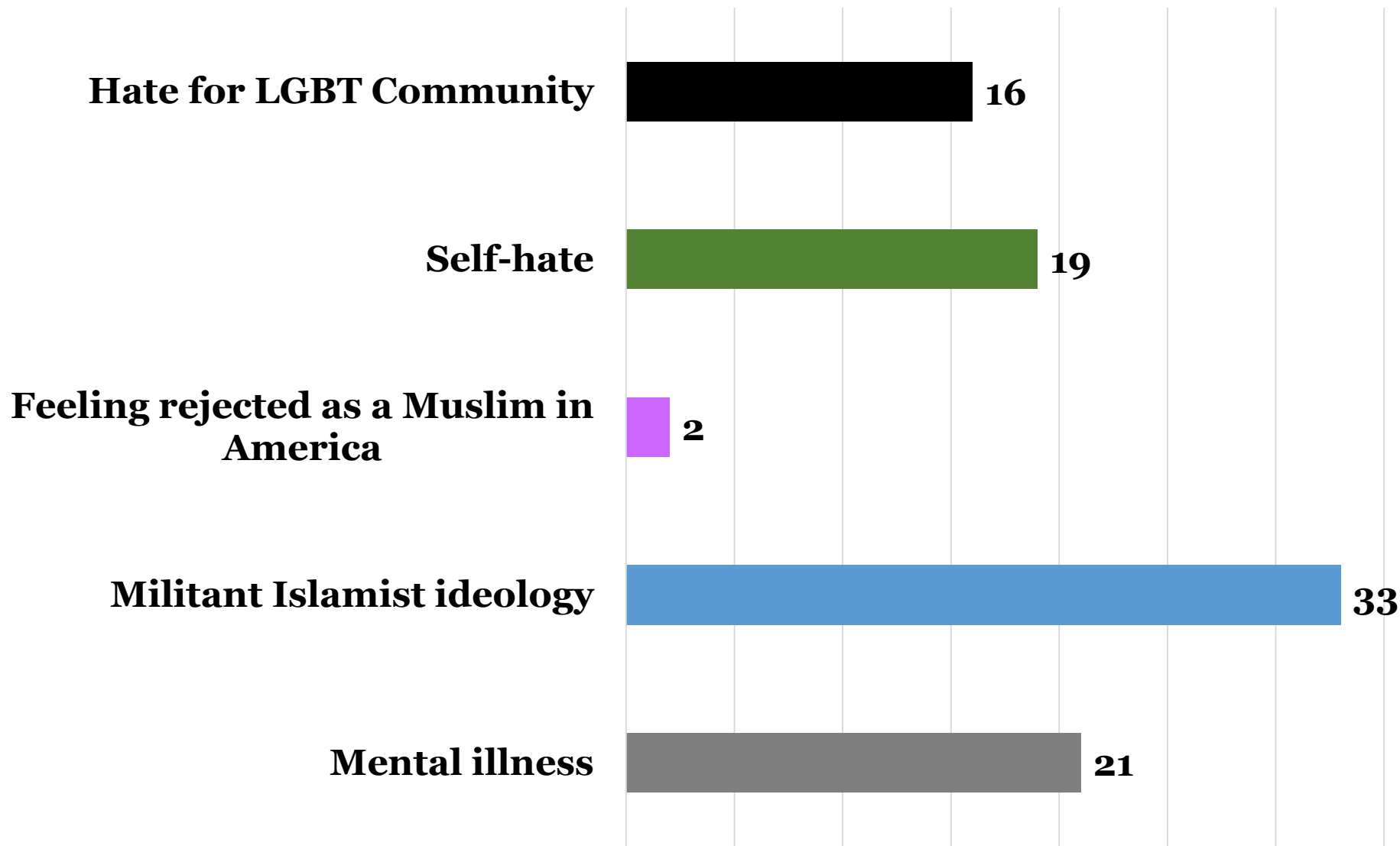
**June 2016**

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**Now, in your opinion, which one of these is the most important factor that may have contributed to the Orlando shooter's behavior?**



Now, in your opinion, which one of these is the most important factor that may have contributed to the Orlando shooter's behavior?

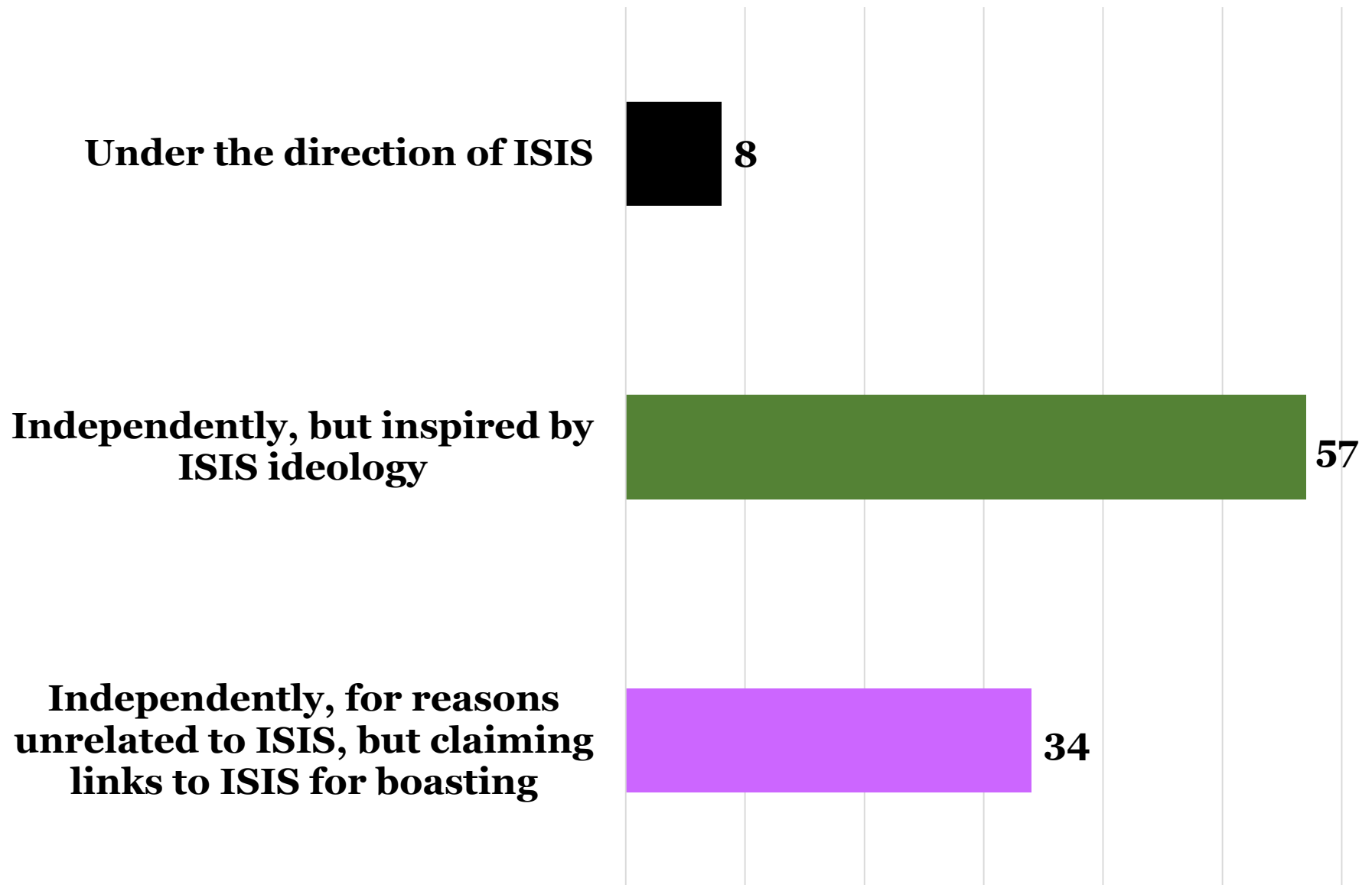


**June 2016**

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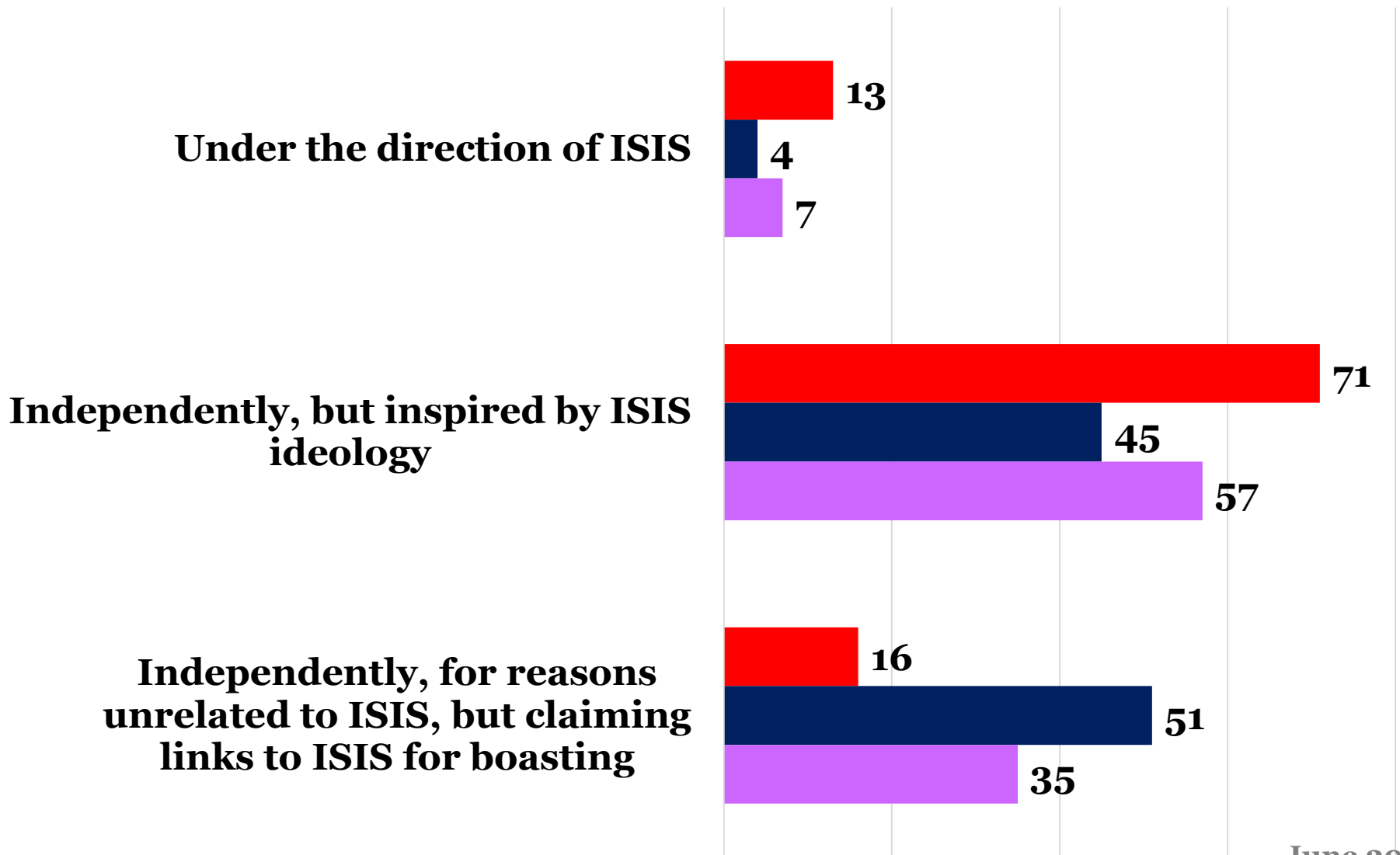
**Based on your impression,  
was the Orlando shooter  
acting:**

