

# 2019 Passenger Facility Charge Public Opinion Poll



**Whitman Insight  
Strategies**

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# Methodology

- Whitman Insight Strategies conducted a research study of **1,608 national registered voters** age 18 or older.
- The survey was conducted using an online platform from July 9<sup>th</sup> to July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The margin of error for the sample is  $\pm 2.44\%$  at the 95% confidence level.
- All participants were screened to ensure that they were registered voters and that they do not work in market research, advertising or public relations, or the airline industry. The sampling procedure was designed to ensure that the sample is representative and projectable on the current population of registered U.S. voters.

# Executive Summary

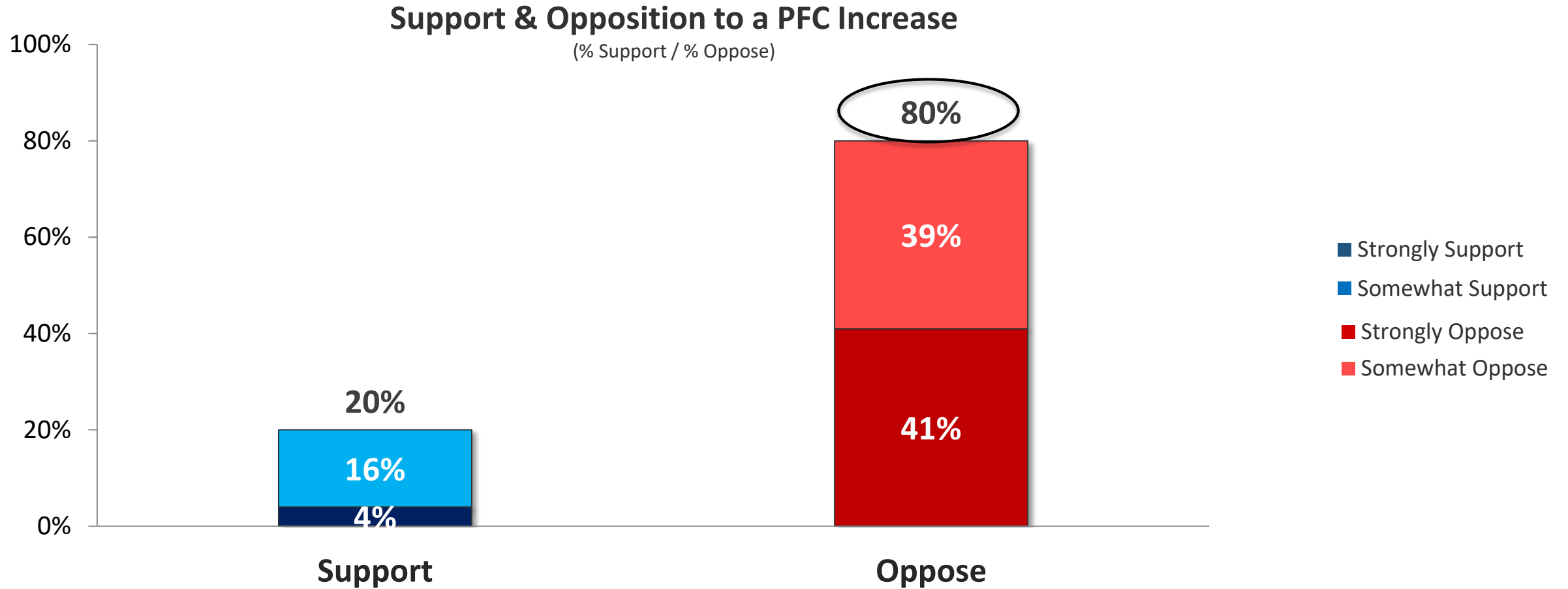
- **American voters overwhelmingly oppose an increase to the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) cap.**
  - 8 in 10 (80%) of voters oppose any increase to the PFC cap, and 41% strongly oppose an increase.
  - 83% of voters oppose uncapping the PFC entirely, and 60% strongly oppose eliminating the cap.
- **This is an issue that garners bipartisan support, as 83% of Democrats and 81% of Republicans oppose an increase to the PFC cap.**
- **Voters do not believe airports need more subsidies, because they are satisfied with the quality U.S. airports and have noticed improvement efforts.**
  - More than 4 in 5 voters (81%) believe that an increase in the PFC cap is unnecessary, and 85% agree that airports already receive enough taxpayer subsidies to fund improvement projects.
  - 65% of voters are satisfied with the quality of U.S. airports, and 3 in 4 (75%) have noticed more airport construction and improvement efforts in recent years.

# Executive Summary

- **While voters are satisfied with airports, they strongly believe that investment in other infrastructure is sorely needed.**
- **Notably, American voters are dissatisfied with our roads and bridges and believe that their quality and condition is deteriorating.**
  - A majority of voters (56%) believe that the quality of U.S. roads and bridges has gotten worse in the past five years.
- **Americans already contribute to airport development by spending money on food, beverages, parking, retail, etc. every time they visit an airport.**
  - 2 in 3 (66%) of past year flyers report purchasing foods and beverages for takeout, 53% report eating at airport restaurants and bars, and 37% report using airport parking garages in the last year.

