



University of
New Hampshire

Trust in Elections: Deepening Partisan Divide in US and NH

USC Election Cybersecurity Workshop

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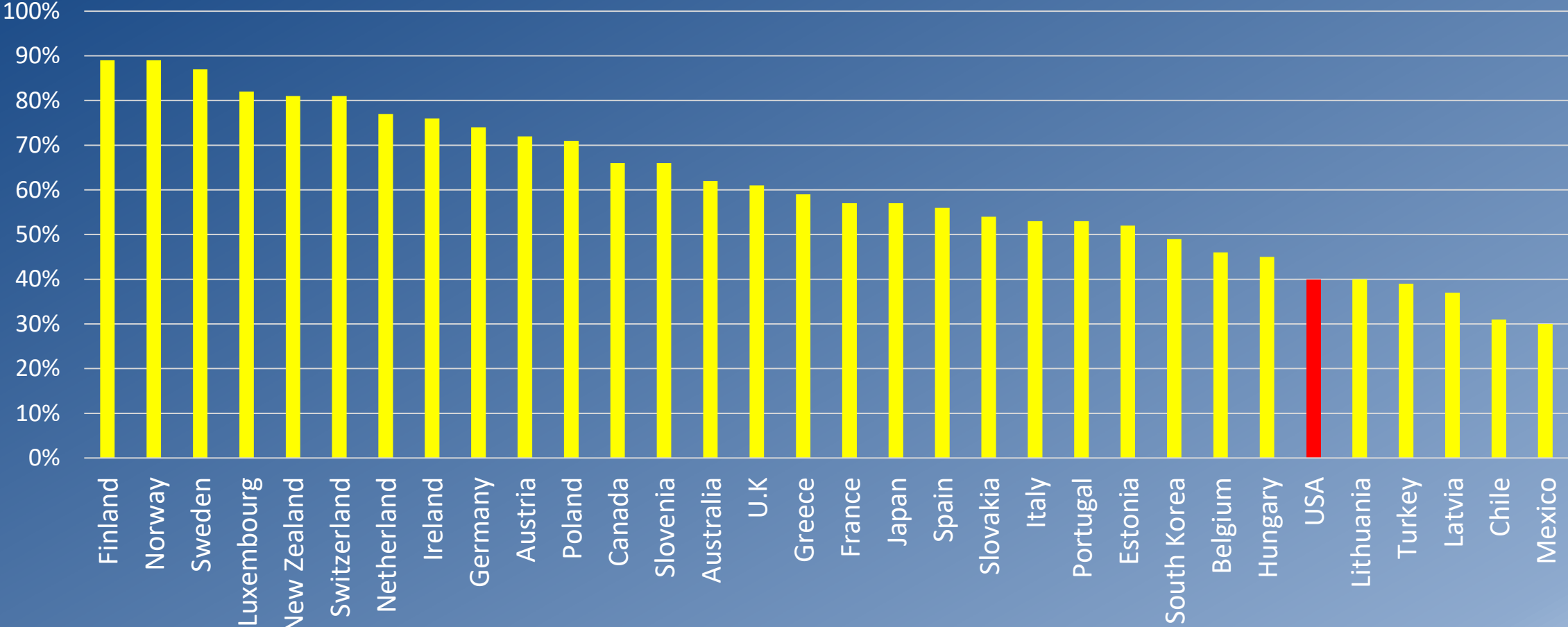
Trust in Elections Essential

- For accepting results
- Trust/support of winning candidate & policies

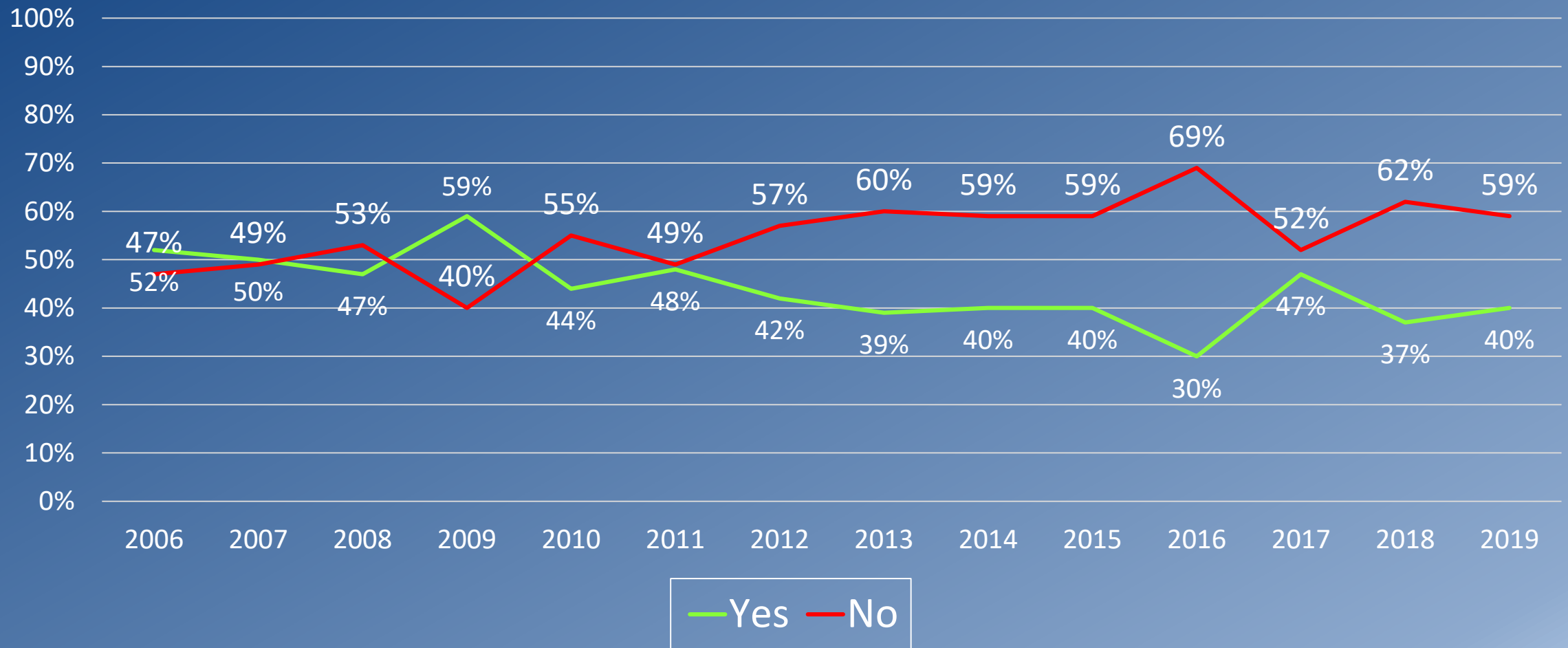
Public confidence “is closely related to the State’s interest in preventing voter fraud, public confidence in the integrity of the electoral process has independent significance, because it encourages citizen participation in the democratic process.”