# Based on your impression, was the Orlando shooter acting:



# Based on your impression, was the Orlando shooter acting:

**■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents**

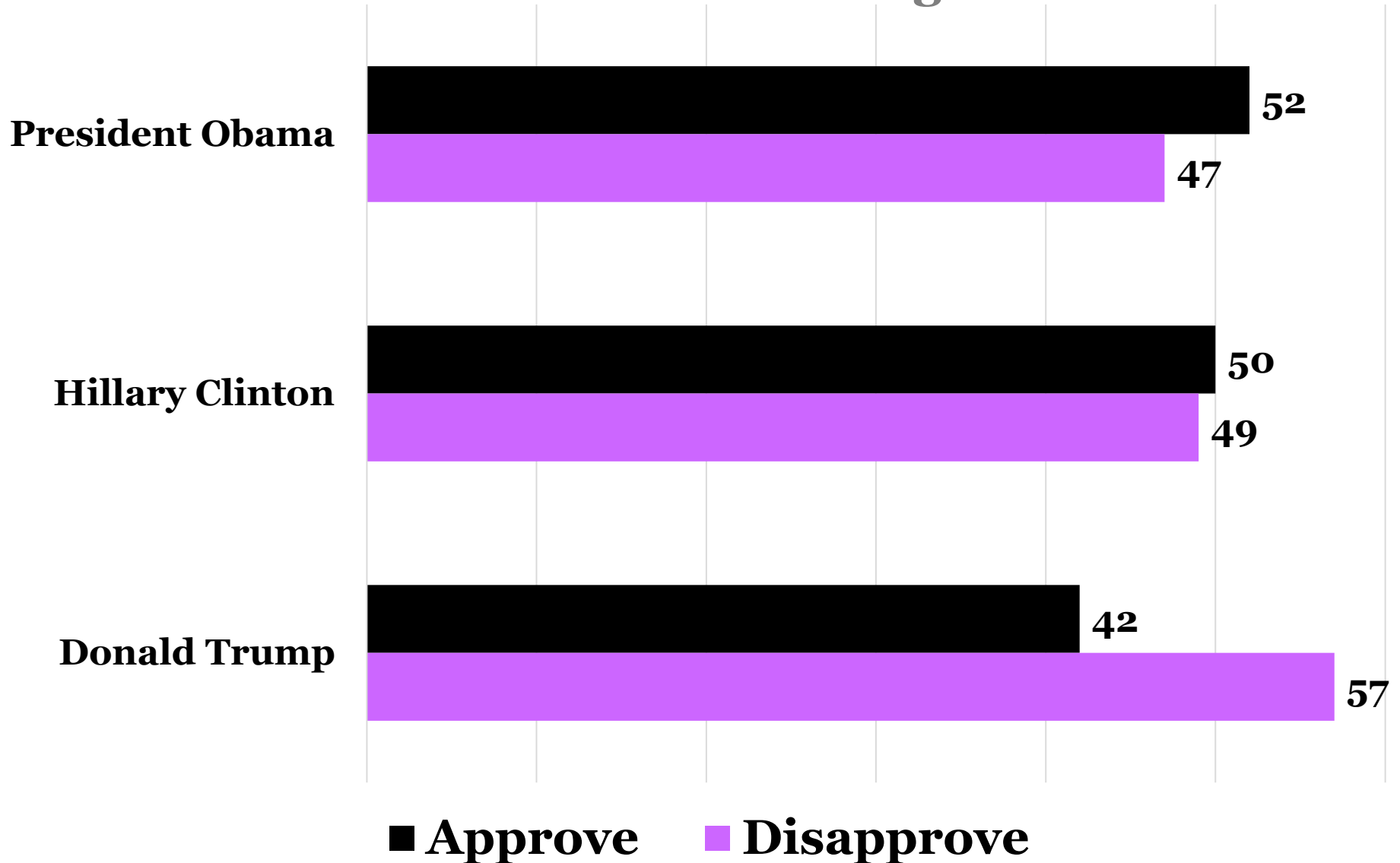


**June 2016**

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**How much do you approve  
or disapprove of the  
following leaders' reactions  
to the Orlando shooting?**

# How much do you approve or disapprove of the following leaders' reactions to the Orlando shooting?



# June 2016

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**How would you rate the effectiveness of the following actions in reducing the chance of an Orlando-like shooting? Please rate on a scale of 0-10 where 0 is not effective and 10 is most effective.**

[On a 0-10 scale, where 0 is not effective and 10 is most effective]  
How would you rate the effectiveness of the following actions in  
reducing the chance of an Orlando-like shooting (mean)?

**Banning the sale of any weapons to  
people on terrorist and criminal  
watch lists**



**Better security at public venues**



**Fighting ISIS and similar groups  
abroad more effectively**



**Banning the sale of assault rifles,  
that is a rifle that fires rapid bursts  
of bullets**



**Closely monitoring Mosques and  
Muslim American groups**



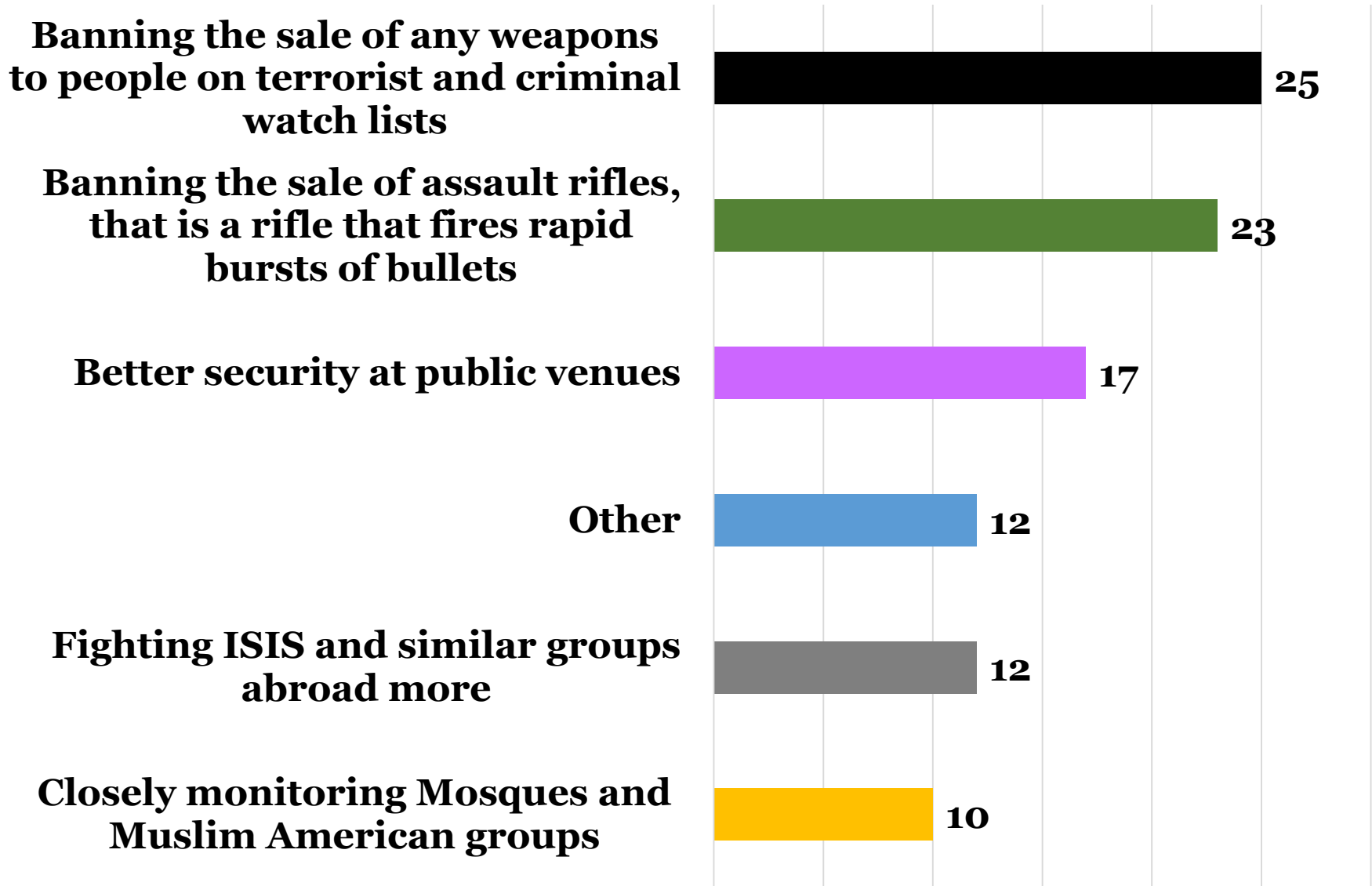


**June 2016**

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**Now, of these actions, which would be the most likely to reduce the chance of an Orlando-like shooting?**

Now, of these actions, which would be the most likely to reduce the chance of an Orlando-like shooting?



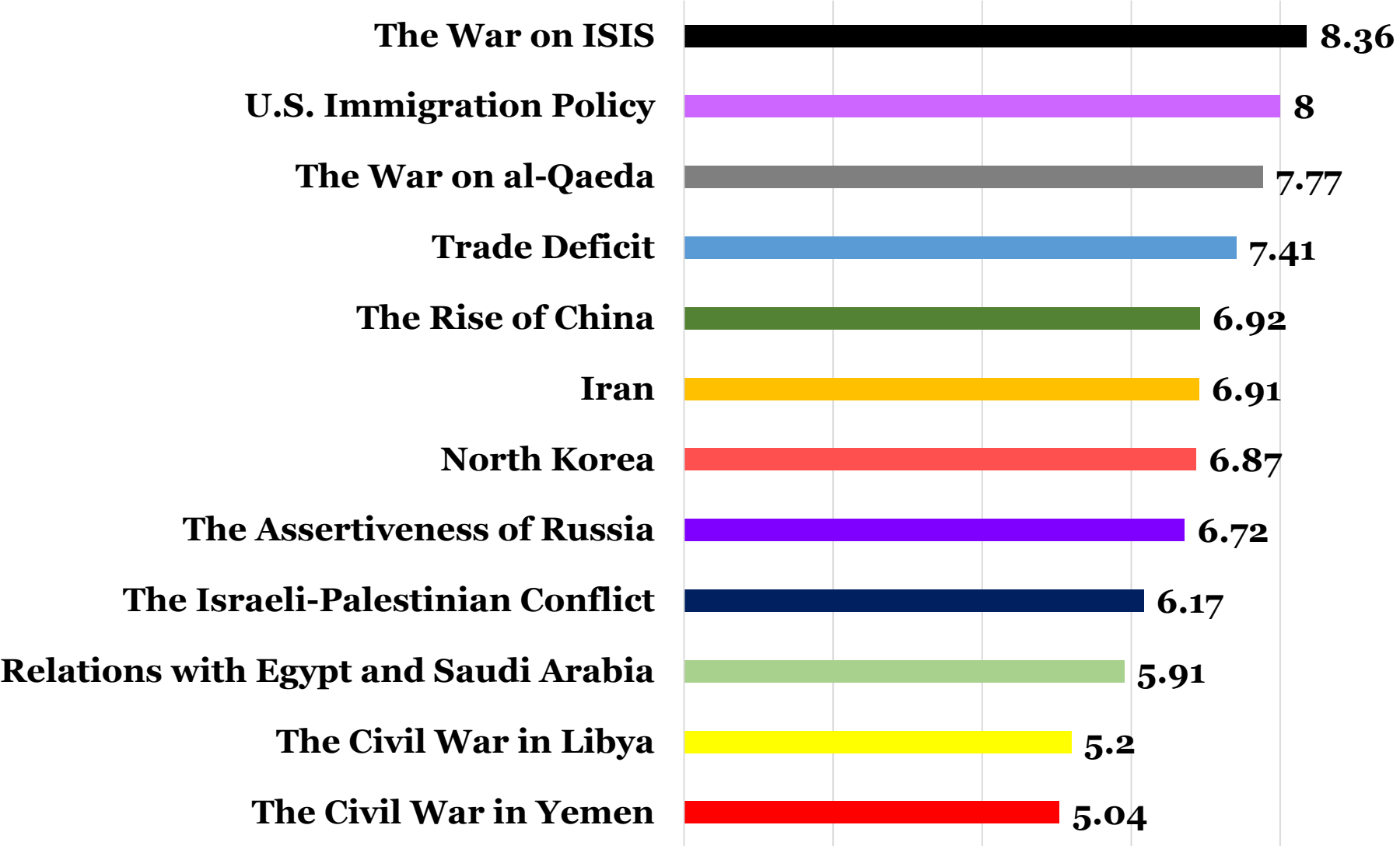
# Foreign Policy

# May 2016

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**On a scale of 1-10, where ten is very important and one is not important, how important are the following issues in American global priorities:**

On a scale of 1-10, where ten is very important and one is not important, how important are the following issues in American global priorities (mean)?

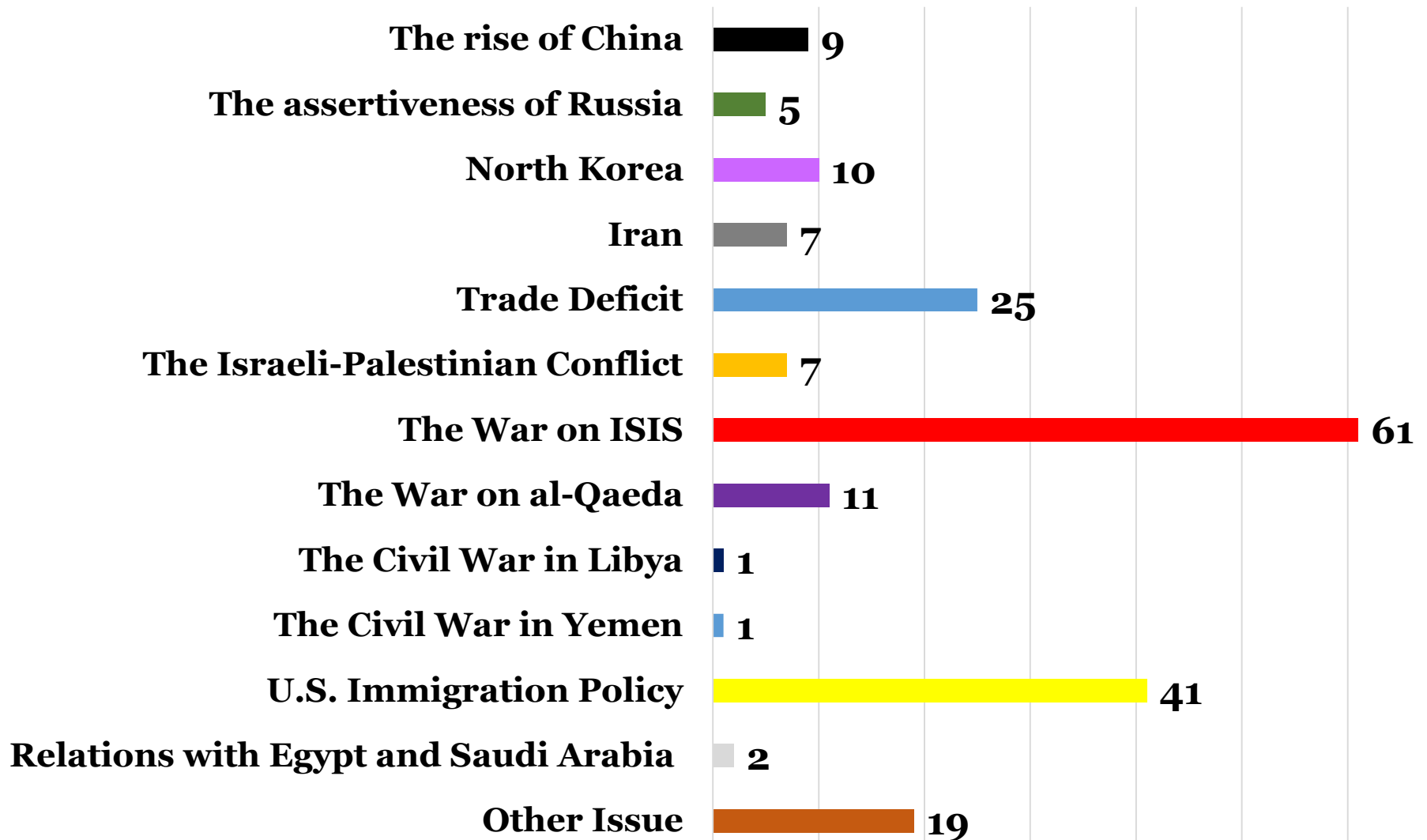


**May 2016**

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**Which of the following  
issues should be America's  
top global priorities?  
(Please select two)**

