



# **Utah Statewide Survey**

## **Key Findings**

*August 2026*

# Methodology

New Bridge Strategy conducted a survey among N=500 voters throughout Utah. Interviews were conducted via text invitation to an online survey and live telephone interviews (both cellphones and landlines).

Interviews were conducted August 10-17, 2026. They were distributed proportionally throughout the state. Quotas were also set for key demographic sub-groups, such as gender and age.

The margin of error is  $\pm 4.38\%$  for the overall sample. The margin of error will vary for sub-groups.

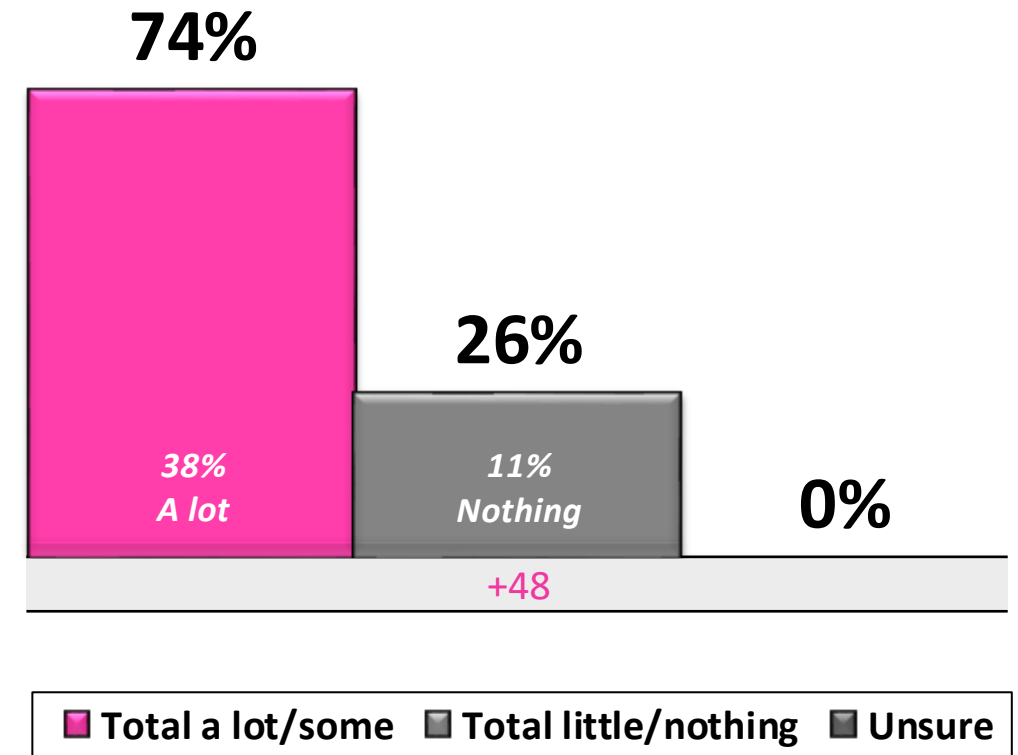


# Utah's National Monuments

# Three-quarters of Utah voters have heard about the reduction in the boundaries of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante.

*Thinking now about Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, two federally protected public land areas in Utah, which contain fossils, petroglyphs, cliff dwellings, and wildlife habitat -*

*Recently, the boundaries of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante were reduced by more than 90 percent, so that there are now fewer protections for wildlife, water, and the historic sites in those two areas. Before today, how much have you seen, read or heard about this change?*



**Two thirds of voters tell us greater protections should be restored to all of the area that was previously included in the two monuments.**