Justice Stevens, *Crawford v. Marion County Election Board*

Confidence in Honesty of Elections in OECD Countries 2019, Percent Confident

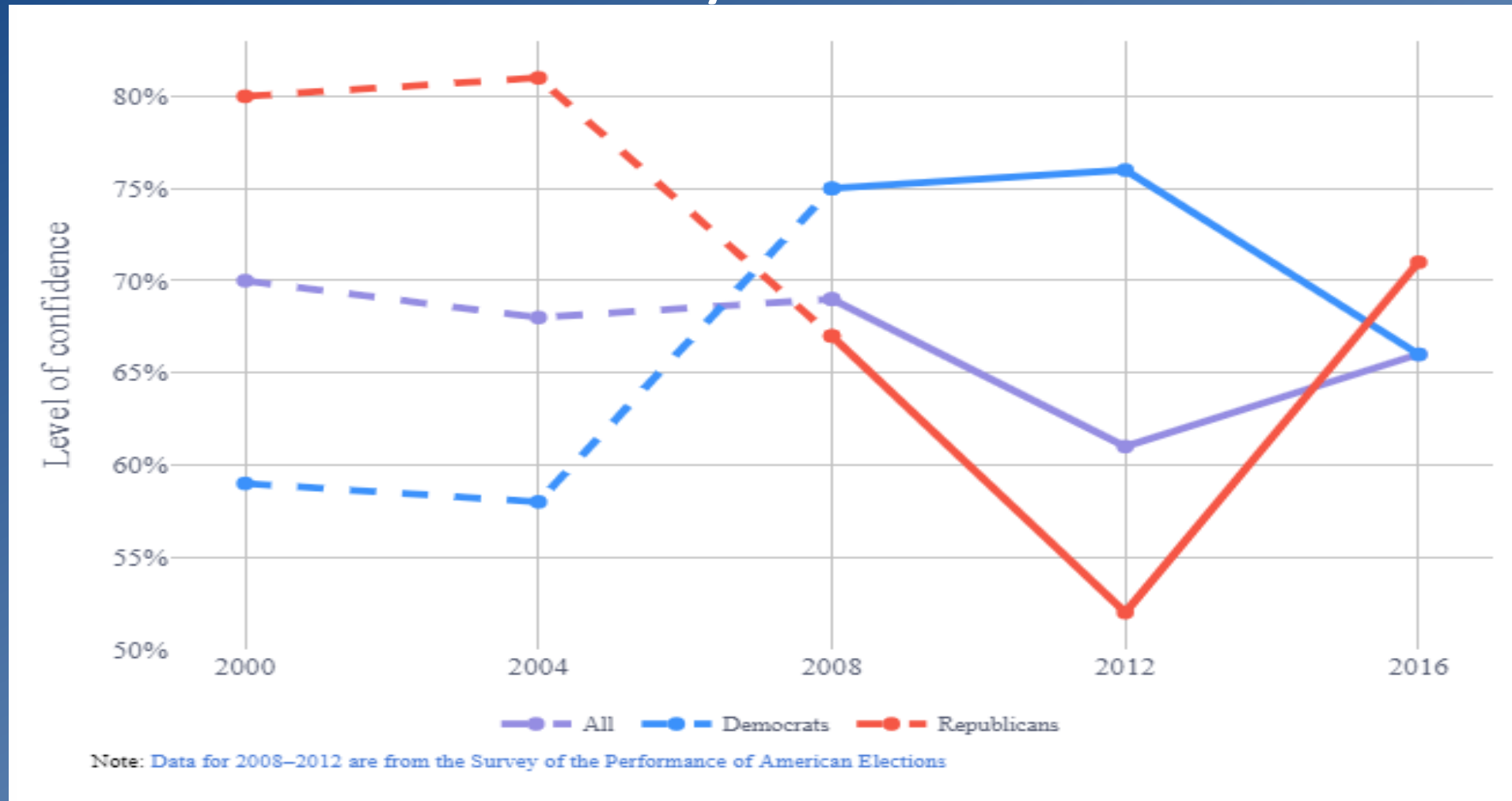


Confidence in Honesty in US Elections: 2006 - 2019



Confident your vote was counted as intended

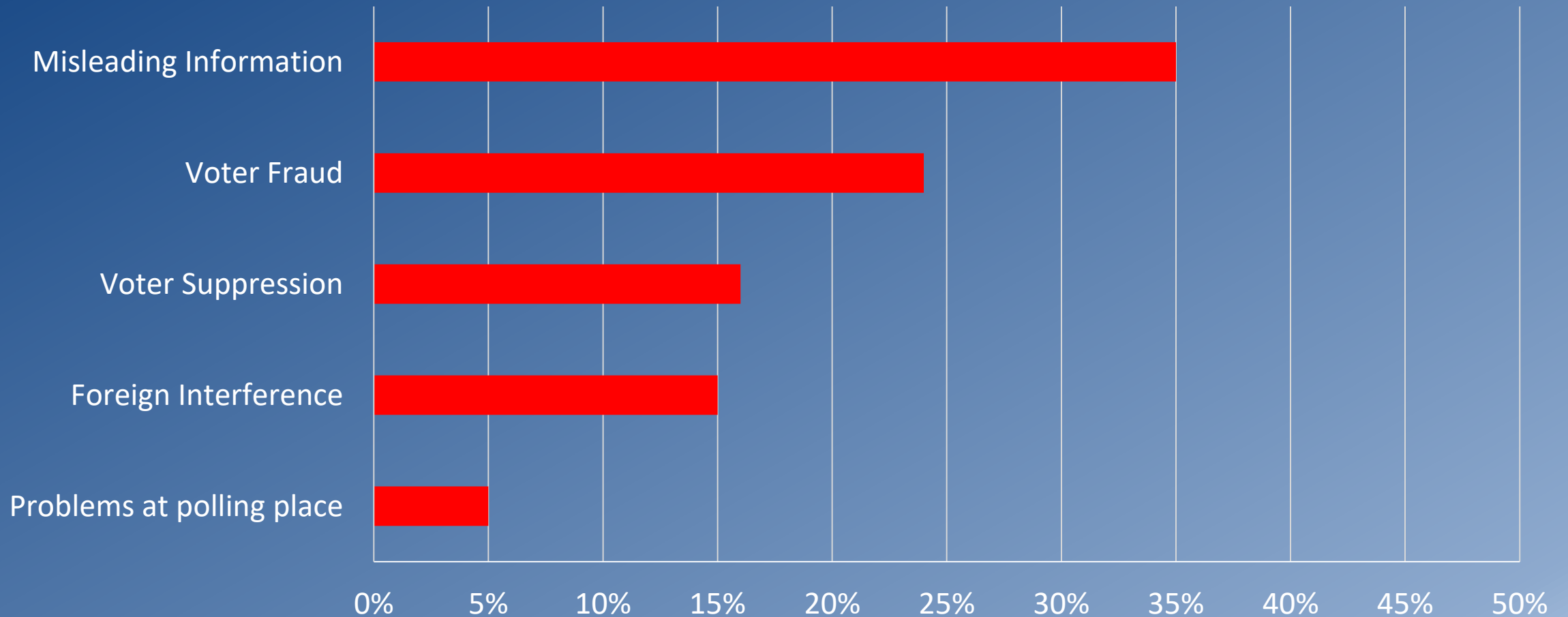
% “Very Confident”