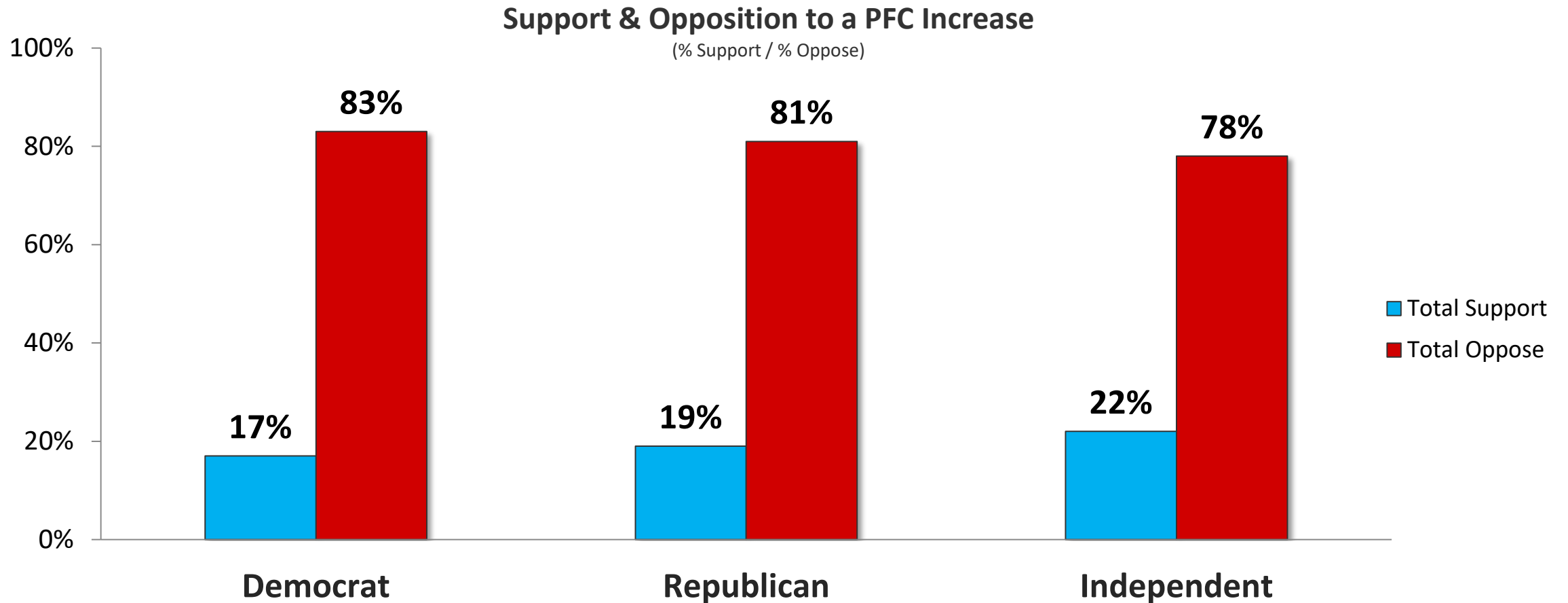
# Public Opposition to a PFC Increase

# American voters **overwhelmingly oppose** increasing the PFC cap.



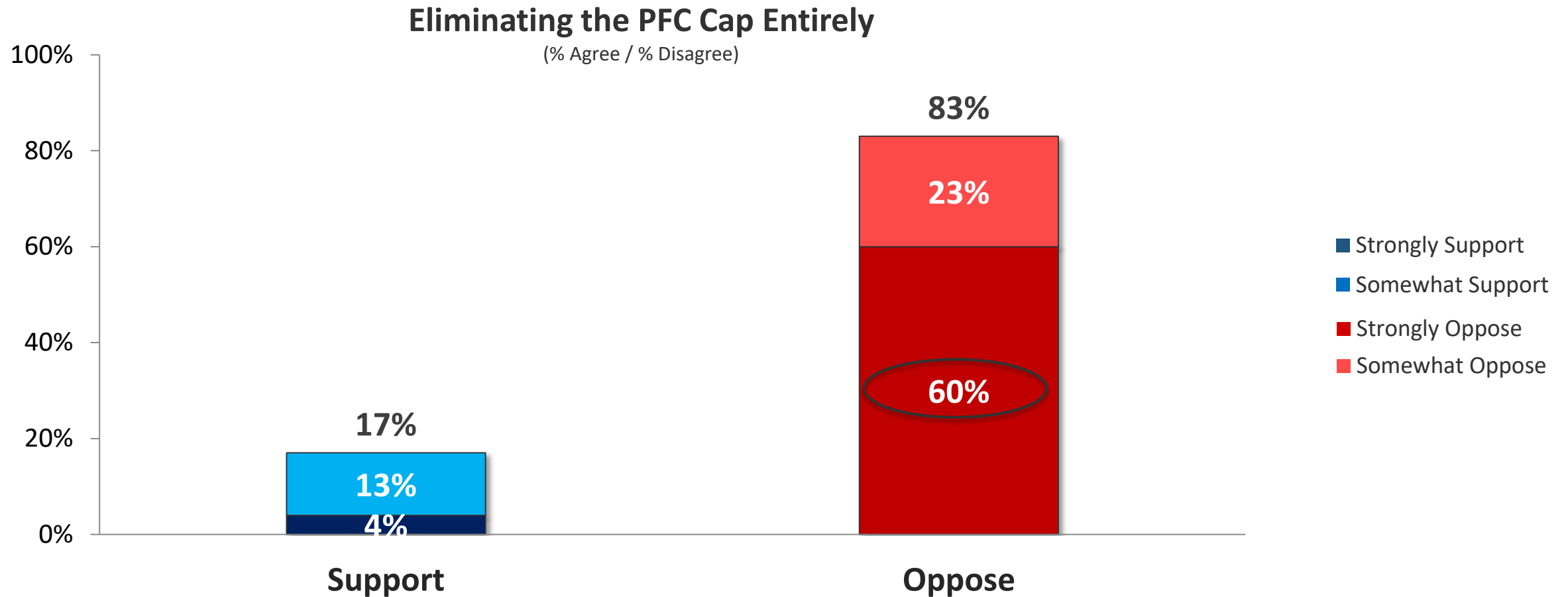
Q: Some in Congress are considering increasing the PFC cap so that airports can charge you more taxes every time you walk through an airport. Based on this information, do you support or oppose increasing the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC)?