**Greater protections should be restored to all of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante.**

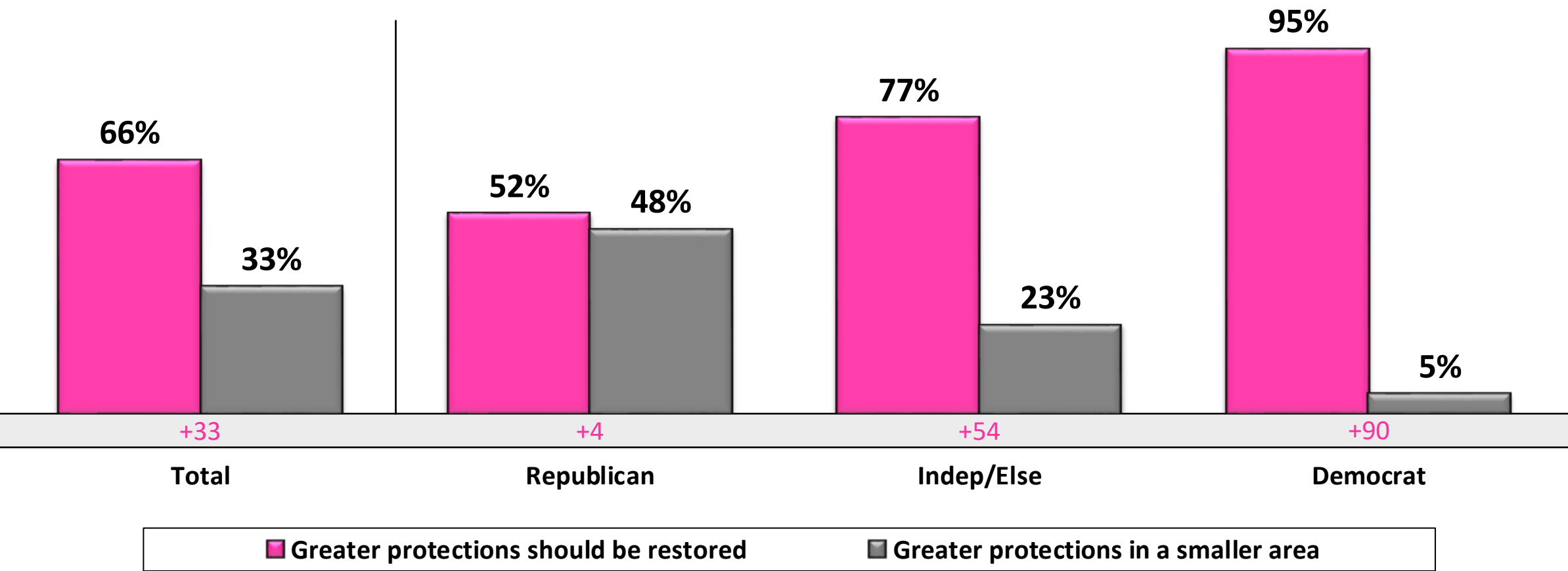
**66%**

**Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante should only have greater protections in a smaller area.**

**33%**

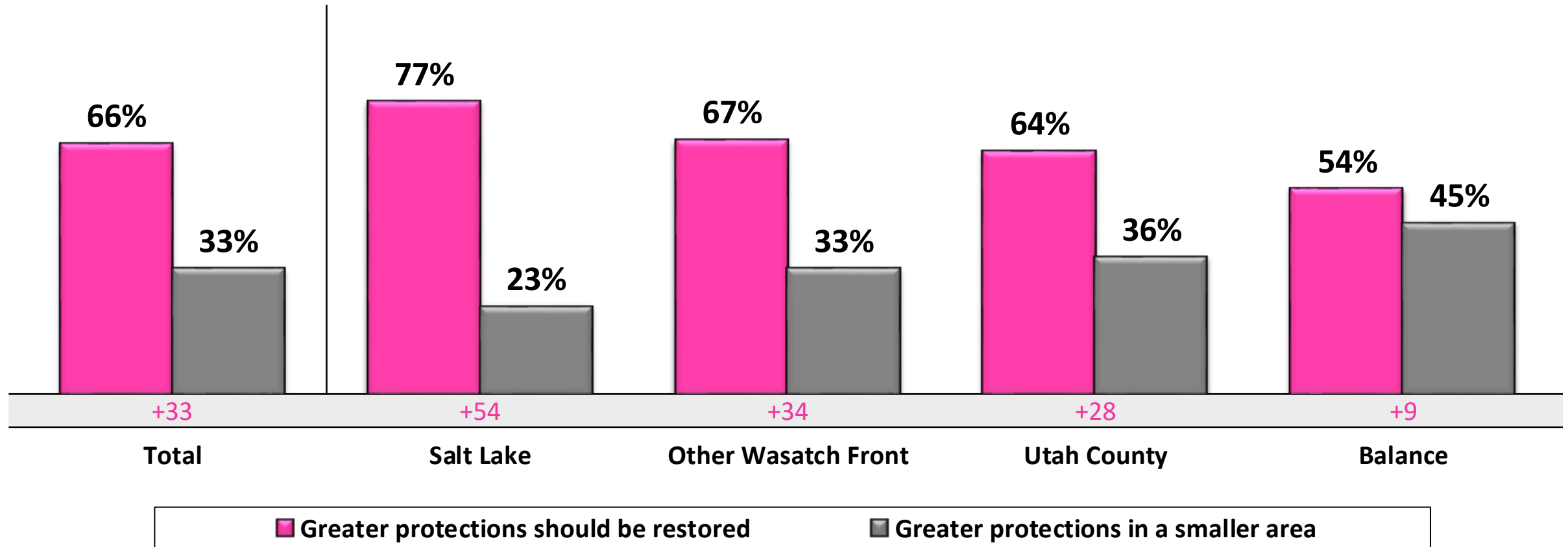
*Which one comes closer to what you think?*