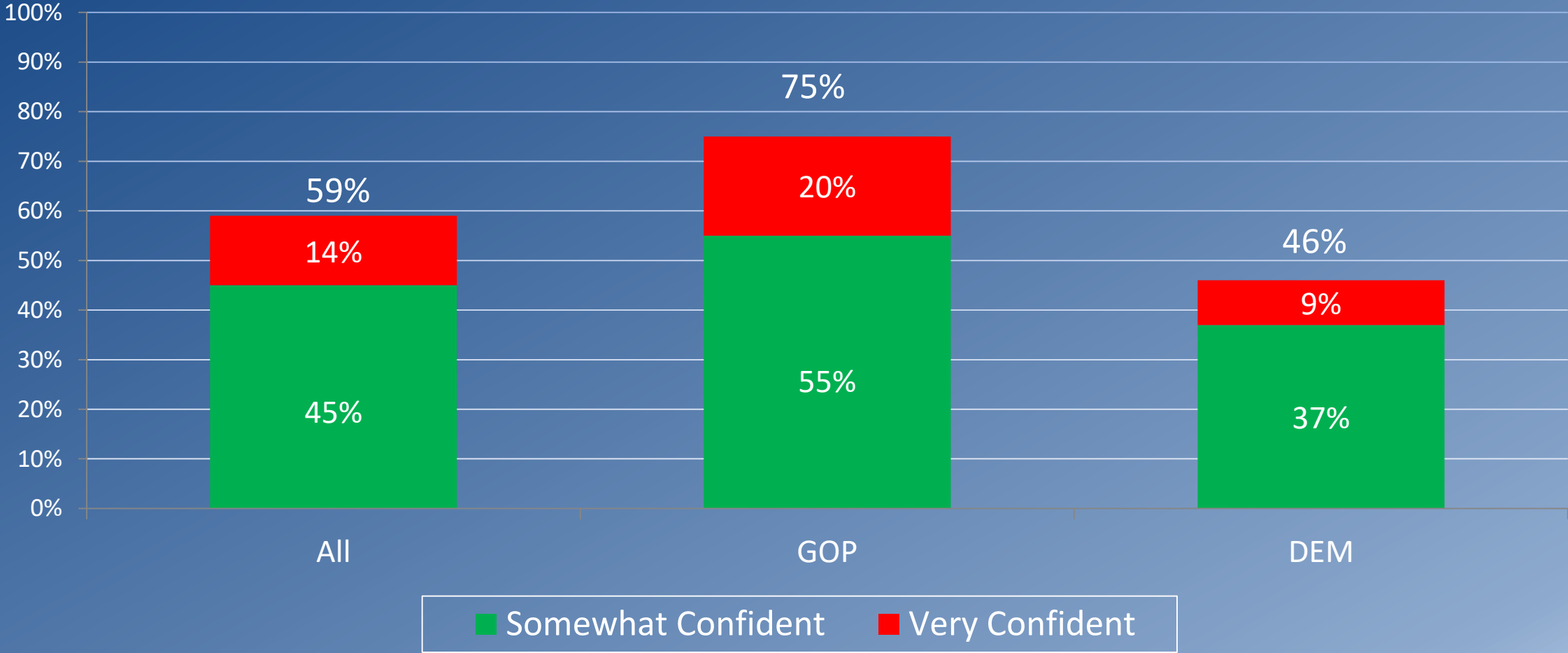
Threats to Trust in US Elections

- Lack of Constitutional understanding
 - State variations in electoral procedures
 - Misunderstanding of Electoral College
- Inaccurate count
 - Computer hacking
 - Lack of paper trail
- Illegal voting
 - Non-residents
 - Non citizens
 - Multiple votes
- Voter Disqualification
 - Purging voter rolls
 - Lack of polling places
- Disinformation
 - Foreign based
 - Domestic based

What is the biggest threat to keeping elections safe and accurate?

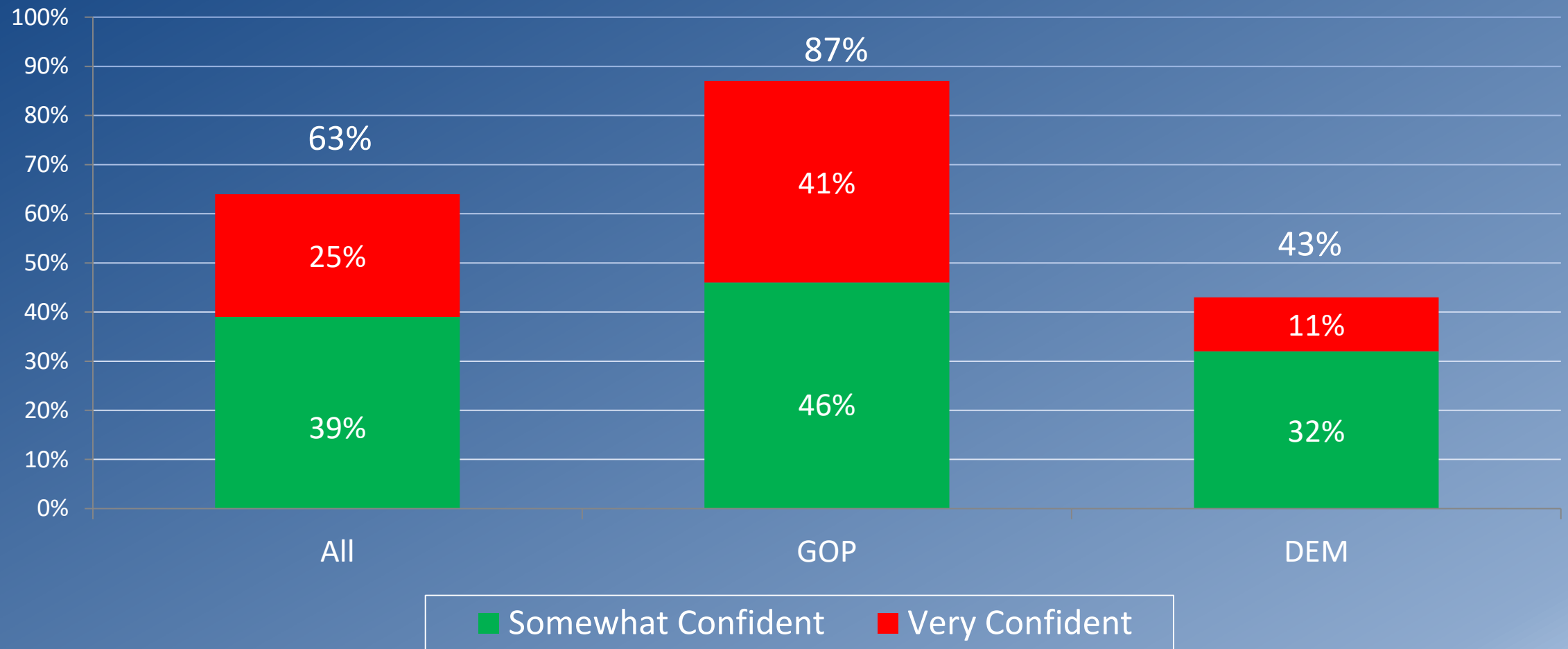


US: Confident that November 2020 election will be conducted fairly and accurately