# Which of the following issues should be America's top global priorities? (Please select two)



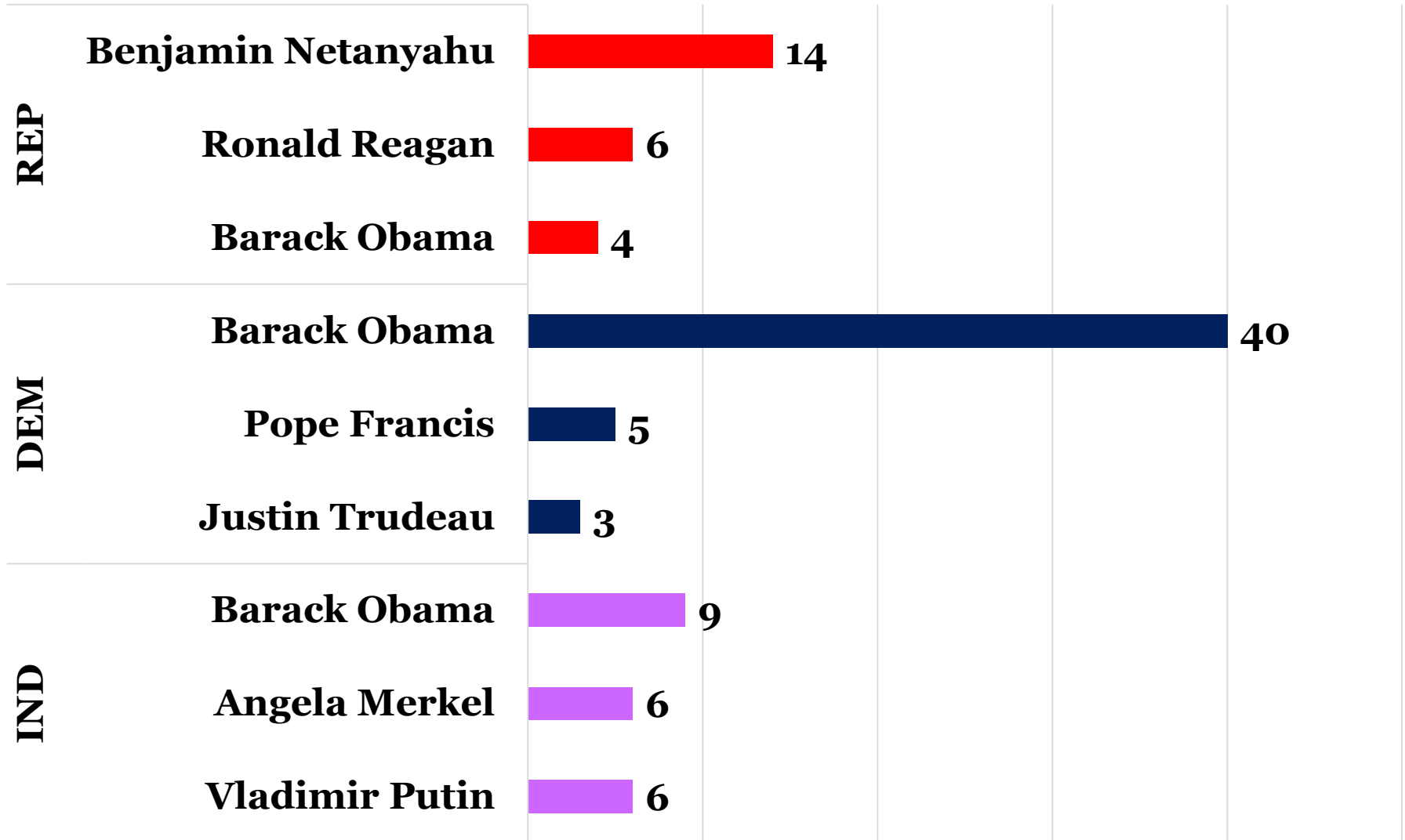
**May 2016**

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**[Open-Ended Question]  
Please name a national or  
world leader you admire  
most:**



**[Open-Ended Question]**  
**Please name a national or world leader you admire most:**



# June 2016

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**In your opinion, which one of the following two factors do you think has been most important in the emergence and growth of ISIS?**

# Which one of the two factors do you believe is most important?

**Going to war with Iraq in 2003**



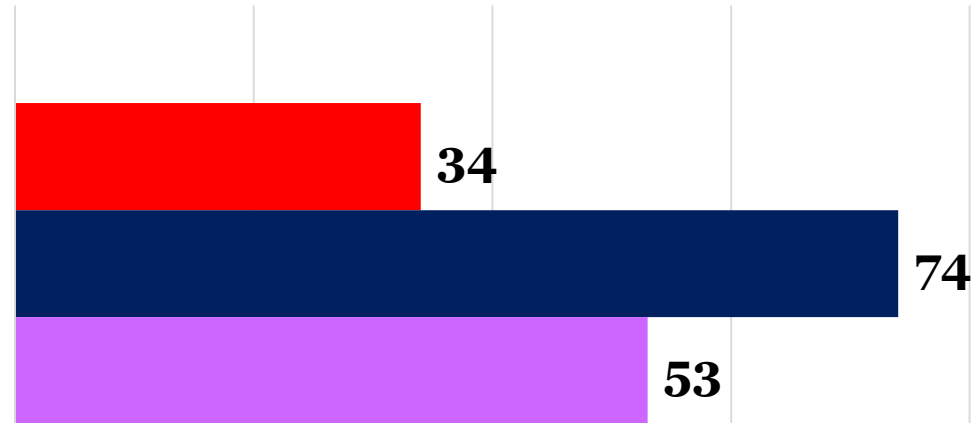
**Withdrawing most U.S. troops from Iraq**



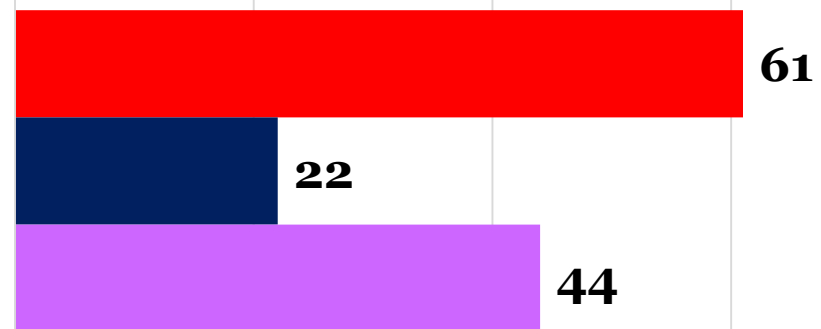
# Which one of the two factors do you believe is most important?

■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Independents

**Going to war with Iraq in 2003**



**Withdrawing most U.S. troops from Iraq**



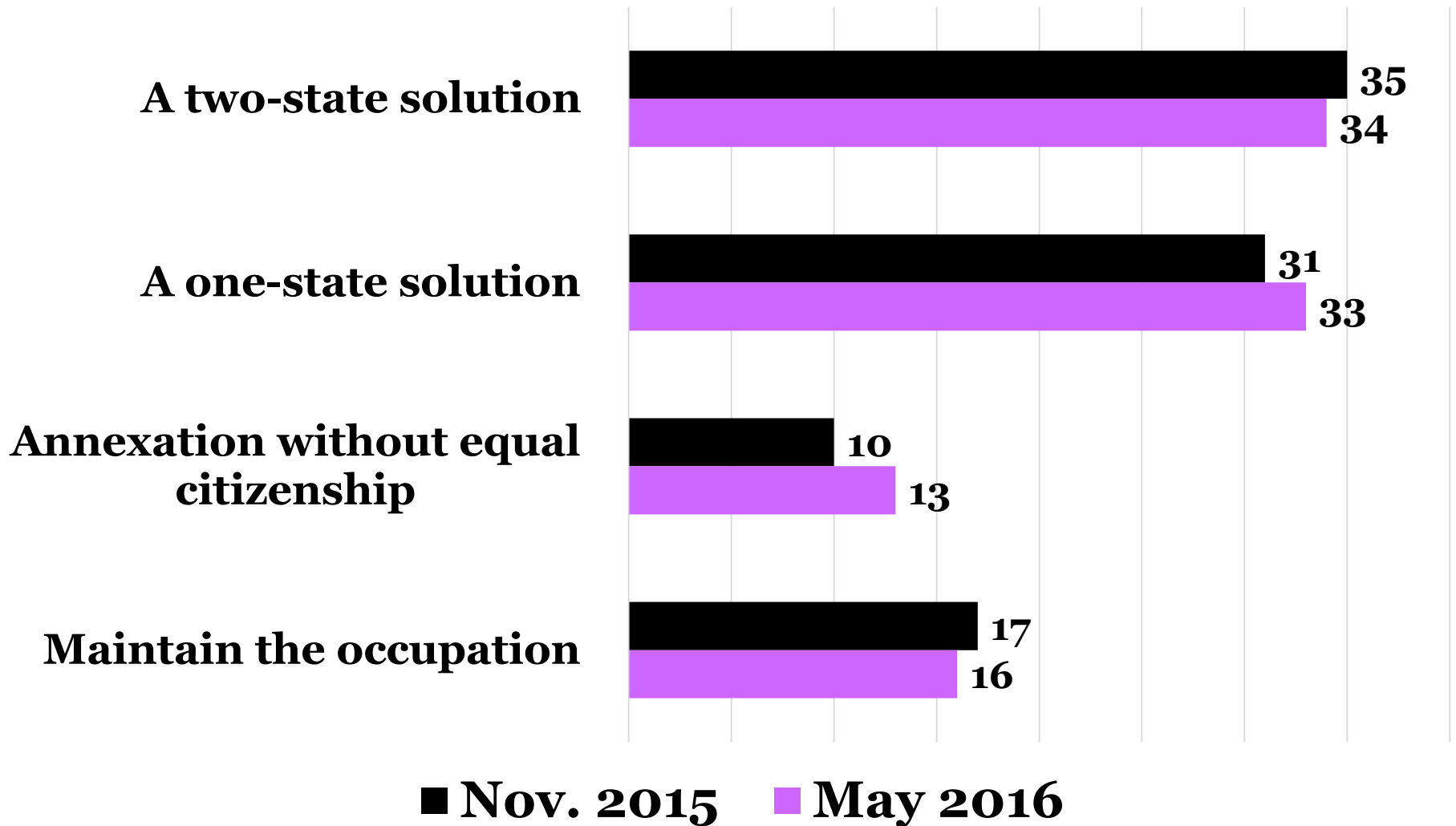
# **American Attitudes on the Arab-Israeli Conflict**

**May 2016**

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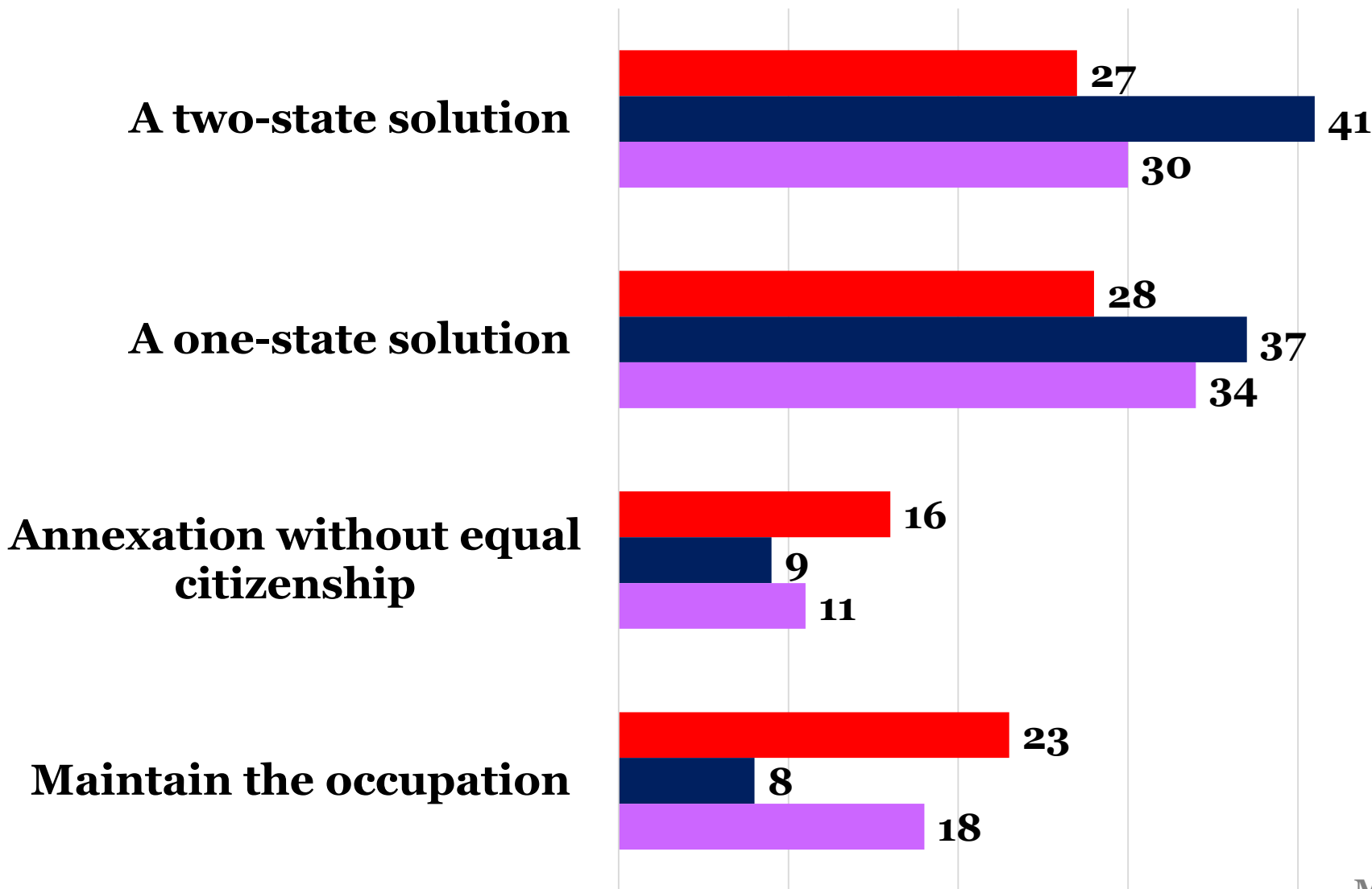
**As you may know, the United States has been acting as a mediator between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority, with the aim of reaching an agreement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Whether or not these efforts succeed, there is a question about what kind of future for Israel and the Palestinians the U.S. should be supporting over the long term, and many analysts feel that time is running out for some options. Here are four possible approaches that are frequently discussed. Please select the one you think the U.S. should support.**

