



Routt County Survey

Key Findings

May 2022

Methodology

New Bridge Strategy conducted a survey among N=300 registered voters throughout Routt County from May 20-26, 2022. Interviews were conducted via live telephone interviews (both cell phones and landlines) and online. Interviews were distributed proportionally throughout the county. Quotas were set for key demographic sub-groups, such as gender and age.

The margin of error is $\pm 5.66\%$ for the overall sample. The margin of error will vary for sub-groups.



Ballot Proposal

We provided the following language for the ballot proposal:

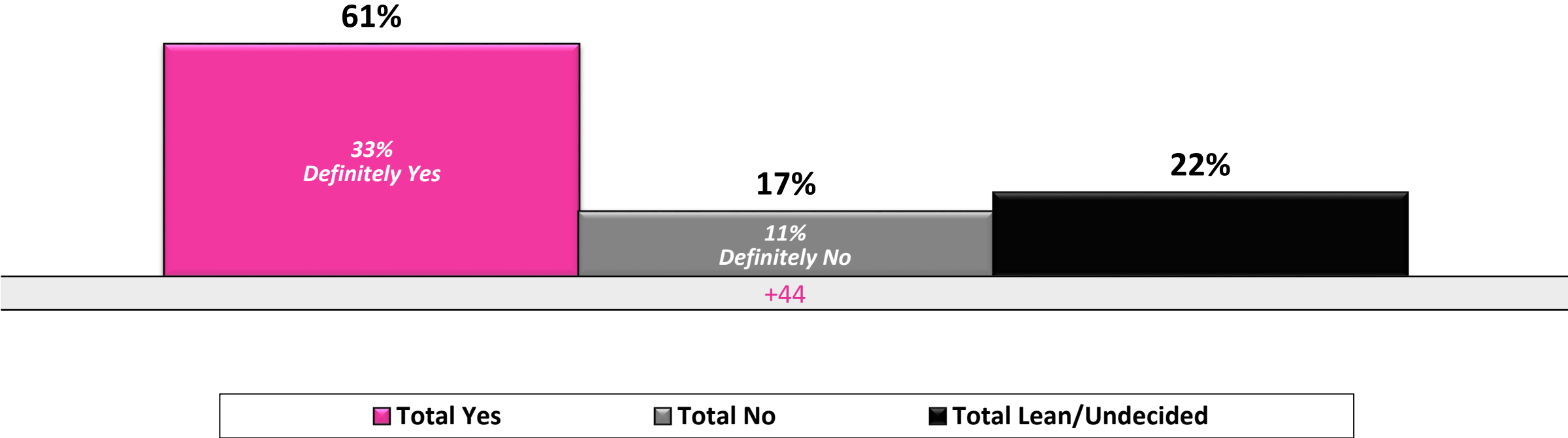
There could be a proposal that voters in Routt County could be asked to consider this November --

If the election were being held today, would you vote Yes in favor of or No against the following question...

Without increasing taxes, shall Routt County be authorized to extend the existing mill levy of one and a half mills commencing with the tax year 2026, with the proceeds to be used solely for the preservation of natural lands, including lands that preserve water quality, wildlife habitat, working ranches, and scenic landscapes and vistas,