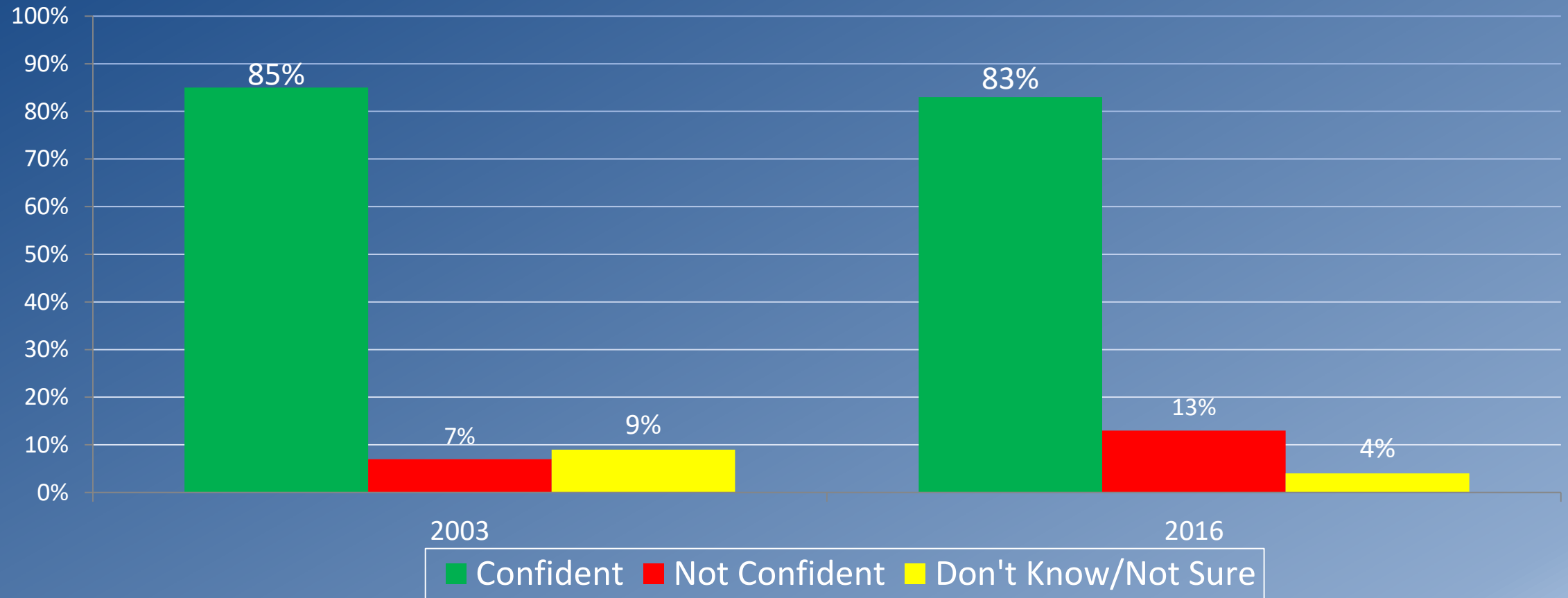
Source: Pew Research Center
April 7-12, 2020

US: Confident that all citizens who want to vote in the November 2020 election will be able to.