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# Please select the one you think the U.S. should support.

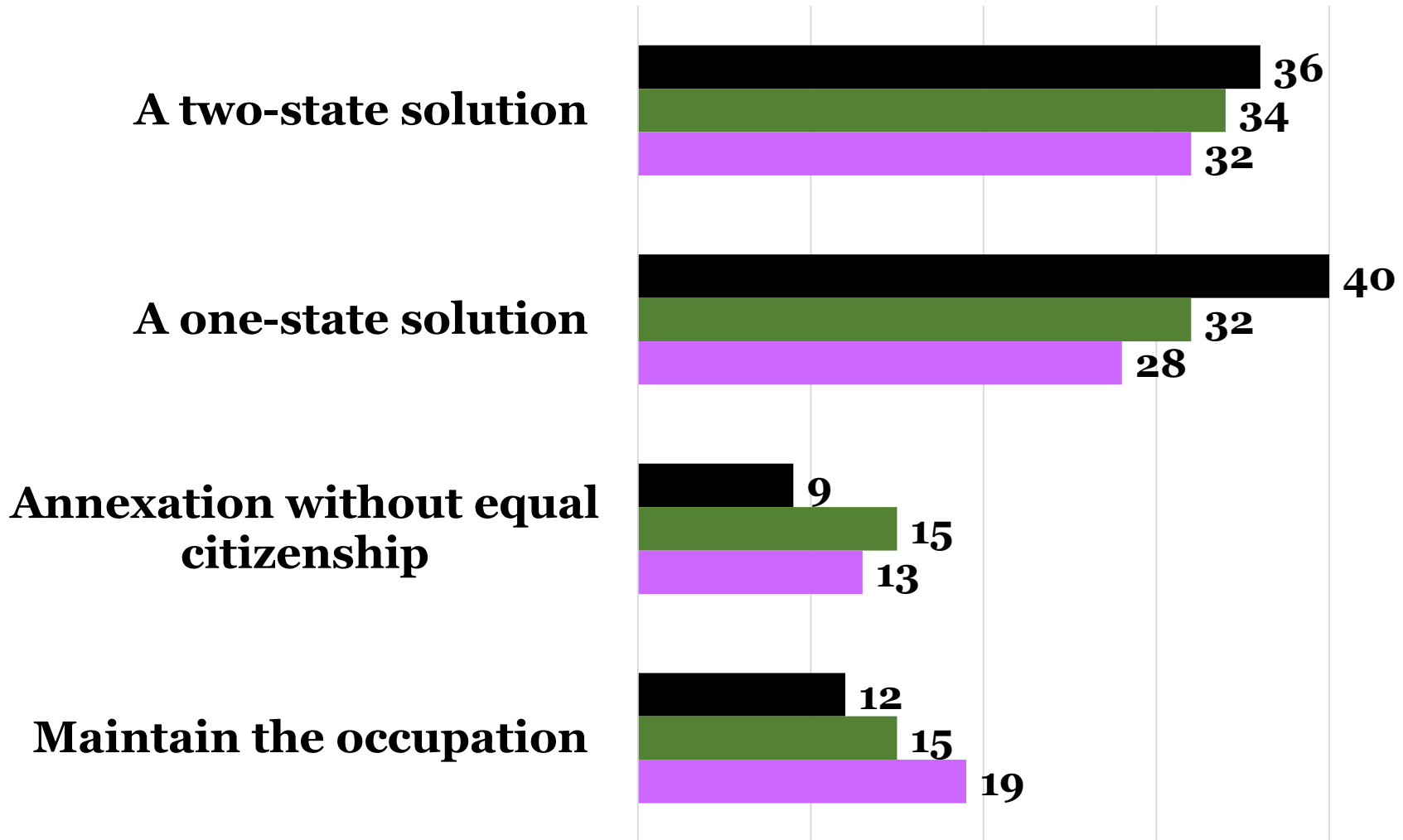
**■** Republicans **■** Democrats **■** Independents





# Please select the one you think the U.S. should support.

18-34 35-54 55+



# Please select the one you think the U.S. should support.

**■ Favor Trump**   **■ Favor Clinton**   **■ Favor Sanders**

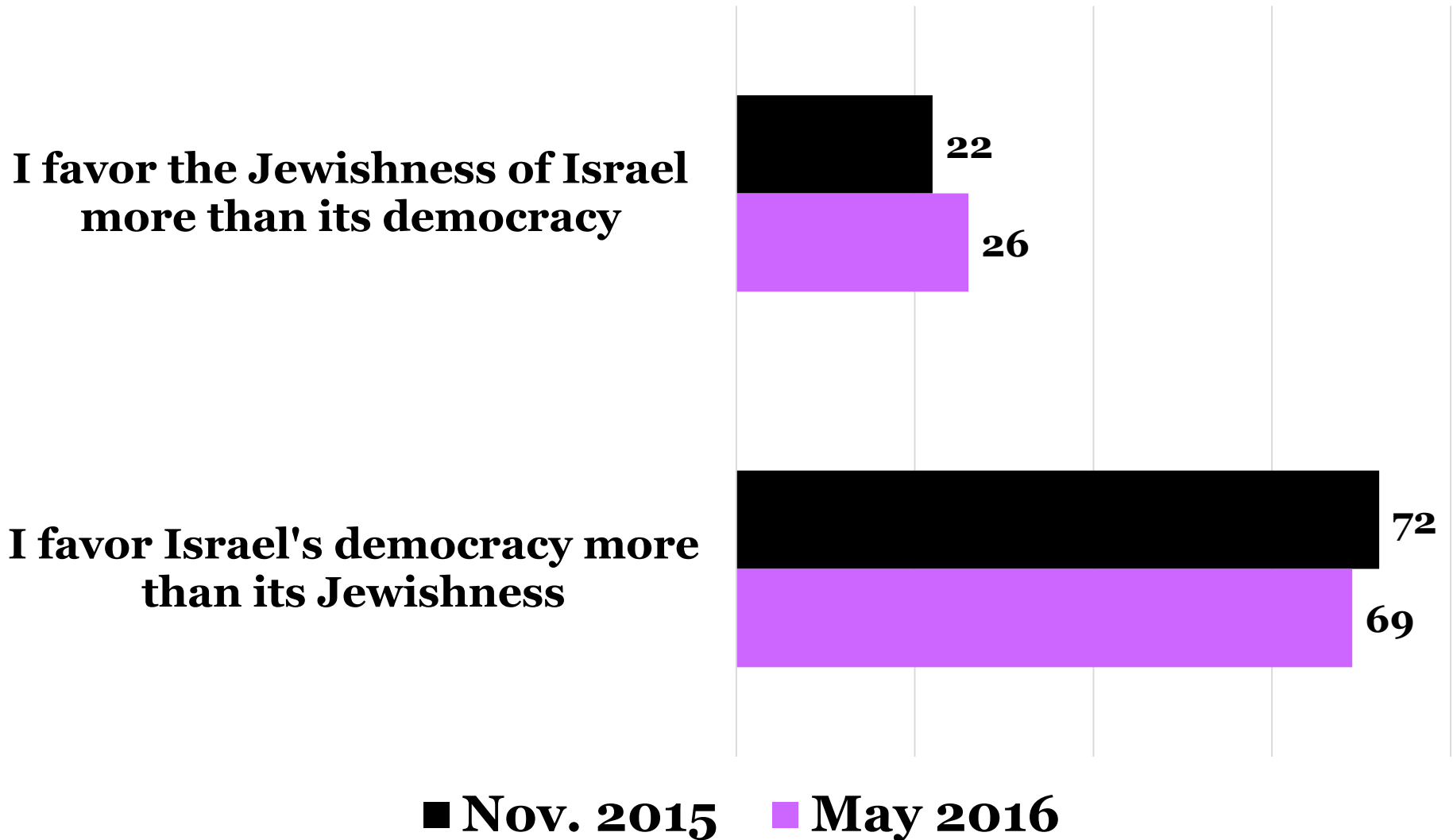


# May 2016

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

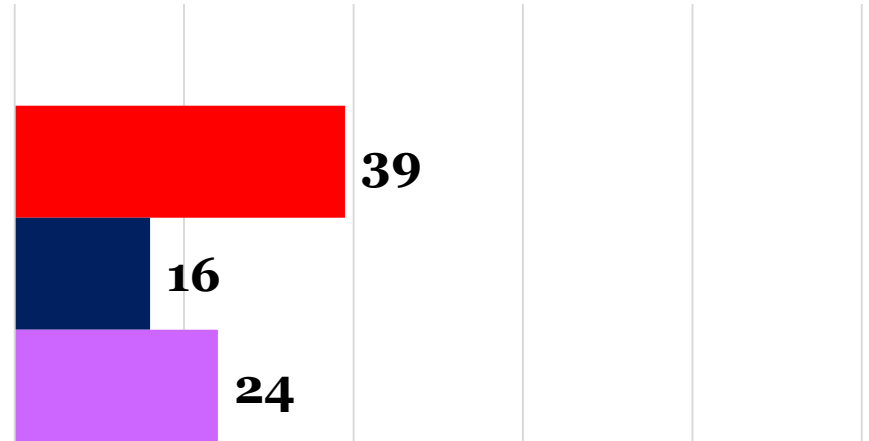
Which of the following statements is closer to your view if a two-state solution is not an option?



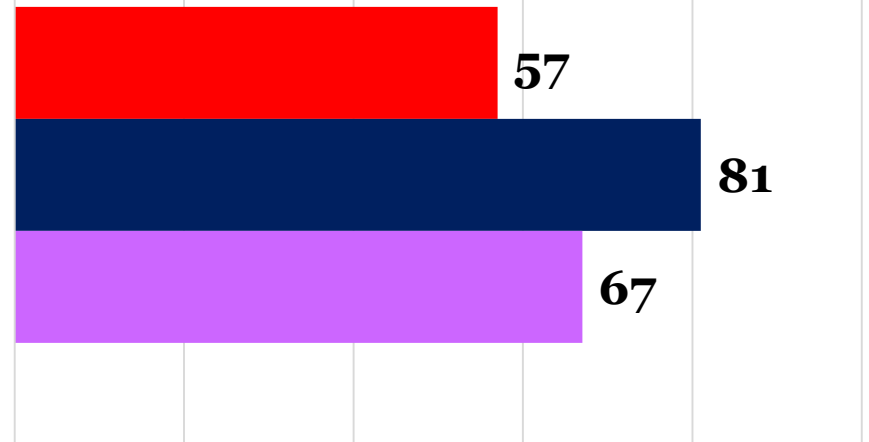
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**I favor the Jewishness of Israel more than its democracy**



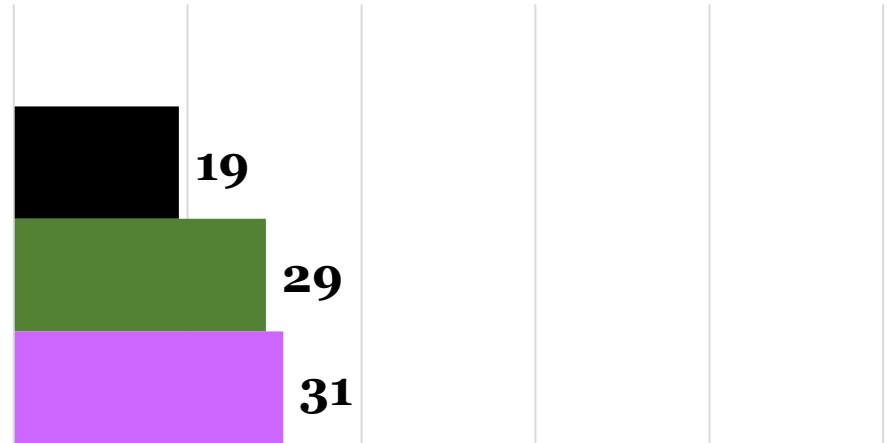
**I favor Israel's democracy more than its Jewishness**