This issue garners a bipartisan coalition of U.S. voters: **All voters regardless of party affiliation oppose a PFC increase.**



Q: Some in Congress are considering increasing the PFC cap so that airports can charge you more taxes every time you walk through an airport. Based on this information, do you support or oppose increasing the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC)?

American voters are **strongly opposed** to eliminating the PFC cap entirely so that airports can charge what they want.



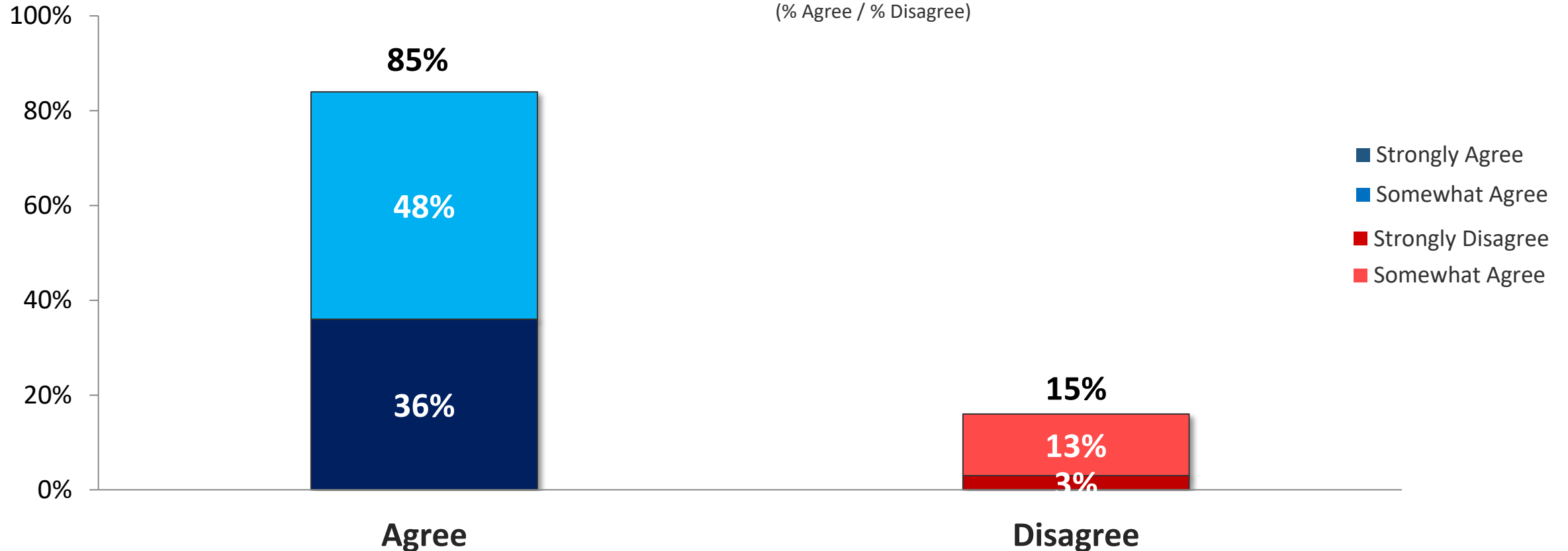
Q: Some in Congress are considering eliminating the PFC cap entirely so that airports can charge you whatever they want in taxes every time you walk through an airport. Based on this information, do you support or oppose increasing the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC)?



More than **8 in 10 voters** believe airports receive enough taxpayer subsidies to fund improvements.