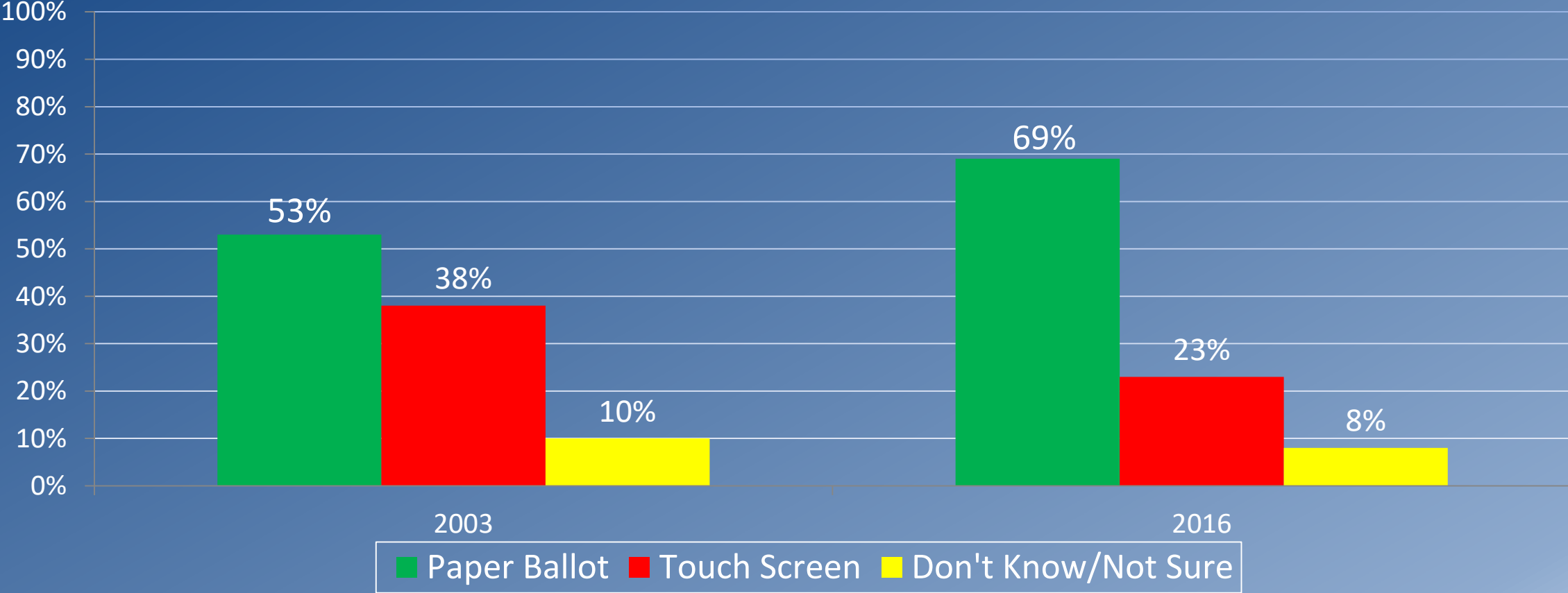


Elections in New Hampshire

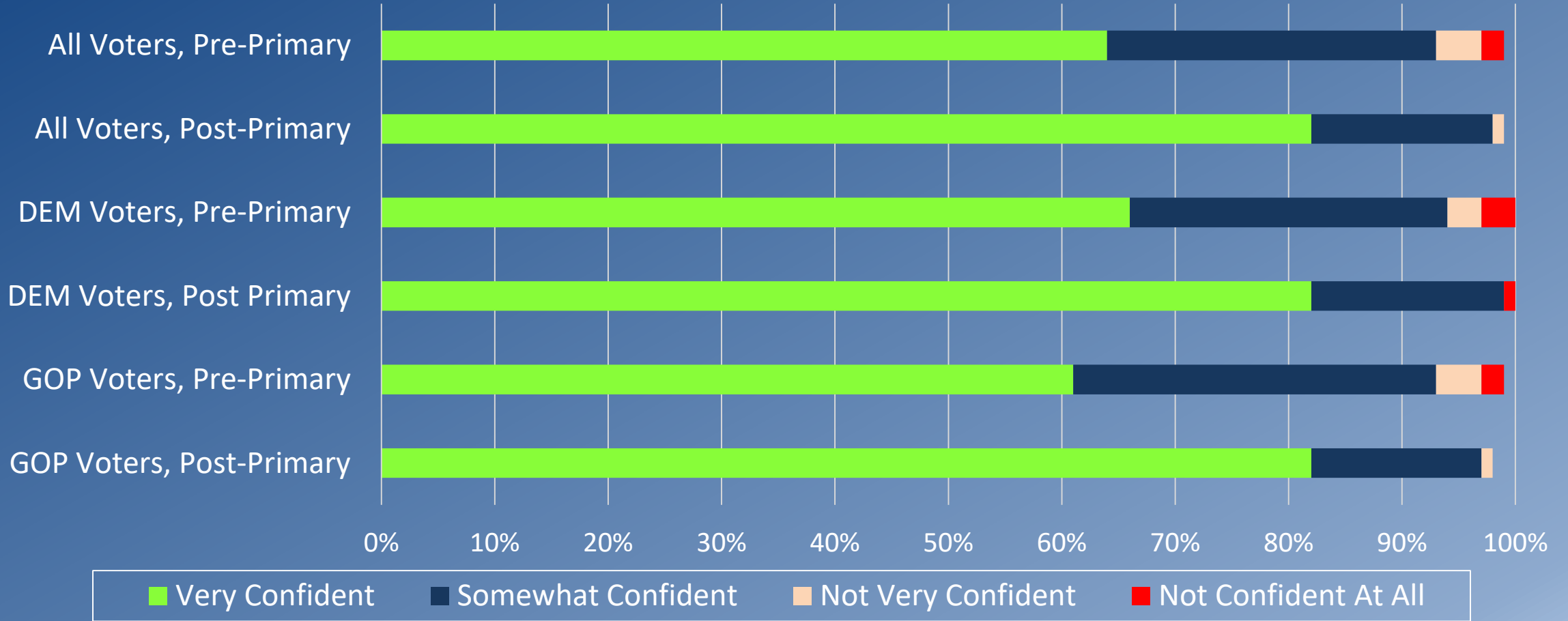
Trust in NH elections: Confidence vote in previous