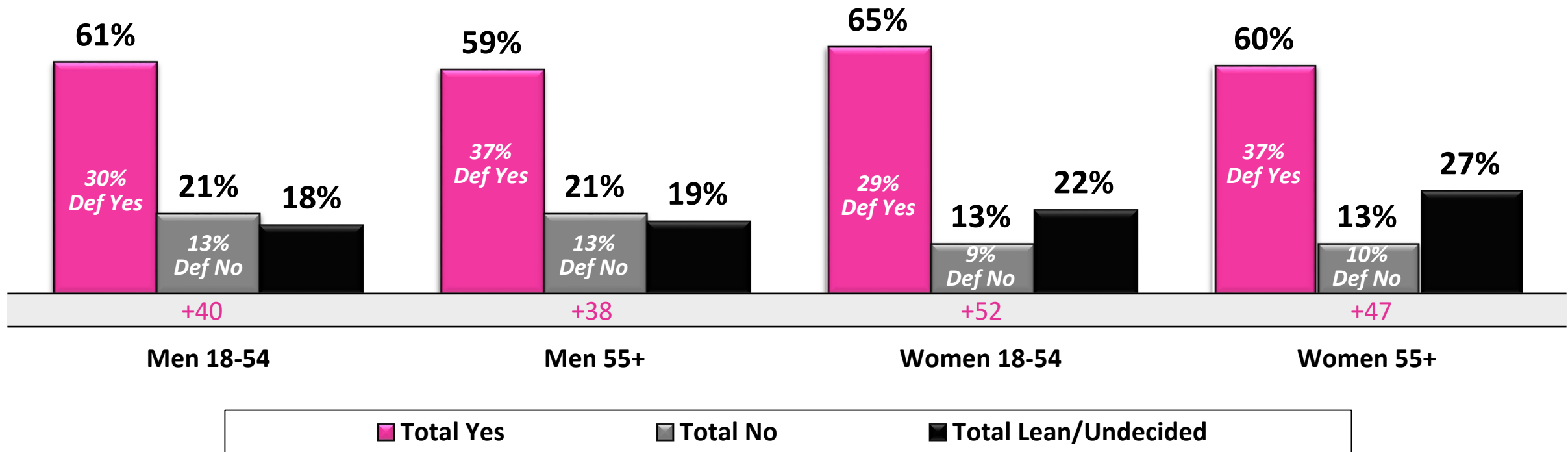
With all expenditures based on recommendations of an advisory committee and subject to independent audit; and to be administered in accordance with Routt County Resolution; and, continuing these funds including earnings therefrom as a voter-approved revenue change without regard to any spending, revenue, or other limitation contained within Article Ten, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution or any other law?

Most voters support the proposal, including one-third who say they will definitely vote in favor of it.



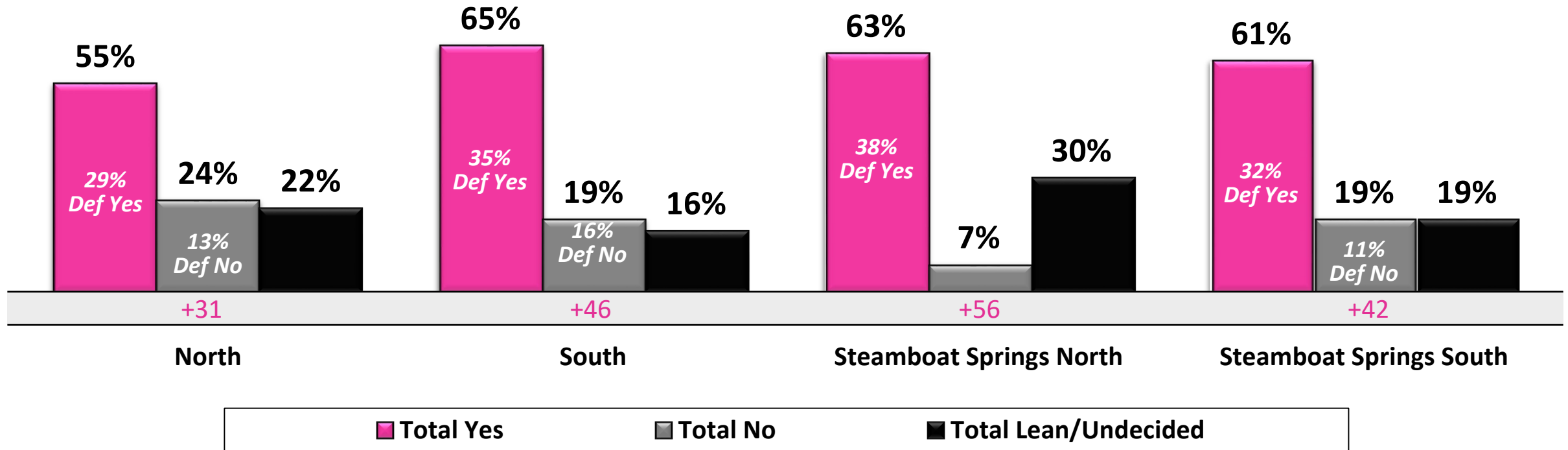
There could be a proposal that voters in Routt County could be asked to consider this November --

Women 18-54 years of age are the most likely to support the proposal, but there is less of an age difference than we often see.