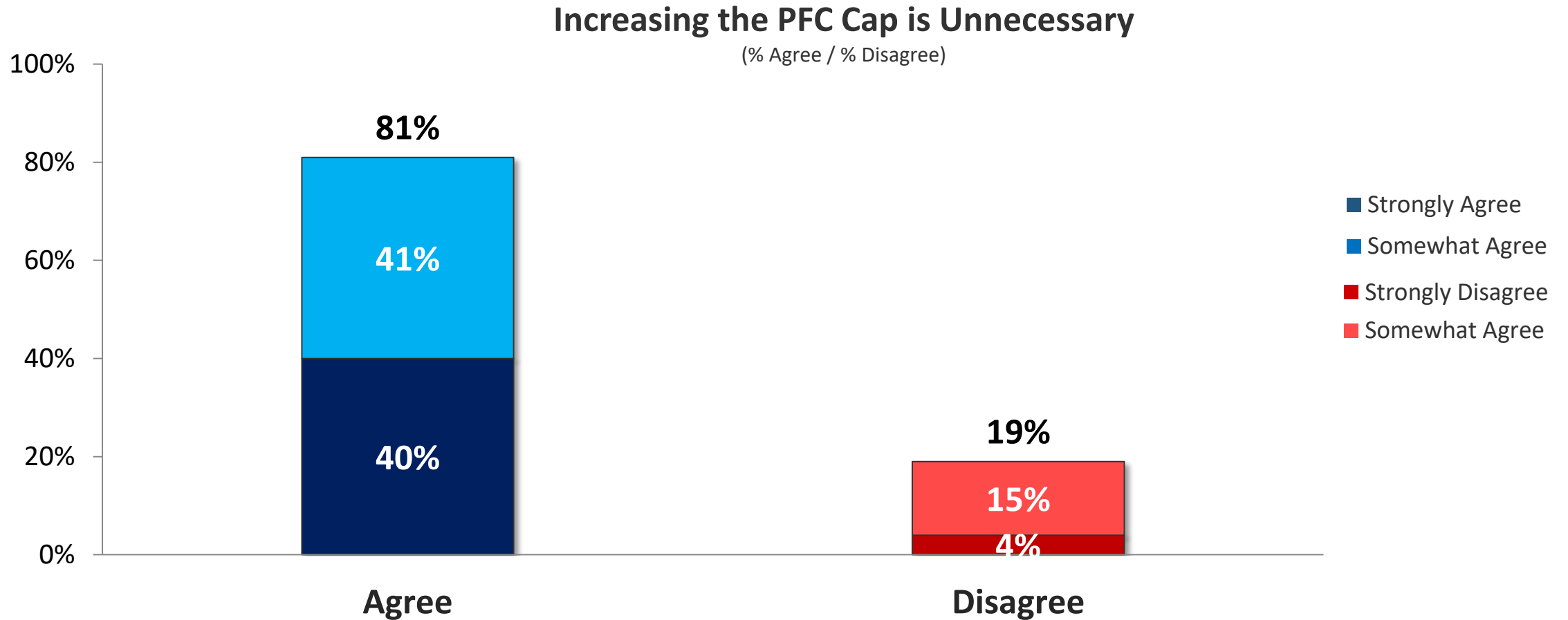
### Airports already receive enough in taxpayer subsidies to fund improvement projects.

(% Agree / % Disagree)



Q: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about a potential increase in the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC)? Airports already receive enough in taxpayer subsidies to fund improvement projects

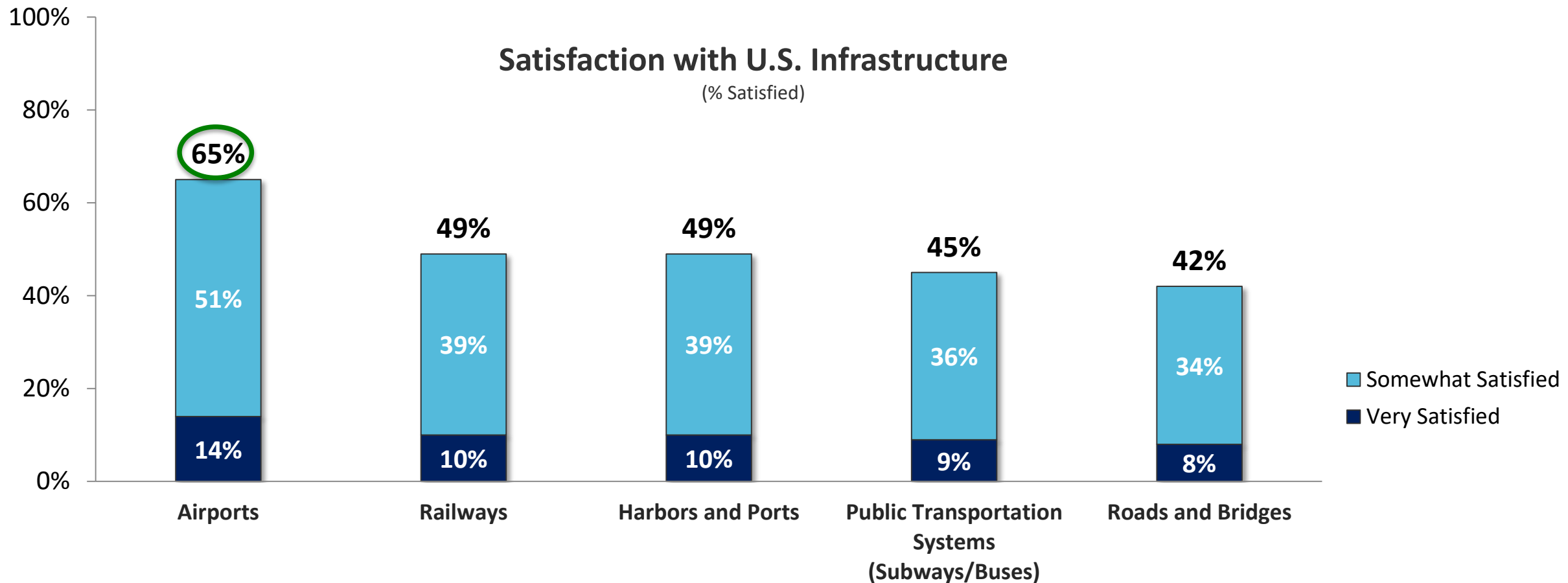
Further, most voters agree that **increasing the PFC cap is unnecessary.**



Q: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about a potential increase in the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC)? Increasing the PFC cap is unnecessary