election was accurately counted



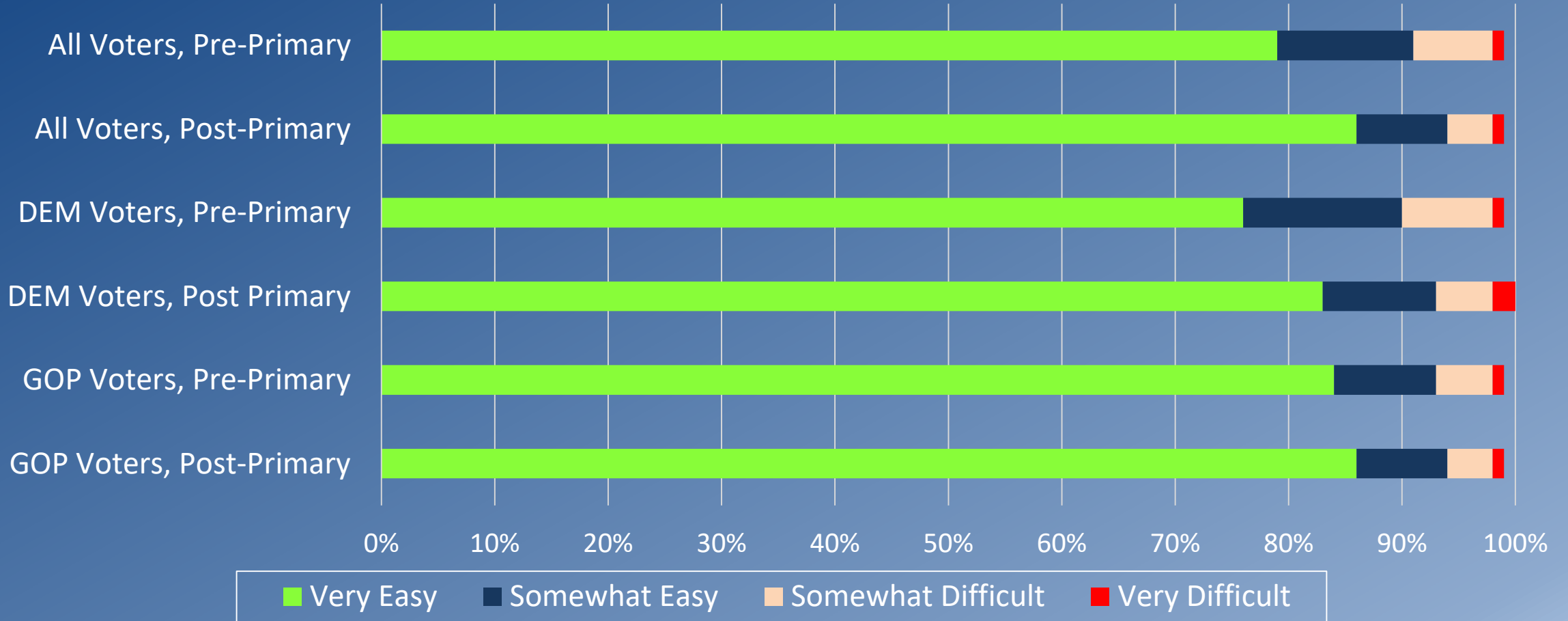
Less confidence in Electronic Voting than Paper Ballots: Increasing over recent years