There could be a proposal that voters in Routt County could be asked to consider this November --

We split the county and Steamboat into geographic areas, but solid majorities support the proposal throughout.



There could be a proposal that voters in Routt County could be asked to consider this November --

Conservation of natural areas is volunteered as the most important reason to support the proposal, followed by growth concerns.

	% of mentions
Preservation/conservation	40%
Control growth/development	13%
Maintain open space	8%
Agriculture/help farmers and ranchers	5%
No new taxes/no tax increase	4%
Appreciate/enjoy nature	3%
Improve/maintain quality of life	3%
Funding is needed/needs to continue	2%
Good (unspecified)	2%
Support public land/nature	2%
Keep the county beautiful	2%
Long-term plan/begins in 2026	2%

“It is important to preserve the natural lands while we can.” *Female, Age 35-44, Democrat, South Region*

“Growth is feeling unwieldy.” *Female, Age 55-64, Democrat, North Region*

“Conservation of wildlife/natural habitats/natural resources is of utmost importance.” *Male, Age 55-64, Republican, North Region*

What are the one or two main reasons why you would vote Yes on this proposal?

The top reason to vote against the proposal relates to taxes, including voters who say taxes are too high or there are too many.

	% of mentions
Taxes are too high/too many taxes	33%
Other issues are a higher priority	10%
Need more information	6%
Keep Routt wild	4%
Already overspend	4%
County owns too much land	4%
Taxes/resources shouldn't be used for this	4%
Want less government	4%
No transparency/accountability	4%

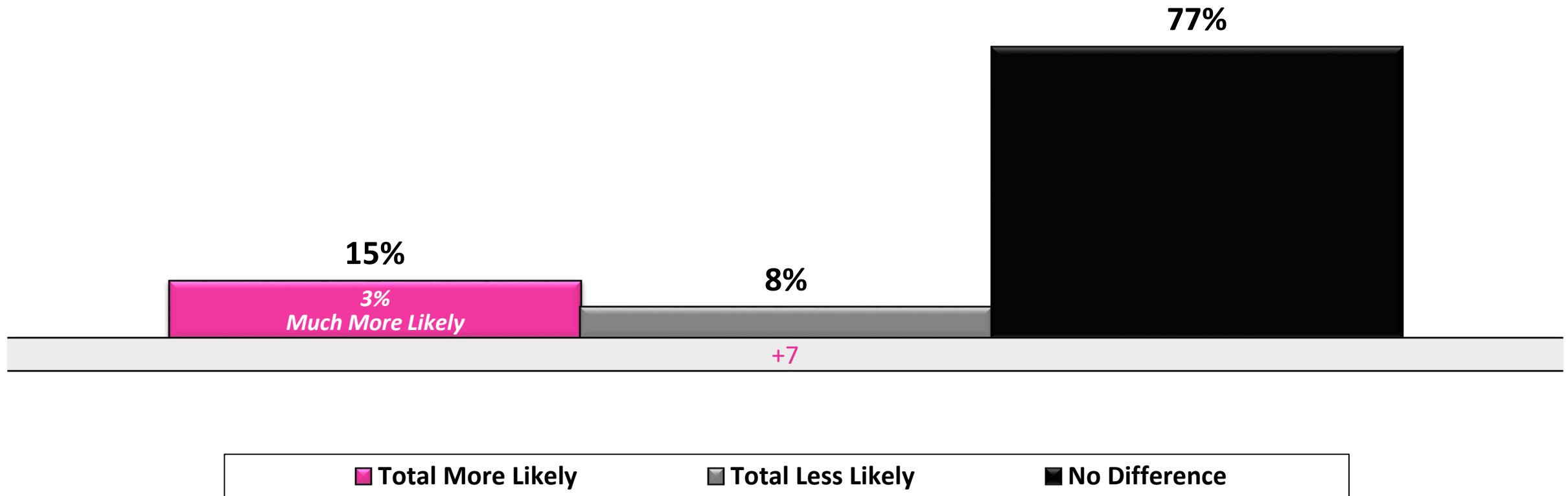
“Too many taxes in place. Tax and government spending does not appeal to me.” *Male, 55-64, Republican, North Region*