# Regardless of party affiliation, a majority of voters statewide say greater protections should be restored to all areas of the monuments.



Which one comes closer to what you think?

# A majority in every region of the state say that protections should be restored to all areas of these National Monuments.



*Which one comes closer to what you think?*

# The significance of these lands to Native American tribes and the desire to protect wildlife, habitats, and ecosystems are the top reasons why voters want to restore all protections.

|                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Native American/tribal sacred and cultural significance  |
| Protect wildlife, habitats and ecosystems                |
| Public lands shouldn't be sold/exploited for profit      |
| Oppose mining, drilling and resource extraction          |
| Natural beauty, scenery, recreation and tourism value    |
| Preserve for future generations/posterity                |
| Distrust/opposition to Trump administration, Republicans |
| Irreversible/permanent damage                            |

*"Public lands belong to the people, not the highest bidder."*

**Male, Age 18-34, DEM**

*"It has sacred and historic significance that should be protected above capitalist interests."*

**Male, Age 35-44, GOP**

*"Too much sprawl and development aren't good for the environment."*

**Female, Age 45-54, GOP**

*What are the one or two reasons you say greater protections should be restored?*

# Those who disagree are opposed to federal land ownership and management.

|                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Federal government owns/controls too much of Utah's land                    |
| Original monument boundaries were excessive                                 |
| State or local control preferred over federal management                    |
| Support for resource extraction, grazing and economic/energy use of land    |
| Federal/BLM management is inefficient                                       |
| Protections restrict public/recreational access                             |
| Monument designations were unilateral, politicized executive actions        |
| Protection should target specific culturally/historically significant sites |
| A middle-ground/balanced approach is needed                                 |

*What are the one or two reasons you say greater protections should only be in a smaller area?*

*"Farmers and ranchers need access. The amount of energy needed now requires as many options open as possible."*

**Male, Age 55-64, GOP**

*"Let Utah decide how to use land in Utah."*

**Female, Age 35-44, GOP**

*"Tired of the government owning most of our land."*

**Male, Age 35-44, GOP**

## Voters rank conservation and protecting Native American places as the most important factors to be considered regarding these National Monuments; oil/gas and mining rank lowest.

|                                                                                |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Conserving natural areas, water, and wildlife habitat                          | 53% |
| Protecting Native American sacred and culturally important places              | 49% |
| Protecting fossils, archaeological, and historic places                        | 32% |
| Supporting outdoor recreation such as hunting, fishing, and camping            | 29% |
| Allowing local economic opportunities                                          | 14% |
| Increasing the amount of land that is open to oil, gas, and mining development | 12% |

*Which TWO of the following considerations are most important to you when thinking about Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante?*

# Voters across party lines place increasing the amount of land open for energy and mining as least important.

|                                                                                | Republican | Indep/Else | Democrat |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Conserving natural areas, water, and wildlife habitat                          | 42%        | 60%        | 78%      |
| Protecting Native American sacred and culturally important places              | 38%        | 58%        | 66%      |
| Protecting fossils, archaeological, and historic places                        | 29%        | 36%        | 36%      |
| Supporting outdoor recreation such as hunting, fishing, and camping            | 39%        | 22%        | 12%      |
| Allowing local economic opportunities                                          | 20%        | 10%        | 5%       |
| Increasing the amount of land that is open to oil, gas, and mining development | 18%        | 6%         | 2%       |

*Which TWO of the following considerations are most important to you when thinking about Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante?*

# Seven-in-ten voters side with a statement from supporters of restoring greater protections in all of these areas over a criticism.