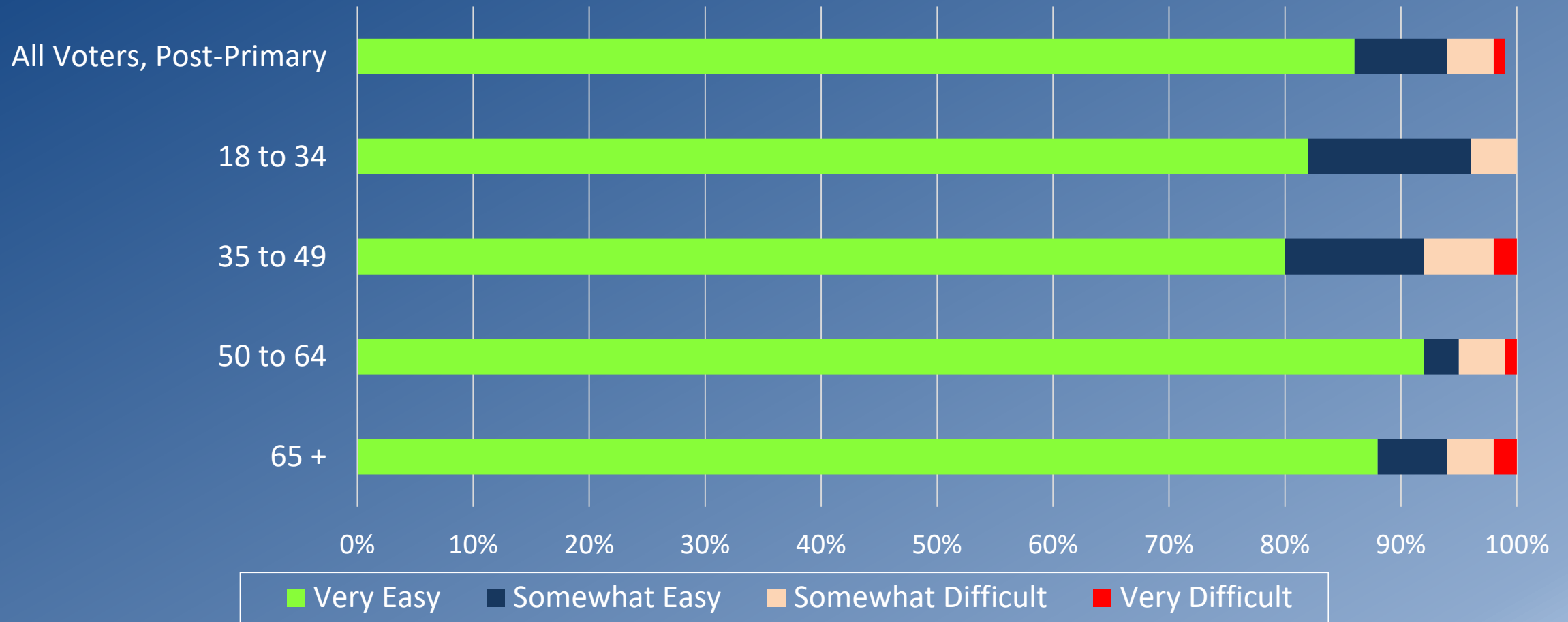
Confidence Vote in 2020 NH Primary Counted Accurately