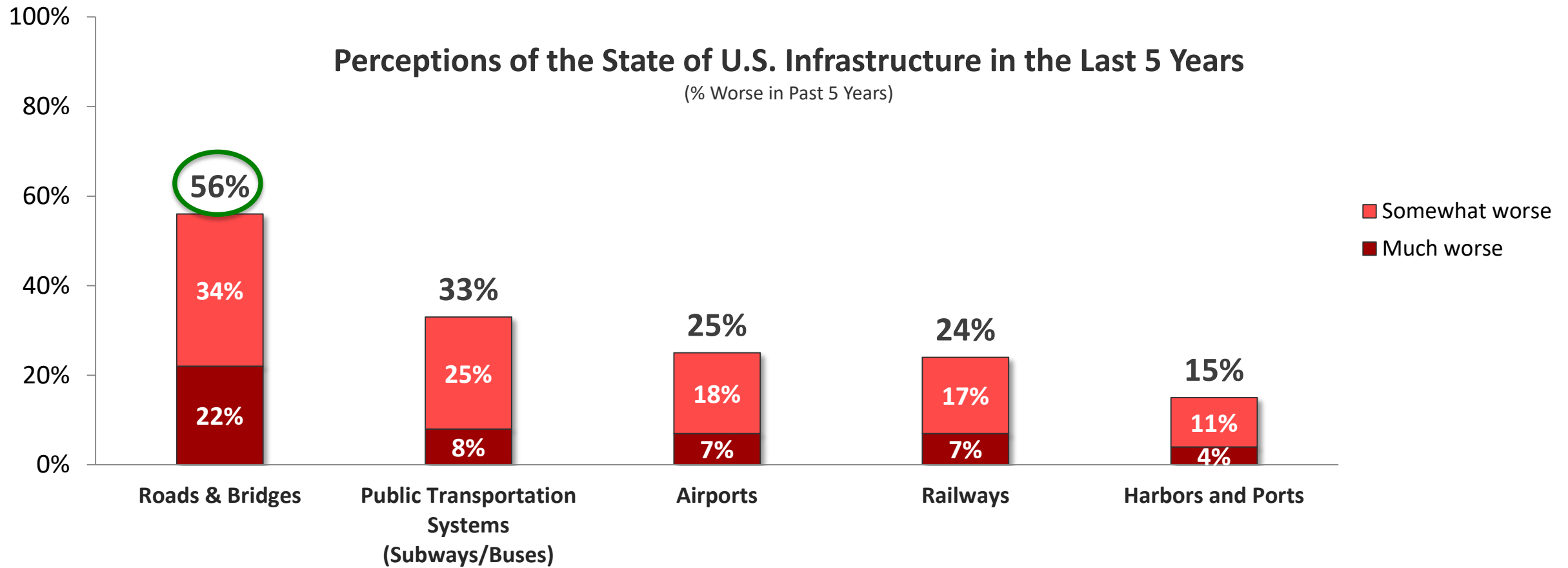
# Public Opinion of U.S. Infrastructure

# American voters are satisfied with U.S. airports and less satisfied with other infrastructure.



Q: How satisfied are you with the quality of each of the following?

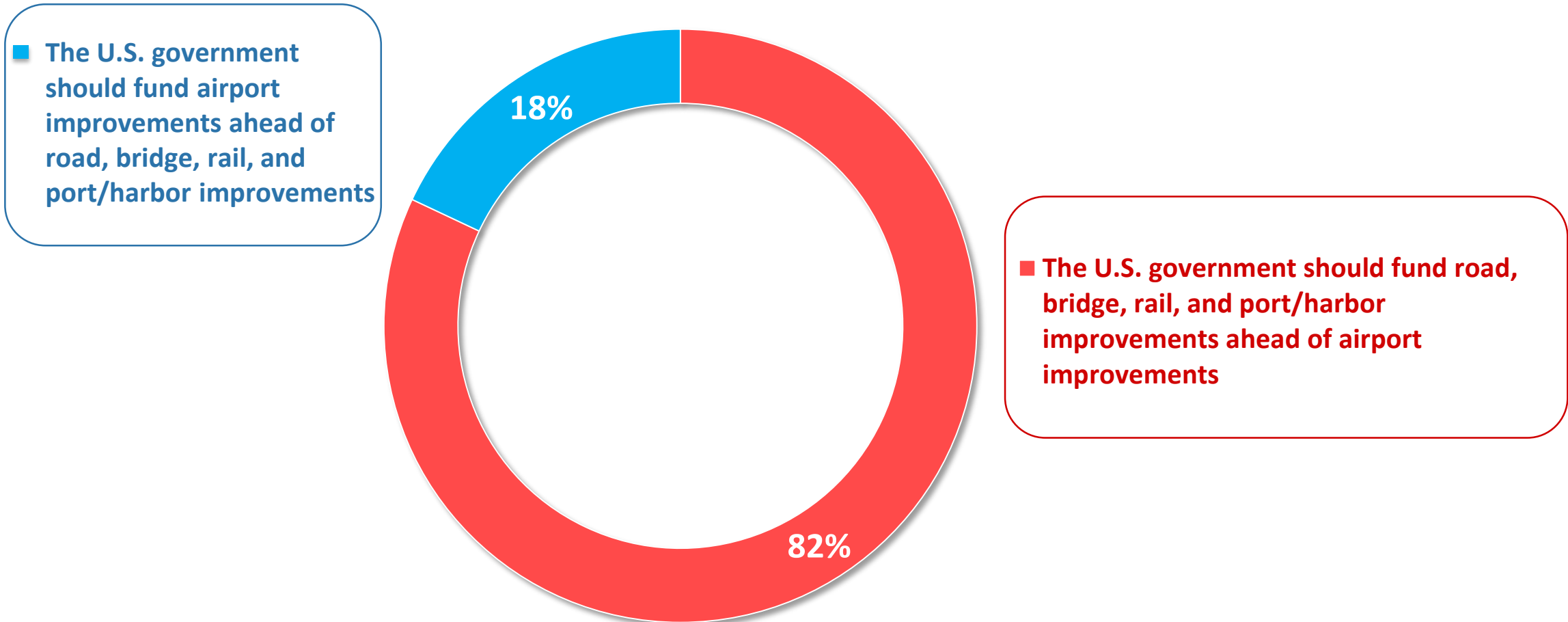
# Voters say that the state of other infrastructure, notably roads and bridges, has deteriorated in recent years.