Supporters of restoring greater protections in all of these areas say it safeguards historic lands and wildlife habitat from industrial development so future generations can enjoy them. It will better protect Native American sacred places, some of which had been destroyed by grave robbing and vandalism. Plus, it helps the economies of rural Utah when people visit these areas for hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, and other recreation.

70%

Opponents of restoring greater protections in all of these areas say that the monuments locked up too much land and should have focused in on the smallest area possible. They restricted too much public land from energy development like oil and gas drilling and mining. This change provides sufficient protection and greater certainty to local livelihoods.

30%

*Which comes closer to your point of view -*

# Across party lines, voters side with supporters of protecting all the land.



*Which comes closer to your point of view -*

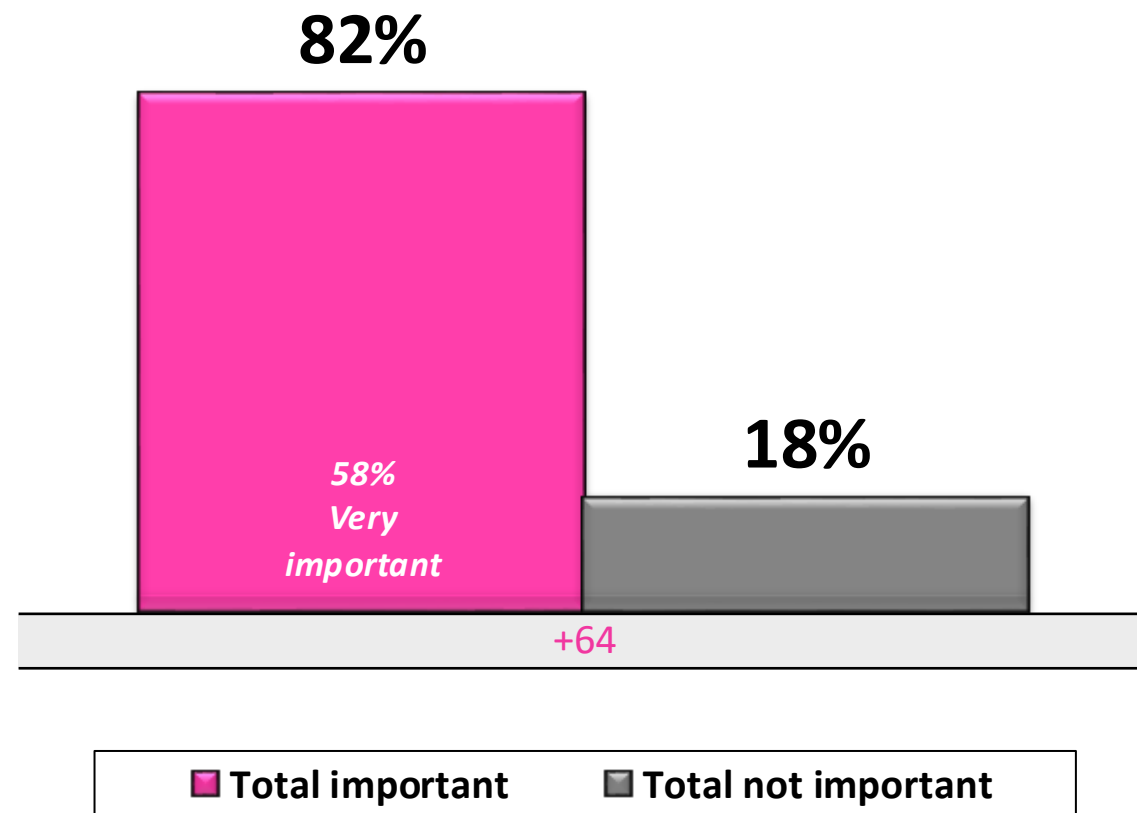


# **The Role of Tribes related to Utah's National Monuments**

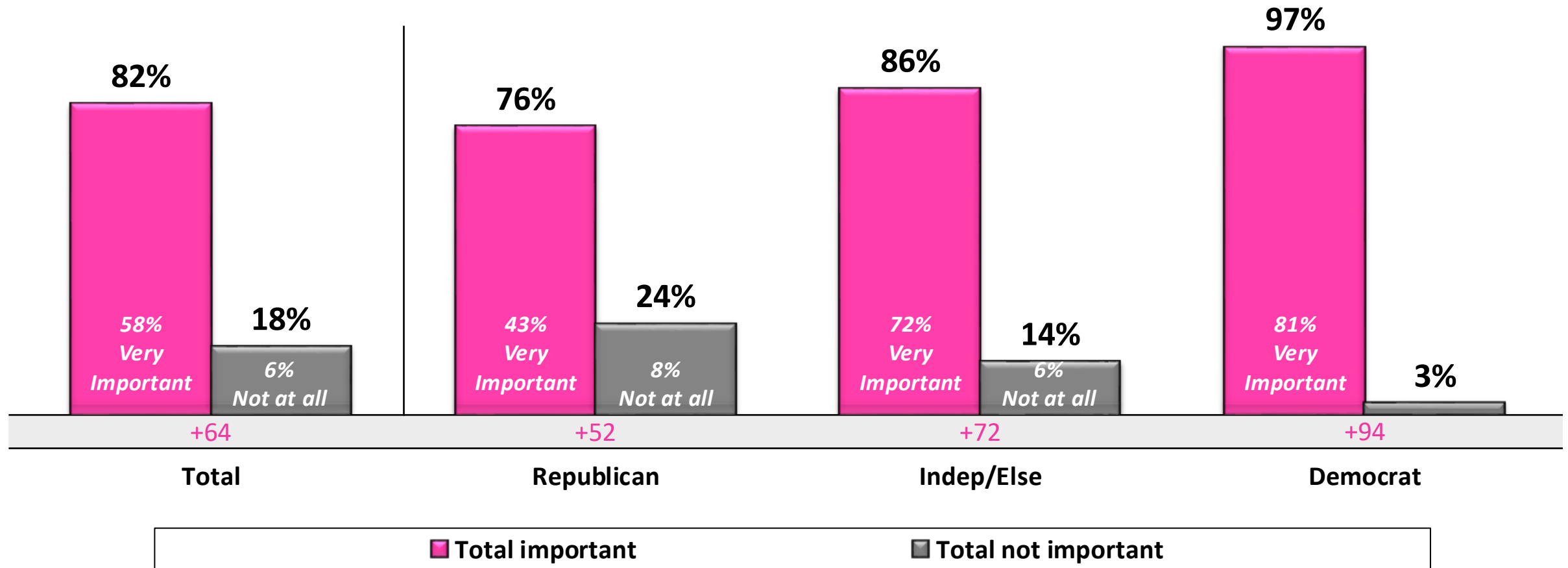
# More than four-in-five Utahans say it is important for Native American tribes to have a strong role in managing public lands containing sacred or culturally significant sites.

*Native American tribes entered into an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to collaboratively manage Bears Ears National Monument. The tribes were not consulted about the change in protections prior to the decision.*

*How important would you say it is for tribes to have a strong role in helping to manage these public lands that they consider to be sacred or culturally important to them? Is it...*