“Other priorities like transportation and workforce housing.” *Male, Age 45-54, Independent, Steamboat Springs North Region*

“Need deeper information on the exact direction of funds.” *Male, Age 35-44, Independent, Steamboat Springs South Region*

What are the one or two main reasons why you would vote No on this proposal?

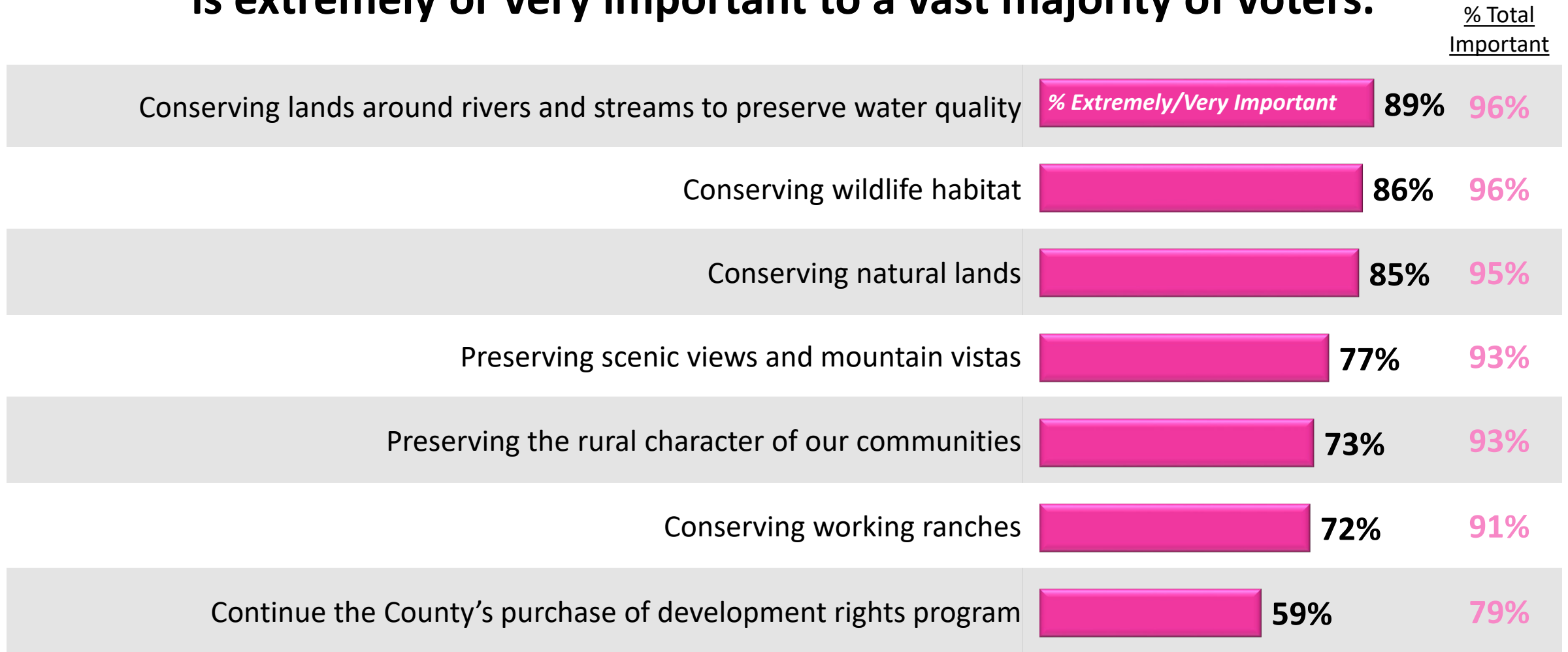
More than three-quarters of No voters say it would make no difference in their vote for the proposal if the tax sunsetted in 10 years.*



Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for this measure if the tax sunsetted, or automatically ended in ten years, or would it make no difference in your vote?