Q: Over the last 5 years, would you say that the quality and condition of each of the following has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed the same?

More than **8 in 10 voters** believe the government should prioritize improving roads, bridges, railways and ports/harbors ahead of airports.

Which of the following statements do you agree with more?



■ The U.S. government should fund airport improvements ahead of road, bridge, rail, and port/harbor improvements

■ The U.S. government should fund road, bridge, rail, and port/harbor improvements ahead of airport improvements

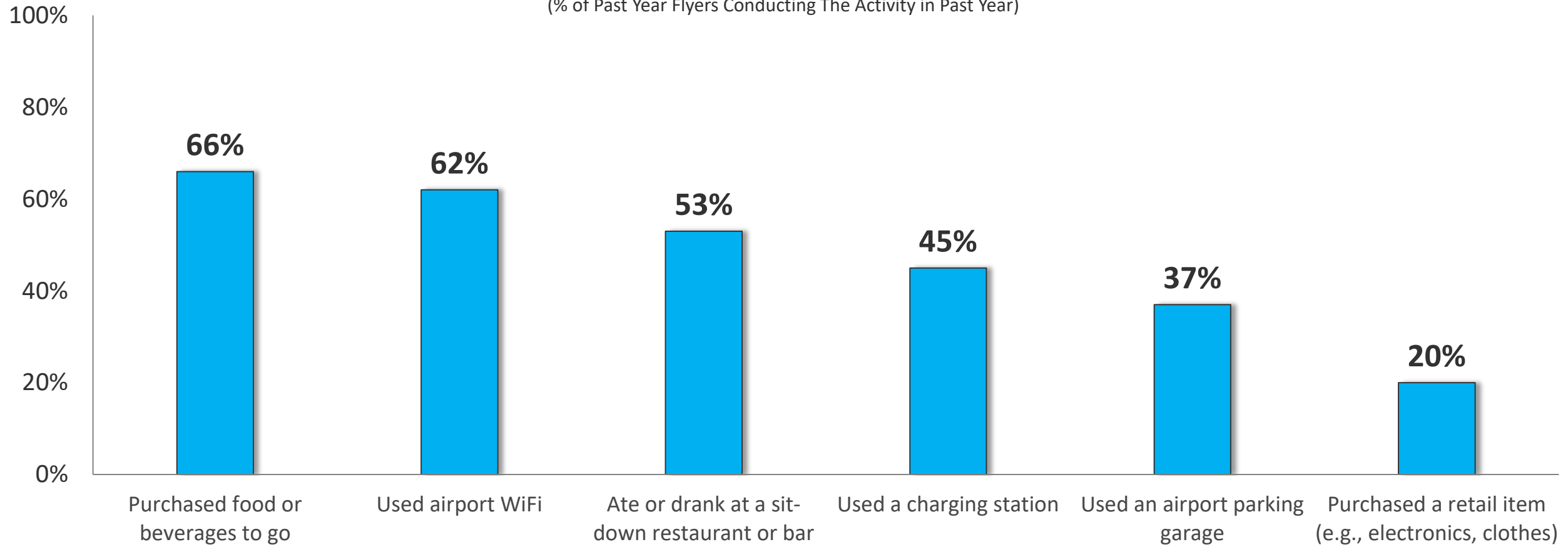
Q: Which of the following statements do you agree with more? (Select One)

# Public Perception of U.S. Airports

American voters who have flown contributed their dollars to airports by spending on food, beverages, parking garages, etc.

### Participation in Airport Experiences

(% of Past Year Flyers Conducting The Activity in Past Year)