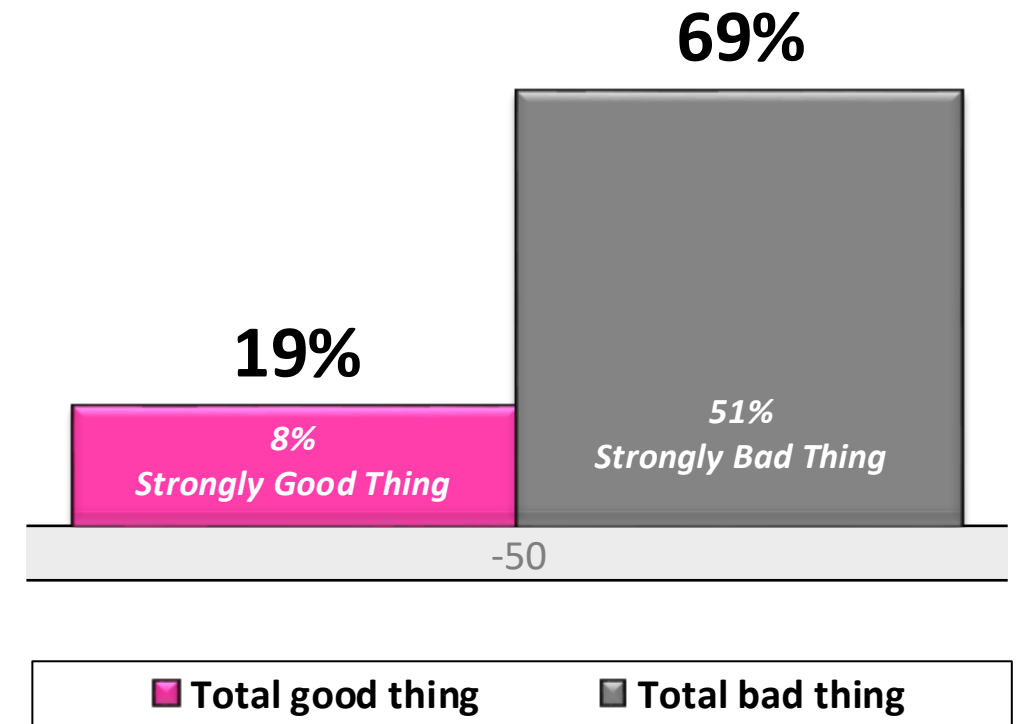
# Across party lines voters agree it is important for Native American tribes to have a strong role.



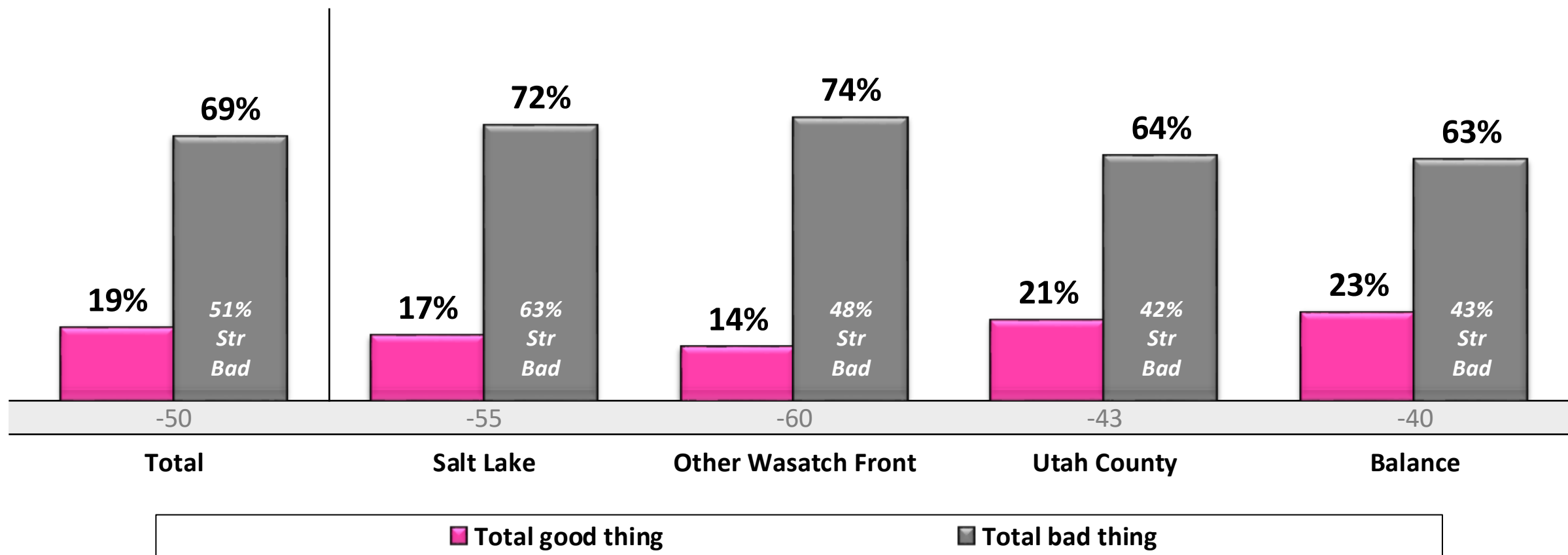
How important would you say it is for tribes to have a strong role in helping to manage these public lands that they consider to be sacred or culturally important to them? Is it...