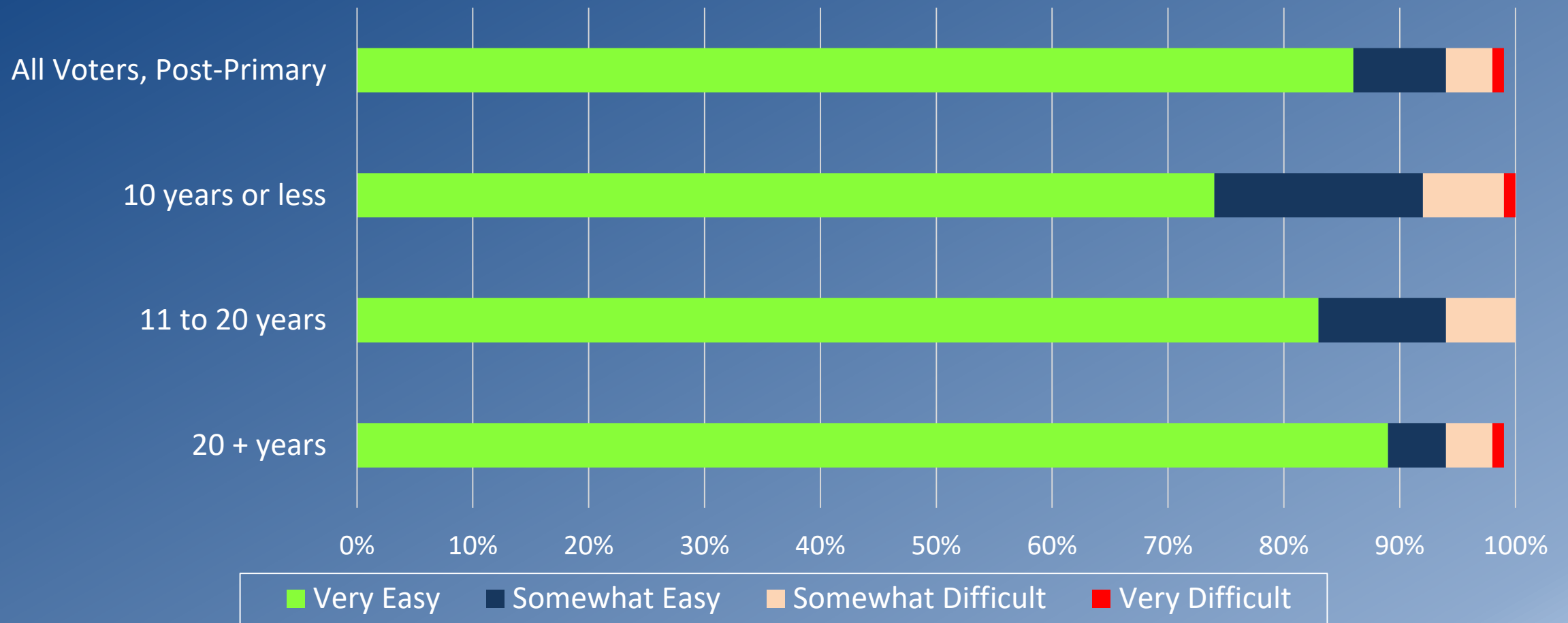
Perceived Ease of Voting in 2020 NH Primary



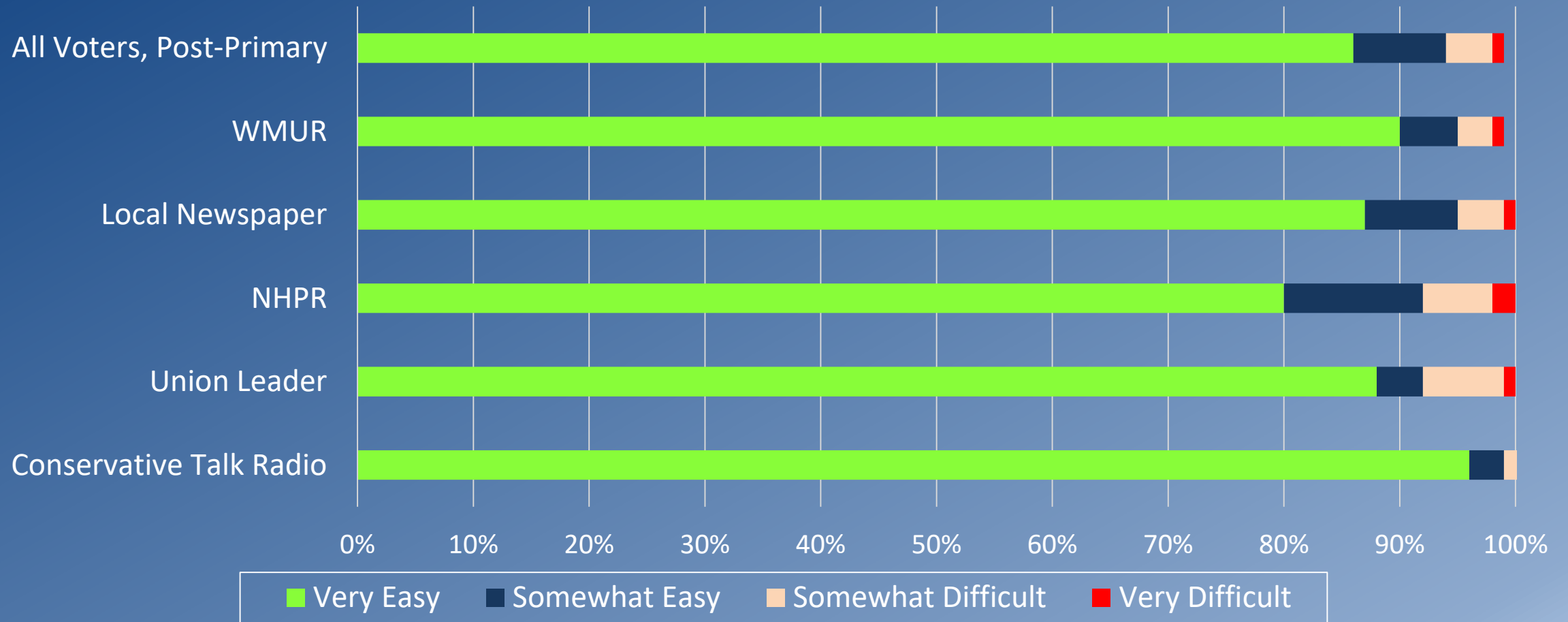
Perceived Ease of Voting in 2020 NH Primary by Age



Perceived Ease of Voting in 2020 NH Primary by Years Lived in NH



Perceived Ease of Voting in 2020 NH Primary by Media Usage



Summary

- Citizens need to have confidence in elections:
 - Tradeoffs between stricter voting laws to increase trust and barriers that may discourage voting
- Confidence in voting is Partisan!
 - If your party wins, you are confident in the system
- NH voters think voting is easy
 - Younger adults and newcomers to NH least likely to believe voting is easy
- NH voters confident vote was counted correctly

Thank You!
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