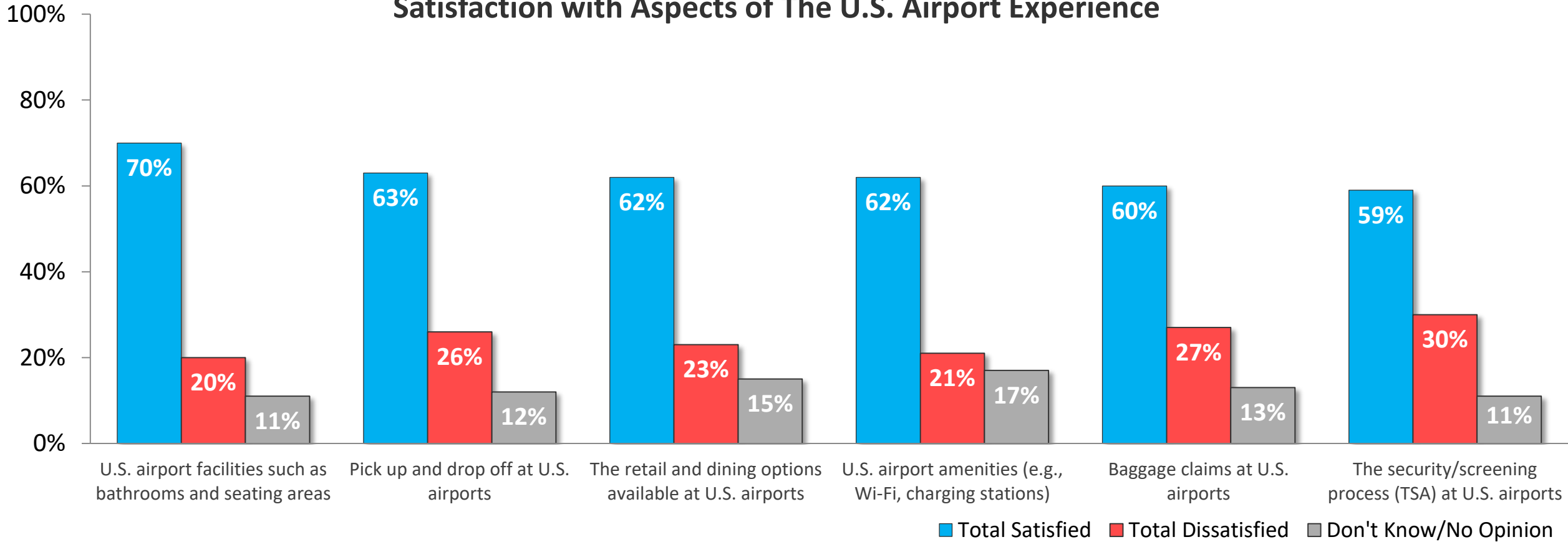


Q: Which, if any, of the following, have you done at a U.S. Airport in the past year? (Select All That Apply)



# Voters are satisfied with many different aspects of the airport experience.

## Satisfaction with Aspects of The U.S. Airport Experience

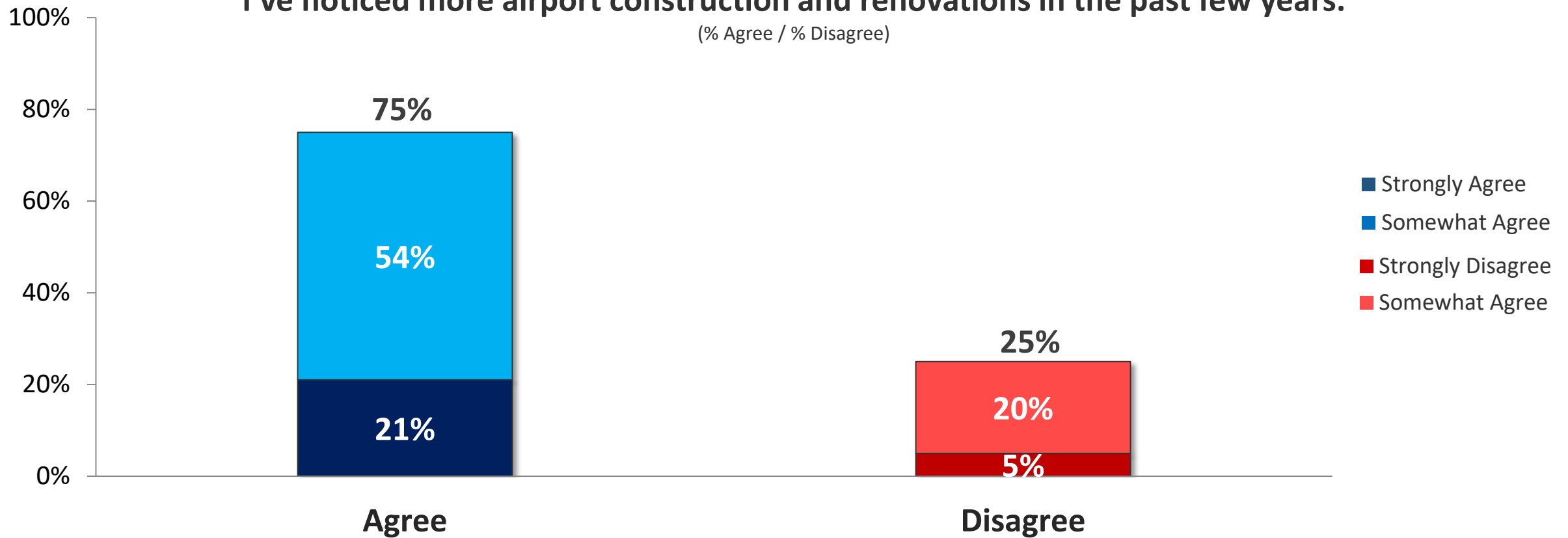


Q: How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of your U.S. airport experience?

# American voters have noticed recent improvement projects at U.S. airports through construction and renovation.

I've noticed more airport construction and renovations in the past few years.