**More than two-thirds say that the government terminating the commission of tribal leaders is a bad thing; a majority feel strongly.**

*The change to Bears Ears Monument terminated the commission of tribal leaders that provided input on how to manage these public lands over the last four years. Do you think that the federal government getting rid of this commission is a good thing or bad thing?*



# Voters in every region of the state also view this negatively.

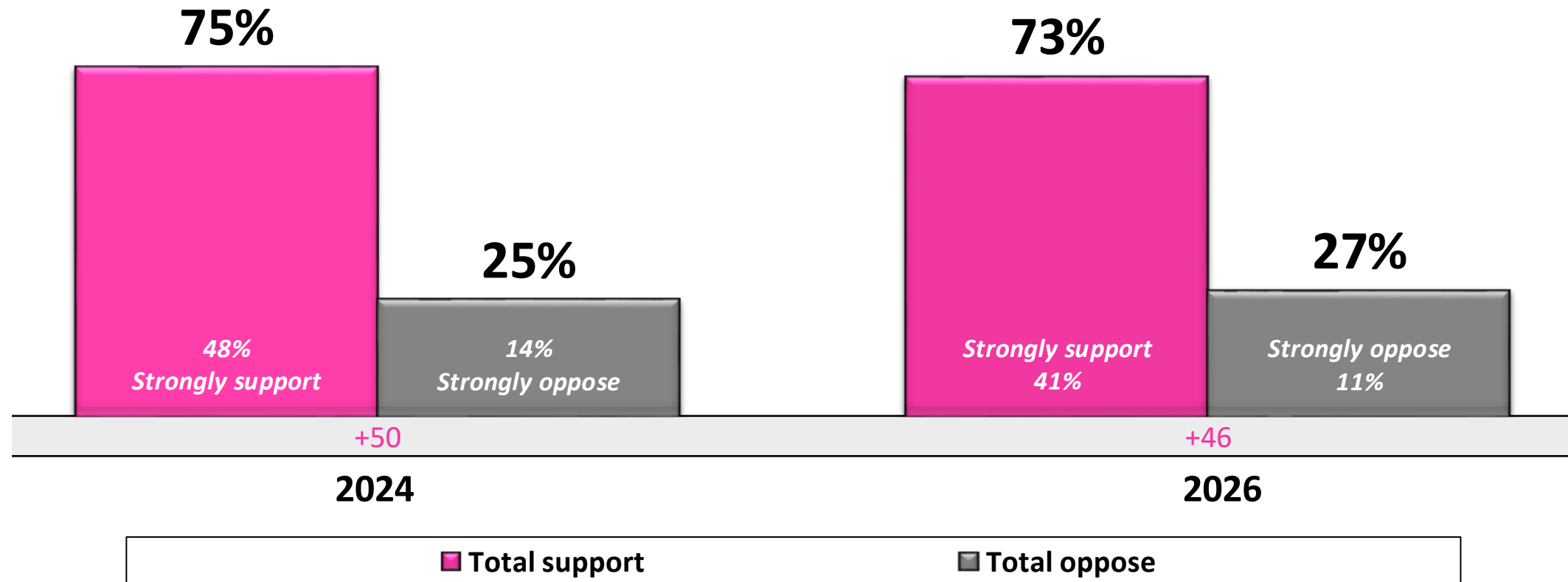


*Do you think that the federal government getting rid of this commission is a good thing or bad thing?*