*Asked among those who would vote "No" on the proposal, N=58

Conserving lands around rivers and streams, wildlife habitat, and natural lands is extremely or very important to a vast majority of voters.



I am going to read you a list of projects that could be funded if voters approve this proposal. Please indicate how important it is to you that each project be funded. Is it...

Voters are more likely to agree with supporters of the proposal, who say the county needs to continue to conserve the natural areas and preserve the community's character.

Supporters of this proposal say that another 15 thousand people are projected to move into Routt County in the next 15 years. We need to continue to conserve our beautiful natural areas and preserve the rural character of our community.

64%

Opponents of this proposal say that we simply cannot afford to continue paying this tax at a time when it is becoming harder to afford to live in Routt County. Plus, there are more important uses of our tax dollars for things like roads or schools.

30%

Now, please indicate which one of the following points of view you agree with more, even if neither one perfectly matches what you think.



Questions?



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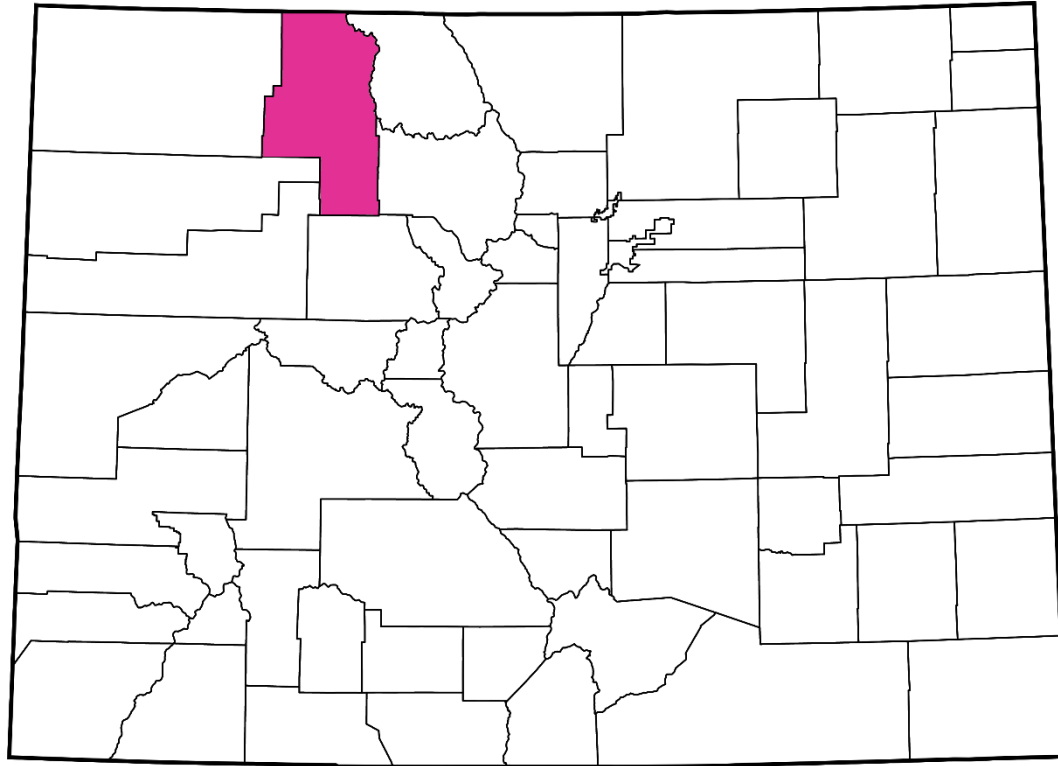
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Regions



Precinct	Region
1	North
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	South
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	Steamboat Springs North
12	
13	
14	
15	Steamboat Springs South
16	
17	
18	
19	