(% Agree / % Disagree)

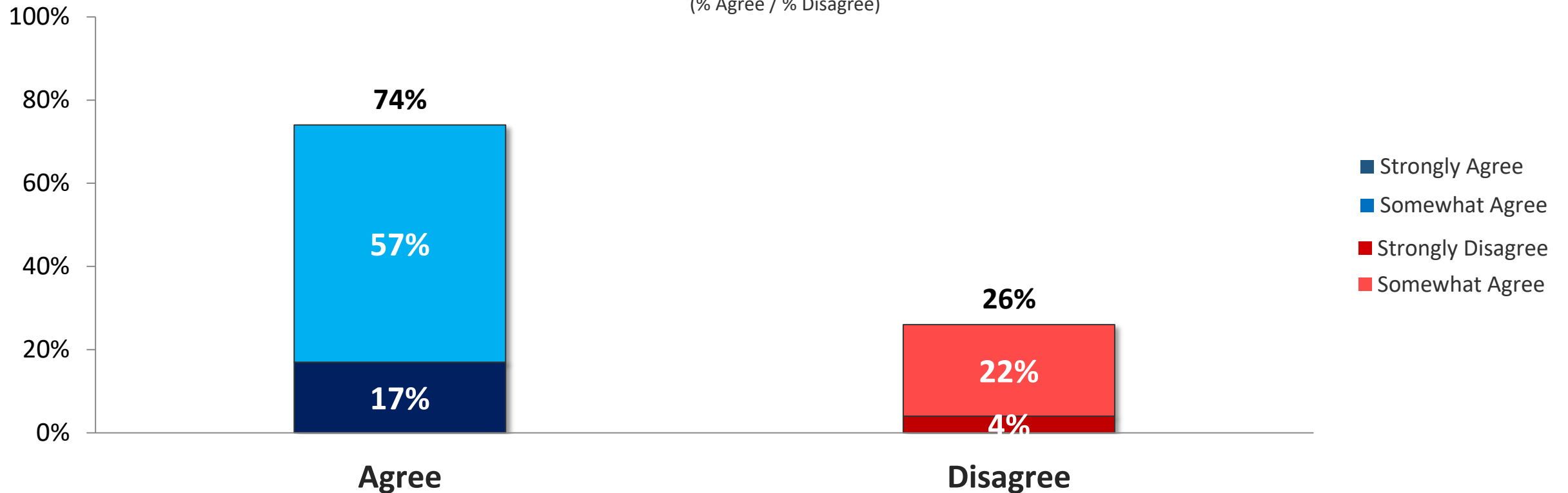


Q: Here are some statements about U.S. air travel and airports. For each, please indicate if you agree or disagree with the statement. I've noticed more airport construction and renovations in the past few years

American voters believe airports are already investing a lot of money in improvements.

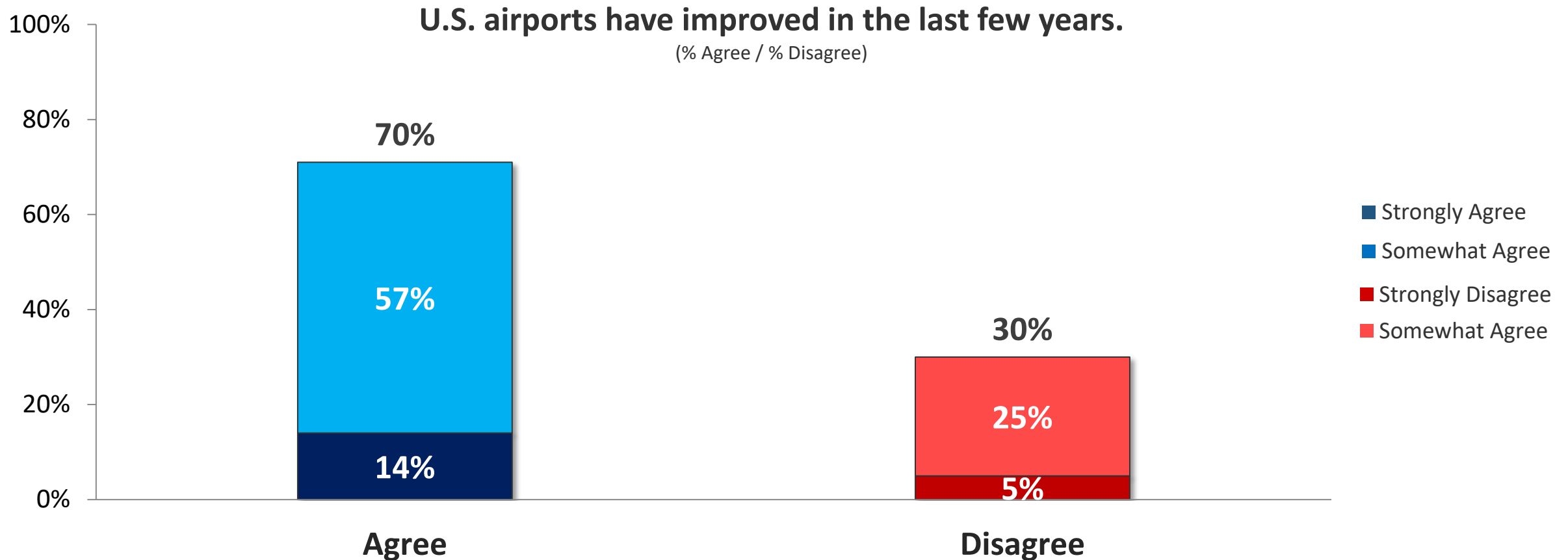
### U.S. airports seem to be putting a lot of money into improvements and updates.

(% Agree / % Disagree)



Q: Here are some statements about U.S. air travel and airports. For each, please indicate if you agree or disagree with the statement. U.S. airports seem to be putting a lot of money into improvements and updates

These investments are working, as most voters agree that U.S. airports have in fact improved in the last few years.



Q: Here are some statements about U.S. air travel and airports. For each, please indicate if you agree or disagree with the statement. U.S. airports have improved over the past few years

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