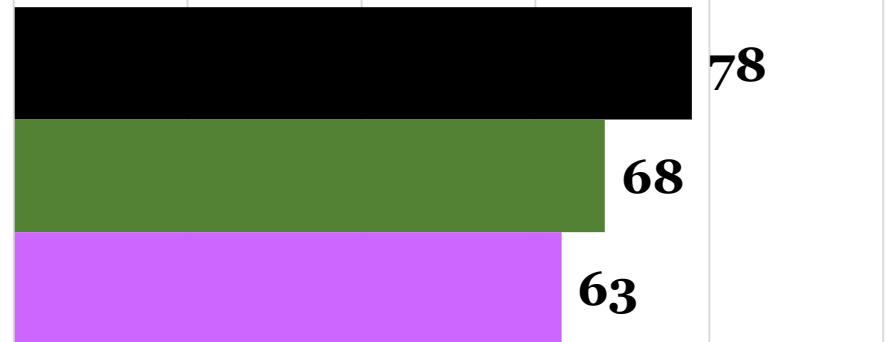
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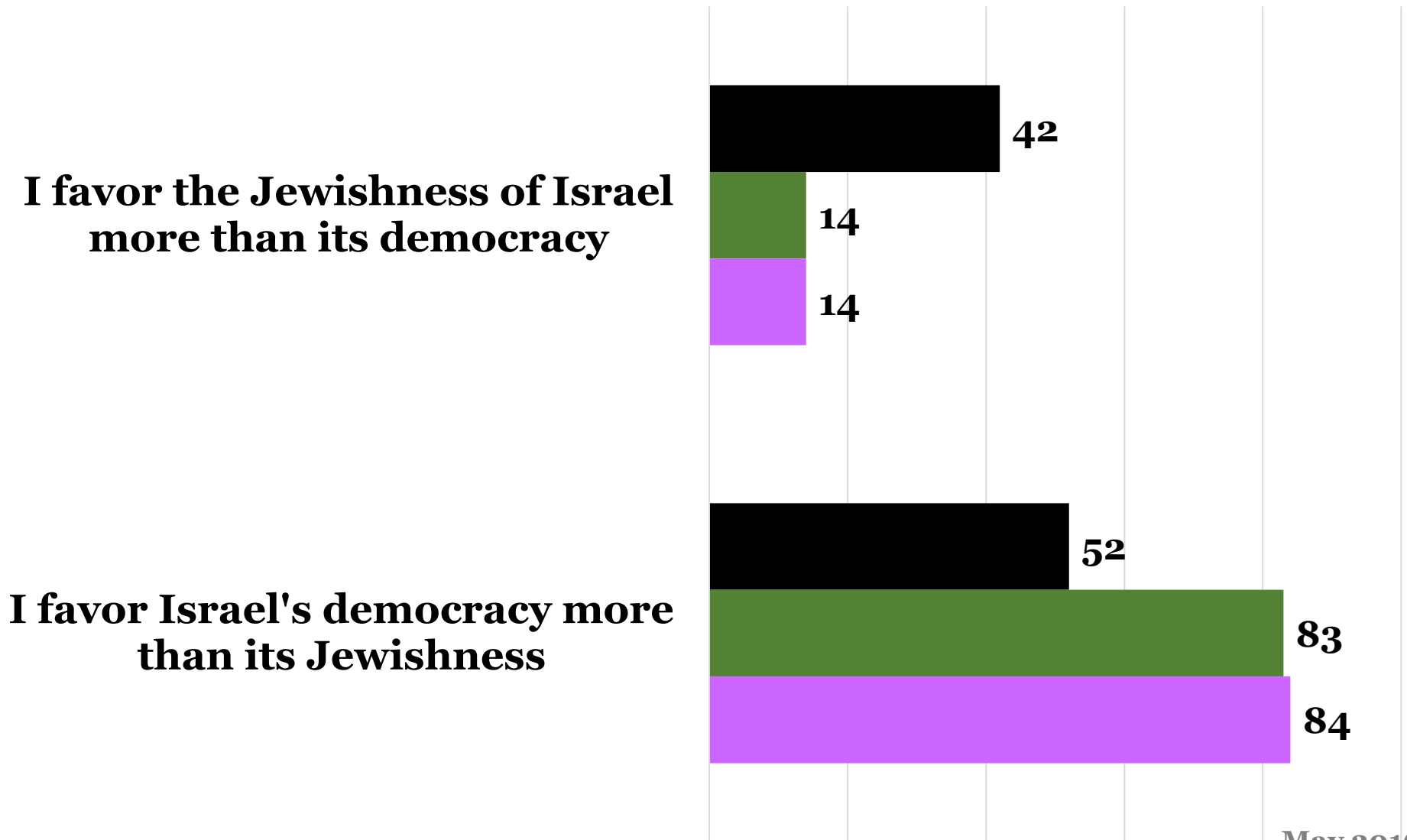


I favor Israel's democracy more than its Jewishness



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

**■ Favor Trump**   **■ Favor Clinton**   **■ Favor Sanders**



**May 2016**

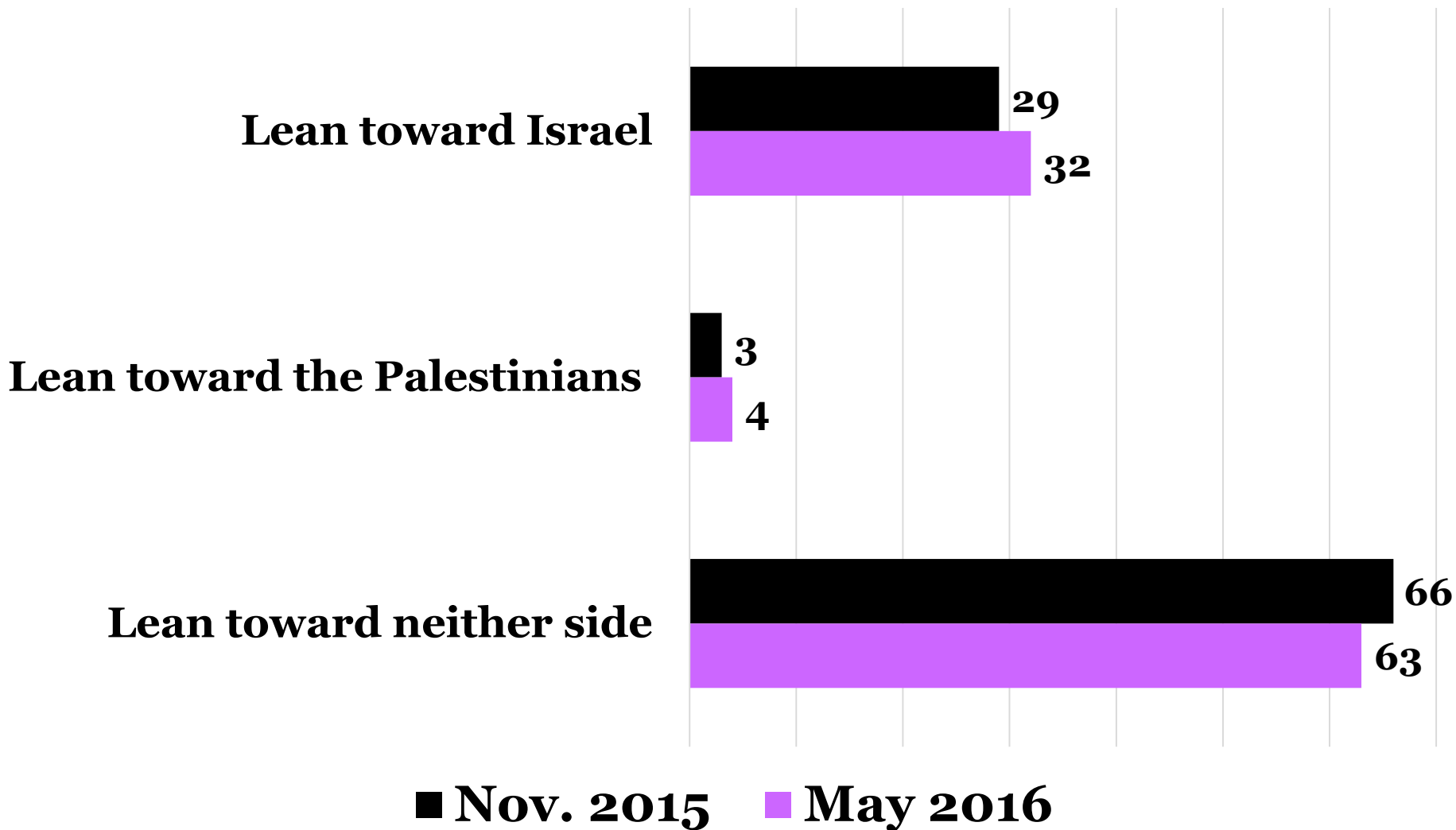
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**In general, what role do you  
want the United States to  
play in mediating the Israeli-  
Palestinian conflict?**

**Should the United States:**



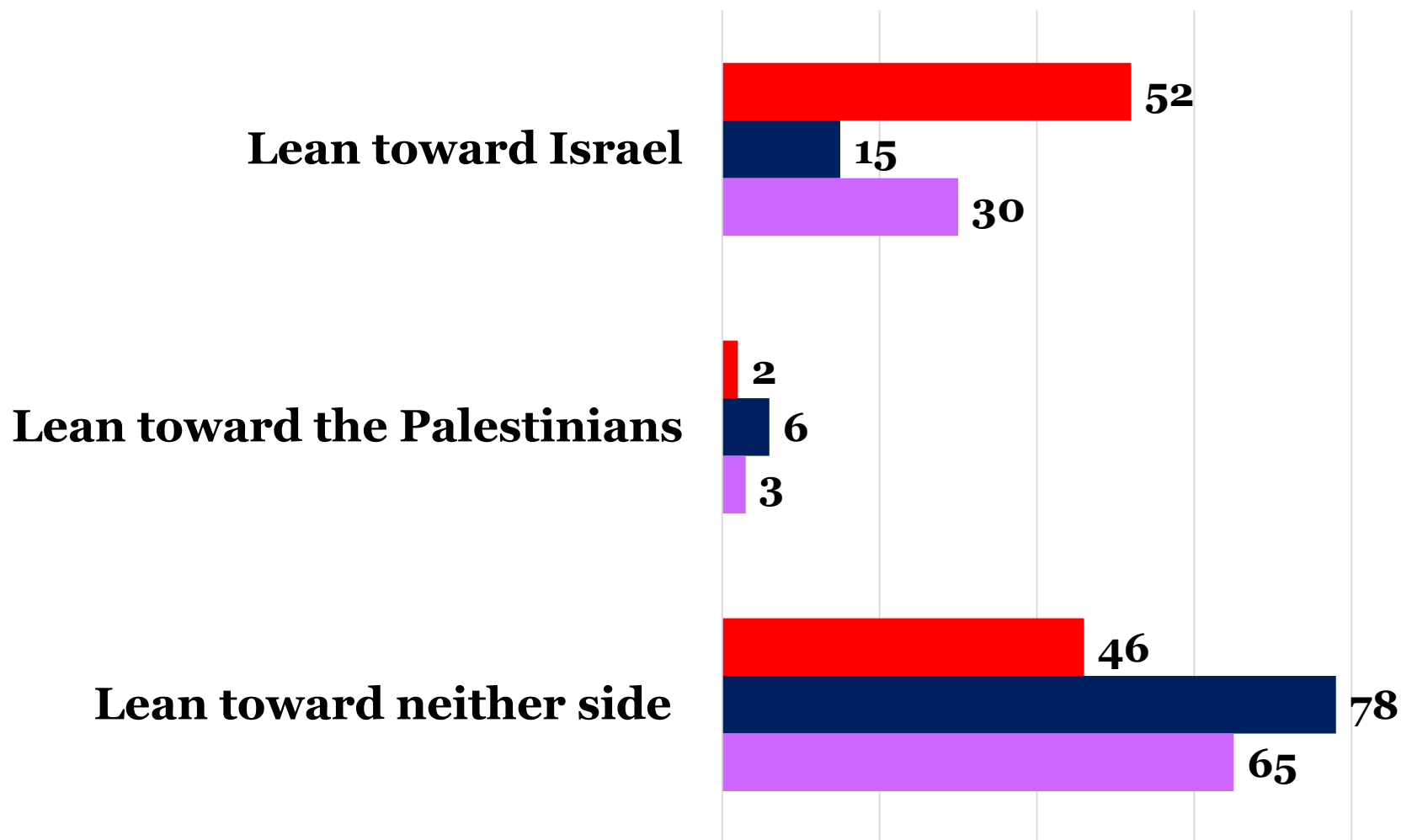
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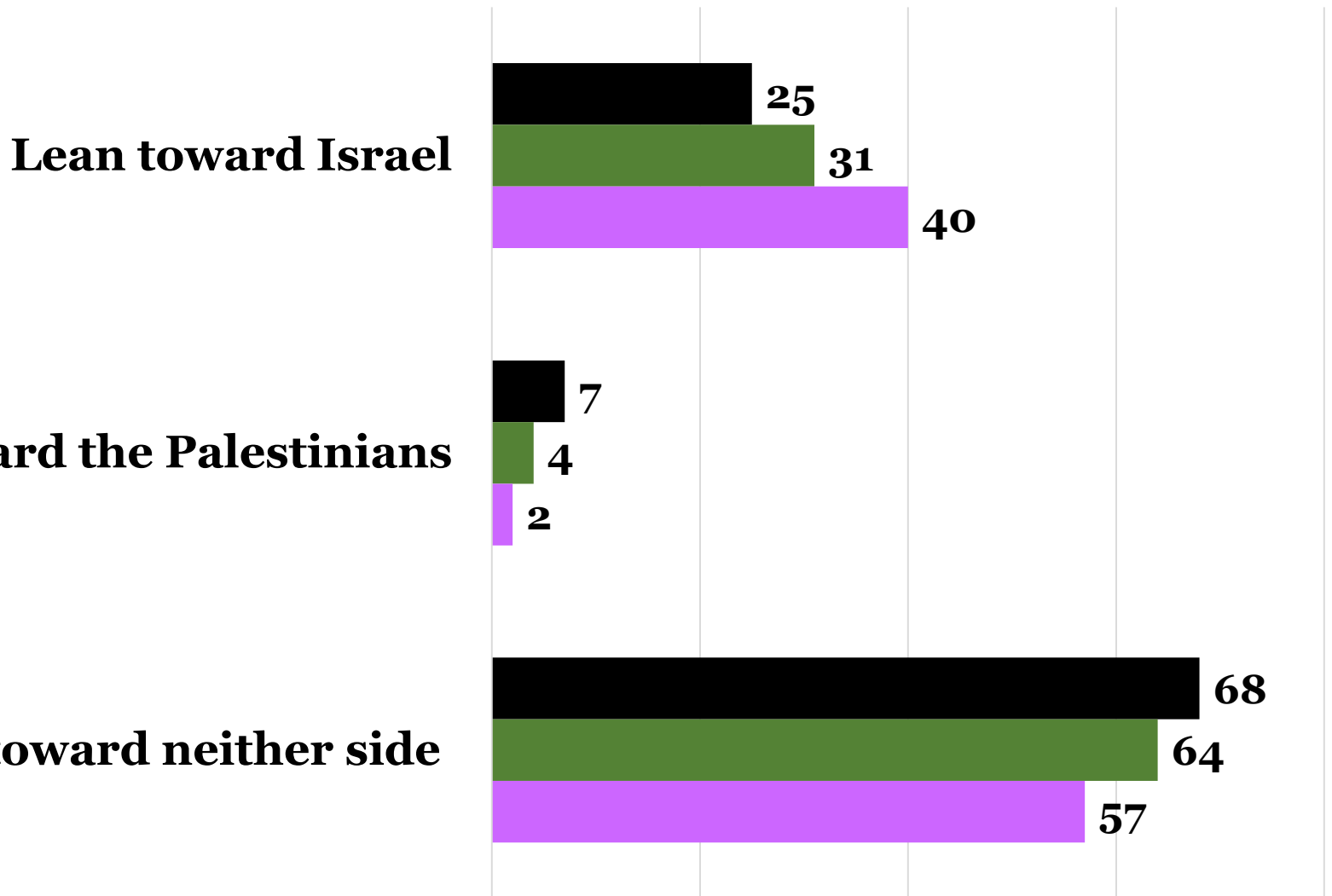
**■** Republicans **■** Democrats **■** Independents