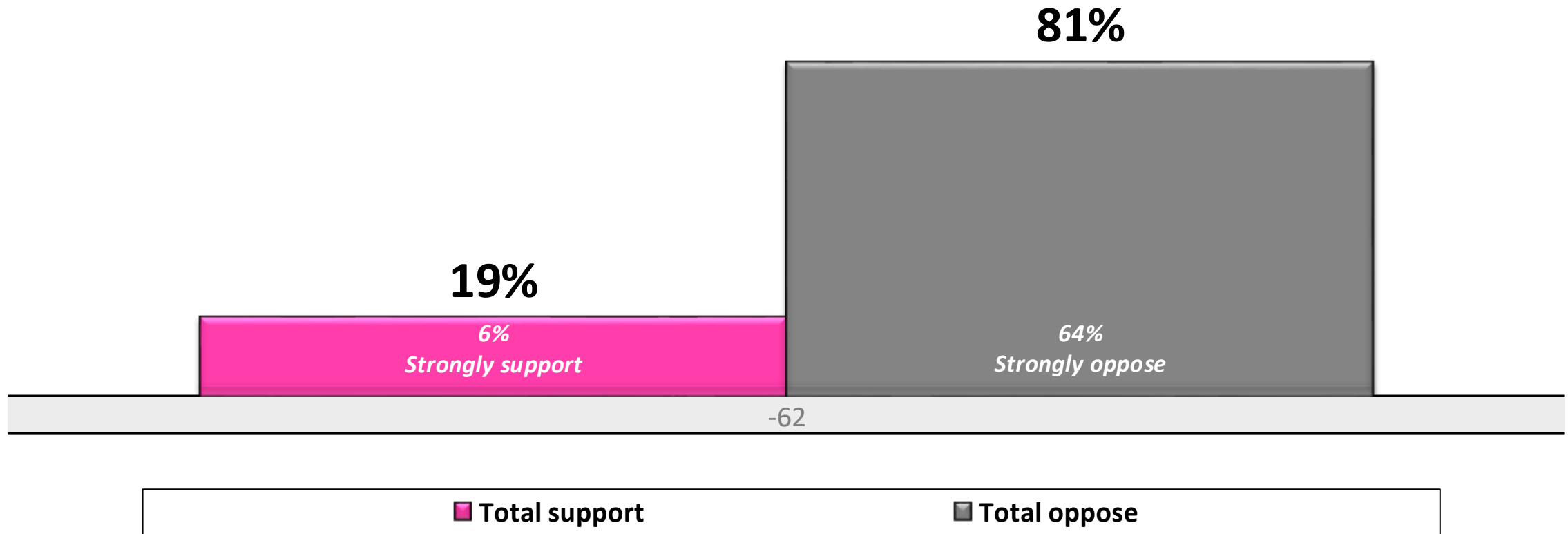
# **The Future of National Public Lands**

# Nearly three-quarters of Utah voters support a presidents' ability to designate National Monuments.



*Do you support or oppose presidents continuing to use their ability to protect existing public lands as national monuments? And, do you strongly or just somewhat?*

# Voters are strongly opposed to the sale of Utah public lands to private interests.



*Taking a step back - Do you support or oppose the federal government selling some of our public lands here in Utah to private interests? And, do you strongly or just somewhat?*

# The vast majority of every key sub-group of Utah voters opposes the sale of public lands to private interests.

|                     | Total support | Total oppose |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Salt Lake           | 14%           | 86%          |
| Other Wasatch Front | 22%           | 78%          |
| Utah County         | 23%           | 77%          |
| Balance of State    | 18%           | 82%          |
| Republican          | 26%           | 74%          |
| Indep/Else          | 14%           | 86%          |
| Democrat            | 3%            | 97%          |

|               | Total support | Total oppose |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Men 18-44     | 19%           | 81%          |
| Men 45+       | 34%           | 66%          |
| Women 18-44   | 7%            | 93%          |
| Women 45+     | 14%           | 86%          |
| Sportsmen     | 28%           | 72%          |
| Non-sportsmen | 13%           | 87%          |

*Taking a step back - Do you support or oppose the federal government selling some of our public lands here in Utah to private interests? And, do you strongly or just somewhat?*



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