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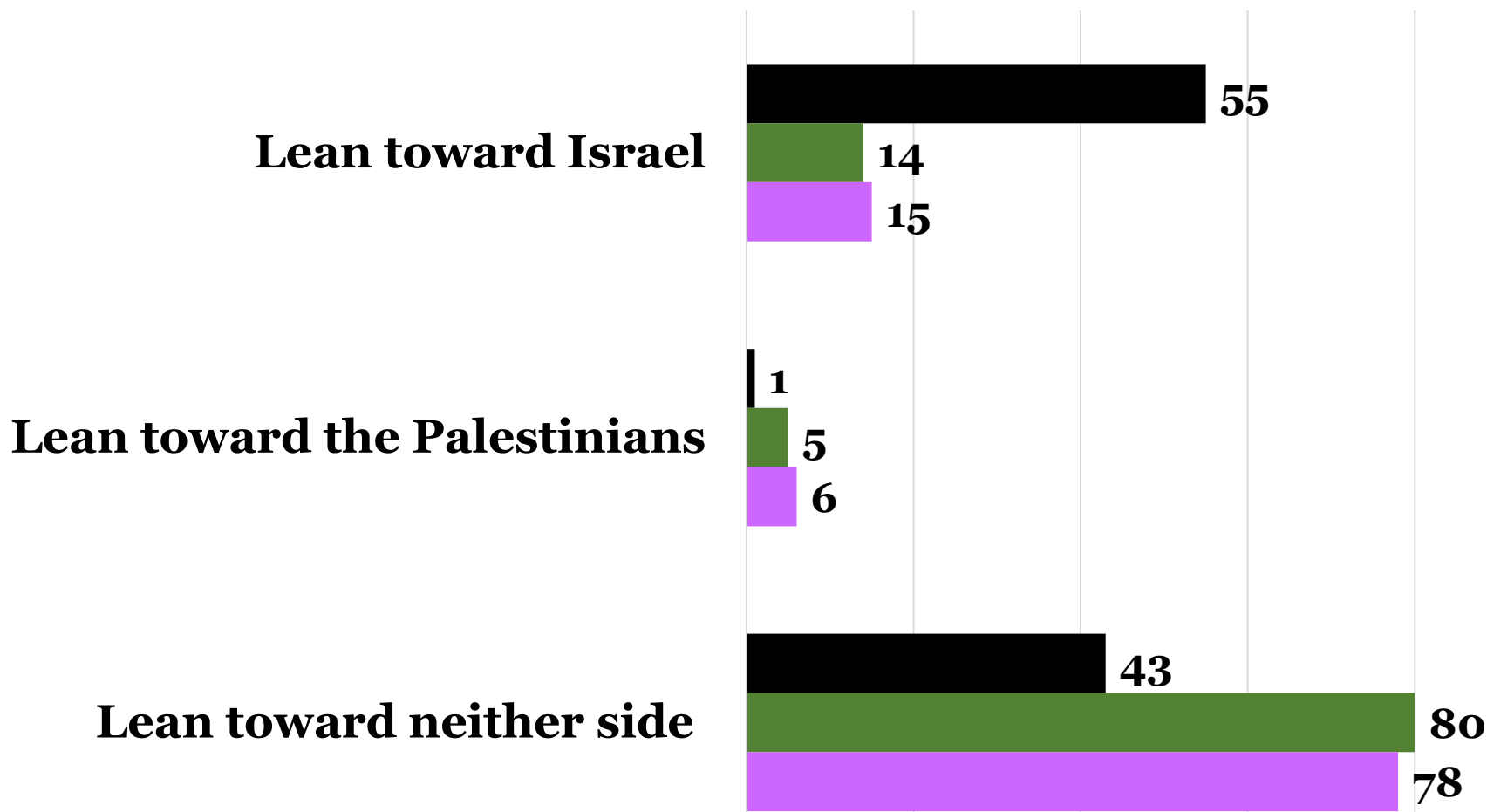
Should the United States:

■ 18-34   ■ 35-54   ■ 55+



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

**■ Favor Trump**   **■ Favor Clinton**   **■ Favor Sanders**



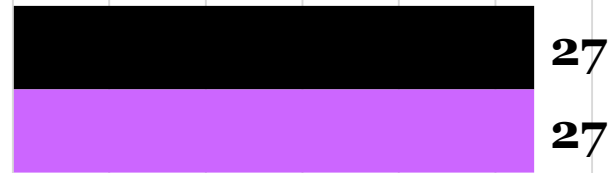
**May 2016**

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**As you may know, there have been suggestions that the UN Security Council should endorse the establishment of a Palestinian state. This idea has received some support in Europe, but opposition in Israel. If the UN Security Council considers such a plan, what do you think the U.S. should do as a member of the UN Security Council?**

# What do you think the U.S. should do as a member of the UN Security Council?

**Vote in favor of endorsing the establishment of a Palestinian state**



**Vote against endorsing the establishment of a Palestinian state**



**Abstain from voting**

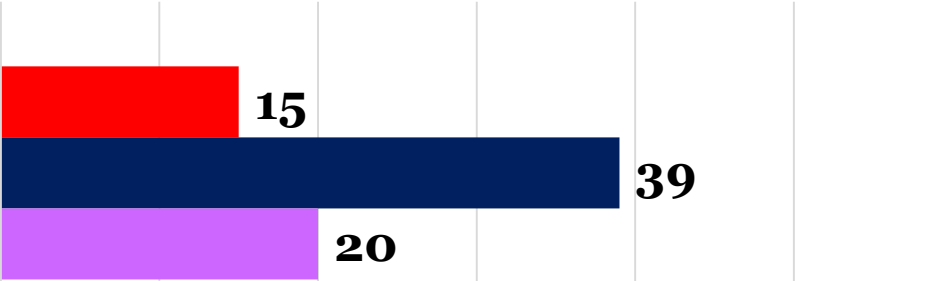


■ **Nov. 2015**   ■ **May 2016**

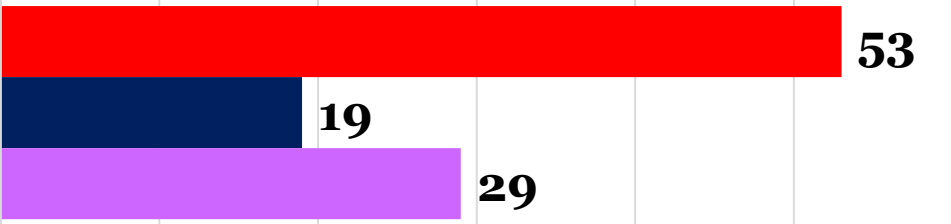
# What do you think the U.S. should do as a member of the UN Security Council?

**■** Republicans **■** Democrats **■** Independents

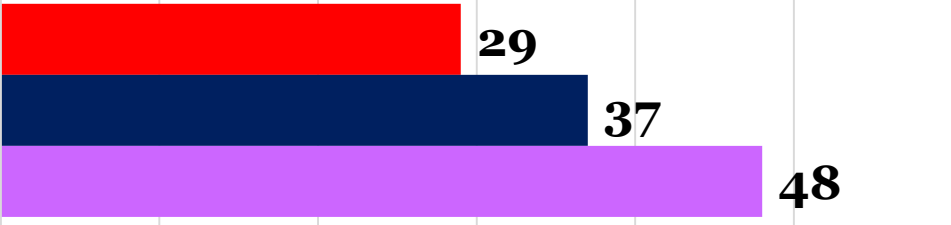
**Vote in favor of endorsing the establishment of a Palestinian state**



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# What do you think the U.S. should do as a member of the UN Security Council?

18-34 35-54 55+

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**Vote against endorsing the establishment of a Palestinian state**



**Abstain from voting**

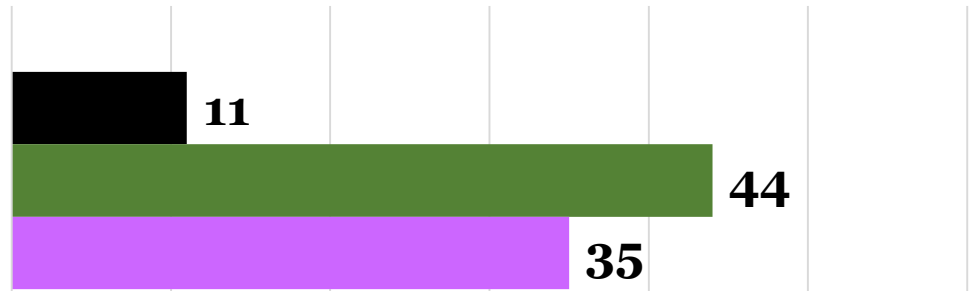




# What do you think the U.S. should do as a member of the UN Security Council?

**Favor Trump**   **Favor Clinton**   **Favor Sanders**

**Vote in favor of endorsing the establishment of a Palestinian state**



**Vote against endorsing the establishment of a Palestinian state**



**Abstain from voting**

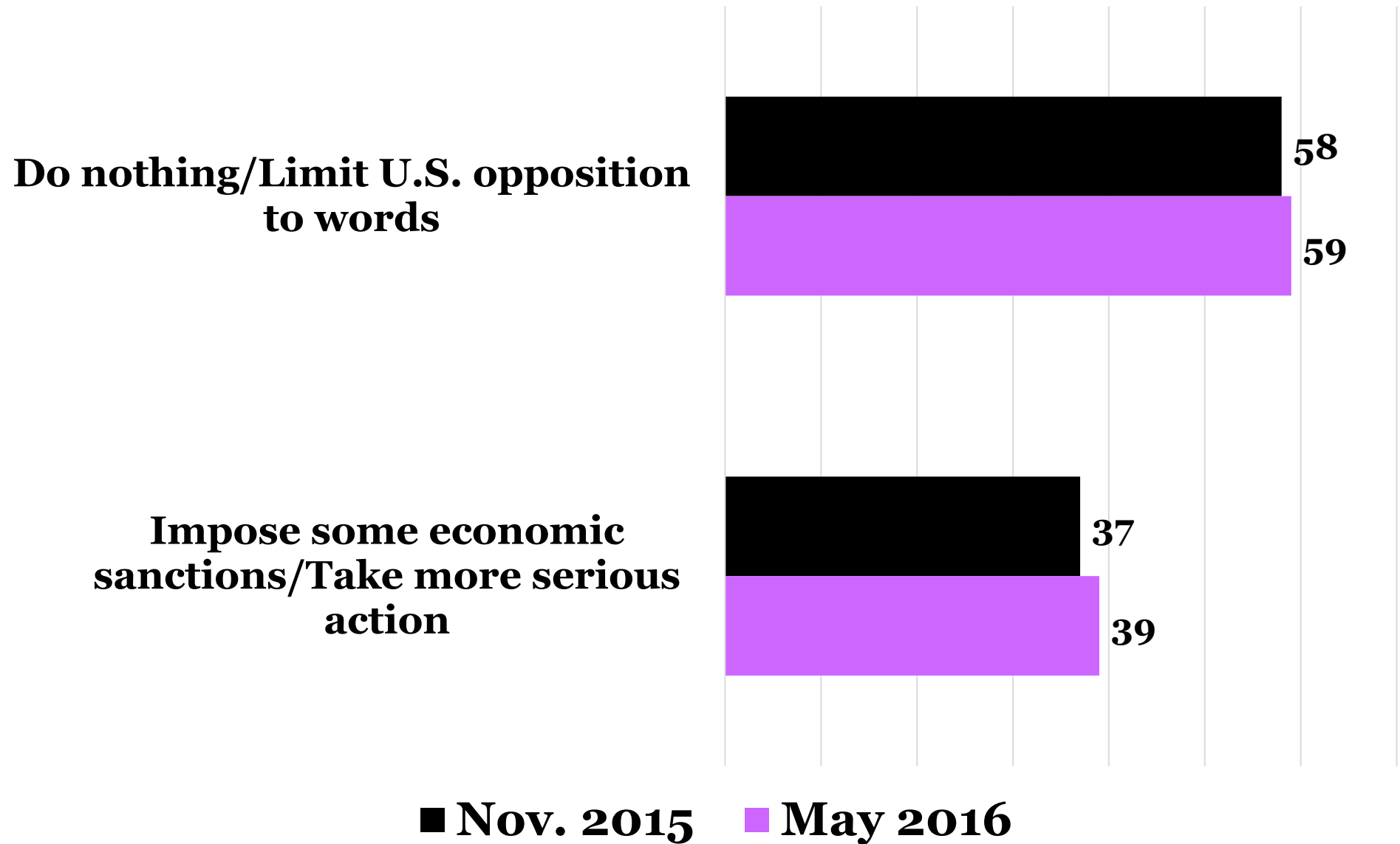


**May 2016**

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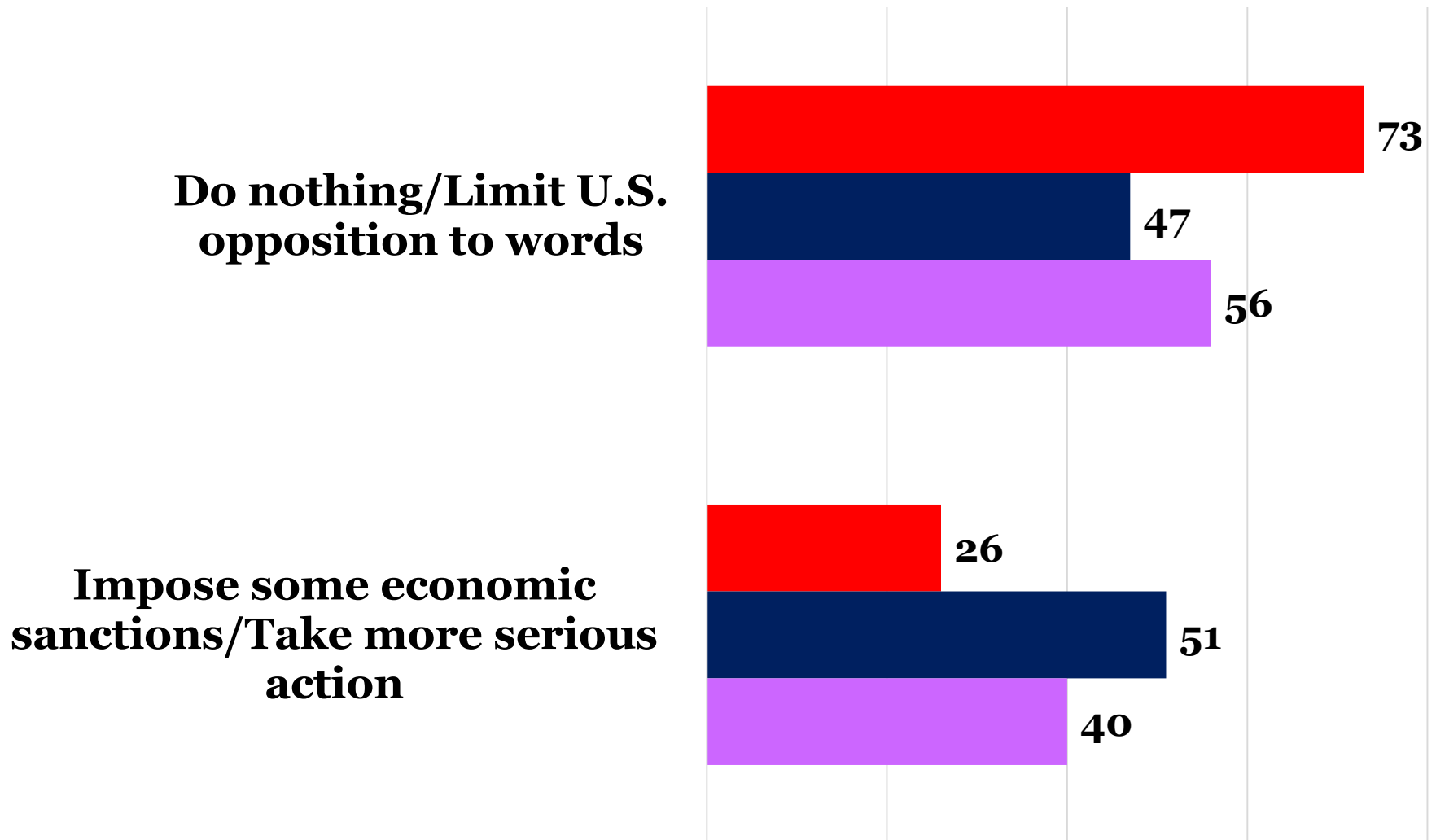
**One of the issues of tension between the United States and Israel has been its construction of Israeli settlements in the territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 war. These settlements are considered illegal by most of the international community and have been opposed by every U.S. administration, both Republican and Democratic. The Israeli government has continued to build settlements arguing that they have the right to do so, or that these are not obstacles to peace. How do you believe the U.S. should react to new settlements?**

# How do you believe the U.S. should react to new settlements?



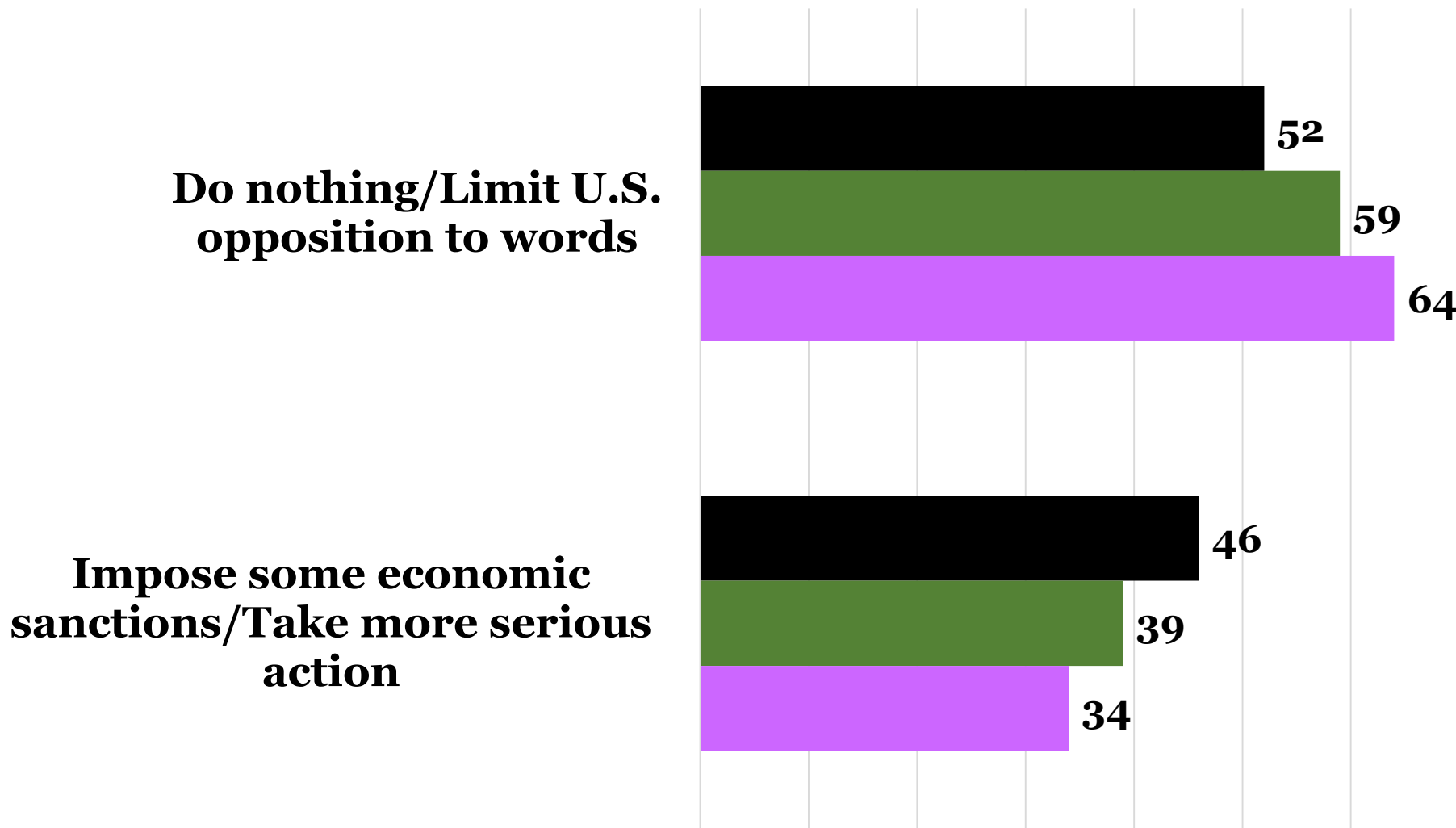
# How do you believe the U.S. should react to new settlements?

■ **Republicans** ■ **Democrats** ■ **Independents**



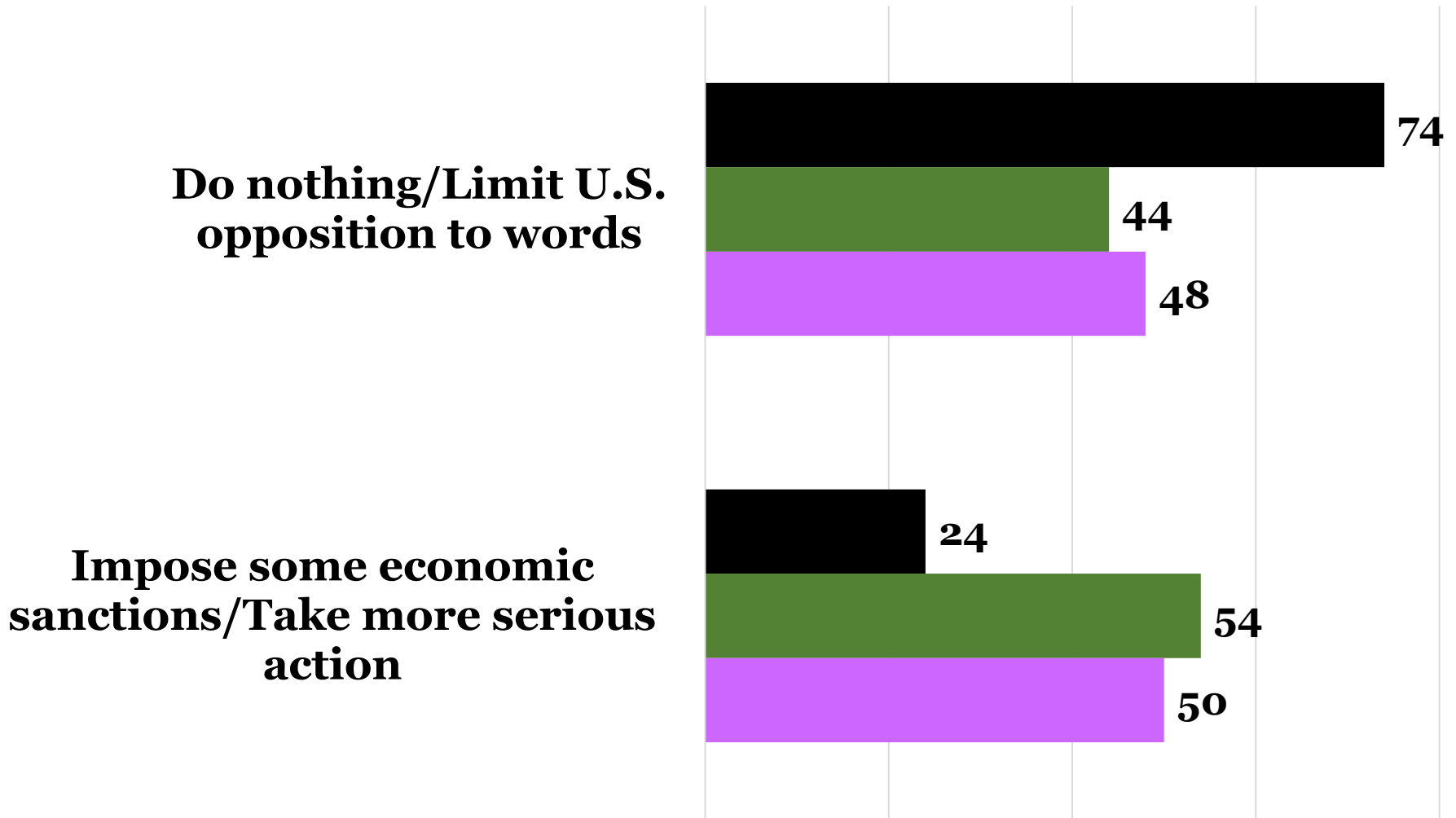
# How do you believe the U.S. should react to new settlements?

■ 18-34   ■ 35-54   ■ 55+



# How do you believe the U.S. should react to new settlements?

**■ Favor Trump**   **■ Favor Clinton**   **■ Favor Sanders**

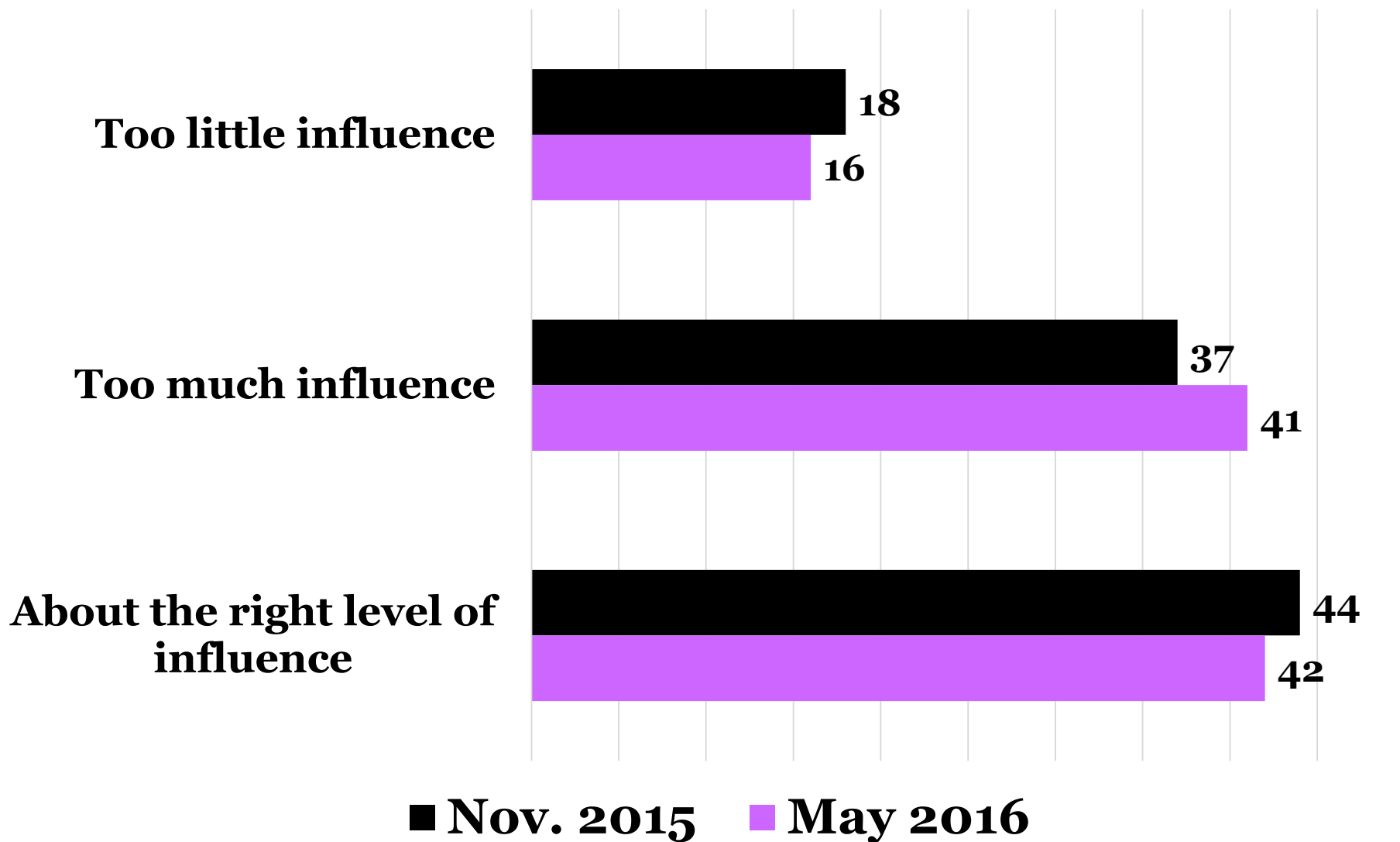


**May 2016**

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**How much influence do  
you believe the Israeli  
government has on  
American politics and  
policies?**

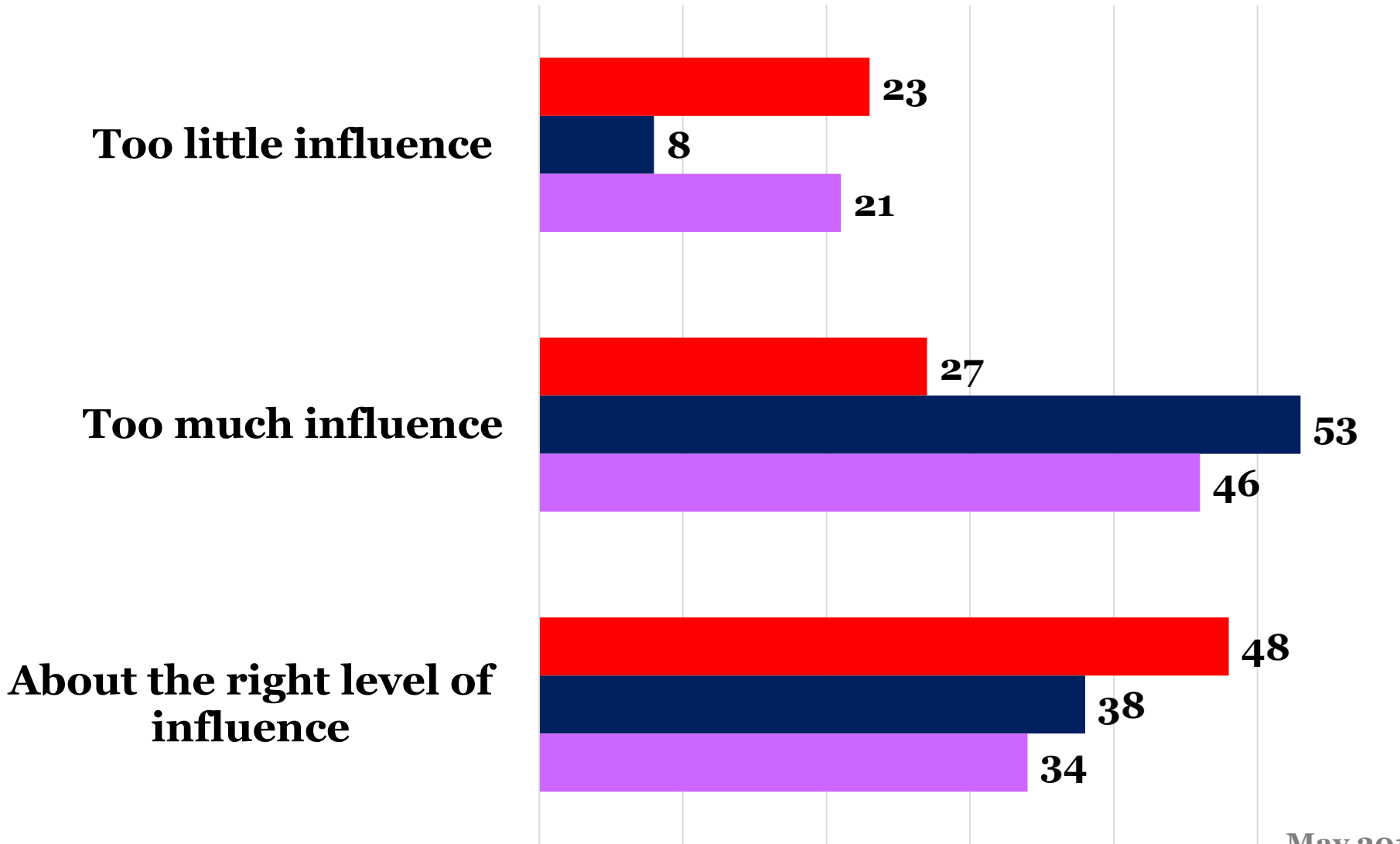
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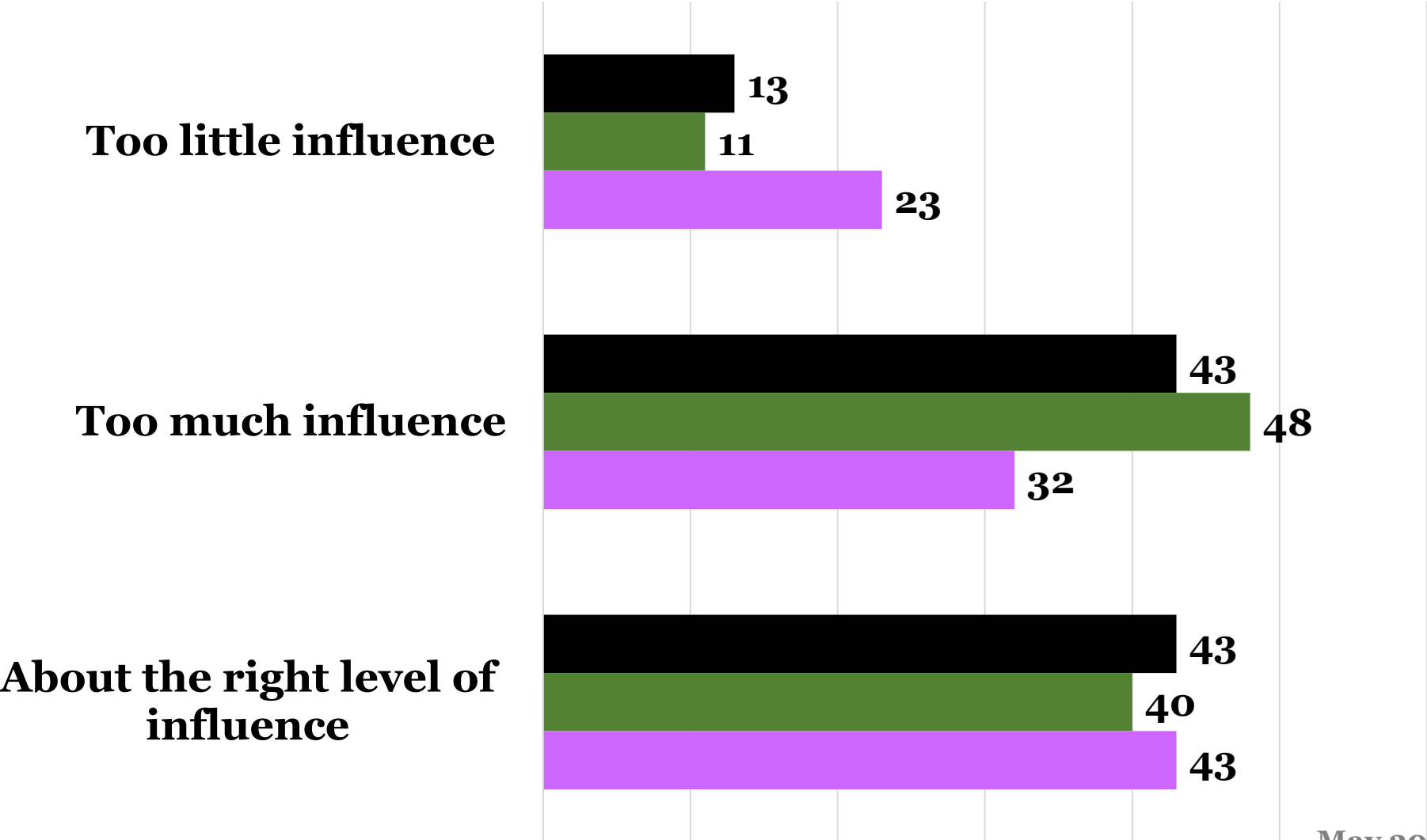
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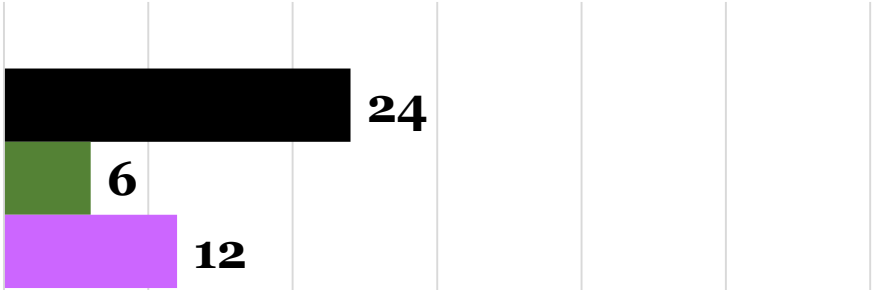
18-34 35-54 55+



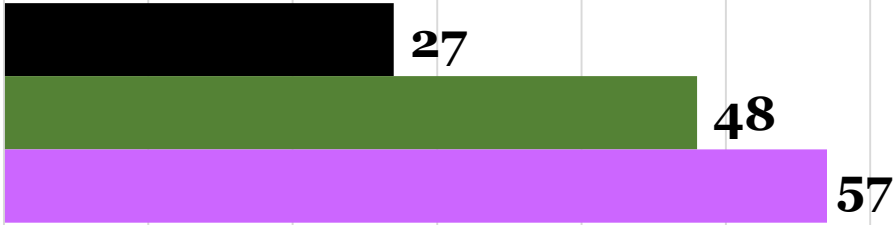
# How much influence do you believe the Israeli government has on American politics and policies?

**■ Favor Trump**   **■ Favor Clinton**   **■ Favor Sanders**

**Too little influence**



**Too much influence**



**About the right level of influence**

